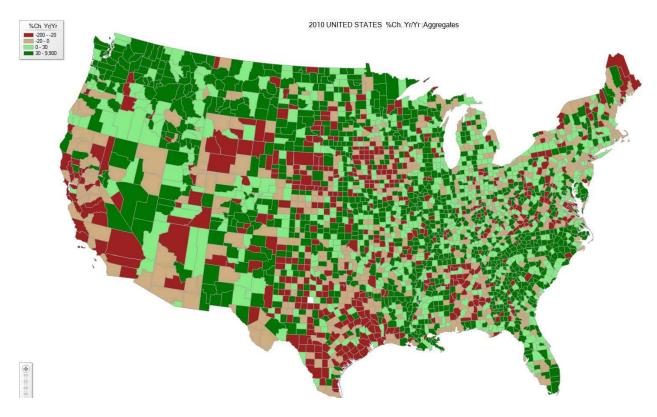
DCG, Inc. Aggregates Forecast



The above map shows the DCG, Inc. outlook for aggregates consumption by county for 2010. Compared to 2009 the consumption outlook is much better with most counties increasing demand, even though total demand remains far below prior peak levels. Most of the increases (green) are due to a turnaround in residential activity and nonbuilding gains. Double digit residential increases are common but are not very impressive in new tonnage since the starting point is so low. The main driver is nonbuilding where Federal stimulus money helps substantially in 2010 as the backlog of contracts begins to translate into higher product demand. Nonresidential activity will continue to be a drag on demand as weak employment, high vacancy rates and strict lending rules hinder new activity.

Regionally the Southeast and the Northern border areas will perform the best with California and Texas being among the weakest areas. Two indicators to watch for to gauge the sustainability of the recovery are job growth and inflation. A continuation of a 'jobless' recovery is a danger sign for 2011-12. Increasing inflation will send interest rates much higher and kill off new developments. By early 2010 we will have a good idea if either of these indicators point toward danger or a return to strong growth.

David Chereb, Ph.D. November 30, 2009