

Architecture Billings Index (ABI)

May 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.

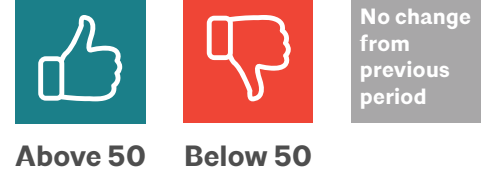
*All graphs represent data from May 2017–May 2018.

ABI

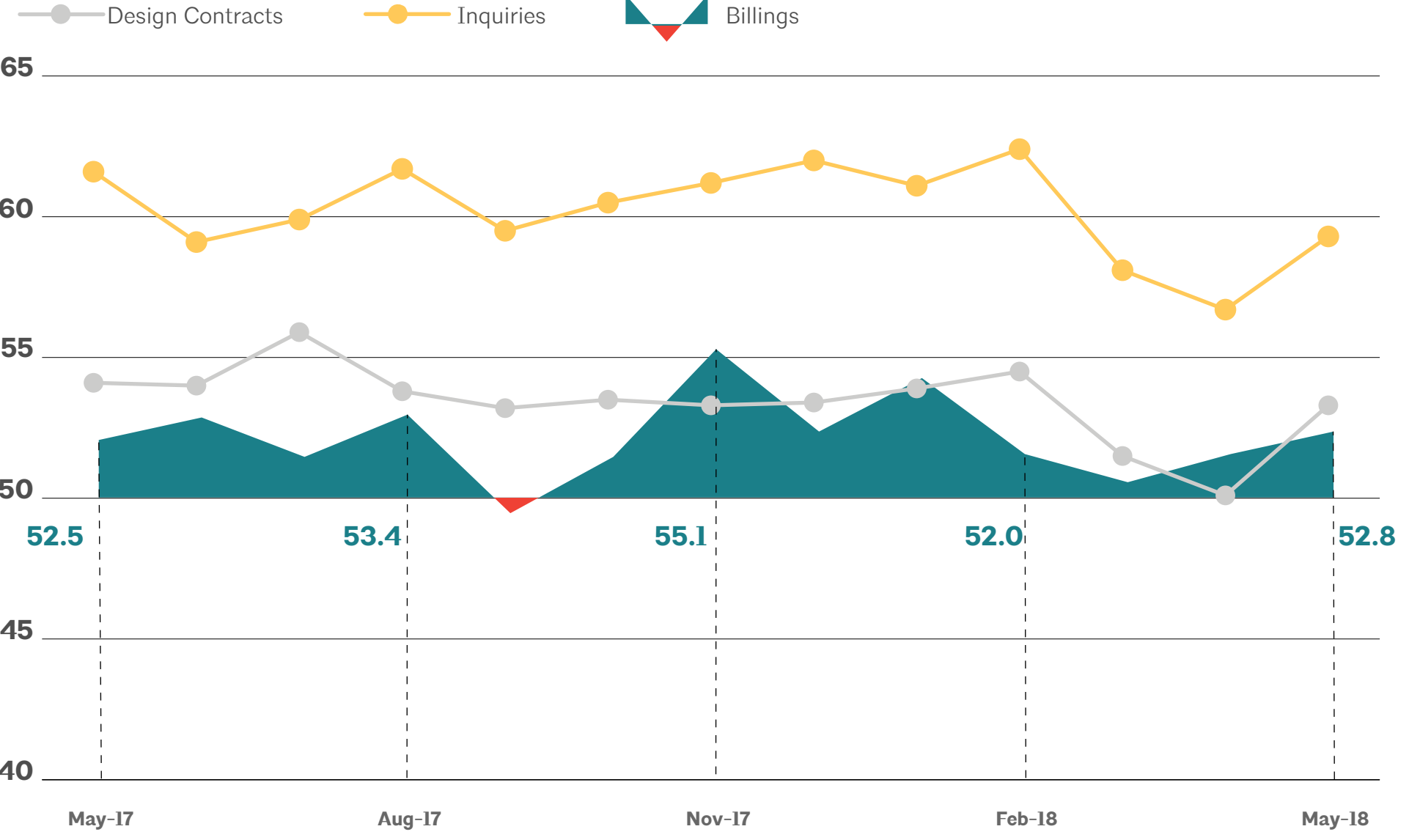
National Regional Sector Practice

National

Architecture firm billings continue to increase



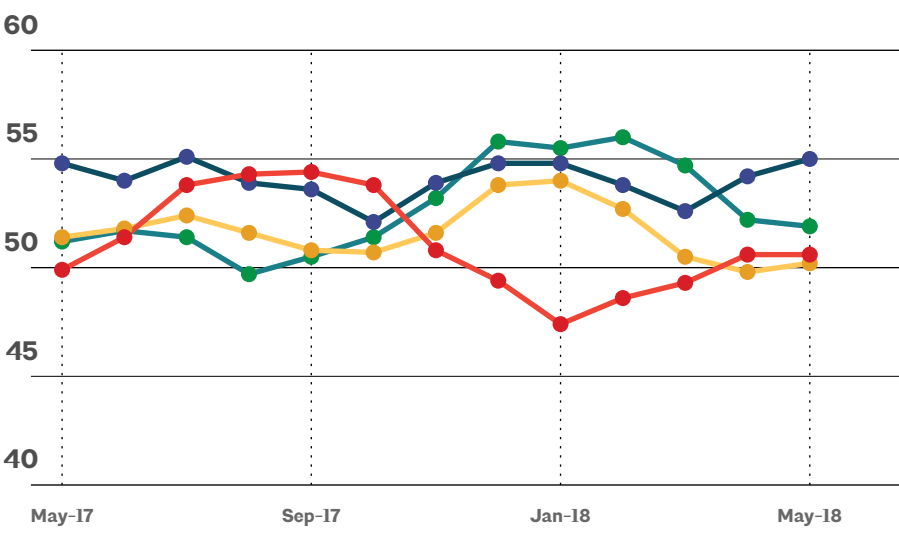
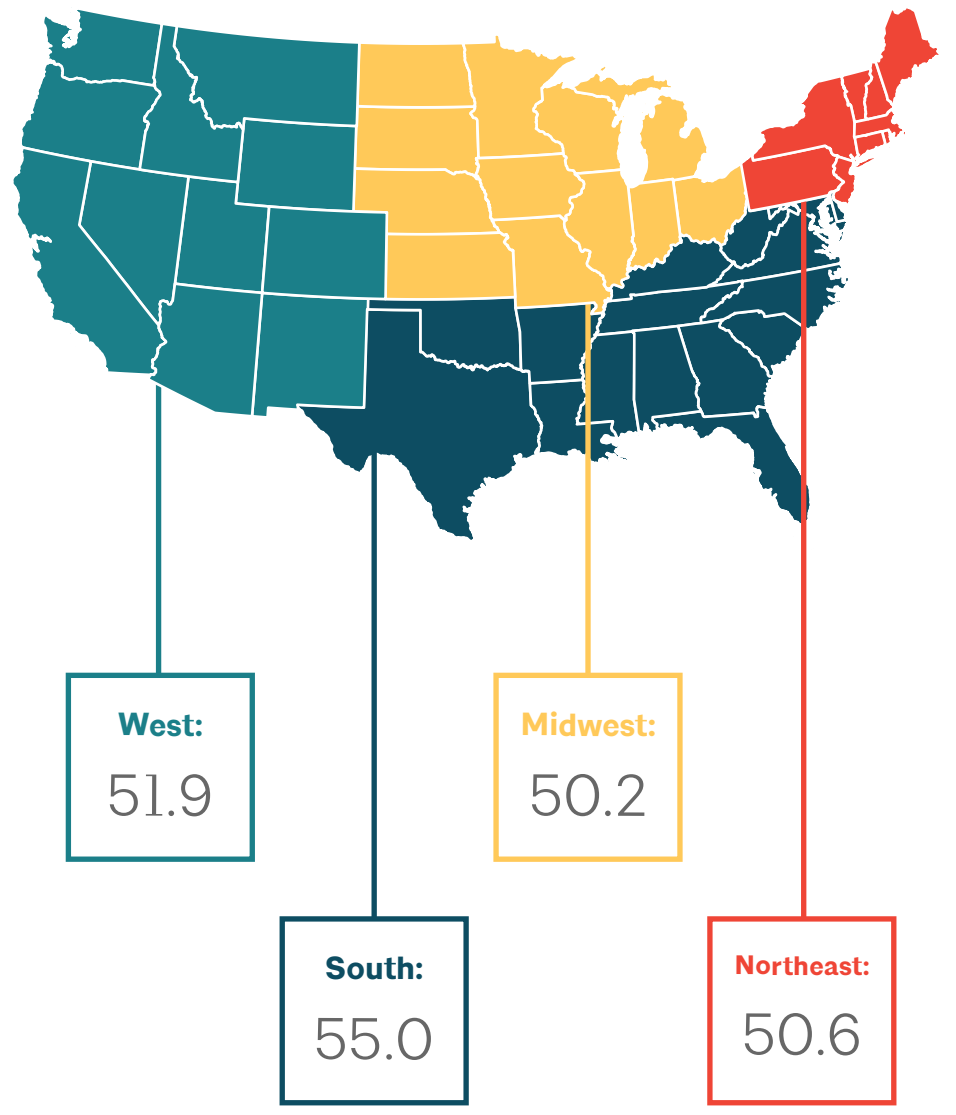
Graphs represent data from May 2017–May 2018.



Regional

Business conditions remain strongest at firms located in the South

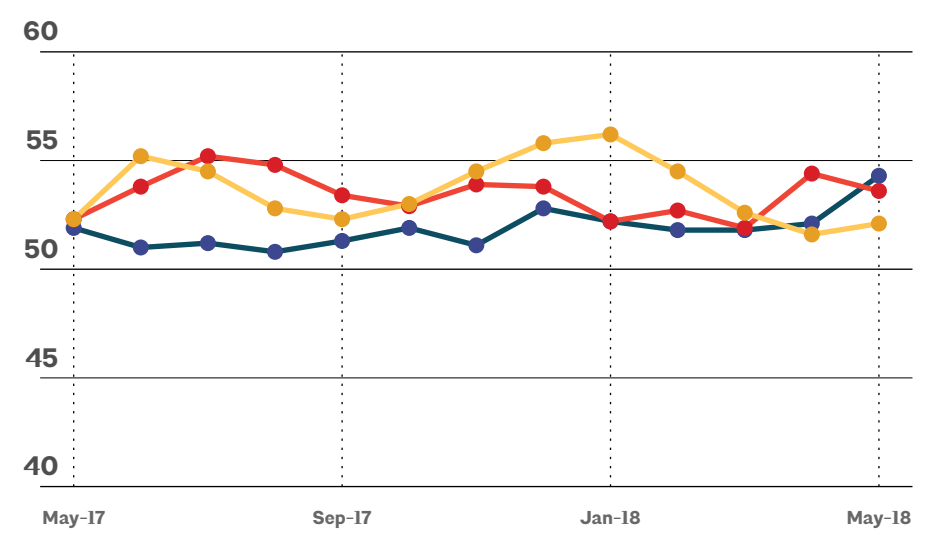
Graphs represent data from May 2017–May 2018 across the four regions. 50 represents the diffusion center. A score of 50 equals no change from the previous month. Above 50 shows increase; Below 50 shows decrease. 3-month moving average.



Sector

Billings strongest at institutional and commercial/industrial firms

Graphs represent data from May 2017–May 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

Quality and skills of firm staff seen as most important factor affecting firm productivity

units: % of firms rating given factor as the single most important factor in determining changes in staff productivity

