

Weekly News Summary

17th October 2023

Construction output slides for second month running:

Construction output fell 0.5% in volume terms in August in a second consecutive monthly fall. With the wider UK economy bumping along at 0.2% growth, construction has now become a drag on growth rather than a driver. The decrease in monthly output came solely from a decrease in new work (1.5% fall), partially offset by an increase in repair and maintenance (1.0% up) on the month. To read more Click [Here](#)

Labour vows to “get Britain building again”: Labour is vowing to overhaul the planning system in a bid to “get Britain Building again”. Shadow chancellor Rachel Reeves will unveil the party’s plans at the Labour conference in Liverpool today. Proposals are expected to include updating all national policy statements and detailing what types of projects the country needs within the first six months of Labour entering office. To read more Click [Here](#)

Understanding silent discrimination in the construction industry: Over 700 construction workers die by suicide each year, equivalent to two every working day, with silent discrimination being a significant factor. The construction sector is a male-dominated industry that often grapples with a stigma surrounding mental health. Long hours and job insecurity are significant contributors to poor mental health in the sector. To read more Click [Here](#)

HS2: What has been built so far?: The northern legs of the HS2 rail link have been scrapped - but building work across a huge swathe of southern England and the Midlands has been going on for more than three years. Drills are churning under the landscape between London and Birmingham around the clock, and there are 350 active construction sites along the 140 mile (225km) route, but no trains are expected to run on it until at least 2029.

Map showing location of tunnels, stations and the Colne Valley Viaduct along the route of HS2 To read more Click [Here](#)

Currencies	Last	Chg.	Chg. %
FTSE 100	7,654.07	23.44	0.31%
DAX	15,165.35	-72.64	-0.48%
Euro Stoxx 50	4,131.95	-17.91	-0.43%
S&P 500	4,373.63	45.85	1.06%
Nikkei 225	32,013.50	379	1.20%
Dow Jones	33,984.54	314.25	0.93%
FTSE 100 Futures	7,684.80	7.60	0.10%

Current value as at 12:16 BST, 17th Oct 2023

ABOUT UKR

UKR is an established construction recruitment agency supplying trades & labour to the UK construction industry. We recruit at all levels across the following disciplines: Construction, Civil Engineering, Mechanical & Electrical, Rail and Utilities on a temporary, contract and permanent basis.

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Starmer promises to “unleash the big build”: Labour Party leader Keir Starmer has set out his plan to ride on the shoulders of the construction industry if and when he becomes prime minister. Keir Starmer has promised to bulldoze the planning system and get Britain building again. He has set out his stall based on old-fashioned Keynesian economics, investing in construction to motor the economy. Starmer’s challenge, however, is to fill a credibility gap. YouGov has only 33% of the electorate believing that Keir Starmer looks like a prime minister in waiting (and 47% who don’t). To read more click [Here](#)

HS2 has already spent £1.25bn on Phase 2 contracts: An analysis of expenditure for the scrapped Birmingham-Manchester HS2 line reveals that more than £1bn has already been spent on design and pre-construction works. The Department for Transport, which publishes High-Speed 2’s invoices, has released invoices that mention Phase 2 more than 5,500 times, with a combined value of more than £1.25bn. The analysis was conducted by Tussell, a consultancy that monitors government contracts. To read more click [Here](#)

AmcoGiffen to pioneer robot-constructed tunnels in rail sector: Contractor AmcoGiffen has signed an exclusive use deal to use an innovative robot-construction tunnel method in the rail sector. HyperTunnel technology employs an automated construction method that builds tunnels more than 10 times faster and at half the cost of conventional techniques. Using swarm construction methods according to a digital twin of the tunnel, a fleet of ‘hyperBot’ robots enter the ground via an arch of plastic pipes. To read more click [Here](#)

HSE finds ‘many examples’ of poor practice in dust inspections blitz: Health and Safety Executive (HSE) inspectors have found companies where the health of workers is being neglected when managing dust exposure risks. Examples include carrying out simple tasks such as sweeping up indoors without providing suitable face-fit tested respiratory protective equipment (RPE), or damping down to control the dust generated. To read more click [Here](#)

How low can you go?: In the increasingly urgent quest to find low-carbon construction materials, scientists are exploring a wide – and often unexpected – range of possibilities. It is estimated that at least 8% of global carbon emissions caused by humans come from the cement industry alone – although the source of that statistic remains tantalisingly elusive. But whatever the exact percentage, there is no doubt that cement production is a major contributor to global warming. The industry itself acknowledges the fact and consequently it is pouring money and resources into finding ways to decarbonise. To read more click [Here](#)



Planning Leads

Title	Location	Value	Publish Date
Conversion to 2 dwellings	Cambridge	£200,000	15/10/2023
Pool House	Coventry	£100,000	15/10/2023
Conversion to 2 Flats	Southampton	£200,000	15/10/2023
Conversion to Dwelling	Colchester	£100,000	15/10/2023
Conversion to 3 Flats	Cambridge	£200,000	15/10/2023
Conversion to Dwelling	Hereford	£100,000	15/10/2023
Conversion to Dwelling	Ipswich	£100,000	15/10/2023
23 Dwellings	Bromley	£3,000,000	15/10/2023
Extension to Storage Facility	Inverness	£300,000	15/10/2023
14 Dwellings	Colchester	£2,000,000	15/10/2023
Conversion to Dwelling	Leeds	£100,000	15/10/2023
Alteration to Hospital	Bournemouth	£100,000	15/10/2023
Extension to GP Surgery	Ipswich	£100,000	15/10/2023
Extension to HMO	Twickenham	£100,000	15/10/2023
Conversion to Dwelling	Derby	£100,000	15/10/2023
Alteration to Post Office	Chelmsford	£100,000	15/10/2023
Conversion to Dwelling	Carlisle	£100,000	15/10/2023
Conversion to HMO	Dartford	£100,000	15/10/2023
2 Dwellings	Newcastle Upon Tyne	£300,000	15/10/2023
Extension to Industrial Unit	Stoke-on-trent	£400,000	15/10/2023
Conversion to Dwelling	Hereford	£100,000	14/10/2023
Conversion to Dwelling	Kirkwall	£100,000	14/10/2023
3 Dwellings	Newcastle Upon Tyne	£400,000	14/10/2023
Shop Front	Kingston Upon Thames	£100,000	14/10/2023
3 Dwellings	Colchester	£400,000	14/10/2023
Conversion to 5 Flats	Shrewsbury	£300,000	14/10/2023
54 Dwellings	Stoke-on-trent	£6,000,000	14/10/2023
Extension to Workshop	Lancaster	£200,000	14/10/2023
2 Dwellings	Newcastle Upon Tyne	£300,000	14/10/2023
Conversion to Bungalow	Southampton	£100,000	14/10/2023



Contractor ranked by work won during September 2023

Rank	Contractor	No. contracts	Value	Ranking	Contractor	No. contracts	Total (£m)
1	Higgins	2	£251m	26	HG	1	£38m
2	Morgan Sindall	16	£197m	27	Caddick	3	£34m
3	Vistry	1	£150m	28	Robertson	3	£28m
4	Royal BAM	3	£105m	29	Pioneer Design And Build	2	£25m
5	Newry Construction	1	£100m	30	Galliford Try	8	£25m
6	Willmott Dixon	6	£96m	31	Clark Contracts	7	£25m
7	RG Group	1	£95m	32	Meldrum	2	£25m
8	Tilbury Douglas	4	£93m	33	GRAHAM Construction	1	£24m
9	Bowmer & Kirkland	5	£78m	34	Noviniti	1	£22m
10	Hill Partnerships	2	£75m	35	Osborne	1	£22m
11	Lendlease	2	£72m	36	Ashcourt Contracts	1	£20m
12	Blenheim House	2	£65m	37	Bennett Construction	1	£20m
13	Commercial Development Projects	2	£63m	38	Complete Moling Services (South East)	1	£20m
14	Balfour Beatty	2	£62m	39	REDS10	3	£19m
15	McAlee & Rushe	1	£60m	40	Barhale	1	£18m
16	Kier	6	£58m	41	Conlon	1	£16m
17	Jenner	1	£58m	42	Churchill Retirement Living	1	£15m
18	VolkerWessels	1	£57m	43	Structuretone (UK)	1	£15m
19	Morrison	4	£53m	44	Willis Construction	2	£14m
20	Wates	4	£52m	45	Adhan Group Of Companies	1	£14m
21	SDC	1	£49m	46	Beard	5	£14m
22	Glencar	1	£45m	47	RG Carter	3	£13m
23	McCarthy & Stone	1	£43m	48	Real Construction	1	£13m
24	John Sisk	2	£41m	49	AE Yates	1	£12m
25	JJ Rhatigan & Company	1	£40m	50	Kori Construction (SAC Construction)	1	£12m



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