

ARCHITECTURE BILLING INDEX

May 2012

The Architecture Billing 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 decline in firm billings from the previous month.

ABI

NATIONAL

REGIONAL

SECTOR

PRACTICE

* All graphs represent data from May 2011–May 2012.

NATIONAL

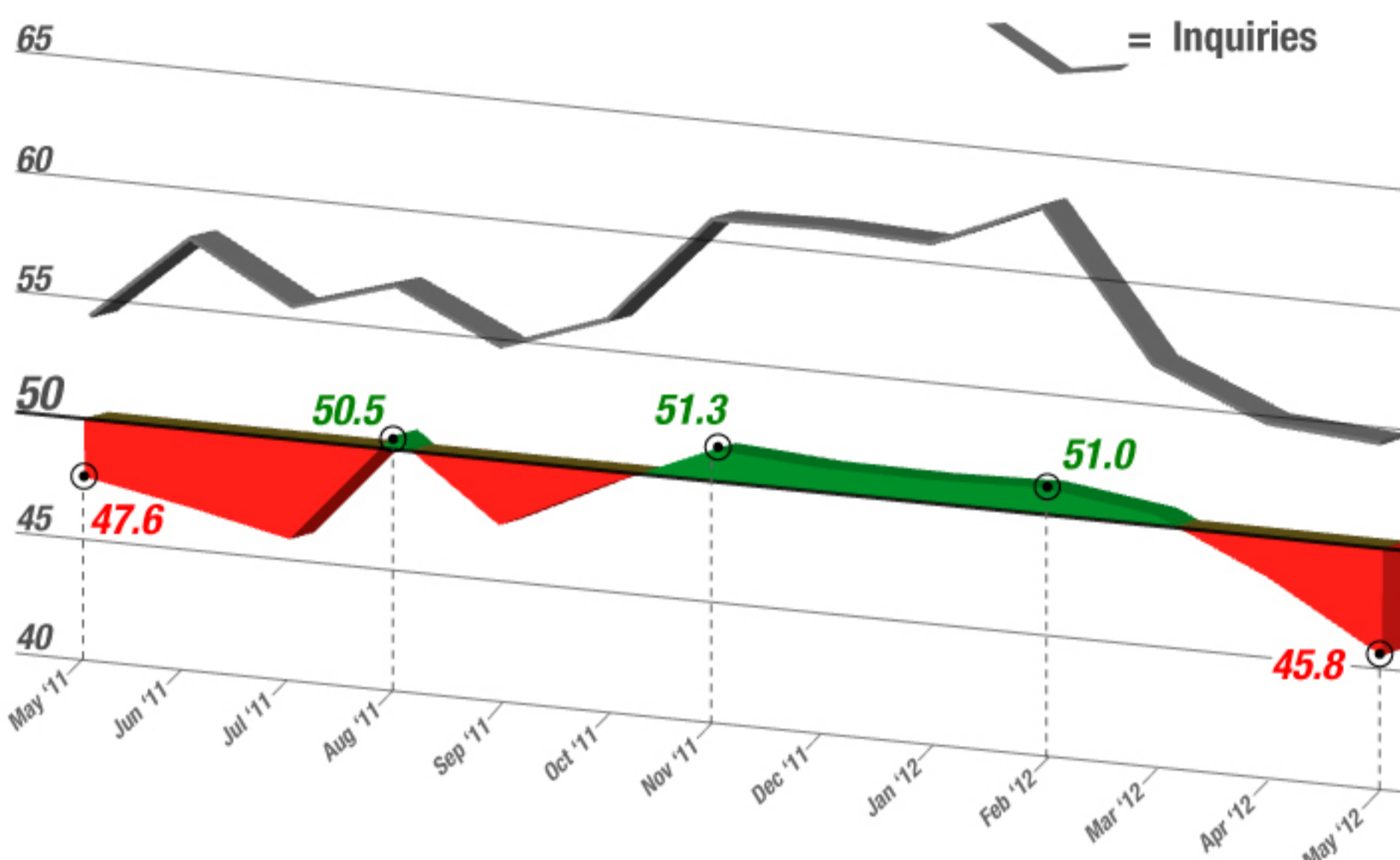
Billings **Fall** Substantially in May
Inquiries Remain **Above** 50

Graphs represent data from May 2011–May 2012

Above 50 = Below 50 =

50 = No change from previous period

= Inquiries

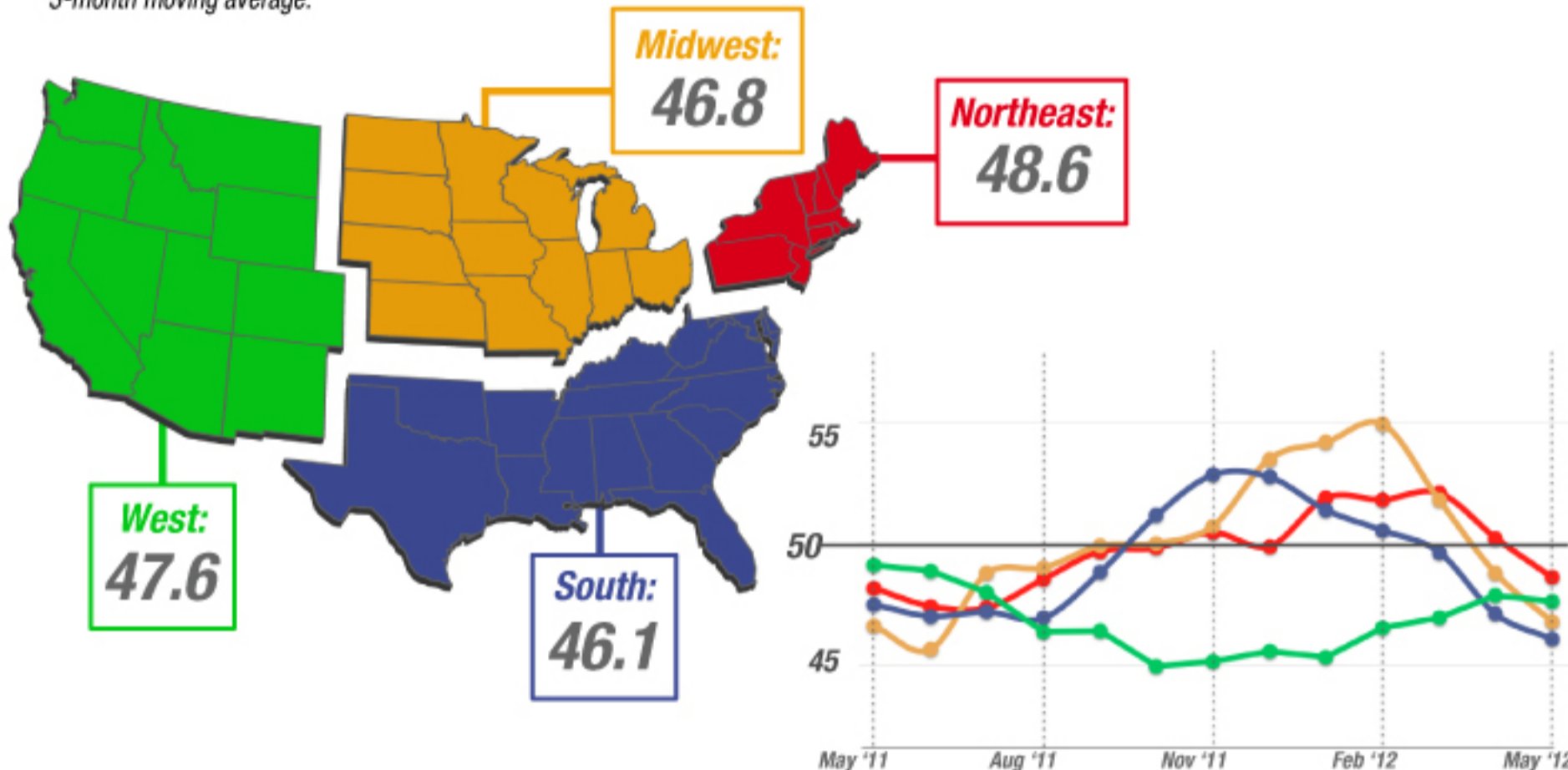


REGIONAL

Firm in All Regions Reporting **Weakness**

Graphs represent data from May 2011–May 2012 across the four regions.

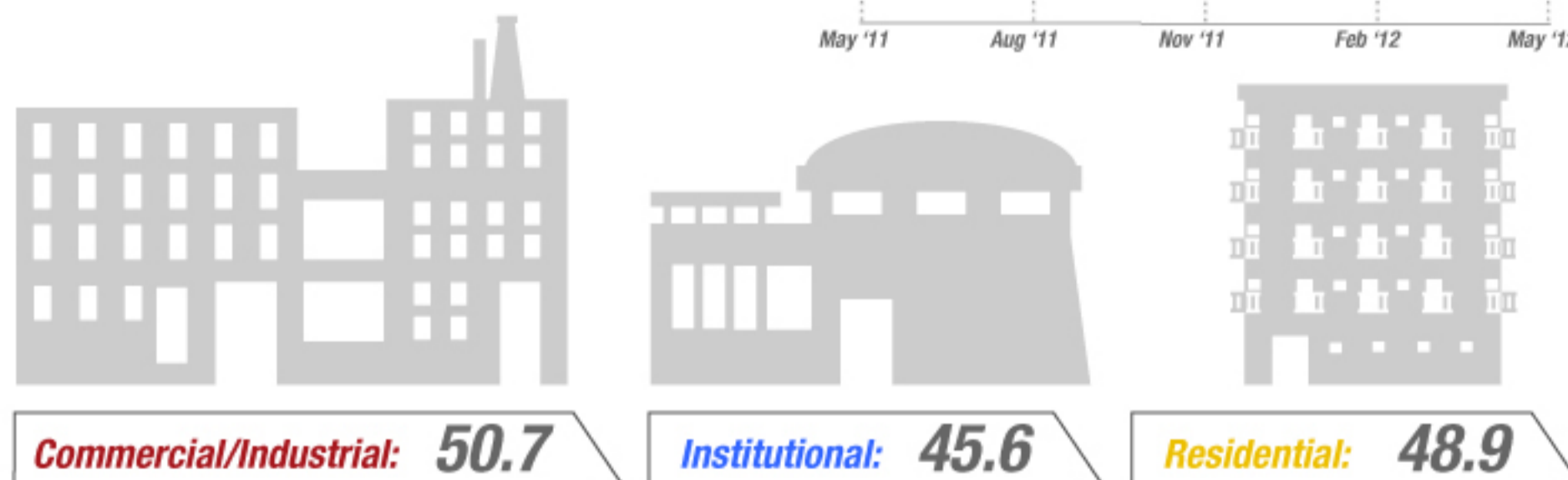
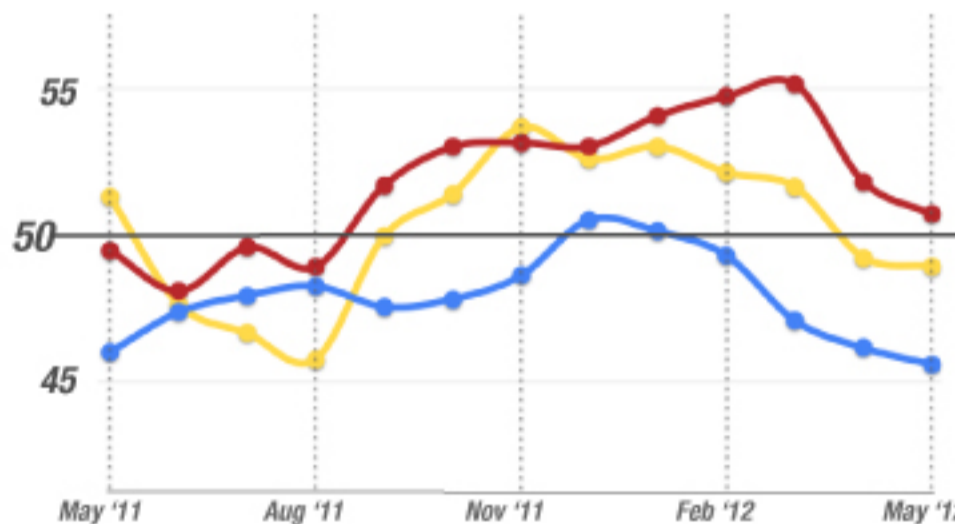
50 represents the diffusion center. A score of 50 equals no change from the previous month. Above 50 shows increase; Below 50 shows decrease. 3-month moving average.



SECTOR

Commercial/Industrial Firms Currently Only **Growing** Specialty

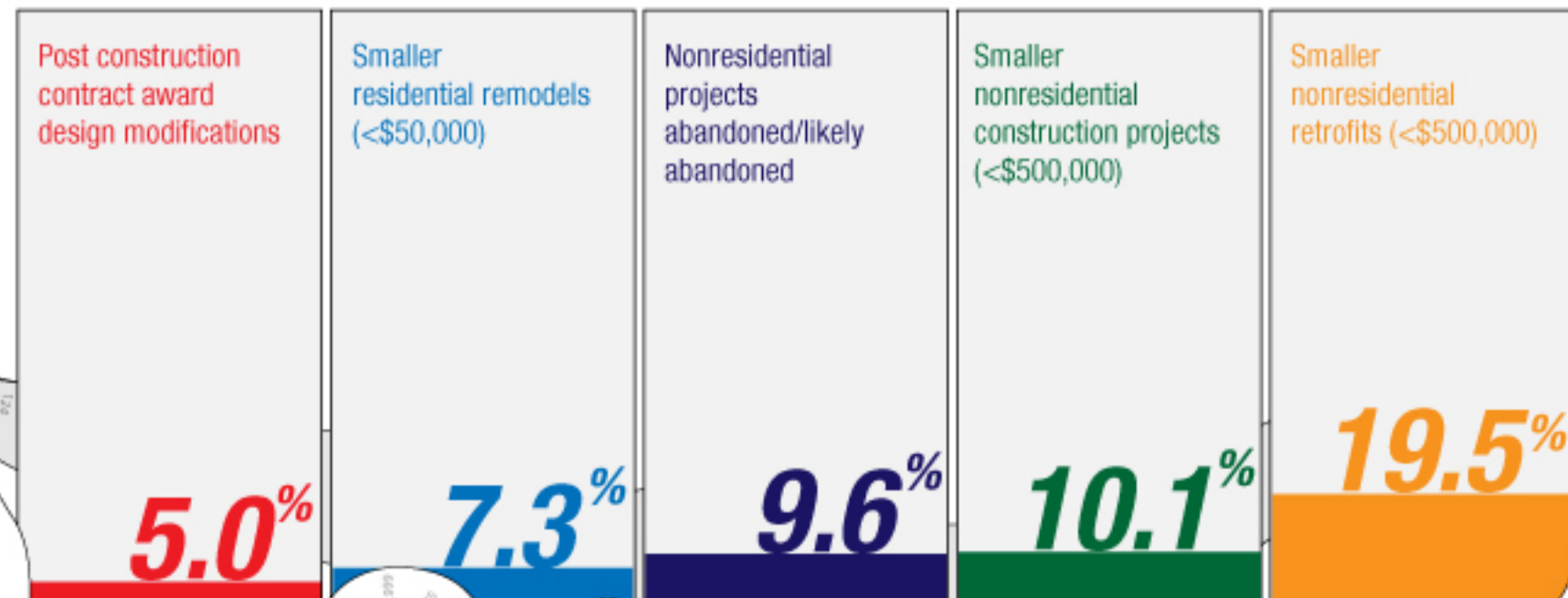
Graph represents data from May 2011–May 2012 across the three sectors. 50 represents the diffusion center. A score of 50 equals no change from the previous month. Above 50 shows increase; Below 50 shows decrease. 3-month moving average.



PRACTICE

During Downturn, Significant Share of Design Revenue Coming From Less Common Niches

Q: Over the past few years, please estimate the approximate percentage of design billings at your firm that came from (if your firm did no work in that category, or if the percentage is negligible, please enter "0"):



units: percentage of design billings over past few years coming from selected market niches, averages across all firms