



## Construction Industry Round Table

## Economic News

A force for positive change in the design / construction industry

### 05/07/2018 – Employment Improves Overall in April

The Department of Labor data released for April 2018 employment indicated a more-steady increase of 164,000 jobs (a level slightly above the generally accepted estimate that it takes approximately 130-150,000 new jobs per month just to absorb the expanding workforce). *Non-seasonally* adjusted unemployment figures for construction improved to 6.5 percent [which is 0.9 percentage lower than last month (March 2018), BUT 0.2 higher than a year ago in April 2017 when it stood at 6.3%].

The overall unemployment slid to *only* 3.9 percent (after being at 4.1% for six months in a row (“unemployed persons” was measured at 6.3 million as the government counts). The closely watched “labor force participation” rate slipped one-tenth to 62.8 percent. [This statistic measures percentage of the eligible civilians in the labor force. At the *end of the recession* (June '09) this rate stood at a healthier 65.7%. NOTE: The “*labor force participation*” rate works inversely to the overall unemployment figures, meaning: as it deteriorates, it actually is counted as improving unemployment (i.e., people leaving the workforce are no longer viewed as unemployed by the DOL)]. The “*employment to population ratio*” also slipped one-tenth to 60.3 percent.

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