

Construction Employment, Average Hourly Earnings, and Unemployment, 2024-2026

Employment (thousands)								1-month change				12-month change					
								Aug2026		Jul2026		Aug2026		Jul2026		Aug2025	
	Jul 2024	Aug 2024	Jul 2025	Aug 2025	Jun 2026	Jul 2026	Aug 2026	(000)	%	(000)	%	(000)	%	(000)	%	(000)	%
Total nonfarm	157,748	157,757	158,542	158,472	158,892	158,913	159,075	162	0.1%	21	0.0%	603	0.4%	371	0.2%	715	0.5%
Construction	8,208	8,236	8,261	8,239	8,319	8,337	8,359	22	0.3%	18	0.2%	120	1.5%	76	0.9%	3	0.0%
Residential building	934	938	928	923	916	916	924	7.3	0.8%	0.3	0.0%	0.9	0.1%	-11.7	-1.3%	-15.1	-1.6%
Nonresidential building	917	918	926	921	946	949	947	-1.8	-0.2%	3.2	0.3%	26.0	2.8%	23.6	2.5%	3.1	0.3%
Heavy and civil engineering construction	1,148	1,159	1,183	1,184	1,204	1,206	1,211	4.4	0.4%	2.1	0.2%	27.2	2.3%	23.8	2.0%	25.1	2.2%
Residential specialty trade contractors	2,412	2,415	2,380	2,370	2,347	2,346	2,349	3.4	0.1%	-1.7	-0.1%	-20.7	-0.9%	-34.1	-1.4%	-45.5	-1.9%
Nonresidential specialty trade contractors	2,797	2,806	2,845	2,842	2,906	2,920	2,928	7.8	0.3%	14.1	0.5%	86.0	3.0%	75.2	2.6%	35.5	1.3%
Residential building + specialty trades	3,346	3,353	3,308	3,293	3,263	3,262	3,273	10.7	0.3%	-1.4	0.0%	-19.8	-0.6%	-45.8	-1.4%	-60.6	-1.8%
Nonres building + trades + heavy/civil	4,862	4,883	4,953	4,947	5,056	5,075	5,086	10.4	0.2%	19.4	0.4%	139.2	2.8%	122.6	2.5%	63.7	1.3%
Average hourly earnings (AHE) for production and nonsupervisory employees																	
Private sector total	\$ 30.16	\$ 30.27	\$ 31.39	\$ 31.49	\$ 32.38	\$ 32.42	\$ 32.53	\$ 0.11	0.3%	\$ 0.04	0.1%	\$ 1.04	3.3%	\$ 1.03	3.3%	\$ 1.22	4.0%
Construction	\$ 35.76	\$ 35.86	\$ 37.31	\$ 37.50	\$ 39.09	\$ 39.25	\$ 39.36	\$ 0.11	0.3%	\$ 0.16	0.5%	\$ 1.86	5.0%	\$ 1.94	5.2%	\$ 1.64	4.6%
Residential building	\$ 32.48	\$ 33.38	\$ 35.15	\$ 35.12	\$ 35.56	\$ 35.60				\$ 0.04	0.1%			\$ 0.45	1.3%	\$ 1.74	5.2%
Nonresidential building	\$ 38.76	\$ 38.79	\$ 39.52	\$ 39.61	\$ 41.29	\$ 41.62				\$ 0.33	1.1%			\$ 2.10	5.3%	\$ 0.82	2.1%
Heavy and civil engineering construction	\$ 37.41	\$ 37.44	\$ 39.03	\$ 39.20	\$ 40.56	\$ 40.80				\$ 0.24	0.8%			\$ 1.77	4.5%	\$ 1.76	4.7%
Specialty trade contractors	\$ 35.23	\$ 35.32	\$ 36.73	\$ 37.02	\$ 38.82	\$ 38.94				\$ 0.12	0.4%			\$ 2.21	6.0%	\$ 1.70	4.8%
Construction AHE premium over private	18.6%	18.5%	18.9%	19.1%	20.7%	21.1%	21.0%										
Unemployment (not seasonally adjusted)																	
	Jul 2024	Aug 2024	Jul 2025	Aug 2025	Jun 2026	Jul 2026	Aug 2026										
								Aug2026		Jul2026		Aug2025					
Total nonfarm rate (%)	4.5	4.4	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.3	-0.2		-0.2		0.1					
Construction rate (%)	3.9	3.2	3.4	3.2	4.7	3.7	3.1	-0.1		0.3		0.0					
Construction workers (thousands)	420.0	338.0	379.0	347.0	501.0	384.0	309.0	-38.0		5.0		9.0					

Source:AGC of America, from Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, www.bls.gov/ces, updated 9/04/2026