



The Building Futures Council
2300 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 400 • Arlington, VA 22201

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CONTACT: Tim Chirdon

(703) 837-5414

bfc@agc.org

Building Futures Council Urges Bureau of Labor Statistics to Establish Construction Productivity Measures

Washington, D.C.— The Building Futures Council (BFC) today called on the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) to establish standard productivity measurements in the domestic construction industry. BFC released a white paper that documents the inadequacy of current productivity measures for the construction industry and encourages BLS to continue its efforts to improve measurement.

The value of construction put in place equals nearly nine percent of the US gross domestic product (GDP), yet there are no standard procedures for measuring productivity in the construction industry. There are difficulties in measuring output, inputs, and prices, although BLS will begin publishing its first index for finished structures—warehouses—this summer.

“It is essential to establish uniform measurements of inputs and outputs,” said Derish Wolff, Vice Chairman of the BFC. “Without proper measurement and reporting of productivity, the US construction industry will continue to be wrongly perceived by some as resistant to innovation and change. If suitable measurements for construction productivity can be identified, then industry productivity and the impact of improved technologies can be better evaluated and understood. This will enhance the industry’s efficiency while contributing to the US economy, and performance against other major sectors will be more accurately measured.”

In spite of the difficulties of establishing suitable measurements, the BFC believes the BLS should develop, publish and monitor adequate measures that the industry could use to better evaluate, improve, and, most importantly, identify the invaluable contributions the industry brings to the US economy.

For the full white paper, please visit www.thebfc.com.

The Building Futures Council (BFC) is a national, non-profit, private organization composed of building and construction industry decision makers concerned with challenges and rewards of the built environment. The mission of the BFC is to act collectively as a think tank to identify critical issues encountered in the building and construction process, analyzing, discussing and advocating guidelines and criteria for improving efficiency in the process and furthering the overall well-being of our nation.

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