August 2026

SL Purchasing Managers' Index

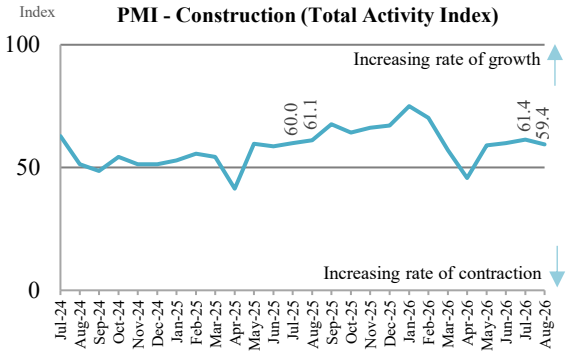
Construction

Statistics Department
Central Bank of Sri Lanka

The Sri Lanka Purchasing Managers' Index for Construction (PMI - Construction), as reflected by the Total Activity Index, recorded 59.4 in August 2026, indicating continued expansion in construction activities, albeit at a slower rate than in the previous month. Many survey respondents highlighted the ongoing bitumen shortage which continued to constrain road construction progress, limiting the overall growth momentum of the construction industry.

The New Orders Index increased further in August, mainly driven by the government-funded projects. Meanwhile, the Employment and Quantity of Purchases Indices remained in expansion territory during the month. Many survey respondents continued to highlight persistent shortages of skilled labour and raw materials as key constraints to sectoral growth. Meanwhile, the Suppliers' Delivery Times Index remained extended in August, reflecting prevailing workloads among suppliers.

PMI Construction Total Activity Index August 2026 **59.4**



Source: Central Bank of Sri Lanka

Summary of the PMI - Construction Survey

Variable	2026 July	2026 August	+/-	Direction
PMI - Construction (Total Activity Index)	**61.4**	**59.4**	-	**Rising, Slower Rate**
New Orders	57.1	62.5	+	Rising, Higher Rate
Employment	61.8	59.7	-	Rising, Slower Rate
Quantity of Purchases	64.7	59.4	-	Rising, Slower Rate
Suppliers' Delivery Time	60.0	59.4	-	Lengthening, Slower Rate

Source: Central Bank of Sri Lanka

Expectations for construction activities over the next three months remained positive supported by newly awarded projects, though bitumen shortages and fluctuations in material prices continued to pose challenges.

The World Outlook: Summary of PMI Construction

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

Source: S&P Global[1] as of 30 Sep. 2026 (PMI Releases (spglobal.com))

[1]S&P Global compiles PMIs for over 40 economies worldwide.

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.