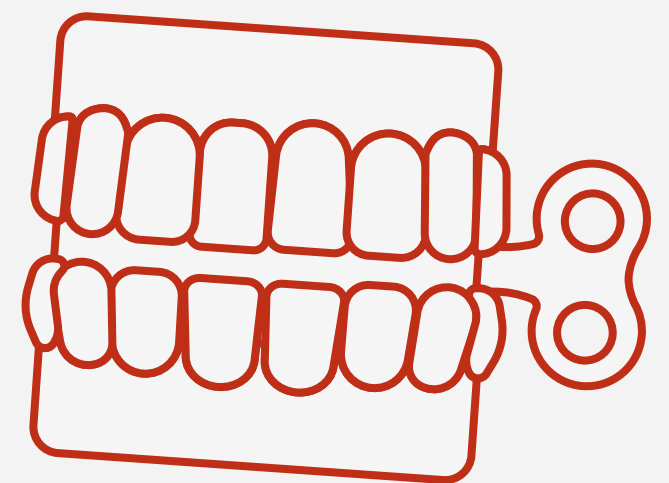


Your bitesize construction bulletin

February 2026



Construction output sees annual rise

What is it?

According to the Office for National Statistics, construction output grew 1.8% in 2025, marking a fifth consecutive year of annual growth.

What should I know?

- Total output fell 2.1% in Q4 compared to Q3, driven by a 3.6% drop in private new housing.
- Despite the Q4 drop, the most recent Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) from S&P Global showed improvements - January 2026's rating of 46.4 was the highest since June 2025.

**Market conditions
and challenges**



Voluntary certification for permanent carbon removals

What is it?

The EU has introduced the world's first voluntary certification rules for permanent carbon removals under its Carbon Removals and Carbon Farming framework.

What should I know?

- The standards set out how independent certifiers must assess and verify projects that permanently remove CO₂ and cover three permanent removal pathways.
- The standards aim to make carbon removal credits more consistent and auditable across the EU.



School rebuild plans create training placements

What is it?

New school and college rebuilding programmes could generate around 13,000 apprenticeship and T Level placements linked to live construction projects across England.

What should I know?

- Contractors bidding for education projects must provide hands-on training in trades like bricklaying, plumbing and electrical work.
- Around 90% of placements are expected to be within 30 miles of sites, supporting local access.
- Colleges can bid for £300m funding to expand post-16 construction training capacity.

Market conditions and challenges



Survey brands 1.5m homes target as unachievable

What is it?

A nationwide survey by Pagabo of housing and local authority professionals shows overwhelming doubt that the 1.5 million homes target can be met under current policy measures.

What should I know?

- Less than 1% believe the 1.5m target is achievable as policy stands, with funding shortages being the biggest barrier.
- Land availability, site costs and developer profit expectations are also major constraints.

**Housebuilding
and regulations**



Workers feel 'too old' for apprenticeships

What is it?

Research by Arden University suggests many construction workers believe they are too old to start apprenticeships, limiting wider uptake despite strong confidence in skills and leadership.

What should I know?

- 62% of those unwilling to take an apprenticeship say they feel “too old”.
- Only 19% believe their employer would support them to enrol.
- 52% would consider leaving for better development opportunities, highlighting retention risks.

**Market conditions
and challenges**



**You're all
caught up!**

