Momentum Index Takes Jump

The Dodge Momentum Index rose 6.3% in February, according to McGraw-Hill Construction, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies. The Momentum Index is a monthly measure of the first (or initial) report for nonresidential building projects in planning, which have been shown to lead construction spending for nonresidential buildings by a full year. February's strong gain brought the index to 102.9 (2000=100), 23.4% higher than a year earlier. The increase was the third consecutive monthly gain and the first time the index has surpassed the 100 mark since 2010. In fact, the index is now at its highest level since April of 2010, suggesting that the recovery for nonresidential building may be finally gaining some traction.

February's increase for the Momentum Index was due to an 11.9% surge in commercial projects; the institutional portion of the index remained mostly unchanged. The improvement in the commercial segment was driven primarily by robust gains for new office and store projects.

Member News

JWR Construction announced that the exterior shell of the Chartwells food court addition at Florida Atlantic University is in progress. The finished product will be an expanded 800 seat facility which will meet the demands of increased enrollment at the University. JWR Construction will then begin on the interior renovations in May and have 13 weeks to complete the kitchen, dining and associated areas in time for the start of FAU’s fall semester in August.

Plaza Construction has broken ground on The Related Group’s new $105 million, 42-story condominium development, Millecento Residences located at 1100 S. Miami Avenue. The 691,610 sq. ft. residential condominium tower, featuring 382 luxury condos, is slated for completion in late 2014. Millecento is located just steps away from Brickell CitiCentre and within view of Biscayne Bay.

Efficiency Production, Inc., manufacturer of trench safety equipment, announced that Efficiency Shoring and Supply—the company’s official factory-direct sales and rentals branch office in Davie, is now open and staffed by Shoring and Shielding Specialists, Frank Gonzalez (top) and Jason Figueredo.
Each month Construction Focus features a CASF member company, selected by drawing a business card from among those attending the monthly networking breakfast. The next breakfast, sponsored by Whiting-Turner Contracting, will be held on Thursday, April 18, 7:30 a.m. at the Embassy Suites - Boca Raton off Yamato Road.

With origins back to 1939, Brown & Brown, Inc. was incorporated with the State of Florida in 1959 by Hyatt Brown. After completing his double major in real estate and insurance at the University of Florida, he used his college connections to land the contract for the University of Florida’s student accident insurance, which paved the way for the company’s extraordinary growth in the years to follow. Changes for the better became non-stop at Brown & Brown, Inc. and have allowed the company to become the seventh largest insurance intermediary in the United States.

Brown & Brown, Inc. is an independent insurance intermediary organization that provides a variety of insurance and reinsurance products and services to general business, corporate, governmental and quasi-governmental, institutional, professional, trade association and individual clients and provides the construction industry with Commercial Insurance, Bonds, Employee Benefits, and Personal Insurance. Currently, there are 37 employees in the WPB Profit Center and over 5000 nationwide. A few key people with the company are Profit Center Leader Michael Holmes, Sales Manager Jason Cloar, and Commercial Insurance Advisor Nicholas Heilman, who has been with the company for a year and a half.

“One of the best things about working for Brown & Brown, Inc. are the relationships we have cultivated with our carriers and how it allows us to often negotiate much better programs than our competition”, states Heilman.

Starting in 2004 and continuing every year since, Brown & Brown has been designated as a Mergent’s Dividend Index Achiever. This distinct honor is based on a record of 10 or more consecutive years of dividend increases, which has been achieved by less than 3% of US listed dividend-paying companies. Most recently in 2012, the company was recognized for achieving over $1 Billion in revenue and still growing.

Brown & Brown, Inc. has been a member of CASF since 1988 and has had quite a few employees involved on its committees through the years. “Even though my affiliation with CASF began just last year it has already improved my knowledge of the technical details within the construction industry through the very informative presentations provided by the association. In my opinion, the thing that drives CASF is the focus on making sure members have the opportunity to interact on a personal level at multiple events throughout the year and each event is designed to maximize the participation and interaction of our members to create a community of resources and knowledge we can all utilize,” expresses Heilman.

Brown & Brown, Inc.’s West Palm Beach office is located at 1401 Forum Way, Suite 400, West Palm Beach. For more information please contact Nicholas Heilman at 561-688-5053, nheilman@bb-wpb.com or visit www.bbinsurance.com.
USF Health provides free and confidential safety consultation services through a U.S. Department of Labor cooperative program for Florida small companies. In Florida, the OSHA Consultation Program is known as USF SafetyFlorida and is administered by the USF College of Public Health. The Consultation Program assists small employers in implementing meaningful and understandable safety and health programs in the workplace as they review all work processes. A small employer is defined as less than 250 on-site and less than 500 corporate wide.

This voluntary program provides knowledgeable safety and health consultants who will come to an employer’s workplace upon request. The consultant works with the employer and the safety representative on a one-on-one basis to introduce them to OSHA-based safety management practices and requirements.

USF SafetyFlorida consultants use OSHA’s Safety and Health Program Management Guidelines to prevent occupational injuries and illnesses. The guidelines focus on four elements:

1.) Management Commitment and Employee Involvement;
2.) Worksite Analysis;
3.) Hazard Prevention and Control; and
4.) Training for Employees.

When consultants work with an employer, they:

- Explain which safety and health programs are required by OSHA for their particular industry and help them develop the necessary written and educational programs to meet these requirements in understandable language.
- Provide guidance, direction and material that will be helpful in developing educational programs such as new employee orientation, safety training programs, safety committees, and incentive programs.
- Introduce Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) in the workplace for all to understand how to identify hazards, corrective measures to take for abatement and prevention programs.
- Conduct full-service worksite evaluations to identify deficient safety and health conditions in the workplace and suggest abatement methods.
- Recognize companies with outstanding safety management programs and work practices.

The overall goal for all safety and health management programs and practices in the workplace is to reduce injuries and illnesses. The effective implementation of these programs will usually result in greater productivity; improve moral, safety awareness, reduction of injuries and lowering of workers' compensation cost - which contributes to better growth for the company.

In summary, the person responsible for job safety within a company has a large responsibility, even in a small business. By asking for a USF SafetyFlorida on-site safety and health consultant, you can promote the priority of job safety at your company. For more information on the free and confidential on-site consultation visit the website at www.safetyflorida.usf.edu or call (866) 273-1105.

In addition to Consulting Services, USF OTI offers over 46 classroom courses and 18 on-line courses as well as developing specific custom training requests by companies. The USF OSHA Training Institute (OTI) Education Center’s overall mission is to reduce workplace accidents and injuries by training workers, employers and safety professionals on hazard recognition and avoidance.

Since its inception in 2003, more than 6,300 adults have received safety and health training from the USF OTI Education Center in a classroom setting and more than 7,400 students have attended its online courses. Their professional instructors have more than 300 years of combined experience in training adults and their job-site safety experience spans the construction, maritime and other industries.

The OSHA Training Institute Education Centers are a national network of non-profit organizations authorized by OSHA to deliver occupational safety and health training to public and private sector workers, supervisors, and employers on behalf of OSHA. Currently, the USF OTI Education Center is the leading institution in the state of Florida authorized to deliver this training. The local center is located at Broward College, 7451 Riviera Blvd, Miramar, FL 33023.

For more information, visit their website at http://usfoti-center.org/Miramar or contact Luis Pieretti at lpierett@health.usf.edu.
CASF’s 2nd Annual Sporting Clay Shoot
South Florida Shooting Club, Palm City
Friday, March 15

1st Place - Moss (369 points)
2nd Place - Structural Roof Systems (327 points)
3rd Place - Lotspeich Co. of FL. (326 points)

Top Score - 98 of 100
Robert Nolan, SKANSKA