



# Architecture Billings Index (ABI)

## May 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 May 2020–May 2021.

### ABI

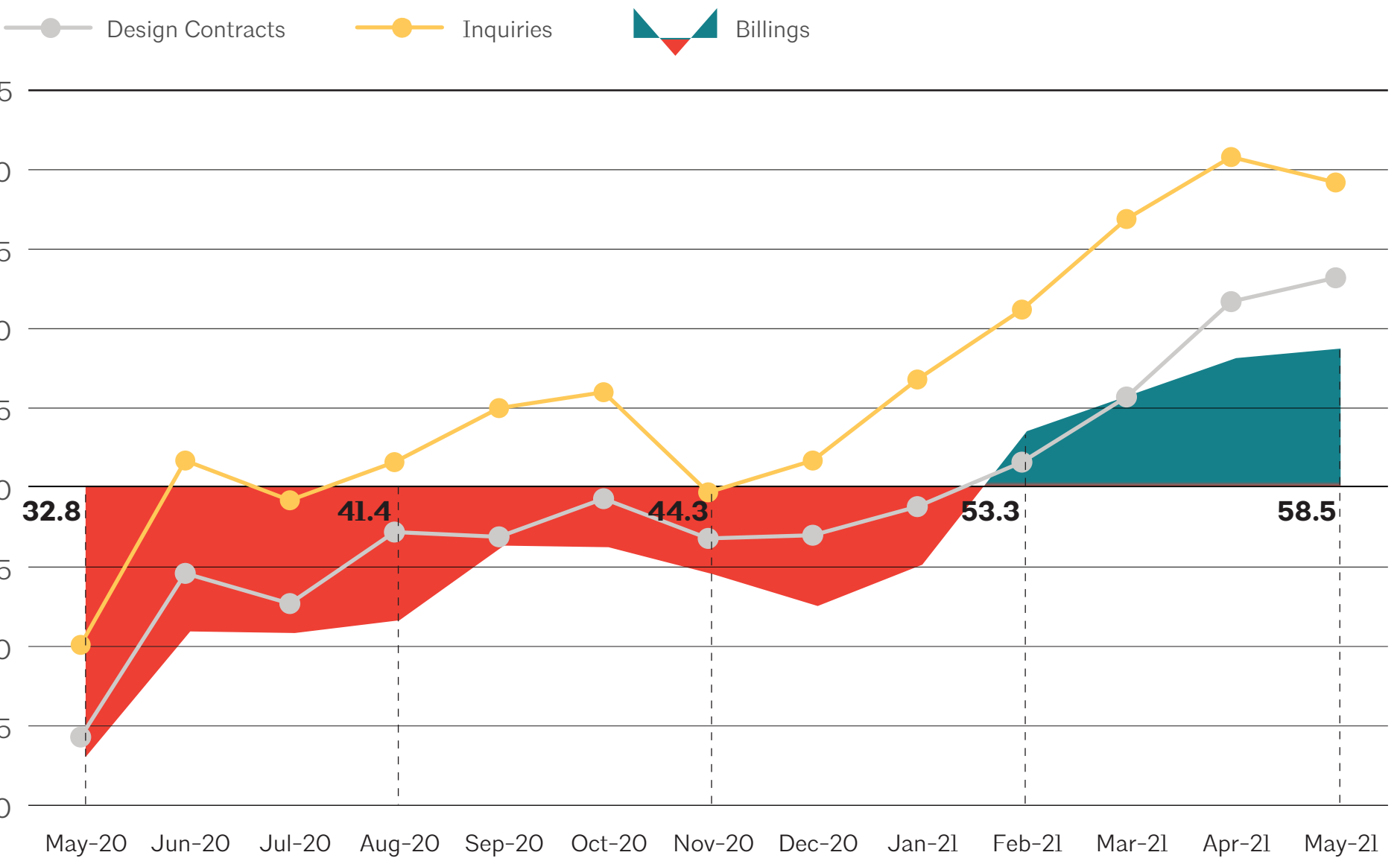
National      Regional      Sector      Practice

## National

### Architecture firm billings continue to surge in May



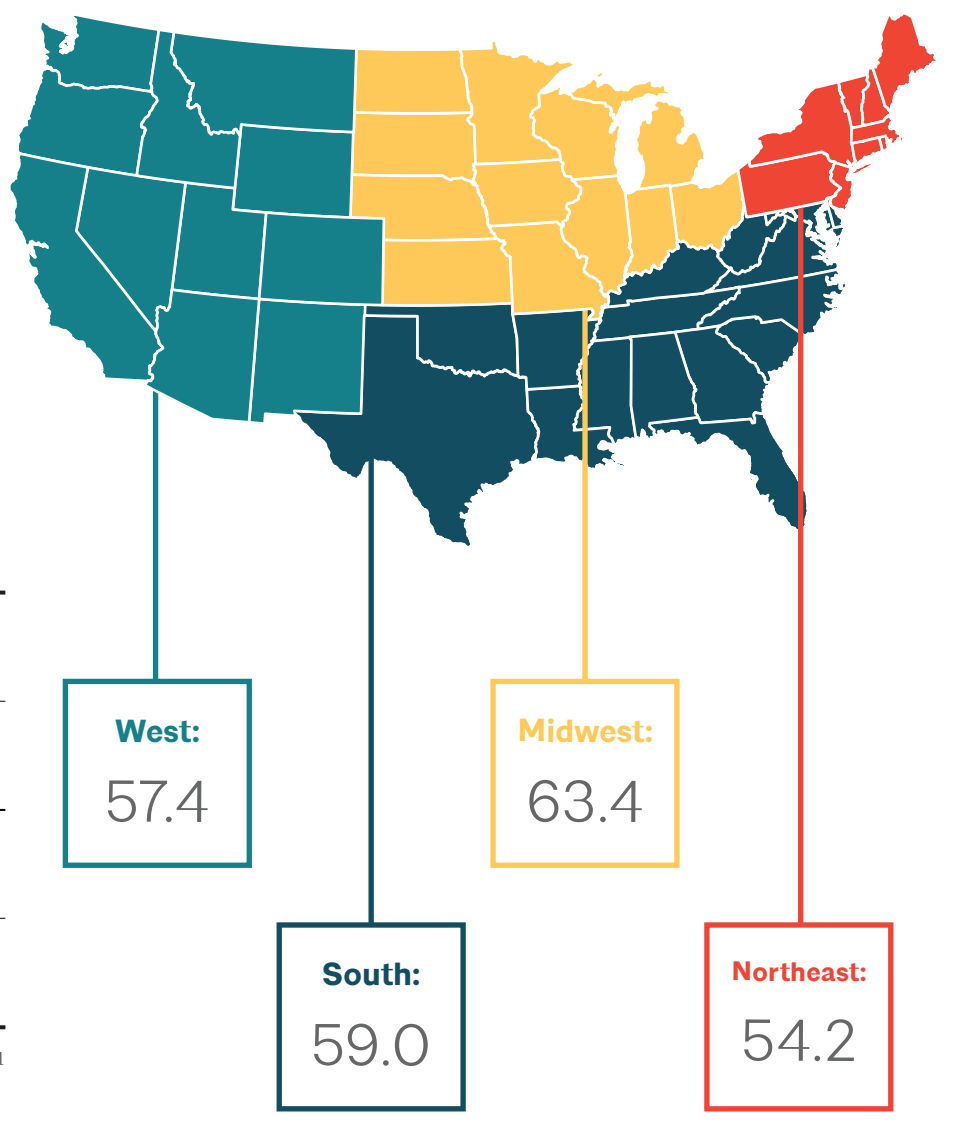
Graphs represent data from May 2020–May 2021.



## Regional

### Business conditions remain strongest at firms in the Midwest

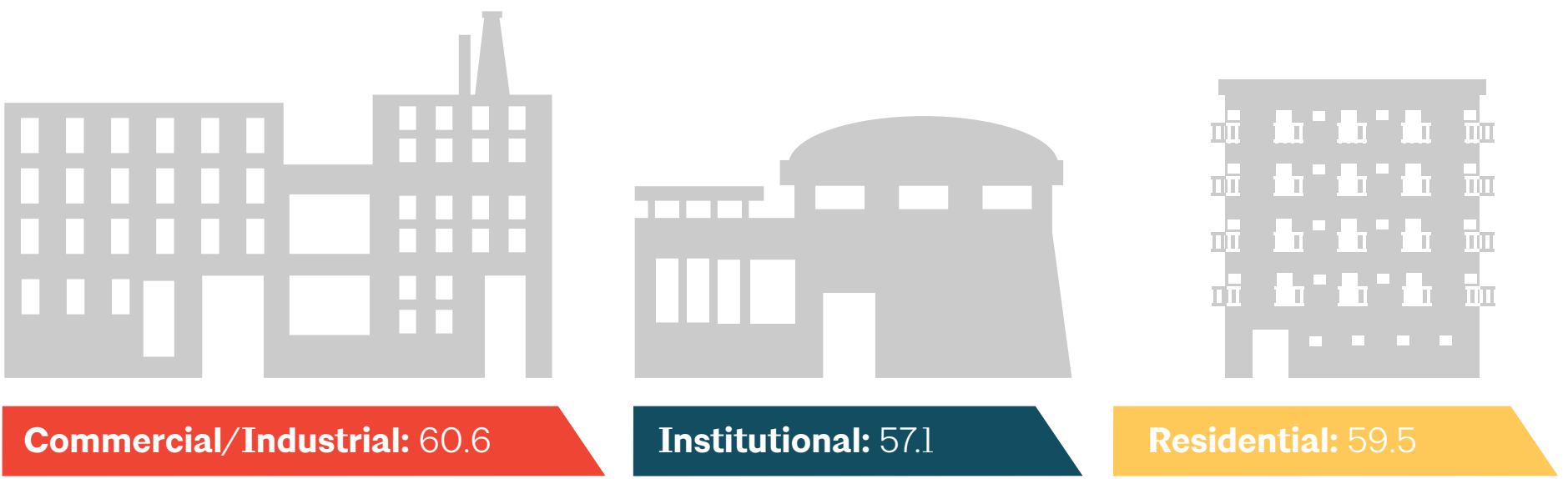
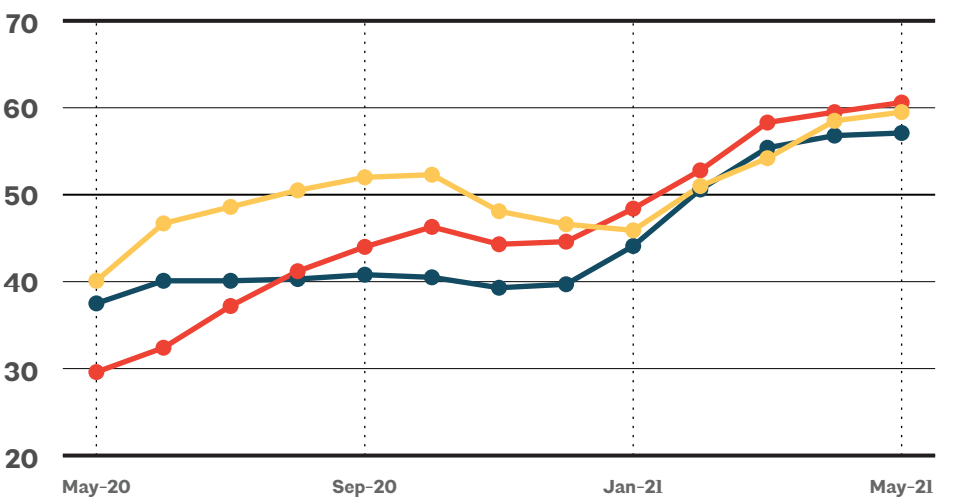
Graphs represent data from May 2020–May 2021 across the four regions. 50 represents the diffusion center. A score of 50 equals no change from the previous month. Above 50 shows increase; Below 50 shows decrease. 3-month moving average.



## Sector

### All firm specializations report strong growth in billings for the third consecutive month

Graphs represent data from May 2020–May 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

### Share of firm billings from existing buildings is highest at firms located in Northeast, and those with an institutional specialization

units: estimated share of billings at firms from 2021 so far for projects dealing with renovations, rehabilitation, retrofits, additions, and historic preservation to existing facilities

