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# Quarterly Construction Review

spring 2015

**Spring is here!** Despite the harsh winter in many places, consumer confidence has been solid in this modest but steady economic recovery. New home starts are up 9.7% year over year. Even with the big dip in gas & diesel prices, the cost for all construction materials is up 2 to 3% and skilled labor has increased at a similar rate. Below are examples of inflation changes.



Gypsum  
Products  
= **.9%**



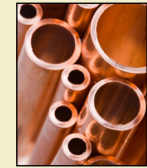
Asphalt  
Roofing  
+ **.4%**



Diesel Fuel  
= **39%**



Hardwood  
Flooring  
+ **.8%**



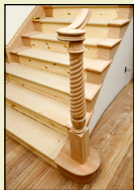
Copper  
= **6.9%**



Lumber &  
Plywood  
+ **5.7%**



Steel  
= **4.8%**



Millwork &  
Moldings  
+ **2.2%**



Custom  
Cabinetry  
+ **3.5%**



Concrete  
Products  
+ **4.4%**



Labor  
+ **2.7%**



**Data from March 2014 to March 2015. Sources:**

- Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)
- Engineering News Record (ENR)
- National Association of Homebuilders (NAHB)
- XactAnalysis by Xactware Solutions Inc.

Chubb is committed to making sure our mutual customers' homes are insured for the full cost of reconstruction. Here in Personal Lines Appraisal, we closely monitor residential construction trends to help you keep your customer informed on what it costs to build a home in today's market. <http://www.chubb.com/personal/home.jsp>