

Architecture Billings Index (ABI) March 2020

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 March 2019–March 2020.



Regional Business conditions soften across the country

Graphs represent data from March 2019-March 2020 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



Practice

Architecture firms expect considerable belt tightening by the end of the year

units: % of firms that expect to see given change in their firm by the end of 2020, multiple responses permitted

Trimmed all unnecessary expenses at our firm to stay in the best possible financial position

Invested in new information technologies and communications systems to keep our firm competitive and able to benefit from new opportunities

Offering a broader set of design

Successfully diversified into new markets (new facility categories or new geographical areas)



0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80%