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## Construction employment inches higher in July; job openings and spending decline in June

**Construction employment**, seasonally adjusted, totaled 8,310,000 in July, a gain of 2,000 from June and 96,000 (1.2%) year-over-year (y/y), according to AGC's [analysis](#) of data the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) [posted](#) today. **Residential construction employment** (at residential building and specialty contractors) declined by 4,400 in June and by 18,200 over 12 months. **Nonresidential construction employment** (at building, specialty trade, and heavy and civil engineering construction firms) increased by 6,400 for the month and 114,400 (2.4%) y/y. Seasonally adjusted **average hourly earnings** for production and nonsupervisory employees (craft and office) in construction rose 4.3% y/y to \$37.23 per hour, outpacing the 3.9% rise for the overall private sector. The **unemployment rate** for workers with construction experience was 3.4%, not seasonally adjusted, tying with 2018 for the lowest July rate in series history dating back to 2000.

There were 246,000 **job openings in construction**, seasonally adjusted, at the end of June, down 14% y/y, BLS [reported](#) on Tuesday. The job openings rate (openings as a share of employment plus openings) fell from 3.4% to 2.9%, the lowest June rate since 2017. **Hires** for the full month totaled 351,000, up 14% y/y, while the hires rate (hires as a share of employment) climbed from 3.7% to 4.2%. The layoff rate (layoffs as a share of employment) rose from 1.7% in June 2024 to a still-low 2.0%. The quits rate (quits as a share of employment) also remained low at 1.9% but up from 1.6% y/y.

**Construction spending** (not adjusted for inflation) totaled \$2.14 trillion in June at a seasonally adjusted annual rate, down 0.4% from May and down 2.9% y/y, the Census Bureau [reported](#) today. Private **residential construction** fell 0.7% for the month and 6.2% y/y. Single-family homebuilding slid 1.8% for the month, multifamily construction was flat, but owner-occupied improvements climbed 0.5%. **Private nonresidential construction** spending fell 0.3% for the month and 4.0% y/y. The largest private nonresidential segment—manufacturing construction—declined for the fourth month in a row, by 0.4% for the month and 6.1% y/y. Commercial construction fell 0.6% for the month (comprising warehouse, 0.1%; retail, -1.5%; and farm, -0.8%). Private “office” construction slipped 1.4% in June (comprising data centers, 1.9%, and other, -3.8%). **Public construction** spending inched up 0.1% for the month and rose 5.2% y/y. The three largest public segments rose for the month: highway and street construction, 0.6%; educational, 0.4%; and transportation structures, 0.1%.

**Construction employment**, not seasonally adjusted, rose y/y from June 2024 to June 2025 in 180 (50%) of the 360 **metro areas** (including divisions of larger metros) for which BLS [posts](#) construction employment data, fell in 113 (31%), and was unchanged in 67, according an [analysis](#) AGC released on Wednesday. (For most metros, BLS posts only combined totals for mining, logging, and construction; AGC treats these totals as construction-only.) For the fourth month in a row, the largest job gain was in the Arlington-Alexandria-Reston, Va.-W.Va. metro division (9,100 combined jobs or 10%), followed by Cincinnati, Ohio-Ky.-Ind. (5,400 combined jobs, 11%); the Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall division (4,800 construction jobs, 8%); the Washington, D.C.-Md. division (4,700 combined jobs, 10%); and the Chicago-Naperville-Schaumburg division (4,500 construction jobs, 38%). Las Cruces, N.M. again posted the largest percentage gain (16%, 700 combined jobs), followed by Mansfield, Ohio (14%, 300 combined jobs); and New Orleans-Metairie (12%, 3,000 construction jobs). Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, Calif. again experienced the largest loss (-5,200 construction jobs, -4%), followed by the Nassau County-Suffolk County, N.Y. division (-4,000 combined jobs, -5%). The largest percentage loss again occurred in Niles, Mich. (-17%, -400 combined jobs), followed by five areas with declines of 8% each.

**Construction industry compensation** (wages, salaries, and benefits including required employer contributions) rose 0.8%, seasonally adjusted, in the second quarter (Q2) of 2025 and 3.8% over four quarters (vs. 2.8% a year ago), BLS [reported](#) on Thursday. **Wages and salaries** increased by 0.8% in Q2 and 4.2% over four quarters (vs. 2.7% a year ago).

Inflation-adjusted **gross domestic product** (real GDP) rose 3.0% in Q2 at a seasonally adjusted annual rate, the Bureau of Economic Analysis [reported](#) on Wednesday. Real **private nonresidential structures investment** tumbled 10% (commercial and health care, -7.4%; manufacturing structures, -5.6%; power and communication, 5.4%; other structures, -9.1%; and mining exploration, shafts, and wells, -36%), after falling 2.4% in Q1. Real **residential fixed private investment** in permanent site structures also plunged 10% (single-family, -13%; multifamily -1.4%), after sliding 2.7% in Q1.

**Contractors are invited to complete the AGC/NCCER Workforce Survey** by August 15.

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