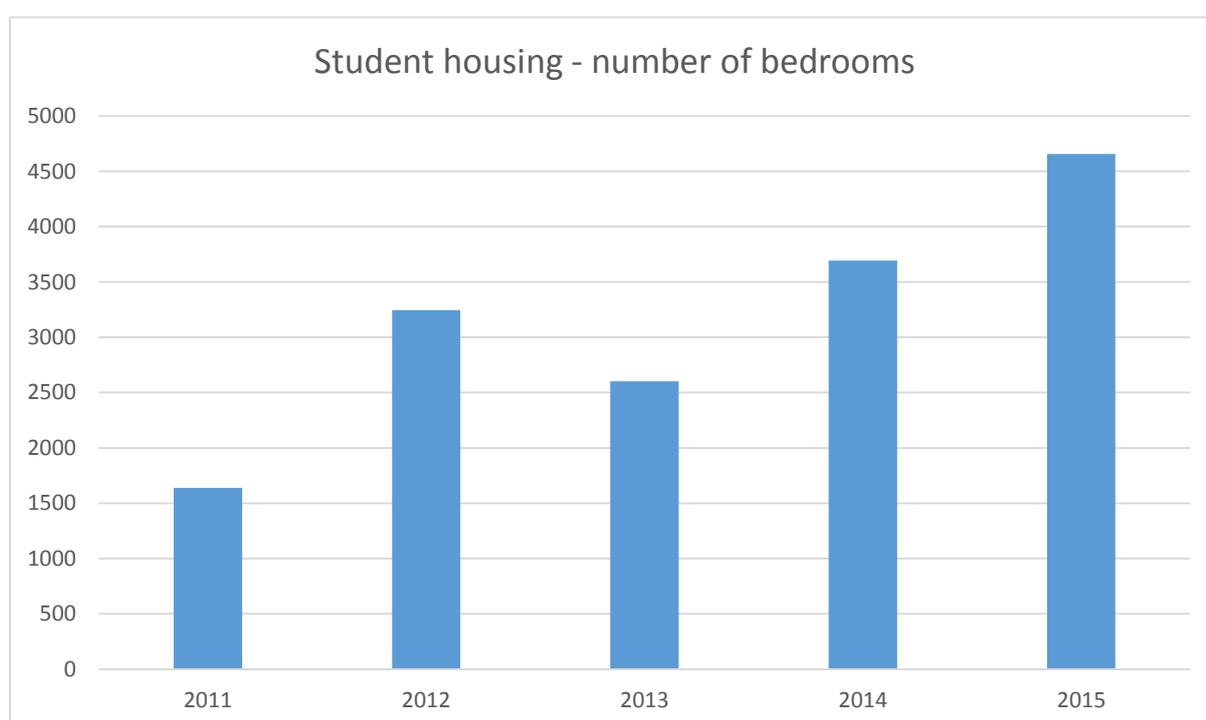


23rd February 2016

Student housing construction climbed to a five year high in 2015

Investment in student housing continued to grow in 2015, with contracts awarded to build more than 4,500 new student bedrooms, the highest annual amount in over five years.

The total value of construction projects for student housing was worth over £2.3 billion in 2015, with investment in the sector showing no sign of slowing down. There was an overall increase of 26 per cent in student bedrooms being commissioned for construction in 2015 compared to the previous year (see figure 1.1).



(Figure 1.1)

The peak of student housing construction came in the final quarter of 2015, as contracts were awarded to build 2,117 units, the highest total recorded since before the recession.

Commenting on the figures, Michael Dall, lead economist at Barbour ABI, said: “Student housing has undergone a significant amount of change over recent years, with rising rental fees and a higher level of expectation from the occupying students.”

Universities and investors are behind a wave of more modern accommodation, with Wi-Fi to en-suites now becoming the norm as they attempt to attract prospecting students with high end living facilities. A wave of post-graduate accommodation has also come into play and I expect this to continue in 2016, as the majority of investors focused on bridging the gap for first year housing prior to 2015.”

“The removal of the cap on student numbers may have also triggered many universities to anticipate an increase in enrolment over the coming years, hence the jump in the number of new student bedrooms being commissioned in 2015. As investor appetite remains high for student housing, I expect it will be at the forefront for many contractors over the coming years.”

-ENDS-

Notes to editors:

Press enquiries to:

Jonathan Touhey at Barbour ABI

e: jonathan.touhey@barbour-abi.com

t: **0151 353 3605**

m: **07976 837339**

About Barbour ABI:

Barbour ABI is a leading provider of construction intelligence services. With a team of in-house research specialists and a dedicated lead economist, it provides commercially relevant insight and unique analysis of trends and developments within the building and construction industry.

Barbour ABI is the chosen provider of Construction New Orders data to the Office for National Statistics and the Government’s Construction and Infrastructure Pipeline, outlining future construction and infrastructure projects where public funding is agreed. Barbour ABI also provides data for independent organisations, such as the Construction Products Association.

Barbour ABI is part of global events-led marketing services and communications company, UBM, and is headquartered in Cheshire Oaks, Cheshire.

For more information, go to www.barbour-abi.com or follow us on Twitter [@BarbourABI](https://twitter.com/BarbourABI) for all the latest construction data news.

About UBM:

UBM helps businesses do business, bringing the world's buyers and sellers together at events and online, as well as producing and distributing news and specialist content. Its 5,500 staff in more than 30 countries are organised into expert teams which serve commercial and professional communities, helping them to do business and their markets to work effectively and efficiently.

For more information, go to www.ubm.com or follow us on Twitter at [@UBM_plc](https://twitter.com/UBM_plc) for all the latest UBM corporate news.