

DAVIS-BACON PREVAILING WAGES AND SELECTING THE RIGHT WAGE DETERMINATIONS FOR WIFIA PROJECTS

Projects supported in any part by a WIFIA loan are considered federally assisted. The Davis-Bacon and Related Acts (DBRA) require contractors and subcontractors performing work on federally funded or assisted projects to pay their laborers and mechanics no less than the locally prevailing wages (including fringe benefits) for corresponding work in the area.

WHAT ARE DAVIS-BACON PREVAILING WAGES AND WAGE DETERMINATIONS?

Davis-Bacon prevailing wages specifically refer to the wages (basic hourly and fringe pay) published in the Department of Labor's (DOL's) Wage Determinations (hereafter, WDs) at sam.gov/wage-determinations. These WDs reflect the minimum wages to pay on the contract for each of the specified labor classifications and are based on the type of construction and locality in which construction occurs.



Actual Wages Paid \geq Davis-Bacon Prevailing Wages

The WDs have General Decision Numbers that follow a standard naming convention – [two letter state abbreviation][calendar year][four-digit identifier], e.g., AR20260010. This is followed by the modification number reflecting the number of DOL updates to the wages for the current year WD.

Davis-Bacon prevailing wages are different from state prevailing wages. Recognize that this requires the WIFIA borrower to ensure both prevailing wage requirements are met.

Davis-Bacon prevailing wages are different from the federal minimum wage, which does not apply to projects subject to the Davis-Bacon Related Acts (including WIFIA projects). There is a note regarding this on all WDs. Follow the Davis-Bacon prevailing wages by labor classification in the relevant WD.

HOW SHOULD WAGE DETERMINATIONS BE USED?

As required by Davis-Bacon law and regulations, include DOL-published WDs when advertising bids and when awarding contracts for WIFIA projects. When issuing a subcontract, the WDs that apply to prime contracts will typically trickle down to subcontracts.

In a traditional design-bid-build project delivery, WDs are generally locked in on a contract once awarded. However, the WIFIA program has also funded projects that use other project delivery methods (e.g., indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity, design build, construction management at risk) where substantial pieces of work may be issued in multiple task orders or work packages and oftentimes many months after the initial contract agreement was made. This may require multiple WDs to be issued. Follow these guidelines for use of wage determinations:

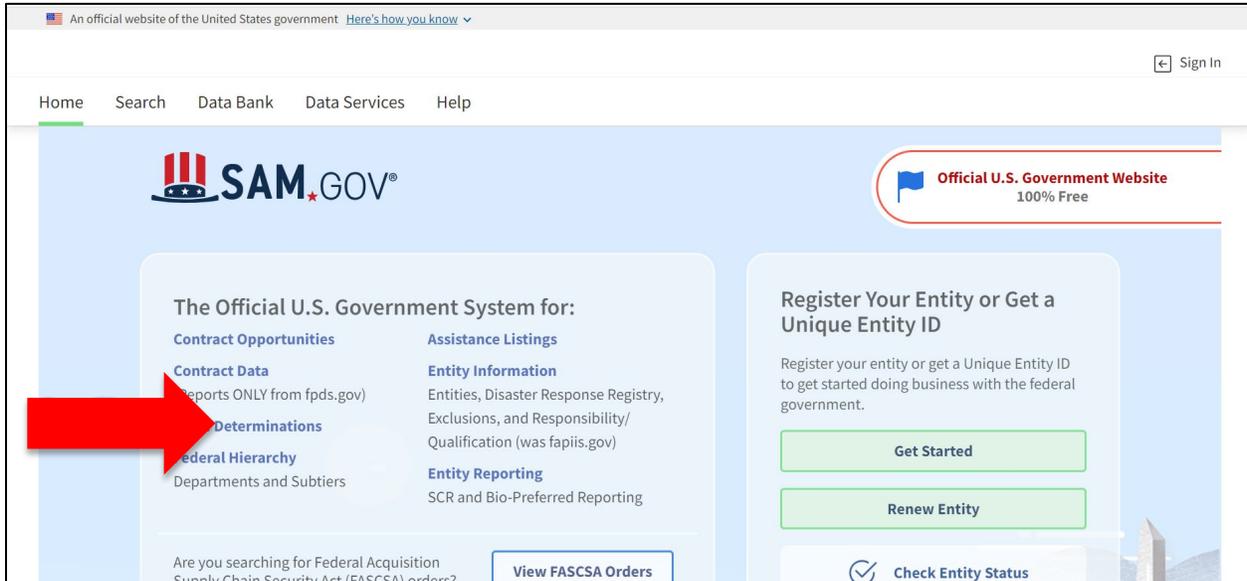
- Contracts issuing guaranteed maximum price (GMP) packages under a collaborative delivery agreement will apply separate WDs based on when the GMPs are issued.
- Contracts that are characterized as indefinite-delivery-indefinite-quantity will update WDs annually at the anniversary of the contract award.
- Contracts that issue task orders to issue construction work to one or more contractors on as-needed basis, such as annual sewer contracts, will apply separate WDs to each task order.
- Contracts issuing a change order or amendment to add substantially different scope of work to an existing contract will apply an updated WD to the additional scope of work.

If in doubt, reach out to WIFIA program staff for technical assistance on the use of WDs on WIFIA projects.

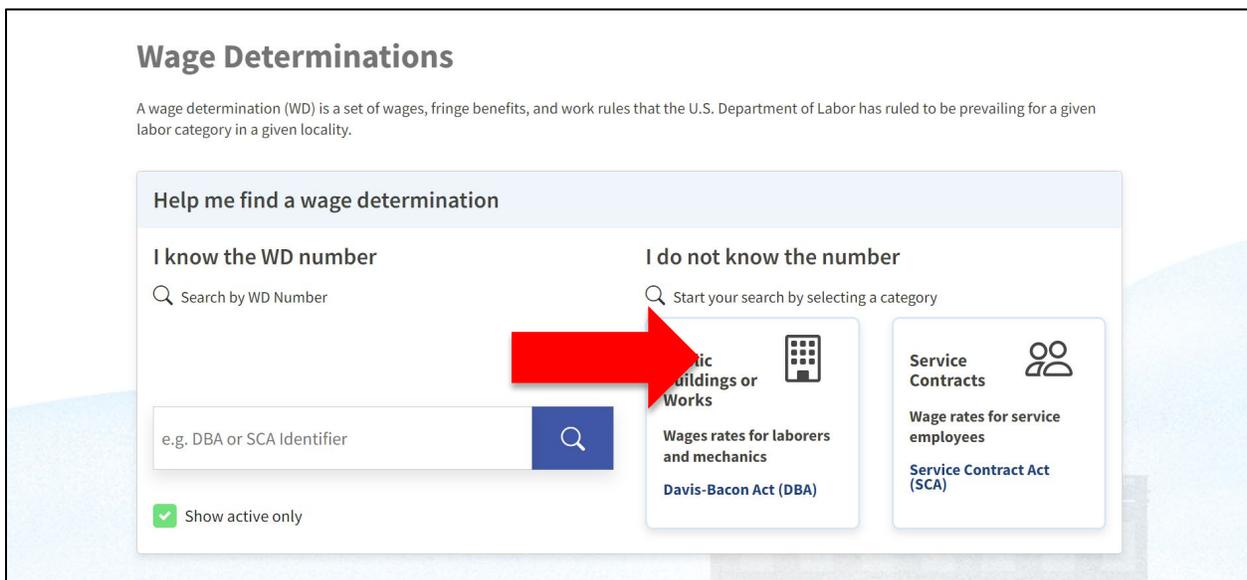
NAVIGATING SAM.GOV TO FIND WAGE DETERMINATIONS

For assistance in finding *historical* (i.e., not current year) WDs, skip to [these tips](#).

Navigate directly using: sam.gov/wage-determinations or if you've made it to [SAM.GOV](https://sam.gov), select "Wage Determinations."



All relevant WDs for WIFIA projects are for "Public Buildings or Works" under the Davis-Bacon Act, not "Service Contracts" under the Service Contract Act. The Service Contract Act does not apply to WIFIA projects.



Identifying the Locality

WDs are published based on the state and county (i.e., locality) in which the construction will occur. If construction occurs in multiple counties, multiple WDs may apply, one for each locality.¹

Identifying the Construction Type

There are four construction types: Building, Heavy, Residential, and Highway.² **Residential** and **Highway** construction types typical do not apply to WIFIA projects since they are generally auxiliary to the water infrastructure construction occurring within residential neighborhoods or along roads or highways, which would fall under **Heavy** construction.

WIFIA projects typically involve these construction types):

- **Building** includes the construction, alteration, or repair of sheltered enclosures with walk-in access for the purpose of housing persons, machinery, equipment, or supplies and the associated installation of utilities and equipment, as well as incidental grading and paving. Examples include construction of administration or industrial buildings, laboratories, storage warehouses, and pump station buildings.
- **Heavy Construction:** includes projects that cannot be classified as Building, Residential, or Highway. Often further distinguished based on the characteristic of particular projects and typically seen as a “catch-all” construction type. Water infrastructure examples include dredging³, water and sewer lines, dams, major bridges, flood control projects, and wells and reservoirs.

There are also instances where both **Heavy** and **Building** construction types may apply to a contract performing water infrastructure work – for example, at a water or wastewater treatment facility – in which case multiple WDs may be needed. If the work under either construction type exceeds \$3.3 million or 20% of the total project cost, it is substantial enough to warrant the use of a WD under that construction type.⁴

¹ Application of WDs for Davis-Bacon projects in DOL’s [Fact Sheet #66D](#) (October 2023).

² Definitions and examples provided in DOL’s [AAM 130 and 131](#) (March 1978).

³ Dredging is a heavy construction activity that may result in a separate WD for certain localities. Unless dredging is the prominent construction type, WIFIA projects would use the **Heavy** (general) construction type.

⁴ Guidance on use of multiple WDs in DOL’s [AAM 251](#) (August 2025).

Input the locality and construction type in the search filter. As criteria are entered, the search results for the current year WDs will dynamically appear. Click on the WD to view, print, or download.

Search

Filter By —

Location

State

County/ Independent City

DBA Construction Type

Status ^
 Active
 Inactive

Published Date

[Reset](#) ↻

Wage Determinations ^ | < | [By Wage Determination ID](#) | [Const](#)

i Set Your Search Criteria
Use the filters on the left to start your search

If multiple WDs appear, it is likely a separate Heavy (Dredging) WD or other specified Heavy construction WD exists. Make sure to select general Heavy WD, unless the specified heavy construction WD is also relevant.

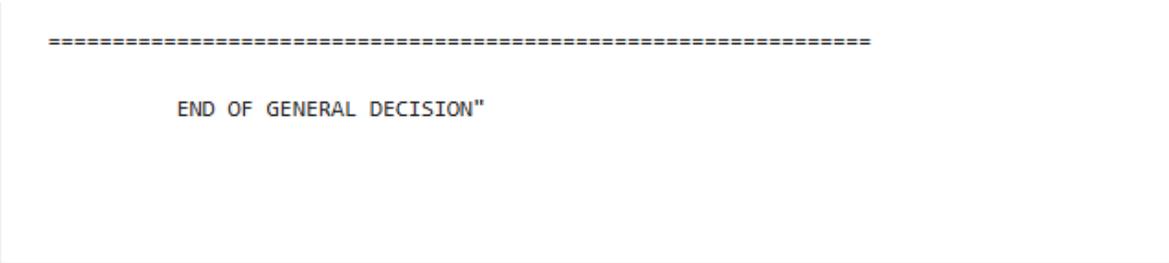
The screenshot shows a search interface with a 'Filter By' sidebar on the left and search results on the right. The sidebar includes filters for Location (Oregon), County/Independent City (Clackamas), DBA Construction Type (Heavy), Status (Active), and Published Date (Anytime). The search results show two Davis-Bacon Act Wage Determinations for Oregon, Clackamas County, both published on Jan 2, 2026. The first result is for OR20260053 and the second is for OR20260081. A red double-headed arrow points to the 'Heavy' construction type filter in the sidebar.

Knowing Contracting Timelines

Each WD can have multiple modification numbers associated with it and knowing the timelines for bid advertisement, bid opening, and contract award will help determine the appropriate modification number of the WD to communicate and apply to contracts.

- During bid advertisement until 10 days prior to bid opening, communicate the latest modification of the WD to potential bidders. DOL may issue a new modification of the WD during this time period that would need to be supplied so potential bidders have the latest wage information.
- If a contract is awarded within 90 days of bid opening, the WD used during advertisement applies to the contract. Otherwise, the latest modification of the WD at the time of the contract award needs to be used.

A history of the modifications for the current year WD is available towards the end of the WD (online version). Select the modification number that most closely relates to the contracting timelines for the contract being awarded.



History

- OR20250081 - Modification 1
- Dec 12, 2025
OR20250081 - Modification 0

TIPS FOR LOCATING HISTORICAL WDS ON SAM.GOV

WDs from prior years do not have the locality (county) and construction type tagged, so searching for them is less direct. However, it is possible to locate historical WDs with these additional tips. Don't forget to download the correct modification number of the historical WD (based on contracting timelines). Go to the History section of the WD (at the very bottom of the online version) to select the appropriate modification number before downloading.

TIP: Search for the current year's WD based on the same locality and construction type for the project and identify the General Decision Number. Most WDs have similar formats and numbers across calendar years, with the exception of the calendar year. Search for the historical WD modifying the decision number with the respective calendar year, e.g., OR20250081 to OR20220081 and deselect "Show active only".

Wage Determinations

A wage determination (WD) is a set of wages, fringe benefits, and work rules that the U.S. Department of Labor has ruled to be prevailing for a given labor category in a given locality.

Help me find a wage determination

I know the WD number

Search by WD Number

OR20220081

Show active only

I do not know the number

Start your search by selecting a category

Public Buildings or Works

Wages rates for laborers and mechanics

Davis-Bacon Act (DBA)

Service Contracts

Wage rates for service employees

Service Contract Act (SCA)

TIP: If that approach fails, remove the locality (county only) and construction type from the search criteria and select “Inactive”. Insert a custom date based on your contracting timelines. The results will include all WDs for the state. This approach may require opening up several WDs to verify the relevant county and construction type.

The screenshot displays the WIFIA search interface. On the left, a 'Filter By' sidebar is highlighted with a red border. It includes the following sections:

- Location:** State dropdown set to 'Oregon'.
- County/ Independent City:** 'Select County' dropdown.
- DBA Construction Type:** 'Select...' dropdown.
- Status:** Radio buttons for 'Active' (unchecked) and 'Inactive' (checked).
- Published Date:** 'Custom date' dropdown.
- From:** Date input field set to 'Jan 1, 2022'.
- To:** Date input field set to 'Dec 31, 2022'.
- Reset** button.

The main search area shows the following navigation and results:

- Navigation: 'Wage Determinations' (selected), '<', 'By Wage Determination ID', 'Construction (DBA)', 'Service Contracts (SCA)', 'Coll', '>'.
- Sort by: 'Published Date'.
- Showing 1 - 25 of 50 results.
- Results list:
 - Davis-Bacon Act WD #: or20220001**
 - State: Oregon, Counties: N/A
 - Status: Inactive
 - DBA Wage Determination
 - Modification Number: 8
 - Construction Types
 - Published Date: Oct 28, 2022
 - Davis-Bacon Act WD #: or20220010**
 - State: Oregon, Counties: N/A
 - Status: Inactive
 - DBA Wage Determination
 - Modification Number: 7
 - Construction Types
 - Published Date: Oct 28, 2022
 - Davis-Bacon Act WD #: or20220011**
 - State: Oregon, Counties: N/A
 - Status: Inactive
 - DBA Wage Determination
 - Modification Number: 7
 - Construction Types
 - Published Date: Oct 28, 2022
 - Davis-Bacon Act WD #: or20220012**
 - State: Oregon, Counties: N/A
 - Status: Inactive
 - DBA Wage Determination
 - Modification Number: 7
 - Construction Types
 - Published Date: Oct 28, 2022

TIP: If these previous tips fail, reach out to the [DOL Wage and Hour Division](#) for assistance in locating the appropriate document.