



Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components

Commentary, October 2022

Coverage: UK and Great Britain

Geographical Area: Country, region and county

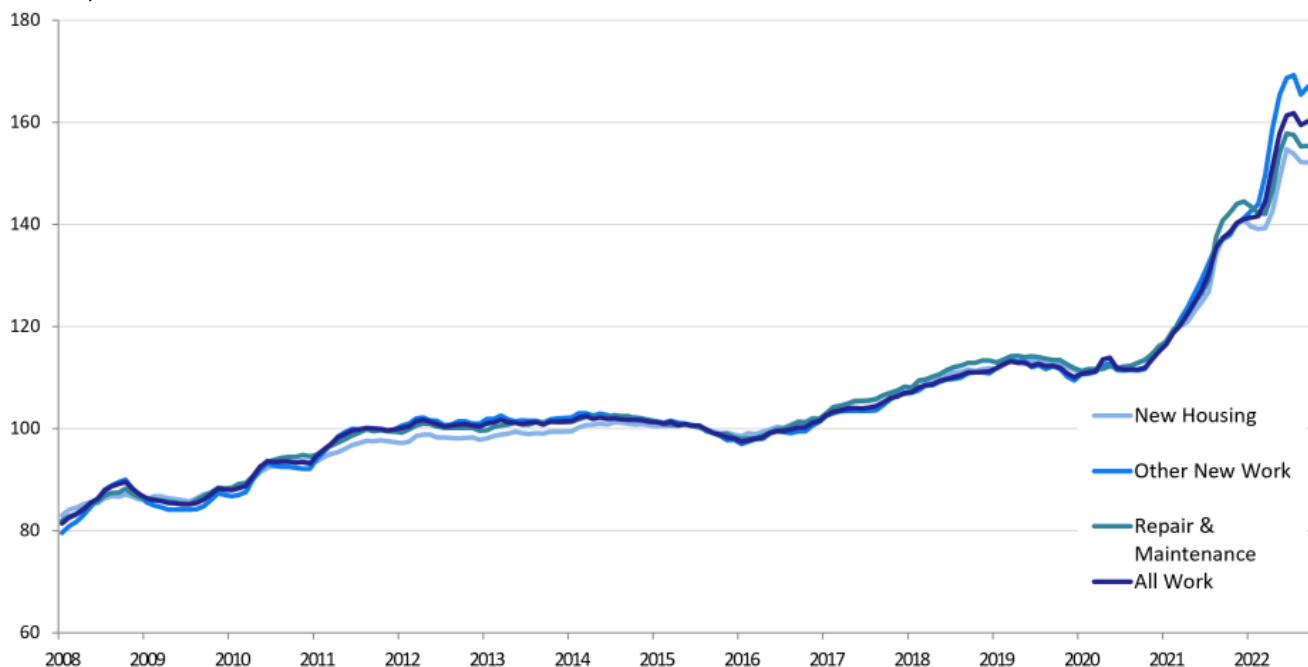
2 November 2022

National Statistics

Headline Findings

- The material price index for **'All Work'** increased by **16.7%** in September 2022 compared to the same month the previous year.
- There was a **2.6% increase** in brick deliveries in September 2022 compared to September 2021, according to the seasonally adjusted figures.
- There was a **9.7% decrease** in concrete block deliveries in September 2022 compared to September 2021, according to the seasonally adjusted figures.

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



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

Contents

Introduction	3
Seasonal Adjustment Review	3
Summary of Results	4
Material Price Indices	4
Cement and Clinker	5
Sand & Gravel	6
Concrete	7
Bricks	8
Blocks	9
Imports and Exports of Construction Materials	10
Economic Background	12
Business Insights	12
Construction Output	13
Bank of England Summary of Business Conditions	13
Gross Domestic Product Estimate	14
Gross Domestic Product Forecast	14
Construction Output Forecasts	15
Manufacturing	16
Accompanying tables	17
Technical information	18
Definitions	20
Further information	20
Future updates to these statistics	20
Related statistics	20
Revisions policy	21
Uses of these statistics	21
User engagement	21
National Statistics designation	21
Contact	22

Introduction

This commentary accompanies the latest Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components data tables, published on the BEIS building materials [web page](#) on 2nd November 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](#).

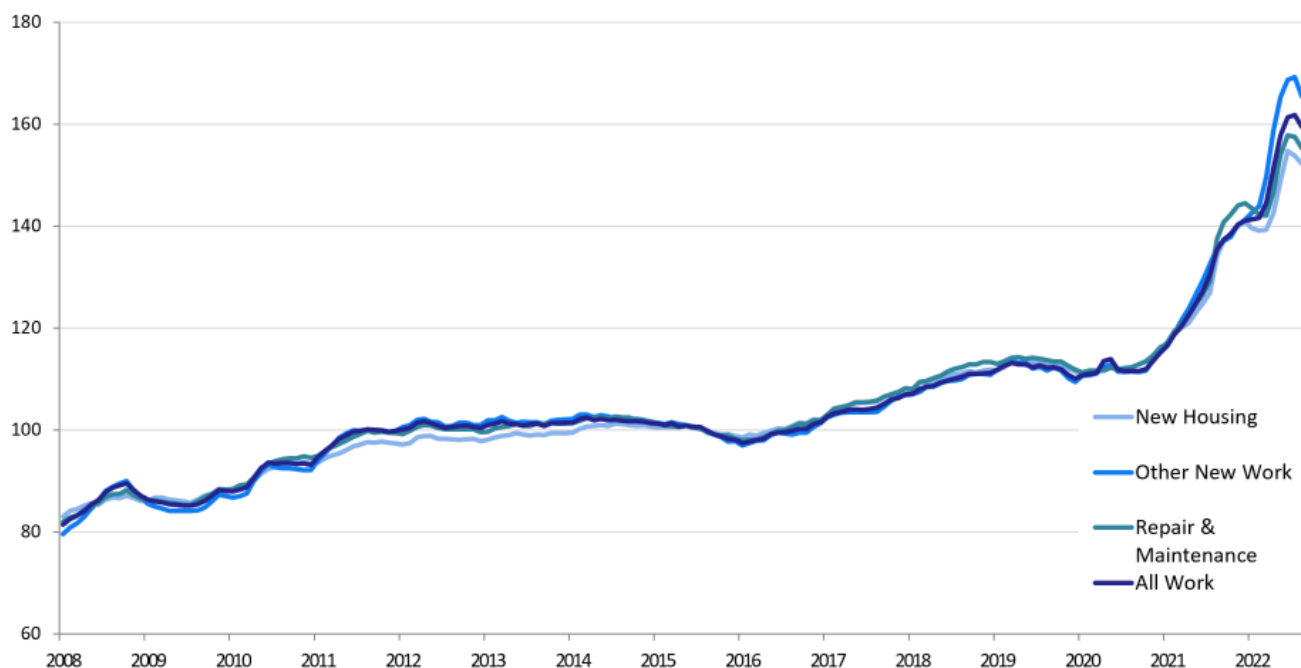
Seasonal Adjustment Review

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
(September 2021 to September 2022)**

New Housing	10.9%
Other New Work	21.9%
Repair & Maintenance	10.4%
All Work	16.7%

**Month-on-month change
(August 2022 to September 2022)**

New Housing	-0.1%
Other New Work	1.0%
Repair & Maintenance	0.1%
All Work	0.4%

- Looking at the longer-term change, the material price index for **'All Work' increased by 16.7%** in September 2022 compared to the same month the previous year.
- From October 2022, the [Building cost information service](#) have implemented changes in the method used to calculate provisional price material price indices, bringing them more in line with the calculation of firm indices. The changes only affect provisional indices, so there have been no revisions to previously published data. The method used to calculate the firm indices remains unaltered.

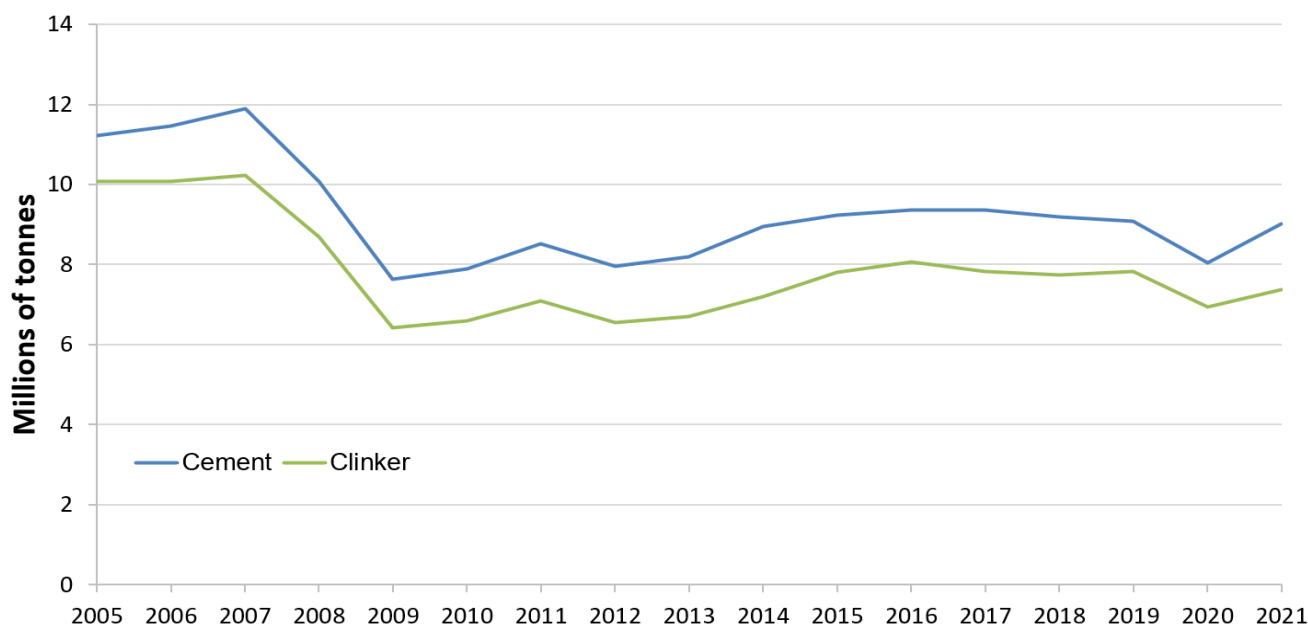
Table 1: Construction materials experiencing the greatest price increases and decreases in the 12 months to September 2022, UK

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 the three largest decreases are presented here.
Greatest price increases		
Gravel, sand, clays & kaolin (including aggregate levy)	59.8	
Insulating materials (thermal or acoustic)	43.4	
Gravel, sand, clays & kaolin (including aggregate levy)	32.2	
Greatest price decreases		
Imported sawn or planed wood	-17.6	
Particle board	-8.2	
Imported plywood	-3.4	

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



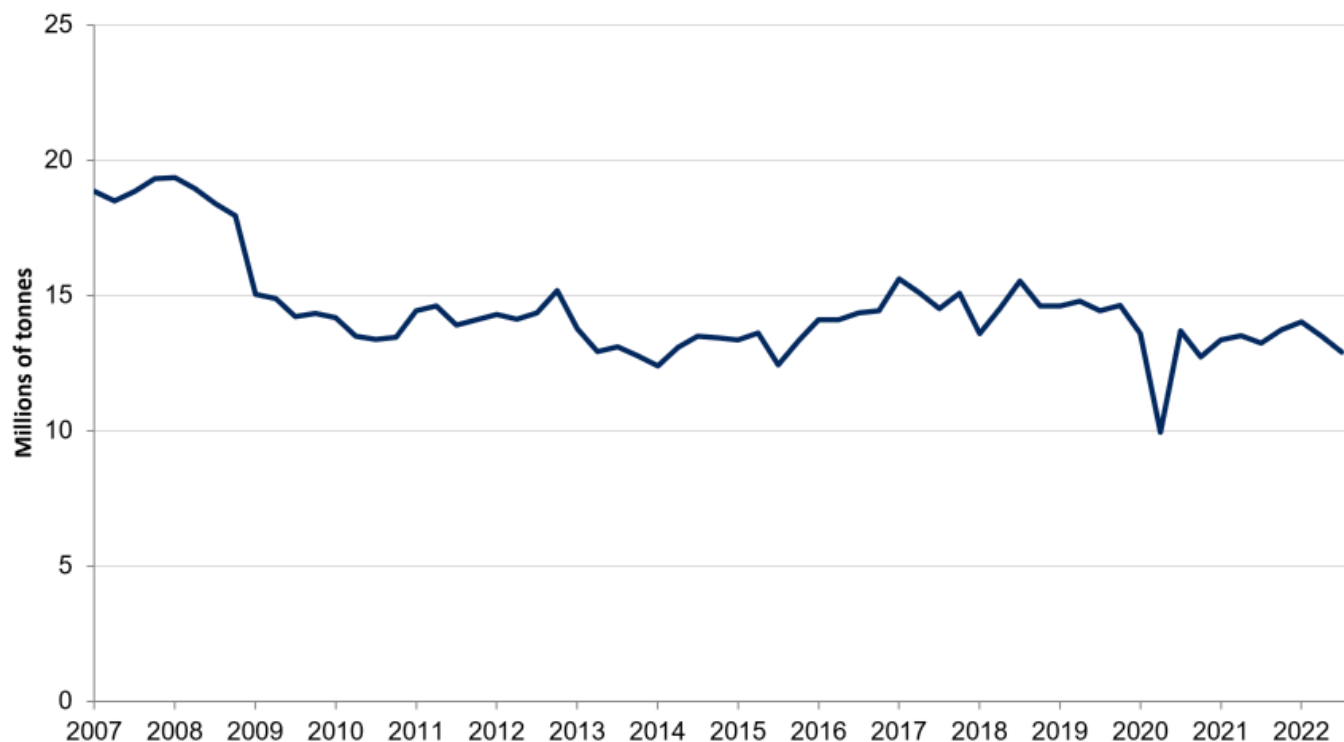
Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 8

- Cement production rose by 12% to 9.0 million tonnes in 2021, compared to 8.0 million tonnes the previous year. This follows a fall of 11.4% in 2020. In 2007, prior to the recession of 2008 - 2009 production stood at at 11.9 million tonnes.
- Production of clinker rose by 6.1% to 7.4 million tonnes in 2020, compared to 6.9 million tonnes the previous year. This follows a decline of 11.4% in 2019. In 2007, prior to the 2008 - 2009 recession production stood at 10.2 million tonnes.

Sand & Gravel

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

Weight of sand & gravel



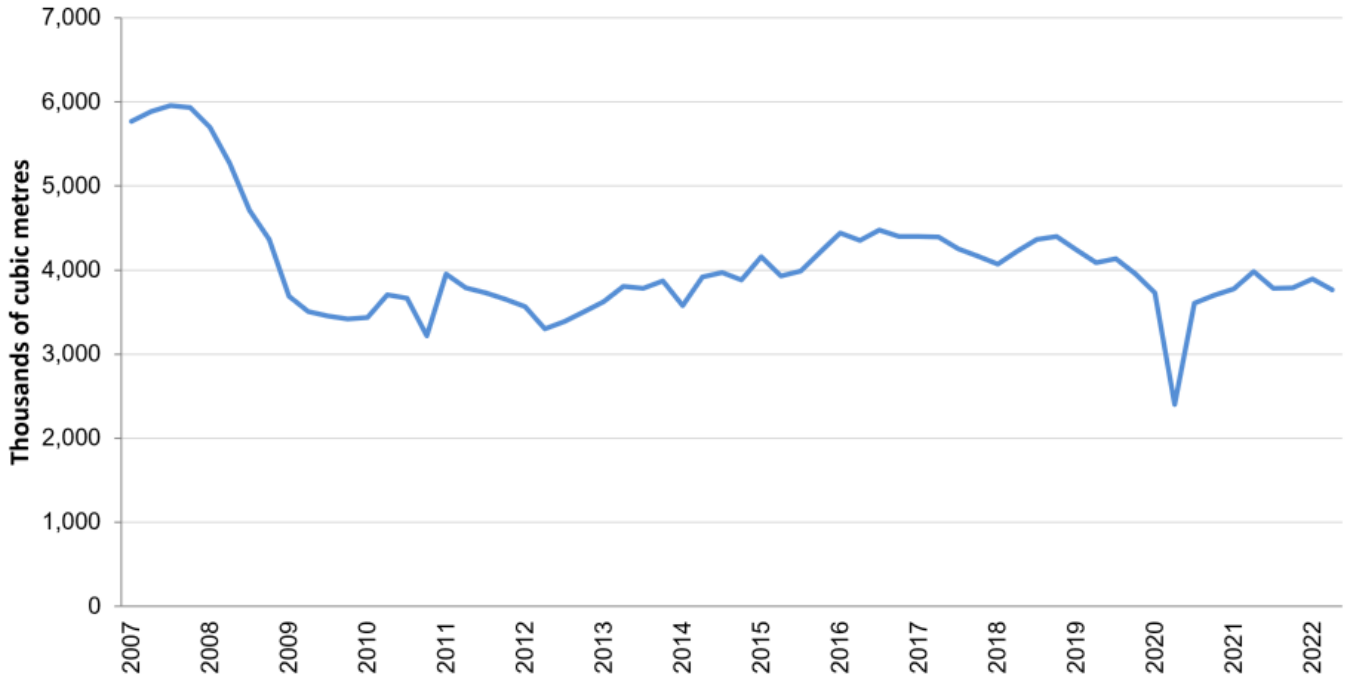
Source: *Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 4*

- Sales of sand & gravel **decreased** by **4.3%** in Quarter 3 2022 compared to Quarter 2 2022, according to the seasonally adjusted data.
- This followed a decrease of 3.8% in Quarter 2 2022.
- Comparing Quarter 3 2022 to Quarter 3 2021, sales have **decreased** by **2.5%**.
- 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



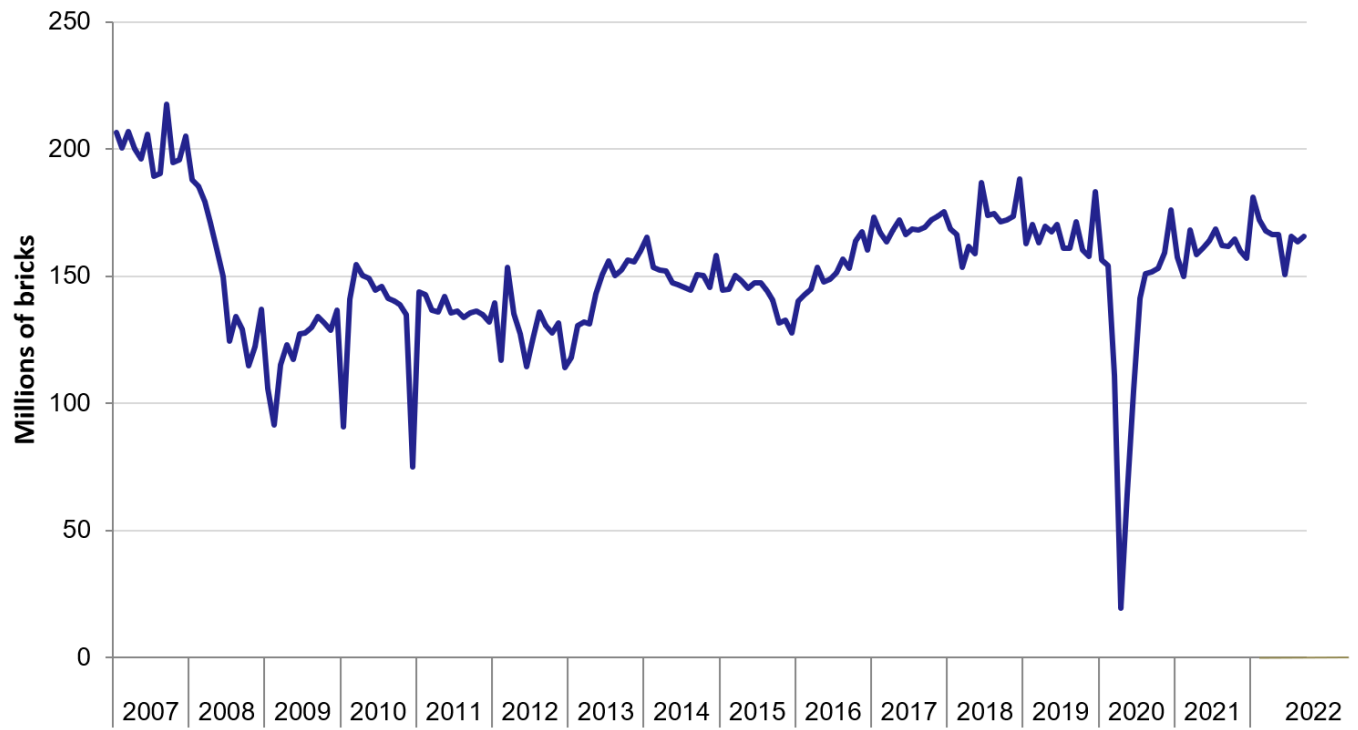
Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 13

- Ready-mixed concrete sales **decreased** by **3.3%** in Quarter 2 2022 compared to Quarter 1 2022, according to the seasonally adjusted data.
- This followed a 2.8% increase in Quarter 1 2022.
- Sales in Quarter 2 2022 **decreased** by **5.4%** compared to Quarter 2 2021.
- After the 2008 to 2009 recession, seasonally adjusted sales of ready-mixed concrete recovered steadily since Quarter 2 2012, until the drop due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Bricks

Chart 6: Seasonally Adjusted Deliveries of Bricks, GB

Number of bricks



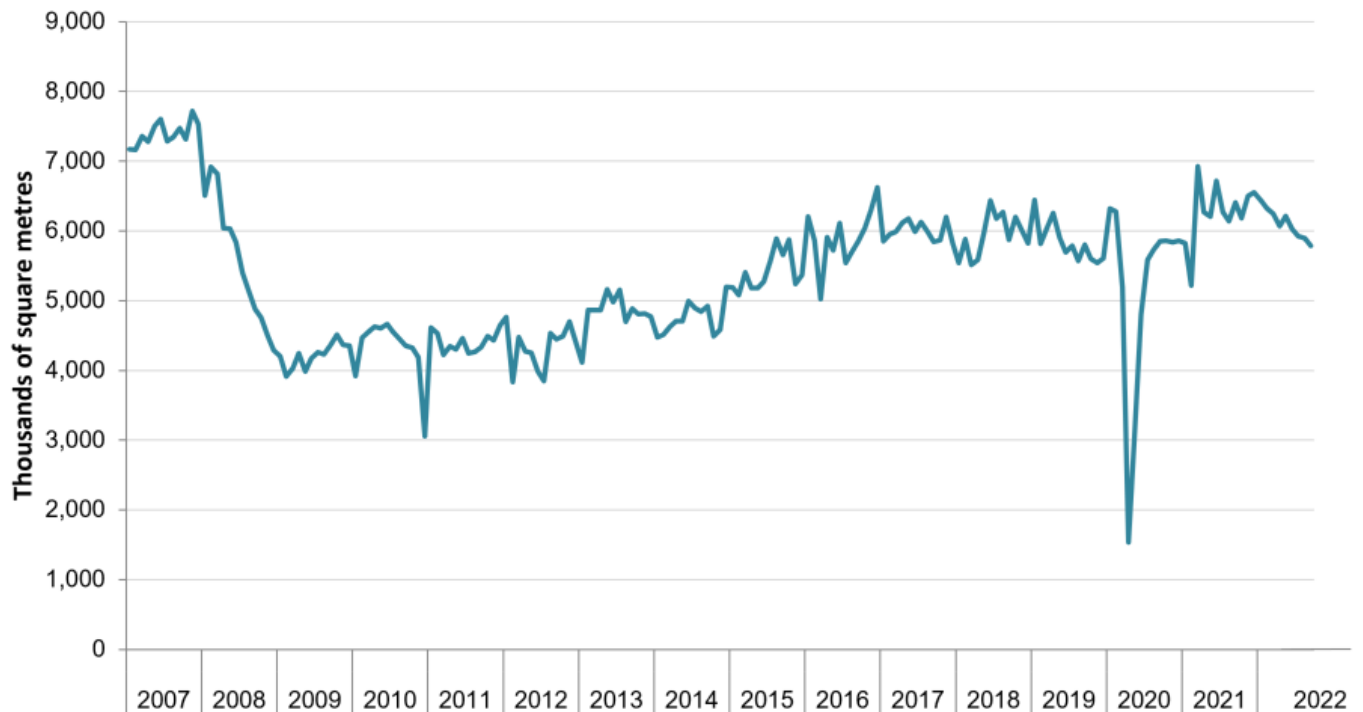
Source: *Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 9*

- There was a **2.6% increase** in brick deliveries in September 2022 compared to September 2021, according to the seasonally adjusted figures.
- This followed an 0.7% increase in August 2022, compared to August 2021.
- The month-on-month change shows a **1.5% increase** in September 2022.
- This followed a 1.4% decrease in August 2022, on the same basis.
- Deliveries of bricks declined during the recession of 2008 to 2009. They have recovered slowly since 2013, until the plunge in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Blocks

Chart 7: Seasonally Adjusted Deliveries of Concrete Blocks, GB

Area of concrete blocks



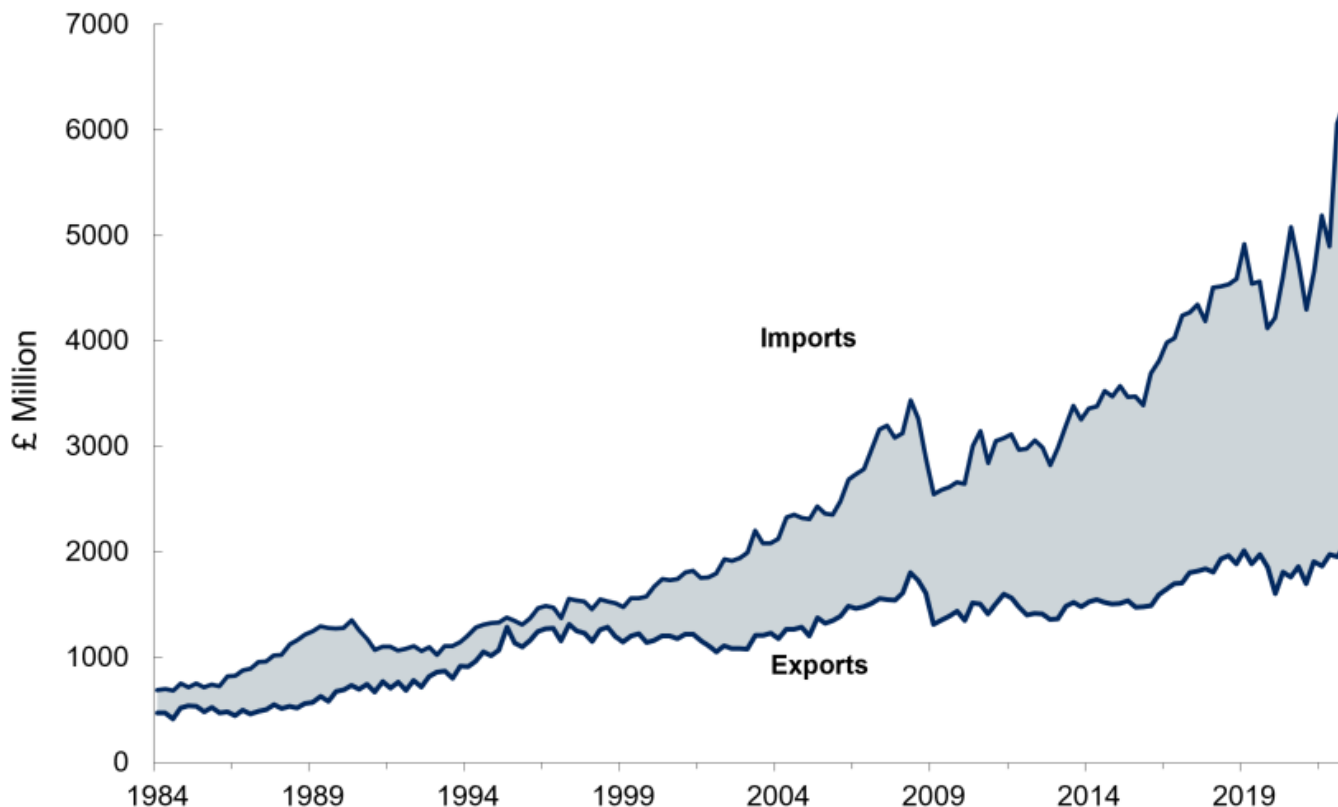
Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 11

- There was a **9.7% decrease** in concrete block deliveries in September 2022 compared to September 2021, according to the seasonally adjusted figures.
- This followed a 4.1% decrease in August 2022, compared to August 2021.
- The month-on-month change shows a **1.8% decrease** in September 2022.
- This followed a 0.5% decrease in August 2022, 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 £211 million in Quarter 2 2022 compared to the previous quarter, **an increase** of 3.5%.
- **Exports** of construction materials **increased** by £110 million in Quarter 2 2022 compared to the previous quarter, **an increase** of 5.6%.
- As a result, between Quarter 1 2022 and Quarter 2 2022, the **quarterly trade deficit widened** by £101 million to £4,210 million, **an increase** of 2.5%.
- Over the whole of 2021, **imports** of construction materials **increased** by **15.3%** compared to 2020, from £16,144 million to £18,621 million.
- In the same period **exports increased** by **1.6%**, from £6,916 million to £7,029 million.
- In 2021, the **annual trade deficit widened** by £2,363 million to £11,592 million, **an increase** of 25.6%.
- Over the period from Quarter 1 1984 to Quarter 2 2022, construction materials imports have increased, on average (per quarter), by 5.3%. Over the same period, exports increased by an average of 2.2% 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 2022, the trade deficit is £4,210 million, 67% of the value of imports.

- As of January 2022, goods imports from EU to GB are being collected using custom declarations (as with UK imports from rest of the world) rather than using the Intrastat survey. We advise caution when interpreting 2022 EU imports compared with earlier periods. The change marks an improvement in coverage, as trade below the Intrastat value threshold (estimated at around 7% of trade by value) is now included (previously estimated). Additionally, customs declarations include trade by non-VAT-registered businesses, private individuals, and parcel post, which was not previously captured. Goods imports from EU to Northern Ireland continue to be collected using the Intrastat survey.
- For more information on the 2022 changes to data collection methods, see the following four pages: [i\) methodology release from HMRC](#), [ii\) impact of changes from HMRC](#), [iii\) article from ONS](#), [iv\) blog post from ONS](#).

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	907	Electrical Wires	2,341	The top five exported materials in 2021 accounted for 39% of total construction material exports.
Paints & Varnishes	768	Sawn Wood > 6mm thick	1,541	
Air Conditioning Equipment	388	Air Conditioning Equipment	1,041	The top five imported construction materials in 2021 accounted for 32% of total construction material imports.
Plastic Pipes	346	Linoleum Floor Coverings	672	
Lamps & Fittings	314	Central Heating Boilers	577	

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

Table 3: UK Trade of Construction Materials with EU and Non-EU Countries, 2021

<i>£ million (% of total trade in italics)</i>	EU	Non-EU	
Imports	10,466 <i>56%</i>	8,155 <i>44%</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 57%.
Exports	4,026 <i>57%</i>	3,004 <i>43%</i>	

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		Top-5 Import Markets	
	£ million		£ million
Ireland	1,123	China	3,296
USA	695	Germany	2,141
Germany	623	Turkey	1,098
Netherlands	617	Italy	1,087
France	533	Spain	921

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 2021. Ireland remains the largest market, despite having shrunk from a pre-recession peak of 27% of total exports in 2007, to 16% in 2021.

The top five import markets comprised 46% of total construction materials imports in 2021. Around 18% 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 20 October 2022, which was live from 3 October to 16 October 2022.

Key points:

- Weighted by count, between 1 and 30 September, 26.5% of construction firms currently trading reported that turnover had decreased in September, 46.7% reported turnover had stayed the same and 10.6% that it had increased. The corresponding all-industry averages were 26.3%, 50.8% and 14.0%.
- Weighted by count, between 1 and 30 September, 52.9% of construction firms currently trading reported an increase in the prices of goods or services bought in September while 26.5% reported an increase in the prices of goods or services sold. The all-industry averages were 47.5% and 21.3% respectively.
- Weighted by count, between 3 and 16 October, 17.8% of construction firms not permanently trading reported having no cash reserves, 31.8% reported having 3 months or less of cash reserves, whilst 28.8% reported having more than 3 months. The corresponding all-industry averages were 12.9%, 28.3% and 39.4%.
- Weighted by count, between 1 and 30 September, 21.5% of construction firms that had not permanently stop trading reported their business performance decreased, 51.1% reported their performance stayed the same, whilst 11.6% reported their performance had increased. The corresponding all-industry averages were 25.3%, 48.5% and 14.1%.

Construction Output

The **Office for National Statistics** published estimates of construction output for [August 2022](#) on 12 October 2022:

Key points:

- Monthly construction output increased by 0.4% in volume terms in August 2022, which is the second consecutive monthly growth following the upwardly revised increase to 0.1% in July 2022; August 2022 is the second highest monthly value in level terms (£15,011 million), with May 2022 remaining at the highest level since records began in January 2010 (£15,035 million).
- The increase in monthly construction output in August 2022 came solely from an increase in new work (1.9%), as repair and maintenance saw a decrease (2.0%) on the month.
- At the sector level, the main contributors to the increase seen in August 2022 were infrastructure, private industrial and private housing new work, which increased 5.3%, 4.3% and 1.7%, respectively.
- The level of construction output in August 2022 was 3.2% (£461 million) above the February 2020 pre-coronavirus (COVID-19) level; new work was 0.7% (£69 million) below its February 2020 level, while repair and maintenance work was 10.6% (£530 million) above the February 2020 level.
- Alongside the monthly increase, construction output saw a slight increase of 0.1% in the three months to August 2022; this came solely from an increase seen in new work (1.6%) as repair and maintenance saw a decrease (2.4%), this is the tenth consecutive period of growth in the three month on three month series, however it is the slowest rate of growth since the three months to October 2021 that saw a fall of 0.7%.
- In this month's release, the earliest period open to revision is January 2011, and this is the first time the monthly path has been published that is consistent with the Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2022 quarterly national accounts published on 30 September 2022.

Bank of England Summary of Business Conditions

The **Bank of England** published its most recent update to the [Agents' Summary of Business Conditions](#) on 22 September 2022, covering intelligence gathered between mid-July and late August 2022.

Key points:

- Construction output growth weakened as high materials costs, labour shortages and economic uncertainty weighed on activity.
- Contacts in residential construction said that planning delays and concerns about rising build costs had slowed the pace of new projects starting. Growth in domestic home improvements and maintenance had also eased. In social housing, new construction had been held back by budget constraints and commitments to refurbish existing properties.
- By contrast, commercial construction activity remained strong, in particular for office developments in prime locations. Demand for warehouse and data centre premises also remained robust, but demand for retail and leisure premises weakened further.

Gross Domestic Product Estimate

The **Office for National Statistics** published estimates of GDP for [August 2022](#) on 12 October 2022:

Key points:

- Gross domestic product (GDP) is estimated to have fallen by 0.3% in August 2022, after growth of 0.1% in July 2022 (revised down from a growth of 0.2% in our previous publication).
- There has been a continued slowing in the underlying three-month on three-month growth, where GDP also fell by 0.3% in the three months to August compared with the three months to May 2022.
- Production fell by 1.8% in August 2022 after a fall of 1.1% in July 2022 (revised down from a fall of 0.3% in our previous publication) and was the main contributor to the fall in GDP; this fall was mainly because of a decrease of 1.6% in manufacturing.
- Services fell by 0.1% in August 2022, after growth of 0.3% in July 2022 (revised down from a 0.4% growth in our previous publication); human health and social work activities, and arts, entertainment and recreation activities fell by 1.3% and 5.0% respectively and were the largest contributors to the small fall in services in August, partially offset by growth of 1.2% in professional, scientific and technical activities.
- Construction grew by 0.4% in August 2022, after growth of 0.1% in July 2022 (revised up from a fall of 0.8% in our previous publication); the increase in monthly construction output in August came solely from a 1.9% increase in new work, as repair and maintenance saw a decrease of 2.0% on the month.
- Output in consumer-facing services fell by 1.8% in August 2022, after growth of 0.7% in July 2022 (revised up from growth of 0.6% in our previous publication).

Gross Domestic Product Forecast

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

Key points:

- The mean GDP forecast for 2022 is 4.1% up from 3.4% in the previous month's survey.
- The mean GDP growth forecast for 2023 is -0.3%, unchanged from the previous month's survey.

The **Office for Budget Responsibility** published a new [Economic and Fiscal Outlook](#) on 23rd March 2022.

- GDP is expected to grow by 3.8% in 2022 (down from 6.0% in the previous forecast) and by 1.8% in 2023 (down from 2.1% in the previous forecast).

Construction Output Forecasts

Experian published their Summer 2022 [forecasts](#) for the construction sector in July 2022.

Key points:

- Total construction output in 2021 reached £169.6 billion (2019 prices), a close to 13% increase on the previous year, regaining most of the ground lost during the worst of the pandemic. The industry started 2022 well, with output up 8% in real terms in the first two months compared with the same period of 2021. Growth will slow, but the prognosis is one of expansion over the forecast period, averaging 3.7% a year. This would take output to £189.4 billion in 2024, over 7% above its pre-pandemic level in 2019.
- Total construction output rose by nearly 13% in 2021, recovering most, but not all, of the ground lost during the height of the pandemic in 2020. Expansion has continued into the first four months of this year, with output reaching £59.37bn (2019 prices, seasonally adjusted), 6.5% up on the corresponding period of 2021. The only sectors not to experience growth over this period are the public non-residential and private commercial ones. Expansion is expected to slow somewhat during the remainder of the year but growth for total construction output is still projected to come in at over 5% in 2022.
- Despite anaemic GDP forecasts for 2023 and 2024, construction output is predicted to grow at a reasonable rate, of 3.3% in the former year and 2.7% in the latter one. The only sector not forecast to see expansion over the two-year period is the public housing one. The projections for the whole of the forecast period are similar to those made in the spring, but lower than the winter forecasts, due to unforeseen external factors, such as the conflict in Ukraine.
- Growth in new work is forecast at 6.1% in 2022 and 3.2% in 2023, down from 11.3% growth in 2021. The housing sector is forecast to grow by 3.3% in 2022 and 1.9% the following year. Growth in the non-residential building sector is forecast to be 9.6% in 2022 and 5.3% in 2023.
- Repair and maintenance (R&M) is forecast to grow by 3.7 in 2022 and 3.5% in 2023, down from 15.7% last year.

The **Construction Products Association** published their [Construction industry forecasts](#) for Summer 2022 in July 2022.

- Construction output is forecast to rise by 2.5% in 2022 and 1.6% in 2023. According to the latest CPA construction forecasts as strong growth in warehouses and infrastructure offsets, a slowdown in private housing and a fall in private housing repair, maintenance and improvement (rm&i) from historic high levels.
- The industrial sector, which covers activity on warehouses and factories, is forecast to be the fastest growing sector in the next two years. Output is forecast to rise by 15.0% in 2022 and 9.8% in 2023, as activity continues to be boosted by the strength of online retailing as well as manufacturers' need for increased stocks given the persistence of supply chain issues over the last two years.
- Infrastructure, the second largest construction sector, will also be a key driver of growth with output expected to rise by 8.5% this year and 3.8% in 2023. Long-term pipelines of work in regulated sectors such as roads, rail, water and electricity will drive growth. This is boosted further by major projects such as HS2, Thames Tideway Tunnel, and Hinkley Point C despite ongoing delays and cost overruns. However, medium-term, local infrastructure is likely to suffer from councils being financially constrained. Central government projects will

also be affected as there will be no further finance beyond November 2021's Spending Review. This is despite an ambitious infrastructure pipeline and strong cost inflation.

- Private housing remains cautiously optimistic as annual house price growth continues at double-digit rates and major house builders continue to stress the strength of the market. However, with the UK economy expected to contract in 2022 Q4, there remains uncertainty regarding how long housing can remain buoyant. The CPA anticipates that UK annual house price inflation will slow to 6.0% later this year and 2.5% in 2023 - as lower housing demand is partially offset by a lower supply of homes on to the market unless unemployment rises significantly and increases the number of forced sellers onto the market, suppressing house prices. Near-term concerns for major house builders focus on mortgage availability after the end of Help to Buy in March 2023. Other key issues for houses include planning and rising costs of materials, labour and meeting the new Building Regulations. Private housing output is forecast to rise by 1.0% in 2022 and remain flat in 2023. However, if house price inflation continues to surprise on the optimistic side and demand is enabled by high mortgage availability, risks may be skewed towards the positive.
- Private housing rm&i - the third largest construction sector - has been a key driver of activity over the last two years due to the 'race for space.' Output is currently 20% higher than pre-pandemic but firms report that smaller, discretionary spending on improvements activity is already falling away, albeit, from a historically high level. Private housing rm&i is the sector most exposed to changes in consumer confidence and real incomes. It is also the sector that is most exposed to materials and products cost inflation, as small contractors are less able to plan and purchase in advance for projects. Overall, output is expected to fall by 3.0% this year and a further 4.0% next year. However, given that activity in the sector reached historic highs in early 2022, the sector has the potential for falling even harder than forecast. This is dependent on the extent to which falling consumer confidence translates into households' reduced investment in their own homes and the risks are to the downside.

Manufacturing

The latest **Index of Production** data for August 2022 were [published](#) on 12 October 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 August 2022 with August 2021, **output decreased by 14.9%**.
- When comparing August 2022 with July 2022, **output decreased by 0.9%**.

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

- When comparing August 2022 with August 2021, **output increased by 4.9%**.
- When comparing August 2022 with July 2022, **output decreased by 0.25%**.

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)

Past editions of the statistics from [2005 to 2010](#), [2011](#) and [2012 onwards](#) can be found at the National Archives website.

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 August 2022.

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	65%
Quarterly Sand and Gravel – Land Won	4, 5 & 6	63%
Quarterly Sand and Gravel – Marine Dredged	4, 5 & 6	73%
Quarterly Slate	7	89%
Quarterly Concrete Roofing Tiles	13	29%
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 7 December 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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This publication is available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/building-materials-and-components-monthly-statistics-2012>

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