

Types of construction work

July 2014

Type of New Work: Detailed Descriptions

Orders and output have been classified in accordance with revised descriptions given below from Q1 1980. Prior to this, there were differences in definition; see *Housing and Construction Statistics: Notes and Definitions Supplement, 1991*.

Prior to Q1 1985, telephone exchanges and cabling work for British Telecom were classified as communications work for the public sector; from Q1 1985, this work has been classified to the private sector. From Q1 1987, construction work for British Gas has been classified to the private sector. From Q1 1990, construction work for water companies in England and Wales has been classified to the private sector. From Q1 1991, construction work for electricity companies in England and Wales has been classified to the private sector. From Q2 1996, construction work for rail companies has been classified to the private sector.

Type of work	Examples of kind of work covered
a) Public sector housing	Local authority housing schemes; hostels (except youth hostels); married quarters for the services and police; old peoples' homes; orphanages and childrens' remand homes; the provision within housing sites of roads and services for gas, water, electricity, sewage, and drainage.
b) Private sector housing	All privately owned buildings for residential use – e.g. houses, flats and maisonettes, bungalows, cottages, vicarages – and the provision of services to new developments.
c) Infrastructure	
Water	Reservoirs; purification plants; dams (except hydroelectric schemes); aqueducts; wells; conduits; water works; pumping stations; water mains; hydraulic works.
Sewerage	Sewerage disposal works; laying of sewers and surface drains.
Electricity	All buildings and civil engineering work for electrical undertakings – e.g. power stations, dams (and other works on hydroelectric schemes), substations, laying of cables, and the erection of overhead lines.
Gas	Gas works; gas mains; gas storage.
Communications	Post offices; sorting offices; telephone exchanges; switching centres; cables.
Air transport	Air terminals; runways; hangars; reception halls; radar installations; perimeter fencing, etc. for use in connection with airfields.
Railways	Permanent way; tunnels; bridges; cuttings; stations; engine sheds; electrification of surface and underground railways.
Harbours (including waterways)	All works and buildings directly connected with: harbours; wharves; docks; piers; jetties (including oil jetties); canals and waterways; dredging; sea walls; embankments; water defences.
Roads	Roads; pavements; bridges; footpaths; lighting; tunnels; flyovers;

	fencing.
d) Non-housing excluding infrastructure	
Factories	Factories; shipyards; breweries; chemical works; coke ovens and furnaces (other than those at steelworks); skill centres; laundries; refineries (other than oil); workshops; Royal Mint (in public sector).
Warehouses	Warehouses; wholesale depots.
Oil	Oil installations, including: refineries; distribution pipelines and terminals; production platforms (but not modules or rigs).
Steel	Furnaces, coke ovens, and other buildings directly concerned with the production of steel (excludes offices and constructional steelwork).
Coal	All new coal mine construction, such as: sinking shafts; tunnelling; works and buildings at the pithead which are for use in connection with the pit. Open cast coal extraction is excluded.
Schools and colleges	Schools or colleges, including technical colleges and institutes of agriculture, but excluding medical schools and junior special schools (which are classified under 'Health'). Schools and colleges in the private sector are considered to be those financed wholly from private funds, such as some religious colleges, and their halls of residence.
Universities	Universities (including halls of residence); research establishments.
Health	Hospitals (including medical schools); clinics; surgeries (unless part of a house); medical research stations (except when part of a factory, school, or university); welfare centres; centres for the handicapped and for rehabilitation; adult training centres and junior special schools.
Offices	Office buildings; banks; embassies. Local and central government offices (including town halls) are assigned to the public sector, as are police headquarters.
Entertainment	Theatres; concert halls; cinemas; film studios; bowling alleys; clubs; hotels; public houses; restaurants; cafés; holiday camps; yacht marinas; dance halls; swimming pools; works and buildings at sports grounds, stadiums, and other places of sport or recreation and for commercial television; betting shops; youth hostels and centres. Service areas on motorways are also classified in this category, as the garage is usually only a small part of the complex which includes cafés and restaurants.
Garages	Buildings for storage, repair, and maintenance of road vehicles; transport workshops; bus depots; road goods transport depots; car parks.
Shops	All buildings for retail distribution – e.g. shops, department stores, retail markets, showrooms.
Agriculture	All buildings and work on: farms; market gardens; horticultural establishments such as barns; animal houses; stores; greenhouses; boiler houses; agricultural and fen drainage; veterinary clinics; and fencing for the above. Does not include buildings solely or mainly for retail sales (which are included under 'Shops'), or houses.

Miscellaneous	All work not clearly covered by any other heading. This includes: fire stations; barracks for the forces (except married quarters, which are classified under 'Housing',); naval dockyards; RAF airfields; police stations; prisons; reformatories; remand homes; borstals; civil defence work; UK Atomic Energy Authority work; council depots; public conveniences; museums; conference centres; crematoria; libraries; caravan sites, except those at holiday resorts; exhibitions; wholesale markets; Royal Ordnance factories.
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Repair and Maintenance

This concerns work which involves either repairing something which is broken or maintaining it to an existing standard. For housing output, this includes: repairs; maintenance; improvements; conversions (e.g. from a house to multiple flats); extensions; alterations; and redecoration. For other output, this includes: repairs; maintenance; and redecoration.