

# STATE OF TRADE FOR CONSTRUCTION



## CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY SLOWS OVER SUMMER – AUGUST 2021

The latest information from **Builders' Conference** shows that construction activity in August dipped as usual, as the industry had its traditional and well-deserved summer break. However, in positive news for the sector, both the number and value of contracts awarded this August were higher than August 2020, and confidence is expected to remain high for the rest of the year.

### Drop in Number of Contracts

The number of contracts awarded in August was **454**, a 13% decrease compared to July (524). However, August is traditionally a slower month due to holidays, and this year was 9% higher than August 2020 (418), indicating that construction's recovery from the pandemic is holding steady.

**Total Number of Contracts Awarded**

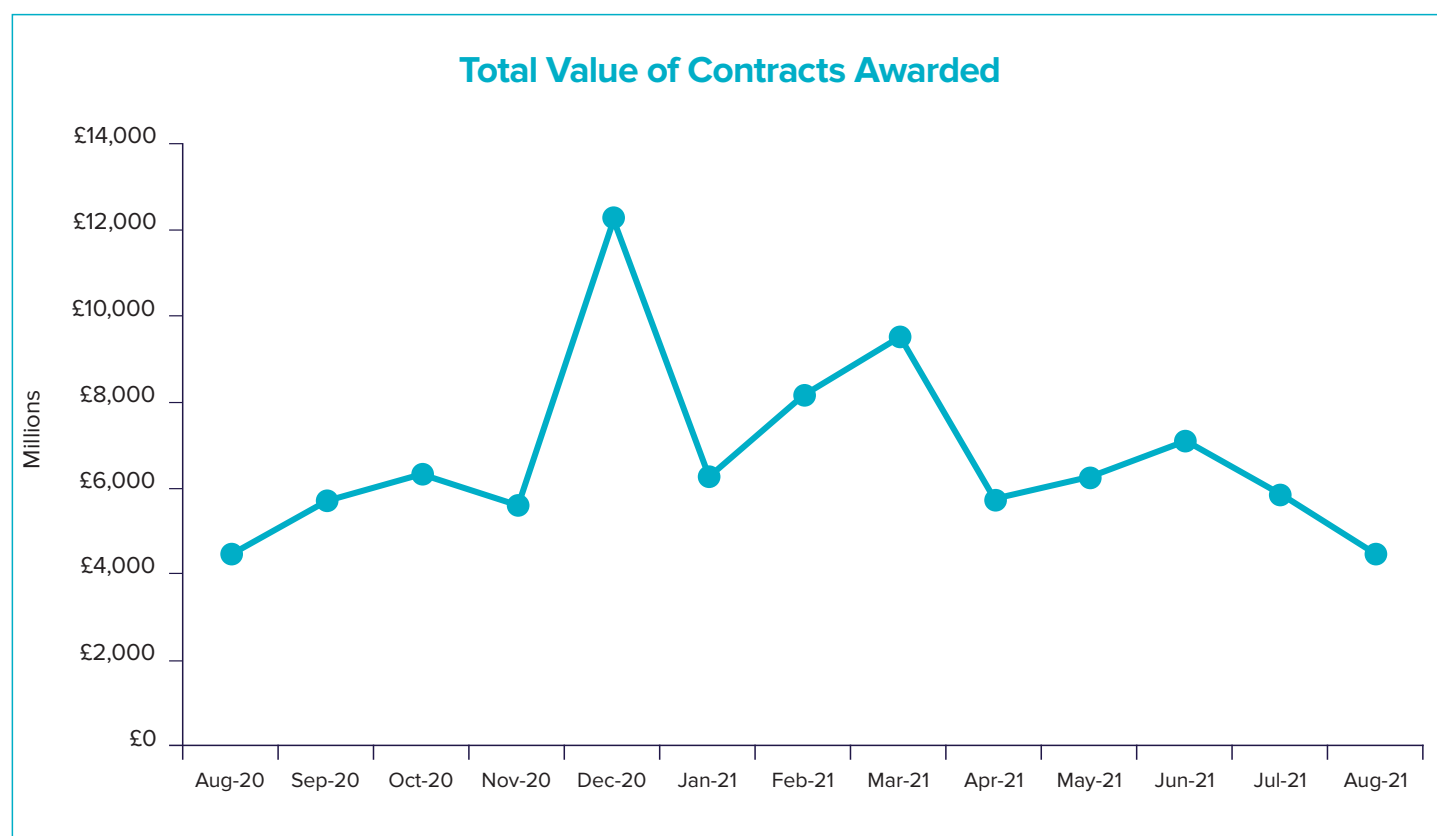


## Value of Contracts Decreases

The value of contracts awarded in August was **£4.7 billion**. Whilst this is almost 19% down on the previous month, it is consistent with August 2020 (£4.6 billion) and 42% higher than August 2019 (£3.3 billion), before the pandemic.

77% of all the contracts awarded by value were in the private sector. There were 151 housing projects worth £1.9 billion (41%), 57 office projects totalling £754 million (16%), including a £350 million contract to fit-out Citigroup's office in Canary Wharf in London, and 92 education projects with a total value of £407 million (9%).

England continued to dominate with 88% of the value. London recorded 33% of the total and the North West 11%, which was buoyed by two large housing projects in Manchester.



## Tender Opportunities Remain Scarce

The number of tender opportunities available in August was **402**, which was a 22% decrease compared to July (516). It also remains 40% below the monthly average of 672 projects available for tender between August 2020 and July 2021.

At present, there are just 181 tender opportunities available until the end of November 2021, according to Builders' Conference.

