

Architecture Billings Index (ABI)

March 2018

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 March 2017–March 2018.

ABI

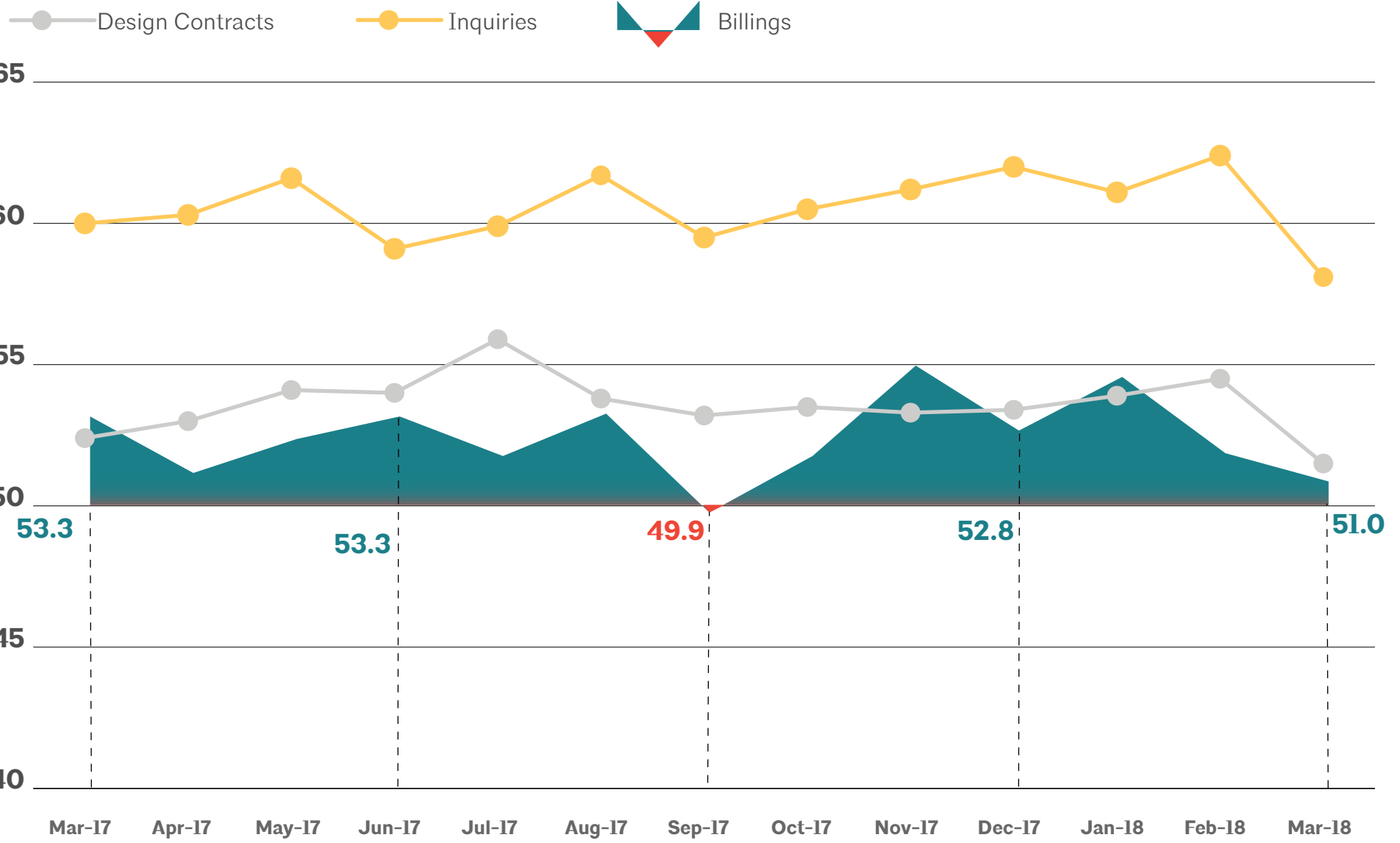
National Regional Sector Practice

National

Architecture firms report that billings continue to grow in March, although at a slightly slower pace



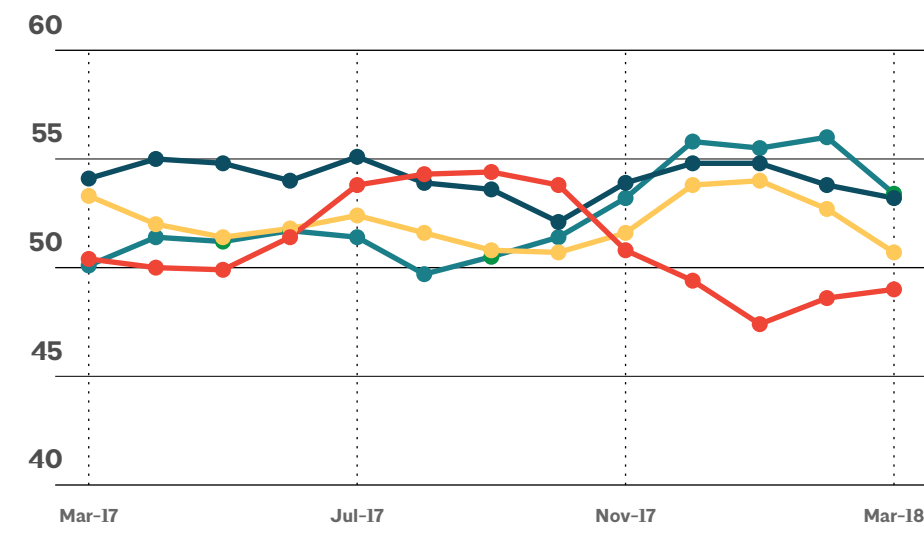
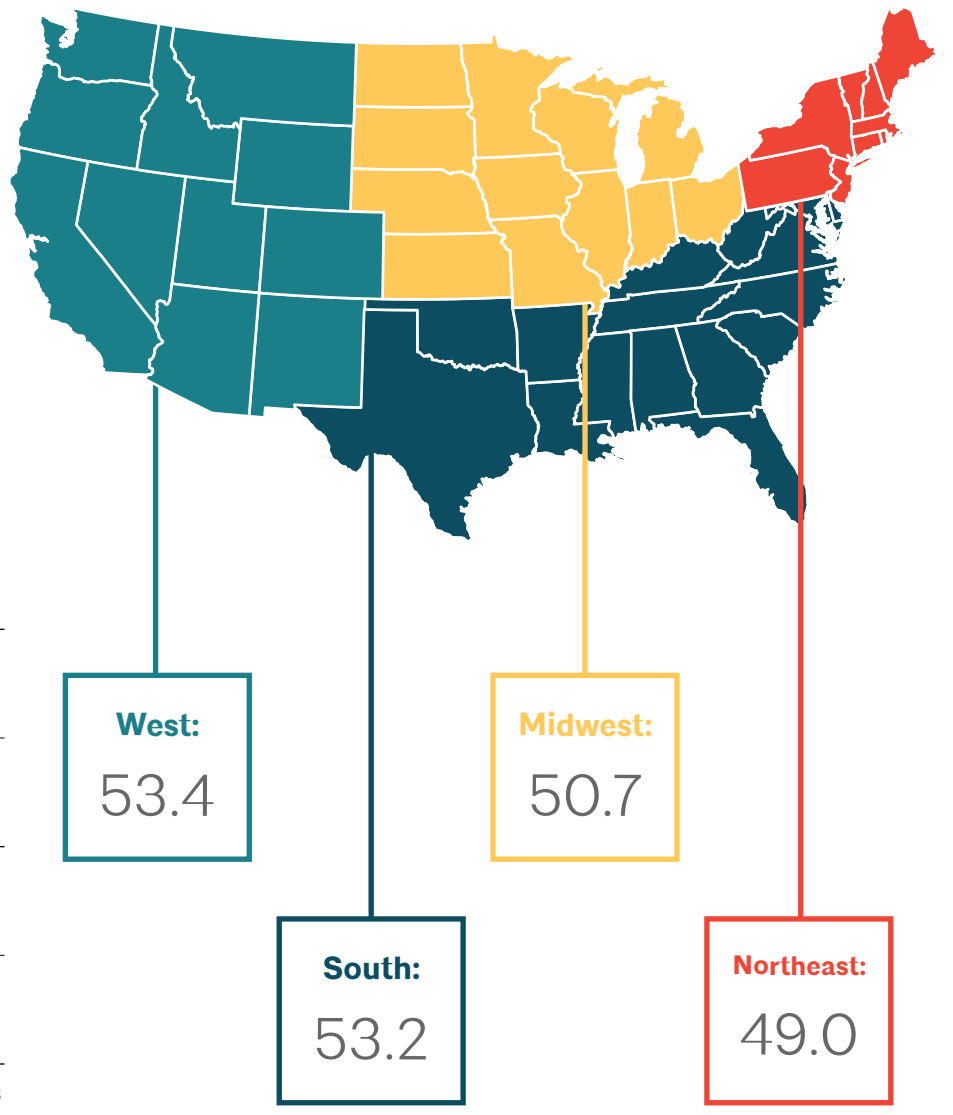
Graphs represent data from March 2017–March 2018.



Regional

Business conditions remain strong at firms located in the West and South regions

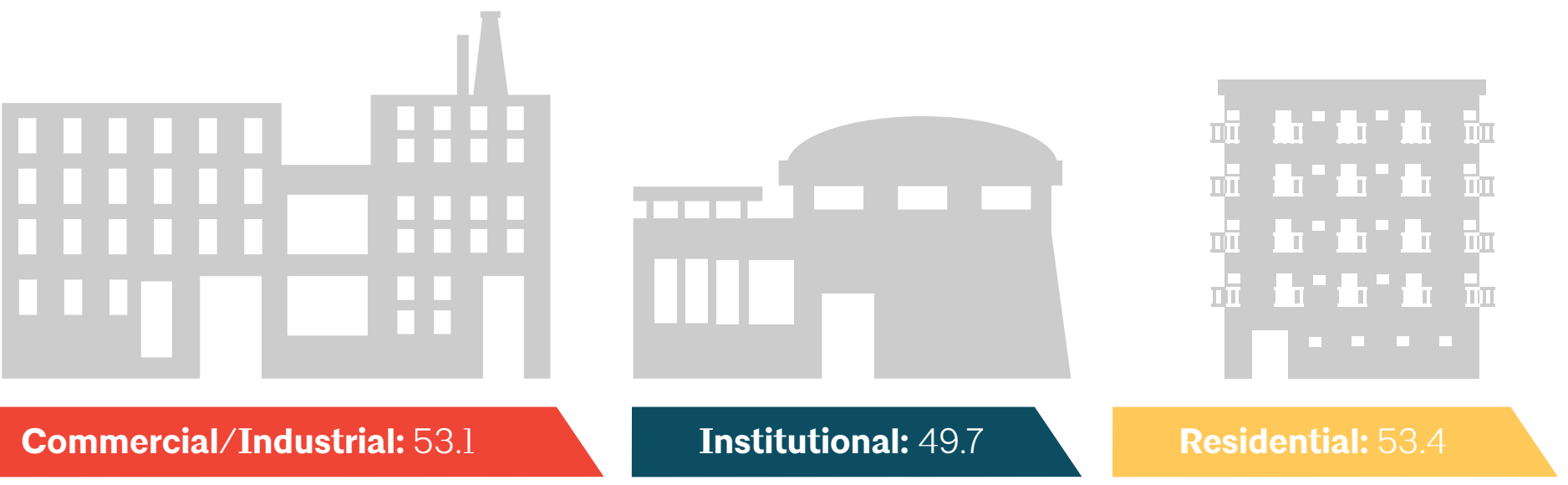
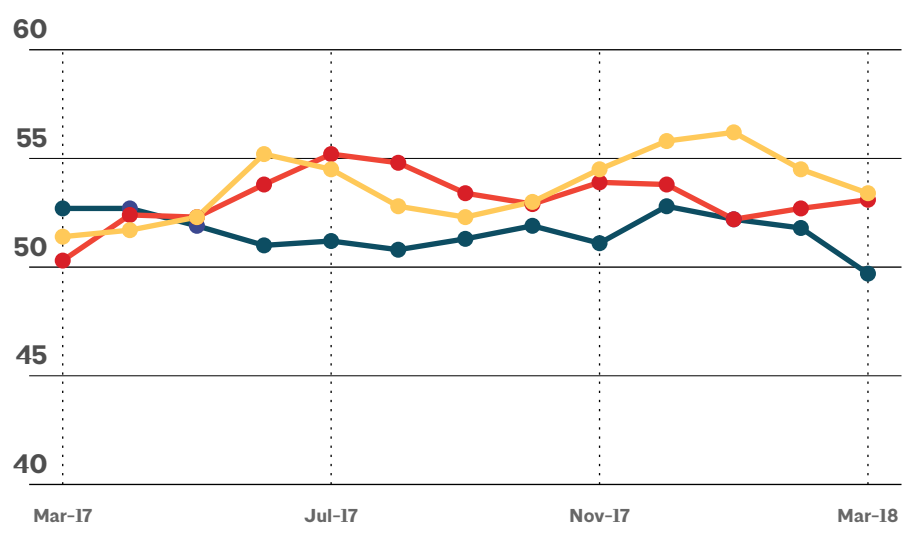
Graphs represent data from March 2017–March 2018 across the four regions. 50 represents the diffusion center. A score of 50 equals no change from the previous month. Above 50 shows increase; Below 50 shows decrease. 3-month moving average.



Sector

Billings remain strong at firms with multifamily residential, commercial/industrial specializations

Graphs represent data from March 2017–March 2018 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.



Practice

Architecture firms predict that rising construction costs for projects is the most likely outcome from planned U.S. tariffs on imported steel and aluminum

units: % of firms that anticipate an impact on current and future projects at their firm from the planned U.S. tariffs on imported steel and aluminum, likelihood of potential outcome resulting from tariffs

