Regional Business conditions strengthen at firms in South, Midwest, but soften at firms in Northeast, West

Graphs represent data from February 2021–February 2022 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.

National Architecture firm billings growth continues in February

Graphs represent data from February 2021–February 2022. 50 represents the diffusion center. A score of 50 equals no change from the previous period. Above 50 indicates an increase; Below 50 indicates a decrease from the previous period.

Practice

At architecture firms, ongoing supply chain disruptions necessitate increased communication with clients, and encouraging contractors to stockpile materials in advance.

- 31% of firms report increased engagement with contractors prior to bid submission.
- 22% report increasing estimated costs for construction contract administration assuming it will be a more complicated process.
- 6% say they are extending the design phase of projects.
- 21% say they are allowing contractors more freedom in materials and product substitution to avoid supply chain disruptions.
- 20% say they are starting construction contract administration (CCA) earlier than usual.
- 18% say they are avoiding projects that may be unusually challenging due to supply chain concerns.
- 15% say they are developing more design options to help deal with supply chain issues.
- 14% say they are monitoring the cost and availability of materials/products for clients to minimize future problems.
- 13% say they are building more design options into the design upfront to help deal with supply chain issues.
- 12% say they are keeping clients informed of potential impacts of supply chain disruptions on project costs and schedules.
- 10% say they are avoiding projects that may be unusually challenging due to supply chain concerns.
- 9% say they are developing more design options to help deal with supply chain issues.
- 8% say they are encouraging contractors to order materials earlier or stockpile needed project supplies to avoid delays.
- 7% say they are keeping clients informed of potential impacts of supply chain disruptions on project costs and schedules.
- 6% say they are developing more design options to help deal with supply chain issues.
- 5% say they are avoiding projects that may be unusually challenging due to supply chain concerns.
- 4% say they are extending the design phase of projects.
- 3% say they are developing more design options into the design upfront to help deal with supply chain issues.
- 2% say they are reducing estimated costs for construction contract administration assuming it will be a more complicated process.
- 1% say they are avoiding projects that may be unusually challenging due to supply chain concerns.
- 1% say they are extending the design phase of projects.
- 1% say they are developing more design options into the design upfront to help deal with supply chain issues.
- 1% say they are reducing estimated costs for construction contract administration assuming it will be a more complicated process.

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 decrease in firm billings from the previous month.