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## Memo

**TO:** Addressees

**FROM:** Mary Lacho  
Estimates Engineer

**DATE:** November 3, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Cost Index – 2011 First Quarter

The Minnesota Highway Construction Composite Cost Index was not computed for the first quarter of 2011 due to the absence of data for one of the six indicator items. Without a unit price for each indicator item, the resulting index is not comparable to previous indices.

- The average Excavation cost was \$5.66/CY, up \$3.28/CY from the first quarter of 2010. 9 projects were considered this quarter.
- The average Reinforcing Steel cost was \$1.17/lb, up \$0.23/lb from the first quarter of 2010. 10 projects were considered this quarter.
- No data for Structural Steel.
- The average Structural Concrete cost was \$486.82, up \$43.93 from the first quarter of 2010. 12 projects were considered this quarter.
- The average Concrete Pavement cost was \$77.01/CY, down \$9.43/CY from the first quarter of 2010. 2 projects were considered this quarter.
- The average Plant Mixed Bituminous cost was \$47.89/ton, down \$3.59/ton from the first quarter of 2010. 26 projects were considered this quarter.

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First quarter, 2011 project information is compared to first quarter 2010 below.

#### Indicator Costs

Item	First Quarter 2010			First Quarter 2011		
	Quantity	Cost *	Unit Cost	Quantity	Cost *	Unit Cost
Excavation	4,571,149 CY	\$10.89	\$2.38 /CY	701,628 CY	\$3.97	\$5.66 /CY
Reinforcing Steel	2,757,559 lb	\$2.60	\$0.94/lb	853,012 lb	\$1.00	\$1.17/lb
Structural Steel	462,390 lb	\$0.56	\$1.22/lb	0 lb	\$0	\$0/lb
Structural Concrete	19,741 CY	\$8.74	\$442.89/CY	6878 CY	\$3.35	\$486.82/CY
Concrete Pavement	259,789 CY	\$22.45	\$86.44/CY	129,081 CY	\$9.94	\$77.01/CY
Plant-Mixed Bituminous	1,145,411 ton	\$58.97	\$51.48/ton	1,271,496 ton	\$60.90	\$47.89/ton
Total		\$104.21			\$79.16	

\* millions of dollars

#### Minnesota Highway Construction Project Summary

	2010 Q1	2011 Q1
<b>Number of Projects Awarded</b>	65	71
<b>Awarded Amount (\$ million)</b>	\$199.94	\$174.95
<b>Total Number of Bidders</b>	338	278
<b>Average Number of Bidders</b>	5.0	3.9
<b>Number of Cost Index Projects</b>	36	33
<b>Cost Index Amount (\$ million)</b>	\$104.21	\$79.16
<b>Excavation Index</b>	118.81	282.29
<b>Structures Index</b>	206.13	*
<b>Surfacing Index</b>	268.47	248.51
<b>Composite Cost Index (CI)</b>	227.65	*

\*Not computed due to absence of data

The average number of bidders per project was 5.0 for the first quarter of 2010. In comparison, the average number of first quarter bidders in 2011 was 3.9.

Attached is an explanation of the derivation of the Minnesota Cost index, charts of quarterly and annual Minnesota highway construction cost trends and a table and chart comparing the yearly Minnesota Composite Cost Index with the latest yearly FHWA Index.

cc: File

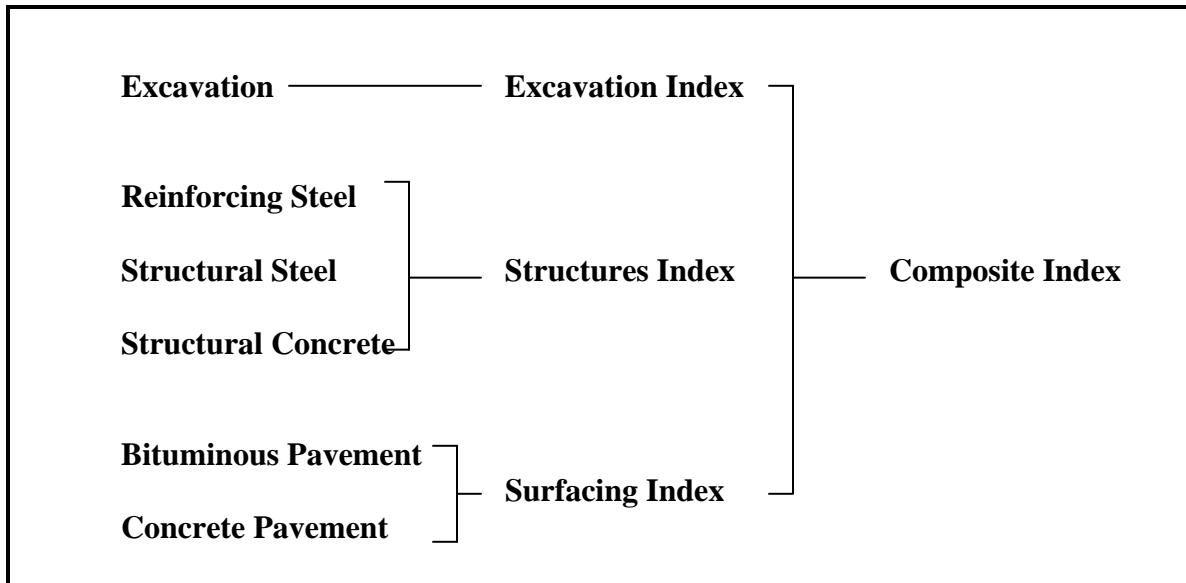
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# Minnesota Construction Cost Index

The Minnesota Construction Cost Index is an indicator of price trends for highway construction.

It is composed of six indicator items: roadway excavation, to indicate the price trends for all roadway excavation; concrete pavement and plant-mixed bituminous, to indicate the price trend for all surfacing types; and reinforcing steel, structural steel, and structural concrete, to indicate the price trend for structures.

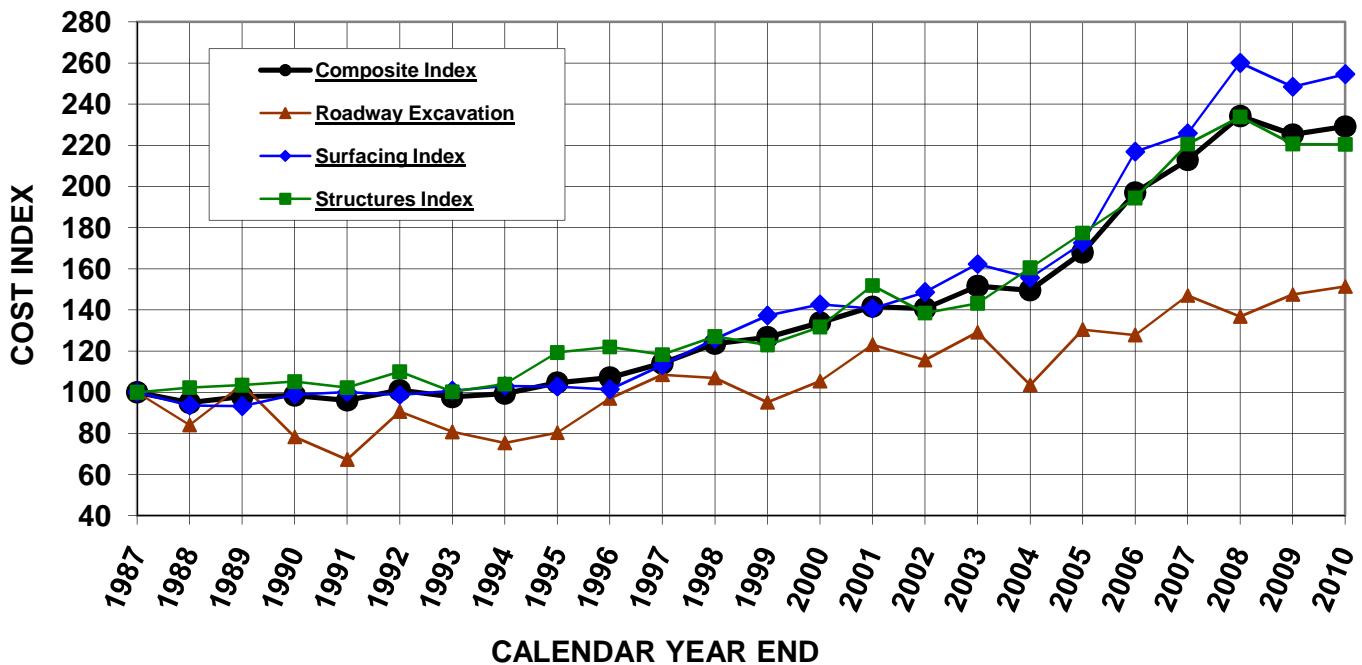


Each quarter, an average unit price is computed for each indicator item. The unit price is based upon the actual bids from projects **excluding Design Build projects**, costing more than \$100,000, and let during that quarter. These unit prices include the cost of material, labor, equipment, overhead and profit.

These unit prices along with the 1987 base unit prices and quantities are used to compute the Excavation, Surfacing, Structures and Composite Index.

## Minnesota Highway Construction Cost Trends

### ANNUAL PRICE TRENDS



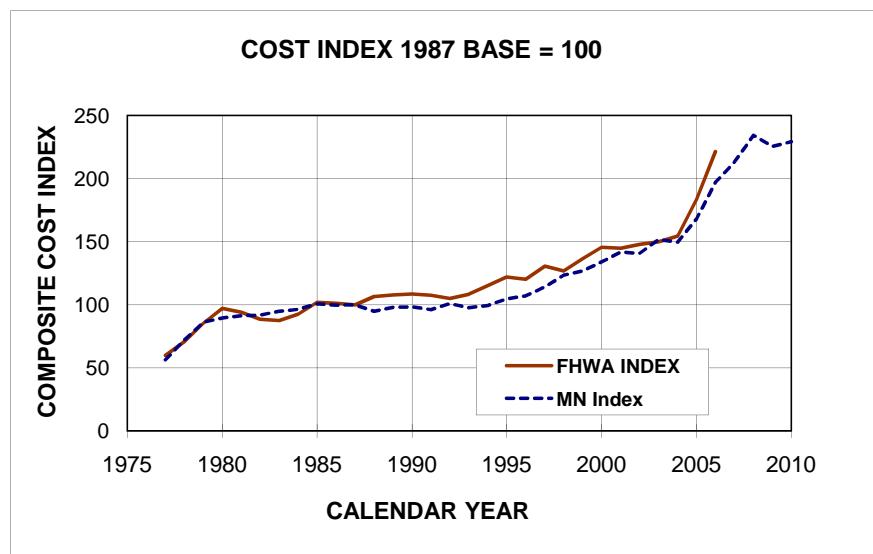
### YEARLY & QUARTERLY PRICE TRENDS



**NOTE:** In 2007, the FHWA stopped collecting Price Trend data,  
and no longer provide the reports necessary to complete the comparison graphs.

**HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION COST INDEX 1987 BASE-100**

<b>Year End</b>	<b>FHWA Index</b>	<b>MN Index</b>
1975		
1976		
1977	59.80	56.40
1978	70.70	72.10
1979	85.50	86.30
1980	97.20	89.60
1981	94.20	91.20
1982	88.50	91.80
1983	87.60	94.80
1984	92.60	96.40
1985	102.00	100.70
1986	101.10	99.60
<b>1987</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>
1988	106.60	94.90
1989	107.70	97.90
1990	108.50	98.40
1991	107.50	96.00
1992	105.10	101.00
1993	108.30	97.70
1994	115.10	99.30
1995	121.90	104.60
1996	120.20	107.10
1997	130.60	114.00
1998	126.90	123.58
1999	136.50	126.75
2000	145.60	133.91
2001	144.80	141.61
2002	147.90	140.73
2003	149.80	151.60
2004	154.40	149.61
2005	183.60	167.97
2006	221.30	197.10
2007		212.88
2008		234.22
2009		225.32
2010		229.17



1987 Base Year = 100
FHWA Index includes projects > \$500,000
Mn/DOT Index includes projects > \$100,000





