**The Economic Impact of Construction in the United States and Washington**

**Economic Impact of Construction:**

* In 2015, U.S. gross domestic product (GDP)—the value of all goods and services produced in the country—totaled $17.8 trillion; construction contributed $717 billion (4.0%).
* In Washington, construction contributed $18 billion (3.9%) of the state’s GDP of $444 billion – a smaller contribution to GDP in the state than the industry’s 4% share of U.S. GDP.
* Construction wages and salaries in 2015 totaled $381 billion in the United States, including $10.4 billion in Washington.

**Nonresidential Construction Spending:**

* Nonresidential spending in the U.S. in 2016 totaled $700 billion ($420 billion private, $280 billion public).
* Private nonresidential spending in Washington totaled $6.5 billion in 2015. (Public spending is not available by state.)
* Nonresidential starts in Washington totaled $9.1 billion in 2016 and $8.0 billion in 2015, according to ConstructConnect.

**Construction Employment (Seasonally Adjusted):**

* Construction (residential + nonresidential) employed 6.7 million workers in December 2016, an increase of 102,000 (1.5%) from December 2015 but 1.0 million (13%) less than the peak, set in April 2006.
* Construction employment in Washington in December 2016 totaled 190,300, an increase of 7.6% from December 2015 and an 10% decrease from the state’s peak in June 2007.

**Construction Industry Pay:**

* In 2015, annual pay of all construction workers in the United States averaged $57,000, 8% more than the average for all private sector employees.
* Construction workers’ pay in Washington averaged $56,900, 1% more than the state’s private sector average.

**Small Business:**

* The United States had 667,100 construction firms in 2014, of which 92% employed fewer than 20 workers.
* Washington had 20,500 construction firms in 2014, of which 93% were small (<20 employees).

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| -13% vs. peak  Peak: Apr. ‘06 | | | |
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| Peak: Jun. ‘07  -10% vs. peak | | | |
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| **U.S. 1.5%**  **Washington 7.6%**  (5 out of 51) | | | |
|  | | | |
| **Empl. Change by Metro** (not seasonally adjusted) | | | **Rank**  **(out of 358**) |
| **Metro area or division** | | **12/15-12/16** |
|  | Statewide (construction) | 8% |  |
|  | Statewide (construction/mining/logging)\* | 7% |  |
|  | Bellingham\* | -5% | 314 |
|  | Bremerton-Silverdale\* | -2% | 267 |
|  | Kennewick-Richland\* | 0% | 184 |
|  | Longview\* | 0% | 184 |
|  | Mount Vernon-Anacortes\* | 0% | 184 |
|  | Olympia-Tumwater\* | 8% | 26 |
|  | Seattle-Bellevue-Everett Div.\* | 7% | 33 |
|  | Spokane-Spokane Valley\* | 6% | 42 |
|  | Tacoma-Lakewood Div.\* | 4% | 70 |
|  | Walla Walla\* | 0% | 184 |
|  | Wenatchee\* | 0% | 184 |
|  | Yakima\* | 3% | 95 |
|  |  | | |
|  | *Lewiston, ID-WA* | *9%* | *20* |
|  | *Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA* | *12%* | *8* |
|  | *\*The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports employment for construction, mining and logging combined for metro areas in which mining and logging have few employers. To allow comparisons between states and their metros, the table shows combined employment change for these metros. Not seasonally adjusted statewide data is shown for both construction-only and combined employment change.* | | |