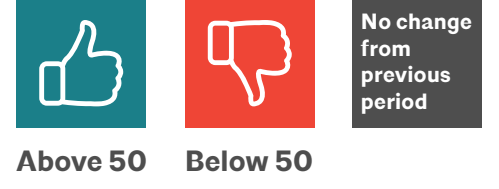# Architecture Billings Index (ABI)
April 2020

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 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.

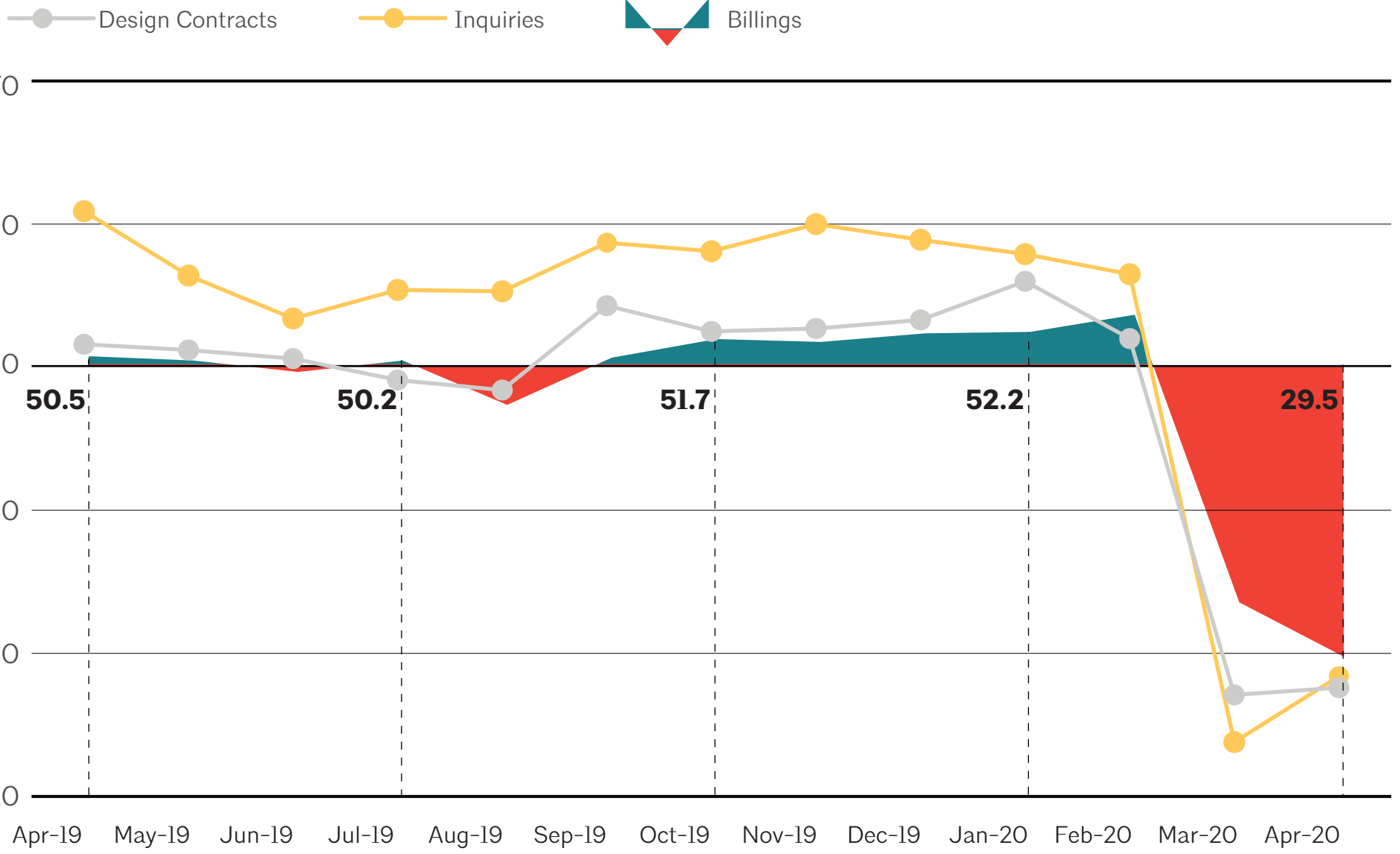*All graphs represent data from April 2019–April 2020.

ABI

National   Regional   Sector   Practice
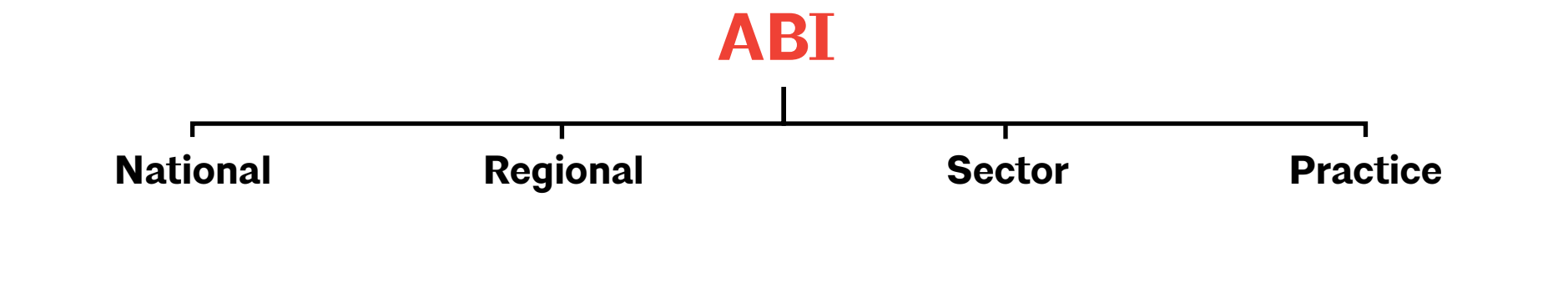
National
Architecture firm billings decline even further in April

Graphs represent data from April 2019–April 2020.

Above 50 | Below 50 | No change from previous period

Legend: Design Contracts | Inquiries | Billings

Values: 50.5, 50.2, 51.7, 52.2, 29.5

Axis: Apr-19, May-19, Jun-19, Jul-19, Aug-19, Sep-19, Oct-19, Nov-19, Dec-19, Jan-20, Feb-20, Mar-20, Apr-20

Regional
## Business conditions soften dramatically at firms located in the Northeast

Graphs represent data from April 2019–April 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.

West: 38.1

Midwest: 31.2

South: 31.1

Northeast: 23.0
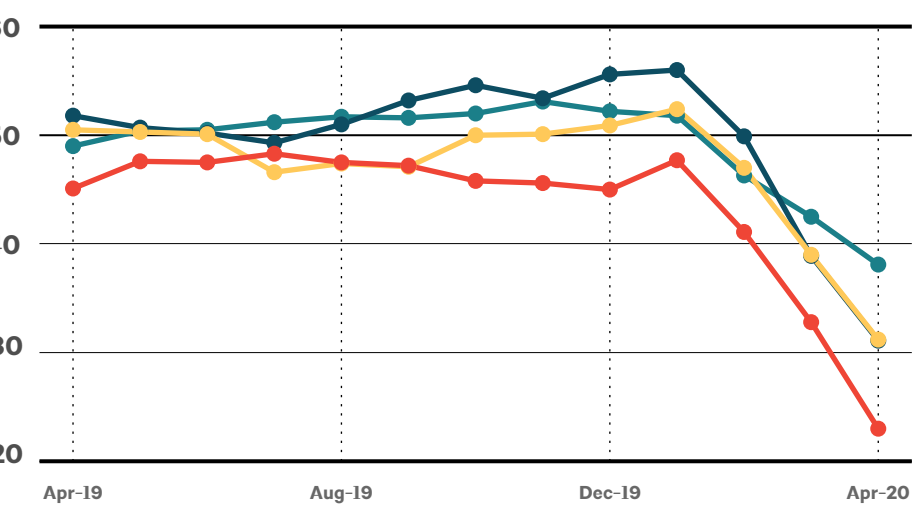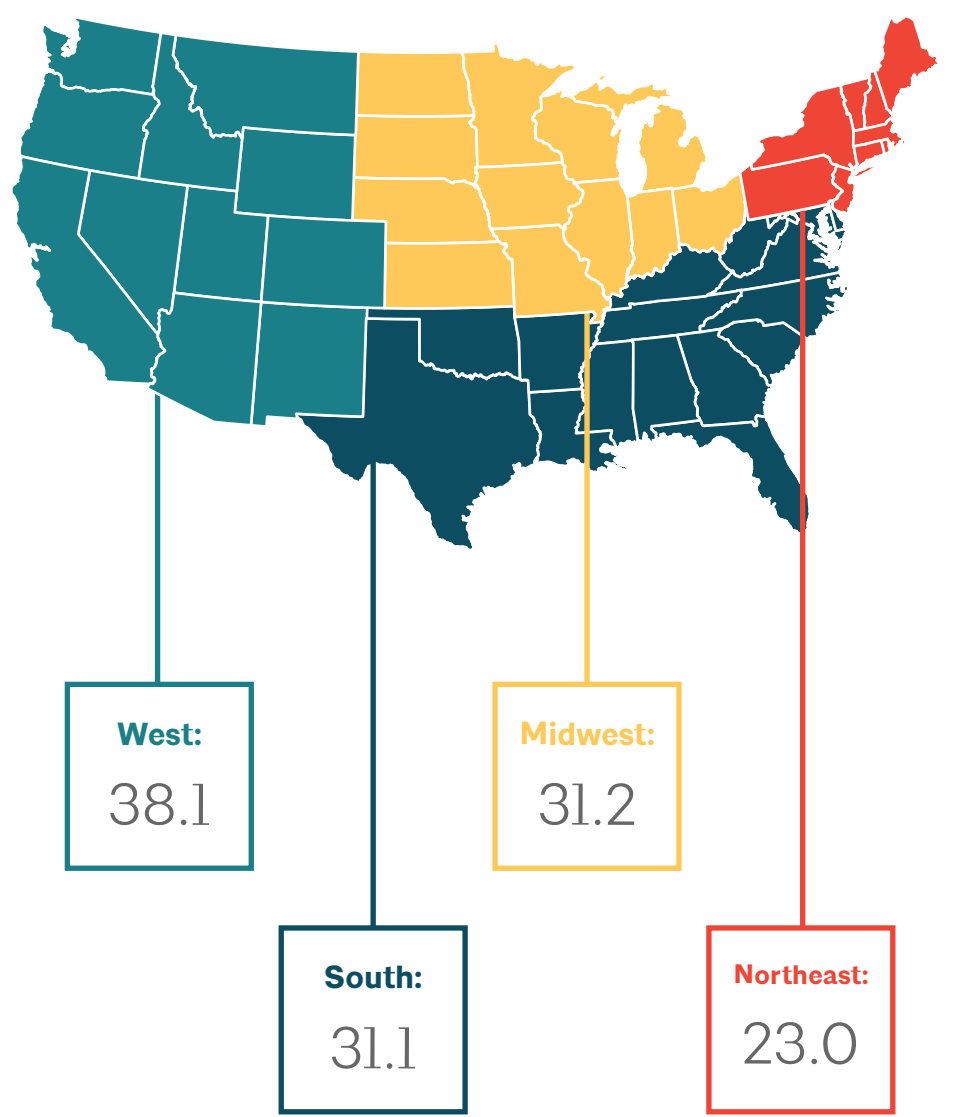
Sector
Firms with Commercial/Industrial specialization remain hardest hit

Graphs represent data from April 2019–April 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.

Commercial/Industrial: 27.8 | Institutional: 36.1 | Residential: 30.3
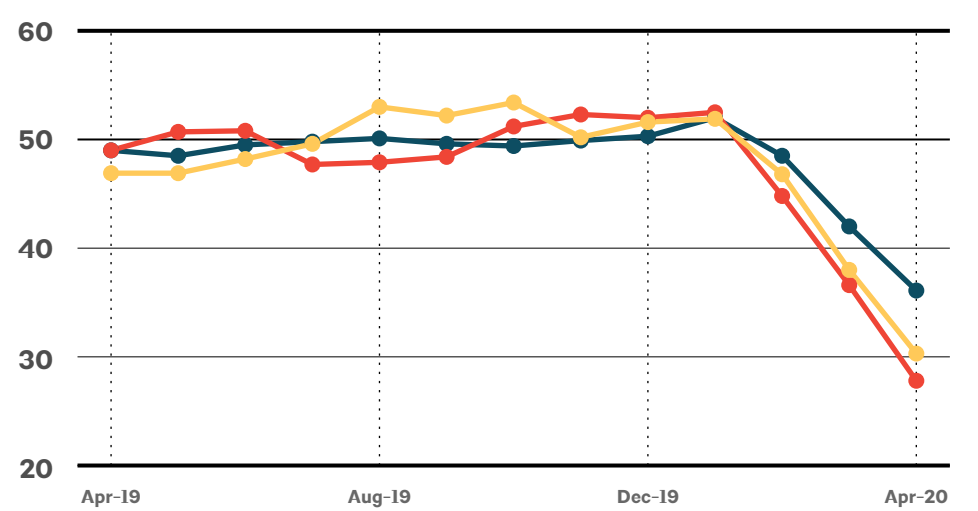
Practice
While some firms have furloughed staff or eliminated positions since the pandemic began, others have hired new employees

units: % of firms that have taken the given action regarding architecture staff since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, multiple responses permitted

Action	%
Furloughed some of our architecture staff, with the hopes of calling them back	14%
Eliminated some positions	13%
Converted some of our architecture positions to part-time or hourly	11%
Hired new permanent employees	12%
Hired students/summer interns	8%
Increased the hours of current employees	4%
Hired new temporary/short-term employees	3%