

Summary of Usage of Northern Ireland Construction Output Statistics

The primary purpose for collecting information on Construction Output in Northern Ireland initially was to provide this information to National Accounts so that it could feed it into the calculation of the output measure of UK Gross Domestic Product. This remains the main usage of the data with NISRA supplying this data to the Office for National Statistics team responsible for the UK GDP (O) on a quarterly basis.

Over the years, the value and usage of the data has been extended to provide Government, Economists, Academics and Construction Industry Analysts with analysis on the state of the construction sector in Northern Ireland. This is the rationale for the statistics contained in the NI Construction Bulletin.

Within the Northern Ireland Government Departments, the Construction Output statistics have been used for economic commentary and Ministerial briefing. The information has also been used for policy analysis and confirmation on what is happening in the construction sector in terms of public expenditure.

The links below highlight recent articles which referenced NI Construction Output statistics.

http://www.ulsterbankcapitalmarkets.com/Handlers/docstream.ashx?doc_id=962

<http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/economicdevelopment/docs/EconomicIndicatorsReport.pdf>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-16716716>

The statistics are also used by the Construction Employers Federation for Northern Ireland at the following link:

<http://www.cefni.co.uk/CMS/ShowPageContent.aspx?CODE=STOP>

Users have also advised that the statistics have been used to determine potential training needs in the Northern Ireland Construction industry as well as Plant and People investment.

The Index of overall Construction (IoC) is also a key economic indicator and one of the earliest short-term measures of the performance of the Northern Ireland economy. It measures changes in the output of the construction industry over time and allows comparison to be made with GB figures.

Other key economic indicators measuring the performance of the Northern Ireland economy exist for the Production and Service sectors. The Index of Construction, together with the Index of Production and the Index of Services, contribute to the wider understanding of the performance of the Northern Ireland economy and all three measures are regularly reported on in the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment's Economic Commentary. The Economic Commentary provides an overview of the state of the Northern Ireland economy, setting it in context with the UK and the Republic of Ireland. The latest Economic Commentary is available at: <http://www.detini.gov.uk/deti-stats-index/deti-stats-index-4.htm>.

More recently the construction data has been used by Government Statisticians and Private Sector Economists as an input measure along with the other main economic indicators (Index of Production and Index of Services) to provide an overall measure of the performance of the wider Northern Ireland economy in the absence of a regional GDP figure. The link below highlights a recent article in which the Index of Construction has been used for the purposes explained above in this paragraph.

<http://www.jprblogwire.com/2012/04/northern-ireland-private-sector-output.html>