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CONSTRUCTION EMPLOYMENT RISES IN 42 STATES AND D.C. FROM MAY 2017 TO MAY 2018 WHILE 28 STATES ADD CONSTRUCTION JOBS FOR THE MONTH

California and West Virginia Have Biggest Annual Job Gains While New Jersey and North Dakota Lag; Ohio and North Dakota Have Largest Monthly Increases As New Jersey, California, Wyoming Trail

Forty-two states and the District of Columbia added construction jobs between May 2017 and May 2018, while 28 states added construction jobs between April and May, according to an analysis by the Associated General Contractors of America of Labor Department data released today. Association officials warned that soaring construction costs, aggravated by new tariffs on steel and aluminum, could trigger project cancellations and job losses.

“It is heartening to see such widespread construction job gains,” said chief economist Ken Simonson. “However, unexpected, steep cost increases for many materials may force some contractors to lay off workers, while passing on price hikes will likely cause public agencies and private owners to delay or cancel projects.”

California added the most construction jobs (50,000 jobs, 6.2 percent) during the past year. Other states adding a large number of new construction jobs for the past 12 months include Texas (43,100 jobs, 6.1 percent); Florida (31,300 jobs, 6.2 percent); Georgia (15,300 jobs, 8.4 percent), Arizona (12,600 jobs, 8.8 percent) and Michigan (12,500 jobs, 7.7 percent). West Virginia added the highest percentage of new construction jobs during the past year (11.1 percent, 3,400 jobs), followed by Arizona, Georgia, Michigan and Utah (7.6 percent, 7,300 jobs). Construction employment reached a record high in Louisiana, Nebraska and Texas.

Only six states shed construction jobs between May 2017 and May 2018, while construction employment was unchanged in Montana and Wyoming. New Jersey lost the most jobs (-4,600 jobs, -3.0 percent), followed by North Dakota (-1,800 jobs, -6.4 percent); Missouri (-1,500 jobs, -1.2 percent) and South Carolina (-1,400 jobs, -1.4 percent). In addition, Kentucky and Iowa each lost 100 jobs (-0.1 percent). North Dakota had the largest percentage loss of construction jobs over the year, followed by New Jersey, South Carolina, Missouri, Kentucky and Iowa.

Of the 28 states that added construction jobs between April and May, Ohio added the most (6,000 jobs, 2.7 percent), followed by Texas (5,800 jobs, 0.8 percent); New York (3,000 jobs, 0.8 percent); Michigan (2,700 jobs, 1.6 percent) and Louisiana (2,300 jobs, 1.6 percent). North Dakota added the highest percentage of construction jobs for the month (8.5 percent, 2,100 jobs), followed by South Dakota (4.3 percent, 1,000 jobs); Nebraska (3.7 percent, 1,900 jobs); Maine (3.2 percent, 900 jobs) and Rhode Island (3.2 percent, 600 jobs).

Sixteen states and D.C. lost construction jobs from April to May, while construction employment was unchanged in Delaware, Missouri, New Mexico, Utah, Virginia, and Wisconsin. The largest number construction job losses in May—2,900—occurred in California (-0.3 percent) and New Jersey (-1.9 percent), followed by 1,200 jobs lost in Nevada (-1.3 percent) and Kentucky (-1.6 percent). Wyoming lost the highest percentage of construction jobs for the month (-2.0 percent, -400 jobs), followed by New Jersey, Kentucky and Nevada.

Association officials said that rising costs for many construction materials are likely to undermine future employment growth in the sector. They noted that contractors will have a hard time passing the additional costs along to their clients, leaving less money available to invest in new personnel or equipment. And they urged administration officials to reconsider imposing new tariffs that are likely to undermine economic growth.

“Construction employment in many parts of the country could be impacted as firms get caught in the crossfire of the looming trade war,” said Stephen E. Sandherr, the association’s chief executive officer.

View the state employment data by [rank](#), [state](#) and [peak](#). View the state employment [map](#).

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State Construction Employment (seasonally adjusted), 5/17 to 5/18

	<u>May</u> <u>2017</u>	<u>March</u> <u>2018</u>	<u>April</u> <u>2018</u>	<u>May</u> <u>2018</u>	<u>1-month gain or loss</u>			<u>12-month gain or loss</u>		
					<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>% rank**</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>% rank**</u>
Alabama	84,700	86,600	87,700	86,900	-800	-0.9%	46	2,200	2.6%	32
Alaska	15,000	15,600	15,700	15,600	-100	-0.6%	41	600	4.0%	22
Arizona	143,600	152,700	154,600	156,200	1,600	1.0%	15	12,600	8.8%	2
Arkansas	51,300	51,100	51,000	51,500	500	1.0%	15	200	0.4%	42
California	806,700	851,800	859,600	856,700	-2,900	-0.3%	39	50,000	6.2%	11
Colorado	161,900	172,400	171,200	171,600	400	0.2%	25	9,700	6.0%	14
Connecticut	58,400	59,400	59,200	58,800	-400	-0.7%	43	400	0.7%	41
Delaware*	21,700	23,000	22,500	22,500	0	0.0%	28	800	3.7%	25
District of Columbia*	15,500	15,800	15,800	15,700	-100	-0.6%	41	200	1.3%	37
Florida	504,100	535,800	536,100	535,400	-700	-0.1%	35	31,300	6.2%	11
Georgia	182,900	193,900	196,500	198,200	1,700	0.9%	17	15,300	8.4%	3
Hawaii*	36,200	35,900	35,700	36,300	600	1.7%	7	100	0.3%	43
Idaho	44,500	47,900	47,700	47,300	-400	-0.8%	45	2,800	6.3%	10
Illinois	219,600	225,000	225,400	225,500	100	0.0%	28	5,900	2.7%	31
Indiana	137,800	146,100	143,100	142,100	-1,000	-0.7%	43	4,300	3.1%	29
Iowa	76,800	75,100	75,700	76,700	1,000	1.3%	12	-100	-0.1%	46
Kansas	59,600	59,100	59,600	60,100	500	0.8%	18	500	0.8%	40
Kentucky	76,400	76,700	77,500	76,300	-1,200	-1.6%	49	-100	-0.1%	46
Louisiana	148,500	147,500	149,400	151,700	2,300	1.6%	8	3,200	2.2%	33
Maine	27,600	28,400	28,700	29,600	900	3.2%	4	2,000	7.2%	7
Maryland*	163,200	165,200	164,900	165,400	500	0.3%	24	2,200	1.3%	37
Massachusetts	149,600	159,500	158,700	158,400	-300	-0.2%	37	8,800	5.9%	15
Michigan	161,800	172,000	171,600	174,300	2,700	1.6%	8	12,500	7.7%	4
Minnesota	120,000	120,300	120,800	122,400	1,600	1.3%	12	2,400	2.0%	35
Mississippi	42,900	45,200	44,900	44,800	-100	-0.2%	37	1,900	4.4%	19
Missouri	122,700	121,200	121,200	121,200	0	0.0%	28	-1,500	-1.2%	48
Montana	28,300	28,000	28,000	28,300	300	1.1%	14	0	0.0%	44
Nebraska*	51,800	50,800	51,000	52,900	1,900	3.7%	3	1,100	2.1%	34
Nevada	83,700	90,800	89,600	88,400	-1,200	-1.3%	48	4,700	5.6%	17
New Hampshire	26,300	27,600	27,700	28,100	400	1.4%	11	1,800	6.8%	8
New Jersey	155,600	154,200	153,900	151,000	-2,900	-1.9%	50	-4,600	-3.0%	50
New Mexico	45,400	48,300	48,300	48,300	0	0.0%	28	2,900	6.4%	9
New York	382,400	390,900	391,700	394,700	3,000	0.8%	18	12,300	3.2%	27
North Carolina	207,700	214,400	215,500	216,000	500	0.2%	25	8,300	4.0%	22
North Dakota	28,000	24,700	24,100	26,200	2,100	8.5%	1	-1,800	-6.4%	51
Ohio	219,300	219,800	220,400	226,400	6,000	2.7%	6	7,100	3.2%	27
Oklahoma	76,700	78,600	78,300	77,500	-800	-1.0%	47	800	1.0%	39
Oregon	96,800	101,500	102,400	104,000	1,600	1.6%	8	7,200	7.4%	6
Pennsylvania	248,800	255,900	256,200	258,100	1,900	0.7%	21	9,300	3.7%	25
Rhode Island	18,300	18,700	18,600	19,200	600	3.2%	4	900	4.9%	18
South Carolina	101,700	101,500	100,400	100,300	-100	-0.1%	35	-1,400	-1.4%	49
South Dakota*	23,200	23,400	23,200	24,200	1,000	4.3%	2	1,000	4.3%	20
Tennessee*	124,100	124,600	125,600	125,800	200	0.2%	25	1,700	1.4%	36
Texas	711,200	744,800	748,500	754,300	5,800	0.8%	18	43,100	6.1%	13
Utah	96,100	102,000	103,400	103,400	0	0.0%	28	7,300	7.6%	5
Vermont	15,100	15,300	15,600	15,700	100	0.7%	21	600	4.0%	22
Virginia	192,800	201,700	200,800	200,800	0	0.0%	28	8,000	4.1%	21
Washington	198,500	206,500	208,800	210,200	1,400	0.7%	21	11,700	5.9%	15
West Virginia	30,500	33,700	34,000	33,900	-100	-0.3%	39	3,400	11.1%	1
Wisconsin	116,900	121,700	120,200	120,200	0	0.0%	28	3,300	2.8%	30
Wyoming	19,600	19,800	20,000	19,600	-400	-2.0%	51	0	0.0%	44

*BLS posts only combined construction, mining and logging data for these locations. **Rank is based on 50 states plus D.C.



State Construction Employment (seasonally adjusted), Ranked by Latest 12-month % Change

	<u>May</u> <u>2017</u>	<u>March</u> <u>2018</u>	<u>April</u> <u>2018</u>	<u>May</u> <u>2018</u>	<u>1-month gain or loss</u>			<u>12-month gain or loss</u>		
					<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>% rank**</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>% rank**</u>
West Virginia	30,500	33,700	34,000	33,900	-100	-0.3%	39	3,400	11.1%	1
Arizona	143,600	152,700	154,600	156,200	1,600	1.0%	15	12,600	8.8%	2
Georgia	182,900	193,900	196,500	198,200	1,700	0.9%	17	15,300	8.4%	3
Michigan	161,800	172,000	171,600	174,300	2,700	1.6%	8	12,500	7.7%	4
Utah	96,100	102,000	103,400	103,400	0	0.0%	28	7,300	7.6%	5
Oregon	96,800	101,500	102,400	104,000	1,600	1.6%	8	7,200	7.4%	6
Maine	27,600	28,400	28,700	29,600	900	3.2%	4	2,000	7.2%	7
New Hampshire	26,300	27,600	27,700	28,100	400	1.4%	11	1,800	6.8%	8
New Mexico	45,400	48,300	48,300	48,300	0	0.0%	28	2,900	6.4%	9
Idaho	44,500	47,900	47,700	47,300	-400	-0.8%	45	2,800	6.3%	10
California	806,700	851,800	859,600	856,700	-2,900	-0.3%	39	50,000	6.2%	11
Florida	504,100	535,800	536,100	535,400	-700	-0.1%	35	31,300	6.2%	11
Texas	711,200	744,800	748,500	754,300	5,800	0.8%	18	43,100	6.1%	13
Colorado	161,900	172,400	171,200	171,600	400	0.2%	25	9,700	6.0%	14
Washington	198,500	206,500	208,800	210,200	1,400	0.7%	21	11,700	5.9%	15
Massachusetts	149,600	159,500	158,700	158,400	-300	-0.2%	37	8,800	5.9%	15
Nevada	83,700	90,800	89,600	88,400	-1,200	-1.3%	48	4,700	5.6%	17
Rhode Island	18,300	18,700	18,600	19,200	600	3.2%	4	900	4.9%	18
Mississippi	42,900	45,200	44,900	44,800	-100	-0.2%	37	1,900	4.4%	19
South Dakota*	23,200	23,400	23,200	24,200	1,000	4.3%	2	1,000	4.3%	20
Virginia	192,800	201,700	200,800	200,800	0	0.0%	28	8,000	4.1%	21
North Carolina	207,700	214,400	215,500	216,000	500	0.2%	25	8,300	4.0%	22
Alaska	15,000	15,600	15,700	15,600	-100	-0.6%	41	600	4.0%	22
Vermont	15,100	15,300	15,600	15,700	100	0.7%	21	600	4.0%	22
Pennsylvania	248,800	255,900	256,200	258,100	1,900	0.7%	21	9,300	3.7%	25
Delaware*	21,700	23,000	22,500	22,500	0	0.0%	28	800	3.7%	25
New York	382,400	390,900	391,700	394,700	3,000	0.8%	18	12,300	3.2%	27
Ohio	219,300	219,800	220,400	226,400	6,000	2.7%	6	7,100	3.2%	27
Indiana	137,800	146,100	143,100	142,100	-1,000	-0.7%	43	4,300	3.1%	29
Wisconsin	116,900	121,700	120,200	120,200	0	0.0%	28	3,300	2.8%	30
Illinois	219,600	225,000	225,400	225,500	100	0.0%	28	5,900	2.7%	31
Alabama	84,700	86,600	87,700	86,900	-800	-0.9%	46	2,200	2.6%	32
Louisiana	148,500	147,500	149,400	151,700	2,300	1.6%	8	3,200	2.2%	33
Nebraska*	51,800	50,800	51,000	52,900	1,900	3.7%	3	1,100	2.1%	34
Minnesota	120,000	120,300	120,800	122,400	1,600	1.3%	12	2,400	2.0%	35
Tennessee*	124,100	124,600	125,600	125,800	200	0.2%	25	1,700	1.4%	36
Maryland*	163,200	165,200	164,900	165,400	500	0.3%	24	2,200	1.3%	37
District of Columbia*	15,500	15,800	15,800	15,700	-100	-0.6%	41	200	1.3%	37
Oklahoma	76,700	78,600	78,300	77,500	-800	-1.0%	47	800	1.0%	39
Kansas	59,600	59,100	59,600	60,100	500	0.8%	18	500	0.8%	40
Connecticut	58,400	59,400	59,200	58,800	-400	-0.7%	43	400	0.7%	41
Arkansas	51,300	51,100	51,000	51,500	500	1.0%	15	200	0.4%	42
Hawaii*	36,200	35,900	35,700	36,300	600	1.7%	7	100	0.3%	43
Montana	28,300	28,000	28,000	28,300	300	1.1%	14	0	0.0%	44
Wyoming	19,600	19,800	20,000	19,600	-400	-2.0%	51	0	0.0%	44
Iowa	76,800	75,100	75,700	76,700	1,000	1.3%	12	-100	-0.1%	46
Kentucky	76,400	76,700	77,500	76,300	-1,200	-1.6%	49	-100	-0.1%	46
Missouri	122,700	121,200	121,200	121,200	0	0.0%	28	-1,500	-1.2%	48
South Carolina	101,700	101,500	100,400	100,300	-100	-0.1%	35	-1,400	-1.4%	49
New Jersey	155,600	154,200	153,900	151,000	-2,900	-1.9%	50	-4,600	-3.0%	50
North Dakota	28,000	24,700	24,100	26,200	2,100	8.5%	1	-1,800	-6.4%	51

*BLS posts only combined construction, mining and logging data for these locations. **Rank is based on 50 states plus D.C.



State Construction Employment

	<u>Employment</u> <u>since January 1990</u>	<u>Prior peak</u> <u>month/year</u>	<u>Prior peak</u> <u>total</u>	<u>May</u> <u>2018</u>	<u>May 2018-prior peak</u> <u>number</u>	<u>percent</u>
Alabama		Oct '07	113,700	86,900	-26,800	-24%
Alaska		Apr '05	19,400	15,600	-3,800	-20%
Arizona		Jun '06	244,300	156,200	-88,100	-36%
Arkansas		Mar '07	57,600	51,500	-6,100	-11%
California		Feb '06	945,100	856,700	-88,400	-9%
Colorado		Feb '18	172,700	171,600	-1,100	-1%
Connecticut		Jan '08	69,400	58,800	-10,600	-15%
Delaware*		Nov '05	29,900	22,500	-7,400	-25%
District of Columbia*		Mar '16	16,200	15,700	-500	-3%
Florida		Jun '06	691,900	535,400	-156,500	-23%
Georgia		Mar '07	224,000	198,200	-25,800	-12%
Hawaii*		Dec '07	39,600	36,300	-3,300	-8%
Idaho		Jun '06	53,300	47,300	-6,000	-11%
Illinois		Oct '02	281,000	225,500	-55,500	-20%
Indiana		Mar '00	154,100	142,100	-12,000	-8%
Iowa		Mar '16	83,200	76,700	-6,500	-8%
Kansas		Sep '00	66,600	60,100	-6,500	-10%
Kentucky		Mar '00	90,700	76,300	-14,400	-16%
Louisiana		Apr '18	149,400	151,700	2,300	2%
Maine		Apr '06	31,900	29,600	-2,300	-7%
Maryland*		Mar '06	192,400	165,400	-27,000	-14%
Massachusetts		Mar '18	159,500	158,400	-1,100	-1%
Michigan		Apr '00	214,200	174,300	-39,900	-19%
Minnesota		Feb '06	132,000	122,400	-9,600	-7%
Mississippi		Apr '08	63,200	44,800	-18,400	-29%
Missouri		Feb '06	150,300	121,200	-29,100	-19%
Montana		Jun '07	33,000	28,300	-4,700	-14%
Nebraska*		Mar '17	52,700	52,900	200	0%
Nevada		Jun '06	146,400	88,400	-58,000	-40%
New Hampshire		Apr '06	30,100	28,100	-2,000	-7%
New Jersey		Apr '06	177,600	151,000	-26,600	-15%
New Mexico		Jun '06	59,600	48,300	-11,300	-19%
New York		Feb '18	396,000	394,700	-1,300	0%
North Carolina		Jun '07	256,800	216,000	-40,800	-16%
North Dakota		Dec '14	37,200	26,200	-11,000	-30%
Ohio		Mar '00	253,600	226,400	-27,200	-11%
Oklahoma		Feb '18	79,400	77,500	-1,900	-2%
Oregon		Aug '07	105,400	104,000	-1,400	-1%
Pennsylvania		Jan '07	264,300	258,100	-6,200	-2%
Rhode Island		Jan '07	23,400	19,200	-4,200	-18%
South Carolina		Oct '06	127,700	100,300	-27,400	-21%
South Dakota*		Jul '16	24,900	24,200	-700	-3%
Tennessee*		Jan '08	140,300	125,800	-14,500	-10%
Texas		Apr '18	748,500	754,300	5,800	1%
Utah		Feb '07	105,700	103,400	-2,300	-2%
Vermont		Apr '06	17,600	15,700	-1,900	-11%
Virginia		Mar '06	252,500	200,800	-51,700	-20%
Washington		Jun '07	211,600	210,200	-1,400	-1%
West Virginia		Dec '06	40,300	33,900	-6,400	-16%
Wisconsin		Apr '06	130,100	120,200	-9,900	-8%
Wyoming		Feb '08	28,700	19,600	-9,100	-32%

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