



## Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components

Commentary, December 2023

Coverage: UK and Great Britain

Geographical Area: Country, region and county

10 January 2023

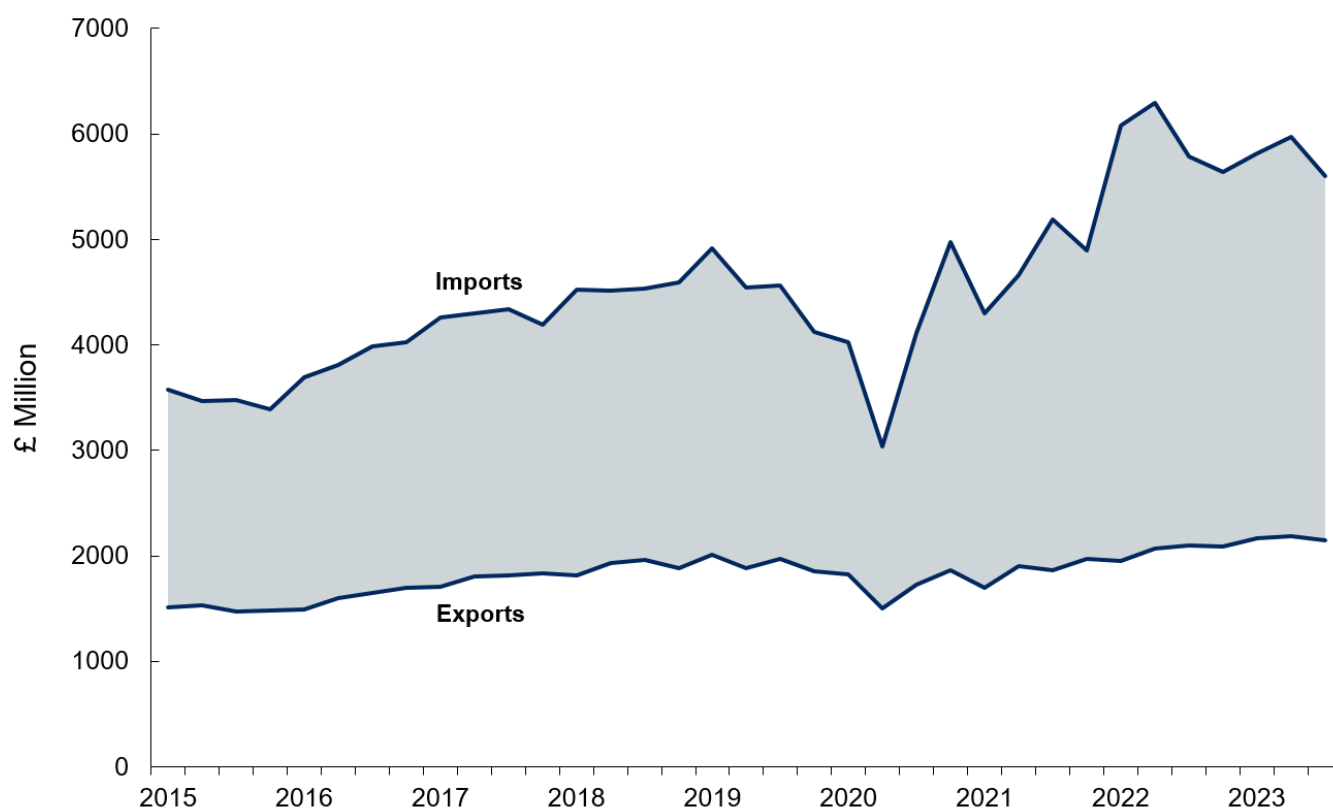
Accredited Official Statistics

### Headline Findings

- **Imports** of construction materials **decreased** by £370 million in Quarter 3 2023 compared to the previous quarter, a **decrease** of 6.2%.
- **Exports** of construction materials **decreased** by £45 million in Quarter 3 2023 compared to the previous quarter, a **decrease** of 2.1%.
- The material price index for 'All Work' **decreased by 2.3%** in November 2023 compared to the same month the previous year.

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

Value in pounds sterling



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

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# Introduction

The Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components: January 2024 edition, published on 7<sup>th</sup> February, will be based on a new and improved production process. The new process will produce a new table format aiming to enhance user experience and align with the [UK accessibility legislation for the public sector](#). The new format, which is similar to Table 11a, 11b, 11c and 12a, 12b, 12c, will facilitate user data processing and handling. For more information refer to the 'New format' tab of the table file.

This commentary accompanies the latest Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components data tables, published on the Building Materials and Components [web page](#) on 10<sup>th</sup> January 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	November 2022 – November 2023 (% change)	October 2023 – November 2023 (% change)
New Housing	-0.3	-0.8
Other New Work	-3.7	-0.3
Repair & Maintenance	-2.0	-0.7
All Work	-2.3	-0.4

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

- The material price index for **'All Work'** decreased by **2.3%** in November 2023 compared to the same month the previous year. This followed a decrease of 2.1% in October 2023 compared to October 2022.
- Looking at the year-on-year changes, the **'Other New Work'** price index had the largest decrease (-3.7%).
- The material price index for **'All Work'** decreased by **0.4%** in November 2023 compared to October 2023. This follows a decrease of 0.8% in October 2023 compared to September 2023.

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

Construction Materials	Year-on-year change
<b>Greatest price increases</b>	% increase
Pipes and fittings (flexible)	23.8
Doors & windows (metal)	17.5
Ready-mixed concrete	14.6
<b>Greatest price decreases</b>	% decrease
Concrete reinforcing bars	-24.4
Fabricated structural steel	-22.0
Gravel, sand, clays & kaolin (including aggregate levy)	-12.4

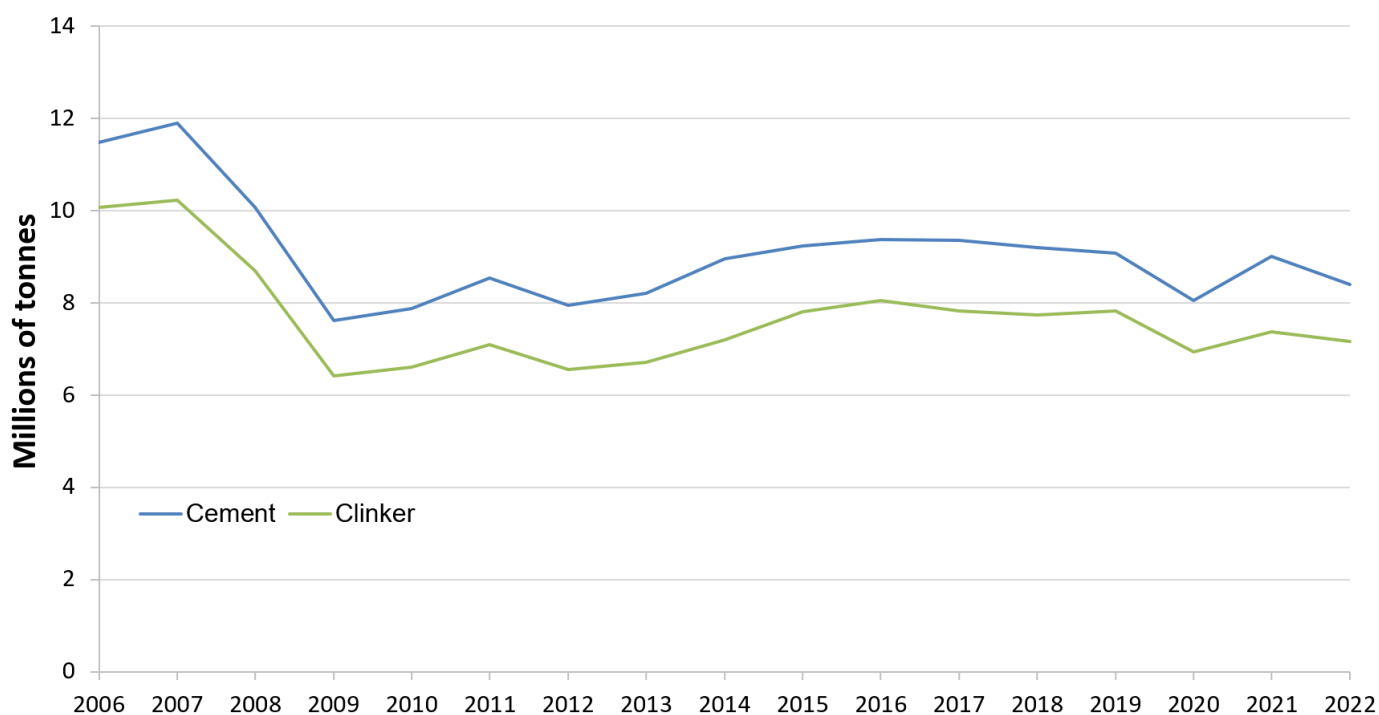
The aggregated construction material price indices hide larger price movements for some specific products and materials. The three largest increases and the three largest decreases are presented here.

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



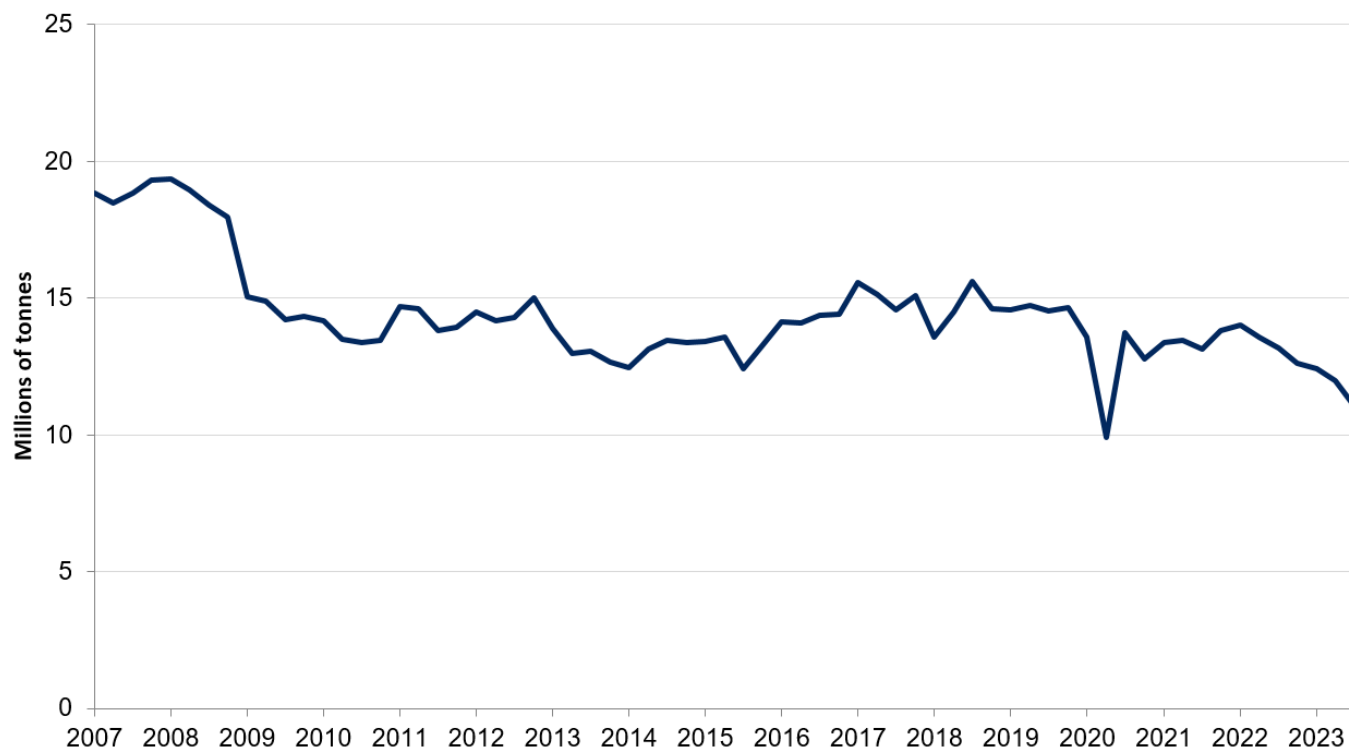
Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 8

- 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



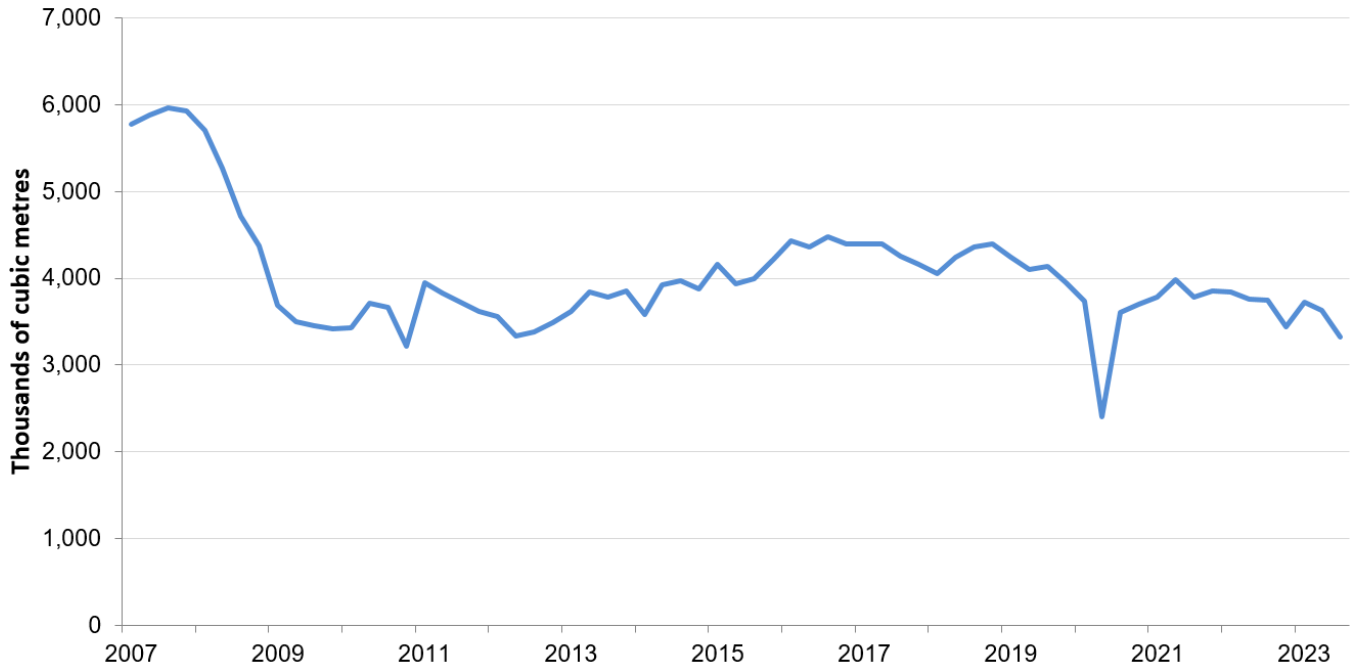
Source: *Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 4*

- Sales of sand & gravel **decreased** by **8.2%** in Quarter 3 2023 compared to Quarter 2 2023, according to the seasonally adjusted data. This followed a decrease of 1.7% 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 11.6% 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. After recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic, from 2022 the general trend has been of a decline.
- 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



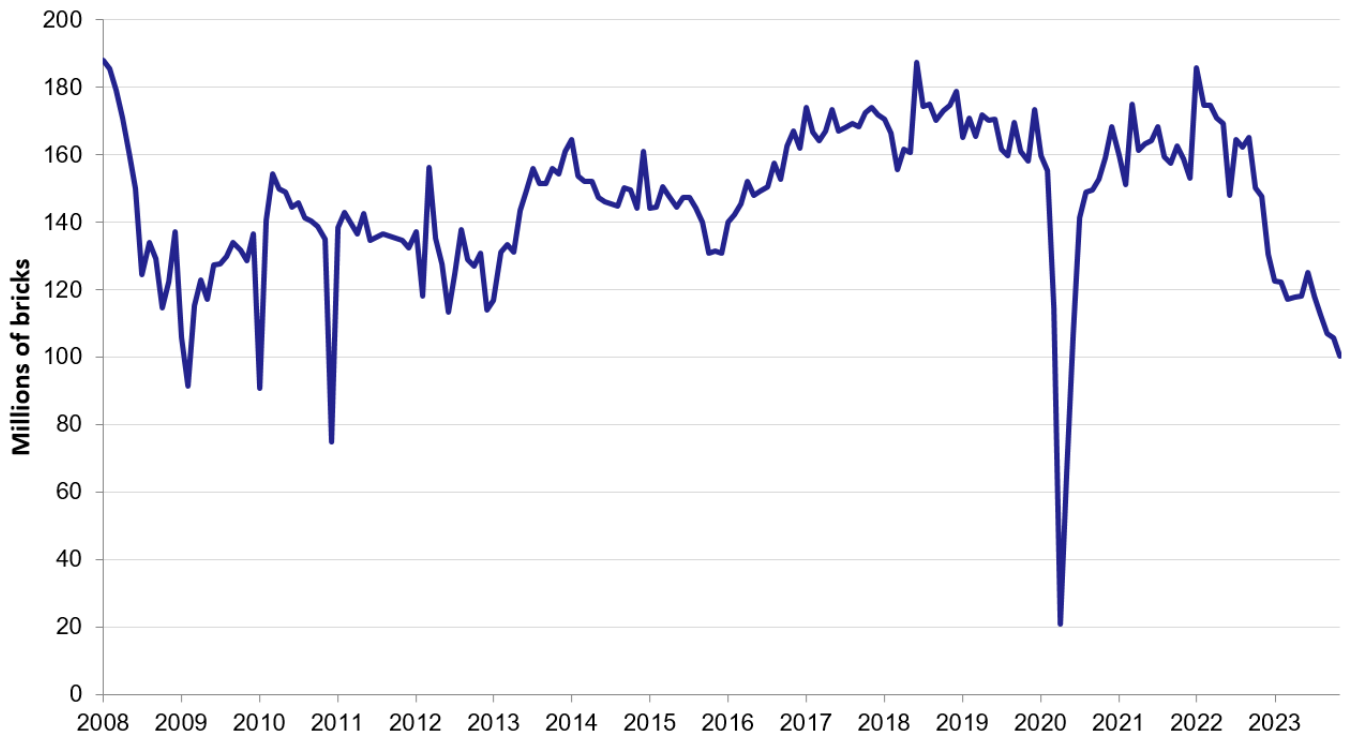
Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 13

- Ready-mixed concrete sales **decreased** by **8.6%** in Quarter 3 2023 compared to Quarter 2 2023, according to the seasonally adjusted data. This followed a 2.4% decrease in Quarter 2 2023 compared to Quarter 1 2023.
- Ready-mixed concrete sales in Quarter 3 2023 **decreased** by **11.5%** compared to Quarter 3 2022. This followed a 3.5% decrease in Quarter 2 2023 compared to Quarter 2 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. Since 2021 there has been a general declining trend.

## Bricks

**Chart 6: Seasonally Adjusted Deliveries of Bricks, GB**

Number of bricks



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

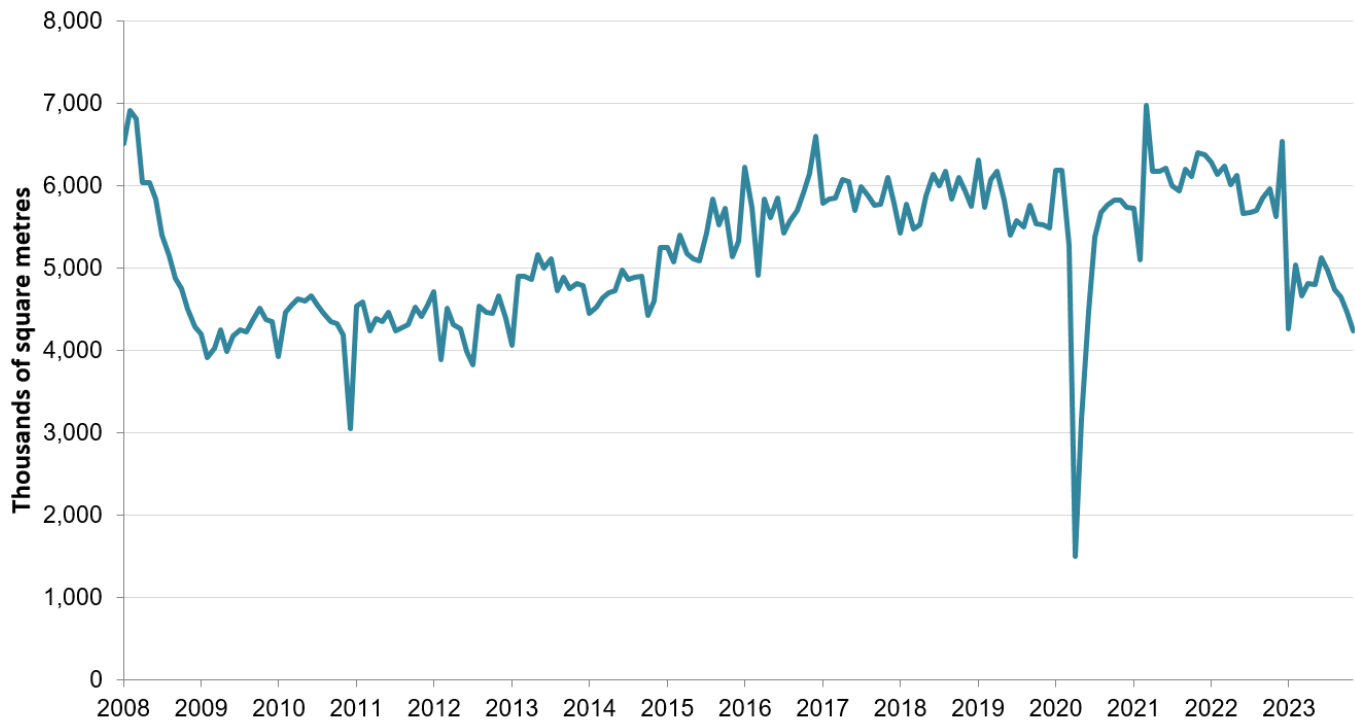
- There was a **32.0% decrease** in brick deliveries in November 2023 compared to November 2022, according to the seasonally adjusted figures.
- This followed a 29.6% decrease in October 2023, compared to October 2022.
- The month-on-month change shows a **5.2% decrease** in November 2023.
- This followed a 1.0% decrease in October 2023, compared to September 2023.
- Deliveries of bricks declined during the recession of 2008 to 2009. There was growth from 2013 until 2022, interrupted only by the plunge in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Since 2022 there has been a general declining trend.



## Blocks

**Chart 7: Seasonally Adjusted Deliveries of Concrete Blocks, GB**

Area of concrete blocks



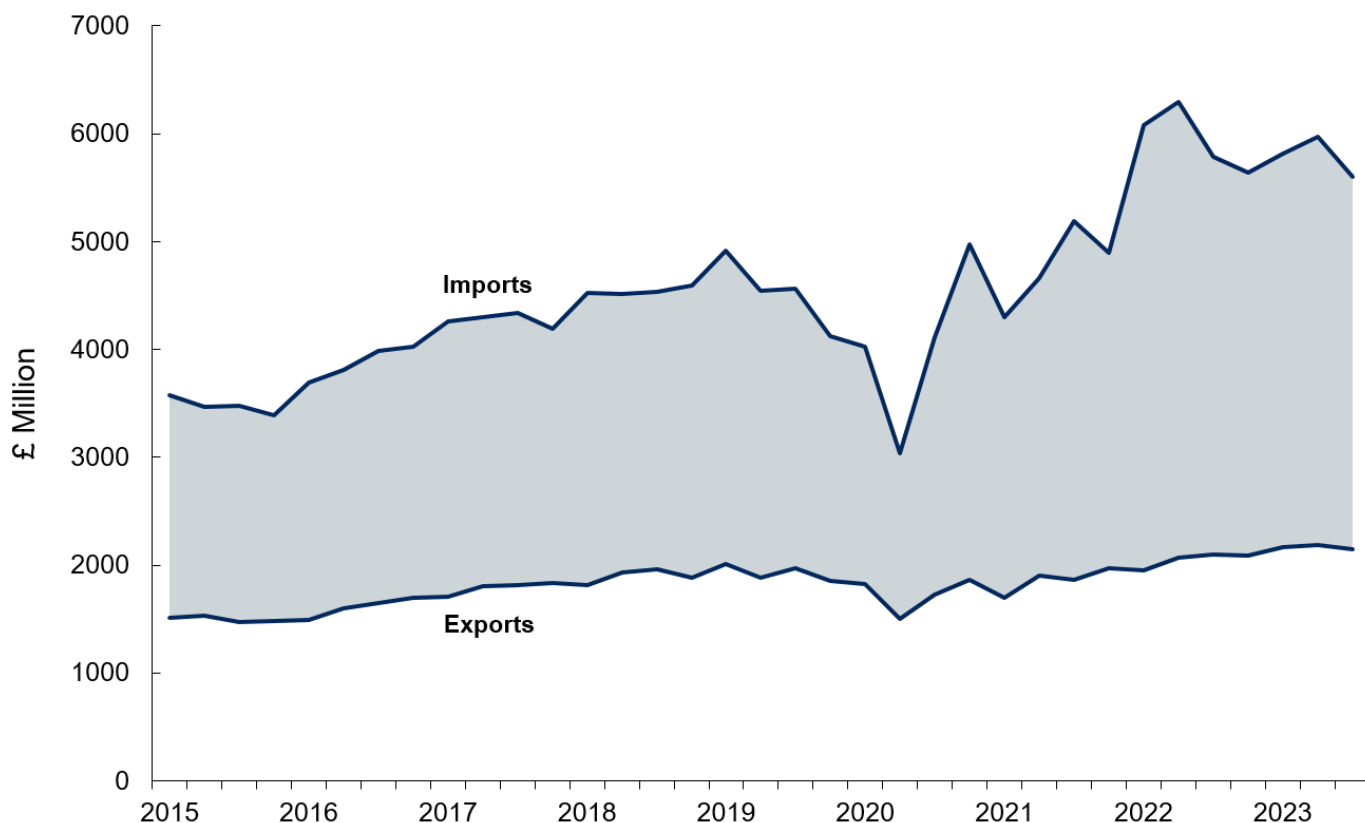
Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 11

- There was a **24.6% decrease** in concrete block deliveries in November 2023 compared to November 2022, according to the seasonally adjusted figures.
- This followed an 25.1% decrease in October 2023, compared to October 2022.
- The month-on-month change shows a **5.1% decrease** in November 2023.
- This followed a 4.0% decrease in October 2023, compared to September 2023.
- Concrete block deliveries declined during the recession of 2008 to 2009. The trend was one of growth from 2013 to 2020, interrupted only by the Covid-19 pandemic. From 2021 there has been a general declining trend.

## 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 £370 million in Quarter 3 2023 compared to the previous quarter, a **decrease** of 6.2%.
- **Exports** of construction materials **decreased** by £45 million in Quarter 3 2023 compared to the previous quarter, a **decrease** of 2.1%.
- As a result, between Quarter 3 2023 and Quarter 2 2023, the **quarterly trade deficit decreased** by £325 million to £3,454 million, a **decrease** of 8.6%.
- 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**

<b>Top-5 Exported Materials</b>	<i>£ million</i>	<b>Top-5 Imported Materials</b>	<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**

<b>Top-5 Export Markets</b>	<b>£ million</b>	<b>Top-5 Import Markets</b>	<b>£ million</b>
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 4 January 2024 which was live from 11 December to 24 December 2023. This edition is an headline only format, which summaries information on the UK businesses overall.

#### Key points:

- In November 2023, 73% of trading businesses with 10 or more employees reported that they were able to get the materials, goods or services they needed from within the UK without disruption, up 6 percentage points from October 2023; approximately 1 in 9 (12%) were unable to get the materials, goods or services they needed from within the UK, or had to change suppliers or find alternative solutions to do so, remaining broadly stable over the same period.
- In November 2023, 5% of businesses with 10 or more employees experienced global supply chain disruption; with 27% of those businesses reporting a shortage of materials as the main reason for the disruption.
- In Mid-December 2023, 85% of businesses reported they were not currently using artificial intelligence (AI); while 83% are not planning to adopt AI within the next three months, both broadly stable with late September 2023.
- Less than 1 in 10 (9%) businesses experienced worker shortages in Mid-December 2023, with 43% of those businesses reporting they were unable to meet demands as a result, both broadly stable compared with late November 2023.
- Less than 1 in 10 (7%) businesses reported that employee hourly wages had increased in November 2023 compared with October 2023, while 81% reported wages stayed the same.
- Approximately 4% of businesses were affected by industrial action in November 2023, the lowest proportion reported since this question was introduced in June 2022; of those businesses affected, almost a third (32%) reported their workforce had to change their working location.

## Construction Output

The **Office for National Statistics** published estimates of construction output for [October 2023](#) on 13 December 2023.

### *Key points:*

- Construction output saw a decrease of 0.3% in the three months to October 2023; this came solely from a decrease in new work (2.0% fall), as repair and maintenance increased by 2.2%.
- Monthly construction output is estimated to have decreased 0.5% in volume terms in October 2023; this follows an increase of 0.4% in September 2023, with the monthly value in level terms in October 2023 at £15,485 million.
- The decrease in monthly output came solely from a decrease in new work (1.7% fall), partially offset by an increase in repair and maintenance (1.3%) on the month.
- At the sector level, three out of the nine sectors saw a fall in October 2023, with the main contributors to the monthly decrease seen in private new housing and private commercial new work, which decreased 5.2% and 1.2%, respectively.
- Anecdotal evidence suggested that heavy rainfall and strong winds led to delays in planned work in October 2023; a high number of comments from businesses noted the negative effect of storms specifically.

## Bank of England Summary of Business Conditions

The **Bank of England** published its most recent update to the [Agents' Summary of Business Conditions](#) on 14 December 2023, covering intelligence gathered in the five weeks to mid-November 2023.

### *Key points:*

- Construction output volumes continue to fall. Some of the slack from lower new housing and commercial development is being taken up by repair and maintenance. Order books continue to weaken but contacts expect this to stabilise during 2024.
- Private and social house-building activity has slowed over the last year, by up to 30% in some locations. Higher price units in the South were impacted the most by increased mortgage costs. Social landlords carried out more remedial work and some private landlords invested to achieve higher rents.
- Commercial development has continued to slow due to current yields being too low. But cash-funded and pre-let projects continued. Existing large infrastructure projects remain one area of strength, with energy, water and defence contracts growing. Contacts cite planning and utility connections as key constraints.
- There is growing evidence of construction firms failing, causing delays.
- Commercial development is likely to contract further until confidence increases and rates of return improve. House builders expect current build rates to continue through 2024. The outlook for repair and maintenance work remains stable.

## Gross Domestic Product Estimate

The **Office for National Statistics** published estimates of GDP for [October 2023](#) on 13 December 2023.

### *Key points:*

- Monthly real gross domestic product (GDP) is estimated to have shown no growth in the three months to October 2023, compared with the three months to July 2023.
- Monthly GDP is estimated to have fallen by 0.3% in October 2023, following growth of 0.2% in September 2023.
- Services output fell by 0.2% in October 2023, driven by a fall in information and communication, and was the main contributor to the fall in growth in GDP; this follows growth of 0.2% in September 2023.
- Production output fell by 0.8% in October 2023, driven by widespread declines in manufacturing, after showing no growth in September 2023.

## Gross Domestic Product Forecast

The latest monthly **Consensus Economics** [forecast survey](#) (which uses an average of private sector forecasts) results were published in December 2023.

### *Key points:*

- The mean GDP forecast for 2023 is 0.5%, up from 0.4% in the previous month's forecast.
- The mean GDP forecast for 2024 is 0.3%, up from 0.2% in the previous month's forecast.

The **Office for Budget Responsibility** published a new [Economic and Fiscal Outlook](#) on 22 November 2023.

- GDP is expected to grow by 0.6% in 2023 (up from -0.2% in the March 2023 forecast) and to grow by 0.7% in 2024 and 1.4% in 2025.

## Construction Output Forecasts

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

### *Key points:*

- Total construction output rose by 6.5% in real terms in 2022, its second consecutive year of good growth after the pandemic-induced contraction in 2020. However, in 2023, we estimate growth to have flatlined, notably held back by the residential sector. Since 2021, the retail and maintenance sector has been the shining performer, registering solid growth. However, the new work stream has had a far more mixed performance. In 2023 significant weakness in the residential sector has offset positive growth across the other sub-sectors. Moving into 2024, the outlook remains challenged. The economic backdrop will remain

fragile, and uncertainty plagues the outlook. While a recession does not feature in our baseline view, GDP growth is likely to be tepid. As such, total construction output is projected to grow by just 0.3% in 2024 before picking up the pace to 2.8% in 2025. We expect the retail and maintenance sector to continue its upward trajectory and outpace the new work sector in 2024 and 2025.

- The fortunes of the housebuilding sector have waned as the post-pandemic rebound fizzled out. The headwinds presented by a lethargic economy, persistent inflationary pressures and elevated mortgage rates have halted the impressive growth momentum seen in 2021 and early 2022. Since then, both demand and supply side influences have held back housebuilding. Falling house prices and weak buyer interest alongside elevated materials' costs, labour shortages and the dismantling of government support such as the Help to Buy have dampened activity. As a result, total housing output is expected to experience a double-digit decline in output growth in 2023 to £40.1bn, 13% lower than its level in 2019.
- The Repair, Maintenance & Improvement (RM&I) sector performed better than expected in the first three quarters of 2023 so the overall growth outturn of 2.4% is stronger than previously anticipated. Although the headwinds faced by the sector in the form of inflationary pressures and falling house prices have eased, these remain enough of a challenge to lead to a small fall in output in 2024. The decline is primarily seen on the private side with the public sector supported by the urgent need to address building safety concerns. Stronger growth of about 3% per annum is seen over 2025-26.
- Infrastructure was the sector least impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and was the strongest sector in 2021, growing by 27.4% to a new record of £27.8bn. Output was steady in 2022, falling by just 0.6% to £27.6bn. In the four quarters ending September 2023 output totalled £29.2bn, 6.7% above the previous four quarters and by October 2023 annual growth had increased to 7.6%. Output for calendar year 2023 is estimated to have grown by 5.9%. Looking forward, the growth in output stalls in 2024, falling by a nominal -0.3%, before returning to moderate growth of 2% each of 2025 and 2026 to further record high levels. The forecast is summarised in the chart below and the table opposite.
- 2023 looks to have been a good year for the public non-residential sector after a long period of decline, with output up by 9% three-quarters on three quarters. If output in Q4 comes in around the quarterly average for 2023 then growth of between 6%-7% in real terms is on the cards. This increase has been driven in no small part by very robust expansion in the agriculture & miscellaneous sector, believed to be down to defence and prisons work.
- It was almost inevitable that the industrial construction sector would not be able to reproduce its stellar growth in 2022 in the following year. From a peak in the first quarter of 2023 output has subsided in the following two and the level of new orders is 15% down on an annualised basis. Thus, it is estimated that output in the sector will be flat in 2023, with very weak GDP growth in 2023 and 2024 pushing the sector into decline in the latter year. Marginal expansion should return in 2025, strengthening in 2026, largely on the back of good growth in the factory sub-sector.
- After five consecutive years of output decline in the commercial sector, we estimate 2023 will mark a year of long overdue positive growth. Challenges in this sector predate the pandemic and therefore the output expansion expected in 2023 is a welcomed reprieve

from the steady decline. Aside from the education and retail sub-sectors, the rest of the commercial sub-sectors are likely to see positive 2023 readings.

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, at the earliest, if they occur at all. Overall, 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 October 2023 were [published](#) on 13 December 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 October 2023 with October 2022, **output decreased by 12.1%**.
- When comparing October 2023 with September 2023, **output decreased by 1.4%**.

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

- When comparing October 2023 with October 2022, **output decreased by 18.6%**.
- When comparing October 2023 with September 2023, **output decreased by 1.5%**.

# 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](mailto: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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

<b>For latest data used</b>	<b>Bulletin table number</b>	<b>Response rate</b>
Quarterly Sand and Gravel	4, 5 & 6	80%
Quarterly Sand and Gravel – Land Won	4, 5 & 6	78%
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	100%
Monthly Bricks Final data	9 & 10	100%
Monthly Concrete Blocks	11 & 12	100%

## Definitions

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<b>Production</b>	Products completed and ready for dispatch
<b>Deliveries</b>	Sold products which have left the premises
<b>Stocks</b>	Manufacturer's stocks
<b>CIF</b>	Cost, insurance and freight (for more information on shipping terms, visit the <a href="#">HMRC website</a> )
<b>FOB</b>	Free on-board (for more information on shipping terms, visit the <a href="#">HMRC website</a> )
<b>Sand and gravel - land won</b>	Sand and gravel from pits and quarries, including that derived from beaches and rivers
<b>Sand and gravel - marine dredged</b>	Sand and gravel derived from seas and estuaries

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## Further information

### Future updates to these statistics

The next publication in this series will be on 7 February 2024.

### 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](mailto: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 to as National Statistics. Our statistical practice is regulated by the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR). OSR sets the standards of trustworthiness, quality and value in the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#) that all producers of official statistics should adhere to.

These accredited official statistics were independently [reviewed](#) by the Office for Statistics Regulation in 2011. They comply with the OSR 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](mailto: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

## Contact

- Responsible statistician: Pio Francesco Medolla
- Email: [materialstats@beis.gov.uk](mailto:materialstats@beis.gov.uk)
- Media enquiries: +44 (0)20 7215 2000
- Public enquiries: +44 (0)20 7215 2820



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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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