

10 April 2008

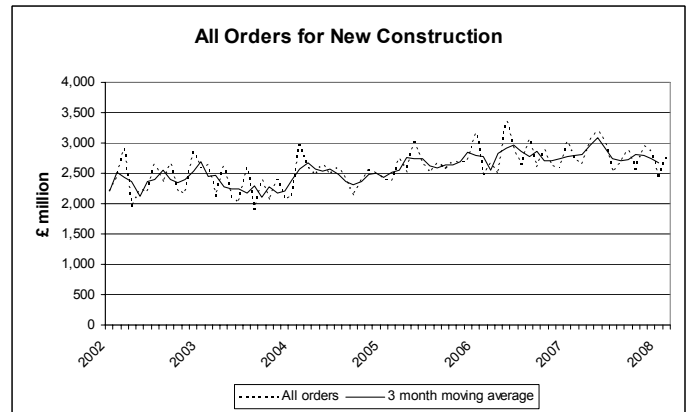
Coverage  
Great Britain

Theme  
Natural and Built Environment



## Orders for New Construction February 2008

Orders in the 12 months to February 2008 were unchanged compared with the previous 12 months and orders in the three months to February 2008 fell by 4 per cent compared



with the same three months a year earlier. Orders in the three months to February 2008 fell by 5 per cent compared with the previous three month period, with large increases in the infrastructure and public non-housing sectors not enough to offset decreases in all other sectors. All orders figures quoted are seasonally adjusted and in constant (2000) prices.

### Orders for new construction

(constant (2000) prices, seasonally adjusted)

		Public housing	Private housing	Infra-structure	Public non-housing	Private industrial	Private commercial	All Orders
<i>£ million</i>								
		1,721	8,359	3,287	4,413	2,961	12,734	33,476
		1,788	7,876	4,150	4,685	2,630	12,997	34,127
2007	Q3r	398	1,824	937	1,173	568	3,205	8,106
2007	Q4r	431	1,959	1,064	1,147	646	3,122	8,368
2007	Nov r	143	733	305	400	197	1,169	2,947
2007	Dec r	162	631	388	444	185	1,035	2,845
2008	Jan p	127	538	265	523	203	760	2,416
2008	Feb p	89	517	814	381	227	732	2,761

r = revised p = provisional

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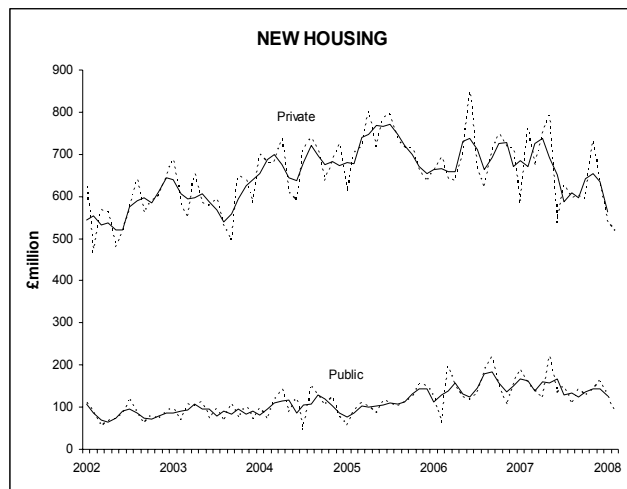
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### Private and public housing

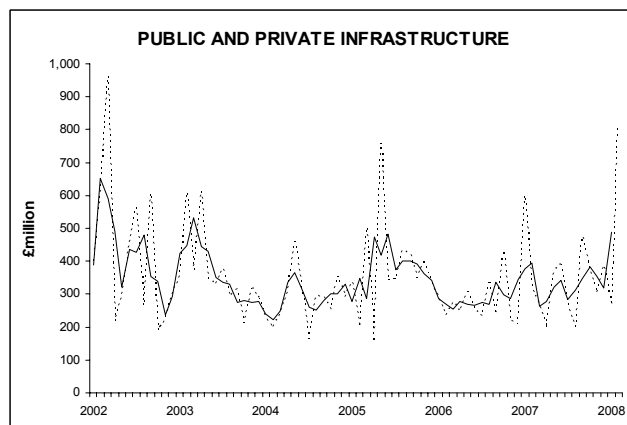
Private housing orders in the year to February 2008 fell by 9 per cent compared with those in the previous 12 months. Orders in the three months to February fell by 13 per cent compared with the previous three month period, and fell by 18 per cent compared with the same three months a year earlier.

Public housing and housing association orders fell by 12 per cent in the 12 months to February 2008 compared with the previous 12 months. Public housing and housing association orders in the three months to February fell by 8 per cent compared with the previous three months, and fell by 24 per cent compared with the same period a year ago. All comparisons in this sector are affected by large variations due to its relatively small size.



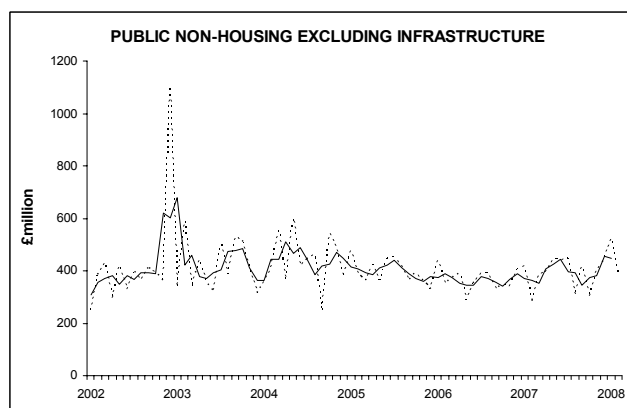
### Private and public infrastructure

Infrastructure orders in the year to February 2008 rose by 17 per cent compared with the previous 12 months. Orders in the three months to February rose by 27 per cent compared with the previous three month period, and by 30 per cent when compared with the same three months a year earlier. These large rises were caused by high levels of roads orders in February 2008.



### Public non-housing

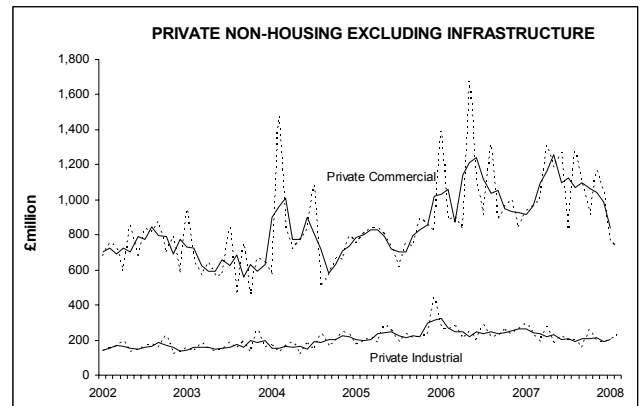
Public non-housing orders (excluding infrastructure) in the 12 months to February 2008 rose by 13 per cent compared with the previous 12 month period. Orders in the three months to February rose by 20 per cent compared with the previous quarter, and by 22 per cent compared with the same three months a year earlier. These large rises were caused by high levels of education, health and office orders in January 2008.



**Private non-housing**

Private commercial orders in the 12 months to February 2008 were 2 per cent higher than in the previous 12 months. Orders in the three months to February were 21 per cent lower compared with the previous months, and fell by 8 per cent compared with the same period a year earlier.

Private industrial orders in the 12 months to February 2008 fell by 15 per cent compared with the previous 12 months. Orders in the three months to February fell by 1 per cent compared with the previous quarter, and by 22 per cent compared with the same three month period a year ago.



## REVISIONS

Construction orders series may be revised following publication of the first monthly estimate. Current price data are revised two months following publications of the provisional figures. Other revisions to the orders series have been caused by revisions to some of the price and cost indices used to deflate the current price data to constant (2000) prices.

**Table 1 : VOLUME AND PRICE OF NEW ORDERS OBTAINED BY CONTRACTORS : BY TYPE OF WORK**  
**Three monthly growth rates**  
**(Seasonally Adjusted Volume Index Numbers)**  
**Great Britain**

		<b>All New Work published in this release</b>	<b>All New Work published in January 2008</b>	<b>All New Work Revisions</b>
<b>2007</b>	<b>January (R)</b>	-4.0	-4.0	-0.01
	<b>February (R)</b>	2.5	2.5	-0.02
	<b>March (R)</b>	3.7	3.7	-0.03
	<b>April (R)</b>	2.2	2.2	-0.02
	<b>May (R)</b>	6.9	6.9	-0.01
	<b>June (R)</b>	10.1	10.1	0.00
	<b>July (R)</b>	3.7	3.7	0.00
	<b>August (R)</b>	-7.9	-7.9	0.00
	<b>September (R)</b>	-12.4	-12.4	0.00
	<b>October (R)</b>	-6.4	-6.4	0.00
	<b>November (R)</b>	2.6	1.4	1.19
	<b>December (R)</b>	3.2	1.4	1.83
<b>2008</b>	<b>January (R)</b>	0.5	-1.2	1.76

P Provisional

R Revised

## BACKGROUND NOTES

### Relevance to users

1. This is the second ONS First Release on Orders for New Construction following the transfer of responsibility for construction output, employment and new orders statistics from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to the Office for National Statistics on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2008. Details of the transfer can be found at:  
<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/constats1007.pdf>
2. The First Release brings together information on orders for new construction in Great Britain. It draws on data compiled from monthly sample surveys of construction contractors. The construction industry, which accounted for 5.9 per cent of UK gross value added in 2006, covers Section F of the Standard Industrial Classification 2003.
3. Because monthly figures are variable, especially for individual sectors, attention is directed to the latest three month period. Even this comparison may be affected by exceptionally high or low results. Graphs are shown with a three month moving average trend. Figures for individual sectors can be affected by exceptionally large contracts.

### Accuracy

4. **Revisions to previous periods:** Figures for the recent months are provisional and subject to revision, mainly in the light of revisions to deflators. Current price figures are revised once, two months after provisional publication.
5. Figures marked r indicate that the data have been revised since the last edition.

### Deflation and seasonal adjustment

6. The headline data are given in constant 2000 prices, seasonally adjusted. Deflators adjust the value series to take out the effect of price changes to give the volume series. Deflation of output is carried out sectorally, and a range of relevant tender price, materials price and labour price indices are used.

7. Seasonal adjustment aids interpretation by removing annually recurring fluctuations, for example, due to the financial year. Unadjusted data are also available.

#### **Further information**

8. Spreadsheets containing the data published in this First Release, as well as further breakdowns can be found at:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/Product.asp?vlnk=720>

9. Releases on orders for new construction in 2006 and 2007 can be found on the BERR website at:

<http://stats.berr.gov.uk/construction/orders>

10. Related releases on output and employment in the construction industry in Great Britain are published at:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/Product.asp?vlnk=725>

The first ONS release on construction output and employment, covering 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2007, was published on 7th March 2008.

#### **Publication Policy**

11. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available from the press office. Also available is a list of the names of those given pre-publication access to the contents of this release.
12. **National Statistics** are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.

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**Table 1: Volume of orders for new construction in Great Britain**  
**Constant (2000) prices seasonally adjusted index numbers**

**2000 = 100**

			Public Housing <sup>1</sup>	Private Housing <sup>1</sup>	Infra- structure	Public (excl infrastructure)	Private Industrial	Private Commercial	All new Work
2003			119.4	117.2	88.9	132.3	77.4	80.1	97.8
2004			139.1	134.8	68.5	138.5	84.9	97.6	106.2
2005			145.1	141.3	91.9	125.3	110.2	97.1	112.3
2006			189.1	137.4	65.8	115.7	114.4	130.9	119.0
2007		R	196.4	129.4	83.1	122.8	101.6	133.6	121.4
2006	Q1		168.8	131.3	64.5	122.3	124.5	130.7	118.6
	Q2		172.3	143.9	64.9	108.5	102.8	149.4	124.1
	Q3		236.5	130.8	64.9	117.2	114.5	128.2	118.3
	Q4		178.7	143.6	69.1	114.9	115.8	115.2	115.2
2007	Q1	R	212.8	132.5	95.1	114.1	111.9	119.3	119.5
	Q2	R	209.0	136.5	77.0	134.0	106.9	155.0	131.6
	Q3	R	174.8	119.9	75.1	123.0	87.8	131.8	115.3
	Q4	R	189.1	128.8	85.2	120.2	99.8	128.4	119.0
2006	Jan		162.2	130.3	69.8	138.7	124.0	171.7	135.5
	Feb		83.9	137.1	57.2	111.0	119.0	109.0	106.2
	Mar		260.4	126.5	66.4	117.2	130.4	111.4	114.0
	Apr		198.9	125.8	59.7	123.8	97.6	103.0	105.7
	May		163.8	138.0	74.7	90.7	117.7	207.3	143.3
	Jun		154.4	167.7	60.3	111.0	93.0	137.9	123.3
	Jul		176.7	130.6	56.2	123.0	136.0	113.2	112.3
	Aug		242.5	122.4	81.1	124.0	102.2	162.6	131.2
	Sep		290.2	139.3	57.5	104.4	105.3	108.9	111.3
	Oct		198.4	147.8	103.8	108.9	119.6	118.3	123.6
	Nov		137.0	141.7	52.9	107.2	109.1	124.1	112.0
	Dec		200.7	141.1	50.6	128.5	118.6	103.2	110.1
2007	Jan	R	252.8	114.7	144.5	131.9	138.2	116.1	129.4
	Feb	R	204.5	150.1	76.6	88.3	109.1	119.1	115.9
	Mar	R	181.0	132.8	64.3	122.1	88.6	122.7	113.2
	Apr	R	159.1	147.1	47.9	123.1	129.8	161.6	130.1
	May	R	291.3	156.3	88.9	140.9	87.1	146.5	136.9
	Jun	R	176.7	106.1	94.2	138.0	103.6	156.8	127.9
	Jul	R	196.8	123.6	64.4	140.3	94.3	102.0	107.5
	Aug	R	140.2	117.7	46.1	97.2	95.0	157.8	114.7
	Sep	R	187.3	118.4	114.8	131.5	74.2	135.6	123.7
	Oct	R	165.5	117.3	89.2	95.2	122.7	113.2	110.0
	Nov	R	188.4	144.5	73.3	125.9	91.1	144.2	125.7
	Dec	R	213.5	124.5	93.2	139.6	85.7	127.7	121.4
2008	Jan	P	167.2	106.1	63.8	164.5	93.9	93.7	103.1
	Feb	P	117.9	102.0	195.5	119.9	105.3	90.3	117.8

1. excludes orders for home improvement work

P Provisional  
R Revised

**These tables and additional breakdowns are available in Excel from**  
<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/Product.asp?vlnk=720>

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**Table 2: Volume of orders for new construction in Great Britain <sup>1</sup>**  
**Constant (2000) prices seasonally adjusted**

**£ million**

			Public Housing <sup>1</sup>	Private Housing <sup>1</sup>	Infra- structure	Public (excl infrastructure)	Private Industrial	Private Commercial	All new Work
2003			1,087	7,132	4,440	5,046	2,002	7,794	27,502
2004			1,267	8,205	3,420	5,283	2,197	9,491	29,862
2005			1,321	8,597	4,588	4,779	2,853	9,447	31,585
2006			1,721	8,359	3,287	4,413	2,961	12,734	33,476
2007			1,788	7,876	4,150	4,685	2,630	12,997	34,127
2006	Q1		384	1,997	805	1,166	805	3,179	8,336
	Q2		392	2,188	810	1,035	665	3,634	8,724
	Q3		538	1,989	810	1,117	741	3,119	8,315
	Q4		407	2,184	863	1,095	749	2,803	8,101
2007	Q1	R	484	2,016	1,188	1,088	724	2,901	8,401
	Q2	R	476	2,077	961	1,278	692	3,769	9,252
	Q3	R	398	1,824	937	1,173	568	3,205	8,106
	Q4	R	431	1,959	1,064	1,147	646	3,122	8,368
2006	Jan		123	661	290	441	267	1,392	3,174
	Feb		64	695	238	353	257	883	2,489
	Mar		198	641	276	372	281	903	2,672
	Apr		151	638	248	394	211	835	2,477
	May		124	700	311	288	254	1,681	3,358
	Jun		117	851	251	353	201	1,118	2,890
	Jul		134	662	234	391	293	918	2,632
	Aug		184	621	337	394	220	1,318	3,075
	Sep		220	706	239	332	227	883	2,608
	Oct		151	750	432	346	258	959	2,896
	Nov		104	719	220	341	235	1,006	2,625
	Dec		152	716	210	408	256	837	2,579
2007	Jan	R	192	582	601	419	298	941	3,033
	Feb	R	155	761	319	281	235	965	2,716
	Mar	R	137	673	267	388	191	994	2,652
	Apr	R	121	746	199	391	280	1,310	3,047
	May	R	221	793	370	448	188	1,188	3,207
	Jun	R	134	538	392	439	224	1,271	2,998
	Jul	R	149	627	268	446	203	827	2,520
	Aug	R	106	597	192	309	205	1,279	2,688
	Sep	R	142	600	478	418	160	1,100	2,898
	Oct	R	126	595	371	303	265	918	2,577
	Nov	R	143	733	305	400	197	1,169	2,947
	Dec	R	162	631	388	444	185	1,035	2,845
2008	Jan	P	127	538	265	523	203	760	2,416
	Feb	P	89	517	814	381	227	732	2,761

1. excludes orders for home improvement work

P Provisional

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**Table 3 : Volume of orders for new construction in Great Britain <sup>1</sup>****Constant (2000) prices****£ million**

			Public Housing <sup>1</sup>	Private Housing <sup>1</sup>	Infra-structure	Public (excl infrastructure)	Private Industrial	Private Commercial	All new Work
2003			1,087	7,132	4,440	5,046	2,002	7,794	27,502
2004			1,267	8,205	3,420	5,283	2,197	9,491	29,862
2005			1,321	8,597	4,588	4,779	2,853	9,447	31,585
2006			1,721	8,359	3,287	4,413	2,961	12,734	33,476
2007		R	1,788	7,876	4,150	4,685	2,630	12,997	34,127
2006	Q1		549	2,096	808	1,172	789	3,222	8,636
	Q2		382	2,297	976	987	658	3,744	9,045
	Q3		448	2,041	810	1,195	776	3,179	8,449
	Q4		342	1,925	693	1,059	737	2,589	7,346
2007	Q1	R	649	2,108	1,217	1,099	701	2,995	8,770
	Q2	R	428	2,145	1,140	1,232	680	3,843	9,468
	Q3	R	339	1,877	912	1,258	600	3,254	8,240
	Q4	R	373	1,747	880	1,096	649	2,905	7,650
2006	Jan		138	702	299	460	236	1,380	3,217
	Feb		70	692	213	365	229	866	2,435
	Mar		341	702	296	347	323	976	2,985
	Apr		197	609	378	334	189	715	2,422
	May		85	727	379	261	276	1,800	3,528
	Jun		100	960	220	392	193	1,229	3,094
	Jul		132	687	203	479	322	1,114	2,937
	Aug		131	644	388	414	232	1,229	3,038
	Sep		185	710	218	302	223	836	2,474
	Oct		134	712	334	413	253	879	2,724
	Nov		83	671	210	313	250	1,019	2,545
	Dec		125	542	149	333	234	692	2,076
2007	Jan	R	216	643	638	444	267	945	3,152
	Feb	R	171	759	287	291	212	960	2,678
	Mar	R	262	707	293	365	223	1,090	2,940
	Apr	R	158	733	310	333	253	1,136	2,923
	May	R	149	800	476	406	209	1,291	3,331
	Jun	R	120	611	354	493	218	1,417	3,213
	Jul	R	145	668	233	550	224	1,019	2,839
	Aug	R	73	649	231	329	219	1,191	2,692
	Sep	R	122	559	448	379	158	1,044	2,709
	Oct	R	114	594	297	366	263	845	2,479
	Nov	R	116	698	302	370	213	1,197	2,897
	Dec	R	143	455	282	360	173	862	2,275
2008	Jan	P	142	593	274	550	180	758	2,498
	Feb	P	98	514	711	392	203	724	2,643

1. excludes orders for home improvement work

P Provisional

R Revised

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**Table 4 : Value of orders for new construction in Great Britain <sup>1</sup>**

**Current prices**

**£ million**

		Public Housing <sup>1</sup>	Private Housing <sup>1</sup>	Infra-structure	Public (excl infrastructure)	Private Industrial	Private Commercial	All new Work
2003		1,340	9,471	4,894	6,142	2,383	9,721	33,951
2004		1,697	12,153	3,772	6,847	2,593	12,026	39,089
2005		1,951	13,171	5,532	6,694	3,421	13,163	43,932
2006		2,653	13,468	4,319	6,162	3,634	17,528	47,764
2007	R	2,964	13,109	5,633	7,324	3,306	18,288	50,624
2006	Q1	833	3,333	1,025	1,625	961	4,410	12,187
	Q2	586	3,704	1,279	1,375	804	5,133	12,880
	Q3	696	3,317	1,089	1,672	955	4,386	12,116
	Q4	537	3,114	926	1,491	914	3,599	10,581
2007	Q1	1,056	3,473	1,677	1,651	876	4,189	12,922
	Q2	707	3,547	1,533	1,912	851	5,386	13,934
	Q3	568	3,150	1,225	1,992	756	4,588	12,279
	Q4	634	2,939	1,198	1,770	824	4,125	11,489
2006	Jan	209	1,103	377	638	288	1,887	4,502
	Feb	106	1,110	269	505	279	1,187	3,456
	Mar	518	1,120	379	481	394	1,337	4,229
	Apr	302	978	490	463	231	980	3,444
	May	130	1,168	497	364	336	2,466	4,962
	Jun	154	1,558	292	547	236	1,687	4,474
	Jul	205	1,112	272	669	394	1,534	4,186
	Aug	203	1,054	524	580	285	1,696	4,342
	Sep	289	1,151	293	424	275	1,157	3,589
	Oct	210	1,148	447	581	313	1,218	3,918
	Nov	130	1,080	279	441	310	1,416	3,657
	Dec	197	886	199	469	291	964	3,006
2007	Jan	348	1,069	878	661	333	1,319	4,609
	Feb	278	1,241	397	436	264	1,344	3,962
	Mar	429	1,163	402	554	278	1,526	4,352
	Apr	261	1,194	421	511	317	1,590	4,294
	May	246	1,333	638	630	261	1,807	4,915
	Jun	199	1,020	474	770	273	1,988	4,725
	Jul	241	1,119	312	866	281	1,433	4,253
	Aug	122	1,096	309	521	276	1,680	4,004
	Sep	205	935	604	604	199	1,476	4,022
	Oct	193	992	403	588	333	1,197	3,707
	Nov	198	1,181	410	599	271	1,700	4,358
	Dec	242	766	385	583	220	1,228	3,424
2008	Jan	241	1,005	375	890	230	1,082	3,824
	Feb	166	870	978	635	259	1,036	3,945

1. excludes orders for home improvement work

P Provisional

R Revised

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