

CONSTRUCTION OUTLOOK UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2021

WORKFORCE SNAPSHOT

The construction industry continues to represent one of New York City's most vibrant and diverse workforces, employing over a quarter-million people.

The numbers used in this report are from the American Community Survey (ACS) conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. This survey represents New York City's construction industry workforce – those who work in the five boroughs at construction businesses and other establishments with secondary construction activities, such as the Metropolitan Transportation Authority. This data is from the latest available ACS for 2019. Data for 2020 is not yet available.

CENTENNIAL RETROSPECTIVE: THE WORKFORCE OF 1932


Lunch Atop a Skyscraper shows a group of 11 construction workers eating lunch on a crossbeam during the construction of the RCA Building (renamed the GE Building in 1988) at Rockefeller Center in NYC. Photo by Charles C. Ebbets.





We are at a challenging point in history, and the COVID-19 pandemic and economic crisis it created have disproportionately impacted our communities of color. As the representative organization of an industry with a workforce that is 64 percent people of color, the New York Building Congress continues to advocate for the meaningful inclusion and development of our diverse industry workers and MWBE firms. For the past 100 years, the Building Congress has prided itself on uniting people and celebrating the vibrancy of the building industry. Working together, we can build a more equitable and inclusive New York.

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



THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY EMPLOYED 281,400 PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE FIVE BOROUGHS IN 2019, AN INCREASE OF NEARLY 6,860 PEOPLE FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

DEMOGRAPHICS



GENDER: 9.5 percent of all construction industry workers in NYC were women, compared to 8.4 percent in 2018.



RACE-ETHNICITY: 63.8 percent of all construction industry workers identified as nonwhite, an increase of 1.7 percent from the prior year.



CITIZENSHIP: 65.8 percent of workers who identified their citizenship status indicated they are citizens.



LANGUAGE: 56.2 percent of workers engaged in NYC construction indicated English is not their primary language, with the vast majority preferring Spanish.

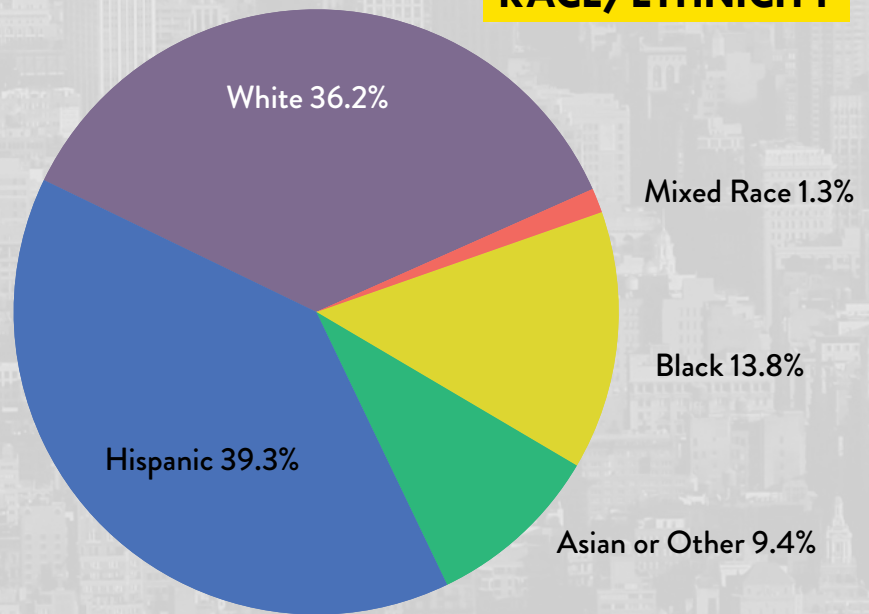


AGE: 18.9 percent of workers were 55 years old or older, 74.6 percent were between 25 and 54 years old and 6.5 percent were 24 years old or younger.

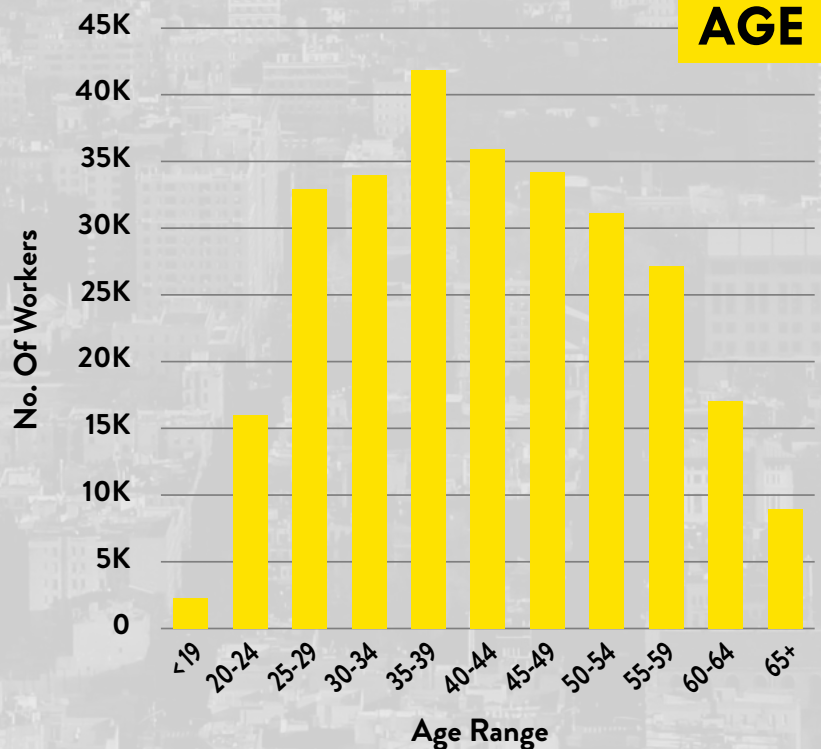


EDUCATION: 82.8 percent of NYC construction industry workforce had a high school diploma or higher and 39.3 percent had some college education or higher.

RACE/ETHNICITY



AGE



MOBILITY

INFLOW/OUTFLOW BY NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS



RESIDENCE: 73.3 percent of all workers resided in the five boroughs, representing an increase of four percent from 2018 in the number of workers who lived and worked in NYC.



INFLOW/OUTFLOW: 49.2 percent of workers who were NYC residents lived and worked in the same borough.

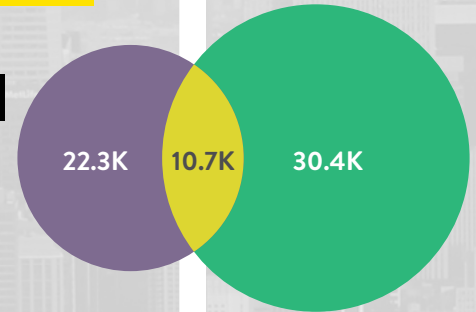


TRAVEL MODE: 51.8 percent of construction industry workers used public transportation to go to work, 41 percent used a private motor vehicle and 7.2 percent used another mode, including walking and biking.

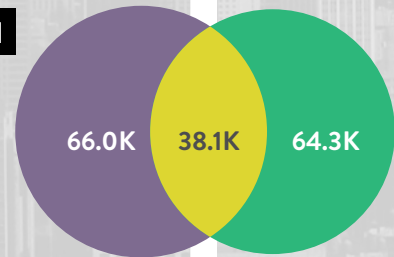


TRAVEL TIME: 16 percent of workers had less than a 30-minute commute to work, 38.3 percent had between a 30- and 60-minute commute, 44 percent had over a 60-minute commute and 1.7 percent worked from home.

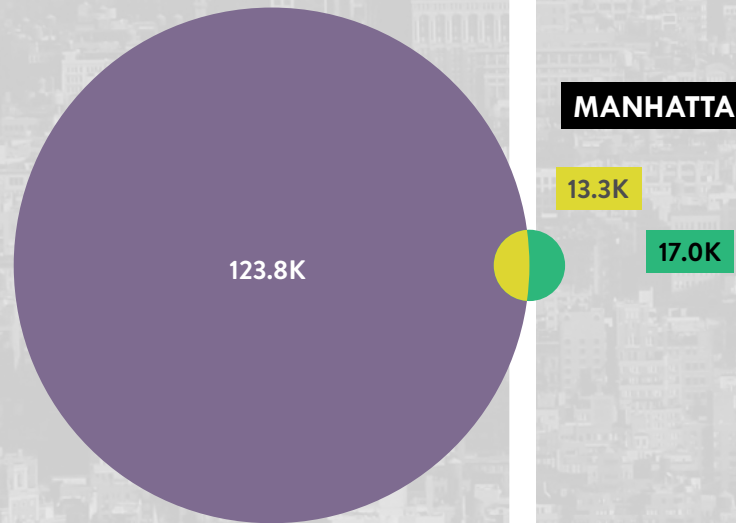
BRONX



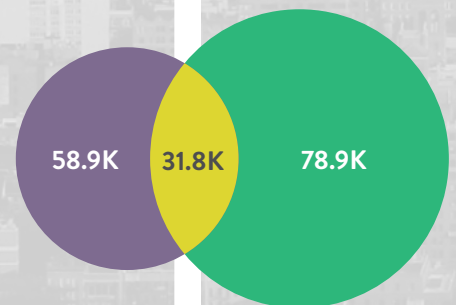
BROOKLYN



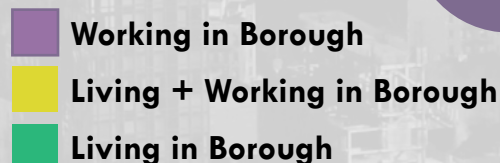
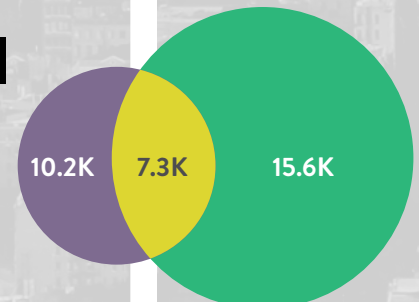
MANHATTAN



QUEENS



STATEN ISLAND



EMPLOYMENT



EARNINGS: 45.8 percent of all NYC construction industry workers reported incomes of less than \$50,000 per year, 28 percent reported between \$50,000 and \$100,000 and 26.2 percent reported more than \$100,000. Compared to 2018, the number of workers earning more than \$100,000 increased 61 percent.



OCCUPATION: 75.8 percent of all workers engaged in the construction industry were blue-collar workers, including construction, installation, material moving and production workers.

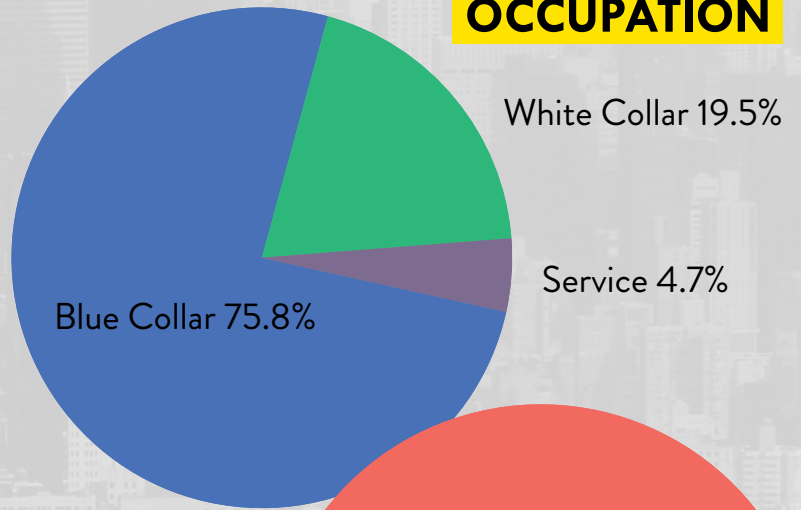


SECTOR: 82.7 percent of NYC construction industry workers were employed in the private sector.

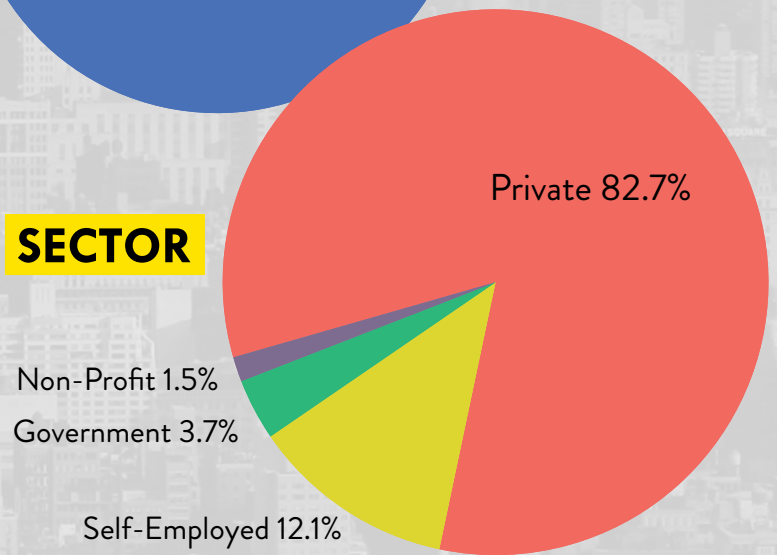


HEALTH INSURANCE: 41.5 percent of workers, primarily blue-collar, did not have health insurance.

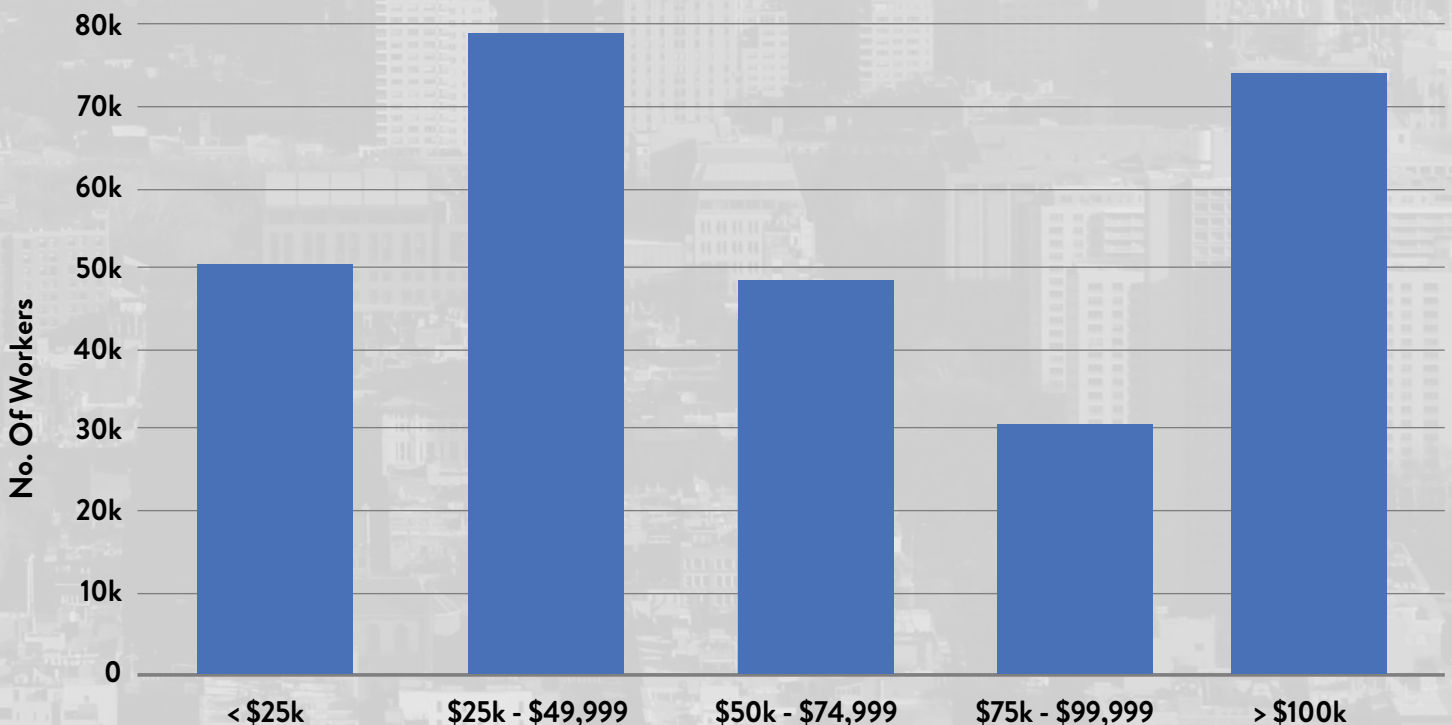
OCCUPATION



SECTOR



EARNINGS





100 YEARS

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The New York Building Congress, a broad-based membership association celebrating its 100th year, is committed to promoting the growth and success of the construction industry in New York City and its environs.

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