



Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components

Commentary, January 2024

Coverage: UK and Great Britain

Geographical Area: Country, region and county

7 February 2024

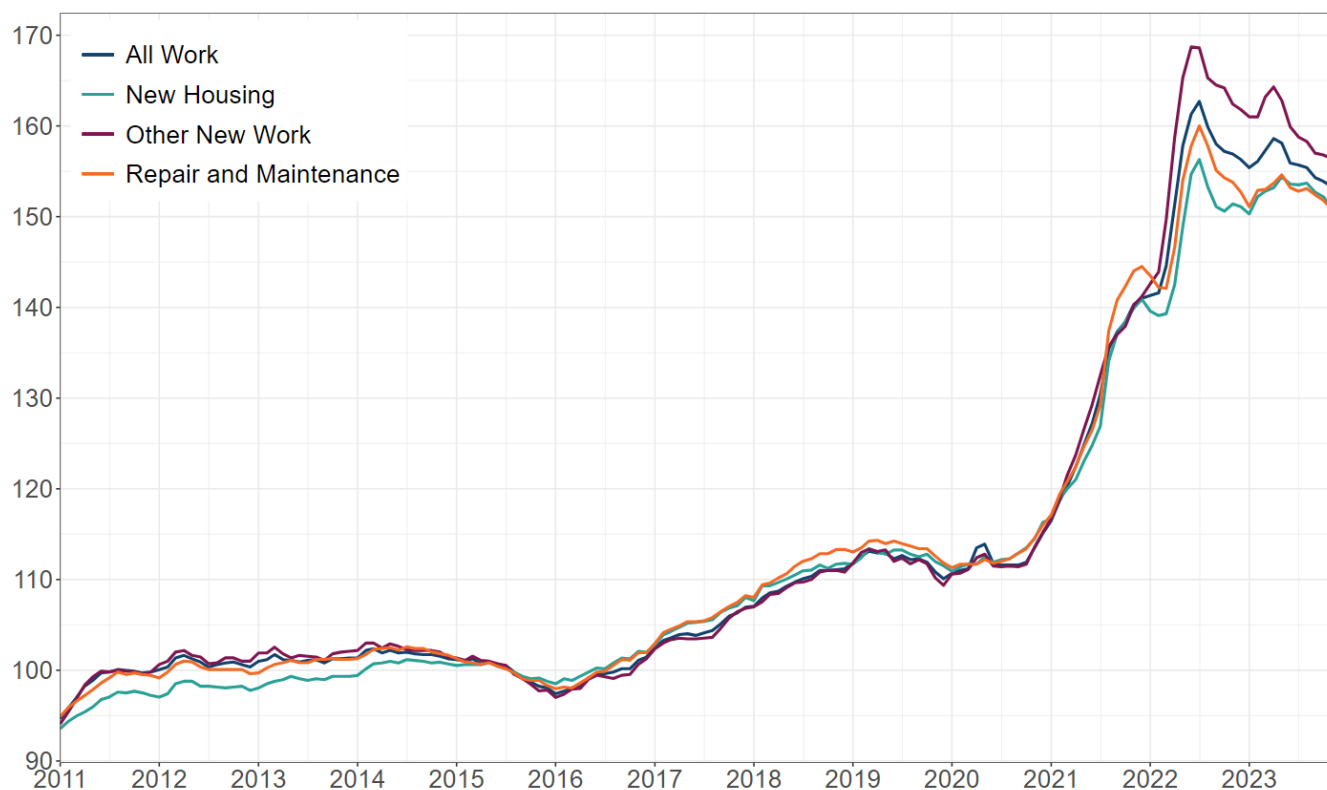
Accredited Official Statistics

Headline Findings

- The material price index for **'All Work'** decreased by **2.0%** in December 2023 compared to the same month the previous year.
- There was a **decrease of 32.5%** in **brick deliveries** in December 2023 compared to December 2022, according to the seasonally adjusted figures.
- There was a **decrease of 41.6%** in **blocks deliveries** in December 2023 compared to December 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

From this edition, the Building Materials and Components tables will be based on an improved production process, which generates tables in accessible format. If you have any comments or feedback on the new format, please contact materialstats@beis.gov.uk.

This commentary accompanies the latest Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components data tables, published on the Building Materials and Components [web page](#) on 7th February 2024. 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*)
- Concrete roofing tiles production, deliveries and stocks (quarterly, GB)
- Ready-mixed concrete deliveries (quarterly, UK)
- 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*)
- 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

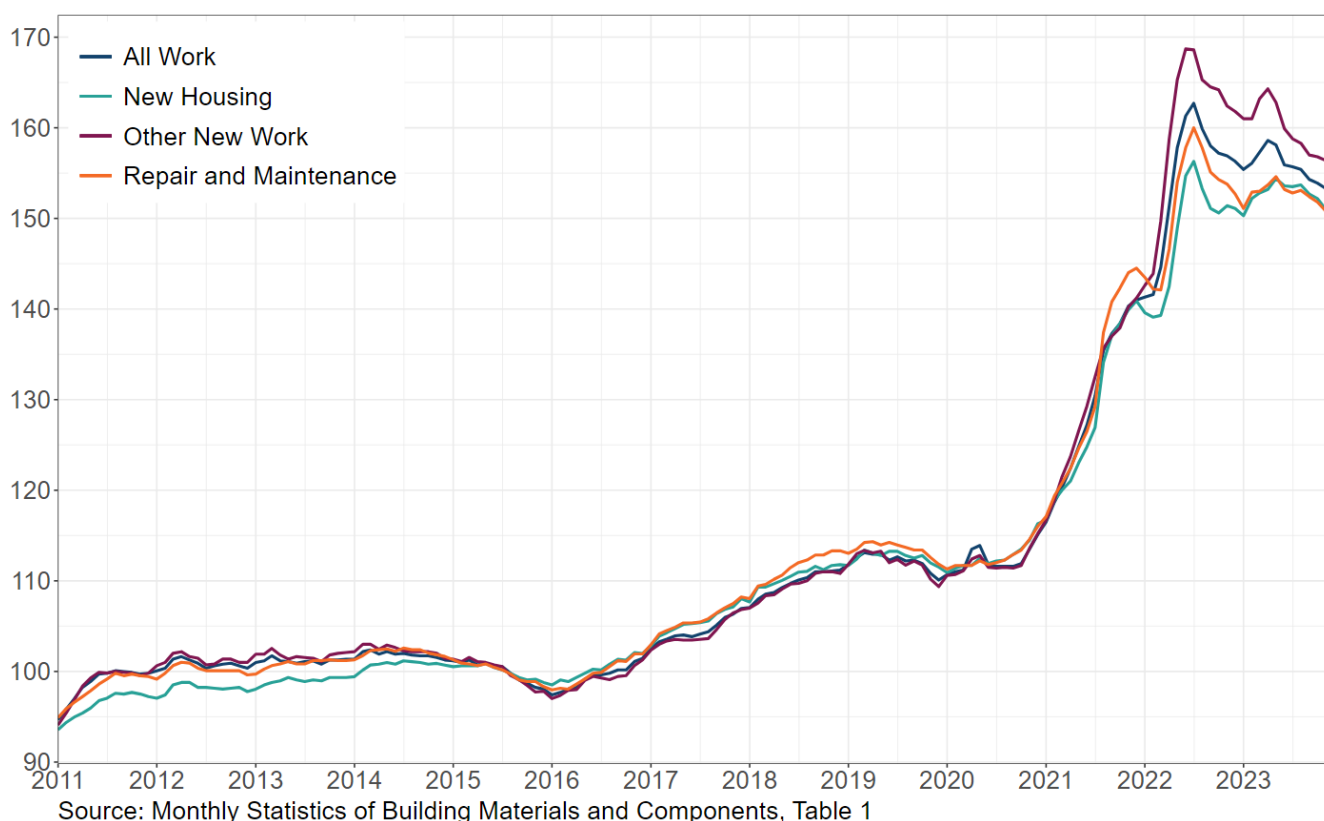


Table 1: Construction material price indices, year-on-year and month-on-month percentage change.

Material price indices	December 2022 – December 2023 (% change)	November 2023 – December 2023 (% change)
New Housing	0.4	0.5
Other New Work	-3.8	-0.5
Repair & Maintenance	-0.8	0.5
All Work	-2.0	-0.1

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

- The material price index for **'All Work'** decreased by **2.0%** in December 2023 compared to the same month the previous year. This followed a decrease of 2.3% in November 2023 compared to November 2022.
- Looking at the year-on-year changes, the **'Other New Work'** price index had the largest decrease (-3.8%).
- The material price index for **'All Work'** decreased by **0.1%** in December 2023 compared to November 2023. This follows a decrease of 0.4% in November 2023 compared to October 2023.

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

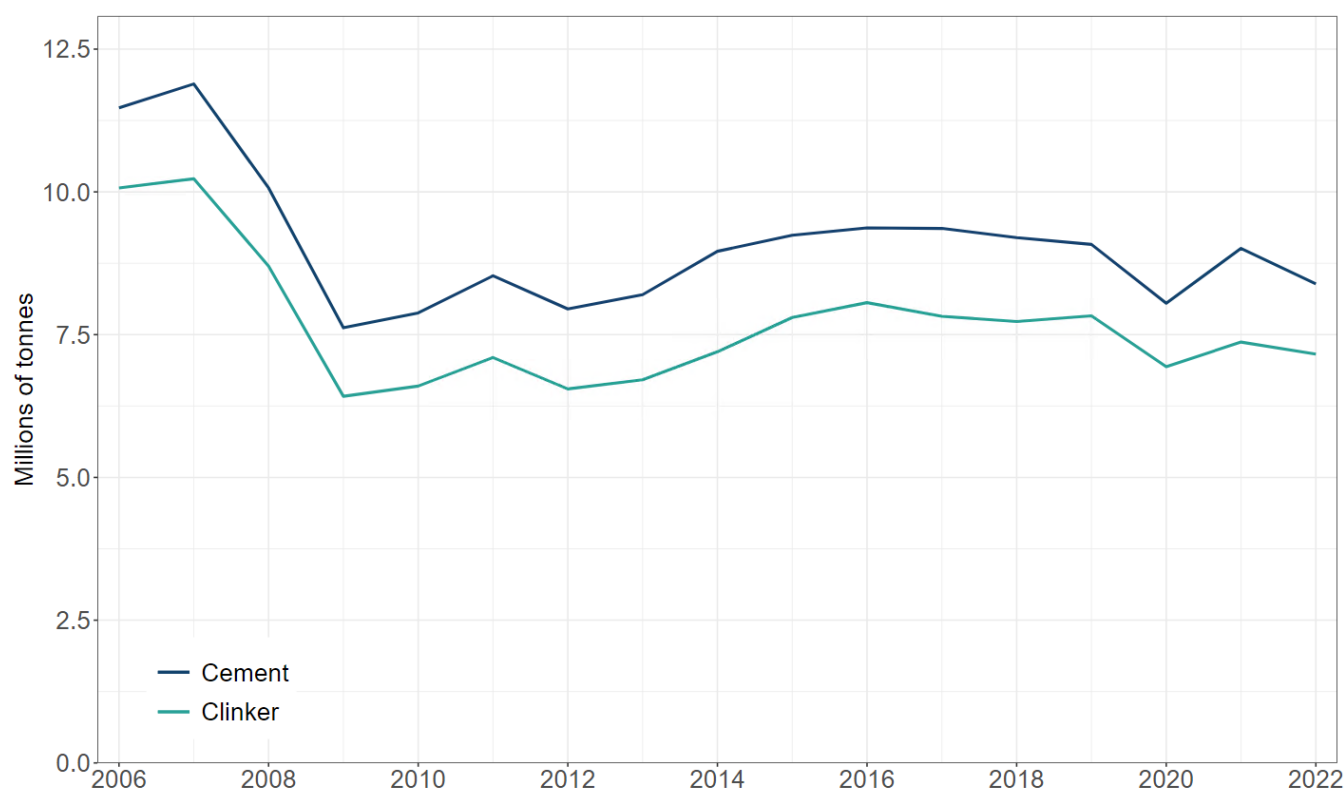
Construction Materials	Year-on-year change
Greatest price increases	% increase
Pipes and fittings (flexible)	22.3
Doors & windows (metal)	18.2
Ready-mixed concrete	13.4
Greatest price decreases	% decrease
Concrete reinforcing bars	-22.7
Fabricated structural steel	-18.2
Gravel, sand, clays & kaolin (including aggregate levy)	-10.3

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



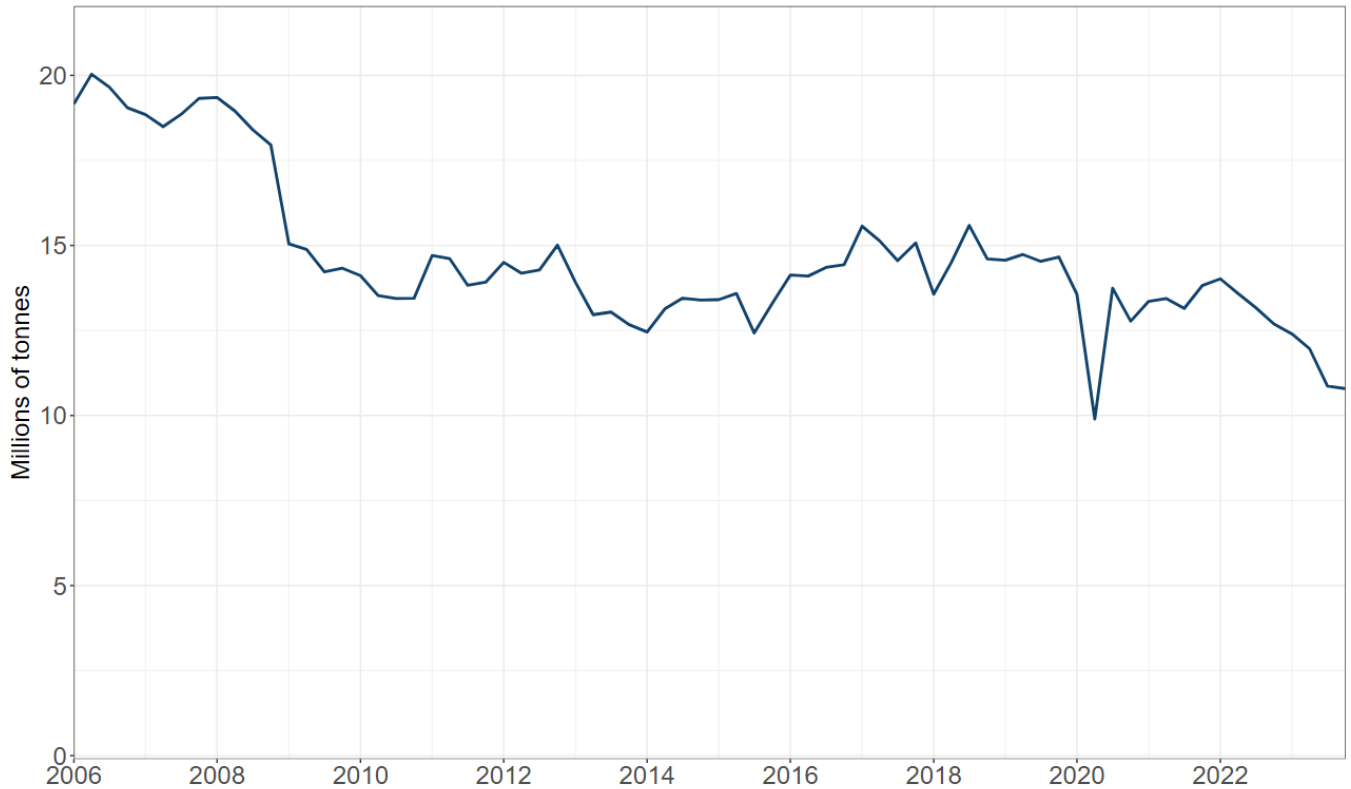
Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 8

- 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 compared to 2020. 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



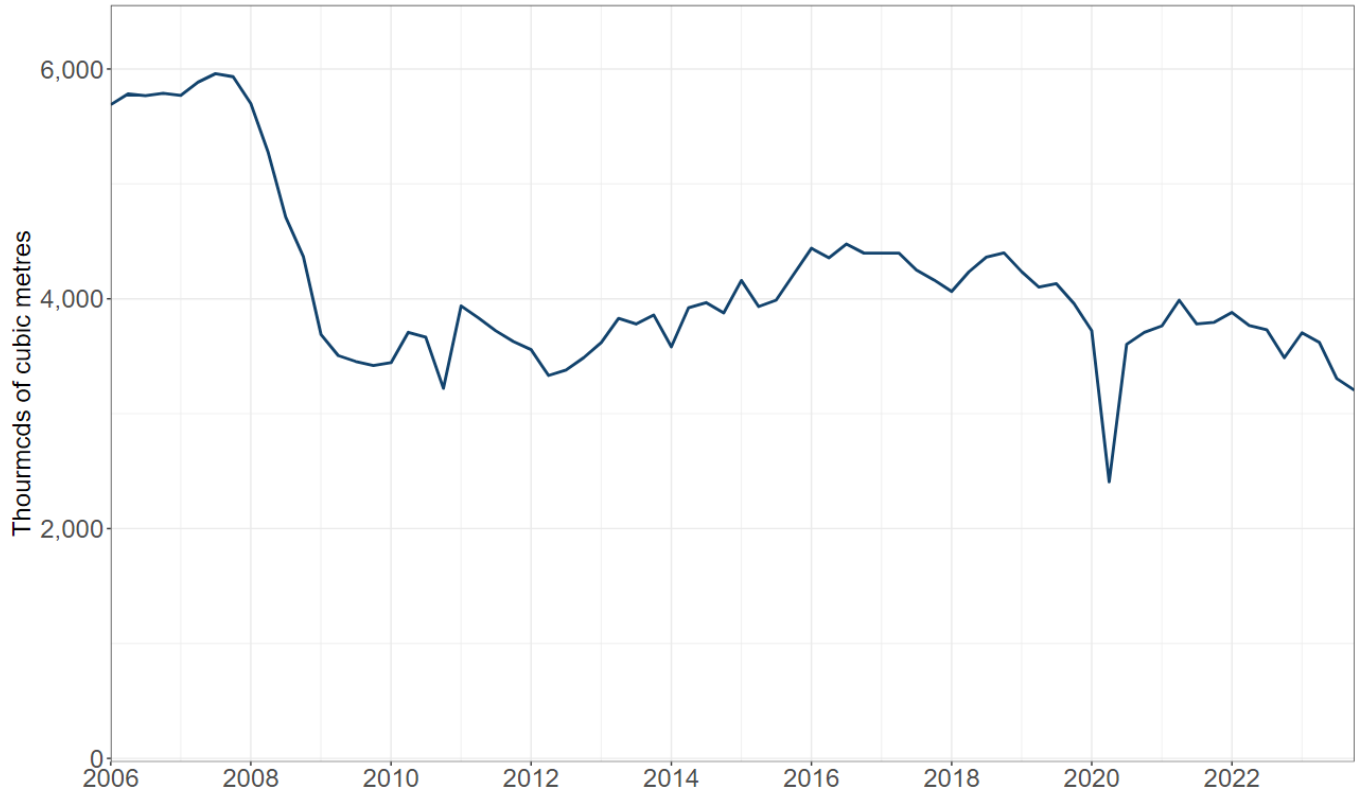
Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 4

- Sales of sand & gravel **decreased by 0.7%** in Quarter 4 2023 compared to Quarter 3 2023, according to the seasonally adjusted data. This follows a decrease of 9.2% in Quarter 3 2023 compared to Quarter 2 2023.
- Comparing year-on-year changes, Quarter 4 2023 sales have **decreased by 15.0%** compared to Quarter 4 2022. This follows a decrease of 17.5% in Quarter 3 2023 compared with Quarter 3 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.

Concrete

Chart 5: Seasonally Adjusted Sales of Ready-Mixed Concrete, GB

Volume of concrete

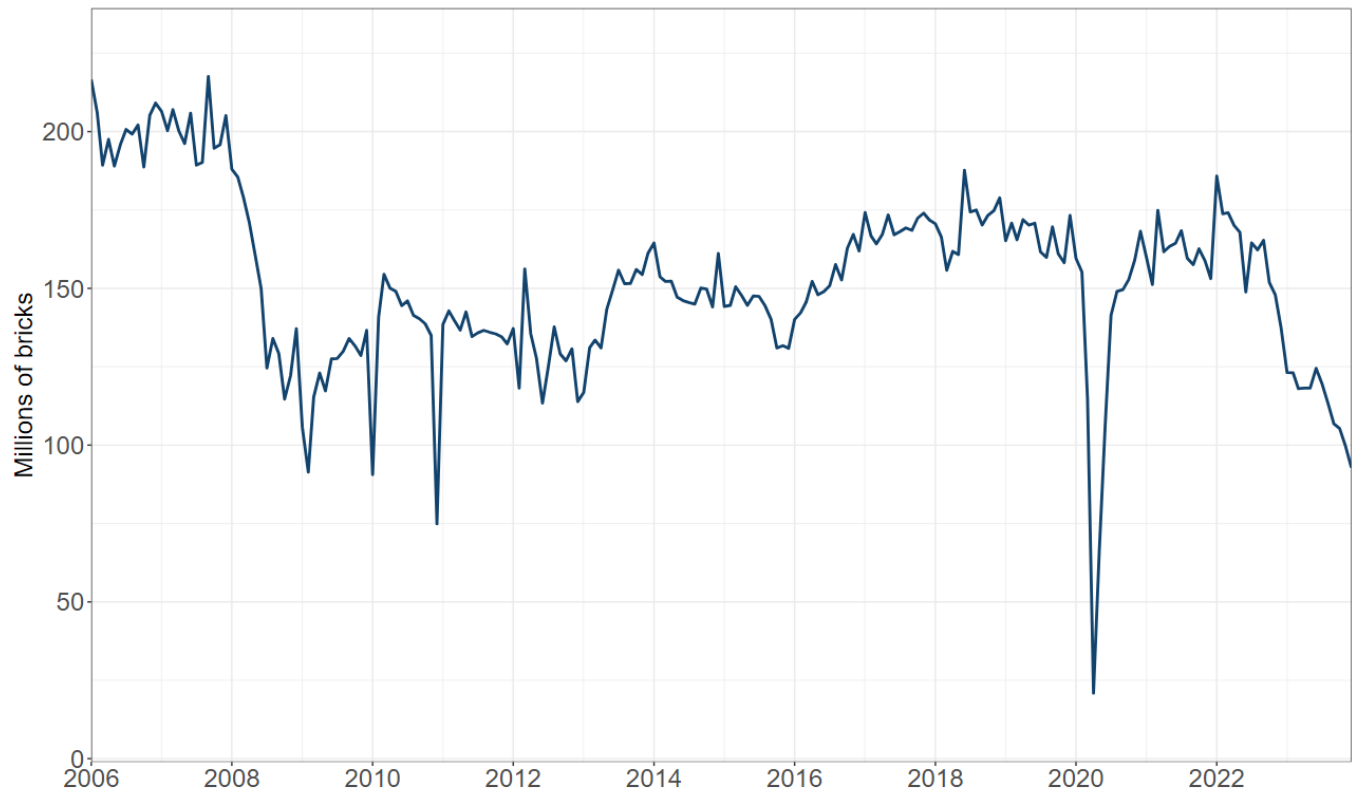


- Ready-mixed concrete sales **decreased by 3.1%** in Quarter 4 2023 compared to Quarter 3 2023, according to the seasonally adjusted data. This follows a decrease of 8.7% in Quarter 3 2023 compared to Quarter 2 2023.
- Looking at the year-on-year changes, sales in Quarter 4 2023 have **decreased by 8.1%** compared to Quarter 4 2022. This follows a decrease of 11.4% in Quarter 3 2023 compared to Quarter 3 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 declining trend.

Bricks

Chart 6: Seasonally Adjusted Deliveries of Bricks, GB

Number of bricks



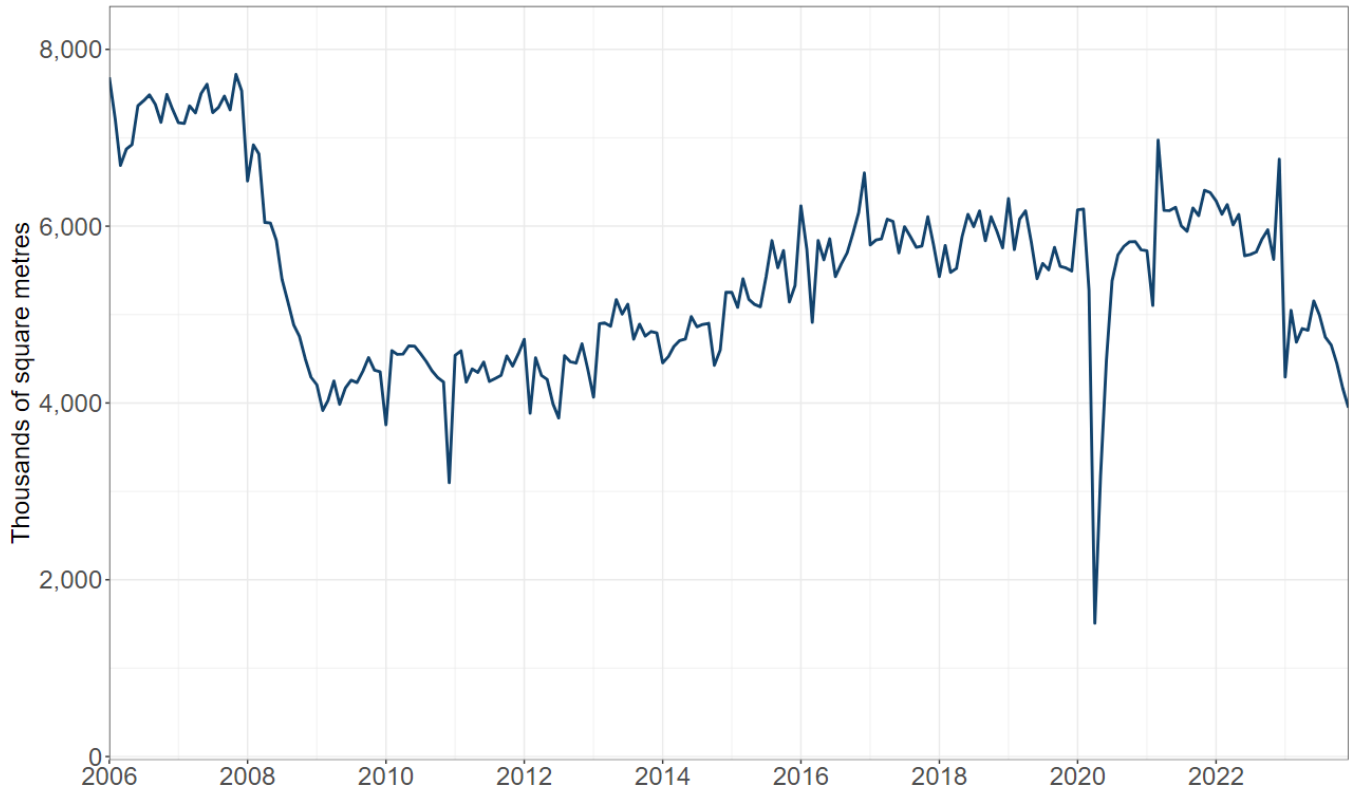
Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 9

- There was a **decrease of 32.5%** in brick deliveries in December 2023 compared to December 2022, according to the seasonally adjusted figures.
- This follows a decrease of 32.7% in November 2023, compared to November 2022.
- Looking at the month-on-month comparison, there was a **decrease of 6.8%** in bricks deliveries in December 2023.
- This follows a decrease of 5.4% in November 2023 compared to October 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

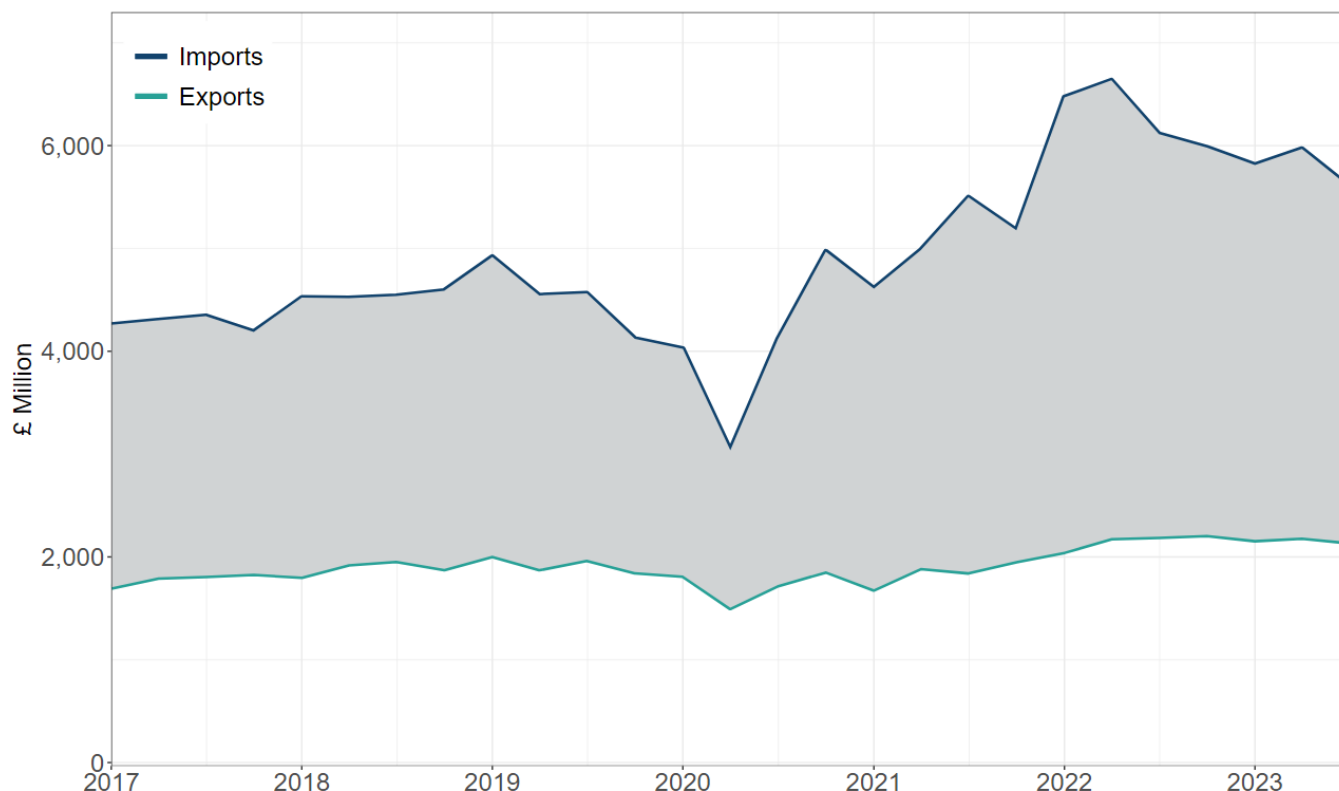


Source: Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components, Table 11

- There was a **decrease of 41.6%** in blocks deliveries in December 2023 compared to December 2022, according to the seasonally adjusted figures.
- This follows a decrease of 25.9% in November 2023, compared to November 2022.
- Looking at the month-on-month comparison, there was a **decrease of 5.2%** in blocks deliveries in December 2023.
- This follows a decrease of 6.3% in November 2023 compared to October 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 13

- **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%**.
- Looking at the year-on-year changes in **2022**, imports of construction materials **increased by 24.3%** compared to 2021, from £20,265 million to £25,196 million.
- In the same period exports of construction materials **increased by 17.0%** compared to 2021, from £7,394 million to £8,650 million.
- In **2022**, the annual trade deficit widened by £3,676 million compared to 2021, from £12,870 million to £16,547 million, **an increase of 28.6%**.
- 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	947	Electrical Wires	2,811
Paints & Varnishes	869	Sawn Wood > 6mm thick	1,326
Lamps & Fittings	411	Lamps & Fittings	1,204
Air Conditioning Equipment	411	Builders Ironmongery	954
Plastic Pipes	392	Air Conditioning Equipment	941

The top five exported materials in 2022 accounted for 35% of total construction material exports.

The top five imported construction materials in 2022 accounted for 29% 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	13,765 <i>55%</i>	11,432 <i>45%</i>
Exports	5,267 <i>61%</i>	3,383 <i>39%</i>

Compared to 2019, prior to the UK's withdrawal from the European Union and the COVID-19 pandemic, the share of total exports going to the EU was 62%, whilst the share of total imports coming from the EU was 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	1,527	China	5,496
USA	923	Germany	2,341
Germany	796	Italy	1,395
Netherlands	688	Spain	1,356
France	589	Turkey	1,246

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 47% of total construction materials imports in 2022. Around 22% 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 25 January 2023 which was live from 8 January to 21 January 2024. This section summaries information on the UK construction businesses.

Key points:

- Weighted by count, 26.2% of construction businesses currently trading reported lower turnover in December 2023 compared to November 2023, 50.8% reported their turnover stayed the same, whilst 11.4% reported higher turnover. The all industries averages were 28.7%, 48.2% and 14.3%, respectively.
- Weighted by count, 11.7% of construction businesses currently trading expect their turnover to decrease in February 2024, 59.1% expect their turnover to stay the same whilst 11.7% expect their turnover to increase. The all industries averages were 14.2%, 52.7% and 18.3%, respectively.
- Weighted by count, 13.6% of construction businesses currently trading reported an increase in the prices of goods or services they sold in December 2023 when compared with November 2023, 24.0% reported an increase in the prices of goods or services they bought. The all industries averages were 10.1% and 22.9%, respectively.
- Weighted by count, 20.4% of construction businesses not permanently stopped trading expect to raise prices in February 2024, 50.4% expect prices to stay the same, whilst 1.6% expect prices to decrease. The all industries averages were 17.2%, 57.4% and 1.8%, respectively.

Construction Output

The **Office for National Statistics** published estimates of construction output for [November 2023](#) on 12 January 2024.

Key points:

- Monthly Construction output saw a decrease of 0.6% in the three months to November 2023; this came solely from a decrease in new work (3.6% fall), as repair and maintenance increased by 3.8%.
- Monthly construction output is estimated to have decreased 0.2% in volume terms in November 2023; this follows an upwardly revised decrease of 0.4% in October 2023, with the monthly value in level terms in November 2023 at £15,571 million.
- The decrease in monthly output came solely from a decrease in new work (2.0% fall), as repair and maintenance increased by (2.1%).
- At the sector level, three out of the nine sectors saw a fall in November 2023, with the main contributors to the monthly decrease seen in private new housing and infrastructure new work, which decreased 3.9% and 2.0%, respectively.
- Anecdotal evidence suggested effects of adverse weather, including heavy rainfall and strong winds in November 2023, led to delays in planned work.

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 [November 2023](#) on 12 January 2024.

Key points:

- Monthly Real gross domestic product (GDP) is estimated to have fallen by 0.2% in the three months to November 2023, compared with the three months to August 2023.
- Monthly GDP is estimated to have grown by 0.3% in November 2023, following an unrevised fall of 0.3% in October 2023.
- Services output grew by 0.4% in November 2023 and was the main contributor to the monthly growth in GDP; this follows a fall of 0.1% in October 2023 (revised up from a 0.2% fall in our previous publication).
- Production output grew by 0.3% in November 2023, following a fall of 1.3% in October (revised down from a 0.8% 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 January 2024.

Key points:

- The mean GDP forecast for 2024 is 0.2%, down from 0.3% in the previous month's forecast.
- The mean GDP forecast for 2025 is 1.0%, unchanged from 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 2024 [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.

The **Construction Products Association** published their [Construction industry forecasts](#) for Winter 2024 in January 2024.

Key points:

- According to the Construction Products Association's Winter Forecasts, published on 29 January 2024, construction output is forecast to fall by 2.1% this year due to falls in private housing new build and repair, maintenance and improvement (rm&i) - the two largest construction sectors. The CPA forecasts that construction output will rise by 2.0% in 2025 in line with falling interest rates and a general economic recovery, which, in turn, could ease challenges in the housing and rm&i sectors. Recent disruptions in the Red Sea, however, have been identified as a key risk to the forecasts, potentially leading to supply issues such as delays and accelerating cost inflation.
- Private housing - the largest construction sector - suffered a double-digit fall last year after a spike in mortgage rates hit housing market demand. Consequently, many house builders have reported a fall of around 25-35% in demand, in addition to the regulatory issues that smaller house builders continue to face in particular around planning, as well as water and nutrient neutrality. The lagged effect of higher mortgage rates is likely to continue to weigh upon property transactions this year with private housing output expected to fall by a further 4.0%. Looking to next year, a gradual fall in interest rates should boost demand with private housing output expected to rise by 4.0%. This doesn't imply a speedy recovery however, as interest and mortgage rates are not expected to return to the record lows seen as recently as 2021 anytime soon. The lack of a government policy stimulus to help overcome high deposit and mortgage payment requirements, also means the recent peaks in housebuilding from 2022 are unlikely to be seen again until at least the end of the decade.
- Private housing rm&i is the second-largest construction sector and activity continues to be on a general downward trend. The rising cost of living has hit discretionary household improvements spending. In addition, fewer property transactions last year led to a decline in refurbishment activity from new homeowners who typically make cosmetic improvements within the first 6-9 months of moving in. Smaller project work is likely to continue to remain flat in the first half of this year as household spending remains tight, whilst the continued fall in property transactions in the first half of this year is likely to hit larger project work for the remainder of 2024. This is likely to be partially offset though by strong activity on energy-efficiency retrofit such as insulation and solar photovoltaic work. Overall, private housing rm&i output is expected to fall by 4.0% in 2024 before growth of 3.0% in 2025.
- In infrastructure, which is the third-largest construction sector, activity remains strong down on the ground. Work continues apace on HS2 Phase One despite the most recent cost increases, as well as on Hinkley Point C and the Thames Tideway Tunnel. Frameworks activity in the regulated sectors of roads, rail, water and electricity provides sustained levels of activity in the infrastructure sector too. Concerns remain, however, over pauses and delays to National Highways projects, as well as increasing uncertainty on the deliverability of plans in the water sector to deal with water quality issues through increased capital expenditure. Furthermore, at a local level, councils continue to face financial constraints and despite government announcing £8.3 billion of funding for potholes, resurfacing and roads projects to 2034, there is little evidence to suggest that this will lead to any uplift over the forecast period. As a result, overall, infrastructure output is expected to fall by 0.5% in 2024, a third successive marginal fall in output, before rising by 1.2% in 2025.

Manufacturing

The latest **Index of Production** data for November 2023 were [published](#) on 12 January 2024 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 November 2023 with November 2022, **output decreased by 15.5%**.
- When comparing November 2023 with October 2023, **output decreased by 3.2%**.

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 November 2023 with November 2022, **output decreased by 18.0%**.
- When comparing November 2023 with October 2023, **output decreased by 2.7%**.

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 Concrete Roofing Tiles and Ready-Mixed Concrete (including seasonally adjusted sales of ready-mixed concrete)
- 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 grouped 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 grouped English Regions, Wales and Scotland
- 13 Quarterly value of Overseas Trade in Selected Materials and Components for Constructional Use: Imports and Exports
- 14 Value of EU and Non-EU Trade in Selected Materials and Components for Constructional Use: Imports and Exports

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	66%
Quarterly Sand and Gravel – Land Won	4 & 5	66%
Quarterly Sand and Gravel – Marine Dredged	4 & 5	70%
Quarterly Concrete Roofing Tiles	6	80%
Quarterly Slate	7	100%
Monthly Bricks Final data	9 & 10	98%
Monthly Concrete Blocks	11 & 12	87%

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 March 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

Data can be revised for a number of reasons, including receipt of more data, methodology changes and corrections.

Data subject to scheduled revisions are published as provisional. The period for which data are provisional differs depending on material type and is indicated in each table, either by use of [p] markers or in footnotes. When provisional data become final, [p] markers are removed.

For unscheduled revisions, no revision marker is added, though in the case of substantial revisions a note will be added at the top of the revised table and in the 'Revisions' section of the contents page of the edition the change is first published

Users should download the latest edition of the publication to ensure they have the most up-to-date tables.

Our [revisions policy](#) can 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 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 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
- replaced the previous production process with a reproducible analytical pipeline and consolidated storage of historical data on new SQL databases
- redesigned tables to conform to The Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) Accessibility Regulations 2018 legislation

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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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