



Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components

Commentary, February 2022

Coverage: UK and Great Britain

Geographical Area: Country, region and county

2 March 2022

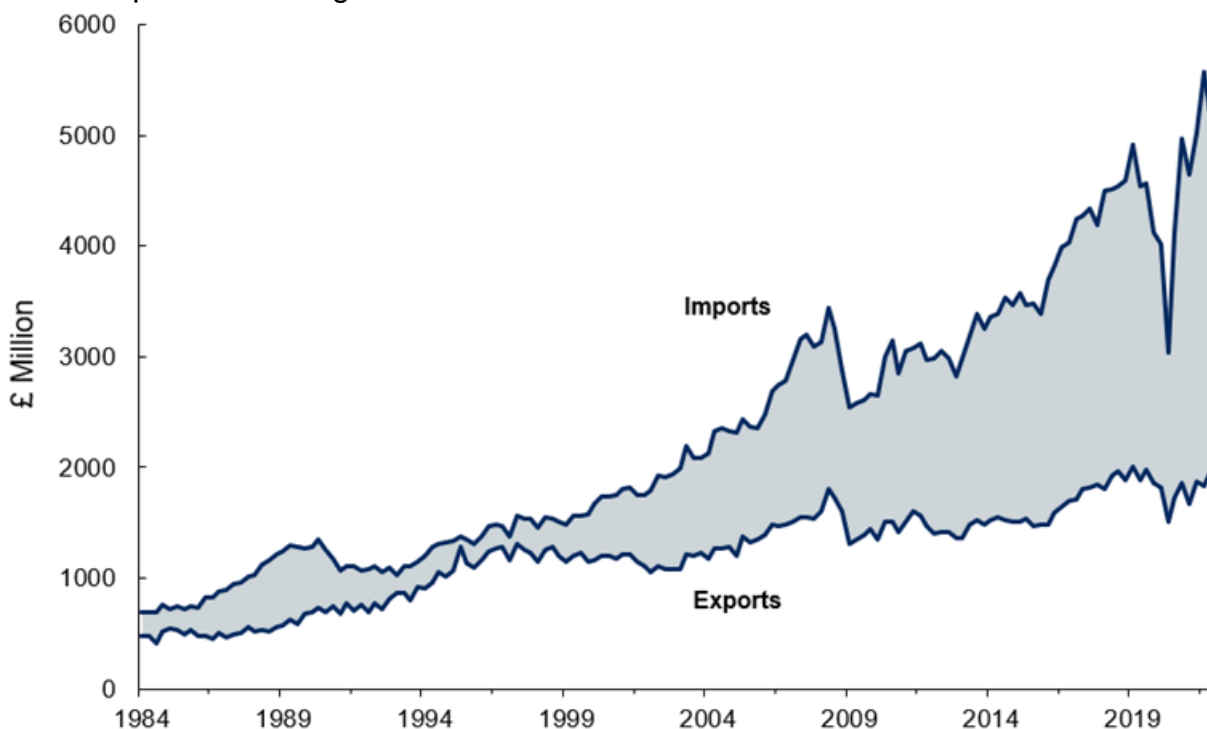
National Statistics

Headline Findings

- Over the whole of 2021, **imports** of construction materials **increased** by **26.7%** compared to 2020, from £16,144 million to £20,451 million.
- In the same period **exports** **increased** by **6.0%**, from £6,916 million to £7,332 million.
- In 2021, the **annual trade deficit widened** by £3,891 million to £13,119 million, an **increase** of 42.0%.

Chart 1: Quarterly Exports and Imports of Construction Materials, UK

Value in pounds sterling



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

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Introduction

This commentary accompanies the latest Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components data tables, published on the BEIS building materials [web page](#) on 2 March 2022. It provides an overview of recent trends in the data presented in the tables.

The data tables present the latest detailed information on selected building materials and components. They cover 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 and gravel are published in the data tables. 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 (January 2021 to January 2022)

New Housing	19.1%
Other New Work	22.2%
Repair & Maintenance	21.2%
All Work	21.0%

Month-on-month change (December 2021 to January 2022)

New Housing	-0.1%
Other New Work	2.1%
Repair & Maintenance	-0.7%
All Work	0.9%

- Looking at the longer-term change, the material price index for **'All Work' increased by 21.0%** in January 2022 compared to the same month the previous year.

Table 1: Construction materials experiencing the greatest price increases and decreases in the 12 months to January 2022, UK

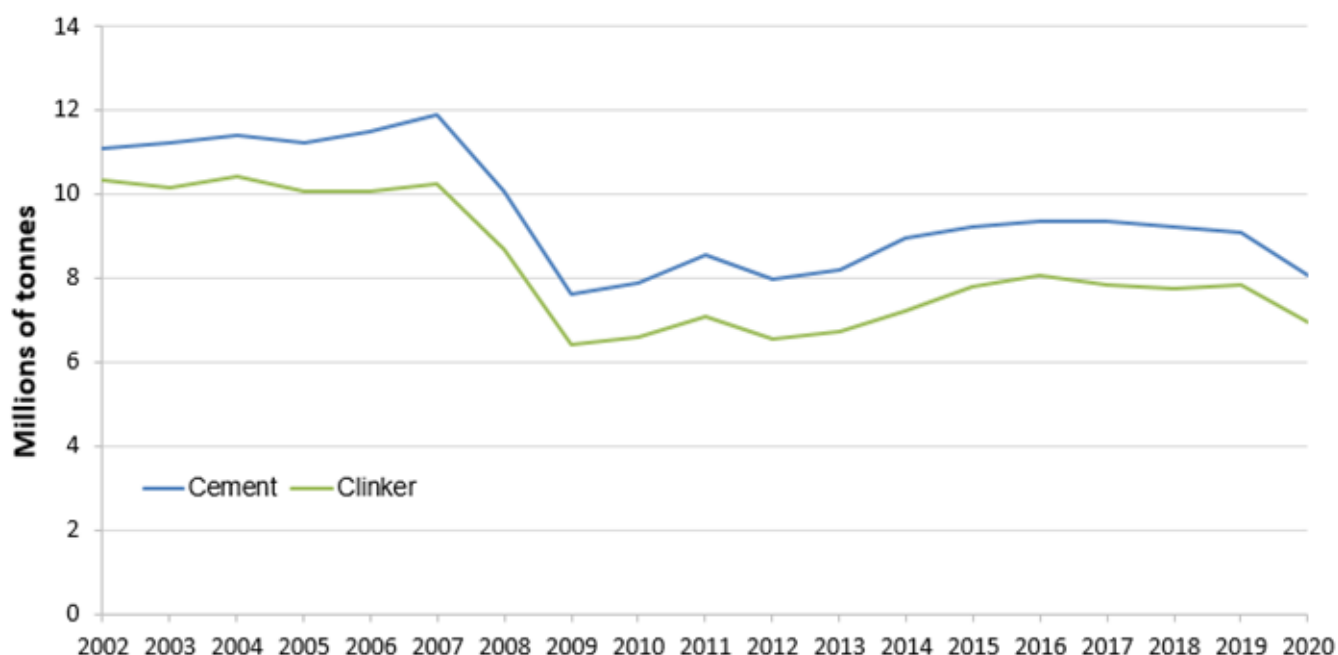
Construction Materials	Year-on-year % change	The aggregated construction material price index hides larger price movements for some specific products and materials. The three largest increases and two decreases are presented here.
Greatest price increases		
Fabricated structural steel	51.0	
Particle board	45.4	
Concrete reinforcing bars	40.0	
Greatest price decreases		
Insulating materials (thermal or acoustic)	-3.3	
Gravel, sand, clays & kaolin (including aggregate levy)	-3.3	

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

Cement and Clinker

Chart 3: Production of Cement and Clinker, GB

Weight of cement & clinker



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

- Cement production fell by 11.4% to 8.0 million tonnes in 2020, compared to 9.1 million tonnes the previous year. This follows a fall of 1.3% in 2019. Pre-recession production peaked in 2007 at 11.9 million tonnes.
- Production of clinker fell by 11.4% to 6.9 million tonnes in 2020, compared to 7.8 million tonnes the previous year. This follows a rise of 1.2% in 2019. 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



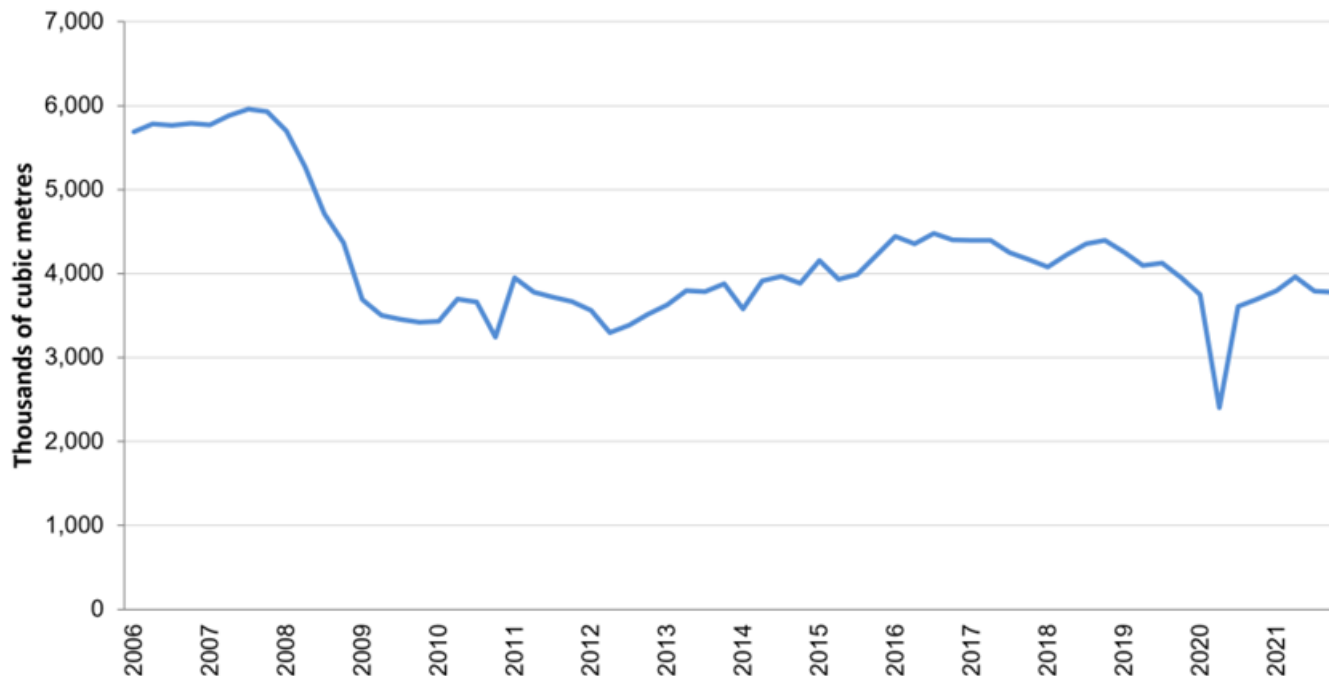
Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 4

- Sales of sand & gravel **increased** by **4.8%** in Quarter 4 2021 compared to Quarter 3 2021, according to the seasonally adjusted data.
- This followed a decrease of 3.9% in Quarter 3 2021.
- Comparing Quarter 4 2021 to Quarter 1 2020 (before the start of national restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic), sales are unchanged.
- Comparing Quarter 4 2021 to Quarter 4 2020, sales have **increased** by **8.0%**.
- 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 **0.2%** in Quarter 4 2021 compared to Quarter 3 2021, according to the seasonally adjusted data.
- This followed a 4.4% decrease in Quarter 3 2021.
- Sales in Quarter 4 2021 **increased** by **0.9%** compared to Quarter 1 2020 (before the start of national restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic), following a 1.1% increase in Quarter 3 2021, on the same basis. Sales **increased** by **2.3%** in Quarter 4 2021 compared to Quarter 4 2020.
- 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 **15.5% increase** in brick deliveries in January 2022 compared to January 2021, according to the seasonally adjusted figures.
- This followed a 5.5% decrease in December 2021, compared to December 2020.
- The month-on-month change shows a **16.4% increase** in January 2022.
- This followed a 1.6% decrease in December 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



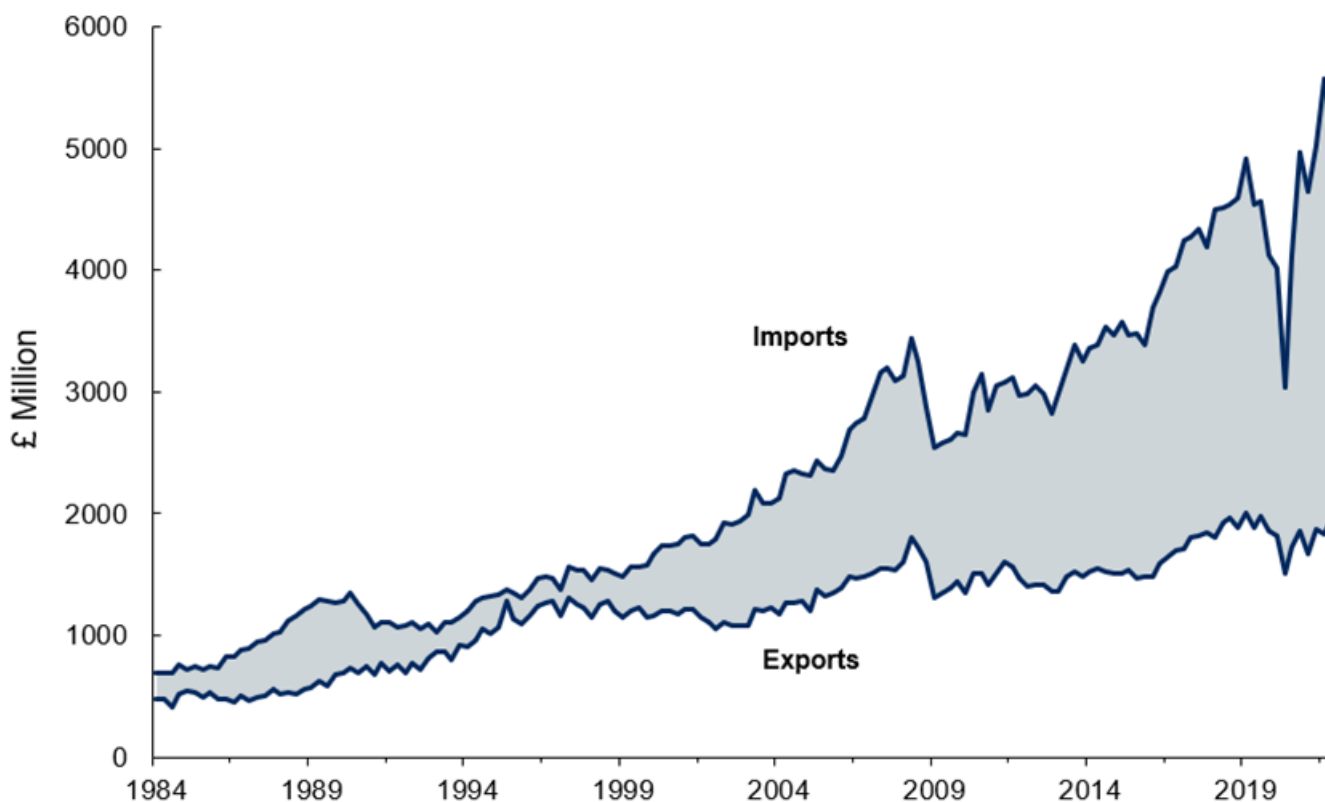
Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 11

- There was an **11.1% increase** in concrete block deliveries in January 2022 compared to January 2021, according to the seasonally adjusted figures.
- This followed a 12.8% increase in December 2021, compared to December 2020.
- The month-on-month change shows a **1.1% decrease** in January 2022.
- This followed a 1.1% increase in December 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 **decreased** by £369 million in Q4 2021 compared to the previous quarter, **a decrease** of 6.6%.
- **Exports** of construction materials **increased** by £109 million in Q4 2021 compared to the previous quarter, **an increase** of 6.0%.
- As a result, between Q3 2021 and Q4 2021, the **quarterly trade deficit narrowed** by £478 million to £3,259 million, **a decrease** of 12.8%.
- Over the whole of 2021, **imports** of construction materials **increased** by **26.7%** compared to 2020, from £16,144 million to £20,451 million.
- In the same period **exports increased** by **6.0%**, from £6,916 million to £7,332 million.
- In 2021, the **annual trade deficit widened** by £3,891 million to £13,119 million, **an increase** of 42.0%.
- Over the period from Quarter 1 1984 to Quarter 4 2021, construction materials imports have increased, on average (per quarter), by 4.3%. Over the same period, exports increased by an average of 2.1% per quarter.
- The trade deficit was historically at its smallest throughout the 1990s, with a mean of £309 million over this period. This trade deficit was 24% of the value of imports. As of Quarter 4 2021, the trade deficit is £3,259 million, 63% of the value of imports.

Table 2: Top-5 Exported and Imported Construction Materials in 2021

Top-5 Exported Materials	<i>£ million</i>	Top-5 Imported Materials	<i>£ million</i>
Electrical Wires	906	Electrical Wires	2,330
Paints & Varnishes	767	Sawn Wood > 6mm thick	1,536
Air Conditioning Equipment	389	Lamps & Fittings	1,085
Lamps & Fittings	317	Air Conditioning Equipment	735
Plugs & Sockets	313	Linoleum floors and coverings	665

The top five exported materials in 2021 accounted for 37% of total construction material exports.

The top five imported construction materials in 2021 accounted for 31% of total construction material imports.

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

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

All Building Materials & Components			
<i>£ million (% of total trade in italics)</i>			
		EU	Non-EU
Imports		11,230	9,221
		<i>55%</i>	<i>45%</i>
Exports		4,227	3,105
		<i>58%</i>	<i>42%</i>

Compared to pre-recession levels in 2007, the share of total UK construction material exports going to the EU has declined from 70% to 58%.

Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 15

Table 4: Top 5 UK Export and Import Markets for Construction Materials in 2021

Top-5 Export Markets	<i>£ million</i>	Top-5 Import Markets	<i>£ million</i>
Republic of Ireland	1,202	China	4,250
USA	720	Germany	2,266
Netherlands	639	Italy	1,157
Germany	638	Turkey	1,094
France	565	Spain	996

The top five export markets comprised 51% of total construction materials exports in 2021. 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 2021.

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 import markets comprised 48% of total construction materials imports in

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 24th February 2022, which was live for the period from 7th February 2022 to 20th February 2022 and referenced the period from 24th January 2022 to 10th February 2022.

Key points:

- Between 7th February and 20th February 2022, weighted by count, 85.5% of construction firms said they were currently fully trading compared with an all-industry average of 82.1%; some 9.3% of construction firms said they were currently partially trading compared with an all-industry average of 10.6%.
- Between 24th January and 6th February 2022, weighted by count, 27.5% of construction firms reported their turnover had decreased in the last two weeks, 56.4% reported turnover had not been affected, 1.4% reported turnover had increased and 13.4% were unsure.
- Between 7th February and 20th February 2022, weighted by count, 12.6% of construction firms reported experiencing a shortage of workers, compared to an all-industry average of around 12.0%.
- Between 24th January and 6th February 2022, weighted by count, 32.1% of construction firms reported vacancies were more difficult to fill than normal for the time of year, compared to an all industry average of 36.3
- Between 24th January and 6th February 2022, weighted by count, 55.8% of construction firms reported prices of goods, materials or services brought had increased, whilst 23.1% reported prices of goods, materials or services sold had increased: respective all industry averages were 39.0% and 16.5%.
- Between 7th February and 20th February 2022, weighted by count, 15.9% of construction firms said their production and/or suppliers were affected by recent increases in wholesale gas prices. The all industry average was 16.2%.
- Between 24th January and 20th February 2022 weighted by count, 5.8% of construction firms reported not being able to get the materials, goods or services needed from within the UK, whilst 21.4% reported having to change suppliers or find alternative solutions: respective all industry averages were 5.0% and 10.8%.

Construction Output

The **Office for National Statistics** published [estimates of construction output for December 2021, and new order and construction output price indices between October and December 2021](#) on 11 February 2022

- Monthly construction output increased by 2.0% in volume terms in December 2021; this came solely from an increase in new work (3.5%) as repair and maintenance saw a decline of 0.7% on the month.
- The level of construction output in December 2021 was 0.3% (£35 million) above the February 2020 pre-coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic level; new work was 2.0% (£190 million) below the February 2020 level, while repair and maintenance work was 4.5% (£225 million) above the February 2020 level.

- Despite the monthly increase in December 2021, downward revisions, most notably in September and November 2021, mean output has recovered less than previously estimated in November 2021.
- Alongside the monthly growth, quarterly construction output increased 1.0% in Quarter 4 (Oct to Dec) 2021 compared with Quarter 3 (Jul to Sept) 2021; both new work (1.1%) and repair and maintenance (0.8%) saw increases.
- Annual construction output increased by a record 12.7% in 2021 compared with 2020, mainly as a result of the coronavirus pandemic contributing to a very weak 2020, which saw the record largest decline in annual growth (fall of 14.9%).
- Total construction new orders increased by 9.2% (£1,121 million) in Quarter 4 2021 compared with Quarter 3 2021; total new orders are now at their highest level (£13,326 million) since Quarter 3 2017, which was affected by large value orders for High Speed 2 (HS2).
- The annual rate of construction output price growth was 6.2% in the 12 months to December 2021; this was the strongest annual rate since records began in 2014.
- At the type of work level, the annual rate of price growth in the 12 months to December 2021 was at its strongest in new housing (9.9%), which is the strongest growth since records began in 2014.

Bank of England Summary of Business Conditions

The **Bank of England** published its most recent update to the [Agents' Summary of Business Conditions](#) on 16th December 2021, covering intelligence gathered between mid-July and early September 2021.

Key points:

- Construction output slowed as materials, labour shortages and cost increases weighed on activity.
- There were widespread reports of output being constrained by supply-chain issues that affected the availability of materials and labour shortages.
- Demand for new build private housing remained strong and supported activity, though some housebuilders said shortages and planning delays had led to slower build rates.
- Some contacts said that there was caution about committing to new developments due to the uncertainty caused by supply bottlenecks, rising materials and labour costs, lack of availability of land and planning difficulties.
- There were also reports of construction projects being postponed due to higher materials costs, and a few instances of companies going into administration, due to the impact of higher costs on their margins.
- By contrast, some contacts reported positive demand for renovation work for residential and commercial properties. Public infrastructure projects also continued to support construction output, though there were also some reports of slowing demand from this source.

Gross Domestic Product Estimate

The **Office for National Statistics** published estimates of GDP for [December 2021](#) on 11 February 2022:

Key points:

- Gross domestic product (GDP) fell by 0.2% in December 2021 to equal its pre-coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic level (February 2020); while the Quarter 4 (Oct to Dec) 2021 estimate was still 0.4% below its pre-coronavirus level (Quarter 4 2019).
- Services output was down 0.5% in December 2021, while production rose 0.3% and construction increased by 2.0%; services and construction were both above pre-coronavirus levels, by 0.5% and 0.3% respectively, while production remained 2.6% below.
- Output in consumer-facing services fell by 3.0% in the month, mainly driven by a 3.7% fall in retail trade, while all other services rose by 0.1%; consumer-facing services were 8.4% below their pre-coronavirus levels, while all other services were 2.8% above.
- In the previous GDP monthly bulletin, we said that quarterly GDP for Quarter 4 2021 would either match or surpass its pre-coronavirus level (Quarter 4 2019) provided the monthly December 2021 estimate did not fall by more than by 0.2% and there were no other data revisions; while December 2021 fell by 0.2%, revisions to 2021 data - in line with the National Accounts Revisions Policy - saw Quarter 4 2021 remain below its pre-coronavirus level.

Gross Domestic Product Forecast

The latest monthly **Consensus Economics** [forecast survey](#) (which uses an average of private sector forecasts) results were published in February 2022.

Key points:

- The mean GDP forecast for 2022 is 4.3% growth, unchanged from the previous month's survey.
- The mean GDP growth forecast for 2023 is 2.0%.

The **Office for Budget Responsibility** published a new [Economic and Fiscal Outlook](#) on 27th October 2021.

- GDP is expected to grow by 6.5% in 2021 (up from 4.0% from the previous forecast) and to reach pre-pandemic levels by the turn of the year.

Construction Output Forecasts

Experian published their Winter 2021/2022 [forecasts](#) for the construction sector in January 2022.

Key points:

- The expectation is that in 2021 the construction industry recovered (+14%) most, but not all, of the contraction seen in 2020. However, there were substantial differences in sector

performance, ranging from soaring output levels in the infrastructure sector (+36%) to a further decline in commercial construction (-2%).

- The trend for construction over the 2022 to 2024 period is predicted to be similar to the economy as a whole, although growth is projected to be stronger in the former, driven by strong private housing, investment in rail, health and education stock, and industrial construction in particular. The primary risk to the forecasts is the rapid spread of the Omicron variant of the Covid 19 virus, which in a worst-case scenario could lead to a fourth national lockdown across the UK.
- Public housing is one of only two sectors, the other being the commercial one, in which output is projected to be still below its pre-pandemic level in 2024. Output in the sector fell by almost a third in 2020 and the recovery last year has been a modest 4%. While growth over the three years to 2024 is expected to average around 5% per annum, in the normal course of events a reasonable level of expansion, it will still not be enough to take output back to 2019 levels.
- New infrastructure output is estimated to have soared in 2021, by well over a third, after only a modest fall of around 5% in the previous year, making the sector by far the best performer during the two years of the pandemic so far. Electricity, roads and rail (notwithstanding issues around the accuracy of ONS sub-sector breakdowns) were the primary drivers of the very strong growth last year. However, having surged so strongly in 2021, infrastructure output is expected to increase only moderately in the three years to 2024.
- The public non-residential building sector struggled to show much growth last year, with output in by far the biggest sub-sector, education, which accounts for nearly 50% of the sector, stagnant. However, the drive to build 500 new schools by 2030, combined with a rise in university work should mean that the period of stagnation is short lived, and expansion returns from 2022 onwards.
- Industrial construction output rose only marginally in 2021, with the warehouse sub-sector experiencing its first contraction for seven years. However, the sector should return to growth this year and over the three-year forecast period is projected to see the strongest rate of expansion of any construction sector, averaging nearly 13% per annum.
- The commercial construction sector suffered one of the biggest contractions in 2020, but it was the only sector to see a fall last year, of an estimated 2%. The big decline in GDP in 2020, substantial changes to office working practices, big drops in footfall and an even faster rise in online retailing, and the complete lockdown of some sectors during the course of the year combined to sharply reduce the demand for new facilities. The problem the sector has moving forward is that a number of the above factors are likely to persist into the medium and long term.
- As is the case across the construction industry, non-residential R&M output is expected to have bounced back strongly in 2021 from its pandemic-induced contraction in 2020. After double-digit growth across the non-residential R&M sub-sectors in 2021, expansion is projected to moderate thereafter.

The **Construction Products Association** published their [Construction industry forecasts](#) for Winter 2021/2022 in January 2022.

- The Construction Products Association (CPA) forecasts that output in the industry will grow by 4.3% in 2022, slowing to 2.5% in 2023 compared to the 13.3% seen in 2021. This demonstrates the resilience of the sector to the initial Covid-19 lockdown and the end of the Brexit transition period in 2020.
- Housebuilding, the largest sector within the UK construction industry, is expected to remain buoyant while infrastructure will be the major driver for growth.
- Product supply issues, a major challenge in 2021, have eased recently, but may still cause problems, particularly in the spring period and particularly for smaller building companies.

- Continuing to benefit from the ‘race for space’, output in private housing is forecast to rise by 3.0% in both 2022 and 2023 following 17.0% growth in 2021. The CPA suggests that the double-digit inflation in house prices will fall as the impact of the end of the stamp duty holiday and the further restriction of the Help to Buy scheme feeds through. The outlook for volume remains positive, with most major house builders reporting strong near-term demand and healthy profit margins fuelled by demand for housing in affordable areas of the UK.
- Also benefiting from the ‘race for space’ in the near-term is the private housing rm&i sector. Here the CPA forecasts output to remain flat at the historically high level reached with 17.0% growth last year. Rising renovation project costs and higher inflation rates are expected to slow down consumer spending on larger projects. UK households have benefited from building up over £200 billion of savings from the past two years but rising costs are spelling caution for spending compared to 2021.
- The CPA forecast indicates the infrastructure sector will remain the main driver for growth in 2022.
- Key projects include the Thames Tideway Tunnel, Hinkley Point C and HS2. At least two of these projects report delays due to supply constraints and this could result in further work being pushed into 2023. Taking this into account, the sector is still expected to rise by 9.7% in 2022 and 1.1% in 2023, taking the sector to a new all-time high.
- While supply issues have eased off over the past six months, the CPA still considers these to be the biggest challenges to overall growth. These challenges are not spread equally across the sector, with smaller specialist sub-contractors feeling the pressure more.

Manufacturing

The latest **Index of Production** data for December 2021 were [published](#) on 11th February 2022 by the Office for National Statistics.

Key points for the SIC 23.1-4/7-9 industry (includes the manufacture of bricks, tiles and other construction products):

- When comparing December 2021 with February 2020 (before the start of restrictions due to COVID-19), **output increased by 2.7%**
- When comparing December 2021 with December 2020, **output increased by 6.7%**
- When comparing December 2021 with November 2021, **output decreased by 1.4%**

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

- When comparing December 2021 with February 2020 (before the start of restrictions due to COVID-19), **output decreased by 3.5%**
- When comparing December 2021 with December 2020, **output decreased by 4.4%**
- When comparing December 2021 with November 2021, **output increased by 5.3%**

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 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	90%
Quarterly Sand and Gravel – Marine Dredged	4, 5 & 6	77%
Quarterly Slate	7	89%
Quarterly Concrete Roofing Tiles	13	80%
Monthly Bricks Provisional data	9	100%
Monthly Bricks Final data	9 & 10	100%
Monthly Concrete Blocks	11 & 12	85%

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 6 April 2022.

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

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