



Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components

Commentary, October 2023

Coverage: UK and Great Britain

Geographical Area: Country, region and county

1 November 2023

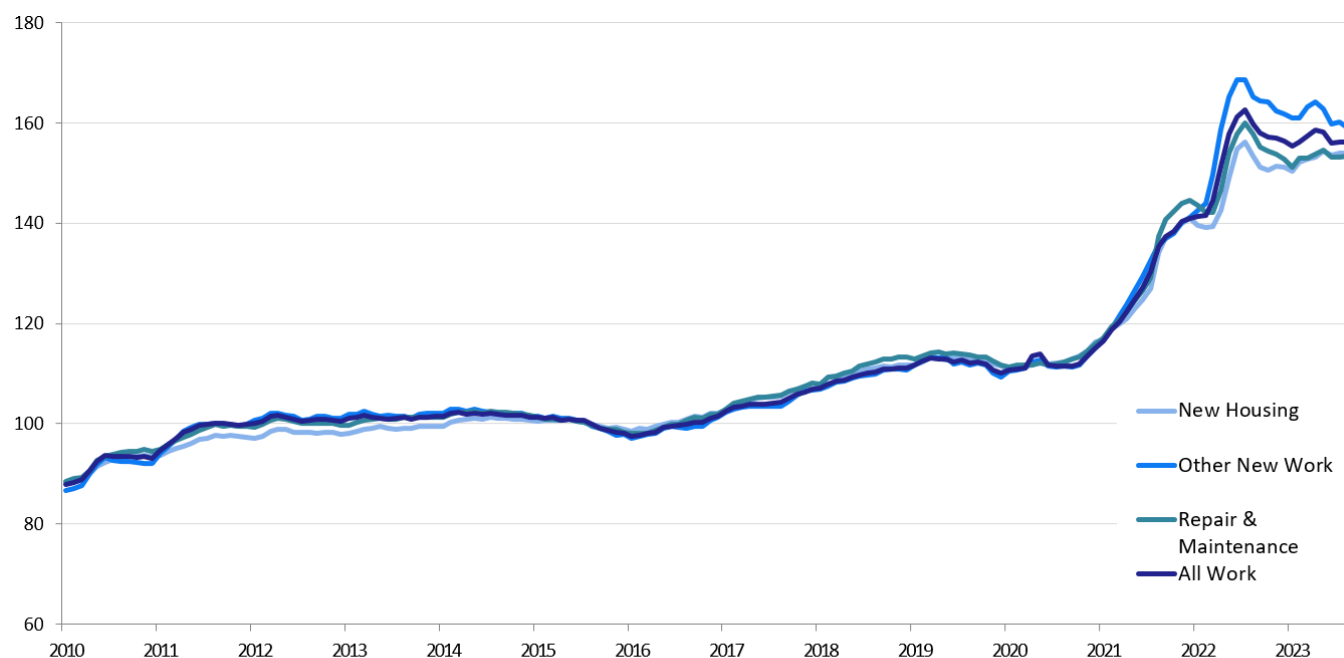
Accredited Official Statistics

Headline Findings

- The material price index for **'All Work'** decreased by **1.8%** in September 2023 compared to the same month the previous year.
- There was a **32.8% decrease** in brick deliveries in September 2023 compared to September 2022, according to the seasonally adjusted figures.
- There was a **19.5% decrease** in concrete block deliveries in September 2023 compared to September 2022, 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

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Introduction

This commentary accompanies the latest Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components data tables, published on the Building Materials and Components [web page](#) on 1st November 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](#).

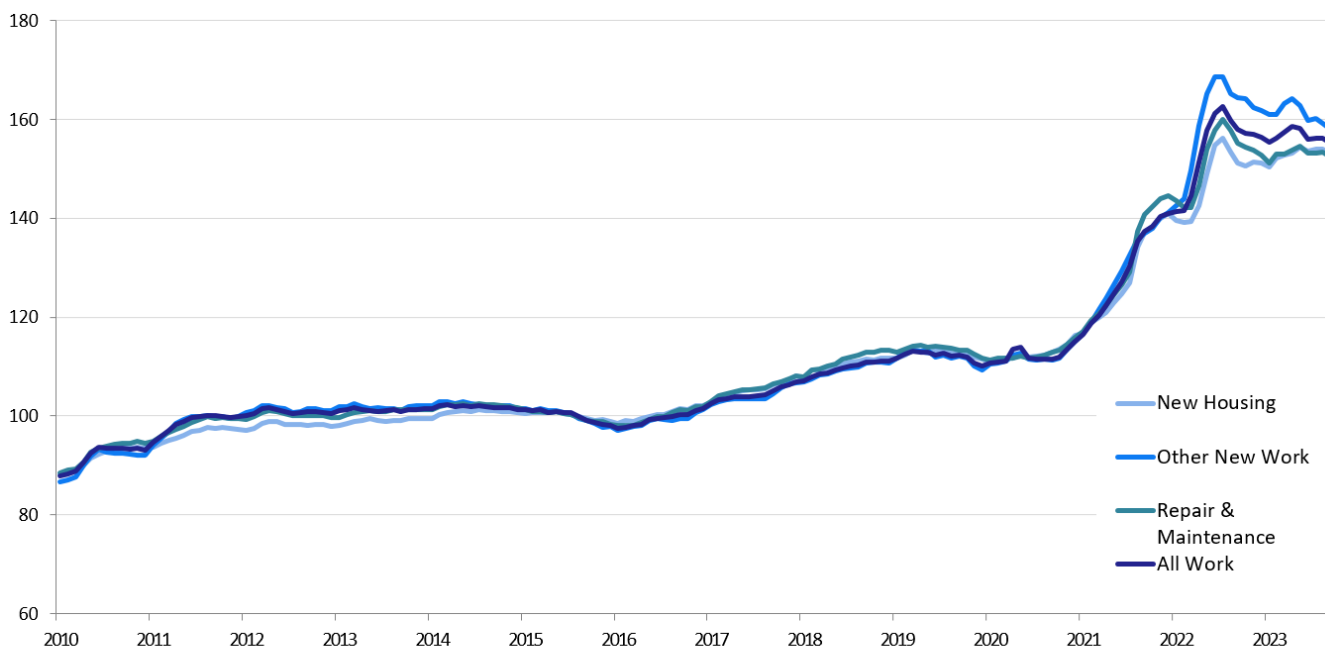
Seasonal Adjustment Review

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

Table 1: Construction material price indices, year-on-year and month-on-month percentage change.

Material price indices	September 2022 – September 2023 (% change)	August 2023 – September 2023 (% change)
New Housing	1.2	-0.7
Other New Work	-4.0	-0.8
Repair & Maintenance	-1.7	-0.7
All Work	-1.8	-0.7

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

- The material price index for **'All Work'** decreased by **1.8%** in September 2023 compared to the same month the previous year. This followed a decrease of 2.3% in August 2023 compared to August 2022.
- Looking at the year-on-year changes, the **'Other New Work'** price index had the largest decrease (-4.0%). The material price index for **'All Work'** was the only index which has increased year-on-year, by 1.2%.
- The material price index for **'All Work'** decreased by **0.7%** in September 2023 compared to August 2023. There was no change (0.0%) in August 2023 compared to July 2023.

Table 2: Construction materials experiencing the greatest price increases and decreases in the 12 months to September 2023,

Construction Materials	Year-on-year change
Greatest price increases	% increase
Doors & windows (metal)	19.0
Screws etc.	14.8
Ready-mixed concrete	14.4
Greatest price decreases	% decrease
Concrete reinforcing bars	-29.0
Fabricated structural steel	-28.4
Imported sawn or planed wood	-16.7

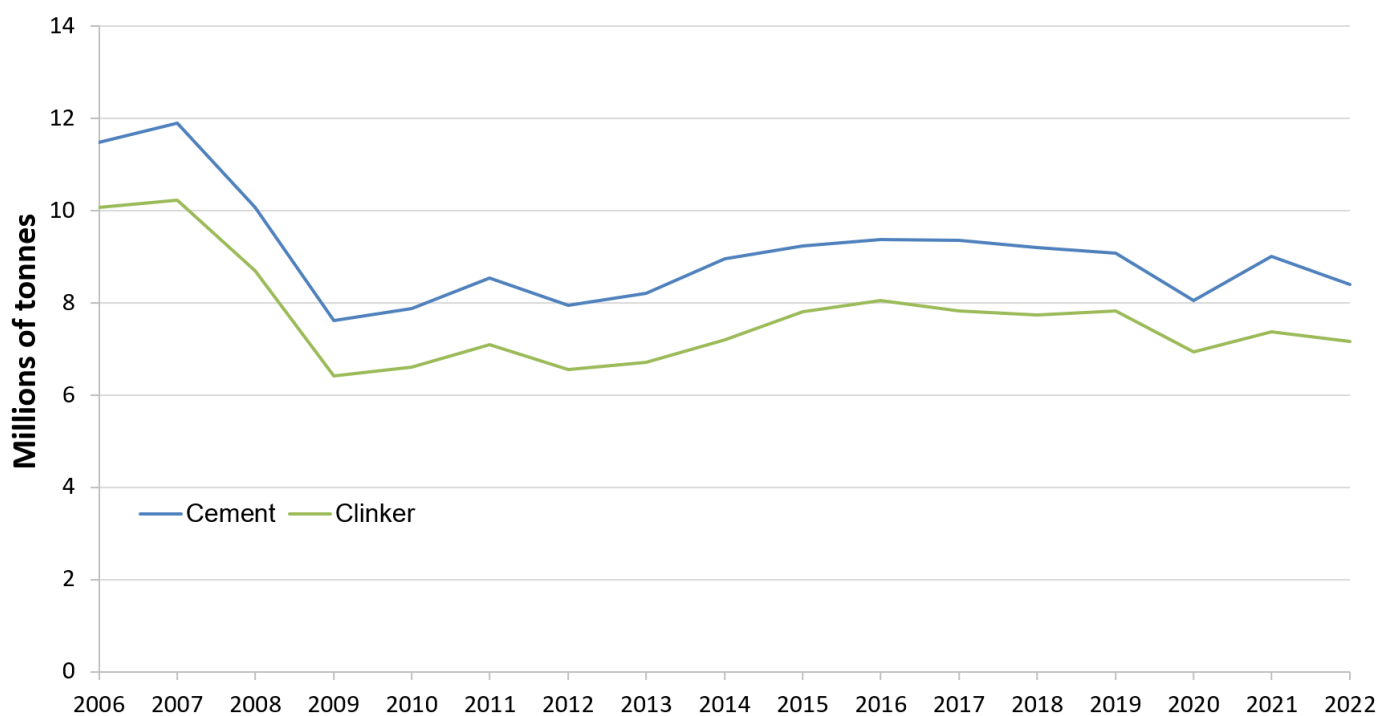
The aggregated construction material price indices hide larger price movements for some specific products and materials. The three largest increases and the three largest decreases are presented here.

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

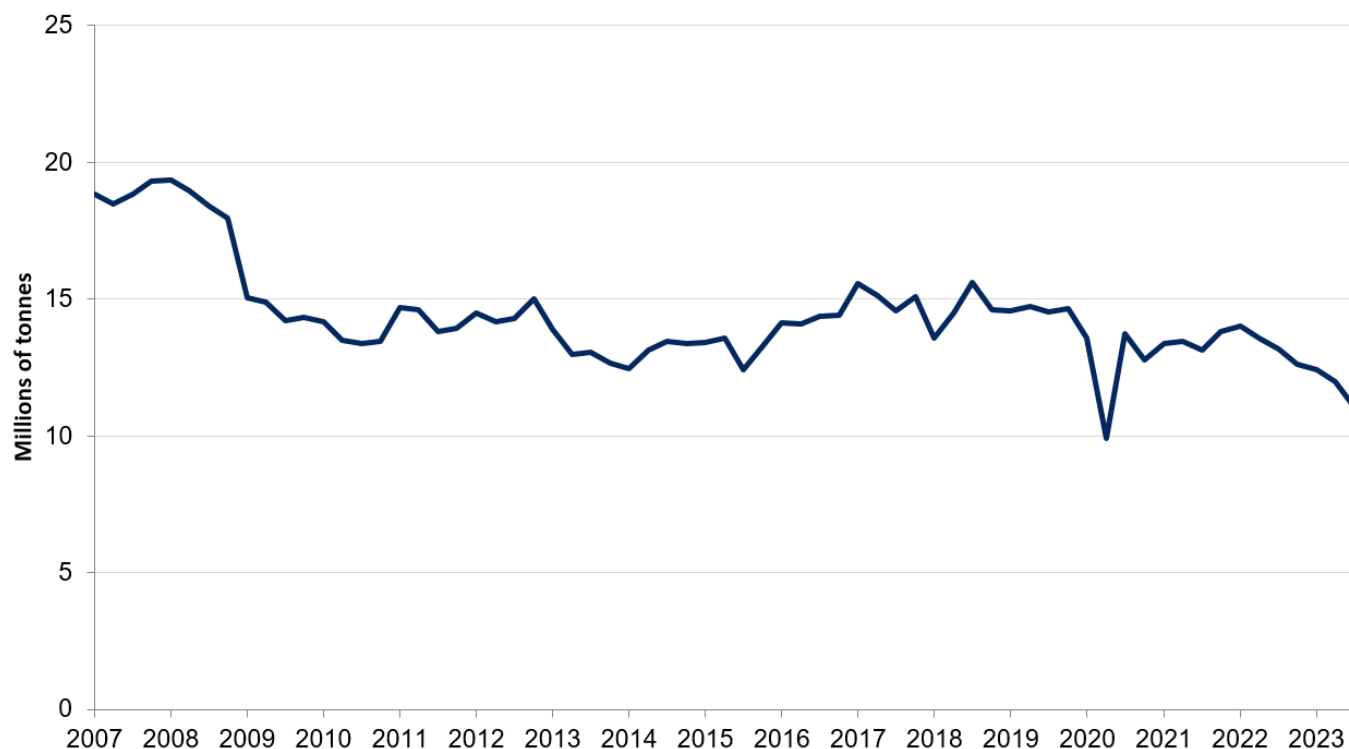
- Cement production **decreased by 6.8%** to 8.4 million tonnes in 2022, compared to 9.0 million tonnes the previous year. This follows an increase of 12.0% in 2021 compared to 2020. In 2007, prior to the recession of 2008 - 2009 production stood at 11.9 million tonnes.

- Production of clinker **decreased by 2.8%** to 7.2 million tonnes in 2022, compared to 7.4 million tonnes the previous year. This follows an increase of 6.1% in 2021. 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



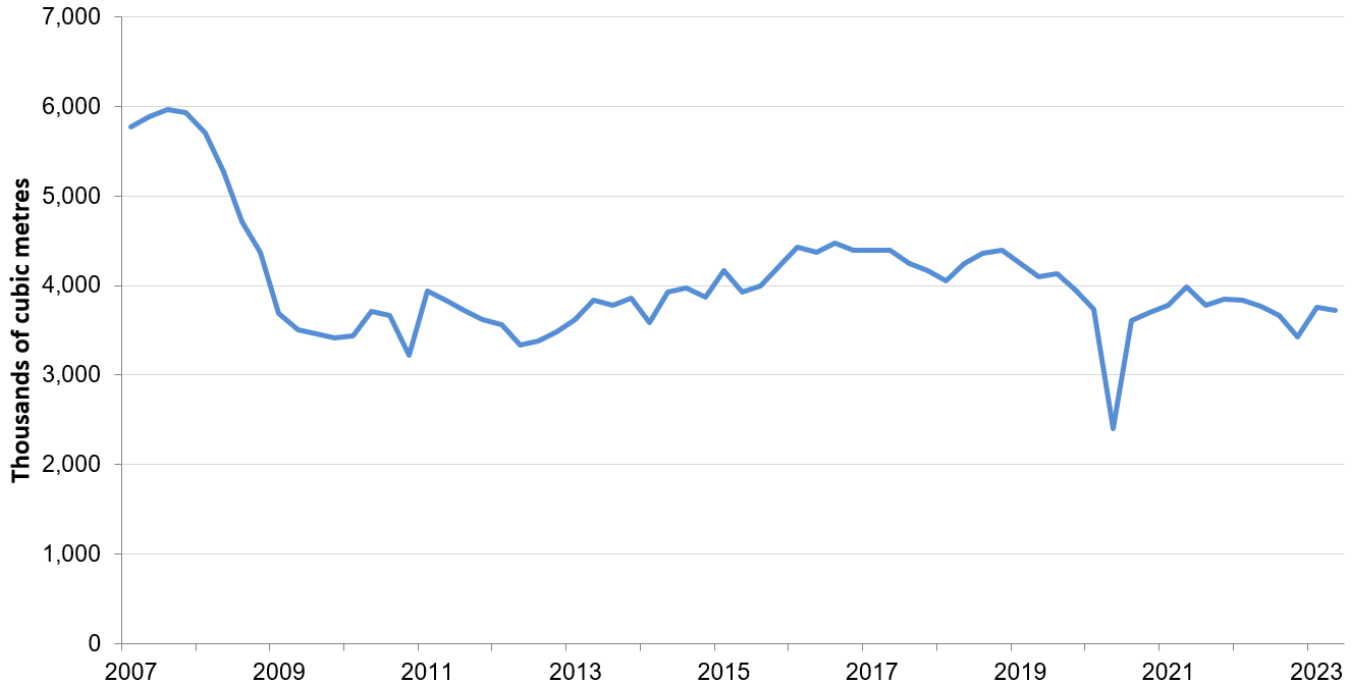
Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 4

- Sales of sand & gravel **decreased by 8.0%** in Quarter 3 2023 compared to Quarter 2 2023, according to the seasonally adjusted data. This followed a decrease of 3.3% in Quarter 2 2023 compared to Quarter 1 2023.
- Comparing year-on-year changes, Quarter 3 2023 sales have **decreased by 16.1%** compared to Quarter 3 2022. This followed a decrease of 11.7% in Quarter 2 2023 compared with Quarter 2 2022.
- 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



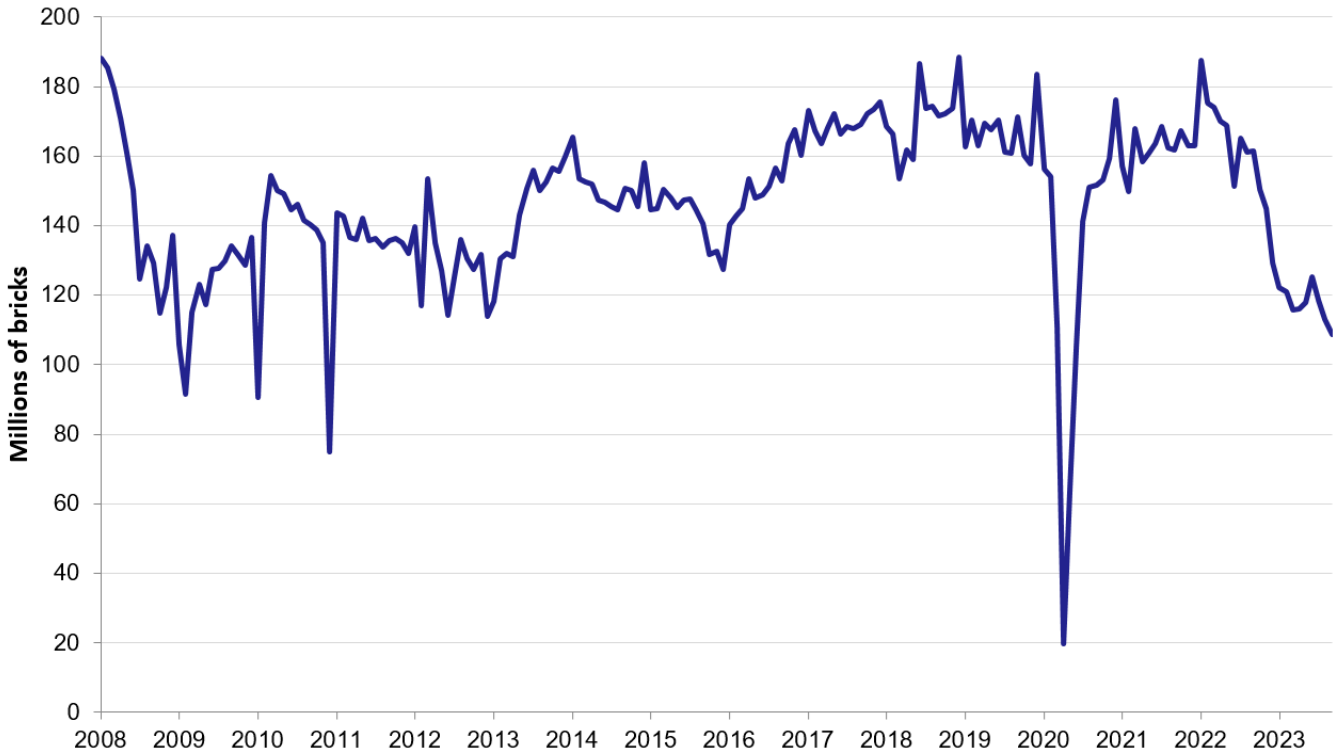
Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 13

- Ready-mixed concrete sales **decreased** by **0.8%** in Quarter 2 2023 compared to Quarter 1 2023, according to the seasonally adjusted data. This followed a 9.6% increase in Quarter 1 2023 compared to Quarter 4 2022.
- Sales in Quarter 2 2023 **decreased** by **1.1%** compared to Quarter 2 2022. This followed a 2.3% decrease in Quarter 1 2023 compared to Quarter 1 2022.
- 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



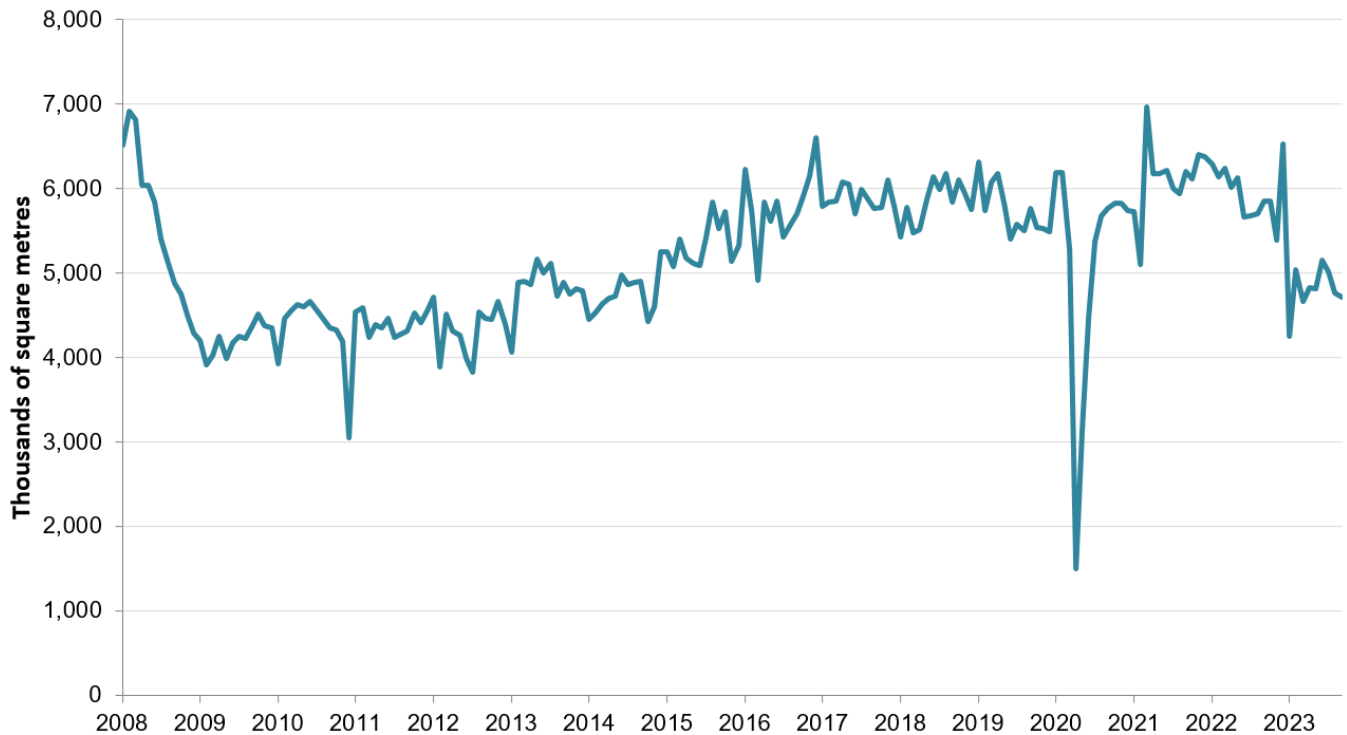
Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 9

- There was a **32.8% decrease** in brick deliveries in September 2023 compared to September 2022, according to the seasonally adjusted figures.
- This followed a 30.0% decrease in August 2023, compared to August 2022.
- The month-on-month change shows a **3.8% decrease** in September 2023.
- This followed a 4.9% decrease in August 2023, compared to July 2023.
- 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



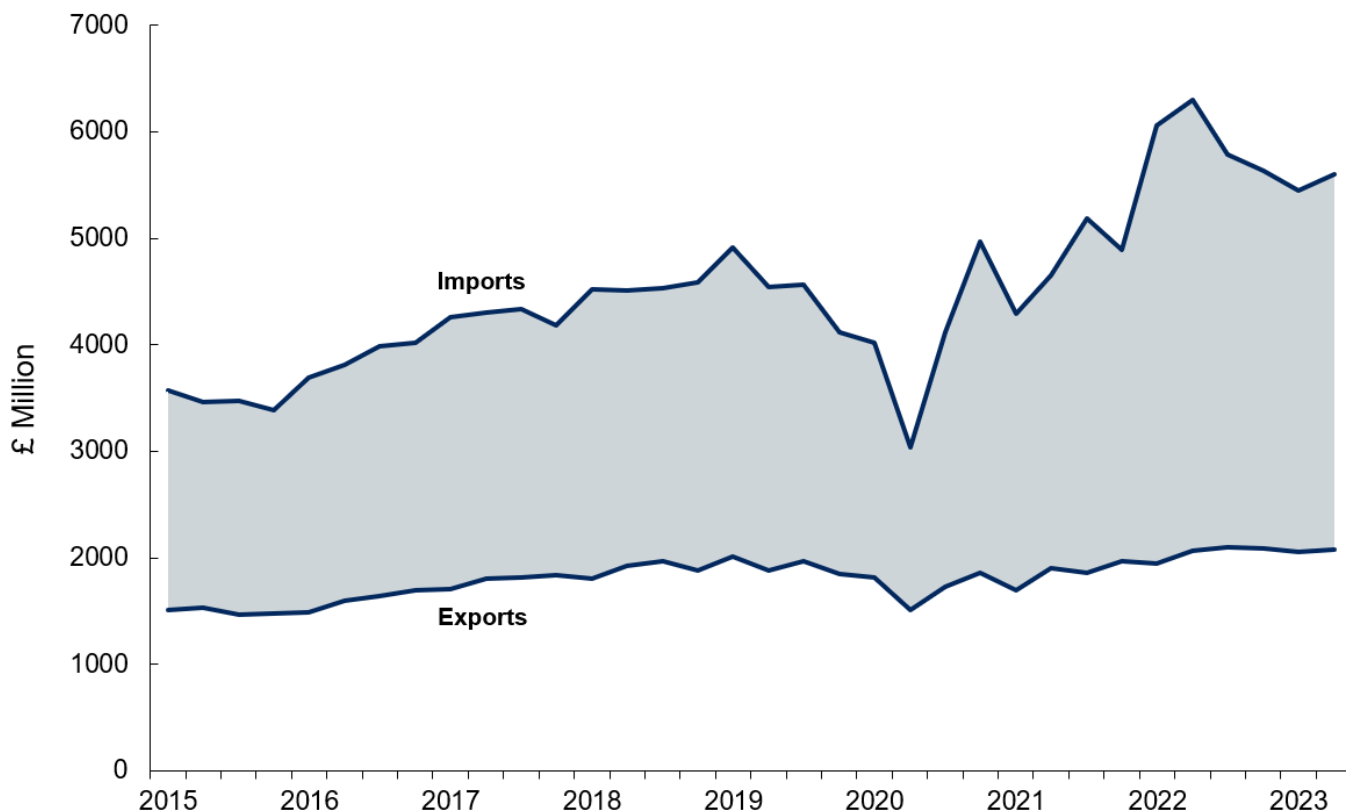
Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 11

- There was a **19.5% decrease** in concrete block deliveries in September 2023 compared to September 2022, according to the seasonally adjusted figures.
- This followed an 16.5% decrease in August 2023, compared to August 2022.
- The month-on-month change shows a **1.1% decrease** in September 2023.
- This followed a 4.9% decrease in August 2023, compared to July 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 **increased** by £155 million in Quarter 2 2023 compared to the previous quarter, **an increase** of 2.8%.
- **Exports** of construction materials **increased** by £16 million in Quarter 2 2023 compared to the previous quarter, **an increase** of 0.8%.
- As a result, between Quarter 2 2023 and Quarter 1 2023, the **quarterly trade deficit increased** by £139 million to £3,530 million, **an increase** of 4.1%.
- 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%.
- During the first half of the 2020, imports and exports of construction materials declined due to the Covid-19 pandemic, then returned to pre-pandemic level in Q3 2020.
- 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 3: 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 4: 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 <i>56%</i>	10,495 <i>44%</i>
Exports	5,014 <i>61%</i>	3,200 <i>39%</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 61%.

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

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

Top-5 Export Markets	£ million	Top-5 Import Markets	£ 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 19 October 2023 which was live from 2 to 15 October 2023. This release is in headline-only format, summarising information on all UK businesses.

Key points:

- Nearly a quarter (24%) of trading businesses reported turnover had decreased in September 2023 compared with the previous calendar month, down 3 percentage points from August 2023; in comparison 14% reported their turnover was higher, broadly stable over the same period.
- When looking ahead to November 2023, more than half (56%) of trading businesses expect their turnover to stay the same, while 17% reported that they expect their turnover to increase, both broadly stable with expectations for October 2023.
- More than a quarter (27%) of trading businesses reported an increase in the prices of goods or services bought in September 2023 compared with August 2023; in contrast, 1 in 10 (10%) reported an increase in the price of goods or services sold in September 2023, with both figures broadly stable when comparing August 2023 with July 2023.
- More than half (52%) of trading businesses were not considering raising prices in November 2023, the highest proportion of businesses to report this since the introduction of this question in April 2022; of those businesses that are considering raising prices, more than one in five (22%) reported energy prices as their main reason for doing so.
- More than one in six (17%) trading businesses reported their performance had increased in September 2023 compared with September 2022, broadly stable when comparing August 2023 with August 2022.
- In early October 2023, a quarter (25%) of trading businesses reported they expect their overall performance to increase over the next 12 months, up 3 percentage points from expectations in early September 2023, and the largest proportion reported since early May 2023.

Construction Output

The **Office for National Statistics** published estimates of construction output for [August 2023](#) on 12 October 2023.

Key points:

- Monthly construction output is estimated to have decreased 0.5% in volume terms in August 2023; this follows an upwardly revised decrease of 0.4% in July 2023, with the monthly value in level terms in August 2023 at £15,584 million.
- The decrease in monthly output came solely from a decrease in new work (1.5% fall), partially offset by an increase in repair and maintenance (1.0%) on the month.
- At the sector level, five out of the nine sectors saw a fall in August 2023, with the main contributors to the monthly decrease seen in private commercial and private new housing, which decreased 4.1% and 1.4%, respectively.
- Alongside the monthly decrease, construction output saw an increase of 0.9% in the three months to August 2023; this came from increases in both new work (0.9%), and repair and maintenance (0.9%).
- In line with the [National Accounts Revisions Policy](#), this release gives data for August 2023 for the first time and incorporates revisions for all periods; revisions up to June 2023 are consistent with our [Gross domestic product \(GDP\) quarterly national accounts, UK: April to June 2023 bulletin](#), published 29 September 2023.

Bank of England Summary of Business Conditions

The **Bank of England** published its most recent update to the [Agents' Summary of Business Conditions](#) on 21 September 2023, covering intelligence gathered between early-July and late August 2023.

Key points:

- Construction volumes fell further as demand weakened, costs remained elevated, and the availability of funding reduced.
- Housebuilders reduced openings of new sites and slowed building on existing sites as house sales slowed. Home improvement activity remained subdued.
- Many commercial real estate projects, such as warehousing and data centres, continued. But work on a growing number of projects had been slowed, and new projects were increasingly being postponed.
- There was still a lot of office refurbishment going on to increase energy efficiency and attract staff back to office working.
- Much public infrastructure work continued, but the recently announced delays to HS2 had raised concerns. Some local road and rail infrastructure projects had also been halted or delayed.
- Contacts expected further falls in construction activity for at least the coming six months, as demand weakened and projects were delayed or cancelled. Although costs were stabilising, they were expected to remain elevated.

Gross Domestic Product Estimate

The **Office for National Statistics** published estimates of GDP for [August 2023](#) on 12 October 2023.

Key points:

- Monthly real gross domestic product (GDP) is estimated to have grown by 0.2% in August 2023, following a fall of 0.6% in July 2023, revised down from a 0.5% fall in our previous publication.
- Looking at the broader picture, GDP increased by 0.3% in the three months to August 2023, with growth in all sectors.
- Services output rose by 0.4% in August 2023 and was the main contributor to the growth in GDP.
- Output in consumer-facing services fell by 0.6% in August 2023 after a fall of 0.2% in July 2023, revised down from no growth in our previous publication.
- Production output fell by 0.7% in August 2023 after falling by 1.1% in July 2023, revised down from a 0.7% fall in our previous publication.
- The construction sector fell by 0.5% in August 2023 after a fall of 0.4% in July 2023, revised up from a 0.5% fall 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 2023.

Key points:

- The mean GDP forecast for 2023 is 0.4%, up from 0.3% from the previous month's forecast.
- The mean GDP forecast for 2024 is 0.3%, down from 0.4% from the previous month's forecast.

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 Autumn 2023 [forecasts](#) for the construction sector in October 2023.

Key points:

- Total construction output rose by 6.2% in real terms in 2022, its second consecutive year of good growth after the pandemic-induced contraction in 2020. Output last year was 2.5% above its pre-pandemic level in 2019. Trends in the first half of 2023 have held up reasonably well, but the rest of the year is expected to be much more challenging for the industry and especially for the housing sectors as the impact of rate rises and elevated inflation negatively affect demand. Furthermore, the economic backdrop remains fragile, and uncertainty plagues the outlook. While a recession does not feature in the baseline view, GDP growth is likely to be tepid. As such, total construction output is projected to decline by 1.4% in 2023 and drop by a further 2.0% in 2024. They do expect some mixed fortunes over the coming 12-18 months across the sub-sectors, with the common theme of the residential sector bearing the brunt of the losses. It will take until 2025 for a meaningful positive position to return.
- The housebuilding sector faces several challenges in the near term, from faltering housing demand, stagnating economy, soaring mortgage rates and stubborn inflationary pressures which are pushing up building material costs. While total housing output recorded a healthy outturn in 2022 at £46.2bn it had been largely supported by government-backed demand-side initiatives (such as the temporary suspension of Stamp Duty, publicly supported 95% mortgages and the Help to Buy scheme). The dismantling of this support over the last year has had severe consequences for the housebuilding sector.
- We expect the Repair, Maintenance & Improvement (RM&I) sector to stay weak in 2023 as private housing RM&I falters in the face of the economic stagnation and inflationary pressures that has beleaguered the wider housing sector while public housing RM&I fails to make any notable gains.
- Infrastructure was the sector least impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and was the strongest sector in 2021, growing by 28.1% to a new record of £27.9bn. Output was steady in 2022, falling by just 0.6% to £27.8bn. In the four quarters ending June 2023 output totalled £28.6bn, 3% above the previous four quarters. Infrastructure has held up better than expect and as such output is forecast post growth of just over 4% in 2023, but the weight of the economic backdrop will see modest growth of 0.3% in 2024 and just 2.2% in 2025.
- The very strong new orders figures for industrial construction in 2021 and 2022 are still having a positive residual impact on output in the sector this year, although growth will be much more moderate than the stellar 42% seen in 2022. However, weak economic performance this year and next, combined with the end of the Brexit-induced boom in demand for logistics facilities, is likely to lead to a fall in output in the sector in 2024. RICS Commercial Property Monitor supports this view, with the previously very buoyant industrial market weakening in recent months across all indicators. Relatively modest growth is expected to return from 2025 as general economic conditions improve.

- After six consecutive years of contraction, public non-residential output is finally expected to grow this year, by 2.6%. Output in the first seven months of this year was 6% up in real terms on the corresponding period of 2022, with the increase particularly strong in the agriculture & miscellaneous sub-sector.
- 2022 marked a 5th consecutive year of decline of output in the commercial sector, but the woes of this sector predate the pandemic. Indeed, the sector has struggled to recover from the 2008/09 financial crash and output currently stand at £21.8bn (2019 prices) compared with £39.3bn from the 2008 peak. More recently, the downward trend in output has paused, but the rally in indicators such as S&P Global/CIPS UK Construction Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) has recently stalled. That said, the September PMI survey, commercial construction stood out as a key uplifting segment, with office refurbishments helping prop up the sector. There are concerns this could be hindered by elevated interest rate hikes and surveys suggest a more subdued tone.

The **Construction Products Association** published their [Construction industry forecasts](#) for Autumn 2023 in October 2023.

Key points:

- According to the CPA's Autumn Forecasts, published today, construction output is expected to fall by 6.8% in 2023, similar to the 7.0% contraction forecast three months ago, before a further marginal fall of 0.3% in 2024. This is a revision down from the 0.7% growth forecast in the summer publication due to a weaker economic backdrop. Although UK interest rates are now likely to have reached a peak that is lower than previous expectations, it is now anticipated that they will remain at this level for longer, until 2025, due to stubborn inflation. Consequently, the UK economy is expected to flatline throughout 2024, holding back the recovery in major sectors of construction activity such as new build housing and repair, maintenance and improvement (rm&i) to 2025. Even in infrastructure, output is now expected to fall marginally as more roads projects appear likely to be pushed back or cancelled than anticipated only three months ago. Nevertheless, activity will remain near the current high levels due to work continuing on major projects already down on the ground.
- Private housing is both the largest construction sector and the sector forecast to be the worst affected by prevailing economic conditions this year. The sharp increase in mortgage rates since the end of last year has led to house builders reporting a 30-40% fall in demand and it has remained weak throughout Summer and early Autumn. Interest rates and mortgage rates are expected to remain high for longer and adversely affect demand throughout next year. As a result, after a 19.0% fall in completions and output this year, completions are forecast to remain flat in 2024 with no growth until 2025. Whilst the balance of risks to private housing clearly remains on the downside, a positive policy stimulus in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement would help demand to start to recover next year.
- Private housing rm&i is the second-largest construction sector and activity continues to be on a general downward trend after the 'race for space' spike between 2020 and 2022. Output is forecast to fall 11.0% this year. As with new build housing, the weak economic backdrop in 2024 will limit the pace of recovery, with a weaker housing market reducing transactions-related improvements and a notable fall in new planning applications for larger improvements work. This will keep construction output flat in 2024, which is a downgrade from the 2.0% growth expected in the Summer Forecasts. Energy-efficiency

retrofit – primarily insulation and solar photovoltaic work – continues to remain strong; however, whilst there are government programmes such as ECO4, the Great British Insulation Scheme and the Boiler Upgrade Scheme in place, there are still questions over their delivery.

- In the third-largest sector, infrastructure activity remains strong down on the ground due to work continuing on major projects such as HS2 between Old Oak Common and Birmingham, the Thames Tideway Tunnel and Hinkley Point C. Unfortunately however, following on from earlier announcements of delays to major road and rail schemes, it appears that more roads projects are being pushed back or cancelled than anticipated in the forecasts in Summer, whilst new projects continue to be delayed due to strong cost escalation and viability concerns. The impact of the government's decision to cancel HS2 between Birmingham and Manchester is limited as the majority of this work was planned to occur beyond the forecast period. Similarly, the £36 billion of local and regional projects around the country announced by the Prime Minister are unlikely to start before 2029. Infrastructure output is expected to fall by 0.5% in 2023, from its current high level, before remaining broadly flat (-0.1%) in 2024.

Manufacturing

The latest **Index of Production** data for August 2023 were [published](#) on 12 October 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 August 2023 with August 2022, **output decreased by 7.2%**.
- When comparing August 2023 with July 2023, **output decreased by 2.9%**.

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 August 2023 with August 2022, **output decreased by 18.7%**.
- When comparing August 2023 with July 2023, **output decreased by 1.7%**.

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 June 2023.

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	66%
Quarterly Sand and Gravel – Land Won	4, 5 & 6	66%
Quarterly Sand and Gravel – Marine Dredged	4, 5 & 6	71%
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	98%

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 December 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](#).

Accreditation of Official Statistics

Accredited official statistics were previously referred as National Statistics. Our statistical practice is regulated by the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR).

These accredited official statistics were independently [reviewed](#) by the Office for Statistics Regulation in 2011. They comply with the standards of trustworthiness, quality and value in the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#) and should be labelled ‘accredited official statistics’.

You are welcome to contact us directly with any comments about how we meet these standards. Alternatively, you can contact OSR by emailing regulation@statistics.gov.uk or via the OSR website.

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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