

# RLB CRANE INDEX®

North America - Q1 2024

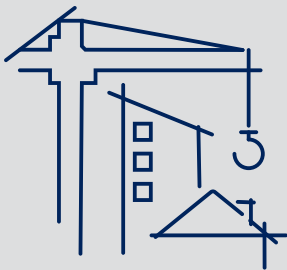


## OVERALL STATUS

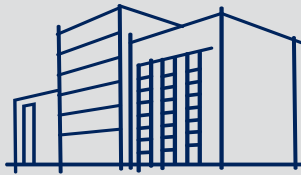


## LEGEND

- Increase in number of cranes
- Decrease in number of cranes
- Crane numbers steady



The overall crane count has decreased 9%.



Mixed-Use cranes are down 12% (or 13 cranes) collectively, in the cities surveyed.



7 of the 14 cities surveyed saw a significant decrease (of greater than 20%) from their previous count.

## WHAT IS THE RLB CRANE INDEX®?

Rider Levett Bucknall's Crane Index® for North America is published biannually. It tracks the number of operating tower cranes in 14 major cities across the U.S. and Canada.

Our index was the first of its kind, and unlike other industry barometers that track cost and other financial data, the Crane Index® tracks the number of fixed cranes on construction sites and gives a simplified measure of the current state of the construction industry's workload in each location.

## Q1 2024 SUMMARY:

The beginning of 2024 shows a continued downward trend in cranes counts, as many projects approach completion at a slower rate than new projects are breaking ground. Majority of the cranes continue to be stationed at residential or mixed-use projects, making up 73% of the overall count.

This survey reports a decrease of 9% (43 cranes) from our Q3 2023 edition of the RLB Crane Index®. More notably, cranes are down 18% from the same time last year (a difference of 94 cranes). Of the fourteen cities surveyed: seven experienced a decrease of greater than 20%; three increased; and four held steady.

Despite the continued downturn in cranes, we remain cautiously optimistic. Ongoing investment in manufacturing and infrastructure will help offset any decline in privately funded projects in 2024. Overall, construction spending will be driven by public funding for manufacturing and infrastructure projects.

**67%**

Los Angeles experiences a 67% increase (20 cranes) from Q3 2023.



The three top sectors across all cities are Commercial (11%), Mixed-Use (22%), and Residential (51%).

**-42%**

Denver experiences a 42% decrease (from 24 to 14 cranes).

KEY SECTORS	
CIVIL	
COMMERCIAL	
CULTURAL	
EDUCATION	
FEDERAL GOVT.	
HEALTHCARE	
HOSPITALITY	
INDUSTRIAL	
MIXED-USE	
PUBLIC/CIVIC	
PUBLIC ASSEMBLY	
RESIDENTIAL	
SPORT	
TRANSPORTATION	
OTHER	

**BOSTON**

The mixed-use sector continues to dominate our crane count for Q1 2024, with over 60% of crane activity. Overall, counts are down from the highs of Q3 2023, though continuing to show plenty of activity in the Allston/Brighton and Fenway regions. Interestingly, the South Boston Waterfront only accounts for one of the tower cranes — at the 10 World Trade development —down from four in the previous count.

**CALGARY**

This quarter, one new tower crane was erected in Calgary, and most of the city’s cranes are being used for residential projects. Despite concerns about a labor shortage in the city’s construction sector, housing starts in Calgary have reached record highs as last year, the City of Calgary received 21,317 applications for building permits, contributing \$5.96 billion in residential and non-residential construction value to Calgary’s economy.

**CHICAGO**

There are currently three tower cranes that are still serving building projects in Q1 2024, down from six in the previous quarter. While the decrease in cranes reflects the fact that new construction projects are decreasing, the one location leading greater Chicago in development is the Fulton Market area. Most of the construction projects with cranes are residential, bringing nearly 500 new residential units to the city.

**DENVER**

Between Q1 2024 and Q3 2023, the number of cranes counted in the central Denver area decreased sharply to 14, compared to 24. In previous submissions, the Denver crane count was strongly bolstered

by a high number of residential projects, particularly in the River North neighborhood. While multi-family residential construction remains strong in the Denver metropolitan area, many of these current projects are outside central Denver.

**HONOLULU**

The crane count in Honolulu has stayed steady since the previous quarter and remains at 12 cranes. Among these, four cranes have been newly deployed within the past six months, serving residential and mixed-use developments. Meanwhile, another four were decommissioned from projects that have either been completed or are nearing completion. Ongoing projects include a variety of mixed-use residential developments that are helping to meet the housing demand, and a recent infusion of federal funds is supporting large-scale municipal and defense construction initiatives..

**LAS VEGAS**

Las Vegas is experiencing significant growth and development in 2024, with new casinos, construction projects, and major events on the horizon. Bally’s Tropicana, ceasing operations this spring to make way for a new \$1.5B Major League Baseball stadium that can seat 30,000 fans, is set to open in 2028. Dream Las Vegas’ financing issues halted construction in early 2023 but should start again shortly. The Downtown Las Vegas district remains vibrant, with additional mixed-use projects starting near the arts district. Residential housing is seeing a significant influx of new construction in the Northwest, Southwest, and Henderson areas.

## LOS ANGELES

The number of cranes in Los Angeles has bounced back from the decline in the second half of 2023. Due to the tight lender market, mixed-use, residential, and commercial projects show an uptick after a pause. Several museums are under major construction, including the complete overhaul of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Transportation remains stagnant as roadways and underground work continue to be constructed, negating the need for cranes.

## NEW YORK CITY

Since last quarter, New York City's crane count has decreased from eight to five tower cranes. In previous periods, Hudson Yards dominated the crane count; however, major construction has concluded in this area, and all five of the cranes currently being used are found between 59th Street and 12th Street and 2nd Avenue and 12th Avenue. These are primarily mixed-use projects, which continue to make up the majority of the use of these cranes.

## PHOENIX

Overall, in Phoenix, demand for residential and mixed-use buildings remains high, with the addition of two new high-rise, mixed-use residential projects now under construction. Work was halted at the site of one high-rise residential project several months ago and has yet to resume. Additionally, one parking garage is under construction to support increased parking demand in the downtown Phoenix area.

## PORTLAND

The Portland crane count is down five from the previous quarter, which can be attributed mainly to seasonal slowdowns driven by challenging Pacific Northwest winter weather. Planning and design activity

in Portland remains solid, and unemployment is low, so crane activity should increase as spring arrives. Several large infrastructure projects are ongoing, including light rail and utility boring beneath the Willamette River, which uses mobile cranes.

## SAN FRANCISCO

While crane activity has decreased in San Francisco, nine cranes are still in use this quarter. The decrease in tower cranes can be attributed to the completion of numerous projects. Still, many new projects are charted, particularly in the residential sector, which aligns with the San Francisco Bay Area's push for housing. Of note is that the Southeast Treatment Plant project continues to use the most cranes on any one project in the city.

## SEATTLE

The Seattle crane count has continued to fall over the past six months, with a decrease of seven cranes, which were primarily commercial and residential projects. The largest reduction in cranes was in downtown Seattle, with residential projects progressing past the need for cranes. Several new projects have started in the Lower Queen Anne, Fremont, Northgate, and South Lake Union areas.

## TORONTO

The crane count in Toronto has decreased 19 cranes from the last report to a current total of 221\* cranes (we report that it is holding steady, as the percentage change is only 8%; we denote a decrease in cranes activity at 20% or more). It is worth noting that the first quarter of 2024 has set a record by marking the lowest number of cranes in Toronto since 2022, signaling a slowdown in overall construction activity. With multiple commercial building projects ending, the commercial sector saw

the most significant drop, with a reduction of ten cranes, and the hospitality sector decreased by five. Contrary to those declines, the residential sector continues to grow, with residential and mixed-use projects continuing to dominate the crane count, accounting for over 80 percent of the total cranes.

*\*Starting Q3 2024, Toronto will report on an altered survey area. We will be implementing a revised radius for crane counting, prioritizing the downtown core area, which has the highest density of construction projects. The revised radius is 3.5km from the Bloor St W and Avenue Rd center. As of Q1 2024, this core area contributes to approximately 35% of the overall Toronto crane count (80 cranes).*

## WASHINGTON, D.C.

Activity in Washington, D.C., has slowed, with hospitality, residential, cultural, and mixed-use sector projects nearing completion. The Buzzard Point neighborhood is staying busy with new residential and mixed-use projects that are continuing to happen. New projects continue to pop up across the District, and we anticipate seeing more housing and commercial projects starting later this year.

## LOCATIONS

### NORTH AMERICA

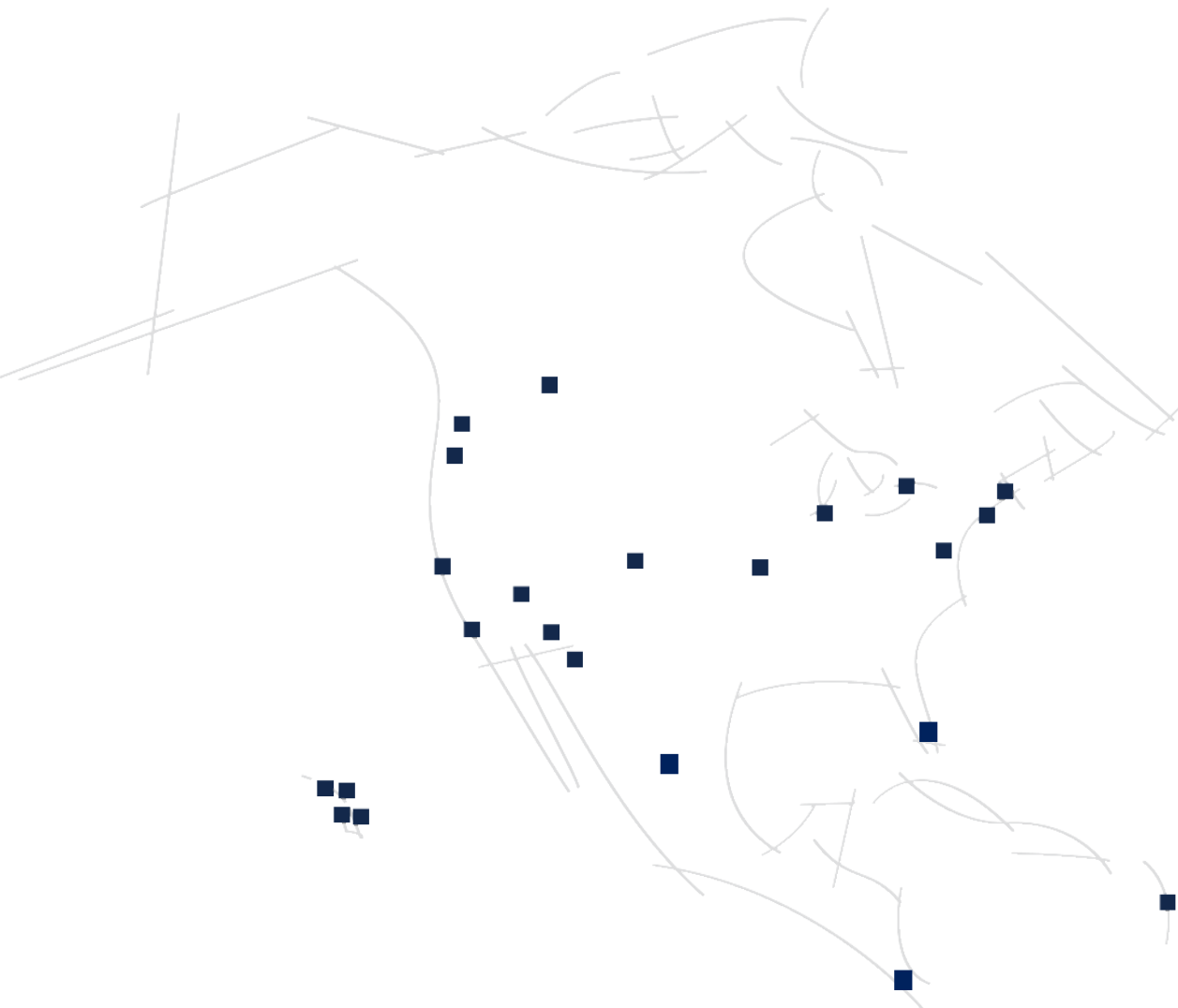
Boston  
Calgary  
Chicago  
Denver  
Hilo  
Honolulu  
Kansas City  
Las Vegas  
Los Angeles  
Maui  
Miami  
New York  
Phoenix  
Portland  
San Francisco  
San Jose  
Seattle  
Toronto  
Tucson  
Waikoloa  
Washington, DC  
Mexico City

### CARIBBEAN

St. Lucia

### SOUTH AMERICA

Colombia



## CONTACT

PAUL BRUSSOW  
+1 808 521 2641  
paul.brussow@us.rlb.com

TARYN HARBERT  
+1 602 443 4848  
taryn.harbert@us.rlb.com