

TURNING Point



VOLUME 26 ISSUE 12

WOMEN CONSTRUCTION OWNERS & EXECUTIVES, USA

January 2010

Inside This Issue

- 1 Message from the President
- 1 Quote of the Month
- 2 Upcoming Events
- 2 WCOE New National Director: Gina Marton
- 3 Which States Will Lead the Construction Recovery?
- 4 Continued from Page 3
- 5 Construction Unemployment Rate Rises 22.7%



Message from the President

By Theresa Kern

2010 is shaping up to be a banner year for WCOE. Not only are we moving into new headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia but we have also hired a National Executive Director. It is indeed a pleasure for me to introduce you to Gina Marton. Gina joined our organization at the beginning of January and as you can see from her bio on page 2, we are very fortunate to have her. She has spent her first few days familiarizing herself with WCOE, its members and its mission. She is very anxious to get started and I hope you will all give Gina a welcome phone call or e-mail. She can be reached at 800 788-3548 or info@wcoeusa.org.

One of Gina's first responsibilities will be organizing our annual meeting in Washington, D.C. on March 14 - 16, 2010. During this meeting we will be showcasing one of our Corporate Alliance Partners, Gilbane Building Company. Linda Sowell, our representative from Gilbane, will be working very closely with Gina and our board to develop some special sessions to be held during our conference. More information will be sent to you shortly. Again, please join me in welcoming Gina Marton....

~Theresa Kern

WCOE

USA National Office

4401A Connecticut Avenue NW

Washington, DC 20008

Phone: (800) 788-3548

Fax: (708) 597-6730

E-mail: info@wcoeusa.org

Website: www.wcoeusa.org

Quote of the Month

"Great things are not done by impulse, but by a series of small things brought together."

~Vincent Van Gogh



Please Welcome WCOE's New National Executive Director, Gina Marton

Gina M. Marton recently moved from Kansas City to the Washington, D.C. area, and is excited to take on the position as National Executive Director for Women Construction Owners &

Executives. Gina has over 15 years experience in the construction industry and holds a Bachelor of Science in Construction Science-Management Technology from the University of Central Missouri. She began her career in project management with commercial general contractors and utilized that knowledge to become the Professional Development Manager for the Kansas City Chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC), where she has worked for the past 10 years. At AGC, she developed and implemented a variety of professional education courses, supported members with contractor licensing needs, assisted the membership department with recruitment, and coordinated events for association members. She also successfully initiated the local chapter of the AGC Construction Leadership Council, an executive development group for emerging construction professionals.

Gina took an active role in working with numerous local minority and women organizations to promote dozens of partnering and outreach initiatives in the construction industry. In addition, she supported a myriad of workforce development programs and held key roles on various industry committees and school advisory boards to aid in enhancing their educational programs and to encourage non-traditional career opportunities for women.

Since 1996, Gina has been a member of the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) and is a past president of the Greater Kansas City Chapter of NAWIC. Among her many recognitions, she was honored as the recipient of the NAWIC Region 6 Outstanding Woman in Construction Award in April of 2003.

Gina is looking forward to meeting the members of WCOE and capitalize on her skills to assist and grow the WCOE membership.

Upcoming Events

World of Concrete

February 2-5, 2010
Las Vegas, Nevada

ABC National Convention

February 4-5, 2010
San Diego, California

American Subcontractors Association

March 4-6, 2010
La Jolla, CA

WCOE Annual Meeting

Washington, DC at the Willard
Hotel March 14-16, 2010



(If you know of events, that you would like to see added to this section of the Turning Point, please email the information to Gina Marton, Executive Director at: info@wcoeusa.org)

Attention WCOE Members:

WCOE is always looking for WCOE members to help staff upcoming trade shows. If you are a WCOE member and are interested in helping out at any of the upcoming trade shows listed above, please contact Deborah Wilder for more information at dwilder@cemi-tpa.com.

Which States Will Lead the Construction Recovery?

By Jim Haughey

Led by California and Texas, twenty states account for more than 75% of the US construction market. The projected recovery in the construction market early next year must be driven by a significant improvement in a large share of these key states. A pickup in construction activity in the thirty smaller states would not be sufficient to set off a national market recovery. The strongest regional economies and the construction markets that have held up best are in the smallest states, such as Wyoming and the Dakotas.

The twenty key states include several that have weathered the recession very well, such as Texas, Maryland and Virginia. The list also includes the five states that have experienced the most severe recession: Nevada, Arizona, Michigan, Florida and California. These twenty states have the largest amount of construction GDP in the state GDP estimates for 2005-08.

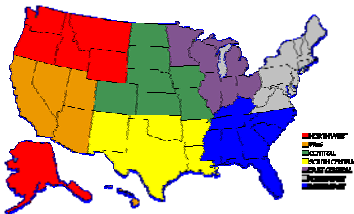
State construction activity is set by local economic conditions, the status of local public finances and vacancy rates, a trailing indicator of previous economic conditions and random development decisions. But this model has some exceptions. The large gains in construction starts over the last year in Virginia and Maryland reflect the long commitment to start cycle for federal projects. The pickup in starts in Nevada has to be interpreted as developer's folly. The large gains in Illinois and Indiana appear to be a rebound from the very nearly start of the recession in the industrial Midwest.

The large decline in starts in New York State probably reflects the late start of the recession in the Northeast. No explanation for the huge decline in North Carolina.

Which of these twenty key states are likely to lead the construction recovery? The most likely candidates are Virginia and Maryland with new federal construction projects initiated by President Obama and private

(Continued on Page 4...)

National Regional Directors



Deborah Bradley

Northeast
Deborah Bradley Construction
New York, NY
P: 212-222-2494

Jane Weiland

Central
Gateway Building Products of Missouri
Kansas City, MO
P: 816-241-6411

Gina Raffin

East Central
Scale Construction, Inc.
Chicago, IL
P: 312-491-9500

Deborah E.G. Wilder

WCOE Immediate Past President
P: 650-522-4403
dwilder@ccmi-tpa.com

Sandi Sinicrope

Western
ASF Interior Redesign Inc.
Alhambra, California
P: 626-308-1935

Kim Reome

National Regional Director
-at-Large
Kenrich Group
Chicago, IL
P: 312-521-7438

Executive Committee

Theresa Kern

WCOE President
rebars@aol.com

Rosana Privitera Biondo

WCOE Senior Vice President
Rosana.priviterabiondo@
markone.com

Rosemary R. Barbour

Vice President
rbarbour@alcatecllc.com

Caryn Boisen

WCOE Secretary
cboisen@larsonking.com

Kristine Cook Lindsey

WCOE Treasurer
kcook@ceigroupllc.com

Contact Information

MA Steel Erectors, Inc.
Worth, IL
P: 708-597-5810

Mark One Electric Co., Inc.
Kansas City, MO
P: 816-842-7023

Alcatec, LLC
Flowood, MS
P: 601-709-4542

Larson King, LLP
St. Paul, MN
P: 651-312-6529

CEI Group
Howell, MI
P: 517-548-0039

(...continued from Page 3)

construction spurred by federal government hiring. California and Washington are also likely candidates. Both states have disastrous public finances which will restrain public construction but their private economies are relatively strong. The industry mix in both states is expected to recovery early and strong compared to most industries.

Texas is not a likely candidate to lead the construction recovery although the Texas economy will remain relatively strong. The dominant energy industry is always late in the business cycle and will continue to decline well into 2010. In the Northeast, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania are all experiencing relatively mild recessions and have the right industrial, financial and business services mix of industries to recover quickly.

Nevada, Arizona, Florida and Michigan are the least likely states to lead the construction recovery and Michigan dominates the rebounding auto industry. But each of these states has too much empty space to need significant new space until well into their recoveries.

Construction Activity for 20 Key States

	Share of Total US Construction	Cumulative Share	Construction Employment % Change from a Year Ago	Total Employment % Change from a Year Ago	FY '10 Opening Budget Reserves % of Expenditures	Construction Starts (\$) % Change from a Year Ago (3-month avg)
California	12.4	12.4	-19.0	-5.0	-2.5	-4.4
Texas	9.3	21.7	-14.4	-2.9	20.5	-1.5
Florida	8.1	29.8	-14.1	-4.7	4.5	-10.0
New York	5.4	35.2	-11.4	-2.9	2.7	-18.3
Illinois	4.4	39.5	-15.3	5.2	1.4	21.8
Pennsylvania	3.7	43.3	-11.1	-4.4	1.9	-12.0
Georgia	3.1	46.3	-19.2	-6.0	12.4	-11.5
New Jersey	3.0	49.3	-14.0	-3.2	2.3	-3.5
Virginia	2.9	52.2	12.6	-3.2	4.6	24.8
North Carolina	2.9	55.1	-15.1	-5.1	2.7	-29.3
Ohio	2.8	57.9	-16.9	-4.8	4.7	-8.9
Arizona	2.5	60.4	-25.3	-3.0	-4.6	2.4
Maryland	2.5	62.9	-15.4	-2.3	7.9	5.3
Washington	2.4	65.4	-15.6	-4.3	-0.3	2.3
Michigan	2.4	67.7	-22.2	-7.2	0.0	-17.4
Massachusetts	2.3	70.0	-17.2	-3.4	5.3	-1.4
Colorado	2.1	72.0	-15.9	-4.9	2.0	-9.0
Nevada	1.8	73.9	-27.8	-6.1	5.1	9.7
Indiana	1.7	75.6	-16.3	-4.6	9.3	12.9
Minnesota	1.7	77.3	-14.4	-4.3	3.4	2.4

Sources: Reed Construction Data, US Dept. of Labor, National Association of State Budget Officers

Article Courtesy of Ironworkers IMPACT Newsletter and Reed Construction Data

Construction Unemployment Rate Rises to 22.7%

By Tom Ichniowski

In a clear sign of construction's persistently severe problems, the industry's jobless rate hit its highest level in at least a decade, climbing to 22.7% in December, the Bureau of Labor Statistics has reported.

The latest BLS monthly employment figures, released January 8, show that construction's December jobless rate rose from November's 19.4%, and also was well above the December 2008 mark of 15.3%.

Moreover, construction's 22.7% rate is the industry's highest since 2000, when BLS changed its system for classifying and defining industries, a bureau spokesperson says. Construction's previous post-2000 high came in February 2009, when the industry's jobless rate was 21.4%. Construction rates are not adjusted for seasonal variations.

Under the pre-2000 BLS classification system, construction's peak unemployment rate since 1948 came in February 1983, when it reached 27.3%

In its latest report, BLS said that construction lost 53,000 jobs in December, seasonally adjusted. That brings the industry's total jobs shed since the recession began to 1.6 million. The 53,000 jobs lost in December include 23,600 among specialty trade contractors, 18,400 in heavy and civil construction and 11,500 in the building sector.

Anirban Basu, the Associated Builders and Contractors' chief economist, said that the December BLS report "was particularly negative for the nonresidential construction sector." He added, "Some of the job losses were due to unseasonably cold temperatures in certain parts of the nation in December." Basu said that bad weather could account for "roughly half" of the month's construction jobs shed.

"Nevertheless," Basu said, "the construction jobs report remains consistent with the notion that the nation's nonresidential construction industry sector remains mired in its own recession."

Ken Simonson, the Associated General Contractors' chief economist, said, "Unfortunately, construction layoffs are dragging down the broader economic picture." Excluding the construction sector's losses, Simonson observed that non-farm payroll employment increased by 31,000 in November and fell by 32,000 in December, seasonally adjusted.

December's overall national unemployment held at 10.0%, the same as November's level, BLS said, noting that there were 85,000 jobs lost during the month. The economy gained 4,000 jobs in November.

Christina Romer, chair of the White House Council of Economic Advisors, said that the December report, "though a setback from November, is consistent with the gradual labor market stabilization we have been seeing over the last several months."

Republicans used the new unemployment numbers to continue to hammer at Democrats' economic policies. House Minority Leader John Boehner (R-Ohio) said the December BLS report "paints a picture of an economy in which employers and workers are stuck in the muck of higher taxes, job-killing policies and wasteful Washington spending."