In 2019, the Construction sector continues to be sensitive to the volatilities of the business cycle, so this percentage is subject to show more variation than other industries. This sector had an average annual wage of $58,789 in 2019, which was an average annual increase of $1,438 from the $57,351 in 2018. The $58,789 in 2019 is 17.21 percent higher than the statewide average of $48,672 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. We have seen employment continue to grow from 82,170 in 2016 to 77,420 in 2017. In 2018, the employment increased to 78,699 and in 2019, it was 79,733.

Men continue to make up majority of this industry, holding 87.2 percent of the jobs. This is a slight decline from 2018, when men held 87.4 percent. Interesting point, there was a larger increase from 2018 (9,291) to 2019 (9,558) of 267 women holding jobs in construction versus the increase of 60 women from 2017 (9,231) to 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. Activities of these establishments generally are managed at a fixed place of business, but they usually perform construction activities at multiple project sites.

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

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**2019 Industry Breakout by Employment in Iowa**

Percentage Employed and Average Annual Wage by Subsector

- 237-Heavy & Civil Engineering Constr: 13,642, 17%
- 238-Speciality Trade Contractors: 50,199, 63%
- AAW Heavy & Civil Engineering Construction = $68,717
- AAW Speciality Trade Contractors = $56,218

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

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**2010–2019 Employment in Construction in Iowa**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Employment</th>
<th>Average Annual Wage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>63,071</td>
<td>$43,744</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>63,877</td>
<td>$45,234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>66,014</td>
<td>$47,199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>69,199</td>
<td>$48,574</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>75,697</td>
<td>$51,965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>79,673</td>
<td>$54,878</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>79,398</td>
<td>$55,424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>77,420</td>
<td>$55,731</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>78,699</td>
<td>$57,617</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>79,733</td>
<td>$58,789</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

https://www.iowalmi.gov/qcew
In 2019, there were 9,591 construction employers across the state. The subsector with the most establishments and employees was Specialty Trade contractors, with 5,932 and 50,199 respectively. Heavy & Civil Engineering construction, however, had the highest average annual wage, at $68,717.

The employers listed to the left are classified in the subsector that reflects their primary industry, although each company may be engaged in other economic activities.

2019 Average Annual Wage for Covered Employment in Construction

State Comparisons by Private Ownership

- North Dakota: $68,153
- South Dakota: $50,997
- Nebraska: $53,794
- Iowa: $58,962
- Kansas: $57,030
- Minnesota: $69,734
- Wisconsin: $63,874
- Illinois: $73,799
- Missouri: $61,762
- Michigan: $63,588
- Ohio: $62,383
- United States Average: $64,826

North Dakota
South Dakota
Nebraska
Iowa
Kansas
Minnesota
Wisconsin
Illinois
Missouri
Michigan
Ohio

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

Industry Distribution by Age and Gender, 2nd Quarter 2019

- Male
- Female

Source: Local Employment Dynamics, Iowa Workforce Development and U.S. Census Bureau
https://lehd.ces.census.gov/