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<https://www.politicopro.com/states/new-york/city-hall/story/2016/06/building-activity-skyrocketed-in-2015-leading-to-record-job-growth-report-shows-103313>

## **Building boom creating a record number of construction jobs in 2015, report shows**



Construction workers smooth wet concrete into place at the site of a new apartment building. | AP Photo/Mark Lennihan

By [SALLY GOLDENBERG](#)

The city's building boom led to record-high job creation last year — the most in more than four decades, according to a New York Building Congress report that will be released Tuesday.

In studying state Department of Labor statistics available since 1975, the trade organization found the city's construction surge produced 138,200 construction jobs last year, up 7 percent from 129,100 jobs the previous year.

The previous record was 131,800, in 2008, during the last building boom before the market crashed.

The surge is likely to be surpassed again this year as the organization is projecting 147,100 jobs in 2016.

The bulk of new jobs — 89,500 — were in the specialty trades sector, including plumbers and electricians, according to the analysis. Another 40,300 jobs were created for construction workers, and 8,400 were filled by heavy construction workers and civil engineers working on infrastructure projects.

Construction worker wages averaged \$76,300 last year, up from \$74,100 the previous year. Employees in the heavy construction and civil engineering sectors, the highest-paid in the industry, averaged \$120,700 in 2015, up from \$111,200 the previous year, according to the analysis.

"Each of the cranes currently dotting the New York City skyline represents thousands of jobs for local construction workers, three-quarters of whom live in one of the five boroughs," said Richard Anderson, president of the New York Building Congress. "With nearly \$40 billion in construction spending last year and the Building Congress forecasting more of the same this year and next, we should expect the construction industry to be a major driver of jobs for the foreseeable future."