

CHAPTER 3

Labor Requirements for State and Local Public Works, 1946-75*

This chapter presents estimated construction employment requirements for State and local construction activity. These estimates have been derived in the course of work done in the Bureau of Labor Statistics concerning labor and material requirements for various segments of the construction industry based on contractor's records.

To provide perspective, employment and related data for the total construction industry are also presented in this chapter. It should be noted that employment requirements for State and local government construction activity are estimates for man-years¹ while estimates for the construction industry as a whole are estimates of the number of persons employed (monthly report on the labor force) or number of persons on the payrolls of construction contractors (Bureau of Labor Statistics establishment data).

I. EMPLOYMENT GENERATING EFFECTS OF STATE AND LOCAL PUBLIC WORKS CONSTRUCTION

In 1947, State and local public works construction amounted to a little more than \$2.5 billion and resulted in the employment equivalent of 625,000 full-time workers (man-years of employment). Currently nearly \$18 billion is being expended, utilizing the equivalent of over 1,800,000 full-time workers (table 1).

TABLE 1.—*Volume of State and local public works construction and estimated man-years of employment, selected years, 1947-65*

Year	Value of construction (in millions of dollars)	Man-years of employment (thousands)				
		Total	Construction			Other ¹
			Total	On site	Off site	
1947.....	2,598	625	279	(²)	(²)	346
1950.....	5,494	1,047	451	404	47	596
1955.....	9,375	1,377	585	518	67	792
1960.....	12,829	1,570	656	586	70	914
1965.....	17,864	1,862	752	670	82	1,110

¹ Including workers in architectural and engineering establishments.

² Not available.

While dollar volume has increased about 600 percent, employment requirements have risen less than 200 percent. The lower labor requirements per million dollars for the later periods result from two

*Prepared by the Department of Labor, with minor editing by committee staff.

¹ A man-year in the construction trades was considered to be 1,800 man-hours. In other industries, it was considered to be 2,000 hours.