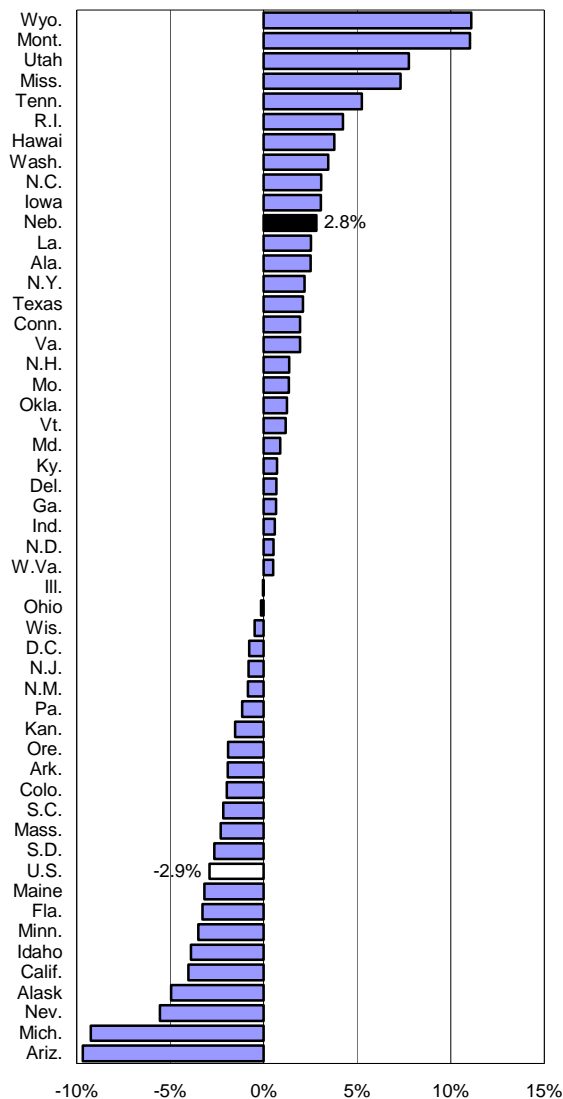


## The Key Role of Construction in Nebraska's Economy

- The industry **employed 51,000 workers** in December 2007, 5% of the state's nonfarm employment of 969,100 and an increase of 3% from one year before. Nationally, construction accounted for 5% of nonfarm employment but fell 2.9% over the year as homebuilding shrank.
- Construction **contributed \$3 billion to state GDP** of \$76 billion in 2006.
- **Annual pay** in 2006 in construction averaged \$36,500, 9% more than the private sector average of \$33,411. Nationally, construction pay averaged \$44,496, 5% more than the national private sector average of \$42,414.
- **Small business** is big in construction. Nebraska had 6,043 construction firms in 2005, of which 92% employed fewer than 20 workers. In addition, Nebraska had 14,776 construction firms without employees, mainly sole proprietorships, in 2005.
- Nebraska's **population** grew 0.6% from July 2006 to July 2007, 32nd fastest of all states; the national growth rate was 1%. Population growth affects the demand for many types of construction.

Percent Change in Construction Employment  
(December 2006 – December 2007)



2006 Average Annual Pay in Construction

