NEWS RELEASE
MARKET SENSITIVE INFORMATION
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HCOB Italy Construction PMI®

Growth in new construction orders signalled after three months of decline

Key findings:

Renewed expansions in total activity and new business

Sustained rise in jobs and fresh increase in purchasing

Strongest cost inflation in over three years

Data were collected 10-27 February 2026.

Italian construction companies responded to fresh growth in order books with a slight increase in activity levels, sustained job creation and a renewed expansion in purchasing activity during February. The improvement in new business volumes was moderate in nature and the strongest recorded since July last year. The 12-month outlook subsequently brightened, but remained subdued by historical standards. On the price front, firms faced rising cost pressures again, with the rate of inflation at its highest in over three years, amid reports of increased raw material prices.

Up from 47.7 in January, the headline **HCOB Italy Construction PMI® Total Activity Index** — which measures month-on-month changes in total industry activity — edged back into expansion territory in February, posting at 50.4.

Although only slight in nature, the rise in construction output signalled by the index was the first since October last year. Growth was often linked by panellists to improved order books and the opening of new sites.

Of the three monitored sub-sectors, housing and commercial activity rose from levels seen at the start of the year, ending three-month trends of contraction.

Residential building activity was up at the fastest rate in over a year, but only marginally overall, while growth in commercial construction activity hit an 11-month high and was modest in nature.

On the other hand, civil engineering contracted solidly in February, after having signalled its first expansion in five months in January.

Italian construction firms recorded an uplift in new orders for the first time in four months in February. A number of panel members noted that they had secured new tenders and contracts, while others reported a general improvement in client interest. The expansion was the strongest since mid-2025 and moderate overall.

The trend of growth in workforce numbers was extended to a year-and-a-half in February, as firms reportedly recruited both permanent and temporary workers. Although the rate of job creation was only modest and softer than at the start of the year, it contrasted with the long-run trend of contraction.

After three consecutive months of retrenchment with respect to purchasing, input buying was raised in February. The increase, reflective of growth in order books and new site openings, was only slight overall.

Average prices paid for inputs were raised once more in February, largely due to upward pressure on raw material prices. The rate of cost inflation intensified for the fifth month in a row and was at its highest in over three years. Rates charged for subcontractor work also increased at a stronger rate in February.

Looking ahead, Italian constructors reported greater confidence in their 12-month forecasts for activity in February. Of the near quarter of companies that expressed optimism, a number linked this to expected growth in new orders and contracts. In the context of the series history, confidence was subdued, however.

Comment

Commenting on the PMI data, Jonas Feldhusen, Junior Economist at Hamburg Commercial Bank, said:

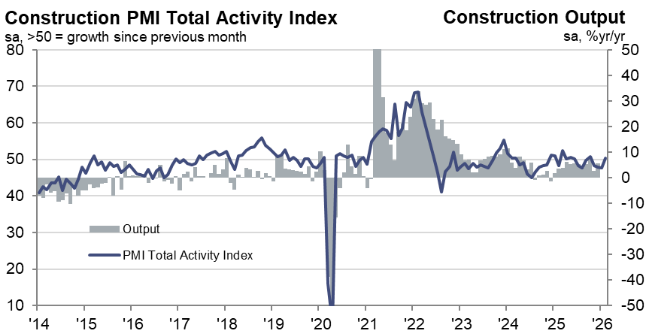
"These are encouraging data points for Italy's construction sector. After three consecutive months of declining activity, February marked a return to expansion, with growth momentum more broad-based. Firms reported an improvement in overall order volumes, and employment continued to rise, albeit at a slightly more measured pace. At the sectoral level, residential construction posted a particularly strong gain in the context of the series history, and commercial building also expanded. Only civil engineering saw a renewed decline in February.

"The positive demand impulse observed in February has left its mark on firms' purchasing behaviour. For the first time in four months, construction companies reported an increase in input purchases. However, this seems to have immediately translated into supplier capacity strains and longer delivery times. Consistent with this, cost pressures have intensified. The relevant price index climbed to its highest level in more than three years, underscoring persistent supply constraints. Still, it is important to note that current cost dynamics remain far removed from the price surge witnessed around 2022.

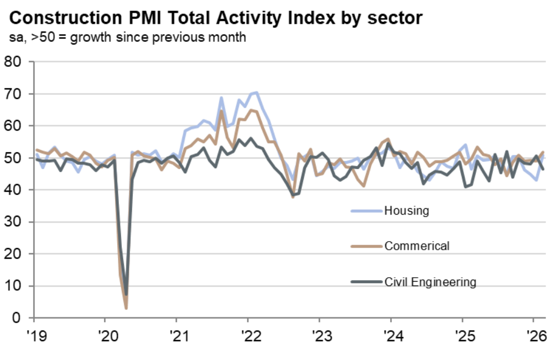
"The upswing in activity did not yet translate into subcontractor usage in the Italian construction sector. This could be a hint that we should be cautious about the trend in the coming months. If a real impetus is evolving, subcontractor usage should be growing. A first sign of improved demand is subcontractor rates climbing.

"With the recent outbreak of war in the Middle East, there are probably renewed headwinds evolving for the construction sector in the Eurozone. BTP yields surged by about 20 basis points at the beginning of the week. The rates outlook now heavily depends on how the conflict evolves, especially with respect to the Strait of Hormuz, which is a bottleneck for the global oil and gas supply."

-Ends-



Source: HCOB, S&P Global, ISTAT via S&P Global Market Intelligence.



Source: HCOB, S&P Global.

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Note to Editors

The HCOB Italy Construction PMI® is compiled by S&P Global from responses to questionnaires sent to a panel of over 200 construction companies. The panel is stratified by company workforce size, based on contributions to GDP. Survey data were first collected July 1999.

Survey responses are collected in the second half of each month and indicate the direction of change compared to the previous month. A diffusion index is calculated for each survey variable. The index is the sum of the percentage of 'higher' responses and half the percentage of 'unchanged' responses. The indices vary between 0 and 100, with a reading above 50 indicating an overall increase compared to the previous month, and below 50 an overall decrease. The indices are then seasonally adjusted.

The headline figure is the Total Activity Index. This is a diffusion index that tracks changes in the total volume of construction activity compared with one month previously. The Total Activity Index is comparable to the Manufacturing Output Index and Services Business Activity Index. It may be referred to as the 'Construction PMI' but is not comparable with the headline manufacturing PMI figure.

Underlying survey data are not revised after publication, but seasonal adjustment factors may be revised from time to time as appropriate which will affect the seasonally adjusted data series.

For further information on the PMI survey methodology, please contact economics@spglobal.com.

Hamburg Commercial Bank AG

Hamburg Commercial Bank (HCOB) is a private commercial bank and specialist financier headquartered in Hamburg, Germany. The bank offers its clients a high level of structuring expertise in the financing of commercial real estate projects with a focus on Germany as well as neighboring European countries. It also has a strong market position in international shipping. The bank is one of the pioneers in European-wide project financing for renewable energies and is also involved in the expansion of digital and other areas of important infrastructure. HCOB offers individual financing solutions for international corporate clients as well as a focused corporate client business in Germany. The bank's portfolio is completed by digital products and services facilitating reliable, timely domestic and international payment transactions as well as for trade finance.

Hamburg Commercial Bank aligns its activities with established ESG (Environment, Social, and Governance) criteria and has anchored sustainability aspects in its business model. It supports its clients in their transition to a more sustainable future.

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About PMI

Purchasing Managers' Index™ (PMI®) surveys are now available for over 40 countries and also for key regions including the eurozone. They are the most closely-watched business surveys in the world, favoured by central banks, financial markets and business decision makers for their ability to provide up-to-date, accurate and often unique monthly indicators of economic trends. www.spglobal.com/marketintelligence/en/mi/products/pmi.html

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