

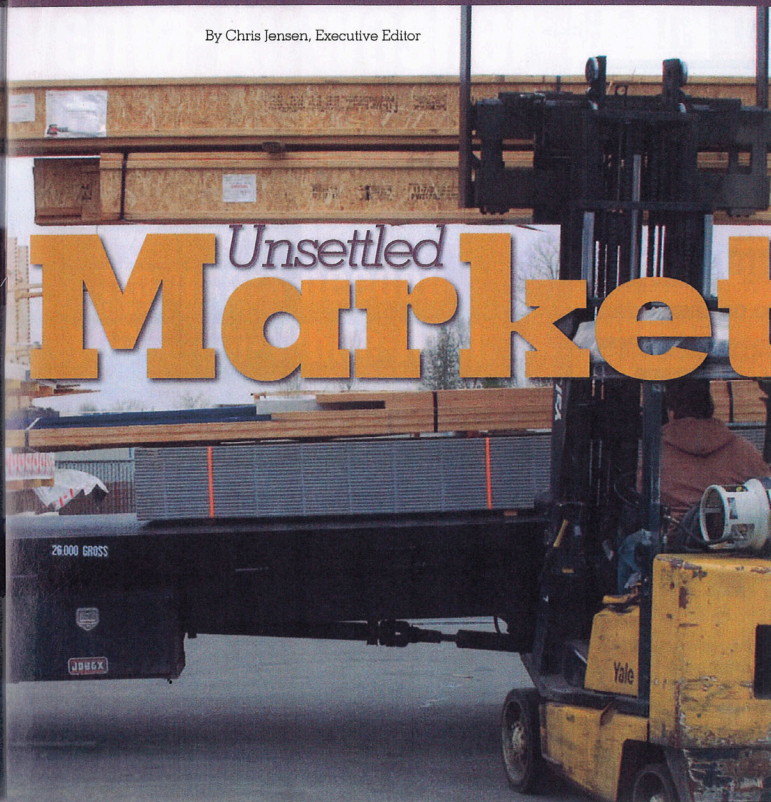
Serving the Contractor in Today's

Some retailers may be old enough to remember the difficult times the hardware/home improvement industry faced in the late 1970s and early 1980s. But for many retailers, the current downturn in the home improvement and construction industry represents a completely new experience.



By Chris Jensen, Executive Editor

Unsettled Market



A new research report from The Farnsworth Group, an Indianapolis-based home improvement research and consulting firm, is available for purchase.

Where Are We At Today?

The report begins by outlining just how far the high dollar industry has

industry recorded its first negative growth in over two decades.

been immune to the downward pressure on growth rates or profit levels. More

Positive Trends

On the positive side, several historical

(both new and existing homes), the Housing Affordability Index has returned