

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

## **Economic Impact of Construction:**

- U.S. gross domestic product (GDP)—the value of all goods and services produced in the country—totaled \$19.3 trillion in 2017; construction contributed \$826 billion (4.3%). In Ohio, construction contributed \$25.6 billion (4%) of the state's GDP of \$649 billion, less than the industry's 4.3% share of U.S. GDP.
- Construction wages and salaries in 2017 totaled \$427 billion in the United States, including \$13.6 billion in Ohio.

### **Nonresidential Construction Spending:**

- Nonresidential spending in the U.S. totaled \$714 billion in 2017 (\$438 billion private, \$277 billion public).
- Private nonresidential spending in Ohio totaled \$8.2 billion in 2017. State and local spending totaled \$8.2 billion.
- Nonresidential starts in Ohio totaled \$13.9 billion in 2017 and \$13.1 billion in 2016, according to ConstructConnect.

#### **Construction Employment (Seasonally Adjusted):**

- Construction (residential + nonresidential) employed 7.2 million workers in July 2018, an increase of 308,000 (4.4%) from July 2017, but 6.3% less than in April 2006, when U.S. construction employment peaked.
- Construction employment in Ohio in July 2018 totaled 226,100, an increase of 3.2% from July 2017, but 11% less than the state's peak in March 2000.
- Construction unemployment is near a series low. In AGC's August 2018 workforce survey, 80% of firms in the U.S. and 92% in Ohio reported difficulty filling hourly craft worker positions.

#### **Construction Industry Pay:**

- In 2017, pay for all construction industry employees in the U.S. averaged \$60,700, 10% more than the average (mean) for all private-sector employees. Pay for construction industry employees in Ohio was \$60,800 in 2017, 25% more than the state average for all private-sector employees.
- The five most numerous construction occupations in Ohio 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 United States had 669,000 construction firms in 2015, of which 92% were small (1 to 19 employees). Ohio had 19,400 construction firms in 2015, of which 91% were small.





Empl. Change by Metro (not seasonally	Rank	
Metro area or division	7/17-7/18	(out of 358)
Statewide (Construction)	3%	
Statewide (Mining, logging, and construction)*	4%	
Akron*	3%	223
Canton-Massillon*	2%	248
Cincinnati, OH-KY-IN*	6%	117
Cleveland-Elyria*	4%	183
Columbus*	-2%	326
Dayton*	5%	150
Lima*	0%	282
Mansfield*	4%	183
Springfield*	0%	282
Toledo*	4%	183
Weirton-Steubenville, WV-OH*	12%	14
Youngstown-Warren-Boardman, OH-PA*	5%	150
Huntington-Ashland, WV-KY-OH*	6%	117

<sup>\*</sup>The Bureau of Labor Statistics combines construction, mining and logging employment for metro areas in which mining and logging have few employers. To allow comparisons between states and their metros, not seasonally adjusted statewide data is shown for both construction-only and combined employment change.

5 most numerous construction jobs and median annual pay in				
Ohio				
	Number of	Median	Pay relative	
Occupation	employees	annual pay	to median	
All occupations	5,370,640	\$36,500		
Construction Laborers	37,990	\$38,990	+7%	
Electricians	24,170	\$50,280	+38%	
Carpenters	18,920	\$45,510	+25%	
Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators	15,760	\$54,400	+49%	
First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers	14,620	\$62,500	+71%	

Source: Ken Simonson, Chief Economist, AGC of America, <a href="mailto:simonsonk@agc.org">simonsonk@agc.org</a>, from Bureau of Economic Analysis (<a href="mailto:spending">GDP</a>); Census Bureau (<a href="mailto:spending">spending</a>, <a href="mailto:spending">small business</a>); ConstructConnect (<a href="mailto:starts">starts</a>); Bureau of Labor Statistics (<a href="mailto:jobs">jobs</a>, <a href="mailto:spending">occupations</a>); AGC (<a href="mailto:workforce survey">workforce survey</a>).

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