AtkinsRéalis

CONSTRUCTION INTELLIGENCE REPORT

Q3 2025 UK & Ireland

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INTRODUCTION

"Risk aversion has held sway for too long and a modest recalibration has to be a vital part of the quest for growth."[1]

This is a theme that has started to reverberate around certain sections of the media and wider economy.

For too long we've all been saying 'let's wait another six months to see if commodity prices stabilise, inflation and interest rates come down'. Not to mention 'will global events settle down?' and 'will we ever get our project through planning?'

We are not going to see construction costs tumble back towards 2021 levels. Market rates of commodities have settled down, inflation isn't running away and, despite lingering higher inflation, interest rates are expected to fall.

Maybe the "wait six months" message has had its time. There's a feeling of calm in the air, with enough work for contractors to remain selective and optimism on all sides that there's enough work in the pipeline. Is this now the time to proceed with schemes?

Increased geopolitical tensions around the world create uncertainty but also present opportunities for some industry sectors. Threats to our national security, together with changing international relations, has led to increased spending pledges for defence, for example. The defence expenditure focus, however, isn't just on military hardware, but also on judicious investment that benefits local communities.

"2025 is the new normal; we are not going to see construction costs tumble back towards 2021 levels"

[1] Christian May (10 July 2025) City AM

ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

Global trade shake-up and increased geopolitical tensions are the latest headwinds to hit financial and commodity markets.

Over the last five years, this instability has led to frequent and significant shifts in commodity prices and subsequent effects on inflation and economic activity.

Insecurity about what to expect has brought a lack of confidence and a global downturn. The price of copper is often seen as a barometer of global economic trends, yet this year the cost has risen as it benefited from the transition to renewable energy and the strong demand for data centres and defence. It shows that construction can benefit from these trends while other sectors are stagnant.

The 1st August deadline for the imposition of US tariffs arrived, with no great panic on global stock exchanges. It seems the threat of a global trade war is diminishing.

This year the UK has made trade agreements with the EU, India and the USA.

The agreement with the EU, although aimed primarily at the import and export of food goods, will reduce domestic inflation and bring some relief to households across the country. It also recalibrates our relationship with the EU and should help reduce friction in the trading agreement.

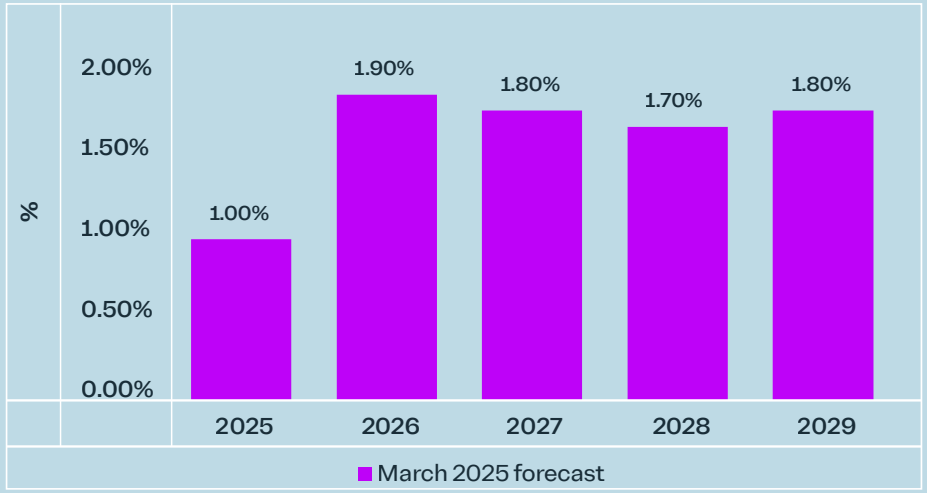
The agreement with the USA brings the promise of a reduction in tariffs on UK steel and aluminium exports. At the same time, the intervention to save British Steel from closing the blast furnaces in Scunthorpe can be seen as a sign that the government views UK interests above free market interests.

GDP

UK GDP for the 2nd quarter was an increase of 0.3% following 0.7% growth in the 1st quarter. The result was tempered by the warning that growth in the last three quarters will not be at the same level, amid weakening momentum. With worsening global trade trends, the latest OBR forecast in March 2025 was for a mere 1% growth for 2025, down from 2% last autumn.

There were slight increases to the GDP for later years in anticipation of improving economic conditions as energy prices fall, and consumer inflation falls back to 2% by 2027. But overall, the forecast is below the total October OBR 2024 forecast for the period 2025-2029.

GDP FORECAST 2025 – 2029



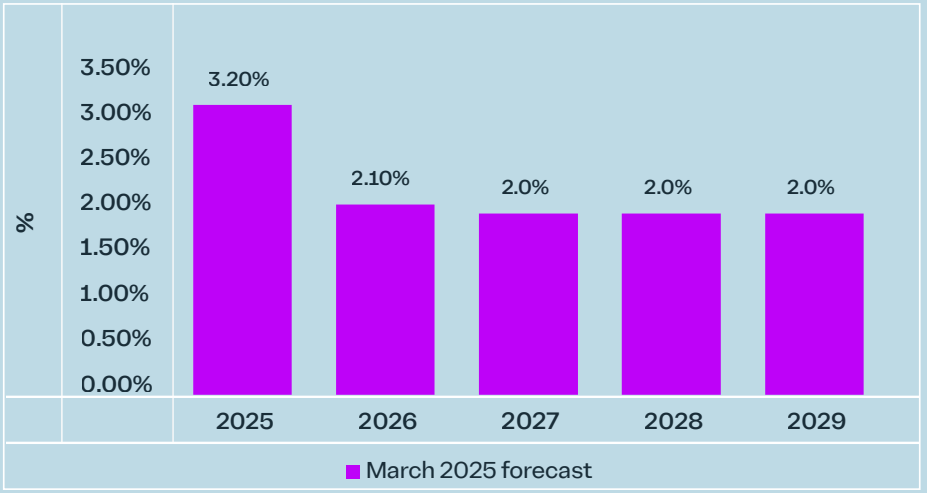
Source 1 OBR Economic & Fiscal Outlook March 2025

CPI

UK CPI is expected to peak this year at 4.0% in September 2025, a result of increases in food prices and utility bills. These sharp increases will diminish in 2026 and inflation will drop towards the Bank of England 2% target.

Given the current global trade policies, with the introduction of US tariffs and any subsequent reactions, there is uncertainty about whether the 2% target will be achieved.

CPI INFLATION 2025



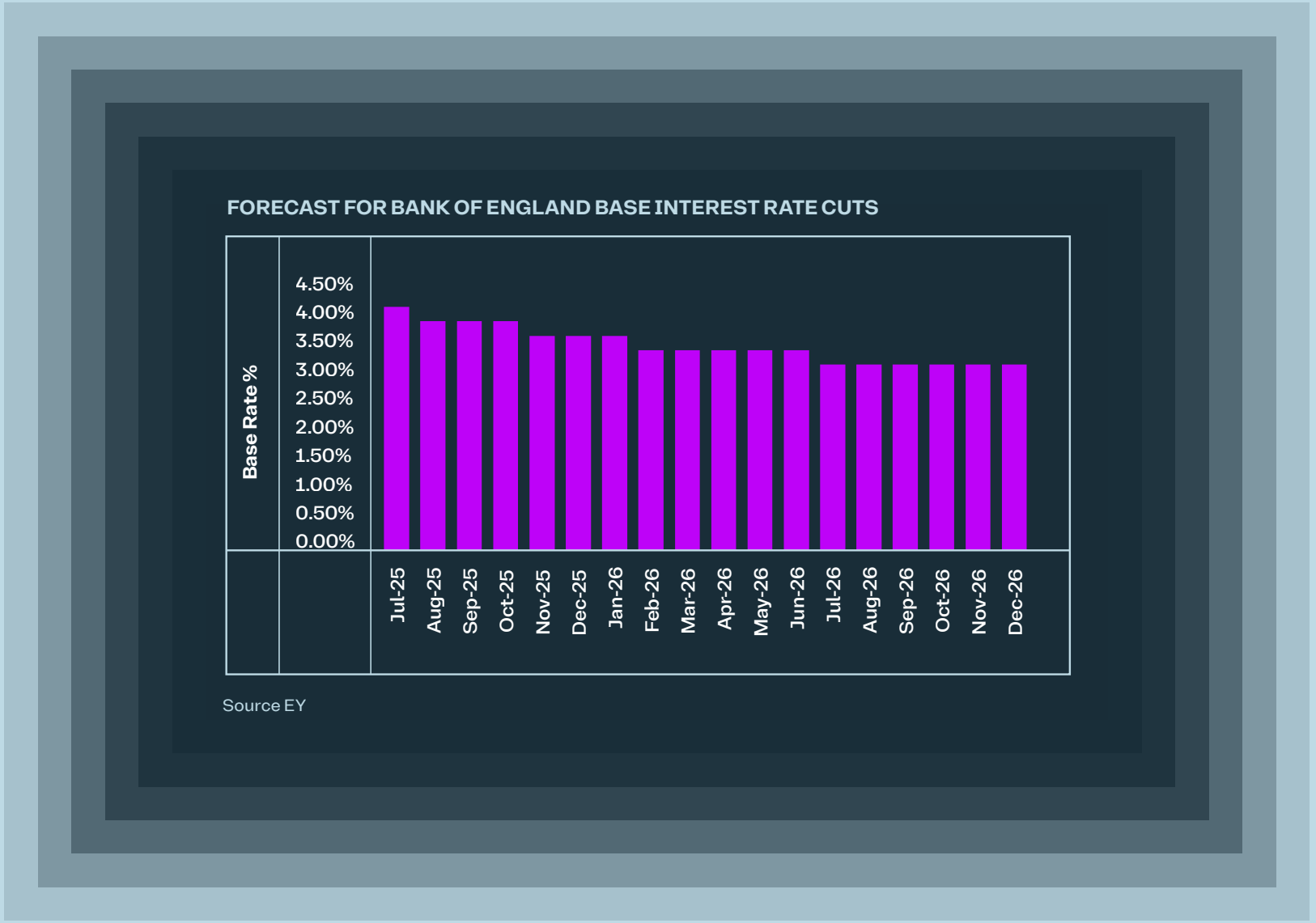
Source 2 OBR Economic & Fiscal Outlook March 2025

Interest Rates

The Bank of England previously asserted that they need to be confident regarding the level of inflation and the state of the economy before cutting interest rates. However, with the recent weakening of the jobs market, and greater GDP falls than expected, we saw interest rates cut to 4% in August 2025. It's likely that we will see further rate cuts through the end of 2025 and into 2026, to help stimulate the economy.

With recurring statements like 'interest rates are too high to finance investment' will we see base rates fall to 2008-2021 levels? It took the Global Financial Crisis of 2008-09 to precipitate that fall, which was maintained firstly by uncertainty following our exit from the EU, and secondly by Covid. It would take another financial crisis or a total collapse in consumer demand for the central banks to revert to these levels.

It would be reasonable and, given the reasons for the low interest rates, desirable not to expect a return to these levels.



CONSTRUCTION OVERVIEW

The construction sector faces barriers such as economic uncertainty, regulatory change, and sustainability pressures.

While there is growing desire to move projects forward and broad support for the government's approach, developers are still holding off as they are waiting for implementation of the new planning legislation.

Other issues such as compliance sign off, skills shortage and finance are also presenting obstacles, with both developers and contractors taking risk-averse stances.

Finance is an especially significant blocker; high finance costs are playing a role but, like infrastructure schemes, property schemes are not providing enough margin. A rate of return of 2% is prompting some to look to overseas markets. Without finance, developers obviously can't progress schemes.

Meanwhile, contractors are faced with skills shortages. This resource shortage is the result of a prolonged period of insolvencies and consolidation, together with the continued loss of workers and fewer trainees. Contractors are viewing opportunities through risk management lenses and, fearful of delays, are increasing project durations and increasing risk allowances.

These recurring factors that crop up in all conversations are creating uncertainty and a lack of confidence, preventing parties from pressing the go button.

> **The construction sector is central for government plans to build the infrastructure necessary to deliver future economic growth. Key policies include building 1.5 million new homes during the current term and upgrading national infrastructure.**

Although meeting the housing target is recognised as challenging, it does show the government's ambition to get Britain building again. Planning regulations continue to be overhauled, to combat inertia and kickstart mass housebuilding.

Investment in infrastructure has risen in importance on government agendas in the last few years, becoming a pivotal point of the current government's policies. The focus has changed due to economic, political and environmental necessities. These include the need to upgrade our utility infrastructure, increasing renewable energy capability and adjusting to the growing challenges of cloud computing demands.

The publication of the Infrastructure Strategy and the Infrastructure Pipeline papers have been broadly welcomed by the industry.

The UK can achieve economic growth at pace through a streamlined planning system and a firm infrastructure pipeline for the future. We therefore applaud the government moving away from short-term and often reactive planning, to focus on long-term outcomes. The publication of the rolling 10-year infrastructure pipeline, specifying timelines, budgets and responsible agencies, seeks to address investor and supply chain fears and help them plan ahead.

The strategy aspires to rebuild trust in the UK's ability to deliver major projects. Recent delays and cost overruns, involving major high-profile infrastructure schemes, have eroded investor confidence and led to public scepticism of political decisions and value for money.

The strategy aims to provide predictability, clarity and confidence that projects will proceed. In turn this will help the supply chain identify potential bottlenecks and take measures to avoid them, alleviating delays and additional costs.

> **The UK Spending Review announced funding changes, to better reflect regional needs by promoting local decision-making and tailored regional strategies.**

Investment in transport infrastructure is a key component, to provide better support to key services and employment, reducing economic isolation and attracting business. This then supports new housing and job creation in underserved areas. Headline schemes include the Transpennine Route between Manchester and York, and the Northern Powerhouse Rail link.

Continued investment allows learning from previous experiences, helping provide better cost management and planning. In turn, this leads to faster project delivery and better value for money.

Measures to improve the planning systems and bring Building Safety Regulatory control in-house will be beneficial. Building Safety Act regulations have stalled high-rise residential schemes, with some waiting a year for a decision. The decision to appoint the Health & Safety Executive has, in hindsight, proved the wrong appointment as the executive's experience lies in enforcing building standards rather than sorting applications. The delays in appointing multidisciplinary teams and lack of dialogue with developers supports this. The move in-house is welcomed but it will take time to establish the required systems and put the knowledge and labour resources in place.

Despite the headwinds, the latest ONS figures released in August 2025 reported that construction output is estimated to have grown by 1.2%, after a 0.3% increase in the 1st quarter, this demonstrates that the industry is performing well compared to the wider economy.

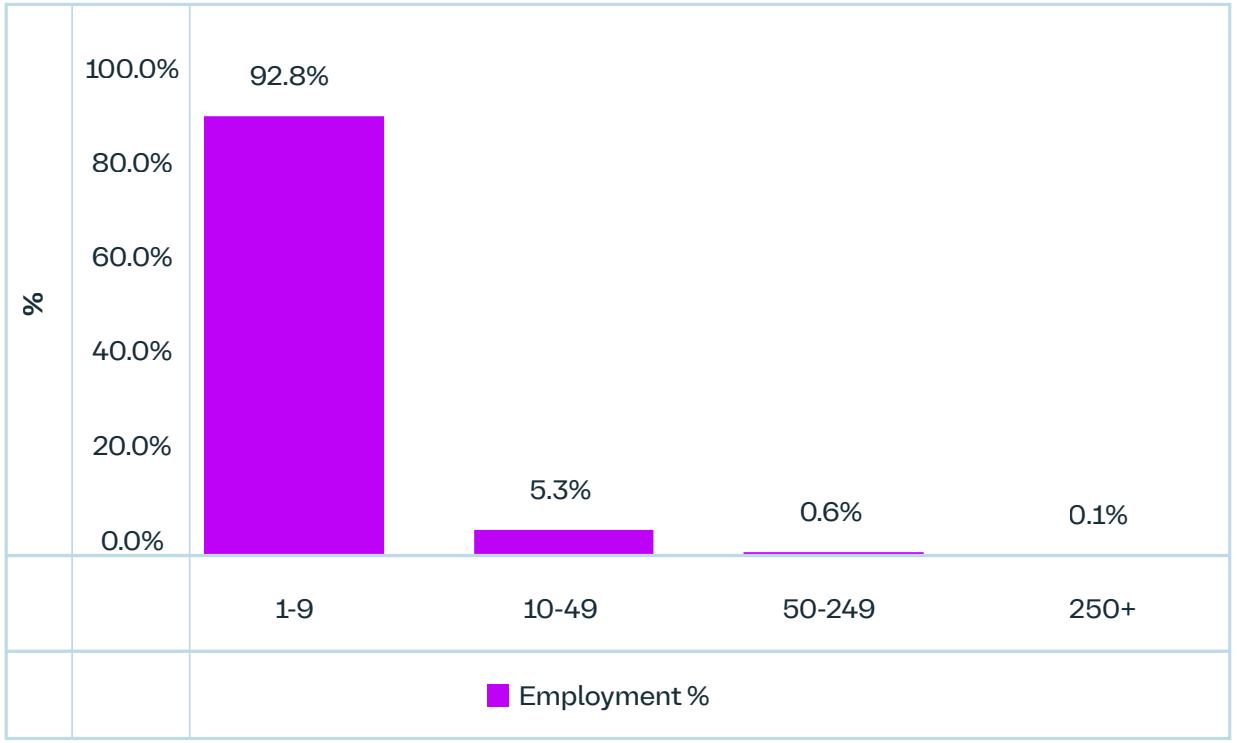
The hope for growth, influenced by expectations of further interest rate cuts and increased government spending, means that modest growth in output is forecast for the second half of 2025. This increasing confidence is reinforced by the latest Experian and CPA output forecasts of between 1.5 – 2% this year, increasing in 2026 onwards.

Insolvencies Not All Gloom?

The monthly figures for insolvencies have not made good reading for the last three years. However, are these figures inflated because of the composition of the sector?

The UK construction sector is dominated by small firms, as evidenced by the 2023 ONS Construction Statistics. Just over 80% of construction firms have an annual turnover of under £500k, while 90% have an annual turnover of under £1m. Ninety-three per cent of construction firms employ fewer than 10 people.

% OF CONSTRUCTION FIRMS BY EMPLOYEES



Source: ONS

The recent Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) revealed that a third of construction firms had less than one month of cash reserves available, because of the pandemic, supply chain inflation and unpaid invoices due to insolvencies. These cash reserves for the construction sector are lower than the result for all businesses. The survey also reveals that the smaller the firm, the more likely they are to have fewer reserves.

> **The statistics for 2022–2023 saw the biggest fall in the number of firms employing under 14 staff actively operating, supporting the evidence that small firms make up most insolvencies.**

This indicates the flaws in the current tiered contracting model, with the loss of many smaller cash reserve depleted firms. While we haven't seen many larger firms go bust, the impact of well-established regional contractors and a few larger Tier 2s going under has garnered headlines and affected many smaller contractors and suppliers.

The systematic use of sub-contractors is beneficial in that it develops expertise and specialist skills to enable complex jobs to be undertaken, but it requires good communication to ensure coordination and avoid misunderstandings or delays. Sub- (and sub-sub) contractors are more vulnerable to slow payment when cash flow becomes tight and, because they lack cash reserves, this increases insolvencies and causes further delays and costs.

Insolvencies conversely offer opportunities to both rival contractors and clients. Following the demise of ISG in September 2024, 2,200 employees were left without a job. Since then, ISG rivals have actively recruited former ISG staff, particularly those with project management skills or experience in fit-out and public sector work. This process provides a wider spread of experience and potentially more contractors who can bid for work.

ISG had £2.5bn worth of projects on site, £1.7bn in awarded contracts, and was on major construction frameworks with over £100bn in their pipeline. Although taking over work may mean increased costs, the insolvency enabled other firms to bid for extra work and gain access to sectors, especially the public sector work dominated by ISG.

Although we mourn the loss of well-known names such as ISG and Buckingham, it's sound commercial sense to spot gaps in the marketplace. New or expanded firms have emerged to fill the gap; for instance, the use of the Turkish contractor Limak, rather than an established UK contractor, on Luton Town's new football stadium. Limak has previous experience of the market, although not in the UK. If the project goes well, others may opt for overseas contractors, bringing increased competitiveness and improving supply chain entry.

Evolution in the construction sector will continue and it's essential to continue to monitor the players and ensure that the resources are in place.

CONSTRUCTION FORECAST

The major issues facing schemes are viability and affordability. Currently we are in a period of slow economic growth where traditionally contractors seek to secure turnover through different approaches. Contractors are therefore moving into new sectors, exploring different markets.

The other approach is for contractors to sharpen their pencil to win work and inevitably squeeze their supply chain in the process.

Yet we remain in the position where contractors are selective in the work they tender for, are searching for negotiated rather than competitive tendered work, and, as a result, there is no downward pressure on tenders.

A downward recalibration of tender costs would help achieve schemes' viability and affordability levels. But increasing economic globalisation means that the supply chain can chase more profitable markets, whether sectors or location hotspots, where margins are higher or risks lower.

Additionally, the concentration of a small number of main contractors and specialist sub-contractors capable of undertaking the work that accounts for the majority of turnover, means that downward recalibration of tender cost is unlikely.

Following rapid price rises in the early part of the decade, material prices have seen little increase in the last two years. Some recent price increases have finally stuck and, with planned increase in government spending, together with housebuilding reforms, demand should increase and with-it material costs.

Some 70% of all building components are UK produced but there is demand for overseas goods. Curtain walling and MEP goods are imported from the EU. We are presently enjoying the benefit of our construction market being more buoyant than the bigger economies in western and northern Europe. However, once these markets recover, more pressure on cost and delivery of materials will emerge.

We have previously covered the effect of labour shortages, at all levels and collar shades of the construction sector and the wider economy. Earlier this year there were signs that wage demands were softening with reduced demand and lower inflation. This is likely to be temporary unless the supply of skilled labour is rectified, either through increased training and retention of workers or through migrant workers - a costly economic solution and a political problem. However, the shortage of a skilled workforce still threatens to undermine the delivery of projects on time.

Longer project durations, which emerged from supply chain problems in the early part of the decade, are being retained to cover all eventualities, and this also contributes to increased costs.

While inflation has cooled recently, projects that need higher specification and a specialist labour and material supply chain are costing 5 to 10% more.

This affects not only commercial schemes' viability, but also central and local government projects where fixed budgets mean fewer delivered schemes per year.

At present we are still encountering competitive rates when receiving tenders or market testing rates. When engaging in market warming for future projects contractors are keen on early market engagement. The selective mood still exists among Tier 1 contractors who mostly have their order books full, but we are finding that Tier 2 and 3 contractors currently have more capacity, especially for lower risk projects.

> **Sourcing MEP resources remains challenging, as the demand for data centres, life sciences and fit-out projects is placing stress on the sector.**

The trend for early contractor design comes at a premium price with increased risk allowances, and we are finding that specialist MEP contractors, like main contractors, are becoming far more selective in the projects they chase.

As a result of the demand for limited MEP resources and subsequent risk profiling, inflation in this important sector is increasing faster than building costs. Our forecasts are based on services accounting for 40% of the total building cost; where services are more than this value, increased inflation should be allowed for.

Our previous forecast factored in increased National Insurance Contributions for this year and increasing demand from the second half of this year. Since our last report tender prices haven't increased as much as expected and we have reduced this year's forecast slightly.

Construction is at something of a crossroads, with signs of optimism creeping in. Forecasts for increased output, backed up by a pro-construction government, improving financial conditions, and stable material and labour costs, indicate a sufficient workload. Early engagement and collaboration between all stakeholders will be needed to enable successful project delivery. Because of these factors we are maintaining our forecasts for 2026 onwards.

Max Wilkes
Market Intelligence Lead,
UK & Ireland

ATKINSRÉALIS TENDER PRICE FORECAST 2025 - 2028

AREA	2025	2026	2027	2028
National	3.25%	3.50%	3.75%	3.75%
London	3.50%	3.75%	4.00%	4.00%
Ireland	3.00%	3.25%	3.25%	3.25%
Infrastructure	3.75%	4.00%	3.75%	3.75%

3Q25 ATKINSRÉALIS TENDER PRICE FORECASTS 2025 - 2028

Source EY

SECTOR UPDATES

REGIONAL UPDATE

London and South-East England

In parallel with the overall UK picture, activity in the construction sector in London and the south-east has remained in neutral territory over the last six months.

Financial constraints are the single largest factor limiting building activity, with planning and regulation also stalling progress, particularly for high-rise residential development in the capital.

> **Although a stabilisation in inflation appears to have materialised, the journey to stabilisation has been a turbulent one with slower than expected rate cuts and less certainty over the rate of future cuts.**

Despite these issues, greater economic stability will begin to generate positive sentiment. As a final position around US tariffs becomes clearer, investment volumes are likely to rise, and the UK has emerged as an increasingly attractive investment option because of the recent UK / US trade deal.

London and the south-east of England undoubtedly continues to enjoy an appeal shared only with a small selection of other global hubs. As a result, it retains its position as the world's most expensive market across several sectors, including the distribution and warehousing market, underscoring its appeal. This is due to high demand for prime space, together with strong infrastructure and proximity to a dense and affluent consumer base.

The infrastructure and energy sectors give reason for optimism. There is now an expectation that workloads and rates of employment will increase over the next 12 months, driven by output in the infrastructure, energy and industrial sectors where new work orders are particularly strong. Examples include approvals for projects such as the Lower Thames Crossing between Kent and Essex, and the government's spending review announcement of backing for major energy infrastructure such as Sizewell C in Suffolk. Investment in infrastructure will generate a boost to the construction economy, but there will be an inevitable lag between investment in infrastructure and its knock-on effect on commercial property development.

The spending review also confirmed backing for the £13.2bn Warm Homes Plan which supports energy efficiency and decarbonisation nationally, funding which was previously considered to be at risk. This type of repair and maintenance work is a major driver of output in the industry, so London's share of this funding is likely to increase output.

Similarly, in the office and hotel sectors, rental growth remains solid in London and the south-east. Demand for high-quality office space close to central business districts and transport hubs remains strong, with tenants demanding higher-quality office space closer to main transport hubs. However, this space comes at a premium and at costs which are among the highest in the world, and therefore requires extreme confidence in the local market, plus a spatially efficient and low-carbon design to achieve viability. Prime examples of this are a recent spate of new-build high-rise office developments, all between 30 and 45 storeys, which have recently been approved by the City of London in the heart of the City. These included most recently 85 Gracechurch St and 63 St Mary Axe, with 60 and 70 Gracechurch Street also given approval earlier in the year.

Activity in London and the south-east's residential sector remains subdued, but there are some positive signs emerging. Social and affordable housing has been given a boost following the chancellor's announcement to prioritise a £39bn investment in the June spending review. The government's recent announcement to bring the Building Safety Regulator in-house into the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), shows an effort to speed up approvals. Developers may look to share risk via joint venture arrangements and, undoubtedly, public sector projects may still require significant private investment to enable development. However, it's difficult to see how the government's ambitious residential delivery targets will be met, even if activity significantly increases. Another sector experiencing an upturn in fortune is London's purpose-built student accommodation (PBSA) sector. This is due to both a shortage in new affordable or market rent accommodation and rising student numbers. Although PBSA delivery is affected by the same regulatory reform as other types of residential development, PBSA developers are taking advantage of incentives in the London Plan to deliver the product, including use of a Fast Track Route for planning applications. The challenge will be to balance the right levels of PBSA with other types of development.

Charlie Radbone
Regional Director

Navpreet Chatha
Quantity Surveyor

DEFENCE FOCUS

Increased Defence Spending Promotes Regeneration

Due to increased threats to UK security, together with shifting political alliances, the government has announced the intention to raise defence spending to 2.5% of GDP from April 2027, with the aim to achieve 3.0% in the next parliament. While the primary aim of this investment is to bolster national security, it will have an impact on the UK defence supply chain by driving economic growth and creating thousands of jobs and new assets.

As a result, communities will benefit from this investment. Through historical and political considerations, our defence industry is dispersed through the UK. Clusters of excellence need to be recognised, resourced and connected to the wider national strategies. Investment will enable these clusters to scale and thrive. Key sites exist among others for submarines on the River Clyde; Rolls Royce is centred in Derby and BAE Systems employs over 12,000 in Barrow-in-Furness. Sheffield is renowned for its steel and Sheffield Forgemasters continues this tradition by producing high-grade steel for submarine components.

Defence spending is a key contributor for regional economies. Sixty-eight per cent of defence contracts are placed with companies outside of London and the south-east, with £3.8bn placed in the north-west and £2.1bn in Scotland.

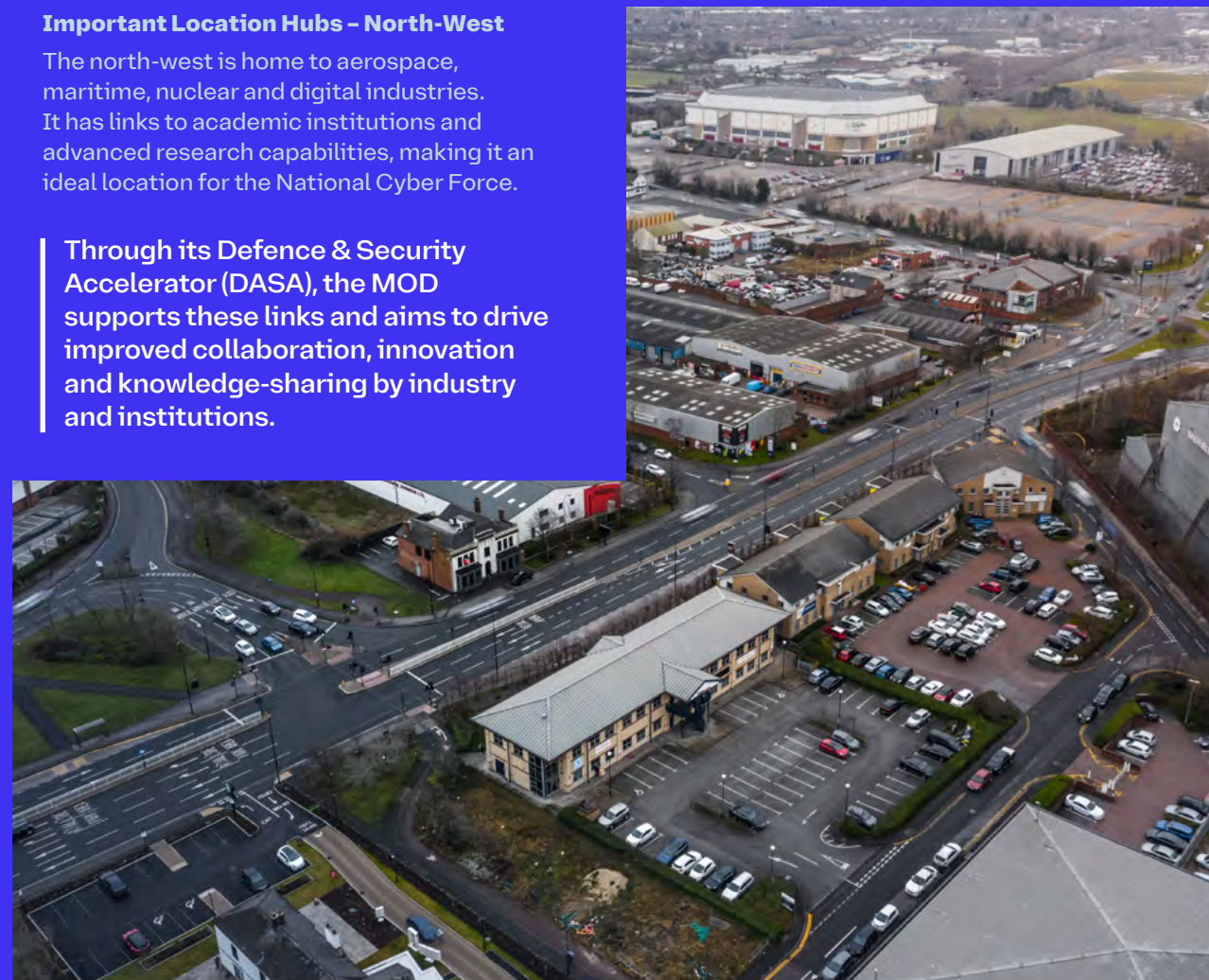
Recent announcements will add an additional £2.5bn to the annual budget. These include at least six new munitions and energetics factories, and expansion of our submarine fleet through the AUKUS programme.

At the same time the government is aiming to improve its military service family and single living accommodation portfolio, as urgent repairs and new housing are long overdue. This is essential for the recruitment and retention of personnel.

Important Location Hubs – North-West

The north-west is home to aerospace, maritime, nuclear and digital industries. It has links to academic institutions and advanced research capabilities, making it an ideal location for the National Cyber Force.

> **Through its Defence & Security Accelerator (DASA), the MOD supports these links and aims to drive improved collaboration, innovation and knowledge-sharing by industry and institutions.**



Focus on Barrow-in-Furness: a town at the heart of the UK defence strategy

Barrow-in-Furness, a coastal town in Cumbria, is undergoing a transformation that reflects the UK's evolving geopolitical priorities and the strategic importance of the town. With global tensions rising and the UK reaffirming its commitment to defence spending, particularly through the multi-decade submarine programmes, Barrow has emerged as a linchpin in national security. The town is home to BAE Systems' submarine shipyard, where the Royal Navy's Astute, Dreadnought and SSN-AUKUS submarines are designed and built, making Barrow not just a manufacturing hub but a strategic national asset.

The government has recognised this by investing £220m in the town's regeneration, to support the defence sector while simultaneously revitalising the local economy and infrastructure. Keir Starmer recently described Barrow as "a blueprint for how defence spending can boost communities."

Barrow has a powerful industrial past. The shipyard, founded in 1871, quickly became a centre of maritime innovation, launching vessels for global clients and pioneering submarine construction. Barrow's strategic importance continues today with BAE Systems Submarines remaining the town's largest employer, with over 12,000 staff.

Challenges and Opportunities

Barrow's regeneration is ambitious, but not without these challenges:

- Health and social inequalities.
- Skills mismatch and high worklessness.
- A declining working-age population.
- Underutilised town centre and housing stock.

Despite its importance to the defence sector in the last few years, Barrow has experienced a decline in its fortunes. Like many towns Barrow has lost many shops, which has had a detrimental effect on the town centre.

> **Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) data shows that Barrow has significant inequalities in health and in educational attainment.**

A government report in 2023 found that without intervention, the town would not be able to support the expected growth from BAE and other economic opportunities. Something needed to be done to stop a decline in the working-age population, fix infrastructure problems, and attract and retain workers.

However, these challenges also present opportunities. The regeneration plan envisions:

- **12,000 new homes** across the region, with a focus on Barrow.
- **The demand for talented engineering professionals** in the UK continues to grow as the sector expands. Like other sectors, defence faces the problem of attracting and retaining a skilled workforce. With a good pipeline of orders, BAE wants to invest in apprenticeship skills to encourage young people into engineering, and they announced plans to recruit more than 2,600 new apprentices and graduates, to create, attract and retain a skilled workforce with roles based in Barrow, Samlesbury and Warton.
- **A new University of Cumbria Barrow campus** to attract students and upskill the local workforce. Opening in autumn 2025, the campus is situated on land donated by BAE and was financed via a previous government grant.
- **A revitalised town centre** with cultural, leisure and retail offerings.
- **Improved transport infrastructure** to connect Barrow with regional hubs.
- **Enhanced health and education services** to support a growing population and address inequalities.

Who's Driving the Regeneration?

The regeneration is spearheaded by Team Barrow, a public-private partnership comprising Westmorland and Furness Council, BAE Systems and the government. Their aim is to deliver transformative change across housing, education, transport, health and the town centre.

The Astute, Dreadnought and SSN-AUKUS submarine building programme is driving a major workforce expansion. BAE Systems expects the workforce to grow to 17,000. This includes significant numbers of apprentices, undergraduates and graduates already recruited. New training facilities are under construction, to support skills development.

Steve Timms, Managing Director of BAE Systems' Submarines business, emphasised Barrow's strategic role:

> "Barrow is at the heart of our national endeavour and the custodian of the UK's submarine design and build capability, which is critical to both national security and the economic prosperity of our town."

The programme is not just about building submarines - it's about building a future for Barrow. This aligns closely with the goals of the Barrow Transformation Fund. Together, these initiatives aim to create a thriving, resilient community that can support the UK's defence needs while offering opportunity and prosperity to its residents.

Unlocking Barrow's potential through housing, education, transport, health and the town centre.

A cornerstone of Barrow's regeneration is the ambitious Marina Village housing development, led by Homes England in partnership with Westmorland and Furness Council, Team Barrow and private sector developers. The Marina Village site spans 26 hectares and will provide 808 new homes, alongside a nature conservation area, public open spaces and enabling infrastructure. Homes England has pledged to fund phase two of the site and is working with developers to ensure the homes are deliverable and meet modern standards for energy efficiency, affordability and community integration.

> The development of the University of Cumbria's Barrow campus marks a historic milestone in the town's evolution - from an industrial powerhouse to a centre of learning and innovation.

The campus includes engineering learning labs, clinical skills suites, a digital library, teaching rooms, and catering and social spaces, and is adjacent to the BAE Systems Submarines Academy for Skills and Knowledge, creating a powerful synergy between education and industry.

The new campus will eventually serve over 1,400 students annually, providing accessible pathways to higher education for all age groups, and in the process retaining young talent in the region.

Barrow's transport infrastructure is also receiving significant attention. Upgrades and investment to the road and rail network are continuing, with Team Barrow and Westmorland and Furness Council working with National Highways and Network Rail to improve road and rail reliability, reduce freight traffic on roads, and make greater use of the Port of Barrow.

The Port of Barrow, operated by Associated British Ports (ABP), is also positioning Barrow as a key player in the UK's energy transition, establishing a masterplan that supports the town's infrastructure. Alongside sustainable initiatives that include the Barrow Energy Dock, a pioneering floating solar array, the port is developing bases to support the growing offshore wind industry.

Improving health outcomes and access to care has become a central pillar of the town's regeneration strategy; this is important as the town prepares for significant population growth. Barrow faces longstanding health inequalities, with life expectancy and wellbeing indicators lagging national averages.

In response, Team Barrow's 10-Year Plan outlines a comprehensive strategy for health and wellbeing, which includes:

- Modernising health and care services, creating accessible and integrated systems that include mental health, community care and healthy workplaces.
- Upgrading and expanding primary and community care facilities so that health and wellbeing facilities are modern, high quality, safe and effective, and match the increasing population.
- Active wellbeing prioritised through improvements in leisure infrastructure, and the expansion of walking and cycling routes to reduce car dependency and emissions.

Barrow's town centre is also due to undergo a change, to create a vibrant, inclusive and economically resilient urban core that reflects Barrow's strategic importance and community aspirations.

The vision is a comprehensive, culturally led re-modelling of the town centre, and includes:

- A reimagined town centre focused on culture, leisure and heritage.
- Integration of new food, retail and residential developments.
- Enhanced connectivity and public spaces.

Barrow-in-Furness stands at a crossroads. With defence spending acting as a catalyst, and a coalition of stakeholders driving change, the town is poised for a renaissance that could serve as a model for regeneration across the UK.

Hugo Dennis
Director

Neil Bowker
Associate Director

"Barrow's town centre is due to undergo a change to create a vibrant, inclusive and resilient urban core."

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