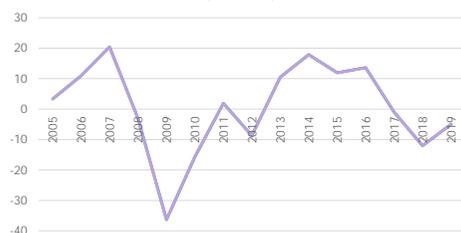


UK Property / construction headlines

- Markit's Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) shows that political uncertainty has led to companies delaying decisions and a fall in new commercial work. The index fell to 51.9 in July, down from 54.8 in June, with the first reduction in new business volume since August 2016.
- House builders' share-prices fell on reports that the government has asked the London School of Economics to conduct a review into Help To Buy and rumours that they may be looking at restricting the scheme to first time buyers or reducing the maximum sale price.
- According to Halifax's index, house prices recorded their best monthly rise of 2017 in July, rising 0.4% following a fall of 0.9% in June. The average price of a home is now £219,266 according to the index.
- The Construction Products Association is expecting output to soften alongside the slowing economy, with output increasing just 0.7% in 2018 (1.2% lower than previously forecast). Output for 2017 has been increased from 1.3% to 1.6% owing to emergency measures stemming from the fire at Grenfell Tower. Growth in 2018 is expected to be heavily reliant on private housebuilding as commercial and infrastructure output is forecast to fall.

Commercial office construction output growth (annual %)



Friday to Friday

	Price / index	Week % change	Annual % change
FTSE 100	7,511.71	+1.95	+10.57
FTSE 250	19,969.73	+1.36	+14.34
Nikkei	19,952.33	-0.04	+22.75
S&P 500	2,476.83	+0.19	+13.47
Nasdaq	6,351.56	-0.36	+21.65
CAC 40	5,203.44	+0.26	+17.98
Dax	12,297.73	+1.11	+18.62
\$ per £	1.3034	-0.69	-0.25
€ per £	1.1090	-0.66	-5.96
Gold £/oz	965.39	-0.13	-5.57
Brent Oil	52.42	-0.19	+18.41

World news

- Business confidence is increasing in France, with Pole Emploi's annual survey showing hiring intentions are up 8.2% compared to last year's (in construction, intentions are up 22.5%). One of France's largest job agencies has 40% more job adverts on its website than a year ago, with the biggest increase in the property, technology and construction sectors.
- China has tightened rules on state groups' overseas investments following fears of capital outflows and risk.
- Chinese authorities have reportedly asked the Chinese owner of the Waldorf in New York, Anbang Insurance Group, to sell its offshore assets and repatriate the proceeds. The state is trying to rein in some of the country's biggest companies with massive debt

UK Economy

- The Bank of England's (BoE) Monetary Policy Committee voted to maintain the current record low base rate at 0.25%, with two of the eight members in favour of an increase.
- New car registrations have fallen 9.3% year-on-year, owing to weakening consumer confidence.
- Pound decreased from 11-month high (increased after IHS Markit's services Purchasing Managers Index rose to 53.8 last month from 53.4 in June) as BoE keeps rates unchanged.
- Manufacturing PMI showed growth for the first time in three months.
- The total share of 16- to 24-years-olds who spent time not in employment, education or training (NEETs) declined last year but increased in the first quarter of this year to 11.2% compared with 9.8% in Q1 2016.
- A survey by Ipsos MORI found that seven in ten respondents under 65 think that the UK government is taking the wrong direction, up 16% since April. The public are increasingly concerned with terrorism and the rise of extremism
- The London Stock Exchange has formed a Brexit unit to protect London businesses.

Stocks and Commodities

- Oil prices were volatile after US data showed a smaller than expected drop in crude stockpiles and demand grew.

Contact



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