



Construction Industry Round Table

Economic News

A force for positive change in the design / construction industry

10/02/2015 – Unemployment Numbers Remain Steady, But Participation Rates Fall to Nearly 40-Year Low

Employment figures from the Department of Labor showed a modest increase of some 142,000 jobs being added in September 2015 (only a mere 12 thousand over what is the generally accepted estimate that it takes approximately 130,000 new jobs per month, just to absorb the expanding workforce). The non-seasonally adjusted unemployment figure for construction moved back down to the July level of 5.5% [some 1.5 basis points (percent points), below a year ago September 2014, when it stood at 7.0%].

The overall unemployment number remained at fairly good 5.1%. However, the BIG STORY and partial explanation for the overall picture not changing for the negative (i.e., unemployment creeping back “up”) is the fact the “labor force participation” rate is flirting with historic lows, dropping to a level not seen in almost 40-years (when women were not as prevalent in the work force) of only 62.4%. [This trend tends to support the view that people have given up looking for work, and/or are satisfied with government programs that supply them with sufficient incomes to sustain their lifestyles – either way, it is an outcome of the “Obama Recovery” or lack thereof.]

*You can view the current and historical **Workforce Statistics** charts [here](#).*