

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: Brian Turmail**

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**CONSTRUCTION EMPLOYMENT DECLINES IN 326 OUT OF 358 METRO AREAS IN APRIL;**

**ASSOCIATION SAYS NEW TRANSPORTATION PROPOSAL COULD HELP RESTORE JOBS**

 *New York City Has Largest Job Loss, Montgomery-Bucks-Chester County, Pa. Has Worst Percentage Loss*

*As Coronavirus Pandemic Drives Rampart Decreases in a Month When Industry Typically Adds Employees*

Construction employment declined in more than nine out of 10 metro areas from March to April, a time when industry employment typically increases in most locations, an [analysis](https://www.agc.org/learn/construction-data/construction-data-employment) by the Associated General Contractors of America of new government data shows. Association officials said new federal transportation funding could help restore many lost construction jobs, but cautioned that new legislation released today by House Democrats include new regulatory measures that could undermine the broader goals of the measure.

“Today’s employment report shows how few areas were left unscathed by April’s unprecedented job losses,” said Ken Simonson, the association’s chief economist. “Sadly, our latest [survey](https://www.agc.org/news/2020/05/22/agc-coronavirus-survey-results-7th-edition) shows project cancellations are escalating, making further job losses inevitable unless there is funding for widespread new projects.”

The economist said construction employment declined between March and April in 326, or 91 percent, out of 358 metro areas and increased in only 20 areas (6 percent). Industry employment was unchanged in 14 areas. Over the previous 30 years, 75 percent of metro areas added construction jobs from March to April, on average, while 12 percent of metros shed jobs.

New York City lost the largest number of construction jobs for the month: 75,900 jobs or 49 percent of the March total. There were also extremely large construction job losses in the Seattle-Bellevue-Everett, Wash. area, 44,200 jobs or 41 percent. Construction employment fell by half or more in three areas: Montgomery County-Bucks County-Chester County, Pa. (-54 percent, -27,200 jobs); Warren-Troy-Farmington Hills, Mich. (-52 percent, -26,100 jobs); and Brockton-Bridgewater-Easton, Mass. (-50 percent, -2,300 jobs).

Simonson noted that more respondents in the association’s latest [survey](https://www.agc.org/news/2020/05/22/agc-coronavirus-survey-results-7th-edition) reported an upcoming project had been canceled in May or June than in April, implying that further job losses are likely. One-fifth of respondents reported a project scheduled to begin in May had been canceled, as did nearly one-quarter (24 percent) of respondents regarding a project scheduled to start in June or later, compared to 16 percent in April.

Association officials said new federal infrastructure investments in roads, bridges, transit and rail systems, like those proposed in a new transportation bill released today by House Democrats, would provide a needed boost to construction employment in many parts of the country and support a broader economic recovery. But they cautioned that new programmatic and regulatory requirements in the measure could undermine some the bill’s potential economic benefits. They urged Congressional leaders to work in a broad, bipartisan manner to rapidly pass a measure that expands highway capacity, improves bridges, builds transit and rail systems and supports long-term economic growth before current legislation expires.

“It is encouraging to see House Democrats proposing a significant increase in investments for transportation infrastructure,” said Stephen E. Sandherr, the association’s chief executive officer. “With over 40 million people unemployed and construction jobs declining in most metro areas, Congress needs to ensure that new, sustainable, investments bring as many people back to work as possible to help improve our aging highway, transit and rail systems.”

View AGC’s coronavirus [resources](https://www.agc.org/coronavirus) and [survey](https://www.agc.org/sites/default/files/Files/Communications/2020_Coronavirus_SeventhEdition_total_0.pdf). View the metro employment [data](https://www.agc.org/sites/default/files/Metro_Empl_2004_alpha_1-mo.pdf), [rankings](https://www.agc.org/sites/default/files/Metro_Empl_2004_rank_1-mo.pdf), [map](https://www.agc.org/sites/default/files/Metro_Empl_2004_1-mo_map.pdf), [highs and lows](https://www.agc.org/sites/default/files/Metro_Empl_2004_HighsLows_0.pdf), [top 10.](https://www.agc.org/sites/default/files/Metro_Empl_2004_Top10_1-mo.pdf)

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