

Architecture Billings Index (ABI)

September 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 September 2016–September 2017.

ABI

National Regional Sector Practice

National

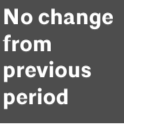
Architecture firm billings decline modestly in September



Above 50

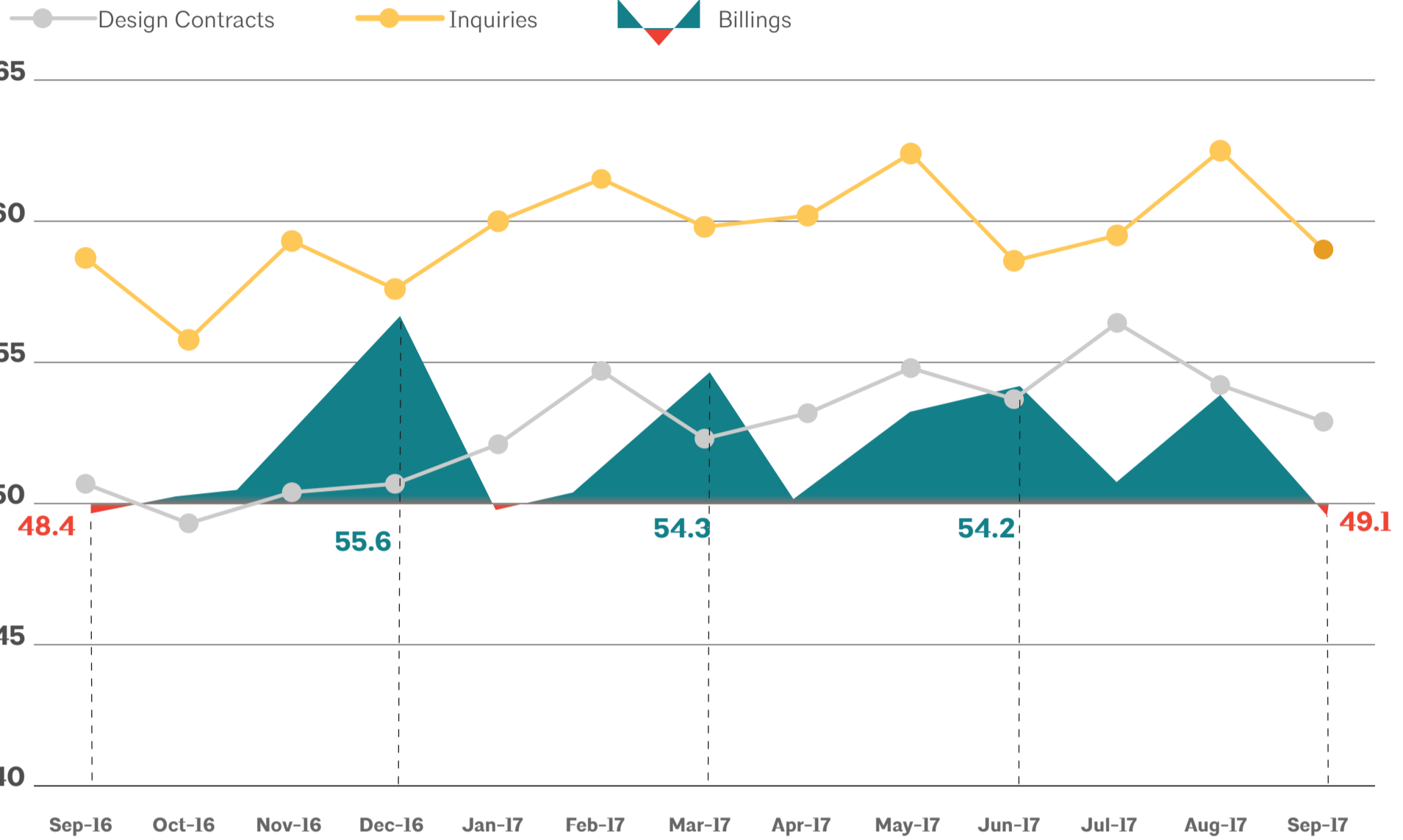


Below 50



No change from previous period

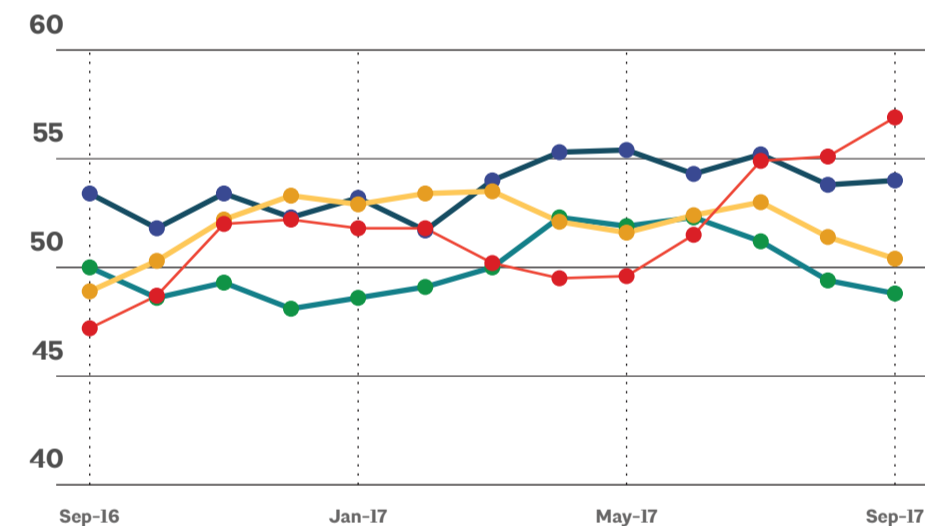
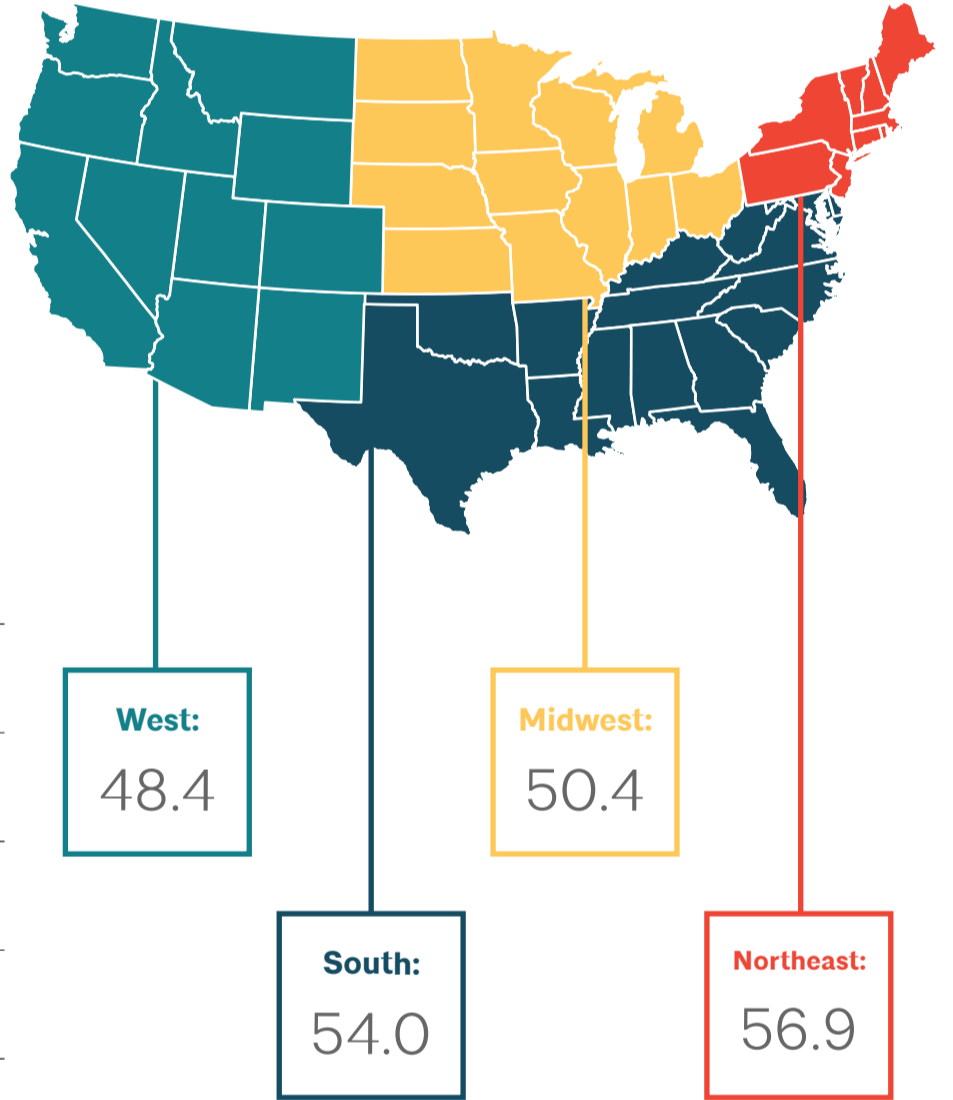
Graphs represent data from September 2016–September 2017.



Regional

Business conditions soften at firms located in the West

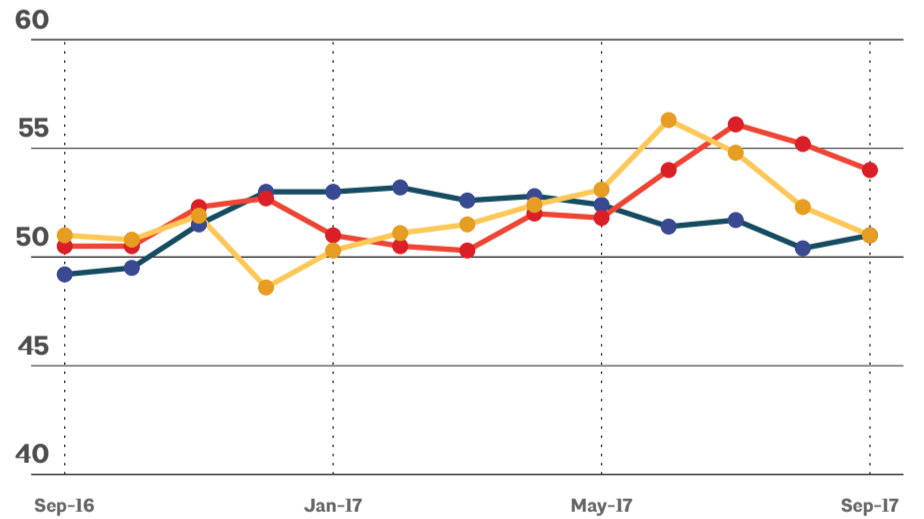
Graphs represent data from September 2016–September 2017 across the four regions. 50 represents the diffusion center. A score of 50 equals no change from the previous month. Above 50 shows increase; Below 50 shows decrease. 3-month moving average.



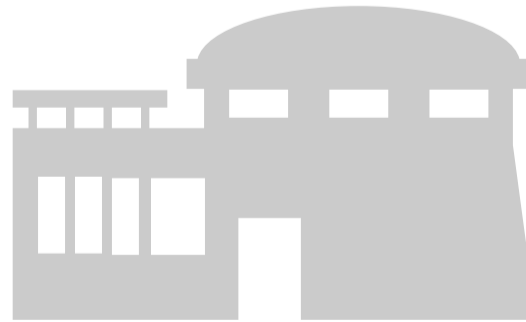
Sector

Firms with a commercial/industrial specialization continue to report strong billings

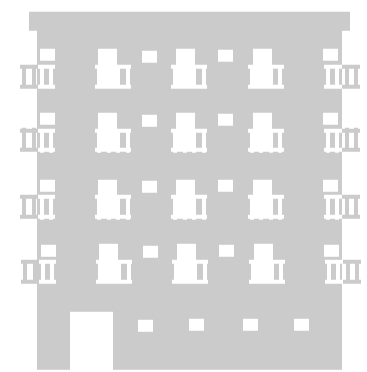
Graphs represent data from September 2016–September 2017 across the three sectors. 50 represents the diffusion center. A score of 50 equals no change from the previous month. Above 50 shows increase; Below 50 shows decrease. 3-month moving average.



Commercial/Industrial: 54.0



Institutional: 51.0



Residential: 51.0

Practice

Architecture firms in the South most likely to report that their communities have taken steps to mitigate the impact of natural disasters and increase resiliency

Units: % of firms indicating that their city/community has taken steps in recent years to mitigate the impact of natural disasters, or to improve the resiliency of the local area, by region of the country where responding firm is located

