

Commercial Construction Contractors' Outlook Lifts on Rising Revenue Expectations



Data from the first quarter [U.S. Chamber of Commerce Commercial Construction Index](#), released today, reveals contractors are growing more optimistic, mostly driven by a rise in revenue expectations. The Index score increased three points to 62.

Behind the numbers: Despite the gains, the score remains 12 points below its pre-pandemic score of 74 from Q1 2020. Contractors this quarter are more optimistic on hiring and equipment spending, but concerns linger over material shortages, finding skilled workers, and tariffs.

Why it matters: The Chamber continues to fight to ensure all industries recover from pandemic impacts. “Rising optimism in the commercial construction industry is a positive sign for the broader economy,” [said](#) Chief Policy Officer Neil Bradley.

Key findings:

- More than 1 in 3 contractors (36%) expect their revenue to increase over the next year, a jump of 11 percentage points from 25% in Q4 2020.
- Nearly half (46%) of contractors say they will hire in the next six months, up from 37% in Q4 2020. But 85% report moderate to high levels of difficulty finding skilled workers.
- 71% of contractors say they face at least one material shortage. Of those, 22% are experiencing a shortage of wood/lumber.
- 82% of contractors say material cost fluctuations have a moderate to high impact on their business, up 74% in Q4 2020, and up 65% year-over-year.

- 35% of contractors say steel and aluminum tariffs will have a high to very high degree of impact on their business in the next three years, up from 24% in Q4 2020.

Read [more key takeaways](#) and what's behind this quarter's data points.

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