



The Economic Impact of Construction in the United States and Rhode Island

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 Rhode Island, construction contributed \$2.2 billion (3.7%) of the state’s GDP of \$57.9 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 and \$1.1 billion (2016) in Rhode Island.

Nonresidential Construction Spending:

- Nonresidential spending in the U.S. totaled \$714 billion in 2017 (\$438 billion private, \$277 billion public).
- Private nonresidential spending in Rhode Island totaled \$886 million in 2017. State and local spending totaled \$488 million.
- Nonresidential starts in Rhode Island totaled \$2.6 billion in 2018 and \$1.2 billion in 2017, according to ConstructConnect.

Construction Employment (Seasonally Adjusted):

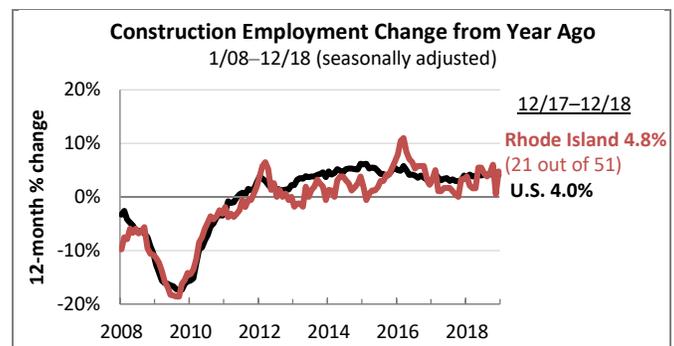
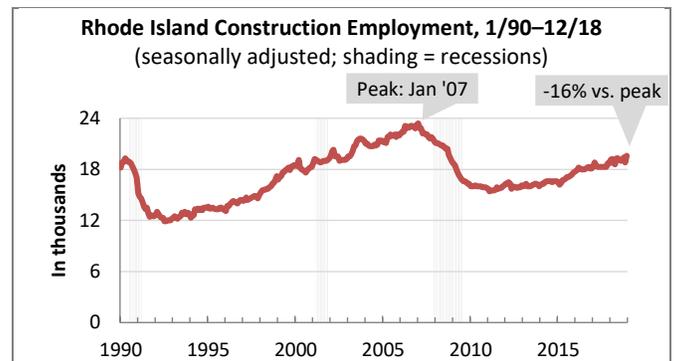
- Construction (residential + nonresidential) employed 7.3 million workers in December 2018, an increase of 282,000 (4.0%) from December 2017, but 4.8% less than in April 2006, when U.S. construction employment peaked.
- Construction employment in Rhode Island in December 2018 totaled 19,600, an increase of 4.8% from December 2017, but 16% less than the state's peak in January 2007.
- Construction unemployment is near a series low. In AGC’s 2019 Hiring and Business Outlook Survey, 78% of firms in the U.S. 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 Rhode Island was \$58,300 in 2016, 18% more than the state average for all private-sector employees.
- Four out of the five most numerous construction *occupations* in Rhode Island 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). Rhode Island had 3,000 construction firms in 2015, of which 95% were small.



Empl. Change by Metro (not seasonally adjusted)		Rank
Metro area or division	12/17-12/18	(out of 358)
Statewide (Construction)	5%	
Statewide (Mining, logging, and construction)*	5%	
Providence-Warwick, RI-MA NECTA	5%	150
Norwich-New London-Westerly, CT-RI NECTA*	13%	21

NECTA: New England City and Town Area (equivalent of metropolitan statistical area)
 *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 Rhode Island (2017 data)			
Occupation	Number of employees	Median annual pay	Pay relative to median
All occupations	475,910	\$40,450	
Carpenters	2,900	\$47,470	+17%
Construction Laborers	2,650	\$40,320	-0%
Electricians	1,960	\$57,020	+41%
First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers	1,750	\$72,250	+79%
Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	1,280	\$57,640	+42%