

Business Engagement and Compliance

Construction employment rose in July 2024 as recession looms

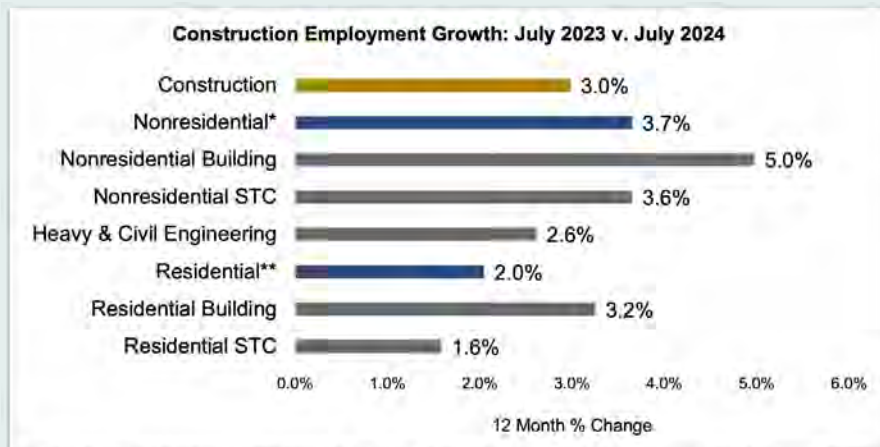
The construction industry added 25,000 jobs on net in July 2024, according to an Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) analysis of data released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. On a year-over-year basis, industry employment has expanded by 239,000 jobs, an increase of 3%.

Nonresidential construction employment increased by 16,200 positions on net, with growth in all three subcategories. Nonresidential specialty trade contractors added the most jobs, increasing by 11,300 positions. Heavy and civil engineering and nonresidential building added 2,900 and 2,000 jobs, respectively.

The construction unemployment rate rose to 3.9% in July 2024. Unemployment across all industries rose from 4.1% in June 2024 to 4.3% in July 2024.

"It appears that America is headed into recession," said ABC Chief Economist Anirban Basu. "While it is true that many economists have been suggesting this for more than two years, the recent slowing in economic activity feels different. Unemployment is climbing rapidly. Consumer spending growth has become more sluggish. U.S. equity markets are generating large losses, an indication that America is caught in a growth scare and that there is a growing consensus that the Federal Reserve has waited too long to begin reducing interest rates."

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NEWLY CERTIFIED DBE FIRMS

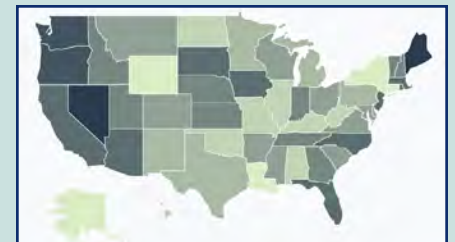
- JB-C's Taste of South Louisiana
- Lighting Partners Integrated Corporation
- Rare Agricultural Products LLP
- Unite Mechanical Insulation LLC
- V. W. & Associates Inc. | DBA Virtek Company
- 123 Installs Corp.
- Itec Sales LLC
- Moore Installs LLC



How to gain a competitive edge: harness technology



DBE Spotlight: Bree Z Trucking Services LLC



Phoenix, Tucson in top 15 for construction wage growth



ADOT making rapid progress on interim repairs to SR 88

- ▶ EVENTS
- ▶ OPPORTUNITIES
- ▶ I-17 FLEX LANES OUTREACH

Construction employment rose in July 2024 as recession looms (cont'd)

"Given that macroeconomic backdrop, it may seem peculiar that the U.S. construction industry managed to add 25,000 jobs in July," said Basu. "How can one suggest that the U.S. economy is heading into recession when contractors are still eagerly hiring workers? In this regard, history is instructive. Nonresidential construction industry performance has tended to lag the performance of the overall economy by 12 to 18 months. According to ABC's [Construction Confidence Index](#), contractors collectively remain upbeat regarding their prospects for the next six months. But if the economy continues to weaken, and it appears poised to do precisely that, contractor confidence will begin to ebb. The [June construction spending data](#) released on Aug. 1 indicate that many construction segments are already in slowdown mode."

"An exception to this is construction related to manufacturing," said Basu. "The fastest segment of growth in construction spending has been in building construction, which encompasses massive investments in chip-making facilities and other industrial projects. Much of that is fueled in part by federal subsidies. But many construction segments do not benefit from federal subsidies, and those are the sectors that stand to experience the most erosion in performance as the economy softens and elevated borrowing costs linger." ([Source](#))

Tech-driven small business success

How to gain a competitive edge: harness technology

"The construction industry stands as one of the largest economic sectors globally, with an annual turnover exceeding an impressive \$10 trillion. Its sheer size underscores the challenges it faces, particularly in terms of cost reduction, increased efficiency and the accelerated delivery of high-quality projects. Throughout its history, the construction sector has consistently sought innovations to address these challenges, and it is evident that emerging technologies are playing a central role in this transformation. These technologies are ushering in a new era of innovation and efficiency in the construction landscape." ("11 Types of Important Construction Technology in 2024," Reza Dehghan, www.neuroject.com)

Dehghan lists technologies that shape our future:

1. 3D Printing.
2. Artificial Intelligence (AI).
3. Cloud and Mobile.
4. Drones or Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs): security monitoring, topographic mapping, inspection of building operations, photography and documentation, remote monitoring of progress and worker safety.
5. Virtual Reality (VR).
6. Augmented Reality (AR).
7. Building Information Modeling (BIM).
8. Internet of Things (IoT).
9. Robotics: collaboration, construction robotics, Hadrian X, construction layouts, demolition robots, self-driving trucks and heavy equipment, built robotics, smart construction, jobsite monitoring and rebar work.
10. Modular Construction.
11. Blockchain.



As a small business involved in transportation projects, how are you embracing technology to maintain a competitive edge?

As projects grow in complexity and client expectations rise, the strategic use of technology can differentiate firms and drive superior project outcomes. Let us explore how small businesses can effectively integrate technology to stand out from the competition. ►►► 3

Tech-driven small business success

How to gain a competitive edge: harness technology (cont'd)

Project management software: enhance efficiency and collaboration

Effective project management is crucial for the success of transportation projects. Procore and Asana are widely used to streamline processes, improve communication and ensure all team members are aligned with project goals.

For example, a small engineering firm working on a highway expansion project might use Procore to track tasks, manage resources and monitor real-time progress. This software allows the firm to collaborate efficiently with subcontractors and clients, ensuring the project stays on schedule and within budget. By adopting such tools, businesses can demonstrate their commitment to efficiency and precision, key factors that clients value when selecting project partners.

Data analytics: inform decision-making

Data analytics plays a vital role in transportation project success. For instance, using Tableau or Power BI, a company can analyze traffic data to determine peak hours and potential bottlenecks before starting construction on a new road. These insights allow the firm to optimize the construction schedule, minimizing disruptions and enhancing project efficiency.

Additionally, analyzing historical project data can help forecast costs and identify potential risks, enabling the firm to make informed decisions that improve project outcomes. By demonstrating a data-driven approach, firms can build credibility with clients, positioning themselves as reliable and forward-thinking partners.

Digital collaboration tools: facilitate communication

Effective communication is the backbone of any successful project, particularly where coordination between multiple stakeholders is essential. Microsoft Teams and Slack are digital collaboration tools that allow teams to share information seamlessly, regardless of geographic location.

For example, you could use Microsoft Teams to maintain real-time communication with engineers, state officials and contractors. These tools reduce misunderstandings, ensure everyone is working with the most up-to-date information and enhance the firm's responsiveness and agility—highly attractive qualities to clients.

Automation and innovation: streamline operations

Automation technologies, such as AI-driven scheduling software or drone surveying, are revolutionizing the design and construction industry. A construction firm might use drones for site surveys, allowing for quicker and more accurate data collection than traditional methods. This saves time and reduces costs, giving the firm a competitive edge.

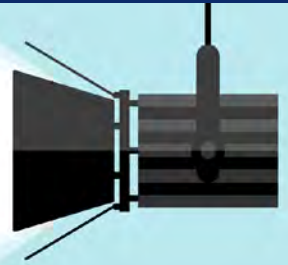
Additionally, AI-driven tools to automate scheduling and logistics can help streamline operations, ensuring that resources are allocated efficiently and that projects progress smoothly. By embracing these innovative technologies, small businesses can showcase their commitment to cutting-edge solutions, setting themselves apart in the industry.

Technology can be overwhelming, especially for a small business with limited resources. Still, small businesses must embrace technology to gain a competitive advantage. By integrating project management software, data analytics, digital collaboration tools and automation into their operations, firms can enhance efficiency, improve decision-making, and ultimately, stand out in a crowded marketplace.

The strategic use of technology improves project outcomes and strengthens a firm's reputation as a key player in the industry.



DBE SPOTLIGHT



Bree Z Trucking Services LLC

www.Breeztruckingservicesllc.com | (480) 486-6428

Certifications:
DBE



BREE Z TRUCKING
SERVICES LLC

SERVICES OFFERED:

- Carrier Authority.
- Broker Authority.
- Motor Carrier Services.
- IRP/IFTA.
- Safety Compliance.

MEET THE OWNER:

Bridghit Salazar

DBE Certified

Bilingual Spanish/ English

COMPANY DESCRIPTION:

Bree Z Trucking Services LLC is a transportation consultant in the trucking industry. Their goal is to inform and help companies comply with filing with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. With the proper guidance from their knowledgeable staff and a combined industry experience of 7 years, the road map to success will be much easier.



Phoenix, Tucson in top 15 for construction wage growth

New data for construction wage growth shows Arizona's two major metropolitan areas are among the top 15 cities tracked.

The [report](#) by Construction Coverage shows Tucson construction workers saw wages increase by 5.7% over the last five years, placing the city at No. 7 nationwide. Phoenix, meanwhile, came in at No. 15, with construction wages increasing 3.1%.

California's San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara metro saw the highest construction wage growth at 8.7%.

By state, Arizona ranked No. 7, showing construction wage growth of 3.2%. Maine took the top spot at 6.2%.

The average construction and extraction industry salary in the U.S. was \$61,500 in 2023, versus \$51,220 in 2018.

Inflation has eviscerated the real-world benefit of those gains, however. According to the report, "While on a nominal basis, this marks a 20.1% increase in pay, when adjusted for inflation, it represents a 1.1% decrease in purchasing power."

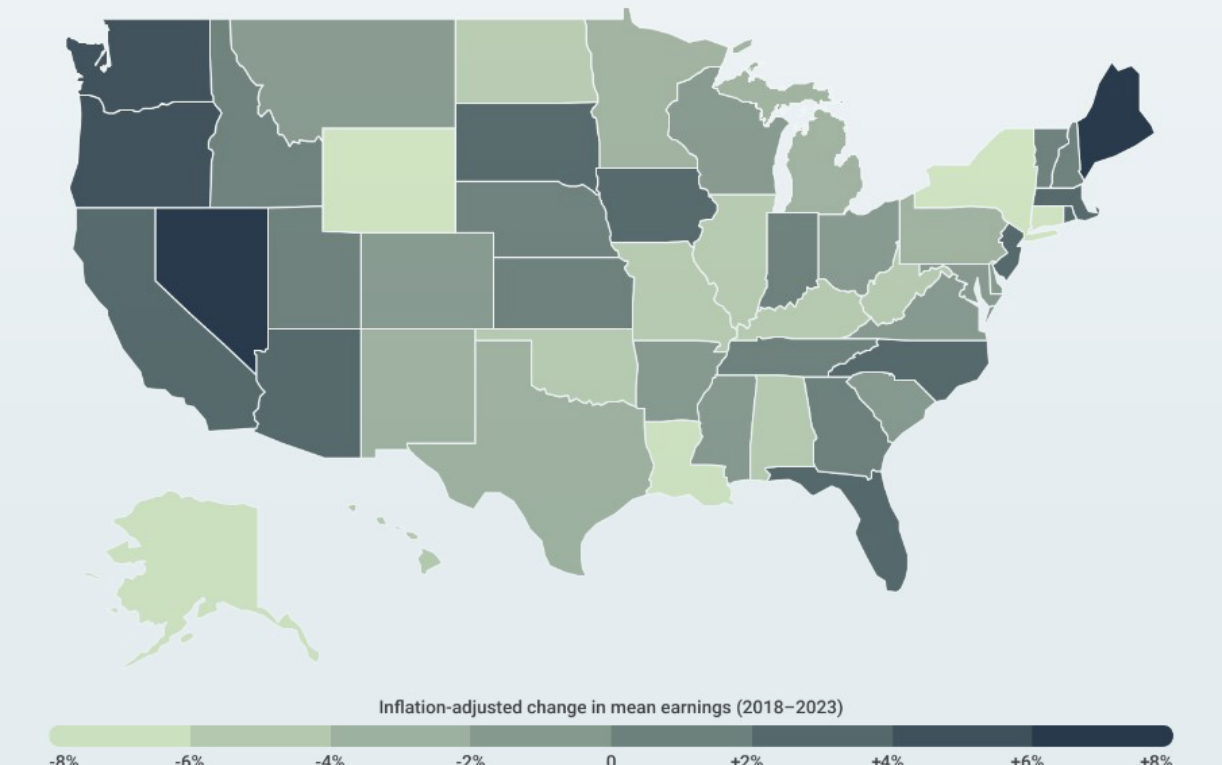
It goes on to say, "Among the 22 major occupational groups tracked by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 12 recorded growth in purchasing power between 2018 and 2023, while 10 (including construction and extraction) showed declines."

Nationally, management, architecture and engineering occupations reported the most significant decreases in purchasing power.

Across all occupations, after adjusting for inflation, jobs saw a positive change in wages of 3.8% across the five-year sample period.

Construction Wage Growth by State

Construction workers in Maine & Nevada have experienced the most wage growth since 2018



Source: Construction Coverage analysis of U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data | Image Credit: Construction Coverage

ADOT making rapid progress on interim repairs to SR 88

Roadway expected to open in September to limited public access

The Arizona Department of Transportation is making rapid progress on a project to restore limited public access to several miles of State Route 88 (Apache Trail). The project is making the unpaved roadway suitable for those traveling in high clearance four-wheel drive and utility task vehicles.

The \$4 million interim project, which is expected to be complete in September, addresses 5 miles of the roadway that were extensively damaged from flooding in 2019. In addition to the current project, ADOT continues seeking federal funding for [more extensive upgrades](#), estimated to cost \$33.7 million, that would make the highway accessible to other vehicles and more resilient to storms.

Since the interim project began July 22 between mileposts 222 and 227, a contractor has worked quickly to remove large boulders that blocked SR 88 on a steep section at Fish Creek Hill, which is 9 miles east of Tortilla Flat. Crews have since broken up the boulders and used the material to fill in eroded areas of the roadway and slope.

Other work underway now or in the coming weeks includes mitigating rockfall between Fish Creek Hill Overlook and Fish Creek, installing new signage, and cleaning and repairing drainage culverts.

ADOT emphasizes that the roadway will only be suitable for high clearance four-wheel drive vehicles as well as utility task vehicles when this stretch reopens. The roadway is not intended for travel in vehicles that lack four-wheel drive.

Before this project began, ADOT maintenance crews removed vegetation, filled in eroded roadway sections and cleaned out culverts. Work in the project area requires U.S. Forest Service review and approval of any activity, as SR 88 follows an easement through federal land. The project also must meet all applicable state and federal environmental requirements.

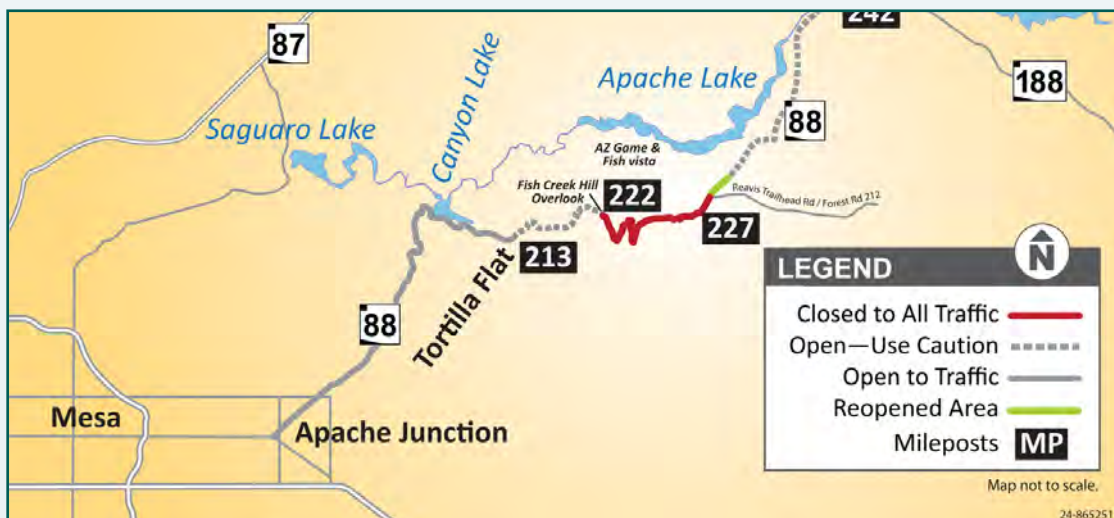
These 5 miles of SR 88 have been closed between Fish Creek Hill Overlook and the Reavis Trailhead since the 2019 flooding, which was made worse in areas by runoff from the Woodbury Fire scar. ADOT reopened 1.7 miles west to the popular Reavis Trailhead in 2022. The original closure point on the east side was at Apache Lake Marina at milepost 229.

While the area between mileposts 222-227 previously had been open to hikers, bicyclists and equestrians, no public access is allowed during the current project.

Traveling between the East Valley and Roosevelt Lake, Apache Trail was built during construction of Theodore Roosevelt Dam, which was completed in 1911. Prior to closing in 2019, the stretch between Tortilla Flat and Apache Lake was used by an average of 232 vehicles daily.

ADOT has performed extensive work since 2019 to restore access to and improve other damaged sections of SR 88 and made regular repairs when flooding has damaged areas that are open to traffic. Motorists can safely access Canyon Lake, Tortilla Flat and other points on the west side of the closure.

For more information on the SR 88, please visit azdot.gov/SR88ApacheTrail.



Business Engagement and Compliance

 ADOT/BECO  Other Associations

****ATTENTION TO ALL FIRMS****

Need help preparing DBE affidavits?
Please see our tutorial video below:

["Preparing DBE Affidavits"](#)



SEPTEMBER

4

CCIM: Lunch and Learn: AZDE Strategic Plan and Updates

11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Location: The Henry

4455 E. Camelback Road, Phoenix

10

AAED: Southern Summit: AZ/Mexico Relations

8 - 11:30 a.m.

Location: Pima Community College,
Downtown Campus

1255 N. Stone Ave., Tucson

11

ASA AZ: Health and Safety - Industry Trends in PPE: A Panel and Expo

10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Location: Hensel Phelps

3125 E. Wood St., Ste. 100, Phoenix

11

ACE: Strategic Planning for Your Construction Company (Part 3 of 3)

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Location: Small Giants

5555 E. Van Buren St., Ste. 115,
Phoenix

12

IFMA PHX: 2024 FMP - Project Management Class

8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Location: City of Peoria

8351 W. Cinnabar, Peoria

17

ASBA: Best Practices for Building a Culture for Continuous Improvement and Innovation

10 a.m.

Location: Virtual

20

AMCA: 14th Annual Southern Arizona Golf Classic

7 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Location: Canoa Ranch Golf Club

5800 S. Camino Del Sol, Green Valley



Featured Federal-Aid Projects

CURRENT OPEN SOLICITATIONS

Due Date	Project Valuation	DBE Goal	Solicitation / Project Number	Type	Project Owner and Description	Contact
9/6/24 11:00 a.m. MST	\$917,000	4.41%	LHV-0-(213)T; T039901C	IFB	ADOT - System Enhancement, McCulloch Blvd & Jamaica Blvd. The work consists of installing a traffic signal and speed feedback signs. The work also consists of ADA sidewalk ramp improvements, slurry seal, signing and pavement markings and other related work.	Iqbal Hossain, Deputy Director of the Multimodal Planning Division, at ihossain@azdot.gov .
9/13/24 11:00 a.m. MST	\$3 million	3.44%	093-A-(211)T; F058901C	IFB	ADOT - Truck Screening Sensors, Kingman Port of Entry to Hoover Dam Highway (US 93). The work consists of installing new truck screening sensors.	Iqbal Hossain, Deputy Director of the Multimodal Planning Division, at ihossain@azdot.gov .
9/13/24 11:00 a.m. MST	\$561,000	8.83%	GLN-0-(266)T; T034301C	IFB	ADOT - System Enhancement, 67th Ave and Montebello, Glendale. The work consists of constructing and installing a Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon, installing Rubber Gasket Reinforced Concrete Pipe, construction of driveways, sidewalk ramps, signing, striping and other related work.	Iqbal Hossain, Deputy Director of the Multimodal Planning Division, at ihossain@azdot.gov .
9/13/24 11:00 a.m. MST	\$920,000	4.17%	ISC-0-(203)T; T031301C	IFB	ADOT - Roadway Lighting, from White Mountain Avenue(BIA 10) to BIA 170. The work consists of the installation of roadway lighting, thermoplastic pavement markings and other related work	Iqbal Hossain, Deputy Director of the Multimodal Planning Division, at ihossain@azdot.gov .

External Links:

- [ADOT Current Advertisements](#)
- [ADOT Engineering Advertisements](#)
- [ADOT Public-Private Partnership Initiatives](#)
- [ADOT Advertised Alternative Delivery Projects](#)
- [Bidding Opportunities Around the State](#)

DBE SUPPORTIVE SERVICES PROGRAM

1801 W. Jefferson St., Ste. 101, Phoenix AZ
602.712.7761
DBESupportiveServices@azdot.gov

I-17, ANTHEM WAY TI TO JCT. SR 69 (CORDES JUNCTION)



PROJECT OWNER
Arizona Department of Transportation

PROJECT NAME
I-17, Anthem Way TI to Jct. SR 69
(Cordes Junction)
Phoenix – Cordes Junction Highway

Public-Private Partnership
Design-Build-Operate-Maintain
Agreement

PROJECT NUMBER
17 MA 229 H6800 01C / NHPP-017-
A(228)S

DBE participation goal
established for this project:

10.16%
for Professional Services

10.88%
for Construction Work

Also Known As **The I-17 Improvement Project: Anthem Way to Sunset Point**

OUR TEAM

The Kiewit-Fann Joint Venture (KFJV) is a strategic partnership between two trusted Arizona firms that have extensive experience working in rural environments, delivering highway projects. KFJV team members have an extensive history together on successful design-build and CMAR projects and have long-standing relationships with ADOT, local jurisdictions, and the community.

POTENTIAL SUBCONTRACT OPPORTUNITIES

KFJV is seeking diverse and local firms interested in pursuing multiple scopes of work on this project. The following scopes are open for solicitation:

- Handrail
- Flatwork
- Routine Maintenance - Damaged Sign F&I

Attachments: Wage Decision No. AZ20210008 Mod No. 0 - Dated 01/01/2021

TAKE THE FIRST STEPS

Head to <https://www.kiewit.com/business-with-us/opportunities/i-17-anthem-way-project/> to complete the Subcontractor Questionnaire and create an account with Building Connected, or for additional information and future event dates.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT US!

Contact us to learn about anticipated subcontract opportunities on this project at Flex.Outreach@kiewit.com.

KFJV is committed to meeting or exceeding stated project participation requirements upon award of ongoing and upcoming Arizona Department of Transportation projects; assisting interested DBEs in obtaining bonding, lines of credit or insurance; providing interested DBEs information related to the plans, specifications and requirements for work to be subcontracted or supplied by these DBEs; assisting interested DBEs in obtaining necessary equipment, supplies, materials or related assistance or services; sub-dividing bid items into economically feasible work units to DBEs every advantage to quoting the project.

KFJV is an Equal Opportunity Employer.