



# Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components

## Commentary, February 2023

Coverage: UK and Great Britain

Geographical Area: Country, region and county

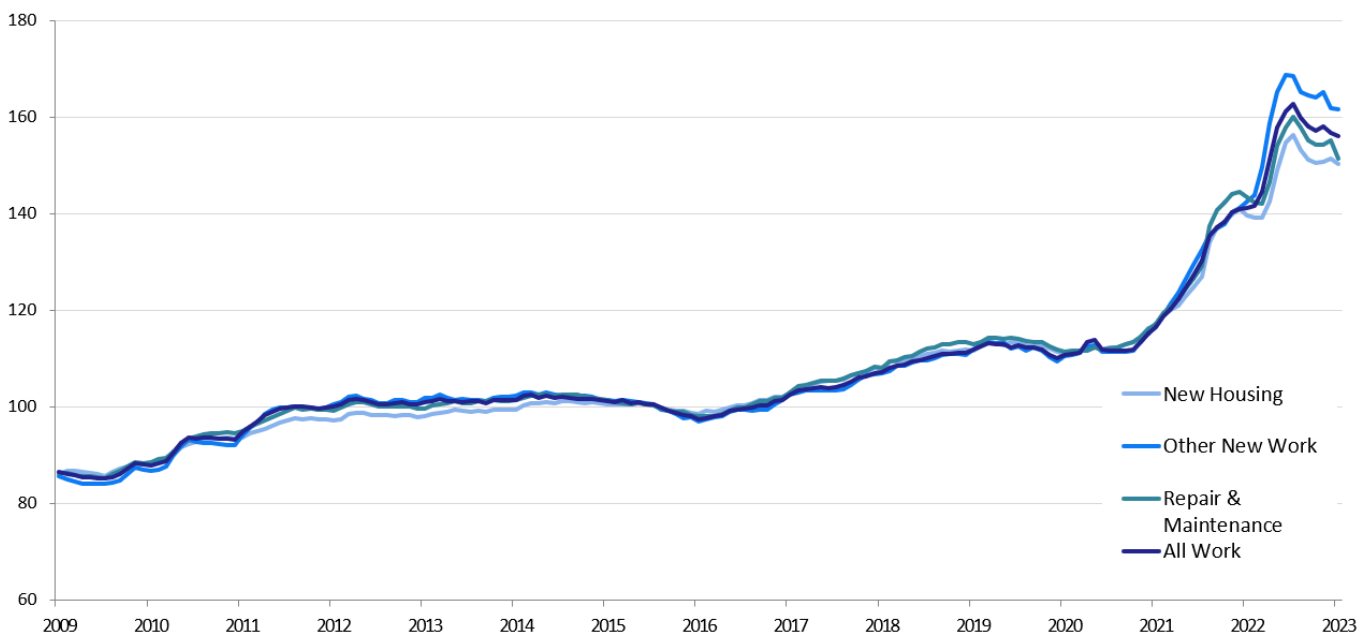
1 March 2023

National Statistics

### Headline Findings

- The material price index for **'All Work'** increased by **10.4%** in January 2023 compared to the same month the previous year. This followed an increase of 11.2% in December 2022 compared to December 2021.
- There was a **34.2% decrease** in brick deliveries in January 2023 compared to January 2022, according to the seasonally adjusted figures.
- There was a **28.9% decrease** in concrete block deliveries in January 2023 compared to January 2022, according to the seasonally adjusted figures.

**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 building materials [web page](#) on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023. 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 (January 2023 to January 2022)

New Housing	7.7%
Other New Work	13.3%
Repair & Maintenance	5.6%
All Work	10.4%

### Month-on-month change (January 2023 to December 2022)

New Housing	-0.7%
Other New Work	-0.1%
Repair & Maintenance	-2.3%
All Work	-0.5%

- The material price index for **'All Work'** increased by **10.4%** in January 2023 compared to the same month the previous year. This followed an increase of 11.2% in December 2022 compared to December 2021.
- Looking at the year-on-year changes, the **'Other New Work'** price index was the strongest (+13.3%), whilst the **'Repair and Maintenance'** price index was the weakest (+5.6%) in January 2023 compared with January 2023.
- The material price index for **'All Work'** decreased by **0.5%** in January 2023 compared to December 2022. This followed a decreased of 0.8% in December 2022 compared with November 2022.
- Looking at the month-on-month changes, the **'Repair and Maintenance'** price index had the largest decrease (-2.3%), whilst **'Other New Work'** price index had the lowest decrease (-0.1%) in January 2023 compared with December 2022.

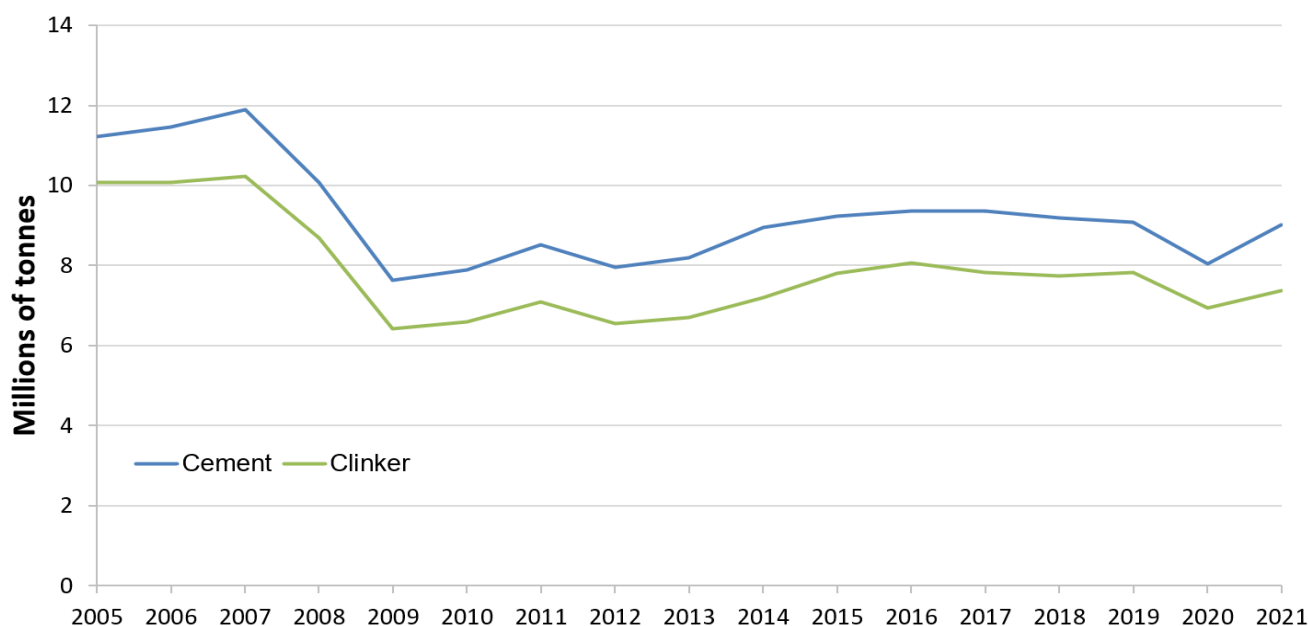
**Table 1: Construction materials experiencing the greatest price increases and decreases in the 12 months to January 2023, UK**

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 three largest decreases are presented here.
<b>Greatest price increases</b>		
Insulating materials (thermal or acoustic)	40.9	
Gravel, sand, clays & kaolin (including aggregate levy)	28.5	
Cement	24.8	
<b>Greatest price decreases</b>		
Imported sawn or planed wood	-15.8	
Imported plywood	-8.2	
Particle board	-7.0	

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



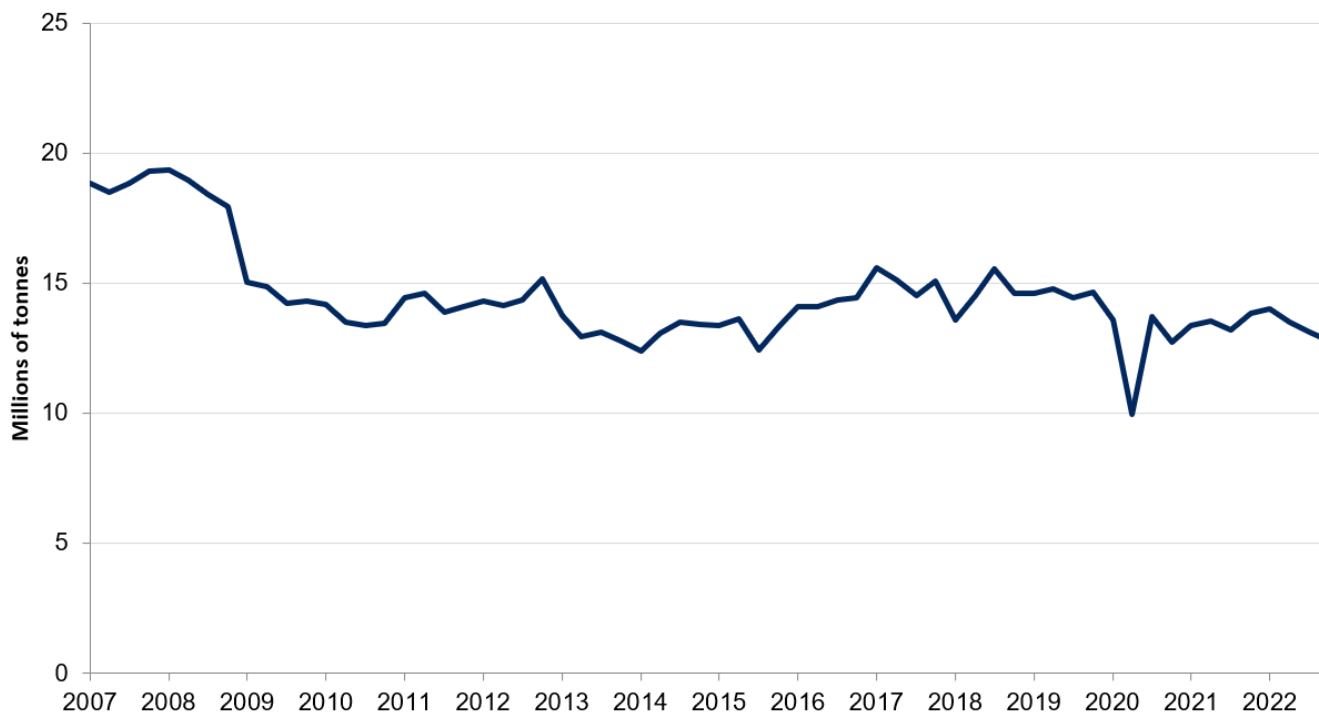
Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 8

- 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 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



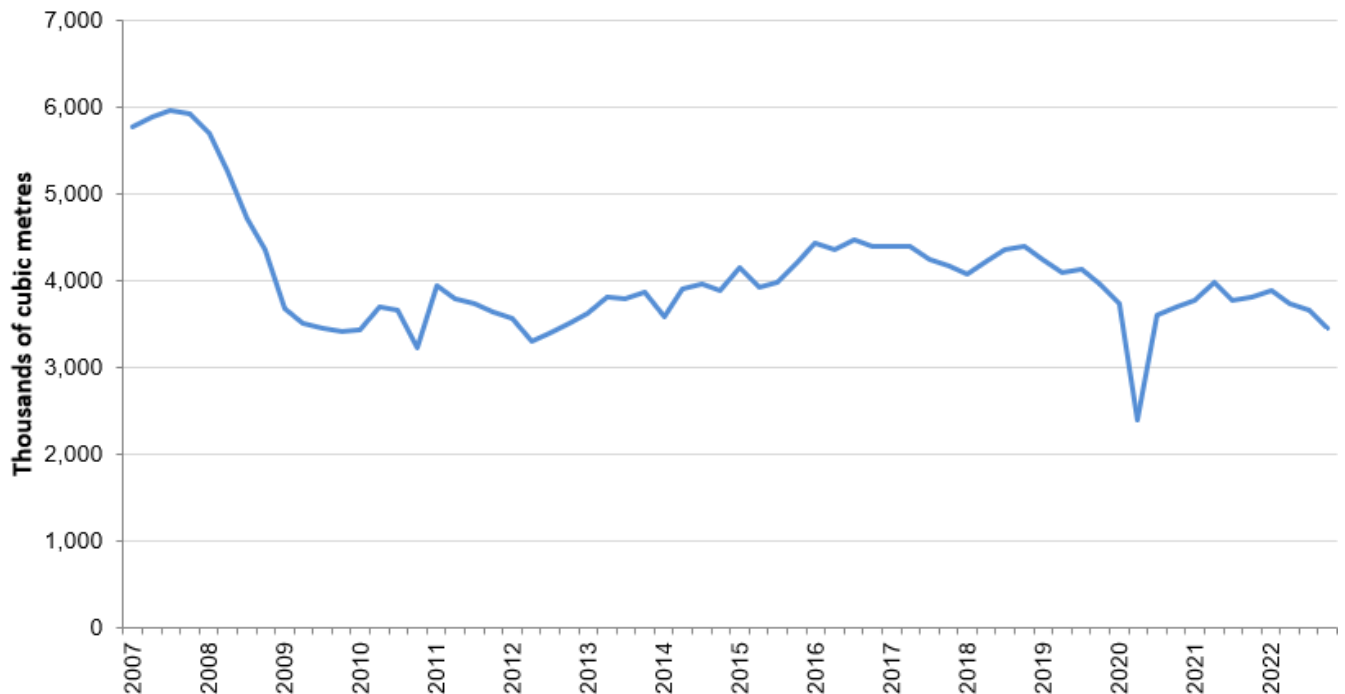
Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 4

- Sales of sand & gravel **decreased** by **2.5%** in Quarter 4 2022 compared to Quarter 3 2022, according to the seasonally adjusted data.
- This followed a decrease of 2.9% in Quarter 3 2022 compared with Quarter 2 2022.
- Comparing Quarter 4 2022 to Quarter 4 2021, sales have **decreased** by **7.9%**.
- 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



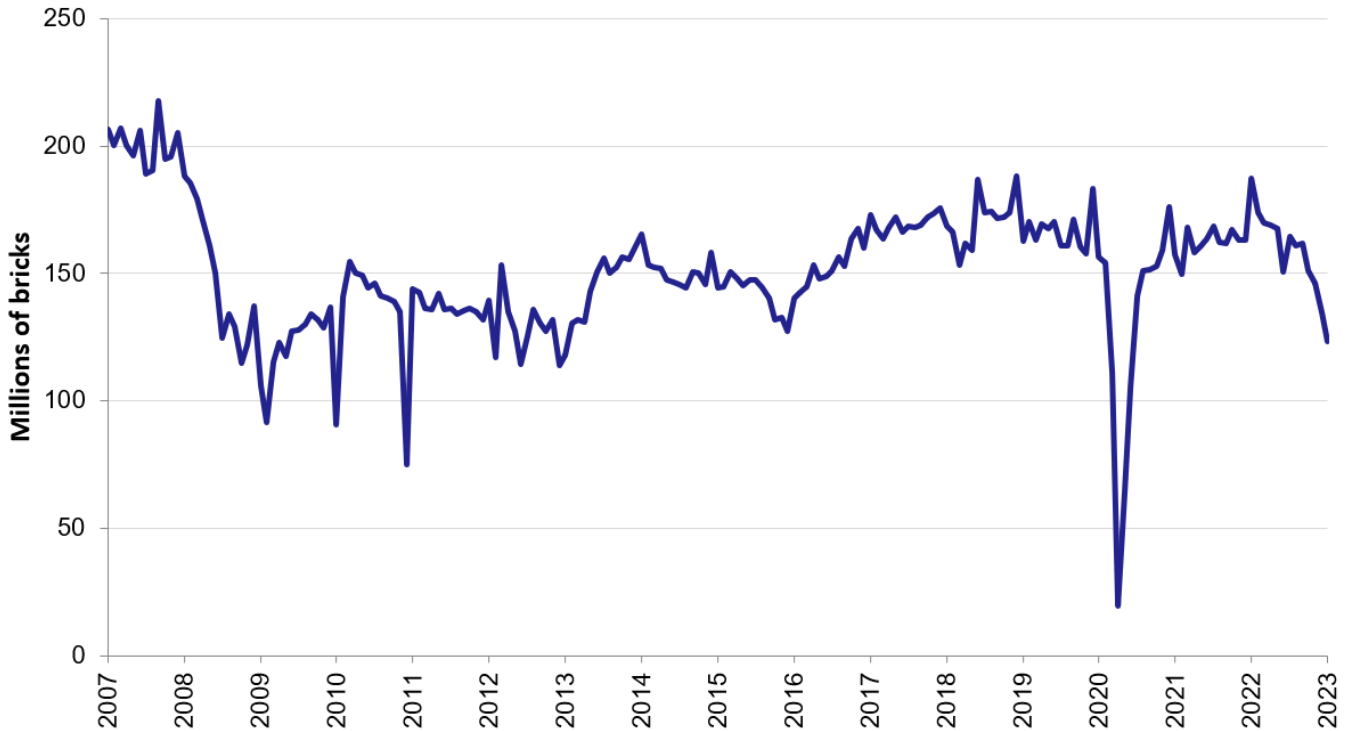
Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 13

- Ready-mixed concrete sales **decreased** by **5.8%** in Quarter 4 2022 compared to Quarter 3 2022, according to the seasonally adjusted data.
- This followed a 1.9% decrease in Quarter 3 2022 compared to Quarter 2 2022.
- Sales in Quarter 4 2022 **decreased** by **9.5%** compared to Quarter 4 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

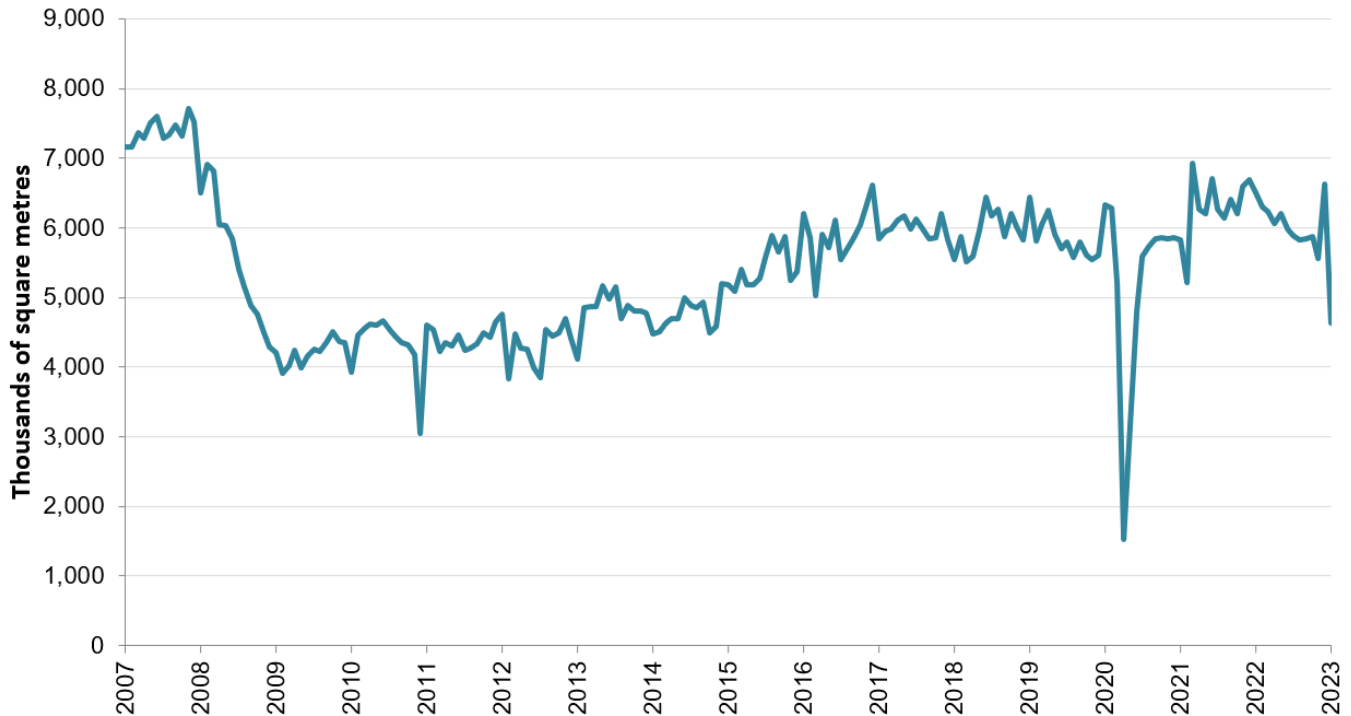
- There was a **34.2% decrease** in brick deliveries in January 2023 compared to January 2022, according to the seasonally adjusted figures.
- This followed a 17.6% decrease in December 2022, compared to December 2021.
- The month-on-month change shows an **8.2% decrease** in January 2023.
- This followed an 8.0% decrease in December 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



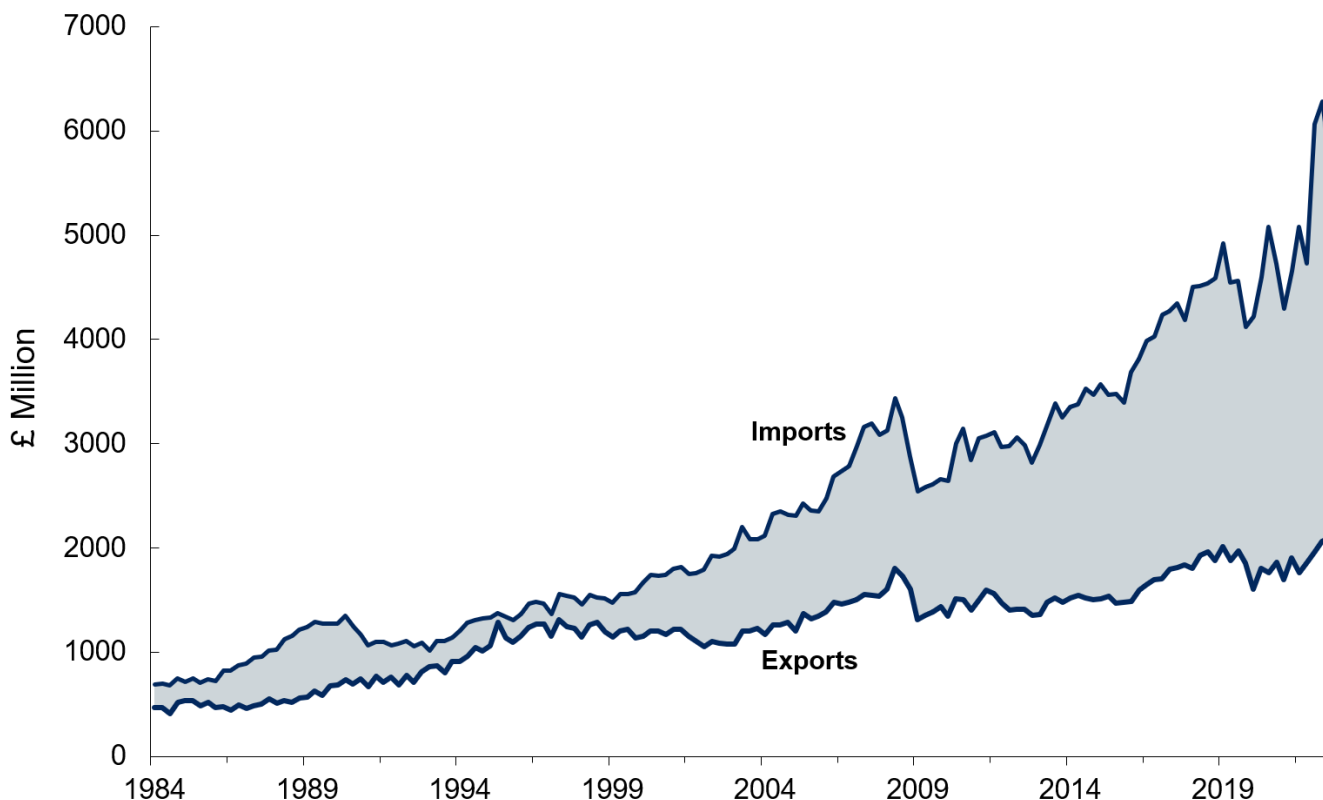
Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 11

- There was a **28.9% decrease** in concrete block deliveries in January 2023 compared to January 2022, according to the seasonally adjusted figures.
- This followed a 0.9% decrease in December 2022, compared to December 2021.
- The month-on-month change shows a **30.1% decrease** in January 2023 compared with December 2022.
- This followed a 19.2% increase in December 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**

<b>Top-5 Exported Materials</b>	<i>£ million</i>	<b>Top-5 Imported Materials</b>	<i>£ million</i>
Electrical Wires	907	Electrical Wires	2,341
Paints & Varnishes	768	Sawn Wood > 6mm thick	1,541
Air Conditioning Equipment	388	Air Conditioning Equipment	1,041
Plastic Pipes	346	Linoleum Floor Coverings	672
Lamps & Fittings	314	Central Heating Boilers	577

The top five exported materials in 2021 accounted for 39% of total construction material exports.

The top five imported construction materials in 2021 accounted for 32% 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, 2021**

<i>£ million (% of total trade in italics)</i>	EU	Non-EU
Imports	10,466	8,155
	<i>56%</i>	<i>44%</i>
Exports	4,026	3,004
	<i>57%</i>	<i>43%</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%.

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 23 February 2023, which was live from 6 February to 19 February 2023.

#### Key points:

- In February 2023, 23.8% of construction businesses currently trading reported their turnover decreased in January 2023 compared with December 2022, 50.9% reported their turnover stayed the same, while 9.2% reported their turnover increased. Respectively, all industry averages were 29.1%, 45.6% and 16.2%.
- In February 2023, 6.7% of construction businesses currently trading reported they expect turnover to decrease in March 2023 excluding any seasonality trading, 53.3% expect their turnover to stay the same, whilst 18.8% expect their turnover to increase. The all industry averages were 13.0%, 52.5% and 21.3%.
- In February 2023, 50.4% of construction businesses currently trading reported an increase in the prices of goods or services they bought in January 2023 compared with December 2022, whilst 19.4% reported an increase in the price of good or services they sold. Respectively all industry averages were 38.9% and 20.0%.
- In February 2023, 27.0% of construction businesses currently trading reported expecting the prices of the goods or services they sell to increase in March 2023, 39.6% expect the prices to stay the same. Respectively, all industry averages were 24.5% and 52.1%.
- In February 2023, 25.0% of construction businesses not permanently stopped trading reported they had passed on less than half of the input price increases to customers over the last six months, 17.3% had passed on more than half of the input price increases, whilst 13.1% has not passed on input price increases to customers. All industry averages were 21.4%, 12.9% and 23.3, respectively.

- In February 2023, 30.8% of construction businesses not permanently stopped trading reported that recent increase in energy prices have affected production and/or suppliers, whilst 26.4% reported not being affected. Respectively all industry averages were 34.3% and 24.8%.
- In February 2023, 29.0% of construction businesses not permanently stopped trading reported experiencing recruitment difficulties in January 2023, whilst 36.0% reported not experiencing recruitment difficulties. Respectively, the all industry averages were 28.0% and 38.0%

## Construction Output

The **Office for National Statistics** published estimates of construction output for [December 2022](#) on 10 February 2023:

### *Key points:*

- Monthly construction output is estimated to be flat (0.0% growth) in volume terms in December 2022; this came from an increase in new work (0.5%), offset by a decrease in repair and maintenance (0.7% fall) on the month. This follows a fall of 0.5% (revised down from being flat) in November 2022.
- At the sector level, the main positive contributors were seen in non-housing repair and maintenance, and infrastructure new work, which increased 5.4% and 3.7%, respectively; the main negative contributors were seen in private housing repair and maintenance, and private new housing, falling 8.5% and 2.3%, respectively.
- Quarterly construction output increased 0.3% in Quarter 4 (Oct to Dec) 2022 compared with Quarter 3 (July to Sept) 2022; the increase came from growth in both new work (0.4%) and repair and maintenance (0.1%).
- Annual construction output increased by 5.6% in 2022 compared with 2021, which follows a record increase in 2021 of 12.8%.
- Total construction new orders decreased 1.8% (£242 million) in Quarter 4 2022 compared with Quarter 3 2022; this quarterly fall came mainly from private commercial new orders and infrastructure, which fell 9.6% (£380 million) and 11.8% (£305 million), respectively.
- The annual rate of construction output price growth was 9.7% in the 12 months to December 2022; this has slowed slightly from the record annual price growth in May 2022 (10.5%).

## Bank of England Summary of Business Conditions

The **Bank of England** published its most recent update to the [Agents' Summary of Business Conditions](#) on 15 December 2022, covering intelligence gathered between mid-October and late November 2022.

### *Key points:*

- Construction output fell as home renovations declined sharply and commercial development weakened.

- Contacts said housing renovation continued to fall as households completed catch-up work following the pandemic and reined in spending due to cost of living concerns. Large housebuilders said output was being supported by strong order books, though smaller developers reported slowing activity.
- Construction of industrial and office premises continued to weaken as rising cost inflation increased the risks around returns for developers. Contacts reported delays to public sector infrastructure projects as contractors sought to renegotiate pricing to cover rising costs.

## Gross Domestic Product Estimate

The **Office for National Statistics** published estimates of GDP for [December 2022](#) on 10 February 2023:

### *Key points:*

- Monthly real gross domestic product (GDP) is estimated to have fallen by 0.5% in December 2022, following an unrevised growth of 0.1% in November 2022.
- Looking at the broader picture, GDP was flat in the three months to December 2022, and annual GDP output is estimated to have grown by 4.1% in 2022, following growth of 7.4% in 2021.
- The services sector fell by 0.8% in December 2022, after unrevised growth of 0.2% in November 2022; the largest contributions to this fall came from human health activities, education, arts, entertainment and recreation activities, and transport and storage.
- Output in consumer-facing services fell by 1.2% in December 2022, following growth of 0.4% in November 2022 (revised up from 0.2%).
- Production output grew by 0.3% in December 2022, following growth of 0.1% (revised up from a 0.2% fall) in November 2022. The main contributor to this growth was electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply.

## Gross Domestic Product Forecast

The latest monthly **Consensus Economics** [forecast survey](#) (which uses an average of private sector forecasts) results were published in February 2023.

### *Key points:*

- The mean GDP forecast for 2023 is -0.8% down from -1.0% from the previous month's survey.
- The mean GDP forecast for 2024 is 0.7%, up from 0.6% from 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 Winter 2022 [forecasts](#) for the construction sector in January 2023.

### *Key points:*

- The construction sector ended 2022 on a low note, with the PMI business activity index slipping into decline. New orders have been flagging and mounting headwinds in the form of elevated cost pressures, rising interest rates, intensifying budgetary constraints and an uncertain economic backdrop are weighing down on the sector. As such, the forecast for construction output in 2023 has been downgraded.
- Construction output is set to decline by 1.7% in 2023 and downside risks loom. Headwinds in the form of elevated inflationary pressures, a cost of living crisis, rising interest rates and economic uncertainty will collectively weigh on construction going forward and this has prompted a downgrade to the forecast. Our assumption is that current crises will ease by 2024 and their impacts will fade over the remainder of the forecast period. Hence, we expect a return to positive growth of 1.1% and 2.8% in 2024 and 2025 respectively.
- The private industrial sector is expected to growth by 49.8% in 2022, 0.6% in 2023 and -0.5% in 2024. Almost inevitably, after a year of very strong expansion, the prospects for industrial construction going forward are much more muted. The factory sub-sector has performed above expectations, but the weaker economic prognosis is likely to hit manufacturing output, with a consequent knock-on impact on demand for new facilities.
- The Public Non-residential sector is forecast to decline by -5.2% in 2022 and 1.6% in 2023 and 1.7% in 2024. The backlog of new orders suggests that output should be on a rising trend, at least in 2023. However, the issue is likely to be how much feeds into output given the budgetary constraints both central and local government are under, compounded by fast rising costs.
- The housing sector is forecast to grow by 9.3% in 2022, -6.6% in 2023 and 2.8% the following year. Growth in the non-residential building sector is forecast to be 4.8% in 2022, 1.0% in 2023 and 0.9% in 2024. Growth in new work is forecast at 4.9% in 2022, -2.4% in 2023 and 1.9% in 2024 down from 10.6% growth in 2021.
- Repair and maintenance (R&M) is forecast to grow by 6.0% in 2022, -0.7% in 2023 and -0.2% in 2024, down from 16.8% in 2021.

The **Construction Products Association** published their [Construction industry forecasts](#) for Winter 2022/23 in January 2023.

### *Key points:*

- Repair and maintenance (R&M) is forecast to grow by 6.0% in 2022, -0.7% in 2023 and -0.2% in 2024, down from 16.8% in 2021. The construction industry is expected to endure a recession this year after two strong years for the industry. According to the Construction Products Association's Winter Forecasts, construction output is expected to fall by 4.7% in 2023 before recovering slowly in 2024 with growth of just 0.6%.
- The construction industry is not immune to the impacts of a wider UK economic recession, rising interest rates and inflation. Private housing new build, the largest construction sector, and private housing repair, maintenance, and improvement (rm&i), the third largest sector, are forecast to be the worst affected sectors this year. Falls in activity in these areas are expected to be partially offset by continued growth in infrastructure, the second largest sector,

which is already at historic high levels of activity. Even here, however, there are growing concerns over the impacts of double-digit construction cost inflation. Given financial constraints for government, this means that we are likely to see the value of activity expected previously but not the volume.

- Private housing is forecast to be the sector most affected by the downturn and fortunes for the sector over the next 12-18 months are likely to go one of two ways. The main forecast anticipates a soft landing for the housing market, which involves a sharp decline in demand during 2022 Q4 and 2023 Q1 before a recovery in demand this Spring. Even still, private housing output in 2023 is forecast to experience an 11.0% fall as housebuilders focus on completing existing developments rather than starting new sites. This fall is primarily due to rising mortgage rates, falling real wages and poor consumer confidence. The largest impact of the decline in demand is likely to be on property transactions, which are anticipated to fall in 2023 by around 20% whilst house prices are anticipated to decline by 8% -10%.
- Private housing rm&i output was driven to historic high levels in 2021 due to increased working from home and a 'race for space'. Given further expected falls in real wages and increases in mortgage payments for many households this year, a further decline in private housing rm&i output of 9.0% is forecast in 2023. This will focus on a fall in larger improvements activity, before slow growth of 1.0% in 2024 as activity recovers in line with the wider UK economy. Unsurprisingly, however, one area of private housing rm&i that continues to remain strong is energy-efficiency retrofit; given homeowner concerns over energy prices, insulation and solar panel installations activity is currently buoyant.
- Infrastructure continues to go from strength to strength, reaching historic high levels in 2022 as it benefitted from multi-billion pound projects such as HS2, the Thames Tideway Tunnel and Hinkley Point C as well as long-term frameworks activity in sub-sectors such as rail, roads and energy. Going forward, further growth in infrastructure output is expected but it is likely to be slower than in previous years due to cost inflation and financial constraints. After 4.9% growth in 2022, infrastructure output is forecast to rise by 2.4% in 2023 and 2.5% in 2024.
- CPA Economics Director Noble Francis said "The construction industry has enjoyed a buoyant two years since the first national lockdown largely shuttered the industry back in Spring 2020. Overall, however, construction output is forecast to fall by 4.7% this year. It is worth keeping in mind the broader context that this is not 2008 and the decline is nowhere near the fall in output that occurred in the last recession. Looking back 15 years ago, construction output fell by 15.3% over two years during the global financial crisis."

## Manufacturing

The latest **Index of Production** data for December 2022 were [published](#) on 10 February 2023 by the Office for National Statistics.

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

- When comparing December 2022 with December 2021, **output decreased by 11.9%**.
- When comparing December 2022 with November 2022, **output decreased by 4.1%**.

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

- When comparing December 2022 with December 2021, **output increased by 21.4%**.
- When comparing December 2022 with November 2022, **output increased by 0.7%**.



# Accompanying tables

The most recently published data tables (available in Excel and ODS format) can be found on the *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. The department 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 *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 *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.

<b>For latest data used</b>	<b>Bulletin table number</b>	<b>Response rate</b>
Quarterly Sand and Gravel	4, 5 & 6	77%
Quarterly Sand and Gravel – Land Won	4, 5 & 6	78%
Quarterly Sand and Gravel – Marine Dredged	4, 5 & 6	73%
Quarterly Slate	7	89%
Quarterly Concrete Roofing Tiles	13	29%
Monthly Bricks Provisional data	9	100%
Monthly Bricks Final data	9 & 10	100%
Monthly Concrete Blocks	11 & 12	91%

## 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 April 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 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 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 the department, 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 building materials web page.

The department 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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