

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 \$30 trillion at a seasonally adjusted annual rate in the 1st quarter of 2025; construction contributed \$1.3 trillion (4.5%).
- In South Carolina, construction contributed \$20 billion (5.5%) of the state's GDP of \$361 billion.
- There were 941,000 construction establishments in the U.S. in 2024, including 15,800 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 \$1.25 trillion in 2024 (\$766 billion private, \$488 billion public).
- Residential construction spending in the U.S. totaled \$941 billion (\$433 billion single-family, \$125 billion multifamily, \$371 billion improvements, \$11 billion public).
- Private nonresidential spending in South Carolina totaled \$12 billion in 2024. State and local spending totaled \$6 billion. (Totals are not available for residential, railroad, power, communication, or federal construction.)

Construction Employment (Seasonally Adjusted):

- Construction (residential + nonresidential) employed 8.3 million workers in July 2025, an increase of 96,000 (1.2%) from July 2024 and an increase of 9.2% from February 2020, the peak pre-pandemic month.
- Construction employment in South Carolina in July 2025 totaled 124,300 an increase of 6,200 (5.2%) from July 2024 and an increase of 17,600 or 16% from February 2020.

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 2024. (Half of workers earn more than the median; half earn less.)

