**d** construct**connect**.

# **Building Beyond Today**

A special presentation for the Dallas Builders Association

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Chief Economist

September 2024



# **Construction Strategy:**

There are four primary categories which will impact every construction firm's success:

- 1. Macroeconomic Environment the "terrain"
- 2. Labor
- 3. Finance
- 4. Entrepreneurship / Strategy (What is possible by bringing the lenses together)



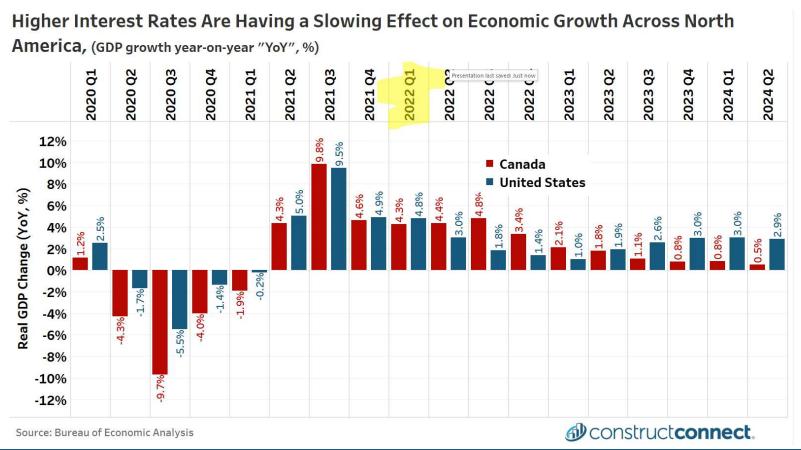


# Macroeconomic Environment or, "Economic Terrain"

- The economy's "terrain" varies by:
  - Verticals
  - New/Renovation
  - Sector (private/public)
  - Geography
- To some degree you can "select" your path through this terrain.
- Then through shrewd decision-making you can customize your company's ability to travel the selected path & terrain.



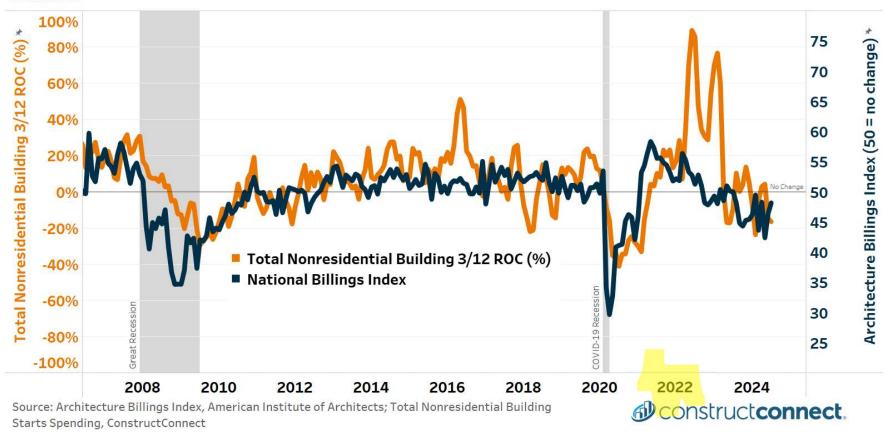
# **Macroeconomic Terrain**





#### Architecture Billings Index Leading Nonresidential Building Lower

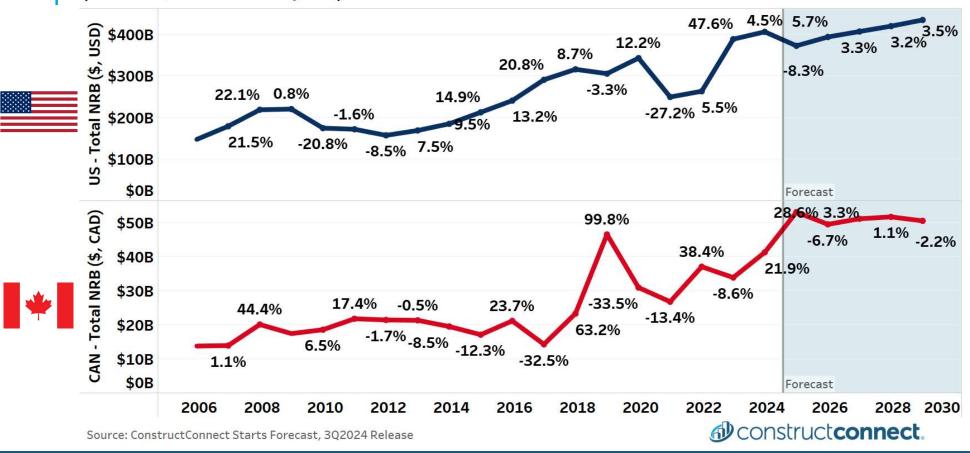
The ABI and ConstructConnect's latest actuals through YTD-2024 both point to challenging Nonresidential Building market conditions





#### Canadian & U.S. Nonresidential Building Historic Starts and Forecast

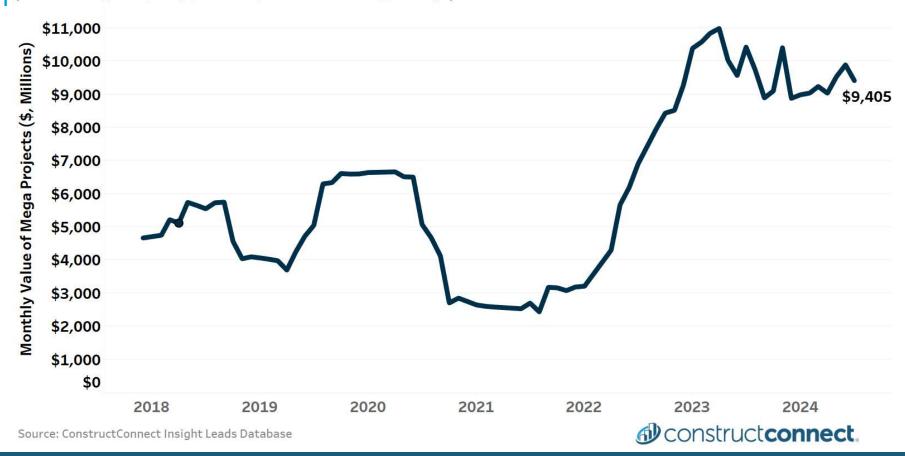
(Billions of \$ in native currency, NSA)





## U.S. Mega Projects Are Providing Substantial Support to the Industry

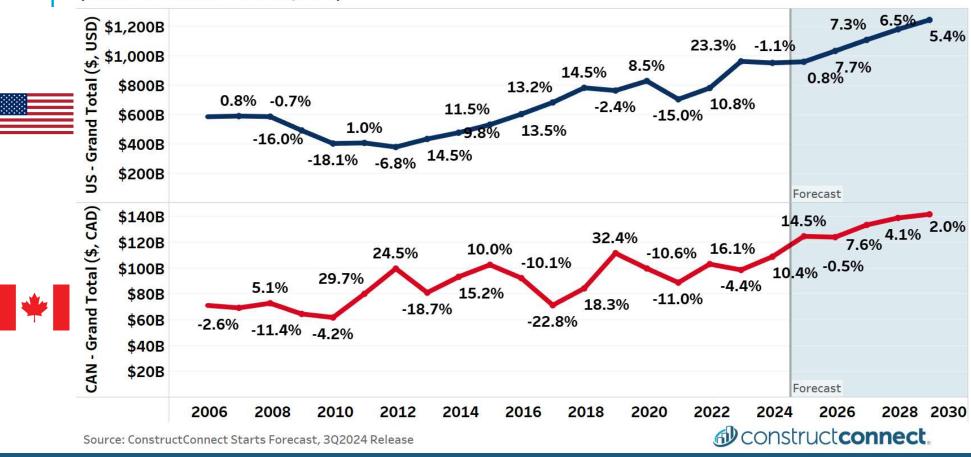
(Value of Mega Projects, \$ Millions, 12-month moving average)





#### Canadian & U.S. Grand Total Historic Starts and Forecast

(Billions of \$ in native currency, NSA)







#### **U.S. Type-of-Structure Construction 'Starts' Forecasts** (\$, Billions USD) Actuals **Forecasts** 2022 2023 2024 2025 2026 2027 2028 **Main Categories** 373.7 405.9 487.9 Residential 317.8 316.5 359.2 450.8 (Yr/yr % change) 3.1% -15.0% -0.4% 13.5% 13.0% 11.1% 8.2% Commercial 130.9 139.7 134.0 146.2 155.6 163.7 171.7 6.7% (Yr/yr % change) 14.8% -4.1% 9.1% 6.4% 5.2% 4.9% Industrial (Manufacturing) 103.3 69.3 115.4 70.1 72.8 70.0 68.3 (Yr/yr % change) 229.0% -10.5% -32.1% 3.8% -3.9% 1.4% -2.3% TOTAL NON-RES BUILDING 388.2 405.9 372.3 393.5 406.6 419.5 434.3 (Yr/yr % change) 47.6% 4.5% -8.3% 5.7% 3.3% 3.2% 3.5% 202.0 282.2 297.8 324.2 229.9 272.4 312.0 Engineering (Yr/yr % change) 29.1% 13.8% 18.5% 3.6% 5.5% 4.8% 3.9% **GRAND TOTAL** 963.9 953.6 961.1 1,034.9 1,110.2 1,182.3 1,246.4 (Yr/yr % change) 0.8% 7.3% 23.3% -1.1% 7.7% 6.5% 5.4%

Source of actuals: ConstructConnect "Insight" / Forecasts: Oxford Economics and ConstructConnect





## **U.S. Type-of-Structure Construction 'Starts' Forecasts**

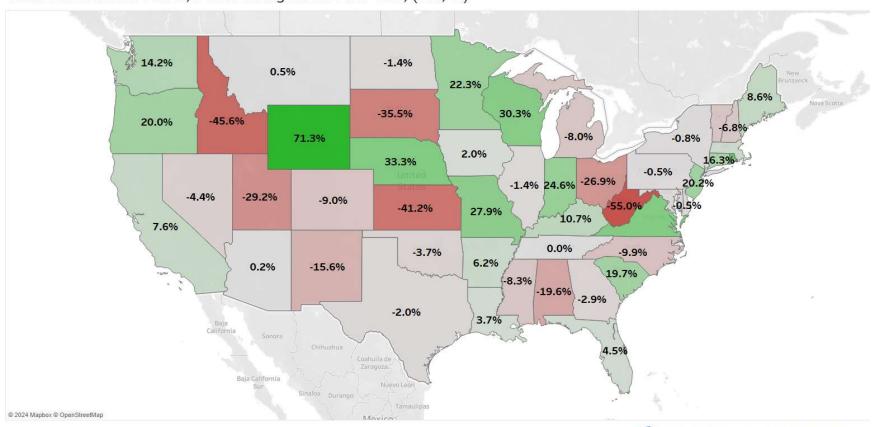
(\$, Billions USD)												
	Actua		·		Forecasts							
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028					
Sub-categories												
Shopping/Retail	15.4	14.5	14.8	17.7	20.0	22.0	23.4					
(Yr/yr % change)	19.4%	-5.8%	1.9%	19.9%	12.9%	10.3%	6.4%					
Private Offices	24.6	32.3	27.6	30.0	30.9	32.1	34.2					
_(Yr/yr % change)	17.4%	31.4%	-14.6%	8.7%	2.9%	4.1%	6.4%					
Warehouses	30.5	22.5	21.0	23.8	25.3	26.4	27.5					
_(Yr/yr % change)	7.9%	-26.1%	-6.9%	13.6%	6.4%	4.5%	4.1%					
Hospitals/Clinics	25.8	21.7	22.3	24.6	26.1	27.5	28.6					
_(Yr/yr % change)	38.0%	-16.1%	2.7%	10.4%	6.2%	5.3%	4.2%					
Educational Facilities	74.5	92.0	97.3	98.5	101.6	104.8	107.8					
(Yr/yr % change)	24.5%	23.5%	5.7%	1.3%	3.1%	3.2%	2.8%					
Roads	84.5	95.3	104.4	109.0	114.7	120.3	125.6					
(Yr/yr % change)	25.4%	12.8%	9.5%	4.4%	5.2%	4.9%	4.4%					
Water & Sewage Treatments	43.4	47.8	55.9	56.4	58.9	61.3	63.8					
(Yr/yr % change)	28.2%	10.1%	17.1%	0.9%	4.4%	4.1%	4.1%					
Misc Civil (Power, etc.)	29.4	40.4	59.0	61.8	65.4	68.9	71.2					
(Yr/yr % change)	25.0%	37.5%	46.1%	4.7%	5.9%	5.2%	3.4%					

Source of actuals: ConstructConnect "Insight" / Forecasts: Oxford Economics and ConstructConnect



## 2024 Year-End Starts Forecast by State

Total Construction Starts, Dollar Change from Prior Year, (YoY, %)



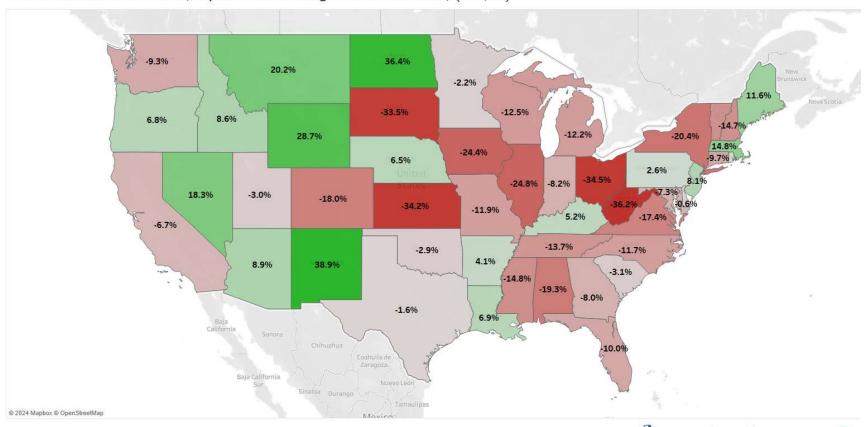
Source: ConstructConnect Insight





## 2024 Year-End Starts Forecast by State

Total Construction Starts, Square Foot Change from Prior Year, (YoY, %)

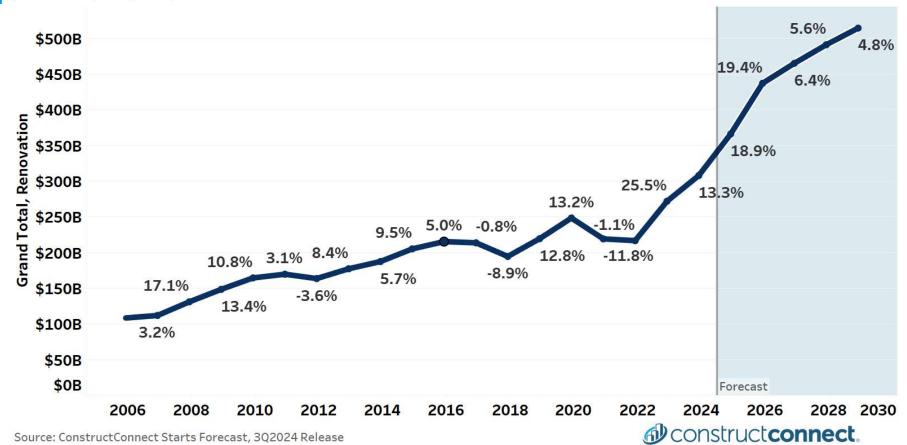


Source: ConstructConnect Insight



#### **U.S. Renovation Starts and Forecast**

(Billions of \$ USD, NSA)

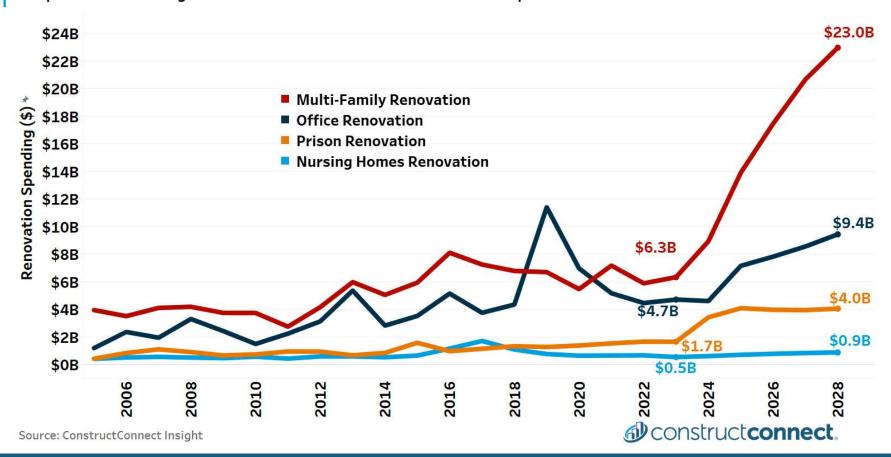






#### Office and Multifamily Renovation Work Expected to Surge Through 2028

Steep decline in Existing CRE will make renovation an attractive value option.





# "Summer" 2024 NATIONAL Starts Statistics Highlights

- Contracting 2024 Total Nonresidential Outlook, -4.8%
  - Strengths:
    - RENOVATION
    - ENGINEERING: Dam/Marine, Water/Sewage, Miscellaneous Civil
    - Miscellaneous Medical, School/College
    - Fire/Police/Courthouse/Prison
  - Weaknesses:
    - Warehouse, Miscellaneous Commercial, Nursing/Assisted Living
- REMEMBER: Improving YE2024 Total Nonresidential Forecast: +1.8%



# Many of the above resources are **FREELY** available

• <a href="https://www.constructconnect.com/economic-resources">https://www.constructconnect.com/economic-resources</a>



#### **Construction Economy Reporting**

Resource data may be used in publications with attribution to ConstructConnect and, where applicable, the ConstructConnect economist.



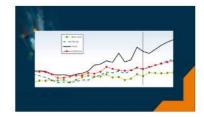
#### Construction Economy Snapshot

Monthly Construction starts include the total estimated dollar value and square footage of all nonresidential projects on which ground is broken.



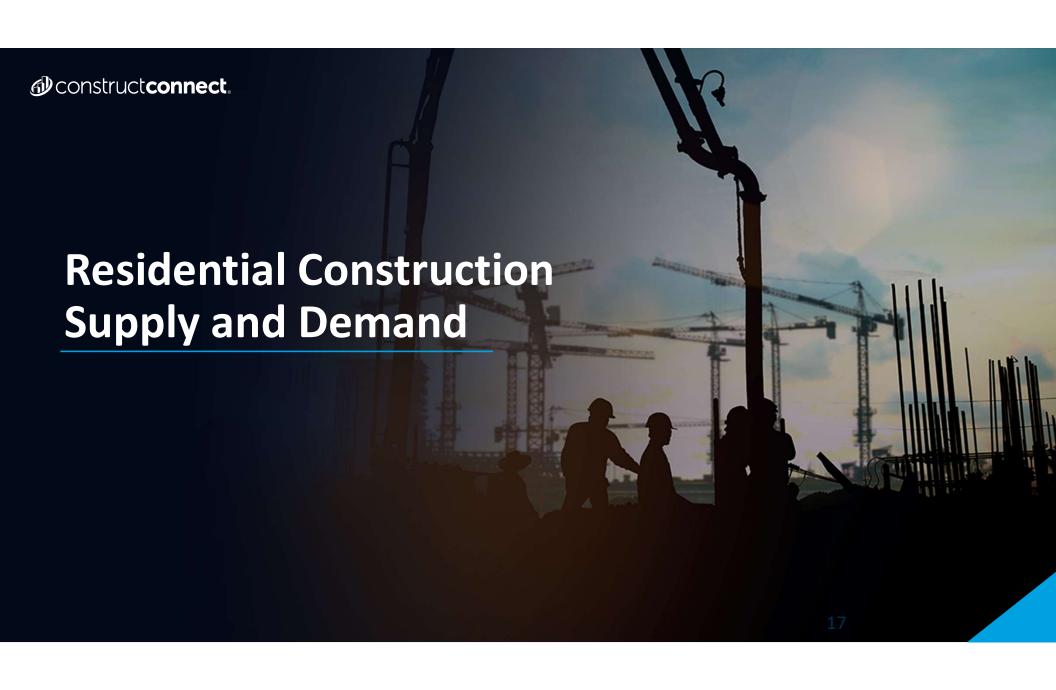
#### **Construction Starts Forecast**

Quarterly A 5-year forecast of construction starts by type of structure and by state as well as drivers influencing each building sector.



#### Put-in-Place Forecast

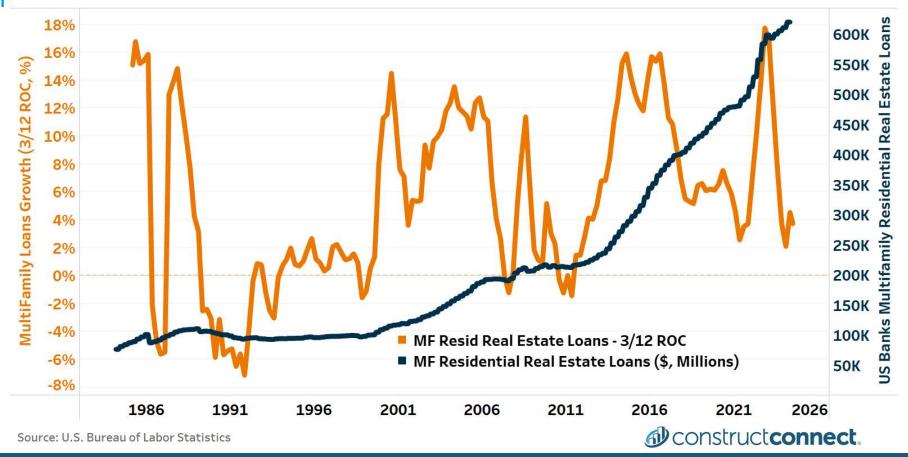
Quarterly A 5-year forecast of work-inprogress payments, created in partnership with Oxford Economics, and covers 18 types of construction across residential, commercial/industrial, and infrastructure.





#### Multifamily Spending Quickly Slowing in 2024

Spending Growth Slowed from over 18% to 2% since 2022





## **Inventory of New Homes for Sale**

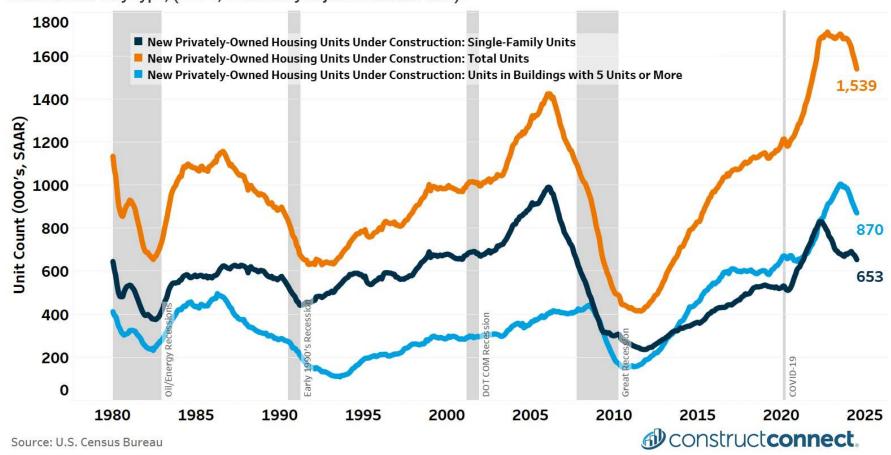
New home inventories exceeded a 9-month supply leading up to 5 of the last 8 recessions going back to 1970





#### **Homes Under Construction**

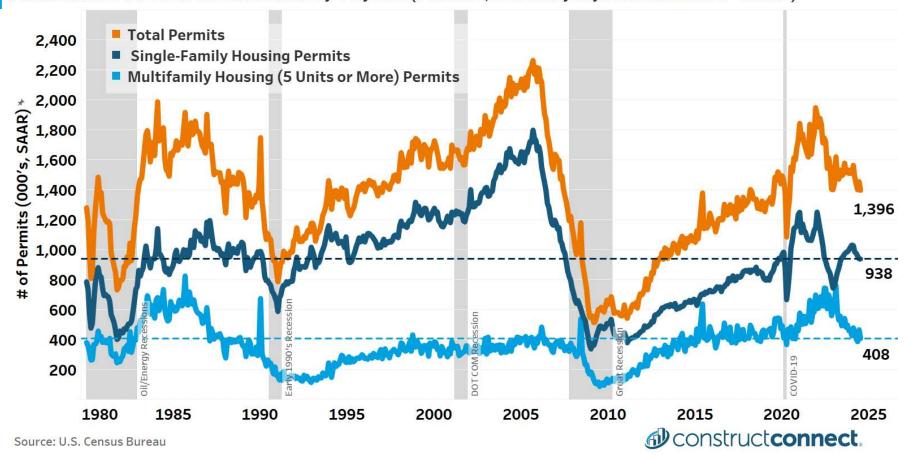
Count in 000's by type, (000's, seasonally adjusted annual rate)





## **Housing Permits Declines Often Lead Recessions**

Permit declines have lead most recessions by 1-5 years. (# in 000's, Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate "SAAR")

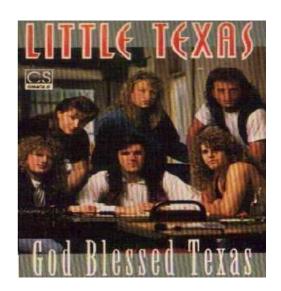






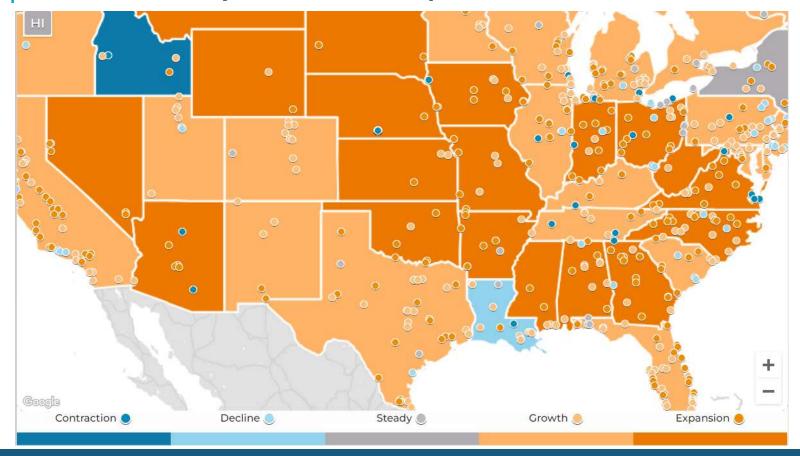
# **Texas' Economy Remains Exceptional**

- Texas unemployment rate: +4.0%
  - US unemployment rate: 4.3%
- Texas Real GDP: +5.0% (1q2024)
  - US Real GDP: 3.0%
- Texas Resident Population (2023): +1.6%
  - Total US: +0.5%
    - California: -0.2%
    - New York: -0.5%
    - Florida: 1.6%





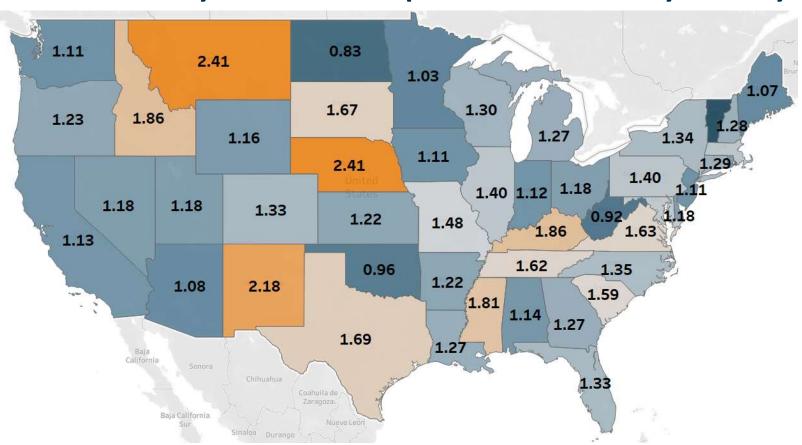
# **Texas' Economy Remains Exceptional**



24



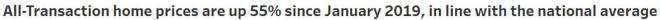
# Texas' Economy Remains Exceptional: Multifamily Activity by State

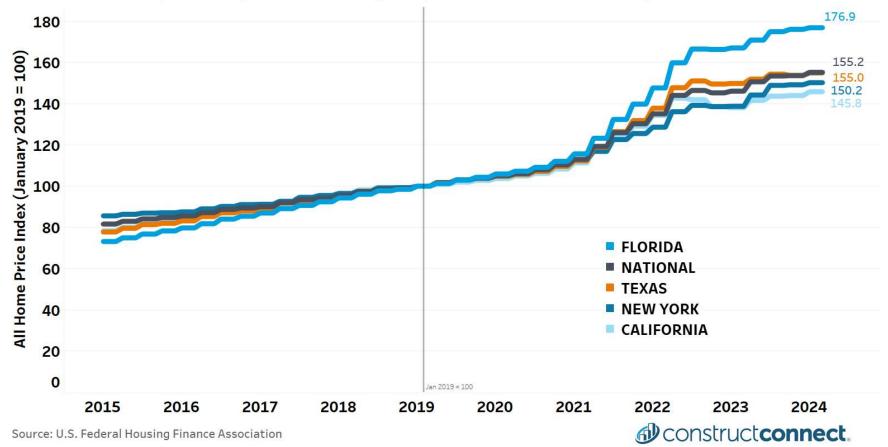


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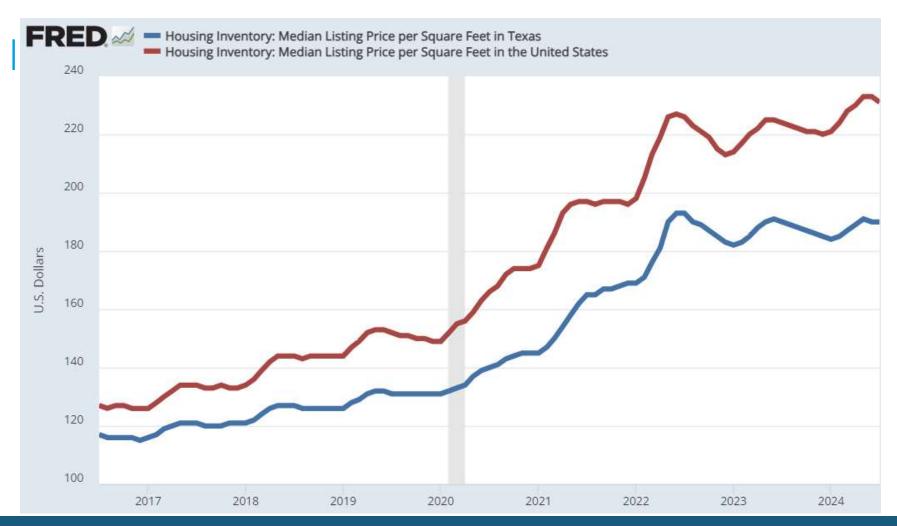


#### Texas Home Prices Represent Great Value For A Fast Growing State







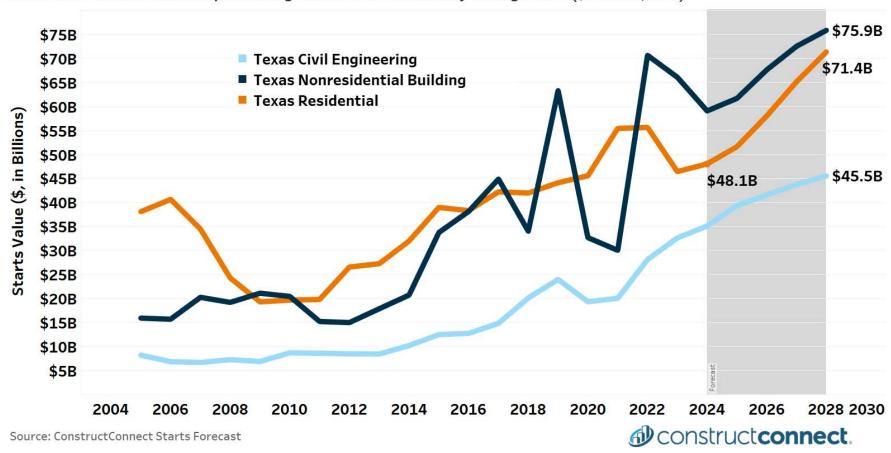


Realtor.com, Housing Inventory: Median Listing Price per Square Feet in the United States [MEDLISPRIPERSQUFEEUS], retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis;



#### **Texas: Type-of-Structure Forecast**

Residential construction is expected to growth at 10.4% annually through 2028 (\$ Billions, USD)









# Texas Multifamily Residential Activity by MSA Now & 1-Yr Ago:



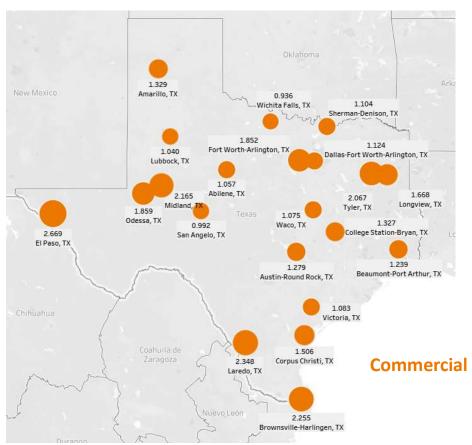


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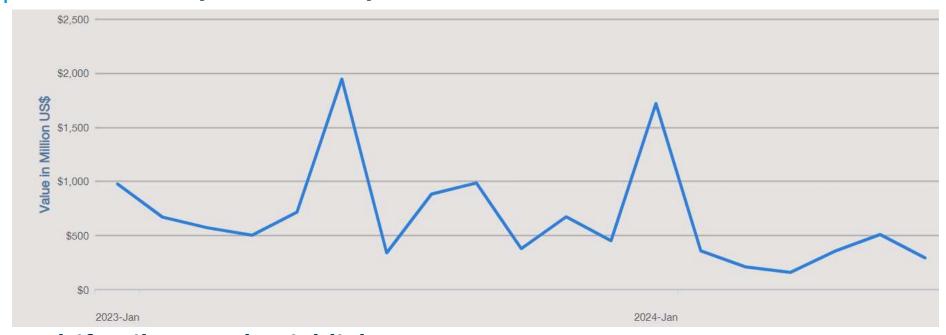
# **Major Verticals Will Continue to Power Further State Growth**







# **Texas Monthly Multifamily Starts: -36% YTD**



# **Multifamily Actuals Highlights:**

- YTD starts -36.9%
- YTD monthly starts averaged \$515M, down from \$819M 1-yr ago



## Starts Forecast 2024 – 2028 (Five largest of 24 shown)

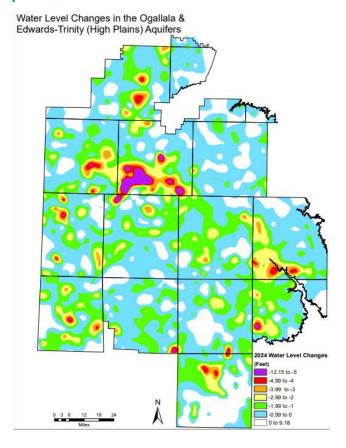
State _	MSA	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
<b>Multi-Family</b>	Texas	\$ 7,253,752,290	\$ 8,257,081,388	\$ 9,721,036,437	\$ 11,184,478,066	\$ 12,169,621,736
	Dallas-Plano-Irving, TX Metropolitan Division	\$ 2,341,869,454	\$ 2,499,908,559	\$ 2,946,353,699	\$ 3,394,621,784	\$ 3,698,754,789
	Austin-Round Rock TX	\$ 1,672,558,611	\$ 2,254,034,912	\$ 2,660,581,961	\$ 3,068,775,589	\$ 3,346,826,573
	Houston-Baytown-Sugar Land TX	\$ 1,363,034,192	\$ 1,646,370,579	\$ 1,936,496,663	\$ 2,225,591,084	\$ 2,419,336,472
	Fort Worth-Arlington, TX Metropolitan Division	\$ 885,426,052	\$ 780,685,213	\$ 916,846,267	\$ 1,051,477,204	\$ 1,140,521,869
	San Antonio TX	\$ 629,947,041	\$ 702,858,321	\$ 825,727,964	\$ 948,601,064	\$ 1,030,484,764

## **Multifamily Forecast Highlights:**

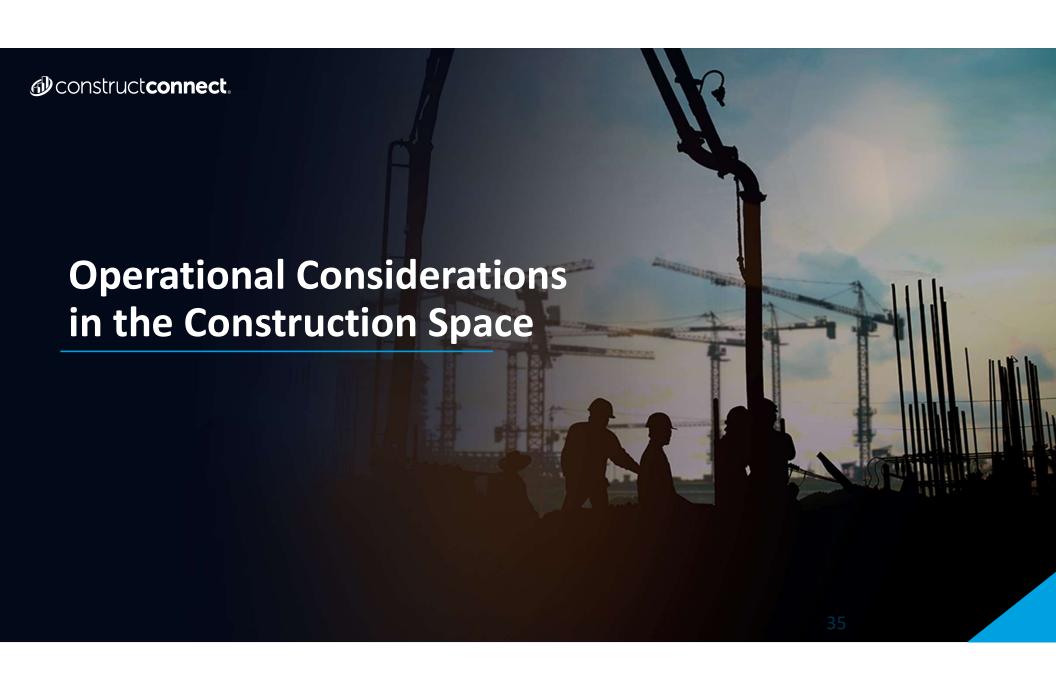
- 2024 YE: -18% forecasted
- 2025 double-digit rebound: +14%
- 2026 peak expansion: +18%
- 2027 slowing expansion: +15%



# Texas' Biggest Problems Are Not Necessarily Economic



- 7M people are added to Texas's 2020 population of 29.14M between 2020 and 2060.
- Falling aquifer levels will result in more active water management and restrictions.
  - Agriculture and Municipal are the biggest consumers vying for water.
- Also, the balance of supply and demand for electricity.



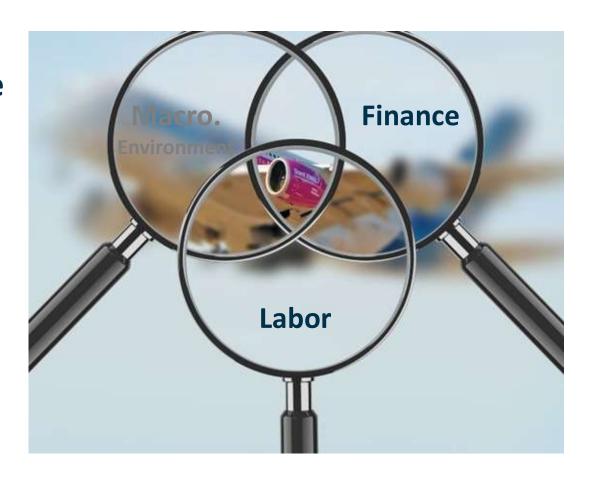


# The Remaining Actionable Pieces of the Puzzle:

**Labor:** How you find and build-up your labor resources?

**Finance:** How will you use & access capital?

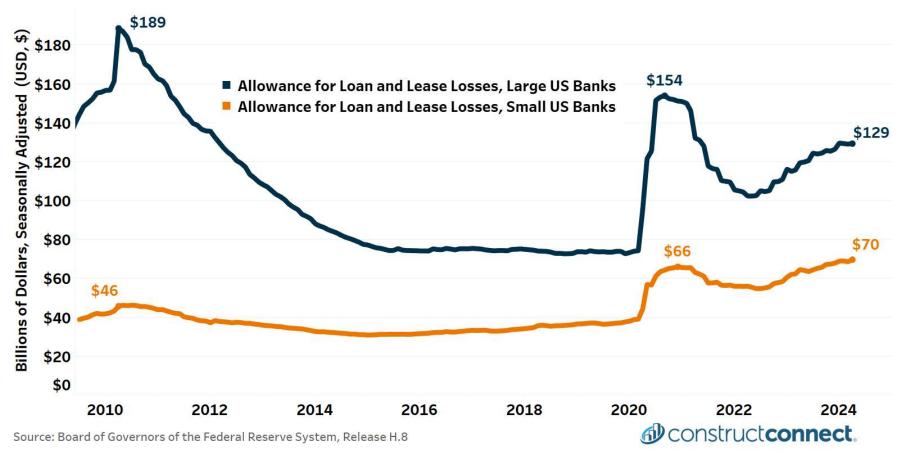
**Strategy**: How will use this knowledge to make smart and profitable decisions for your firm?





#### Banks Have Been Quitely Preparaing a \$200B "Parachute" Against Bad Debts

Allowance for bad debts is up 76% since late-2019





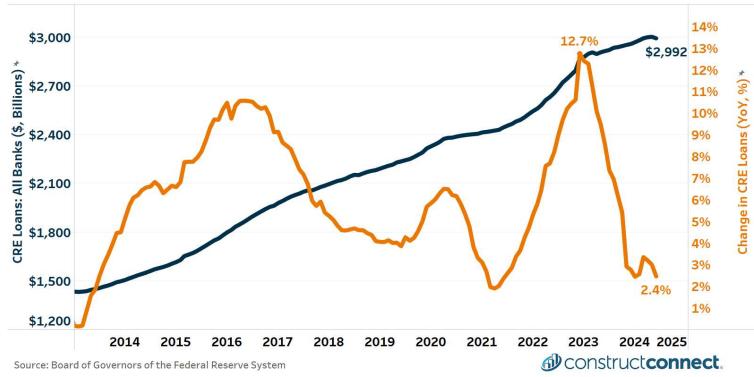
## Banks Are Correcting As They Move Into Self-Preservation Mode

 Latest "boom" peaked at 12.7% YoY CRE loan growth for all banks & all CRE types.

 Recent CRE growth was the highest since 2006.

#### Banks Have Severely Throttled Back on CRE Lending

Banks have been quitely preparing for rough times ahead





# Banks Have Over \$3T in CRE They Need to Refinance by 2029, yet nearly \$1T of that is due this year.

#### Commercial Mortgage Maturities by Lender Type (\$ Billion)

Year	Total Due	Banks	CMBS	Life Cos	GSE	Other
2024	\$602.6	\$277.6	\$138.3	\$48.2	\$68.9	\$69.5
2025	\$598.0	\$286.6	\$112.6	\$50.8	\$82.3	\$65.6
2026	\$599.2	\$304.5	\$69.6	\$54.4	\$102.3	\$68.3
2027	\$628.7	\$322.1	\$55.5	\$58.3	\$120.6	\$72.1
2028	\$620.8	\$320.0	\$56.7	\$60.9	\$114.7	\$68.6
2029	\$595.1	\$294.0	\$66.7	\$58.1	\$118.1	\$58.2
2025-2029	\$3,041.8	\$1,527.3	\$361.1	\$282.6	\$538.0	\$332.9

Source: Trepp Inc., based on Federal Reserve Flow of Funds Data

CRE Loans Coming Due in 2024 Balloon by 41%, to \$929 Billion, as Loans that Matured in 2023 Weren't Paid Off but Extended

by Wolf Richter • Feb 12, 2024 • 92 Comments



### **Eroding Existing Prices for Apartments May Temper New Build Demand**

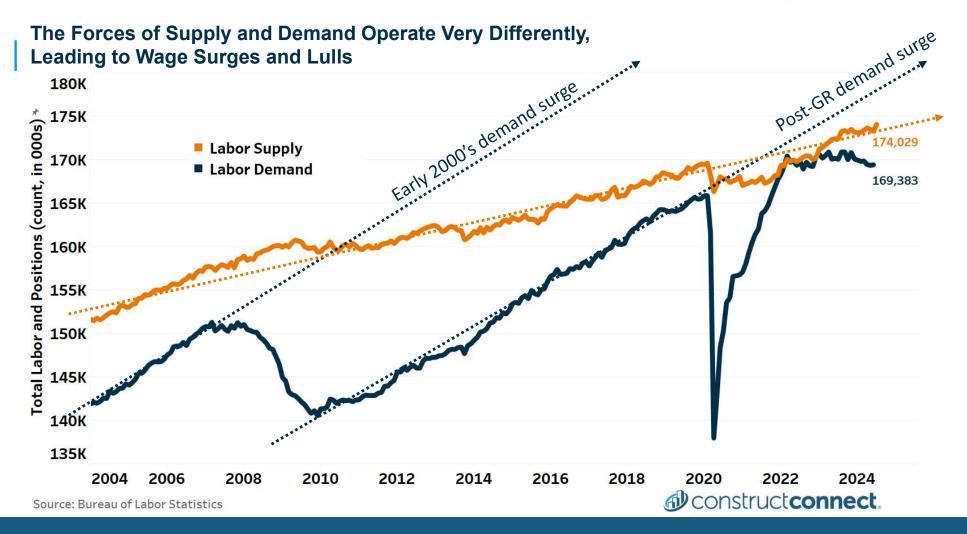
	Index Value	Change in Commercial Property Values		
		Past Month	Past 12 Mos	Recent Peak
All Property	123.6	0.0%	-5%	-20%
Core Sector	123.6	0.0%	-5%	-23%
Apartment	147.9	0.0%	-2%	-22%
Industrial	210.0	0.0%	-10%	-17%
Mall	84.3	0.0%	5%	-14%
Office	71.2	0.0%	-9%	-37%
Strip Retail	111.0	0.0%	-2%	-16%
Data Center	107.0	0.0%	-5%	-17%
Health Care	120.6	0.0%	-9%	-20%
Lodging	106.4	0.0%	-3%	-6%
Manufactured Home Park	269.4	0.0%	-5%	-17%
Net Lease	94.3	0.0%	-3%	-19%
Self-Storage	242.4	0.0%	-13%	-23%



# Labor



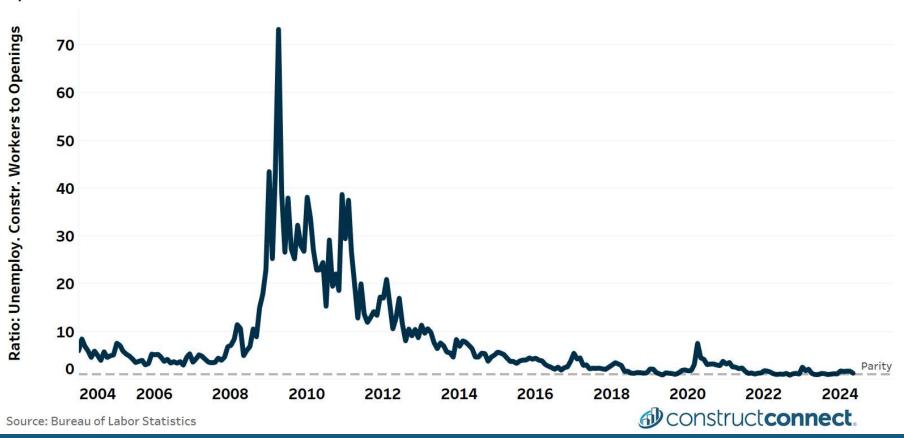






#### The Ratio of Construction Openings to Experienced Job Seekers Stuck Near Parity

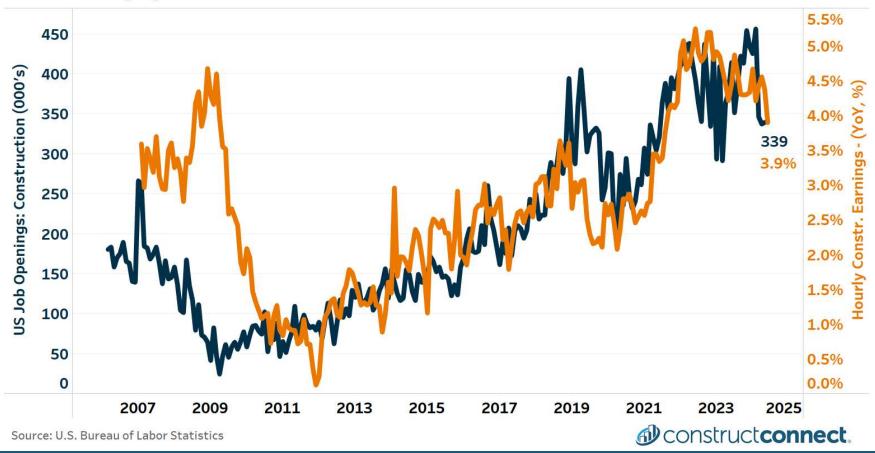
Since 2022 there have frequently been more construction openings than there are job-seeking laborers with construction experience.





#### Construction Wage Growth Outpaces the Broader Private Sector

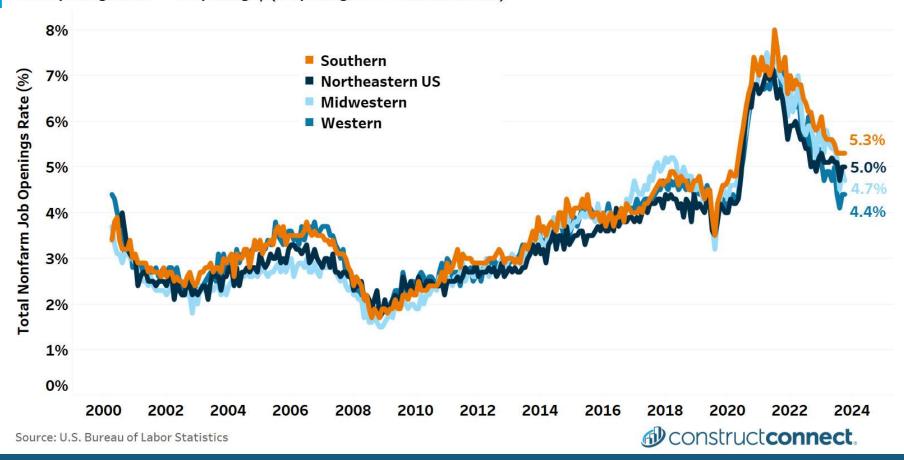
Construction wages growth has fallen below 4% for the first time since COVID rebound.





#### Southern Region Labor Demand Leads the Country

"Job Openings Rate" = # Openings / (# Openings + # Total Filled Jobs)

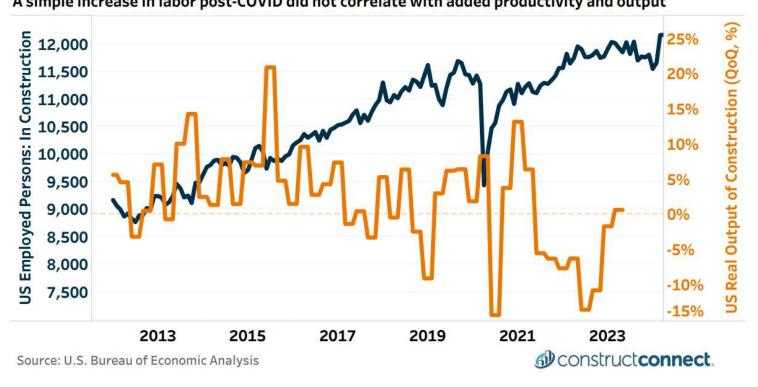




### **Labor Training is a MUST:**

- How will you prepare for the future: "Al is not going to take your job, someone using Al is".
- The desperation for labor diluted the productivity of the average laborer.

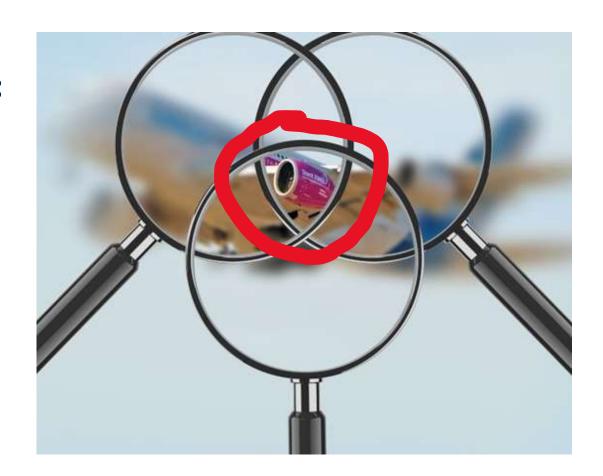
# US Real Construction Output Trend Contrasts with Labor Levels A simple increase in labor post-COVID did not correlate with added productivity and output





# **Bringing It All Together: Strategy**

**Strategy:** How you use your market knowledge (macroeconomics) along with the resources available to you (Labor, Finance) to create outsized returns for your business.





## **Strategy: Macroeconomic Conditions**

- 1) Firms need to fine tune their economic "sensors" to account for geographic differences.
  - National headlines and Texas' economic conditions are quite different.
- 2) Strategically build a diversified Client/Project Portfolio
- 3) Diversifying your sources of funding:
  - Building relationships with multiple regional banks, also consider creating private equity/private capital relationships.



## **Strategy: Finance**

- Banks are highly aware of their precarious situation. They won't help the industry at their expense.
- The Federal Reserve has repeatedly called out the CRE situation as being dangerous to the industry.
- Banks really have no option but to "Pretend and Extend"
  - Banks will attempt to "hold on" long enough to refinance distressed debt at lower rates that allow a return of existing investments to profitability.
- Public funding will be a great source of opportunity... while it lasts.



# **Strategy: Labor**

- Accept that today's labor challenges are structural and require firms to take a refreshed, long-run approach to one's labor strategy.
  - The ability to rehire former labor is —and will remain- a greater challenge than in the past.
- You can't force people to stay, but you can work hard to create steady paychecks, and training program that get them to stay.
- "The worst thing that can happen is NOT that you train someone and they leave, but that you DON'T train them and they stay."



# **Question & Answer**

# **Michael Guckes**

**Chief Economist** 

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