

# Architecture Billings Index (ABI)

May 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.

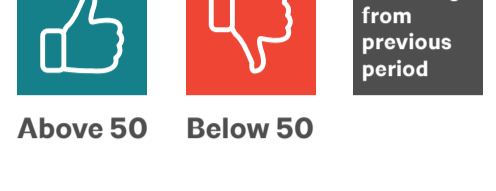
\*All graphs represent data from May 2019–May 2020.

## ABI

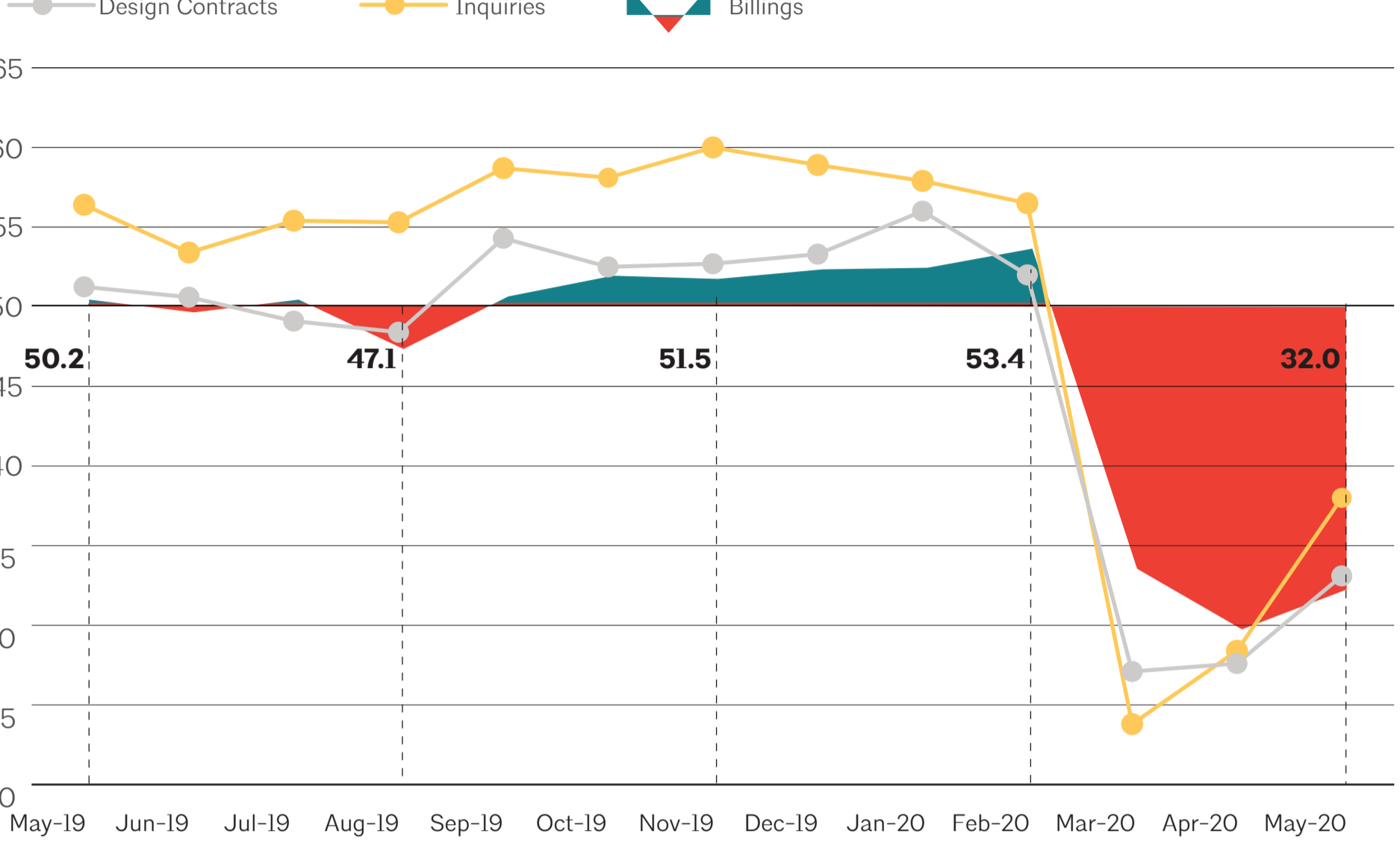
National      Regional      Sector      Practice

### National

Architecture firm billings continue to decline at near record pace



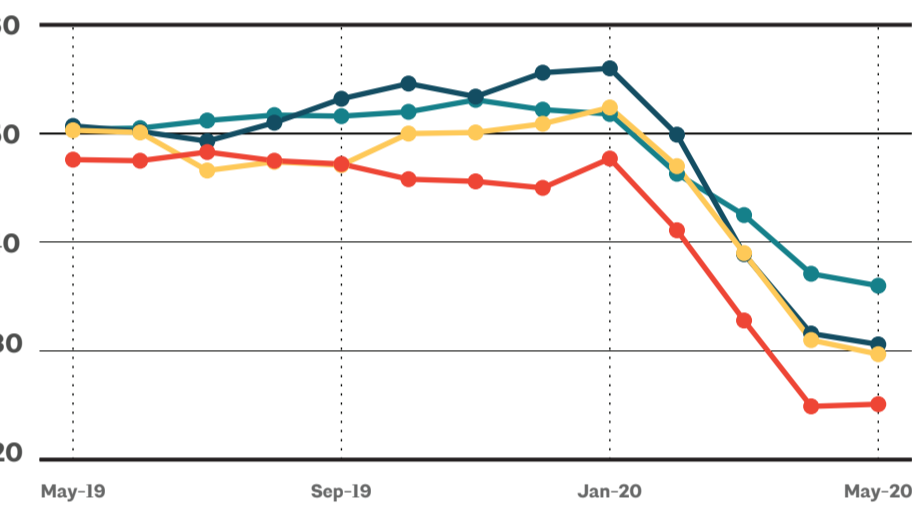
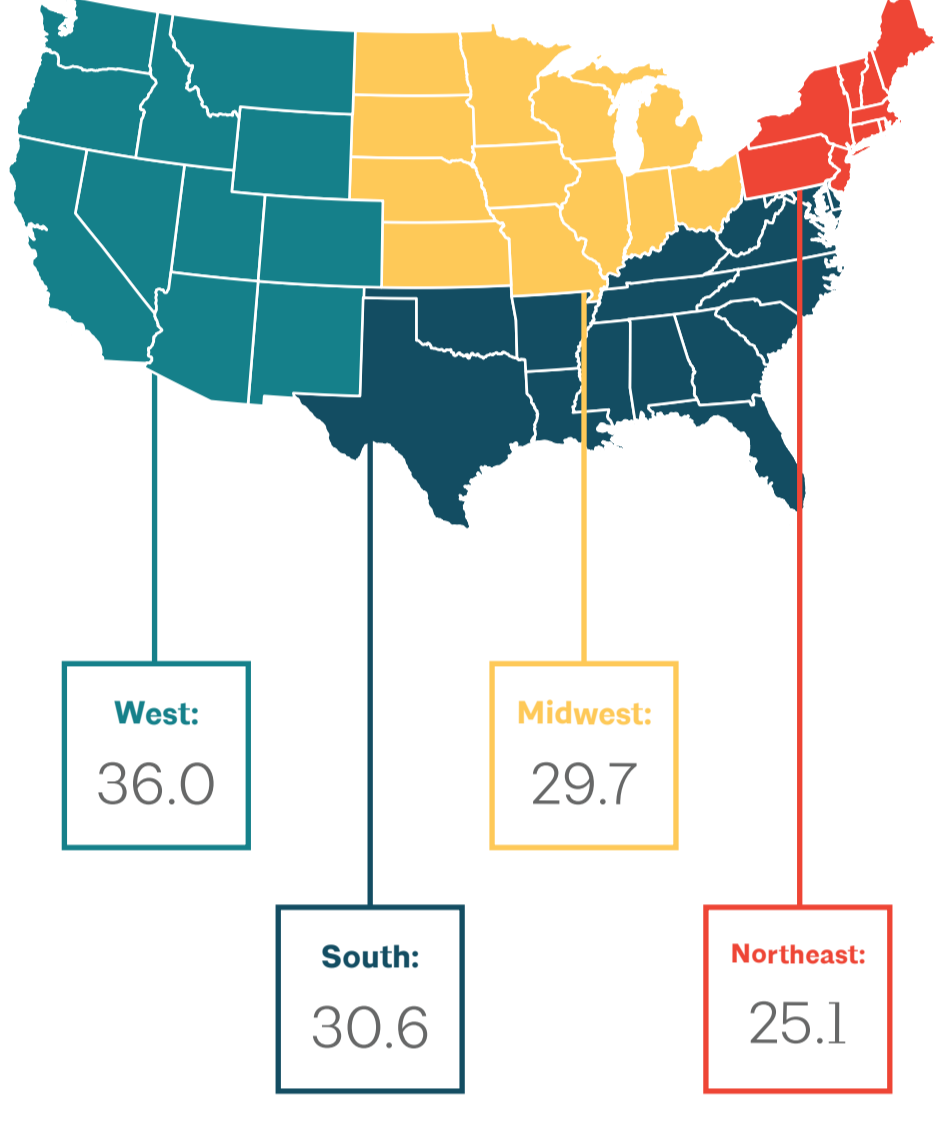
Graphs represent data from May 2019–May 2020.



### Regional

Business conditions still softening in all regions of the country

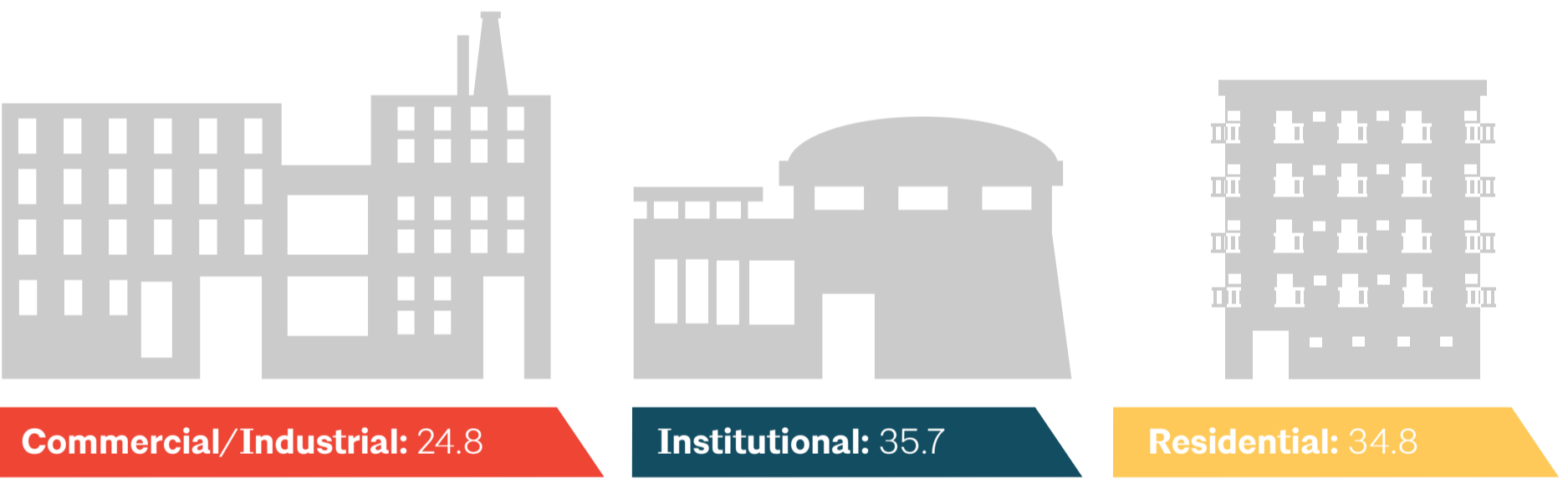
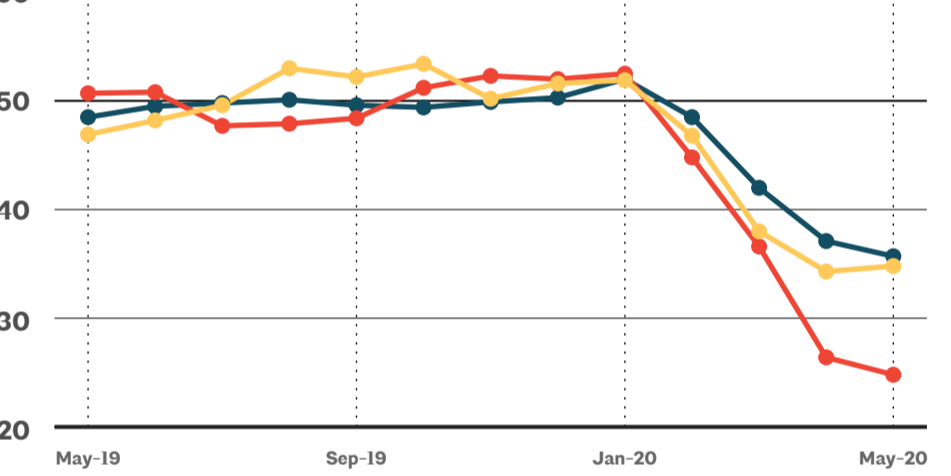
Graphs represent data from May 2019–May 2020 across the four regions. 50 represents the diffusion center. A score of 50 equals no change from the previous month. Above 50 shows increase; Below 50 shows decrease. 3-month moving average.



### Sector

Decline in billings remains slightly less steep at firms with an institutional specialization

Graphs represent data from May 2019–May 2020 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 many firms have seen decreased staff productivity during the shift to a virtual workforce, they have also seen an increase in empathy and digital proficiency

units: % of firms selecting given positive/negative impact at their firm, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting shift to a virtual workforce, as the one most beneficial/harmful to their firm

