

Construction Firms: Beating Back the Headwinds

OC Firms Report \$9.5B in 2021 Work

By KATIE MURAR

As construction firms continue to grapple with ongoing challenges—material and labor shortages, supply chain issues and inflation, to name a few—local firms have several strategies to make sure they can keep up with demand.

Companies that have diversified product offerings, clear communication with clients and a pipeline of contracts in the works will come out on top in the coming years, local firms told the Business Journal.

“Lead times for materials are twice what they used to be, so we’re making sure we work with clients to get those long lead items out early,” said **Chris Morris**, president of Irvine-based **Morris Construction**. “The same goes for pricing, and we are trying to hold the line with material suppliers.”

Even with no shortage of headwinds, local construction firms largely kept up in 2021, reporting another year of gains.

The 28 biggest firms with work here posted \$9.5 billion in local revenue last year, up 2% from a year ago and up nearly 10% from two years ago, based on this week’s Business Journal list. Eleven firms on the list saw year-over-year increases in work, 10 saw declines, and six entries are Business Journal estimates.

“There are a lot of aspects that have been more challenging since COVID hit, but we were blessed to have a solid amount of preconstruction



The Edén Fertility Clinic in Newport Beach, built by Morris Construction last year

agreements in place before the pandemic,” said **Ed Slater**, co-founder of Costa Mesa-based **Slater Builders Inc.** “We have a fair amount of backlog going into 2023 and even 2024.”

UCI Leads Starts

The Irvine office of **Hensel Phelps** saw a 10% jump in annual revenue to \$1.2 billion, overtaking the top slot from **McCarthy Building Cos.**

Both firms were behind some major construction starts last year.

The largest local project that started last year was the Irvine Campus Medical Complex on a 25-acre site on the north end of the **University of California, Irvine**. Construction kicked off in June and is set to wrap by 2025.

The \$1.3 billion project is the third-largest construction start in the state last year, according to data from construction trade publication **ENR California**. The project is led by design-build team **Hensel Phelps** and **CO Architects** and

comes nearly a decade after **Hensel Phelps** completed the \$375 million **UCI Douglas Hospital** in the city of Orange.

ENR also puts **UCI’s Center for Advanced Care Medical Office Building & Parking Structure** at around \$158 million. **McCarthy Building Cos.**, No. 2 on this year’s list with a 4% decline in 2021 revenue to \$1.1 billion, kicked off work on that project in April 2021.

The largest construction start in the state was a \$2.6 billion airport terminal at the **San Diego International Airport**.

60% Surge

Morris Construction, a newcomer to this year’s list, saw the greatest jump in revenue of nearly 61% to \$52.3 million.

The firm primarily focused on healthcare contracts when it was founded in 2012, but started diversifying into different sectors in 2017.

That diversification paid off. In addition to healthcare, the firm now fo-

cuses on life science, manufacturing and automotive facilities.

The latter market surprised **Morris** during the pandemic.

“The automotive facility market exploded last year,” **Morris** said. “Everyone was buying cars, which made it a very profitable sector.”

Now, the company is noticing surging demand for new electric vehicle facilities, from manufacturing to charging sites.

“Almost every manufacturer is beefing up its EV line, if not doing a 100% conversion to EV,” **Morris** said.

The company expects to double revenue this year.

“Diversifying and balancing out our portfolio has really paid off for us,” **Morris** said.

Slater Builders

Having a diversified client roster has also boosted revenue for **Slater Builders**, which reported a 50% surge in revenue to \$51.9 million.

The most active sectors for **Slater** over the past two years have been senior living, hospitality clubs and private education.

It recently wrapped work on a new gym and multipurpose center at **Our Lady Queen of Angels Catholic Church** in Newport Beach, as well as a 40,000-square-foot creative office renovation called **Quay Work** in Newport Beach.

The woman-owned business is led by CEO **Liz Slater**, also Ed’s wife.

“We’re in a volatile time in history. Awareness and open communication with subcontractors and clients is more important than it’s ever been,” **Slater** said. “Still, we’re on pace to have our best year ever.” ■

THE LIST
Commercial Construction Cos.
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THE LIST COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES



DAMIAN BUESSING
VP and District Manager
Hensel Phelps



CARLOS GONZALEZ
Division President, Western Region
Clark Group



JIM MADRID
Executive VP
McCarthy Building Cos.



CHERYL OSBORN
Founder and President
Casco Contractors



LIZABETH S. SLATER
CEO
Slater Builders Inc.













WILLIAM WILHELM
President
R.D. Olson Construction Inc.

THE LIST COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES

▶ NEXT WEEK'S LIST *Private Companies*

RANKED BY REVENUE

Rank	Company	Company logo	12-month revenue from OC operations (millions)	Value of contracts awarded to OC office(s) for 12-month period (millions)	OC employees	Number of 2021 OC projects	Number of 2020 OC projects	% breakdown of business	Partial list of notable projects	Top local official(s)		
Prev. Rank	•Address		•yearly % change	•yearly % change	•yearly % change			•Government •Office •Industrial	•Retail •Other	•Title •Phone/fax		
Rank			•ending date	•ending date								
1	Hensel Phelps 18850 Von Karman Ave., Ste. 100 Irvine 92612-1598 Headquarters: Greeley, Colo. Website: henselphelps.com Email: amillar@henselphelps.com		\$1,235.8 10% 12/21	\$1,372 -26% 12/21	880 7%	36	31	20% 5% 0%	5% 70%	UCI Irvine Medical Complex, City of Hope Orange County, UCI Verano 8 Student Housing, Federal Drug Administration Lab, Caltech Resnick	Damian Buessing VP/district manager (949) 852-0111/(949) 852-0218	
2	McCarthy Building Cos. 20401 SW Birch St. Newport Beach 92660-1795 Headquarters: St. Louis Website: mccarthy.com Email: nb@mccarthy.com		\$1,104 -4% 12/21	\$1,354.9 -25% 12/21	595 23%	49	34	15% 30% 0%	0% 55%	UCI - Center for Advanced Care MOB and parking structure, CHOC parking expansion, Saddleback gateway, Irvine Valley College - College of Fine Arts	Jim Madrid executive VP (949) 851-8383/(949) 851-8398	
3	Clark Group 18201 Von Karman Ave., Ste. 800 Irvine 92612-1092 Headquarters: Bethesda, Md. Website: clarkconstruction.com Email: corporatecommunications@clarkconstruction.com		\$1,091.8 31% 12/21	\$636.4 -47% 12/21	554 33%	30	39	47% 20% 0%	0% 33%	Disneyland, OCMA	Carlos Gonzalez division president, Western Region (714) 429-9779/(714) 429-9778	
4	Swinerton 200 N. Main St. Santa Ana 92701-4800 Headquarters: Concord Website: swinerton.com Email: rcarpe@swinerton.com		\$988 -2% 12/21	\$1,200 174% 12/21	1,312 -6%	485	480	14% 27% 2%	13% 44%	OC Sanitation Headquarters, Chaffey College Library Learning Commons, Applied Medical, Quest Diagnostics, Confidential Automotive Tech Client R&D, Workplace and Retail	Pete Ruiz/Lia Tatevosian/Brian McCarthy division manager, building/ division manager, special projects/division manager, target markets (949) 622-7000/(877) 349-1894	
5	Largo Concrete Inc. 2741 Walnut Ave. Tustin 92780-7037 Headquarters: Tustin Website: largoconcrete.com Email: info@largoconcrete.com		\$643.3 3% 9/21	\$600 3% 9/21	252 1%	65	60	10% 40% 0%	10% 40%	Spectrum Terrace, Innovation Park II	Ken Long president (714) 731-3600/(714) 731-4800	













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6	KPRS Construction Services Inc. 2850 Saturn St. Brea 92821-6201 Headquarters: Brea Website: kprsinc.com Email: joels@kprsinc.com		\$608 ⁽¹⁾ NA 12/21	\$680 ⁽¹⁾ NA	300 7%	150 ⁽¹⁾	150	wnd	wnd	Irvine Co., FivePoint Holdings Inc., CT Realty, Zillow, Alteryx Inc.	Joel Stensby founder/president (714) 672-0800/(714) 672-0871	
7	DPR Construction 4665 MacArthur Court, Ste. 100 Newport Beach 92660-1825 Headquarters: Redwood City Website: dpr.com Email: info@dpr.com		\$552 17% 12/21	\$639 -7% 12/21	511 1%	62	115	wnd	wnd	Edwards Lifesciences, Universal Health Services, Harbor Day School	Michael Konetzke/Alicia Ortiz business unit leaders (949) 955-3771/(949) 253-0015	
8	Millie and Severson Inc. 3601 Serpentine Drive Los Alamitos 90720-0399 Headquarters: Los Alamitos Website: mandsinc.com Email: info@mandsinc.com		\$538.2 18% 10/21	\$499.9 115% 10/21	103 7%	2	0	0% 25% 50%	0% 25%	Seefried Industrial Properties - new distribution facility, Duke Realty - La Palma industrial building	Jonathan E. Severson president (562) 493-3611/(562) 598-6871	
9	Turner Construction Co. 1900 S. State College Blvd., Ste. 150 Anaheim 92806-6136 Headquarters: New York Website: turnerconstruction.com Email: jcbertain@tcco.com		\$482.7 -30% 12/21	\$1,130 465% 12/21	274 -2%	6	8	0% 20% 15%	0% 65%	Saddleback Medical Center Women's Health Pavilion, Hoag Orthopedic Institute OR renovation, Johnson & Johnson Project Laguna	Reed G. McMains VP/general manager (714) 940-9000/(714) 712-7400	
10	Snyder Langston 17962 Cowan Irvine 92614-6026 Headquarters: Irvine Website: snyderlangston.com Email: info@snyderlangston.com		\$450 ⁽¹⁾ NA 12/21	\$672 ⁽¹⁾ NA	75 ⁽¹⁾ NA	40	40 ⁽¹⁾	wnd	wnd	Christ Cathedral, Be Well, Innovation Office Park, Leonard Cancer Institute, Irvine Spectrum, The Boardwalk, Concordia University	John Rochford/Jason Rich chairman, CEO/president (949) 863-9200/(949) 863-1087	

Abbreviations: NA: not applicable; wnd: would not disclose; NR: not ranked
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⁽¹⁾ Business Journal estimate

THE LIST COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES

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Prev. Rank	•Address	•yearly % change	•ending date	•yearly % change			•Government	•Retail		•Title	
	Company logo						•Office	•Other		•Phone/fax	
11 (11)	C.W. Driver Companies 1501 S. Harris Court Anaheim 92806-5932 Headquarters: Pasadena Website: cwdriver.com Email: kkreutziger@cwdriver.com	\$263 7% 12/21	\$356.8 15%	120 -1%	37	39	0% 34% 0%	0% 66%	Chapman University - Alton building renovation, Panasonic Avionics, Irvine USD - Irvine High School, Performing Arts Complex, Coast CCD, Orange Coast College chemistry building, Irvine USD - Solis Park School	Karl Kreutziger president (949) 261-5100/(949) 261-5167	
12 (13)	Balfour Beatty U.S. 1501 Quail St., Ste. 130 Newport Beach 92660-2740 Headquarters: Dallas Website: balfourbeattyus.com Email: relentlessallies@balfourbeattyus.com	\$204 -7% 12/21	\$274.8 20%	116 -6%	12	17	0% 0% 0%	0% 100%	Irvine USD Green Tree Project; Huntington Beach USD Edison Pool	John Bernardy senior VP (949) 502-4000/(949) 502-4001	
13 (12)	Bomel Construction Co. 96 Corporate Park Irvine 92606-5136 Headquarters: Irvine Website: bomelconstruction.com Email: dmcginnis@bomelconstruction.com	\$200 ⁽¹⁾ NA 12/21	\$200 ⁽¹⁾ NA	100 ⁽¹⁾ NA	10 ⁽¹⁾	10 ⁽¹⁾	wnd	wnd	OCTA Orange Metrolink parking structure, Westin Anaheim Resort parking structure, Irvine Spectrum Target parking structure, Mater Dei High School parking structure, CSU Fullerton Eastside parking structure	Kent Matranga president (714) 921-1660/(714) 921-1943	
14 (14)	Howard Building Corp. 3184 Airway Ave., Ste. K Costa Mesa 92626-4619 Headquarters: Los Angeles Website: howardbuilding.com Email: info@howardbuilding.com	\$193 -33% 12/21	\$158 -31%	46 -4%	55	75	0% 75% 10%	5% 10%	would not disclose	Bryan Howard president (714) 438-2272/(714) 444-3446	

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Researched by Meghan Kliever

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15	Moorefield Construction Inc. 600 N. Tustin Ave., Ste. 210 Santa Ana 92705-3781 Headquarters: Santa Ana Website: moorefieldconstruction.com Email: info@moorefieldconstruction.com	\$138 -31% 9/21	\$111 -21%	77 5%	5	4	0% 0% 0%	100% 0%	Kiddie Academy, Farmers & Merchants Bank Mike Moorefield president (714) 972-0700/(714) 972-3030
16	R.D. Olson Construction Inc. 400 Spectrum Center Drive, Ste. 1200 Irvine 92618-5022 Headquarters: Irvine Website: rdolson.com Email: kmutch@rdolson.com	\$80 -10% 12/21	\$62 -45%	124 27%	13	14	0% 0% 0%	0% 100%	Bolsa Row Apartments-Westminster; Marriott Newport Beach; Chapman University Dance Center William Wilhelm president (949) 474-2001
17	Bernards 2569 McCabe Way, Ste. 100 Irvine 92614-5220 Headquarters: San Fernando Website: bernards.com Email: rfochtman@bernards.com	\$79.9 38% 12/21	\$286.4 3%	64 0%	11	19	97% 0% 2%	0% 1%	James A. Musick Jail expansion, Saddleback High School stadium renovation, South Orange County CCD construction management, aerospace projects Dave Cavecche executive VP ⁽²⁾ (949) 461-3650/(949) 461-3965
18	Sundt Construction Inc. 41 Corporate Park, Ste. 310 Irvine 92606-3135 Headquarters: Tempe, Ariz. Website: sundt.com	\$79.3 -13% 9/21	\$170.3 2,315%	23 -4%	8	6	0% 0% 0%	0% 100%	CSU Fullerton Student Housing project; Cypress College Science, Engineering, and Math Building & Veteran's Resource Center; Golden West Community College Math and Sciences, Student Services; Orange Coast Community College Interdisciplinary Complex Ryan Nessen senior VP, building, California (949) 468-5309
19	CDG Builders Inc. 24 Executive Park, Ste. 150 Irvine 92614-2753 Headquarters: Irvine Website: cdgbuilders.com Email: info@cdgbuilders.com	\$68 ⁽¹⁾ NA 12/21	\$72 ⁽¹⁾ NA	60 ⁽¹⁾ NA	100 ⁽¹⁾	100 ⁽¹⁾	wnd	wnd	would not disclose Greg Horvath/Chris DeFazio principals (949) 892-3510/(949) 272-5848
19	Ram Construction LLC 19900 MacArthur Blvd., Ste. 600 Irvine 92612-8421 Headquarters: Irvine Website: ramconstruction-us.com Email: matt@ramconstruction-us.com	\$68 ⁽¹⁾ NA 12/21	\$76 ⁽¹⁾ NA	77 83%	48	31	0% 20% 10%	10% 70%	Jenavalve, Hoag Orthopedic Institute, Providence Health, Technicolor, Eurifin Labs, Kaiser Labs Matt Renault/Spencer Moran co-founders (949) 418-7688
21	Consolidated Contracting Services Inc. 181 Avenida La Pata, Ste. 200 San Clemente 92673-6354 Headquarters: San Clemente Website: consolidatedcontracting.com Email: cdonovan@consolidatedcontracting.com	\$65.8 25% 1/22	\$88 52%	69 1%	15	11	0% 5% 5%	0% 90%	Terrace View Park, FivePoint D5 Park 3, Monarch Bay entry, Vanguard University perimeter, MedCore Westminster & Del Obispo Tls Tony Elias-Calles/Joe Troya principals (949) 498-7500/(949) 498-7992
21	Lyle Parks Jr. Construction 4001 E. La Palma Ave. Anaheim 92807-1716 Headquarters: Anaheim Website: lpj.com Email: whiguera@lpj.com	\$65.8 ⁽¹⁾ NA 12/21	\$67 ⁽¹⁾ NA	20 ⁽¹⁾ NA	10 ⁽¹⁾	10	wnd	wnd	would not disclose Tim Mayeda president/general partner (714) 632-3210/(714) 632-5409
23	Gray West Construction 421 E. Cerritos Ave. Anaheim 92805-6320 Headquarters: Lexington, Ky. Website: gray.com Email: jwilson@gray.com	\$65.3 -20% 9/21	\$136.2 -17%	172 15%	122	144	0% 20% 20%	60% 0%	Chapman University, Biola University, Disneyland, Kinsbursky Brothers, Starbucks, Irvine Co., NN Inc., Amada America, Diocese of Orange, Pepsi Robert Moore president, West region (714) 491-1317/(714) 333-9700
24	W.E. O'Neil Construction 2100 Main St., Ste. 300 Irvine 92614-6285 Headquarters: El Segundo Website: weoneil.com Email: pruig@weoneil.com	\$60 17% 12/21	\$575 -18%	31 0%	14	12	0% 10% 0%	0% 90%	Paloma MainPlace Mall, MainPlace Mall Parcel 3 Apartments, Raintree Del Prado, Sunrise of Orange, Clearwater Harbor Point Paul Ruig project executive (949) 932-0704/(310) 643-6541
25	Casco Contractors 9850 Irvine Center Drive Irvine 92618-4353 Headquarters: Irvine Website: cascocontractors.com Email: info@cascocontractors.com	\$54 -10% 12/21	\$63.9 -7%	57 -10%	245	325	5% 20% 15%	10% 50%	would not disclose Cheryl Osborn founder/president (949) 679-6880/(949) 679-6890
26	Morris Construction 5151 California Ave., Ste. 250 Irvine 92617-3205 Headquarters: Irvine Website: morris-usa.com Email: info@morris-usa.com	\$52.3 61% 12/21	\$83.5 -13%	30 11%	24	30	0% 8% 20%	28% 44%	would not disclose Chris Morris president (949) 333-7000
27	Slater Builders Inc. 3100-B Pullman St. Costa Mesa 92626-4500 Headquarters: Costa Mesa Website: slaterbuilders.com Email: mbutron@slaterbuilders.com	\$51.9 50% 12/21	\$101.8 107%	36 -10%	41	43	wnd	wnd	Friends of Newport Beach Animal Shelter, Hoag Hospital Leadership Center, Our Lady Queen of Angels Athletic and Activity Center, Quay Works - 3101 W. PCH, Little Tree Montessori School Lizabeth S. Slater CEO (714) 434-4887/(714) 434-6173
28	Caliber Construction Inc. 240 N. Orange Ave. Brea 92821-4026 Headquarters: Brea Website: caliberconstructioninc.com Email: info@caliberconst.net	\$51.7 8% 12/21	\$51.7 8%	41 0%	145	223	0% 50% 50%	0% 0%	would not disclose Doug Bassett/Jim Roy co-owner, president/co-owner, VP (714) 255-2700/(714) 255-2730

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⁽²⁾ CEO as of July 1, 2022
⁽¹⁾ Business Journal estimate