Architecture Billings Index (ABI) December 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 track nonresidential construction activity by approximately 9–12 months. The survey panel asks participants to rate on a scale of 0 to 100 the proportion of important projects on-hand. A score is generated, which represents an index value for each month. An index score of 50 represents no change in billings from the previous month; a score below 50 indicates a decrease in billings from the previous month.

National

Architecture billings growth slows modestly in December

Billings remain flat at sunbelt firms, strengthen at firms in the Midwest and Northeast

Regional

Billings remain flat at sunbelt firms, strengthen at firms in the Midwest and Northeast

Sector

Business conditions soften modestly at firms with a multifamily residential specialization

Practice

Few firms have seen an impact on their projects due to recent stock market volatility, but many remain cautious:

- 66% No, we have not seen any changes
- 29% Yes, we have seen changes, but nothing definitive so far
- 5% Some rumblings, but we don’t know what to think