



Construction activity expanded in most regions in September, although the month was stronger for some than for others. The regional composite indicators incorporate activity, orders and tender enquiries from the past three months to provide a comparable measure of performance from region to region.

There was some movement at the top end of the board. East Anglia, last month's regional winner, saw its composite indicator fall one point to 72. This kept it in first place, although it now shares the lead with Yorkshire & Humberside, which reported an 11-point hike to 72. Activity declined in Yorkshire & Humberside earlier in the year - its composite indicator suggests the industry recovered in

May and has been going from strength to strength ever since.

Yorkshire & Humberside aside, composite indicators for the East Midlands, the south-west and Wales rose in September by either two or three points.

Indicators declined in Scotland, the West Midlands, Northern Ireland and the north, north-west and south-east of England. Construction activity expanded in all regions except the north-west of England but, since this area's industry had been depressed for the past four months, this was no surprise.

The UK contractors' index, derived from responses given by firms operating in more than three regions, rose by three points to 73.