

The Economic Impact of Construction in the United States and Colorado

Economic Impact of Construction:

- U.S. gross domestic product (GDP)—the value of all goods and services produced in the country—totaled \$20.6 trillion in 2018; construction contributed \$840 billion (4.1%). In Colorado, construction contributed \$21.3 billion (5.8%) of the state’s GDP of \$369 billion.
- Construction wages and salaries in 2018 totaled \$468 billion in the United States, including \$11.1 billion in Colorado.

Construction Spending and Starts:

- Nonresidential spending in the U.S. totaled \$761 billion in 2018 (\$461 billion private, \$301 billion public).
- Residential construction spending in the U.S. totaled \$546 billion (\$290 billion single family, \$60 billion multifamily, \$190 billion improvements, \$7 billion public).
- Private nonresidential spending in Colorado totaled \$7.5 billion in 2018. State and local spending totaled \$6.5 billion. (Totals are not available for residential or federal construction spending).
- Nonresidential (building and heavy/civil) starts in Colorado totaled \$8.4 billion in 2018, according to ConstructConnect.

Construction Employment (Seasonally Adjusted):

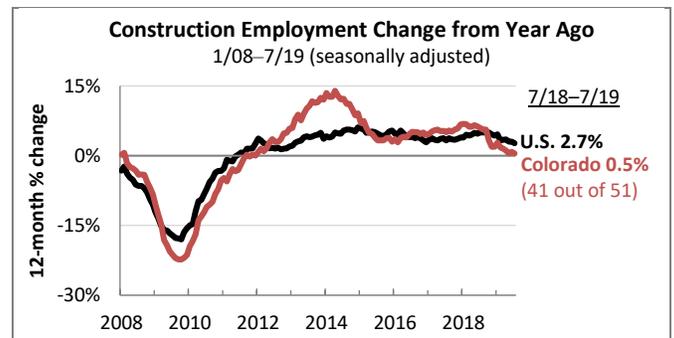
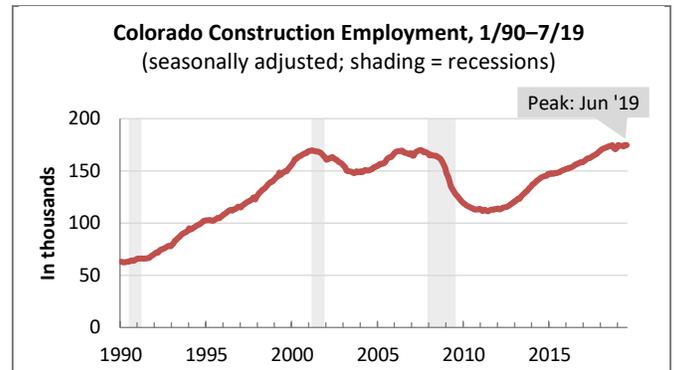
- Construction (residential + nonresidential) employed 7.5 million workers in July 2019, an increase of 177,000 (2.7%) from July 2018, but 3% less than in April 2006, when U.S. construction employment peaked.
- Construction employment in Colorado in July 2019 totaled 174,500, an increase of 0.5% from July 2018, but 0.2% less than the state's peak in June 2019.
- Construction unemployment is near a series low. In the 2019 AGC-Autodesk Workforce Survey, 78% of firms in the U.S. and 88% in Colorado reported difficulty filling hourly craft worker positions.

Construction Industry Pay:

- In 2018, pay for all construction *industry* employees in the U.S. averaged \$62,727, 10% more than the average (mean) for all private-sector employees. Construction industry pay in Colorado averaged \$62,414 in 2018, 5% more than the state average for all private-sector employees.
- Four out of the five most numerous construction *occupations* in Colorado 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 U.S. had 810,295 construction firms in 2016, of which 92% were small (1 to 19 employees). Colorado had 19,884 construction firms in 2016, of which 92% were small.



Empl. Change by Metro (not seasonally adjusted)		Rank
Metro area or division	7/18-7/19	(out of 358)
Statewide (Construction)	0.4%	
Statewide (Mining, logging, and construction)*	1%	
Boulder*	5%	103
Colorado Springs*	5%	103
Denver-Aurora-Lakewood*	-0.2%	303
Fort Collins*	4%	128
Grand Junction*	3%	172
Greeley*	2%	212
Pueblo*	3%	172

*The Bureau of Labor Statistics combines construction, mining and logging employment for metro areas in which mining and logging have few employers. Construction-only employment change is shown for a metro if BLS posts that data.

5 most numerous construction jobs and median annual pay in Colorado (2018 data)			
Occupation	Number of employees	Median annual pay	Pay relative to median
All occupations	2,620,640	\$42,310	
Construction Laborers	20,910	\$35,470	-16%
First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers	16,160	\$69,300	+64%
Electricians	14,850	\$54,980	+30%
Carpenters	14,170	\$47,550	+12%
Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators	11,290	\$49,460	+17%