Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components

Commentary, March 2021

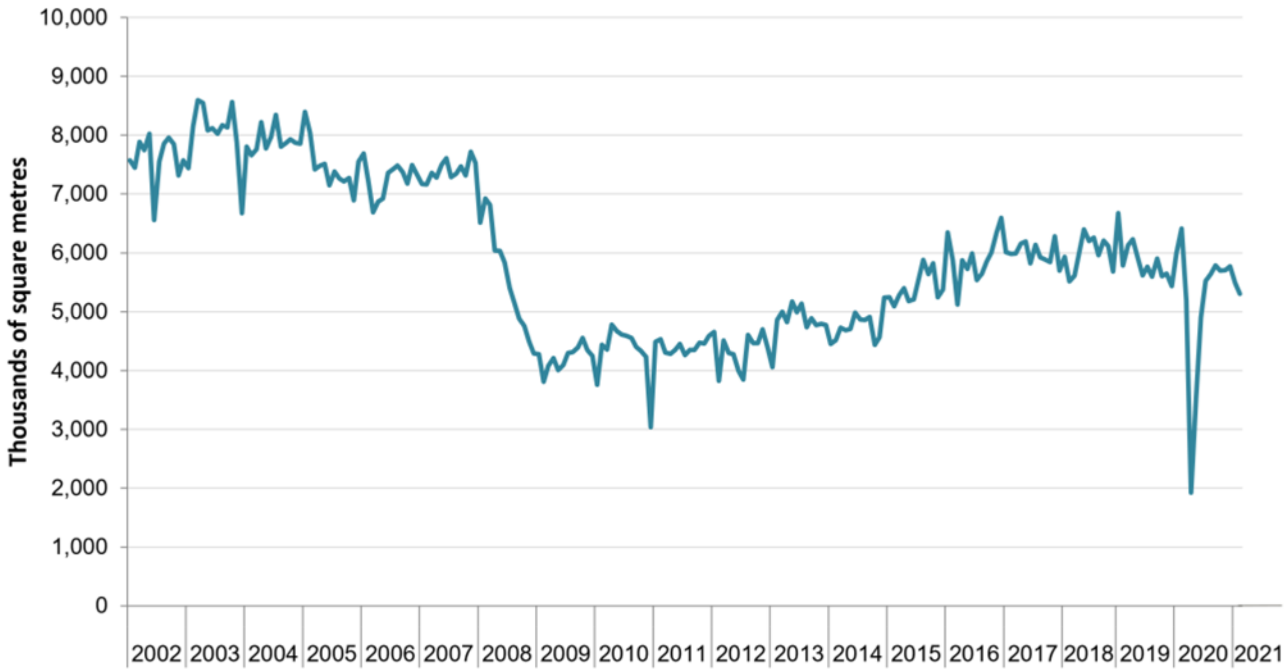
Coverage: UK and Great Britain
Geographical Area: Country, region and county

7 April 2021 **National Statistics**

Headline Findings

- There was a **3.8% decrease** in brick deliveries in February 2021 compared to February 2020, according to the seasonally adjusted figures. The month-on-month change shows a **0.2% decrease** in February 2021.
- There was an **17.3% decrease** in concrete block deliveries in February 2021 compared to February 2020, according to the seasonally adjusted figures. The month-on-month change shows a **3.4% decrease** in February 2021.

Chart 1: Seasonally Adjusted Deliveries of Concrete Blocks, GB



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

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Next publication: 5 May 2021

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Introduction

This commentary accompanies the latest Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components bulletin, published on the BEIS building materials web page on 7th April 2021. 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.

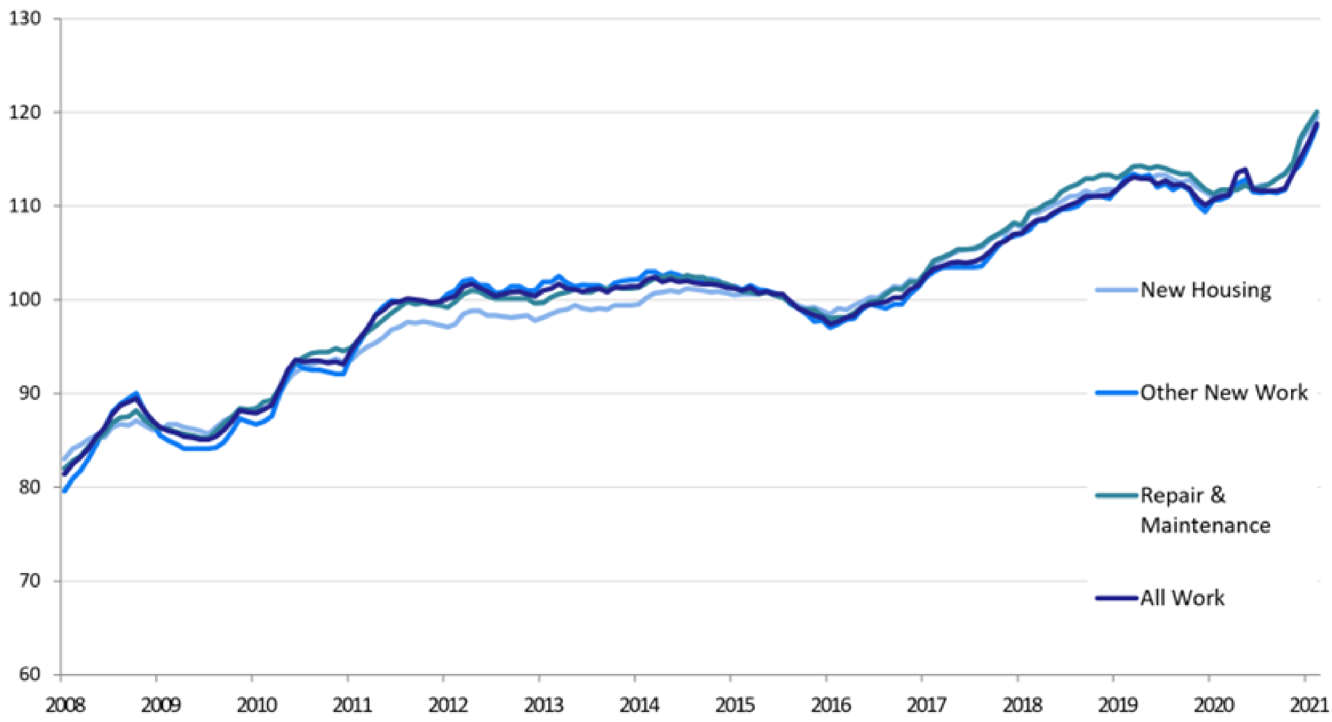
Seasonal Adjustment Review

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 2: Construction Material Price Indices, UK
Index, 2015 = 100



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

Year-on-year change (February 2020 to February 2021)

New Housing	7.3%
Other New Work	7.0%
Repair & Maintenance	7.4%
All Work	7.0%

Month-on-month change (January 2021 to February 2021)

New Housing	1.0%
Other New Work	1.8%
Repair & Maintenance	1.1%
All Work	1.7%

- Looking at the longer-term change, the material price index of **'All Work' increased by 7.0%** in February 2021 compared to the same month the previous year.

Table 1: Construction materials experiencing the greatest price increases and decreases in the 12 months to February 2021, UK

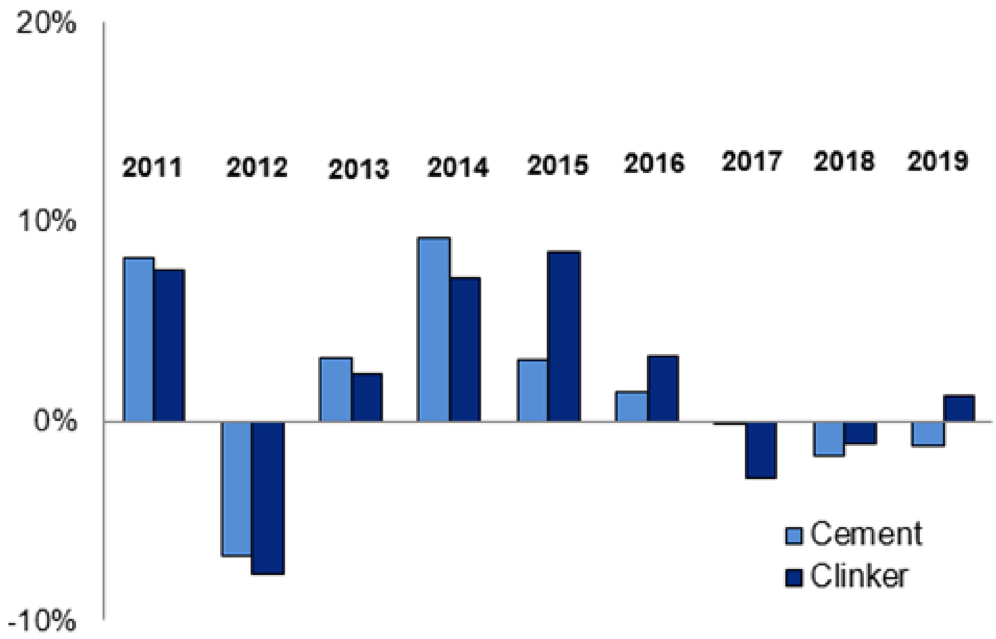
Construction Materials	% change on a year earlier
Greatest price increases	
Imported plywood	30.4
Gravel, sand, clays & kaolin (including aggregate levy)	23.3
Concrete reinforcing bars	18.2
Greatest price decreases	
Screws etc.	-14.1
Ready-mixed concrete	-2.5
Pipes and fittings (rigid)	-0.5

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

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

Cement and Clinker

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



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

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

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

Sand & Gravel

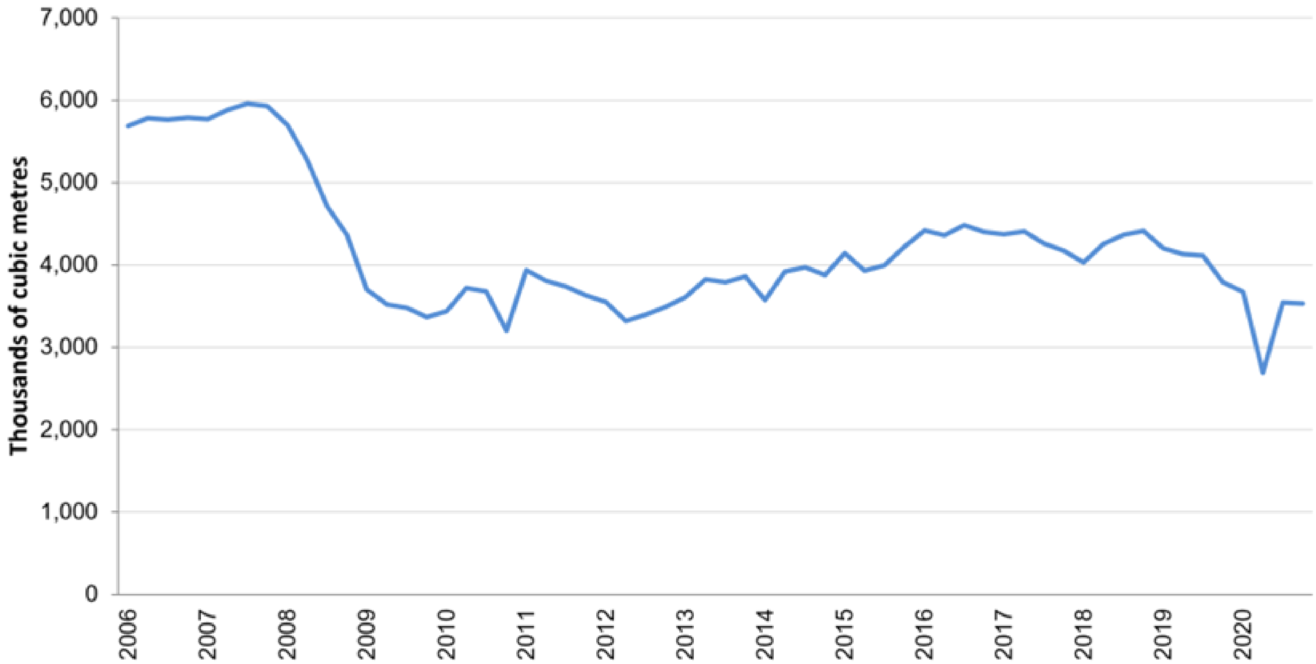
Chart 4: Seasonally Adjusted Sales of Sand & Gravel, GB
Weight of sand & gravel

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

- Sales of sand & gravel **decreased** by **6.2%** in Quarter 4 2020 compared to Quarter 3 2020, according to the seasonally adjusted data.
- This followed an increase of 35.7% in Quarter 3 2020.
- Comparing Quarter 4 2020 to the same quarter in the previous year, sales have **decreased** by **13.0%**.
- Across all of 2020, sales of sand & gravel decreased by 14.6% compared to 2019, the largest annual decrease since 2009.
- Seasonally adjusted sales of sand & gravel have consistently remained below levels typically seen before the recession of 2008 to 2009 and have dropped recently due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- From Quarter 1 2019, sand and gravel data reported in this publication includes recycled material.

Concrete

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

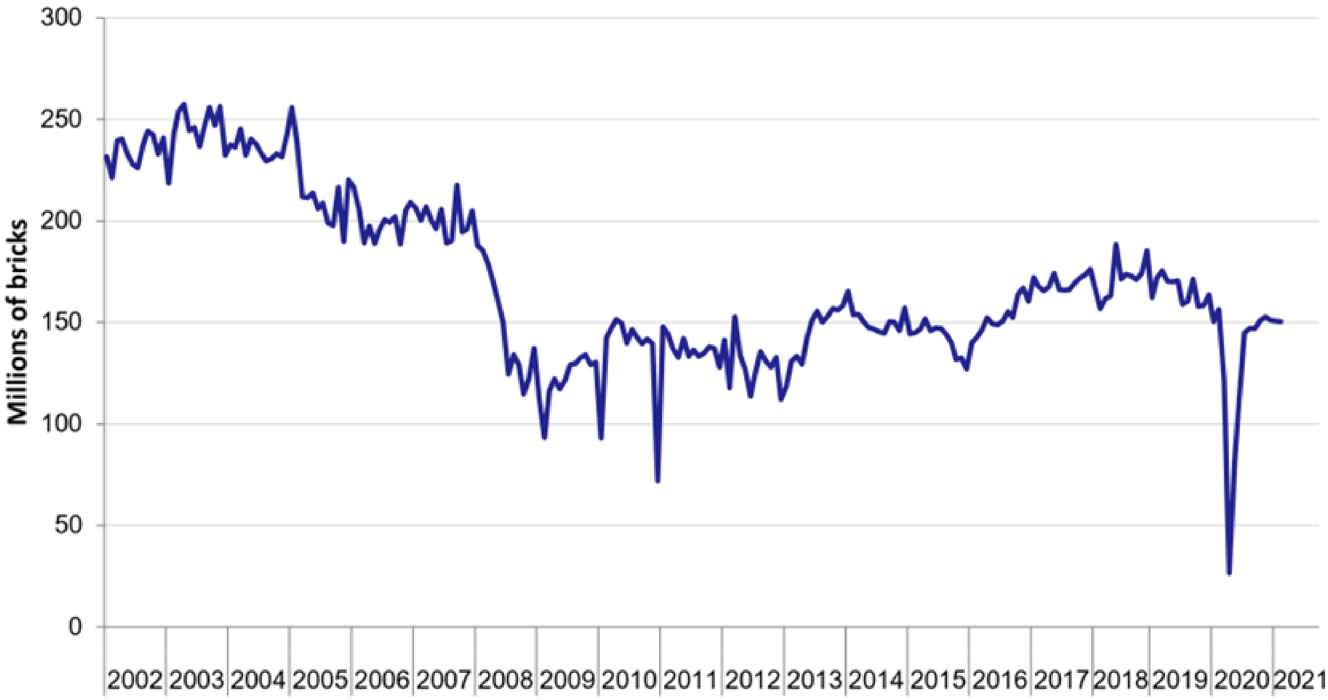


Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 13

- Ready-mixed concrete sales **decreased** by **0.4%** in Quarter 4 2020 compared to Quarter 3 2020, according to the seasonally adjusted data.
- This followed a 31.7% increase in Quarter 3 2020.
- Sales in Quarter 4 2020 **decreased** by **6.9%** compared to the same quarter in the previous year, following a 13.9% decrease in Quarter 3 2020, on the same basis.
- Over the whole of 2020, ready-mixed concrete sales decreased by 17.3% compared to 2019.
- After the 2008 to 2009 recession, seasonally adjusted sales of ready-mixed concrete had been recovering steadily since Q2 2012, until the recent drop due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Bricks

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

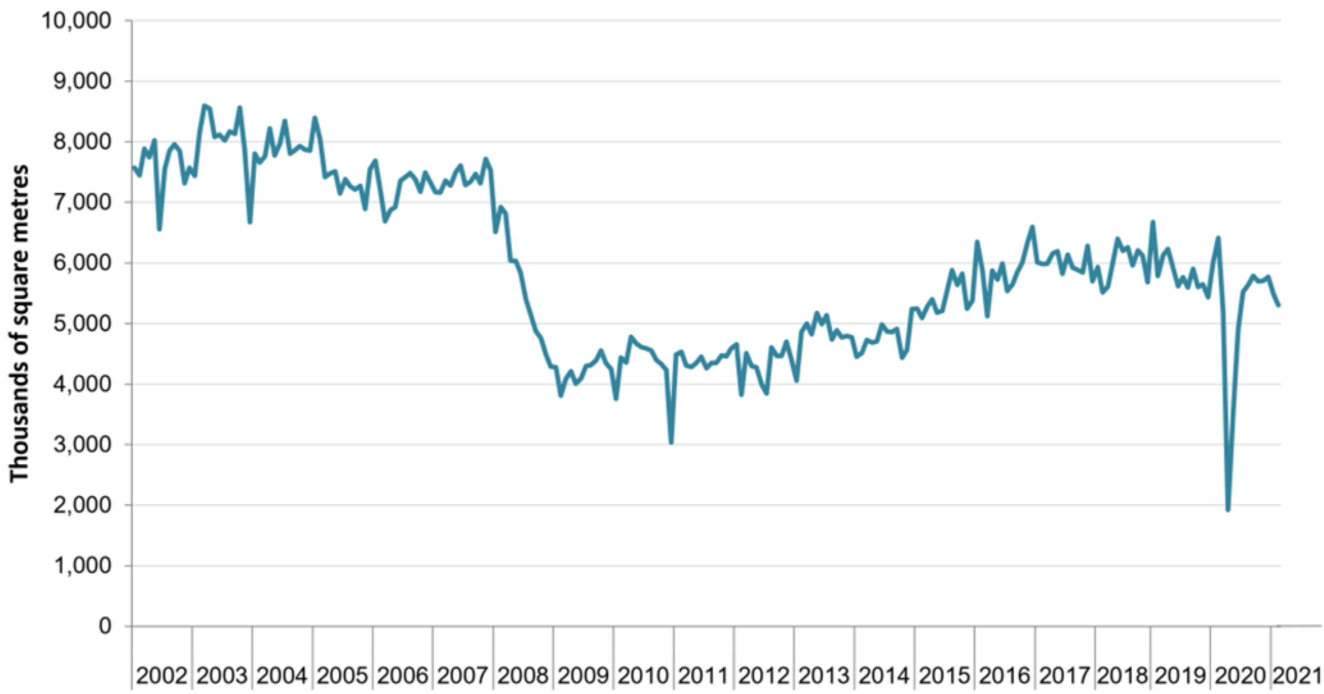


Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 9

- There was a **3.8% decrease** in brick deliveries in February 2021 compared to February 2020, according to the seasonally adjusted figures.
- This followed a 0.2% increase in January 2021, on the same basis.
- The month-on-month change shows a **0.2% decrease** in February 2021.
- This followed a 0.4% decrease in January 2021, on the same basis.
- Deliveries of bricks declined during the recession of 2008 to 2009. They have recovered slowly since 2013, until the recent drop due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Blocks

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

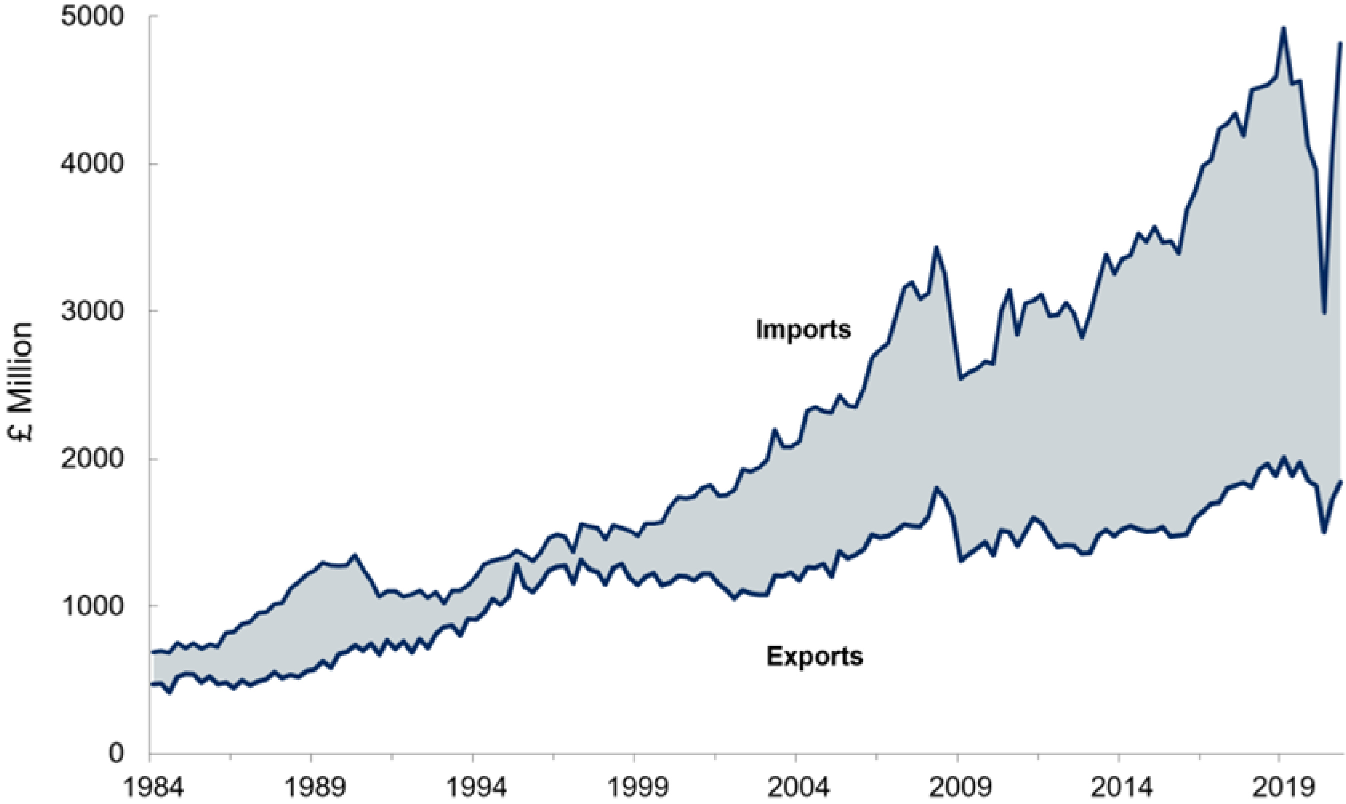


Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 11

- There was an **17.3% decrease** in concrete block deliveries in February 2021 compared to February 2020, according to the seasonally adjusted figures.
- This followed an 8.5% decrease in January 2021, on the same basis.
- The month-on-month change shows a **3.4% decrease** in February 2021.
- This followed a 4.9% decrease in January 2021, on the same basis.
- Concrete block deliveries declined during the recession of 2008 to 2009. The general trend has been one of growth since 2013, until the recent drop due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Imports and Exports of Construction Materials

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



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

- **Imports** of construction materials **increased** by £757 million in Q4 2020 compared to the previous quarter, **an increase** of 18.7%.
- **Exports** of construction materials **increased** by £119 million in Q4 2020 compared to the previous quarter, **an increase** of 6.9%.
- As a result, between Q3 2020 and Q4 2020, the **quarterly trade deficit widened** by £638 million to £2,971 million, **an increase** of 27.3%.
- Over the whole of 2020, **imports** of construction materials **decreased** by **12.8%** compared to 2019, from £18,144 million to £15,823 million.
- In the same period **exports decreased** by **10.8%**, from £7,723 million to £6,887 million.
- Over the period from Quarter 1 1984 to Quarter 4 2020, construction materials imports have increased, on average (per quarter), by 3.8%. Over the same period, exports increased by an average of 2.0% per quarter.
- The trade deficit was historically at its smallest throughout the 1990s, with a mean of £309 million over this period. This trade deficit was 24% of the value of imports. As of Quarter 4 2020, the trade deficit is £2,971 million, 62% of the value of imports.

Table 2: Top-5 Exported and Imported Construction Materials in 2020

Top-5 Exported Materials	***£ million***	**Top-5 Imported Materials**	***£ million***
Electrical Wires	930	Electrical Wires	1,845
Paints & Varnishes	685	Lamps & Fittings	859
Plugs & Sockets	355	Sawn Wood> 6mm thick	816
Air Conditioning Equipment	331	Linoleum floors and coverings	553
Lamps & Fittings	324	Air Conditioning Equipment	545

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

The top five exported materials in 2020 accounted for 38% of total construction material exports.

The top five imported construction materials in 2020 accounted for 29% of total construction material imports.

Table 3: UK Trade of Construction Materials with EU and Non-EU Countries, 2020

All Building Materials & Components		
£ million (% of total trade in italics)	EU	Non-EU
Imports	9,108	6,715
	58%	42%
Exports	3,954	2,933
	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 2020

Top-5 Export Markets	***£ million***	**Top-5 Import Markets**	***£ million***
Republic of Ireland	1,202	China	2,945
Germany	680	Germany	2,029
USA	589	Italy	971
France	532	Turkey	788
Netherlands	482	Spain	742

Source: HMRC Overseas Trade Statistics

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

The top five export markets comprised 51% of total construction materials exports in 2020. The Republic of Ireland remains the largest market, despite having shrunk from a pre-recession peak of 27% of total exports in 2007, to 17% in 2020.

The top 5 import markets comprised 47% of total construction materials imports in 2020. 19% of all imports are from China.

Economic Background

COVID-19 Intelligence

The **Office for National Statistics** published further information from their fortnightly Business insights and impact on the UK economy publication on 25th March 2021, relating to 22nd February to 21st March 2021.

Key points:

- Weighted by count, 78.5% of construction firms said they were currently trading and had been for more than the last two weeks, compared with an all-industry average of 71.9%. 3.6% had started trading in the last two weeks after a pause in trading.
- Weighted by turnover, 3.8% of construction firms still trading said their turnover had decreased by more than 50%. A further 10.0% said turnover had decreased by between 20% and 50%, and 18.3% said it had decreased by up to 20%.
- Weighted by employment, the average proportion of the workforce on partial or furlough leave was 3.6% for construction businesses which had not permanently stopped trading.

Construction Output

The most recent provisional construction output figures for January 2021 were published by the **Office for National Statistics** on 12th March 2021.

Key points:

- Construction output grew by 0.9% in the month-on-month all work series in January 2021; this return to growth follows the 2.9% decline in December 2020.
- The level of output in January 2021 was 2.6% below the February 2020 level; the level of new work was 6.4% below this level, while repair and maintenance work was 4.5% above this level despite a monthly fall.
- New work increased by 1.7% in January 2021 and was driven by private commercial and infrastructure, which grew by 4.5% and 3.1% respectively.
- Repair and maintenance decreased by 0.4% in January 2021 because of a 4.7% fall in private housing repair and maintenance, despite growth of 5.0% in public housing and 1.3% in non-housing repair and maintenance.
- Construction output grew by 1.7% in the three months to January 2021 compared with the previous three-month period, because of growth in both new work (2.2%) and repair and maintenance (0.8%).

Bank of England Summary of Business Conditions

The **Bank of England** published its most recent update to the Agents' Summary of Business Conditions on 18th March 2021, covering intelligence gathered between mid-January and late February 2021.

Key points:

- Construction output continued to be lower than a year ago, partly due to subdued demand from sectors worst affected by Covid, though public projects continued. Contacts said that private commercial work remained substantially down on the previous year, in particular for office, hospitality and leisure developments. By contrast, there was strong growth in industrial developments such as logistics and warehousing.
- Public infrastructure projects continued to support output, in particular school and transport developments, and contacts reported a good pipeline of publicly funded work. Looking ahead, contacts also expected green energy projects to support growth.
- In house building, demand for private housing remained strong, although output was lower than a year ago due to supply chain issues and lower productivity as a result of social distancing rules. Construction of social housing had picked up less quickly due to the postponement of some projects, though housing association developments appeared to be strengthening more recently.
- Demand for home improvements, repair and maintenance continued to be strong, though some activity may have been delayed as a result of lockdown. And contacts said that public repair and maintenance work had also held up.

Gross Domestic Product Estimate

The **Office for National Statistics** published their estimate of gross domestic product for January 2021 on 12th March 2021.

Key points:

- GDP is estimated to have fallen by 2.9% in January 2021, after growing by 1.2% in December 2020.
- The services sector fell by 3.5% and production fell by by 1.5% in January 2021, whilst construction grew by 0.9% in the same period.
- January's GDP was 9.0% below the levels seen in February 2020, compared with 4.0% below October 2020 (the initial recovery peak)

Gross Domestic Product Forecast

The latest monthly **Consensus Economics** forecast survey (which uses an average of private sector forecasts) results were published in March 2021.

Key points:

- The mean GDP forecast for 2021 is 4.6% growth, up from 4.2% growth in the previous month's survey.
- The mean GDP growth forecast for 2022 is 5.8%, up from 5.6% in the previous month's survey.

The **Office for Budget Responsibility** published a new Economic and Fiscal Outlook on 3rd March 2021.

- GDP is expected to grow by 4% in 2021 and to regain pre-pandemic levels in the second quarter of 2022.

Construction Output Forecasts

In January 2021, Experian published their Winter 2020/21 forecasts for the construction sector.

Key points:

- All construction sectors are estimated to have seen a decline in output in 2020 as projects struggled to put in place Covid-19 safety protocols, especially during the first national lockdown in the second quarter of the year. However, the falls were by no means uniform, with some sectors faring relatively better than others.
- Construction output is expected to fall by 16.6% in 2020 and then grow by 11.5% in 2021 and 7.6% in 2022.
- Total new work is forecast to fall by 17% in 2020, and then recover by 13% in 2021 and 8% in 2022. Total housing, private industrial and private commercial sub-sectors are all forecast to fall by between 21% and 23% in 2020. Infrastructure is forecast to experience the smallest fall of the subsectors in 2020 (5%).
- Repair and maintenance is forecast to fall by 15% in 2020 before recovering by 9% in 2021 and 6% in 2022.

The **Construction Products Association** published updated scenarios for construction in January 2021.

- The CPA's latest Construction Industry Scenarios sees a 'W'-shaped economic recession and recovery as its main assumption, with construction output expected to rise 14% in 2021 and 4.9% in 2022. This takes account of lockdown restrictions over winter 2020/21 before a sustained recovery from 2021 Q2 as vaccines are rolled out and the services-based economy can reopen again.
- With government making it clear that the construction and manufacturing sectors should continue to operate despite Covid-19 restrictions, output has been able to rise and recover relatively rapidly. The 14.0% rise in 2021 follows an estimated contraction of 14.3% overall in 2020 caused by the sharp fall in the first half of last year. Output is only expected to recover to pre-Covid levels in 2022. There is also the risk that once furlough and self-employment support schemes end in April, there may be a sharp rise in unemployment that could potentially dampen this recovery.
- The CPA's Scenarios show that private housing was one of the quickest sectors to recover in 2020, with mortgage lending and property transactions above pre-Covid levels at the end of the year. A slower recovery has been seen in the commercial sector, with store closures and low rent collection in retail and leisure as well as the shift to working from home causing uncertainty for the offices sub-sector. Homeworking has had a positive impact on the private housing RM&I sector, with households investing accumulated savings from lower daily expenditure back into homes.

Manufacturing

The latest **Index of Production** data for December 2020 were published on 12th March 2021 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 January 2021 with January 2020, **output increased by 13.0%**

- When comparing January 2021 with December 2020, **output increased by 11.2%**

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

- When comparing January 2021 with January 2020, **output decreased by 14.8%**
- When comparing January 2021 with December 2020, **output decreased by 11.8%**

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. The Office of National Statistics (ONS) replaced the following price indices for construction materials from the November 2020 release of this publication (published on 4th December 2020) onwards; Sand & Gravel excluding/including levy, Crushed rock excluding/including levy, and Bituminous materials. This affects Tables 1, 2 and 3 in the bulletin and Table 1 in the commentary. Further information is provided in the footnotes of each table. A back series of both the previous and replacement indices was published alongside the November 2020 release of this publication.

2. In work done for the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) on improving the quality of statistics published in the Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, the Office for National Statistics' Methodology Advisory Service (MAS) recommended that BIS should start seasonally adjusting key data series (see ONS/MAS review of building materials statistics: final report for more detail). Seasonal adjustment is widely used in official statistics and aids data interpretation by removing effects associated with the time of the year or arrangement of the calendar. Seasonal effects frequently obscure features of interest in data, such as long-term trends and the effects of unusual occurrences. By removing seasonal effects, users can more readily identify the features of interest.

   Following advice from the MAS, and the results of a consultation (see the results of the BIS consultation on seasonal adjustment for more detail), BIS agreed to publish seasonally adjusted data for the following series:
   - Sand and gravel, total sales
   - Concrete blocks, all types deliveries
   - Bricks, all types deliveries
   - Ready-mixed concrete, deliveries

   For the initial publication of seasonally adjusted data, data from 1983 onwards will be seasonally adjusted. Subsequently, for each monthly publication, data up to 12 months or 4 quarters previous to the new data point will be revised. Upon the completion of each year's data series, data for the previous 12 years will be revised. BEIS will publish both non-seasonally adjusted and seasonally adjusted data in the tables of this publication. From the June 2015 edition this publication will only use seasonally adjusted data in the commentary for these series.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For latest data used	**Bulletin table number**	**Response rate**
Quarterly Sand and Gravel	4, 5 & 6	69%
Quarterly Sand and Gravel – Land Won	4, 5 & 6	63%
Quarterly Sand and Gravel – Marine Dredged	4, 5 & 6	88%
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 & 12	100%

Definitions

Production	Products completed and ready for dispatch
Deliveries	Sold products which have left the premises
Stocks	Manufacturer's stocks
CIF	Cost, insurance and freight (for more information on shipping terms, visit the HMRC website)
FOB	Free on-board (for more information on shipping terms, visit the HMRC website)
Sand and gravel - land won	Sand and gravel from pits and quarries, including that derived from beaches and rivers
Sand and gravel - marine dredged	Sand and gravel derived from seas and estuaries

Further information

Future updates to these statistics

The next publication in this series will be on 5th May 2021.

Related statistics

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

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

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

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

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

Revisions policy

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

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

Uses of these statistics

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

User engagement

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

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

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

National Statistics designation

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

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

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

- carried out a public consultation and introduced publication of seasonally adjusted data on deliveries of sand and gravel, concrete blocks, bricks, and ready-mixed concrete
- in response to the cessation of MHCLG's Annual Minerals Raised Inquiry, which previously supplied the sampling frame for the land-won sand and gravel survey, we have:
    - changed the survey from sample survey to a census, increasing the panel from 200 sites to around 500 sites
    - refreshed the panel of sites annually using information from the British Geological Survey
    - made the survey statutory under the Statistics of Trade Act 1947, bringing it into line with the marine-dredged sand and gravel survey
- improved the design of the blocks survey, making it fully monthly instead of a mixture of monthly and quarterly data collection
- introduced the publication of the tables in an OpenDocument (ODS) spreadsheet, in addition to Microsoft Excel and PDF
- rebased all price indices series to 2015=100 in the November 2020 publication

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

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