



## Construction Industry Round Table

## Business News

A force for positive change in the design / construction industry

### **7/02/2015 – June '15 Employment Looks Better – But, Participation Rate Decrease May Account for the Change**

Employment figures from the Department of Labor showed a healthy increase of some 223,000 jobs being added in June 2015 (well above 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 dipped to 6.3% [or 1.9 basis points (percent points), below June 2014, when it stood at 8.2%] putting the employment level closer to normal seasonal unemployment expectations.

With the job growth reported (+223K) the overall unemployment number fell two-tenths to 5.3%. However, this improvement may have been *entirely* the result of a large drop in the “labor force participation” rate, which crashed to a more than 35-year low of 62.6% (off 0.3 basis points in just one month from May’s 62.9%), thus driving “DOWN” the overall unemployment percentage.

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