



The Economic Impact of Construction in the United States and Illinois

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 Illinois, construction contributed \$28.1 billion (3.4%) of the state’s GDP of \$822.5 billion, less 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 \$16.2 billion in Illinois.

Nonresidential Construction Spending:

- Nonresidential spending in the U.S. totaled \$748 billion in 2018 (\$453 billion private, \$295 billion public) and \$714 billion in 2017.
- Private nonresidential spending in Illinois totaled \$8.7 billion in 2018. State and local spending totaled \$9.1 billion.
- Nonresidential starts in Illinois totaled \$7.3 billion in 2018 and \$8.5 billion in 2017, according to ConstructConnect.

Construction Employment (Seasonally Adjusted):

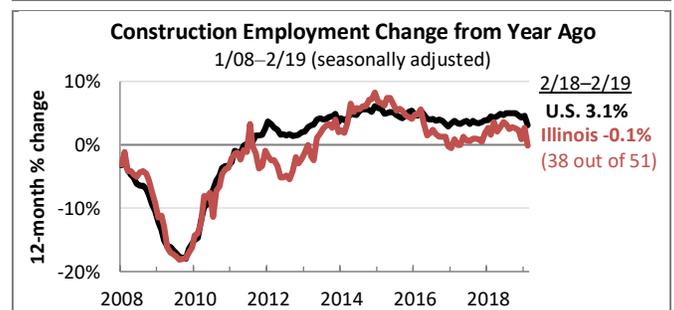
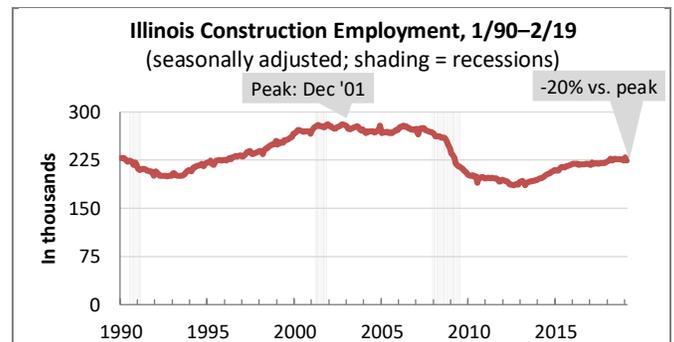
- Construction (residential + nonresidential) employed 7.4 million workers in February 2019, an increase of 223,000 (3.1%) from February 2018, but 3.9% less than in April 2006, when U.S. construction employment peaked.
- Construction employment in Illinois in February 2019 totaled 224,400, a decrease of 0.1% from February 2018, and 20% less than the state's peak in December 2001.
- Construction unemployment is near a series low. In AGC’s 2019 Hiring and Business Outlook Survey, 78% of firms in the U.S. and 54% in Illinois 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 Illinois was \$70,900 in 2017, 21% more than the state average for all private-sector employees.
- The five most numerous construction *occupations* in Illinois 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 669,000 construction firms in 2015, of which 92% were small (1 to 19 employees). Illinois had 28,500 construction firms in 2015, of which 93% were small.



Empl. Change by Metro (not seasonally adjusted)		Rank
Metro area or division	2/18-2/19	(out of 358)
Statewide (Construction)	-1%	
Statewide (Mining, logging, and construction)*	-1%	
Bloomington*	-12%	356
Champaign-Urbana*	0%	233
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Div.	1%	215
Danville*	-20%	358
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL*	3%	157
Decatur*	-4%	323
Elgin Div.	3%	157
Kankakee*	10%	21
Lake County-Kenosha County, IL-WI Div.	10%	21
Peoria*	3%	157
Rockford*	0%	233
Springfield*	-9%	351
St. Louis, MO-IL*	3%	157

*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.

5 most numerous construction jobs and median annual pay in Illinois (2017 data)			
Occupation	Number of employees	Median annual pay	Pay relative to median
All occupations	5,927,860	\$38,870	
Construction Laborers	31,270	\$53,640	+38%
Carpenters	25,200	\$62,140	+60%
Electricians	22,810	\$77,350	+99%
Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	16,470	\$82,380	+112%
Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators	11,400	\$80,450	+107%