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 tracks nonresidential construction activity by approximately 9-12 months. The survey panel data 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. A score above 50 indicates an increase in firms’ billings from the previous month, and a score below 50 indicates a decline in firm billings from the previous month.

### National

#### Architecture firm billings decline even further in April

- **Billings:**
  - April 2020: 50.2
  - May 2020: 29.5
  - April 2020: 50.5

#### National Sector Billings

- **Regional:**
  - Northeast: 23.0
  - Midwest: 31.2
  - South: 31.1
  - West: 38.1

### Regional

Business conditions soften dramatically at firms located in the Northeast

- Graphs represent data from April 2019–April 2020 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.

### Regional Sector Billings

- **Commercial/Industrial:** 36.1
- **Institutional:** 38.1
- **Residential:** 30.3

### Practice

When some firms have furloughed staff or eliminated positions since the pandemic began, others have hired new employees.

- **Furloughed some of our architecture staff with the hopes of calling them back:** 14%
- **Decreased some of our architecture staff for part-tame or hourly:** 11%
- **Hired new permanent employees:** 12%
- **Hired new temporary/short-term employees:** 3%
- **Increased the hours of current employees:** 8%
- **Converted some of our architecture positions to part-time or hourly:** 51%
- **Furloughed some of our architecture staff, with the hopes of calling them back:** 29%
- **Hired new permanent employees:** 36%

*All graphs represent data from April 2019–April 2020.*