Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components

Commentary, November 2020

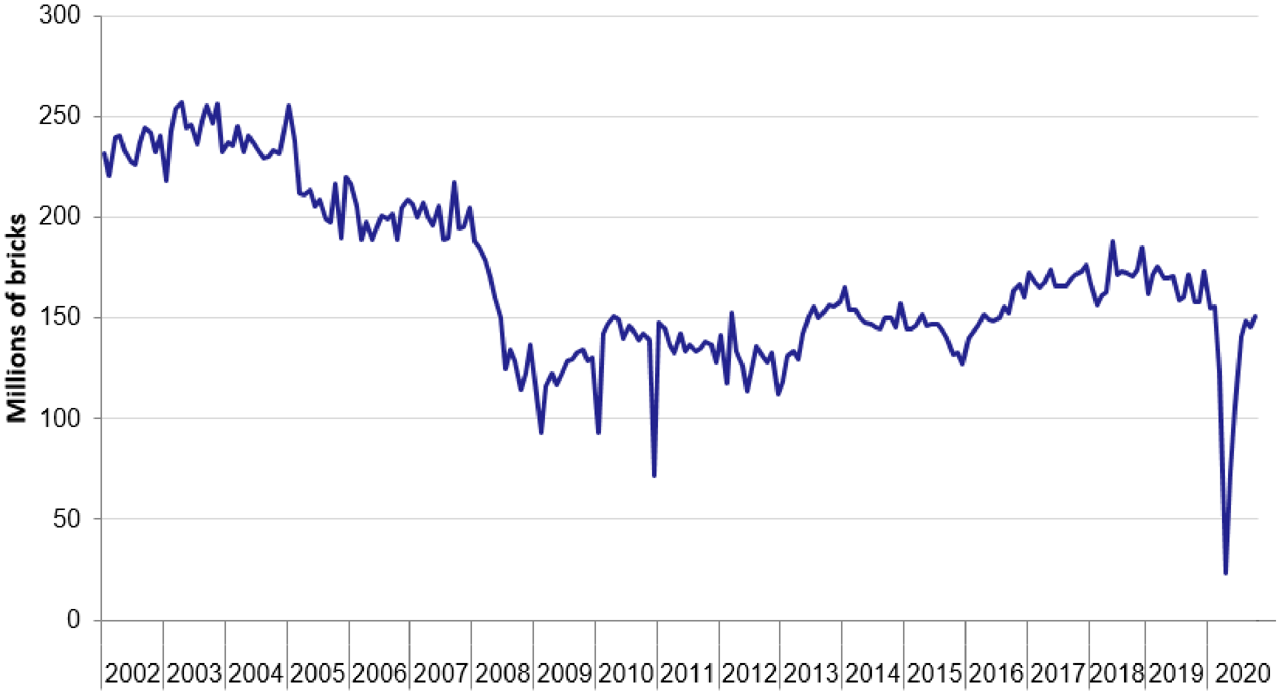
Coverage: UK and Great Britain
Geographical Area: Country, region and county

04 December 2020 **National Statistics**

Headline Findings

- There was a **4.3% decrease** in brick deliveries in October 2020 compared to October 2019, according to the seasonally adjusted figures. The month-on-month change shows a **3.7% increase** in October 2020.
- **Imports** of construction materials **increased** by £1,046 million in Q3 2020 compared to the previous quarter, an increase of 35.1%. **Exports** of construction materials **increased** by £212 million in Q3 2020 compared to the previous quarter, an increase of 14.2%. As a result, between Q2 2020 and Q3 2020, the **quarterly trade deficit widened** by £833 million to £2,319 million, an increase of 56.1%.

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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Next publication: 13 January 2021

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Introduction

This commentary accompanies the latest Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components bulletin, published on the BEIS building materials web page on 4th December 2020. It provides an overview of recent trends in the data presented in the bulletin.

The bulletin presents the latest detailed information on selected building materials and components. It covers 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

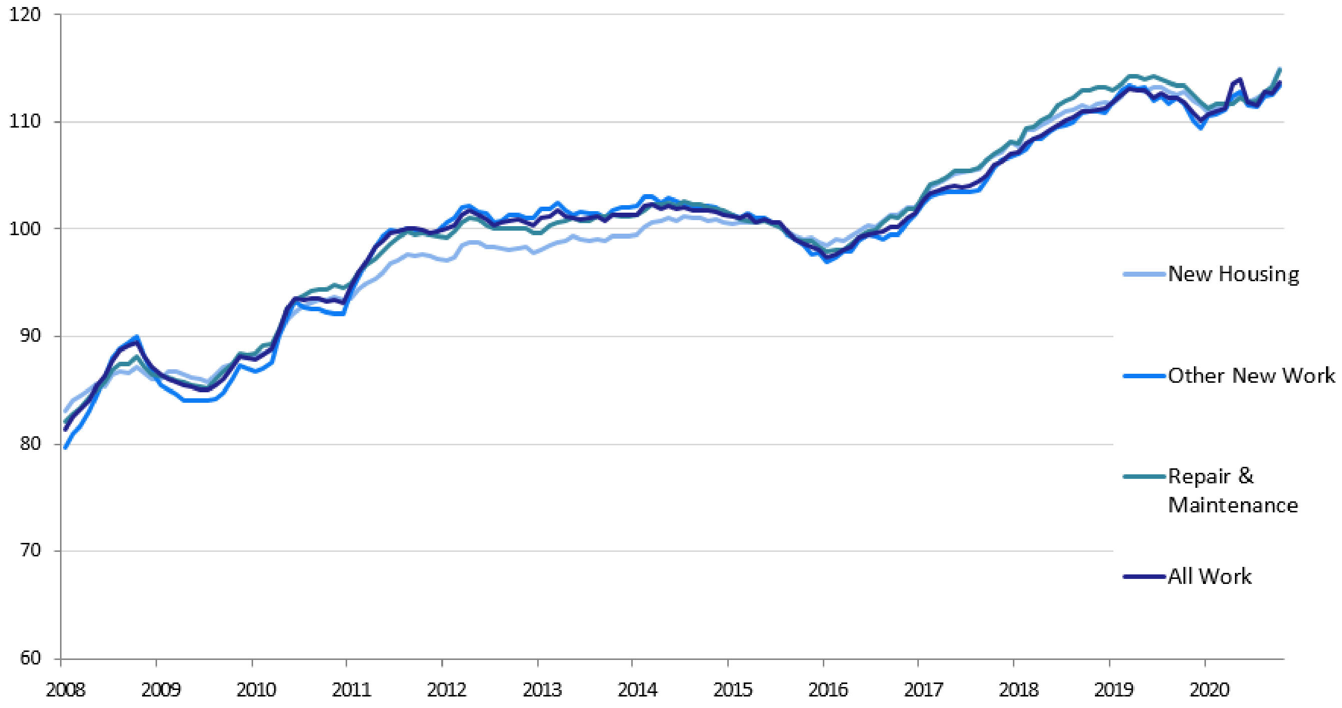
Seasonally adjusted series for deliveries of bricks, concrete blocks, ready-mixed concrete and sales of sand & gravel are published in this bulletin. The purpose of correcting the reported series is to allow for seasonal factors such as winter weather (including the reduction in hours of daylight, and 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

- All price indices series have been rebased to 2015 = 100 for the November 2020 release of this publication (published 4th December 2020).

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 2019 to October 2020)

New Housing	1.9%
Other New Work	1.5%
Repair & Maintenance	1.2%
All Work	1.6%

Month-on-month change (September 2020 to October 2020)

New Housing	1.3%
Other New Work	0.7%
Repair & Maintenance	1.4%
All Work	0.9%

- Looking at the longer-term change, the material price index of **'All Work' increased by 1.6%** in October 2020 compared to the same month the previous year.

Table 1: Construction materials experiencing the greatest price increases and decreases in the 12 months to October 2020, UK

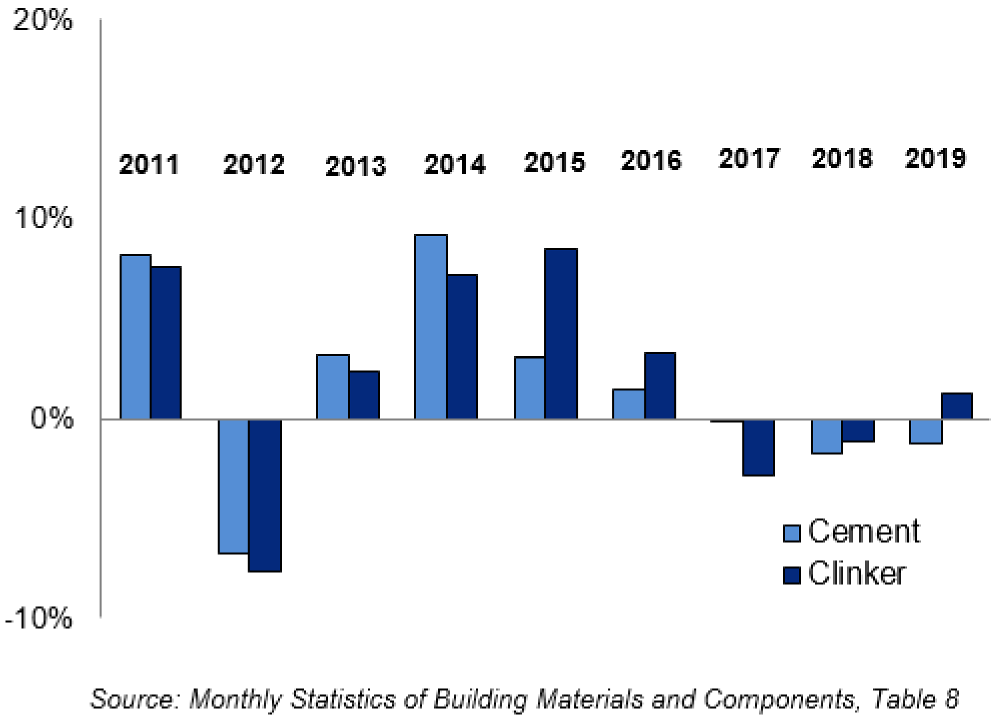
Construction Materials	% change on a year earlier
Greatest price increases	
Imported plywood	6.2
Pipes and fittings (flexible)	6.1
Insulating materials (thermal or acoustic)	5.5
Greatest price decreases	
Concrete reinforcing bars	-3.6
Screws etc.	-2.4

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

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

Cement and Clinker

Chart 3: Production of Cement and Clinker, GB
Percentage change over previous year (%)

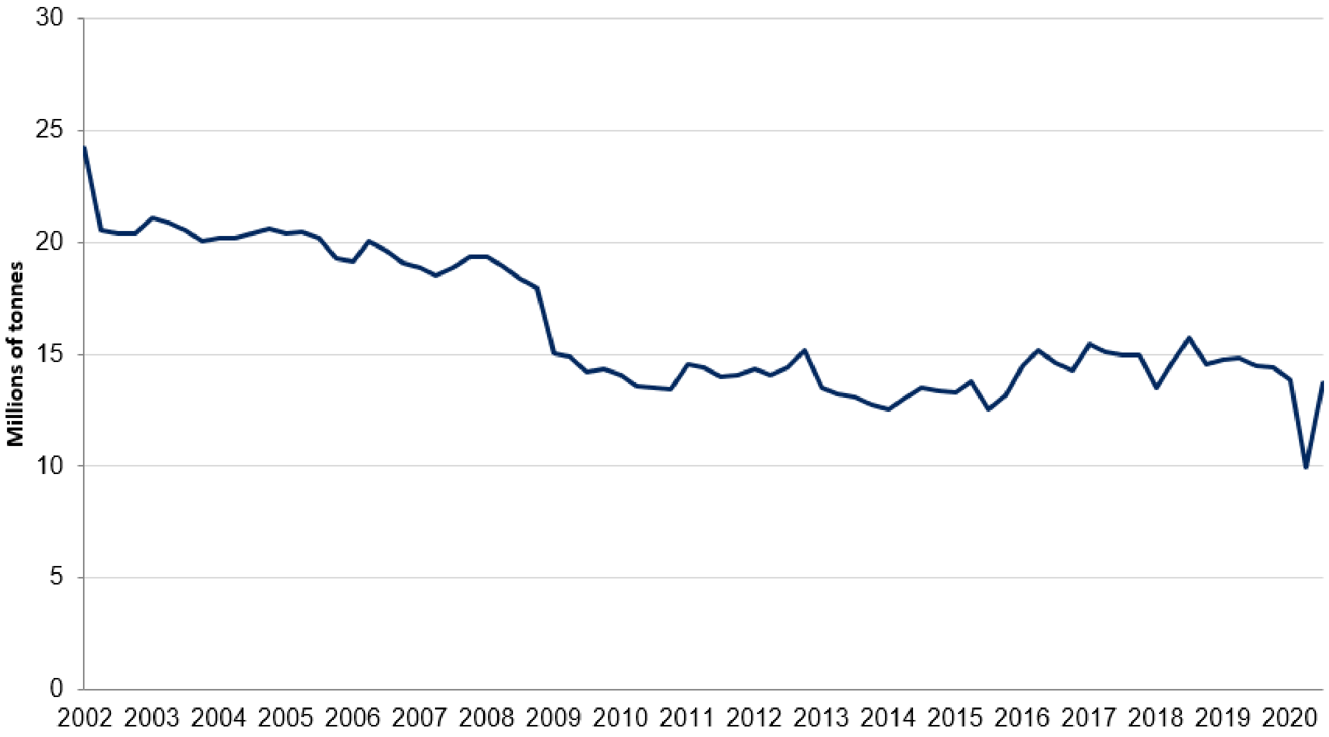


Cement production fell by 1.3% to 9.1 million tonnes in 2019, compared to the previous year. This fall in cement production follows a fall of 1.7% to 9.2 million tonnes in 2018. Pre-recession production peaked in 2007 at 11.9 million tonnes.

Production of Clinker rose by 1.2% to 7.8 million tonnes in 2019, compared to the previous year. This rise in clinker production follows a fall of 1.1% to 7.7 million tonnes in 2018. Pre-recession production stood at 10.2 million tonnes in 2007.

Sand & Gravel

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

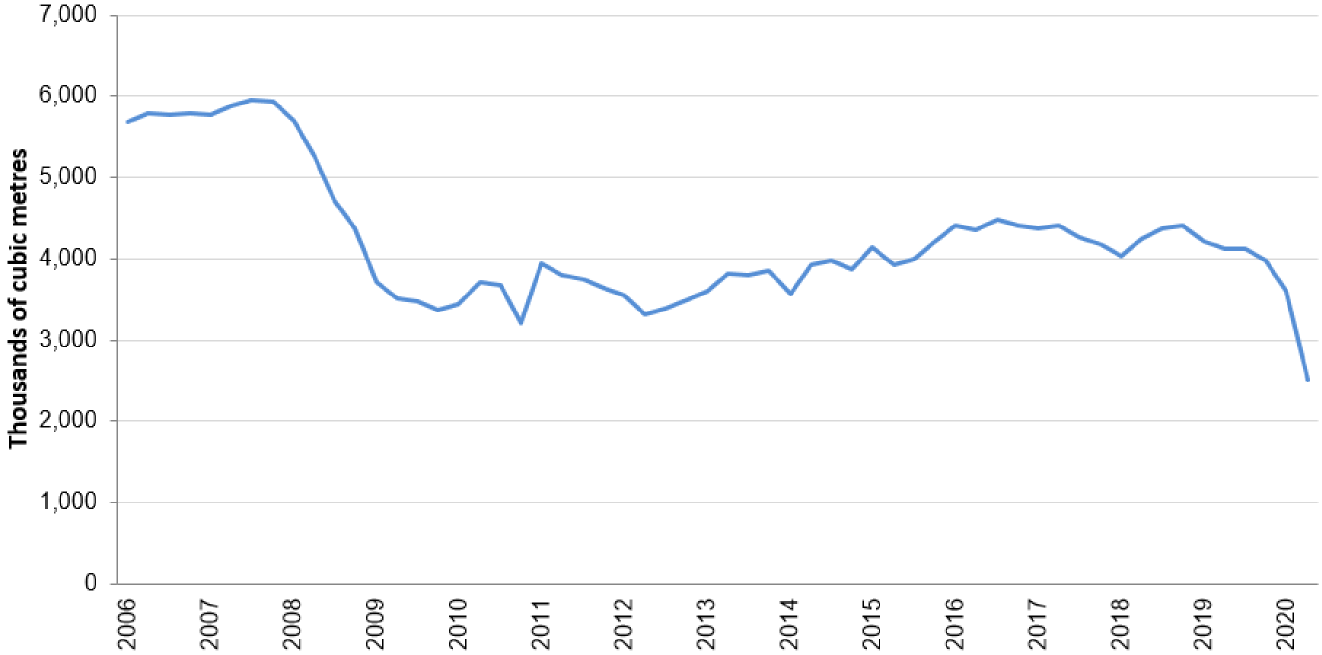


Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 4

- Sales of sand & gravel **increased** by **37.5%** in Quarter 3 2020 compared to Quarter 2 2020, according to the seasonally adjusted data.
- This followed a decrease of 27.9% in Quarter 2 2020.
- Comparing Quarter 3 2020 to the same quarter in the previous year, sales have **decreased** by **5.4%**.
- 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

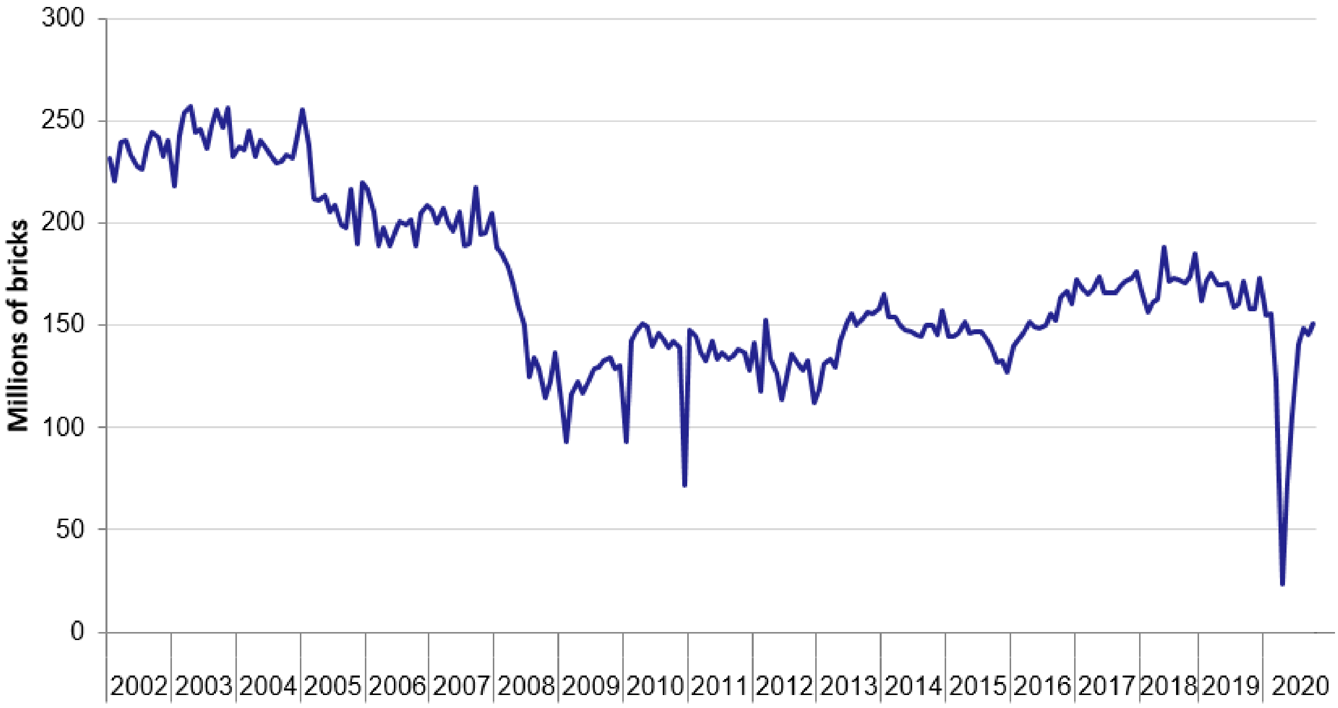


Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 13

- Ready-mixed concrete sales **decreased** by **30.5%** in Quarter 2 2020 compared to Quarter 1 2020, according to the seasonally adjusted data.
- This followed a 9.4% decrease in Quarter 1 2020.
- Sales in Quarter 2 2020 **decreased** by **39.4%** compared to the same quarter in the previous year, following a 14.3% decrease in Quarter 1 2020, on the same basis.
- After the 2008 to 2009 recession, seasonally adjusted sales of ready-mixed concrete had been recovering steadily since Q2 2012, until the recent drop due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Bricks

Chart 6: Seasonally Adjusted Deliveries of Bricks, GB
Number of bricks

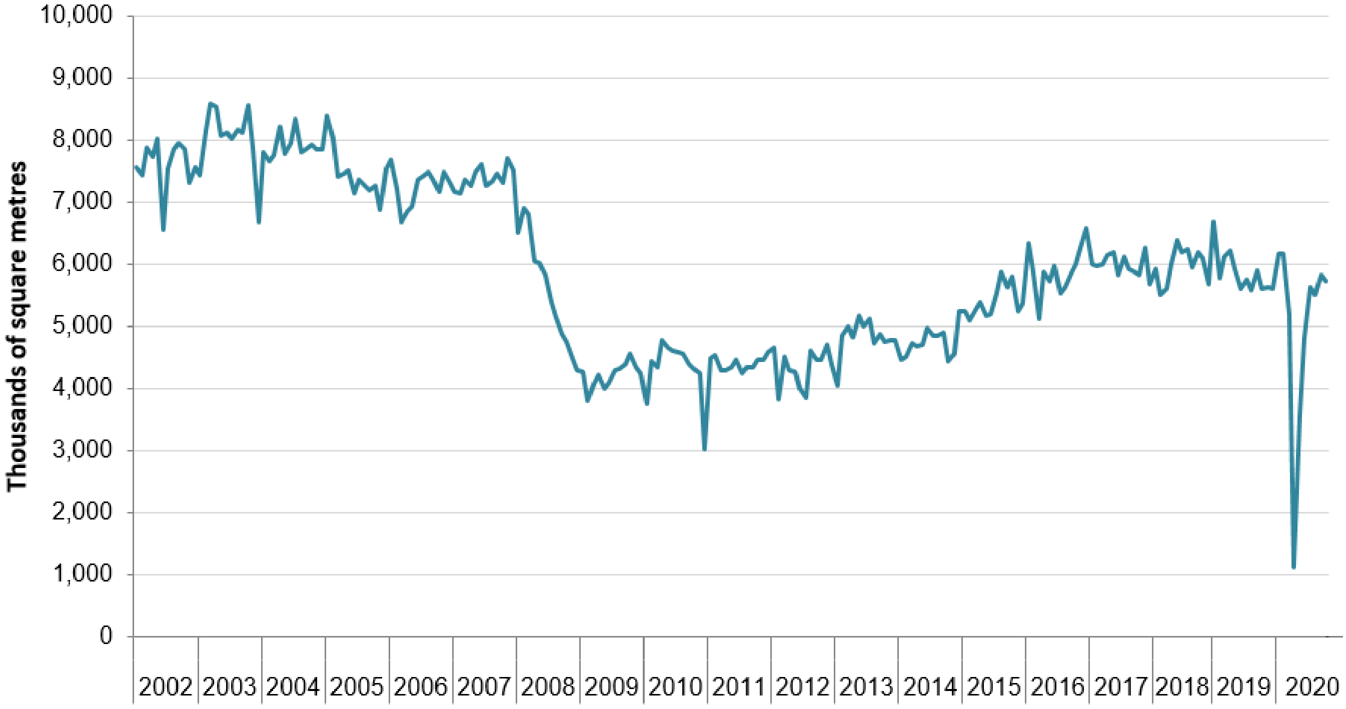


Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 9

- There was a **4.3% decrease** in brick deliveries in October 2020 compared to October 2019, according to the seasonally adjusted figures.
- This followed an 15.0% decrease in September 2020, on the same basis.
- The month-on-month change shows a **3.7% increase** in October 2020.
- This followed a 1.8% decrease in September 2020, on the same basis.
- Deliveries of bricks declined during the recession of 2008 to 2009. They have recovered slowly since 2013, until the recent drop due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Blocks

Chart 7: Seasonally Adjusted Deliveries of Concrete Blocks, GB
Area of concrete blocks

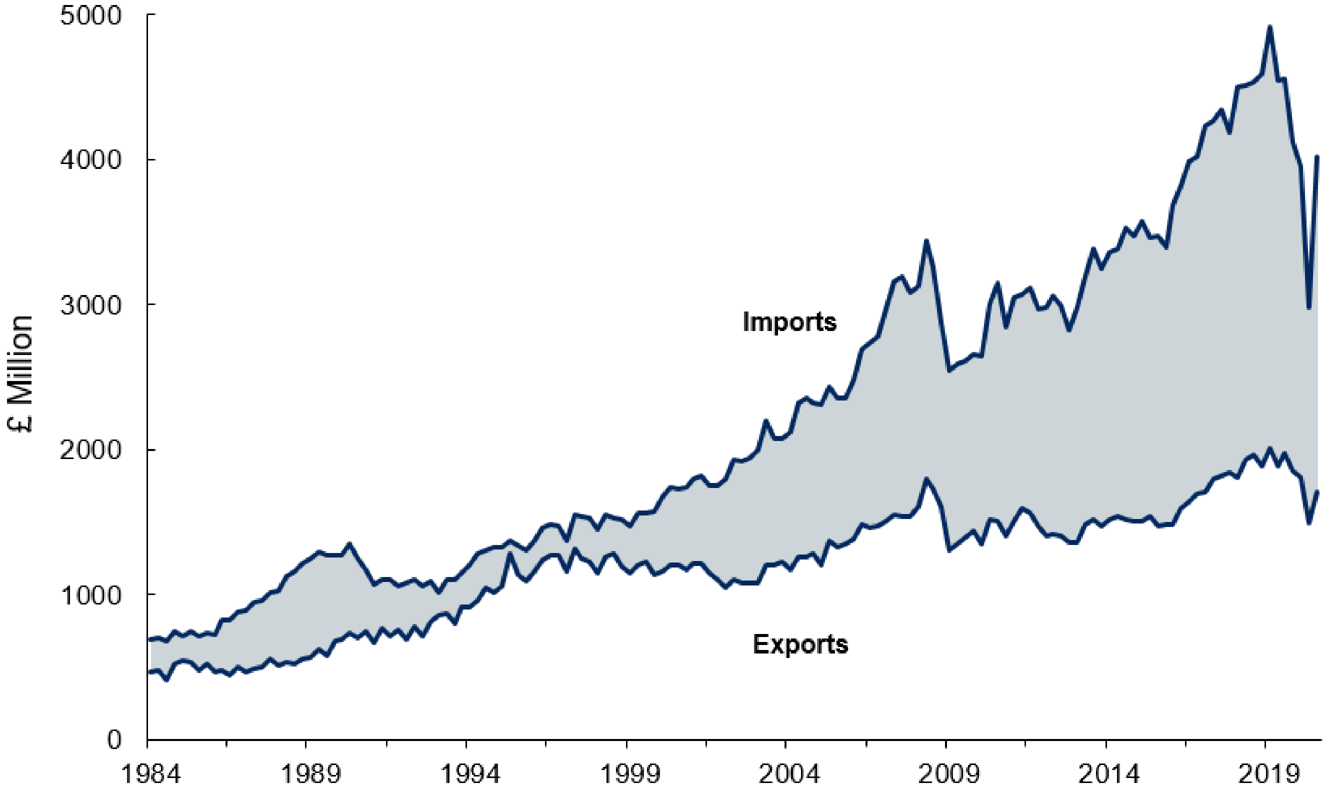


Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 11

- There was a **2.5% increase** in concrete block deliveries in October 2020 compared to October 2019, according to the seasonally adjusted figures.
- This followed a 1.3% decrease in September 2020, on the same basis.
- The month-on-month change shows a **1.4% decrease** in October 2020.
- This followed a 5.8% increase in September 2020, 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, until the recent drop due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Imports and Exports of Construction Materials

Chart 8: Exports and Imports of Construction Materials, UK
Value in pounds sterling



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

- **Imports** of construction materials **increased** by £1,046 million in Q3 2020 compared to the previous quarter, **an increase** of 35.1%.

- **Exports** of construction materials **increased** by £212 million in Q3 2020 compared to the previous quarter, **an increase** of 14.2%.

- As a result, between Q2 2020 and Q3 2020, the **quarterly trade deficit widened** by £833 million to £2,319 million, **an increase** of 56.1%.

- Over the period from Quarter 1 1984 to Quarter 3 2020, construction materials imports have increased, on average (per quarter), by 3.3%. Over the same period, exports increased by an average of 1.5% 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 2020, the trade deficit is £2,319 million, 58% of the value of imports.

Table 2: Top-5 Exported and Imported Construction Materials in 2019

Top-5 Exported Materials	*£ million*	Top-5 Imported Materials	*£ million*
Electrical Wires	879	Electrical Wires	1,936
Paints & Varnishes	752	Lamps & Fittings	983
Plugs & Sockets	476	Sawn Wood> 6mm thick	799
Air Conditioning Equipment	403	Air Conditioning Equipment	666
Lamps & Fittings	385	Central Heating Boilers	622

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

The top five exported materials in 2019 accounted for 37% of total construction material exports.

The top five imported construction materials in 2019 accounted for 28% of total construction material imports.

Table 3: UK Trade of Construction Materials with EU and Non-EU Countries, 2019

All Building Materials & Components		
£ million (% of total trade in italics)	EU	Non-EU
Imports	10,778	7,366
	59%	*41%*
Exports	4,336	3,367
	56%	*44%*

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 56%.

Table 4: Top 5 UK Export and Import Markets for Construction Materials in 2019

Top-5 Export Markets	*£ million*	Top-5 Import Markets	*£ million*
Republic of Ireland	1,219	China	3,190
Germany	763	Germany	2,412
USA	705	Italy	1,003
France	646	Spain	932
Netherlands	571	Netherlands	857

Source: HMRC Overseas Trade Statistics

The top five export markets comprised 51% of total construction materials exports in 2019. The Republic of Ireland remains the largest market, despite having shrunk from a pre-recession peak of 27% of total exports in 2007, to 16% in 2019.

The top 5 import markets comprised 46% of total construction materials imports in 2019. 18% of all imports are from China.

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

Economic Background

COVID-19 Intelligence

The **Office for National Statistics** published further information from their fortnightly Business Impact of Coronavirus Survey (BICS) on 19th November 2020, relating to 19th October to 1st November 2020:

Key points:

- Weighted by count, 86.1% of construction firms said they were currently trading and had been for more than the last two weeks, compared with an all industry average of 79.2%. 3.1% had started trading in the last two weeks after a pause in trading.
- Weighted by turnover, 4.2% of construction firms still trading said their turnover had decreased by more than 50%. A further 13.2% said turnover had decreased by between 20% and 50%, and 22.8% said it had decreased by up to 20%.
- Weighted by employment, the average proportion of the workforce on partial or furlough leave was 2.3% for construction businesses which had not permanently stopped trading.
- Weighted by count, 30.7% of construction firms who have not permanently stopped trading applied for the Job Retention Bonus.

Construction Output

The most recent provisional construction output figures for September 2020 and Q3 2020 were published by the **Office for National Statistics** on 12th November 2020.

Key points:

- Construction output grew by 2.9% in the month-on-month all work series in September 2020, driven by increases in both new work (2.7%) and repair and maintenance (3.4%); this is the fifth consecutive month of growth but the lowest rise in that time.
- The level of construction output in September 2020 was 7.3% below that in February 2020, with only infrastructure and private new housing having returned to above their pre-pandemic levels of output; all other types of work in September 2020 have yet to recover, with public new housing the furthest below its February 2020 level at 29.4%.
- Quarterly construction output grew by a record 41.7% in Quarter 3 (July to Sept) 2020 compared with Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2020; this was driven by record quarterly growth in both new work (40.8%) and repair and maintenance (43.4%).
- The increase in new work (40.8%) in Quarter 3 2020 was because of record quarterly growth in all new work sectors; the largest contributor was private new housing, which grew by 84.4% in Quarter 3 2020 compared with Quarter 2 2020.
- The increase in repair and maintenance (43.4%) in Quarter 3 2020 was because of record growth in all repair and maintenance sectors; the largest contributor was private housing repair and maintenance, which grew by 70.9% in Quarter 3 2020 compared with Quarter 2 2020.

Bank of England Summary of Business Conditions

The **Bank of England** published its most recent update to the Agents' Summary of Business Conditions on 17th September 2020, covering intelligence gathered between mid-July and late August 2020.

Key points:

- Contacts reported strong demand in public sector work, in part supported by a government scheme to fund infrastructure projects, which resulted in some projects being brought forward. Housebuilding activity was also reported to have picked up, though mostly to complete projects, rather than start new ones. While housing market activity had recently picked up, contacts were uncertain about how long that upturn would be sustained, and so were cautious about the outlook for housebuilding.
- Smaller builders said there had been an increase in home maintenance and improvement work, as households reassessed their living and working space during lockdown. By contrast, demand for office-related work was muted as companies considered the return to onsite working and their need for office space in future.
- Many contacts said that they were operating at near full capacity in order to catch up on time lost during the pandemic and complete projects. They reported taking a variety of measures to maintain operating capacity while observing social distancing requirements, such as extending site working hours and providing personal protective equipment. Nonetheless, turnover this year was still likely to be lower compared with a year ago.

Gross Domestic Product Estimate

The **Office for National Statistics** published their estimate of gross domestic product for September 2020 and Q3 2020 on 12th November 2020.

Key points:

- GDP grew by 15.5% in Q3 (July to Sept) 2020. The services sector grew by 14.2% in Q3 2020, production grew by 14.3% and construction grew by 41.7% in the same period.
- GDP grew by 1.1% in September 2020 compared with August 2020, following growth of 2.1% in August 2020. This is the fifth consecutive monthly increase following a record fall of 19.5% in April 2020. September 2020 GDP is now 22.9% higher than its April 2020 low. However, it remains 8.2% below the levels seen in February 2020, before the full impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Services grew by 1.0% in September 2020, production grew by 0.5% and construction grew by 2.9%.

Gross Domestic Product Forecast

The latest monthly **Consensus Economics** forecast survey (which uses an average of private sector forecasts) results were published on 9th November 2020.

Key points:

- The mean GDP forecast for 2020 is a fall of 11.0%, down from a fall of 10.1% in the previous month's survey.

- The mean GDP forecast for 2021 is 4.7% growth, down from 5.7% growth in the previous month's survey.

The **Office for Budget Responsibility** published a new Economic and Fiscal Outlook on 25th November.

- GDP will fall by 11.3% in 2020 in the central scenario, by 10.6% in the upside scenario and by 12.0% in the downside scenario.

Construction Output Forecasts

In June 2020, **Experian** published their Summer 2020 forecasts for the construction sector.

Key points:

- Output is expected to fall by 24.4% in 2020, due to the impact of Covid-19. It will then grow by 13.9% in 2021 and 8.6% in 2022 to around the level seen in 2016.
- The worst hit sectors are private and public new housing, which are expected to fall by 35% and 38% respectively in 2020. However, both are expected to recover by 25% in 2021 and 10% in 2022. Private commercial new work is forecast to fall by 30% in 2020, with growth of 14% in 2021 and 8% in 2022 only taking the sector back to 2013 levels, due in particular to declines in the retail sector. Private industrial new work is forecast to fall by 16% in 2020, but growth of 13% in 2021 and 5% in 2022 sees the sector returning to 2019 levels.
- Infrastructure new construction is forecast to fall by 14% in 2020, before recovering with growth of 7% in 2021 and 15% in 2022. The strongest driver of growth through the period from 2019 to 2022 is the HS2 project in the rail sector. Public non-housing new work is expected to fall by 19% in 2020, followed by growth of 1% and 6% in 2021 and 2022 respectively, still below the 2019 level.

The **Construction Products Association** published updated scenarios for construction in October 2020.

- The main scenario for construction output in 2020 is a 14.5% fall as the construction industry shows some signs of recovery from the coronavirus pandemic. Demand for new private housing and private housing repair, maintenance and improvement, as well as strong growth in the infrastructure sector, are expected to support recovery.
- A tick-shaped economic recovery continues to be expected as the most likely outcome, with output for construction rising by 13.5% in 2021 from the sharpest fall on record in 2020. Along with private housing, the infrastructure sector is expected to be critical for growth. With output not falling as sharply this year as in other sectors due to larger sites making social distancing easier, next year's growth will capture the start of main works on HS2, plus ongoing work on major projects such as offshore wind, Thames Tideway and Hinkley Point C. The key risks to the construction industry remain a potential second national lockdown and a 'No Deal' Brexit.

Manufacturing

The latest **Index of Production** data for September 2020 were published on 12th November 2020 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 2020 with September 2019, **output decreased by 10.4%**
- When comparing September 2020 with August 2020, **output increased by 0.1%**

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

- When comparing September 2020 with September 2019, **output decreased by 3.0%**
- When comparing September 2020 with August 2020, **output increased by 2.2%**

Accompanying tables

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

1 Construction Material Price Indices

2 Price Indices of Construction Materials – monthly

3 Price Indices of Construction Materials – annual averages

4 Sales of Sand and Gravel in Great Britain (including seasonally adjusted sales)

5 Sales of Sand and Gravel by English Regions, Wales and Scotland

6 Sales of Sand and Gravel by English and Welsh Counties and Scottish Region

7 Slate: Production, Deliveries and Stocks

8 Cement and Clinker: Production, Deliveries and Stocks

9 Bricks: Production, Deliveries and Stocks for Great Britain (including seasonally adjusted deliveries)

10 Bricks: Production, Deliveries and Stocks by English Regions, Wales and Scotland (including seasonally adjusted deliveries)

11 Concrete Building Blocks: Production, Deliveries and Stocks for Great Britain

12 Concrete Building Blocks: Production, Deliveries and Stocks by English Regions, Wales and Scotland

13 Concrete Roofing Tiles and Ready-Mixed Concrete (including seasonally adjusted sales of ready-mixed concrete)

14 Value of Overseas Trade in Selected Materials and Components for Constructional Use: Imports (CIF) and Exports (FOB)

15 Value of EU and Non-EU Trade in Selected Materials and Components for Constructional Use: Imports (CIF) and Exports (FOB)

Accompanying tables with data relating to 2011 are accessible from this link.

Accompanying tables for 2005 - 2010 are accessible from this link.

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

Technical information

1. The Office of National Statistics (ONS) will be replacing the following price indices for construction materials from the November 2020 release of this publication (to be 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 will be 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 frequently obscure features of interest in data, such as long-term trends and the 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 the initial publication of seasonally adjusted data, data from 1983 onwards will be seasonally adjusted. Subsequently, for each monthly publication, data up to 12 months or 4 quarters previous to the new data point will be revised. Upon the completion of each year's data series, data for the previous 12 years will be revised. BEIS will publish both non-seasonally adjusted and seasonally adjusted data in the tables of this publication. From the June 2015 edition this publication will only use seasonally adjusted data in the commentary for these series.

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

   The full report can be found on the BEIS *Building Materials and Components* webpage.

   Detailed information on data suppliers, coverage and data collection methodology can be found in sections 2.1-2.10. Quality issues (coverage and accuracy of sample panels, response rates, survey results processing, disclosure etc.) and potential measures that could be employed to improve the quality of the statistics are discussed in section 2.11 of the review. Users' views on the quality of the *Building Materials and Components* statistics are given in section 3.3.4. These are derived from a user survey carried out in early 2010, as part of the review (see section 3 for details).

4. Following the review, BIS acted on the recommendations including commissioning the Office for National Statistics Methodology Advisory Service (ONS/MAS) to address some of the recommendations from the 2010 review. In July 2011, MAS published their interim report. In July 2012, MAS published their final report.

5. HM Revenue and Customs use administrative sources to produce Overseas Trade Statistics. A Statement of Administrative Sources used to compile construction material trade statistics is available on the BEIS *Building Materials and Components* webpage:

   Separately, HM Revenue and Customs also have a Statement of Administrative Sources which covers Overseas Trade Statistics.

6. The pre-announcement of any major changes to samples or methodology also details some methodological changes to the collection of data.

7. The following table gives a summary of response rates related to some of the latest survey results. Where the response rate is less than 100%, estimates are made for missing values.

For latest data used	**Bulletin table number**	**Response rate**
Quarterly Sand and Gravel	4, 5 & 6	76%
Quarterly Sand and Gravel – Land Won	4, 5 & 6	75%
Quarterly Sand and Gravel – Marine Dredged	4, 5 & 6	86%
Quarterly Slate	7	100%
Quarterly Concrete Roofing Tiles	13	80%
Monthly Bricks Provisional data	9	100%
Monthly Bricks Final data	9 & 10	100%
Monthly Concrete Blocks	11 & 12	90%

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 13th January 2021.

Related statistics

1. Construction Statistics: Sources and Outputs lists the known sources of information available on the construction industry and their outputs. These include information on employees, employment, enterprises, output and new orders in the construction industry as well as the contribution of the industry to the economy. Related information, for example housing, is also included.

2. The Construction Statistics Annual brings together a wide range of statistics currently available on the construction industry from a variety of sources and provides a broad perspective on statistical trends in the construction industry, with some international comparisons.

3. In its monthly **Index of Production (IoP)** publication, the Office for National Statistics publishes Gross Value Added (seasonally adjusted, UK) data for the following two industries:

   - SIC 23.1-4/7-9 industry, which includes the manufacture of bricks, tiles and other construction products.
   - SIC 23.5-6 industry, which includes the manufacture of concrete, cement and other products for construction purposes.

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

Revisions policy

1. Our revisions policy can be found on the BEIS Building Materials webpage.

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

Uses of these statistics

The *Building Materials and Components* statistics are used for a variety of purposes, including policy development and evaluation concerning the construction products industry, as well as monitoring market trends. In a wider context, the figures are regularly reported in the construction press to facilitate market analysis and business planning for its wide range of readers. The statistics are also increasingly used by financial institutions for assessing market information and industry trends. For more information on the uses of the Building Materials statistics, their usefulness to users and users' views on the quality of these statistics, see Section 3 of the *Building Materials and Components* review.

User engagement

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

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

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

National Statistics designation

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

The statistics last underwent a full assessment against the Code of Practice for Statistics in 2011.

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

- carried out a public consultation and introduced publication of seasonally adjusted data on deliveries of sand and gravel, concrete blocks, bricks, and ready-mixed concrete
- in response to the cessation of MHCLG's 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 and PDF
- 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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