



The Economic Impact of Construction in the United States and South Carolina

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 South Carolina, construction contributed \$11.6 billion (5.0%) of the state’s GDP of \$230 billion.
- Construction wages and salaries in 2018 totaled \$468 billion in the United States, including including \$5.7 billion in South Carolina.

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 South Carolina totaled \$5.4 billion in 2018. State and local spending totaled \$4.7 billion. (Totals are not available for residential or federal construction spending).
- Nonresidential (building and heavy/civil) starts in South Carolina totaled \$6.4 billion in 2018, according to ConstructConnect.

Construction Employment (Seasonally Adjusted):

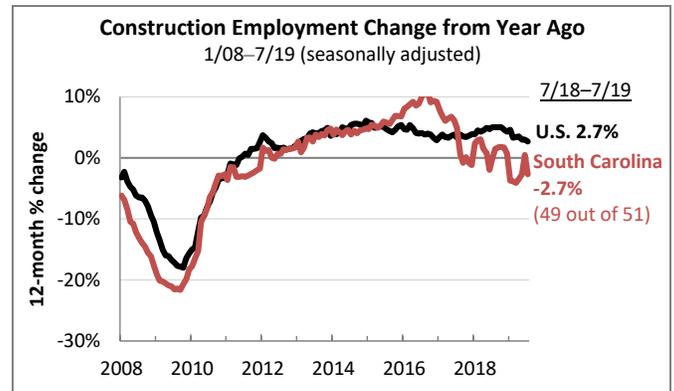
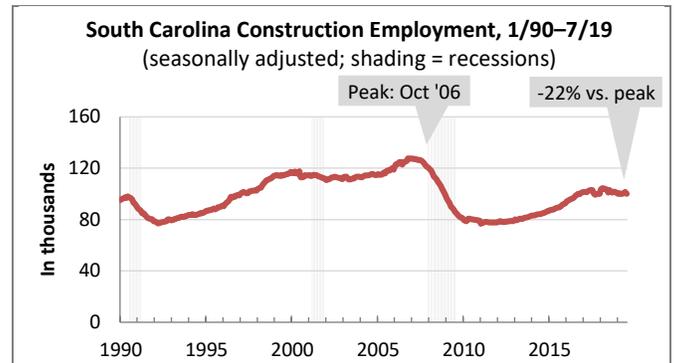
- Construction (residential + nonresidential) employed 7.5 million workers in July 2019, an increase of 177,000 (2.7%) from July 2018, but 3% less than in April 2006, when U.S. construction employment peaked.
- Construction employment in South Carolina in July 2019 totaled 100,100, a decrease of 2.7% from July 2018, and 22% less than the state's peak in October 2006.
- Construction unemployment is near a series low. In the 2019 AGC-Autodesk Workforce Survey, 78% of firms in the U.S. 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 South Carolina averaged \$52,634 in 2018, 20% more than the state average for all private-sector employees.
- Four out of the five most numerous construction *occupations* in South Carolina 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 810,295 construction firms in 2016, of which 92% were small (1 to 19 employees). South Carolina had 12,124 construction firms in 2016, of which 91% were small.



Empl. Change by Metro (not seasonally adjusted)		Rank
Metro area or division	7/18–7/19	(out of 358)
Statewide (Construction)	-2%	
Statewide (Mining, logging, and construction)*	-2%	
Charleston-North Charleston*	4%	128
Columbia*	1%	229
Greenville-Anderson-Mauldin*	5%	103
Myrtle Beach-Conway-North Myrtle Beach, SC-NC*	8%	43
Spartanburg*	3%	172
Augusta-Richmond County, GA-SC*	1%	229
Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia, NC-SC*	-5%	338

*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 South Carolina (2018 data)

Occupation	Number of employees	Median annual pay	Pay relative to median
All occupations	2,062,280	\$33,750	
Construction Laborers	17,810	\$29,320	-13%
First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers	10,370	\$58,580	+74%
Carpenters	9,330	\$39,410	+17%
Electricians	9,080	\$43,730	+30%
Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators	6,570	\$37,590	+11%



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