WHAT’S INSIDE THIS MONTH:

- MICA Board Meets.
- President’s Message.
- Mechanical Division Adds Personnel.
- MICA Future Meeting Dates.
- The Passing of MICA Past President.
- May Employment Surprises to the Upside.
- Pictures from Matt Hymer’s Year as President.
- SBA and Treasury Announce New EZ and Revised Full Forgiveness Applications for the Paycheck Protection Program.
- Construction Starts Post Small Gain in May.
- As More Businesses Reopen, Worker Safety and Health Remains an OSHA Priority.
- Dodge Momentum Index Flat in May.

RECAP OF MICA BOARD MEETING

The Board of Directors of MICA held its spring meeting by Zoom on June 25, 2020. This meeting would have normally taken place in conjunction with our 2020 spring convention. Since the June convention was canceled, the Board still needed to conduct normal association activities and to strategically plan how MICA will continue to serve you, the members, through these uncertain times.

The Board reviewed the financial position of MICA for the first five-months of 2020. MICA continues to be sound financially through these uncertain times. Our investments have not performed as anticipated when the operating budget for 2020 was approved by the Board, but our investment base is still in tack.

The Board reviewed the activities of our standing committees. The Board agreed to support each of the standing committees in developing a topical program that MICA could offer this summer through a series of webinars. Each committee chair is to seek input from the membership to identify a topic of interest that could be developed into an hour-long webinar. We are in the process of identifying a week in July that we would promote as “MICA Committee Week”. We will then offer a series of webinars, one each day, at a set time so that the membership can set their schedules to attend as many of the webinar offerings that they deem appropriate. We will be communicating this event to our membership via email. If you have not been receiving any emails from the MICA, then you need to contact the MICA office with your email so that we can add you to our email listserv. We do not want you to miss the opportunity to participate in “MICA Committee Week”!

The Board has been monitoring the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services directives in reopening the state businesses and its potential impact on our ability to conduct our fall business meeting. We are also in communication with the Downtown Omaha Marriott regarding their ability to host our meeting within the guidelines. Currently, the Board is in favor of moving forward with the fall meeting as planned. We anticipate that there will be a pre-meeting educational seminar on Wednesday, October 14, 2020, with the fall meeting on Thursday and Friday morning. We will notify you if these plans change as we move through July.

Thank you for your continued support of and participation in MICA.
Contact the MICA Office for Details

Affordable Yearly Rate

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD AD HERE

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD AD HERE

SSL II™ WITH ASJ MAX FIBERGLAS® PIPE INSULATION

Contact Your Midwest Regional Sales Team

Bryan Bergquist
MICA, 1400 Lakeside Ave, West Mifflin, PA 15122
888.747.2500
Bryan.Bergquist@mica.com

Jacob Acker
361 Main St, Eldora, IA 52554
877.260.9898
Jacob.Acker@mica.com

Tom McConnell
7520 Westwood Dr, Suite 240, Austin, TX 78735
512.322.0000
Tom.McConnell@mica.com

Joedy Finnel
100 W 10th St, Kent, WA 98032
866.341.4111
Joedy.Finnel@mica.com

Jan Mierzwaik
609 S 6th St, Wausau, WI 54403
715.845.7940
Jan.Mierzwaik@mica.com

Learn more at www.mica.com/mechanical

Quality Insulation Fabrics and More...

ALPHA engineered composites

15TH ANNIVERSARY
1968–2018

145 Lehigh Ave, Lakewood, NJ 08701
800-631-5399 732-634-5700 www.alphainc.com

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD AD HERE

Affordable Yearly Rate

Contact the MICA Office for Details

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD AD HERE

Affordable Yearly Rate

Contact the MICA Office for Details

M.W. OTTINGER SALES
Manufacturers’ Representative

Minneapolis, MN - Serving the Upper Midwest
Phone: 763.559.0255
Contact: Miles Ottinger, mwlottinger@gmail.com
Webslte: www.mwlottinger.com

Representing:

★ AMERICAN SEALANTS, INC. (ASU) Silicone Sealants
★ INSPECTION POINT SEALS Inspection Plugs for Valves and Piping
★ INSULATION COMPONENTS Insulation, Insulated Shields, Blankets, Tools
★ METAL TEXTILES CORP. Knitted Wire Mesh
★ MID-MOUNTAIN MATERIALS Woven Textiles, Coated Fabrics, Welding Cloth

WWW.VIMASCO.COM

Highest Quality – Superior Customer Service - On Time Delivery

VIMASCO CORPORATION
SERVING THE INDUSTRY SINCE 1955

1. Adhesives
2. Mastic—Fire Protective Coatings
3. Nuclear Grade Adhesives and Coatings for Power Plants and the Military
4. Cable Coating
5. Chinking & Caulking

Highest Quality - Superior Customer Service - On Time Delivery

CALL ANNEKA TODDIE 715.839.2780 800.993.5513
PHONE (715) 839-2780 FAX (715) 839-2722
Or Contact www.vimasco.com
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

TO: THE MICA MEMBERSHIP

“Perspective is everything when you are experiencing the challenges of life.”

-Joni Eareckson Tada, author

Well, we are in some very interesting times right now. I never thought I would see a day where America would be shut down for months. It was disappointing that we had to cancel the June convention in Lake of the Ozarks this past month. I missed seeing and interacting with everyone at the convention. I want to thank Matt and Holly Hymer for the outstanding job they did this past year. Next time you see these two; take a minute to let them know the great job they did since we were not able to formally acknowledge them at the convention.

I would like to thank everyone for allowing me to be your President for the upcoming year. For those of you who don’t know me, my name is Steve Sack. I have been married to my wife, Megan, for 22 years this August. We have three children: Luke 17, Bryn 14, and Claire 12. I have been in the insulation industry for most of my work life, starting work at Sprinkmann Sons Corp. of IL in the summer of 1989 as a warehouse hand. I worked summer and winter breaks during college until I graduated in 1991 with a B.S. in Accounting. I left the industry for two years to pursue a career in Public Accounting and, after six months, realized that I could not do that for the rest of my life. I was fortunate enough to have met and worked for a man named Gess Kremers. Gess brought me into the insulation business when he was the owner of Sprinkmann Sons Corp. of IL and allowed me to return to work for him in 1993 after I did not accept an offer from him right out of college. To Gess, I say, “Thank You!” As it turned out, it was the best work decision I could have made. If not for him, I wouldn’t know this industry even existed. I also worked for Ed Morrow who purchased the assets of Sprinkmann Sons from Gess in 2001. Ed was a great boss and an even better person! Ed is the man who introduced me to MICA and told me to get involved as little or as much as I wanted. He also warned me that someone would try to get me on the Board, and they would not stop until my answer was “yes”. Boy was he right! Thanks, Rich and Scott.

My theme for this upcoming year is “Perspective.” With everything going on in the world, I feel this theme is appropriate and a perfect segue from Matt’s theme this past year, “Moving Forward.” The perspective you CHOOSE to have in life, as well as the workplace, is integral in how successfully you find yourself capable of moving forward.

On a serious note, I want you all to know that I am getting so much more out of MICA by being involved on the Board and by taking the step to move through the officer positions. It seems like I just said “yes” to serve as the Vice-President, and now it is my honor to serve as President of this tremendous association. If you are willing to serve MICA and your industry, we want you to get involved. It is all about “perspective”. To be successful, you need to be involved. If you become involved, you need to participate and there is no better way to participate than to be involved at the Board and officer level of MICA. If this is your “perspective”, please let me or anyone else on the Board know.

As I look forward to a great year in this industry, I hope to see you in Omaha in October and Bonita Springs in June.

“Always focus on the front windshield and not the rear-view mirror.”

-Colin Powell,
Retired U.S. Army General and American politician

Sincerely,

Steve Sack
President of MICA
A Product of MC&I

RIDGLOK®
TANK INSULATION PANELS

MCI-RIDGLOK.com

- Labor Savings
- Small Crew Size
- Minimal to NO Welding
- Minimal Specialty Tools
- No Scaffolding
- Pre-Fabricated Panel
- High Wind Designs
- Longest Lifespan
- Easy Repairs
- Minimum Maintenance
- Freeze Protection
- Strong Weather Barrier

ALL INDUSTRIES—ALL TANKS

Heated/Cold • Large/Small • Welded • Bolted • Concrete • Plastic
The
NEW Revolutionary
Fast and Easy Way to Seal Butt Seams
on Elastomeric Insulation

Cel-Link II™
with SSPT

*PATENT PENDING

$ Eliminate job failure and repair to cut and keep project costs competitive
\ No fumes – no operational interruptions in odor-sensitive environments
\ Food processing areas
\ Flammable areas
\ Perfect for low VOC installations – lower costs, fast and easy
\ Install faster in any environment – even in cold weather

More jobs won, more jobs done, more jobs billed.

Get your FREE SAMPLE of Cel-Link II™

Just visit www.aeroflexusa.com/cel-link2 TODAY!

Aeroflex USA Cel-Link II™ works when and where standard contact adhesives can’t.

Done once. Done fast. Done right.

Contact Aeroflex today: 1-866-237-6235 (1-866-AEROCEL) | www.aeroflexusa.com
RETIREMENT NOTICE

Dear MICA Members,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that Ron Carlson has retired from Jeff-Co Sales & Marketing after 23 years of service. Ron has worked full time for 43 years and part time for 7 years, making a total of 50 years of work. Ron has done an outstanding job for Jeff-Co in his 23 years here, and he will be sorely missed.

I remember meeting Ron in Kansas City in 1997 at a Courtyard Marriott lobby to interview him for the Jeff-Co job. I asked him the big question, which was “What will it take to get you to come to work for Jeff-Co?” Ron’s response was “If you let Diane and I move to the Minneapolis-St. Paul area, you have a deal”. He said they loved the twin cities, and they had always wanted to live there. I gave him a quick YES, and we had a handshake that has lasted 23 years. It could not have worked out better for both Jeff-Co and Ron.

Ron loved working with all of you, and he will really miss you, especially the MICA Association family. Ron served on the MICA Membership Committee as the Chairman and standing committeeman for many years, and did a great job recruiting new members. He was as loyal as a person could be to the MICA group. He also did a great job as our Jeff-Co HVAC Specialist.

Ron is looking forward to sailing, bicycling and gardening in retirement, and enjoying his time with Diane. Please join me in wishing Ron and Diane the very best as they enter retirement. If you would like to reach out to Ron, his personal email is RCarl12328@aol.com, and his cell phone is 612-963-1808. I am sure he would love to hear from you.

My search has already started for Ron’s replacement, and I will keep you posted when I find the right person to fill Ron’s shoes. In the meantime, I will be handling all of the MICA States.

Again, we wish Ron and Diane the very best in retirement. May God Bless both of them.

Jeff Rebholz
Jeff-Co Sales and Marketing, Inc.

MECHANICAL DIVISION ADDS PERSONNEL

Polyguard Products Mechanical Division is pleased to announce the following staffing additions.

Chris Parmele has recently joined the team as Business Development Manager. Chris brings over 20 years of experience in the construction industry and most recently worked for DuPont Performance Building Solutions as their Senior Industry Manager for the Cold Storage and Pipe insulation businesses. He has had roles in sales, marketing, and national account management. He received his undergraduate and master’s degrees from Central Michigan University. Chris is married to his high school sweetheart and they have three children, 11, 13 and 16. He enjoys spending time with his family, working out or catching one of his kid’s frequent soccer or baseball games. Chris is based out of Roswell, GA.

Andrew Hiatt is joining the Mechanical team as the Midwest Regional Sales Manager. Andrew comes to Polyguard from Jeff-Co, where he gained experience in the Mechanical Insulation Industry as an independent representative. He has a bachelor’s degree in Behavioral Neuroscience from Purdue University. His hobbies include golf, volleyball, swimming, scuba diving, and being the world’s greatest uncle. Andrew is based in Indianapolis, IN.

According to Nate Brink, Sales Director, Mechanical Division, “the addition of Chris and Andrew will allow us to increase our focus on growth in the short term and maintain continuity as senior members of our team approach retirement.”

Polyguard’s Mechanical Division offers weather and vapor barrier systems to keep pipe and duct insulation dry as well as a unique Reactive Gel® coating to stop corrosion under insulation (CUI).
Count on Specialty Products & Insulation to deliver reliable product performance, exceptional customer service and absolute best value.

Serving Commercial, Industrial, Marine and OEM Markets

SPI - A global leader in the distribution and specialty fabrication of insulation products for Thermal, Acoustic, Fire Protection and Refractory applications. From the first contact to project completion, you’ll benefit from our extensive product offering, superior service and value.

Experience The SPI Advantage

SPI - Specialty Products & Insulation  
C/O Dunes Point Capital  
411 Theodore Fremd Ave., Suite 125  
Rye, NY 10580  
Phone: 855-519-4044  
www.spi-co.com
FUTURE MICA MEETING DATES

CANCELED — 63rd Annual Spring Convention — June 22 — 25, 2020, Lodge of the Four Seasons, Lake Ozark, Missouri.

Fall 2020 Annual Fall Business Meeting — October 15 & 16, 2020, Omaha Marriott Downtown, Omaha, NE.

64th Annual Spring Convention — June 21 — 24, 2021, Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort, Bonita Springs, FL.

Fall 2021 Annual Fall Business Meeting — October 14 & 15, 2021, Omaha Marriott Downtown, Omaha, NE.

65th Annual Spring Convention — June 20 — 23, 2022, TBD.

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.
THE PASSING OF PAST PRESIDENT OF MICA

It is with sadness that we inform you of the passing of Gene Dettmer, a past president of MICA. Gene served as MICA’s 31st President in 1987 – 1988. Most of you do not know Gene since he has been away from MICA for more than 20 years, but Gene and his wife, Phyllis, were long time members and supporters of MICA. When Cindy and I became involved with MICA in 1983, Gene and Phyllis welcomed us with open arms. During the years, especially during Gene’s time on the MICA Board of Directors, we developed a close friendship with them. We stayed in contact with them after their time with MICA. Below is a brief snippet of Gene that gives you a quick picture of Gene and his involvement in MICA.

Gene left the farming operation in the Blue Valley of Kansas when Tuttle Creek dam was built in 1958. In 1960 Gene completed his degree in Mechanical Engineering at Kansas State University. He worked for the Monsanto Chemical Company for 10 years. During this time Gene and his family moved several times because of mergers and acquisitions in the chemical and meat packing industries.

In 1974 Gene purchased a small mechanical insulation company, Insulcon Inc., from Elton Burner, and immediately joined MICA. In 1978 he became heavily involved in asbestos removal and later became involved in hazardous waste abatement. Gene liquidated his company in 1991 and continues to provide consulting services through Dettmer & Associates.

During Gene’s tenure with MICA he has served on its Board of Directors and numerous committees. He was part of the first Asbestos Abatement Committee that developed the MICA Abatement Manual. Gene and Phyllis continue their involvement in MICA, and as Gene said, “One of the best things I ever did in the contracting business was to become part of a dedicated group of people and a wonderful organization, MICA”.

Cards of support for Phyllis and the family may be sent to 25250 W 119th St., Olathe, KS 66061. Contributions in Gene’s name are suggested to Crosslines, www.cross-lines.org or 736 Shawnee Avenue, Kansas City, KS 66105. For those of us who knew Gene, he will be missed.

MAY EMPLOYMENT SURPRISES TO THE UPSIDE

By Richard Branch, Chief Economist, Dodge Data & Analytics

BEDFORD, MA – June 5, 2020 – In a huge upside surprise the U.S. economy added 2.5 million jobs in the month of May – consensus estimates were looking at a potential decline in em-
ployment of between 4 to 8 million jobs. May’s net addition to employment follows declines of 1.4 million in March and 20.7 million in April. The unemployment rate fell from 14.7% to 13.3%. Private sector jobs increased by 3.1 million while government employment was down by 585,000.

From a construction standpoint, the sector added back 464,000 jobs following a decline of 995,000 in April. Employment in building construction rose by 105,000, while heavy and civil engineering jobs increased by 33,500. Specialty trade contractors added 325,000 jobs.

Today’s release confirms that when looking back on this recession, May will have been the low point with the recovery phase beginning in June. As state and local governments continue to loosen rules on business activity, hiring will certainly pick back up and the economy will move forward.

However, this recovery will be a very long and slow process fraught with potential pitfalls. Even with today’s number, employment is down close to 20 million from its February level. The easy lifting will come first. With the massive negative numbers in April, there was bound to be an immediate jump in employment as people started returning to work. That jump has come sooner than expected, but growth in the second half of the year will nevertheless be slow-going. Even by year end, the unemployment rate will be stubbornly high – potentially still close to 9% - compared to the 3.5% rate before the COVID crisis began. May’s report should certainly be viewed with a sense of cautious optimism in these dark and difficult times.
The No-Dust Alternative to Aerogel Blanket

VARIOUS THICKNESSES AVAILABLE, UP TO 60 INCH WIDTH

HYDROPHOBIC UP TO 600F CONTINUOUS

SUITABLE UP TO 1200F (600F to 1200F WITH PROPER VENTILATION)

NOW AVAILABLE

Your CUI Solution

LEWCO

SUPER MAT

WWW.LEWCOSUPERMAT.COM    WWW.LEWCOSPECIALTYPRODUCTS.COM

PHONE 225.924.3221 · (800)221.6414 · FAX 225.927.2918

BATON ROUGE, LA
P.S. Have I mentioned that the KC CHIEFS ARE SUPERBOWL CHAMPIONS!!!!!!
Thank you for 40 years of partnership.

Since 1980, Proto Corporation has been working hard to earn the trust of our customers, manufacture the highest quality products and deliver the industry’s best service. Thank you for your continued support.
FyreWrap New Look
Same great quality and service.

- Larger logo for easy identification
- Improved handling characteristics
- Butt joint - grease duct system
- Saves space, materials; simple, effective technique
- Zero clearance to combustible items
- Listed ASTM E2336 system - code compliant
- Certified online installation training
- Engineering Judgments provided quickly
- Made in the USA

Local Unifrax Contacts:
Alan Finley - OK, MO, KS, NE, CO 918-640-2459
Scott Marker - IN, IL, IA 630-235-4352
Mark Sullivan - WI, MN, Dakotas 414-915-3156
Tmi Walter - South/Central Region 281-203-7553

Manufacturer of the patented IPS Inspection Port, the cost effective way to access piping and vessels when performing CUI inspections.

Features and Benefits:
- Watertight Seal without Screws, O-Rings or Caulk
- Installs Easily without Special Tools
- Reduces Installation Time

MODEL 210
For 6mm+ Pyrogel® Aerogel Insulation

MODEL 95
U. S. Patent #6082576

MODEL 206
For cal-sil, foam glass or perlite insulation. Also PVC jacket.

1-888-236-0408
39421 Highway 929, Prairieville, LA 70769
Ph. (225) 622-6183
Fax. (225) 622-6787

www.ipseals.com

“Please see our website for complete product listings and specifications”
The directive also provides clarity on major topics, such as alternative exposure control methods when a construction employer does not fully and properly implement Table 1, variability in sampling, multi-employer situations, and temporary workers.

OSHA began enforcing most provisions of the construction standard in September 2017, with enforcement of the requirements for sample analysis starting in June 2018. Enforcement of most of the general industry and maritime standards began in June 2018, with enforcement of some medical surveillance requirements commencing on June 23, 2020. On June 23, 2021, OSHA will begin enforcing requirements for engineering controls for hydraulic fracturing operations in the oil and gas industry.

SBA AND TREASURY ANNOUNCE NEW EZ AND REVISED FULL FORGIVENESS APPLICATIONS FOR THE PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM

WASHINGTON— The U.S. Small Business Administration, in consultation with the Department of the Treasury, posted a revised, borrower-friendly Paycheck
Setting The Standard Since 1983

We offer a variety of PVC colors and specialize in fabricating custom heads.

- STYROFOAM®, TRYMER®, PHENOLIC, & FOAMGLAS®
- Accessories for all insulation jobs
- We stock cut-to-fit aluminum SE.016
- We specialize in ammonia refrigeration
- We stock RG-2400LT™ and RG-2400NP™

For questions, quotes and orders, email us at sales@cookbro.com

For pricing, product and other important information, visit us at www.cookbro.com

(800) 624-3043
Cook Brothers Insulation, Inc.
1405 St. Louis Ave. / Kansas City, MO 64101
K.C. (816) 421-6300 / Fax: (816) 842-4031

Insulation Systems That Set The Standard — Since 1983
Protection Program (PPP) loan forgiveness application implementing the PPP Flexibility Act of 2020, signed into law by President Trump on June 5, 2020. In addition to revising the full forgiveness application, SBA also published a new EZ version of the forgiveness application that applies to borrowers that:

- Are self-employed and have no employees; OR
- Did not reduce the salaries or wages of their employees by more than 25%, and did not reduce the number or hours of their employees; OR
- Experienced reductions in business activity as a result of health directives related to COVID-19, and did not reduce the salaries or wages of their employees by more than 25%.

The EZ application requires fewer calculations and less documentation for eligible borrowers. Details regarding the applicability of these provisions are available in the instructions to the new EZ application form.

Both applications give borrowers the option of using the original 8-week covered period (if their loan was made before June 5, 2020) or an extended 24-week covered period. These changes will result in a more efficient process and make it easier for businesses to realize full forgiveness of their PPP loan. The EZ Forgiveness Application and the Full Forgiveness Application are available to view on the SBA’s website.

SBA ROLLS OUT DEDICATED TOOL FOR SMALL BUSINESSES TO CONNECT WITH CDFIs, SMALL ASSET LENDERS PARTICIPATING IN PPP

WASHINGTON – U.S. Small Business Administration Administrator Jovita Carranza announced the launch of a dedicated online tool for small businesses and non-profits to be matched with Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs), Minority Depository Institutions (MDIs), Certified Development Companies (CDCs), Farm Credit System lenders, Microlenders, as well as traditional smaller asset size lenders in the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP).

SBA’s Lender Match is an additional resource for pandemic-affected small businesses who have not applied for or received an approved PPP loan to connect with lenders. The forgivable PPP loan is emergency relief assistance aimed at sustaining businesses and keeping employees on payroll. Lender Match does not accept Economic Injury Disaster Loan applications.

“The SBA is focused on assisting eligible borrowers in underserved and disadvantaged communities and connecting them with forgivable PPP loans, especially before the June 30, 2020, application deadline,” said SBA Administrator Jovita Carranza. “As communities begin to carefully

(Continued on page 20)
reopen across the country, there are still many more opportunities to provide this assistance to businesses who have yet to access these forgivable loans. SBA is utilizing these partnerships with CDFIs, MDIs, CDCs, Farm Credit System lenders, Microlenders and many other participating small asset lenders to ensure that access to this emergency funding reaches the most small businesses and their employees in need – a key priority for President Trump.”

**Lender Match Background**

Within two business days after entering their information into the Lender Match platform, a borrower receives an email from lenders who have been matched with them. The borrower can see lenders’ requests for them to begin an application. Borrowers are then able to begin the application process directly from the email they receive.

Lender Match was on pause due to CARES Act implementation priorities and loan volume. It is now being reinstated for CDFIs and other Small Asset Lenders. Leads will only be forwarded to CDFIs and Lenders with < $10b in assets until the PPP program ends on June 30, 2020, at which time Lender Match will be open to all participating SBA Lenders. Lender Match not only connects borrowers with accessing PPP loans, but also other SBA lending products, such as 7(a), 504, Microloans, and Community Advantage loans which are currently offering debt relief.

**CONSTRUCTION STARTS POST SMALL GAIN IN MAY**

*Increase influenced by several large projects; COVID-19 continues to influence starts activity*

NEW JERSEY — June 15, 2020 — Total construction starts rose 3% from April to May to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of $595.1 billion, following a 25% decline the previous month. Several large nonresidential building projects broke ground in May resulting in the gain. Removing those large projects from the statistics would have resulted in no change in starts over the month. In May, nonresidential building starts increased 8%, while residential building starts rose 4%. Nonbuilding starts, however, declined 4% during the month.

Through the first five months of 2020, total construction starts were 12% lower than in the same period in 2019. Nonresidential starts were down 19%, nonbuilding starts were 16% lower, and residential starts were off 3%. For the 12 months ending May 2020, total construction starts were down 1% from the same period a year earlier. Residential buildings were 1% higher and nonbuilding starts were up 5%. Nonresidential starts, however, were 7% lower for the 12 months ending May 2020. The Dodge Index posted a slight gain, increasing to 126 (2000=100) in May from the 121 posted in April.

“While May’s increase in construction starts is certainly good news, the influence of several large projects undermines the
Mechanical Insulation
Pipe
Board
Wrap

Insulation
for process
piping &
industrial

PVC & Metal
fittings

Rubber Tubing
& Sheet

Tapes &
Accessories

MacArthurCo.
Building Materials • Employee Owned
notion that the construction sector has fully entered recovery,” stated Richard Branch Chief Economist for Dodge Data & Analytics. “Even as state and local areas re-open and bans on construction activity in Boston, New York City and other areas are lifted, the sector will have to contend with digging itself out from a deep economic recession. While the overall economy most likely hit bottom in May, the recovery will be slow since nearly 20 million jobs have been lost since February. The second half of 2020 will be a slog and gains will be modest over the short term.”

Nonbuilding construction fell 4% over the month in May to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of $149.1 billion. The utility/gas plant category dropped 37%, while the highway and bridge category lost 4%. On the plus side, the miscellaneous nonbuilding category increased 31% over the month and environmental public works were flat.

The largest nonbuilding project to break ground in May was the $1.3 billion widening of Interstate 635 in Dallas TX. Also starting in May were the $789 million Lynnwood Link Extension (Northgate to NE 200th) in Lynnwood WA and the $705 million widening of I-405 in Seattle WA.

Year-to-date through May, nonbuilding construction starts were down 16% compared to the first five months of 2019. Starts in the highway and bridge category were up 5% through May, although other nonbuilding categories were down significantly. Environmental public works were down 24%, while the miscellaneous nonbuilding category was 31% lower. The utility and gas plant category was 35% lower through the first five months of this year. On a 12-month rolling basis, total nonbuilding starts were 5% higher than the 12 months ending May 2019. Starts in the utility/gas plant category were up 34%, while miscellaneous nonbuilding starts were 1% higher. Street and bridge starts were down 3% for the 12 months ending in May while environmental public works were 2% lower.

Nonresidential building starts rose 8% in May to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of $188.8 billion following the very steep April decline related to COVID-19. However, the rebound was due to several large projects that broke ground in the manufacturing, hotel, and education categories. Removing those projects would have led to a mild decline in nonresidential building starts in May. Commercial starts gained 6% in May and manufacturing starts rose 167%, but institutional building starts were flat.
Providing Moisture Control Solutions for over 60 Years

Long known for its weatherproof cladding and vapor barriers, Polyguard's Mechanical Division now offers superior insulation systems (including corrosion protection for CUI) targeting below ambient and chilled water applications.

Alumaguard®
RG-2400®
Styrofoam® XPS

PolyPhen®

- Weatherproof Jacketing
- CUI protection
- Vapor Barriers
- Insulation

214-515-5000 Mechanical Division

For a complete list of products, visit www.Polyguard.com/mechanical
The largest nonresidential building project to get underway in May was the $950 million SDI Steel Complex in Sinton TX. Also starting during the month was the $355 million Fig + Pico hotel towers in Los Angeles CA and the $360 million Wolf Point South Tower B building in Chicago IL.

Through this year’s first five months, nonresidential building starts were 19% lower than in the first five months of 2019. Commercial starts were 24% lower, while institutional starts were down 11%, and manufacturing was off 39% through five months. Over the past 12 months, nonresidential building starts were down 7% from the prior 12 months. Commercial starts were 6% lower, while institutional starts were down 5% and manufacturing starts dropped 16%.

AS MORE BUSINESSES REOPEN, WORKER SAFETY AND HEALTH REMAINS U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR PRIORITY

WASHINGTON, DC – As more workplaces begin to reopen, the U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is reminding employers that worker safety remains a priority amid both coronavirus and common workplace hazards.

In all phases of reopening, employers need to plan for potential hazards related to the coronavirus, as well as those stemming from routine workplace processes. Employers should be aware that the pandemic might increase employee stress, fatigue and distractions and should consider these factors in planning their employees’ return to work to ensure operations resume in a safe and healthful manner. Employers should also carefully plan before attempting to increase production or tasks to make up for downtime to avoid exposing employees to additional safety and health hazards.

As part of their reopening plans, OSHA recommends employers provide workers with “refreshers” on safety and health training and address maintenance issues they may have deferred during a shutdown. Employers should also revisit and update standard operating procedures and remember that exposures to hazards may increase during shutdown and start-up periods. It is important for employers to review and address process safety issues – including stagnant or expired chemicals – as part of their reopening effort. Employers also should remember that Section 11(c) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act, 29 U.S.C. 660 (c), prohibits employers from retaliating against workers for raising concerns about safety and health conditions.

OSHA is providing coronavirus-related guidance to help employers develop policies and procedures that address the following issues:
SureShotII changes your concept of pin welding...times TWO. Be it Cupheads, Weld Pins, or even Weld Studs -- SureShotII can deliver. With updated Hybrid Technology and Dual Operating Power, SureShotII uses the best of all worlds to provide Capacitor Discharge fastener welding second to none. In the lightweight and rugged packaging you’ve come to expect from SureShot (weighing in at 18 lbs.) this Welder has the power to weld virtually any Stud fastener known to the CD application market: with only 110 volt (or 220 volt incoming power). User-friendly, the system offers multi-level safety and operational designs to get the job done quickly, safely and reliably... truly delivering the power of "II". 

Your SINGLE SOURCE
Insulation Fastening StudWelding Specialists

1-800-852-8352 • 450 Richard Street • Miamisburg, Ohio 45342 • midwestfasteners.com
OSHA’s guidance for employers also includes frequently asked questions related to coronavirus in the workplace such as worksite testing, temperature checks and health screenings, and the need for personal protective equipment.

This guidance is intended to accompany the U.S. Department of Labor and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ previously developed Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19 and the White House Guidelines for Opening up America Again. Existing OSHA standards that apply to protecting workers from infection remain in place as employers and workers return to work.

Visit OSHA’s coronavirus webpage frequently for updates. For further information about the coronavirus, please visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

DODGE MOMENTUM INDEX FLAT IN MAY

NEW JERSEY – June 5, 2020 – The Dodge Momentum Index moved a scant 0.1% lower in May to 129.2 (2000=100) from the revised April reading of 129.4. 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 commercial component of the Momentum Index rose 1.0% during the month, while the institutional component dropped 1.9%.

The resilience of the Momentum Index over the last two months has been remarkable in the face of the COVID-19 crisis and resulting economic recession. With May’s reading, the Momentum Index is down 17% from its most recent peak in July 2018. During the Great Recession, by contrast, the peak-to-trough decline was 62%. While the Momentum Index may move lower in the future, its present level continues to suggest that there are enough projects entering planning to allow construction to begin a modest recovery in the third quarter.

In May, eleven projects each with a value of $100 million or more entered planning. The leading commercial projects were a $213 million warehouse in Riverside CA and a $195 million warehouse in Perris CA. The leading institutional projects were the $213 million Kaiser Permanente hospital in San Marcos CA and the $100 million Indiana University Health Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis IN.
Sometimes the best amenities are the ones you don’t see

FastWrap™ XL

For nearly 30 years, our fire-rated enclosure systems have been providing peace of mind, while quietly protecting our customers’ lives and investments. From our DryerWrap™ products - extensively used throughout multi-family housing ductwork - to our FastWrap™ XL products - ideal for commercial kitchen exhaust and ventilation ducts - more people trust the FireMaster™ family of products to hold the line.

DryerWrap™

UL and ULC listed for 1-hour protection inside rated wood frame construction
Flexible, 1/2-inch thick optimizes installation costs and space
Tested on 30 gauge, 7-inch round and 26 gauge 10- x 4-inch rectangular duct
Improved safety with applications specific testing

Fire rated up to 2192°F (1200°C)
1 to 2-hour UL rated for kitchen exhaust ducts
Won’t age, become brittle, or shrink
Zero clearance to combustibles
Meets ASTM E84 smoke/flare rating
FastDoor™ XL panel provides liquid-tight grease duct access for easy maintenance

North America
Morgan Advanced Materials
Thermal Ceramics Inc
2102 Old Savannah Road, Augusta, Georgia 30906, USA
e: +1 (706) 796 4200
marketing.tc@morganplc.com

www.morganthermalceramics.com