



## GRIEVANCES AND ARBITRATIONS<sup>i</sup>

### **Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council Arbitrations**

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

### **Laborers Joint Grievance Committee**

The Laborers JGC did not meet in May. The next meeting will be held on June 30, 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 May, and it is not scheduled to meet in June. The next meeting is scheduled for July 8 beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Operators offices in Countryside. At this time, there is currently one grievance on the hearing schedule.

### **Teamsters Joint Grievance Committee**

The Teamsters JGC did not meet in May. The next meeting date is scheduled for June 25, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. at the MARBA office should there be any grievances.

## COLLECTIVE BARGAINING/LABOR ISSUES

### **Updates, Allocations, and Look Ahead**

The weekly negotiation update emails are quickly coming to an end. Many, if not all, of the agreements expiring this year are wrapped up or are pending ratification votes by the respective parties. There will be a final update email sent out after all the ratification votes have taken place with updated economic figures. That final update should come out in mid-June. If there are any issues in the interim that require an update a supplementary update email will be sent out.

With many of the agreements having already been finalized, June 1, 2026, allocations have already been distributed to MARBA Associations and posted to the MARBA website under the Resource Tab. If you have any questions about those allocations, you can contact the MARBA office or email Aaron Janik, Executive Director, at [ajanik@marba.org](mailto:ajanik@marba.org).

Looking ahead, MARBA has the following agreements due to expire in 2027: Operating Engineers Local 150 (HHU and Building) and Teamsters Council Joint 25. The Bricklayers agreement was due to expire May 31, 2027, however, the MCAGC/MARBA and the ADC 1 agreed to extend the agreement an additional four (4) years with specific allocations for the Health & Welfare Fund. The MARBA Board of Directors still

needs to ratify the extension, and contractors will need to consent to the extension. More information concerning this agreement will be sent to the contractors' signatory to that agreement. A current list of both MARBA and non-MARBA agreements expiring in 2027 through 2029 is posted on the MARBA website. That can also be found under the Resource Tab and clicking on the Contract Expirations button or to go to the page directly, click [here](#).

**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](#).

**INDUSTRY NEWS**

**AGC to Host Collective Bargaining Seminar in Rosemont**

The AGC of America will host a Collective Bargaining Seminar in Rosemont later this year. The program 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.

Although the program is being hosted by the AGC of America, any questions regarding the seminar or registration should 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	April 4.3% (March 4.3% Illinois 5.1% (45 <sup>th</sup> -- April)
Labor Participation Rate	April 61.8%, March 61.9%, February 62.0%, January 62.5%
CPI All Urban Consumers	April 2026 over April 2025 = 3.81%
CPI Chicago All Items	April 2026 over April 2025 = 3.13%, 2025 Annual = 3.08%
CPI Midwest All Items	April 2026 over April 2025 = 4.11%, 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 5-28-26 6.53%, down 0.36% over the prior year. Annual Average 6.52% (25), 6.90% (24), 6.61% (23), 5.34% (22)
15 Year Fixed Mortgage	As of 5-28-26 5.87%, down 0.16% over the prior year. Annual Average 5.72% (25), 5.93% (2023), 4.58% (2022)
Brent Crude Oil Price	\$91.52 per barrel (as of May 29, 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	5.8% above revised March rate 0.2% below April 2025 rate
Privately Owned New Housing Starts	2.8% below revised March rate (+/-11.0%) 4.6% above April 2025 rate (+/-13.9%)
GDP	Q1 2026 (2 <sup>nd</sup> ) +1.6% Q4 2025 (3 <sup>rd</sup> ) +0.5%
DJIA	51,005.91 as of May 29, 2026 (4:00 p.m.) 49,652.14 as of April 30, 2026 (4:40 p.m.) 46,341.51 as of March 31, 2026 (4:00 p.m.)

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

**Supreme Court Rules on Withdrawal Liability Calculation Case**

In late 2025, the Supreme Court agreed to hear a case involving an employer that withdrew from the IAM National Pension Plan, a multiemployer pension plan. The employer began its withdrawal in 2017 but did not complete the withdrawal until 2018. In determining the plan's unfunded vested benefits (UVBs), the plan applied the Fund actuary's revised interest rate assumption of 6.5%, which was adopted by the Fund's Trustees at a meeting in January 2018.

As a result of adopting the 6.5% interest rate assumption, the plan's underfunding for the 2017 plan year was calculated at more than \$3 billion. That amount was approximately six times greater than it would have been had the actuary used the 7.5% interest rate assumption that was in effect at the end of the 2017 plan year, when the employer began its withdrawal. The use of the 6.5% assumption increased the employer's withdrawal liability assessment by approximately \$4.3 million.

The employer, along with three other employers in similar circumstances, challenged the assessment, arguing that the actuary used the wrong interest rate assumption when calculating the plan's UVBs. The Fund countered that ERISA requires only that actuarial assumptions be "reasonable" and represent the actuary's "best estimate of anticipated experience under the plan."

The four employers arbitrated their withdrawal liability assessments and prevailed, with the arbitrators

concluding that the Fund could not rely on assumptions adopted after the December 31, 2017, measurement date. The Fund appealed, and the United States District Court for the District of Columbia sided with the Fund, remanding the matter to the arbitrators for reconsideration. The employers then appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, which affirmed the District Court's decision. Because that ruling conflicted with a decision of the Second Circuit, the Supreme Court agreed to hear the case.

On May 21, 2026, the Supreme Court issued a unanimous 9-0 decision in favor of the Fund. Writing for the Court, Justice Jackson held that ERISA does not prescribe when actuaries must select or apply the assumptions used to calculate withdrawal liability. The Court further held that ERISA does not require pension plans to base withdrawal liability calculations solely on assumptions adopted before the measurement date. The Court reasoned that relevant information may not become available until after the measurement date and that prohibiting consideration of such information could prevent actuaries from making their "best estimate" as required by the statute.

The decision has important timing implications for employers considering withdrawal from multiemployer pension plans. It should be noted, however, that the plan involved in this case did not qualify for the construction industry exemption. To read the decision, click [here](#).

**UPCOMING SEMINARS AND EVENTS**

**CAGC GOLF OUTING**

THE CAGC IS HOSTING ITS ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION GOLF OUTING. JOIN CAGA AND ITS GUESTS AS THEY HIT THE LINKS!

DATE: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24  
 TIME: 10:00 A.M. SHOTGUN START, RECEPTION TO FOLLOW AT APPROX. 3:30 P.M.  
 LOCATION: ST. ANDREWS GOLF COURSE  
 2241 ROUTE 59  
 WEST CHICAGO, IL 60185  
 COST: FOURSOMES, INDIVIDUALS, SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE  
 CONTACT: [STACEY KELLY](#) OR REGISTER [HERE](#)

**CALENDAR**

<b>JUNE 4</b>	<b>12:00 P.M.</b>	<b>FED ECONOMIC UPDATE (ONLINE)</b>
<b>JUNE 10</b>	<b>7:00 A.M.</b>	<b>WILL COUNTY CED EYE OPENER BREAKFAST (MOKENA)</b>
<b>JUNE 12</b>	<b>9:30 A.M.</b>	<b>CEMENT MASONS LMCC MARKETING CALL (ONLINE)</b>
<b>JUNE 12</b>	<b>10:30 A.M.</b>	<b>MARBA ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVES MEETING (ONLINE)</b>
<b>JUNE 18</b>	<b>7:30 A.M.</b>	<b>MWCC BOARD MEETING (ONLINE)</b>
<b>JUNE 25</b>	<b>9:00 A.M.</b>	<b>TEAMSTERS JGC (MARBA)</b>
<b>JUNE 30</b>	<b>9:00 A.M.</b>	<b>LABORERS JGC (BURR RIDGE)</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?*

On June 30, 1908, an asteroid exploded over Siberia and flattened an estimated 80 million trees. The explosion was not discovered until 1927 due to the remote area. As a result, June 30 is known as International Asteroid Day.