



Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components

Commentary, October 2021

Coverage: UK and Great Britain

Geographical Area: Country, region and county

3 November 2021

National Statistics

Headline Findings

- The material price index for 'All Work' **increased** by **23.6%** in September 2021 compared to September 2020 and by **0.1%** compared to August 2021.
- Cement production **decreased** by **11.4%** to 8.0 million tonnes in 2020, compared to 9.1 million tonnes the previous year. This follows a fall of 1.3% in 2019.
- Clinker production **decreased** by **11.4%** to 6.9 million tonnes in 2020, compared to 7.8 million tonnes the previous year. This follows a rise of 1.2% in 2019.

Chart 1: Construction Material Price Indices, UK
Index, 2015 = 100



Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 1

Contents

Introduction	3
Seasonal Adjustment Review	3
Summary of Results	4
Material Price Indices	4
Cement and Clinker	5
Sand & Gravel	6
Concrete	7
Bricks	8
Blocks	9
Imports and Exports of Construction Materials	10
Economic Background	12
Business Insights	12
Construction Output	12
Bank of England Summary of Business Conditions	13
Gross Domestic Product Estimate	13
Gross Domestic Product Forecast	13
Construction Output Forecasts	14
Manufacturing	15
Accompanying tables	16
Technical information	17
Definitions	18
Further information	19
Future updates to these statistics	19
Related statistics	19
Revisions policy	19
Uses of these statistics	19
User engagement	20
National Statistics designation	20
Contact	21

Introduction

This commentary accompanies the latest Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components data tables, published on the BEIS building materials [web page](#) on 3 November 2021. It provides an overview of recent trends in the data presented in the tables.

The data tables present the latest detailed information on selected building materials and components. They cover the following building materials statistics:

- Construction material price indices (monthly, UK)
- Sand and gravel sales (quarterly, GB*)
- Slate production, deliveries and stocks (quarterly, GB)
- Cement and clinker production, deliveries and stocks (annual, GB)
- Bricks production, deliveries and stocks (monthly, GB*)
- Concrete building blocks production, deliveries and stocks (monthly, GB*)
- Concrete roofing tiles production, deliveries and stocks (quarterly, GB)
- Ready-mixed concrete deliveries (quarterly, UK)
- Values of overseas imports and exports trades for selected materials and components for use in construction (quarterly, UK)
- Value of EU and Non-EU Trade for selected materials and components for use in construction (annual, UK)

Note: * Regional figures available

These statistics support analysis of the construction materials market and business planning. They are regularly reported in the construction press and are used for a variety of purposes, including policy development and evaluation concerning the construction products industry, as well as monitoring market trends. Further detail is available in this document under [Uses of these statistics](#).

Seasonal Adjustment Review

Seasonally adjusted series for deliveries of bricks, concrete blocks, ready-mixed concrete and sales of sand and gravel are published in the data tables. The purpose of correcting the reported series is to allow for seasonal factors such as winter weather (including the reduction in hours of daylight, and frost and rain) and other seasonal events such as Christmas and Easter. Thus, seasonally adjusted figures show the underlying trend more clearly. Further information can be found in this document under [Technical Information](#).

Summary of Results

Material Price Indices

Chart 2: Construction Material Price Indices, UK
Index, 2015 = 100



Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 1

Year-on-year change (September 2020 to September 2021)

New Housing	22.1%
Other New Work	23.0%
Repair & Maintenance	25.5%
All Work	23.6%

Month-on-month change (August 2021 to September 2021)

New Housing	0.3%
Other New Work	0.1%
Repair & Maintenance	0.2%
All Work	0.1%

- Looking at the longer-term change, the material price index for **'All Work'** increased by **23.6%** in September 2021 compared to the same month the previous year.

Table 1: Construction materials experiencing the greatest price increases and decreases in the 12 months to September 2021, UK

Construction Materials	Year-on-year % change
Greatest price increases	
Imported sawn or planed wood	73.3
Fabricated structural steel	72.6
Particle Board	65.4
Greatest price decreases	
Screws etc.	-11.2

The aggregated construction material price index hides larger price movements for some specific products and materials. The three largest increases and the one product that decreased are presented here.

Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 2

Cement and Clinker

Chart 3: Production of Cement and Clinker, GB

Weight of cement & clinker



Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 8

- Cement production fell by 11.4% to 8.0 million tonnes in 2020, compared to 9.1 million tonnes the previous year. This follows a fall of 1.3% in 2019. Pre-recession production peaked in 2007 at 11.9 million tonnes.
- Production of clinker fell by 11.4% to 6.9 million tonnes in 2020, compared to 7.8 million tonnes the previous year. This follows a rise of 1.2% in 2019. Pre-recession production stood at 10.2 million tonnes in 2007.

Sand & Gravel

Chart 4: Seasonally Adjusted Sales of Sand & Gravel, GB

Weight of sand & gravel



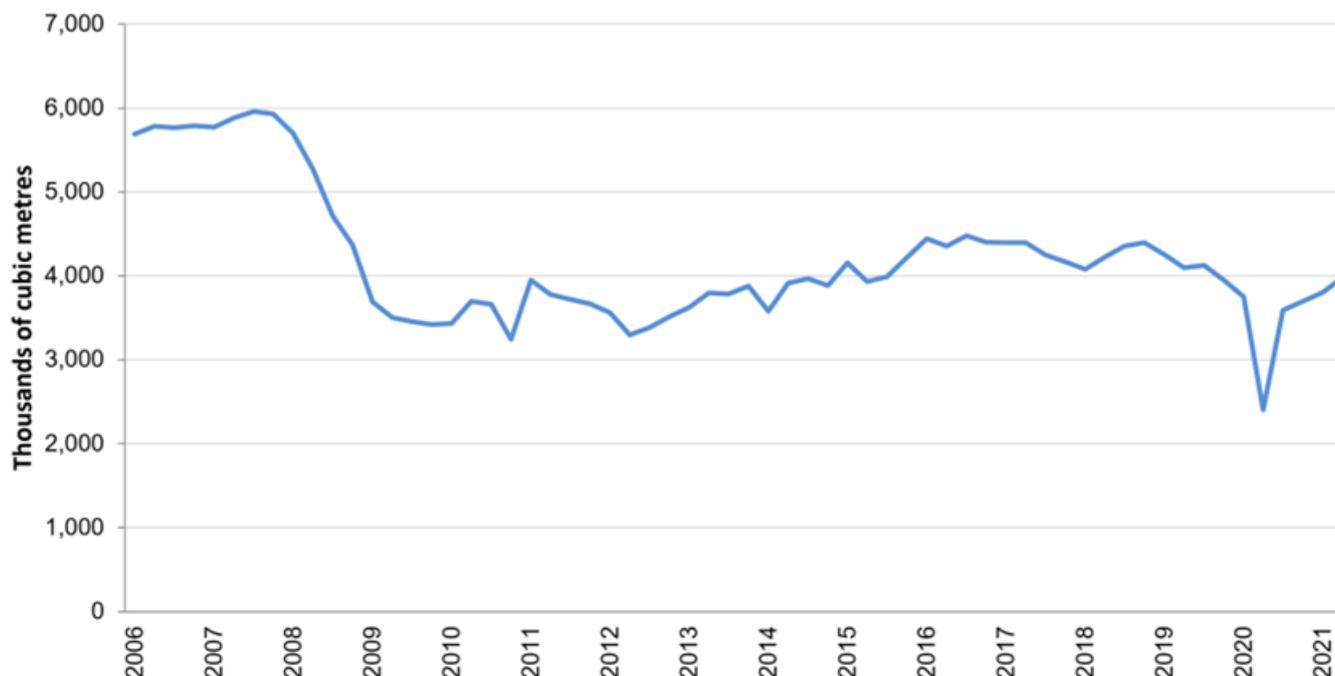
Source: *Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 4*

- Sales of sand & gravel **decreased** by **5.6%** in Quarter 3 2021 compared to Quarter 2 2021, according to the seasonally adjusted data.
- This followed an increase of 1.2% in Quarter 2 2021.
- Comparing Quarter 3 2021 to Quarter 1 2020 (before the start of national restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic), sales have **decreased** by **7.0%**.
- Comparing Quarter 3 2021 to Quarter 3 2020, sales have **decreased** by **6.6%**.
- Seasonally adjusted sales of sand & gravel have consistently remained below levels typically seen before the recession of 2008 to 2009 and have dropped recently due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- From Quarter 1 2019, sand and gravel data reported in this publication includes recycled material.

Concrete

Chart 5: Seasonally Adjusted Sales of Ready-Mixed Concrete, GB

Volume of concrete



Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 13

- Ready-mixed concrete sales **increased** by **4.7%** in Quarter 2 2021 compared to Quarter 1 2021, according to the seasonally adjusted data.
- This followed a 2.8% increase in Quarter 1 2021.
- Sales in Quarter 2 2021 **increased** by **6.2%** compared to Quarter 1 2020 (before the start of national restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic), the previous year, following a 1.5% increase in Quarter 1 2021, on the same basis.
- After the 2008 to 2009 recession, seasonally adjusted sales of ready-mixed concrete had been recovering steadily since Q2 2012, until the recent drop due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Bricks

Chart 6: Seasonally Adjusted Deliveries of Bricks, GB

Number of bricks



Source: *Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 9*

- There was a **6.4% increase** in brick deliveries in September 2021 compared to September 2020, according to the seasonally adjusted figures.
- This followed a 6.1% increase in August 2021, compared to August 2020.
- The month-on-month change shows a **0.4% increase** in September 2021.
- This followed a 3.9% decrease in August 2021, on the same basis.
- Deliveries of bricks declined during the recession of 2008 to 2009. They have recovered slowly since 2013, until the drop due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Blocks

Chart 7: Seasonally Adjusted Deliveries of Concrete Blocks, GB

Area of concrete blocks



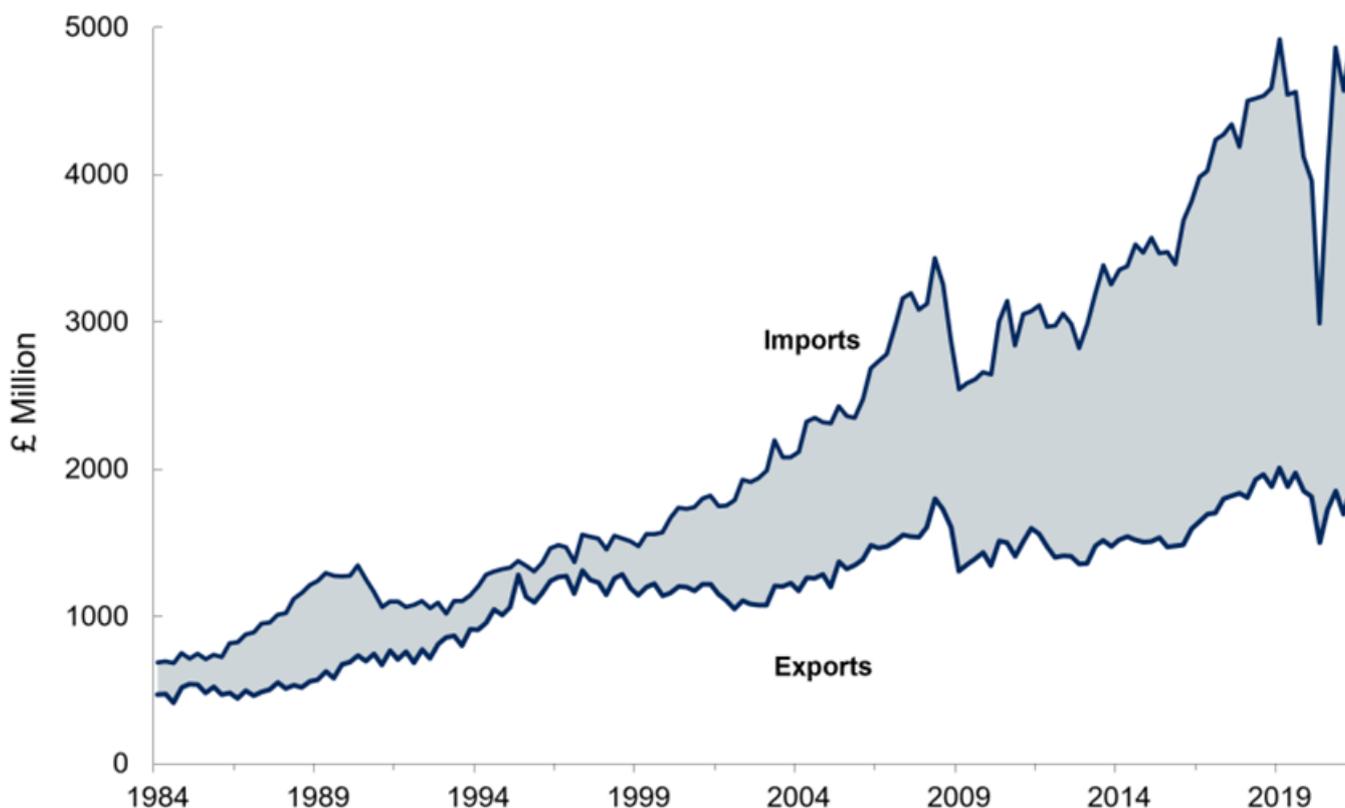
Source: *Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 11*

- There was an **8.9% increase** in concrete block deliveries in September 2021 compared to September 2020, according to the seasonally adjusted figures.
- This followed a 6.5% increase in August 2021, compared to August 2020
- The month-on-month change shows a **4.0% increase** in September 2021.
- This followed a 2.2% decrease in August 2021, on the same basis.
- Concrete block deliveries declined during the recession of 2008 to 2009. The general trend has been one of growth since 2013, interrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Imports and Exports of Construction Materials

Chart 8: Quarterly Exports and Imports of Construction Materials, UK

Value in pounds sterling



Source: *Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 14*

- **Imports** of construction materials **increased** by £328 million in Q2 2021 compared to the previous quarter, **an increase** of 7.1%.
- **Exports** of construction materials **increased** by £202 million in Q2 2021 compared to the previous quarter, **an increase** of 12.1%.
- As a result, between Q1 2021 and Q2 2021, the **quarterly trade deficit widened** by £126 million to £3,060 million, **an increase** of 4.3%.
- Over the whole of 2020, **imports** of construction materials **decreased** by **11.0%** compared to 2019, from £18,144 million to £16,144 million.
- In the same period **exports decreased** by **10.4%**, from £7,723 million to £6,916 million.
- Over the period from Quarter 1 1984 to Quarter 2 2021, construction materials imports have increased, on average (per quarter), by 4.1%. Over the same period, exports increased by an average of 2.0% per quarter.
- The trade deficit was historically at its smallest throughout the 1990s, with a mean of £309 million over this period. This trade deficit was 24% of the value of imports. As of Quarter 2 2021, the trade deficit is £3,059 million, 62% of the value of imports.

Table 2: Top-5 Exported and Imported Construction Materials in 2020

Top-5 Exported Materials	<i>£ million</i>	Top-5 Imported Materials	<i>£ million</i>
Electrical Wires	930	Electrical Wires	1,863
Paints & Varnishes	688	Lamps & Fittings	871
Plugs & Sockets	356	Sawn Wood > 6mm thick	833
Air Conditioning Equipment	330	Linoleum floors and coverings	560
Lamps & Fittings	326	Air Conditioning Equipment	551

The top five exported materials in 2020 accounted for 38% of total construction material exports.

The top five imported construction materials in 2020 accounted for 29% of total construction material imports.

Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 14

Table 3: UK Trade of Construction Materials with EU and Non-EU Countries, 2020

All Building Materials & Components		
<i>£ million</i> (% of total trade in italics)	EU	Non-EU
Imports	9,424	6,720
	<i>58%</i>	<i>42%</i>
Exports	3,995	2,921
	<i>58%</i>	<i>42%</i>

Compared to pre-recession levels in 2007, the share of total UK construction material exports going to the EU has declined from 70% to 58%.

Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 15

Table 4: Top 5 UK Export and Import Markets for Construction Materials in 2020

Top-5 Export Markets	<i>£ million</i>	Top-5 Import Markets	<i>£ million</i>
Republic of Ireland	1,219	China	2,945
Germany	685	Germany	2,094
USA	587	Italy	1016
France	535	Turkey	788
Netherlands	488	Spain	771

The top five export markets comprised 51% of total construction materials exports in 2020. The Republic of Ireland remains the largest market, despite having shrunk from a pre-recession peak of 27% of total exports in 2007, to 18% in 2020.

Source: HMRC Overseas Trade Statistics

The '[Rotterdam Effect](#)' (also known as the 'Antwerp Effect') may affect trade figures. This is explained in detail by [HM Revenue & Customs](#).

The top 5 import markets comprised 47% of total construction materials imports in 2020. 18% of all imports are from China.

Economic Background

Business Insights

The **Office for National Statistics** published further information from their fortnightly [Business insights and impact on the UK economy](#) publication on 21st October 2021, which was live for the period from 4th October to 17th October 2021 and referenced the period from 20th September to 3rd October 2021.

Key points:

- Between 4th October and 17th October, weighted by count, 87.9% of construction firms said they were currently fully trading compared with an all-industry average of 82.7%.
- Weighted by turnover, 21.0% of construction firms currently trading said their turnover had decreased over the reference period, compared with an all-industry average of 24.4%.
- Weighted by employment, the average proportion of the workforce on partial or furlough leave over the reference period was 4.2% for construction businesses which had not permanently stopped trading, compared with an all-industry average of 4.4%.
- Between 6th September and 19th September, weighted by count, 51.6% of construction businesses said that prices for materials, goods or services bought by the business had increased more than normal, compared with an all-industry average of 28.5%.

Construction Output

The **Office for National Statistics** published a provisional estimate of [construction output](#) for August 2021 on 13 October 2021.

Key points:

- Monthly construction output fell 0.2% in volume terms in August 2021 with the level of output now 1.5% below its pre-coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic (February 2020) level. New work remained flat this month (0.0%) with repair and maintenance falling (0.6%) on the month; anecdotal evidence from businesses continued to suggest that product shortages caused by supply chain issues and subsequent price rises were the main reasons for the decline.
- The level of construction output in August 2021 was 1.5% (£214 million) below the February 2020 pre-pandemic level; new work was 3.7% (£348 million) below the February 2020 level, while repair and maintenance work was 2.7% (£135 million) above the February 2020 level.
- The recovery to date, since the start of the pandemic, is mixed at a sector level, shown with infrastructure 45.4% (£852 million) above and private commercial 26.3% (£656 million) below their respective February 2020 levels in August 2021.
- Alongside the monthly fall in August, construction output fell 1.2% in the three months to August 2021, the first three-monthly fall since July 2020, driven by a fall in repair and maintenance of 4.7%.
- In the latest release, the earliest period open to revision is January 2011, and is the first time the monthly path has been published that is consistent with the Quarter 2 2021 Quarterly National Accounts published on 30 September 2021.

Bank of England Summary of Business Conditions

The **Bank of England** published its most recent update to the [Agents' Summary of Business Conditions](#) on 23rd September 2021, covering intelligence gathered between mid-July and early September 2021.

Key points:

- Contacts said activity was above pre-pandemic levels but was curtailed by supply-chain issues that affected the availability of materials and, to a lesser extent, by labour shortages. As a result, there were some reports of companies having to turn down work.
- Construction of private housing remained strong, with home improvement and repair and maintenance activity also supporting output. However, contacts said that materials shortages were causing delays to projects being started and completed.
- Private commercial development activity was mixed: demand was weak among sectors that had been adversely affected by the pandemic, such as retail, hospitality and higher education, where construction activity was mostly focused on essential repair and maintenance work. By contrast, construction activity was strong in logistics and warehousing and IT-related sectors. There were some signs of demand increasing for office refurbishments.
- Public infrastructure projects continued to support construction output, but there were reports of some delays in contracts being awarded, while budget constraints weighed on demand from local authorities.
- Contacts said that order books in general were strong, but uncertainty over materials costs and shortages were deterring some construction firms and clients from competing for tenders or from putting out contracts to tender, which could weigh on future output.

Gross Domestic Product Estimate

The **Office for National Statistics** also published their [estimates of GDP](#) for August 2021 on 13th October 2021:

Key points:

- GDP is estimated to have grown by 0.4% in August 2021 but remains 0.8% below the pre-coronavirus (COVID-19) level (February 2020).
- Production output increased by 0.8% in August 2021, mainly because of the continued increase in the extraction of crude petroleum and natural gas following the recent temporary closure of oil field production sites for planned maintenance.
- Services output grew by 0.3% in August 2021 with output in consumer-facing services increasing by 1.2%, while all other services rose by 0.1%; all other services are now 0.4% above their pre-pandemic levels, while consumer-facing services remain 4.7% below.

Gross Domestic Product Forecast

The latest monthly **Consensus Economics** [forecast survey](#) (which uses an average of private sector forecasts) results were published in October 2021.

Key points:

- The mean GDP forecast for 2021 is 6.9% growth, up from 6.7% from the previous month's survey.
- The mean GDP growth forecast for 2022 is 5.1%, down from 5.4% in the previous month's survey.

The **Office for Budget Responsibility** published a new [Economic and Fiscal Outlook](#) on 27th October 2021.

- GDP is expected to grow by 6.5% in 2021 (up from 4.0% from the previous forecast) and to reach pre-pandemic levels by the turn of the year.

Construction Output Forecasts

Experian published their Autumn 2021 [forecasts](#) for the construction sector in October 2021.

Key points:

- Construction output is expected to bounce back strongly this year, regaining most of the ground lost in 2020. Quarterly data supports this scenario, with output up 2% q-on-q in 2021Q1 and by 3% in Q2. Recent monthly data paints a somewhat weaker picture, with output falling m-on-m since April, at an increasing rate. Nevertheless, given this year's starting point compared with the nadir of output in 2020Q2, it is almost inevitable that strong growth will be posted in 2021. Expansion is predicted to slow in 2022 but remain relatively robust, before a return to more normal rates of increase in 2023.
- All the major construction sectors are projected to experience growth over the 2021-2023 period, but a handful are likely to remain smaller in 2023 compared with their pre-pandemic levels in 2019 due to the depth of the decline in 2020 and/or the strength of recovery.
- The prospects for public housing have not changed substantively since the summer forecasts, with the recovery in the sector not strong enough to return it to pre-pandemic output levels by the end of the current forecast period. Output in the first half of this year has been 19% higher than in the corresponding period of 2020, but the differential is likely to narrow sharply in the second half.
- In purely growth terms, forecasts for private housing over the next three years are not much stronger than those for the public housing sector, but as the former saw a much shallower decline in 2020, it is expected to exceed its pre-pandemic output level by next year.
- The infrastructure sector saw the shallowest fall in output (5%) of any of the new work sectors in 2020 and with growth of 19% expected this year, it should exceed its pre-pandemic level and set a record high.
- Little has changed in forecasts for the public non-residential sector since the summer, except for a small uplift in the projected growth rate in 2022, with the level of new orders improving markedly in 2021Q2 on a four-quarter moving total basis. While growth in the sector over the next three years is expected to be at the lower end of the range across construction sectors, public non-residential output held up relatively well in 2020 and is predicted to exceed pre-pandemic levels in 2022.
- Overall, growth in commercial construction over the next three years is expected to be slightly stronger than predicted in the summer, with a slightly worse 2021 but a better 2022. However, the sector is still one of two, the other being public housing, where output in 2023 is projected to remain under 2019's level.
- There is not a great deal of difference between the expected performance of the repair & maintenance (R&M) and new work sectors over the next three years (annual average growth of 7.4% vs. 7.8%). However, the former experienced a significantly smaller fall in output in 2020 than the latter (10% vs.16%).

The **Construction Products Association** published their [Construction industry forecasts](#) for Autumn 2021 in October 2021.

- Construction output growth for 2021 has been revised up from 13.7% to 14.3% since previous forecasts, but growth for 2022 has been revised down from 6.3% to 4.8%.
- With more buoyant demand so far in 2021, supply chain constraints are expected to hinder growth over the remainder of the year and into 2022. There is doubt as to whether there is sufficient capacity in the construction supply chain to enable demand.
- Skills shortages, product availability and cost inflation, HGV driver shortages, the impacts of energy cost rises, and delays at ports are all expected to make up an unprecedented number of constraints on growth for the months ahead.
- Infrastructure output is forecast to rise by 23.9% in 2021 and by 9.7% in 2022. The infrastructure sector is expected to be the key driver of construction growth for the year ahead, driven by major projects such as the Thames Tideway Tunnel, Hinkley Point C and HS2.
- Output in private housing, the largest construction sector, is forecast to rise by 17.0% in 2021 and by 6.0% in 2022.

Manufacturing

The latest **Index of Production** data for August 2021 were [published](#) on 13th October 2021 by the Office for National Statistics.

Key points for the SIC 23.1-4/7-9 industry (includes the manufacture of bricks, tiles and other construction products):

- When comparing August 2021 with February 2020 (before the start of restrictions due to COVID-19), **output increased by 24.1%**
- When comparing August 2021 with August 2020, **output increased by 33.4%**
- When comparing August 2021 with July 2021, **output decreased by 1.8%**

Key points for the SIC 23.5-6 industry (includes the manufacture of concrete, cement and other products for construction purposes):

- When comparing August 2021 with February 2020 (before the start of restrictions due to COVID-19), **output decreased by 19.1%**
- When comparing August 2021 with August 2020, **output decreased by 13.5%**
- When comparing August 2021 with July 2021, **output decreased by 4.1%**

Accompanying tables

The most recently published data tables (available in Excel and ODS format) can be found on BEIS' *Building Materials and Components* [website](#). The list of tables is as follows:

- 1 Construction Material Price Indices
- 2 Price Indices of Construction Materials – monthly
- 3 Price Indices of Construction Materials – annual averages
- 4 Sales of Sand and Gravel in Great Britain (including seasonally adjusted sales)
- 5 Sales of Sand and Gravel by English Regions, Wales and Scotland
- 6 Sales of Sand and Gravel by English and Welsh Counties and Scottish Region
- 7 Slate: Production, Deliveries and Stocks
- 8 Cement and Clinker: Production, Deliveries and Stocks
- 9 Bricks: Production, Deliveries and Stocks for Great Britain (including seasonally adjusted deliveries)
- 10 Bricks: Production, Deliveries and Stocks by English Regions, Wales and Scotland (including seasonally adjusted deliveries)
- 11 Concrete Building Blocks: Production, Deliveries and Stocks for Great Britain
- 12 Concrete Building Blocks: Production, Deliveries and Stocks by English Regions, Wales and Scotland
- 13 Concrete Roofing Tiles and Ready-Mixed Concrete (including seasonally adjusted sales of ready-mixed concrete)
- 14 Value of Overseas Trade in Selected Materials and Components for Constructional Use: Imports (CIF) and Exports (FOB)
- 15 Value of EU and Non-EU Trade in Selected Materials and Components for Constructional Use: Imports (CIF) and Exports (FOB)

Accompanying tables with data relating to 2011 are accessible from [this](#) link.

Accompanying tables for 2005 - 2010 are accessible from [this](#) link.

Requests for older data should be sent to MaterialStats@beis.gov.uk.

Technical information

1. The Office of National Statistics (ONS) replaced the following price indices for construction materials from the November 2020 release of this publication (published on 4th December 2020) onwards; Sand & Gravel excluding/including levy, Crushed rock excluding/including levy, and Bituminous materials. This affects Tables 1, 2 and 3 in the bulletin and Table 1 in the commentary. Further information is provided in the footnotes of each table. A back series of both the previous and replacement indices was published alongside the November 2020 release of this publication.
2. In work done for the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) on improving the quality of statistics published in the Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, the Office for National Statistics' Methodology Advisory Service (MAS) recommended that BIS should start seasonally adjusting key data series (see [ONS/MAS review of building materials statistics: final report](#) for more detail). Seasonal adjustment is widely used in official statistics and aids data interpretation by removing effects associated with the time of the year or arrangement of the calendar. Seasonal effects often obscure features of interest in data, such as long-term trends and effects of unusual occurrences. By removing seasonal effects, users can more readily identify the features of interest.

Following advice from the MAS, and the results of a consultation (see the [results of the BIS consultation on seasonal adjustment](#) for more detail), BIS agreed to publish seasonally adjusted data for the following series:

- Sand and gravel, total sales
- Concrete blocks, all types deliveries
- Bricks, all types deliveries
- Ready-mixed concrete, deliveries

For initial publication of seasonally adjusted data, data from 1983 onwards was seasonally adjusted. Subsequently, for each monthly publication, data up to 12 months or 4 quarters prior to the new data point is revised. Upon the completion of each year's data series, data for the previous 12 years is revised. BEIS publishes both non-seasonally adjusted and seasonally adjusted data in the tables of this publication. From the June 2015 edition this publication has used seasonally adjusted data in the commentary for these series. The most recent annual review of seasonal adjustment was carried out in June 2021.

3. Quality issues related to the *Building Materials and Components* outputs are discussed in the review of the Building Material statistics that was carried out in 2010 by BIS's construction team. The review aimed to ascertain user needs, examine whether existing data collection methodologies are fit for purpose, estimate compliance costs, assess compliance with the Code of Practice and identify options for change.

The full [report](#) can be found on the BEIS *Building Materials and Components* webpage.

Detailed information on data suppliers, coverage and data collection methodology can be found in sections 2.1-2.10. Quality issues (coverage and accuracy of sample panels, response rates, survey results processing, disclosure etc.) and potential measures that could be employed to improve the quality of the statistics are discussed in section 2.11 of the

review. Users' views on the quality of the *Building Materials and Components* statistics are given in section 3.3.4. These are derived from a user survey carried out in early 2010, as part of the review (see section 3 for details).

4. Following the review, BIS acted on the recommendations including commissioning the Office for National Statistics Methodology Advisory Service (ONS/MAS) to address some of the recommendations from the 2010 review. In July 2011, MAS published their [interim report](#). In July 2012, MAS published their [final report](#).
5. HM Revenue and Customs use administrative sources to produce Overseas Trade Statistics. A [Statement of Administrative Sources](#) used to compile construction material trade statistics is available on the BEIS *Building Materials and Components* webpage. Separately, HM Revenue and Customs also have a [Statement of Administrative Sources](#) which covers Overseas Trade Statistics.
6. [The pre-announcement of any major changes to samples or methodology](#) also details some methodological changes to the collection of data.
7. The following table gives a summary of response rates related to some of the latest survey results. Where the response rate is less than 100%, estimates are made for missing values.

For latest data used	Bulletin table number	Response rate
Quarterly Sand and Gravel	4, 5 & 6	69%
Quarterly Sand and Gravel – Land Won	4, 5 & 6	67%
Quarterly Sand and Gravel – Marine Dredged	4, 5 & 6	82%
Quarterly Slate	7	89%
Quarterly Concrete Roofing Tiles	13	80%
Monthly Bricks Provisional data	9	100%
Monthly Bricks Final data	9 & 10	100%
Monthly Concrete Blocks	11 & 12	88%

Definitions

Production	Products completed and ready for dispatch
Deliveries	Sold products which have left the premises
Stocks	Manufacturer's stocks
CIF	Cost, insurance and freight (for more information on shipping terms, visit the HMRC website)
FOB	Free on-board (for more information on shipping terms, visit the HMRC website)
Sand and gravel - land won	Sand and gravel from pits and quarries, including that derived from beaches and rivers
Sand and gravel - marine dredged	Sand and gravel derived from seas and estuaries

Further information

Future updates to these statistics

The next publication in this series will be on 1st December 2021.

Related statistics

1. [Construction Statistics: Sources and Outputs](#) lists the known sources of information available on the construction industry and their outputs. These include information on employees, employment, enterprises, output and new orders in the construction industry as well as the contribution of the industry to the economy. Related information, for example housing, is also included.
2. The [Construction Statistics Annual](#) brings together a wide range of statistics currently available on the construction industry from a variety of sources and provides a broad perspective on statistical trends in the construction industry, with some international comparisons.
3. In its monthly **Index of Production (IoP)** [publication](#), the Office for National Statistics publishes Gross Value Added (seasonally adjusted, UK) data for the following two industries:
 - SIC 23.1-4/7-9 industry, which includes the manufacture of bricks, tiles and other construction products.
 - SIC 23.5-6 industry, which includes the manufacture of concrete, cement and other products for construction purposes.

These data are not directly comparable with the data in this bulletin, due to differences in coverage and methodology. They are nevertheless useful in illustrating the latest output trends of related construction materials as measured by the Office for National Statistics.

Revisions policy

1. Our [revisions policy](#) can be found on the BEIS Building Materials webpage.
2. [The pre-announcement of any major changes to samples or methodology](#) and [Summary of Revisions](#) give further information on revisions and other changes to data and can also be found on the BEIS Building Materials webpage.

Uses of these statistics

The *Building Materials and Components* statistics are used for a variety of purposes, including policy development and evaluation concerning the construction products industry, as well as monitoring market trends. In a wider context, the figures are regularly reported in the construction press to facilitate market analysis and business planning for its wide range of readers. The

statistics are also increasingly used by financial institutions for assessing market information and industry trends. For more information on the uses of the Building Materials statistics, their usefulness to users and users' views on the quality of these statistics, see Section 3 of the *Building Materials and Components* [review](#).

User engagement

Users are encouraged to provide comments and feedback on how these statistics are used and how well they meet user needs. Comments on any issues relating to this statistical release are welcomed and should be sent to: materialstats@beis.gov.uk

The Consultative Committee on Construction Industry Statistics (CCCIS) meets twice a year, chaired by BEIS, to discuss issues relating to the collection and dissemination of UK construction statistics. The CCCIS has a wide membership representing government, the construction industry and independent analysts. [Minutes of previous CCCIS meetings](#) are available from the BEIS building materials web page.

The BEIS statement on [statistical public engagement and data standards](#) sets out the department's commitments on public engagement and data standards as outlined by the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#).

National Statistics designation

National Statistics status means that our statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value, and it is our responsibility to maintain compliance with these standards.

The statistics last underwent a full [assessment](#) against the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#) in 2011.

Since the latest review by the Office for Statistics Regulation, we have continued to comply with the Code of Practice for Statistics, and have made the following improvements:

- carried out a public consultation and introduced publication of [seasonally adjusted](#) data on deliveries of sand and gravel, concrete blocks, bricks, and ready-mixed concrete
- in response to the cessation of DLUHC's (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, formerly MHCLG) Annual Minerals Raised Inquiry, which previously supplied the sampling frame for the land-won sand and gravel survey, we have:
 - changed the survey from sample survey to a census, increasing the panel from 200 sites to around 500 sites
 - refreshed the panel of sites annually using information from the British Geological Survey
 - made the survey statutory under the [Statistics of Trade Act 1947](#), bringing it into line with the marine-dredged sand and gravel survey
- improved the design of the [blocks survey](#), making it fully monthly instead of a mixture of monthly and quarterly data collection
- introduced the publication of the tables in an OpenDocument (ODS) spreadsheet, in addition to Microsoft Excel

- rebased all price indices series to 2015=100 in the November 2020 publication

Contact

- Responsible statistician: Amy Symes-Thompson
- Email: materialstats@beis.gov.uk
- Media enquiries: 020 7215 1000
- Public enquiries: +44 (0)207 215 6498



© Crown copyright 2021

This publication is licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0 except where otherwise stated. To view this licence, visit nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3 or write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

Where we have identified any third-party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

This publication is available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/building-materials-and-components-monthly-statistics-2012>

If you need a version of this document in a more accessible format, please email materialstats@beis.gov.uk. Please tell us what format you need. It will help us if you say what assistive technology you use.