

Miami Still in Top 5 Markets

A ranking of the top U.S. metropolitan areas by the dollar amount of construction starts for commercial and multifamily building shows the New York City metropolitan area leading the nation in 2015, according to Dodge Data & Analytics.

Rounding out the top five metropolitan areas in 2015 with their percentage change from 2014 were the following

– Miami FL, \$6.3 billion, down 8%; Dallas-Ft. Worth TX, \$6.0 billion, up 35%; Chicago IL, \$5.9 billion, up 14%; and Washington DC, \$5.9 billion, down 4%.



Metropolitan areas ranked 6 through 10 were – Los Angeles CA, \$5.8 billion, up 10%; Boston MA, \$4.7 billion, no change from the prior year; Seattle WA, \$4.2 billion, up 3%; Houston TX, \$4.0 billion, down 28%; and Denver CO, \$3.0 billion, up 19%.

The commercial and multifamily total is comprised of office buildings, stores, hotels, warehouses, garages

and service stations, and multifamily housing. “The construction start statistics do show some deceleration for the commercial building sector at the national level during 2015, after the substantial gain witnessed during 2014,” stated Robert A. Murray, chief economist for Dodge Data & Analytics. “The recovery for commercial building has so far been hesitant, with periods

of increased activity often followed by a pause. On the plus side, factors such as generally rising employment and declining vacancy rates

should encourage further growth for offices, hotels, and warehouses, while store construction remains more problematic given the shifting retail landscape. In comparison to commercial building, the upward progression by multifamily housing has been steadier, with 2015 marking the sixth straight year of double-digit growth, helped in particular by yet another substantial increase reported for the New York City metropolitan area.

“The Miami FL metropolitan area in 2015 showed construction starts settling back 8%, with moderate reductions for both commercial building, down 11%; and multifamily housing, down 6%. In 2014, the Miami FL market had surged 92%, with commercial building up 51% and multifamily housing soaring 121%.

Member News

Miller Construction Company completed \$3.1 million in major renovation projects for top-selling South Florida furniture retailer City Furniture at showrooms in Pembroke Pines and Wellington.

Miller's crews provided a complete \$2 million interior renovation and exterior upgrade at City Furniture's 58,659-square-foot Pembroke Pines showroom. They converted the interior to showcase the next generation design found in City Furniture's innovative new stores throughout Southeast, Southwest and Central Florida. This was Miller's sixteenth project for City Furniture, including a previous renovation of the same showroom in 2007.



Lank Oil Company

announced the appointment of Kristene V. Lundblad to Vice President of Sales & Marketing.

Kristene brings more than 20 years of experience working in the South Florida petroleum industry. While still in college, Kristene began her career as an administrative assistant at Diversified Oil. In 2001, when Diversified Oil was purchased by Lank Oil Company, Kristene played a crucial role in the successful transition of all its customers to Lank Oil. Most recently, she led the reimagining project at Lank Oil, which included having its entire fleet of fuel trucks wrapped in the eye-catching and patriotic look that you see today.

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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 Miller Construction Company, will be held on Thursday, March 17, 7:30 a.m. at the Courtyard by Marriott-Cypress Creek in Ft. Lauderdale.

Helping Contractors Reduce Overhead

Enterprise Fleet Management, the original division of the Enterprise brand, was founded in 1955 by Jack Taylor as Enterprise Executive Leasing. The Navy veteran named his company Enterprise as a salute to a World War II aircraft carrier he served on - the USS Enterprise. The company originated in St. Louis, Missouri with one employee and a fleet of seven cars. Today, there are over 50 locations across the United States, as well as two in Canada.

Enterprise has been helping companies in the construction industry reduce the overhead expenses of their fleets through their programs. These programs include vehi-

cle selection, flexible financing and funding options, fuel & maintenance and telematics & driver safety. Enterprise works with companies from the very beginning of fleet selection and fleet management, from using their services to buy you fleet cars, trucks or vans at the



FLEET MANAGEMENT

right price to implementing custom fleet reporting tools and fleet fuel management programs that track usage efficiently and economically. With its offices spanning the country, Enterprise can assist com-

panies wherever a project is growing.

They are committed to making it their business to do the right thing. That includes doing the right thing not only for their customers, but for their employees and the community as well. "Enterprise provides plenty of opportunity for career growth and personal development," says Daniel Pacheco, Account Manager at Enterprise Fleet Management for four years.

Enterprise has been determined to provide a fun and friendly place for its employees to work while staying involved in the community and maintaining corporate responsibility. These are

the pillars that have made them so successful at helping their customers grow their businesses. Enterprise Fleet Management has been actively involved in networking events since joining CASF. In fact, Enterprise currently holds the title of CASF's reigning Cornhole Tournament Champion. Part of the reason why they have been able to successfully navigate the networking circuit is because they not only use CASF events to grow their own business, but they also make introductions between mutual customers to make sure those companies, in turn, do the same.

Enterprise Fleet Management is located at 5105 Johnson Road in Coconut Creek. To find out more about the services they offer, you may visit their website at www.efleets.com.

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6 Valuable Phone Apps for Construction

The right smartphone is a vital tool on your belt. Your cell can be just as important as a hammer or a drill. Sophisticated apps can help individuals manage their daily business through instant messages, emails, calendars, maps and a calculator. Any cell phone should possess the essential apps to search the web, navigate around unfamiliar territory and create all types of documents. Discover six software applications that can be the difference between an expert and a naïve worker on a construction site.

1.) Roughly 500,000 workers already depend on the **Construction Manager** app. After all, it ensures the flow of vital information, allowing corporate headquarters and onsite workers to create daily reports, share weekly time sheets and project estimates sites. At the same time, salesmen and estimators can create onsite estimates for just about any construction project. You can even use your thumbs to create PDF forms and share the information via text, email or in the cloud. With improved data accuracy at your fingertips, the customizable Construction Manager app is ideal.

2.) Made for workers in the field, **CheckD Floor Plan** allows site managers to get floorplans and drawings digitally. The app allows users to have control over their construction sites by delegating tasks, adding pictures and chatting directly with subcontractors and employees. CheckD Floor Plan solves numerous issues related to time management, visual aesthetics and storage.

3.) Members of a workforce can feel nice and safe

with the **StaySafe Business** app. Workers can check in and out of job sites, trigger a panic button to a pre-defined list of co-workers should any trouble arise. There is even an online Hub to provide detailed location mapping for those who received an alert. StaySafe Business can give peace of mind to a lone construction worker.

4.) **PlanGrid** allows contractors and architects to collaborate on all their project plans, notes, markups, photos and reports. No matter where they are, users can upload PDF drawings, where they automatically sync to all devices in real time. GCs can maintain one master set with automatic version control to keep their teams up to date with hyperlinks, while backing it all up on the cloud. To top it off, all of the data on PlanGrid can easily be exported and downloaded onto a computer.

5.) Working in South Florida, we all know how nasty the sun can be on the body, regardless of the time of year. With the **OSHA Heat Safety Tool** app, you have vital information educating men and women about the dangers of heat and what can be done to counter potentially fatal heat exhaustion. After all, illnesses and deaths from too much heat are preventable. Supervisors and workers can calculate a heat index and see a risk level for outdoor workers. OSHA Heat Safety Tool can also remind people to take rest breaks and fill up on water. It also reminds users how to recognize signs of overheating and what to do in the case of an emergency. To top it off, the app doesn't require internet access, allowing people to work it in

remote locations. Men and women can feel free from harm with the OSHA Heat Safety Tool app in their hands.

6.) Tens of thousands of construction workers already rely on the Tradies app. The mobile office tool provides fast access to site diaries, change orders, estimates, quotes, invoices, bid requests, purchase orders, subcontract agreements and more. Orders can be reviewed and changed. Meanwhile, users can receive accident reports. A project can be set-up on your smart phone and immediately sent out to every person on your team. Payroll timesheets can be exported with the push of a button. Everything can then be previewed without watermarks and emailed as PDF files. The Tradies app makes it easy to share the important information on a construction project of any size with your team and your clients.

Besides the right apps, every man and woman on a construction site should be taking advantage of the right carrying cases or clips, as well as high quality screen protectors to shield their devices against unwanted water and dust. Then there is the phone itself. You may also carry the latest and greatest iPhone with all of the right apps on your hip, but what happens when you drop it off a ladder or the second story of a construction site? What you need is a durable cell phone, like the Cat S50, made for folks in the industry. The smartphone was designed to withstand falls, dust and debris, while it carries a lengthy battery life. With the best phone, accessories and apps, life on a construction site can be more efficient and enjoyable.



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