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MIDWEST INSULATION CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

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**VOLUME 56 NO. 05
MAY 2022**



WHAT'S INSIDE THIS MONTH:

- 65th Annual Spring Convention.
- President's Message.
- U.S. Department of Labor Reminds Southwest Employers that Workers Need Protection from the Dangers of Heat Illness.
- MICA Future Meeting Dates.
- ABC to Biden Administration: Withdraw the DOL's Davis-Bacon Proposed Rule.
- New Report Explores Architect, Contractor Relationship.
- Dodge Momentum Index Rises in April.
- ABC's Construction Backlog Up in April; Contractor Confidence Down.
- Nonresidential Construction Input Prices Soar 21 Percent from April 2021 to Last Month; Association Urges Relief from Tariffs, Buy-America Rules.

65th ANNUAL SPRING CONVENTION

President Rudy Nigl wishes to extend a warm MICA invitation to you to join us 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 award-winning tropical resort. Enjoy exclusive access to five water slides, four refreshing pools, a lazy river, and a secluded private island. From family retreats to romantic escapes, this Southwest Florida re-

sort in Bonita Springs offers endless excitement in a beautiful setting. Explore the beauty and culture that surrounds the resort. Discover the many local art galleries, museums, shops, restaurants, and entertainment venues found minutes from the property. Take your adventure to the water with chartered fishing trips and excursions through the Everglades. Children and adults alike will find plenty of activities to keep them busy during the free time. This is one of those unique experiences that you should not miss. Begin now to plan your participation at our 65th annual spring convention.

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 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/

(Continued on page 6)

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

TO: THE MICA MEMBERSHIP

Happy Spring!

I can't speak for everyone here, but I for one, sure get into an overall better mood when spring finally arrives. The plants are growing, the birds are chirping, the days are longer, you can put that jacket away...all of these little things that happen every year really have a positive effect on our lives.

These environmental pieces of our lives positively affect us, and most of the time, without us even being conscience of them. It's truly amazing how the world around us impacts us in so many ways. I'm a firm believer that "everything happens for a reason". As hard as it can be to wrap our heads around everything each day, it all has an effect on us to some degree.

The people, information, conversations, etc. that spawn from our MICA relationships are wonderful examples of this. A simple conversation over lunch, a quick phone call for advice, meeting a new customer through a mutual friend; all of these interactions are beneficial to us. However, to gain the full potential of each of those interactions – we have to be Present!

My theme this year of "Here and Now" seems simple, but until we are continually aware of what

is right in front of us in the moment, we are doing ourselves a disservice by missing out on those parts of the environment that can impact us.

This past year serving as your MICA President has truly been a great experience. I have learned way more than I imagined, had great and informative meetings (especially after coming back together post-Covid), and made even more friends within the industry. I feel extra lucky to be in the role specifically this year as I have been intertwined with Tom and Cindy Shimerda's farewell retirement tour!

I'd like to thank my family, my advisors (Peter Gauchel and Jeff DeGraaf), Tom and Cindy, Gary Auman and our new management team from The Association Office! I would have been lost without all of you, yet together, the year has been a true blessing.

All the Best!

Rudy Nigl
MICA President



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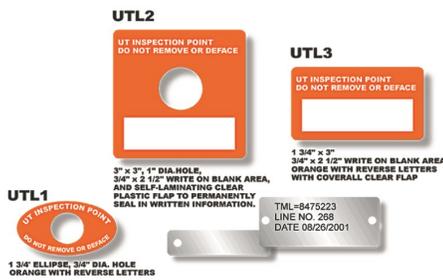


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(Continued from page 1)

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.

Gary Auman will provide an update on OSHA requirements that will include a presentation on the ever changing landscape of OSHA. After Gary updates us on OSHA activities, we will follow his presentation with a presentation on the practical side

of dealing with OSHA on the job site. **Mike Hill**, Sr. Manager, Corporate Safety for Performance Contracting Group in Lenexa, KS, and co-chair of MICA’s Safety & Environmental Committee, will share his experiences with dealing with OSHA inspectors on the job site. As Sr. Manager of Safety for PCG, Mike has experience with OSHA inspections and dealing with OSHA inspectors from a “friendly” visit to the job site, to a formal inspection of the job site, to an accident triggered job site inspection. Mike will share his observations of how best to deal with OSHA inspectors on a job site visit.



Mr. Joe Leo, NIA President for 2022 – 2023, and **Michele Jones**, Executive Vice President/CEO of NIA, will give us an update on our industry activities at the national level. The NIA has been actively involved in promoting the insulation industry nationally, and Michele will be updating us on how the NIA is representing our industry and promoting the benefits of insulation to end users.

We will have a **union contractor forum**, an **open shop contractor forum**, and an **associate member forum** all running simultaneously. This approach allows more of the members to participate in craft issues without being part of a formal committee. You will have the opportunity to interact with other MICA members with similar business concerns.

Effective with the conclusion of our spring convention, Cindy and I will be retiring as MICA’s Executive Secretary. The subcommittee of past presidents charged with searching for our

(Continued on page 9)

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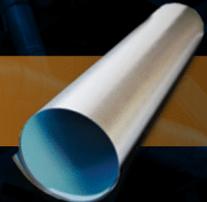
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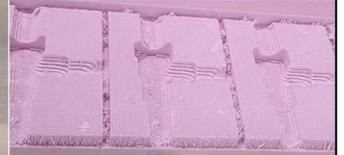
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(Continued from page 6)

replacement, recommended a management association group out of Dayton, Ohio, to serve the needs of MICA. The Board of Directors approved the search committee's recommendation, and **Rachel Pinkus and Megan Pope** of The Association Office will manage the daily operations of MICA beginning July 1, 2022. Rachel and Megan will provide the membership with a presentation of who they are and what their company can and will be providing the MICA members going forward.



We filled our block of rooms at the resort, and the resort is currently sold out on the Tuesday night of our convention. We are working with the resort for any released rooms that come available for Tuesday night. **We have contracted with the Hyatt Place at Bonita Springs for some overflow rooms.** The hotel is holding a block of rooms until June 1, 2022. If you are in need of a room, you may contact the Hyatt Place directly. The group block for MICA is prepared for June 17 – 22, 2022. King or Doubles are \$129.00 per night plus tax. You may call 1.888.867.4008 and ask for MICA Group (G-FMIC) or use the booking link:

http://www.hyatt.com/en-US/hotel/florida/hyatt-place-coconut-point/napzc?corp_id=G-FMIC

A complete packet of registration information including the convention registration form and golf registration were mailed to the general membership in early March. Now is the time to plan for your participation at MICA's 65th annual spring convention. If you did not receive a convention registration packet, please contact the MICA office and we will send you a packet. We invite you to join Rudy, 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 REMINDS SOUTHWEST EMPLOYERS THAT WORKERS NEED PROTECTION FROM THE DANGERS OF HEAT ILLNESS

Free App helps calculate worksite heat index, displays risks

DALLAS – As temperatures rise in Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas, the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration reminds employers and workers not to ignore the dangers of working in hot weather – indoors and out – and remember "Water. Rest. Shade." can be the difference between ending the workday safely or suffering serious injuries or worse.

From 2011-2019, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports 344 worker-related deaths in U.S. were due to environmental heat exposure. Workplace safety experts believe the actual number of heat-related fatalities may be underreported or misreported as another cause, such as heart attacks.

To combat the dangers of heat exposure, OSHA launched a national emphasis program in April 2022 to protect workers from heat illness and injuries.

"Our goal is to ensure workers are safe in hot indoor and outdoor environments," said OSHA Regional Administrator Eric Harbin in Dallas. "In the past several years, OSHA's heat safety campaign has been intently focused on raising awareness of the related dangers. Our recent national emphasis program is reaching out to unions, employers in target industries and other organizations to protect workers most often exposed to heat illness and injuries."

OSHA's message is simple: Water. Rest. Shade.

- Encourage workers to drink water every 15 minutes.

(Continued on page 12)

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FUTURE MICA MEETING DATES

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

2022 Summer Planning Meeting — August 8 & 9, 2022, Cheyenne Mountain Resort, Colorado Springs, CO.

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 9)

- Take frequent rest breaks in the shade to cool down.
- Have an emergency plan ready to respond when a worker shows signs of heat-related illness.
- Train workers on the hazards of heat exposure, and how to prevent illness.
- Allow workers to build a tolerance for working in heat.

The OSHA-NIOSH Heat Safety Tool is a free, downloadable app that calculates a worksite's heat index and displays the associated risk levels. Users can receive precautionary recommendations specific to heat index risk levels to help protect employees from heat-related illness. The tool is available in English and Spanish.

OSHA's Occupational Heat Exposure page explains the symptoms of heat illness, first aid measures to provide while waiting for help, engineering controls and work practices to reduce workers' exposure to heat, and training.

Read a fact sheet on OSHA's National Emphasis Program to protect workers across the nation from the increasing threat of heat related illness. Learn more about working in outdoor and indoor heat environments.

ABC TO BIDEN ADMINISTRATION: WITHDRAW THE DOL'S DAVIS-BACON PROPOSED RULE

WASHINGTON, May 18—In a comment letter filed on May 17, Associated Builders and Contractors urged President Biden's U.S. Department of Labor to withdraw an inflationary and flawed proposed rule revising Davis-Bacon Act and Related Acts regulations that apply to federal and federally assisted construction projects funded by taxpayers.

"The DOL's proposed rule does little to improve or modernize Davis-Bacon Act regulations in the face of decades of complaints by government officials, taxpayer watchdogs and industry stakeholders critical of this regulatory boondoggle well-known for increasing the cost of construction, discouraging competition from small businesses and diminishing the value of taxpayer investment in government infrastructure projects," said Ben Brubeck, ABC vice president of regulatory, labor and state affairs. "Instead, the proposed rule fails to fix the DOL's unscientific wage determination process, rescinds modest pro-taxpayer reforms made by the Reagan administration and illegally increases regulatory burdens on small businesses, new industries and more public works projects.

"For years, ABC has called for reforms to confusing DOL red tape and unclear policies which—coupled with a dysfunctional wage determination process—have resulted in a broken system rigged by special interests and sympathetic bureaucrats to help make unionized contractors and union labor more competitive on public works projects," said Brubeck. "With the Biden administration promoting itself as

the most pro-union administration in history, it is little surprise the DOL missed an opportunity for meaningful regulatory reform and actively made Davis-Bacon Act regulations worse.

"Voters should know this proposed rule could not come at a worse time, as it will exacerbate the inflationary headwinds facing the construction industry—supply chain disruptions, unprecedented materials cost inflation, declining investment in structures and a skilled labor shortage of 650,000—and fail to improve the timeliness and quality of taxpayer-funded construction projects," said Brubeck. "This proposal will ultimately result in less value and job creation from taxpayer investment in infrastructure—including the \$550 billion of new infrastructure funding via the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act."

In nearly 70 pages of comments on the DOL's proposed rule, Updating the Davis-Bacon and Related Acts Regulations, ABC opposed and provided feedback on many of the more than 50 significant changes in the proposed rule that will:

- Force contractors to adopt government-determined wage and benefits rates that do not reflect locally prevailing wage rates;
- Needlessly raise taxpayer-funded construction costs, resulting in few infrastructure projects and improvements;
- Stifle construction industry job creation and broader economic benefits;
- Undermine construction industry productivity and the efficient use of skilled labor;
- Disproportionately adopt union collective bargaining agreements as the government-determined prevailing wage;
- Unfairly give unionized firms an advantage when competing for public works contracts;
- Discourage competition from small businesses and minority-, women-owned and disadvantaged firms disproportionately by imposing onerous paperwork burdens and added regulatory costs; and
- Increase compliance risks on contractors and federal, state and local governments building projects funded by federal dollars subject to DBA requirements.

A new study released by the Beacon Hill Institute found the DBA costs taxpayers an extra \$21 billion a year and increases the price tag of construction projects by at least 7.2% compared to the cost of construction if the DOL calculated prevailing wages using modern and scientific methodology via the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

In a recent survey, 94% of ABC members said that the DBA increases the overall cost of construction and creates more administrative burdens and costs than non-DBA projects. ABC members won 57% of the \$128.73 billion in direct prime construction contracts exceeding \$25 million awarded by federal agencies during fiscal years 2009-2021 and built hundreds of billions of dollars of construction procured by

(Continued on page 15)

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(Continued from page 12)

state and local government, funded in part by federal dollars.

In the absence of meaningful reforms, ABC has called for full repeal of the DBA and has opposed legislative and regulatory efforts to expand the scope of the DBA—and its costly regulatory burdens—onto public and private construction projects in which it has not been previously required. Likewise, ABC has called for reforms to and repeal of state and local prevailing wage regulations suffering from similar flaws as the federal DBA.

The 1931 Davis-Bacon Act and related regulations require contractors and subcontractors that perform work on federal and federally funded construction projects to pay a government-determined prevailing wage and benefit rate on an hourly basis to on-site construction workers. According to the DOL rule-making, the Davis-Bacon Act and 71 active Related Acts collectively apply to an estimated \$217 billion in federal and federally assisted construction spending per year—about 63% of all government construction put in place—and provide government-determined wage rates for an estimated 1.2 million U.S. construction workers.

NEW REPORT EXPLORES ARCHITECT, CONTRACTOR RELATIONSHIP

A study published today by the American Institute of Architects (AIA), in partnership with the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC), sheds new light on the relationship of architects and contractors and the needs of both professions.

The fifth edition of The Architect's Journey to Specification focuses on improving the working relationship between architects and contractors and explores how the parties align, differ, and depend on each other.

“This report is a first step towards fostering greater understanding between architects and contractors,” said AIA EVP/Chief Executive Officer Lakisha Ann Woods. “Ultimately, we hope it will help them to improve their working relationships, achieve even greater success on their projects, and build a better world.”

Highlights from the report include:

- A majority of architects and contractors want to work more collaboratively for the benefit of all. Successful relationships benefit from mutual understandings and alignment about client advocacy and the purpose of substitutions.
- Transparency and communication are key to building more

(Continued on page 19)



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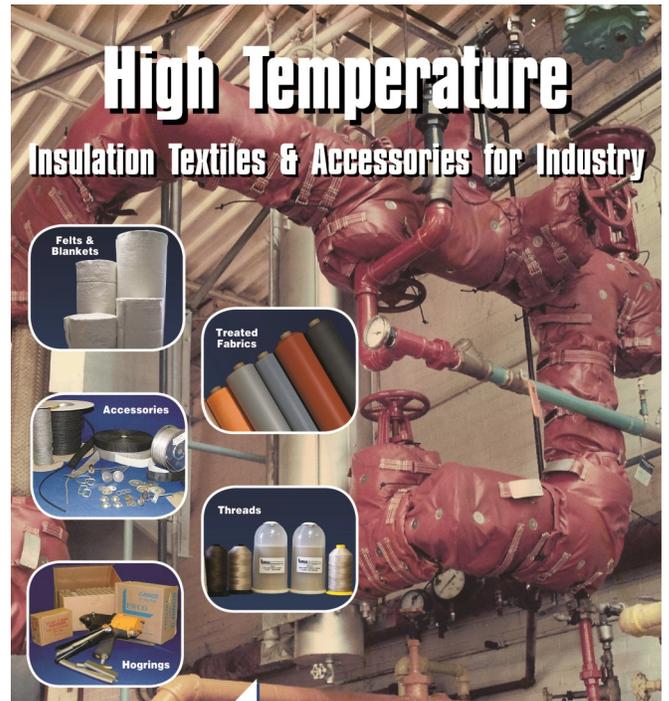


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(Continued from page 15)

trusted working relationships for the benefit of all parties and the built environment.

- Earlier collaboration and more clarity around design intent is likely to set projects up for success for all parties.

“This report will help contractors and architects build stronger, more successful and trusting relationships with each other,” said Stephen E. Sandherr, CEO of the AGC. “Everyone wants to see successful projects and understanding the concerns architects and general contractors have will help members of both our associations become even better collaborators.”

Visit AIA’s website to [download](#) The Architect’s Journey to Specification.

DODGE MOMENTUM INDEX RISES IN APRIL

HAMILTON, N.J. – May 6, 2022 — The Dodge Momentum Index (DMI) moved 6% higher in April to 164.8 (2000=100), up from the revised March reading of 155.0. The Momentum Index, issued by [Dodge Construction Network](#), is a monthly measure of the initial report for nonresidential building projects in planning shown to lead construction spending for nonresidential buildings by a full year. In April, the commercial component of the Momentum Index rose 9%, while the institutional component moved 2% higher.

With the gain in April, the Dodge Momentum Index was just 5% shy of the all-time high set in the fall of 2021. The main impetus behind this trend is the commercial sector, which has

been driven by a growing number of data center, warehouse and hotel projects entering the planning queue. The institutional component has made moderate improvements as well, as more education, healthcare and recreation projects begin the planning process. On a year-over-year basis, the Momentum Index was 17% higher than in April 2021. The commercial component was 15% higher, while the institutional component was 22% higher than a year ago.

A total of 25 projects with a value of \$100 million or more entered planning in April. The leading commercial projects were the \$208 million Colo 1 data center in Ashburn, VA, and the \$150 million QTS data center in Fort Worth, TX. The leading institutional projects were the \$300 million Banner Hospital in Buckeye, AZ, and the \$287 million IU Health Saxony Hospital in Fishers, MN.

The planning backlog for nonresidential building projects continues to fill, which should provide optimism that construction activity should remain solid in the months to come. However, rising interest rates and the continued increase in material prices will moderate any rising trend throughout the remainder of 2022.

DODGE MOMENTUM INDEX

(2000=100, Seasonally Adjusted)

	Apr-22	Mar-22	% Change
Dodge Momentum Index	164.8	155.0	6.4%
Commercial Building	189.4	174.0	8.9%
Institutional Building	134.4	131.5	2.3%

Source: Dodge Construction Network

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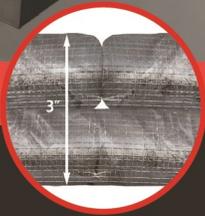
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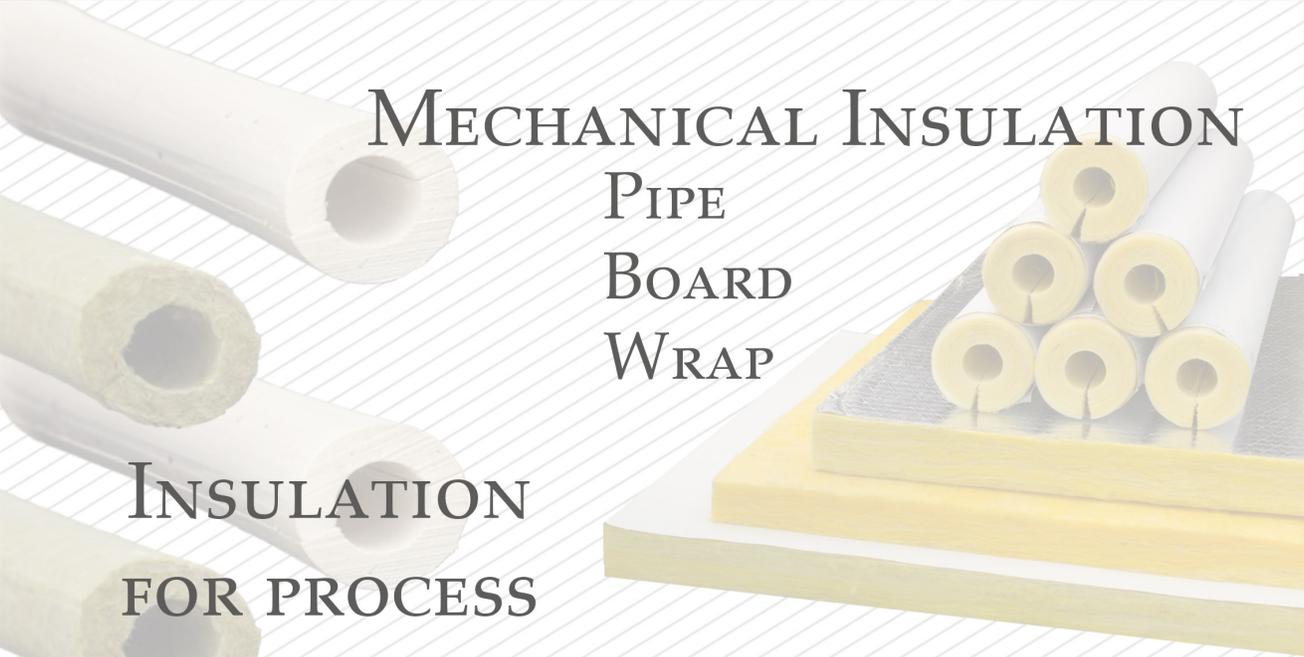
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ABC'S CONSTRUCTION BACKLOG UP IN APRIL; CONTRACTOR CONFIDENCE DOWN

WASHINGTON, May 10—Associated Builders and Contractors reported today that its Construction Backlog Indicator increased to 8.8 months in April, according to an ABC member survey conducted from April 20 to May 4. The reading is up 0.9 months from April 2021.

Construction Backlog Indicator

	Apr. 2022	Mar. 2022	Apr. 2021	1-Month Net Change	12-Month Net Change
Total	8.8	8.3	7.9	0.5	0.9
Industry					
Commercial & Institutional	9.3	8.6	8.0	0.7	1.3
Heavy Industrial	6.8	6.3	7.3	0.5	-0.5
Infrastructure	8.7	8.2	7.9	0.5	0.8
Region					
Middle States	7.7	7.5	6.9	0.2	0.8
Northeast	9.1	8.6	7.9	0.5	1.2
South	9.6	9.7	8.2	-0.1	1.4
West	8.9	6.3	8.8	2.6	0.1
Company Size					
<\$30 Million	8.0	7.7	7.4	0.3	0.6
\$30-\$50 Million	10.5	8.4	8.5	2.1	2.0
\$50-\$100 Million	11.5	9.6	10.3	1.9	1.2
>\$100 Million	14.0	13.8	10.9	0.2	3.1

© Associated Builders and Contractors, Construction Backlog Indicator

Construction Confidence Index

Response	April 2022	March 2022	April 2021
CCI Reading			
Sales	63.1	65.0	63.9
Profit Margins	52.8	50.2	53.4
Staffing	64.9	66.1	64.0
Sales Expectations			
Up Big	8.1%	10.3%	13.7%
Up Small	54.5%	55.7%	51.9%
No Change	21.2%	19.7%	14.7%
Down Small	14.1%	12.3%	16.0%
Down Big	2.0%	2.0%	3.8%
Profit Margin Expectations			
Up Big	2.5%	2.5%	4.4%
Up Small	41.4%	31.0%	37.9%
No Change	25.3%	35.5%	29.0%
Down Small	26.3%	27.1%	24.2%
Down Big	4.5%	3.9%	4.4%
Staffing Level Expectations			
Up Big	6.6%	8.4%	6.5%
Up Small	56.6%	56.2%	52.9%
No Change	28.3%	27.6%	32.1%
Down Small	7.1%	7.4%	7.2%
Down Big	1.5%	0.5%	1.4%

© Associated Builders and Contractors, Construction Confidence Index

“The U.S. economy is facing many headwinds, but for now, the nation’s nonresidential construction segment is handling them,” said ABC Chief Economist Anirban Basu. “One might think that skilled worker shortages, sky-high materials prices, rising interest rates and financial market volatility would have affected industry momentum. Instead, backlog continues to rise, and contractors continue to expect sales, employment and profit margins to expand over the next six months. Demand for construction services remains strong.

“Nonresidential construction is generally a sector that lags behind the broader economy, meaning emerging economic weakness will not show up in nonresidential construction data for months to come,” said Basu. “It is conceivable that the risk of recession is overstated, and that contractors will thrive during the years ahead because of significant infrastructure spending. Conversely, it is possible that the combination of higher interest rates, stubborn inflation, depressed confidence, geopolitical conflict and an economywide downturn will have fundamentally altered the industry’s outlook a year from now. Only time will tell.”

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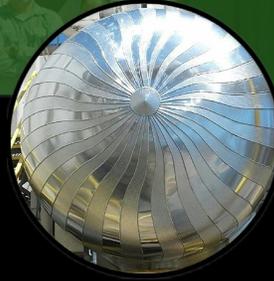
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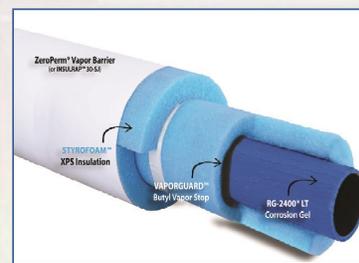
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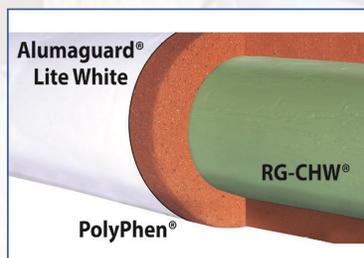
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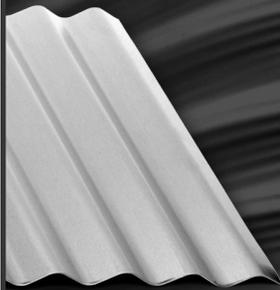
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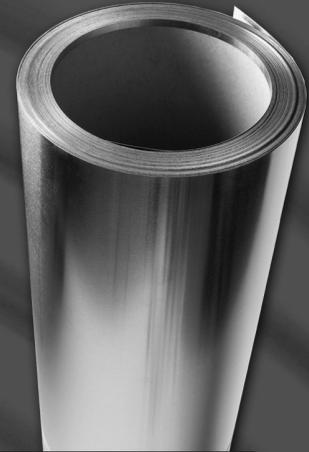
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NONRESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION INPUT PRICES SOAR 21 PERCENT FROM APRIL 2021 TO LAST MONTH; ASSOCIATION URGES RELIEF FROM TARIFFS, BUY-AMERICA RULES

Prices of materials and services used in new nonresidential construction leaped nearly 21 percent in April from year-ago levels, according to an [analysis](#) by the Associated General Contractors of America of government data released today. The association urged the Biden administration to provide relief to hard-hit employers by ending tariffs on key construction materials and re-considering its recently proposed Buy America regulations that will make it harder for firms to find and pay for key construction materials.

“Nonresidential contractors have endured twelve months of 20-percent increases in the cost of items they need to build projects,” said Ken Simonson, the association’s chief economist. “While they have been able to pass some of those increased costs on to clients, most of those increases have come out of their own bottom line.”

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—rose 0.8 percent from March to April and 20.9 percent over the past 12 months. An index for new nonresidential building construction—a measure of what contractors say they would charge to erect five types of nonresidential buildings—rose 4.1 percent for the month and 19.9 percent from a year earlier. April was the 19th consecutive month in which the cost index rose more than the bid-price index on a year-over-year basis, Simonson added.

A wide variety of inputs accounted for the increase in the cost index. The price index for diesel fuel jumped 86.5 percent over 12 months. The index for aluminum mill shapes climbed 44.8 percent. The index for architectural coatings such as paint soared 32.1 percent. There were increases of more than 20 percent in the indexes for plastic construction products, which rose 29.9 percent; truck transportation of freight, 27.4 percent; steel mill products, 25.1 percent; and roofing asphalt and tar products, 20.8 percent.

In addition, there were double-digit increases in several other price indexes that affect construction costs, Simonson noted. He cited as examples the index for insulation products, which rose 19.6 percent over 12 months; gypsum products, 17.8 percent; copper and brass mill shapes, 16.8 percent; paving mixtures and blocks, 14.4 percent; and concrete products, 10.9 percent.

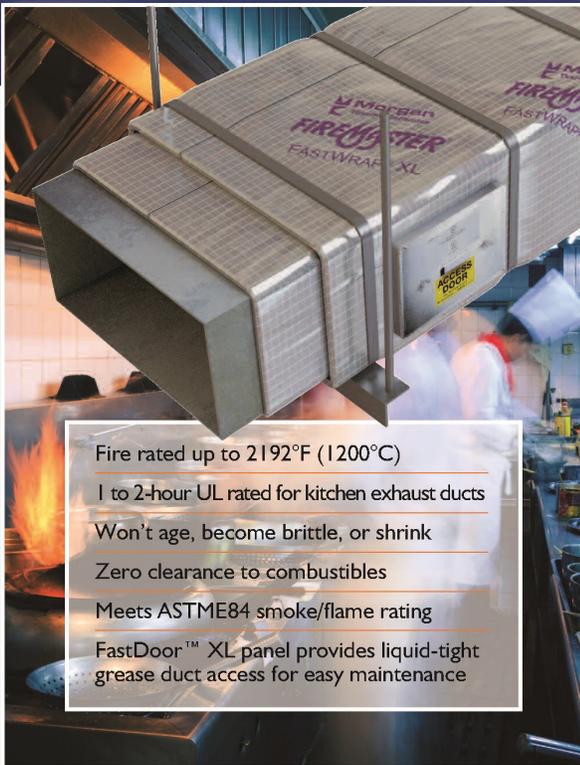
Association officials said the best way to keep costs from rising even more is to allow contractors to buy materials from the widest possible range of suppliers and to eliminate measures that artificially inflate the cost of products. The officials urged the Biden administration to end tariffs that are restricting supplies of steel, aluminum, solar panels, and numerous other products. They also called on the administration to reconsider its misguided Buy America regulations that will make it much harder for firms to find and afford materials.

“Inflexible tariffs and overly restrictive regulations are making it harder for contractors to find and pay for key materials,” said Stephen E. Sandherr, the association’s chief executive officer. “Needlessly inflating the cost of construction and leaving employers with less money available to hire new staff is a bad way to rebuild infrastructure or boost the economy.”

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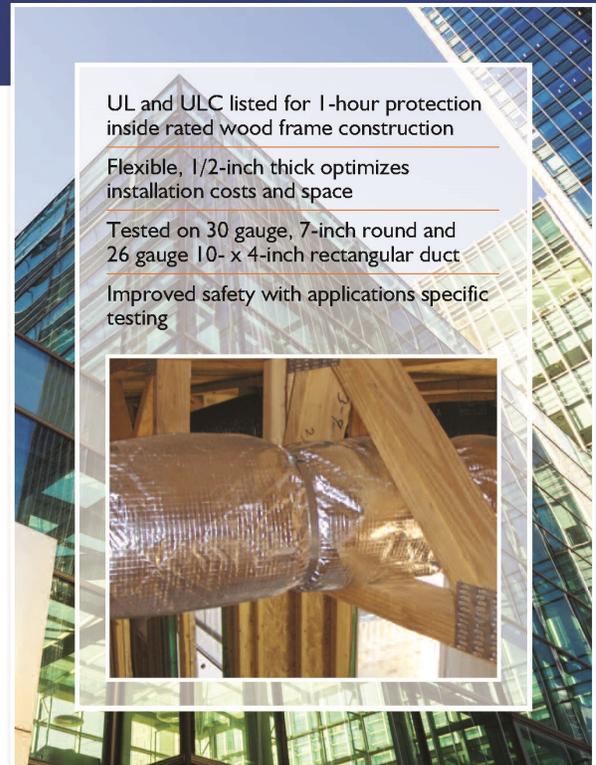
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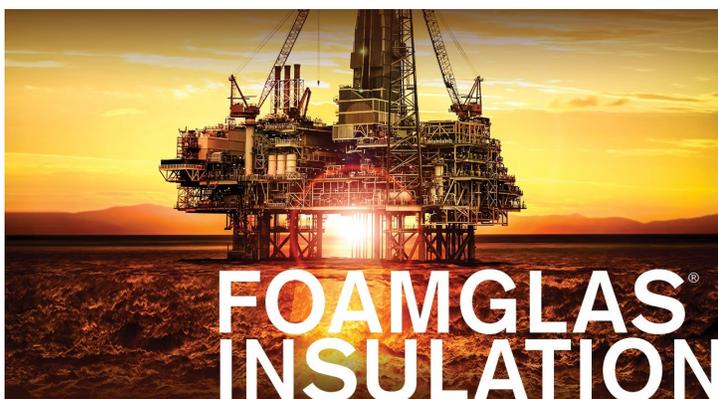
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