



The Economic Impact of Construction in the United States and Virginia

Economic Impact of Construction:

- U.S. gross domestic product (GDP)—the value of all goods and services produced in the country—totaled \$19.3 trillion in 2017; construction contributed \$826 billion (4.3%). In Virginia, construction contributed \$21.9 billion (4.3%) of the state’s GDP of \$509 billion, the same as the industry’s 4.3% share of U.S. GDP.
- Construction wages and salaries in 2017 totaled \$427 billion in the United States, including \$11.1 billion in Virginia.

Nonresidential Construction Spending:

- Nonresidential spending in the U.S. totaled \$714 billion in 2017 (\$438 billion private, \$277 billion public).
- Private nonresidential spending in Virginia totaled \$6.9 billion in 2017. State and local spending totaled \$5.9 billion.
- Nonresidential starts in Virginia totaled \$11.7 billion in 2017 and \$10.8 billion in 2016, according to ConstructConnect.

Construction Employment (Seasonally Adjusted):

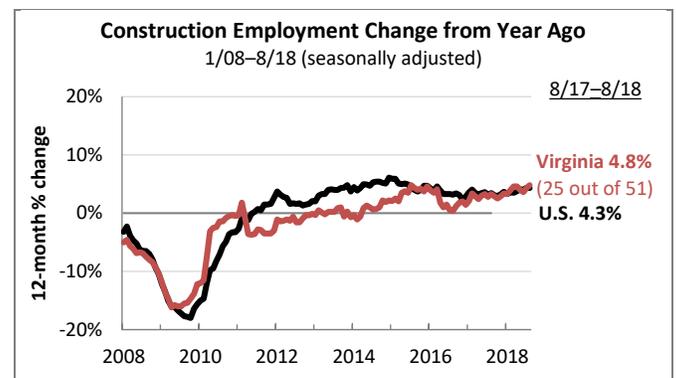
- Construction (residential + nonresidential) employed 7.3 million workers in August 2018, an increase of 315,000 (4.3%) from August 2017, but 5.7% less than in April 2006, when U.S. construction employment peaked.
- Construction employment in Virginia in August 2018 totaled 202,300, an increase of 4.8% from August 2017, but 20% less than the state's peak in March 2006.
- Construction unemployment is near a series low. In AGC’s August 2018 workforce survey, 80% of firms in the U.S. and 84% in Virginia reported difficulty filling 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 Virginia was \$56,200 in 2017, the same as the state average for all private-sector employees.
- Four out of the five most numerous construction *occupations* in Virginia 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). Virginia had 19,000 construction firms in 2015, of which 90% were small.



Empl. Change by Metro (not seasonally adjusted)		Rank
Metro area or division	8/17-8/18	(out of 358)
Statewide (Construction)	5%	
Statewide (Mining, logging, and construction)*	5%	
Charlottesville*	0%	288
Lynchburg*	3%	225
Northern Virginia*	9%	62
Richmond*	1%	273
Roanoke*	2%	255
Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, VA-NC*	0%	288
Kingsport-Bristol-Bristol, TN-VA*	-3%	337

*The Bureau of Labor Statistics combines construction, mining and logging employment for metro areas in which mining and logging have few employees. 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 Virginia			
Occupation	Number of employees	Median annual pay	Pay relative to median
All occupations	3,789,910	\$39,800	
Construction Laborers	21,300	\$29,440	-26%
First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers	19,350	\$62,970	+58%
Carpenters	16,670	\$41,340	+4%
Electricians	15,980	\$48,110	+21%
Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	12,730	\$47,270	+19%