

Weekly News Summary

9th April 2024

Construction buyers see first growth in six months: Construction buyers saw a return to industry growth for the first time in six months in March. The bellwether S&P Global UK Construction Purchasing Managers' Index rose from 49.7 in February to 50.2 in March. Crucially it was above the 50 growth mark for the first time since August 2023. Adding to signs of a recovery, new orders expanded at the fastest pace since May 2023. Civil engineering was the best-performing sector in March with increased work on infrastructure projects and resilient demand in the energy sector. To read more Click [Here](#)

Main contractor trade credit insurance hits crisis point: Jittery insurers are pulling trade credit insurance cover on some of the country's leading contractors. The Enquirer has been contacted by several subcontractors and suppliers in recent weeks warning they are unable to obtain cover on some of the industry's biggest names. To read more Click [Here](#)

HS2 launches fourth London TBM: The fourth, and final, tunnel boring machine for HS2's Northolt Tunnel has begun her journey under west London. The 8.4-mile Northolt Tunnel tunnel, which will run from Victoria Road in Ealing to West Ruislip in Hillingdon, is being constructed by four tunnel boring machines (TBMs). To read more Click [Here](#)

Just one-in-nine top-paid staff at UK contractors are women: Women make up only one in nine of top positions at major construction firms, according to the latest gender equality data. Across 13 top contractors, women occupied a median of 11 per cent of the highest-paid positions. That was, however, a slight improvement from last year's median of 9.3 per cent. An analysis of statutory gender pay gap data by Construction News and sister title New Civil Engineer also found that women make three-quarters of men's hourly wages at top contractors. To read more Click [Here](#)

Currencies	Last	Chg.	Chg. %
FTSE 100	7,956.09	12.62	0.16%
DAX	18,197.15	-116.98	-0.64%
Euro Stoxx 50	5,016.35	-10.97	-0.22%
S&P 500	5,202.39	-1.95	-0.04%
Nikkei 225	39,759.50	445	1.13%
Dow Jones	38,892.80	-11.24	-0.03%
FTSE 100 Futures	7,969.80	10.4	0.13%

Current value as at 10:52 BST, 9th April 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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Merchants' sales still in decline: Britain's builders' merchants saw another fall in sales in January, year-on-year. The latest Builders Merchant Building Index (BMBI) report shows that builders' merchants' total takings were down 2.1% in January 2024 compared with January 2023, with sales volumes falling 3.2%, mitigated by prices creeping up 1.1% over the year. However, January 2024 had one more trading day; daily takings were down 6.5%, year on year. To read more click [Here](#)

HS2 tests market for £150m mass transit job: HS2 has started market engagement with contractors hoping to bid for the £150m contract to build its elevated mass-transit system in the West Midlands. Ahead of the formal procurement process, HS2 is assessing the capacity of global suppliers to deliver the Automated People Mover. The procurement is now expected to launch in early 2026 rather than 2025 as first planned. The APM will move passengers and visitors between HS2's Interchange Station, the NEC, Birmingham International rail station and Birmingham Airport. To read more click [Here](#)

Balfour gets final sign-off for HMP Highland at £209m: Balfour Beatty has achieved final sign-off at £209m to build the HMP Highland prison in Inverness. Once completed in 2026, it will be Scotland's first net-zero prison, with improved education and health facilities to help with rehabilitation. It will be able to accommodate 200 prisoners, over 100 more than the design capacity of Inverness Prison that it will replace, allowing more adult men from the Highlands and Islands to be accommodated in their local area. To read more click [Here](#)

Rolls-Royce gets go-ahead for 1.1m sq ft expansion in Derby: Rolls-Royce has gained outline planning for a major expansion of its works in Raynesway, Derby to fulfil a raft of major submarine contracts. The firm is planning to add around 1.1m sq ft of space demolishing several existing buildings at its site to make way for larger sheds and factory space. Rolls-Royce Submarins is also advanced with detailed plans for 5-storey office block known as the South Wind at the site, being advanced as a separate planning application from the major programme of works to increase manufacturing, office and storage floorspace with around 14 building projects. To read more click [Here](#)

McLaren and Arlington sign £1bn York deal: A development agreement has been signed to for the planned £1.1bn York Central regeneration scheme. Network Rail and Homes England selected McLaren Property and Arlington Real Estate as preferred developer for their brownfield scheme, York Central four months ago. After weeks of negotiations over the details, terms have now been agreed for the 45-hectare development next to York station. To read more click [Here](#)



Planning Leads

Title	Location	Value	Publish Date
Conversion to 2 Flats	Stoke-on-trent	£200,000	05/04/2024
2 Dwellings	Dundee	£300,000	05/04/2024
Conversion to 2 Flats	Dumfries	£200,000	05/04/2024
23 Dwellings	York	£2,500,000	05/04/2024
2 Dwellings	Leicester	£300,000	05/04/2024
Industrial Unit	Colchester	£900,000	05/04/2024
Care Home (78 Rooms)	Redhill	£4,500,000	05/04/2024
Conversion to Dwelling	Halifax	£100,000	05/04/2024
Conversion to Holiday Let	Swansea	£100,000	05/04/2024
Conversion to 2 Flats	Doncaster	£200,000	05/04/2024
Conversion to 2 Dwellings	York	£200,000	05/04/2024
Conversion to HMO	Doncaster	£100,000	05/04/2024
5 Dwellings	Hemel Hempstead	£600,000	05/04/2024
Conversion to Holiday Let	Redhill	£100,000	05/04/2024
2 Dwellings	Enfield	£300,000	05/04/2024
Conversion to 4 Flats	Milton Keynes	£300,000	05/04/2024
Extension to Community Centre	Wakefield	£100,000	05/04/2024
Vehicle and Parts Retail	Chelmsford	£2,000,000	05/04/2024
Conversion to 10 Flats	Aberdeen	£600,000	05/04/2024
Alteration to Office	Glasgow	£100,000	05/04/2024
Extension to Industrial Unit	Milton Keynes	£300,000	02/04/2024
8 Dwellings	Chelmsford	£900,000	02/04/2024
Conversion to 2 Flats	Blackpool	£200,000	29/03/2024
Conversion to Dwelling	Bradford	£100,000	29/03/2024
Conversion to 2 Flats	Enfield	£200,000	29/03/2024
Mixed Use Development (2 Unit)	Reading	£300,000	29/03/2024
2 Dwellings	Stoke-on-trent	£300,000	29/03/2024
8 Apartments	Preston	£900,000	29/03/2024
Sports Pavilion	Peterborough	£400,000	29/03/2024
Conversion to 6 Flats	North London	£400,000	29/03/2024



Contractor ranked by work won during February 2024

Rank	Contractor	No. contracts	Value	Ranking	Contractor	No. contracts	Total (£m)
1	J Murphy	3	£673.8m	26	Edgewater Contracts & Specialist Joinery	2	£32.2m
2	Bouygues	1	£672.3m	27	McLaren	1	£30.5m
3	Morgan Sindall	11	£549.2m	28	CField Construction	1	£30.0m
4	Kier	5	£479.9m	29	CL Projects UK	1	£30.0m
5	Skanska	1	£200.0m	30	ISG	4	£29.8m
6	Domis Construction	1	£195.0m	31	Vinci	2	£27.5m
7	Willmott Dixon	8	£172.3m	32	TanRo	2	£27.3m
8	United Living	1	£160.0m	33	Sir Robert McAlpine	2	£27.2m
9	Multiplex	1	£150.0m	34	Magrock	2	£27.0m
10	Graham Construction	2	£130.5m	35	ARJ	1	£25.0m
11	HG	1	£130.0m	36	Vistry	2	£25.0m
12	Winvic	6	£105.4m	37	Lovell Partnerships	1	£24.0m
13	Galliford Try	5	£99.4m	38	Integrated Health Projects	4	£23.0m
14	GMI	1	£88.0m	39	Esh	3	£20.8m
15	RG Group	1	£71.0m	40	Barnfield	3	£20.7m
16	BCEGI	1	£67.0m	41	Morrison	2	£19.7m
17	Higgins	1	£60.0m	42	Kind & Company (Builders)	1	£18.5m
18	Mace	1	£50.0m	43	Gillespies LLP	1	£18.4m
19	Octavius Infrastructure	1	£46.2m	44	Beard	4	£17.9m
20	Bugler	2	£45.0m	45	Darwin Group	1	£17.3m
21	Wates	2	£42.8m	46	Mildren	1	£17.0m
22	Royal BAM	3	£41.7m	47	Adderstone Group	1	£15.6m
23	Barhale	3	£37.3m	48	Amiri	2	£15.0m
24	Bowmer & Kirkland	1	£35.8m	49	Deconstruct (UK) t/a The De Group UK	1	£15.0m
25	Caddick	2	£32.2m	50	Merit Holdings	1	£15.0m



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