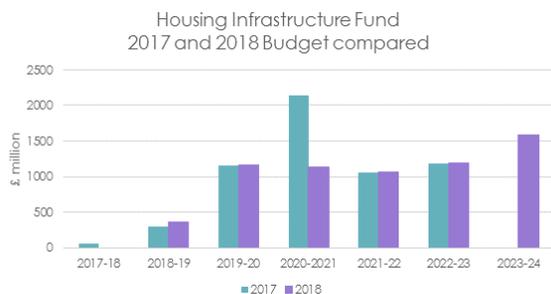


### Housing and construction

- UK construction output index was 53.2 in October, up from 52.1 in September. It was the second-strongest in 16 months, IHS Markit data showed.
- Investment transactions in London’s Midtown office market hit a record level in Q3 of £4.3bn, a 116% year-on-year increase. Overseas investments accounted for 91% of the total, data from Midtown specialist agent Farebrother showed.
- UK house price rises slowed to the lowest rate since May 2013 in October, increasing by 1.6%, Nationwide Building Society showed. The figure is down from 2% in September. Analysts expect house prices to “flatline”.
- The developer of Centre Point Residence announced it will stop selling flats in the tower due to market uncertainty: they received too many “detached from reality” offers. Half of the units have already been sold.
- The government significantly altered the flow of funding to the Housing Infrastructure Fund, as shown in the chart below.



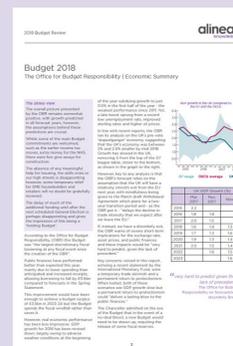
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### Friday to Friday

	Price / index	Week % change	Annual % change
FTSE 100	7,094.12	2.23	-6.17
FTSE 250	19,325.73	5.30	-5.60
Nikkei	22,243.66	5.00	-1.31
S&P 500	2,723.06	2.42	5.23
Nasdaq	7,356.99	2.65	8.76
CAC 40	5,102.13	2.71	-7.54
Dax	11,518.99	2.84	-14.54
\$ per £	1.2968	1.13	-0.76
€ per £	1.1394	1.19	1.30
Gold £/oz	950.74	-1.04	-2.15
Brent Oil	72.83	-6.22	17.34

### The alinea view: Budget 2018

The recent Budget presents a positive image, with growth predicted in all forecast years, however, the assumptions behind these predictions are crucial. [Read our review and see what it means for property and construction.](#)



### Stocks and Commodities

- The US is imposing the next round of sanctions on Iran, targeting the country’s oil and gas industries. The US has been gradually reintroducing sanctions on Iran but this round is the most significant.

### UK economic news

- Steve Eisman, who famously predicted the collapse of subprime mortgages before 2008, said at a Dubai conference that the UK is one of the biggest risks he is watching and has shorted two stocks in the UK (but refused to name them).
- Two weeks of strategic silence from the government on Brexit may come to an end this week as a cabinet meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, with suggestions from Party members that an end is in sight for the Brexit deadlock. However, the Prime Minister’s spokesman played down reports that an agreement with the EU was done.
- UK interest rates to remain at 0.75% amid growing uncertainty, the Bank of England announced. An increase in interest rates would be accelerated in the years ahead if a Brexit deal is negotiated.
- British manufacturing suffered its sharpest slowdown for two years in October, IHS Markit data showed. The Purchasing Managers’ index fell to 51.1 in October, down from 53.6 in September and it is below City economists’ expectations of 53.

### World news

- Chinese President, Xi Jinping, at an international import fair, announced continued cuts to imports tariffs in telecom, medical care, and education to further open China’s economy.
- Italian borrowing costs increased as Rome remains locked in a budget stand-off with Brussels. On a year-on-year basis, Italy’s economy expanded by 0.8% and it failed to grow in the third quarter. It is the slowest pace of growth in more than three years.