

Economy

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- The ONS released the final estimate of [national accounts](#) data for 2016 Q2, which showed that GDP increased 0.7% from Q1, revised up 0.1 percentage points from the previous estimate. However, when compared to 2015 Q2, **GDP growth was unrevised from 2.2% in the previous estimate. In 2016 Q2, construction output decreased 0.1% quarter-on-quarter, an upward revision of 0.6 percentage points from the second estimate, which is in line with the construction output data released earlier in September.**
- According to the ONS, in 2016 Q2, [business investment](#) increased 1.0% compared with the previous quarter, revised up 0.5 percentage points from the provisional estimate. **However, business investment decreased 0.8% on an annual basis, unrevised from the previous estimate.**

Housing

- The number of mortgages approved for house purchase in August decreased 20.9% year-on-year and 1.8% month-on-month to 36,997, the lowest number since January 2015, according to the [British Bankers' Association](#). The value of these loans decreased 19.5% from a year earlier and remained flat over the month. The number of loans for re-mortgaging fell 5.9% on an annual basis and decreased 6.1% from July. The value of these loans decreased 2.6% year-on-year and was 6.9% lower over the month. **According to the BBA, the continued weakness in mortgage approvals was associated with the lingering effects of the stamp duty changes earlier in April and reflected a slowdown in the housing market. The BBA also noted that the data was collected prior to the Bank of England's decision to cut interest rates.**
- In August, the number of mortgages approved for house purchase decreased 16.0% on an annual basis and 1.4% compared to July, according to the [Bank of England](#). The value of these loans was 15.9% lower than a year ago and decreased 0.9% month-on-month. The number of loans for remortgaging decreased 2.0% year-on-year and 5.6% compared to July. The value of these loans increased 0.4% on a monthly basis, but decreased 7.2% on an annual basis. **The latest figures echo recent data from the BBA that linked the continued fall in mortgage lending activity to a housing market slowdown and the effects of the stamp duty changes earlier in April.**
- According to the [DCLG](#), a total of 91,759 properties were purchased using a Help to Buy equity loan in the first 39 months of the scheme's operation, between 1 April 2013 and 30 June 2016. First-time buyers accounted for 81% of total purchases under the scheme and the average purchase price was £226,887.
- According to [HM Treasury](#), a total of 86,341 properties were purchased using a Help to Buy mortgage guarantee between 8 October 2013 and 30 June 2016. First-time buyers accounted for 79% of total purchases under the scheme and the average purchase price was £156,873. The Chancellor announced that the scheme would end as planned at the end of December as the availability of 95% mortgages outside the scheme has increased.
- According to [HM Treasury](#), a total of 11,051 properties were completed using a Help to Buy ISA between 1 December 2015 and 30 June 2016. The average purchase price was £167,250.
- In September, UK house prices increased 0.3% month-on-month and were 5.3% higher than a year ago, according to [Nationwide](#). The average house price was reported at £206,015. **Nationwide reported that the slowing pace of house price growth reflected weaker demand, which was likely to have been matched by the shortage of properties on the market.**

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

Association Activities

Charity Donations for Autumn Lunch

The CPA will once again be supporting the charity [CRASH](#) with a raffle at the Autumn Lunch. CRASH is the construction industry's charity for homeless people. They are a practical charity that focuses on improving the buildings used by homeless people. They do this by awarding cash grants, providing on-site professional expertise and supplying free building materials. We encourage our members to support this effort. If you would like to donate a prize for the raffle please contact simon.frame@constructionproducts.org.uk.

Official London Hotel Partner for CPA

The CPA reminds members of our official hotel partner, [Grange Hotels](#). As London's leading independent hotels, For guests that require overnight accommodation for the Autumn Lunch or other business in London, please click [here](#) to take advantage of specially discounted rates across 17 hotels in London. As an additional member benefit, CPA members can use these discounted rates throughout the year and also take advantage of discounted meeting room rates. For further information please contact matthew.hawkins@grangehotels.com or simon.frame@constructionproducts.org.uk

CPA to Support Ecobuild 2017

The CPA has been asked by UBM to support Ecobuild, scheduled for 07-09 March 2017 in London, and to create a programme which reflects the invaluable input and perspectives of construction product manufacturers to delivering a sustainable built environment. To that end, this week the CPA Deputy Chief Exec Peter Caplehorn hosted a breakfast seminar with Building Magazine to help launch the 2017 work for the event. Excerpts from that seminar will be posted to the Building Magazine website. The CPA will be working closely with its members to make Ecobuild 2017 more relevant to visitors and our industry than ever before. For further information, please contact peter.caplehorn@constructionproducts.org.uk.

Hanson Sustainability Stakeholder Day

CPA attended [Hanson's](#) latest sustainability stakeholder event at which the theme chosen was the [GRI G4 Sustainability Reporting](#) mechanism. Afterwards it gave a tour of its aggregate operation at Needingworth. This is a very large site with restoration work carrying on simultaneously through a joint collaboration with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. [A huge reed bed](#) is being created that already is hosting several national endangered species. For further information contact jane.thornback@constructionproducts.org.uk

BRE Conference on Home Quality and Sustainability

CPA gave a presentation on the topic of what is a sustainable product at BRE's conference on housing and quality. Sustainability means different things to different people – low carbon, local sourcing, recycling etc, hence the need for life cycle assessment and responsible sourcing certification. For further information contact jane.thornback@constructionproducts.org.uk

Property Flood Resilience Action Plan published

The [plan](#) was commissioned by DEFRA as part of its [National Flood Review](#) and issued on the same day. CPA played a key role in the Task Group on Standards, Certifications and Skills. Find the Plan [here](#). For further information contact peter.caplehorn@constructionproducts.org.uk

Construction News Specialists Awards 2017 - entry deadline extended

The entry deadline for the [Construction News Specialists Awards](#) has been extended, and you now have until Friday, 7 October to submit your entries. These are the only national awards to celebrate the outstanding achievements of the very best specialist contractors in the UK. CPA staff have been asked to help judge two of the 18 categories. Click [here](#) to enter.

UK Construction Week - 18-20 October 2016 (NEC, Birmingham)

The CPA is pleased to join many of its members and industry partners in supporting [UK Construction Week](#), the UK's largest construction trade event which unites over 650 exhibitors with an audience of over 24,000 trade visitors. UK Construction Week (UKCW) consists of nine shows: Timber Expo, Build Show, Civils Expo, Plant & Machinery Live, Energy 2016, Smart Buildings 2016, Surface & Materials Show and HVAC 2016 running from 18-20 October and Grand Designs Live which is open to the trade on 19-20 October.

The CPA's team will be participating in a several panel discussions, including the keynote, sustainability, innovation and Grand Designs Live. In addition, members are invited to join a CPA networking lunch scheduled for Thursday 20th October at UKCW; for further information, please contact jeff.may@constructionproducts.org.uk

CPA Parliamentary Reception -- Nearly Sold Out - 19 October (House of Lords)

We are delighted to announce The Earl of Lindsay will host the Construction Products Association's Parliamentary Reception on Wednesday, 19 October 2016, in the Cholmondeley Room & Terrace at the House of Lords. The Reception will **commence at 18.30pm and finish at 21.00pm. Attendance by our members has been over-subscribed; we would therefore encourage you to book as soon as possible to guarantee a place.** Trade associations should also purchase tickets for your members, ensuring we have a wide representation from across the products industry.

If you would like to attend, please complete the online booking form [here](#) by Friday, 09 September 2016. Less than 10 places remain.

BIM 4 REGS Meeting – 24 October (London)

A meeting of the BIM4REGS group will take place on the 24th October from 1.00 - 5.00.

Some work streams have moved faster than others and the success of the health and safety group to instigate the creation of a PAS is very impressive. We hope to review the progress of [PAS 1192-6](#) and how this will help. Equally review other areas such as building regulations, including fire, town planning and other regulatory requirements being made more efficient by use of BIM.

For more information, please contact julie.mills@constructionproducts.org.uk.

CPA Autumn Lunch - Sold Out - 03 November (The Brewery, London)

The CPA's annual Autumn Lunch has proven more popular than ever and has sold out. A waiting list is now available for members.

For more information, please contact julie.mills@constructionproducts.org.uk.

Relevant Authorities Workshop #2 – 07 November (London)

Our second workshop on project data management and templates will take place on the 7th November from **1.00 - 5.00 and will be held at the Building Centre, 26 Store Street, London WC1E 7BT in the Vincent Suite C**. Following on from the successful initial meeting, CPA will be hosting further events to ensure all members have the opportunity to engage and take part in the data management initiative.

Following the workshop held on 18th August, work on developing the LEXiCON system and website has been underway. The software being developed by [BRE](#) has undergone several iterations and will soon be ready for testing.

The new sections of the CPA website have been drafted and are being reviewed before handing to the web designers. While the initial standard set out the system and processes a substantial amount of work has been needed to ensure admin processes, governance, protocols and practical information handling, are addressed.

Additionally we have been discussing further collaboration with other bodies in the industry to make sure we have the widest possible support. We are very pleased to note that the [UK BIM Task Group](#) are lending their support uniquely to the LEXiCON process. Additionally meetings have been held recently with CPE and the CEN working groups who were both in support of the programme. Establishing this as a European as well as a UK process is very much a reality.

A lot of work has yet to be done and necessarily this falls to a small group of expert volunteers but significant and positive progress is being made. In the mean time we would ask all of those who take part to have a little patience while we get things up and running. We will hope to gradually open up the web site through the Autumn period.

We know there are a keen band of followers who want to become Relevant Authorities and start using the system but we do want it to work to everyone's satisfaction when we launch it. For more information, please contact julie.mills@constructionproducts.org.uk.

Highways UK - 16/17 November (NEC, Birmingham)

The CPA is supporting [Highways UK](#) a major event for the people and organisations involved in the planning, operation and future-proofing of the UK's road network. Sponsored and supported by [Highways England](#) together with several CPA members and numerous UK contractors, the event will provide the very latest update, insight and analysis on the emerging implications for the sector on Britain leaving the EU, including a presentation by CPA Economics Director Noble Francis. Opportunities for exhibition space and sponsorship remain.

CPA members will be given a 20% early booking discount on passes. For more information and to register please click [here](#).

Construction Marketing Awards – 01 December (Radisson Blu Portman Hotel, London)

The CPA is pleased to once again support the Construction Marketing Awards, a showcase of the construction industry's creativity, innovation and effectiveness in marketing. The Awards raise the profile of marketing professionals and their achievements and are an invaluable opportunity for recognition. [The Construction Marketing Awards](#) are **FREE to enter and you may enter any number of categories**. Entries must be received before the closing date of the 23rd September 2016. The winners will be announced at the gala dinner on 1st December 2016 at the [Radisson Blu Portman Hotel](#) in London. For more information, visit the [Construction Marketing Awards](#) website.

New date for next SCC meeting – Friday 02 December

The SCC meeting prior to the end of the year will now be on Friday morning 2 December. This replaces the previously notified 30 November. For further information please contact jane.thornback@constructionproducts.org.uk

Relevant Authorities Workshop #3 - 05 December (London)

Our third workshop on project data management and templates will take place on 5th December from 1.00- 5.00. **The workshop will be held at the Building Centre, 26 Store Street, London WC1E 7BT in the Vincent Suite C**. Further events will be organised throughout 2017. For more information, please contact julie.mills@constructionproducts.org.uk.

Flooding Review #2 – 12 December (London)

Our second workshop on resilience and flooding will take place on the 12th December from 1.00 - 5.00.

This workshop is intended to explore and showcase products that answer the key questions in response to flooding issues. We also hope to develop a little further the issues and themes raised at our initial discussion. We will also build on the recommendations of the [Bonfield review](#). For more information, please contact julie.mills@constructionproducts.org.uk.

Other Areas of Interest

NEW RESEARCH: Health & Wellbeing in Specification

CPA Associate this week, launched a new report, *Health & Wellbeing in Specification*, which presents the role of Health and Wellbeing in design and its influences on product specification. 150 Architects were interviewed, providing insight into how they are designing to achieve Health & Wellbeing in buildings. The report aims to help the manufacturer understand specification influences. It also includes a summary of Health & Wellbeing issues to help those new to the concept.

The report is available to purchase online [here](#). Cost of the report is £350 + VAT. For more information, please contact helen@cadvantage.co.uk

Recommended Reading: CLC Report on Innovation Workstream -- Roadmapping to improve productivity, capacity and innovation in the housing sector

The Construction Leadership Council's Innovation in buildings workstream, led by Mike Chaldecott from CPA member Saint-Gobain, aims to embed new approaches to all phases of the construction process for buildings, utilising work already in progress such as the Digital Built Britain strategy and Modern Methods of Construction (MMC). The CLC has published a report following a one-day workshop in April. The aim of the workshop was to help develop a strategic roadmap of barriers to take-up and commercialisation of Modern Methods of Construction (MMC), and develop solutions to help increase the percentage of new buildings built using, substantially, MMC. The aim is to improve productivity, capacity and the use of innovation in the housing sector by removing barriers to progress and helping the industry to move the new methods from development through to actual commercial use and thereby increase housing supply. A summary of the findings can be found [here](#) and the full report [here](#).

BREEAM issue criteria for rating responsible sourcing schemes

BREEAM have now issued their revised approach and criteria for assessing responsible sourcing schemes in BREEAM. This can be found at [Breeam Responsible Sourcing Credits](#) For further information please contact jane.thornback@constructionproducts.org.uk

Apprenticeship Vacancies Survey

The National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) and the new Digital Apprenticeship Service (DAS) are trying to measure if employers would prefer to post and manage their own apprenticeship job vacancies directly on their [Find An Apprenticeship \(FAA\)](#) free website. The survey below is focused on those employers that have recruited an apprentice before. They are designing the functionality for Find An Apprenticeship, but if employers are happy to leave it to the training provider to post their advert and manage the application(s) then this functionality will not be built. This is in response to some employers requesting this functionality going forward. To view the survey click [here](#).

Indicators for the environmental performance of buildings' - Common EU framework

The European Commission is running a public consultation on the first draft proposals for indicators for the 'development of a common EU framework of indicators for the environmental performance of buildings'. This will close on 7th October. The consultation takes the form of an on-line questionnaire which can be accessed [here](#). The consultation focusses on a first draft set of indicators that has been identified by the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission. The background documents for the consultation can be found [here](#). For further information contact jane.thornback@constructionproducts.org.uk

State of Nature Report issued, Contractors Big Biodiversity Challenge and Nature after Minerals

The latest major report on the status of wildlife and habitats in Britain shows major nature depletion across the UK. The [State of Nature report](#) was compiled by 53 wildlife organisations including the RSPB, National Trust and the Wildlife Trusts. Attempting to reverse this trend is the Construction Contractors [Big Biodiversity Challenge](#) managed by CIRIA. Within manufacturing, the Mineral Products Association runs a major awards scheme on [quarries and biodiversity restoration](#) and the [Nature after Minerals programme](#) is a collaborative initiative led by the [RSPB](#) and supported by [Natural England](#), the [Mineral Products Association](#) and the [British Aggregates Association](#).

For further information contact jane.thornback@constructionproducts.org.uk

Grange Hotels: Winter wonderland in the Heart of London

With the commencement of the holiday season, the CPA's Hotel Partner, Grange Hotels, is offering a luxurious selection of event spaces. Our valued hotel partners, Grange Hotels, house a collection of venues which can be specially tailored to create your perfect winter wonderland right here in London.

For more information, contact events@grangehotels.com T: 0845 450 9900 www.grangehotels.com

Parliamentary and Government Update

Parliamentary update

Westminster weekly business

Due to the Party Conferences the House of Commons is in a period of recess until 10 October 2016.

Lord O'Neill Resignation

Jim O'Neill resigned this week from his role as Treasury Minister. Having joined the government in May 2015 at the request of former Chancellor George Osborne, he has been heavily involved in building up the Northern Powerhouse concept and with attempts to bring in Chinese investment into new schemes. Please see the formal announcement [here](#).

DoE appoints Shadow CEO of the Institute of Apprenticeships

The Department for Education has just announced that Peter Lauener has been appointed as the Shadow CEO of the Institute of Apprenticeships. He will take up the post with immediate effect. Lauener has extensive experience within the skills sector, having set up and run organisations including the Young People's Learning Agency. He has also spent time developing apprenticeships. Alongside his role as CEO of the Institute of Apprenticeships, Lauener will continue as Chief Executive of the Skills Funding Agency and Education Funding Agency. Please see the press release [here](#).

Plans, Reports, Consultations and Statements

Autumn Statement date announced as Wednesday 23 November

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Philip Hammond, has announced that he will present his first Autumn Statement to Parliament on 23 November 2016. The government has published its guidance on Autumn Statement submissions, which can be viewed [here](#). Submissions should be submitted by Friday 7 October 2016.

Neighbourhood Planning Bill

The new Neighbourhood Planning Bill has now been laid before Parliament. The Government has released two new consultations relating to the Bill:

- A technical consultation on the implementation of neighbourhood planning provisions. This can be found [here](#).
- A consultation on improving the use of planning conditions. This can be found [here](#).

Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Emails

Please note, we have had confirmation that BEIS has started to change over its email addresses from @bis to @beis. Once completed they will reject any emails going to the old accounts.

Association Submission to BIS Committee inquiry re Government's Industrial Strategy

The inquiry followed the inclusion of the term "industrial strategy" into the Department for Business's name and an indication from the new Prime Minister, Theresa May, that her government will explicitly intervene to support certain parts of the economy. The CPA's submission, made on 26 September 2016, outlines what we believe are essential areas of focus for any industrial strategy (particularly if related to construction products manufacturing and distribution) to consider. To view our submission, please click [here](#).

CPA in the News

- [Bdonline.co.uk: One million homes by 2020: Can it be done?](#)
The government wants to see one million homes built in England by 2020, but while some housing experts think a little tinkering will get us there, others countenance a far more radical plan.
- [BIM4M2: Supply Chain Collaboration: The Key to BIM Success](#)
Edward Arnold, BIM Coordinator at the UK's leading specialist building envelope contractor Prater, discusses the potential hurdles to further BIM adoption, and how the supply chain can work together to truly maximise the benefits.
- [Construction News: Brexit Britain: 3 scenarios for construction output following the EU referendum](#)
With uncertainty still rife in the aftermath of the EU referendum, the Construction Products Association analyses three potential forecasts for construction's future.
- [Construction News: Politicians must be held to account on new policies](#)
With the party conference season upon us, it feels as though something has to change after weeks and weeks of limbo.

- [Financial Times](#): **Private sector called on to invest in most big projects.**
Launching a new National Infrastructure Delivery Plan on Wednesday, Lord O'Neill, commercial secretary to the Treasury, said the government was "stepping up with the private sector to invest in some of this country's most ambitious projects".
- [TRADA](#): **CPA's post-Brexit forecasts paint mixed picture.**
The Construction Products Association has revised its construction output forecast to 0.4% this year in light of Britain's vote to move away from the EU, although in its upper scenario, output rises by 2.7% buoyed by economic activity and public sector investment.

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