

Architecture Billings Index (ABI)

April 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.

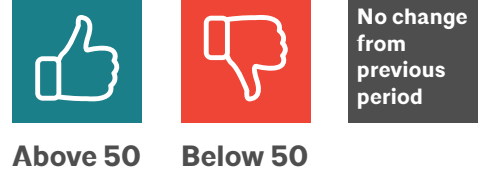
*All graphs represent data from April 2017–April 2018.

ABI

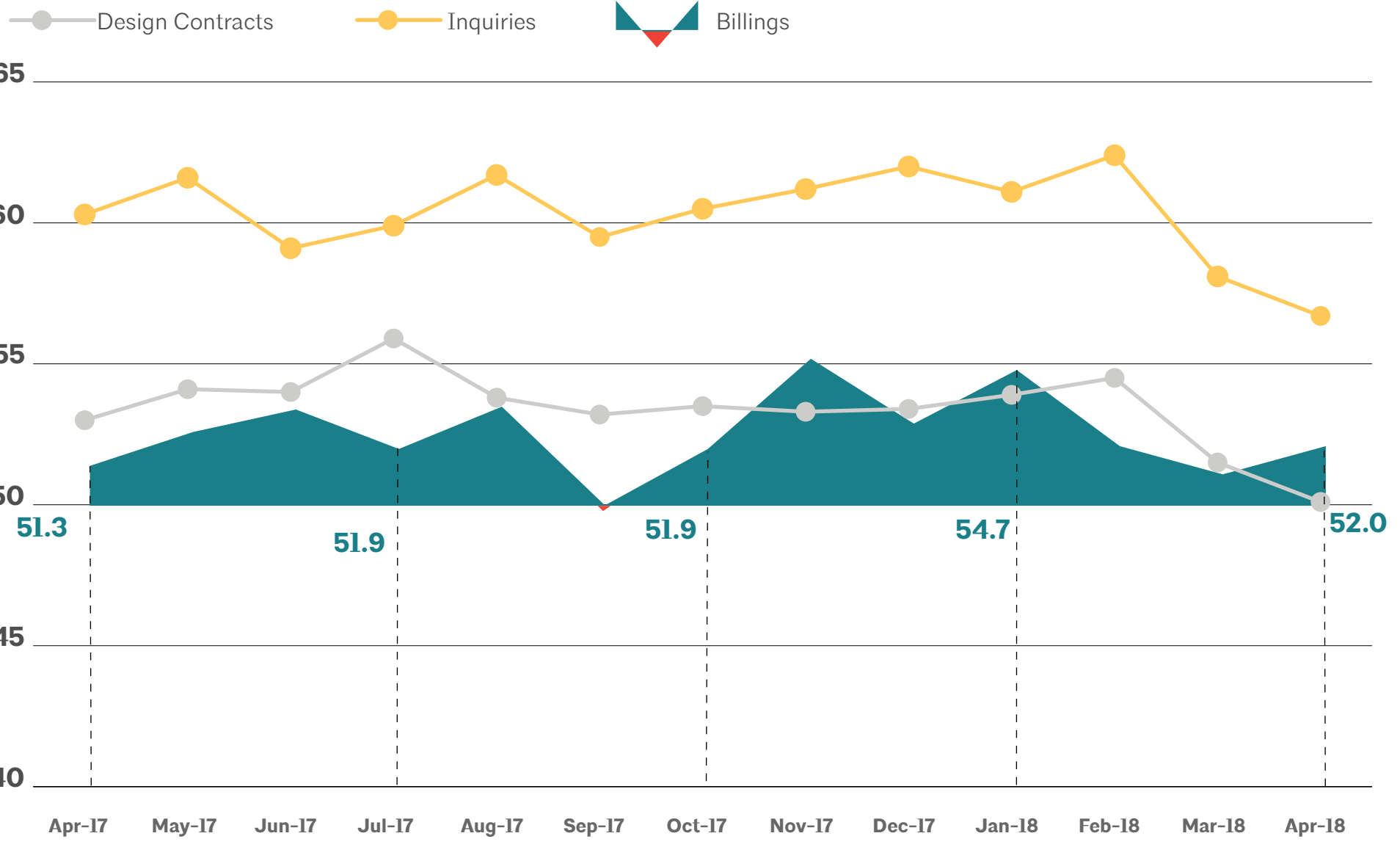
National Regional Sector Practice

National

Firm billings continue their upward march in April



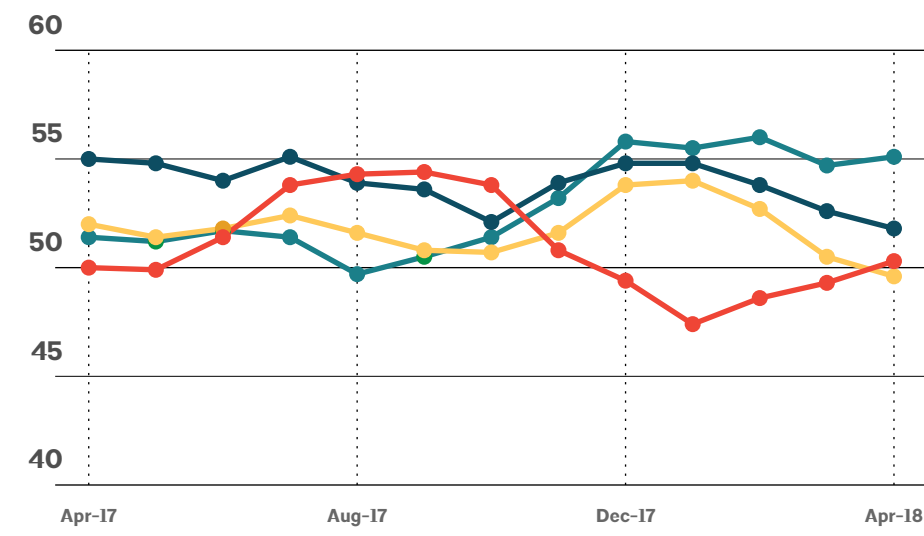
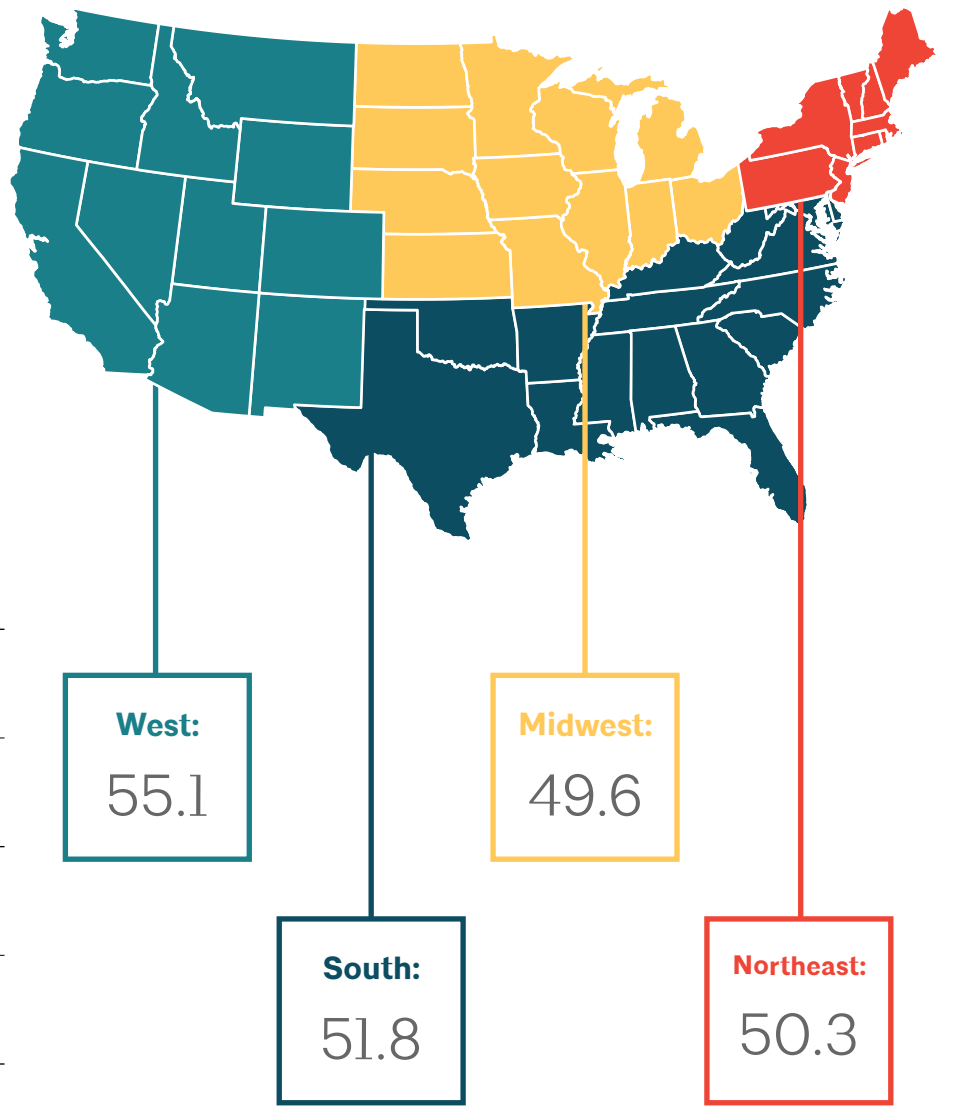
Graphs represent data from April 2017–April 2018.



Regional

Western firms report continued strong growth in billings

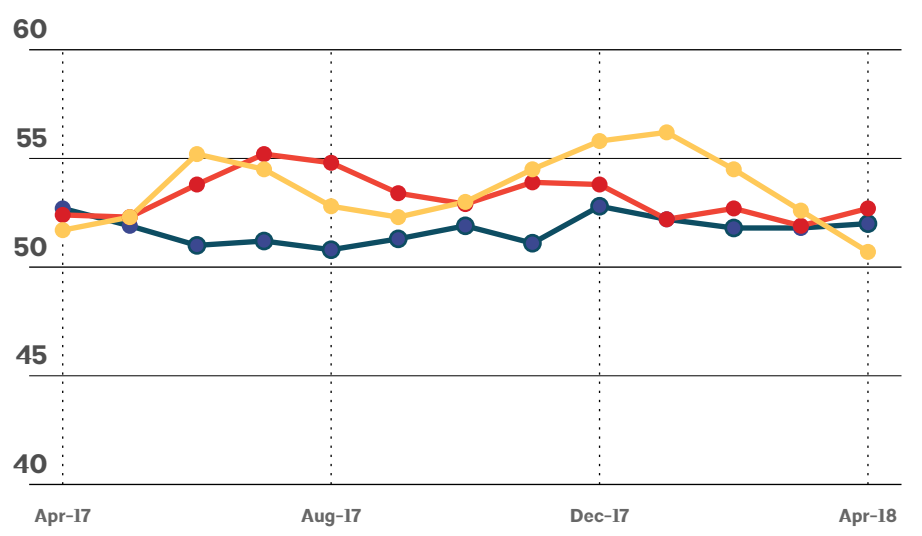
Graphs represent data from April 2017–April 2018 across the four regions. 50 represents the diffusion center. A score of 50 equals no change from the previous month. Above 50 shows increase; Below 50 shows decrease. 3-month moving average.



Sector

Commercial/industrial, and institutional firms see modest acceleration in billings

Graphs represent data from April 2017–April 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

Firms finding it difficult to find qualified architecture staff

units: of firms that currently have architecture positions, degree of difficulty in filling positions, % of firms

