



Architecture Billings Index (ABI)

October 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 October 2019–October 2020.

ABI

National Regional Sector Practice

National

Decline in architecture firm billings continues to slow



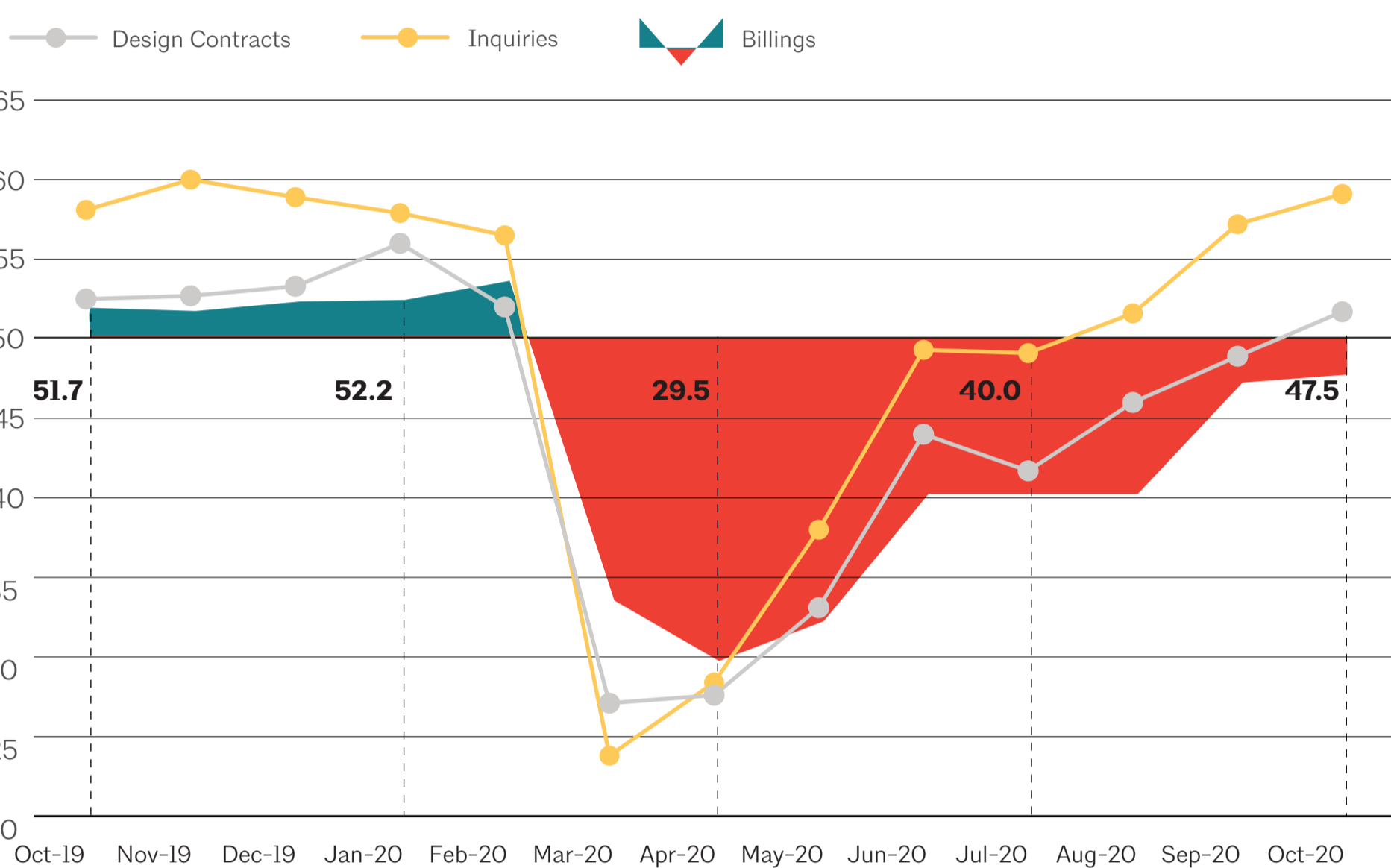
Above 50



Below 50

No change from previous period

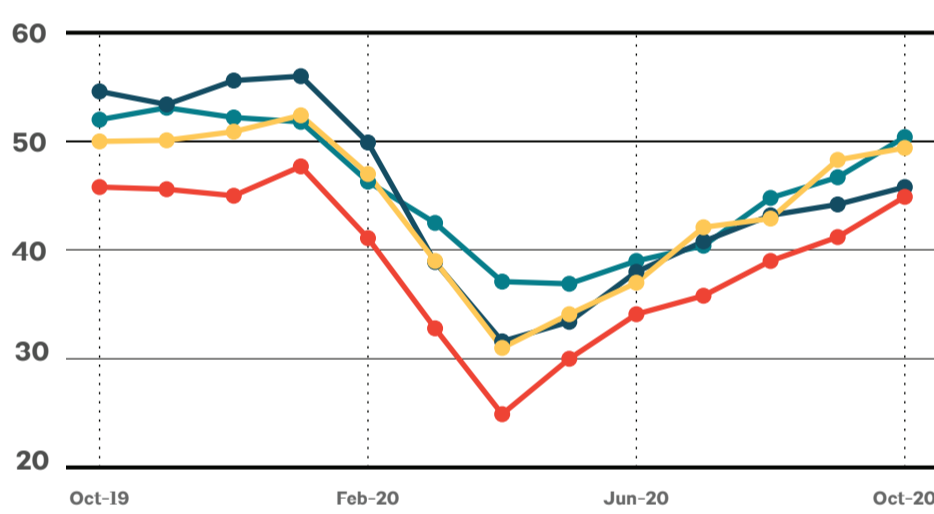
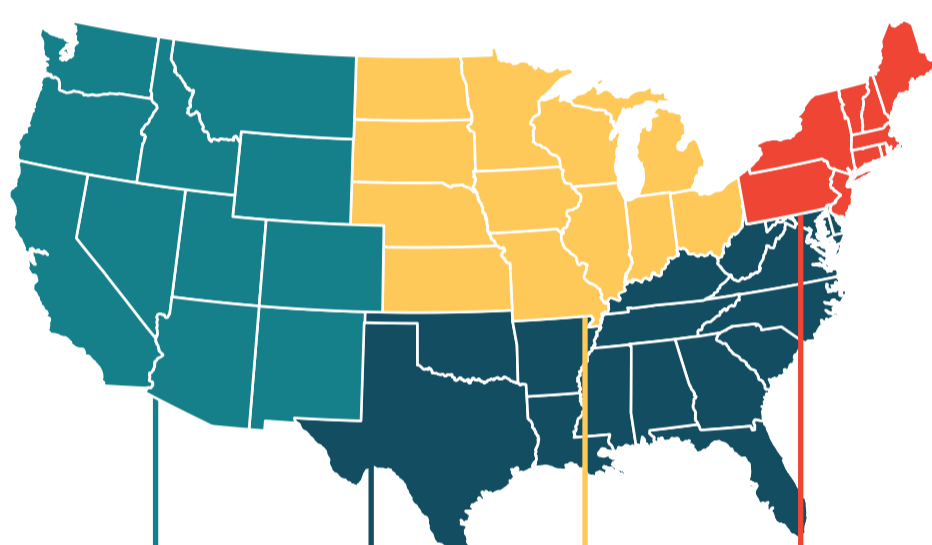
Graphs represent data from October 2019–October 2020.



Regional

Firms located in the West report billings growth for first time since January

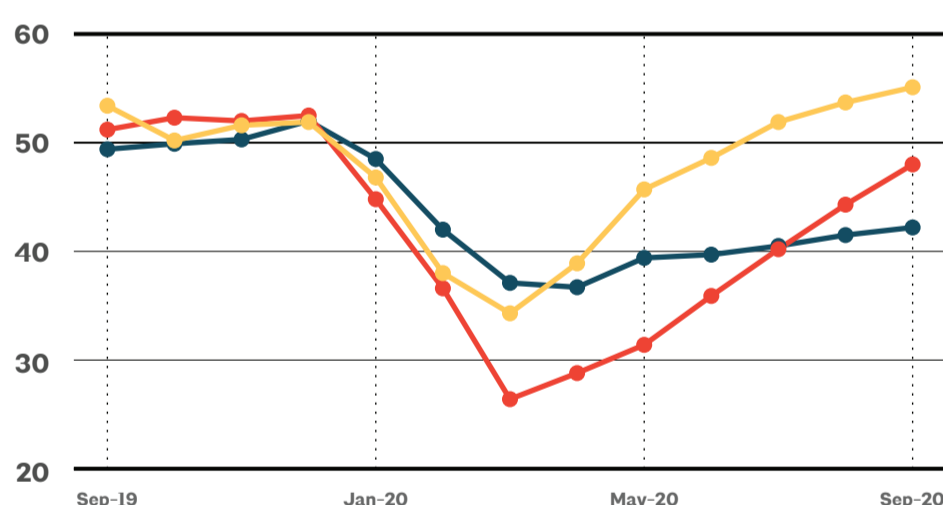
Graphs represent data from October 2019–October 2020 across the four regions. 50 represents the diffusion center. A score of 50 equals no change from the previous month. Above 50 shows increase; Below 50 shows decrease. 3-month moving average.



Sector

While business conditions continue to rebound at multifamily residential firms, they remain soft at institutional firms

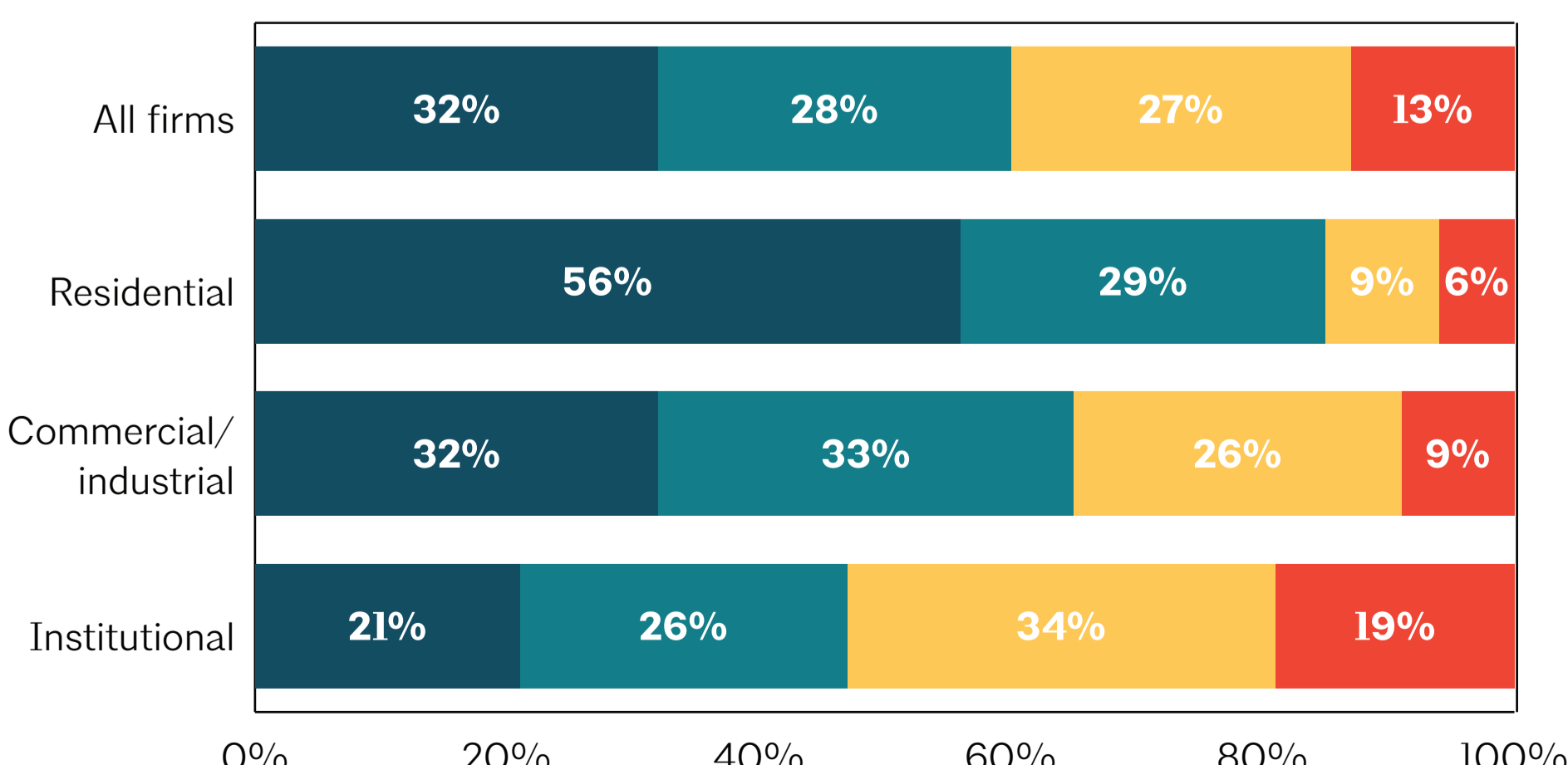
Graphs represent data from October 2019–October 2020 across the three sectors. 50 represents the diffusion center. A score of 50 equals no change from the previous month. Above 50 shows increase; Below 50 shows decrease. 3-month moving average.



Practice

Six in 10 firms have seen higher prices/more limited availability of construction materials recently

% of firms reporting they have seen given change to basic construction commodities (e.g., metals, lumber) over the past six to 12 months



- No, we have not seen a noticeable change in construction material prices/availability.
- We have seen mixed trends in construction material prices/availability, with some rising, and others not.
- Yes, we have seen **modestly** higher prices/more limited availability for construction materials recently.
- Yes, we have seen **significantly** higher prices/more limited availability for construction materials recently.