Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components

Commentary, September 2019

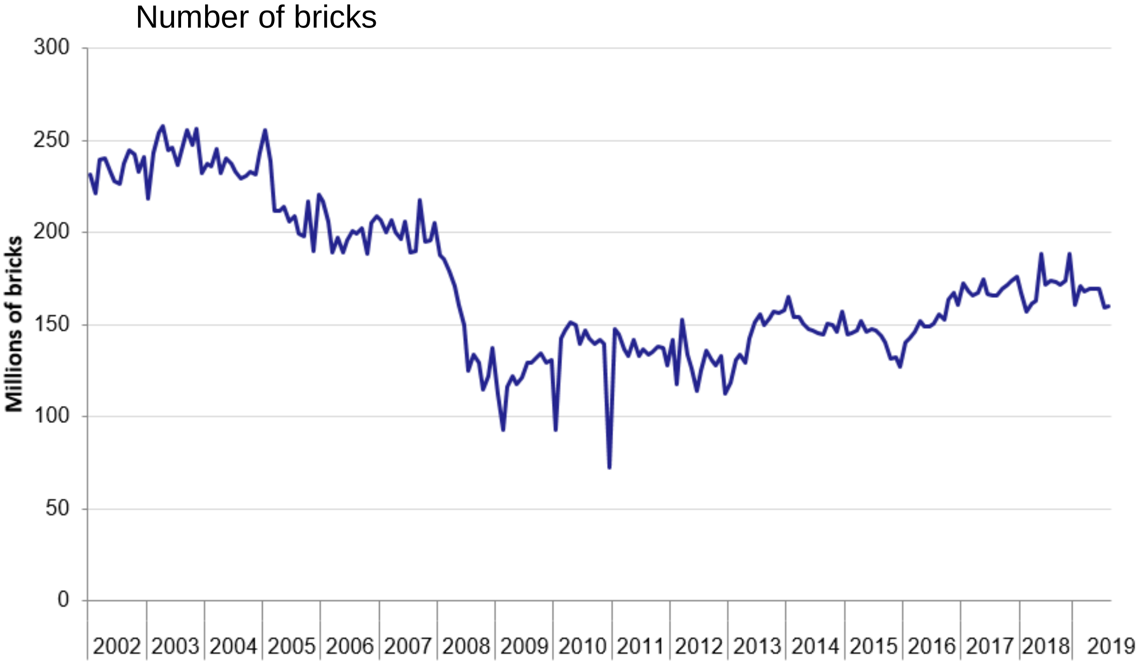
Coverage: UK and Great Britain
Geographical Area: Country, region and county

02 October 2019 **National Statistics**

Headline Results

- There was a **7.7% decrease** in brick deliveries in August 2019 compared to August 2018, according to the seasonally adjusted figures. The month-on-month change shows a **0.6% increase** in August 2019.
- There was an **11.3% decrease** in concrete block deliveries in August 2019 compared to August 2018, according to the seasonally adjusted figures. The month-on-month change shows a **3.3% decrease** in August 2019.
- The material price index of **'All Work' increased by 1.7%** in August 2019 compared to the same month the previous year.

Figure 1: Seasonally Adjusted Deliveries of Bricks, GB



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 bulletin, published on the BEIS building materials web page on 2nd October 2019. 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.

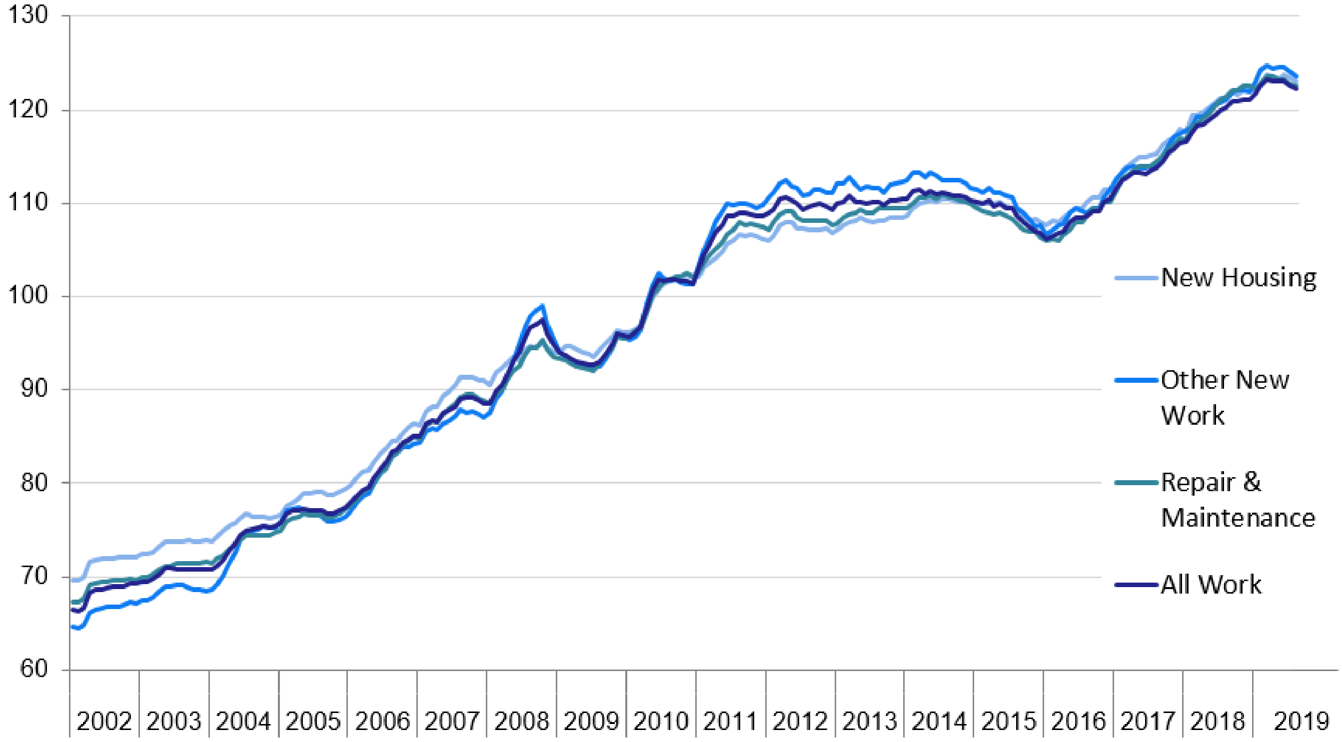
Seasonal Adjustment Review

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

Chart 1: Construction Material Price Indices, UK
Index, 2010 = 100



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

Year-on-year change

Change from August 2018 to August 2019	
New Housing	1.4%
Other New Work	2.1%
Repair & Maintenance	1.0%
All Work	1.7%

- Looking at the longer-term change, the material price index of **'All Work' increased by 1.7%** in August 2019 compared to the same month the previous year.

Month-on-month change

Change from July 2019 to August 2019	
New Housing	-0.3%
Other New Work	-0.5%
Repair & Maintenance	-0.2%
All Work	-0.2%

Table 1: Construction materials experiencing the greatest price increases and decreases in the 12 months to August 2019, UK

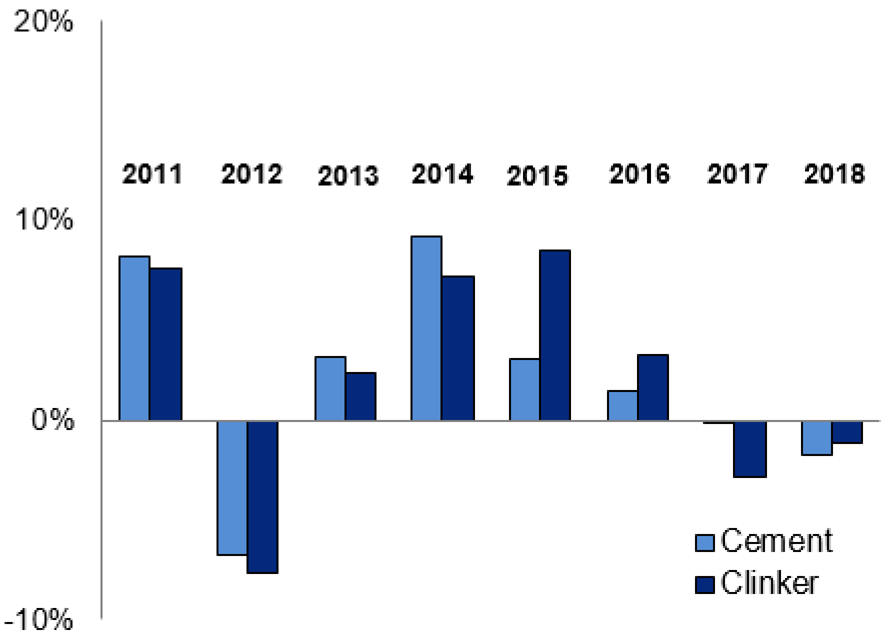
Construction Materials	% change on a year earlier
Greatest price increases	
Insulating materials (thermal or acoustic)	12.8
Taps and Valves for sanitaryware	11.8
Metal sanitaryware	7.5
Greatest price decreases	
Imported plywood	-17.4
Electric water heaters	-15.0
Imported sawn or planed wood	-6.9

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



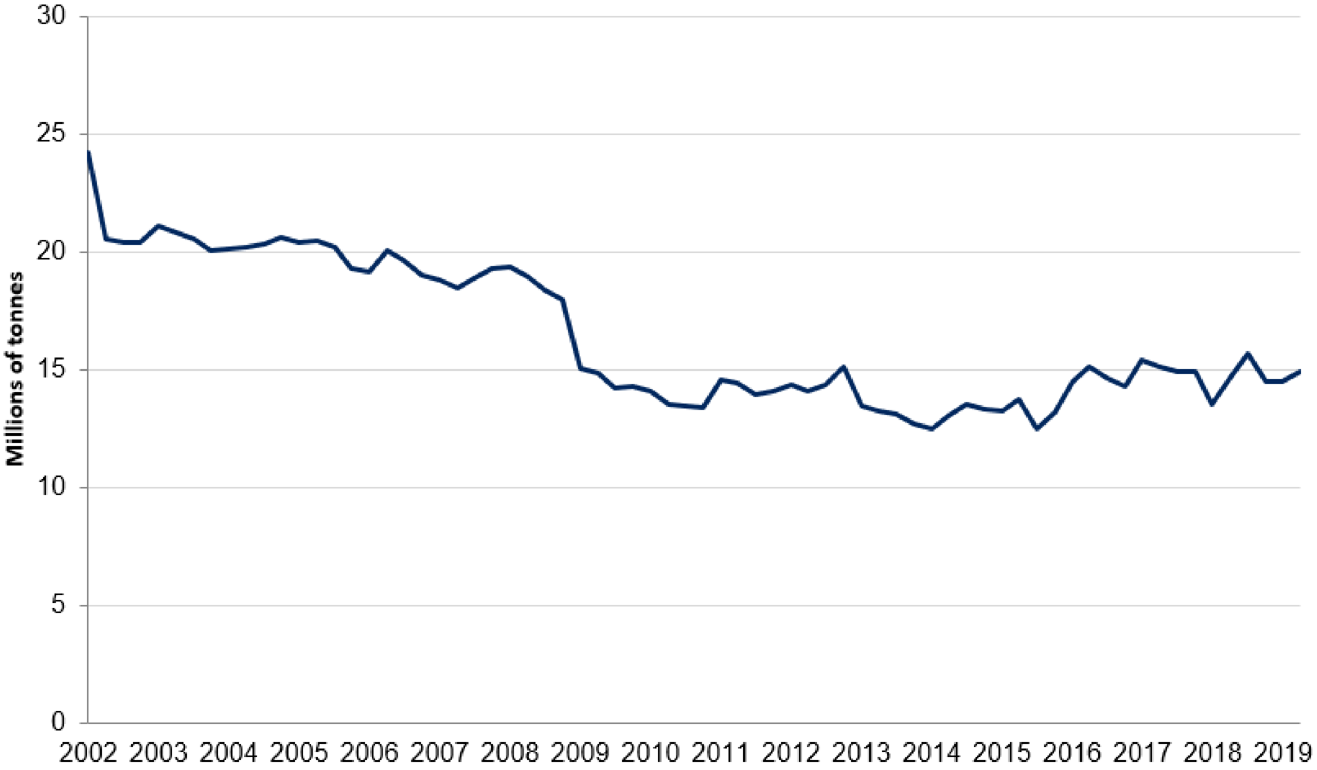
Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 8

Cement production fell by 1.7% to 9.2 million tonnes in 2018, compared to the previous year. This fall in cement production follows a fall of 0.1% to 9.4 million tonnes in 2017. Pre-recession production peaked in 2007 at 11.9 million tonnes.

Production of Clinker fell by 1.1% to 7.7 million tonnes in 2018, compared to the previous year. This fall in clinker production follows a fall of 2.9% to 7.8 million tonnes in 2017. Pre-recession production stood at 10.2 million tonnes in 2007.

Sand & Gravel

Chart 3: Seasonally Adjusted Sales of Sand & Gravel, GB
Weight of sand & gravel



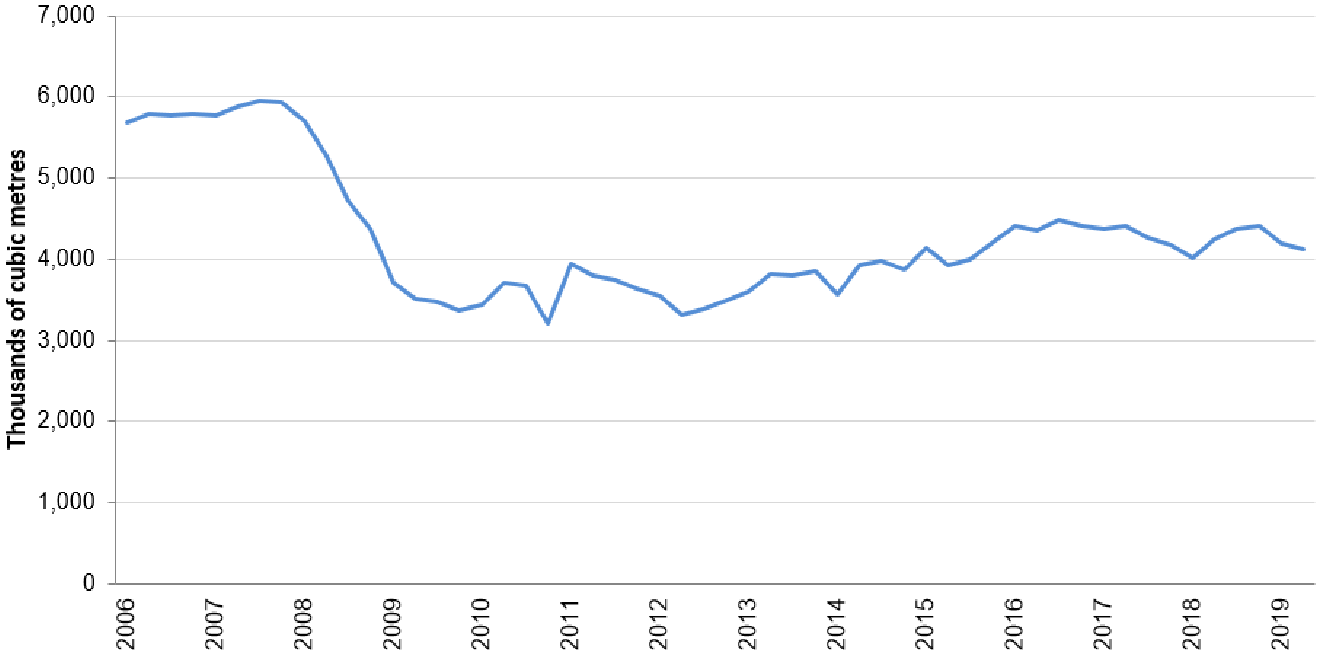
Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 4

- Sales of sand & gravel **increased** by **2.6%** in Quarter 2 2019 compared to Quarter 1 2019, according to the seasonally adjusted data.
- This followed an increase of 0.3% in Quarter 1 2019.
- Comparing Quarter 2 2019 to the same quarter in the previous year, sales have **increased** by **1.6%.**
- Seasonally adjusted sales of sand & gravel have consistently remained below levels typically seen before the recession of 2008 to 2009.

From Quarter 1 2019, sand and gravel data reported in this publication includes recycled material.

Concrete

Chart 4: Seasonally Adjusted Sales of Ready-Mixed Concrete, GB
Volume of concrete

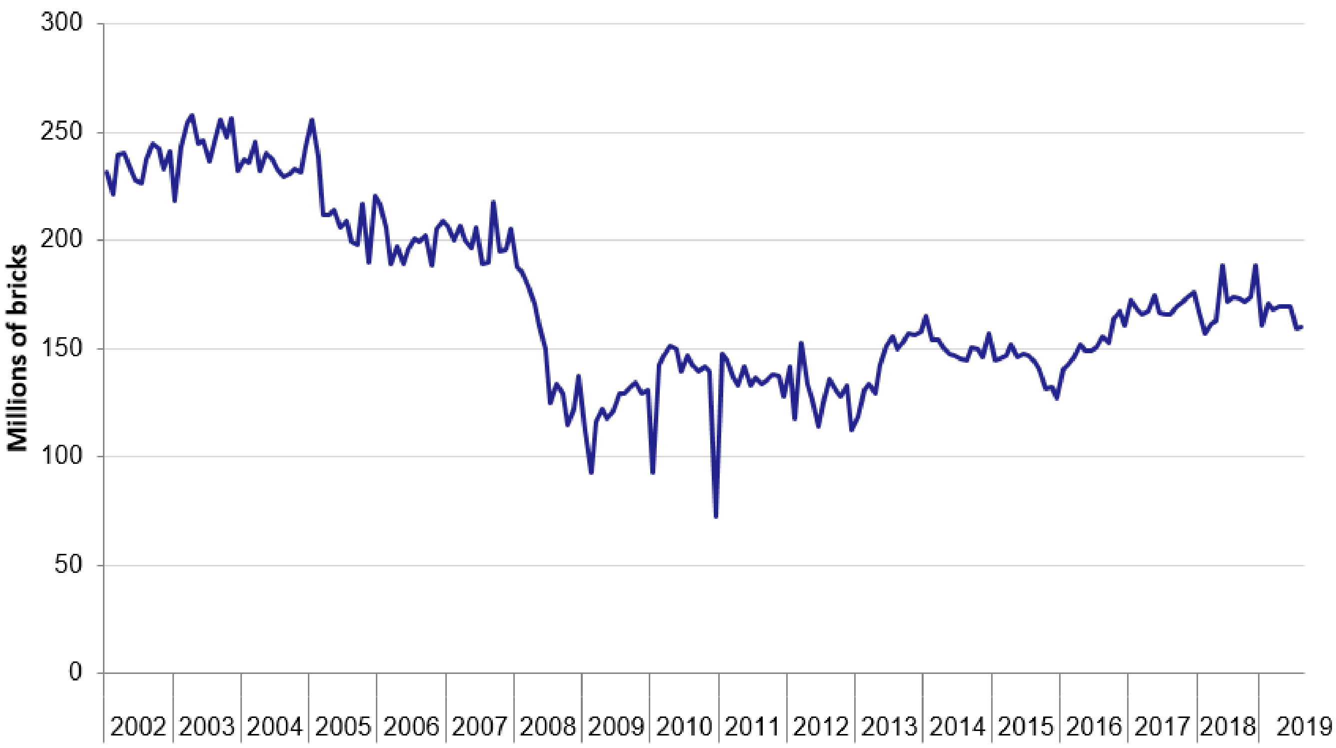


Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 13

- Ready-mixed concrete sales **decreased** by **1.4%** in Quarter 2 2019 compared to Quarter 1 2019, according to the seasonally adjusted data.
- This followed a 5.0% decrease in Quarter 1 2019.
- Sales in Quarter 2 2019 **decreased** by **2.9%** compared to the same quarter in the previous year, following an 4.1% increase in Quarter 1 2019, on the same basis.
- The seasonally adjusted data show that the lowest quarterly sales in the post-recession period occurred in Quarter 4 2010, which included extreme winter conditions.
- Sales have steadily recovered since Quarter 2 2012, although they have failed to reach pre-recession levels.

Bricks

Chart 5: Seasonally Adjusted Deliveries of Bricks, GB
Number of bricks

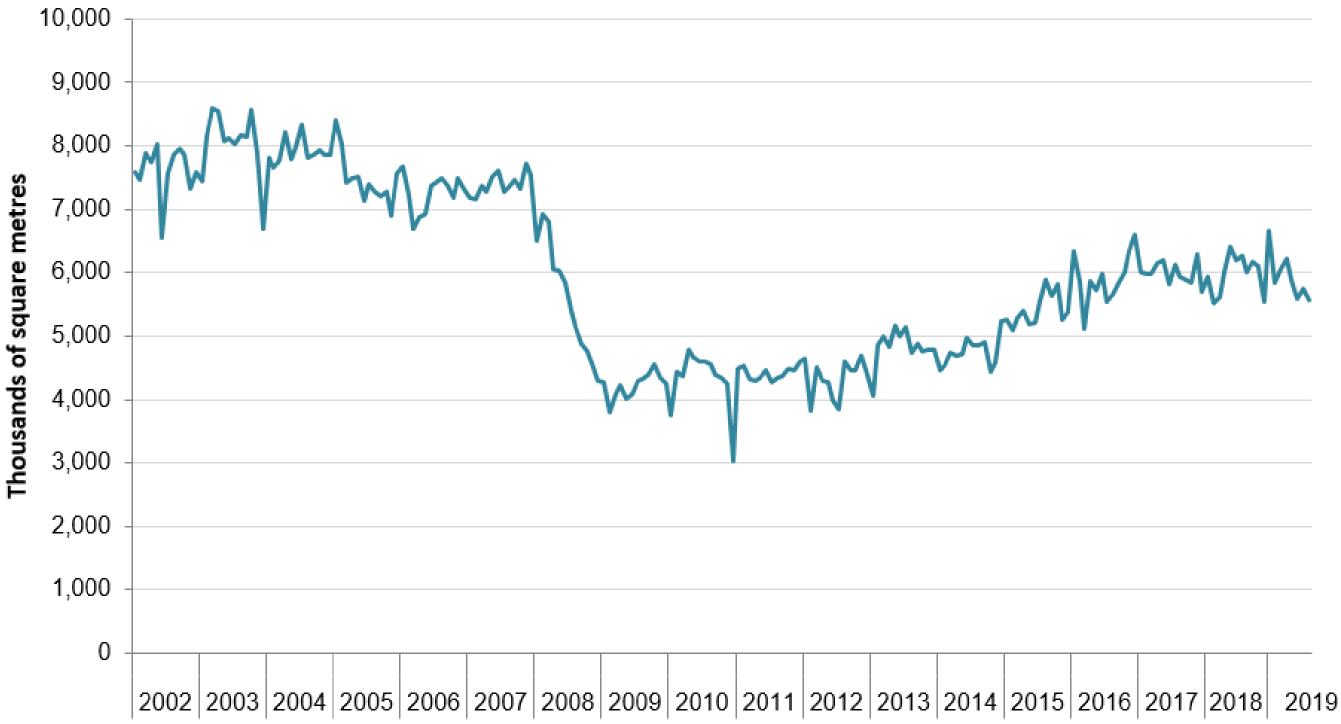


Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 9

- There was a **7.7% decrease** in brick deliveries in August 2019 compared to August 2018, according to the seasonally adjusted figures.
- This followed a 7.0% decrease in July 2019, on the same basis.
- The month-on-month change shows a **0.6% increase** in August 2019.
- This followed a 5.9% decrease in July 2019, on the same basis.
- Deliveries of bricks declined during the recession of 2008 to 2009 and have recovered slowly since 2013.

Blocks

Chart 6: Seasonally Adjusted Deliveries of Concrete Blocks, GB
Area of concrete blocks

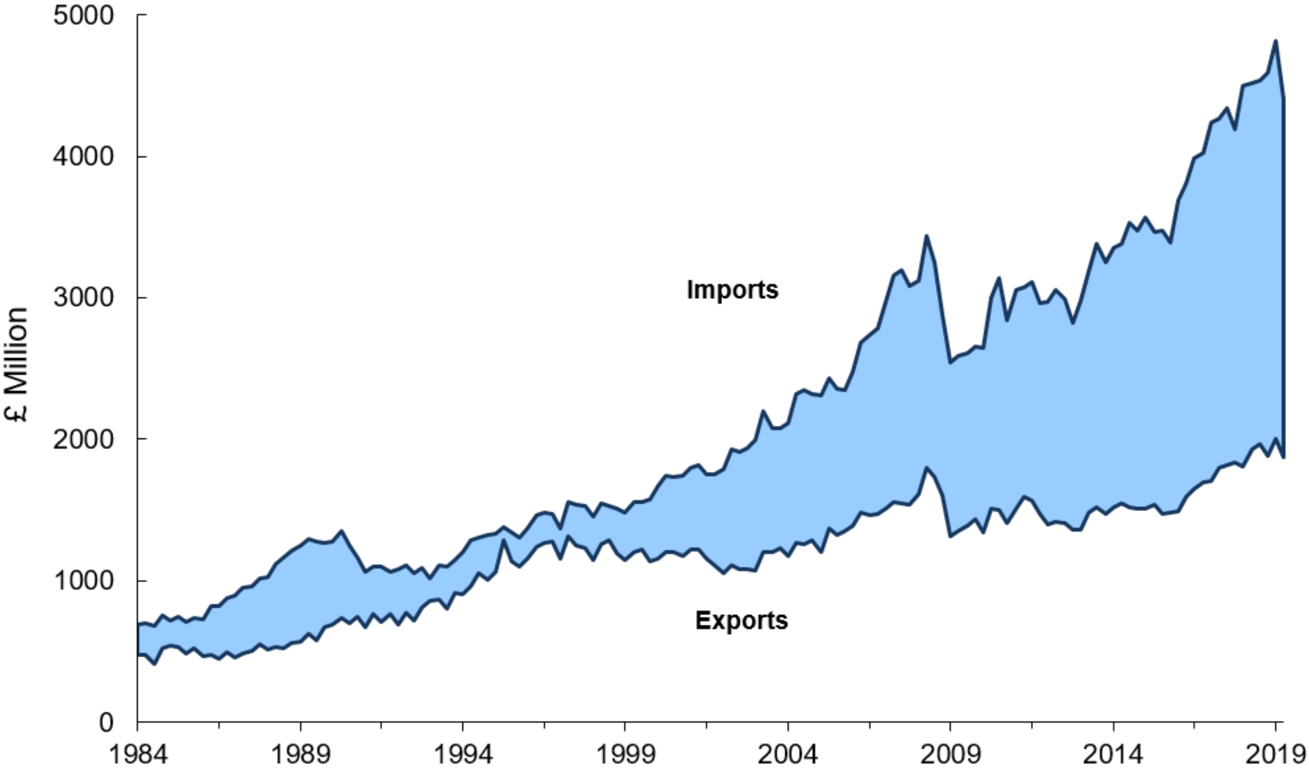


Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 11

- There was an **11.3% decrease** in concrete block deliveries in August 2019 compared to August 2018, according to the seasonally adjusted figures.
- This followed a 7.3% decrease in July 2019, on the same basis.
- The month-on-month change shows a **3.3% decrease** in August 2019.
- This followed a 2.8% increase in July 2019, on the same basis.
- Concrete block deliveries declined during the recession of 2008 to 2009, though the general trend has been one of growth since 2013.

Imports and Exports of Construction Materials

Chart 7: 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 £408 million in the Q2 2019 (to £4,411 million) compared to the previous quarter, **a decrease** of 8.5%.

- **Exports** of construction materials **decreased** by £135 million in Q2 2019 (to £1,871 million) compared to the previous quarter, **a decrease** of 6.7%.

- As a result, the **trade deficit narrowed** by £273 million to £2,540 million in Quarter 2 2019, a decrease of 9.7%.

- Over the period from Quarter 1 1984 to Quarter 2 2019, construction materials imports have increased, on average (per quarter), by 3.8%. Over the same period, exports increased by an average of 2.1% per quarter.

- The trade deficit was historically at its smallest throughout the 1990s, with a mean of £0.3 billion over this period. This trade deficit was 24% of the value of imports. As of Quarter 2 2019, the trade deficit is £2,540 million, 58% of the value of imports.

Table 2: Top-5 Exported and Imported Construction Materials in 2018

Top-5 Exported Materials	*£ million*	Top-5 Imported Materials	*£ million*
Electrical Wires	866	Electrical Wires	1,903
Paints & Varnishes	717	Lamps & Fittings	912
Plugs & Sockets	456	Sawn Wood> 6mm thick	883
Air Conditioning Equipment	412	Structural Units (steel)	785
Lamps & Fittings	387	Central Heating Boilers	665

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

The top five exported materials in 2018 accounted for 37% of total construction material exports.

The top five imported construction materials in 2018 accounted for 28% of total construction material imports.

Table 3: UK Trade of Construction Materials with EU and Non-EU Countries, 2018

£million (% of total trade in italics)

All Building Materials & Components	EU	Non-EU
Imports	11,335	6,828
	62%	*38%*
Exports	4,325	3,264
	57%	*43%*

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 57%.

Table 4: Top 5 UK Export and Import Markets for Construction Materials in 2018

Top-5 Export Markets	*£ million*	Top-5 Import Markets	*£ million*
Republic of Ireland	1183	China	2831
Germany	800	Germany	2577
USA	642	Italy	1052
France	613	Spain	909
Netherlands	598	Netherlands	907

Source: HMRC Overseas Trade Statistics

The top five export markets comprised 51% of total construction materials exports in 2018. 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 2018.

The top 5 import markets comprised 46% of total construction materials imports in 2018. 16% 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

Construction Output

The most recent construction output figures for July 2019 were published by the **Office for National Statistics** on 9th September 2019.

Key points:

- Construction output decreased by 0.8% in the three-month on three-month all work series in July 2019; this was driven predominately by a fall in repair and maintenance of 2.2% with a minor contribution from a 0.1% fall in new work.
- In repair and maintenance, the fall in the three-month on three-month series in July 2019 was largely because of the 6.3% decline in private housing repair and maintenance, with a smaller contribution from the 0.6% fall in non-housing repair and maintenance.
- In new work, the decline in the three-month on three-month series in July 2019 was driven by public other new work and private new housing, with falls of 6.2% and 0.5% respectively; these were offset by an increase in public new housing of 6.8%.
- Construction output increased by 0.5% in the month-on-month all work series in July 2019; this was because of a 0.8% increase in new work along with flat growth (0.0%) in repair and maintenance.

Bank of England Summary of Business Conditions

The **Bank of England** published its latest update to the Agents' Summary of Business Conditions on 19th September 2019. It compares activity and prices over the past three months with a year ago.

Key points:

- Retail sales values grew at a subdued pace over the past three months compared with a year ago. This partly reflected base effects from strong sales a year ago when there was a boost from warm weather and the football World Cup. Contacts reported that Brexit uncertainty had also weighed a little on spending recently.
- The housing market continued to soften, reflecting deteriorating supply and demand. Contacts said buyers were taking longer to make decisions and expected lower prices or other incentives before committing to purchase. Larger housebuilders reported frequently having to offer incentives, discounts or part-exchange in order to complete new-build sales. Developers noted an increase in buyers pulling out of transactions in London and southern England, sales taking longer to complete and prices falling. A number of them cited Brexit uncertainty as the main reason for this.
- Construction output growth weakened further, due to subdued public and commercial activity. Contacts said uncertainty was one of the main constraints on construction activity. This had resulted in delays to public and commercial schemes, with some projects still to enter the construction phase. By contrast, construction of industrial and warehousing premises continued to grow. In residential construction, the development of lower-priced properties remained strong, supported by the Help to Buy scheme. However, some larger house builders had cut their build-rates in response to weaker demand as well as Brexit uncertainty. Construction of social and affordable housing was supported by increased funding from central government.

Gross Domestic Product Estimate

The **Office for National Statistics** published the monthly estimate of gross domestic product for July 2019 on 9th September 2019. Further details of the new GDP publishing model can be found in the bulletin.

Key points:

- GDP remained level in the three months to July 2019, following a contraction of 0.2% in Quarter 2 2019.
- The services sector was the only positive contributor to GDP growth in the three months to July 2019, growing by 0.2%. Over the same period, output in both the production and construction sectors contracted, by 0.5% and 0.8% respectively. Within production, manufacturing fell by 1.1%.
- GDP grew by 0.3% in July 2019. The services industries rose by 0.3% in July 2019, production grew by 0.1% and construction grew by 0.5%.
- The month-on-month GDP growth rate was 0.2% in May 2019, 0.0% in June and 0.3% in July.

Gross Domestic Product Forecast

The latest monthly **Consensus Economics** forecast survey (which uses an average of private sector forecasts) results were published in September 2019.

Key points:

- The mean GDP growth forecast for 2019 is 1.2% growth, unchanged from the previous month's survey.
- The mean GDP growth forecast for 2020 is 1.1% growth, down from 1.2% in the previous month's survey.

The **Office for Budget Responsibility** published its most recent Economic and Fiscal Outlook on 13th March 2019.

Key point:

- The GDP growth forecast for 2019 was revised from 1.6% in October 2018, to 1.2%.

Construction Output Forecasts

In July 2019, **Experian** published their Summer forecasts for the construction sector.

Key points:

- Output is expected to increase by 0.9% in 2019, 2.0% in 2020 and 2.8% in 2021.
- Private housing will slow down but continue to rise steadily through the forecast period. Public housing will be flat in 2019 but then recover strongly over the next three years.
- The infrastructure sector is forecast to see strong growth of 10% in 2019 and 9% in 2020, and then slow slightly in 2021 to 5%. Growth in this sector depends on progress on large

projects such as Crossrail and Thames Tideway, as well as on new projects such as HS2 and Hinkley Point nuclear power station.
- Private commercial building fell by 6.4% in 2018 and is forecast to continue to fall by 7% in 2019 and 5% in 2020, followed by flat growth in 2021. This decrease seen across the main subsectors of offices, retail, and leisure, and is thought to be due to a more cautious attitude from investors and developers in light of the EU Referendum vote in June 2016.

The **Construction Products Association** published their Summer 2019 forecasts for the construction sector in July 2019.

Key points:

- Overall, construction output is forecast to fall by 0.3% in 2019, in line with previous projections. Output will then rise by 1.0% in 2020 and by 1.4% in 2021, both revised down since the Spring forecast.
- Private housing starts are forecast to fall by 2.0% in 2019, before growth of 1.0% in 2020. The sharpest falls in housing demand are occurring in London and the South East.
- Infrastructure is identified as the main driver of growth and vital to the fortunes of the industry on the next few years. The sector is expected to rise by 9.3% in 2019, but this highly dependent on the delivery of Thames Tideway, HS2 high speed rail, and the Hinkley Point C nuclear power station.
- The private commercial sector is forecast to fall by 6.9% in 2019, followed by a further 4.7% in 2020. This is due to the impact of EU exit uncertainty on offices construction and the impact of the shift to online consumer spending on retail construction.

Manufacturing

The latest **Index of Production** data for June 2019 were published on 9th September 2019 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 July 2019 with July 2018, **output decreased by 10.8%**
- When comparing July 2019 with June 2019, **output decreased by 5.1%**

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

- When comparing July 2019 with July 2018, **output increased by 17.4%**
- When comparing July 2019 with June 2019, **output increased by 1.9%**

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. 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.

2. 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).

3. 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.

4. 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.

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

6. 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	87%
Quarterly Sand and Gravel – Land Won	4, 5 & 6	80%
Quarterly Sand and Gravel – Marine Dredged	4, 5 & 6	95%
Quarterly Slate	7	89%
Quarterly Concrete Roofing Tiles	13	100%
Monthly Bricks Provisional data	9	100%
Monthly Bricks Final data	9 & 10	100%
Monthly Concrete Blocks	11	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 (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 6th November 2019.

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

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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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