

## ADVICE FOR BUILDING OWNERS IN CHICAGO

The data collected for the *Mortenson Cost Index* is showing an increase of 2.3% nationally and 2.7% in Chicago for the first quarter of 2022. The construction market, as with many, continues to experience significant inflationary challenges in early 2022. Optimism for moderating costs in the latter half of the year has lessened and will be dependent of a variety of external factors including global stability, supply chain continuity, labor markets and general economic conditions in the U.S.

While construction spending remains robust, fast-changing materials pricing, product lead times, fuel price increases, and labor availability and costs continue to strain suppliers, contractors, and projects. No one industry or building type has been exempt from the ongoing market challenges although pandemic-delayed projects and owners across many different project types continue to move forward in the face of ongoing market conditions.

Based on factors affecting the industry, the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) has updated their construction inflation alert for this year, indicating the market is still far from what it deems “normal.” According to the AGC, the Russian invasion of Ukraine and responding world sanctions on Russia are driving additional price increases and supply-chain disruptions that show little signs of abatement. The AGC says that costs and labor availability will remain a top concern throughout 2022. The Bureau of Labor Statistics data confirms that construction job openings outpaced hires and set a record high for February, the latest month data is available.

The Mortenson Construction Cost Index data reflects current market conditions with increases in all 30 component categories tracked, which includes labor, material, equipment, and trade partner feedback. For the first quarter of 2022, our construction cost data is signaling an average input cost increase of 2.3%. Our national construction cost data is signaling an average input cost increase of 2.3% for the first quarter of 2022 and 18.3% over the last twelve months.

Based on AGC data and observations and our insights, we see persistent cost fluctuations, supply-chain disruptions and workforce shortages continuing in the near term. A resilient approach working to respond to and minimize these ongoing impacts during project planning and execution will continue to be paramount over the coming months.

For a more specific update or questions regarding this report, please contact:



**Dennis McGreal**

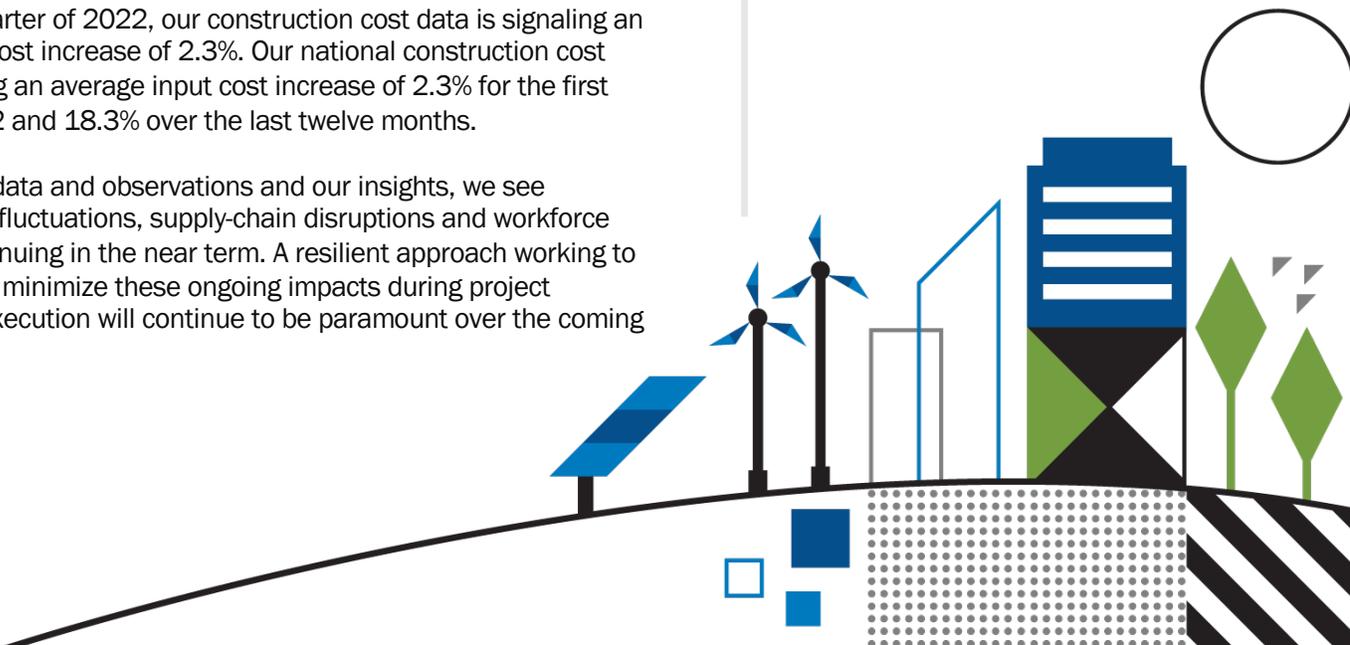
Chief Estimator  
847.472.8114  
dennis.mcgregal@mortenson.com



**Sheryl Van Anne**

Vice President General Manager  
847.472.8131  
sheryl.vananne@mortenson.com

VIEW THE FULL  
CONSTRUCTION COST INDEX

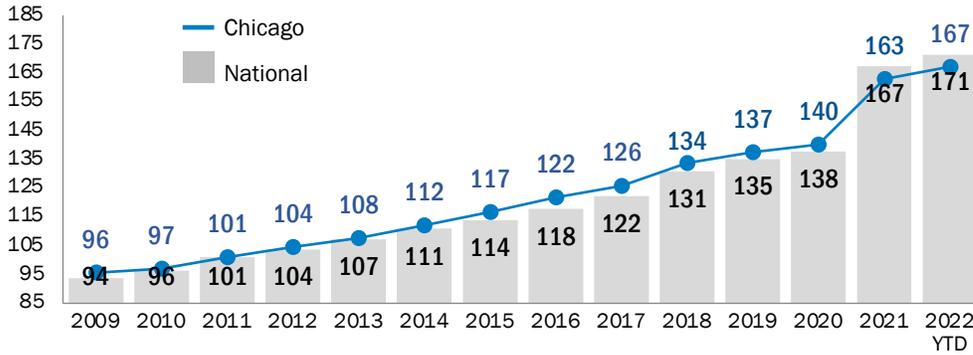


# COST INDEX

## CHICAGO Q1 2022

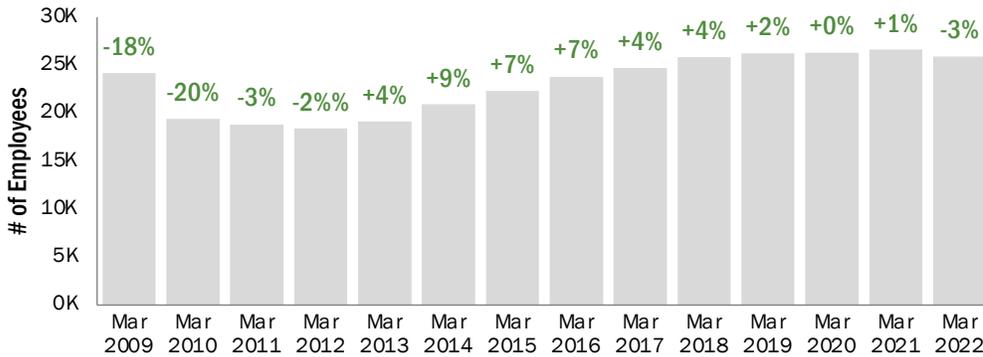


### CONSTRUCTION COST INDEX (January 2009 = 100)



The *Mortenson Cost Index* is showing a single quarter increase of 2.3% nationally and 2.7% in Chicago. Over the last twelve months, costs increased 18.3% nationally and 16.5% in Chicago.

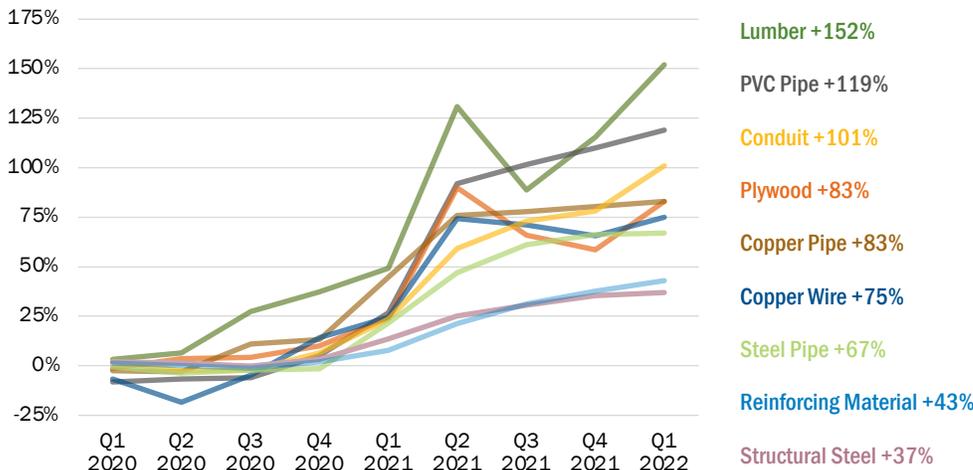
### CHICAGO CONSTRUCTION EMPLOYMENT (Number of Employees and 12-Month Change)



Building construction employment in the Chicago metro region fell to 25,900 in March 2022. This is a decrease of 3% (700 jobs) compared to March 2021. Labor availability will remain a top concern throughout 2022.

*Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics*

### MATERIAL PRICING CHANGES (Cumulative Q1 2020 to Q1 2022)



Costs for building materials remain escalated due to manufacturing issues, supply chain delays, rising fuel costs, and the Russian invasion of Ukraine.