

Construction Firms: Steady Work Amid Unprecedented Year

Rising Costs Could Hinder Some Projects

By KATIE MURAR

A backlog of construction projects helped to buoy Orange County construction firms over the past year, though headwinds caused by the pandemic could still play out in future years.

The 27 biggest firms with work here posted \$9.4 billion in local revenue last year, flat from a year ago and up 7.4% from two years ago, based on this week's Business Journal list.

Nine firms on the list saw year-over-year increases in work, 12 saw declines, and six entries are Business Journal estimates.

The industry is faced with sky-high construction costs as commodity prices rise, while labor shortages continue to impact the sector, potentially causing delays down the line.

Still, the pandemic did not bring about the lull that some local firms feared.

"The work we did in 2020 was business that was already on the books before the pandemic, so although we did see a pause at the onset of the pandemic, it didn't have a significant impact on our business," said Michael Myers, Southern California regional president of McCarthy Building Cos.

"It's the projects we are chasing now that are being impacted by rising costs."

FivePoint School

McCarthy once again led local companies in 2020, with annual revenue from OC operations jumping 19% to nearly \$1.2 billion.

Expansion of Edwards Lifesciences HQ was state's 12th-largest new project to start last year, according to trade publication ENR California



C.W. Driver Cos., which counts civic and education projects among its top-generating sectors, saw a similar jump in revenue last year, boosting the company to No. 11.

Work handled from the Pasadena-based firm's Irvine office jumped 19% to nearly \$247 million, with recent local projects including work for Chapman University and Orange Coast College.

The company recently broke ground on Solis Park School, a K-8 school at Great Park Neighborhoods within the Irvine Unified School District.

The school will serve about 1,000 students in new communities at the FivePoint Holdings LLC (NYSE: FPH) development.

"Education continues to be our strongest sector," said President Karl Kreutziger. "We think the opportunities of last year will carry over into 2021 and 2022."

The largest local project that started last year

were the first two phases of expansion at the James A. Musick Facility Jail, with construction led by the Irvine office of Bernards.

The \$261 million project is the fifth-largest construction start in the state last year, according to data from construction trade publication ENR California.

ENR also puts the latest phase of Edwards Lifesciences Corp.'s campus expansion in Irvine at around \$141 million.

Pandemic Pivot

When stay-at-home orders hit the region a year ago, construction firms were deemed essential, albeit with a few concessions.

Companies had to quickly adapt to keep operating, such as having fewer workers on-site in order to adhere to social distancing protocols.

Firms also looked to diversify their portfolios as the pandemic hit some sectors harder than others.

Such was the case for R.D. Olson Construction, the Irvine-based affiliate of Bob Olson's R.D. Olson Development in Newport Beach that specializes in hospitality projects.

"We luckily had the foresight to pivot into other industries, such as the housing sector, which helped carry us through the pandemic," said President Bill Wilhelm, whose firm is No. 18 on this year's list, down five spots from last year.

The company has several multifamily projects on the books with north of 500 units currently under construction, including Prado Family Homes, a 50-unit, five-building community in Fountain Valley.

C.W. Driver has also noticed strong demand for multifamily construction in Orange County.

"We almost can't keep up with it," Kreutziger said. "We have a drastic shortage of residential units here and I don't see demand letting up any time soon."

The company has 18 residential projects in the works.

Hospitality business appears to be picking up as California prepares to fully reopen and consumer confidence returns, according to Wilhelm, whose firm recently began a redevelopment project for the 498-room Sheraton Park Hotel near Anaheim's convention center.

"We've been fielding calls from existing customers in the past month who had pressed the pause button on projects last year, and are ready to pick back up," said Wilhelm, noting that the market will first see a return for renovation and adaptive reuse projects followed by ground-up developments. ■

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Commercial Construction Cos.
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THE LIST COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION COS.



DAMIAN BUESSING
VP and District Manager
Hensel Phelps



CARLOS GONZALES
Division President, Western Region
Clark Group



KEN LONG
President
Largo Concrete Inc.



JIM MADRID
Executive VP
McCarthy Building Cos.



CHERYL OSBORN
Founder and President
Casco Contractors



PETE RUIZ
Division Manager, Building
Swinerton

THE LIST COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES

▶ NEXT WEEK'S LIST *Private Companies*

RANKED BY REVENUE

Rank	Company	12-month revenue from OC operations (millions)	Value of contracts awarded to OC office(s) for 12 month period (millions)	OC employees	Number of 2020 OC projects	Number of 2019 OC projects	% breakdown of business		Partial list of notable projects	Top local official(s)
Prev. Rank	•Address	•yearly % change	•ending date	•yearly % change	OC	OC	•Government	•Retail		•Title
							•Office	•Other		•Phone/fax
							•Industrial			
1 (1)	McCarthy Building Cos. 20401 SW Birch St. Newport Beach 92660-1795 Headquarters: St. Louis Website: mccarthy.com Email: nb@mccarthy.com	\$1,189.5 19% 12/20	\$1,560 -3% 12/20	563 64%	13	5	20% 20% 0%	0% 60%	Saddleback College ATAS, Santa Ana College STEM, RSCCD Johnson Student Center, Soka University Residential Hall and STEM Building	Jim Madrid executive VP (949) 851-8383/(949) 851-8398
2 (3)	Hensel Phelps 18850 Von Karman Ave., Ste. 100 Irvine 92612-1598 Headquarters: Greeley, Colo. Website: henselphelps.com Email: amillar@henselphelps.com	\$1,119.9 25% 12/20	\$1,861 137% 12/20	820 29%	31	28	30% 0% 0%	0% 70%	UCI Middle Earth Student Housing, United Airlines LAX terminal renovation, Caltech CNRB, Delta Skyway at LAX, UCI Verano 8 Student Housing, UCI Irvine Campus Medical Center	Damian Buessing VP/district manager (949) 852-0111/(949) 852-0218
3 (4)	Swinerton 200 N. Main St. Santa Ana 92701-4800 Headquarters: Concord Website: swinerton.com Email: rcarpe@swinerton.com	\$1,005.7 18% 12/20	\$437.2 -61% 12/20	1,396 -3%	170	147	10% 10% 0%	0% 80%	County of Orange Civic Center - County Administration North, Hotel Lulu Anaheim, Downey Sussman Middle School, confidential automotive R&D, JWA	Pete Ruiz/Lia Tatevosian/Brian McCarthy division manager, building/division manager, special projects/division manager, target markets (949) 622-7000/(877) 349-1894
4 (2)	Clark Group 18201 Von Karman Ave., Ste. 800 Irvine 92612-1092 Headquarters: Bethesda, Md. Website: clarkconstruction.com Email: corporatecommunications@clarkconstruction.com	\$832.7 -14% 12/20	\$1,191 12% 12/20	417 5%	39	31	55% 10% 0%	0% 35%	Disneyland, OCMA	Carlos Gonzalez division president, Western Region (714) 429-9779/(714) 429-9778
5 (5)	Turner Construction Co. 1900 S. State College Blvd., Ste. 150 Anaheim 92806-6136 Headquarters: New York Website: turnerconstruction.com Email: jcbertain@tcco.com	\$687.5 -18% 12/20	\$200 167% 12/20	280 -3%	8	8	0% 8% 4%	0% 88%	would not disclose	Reed G. McMains VP/general manager (714) 940-9000/(714) 712-7400

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6 (7)	Largo Concrete Inc. 2741 Walnut Ave., first floor Tustin 92780-7037 Headquarters: Tustin Website: largoconcrete.com Email: cforster@largoconcrete.com	\$622.2 20% 9/20	\$580 7% 9/20	250 0%	60	60	2% 0% 18%	10% 70%	Westin, Innovation Park	Ken Long president (714) 731-3600/(714) 731-4800
7 (6)	KPRS Construction Services Inc. 2850 Saturn St. Brea 92821-6201 Headquarters: Brea Website: kprsinc.com Email: joels@kprsinc.com	\$608 2% 12/20	\$680 4% 12/20	280 8%	150	155	3% 31% 35%	3% 28%	Irvine Co., FivePoint Holdings Inc., CT Realty, Zillow, Alteryx Inc.	Joel Stensby founder/president (714) 672-0800/(714) 672-0871
8 (8)	DPR Construction 4665 MacArthur Court, Ste. 100 Newport Beach 92660-1825 Headquarters: Redwood City Website: dpr.com Email: brittanys@dpr.com	\$473 -1% 12/20	\$686 -47% 12/20	507 0%	115	99	0% 58% 0%	0% 42%	Edwards Lifesciences, Harbor Day School	Michael Konetzke business unit leader (949) 955-3771/(949) 253-0015
9 (10)	Millie and Severson Inc. 3601 Serpentine Drive Los Alamitos 90720-0399 Headquarters: Los Alamitos Website: mandsinc.com Email: info@mandsinc.com	\$454.2 12% 10/20	\$232.1 -10% 10/20	96 -7%	0	0	0% 25% 50%	0% 25%	Ganahl Lumber	Jonathan E. Severson president (562) 493-3611/(562) 598-6871
10 (9)	Snyder Langston 17962 Cowan Irvine 92614-6026 Headquarters: Irvine Website: snyderlangston.com Email: info@snyderlangston.com	\$450 ⁽¹⁾ NA 12/20	\$672.3 ⁽¹⁾ NA 12/20	75 ⁽¹⁾ NA	38 ⁽¹⁾	38 ⁽¹⁾	wnd	wnd	Christ Cathedral, Concordia University, Discovery Business Center, Mission Viejo medical office building, Irvine Spectrum, The Boardwalk, OC Animal Care	John Rochford/Jason Rich chairman, CEO/president, COO (949) 863-9200/(949) 863-1087
11 (14)	C.W. Driver Companies 2 Technology Drive, Ste. 100 Irvine 92618-5343 Headquarters: Pasadena Website: cwdriver.com Email: kkreutziger@cwdriver.com	\$246.6 19% 12/20	\$309.7 19% 12/20	121 -1%	39	36	3% 45% 0%	0% 52%	SchoolsFirst Credit Union RH2 headquarters; Orange Orange Coast College literature and social sciences buildings; Town and Country Manor assisted living/memory care facility; Coastline College Student Services Center; Solis Park School	Karl Kreutziger president (949) 261-5100/(949) 261-5167

Abbreviations: NA: not applicable; wnd: would not disclose

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top official listed.

⁽¹⁾ Business Journal estimate

Researched by Meghan Kiewer

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THE LIST COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES

▶ NEXT WEEK'S LIST *Private Companies*

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12 (12)	Bomel Construction Co. 96 Corporate Park Irvine 92606-5136 Headquarters: Irvine Website: bomelconstruction.com Email: dmcginnis@bomelconstruction.com	\$238 ⁽¹⁾ NA 12/20	\$214 ⁽¹⁾ NA 12/20	112 ⁽¹⁾ NA	11 ⁽¹⁾	11	wnd	wnd	OCTA Orange Metrolink parking structure, Westin Anaheim Resort parking structure, Irvine Spectrum Target parking structure, Mater Dei High School parking structure, CSU Fullerton Eastside parking structure	Kent Matranga president (714) 921-1660/(714) 921-1943
13 (15)	Balfour Beatty U.S. 1501 Quail St., Ste. 130 Newport Beach 92660-2740 Headquarters: Dallas Website: balfourbeattyus.com Email: relentlessallies@balfourbeattyus.com	\$219.3 12% 12/20	\$228.6 91% 12/20	124 -1%	17	100	0% 0% 0%	100%	Anaheim USD Roosevelt Elementary School, Santa Ana College – Russell Hall Replacement	John Bernardy senior VP (949) 502-4000/(949) 502-4001
14 (17)	Howard Building Corp. 3184 Airway Ave., Ste. K Costa Mesa 92626-4619 Headquarters: Los Angeles Website: howardbuilding.com Email: info@howardbuilding.com	\$203.7 -39% 12/20	\$203.7 -39%	48 -8%	67	88	90% 0% 0%	10% 0%	would not disclose	Bryan Howard executive VP (714) 438-2272/(714) 444-3446
15 (11)	Moorefield Construction Inc. 600 N. Tustin Ave., Ste. 210 Santa Ana 92705-3781 Headquarters: Santa Ana Website: moorefieldconstruction.com Email: info@moorefieldconstruction.com	\$199.5 -30% 9/20	\$140 -26%	73 -3%	4	4	0% 10% 0%	90% 0%	Puesto Restaurant Anaheim, Puesto Restaurant Huntington Beach	Mike Moorefield president (714) 972-0700/(714) 972-3030
16 (16)	Sundt Construction Inc. 41 Corporate Park, Ste. 310 Irvine 92606-3135 Headquarters: Tempe, Ariz. Website: sundt.com	\$91.4 -40% 9/20	\$7.1 -92%	24 0%	6	10	0% 0% 0%	100%	Cal Poly Pomona Student Housing, CSU San Bernardino College of Extended Learning, UC Santa Barbara Henley Hall, Cypress College Science, Engineering and Math and Veterans Resource Center, Golden West College Math and Science Building	Ryan Nessen senior VP, building, California (949) 468-5309
17 (20)	Consolidated Contracting Services Inc. 181 Avenida La Pata, Ste. 200 San Clemente 92673-6354 Headquarters: San Clemente Website: consolidatedcontracting.com Email: cdonovan@consolidatedcontracting.com	\$91 ⁽¹⁾ NA 1/20	\$144.6 ⁽¹⁾ NA	68 ⁽¹⁾ NA	11 ⁽¹⁾	11	wnd	wnd	D5 Rise Park, Orange County Great Park kid's play area (FivePoint Communities/Great Park Neighborhoods), Spectrum Montessori at Portola Springs, A-Town at Aloe Green	Tony Elias-Calles/Joe Troya principals (949) 498-7500/(949) 498-7992
18 (13)	R.D. Olson Construction Inc. 400 Spectrum Center Drive, Ste. 1200 Irvine 92618-5022 Headquarters: Irvine Website: rdolson.com Email: info@rdolson.com	\$89 -61% 6/20	\$113 -51%	98 -14%	14	10	0% 0% 0%	100%	Bolsa Row Apartments-Westminster, Fountain Valley Housing, Sheraton at the Park	Bill Wilhelm/Robert Olson president/CEO (949) 474-2001
19 (22)	Gray West Construction 421 E. Cerritos Ave. Anaheim 92805-6320 Headquarters: Lexington, Ky. Website: gray.com Email: jwilson@gray.com	\$80 ⁽¹⁾ NA 9/20	\$176.8 ⁽¹⁾ NA	140 ⁽¹⁾ NA	306 ⁽¹⁾	306	wnd	wnd	Chapman University, Biola University, Disneyland, Kinsbursky Brothers, Starbucks, Irvine Co., NN Inc., Amada America, Diocese of Orange	Robert Moore president, West region (714) 491-1317/(714) 333-9700
20 (24)	CDG Builders Inc. 24 Executive Park, Ste. 150 Irvine 92614-2753 Headquarters: Irvine Website: cdgbuilders.com Email: info@cdgbuilders.com	\$68 ⁽¹⁾ NA 12/20	\$72 ⁽¹⁾ NA	59 ⁽¹⁾ NA	115 ⁽¹⁾	115	wnd	wnd	would not disclose	Greg Horvath/Chris DeFazio principals (949) 892-3510/(949) 272-5848
20 (21)	Ram Construction LLC 19900 MacArthur Blvd., Ste. 600 Irvine 92612-8421 Headquarters: Irvine Website: ramconstruction-us.com Email: matt@ramconstruction-us.com	\$68 -15% 12/20	\$76 -22%	42 -14%	48	38	wnd	wnd	EVA Air, Port View Prep, Jenavalve, Hoag Health System, Evolus, EBS Engineering, Beyond Limits	Spencer Moran/Matt Renault principals (949) 418-7688
22 (26)	Lyle Parks Jr. Construction 4001 E. La Palma Ave. Anaheim 92807-1716 Headquarters: Anaheim Website: lpj.com Email: whiguera@lpj.com	\$65.8 -2% 12/20	\$67 0%	18 -40%	10	14	0% 0% 0%	100% 0%	would not disclose	Tim Mayeda general partner (714) 632-3210/(714) 632-5409

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 (1) Business Journal estimate

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23 (29)	Sukut Construction LLC 4010 W. Chandler Ave. Santa Ana 92704-5202 Headquarters: Santa Ana Website: sukut.com Email: info@sukut.com	\$63.5 20% 10/20	\$59.1 18%	121 -12%	12	4	0% 0% 0%	0% 100%	FRB PH VIII B fire repair, FRB LF East Flank Northern Diverted Channel, Cow Camp Road 2B SMWD Delta 5 Pipe project, FRB LF Phase 8A Daily Cover excavation, Rienda Zone A & 1 tank site & pipelines	Steve Yurosek CEO/president (714) 540-5351/(714) 545-2438			
24 (25)	Casco Contractors 9850 Irvine Center Drive Irvine 92618-4353 Headquarters: Irvine Website: cascocontractors.com Email: info@cascocontractors.com	\$59.7 -12% 12/20	\$69 -8%	65 0%	325	472	5% 75% 10%	10% 0%	Chipotle Newport Beach, Inari Medical, IHI Power Industries	Cheryl Osborn founder/president (949) 679-6880/(949) 679-6890			
25 (19)	Bernards 2569 McCabe Way, Ste. 100 Irvine 92614-5220 Headquarters: San Fernando Website: bernards.com Email: rfochtman@bernards.com	\$57.7 -40% 12/20	\$278.7 257%	64 10%	19	10	75% 15% 4%	0% 6%	City of Yorba Linda Library, James Musick Jail Expansion, Santa Ana College Russell Hall, and Saddleback High School Stadium	Dave Cavecche executive VP (949) 461-3650/(949) 461-3965			
26 (18)	W.E. O'Neil Construction 2100 Main St., Ste. 300 Irvine 92614-6285 Headquarters: El Segundo Website: weoneil.com Email: prui@weoneil.com	\$51.3 -55% 12/20	\$700 59%	31 0%	12	8	12% 0% 0%	88% 0%	MainPlace Mall Apartments, Raintree Del Prado, Pacific Edge Resort, Sunrise of Orange, Barranca Office	John E. Finn/Mike Byrne/Paul Ruig/Brian Rush president/VP, operations/project executive/project executive (949) 932-0704/(310) 643-6541			
27 (30)	BergmanKPRS 2850 Saturn St., Ste. 100 Brea 92821-1701 Headquarters: Brea Website: bergmankprs.com Email: mark@bergmankprs.com	\$51 ⁽¹⁾ NA 12/20	\$49.8 ⁽¹⁾ NA	49 ⁽¹⁾ NA	90 ⁽¹⁾	90	wnd	wnd	GreenStreet Mission Viejo Center, remodel of Clark Commons Buena Park, 10 Barrel Brewing Co. San Diego	Mark C. Bergman managing member (714) 924-7000/(714) 924-7176			

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