



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**CONSTRUCTION EMPLOYMENT INCREASED IN 41 STATES DURING THE PAST YEAR, BUT 29 STATES AND D.C. LOST JOBS IN THE SECTOR BETWEEN FEBRUARY AND MARCH**  
*California and Idaho Have Largest 12-Month Gains, West Virginia and Mississippi Have Biggest Declines for the Year; California and Mississippi Top Monthly Rankings, Texas and Arkansas Shed Most Jobs in March*

Even as construction firms added jobs in 41 states between March 2014 and March 2015, construction employment declined in 29 states and the District of Columbia between February and March, according to an analysis today of Labor Department data by the Associated General Contractors of America. Association officials cautioned that ongoing D.C. gridlock over how to pay for needed infrastructure improvements and declining demand for oil-related projects likely contributed to so many states shedding construction jobs last month.

“While the year-over-year data remains relatively positive, it is troubling to see so many states losing construction jobs during the past month,” said Ken Simonson, the association’s chief economist. “As energy firms cancel or delay projects and Congressional action on transportation and other infrastructure measures remains stalled, many construction firms appear to be reducing headcount, at least temporarily.”

California added more new construction jobs (46,300 jobs, 6.9 percent) between March 2014 and March 2015 than any other state. Other states adding a high number of new construction jobs for the past 12 months included Texas (39,300 jobs, 6.2 percent), Florida (37,400 jobs, 9.7 percent), Washington (18,900 jobs, 12.1 percent) and Illinois (16,600 jobs, 8.4 percent). Idaho (14.8 percent, 4,800 jobs) added the highest percentage of new construction jobs during the past year, followed by North Dakota (12.1 percent, 4,000 jobs), Washington and Colorado (10.4 percent, 14,500 jobs).

Nine states shed construction jobs during the past 12 months while construction employment was unchanged in D.C. West Virginia (-2,400 jobs, -7.2 percent) and Mississippi (-2,400 jobs, -4.7 percent) were tied for the most construction jobs lost. Other states that lost a high number of construction jobs for the year were Indiana (-1,900 jobs, -1.6 percent), Ohio (-1,400 jobs, -0.7 percent) and Nebraska (-600 jobs, -1.6 percent.)

Texas (-5,800 jobs, -0.9 percent) lost the most construction jobs between February and March. Other states experiencing large monthly declines in total construction employment included Ohio (-4,500 jobs, -2.3 percent), Kentucky (-4,100 jobs, -5.4 percent), Georgia (-3,500 jobs, -2.2 percent) and Arkansas (-3,400 jobs, -6.9 percent). Arkansas lost the highest percent of construction jobs, followed by Kentucky, West Virginia (-4.3 percent, -1,400 jobs) and New Mexico (-3.0 percent, -1,300 jobs).

Nineteen states added construction jobs during the past month, while construction employment was unchanged in Maine and Montana. California (7,300 jobs, 1.0 percent) added the most jobs, followed by Florida (6,500 jobs, 1.6 percent), Illinois (3,600 jobs, 1.7 percent) and Washington (2,800 jobs, 1.6 percent). Mississippi (2.3 percent, 1,100 jobs) had the highest percentage increase for the month, followed by Delaware (2.0 percent, 400 jobs), Nevada (2.0 percent, 1,300 jobs) and Illinois.

Association officials said the industry’s recovery was at risk amid weakening demand and urged Congress and the Obama administration to act quickly to figure out a way to pay for and pass legislation to repair aging roads, bridges and transit systems, as well as other public infrastructure. They added that road users should visit [www.DriveBetterRoads.org](http://www.DriveBetterRoads.org) to share their stories of bad road conditions and urge Washington to act.

“The construction industry has clearly hit a soft patch,” said Stephen E. Sandherr, the association’s chief executive officer. “Passing needed infrastructure measures will certainly help keep construction employment levels from backsliding.” View the state employment data by [rank](#) and [state](#). View state employment [map](#).



**State Construction Employment (seasonally adjusted), Ranked by Latest 12-month % Change**

	<u>March</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>1-month gain or loss</u>			<u>12-month gain or loss</u>		
	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>% rank</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>% rank</u>
Idaho	35,200	39,200	39,900	40,400	500	1.3%	7	5,200	14.8%	1
North Dakota	33,100	36,400	37,500	37,100	-400	-1.1%	34	4,000	12.1%	2
Washington	156,800	172,400	172,900	175,700	2,800	1.6%	5	18,900	12.1%	2
Colorado	139,200	150,900	153,900	153,700	-200	-0.1%	22	14,500	10.4%	4
Michigan	138,100	151,100	151,400	152,500	1,100	0.7%	14	14,400	10.4%	4
Florida	387,000	413,700	417,900	424,400	6,500	1.6%	5	37,400	9.7%	6
Iowa	71,200	77,000	77,300	77,400	100	0.1%	18	6,200	8.7%	7
Illinois	197,100	207,700	210,100	213,700	3,600	1.7%	4	16,600	8.4%	8
New Jersey	138,500	150,100	152,000	149,700	-2,300	-1.5%	38	11,200	8.1%	9
Wisconsin	101,600	110,000	108,700	109,600	900	0.8%	12	8,000	7.9%	10
South Dakota*	22,000	22,900	23,500	23,600	100	0.4%	16	1,600	7.3%	11
South Carolina	81,400	83,400	86,200	87,300	1,100	1.3%	7	5,900	7.2%	12
California	667,300	697,100	706,300	713,600	7,300	1.0%	10	46,300	6.9%	13
North Carolina	176,900	187,600	191,400	189,000	-2,400	-1.3%	35	12,100	6.8%	14
Nevada	61,600	65,400	64,200	65,500	1,300	2.0%	2	3,900	6.3%	15
Texas	633,800	677,100	678,900	673,100	-5,800	-0.9%	32	39,300	6.2%	16
Utah	78,300	83,300	85,200	82,800	-2,400	-2.8%	47	4,500	5.7%	17
Tennessee*	109,500	114,800	116,300	114,300	-2,000	-1.7%	41	4,800	4.4%	18
Pennsylvania	225,600	233,700	231,000	233,700	2,700	1.2%	9	8,100	3.6%	19
Wyoming	23,000	23,300	23,600	23,800	200	0.8%	12	800	3.5%	20
Vermont	14,800	15,400	15,200	15,300	100	0.7%	14	500	3.4%	21
Arkansas	44,700	49,000	49,500	46,100	-3,400	-6.9%	51	1,400	3.1%	22
Kansas	60,200	61,000	62,500	62,000	-500	-0.8%	30	1,800	3.0%	23
New Hampshire	23,200	24,400	23,800	23,900	100	0.4%	16	700	3.0%	23
New York	333,700	345,400	342,100	342,500	400	0.1%	18	8,800	2.6%	25
Hawaii*	31,500	32,000	32,000	32,300	300	0.9%	11	800	2.5%	26
Montana	24,800	25,300	25,400	25,400	0	0.0%	20	600	2.4%	27
Oregon	79,400	81,000	81,900	81,300	-600	-0.7%	28	1,900	2.4%	27
Virginia	176,900	179,700	181,200	180,500	-700	-0.4%	24	3,600	2.0%	29
Alabama	79,100	80,700	81,700	80,500	-1,200	-1.5%	38	1,400	1.8%	30
Arizona	126,100	129,600	128,600	128,000	-600	-0.5%	26	1,900	1.5%	31
Delaware*	20,200	19,900	20,100	20,500	400	2.0%	2	300	1.5%	31
Georgia	153,600	156,300	159,300	155,800	-3,500	-2.2%	42	2,200	1.4%	33
Oklahoma	75,600	77,700	78,500	76,500	-2,000	-2.5%	45	900	1.2%	34
Louisiana	136,200	138,000	138,200	137,700	-500	-0.4%	24	1,500	1.1%	35
Maryland*	149,100	153,100	151,900	150,400	-1,500	-1.0%	33	1,300	0.9%	36
Massachusetts	126,000	130,100	129,100	127,000	-2,100	-1.6%	40	1,000	0.8%	37
Connecticut	54,400	55,800	55,500	54,700	-800	-1.4%	37	300	0.6%	38
New Mexico	42,000	43,800	43,500	42,200	-1,300	-3.0%	48	200	0.5%	39
Minnesota	105,000	104,400	106,000	105,200	-800	-0.8%	30	200	0.2%	40
Kentucky	72,000	75,100	76,200	72,100	-4,100	-5.4%	50	100	0.1%	41
District of Columbia*	14,200	14,500	14,300	14,200	-100	-0.7%	28	0	0.0%	42
Missouri	110,700	111,200	113,600	110,600	-3,000	-2.6%	46	-100	-0.1%	43
Alaska	17,700	18,300	17,700	17,600	-100	-0.6%	27	-100	-0.6%	44
Ohio	192,700	192,600	195,800	191,300	-4,500	-2.3%	43	-1,400	-0.7%	45
Maine	25,900	25,300	25,700	25,700	0	0.0%	20	-200	-0.8%	46
Rhode Island	16,300	16,900	16,500	16,100	-400	-2.4%	44	-200	-1.2%	47
Nebraska*	46,400	46,200	46,400	45,800	-600	-1.3%	35	-600	-1.3%	48
Indiana	122,200	120,200	120,500	120,300	-200	-0.2%	23	-1,900	-1.6%	49
Mississippi	50,600	44,900	47,100	48,200	1,100	2.3%	1	-2,400	-4.7%	50
West Virginia	33,200	32,400	32,200	30,800	-1,400	-4.3%	49	-2,400	-7.2%	51

\*Mining and logging is combined with construction.