



GRIEVANCES AND ARBITRATIONS<sup>i</sup>

**Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council Arbitrations**

MARBA did not receive any arbitration demands in the month of April.

**Laborers Joint Grievance Committee**

The Laborers JGC did not meet in April as the cases that were scheduled to be heard were settled. The next meeting will be held on May 26, 2026, at the Laborers District Council office in Burr Ridge beginning at 9:00 a.m. The Union will advise the Committee of the number of grievances to be heard, if any, at a later date.

**Operating Engineers Joint Grievance Committee**

The Operators JGC did not meet in April. The Union will advise the Committee of the number of grievances to be heard at the next session of the JGC which is scheduled to be held on July 1 or July 8 (depending on Committee members schedules), beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Operators offices in Countryside.

**Teamsters Joint Grievance Committee**

The Teamsters JGC did not meet in April. The next meeting date is scheduled for May 28, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. at the MARBA office should there be any grievances.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING/LABOR ISSUES

**Negotiation Updates**

MARBA publishes a weekly Negotiation Update newsletter during the months of April/May/June each year. The updates contain information concerning various trades negotiating in the Chicago area, as well as throughout the state and greater Midwest area. The newsletter is also posted to the MARBA website within 24-28 hours, after it has been sent to those that have signed up to receive it. To access the most recent newsletter you can click [here](#) then on the Negotiation Update tab. If there are any agreements that are expiring not listed in the newsletter, please contact Aaron Janik at [ajanik@marba.org](mailto:ajanik@marba.org).

**Labor Relations Intake Form**

MARBA has developed a Labor Relations Intake Form designed to be completed in just a few minutes. The purpose of this form is to collect feedback and observations related to field operations under the various MARBA collective bargaining agreements. Responses submitted through the form are transmitted directly to MARBA and will assist in identifying trends, improving contract administration, and supporting ongoing labor relations efforts. As always, if a matter would benefit from further discussion, please feel

free to contact Aaron Janik, Executive Director, at [ajanik@marba.org](mailto:ajanik@marba.org). The Intake Form can be found [here](#).

**Wage Allocations for June 1, 2026**

Wage allocations that are set to take effect on June 1, 2026, will be posted to the MARBA website as they are received from the Unions. The allocations are also distributed to the MARBA Associations and members of the various Craft Committees. You can check the MARBA website for more information concerning the 2026 allocations by clicking [here](#) and then on the Wage Packages tab.

**INDUSTRY NEWS**

**CISCO Seeking New Executive Director**

Dan Allen will be retiring from the Construction Industry Service Corporation (CISCO) later this year. Therefore, the CISCO Board of Directors is seeking applications from those who may be interested in leading the organization. Dan is continuing to serve as the Executive Director until his successor can be found. He has spent over a decade at CISCO after a long career in the construction trade. He is a member of Local 134 Electricians and then later worked for the City of Chicago where he finished as the Chief Electrical Inspector.

CISCO is a respected Labor-Management organization representing more than 140,000 Union workers and 8,000 signatory contractors across northern Illinois. It advocates on behalf of the union construction industry throughout the region, strengthening Union workforce development, promoting Apprenticeship programs, and advancing the Union construction industry. To be considered for the position interested applicants can review the job description [here](#) and fill out an application [here](#). The application period is closing May 15.

Best wishes to Dan in his upcoming retirement!

**STATE OF THE ECONOMY**

**Economic Indicators**

Unemployment Rate	March 4.3% (February 4.4%) Illinois 5.0% (42 <sup>nd</sup> -- Feb)
Labor Participation Rate	March 61.9%, February 62.0%, January 62.5%
CPI All Urban Consumers	March 2026 over March 2025 = 3.26%
CPI Chicago All Items	March 2026 over March 2025 = 2.25%, 2025 Annual = 3.08%
CPI Midwest All Items	March 2026 over March 2025 = 3.42%, 2025 Annual = 2.78%
Union Membership	2025 = 10.0% (Private Sector 5.9%) 2024 = 9.9%, 2023 = 10.0%
Unionized Construction Workers	12.0% (2025), 11.2% (2024), 11.4% (2023), 11.7% (2022)

30 Year Fixed Mortgage	As of 4-23-26 6.23%, down 0.58% over the prior year. Annual Average 6.52% (25), 6.90% (24), 6.61% (23), 5.34% (22)
15 Year Fixed Mortgage	As of 4-23-26 5.58%, down 0.36% over the prior year. Annual Average 5.72% (25), 5.93% (2023), 4.58% (2022)
Brent Crude Oil Price	\$113.94 per barrel (as of April 30, 2026) \$145.61 per barrel all time high July 2008 \$2.23 per barrel all time low May 1970
Privately Owned New Housing Building Permits	10.8% below revised February rate 7.4% below March 2025 rate
Privately Owned New Housing Starts	10.8% above revised February rate (+/-16.3%) 10.8% above March 2025 rate (+/-15.3%)
GDP	Q4 2025 (3 <sup>rd</sup> ) +0.5% Q4 2025 (2 <sup>nd</sup> ) +0.7% Q4 2025 (Adv) +1.4% Q3 2025 +4.4%
DJIA	49,652.14 as of April 30, 2026 (4:40 p.m.) 46,341.51 as of March 31, 2026 (4:00 p.m.) 48,977.92 as of February 27, 2026 (4:44 p.m.)

**JANIK’S J.D. – AN UPDATE ON LABOR/CONSTRUCTION/LEGAL ISSUES**  
**AARON JANIK- MARBA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**Labor Secretary Chavez-Dermer to Leave DOL**

Earlier this month, on April 20, 2026, the Department of Labor announced that Secretary Lori Chavez-DeRemer would be resigning her position to take a private sector role. Secretary Chavez-DeRemer previously served as Mayor of a small town in a suburb of Portland, Oregon before being elected to the House of Representatives representing Oregon’s 5<sup>th</sup> District. Her appointment and confirmation as Labor Secretary was supported by several Unions, including the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. It was thought of at the time that due to Ms. Chavez-DeRemer’s support of the PRO Act that she would be more “labor friendly” (although she disavowed her support for the Act during her confirmation hearing). Ms. Chavez-DeRemer’s tenure was not without controversy as there was an active investigation into allegations of misconduct within her office, including several of her family members.

Replacing Ms. Chavez-DeRemer as Labor Secretary on an acting basis is Deputy Secretary Keith Sonderling. Acting Secretary Sonderling is a veteran of Washington D.C., having served in a variety of agencies over the past decade. Still only 43 years old, Sonderling first started his public service career in the Wage and Hour Division in 2017 serving in the Division until 2020 at which point he was nominated to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission during President Trump’s first term. Sonderling left the EEOC after his term expired in 2024. In early 2025, President Trump nominated Sonderling to serve as Deputy Secretary of the Department of Labor. Prior to taking over as Acting Secretary, President Trump also appointed Sonderling as the Acting Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services and Acting

Under Secretary of Commerce for Minority Business Development.

Shortly after being named Acting Labor Secretary, Sonderling announced the Department would be proposing a new rule that addresses the joint employer standard. The rule, which can be found by clicking [here](#), is the latest in the back and forth of this hotly debated area of labor law. Those interested in commenting on the proposed rule have until June 22, 2026, at which point the comment period ends.

**UPCOMING SEMINARS AND EVENTS**

**MWCC GOLF OUTING**

JOIN THE MIDWEST WALL AND CEILING CONTRACTORS AS THEY HIT THE LINKS FOR THEIR ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

DATE: THURSDAY JULY 23, 2026  
 TIME: 7:30 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.  
 LOCATION: WHITE PINES GOLF CLUB  
 500 W JEFFERSON ST  
 BENSENVILLE, IL 60106  
 COST: FOURSOMES, INDIVIDUALS, DINNER ONLY; EARLY PRICING THROUGH 5-31  
 CONTACT: [ANDREA HARNEY](#)

**CALENDAR**

<b>MAY 5</b>	<b>1:00 P.M.</b>	<b>AGC TOWN HALL CONTRACTOR FORUM (ONLINE)</b>
<b>MAY 12</b>	<b>11:00 A.M.</b>	<b>MIAF BOARD MEETING (MARBA)</b>
<b>MAY 12</b>	<b>12:00 P.M.</b>	<b>MARBA BOARD MEETING (MARBA)</b>
<b>MAY 14</b>	<b>8:00 A.M.</b>	<b>BAC FUNDS MEETING (ELMHURST)</b>
<b>MAY 18</b>	<b>10:00 A.M.</b>	<b>IRTBA LABOR RELATIONS MEETING (ITASCA)</b>
<b>MAY 26</b>	<b>9:00 A.M.</b>	<b>LABORERS JGC (BURR RIDGE)</b>
<b>MAY 28</b>	<b>9:00 A.M.</b>	<b>TEAMSTERS JGC (MARBA)</b>

<sup>1</sup> Information for MARBA Matters was obtained from the following sources: BNA Construction Labor Reports, Crain’s Chicago Business, Northwest Times of Indiana, Chicago Tribune, and Sun-Times, CDQ, and the BLS, as well as various websites and other publications.

*Did You Know?*

The Kentucky Derby (scheduled for May 2) is the longest held sporting event in the United States with the first “Run for the Roses” talking place in 1875. Horses with the name beginning with the letter S have won 19 times, the most in Derby history. The winner is adorned with a rose “blanket” consisting of over 400 hand sewn roses.

