



# CONSTRUCTION OUTLOOK UPDATE

## WORKFORCE SNAPSHOT

According to a New York Building Congress analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey, the construction industry employs over a quarter of a million workers in New York City. The industry and its workers continue to reflect the diverse population of New York City.

### Employment

# 250,270

men and women were employed throughout the five boroughs in a construction industry occupation, decreasing 1% from 2015.

**“While we have made real strides towards a more inclusive and diverse workforce, we still have work to do recruiting and mentoring women and minorities for successful careers in design and construction. The building industry supports programs providing greater access to jobs and ensuing workers are getting the wages, benefits, and training they deserve, especially those who may be working on the fringes of the industry.”**

- Carlo A. Scissura  
President & CEO, New York Building Congress

### Occupation

# 81%

of all workers engaged in the construction industry are blue collar workers, while 15% are white collar and 4% are service workers.

### Citizenship

# 63%

of workers that identified their citizen status indicated they were not citizens, an increase of 3% from the previous year. 41% did not identify their citizenship status.

Blue collar workers comprise 82% of all NYC workers in construction that are not citizens or do not identify their citizenship status.

### Residence

# 76%

of all workers engaged in NYC construction reside in the five boroughs. Residents of Long Island and New Jersey each made up 9 percent of the City's construction workforce.

Among NYC residents working in the industry, 39% lived in Queens, followed by Brooklyn at 32%, the Bronx at 14%, Staten Island at 9% percent and Manhattan at 6%.

### Earnings

# 56%

of all NYC construction workers reported earnings of less than \$50,000 per year - Another 30% earned between \$50,000-100,000 per year, while 14% earned more than \$100,000.

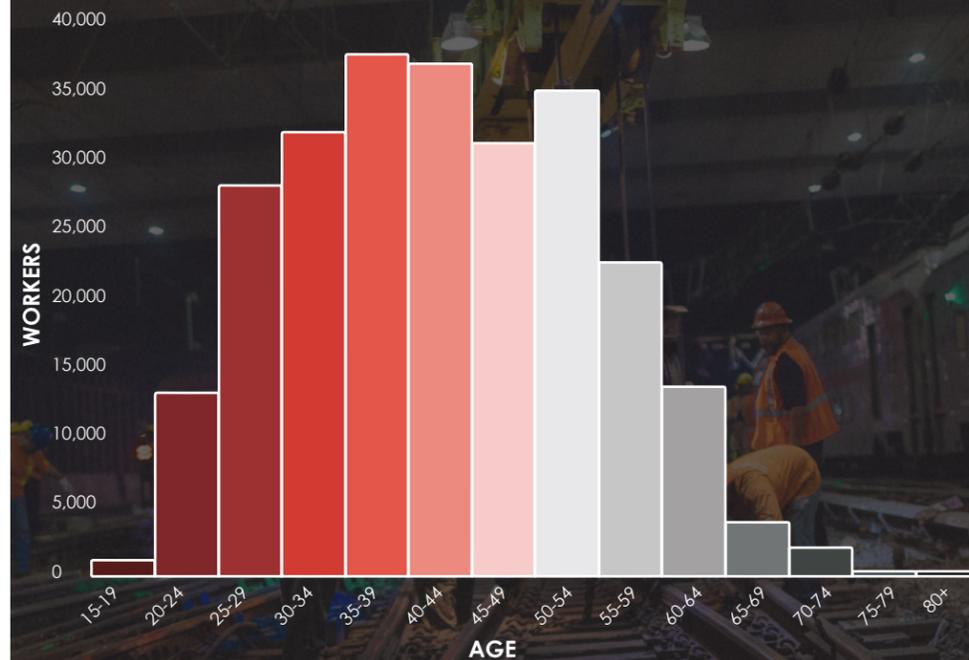
### Language

# 57%

of workers indicated English was not their primary language. English speakers accounted for 43%, Spanish for 35% and other foreign languages for 22%.

### Age

#### Age of NYC Construction Workers, 2016



In the past year, the number of construction industry workers under 35 years of age has declined (-2.3%), while the number of workers 35 to 54 years of age has increased (+3%).

### Gender

# 7.6%

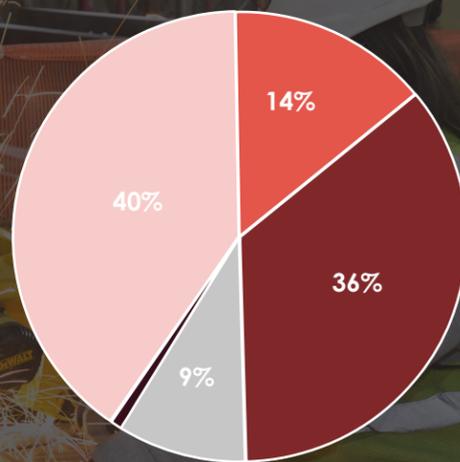
of construction industry workers in NYC are women, a number that has remained constant since 2010.

### Race-Ethnicity

# 60%

of all construction workers identify as NonWhite - 40% identify as White NonHispanic, 36% as Hispanic, 14% as Black NonHispanic, 9% as Asian and the remaining 1% as those of two or more races.

#### Race-Ethnicity of NYC Construction Workers, 2016



- White (NonHispanic)
- Black (NonHispanic)
- Hispanic
- Asian/Others (NonHispanic)
- Two or More Races (NonHispanic)

**“This Building Congress survey reaffirms our own data showing that a strong construction industry labor market is providing opportunities for New Yorkers from diverse backgrounds. The nationally recognized Edward J. Malloy Initiative for Construction Skills has welcomed close to 2,000 New York City residents into apprenticeship programs, helping strengthen and diversify the city's middle class.”**

- Gary LaBarbera,  
President, Building and Construction Trades Council of Greater New York

### Sector

# 4 of 5

NYC construction industry workers are employed in the private sector. Nearly 15% are self employed.

# 2.3%

Decline in the number of NonWhite construction industry workers in the past year.

### Health Insurance

# 113,000

of the 250,000+ construction industry workers in NYC indicated they are not covered by health insurance. Fully 45% of workers are without health insurance.

Almost all workers without health insurance are blue collar workers. Of the 201,000 total blue-collar workers, 100,100 are without health insurance.

### Education

# 83%

of all workers have a High School Diploma, a 4% increase from the previous year. Nearly 36% have a college education, a 3% increase from the previous year.



**New York Building Congress**

1040 Avenue of the Americas, 21st Floor  
New York, NY 10018  
(212) 481-9230  
[www.buildingcongress.com](http://www.buildingcongress.com)



The ACS Survey is based on personal responses and incorporates both union and non-union labor as well as participation by "off the books" workers. In addition to physical construction labor and other construction-related blue-collar operations, the survey also counts construction-related sales and service occupations as well as white-collar jobs, such as architects, engineers, and management, as part of the overall construction workforce.