

Around the Industry

LEDVANCE (Wilmington, MA): Vivian Lee-Lauss is now the head of global brand management, according to a LinkedIn post. She has been with LEDVANCE for five years.

Classic Wire & Cable (Virginia Beach, VA): Theodore “Theo” Ryan joined the company as an inside sales representative and will be based out of the company’s distribution center in Katy, TX. He has more than six years of customer service experience in various industries and will be the focal person for Classic Wire to its regional manufacturer sales representatives and local distributors.

Champion Fiberglass (Houston): Christopher Kissel has joined the company as CEO. He brings a wealth of experience in the oil and gas and natural resources sectors, along with experience as a field engineer with ExxonMobil, and as an investment banker with Goldman Sachs. Kissel received his MBA from Harvard Business School and his engineering degree from McGill University.

Goran Haag, current president and founder, will serve as executive chairman and concentrate on special projects. He will maintain ownership of Champion Fiberglass. Champion Fiberglass veteran Scott Patchan continues to lead sales and marketing efforts, advancing to VP of sales and marketing.

Haag founded Champion Fiberglass in 1988. In its 35-year history, the company has innovated, advanced the industry, overcome challenges and achieved numerous milestones. Haag said in the press release, “Champion Fiberglass has experienced tremendous growth over the past few years

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ElectroRep & RB Sales Merge with Forward Solutions to Fuel Future Expansion Plans

Forward Solutions, Cary, NC, a provider of centralized growth services for independent manufacturers’ reps in a broad array of market niches, is expanding in the electrical market in a big way with the mergers of ElectroRep Inc., Sausalito, CA, and R/B Sales Corp., Hiawatha, IA.

ElectroRep has served customers in California and northern Nevada since 1960, and R/B Sales Corp. has been a force in the Kansas, Missouri, Iowa and Nebraska territories since 1977.

A Forward Solutions press release said, “The strategic merger with ElectroRep and R/B Sales is a natural fit that leverages each company’s respective strengths, expanding Forward Solutions sales expertise and enhancing its ability to serve a broader customer base. By combining the data-driven systems of ElectroRep with the national end user relationships of R/B Sales, the new electrical division will bring a holistic

approach to serving electrical distributors, OEMs, MROs, electrical contractors, specifying engineers and other end users.”

President/CEO of Forward Solutions, Joe Orednick, said in the release, “We are thrilled to welcome ElectroRep and R/B Sales into the Forward Solutions portfolio. These mergers mark the beginning of a new era as we strategically invest in the electrical channel. Additionally, it positions us to unlock immense potential, drive sustainable growth and deliver unparalleled value to our customers through insights and data.”

“Joining forces with Forward Solutions marks another thrilling milestone for ElectroRep,” said Kelly Boyd, CEO and president of ElectroRep. “We were impressed by Forward Solutions’ track record in uniting multiple mergers seamlessly, making this partnership highly enticing. By combining our culture and investments with Forward

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Phoenix’s Maricopa County Tops Nation in Population Growth Once Again

Tracking the number of residents moving into or out of a market can give you an idea of its growth potential. When new residents move into an area, they need housing and they may be potential customers for a town or city’s retail, commercial, educational and other institutional services; workers at area businesses; and members of local houses of worship and other civic organizations. This creates new demand for stores, offices, schools, universities, houses of worship, doctors’ offices and hospitals and other community buildings.

The U.S. Census Bureau provides annual population at the county, Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), state and national level, and *Electrical Marketing’s* editors enjoy analyzing this data to spot the fastest-growing local markets (Check out the chart on page 2 of the 50 fastest-growing counties in the United

States). According to the Census Dept.’s most recent county data, nine of the 10 fastest-growing counties were in Florida and Texas. The nation’s fastest-growing county from 2021 to 2022 was Maricopa County in the Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ, MSA. It added 56,831 new residents.

To get a sense of just how large an increase that is, you can look at the data in terms of the number of new residents moving into the county each day. Roughly 156 new residents moved into Maricopa County each day last year, making it one of only three counties in the United States topping the 100-new-resident plateau. Harris County in the Houston MSA (125 new residents) and Collin County (121 new residents) in the Dallas MSA were the only other counties in that elite club. As you will see in the chart on page 2, the other Top 10 counties in terms of 2022

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Follow the Moving Trucks: 50 Counties Adding the Most New Residents 2021-2022

County	Metropolitan Statistical Area	2021-2022 # Change	2021-2022 % Change	New Residents per Day	2012-2022 # Change	2012-2022 % Change
United States		1,256,003	0.4	3441.1	19,409,895	6.2
Maricopa County	Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ	56,831	1.3	155.7	603,359	15.3
Harris County	Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX	45,626	1.0	125.0	518,364	12.2
Collin County	Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX	44,246	4.0	121.2	323,857	38.8
Denton County	Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX	33,424	3.5	91.6	270,254	38.2
Polk County	Lakeland-Winter Haven, FL	32,225	4.3	88.3	171,823	27.9
Lee County	Cape Coral-Fort Myers, FL	31,777	4.0	87.1	178,002	27.6
Fort Bend County	Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX	29,022	3.4	79.5	264,409	42.3
Hillsborough County	Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL	28,846	1.9	79.0	233,440	18.2
Bexar County	San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX	28,635	1.4	78.5	270,762	15.1
Montgomery County	Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX	28,229	4.3	77.3	193,863	40.0
Clark County	Las Vegas-Henderson-Paradise, NV	27,791	1.2	76.1	333,341	16.8
Williamson County	Austin-Round Rock, TX	26,967	4.2	73.9	215,274	47.2
Tarrant County	Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX	25,193	1.2	69.0	271,645	14.4
Orange County	Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL	24,798	1.7	67.9	250,010	20.8
Pasco County	Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL	23,867	4.1	65.4	139,039	29.6
Wake County	Raleigh, NC	22,664	2.0	62.1	222,755	23.4
Riverside County	Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA	20,724	0.8	56.8	213,139	9.4
Mecklenburg County	Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia, NC-SC	19,583	1.7	53.7	177,974	18.4
Osceola County	Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL	18,525	4.6	50.8	133,613	46.2
Travis County	Austin-Round Rock, TX	17,892	1.4	49.0	229,518	20.9
New York County	New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA	17,472	1.1	47.9	(28,300)	-1.7
Horry County	Myrtle Beach-Conway-North Myrtle Beach, SC-NC	17,090	4.7	46.8	101,660	36.1
Utah County	Provo-Orem, UT	16,628	2.4	45.6	162,464	30.1
Pinal County	Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ	16,010	3.6	43.9	81,783	21.4
Manatee County	North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton, FL	15,651	3.8	42.9	95,160	28.5
Palm Beach County	Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL	15,254	1.0	41.8	163,328	12.1
St. Lucie County	Port St. Lucie, FL	14,421	4.2	39.5	75,662	26.7
Duval County	Jacksonville, FL	14,284	1.4	39.1	136,187	15.5
Kaufman County	Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX	14,150	8.9	38.8	65,797	61.7
Lake County	Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL	13,897	3.5	38.1	106,333	35.0
King County	Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA	13,751	0.6	37.7	255,081	12.7
Sarasota County	North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton, FL	13,736	3.1	37.6	75,701	19.6
St. Johns County	Jacksonville, FL	13,666	4.7	37.4	104,677	51.8
Greenville County	Greenville-Anderson-Mauldin, SC	13,429	2.5	36.8	81,778	17.5
Volusia County	Deltona-Daytona Beach-Ormond Beach, FL	13,204	2.3	36.2	82,481	16.6
Hays County	Austin-Round Rock, TX	13,160	5.1	36.1	100,819	59.9
Brevard County	Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville, FL	12,951	2.1	35.5	83,574	15.3
Dallas County	Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX	12,886	0.5	35.3	144,544	5.9
Ingham County	Lansing-East Lansing, MI	12,681	4.7	34.7	516	0.2
Fulton County	Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA	12,103	1.1	33.2	101,170	10.4
Marion County	Ocala, FL	11,331	2.9	31.0	62,470	18.7
Broward County	Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL	11,297	0.6	31.0	132,558	7.3
Collier County	Naples-Immokalee-Marco Island, FL	10,753	2.8	29.5	65,664	19.8
Spartanburg County	Spartanburg, SC	10,425	3.1	28.6	57,548	20.0
Weld County	Greeley, CO	10,365	3.1	28.4	86,151	32.6
Gwinnett County	Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA	10,208	1.1	28.0	138,499	16.5
Sumter County	The Villages, FL	10,103	7.5	27.7	43,243	42.5
Comal County	San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX	9,751	5.6	26.7	69,745	60.7
Rutherford County	Nashville-Davidson--Murfreesboro--Franklin, TN	9,417	2.7	25.8	86,137	31.4
Brazoria County	Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX	9,323	2.5	25.5	63,886	19.7

Source: 2022 population data from U.S. Census Bureau

Sunbelt Continue to See Massive Population Growth

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population growth were in the Lakeland-Winter Haven, FL, MSA; Cape Coral-Fort Myers, FL, MSA; Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL, MSA; and San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX, MSA.

Of course, folks moving into all of these Sunbelt locations had to be leaving other cities, and the counties that saw the biggest population declines last year were in the Los Angeles, Chicago, New York, Philadelphia and Detroit metros. Tallying the biggest declines were Los Angeles County, which lost 90,704 residents last year; Chicago's Cook County, which lost 68,314 residents; and three counties in New York City: Queens County (-50,112 residents); Kings County (Brooklyn) (-46,970 residents); and Bronx County (-41,143 residents). Los Angeles County lost an average of 249 residents each day while Cook County's daily loss rate came in at roughly 187 residents.

Forward Solutions Enters Electrical Market with Mergers of RB Sales & ElectroRep

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Solutions resources, we have the catalyst to deliver diverse and unique solutions that address evolving trends in the electrical market. This merger allows ElectroRep to maintain local strategies while implementing broader initiatives and enhancing specialization where needed. We are proud to be Forward Solutions' first step into the electrical channel, unlocking compelling opportunities for our employees, customers, and the manufacturers we represent."

Bill Devereaux, president of R/B Sales, echoed this sentiment in the press release, emphasizing the value the merger will bring to customers. "We are excited to join Forward Solutions and become part of their growth strategy. Our unwavering commitment to growing sales, marketing, and service aligns seamlessly with Forward Solutions vision. Together, we will deliver exceptional experiences to electrical distributors, contractors and other end users across the region."

The newly formed division will operate under the Forward Solutions umbrella while retaining the individual expertise, relationships and strengths of ElectroRep and R/B Sales. Customers can expect business operations to continue without disruption. The capabilities of each business will be further enhanced to provide support that

is both more comprehensive and personal in their established territories. Not all of the population news was happening in the largest markets. It's also interesting to look at population in smaller metros, and the U.S. Census Dept. provides data on what it calls micropolitan areas, which have less than 50,000 in population but have one urban cluster of at least 10,000 people. Bozeman, MT, saw the biggest growth with an annual increase of 1,806 residents. Over the past 10 years, this beautiful city in southern Montana has seen its population grow by +34.8%, with 32,230 new residents moving into the area to enjoy the spectacular mountain scenery, skiing and world-class trout fishing on the Gallatin River.

Other micropolitan markets that have seen big population increases over the past 10 years include Jefferson, GA (+23,076 residents); Kalispell, MT (+20,184 residents); Rexburg, ID (+18,269 residents); and Hilo, HI (+17,116 residents).

— Jim Lucy

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Crawford/Sonepar moves Houston industrial branch

Crawford/Sonepar recently moved its Houston Industrial branch to a new location approximately one mile away from the previous facility. The new Deer Park location partners with local customers for vendor-managed inventory, product kitting and assembly, maintenance, repair and operation services and tailored industrial business solutions.

The new branch features a 10,000-sq-ft warehouse, a 5,000-sq-ft counter area and a large demo room with interactive displays featuring strategic vendor partners. Crawford's new central distribution center in Katy, TX, which is less than 60 miles away, makes daily deliveries, giving them access to their full product mix and more than \$40 million dollars of inventory.

Dodge Momentum Index recedes 1% in July to 193.4 points

The Dodge Momentum Index (DMI), issued by Dodge Construction Network, declined -0.9% in July to 193.4 (2000=100) from the revised June reading of 195.1.

The DMI is a monthly measure of the initial report for nonresidential building projects in planning, shown to lead construction spending for nonresidential buildings by a full year.

"While both segments of the Index fell this month, underlying project data points to divergent trends in the nonresidential sector," said Sarah Martin, associate director of forecasting for Dodge Construction Network, in the press release. "In comparison to January 2023, commercial planning activity is down -10% through July, while institutional planning is up +16%. Distinctly large institutional projects entering planning in May temporarily inflated month-to-month trends, but activity has since ticked down. As we progress through the remainder of 2023, weaker commercial activity, resulting from tighter lending standards and higher interest rates, will counter sturdier institutional activity, bolstered by public funding and less sensitivity to interest rates."

NEMA, NAED & NECA unite over Build America Buy America concerns

The National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) and a coalition of trade associations, including the National

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Industry Events

August 23-24, 2023

Electrical Board of Missouri & Illinois Electrical Expo

St. Charles, MO

www.electricalboard.org

September 18-20, 2023

IDEA eBiz

Nashville, TN; IDEA

www.idea4industry.com

September 30-October 2, 2023

NECA Show

Philadelphia; National Electrical

Contractor Association (NECA)

www.necashow.org

October 3-5, 2023

NAED LEAD Conference

Denver; www.naed.org

October 18-20, 2023

AD Electrical North American Meeting

Dallas; Affiliated Distributors

www.adhq.org

November 6-8, 2023

NAED Eastern Conference

Marco Island, FL; www.naed.org

November 8-9, 2023

NEMA Annual Meeting

Manalapan, FL; www.nema.org

January 15-17, 2024

NAED Western Conference

Austin, TX; www.naed.org

Jan. 30- Feb. 2, 2024

NEMRA Annual Conference

Las Vegas, National Electrical

Manufacturers Representatives

Association (NEMRA); www.nemra.org

Jan. 30- Feb. 1, 2024

NAW Executive Summit

Washington, DC, National Association of

Wholesaler-Distributors (NAW);

www.nemra.org

February 19-21 2024

NAED South Central Conference

Dallas, TX; www.naed.org

March 19-20 2024

LEDucation Trade Show & Conference

New York; www.leducation.org

EPRI to Lead Collaborative EV Effort

EPRI is leading a new, three-year initiative — EVs2Scale2030 — that will collaborate with more than 500 stakeholders including Amazon, the U.S. Department of Energy, and leading electric companies to ready the electric grid in support of the accelerated development of EV charging infrastructure.

EVs2Scale2030 includes electric companies, fleet operators, auto and truck manufacturers and charging providers, in coordination with federal agencies and national labs, the Edison Electric Institute, the American Public Power Association, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, and the Alliance for Trans-

portation Electrification.

Amazon is the first logistics provider to join the initiative. Founding electric company members include many electric utilities, Daimler Truck North America and Volvo.

Among key resources, the initiative plans to create a 50-state visualization and 2030 roadmap identifying the aggregated and anonymized electric vehicle loads, grid impacts, utility lead times, workforce requirements and costs, and a secure data exchange platform for fleet operators and charging providers that allows energy companies to better plan and prioritize investments in grid upgrades.

NEMA's EBCI Index for Current Conditions Slides Again July, Dropping to 42.9 Points

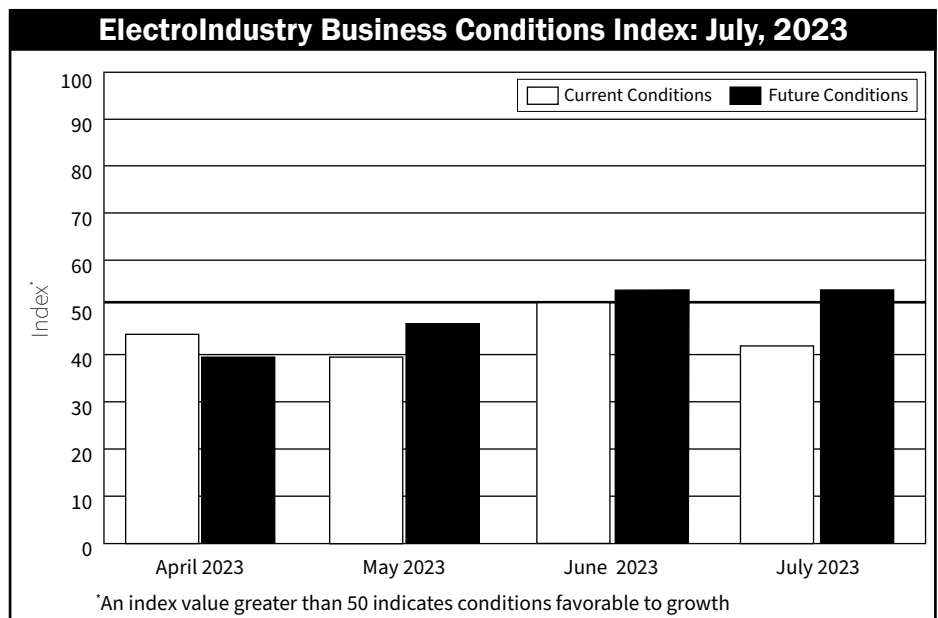
The current conditions component has not shown evidence of sustained growth since early 2022. After settling on the threshold value of 50 points last month, the current gauge once again slipped in July, dropping seven points to 42.9 points, signaling “worse” conditions overall compared to June.

The ElectroIndustry Business Conditions Index (EBCI) is a monthly survey of senior executives at electrical manufacturers published by the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA), Rosslyn, VA. Any score over the 50-point level indicates a greater number of panelists see conditions improving than see them deteriorating.

Matching June's reading of 53.6 points,

the July future conditions component marked the first time since February 2022 that this six-months ahead metric remained in growth territory for two consecutive periods. A run-up in the share of respondents expecting “unchanged” conditions, combined with a still robust proportion of those anticipating “better” conditions helped buoy the outlook indicator. Cracks, such as distributors reducing inventories, have started to appear, but the “electrification boom” supported at least one respondent's positive expectations.

Despite this month's underwater reading, some bright spots emerged in the comments with reports of strength in markets such as infrastructure and utility upgrades.



Total Construction Spending Hits \$917.4 Billion In June, Up +3% YOY

Construction spending during June 2023 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1,938.4 billion, +0.5% above the revised May estimate of \$1,929.6 billion. The June figure is +3.5% above the June 2022 estimate of \$1,873.2 billion. The U.S. Census Dept. reported that during the first six months of this year, construction spending amounted to \$917.4 billion, +3% above the \$890.4 billion for the same period in 2022.

Private construction. Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1,516.9 billion, +0.5% above the revised May estimate of \$1,509.4 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$856.3 billion in June, +0.9% above the revised May estimate of \$848.6 billion. Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted

annual rate of \$660.6 billion in June, virtually unchanged from the revised May estimate of \$660.8 billion.

Single-family construction enjoyed a rare +2.1% increase in June to \$378,527 billion, but it's still down -21.5% year-over-year. The Manufacturing construction segment saw a small increase of +0.3% in June to \$195,451 billion, but it's still up almost +81% YOY.

Public construction. In June, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$421.4 billion, +0.3% above the revised May estimate of \$420.2 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$88.9 billion, -0.1% below the revised May estimate of \$89.0 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$128.6 billion, -0.1% below the revised May estimate of \$128.6 billion.

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Association of Electrical Distributors (NAED), National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) and National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), wrote a letter to senior Biden administration officials expressing concern over the administration's Build America Buy America (BABA) guidelines.

According to a post on NEMA's website, the letter, sent to Mitch Landrieu, senior advisor and infrastructure coordinator and John Podesta, senior advisor to the President for Clean Energy Innovation and Implementation, emphasized industry concerns that BABA guidelines, as written, will prohibit the ability for both the Administration and industry to achieve the policy goals of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Further, the letter asserts that the domestic content requirements within BABA are unclear and do not reflect supply chain realities faced by U.S. manufacturers. This is leading to confusion among industry and delays for already backlogged infrastructure and clean energy projects, spurring the need for this outreach.

"Electrical manufacturers are eager to implement the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, electrify our economy and rebuild our nation's aging infrastructure. However, the administration's current BABA domestic content rules are currently standing in the way of those ambitions," said NEMA President and CEO Debra Phillips in the post.

"We appreciate our partners at NEMA taking the lead on this important issue. The scope of the opportunity presented by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and other electrification initiatives is so large that we will need maximum flexibility to provide the material and for our customers to supply the labor to get the work done," said NAED Interim President Ed Orlet. "Washington has a way of attaching strings to good policy that makes its implementation more difficult than necessary. We'll keep working with our coalition partners to educate regulators on how well-intentioned rules can inhibit the progress of badly needed infrastructure projects."

The letter emphasizes the following recommendations:

Clear and consistent guidance across all states and territories. The federal government should provide consistent guidance

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Value Of New Construction Put In Place — June 2023

Value of Construction Put-in-Place (\$ billions, seasonally adjusted annual rate)					
	Jun. '23 ₁	May '23 ₂	Jun. '22	Mo.%Change	YTY%Change
Total Construction	1,938.4	1,929.6	1,873.2	0.5	3.5
Total Private Construction:	1,516.9	1,509.4	1,502.2	0.5	1
Residential	856.3	848.6	955.9	0.9	-10.4
New single family	378.5	370.9	482.0	2.1	-21.5
New multifamily	131.7	129.7	108.1	1.5	21.8
Nonresidential	660.6	660.8	546.3	0	20.9
Lodging	22.8	22.7	18.7	0.5	22
Office	83.5	82.7	77.3	0.9	8
Commercial	121.3	121.2	116.9	0.1	3.7
Health care	47.7	48.2	43.2	-1	10.4
Educational	22.2	21.9	18.8	1	17.9
Religious	3.1	3.0	3.1	3.7	1.3
Amusement and recreation	15.3	15.1	16.2	0.9	-5.8
Transportation	19.3	19.2	16.8	0.5	15.2
Communication	24.0	24.1	24.0	-0.4	0.1
Power	102.8	104.5	100.8	-1.6	2
Manufacturing	195.5	194.9	108.2	0.3	80.7
Electric	84.0	85.5	80.6	-1.7	4.3
Total Public Construction:	421.4	420.2	371.0	0.3	13.6
Residential	10.1	10.1	9.5	-0.2	6.9
Nonresidential	411.3	410.0	361.5	0.3	13.8
Office	13.7	13.8	12.8	-0.3	7.2
Commercial	4.7	4.8	4.3	-0.8	10.1
Health care	12.8	12.8	11.4	-0.5	12
Educational	88.9	89.0	84.1	-0.1	5.6
Public safety	12.4	12.4	11.6	-0.1	7
Amusement and recreation	16.4	16.2	13.8	1.4	19.3
Transportation	44.1	43.9	41.4	0.3	6.4
Power	12.7	12.6	9.3	1	36.7
Highway and street	128.6	128.6	106.8	-0.1	20.4
Sewage and waste disposal	38.7	38.1	31.4	1.6	23.3
Water supply	25.5	25.2	24.2	1	5.4
Conservation and development	11.8	11.5	9.1	2.2	30.1

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>.

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and program rules across federal agencies and programs for implementing BABA provisions.

Include American labor in the cost of components. Including labor costs would promote American jobs, consistent with

People

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adding product lines, innovating and growing. We are excited to see Christopher move the company forward with fresh ideas, new initiatives and dynamic leadership.”

Pharos (London): **Thomas Ladd** will be retiring from his role of international sales director after 14 years with the company. He helped establish the sales, support and distribution strategy for Pharos in the Americas and for growing the company’s global sales to where they are now. Ladd will be staying connected to Pharos as a consultant, leading special projects and advising on new market development in the Americas.

To provide continuity of leadership for the sales team, **Mark de Gruyter** has agreed to take on the mantle of sales director — initially on a temporary basis. In this new role, de Gruyter will be responsible for the sales strategy of all Pharos-branded products, worldwide. In his current role as regional manager for EMEA, he has overseen a seven-fold increase in Pharos sales in his region. De Gruyter will be based in London, helping him foster a close working relationship with the Pharos leadership team.

Shat-R-Shield (Salisbury, NC): **John McKeithan** was promoted to director of operations and **Douglas Adkins** is now controller.

McKeithan will be responsible for all procurement, manufacturing, maintenance and warehouse operations. Since joining Shat-R-Shield Lighting in 2010, he served several roles including maintenance manager and industrial engineer. Prior to his employment at Shat-R-Shield Lighting, McKeithan served in other roles of increasing responsibility and authority. He holds numerous certificates in industrial electronics, industrial electricity, electrical safety, fiber optics and more. He also served 20 years in the U.S. Navy, where he traveled the world as a master chief electronics technician/master saturation diver.

both Congress’s intent in the IJJA and the administration’s goal to support good-paying manufacturing jobs.

Utilize existing free trade agreements. Leveraging existing trade agreements with our allies will eliminate bottlenecks, expedite commerce and secure supply chains.

As controller, Adkins will manage all accounting activities, business analysis and financial planning. Since joining Shat-R-Shield Lighting in 2012, he has taken on increasing responsibilities in finance and has played a role in product development, product management and inventory control. Prior to joining Shat-R-Shield Lighting, Adkins accumulated more than 25 years in accounting, the last 13 in manufacturing. He is a CPA and a graduate of Appalachian State University.

Obituary

Frederick H. Blazer, Jr. passed away peacefully at home in Cincinnati, OH, on July 29, 2023 with his family at his side.

Blazer was born Sept. 12, 1928 in Galesburg, IL, and enrolled at Purdue University. He enrolled at the young age of 16 and graduated with a degree in electrical engineering. His first employment after college graduation was with Honeywell Inc. in Minneapolis.

Fred later joined his father in purchasing a small wholesale plumbing distributor, The Judd Co., in Austin, MN, in 1954. Fred added electrical material to their offering and grew the company to four locations before selling the business in 1982. Fred and his two sons, Steve and Mike, relocated to Colorado in 1984 and started Blazer Electric Supply. Fred retired in 1995.

After retirement, Fred spent many years as a volunteer for Service Corp. of Retired Executives (SCORE) in Colorado Springs, advising young entrepreneurs with starting and financing small businesses.

Fred’s passions were flying, fishing, finance and family. He made more than 50 fishing trips to Canada, mostly with his sons, friends and business associates, and mostly in his Mooney or Piper Twin Comanche airplane. He loved to travel and did so extensively with his wife, Suzanne,

all over the world. Fred was preceded in death by his parents, Frederick and Mary Blazer, and wife Suzanne. Survivors include sister Janet; his children Michael (Rae Ann); Julia (Barry); F. Steven (Carolyn); and Gregory (Galen). He also had six grandchildren: Trevor Blazer (Alea); Casey Rowley (Josh); Courtney Blazer; Hannah Elku; Madeline Berman (Noah); Grace Bianconi (Patrick); and eight great-grandchildren.

Rep News

Electri-Flex, Roselle, IL, appointed **Synergy Electrical Sales** as its new stocking representative in eastern Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey and northern Delaware. Headquartered in Fairless Hills, PA, Synergy focuses on delivering a comprehensive product and services to residential, commercial and industrial clients.

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