

## Around the Industry

### Elliott Electric forms board of directors to assist with succession plan

Elliott Electric Supply, Nacogdoches, TX, introduced a new board of directors that reflects their focus on internally-directed management of the business. Elliott managers make up six of the seven board members. Rusty Rust, president of Commercial Bank of Texas, is the only non-employee. Robert Flores was elected chairman, and Bill Elliott was elected president. The remaining four board members are Phil Hale, Doug Blevins, Greg Fitzgerald and Chris Petty.

Among other business, Blevins, Rust, and Elliott were appointed to a search committee to identify a replacement for Bill Elliott. With more than 50 years invested in the company, Bill feels his age dictates the need for a younger person in his role. He will remain with the company until the new president is comfortable in their position. Local management with centralized support has allowed Elliott Electric Supply to achieve phenomenal growth with no debt. They believe this board of directors understands the business and will create additional opportunities for success.

“Even though Elliott Electric has always been open to new ideas and discussion, we now have an outstanding opportunity to inject diverse perspectives and opinions into a focused, decision-making process,” Bill Elliott said in the press release. “It’s impressive to realize that the people included in this board who will lead our company have over 200 years of collective experience in the electrical industry.”

*Continued on page 3*

## Inside

- 50 large construction projects.... p. 2
- Top multi-family markets..... p. 3
- Steady construction spending.... p. 5
- Major rep appointments ..... p. 6

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## Auto Plant Projects Continue to Fuel New Industrial Construction Market in 2023

Industrial mega-projects once again were the stars of the construction scene, with eight projects valued at \$1 billion or more either breaking ground or entering the design phase during the first six months of 2023, according to *Electrical Marketing* research.

A \$5.3 billion LNG plant in Port Arthur, TX, that broke ground in May topped the list, followed by a \$3.5-billion Honda EV battery plant in Jeffersonville, OH. A recent report from the U.S. Treasury Dept. said the financial incentives from the Biden Administration has contributed to a “striking surge” in construction spending for manufacturing facilities.

“Today, the computer/electronic segment is the dominant component of U.S. manufacturing construction,” the report said. Importantly, the boom in this segment has not been offset by reduced spending on other manufacturing

construction segments, which are largely consistent with long-term levels. In fact, construction for chemical, transportation and food/beverage manufacturing is also up from 2022, albeit much less than the computer/electronic sector.

“This rise in the spending began in the months before the CHIPS Act passed, as many factors beyond policy contribute to construction spending. Still, the legislation has played a critical part in continuing and expanding this trend.”

The report also noted that according to the Semiconductor Industry Association, more than 50 new semiconductor ecosystem projects have been announced in the wake of the CHIPS Act, and also cited a Deutsch Bank report that said 18 new chipmaking facilities will have started construction between 2021 and 2023.

When you look at *EM*’s list of large

*Continued on page 6*

## Miami, Nashville & Phoenix Metros Lead Nation in Multi-Family Construction

With stubbornly high mortgage rates tamping down demand, in recent months the number of building permits for apartments or condos with five units or more have slipped. The preliminary data for May 2023 showed that despite a +7.8% increase in permits in May to 542,000, year-to-date, permits are down -11.9% nationwide. Some of this decline may be the sizeable decrease in the number of permits pulled in the New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which was down was down -7,309 (-43.2% YOY).

Although the New York metropolitan area stepped down from its perennial perch as the largest market in the United States for multi-family construction, several much smaller but still very active metros have filled the gapped with impressive year-to-date increase (YTD) in multi-family construction. Through April, the Miami-Fort Lauderdale-

Pompano Beach, FL MSA tallied the most building permits, with 6,542 permits for buildings with 5 units or more, up 3,010 permits and +87.4% YTD over April 2022. Four other MSAs enjoyed YOY increases of at least 2,000 multi-family permits – Nashville-Davidson-Murfreesboro-Franklin, TN (+2,736 permits/+144.9%); Phoenix-Mesa-Chandler, AZ (+2,571 permits/+59.7%); Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA (+2,357 permits/+234.8%); and Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL (+2,154 permits/+161.3%).

As you can see in the chart on page 3, several other large MSAs had significant drops in multi-family permits through April: Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA (-2,646 permits); Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI (-2,302 permits); and Austin-Round Rock-Georgetown (-2,112 permits).

While the number of permits for dwell-

*Continued on page 3*

## 50 Large Construction Projects Now Underway or On the Drawing Boards

Contract Value (\$ Millions)	Project	City, State	Project Type	Status	Source
5300	Port Arthur LNG plant	Port Arthur, TX	Industrial/LNG	Broke ground May 2023	Dodge Construction Network
3500	Honda EV battery plant	Jeffersonville, OH	Industrial/EV battery	Broke ground February 2023	Dodge Construction Network
2500	Henry Ford Hospital expansion	Detroit, MI	Hospital	Design contract awarded	www.enr.com
2100	Toyota Battery Manufacturing North Carolina factory	Greensboro, NC	Industrial-EV battery	Additional construction to existing project	www.enr.com
1900	Steel Dynamics aluminum plant	Columbus, MS	Industrial	Broke ground May 2023	Dodge Construction Network
1900	Eli Lilly & Co. plant	Indianapolis, IN	Industrial/Pharmaceutical	Broke ground May 2023	Dodge Construction Network
1500	Ford Ohio EV plant	Sheffield, OH	Industrial/Auto	Broke ground May 2023	Dodge Construction Network
1500	New stadium for NFL's Buffalo Bills	Orchard Park, NY	Stadium	Broke ground June 2023	www.wham.com
1400	Concourse D expansion at Hartsfield Jackson Airport	Atlanta, GA	Airport	Broke ground February 2023	Dodge Construction Network
1200	Hanwha Qcells solar manufacturing plant	Cartersville, GA	Industrial/Solar	Broke ground April 2023	Dodge Construction Network
1200	Trumbull Energy Center combined-cycle natural gas plant	Warren, OH	Electric utility	Broke ground February 2023	Dodge Construction Network
1002	General Motors assembly plant	Flint, MI	Industrial/Auto	Plans announced June 2023	General Motors
1000	UC San Diego 2,400-bed residential village and student center	La Jolla, CA	University	Broke ground June 2023	La Jolla Light
1000	Nora mixed-used development	West Palm Beach, FL	Mixed-use	Broke ground June 2023	www.palmbeachpost.com
1000	Graton Resort & Casino	Rohnert Park, CA	Casino/resort	Broke ground June 2023	www.pressdemocrat.com
1000	Optima McDowell Mountain Village	North Scottsdale, AZ	Mixed-use	3Q 2023 groundbreaking	www.scottsdale.org
932	Buildings 3 & 4 of Blue Sky Data Center	Omaha, NE	Data center	Entered planning phase May 2023	Dodge Construction Network
780	BASF MDI chemical plant	Geismar, LA	Industrial/Chemicals	Broke ground March 2023	Dodge Construction Network
750	Magnolia Power/Kindle Energy generating station	Plaquemine, LA	Electric utility	Broke ground April 2023	Dodge Construction Network
750	Harvard Enterprise Research Campus first phase	Allston, MA	University	Financing approved June 2023	Harvard Crimson
738	Rock Creek wind farm	Laramie, WY	Renewables/Wind	Broke ground April 2023	Dodge Construction Network
698	Office for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and National Security Agency	Fort Meade, MD	Office	Broke ground June 2023	www.constructiondive.com
650	Group 14 battery plant	Moses Lake, WA	Industrial/Battery plant	Broke ground April 2023	Dodge Construction Network
632	General Motors assembly plant	Fort Wayne, IN	Industrial/Auto	Plans announced June 2023	General Motors
600	Mutual of Omaha headquarters	Omaha, NE	Office	Broke ground April 2023	Dodge Construction Network
549	Mana'olana Place mixed-use building	Honolulu, HI	Multi-family	Broke ground April 2023	Dodge Construction Network
542	Eagle LNG export facility	Jacksonville, FL	Industrial/LNG	Broke ground April 2023	Dodge Construction Network
540	Merit Gulfstar solar farm	Wharton County, TX	Renewables/Solar	Broke ground February 2023	Dodge Construction Network
530	Mockingbird Solar Center	Brookston, TX	Renewables/Solar	Broke ground February 2023	Dodge Construction Network
500	General Motors assembly plant	Arlington, TX	Industrial/Auto	Plans announced June 2023	General Motors
500	Apex-1 Sustainable Lithium-Ion battery plant	Hopkinsville, KY	Industrial/EV battery	Broke ground February 2023	Dodge Construction Network
500	Mixed-use building	Flushing, NY	Multi-family	Broke ground April 2023	Dodge Construction Network
500	Tennessee Performing Arts Center	Nashville, TN	Performance center	Entered planning phase May 2023	Dodge Construction Network
450	Desert Diamond Casino	Glendale, AZ	Casino	Entered planning phase April 2023	Dodge Construction Network
440	Rady Children's Hospital ICU/EMS Pavilion	San Diego, CA	Hospital	Entered planning phase May 2023	Dodge Construction Network
414	North Cove mixed-use building	New York, NY	Multi-family	Broke ground May 2023	Dodge Construction Network
400	Mixed-use project	Jamaica, NY	Multi-family	Broke ground March 2023	Dodge Construction Network
400	Prime Data Center	Avondale, AZ	Data center	Entered planning phase May 2023	Dodge Construction Network
385	710 Broadway Apartments	Santa Monica, CA	Multi-family	Broke ground April 2023	Dodge Construction Network
375	360 MW Atrisco Solar Farm	Rio Rancho, NM	Renewables/Solar	Broke ground March 2023	Dodge Construction Network
350	Mixed-use building	New York, NY	Mixed-use	Broke ground February 2023	Dodge Construction Network
350	Global Energy Park research and development laboratory	Golden, CO	Commercial/Lab	Entered planning phase April 2023	Dodge Construction Network
268	Knox mixed-used development	Dallas, TX	Multi-family	Broke ground March 2023	Dodge Construction Network
268	Warehouse	El Dorado Hills, CA	Warehouse	Entered planning phase April 2023	Dodge Construction Network
232	University of Missouri Children's Hospital	Columbia, MO	Hospital	Underway	www.enr.com
229	UTHealth Houston School of Public Health	Houston, TX	Hospital	Broke ground June 2023	houston.innovationmap.com
225	Chesnut Commons affordable housing project	Cypress Hills, NY	Multi-family	Broke ground March 2023	Dodge Construction Network
215	Four Season condominium	Washington, DC	Condominium	Broke ground February 2023	Dodge Construction Network
190	Albany Terrace & Irene McGoy Gains apartments	Chicago, IL	Multi-family	Broke ground May 2023	Dodge Construction Network
190	The Kay Luxury apartment tower	Seattle, WA	Multi-family	Broke ground May 2023	Dodge Construction Network

# Around the Industry

Continued from page 1

Started in Nacogdoches, TX in 1972, Elliott Electric Supply hosts over 170 locations in 11 states, with annual sales exceeding \$2 billion. They are ranked 8th largest electrical distributor in the nation by *Electrical Wholesaling* in their June 2023 edition.

Elliott, the company's founder, was NAED's 2009 Arthur W. Hooper Achievement Award recipient. Rust has served

as the president of Commercial Bank of Texas since 2013.

Flores is Elliott Electric Supply's chief financial officer, and has been with Elliott for 38 years. He oversees the Credit, Accounts Payable and Legal Departments. Hale is the company's chief information officer and has been with the company for 36 years. Hale is responsible for a team of software developers, web and app developers and employee

help desk troubleshooting.

Blevins, Fitzgerald and Petty are regional managers who oversee large portions of the company's business.

## Sonepar signs partnership with U.S. Army to help veterans find jobs

Sonepar, Charleston, SC, has an agreement as part of the United States Army Partnership for Your Success (PaYS) Program, a partnership between the U.S. Army and companies to provide veterans with employment opportunities after their service in the Army.

Designed to help soldiers prepare for a civilian career, the program connects soldiers with employers who understand the skills, discipline and work ethic that military service members bring to a business. This program is part of a long-term U.S. Army effort to help service members forge professional relationships with businesses and encourage businesses to look to the Army as a strategic talent pool.

Continued on page 5

## NAHB Forecast Says Multi-Family Market May Dip in 2023

Continued from page 1

ings with five units or more is down from May 2022, the construction dollars spent on new multi-family construction has seen a nice increase through May, according to the latest construction spending data published by the U.S. Census Dept. Census data pegs new multi-family construction for May at \$127.5 billion, a +20.7% increase over May 2022.

The National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), Washington, DC, expects the

multi-family market to contract this year. "NAHB's current forecast has multi-family starts declining by more than -10% per year in 2023 and 2024," said NAHB Chief Economist Robert Dietz. "Commentary from multi-family builders indicates that it has become more difficult to obtain loans for multi-family development as a result of tightening financial conditions due to actions of the Federal Reserve, which reduce future apartment construction."

— Jim Lucy

### 10 Metro Areas with the Biggest YOY Increases in Multi-Family Building Permits

Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSAs)	5 Units or More — April 2023 YTD	YOY # Change	YOY % Change
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, FL	6,452	3,010	87.4
Nashville-Davidson-Murfreesboro-Franklin, TN	4,624	2,736	144.9
Phoenix-Mesa-Chandler, AZ	6,876	2,571	59.7
Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA	3,361	2,357	234.8
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL	3,489	2,154	161.3
Durham-Chapel Hill, NC	1,996	1,539	336.8
Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia, NC-SC	4,690	1,252	36.4
Sacramento-Roseville-Folsom, CA	1,665	1,033	163.4
Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA	2,432	1,023	72.6
Crestview-Fort Walton Beach-Destin, FL	1,202	1,017	549.7

### 10 Metro Areas with the Biggest YOY Decreases in Multi-Family Building Permits

Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs)	5 Units or More — April 2023 YTD	YOY # Change	YOY % Change
New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA	9,620	(7,309)	-43.2
Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA	3,349	(2,646)	-44.1
Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI	3,171	(2,302)	-42.1
Austin-Round Rock-Georgetown, TX	5,873	(2,112)	-26.4
Kansas City, MO-KS	135	(2,060)	-93.8
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX	7,408	(1,925)	-20.6
Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH	2,417	(1,350)	-35.8
Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL	3,820	(1,338)	-25.9
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV	3,437	(1,167)	-25.3
San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX	2,853	(1,050)	-26.9

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## Industry Events

August 23-24, 2023

### **Electrical Board of Missouri & Illinois Electrical Expo**

St. Charles, MO

[www.electricalboard.org](http://www.electricalboard.org)

September 18-20, 2023

### **IDEA eBiz**

Nashville, TN; IDEA

[www.idea4industry.com](http://www.idea4industry.com)

September 30-October 2, 2023

### **NECA Show**

Philadelphia; National Electrical Contractor Association (NECA)

[www.necashow.org](http://www.necashow.org)

October 3-5, 2023

### **NAED LEAD Conference**

Denver; [www.naed.org](http://www.naed.org)

October 18-20, 2023

### **AD Electrical North American Meeting**

Dallas; Affiliated Distributors

[www.adhq.org](http://www.adhq.org)

November 6-8, 2023

### **NAED Eastern Conference**

Marco Island, FL; [www.naed.org](http://www.naed.org)

November 8-9, 2023

### **NEMA Annual Meeting**

Manalapan, FL; [www.nema.org](http://www.nema.org)

January 15-17, 2024

### **NAED Western Conference**

Austin, TX; [www.naed.org](http://www.naed.org)

Jan. 30-Feb. 2, 2024

### **NEMRA Annual Conference**

Las Vegas, National Electrical Manufacturers Representatives Association (NEMRA);

[www.nemra.org](http://www.nemra.org)

Jan. 30-Feb. 1, 2024

### **NAW Executive Summit**

Washington, DC, National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors (NAW);

[www.nemra.org](http://www.nemra.org)

February 19-21 2024

### **NAED South Central Conference**

Dallas, TX; [www.naed.org](http://www.naed.org)

March 19-20 2024

### **LEducation Trade Show & Conference**

New York; [www.leducation.org](http://www.leducation.org)

## Amazon Using Rivian Delivery Vans in Europe

The first of more than 300 Rivian electric delivery vans that Amazon is deploying in Europe will be hitting the road across Germany over the coming weeks. The electric vans will be used to deliver packages across major cities including Munich, Berlin and Dusseldorf. In Europe, Amazon and Rivian specially designed a shorter, thinner van than what's used in the

United States to better fit in Europe's cities.

Since its partnership with Amazon was first announced in 2019, Amazon has been delivering packages with the Rivian Electric Delivery Van in over 500 U.S. cities. So far, it has purchased and is using more than 3,000 vans. Amazon aims to have 100,000 electric delivery vehicles from Rivian on the road globally by 2030.

## EMCOR Group to Buy ECM Holding Group, Wisconsin-Based Energy Services Firm

EMCOR Group, Norwalk, CT, plans to acquire ECM Holding Group, Inc. (ECM), a national energy efficiency specialty services firm, in an all-cash transaction. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

Founded in 2009 and headquartered in Oshkosh, WI, ECM is a national provider of energy efficiency retrofit services, with specific business units dedicated to offering a variety of HVAC, lighting, water, weatherization and airflow management solutions. With 2023 estimated revenues of \$60 million, ECM's turn-key energy conservation solutions are delivered with third party-reviewed energy projections, professional project management and a comprehensive measurement and verification program.

Mike Bordes, president, and CEO of EMCOR Building Services said in the press release, "ECM further strengthens EMCOR's position in energy efficiency specialty services and expands our nationwide bundled energy conservation and sustainability solutions portfolio. Additionally, the leadership team of ECM brings a wealth of experience in serving ESCOs (energy services companies) to EMCOR, including deep relationships with some of the nation's largest commercial and industrial companies. Furthermore, ECM's ability to identify, validate and self-implement multiple energy conservation measures offers a streamlined and replicable approach for our customers to achieve their sustainability goals."

## NJ's Ocean 1 Offshore Wind Farm Approved

The Department of the Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management has approved the plan for construction and operations of Ørsted's Ocean Wind 1 project offshore New Jersey. The project will include the construction of up to 98 wind turbines and up to three offshore substations within its lease area. While the subsea cable tends to be purchased directly from wire and cable manufacturers and European offshore wind farm specialists will handle much of the offshore installation of the turbines, local electric utilities, contractors, distributors and reps may get a shot at the onshore connections to the electrical grid and the construction of staging areas at ports.

Located about 13 nautical miles southeast of Atlantic City, the project will have an estimated capacity of 1,100 megawatts—capable of powering over 380,000 homes—and is expected to create more than 3,000 jobs through development and a three-year construction cycle.

According to the press release from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, the

announcement marks the Biden-Harris administration's third approval of a commercial-scale, offshore wind energy project in the United States, joining the Vineyard Wind project offshore Massachusetts and the South Fork Wind project offshore Rhode Island and New York, both now under construction and being built by union labor. These projects represent significant progress toward the Administration's goals of developing 30 gigawatts of clean, renewable offshore wind energy by the year 2030, while protecting biodiversity and multiple uses of the ocean.

New Jersey's Governor Phil Murphy said in an Ørsted press release, "The announcement of Ocean Wind 1's Record of Decision represents a pivotal inflection point not just for Ørsted, but for New Jersey's nation-leading offshore wind industry as a whole. By preparing to begin onshore construction this fall, Ocean Wind 1 will help bring New Jersey one crucial step closer to achieving a 100% clean energy economy by 2035 and 11,000 MW of offshore wind power by 2040."

# Total Construction Spending Stays Steady with +2.4% YOY Increase to \$1,925.6 Billion

Construction spending during May 2023 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1,925.6 billion, +0.9% above the revised April estimate of \$1,909 billion. According to the U.S. Census Dept., the May figure is +2.4% above the May 2022 estimate of \$1,880.9 billion. During the first five months of this year, construction spending amounted to \$740.8 billion, +2.9% above the \$719.6 billion for the same period in 2022.

**Private construction.** Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1,513.2 billion, +1.1% above the revised April estimate of \$1,497.2 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$857.4 billion in May, +2.2% above the revised April estimate of \$839.4 billion. Multi-family construction was up +20.4%

year-over-year (YOY) to \$127.7 billion.

Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$655.8 billion in May, -0.3% below the revised April estimate of \$657.8 billion.

The Private Manufacturing category continues its torrid pace this year and registered a +76.9% YOY gain to \$193.9 billion. The leading sub-category was once again Computer/electronic/electrical, up +234.5% to \$112.4 billion in May.

**Public construction.** In May, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$412.4 billion, +0.1% above the revised April estimate of \$411.8 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$87.7 billion, virtually unchanged from the revised April estimate of \$87.7 billion.

## Around the Industry

*Continued from page 3*

“We recognize the valuable skills and experience that our veterans bring to the workforce,” said Rob Taylor, president of Sonepar North America, in the press release. “We are proud to partner with the PaYS program and commit to employing more soldiers who have served our country.”

Chris Miles, Military and Veteran Relations manager for Sonepar, said in the release, “We hire members of the military community because it is the right thing to do, and they make great associates. We have a strong military employee resource group at Sonepar. There are over 190 job specialties in the U.S. Army where military personnel gain experience in fields ranging from IT and engineering to human resources, finance, logistics and more.”

Sonepar has formed more than 25 military partnerships to date with organizations like P3 Private Public Partnership with the U.S. Army Reserves, Work for Warriors with the U.S. National Guard and Hiring Our Heroes with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation.

### IEWC joins Affiliated Distributors

IEWC, Milwaukee, has become a member of Affiliated Distributors (AD), the buying/marketing group with more than 850 independent distributor members in a variety of industry verticals serving the United States, Mexico and Canada.

IEWC is ranked #24 on *Electrical Wholesaling's* 2023 Top 150 ranking. The company is a global distributor of wire and cable products, a manufacturer of custom fiber assemblies and a provider of value-added solutions through 23 locations in 11 countries. IEWC serves OEM and infrastructure customers, including sub-assemblers, installers and contract manufacturers in multiple industries, including electric vehicles, automotive, telecom, data centers, industrial automation, aerospace & defense and building systems.

### Kastle Back-to-Work Barometer shows some gains in office occupancy

Occupancy rose just one tenth of a point in late June to 49.8%, according to Kastle's 10-city Back to Work Barometer released on June 26. Kastle said in the post that

*Continued on page 6*

## Value Of New Construction Put In Place — May 2023

Value of Construction Put-in-Place (\$ billions, seasonally adjusted annual rate)

	May '23 <sub>1</sub>	Apr. '23 <sub>2</sub>	Mo. % Change	May '22	YTY % Change
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>1,925.6</b>	<b>1,909.0</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1,880.9</b>	<b>2.4</b>
<b>Total Private Construction:</b>	<b>1,513.2</b>	<b>1,497.2</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1,513.7</b>	<b>0</b>
Residential	857.4	839.4	2.2	969.6	-11.6
New single family	371.3	365.1	1.7	495.1	-25
New multifamily	127.7	127.7	-0.1	106.1	20.4
Nonresidential	655.8	657.8	-0.3	544.1	20.5
Lodging	22.8	22.8	0.1	18.5	23.1
Office	82.4	81.9	0.7	77.3	6.7
Commercial	119.7	121.9	-1.8	114.3	4.7
Health care	47.9	48.9	-2.1	43.1	11
Educational	21.4	21.7	-1.2	18.8	13.9
Religious	2.9	3.1	-6.7	3.1	-4.7
Amusement and recreation	15.0	15.1	-0.7	16.5	-8.8
Transportation	19.4	19.1	1.7	16.7	16.1
Communication	24.2	24.3	-0.2	24.1	0.3
Power	103.3	104.1	-0.8	100.0	3.3
Electric	84.2	84.9	-0.8	79.7	5.7
Manufacturing	193.9	192.0	1	109.6	76.9
<b>Total Public Construction:</b>	<b>412.4</b>	<b>411.8</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>367.2</b>	<b>12.3</b>
Residential	10.2	10.1	1.1	9.4	8.3
Nonresidential	402.2	401.7	0.1	357.7	12.4
Office	13.5	13.7	-1.7	13.4	1.1
Commercial	4.9	5.0	-1.8	4.0	23.3
Health care	12.9	12.8	1	11.3	14.4
Educational	87.7	87.7	0	82.9	5.9
Public safety	12.4	11.9	4.3	11.5	7.6
Amusement and recreation	15.4	15.3	1	13.2	16.9
Transportation	43.4	43.7	-0.8	40.6	6.7
Power	12.4	12.1	2.7	9.0	37.1
Highway and street	124.6	125.1	-0.4	109.1	14.2
Sewage and waste disposal	37.2	36.8	1.1	30.8	21
Water supply	25.0	24.4	2.6	21.7	15.3
Conservation and development	11.8	12.2	-3.8	9.1	29.7

1—Preliminary; 2—Revised

Note: The U.S. Census department changed its construction categories beginning with its May 2003 statistics.

With the changes in the project classifications, data now presented are not directly comparable with those data previously published in the regular-format press releases and tables. Direct comparisons can only be made at the total, total private, total state and local, total federal, and total public levels for annual and not seasonally adjusted monthly data. For more information, check out <http://www.census.gov/const/www/c30index.html>.

## Financial Incentives Spark Chip Plant Construction

*Continued from page 1*

projects (page 2) and at the latest U.S. Census data on construction spending (see article on page 5) you see a steady resurgence in the construction of hospitals and other medical facilities.

The \$2.5-billion Henry Ford hospital expansion project in Detroit MI, now approaching the design phase was one of four hospitals in the 50 largest construction projects that *Electrical Marketing's* editors found over the past few months. The other large hospital projects on the list included the \$440-million Rady Children's Hospital ICE/EMS Pavilion in San Diego; the \$232-million University of Missouri Children's Hospital in Columbia, MO; and the UTHealth Houston School of Public Health in Houston.

Another job that caught the eye of *Electrical Marketing's* editors is the colossal \$1-billion, 2,400-bed student residential village and student center now being built on the campus of the University of California-San Diego's campus in La Jolla, CA.

Although higher rates for commercial construction loans, the move to remote offices and the dearth of single-family building construction are putting a damper on the office and single-family home sectors of the construction market, the health of the industrial construction market should continue pumping dollars into the overall construction industry.

— Jim Lucy

## Around the Industry

*Continued from page 5*

occupancy has hovered slightly above or below 50% since late January. Half of the tracked cities saw moderate increases in occupancy, while the other half experienced declines. Fridays continue to drag down the weekly average office attendance. This past week, about half as many employees — 31.8% — worked in the office on Friday compared to the mid-week peak — 58.6% — on Wednesday.

Of the 10 cities in the Kastle Barometer, Houston had the highest office occupancy rate at 60.8%. Austin (58.2%); Dallas (54.4%); and Chicago had higher office vacancy rates, while San Jose had the lowest at 38.1%

## People

*Champion Fiberglass (Houston):* **Scott Patchan** has been promoted to the VP of Sales & Marketing. He has been with Champion Fiberglass for over a decade and has over 30 years of experience in the construction, manufacturing and distribution industries.

*OmniCable (Westchester, PA):* Dot Family Holdings (DFH), Mt. Sterling, IL, owner of OmniCable, since 2019, announced that **Greg Lampert** has retired from his role as CEO of OmniCable and that OmniCable's current vice chairman, **Jeff Siegfried**, will step in as interim CEO effective immediately. Siegfried co-founded the company and previously served as CEO and chairman. Lampert was with the business for seven years before moving into the CEO role following the acquisition.

"We are fortunate Jeff is willing to step in and serve as OmniCable's interim CEO," said Joe Tracy, CEO of Dot Family Holdings, in the release. "No one knows OmniCable like Jeff does, and his deep history with the business will make sure this is a smooth transition as we begin the search for our next CEO."

DFH specializes in distribution-related opportunities and is focused exclusively on acquiring leading middle-market distribution companies with a special interest in master/two-step distribution and any national distribution models. Other DFH companies include Houston Wire and Cable, Grabber Construction Products, Reliable Parts and Pet Food Experts.

*Graybar Electric Co. (St. Louis):* **Christopher Burrow** is now VP – Acquisitions, Financial Planning & Analysis (FP&A). He has more than 24 years of experience in accounting, financial planning and strategy. Burrow currently serves as Graybar's director of Financial Planning and Analysis, a position he has held for nearly four years.

## Rep News

**Synergy Electrical Sales** has been appointed as the new representative for Signify's professional luminaires and lighting control systems in the Philadelphia market.

As of August 22, the company will support C&I projects with the following brands: Interact, Color Kinetics, Philips Dynalite and the Genlyte Solutions portfolio, which includes Chloride, Day-Brite, Ledalite and Lightolier for indoor applications and Gardco, Hadco, Lumec and Stonco for outdoor applications.

Synergy has represented Signify's Philips lamps and Advance ballasts since 2021. Synergy said in a post that the partnership will enhance services across all three divisions of its business: architectural design solutions, engineered energy solutions and electrical wholesale channel solutions.

Greg Baker, CEO of **JD Martin**, recently announced that one of the company's operating companies, **Schell Martin**, has expanded its partnership with Leviton in two additional markets — south Louisiana and southern Mississippi. George O'Neil, a seasoned electrical industry veteran, will bring his product knowledge and expertise to the expansion as he supports the effort. O'Neil is shifting from his 37-year career at Leviton into a newly created role at Schell. With the current expansion, JD Martin and the firm's affiliated operating companies now represent Leviton in four states — Texas, Colorado, Louisiana and Mississippi.

## Electrical Marketing

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