

DCD™ Specifiers Spotlight™

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BUTLER MANUFACTURING COMPANY

This brochure illustrates why Butler® steel building systems offer the most advanced construction alternative for institutional, commercial and office projects. Precision-engineered structural systems with integrated standing-seam metal roof systems can combine with metal wall panel options or hardwall materials for faster construction at predictable budgets and reduced, long-term maintenance and operating costs.



www.butlermf.com

Featured in *The Bridge*, case study, page 60.

ARMSTRONG CEILINGS

Formations™ Curves Acoustical Clouds



Formations Acoustical Clouds from Armstrong are now available in curved shapes. Designed to enhance acoustics, especially in open plenum spaces, the new line of Formations Curves includes circular, oval, rounded square and rounded rectangle shapes. The unique system consists of ceiling panels with

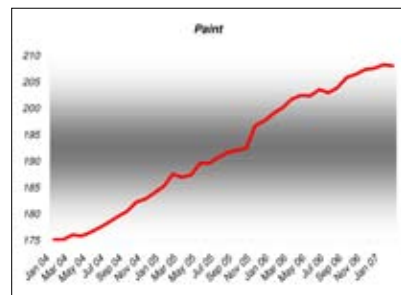
pre-cut corners, and a kit containing all the components needed to create the cloud. For more information, visit armstrong.com/ceilings or call 877- ARMSTRONG.

Construction Cost Trends for 2007

Source: US Department of Labor, Producer Price Index

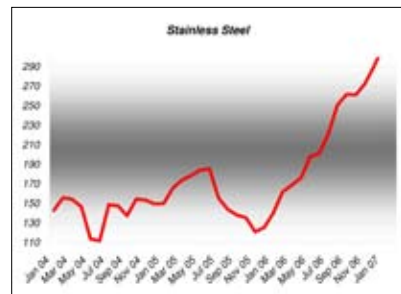
Contributed By: BNI® Building News

Housing starts continue to decline significantly since last year. The effect of this housing downturn on construction spending overall is muted by significant increases in the non-residential sectors. Led by hotels, the commercial sector posted gains of over 15% in 2006 and continues to keep construction spending on an even keel for 2007. State and federal construction spending continues at a brisk pace and will help to compensate for the housing shortfall.



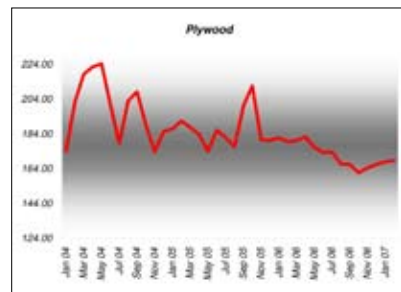
PAINT

Paint prices have increased at a steady rate of 6% over the last three years. One would think that the erratic price of crude oil would more strongly affect this component, but a consistent, steady rise, with few abrupt fluctuations is what is seen with paint.



STAINLESS STEEL

After a low at the end of fiscal 2005, stainless steel posted a 30% price increase in 2006. This is caused by the overall demand for steel and steel products as well as stainless steel's heavy dependence on nickel, chromium, and energy in its manufacture.



PLYWOOD

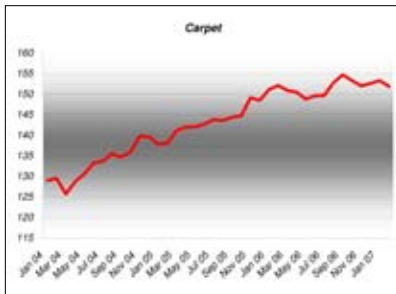
From record highs in 2003 and 2004 we have seen plywood prices fall with the fortunes of the housing industry. A historical in-

crease in the summer can be expected, but if the housing slump continues, this may temper any usual summertime upturn.



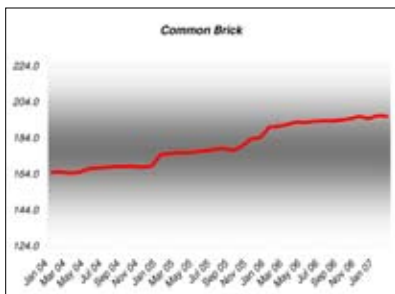
CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

Overall, construction materials have moderated and remain flat. A significant decrease in lumber and lumber products have negated sharp increases in other materials. As long as this continues we see increases in commodities such as cement and cement products as well as gypsum products offset by the lumber downturn.



CARPET

After several years of 5 to 6% increases, the price of carpet moderated in 2006 and remains flat for the first quarter of 2007. Manufacturing is still done primarily in the Southeastern part of the US and the price remains surprisingly independent of the price of crude oil.



COMMON BRICK

Continuing its three-year trend of moderate price increases, common brick trails the composite price increases of materials as a whole. In spite of its dependence on heat in its manufacture, brick prices have held steady. One thing to watch, as commercial building construction continues its ascent, more demand may spur increased prices.

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