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65th ANNUAL SPRING CONVENTION

President Rudy Nigl and his wife, Courtney, wish to extend a warm MICA invitation to you to join them as our association engages in "Here and Now". One of the key benefits of belonging to MICA is your ability to work with fellow members "Here and Now" to improve your business acumen and to better your industry. Come and participate as we share ideas at our annual convention this June 19 – 22, 2022, at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort, in Bonita Springs, Florida. Our 65th Annual Spring Convention will be a special event, and one that you do not want to miss! The timing and location of this year's meeting is designed to allow those of you who would like to extend the meeting into a vacation time for the entire family to do so. The Fort Myers/Naples area, coupled with the west coast of Florida, is ideal for a family getaway starting with the luxurious Hyatt Regency. Create memories that will last a lifetime at this

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The Board of Directors is most excited about the technical topics and speakers for the spring convention. The topics and speakers were selected to help educate and inform you on a variety of industry topics pertinent to our current business climate. We are going to have presentations that cover a wide array of topics that will help you grow your knowledge as a business professional. Our opening keynote speaker is **Andre Fluellen**. Andre is a Co-Founder of Beyond The Game Network. He played eight years in the NFL as a defensive tackle for the Lions, Bills, and Dolphins. Fluellen is a graduate of the NFL's Broadcaster Bootcamp and has appeared as a football analyst on the NFL Network. He is an active motivational speaker, addressing thousands across the country annually. In keeping with President Nigl's theme, Andre will share with us "The Power of Right Now".



The national news has alerted us to the fact that across the world, there are supply chain issues. From food shortages in our grocery stores to computer chips for new cars, and for sure, sourcing supplies for our industry's basic material needs is proving more difficult than many of us have ever experienced. From a contractor perspective, how do you price your insulation material needs when the quoted price from distributors keeps changing almost on a daily basis, and the delivery time cannot be guaranteed? From a distributor perspective, how can

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

TO: THE MICA MEMBERSHIP

Greetings MICA Family!

Resilience (def.)

1. The capacity to recover quickly from difficulties; toughness.
2. The ability of a substance or object to spring back into shape; elasticity.

Resilience is a characteristic trait that we see from the most successful leaders, the humblest employees, the ever-giving parents, and even our children!

I was listening to a podcast recently while on the road between jobsites, and the person being interviewed was a man named Joe De Sena. The creator of the famous “Spartan Race” has been pushing the extreme for a few decades now. Years ago, De Sena found himself on Wall Street and began searching for physical and mental challenges to push himself past the everyday routine and boredom that he found himself falling into.

The Spartan Race is a collection of obstacle course races around the world with varying distances and difficulties. They are a true test of the individual’s grit, toughness, and resilience. De Sena and his team have been organizing these events for the last 15 years and have seen hundreds of thousands of “everyday people” push themselves past what they ever thought they were capable of. De Sena has taken his findings from the “Resilience” world to help others by writing books and traveling to speak on the importance of resilience as an individual as well as a family. His latest book speaks to the topic of family resilience – how do we as adults/parents work through tough situations, or bounce back from something

negative in our lives. As important as our own resilience is, the ways we are leading our children through resilience can be even more meaningful. Children are facing challenges in all aspects of their lives, and the people they look up to are the ones that can help guide them to become more resilient.

De Sena speaks to the immense number of children in our country that are losing the ability to “bounce back” from a situation, or how to deal through a hardship. Too many children are assisted by a parent, friend, coach, mentor anytime something goes wrong. Now, De Sena doesn’t encourage leaving your child to handle all situations by themselves, but instead, to help them learn from challenging experiences to better themselves. The path to resilience isn’t easy, but can build mental, physical, and spiritual strength that will lead to more personal growth and success as the world comes at us in the future.

Speaking from experience – with three children under 7 years old right now – there are plenty of opportunities to “just do it for them” or to “fix the problem”. Courtney and I try to be aware of these situations and allow our children to learn and experience as much as possible so they can learn and find those paths through challenges, excitement, and responsibilities. It’s never perfect, and never will be – but it is a true joy to see a child bounce back from a challenge and become a little stronger from it.

As adults, we need to show our children and others around us the path to resilience – and the only way to do that is to face it ourselves and push past the comfort zone to better ourselves and those in our lives.

I hope you all can enjoy the last stretch of winter like we are in this photo of a recent dog-sledding adventure in Montana. Spring will be here soon – so get the dust off those golf clubs and bikes to get outside soon for spring-time fun!

Rudy Nigl
MICA President



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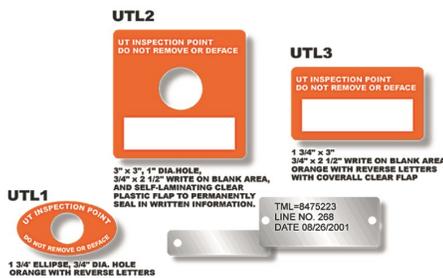


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(Continued from page 1)

you support your contractor customers with a firm price and delivery date, when your manufacturer/supplier keeps changing the price almost daily with no firm delivery date? From a manufacturer perspective, how can you support your distributor/contractor customers when the raw materials needed to manufacture your insulation products is waiting a half-world away to be delivered, with no guaranteed delivery date forthcoming?

Collectively, these supply chain issues make the jobs of member companies considerably harder. Coming out of 2021 and into 2022, our industry has been playing catch-up. Projects are delayed and these backlogged projects continue to fill our calendars. Our industry and the entire world are trying to navigate these shortages of even the most basic materials.

To get a better perspective on this entire supply chain issue, we will have a presentation by **Shraddha Gupta**. Shraddha is the



Global Supply Chain Leader for Owens Corning. She has been with the company for over 4 years. During her time with OC, Shraddha has directed the integration of a global supply chain business in North America and Europe, following the procurement of Foamglas into the Owens Corning culture. To facilitate the integration success, she crafted an impactful sales and operations planning (S&OP) process. Shraddha was part of the OC team that delivered a 40% reduction in warehouse capacity management waste after revamping an insulation plant's "order to cash (O2C)" process.

We have reserved a block of rooms at the resort. Our convention rate is \$219 per night plus tax, single or double occupancy for run of the house rooms. The resort fee is discounted to \$5.00 per day. **It is highly suggested that you book your hotel reservations now!** Call the reservations office at 877-803-7534 and ask for the **Midwest Insulation Contractors Block**. If you prefer, you may use the reservations link at <https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/NAPRN/G-FMIC>. Please note that we have blocked a limited number of rooms. If you wait until the last minute to reserve your room, you run the risk that our block will be filled. Once the block is filled, the discounted rate will not be available. As we have stated in the past, if you reserve your hotel room now, you can always cancel it later, but you may not be able to reserve a room if you wait too long. We will be monitoring our block and making room adjustments accordingly. **Our block of rooms will be released on May 27, 2022**, but if you wait until May 27th, the block of rooms will be filled, and we may not be able to accommodate your needs.

The Board of Directors feels that each presentation will add value to your understanding of the technical topics discussed. You will come away from the convention more informed and better prepared to successfully manage your business. It is the Board's intent to make this convention attractive to our membership in its location, cost and program content. In this light, our registration fee has been adjusted to encourage additional member participation. The registration fee is \$800.00 for the first attendee from a member company. Registration for all additional attendees from a given company is reduced to \$775. The registration fee is \$1,550.00 for the first member and

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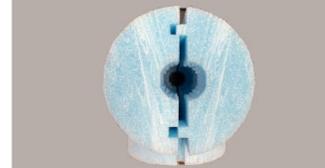
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(Continued from page 5)

spouse registered from a member company. Registration for all additional registered couples from a given company is reduced to \$1,500.00. The Board is delighted to offer this incentive for multiple attendees from member companies. The benefit of joining an association comes from participating in association activities.

A complete packet of registration information including the convention registration form and golf registration will be mailed to you in early March. But do not wait, now is the time to plan for your participation at MICA's 65th annual spring convention. Make your hotel reservations **today** by calling the resort's **reservation line 877-803-7534**. Please join Rudy, Courtney, the entire Board of Directors and fellow MICA members in Bonita Springs, FL, June 19 – 22, 2022, for our annual spring convention and be a part of "Here and Now".

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR ANNOUNCES PROPOSED RULE TO UPDATE POWERED INDUSTRIAL TRUCKS STANDARD FOR GENERAL INDUSTRY, CONSTRUCTION

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Labor announced today a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking by the department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration to improve worker safety and health by ensuring the agency's general industry and construction industry rules reflect current industry practice and state-of-the-art technology.

The proposed rule will update the design and construction requirements for OSHA's powered industrial trucks standards for general industry and construction, including fork trucks, tractors, platform lift trucks, motorized hand trucks and other specialized industrial trucks powered by an electric motor or an internal combustion engine.

Under the proposed rule, OSHA will update its general industry and construction standards for powered industrial trucks by adding references to the latest design and construction requirements published by the American National Standards Institute in conjunction with the Industrial Truck Standards Development Foundation.

The first standard for powered industrial trucks took effect in 1971, based on industry consensus standards in 1969. Since then, national consensus standards have been updated several times.

In addition to updating the design and construction requirements for future manufactured powered industrial trucks, the proposed rule will also address equipment manufactured before the effective date of the final rule.

This proposal is part of a series of regulatory projects by OSHA to update nearly 200 consensus and industry standards to reflect the current versions of consensus and national industry standards.

Submit comments online, identified by Docket No. OSHA-2020-0008 at the Federal eRulemaking Portal. Read the Federal Register notice for submission instructions. Deadline for submitting comments is May 17, 2022.

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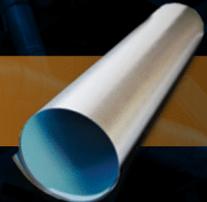
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CONSTRUCTION EMPLOYMENT DIPS IN JANUARY DESPITE RECORD RISE IN WAGES, FALLING UNEMPLOYMENT AS QUEST FOR WORKERS INTENSIFIES AMONG INDUSTRIES

Contractors Association Prepares Updated Construction Inflation Alert as Tight Labor Market, Soaring Materials Costs, and Supply Chain Disruptions Threaten to Delay Projects and Undercut Further Job Gains

Construction employment dipped by 5,000 jobs between December and January even though hourly pay rose at a record pace in the past year, according to an analysis by the Associated General Contractors of America of government data released today. Association officials said future job gains are at risk from several factors that are slowing projects, as detailed in the *Construction Inflation Alert* that it will post on February 7.

“Contractors are struggling to fill positions as potential workers opt out of the labor market or choose other industries,” said Ken Simonson, the association’s chief economist. “In addition, soaring materials costs and unpredictable delivery times are delaying projects and holding back employment gains.”

Simonson noted that average hourly earnings in the construction industry increased 5.1 percent from January 2021 to last month--the steepest 12-month increase in the 15-year history of the series. The industry average of \$33.80 per hour exceeded the private sector average by nearly 7 percent. However, competition for workers has intensified as other industries have hiked starting pay and offered working conditions that are not possible in construction, such as flexible hours or work from home.

Since January 2021 the industry has added 163,000 employees despite the decline last month. But the number of unemployed jobseekers among former construction workers shrank by 229,000 over that time, indicating workers are leaving the workforce altogether or taking jobs in other sectors, Simonson added.

Construction employment totaled 7,523,000 last month, which was 101,000 jobs or 1.3 percent less than in pre-pandemic peak month of February 2020. However, the totals mask large differences between residential and nonresidential segments of the industry, Simonson said.

Nonresidential construction firms--general building contractors, specialty trade contractors, and heavy and civil engineering construction firms--lost 9,000 employees in January. Nonresidential employment remains 213,000 below the pre-pandemic peak set in February 2020. In contrast, employment in residential construction--comprising homebuilding and remodeling firms--edged

up by 4,400 jobs in January and topped the February 2020 level by 112,000.

Association officials said the Construction Hiring and Business Outlook [survey](#) that it released in January showed most contractors expect to add employees in 2022 but overwhelmingly find it difficult to find qualified workers. The association will shortly post an updated *Construction Inflation Alert* to inform owners, officials, and others about the challenges the industry is experiencing with employment, materials costs, and delays.

“Construction firms are struggling to find workers to hire even as they are being forced to cope with rising materials prices and ongoing supply chain disruptions,” said Stephen E. Sandherr, the association’s chief executive officer. “But instead of addressing those challenges, the Biden administration is adding to these problems with a [new executive order](#) that will inflate the cost of construction, discriminate against most workers and undermine the collective bargaining process.”

MATERIALS PRICES SOAR 20 PERCENT BETWEEN JANUARY 2021 AND JANUARY 2022; CONTRACTORS' BID PRICES ACCELERATE BUT CONTINUE TO LAG COST INCREASES

Construction Association Releases New Inflation Alert to Inform Owners, Officials of Cost, Supply, and Labor Challenges; Urges Federal Officials to Take Additional Steps to Ease Supply Change Disruptions

Prices of construction materials jumped more than 20 percent from January 2021 to January 2022, according to an [analysis](#) by the Associated General Contractors of America of government data released today. The association recently posted a new [edition](#) of its *Construction Inflation Alert*, a report to inform project owners, officials, and others about the challenges volatile materials costs, supply chain disruptions, and labor shortages posed for construction firms.

“Unfortunately, there has been no letup early this year in the extreme cost runup that contractors endured in 2021,” said Ken Simonson, the association’s chief economist. “They are apparently passing on more of those costs but will have a continuing challenge in getting timely deliveries and finding enough workers.”

The producer price index for inputs to new nonresidential construction--the prices charged by goods producers and service providers such as distributors and transportation firms--increased by 2.6 percent from December to January and 20.3 percent over the past 12 months. In compari-

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son, the index for new nonresidential construction—a measure of what contractors say they would charge to erect five types of nonresidential buildings—climbed by 3.8 percent for the month and 16.5 percent from a year earlier.

A wide range of inputs contributed to the more than 20 percent jump in the cost index, Simonson noted. The price index for steel mill products soared 112.7 percent over 12 months despite declining 1.6 percent in January. The index for plastic construction products climbed 1.8 percent for the month and 35.0 percent over 12 months. The index for diesel fuel jumped 5.1 percent in January and 56.5 percent for the year. The index for aluminum mill shapes jumped 5.6 percent in January and 32.7 percent over 12 months, while the index for copper and brass mill shapes rose 4.1 percent in January and 24.8 percent over the year. Architectural coatings such as paint had an unusually large price gain of 9.0 percent in January and 24.3 percent over 12 months. The index for lumber and plywood leaped 15.4 percent for the month and 21.1 percent year-over-year. Other inputs with double-digit increases for the past 12 months include roofing asphalt products, 19.8 percent; insulation, 19.2 percent; trucking, 18.3 percent; and construction machinery and equipment, 11.4 percent.

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FUTURE MICA MEETING DATES

65th Annual Spring Convention — June 19 — 22, 2022, Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort, Bonita Springs, FL.

Fall 2022 Annual Fall Business Meeting — October 13 & 14, 2022, Omaha Marriott Downtown, Omaha, NE.

2023 Winter Meetings — TBD

66th Annual Spring Convention — June 19 — 22, 2023, Cheyenne Mountain Resort, Colorado Springs, CO.

Fall 2023 Annual Fall Business Meeting — October 2023, TBD, Omaha, NE.

68th Annual Spring Convention — June 16 — 19, 2025, Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort, Bonita Springs, FL.

MICA MEMBER ADDRESS/INFO. UPDATES

Be sure to inform the MICA office of any changes or corrections to your listing for either the MICA Directory, e-mail correspondence or mailing address. **Even if you update your company listing on the MICA website, please inform the MICA office of the changes.** We try to be as current as possible with your help.

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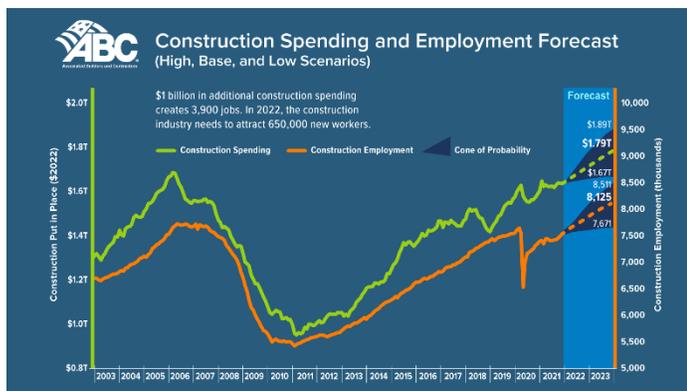
(Continued from page 11)

Association officials said construction firms are being squeezed by increased costs for materials and labor shortages. They urged federal officials to take additional steps to address supply chain disruptions and rising materials prices. These include continuing to remove costly tariffs on key construction components.

“Spiking materials prices are making it challenging for most firms to profit from any increases in demand for new construction projects,” said Stephen E. Sandherr, the association’s chief executive officer. “Left unabated, these price increases will undermine the economic case for many development projects and limit the positive impacts of the new infrastructure bill.”

ABC: CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY FACES WORKFORCE SHORTAGE OF 650,000 IN 2022

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23—The construction industry will need to attract nearly 650,000 additional workers on top of the normal pace of hiring in 2022 to meet the demand for labor, according to a model developed by Associated Builders and Contractors.



“ABC’s 2022 workforce shortage analysis sends a message loud and clear: The construction industry desperately needs qualified, skilled craft professionals to build America,” said Michael Bellaman, ABC president and CEO. “The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act passed in November and stimulus from COVID-19 relief will pump billions in new spending into our nation’s most critical infrastructure, and qualified craft professionals are essential to efficiently modernize roads, bridges, energy production and other projects across the country. More regulations and less worker freedom make it harder to fill these jobs.”

ABC’s proprietary model uses the historical relationship between inflation-adjusted construction spending growth,

sourced from the U.S. Census Bureau’s Value of Construction Put in Place survey, and payroll construction employment, sourced from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, to convert anticipated increases in construction outlays into demand for construction labor at a rate of approximately 3,900 new jobs per billion dollars of additional construction spending. This increased demand is added to the current level of above-average job openings. Projected industry retirements, shifts to other industries and other forms of anticipated separation are also factored into the model.

Based on historical Census Bureau Job-to-Job flow data, an estimated 1.2 million construction workers will leave their jobs to work in other industries in 2022. It is expected that this will be offset by an anticipated 1.3 million workers who will leave other industries to work in construction.

“The workforce shortage is the most acute challenge facing the construction industry despite sluggish spending growth,” said ABC Chief Economist Anirban Basu. “After accounting for inflation, construction spending has likely fallen over the past 12 months. As outlays from the infrastructure bill increase, construction spending will expand, exacerbating the chasm between supply and demand for labor.

“An added concern is the decline in the number of construction workers ages 25-54, which fell 8% over the past decade. Meanwhile, the share of older workers exiting the workforce soared,” said Basu. “According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the industry’s average age of retirement is 61, and more than 1 in 5 construction workers are currently older than 55.

“The scarcity of qualified skilled workers is an even more pressing issue,” said Basu. “Since 2011, the number of entry-level construction laborers has increased 72.8%, while the number of total construction workers is up just 24.7%. For reference, the number of electricians was up 23.9% over that span while the number of carpenters actually declined 7.5%. The number of construction managers has increased by just 2.1%. More than 40% of construction workforce growth over the past decade is comprised of low-skilled construction laborers, who represent just 19% of the workforce.

“The roughly 650,000 workers needed must quickly acquire specialized skills,” said Basu. “With many industries outside of construction also competing for increasingly scarce labor, the industry must take drastic steps to ensure future workforce demands are met.”

(Continued on page 17)

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(Continued from page 13)

In 2023, the industry will need to bring in nearly 590,000 new workers on top of normal hiring to meet industry demand, and that's presuming that construction spending growth slows next year.

"Now is the time to consider a career in construction," said Bellaman. "The vocation offers competitive wages and many opportunities to both begin and advance in an industry that builds the places where we work, play, worship, learn and heal. ABC member contractors use flexible, competency-based and market-driven education methodologies to build a construction workforce that is safe, skilled and productive. This all-of-the-above approach to workforce development has produced a network of ABC chapters and affiliates across the country that offer more than 800 apprenticeship, craft, safety and management education programs—including more than 300 registered apprenticeship programs across 20 different occupations—to build the people who build America."

CONSTRUCTION COALITION OPPOSES BIDEN ADMINISTRATION PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENT SCHEMES

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16—On Feb. 15, Associated Builders and Contractors and 15 associations and organizations representing tens of thousands of companies and millions of employees in the construction industry sent a letter to the White House highlighting concerns with President Joe Biden's efforts to require controversial government-mandated project labor agreements on federal and federally assisted construction contracts.

"We applaud the administration's leadership to improve and build new roads, bridges, schools, affordable housing and communications, water, energy and transportation systems in urgent need of public and private investment in order to keep America competitive in a global economy," the coalition wrote. "However, Executive Order 14063, which requires PLAs on federal construction contracts exceeding \$35 million, and other policies encouraging PLAs on federally assisted projects via grant programs administered by federal agencies for state and local gov-

(Continued on page 19)

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(Continued from page 17)

ernments, will undermine taxpayer investment in public works projects financed by the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act of 2021 and additional bipartisan legislation passed by Congress and signed into law free from language requiring or encouraging the use of PLAs.

“The administration’s flawed rationale justifying pro-PLA policies ignores marketplace realities and broad opposition to government-mandated PLAs within the construction industry,” said the coalition. “Hardworking taxpayers are getting less and paying more when PLAs are encouraged or mandated by the government on federal and federally assisted construction projects. In addition, PLA requirements will exacerbate the construction industry’s skilled labor shortage of nearly 500,000 workers, reduce competition from experienced contractors and undermine the Biden administration’s ability to meet its infrastructure, affordable housing and clean energy agenda without strong participation from businesses and construction workers directly harmed by anti-competitive and costly pro-PLA policies.”

DODGE MOMENTUM INDEX FALLS IN JANUARY

HAMILTON, New Jersey – February 8, 2022 — The Dodge Momentum Index declined 7% in January to a four-month low of 152.9 (2000=100), from the revised December reading of 163.7. The Momentum Index, issued by Dodge Construction Network, is a monthly measure of the initial report for nonresidential building projects in planning, which have been shown to lead construction spending for nonresidential buildings by a full

year. In January, commercial planning fell 9%, and institutional planning slipped 1%.

The Dodge Momentum Index had a stellar 2021, rising 23% from 2020 and reaching levels not seen in nearly 14 years. The recent string of declines, however, may be blamed on rising costs, logistical problems and shortages of skilled labor. Still, even as it has decreased, the dollar value of projects in planning remains exceptionally strong, especially for education, warehouse and healthcare projects.

A total of 13 projects with a value of \$100 million or more entered planning in January. The leading institutional projects were a \$400 million hospital in Tahlequah, OK, and the \$320 million Ascension Seton Medical Tower in Austin, TX. The leading commercial projects were the \$300 million first phase of the Willets Point redevelopment in Willets Point, NY, and the \$300 million XNRGY headquarters in Chandler, AZ.

Many of the challenges facing construction in 2022 will be similar to those in 2021, dampening expectations for robust growth. However, the volume of projects in planning provides hope not only for a continuing recovery, but for it to be more evenly dispersed than last year.

DODGE MOMENTUM INDEX

(2000=100, Seasonally Adjusted)

	Jan-22	Dec-21	% Change
Dodge Momentum Index	152.9	163.7	-6.6%
Commercial Building	175.9	194.1	-9.4%
Institutional Building	124.4	126.2	-1.4%

Source: Dodge Construction Network

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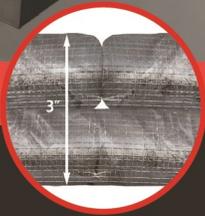
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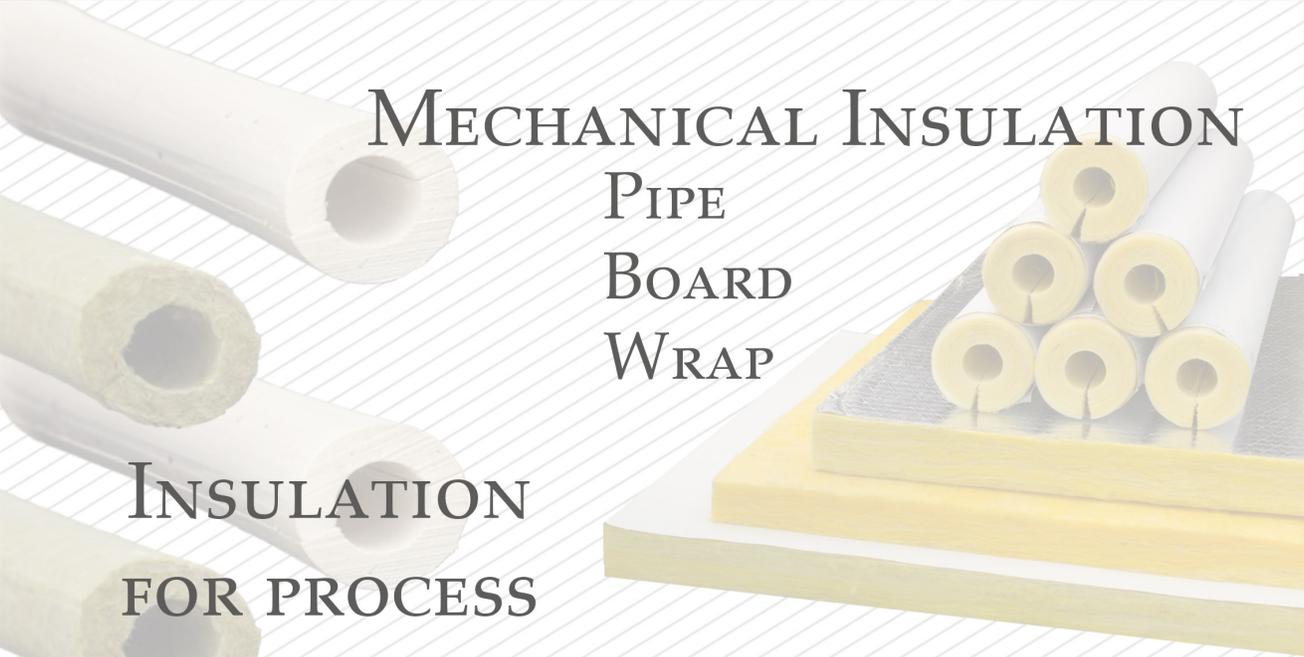
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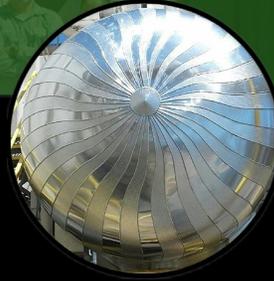
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ABC'S CONSTRUCTION BACKLOG SLIPS AGAIN IN JANUARY, CONTRACTOR CONFIDENCE INCHES LOWER

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15—Associated Builders and Contractors reported today that its Construction Backlog Indicator declined to 8.0 months in January, according to an ABC member survey conducted Jan. 20 to Feb. 4. The reading is down 0.2 months from December 2021, but up 0.5 months from January 2021.

Construction Backlog Indicator

	Jan. 2022	Dec. 2021	Jan. 2021	1-Month Net Change	12-Month Net Change
Total	8.0	8.2	7.5	-0.2	0.5
Industry					
Commercial & Institutional	8.2	8.5	7.7	-0.3	0.5
Heavy Industrial	7.6	7.7	6.5	-0.1	1.1
Infrastructure	8.7	7.3	7.0	1.4	1.7
Region					
Middle States	7.4	8.2	5.9	-0.8	1.5
Northeast	7.1	7.5	8.1	-0.4	-1.0
South	9.8	9.0	8.0	0.8	1.8
West	7.4	8.4	8.0	-1.0	-0.6
Company Size					
<\$30 Million	7.4	7.6	6.6	-0.2	0.8
\$30-\$50 Million	7.7	8.7	7.9	-1.0	-0.2
\$50-\$100 Million	12.4	11.3	8.8	1.1	3.6
>\$100 Million	11.9	10.7	12.4	1.2	-0.5

© Associated Builders and Contractors, Construction Backlog Indicator

ABC's Construction Confidence Index readings for sales, profit margins and staffing levels all inched lower in January. All three indices remain above the threshold of 50, indicating expectations of growth over the next six months.

View ABC's [Construction Backlog Indicator](#) and [Construction Confidence Index](#) tables for January 2022.

Construction Confidence Index

Response	January 2022	December 2021	January 2021
CCI Reading			
Sales	66.2	66.3	58.4
Profit Margins	56.9	57.4	47.5
Staffing	63.9	64.6	58.1
Sales Expectations			
Up Big	11.1%	11.5%	8.4%
Up Small	55.3%	53.6%	47.8%
No Change	21.2%	25.1%	19.9%
Down Small	12.5%	8.2%	16.8%
Down Big	0.0%	1.6%	7.1%
Profit Margin Expectations			
Up Big	2.9%	2.7%	2.2%
Up Small	45.7%	45.4%	28.8%
No Change	30.8%	33.3%	34.5%
Down Small	17.3%	15.8%	25.7%
Down Big	3.4%	2.7%	8.8%
Staffing Level Expectations			
Up Big	7.7%	7.7%	3.5%
Up Small	51.9%	53.0%	45.1%
No Change	30.8%	31.1%	35.8%
Down Small	7.7%	6.6%	11.1%
Down Big	1.9%	1.6%	4.4%

© Associated Builders and Contractors, Construction Confidence Index

“Despite the omicron variant, ongoing supply chain issues, elevated energy and materials prices and rampant staffing shortages, the average nonresidential contractor remains upbeat,” said ABC Chief Economist Anirban Basu. “Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of the survey findings is the expectation that

(Continued on page 26)

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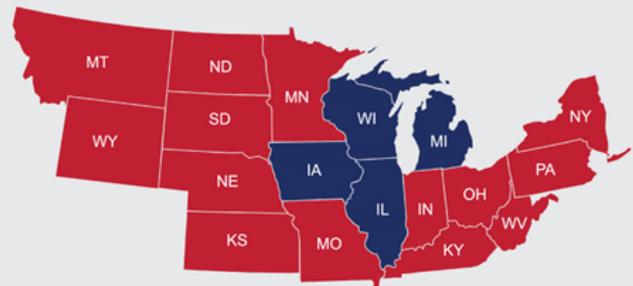
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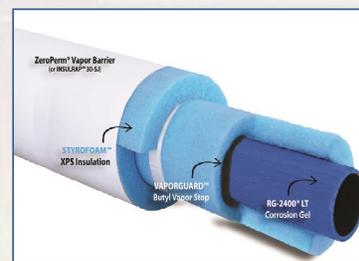
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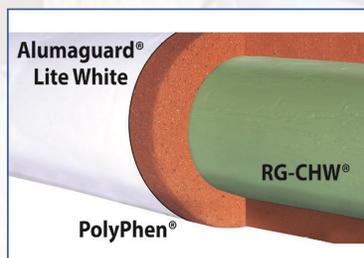
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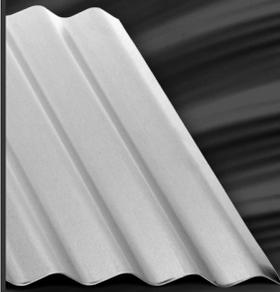
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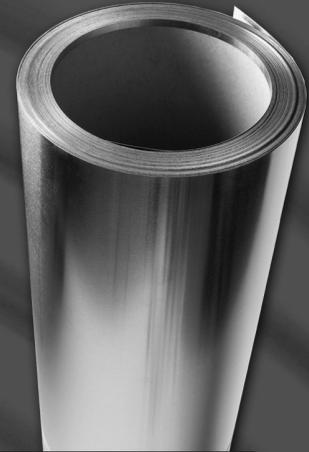
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(Continued from page 23)

industry profit margins will expand during coming months, implying that contractors expect to pass along enough price increases to project owners to countervail the rising costs of construction service delivery.

“The last two months have indicated declining backlog, but the dips are not cause for particular concern,” said Basu. “Declining backlog indicates that some projects are postponed or canceled in response to rising costs and/or extended delivery timelines. The principal challenge for contractors remains a lack of sufficiently skilled labor, a structural issue that will not go away soon and a circumstance contractors have dealt with for years. The situation is likely to deteriorate further as federal infrastructure dollars begin affecting the economy more forcefully in the near future.”

SENATE DEMOCRATS' PROPOSAL TO SUSPEND THE FEDERAL GAS TAX WILL NOT LOWER PRICES BUT WILL MAKE IT HARDER TO FIX ROADS AND BRIDGES

Construction Official Says “Irresponsible” Proposal Won’t Address Root Causes of Higher Fuel Prices, But Will Blow a Huge Hole in the Federal Highway Trust Fund and Undermine Efforts to Fix Infrastructure

The chief executive officer of the Associated General Contractors of America, Stephen E. Sandherr, issued the following statement today in response to the introduction of a bill by several Democratic Senators to suspend the federal gas tax for the

remainder of 2022 in response to rising fuel prices:

“A recently introduced proposal to suspend the federal gas tax will likely have no impact on what motorists pay at the pump, but it will certainly make it harder for President Biden to keep his promise to fix roads and bridges that are in desperate need of improvement across the country. That is because the irresponsible measure, if enacted, would leave a massive hole in the federal Highway Trust Fund, which is largely funded by the gas tax, that pays for federal investments in road, bridge and transit improvement projects.

“Fuel prices are rising for a variety of reasons, including the fact demand is up while Democrats in Congress and the White House are pushing measures to limit domestic oil production. Those factors have led to significant increases in the price of fuel, and will not go away even if the federal fuel tax were to be temporarily waived.

“Instead of helping motorists, this ill-conceived proposal will make the cost of shipping and commuting higher as growing congestion and worsening road conditions delay shipments, damage vehicles and undermine economic growth since there will be fewer funds available in the long-term to repair our transportation systems. Ultimately, all taxpayers will be forced, via new taxes or additional deficit spending, to pay for this proposal to plug the massive revenue holes it will create.

“We hope this proposal goes nowhere but we take nothing for granted. That is why will take every possible step to educate members of Congress about why this proposal must not pass.”

Sometimes the best amenities are the ones you don't see

For nearly 30 years, our fire-rated enclosure systems have been providing peace of mind, while quietly protecting our customers' lives and investments. From our DryerWrap™ products - extensively used throughout multi-family housing ductwork - to our FastWrap™ XL products - ideal for commercial kitchen exhaust and ventilation ducts - more people trust the FireMaster™ family of products to hold the line.

FastWrap™ XL



- Fire rated up to 2192°F (1200°C)
- 1 to 2-hour UL rated for kitchen exhaust ducts
- Won't age, become brittle, or shrink
- Zero clearance to combustibles
- Meets ASTM E84 smoke/flame rating
- FastDoor™ XL panel provides liquid-tight grease duct access for easy maintenance

DryerWrap™



- UL and ULC listed for 1-hour protection inside rated wood frame construction
- Flexible, 1/2-inch thick optimizes installation costs and space
- Tested on 30 gauge, 7-inch round and 26 gauge 10- x 4-inch rectangular duct
- Improved safety with applications specific testing



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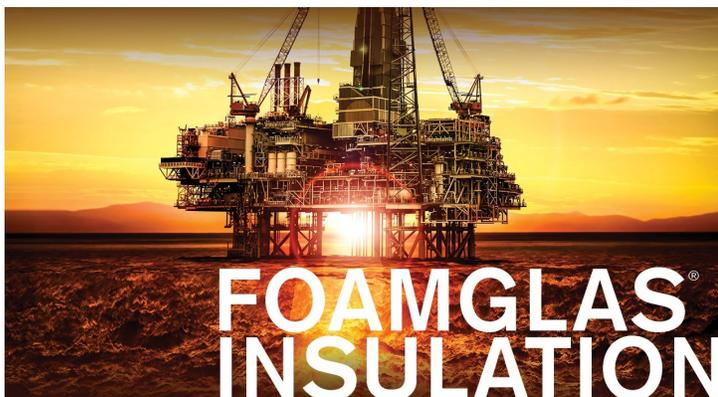
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