

The Key Role of Construction in North Dakota's Economy

- The industry **employed 19,000 workers** in December 2007, 5% of the state's nonfarm employment of 361,000 and an increase of 1% from one year before. Nationally, construction accounted for 5% of nonfarm employment but fell 2.9% over the year as homebuilding shrank.
- Construction **contributed \$1 billion to state GDP** of \$26 billion in 2006.
- **Annual pay** in 2006 in construction averaged \$37,924, 22% more than the private sector average of \$31,030. Nationally, construction pay averaged \$44,496, 5% more than the national private sector average of \$42,414.
- **Small business** is big in construction. North Dakota had 2,278 construction firms in 2005, of which 93% employed fewer than 20 workers. In addition, North Dakota had 4,807 construction firms without employees, mainly sole proprietorships, in 2005.
- North Dakota's **population** grew 0.4% from July 2006 to July 2007, 38th fastest of all states; the national growth rate was 1%. Population growth affects the demand for many types of construction.

