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33 states, D.C. add jobs through May; starts jump from April, Dodge finds; factory cancellations grow

Seasonally adjusted **construction employment** rose from May 2024 to May 2025 in 33 states and the District of Columbia, declined in 16 states, and was flat in Connecticut, according to AGC's [analysis](#) of Bureau of Labor Statistics data [posted](#) on Tuesday. The most construction jobs were again added in Texas (28,600 or 3.4%) and Ohio (17,000, 6.9%), followed by Michigan (10,400, 5.3%), Florida (9,900, 1.5%), and New Mexico (9,100, 17%). New Mexico and Idaho (10%, 7,200 jobs) again led in percentage gains, followed by Kentucky (7.1%, 6,600), West Virginia (7.1%, 2,400), and Ohio. California lost the most construction jobs (-13,800, -1.5%), followed by Washington (-11,200, -5.0%), New York (-6,800, -1.7%), New Jersey (-4,600, -2.8%), and Massachusetts (-4,000 jobs, -2.3%). The largest percentage loss was in Washington, followed by New Jersey, Massachusetts, Oregon (-2.3%, -2,700), and Arkansas (-2.2%, -1,500). **For the month**, 27 states and D.C. added construction jobs, 21 states lost jobs, and there was no change in New Hampshire and Wisconsin. Michigan added the most construction jobs (4,300 jobs or 2.1%), followed by Washington (3,100, 1.5%), Missouri (2,200, 1.5%), Texas (2,200, 0.3%), and New Mexico (1,600, 2.6%). The largest percentage gain occurred in Montana (3.9%, 1,400 jobs), followed by Alaska (3.8%, 700), New Mexico, Michigan, and Idaho (1.7%, 1,300). The largest decline in construction jobs from April to May, -1,900, occurred in Virginia (-0.8%) and California (-0.2%), followed by Oregon (-1,700, -1.5%), Georgia (-1,400, -0.6%), and Minnesota (-1,100, -0.8%). Vermont lost the highest percentage of jobs for the month (-1.9%, -300 jobs), followed by Oregon, Arkansas (-1.4%, -900), Rhode Island (-1.3%, -300), and Virginia. (For D.C., Delaware, and Hawaii, BLS posts combined totals for mining, logging, and construction; AGC treats the changes as all from construction.)

Total **construction starts** rose 13% from April to May at a seasonally adjusted annual rate, Dodge Construction Network [reported](#) on Monday. **Nonresidential building starts** jumped 18%, **residential starts** rose 2%, and **nonbuilding starts** soared 20%. In the first five months of 2025 combined, total starts were down 4% from January through May 2024. Nonresidential starts were down 6%, residential starts were down 5%, and nonbuilding starts were down 2%.

"Businesses **canceled** another \$1.4 billion in **new factories and clean energy projects** in May, according to E2's latest monthly analysis of clean energy projects tracked by E2 and Clean Economy Tracker," the advocacy group E2 [reported](#) on Monday. "The latest cancellations—including battery, electric vehicle, and solar panel factories in West Virginia, New York, Alabama, Arizona, and Washington—mean \$15.5 billion in new factories and electricity projects have been cancelled since January 1....Amid the cancellations, businesses in May also announced nearly \$450 million in investments for new solar, EV and grid and transmission equipment factories across five states....A full map and list of announcements is available at e2.org/announcements/."

"Rapid growth in the **installation of batteries** is upending power systems across the United States, with battery-deployed electricity volumes scaling new records nearly every month," Reuters [reported](#) on Tuesday. "Since 2022, utilities have installed more battery capacity than wind capacity, and are set to continue prioritizing the build-out of battery systems."

"Contractors are projecting 2025 **construction staff wages** to increase an average of 4.07% (excludes 0% projections), reported by 350 companies in this 43rd edition of the Construction/Construction Management Staff Salary Survey," consultancy PAS [reported](#) on Tuesday. "Typically, projected increases are 0.3% to 0.5% higher by year end, so there is a chance pay will be slightly higher by year end." PAS reported wages increased an average of 4.6% in 2024, 5.0% in 2023, and 5.1% in 2022.

More **steel product** suppliers have announced **price increases** since the increase from 25% to 50% on June 4 in the tariff on imported steel and aluminum. A reader forwarded a June 17 announcement from Insteel Wire Products that "Prices for pipe mesh, engineered structural mesh, and drawn wire will increase by \$2/cwt for shipments starting July 1," along with increases for PC strand shipments. **Readers are invited to send information about project timing, materials price changes, and supply chains** to ken.simonson@agc.org.

"The **U.S. population age 65 and older** rose by 3.1% (to 61.2 million) **while the population under age 18** decreased by 0.2% (to 73.1 million) from 2023 to 2024," the Census Bureau [reported](#) on Thursday. "From 2020 to 2024, the older population grew by 13.0%, significantly outpacing the 1.4% growth of working-age adults (ages 18 to 64), while the number of children declined by 1.7%." These trends affect both the potential supply of construction workers and the demand for many types of projects, ranging from schools to senior living and healthcare facilities.

Note: The next issue of the Data DIGest will be sent the week of July 7-11.

Data DIGest is a weekly summary of economic news. Sign up [here](#). Editor: Ken.Simonson@agc.org, Chief Economist, AGC. Go here for [Ken's PPT](#) or more [construction data](#).

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