

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

Employment (thousands)								1-month change				12-month change					
								Sep2026		Aug2026		Sep2026		Aug2026		Sep2025	
	Aug 2024	Sep 2024	Aug 2025	Sep 2025	Jul 2026	Aug 2026	Sep 2026	(000)	%	(000)	%	(000)	%	(000)	%	(000)	%
Total nonfarm	157,757	157,912	158,472	158,548	158,882	159,015	159,044	29	0.0%	133	0.1%	496	0.3%	543	0.3%	636	0.4%
Construction	8,236	8,254	8,239	8,255	8,337	8,353	8,364	11	0.1%	16	0.2%	109	1.3%	114	1.4%	1	0.0%
Residential building	938	940	923	927	914	920	923	3.0	0.3%	5.3	0.6%	-4.0	-0.4%	-3.1	-0.3%	-12.8	-1.4%
Nonresidential building	918	917	921	920	950	950	951	1.2	0.1%	-0.5	-0.1%	31.0	3.4%	28.2	3.1%	2.8	0.3%
Heavy and civil engineering construction	1,159	1,164	1,184	1,185	1,206	1,208	1,211	2.6	0.2%	2.6	0.2%	26.3	2.2%	24.6	2.1%	20.1	1.7%
Residential specialty trade contractors	2,415	2,421	2,370	2,369	2,346	2,348	2,340	-7.9	-0.3%	2.6	0.1%	-28.8	-1.2%	-21.5	-0.9%	-51.9	-2.1%
Nonresidential specialty trade contractors	2,806	2,813	2,842	2,855	2,921	2,927	2,940	12.3	0.4%	6.1	0.2%	84.7	3.0%	85.6	3.0%	42.4	1.5%
Residential building + specialty trades	3,353	3,361	3,293	3,296	3,260	3,268	3,263	-4.9	-0.1%	7.9	0.2%	-32.8	-1.0%	-24.6	-0.7%	-64.7	-1.9%
Nonres building + trades + heavy/civil	4,883	4,894	4,947	4,959	5,077	5,085	5,101	16.1	0.3%	8.2	0.2%	142.0	2.9%	138.4	2.8%	65.3	1.3%
Average hourly earnings (AHE) for production and nonsupervisory employees																	
Private sector total	\$ 30.27	\$ 30.39	\$ 31.49	\$ 31.56	\$ 32.42	\$ 32.53	\$ 32.60	\$ 0.07	0.2%	\$ 0.11	0.4%	\$ 1.04	3.3%	\$ 1.04	3.3%	\$ 1.17	3.8%
Construction	\$ 35.86	\$ 36.08	\$ 37.50	\$ 37.57	\$ 39.16	\$ 39.24	\$ 39.20	\$ (0.04)	-0.1%	\$ 0.08	0.3%	\$ 1.63	4.3%	\$ 1.74	4.6%	\$ 1.49	4.1%
Residential building	\$ 33.38	\$ 33.58	\$ 35.12	\$ 35.02	\$ 35.74	\$ 35.79				\$ 0.05	0.2%			\$ 0.67	1.9%	\$ 1.44	4.3%
Nonresidential building	\$ 38.79	\$ 39.08	\$ 39.61	\$ 39.84	\$ 41.59	\$ 41.48				\$ (0.11)	-0.4%			\$ 1.87	4.7%	\$ 0.76	1.9%
Heavy and civil engineering construction	\$ 37.44	\$ 37.56	\$ 39.20	\$ 39.24	\$ 40.60	\$ 40.77				\$ 0.17	0.6%			\$ 1.57	4.0%	\$ 1.68	4.5%
Specialty trade contractors	\$ 35.32	\$ 35.60	\$ 37.02	\$ 37.13	\$ 38.84	\$ 38.94				\$ 0.10	0.3%			\$ 1.92	5.2%	\$ 1.53	4.3%
Construction AHE premium over private	18.5%	18.7%	19.1%	19.0%	20.8%	20.6%	20.2%										
Unemployment (not seasonally adjusted)																	
	Aug 2024	Sep 2024	Aug 2025	Sep 2025	Jul 2026	Aug 2026	Sep 2026										
								Sep2026		Aug2026		Sep2025					
Total nonfarm rate (%)	4.4	3.9	4.5	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.0	-0.3		-0.2		0.4					
Construction rate (%)	3.2	3.7	3.2	3.8	3.7	3.1	3.5	-0.3		-0.1		0.1					
Construction workers (thousands)	338.0	403.0	347.0	404.0	384.0	309.0	359.0	-45.0		-38.0		1.0					

Source:AGC of America, from Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, www.bls.gov/ces, updated 10/02/2026