

# Architecture Billings Index (ABI)

August 2017

The Architecture Billings Index (ABI) is a diffusion index derived from the monthly Work-on-the-Boards survey, conducted by the AIA Economics & Market Research Group. The ABI serves as a leading economic indicator that leads nonresidential construction activity by approximately 9–12 months. The survey panel asks participants whether their billings increased, decreased, or stayed the same in the month that just ended. According to the proportion of respondents choosing each option, a score is generated, which represents an index value for each month. An index score of 50 represents no change in firm billings from the previous month, a score above 50 indicates an increase in firm billings from the previous month, and a score below 50 indicates a decline in firm billings from the previous month.

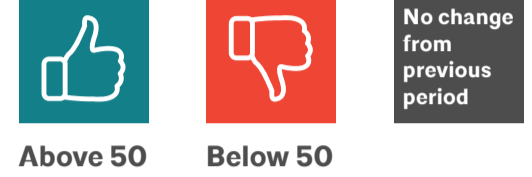
\*All graphs represent data from August 2016–August 2017.

## ABI

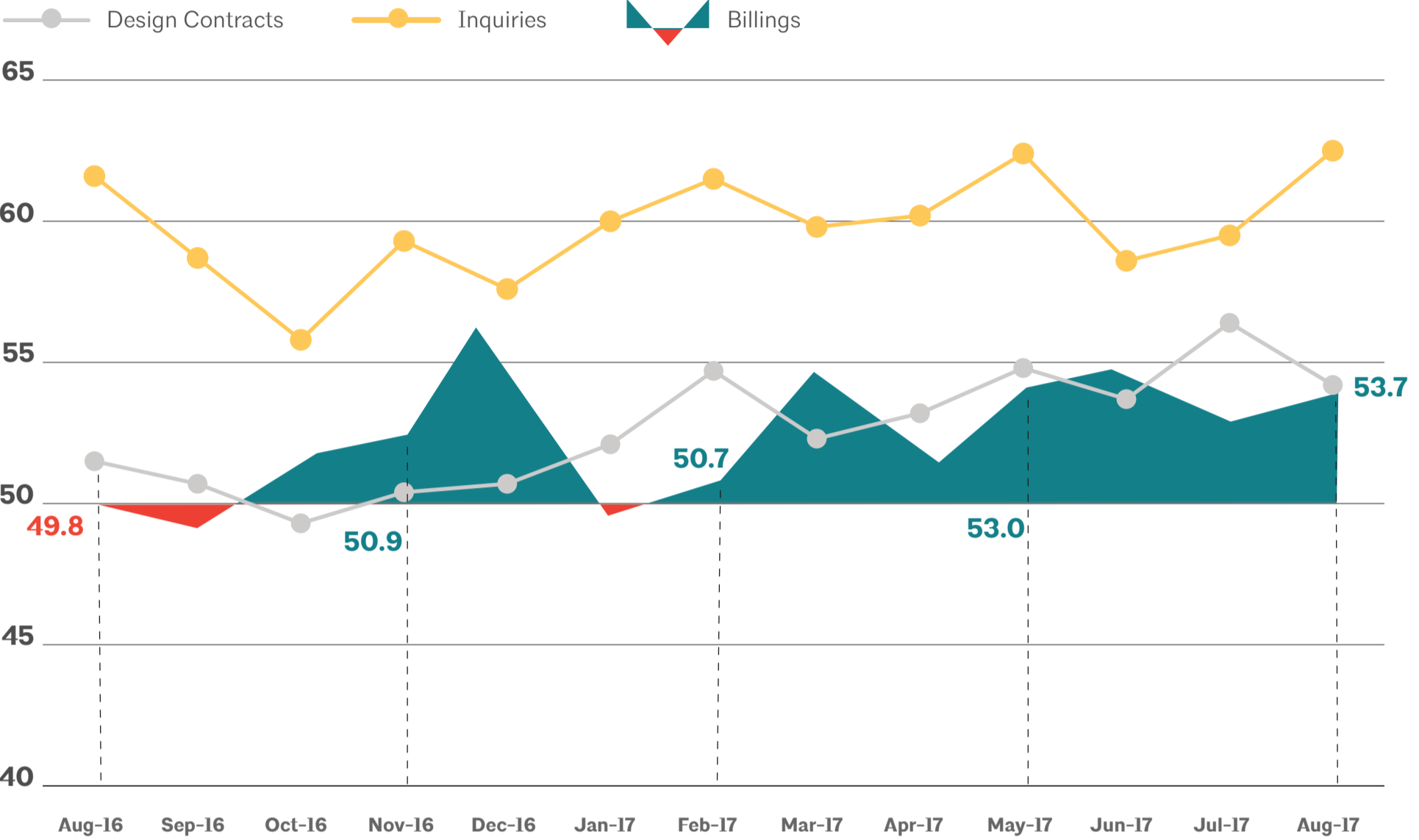
National      Regional      Sector      Practice

### National

Architecture firm billings continue to grow in August



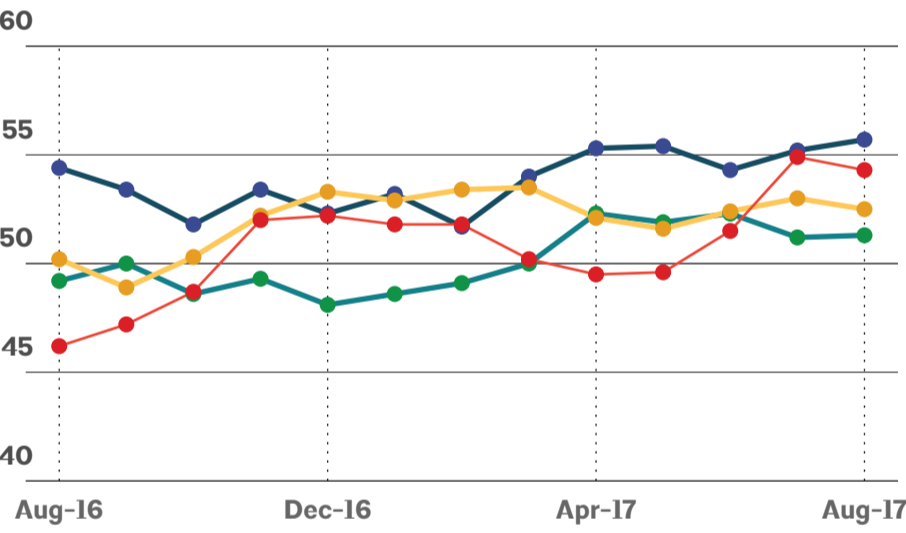
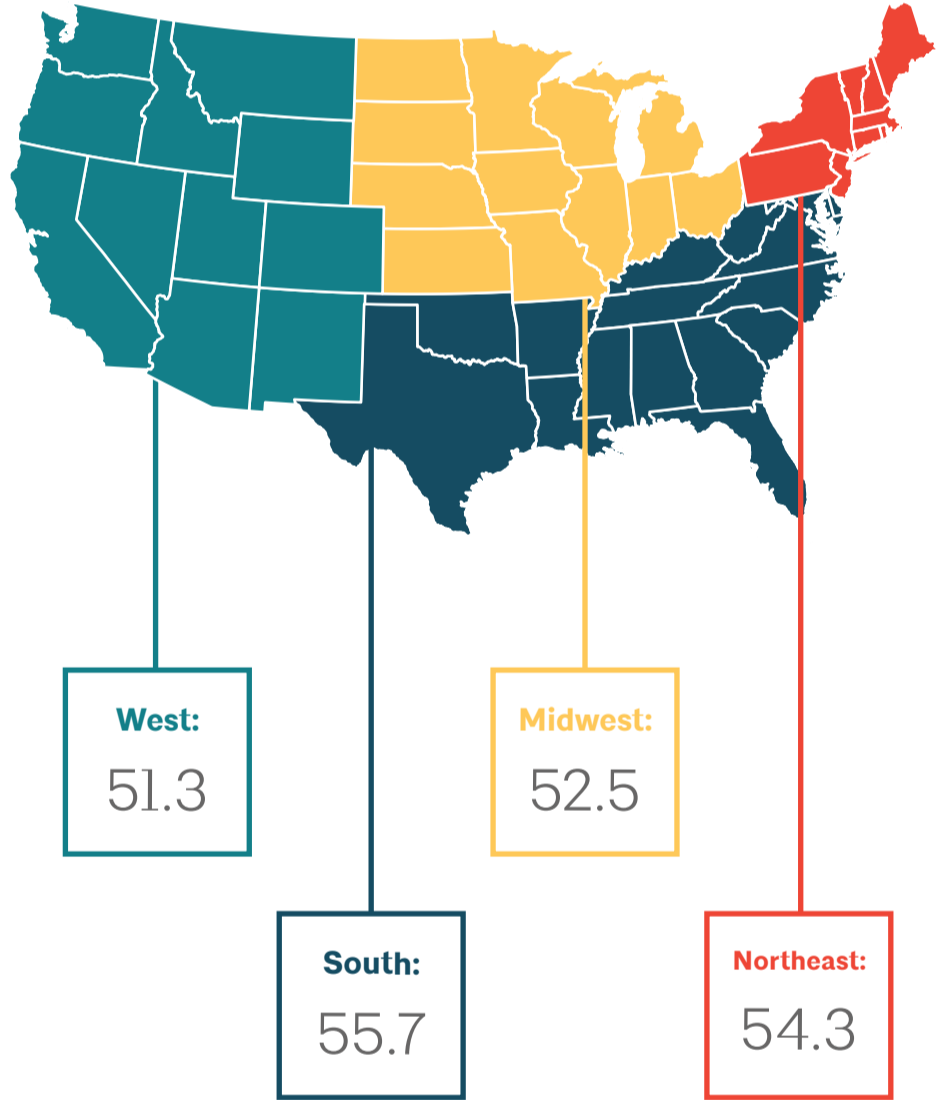
Graphs represent data from August 2016–August 2017.



### Regional

Business conditions improve in all regions of the country for third consecutive month

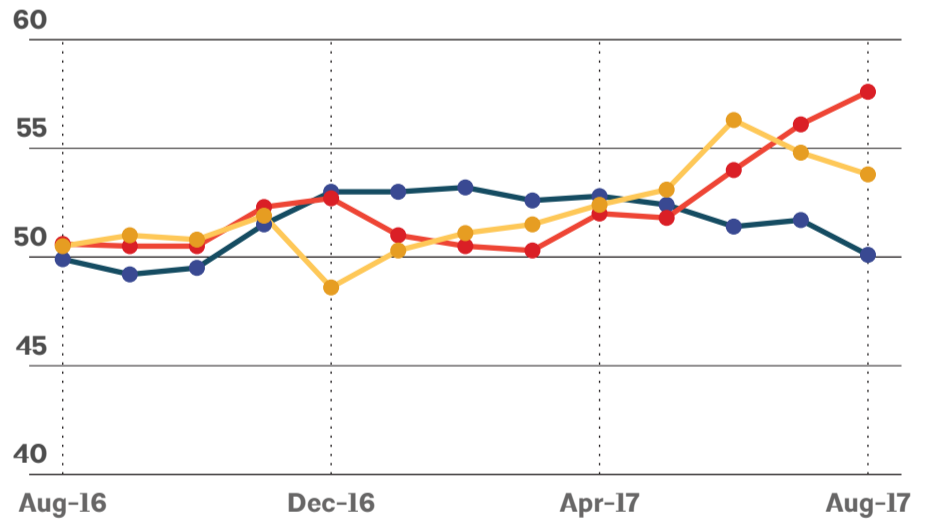
Graphs represent data from August 2016–August 2017 across the four regions. 50 represents the diffusion center. A score of 50 equals no change from the previous month. Above 50 shows increase; Below 50 shows decrease. 3-month moving average.



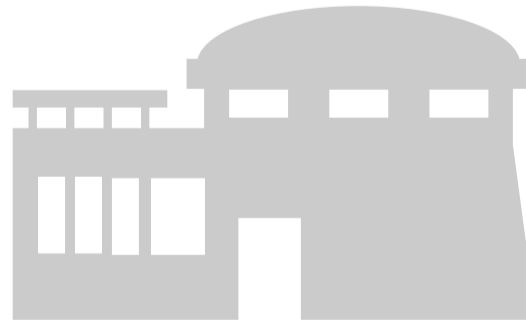
### Sector

Firms of all specializations continue to report billings growth

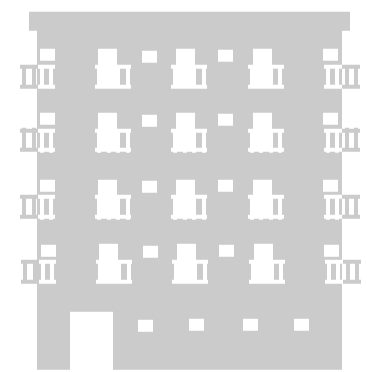
Graphs represent data from August 2016–August 2017 across the three sectors. 50 represents the diffusion center. A score of 50 equals no change from the previous month. Above 50 shows increase; Below 50 shows decrease. 3-month moving average.



**Commercial/Industrial: 57.6**



**Institutional: 50.1**



**Residential: 53.8**

### Practice

Large firms most likely to experience an increase in change orders in recent years.

Units: % of firms reporting that the frequency of change orders (for all reasons, from all sources) for projects at their firm increased somewhat or a lot in the last five years

