

# THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY OUTLOOK

**SEDCOR CONSTRUCTION ALLIANCE MEETING**  
**02/05/2025**

# HAVE YOU BEEN ASKED TO PARTICIPATE IN A BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS (BLS) SURVEY? *PLEASE DO!*

**BLS survey information is gathered to create data** for businesses, jobseekers, workers and policy-makers about the economy including:

Employment*	Unemployment*	Occupational Wages*
Job vacancies*	Productivity	Occupational Employment*
Consumer spending patterns	Workplace injuries	Compensation
Long-term employment projections*	Employer-provided benefits	Price movements

*\* Collected and produced by Oregon Employment Department*

**Your response is vital to ensuring accurate, complete, and unbiased data** that is representative of the people and businesses in Oregon and the United States.

Your confidential responses are protected by federal and state law and strict security policies that prohibit us from releasing any information that could reveal the identity of you or your business without your consent.

**Thank you for helping us track the Oregon economy!**

# SEASONALLY ADJUSTED EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES

Oregon's unemployment rate was 4.1% in December and 4.1% in November.

- Oregon's monthly unemployment rate has been between 4.0% and 4.2% for 15 months.
- The U.S. unemployment rate was 4.1% in December and 4.2% in November.

Oregon employers lost 3,700 jobs from nonfarm payrolls in December.

- December gains were largest in private education and health services (+2,200 jobs) and government (+700).
- Declines were largest in leisure and hospitality (-1,900 jobs).

Nonfarm payroll employment added 22,000 jobs over the past year, a gain of 1.1%.

- The private sector gained 15,000 jobs (0.9%) over the past year.
- Gains were concentrated in private education and health services (+20,500 jobs, +6.2%).

## EMPLOYMENT IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY FOR MID-VALLEY

### Current Employment Estimates (CES) December Data (not seasonally adjusted)

Area	Industry	Dec-24	Dec-23	Change (year)	% Change (year)
Salem MSA	Construction	13,200	13,200	0	0.0%
Linn County	Construction	3,230	3,220	10	0.3%
Yamhill County	Construction	2,110	2,080	30	1.4%

Annual average data is considered more reliable, but less current.

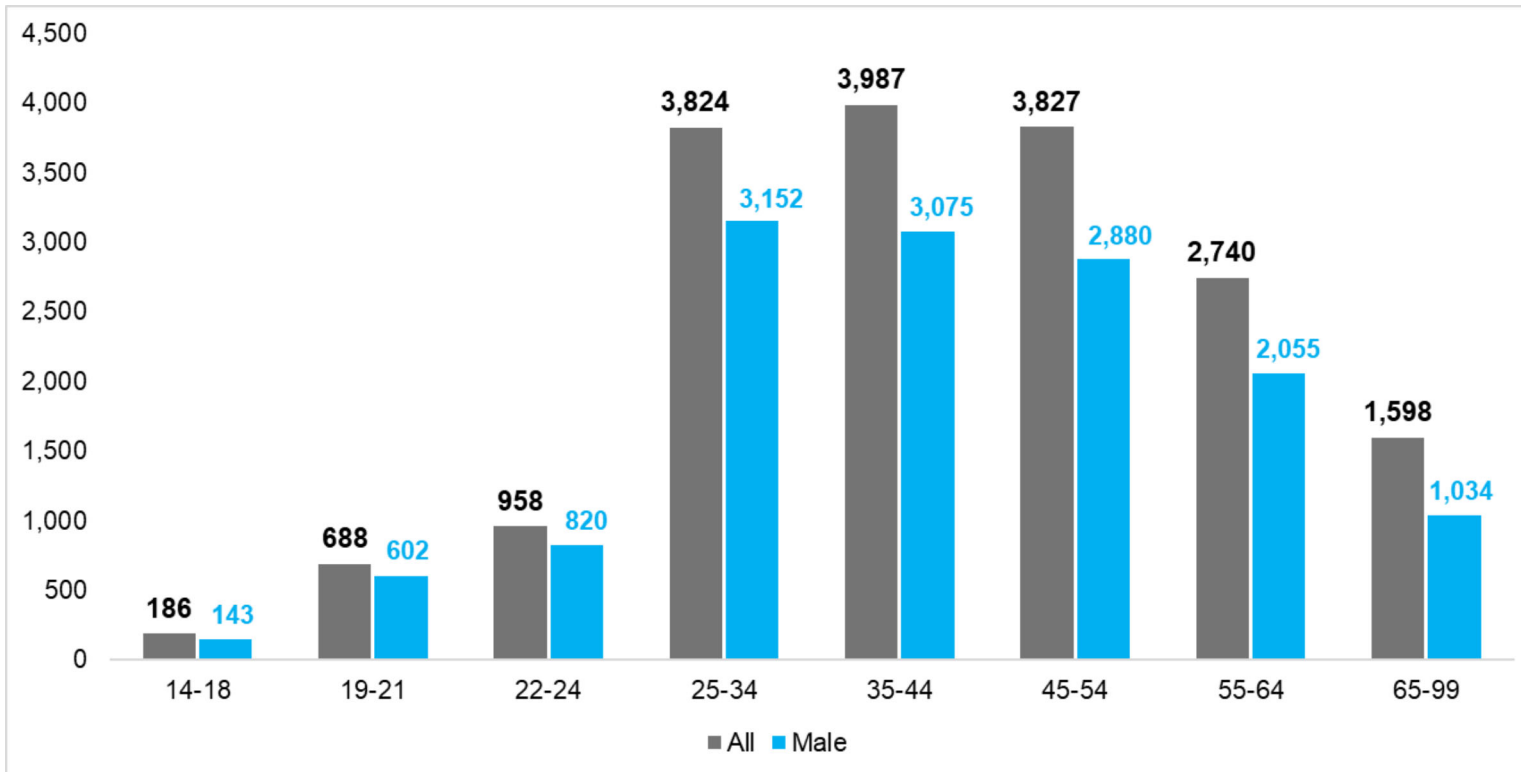
CES data gives better view on the monthly changes

### 2023 Annual QCEW Employment (Industry Profile) for Mid-Valley

Industry Profiles	Linn	Marion	Polk	Yamhill
<b>Construction</b>	3,158	12,069	1,232	2,033
Construction of Buildings	756	2,945	315	545
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	272	1,622	203	104
Specialty Trade Contractors	2,131	7,502	715	1,384

Source: Oregon Employment Department CES and QCEW

## AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION OF CONSTRUCTION WORKERS IN Q2 2024 (MOST RECENT)



Majority of the construction workforce are made up of people aged 35+

The number of people retiring is higher than the number of younger people entering the construction industry

Aging workforce concern in the construction industry

Full Quarter Employment (Stable) 2023 annual average, sum of Linn, Marion, Polk, and Yamhill Construction Employment for all ownership.

Source: Oregon Employment Department, U.S. Census Bureau QWI Explorer

## THE WORKFORCE CONTINUES AGING, IN OREGON AND THE U.S.

### Workers Ages 55+ Could Be Within a Decade of Retirement

Oregon Jobs in 2022	All Workers	Age 55+	% Age 55+
<b>All Sectors</b>	<b>1,908,164</b>	<b>455,792</b>	<b>24%</b>
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	52,269	17,026	33%
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	1,787	574	32%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	30,756	8,795	29%
Utilities	8,025	2,230	28%
Other Services	65,394	17,780	27%
Public Administration	75,343	20,117	27%
Wholesale Trade	77,229	20,205	26%
Educational Services	144,633	37,806	26%
Manufacturing	188,469	49,178	26%
Transportation and Warehousing	80,059	20,392	25%
Finance and Insurance	55,032	13,480	24%
Health Care and Social Assistance	284,182	69,324	24%
Retail Trade	209,208	47,907	23%
Administrative and Waste Services	108,487	24,775	23%
<b>Construction</b>	<b>122,998</b>	<b>28,005</b>	<b>23%</b>
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	111,361	24,248	22%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	29,817	6,345	21%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	51,883	10,705	21%
Information	41,014	7,684	19%
Accommodation and Food Services	170,218	29,216	17%

In the early 1990s, one out of 10 jobs was held by a worker age 55 or older.

By 2022, nearly one-fourth of all jobs in Oregon and the U.S. were held by workers 55+ years old.

For Construction, 23% of the labor force are 55+ are more likely to retire from the workforce.

## DIFFICULT TO FILL POSITIONS IN MID-VALLEY FOR CONSTRUCTION

Mid-Valley Difficult to Fill, 2023	
Occupation	Vacancies
Construction Laborers	122
Brickmasons and Blockmasons	97
Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	73
Electricians	45
Helpers--Brickmasons, Blockmasons, Stonemasons, and Tile and Marble Setters	48

These are positions that require apprenticeships and certifications.

Shortage can be a result of aging workforce, lack of younger workers entering apprenticeships, changing career preferences, and higher education.

Occupations Difficult to Fill in Oregon, 2023			
Occupation	Vacancies	Difficult to Fill	Share of Total
Carpenters	859	774	90%
Construction Laborers	1,224	765	63%
Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	539	457	85%
Electricians	679	365	54%

Source: Oregon Employment Department, Job Vacancy Survey 2023

## CONSTRUCTION JOB WORKERS NEEDED

Job Vacancies by Industry, 2023			
Area	Industry	Vacancies	Average Wage
Oregon	Construction	5,845	\$ 29.70
Mid-Valley	Construction	996	\$ 29.69

Job Vacancies by Occupation Group, 2023			
Area	Occupation Group	Vacancies	Average Wage
Oregon	Construction and Extraction	4,603	\$ 29.42
Mid-Valley	Construction and Extraction	686	\$ 30.70

For Mid-Valley Construction ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> after Health care and social assistance, and management, administrative, and waste services.

By occupations, ranked 5<sup>th</sup> under health care, administrative support, and culinary.

Source: Oregon Employment Department, 2023 Annual Job Vacancy Survey



## THE FUTURE OF CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

<b>Mid-Valley Industry Employment Projections, 2023-2033</b> <b>Linn, Marion, Polk, and Yamhill Counties</b>				
<b>Industry</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2033</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>%Change</b>
Construction	18,400	20,900	2,500	14%

<b>Oregon Industry Employment Projections, 2023-2033</b>				
<b>Industry</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2033</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>%Change</b>
Construction	117,200	132,600	15,400	13%
Construction of buildings	33,300	37,000	3,700	11%
Residential building construction	21,300	23,600	2,300	11%
Nonresidential building construction	12,100	13,400	1,300	11%
Heavy and civil engineering construction	10,900	11,900	1,000	9%
Specialty trade contractors	72,900	83,700	10,800	15%
Building foundation and exterior contractors	13,700	15,000	1,300	9%
Building equipment contractors	34,000	39,400	5,400	16%
Building finishing contractors	15,400	18,000	2,600	17%
Other specialty trade contractors	9,800	11,200	1,400	14%

Source: Oregon Employment Department, Industry Employment Projections

# Thank You!

*Please scan the QR code for a short survey.*



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