

## Construction Industry and HR1 The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act 2009

Several construction industry groups and associations have been outspoken about the bill HR1, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, in hopes that the nation's building construction segment would not be overlooked in the plan. The \$787 billion stimulus package aims to jump start parts of the U.S. economy that are hurting the most, builders that are rapidly shedding jobs. At 15.3 percent, the construction industry is suffering the highest unemployment rate of any sector of the economy.

The winners, companies that build bridges, make concrete, manufacture or install wind turbines are likely to emerge as big winners from the roughly \$150 billion in infrastructure spending under the stimulus. That includes \$27 billion to repair highways and bridges, spending which would likely directly affect companies that make building materials like concrete, steel and gravel. For road construction crews across the country, the \$787 billion stimulus package passed by Congress is nothing short of a godsend. But economists and industry groups say the effect on areas like housing and commercial construction may be muted.

Other sectors will see more money to upgrade the nation's electrical grid, renovate aging schools, and improve public transit. The plan also includes \$7 billion in grants and credits for expansion of high-speed Internet connections to rural areas.

Small domestic installation companies expect their business to double, and the insulation manufacturers say the plan to retro-fit old houses with up to \$1600 worth of ceiling insulation will help neutralize the impact of the slumping construction industry. Government aims to double alternative energy production, which helps wind and solar energy companies.

A survey by the Association of General Contractors indicated that 85 percent of its members could begin work on infrastructure projects within a month. Most of the federal money would flow to contractors and crews through state transportation departments for projects considered "shovel ready." State highway officials and contractors say it's vital to be ready with shorter-term projects designed to get people working soon.

As currently drafted, the legislation will rely upon the existing statutory formula that distributes the bulk of funding to the states, which in turn reallocates the funds to project sponsors. These formulas and funding distribution systems are determined on a program-by-program and statute-by-statute basis, but broadly speaking, state governments are expected to receive a large share of the public works stimulus funds for reallocation to project sponsors and lower levels of government.

## Stimulus Construction Funding Breakdown

The following areas will probably have the greatest impact on the construction industry. Below is a list of the broad categories of programs and activities for which direct public works stimulus funding will be provided

- \$27 billion to \$30 billion in highway construction
- \$5 billion for miscellaneous surface transportation investments
- \$19 billion for clean water, flood control, and environmental restoration investments
- \$8.4 billion to \$10 billion for transit projects
- \$1.3 billion for rail transportation
- \$1.3 billion to \$3 billion in airport construction
- \$6 billion for sewer, wastewater, and drinking systems
- \$1.4 billion for rural water and waste water facilities
- \$16 billion for school modernization
- \$6 billion for Corps of Engineer and Bureau of Reclamation projects (dams, inland waterways, ports and harbors)

## Tech Support Calls From Our Customers



*When I am entering payroll, my dates are not defaulting correctly on the timecard lines? It is skipping random dates.*

We checked the SMB calendar by pressing the F2 key and discovered someone in the office put their personal days off in the calendar and those were the days that were skipping in payroll.

*When I went to do my bank reconciliation my beginning balance was off. My ending balance on my last bank reconciliation was correct. What happened?*

We discovered an entry between two cash accounts. When the first account was reconciled, the second account was also cleared at the same time. You must use a cash clearing account when moving money from one account to another.

*I created a custom form on my C:\ drive. When I moved the form to the server, some of the picture files no longer printed in the form but some did.*

We discovered that SMB would not display the JPG files but did display the BMP files. We converted all pictures to BMP files.

*Did you know that the fields in SMB with the yellow bar on the left side means it is a searchable field? All you need to do is enter your search criteria and press F9. Use the Page Down key to see more records.*