

PUNCH LIST

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HELMETS REPLACING HARDHATS

Hard hats are synonymous with construction. From emojis to motivational posters to icons like Bob the Builder, the quickest way to identify construction workers has been via their brightly colored headgear.

But, some contractors have begun a shift in the name of safety: swapping hard hats for helmets, which they say better protect workers.

"It's interesting that in construction, we have an innovative bunch of problem solvers who are out there everyday solving issues," said Brian Jones, chief operating officer for Lexington, Kentuckybased Gray Construction. "But with the hard hat, the first plastic one was 1960, and it's largely the same today. So 60 years later, [we've had] zero innovation when it comes to the hard hat."

In addition to Gray, major players in the industry, such as Clark and DPR, made the shift to helmets years ago. Despite some worker resistance to a new type of personal protective equipment, construction leaders who have made the switch have said it was the right decision, and are now mandating their use from workers, trade partners and subcontractors.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

"Just like technology has afforded great leaps in cordless tools, laser levels and robotics, the hard hat as a personal protection tool has also seen great improvements in design, suspensions, materials — leather, aluminum, plastic and carbon fiber — and more," said Greg Sizemore, vice president of health, safety, environment and workforce development for Associated Builders and Contractors.

Traditional hard hats are Type I safety compliant: They protect workers from falling objects landing directly on top of the wearer's head. Type II compliant helmets, on the other hand, also have padding to protect from impact on the sides of the head, according to the <u>National Institute for</u> <u>Occupational Safety and Health</u>.

This makes helmets ideal protection against falls,

according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Falls, slips and trips <u>killed 390</u> <u>construction workers</u> in 2021, more than any other cause, according to the most recent data available. Protecting the head from both the sides and the front can make a big difference when a worker falls, by lessening the blow that could cause a traumatic brain injury, according to the CDC.

Often, head injuries result from slips, trips or falls from 6 feet or less — meaning they could happen to anyone on the jobsite, regardless of the work they perform, according to Ryan Barnes founder and CEO at Studson, a Lake Oswego, Oregon-based helmet provider.

Lateral impacts to the side of the head — such as those from falls or sports activities — can cause rotational accelerations in the brain, which can lead to concussions, according to the CDC. Type II headgear can help prevent that.

A November report from NIOSH published on the CDC website found the construction industry has the greatest number of both fatal and nonfatal work-related TBIs among U.S. industries. From 2003 to 2010, 2,210 construction workers died as a result of a TBI (or about 2.6 per 100,000 full time equivalent workers).

"Now the transition to the hard helmet from the hard hat is gaining ground, and it couldn't have come at a better time," Sizemore said.

MAKING THE CHANGE

Gray Construction began the process of swapping its hard hats to helmets about four years ago, when Jones attended an event in Washington, D.C.

There, Jones said he heard an owner of a structural engineering company claim that, had a helmet been used at the time of a jobsite collapse, it could have prevented a fatality or traumatic brain injury. "That was so impactful for me," he said.

Construction helmets currently cost more than hard hats, due to the smaller number of suppliers, Jones said. With time, he predicts costs will go down, which will lead to more adoption.

MEET THE MEMBERS

TRENDHR

DO WHAT YOU DO BEST, LET US HANDLE THE REST. ™

TrendHR is a Dallas, Texas based human resource outsourcing company that provides PEO services to businesses nationwide. TrendHR allows businesses to focus on their core competencies and grow their business, by minimizing the burden of employment administration.

Founded in 1997, TrendHR was built based on the traditional staffing company model specializing in temporary and direct hire placement. Our commitment to superb customer service quickly allowed us to become one of the largest staffing companies in the North Texas Corridor. In 2001, that commitment enabled TrendHR to go beyond traditional staffing services and begin offering clients human resources options, including PEO services.

TrendHR's PEO program operates as an off-site human resources department for its clients. TrendHR provides human resource functions, such as administering employee benefits, insurance, payroll, taxes, and numerous other employee related services. All these services are provided through economies of scale at tremendous cost savings compared to the expense of self-administering such programs.

Now in our 22nd year of business, TrendHR continues to grow and be recognized for our commitment to outstandingpersonalized customer service. TrendHR has been awarded seven times by Inc. 5000 as one of the fastest growing private companies in the U.S., and two of those years TrendHR has been within the top 100 human resource companies nationwide.

We offer a complete suite of Human Resource Outsourcing services, including consulting, payroll, benefits, workers compensation insurance, safety inspections, training programs, and more. To learn about how we can help relieve you of the burden of these costly activities, call us at 1-855-TrendHR.

SUNSTATE EQUIPMENT

Sunstate Equipment is more than a rental equipment provider; we are a lasting partner who brings the best rental experience in the industry to your jobsites. With seamless, integrated rental solutions, one quick call or tap on our mobile app connects you to professional, responsive assistance with your Sunstate team.

We've simplified the rental experience to provide you with faster, more reliable access to ready-to-use, well-maintained equipment. To help you increase jobsite efficiency, we promise reliable scheduling, advance communication, and live, local service support for your after-hours emergencies. Our enhanced backend support includes accurate invoicing, fast lien releases, and comprehensive reporting to make it easier to manage your projects.

We know that our performance affects your reputation. That's why we offer complete performance transparency using metrics based off our original promises. And, it's why we've created an award-winning training program to fully empower every member of our team to bring you fast, reliable solutions with a single goal in mind—building strong, long-lasting, trust-based relationships.

Sunstate's consistency and personalized service is unparalleled, ensuring that you will receive the same exceptional service and our renowned high standards of excellence wherever your projects take you throughout the many regions we serve from coast to coast.



CUTLER SMITH, P.C.

At Cutler-Smith, P.C., we are uniquely positioned to deliver big law firm results with the attention, service and efficiencies that only a boutique law firm can provide.

Our attorneys are uniquely qualified to protect our clients' business and legal rights through every phase of the business and project life cycle. With our in-depth knowledge of the commercial construction industry combined with our solid business counsel, we provide effective and efficient legal solutions in transactional, administrative and litigation matters.

When you need legal counsel for your construction business, you can't trust just any business lawyer. We have a deep understanding of the industry, and can provide an instant response when the stakes are high. Our lawyers utilize a nationwide network of resources in construction law, drawing on consultants and experts to get the knowledge and insight we need to effectively represent your case.

Thank you for your presentations!

HELMETS REPLACING HARDHATS CONTINUED

(Continued from Page 1)

Bethesda, Maryland-based Clark Construction started shifting to helmets in 2017, which it claims made it the first general contractor to do so.

When Clark first adopted helmets, only a few retailers offered them, said Seth Randall, regional safety director for Clark's Infrastructure Group. Jones said Gray experienced the same. Now, more than 10 national suppliers offer them, Randall said. Retailers offering Type II helmets include Studson, Grainger and Lift.

EDUCATION AND MANDATES

Ned Brown, Gray Construction's safety director, acknowledged that getting workers to consistently wear PPE of any kind can pose a challenge, especially when it's new.

"With any change of policy that's going to change the look, the feel, just the overall state of the construction worker, you're going to have a little pushback," Brown said. Nonetheless, he compared it to a policy Gray enacted six years ago that mandated glove use, which is now an issue-free practice on Gray jobs.

Marc Ness, self-perform work leader for Redwood City, California-based DPR Construction, said "there will always be challenges to PPE compliance." That's part of why the contractor planned its shift to helmets over a 12-month period, starting a dialogue with employees and partners.

"Before making any changes, we spent a considerable amount

of time educating our teams and piloting different helmets so we could test efficacy and comfort, gathering feedback along the way," Ness said. "Doing so allowed us to gradually introduce helmets and ensure our employees understood the reasoning behind our decision."

Even if the change causes some friction, Sizemore said eventually, "craft professionals will embrace what the industry gives them or requires of them, and it is time to begin the journey from hard hats to helmets."

Better outcomes

Randall said on "multiple occasions" the helmet has made a difference for a worker's safety.

"We have had employees struck by cars in work zones, fall from heights and slip from walking-working surfaces, but the helmet provided the necessary protection and minimized or eliminated serious head injuries," Randall said.

As more major contractors mandate them for their workers and trade partners, helmets may increasingly become the norm, or close to it. Jones emphasized the need to continue to evaluate PPE, even iconic headwear that's existed seemingly forever.

"I think the most important thing is we recognize in the industry that helmets can save lives and prevent injuries in a very dangerous occupation," Jones said. "And if it prevents one, it's well worth the investment."

Construction Dive

UPCOMING EVENTS

August is all about Insurance, and September is all about Safety! Visit our Website for more information.

SAM MEETING Texas Mutual Presentation

Thursday, August 3 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. \$50.00 for SAM Members \$60.00 for Future Members

Maggiano's Little Italy 6001 W. Park Blvd. | Plano

Tai A. Jenkins, Senior Customer Engagement Training Consultant, will discuss your EMOD's impact in the underwriting process.

Heavy Appetizers and Cash Bar

SAM UNIVERSITY Insurance & Bonding 101

> Tuesday, August 15 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. \$30.00 per person

Pennington Commercial 2052 McKenzie Drive | Building 1 Carrollton

We will review the basics of Insurance and Bonding requirements that new Project Managers might see in a contract.

Presentations by: USI & PCL Contract Bonding SAM MEETING Safety Roundtable

Thursday, September 7 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. \$50.00 per person \$60.00 for Future Members

Maggiano's Little Italy 6001 W. Park Blvd. | Plano

Discuss Safety Issues with professionals from Cornerstone Safety, BSBD Insurance, and Cutler Smith.

Heavy Appetizers and Cash Bar *Limited Space*



6th ANNUAL CLAY SHOOT REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Thursday, October 19

Registration & Lunch - 11:00 a.m. Safety Meeting - 12:00 p.m. Shooting Immediately Follows

> Appetizers & Beverages Awards Ceremony

Current Price Through September 30: Individual Shooter - \$225.00 4-Shooter Team - \$900.00

Sponsorships Available at www.members.sam-dfw.org/calendar

TCA MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT - THE rapid! PAYCARD

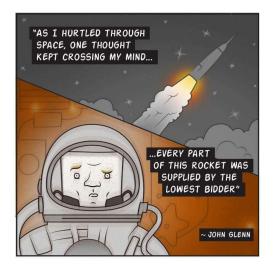
Provides your company with one of the most comprehensive Paycard benefits and ePayroll program designed for employers choosing to convert to electronic delivery of payroll at zero cost. The PayCard is FREE to TCA members. It will help your business save time, costs, and minimize risk! Stop the expensive paper check routine! Contact Patrick Finnegan, pfinnegan@texcon.org for more information.

As a member of SAM, you are also a member of the Texas Construction Association. The TCA works on behalf of

subcontractors in Texas to improve the legislation related to commercial construction. Visit the TCA Website to learn more about all of the benefits. www.texcon.org



FUNNY BONE



New Guy: I can handle heat. I love working outdoors.

New Guy at 10am.



SAM'S LIEN INFORMATION

SAM collects and compiles the information on Mechanics Liens filed in Tarrant and Dallas Counties on an ongoing basis. This information is available in a searchable spreadsheet on our website for our members. We are able to observe some trends and common owner issues. During our regular meetings, we invite our attendees to share their work experience with General Contractors, Engineers, and Architects as a way to help others when evaluating contracts and projects. Our members find these two features the most valuable aspect of their membership in SAM.

NEW! Find the complete Top 10 Lists for the tables below in tabs in the Lien Spreadsheet.

Contact Carrie Buckley today for more information - 817.266.1909 or director@sam-dfw.org.

MOST LIENED PROJECT ADDRESSES (BY TOTAL \$)

Company Name	City # of Liens To		Total Liens
150 W. Main St.	Richardson	17	\$2,754,069.57
8030 Park Lane	Plano	9	\$2,395,635.89
2031 Jackson St.	Dallas	13	\$1,299,165.14
1102 N. Shiloh Road	Garland	6	\$1,006,603.75
1301 E. Wintergreen Road	Hutchins	7	\$886,599.39

MOST LIENED COMPANIES (BY NUMBER OF LIENS)

Company Name	# of Project Addresses	# of Liens	Total Liens
Richardson Gateway LLC	1	16	\$2,504,618.89
Hartman Income Reit or Hartman Spe LLC	8	13	\$270,931.34
Mm Jackson Parking B LLC	1	12	\$3,895,314.07
Windmass Village II Portfolio Owner LLC	5	9	\$216,269.02
Northwood Pl Holdings LLC	2*	8	\$824,690.42

4 MAJOR TEXAS AIRPORT PROJECTS ADVANCE

Airports too are getting bigger in Texas: Several prominent ones are expanding further in the coming years, with new terminals, concourses and other infrastructure.

As the air travel industry continues to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, work previously put on hold is moving forward. Many airport upgrade projects are also getting a boost from the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, including \$2.89 billion in fiscal year 2023 and \$15 billion overall.

Here are four airport projects taking off soon in the Lone Star State:

\$6.5 BILLION WORTH OF PROJECTS AT AUSTIN-BERGSTROM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

As the city continues to grow, Austin's main airport has increasingly struggled to accommodate passengers, but it now has 61 projects worth \$6.5 billion planned over the next two decades to fix that. They include a new concourse with 10 additional gates that will connect to the main terminal by an underground tunnel, slated to break ground by 2030, as well as other expansions and upgrades. It is funded through bonds, the IIJA and other sources.

Construction has started on the \$165 million Barbara Jordan Terminal upgrades, which will bring three new gates, two relocated gates and new concessions and other facilities by spring 2026. In the longer term, three gates will be removed to build the tunnel connecting the terminal to the new concourse. Numerous builders are at work, according to the airport: Greeley, Colorado-based Hensel Phelps is doing Westside terminal expansion work, while Baltimore-headquartered Whiting-Turner is building the outbound baggage handling system and TSA improvements.

Other projects are also underway. The Gate 13 renovation will allow for more efficient bus operation and ground loading of planes. San Antonio, Texas-based Alpha Building Construction is doing the interior work and Hensel Phelps is doing exterior work. In addition, Kansas City, Missouri-based JE Dunn is building a new cargo facility.

Pre-design and building removal work is also underway on a new midfield concourse that will replace the South Terminal, according to the airport. Plans had been delayed by legal wrangling with a private terminal operator, which had sued to block the airport from taking over its space to accommodate the project. The City of Austin approved on June 1 the airport's offer to pay \$88 million to settle the dispute.

\$4.8 BILLION DALLAS-FORT WORTH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT EXPANSION

Dallas-Fort Worth International, the country's second-largest airport, recently announced an expansion as part of a 10-year use and lease agreement with American Airlines, which includes construction of a sixth terminal. The project also entails renovation of the existing Terminal C and other upgrades and will bring 24 new gates in total.

Design work was underway when COVID-19 hit and the project was put on hold, but it's now full steam ahead. The new Terminal F includes 15 new gates, and will cost an estimated \$1.63 billion. The expansion of the Central Terminal Area — including Terminal C, "pier" expansions off Terminal A and Terminal C and upgrades to roadways and terminal access — have a price tag of \$2.72 billion. Some funding comes from the IIJA.

Terminal F construction will start in the second half of 2024 and wrap by the end of 2026, according to the Dallas Morning News, while Terminal C will expand in three to four phases and be complete by 2028. The airport has not yet named contractors for any of the phases.

\$2.5 BILLION SAN ANTONIO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PROJECT

San Antonio International Airport plans to build a new terminal and upgrade runways, roads and parking as part of its 20-year, \$2.5 billion airport strategic development plan to keep up with growth. The new terminal will be bigger than the two existing terminals combined, with up to 17 gates. Pre-construction is expected to start in 2024 with a target completion date of March 2028.

The first of the projects will be smaller than the rest. Greeley, Colorado-based Hensel Phelps will design and build a new ground load facility, relocate an existing gate and create additional overnight parking for aircraft. Construction on this portion is scheduled to start in 2024 and be complete by 2025.

Other improvement projects include modernizing the outbound baggage handling system in terminals A and B, which is scheduled to be completed in November 2025. All the work will be paid for via funding from FAA grants, the IIJA, airport revenue and fees and airport bonds.

\$450 MILLION WEST CONCOURSE UPGRADE AT HOUSTON'S WILLIAM P. HOBBY AIRPORT

Southwest Airlines plans to expand Hobby Airport, a key gateway to the South-Central region of the U.S and to Latin America. The project will add seven more gates in the West Concourse, as well as new baggage claim carousels, upgrades to the baggage handling system and restrooms. The price tag for the updates are \$450 million, and will come from Houston Airports construction and improvement funds, a spokesperson for Houston Airports said in an email.

Construction work is scheduled to begin early next year, and is estimated to be complete in 2026. The project must still be approved by the Houston City Council, according to Houston Airports, and will likely take it up in the coming weeks. The airport has not yet selected contractors.

CONSTRUCTION BACKLOG HOLDS STEADY

In short, it looks like construction is holding its head above water, at least for now.

"Many aspects of the economy, including consumer spending and the labor market, held up better than expected in the second quarter," said Anirban Basu, chief economist for ABC, in a news release. "That bodes well for economic growth over the summer, but also suggests that the Federal Reserve may raise rates higher and keep them there longer in their ongoing efforts to suppress inflation."

The infrastructure numbers support the theory that construction could be spared the worst impacts of an expected recession as the Fed continues to slow the supply of money into the economy. It also aligns with comments from public construction company CEOs, who don't expect overall infrastructure spending to peak for another four years.

	June 2023	May 2023	June 2022	1-Month Net Change	12-Month Net Change
Total	8.9	8.9	8.9	0.0	0.0
		Industry			
Commercial & Institutional	9.0	9.2	9.4	-0.2	-0.4
Heavy Industrial	6.4	7.2	7.7	-0.8	-1.3
Infrastructure	11.2	9.3	7.9	1.9	3.3
		Region			
Middle States	8.9	7.5	8.3	1.4	0.6
Northeast	8.7	8.0	8.2	0.7	0.5
South	9.5	10.9	10.0	-1.4	-0.5
West	8.4	9.1	9.0	-0.7	-0.6
	C	ompany S	lize		
<\$30 Million	8.2	8.2	8.6	0.0	-0.4
\$30-\$50 Million	8.2	9.1	8.0	-0.9	0.2
\$50-\$100 Million	10.7	9.7	8.5	1.0	2.2
>\$100 Million	13.5	14.1	13.6	-0.6	-0.1
C Associated Builders and Contractors, Cons	struction Backlog	Indicator			

That could also explain why construction executives' outlook has remained positive overall, even as sectors that they rely on heavily for clients, such as technology, have felt the brunt of layoffs and slowing sales as economic activity begins to wane.

While posting an overall drop for the month, ABC's Construction Confidence Index in June remained above 50, meaning that construction owners still expect growth overall for sales, profit margins and staffing.

Indeed, the last time the outlook for any of those metrics as negative was 11 months ago, in July of 2022, when profit expectations came in at just 47.5. That number is now 53.2 in June, well in positive territory, while staffing expectations were at 60.2 and sales hopes remained high at 58.7.

"Backlog once again remained stable in June despite tight credit conditions and high interest rates," said Basu. "While those risk factors drove a decline in all three Construction Confidence Index series, contractors continue to signal an expectation that sales, profit margins and staffing will expand over the second half of 2023."

Response	June 2023	May 2023	June 2022
	CCI	Reading	
Sales	58.7	60.1	58.3
Profit Margins	53.2	55.1	49.4
Staffing	60.2	61.7	59.6
	Sales E	xpectations	
Up Big	7.1%	6.9%	10.4%
Up Small	46.2%	46.9%	43.0%
No Change	26.2%	29.7%	20.4%
Down Small	15.2%	13.1%	21.7%
Down Big	5.2%	3.4%	4.5%
	Profit Marg	in Expectations	
Up Big	2.9%	6.9%	3.2%
Up Small	32.4%	29.1%	32.6%
No Change	42.4%	45.1%	29.0%
Down Small	19.5%	15.4%	29.4%
Down Big	2.9%	3.4%	5.9%
	Staffing Lev	el Expectations	
Up Big	4.3%	4.6%	6.8%
Up Small	46.2%	48.6%	40.7%
No Change	38.1%	37.1%	38.0%
Down Small	9.0%	8.6%	13.1%
Down Big	2.4%	1.1%	1.4%

At the same time, Basu remained committed to his long-held belief that the Feds campaign for raising interest rates in its war on inflation will eventually translate into less momentum in the building sector.

"All else equal, that will reduce construction activity in the quarters to come," Basu said.



Construction Dive Graphics Courtesy of Associated Builders and Contractors

THE OVERVIEW EFFECT

I first heard of the "The Overview Effect" on a podcast I was listening to last week. For those that don't know it's essentially the mind-shift that happens for some astronauts when they see the World as a whole from space. I particularly like this definition from <u>reiki4innerpeace.com</u>:

The Overview Effect is a cognitive shift in awareness reported by some astronauts and cosmonauts during spaceflight, often while viewing the Earth from orbit or from the lunar surface. It refers to the experience of seeing firsthand the reality of the Earth in space, which is immediately understood to be a tiny, fragile ball of life, hanging in the void, shielded and nourished by a paper-thin atmosphere. From space, the astronauts tell us, national boundaries vanish, the conflicts that divide us become less important, and the need to create a planetary society with the united will to protect this "pale blue dot" becomes both obvious and imperative.

The past year of writing this newsletter and the conversations I've had (especially <u>this week's CM Mentors Podcast</u>) have led me to do a lot of thinking and pondering on the industry. I'll tell you when you do that you start to develop a similar Overview Effect of the industry as a whole. You see the company and trade lines dissolve and realize we are just a bunch of hardworking people trying our hardest to work together to build something (and make an honest living doing it).

I've also recently realized that I've had a cognitive shift on more of a project level since I came to the Owner's Rep side from the Subcontractor side. When you're on the subcontractor side you are at the bottom of the project hierarchy and in the weeds battling it out on a daily basis to complete your scope on time and within budget. You tend to put your blinders on and it can be hard to see the forest for the trees. It can be hard to be effective and valuable to the whole project team.

As an example, lets imagine you are asking for a change order from the GC. Without a higher-level perspective, you may not understand the GC typically has to then sell it to the Owner's Rep and Architect, who has to sell it to the Owner for final approval. This simple process understanding may change the way you prepare the document to explain the issue in a different or more detailed manner so it doesn't get stalled or inappropriately rejected by someone far removed from the weeds of the project.

When you can take a step back out of the weeds and see the whole project unfold from a higher level, it gives you a totally different perspective on things. Both tangible and philosophical things.

I hope by me sharing my perspectives that it keeps helping out the industry in this way. Particularly the subcontractors that are fighting the good fight to be the ones that are actually getting the projects built. While it ultimately takes the full project team, it's the trades subcontractors that are making the projects a physical reality. Not the Owners, Architects, CMs, or GCs. Those Trade Subcontractors have a special place in my heart for what they go through to get the job done.

If you are a subcontractor and are interested in hearing what I'm working on to support that side shoot me an email. I'd love to bounce a couple of ideas off you.

Source: Construction Curiosities #54 By Matthew Graves, The Construction Yeti <u>matt@constructionyeti.com</u>

OUR ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP

Eric Hernandez - USI Southwest President Membership Committee Chair

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Debbie Parker - King of Texas Roofing Secretary Safety Committee Chair

George McGraw - PlainsCapital Bank Treasurer Government Affairs Committee Chair

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Matthew Singel - Anderson Paving Director

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Spike Cutler - Cutler-Smith, P.C. Legal Counsel scutler@cutler-smith.com

How Can You Help SAM?

We need committee members to help brainstorm and execute new ideas that the committees decide to implement in SAM.

This Association was created for YOU, the subcontractors in Dallas-Fort Worth. Your involvement is the key to your getting what you want from SAM!

Contact Carrie to sign up as a committee member.

Subcontractors Association of the Metroplex Carrie Buckley, Executive Director P.O. Box 210261 | Bedford, Texas 76095 817.266.1909



