

First Ram
CREDIT INSURANCE & SURETY BROKERS

Q3 2026 e-newsletter

In Brief: Continued oil futures increases are driven by Iran headlines, refining capacity restrictions are compounding the issue.

Credit Insurance

Credit Management Advice

Surety Bonds

Representation As A Credit Risk

Market News

- Tokio Marine HCC Retail Update highlights the connection between the decline in UK retail jobs to 2.63m, lowest level since 1997, and youth unemployment rising to 16.2%. The valuable first foot on the job ladder is missing. Link.
- Atradius Food and Drink comments on the continued consolidation in the sector and inflationary pressure. Link.
- Coface payment survey has found, unusually, around 80% of companies in pharmaceuticals & healthcare reported experiencing late payments. This is particularly noteworthy given that companies in pharmaceuticals & healthcare also tend to offer shorter payment terms. Link.

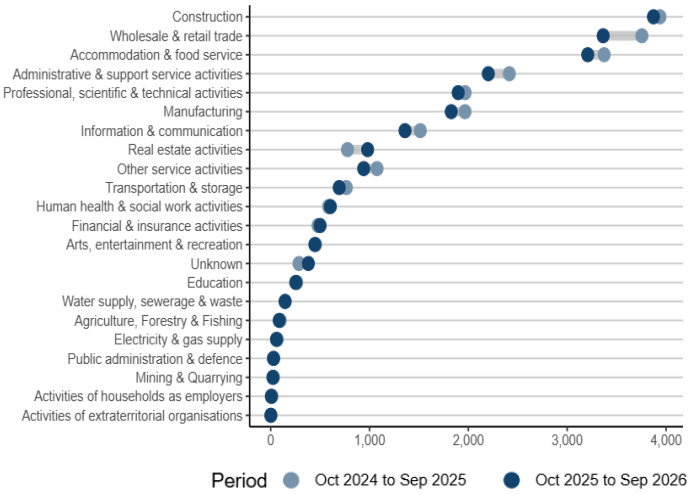
Q3 Key Points

- Sainsbury's agreed sale of Argos to Swift Partners for £120m. Argos has an underlying operating profit of just £8m on £4.2bn sales. A significant strain on credit insurance is expected. Link.
- Listed Housebuilder Vistry plc, #3 in UK, reported a significant reset, 4% reduction in sales. Link.
- Positive news for businesses impacted by legacy fire safety liabilities, Government funding is now available. Avant Homes example. Link.
- Construction materials inflation is a mixed picture, structural steel is up 17% other materials are down. Link.
- HH Global FY 3/2026 sales slipped 4% resulting in a change at the top. Link.

Risk Review

Market Insolvency Rates Focus

Relief in wholesale and retail trade sector vs last year.



Insolvency News

UK Construction and European Retail, Transport & Hospitality are the headlines.

Torsion Construction
ZIEGLER
HARVEY NICHOLS
International Decorative Surfaces
MANSELL BUILDING SOLUTIONS
headlam group plc
REVO HOSPITALITY GROUP
Bulmer & Lumb Group
CURO
Linbrooke People • Technology • Connectivity
Helix Construct
ZAVVI
STUDENAC MARKET

Insolvency Focus

www.firstram.co.uk
info@firstram.co.uk
01937 835 933

First Ram
Grimston Grange Offices | Grimston Park | Tadcaster | North Yorkshire
LS24 9BX | Tel No 01937 835 933 | info@firstram.co.uk

© Copyright 2022-2026 First Ram Ltd - All Rights Reserved.