

# North Central News

The Newsletter of the North Central WV Home Builders Association



December 2019

## Ratify the USMCA

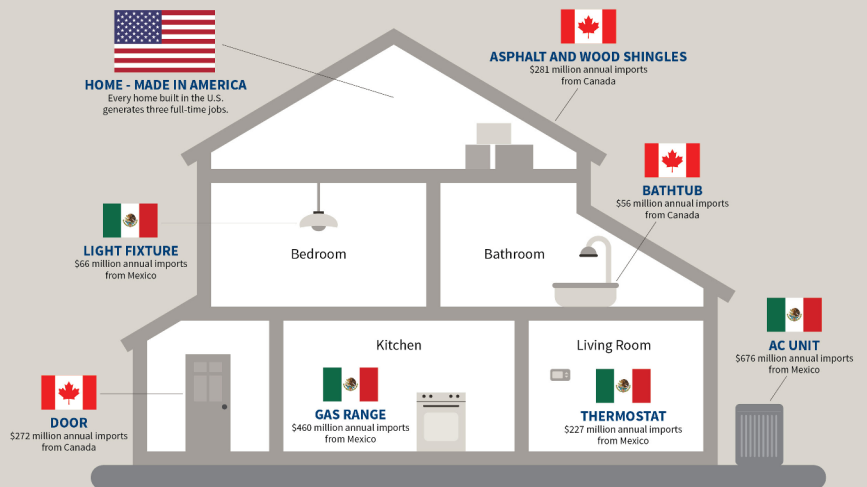
Each year, the U.S. residential construction and remodeling industries rely on tens of billions of dollars in building materials sourced from Mexico and Canada. These materials are not simply the constituent parts of a home, they also affect jobs for Americans building homes.

Without an updated, [improved agreement](#) with Mexico and Canada, imported building materials may experience price spikes and shortages, ultimately leading to higher home prices.

NAHB urges Congress to swiftly ratify the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), which has the potential to lift the housing economy.

## USMCA Is a Win-Win-Win

The proposed trade agreement would be a win for the economy, a win for American jobs and a win for housing affordability.



Our homes are made in America, but many of the products that go into those homes likely come from Mexico or Canada. The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement would bring more home building and lower costs for consumers. Congress can help address the nation's housing affordability crisis by moving swiftly to ratify the USMCA.

Support the economy, jobs and housing affordability.

Support the USMCA. [NAHB.org/USMCA](http://NAHB.org/USMCA)



## 'Building the Dream' Event Examines Affordability Problem

Government officials and community stakeholders came together at NAHB's recent kickoff of its ["Building the Dream"](#) series in Minneapolis to highlight how this crisis is being addressed at the local and state level to help bridge the gap for homeownership.

Stay tuned to NAHB's Election 2020 webpage for more information, including videos and photos, as well as upcoming event details.

## Preventing Fatigue on the Jobsite

Fatigue is a hidden but common hazard in all workplaces. In safety-critical positions, the consequences of being tired can be catastrophic. For example, mistakes on construction sites, like when climbing or working on ladders or driving trucks, can easily lead to injuries or even death.

Learn about steps your company can take to reduce [fatigue-related accidents](#) and injuries.

## NFIP Extended Through Dec. 20

To prevent a government shutdown, Congress has approved a continuing resolution that will keep the government funded for another month through Dec. 20. President Trump signed the bill into law.

The government funding package means that the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), will also be [extended through Dec. 20](#).

## NAHB Members Win DOE Awards

More than a dozen NAHB members were recently recognized by the [Department of Energy's](#) Housing Innovation Awards at EEBA's High Performance Home Summit in October.

Each year, the DOE recognizes builders in various categories for leading the industry in building zero energy ready homes, or homes that are verified to meet federal standards on energy efficiency, indoor air quality, and durability.

## Cost of Lots Hits Record High

Single-family lot prices reached [a record high](#) in 2018, with half of all lots selling at or above \$49,500, according to NAHB's analysis of Census Bureau data

New England has the most expensive single-family lots, with a median price of \$140,000. The East South-Central Division (Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky) has the lowest median value at \$38,000 per lot.

## U.S. Construction Employment On the Rise

The construction industry gained 10,000 jobs in October, according to the latest data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Nearly half of those job gains (4,600) were in Florida. New York, meanwhile, lost 3,000 construction jobs last month.

The [construction sector data](#) includes both residential and non-residential construction. Forty-eight states reported construction sector jobs data.

Twenty-eight states had an increase for the month, 18 states reported a decline

compared to September, and Maine and Missouri were unchanged.

Year-over-year, the U.S added 148,000 construction sector jobs, a 2% increase compared to October 2018.

Texas added 51,400 jobs, the largest yearly gains of any state, while Louisiana lost 9,700 jobs, the largest decline. In percentage terms, Nevada had the highest annual growth rate in the construction sector at 13.1%. Louisiana reported the largest annual decline percentage-wise at 6.4%.

## FEMA Delays Risk Rating 2.0

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has announced that it is deferring implementation of its new flood insurance risk rating system to Oct. 1, 2021.

FEMA, which oversees and implements the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), has initiated a long-term effort to transform the program to make it more consumer friendly and better reflect the actual risks properties face.

FEMA is deferring the implementation of the initiative, commonly referred to as [Risk Rating 2.0](#), so that it can review the proposed rating structure as part of an effort to protect policyholders and minimize unintentional negative effects of the transition.

## Big Builders Gain Market Share

The top 20 builders produced 29% of all the homes constructed in the country in 2018, according to data from BUILDER magazine. That share is a notable gain from 2017, when the [largest 20 builders](#) were responsible for 26.8% of all completions. In 2000, these firms built 16.6% of U.S. homes.

Large builders have grown by entering new markets, expanding their operations in existing markets, and acquiring smaller firms and their land.

Large builders can also leverage their size to access credit markets to acquire land and to achieve economies of scale in the purchase of building materials.

Local and regional builders are still responsible for the majority of new home starts.

## Leadership List

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Nancy Spiker

1st Vice-President

Chris Bailey

2nd Vice-President

Vacant

Associate Vice-President

Tom Board

Secretary

Chris Ilardi

Treasurer

Brent Skidmore

State Area Vice-President

Steve Spiker

National Director

Aaron Dickerson

Alt. National Director

Steve Spiker

National Director

Kent Pauley

Alt. National Director

Christine Pauley

[ncwvhba.org](http://ncwvhba.org)

## Calendar of Events

6 December: NCWVHBA  
Christmas Party/Installation  
of Officers/Awards. Erickson  
Alumni Center, Morgantown

9 December: Toy Fund  
Shopping Day. Clarsburg  
Walmart

16 January 2020: General  
Membership Meeting. The  
Clubhouse Grill at the Pines  
Golf Course, Morgantown

21-23 January 2020: NAHB  
IBS. Las Vegas, NV

13-15 March 2020: NCWVHBA  
Home Show. Hazel and J.W.  
Ruby Community Center at  
Mylan Park, Morgantown