



Professional Construction Estimators Association

Orlando, FL



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May 2023



PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Chris Joyce

[Tharp Plumbing Systems, Inc.](#)

PCEA Orlando
Chapter 22
President

As we come to the end of another successful year, I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you. Your support has made this year an incredible success, and I am honored to have served as your president, and even happier to say WE DID IT, we won the **Bill Helms Chapter of the Year Award** while at National Convention.

This year, we accomplished so much together. We organized successful events, launched a new newsletter format, and strengthened our organization in countless ways.

I want to thank the outgoing members of the board for their efforts and commitment to our organization. Their hard work and leadership have been instrumental in making this year a success.

As we move forward, I am excited to welcome David Colvin as incoming president and his board members. I am confident they will continue to build on the strong foundation we have and I wish them all the best of luck as they take on this important role.

A HUGE thanks to all the sponsors who helped make this year successful, Tharp Plumbing Systems, United Wall Systems, Wharton Smith, Freyssinet, JK2, Maschmeyer, Plans & Specs, Ferguson and Steel Fabricators.

In closing, I want to express my gratitude to all of you once again. Your commitment to our group and your hard work have made this year an unforgettable one. I am honored to have served as your president and look forward to seeing all the great things this group will continue to achieve in the coming years.

As always, thanks for being a part of PCEA Orlando Chapter 22, it was an absolute blast!

www.pcea-orlando.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

to register visit our website
www.pcea-orlando.org

• May Membership Meeting

23 May 2023 – 5:30 PM
Citrus Club,
255 S Orange Ave #1800,
Orlando, FL 32801

ATTENDEES MUST REGISTER IN ADVANCE FOR ALL EVENTS

ANNUAL SEAFOOD ON THE LAKE



PCEA NATIONAL CONVENTION



Join Us

AS WE CELEBRATE WINNING THE BILL HELMS CHAPTER OF THE YEAR AWARD

BILL HELMS CHAPTER OF THE YEAR



MATERIAL PRICES ARE FINALLY LOWER THAN A YEAR AGO

• Construction input prices, or how much it costs to build a given project, fell for the first time in more than 18 months on a year-over-year basis, but were still 39% higher than February 2020, before the COVID-19 pandemic sent supply chains reeling.

• Both overall construction prices and nonresidential costs were down 0.9% and 0.6%, respectively, compared to March 2022, according to an Associated Builders and Contractors analysis. That's the first time they've dropped annually since August 2020, said Anirban Basu, ABC chief economist.

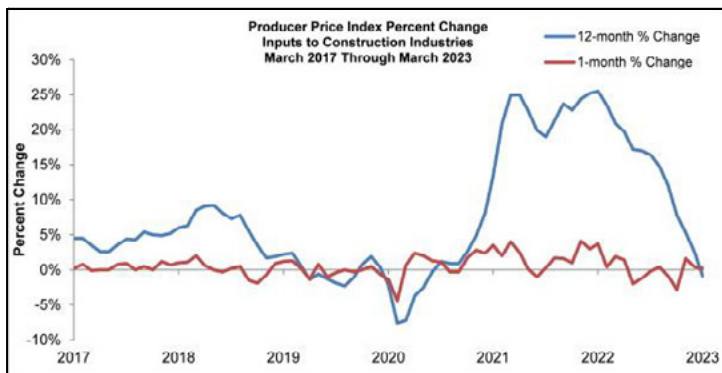
• Still, costs inched up over the last 30 days. Overall construction and nonresidential input prices rose 0.2% and 0.4% in March, respectively, compared to the previous month. "The good news is that the latest producer price index data, which show broad-based declines in both goods and services prices, suggest that the expected 25 basis point interest rate hike at the Federal Reserve's May meeting will be the last of the cycle," said Basu. "The bad news is that this data indicates greatly diminished pricing power among wholesalers and others."

Natural gas and unprocessed energy materials registered the largest percentage drops in March, both falling 21.4% and 11.9% compared to February. Crude petroleum prices also fell 10.2%, according to ABC.

However, just five of 19 categories posted price drops in March, while other commodity prices continued to rise. Iron and steel prices jumped 2.9% in March, steel mill products increased 1.2% and concrete products moved up 0.7%, according to the report.

Still, inputs to nonresidential construction remain 39.5% higher since February 2020, according to the report.

"While some cheer the notion that rate increases are set to end soon, the Federal Reserve may want to maintain higher interest rates for longer to ensure that inflation has



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

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PCEA-ORLANDO Officers & Board Members

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Alma Rivera, *Plans & Specs Reprographics*

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...and **STAND OUT**
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FERGUSON



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MATERIAL PRICES ARE FINALLY LOWER THAN A YEAR AGO— from page 3

been suppressed,” said Basu. “This, along with other signs of slowing economic activity, suggest that the possibility of recession remains elevated, though the economic outlook is increasingly uncertain.”

While the overall commodities sectors tracked by ABC posted a slight price increase on a monthly basis, a separate measure dropped, according to the Associated General Contractors of America.

The producer price index for inputs to non-residential construction for final demand ticked down 0.1% from February to March, as measured by AGC. A 2.3% drop in energy inputs pushed that decrease, according to the release.

Nevertheless, many inputs continued to post double-digit cost increases from a year ago. For example, cement prices jumped 17%, concrete products increased 14.5% and paving mixtures and blocks rose 14.1%.

“With materials costs fluctuating so much month to month, contractors remain wary about committing to projects with unpredictable costs and lead times,” said Ken Simonson, AGC chief economist. “While the inflation in the broader economy is settling back to earth, construction costs keep hitting updrafts.”

Producer Price Index, March 2023			
	1-Month % Change	12-Month % Change	Change Since Feb 2020
Inputs to Industries			
Inputs to Construction	0.2%	-0.9%	39.0%
Inputs to Multifamily Construction	0.3%	0.4%	36.5%
Inputs to Nonresidential Construction	0.4%	-0.6%	39.5%
Inputs to Commercial Construction	0.4%	0.7%	39.8%
Inputs to Healthcare Construction	0.4%	0.2%	39.2%
Inputs to Industrial Construction	0.4%	2.0%	34.3%
Inputs to Other Nonresidential Construction	0.4%	-1.0%	39.6%
Inputs to Maintenance and Repair Construction	0.0%	-0.9%	37.6%
Commodities			
Adhesives and Sealants	0.2%	11.2%	32.8%
Brick and Structural Clay Tile	0.8%	9.2%	24.9%
Concrete Products	0.7%	14.5%	29.7%
Construction Machinery and Equipment	0.2%	11.8%	24.6%
Copper Wire and Cable	-1.4%	-2.7%	37.6%
Crude Petroleum	-10.2%	-31.2%	42.6%
Fabricated Structural Metal Products	0.8%	2.0%	53.9%
Gypsum Products	-0.3%	9.9%	44.1%
Hot Rolled Steel Bars, Plates, and Structural Shapes	-1.7%	-8.9%	52.7%
Insulation Materials	0.2%	10.5%	37.7%
Iron and Steel	2.9%	-13.8%	63.9%
Lumber and Wood Products	-0.5%	-18.3%	28.1%
Natural Gas	-21.4%	-48.0%	57.4%
Plumbing Fixtures and Fittings	0.4%	4.6%	16.7%
Prepared Asphalt, Tar Roofing and Siding Products	0.1%	3.1%	33.3%
Softwood Lumber	-0.9%	-49.3%	19.3%
Steel Mill Products	1.2%	-15.1%	70.6%
Switchgear, Switchboard, Industrial Controls Equipment	0.2%	11.5%	34.1%
Unprocessed Energy Materials	-11.9%	-27.9%	58.5%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics