



## Will Construction Climb out of the Hole or Fall off the Fiscal Cliff?

Construction employment in South Florida has sunk to the lowest levels since at least the 1980s. Yet there are signs of improvement both nationally and regionally. Will the industry finally turn around in 2013? Or will the dreaded "fiscal cliff" combination of sudden steep tax increases and spending cuts push construction still deeper in the hole? Will materials costs flare up again? Will workers still be available when contractors are finally ready to hire? Ken Simonson, Chief Economist of AGC of America and 2012-13 president of the National Association for Business Economics, will answer these questions—and yours—in a lively, interactive session.

### Kenneth D. Simonson

Chief Economist, Associated General Contractors of America

**Monday, December 10, 2012**

**FIU OHL School of Construction Management 6:00PM – Reception 6:30PM Dinner and Program**  
10555 West Flagler Street, Miami, Florida 33174-1630 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Engineering Building



**Kenneth Simonson**

Ken Simonson joined AGC of America on September 10, 2001. Ever since Day Two he has been provided insight into what was happening to the economy and what it implied for construction and related industries.

Ken's weekly one-page email newsletter for AGC, *The Data DIGest*, provides 7000 readers with the latest economic news relevant to construction. He also sends out a variety of state-specific information. He is interviewed and quoted almost daily by local and national media, including *The Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today*, *Business Week*, and *CNBC*. In addition, he has written eight booklets explaining tax provisions in plain English, and he contributes frequently to a variety of business and professional publications and conferences, including columns for *Fleet Owner*, a trucking magazine, and *The Electrical Distributor*.

Ken has 30 years of experience analyzing, advocating and communicating about economic and tax issues. Before joining AGC, he was senior economic advisor in the U.S. Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy. Earlier, he was vice president and chief economist for the American Trucking Associations. He also worked with the President's Commission on Industrial Competitiveness, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Federal Home Loan Bank Board, and an economic consulting firm.

Ken is a board member of the National Association for Business Economics (NABE) and author of "Digging into Construction Data," published in NABE's journal, *Business Economics*. Since 1982, he has co-chaired the Tax Economists Forum, a professional meeting group he co-founded for leading researchers and policy makers among tax economists. He is vice president of Community Tax Aid, an organization that prepares returns for free for low-income taxpayers. Ken has a BA in economics from the University of Chicago, an MA in economics from Northwestern University, and has taken advanced graduate economics courses at the Université de Paris, Johns Hopkins University and Georgetown University.

**Back to School at FIU! Co-Hosted by the AGC Student Chapter, this event will bring back memories of those carefree college days. You don't want to miss it.**

Members of AGC, ASPE or CASF \$40.00, non-members \$50.00. New members with application & Check FREE

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