



# Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components

## Commentary, August 2022

Coverage: UK and Great Britain

Geographical Area: Country, region and county

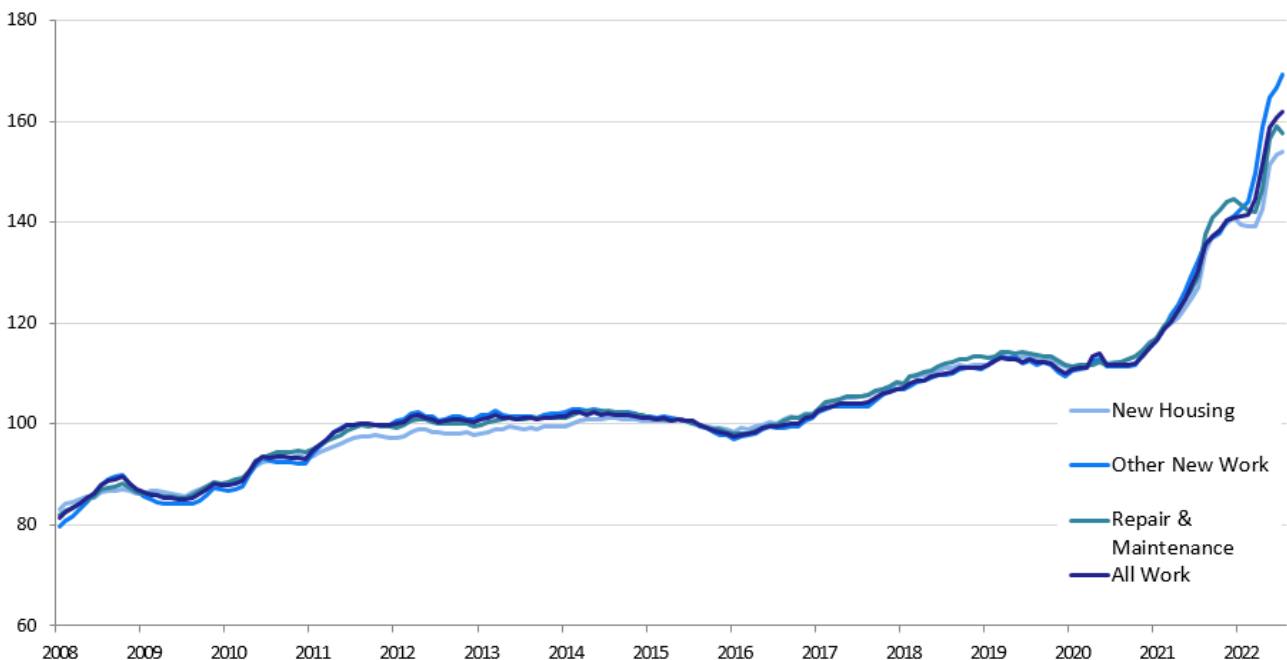
7 September 2022

National Statistics

### Headline Findings

- The material price index for **'All Work'** increased by **24.1%** in July 2022 compared to the same month the previous year.
- **Imports** of construction materials increased by £211 million in Quarter 2 2022 compared to the previous quarter, **an increase** of 3.5%.
- **Exports** of construction materials increased by £110 million in Quarter 2 2022 compared to the previous quarter, **an increase** of 5.6%.

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



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

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# Introduction

This commentary accompanies the latest Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components data tables, published on the BEIS building materials [web page](#) on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022. 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](#).

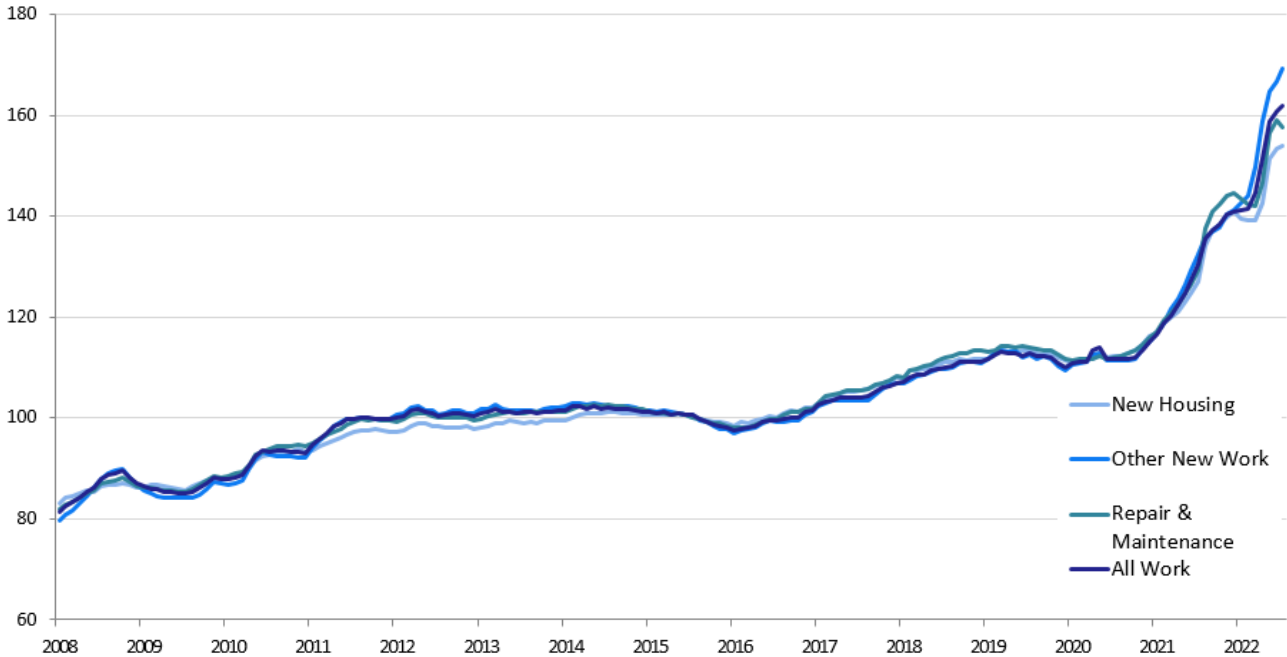
## Seasonal Adjustment Review

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 (July 2021 to July 2022)

New Housing	21.2%
Other New Work	27.7%
Repair & Maintenance	21.9%
All Work	24.1%

### Month-on-month change (June 2022 to July 2022)

New Housing	0.3%
Other New Work	1.4%
Repair & Maintenance	-1.0%
All Work	0.6%

- Looking at the longer-term change, the material price index for **'All Work'** increased by **24.1%** in July 2022 compared to the same month the previous year.
- From 1st April 2022 most users of red diesel have been taxed at the standard rate for diesel, following the removal of the entitlement to use red diesel and rebated biodiesel from most sectors. This will result in a small step change in the material price indices values. The Building Cost Information Service (BCIS) have published information describing the [changes and their impacts on price indices](#).

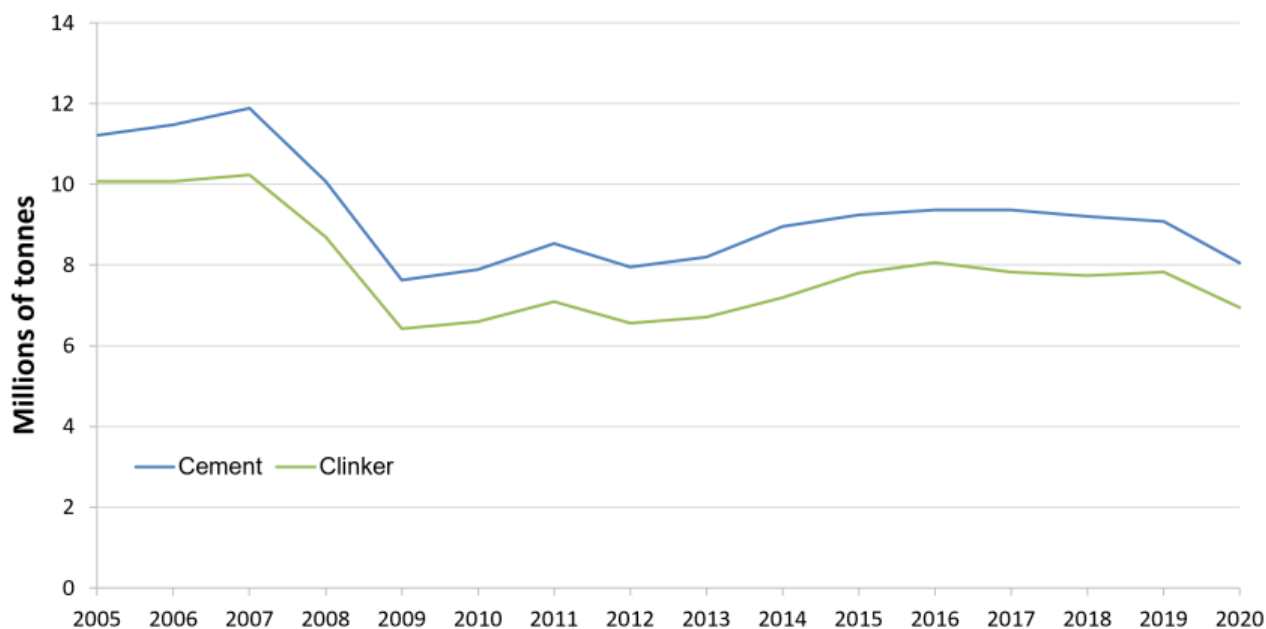
**Table 1: Construction materials experiencing the greatest price increases and decreases in the 12 months to July 2022, UK**

Construction Materials	Year-on-year % change	The aggregated construction material price index hides larger price movements for some specific products and materials. The three largest increases are presented here. Two items decreased in price in the 12 months to July 2022.
<b>Greatest price increases</b>		
Gravel, sand, clays & kaolin (including aggregate levy)	63.2	
Concrete reinforcing bars	37.8	
Gravel, sand, clays & kaolin (excluding aggregate levy)	32.4	
<b>Greatest price decreases</b>		
Imported plywood	-6.1	
Imported sawn or planed wood	-4.3	

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



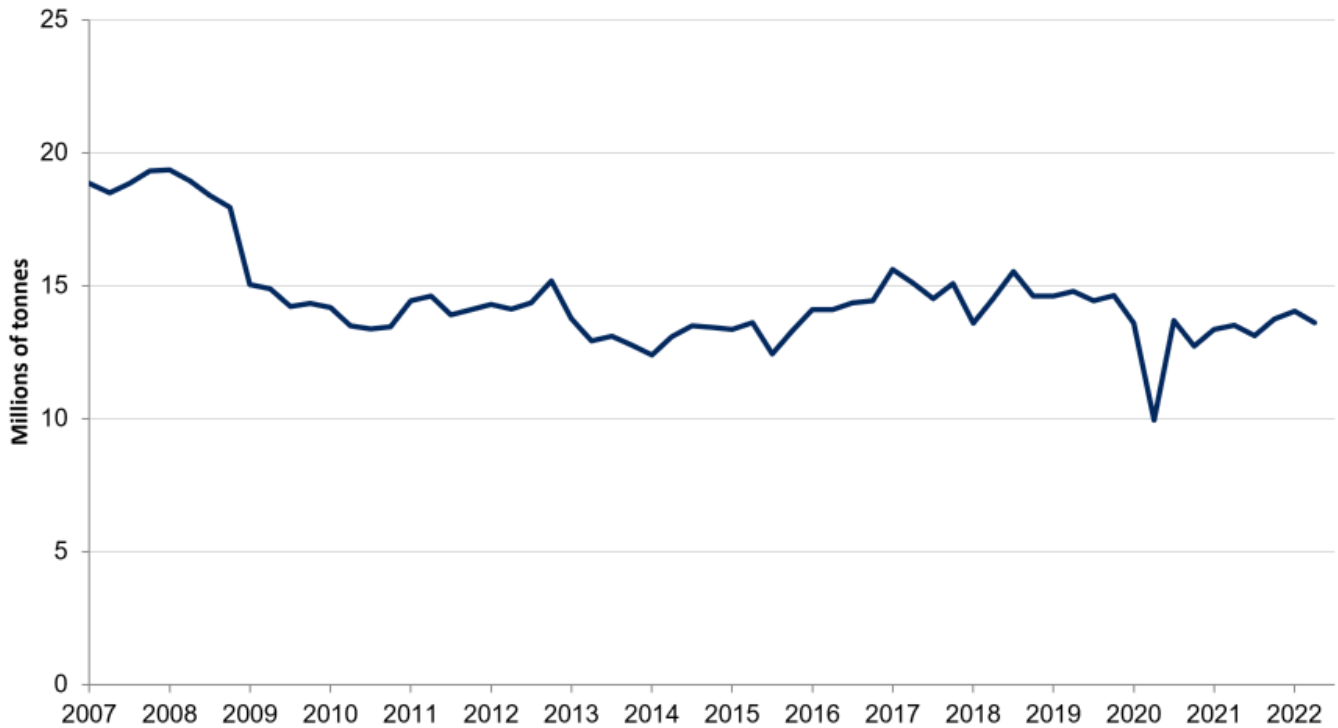
Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 8

- 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



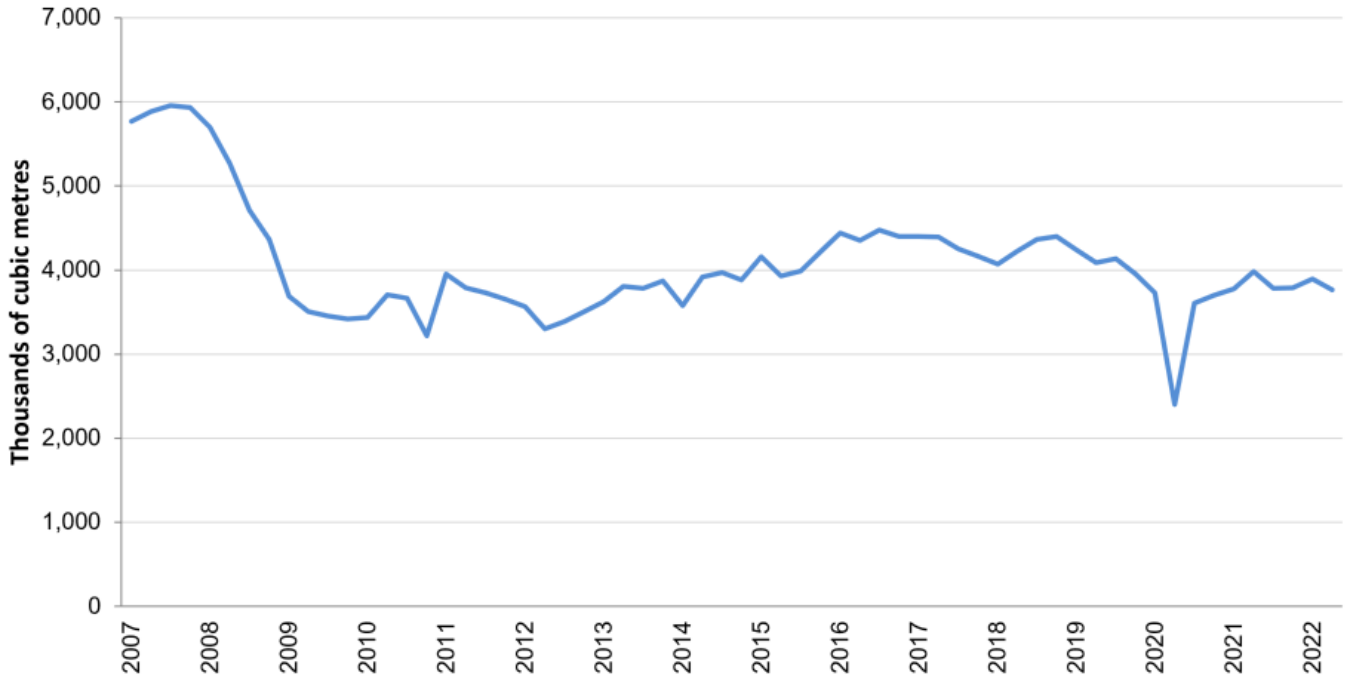
Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 4

- Sales of sand & gravel **decreased** by **3.2%** in Quarter 2 2022 compared to Quarter 1 2022, according to the seasonally adjusted data.
- This followed an increase of 2.2% in Quarter 1 2022.
- Comparing Quarter 2 2022 to Quarter 2 2021, sales have **decreased** by **0.6%**.
- 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



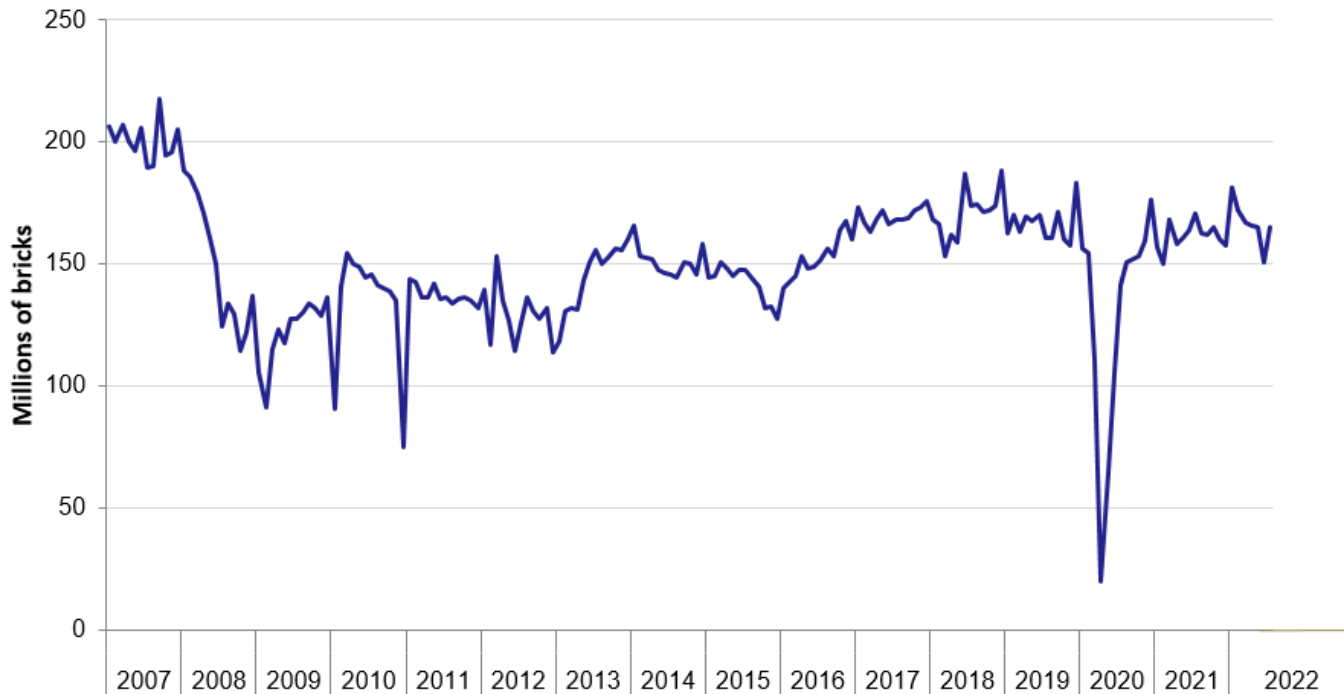
Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 13

- Ready-mixed concrete sales **decreased** by **3.3%** in Quarter 2 2022 compared to Quarter 1 2022, according to the seasonally adjusted data.
- This followed a 2.8% increase in Quarter 1 2022.
- Sales in Quarter 2 2022 **decreased** by **5.4%** compared to Quarter 2 2021.
- After the 2008 to 2009 recession, seasonally adjusted sales of ready-mixed concrete recovered steadily since Quarter 2 2012, until the 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*

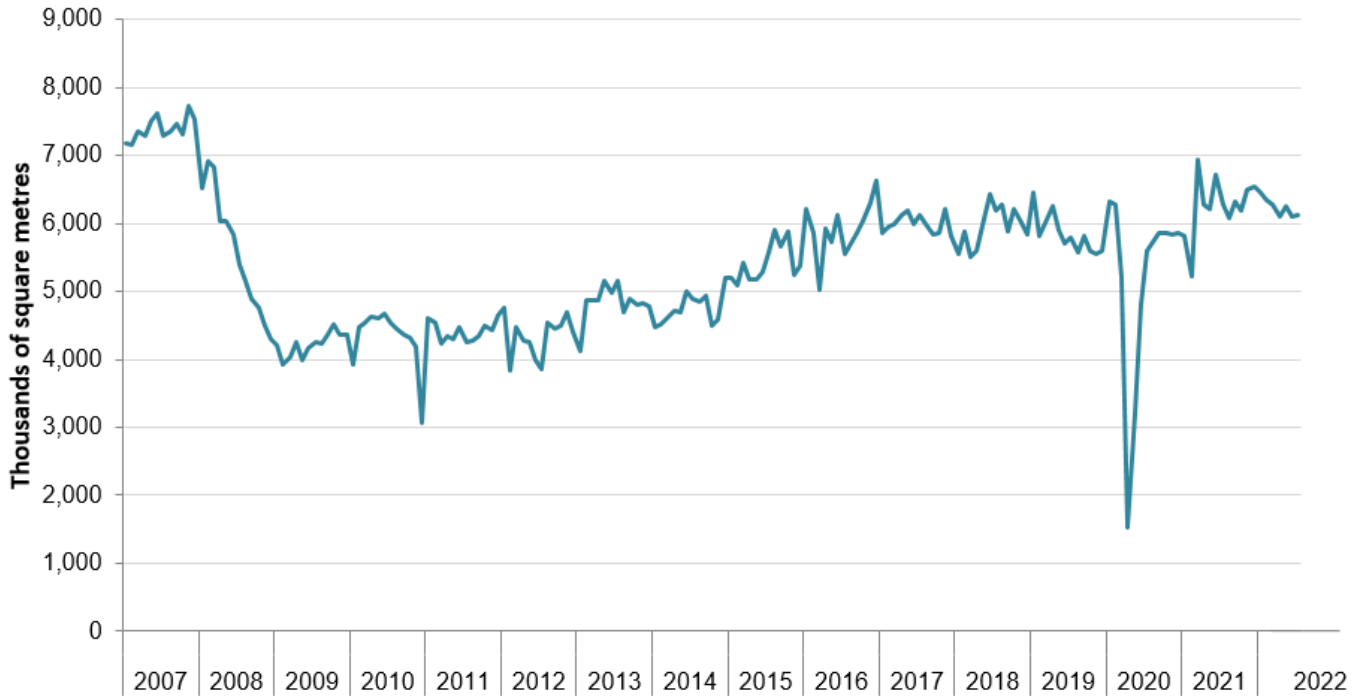
- There was a **1.9% decrease** in brick deliveries in July 2022 compared to July 2021, according to the seasonally adjusted figures.
- This followed an 8.1% decrease in June 2022, compared to June 2021.
- The month-on-month change shows a **9.8% increase** in July 2022.
- This followed an 9.5% decrease in June 2022, 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



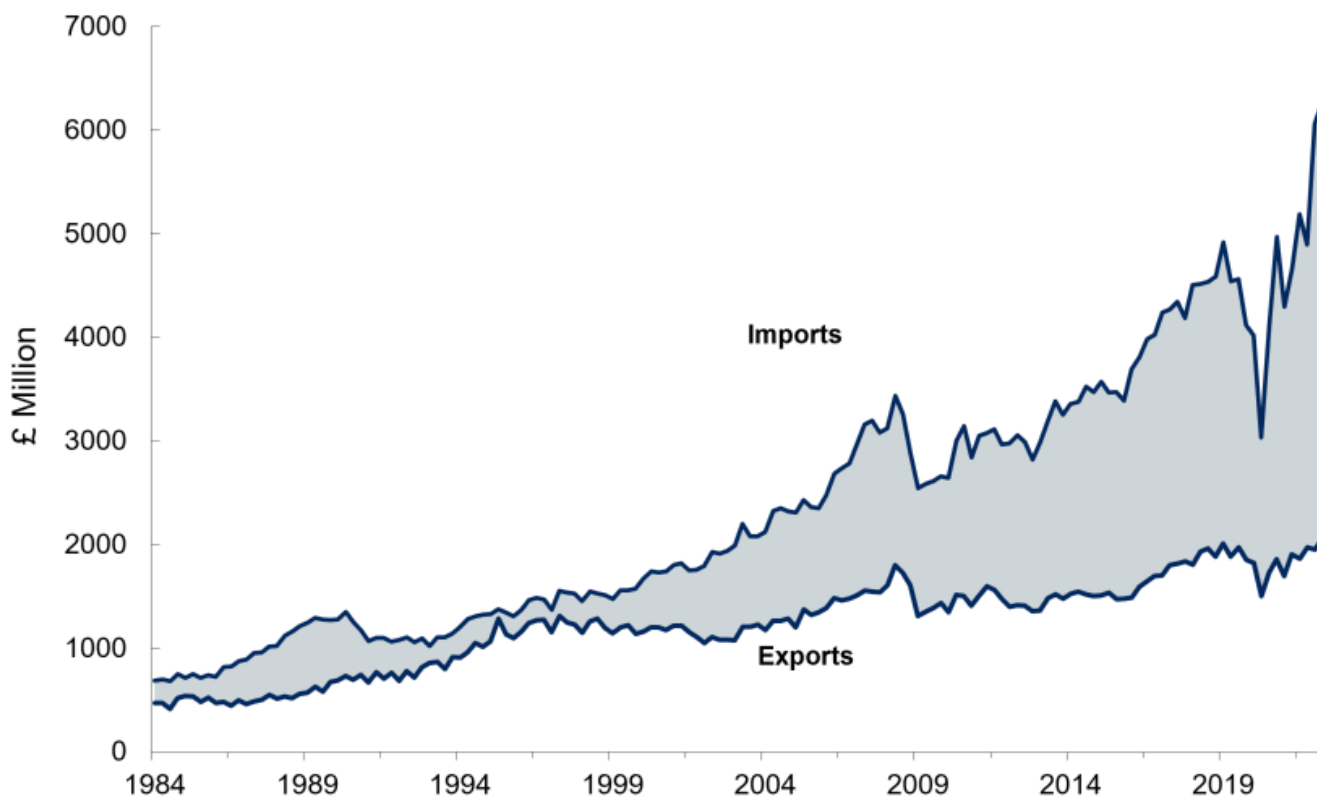
Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 11

- There was a **2.5% decrease** in concrete block deliveries in July 2022 compared to July 2021, according to the seasonally adjusted figures.
- This followed a 9.0% decrease in June 2022, compared to June 2021.
- The month-on-month change shows a **0.2% increase** in July 2022.
- This followed a 2.3% decrease in June 2022, 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 £211 million in Quarter 2 2022 compared to the previous quarter, **an increase** of 3.5%.
- **Exports** of construction materials **increased** by £110 million in Quarter 2 2022 compared to the previous quarter, **an increase** of 5.6%.
- As a result, between Quarter 1 2022 and Quarter 2 2022, the **quarterly trade deficit widened** by £101 million to £4,210 million, **an increase** of 2.5%.
- Over the whole of 2021, **imports** of construction materials **increased** by **17.9%** compared to 2020, from £16,144 million to £19,036 million.
- In the same period **exports increased** by **7.6%**, from £6,916 million to £7,439 million.
- In 2021, the **annual trade deficit widened** by £2,369 million to £11,597 million, **an increase** of 25.7%.
- Over the period from Quarter 1 1984 to Quarter 2 2022, construction materials imports have increased, on average (per quarter), by 5.3%. Over the same period, exports increased by an average of 2.2% 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 1 2022, the trade deficit is £4,117 million, 68% of the value of imports.

- As of January 2022, goods imports from EU to GB are being collected using custom declarations (as with UK imports from rest of the world) rather than using the Intrastat survey. We advise caution when interpreting 2022 EU imports compared with earlier periods. The change marks an improvement in coverage, as trade below the Intrastat value threshold (estimated at around 7% of trade by value) is now included (previously estimated). Additionally, customs declarations include trade by non-VAT-registered businesses, private individuals, and parcel post, which was not previously captured. Goods imports from EU to Northern Ireland continue to be collected using the Intrastat survey.
- For more information on the 2022 changes to data collection methods, see the following three pages: [i\) release from HMRC](#), [ii\) article from ONS](#), [iii\) blog post from ONS](#).

**Table 2: Top-5 Exported and Imported Construction Materials in 2021**

<b>Top-5 Exported Materials</b>	<i>£ million</i>	<b>Top-5 Imported Materials</b>	<i>£ million</i>	
Electrical Wires	906	Electrical Wires	2,267	The top five exported materials in 2021 accounted for 37% of total construction material exports.  The top five imported construction materials in 2021 accounted for 32% of total construction material imports.
Paints & Varnishes	768	Sawn Wood > 6mm thick	1,463	
Air Conditioning Equipment	390	Lamps & Fittings	1,041	
Plastic Pipes	346	Air Conditioning Equipment	693	
Lamps & Fittings	317	Linoleum floors and coverings	634	

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

**Table 3: UK Trade of Construction Materials with EU and Non-EU Countries, 2021**

<i>£ million (% of total trade in italics)</i>	EU	Non-EU	
Imports	9,828 <i>52%</i>	9,208 <i>48%</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%.
Exports	4,295 <i>58%</i>	3,144 <i>42%</i>	

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

**Table 4: Top 5 UK Export and Import Markets for Construction Materials in 2021**

Top-5 Export Markets		Top-5 Import Markets	
	£ million		£ million
Republic of Ireland	1,215	China	4,295
USA	731	Germany	1,990
Germany	648	Turkey	1,095
Netherlands	644	Italy	975
France	572	Spain	823

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 five export markets comprised 51% of total construction materials exports in 2021. The Republic of Ireland remains the largest market, despite having shrunk from a pre-recession peak of 27% of total exports in 2007, to 16% in 2021.

The top five import markets comprised 48% of total construction materials imports in 2021. Around 23% 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 25 August 2022, which was live for the period from 8 August 2022 to 21 August 2022.

#### Key points:

- Weighted by count, between 1 July and 31 July, 16.5% of construction firms currently trading reported that turnover had decreased in July 2022, 56.0% reported turnover had stayed the same and 11.3% that it had increased. The corresponding all-industry averages were 23.6%, 52.6% and 13.7%.
- Weighted by count, between 1 and 31 July, 8.7% of construction firms currently trading expected turnover to decrease in September 2022, 57.1% expected turnover to stay the same and 14.1% that it would increase. The corresponding all-industry averages were 15.6%, 55.4% and 14.7%.
- Weighted by count, between 1 and 31 July, 55.3% of construction firms currently trading reported that the price of goods or services bought had increased in July and 26.1% that the price of good sold had increased. The corresponding all-industry averages were 45.6% and 22.5%.
- Weighted by count, between 8 and 21 August, 9.3% of construction firms that had not permanently stopped trading reported a severe or moderate risk of becoming insolvent, 32.0% reported a low risk and 43.1% a moderate risk. The corresponding all-industry averages were 10.6%, 38.6% and 37.4%.

## Construction Output

The **Office for National Statistics** published estimates of construction output for [June 2022 and Construction Output Price Indices for Quarter 2 2022](#) on 12 August 2022:

### *Key points:*

- Monthly construction output decreased 1.4% in volume terms in June 2022, following an upwardly revised 1.8% increase in May 2022, with both months affected by the timing of the Jubilee bank holiday; this is the first decrease since October 2021 (0.9%) following seven consecutive months of growth.
- The decrease in monthly construction output in June 2022 came from falls in both new work (2.0%) and repair and maintenance (0.2%).
- At the sector level, the main contributors to the decrease in June 2022 were private new housing and private commercial new work, which decreased 6.1% and 4.5%, respectively.
- The level of construction output in June 2022 was 2.9% (£414 million) above the February 2020 pre-coronavirus pandemic level; repair and maintenance work was 12.6% (£626 million) above the February 2020 level while new work was 2.2% (£212 million) below its February 2020 level.
- Despite the monthly decrease, construction output increased 2.3% in Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2022, with increases seen in both new work and repair and maintenance (3.3% and 0.8%, respectively).
- Total construction new orders decreased 10.4% (£1,355 million) in Quarter 2 2022 compared with Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2022; this is the largest quarterly fall in construction new orders since Quarter 4 (Oct to Dec) 2020 (11.7%).
- The annual rate of construction output price growth was 9.6% in the 12 months to June 2022; this was the strongest annual rate of price growth since records began in 2014.

## Bank of England Summary of Business Conditions

The **Bank of England** published its most recent update to the [Agents' Summary of Business Conditions](#) on 16 June 2022, covering intelligence gathered mostly between mid-April and late May 2021.

### *Key points:*

- Construction output growth weakened modestly as rising materials costs and labour shortages caused projects to be delayed or cancelled.
- Delays and cancellations were most commonly reported for commercial projects; contacts said housebuilding activity was also held back by planning delays.
- By contrast, construction of public and private infrastructure, and health and education projects had been less impacted. Demand for the construction or refurbishment of office space also remained robust, supported by demand for premises that meet environmental requirements and are suitable for hybrid working. Construction of warehousing and data centres also remained strong.

- Contacts expected the pipeline of construction projects to slow as cost increases result in more projects being put on hold. And many expected rising costs and squeezed household budgets to weigh on demand for new homes and home improvements this year and next.

## Gross Domestic Product Estimate

The **Office for National Statistics** published estimates of GDP for [June 2022](#) and for [Quarter 2 2022](#) on 12 August 2022:

### *Key points:*

#### June 2022 GDP

- Gross domestic product (GDP) fell by 0.6% in June 2022, after growth of 0.4% in May 2022 (revised down from 0.5%) and was up 1.9% in the 12 months to June 2022.
- The Platinum Jubilee, and the move of the May bank holiday, led to an additional working day in May 2022 and two fewer working days in June 2022. This should be considered when interpreting the seasonally adjusted movements involving May and June 2022.
- Services fell by 0.5% in June 2022 and was the main driver of the fall in GDP. A decline in human health activities was the largest contributor as test and trace activity reduced further and vaccinations continued to tail off, following the spring booster campaign.
- Production fell by 0.9% in June 2022, following an increase of 1.3% in May. This was mainly because of a fall of 1.6% in manufacturing following strong growth in May 2022.
- Construction also fell by 1.4% in June 2022, following seven consecutive months of growth.

#### Quarter 2 2022 GDP

- UK gross domestic product (GDP) is estimated to have fallen by 0.1% in Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2022, based on the first estimate.
- In output terms, services fell by 0.4% in Quarter 2 2022 with the largest negative contribution from human health and social work activities, reflecting a reduction in coronavirus (COVID-19) activities.
- There were positive contributions from consumer-facing services, such as other service activities (travel agencies and tour operators did particularly well as COVID-19 restrictions eased on the tourism industry), accommodation and food service activities, and arts, entertainment and recreation activities.
- There was a 0.2% decrease in real household consumption in Quarter 2 2022, offset by a positive contribution from net trade; however, ONS continue to advise caution because of recent changes in data collection affecting the EU trade flows.
- Compared with the same quarter a year ago, the implied GDP deflator rose by 6.0%, primarily reflecting the 7.3% increase in the price of household consumption expenditure, which is the fastest annual household deflator growth rate since 1991.

## Gross Domestic Product Forecast

The latest monthly **Consensus Economics** [forecast survey](#) (which uses an average of private sector forecasts) results were published in July 2022.

### *Key points:*

- The mean GDP forecast for 2022 is 3.4% up from 3.3% in the previous month's survey.

- The mean GDP growth forecast for 2023 is 0.1%, down from 0.5% in the previous month's survey.

The **Office for Budget Responsibility** published a new [Economic and Fiscal Outlook](#) on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2022.

- GDP is expected to grow by 3.8% in 2022 (down from 6.0% in the previous forecast) and by 1.8% in 2023 (down from 2.1% in the previous forecast).

## Construction Output Forecasts

**Experian** published their Summer 2022 [forecasts](#) for the construction sector in July 2022.

*Key points:*

- Total construction output in 2021 reached £169.6 billion (2019 prices), a close to 13% increase on the previous year, regaining most of the ground lost during the worst of the pandemic. The industry started 2022 well, with output up 8% in real terms in the first two months compared with the same period of 2021. Growth will slow, but the prognosis is one of expansion over the forecast period, averaging 3.7% a year. This would take output to £189.4 billion in 2024, over 7% above its pre-pandemic level in 2019.
- Total construction output rose by nearly 13% in 2021, recovering most, but not all, of the ground lost during the height of the pandemic in 2020. Expansion has continued into the first four months of this year, with output reaching £59.37bn (2019 prices, seasonally adjusted), 6.5% up on the corresponding period of 2021. The only sectors not to experience growth over this period are the public non-residential and private commercial ones. Expansion is expected to slow somewhat during the remainder of the year but growth for total construction output is still projected to come in at over 5% in 2022.
- Despite anaemic GDP forecasts for 2023 and 2024, construction output is predicted to grow at a reasonable rate, of 3.3% in the former year and 2.7% in the latter one. The only sector not forecast to see expansion over the two-year period is the public housing one. The projections for the whole of the forecast period are similar to those made in the spring, but lower than the winter forecasts, due to unforeseen external factors, such as the conflict in Ukraine.
- Growth in new work is forecast at 6.1% in 2022 and 3.2% in 2023, down from 11.3% growth in 2021. The housing sector is forecast to grow by 3.3% in 2022 and 1.9% the following year. Growth in the non-residential building sector is forecast to be 9.6% in 2022 and 5.3% in 2023.
- Repair and maintenance (R&M) is forecast to grow by 3.7 in 2022 and 3.5% in 2023, down from 15.7% last year.

The **Construction Products Association** published their [Construction industry forecasts](#) for Summer 2022 in July 2022.

- Construction output is forecast to rise by 2.5% in 2022 and 1.6% in 2023. According to the latest CPA construction forecasts as strong growth in warehouses and infrastructure offsets, a slowdown in private housing and a fall in private housing repair, maintenance and improvement (rm&i) from historic high levels.

- The industrial sector, which covers activity on warehouses and factories, is forecast to be the fastest growing sector in the next two years. Output is forecast to rise by 15.0% in 2022 and 9.8% in 2023, as activity continues to be boosted by the strength of online retailing as well as manufacturers' need for increased stocks given the persistence of supply chain issues over the last two years.
- Infrastructure, the second largest construction sector, will also be a key driver of growth with output expected to rise by 8.5% this year and 3.8% in 2023. Long-term pipelines of work in regulated sectors such as roads, rail, water and electricity will drive growth. This is boosted further by major projects such as HS2, Thames Tideway Tunnel, and Hinkley Point C despite ongoing delays and cost overruns. However, medium-term, local infrastructure is likely to suffer from councils being financially constrained. Central government projects will also be affected as there will be no further finance beyond November 2021's Spending Review. This is despite an ambitious infrastructure pipeline and strong cost inflation.
- Private housing remains cautiously optimistic as annual house price growth continues at double-digit rates and major house builders continue to stress the strength of the market. However, with the UK economy expected to contract in 2022 Q4, there remains uncertainty regarding how long housing can remain buoyant. The CPA anticipates that UK annual house price inflation will slow to 6.0% later this year and 2.5% in 2023 - as lower housing demand is partially offset by a lower supply of homes on to the market unless unemployment rises significantly and increases the number of forced sellers onto the market, suppressing house prices. Near-term concerns for major house builders focus on mortgage availability after the end of Help to Buy in March 2023. Other key issues for houses include planning and rising costs of materials, labour and meeting the new Building Regulations. Private housing output is forecast to rise by 1.0% in 2022 and remain flat in 2023. However, if house price inflation continues to surprise on the optimistic side and demand is enabled by high mortgage availability, risks may be skewed towards the positive.
- Private housing rm&i - the third largest construction sector - has been a key driver of activity over the last two years due to the 'race for space.' Output is currently 20% higher than pre-pandemic but firms report that smaller, discretionary spending on improvements activity is already falling away, albeit, from a historically high level. Private housing rm&i is the sector most exposed to changes in consumer confidence and real incomes. It is also the sector that is most exposed to materials and products cost inflation, as small contractors are less able to plan and purchase in advance for projects. Overall, output is expected to fall by 3.0% this year and a further 4.0% next year. However, given that activity in the sector reached historic highs in early 2022, the sector has the potential for falling even harder than forecast. This is dependent on the extent to which falling consumer confidence translates into households' reduced investment in their own homes and the risks are to the downside.

## Manufacturing

The latest **Index of Production** data for May 2022 were [published](#) on 12 August 2022 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 June 2022 with June 2021, **output decreased by 3.4%**
- When comparing June 2022 with May 2022, **output decreased by 7.4%**

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



- When comparing June 2022 with June 2021, **output increased by 6.3%**
- When comparing June 2022 with May 2022, **output decreased by 5.6%**

## 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)

Past editions of the statistics from [2005 to 2010](#), [2011](#) and [2012 onwards](#) can be found at the National Archives website.

Requests for older data should be sent to [MaterialStats@beis.gov.uk](mailto: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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 August 2022.

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	76%
Quarterly Sand and Gravel – Land Won	4, 5 & 6	75%
Quarterly Sand and Gravel – Marine Dredged	4, 5 & 6	94%
Quarterly Slate	7	89%
Quarterly Concrete Roofing Tiles	13	60%
Monthly Bricks Provisional data	9	98%
Monthly Bricks Final data	9 & 10	98%
Monthly Concrete Blocks	11 & 12	85%

## Definitions

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

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## Further information

### Future updates to these statistics

The next publication in this series will be on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

### 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](mailto: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

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