

Editor John Roper
Associate Editor Brian Shillibeer
Ad Director Steve Anthony
Production Editor Jac Roper

Advertisement Director

Steve Anthony
Tel: 07967 585475
Email: steve.anthony@profinder.eu

Advertisement sales

Tony Bond
Tel: 07767 626789
Email: tony.bond@profinder.eu

Business Development

Jon Berry
Tel: 07875 000845
Email: jon.berry@profinder.eu

Advertisement Production

6 Glencoe Apartments, 15 Harold Road,
Frinton-on-Sea CO13 9BE
Tel: 01255 673311
Fax: 01255 678364
Email: fabricatorcopy@profinder.eu

The Fabricator is published in the UK by
Profinder Magazines Ltd.

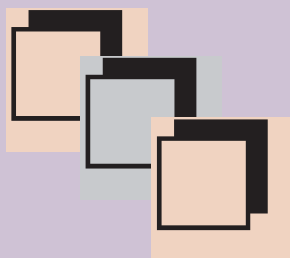
Admin: chris.sims@profinder.eu

*Opinions expressed in The Fabricator are those of
the contributors and do not represent editorial policy.
The Fabricator accepts payment for colour pictures.
Subscription rates: UK £45; rest of EC £60;
worldwide £105*

The Fabricator Vol 7 No 9
ISSN: 1752-2145

www.profinder.eu

Copyright © 2011 Profinder Ltd.



In association
with



the fabricator

Comment

Everyone seems to agree that we are all going to hell in a handcart. Ask the economists, ask the politicians, (well some of them; half say they are rescuing us the rest say the other half are making everything worse). Ask the rent-a-gobs on the radio, even the reporters, who as journalists are supposed to be neutral, seem intent on driving interviews along negative lines.

It all depends on whom you ask and what their agenda is. Facts, real facts, are hard to come by. Anecdotally I see companies not doing badly and, according to the CBI's August Industrial Trends survey, manufacturers are enjoying healthy order books and improving expectations for the future. I have not heard that reported Was I just not listening or was it drowned out by the doom-mongers?

Furthermore Glenigan, in a current report, has recorded a 15% increase in the underlying value of planning approvals over the six months to July 2011. Alongside this, the Office for National Statistics has reported an increase in investment by private manufacturing firms in new building work. This has resulted in a 36% increase in project starts over the three months to August compared to a year ago. Whilst admitting that the increase is from a low base, the Glenigan report boils all of this down to an overall 6% year on year increase in the value of construction starts.

So why are we not hearing about this? Why is only the negative reported?

I end up with the impression that there is a will to push us into a recession, to damp down confidence. Perhaps it is not so puzzling really because it is very political. Some of the commentators, the politicians, want to damage the government, the rent-a-gobs and economists get paid for interviews and for the media, well good news just doesn't cut it. In any case most of the commentators do not have a clue about the 'real' economy and how things work. For years we have been asked to accept that trading bits of paper was a valuable thing to do. That we could have a sound economy based around 'service' and financial trading. The problem here is that you can't. A sound economy has to be based on stuff. A former chancellor of the exchequer flogged all of our gold and a subsequent prime minister closed down our coal mining industry and generally wrecked manufacturing so our money became based on nothing but bits of paper. When we got a socialist government, especially one that was pretending not to be socialist, and bearing in mind that as a species they don't seem to know much about anything anyway, the paper traders must have thought it was happy holidays.

Couple that with Labour's tendency to create loads of non-productive and expensive public sector jobs and the economy faced a ten-year downhill race.

You may note that everything mentioned by Glenigan, the CBI and ONS relates to private sector work so, while it may be small in real terms, it has some solid worth. It will include a lot of glass, hardware and windows. Good news for the industry. It is all commercial and does nothing to make the consumer put his hand in his pocket but it is, at least, a start. What we now need urgently is a massive house-building programme to get first time buyers on the property ladder. (This, of course will also require the government to face-down the nimby squad over changes to the planning regulations.) But it would have the effect of unlocking savings and getting consumer spending started again. The banks, once they stop throwing their toys out of the pram over proposed new regulations, will have to lend just because that is what banks do. They don't make money by keeping it in the vaults.

John Roper

