

The Economic Impact of Construction in the United States and Texas

Economic Impact of Construction:

- U.S. gross domestic product (GDP)—the value of all goods and services produced in the country—totaled \$19.5 trillion in 2017; construction contributed \$781 billion (4.0%). In Texas, construction contributed \$87.5 billion (5.3%) of the state's GDP of \$1.7 trillion, more than the industry's 4.0% share of U.S. GDP.
- Construction wages and salaries in 2017 totaled \$436 billion in the United States, including including \$46.0 billion in Texas.

Nonresidential Construction Spending:

- Nonresidential spending in the U.S. totaled \$714 billion in 2017 (\$438 billion private, \$277 billion public).
- Private nonresidential spending in Texas totaled \$44.7 billion in 2017. State and local spending totaled \$30.8 billion.
- Nonresidential starts in Texas totaled \$53 billion in 2018 and \$59.8 billion in 2017, according to ConstructConnect.

Construction Employment (Seasonally Adjusted):

- Construction (residential + nonresidential) employed 7.3 million workers in December 2018, an increase of 282,000 (4.0%) from December 2017, but 4.8% less than in April 2006, when U.S. construction employment peaked.
- Construction employment in Texas in December 2018 totaled 778,600, an increase of 6.4% from December 2017, a record high.
- Construction unemployment is near a series low. In AGC's 2019 Hiring and Business Outlook Survey, 78% of firms in the U.S. and 76% in Texas reported difficulty filling salaried and hourly craft worker positions.

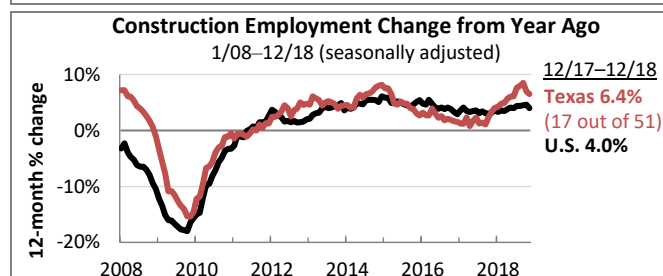
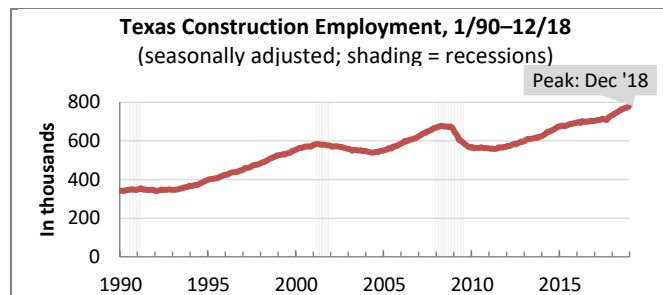
Construction Industry Pay:

- In 2017, pay for all construction *industry* employees in the U.S. averaged \$60,700, 10% more than the average (mean) for all private-sector employees. Pay for construction industry employees in Texas was \$63,200 in 2017, 12% more than the state average for all private-sector employees.
- Four out of the five most numerous construction *occupations* in Texas had higher median pay than the median for all employees in the state. (Half of workers earn more than the median; half earn less.)

Small Business:

- The United States had 669,000 construction firms in 2015, of which 92% were small (1 to 19 employees). Texas had 40,900 construction firms in 2015, of which 87% were small.

*The Bureau of Labor Statistics combines construction, mining and logging employment for metro areas in which mining and logging have few employers. To allow comparisons between states and their metros, not seasonally adjusted statewide data is shown for both construction-only and combined employment change.



Empl. Change by Metro (not seasonally adjusted)		Rank (out of 358)
Metro area or division	12/17–12/18	
Statewide (Construction)	6%	
Statewide (Mining, logging, and construction)*	9%	
Abilene*	-7%	355
Amarillo*	7%	91
Austin-Round Rock*	8%	69
Beaumont-Port Arthur*	4%	177
Brownsville-Harlingen*	-3%	337
College Station-Bryan*	7%	91
Corpus Christi*	6%	113
Dallas-Plano-Irving Div.*	13%	21
El Paso*	6%	113
Fort Worth-Arlington Div.*	6%	113
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land	9%	58
Killeen-Temple*	6%	113
Laredo*	-5%	350
Longview*	-5%	350
Lubbock*	5%	150
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission*	-5%	350
Midland*	16%	10
Odessa*	6%	113
San Angelo*	5%	150
San Antonio-New Braunfels	0%	272
Sherman-Denison*	3%	205
Texarkana, TX-AR*	3%	205
Tyler*	3%	205
Victoria*	-4%	344
Waco*	6%	113
Wichita Falls*	-7%	355

5 most numerous construction jobs and median annual pay in Texas (2017 data)

Occupation	Number of employees	Median annual pay	Pay relative to median
All occupations	11,890,880	\$36,170	
Construction Laborers	108,260	\$29,710	-18%
First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers	71,220	\$64,260	+78%
Electricians	60,080	\$47,380	+31%
Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	42,050	\$47,860	+32%
Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators	38,340	\$38,370	+6%