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 tracks the nonresidential construction activity by approximately 9-12 months. This 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 indicates no change in billings from the previous month, a score above 50 indicates an increase in billings from the previous month, and a score below 50 indicates a decline in billings from the previous month.

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

### National

**Architecture firm billings backslide in December**

Graphs represent data from December 2019–December 2020. Above 50 shows increase; Below 50 shows decrease. 50 represents the diffusion center. A score of 50 equals no change from the previous month.

### Regional

Regional business conditions soften across most of the country.

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

### Sector

Billings declined at firms of all specializations.

Graphs represent data from December 2019–December 2020 across the four sectors. Above 50 shows increase; Below 50 shows decrease. 50 represents the diffusion center. A score of 50 equals no change from the previous month.

### Practice

Despite the pandemic, more than one quarter of architecture firms saw their profitability rise from 2019 to 2020.

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**AVERAGE 2020 PROFITABILITY: 6.7%**