

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 \$20.6 trillion in 2018; construction contributed \$840 billion (4.1%). In Texas, construction contributed \$94.2 billion (5.3%) of the state's GDP of \$1.8 trillion.
- Construction wages and salaries in 2018 totaled \$468 billion in the United States, including including \$49.4 billion in Texas.

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 Texas totaled \$44.7 billion in 2018. State and local spending totaled \$30.8 billion. (Totals are not available for residential or federal construction spending).
- Nonresidential (building and heavy/civil) starts in Texas totaled \$53.9 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 Texas in July 2019 totaled 786,500, an increase of 6.6% from July 2018, a record high.
- Construction unemployment is near a series low. In the 2019 AGC-Autodesk Workforce Survey, 78% of firms in the U.S. and 84% in Texas reported difficulty filling hourly craft worker positions.

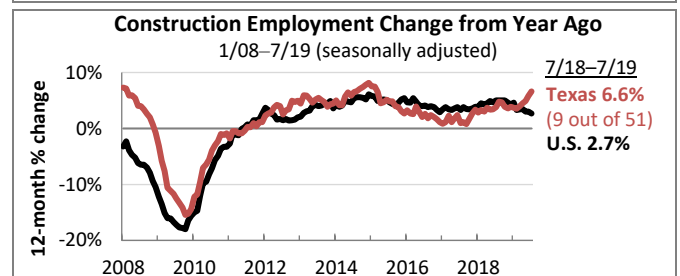
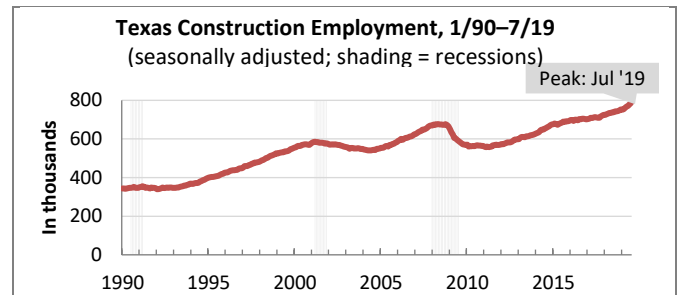
Construction Industry Pay:

- In 2018, pay for all construction *industry* employees in the U.S. averaged \$60,700, 10% more than the average (mean) for all private-sector employees. Construction industry pay in Texas averaged \$65,554 in 2018, 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 810,295 construction firms in 2016, of which 92% were small (1 to 19 employees). Texas had 51,405 construction firms in 2016, 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. Construction-only employment change is shown for a metro if BLS posts that data.



Empl. Change by Metro (not seasonally adjusted)		Rank
Metro area or division	7/18–7/19	(out of 358)
Statewide (Construction)	7%	
Statewide (Mining, logging, and construction)*	6%	
Abilene*	-2%	312
Amarillo*	4%	128
Austin-Round Rock*	4%	128
Beaumont-Port Arthur*	3%	172
Brownsville-Harlingen*	-7%	351
College Station-Bryan*	4%	128
Corpus Christi*	-0.4%	306
Dallas-Plano-Irving Div.*	7%	54
El Paso*	14%	5
Fort Worth-Arlington Div.*	4%	128
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land (Construction)	4%	128
Killeen-Temple*	3%	172
Laredo*	15%	4
Longview*	-9%	354
Lubbock*	5%	103
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission*	-6%	345
Midland*	0%	252
Odessa*	4%	128
San Angelo*	0%	256
San Antonio-New Braunfels (Construction)	3%	172
Sherman-Denison*	0%	256
Texarkana, TX-AR*	7%	54
Tyler*	0%	256
Victoria*	-4%	330
Waco*	3%	172
Wichita Falls*	-6%	345

5 most numerous construction jobs and median annual pay in Texas (2018 data)

Occupation	Number of employees	Median annual pay	Pay relative to median
All occupations	12,113,810	\$37,100	
Construction Laborers	111,250	\$31,180	-16%
First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers	75,230	\$62,410	+68%
Electricians	62,180	\$49,410	+33%
Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	43,490	\$49,280	+33%
Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators	42,880	\$39,400	+6%