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## Construction jobs and wages jump 5% increase in average pay is biggest in years



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By [Greg David](#)

It's a good time to be a construction worker in New York City. The average pay for workers in the city jumped sharply to \$80,200 in 2016, according to a report issued Tuesday by the New York Building Congress.

	Construction Pay
2012	\$71,800
2013	\$73,000
2014	\$74,100
2015	\$76,100
2016	\$80,200

Source: New York Building Congress

Last year's increase of just over 5% was also the biggest one-year advance in several years.

The most likely explanation is that the construction boom in the city is generating more hours and fewer periods off the job. It is also possible that nonunion contractors are also being forced to boost pay as a result of competitive market conditions, though it will take much deeper research to determine whether that is true. (See "[More data to blemish nonunion contractors.](#)")

The Building Congress, an industry group, got the data from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) and Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), which is the most accurate source of such data. The report also notes that employment last year averaged 146,200, the first time in at least four decades that industry jobs exceeded 140,000.