The Economic Impact of Construction in the United States and Maryland

Economic Impact of Construction:

- U.S. gross domestic product (GDP)—the value of all goods and services produced in the country—totaled $21.4 trillion in 2019; construction contributed $887 billion (4.1%).
- In Maryland, construction contributed $18.8 billion (4.4%) of the state's GDP of $428.3 billion.
- There were 706,000 construction firms in the U.S. in 2017, including 14,056 in Maryland.
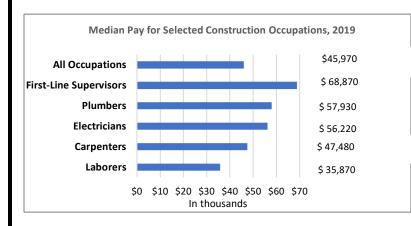
Construction Spending:

- Nonresidential spending in the U.S. totaled $814 billion in 2019 ($486 billion private, $328 billion public).
- Residential construction spending in the U.S. totaled $551 billion ($280 billion single-family, $80 billion multifamily, $184 billion improvements, $6 billion public).
- Private nonresidential spending in Maryland totaled $3.9 billion in 2019. State and local spending totaled $5.7 billion. (Totals are not available for residential or federal construction spending).

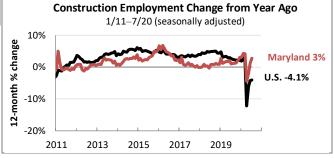**Construction Employment (Seasonally Adjusted):**

- Construction (residential + nonresidential) employed 7.2 million workers in July 2020, a decrease of 306,000 (-4.1%) from July 2019, and 6.6% less than in April 2006, when U.S. construction employment peaked.
- Construction employment in Maryland in July 2020 totaled 170,100, an increase of 3.0% from July 2019, but 11% less than the state's peak in March 2006.
- Contractors are hiring. In the 2020 AGC-Autodesk Workforce Survey, 60% of firms in the U.S. had unfilled hourly craft positions on June 30, 2020.

Construction Industry Pay:

- Construction jobs pay well. In Maryland, 4 out of the 5 most numerous construction occupations had higher median pay than the median for all employees in the state in 2019. (Half of workers earn more than the median; half earn less.)

Median Pay for Selected Construction Occupations, 2019

Occupation	Median Pay
All Occupations	$45,970
First-Line Supervisors	$68,870
Plumbers	$57,930
Electricians	$56,220
Carpenters	$47,480
Laborers	$35,870

In thousands

Maryland Construction Employment, 1/2000–7/2020
(seasonally adjusted; shading = recessions)

170.100

In thousands

Construction Employment Change from Year Ago
1/11–7/20 (seasonally adjusted)

12-month % change

Maryland 3%

U.S. -4.1%