



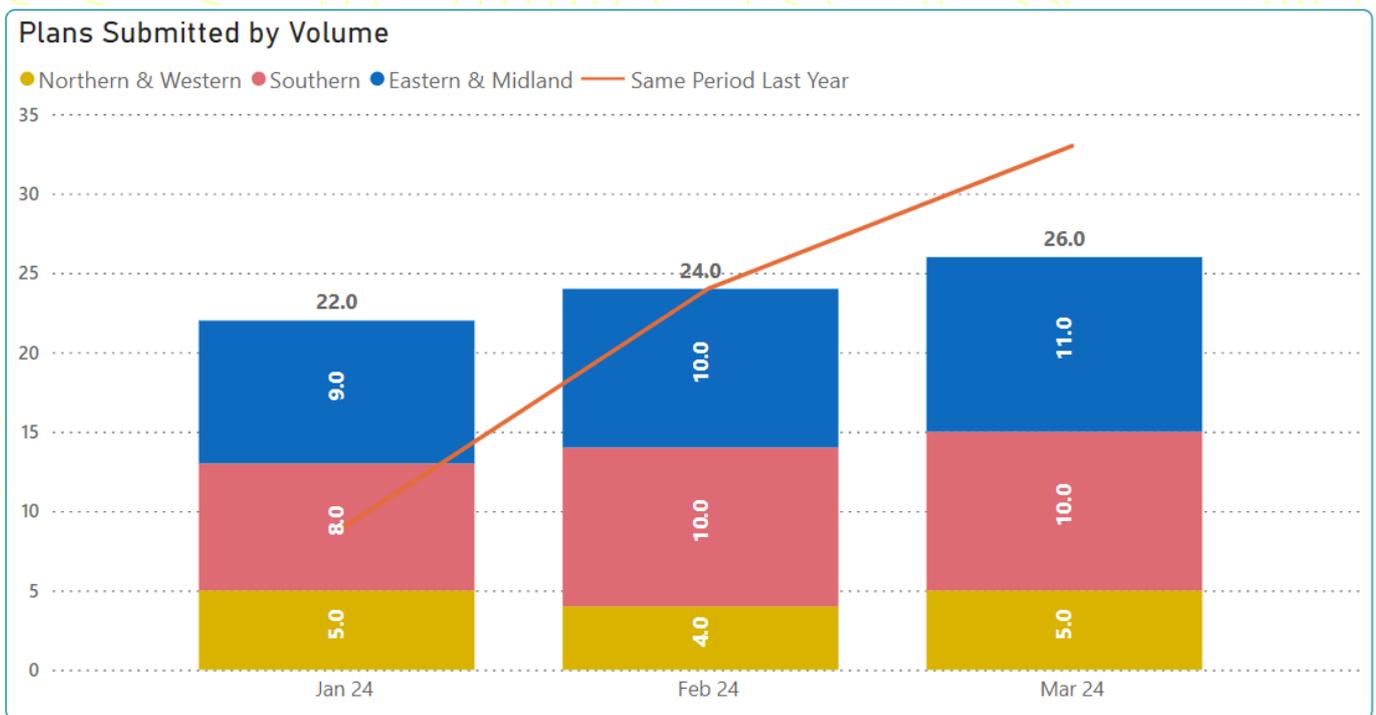
Introduction

During the first quarter of 2024 we experienced what appears to be an ongoing backlog of projects currently awaiting approval from the Department of Education. From communication with the various industry stakeholders involved there has been frustration over these delays.

Recently the Government revealed plans to roll out the next phase of the Department of Education’s building plan. In the recent press it was stated that 90 school buildings that are currently at tender stage will see authorisation to proceed. This will be carried out over 2024 into 2025.

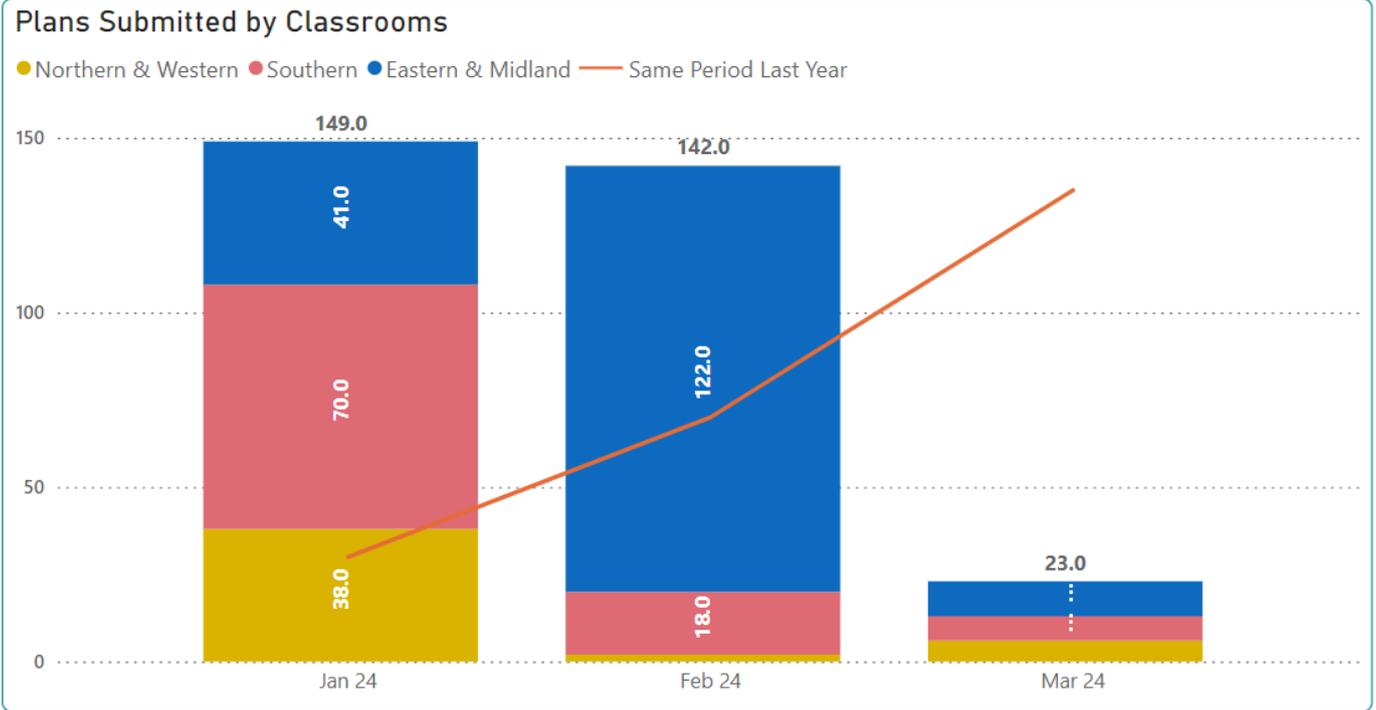
Plans Submitted

The first quarter of 2024 saw 72 school developments lodged for planning in the Republic of Ireland, compared to 66 projects lodged for planning in the first quarter of 2023. As expected, the largest volume of new applications was lodged in the Leinster region.



These 72 and 66 projects equated to 313 classrooms and 235 classrooms respectively.

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The largest application lodged for planning in Q1 2024 was the [€15.6 million Drogheda Educate Together Secondary School project in County Meath](#). The planned 1,000 pupil school proposes the creation of 43 classrooms upon completion.



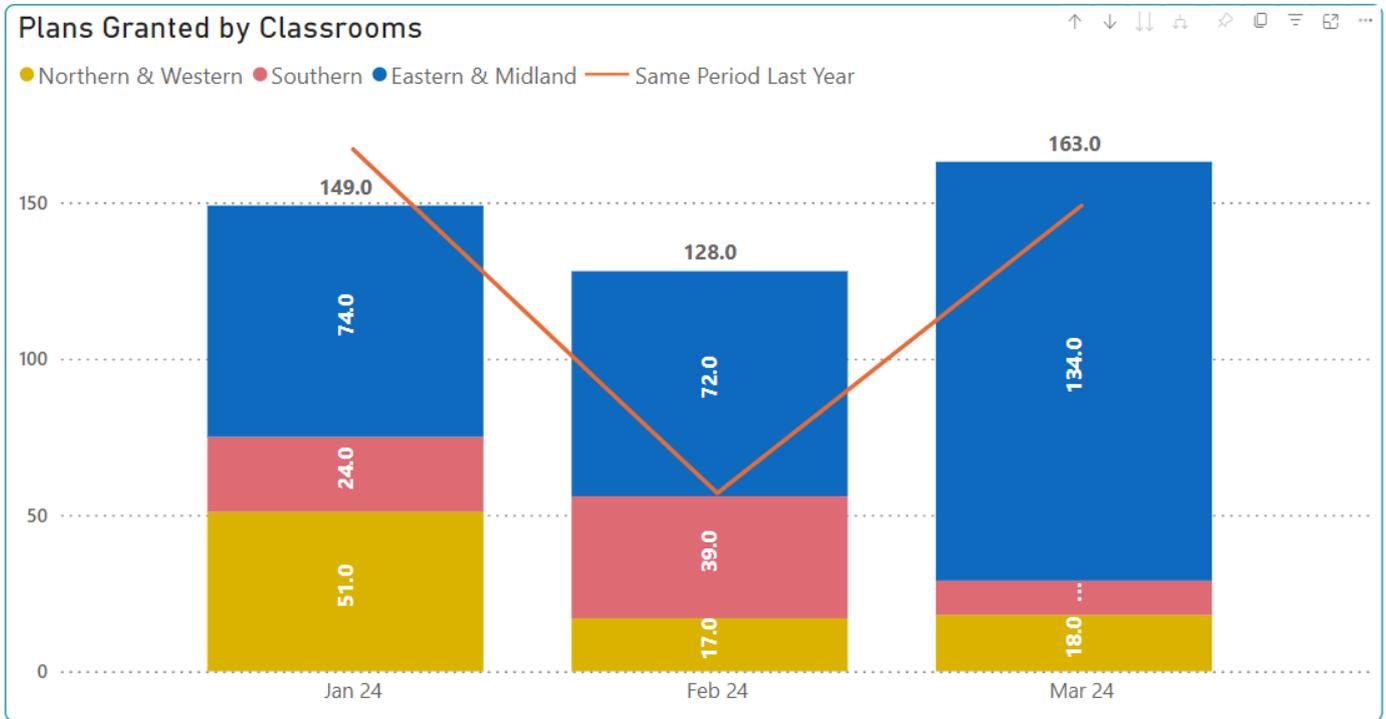
€15.6 million Drogheda Educate Together Secondary School, County Meath

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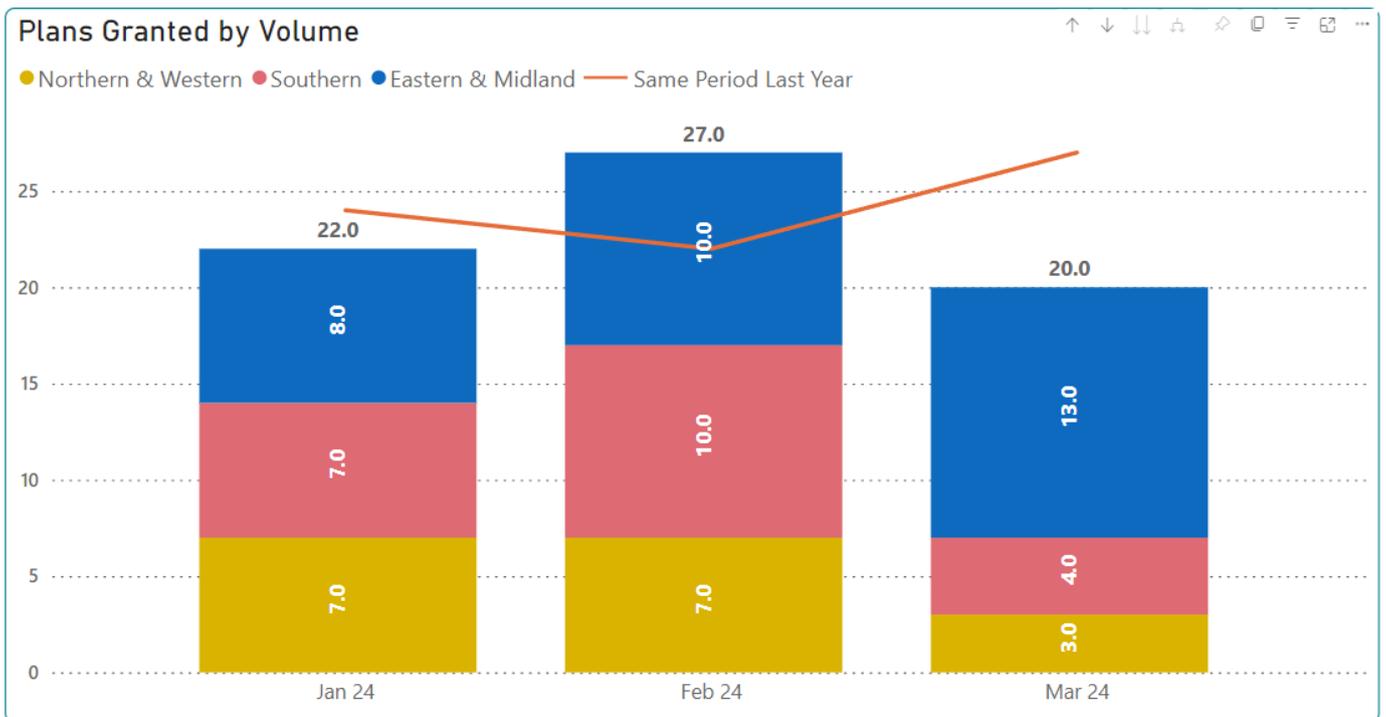


Plans Approved

Q1 2024 we saw an overall increase in the number of classrooms granted planning permission. The Leinster region again receiving the largest numbers of plans granted.



Overall, this year's Q1 seen an increase of 18% on Q1 2023.

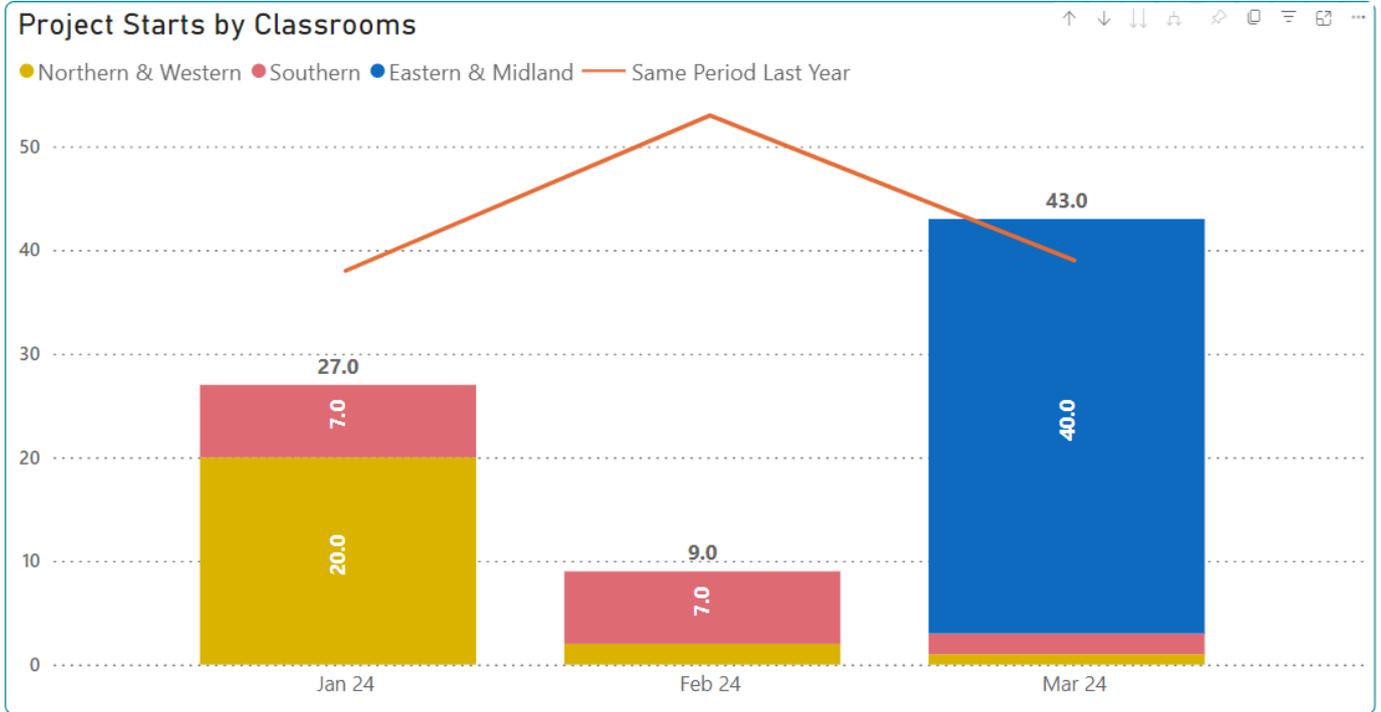


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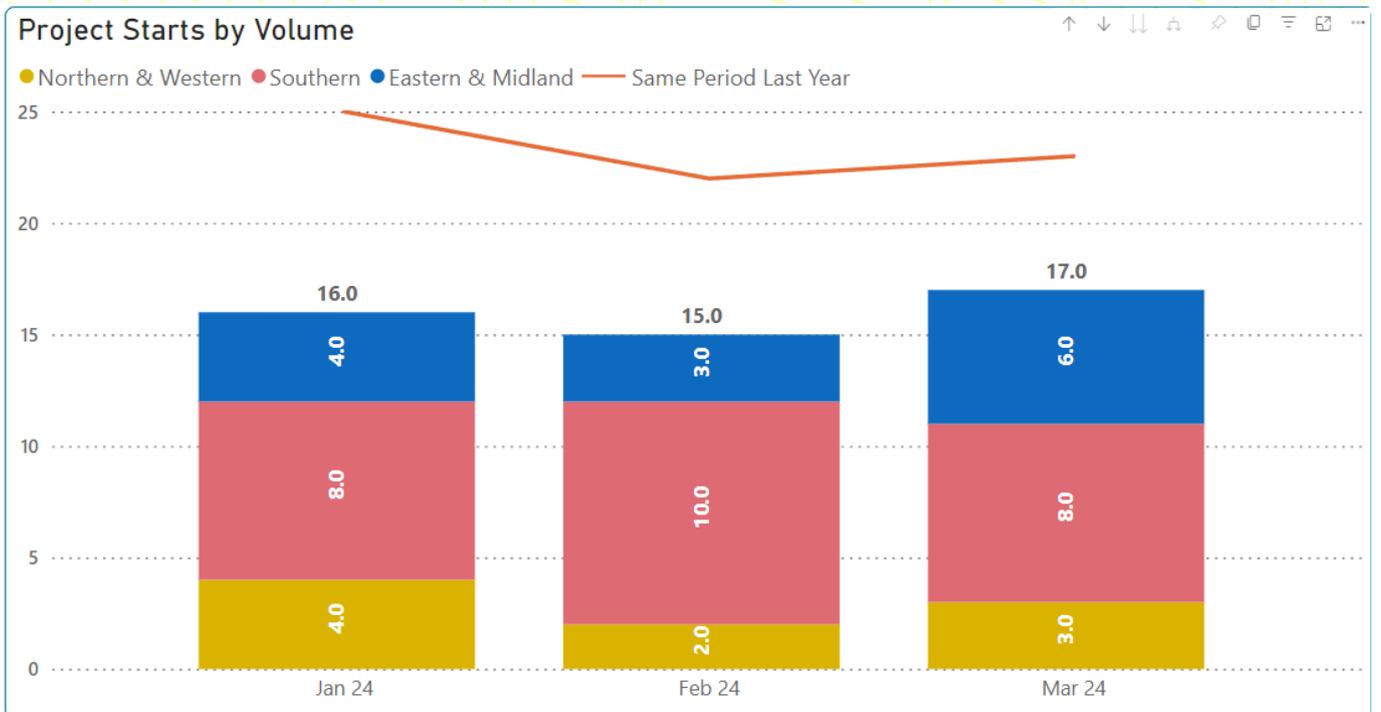


Projects On Site

In comparison to 2023 Q1, we have seen a large decrease in projects on site. When measured by number of classrooms it was by a margin of 39.2%. January and February were very low for on-site numbers.



March saw an increase, especially in the Leinster region.



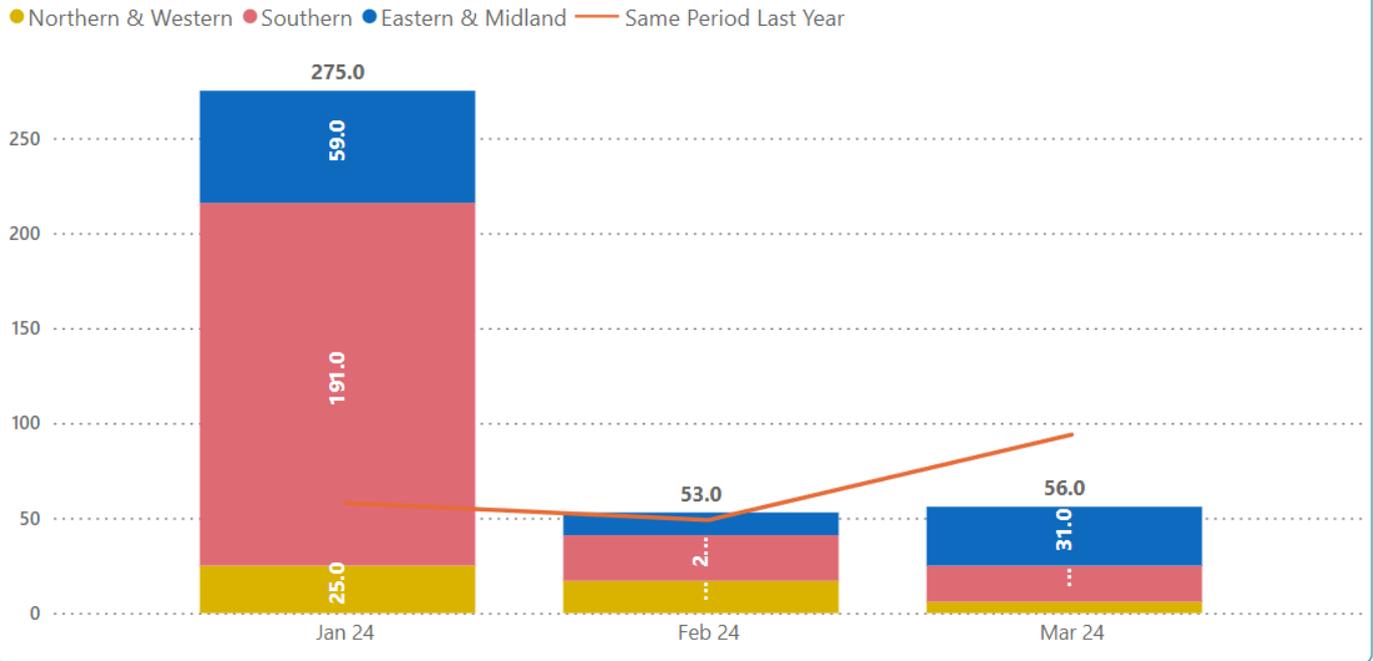
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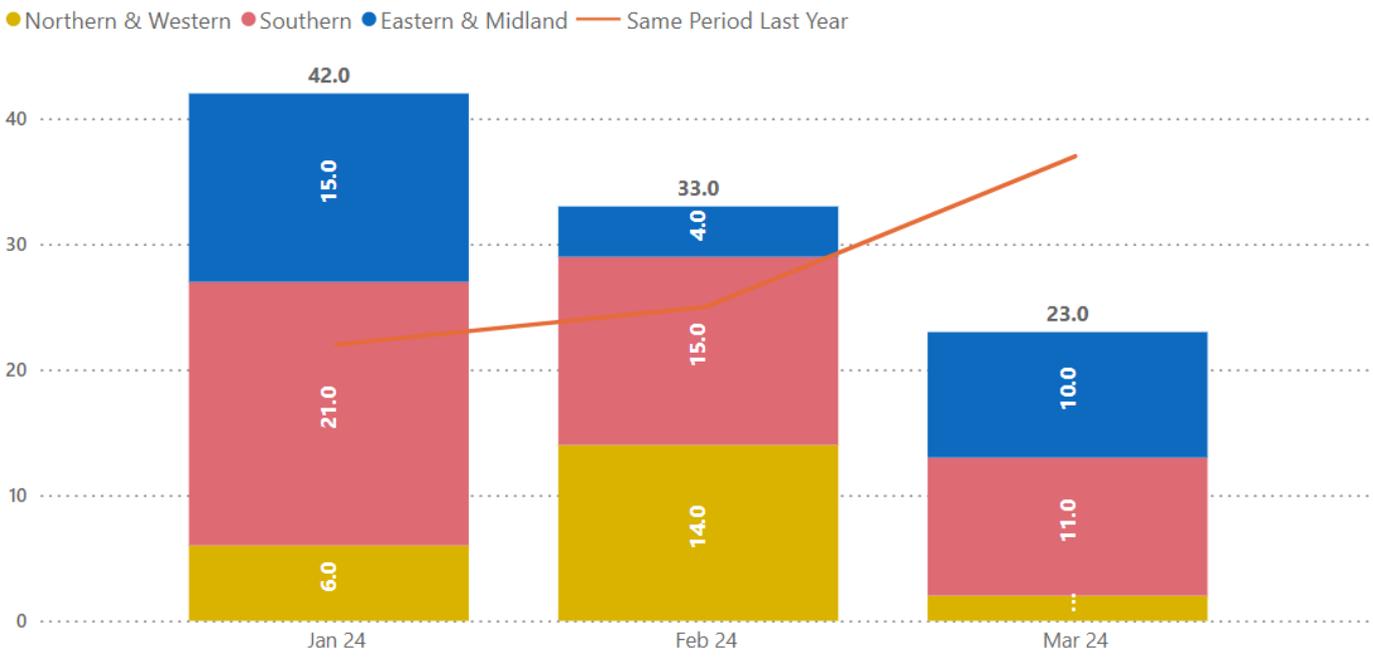
Completed Projects

In January 2024 we tracked a huge increase in completions. January's number of completions resulted in a 91% increase by comparison to Q1 2023.

Project Completions by Classrooms



Project Completions by Volume



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The largest value project completed in Q1 2024 was the [School Campus in Carrigtwohill, County Cork](#) at an estimated cost of €35 million, which saw the creation of 118 classrooms.



€35m - School Campus, Carrigtwohill

Conclusion

In conclusion, the 1st quarter of 2024 has seen an increase in plans submitted by volume of 9.1%. Although a decrease in plans granted by volume of 5.5%. These figures though small margins indicate the ongoing backlog with the Department of Education. The decrease of 31.4% in the amount of completed projects in these quarterly comparisons is also indicative of this. With the recent Government revelation of the next phase of the school buildings program roll out, we expect to see more approvals from the Department of Education on current projects in waiting. With up to 90 school projects due to get the green light over the next year into 2025, the education construction sector looks set to have an active time ahead.

If you would like a free demo of our lead generation platform or to learn more about the depth of our data, please arrange a demo by calling **+353 1 2999 200**, email sales@cisireland.com or [click here](#)

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