



Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components

Commentary, November 2022

Coverage: UK and Great Britain

Geographical Area: Country, region and county

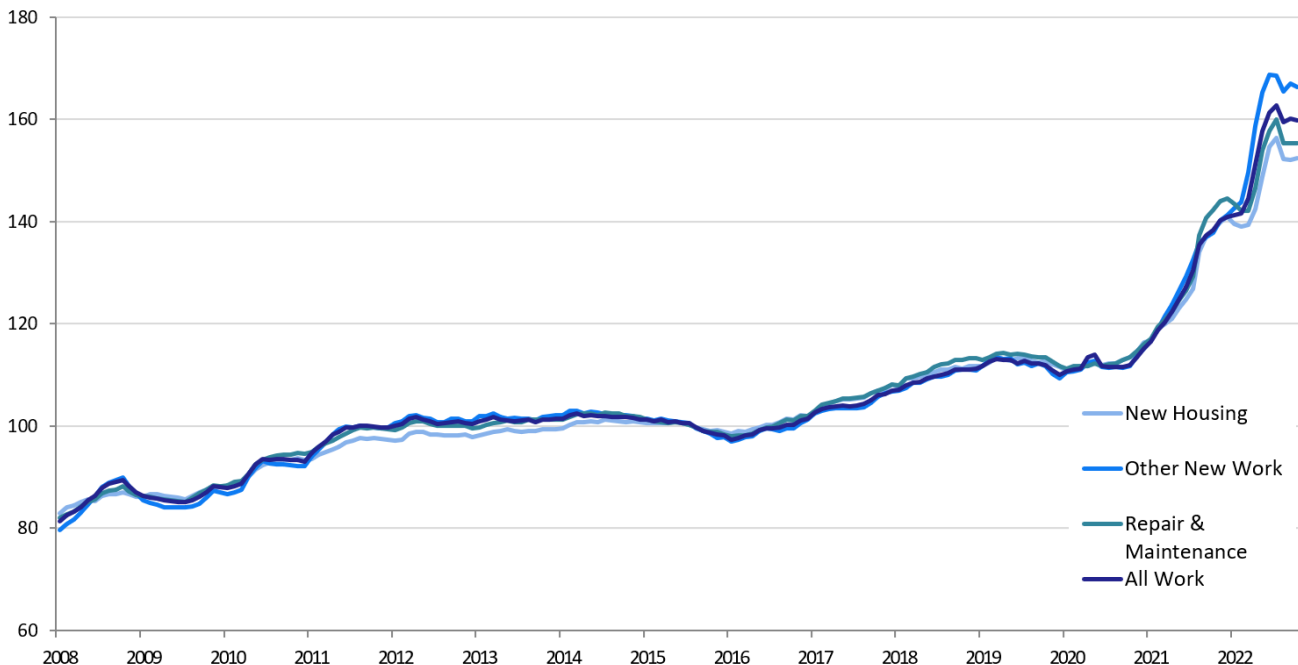
7 December 2022

National Statistics

Headline Findings

- The material price index for **'All Work'** increased by **15.5%** in October 2022 compared to the same month the previous year.
- **Imports** of construction materials **decreased by £514 million** in Quarter 3 2022 compared to the previous quarter, a decrease of **8.2%**.
- **Exports** of construction materials **increased by £26 million** in Quarter 3 2022 compared to the previous quarter, an increase of **1.2%**.

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	13
Bank of England Summary of Business Conditions	13
Gross Domestic Product Estimate	14
Gross Domestic Product Forecast	14
Construction Output Forecasts	15
Manufacturing	16
Accompanying tables	17
Technical information	18
Definitions	20
Further information	20
Future updates to these statistics	20
Related statistics	20
Revisions policy	21
Uses of these statistics	21
User engagement	21
National Statistics designation	21
Contact	22

Introduction

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

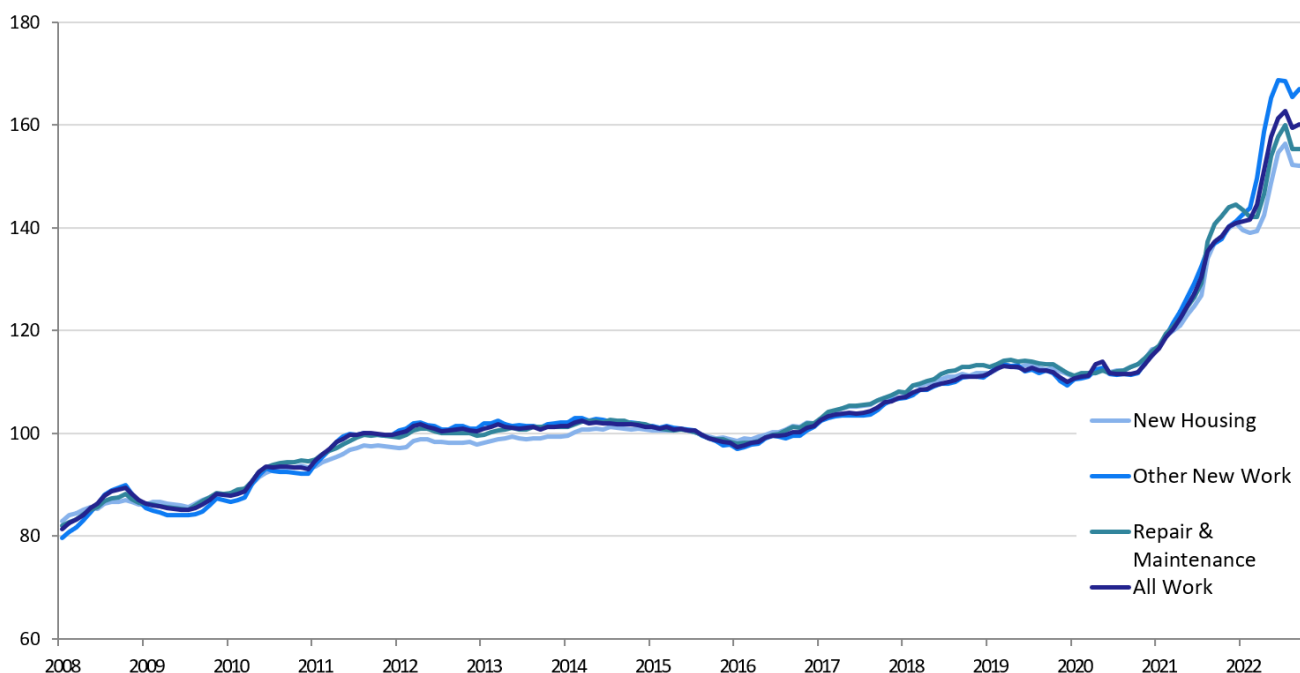
Seasonal Adjustment Review

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
(October 2021 to October 2022)**

New Housing	10.1%
Other New Work	20.6%
Repair & Maintenance	9.2%
All Work	15.5%

**Month-on-month change
(September 2022 to October 2022)**

New Housing	0.2%
Other New Work	-0.4%
Repair & Maintenance	0.0%
All Work	-0.2%

- Looking at the longer-term change, the material price index for **'All Work'** increased by **15.5%** in October 2022 compared to the same month the previous year.
- From October 2022, the [Building cost information service](#) have implemented changes in the method used to calculate provisional price material price indices, bringing them more in line with the calculation of firm indices. The changes only affect provisional indices, so there have been no revisions to previously published data. The method used to calculate the firm indices remains unaltered.

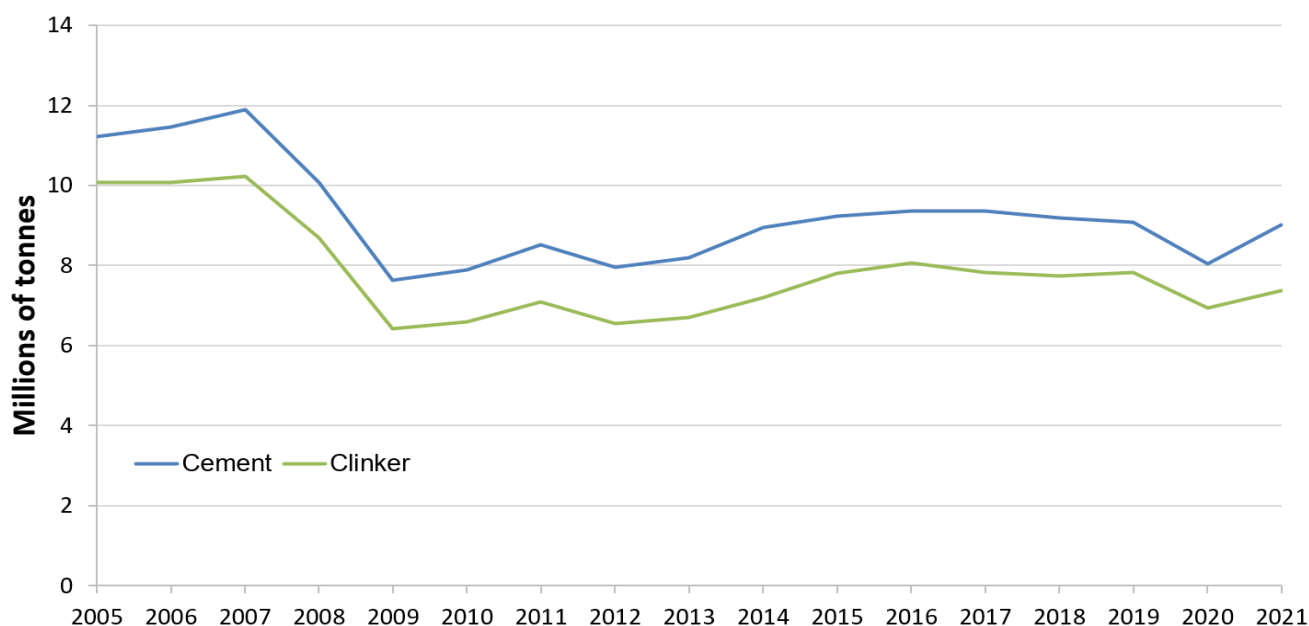
Table 1: Construction materials experiencing the greatest price increases and decreases in the 12 months to September 2022, UK

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 and the two decreases are presented here.
Greatest price increases		
Gravel, sand, clays & kaolin (including aggregate levy)	56.7	
Insulating materials (thermal or acoustic)	51.2	
Gravel, sand, clays & kaolin (excluding aggregate levy)	31.0	
Greatest price decreases		
Imported sawn or planed wood	-19.9	
Particle board	-9.7	

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



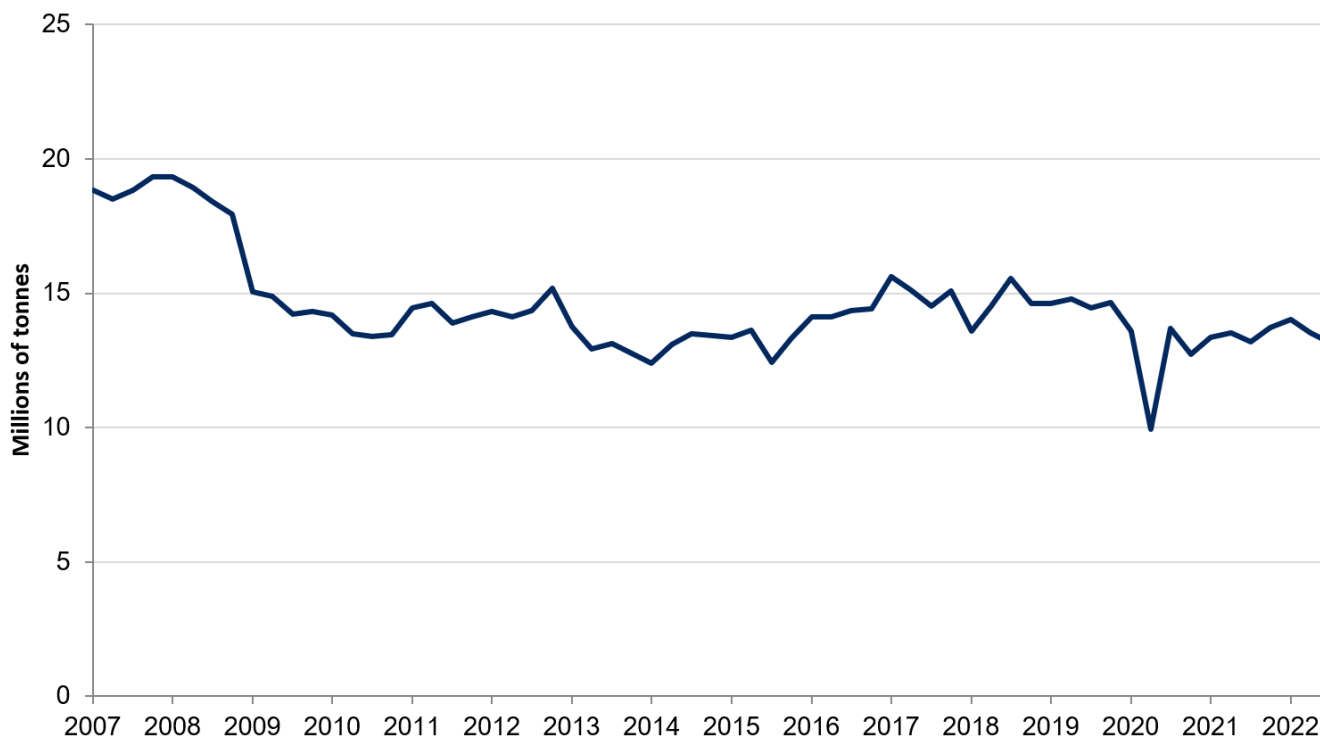
Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 8

- Cement production rose by 12% to 9.0 million tonnes in 2021, compared to 8.0 million tonnes the previous year. This follows a fall of 11.4% in 2020. In 2007, prior to the recession of 2008 - 2009 production stood at at 11.9 million tonnes.
- Production of clinker rose by 6.1% to 7.4 million tonnes in 2020, compared to 6.9 million tonnes the previous year. This follows a decline of 11.4% in 2019. In 2007, prior to the 2008 - 2009 recession production stood at 10.2 million tonnes.

Sand & Gravel

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

Weight of sand & gravel



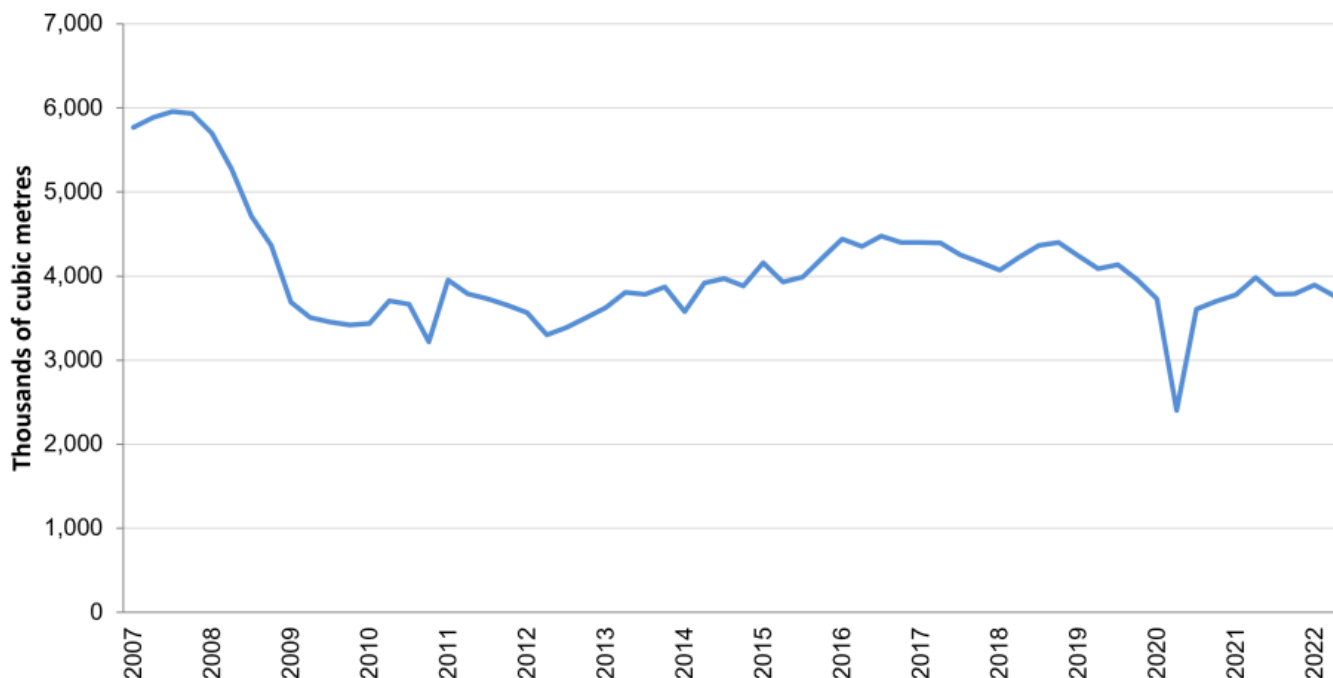
Source: *Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 4*

- Sales of sand & gravel **decreased** by **2.8%** in Quarter 3 2022 compared to Quarter 2 2022, according to the seasonally adjusted data.
- This followed a decrease of 3.6% in Quarter 2 2022.
- Comparing Quarter 3 2022 to Quarter 3 2021, sales have **decreased** by **0.4%**.
- 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



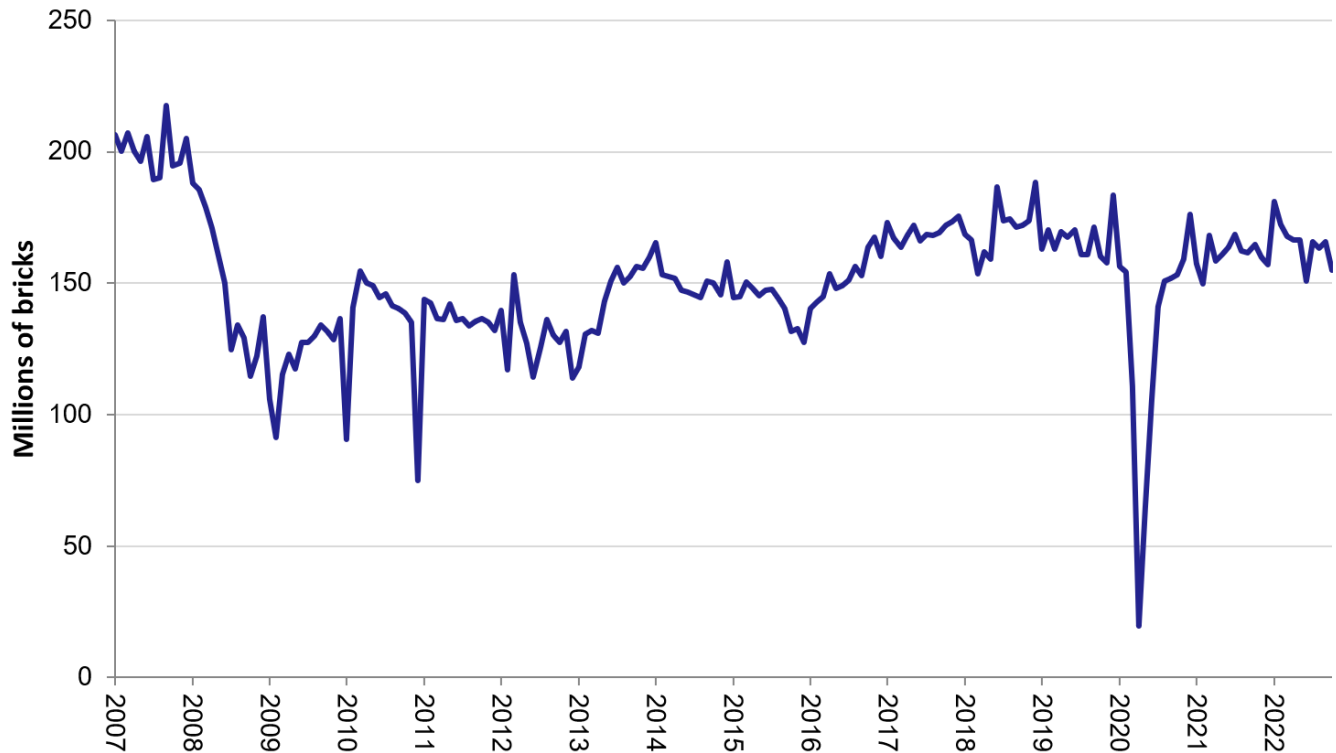
Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 13

- 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



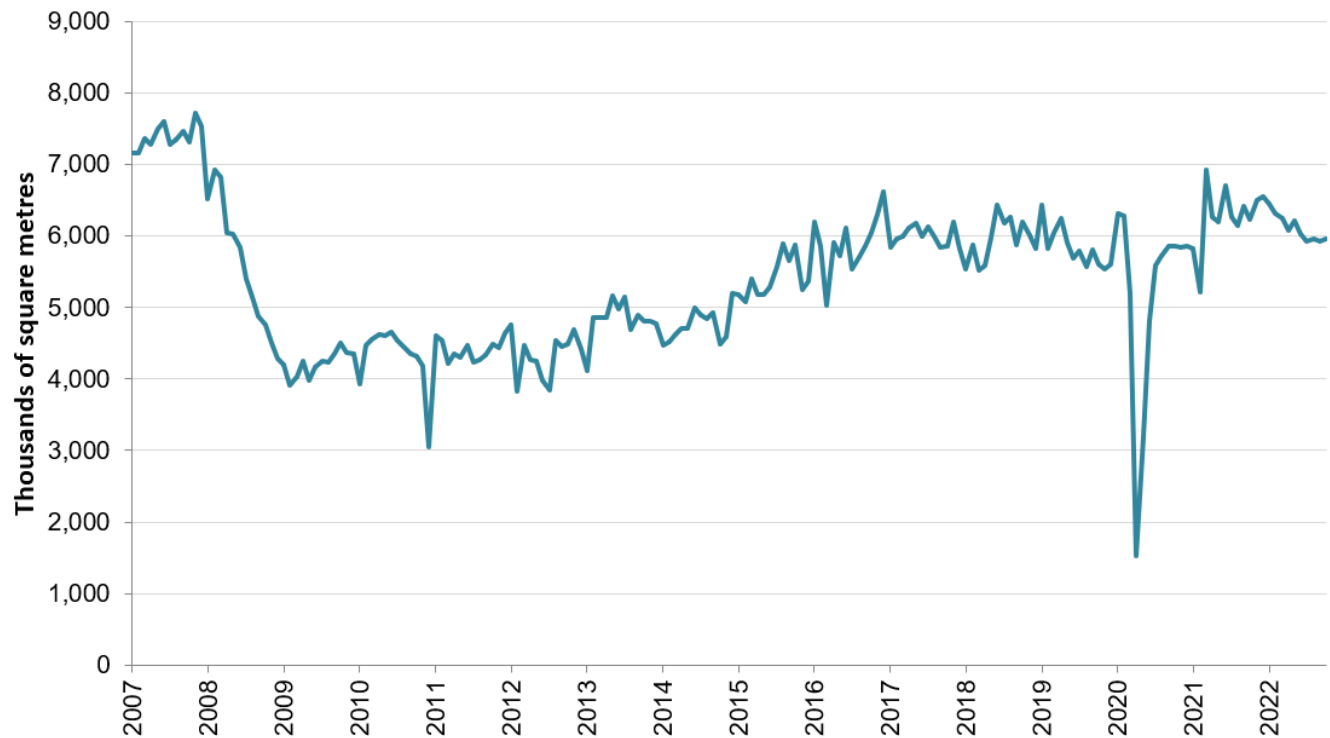
Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 9

- There was a **7.3% decrease** in brick deliveries in October 2022 compared to October 2021, according to the seasonally adjusted figures.
- This followed an 1.6% increase in September 2022, compared to September 2021.
- The month-on-month change shows a **5.8% decrease** in October 2022.
- This followed a 1.3% increase in August 2022, on the same basis.
- Deliveries of bricks declined during the recession of 2008 to 2009. They have recovered slowly since 2013, until the plunge in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Blocks

Chart 7: Seasonally Adjusted Deliveries of Concrete Blocks, GB

Area of concrete blocks



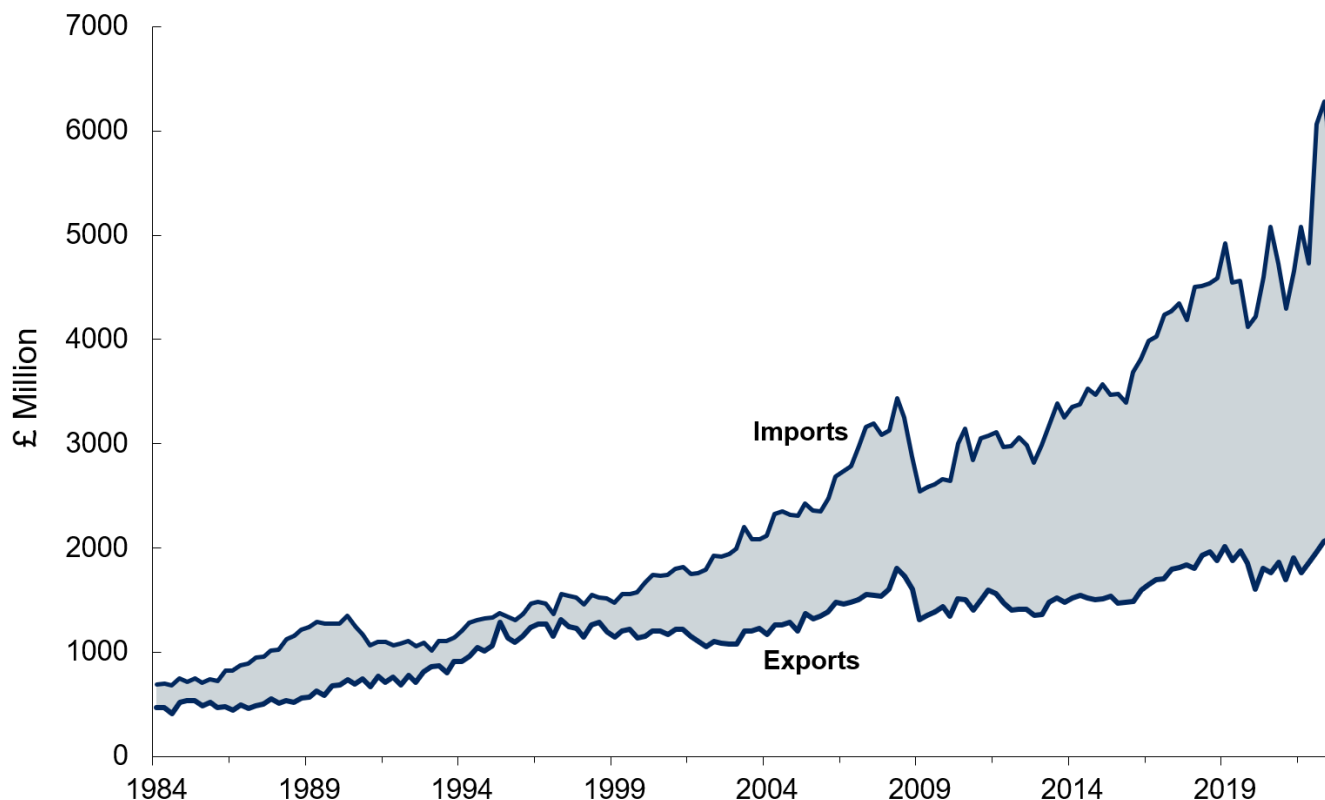
Source: *Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 11*

- There was a **4.4% decrease** in concrete block deliveries in October 2022 compared to October 2021, according to the seasonally adjusted figures.
- This followed a 7.7% decrease in September 2022, compared to September 2021.
- The month-on-month change shows a **0.6% increase** in October 2022.
- This followed a 0.6% decrease in September 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 **decreased** by £514 million in Quarter 3 2022 compared to the previous quarter, a **decrease** of 8.2%.
- **Exports** of construction materials **increased** by £26 million in Quarter 3 2022 compared to the previous quarter, an **increase** of 1.2%.
- As a result, between Quarter 2 2022 and Quarter 3 2022, the **quarterly trade deficit decreased** by £540 million to £3,674 million, a **decrease** of 12.8%.
- Over the whole of 2021, **imports** of construction materials **increased** by **15.3%** compared to 2020, from £16,144 million to £18,621 million.
- In the same period **exports increased** by **1.6%**, from £6,916 million to £7,029 million.
- In 2021, the **annual trade deficit widened** by £2,363 million to £11,592 million, an **increase** of 25.6%.
- Over the period from Quarter 1 1984 to Quarter 3 2022, construction materials imports have increased, on average (per quarter), by 4.8%. 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 3 2022, the trade deficit is £3,674 million, 64% 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 four pages: [i\) methodology release from HMRC](#), [ii\) impact of changes from HMRC](#), [iii\) article from ONS](#), [iv\) blog post from ONS](#).

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

Top-5 Exported Materials	<i>£ million</i>	Top-5 Imported Materials	<i>£ million</i>	
Electrical Wires	907	Electrical Wires	2,341	The top five exported materials in 2021 accounted for 39% of total construction material exports.
Paints & Varnishes	768	Sawn Wood > 6mm thick	1,541	
Air Conditioning Equipment	388	Air Conditioning Equipment	1,041	The top five imported construction materials in 2021 accounted for 32% of total construction material imports.
Plastic Pipes	346	Linoleum Floor Coverings	672	
Lamps & Fittings	314	Central Heating Boilers	577	

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	10,466 <i>56%</i>	8,155 <i>44%</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 57%.
Exports	4,026 <i>57%</i>	3,004 <i>43%</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
Ireland	1,123	China	3,296
USA	695	Germany	2,141
Germany	623	Turkey	1,098
Netherlands	617	Italy	1,087
France	533	Spain	921

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. 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 46% of total construction materials imports in 2021. Around 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 1 December 2022, which was live from 14 November to 27 November 2022.

Key points:

- Weighted by count, between 1 and 31 October, 12.2% of construction firms not permanently stopped trading reported that the business was affected by industrial action in October 2022, whilst 47.6% reported not being affected. The corresponding all-industry averages were 12.5%, and 46.3%.
- Weighted by count, between 1 and 31 October, 16.6% of construction firms not permanently stopped trading with 10 or more employees reported their employees' hourly wages had increased in October 2022, whilst 77.5% reported that employees' hourly wages stayed the same. The all-industry averages were 17.4% and 75.1% respectively.
- Weighted by count, between 14 and 27 November, 36.3% of construction firms not permanently stopped trading with 10 or more employees reported experiencing a shortage of workers in late November 2022, whilst 52.7% reported not experiencing a shortage of workers. The corresponding all-industry averages were 32.4% and 59.6%.

Construction Output

The **Office for National Statistics** published estimates of construction output for [September 2022](#) on 11 November 2022:

Key points:

- Monthly construction output increased 0.4% in volume terms in September 2022, which is the third consecutive monthly growth following small upward revisions, to 0.6% in August 2022 and 0.2% in July; September 2022 shows the highest level of construction output (£15,125 million) since records began in January 2010.
- The increase in monthly construction output in September 2022 came from increases seen in both new work (0.6%) and repair and maintenance (0.2%) on the month.
- At the sector level, 5 out of the 9 sectors saw a rise in September 2022, with the main contributors to the monthly increase seen in public housing repair and maintenance and infrastructure new work, which increased 11.3% and 2.8%, respectively.
- The level of construction output in September 2022 was 4.0% (£575 million) above the February 2020 pre-coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic level. New work was 0.3% (£29 million) below its February 2020 level, while repair and maintenance work was 12.0% (£604 million) above the February 2020 level.
- Alongside the monthly increase, construction output saw an increase of 0.6% in Quarter 3 (July to Sept) 2022, although this is the weakest quarterly growth since Quarter 3 2021 (1.1% fall); the increase came solely from growth in new work (2.4%) as repair and maintenance saw a decrease (2.2% fall).
- Total construction new orders increased 6.4% (£774 million) in Quarter 3 2022 compared with Quarter 2 (Apr to Jun) 2022; this quarterly growth came mainly from private commercial new orders, which rose 27.7% (£832 million).
- The annual rate of construction output price growth was 10.1% in the 12 months to September 2022; this has slowed slightly from the record annual price growth in May 2022 (11.5%).

Bank of England Summary of Business Conditions

The **Bank of England** published its most recent update to the [Agents' Summary of Business Conditions](#) on 22 September 2022, covering intelligence gathered between mid-July and late August 2022.

Key points:

- Construction output growth weakened as high materials costs, labour shortages and economic uncertainty weighed on activity.
- Contacts in residential construction said that planning delays and concerns about rising build costs had slowed the pace of new projects starting. Growth in domestic home improvements and maintenance had also eased. In social housing, new construction had been held back by budget constraints and commitments to refurbish existing properties.
- By contrast, commercial construction activity remained strong, in particular for office developments in prime locations. Demand for warehouse and data centre premises also remained robust, but demand for retail and leisure premises weakened further.

Gross Domestic Product Estimate

The **Office for National Statistics** published estimates of GDP for [September 2022](#) on 11 November 2022:

Key points:

- Monthly construction output increased by 0.4% in September 2022. This is the third consecutive monthly growth following the small, upwardly revised increases to 0.6% and 0.2% in August 2022 and July 2022, respectively.
- The 0.4% growth in construction output in September 2022 represents an increase of £66 million in monetary terms compared with August 2022, with five out of the nine sectors seeing an increase in the month.
- The increase came from rises in both new work (0.6%), and repair and maintenance (0.2%) in the month. At the sector level, the main contributors were infrastructure, and public housing repair and maintenance, which increased by 2.8% and 11.3%, respectively.
- Total construction new orders increased 6.4% (£774 million) in Quarter 3 2022 compared with Quarter 2 (Apr to Jun) 2022; this quarterly growth came mainly from private commercial new orders, which rose 27.7% (£832 million).
- The all work construction output grew by 5.7% in the 12 months to September 2022; correspondingly new work construction output grew by 6.5% and repair & maintenance grew by 4.4% over the same period.
- Repair & maintenance construction output decreased by 4.1% from the pick in March 2022, correspondingly all work output and new work output increased by 1.2% and 4.8% over the same period.

Gross Domestic Product Forecast

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

Key points:

- The mean GDP forecast for 2022 is 4.2% up from 4.1% in the previous month's survey.
- The mean GDP growth forecast for 2023 is -0.9%, down from -0.3% in the previous month's survey.

The **Office for Budget Responsibility** published a new [Economic and Fiscal Outlook](#) on 17 November 2022.

- GDP is expected to grow by 4.2% in 2022 (up from 3.8% in the previous forecast) and to fall by 1.4% in 2023 (down from an expected growth of 1.8% in the previous forecast).

Construction Output Forecasts

Experian published their Autumn 2022 [forecasts](#) for the construction sector in October 2022.

Key points:

- The construction industry got off to a good start in 2022 and output in the first six months of the year, at £88.49bn (2019 prices), was 5.0% up in real terms compared with the same period of 2021. All sectors bar the public non-residential and private commercial ones saw growth in the first half of the year. The expected recession in the second half has led us to almost halve overall output growth for this year, from the 5.2% put forward in the summer to 2.8% now, and posit a marginal downturn in 2023, with a much more anaemic performance in 2024. If this revised prognosis comes to pass, total construction output will not exceed its pre-pandemic level in 2019 until after 2024.
- Total construction output in 2021 reached £169.6 billion (2019 prices), increasing by 12.9% the previous year, regaining most of the ground lost during the worst of the pandemic. Growth will slow to 2.8% in 2022, turn negative by -0.3% the following year, then increase again by 1.2% in 2024, reaching £175.8 billion (2019 prices).
- The private industrial sector is expected to be the star performer over the forecast period, with growth of 42.7% in 2022, 5.0% in 2023 and 3.4% in 2024. However, this recovery does come after one of the weakest performances during the 2020/21 period.
- The Public Non-residential sector is forecast to be the worst performing sector for the three years to 2024, with output declining by -4.9% in 2022 and -3.9% in 2023, only increasing again by 0.7% in 2024.
- Growth in new work is forecast at 3.7% in 2022, 0.5% in 2023 and 1.8% in 2024 down from 11.3% growth in 2021. The housing sector is forecast to grow by 7.3% in 2022, 0.0% in 2023 and 2.5% the following year. Growth in the non-residential building sector is forecast to be 5.2% in 2022, 1.0% in 2023 and 2.0% in 2024.
- Repair and maintenance (R&M) is forecast to grow by 1.3% in 2022, -1.7% in 2023 and 0.1% in 2024, down from 15.7% in 2021.

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

- Construction output is forecast to fall by 3.9% in 2023 following a rise of 2.0% in 2022, as activity currently continues at a high level. The fall for 2023 is a sharp downward revision from -0.4% in the Lower Scenario of the CPA's Summer Forecasts. This is mainly due to the impact of a wider economic recession, exacerbated by the effect of the 'Mini Budget', and the consequent fallout from recent political uncertainty.
- There are still many factors which will adversely affect the construction forecast such as falls in real wages and potential further rises in interest rates, which will likely lead to further falls in consumer spending decisions. On top of these issues, the wider uncertainty around the UK economy means that demand for private housing new build and private housing repair, maintenance, and improvement (rm&i) is expected to fall. Other key construction sectors such as commercial and infrastructure are also expected to be affected by increasing concerns over construction cost inflation, which are likely to hinder project viability.
- With an annual turnover of £37 billion, private housing is the largest sector in the construction industry. Activity is currently strong with most major house builders sold through to 2023 Q1. However, after the 'Mini Budget' announced in October 2022 and the

resulting financial market chaos, interest rates are expected to peak at 4%. Activity was already expected to slow due to rising interest rates to 3% but the announcement worsened this forecast. The repercussions of this on mortgage rates will dampen potential demand and house prices for new homeowners. Furthermore, after more than a decade of low mortgage rates, some existing homeowners will be faced with the pressure of increased mortgage repayments and some may be forced sellers, adding further pressure to the housing market. As a result, property transactions and prices are likely to fall over the next year, with house builders likely to reduce house building targets. After growth of 3.0% in 2022, private housing output is now forecast to fall by 9.0% in 2023 before returning to 1.0% growth in 2024.

- Following a record level of £24 billion last year, private housing output, the third largest construction sector, has been decreasing since March 2022. With a drop in real wages and sharp increases in mortgage payments for many households, there is likely to be a further fall in smaller, discretionary improvements and renovation spending. Output in this sector is expected to decline by 4.0% in 2022 and 9.0% in 2023, before marginal growth of 1.0% in 2024.
- Commercial output is forecast to remain flat in 2022 before a fall of 5.1% in 2023. This comes as buoyant fit-out and refurbishment activity is offset by a hiatus in major new office and mixed-use tower projects, which dominate the sector. With accelerating costs and worsening economic prospects, however, it raises the question of whether those projects will break ground in the near-term or whether they will be paused or even cancelled.
- Infrastructure, the second largest construction sector, should be the least affected by issues of household finances and rising interest rates. Nonetheless, it is not immune to the impacts of both sharp cost rises and government making clear that it will not increase departmental budgets to deal with rising costs. Therefore, we are likely to see the value of activity that we expected previously but not the volume. In the medium-term, projects towards the end of the government's Spending Review will get pushed back into the next review. Overall, after 5.2% growth in 2022, infrastructure output is forecast to rise by 1.6% in 2023 and 2.6% in 2024. This will be driven by larger projects already underway such as HS2, Hinkley Point C and Thames Tideway despite the cost overruns and delays.
- Overall, given that construction output is expected to fall significantly over the next 12 months, it is critical that new government is focused on delivering its targets. Additionally, as part of its movement towards Net Zero, the UK must prioritise the energy-efficiency of its new and existing homes.

Manufacturing

The latest **Index of Production** data for September 2022 were [published](#) on 11 November 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 September 2022 with September 2021, **output decreased by 14.6%**.
- When comparing September 2022 with August 2022, **output decreased by 1.3%**.

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

- When comparing September 2022 with September 2021, **output increased by 2.1%**.
- When comparing September 2022 with August 2022, **output increased by 1.7%**.

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.

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 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	78%
Quarterly Sand and Gravel – Land Won	4, 5 & 6	76%
Quarterly Sand and Gravel – Marine Dredged	4, 5 & 6	92%
Quarterly Slate	7	100%
Quarterly Concrete Roofing Tiles	13	29%
Monthly Bricks Provisional data	9	100%
Monthly Bricks Final data	9 & 10	100%
Monthly Concrete Blocks	11 & 12	94%

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 11 January 2023.

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

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

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