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 of changes in future construction. The index is calculated based on the difference between 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.

**National**

Business conditions at architecture firms strengthen further in September

Graphs represent data from September 2020–September 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.

- **West:** 56.0
- **Midwest:** 57.7
- **South:** 57.0
- **Northeast:** 51.5

**Regional**

Firms in the Midwest, South report strongest billings

Graphs represent data from September 2020–September 2021 across the Midwest and South region. A score of 50 equals no change from the previous month. Above 50 shows increase; Below 50 shows decrease. 3-month moving average.

- Midwest: 57.7
- South: 57.0

**Sector**

Conditions remain strong at firms of all specializations

Graphs represent data from September 2020–September 2021 across commercial, industrial, and institutional 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: 58.1
- Industrial: 53.5
- Institutional: 56.1

**Practice**

Architecture firms are most heavily invested in technologies to assist with managing their firm and projects

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

- 0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%
- Commercial:
  - Emerging technologies (e.g., augmented reality, artificial intelligence, wearable technology, Blockchain, robotic process automation, parametric design)
  - Energy/carbon/building performance technology solutions (e.g., Tally, FEMA Firmette, eQUEST, Sefaira, EC3, Athena)
  - Social media profile for firm
  - Firm management technology solutions
  - Project management & delivery technology solutions
  - Communication & collaboration technology solutions

- 5% 10% 15% 20% 25% 30% 35% 40% 45% 50% 55% 60% 65% 70% 75% 80% 85% 90% 95% 100%
- Industrial:
  - Emerging technologies (e.g., augmented reality, artificial intelligence, wearable technology, Blockchain, robotic process automation, parametric design)
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