The Promotion and Membership committee discussed several ways to promote MICA and the insulation industry to the business community. The committee reviewed the list of prospective member firms and assigned committee members to contact the company representatives to encourage their participation in MICA in 2019.

The Safety & Environmental committee reviewed the application process for the 14th annual “Safety Best Practices” award. The committee agreed to make some changes to the application questions for both the contractor and associate applications. It was noted that the two groups have some unique safety issues that need to be addressed in the application process. Notice of the award application process will be sent to the members in March of this year.

The Past Presidents’ Planning committee met and reviewed MICA’s Vision Statement and Strategic Initiatives. The past presidents are asked to identify and discuss emerging issues facing the insulation industry and the MICA members. As new issues are identified, the past presidents review the vision statement to see if a new strategic initiative needs to be added or existing initiatives removed. No new initiatives were added at this meeting.

The Board of Directors met on Saturday, January 26, 2019. Part of the agenda was to approve the technical programs for the 62nd annual spring convention of MICA. This convention will be held June 17 to 20, 2019, at the Omni Interlocken Resort in Broomfield, Colorado. The resort sits in the foothills of the Flatiron Range of the Rocky Mountains and is centrally located from a variety of area attractions. Estes Park and Rocky Mountain National Park are a short 28-mile scenic drive away. The Chautauqua National Historic District offers a playground, hiking trails, breathtaking views, and entertainment. Children and adults alike will find plenty of excitement at Denver’s Six Flags Elitch Gardens. This is one of those unique experiences that you should not miss. Begin now to plan your participation at our 62nd annual spring convention.
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

TO: THE MICA MEMBERSHIP

The Holidays are over. The thrill of the kids on Christmas morning is gone.

The driveway needs to be shoveled, the Visa bill just came and your New Year’s resolution is down the drain. We are somewhat house bound by the weather so it is a great time to do something for ourselves.

Doug Carlson talked in October about the importance of stretching for our employees and our families. If any of us spend all winter sitting in the easy chair watching reruns of Dragnet, the spring yard cleanup is going to turn into a very painful experience.

I know many of you follow college and professional football. How many times have you read or listened to a report about winter conditioning or spring game preparations? It’s pretty obvious that none of us are getting ready for a spring football game, but we are getting ready for the yard work, the church softball league, or even throwing or kicking the ball around with our kids or grandkids. Wouldn’t it feel great to be able to do those things without popping Aleve or going to the doctor for muscle relaxers?

Now stop and think how much money a drop in your EMR would save you. It is a documented proven fact that a mandatory 10 minute stretching in the morning and after lunch will reduce worker compensation claims. Lifting, pulling, pushing, and repetitive motion claims are an employers nightmare. They can be reduced with a stretching program that Doug talked about last fall.

The MICA office has copies of the stretching exercises from Doug. Just contact Tom or Cindy and they will send you the copies.

Dragnet really Dragnet reruns? I don’t believe anyone in our group would be put themselves through that instead of stretching.

Besides, you can always stretch while watching it!!

We just concluded our winter committee meetings of the Board of Directors meeting. The weather was chilly by Florida standards, but warm by our Midwest standards.

We set the technical program and approved the financial budget for our spring convention. Tom will be sending out registration material next month, but be sure to mark your calendars now for June 17 — 20, 2019, and begin to make your plans to attend our annual spring convention in Broomfield, Colorado. This is our third convention at the Omni Interlocken Resort, and the amenities of the resort just keep getting better and better. Paula and I are excited to complete my year as President of MICA at this unique property.

Stay warm and stay safe!

Scott Weekley, MICA President
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR PROVIDES COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE RESOURCES TO PROTECT WORKERS FROM FALLS

WASHINGTON, DC – The U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has developed a collection of compliance assistance resources to address falls in the workplace, the leading cause of worker fatality in the construction industry. OSHA’s goal is to promote awareness about common fall hazards in construction, educate job creators and workers on fall prevention, and reduce the number of fall-related injuries and fatalities. These resources, which continue the goals of the Department’s Office of Compliance Initiatives (OCI), encourage and facilitate compliance evaluations.

Falls can be prevented if employers plan ahead to ensure the job is done safely; provide the right equipment; and train workers to use the equipment safely. OSHA is working with industry stakeholders to provide informative compliance assistance resources.

- The sixth annual National Safety Stand-Down to Prevent Falls in Construction will be held May 6-10, 2019. The weeklong outreach event encourages employers and workers to pause during the workday to discuss fall hazards and how to prevent them.
- A series of fall safety videos show how to prevent construction-related fall hazards from floor openings, skylights, fixed scaffolds, bridge deckling, reroofing, and leading edge work.
- OSHA’s Fall Prevention Training Guide provides a lesson plan for employers including several Toolbox Talks.
- Fact sheets on ladders and scaffolding provide guidance on the safe use of these types of equipment while performing construction activities.
- A brief video, 5 Ways to Prevent Workplace Falls, encourages employers to develop a fall prevention plan, and to provide workers with fall protection and training.

OSHA’s On-Site Consultation Program provides valuable services for job creators that are separate from enforcement. OSHA recently published an analysis demonstrating how the agency’s On-Site Consultation Program contributes $1.3 billion to the national economy each year. Job creators who implement workplace improvements can reduce lost time due to injuries and illnesses, improve employee morale, increase productivity, and lower workers’ compensation insurance premiums.

OCI – housed within the Department of Labor’s Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy – fosters a compliance assistance culture within the Department designed to complement its ongoing enforcement efforts. This Office focuses on helping enforcement agencies more effectively use online resources to deliver information and compliance assistance to help the American people. In August 2018, OCI launched Worker.gov and Employer.gov to provide information about workers’ rights and the responsibilities of job creators toward their workers.
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FUTURE MICA MEETING DATES

Winter Board and Committee Meetings — January 24 — 27, 2019, Omni Amelia Island Plantation Resort, Amelia Island, FL.

62nd Annual Spring Convention — June 17 — 20, 2019, Omni Interlocken Resort, Broomfield, CO.

Fall 2019 Annual Fall Business Meeting — October 16 & 17, 2019, Embassy Suites Downtown, Omaha, NE.

2020 Winter Board and Committee Meetings — January 202, Site To be Determined.

63nd Annual Spring Convention — June 22 — 25, 2020, In Region. Site Under Consideration.

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.
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR ISSUES FINAL RULE TO PROTECT PRIVACY OF WORKERS

WASHINGTON, DC – To protect worker privacy, the U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has issued a final rule that eliminates the requirement for establishments with 250 or more employees to electronically submit information from OSHA Form 300 (Log of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses) and OSHA Form 301 (Injury and Illness Incident Report) to OSHA each year. These establishments are still required to electronically submit information from OSHA Form 300A (Summary of Work Injuries and Illnesses).

By preventing routine government collection of information that may be quite sensitive, including descriptions of workers’ injuries and body parts affected, OSHA is avoiding the risk that such information might be publicly disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). This rule will better protect personally identifiable information or data that could be re-identified with a particular worker by removing the requirement for covered employers to submit their information from Forms 300 and 301. The final rule does not alter an employer’s duty to maintain OSHA Forms 300 and 301 on-site, and OSHA will continue to obtain these forms as needed through inspections and enforcement actions.

In addition, this rule will allow OSHA to focus its resources on initiatives that its past experience has shown to be useful—including continued use of information from severe injury reports that helps target areas of concern, and seeking to fully utilize a large volume of data from Form 300A—rather than on collecting and processing information from Forms 300 and 301 with uncertain value for OSHA enforcement and compliance assistance.

The agency is also amending the recordkeeping regulation to require covered employers to electronically submit their Employer Identification Number with their information from Form 300A. The final rule’s requirement for employers to submit their EIN to OSHA electronically along with their information from OSHA Form 300A will make the data more useful for OSHA and BLS, and could reduce duplicative reporting burdens on employers in the future.

OSHA has determined that this final rule will allow OSHA to improve enforcement targeting and compliance assistance, protect worker privacy and safety, and decrease burden on employers.

Collection of Calendar Year 2018 information from the OSHA Form 300A began on January 2, 2019. The deadline for electronic submissions is March 2, 2019.

OSHA RECORDING KEEPING NEW RULE

Gary Auman, MICA’s legal counsel has provided further clarification and interpretation of OSHA’s final rule. Gary’s comments are provided below:

On January 24, 2019 OSHA issued a new final rule on record-keeping requirements for all employers. As you are aware, all employers who employed eleven or more employees in a calendar year are required to complete the OSHA 300 log. Moreover, if you are one of these employers and required to maintain the log you must also complete the OSHA 300A form for the preceding year prior to February 1st of the current year. So, if you were required to maintain the OSHA 300 log for 2018, you must complete the OSHA 300A by February 1st of this year. You must then post the 300A in your workplace from February 1st through April 30th of the current year. To count the number of employees in 2018 you need to count all employees who worked for you during this period. The count should include part-time employees as well as temporary employees. So, if you are incorporated and employed 10 full time employees in 2018, including, of course yourself (“For businesses that are sole proprietorships or partnerships, the owners and partners would not be considered employees and would not be counted.”) you would not have an obligation to complete an OSHA 300 log for 2018, BUT if you have ten employees in 2018 and used just one temporary employee or one part-time employee in 2018 in addition to your full-time compliment of 10 employees you would have had 11 total employees in 2018 and the OSHA 300 and 300QA recordkeeping obligation would rise for your company.

On May 12, 2016 OSHA issued a rule regarding the electronic submission of OSHA 300A’s, 300 logs, and 301 forms; however, on January 24th, 2019, OSHA published a new final rule changing the 2016 requirements. Rather than causing confusing I will cover the current requirements below. These changes were made in the interest of protecting employee privacy. In order to accomplish this purpose, the new standard (rule) no longer requires employers with 250 or more employees in the preceding calendar year to electronically file the OSHA 300 logs or 301 forms for the preceding year. So now employers, in high hazard industries (which include construction), with 250 or more employees in 2018 will ONLY have to electronically file their OSHA 300A form for 2018 (which they completed by February 1, 2019) prior to March 2, 2019. In addition, all employers covered by the filing requirement are now required, under the new rule, to include your EIN (Employer Identification Number) with your filing. The OSHA 300A does not contain any employee identifying information. The new rule does not affect the obligation of employers who had 20 or more employees, but not more than 249 employees in the preceding calendar year. Those employers are still required to electronically file their OSHA 300A forms by March 2, 2019, but they are now required to also include their EIN. Employers (Continued on page 11)
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still must complete the forms and logs so as to be available upon request, but only the 300A and the EIN must be electronically submitted.

Employee counts are made as I explained in the first paragraph of this notice. The March 2 electronic filing deadline will remain in place for all succeeding years.

IRS CONFIRMS TAX FILING SEASON TO BEGIN JANUARY 28

WASHINGTON — Despite the government shutdown, the Internal Revenue Service today confirmed that it will process tax returns beginning January 28, 2019 and provide refunds to taxpayers as scheduled.

“We are committed to ensuring that taxpayers receive their refunds notwithstanding the government shutdown. I appreciate the hard work of the employees and their commitment to the taxpayers during this period,” said IRS Commissioner Chuck Rettig.

Congress directed the payment of all tax refunds through a permanent, indefinite appropriation (31 U.S.C. 1324), and the IRS has consistently been of the view that it has authority to pay refunds despite a lapse in annual appropriations. Although in 2011 the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) directed the IRS not to pay refunds during a lapse, OMB has reviewed the relevant law at Treasury’s request and concluded that IRS may pay tax refunds during a lapse.

The IRS will be recalling a significant portion of its workforce, currently furloughed as part of the government shutdown, to work. Additional details for the IRS filing season will be included in an updated FY2019 Lapsed Appropriations Contingency Plan to be released publicly in the coming days.

“IRS employees have been hard at work over the past year to implement the biggest tax law changes the nation has seen in more than 30 years,” said Rettig.

As in past years, the IRS will begin accepting and processing individual tax returns once the filing season begins. For taxpayers who usually file early in the year and have all of the needed documentation, there is no need to wait to file. They should file when they are ready to submit a complete and accurate tax return.

The filing deadline to submit 2018 tax returns is Monday, April 15, 2019, for most taxpayers. Because of the Patriots’ Day holiday on April 15 in Maine and Massachusetts and the Emancipation Day holiday on April 16 in the District of Columbia, taxpayers who live in Maine or Massachusetts have until April 17, 2019 to file their returns.

Software companies and tax professionals will be accepting and preparing tax returns before Jan. 28 and then will submit the returns when the IRS systems open later this month. The IRS strongly encourages people to file their tax returns electronically to minimize errors and for faster refunds.

ALEC REXROAT’S NOTE OF THANKS

Hi everyone. I am going to retire at the end of this month (January). I know it’s a little sudden but my health and other concerns have precipitated this decision. As I look at my 54 years in the insulation industry I think of a goofy kid like me getting to do what I have done, and to be fortunate in doing it.

I worked with the guys in the field in the 60’s where we, unfortunately, installed asbestos on pipes and vessels. I learned then that these folks are the backbone of this industry. Thank you, Salty and Luse-Stevenson, for opening the door for me. You are great people and great friends. Thanks to you all, past and present.

I employed hundreds of insulators over the years as a contractor. I still look with pride at being part of helping people support their families. Thanks to all the folks who worked with me during those years.

I have spent the last years of my career working to improve the conditions of our workers and promoting our industry in the U.S. and Canada. The workers have always been in the front seat as far as I’m concerned. Everything we did was to promote our industry and workers.

None of this could happen without the help from contractors and labor. Thanks to all of you.

So it is with a certain amount of sadness that I step away from activity in our industry. I know it is in good hands with great labor friends and contractor friends.

I love you all and our industry.

Be safe out there.

Alec Rexroat
2018 YEAR IN REVIEW FROM THE CONTRACTOR’S PERSPECTIVE

By Donna Laquidara-Carr, Ph.D., LEED AP, Industry Insights Research Director, Dodge Data & Analytics

The quarterly findings for 2018 reported in the USG Corporation + US Chamber of Commerce Commercial Construction Index reveal that contractors working in the commercial and institutional sectors continue to see a steady flow of work, but that they are also facing challenges in finding skilled workers and becoming concerned about the impact of material prices on their businesses.

Backlogs Are Up, but Profit Margins Are Flattening

The Commercial Construction Index number for Q4 2018 is 75, showing an overall strong outlook on the market. That number is calculated based on the findings on the degree of confidence that contractors have that the market will provide them with new business opportunities, the ratio of their current and ideal average backlogs, and their expectations of revenue growth.

The findings throughout 2018 have made it clear that the commercial and institutional construction market is very active. The percentage confident that the market would provide opportunities has stayed in mid-seventies throughout 2018, finishing Q4 at 76%. This is a key factor in the overall positive CCI rating in Q4 and throughout the year.

The other factor supporting a positive CCI number in Q4 is the high ratio of current to ideal average backlog reported by contractors. In Q4, that ratio was 80, and the average overall backlog reported was 10 months, the second quarter in a row with ratios and backlog levels that high. Previously, in the first half of 2018 and throughout 2017, that average backlog was around 9 months. However, tempered expectations for revenue growth, which noticeably dropped in the second half of 2018, suggests that these may be smaller projects than those seen in early 2018 or throughout 2017.

Profit margin estimates are also declining. The percentage of contractors who expect their profit margins to increase have been declining throughout 2018, from 39% in Q1 to 27% in Q4. It is important to note that the decline in those expecting an increase in profit margins has largely been matched by growth in the percentage expecting their profit margins to remain the same, which increased from 59% in Q1 to 67% in Q4. Thus, we are not talking about a shift toward reduced margins: instead contractors report less expansion and more steady levels of profit.

(Continued on page 17)
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Still, the pattern away from growth in profit is notable throughout 2018.

**Concerns About Finding Skilled Workers Remain, and Concerns About Material Costs Have Emerged**

Over half of contractors continue to report throughout 2018 that finding skilled workers is a major challenge for them; by Q4, 58% experienced a high level of difficulty in recruiting skilled workers. The data suggest that finding workers with adequate skills levels is at the root of this challenge, with 58% in Q4 reporting that they are highly concerned about skills in the workforce. And the shortage of workers with adequate skills seems to be growing worse: in Q1, only 31% of those who were concerned about the skill levels of their workforce said that the problem had worsened in the last six months, but by Q4, 40% have seen this problem worsen.

While the issue of skilled worker shortages has been evident since the CCI launched in 2017, in 2018, another issue emerged that contractors find challenging. Throughout 2017 and in the beginning of 2018, less than 20% of contractors believed that material cost fluctuations had a high impact on their business. In the second quarter of 2018, though, that percentage rose dramatically to 38%, and it has remained at an elevated level through the rest of the year.

There is no doubt that tariffs have contributed to this anxiety, but the data from the Q3 report revealed that concerns about material cost fluctuations were still going up as concerns about tariffs were going down, showing that there is a larger issue with rising material costs than just the influence of the tariffs. Certainly, it is not surprising to see prices inflate in a strong market, especially one that has been in an extended period of growth like the commercial construction market.

One area to keep an eye on for 2019, based on the trends revealed through the 2018 CCI data, is material shortages. Back in Q1 2018, while two thirds of contractors were moderately concerned about this issue, only 10% expected it to have a high impact on their business. By Q4 2018, that figure has steadily risen to 22%. That is still notably lower than those who expect a high impact from material cost fluctuations, but the pattern suggests that contractors are growing more concerned about seeing shortages affecting their ability to deliver projects in a timely and cost-effective manner.

The quarterly findings reported in the Commercial Construction Index report show that contractors are currently benefiting from high growth of work, but they are also becoming increasingly cautious about the challenges of finding skilled workers and dealing with the cost and availability of materials. They are growing less optimistic about seeing their bottom lines grow, despite the volume of work available. It remains to be seen, though, if that caution will continue to grow through 2019.
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR PUBLISHES NEW FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON CONTROLLING SILICA IN GENERAL INDUSTRY

WASHINGTON, DC – The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has posted new frequently asked questions (FAQs) on the agency's standard for respirable crystalline silica in general industry.

OSHA developed the FAQs in consultation with industry and union stakeholders to provide guidance to employers and employees on the standard's requirements, such as exposure assessments, regulated areas, methods of compliance, and communicating silica hazards to employees. The questions and answers are organized by topic, and include an introductory paragraph that provides background information about the regulatory requirements.

Visit OSHA's silica standard for general industry webpage for more information and resources on complying with the standard.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR URGES EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES TO REMAIN VIGILANT ABOUT POSSIBLE WINTER HAZARDS

KANSAS CITY, MO – The U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) reminds employers to stay vigilant when it comes to weather-related hazards that can put employees at risk when temperatures plummet in winter months.

Slippery roads and surfaces, frigid temperatures, and carbon monoxide fumes from engines, generators, and heaters are among the hazards that can lead to employee injuries and illnesses during the season. Working outdoors in excessively cold environments or without adequate protection - such as thermal clothing, gloves, and hats - can cause serious loss of surface and internal body temperature. Cold environments also increase risk factors associated with physical exertion, including dehydration, and existing health conditions.

OSHA offers winter weather resources to help protect employees from cold stress and hazards that are present when clearing heavy snow around workplaces and from (Continued on page 22)
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rooftops, driving on icy roads, and coming across downed power lines.

Employers should perform preventative maintenance and inspect equipment before use, monitor carbon monoxide levels in workplaces, operate gas-powered equipment only in well-ventilated areas, and prevent blockages in ventilation and exhaust systems after snowfalls and when ice forms.

LABOR MARKET ENDS YEAR ON A STRONG NOTE

Richard Branch, Dodge Data & Analytics, Senior Economist

BEDFORD, MA - January 4, 2019 - U.S. employers added 312,000 new jobs in the month of December – well above consensus estimates. The December employment numbers are typically more volatile than other months due to increased seasonality and in the past have been subject to sizeable revisions. However, figures for both October and November were revised higher than initially reported suggesting that the underlying strength in December may be real.

December’s gain was widespread; the only major sector to cut jobs was information, which lost 1,000 positions. Education and health services added 82,000, 43,000 jobs were added in professional and business services, and manufacturing added 32,000. The construction sector had a solid month, with 38,000 new jobs including, 16,300 in civil and engineering construction, 13,000 in specialty trade, and 8,000 in building construction.

Average hourly earnings rose 0.4% from November to December and are 3.2% higher than they were a year ago. This marks the third consecutive month in which wage growth was greater than 3% and is a clear sign that this is a seller’s market – with more positions available than people to fill them. Construction wages rose 0.5% in the month and are 3.9% higher than a year ago. The unemployment rate rose 20 basis points to 3.9%, but this too is good news as it was a result of more people entering the labor market.

For the full year the U.S. economy added 2.6 million new jobs – averaging 220,000 new jobs a month. This follows 2.2 million new jobs added in 2017, and 2.3 million in 2016.

With the news cycle of late dominated by a deteriorating stock market and political unease, December’s report is a clear reminder that the underlying foundations of the economy are solid. The strong labor market and resulting wage gains are pushing consumer spending higher and business investment remains healthy due to changes in the tax code. While economic growth in 2019 is likely to ease slightly from the pace set last year, there is not an imminent cliff approaching - a notion reinforced with today’s data.

NIA's 64TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

April 3-5, 2019
Grand Hyatt Baha Mar
Nassau, Bahamas

NIA’s 64th Annual Convention will include the networking, educational, and entertainment events that you look forward to each year with new additions in our Wednesday–Friday schedule. The Convention theme—Making a Difference—will become a reality through education and networking and will be paid forward to your business and the industry for years to come. NIA looks forward to welcoming attendees from all segments of the mechanical insulation industry to the Bahamas.

Continuing the New Wednesday—Friday Schedule
In 2018, NIA debuted a new a Wednesday–Friday schedule, which received overwhelmingly positive reviews: 93% of survey respondents preferred the condensed schedule, which gives attendees the option to stay longer for some personal time or head home to get back to your family and your business sooner.

New for 2019—Updated Registration Rates for Kids
Children 5 or younger now come free to the Convention. Additional discounted registration rates are available for children under 17 years of age. We hope that your whole family will be able to join us in the Bahamas!

Who Should Attend
Convention attendees represent all segments of the mechanical insulation industry: merit and union contractors, distributors, fabricators, laminators, and manufacturers. This broad representation of the industry allows attendees opportunities to gain new business contacts, network, and build relationships. Spouses, guests, and children are encouraged to attend.
DaKO Services, LLC would like to announce the retirement of its founder Dan Osborn. Dan Osborn has served the insulation industry well over his 53 year career. Dan was involved in both the Midwest Insulation Contractor Association where he served as President in 1983 and on a National level with the National Insulation Association serving as its President in 1989.

For the last 20+ years, Dan has owned and operated DaKO Services in Lincoln, NE and in November of 2017, Dan sold his business to Luse Holdings out of Chicago, IL. Dan stayed on for over a year to help with the transition and now will retire in February 2019 to Des Moines, IA, where he and his wife, Joy, will call home. Well done and congratulations Dan!
Sometimes the best amenities are the ones you don’t see

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DODGE MOMENTUM INDEX MOVES LOWER IN DECEMBER

NEW YORK – January 8, 2019 – The Dodge Momentum Index fell 4.9% in December to 151.9 (2000=100) from the revised November reading of 159.7. The Momentum Index, issued by Dodge Data & Analytics, is a monthly measure of the first (or initial) report for nonresidential building projects in planning, which have been shown to lead construction spending for nonresidential buildings by a full year. The decline in December was due to a 7.6% drop in the commercial component of the Momentum Index, while the institutional component fell 0.7%.

For the full year, the Momentum Index gained 4.3% from the end of 2017, with the institutional component increasing 8.5% over the year and the commercial component moving 1.6% higher. While the overall Momentum Index registered a gain for the full year, this was realized in the first half of 2018. During the final six months of the year, the Momentum Index fell 4.4%, with the commercial component losing 7.2% and the institutional component remaining essentially flat. This suggests that spending for commercial buildings may be reaching its cyclical peak, while spending for institutional buildings continues to be supported by the stabilizing influence of public funding for projects such as schools and transportation terminals.

In December, seven projects each with a value of $100 million or more entered planning. The two leading institutional projects were a $140 million science and engineering building at Northeastern University in Boston MA and the $120 million Trophy Park Sports Complex in Jackson NJ. The two leading commercial projects were a $160 million addition and renovation project at the Two Penn Plaza office complex in New York NY and the $125 million Bellevue Cadillac office towers in Bellevue WA.
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