

Architecture Billings Index (ABI)

July 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.

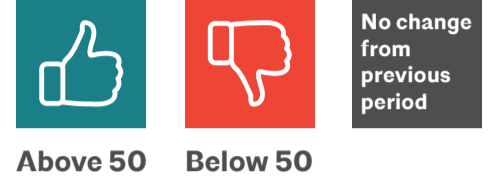
*All graphs represent data from July 2019–July 2020.

ABI

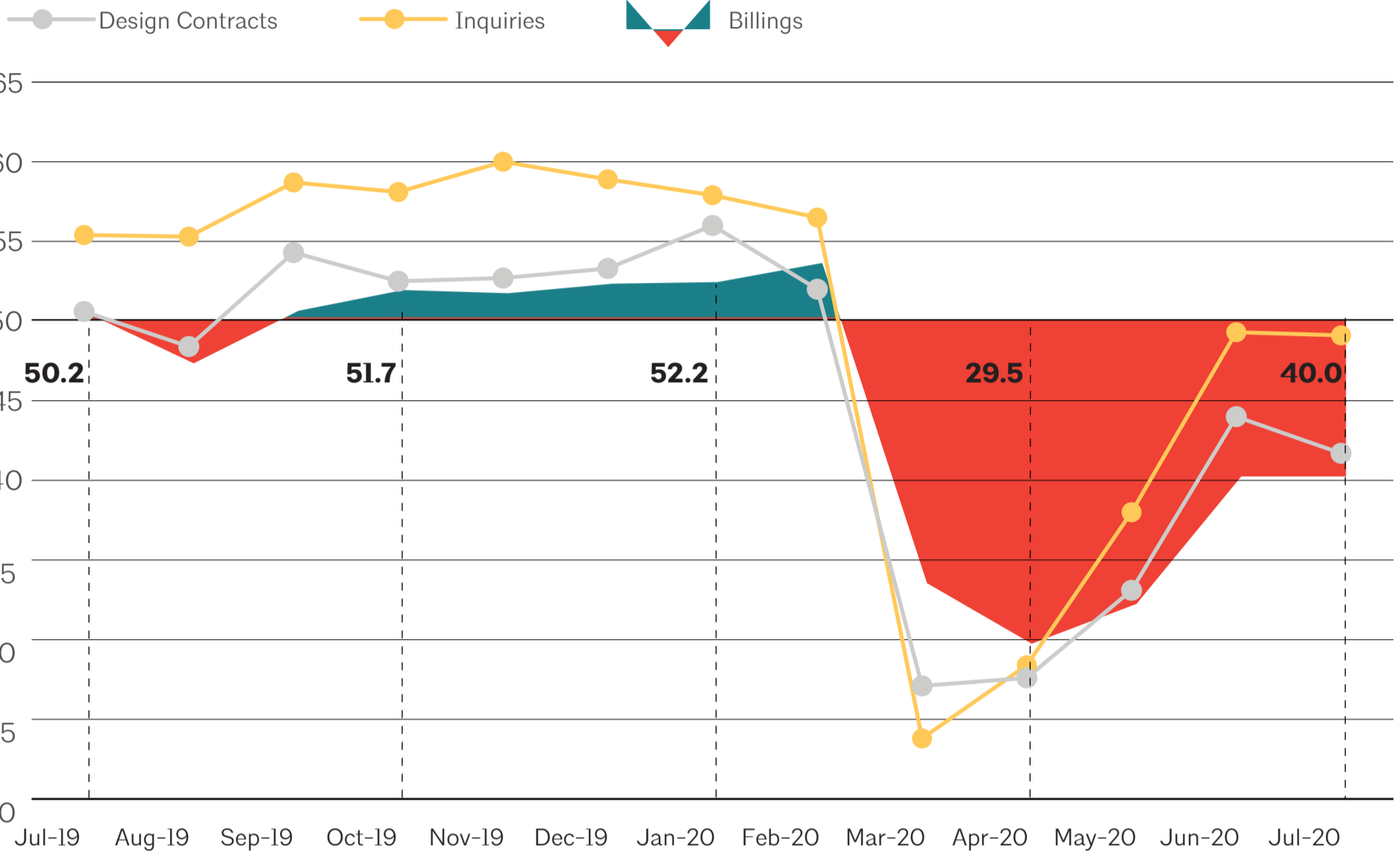
National Regional Sector Practice

National

Architecture firm billings continue to decline, albeit at slower pace than earlier this year



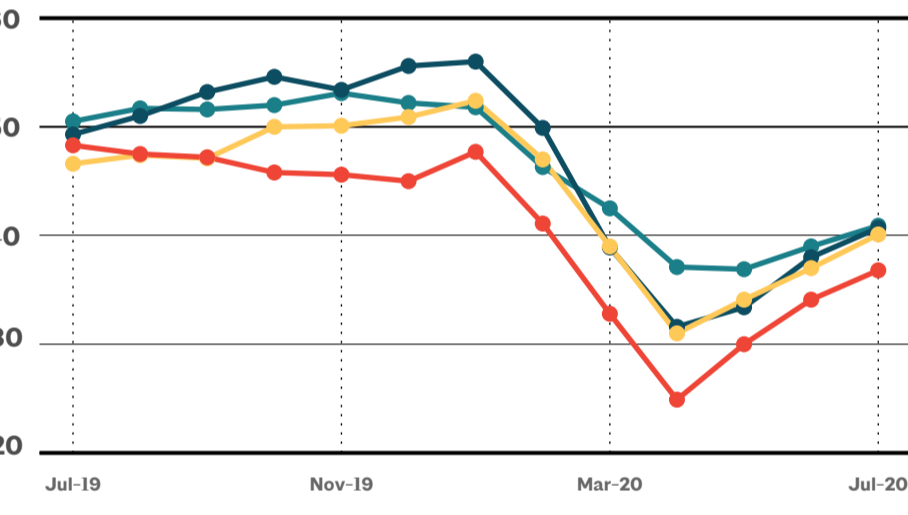
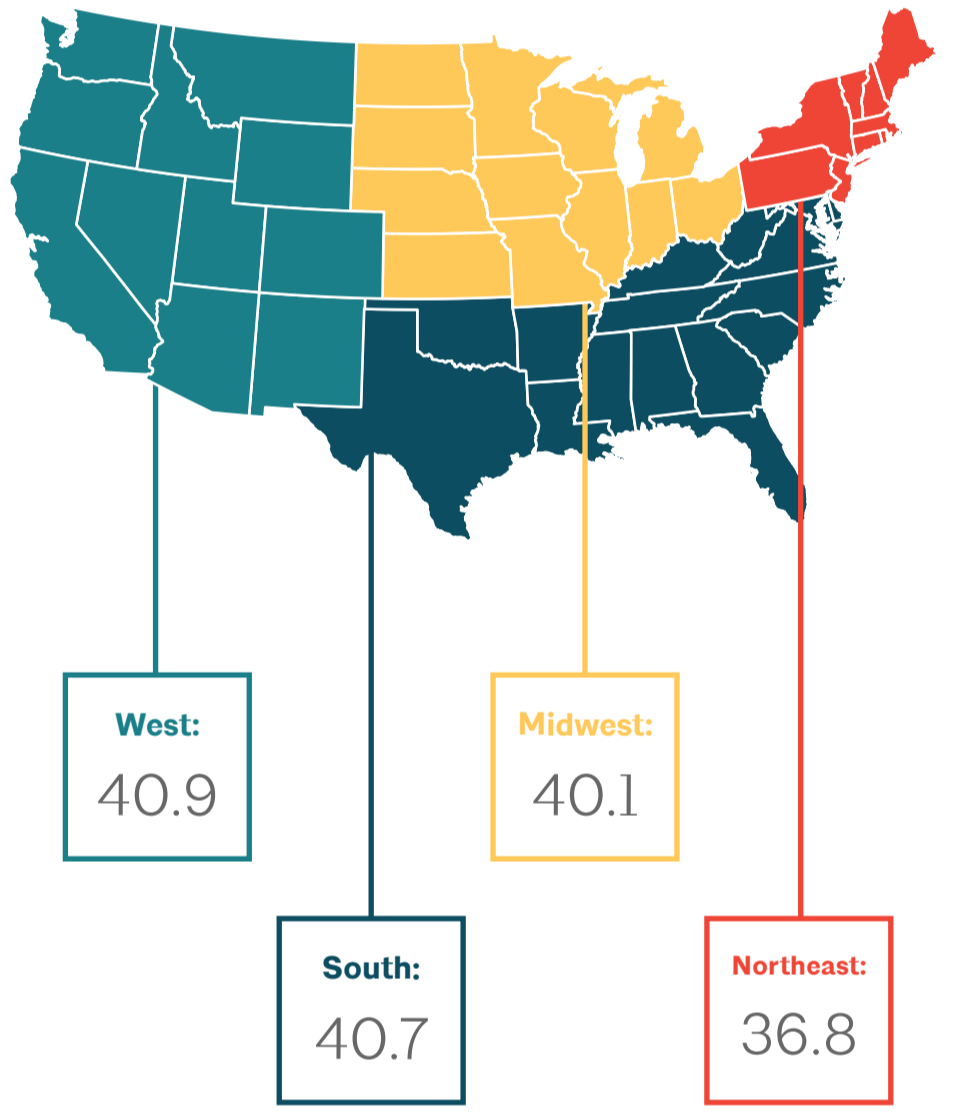
Graphs represent data from July 2019–July 2020.



Regional

Business conditions remain softest in Northeast, stabilize in other regions

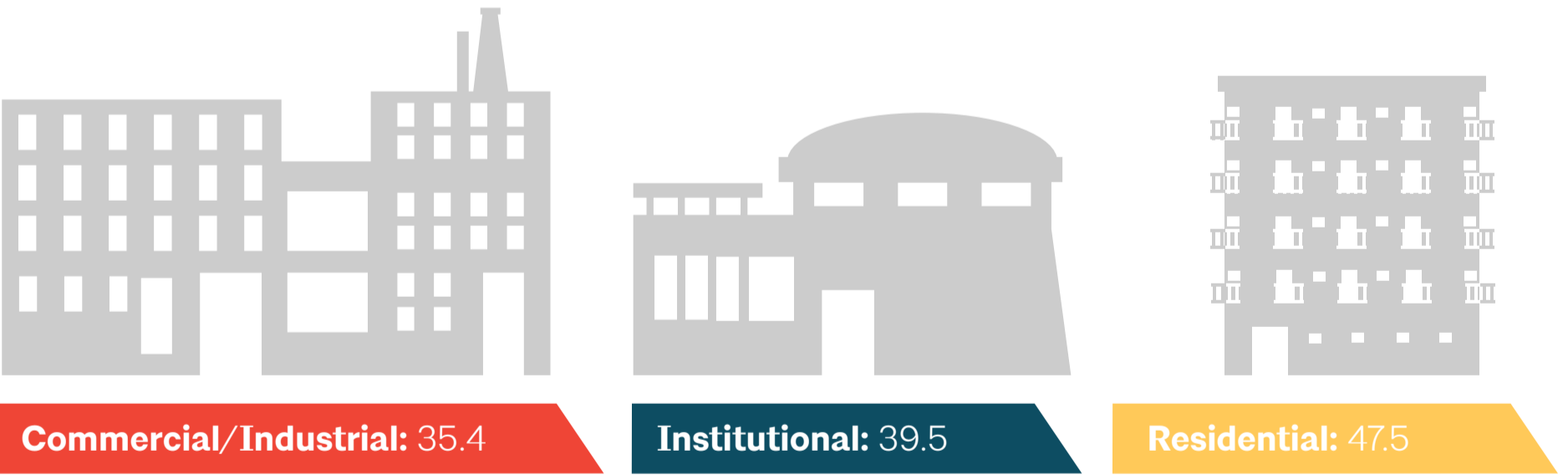
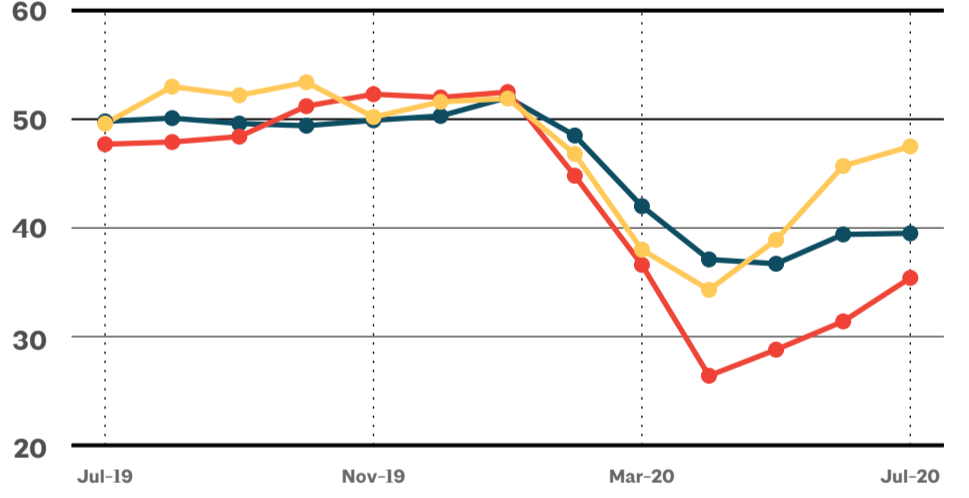
Graphs represent data from July 2019–July 2020 across the four regions. 50 represents the diffusion center. A score of 50 equals no change from the previous month. Above 50 shows increase; Below 50 shows decrease. 3-month moving average.



Sector

Firms with a multifamily residential specialization see slowing pace of billings decline

Graphs represent data from July 2019–July 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

45% of firms expect to have to lay off, reduce hours, and/or furlough staff after their PPP loan ends

units: % of firms that received a PPP loan, indicating that they expect they have to take given action related to staffing as the PPP loan period winds down (multiple responses permitted)

