

## Construction jobs increase in 23 states in May; Dodge starts jump year-to-date; housing starts slide

Seasonally adjusted **construction employment** rose from April to May in 23 states and the District of Columbia, fell in 22 states and was flat in five states, according to AGC's [analysis](#) of BLS data [posted](#) today. Texas added the most construction jobs (3,600 jobs or 0.4%), followed by Wisconsin (2,900, 1.9%), Alabama (2,800, 2.5%), Minnesota (2,100, 1.4%) and Idaho (2,000, 2.6%). The largest percentage gain occurred in Idaho, followed by Alabama, South Dakota (2.3%, 700 jobs), Kansas (2.0%, 1,500) and Wisconsin. Massachusetts lost the most construction jobs from April to May (-4,200 jobs, -2.5%), followed by Virginia (-2,300, -1.0%), Montana (-1,900, -4.9%), New Mexico (-1,700, -3.1%) and Pennsylvania (-1,700, -0.6%). The largest percentage loss was in Montana, followed by New Mexico, West Virginia (-2.9%, -1,100 jobs), Massachusetts and New Hampshire (-1.9%, -600). Between May 2025 and May 2026, 30 states and D.C. added **construction jobs year-over-year** (y/y), 18 states shed jobs, and employment held steady in Delaware and Arkansas. Texas added the most construction jobs (18,700 or 2.1%), followed by North Carolina (13,600, 4.9%), Wisconsin (9,000, 6.2%), Minnesota (8,500, 6.0%) and Illinois (8,100, 3.4%). Wisconsin had the largest percentage gain over 12 months, followed by Minnesota, Alabama (5.7%, 6,200 jobs) and Nebraska (5.6%, 3,600). California lost the most construction from May 2025 to May 2026 (-13,100 jobs, -1.5%), followed by Georgia (-4,300, -1.8%), New Jersey (-3,800, -2.3%), Michigan (-3,700, -1.8%) and Virginia (-3,400, -1.5%). The largest percentage loss was in New Mexico (-3.1%, -1,700 jobs), followed by Alaska (-2.6%, -500), New Hampshire (-2.5%, -800), New Jersey (-2.3%, -3,800), Georgia and Michigan.

Total **construction starts** rose 13% year-to-date (YTD) in January-May 2026 compared to the same months in 2025, after soaring 34% at a seasonally adjusted annual rate from April to May, Dodge Construction Network [reported](#) on Wednesday. "Megaproject starts within healthcare, manufacturing, utilities and data centers drove sizeable gains across the month," stated Sarah Martin, director of economic research. "Outside of this activity, however, pockets of weakness across institutional construction, warehouses and residential construction remain." **Nonresidential starts** rose 12% YTD, with commercial and industrial construction up 33%, manufacturing starts up 32% and institutional starts down 4.1%. **Residential starts** fell 4.9% YTD, with single-family starts down 9.4% and multifamily starts up 3.6%. **Nonbuilding starts** jumped 33% YTD "alongside the 125.9% year-to-date growth in electric power/utilities and 12.1% growth in highways and bridges. The remaining sectors, however, are seeing declines. Environmental public works are down 5.5%" and miscellaneous nonbuilding starts are down 12.1%.

**Housing starts** (units) in May plunged 15% from April and 8.7% y/y at a seasonally adjusted annual rate, the Census Bureau [reported](#) on June 16. Single-family starts declined 1.9% for the month and 6.7% y/y. Multifamily (five or more units) starts plummeted 42% for the month and 29% y/y. **Residential permits** dipped 0.7% from April and 0.2% y/y. Single-family permits were up 0.6% for the month but down 1.8% y/y. Multifamily permits slid 3.5% for the month but climbed 3.0% y/y. **Multifamily units under construction** at the end of May fell 1.3% from April and 8.1% y/y.

YTD through April, "34 states recorded increases in **multifamily building permits**, while 16 states and the District of Columbia experienced declines," the National Association of Home Builders [reported](#) on June 12. "Rhode Island posted the largest percentage increase, with multifamily permits surging [251%,] from 170 to 596 units. In contrast, Nevada recorded the steepest decline, with permits falling 78%, from 3,426 to 738 units...California, which issued the most multifamily permits, recorded a substantial increase of [57% YTD]. Texas, the second-highest state, posted a decline of 20.6%, while Florida, ranking third, saw multifamily permits fall by 41.3%." Nine of the 10 **metro areas** with the most **multifamily permits** YTD experienced increases, including: New York-Newark-Jersey City, 15,401 permits, up 64% from January-April 2025; Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, 9,337 permits, up 144%; Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, 9,049, up 6%; Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.C.-Va.-Md.-W. Va, 4,986, up 156%; and Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, 4,957, up 25%. The only exception was Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands, 3,482 (ranked 9th in number of permits YTD), down 47%.

The national retail **price of on-highway diesel fuel** averaged \$4.83 per gallon on Monday, the Energy Information Administration [reported](#) today. That was a drop of 23 cents from a week earlier and 81 cents (-14%) from the peak on April 6. But Monday's price was 85 cents (24%) higher than on February 23, the Monday before the Middle East conflict began. Readers are invited to submit information about input costs, project deferrals or cancellations, and supply-chain issues to [ken.simonson@agc.org](mailto:ken.simonson@agc.org).