



Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components

Commentary, May 2023

Coverage: UK and Great Britain

Geographical Area: Country, region and county

7 June 2023

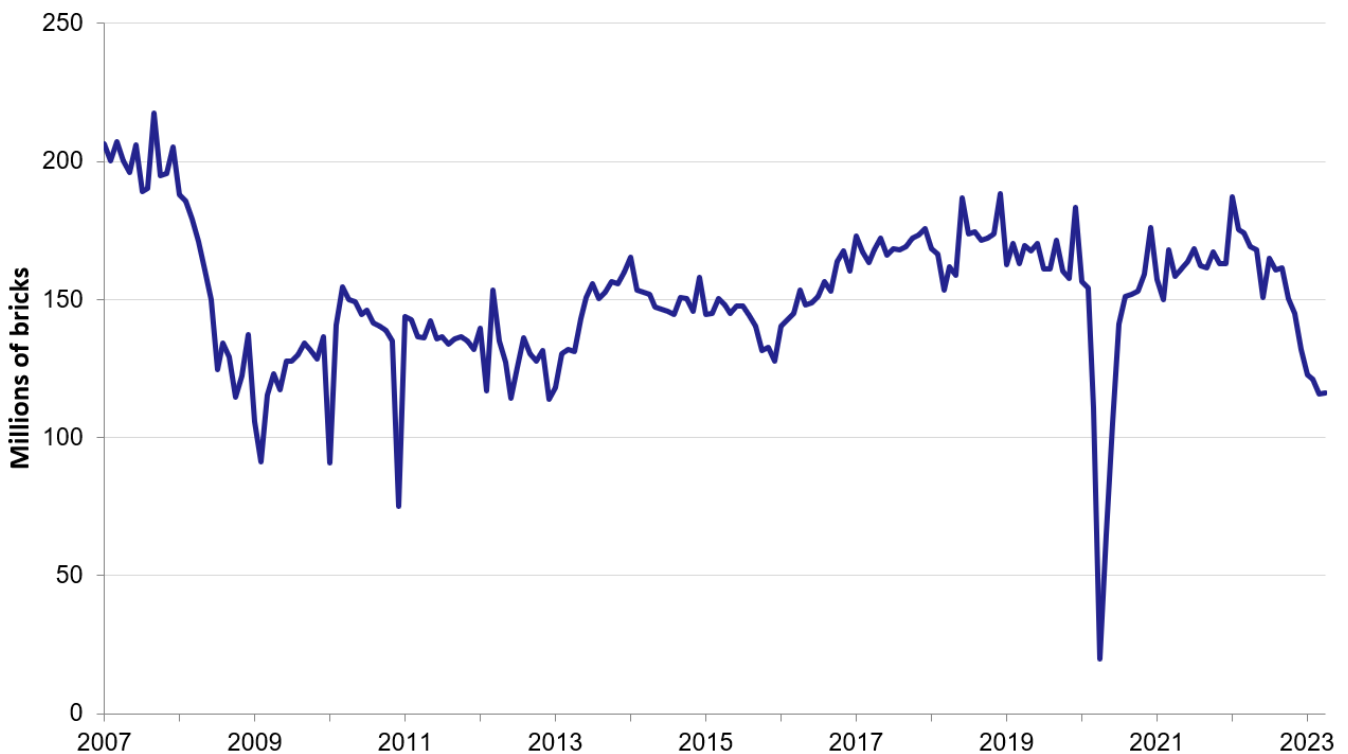
National Statistics

Headline Findings

- There was a **31.8% decrease** in brick deliveries in April 2023 compared to April 2022, according to the seasonally adjusted figures.
- There was a **18.3% decrease** in concrete block deliveries in April 2023 compared to April 2022, according to the seasonally adjusted figures.
- The material price index for 'All Work' **increased by 4.7%** in April 2023 compared to the same month the previous year. This followed an increase of 8.7% in March 2023 compared to March 2022.

Chart 1: Seasonally Adjusted Deliveries of Bricks, GB

Number of bricks



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

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Introduction

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

Table 1: Construction material price indices, year-on-year and month-on-month percentage change.

Material price indices	April 2022 – April 2023 (% change)	March 2023 – April 2023 (% change)
New Housing	7.6	0.5
Other New Work	3.7	0.9
Repair & Maintenance	4.8	0.6
All Work	4.7	0.8

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

- The material price index for **'All Work'** increased by **4.7%** in April 2023 compared to the same month the previous year. This followed an increase of 8.7% in March 2023 compared to March 2022.
- Looking at the year-on-year changes, the **'New Housing'** price index had the greatest increase (+7.6%), whilst the **'Other New Work'** price index had the lowest increase (+3.7%).
- The material price index for **'All Work'** increased by **0.8%** in April 2023 compared to March 2023. This followed an increase of 0.4% in March 2023 compared to February 2023.
- Looking at the month-on-month changes, the **'Other New Work'** price index had the greatest increase (0.9%) whilst the **'New Housing'** price index had the lowest increase (+0.5%).

Table 2: Construction materials experiencing the greatest price increases and decreases in the 12 months to April 2023, UK

Construction Materials	Year-on-year change
Greatest price increases	% increase
Screws etc.	33.7
Insulating materials (thermal or acoustic)	28.4
Ready-mixed concrete	24.5
Greatest price decreases	% decrease
Concrete reinforcing bars	-22.8
Imported sawn or planed wood	-21.2
Fabricated structural steel	-19.4

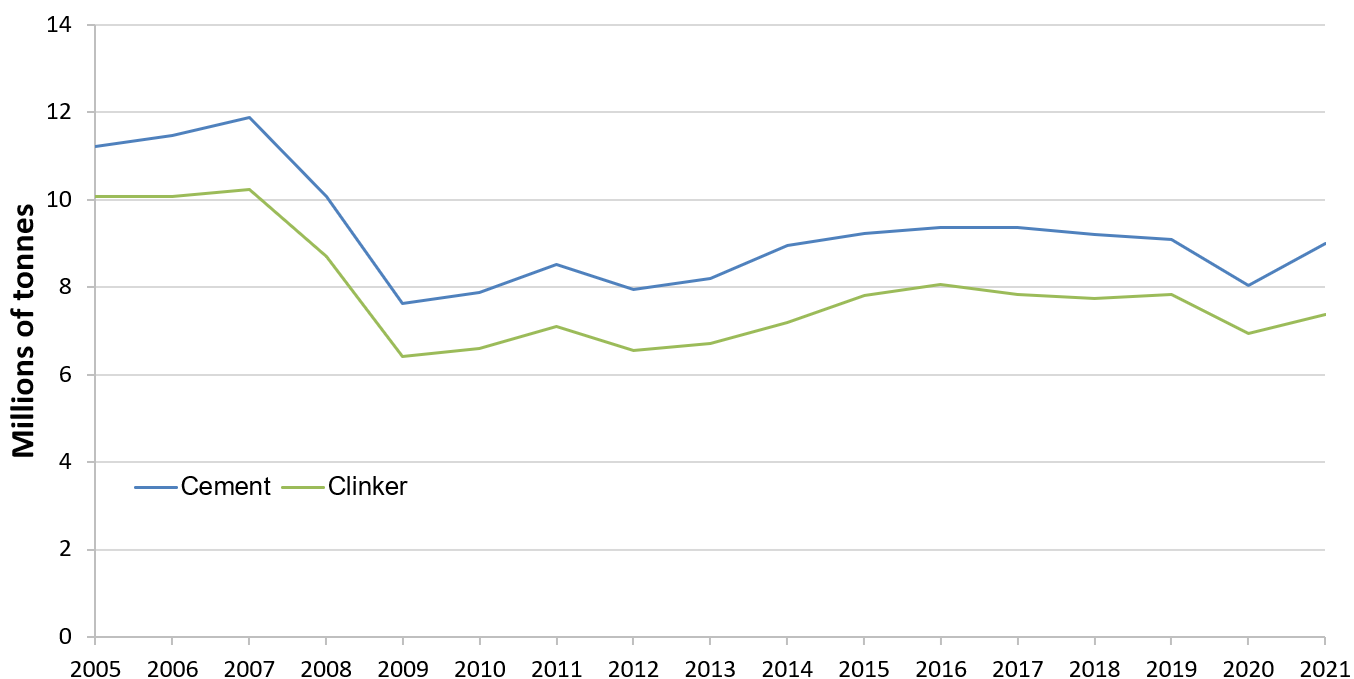
The aggregated construction material price indices hide larger price movements for some specific products and materials. The three largest increases and the three largest decreases are presented here.

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

Cement and Clinker

Chart 3: Production of Cement and Clinker, GB

Weight of cement & clinker



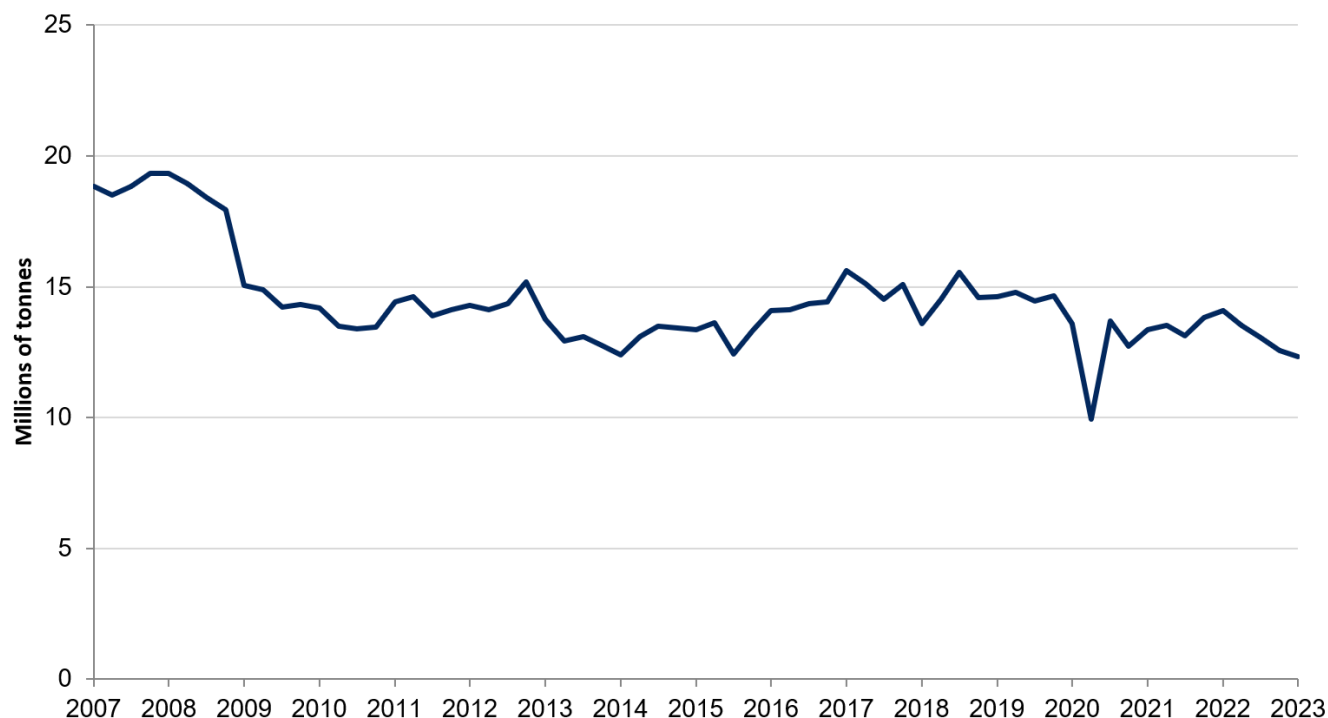
Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 8

- Cement production 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 2021, compared to 6.9 million tonnes the previous year. This follows a decline of 11.4% in 2020. 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



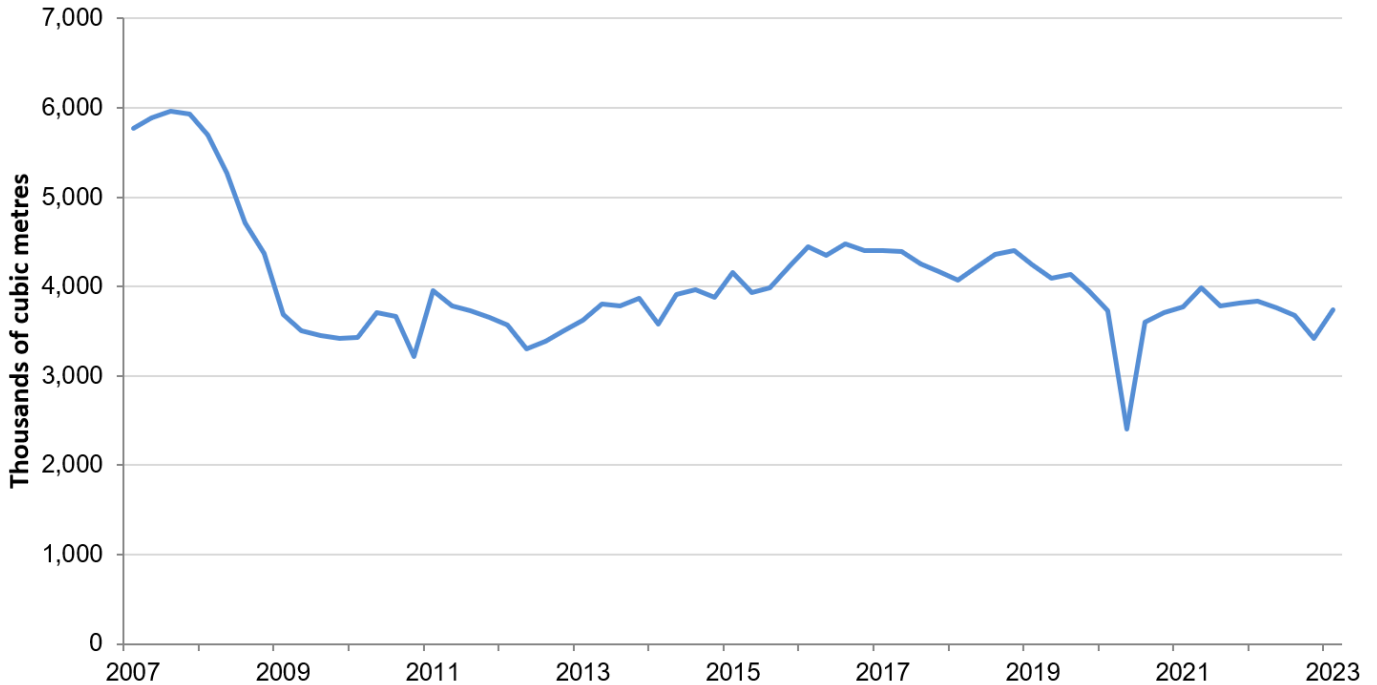
Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 4

- Sales of sand & gravel **decreased** by **1.0%** in Quarter 1 2023 compared to Quarter 4 2022, according to the seasonally adjusted data.
- This followed a decrease of 3.7% in Quarter 4 2022 compared with Quarter 3 2022.
- Comparing Quarter 1 2023 to Quarter 1 2022, sales have **decreased** by **11.3%**.
- Seasonally adjusted sales of sand & gravel have consistently remained below levels typically seen before the recession of 2008 to 2009 and have dropped recently due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- From Quarter 1 2019, sand and gravel data reported in this publication includes recycled material.

Concrete

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

Volume of concrete



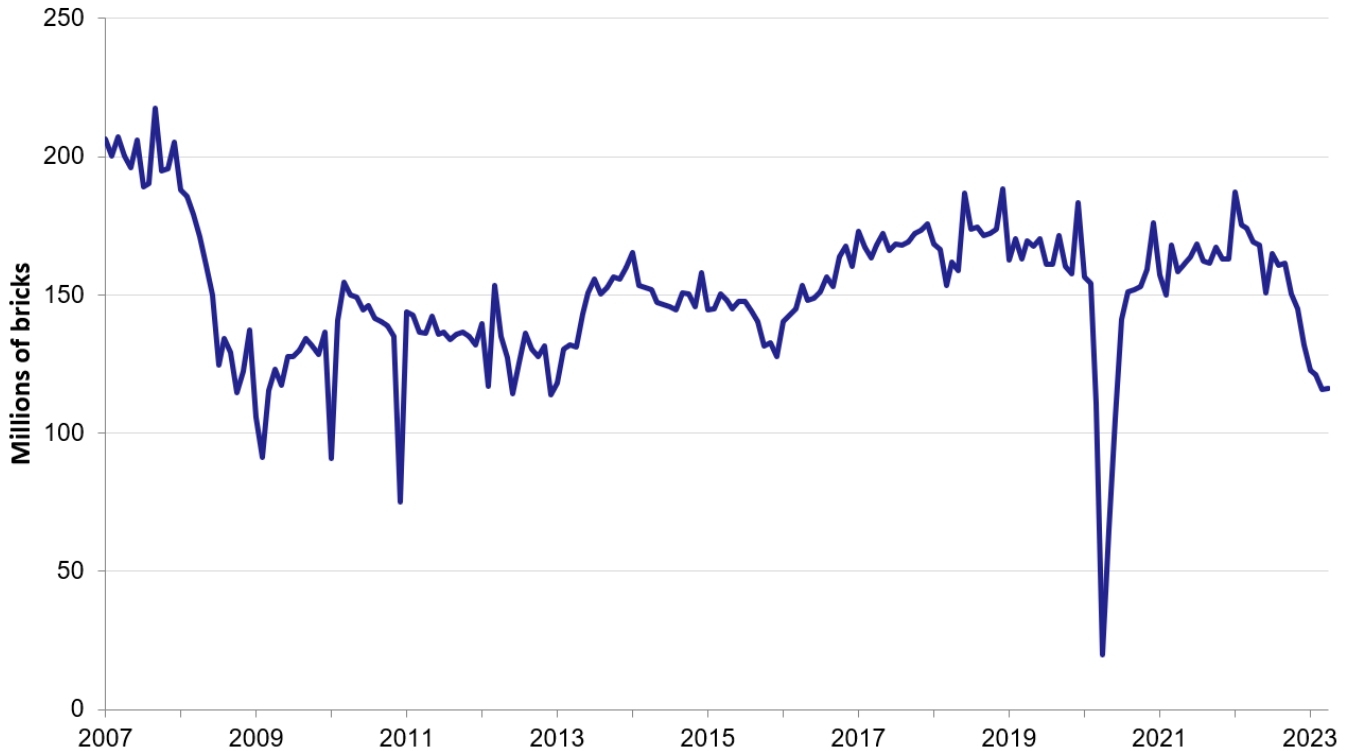
Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 13

- Ready-mixed concrete sales **increased** by **9.6%** in Quarter 1 2023 compared to Quarter 4 2022, according to the seasonally adjusted data.
- This followed a 7.0% decrease in Quarter 4 2022 compared to Quarter 3 2022.
- Sales in Quarter 1 2023 **decreased** by **2.4%** compared to Quarter 1 2022.
- 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



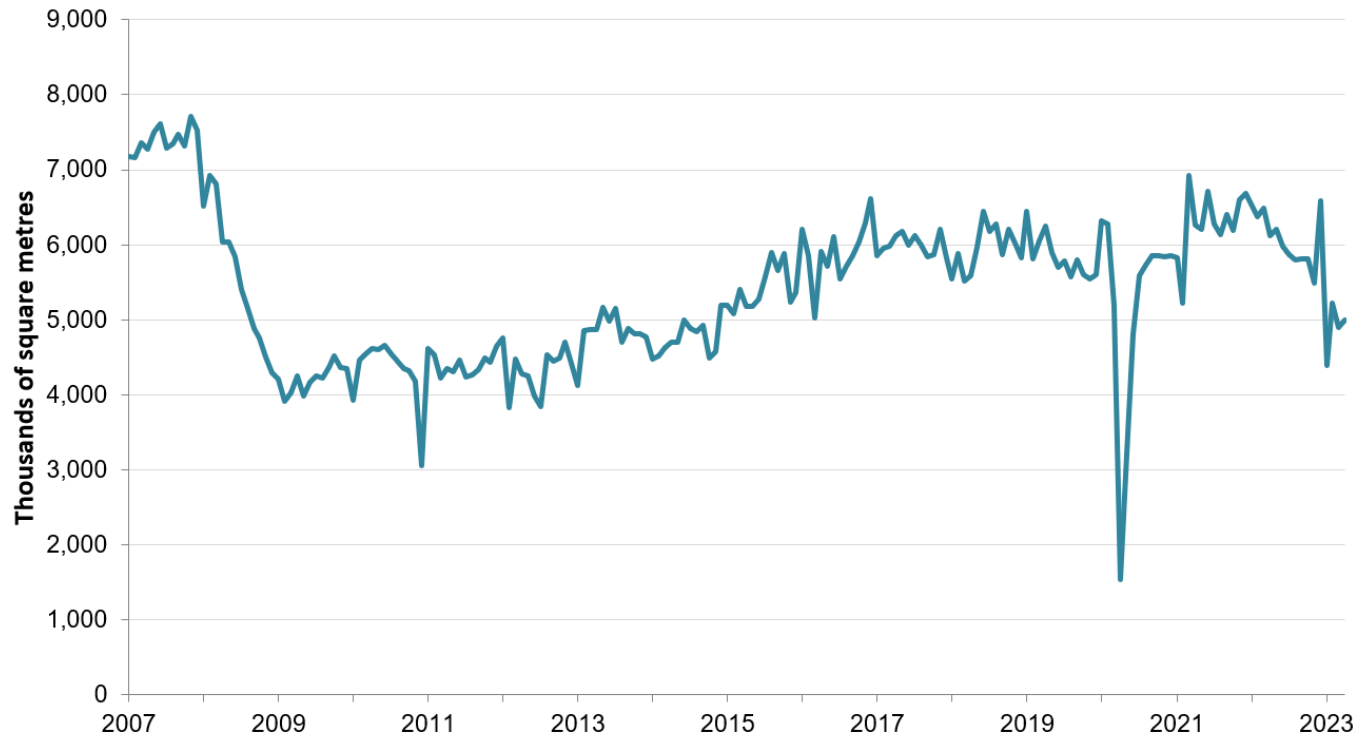
Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 9

- There was a **31.8% decrease** in brick deliveries in April 2023 compared to April 2022, according to the seasonally adjusted figures.
- This followed a 33.5% decrease in March 2023, compared to March 2022.
- The month-on-month change shows a **0.3% increase** in April 2023.
- This followed a 4.3% decrease in March 2023, compared to February 2023.
- 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



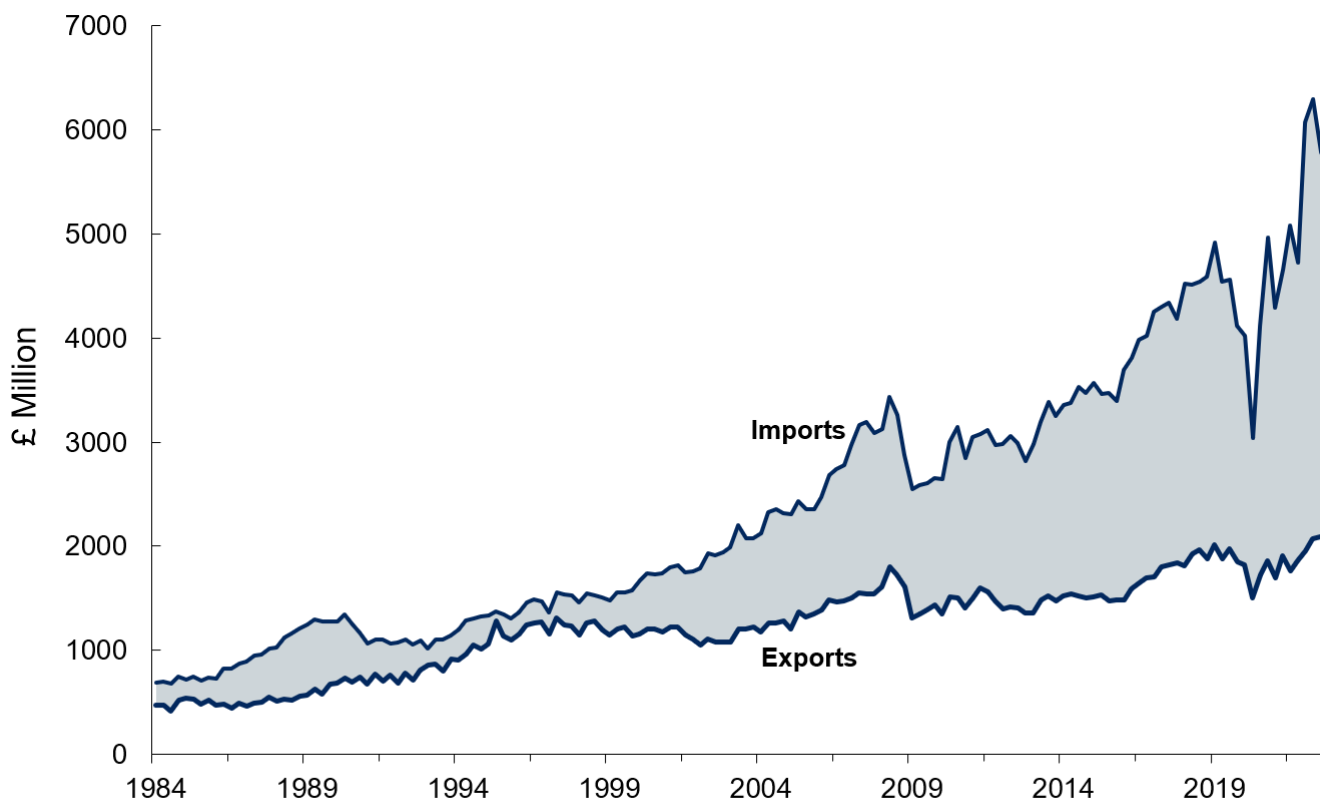
Source: *Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 11*

- There was a **18.3% decrease** in concrete block deliveries in April 2023 compared to April 2022, according to the seasonally adjusted figures.
- This followed a 24.5% decrease in March 2023, compared to March 2022.
- The month-on-month change shows a **1.9% increase** in April 2023.
- This followed a 6.1% decrease in March 2023, compared to February 2023.
- 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 £148 million in Quarter 4 2022 compared to the previous quarter, a **decrease** of 2.6%.
- **Exports** of construction materials **decreased** by £3 million in Quarter 4 2022 compared to the previous quarter, a **decrease** of 0.2%.
- As a result, between Quarter 3 2022 and Quarter 4 2022, the **quarterly trade deficit decreased** by £145 million to £3,546 million, a **decrease** of 3.9%.
- Over the whole of 2022, **imports** of construction materials **increased** by **27.8%** compared to 2021, from £18,621 million to £23,798 million.
- In the same period **exports** of construction materials **increased** by **16.9%**, from £7,029 million to £8,215 million.
- In 2022, the **annual trade deficit widened** by £3,991 million to £15,583 million, an **increase** of 34.4%.
- Over the period from Quarter 1 1984 to Quarter 4 2022, construction materials imports have increased, on average (per quarter), by 4.6%. 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 23.5% of the value of imports. As of Quarter 4 2022, the trade deficit is £3,546 million, 62.9% 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 3: Top-5 Exported and Imported Construction Materials in 2022

Top-5 Exported Materials	<i>£ million</i>	Top-5 Imported Materials	<i>£ million</i>
Electrical Wires	956	Electrical Wires	2,811
Paints & Varnishes	869	Sawn Wood > 6mm thick	1,326
Plastic Pipes	392	Air Conditioning Equipment	842
Air Conditioning Equipment	365	Structural Units (steel)	783
Linoleum Floor Coverings	360	Linoleum Floor Coverings	747

The top five exported materials in 2022 accounted for 36% of total construction material exports.

The top five imported construction materials in 2022 accounted for 27% of total construction material imports.

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

Table 4: UK Trade of Construction Materials with EU and Non-EU Countries, 2022

<i>£ million (% of total trade in italics)</i>	EU	Non-EU
Imports	13,303 <i>56%</i>	10,495 <i>44%</i>
Exports	5,014 <i>61%</i>	3,200 <i>39%</i>

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

Compared to pre-recession levels in 2007, the share of total UK construction material exports going to the EU has declined from 70% to 61%.

Due to an error in the production process some countries' imports/exports previously fed into incorrect EU/non-EU categories. The error has been corrected and data revised. The changes affect all imports/exports in Table 15.

Table 5: Top 5 UK Export and Import Markets for Construction Materials in 2022

Top-5 Export Markets		Top-5 Import Markets	
	£ million		£ million
Ireland	1,457	China	4,855
USA	862	Germany	2,250
Germany	768	Italy	1,335
Netherlands	665	Spain	1,293
France	556	Turkey	1,240

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 52% of total construction materials exports in 2022. Ireland remains the largest market, despite having shrunk from a pre-recession peak of 27% of total exports in 2007, to 18% in 2022.

The top five import markets comprised 46% of total construction materials imports in 2022. Around 20% 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 18 May 2023, which was live from 2 May to 14 May 2023.

Key points:

- Weighted by count, 20.9% of construction businesses currently trading reported their turnover decreased in April 2023 compared with March 2023, 53.3% reported their turnover stayed the same, whilst 14.0% reported their turnover increased. The all industries averages were 25.5%, 50.1% and 15.8% respectively.
- Weighted by count, 9.4% of construction businesses currently trading expect their turnover to decrease in June 2023, 57.4% expect their turnover to stay the same, whilst 18.5% expect their turnover to increase. The all industries averages were 12.1%, 53.6% and 12.1% respectively.
- Weighted by count, 36.3% of construction businesses currently trading reported an increase in the prices of goods or services bought whilst 10.5% reported an increase in the prices of goods or services sold. The all industries averages were 35.4% and 16.2% respectively.
- Weighted by count, between 1 and 30 June 2023, 19.0% of construction businesses currently trading expect to raise the prices of goods or services they sell in June 2023, whilst 53.1% expect prices to stay the same. The all industries averages were 17.7% and 59.7% respectively.
- Weighted by count, between 2 and 14 May 2023, 29.5% of construction businesses reported recent increases in energy prices have affected production and/or suppliers

whilst, 23.1% reported that the business has not been affected. The all industries averages were 26.2% and 33.5% respectively.

- Weighted by count, between 1 and 14 May 2023, 13.0% of construction businesses currently trading reported their overall performance for April 2023 increased compared with the same calendar month last year, 61.7% reported their overall performance stayed the same, while 14.1% reported their overall performance increased.

Construction Output

The **Office for National Statistics** published estimates of construction output for [March 2023](#) 12 May 2023.

Key points:

- Monthly construction output is estimated to have increased 0.2% in volume terms in March 2023; this came from an increase in new work (0.7%), partially offset by a decrease in repair and maintenance (0.6% fall) on the month.
- This followed a growth in construction output of 2.6% in February 2023 (revised up from a 2.4% growth in their previous publication).
- At the sector level, four out of the nine sectors saw a rise in March 2023, with the main contributors to the monthly increase seen in infrastructure new work and public other new work, which increased 2.2% (£51 million) and 6.5% (£48 million), respectively.
- Quarterly construction output increased 0.7% in Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2023 compared with Quarter 4 (Oct to Dec) 2022; the increase came solely from a rise in repair and maintenance (4.9%), as new work saw a decrease of 1.9%.
- Total construction new orders decreased 12.4% (£1,571 million) in Quarter 1 2023 compared with Quarter 4 2022; this quarterly fall came mainly from private commercial and private housing new orders, which fell 22.3% (£773 million) and 18.4% (£607 million), respectively.
- The annual rate of construction output price growth was 8.5% in the 12 months to March 2023; this has slowed slightly from the record annual price growth found in May and June 2022 (10.4%).

Bank of England Summary of Business Conditions

The **Bank of England** published its most recent update to the [Agents' Summary of Business Conditions](#) on 23 March 2023, covering intelligence gathered between mid-January and early March 2023.

Key points:

- Construction output volumes contracted further, driven by softer demand for housing and as higher costs continued to weigh on activity. The fall in output volumes compared with a year ago came as larger house builders slowed build rates in response to weaker demand. Construction of social housing also weakened.

- Contacts said rising costs and delays relating to planning and utility connection continued to constrain output. And spending on home improvements also fell, reflecting squeezed household incomes.
- Construction of office and commercial property continued to be weak, though demand for office refurbishment remained good. And most public infrastructure projects were reported to be going ahead as planned.

Gross Domestic Product Estimate

The **Office for National Statistics** published estimates of GDP for [March 2023](#) on the 12 May 2023.

Key points:

- Monthly real gross domestic product (GDP) is estimated to have fallen by 0.3% in March 2023, after showing no growth in February 2023 (unrevised from the previous publication).
- Looking at the broader picture, GDP grew by 0.1% in the three months to March 2023.
- The services sector fell by 0.5% in March 2023, after an unrevised fall of 0.1% in February 2023, and was the main contributor to the fall in monthly GDP.
- Output in consumer facing services fell by 0.8% in March 2023, after unrevised growth of 0.4% in February.
- Production output grew by 0.7% in March 2023, which was its strongest monthly growth since May 2021, following a fall of 0.1% in February 2023 (revised up from a 0.2% fall in the last publication).

Gross Domestic Product Forecast

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

Key points:

- The mean GDP forecast for 2023 is -0.1% up from -0.2% from the previous month's survey.
- The mean GDP forecast for 2024 is 0.8%, unchanged from the previous month's survey.

The **Office for Budget Responsibility** published a new [Economic and Fiscal Outlook](#) on 15 March 2023.

- GDP is expected to contract by 0.2% in 2023 (up from -1.4% in the previous forecast) and to grow by 1.8% in 2024 and 2.5% in 2025.

Construction Output Forecasts

Experian published their Spring 2023 [forecasts](#) for the construction sector in May 2023.

Key points:

- Construction output is set to decline by 1.3% in 2023 as weakness in the housing sector, both in terms of new work and RM&I, dampen the outlook. While headwinds in the form of elevated inflationary pressures, a cost-of-living crisis, rising interest rates and economic uncertainty continue to collectively weigh on construction going forward, the UK backdrop has brightened compared with the previous forecast and it is largely the fate of the residential sector which is hampering prospects. As the UK economic landscape continues to improve and the housing market recovers towards the end of the year there is a return to construction output growth of 1.0% and 2.6% in 2024 and 2025 respectively.
- The housing sector is expected to decline by 7.1% in 2023, then increase by 2.5% in 2024 and 4.8% in 2025. The near-term outlook for housebuilding is undeniably weak. The driver of growth in the overall sector –private housebuilding – is under renewed pressure. At the same time, no compensating momentum is forthcoming from the public side. On the private sector side, the cost-of-living crisis, rising interest rates, economic uncertainty and the rolling back of supportive schemes are weighing on buyer demand. As a result, buyer enquiries and house prices have both fallen for several consecutive months. In this backdrop, there is little incentive for private housebuilders to undertake new work. On the public sector side, local authorities face the double whammy of ongoing budgetary constraints and further funding cuts as well as heightened pressure to redirect existing funding from new construction towards RM&I.
- Housing Repair Maintenance & Improvement (RM&I) is forecast to decline by 1.9% in 2023, stay flat (0.0%) in 2024 and grow by 1.0% in 2025. The public and private Repair Maintenance & Improvement (RM&I) sectors have had notably divergent experiences in the recovery from the pandemic. While private housing RM&I enjoyed a swift bounce back from a sharp decline to hit a record high of £28.7bn in 2022, up 12.9% year over year, growth in public housing RM&I failed to establish momentum and fell back once again in 2022 as output shrank to £7bn marking.
- The new infrastructure sector is expected to grow by 2.4% in 2023, 1.8% 2024 and 2.6% in 2025. Infrastructure output fell by 4.8% in 2020 weighed down by pandemic related disruption but saw a strong rebound of 28% in 2021. While momentum has faltered, with the sector experiencing a marginal decline of 0.6% in 2022, the recent PMI data points towards a relative outperformance this year. Forecasts for 2025 will also see a new record high for infrastructure at £29.7bn.
- The private industrial sector is expected to grow by 2.1% in 2023, decline by 0.5% in 2023 and rise by 2.2% in 2025. The industrial construction sector was the star performer of the construction industry in 2022, posting growth of 42%, taking output up to £6.75bn (2019 prices), its highest level since 2007. The weaker economic prognosis for the economy is expected to impact manufacturing output negatively and consequently the demand for manufacturing facilities.
- The Public Non-residential sector is forecast to grow by 1.7% in 2023, 1.6% in 2024 and 3.1% in 2025. The public non-residential sector experienced its sixth consecutive year of

decline in 2022, with output falling by over 9% in 2022. There were multiple announcements in the Spring 2023 Budget which should benefit the public non-residential sector, including £200m for local regeneration projects in England, a further £161m for mayoral combined authorities and Greater London, £400m for new 'levelling up partnerships', and another £11bn added to the defence budget over the next five years, some of which will be construction related. It remains the case that the strongest growth over the next three years is likely to be in the agriculture & miscellaneous sector, driven by work on the Defence Estate and the prison building programme.

The **Construction Products Association** published their [Construction industry forecasts](#) for Spring 2023 in May 2023.

Key points:

- Construction output is forecast to fall from a record-high level and contract by 6.4% in 2023 according to the CPA's Spring Forecasts. This is a downgrade from a fall of 4.7% expected in the Winter, driven primarily by sharp falls in the two largest construction sectors – private new housing and private housing repair, maintenance and improvement (rm&i) – together with recent government announcements of delays to major infrastructure projects.
- Private housing new build, and private housing rm&i account for around 40% of total construction output and are forecast to be the sectors in which demand is most affected by a macroeconomic backdrop of falling household incomes and higher interest rates. In infrastructure, the third-largest sector, growth is expected but has been downgraded from the Winter Forecasts owing to government delaying HS2 work at Euston station and work on major road schemes. A wider recovery in economic growth in 2024 is expected to boost demand for both new build housing and rm&i activity and total construction output is forecast to return to growth, rising by 1.1%.
- Private housing is the sector forecast to experience the sharpest contraction in 2023, with a 17.0% fall in output in 2023. Following the government's disastrous Mini Budget last Autumn which directly led to interest rates rising to a 14-year high, the resulting higher mortgage rates combined with broader cost of living increases and falling real incomes led to a significant weakening in homebuyer sentiment and a sharp drop in demand heading into this year. Continued pressure on household budgets and the absence of stimulus for homebuying in the Budget, particularly first-time buyers, means that demand from a key segment of the market will remain subdued. The forecast assumes a pickup beginning in the traditional Spring selling season with mortgage interest rates settling at current levels – lower than at the end of 2022 but still significantly higher than 12 months ago and the ultra-low rates of the last decade. However, a gradual improvement in demand will need to be maintained throughout the Summer and beyond to shore up house builder confidence to start new developments and drive the recovery in building activity in 2024.
- Private housing rm&i is similarly exposed to the fall in real incomes but is also experiencing slower demand. This is due to the fading impact of the one-off boost to activity during and immediately after the pandemic, when increased working from home, a 'race for space', and accumulated savings and housing wealth saw households investing in large improvements projects. A drop in planning applications in the second half of 2022 and the return of competing spending decisions such as overseas holidays point to a reduced pipeline of improvements work and discretionary r&m projects for this year. As a result, output is forecast to fall 9.0% in 2023, which is partly offset by strong activity on energy efficiency retrofit and solar/PV work, before a broader economic recovery that drives output growth of 2.0% in 2024.

- In infrastructure, forecast growth rates have been downgraded in the Spring Forecasts to 0.7% for 2023 and 1.2% for 2024, from 2.4% and 2.5% respectively in Winter. Activity on regulated frameworks in water & sewerage, road and rail provides sizeable activity, but growth in the sector tends to be driven by large projects, most recently by HS2, the Thames Tideway Tunnel and Hinkley Point C. Nonetheless, in the space of six months the UK government has gone from announcing it would bring forward 138 infrastructure projects to start by the end of this year to cancelling this and delaying HS2 Phase 2a and Euston station, the Lower Thames Crossing and other roads projects by two years in an attempt to reduce government spending near-term. HS2 Phase 2a is beyond the scope of the forecasts and previous forecasts had factored in delays and cost overruns on current phases, but the pause of work at Euston, for which preparatory work had begun, will adversely affect activity during the forecast period.
- CPA Head of Construction Research Rebecca Larkin: “Despite the improvement in the outlook for the UK economy compared to six months ago, the headwinds of falling real incomes and interest rate rises remain. For construction, the most acute effects of this will be felt in the two largest sectors of activity and those that are most exposed to a slowdown in discretionary household spending: private housing and private housing rm&i. The sharp falls that are forecast for housing in 2023 mean that overall, a construction recession will be unavoidable. However, it is important to emphasise that the starting point is a record-high level of activity and the 6.4% contraction expected is smaller than during the construction recessions of 2008/09, 2012 and 2020.

Manufacturing

The latest **Index of Production** data for March 2023 were [published](#) on 12 May 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 March 2023 with March 2022, **output decreased by 8.0%**.
- When comparing March 2023 with February 2023, **output decreased by 2.6%**.

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 March 2023 with March 2022, **output decreased by 7.5%**.
- When comparing March 2023 with February 2023, **output increased by 17.5%**.

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.

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. 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.

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	90%
Quarterly Slate	7	100%
Quarterly Concrete Roofing Tiles	13	57%
Monthly Bricks Provisional data	9	98%
Monthly Bricks Final data	9 & 10	98%
Monthly Concrete Blocks	11 & 12	91%

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 5 July 2023.

Pre-release access

[Pre-release access](#) is not granted for this publication.

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

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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