



High-Paying Trade Jobs Sit Empty, While High School Grads Line Up For University

Recruiting Efforts Alone Won't Solve the Skilled Trade Shortage



Construction Labor Shortage Creates Increasingly Lucrative Career Paths

After decades of pushing bachelor's degrees, U.S. needs more tradespeople



Where Are All the Builders?

Worker shortage driving skilled labor recruiting bonuses.





## The Economic Impact of Construction in the United States and New York

### 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 New York, construction contributed \$47.5 billion (3.0%) of the state's GDP of \$1.6 trillion, 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 \$28.3 billion in New York.

### Nonresidential Construction Spending:

- Nonresidential spending in the U.S. totaled \$714 billion in 2017 (\$438 billion private, \$277 billion public).
- Private nonresidential spending in New York totaled \$26.9 billion in 2017. State and local spending totaled \$20.1 billion.
- Nonresidential starts in New York totaled \$28 billion in 2018 and \$34.9 billion in 2017, according to ConstructConnect.

### Construction Employment (Seasonally Adjusted):

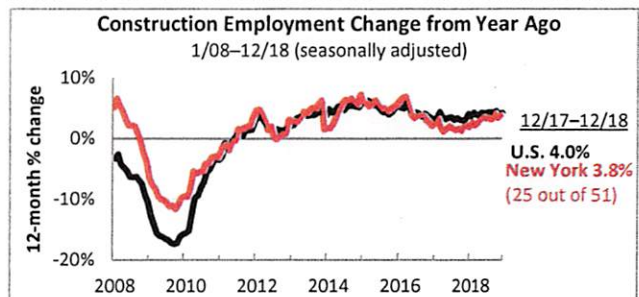
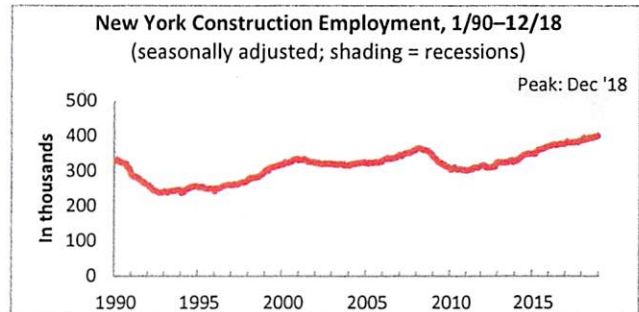
- Construction (residential + nonresidential) employed 7.3 million workers in December 2018, an increase of 282,000 (4.0%) from December 2017, but 4.8% less than in April 2006, when U.S. construction employment peaked.
- Construction employment in New York in December 2018 totaled 401,500, an increase of 3.8% from December 2017, a record high.
- Construction unemployment is near a series low. In AGC's 2019 Hiring and Business Outlook Survey, 78% of firms in the U.S. and 82% in New York 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 New York was \$71,500 in 2017, the same as the state average for all private-sector employees.
- Four out of the five most numerous construction occupations in New York 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). New York had 47,200 construction firms in 2015, of which 93% were small.



Empl. Change by Metro (not seasonally adjusted)		Rank (out of 358)
Metro area or division	12/17–12/18	
Statewide (Construction)	4%	
Statewide (Mining, logging, and construction)*	4%	
Albany-Schenectady-Troy*	4%	177
Binghamton*	0%	274
Buffalo-Cheektowaga-Niagara Falls*	13%	21
Dutchess County-Putnam County Div.*	5%	150
Elmira*	-7%	355
Glens Falls*	4%	177
Ithaca*	0%	274
Kingston*	7%	91
Nassau County-Suffolk County Div.*	13%	21
New York City*	2%	239
Orange-Rockland-Westchester*	1%	257
Rochester	8%	69
Syracuse*	3%	205
Utica-Rome*	3%	205
Watertown-Fort Drum*	0%	274

\*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 New York (2017 data)			
Occupation	Number of employees	Median annual pay	Pay relative to median
All occupations	9,207,870	\$43,690	
Construction Laborers	60,780	\$42,520	-3%
Carpenters	47,220	\$55,210	+26%
Electricians	41,920	\$71,260	+63%
Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	27,410	\$71,630	+64%
First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers	24,920	\$79,700	+82%



# 2018 CONSTRUCTION CRAFT SALARY SURVEY RESULTS

Boilermaker	<b>\$65,341</b>	Mobile Crane Operator	<b>\$66,119</b>
Commercial Carpenter	<b>\$56,877</b>	Pipefitter	<b>\$62,697</b>
Industrial Carpenter	<b>\$55,150</b>	Plumber	<b>\$59,627</b>
Commercial Electrician	<b>\$61,139</b>	Power Generation Technician	<b>\$63,024</b>
Industrial Electrician	<b>\$67,269</b>	Power Line Worker	<b>\$68,262</b>
Electronic Systems Technician	<b>\$63,093</b>	Project Manager	<b>\$92,523</b>
Heavy Equipment Operator	<b>\$60,828</b>	Project Supervisor	<b>\$88,355</b>
HVAC Technician	<b>\$62,472</b>	Rigger	<b>\$57,084</b>
Industrial Coatings Applicator	<b>\$51,388</b>	Scaffold Builder	<b>\$52,990</b>
Industrial Maintenance Mechanic	<b>\$59,995</b>	Sheet Metal Worker	<b>\$58,160</b>
Instrumentation Fitter	<b>\$62,504</b>	Signal Person	<b>\$47,741</b>
Instrumentation Technician	<b>\$70,080</b>	Sprinkler Fitter	<b>\$55,328</b>
Insulation Mechanic	<b>\$52,624</b>	Tower Crane Operator	<b>\$66,329</b>
Ironworker	<b>\$60,060</b>	Welder: Combo	<b>\$71,067</b>
Mason	<b>\$56,784</b>	Welder: Pipe	<b>\$69,222</b>
Millwright	<b>\$66,919</b>	Welder: Structural/Fabricator	<b>\$56,160</b>

Survey data was provided by 132 voluntary organizations representing 353,503 employees from the industrial and commercial construction industries across the United States. Crafts for which the number of responses received were insufficient to calculate a valid average are not included in the survey results. All information submitted for this wage survey is considered confidential and is being used in summary. Identification of individual or company respondents is strictly confidential.

**Figures above represent average annual salaries for individual craft areas, not including overtime, per diem or other incentives.**



**Table 2.1 Employment by major industry sector, 2006, 2016, and projected 2026**

Industry Sector	Thousands of Jobs			Change		Percent Distribution			Compound Annual Rate of Change	
	2006	2016	2026	2006-16	2016-26	2006	2016	2026	2006-16	2016-26
Total <sup>(1)</sup>	148,988.2	156,063.8	167,582.3	7,075.7	11,518.5	100.0	100.0	100.0	0.5	0.7
Nonagriculture wage and salary <sup>(2)</sup>	137,190.9	144,979.3	155,724.8	7,788.4	10,745.5	92.1	92.9	92.9	0.6	0.7
Goods-producing, excluding agriculture	22,466.7	19,685.2	19,904.2	-2,781.5	219.0	15.1	12.6	11.9	-1.3	0.1
Mining	619.7	626.1	716.9	6.4	90.8	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.1	1.4
Construction (4th Highest Rate of Change to 2026)	7,691.2	6,711.0	7,575.7	-980.2	864.7	5.2	4.3	4.5	-1.4	1.2
Manufacturing	14,155.8	12,348.1	11,611.7	-1,807.7	-736.4	9.5	7.9	6.9	-1.4	-0.6
Services-providing excluding special industries	114,724.2	125,294.1	135,820.6	10,569.9	10,526.5	77.0	80.3	81.0	0.9	0.8
Utilities	548.5	556.2	559.6	7.7	3.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.1
Wholesale trade	5,904.6	5,867.0	6,012.8	-37.6	145.8	4.0	3.8	3.6	-0.1	0.2
Retail trade	15,353.2	15,820.4	16,232.7	467.2	412.3	10.3	10.1	9.7	0.3	0.3
Transportation and warehousing	4,469.6	4,989.1	5,353.4	519.5	364.3	3.0	3.2	3.2	1.1	0.7
Information	3,037.9	2,772.3	2,824.8	-265.6	52.5	2.0	1.8	1.7	-0.9	0.2
Financial activities	8,366.6	8,284.8	8,764.6	-81.8	479.8	5.6	5.3	5.2	-0.1	0.6
Professional and business services	17,566.2	20,135.6	22,295.3	2,569.4	2,159.7	11.8	12.9	13.3	1.4	1.0
Educational services	2,900.9	3,559.7	4,066.2	658.8	506.5	1.9	2.3	2.4	2.1	1.3
Health care and social assistance	15,253.3	19,056.3	23,054.6	3,803.0	3,998.3	10.2	12.2	13.8	2.3	1.9
Leisure and hospitality	13,109.7	15,620.4	16,939.4	2,510.7	1,319.0	8.8	10.0	10.1	1.8	0.8
Other services	6,240.5	6,409.4	6,761.4	168.9	352.0	4.2	4.1	4.0	0.3	0.5
Federal government	2,732.0	2,795.0	2,739.2	63.0	-55.8	1.8	1.8	1.6	0.2	-0.2
State and local government	19,241.2	19,427.9	20,216.6	186.7	788.7	12.9	12.4	12.1	0.1	0.4
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting <sup>(3)</sup>	2,111.2	2,351.5	2,345.4	240.3	-6.1	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.1	0.0
Agriculture wage and salary	1,218.6	1,501.0	1,518.0	282.4	17.0	0.8	1.0	0.9	2.1	0.1
Agriculture self-employed	892.6	850.5	827.5	-42.1	-23.0	0.6	0.5	0.5	-0.5	-0.3
Nonagriculture self-employed	9,686.0	8,733.0	9,512.1	-953.0	779.1	6.5	5.6	5.7	-1.0	0.9

**Footnotes:**

<sup>1</sup> Employment data for wage and salary workers are from the BLS Current Employment Statistics survey, which counts jobs, whereas self-employed, unpaid family workers, and agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting are from the Current Population Survey (household survey), which counts workers.

<sup>2</sup> Includes wage and salary data from the Current Employment Statistics survey, except private households, which is from the Current Populations Survey. Logging workers are excluded.

<sup>3</sup> Includes agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting data from the Current Population Survey, except logging, which is from Current Employment Statistics survey. Government wage and salary workers are excluded.



**Table 2.4 Industries with the largest wage and salary employment growth and declines, 2016-26**

Industry Description	Sector	2012 NAICS	Thousands of Jobs		Change	Compound Annual Rate of Change
			2016	2026	2016-26	2016-26
Largest Growth						
Food services and drinking places	Leisure and hospitality	722	11,438.7	12,515.7	1,077.0	0.9
Individual and family services	Health care and social assistance	6241	2,229.4	3,100.8	871.4	3.4
Construction	Construction	23	6,711.0	7,575.7	864.7	1.2
Home health care services	Health care and social assistance	6216	1,362.0	2,100.2	738.2	4.4
Offices of physicians	Health care and social assistance	6211	2,527.7	3,076.5	548.8	2.0
Nursing and residential care facilities	Health care and social assistance	623	3,313.6	3,742.7	429.1	1.2
Computer systems design and related services	Professional and business services	5415	1,990.7	2,415.7	425.0	2.0
Hospitals	Health care and social assistance	622	5,025.0	5,444.0	419.0	0.8
Local government educational services compensation	State and local government	NA	7,920.0	8,333.1	413.1	0.5
Outpatient care centers	Health care and social assistance	6214	856.3	1,178.9	322.6	3.2
Management, scientific, and technical consulting services	Professional and business services	5416	1,372.5	1,691.5	319.0	2.1
Offices of other health practitioners	Health care and social assistance	6213	858.5	1,122.5	264.0	2.7
Services to buildings and dwellings	Professional and business services	5617	2,070.3	2,322.6	252.3	1.2
Junior colleges, colleges, universities, and professional schools	Educational services	6112, 6113	1,818.9	2,058.0	239.1	1.2
Warehousing and storage	Transportation and Warehousing	493	915.1	1,110.8	195.7	2.0
Employment services	Professional and business services	5613	3,566.5	3,760.9	194.4	0.5
Offices of dentists	Health care and social assistance	6212	925.8	1,101.2	175.4	1.8
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	Retail trade	441	1,981.8	2,145.7	163.9	0.8
Wholesale trade	Wholesale trade	42	5,867.0	6,012.8	145.8	0.2
Agencies, brokerages, and other insurance related activities	Financial activities	5242	1,098.1	1,241.6	143.5	1.2