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

Employment (thousands)	Sep 2024	Oct 2024	Sep 2025	Oct 2025	Aug 2026	Sep 2026	Oct 2026	1-month change Oct2026 (000)	1-month change Oct2026 %	1-month change Sep2026 (000)	1-month change Sep2026 %	12-month change Oct2026 (000)	12-month change Oct2026 %	12-month change Sep2026 (000)	12-month change Sep2026 %	12-month change Oct2025 (000)	12-month change Oct2025 %
Total nonfarm	157,912	157,945	158,548	158,408	159,068	159,128	159,293	165	0.1%	60	0.0%	885	0.6%	580	0.4%	463	0.3%
Construction	8,254	8,262	8,255	8,243	8,354	8,370	8,367	-3	0.0%	16	0.2%	124	1.5%	115	1.4%	-19	-0.2%
Residential building	940	939	927	925	919	922	921	-1.2	-0.1%	2.7	0.3%	-4.4	-0.5%	-4.6	-0.5%	-14.0	-1.5%
Nonresidential building	917	920	920	918	949	950	953	2.9	0.3%	0.7	0.1%	34.3	3.7%	30.0	3.3%	-1.3	-0.1%
Heavy and civil engineering construction	1,164	1,168	1,185	1,184	1,208	1,210	1,213	2.5	0.2%	2.1	0.2%	29.2	2.5%	25.7	2.2%	15.4	1.3%
Residential specialty trade contractors	2,421	2,414	2,369	2,368	2,350	2,348	2,332	-15.2	-0.6%	-2.0	-0.1%	-35.8	-1.5%	-21.5	-0.9%	-45.3	-1.9%
Nonresidential specialty trade contractors	2,813	2,822	2,855	2,848	2,928	2,941	2,949	7.9	0.3%	12.5	0.4%	101.1	3.6%	85.8	3.0%	25.6	0.9%
Residential building + specialty trades	3,361	3,353	3,296	3,294	3,269	3,270	3,253	-16.4	-0.5%	0.7	0.0%	-40.2	-1.2%	-26.1	-0.8%	-59.3	-1.8%
Nonres building + trades + heavy/civil	4,894	4,910	4,959	4,949	5,085	5,101	5,114	13.3	0.3%	15.3	0.3%	164.6	3.3%	141.5	2.9%	39.7	0.8%
Average hourly earnings (AHE) for production and nonsupervisory employees																	
Private sector total	$ 30.39	$ 30.48	$ 31.56	$ 31.70	$ 32.55	$ 32.63	$ 32.75	$ 0.12	0.4%	$ 0.08	0.3%	$ 1.05	3.3%	$ 1.07	3.4%	$ 1.22	4.0%
Construction	$ 36.08	$ 36.22	$ 37.57	$ 37.74	$ 39.28	$ 39.23	$ 39.70	$ 0.47	1.2%	$ (0.05)	-0.2%	$ 1.96	5.2%	$ 1.66	4.4%	$ 1.52	4.2%
Residential building	$ 33.58	$ 33.88	$ 35.02	$ 35.08	$ 35.81	$ 36.06				$ 0.25	0.8%			$ 1.04	3.0%	$ 1.20	3.5%
Nonresidential building	$ 39.08	$ 38.77	$ 39.84	$ 39.82	$ 41.47	$ 41.88				$ 0.41	1.4%			$ 2.04	5.1%	$ 1.05	2.7%
Heavy and civil engineering construction	$ 37.56	$ 38.25	$ 39.24	$ 39.41	$ 40.84	$ 40.47				$ (0.37)	-1.2%			$ 1.23	3.1%	$ 1.16	3.0%
Specialty trade contractors	$ 35.60	$ 35.72	$ 37.13	$ 37.36	$ 38.98	$ 39.00				$ 0.02	0.1%			$ 1.87	5.0%	$ 1.64	4.6%
Construction AHE premium over private	18.7%	18.8%	19.0%	19.1%	20.7%	20.2%	21.2%										

Unemployment (not seasonally adjusted)	Sep 2024	Oct 2024	Sep 2025	Oct 2025	Aug 2026	Sep 2026	Oct 2026	12-month change Oct2026	12-month change Sep2026	12-month change Oct2025
Total nonfarm rate (%)	3.9	3.9	4.3	*	4.3	4.0	3.9	*	-0.3	*
Construction rate (%)	3.7	4.2	3.8	*	3.1	3.5	3.6	*	-0.3	*
Construction workers (thousands)	403.0	456.0	404.0	*	309.0	359.0	363.0	*	-45.0	*

Source:AGC of America, from Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, www.blb.gov/ces, updated 11/06/2026

* The Bureau of Labor Statistics did not post Oct. 2025 unemployment figures due to the federal government shutdown that prevented collection of needed survey data