



Confederation of International Contractors' Associations (CICA)

Strategic Watch: Post COVID-19 recovery (situation at October 20, 2021)

Based on FIEC's COVID-19 Construction Observatory, FIIC's, CIAN's, MEDEFI's and IFAWPCA's data

For more information go to the CICA Website: <http://www.cica.net/cica-covid-19-overview/> and Dropbox: <https://www.dropbox.com/home/Observatory%20COVID-19>

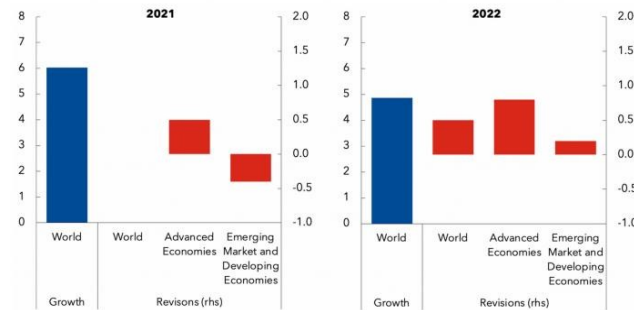
LATEST UPDATE WEEK 42

This will be the last edition of the covid overview which may be reissued in the future, depending on demand and the evolution of the situation.

Country/Region	General Facts & Measures	
WORLD		
	General facts & Measures	Facts & Measures about the Construction
World	<p>Economic Outlook (July 2021) The global recovery is progressing broadly in line with the IMF's April projections of 6% growth in 2021. Some countries are experiencing strong recovery, propelled by a combination of fiscal and monetary policy support and rapid vaccinations. However, the world is facing a worsening two-track recovery, driven by dramatic differences in vaccine availability, infection rates, and the ability to provide policy support. <u>Further information on the IMF actions to address the "two-track" recovery.</u></p> <p><u>For 2022, the IMF projects global growth of 4.9%, up from their previous forecast of 4.4%.</u> Again, underlying this is a sizeable upgrade for advanced economies, and a more modest one for emerging market and developing economies (cf. IMF).</p> <p>Policy responses tracker to Covid-19 <u>here.</u></p>	<p>Construction Recovery (August 2021) Recovery of construction worldwide continues, according to the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors Global Construction Monitor. <u>Its latest activity index, which measures current and expected workloads in residential, non-residential and infrastructure sectors, as well as company profit margins, reached +25 in the second quarter of 2021, rising from +14 in the first quarter</u> (cf. ENR).</p>

Lopsided recoveries

The divergence between countries is deepening, driven by differences in vaccine availability and policy support. (percentage points)



Sources: IMF, *World Economic Outlook*; and IMF staff calculations.
 Note: Revisions show the difference between projections in July 2021 WEO and April 2021 WEO.
 Positive number indicates growth has been revised up.

IMF

Pandemic State: World Overview (August 2021)

The world recorded the 200 millionth detected case of Coronavirus infection beginning of August, with a global toll of at least 4.25 million — including 614,000 deaths in the U.S., 558,000 in Brazil and 425,000 in India. Mexico has recorded more than 240,000 fatalities, and Peru nearly 200,000. Britain, Colombia, France, Italy and Russia each have had well over 100,000 deaths (August 2021)(cf. The New York Times).

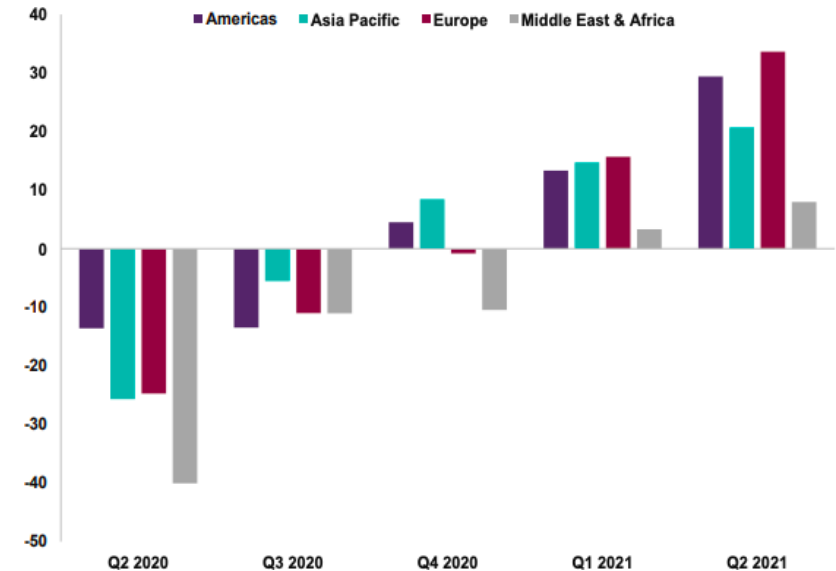


Chart: Construction Activity Index Worldwide

[Further information available on Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, for construction and infrastructure.](#)

EUROPE		
	General Facts & Measures	Facts & Measures for Construction
EU-27	<p>Employment Outlook (June 2021) The EU unemployment rate is forecast to rise to 7.6% this year and to decline to around 7% in 2022, above the rate of 6.7% in 2019 (cf. European Commission).</p> <p>Economic Outlook The improving health situation and ensuing continued easing of virus containment measures are putting the EU economies back in motion. The near-term outlook for the European economy looks brighter than expected in spring. Falling numbers of new infections and hospitalizations, thanks to containment strategy and progress in vaccination, have led EU Member States to reopen their economies, to the benefit of service sector businesses.</p> <p>Overall, GDP is now forecast to grow by 4.8% in 2021 and 4.5% in 2022 in the EU. The volume of output is projected to return to its pre-crisis level (2019-Q4) in the last quarter of 2021, which is one quarter earlier than expected in the Spring Forecast for the euro area (July 2021)(cf. European Commission).</p> <p>After almost 18 months of relying on emergency programs to support their economies, governments across Europe are scaling back some measures with the expectation that economic growth will carry the load.</p> <p><u>At least half of the 19 countries that use the euro have already sharply curtailed pandemic aid. State-backed job retention schemes, which have cost E.U. countries over €540 billion</u>, are set to end in September in Spain, the Netherlands, Sweden and Ireland. But the Delta variant prompts concerns about whether this is the time to roll back the assistance (August 2021)(cf. The New York Times).</p> <p>Country Focus Further information by Crédit Agricole for Italy.</p>	<p>Eastern Europe Focus (July 2021) Infrastructure investment in Eastern Europe could rise significantly over the next two years if projects are pushed ahead by regional governments; however, only 4 out of the 15 markets assessed have good prospects to accelerate infrastructure investment, according to a study by GlobalData. The two best placed countries in the region are Russia and Poland. EU support in the form of the EU recovery funds will provide a significant boost for infrastructure construction across the EU.</p> <p>Given the weak outturn in economic growth in Eastern Europe amid the Covid-19 crisis, governments and public authorities will likely be aiming to advance spending on infrastructure projects to reinvigorate the construction industry and the wider economy (July 2021)(cf. GlobalData).</p> <p>Country Focus Further information by The Construction Index on Irish construction state, and North Ireland construction market.</p> <p>France by GlobalData.</p>

Germany	<p>The German construction industry remained resilient in 2020, despite the COVID-19 outbreak which weakened other sectors of the economy, expanding by 3.8% in real terms – up from growth of 0.1% in 2019. However, the industry contracted by 2.1% in H1 2021, as a result of a third wave of infections in the country which saw lockdown measures reimposed in the first quarter of the year. (cf. Global Data)</p>	
Sweden	<p>Interesting findings to come out of Sweden’s pandemic approach: Sweden kept most schools open. The country did a comparative study with Finland, which closed most schools, on school infection rates. The study found that closing schools did not have a significant impact on infection rates. Restaurants were not a huge place of infection either. They stayed open, but the public health authority restricted the number of people per party and closed bar service. The biggest vectors of transmission were the home and the workplace. Those places accounted for between 20 and 30 percent of infections. Ten percent were public places like subways. (The NY Times)</p>	
United Kingdom	<p>Economic Outlook (June 2021) Leading indicators suggest a strong recovery underway:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong GDP growth of 7.2% in 2021 and 5.5% in 2022 is projected as a large share of the population is vaccinated and restrictions to economic activity are progressively eased. GDP is expected to return to its pre-pandemic level in early 2022 (cf. OECD). <p>Further information on Crédit Agricole prospects.</p> <p>Health Outlook Last month, the country sent millions of unvaccinated students back to school for in-person learning without a requirement to wear face masks. The country’s Education Department reported that 186,000 students were absent from school on Sept. 30 with confirmed or suspected Covid-19, 78% more than in mid-September, and the highest number since the pandemic began. But 90% of the 8.4 million students in state-supported schools are still in classrooms, and the schools are functioning close to normally. Britain’s daily case numbers in the population overall are also running several thousand lower than when schools opened in early September, suggesting that the reopening of schools has not driven a major new surge thanks to the wide distribution of vaccines in the adult population. (The NY Times)</p>	<p>Construction Outlook (August 2021) The UK construction industry was severely impacted in 2020, due to the disruptions caused by the Coronavirus outbreak and the subsequent lockdown measures. The industry contracted by 14% in real terms in 2020, following growth of 1.8% in 2019. According to the Office for National Statistics (ONS), the construction industry contracted by 1.2% in the first quarter of 2021, following a decline of 5.9% ending 2020. GlobalData expects the country’s construction industry to grow by 10.6% in 2021 and record an average growth of 3% between 2022 and 2025. The industry’s output will be supported by improving investor confidence and investments in transport, renewable energy, residential and commercial infrastructure projects (cf. GlobalData). Further information available here.</p> <p>The UK will have one of the fastest construction growth rates in nominal terms in Europe over the next five years, according to our latest Global Construction Outlook forecasts. Yet, national-level data can obscure important distinctions between regions within a country, and even between structure types within regions. Failing to understand these differences can lead to missed opportunities for contractors, building-material suppliers, and equipment-rental companies. Download our latest article for the latest insights on relative growth by broad region over the past five years and into the next five. (cf. IHS Markit) Further information available here.</p>



		The CN100 list of the UK's 100 biggest contractors reveals the damage inflicted by the COVID-19 pandemic, but finds that some have come through in renewed positions of strength, ready to capitalise. Further information available here .
LATIN AMERICA		
	General Facts & Measure	
Latin America & The Caribbean	The region's GDP is expected to grow by 5.8% in 2021, followed by a 3.2% expansion in 2022. The forecast upgrade for Latin America and the Caribbean results mostly from upward revisions in Brazil and Mexico, reflecting better-than expected first quarter outturns, favorable spillovers to Mexico from the improved outlook for the United States, and booming terms of trade in Brazil (July 2021)(cf. IMF).	
	Facts & Measures for Construction	
Brazil	Brazil's construction industry is expected to grow by 0.7% in 2021, after declining by 7% in 2020. The industry expected growth is supported by low interest rates and the government's housing programs such as "Casa Verde e Amarela". The program, which was launched in July 2020 aims to provide funding to low-income families via loans, incentives in debt renegotiation and land legislation of about 12 million low-income properties in the country. Despite the strong demand for houses, however, the shortage and increase in the prices of building materials are anticipated to hold back investment in the residential market and the overall industry in the short term (July 2021)(cf. GlobalData).	
ASIA		
	General Facts & Measures	
China	Since July 2021, China has tightened Covid-19 measures to combat an uptick in daily cases — a move that could hold back the country's economic growth and hit its stock markets. If lockdowns and vaccination progress do not allow local economies to reopen by mid-August or early September, the 8.8% 2021 GDP forecast will need to be reviewed down. Because of the current restrictions, China's year-on-year growth in the third quarter of 2021 is expected to slow to between 2% and 3% from the second quarter's 7.9% expansion. On the long run, China's economic growth will settle at around 5% to 6% (August 2021)(cf. CNBC).	The recovery in China's construction industry, following the severe disruption caused by the COVID-19-induced lockdown in the first two months of 2020, slowed in the second quarter of 2021. According to the NBS, the construction industry registered a Y-o-Y growth of 1.8% in the second quarter of 2021, while cumulatively, the industry grew by 8.6% in the first half of 2021, following an annual growth of 3.5% in 2020. (Global Data)
	General Facts & Measures	Facts & Measures for Construction
North-East Asia	Economic Outlook East Asia's growth forecast for this year has been raised to 7.6% from 7.4% in April, as a surge in global demand fuels exports from the region. East Asia's growth prospects for 2022 are unchanged at 5.1%. Growth projections for the	The construction industry output in Northeast Asia is forecast to record a growth of 6.8% in 2021, rising from US\$4.47 trillion in 2020 to US\$4.77 trillion in 2021 and accounting for 40% of the projected US\$11.93 trillion of the global output this year. However, the regional outlook indicates

	<p>People's Republic of China, the region's largest economy, remain at 8.1% in 2021 and 5.5% in 2022.</p> <p>Health Outlook COVID-19 cases in developing Asia have risen since the Delta variant of the virus emerged in April. New daily cases peaked at 430,000 in May. More than 163,000 new daily cases were recorded on 31 August. Meanwhile, vaccination progress in developing Asia remains uneven and lags behind that of advanced economies. As of 31 August 2021, 28.7% of the region's population had full vaccine protection, compared with 51.8% coverage in the United States and 58.0% in the European Union. (Cf. ADB)</p>	<p>construction industries across Northeast Asia are buoyant while at a national level, the performances of construction industries vary. GlobalData's report reveals that only China and Taiwan recorded real construction output growth in 2020. Among the others, only South Korea and Hong Kong are expected to recover and bounce back to pre-Covid-19 output in 2021. Hong Kong's early recovery is due in part to low pre-pandemic construction output, caused by a sustained downturn that began in 2016. A cause for further concern is the slow recovery of the Japanese construction industry, the second largest in Northeast Asia, which is not set to surpass its pre-crisis output levels until 2025 following a 7% contraction in 2020. China is projected to account for 81.8% of construction output in Northeast Asia and 32.1% globally in 2021 (July 2021)(cf. GlobalData).</p>
	<p>General Facts and Measures</p>	<p>Facts & Measures for Construction</p>
<p>India</p>	<p>India's economy contracted by 7.3% in 2020 as the country suffered badly due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Infrastructure investment is seen as a way of stimulating the economy (cf. KHL International Construction).</p>	<p>The construction industry in India should enjoy strong growth due to the government's National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) and ambition to make India a US\$5 trillion economy by 2024, according to India Infrastructure Research. NIP had projected a capital expenditure of US\$1.5 trillion to be spent from by 2025. Over 70% of this has been allocated to four infrastructure sectors: energy (24%), roads (19%), urban infrastructure (16%) and railways (13%). For further information, India Infrastructure Research's detailed report is available here (cf. Construction Europe). Further information on Hellenic Shipping News.</p> <p>The output of India's construction industry suffered significantly in 2020, recording a contraction of 12.3%, with strict lockdown restrictions imposed in late March hampering the progress of construction works. Despite growth recovering in late 2020, the industry's value-add in real terms contracted by 12.3% over the year, with the sharp fall of 49.5% in Q2 2020 weighing on annual growth. However, strong H1 2021 growth in both construction value-add and gross fixed capital formation suggests that recovery is well underway this year (cf. Global Data)</p>
	<p>Facts & Measures for Construction</p>	
<p>Myanmar</p>	<p>Myanmar's construction industry output in 2020 was affected by the Covid-19 pandemic induced supply chain disruptions and labor shortages. In 2021, the industry's weakness is expected to be further compounded by the ongoing political crisis and its impact on foreign investments and construction</p>	



	<p>progress, with the industry output projected to contract by 7.7% in real terms. GlobalData expects the construction industry to record growth of 2.3% in 2022 and register an annual average growth rate of 7.1% between 2023 and 2025, supported by investments in transport and energy infrastructure, industrial parks and housing projects. This growth is however predicated on Myanmar regaining political stability and the lifting of international sanctions. Highlighting the extent of the downturn in the Burmese construction industry, real output is not expected to surpass its pre-pandemic levels until 2024 at the earliest (Cf. GlobalData).</p>	
	General Facts & Measures	
Singapore	<p>Singapore’s economy expanded more than initially estimated in the 2021 second quarter and the government raised its forecast for 2021 as Covid-19 vaccinations progressed at home and in other key markets. GDP is forecast to grow by 6% to 7% in 2021, versus a prior estimate for an expansion of 4% to 6%, the Ministry of Trade and Industry said. However, in absolute terms, GDP remained 0.6% below its pre-pandemic level in the second quarter of 2019 (August 2021)(cf. Hellenic Shipping News).</p>	
NORTH AMERICA		
	General Facts & Measures	Facts & Measures for Construction
United States	<p>Economic Outlook (July 2021) The International Monetary Fund raised its 2021 U.S. growth projection to 7.0% due to a strong recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic and the enacted President Joe Biden’s infrastructure and social spending plans. The IMF additionally raised its 2022 U.S. GDP growth forecast to 4.9% (previously forecasted at 3.5%)(July 2021)(cf. Hellenic Shipping News).</p> <p>Economic Outlook (August 2021) GDP rose at a 6.5% annualized pace in the second quarter of 2021, according to the Commerce Department, below growth predictions of 8.4% for 2021 Q2. Gross private domestic investment fell by 3.5% as declines in private inventory and residential investment held back gains. Rising imports and a 5% decline in the rate of Federal Government Spending were participating factors, said the Bureau of Economic Analysis report (cf. CNBC).</p> <p>Health Outlook (September 2021) President Biden will require two-thirds of American workers to get vaccinated against the coronavirus, including many private-sector employees, health care workers and federal contractors — as well as the vast majority of federal workers, who could face disciplinary measures if they refuse.</p>	<p>Employment Outlook Construction employment declined or stagnated in 101 metropolitan areas between February 2020 and July 2021, according to an analysis by the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC). “The fact that more than three times as many metropolitan areas as usual failed to add construction jobs, despite a hot housing market, is an indication of the continuing impact of the pandemic on both demand for nonresidential projects and the supply of workers.” Eighty metropolitan areas had lower construction employment in June 2021 than February 2020, while industry employment was unchanged in 21 areas. Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, Texas lost the most jobs: 33,400 (14%). Major losses also occurred in New York City (-22,000 jobs); Midland, Texas (-9,300 jobs); Odessa, Texas (-7,900 jobs) and Baton Rouge, La. (-7,700 jobs). Further information available on AGCs (cf. AGC).</p> <p>Infrastructure Bill Outlook US Senate passes the \$1 trillion infrastructure package of President Joe Biden’s after months of negotiations. The deal calls for investment of US\$110 billion for roads, bridges and major infrastructure projects, US\$73 billion in upgrading ageing power infrastructure, US\$65 billion in broadband infrastructure for high-speed internet and US\$66 billion for rail</p>



	<p>Several E.U. member nations — including Bulgaria, Italy, the Netherlands and Sweden — have imposed new restrictions after the bloc removed the United States from a list of safe countries (cf. The New York Times).</p> <p>Health Outlook (October 2021) The U.S. is recording about 86,000 Covid-19 cases per day, down from 160,000 at the beginning of September. While some places like the Upper Midwest and parts of the West are not in great shape, the South is doing a lot better after a terrible summer. (cf. The New York Times).</p>	<p>maintenance and modernization. Also included is US\$40 billion for bridge repair, replacement and rehabilitation.</p> <p>The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), which tracks the state of US infrastructure with its report card, called the deal a “once-in-a-generation infrastructure package” that addressed most of the 17 categories criticized in its 2021 report card. The ASCE gave the US a mark of C- for the condition of its roads, bridges, ports, drinking water systems and electricity grids and identified a US\$2.59 trillion spending gap on its last report card (cf. KHL International Construction).</p>
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AFRICA & MIDDLE EAST

General Facts and Measures

<p>Africa</p>	<p>Economic Outlook Addressing Africa’s economic prospects, African Development Bank President Akinwumi A. Adesina said the continent’s economies were forecast to grow by 3.4%, in 2021. “The recent IMF release of \$650 billion in SDRs, with \$27 billion to Africa, will go a long way in helping to boost reserves for developing countries”. He added: “If the developed countries reallocate \$100 billion of SDRs to Africa, as agreed at the Paris leaders meeting and by the G7, that will further support faster economic recovery in Africa.” (cf. AfDB).</p> <p>Participants of a G20 Compact with Africa meeting met in August to assess Africa’s progress in fighting the Covid-19 pandemic. The Compact with Africa is a G20 initiative that promotes macroeconomic, business and financing reforms to attract more private investment in Africa, including in infrastructure. The conference brought together heads of state of the 12 Compact members and institutional partners, including the African Development Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). It involved strategy discussions around attracting higher inflows of foreign direct investment to Africa and the urgent imperative to develop vaccine manufacture capability on the African continent. Securing the continent’s recovery from the impacts of Covid-19 is one of the Compact’s near-term objectives. Vaccine inequity was a recurring theme, and closer international cooperation was urged to address climate change, debt levels and investment shortfalls. President Emmanuel Macron said France had committed to providing \$10 million vaccine doses for Africa. African Development Bank President Akinwumi Adesina said the African Development Bank had committed to investing \$3 billion dollars in building Africa’s pharmaceutical manufacturing capacity, including manufacturing of vaccines, while World Bank President David Malpass highlighted vaccine financing programs set up in 54 countries, noting that more than half of these are in Africa (cf. AfDB).</p> <p>Health Outlook The Delta variant is sweeping across the continent. Namibia and Tunisia are reporting more deaths per capita than any other country. Hospitals across the continent are filling up, oxygen supplies and medical workers are stretched thin and recorded deaths jumped 40% since July 2021. Only about 1% of Africans have been fully vaccinated. And even the African Union’s goal of getting 20% of the population vaccinated by the end of 2021 seems out of reach. Even if everything goes according to plan, Covax officials project they won’t be able to deliver more than 200 million doses to Africa, enough to fully vaccinate around 7% of the population, until October 2021. The pace of vaccination remains far slower in Africa than in the rest of the world. Europe and South America are dispensing vaccines nearly 20 times faster than Africa, adjusted for population (cf. The New York Times).</p>
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Facts & Measures for Construction

<p>Qatar</p>	<p>Qatar’s construction industry had slowed down markedly ahead of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, with growth averaging 0.4% between 2017–2019. The industry was further affected by the pandemic, contracting by 4.1% in 2020. GlobalData expects the construction industry to recover in 2021, albeit only marginally by 1%, supported by investments in the ongoing preparations for the 2022 World Cup, with construction activities continuing on stadiums and related infrastructure. Further expansions are being made to the Doha Metro, and construction work on a broader national rail network in the medium term will also support the construction sector’s output.</p>
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OCEANIA

Facts & Measures for Construction

<p>Australia</p>	<p>General Facts In 2021 the industry’s output will be supported by the government’s focus on infrastructure investment to revive the pandemic-hit economy. In mid-June 2020, the government announced that 15 infrastructure projects worth A\$72bn (US\$49.1bn) will be fast-tracked, supporting over 60,000 direct and indirect jobs. Further information with GlobalData “Australia – Key trends and opportunities by state and territory to 2025 (Q2-2021)” report.</p> <p>Construction Economic State outlook (August 2021) The Australian construction industry is expected to register an annual growth of 2.3% in real terms in 2021 – up from a contraction of 2.3% in 2020. The sector’s output this year will be supported by residential construction activity, while non-residential construction, which supported growth last year, is likely to lag (cf. Global Data).</p> <p>Health Outlook (September 2021) Thousands of construction industry workers are believed to have received their first dose of a Covid vaccine, at a mass vaccination event in Sydney, Australia, which was expected to attract around 8,000 people. Construction sites in Central Coast, Blue Mountains, Wollongong and Shellharbour have been unoccupied ever since a lockdown was issued nine weeks ago, following a sharp rise in the number of cases of the Delta variant of Covid-19. The NSW Government announced that building sites in the region would reopen at 50% capacity with, “enhanced Covid safety measures”: it is now mandatory for all persons on sites to have either both doses of a Covid-19 vaccine or one dose within the previous 21 days (cf. KHL International Construction).</p>
<p>New Zealand</p>	<p>New Zealand has been dropped off the global supply chain by many construction material suppliers due to the Covid-19 pandemic, according to Julien Leys, chief executive of the New Zealand Building Industry Federation. A recent report from independent global construction and property consultancy Rider Levett Bucknall (RLB) also highlighted the challenges being faced by the New Zealand construction market. RLB’s 2nd Quarter 2021 International Report says that, while the New Zealand construction market has navigated the Covid-19 pandemic well, labour shortages coupled with global supply chain disruptions continue to put pressure on construction costs (cf. KHL International Construction)(cf. RLB Global bordure closures continue to impact construction markets).</p>

Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) and other international institutions	
World Bank	<p>Infrastructure Outlook (July 2021) The 2020 World Bank’s data on private participation infrastructure (PPI) in developing countries shows a historic plunge during the first half of 2020 due to Covid-19 with a modest recovery during the second half. Infrastructure investment commitments in 2020 stood at \$45.7 billion across 252 projects in developing countries (a 52% decline compared to 2019). Read World Bank’s latest report on Private Participation Infrastructure.</p> <p>World Bank Covid-19 Dataset (August 2021) (cf. World Bank)</p> <div data-bbox="853 504 1615 1129" data-label="Figure"> <p>COVID-19 HAS TRIGGERED A STEEP INCREASE IN DEBT, PARTICULARLY IN EMERGING MARKET AND DEVELOPING ECONOMIES</p> <p>Debt in the world and EMDEs (emerging markets and developing economies) (% of GDP)</p> <p>Averages computed with current U.S. dollar GDP as weight and shown as a 3-year moving average. Source: International Monetary Fund, World Bank • Embed this chart • Download image</p> </div>
Asian Development Bank	<p>Economic Outlook (August 2021) Recovery is underway in developing Asia, but the growth projection is revised down slightly from 7.3% in April to 7.2% for 2021 following renewed virus outbreaks in some economies. GDP 2022 forecast is upgraded from 5.3% to 5.4%. Further information on ADB’s Economic report.</p> <p>Publication (August 2021) The coronavirus disease (Covid-19) pandemic is threatening Asia and the Pacific’s progress toward critical targets under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), according to a new report by the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Asia and the Pacific’s economy has grown at a robust pace in recent years and contributed as much as 35% to global gross domestic product (GDP)—in</p>



	<p>current US dollars—in 2019. But Covid-19 took a toll just when weaker domestic investment and slowing global trade and economic activity were starting to challenge this momentum. Among reporting economies in Asia and the Pacific, only about 1 in 4 posted GDP growth last year. The region lost about 8% of work hours due to mobility restrictions, deeply affecting poorer households and workers in the informal economy.</p> <p>The report covers the 49 regional members of ADB. This 52nd edition discusses how the COVID-19 pandemic has intensified the challenges of meeting development targets, which needed urgent attention even before the global health crisis began (cf. Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific 2021).</p>
IMF	<p>For countries on the path to recovery, reviving economic activity through job creation is a major priority. Drawing on a 19-year dataset of over 5,600 construction companies from 27 advanced economies and 14 emerging market economies, the IMF aimed at quantifying the direct employment effect of infrastructure development and maintenance in key sectors: electricity, roads, schools and hospitals, and water and sanitation in advanced, emerging, and low-income developing economies. Overall, the IMF estimates that 1% of global GDP in public investment can create more than 7 million jobs worldwide through its direct employment effects alone. See the IMF Working Paper on The Direct Employment Impact of Public Investment.</p> <p>IMF remains a steadfast partner of their member countries. It is continuing to calibrate its financial support, as well as its policy analysis and technical advice. It has stepped up in an unprecedented manner by providing \$118 billion in new financing to 87 countries and debt service relief for its poorest members. Thanks to the collective will of its membership, it provided a new allocation of Special Drawing Rights of \$650 billion in August. This is the largest issuance in the IMF's history in this crisis like no other. About \$275 billion of the allocation went to emerging and developing countries. (cf. IMF)</p> <p>The heads of the IMF, WB Group, WHO and WTO met with the CEOs of leading vaccine manufacturing companies to discuss strategies to improve the access to COVID-19 vaccines, especially in low- and lower middle-income countries and in Africa. The Task Force expressed concerns that without urgent steps the world is unlikely to achieve the end-2021 target of vaccinating at least 40% of the population in all countries. Steps mentioned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Release doses to low- and lower middle-income countries- Transparency on supply of vaccines- Eliminate export restrictions, prohibitions- Regulatory streamlining and harmonization (cf. IMF) <p>A proposal laid out by IMF set a target of vaccinating 40% of the population in all countries with at least one dose by the end of this year and 60% of the population in each country by the middle of 2022. The good news is that the world this week reached an overall 40% vaccination rate of at least one dose. The bad news: Only about 2% of people in low-income countries have received the vaccine. The wealthy Group of Seven countries have delivered only about 14% of the total vaccine doses promised to COVAX. Increasing that to 50% would be needed to reach the global target for 2021. The US announced donation of an additional half a billion vaccine doses to low and middle-income countries. Additional dose donations were pledged from Italy, Japan, Spain, New Zealand, and Denmark, while India conveyed exports of vaccines will resume soon. Further information here.</p>
OECD	<p>Business at OECD (BIAC) released a statement on adequate support of developing countries to address the Covid-19 crisis. Further information here.</p>

	<p>The OECD launched the COVID-19 Recovery Dashboard, a tool that seeks to help countries build better and build stronger as they bounce back from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Recovery Dashboard provides a practical and comprehensive set of outcome indicators that measure whether countries' recovery efforts are strong, inclusive, green and resilient.</p> <p>Further information here.</p>
<p>Other International Sources – Newspapers</p>	
<p>KHL International Construction</p>	<p>Top Performing Construction Sectors in 2021</p> <p><u>The top three performing construction sectors in 2021 are data centres, transport, and industrial, manufacturing and distribution, according to Consultant Turner & Townsend's International Construction Market Survey 2021.</u> The top performing sector across all participating markets is data centres, driven by the growth in technology and digitalization. This is the first year that data centres have made it into the top five performing sectors, moving up from sixth position in 2020. The second highest performing sector is transport (roads, rail and ports), which was in the top position in 2020. Globally, infrastructure investments have been a key focus for government stimulus in the recovery from the Covid-19. This is expected to continue over 2021-2022 to support economic activity. Finally, moving from sixth to third on the list is industrial, manufacturing and distribution, which has been driven by the rapid growth in e-commerce, fast-tracked by the pandemic. The retail landscape is changing rapidly, and this is driving a surge of investment into new technologies and distribution facilities across the world to meet the rapidly changing needs and demands of consumers (July 2021). If you want to dive deeper, Turner & Townsend's International Construction Market Survey 2021 is available here.</p> <p>Top Performing Contractors in 2021</p> <p><u>The world's top 200 construction contractors according to sales figures for 2020 have been revealed in the latest issue of International Construction magazine. The total for this year's list is US\$1.746 trillion.</u> This is very close to the figure of 2019, which was US\$1.744 trillion. Due to the impact of Covid-19, it was thought that sales for the top 200 construction contractors would decline. Below, the world's top 10 construction contractors of 2020:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. China State Construction & Engineering (CSCEC) 2. China Railway Group 3. China Railway Construction Corporation 4. China Communications Construction 5. Metallurgical Corporation of China (MCC) 6. Vinci 7. ACS 8. Bouygues' Construction Divisions 9. Shanghai Construction Group 10. Hochtief <p>Further information on the world's construction contractors here (July 2021)(cf. KHL International Construction).</p>



[GO TO THE MAP](#)