

Architecture Billings Index (ABI)

September 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.

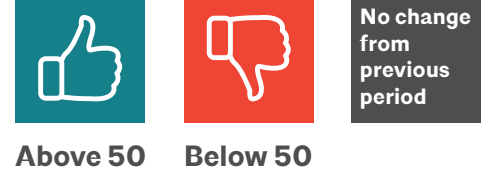
*All graphs represent data from September 2018–September 2019.

ABI

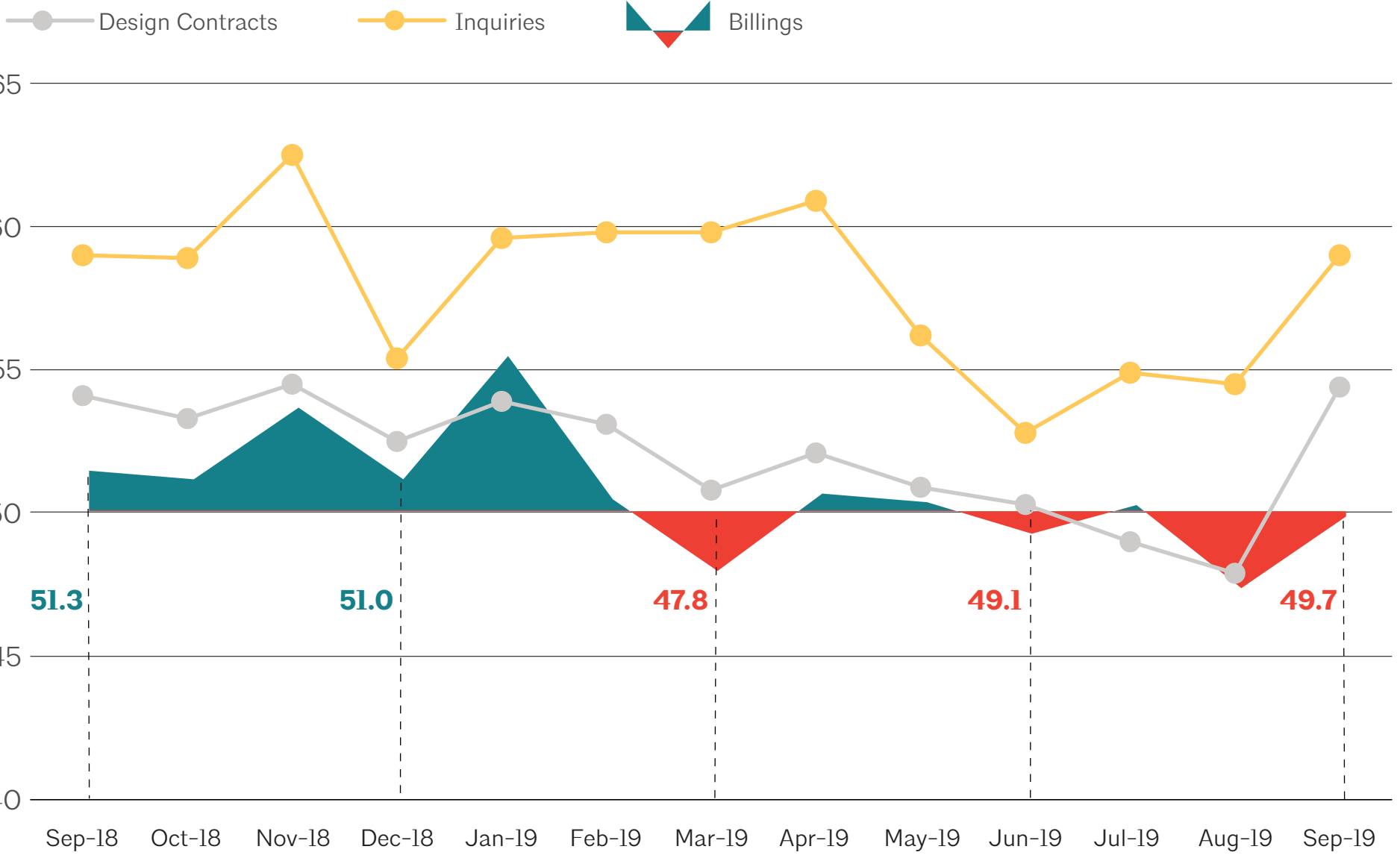
National Regional Sector Practice

National

Fewer firms report declining billings in September



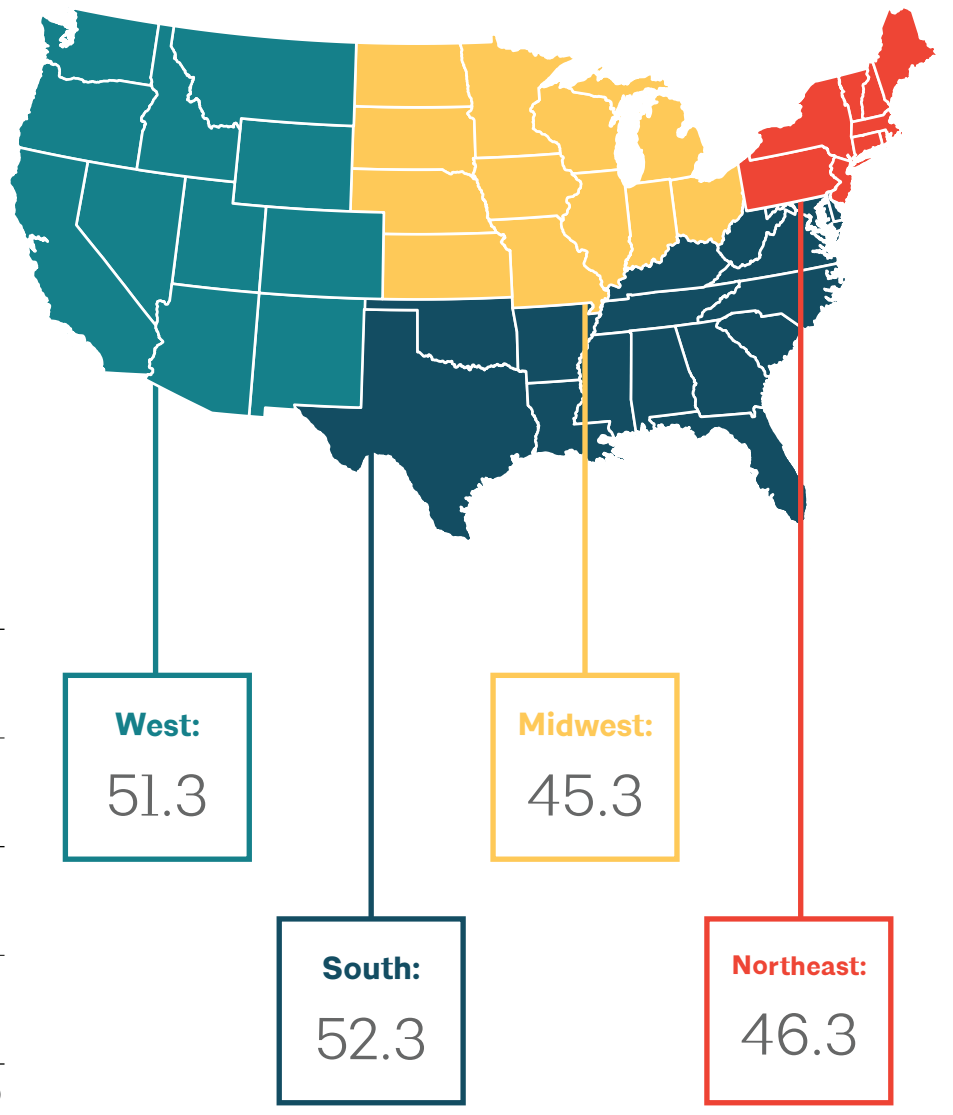
Graphs represent data from September 2018–September 2019.



Regional

Business conditions continue to soften in the Northeast and Midwest

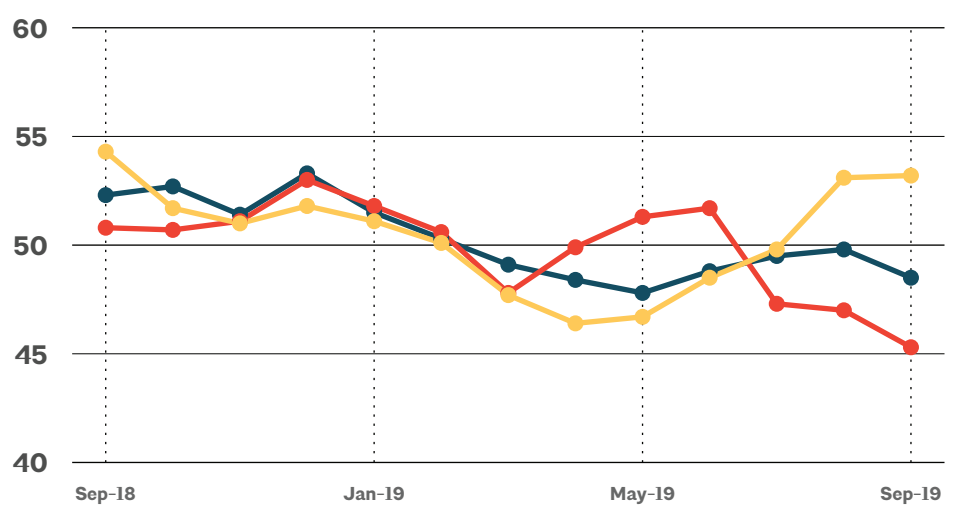
Graphs represent data from September 2018–September 2019 across the four regions. 50 represents the diffusion center. A score of 50 equals no change from the previous month. Above 50 shows increase; Below 50 shows decrease. 3-month moving average.



Sector

Only firms with a multifamily residential specialization saw billings growth in September

Graphs represent data from September 2018–September 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

Four in ten firms have had projects significantly delayed or cancelled this year

units: % of firms that have seen given impact on projects since the beginning of the year due to uncertain construction costs, availability of labor, or general concern over the direction of the economy, multiple responses permitted

