

1. Economy

For all the latest economic and housing data via the CPA's Construction Information Database, please click [here](#):

Economy

- In May, according to the [CBI's Distributive Trades Survey](#), 60% of respondents reported that sales volumes were up on a year ago, and 9% said they were down, giving a balance of 51%. On balance, 58% of firms expects sales volumes to increase in June.
- According to the [ONS](#), UK GDP growth in 2015 Q1 was unrevised from the preliminary estimates of 0.3% on a quarterly basis and 2.4% year-on-year. The reported contraction in construction activity was revised to 1.1% quarter-on-quarter and 0.3% year-on-year.
- According to the [ONS](#), in 2015 Q1, business investment increased 1.7% compared with the previous quarter and was 3.7% higher compared to a year earlier.

Housing

- The number of mortgages approved for house purchase rose by 3.1% year-on-year and by 7.4% month-on-month in April, according to the [British Bankers' Association](#). The value of these loans was 5.4% higher than March 2014 and increased 7.1% compared with the previous month. The number of loans for re-mortgaging rose 5.6% year-on-year and 9.2% month-on-month.

For further information contact amandeep.bahra@constructionproducts.org.uk

2. Major Announcements

Circular Economy consultation launched by European Commission

The European Commission has issued its consultation document on the circular economy, the earlier proposals having been withdrawn in February. The deadline for comments is 20 August and the Association will be making an input. Find the consultation documents [here](#). The Commission is assessing support for binding rules on product design as part of a wide-ranging consultation on the direction of the new circular economy package. Interest groups are asked whether they would prefer minimum requirements for durability under the EU's Ecodesign Directive, for example, over industry-led self-regulatory measures. Other options to promote the circular economy principles in product design could include developing standards for voluntary use, or reviewing rules on legal and commercial guarantees. The Commission is also seeking views on which product groups should be addressed as a priority, with white goods, small domestic appliances, packaging material, clothing, furniture and cars all listed as options. For further information contact jane.thornback@constructionproducts.org.uk

3. Association Activities

Innovate UK – Building Performance Evaluation (BPE) Programme (Non-Domestic)

The report "Early Findings from Non-Domestic Projects" sets out the preliminary findings from 23 non-domestic projects covering the construction of schools, supermarkets, offices and clinics etc. Its aim was to measure the gap between designer's objectives and what happens when the occupants move in. The report can be accessed [here](#) or by contacting duncan.king@constructionproducts.org.uk.

Building Regulations (England) Approved Document E - Resistance to the passage of sound

A new edition of AD E has been published by DCLG. This is the 2003 edition incorporating amendments for 2004, 2010, 2013 and 2105. The main changes made by the 2015 amendments is an update of the references to standards for schools. This edition took effect on 6 April 2015. There has been no change to Part E of Schedule 1 of the Building Regulations (England) 2010. This document also applies to building work carried out on excepted energy buildings in Wales as defined in the Welsh Ministers (Transfer of Functions) (No. 2) Order 2009. Apart from this exception, for the time being, Wales will continue to use the original AD E 2010 edition. A copy of this new 2015 AD for England can be downloaded [here](#) or by contacting duncan.king@constructionproducts.org.uk.

APPG Manufacturing Commission seek views on industrial sustainability

The UK All Party Parliamentary Group on Manufacturing is supporting an inquiry by the Manufacturing Commission to seek views on how UK manufacturing can achieve long-term economic, environmental and social sustainability. It has launched its inquiry to

consider the challenges and opportunities presented by the transition to a sustainable industrial economy. The deadline for submissions is 8 June; find the papers [here](#). For further information contact jane.thornback@constructionproducts.org.uk.

Supply Chain Meeting with Transport for London – 02 July, London

Following the success of its previous meeting in December, the CPA has organised another opportunity for members to meet with TfL executives and learn about its programme for development, procurement process and how to become a supplier for this major client.

The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 02 July from 2-4:30pm, and will take place in the basement conference rooms of the Building Centre in London.

We strongly recommend that members avail themselves of this opportunity. Please register your interest with andrina.dhillon@constructionproducts.org.uk. Please contact jeff.may@constructionproducts.org.uk with any questions.

Sustainability Policy Group (the SCC) Meeting, 9 July 2015

The next SCC meeting will be on the morning of 9 July in central London. A main agenda item will be the EU's circular economy consultation package. To attend please RSVP to julie.mills@constructionproducts.org.uk

A Practical Guide for Architects and Designers

CPA's Deputy Chief Exec and Policy Director Peter Caplehorn advised and wrote the forward for a new publication aimed at designers as a guide to implementing the new CDM 2015 Regulations. This new publication is a must-have for all designers who will need a practical, concise and handy guide to utilise the new Regulations in their projects, as well as contractors, clients and consultants who will need to understand and collaborate with them. The publication is available [here](#). For more information contact peter.caplehorn@constructionproducts.org.uk.

Save the Date: Construction Industry Summit – 8-9 September, London

This flagship conference and networking event, led by the Construction Industry Council, CITB and the Strategic Forum for Construction, is being organised by the industry, for the industry, to engage and empower stakeholders from across all sectors of the built environment to achieve and deliver the vision set out in the Industrial Strategy *Construction 2025* manifesto. Tickets, sponsorship and exhibition space information are available [here](#).

4. Other Areas of Interest

Industrial Decarbonisation and Energy Efficiency Roadmaps to 2050 published

Government and industry have developed these roadmaps to 2050 which set out potential pathways for the eight most heat-intensive industrial sectors to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve energy efficiency. Those relevant to construction include iron and steel, cement, glass and ceramics. To view the reports click [here](#). For further information contact jane.thornback@constructionproducts.org.uk.

ESOS compliance and case studies requested by the EA and DECC

Government established ESOS to implement Article 8 (4-6) of the [EU Energy Efficiency Directive \(2012/27/EU\)](#). The [ESOS Regulations 2014](#) give effect to the scheme. The Environment Agency is the UK scheme administrator. ESOS applies to any UK company that either employs 250 or more people, or has an annual turnover in excess of 50 million euro. Organisations must carry out assessments by 5 December 2015 which include audits of the energy used by their buildings, industrial processes and transport and identify cost-effective energy saving measures. For details click [here](#). Companies qualify for ESOS if fully covered by ISO 50001. In addition, DECC and the Environment Agency wish to develop some case studies regarding ESOS compliance, the intent is to show how a number of companies from different backgrounds have complied with ESOS. If you are interested then please contact jane.thornback@constructionproducts.org.uk.

The Big Biodiversity Challenge in Construction

This is an innovative, but simple, initiative that challenges companies in the construction sector to add just one biodiversity enhancement, either temporary or permanent, on each of their sites, depots or offices. Companies or trade bodies can show their support for the BIG Biodiversity Challenge 2015 by either [contacting CIRIA](#) directly or by [completing the form](#) on the [BIG Challenge 2015](#) website. The best enhancements in 2015 will be recognized at an award ceremony on 15th October. The deadline for submissions into these awards is 19 August 2015. If any company wishes to receive further recognition of their commitment to both protecting and enhancing biodiversity they can do so by becoming a [BIG Challenge Partner](#). Submitting case studies, which is easy, and entering the awards is free. For further information contact jane.thornback@constructionproducts.org.uk.

NBS Annual BIM Report 2015

This fifth report looks at how the UK building design professionals are adapting to the use of BIM. It also looks at the construction industry's readiness for BIM Level 2 in 2016. For a copy of this report please click [here](#) or contact duncan.king@constructionproducts.org.uk

The BRE Fire Research Conference – 11th June 2015 at BRE Watford

The latest findings and lessons learnt on our industry's most topical issues will be presented by experts in a diverse range of fire related matters. This is a rare opportunity to meet those at the forefront in advancing fire knowledge, and to discuss multidisciplinary issues and concerns with like-minded professionals from a broad cross section of the fire industry and academia. To see the full agenda and to book your place, please click [here](#). CPA members receive a £25 discount (use Code "CPA25" when booking).

BIM Conference – 16 June, London

[Govtoday](#) and [Securing the Future](#) will be hosting “BIM today: 2016 & Beyond” at the Mermaid Conference Centre, London on 16 June 2015. To view the programme and to book your place, please click [here](#) or contact duncan.king@constructionproducts.org.uk.

5. Parliamentary and Government Update

Week Commencing 25/05/15

Parliamentary update

Westminster weekly business

The finalised Westminster business document for the week commencing Monday 1 June 2015 can be viewed [here](#).

House of Commons recess dates Announced

Leader of the House of Commons Chris Grayling has announced recess dates for the House in the coming session:

Summer recess - 21 July - 7 September

Conference recess - 17 September - 12 October

November recess - 10 November - 16 November

Christmas recess- 17 December - 5 January

February recess - 11 February - 22 February

Queens Speech 2015

The Queen’s Speech, which took place on Wednesday 27 May announced 25 new bills, along with one draft bill. A brief explanation of each bill that is relevant to industry is below:

- The **Enterprise Bill** will cut business regulation and enable easier resolution of disputes for small businesses. It will also introduce a cap on public sector redundancy pay and business rate appeals reform.
- The **National Insurance Contributions/Finance Bill** will ensure that tax rates, VAT and National Insurance will be frozen for the next five years.
- The **Housing Bill** will extend Right to Buy to housing association tenants. It will increase the supply of Starter Homes and simplify the neighbourhood planning system.
- The **Energy Bill** will establish the Oil and Gas Authority as an independent regulator of the industry and will allow local planning authorities to have a greater say over onshore wind farms in their area.
- The **Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill** will provide new primary legislative powers to devolved powers and budgets to local areas. It will also make provision for elected mayors with extended powers in areas that wish to have them.
- The **High Speed Rail (London-West Midlands) Bill** will provide the Government with the legal powers to construct and operate phase one of HS2.
- The **Scotland Bill** will devolve further powers to the Scottish Parliament, including control of income tax, air passenger duty and borrowing.
- The **Wales Bill** will devolve further powers to the National Assembly for Wales, including over certain energy projects, transport regulation and voting for 16 and 17 year olds.
- The **European Union Referendum Bill** will allow an in/out referendum on the UK’s membership of the European Union to be held.

The full Queens Speech briefing document can be found [here](#).

Plans, Reports and Statements

The Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne has announced that there will be a Budget on Wednesday 8 July 2015. This will likely take place around 12.30pm, immediately after PMQs.

Consultations, Reviews and Call for Evidence:

Business Rates Review

The government is conducting a review of business rates in England in response to concerns from some business ratepayers that the system is in need of reform to make it fit for a 21st century economy. The CPA’s will be responding to the consultation directly and would welcome your views and comments. To view the consultation, please click [here](#). Any comments or views should be sent to jonathan.bloom@constructionproducts.org.uk by 22 May 2015.

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