Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components

Commentary, May 2020

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

03 June 2020 **National Statistics**

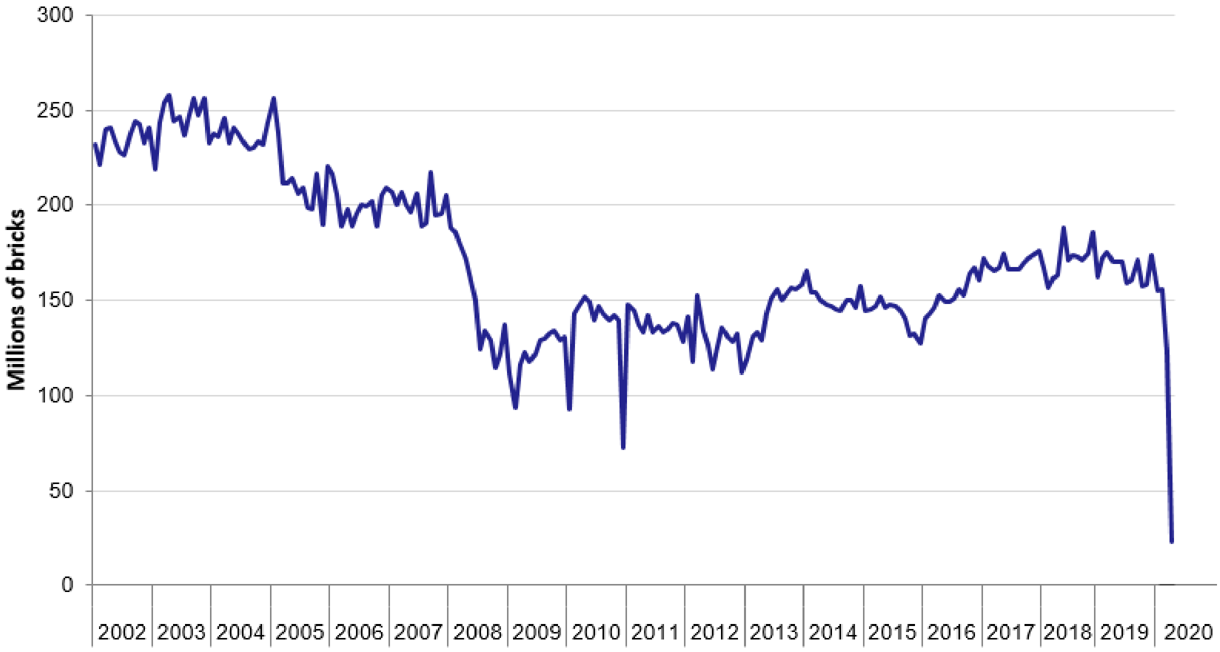
Headline Results

- There was an **86.4% decrease** in brick deliveries in April 2020 compared to April 2019, according to the seasonally adjusted figures. The month-on-month change shows an **81.2% decrease** in April 2020.

- There was an **81.8% decrease** in concrete block deliveries in April 2020 compared to April 2019, according to the seasonally adjusted figures. The month-on-month change shows a **78.2% decrease** in April 2020.

- The Office for National Statistics has released an article on the **effects of COVID-19 on UK GDP** and a statement on **COVID-19 and the production of statistics**.

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: 01 July 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 3rd June 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.

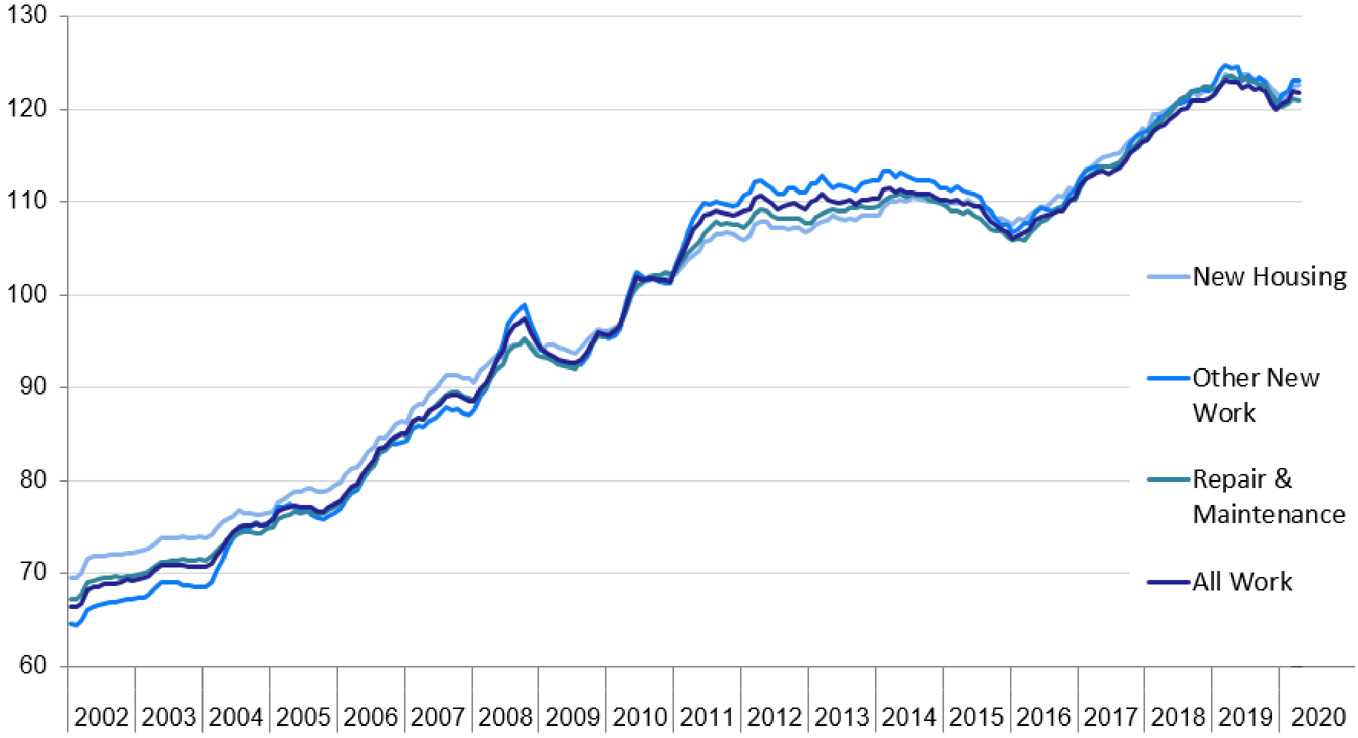
Seasonal Adjustment Review

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 April 2019 to April 2020	
New Housing	-0.6%
Other New Work	-1.0%
Repair & Maintenance	-2.2%
All Work	-1.0%

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

Month-on-month change

Change from March 2020 to April 2020	
New Housing	0.2%
Other New Work	-0.1%
Repair & Maintenance	-0.2%
All Work	-0.2%

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

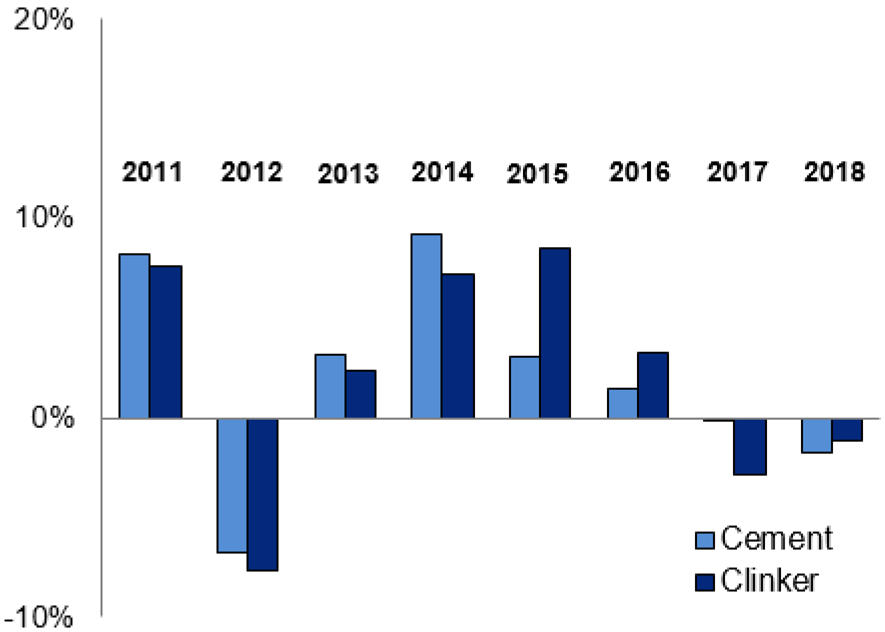
Construction Materials	% change on a year earlier
Greatest price increases	
Pipes and fittings (flexible)	5.7
Screws etc.	4.5
Electric heating apparatus	4.3
Greatest price decreases	
Electric water heaters	-12.3
Concrete reinforcing bars	-11.2
Imported sawn or planed wood	-10.0

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 (%)



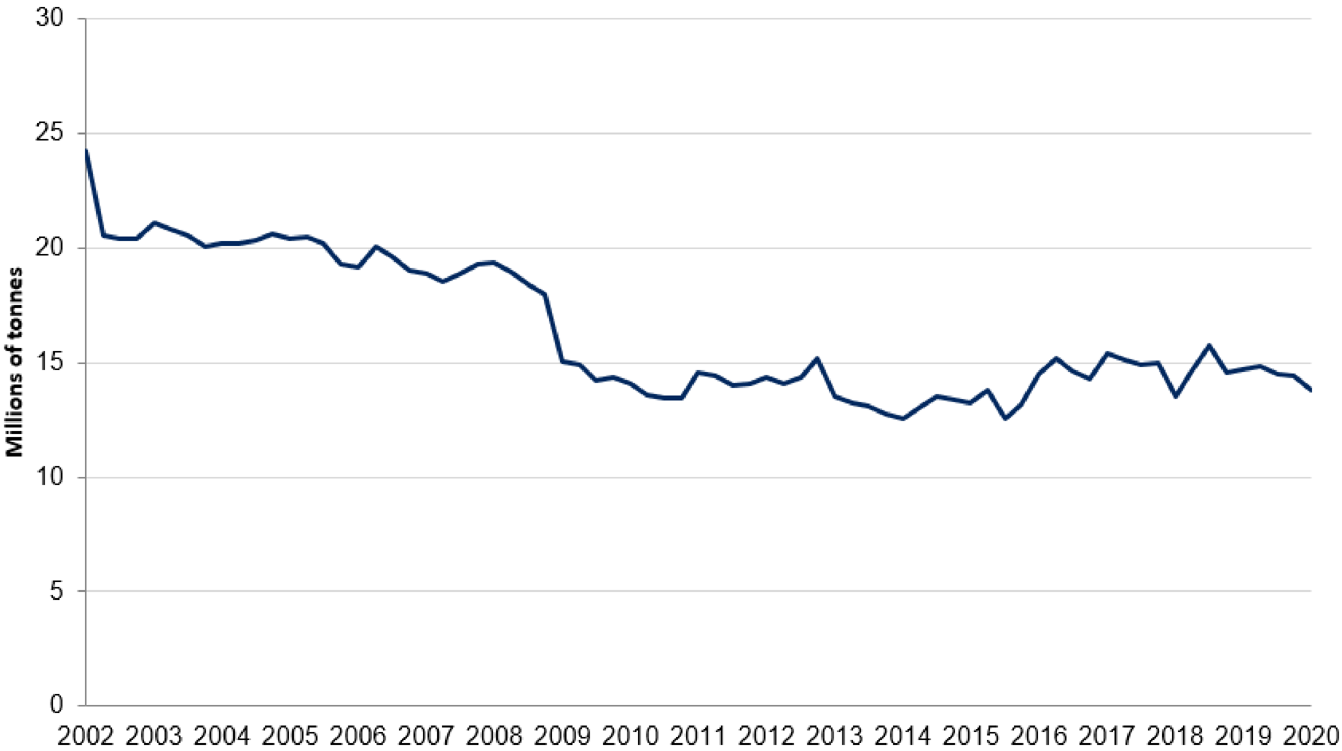
Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 8

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



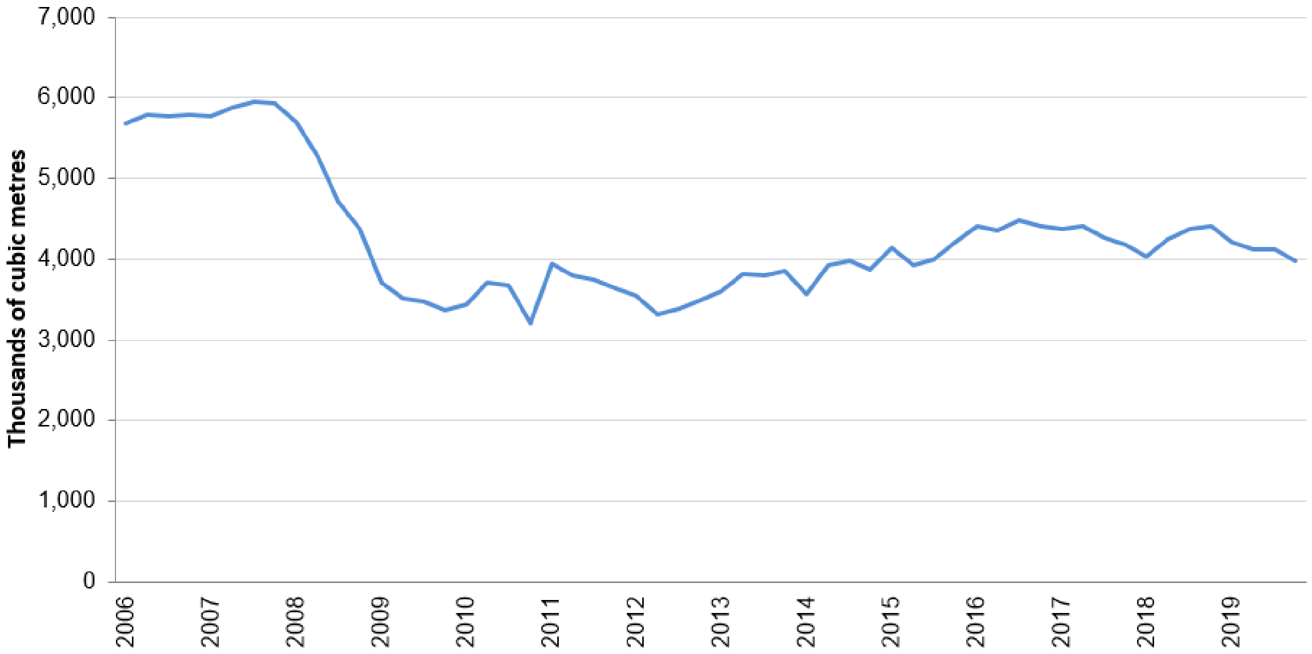
Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 4

- Sales of sand & gravel **decreased** by **4.2%** in Quarter 1 2020 compared to Quarter 4 2019, according to the seasonally adjusted data.
- This followed a decrease of 0.4% in Quarter 4 2019.
- Comparing Quarter 1 2020 to the same quarter in the previous year, sales have **decreased** by **6.1%**.
- 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

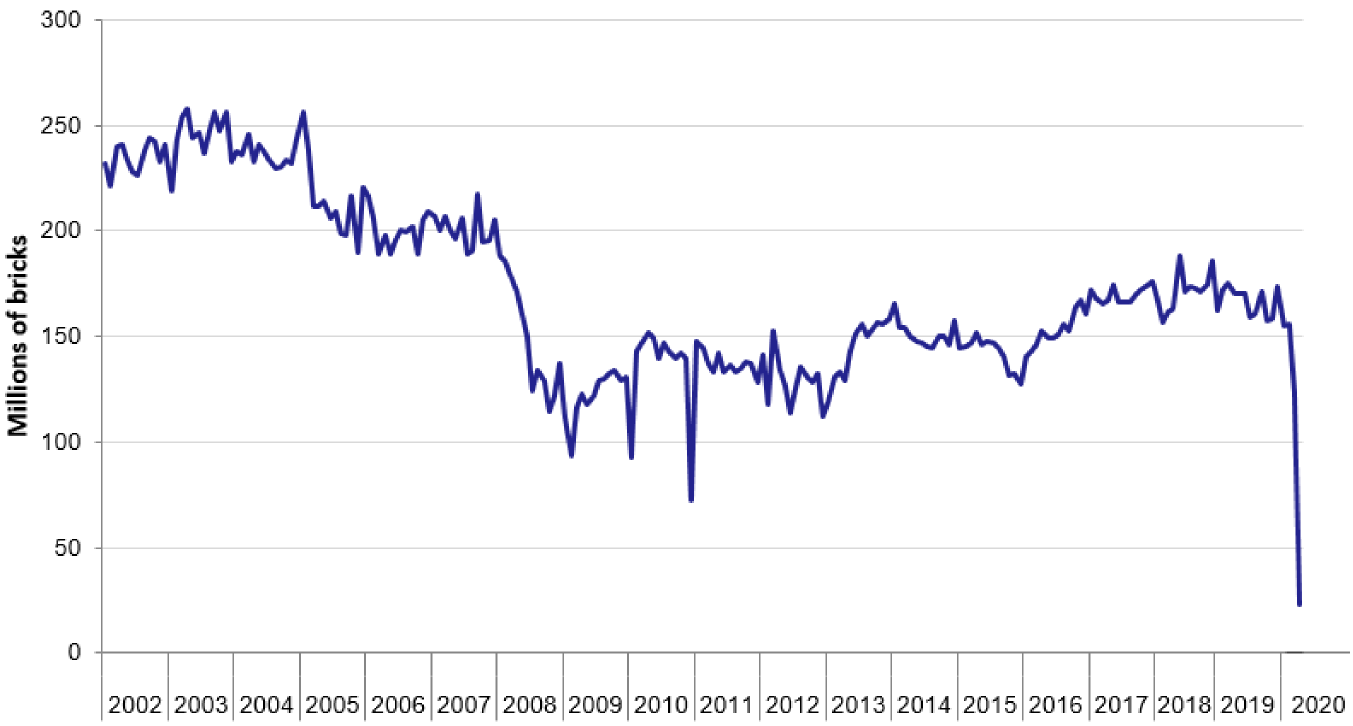


Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 13

- 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

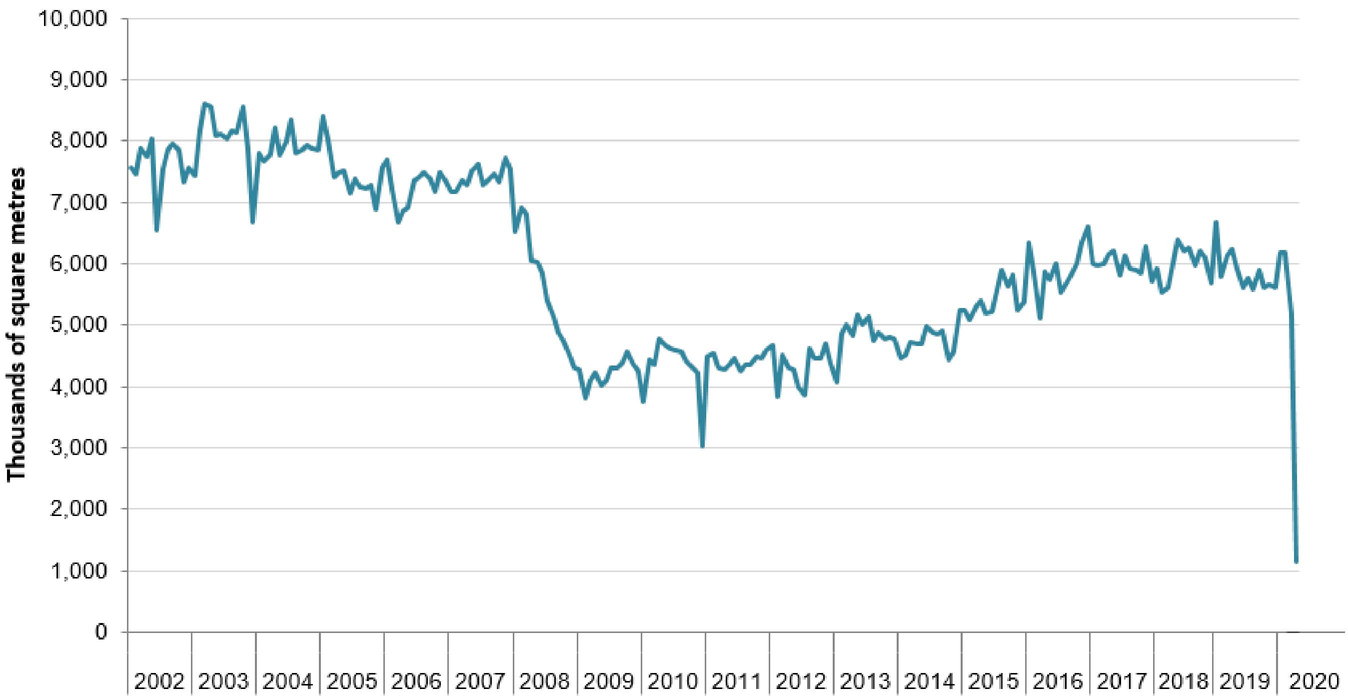


Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 9

- There was an **86.4% decrease** in brick deliveries in April 2020 compared to April 2019, according to the seasonally adjusted figures.
- This followed an 29.9% decrease in March 2020, on the same basis.
- The month-on-month change shows an **81.2% decrease** in April 2020.
- This followed a 20.8% increase in March 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 6: Seasonally Adjusted Deliveries of Concrete Blocks, GB
Area of concrete blocks

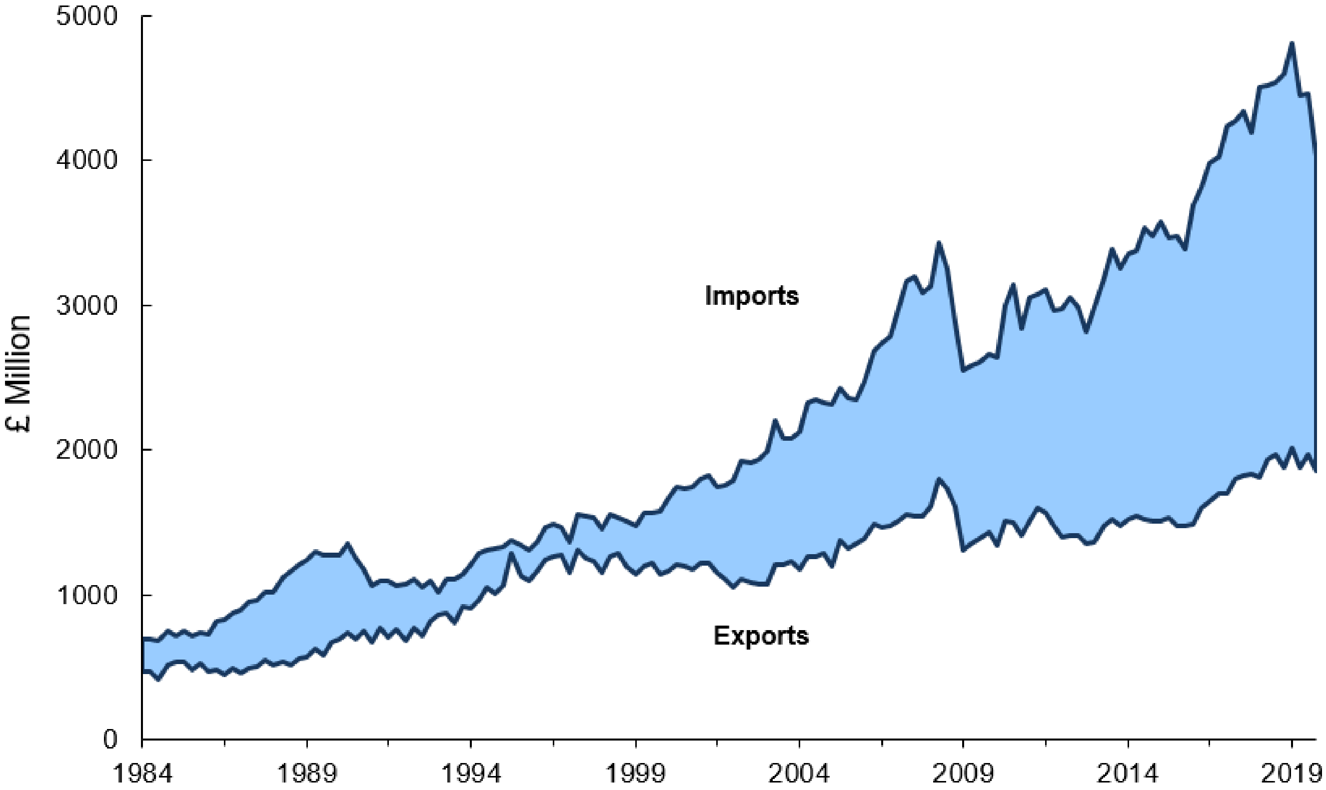


Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 11

- There was an **81.8% decrease** in concrete block deliveries in April 2020 compared to April 2019, according to the seasonally adjusted figures.
- This followed a 15.3% decrease in March 2020, on the same basis.
- The month-on-month change shows a **78.2% decrease** in April 2020.
- This followed a 16.0% decrease in March 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 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 £212 million in Q1 2020 compared to the previous quarter, **a decrease** of 5.3%.

- **Exports** of construction materials **decreased** by £73 million in Q1 2020 compared to the previous quarter, **a decrease** of 3.9%.

- As a result, between Q4 2019 and Q1 2020, the **quarterly trade deficit narrowed** by £140 million to £2,030 million, **a decrease** of 6.4%.

- Over the period from Quarter 1 1984 to Quarter 1 2020, construction materials imports have increased, on average (per quarter), by 3.1%. Over the same period, exports increased by an average of 1.7% 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 1 2020, the trade deficit is £2,030 million, 54% 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	878	Electrical Wires	1,856
Paints & Varnishes	752	Lamps & Fittings	950
Plugs & Sockets	477	Sawn Wood> 6mm thick	799
Air Conditioning Equipment	403	Air Conditioning Equipment	654
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 27% of total construction material imports.

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

All Building Materials & Components	EU	Non-EU
Imports	10,773	6,981
	61%	*39%*
Exports	4,335	3,369
	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	2,963
Germany	763	Germany	2,409
USA	706	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. 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

COVID-19 Intelligence

The **Office for National Statistics** published further information from their fortnightly Business Impact of Coronavirus Survey (BICS) relating to 20th April – 3rd May:

Key points:

- 21.6% of construction firms said they had temporarily closed or paused trading, compared with an all industry average of 20.3%.
- 42.5% of construction firms still trading said their turnover had decreased by more than 50%. A further 26.2% said turnover had decreased by between 20% and 50%, and 10.0% said it had decreased by up to 20%.
- 59.3% of construction firms said that they were laying off staff in the short term and 39.8% said they were decreasing working hours. 89.4% said they had applied for the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (furlough) and 55.3% had applied to defer VAT payments.

Construction Output

The most recent construction output figures for March 2020 and Q1 2020 were published by the **Office for National Statistics** on 13th May 2020.

Key points:

- Construction output fell by 5.9% in the month-on-month all work series in March 2020; this was driven by a 6.2% decrease in new work and a 5.1% decrease in repair and maintenance; all of these decreases were the largest monthly falls on record since the monthly records began in January 2010.
- The decrease in new work (6.2%) in March 2020 was because of falls in all new work sectors; private new housing and private commercial were the largest contributors, falling by 6.4% and 7.1% respectively.
- The decrease in repair and maintenance (5.1%) in March 2020 was because of falls in all repair and maintenance sectors; the largest contributor was private housing repair and maintenance, which fell by 8.6%, the largest month-on-month fall on record.
- Construction output fell by 2.6% in Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2020, compared with Quarter 4 (Oct to Dec) 2019; this was driven by a 2.1% decrease in new work and a 3.5% decrease in repair and maintenance.
- New orders grew by 11.8% in Quarter 1 2020 compared with Quarter 4 2019; this rise was because of increases in both all other work and new housing, which rose 11.5% and 12.5% respectively.

The **Bank of England** published its most recent update to the Agents' Summary of Business Conditions on 26th March 2020, covering intelligence gathered in the first few weeks of March 2020 in order to reflect the latest conditions due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Key points:

- Construction project postponements and staff absences due to self-isolation or illness are expected to weigh on output in the near future. There has been some evidence of projects being postponed, either due to economic uncertainty or because of delays caused by planning office closures. Some contacts reported delays on construction sites due to staff absence. This meant that some projects might take longer to complete. There were also some concerns that a deterioration in housing market activity would weigh on housebuilding. By contrast, there was some evidence of strong activity in office construction.
- There has been a marked deterioration in housing market sentiment in recent weeks. Contacts said that the economic uncertainty as a result of the pandemic had deterred buyers and sellers, bringing transactions to a halt. Developers said that sentiment in the market for new homes has also cooled. The number of visitors to show homes and marketing suites has fallen over the past two weeks.
- Up until the middle of March, contacts had been reporting strong investor and occupier demand for office space in the larger UK cities. Demand from investors and occupiers for distribution and warehousing premises was also robust. However, there was growing evidence that uncertainty about the outlook, difficulties with valuations and travel restrictions relating to the Covid-19 virus had led to some transactions stalling. Commercial landlords reported that tenants were requesting rent holidays.

Gross Domestic Product Estimate

The **Office for National Statistics** published their estimate of gross domestic product for March 2020 and Q1 2020 on 13th May 2020.

Key points:

- GDP fell by 2.0% in Q1 2020, following no growth in Q4 2020. The services sector fell by 1.9% in Q1 2020. Production fell by 2.1% and construction fell by 2.6% in the same period.
- GDP fell by 5.8% in March 2020 compared with February 2020, the biggest monthly fall since the series began in 1997. Services fell by 6.2% in March; production fell by 4.2% and construction fell by 5.9%.
- Commenting on today's GDP figures, Jonathan Athow, Deputy National Statistician for Economic Statistics, said: "With the arrival of the pandemic nearly every aspect of the economy was hit in March, dragging growth to a record monthly fall. Services and construction saw record declines on the month with education, car sales and restaurants all falling substantially."

Gross Domestic Product Forecast

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

Key points:

- The mean GDP forecast for 2020 is a fall of 7.9%, down from a fall of 5.4% in the previous month's survey.
- The mean GDP forecast for 2021 is 6.1% growth, up from 4.7% growth in the previous month's survey.

The **Office for Budget Responsibility** published a scenario on 14th April that assesses the potential impact of the coronavirus on the economy and public finances:

- GDP will fall by 12.8% in 2020. This reflects a fall of 35% in Q2 2020 and a recovery of 27% in Q3 2020.
- This is the impact of a three-month lockdown scenario where economic activity would gradually return to normal over the subsequent three months.

Construction Output Forecasts

In April 2020, **Experian** published their Spring 2020 forecasts for the construction sector.

Key points:

- Output is expected to fall by 25.3% in 2020, due to the impact of Covid-19. It will then grow by 14.8% in 2021 and 4.0% in 2022 to around the level seen in 2015.
- The worst hit sector is private commercial new construction which is forecast to fall by 34% in 2020, followed by growth of 18% and 3% in 2021 and 2022 respectively. Private industrial new construction is forecast to fall 31% in 2020, before growth of 16% in 2021 and 4% in 2022. Public non-housing new construction is forecast to fall by 19% in 2020, followed by growth of 12% in 2021 and 3% in 2022.
- Infrastructure new construction is forecast to fall by 18% in 2020, before recovering with growth of 18% in 2021 and 6% in 2022. The forecast was made before the recent announcement that HS2 work could restart on site.
- Private new housebuilding is forecast to fall by 30% in 2020 before growth of 18% in 2021 and 5% in 2022. Public new housebuilding is forecast to fall by 26% in 2020 before growth of 14% in 2021 and 6% in 2022.

The **Construction Products Association** have published scenarios for construction as part of their analysis of the market impact, with the main scenario including a relaxation of social distancing restrictions from mid-May and a recovery in construction activity from June:

- Overall, construction output is anticipated to fall by 25% in 2020. This is seen across all sectors, with private new housing the worst hit with a fall of 42%. Private new commercial is expected to fall by 36%. The least affected new work sectors are infrastructure (-9%) and public non-housing (-6%).
- In 2021, construction output is expected to rise by 26%. All sectors are expected to rise with infrastructure seeing the biggest increase of 40% due to HS2 works gaining notice to proceed. Private new housing is expected to see the second biggest increase of 36%, due

to improving economic conditions and government stimulus through the extension of Help to Buy and incentives for affordable housing. Despite this recovery, output in 2021 is expected to be 6% lower than in 2019.

Manufacturing

The latest **Index of Production** data for March 2020 were published on 13th May 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 March 2020 with March 2019, **output decreased by 13.0%**
- When comparing March 2020 with February 2020, **output decreased by 12.1%**

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

- When comparing March 2020 with March 2019, **output decreased by 11.0%**
- When comparing March 2020 with February 2020, **output decreased by 9.7%**

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	70%
Quarterly Sand and Gravel – Land Won	4, 5 & 6	61%
Quarterly Sand and Gravel – Marine Dredged	4, 5 & 6	79%
Quarterly Slate	7	44%
Quarterly Concrete Roofing Tiles	13	80%
Monthly Bricks Provisional data	9	96%
Monthly Bricks Final data	9 & 10	100%
Monthly Concrete Blocks	11	86%

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 July 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

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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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