

Around the Industry

LA and Long Beach ports move to break shipping bottleneck

With dozens of cargo ships at anchor waiting to be unloaded, the ports in Los Angeles and Long Beach are expanding the hours during which trucks can pick up and return containers

According to a Port of Los Angeles press release, both ports will expand the hours during which trucks can pick up and return containers. Mario Cordero, executive director of the Port of Long Beach, said in the release Long Beach will take the first step towards a 24/7 supply chain by maximizing nighttime operations, while Port of Los Angeles Executive Director Gene Seroka announced that the Port of Los Angeles will expand weekend operating gate hours.

The Port of Los Angeles and Port of Long Beach are the two largest ports in the nation, and combined are the ninth-largest port complex in the world. According to another release from the Port of Los Angeles, it processed 954,377 Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units (TEUs), just shy of last August's record of 961,833 TEUs. Eight months into the 2021 calendar year, overall cargo volume is 7,273,053 TEUs, an increase of +30% compared to 2020. Seroka expects "significant volume" to continue into 2022.

Atkore joins ETIM North America

Atkore is newest manufacturer to join the ETIM North America (NA) product classification standards organization. Atkore's portfolio of brands includes AFC Cable Systems, Allied Tube & Conduit, Calbrite, Calbond, Heritage Plastics, Cope, US Tray,

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Austin, Dallas & Florida Metros Lead EM's List of 50 MSAs to Watch in 2022

You will see some definite patterns in EM's picks for the 50 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) to watch in 2022 (see chart on page 2). While Austin, TX, was once again ranked as the fastest-growing MSA in the nation, Florida has 11 metros on the list and only North Carolina and South Carolina, each with five metros in this year's ranking had nearly half the count of the Sunshine State.

The Northport-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA, Jacksonville MSA, and Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL MSA, led the parade in Florida, and if you look further down the ranking, you will see Florida's Gulf Coast is one of the fastest-growing regions in the U.S., with the Cape Coral-Fort Myers, Crestview-Fort Walton Beach-Destin, Naples-Marco Island, and Punta Gorda MSAs also on the list.

EM's ranks the nation's 300-plus MSAs on the basis of their growth rates in popula-

tion, single-family & multi-family permits and low employment rates, and how they compare to national averages. In many cases, the MSAs in the chart are growing at double or triple the rate of the national average. For example, from 2015 to 2020, Austin added 292,489 new residents, for a +14.6% increase that's more than five times the U.S. average during that time period. With new employers like Tesla building facilities, big-time downtown development and an estimated 146 new residents moving in each day, don't expect this torrid pace of growth to cool off.

Because of comparatively high unemployment rates, some perennial all-stars in market growth like the Phoenix and San Antonio, TX MSAs did not make this year's list. To see where all MSAs in the United States are ranked, check out the digital version of this article at www.electricalmarketing.com.

— Jim Lucy

IHS Markit Lowers U.S. GDP Growth Forecast to a Still-Strong +5.7% in 2021

In the IHS Sept. 2021 World Flash, Sara Johnson, executive director, Global Economics, said her firm has downwardly revised its global GDP growth forecast to +5.6% in 2021 because of uneven global economic expansion amid consumer caution and supply constraints. Following is her analysis of the latest IHS global market growth data, which is available exclusively to subscribers of Electrical Marketing newsletter.

The global economic expansion lost momentum in the third quarter of 2021, as new waves of the COVID-19 virus dampened consumer sentiment and idled production. With new COVID-19 cases now falling and vaccinations rising in most regions, global growth is set to strengthen to a +5% to +6% annual rate in late 2021 and early 2022, led by a strong rebound in Asia Pacific. Growth will pick up across the Americas but moderate from exceptional mid-2021 rates in Western Europe.

Over the course of 2022, global real GDP growth will downshift from the above-trend rates that are characteristic of the early stages of an expansion to more sustainable rates near +3%. The withdrawal of massive fiscal stimuli deployed during the pandemic will contribute to this deceleration. Globally, government deficits are projected to narrow from 9.4% of GDP in 2020 to 6.4% of GDP this year and 3.8% of GDP in 2022. Inflationary pressures will dampen spending on supply-constrained products and contribute to increases in long-term interest rates.

After a -3.4% decline in 2020, world real GDP is projected to increase +5.6% in 2021 and +4.5% in 2022, led by strong recoveries in consumer spending and business investment. This month's forecast of global growth has been revised downward by -0.1% this year, owing to a weaker third-

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Electrical Marketing's Picks for the 50 Hottest Metros to Watch in 2022

Rank	MSA-State	New Residents perDay	2015-2020 Population Increase	July 21 Unemployment Rate	Single-Family Permits per 1,000R Residents	Single-Family Permits YTD through July 2021	Multi-Family Permits YTD through July 2021	Total Electrical Sales Potential (\$ Millions)
1	Austin-Round Rock-Georgetown, TX	145.9	292,489	4.2	6.72	15,427	15,681	907.0
2	North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton, FL	60.3	86,764	4.5	8.82	7,538	1,628	331.0
3	Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX	205.3	651,816	5.3	4.16	32,017	16,104	2,913.8
4	Jacksonville, FL	62.8	142,273	4.5	6.27	9,949	3,472	583.5
5	Raleigh-Cary, NC	58.5	148,708	3.9	6.32	8,977	3,507	527.0
6	Nashville-Davidson-Murfreesboro-Franklin, TN	54.7	155,244	3.7	5.10	9,993	8,269	709.1
7	Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia, NC-SC	96.9	234,770	4.4	4.28	11,493	4,650	967.1
8	Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL	133.7	258,488	4.7	3.73	12,085	3,598	1,074.4
9	Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL	63.1	249,797	5.3	3.91	10,314	6,523	1,015.3
10	Port St. Lucie, FL	32.3	46,129	5	6.72	3,356	870	157.6
11	Myrtle Beach-Conway-North Myrtle Beach, SC-NC	52.6	82,816	5.2	11.46	5,896	381	133.9
12	Boise City, ID	48.1	95,180	3	6.92	5,328	1,508	390.6
13	Provo-Orem, UT	17.1	79,332	2.3	7.05	4,677	2,360	324.5
14	Naples-Marco Island, FL	22.5	36,685	4.4	6.60	2,592	1,271	203.7
15	Huntsville, AL	25.2	36,891	2.5	5.72	2,754	598	169.6
16	Punta Gorda, FL	19.8	22,104	5.1	9.48	1,846	242	50.8
17	Spartanburg, SC	15.2	29,464	4.5	6.62	2,159	220	166.9
18	Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Alpharetta, GA	94.2	399,179	3.2	3.34	20,352	2,202	1,748.2
19	Oklahoma City, OK	29.4	67,851	2.9	3.40	4,847	181	406.3
20	Des Moines-West Des Moines, IA	11.1	48,112	3.9	4.02	2,844	974	279.4
21	Crestview-Fort Walton Beach-Destin, FL	8.7	28,013	4	7.49	2,167	336	82.9
22	Salisbury, MD-DE	20.9	29,656	5	7.03	2,975	164	128.7
23	Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA	66.1	276,887	5.2	1.39	5,568	9,568	1,781.3
24	Columbia, SC	15.5	37,598	4	4.35	3,686	86	264.2
25	Durham-Chapel Hill, NC	14.7	44,357	3.9	3.64	2,377	1,368	177.1
26	Sioux Falls, SD	6.5	23,388	2.2	3.99	1,091	1,217	142.6
27	Bend, OR	11.5	27,377	4.7	5.58	1,126	521	88.4
28	Reno, NV	10.3	34,791	4.9	3.56	1,711	1,335	243.5
29	Ogden-Clearfield, UT	6.9	50,742	2.5	3.18	2,199	1,758	330.9
30	Burlington, NC	5.8	14,242	4.7	4.11	705	101	53.3
31	Bowling Green, KY	3.0	11,121	4.3	3.61	652	602	64.9
32	Asheville, NC	12.0	21,632	4	3.02	1,407	608	150.2
33	Sebastian-Vero Beach, FL	10.8	14,971	5.4	4.79	778	-	55.6
34	Chattanooga, TN-GA	13.4	22,277	3.9	2.12	1,207	635	195.5
35	Cincinnati, OH-KY-IN	7.3	49,836	5.3	1.56	3,474	1,534	763.1
36	Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway, AR	5.3	15,203	4.7	2.03	1,516	657	233.6
37	Louisville/Jefferson County, KY-IN	3.2	22,176	4.5	1.94	2,464	772	465.5
38	Savannah, GA	1.4	17,759	3.1	3.89	1,539	422	131.5
39	Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI	1.3	152,355	3.5	1.87	6,838	7,092	1,354.4
40	Madison, WI	7.0	29,840	3.1	1.59	1,066	3,073	288.6
41	Idaho Falls, ID	6.5	15,747	2.3	5.27	819	-	62.7
42	Kennewick-Richland, WA	5.1	24,538	4.6	3.80	1,153	72	145.7
43	Cape Coral-Fort Myers, FL	56.2	90,524	4.8	7.86	6,216	794	388.5
44	Hilton Head Island-Bluffton, SC	11.7	19,684	3.6	3.38	768	-	-
45	Greenville-Anderson, SC	28.1	59,585	3.8	6.39	5,962	680	340.0
46	Hagerstown-Martinsburg, MD-WV	6.5	12,647	4.5	3.35	976	18	62.7
47	Deltona-Daytona Beach-Ormond Beach, FL	38.8	58,271	5.2	4.37	2,973	83	185.3
48	Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers, AR	26.1	56,556	3.2	6.23	3,418	517	212.4
49	Fort Collins, CO	6.6	26,791	5.1	3.86	1,391	337	155.3
50	Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA	0.9	40,679	2.6	2.38	2,271	798	405.5

Notes. Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) ranked on the basis of their growth rates in population, single-family & multi-family permits and low employment rates, as they compared to national averages. Some otherwise fast-growing MSAs including Phoenix, San Antonio, TX and The Villages, FL, did not make this list because of comparatively high unemployment rates. Data available for all MSAs at www.electricalmarketing.com. Electrical sales potential estimate uses sales-per-employee data from 2Q 2021 and EW's sales-per-employee multipliers.

IHS Markit's Take on Global GDP Growth: A Solid Comeback from 2020 & Steady Improvement Through 2025

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quarter performance in the United States. Global growth will settle to +3.4% in 2023 and +3.2% in 2024 as pent-up demands are satisfied and major economies return to full employment.

The thinking behind IHS' revised U.S. forecast. COVID-19 concerns and supply issues shift US growth from 2021 to 2022. The forecast of real GDP growth has been lowered -0.4% to +5.7%, in 2021, owing to more cautious consumer spending on services, fewer light vehicle assemblies and less inventory investment. The 2021 losses will be recouped as the pandemic subsidies and supply conditions improve.

Passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is now likely enough that it has been included in the September forecast. Its peak effect is to raise the level of real GDP by +0.5% and employment by 750,000 in 2025 to 2026. With sustained growth in consumer spending on services, business investment, and exports, real GDP is projected to increase +4.5% in 2022 and +2.7% in 2023. The U.S. unemployment rate will drop from +5.2% in August to a low of +3.3% in 2024-25.

Supply chain disruptions raise costs and delay growth. The IHS Markit Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) surveys through August indicate record-high delivery times for manufacturing inputs. These supply delays are driving up prices and curbing output in many sectors, especially autos, construction, industrial equipment and technology. Semiconductor shortages continue to depress global auto production, resulting in depleted dealer inventories and reduced sales.

IHS Markit automotive experts forecast that global light vehicle production, after falling from 89 million units in 2019 to

74.6 million in 2020, will recover to only 75.8 million units this year and 82.6 million in 2022. It will be 2024 before production surpasses its 2017 high of 95.1 million units

Western Europe's consumer-led expansion gains traction. The easing of COVID-19 containment measures, resilient labor markets and household savings accumulated during the pandemic are reviving consumer spending. Eurozone real GDP increased +2.2% quarter-over-quarter (+9.2% annualized) in the second quarter and is on track to post a similar gain in the third quarter. Under the European Central Bank's new policy framework, monetary policy will stay highly accommodative for several years. Yet, growth will slow as the boost from reopening diminishes and fiscal policies tighten significantly. After a -6.4% decline in 2020, Eurozone real GDP is projected to increase +5.1% in 2021; +4.2% in 2022; and +2.1% in 2023.

Mainland China's economy has decelerated broadly. In August, industrial output growth slowed to +5.3% year-on-year (YOY), restrained by semiconductor shortages and production curbs designed to achieve the government's decarbonization targets. Meanwhile, services output increased +4.8% YOY, and retail sales advanced just +2.5% YOY. Housing markets have cooled in response to home purchase controls and mortgage policy tightening. Although the scale of the COVID-19 outbreaks is relatively small, the Chinese government's zero-tolerance policy will lead to subpar economic growth through the end of 2021. The market's real GDP growth is projected to slow from +8.4% in 2021 to +5.8% in 2022 and +5.5% in 2023. The government's increasingly intrusive regulatory policies pose downside risks to the forecast.

Asia Pacific's manufacturing hubs will rebound strongly. IHS Markit economists estimate that real GDP contracted quarter-over-quarter during the third quarter in Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. With vaccination campaigns accelerating and new COVID-19 cases declining from recent peaks, Asia Pacific is poised for a strong rebound in late 2021 and early 2022. Virus containment efforts have been most successful in India, Taiwan, Indonesia and Japan.

The recovery of manufacturing production will help to gradually resolve global supply chain disruptions. With the reopening of its economy, India's service sectors are quickly rebounding. Yet, real GDP growth is projected to slow from +7.7% in fiscal year 2021 to +6.6% in 2022 and +5.6% in 2023 owing to the erosion of household finances during the pandemic and ongoing stresses in the banking sector.

Bottom line. The slowdown in global growth during the third quarter of 2021 was a temporary response to the recent wave of COVID-19 virus infections. Growth will revive over the next two quarters, led by Asia Pacific and the United States. However, this breakout growth will then give way to a downshift in the global expansion as fiscal and monetary policy stimuli are withdrawn and pent-up demand is exhausted.

—Sara Johnson, IHS Markit, Executive Director, Global Economics

Around the Industry

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Unistrut, Power-Strut and FRE Composites.

The company joins other electrical manufacturers like Prysmian, Electri-Flex, ABB and Eaton participating in ETIM NA-led committee activities to build out the classification model according to the needs of the North American electrical market and related verticals. The Wire, Cable and Conduit Product Expert group will be launching in September. Atkore will bring expertise to the group, as well as Wire Management in the existing Wiring Devices group.

In its first year, ETIM NA attracted 23 like-minded manufacturers, distributors, technology companies and associations that see the value in supporting an industry-developed data standard. The improved product classification system is supported by

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IHS Markit: A Quick Look at the Numbers									
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Real GDP Growth (percent change)									
World	3.4	3.2	2.7	-3.4	5.6	4.5	3.4	3.2	3.1
United States	2.3	2.9	2.3	-3.4	5.7	4.5	2.7	2.9	2.6
Eurozone	2.8	1.8	1.5	-6.4	5.1	4.2	2.1	1.7	1.4
Japan	1.7	0.6	0	-4.7	2.5	2.7	1.2	0.9	0.7
China	6.9	6.7	6	2.3	8.4	5.8	5.5	5.2	5.2
Exchange Rates (year end)									
Dollar/Euro	1.2	1.15	1.12	1.23	1.2	1.21	1.22	1.23	1.24
Yen/Dollar	112.9	110.8	109.1	103.5	110.6	107.3	103.7	102	101.2

Industry Events

Oct. 9-12, 2021

National Electrical Contractors (NECA) Trade Show & Conference

Nashville, TN; National Electrical Contractors Association, www.necashow.org

Oct. 25-29, 2021

Lightfair Trade Show & Conference

New York; www.lightfair.com

Nov. 3-4, 2021

NEMA Annual Meeting

Palm Beach Gardens, FL; www.nema.org

Nov. 8-10, 2021

NAED Eastern Conference

Austin, TX; www.naed.org

Dec. 8-9, 2021

Upper Midwest Electrical Expo

Minneapolis; North Central Electrical League (NCEL) www.ncel.org

December 14-16, 2021

NAED Women in Industry Forum

San Antonio; www.naed.org

December 15-17, 2021

LEAD Conference

NAED, San Antonio; www.naed.org

Jan. 17-19, 2022

NAED Western Conference

Palm Desert, CA; www.naed.org

Feb. 21-23, 2022

NAED South Central Conference

Phoenix; www.naed.org

Mar. 7-9, 2021

IDEA E-Biz

Dulles, VA; www.idea4industry.org

May 17-20, 2022

NAED National Meeting

Scottsdale, AZ; www.naed.org

Housing Starts Drop -7% in July

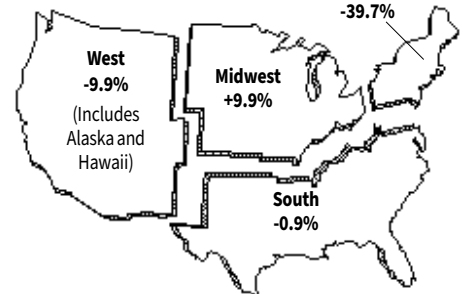
Privately-owned housing starts in July were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1,534,000, -7% below the revised June estimate of 1,650,000, but +2.5% above the July 2020 rate of 1,497,000. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, single-family housing starts in July were at a rate of 1,111,000, -4.5% below the revised June figure of 1,163,000.

“The single-family building market has moved off the unsustainably hot pace of construction of last fall and has reached a still hot but more stable level of activity, as reflected in the September Housing Market Index,” said Robert Dietz, chief economist for the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB). “While building

material challenges persist, the rate of cost growth has eased for some products, but the job openings rate in construction is trending higher.”

Housing Starts by Region

(% of monthly change)



New Privately Owned Housing Units Started

(Thousands of units, seasonally adjusted annual rate)

Period	Total	1 Unit	5 Units or more	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
July 2021 ¹	1,534	1,111	412	47	144	664	256
June 2021 ²	1,650	1,163	477	78	131	670	284
May 2021 ²	1,594	1,098	486	63	164	596	275
April 2021	1,514	1,061	439	74	144	582	261
March 2021	1,725	1,255	448	95	217	676	267
February 2021	1,447	1,069	365	69	108	581	311
July 2020	1,497	995	492	72	136	564	223

1-Preliminary; 2-Revised; Note: Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

August's Electrical Price Index Jumps +0.9%

In most years, a +0.9% monthly increase in Electrical Price Index (EPI) would be cause for concern. But in these turbulent times, it's only half the increase we saw in June and July. Eleven categories saw increases of better than +1%, down from the 14 categories in last month's EPI that were up that much. The year-over-year increases are still astronomical, with nine product groups up double-digits last month from Aug. 2020.

Note: All EPI series represent IHS Markit aggregates of Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) producer price indices (PPIs). The revised data partly reflect redefinitions of specific PPIs by the BLS, but mostly reflect the rebenchmarking of all EPI price series to a 2012 base year. The four following EPI series have been affected by BLS redefinitions: boxes, conduit (fittings), nonmetallic conduit, and generators. Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; IHS Markit

Electrical Price Index — August 2021

2012=100	Aug. 2021	July 2021	Aug. 2020	% Change	1 Mo.	1 Yr.
Building Wire & Cable	241.8	239.1	185.3	1.1	30.4	
Power Wire & Cable	299.3	290.7	214.1	3.0	39.8	
Telephone	222.1	222.0	175.4	0.0	26.7	
Hand & Power Tools	150.3	149.2	142.7	0.8	5.3	
Elec. Heating Equip.	158.2	156.9	147.1	0.8	7.5	
Residential Lighting	159.3	156.3	150.3	1.9	6.0	
Industrial Fixtures	154.9	152.7	143.3	1.4	8.0	
Fans & Blowers	179.4	178.7	167.1	0.4	7.4	
Wiring Devices & Connectors	147.1	146.2	136.2	0.6	7.9	
Pole Line Hardware	228.2	220.9	166.9	3.3	36.7	
Boxes	242.7	239.6	176.1	1.3	37.8	
Conduit Fittings	229.9	224.3	163.8	2.5	40.3	
Metal Conduit	213.4	210.6	186.4	1.3	14.5	
Nonmetallic Conduit	225.7	218.6	167.3	3.2	34.9	
Motors	169.4	169.7	163.7	-0.2	3.5	
Generators	158.8	159.4	153.6	-0.4	3.4	
Ballasts	192.5	192.2	152.4	0.2	26.4	
Elect. Meas. & Integ. Inst.	128.4	128.4	129.0	0.0	-0.5	
Transformers	147.7	148.7	139.3	-0.7	6.1	
Panelboards & Switches	179.3	180.8	170.6	-0.9	5.1	
Circuit Breakers	186.7	185.8	180.3	0.5	3.5	
Switchgear	185.2	186.2	168.9	-0.5	9.7	
Fuses	170.5	169.4	161.5	0.6	5.5	
Industrial Controls	169.8	169.0	164.7	0.5	3.1	
Lamps	167.4	167.4	161.7	0.0	3.5	
Appliances	120.3	118.7	116.2	1.3	3.6	
Air Conditioners	165.3	165.8	158.0	-0.3	4.6	
Fasteners	174.1	172.0	163.8	1.2	6.3	
Total Index	177.1	175.5	154.6	0.9	14.5	

Electrical Marketing's Leading Economic Indicators

Single-family building permits slide in July. Privately-owned housing units authorized by building permits in July were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1,635,000, +2.6% above the revised June rate of 1,594,000 and +6% above the July 2020 rate of 1,542,000. The U.S. Census Bureau reported that single-family authorizations in July were at a rate of 1,048,000, -1.7% below the revised June figure of 1,066,000. Authorizations of units in buildings with five units or more were at a rate of 532,000 in July.

Architects see construction picking up in 4Q 2021 and 2022. The Architecture Billings Index (ABI) recorded its seventh consecutive positive month, according to the American Institute of Architects (AIA). The ABI score for August was 55.6 points, up from July's score of 54.6 points. Any score above 50 indicates an increase in billings from the prior month. During August, scoring for both the new project inquiries and design contracts moderated slightly but remained in positive territory, posting scores of 64.7 points and 56.6 points, respectively.

"The surge in design activity continued in August, signifying an expected upturn in construction activity in the fourth quarter and continuing into 2022," said Kermit Baker, AIA chief economist, in the press release. "This expected expansion will magnify the already serious problems of price inflation and availability of many construction products and materials, as well as the emerging labor shortages in the construction industry."

Freight rail traffic edges down. For the week ending Sept. 11, total U.S. weekly rail traffic was 468,610 carloads and intermodal units, down -1.3% percent compared with the same week last year, according to the American Association of Railroads. For the first 36 weeks of 2021, AAR re-

ported that U.S. railroads reported cumulative volume of 8,293,870 carloads, up +8.2% from the same point last year; and 9,994,693 intermodal units, up +11.5% from last year. Total

combined U.S. traffic for the first 36 weeks of 2021 was 18,288,563 carloads and intermodal units, an increase of +10% compared to last year.

The Marketplace : Key Figures

	Month	Latest month	Previous month	Month-over-month % change	Year ago	Year-over-year % change	2020 annual
CONSTRUCTION							
New Construction Put in Place (billions of dollars, SAAR) ²							
Total	JUL	1568.83	1563.46	0.3	1439.62	9.0	1429.61
Offices	JUL	69.76	69.83	-0.1	74.32	-6.1	70.06
Industrial	JUL	74.15	74.17	0.0	72.83	1.8	71.72
Housing Starts (Thousands of units, SAAR) ²							
Total	AUG	1615	1657	-2.5	1376	17.4	1397
Single-unit	AUG	1076	1161	-7.3	1023	5.2	1004
Mobile Home Shipments ³ (thousands of units, SAAR)							
	JUL	103	105	-1.9	94	9.6	94
Employment, Construction Workers (thousands) ⁴							
	AUG	7643	7598	0.6	7460	2.5	7269
Employment, Electrical Contractors (thousands) ⁴							
	JUL	997.7	989	0.9	953.3	4.7	952.2
Hourly Wage, Electrical Contractors ⁴							
	JUL	32.16	32.09	0.2	31.41	2.4	31.23
PRODUCTION							
Industrial Production Index (1967=100) ⁵							
	AUG	101.6	100.3	1.3	95.9	5.9	95.0
Construction Supplies Production Index ⁵ (1977=100-SA)							
	AUG	100.0	98.3	1.7	95.0	5.3	96.2
Employment in Electrical Equipment & Supplies Mfg. Production workers (Thousands) ⁴							
	JUL	133.9	132.8	0.8	131.4	1.9	134.3
Weekly hours							
	JUL	41.7	41.7	0.0	42.4	-1.7	42.1
Hourly wage							
	JUL	23.28	22.68	2.6	21.10	10.3	21.16
Electric Power Output Index (1967=100) ⁵							
	AUG	105.1	106.1	-0.9	102.4	2.6	99.5
Machine Tool Orders* (millions of dollars) ⁶							
	JUL	464.90	480.54	-3.3	329.42	41.1	312.34
Industrial Capacity Utilization (percent, SA) ¹							
	AUG	76.67	75.38	1.7	72.31	6.0	71.15
TRADE							
Electrical Mfrs' Shipments							
	JUL	3,368	3,295	2.2	3,039	10.8	3,205
Electrical Mfrs' Inventories (millions of dollars, SA) ²							
	JUL	6,355	6,293	1.0	6,310	0.7	6,258
Electrical Mfrs' Inventory-to-Shipments Ratio							
	JUL	1.887	1.910	-1.2	2.076	-9.1	1.962
Electrical Mfrs' New Orders (millions of dollars, SA) ²							
	JUL	3,301	3,239	1.9	3,041	8.5	3,212
Electrical Mfrs' Unfilled Orders (millions of dollars, SA) ²							
	JUL	12,142	12,265	-1.0	12,201	-0.5	12,262
Exports, Electrical Machinery (f.a.s. value in millions of dollars) ²							
	JUL	6,901	7,234	-4.6	6,091	13.3	74,173
U.S. Dollar vs. Other Major Currencies (1973=100) ⁵							
	AUG	107.28	105.31	1.9	108.42	-1.0	108.93
PRICES & INTEREST RATES							
Industrial Commodities Wholesale Price Index (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1967=100)							
	AUG	234.1	228.4	2.5	194.7	20.2	193.9
Electrical Price Index (Electrical Marketing, 1997=100)							
	AUG	177.1	172.7	2.6	154.6	14.5	154.1
Construction Materials Wholesale Price Index (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1982=100)							
	AUG	307.9	305.6	0.8	258.8	19.0	256.9
Copper Prices (Metals Week, cents per pound)							
	AUG	429.24	439.80	-2.4	291.76	47.1	279.91
Prime Rate ⁵							
	AUG	3.25	3.25	0.0	3.25	0.0	3.54
Federal Funds Rate ⁵							
	AUG	0.09	0.08	12.5	0.10	-10.0	0.38
Mortgage Rate ⁷							
	AUG	2.84	2.98	-4.5	2.94	-3.2	3.1
Aug.21							
	Jul.21	Aug.20	% Change Mo Ago	% Change Yr Ago			
Building Wire & Cable							
		241.8	239.1	185.3	1.1	30.4	
Power Wire & Cable							
		299.3	290.7	214.1	3.0	39.8	

Sources: ¹McGraw-Hill Construction/Dodge; ²Dept. of Commerce; ³Manufactured Housing Institute; ⁴Dept. of Labor; ⁵Federal Reserve Board; ⁶The Association for Manufacturing Technology; ⁷Federal Home Loan Bank Board.

Note: Some figures shown—prime rate, for example—are averaged for month. NYA—not yet available SA—seasonally adjusted. SAAR—seasonally adjusted annual rate. Source for chart: Global Insight.

For further information about construction starts, please contact Dodge Analytics at 1-800-591-4462

Around the Industry

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chapters in 24 countries and used globally. It can generate supply chain efficiency, facilitate downstream computer-to-computer communication and enhance e-commerce functionality.

CES opens new store in Orlando

City Electric Supply (CES) recently celebrated the grand opening of its new Orlando Central store. The startup of building the branch was pushed back to Oct. 2020 due to the pandemic, with the initial plans to be earlier that year. CES Orlando hosted over 100 attendees and vendors and included a fundraising event to help raise money for Make-A-Wish. The event raised more than \$2,200 for Make-A-Wish.

AWC opens new Texas facility

Allied Wire & Cable (AWC), a manufacturer and distributor of electrical wire, cable and tubing for the government, military, aerospace, automotive and telecommunications industries, opened a new warehouse and office in Grapevine, TX. To accommodate rapid expansion within the industry as a whole and to accelerate growth in that region, earlier this year AWC acquired The Wire Connection, a distributor of Mil-Spec, aviation and marine wire. The new 35,000-sq-ft warehouse complements other AWC warehouses in Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Arizona and Florida.

ABB Partners with Lightning eMotors to Offer EV Chargers

ABB's high-output 20 kW to 350 kW DC fast chargers will be available via Lightning Energy, a division of Lightning eMotors, Loveland, CO. Lightning Energy supplies charging solutions to commercial and government fleets. As a part of the agreement, Lightning Energy will sell ABB's DC fast-charging systems under the Lightning Energy brand. The DC fast chargers, designed and built by ABB, are equipped with around-the-clock connectivity to enable comprehensive remote services and compatibility with every individual fleet charging system.

Since entering the e-mobility market in 2010, ABB has sold more than 400,000 electric vehicle chargers across more than 85 markets, including more than 20,000 DC fast chargers and 380,000 AC chargers.

People

ABB (Atlanta): Dave Henrichs is senior VP of Sales for the Commercial, Industrial & OEM (CIO) U.S.-West Region. He will be responsible for the sales of products, system and services for the Electrification business. The CIO-West leadership team includes five U.S.-West district teams (Midwest, Mountain, Northern California, Southern California & Northwest), as well as an OEM Business Development, Lifecycle Management, Regional Distribution Channel and Strategic Accounts teams. In addition to the direct ABB employees, Henrichs will oversee vendor agencies that support ABB in the western United States.

Henrichs succeeds **Deni Miller** who was recently named senior VP-Installation Product Sales, Electrification U.S. after leading the Midwest district through the ABB/GE Industrial integration. His responsibility will be to continue the growth trajectory as customers experience the benefits of the new ABB electrification one line of power and control products. Henrichs was most recently Midwest district sales manager for the CIO West region.

With more than 26 years of industry experience, Henrichs joined ABB two years ago as district manager for the Chicago district. He has held various sales and operation leadership roles in the electrical distribution, control and automation industry with Schneider Electric, General Electric and Faro Technologies. Henrichs has a BS from the University of Minnesota.

DeFazio Industries (Glen Allen, VA): Andy Shook has joined the company as an outside sales representative for the South Carolina market. Shook began his career as an electrical systems repair technician with the United States Marine Corps and brings years of inside sales and installation experience to DeFazio Industries. "Charleston, Myrtle Beach and Columbia are crucial markets for our organization," said Anthony DeFazio, an outside sales rep with the firm. "Between Andy's military background and his experience in electrical distribution, we believe he will become a valuable sales resource to our customers in South Carolina and beyond."

DeFazio Industries is an electrical manufacturer's representative firm that covers three territories including Maryland and Washington DC, Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina. The company represents the Atkore brands including

ACS/Uni-Fab, AFC Cable Systems, Allied Tube & Conduit, Allied Fittings, Calbond, Calbrite, Calconduit, Cope Cable Tray, Kaf-Tech, Power-Strut and Unistrut. The company also represents Cerrowire, General Cable, Littelfuse, Orbit Industries and Prysmian Group.

Rep News

DeFazio Industries will be carrying GE Current's legacy lamp and ballasts portfolios in the Virginia market, with an additional focus on LED technology. Founded in 2016, DeFazio Industries has become one of the fastest-growing representation firms in the mid-Atlantic and Southeast regions. DeFazio's focus is on the electrical distribution market, and primarily serves as an electrical product and conduit supplier for residential, commercial, industrial and lighting products. GE Current is a Daintree company.

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