

Nonresidential Construction Starts Ended 2018 Almost Level With 2017



in-place construction in the Census Bureau's latest report, for October, was 59%; the latter's was 41%.

ConstructConnect's construction starts are leading indicators for the Census Bureau's capital investment or put-in-place series. Also, the reporting period for starts is usually one month ahead of the reporting period for the investment series. At present, however, that one-month gap has been extended due to an extraordinary circumstance. One fallout from the partial federal government shutdown has been an absence of Census Bureau workers to process the November put-in-place numbers. With respect to some other key data releases, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is still managing to keep tabs on jobs growth, unemployment and inflation.

According to December's Employment Situation report from the BLS, the U.S. construction sector took on an additional 38,000 workers in the final month of 2018. The average monthly climb in 'hard hat' jobs in 2018 was +23,000, a gain of +12.0% compared with 2017's comparable figure of +21,000. The NSA unemployment rate in construction in 2018's final month was 5.1%, up somewhat from November's 3.9%, but better than December 2017's 5.9%.

On a percentage-change basis, U.S. construction sector employment in December was +4.0% year over year. The latest annual staffing changes in other pockets of the economy important to construction were: 'machinery and equipment rental', +9.2%; 'oil and gas extraction', +7.1%; 'architectural and engineering services', +3.0%; 'real estate firms', +2.5%; 'building material and supplies dealers', +0.4%; and 'cement and concrete product manufacturing', +0.2%.

The slight dip of -1.7% month-to-month (m/m) in total nonresidential starts in December resulted from commercial (-15.2%) and engineering (-23.9%) downturns that weren't quite matched by an improvement in institutional (+14.9%) and a big jump in industrial (+310.4%). Industrial can display a big swing depending on the timing of a mega project.

The December-2018-versus-December-2017 (y/y) rise in total nonresidential starts of +16.9% was based in the industrial (+510.3%), institutional (+38.7%) and heavy engineering/civil (+25.7%) type-of-structure categories. Commercial (-29.5%), however, fell into retreat.

■ Continued on page 5

[Article was originally posted on www.constructconnect.com]

By Alex Carrick,

ConstructConnect announced today that December's volume of construction starts, excluding residential work, was \$28.6 billion, a minor pullback of -1.7% compared with the level achieved in the preceding month of November. The long-term history of change in starts volumes between November and December, due to seasonality (i.e., worsening weather conditions), has been -5.0%. Non-residential starts in December 2018 relative to December 2017 were +16.9%.

December 2018 versus the previous five-year average for December, - i.e., from 2013 through 2017, - was +1.6%. Full-year 2018 nonresidential starts versus full-year 2017 were -2.0%.

The starts figures throughout this report are not seasonally adjusted (NSA). Nor are they altered for inflation. They are expressed in what are termed 'current' as opposed to 'constant' dollars.

'Nonresidential building' plus 'engineering/civil' work accounts for a larger share of total construction than residential activity. The former's combined proportion of total put-



California Sub-Bid Request Ads

Project: State Hwy from Euclid Avenue Rte 60/91/215 Separation
Project # 08-0Q75U4

OWNER: CALTRANS – DBE GOAL 14%

BID DATE: JANUARY 17TH, 2019 • BID TIME: 2:00 P.M.

****Please respond by 5:00 p.m., JANUARY 16TH, 2019****

Coffman Specialties, Inc. (CSI) / Myers (JV) is requesting quotes from all qualified subcontractors and suppliers for the following items of work, including but not limited to:

- TRUCKING / IMPORT BORROW, BASES ASPHALT
- EQUIPMENT RENTAL
- LEAD COMPLIANCE PLAN / ADL WORK
- SWPPP / WPC
- SURVEY / QC
- CONSTRUCTION AREA & ROADSIDE SIGNS
- PAVEMENT MARKING / STRIPING
- TRAFFIC CONTROL
- WATER TRUCK
- EARTHWORK / GRADING
- EROSION CONTROL
- METAL BEAM GUARD RAIL (MBGR) / FENCING
- CONCRETE SAWCUT & SEALING
- STREET SWEEPING
- DISPOSAL OF SOILS, PAVEMENTS & DEBRIS
- CONCRETE / MINOR CONCRETE
- ASPHALT / ASPHALT PAVING / ASPHALT DIKE
- COLD PLANING / PULVERIZING
- CLEAR & GRUB
- ELECTRICAL
- LANDSCAPING
- AGGREGATE SUPPLY / AGGREGATE BASE
- CONCRETE BARRIER
- REBAR
- DRAINAGE / PIPE SUPPLY
- GRINDING / CRUSHING
- JOINT
- DEMOLITION / EXCAVATION

Coffman Specialties, Inc. is signatory to Operating Engineers, Laborers, Teamsters, Cement Masons and Carpenters unions. Quotations must be valid for the same duration as specified by the Owner for contract award. Insurance and 100% Payment & Performance Bonds will be required, and will pay up to 1.5% for the cost of the bond. Waiver of Subrogation will be required. We will provide assistance/advice with obtaining Bonds/Insurance/Credit/Equipment/Materials and/or supplies.

****Subcontractors must provide a current contractor's license number and Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) current registration number with their quote.**

Plans and specs are available at no cost to interested firms. Please contact our office @ (858) 536-3100, email us: estimating@coffmanspecialties.com or you can visit our San Diego Office. We are an EOE & seriously intend to negotiate with qualified firms.

**Please send quotes via email to estimating@coffmanspecialties.com or via fax to (858) 586-0164

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Gus Rios or Marty Keane @ (858) 536-3100



9685 Via Excelencia, Ste 200 • San Diego, CA 92126

Phone: (858) 536-3100 • Bid Fax: (858) 586-0164

e-mail inquiries to: estimating@coffmanspecialties.com



O.C. Jones & Sons, Inc.

1520 Fourth Street • Berkeley, CA 94710

Phone: 510-526-3424 • FAX: 510-526-0990

Contact: Jason Martin

REQUEST FOR DVBE/SBE SUBCONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS FOR:

Widen & Signalize Intersection, Realign Ramp, ADA Facilities

Hwy 50 Sacramento

Caltrans #03-0H5804

BID DATE: January 16, 2019 @ 2:00 PM

We are soliciting quotes for (including but not limited to): Trucking, Temporary and Permanent Erosion Control Measures, Lead Compliance Plan, Construction Area Signs, Traffic Control System, Type III Barricade, Plastic Traffic Drums, Portable Changeable Message Signs, WPCP, Sweeping, Treated Wood Waste, Temporary High-Visibility Fence, Clearing & Grubbing, Imported Borrow, Planting & Irrigation, AC Dike, Tack Coat, Cold Plane AC, Structural Concrete, Concrete Apron, Detectable Warning Surface, Minor Concrete, Misc. Iron & Steel, Underground Storm, Locate Underground Facilities, Delineator, Pavement Marker, Object Marker, Roadside Signs, Midwest Guardrail System, Transition Railing, Striping & Marking, Closed Circuit Television System, Electrical and Construction Materials

An Equal Opportunity Employer

100% Performance & Payment Bonds may be required. Worker's Compensation Waiver of Subrogation required. Please call OCJ for assistance with bonding, insurance, necessary equipment, material and/or supplies. OCJ is willing to breakout any portion of work to encourage DVBE/SBE Participation. Plans & Specs are available for viewing at our office or through the Caltrans Website at www.dot.ca.gov/hq/esc/oe/weekly_ads/index.php.

CAHILL CONTRACTORS LLC requests bids from Certified SBE, LBE, MBE, WBE Subcontractors and Suppliers for ALL trades EXCEPT:

Driven Piles / Elevators / Mechanical / Electrical / Plumbing / Fire Sprinklers / Solar Hot Water / Tower Crane / Personnel Hoist

MISSION BAY BLOCK 6W - REMAINING TRADES
691 China Basin Street, San Francisco, CA 94158

This is an OCII project with construction workforce and prevailing wage requirements.

BID DATE: 1/29/19 @ 2 PM

Voluntary Pre-bid Meeting: 1/8/19 @ 3 PM,
Mission Creek Senior Community
225 Berry Street, San Francisco, CA 94158

BID DOCUMENTS:

Please contact Colby for access to documents on BuildingConnected.

CONTACT:

Colby Smith at estimating@cahill-sf.com,
(415) 677-0611.

SMALL
BUSINESS
EXCHANGE

SBE OUTREACH SERVICES

With 1.5 million businesses in our database, SBE is California's #1 source for diversity outreach.

Advertisements

Placed in the Small Business Exchange newspaper, SBE Today newsletter, and online at www.sbeinc.com

Faxed and Eblast Solicitations

Targeted mailings sent to businesses per your criteria.

Telemarketing

Telephone follow-up calls that follow a script of 5 questions you create.

Computer Generated Reports

Will fit right into your proposal, along with a list of interested firms to contact.

Contact Info:

**795 Folsom Street, 1st Flr, Room 1124
San Francisco, CA 94107**

Email: sbe@sbeinc.com

Website: www.sbeinc.com

Phone: (415) 778-6250, (800) 800-8534

Fax: (415) 778-6255

Publisher of

**Small Business Exchange
weekly newspaper**



California Sub-Bid Request Ads



O.C. Jones & Sons, Inc.
 1520 Fourth Street • Berkeley, CA 94710
 Phone: 510-526-3424 • FAX: 510-526-0990
 Contact: Jason Martin

REQUEST FOR DBE
 SUBCONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS FOR:

Add Auxiliary Lane
 Hwy 50 Sacramento
 Caltrans #03-1F1904

BID DATE: January 29, 2019 @ 2:00 PM

We are soliciting quotes for (including but not limited to):

Trucking, Temporary and Permanent Erosion Control Measures, Lead Compliance Plan, Construction Area Signs, Traffic Control System, Type III Barricade, Plastic Traffic Drums, Portable Changeable Message Sign, SWPPP, Rain Event Action Plan, Storm Water Sampling & Analysis, Clearing & Grubbing, Chain Link Fence, Temporary Fencing, Sweeping, ADL Burial Location Report, Treated Wood Waste, Roadway Excavation (Type R-1 Aerially Deposited Lead), Geosynthetic Reinforcement, Planting & Irrigation, AC Dike, Tack Coat, CIDH Concrete Pile, Structural Concrete, Sign Structure, Underground, Rock Slope Protection, Minor Concrete, Misc. Iron & Steel, Delineator, Pavement Marker, Roadside Signs, Midwest Guardrail System, Transition Railing, Alternative In-Line Terminal System, Striping & Marking, Electrical and Construction Materials

An Equal Opportunity Employer

100% Performance & Payment Bonds may be required. Worker's Compensation Waiver of Subrogation required. Please call OCJ for assistance with bonding, insurance, necessary equipment, material and/or supplies. OCJ is willing to breakout any portion of work to encourage DBE Participation. Plans & Specs are available for viewing at our office or through the Caltrans Website at www.dot.ca.gov/hq/esc/oe/weekly_ads/index.php.



O.C. Jones & Sons, Inc.
 1520 Fourth Street • Berkeley, CA 94710
 Phone: 510-526-3424 • FAX: 510-526-0990
 Contact: Jean Sicard

REQUEST FOR DBE
 SUBCONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS FOR:
Contra Costa County Public Works Dept.
 255 Glacier Drive, Martinez, CA

Project: Kirker Pass Road Northbound
 Truck Climbing Lane
 Project No.: 0662-6R4052

Federal Aid No.: RPSTPL-5928(123)

Working Days: 220

Engineer's Est.: \$14,190,000

BID DATE: January 22, 2019 @ 2:00 PM

We are soliciting quotes for (including but not limited to): Trucking, Temporary and Permanent Erosion Control Measures, Construction Staking, Filler Fabric, Contractor Quality Control Plan, Lead Compliance Plan, Field Office, Develop Water Supply, Construction Area Signs, Traffic Control System, Type III Barricade, Portable Changeable Message Sign, SWPPP, Rain Event Action Plan, Storm Water Sampling & Analysis, Temporary Fencing, Sweeping, Temporary Concrete Washout, Health & Safety Plan, Clearing & Grubbing, Roadway Excavation (Type 1 Aerially Deposited Lead), Structure Excavation, Structure Backfill, Impervious Backfill Material, Geosynthetic Reinforcement, Gravel Bag Check Dam, Imported Soil (Bioretention Swale), Bonded Fiber Matrix, Hydroseed, Compost, Turf Reinforcement Mat, AC Dike, Tack Coat, Cold Plane AC, Structure Concrete, Drainage Inlet, Drainage Manhole, Minor Concrete, Minor Concrete (Backfill), Architectural Treatment, Fractured Rib Texture, Bar Reinforcing Steel, Shotcrete, Underground, Rock Slope Protection, Minor Concrete (Gutter), Prepare & Stain Concrete, Delineator, Roadside Signs, Midwest Guardrail System, Vegetation Control (Minor Concrete), Transition Railing, Cable Railing, Alternative In-Line Terminal System, Crash Cushion, Quadguard II System (1 Bay), Concrete Barrier, Striping & Marking, Ground Anchors, Soil Nails, Fencing, Concrete Barriers, Retaining Walls and Construction Materials

An Equal Opportunity Employer

100% Performance & Payment Bonds may be required. Worker's Compensation Waiver of Subrogation required. Please call OCJ for assistance with bonding, insurance, necessary equipment, material and/or supplies. OCJ is willing to breakout any portion of work to encourage DBE participation. Plans & Specs are available for viewing at our office or at the Contra Costa County Public Works Dept. 255 Glacier Dr., Martinez, CA (925) 313-2000, and are available online at www.cccounty.us/pwprojects.

Request For Qualified DBE
 Subcontractors, Consultants and Suppliers For:

Caltrans Contract 04-4G8404
Replace Capell Creek Bridge
In Napa County

Bid Date: Wednesday January 23, 2019 at 2:00 PM

Requesting quotes for but not limited to:

Clearing/Tree Removal, Construction Area Signs, Temporary Signals, Traffic Striping, Landscaping/Erosion Control, Rebar, Active Treatment System, Metal Beam Guard Rail, Bridge Demolition, Paving and Grading, Furnish and Erect Precast Girders, Isolation Casing, Temporary Bridge, PTFE Bearings, Drainage, Concrete, Furnish & Install Miscellaneous Metal, Fencing, Furnish & Install Bridge Rail, CIDH/Tiebacks, Trucking, Materials & Supplies.

CEC is willing to breakout any portion of work to encourage DBE participation.

Plans and specs are available for viewing at our Pleasanton office.

They may also be viewed and downloaded from the Caltrans Website:
<http://www.dot.ca.gov/des/oe/weekly-ads/all-adv-projects.php>

100 % Payment & Performance Bonds will be required from a single, treasury-listed surety subject to our approval. CEC will pay bond premiums up to 1.5%. Subcontractors awarded on any project will be on CEC's standard form for subcontract without any modifications. Please call for assistance in bonding, insurance, lines of credit, technical info, equipment and supplies or if any other assistance is needed.

California Engineering Contractors, Inc.
 20 Happy Valley Road, Pleasanton, CA 94566
 Phone (925) 461-1500 Fax (925) 461-0510
 Email: estimator@cecmain.com
 Estimator-Jeff Hollfelder

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

O.C. Jones & Sons, Inc.
 1520 Fourth Street • Berkeley, CA 94710
 Phone: 510-526-3424 • FAX: 510-526-0990
 Contact: Jason Martin

REQUEST FOR DVBE/SBE
 SUBCONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS FOR:

Widen & Signalize Intersection,
Realign Ramp, ADA Facilities
 Hwy 50 Sacramento
 Caltrans #03-0H5804

BID DATE: January 16, 2019 @ 2:00 PM

We are soliciting quotes for (including but not limited to): Trucking, Temporary and Permanent Erosion Control Measures, Lead Compliance Plan, Construction Area Signs, Traffic Control System, Type III Barricade, Plastic Traffic Drums, Portable Changeable Message Signs, WPCP, Sweeping, Treated Wood Waste, Temporary High-Visibility Fence, Clearing & Grubbing, Imported Borrow, Planting & Irrigation, AC Dike, Tack Coat, Cold Plane AC, Structural Concrete, Concrete Apron, Detectable Warning Surface, Minor Concrete, Misc. Iron & Steel, Underground Storm, Locate Underground Facilities, Delineator, Pavement Marker, Object Marker, Roadside Signs, Midwest Guardrail System, Transition Railing, Striping & Marking, Closed Circuit Television System, Electrical and Construction Materials

An Equal Opportunity Employer

100% Performance & Payment Bonds may be required. Worker's Compensation Waiver of Subrogation required. Please call OCJ for assistance with bonding, insurance, necessary equipment, material and/or supplies. OCJ is willing to breakout any portion of work to encourage DVBE/SBE Participation. Plans & Specs are available for viewing at our office or through the Caltrans Website at www.dot.ca.gov/hq/esc/oe/weekly_ads/index.php.

Visit www.sbeinc.com to download the latest SBE Newspaper and SBE E-Newsletter



Visit www.sbeinc.com to download a PDF version of the latest SBE Newspaper and SBE Newsletter



California Sub-Bid Request Ads

ATKINSON CONSTRUCTION

Requests
Sub-bids from All Qualified & Certified DBE Subcontractors/Suppliers
for:

**Caltrans Contract 08-0Q75U4
Construction on State Hwy 60
in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties**
*from Euclid Avenue Undercrossing in Ontario
to Route 60/91/215 Separation in Riverside*

Bids Thursday, February 7, 2019 per Addendum 2

Description of Work, Services & Supply (but not limited to): Asphalt, Aggregate Base, Aggregate Subbase, Alternative Inline Terminal System, Base Bond Breaker, Clear and Grub, Concrete Barrier (various types), Construction Area Signs, Demo, Drainage, Earthwork, Electrical, Erosion Control, Excavation, Fence, Flatwork, Furnish and Install Sign Structure (Truss), Grind Existing Concrete Pavement, Individual Slab Replacement (RSC), Joint Seals, Jointed Plain Concrete Pavement (including RSC), Landscape, Lean Concrete Base, Lean Concrete Base Rapid Setting, Maintenance of Traffic, MBGR, Minor Concrete (Curb / PCC Dike, various types / Stamped Concrete / Curb, Sidewalk and Curb Ramp / Vegetation Control), Midwest Guardrail System (Wood Post), Miscellaneous Iron and Steel, Maintenance of Traffic, Noise Monitoring, OHSS, Pavement, Pavement Marking / Traffic Stripe, Pavement Supply, PCCP Paving, Pipe Supply (18" Slotted Corrugated Steel Pipe - .064" thick), QA/QC, Rapid Strength Concrete Base, Road Barrier, Roadway, Roadway Excavation, Rock Blanket, Seal, Sign, Survey, Temporary Crash Cushion Module, Temporary Railing (Type K), Temporary Traffic Screen, Traffic Control System, Transition Railing (Type WB-31), Trucking.

REFER TO PROJECT SPECS FOR COMPLETE BID ITEM LIST.

ENGINEER'S ESTIMATE is \$140,000,000

14% DBE Project Goal

****Lower Tier DBE participation is greatly encouraged****

Guy F. Atkinson
License # 1004388

18201 Von Karman Ave, 8th Floor, Irvine, CA 92612

socal.esteeming@atkn.com | Phone: 949-382-7145 | Fax: 949-553-0252

Guy F. Atkinson is a union contractor and an Equal Opportunity Employer. Atkinson is signatory to the Carpenters, Cement Masons, Laborers and Operating Engineers Unions. 100% Performance & Payment Bonds from an approved surety company will be required for subcontractors with contract value greater than \$100,000. Atkinson will pay the cost of bonds up to 2.0%. We will assist in obtaining necessary equipment, supplies, materials or related services. We will split items of work (see project specs for full list of bid items) and provide assistance in obtaining bonding, lines of credit and insurance where needed. Prices must stay firm through subcontract and purchase order execution. Subcontractors will be expected to sign Atkinson's standard subcontract and to comply with our company's standard insurance requirements which include a waiver of subrogation. Please provide your contractor's license #, DBE cert # and DIR # with your quote. Atkinson requests that subs and vendors register and prequalify in our online system at <https://www.atknextranet.com> prior to bidding.

TO DOWNLOAD PLANS, SPECS, THE INFO HANDOUT, ANY ADDENDA, ETC and VIEW Q&A:

Please go to the Caltrans Contracts web site

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/des/oe/weekly-ads/oe-project.php?q=08-0Q75U4>

Or contact Atkinson TO VIEW AND DOWNLOAD ALL BID DOCUMENTS
through our online service, BuildingConnected.

Please contact Atkinson with any questions or for help with your bid.

GOLDEN GATE CONSTRUCTORS

11555 Dublin Boulevard
Dublin, CA 94568-2909
Phone: (925) 829-9220
Estimator: JACK SHEWMAKER
Website: www.desilvagates.com

Golden Gate Constructors (GGC) is preparing a bid as a Prime Contractor for the project listed below:

CALTRANS ROUTE 1 - CONSTRUCTION ON STATE HIGHWAY IN THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FROM SAN MATEO COUNTY LINE TO HOLLOWAY AVENUE AND FROM LINCOLN WAY TO RUCKMAN AVENUE UNDERCROSSING,
Contract No. 04-4K1104

Federal Aid Project No. ACSB1NH-P001(654)E
Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Goal
Assigned is 16%

OWNER:

STATE OF CALIFORNIA -
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
1727 30th Street, Bidder's Exchange, MS 26,
Sacramento, CA 95816

BID DATE: JANUARY 16, 2019 @ 2:00 P.M.

We hereby encourage responsible participation of certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, and solicit their subcontractor or materials and/or suppliers quotation for the following types of work including but not limited to:

AC DIKE, CLEARING AND GRUBBING/DEMOLITION, COLD PLANE, CONCRETE BARRIER, CONSTRUCTION AREA SIGNS, ELECTRICAL, FABRIC/GEOSYNTHETIC PAVEMENT INTERLAYER, LEAD COMPLIANCE PLAN, METAL BEAM GUARDRAIL, MINOR CONCRETE, PCC GRINDING, PCC PAVING, ROADSIDE SIGNS, STRIPING, SURVEY/STAKING, SWPPP/WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PLAN PREPARATION, TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEMS, UNDERGROUND, TRUCKING, WATER TRUCKS, STREET SWEEPING, HOT MIX ASPHALT (TYPE A) MATERIAL, RUBBERIZED HMA (GAP GRADE) MATERIAL.

Plans and specifications may be reviewed at our office located at 11555 Dublin Boulevard, Dublin, CA or at your local Builders Exchange, or reviewed and downloaded from the ftp site at <ftp://ftp%25desilvagates.com:f7pa55wd@pub.desilvagates.com> (if prompted the username is ftp@desilvagates.com and password is [f7pa55wd](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/esc/oe/weekly_ads/all_adv_projects.php)) or from the Owner's site at www.dot.ca.gov/hq/esc/oe/weekly_ads/all_adv_projects.php

Fax your bid to (925) 803-4263 to the attention of Estimator Jack Shewmaker. If you have questions for the Estimator, call at (925) 829-9220. When submitting any public works bid please include your DUNS number and DIR number. For questions regarding registration for DIR use the link at: www.dir.ca.gov/Public-Works/PublicWorks.html

If you need support services and assistance in obtaining bonding, lines of credit, insurance, necessary equipment, materials and/or supplies or related assistance or services, for this project call the Estimator at (925) 829-9220, or contact your local Small Business Development Center Network (<http://californiasbdc.org>) or contact the California Southwest Transportation Resource Center (www.transportation.gov/osdbu/SBTRCs). GGC is willing to breakout portions of work to increase the expectation of meeting the DBE goal.

At our discretion, 100% Payment and 100% Performance bonds may be required as a subcontract condition. This will be a PREVAILING WAGE JOB. GGC is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Advertise with the Small Business Exchange

Utilize SBE's TARGET DISTRIBUTION to reach the DBEs, SBEs, DVBEs, MBEs, and OBEs that match the trades and goods you need.

www.sbeinc.com

Nonresidential Construction Starts Ended 2018 Almost Level With 2017

U.S.
Nonresidential
Construction Starts
in December were
-1.7% versus November

Dec. 2018

Continued from page 1

The small easing (-2.0%) of full-year total nonresidential starts in 2018 versus full-year 2017 came about because commercial (-11.2%), industrial (-6.8%) and institutional (-2.4%) combined for a degree of decline that engineering (+8.8%) tried valiantly, but failed, to completely offset.

'Roads/highways' made up the largest portion of engineering's 2018 initiations (39%, up from 37% in 2017). Such street starts in December 2018 were -10.8% m/m, but +46.3% y/y and +19.7% ytd. 'Miscellaneous civil' was the next biggest slice of engineering in 2018 (19%, up from 17% in 2017) and, in December, it was also down m/m (-72.0%), but up y/y (+24.6%) and ytd (+19.6%). (In December, ytd was full-year 2018 versus full-year 2017.) The next most important player within civil, 'water/sewer', suffered a significant share decline in 2018 (to 18% from 21%). Its December starts numbers were +2.8% m/m and +20.2% y/y, but -6.9% ytd.

Within commercial starts in full-year 2018 versus full-year 2017, the slices taken by 'private offices' (22%, up from 19%) and 'warehouses' (16%, up from 14%) widened. In December, the percentage changes for the former were +76.9% m/m and +62.0% y/y, but -3.8% ytd; for the latter, they were -70.9% m/m, -59.2% y/y and -7.3% ytd. Two commercial subcategories with slightly smaller bites in 2018 were 'hotels/motels' (20%, down from 21%) and 'retail/shopping' (13%, down from 14%). 'Hotels/motels' ended 2018 -10.9% ytd; 'retail/shopping', -15.8% ytd.

'School/college' groundbreakings were even more dominant within institutional starts in 2018 than in 2017 (a 56% share, up from 54%). Educational facility starts in December were +3.5% m/m, +29.3% y/y and +0.9% ytd. The addition of 'hospital/clinic', 'nursing/assisted living' and 'miscellaneous medical' starts to form an overall medical facility subcategory accounted for the next biggest chunk of institutional starts in 2018 (29%, but down from 31% in 2017). Such combined medical facility starts in December were +70.2% m/m and +52.4% y/y, but -8.0% ytd.

The Nonresidential Construction Starts Trend Graphs – December 2018 sets out 12-month moving average trend graphs for many of the key type-of-structure subcategories. 'Retail' is tapering off badly, as shopkeepers continue to replace bricks-and-mortar locations with web-based selling platforms. 'Miscellaneous civil' has also been diving of late, but that's after skyrocketing higher in 2017 and first-half 2018. Its present lower perch is still well above historical norms. 'Roads' and 'bridges' are maintaining their upward treks.

Tables B-3 and B-8 of the monthly Employment Situation report record average hourly and average weekly wages for industry sectors. B-3 is for all employees (i.e., including bosses) on nonfarm payrolls; B-8 is for 'production and nonsupervisory personnel' only (i.e., it excludes bosses). For 'all jobs' and construction, there are eight relevant percentage changes to consider.

In December, the four economy-wide compensation increases were all in a range of +3.0% to +3.5%. Including bosses (Table B-3), both average hourly and average weekly pay hikes were +3.2%. Excluding bosses (Table B-8), average hourly earnings were +3.3% and average weekly earnings, +3.0%. For construction workers alone (i.e., as a subset of all workers), the earnings advances in December lay between +3.9% y/y and +4.5% y/y. Including supervisory personnel, average hourly and weekly pay raises for on-site employees were +3.9%. Excluding supervisory personnel, construction paycheck flows were even frothier, at +4.2% hourly and +4.5% weekly.

Further on costing, November's results (y/y) for three key BLS Producer Price Index (PPI) series were: 'construction materials special index', +6.7%; 'inputs to new construction index, excluding capital investment, labor and imports', +4.9%; and 'final demand construction', +5.1%.

The value of construction starts each month is summarized from ConstructConnect's database of all active construction projects in the U.S. Missing project values are estimated with the help of RSMeans' building cost models.

ConstructConnect's nonresidential construction starts series, because it is comprised of total-value estimates for individual projects, some of which are ultra-large, has a history of being more volatile than many other leading indicators for the economy.

ConstructConnect's single-family plus multi-family residential starts in December were -6.7% m/m; -7.3% y/y; and -9.5% ytd. 'Grand total' starts were -3.7% m/m; +6.3% y/y; and -5.0% ytd.

Visit the website below to view the various Tables

<https://www.constructconnect.com/blog/industry-snapshot/nonresidential-construction-starts-ended-2018-almost-level-2017/>