



GRIEVANCES AND ARBITRATIONSⁱ

Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council Arbitrations

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

Laborers Joint Grievance Committee

The Laborers JGC did not meet in September. The next meeting will be held on October 27, 2026, at the Laborers District Council office in Burr Ridge beginning at 9:00 a.m. The Union will notify the Committee in advance of any grievances scheduled for the meeting.

Operating Engineers Joint Grievance Committee

The Operating Engineers JGC met on September 17 at 11:00 a.m. at the union's offices in Countryside to hear three grievances. Each grievance alleged that an employer used non-bargaining-unit employees to operate equipment covered by the collective bargaining agreement. Two of the three grievances involved the same employer. Neither employer appeared at the hearing. Therefore, based on the JGC rules, the Union proceeded as the only party to the grievances. The JGC, after receiving evidence and hearing the testimony of the Union's representatives, issued awards in favor of the Union for all three grievances. The next JGC hearing is set for November 4 at 8:30 a.m. in Countryside. The Union will advise the JGC of the number of grievances to be heard later.

Teamsters Joint Grievance Committee

The Teamsters JGC did not meet in September. The next hearing date is scheduled for October 29 at 9:00 a.m. at the MARBA office should there be any grievances.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING/LABOR ISSUES

Labor Relations Intake Portal Form

MARBA has established a **Labor Relations Intake Portal** for contractors experiencing issues that arise under the MARBA Collective Bargaining Agreements. Contractors are encouraged to use the portal to report labor-related issues and challenges as they occur.

One of the major concerns that has been brought to the attention of MARBA recently is the difficulty obtaining workers through several trades' hiring halls in recent months. This issue is becoming increasingly important as public and private construction activity is expected to ramp up.

Examples of issues that should be reported include hiring hall requests that are not filled or are only partially filled; workers being dispatched who are not properly trained or qualified for the type of work

requested; apprentice-to-journeyman ratios that make it difficult to bring additional employees onto a project; difficulty getting current employees or qualified non-union employees signed up with the appropriate union when a dispatch request cannot be filled; and delays in obtaining qualified workers that affect project schedules or productivity.

If you are experiencing an issue, such as the ones listed above or others, please report it through the MARBA Labor Relations Intake Portal. The more information that is documented, the better positioned MARBA and its contractor associations will be to identify trends, address problems with the trades, and advocate for changes that can alleviate the problem(s).

Contractor submissions will help MARBA present a unified picture of workforce challenges to its trade partners. The portal can be accessed by clicking [here](#). If a matter requires further discussion please contact Aaron Janik, Executive Director, at ajanik@marba.org.

INDUSTRY NEWS

AGC to Host Collective Bargaining Seminar in Rosemont

The AGC of America's Collective Bargaining Seminar is fast approaching. The program, to be held in Rosemont on October 15-16 this year, is open to both AGC members and non-members and will cover the full spectrum of the collective bargaining process. Attendees will gain insight into topics such as bargaining communications, conflict management, mediation, impasse procedures, and other key aspects of labor negotiations. Contractors who participate in collective bargaining, as well as members of bargaining committees, should strongly consider attending this program. The program is hosted by the AGC of America. Questions regarding the seminar can be directed to Mike Hampson, Executive Secretary of the Chicagoland Associated General Contractors (CAGC). To contact Mike via email, click [here](#).

STATE OF THE ECONOMY

Economic Indicators

Unemployment Rate	August 4.1%, Illinois 4.7% (40 th)
Labor Participation Rate	August 61.6%, July 61.4%, June 61.5%
CPI All Urban Consumers	August 2026 over August 2025 = 3.39%, Half 2026 = 3.28%
CPI Chicago All Items	August 2026 over August 2025 = 2.39%, Half 2026 = 2.49%
CPI Midwest All Items	August 2026 over August 2025 = 3.62%, Half 2026 = 3.61%
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 9-30-26 7.28%, down 0.94% over the prior year. Annual Average 6.52% (25), 6.90% (24), 6.61% (23), 5.34% (22)

15 Year Fixed Mortgage	As of 9-30-26 6.60%, up 1.05% over the prior year. Annual Average 5.72% (25), 5.96% (24) 5.93% (23), 4.58% (22)
Brent Crude Oil Price	\$103.53 per barrel (as of September 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	2.7% below revised July rate 3.5% above August 2025 rate
Privately Owned New Housing Starts	2.6% below revised July rate (+/-12.0%) 1.2% below August 2025 rate (+/-10.8%)
GDP	Q2 2026 (3 rd) 2.2% Q1 2026 +2.5%
DJIA	50,906.05 as of September 30, 2026 (4:00 p.m.) 53,220.94 as of August 31, 2026 (4:00 p.m.) 52,485.03 as of July 31, 2026 (4:00 p.m.)

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

Illinois Jury Act and Jury Commission Act Changes Coming January 1, 2027

Illinois employers are currently required to provide leave to those employees that are summoned for jury duty. Employers also are prohibited from discharging an employee because they are called to serve on a jury. Through the end of 2026, the Illinois Jury Act and Jury Commission Act does not require employers to compensate their employees for jury duty service.

However, beginning January 1, 2027, employers employing more than 25 employees will be required to pay eligible employees at their regular rate of pay for time serving on jury duty. Employees are required to give notice to their employers by providing them with a copy of the summons within 10 days of the date of issuance. All other protections afforded to employees under the Act remain intact.

Employers should take the time between now and January 1, 2027, to review their handbooks to ensure the new amendments are addressed. Additionally, employers should review collective bargaining agreements for fringe benefit obligations associated with employee's wage payments. There is no collective bargaining exemption for this Act. The new pay requirement applies to covered employers with both unionized and nonunionized employees; employers with 25 or fewer employees remain subject to existing jury-service leave and employment protections

The bill synopsis and history can be found by clicking [here](#).

UPCOMING SEMINARS AND EVENTS

MWCC ANNUAL TURKEY NIGHT

JOIN THE MWCC FOR ITS ANNUAL TURKEY NIGHT AND SUPPLIER SHOWCASE

DATE: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19
 TIME: 4:30 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.
 LOCATION: SKY ON NINE
 6600 MANHEIM ROAD
 ROSEMONT, IL 60018
 COST: SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE
 CONTACT: [ANDREA HARNEY](#)

CALENDAR

OCTOBER 2	8:00 A.M.	FEDERAL RESERVE ADVISORY COUNCIL (CHICAGO)
OCTOBER 3	6:00 P.M.	MACRC APPRENTICESHIP GRADUATION DINNER (CHICAGO)
OCTOBER 14	6:00 P.M.	IIIFC LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION (COUNTRYSIDE)
OCTOBER 15	3:00 P.M.	AGC COLLECTIVE BARGAINING SEMINAR (ROSEMONT)
OCTOBER 16	7:30 A.M.	AGC COLLECTIVE BARGAINING SEMINAR (ROSEMONT)
OCTOBER 23	12:00 P.M.	OPERATING ENGINEERS CRAFT COMMITTEE (MARBA)
OCTOBER 27	9:00 A.M.	LABORERS JGC (BURR RIDGE – IF NECESSARY)
OCTOBER 29	9:00 A.M.	TEAMSTERS JGC (MARBA – IF NECESSARY)

¹ 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?

October 8 marks the 155th anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire. That same evening in 1871, the Peshtigo Fire swept through northeastern Wisconsin. It remains the deadliest fire in American history, with an estimated 1,200 to 2,400 deaths.

