Construction back in growth as output rises 1.1% in January: Construction enjoyed a surprise return to growth at the start of 2024 with monthly construction output in January rising 1.1% in volume terms. The uplift follows three consecutive monthly falls, with green shoots of growth fed by increases in both new work (1.1%) and repair and maintenance (1.2%). At the sector level, six out of the nine sectors saw a rise in January 2024. To read more Click **Here**

House-building cost inflation steady at 1.7%: Latest report from the Building Cost Information Service (BCIS) shows no change in annual house-building cost inflation. The BCIS Private Housing Construction Price Index (PHCPI) for the fourth quarter of 2023 stood at 1.7%, the same as in the third quarter. Its most recent peak was 15.3% in spring 2022. In Q4 2023, private new housing output was down by 8% on the previous quarter, or by 22.5% on the same quarter a year earlier. To read more Click **Here**

Turner & Townsend sees rays of sun through the clouds: Quantity surveyor Turner & Townsend is urging its clients to start planning for an upturn in construction activity, while also revising up its inflation forecasts for the UK industry. Turner & Townsend's Spring 2024 UK Market Intelligence (UKMI) report talks of 'continued headwinds', with the UK in recession and facing political uncertainty in the approach to a general election. To read more Click **Here**

Planning permissions for new homes reach new low: The number of planning approvals for new house-building sites reached its lowest on record in 2023, builders report. The latest Housing Pipeline Report from the Home Builders Federation shows that the number of planning permissions granted for new homes in England was down 20% in 2023 and the number of sites approved was the lowest since it began recording in 2006. To read more Click **Here**

Currencies	Last	Chg.	Chg. %
FTSE 100	7,717.69	-4.86	-0.06%
DAX	17,960.85	21.64	0.12%
Euro Stoxx 50	4,986.75	3.99	0.08%
S&P 500	5,149.42	32.33	0.63%
Nikkei 225	39,978.50	262	0.66%
Dow Jones	38,790.43	75.66	0.20%
FTSE 100 Futures	7,743.20	-8.8	-0.11%

Current value as at 09:27 BST, 19th March 2024

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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Autonomous dump truck makes debut at Devon quarry: An autonomous dump truck, co-developed by Chepstow Plant International and Bell Equipment, has made its debut. The project is led by Chepstow Plant International and Bell, following long-term trials between Bell and technology platform specialist, Xtonomy. The fourth partner in the project is Sibelco, whose china-clay Cornwood quarry in Devon was the venue for the public launch of the autonomous articulated dump truck (ADT). The vehicle started as a standard B40E dump truck. It features radar sensors, GPS, multi-channel communication systems and on-board processing hardware, incorporated by Xtonomy, to create an autonomous-ready drive-by-wire machine. To read more click **Here**

Is a four-day work week the future for UK construction?: As more UK companies consider switching to four-day work weeks, PBC Today investigates what the potential impact could be on the construction industry. Of the 61 UK organisations that took part in the world's biggest pilot of the four-day work week in 2022, 89% were still operating the policy a year later and over half had made the policy permanent. As the conversation about a four-day work week gains traction in the UK, the construction industry will naturally wonder how it could impact business, both in the positive and negative. To read more click **Here**

Pothole plague reaches new peak: More than half of the local road network in England and Wales could fail in the next 15 years as the amount needed to fix the backlog of repairs reaches a record high of £16.3bn. The 2024 Annual Local Authority Road Maintenance survey report – ALARM – highlights the scale of the challenge that faces local authority highway teams who don't have the funds to keep our roads in good shape. Local authorities in England and Wales effectively experienced a real-terms cut due to the impact of rising costs due to inflation, despite average highway maintenance budgets increasing by 2.3% to £26.4m per authority. To read more click **Here**

Go-ahead for £175m Birmingham Broad Street tower: Developer Regal Property Group has got the planning green light for a 47-storey build-to-rent scheme in the heart of Birmingham. Work will now start on the £175m 90-97 Broad Street scheme this Autumn. Designed by architect Glancy Nicholls, the Essington building has been designed to be a pinnacle development within an emerging cluster of towers. It will contain 525 apartments within a distinctive 'H' shaped floor plan to maximise the city views for each apartment. To read more click **Here**

Balfour Beatty and Costain land roles on Teesside's £4bn power project: Balfour Beatty and Costain are among contractors selected to bring forward plans for the UK's first commercial scale gas-fired power station with carbon capture. Net Zero Teesside Power (NZT Power), a joint venture between BP and Equinor, has selected contractors for eight packages of its £4bn project. To read more click **Here**

Planning Leads

Title	Location	Value	Publish Date
2 Dwellings	Inverness	£300,000	*16/03/2024*
Mixed Use Development (7 Units)	South East London	£1,100,000	*16/03/2024*
Storage Facility	Paisley	£100,000	*16/03/2024*
Mixed Use Development (4 Units)	Exeter	£600,000	*16/03/2024*
6 Apartments	Northampton	£700,000	*16/03/2024*
2 Bungalows	Swansea	£300,000	*16/03/2024*
Conversion to Dwelling	Colchester	£100,000	*16/03/2024*
9 Apartments	Oldham	£1,500,000	*16/03/2024*
10 Holiday Lets	Taunton	£1,500,000	*16/03/2024*
4 Staff Accommodation Units	Paisley	£500,000	*16/03/2024*
8 Dwellings	South East London	£900,000	*16/03/2024*
Conversion to 6 DwellingsLtd	Glasgow	£400,000	*16/03/2024*
Conversion to Dwelling	Perth	£100,000	*16/03/2024*
2 Dwellings	Stevenage	£300,000	*16/03/2024*
Conversion to Holiday Let	Ipswich	£100,000	*16/03/2024*
Conversion to Dwelling	Southampton	£100,000	*16/03/2024*
2 Dwellings	Bournemouth	£300,000	*16/03/2024*
Industrial Unit and Storage Facility	Salisbury	£7,000,000	*16/03/2024*
2 Dwellings	Wolverhampton	£300,000	*16/03/2024*
9 Flats	Southampton	£1,500,000	*16/03/2024*
Conversion to 3 Flats	Bournemouth	£200,000	*15/03/2024*
Industrial Unit and Storage Facility	Salisbury	£7,000,000	*15/03/2024*
Conversion to 6 DwellingsLtd	Glasgow	£400,000	*15/03/2024*
Conversion to Dwelling	Colchester	£100,000	*15/03/2024*
6 Apartments	Northampton	£700,000	*15/03/2024*
9 Apartments	Oldham	£1,500,000	*15/03/2024*
2 Dwellings	Bournemouth	£300,000	*15/03/2024*
Conversion to Holiday Let	Ipswich	£100,000	*15/03/2024*
9 Flats	Southampton	£1,500,000	*15/03/2024*
4 Staff Accommodation Units	Paisley	£500,000	*15/03/2024*

Contractor ranked by work won during February 2024

Rank	Contractor	No. contracts	Value
1	J Murphy	3	£673.8m
2	Bouygues	1	£672.3m
3	Morgan Sindall	11	£549.2m
4	Kier	5	£479.9m
5	Skanska	1	£200.0m
6	Domis Construction	1	£195.0m
7	Willmott Dixon	8	£172.3m
8	United Living	1	£160.0m
9	Multiplex	1	£150.0m
10	Graham Construction	2	£130.5m
11	HG	1	£130.0m
12	Winvic	6	£105.4m
13	Galliford Try	5	£99.4m
14	GMI	1	£88.0m
15	RG Group	1	£71.0m
16	BCEGI	1	£67.0m
17	Higgins	1	£60.0m
18	Mace	1	£50.0m
19	Octavius Infrastructure	1	£46.2m
20	Bugler	2	£45.0m
21	Wates	2	£42.8m
22	Royal BAM	3	£41.7m
23	Barhale	3	£37.3m
24	Bowmer & Kirkland	1	£35.8m
25	Caddick	2	£32.2m

Ranking	Contractor	No. contracts	Total (£m)
26	Edgewater Contracts & Specialist Joinery	2	£32.2m
27	McLaren	1	£30.5m
28	CField Construction	1	£30.0m
29	CL Projects UK	1	£30.0m
30	ISG	4	£29.8m
31	Vinci	2	£27.5m
32	TanRo	2	£27.3m
33	Sir Robert McAlpine	2	£27.2m
34	Magrock	2	£27.0m
35	ARJ	1	£25.0m
36	Vistry	2	£25.0m
37	Lovell Partnerships	1	£24.0m
38	Integrated Health Projects	4	£23.0m
39	Esh	3	£20.8m
40	Barnfield	3	£20.7m
41	Morrison	2	£19.7m
42	Kind & Company (Builders)	1	£18.5m
43	Gillespies LLP	1	£18.4m
44	Beard	4	£17.9m
45	Darwin Group	1	£17.3m
46	Mildren	1	£17.0m
47	Adderstone Group	1	£15.6m
48	Amiri	2	£15.0m
49	Deconstruct (UK) t/a The De Group UK	1	£15.0m
50	Merit Holdings	1	£15.0m

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