

AMERICA RIDES ON US

Asphalt.

JOBS IN THE ASPHALT PAVEMENT INDUSTRY

A Profile of the Men and Women Who
Build Our Nation's Infrastructure

AsphaltRoads.org

JOB IN THE ASPHALT PAVEMENT INDUSTRY

We – the asphalt pavement industry – are leaders in the construction and maintenance of America’s road and highway transportation network. While asphalt pavements serve a national market, they are built by people who live and work in the areas that they serve. Asphalt jobs truly are Main Street jobs that cannot be outsourced overseas. Asphalt jobs are also green jobs; asphalt is America’s most reused and recycled material, and virtually every worker in the industry is involved in reuse and recycling in some way.

The asphalt pavement industry is proud to support the people who rely on our country’s infrastructure as well as those who have made the industry a career choice.

With one-third of our nation’s infrastructure in poor condition and construction unemployment at twice the national rate, there has been much debate about highway funding as a stimulus for job creation. Like all economic

debates, this one involves many variables and dynamic assumptions that can make it difficult to accurately measure the true impacts. This paper breaks down the industry by the numbers, to show who we are and the important role workers in the asphalt and contributing industries play in the lives of all Americans.

Who We Are

The asphalt industry workforce includes asphalt plant managers, administrators, road crews, researchers, engineers, and support personnel, all of whom play critical roles in building and maintaining the roads we use every day. Careers in the asphalt industry are not limited to construction activities. Many civil engineers, technologists, and researchers with advanced degrees are necessary to ensure the quality and safety of our road system.

ASPHALT JOBS BY THE NUMBERS

67,367

Number of employees who work for refiners producing liquid asphalt.

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

117,000

Total number of employees in the aggregates industry.

SOURCE: NATIONAL SAND, STONE AND GRAVEL ASSOCIATION

14,923

Number directly employed in asphalt mix production.

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

410,000

Total number employed in the construction of highways, streets, runways, roads, and bridges.

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

40,800

Total employees in the manufacture of construction equipment.

SOURCE: ASSOCIATION OF EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS

326,400

Employees in the dealer/wholesale distribution network for construction equipment.

SOURCE: ASSOCIATION OF EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS

30,000

Number of jobs created for every \$1 billion of federal investment.

SOURCE: FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

\$6.2 Billion

Economic activity generated for every \$1 billion invested in federal highways.

SOURCE: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

The numbers above represent employment in these industries in 2007 (prior to the economic downturn). While there is no way to separate out asphalt-related positions in the aggregates and equipment sectors, these numbers provide the best indicators available on overall employment related to asphalt pavements.

The workers we see on the roads are only one small part of the equation. An asphalt road could not be constructed without many other people, including...

» **RAW MATERIAL SUPPLIERS**

Provide aggregates (the stone, sand, and gravel that makes up 95 percent of the pavement mix) and liquid asphalt (the glue that holds the pavement together, and makes up 5 percent of the mix)

» **ASPHALT MIX PRODUCERS**

Combine the aggregates and liquid in some 3,500 asphalt plants across the country

» **TRUCK DRIVERS**

Transport the raw materials to the asphalt plants and the pavement mix to job sites

» **PAVING AND COMPACTION CREWS**

Lay and compact the asphalt

» **MANUFACTURING WORKERS**

Make the tools and equipment needed for transporting materials, and for producing, paving, and compacting asphalt pavements

» **CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTORS, RETAILERS, AND WORKERS**

Repair and maintain the equipment

» **AND THOUSANDS OF OTHERS**

Who provide managerial, administrative, and accounting support to asphalt businesses

Repair and maintenance projects on roads and bridges produce on average 16 percent more jobs than new highway construction per dollar spent, in part because a greater share of project costs go directly into workers' pockets and less to right-of-way purchase, engineering, and impact studies.

SOURCE: "HOW INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS SUPPORT THE U.S. ECONOMY: EMPLOYMENT, PRODUCTIVITY AND GROWTH." JANUARY 2009.

Who We Impact

Regardless of whether you drive a car, receive mail at your home, or purchase goods at your local grocery store that were transported via trucks, it is hard to imagine anyone in this nation who is not affected by the condition of our roads. Consider, for example, the...

- » 3.5 million truck drivers who depend on highways to perform their jobs

SOURCE: BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

- » 128.3 million commuters who use the highways and roads to get to work daily

SOURCE: FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION, "JOURNEY TO WORK TRENDS IN THE US AND ITS MAJOR METROPOLITAN AREAS," JUNE 2003.

- » 21,000 individuals who die each year as a result of roadway conditions. The percentage of fatalities where roadway condition is a contributing factor is higher than those attributed to speeding, alcohol, and non-use of seatbelts.

SOURCE: "ON A CRASH COURSE: THE DANGERS AND HEALTH COSTS OF DEFICIENT ROADWAYS," PACIFIC INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH AND EVALUATION, MAY 2009.

The asphalt pavement industry is paving the way forward, with long-lasting, well-paid American jobs, serving the American people, enabling a higher standard of living for all, and enhancing economic development in an environmentally sustainable way.

For More Information Contact Us

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