



For Immediate Release

February 14, 2019

Contact Jon O'Brien, KCA Executive Director

717-731-6272 – Jon@KeystoneContractors.com

KCA Releases 2019 Construction Forecast Survey Results

Harrisburg, PA – The Keystone Contractors Association (KCA) issued the results of its 2019 construction forecast, a survey of construction companies that are based throughout Pennsylvania. The results of the 2019 KCA Construction Forecast indicate that over half of the state's construction companies expect this year to better than last year.

The following are a few takeaways from the 2019 Construction Forecast:

- 57% of construction companies believe that 2019 will be better than last year.
- Of the more than half of optimistic companies, 11% predict a drastic growth and 46% believe they will experience a modest growth.
- 32% of respondents think that 2019 will mirror last year.
- 11% of construction companies believe they will experience a slight drop in business this year.
- When it comes to employment, 51% of companies expect to hire office staff; 58% expect more labor additions in the field; 34% expect company to stay the same size as last; and 3% expect to decrease positions in 2019.

This survey is distributed to the entire KCA membership, as well as many other construction companies based throughout all of Pennsylvania to make sure that all types of companies, market sectors, and locations are represented. During the interview process, construction executives made these comments:

- We see more public work in the pipeline, highlighted by an increase in school construction.
- Our fingers are crossed that this growth is sustained throughout 2019.
- We had our biggest year ever in the history of our company and we can't wait for 2019!

~~ cont. ~~

- As a union contractor with labor concerns for my company, I wonder how our nonunion competition will handle similar concerns while a motivational workforce class is being deported.
- Manpower. Manpower. Manpower. It's what I think about all the time. The issue is real.
- We company works entirely in the private sector and our business volume depends on spending. We are hopeful that the economy continues to grow at no less than the 2018 rate.
- Lean continues to emerge as the industry buzzword. Many talk about it, but few truly understand it. The companies that adopt a Lean philosophy will be successful companies in the future.
- We expect 2019 to be very good and 2020 to be even better.
- We're guessing a likely slowdown in multifamily, but continuing increases in all other sectors of work as long as DC does not screw things up with the economy. A downturn is inevitable, but until then we expect continued growth, across the board, except multifamily.
- Material pricing is increasing steadily.
- I believe the markets will stabilize. The election will cause some gridlock and slow growth for sure. However, the momentum gained in 2018 will carryover somewhat into 2019. The 2020 elections will have a greater impact on the 5 year 'look ahead.'
- The construction market in central PA is the strongest I've seen in 20 years. 2019 and 2020 will be very busy. Trade manpower will be a significant challenge.
- The integration between designers, builders, and trade subcontractors continues to grow and present unique opportunities and challenges.
- Federal work should be plentiful now and throughout 2019.

About the KCA: The Keystone Contractors Association represents the leading commercial construction companies in Pennsylvania and KCA provides valuable member services such as education & training, career development, safety, labor relations, community service, and government relations. For more information, contact the KCA at 717-731-6272 or Jon@KeystoneContractors.com.

end