In 2018, the Construction sector comprised 5.1 percent of all public and private sector employment in Iowa, remaining similar to 2017, when it was at 5.0 percent. This industry is sensitive to the volatilities of the business cycle, so this percentage is subject to more variation than other industries. This sector had average annual wage of $57,351 in 2018, which is 20.7 percent higher than the statewide average of $47,511 for all industries (publics and private sector).

During the recession, this sector suffered a decline in employment of 15.4 percent from 2008 thru 2010. Since 2010, employment in this sector has risen, with the high being 82,170 employees in 2016. 2017 saw a dip in employment by 5.8 percent, but despite a slight rebound in 2018 with employment at 78,699, was still under the 2016 high by 4.2 percent. Average annual wages for the sector followed a similar pattern. 2016 saw a high of $57,998, with a dip in 2017 to $55,424 and, a rebound in 2018 to $57,351, though still short of the 2016 high.

Men continue to make up the majority of this industry, holding 87.4 percent of the jobs. Interesting enough, there was a small increase of 60 women holding jobs in construction from 9,231 to 9,291 in 2018.
What is Construction?
The Construction sector is comprised of establishments primarily engaged in the construction of buildings, engineering projects (e.g., highways and utility systems) or in the construction trades.

Establishments primarily engaged in the preparation of sites for new construction or primarily engaged in subdividing land for sale as building sites are also included in this sector.

Construction work done may include new work, additions, alterations or maintenance and repairs. These activities are usually managed at a fixed place of business, but they may also perform construction activities at multiple project sites.

Source: www.bls.gov/cew/bls_naics/bls_naics_app.htm

2018 Industry Breakout by Employment in Iowa

Percentage Employed and Average Annual Wage by Subsector

236-Construction of Buildings
237-Heavy & Civil Engineering Constr
238-Speciality Trade Contractors

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), Iowa Workforce Development

2009–2018 Employment in Construction in Iowa

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), Iowa Workforce Development

https://www.iowalmi.gov/qcew
### Construction Industry Profile

#### Top Occupations in Construction Employment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Employment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Construction Laborers</td>
<td>10,111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricians</td>
<td>6,119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpenters</td>
<td>5,268</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers</td>
<td>4,427</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters</td>
<td>3,968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators</td>
<td>3,507</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cement Masons and Concrete Finishers</td>
<td>3,487</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers</td>
<td>2,826</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction Managers</td>
<td>2,482</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Clerks, General</td>
<td>1,891</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks</td>
<td>1,854</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheet Metal Workers</td>
<td>1,706</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Painters, Construction and Maintenance</td>
<td>1,577</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drywall and Ceiling Tile Installers</td>
<td>1,190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive</td>
<td>1,174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost Estimators</td>
<td>1,162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roofers</td>
<td>1,151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brickmasons and Blockmasons</td>
<td>1,072</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Workers, All Other</td>
<td>1,047</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helpers—Electricians</td>
<td>900</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Iowa Workforce Development, Labor Market Information Industry and Occupational Projections (2018-2020 Short-Term Projections)

### Establishment Facts:

In 2018, there were 9,576 construction employers across the state with an annual average wage of $57,351. The subsector with the greatest number of establishments and employees was Specialty trade contractors with 5,902 establishments and 49,848 employees. However, this subsector had the lowest average annual wage at $54,795.

Heavy and civil engineering construction had the highest average annual wage at $67,960 but the fewest number of locations and employees with 964 and 12,650, respectively.

### 2018 Covered Employment in Construction by County

![Map of Iowa showing employment by county for 2018 in the construction industry.](https://www.iowalmi.gov/qcew)

**Sector Statewide:**
- Employment: 78,699
- Average Annual Wage: $57,351

**Label Key:**
- First line is the county name followed by average employment and finally, average wage.

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), Iowa Workforce Development

[https://www.iowalmi.gov/qcew](https://www.iowalmi.gov/qcew)
### 2018 Average Annual Wage for Covered Employment in Construction

**State Comparisons by Private Ownership**

- **North Dakota** $64,586
- **South Dakota** $48,981
- **Nebraska** $51,657
- **Iowa** $57,435
- **Kansas** $54,735
- **Minnesota** $67,248
- **Wisconsin** $62,063
- **Michigan** $62,378
- **United States Average**: $62,727
- **Illinois** $71,957
- **Indiana** $58,404
- **Ohio** $61,194
- **Missouri** $59,442
- **Minnesota** $67,248
- **Wisconsin** $62,063
- **Michigan** $62,378
- **United States Average**: $62,727
- **Illinois** $71,957
- **Indiana** $58,404
- **Ohio** $61,194
- **Missouri** $59,442
- **South Dakota** $48,981

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), Bureau of Labor Statistics

### Industry Distribution by Age and Gender, 2nd Quarter 2018

- **Male**
- **Female**

Source: Local Employment Dynamics, Iowa Workforce Development and U.S. Census Bureau

https://lehd.ces.census.gov/