

Your bitesize construction bulletin

January 2025

2025 projects to deliver £34bn in work

Market conditions and challenges

What is it?

According to market researcher Glenigan, the top 100 construction projects (by total project value) that start this year will generate £34bn worth of work.

What should I know?

- Civil engineering makes up 45 projects and five of the biggest schemes, bringing the biggest boost.
- Residential projects make up 20 and £4bn.
- Glenigan attributes this directly to the Labour government's goal of delivering 1.5 million new homes.



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Sunshine Bill blocked by government

Housebuilding and regulations

What is it?

The New Homes (Solar Generation) Bill, also known as the Sunshine Bill, was proposed to make roof solar panels compulsory on new homes built after October 2026.

What should I know?

- The bill had its second reading in the House of Commons but failed to be progressed any further.
- The Minister for Housing and Planning explained that the government already has plans to set more ambitious requirements for new homes later this year.



Five-year industry forecast revealed

Market conditions and challenges

What is it?

The BCIS building forecast has been revealed for Q4 2024 - Q4 2029.

What should I know?

- Over the forecasted period, building costs are expected to increase by 17% and tender prices will rise by 19%.
- New work output is forecasted to grow by 21%.
- Labour costs are anticipated to rise due to increased employer National Insurance contributions and an uplift in the National Living Wage.



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Historic England looks for new chief executive

Events

What is it?

Historic England, known for protecting English heritage sites, buildings and monuments, is hiring for a new chief executive.

What should I know?

- The current chief executive, Duncan Wilson, will retire this October after 10 years in the role and 25 as a chief executive in the heritage sector.
- He said, “Our heritage has never been more important and valuable, and I am confident that Historic England will continue to champion it as effectively as we have done in the last few years”.



Census confirm scale of skills shortage

Market conditions and challenges

What is it?

The Engineering Construction Industry Training Board has confirmed a skills shortage.

What should I know?

- 71% of employers are experiencing difficulties hiring workers, which is up from 53% in 2021.
- The most difficult roles to fill are: electrical engineers, pipefitters, riggers and design technicians.
- Although there has been an increase in workers under 30 joining the industry, it's not enough to offset the impact of a wave of retirements.



You're all caught up!