There are 18% fewer architects in Washington today than the profession’s peak in 2009.¹

Last year, hundreds of millions of dollars shifted away from dedicated public works funding and into the state’s general funds.

Diversions like these have been enacted since 2009 with disastrous results:

**Architectural & Engineering Employment:** 36,400 (8.3% ↓ than high)²

**Construction Employment:** 145,300 (30.8% ↓ than high)³

**Peak Architectural & Engineering Employment:** 39,700 - July 2008³

**Peak Construction Employment:** 210,100 - Aug 2008¹

**ARCHITECTURE**

Architect annual wages fell $7,791.00 since their peak in 2009 or $3.74/hour in lost wages.³

Today, there are fewer architects residing in Washington State, despite more architects licensed in-state than in 2011.³ Out-of-state competition is eroding the practices of Washington architects.

**Architects Residing in Washington:** 3,953³

**Architects Licensed in Washington:** 6,233³

**ECONOMICS:**

Gross revenue at firms in Q1-3 2012 is down 21% when compared to gross earnings in Q1-3 of 2010.⁶

Architects and engineers paid $32.9 million more in B&O taxes due to a surcharge enacted in July 2010. This surcharge is set to expire in 2013.

In 2012, Washington had 47% fewer building permits for new, privately-owned housing units than the ten-year high in 2005.⁶

**Projected 2013 Tax Growth:** 5.2%⁵

**Architecture, Engineering, & Related Services Gross Income:** $8.8bn (2011 Annual; Subject to B&O; Q4 2012 data unavailable)⁶
The Architectural Billings Index (ABI) serves as the leading economic indicator for non-residential construction activity leading by approximately 9-12 months. The Western Region ABI saw billings drop for 56 out of the last 60 months.

“Business conditions continued to improve at firms in all regions of the country […] with the exceptions of firms in the West, which continued to struggle from nearly five years of declining billings.” – Jennifer Riskus, Economist.

Architectural Billings Index (West): 53.4 ↑ versus previous month

Number of Months with Fewer Billings than Previous: 56 out of the last 60 months

In November 2013, 55.2% of firms surveyed reported that their billings would stay the same or decrease in 2013. In October, 57% of firms cited “coping with an unpredictable economy as one of their biggest concerns of 2012.” Later that December, firms reported “reduced state revenue suggests fewer new projects next year.”

Architectural Services Employment
US, in thousands

Architecture Billings Index: National
diffusion index: billings compared month-over-month

---


