



## The Key Role of Construction in Louisiana's Economy

The industry **employed 138,000 workers** in May 2008, 7% of the state's nonfarm employment of 1,942,000 and an increase of 3.8% from one year before. Nationally, construction accounted for 5% of nonfarm employment but fell 5.1% over the year as homebuilding shrank.

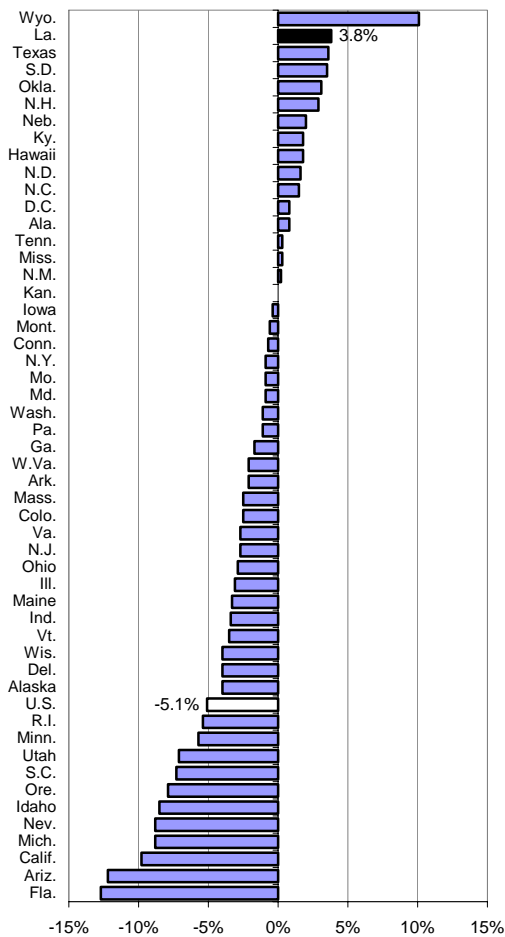
Construction **contributed \$8 billion to state GDP** of \$216 billion in 2007.

**Annual pay** in 2006 in construction averaged \$42,227, 14% more than than the private sector average of \$36,886. Nationally, construction pay averaged \$44,496, 5% more than the national private sector average of \$42,414.

**Small business** is big in construction. Louisiana had 9,000 construction firms in 2005, of which 88% employed fewer than 20 workers. In addition, Louisiana had 40,000 construction firms without employees, mainly sole proprietorships, in 2005.

Louisiana's **population** grew 1.2% from July 2006 to July 2007, 16th fastest of all states; the national growth rate was 1%. Population growth affects the demand for many types of construction.

**Percent Change in Construction Employment  
(May 2007 – May 2008)**



**2006 Average Annual Pay in Construction**

