

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

Employment (thousands)	Apr 2024	May 2024	Apr 2025	May 2025	Mar 2026	Apr 2026	May 2026	1-month change				12-month change					
								May2026		Apr2026		May2026		Apr2026		May2025	
								(000)	%	(000)	%	(000)	%	(000)	%	(000)	%
Total nonfarm	157,530	157,608	158,485	158,498	158,650	158,829	159,001	172	0.1%	179	0.1%	503	0.3%	344	0.2%	890	0.6%
Construction	8,170	8,176	8,271	8,269	8,311	8,320	8,337	17	0.20%	9	0.1%	68	0.8%	49	0.6%	93	1.1%
Residential building	938	937	934	933	927	926	925	-1.7	-0.2%	-0.6	-0.1%	-8.2	-0.9%	-7.2	-0.8%	-4.2	-0.4%
Nonresidential building	907	905	925	926	938	943	944	1.7	0.2%	4.6	0.5%	18.2	2.0%	17.3	1.9%	21.4	2.4%
Heavy and civil engineering construction	1,149	1,150	1,179	1,181	1,202	1,204	1,207	2.6	0.2%	1.9	0.2%	25.9	2.2%	24.9	2.1%	30.4	2.6%
Residential specialty trade contractors	2,402	2,405	2,395	2,387	2,362	2,359	2,362	2.6	0.1%	-3.4	-0.1%	-25.1	-1.1%	-36.1	-1.5%	-18.6	-0.8%
Nonresidential specialty trade contractors	2,774	2,779	2,838	2,842	2,882	2,888	2,900	11.4	0.4%	6.5	0.2%	57.4	2.0%	50.1	1.8%	63.6	2.3%
Residential building + specialty trades	3,340	3,342	3,329	3,320	3,289	3,285	3,286	0.9	0.0%	-4.0	-0.1%	-33.3	-1.0%	-43.3	-1.3%	-22.8	-0.7%
Nonres building + trades + heavy/civil	4,830	4,834	4,943	4,949	5,022	5,035	5,051	15.7	0.3%	13.0	0.3%	101.5	2.1%	92.3	1.9%	115.4	2.4%

Average hourly earnings (AHE) for production and nonsupervisory employees

Private sector total	\$ 29.85	\$ 29.97	\$ 31.09	\$ 31.20	\$ 32.12	\$ 32.23	\$ 32.31	\$ 0.08	0.2%	\$ 0.11	0.4%	\$ 1.11	3.6%	\$ 1.14	3.7%	\$ 1.23	4.1%
Construction	\$ 35.38	\$ 35.47	\$ 36.96	\$ 37.10	\$ 38.62	\$ 38.77	\$ 38.97	\$ 0.20	0.5%	\$ 0.15	0.5%	\$ 1.87	5.0%	\$ 1.81	4.9%	\$ 1.63	4.6%
Residential building	\$ 31.17	\$ 32.12	\$ 34.50	\$ 34.71	\$ 35.03	\$ 35.19				\$ 0.16	0.5%			\$ 0.69	2.0%	\$ 2.59	8.1%
Nonresidential building	\$ 38.70	\$ 38.75	\$ 39.35	\$ 39.50	\$ 40.78	\$ 41.11				\$ 0.33	1.1%			\$ 1.76	4.5%	\$ 0.75	1.9%
Heavy and civil engineering construction	\$ 37.47	\$ 37.48	\$ 38.76	\$ 38.84	\$ 40.39	\$ 40.03				\$ (0.36)	-1.2%			\$ 1.27	3.3%	\$ 1.36	3.6%
Specialty trade contractors	\$ 34.91	\$ 34.89	\$ 36.42	\$ 36.58	\$ 38.30	\$ 38.46				\$ 0.16	0.5%			\$ 2.04	5.6%	\$ 1.69	4.8%

Construction AHE premium over private	18.5%	18.4%	18.9%	18.9%	20.2%	20.3%	20.6%
---------------------------------------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------

Unemployment (not seasonally adjusted)	Apr 2024	May 2024	Apr 2025	May 2025	Mar 2026	Apr 2026	May 2026	12-month change		
								May2026	Apr2026	May2025
Total nonfarm rate (%)	3.5	3.7	3.9	4.0	4.3	4.0	4.1	0.1	0.1	0.3
Construction rate (%)	5.2	3.9	5.6	3.5	6.7	3.8	4.1	0.6	-1.8	-0.4
Construction workers (thousands)	555.0	406.0	594.0	373.0	698.0	382.0	426.0	53.0	-212.0	-33.0

Source: AGC of America, from Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, www.bls.gov/ces, updated 6/05/2026