

2020 Workforce Survey Analysis

SUMMARY

The Associated General Contractors of America annually partners with Autodesk to conduct an industry survey of the state of the construction labor market. The objective of the survey is to understand whether member firms can find qualified workers to hire, the impacts of any labor shortages on the broader industry and what those shortages mean for the overall economy.

Circumstances are clearly quite different this year, as a result of coronavirus and its impacts on the overall economy, public health and safety, and demand for construction. Since the start of the pandemic, the construction industry has shed more than four

SURVEY ANALYSIS

The coronavirus pandemic has hit construction hard, and many firms expect to see business shrink further.

CONCLUSIONS

There is clearly a lot that Washington officials can do to help boost demand for construction projects and get more people back to work rebuilding the economy. That is why the association is pushing Congress and the administration to enact new recovery measures. These include urging Congress to pass liability reforms to protect firms that are taking steps to protect workers from the coronavirus from needless lawsuits.

AGC is also pushing for new investments in infrastructure, including for the nation's transportation network. Washington needs to also help state and local governments cope with a steep decline in revenues that is undermining their ability to invest in infrastructure. Such investment will create much-needed structures that will provide lasting improvements in quality of life, productivity and the economy. Manufacturing, trucking, and a wide variety of professional services, as well as construction firms, will add jobs as a result of the increased spending. Congress also needs to pass a one-year extension to the current surface transportation law and provide additional transportation construction funds.

The challenge is that the coronavirus has put many contractors in the position of looking for work and workers at the same time. That is why the association is also preparing a new nationwide effort to encourage more people to pursue high-paying careers in construction to ease hiring challenges and find a way to attract recently unemployed people into the construction industry. Among other steps, AGC will be launching a new "Construction is Essential" campaign to highlight the many benefits of construction careers.

It has been a hundred years since the industry has gone through something like the coronavirus. But while the challenges are severe, they are not insurmountable. With a responsible amount of support from Washington, we can turn the current challenges into an opportunity to rebuild our economy and attract a new generation into growing construction careers.

BACKGROUND

AGC conducted the survey of its members in August 2020. A total of 2,005 individuals from a broad range of firm types and sizes completed the survey. Among responding firms that identified their market segment, 56 percent are involved in building construction, 25 percent are involved in highway and transportation construction, 23 percent perform federal construction projects and 23 percent work on utility infrastructure projects. Among firms that identified their revenue size, 66 percent perform \$0 million a year or less worth of work, 28 percent perform between \$0.1 million and \$500 million, and 6 percent perform over \$500 million worth of work each year. Respondents were not paid or otherwise compensated for their responses.