News Release
Embargoed until 0930 CEST 4 June 2026 / 0730 UTC 4 June 2026

S&P Global Italy Construction PMI®

Construction activity declines only slightly in May

May 2026

Weaker falls in activity and new business signalled

Second-strongest rate of cost inflation since September 2022

Greater hiring activity amid renewed confidence in the 12-month outlook

The Italian construction sector remained in contraction in May, but there were signs that the downturn eased. Both activity and new orders fell to the softest extents in three months, prompting stronger job creation and the end to retrenchment of purchasing. There was renewed optimism in the year-ahead outlook, while pressure on supply chains and prices brought on by the Middle East conflict eased.

The headline Italy Construction PMI® Total Activity Index — which measures month-on-month changes in total industry activity — rose to 49.4 in May. This was up from 44.8 in April when the index was its lowest in over three-and-a-half years.

At the sub-sector level, weakness was centred on housing and commercial, with both recording modest reductions, albeit ones that were far softer than in April. The civil engineering sector went from worst to best performer over the month having signalled a slight increase in activity.

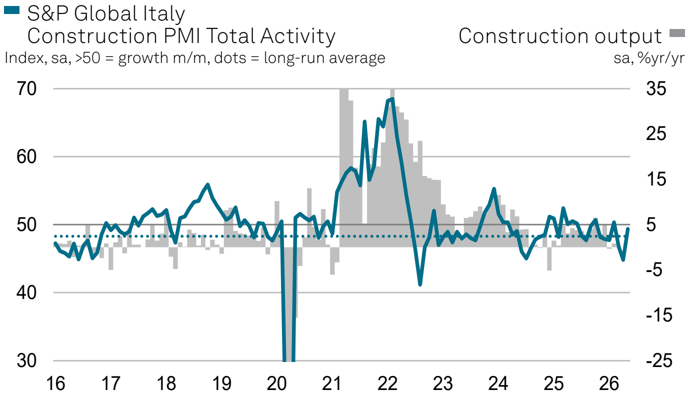
According to survey respondents, lower output reflected a fall in new orders and the closing of completed sites. The overall reduction in new work was the least pronounced in three months, but still solid in nature. Heightened uncertainty reportedly weighed on demand for construction work. Some firms also noted that they had failed to win tenders.

May saw an improvement in firms' expectations for activity over the coming 12 months. In a turnaround from that seen in the previous two months, more firms forecast growth than a fall. A number of companies expect to secure new contracts in the near-term.

On the employment front, May data signalled a twenty-first consecutive month of job creation. Hiring activity picked up to its most pronounced since January.

At the same time, firms' reliance on subcontractors was down again, as signalled by a second fall in usage in consecutive months.

In contrast with reductions seen in March and April, input buying levels were broadly stable in May.



Data were collected 12-29 May 2026.
Sources: S&P Global PMI, ISTAT via S&P Global Market Intelligence. © 2026 S&P Global

Comment

Eleanor Dennison, Economist at S&P Global Market Intelligence, said:

"After a challenging few months due to external factors, the latest set of PMI data suggest that things are moving in the right direction for Italian construction companies. Although sustained declines in output and new orders were signalled, the downturn appears to have lost pace.

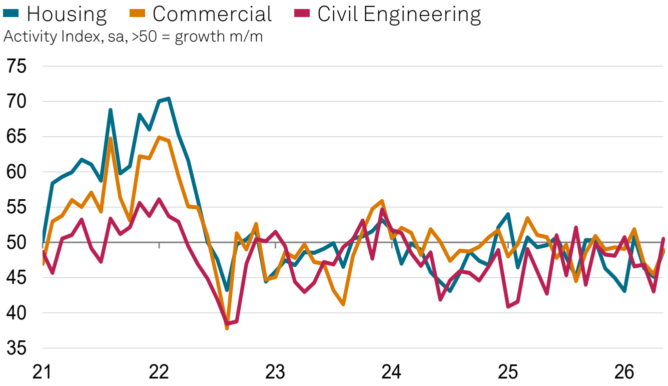
"There is certainly still room for improvement, particularly amid sustained reductions in work on housing and commercial projects. Meanwhile, the civil engineering category managed to eke out growth in May.

"The improvement in firms' growth forecasts, upgraded hiring and lesser reluctance around purchasing provide positive signals. However, it is clear that companies are still feeling the pinch due to steeply elevated costs and pressure on supply chains."

PMI by S&P Global

Still, disruption to supply chains as a result of the Middle East war caused delivery times to lengthen. Difficulties with transportation and shortages of materials were contributing factors, according to anecdotal evidence. The deterioration was less pronounced than in April, however.

Another consequence of the conflict in the Middle East was upward pressure on costs. Greater outlays on fuel, energy and raw materials were noted in panel member reports. The rate of cost inflation, although down from April, was still substantial.



Source: S&P Global PMI. ©2026 S&P Global.

Contact

Eleanor Dennison
Economist
S&P Global Market Intelligence
T: +44-1344-328-197
eleanor.dennison@spglobal.com

Hannah Brook
EMEA Communications Manager
S&P Global Market Intelligence
T: +44-7483-439-812
hannah.brook@spglobal.com
press.mi@spglobal.com

Methodology

The S&P Global Italy Construction PMI® is compiled by S&P Global from responses to questionnaires sent to a panel of around 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.

S&P Global

S&P Global (NYSE: SPGI) provides essential intelligence. We enable governments, businesses and individuals with the right data, expertise and connected technology so that they can make decisions with conviction. From helping our customers assess new investments to guiding them through ESG and energy transition across supply chains, we unlock new opportunities, solve challenges and accelerate progress for the world.

We are widely sought after by many of the world's leading organizations to provide credit ratings, benchmarks, analytics and workflow solutions in the global capital, commodity and automotive markets. With every one of our offerings, we help the world's leading organizations plan for tomorrow, today. www.spglobal.com

PMI by S&P Global

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

Disclaimer