

Women in Construction

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Women remain underrepresented in the construction industry, although they currently make up almost half (47 percent) of the total working population. The share of women employed in construction has stayed relatively constant, around 9 percent since 2002. Women play a number of roles in the construction industry, such as administrative, professional, managerial, construction, and production occupations. We explore the state of women in the construction industry using the labor force statistics from the Current Population Survey (CPS).

The number of women employed in the construction industry grew steadily, from 970,000 in 2002 to 1.1 million in 2007. However, there was a sharp decline of female workers in construction from 2007 to 2010, when around 2.7 million total construction jobs were lost after the collapse of the housing market. During that period, the number of female construction workers declined by almost 30 percent to 807,000 in 2010. After the Great Recession, female construction employment slowly picked up to around 970,000 in 2017, but is still below the pre-recession level.

