



GRIEVANCES AND ARBITRATIONSⁱ

Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council Arbitrations

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

Laborers Joint Grievance Committee

The Laborers JGC did not meet in August. The next meeting will be held on September 29, 2026, at the Laborers District Council office in Burr Ridge beginning at 9:00 a.m. The Union will notify the Committee of any grievances that need to be heard at a later date.

Operating Engineers Joint Grievance Committee

The Operators JGC did not meet in August. The next meeting is scheduled for September 17 beginning at 11:00 a.m. at the Operators offices in Countryside. There are currently three (3) grievances on the hearing schedule.

Teamsters Joint Grievance Committee

The Teamsters JGC did not meet in August. The next hearing date is scheduled for September 24 at 9:00 a.m. at the MARBA office should there be any grievances.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING/LABOR ISSUES

2027-2029 Expiring Contracts Posted on MARBA Website

A list of contracts due to expire over the next several years is posted on the MARBA website. You can access that document by clicking [here](#). If you are aware of any contracts that are set to expire in 2027-2029 that are not listed on the linked page, please contact Aaron Janik, Executive Director, at ajanik@marba.org.

Additionally, the most current versions of the MARBA collective bargaining agreements can always be found on the MARBA website under the Agreements tab. This includes any Tentative Agreements reached by MARBA and its Trade partners during negotiations, as well as any MOUs/MOAs agreed to during the term of existing agreements.

Labor Relations Intake 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 ability to obtain employees from various trades over the past several 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).

By using the portal, MARBA can present a single unified voice to its trade partners collectively, rather than focusing on any one contractor. 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 being hosted by the AGC of America, however any 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	July 4.1%, June 4.2%, May 4.3%, Illinois 5.1% (45 th)
Labor Participation Rate	July 61.4%, June 61.5%, May 61.8%, April 61.8%
CPI All Urban Consumers	July 2026 over July 2025 = 3.36%, Half 2026 = 3.28%
CPI Chicago All Items	July 2026 over July 2025 = 2.51%, Half 2026 = 2.49%
CPI Midwest All Items	July 2026 over July 2025 = 3.49%, 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 8-27-26 6.66%, down 0.10% over the prior year. Annual Average 6.52% (25), 6.90% (24), 6.61% (23), 5.34% (22)
15 Year Fixed Mortgage	As of 8-27-26 5.98%, up 0.29% over the prior year. Annual Average 5.72% (25), 5.93% (2023), 4.58% (2022)
Brent Crude Oil Price	\$92.27 per barrel (as of August 31, 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	3.1% above revised June rate 2.5% above July 2025 rate
Privately Owned New Housing Starts	12.4% above revised June rate (+/-9.5%) 13.5% above July 2025 rate (+/-11.0%)
GDP	Q2 2026 (2 nd) +1.5% Q2 2026 (Adv) +1.5% Q1 2026 +2.1%
DJIA	53,220.94 as of August 31, 2026 (4:00 p.m.) 52,485.03 as of July 31, 2026 (4:00 p.m.) 52,317.01 as of June 30, 2026 (2:30 p.m.)

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

Governor Pritzker Signs IHRA Amendment Into Law

On August 7, 2026, Governor Pritzker signed into law the Illinois Menopause Equity Care Act (the Act) which amends the Illinois Human Rights Act. The Act contains two key effective dates, the first is January 1, 2027, and the second January 1, 2028. The portion of the Act set to effect January 1, 2027, expands workplace and anti-discrimination protections to include menopause related conditions as a protected category. Menopause related conditions can include vasomotor symptoms (hot flashes), sleep disruptions, cognitive changes, mood changes, and osteoporosis-related changes. An individual may request an employer provide them with reasonable accommodations – flexible scheduling, climate adjusted workspaces, etc. – so long as the accommodations do not cause an undue hardship for the employer. Beginning on January 1, 2028, individual and group health insurance plans will be required to provide coverage for medically necessary evaluations for perimenopause and menopause and subsequent treatments using evidence-based guidelines. Illinois joins an increasing nationwide trend toward identifying menopause-related conditions as matters of workplace accommodation, anti-discrimination protection, and healthcare access. It becomes the 4th state to have an active law covering menopause related issues on the books joining New York, New Jersey, and Louisiana. Maine, Rhode Island, Oregon, and Washington have all passed menopause related legislation, but they have yet to take effect. 15 states

have legislation that has been introduced to cover this topic. Employers should be aware of these upcoming changes and review current policies and practices to ensure compliance with these new regulations.

UPCOMING SEMINARS AND EVENTS

UCA ANNUAL MEETING

THE UCA'S ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING WILL BE AN OKTOBERFEST EVENT

DATE: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24
TIME: 5:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.
LOCATION: CATIGNY PARK
1 S, 151 WINFIELD RD.
WHEATON, IL 60189
COST: SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE
CONTACT: EMAIL SUE@UCA.ORG OR CALL 630-467-1919 FOR MORE INFORMATION

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 3 12:00 P.M.	FED ECONOMIC CONDITIONS UPDATE (ONLINE)
SEPTEMBER 8 11:00 A.M.	MIAF MEETING (MARBA)
SEPTEMBER 8 12:00 P.M.	MARBA BOARD MEETING (MARBA)
SEPTEMBER 10 8:00 A.M.	TEAMSTERS CRAFT COMMITTEE MEETING (MARBA)
SEPTEMBER 14 8:00 A.M.	CISCO GOLF OUTING (BLOOMINGDALE)
SEPTEMBER 17 7:30 A.M.	MWCC BOARD MEETING (MARBA)
SEPTEMBER 17 11:00 A.M.	OPERATING ENGINEERS JGC (COUNTRYSIDE)
SEPTEMBER 24 9:00 A.M.	TEAMSTERS JGC (MARBA – IF NECESSARY)
SEPTEMBER 29 9:00 A.M.	LABORERS JGC (BURR RIDGE)

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?

September 19 is celebrated internationally as "Talk Like a Pirate Day".

The MARBA Office will be closed on Monday, September 7 in observance of the Labor Day Holiday.



The NFL will kick off on Wednesday, September 9, 2026, with the Rams taking on the 49ers in the NFL's first game in Melbourne, Australia