



Architecture Billings Index (ABI)

February 2021

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.

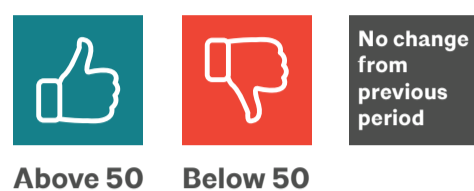
*All graphs represent data from February 2020–February 2021.

ABI

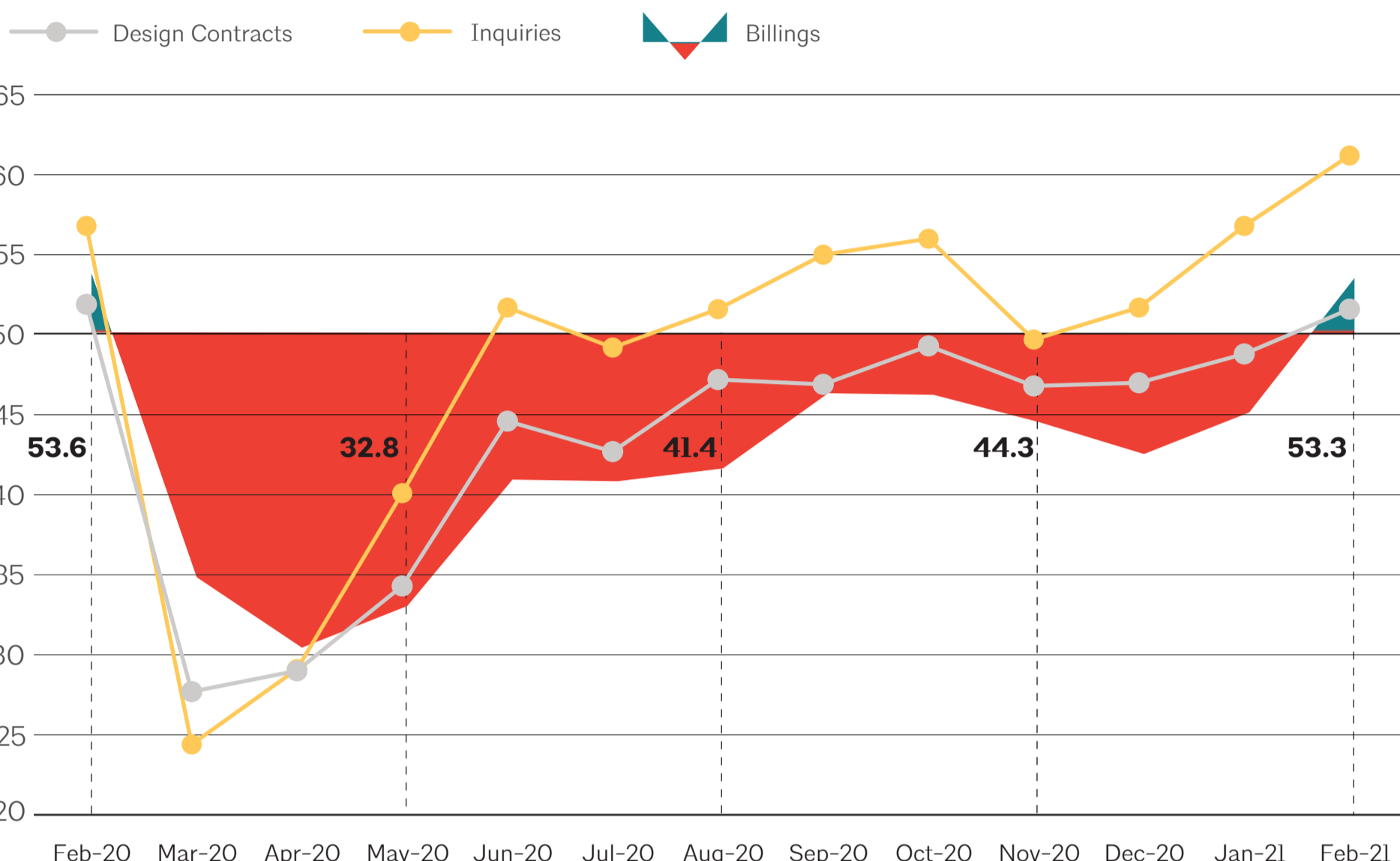
National Regional Sector Practice

National

Architecture firm billings increased in February for the first time in a year



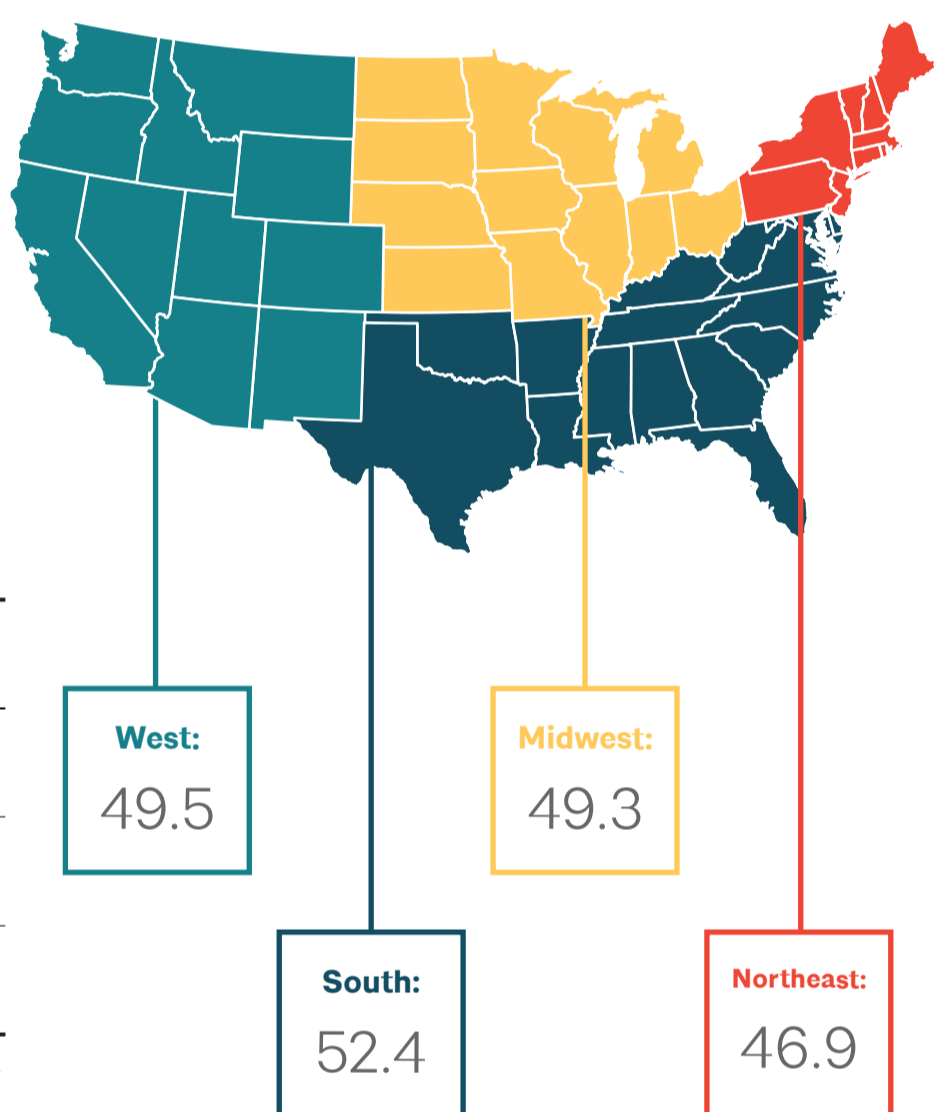
Graphs represent data from February 2020–February 2021.



Regional

Firms in the South report billings growth, as most other regions approach also a turnaround

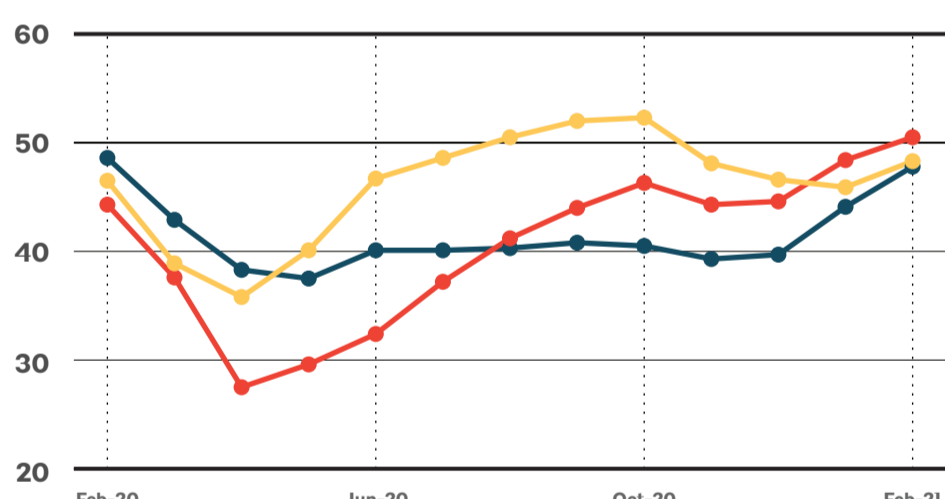
Graphs represent data from February 2020–February 2021 across the four regions. 50 represents the diffusion center. A score of 50 equals no change from the previous month. Above 50 shows increase; Below 50 shows decrease. 3-month moving average.



Sector

Firms with a commercial/industrial specialization finally see a modest improvement in business conditions

Graphs represent data from February 2020–February 2021 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

Firms expect far fewer employees to work in the office on a daily basis post-pandemic

units: % of firm's full-time professional staff working in each of the given ways, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, and expectation for post-pandemic

