

# UID Urban Land Institute

Austin

## **COVID BUSINESS OUTLOOK**

### June 11, 2020

ULI Austin conducted a survey from May 8 to May 22, 2020 to determine the impact of COVID-19 within the greater Austin real estate business community. We asked that each organization coordinate internally to have only one person complete the survey on the company's behalf. 122 completed responses were received. About 70% of respondents were either owners or senior-level executives.

### **DEMOGRAPHICS**



### **Primary Markets\***



\*Respondents could choose more than one market

### **CURRENT RESPONSE**



#### ACTIONS TAKEN TO LIMIT FINANCIAL/ECONOMIC IMPACT\*

### **CHANGE IN WORKFORCE**



#### Staff Reductions or Extended Furloughs

Smaller firms (50 or less) have had the largest reduction in force by organization size and Real Estate Brokers/Agents and Construction Managers/Contractors have experienced the largest impact by organization type.



### REVENUE



#### PERCENTAGE OF REVENUE (BY VOLUME OF TOTAL ORGANIZATIONAL WORKLOAD)

- Between 15-25% indicated that there had been no impact to revenue-generating work so far and it appears that much of the lost business is likely temporary (on hold vs lost).
- Comparing responses by market, Single Family has been the least affected while Industrial, Office, and Multi-family (both ownership and rent) appeared to be more volatile, with more revenue on hold.

### **FUTURE EXPECTATIONS**

General business impacts over the next 3 to 6 months from date of survey response (May 8–May 22)



In the next 3 to 6 months:

- Around 60% of respondents expect some change to business going forward, and about one quarter expect a major impact to revenues and profitability.
- However, more than a quarter expect business to remain stable, and 12% expect an increase in business revenue in the next 3 to 6 months.

#### **Other Insights**

BIGGEST CONCERNS FOR BUSINESS DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS COMMON RESPONSES:

- Safety and health of employees
- Length and depth of the downturn affecting capital markets and deal flow
- Government "over-reaction"

BIGGEST OPPORTUNITIES FOR BUSINESS AFTER THE COVID-19 CRISIS COMMON RESPONSES:

- Taking advantage of price corrections to make acquisitions
- Ability to attract talent
- Flexibility and nimbleness, sometimes tied to Working From Home option

#### THANKS TO ALL THOSE THAT PARTICIPATED IN THIS SURVEY!



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