

# **Construction & Materials Outlook**

September 4, 2009
Ken Simonson, Chief Economist
AGC of America
simonsonk@agc.org



# **Current economic influences**

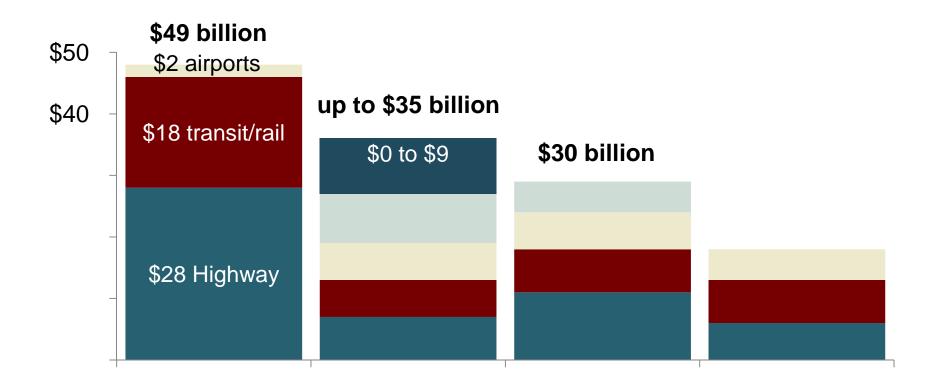


# **Economic stimulus package**

Total: \$787 billion in spending increases, tax cuts



# Construction-related stimulus funding (~\$135 bil.)





# Stimulus tax provisions affecting construction

- 1-year delay (to 2012) in 3% withholding on gov.
- Increased expensing
- Net operating loss: 5-year carryback of 2008 NOL for small business (<\$15 mil. in gross receipts)</li>
- Qualified school construction bonds
- "Build America" bonds
- Bonds for "recovery zones," tribal areas, renewable energy, energy conservation
- Modified renewable energy, conservation credits



# Stimulus timing, strings

#### Timing

- 70% of highway money obligated
- Other agencies: many announcements, few awards

#### Conditions

- Davis-Bacon
- Buy American
- Reporting requirements: jobs, executives' pay
- No E-Verify requirement or broad-based FAR
- No project labor agreement mandate, but...



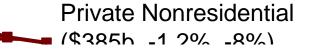
#### Economic impact of nonresidential construction

- Jobs: 28,500 per \$1 billion
  - 1/3 direct, onsite construction
  - 1/6 indirect, supplying industries
  - 1/2 induced by direct, indirect spending
- **GDP:** \$3.4 billion
- Personal Earnings: \$1.1 billion



# truction spending by segrent, 1- & 12-month change seasonally adjusted annual rate (SAAR)

billion, 1-month change: -0.2%, 12-month change: -10%





#### Nonres totals (billion \$, SAAR), share, 1- & 12-month change

	7/09 Total	Share	vs. 6/09	vs. 7/08
Nonresidential	\$704 billion	100%	- 1%	- 3%
Educational	108	15	- 1	+ 2
Power	91	13	- 2	+ 10
Manufacturing	85	12	+ 1	+ 47
Highway and street	84	12	- 1	+ 3
Office	59	8	- 1	- 18
Commercial	58	8	- 2	- 32
Health care 8				



## Construction spending: industrial, heavy (billion \$, SAAR)







Producer price index (PPI) for construction vs. consumer price index, 2003-09

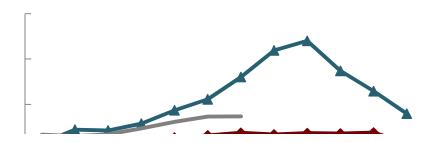


# **Producer price indexes, 1/07-7/09**





## Asphalt price indicators, 2007 - 2009







# Outlook for materials in '09 compared to '08

- Lower average prices: diesel, copper, steel, aluminum
- Possible increases: concrete, gypsum
- Uncertain: asphalt, lumber
- Year-over-year PPI change: -4% to 0%
- A limited-time sale...

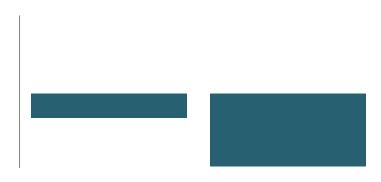


# Outlook for materials (beyond '09)

- Industry depends on specific materials that:
  - are in demand worldwide
  - have erratic supply growth
  - are heavy, bulky or hard to transport
- Construction requires physical delivery
- Thus, industry is subject to price spurts, transport bottlenecks, fuel price swings
- Expect 6 to 8% PPI increases, higher spikes



#### Construction employment falls, but wages rise







# **Summary for 2009**

Nonres spending: -3 to -7% (up: power, mfg., BRAC,



# **Summary for 2010**

- Nonres spending: 0 to -5% (more stimulus put in place, maybe gains in retail, higher ed, hospitals)
- Res: +5 to +10% (SF up, MF down all year)



# AGC economic resources (sign up by email to simonsonk@agc.org)

- The Data DIGest: weekly one-page email
- PPI tables: emailed monthly
- State and metro data
- Stimulus information: www.agc.org/stimulus
- Webinars (next construction outlook: 10/22)
- Feedback on stimulus jobs, credit market