

# ARCHITECTURE AND THE WASHINGTON STATE ECONOMY

## STATEWIDE

### EMPLOYMENT

There are 448 fewer architects in Washington today than the profession’s peak in 2009.<sup>i</sup>

Each year, hundreds of millions of dollars is transfer away from dedicated public works and into the state general funds.

Diversions like these have been enacted since 2008 with disastrous results:

**Architectural & Engineering Employment:** 35,000 (11.8% ↓ than high)<sup>ii</sup>

**Construction Employment:** 141,600 (32.6% ↓ than high)<sup>iii</sup>  
**Peak Architectural & Engineering Employment:** 39,700 - July 2008<sup>iii</sup>

**Peak Construction Employment:** 210,100 - Aug 2008<sup>1</sup>

### ARCHITECTURE

Architects’ annual salaries fell \$7,691.00 since their peak in 2010 or \$3.69/hour in lost wages.

Today, there are fewer architects residing in Washington State, despite more architects licensed than in 2011.<sup>iii</sup> Out-of-state competition is eroding the practices of Washington architects.

**Architects Residing in Washington:** 3,866<sup>iii</sup>  
**Architects Licensed in Washington:** 6,180<sup>iii</sup>

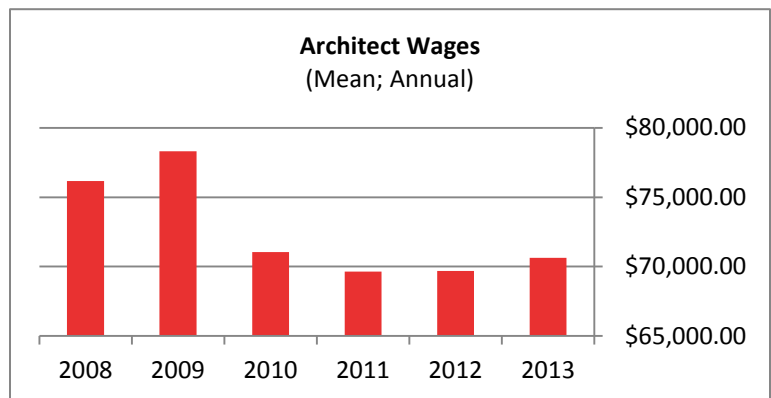
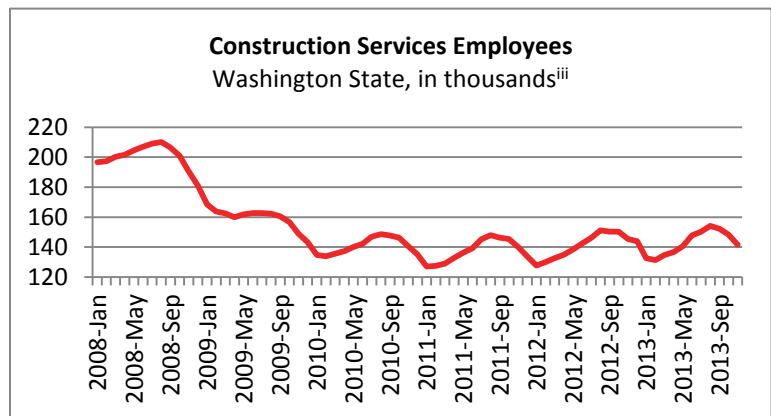
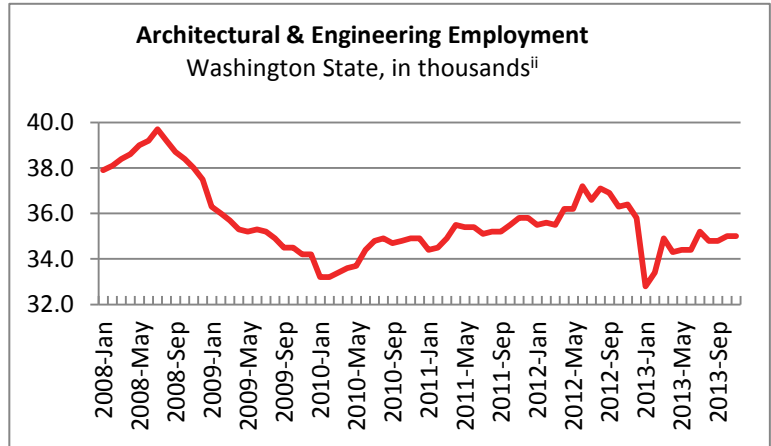
### ECONOMICS:

Gross revenue at firms in Q1-2 2013 was down 21% when compared to gross earnings in Q1-2 of 2010.<sup>vi</sup>

Architects and engineers paid an additional \$84.45 million in B&O taxes that sunset in 2013.

In 2013, Washington had 40% fewer building permits for new, privately-owned housing units than the ten-year high in 2005.<sup>iv</sup>

**Architecture, Engineering, & Related Services Gross Income:** \$8.8bn (2012 Annual; Subject to B&O)<sup>v</sup>



## AIA WASHINGTON COUNCIL – ISSUE BRIEF

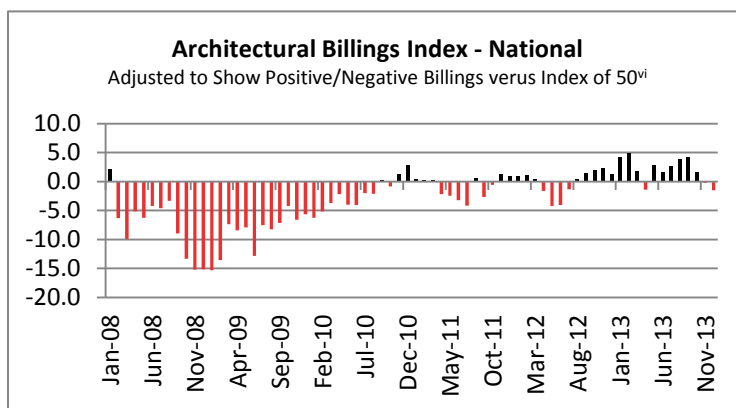
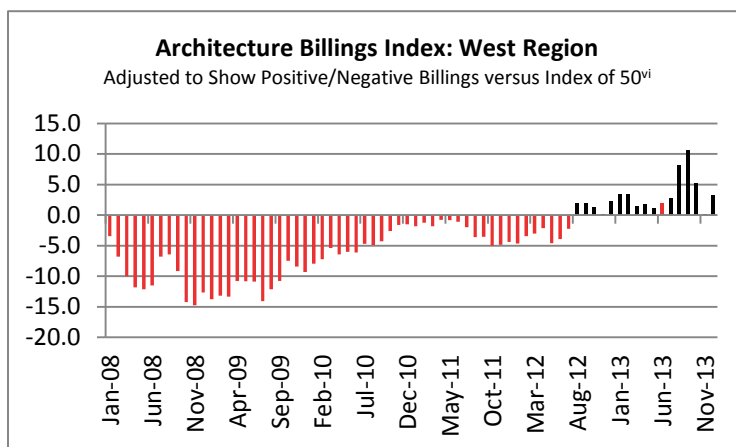
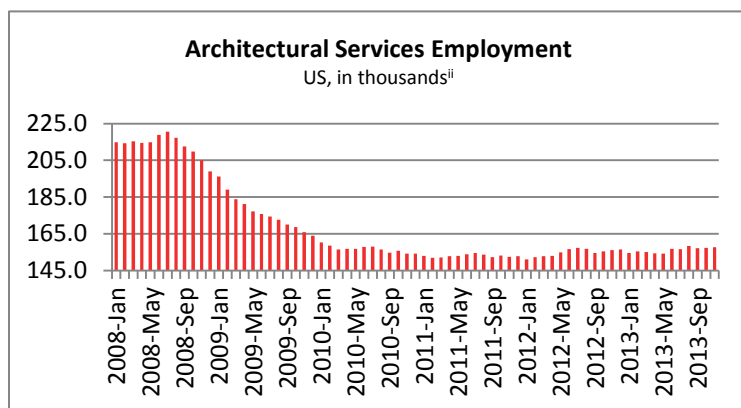
### REGION

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 55 out of the past 72 months since January 2008.<sup>vi</sup>

**Architectural Billings Index (West):** 53.2 ↑ versus previous month<sup>vi</sup>

**Number of Months with Fewer Billings than Previous:** 55 out of last 72 months<sup>vi</sup>

### NATIONAL



<sup>i</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates in Washington." Accessed 20 Jan. 2014. <http://bls.gov/>

<sup>ii</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Series Report" US Department of Labor. Accessed 20 Jan. 2014. <http://data.bls.gov/cgi-bin/srgate>

<sup>iii</sup> NCARB, "2013 Survey of Registered Architects," 30 Dec. 2013. Accessed 20 Jan. 2014. [http://www.ncarb.org/en/News-and-Events/News/2013/12\\_2013ArchitectsSurvey.aspx](http://www.ncarb.org/en/News-and-Events/News/2013/12_2013ArchitectsSurvey.aspx)

<sup>iv</sup> US Census Bureau, "Building Permits Survey – December - Year-to-Date" Dec 2005-Dec 2013. Accessed 20 Jan. 2014. <http://www.census.gov/construction/bps/statemonthly.html>

<sup>v</sup> Washington State Department of Revenue, "Quarterly Business Review" 2006-2013, Q1-4 where available. Accessed 20 Jan 2014. <http://dor.wa.gov>

<sup>vi</sup> Jennifer Riskus, "Architectural Billings Index" The American Institute of Architects, 22 Jan. 2014. Excel Spreadsheet (as email attachment).