

S&P Global UK Construction PMI®

UK construction output continues to slide in April

Slowest decline in total activity for three months as house building shows resilience

Commercial work falls at fastest pace since May 2020

Strong cost pressures lead to steeper pace of job shedding

Construction activity decreased for the fourth consecutive month as rising business uncertainty led to delayed decision-making on new projects. The latest survey indicated further declines in total order books and cutbacks to staffing numbers.

Output growth projections nonetheless edged up to the highest since December 2024.

At 46.6 in April, the headline S&P Global UK Construction Purchasing Managers' Index™ (PMI®) – a seasonally adjusted index tracking changes in total industry activity – remained below the 50.0 no-change value, but was up slightly from 46.4 in March and signalled the slowest decline in output levels for three months.

Residential work showed a degree of resilience in April, with the rate of contraction easing to the least marked in 2025 to date (index at 47.1). Moreover, the latest reduction in activity was the slowest seen across the three sub-categories of construction work.

Civil engineering remained the weakest-performing area of construction activity in April (43.1), with the latest survey indicating a sharp rate of decline amid a lack of new work to replace completed projects.

Commercial work (45.5) decreased for the fourth month running in April and the pace of decline accelerated to its fastest since May 2020. Construction companies widely noted that heightened business uncertainty and worries about the broader UK economic outlook had weighed on client demand.

April data indicated a steep reduction in total new work and the pace of decline was the second-fastest since May 2020. Survey respondents typically commented on the impact of subdued business and consumer confidence.

Lower workloads resulted in the fastest decline in purchasing activity for nearly five years in April. Softer demand for construction products and materials contributed to a modest improvement in wait times for suppliers' deliveries. Vendor performance has now improved in each of the past three months, although some firms continued to report

S&P Global UK Construction PMI Total Activity
Index, sa, >50 = growth m/m



Data were collected 9-29 April 2025.

Source: S&P Global PMI. ©2025 S&P Global.

Comment

Tim Moore, Economics Director at S&P Global Market Intelligence, said:

"UK construction companies have endured a bumpy ride since the start of the year as domestic economic headwinds and hesitancy among clients led to a lack of new work to replace completed contracts."

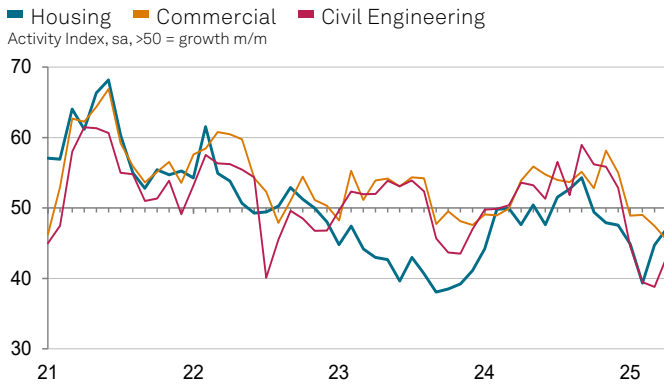
"Output levels continued to slide in April, but the rate of decline eased to its slowest for three months. This was helped by slower reductions in residential building work and civil engineering activity."

"Commercial construction was a weak spot and lost momentum since March. Output decreased at the fastest pace for nearly five years amid reports of greater risk aversion among clients and a wait-and-see approach to major spending decisions."

"Despite a sharp and accelerated fall in input buying, strong cost pressures persisted in April. Overall input price inflation eased only slightly from March's 26-month peak. Survey respondents commented on rising prices paid for a range of raw materials, as well as efforts by suppliers to pass on greater payroll costs."

"An encouraging development in April was a slight improvement in business activity expectations for the year ahead. Output growth projections improved to the highest level so far this year, with a number of survey respondents citing the prospect of a turnaround in workloads across the residential building segment."

S&P Global UK Construction PMI®



Source: S&P Global PMI. ©2025 S&P Global.

international shipping delays.

Despite weaker demand conditions, latest data indicated another sharp increase in average cost burdens. Construction companies noted that a wide range of items had risen in price, particularly concrete products, insulation and timber, but some firms noted lower fuel costs. Many firms reported that suppliers had also sought to pass on rising payroll costs.

Staffing numbers across the construction sector meanwhile decreased for the fourth consecutive month, but the rate of job shedding eased slightly since March. Subdued demand and rising pay pressures were cited as reasons for the non-replacement of voluntary leavers.

Looking ahead, construction firms are optimistic on balance about their prospects for the next 12 months. Around 41% of the survey panel forecast a rise in output, while only 18% predict a decline. This signalled a slight improvement in business optimism to its highest since December 2024. A number of firms commented on positive expectations for residential building work, despite ongoing domestic economic headwinds and fragile client confidence.

Methodology

The S&P Global UK Construction PMI® is compiled by S&P Global from responses to questionnaires sent to a panel of around 150 construction companies. The panel is stratified by company workforce size, based on contributions to GDP. Survey data were first collected April 1997.

Survey responses are collected in the second half of each month and indicate the direction of change compared to the previous month. A diffusion index is calculated for each survey variable. The index is the sum of the percentage of 'higher' responses and half the percentage of 'unchanged' responses. The indices vary between 0 and 100, with a reading above 50 indicating an overall increase compared to the previous month, and below 50 an overall decrease. The indices are then seasonally adjusted.

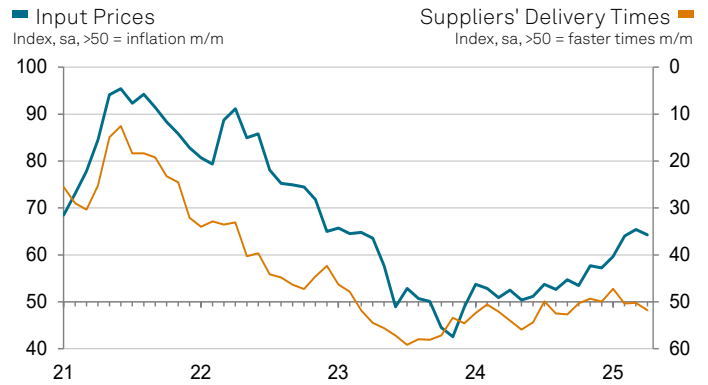
The headline figure is the Total Activity Index. This is a diffusion index that tracks changes in the total volume of construction activity compared with one month previously. The Total Activity Index is comparable to the Manufacturing Output Index and Services Business Activity Index. It may be referred to as the 'Construction PMI' but is not comparable with the headline manufacturing PMI figure.

Underlying survey data are not revised after publication, but seasonal adjustment factors may be revised from time to time as appropriate which will affect the seasonally adjusted data series..

For further information on the PMI survey methodology, please contact economics@spglobal.com.

PMI by S&P Global

Purchasing Managers' Index™ (PMI®) surveys are now available for over 40 countries and also for key regions including the eurozone. They are the most closely watched business surveys in the world, favoured by central banks, financial markets and business decision makers for their ability to provide up-to-date, accurate and often unique monthly indicators of economic trends. www.spglobal.com/marketintelligence/en/mi/products/pmi



Source: S&P Global PMI. ©2025 S&P Global.

Contact

Tim Moore
Economics Director
S&P Global Market Intelligence
T: +44-1491-461-067
tim.moore@spglobal.com

Corporate Communications
S&P Global Market Intelligence
press.mi@spglobal.com

If you prefer not to receive news releases from S&P Global, please email press.mi@spglobal.com. To read our privacy policy, click [here](#).

S&P Global

S&P Global (NYSE: SPGI) provides essential intelligence. We enable governments, businesses and individuals with the right data, expertise and connected technology so that they can make decisions with conviction. From helping our customers assess new investments to guiding them through ESG and energy transition across supply chains, we unlock new opportunities, solve challenges and accelerate progress for the world.

We are widely sought after by many of the world's leading organizations to provide credit ratings, benchmarks, analytics and workflow solutions in the global capital, commodity and automotive markets. With every one of our offerings, we help the world's leading organizations plan for tomorrow, today. www.spglobal.com

Disclaimer

The intellectual property rights to the data provided herein are owned by or licensed to S&P Global and/or its affiliates. Any unauthorised use, including but not limited to copying, distributing, transmitting or otherwise of any data appearing is not permitted without S&P Global's prior consent. S&P Global shall not have any liability, duty or obligation for or relating to the content or information ("Data") contained herein, any errors, inaccuracies, omissions or delays in the Data, or for any actions taken in reliance thereon. In no event shall S&P Global be liable for any special, incidental, or consequential damages, arising out of the use of the Data. Purchasing Managers' Index™ and PMI® are either trade marks or registered trade marks of S&P Global Inc or licensed to S&P Global Inc and/or its affiliates.

This Content was published by S&P Global Market Intelligence and not by S&P Global Ratings, which is a separately managed division of S&P Global. Reproduction of any information, data or material, including ratings ("Content") in any form is prohibited except with the prior written permission of the relevant party. Such party, its affiliates and suppliers ("Content Providers") do not guarantee the accuracy, adequacy, completeness, timeliness or availability of any Content and are not responsible for any errors or omissions (negligent or otherwise), regardless of the cause, or for the results obtained from the use of such Content. In no event shall Content Providers be liable for any damages, costs, expenses, legal fees, or losses (including lost income or lost profit and opportunity costs) in connection with any use of the Content.