

# The Economic Impact of Construction in the United States and Vermont

## Economic Impact of Construction:

- U.S. gross domestic product (GDP)—the value of all goods and services produced in the country—totaled \$20.6 trillion in 2018; construction contributed \$840 billion (4.1%). In Vermont, construction contributed \$1.1 billion (3.4%) of the state's GDP of \$33.7 billion.
- Construction wages and salaries in 2018 totaled \$468 billion in the United States, including including \$800 million in Vermont.

## Construction Spending and Starts:

- Nonresidential spending in the U.S. totaled \$761 billion in 2018 (\$461 billion private, \$301 billion public).
- Residential construction spending in the U.S. totaled \$546 billion (\$290 billion single family, \$60 billion multifamily, \$190 billion improvements, \$7 billion public).
- Private nonresidential spending in Vermont totaled \$639 million in 2018. State and local spending totaled \$507 million. (Totals are not available for residential or federal construction spending).
- Nonresidential (building and heavy/civil) starts in Vermont totaled \$449 million in 2018, according to ConstructConnect.

## Construction Employment (Seasonally Adjusted):

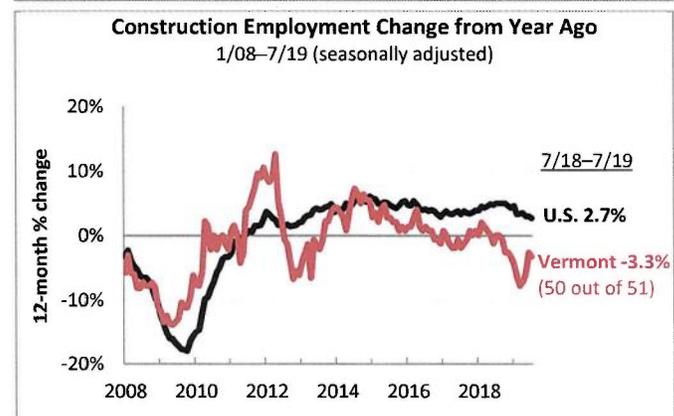
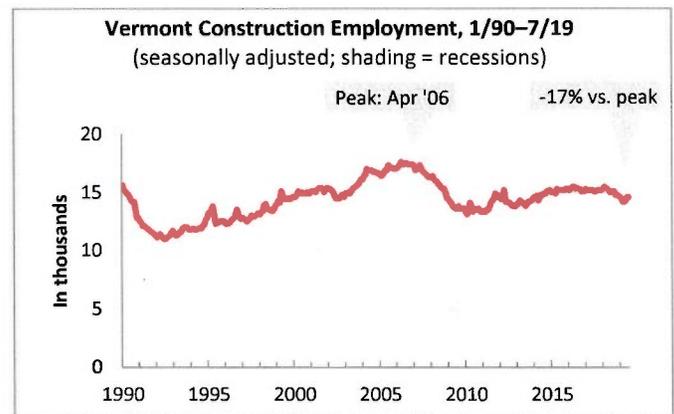
- Construction (residential + nonresidential) employed 7.5 million workers in July 2019, an increase of 177,000 (2.7%) from July 2018, but 3% less than in April 2006, when U.S. construction employment peaked.
- Construction employment in Vermont in July 2019 totaled 14,600, a decrease of 3.3% from July 2018, and 17% less than the state's peak in April 2006.
- Construction unemployment is near a series low. In the 2019 AGC-Autodesk Workforce Survey, 78% of firms in the U.S. reported difficulty filling hourly craft worker positions.

## Construction Industry Pay:

- In 2018, pay for all construction industry employees in the U.S. averaged \$62,727, 10% more than the average (mean) for all private-sector employees. Construction industry pay in Vermont averaged \$51,025 in 2018, 9% more than the state average for all private-sector employees.
- Four out of the five most numerous construction occupations in Vermont had higher median pay than the median for all employees in the state. (Half of workers earn more than the median; half earn less.)

## Small Business:

- The U.S. had 810,295 construction firms in 2016, of which 92% were small (1 to 19 employees). Vermont had 2,878 construction firms in 2016, of which 95% were small.



Empl. Change by Metro (not seasonally adjusted)		Rank
Metro area or division	7/18–7/19	(out of 358)
Statewide (Construction)	-4%	
Statewide (Mining, logging, and construction)*	-4%	
Burlington-South Burlington NECTA*	3%	172

NECTA: New England City and Town Area (equivalent of metropolitan statistical area)

\*The Bureau of Labor Statistics combines construction, mining and logging employment for metro areas in which mining and logging have few employers. Construction-only employment change is shown for a metro if BLS posts that data.

## 5 most numerous construction jobs and median annual pay in Vermont (2018 data)

Occupation	Number of employees	Median annual pay	Pay relative to median
All occupations	305,210	\$39,720	
Carpenters	2,730	\$42,730	+8%
Construction Laborers	1,630	\$35,130	-12%
First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers	1,470	\$63,580	+60%
Electricians	1,050	\$50,850	+28%
Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators	920	\$42,020	+6%

