

# Architecture Billings Index (ABI)

## August 2019

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.

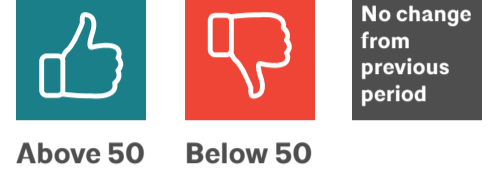
\*All graphs represent data from August 2018–August 2019.

### ABI

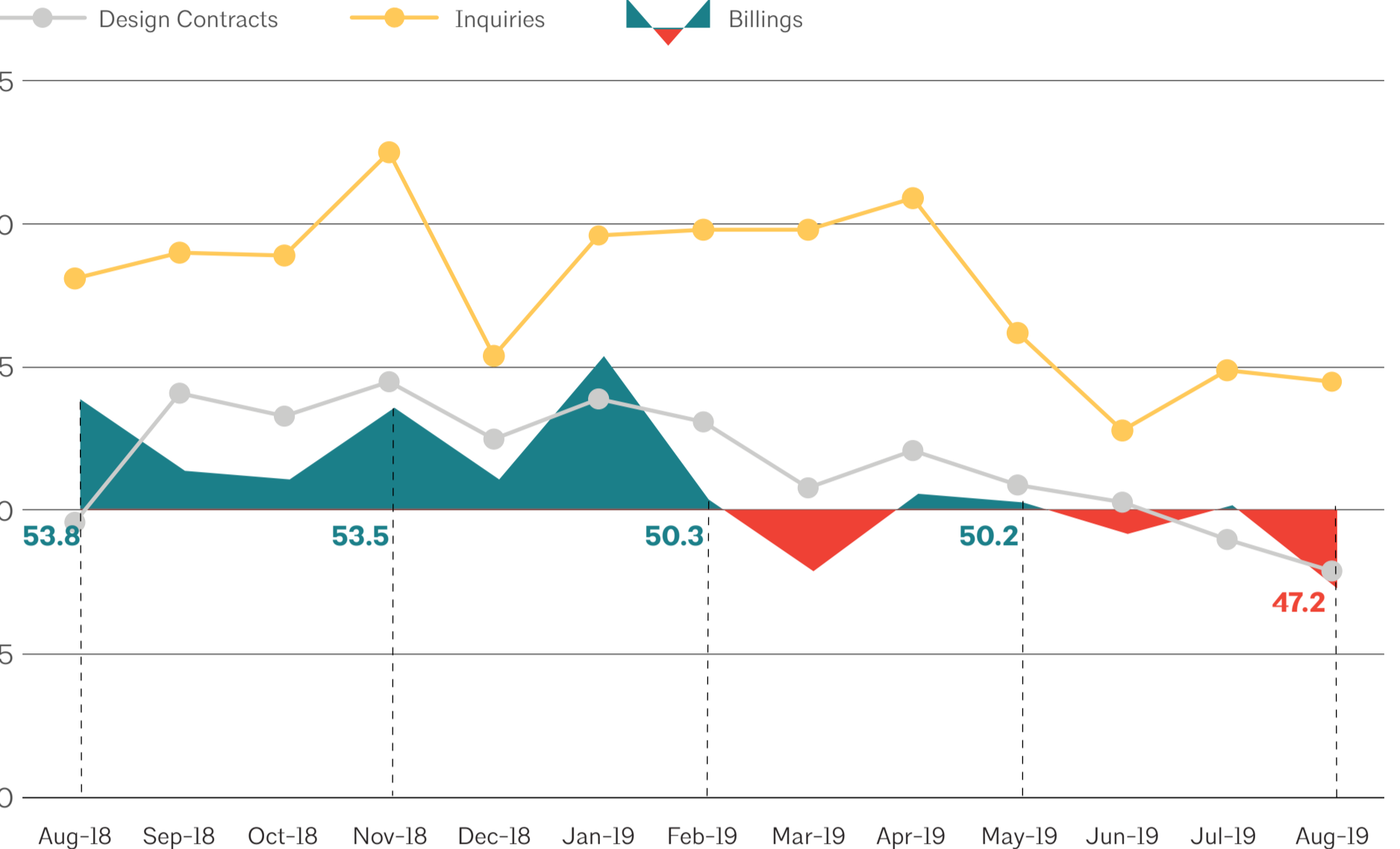
National      Regional      Sector      Practice

## National

Firms report rare decline in both billings and in new project work in August



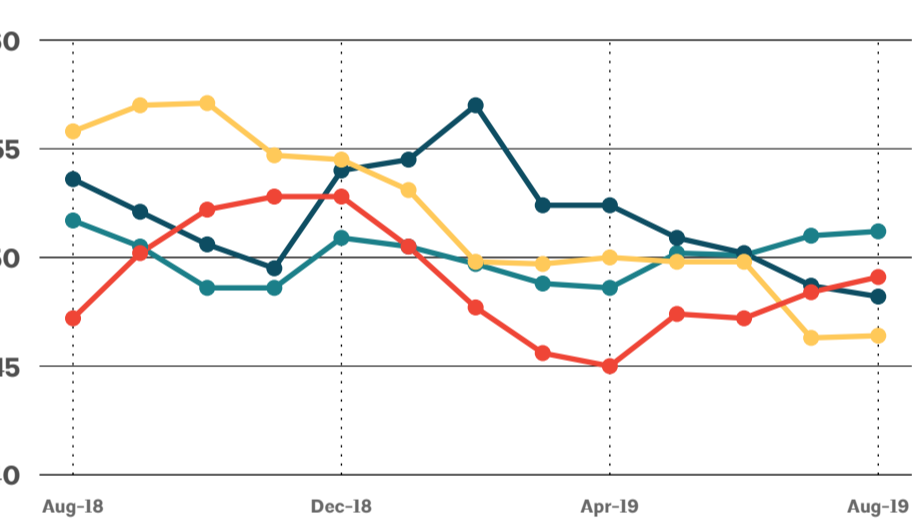
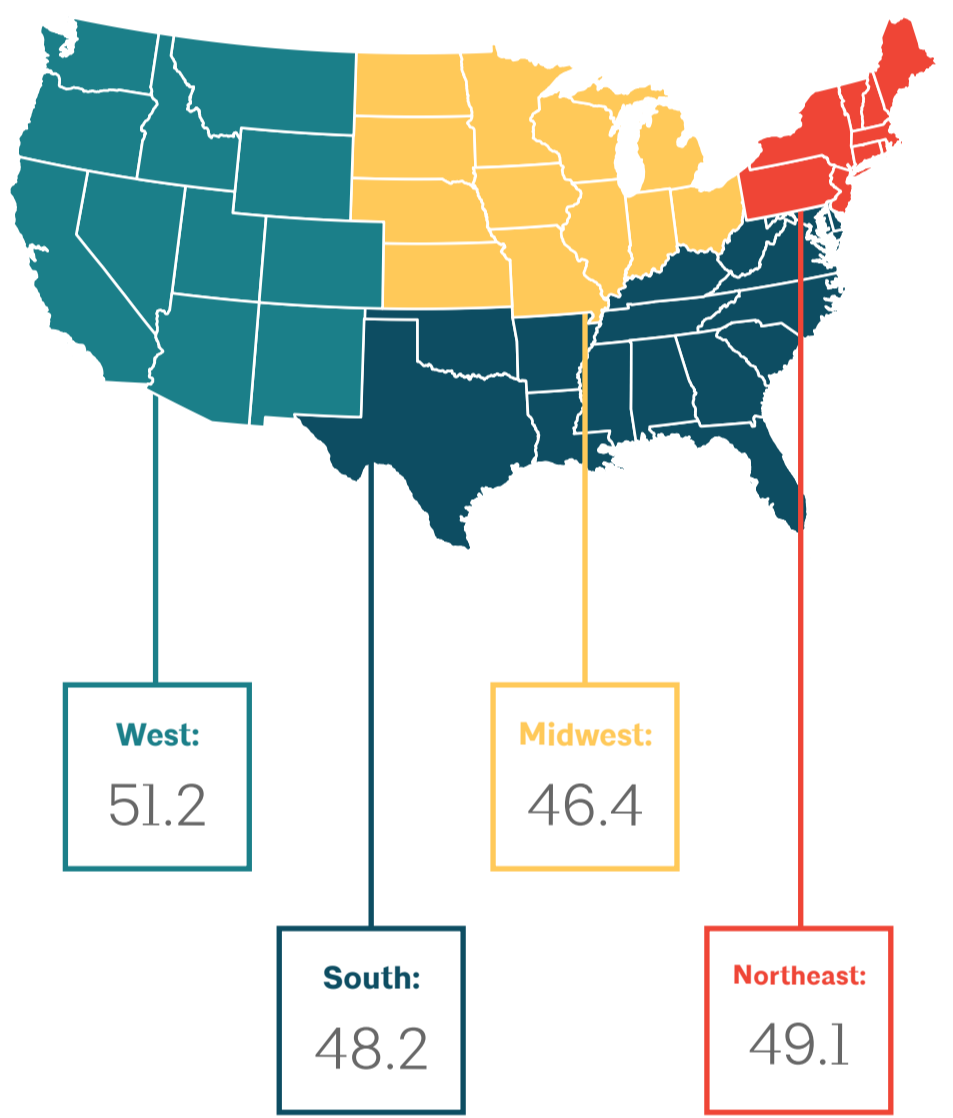
Graphs represent data from August 2018–August 2019.



## Regional

Billings drop sharply at Midwest firms and also decline at firms in Northeast and South

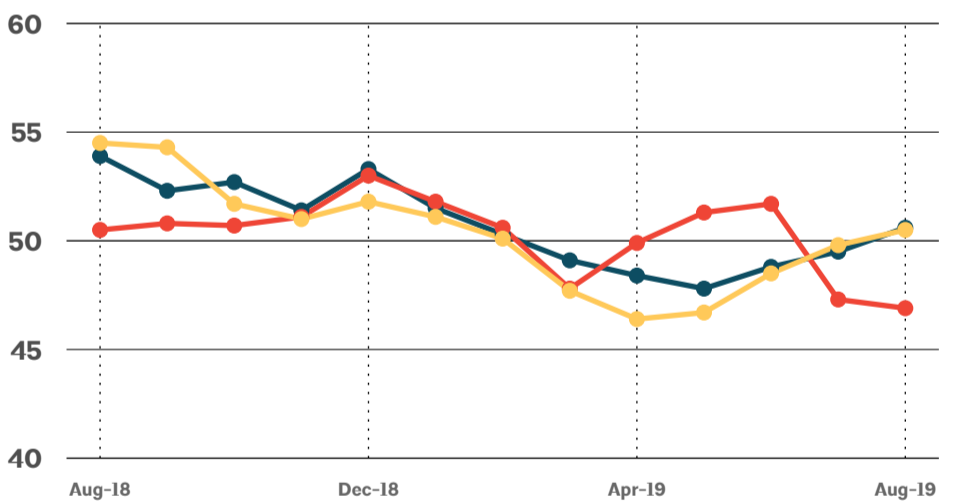
Graphs represent data from August 2018–August 2019 across the four regions. 50 represents the diffusion center. A score of 50 equals no change from the previous month. Above 50 shows increase; Below 50 shows decrease. 3-month moving average.



## Sector

Commercial/industrial firms bear the brunt of the billings decline

Graphs represent data from August 2018–August 2019 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

While few U.S. architecture firms currently work internationally, most either have in the past, have plans to pursue, or would consider pursuing international projects

units: attitudes toward working internationally; % of firms

