What public works cost — November 2026

Ten items that public agencies price in many states, from 3,929 winning bids awarded in the last 12 months. Awarded unit prices, not quotes: every number links to its receipts.

The ten items

ITEM	MEDIAN, LAST 12 MONTHS	MIDDLE HALF	CHANGE VS. PRIOR 12 MONTHS	MONTH OVER MONTH	NORTHEAST	MIDWEST	SOUTH	WEST	LOCAL VS. STATE DOT	WINNING BIDS (STATES)
Silt Fence per linear foot	$3.00	$2.00–$4.00	0.0%	+4.2%	– n=5	$2.48 n=636	$4.07 n=205	$4.00 n=39	not enough local awards	885 (15)
Unclassified Excavation per cubic yard	$26.00	$14.01–$49.60	+4.0%	-20.8%	– n=2	$18.60 n=92	$28.50 n=193	$32.60 n=61	+476.0% $144.00 local vs $25.00 DOT	348 (14)
Clearing AND Grubbing per acre	$12,000	$5,250–$25,000	+20.0%	+25.0%	– n=4	$11,000 n=219	$18,750 n=36	$16,527 n=52	not enough local awards	311 (14)
Topsoil per cubic yard	$36.08	$16.41–$65.00	-9.8%	not enough lettings	$59.00 n=29	$13.00 n=78	$40.00 n=94	$95.00 n=31	-29.0% $28.00 local vs $39.44 DOT	232 (13)
Rock Excavation per cubic yard	$53.31	$28.81–$161.08	-3.1%	-7.0%	$89.75 n=29	$49.56 n=96	– n=5	– n=8	not enough local awards	138 (12)

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Structural Steel per pound	$9.37	$4.75–$22.00	+33.9%	not enough lettings	– n=8	$6.65 n=78	– n=15	– n=6	not enough local awards	107 (12)
Structure Excavation per cubic yard	$48.05	$25.00–$70.00	+20.1%	not enough lettings	– n=17	$49.34 n=102	$25.88 n=66	– n=16	not enough local awards	201 (10)
Tack Coat per gallon	$3.50	$2.40–$4.87	0.0%	+6.0%	– n=14	$3.20 n=409	$3.75 n=765	– n=0	+25.7% $4.40 local vs $3.50 DOT	1,188 (9)
Mowing per acre	$125.00	$70.00–$300.00	-10.7%	0.0%	– n=1	$154.00 n=89	$115.00 n=243	– n=0	not enough local awards	333 (9)
Lime per ton	$304.84	$139.50–$450.00	-6.2%	-2.9%	– n=0	– n=11	$302.00 n=175	– n=0	not enough local awards	186 (9)

How to read this

- **Median, last 12 months**: the middle awarded unit price of winning bids let in the 12 months before the report month; *middle half* is the 25th to 75th percentile.
- **Change vs. prior 12 months**: that median against the 12 months before it, where each period has at least 20 winning bids.
- **Month over month**: the median of the latest three months of lettings against the three months ending one month earlier, shown only where each window has at least 20 winning bids; otherwise “not enough lettings”. Many agencies post tabulations weeks after a letting, so the latest months fill in later.
- **Regions** are the four US Census regions; a region is shown only with 20 or more winning bids.
- **Local vs. state DOT**: the median awarded to cities, counties, districts, authorities and utilities against the median awarded by state DOTs for the same item (last 12 months, or the last 24 where local awards are thin).

- Medians are not adjusted for quantity, spec or location within a state, and are not quotes. Winning bids only; losing bids and engineer’s estimates are never counted.

Receipts

Every figure above is computed from winning bids on the item page linked in its row. The three most recent source documents behind each item:

- **Silt Fence**: KDOT, 2026-10-21; KDOT, 2026-10-21; KDOT, 2026-10-21
- **Unclassified Excavation**: WYDOT, 2026-10-08; WYDOT, 2026-10-08; WYDOT, 2026-10-08
- **Clearing AND Grubbing**: Iowa DOT, 2026-10-20; Iowa DOT, 2026-10-20; Iowa DOT, 2026-10-20
- **Topsoil**: Vermont Agency of Transportation, 2026-09-25; City of Fort Worth, 2026-09-17; WisDOT, 2026-09-15
- **Rock Excavation**: KDOT, 2026-10-21; KDOT, 2026-10-21; KDOT, 2026-10-21
- **Structural Steel**: Iowa DOT, 2026-10-20; Iowa DOT, 2026-10-20; Iowa DOT, 2026-10-20
- **Structure Excavation**: DelDOT, 2026-09-29; Mississippi Department of Transportation, 2026-09-29; Mississippi Department of Transportation, 2026-09-22
- **Tack Coat**: TxDOT (Dallas district), 2026-10-14; TxDOT (Dallas district), 2026-10-07; TxDOT (Fort Worth district), 2026-10-07
- **Mowing**: Iowa DOT, 2026-10-20; FDOT (District 1), 2026-09-30; FDOT (District 2), 2026-09-30
- **Lime**: KDOT, 2026-10-21; KDOT, 2026-10-21; ARDOT, 2026-09-23

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