



Construction Industry Round Table

Economic News

A force for positive change in the design / construction industry

10/11/2016 – Employment Numbers Stagnate for September ‘16

Employment figures from the Department of Labor for September stalled, with a growth of 156,000 new jobs (nearly the same level as in August), during the month (this number only *meets* 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 exhibited a customary late summer drop-off, with DOL reporting construction related unemployment at 5.2 percent [which is only 3 basis points (0.3 percent point), below a year ago September 2015, when it stood at 5.5%].

Meanwhile, the overall unemployment rate ticked up one-tenth to 5.0 percent (which amounts to 7.9 million “unemployed persons” as the government counts). The “labor force participation” rate got one-tenth better at 62.9 percent. (This level remains around historic lows set back in the 1970’s when women made-up less of the “outside the home” workforce. Note: at the end of the recession [June ‘09] this rate stood at a healthier 65.7%). Meanwhile, the “employed to population ratio” also improved by one-tenth to 59.8 percent.

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