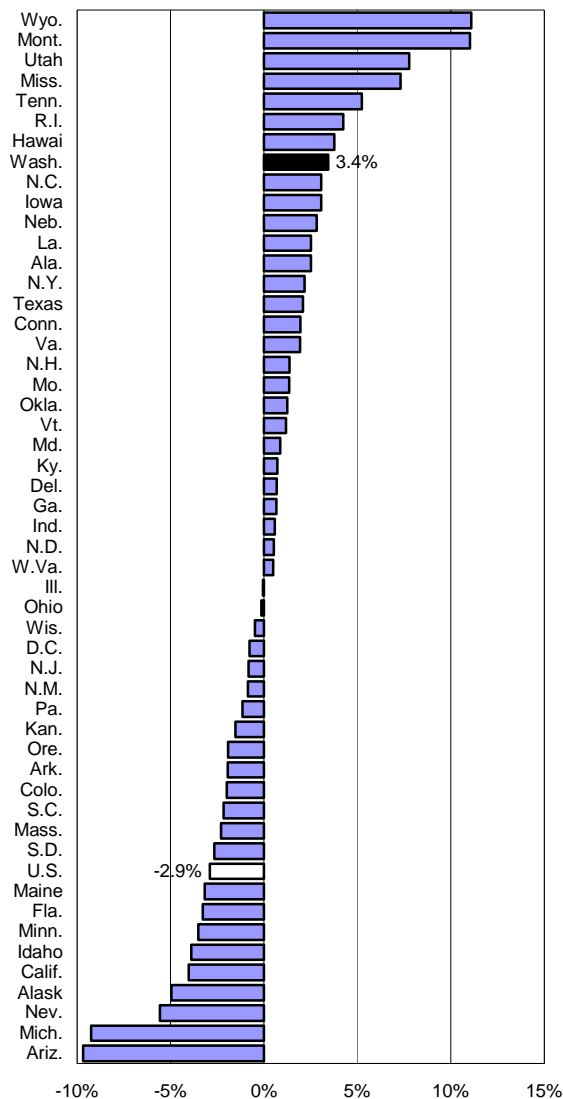


The Key Role of Construction in Washington's Economy

- The industry **employed 207,300 workers** in December 2007, 7% of the state's nonfarm employment of 2,949,300 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 \$15 billion to state GDP** of \$294 billion in 2006.
- **Annual pay** in 2006 in construction averaged \$43,746, 3% more than the private sector average of \$42,508. Nationally, construction pay averaged \$44,496, 5% more than the national private sector average of \$42,414.
- **Small business** is big in construction. Washington had 23,866 construction firms in 2005, of which 93% employed fewer than 20 workers. In addition, Washington had 33,905 construction firms without employees, mainly sole proprietorships, in 2005.
- Washington's **population** grew 1.5% from July 2006 to July 2007, 12th 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

