**The Economic Impact of Construction in the United States and Virginia**

**Construction’s Overall Contribution to the Economy:**
- In 2015, U.S. gross domestic product (GDP)—the value of all goods and services produced in the country—totaled $17.8 trillion; construction contributed $717 billion (4.0%).
- In Virginia, construction contributed $20 billion (4.2%) of the state’s GDP of $480 billion. Thus, construction’s contribution to GDP in the state was less than the industry’s 4.0% share of U.S. GDP.
- Construction wages and salaries in 2015 totaled $381 billion in the United States, including $10.0 billion in Virginia.

**Nonresidential Construction Spending:**
- Private nonresidential spending in Virginia totaled $3.9 billion in 2014. (Public spending is not available by state.)
- Nonresidential starts in Virginia totaled $8.1 billion in 2015 and $8.4 billion in 2014, according to ConstructConnect.

**Construction Employment (Seasonally Adjusted):**
- Construction (residential + nonresidential) employed 6.6 million workers in July 2016, an increase of 209,000 (3.2%) from July 2015 and a decrease of 1.1 million (14%) from April 2006, when U.S. construction employment peaked.
- Construction employment in Virginia in July 2016 totaled 185,800, an increase of 0.8% from July 2015 and a 26% decrease from the state’s peak in March 2006.

**Construction Industry Pay:**
- In 2015, annual pay of all construction workers in the United States averaged $57,000, 8% more than the average for all private sector employees.
- The average for construction workers in Virginia was $51,600, 4% less than for all private sector employees.

**Small Business:**
- The United States had 667,100 construction firms in 2014, of which 92% employed fewer than 20 workers.
- Virginia had 19,100 construction firms in 2014, of which 91% were small (<20 employees).

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Source: Ken Simonson, Chief Economist, AGC of America, simonsonk@agc.org, from Bureau of Economic Analysis (GDP); Census Bureau (spending, small business); ConstructConnect (formerly CMD) (starts); Bureau of Labor Statistics (jobs, pay)