

# PRESS RELEASE

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 இலங்கை மத்திய வங்கி  
**CENTRAL BANK OF SRI LANKA**

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## Sri Lanka PMI - Construction expanded in March 2026

The Sri Lanka Purchasing Managers' Index for Construction (PMI – Construction), as reflected by the Total Activity Index, recorded a value of 57.1 in March 2026, indicating continued expansion in construction activities, albeit at a slower pace than the previous month. Many respondents reported a challenging operating environment, mainly due to limited availability of fuel and raw materials, rising costs, and logistical bottlenecks stemming from the conflict in the Middle East.

The New Orders Index continued to expand during the month, with most respondents reporting that project flows remained robust. The Employment and Quantity of Purchases Indices increased further in March, indicating that firms continued with planned hiring and procurement despite prevailing uncertainties. Many respondents noted that amid expectations of further price increases, most firms sought to build up stocks, while suppliers tended to hold back on materials. Meanwhile, the Suppliers' Delivery Time lengthened notably during the month, mainly reflecting transportation-related delays.

### Summary of the PMI - Construction Survey

Variable	2026 Feb.	2026 Mar.	+/-	Direction
<b>PMI - Construction (Total Activity Index)</b>	<b>70.3</b>	<b>57.1</b>	-	<b>Rising, Slower Rate</b>
New Orders	70.3	67.2	-	Rising, Slower Rate
Employment	56.8	57.1	+	Rising, Higher Rate
Quantity of Purchases	55.4	55.7	+	Rising, Higher Rate
Suppliers' Delivery Time	56.9	71.4	+	Lengthening, Higher Rate

Source: Central Bank of Sri Lanka

Expectations for construction activities over the next quarter remained above the neutral threshold, supported by a steady pipeline of projects, though somewhat tempered by uncertainties surrounding the ongoing Middle East conflict.

### Technical Note

#### Methodology

The index compilation and interpretation of indices follow the survey methodology of S&P Global. The Construction Total Activity Index is the headline index for Construction, which is referred to as the **PMI – Construction**, as per the international best practices. The Construction Total Activity Index is comparable to the Manufacturing Production Index and Services Business Activity Index.

#### The Index

PMI is calculated as a 'Diffusion Index', where it takes values between 0 and 100.

PMI=50 - sector remained neutral on month-on-month basis; PMI>50 - sector is generally expanding on month-on-month basis

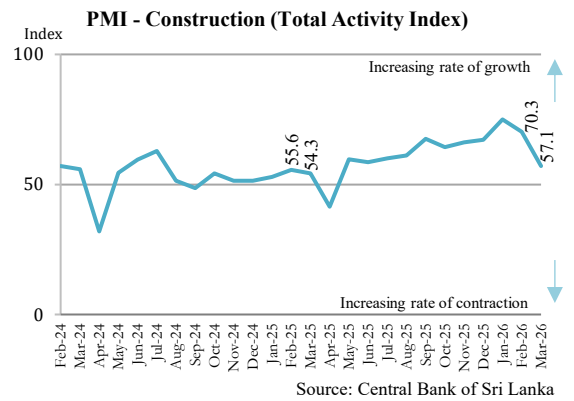
PMI<50 - sector is generally declining on month-on-month basis

#### Sample

The survey is conducted targeting highest graded local construction companies registered in the Construction Industry Development Authority covering around 35 responses to capture month on month developments.

#### Definitions of Variables

Employment : Number of staff working for the organization  
 Quantity of purchases : Raw materials purchased and kept in a warehouse to be used for production  
 Supplier Delivery Time : Time lag between order placement and delivery by the supplier  
 Other variables are self-explanatory.



### The World Outlook: Summary of PMI Construction

Country/Territory	Direction
Eurozone	Falling, Higher Rate
France	Falling, Higher Rate
Germany	Falling, Slower Rate
Ireland	Rising, Higher Rate
Italy	Falling from Rising
UK	Falling, Slower Rate

Source: S&P Global<sup>1</sup> as of 30 April 2026 ([PMI Releases \(spglobal.com\)](https://www.spglobal.com))

<sup>1</sup>S&P Global compiles PMIs for over 40 economies worldwide.