The Economic Impact of Construction in the United States and South Carolina

**Economic Impact of Construction:**
- U.S. gross domestic product (GDP)—the value of all goods and services produced in the country—totaled $25.7 trillion at a seasonally adjusted annual rate in the 3rd quarter of 2022; construction contributed $1.0 trillion (3.9%).
- In South Carolina, construction contributed $14 billion (4.6%) of the state’s GDP of $299 billion.
- There were 909,000 construction establishments in the U.S. in the 3rd quarter of 2022, including 13,900 in South Carolina. (An establishment is a fixed business location; about 99% of construction firms have only one establishment.)

**Construction Spending:**
- Nonresidential spending in the U.S. totaled $888 billion in 2022 ($534 billion private, $355 billion public).
- Residential construction spending in the U.S. totaled $910 billion ($442 billion single-family, $105 billion multifamily, $354 billion improvements, $9 billion public).
- Private nonresidential spending in South Carolina totaled $4.3 billion in 2021. State and local spending totaled $3.7 billion. (Totals are not available for residential, railroad, power, communication, or federal construction.)

**Construction Employment (Seasonally Adjusted):**
- Construction (residential + nonresidential) employed 7.9 million workers in February 2023, an increase of 249,000 (3.2%) from February 2022 and an increase of 4.1% from February 2020, the peak pre-pandemic month.
- Construction employment in South Carolina in February 2023 totaled 109,300, an increase of 1,900 (2%) from February 2022 and an increase of 2,800 or 3% from February 2020.
- Contractors are having trouble filling positions, impeding the industry’s recovery. In the January 2023 AGC-Sage Business Hiring and Outlook Survey, 80% of firms had a hard time filling salaried and hourly craft positions.

**Construction Industry Pay:**
- Construction jobs pay well. In South Carolina, 4 out of the 5 most numerous construction occupations had median annual pay exceeding the median for all employees in 2021. (Half of workers earn more than the median; half earn less.)

| Median Annual Pay for Selected Construction Occupations in South Carolina, 2021 |
| All Occupations | First-Line Supervisors | Plumbers/Pipefitters | Electricians | Carpenters | Laborers |
| $0 | $20 | $40 | $60 | $80 |
| $37,250 | $61,360 | $48,000 | $47,590 | $39,280 | $34,900 |

Source: Macrina Wilkins, Senior Research Analyst, AGC of America, macrina.wilkins@agc.org, from Bureau of Economic Analysis (GDP); Census Bureau (spending); Bureau of Labor Statistics (national and state employment, median wages); AGC (outlook survey).