

Article

Construction Output Price Indices (OPIs): Interim solution, Quarter 4 (October to December) 2015

This article contains a summary of the construction output price indices (OPIs) for Quarter 4 (October to December) 2015, produced using an interim solution whilst ONS continues to develop appropriate methodologies for the long-term. Data in this release are experimental statistics.

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1. Introduction

Since taking responsibility for the Construction Price and Cost Indices (CPCIs) on 1 April 2015, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has developed an interim construction output price index (OPI). This index was put together in a short time frame and uses our existing data sources, the majority of which are National Statistics, so that users can be assured of the quality of the source data.

The results for the interim construction price index were published for the first time on 12 June 2015 and included data to Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) of 2015. This article provides an update to these results and includes data to Quarter 4 (Oct to Dec) of 2015.

[Information](#) about the methods used to compile the interim construction OPIs, as well as the results of our recent user survey and plans for the future development of price indices for construction, were published on 28 September 2015.

2. Headline results

The interim construction output price index (OPI) for all construction rose 2.1% in the year to December 2015, down from an increase of 2.4% in the year to November.

The interim construction output price index (OPI) for all new work increased 2.8% in the year to December 2015, down from an increase of 3.1% in the year to November. The main 2 contributors to the rate came from public non-housing and private commercial, where prices for both increased by 3.2% in the year to December.

The interim OPI for all repair and maintenance increased by 1.1% in the year to December 2015, down from a 1.2% increase in the year to November. This increase is mostly accounted for by the non-housing repair and maintenance sector which saw an increase of 1.3% in the year to December.

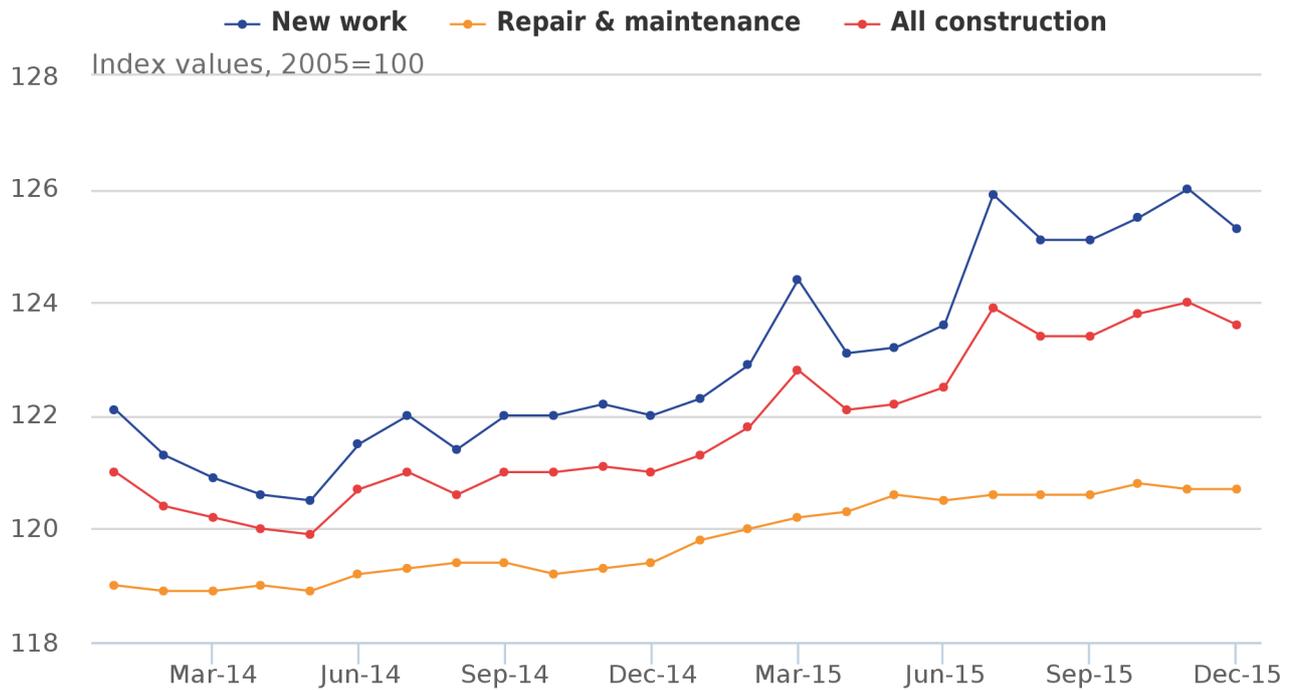
Prices continued to rise in the year to December, despite monthly (November to December) decreases being seen for all work types.

3. All construction

Overall, prices in the construction industry, as estimated by the interim construction output price index OPI, have risen during the period January 2014 to December 2015. There is an upward trend evident across all new work, and repair and maintenance sectors when compared with the same month a year ago (Figure 1), with peaks in all new work in March, July and November 2015.

Figure 1: Interim construction output price indices (2005=100), United Kingdom

January 2014 to December 2015

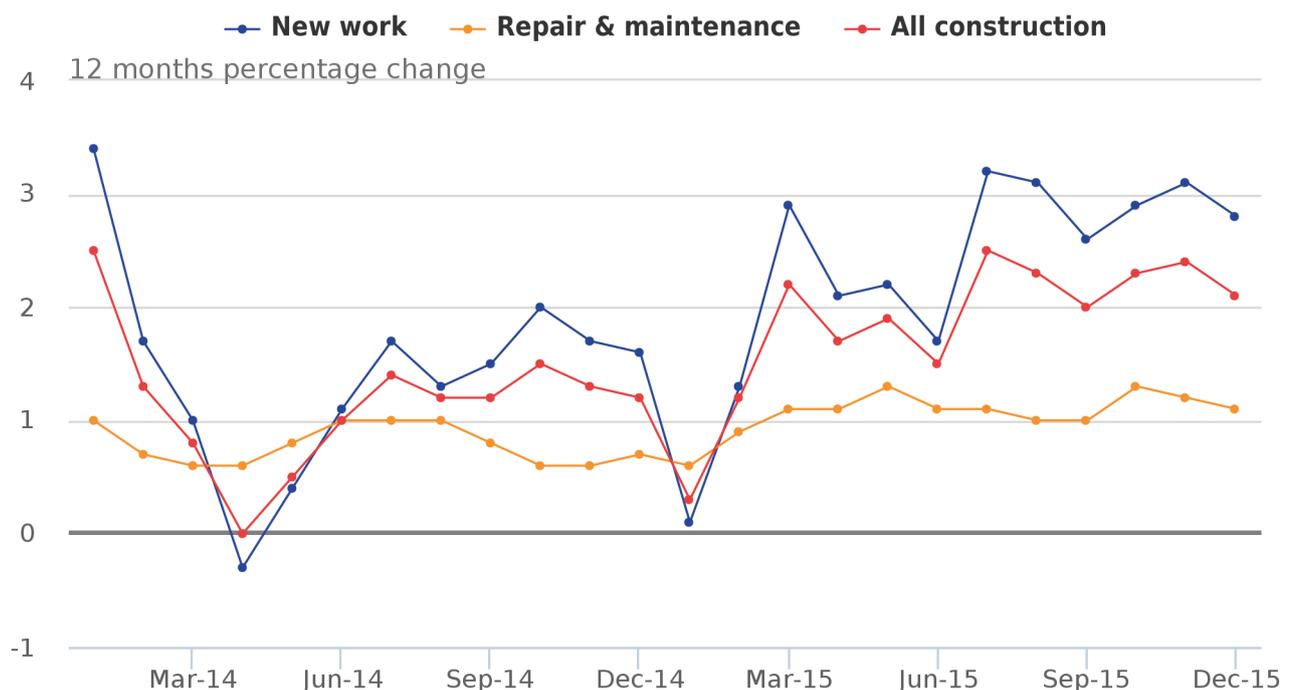


Source: Office for National Statistics

Annual growth rates in the interim construction OPI were positive throughout the January 2014 to December 2015 period (Figure 2) except for one instance where prices were lower than in the same month of the previous year. This occurred in the New work index in April 2014 when the index fell 0.3% on the year. Repair and maintenance work shows positive year on year growth in all periods.

Figure 2: Construction output price annual percentage change, United Kingdom

January 2014 to December 2015



Source: Office for National Statistics

4. New work

The interim OPI for all new construction work increased 2.8% in the year to December 2015. These changes were a result of increases in output prices in all sectors (Table 1).

Table 1: New work output price indices December 2015 (Percentage change)

United Kingdom		
Sector	Percentage change	
	annual direction	monthly direction
Housing (public & private)	2.7	-0.6
Infrastructure	2.4	-0.6
Public Non-housing	3.2	-0.4
Private Industrial	1.5	-0.4
Private Commercial	3.2	-0.4
All New Work	2.8	-0.5

Source: Office for National Statistics

All sectors show positive annual growth in December. Public non-housing and private commercial are seeing the largest movement with annual increases of 3.2%.

5. Repair and maintenance

The interim OPI for all repair and maintenance increased 1.1% in the year to December 2015. Much of this increase was accounted for by a rise in the non-housing repair and maintenance sector which saw output prices increase by 1.3% on the year (Table 2).

Table 2: Repair and maintenance construction output price indices December 2015 (Percentage change)

United Kingdom		
Sector	Percentage change	
	annual direction	monthly direction
Housing R&M	0.9	-0.1
Non-housing R&M	1.3	0.0
All Repair & Maintenance	1.1	-0.1

Source: Office for National Statistics

6. Background notes

1. Use within ONS

These interim construction OPIs were used to deflate [Output in the Construction Industry](#) for the first time in the April 2015 release, published on 12 June 2015. Further details on the impact of using these indices have been published in a separate [article](#).

2. Linking to previous series

The [Construction Price and Cost Indices \(CPCIs\)](#) were previously published by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and were published for the last time in September 2014, with the release suspended in December 2014. Responsibility for these statistics transferred to ONS on 1 April 2015, as previously [announced](#).

Users wishing to link the BIS CPCIs (prior to 2014) and the new ONS construction OPIs (from 2014 onwards) to create longer running time series, have many options. One approach would be to use a linking factor (based on a common time period) similar to the process suggested to link Producer Price Index series on different price bases described on page 2 of this [question and answer](#) paper.

Further guidance on using indices in indexation clauses is also [available](#).

3. De-designation as National Statistics

The Construction Price and Cost Indices were de-designated as National Statistics in December 2014, after their suspension, as detailed in a letter from Ed Humpherson, Director General for Regulation.

4. Experimental Statistics

These statistics have been published on an [experimental](#) basis to involve users in their development. As a result, improvements to methods may result in revisions to the series. Full details of any revisions will be released alongside the revised data.

5. Revisions policy

The interim construction OPIs are dependent on the revisions policies associated with their component series. For routine revisions, such as inclusion of late respondent data and monthly re-estimation of seasonal adjustment factors, the interim construction OPIs will be open to revisions for a period of 5 months, in line with PPI, its main component.

Non-routine revisions may also occur for example as a result of reviews and updates of methodologies of component series. When historic changes to component series arise, their impact on the construction OPI series will be assessed and any changes highlighted to users.

6. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available by visiting www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html or from the Media Relations Office email: media.relations@ons.gsi.gov.uk