Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components

Commentary, February 2020

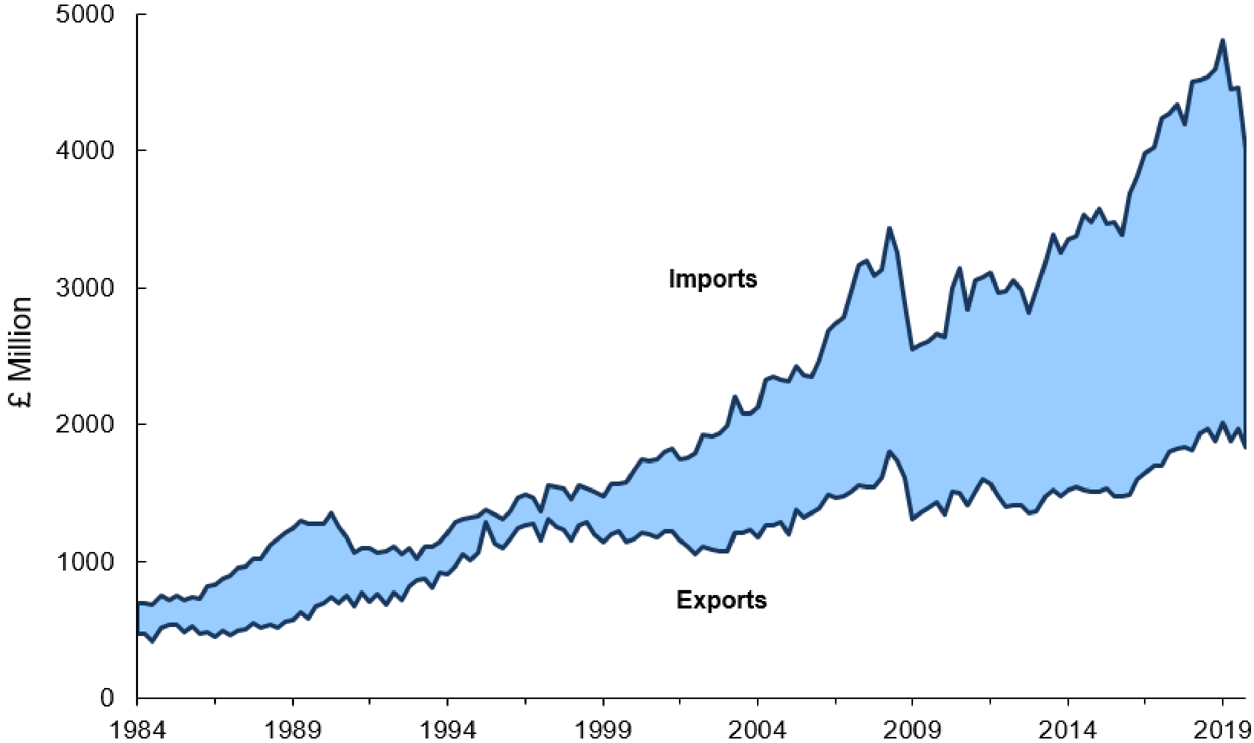
Coverage: UK and Great Britain
Geographical Area: Country, region and county

04 March 2020 **National Statistics**

Headline Results

- **Imports** of construction materials **decreased** by £436 million in 2019 (to £17,727 million) compared to 2018, **a decrease** of 2.4%.
- **Exports** of construction materials **increased** by £114 million in 2019 (to £7,703 million) compared to 2018, **an increase** of 1.5%.
- As a result, the **annual trade deficit narrowed** by £550 million to £10,024 million, in 2019 compared to 2018, **a decrease** of 5.2%.

Chart 1: Exports and Imports of Construction Materials, UK.
Value in pounds sterling



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

Responsible statistician: Frances Pottier **Email: materialstats@beis.gov.uk**
Media enquiries: 020 7215 1000 **Public enquiries: +44 (0)207 215 1953**
Next publication: 01 April 2020

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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 March 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.

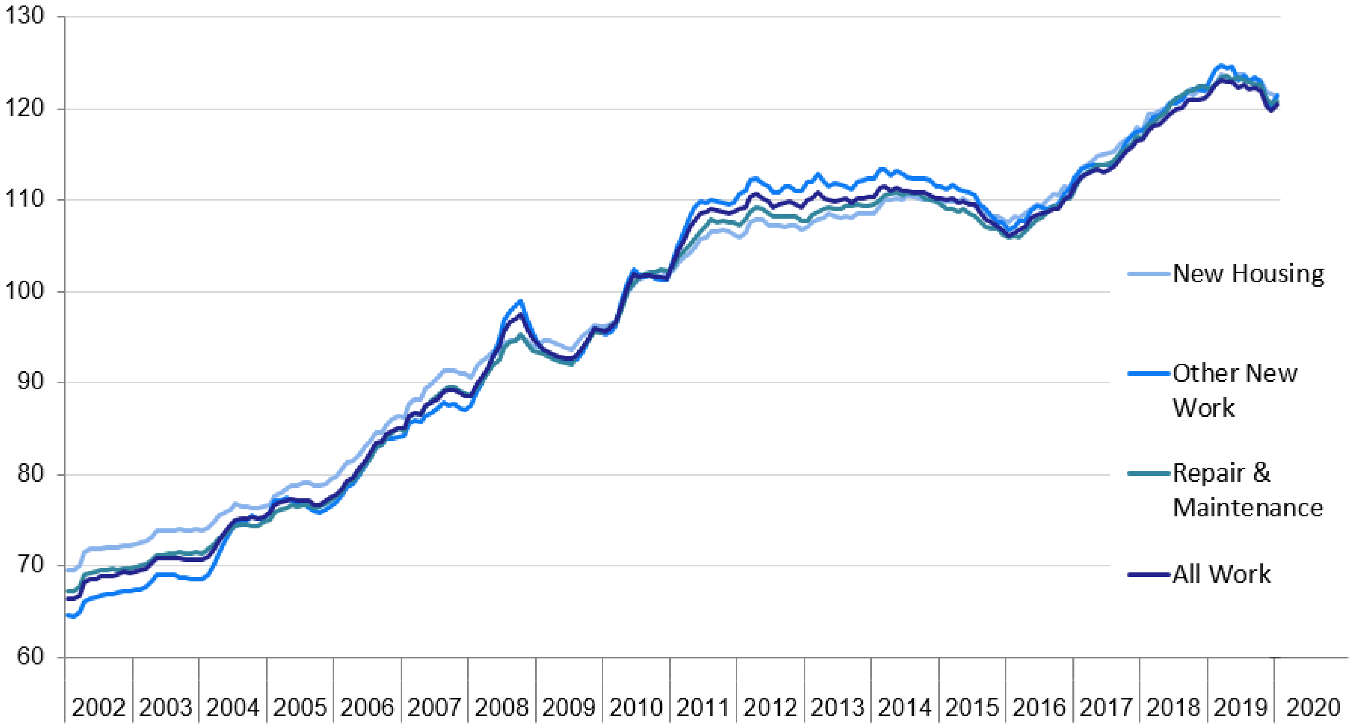
Seasonal Adjustment Review

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

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 January 2019 to January 2020	
New Housing	-0.6%
Other New Work	-1.2%
Repair & Maintenance	-1.1%
All Work	-1.0%

- Looking at the longer-term change, the material price index of **'All Work' decreased by 1.0%** in January 2020 compared to the same month the previous year.

Month-on-month change

Change from December 2019 to January 2020	
New Housing	-0.2%
Other New Work	1.0%
Repair & Maintenance	0.1%
All Work	0.6%

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

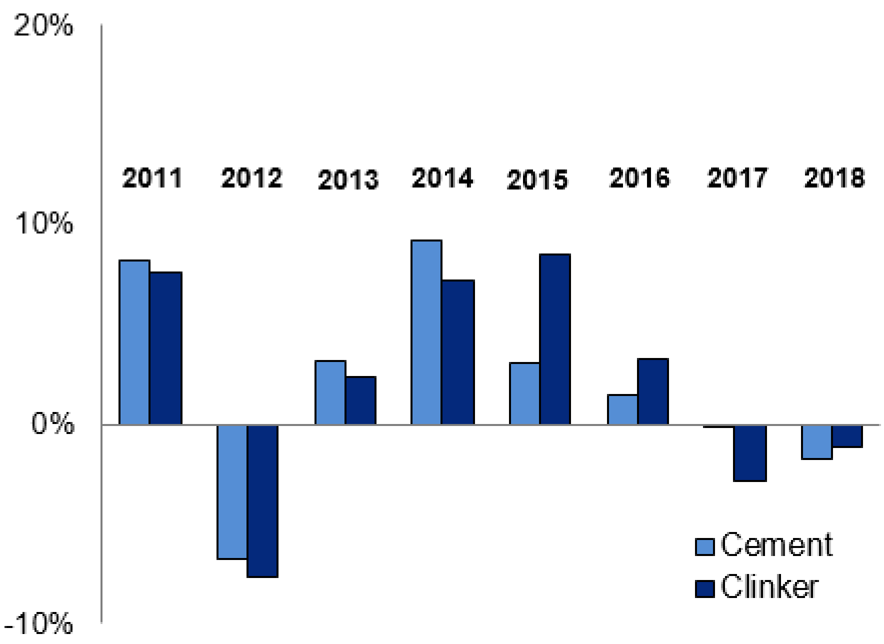
Construction Materials	% change on a year earlier
Greatest price increases	
Taps and valves for sanitaryware	9.7
Insulating materials (thermal or acoustic)	7.0
Screws etc.	6.3
Greatest price decreases	
Imported plywood	-17.5
Electric water heaters	-13.4
Imported sawn or planed wood	-13.4

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



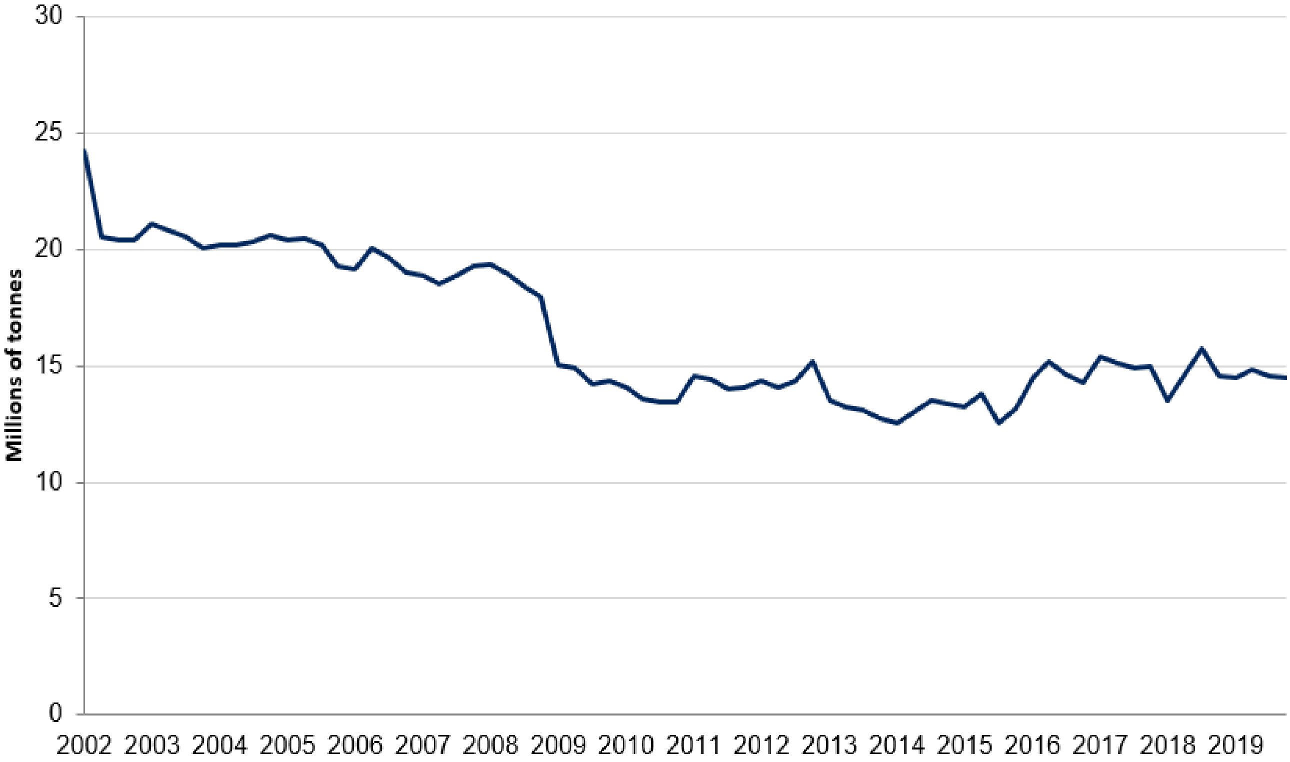
Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 8

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



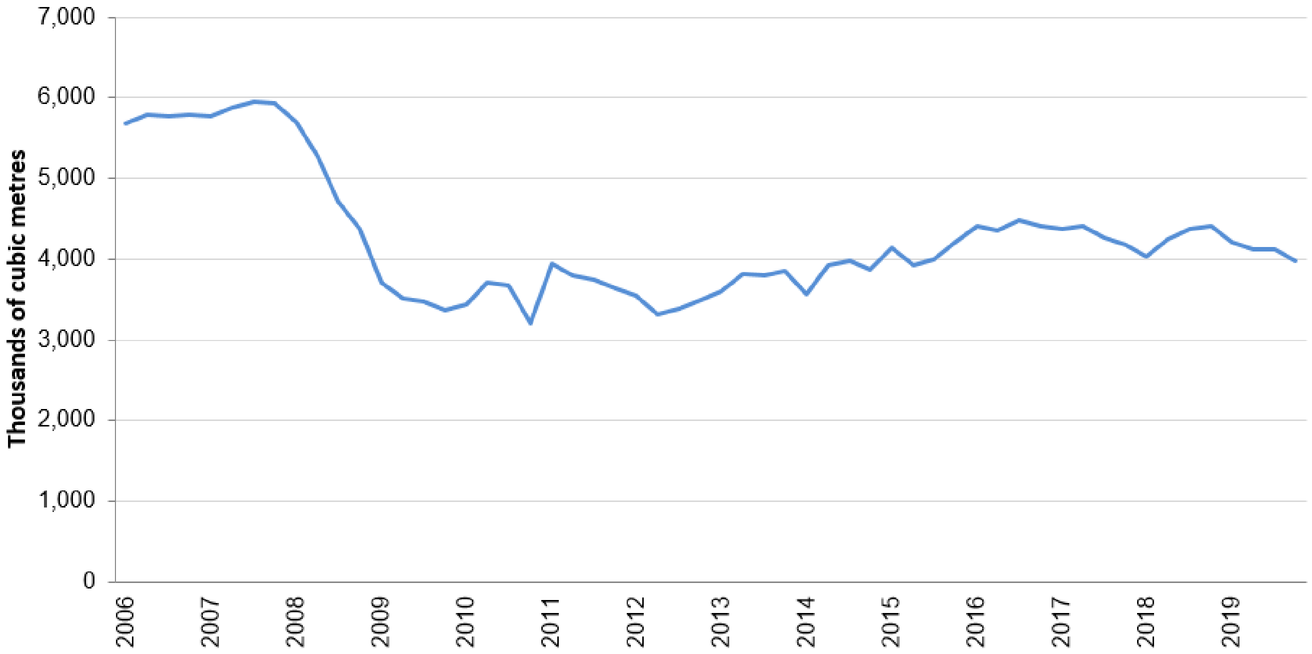
Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 4

- Sales of sand & gravel **decreased** by **0.6%** in Quarter 4 2019 compared to Quarter 3 2019, according to the seasonally adjusted data.
- This followed a decrease of 1.9% in Quarter 3 2019.
- Comparing Quarter 4 2019 to the same quarter in the previous year, sales have **decreased** by **0.1%**.
- 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

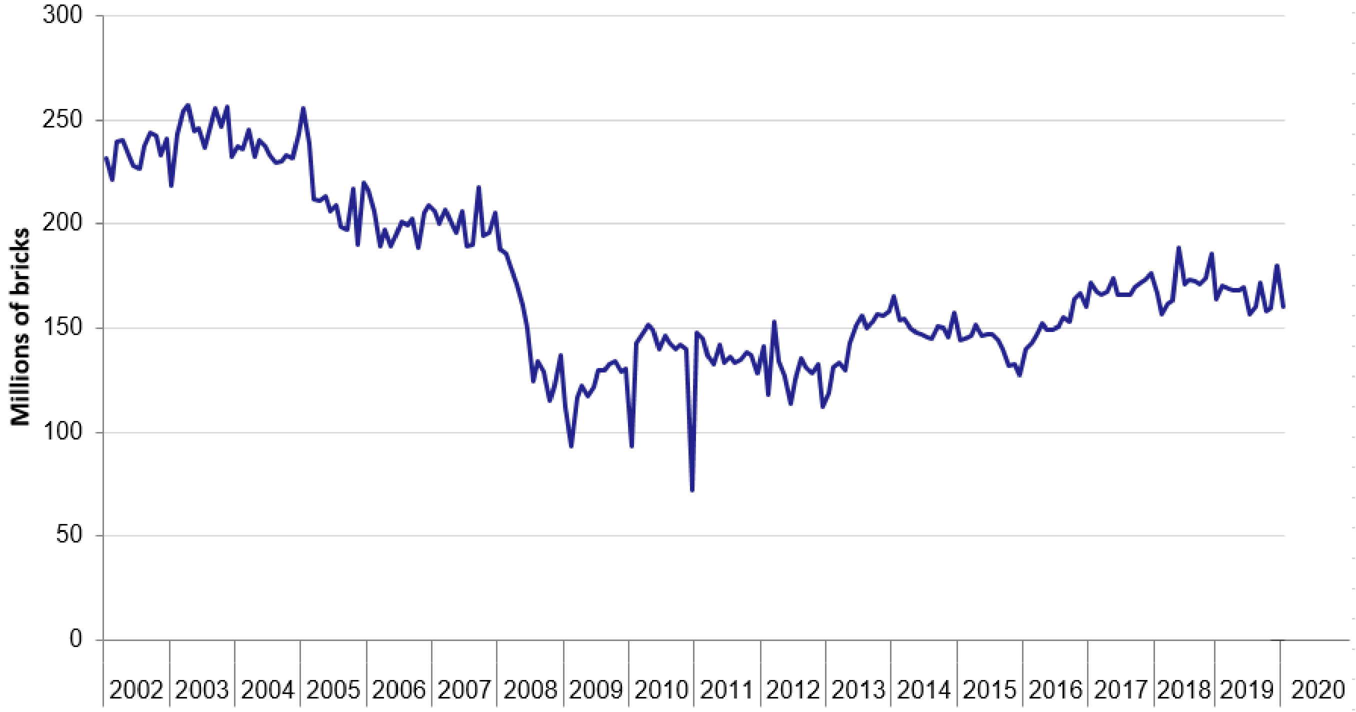


Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 13

- Ready-mixed concrete sales **decreased** by **3.5%** in Quarter 4 2019 compared to Quarter 3 2019, according to the seasonally adjusted data.
- This followed a 0.3% decrease in Quarter 3 2019.
- Sales in Quarter 4 2019 **decreased** by **10.0%** compared to the same quarter in the previous year, following a 5.8% decrease in Quarter 3 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

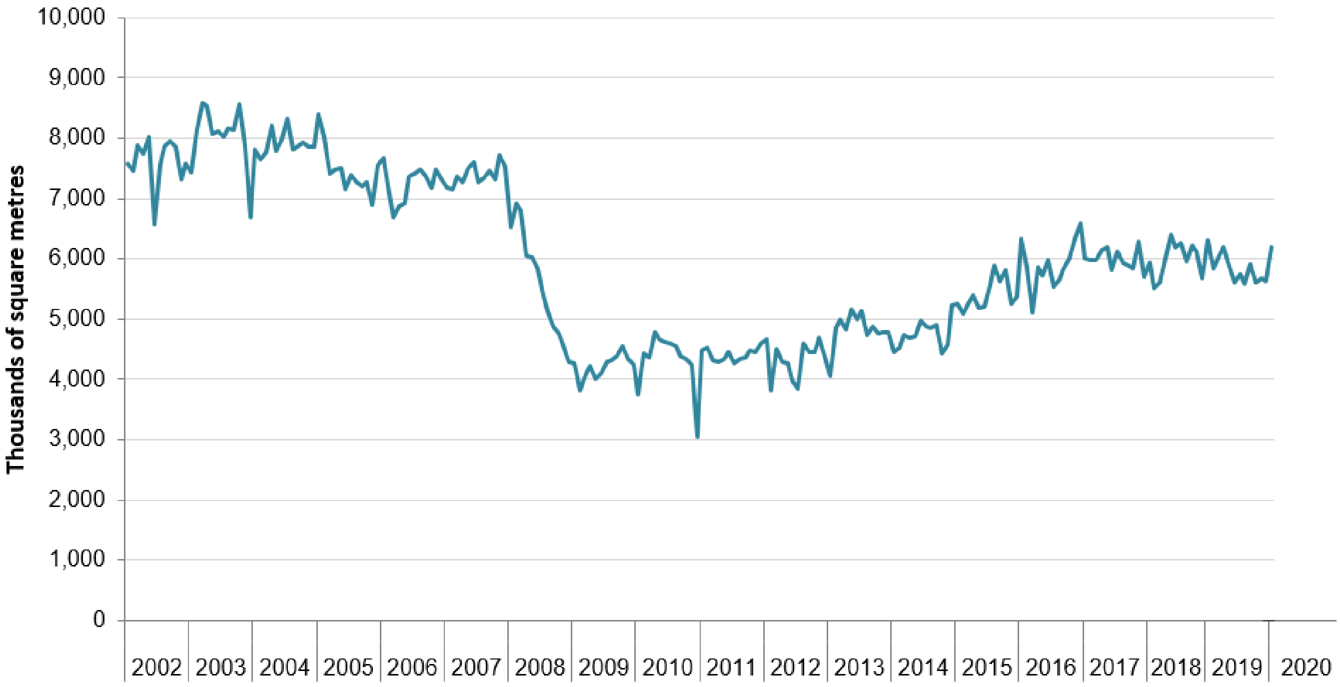


Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 9

- There was a **2.3% decrease** in brick deliveries in January 2020 compared to January 2019, according to the seasonally adjusted figures.
- This followed an 2.9% decrease in December 2019, on the same basis.
- The month-on-month change shows a **11.1% decrease** in January 2020.
- This followed a 12.6% increase in December 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

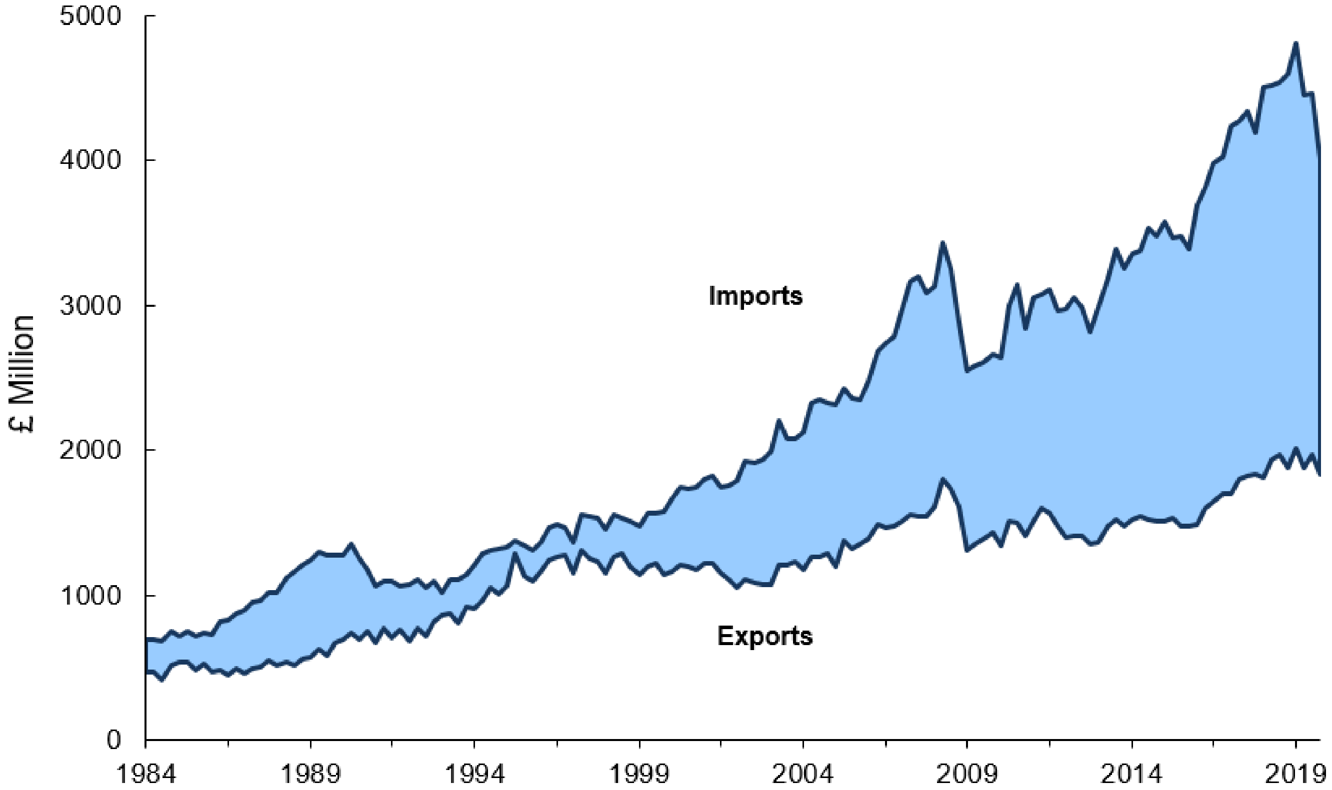


Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 11

- There was an **1.8% decrease** in concrete block deliveries in January 2020 compared to January 2019, according to the seasonally adjusted figures.
- This followed an 0.9% decrease in December 2019, on the same basis.
- The month-on-month change shows a **10.1% increase** in January 2020.
- This followed a 0.7% decrease in December 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 £436 million in 2019 (to £17,727 million) compared to 2018, **a decrease** of 2.4%.

- **Exports** of construction materials **increased** by £114 million in 2019 (to £7,703 million) compared to 2018, **an increase** of 1.5%.

- As a result, the **annual trade deficit narrowed** by £550 million to £10,024 million, in 2019 compared to 2018, **a decrease** of 5.2%.

- **Imports** of construction materials **decreased** by £457 million in Q4 2019 compared to the previous quarter, **a decrease** of 10.2%.

- **Exports** of construction materials **decreased** by £138 million in Q4 2019 compared to the previous quarter, **a decrease** of 7.0%.

- As a result, between Q3 2019 and Q4 2019 the **quarterly trade deficit narrowed** by £318 million to £2,174 million, **a decrease** of 12.8%.

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

Top-5 Exported Materials	*£ million*	Top-5 Imported Materials	*£ million*
Electrical Wires	874	Electrical Wires	1,850
Paints & Varnishes	752	Lamps & Fittings	949
Plugs & Sockets	476	Sawn Wood> 6mm thick	799
Air Conditioning Equipment	403	Air Conditioning Equipment	652
Lamps & Fittings	384	Central Heating Boilers	622

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

The top five exported materials in 2019 accounted for 38% of total construction material exports.

The top five imported construction materials in 2018 accounted for 27% of total construction material imports.

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

£million (% of total trade in italics)

All Building Materials & Components	EU	Non-EU
Imports	10,746	6,981
	61%	*39%*
Exports	4,335	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	1,185	China	2,963
Germany	805	Germany	2,403
USA	642	Italy	1,000
France	615	Spain	931
Netherlands	602	Netherlands	850

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. 17% 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 December 2019 were published by the **Office for National Statistics** on 11th February 2020.

Key points:

- Construction output increased by 0.5% in Quarter 4 (Oct to Dec) 2019 compared with Quarter 3 (July to Sept) 2019; this was driven by a 0.8% growth in new work, which offset a 0.1% fall in growth in repair and maintenance.
- The 0.8% rise in new work in Quarter 4 2019 was because of growth in all sectors apart from private new housing and public other new work, both of which fell 1.1%; the largest positive contributions came from private commercial and public new housing, which grew by 2.5% and 8.4% respectively.
- In repair and maintenance, the 0.1% fall in Quarter 4 2019 was driven by a 2.9% decrease in private housing repair and maintenance; in comparison, non-housing and public housing repair and maintenance grew 1.6% and 0.9% respectively.
- Construction output increased by 0.4% in the month-on-month all work series in December 2019; this was driven by a 0.8% growth in new work which offset a 0.4% fall in repair and maintenance.

The **Bank of England** published its most recent update to the Agents' Summary of Business Conditions on 19th December 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. EU exit uncertainty and the ongoing shift towards online retailing continued to weigh on store-based retailers. Contacts reported that the announcement of the General Election had led to a postponement of some purchases of big-ticket items such as new cars and household goods.
- The housing market remained subdued, with activity dampened by uncertainty around the General Election and the October EU exit deadline. Completions took longer to go through, and more transactions fell through. The Agents judged that housing-market supply outweighed demand across most of the UK, and that this gap had been increasing.
- Occupier demand for industrial space was robust, and there were shortages in some areas. Demand was particularly strong for logistics space near key transport route. Contacts said that industrial rents were steady or rising. Demand for office space was stronger in larger cities but weaker elsewhere. Demand for retail space continued to decline and rents to fall.
- Construction output contracted slightly, with the Agents' score falling to its lowest in 6½ years. Commercial developers were cautious and shifted towards smaller, low-rick projects. Industrial work grew, but there was very little speculative development. Private house building grew, but at a slower rate due to a weaker housing market, skills shortages and planning delays.

Gross Domestic Product Estimate

The **Office for National Statistics** published their estimate of gross domestic product for December 2019 on 11th February 2020. Further details of the new GDP publishing model can be found in the bulletin.

Key points:

- GDP showed no growth in Quarter 4 (Oct to Dec), after growth of 0.5% in Quarter 3 (July to Sept) 2019.
- Growth in both services and construction was offset by a fall in production, which resulted in 0.0% GDP growth in the three months to December 2019.
- GDP grew by 0.3% in December 2019. The services sector grew by 0.3%, production grew by 0.1% and construction grew by 0.4%.
- The month-on-month GDP growth rate was 0.2% in October, -0.3% in November, and -0.3% in December.

Gross Domestic Product Forecast

The latest monthly **Consensus Economics** forecast survey (which uses an average of private sector forecasts) results were published in February 2020.

Key points:

- The mean GDP growth forecast for 2020 is 1.1% growth, unchanged since the previous month's survey.
- The mean GDP growth forecast for 2021 is 1.5% growth, down from 1.4% 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 January 2020, **Experian** published their Winter 2019/20 forecasts for the construction sector.

Key points:

- Output is expected to increase by 1.2% in 2019, fall by -0.1% in 2020, and then grow by 2.1% in 2021 and 2.9% in 2022. The forecast for 2020 has been reduced since the Autumn forecasts, due to weakness in some of the main construction markets, in particular commercial building, and delays to HS2.

- Private housing will slow down but continue to rise steadily through the forecast period. Public housing will fall in 2020 following strong growth in 2019, but then return to growth in 2021.

- The infrastructure sector is forecast to see no change in 2020 and then grow again by 4% in 2021, and 5% in 2022. 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 in 2018 and 2019 and is forecast to continue to fall by 4% in 2020, followed by flat growth in 2021 before recovery of 2% in 2022.

The **Construction Products Association** published their Winter 2019/20 forecasts for the construction sector in January 2020.

Key points:

- Overall, construction output is forecast to grow by 0.6% in 2019 but then fall by 0.3% in 2020, followed by a rise by 1.2% in 2021, revising the path forecast in the previous forecasts which saw a fall in 2019 followed by growth in 2020. The changes largely reflect the result of the General Election bringing increased short-term certainty, although there is still considerable uncertainty in the medium term.

- Private housing output is forecast to fall by 1.0% in 2020, before returning to growth of 1% in 2021 with house builders taking a cautious stance on near-term demand and house price growth.

- Infrastructure output is forecast to rise 3.4% in 2020 and 5.0% in 2021, slightly lower than previous forecast due to a hiatus at the start of new five-year regulatory periods in water and sewerage, rail, and roads subsectors, as well as uncertainty on HS2.

- The private commercial sector is forecast to fall by 4.2% in 2020, followed by a further 2.4% in 2021. 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. However, private industrial construction is forecast to grow by 5.1% in 2020 and 4.6% in 2021, driven by warehouses.

Manufacturing

The latest **Index of Production** data for December 2019 were published on 11th February 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 December 2019 with December 2018, **output decreased by 10.2%**
- When comparing December 2019 with November 2019, **output increased by 4.3%**

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

- When comparing December 2019 with December 2018, **output decreased by 4.8%**
- When comparing December 2019 with November 2019, **output increased by 3.8%**

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	72%
Quarterly Sand and Gravel – Land Won	4, 5 & 6	71%
Quarterly Sand and Gravel – Marine Dredged	4, 5 & 6	84%
Quarterly Slate	7	100%
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 1st April 2020.

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

Contact

- Responsible statistician: Frances Pottier
- Email: materialstats@beis.gov.uk
- Media enquiries: 020 7215 1000
- Public enquiries: +44 (0)207 215 1953

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

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