



▶ **NEXT FORUM:**
 TUESDAY, MARCH 24
 5:30-7:30 PM
 TOPIC:
 INSIGHTS INTO THE FUTURE OF
 COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION

○ ISSUE 2 | ○ VOLUME 8 | ○ March 17, 2009

Emerging Construction Professionals

forum

BUILDING THE FUTURE LEADERS OF NEBRASKA'S
 CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY



ECP FORUM IS SPONSORED BY:
 AGC-NEBRASKA BUILDING CHAPTER
<http://www.agcnebuilders.com>
 MCA-OMAHA CHAPTER
<http://www.mca-omaha.org>
 NECA-NEBRASKA CHAPTER
<http://www.neneca.com>

Where to Look for Trends

It seems everyone is astonished that so many people missed the trends last year pointing to major economic slowdown. With multiple 24-hour news channels, a few thousand Internet news sites and more ways to communicate (text, call, blog, Twitter...) it appears impossible that so few saw signs of downturn in the economy.

We should have been asking the garbage haulers.

A Washington Post story published this weekend tells how landfill operators noticed a steep decrease in the amount of trash early last summer. These operators can point to a direct link between amount of trash and the economy: as times get tight, people buy less and reuse more—thus, less trash. Now we know. I wouldn't be surprised to

see a daily "trash index" start on MSNBC to measure the amount of daily trash around the country.

We look for signs of what the future holds so that we can plan for it, so that we're not surprised and left behind. In every industry, there are the pundits who claim they know what the future holds; they spend a lot of time looking at data, talking to people, and making educated guesses. And then there are people who are on the ground, day after day, with their finger on the pulse of the situation.

At next week's Forum we've asked board members of the three organizations, executives in your companies, who are planning the future of the construction industry day after day, to share their insights and perspectives. We hope you're there.

Retirement? Not Yet

A recent survey report by Scottrade revealed that older workers are planning to stay on the job longer than previously planned meaning upper level management positions may not open as quickly as previously predicted.

The online discount brokerage firm, found only 32 percent of Americans believe they will be able to permanently leave the workforce, down from 39 percent in 2008. The loss of value of retirement accounts and uncertainty about the future were primary reasons identified for the increased number of older workers choosing to stay on the job.

The change in plans has relieved some industries concerned about large numbers of Boomers retiring leaving a talent gap for younger workers to quickly fill.

PERSONAL FINANCE TIP BY UNION BANK

Safeguarding Your Identity. Protect your personal information by carrying only necessary identification and do not carry your social security card with you. Choose PIN numbers and passwords that are difficult for others to guess by not using personal information such as address, phone number, Social Security Number or date of birth. For more tips listen to our podcast, "Protecting Yourself Against Fraud & Identity Theft" at www.ubt.com or call 800-297-2837



You Belong Here.™

Bracketology

Time to Lose Productivity

Reports show that the American workforce loses 1 to 2 percent of productivity during the month of March due to time spent studying teams, completing brackets and watching NCAA tournament basketball games. With people more concerned about job security it's expected more employees will stay focused on the real job at hand.

