



TECH NOTE NO: 22
TITLE: Construction and Material Cost Trends
AUTHORS: D.A. Lange
Ph: (217)333-4816, Email: dlange@uiuc.edu
CONTACT: University of Illinois, Dept of Civil & Environmental Engineering
1116 NCEL, MC-250, Urbana, IL 61801
DATE/REV: 02/17/06

1. Introduction

Material cost trends are tracked in Engineering News Record (ENR). These reports have been purchased on behalf of CEAT and are on archive for the O'Hare Modernization Program (OMP). Other indices available for tracking material cost trends are RSMMeans.com, an accurate and up-to-date cost information source for construction materials; the Illinois Asphalt Pavement Association, the on-line site has many industry links and resource center links; and the Portland Cement Association based in Skokie, IL and website which contains an Economic Research section with Economic Statistics listed by State and a Summary of Cement-Based Products Industry Statistics.

2. ENR Material Trends

Prices are updated monthly by ENR's price reporters who call a single source for each product in 20 U.S. cities. The price represents that paid by a contractor for a specified large order. The national average prices and prices for individual cities can be found in each issue of ENR on the Construction Economics page. ENR's Quarterly Cost Reports analyze these price trends in detail. Monthly prices appear on the following weekly rotating cycles.

- **Week one** has prices for 21 products covering asphalt, cement, aggregates, concrete, brick, concrete block and mason's lime.
- **Week two** has prices for 20 pipe products covering reinforced concrete pipe, corrugated steel pipe, vitrified clay pipe, PE underdrain, PVC sewer and water pipe, ductile iron pipe and copper water tubing.
- **Week three** has prices for 18 products covering lumber, plywood, plyform, particle board, gypsum wallboard and insulation.
- **Week four** has prices for 16 products covering structural steel, reinforcing bar, steel plate, metal lath, aluminum sheet, stainless steel sheet and plate and H-piles.

The four weekly reports are available to the OMP upon request to vdixon@uiuc.edu.

For more information on ENR's most recent Construction Cost Index, Building Cost Index, Materials Cost Index, the website is:
<http://enr.construction.com/features/conEco/subs/default.asp>.

3. RSMeans

RSMeans is another index for accurate and up-to-date cost information sources for construction materials. RSMeans provides an on-line source for construction books and related products. There are several books under the Civil Contract/Engineering link on material cost trends at this website. Cost estimating on-line tools and services are also available through the website at www.RSMeans.com.

4. Illinois Asphalt Pavement Association

The Illinois Asphalt Pavement Association is a not-for-profit trade association composed of Hot Mix Asphalt producers (and affiliated companies) serving the Illinois market. IAPA has been serving as an industry resource and a vital communications channel for those involved in virtually every facet of the asphalt industry in Illinois, since their founding in 1938. The Association's website has many industry links and resource center links available at <http://www.il-asphalt.org/index.html>.

5. Portland Cement Association

The Portland Cement Association represents cement companies in the United States and Canada and conducts market development, engineering, research, education, and public affairs programs. PCA was founded in 1916 and is headquartered in Skokie, IL. The website contains an Economic Research section with Economic Statistics by State. Following is the site for Illinois: http://www.cement.org/econ/ind_stats_state.asp?state=14 with a Summary of Cement-Based Products Industry Statistics (Illinois).