
BACK
BRITISH
CEMENT
BREEDON
BREEDON
MAKING A MATERIAL
DIFFERENCE

Breedon is a leading vertically integrated FTSE 250 business and international construction materials group operating across Great Britain, Ireland and the US.

We are the largest UK-owned construction materials group, contributing to major infrastructure projects nationwide, and producing over 2 million tonnes of cement annually across the UK and Ireland.

Aggregates

>100 quarries

Our quarries supply aggregates to our external customers and our own ready-mixed concrete and asphalt plants, pulling materials through the business model.

Cement

2 plants

Our well-invested cement plants are capable of producing more than two million tonnes of cement annually.

Ready-mixed concrete

>200 plants

Our ready-mixed concrete plants supply quality-assured concrete, screed and mortar to a broad scope of projects, distributed through our fleet of mixer trucks.

Asphalt

>50 plants

Our asphalt plants supply quality-assured materials to a wide range of projects from car parks to major trunk roads.

Surfacing

Our surfacing operations benefit from multi-year frameworks serving our local and national customers efficiently and sustainably.

Our people

4,800 colleagues

56 new apprentices in 2025

77% colleague engagement score in 2025

Sustainability

We are actively progressing our decarbonisation agenda across a range of areas including fuel switching, logistics improvements and the development of carbon capture and storage (CCS) pathways.

Our values

KEEP IT SIMPLE

STRIVE TO IMPROVE

MAKE IT HAPPEN

SHOW WE CARE

The UK cement industry is essential to delivering the Government's ambitions for economic growth, infrastructure, housing and national resilience.

As the UK's largest British-owned cement manufacturer, Breedon has produced this Back British Cement booklet to highlight the challenges facing the sector and the practical policy actions needed to ensure British cement can compete on a level playing field, support skilled jobs, and continue investing in decarbonisation.

This booklet outlines our key policy asks, including the urgent need for an effective UK Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), support for industrial decarbonisation through Peak Cluster, and measures to strengthen the long-term competitiveness of UK cement manufacturing.

Cement is a foundation industry with no proven substitute at scale, underpinning the construction of homes, transport, energy and utilities infrastructure.

As the key ingredient in concrete, the world's most widely used manufactured material, cement is fundamental to modern construction.

Without cement the UK cannot produce concrete and deliver its ambitions to build 1.5 million homes and the infrastructure needed to support economic growth.

200

Every new home requires around **200 tonnes** of aggregates and cement-based materials.

Major infrastructure projects such as Sizewell C, HS2, offshore wind developments and road upgrades require **millions of tonnes** of concrete, highlighting the vital role of construction materials in supporting the UK's future infrastructure needs.

Millions

A strong domestic cement sector is essential to ensuring a secure and reliable supply of materials needed to deliver the UK's infrastructure, housing, defence and security, and economic growth ambitions.

The cement sector and wider mineral products industry is a significant contributor to our national and local economies.*

£6.7bn

The mineral products sector contributes **£6.7 billion** in direct GVA.

£253bn

And supports a further **£253 billion** of activity across the wider economy, equivalent to around 11% of UK GDP.

£22bn

Mineral products manufacturing generates **£22 billion** in annual turnover.

£178bn

And underpins **£178 billion** of construction output.

89,000

The sector sustains **89,000 direct jobs**.

3.4m

And supports a further **3.4 million jobs** across the wider supply chain.

The UK's 10 cement kiln sites have served as **anchor employers** in industrial and rural communities for generations.

UK cement manufacturing is **2.7x more productive** than the UK average industry.

Every £1 paid in cement sector wages generates an additional **£2.05** of economic activity.

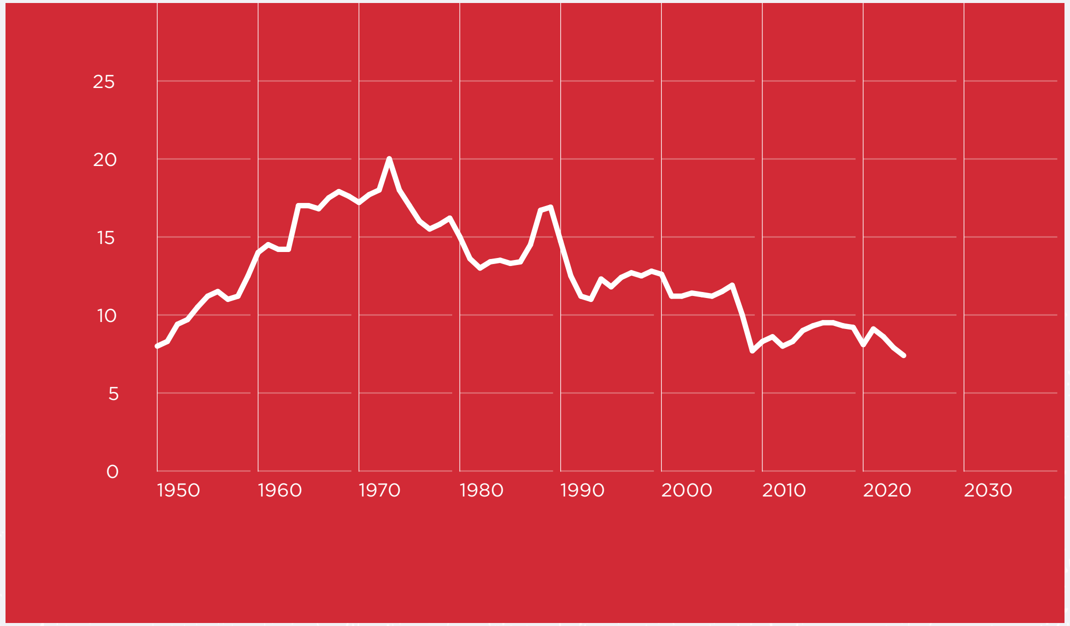
* MPA UK cement market statistics 2024-2025.

UK cement production is at its lowest level since 1950, while concrete production is at its lowest since 1963.

Meanwhile, foreign imports have nearly tripled since 2008 and now account for ~32% of UK cement sales.

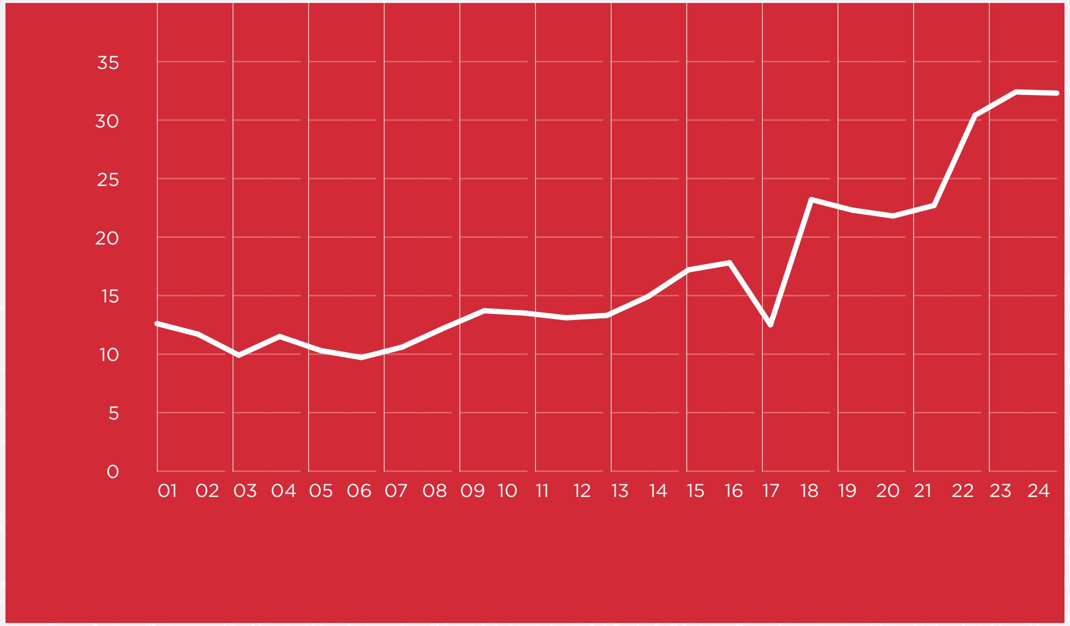
UK cement production since 1950*

Million tonnes



Sales from all imports 2001 - 2024*

%



* MPA UK cement market statistics 2024-2025.

British cement manufacturers face significant challenges that make it difficult to compete with foreign importers.

High energy costs

UK manufacturers face the highest industrial electricity costs among developed economies.

Uneven taxation

With uneven carbon taxation, it means that cement produced outside the EU isn't subject to the same carbon emissions restrictions and taxes as in the UK.

Carbon leakage

Government data shows that cement is the most vulnerable sector to carbon leakage: the offshoring of production, jobs and emissions to countries with lower or no carbon cost. By using foreign-made cement, the UK is just moving its carbon emissions elsewhere and increasing transportation emissions.

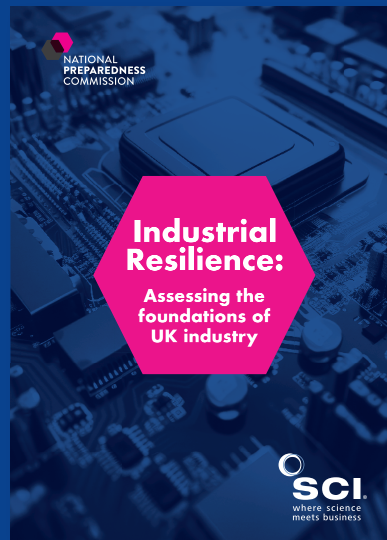
Importing cement sends investment and growth overseas and threatens the supply security of this essential material. Action is required to level the playing field.

An independent assessment The National Preparedness Commission

Cement is fundamental to the UK's Critical National Infrastructure (CNI), providing structural integrity for military bases, transport networks, and flood defences.

However, the industry is grappling with declining domestic production, high energy costs, and a growing reliance on foreign imports, making supply chain security a top national resilience concern.

The National Preparedness Commission report, published in November 2025, links domestic cement production to the UK's industrial resilience.



Use the QR code to link to the National Preparedness Commission report

Like other energy-intensive areas of industry, manufacture of inorganic materials has faced serious challenges from declining UK competitiveness – specifically high energy costs and regulatory pressures.

An example is the cement sector, a low margin product which, for many years, has been facing strong global competition.

Data published by the Mineral Products Association (MPA) in September 2025 revealed that, despite high demand and abundant limestone reserves, UK cement production in 2024 fell to the lowest level since 1950 - just half the volume produced in 1990 whilst cement imports tripled over the past two decades, from 12% of UK sales in 2008 to 32% in 2024.

The MPA attributed this trend to cheaper foreign cement, especially from countries with lower energy costs and less stringent carbon taxes and pointed to the implications for national resilience should the sector decline further.

National Preparedness Commission

BACK BRITISH CEMENT

What we ask of the government

BACK BRITISH CEMENT

Strengthen the UK CBAM for cement

Ensure the mechanism properly prevents carbon leakage and addresses the competitive imbalance facing domestic producers.

Protect cement competitiveness

Make sure cement is included in future competitiveness and industrial support measures for energy-intensive industries.

Use public procurement to back British cement

Ensure public projects can recognise the strategic and carbon value of domestically produced cement within procurement rules.

Create long-term policy certainty

Give industry confidence to invest by setting a clear and credible direction on industrial competitiveness and decarbonisation.

Support cement decarbonisation investment

Back the infrastructure and investment environment needed for technologies such as carbon capture and other emissions-reduction measures.

Support the delivery of the Peak Cluster carbon capture and storage project

Provide long-term policy and funding certainty to unlock £5 billion of investment, safeguard and create more than 13,000 jobs, and secure a resilient, low-carbon cement industry for the UK.

BACK BRITISH CEMENT

Champion Back British Cement publicly

Signal support for the role of British cement in economic resilience, UK jobs, and decarbonisation.

Table parliamentary questions

Press ministers on imports, carbon leakage, industrial competitiveness and support for domestic production.

Push for a Westminster Hall debate

Help create parliamentary space for a wider discussion on the future of UK cement.

Meet relevant ministers

Reinforce campaign messages directly with ministers and officials across the relevant departments.

Support local and national messaging

Connect the national policy case to local jobs, investment and industrial strength in your constituency.

Stay engaged through the campaign

Please attend and support Breedon's planned parliamentary reception later in the year as part of ongoing Westminster engagement.

BREEDON

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