AIA

Architecture Billings Index (ABI)

September 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 September 2019–September 2020.

ABI

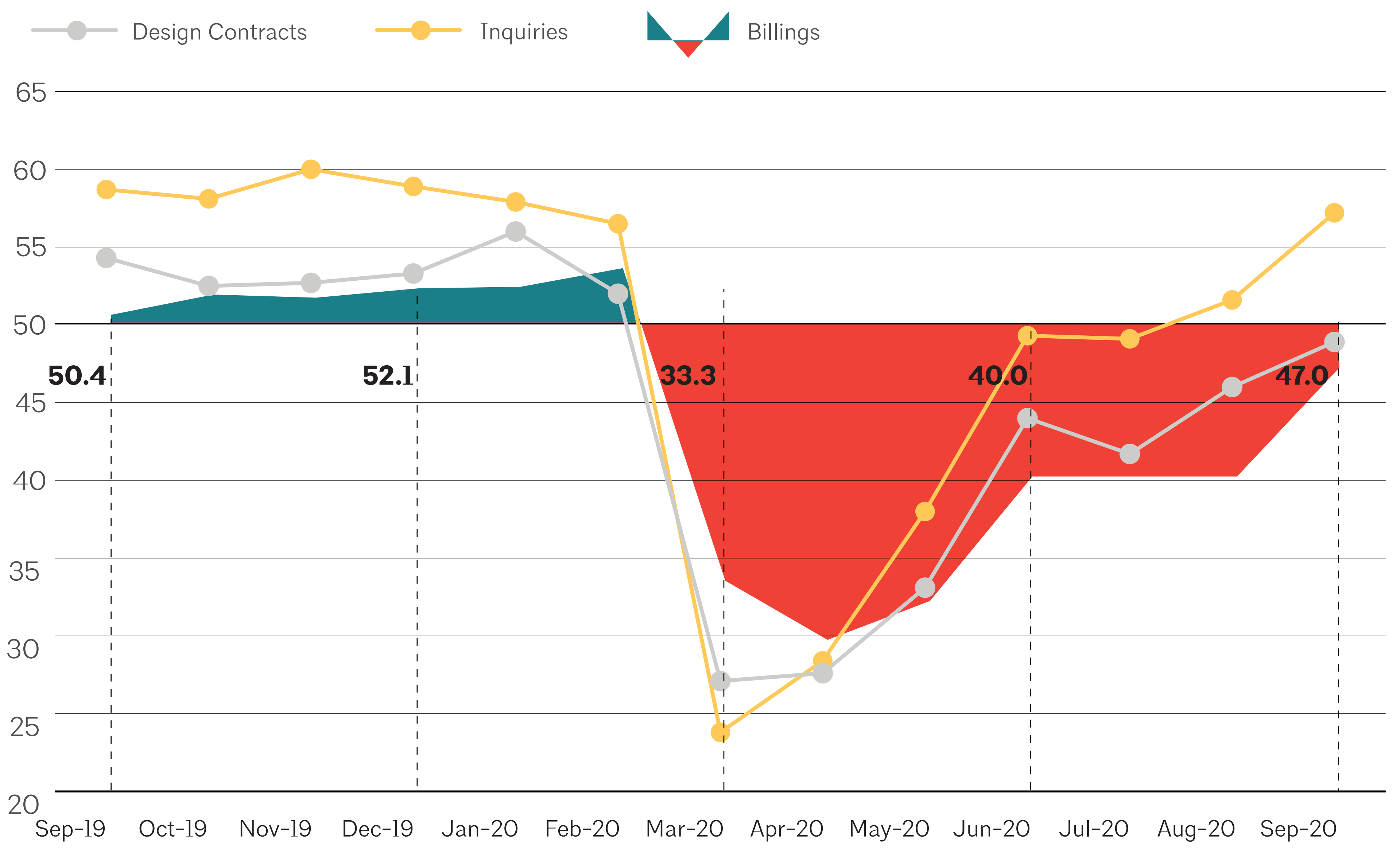
National | Regional | Sector | Practice

National

Fewer firms report declining billings in September

Graphs represent data from September 2019–September 2020.

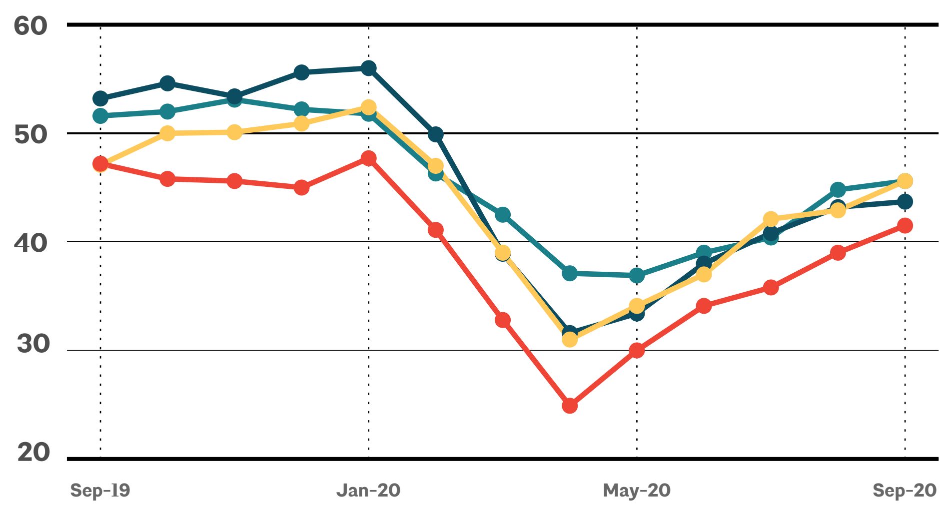
Above 50 | Below 50 | No change from previous period

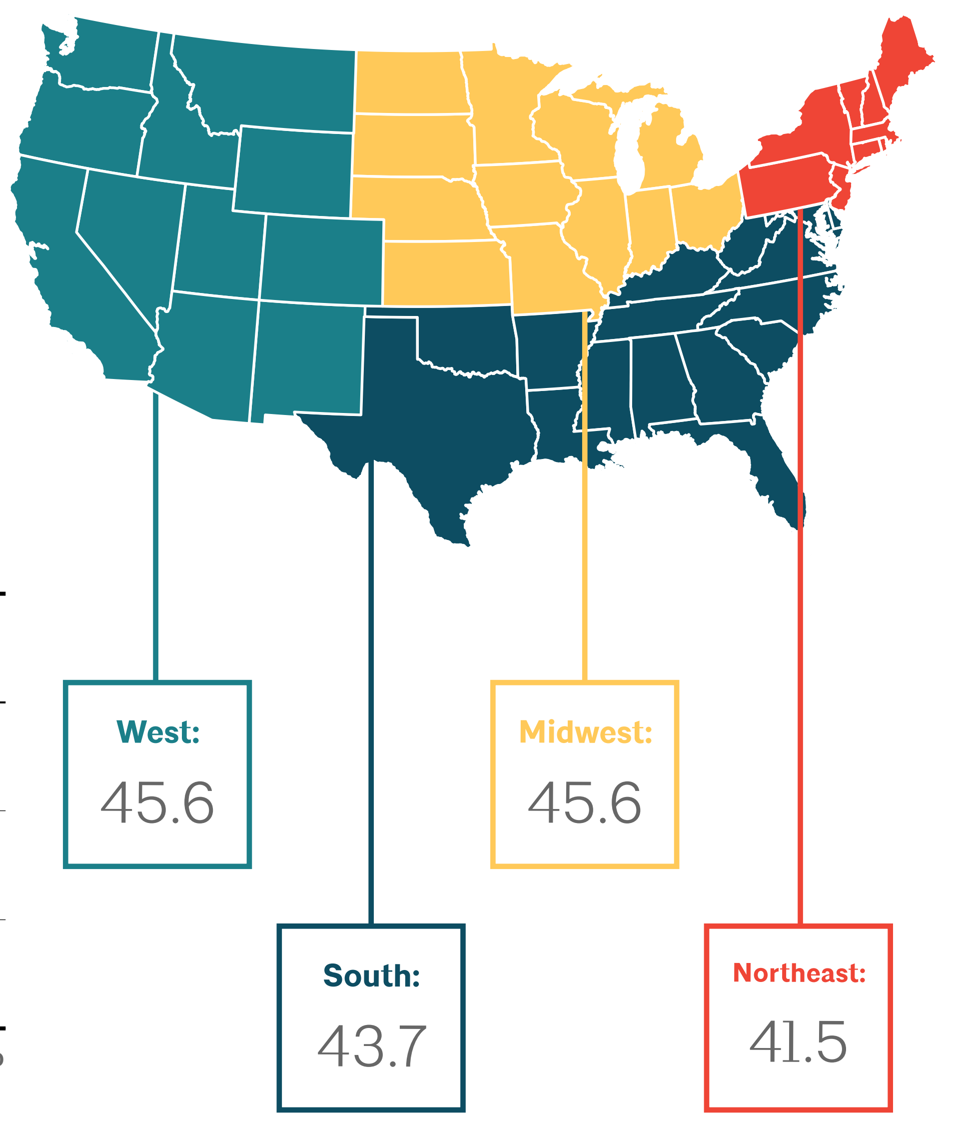


Regional

Business conditions remain weak across the country, but are moving toward a recovery

Graphs represent data from September 2019–September 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.

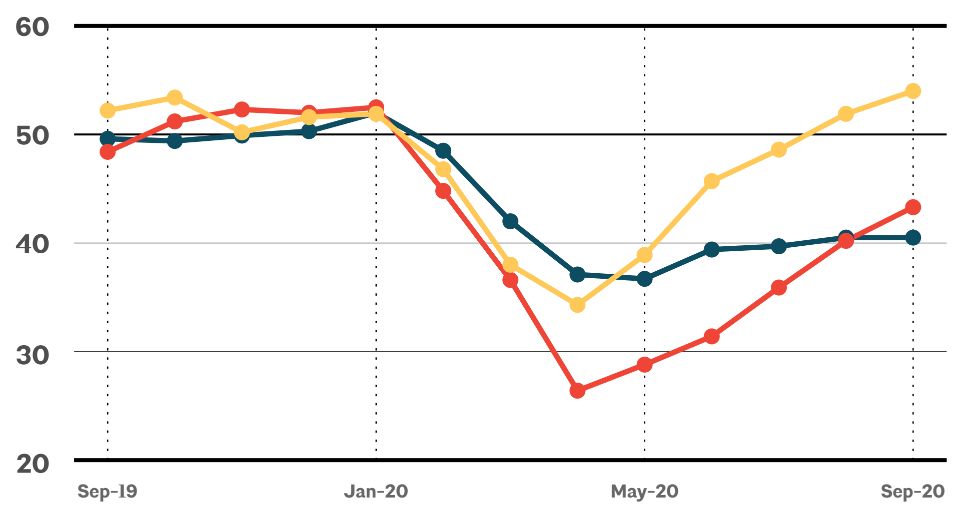




Sector

Firms with a multifamily residential specialization report a strong increase in billings

Graphs represent data from September 2019–September 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

Architecture firms project ongoing revenue losses into 2021

units: estimated change in revenue in fourth quarter of 2020 compared to third quarter, and current projection for 2021 revenue as compared to 2020, % of firms