Weekly Bulletin – 04/07/2025

BMF
Excellence in building materials supply

Construction Purchasing Managers Index
48.8 – June 2025
47.9 – May 2025

Total Builders Merchants Sales
3.0% Apr 25 vs Apr 24
2.6% Feb-Apr 25 vs Feb-Apr 24

CPI
3.4% - May 2025
3.5% - Apr 2025

RPI
4.3% - May 2025
4.5% - Apr 2025

Commodity Prices
Brent Crude Oil Futures: **$68.26**
WTI Crude Oil Futures: **$66.52**

ONS Construction Output
0.9% - April 25
0.5% - Feb 25 – Apr 25

Consumer Confidence
-18 - June 2025
-20 - May 2025

Unemployment rate
4.6% Feb 25 – Apr 25
0.7% since Dec - Feb 2020

Housing Starts UK
-9% Q1 2025 vs. Q4 2024
22% Q1 2025 vs. Q1 2024

Exchange Rates
£1:**$1.36** (04.07.25)
£1:**€1.16** (04.07.25)

Construction Material Price Index (% change)
All work
Data Temporarily Paused
Repair and Maintenance
Data Temporarily Paused

GDP
-0.3% - Apr 25
0.7% - Feb 25 - Apr 25

Average Income
£720 per week – Apr 25
£723 per week – Mar 25

Housing Completions UK
-2% Q1 2025 vs. Q4 2024
-5% Q1 2025 vs. Q1 2024

UK Weekly Road Fuel Prices vs. LY
Petrol: 132.95 vs.144.28 pence/litre
Diesel: 140.26 vs.150.08 pence/litre

UK construction output declines slightly in June: S&P Construction PMI

Construction companies indicated a marginal reduction in total business activity during June, despite a return to growth in residential building work.

However, new orders decreased at an accelerated pace. This contributed to the weakest degree of business optimism across the construction sector for two-and-a-half years.

At 48.8 in June, the headline S&P Global UK Construction Purchasing Managers' Index™ (PMI®) – a seasonally adjusted index tracking changes in total industry activity – was up from 47.9 in May and signalled the slowest decline in construction output since the current period of contraction began in January. Any reading below 50.0 indicates an overall reduction in construction activity.

The marginal decline in construction output during June reflected accelerated rates of contraction in the commercial and civil engineering segments. Commercial work decreased at the fastest pace since May 2020 (index at 45.1), which survey respondents attributed to subdued UK economic conditions and cutbacks to investment spending among clients. Civil engineering (44.2) fell for the sixth month running and was the weakest-performing area of construction activity.

Read the full PMI HERE

NEW chair FOR expanded bmf lightside product Forum: BMF

Baljit Singh, Head of Trading at NMBS, has been elected as Chair of a revamped BMF product category forum, which brings together essential light-side categories to form the BMF Plumbing, Heating, and Bathroom Forum.

With an 18-year track record, Baljit brings a wealth of industry experience, in-depth sector knowledge, and a proven history of collaboration across the merchant and supplier landscape. Under his leadership, we look forward to continuing the Forum's development, supporting innovation, tackling key challenges, and promoting growth within this vital sector.

The newly expanded Forum, which was confirmed at the group's recent meeting at the Installer Show in Birmingham, reflects the evolving needs of the industry, embracing Plumbing and Heating alongside the Bathroom category, to ensure even greater relevance, representation and reach.

Congratulating Baljit on his appointment, BMF CEO, John Newcomb said:

"Taking over the Chair, Baljit follows in the footsteps of some outstanding industry figures, namely Mark Bradley of Plumbase and Ray Stafford of Williams Trade Supplies, who between them, have chaired the Plumbing & Heating Forum since 2018, and Paul Bence of the Bence Group, who chaired the former Bathroom & Kitchen Forum.

"We look forward to Baljit helping steer the Forum into its next chapter with the same energy, insight and impact we've seen from his predecessors."