

Construction Employment, Average Hourly Earnings, and Unemployment, 2022-2025

Employment (thousands)								1-month change				12-month change					
								Dec2025		Nov2025		Dec2025		Nov2025		Dec2024	
	Nov 2023	Dec 2023	Nov 2024	Dec 2024	Oct 2025	Nov 2025	Dec 2025	(000)	%	(000)	%	(000)	%	(000)	%	(000)	%
Total nonfarm	156,661	156,930	158,619	158,942	159,420	159,476	159,526	50	0.03%	56	0.0%	584	0.4%	857	0.5%	2,012	1.3%
Construction	8,085	8,099	8,274	8,289	8,292	8,314	8,303	-11	-0.1%	22	0.27%	14	0.2%	40	0.5%	190	2.3%
Residential building	927	929	951	953	953	956	952	-4.2	-0.4%	2.9	0.3%	-1.4	-0.1%	4.6	0.5%	24.5	2.6%
Nonresidential building	892	896	914	915	915	919	918	-1.2	-0.1%	4.5	0.5%	2.7	0.3%	5.0	0.5%	19.7	2.2%
Heavy and civil engineering construction	1,138	1,138	1,166	1,173	1,181	1,183	1,186	2.3	0.2%	1.9	0.2%	12.8	1.1%	17.4	1.5%	34.6	3.0%
Residential specialty trade contractors	2,388	2,388	2,407	2,407	2,365	2,366	2,367	1.1	0.0%	0.5	0.0%	-40.0	-1.7%	-41.7	-1.7%	18.4	0.8%
Nonresidential specialty trade contractors	2,740	2,748	2,836	2,841	2,878	2,890	2,881	-8.9	-0.3%	12.6	0.4%	40.1	1.4%	54.6	1.9%	93.2	3.4%
Residential building + specialty trades	3,315	3,317	3,359	3,360	3,318	3,322	3,319	-3.1	-0.1%	3.4	0.1%	-41.4	-1.2%	-37.1	-1.1%	42.9	1.3%
Nonres building + trades + heavy/civil	4,770	4,782	4,916	4,929	4,974	4,993	4,985	-7.8	-0.2%	19.0	0.4%	55.6	1.1%	77.0	1.6%	147.5	3.1%
Average hourly earnings (AHE) for production and nonsupervisory employees																	
Private sector total	\$ 29.38	\$ 29.48	\$ 30.58	\$ 30.67	\$ 31.62	\$ 31.73	\$ 31.76	\$ 0.03	0.1%	\$ 0.11	0.4%	\$ 1.09	3.6%	\$ 1.15	3.8%	\$ 1.19	4.0%
Construction	\$ 34.94	\$ 34.95	\$ 36.26	\$ 36.43	\$ 37.69	\$ 37.88	\$ 38.08	\$ 0.20	0.5%	\$ 0.19	0.6%	\$ 1.65	4.5%	\$ 1.62	4.5%	\$ 1.48	4.2%
Residential building	\$ 30.73	\$ 30.92	\$ 33.99	\$ 33.99	\$ 34.75	\$ 34.59	\$ -			\$ (0.16)	-0.5%			\$ 0.60	1.8%	\$ 3.07	9.9%
Nonresidential building	\$ 38.04	\$ 37.92	\$ 38.82	\$ 39.09	\$ 39.72	\$ 39.81	\$ -			\$ 0.09	0.3%			\$ 0.99	2.6%	\$ 1.17	3.1%
Heavy and civil engineering construction	\$ 37.13	\$ 37.29	\$ 38.00	\$ 38.09	\$ 39.30	\$ 39.39	\$ -			\$ 0.09	0.3%			\$ 1.39	3.7%	\$ 0.80	2.1%
Specialty trade contractors	\$ 34.47	\$ 34.45	\$ 35.73	\$ 35.98	\$ 37.35	\$ 37.56	\$ -			\$ 0.21	0.7%			\$ 1.83	5.1%	\$ 1.53	4.4%
Construction AHE premium over private	18.9%	18.6%	18.6%	18.8%	19.2%	19.4%	19.9%										
Unemployment (not seasonally adjusted)																	
	Nov 2023	Dec 2023	Nov 2024	Dec 2024	Oct 2025	Nov 2025	Dec 2025										
								Dec2025		Nov2025		Dec2024					
Total nonfarm rate (%)	3.5	3.5	4.0	3.8	-	4.3	4.1	0.3		-		0.3					
Construction rate (%)	4.8	4.4	4.6	5.2	-	4.1	5.0	-0.2		-		0.8					
Construction workers (thousands)	496.0	442.0	482.0	550.0	-	431.0	541.0	-9.0		-		108.0					

Source:AGC of America, from Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, www.bls.gov/ces, updated 1/9/2026