



OVERVIEW

The major, unexpected driver of the U.S. economic boom? Green construction.

The 2015 *Green Building Economic Impact Study* – prepared by Booz Allen Hamilton (BAH) for the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) – refines and updates the 2009 *U.S. Green Building Council Green Jobs Report*. It uses refined, updated methodology that allows consistent analytical accuracy in both historical data and projections of the growth ahead.

The report quantifies the economic value of green building and LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) construction. Impacts are measured in gross domestic product (GDP), jobs, labor earnings, individual states' tax contributions and environmental asset indicators at both the national and state levels.

MAIN FINDINGS

The trajectory of the green building sector of the U.S. construction industry is slated for expansive growth. To date, green building has created millions of jobs and contributed hundreds of billions of dollars to the U.S. economy. Not surprisingly, LEED is a pivotal contributor to this total impact. Currently, domestic certifications account for 56.72% of commercial LEED projects by area, with the remaining certification space found internationally. As demand continues to grow in this space, aggressive growth in the green building sector is expected over the next four years and beyond.

JOB: Green construction's total impact on employment in 2015 will equal more than 2.3 million U.S. jobs, contributing to more than \$134.3 billion for working Americans.

By 2018:

- Employment and revenue will continue to grow rapidly. The total impact of green construction will reach more than 3.3 million U.S. jobs and \$190.3 billion in labor earnings.
- Green building will be responsible for more than one-third of all U.S. construction jobs.
- LEED will be responsible for contributing to 1.1 million (roughly one-third) green construction jobs.

NATIONAL GDP: Green construction's growth rate is rapidly outpacing that of conventional construction and will continue to rise with green building demand. As a result, the industry's annual contribution to GDP is expected to almost double between now and 2018.

- From 2011 to 2014, national green construction generated \$167.4 billion in GDP. Over the next four years, that number will jump to \$303.5 billion.
- The construction of LEED-certified buildings will account for about 40 percent of green construction's overall contribution to GDP in 2015.

STATE-LEVEL GROWTH: Green construction is also driving economic growth at the state level..

- In 2014, LEED-related employment directly contributed \$1.09 billion of individual income tax to the states, and is expected to contribute \$1.5 billion by 2018.
- By 2018, total state earning related to LEED building construction projects to total \$8.4 billion.
- In Texas, for example, more than 720,000 jobs were attributable to green construction between 2011 and 2014. Nearly 1.26 million jobs are projected between 2015 and 2018.

SAVINGS: Green buildings result in significant savings across energy, trash, water and maintenance costs.

- Over the next four years (2015-2018), the green construction industry is expected to save \$2.4 billion in energy.
- It is projected that LEED-certified buildings account for more than half of the energy savings in the green building sector (\$1.2 billion).