

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

Employment (thousands)								1-month change				12-month change						
	Feb 2024		Mar 2024		Feb 2025		Mar 2025		Jan 2026		Feb 2026		Mar 2026		Feb 2026		Mar 2025	
	(000)	%	(000)	%	(000)	%	(000)	%	(000)	%	(000)	%	(000)	%	(000)	%	(000)	%
Total nonfarm	157,271	157,517	158,310	158,377	158,592	158,459	158,637	178	0.1%	-133	-0.1%	260	0.2%	149	0.1%	860	0.5%	
Construction	8,136	8,170	8,267	8,273	8,317	8,304	8,330	26	0.3%	-13	-0.2%	57	0.7%	37	0.4%	103	1.3%	
Residential building	930	940	934	936	927	929	932	3.1	0.3%	1.9	0.2%	-3.9	-0.4%	-5.6	-0.6%	-4.2	-0.4%	
Nonresidential building	903	904	923	925	933	937	942	4.5	0.5%	4.4	0.5%	17.2	1.9%	14.1	1.5%	20.3	2.2%	
Heavy and civil engineering construction	1,147	1,150	1,175	1,180	1,206	1,201	1,205	3.8	0.3%	-5.3	-0.4%	24.3	2.1%	25.6	2.2%	30.5	2.7%	
Residential specialty trade contractors	2,389	2,396	2,401	2,394	2,369	2,358	2,369	11.2	0.5%	-11.3	-0.5%	-25.4	-1.1%	-43.5	-1.8%	-1.9	-0.1%	
Nonresidential specialty trade contractors	2,767	2,780	2,833	2,838	2,882	2,879	2,883	3.9	0.1%	-2.8	-0.1%	44.9	1.6%	45.9	1.6%	58.3	2.1%	
Residential building + specialty trades	3,319	3,336	3,335	3,330	3,296	3,286	3,301	14.3	0.4%	-9.4	-0.3%	-29.3	-0.9%	-49.1	-1.5%	-6.1	-0.2%	
Nonres building + trades + heavy/civil	4,817	4,834	4,932	4,943	5,021	5,017	5,029	12.2	0.2%	-3.7	-0.1%	86.4	1.7%	85.6	1.7%	109.1	2.3%	

Average hourly earnings (AHE) for production and nonsupervisory employees

Private sector total	\$ 29.67	\$ 29.80	\$ 30.89	\$ 31.02	\$ 31.94	\$ 32.02	\$ 32.07	\$ 0.05	0.2%	\$ 0.08	0.3%	\$ 1.05	3.4%	\$ 1.13	3.7%	\$ 1.22	4.1%
Construction	\$ 35.16	\$ 35.34	\$ 36.65	\$ 36.77	\$ 38.29	\$ 38.45	\$ 38.62	\$ 0.17	0.4%	\$ 0.16	0.5%	\$ 1.85	5.0%	\$ 1.80	4.9%	\$ 1.43	4.0%
Residential building	\$ 31.39	\$ 31.41	\$ 34.22	\$ 34.25	\$ 34.88	\$ 35.28	\$ -			\$ 0.40	1.3%			\$ 1.06	3.1%	\$ 2.84	9.0%
Nonresidential building	\$ 38.33	\$ 38.71	\$ 39.21	\$ 39.34	\$ 40.62	\$ 40.69	\$ -			\$ 0.07	0.2%			\$ 1.48	3.8%	\$ 0.63	1.6%
Heavy and civil engineering construction	\$ 37.23	\$ 37.58	\$ 38.58	\$ 38.65	\$ 39.96	\$ 40.19	\$ -			\$ 0.23	0.8%			\$ 1.61	4.2%	\$ 1.07	2.8%
Specialty trade contractors	\$ 34.62	\$ 34.78	\$ 36.11	\$ 36.25	\$ 38.02	\$ 38.11	\$ -			\$ 0.09	0.3%			\$ 2.00	5.5%	\$ 1.47	4.2%

Construction AHE premium over private 18.5% 18.6% 18.6% 18.5% 19.9% 20.1% 20.4%

Unemployment (not seasonally adjusted)								12-month change									
	Feb 2024		Mar 2024		Feb 2025		Mar 2025		Jan 2026		Feb 2026		Mar 2026		Feb 2026		Mar 2025
Total nonfarm rate (%)	4.2	3.9	4.5	4.2	4.7	4.7	4.3					0.1		0.2		0.3	
Construction rate (%)	7.0	5.4	7.2	5.4	7.1	6.9	6.7					1.3		-0.3		0.0	
Construction workers (thousands)	711	570	741	573	747	737	698					125		-4.0		3.0	

Source:AGC of America, from Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, www.bls.gov/ces, updated 4/03/2026