# **Economics Group**

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## **Dodge Momentum Index Edges Higher**

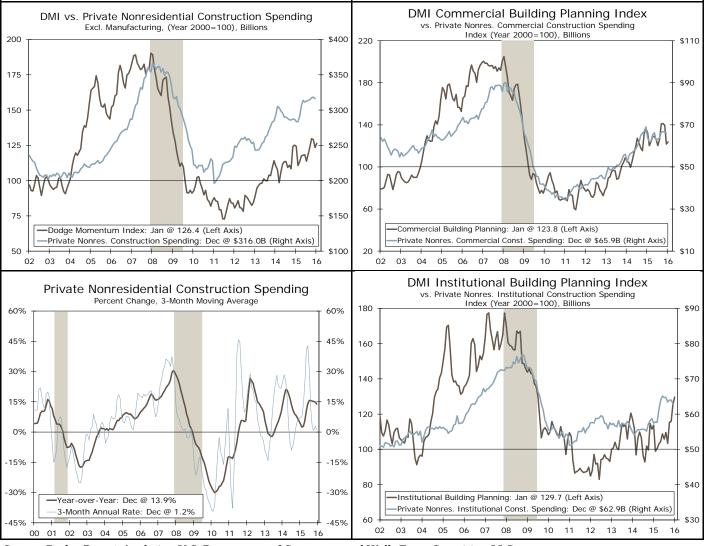
The Dodge Momentum Index (DMI) posted a 126.4 reading in January, rising 2.4 percent from a downwardlyrevised December. Gains were broadly based, with commercial and institutional planning up on the month.

#### Good Start for the New Year

• In the first month of the year, the DMI rose 2.4 percent from a downwardly-revised December reading and is up 1.7 percent year over year. Positive activity in this index, which leads construction spending by about a year, suggests that private nonresidential outlays will likely continue to grow over the next two years; however, the pace is set to moderate as commercial real estate fundamentals begin to soften.

#### **Commercial and Institutional Sectors See Gains**

• During the month, 10 projects started the planning phase with a value of more than \$100 million. Commercial building planning increased 1.6 percent, with office and hotel continuing to post gains. The most significant project during the month was a \$270 million convention center in San Diego, CA. Institutional planning also grew in January, rising 3.3 percent on the month. In this space, renovations and expansions are leading the way.



Source: Dodge Data & Analytics, U.S. Department of Commerce and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC

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