Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components

Commentary, September 2021

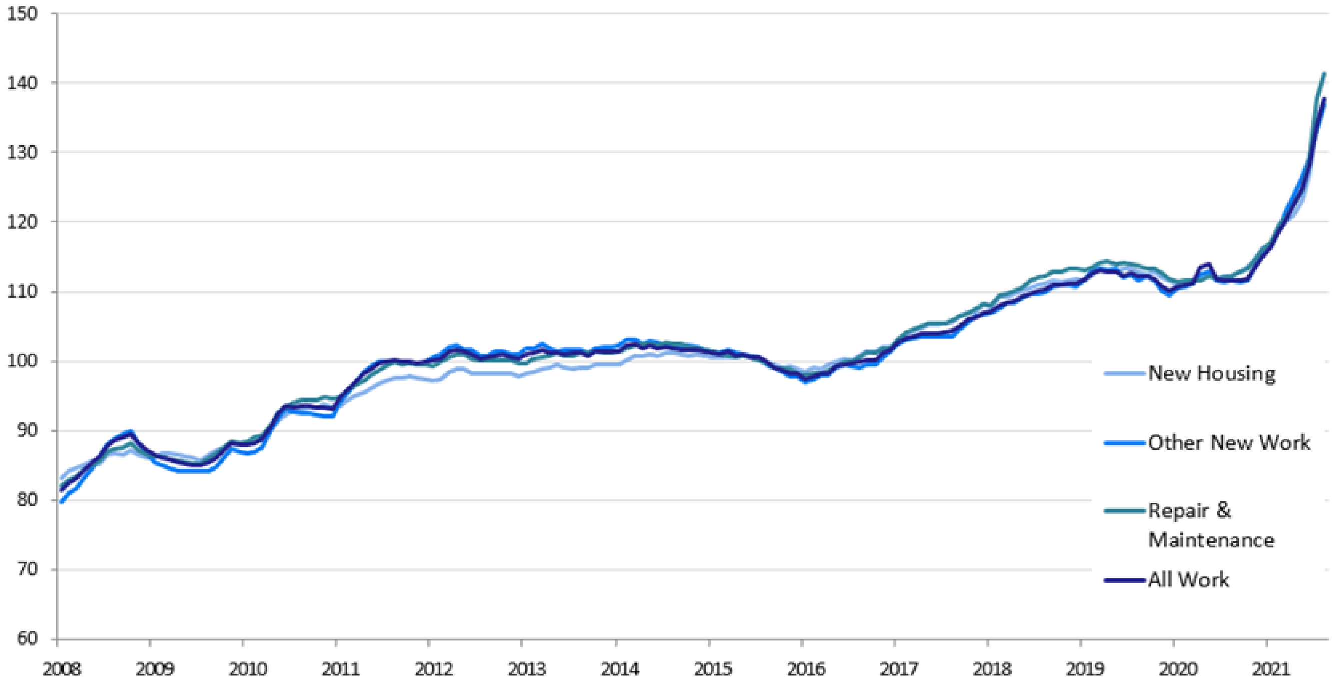
Coverage: UK and Great Britain
Geographical Area: Country, region and county

6 October 2021 **National Statistics**

Headline Findings

- The material price index for 'All Work' **increased** by **23.5%** in August 2021 compared to August 2020 and by **2.8%** compared to July 2021.

Chart 1: Construction Material Price Indices, UK
Index, 2015 = 100



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

Responsible statistician: Amy Symes-Thompson **Email: materialstats@beis.gov.uk**
Media enquiries: 020 7215 1000 **Public enquiries: +44 (0)207 215 6498**

Next publication: 3 November 2021

Contents

Introduction

This commentary accompanies the latest Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components data tables, published on the BEIS building materials web page on 6 October 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.

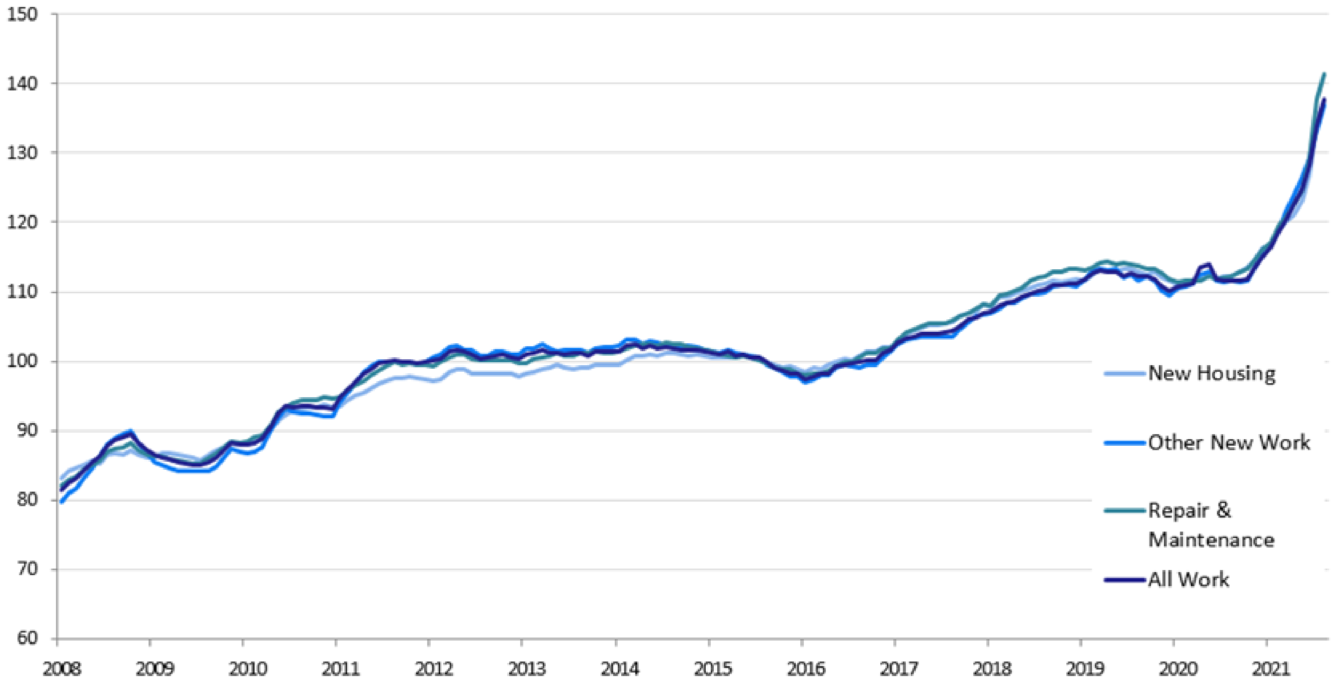
Seasonal Adjustment Review

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 (August 2020 to August 2021)

New Housing	22.4%
Other New Work	22.8%
Repair & Maintenance	25.9%
All Work	23.5%

Month-on-month change (July 2021 to August 2021)

New Housing	2.3%
Other New Work	2.8%
Repair & Maintenance	2.6%
All Work	2.8%

- Looking at the longer-term change, the material price index for **'All Work' increased by 23.5%** in August 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 August 2021, UK

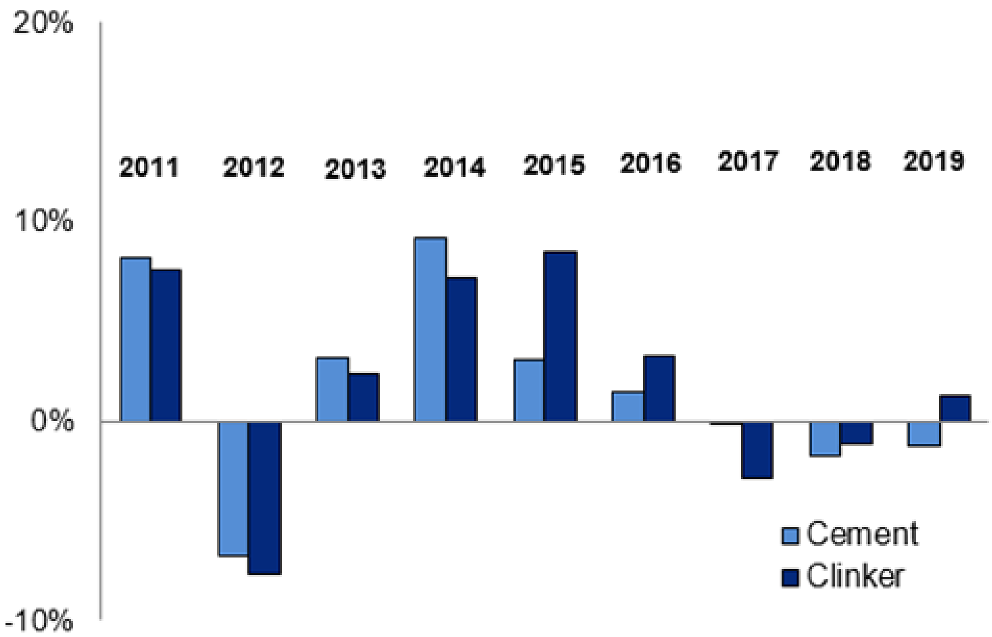
Construction Materials	Year-on-year % change
Greatest price increases	
Imported plywood	78.4
Fabricated structural steel	74.8
Imported sawn or planed wood	74.0
Greatest price decreases	
Screws etc.	-11.2
Insulating materials (thermal or acoustic)	-0.2
Electric water heaters	-0.1

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 the three products that decreased 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

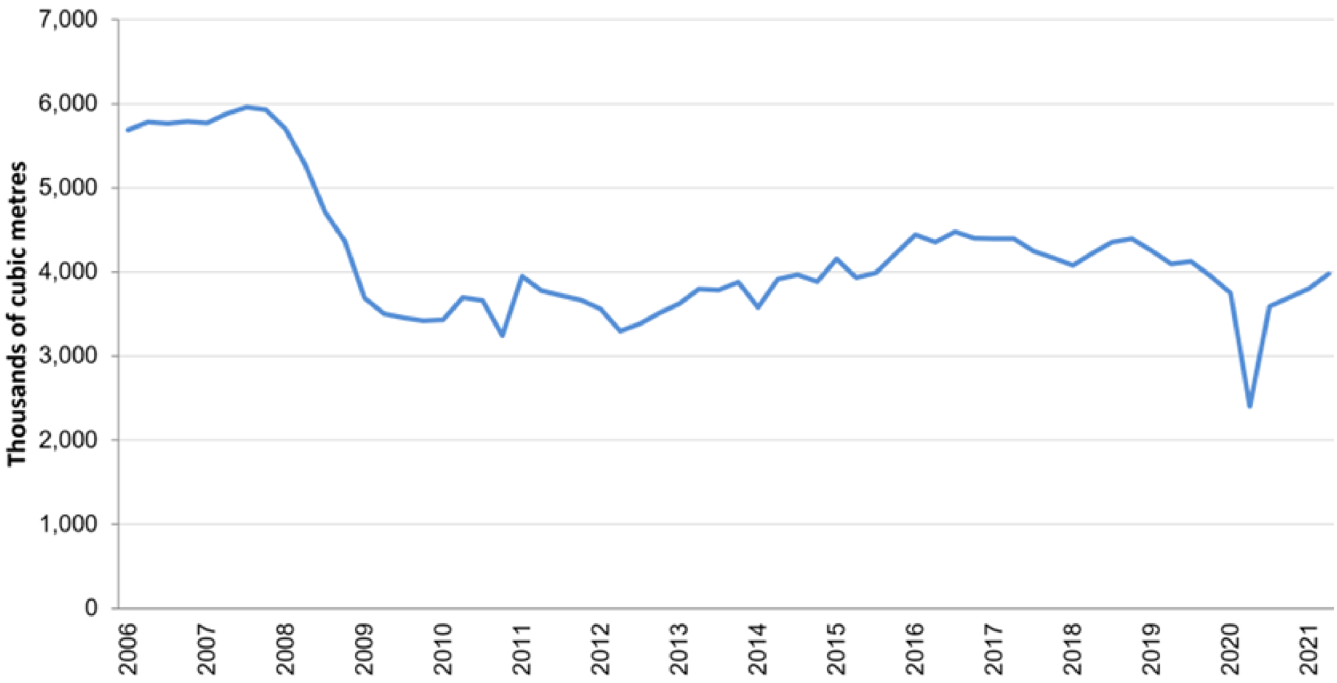
Chart 4: Seasonally Adjusted Sales of Sand & Gravel, GB
Weight of sand & gravel

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

- Sales of sand & gravel **increased** by **1.7%** in Quarter 2 2021 compared to Quarter 1 2021, according to the seasonally adjusted data.
- This followed an increase of 4.7% in Quarter 1 2021.
- Comparing Quarter 2 2021 to Quarter 1 2020 (before the start of national restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic), sales have **decreased** by **0.8%**.
- 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

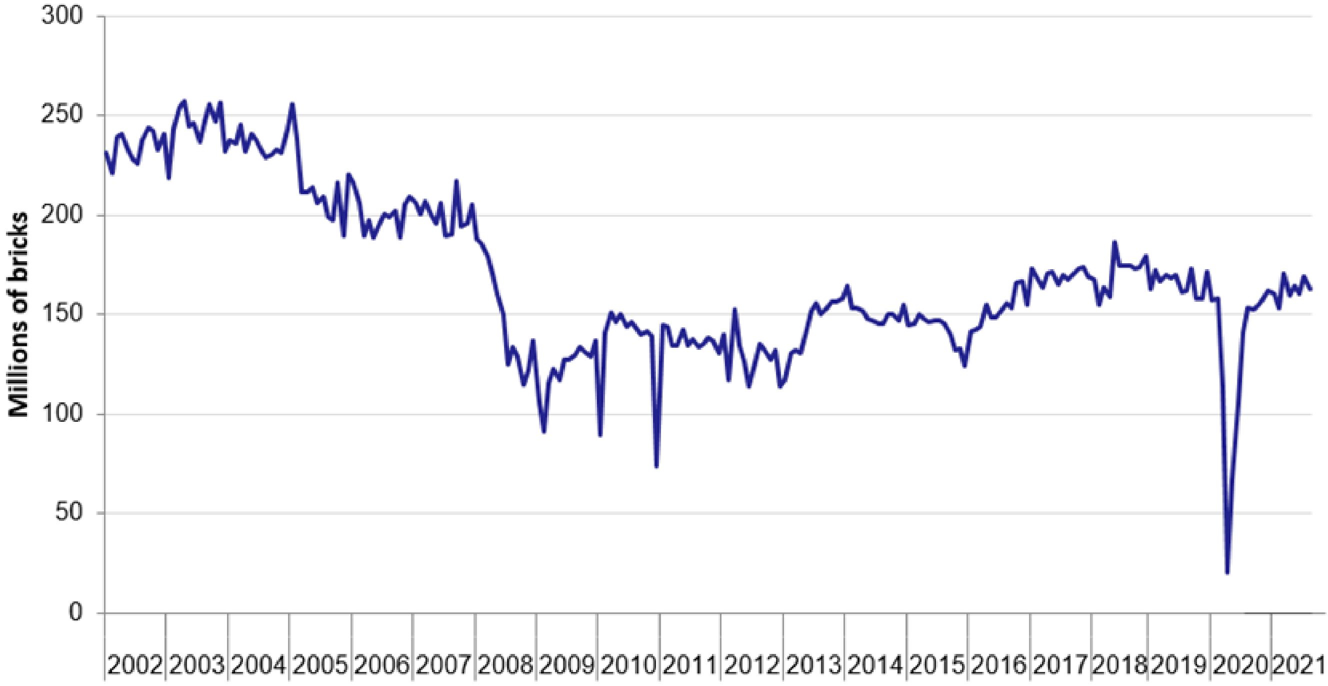


Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 13

- Ready-mixed concrete sales **increased** by **4.7%** in Quarter 2 2021 compared to Quarter 1 2021, according to the seasonally adjusted data.
- This followed a 2.8% increase in Quarter 1 2021.
- Sales in Quarter 2 2021 **increased** by **6.2%** compared to Quarter 1 2020 (before the start of national restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic), the previous year, following a 1.5% increase in Quarter 1 2021, on the same basis.
- After the 2008 to 2009 recession, seasonally adjusted sales of ready-mixed concrete had been recovering steadily since Q2 2012, until the recent drop due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Bricks

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

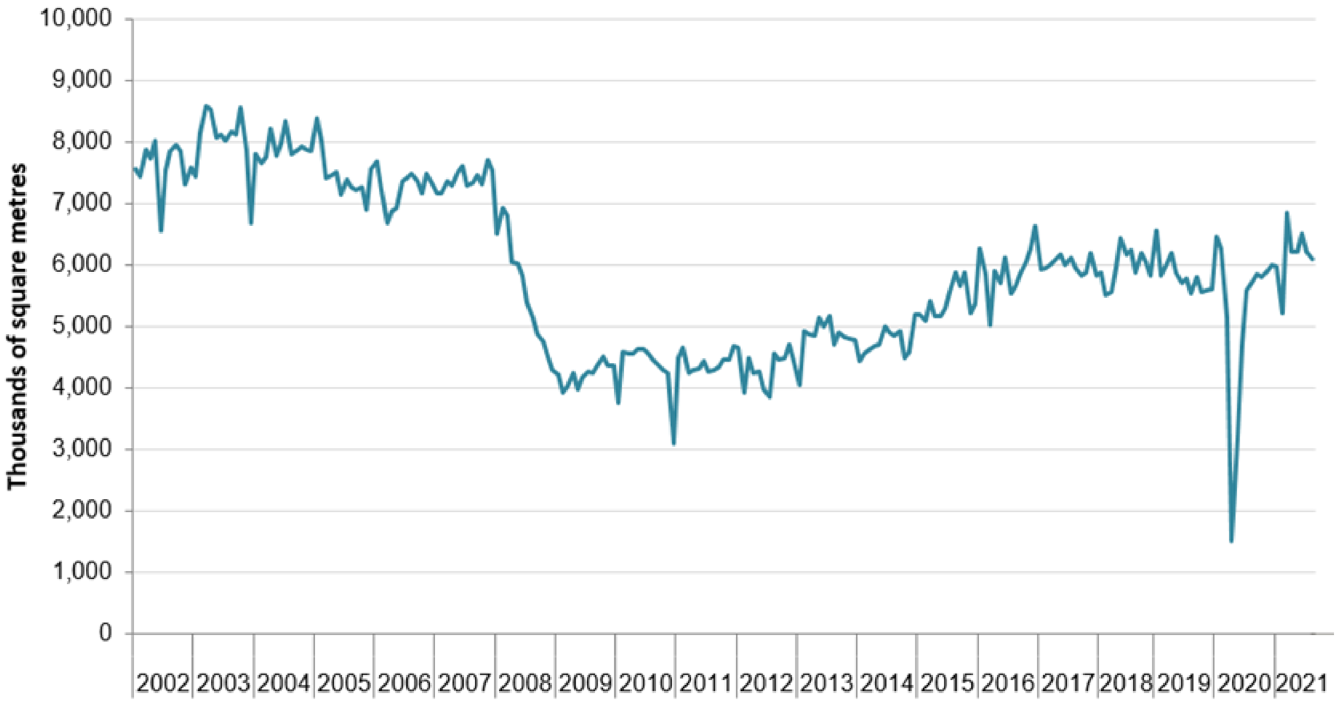


Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 9

- There was a **6.2% increase** in brick deliveries in August 2021 compared to August 2020, according to the seasonally adjusted figures.
- This followed a 20.4% increase in July 2021, compared to July 2020.
- The month-on-month change shows an **3.9% decrease** in August 2021.
- This followed a 5.2% increase in July 2021, on the same basis.
- Deliveries of bricks declined during the recession of 2008 to 2009. They have recovered slowly since 2013, until the drop due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Blocks

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

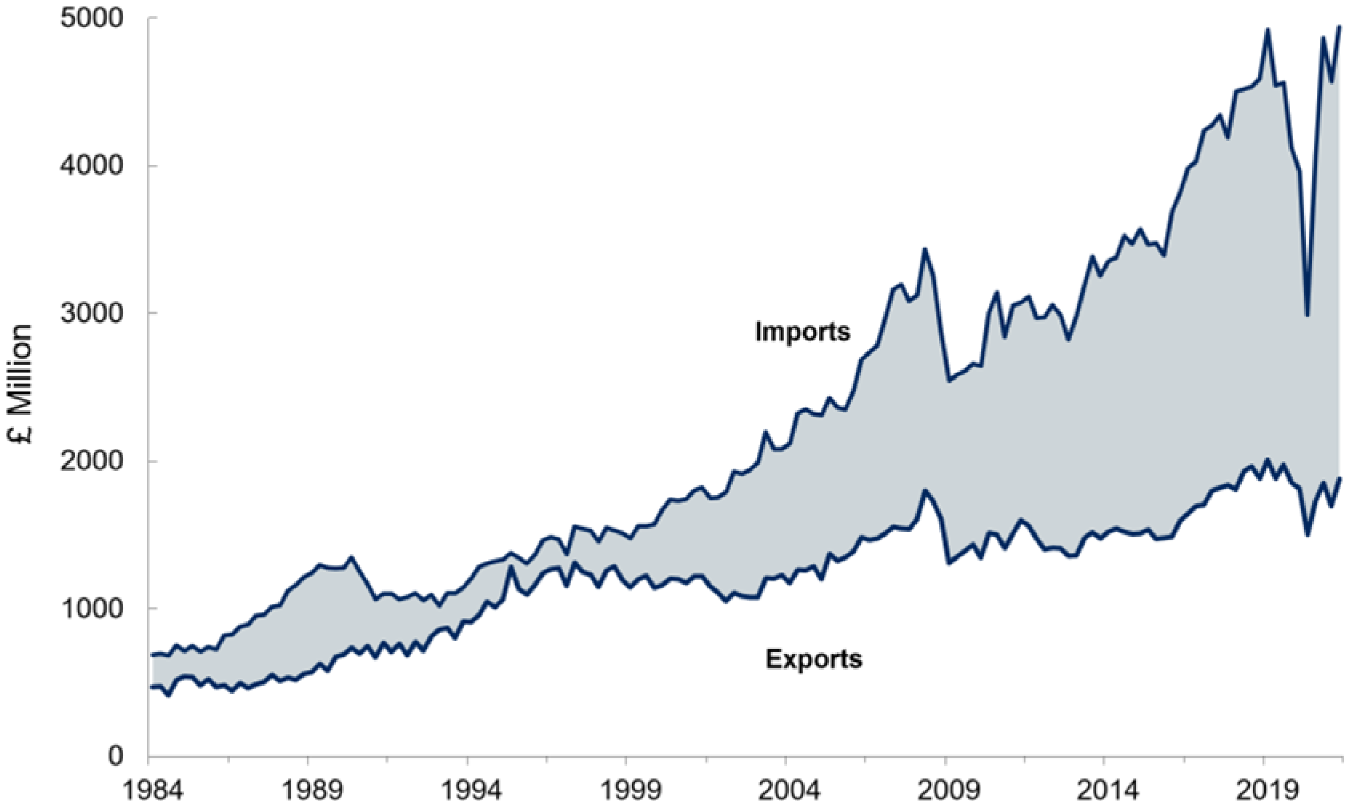


Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 11

- There was a **6.5% increase** in concrete block deliveries in August 2021 compared to August 2020, according to the seasonally adjusted figures.
- This followed an 11.3% increase in July 2021, compared to July 2020
- The month-on-month change shows a **1.8% decrease** in August 2021.
- This followed a 4.7% decrease in July 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, interrupted by 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 £328 million in Q2 2021 compared to the previous quarter, **an increase** of 7.1%.
- **Exports** of construction materials **increased** by £202 million in Q2 2021 compared to the previous quarter, **an increase** of 12.1%.
- As a result, between Q1 2021 and Q2 2021, the **quarterly trade deficit widened** by £126 million to £3,060 million, **an increase** of 4.3%.
- Over the whole of 2020, **imports** of construction materials **decreased** by **11.0%** compared to 2019, from £18,144 million to £16,144 million.
- In the same period **exports decreased** by **10.4%**, from £7,723 million to £6,916 million.
- Over the period from Quarter 1 1984 to Quarter 2 2021, construction materials imports have increased, on average (per quarter), by 4.1%. 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 2 2021, the trade deficit is £3,059 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	1,863
Paints & Varnishes	688	Lamps & Fittings	871
Plugs & Sockets	356	Sawn Wood> 6mm thick	833
Air Conditioning Equipment	330	Linoleum floors and coverings	560
Lamps & Fittings	326	Air Conditioning Equipment	551

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	9,424	6,720
	58%	*42%*
Exports	3,995	2,921
	58%	*42%*

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	1,219	China	2,945
Germany	685	Germany	2,094
USA	587	Italy	1016
France	535	Turkey	788
Netherlands	488	Spain	771

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

Business Insights

The **Office for National Statistics** published further information from their fortnightly Business insights and impact on the UK economy publication on 23rd September 2021, which was live for the period from 6th September to 19th September 2021 and referenced the period from 23rd August to 5th September 2021.

Key points:

- Between 6th September and 19th September, weighted by count, 89.4% 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 88.2%.
- Weighted by turnover, 24.4% of construction firms currently trading said their turnover had decreased over the survey reference period, compared with an all-industry average of 25.8%.
- Weighted by employment, the average proportion of the workforce on partial or furlough leave over the reference period was 5.4% for construction businesses which had not permanently stopped trading, compared with an all-industry average of 5.8%.

Construction Output

The most recent provisional construction output figures for July 2021 were published by the **Office for National Statistics** on 10th September 2021.

Key points:

- Monthly construction output fell by 1.6% in July 2021, with the level of output now below its pre-coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic February 2020 level. New work, and repair and maintenance contributed to the monthly decline in July 2021, with anecdotal evidence from businesses suggesting that price increases and product shortages caused by supply chain issues were the main reasons for the decline.
- The level of construction output in July 2021 was 1.8% (£257 million) below the February 2020 pre-pandemic level. New work was 3.2% (£285 million) below the February 2020 level, repair and maintenance work was 0.6% (£27 million) above the February 2020 level.
- The recovery is mixed at a sector level, with infrastructure the best performing sector over the pandemic at 35.7% (£649 million) above its February 2020 level and private commercial the worst performing sector over the pandemic at 20.3% (£481 million) below its February 2020 level in July 2021.
- Monthly construction output fell by 1.6% in volume terms in July 2021 because of declines in both new work (1.1%) and repair and maintenance (2.4%).
- The decline in monthly output in volume terms in July 2021 came mainly from private housing, which saw falls in both new work, and repair and maintenance of 7.5% and 6.2% respectively; this was driven by the impact of price increases likely caused by product shortages in the sector.
- Alongside the monthly fall, construction output fell by 0.6% in volume terms in the three months to July 2021, the first three-monthly fall since February 2021, driven by a fall in repair and maintenance of 2.9%.

- The decline in repair and maintenance (2.9%) in the three months to July 2021 was mainly because of a fall in private housing repair and maintenance, of 8.3%.
- New work saw an increase of 0.7% in the three months to July 2021; the largest contributors to this growth were infrastructure and to a lesser extent private industrial, which grew by 17.5% and 8.2% respectively.

Bank of England Summary of Business Conditions

The **Bank of England** published its most recent update to the [Agents' Summary of Business Conditions]() on 23rd September 2021, covering intelligence gathered between mid-July and early September 2021.

Key points:

- Contacts said activity was above pre-pandemic levels but was curtailed by supply-chain issues that affected the availability of materials and, to a lesser extent, by labour shortages. As a result, there were some reports of companies having to turn down work.
- Construction of private housing remained strong, with home improvement and repair and maintenance activity also supporting output. However, contacts said that materials shortages were causing delays to projects being started and completed.
- Private commercial development activity was mixed: demand was weak among sectors that had been adversely affected by the pandemic, such as retail, hospitality and higher education, where construction activity was mostly focused on essential repair and maintenance work. By contrast, construction activity was strong in logistics and warehousing and IT-related sectors. There were some signs of demand increasing for office refurbishments.
- Public infrastructure projects continued to support construction output, but there were reports of some delays in contracts being awarded, while budget constraints weighed on demand from local authorities.
- Contacts said that order books in general were strong, but uncertainty over materials costs and shortages were deterring some construction firms and clients from competing for tenders or from putting out contracts to tender, which could weigh on future output.

Gross Domestic Product Estimate

The **Office for National Statistics** also published their estimates of GDP for July 2021 on 10th September 2021:

Key points:

- GDP is estimated to have grown by 0.1% in July 2021 but remains 2.1% below the pre-coronavirus (COVID-19) level (February 2020).
- Production output increased by 1.2% in July 2021 and was the main contributor to GDP growth; boosted by the reopening of an oil field production site, which had temporarily closed for planned maintenance.
- Services output remained broadly flat in July 2021 and remains 2.1% below its pre-pandemic level (February 2020).

Gross Domestic Product Forecast

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

Key points:

- The mean GDP forecast for 2021 is 6.7% growth, down from 6.8% from the previous month's survey.
- The mean GDP growth forecast for 2022 is 5.4%, unchanged from 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

Experian published their Summer 2021 forecasts for the construction sector in July 2021.

Key points:

- The construction sector saw a double-digit decline in output, of 14%, in 2020 as the pandemic brought activity to a halt in the first half of the year. However, the recovery of the construction sector has been reasonably robust relative to other sectors of the economy and this strength has persisted into the first quarter of 2021.
- Construction output is forecast to grow by 11.8% in 2021, by 5.6% in 2022 and by 3.2% in 2023.
- While all sectors within construction will see a similar pattern of recovery, with the bulk of the rebound in 2021 and growth reverting to trend thereafter, there are notable differences in the pace of expansion and risks.
- New work is forecast to grow by 12.4% in 2021, and 6.4% in 2022, whilst repair and maintenance is forecast to grow by 10.7% this year and 4.2% in 2022.

The **Construction Products Association** published their Construction industry forecasts for Summer 2021 in July 2021.

- Construction output is forecast to rise by 13.7% in 2021 and 6.3% in 2022 compared with 12.9% in 2021 and 5.2% in 2022 in the CPA's Spring main scenario. This positive outlook comes despite the dual constraints of shortages and sharp cost rises in both imported construction products and skilled labour over the next 12 months. Infrastructure and private housebuilding are expected to be key drivers of construction growth in 2021 and 2022, while the outlook for the commercial sector remains subdued.

Manufacturing

The latest **Index of Production** data for July 2021 were published on 10th September 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 July 2021 with February 2020 (before the start of restrictions due to COVID-19), **output increased by 27.9%**
- When comparing July 2021 with July 2020, **output increased by 42.7%**
- When comparing July 2021 with June 2021, **output increased by 0.7%**

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

- When comparing July 2021 with February 2020 (before the start of restrictions due to COVID-19), **output decreased by 13.0%**
- When comparing July 2021 with July 2020, **output decreased by 5.1%**
- When comparing July 2021 with June 2021, **output increased by 1.4%**

Accompanying tables

The most recently published 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 often obscure features of interest in data, such as long-term trends and 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 initial publication of seasonally adjusted data, data from 1983 onwards was seasonally adjusted. Subsequently, for each monthly publication, data up to 12 months or 4 quarters prior to the new data point is revised. Upon the completion of each year's data series, data for the previous 12 years is revised. BEIS publishes both non-seasonally adjusted and seasonally adjusted data in the tables of this publication. From the June 2015 edition this publication has used seasonally adjusted data in the commentary for these series. The most recent annual review of seasonal adjustment was carried out in June 2021.

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	75%
Quarterly Sand and Gravel – Land Won	4, 5 & 6	74%
Quarterly Sand and Gravel – Marine Dredged	4, 5 & 6	92%
Quarterly Slate	7	100%
Quarterly Concrete Roofing Tiles	13	80%
Monthly Bricks Provisional data	9	100%
Monthly Bricks Final data	9 & 10	100%
Monthly Concrete Blocks	11 & 12	93%

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 3 November 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 DLUHC's (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, formerly MHCLG) 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
- rebased all price indices series to 2015=100 in the November 2020 publication

Contact

- Responsible statistician: Amy Symes-Thompson
- Email: materialstats@beis.gov.uk
- Media enquiries: 020 7215 1000
- Public enquiries: +44 (0)207 215 6498

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

If you need a version of this document in a more accessible format, please email materialstats@beis.gov.uk. Please tell us what format you need. It will help us if you say what assistive technology you use.