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TOP STORIES

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COLD-FORMED STEEL ENGINEERS INSTITUTE – NEWS AND UPDATES

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Calling All to the 2014 CFSEI EXPO – May 19-20, 2014 – Memphis, Tennessee

Details are being finalized for the 2014 CFSEI Expo in Memphis, Tennessee, which will take place May 19-20, 2014 at the historic Peabody Hotel in Memphis, home of the famous Duck March in the Grand Lobby. More

Get Your Masterpiece Recognized – 2014 CFSEI Awards Program Call for Entries

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MARKETPLACE

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A video of a condo building in the Briar Creek area of Raleigh, NC collapsing has gone viral. This past Saturday, the building was subject a straight line wind gust of approximately 86 mph. The gust was measured at RDU (Raleigh-Durham International Airport), about a mile from the site. Design wind speed in this area is 90 mph. More

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Construction Firms Expect Growing Demand in 2014 as Contractors Plan to Start Hiring and Adding New Equipment, But Worry About Worker Shortages

Many firms plan to start hiring again and most contractors predict demand will either grow or remain stable in virtually every market segment this year according to survey results released today by the Associated General Contractors of America. More

November 2013 Construction at $934.4 Billion Annual Rate

The U.S. Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced on Jan. 2 that construction spending during November 2013 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of $934.4 billion, 1.0 percent (±1.6%) above the revised October estimate of $925.1 billion. The November figure is 5.9 percent (±2.0%) above the November 2012 estimate of $882.7 billion. More

Nonresidential Construction Spending Returns to Normal After Government Shutdown

Nonresidential construction spending grew 0.6 on a monthly and yearly basis in November 2013, according to the Jan. 2 release by the U.S. Census Bureau. In November, spending totaled $583.436 billion on a seasonally adjusted, annualized basis. More

Top 10 New Construction Metros of 2014

Though Washington, D.C. will see the most new units in 2014, with 19,279 scheduled for completion, some secondary metros are really raising the roof, according to MPF Research. More

Marriott Begins 2014 with Industry's Fastest-Growing New-Construction Pipeline

BETHESDA, Md., Jan. 27, 2014 /PRNewswire/ -- At the America's Lodging Investment Summit (ALIS) in Los Angeles, Marriott International, Inc. (NASDAQ: MAR) announced that it had the fastest-growing new-construction pipeline in the industry, worldwide, in 2013, based on information published by Smith Travel Research. More

ArcelorMittal recognized for energy efficiency

The U.S. Energy Department recently recognized the multinational steelmaker for its leadership in the Better Buildings, Better Plants initiatives. In August, ArcelorMittal joined the program, which supports the Obama administration's goal of increasing U.S. energy productivity by 2030. More

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TOP STORIES

Canada Expands the Use of Wood Framing in Taller Residential Buildings

In 2010, the Provincial government of British Columbia (BC) adopted new regulations that increased the height to which wood framing could be used in residential buildings. It appears that the rest of Canada is set for similar action, as the next edition of the National Building Code of Canada (NBCC) will likely allow wood buildings as high as six stories to be constructed.

The NBCC is a national model code that is adopted in Canada. Provincial governments can adopt the code and modify it to suit regional issues. Proposals to the national code will expand the use of taller wood-framed buildings beyond what is currently permitted in BC to include office occupancy, as well as well as allowing occupancies such as mercantile, assembly and storage/garage in the lower floors of these buildings.

During the latter part of 2013, the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes (CCBFC) sought public input on proposed changes to the NBCC. During the public comment period that closed in December, there were 23 fire safety and three structural-related proposed changes to the NBCC developed for six-story wood construction. Related proposed changes to the National Fire Code of Canada designed to facilitate taller wood buildings were also open for public comment.

The proposed changes to the NBCC have alarmed many in the fire-safety community—as well as members of the concrete and steel industries—because of the risks inherent with taller combustible buildings. “If these taller wood frame buildings are included in the Code, Canada could see an increase in fires and put vulnerable Canadians at risk,” according to Michael McSweeney, president of the Cement Association of Canadian (CAC), in a press release issued December 23, 2013. McSweeney further stated that: “Each year we are seeing numerous fires in wood-frame buildings and we have seen the devastating effects of recent massive fires in B.C. and Alberta.”

The steel industry identified significant deficiencies in the proposed changes and responded with public comments through the Canadian Steel Construction Council (CSCC). The CSCC worked closely with others in the North American steel industry, including the Steel Framing Alliance (SFA) and the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI), to develop a response pointing out the major deficiencies in the proposed code language.

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Major deficiencies with the proposed code language include:

1. Unprotected (combustible) stairwells and elevator shafts that pose a risk to occupants and firefighters during a fire.
2. Combustible cladding (up to the 5th-floor level) and roofing that will increase the risk of fires spreading and endangering nearby buildings and their occupants.
3. Some parts of buildings left completely unprotected without fire sprinklers (e.g., some small residential bathrooms).
4. Little to no requirements to address shrinkage, one of the most significant serviceability issues in taller wood buildings.
5. Higher risk of complete loss of the building and endangering of adjacent buildings and occupants during construction, as there is no passive or active fire protection afforded to wood buildings during this period. See the following links for more information on issues with taller wood buildings during construction: http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor-assembly/london-assembly/publications/fire-safety-in-london, http://dcnonl.com/article/id44369.

According to George Frater of the CSCC, it unlikely that proposals to allow the introduction of taller wood buildings will be disapproved. The remaining question is, how many of the public comments that identify deficiencies in the proposals will be adequately addressed in the final version of the code? The solutions to address those deficiencies will undoubtedly determine the relative competitiveness and feasibility of using wood in these taller buildings.

The 2015 NBCC will be adopted for use by each Province during 2016 or thereafter, depending on the legislative process in each Province. Officials will have the option of adopting the NBCC in its entirety or modifying it as necessary. For more information on the proposed language and timetable for approval, opportunities for further public comment, and local/provincial adoption, please contact George Frater at gfrater@steel.org.

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Product Transparency Discussion Continues With a New Standard

On February 4, 2014, the Steel Framing Alliance (SFA) co-sponsored a webinar presentation with several industry partners to alert its members about the latest entry to the world of product transparency called Health Product Declarations (HPDs). Delivered by PE International, one of the leading firms in the "green building" arena, the presentation covered how this new activity would be required by designers to determine the potential health impacts of products used in the building marketplace. SFA introduced the topic of HPDs and Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) in the December 2013 issue of "Framework Online."

Be advised that a new work item has appeared at ASTM E60 called the Product Transparency Declaration (PTD). Developed by the Resilient Floor Covering Institute, the PTD standard is focused on product impacts as they are used in buildings.

While the subject of product transparency evolves in the standards and architectural communities, there are distinct differences of opinion as to how data on product ingredients are collected and reported, and the real benefits to the building's ultimate tenants. Rest assured that SFA, along with the team of sustainability experts at the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI), will continue to monitor the development of these and other environmental topics that are sure to affect our industry.

Some in the marketplace are saying: "Stop the world, I want to get off!" But the reality is that the discussion on product transparency —whether in the form of EPDs, HPDs, or PTDs— will continue, and it promises to be very enlightening. Stay tuned and involved!

For more information, please contact Maribeth Rizzuto at MSRizzuto@aol.com.

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COLD-FORMED STEEL ENGINEERS INSTITUTE

CFSEI To Host Webinar On Blast Design Of Cold-Formed Steel Framing On February 27, 2014

The Cold-Formed Steel Engineers Institute (CFSEI) will host a webinar on "Blast Design of Cold-Formed Steel Framing" on Thursday, February 27, 2014 at 3:00 PM Eastern Time. The webinar will cover the concepts and methods of analysis for cold-formed steel framing subjected to blast loads, focusing on the design requirements and design approaches for U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) projects per the latest Unified Facilities Criteria UFC 4-010-01 (2012). It is designed for architects, engineers, building officials and contractors. Participants are eligible for 1.5 continuing education units.

The webinar will cover:

- The main concepts of structural design to mitigate the effects of blast in buildings.
- Identification of the building components of exterior framing that qualify for blast design per DoD requirements.
- Proper analysis methods and software tools to perform blast design.
- Instruction on calculating the blast resistance of framing members and connections.

The discussion will include:

- The differences between static design approach and dynamic design approach.
- Introduction of the new ASCE Standard for Blast Protection of Buildings (ASCE 59-11) and the new Canadian Standard for Design and Assessment of Buildings Subjected to Blast Loads (S850-12) as related to cold-formed steel framing.
- Information on checking cold-formed steel wall openings and roof trusses for blast loads.
- A design example demonstrating how to determine design loads, calculate available strength, and select acceptance criteria for framing members and connections.

Nabil A. Rahman, Ph.D., P.E., Director of Engineering and R&D for The Steel Network, Inc. in Durham, North Carolina, will conduct the webinar. Dr. Rahman has extensive experience in cold-formed steel product development, design software development, and the analysis and protection of cold-formed steel structures against extreme loads, including progressive collapse, blast and impact.

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He is a member of the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) Committee on Specifications and Committee on Framing Standards, and the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Disproportionate Collapse Technical Committee and Cold-Formed Steel Committee.

More information on the webinar and registration details are available at www.cfsei.org.

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CFSEI
COLD-FORMED STEEL
ENGINEERS INSTITUTE

Calling All to the 2014 CFSEI EXPO – May 19-20, 2014 – Memphis, Tennessee

Details are being finalized for the 2014 CFSEI Expo in Memphis, Tennessee, which will take place May 19-20, 2014 at the historic Peabody Hotel in Memphis, home of the famous Duck March in the Grand Lobby. Among the highlights of this year's conference is a tour of Nucor Steel Arkansas, an opening event at the Elvis Presley Automobile Museum and Graceland, 15 educational seminars, and an exhibit area featuring the latest cold-formed steel (CFS) technologies. The Expo coincides with the Memphis in May International Festival, an annual event featuring great food and music.

The Expo planning committee has assembled a line-up of speakers that will appeal to both seasoned cold-formed steel (CFS) veterans and newcomers, including architects, contractors and building code officials. Presentations will focus on the most up-to-date information on several topics, including:

- ASCE 7-10 wind loads
- Blast design
- Mechanical bridging and bracing
- Metal buildings and cold-formed steel studs
- Updates to the *AISI Brick Veneer Cold-Formed Steel Framing Design Guide*
- The Steel Deck Institute's *Diaphragm Design Manual, Third Edition*
- And many more.

A new addition to the educational program is the Cold-Formed Steel Design Forum, consisting of a panel of experts in CFS design. The forum is an opportunity for attendees to engage in open dialogue with experts who are in the trenches of cold-formed steel design.

Vincent Sagan, chairman of the CFSEI Executive Committee, noted: "The planning committee has done an excellent job of assembling a day-and-a-half of riveting presentations on issues that impact all of us in the industry. The Expo is an opportunity to acquire new insights, learn from CFS experts, and network with peers."

So mark your calendars and plan to attend the only venue of its kind focused on cold-formed steel. More details on the Expo and other CFSEI events can be found at www.cfsei.org.

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CFSEI
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Get Your Masterpiece Recognized – 2014 CFSEI Awards Program Call for Entries

The judges have been secured and are awaiting your entries for the 2014 CFSEI Awards Program. Entries are **due by March 15th** and will be awarded at the 2014 CFSEI Expo being held in Memphis, Tennessee in May.

This annual awards program recognizes outstanding achievement in creative design, technical innovation, and best practices in the use of cold-formed steel framing. The program also acknowledges an individual who has volunteered his/her time and talent above and beyond to the industry.

A new awards category has been added to this year's program— Residential Design and Construction. Brad Cameron, chairman of the 2014 Awards program and a member of the CFSEI Executive Committee, explains: "Cold-formed steel framing is being used in some fantastic residential projects throughout the country, and the committee wanted to add an awards category that highlights these projects. "

Cameron noted that CFSEI's awards program is a prime opportunity to be called out and recognized for the many hours spent bringing creative cold-formed steel-framed projects from concept to reality.

The awards categories are as follows:

Design Excellence – The award recognizes small and large projects that exemplify excellence in the structural design of new or renovated structures utilizing cold-formed steel products.

Construction Innovation – The award recognizes the use of an innovative product, process, tool, technique, machine or methodology to advance the CFS industry. The construction innovation must have been used in one or more projects.

Residential Design and Construction – This award recognizes excellence in design and construction of a residential project of four (4) units or less.

Distinguished Service – The award recognizes the contributions of an individual who has volunteered time, talent and resources to the CFS industry.

Entries will be judged on demonstrated excellence and achievement in the use of cold-formed steel based on the following criteria: design creativity, technical innovation, system efficiency and economy, constructability, complexity of problem solved and design integration.

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This year's judging panel includes two professional engineers, a professor of structural engineering, a licensed architect and a licensed contractor. The rules of eligibility, entry forms and instructions are available at http://www.cfsei.org/2014Awards.html.

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MARKETPLACE

OSB Sheathed/Braced Condo Collapse Video Goes Viral

A video (posted below) of a condo building in the Briar Creek area of Raleigh, NC collapsing has gone viral. This past Saturday, the building was subject a straight line wind gust of approximately 86 mph. The gust was measured at RDU (Raleigh-Durham International Airport), about a mile from the site. Design wind speed in this area is 90 mph. The building was under construction and there are quite a few unknowns about the stage of the construction process and how installation was being implemented. Having the wall sheathing in place and its reaction to the wind loading conditions within the installation process that was being used on this site will provide an interesting case study with respect to installation guidance and safety.

This video has received significant national coverage, including:

- CNN
- The Blaze
- The Weather Channel
- WRAL TV
- WIBW TV
- News Observer
- WRAL TV

Source: SBC Industry, January 12, 2014

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MARKETPLACE

Construction Firms Expect Growing Demand in 2014 as Contractors Plan to Start Hiring and Adding New Equipment, But Worry About Worker Shortages

More Firms in Utah Plan to Start Hiring than in Any Other State; As Industry Grows Firms Will Contend with Rising Costs, Regulations and Tougher Competition

Many firms plan to start hiring again and most contractors predict demand will either grow or remain stable in virtually every market segment this year according to survey results released today by the Associated General Contractors of America. The survey, conducted as part of Optimism Returns: The 2014 Construction Industry Hiring and Business Outlook, provides a generally upbeat outlook for the year even as firms worry about growing worker shortages, rising costs and the impact of new regulations and federal budget cutting.

“Contractors are more optimistic about 2014 than they have been in a long time,” said Stephen E. Sandherr, the association's chief executive officer. “While the industry has a long way to go before it returns to the employment and activity levels it experienced in the middle of the last decade, conditions are heading in the right direction.”

Sandherr noted that many firms plan to begin hiring again, while relatively few plan to start making layoffs. Forty-one percent of firms that did not change staff levels last year report they plan to start expanding payrolls in 2014, while only two percent plan to start making layoffs. However, net hiring is likely to be relatively modest, with 86 percent of firms reporting they plan to hire 25 or fewer new employees this year.

Among the 19 states with large enough survey sample sizes, 100 percent of firms that did not change staffing levels last year in Utah plan to start hiring new staff this year, more than in any other state. (Click here for state-by-state survey results.)

Contractors have a relatively positive outlook for virtually all 11 market segments covered in the Outlook, in particular for private-sector segments. For five of those segments, at least 40 percent of respondents expect the market to expand and fewer than 20 percent expect the market to decline in 2014. The difference between the optimists and pessimists – the net positive reading – is a strong 28 percent for private office, manufacturing and the combined retail/warehouse/lodging segments, and 25 percent for power and hospital/higher education construction.

Among public sector segments, contractors are more optimistic about demand for new water and sewer construction, with a net positive of 17 percent. Contractors are mildly optimistic about the market for highway construction, with a net positive of 10 percent. Respondents are almost equally divided regarding the outlook for the other four segments, ranging from net positives of 5 percent for public buildings, 4 percent for schools, 3 percent for transportation facilities other than highways, to a negative of 2 percent for marine construction.

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Sandherr added that contractors' market expectations are significantly more optimistic than they were at this time last year. At that time, more contractors expected demand for highway, other transportation, public building, retail, warehouse and lodging, K-12 schools and private officers to shrink than expected it to grow.

Many contractors also report they plan to add new construction equipment in 2014. Seventy-three percent of firms plans to purchase construction equipment and 86 percent report they plan to lease it this year. The scope of those investments is likely to be somewhat limited, however. Forty-four percent of firms say they will invest $250,000 or less in equipment purchases and 53 percent say they will invest that amount or less for new equipment leases.

One reason firms may be more optimistic, association officials noted, is that credit conditions appear to have improved. Only 9 percent of firms report having a harder time getting bank loans, down from 13 percent in last year's survey. And only 32 percent report customers' projects were delayed or canceled because of tight credit conditions, compared with 40 percent a year ago.

"While the outlook is significantly more optimistic than in years past, there are still areas of concern for most contractors," said Ken Simonson, the association's chief economist. "Many firms will struggle to find enough skilled workers, cope with escalating materials and health care costs, and comply with expanding regulatory burdens."

Ninety percent of construction firms report they expect prices for key construction materials to increase in 2014. Most, however, expect those increases will be relatively modest, with 43 percent reporting they expect the increases to range between 1 and 5 percent. Meanwhile, 82 percent of firms report they expect the cost of providing health care insurance for their employees will increase in 2014. Despite that, only 1 percent of firms report they plan to reduce the amount of health care coverage they provide.

Simonson noted that as firms continue to slowly expand their payrolls, they were likely to have a harder time finding enough skilled construction workers. Already, 62 percent of responding firms report having a difficult time filling key professional and craft worker positions. And two-thirds of firms expect it will either become harder or remain as difficult to fill professional positions and 74 percent say it will get harder, or remain as hard, to fill craft worker positions.

Those worker shortages are already having an impact, the economist added. Fifty-two percent of firms report they are losing construction professionals to other firms or industries and 55 percent report they are losing craft workers. As a result, a majority of firms report they have improved pay and benefits to help retain qualified staff. One reason they are likely worried is that nearly half of the firms believe training programs for new craft workers are poor or below average.

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Adding to their challenges, 51 percent of contractors report that demand for their services is being negatively impacted by federal funding cuts, new federal regulations and/or Washington's inability to set an annual budget. "It would appear that Washington is not here to help as far as contractors are concerned," Simonson noted.

Association officials added that survey respondents would prefer that Washington officials work on other priorities. Seventy-seven percent of firms reported listed having Washington find ways to make it easier to prepare the next generation of skilled workers as a top priority. Sixty-three percent listed repealing all or part of the Affordable Care Act as a top priority. And 63 listed renewing tax deductions and bonus depreciation for construction equipment as a top priority.

The Outlook was based on survey results from over 800 construction firms from every state and the District of Columbia. Varying numbers responded to each question. Contractors of every size answered over 40 questions about their hiring, equipment purchasing and business plans. Click here for Optimism Returns: The 2014 Construction Hiring and Business Outlook report. Click here for the survey results.

Source: AGC of America, January 21, 2014

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MARKETPLACE

November 2013 Construction at $934.4 Billion Annual Rate

The U.S. Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced on Jan. 2 that construction spending during November 2013 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of $934.4 billion, 1.0 percent (±1.6%) above the revised October estimate of $925.1 billion. The November figure is 5.9 percent (±2.0%) above the November 2012 estimate of $882.7 billion.

During the first 11 months of this year, construction spending amounted to $828.4 billion, 5.0 percent (±1.3%) above the $788.8 billion for the same period in 2012.

PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION
Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of $659.4 billion, 2.2 percent (±1.2%) above the revised October estimate of $644.9 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of $345.5 billion in November, 1.9 percent (±1.3%) above the revised October estimate of $339.2 billion. Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of $313.9 billion in November, 2.7 percent (±1.2%) above the revised October estimate of $305.7 billion.

PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION
In November, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was $275.0 billion, 1.8 percent (±2.5%)* below the revised October estimate of $280.2 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of $65.2 billion, 1.1 percent (±4.9%)* above the revised October estimate of $64.4 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of $82.0 billion, 0.4 percent (±5.3%)* below the revised October estimate of $82.4 billion.

December 2013 data will be released on Feb. 3, 2014 at 10 a.m. EST.

For more detailed data and methodologies, go to our website:
http://www.census.gov/constructionspending

Source: U.S. Census Bureau News, January 2, 2014

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Nonresidential Construction Spending Returns to Normal After Government Shutdown

Nonresidential construction spending grew 0.6 on a monthly and yearly basis in November 2013, according to the Jan. 2 release by the U.S. Census Bureau. In November, spending totaled $583.436 billion on a seasonally adjusted, annualized basis.

“Construction activity bounced back in November, due in part to the end of the federal government shutdown and an accompanying return to normalcy,” said Associated Builders and Contractors Chief Economist Anirban Basu. “Nonresidential construction spending was up 2.3 percent on a seasonally adjusted basis compared to September, which makes a better comparison because October was so unusual.

“The recent acceleration in economic activity sets the stage for a much better 2014, both for the broader economy and the nonresidential construction industry,” said Basu. “We can expect nonresidential construction spending to expand during the first half of the year.”

Seven of the 16 nonresidential construction subsectors posted spending increases in November:

- Religious spending grew 0.6 percent for the month, but is down 5.6 percent from the same time last year.
- Education-related construction spending expanded 0.2 percent for the month and is up 1.3 percent on a year-over-year basis.
- Commercial construction spending grew 4.5 percent in November and is up 17.4 percent on a yearly basis.
- Communication-related construction spending expanded 10.9 percent for the month but is down 10.7 percent compared to November 2012.
- Office construction spending was up 2.6 percent in November and is 5.6 percent higher than the same time last year.
- Construction spending in the power category grew 3 percent on a monthly basis but fell 21.4 percent on an annual basis.
- Manufacturing construction spending expanded 0.6 percent in November and is up 14.4 percent compared to the same time one year ago.

Spending declined in nine nonresidential construction subsectors in November:

- Public safety-related construction spending fell 0.3 percent, but has grown 2.5 percent on a year-over-year basis.
- Amusement and recreation-related spending was down 0.6 percent on a monthly basis, but has expanded 5.5 percent from the same time last year.
- Conservation and development spending was down 4.7 percent for the month, but is up 0.1 percent for the year.

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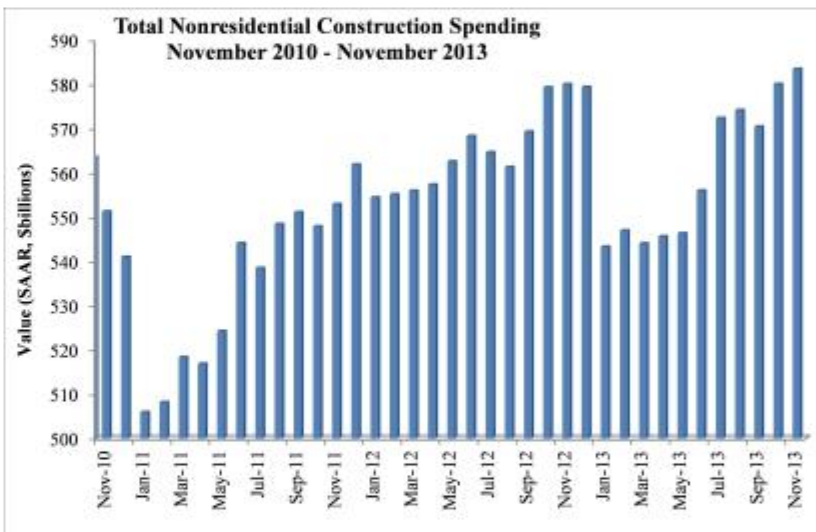
- Lodging spending fell 0.2 percent on a monthly basis but is up 31.2 percent on a year-over-year basis.
- Water supply spending declined 3.7 percent for the month but is 2 percent higher than the same time last year.
- Health care-related construction spending was down 2.8 percent for the month and is down 0.3 percent for the year.
- Sewage and waste disposal-related construction spending declined 8 percent for the month and has fallen 5.9 percent on a 12-month basis.



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce

Source: Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc., January 2, 2014

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MARKETPLACE

Top 10 New Construction Metros of 2014

Though Washington, D.C. will see the most new units in 2014, with 19,279 scheduled for completion, some secondary metros are really raising the roof, according to MPF Research.

The below list highlighting the most active construction markets features the usual suspects such as New York City and Los Angeles. But Austin and Raleigh will see some of the highest inventory growth this year—Raleigh/Durham alone will see a 6.6 percent inventory growth rate as it adds more than 8,000 units to the area, second only in growth to Austin, which will add 6.7 percent of its stock this year.

	Scheduled Completions	Growth Rate
Washington, DC-VA-MD19	19,279	3.6%
Dallas, TX	14,496	2.9%
Austin, TX	12,915	6.7%
New York, NY	11,416	0.5%
Houston, TX	10,807	1.8%
Denver/Boulder, CO	10,465	3.9%
Los Angeles, CA	10,239	1.0%
Seattle, WA	10,073	3.0%
Raleigh/Durham, NC	8,388	6.6%
Boston, MA-NH	6,546	1.5%

Source: Multifamily Executive, January 22, 2014

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Marriott Begins 2014 with Industry's Fastest-Growing New-Construction Pipeline

BETHESDA, Md., Jan. 27, 2014 /PRNewswire/ -- At the America's Lodging Investment Summit (ALIS) in Los Angeles, Marriott International, Inc. (NASDAQ: MAR) announced that it had the fastest-growing new-construction pipeline in the industry, worldwide, in 2013, based on information published by Smith Travel Research. In addition, Marriott reported that it signed more than one hotel project per day in 2013, totaling a record 387 hotels and 67,000 rooms. The company opened nearly 26,000 new rooms in 2013 and, given its strong pipeline, expects new hotel openings to accelerate in 2014 and 2015.

In 2013, Marriott increased its total development pipeline by over 30 percent. At year-end 2013, Marriott had more than 195,000 rooms under development across five continents, compared to 176,000 rooms at the end of the third quarter and 143,000 rooms just a year ago. At year-end 2013, the company's global pipeline included 72,000 hotel rooms under construction, 83,000 rooms signed but not yet under construction, 11,000 rooms awaiting conversion to one of Marriott's brands, and 29,000 rooms for projects that have been approved for development but not yet signed.

Fueling this success is Marriott's extensive lineup of 18 brands, the broadest in the lodging industry, including its luxury and lifestyle portfolio, which accounts for nearly 25 percent of the company's overall pipeline.

"Our luxury and lifestyle portfolio of 438 hotels across nine brands* is robust," said Arne Sorenson, President and Chief Executive Officer of Marriott International. "The Ritz-Carlton is recognized as one of the world's most iconic luxury brands and is expanding outside the U.S. At the same time, we are rapidly growing new brands such as EDITION, Moxy Hotels, AC Hotels by Marriott and Autograph Collection, all brand innovations that position us well with customers looking for a different type of experience."

EDITION, an exciting full-service, luxury/ lifestyle brand conceived in collaboration with legendary hotelier Ian Schrager, continues to receive rave reviews following the opening of The London EDITION in 2013. EDITION is gaining ground, with 10 hotels open or in the signed pipeline, including The Miami Beach EDITION, scheduled to open later this year. Future hotels are planned for Abu Dhabi (2015), Gurgaon, India (2015), Manhattan Madison Avenue/NYC (2015), Sanya, China (2015), Bangkok (2016) and West Hollywood (2017), as well as the just announced Times Square EDITION in New York (2017).

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Moxy Hotels is on track to open its first hotel in Milan, Italy, in August, and additional properties are expected to open in six other European markets in 2015. Combining contemporary design and approachable service at an affordable price, Moxy is projected to reach 150 hotels in the next 10 years.

The fastest hotel brand launch in the industry, the Autograph Collection has added nearly 60 hotels since its 2010 introduction at ALIS. A unique business venture, the Autograph Collection harnesses the power of Marriott's global sales, marketing and revenue engines for independent hotel owners.

"Marriott's determined focus on powerful brands and global growth has delivered unparalleled results," said Tony Capuano, Executive Vice President and Chief Development Officer for Marriott International. "In 2013, we completed the largest number of new hotel deals in our company's history, a pace of more than one new hotel project every day, benefitting from our partners' improved access to capital, rising consumer demand in major markets, the impact of the growing middle classes in Asia and Africa, and greater international travel than ever before."

In Africa, Marriott expects to complete the acquisition of the Protea Hospitality Holdings' brands and its management business in April 2014. With Protea, Marriott will nearly double its distribution in the Middle East and Africa to 23,000 rooms and become the largest hotelier on the African continent.

In its Asia Pacific region, Marriott expects to open a hotel every week across 10 different brands, doubling in size, reaching 330 hotels with more than 96,000 rooms across 16 countries by 2016. In 2013, Marriott signed agreements to add 78 new hotels and more than 22,000 rooms in the Asia Pacific region, an industry-leading pace.

In the United States, Marriott ended 2013 with more than 22,000 hotel rooms under construction, representing the largest hotel construction pipeline in the industry, according to data from Smith Travel Research. In fact, Marriott operates or franchises one of every five new hotel rooms that opened in the U.S. in 2013. Driving these results is Marriott's broad brand lineup, including the company's newest brand in the U.S., AC by Marriott. Inspired by the fashion houses of Milan and already successful in Europe, AC by Marriott will open its first hotel in the U.S. in Miami this year, with 16 other projects under contract (totaling 3,215 rooms) around the globe.

"Staying focused on our strategy of global growth and brand differentiation has paid off for Marriott and its owners and franchisees, " said Sorenson. "We look forward to opening even more hotels in 2014 and beyond, introducing Marriott and its brands to new guests and welcoming loyal customers to new and exciting locations across the globe."

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*Marriott International's luxury and lifestyle portfolio of nine brands and 438 hotels includes The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company (84), Bulgari Hotels (3), EDITION (2), JW Marriott Hotels (63), Autograph Collection (56), Renaissance (153), Moxy Hotels, AC Hotels by Marriott (75), and with the planned acquisition of Protea, Fire & Ice Hotels (2).

NOTE: This press release contains "forward looking statements" within the meaning of U.S. federal securities laws, including statements about the number, locations and opening dates for new hotels, the completion date for the Protea Hotel Group, and similar statements concerning anticipated future events and expectations are not historical facts. We caution you that these statements are not guarantees of future performance and are subject to a number of risks and uncertainties, including supply and demand changes for hotel rooms; competitive conditions in the lodging industry; relationships with clients and property owners; the availability of capital to finance hotel growth; the receipt of governmental and other consents for the Protea Hotel Group acquisition, and other risk factors identified in Marriott International, Inc.'s most recent quarterly report on Form 10-Q; any of which could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed in or implied by our statements. These statements are made as of the date of this press release, and we undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

Marriott International, Inc. (NASDAQ: MAR) is a leading lodging company based in Bethesda, Maryland, USA, with more than 3,900 properties in 72 countries and territories at year end 2013, and reported revenues of nearly $12 billion in fiscal year 2012. The company operates and franchises hotels and licenses vacation ownership resorts under 18 brands. For more information or reservations, please visit our web site at www.marriott.com, and for the latest company news, visit www.marriottnewscenter.com.

Source: Marriott International, Inc., January 27, 2014

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MARKETPLACE

ArcelorMittal recognized for energy efficiency

ArcelorMittal is trying to cut its energy use by 10 percent at all its plants, including in Northwest Indiana.

The U.S. Energy Department recently recognized the multinational steelmaker for its leadership in the Better Buildings, Better Plants initiatives. In August, ArcelorMittal joined the program, which supports the Obama administration's goal of increasing U.S. energy productivity by 2030.

By joining, ArcelorMittal committed to reducing energy use by 10 percent at 17 plants, including local facilities in East Chicago, Gary, and Burns Harbor. The company is pursuing energy savings, such as by installing energy efficient lighting and reheat furnaces, and increasing use of waste heat and byproduct fuels.

"ArcelorMittal USA is excited to be a partner in the Better Plants program," said Larry Fabina, who coordinates the steelmaker's energy reduction program. "Energy is one of the most expensive factors in the steelmaking process. Therefore, we look forward to working with the Department of Energy and the other partner companies to accelerate you energy management efforts, further reducing greenhouse gas emissions, protecting the environment and improving the sustainability of our operations."

The steelmaker has actively been trying to to conserve energy during its operation, such as by reductions in delays, rework and scrap. ArcelorMittal has encouraged employees to be engaged on the issue, and to take part in "treasure hunts" to find low-cost energy reduction opportunities.

"There are many avenues that we will use to attain our energy goal, some of which will take capital dollars and others that will be at no cost to the company," Fabina said. These energy reduction efforts include applying energy efficient technologies and energy conservation, increasing plant yield, reducing rework and scrap, providing energy training for employees and implementing best practices shared through the industrial partner network."

The company is focused on finding energy savings in different systems, including compressed air operation, steam generation and combustion systems.

ArcelorMittal is one of more than 120 manufacturers that have partnered with the U.S. Energy Department to reduce their energy consumption.

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- Ferrous Metal Processing Co.
- Jacobs
- Paullus Structural Consultants
- R.C.M. Residencial Contract Management
- S3 Engineers LLC
- WSP Group
- Yambukai CC

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February 5, 2014
MASFA's Annual Steel Framing Expo
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More

February 27, 2014
CFSEI Webinar on Blast Design of Cold-Formed Steel Framing
3:00 p.m. EST
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May 19-20, 2014
CFSEI Expo
Memphis, TN
More

Nationally, manufacturing companies spend an estimated $200 billion every year to power their plants. Since 2011, the Obama administration has been trying to lower that amount in a big to achieve record-breaking energy bill savings.

"Partners in the Better Plants challenge are leading by example, showing firsthand how energy efficiency improvements can help manufacturers improve their bottom lines, cut energy waste and pollution and stay competitive in global markets," said David Danielson, assistant secretary for energy efficiency and renewable energy. "The investments they have made through the Better Plants challenge are helping to cut energy waste, while saving millions in energy costs and helping position the United States to lead in the global economy."

Source: Northwest Indiana Times, December 17, 2013

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HEADQUARTERS

Steel Framing Alliance
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Suite 800
Washington, DC 20001
Tel: 800-797-8335
Fax: 202-452-1039

NEW MEMBERS

- AndersonChase, Inc
- Behrooz G. Ghomghani
- Belectric
- Centric Engineering
- Cleland Jardine Engineering Inc.
- Concentric Associates
- CYS Structural Engineers, Inc.
- EFH Consulting Engineers
- Ferrous Metal Processing Co.
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