

Weekly News Summary

7th November 2023

October sees another sharp drop in output: Trading conditions remained tough for UK construction companies during October with construction output shrinking for the second month in a row. The headline seasonally adjusted S&P Global/CIPS UK Construction Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) – which measures month-on-month changes in industry activity – hit 45.6 in October, up slightly from 45.0 in September. But it was still the second-lowest reading since May 2020 and confirmed a marked decline in total activity. To read more Click [Here](#)

Engineering construction workers reject 15% pay deal: More than 3,000 engineering construction workers have rejected the latest employers' pay offer and are poised to take strike action. The ballot on the latest improved offer of 10% for 2024 and a further 5% for 2025 closed Friday and saw a majority of 86% turn the deal down. To read more Click [Here](#)

Investors go cool on UK property market: The UK construction industry has been dealt a warning today that real estate investors are pulling in their horns and looking to other countries to invest their money. Two-thirds of institutional real estate investors are reconsidering their UK ventures due to market conditions, according to research by insurance broker Gallagher. To read more Click [Here](#)

Surveyors see workloads fall as house-building dives: UK construction workloads entered negative territory in the third quarter of 2023, driven down by a sharp drop in house-building according to the latest economic bulletin from the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS). The headline reading from the RICS UK Construction Monitor for Q3 2023 shows a net balance of -10% of respondents reporting a decrease in activity this quarter – the worst result since the early months of the Covid-19 pandemic. To read more Click [Here](#)

Currencies	Last	Chg.	Chg. %
FTSE 100	7,420.92	3.16	0.04%
DAX	15,088.55	-47.42	-0.31%
Euro Stoxx 50	4,143.15	-15.49	-0.37%
S&P 500	4,365.98	7.64	0.18%
Nikkei 225	32,271.82	-448.48	-1.37%
Dow Jones	34,095.86	34.54	0.10%
FTSE 100 Futures	7,426.80	-7.00	-0.09%

Current value as at 11:13 BST, 7th Nov 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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In pictures | How the City of London will look in 2030: The City of London Corporation has released new images showing how the capital's financial district could look by 2030. The computer-generated imagery (CGI) visualises all major developments that have been approved or resolved to be approved by the City Corporation over the past 12 months. The Corporation's Planning and Transportation Committee received 25% more applications compared with the same period last year. To read more click [Here](#)

Builders prefer poached eggs or porridge for breakfast: One of construction's biggest on-site caterers is set to soon sell more healthy breakfasts than traditional fry-ups. Construction catering specialist Bon Appetit feeds 30,000 hungry workers a day and has seen a gradual shift towards healthy eating. Its latest research shows says the proportion who choose a traditional breakfast has fallen from 81% to 56% over the last ten years. To read more click [Here](#)

Network Rail agrees extra infra spending after ORR review: Network Rail is proposing to spend an extra £600m on infrastructure following a review of its investment plans by the Office of Rail and Road. The ORR called for the extra infrastructure cash in its initial response to Network Rail's spending plans for the five years from 1 April 2024 – known as Control Period 7 (CP7). Revised proposals show total spending plans of £43.1bn across the UK with more money set aside for core infrastructure spending. To read more click [Here](#)

McLaughlin & Harvey seals £61m education job: Wolverhampton City Council has agreed a £61m price with contractor McLaughlin & Harvey to build a City Learning Quarter in the city centre. The firm will now go-ahead and build new facilities for the City of Wolverhampton College, Adult Education Wolverhampton and Central Library. The City Learning Quarter main facility will be situated around the Old Hall Street and St George's Parade area of the city centre, incorporating a site on the corner of Garrick Street and Bilston Street, where the former Faces nightclub building once stood. To read more click [Here](#)

Data centres waste heat to warm thousands of homes: The Government is injecting £65m into funding five big district heating schemes, including constructing the UK's first heat network using waste heat from data centres to heat over 10,000 London homes. Grants from the Green Heat Network Fund will allow the big district heating projects in London, Watford, Suffolk and Lancaster to proceed. London's Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation scheme in west London will get just over half the funding for its ambitious scheme to recycle waste heat from large computer systems storing internet data. To read more click [Here](#)



Planning Leads

Title	Location	Value	Publish Date
Conversion to Care Home (9 Rooms)	Norwich	£300,000	06/11/2023
2 Dwellings	Glasgow	£300,000	06/11/2023
Conversion to Mixed Use (2 Units)	Durham	£200,000	06/11/2023
3 Dwellings	Oldham	£400,000	06/11/2023
Workshop	Newcastle Upon Tyne	£100,000	06/11/2023
Conversion to 4 Dwellings	Taunton	£300,000	06/11/2023
Conversion to Dwelling	Tonbridge	£100,000	06/11/2023
Extension to Rugby Club	Cardiff	£100,000	06/11/2023
Conversion to Dwelling	Norwich	£100,000	06/11/2023
Extension to Hospital	Lancaster	£100,000	06/11/2023
Conversion to 6 Flats	South West London	£400,000	06/11/2023
Conversion to Dwelling	Milton Keynes	£100,000	06/11/2023
Conversion to Dwelling	Redhill	£100,000	06/11/2023
Shop Front	Wakefield	£100,000	06/11/2023
Conversion to 3 Dwellings	Tonbridge	£200,000	06/11/2023
Conversion to Dwelling	Doncaster	£100,000	06/11/2023
Conversion to Dwelling	Portsmouth	£100,000	06/11/2023
20 Dwellings	Aberdeen	£2,500,000	06/11/2023
Alteration to Office	South West London	£100,000	06/11/2023
Storage Facility	Cardiff	£400,000	06/11/2023
Extension to Industrial Unit	Nottingham	£200,000	05/11/2023
Conversion to Dwelling	Warrington	£100,000	05/11/2023
Extension to Retail Units	Preston	£100,000	05/11/2023
Conversion to 6 Flats	Cardiff	£400,000	05/11/2023
Conversion to Dwelling	Salisbury	£100,000	05/11/2023
Amenity Space	Exeter	£100,000	05/11/2023
10 Dwellings	Stevenage	£1,500,000	05/11/2023
2 Dwellings	Kilmarnock	£300,000	05/11/2023
Workshop	Dumfries	£100,000	05/11/2023
Conversion to 2 Dwellings	Glasgow	£200,000	05/11/2023



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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