



Construction Industry Round Table

Economic News

A force for positive change in the design / construction industry

11/11/2015 – Unemployment Numbers Improve Overall in October, But Construction Jobs Ebb with Fall

Employment figures from the Department of Labor showed a healthy increase of some 271,000 jobs being added in October 2015 (nearly twice September's growth and well above the generally accepted estimate that it takes approximately 130-150,000 new jobs per month, just to absorb the expanding workforce). The *non-seasonally* adjusted unemployment figure for construction increased to 6.2 percent [up 0.7% from September '15, and just 0.2 basis points (percent points), below a year ago October 2014, when it stood at 6.4%].

The overall unemployment number slipped to just 5.0%. However, this continued to be partially explained by the stubborn negative "labor force participation" rate which remained at historic lows, staying at a level not seen in almost 40-years (when women were not as prevalent in the work force) of only 62.4 percent. [The "employed-population ratio" is only 59.3%, which 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].

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