



Western News

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 24, 2011

YWC Board Meeting
Marriott Suites
Seattle, WA

July 20-22, 2011

WBMA Board Meeting
Coeur d'Alene, ID

February 8-10, 2012

WBMA Convention
Tulalip Resort
Marysville, WA

February 9-11, 2012

YWC Conference
Tulalip Resort
Marysville, WA

This Month in Construction Supply

By Greg Brooks

With claims and counterclaims flying, a new study from the Pew Fiscal Analysis Initiative puts some hard numbers to the monumental (or maybe not) task of chopping the deficit down to size.

Construction materials prices up 1.4 percent in April. In what appears to be an ongoing trend, the cost of construction materials prices increased by 1.4 percent in April, according to the Department of Labor's Producer Price Index report. Prices are now 7.1 percent higher from the same time last year.

Metal commodity prices continue to edge higher. Iron and steel prices were up 1.3 percent for the month and are up 10.7 percent from April 2010. Steel mill product prices increased by 2.2 percent in April and are 13 percent higher than the same time last year. Nonferrous wire and cable prices jumped 2.7 percent for the month and are up 11.8 percent on a year-over-year basis. Fabricated structural metal products rose 0.8 percent for the month and are 5.4 percent higher than April 2010 levels. Prices for plumbing fixtures and fittings were flat for the month and are up 1.9 percent year-over-year.

Concrete product prices inched up 0.2 percent for the month and are unchanged on a year-over-year basis. Similarly, prices for prepared asphalt, tar roofing and siding increased by 0.2 percent for the month but were still down 0.3 percent from April 2010.

In contrast, softwood lumber prices fell 3.8 percent for the month and are down 7 percent from the same time last year.

Crude energy prices climbed 4.3 percent for the month as natural gas prices soared 9.4 percent. Year-over-year, crude energy prices are up 20.6 percent. Overall, the nation's wholesale good prices were up 0.8 percent for the month and 6.6 percent higher from April 2010.

Suppliers Council

The Suppliers Council met and selected Tulalip Resort again for the 2012 Convention - February 8-10, 2012.

The blended format with The Young Westerners Conference will continue. The YWC Conference will be February 9-11, 2012.

YWC will be celebrating 40 years in 2012.

2011 Officers & Board of Directors

President:

Ed Waite
ProBuild
Lacey, WA

Vice Presidents:

Randy Stemper
Astoria Builders Supply
Astoria, Oregon

Bill Mackie
Madison Lumber Company
Ketichkan, Alaska

Past President:

Eric Fritch
Chinook Lumber Company
Snohomish, Washington

Board of Directors:

Kimberly Akre • Pacific Building Center
Tom Boyd • Marson & Marson Lumber
Jim Crawford • Tum-A-Lum Lumber Co.
Tom Dunn • Dunn Lumber Company
Gene Gillett • Cascade Home Center
Rod Hughes • BMC
Steve Kerr • Kerr Ace Hardware
Bill Kraut • Hadlock Building Supply
Brett LaMar • Lake Chelan Building Supply
Rick McCartney • Valley Bestway
Charley Miller • Miller Lumber Company
Scott Munson • ProBuild
Matt Petersen • Bayview Building Materials
Jim Pruitt • Palmer Lumber
Tom Sliter • Sliter's Ace Lumber
David Stordahl • Triple S Building Center
Tom Stumpf • Western Wood Preserving
Mike Werner • Builders Alliance
Trent Withers • Withers Lumber Co.

NLBMDA Director:

Roger Fouts • Withers Lumber Company

Insurance Trust Chairman:

Bruce Abel • Don Abel Building Supply

Suppliers Council Chairperson:

Phil Schumock • McFarland Cascade

YWC President:

AJ Burkhard • Thomas Building Center

Western Building Material Association

P.O. Box 1699 • Olympia, Washington 98507
(360) 943-3054 • 1-888-551-WBMA
Fax: (360) 943-1219
Website: www.wbma.org
E-mail: wbma@wbma.org

Executive Director: Casey Voorhees

Office Manager: Stephanie Masters

Congressmen Urge EPA Administrator to Halt Expansion of EPA Lead Rule

Last week, Rep. Bob Latta (R-OH) and a bipartisan group of 22 additional members of Congress sent a letter to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson and the Office of Management and Budget expressing concern with the EPA's pursuit of additional clearance testing requirements and expansion to commercial buildings under the EPA Lead: Renovation, Repair and Painting (LRRP) Rule.

"Following EPA's flawed implementation of the original rule last year that resulted in too few certified contractors, lack of training opportunities, poor consumer education and inaccurate lead test kits, the agency went on to remove a provision of the rule to allow consumers to opt-out of the rule if there were no pregnant women or children under six present in pre-1978 housing, effectively increasing the number of homes subject to the rule from 38 million to 79 million. Now, EPA is undertaking two more regulatory actions to expand the scope and compliance requirements of the LRRP well beyond the scope and intent of the original rule," the letter states.

NLBMDA and its members spent a great deal of time educating members of Congress about the LRRP and encouraging them to sign Rep. Latta's letter. Thanks to those dealers and federated association executives who raised the issue during the spring Legislative Conference and followed up with their legislators to secure their support.

Bill Introduced to Tackle Home Builders' Credit Crunch

Reps. Gary Miller (R-CA) and Brad Miller (D-NC) have introduced legislation attempting to free up restricted acquisition, development and construction lending by the nation's banks. The issue has been a top priority for home builders seeking to free up capital needed to spur new construction activity. The "Home Construction Lending Regulatory Improvement Act" (H.R.1755) was introduced May 5 and has 31 additional cosponsors.

H.R. 1755 would address specific regulatory obstacles to the credit needs of the nation's home builders. In a letter to fellow lawmakers seeking support for their bill, Reps. Gary Miller and Brad Miller said that "one of the major reasons for this lack of credit is the overly restrictive actions by banking regulators which have hindered federal and state chartered banks and thrifts' ability to make and maintain loans to qualified small home builders that have viable projects."

To rectify this situation, the legislation would grant authority and guidance to federal and state banking regulators to ensure that financial institutions that provide financing to America's home builders are permitted to make loans, restore liquidity and provide stable financing to the residential housing sector.

NLBMDA Joins Letter Addressing Corporate-Only Tax Reform

NLBMDA and other small business industry associations recently joined a letter cautioning the leaders of the Congressional tax writing committees against tax reform that only targets C corporations, as has been suggested by the Treasury Department. The letter emphasizes the fact that corporate-only tax reform would negatively impact 95 percent of America's businesses, the "flow-through" entities that employ nearly 70 million Americans.