

Spotlight on Commercial Contractors of Southwestern Illinois

Holland Construction continues work on MidAmerica St. Louis Airport terminal

Holland Construction Services is making significant progress on the expansion of MidAmerica St. Louis Airport in coordination with the St. Clair County Public Building Commission.

The 41,000-square-foot expansion is part of the airport's Passenger Terminal Expansion project. The new space will allow the airport to expand services, including more flights and will include features such as a new security screening area, two additional boarding bridges, a service animal relief area, family restrooms, a nursing room, an expanded departure lounge, added room for concessions and renovations to accommodate people with disabilities.

"At this point all of the concrete basement foundation walls have been completed and we are getting ready to go vertical with the project," said Steve Teipe, Holland project manager. "Our next step will be to construct the structural steel frame for the first and second floors and then people will be able to really see this expansion project taking shape."

"Holland has been handling commercial and government related construction work for more than 30 years and that experience has been very beneficial on a project like this in which time and transparency are extremely important," said Holland Director of Operations Mike Deihl. "This expansion will have a tremendous impact on airline travel options throughout Southern Illinois and

the St. Louis metro area and we're excited to be part of making that happen."

The Passenger Terminal Expansion project is expected to cost around \$30 million and is expected to be complete by early 2023. Once complete, the project will nearly double the Airport's footprint and ability to serve an increased number of travelers. Additional planned updates include improvements to the original terminal itself, including electrical work and other interior updates.

"Holland was selected as the general contractor for this expansion because of their credibility, reliability and reputation within the industry," said MidAmerica St. Louis Airport Director Bryan Johnson. "The expansion is monumental for the airport, especially when you consider how far it has come over 20 years. It will allow travelers to have a smoother, more comfortable, and convenient experience traveling through our airport, and we're excited to see its completion."



The terminal expansion project at MidAmerica St. Louis Airport.

Construction-work employment lags pre-pandemic peak

Construction employment in August remained below the levels reached before the pre-pandemic peak in February 2020 in 39 states, according to an analysis by the Associated General Contractors of America of government employment data released in September. Association officials urged the House of Representatives to quickly pass the bipartisan infrastructure bill to avoid further cut-backs in construction activity and jobs.

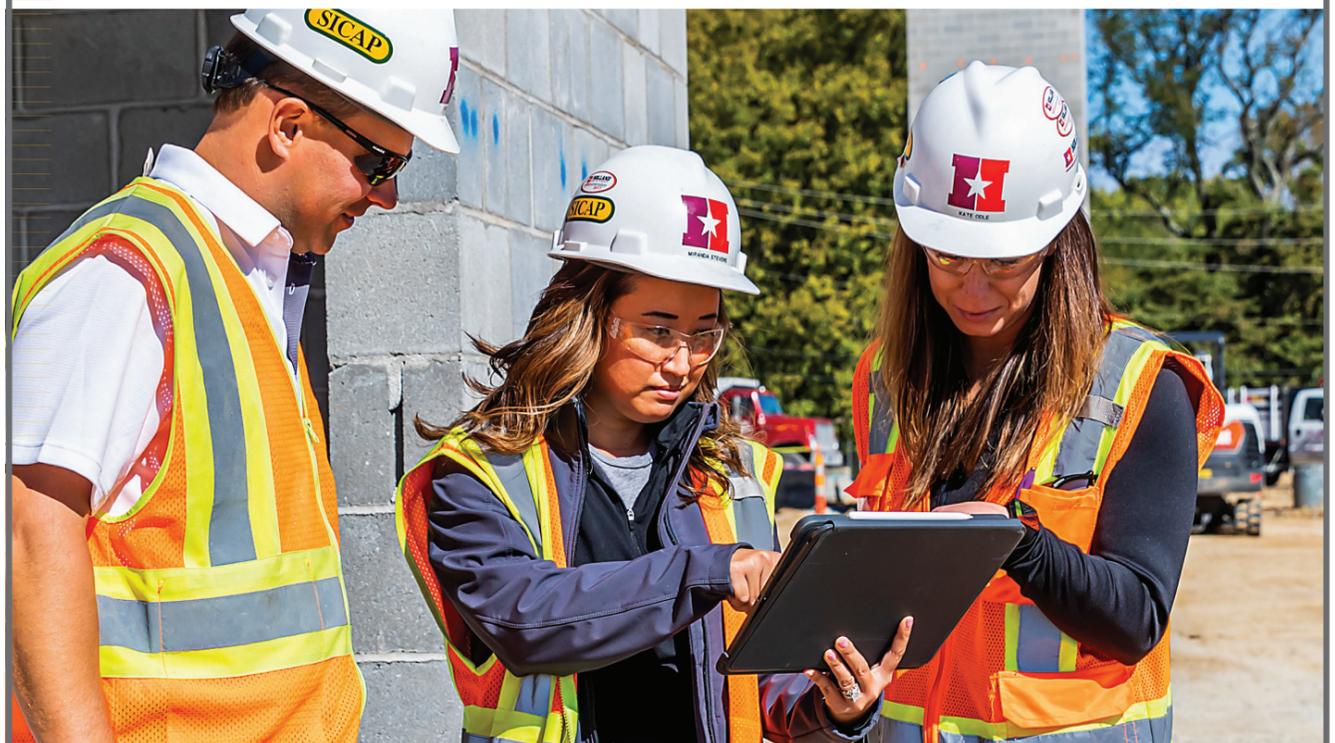
"Construction employment slipped or stagnated from July to August in half the states as the delta variant of COVID-19 affected workers and caused some owners to delay projects," said Ken Simonson, the association's chief economist. "In addition, more than half of the respondents in our latest workforce survey reported experiencing projects that have been canceled, postponed, or scaled back."

From February 2020—the month before the pandemic caused project shut-downs and cancellations—to last month, construction employment increased in only 11 states and the District of Columbia.

Illinois was down 2,200 jobs, or 1 percent, ranking 20th among states.

Texas shed the most construction jobs over the period (-56,700 jobs or -7.3 percent), followed by New York (-50,700 jobs, -12.4 percent) and California (-34,900 jobs, -3.8 percent). Wyoming recorded the largest percentage loss (-16.6 percent, -3,800 jobs), followed by Louisiana (-14.4 percent, -19,700 jobs) and New York.

Utah added the most construction jobs since February 2020 (7,400 jobs, 6.5 percent), followed by North Carolina (4,500, 1.9 percent), Idaho (3,700 jobs, 6.7 percent), and South Carolina (3,700 jobs, 3.5 percent).



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