



Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components

Commentary, April 2023

Coverage: UK and Great Britain

Geographical Area: Country, region and county

3 May 2023

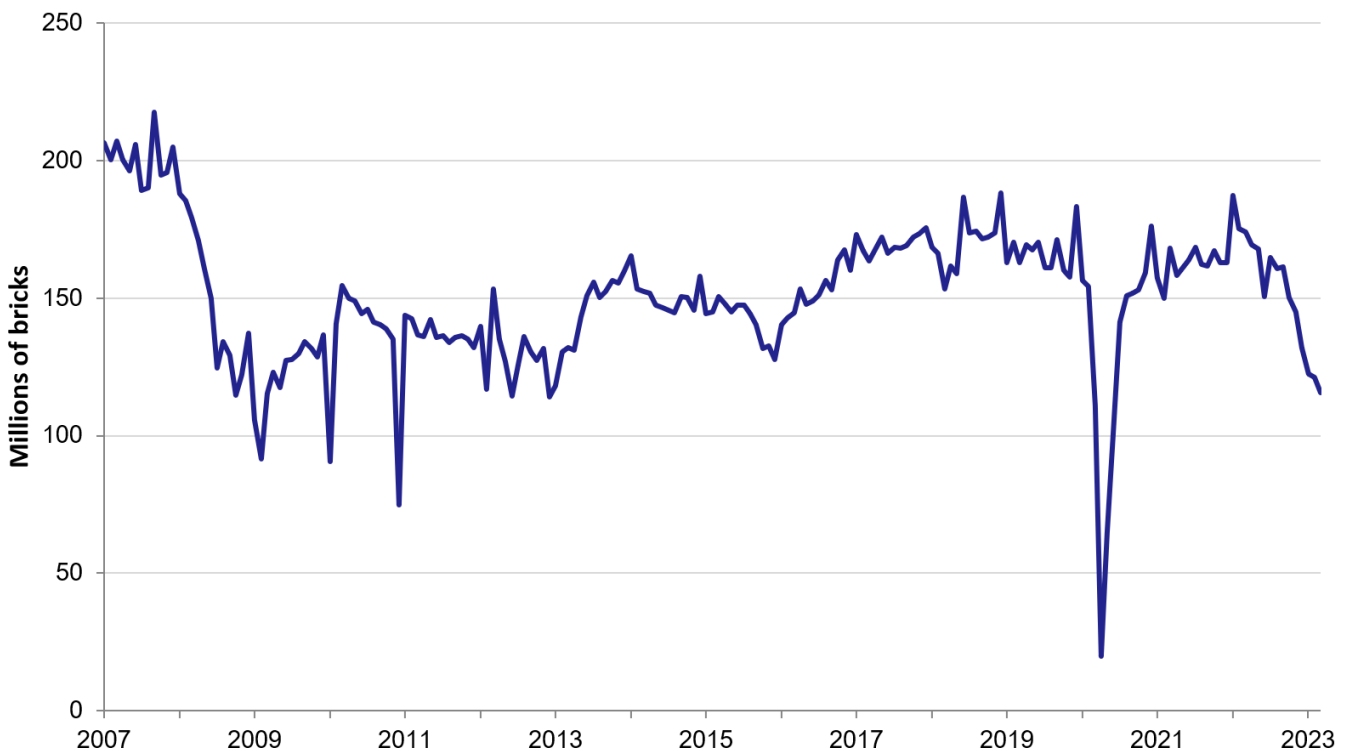
National Statistics

Headline Findings

- There was a **33.5% decrease** in brick deliveries in March 2023 compared to March 2022, according to the seasonally adjusted figures.
- There was a **23.9% decrease** in concrete block deliveries in March 2023 compared to March 2022, according to the seasonally adjusted figures.
- The material price index for 'All Work' **increased by 8.7%** in March 2023 compared to the same month the previous year. This followed an increase of 10.6% in February 2023 compared to February 2022.

Chart 1: Seasonally Adjusted Deliveries of Bricks, GB

Number of bricks



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

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
Pre-release access	20
Related statistics	20
Revisions policy	21
Uses of these statistics	21
User engagement	21
National Statistics designation	22
Contact	22

Introduction

This commentary accompanies the latest Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components data tables, published on the building materials [web page](#) on 3th May 2023. 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 (March 2023 to March 2022)		Month-on-month change (March 2023 to February 2023)	
New Housing	9.5%	New Housing	0.3%
Other New Work	9.0%	Other New Work	0.9%
Repair & Maintenance	7.5%	Repair & Maintenance	-0.1%
All Work	8.7%	All Work	0.4%

- The material price index for **'All Work'** increased by **8.7%** in March 2023 compared to the same month the previous year. This followed an increase of 10.6% in February 2023 compared to February 2022.
- Looking at the year-on-year changes, the **'New Housing'** price index had the greatest increase (+9.5%), whilst the **'Repair and Maintenance'** price index had the lowest increase (+7.5%).
- The material price index for **'All Work'** increased by **0.4%** in March 2023 compared to February 2023. This followed an increase of 0.4% in February 2023 compared to December 2022.
- Looking at the month-on-month changes, the **'Other New Work'** price index had the greatest increase (0.9%).

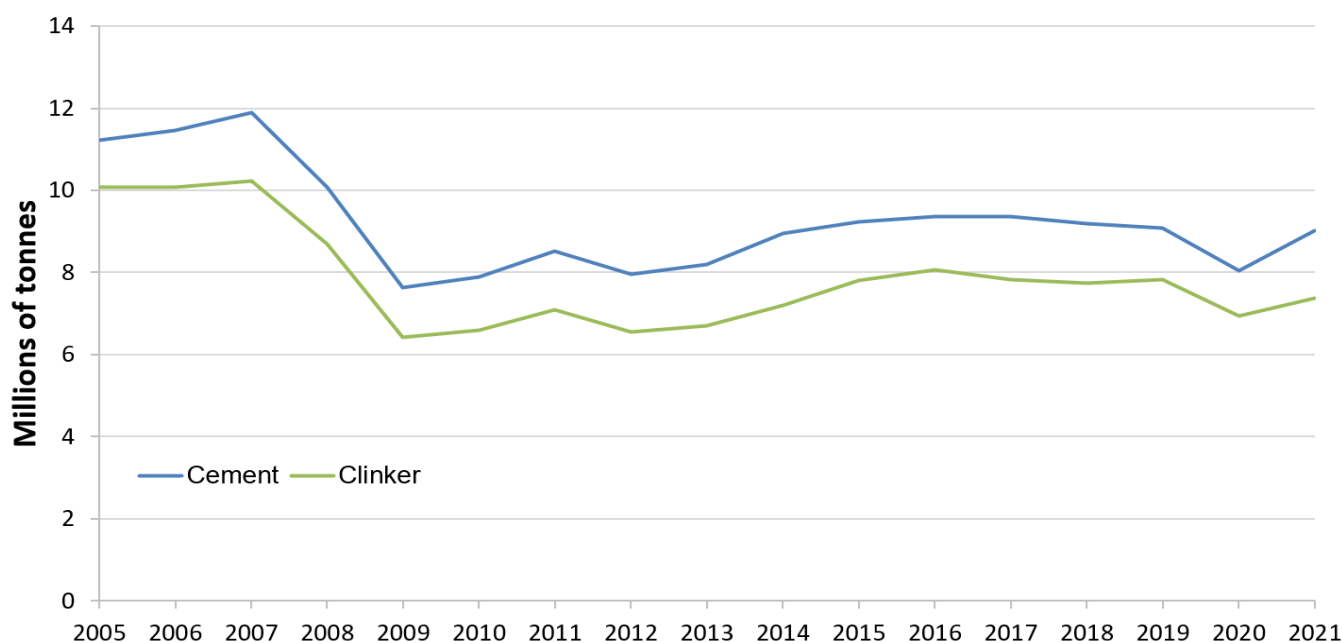
Table 1: Construction materials experiencing the greatest price increases and decreases in the 12 months to March 2023, UK

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		
Insulating materials (thermal or acoustic)	35.4	
Screws etc.	33.2	
Gravel, sand, clays & kaolin (including aggregate levy)	29.9	
Greatest price decreases		
Imported sawn or planed wood	-17.9	
Concrete reinforcing bars	-13.6	
Particle board	-11.7	

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



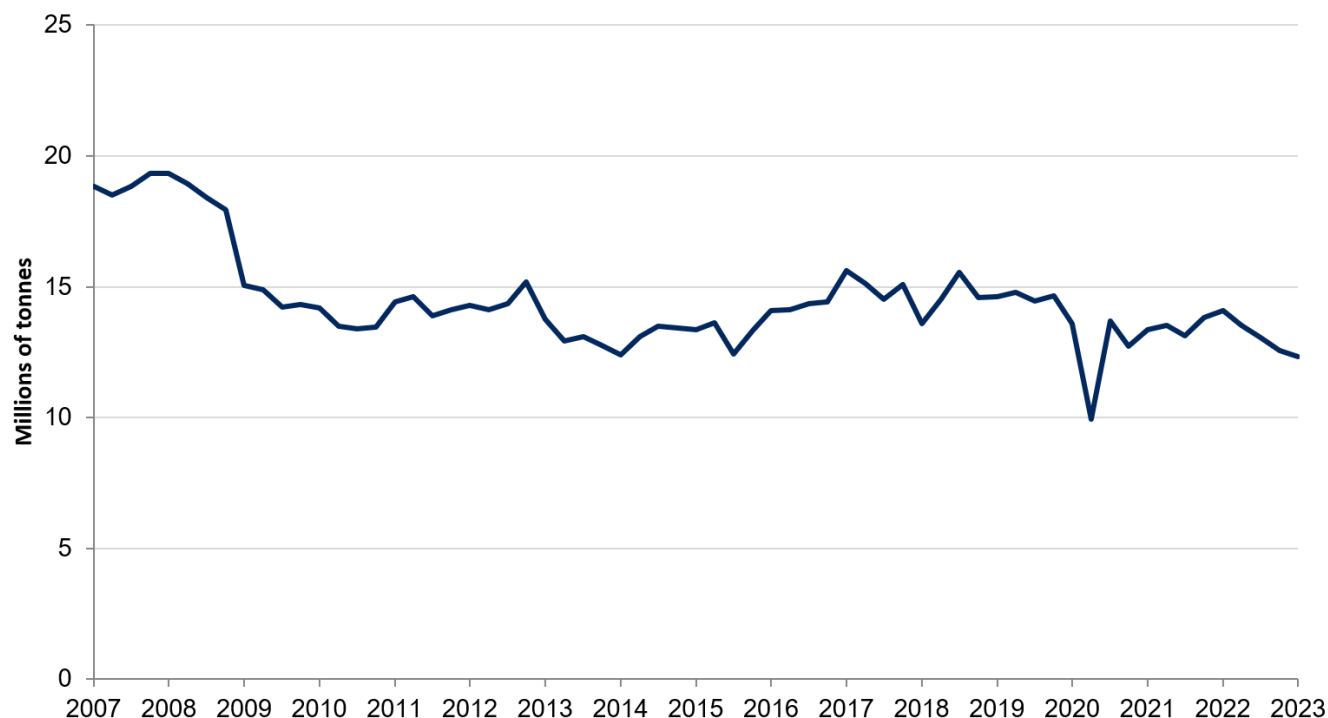
Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 8

- 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 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



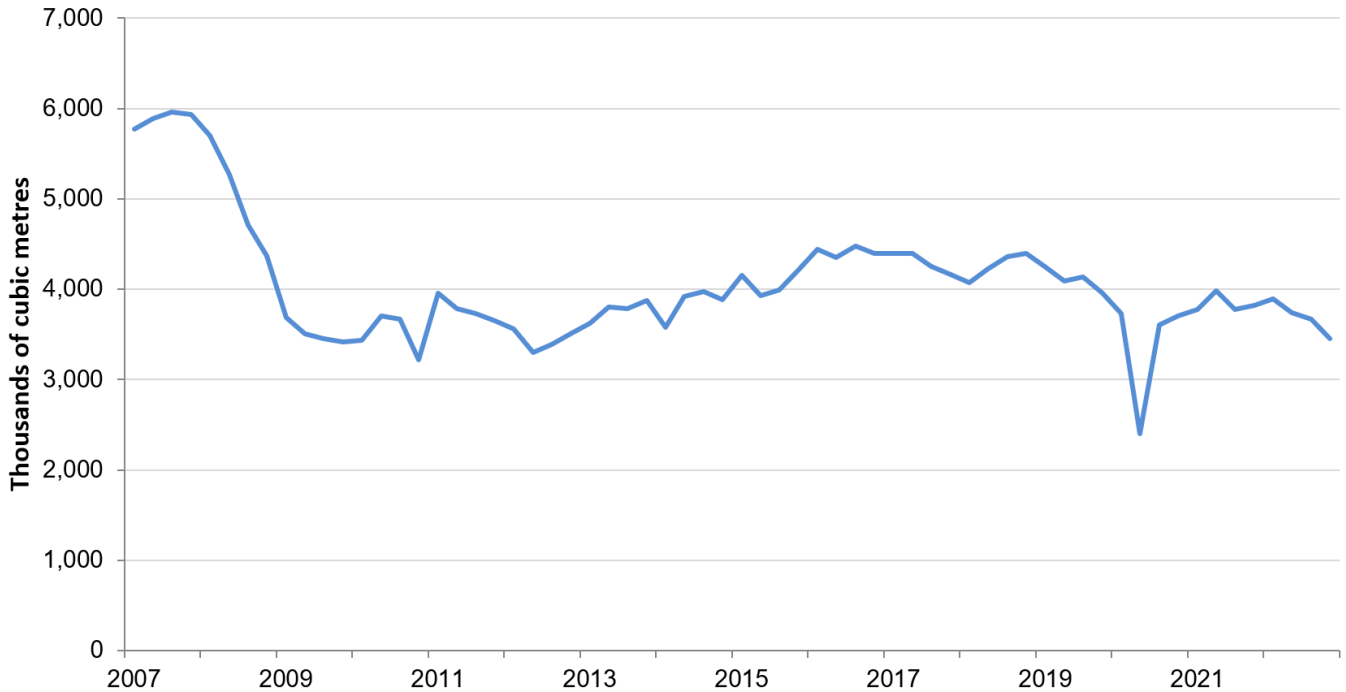
Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 4

- Sales of sand & gravel **decreased** by **1.9%** in Quarter 1 2023 compared to Quarter 4 2022, according to the seasonally adjusted data.
- This followed a decrease of 3.8% in Quarter 4 2022 compared with Quarter 3 2022.
- Comparing Quarter 1 2023 to Quarter 1 2022, sales have **decreased** by **12.4%**.
- 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



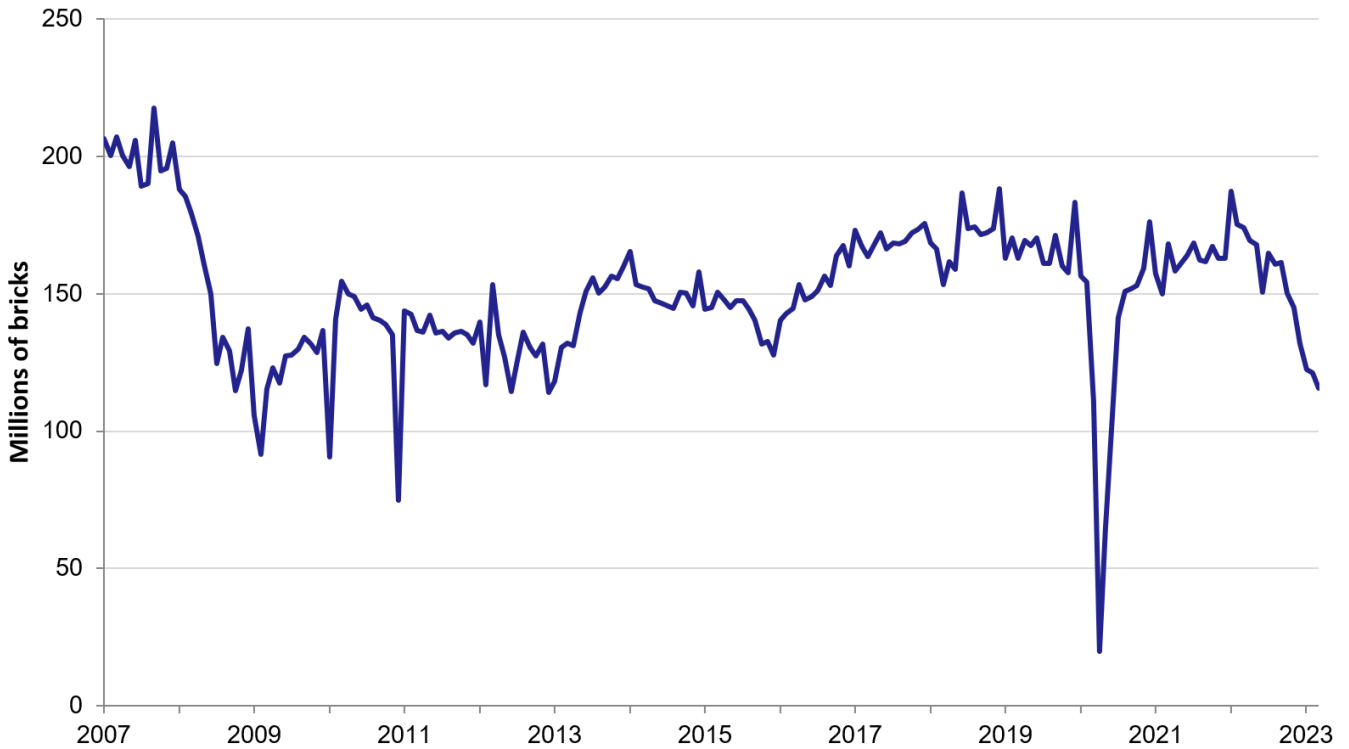
Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 13

- Ready-mixed concrete sales **decreased** by **5.8%** in Quarter 4 2022 compared to Quarter 3 2022, according to the seasonally adjusted data.
- This followed a 1.9% decrease in Quarter 3 2022 compared to Quarter 2 2022.
- Sales in Quarter 4 2022 **decreased** by **9.5%** compared to Quarter 4 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



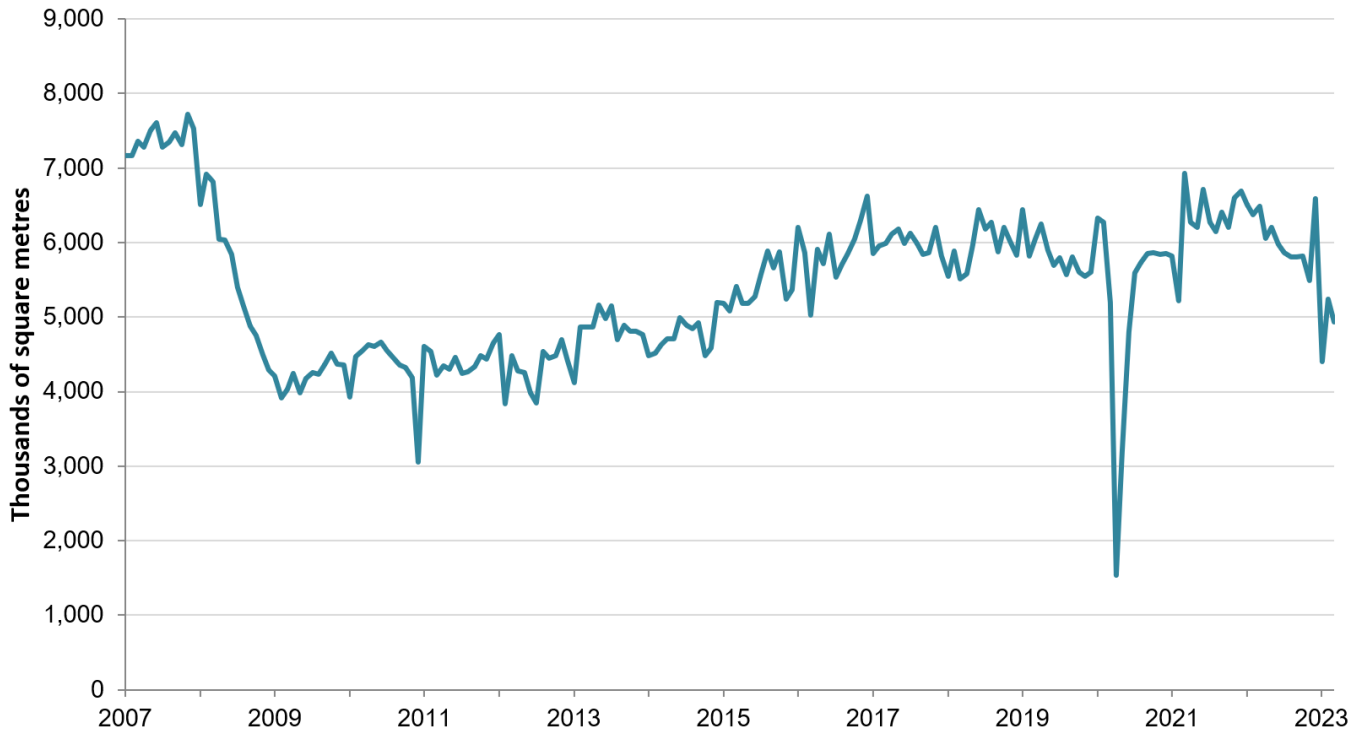
Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 9

- There was a **33.5% decrease** in brick deliveries in March 2023 compared to March 2022, according to the seasonally adjusted figures.
- This followed a 30.9% decrease in February 2023, compared to February 2022.
- The month-on-month change shows a **4.5% decrease** in March 2023.
- This followed a 1.1% decrease in February 2023, 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



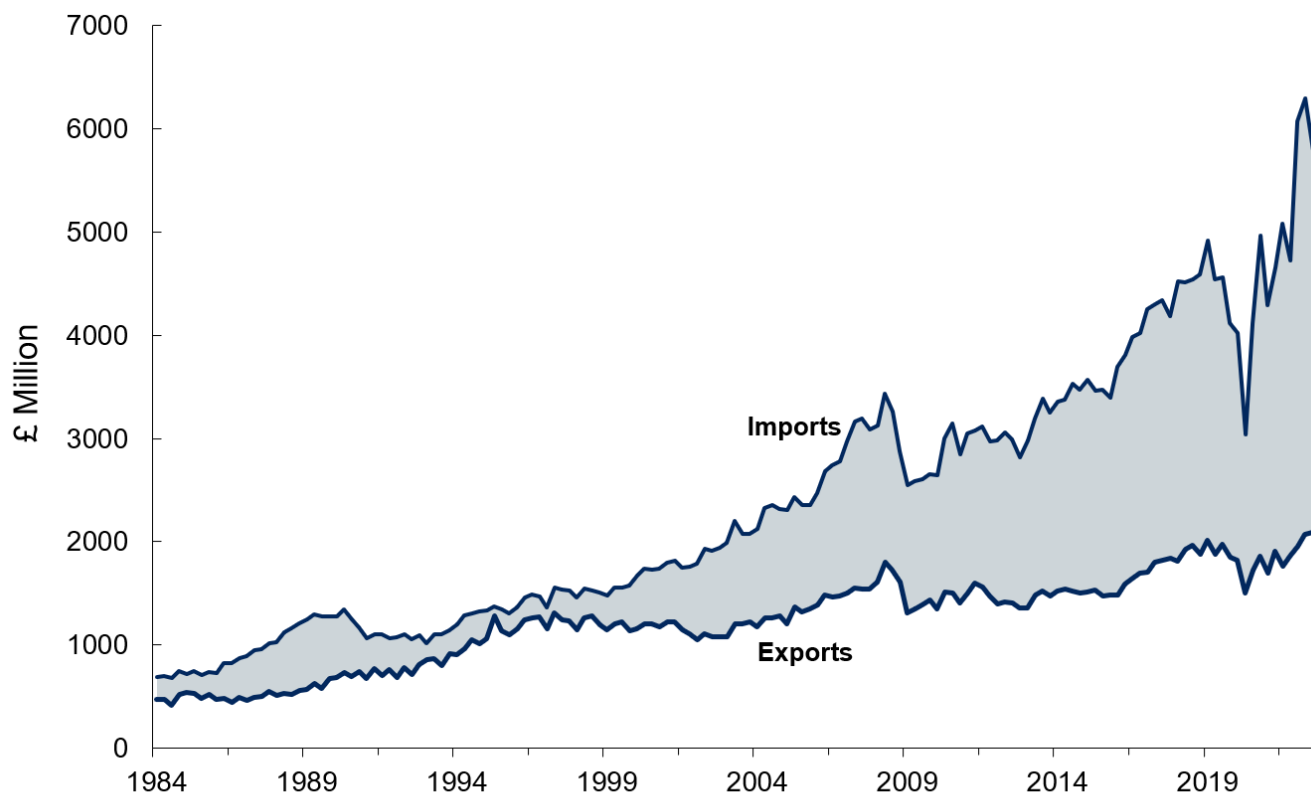
Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 11

- There was a **23.9% decrease** in concrete block deliveries in March 2023 compared to March 2022, according to the seasonally adjusted figures.
- This followed a 17.8% decrease in February 2023, compared to January 2022.
- The month-on-month change shows a **5.8% decrease** in March 2023 compared with February 2023.
- This followed a 19.1% increase in February 2023, compared to January 2023.
- 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 £148 million in Quarter 4 2022 compared to the previous quarter, a **decrease** of 2.6%.
- **Exports** of construction materials **decreased** by £3 million in Quarter 4 2022 compared to the previous quarter, a **decrease** of 0.2%.
- As a result, between Quarter 3 2022 and Quarter 4 2022, the **quarterly trade deficit decreased** by £145 million to £3,546 million, a **decrease** of 3.9%.
- Over the whole of 2022, **imports** of construction materials **increased** by **27.8%** compared to 2021, from £18,621 million to £23,798 million.
- In the same period **exports** of construction materials **increased** by **16.9%**, from £7,029 million to £8,215 million.
- In 2022, the **annual trade deficit widened** by £3,991 million to £15,583 million, an **increase** of 34.4%.
- Over the period from Quarter 1 1984 to Quarter 4 2022, construction materials imports have increased, on average (per quarter), by 4.6%. 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 23.5% of the value of imports. As of Quarter 4 2022, the trade deficit is £3,546 million, 62.9% 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 2022

Top-5 Exported Materials	<i>£ million</i>	Top-5 Imported Materials	<i>£ million</i>
Electrical Wires	956	Electrical Wires	2,811
Paints & Varnishes	869	Sawn Wood > 6mm thick	1,326
Plastic Pipes	392	Air Conditioning Equipment	842
Air Conditioning Equipment	365	Structural Units (steel)	783
Linoleum Floor Coverings	360	Linoleum Floor Coverings	747

The top five exported materials in 2022 accounted for 36% of total construction material exports.

The top five imported construction materials in 2022 accounted for 27% 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, 2022

<i>£ million (% of total trade in italics)</i>	EU	Non-EU
Imports	13,303	10,495
	<i>56%</i>	<i>44%</i>
Exports	5,014	3,200
	<i>61%</i>	<i>39%</i>

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 61%.

Due to an error in the production process some countries' imports/exports previously fed into incorrect EU/non-EU categories. The error has been corrected and data revised. The changes affect all imports/exports in Table 15.

Table 4: Top 5 UK Export and Import Markets for Construction Materials in 2022

Top-5 Export Markets		Top-5 Import Markets	
	£ million		£ million
Ireland	1,457	China	4,855
USA	862	Germany	2,250
Germany	768	Italy	1,335
Netherlands	665	Spain	1,293
France	556	Turkey	1,240

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 52% of total construction materials exports in 2022. Ireland remains the largest market, despite having shrunk from a pre-recession peak of 27% of total exports in 2007, to 18% in 2022.

The top five import markets comprised 46% of total construction materials imports in 2022. Around 20% 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 April 2023, which was live from 3 April to 16 April 2023, this release is in headline-only format, summarising information on the overall UK businesses.

Key points:

- The proportion of businesses reporting that their turnover had increased compared with the previous calendar month continued to climb in March 2023, with nearly one in five (19%) trading businesses reporting this compared with 16% in February 2023.
- Almost two in five (38%) trading businesses reported an increase in the prices of goods or services bought in March 2023 compared with February 2023; however, the proportion of businesses reporting higher prices compared with the previous month has steadily fallen from a peak of 48% in September 2022.
- Approximately one in six (16%) trading businesses reported an increase in the prices of goods or services sold in March 2023 compared with February 2023; in comparison, 62% of businesses reported prices stayed the same.
- When asked in early April 2023, nearly a quarter (23%) of trading businesses reported they expect to raise their prices in May 2023, while more than half (53%) expect the prices of goods or services they sell to stay the same.
- More than half (53%) of businesses with 10 or more employees reported their staffing costs had increased in the last three months to early April 2023; in comparison, 58% reported they expect their staffing costs to increase over the next three months, higher than the 52% of businesses that expected higher costs when asked in early January 2023.

Construction Output

The **Office for National Statistics** published estimates of construction output for [February 2023](#) on 13 April 2023:

Key points:

- Monthly construction output is estimated to have increased 2.4% in volume terms in February 2023; this follows a 1.7% fall in January 2023, with February 2023 being the highest monthly value in level terms (£15,558 million) since records began in January 2010.
- The increase in monthly construction output came from increases in both repair and maintenance (4.5%) and new work (1.1%) on the month.
- Anecdotal evidence suggested several reasons for the increase in February 2023; it was partially driven by a bounce back from the fall in January 2023, but also continued strength across repair and maintenance sectors; many firms also noted an improvement of weather in February, which allowed them to get more work done.
- At the sector level, eight out of the nine sectors saw a rise in February 2023, with the main contributors to the monthly increase seen in private housing repair and maintenance, and non-housing repair and maintenance, which increased 5.0% and 3.7%, respectively.
- Alongside the monthly increase, construction output saw an increase of 0.9% in the three months to February 2023; this is the sixth period of consecutive growth in the three-month-on-three-month series; the increase came solely from a rise in repair and maintenance (3.1%), as new work saw a decrease (0.5% fall).
- The main positive contributors to the increase in the three months to February 2023 were non-housing repair and maintenance (5.5%) and infrastructure new work (2.8%); with the main negative contributor being private new housing (4.4% fall), despite the increase on the month; anecdotal evidence suggested a general slowdown in housing across recent months.

Bank of England Summary of Business Conditions

The **Bank of England** published its most recent update to the [Agents' Summary of Business Conditions](#) on 23 March 2023, covering intelligence gathered between mid-January and early March 2023.

Key points:

- Construction output volumes contracted further, driven by softer demand for housing and as higher costs continued to weigh on activity. The fall in output volumes compared with a year ago came as larger house builders slowed build rates in response to weaker demand. Construction of social housing also weakened.
- Contacts said rising costs and delays relating to planning and utility connection continued to constrain output. And spending on home improvements also fell, reflecting squeezed household incomes.

- Construction of office and commercial property continued to be weak, though demand for office refurbishment remained good. And most public infrastructure projects were reported to be going ahead as planned.

Gross Domestic Product Estimate

The **Office for National Statistics** published estimates of GDP for [February 2023](#) on 13 April 2023:

Key points:

- Monthly real gross domestic product (GDP) is estimated to have shown no growth in February 2023, where falls in services and production were offset by growth in construction. This follows growth of 0.4% in January, revised up from growth of 0.3% in the previous publication.
- Looking at the broader picture, GDP grew by 0.1% in the three months to February 2023.
- The services sector fell by 0.1% in February 2023, after growing by 0.7% in January 2023, revised up from 0.5% in the previous publication.
- The largest contributions to the fall in services output in February 2023 came from education and public administration and defence; compulsory social security, industrial action took place in both of these industries in February 2023.
- Output in consumer-facing services grew by 0.4% in February 2023, this follows growth of 0.3% in January 2023 (unrevised from our previous publication); the largest contributor to this growth came from retail trade, except for motor vehicles and motorcycles.
- Production output fell by 0.2% in February 2023, following a fall of 0.5% in January 2023, revised from a fall of 0.3% in the 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 April 2023.

Key points:

- The mean GDP forecast for 2023 is -0.2% down from -0.5% from the previous month's survey.
- The mean GDP forecast for 2024 is 0.8%, up from 0.7% from the previous month's survey.

The **Office for Budget Responsibility** published a new [Economic and Fiscal Outlook](#) on 15 March 2023.

- GDP is expected to contract by 0.2% in 2023 (up from -1.4% in the previous forecast) and to grow by 1.8% in 2024 and 2.5% in 2025.

Construction Output Forecasts

Experian published their Winter 2022 [forecasts](#) for the construction sector in January 2023.

Key points:

- The construction sector ended 2022 on a low note, with the PMI business activity index slipping into decline. New orders have been flagging and mounting headwinds in the form of elevated cost pressures, rising interest rates, intensifying budgetary constraints and an uncertain economic backdrop are weighing down on the sector. As such, the forecast for construction output in 2023 has been downgraded.
- Construction output is set to decline by 1.7% in 2023 and downside risks loom. Headwinds in the form of elevated inflationary pressures, a cost of living crisis, rising interest rates and economic uncertainty will collectively weigh on construction going forward and this has prompted a downgrade to the forecast. Our assumption is that current crises will ease by 2024 and their impacts will fade over the remainder of the forecast period. Hence, we expect a return to positive growth of 1.1% and 2.8% in 2024 and 2025 respectively.
- The private industrial sector is expected to growth by 49.8% in 2022, 0.6% in 2023 and -0.5% in 2024. Almost inevitably, after a year of very strong expansion, the prospects for industrial construction going forward are much more muted. The factory sub-sector has performed above expectations, but the weaker economic prognosis is likely to hit manufacturing output, with a consequent knock-on impact on demand for new facilities.
- The Public Non-residential sector is forecast to decline by -5.2% in 2022 and 1.6% in 2023 and 1.7% in 2024. The backlog of new orders suggests that output should be on a rising trend, at least in 2023. However, the issue is likely to be how much feeds into output given the budgetary constraints both central and local government are under, compounded by fast rising costs.
- The housing sector is forecast to grow by 9.3% in 2022, -6.6% in 2023 and 2.8% the following year. Growth in the non-residential building sector is forecast to be 4.8% in 2022, 1.0% in 2023 and 0.9% in 2024. Growth in new work is forecast at 4.9% in 2022, -2.4% in 2023 and 1.9% in 2024 down from 10.6% growth in 2021.
- Repair and maintenance (R&M) is forecast to grow by 6.0% in 2022, -0.7% in 2023 and -0.2% in 2024, down from 16.8% in 2021.

The **Construction Products Association** published their [Construction industry forecasts](#) for Winter 2022/23 in January 2023.

Key points:

- Repair and maintenance (R&M) is forecast to grow by 6.0% in 2022, -0.7% in 2023 and -0.2% in 2024, down from 16.8% in 2021. The construction industry is expected to endure a recession this year after two strong years for the industry. According to the Construction Products Association's Winter Forecasts, construction output is expected to fall by 4.7% in 2023 before recovering slowly in 2024 with growth of just 0.6%.
- The construction industry is not immune to the impacts of a wider UK economic recession, rising interest rates and inflation. Private housing new build, the largest construction sector, and private housing repair, maintenance, and improvement (rm&i), the third largest sector, are forecast to be the worst affected sectors this year. Falls in activity in these areas are expected to be partially offset by continued growth in infrastructure, the second largest sector,

which is already at historic high levels of activity. Even here, however, there are growing concerns over the impacts of double-digit construction cost inflation. Given financial constraints for government, this means that we are likely to see the value of activity expected previously but not the volume.

- Private housing is forecast to be the sector most affected by the downturn and fortunes for the sector over the next 12-18 months are likely to go one of two ways. The main forecast anticipates a soft landing for the housing market, which involves a sharp decline in demand during 2022 Q4 and 2023 Q1 before a recovery in demand this Spring. Even still, private housing output in 2023 is forecast to experience an 11.0% fall as housebuilders focus on completing existing developments rather than starting new sites. This fall is primarily due to rising mortgage rates, falling real wages and poor consumer confidence. The largest impact of the decline in demand is likely to be on property transactions, which are anticipated to fall in 2023 by around 20% whilst house prices are anticipated to decline by 8% -10%.
- Private housing rm&i output was driven to historic high levels in 2021 due to increased working from home and a 'race for space'. Given further expected falls in real wages and increases in mortgage payments for many households this year, a further decline in private housing rm&i output of 9.0% is forecast in 2023. This will focus on a fall in larger improvements activity, before slow growth of 1.0% in 2024 as activity recovers in line with the wider UK economy. Unsurprisingly, however, one area of private housing rm&i that continues to remain strong is energy-efficiency retrofit; given homeowner concerns over energy prices, insulation and solar panel installations activity is currently buoyant.
- Infrastructure continues to go from strength to strength, reaching historic high levels in 2022 as it benefitted from multi-billion pound projects such as HS2, the Thames Tideway Tunnel and Hinkley Point C as well as long-term frameworks activity in sub-sectors such as rail, roads and energy. Going forward, further growth in infrastructure output is expected but it is likely to be slower than in previous years due to cost inflation and financial constraints. After 4.9% growth in 2022, infrastructure output is forecast to rise by 2.4% in 2023 and 2.5% in 2024.
- CPA Economics Director Noble Francis said "The construction industry has enjoyed a buoyant two years since the first national lockdown largely shuttered the industry back in Spring 2020. Overall, however, construction output is forecast to fall by 4.7% this year. It is worth keeping in mind the broader context that this is not 2008 and the decline is nowhere near the fall in output that occurred in the last recession. Looking back 15 years ago, construction output fell by 15.3% over two years during the global financial crisis."

Manufacturing

The latest **Index of Production** data for February 2023 were [published](#) on 13 April 2023 by the Office for National Statistics.

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

- When comparing February 2023 with February 2022, **output decreased by 4.4%**.
- When comparing February 2023 with January 2023, **output decreased by 0.5%**.

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

- When comparing February 2023 with February 2022, **output decreased by 1.2%**.
- When comparing February 2023 with January 2022, **output increased by 2.8%**.

Accompanying tables

The most recently published data tables (available in Excel and ODS format) can be found on the *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. The department 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 *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 *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	71%
Quarterly Sand and Gravel – Land Won	4, 5 & 6	68%
Quarterly Sand and Gravel – Marine Dredged	4, 5 & 6	90%
Quarterly Slate	7	100%
Quarterly Concrete Roofing Tiles	13	57%
Monthly Bricks Provisional data	9	98%
Monthly Bricks Final data	9 & 10	98%
Monthly Concrete Blocks	11 & 12	90%

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 June 2023.

Pre-release access

Pre-release access is not granted for this publication.

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 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 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 the department, 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 building materials web page.

The department 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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