

bridges, dams, and similar projects. Employment by building construction general contractors increased by about 35 percent between 1947 and 1965—less than half as rapidly as in the other two segments; however, employment was 5 percent lower in 1965 than in 1956, reflecting in part, a slowdown in the rate of increase in residential construction activity.

TABLE 4.—*Wage and salary employees in the contract construction industry and major subgroups, annual averages, 1947-65*

[In thousands]

Year	Contract construction		General building contractors		Heavy construction		Special trade contractors	
	All employees	Construction workers	All employees	Construction workers	All employees	Construction workers	All employees	Construction workers
1947	1,982	1,759	762.0	689.0	363.0	321.0	857.0	749.0
1948	2,169	1,924	837.0	756.0	389.0	343.0	944.0	825.0
1949	2,165	1,919	809.0	731.0	401.0	354.0	955.0	834.0
1950	2,333	2,069	875.0	791.0	419.0	370.0	1,039.0	908.0
1951	2,603	2,308	991.4	895.8	461.6	407.0	1,149.6	1,005.2
1952	2,634	2,324	983.2	882.3	481.4	423.6	1,168.8	1,018.2
1953	2,623	2,305	969.2	863.3	480.1	426.7	1,174.0	1,015.2
1954	2,612	2,281	937.1	832.0	471.0	418.7	1,203.5	1,030.5
1955	2,802	2,440	997.2	880.1	483.8	429.7	1,320.8	1,130.1
1956	2,999	2,613	1,074.6	950.4	556.7	493.4	1,367.6	1,168.8
1957	2,923	2,537	986.8	866.2	576.0	512.9	1,360.6	1,158.2
1958	2,778	2,384	893.6	775.2	564.6	498.1	1,320.2	1,110.3
1959	2,960	2,538	959.0	834.4	586.5	516.8	1,414.1	1,186.9
1960	2,885	2,459	908.4	785.4	585.7	511.5	1,390.7	1,162.3
1961	2,816	2,390	874.9	752.6	583.3	505.7	1,357.9	1,131.3
1962	2,902	2,462	882.1	755.8	593.1	514.8	1,426.6	1,191.8
1963	2,963	2,523	914.1	787.0	599.2	522.5	1,449.3	1,213.9
1964	3,056	2,602	956.6	823.9	610.5	526.5	1,488.4	1,251.2
1965	3,211	2,731	1,024.9	880.6	634.1	547.6	1,552.3	1,302.9

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK FOR BUILDING TRADES WORKERS IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Employment in the building trades is expected to increase moderately through the mid-1970's, assuming relatively full employment nationally and the high levels of economic activity needed to achieve this goal. (If the high levels of economic activity are not achieved, employment in the building trades will increase at a slower rate than that projected.) In addition to employment growth, tens of thousands of job openings will result from the need to replace experienced workers who transfer to other fields of work, retire, or die.

The moderate increase in total employment in the building trades is expected to result primarily from the rapid rise in the level of construction activity. The factors that will stimulate construction activity include anticipated large increases in population and in the number of households; a continuing shift of families from the cities to the suburbs; increases in government expenditures for highways and schools; a rise in expenditures for new industrial plant capacity; and higher levels of personal and corporate income. In addition, there will be a growing demand for alteration, modernization, and maintenance work on existing structures.

The increase in building trades employment will not be as great as the total expansion in construction activity, because continued technological developments in construction methods, tools and equip-