## Cost Trend Update July 2019

## CONSTRUCTION COST TRENDS

The first half of 2019 has had its ups and downs in the construction industry. Cost trends started slowly with a $15 \%$ decrease over the first quarter. Prices rebounded in the second quarter with seasonal increases of $10 \%$. Overall, numbers have come in lower than 2018. Economists say that the decrease is due partially to the government shutdown. Consulting Groups have predicted an $11.6 \%$ overall drop in softwood lumber prices in 2019, which they attribute to continued lower than expected demands in the US housing market. At the same time steel costs are up slightly, showing a $2.7 \%$ increase over the first half of the year, though costs in the US are well below the anticipated $25 \%$ tariff premiums.


## EQUIPMENT COST TRENDS

Equipment cost trends experienced an average increase of 4.4\% over the past 12 months.

Equipment Cost Trends July Yearly


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## 2019 Equipment Cost Trends

MSB: Equipment
Average of All
MSB:
Equipment
Average of All
BLS: CPI US
City Average

