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<https://www.bizjournals.com/columbus/news/2026/06/12/general-contractors-grow-despite-economic-concerns.html>

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Central Ohio contractor growth spikes with 2025 mega-projects



Image: Brackett Builders

Brackett Builders Vice President Michael Hoying said multifamily and mixed-use development were among the most active sectors for the contractor last year.

BRACKETT BUILDERS

By [Grace McCormick](#) – Researcher, Columbus Business FirstJun 12, 2026 **Updated** Jun 12, 2026 7:51am EDT

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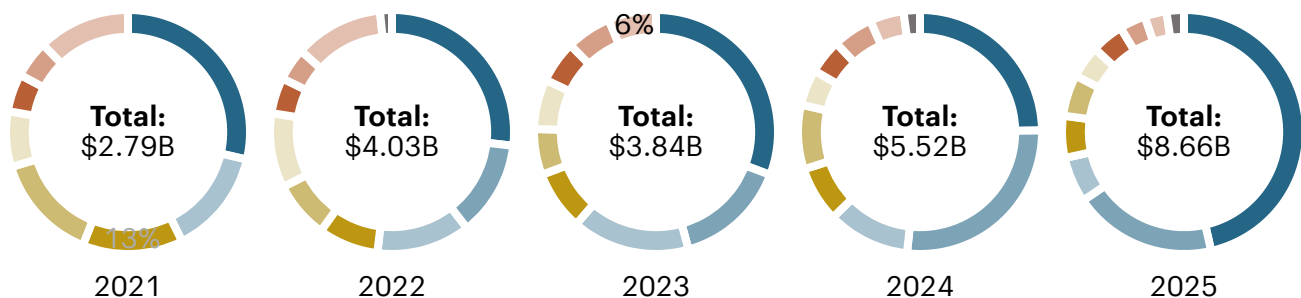
One lesson from large general contractors last year is clear: the companies billing the most in Central Ohio are the ones growing their project values the fastest. That held true even in the face of economic concerns.

Turner Construction Co., the top biller in Central Ohio, reported invoices of more than \$4 billion in 2025, a 194% billing increase from the year before. That result was more than double the billings of second-ranked Holder Construction.

WHO DOMINATES CENTRAL OHIO GENERAL CONTRACTING?

The top two general contractors by gross billings for Central Ohio offices made up 51% of total local billings reported among 40 firms in 2025. The top 10 firms make up nearly 80% of total local billings reported. Local billings include all work done by offices in Central Ohio, regardless of where the project is located.

Turner Construction Company
 Holder Construction
 Elford Inc.
 CK Construction Group
 Ruscilli Construction Co. LLC
 Pepper Construction Company of Ohio LLC
 DRK & Company / Metro Development
 Woda Cooper Companies Inc.
 Gilbane Building Company
 Barton Malow Builders



Note: Holder Construction 2021 billings and some Barton Malow Builders billings not available.

SOURCE: COLUMBUS BUSINESS FIRST RESEARCH

Turner, headquartered in New York, is the lead contractor on Amgen’s [\\$900 million expansion](#) of its biologic medicine manufacturing plant in New Albany. It was also one of the companies in charge of constructing the new hospital tower at [Ohio State University’s Wexner Medical Center](#), which opened in February.

The 35 general contractors that reported figures in 2024 and 2025 for their Central Ohio offices experienced average billings growth of 24%, according to *Columbus Business First* research.

Tenby Construction saw a 214% increase in billings from 2024. The 130,500-square-foot [Mill Run Innovation Center](#), purchased by OhioHealth in December, was among its largest construction projects.

THE LIST

General Contractors

Gross billings for Central Ohio offices, 2025

Rank	Prior Rank	Company name/ prior rank
1	2	Turner Construction Company
2	1	Holder Construction
3	3	Elford Inc.
View This List		

Though many general contractors fared well in Central Ohio, construction projects delivered mixed results on the national scale. According to the [Associated General Contractors of America](#), public infrastructure and data centers saw

increased spending and construction from last year, while private company spending dropped from January 2025 to January 2026.

“Association officials said that while public sector investments continue to support construction activity, ongoing uncertainty around trade policy, financing conditions and labor availability is weighing on private sector demand,” the group said in a March press release.

Half of the contractors that responded to a *Business First* poll about business conditions this year said economic and policy concerns for the future included tariffs and availability of small business funding. Four contractors mentioned potential labor shortages and employee retention concerns, and two listed project delays or owners having “cold feet” on project proposals.

Michael Hoying, vice president of Crawford Hoying subsidiary Brackett Builders, said the Dayton-based company was able to keep a steady pipeline of work across multiple sectors despite economic concerns.

“Like many contractors, our biggest challenges continued to be market uncertainty and managing cost volatility across certain trades and materials,” he said. “However, through early coordination with our clients and trade partners, we were able to proactively manage many of those risks and keep projects moving forward.”

That communication helped Brackett work with clients to match the scope of projects to their budgets, Hoying said. He noted that a number of projects last year included extensive time evaluating design options prior to construction.

“The earlier a contractor is involved, the more opportunities there are to make informed decisions before costs are locked in,” he said. “Early collaboration allows owners, architects, engineers and contractors to align ... before significant resources are invested.”

Nationally, contractors expect to complete more data centers, power infrastructure and healthcare projects in 2026, with higher project value compared to 2025, according to an Associated General Contractors outlook survey. Meanwhile, contractors predict declining project values in the retail, private office and lodging sectors.

Brackett saw billings decrease from 2024 to 2025, but Hoying said he remains optimistic for 2026.

“Demand for well-planned housing, hospitality and mixed-use developments across Ohio remains strong,” he said. “For us, multifamily and mixed-use development have been the most active sectors this year, particularly in Central Ohio and the greater Dayton region. We’ve also continued to see opportunities in the financial institution space and hospitality projects.

“We expect these trends to continue. While economic conditions and financing costs remain factors, the long-term population growth and housing needs remain strong.”