



مركز الإحصاء  
STATISTICS CENTRE

# **Building Materials Price Statistics December 2013 and Fourth quarter, 2013**

January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Statistics Centre- Abu Dhabi

## **Introduction**

The monthly publication of Building Materials Price Statistics is of great significance as building material prices are deemed to be important economic indicators for planning and research in various fields. They are also used in the compilation of indices of the construction activity and for the calculation of GDP at constant prices.

Statistical centres all over the world collect prices of building materials used by a large segment of people. As a result of the urban development and the constant growth in the construction sector in the Emirate, Statistics Centre – Abu Dhabi collects price data for these materials on a regular basis.

The movements of prices of 21 groups from the key building materials are included in this publication (table 6). This information helps decision and policy makers and researchers in planning and making sound decisions in support of the building materials sector and other sectors associated with it.

## Key Points

This publication provides an analysis of the movement of the average prices of building materials during the month of December 2013 compared with November 2013 and December 2012, and during the fourth quarter of 2013 compared with the fourth quarter of 2012. The key changes were:

▲ During December 2013 the average prices of the “Waterproofing products”, “Power cable” and “Steel” groups increased by 1.2%, 1.1% and 0.6% respectively, compared with November 2013.

▼ During December 2013 the average prices of the “Employment” group decreased by 7.8% and “Concrete” by 4.4% compared with November 2013.

▲ During December 2013 the average prices of “Natural stone” increased by 18.0%, “Aggregates and sand” by 17.4%, “Sanitary ware- bathroom set without accessories” by 7.3% and “Wood” by 6.8% compared with December 2012.

▼ During December 2013, the average prices of “(PVC) Pipes”, “Employment”, “Block” and “Steel” decreased by 11.2%, 10.7%, 8.4% and 5.1% respectively, compared with the same period in the previous year.

— During the fourth quarter of 2013, the average price of the “Wires for small building” group increased by 4.2%, “Wood” by 2.6%, while “Aggregates and sand” increased by 1.9%. The average prices of “Steel”, “Paints” and “Block” decreased by 4.3%, 3.0%, and 1.8% respectively, compared with the third quarter of 2013.

— During the fourth quarter of 2013 compared with the same period in the previous year, the average prices of “Natural stone”, “Aggregates and sand”, and “Sanitary ware-bathroom set without accessories” increased by 18.0%, 17.4% and 7.3% respectively. The average prices of “Block”, “(PVC) Pipes” and “Steel” fell by 8.4%, 8.0% and 6.4% respectively.

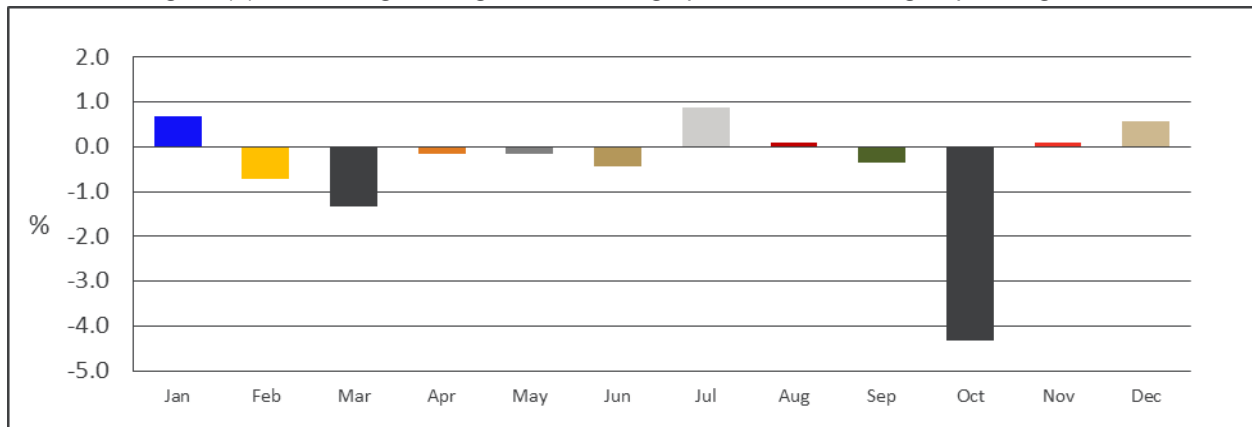
## 1. Key changes in the monthly average prices of building materials for December 2013 compared with November 2013

The building materials groups have seen a change in the average prices in December 2013 compared with November 2013, with increases ranging between 0.3% for the “Wood” group and 1.2% for the “Waterproofing products” group. Declines of 4.4% for the “Concrete” group, and 7.8% for the “Employment” group were recorded.

### Steel

The average prices of “Steel” increased by 0.6% in December 2013, as most items in this group increased.

Figure (1): Percentage change in the average prices of the steel group during 2013



Source: Statistics Centre – Abu Dhabi

### Power cable

The average prices of “Power cable” increased by 1.1% in December 2013, as a result of increases in all items in this group.

Table (1): Percentage change in the average prices of the power cable group








Serial	Power cable	Average prices of November 2013 (AED)	Average prices of December 2013 (AED)	Percentage Change %
1	CU 11 KV \ 3*240 mm <sup>2</sup> \ 1 km	318,180	322,140	1.2 ▲
2	CU 33 KV \ 3*240 mm <sup>2</sup> \ 1 km	366,070	370,160	1.1 ▲
3	CU 132 KV \ 1*800 mm <sup>2</sup> \ 1 km	609,400	615,910	1.1 ▲

Source: Statistics Centre – Abu Dhabi

## Employment

The average wages of “Employment” decreased by 7.8% in December 2013 compared with November 2013. Table (2) shows that “Electrician” decrease by 12.5% and “Surveyor” by 12.0%.

Table (2): Percentage change in the average prices of the employment group

Serial	Employment	Average prices of November 2013 (AED)	Average prices of December 2013 (AED)	Percentage change %
1	Helper \ Hourly rates	8.0	8.0	0.0 
2	Semi – skilled worker \ Hourly rates	9.0	8.0	-11.1 
3	Carpenter \ Hourly rates	11.0	10.0	-9.1 
4	Blacksmith \ Hourly rates	11.0	10.0	-9.1 
5	Electrician \ Hourly rates	16.0	14.0	-12.5 
6	Surveyor \ Hourly rates	25.0	22.0	-12.0 
7	Driver \ Hourly rates	25.0	25.0	0.0 



Source: Statistics Centre – Abu Dhabi

Note: The table presents the average hourly labor rate including food, accommodation, transport and safety equipment.

## Concrete

The “Concrete” group decreased by 4.4% in December 2013 compared with November 2013. Table (3) shows the changes in the average prices during December 2013.

Table (3): Percentage change in the average prices of the concrete group

Serial	Power cable	Average prices of November 2013 (AED)	Average prices of December 2013 (AED)	Percentage Change %
1	Concrete Ready Mix \ Normal (Neutin 40) \ m <sup>3</sup> \ U.A.E.	225.0	215.0	-4.4 
2	Concrete Ready Mix \ Sulphate Resistance \ m <sup>3</sup> \ U.A.E.	230.0	220.0	-4.3 

Source: Statistics Centre – Abu Dhabi

## 2. Key changes in the monthly average prices of building materials for December 2013 compared with December 2012

The monthly average prices for 12 groups of building materials have decreased in December 2013 compared with December 2012. The drop ranged between 0.2% for “False ceiling” and 11.2% for “Pipes (PVC)”.

## Block

The average prices of “Block” decreased by 8.4% in December 2013 compared with December 2012, mainly due to the decrease in most items between 5.2% and 13.9%.

Table (4): Percentage change in the average prices of the block group (December 2013 compared with December 2012)

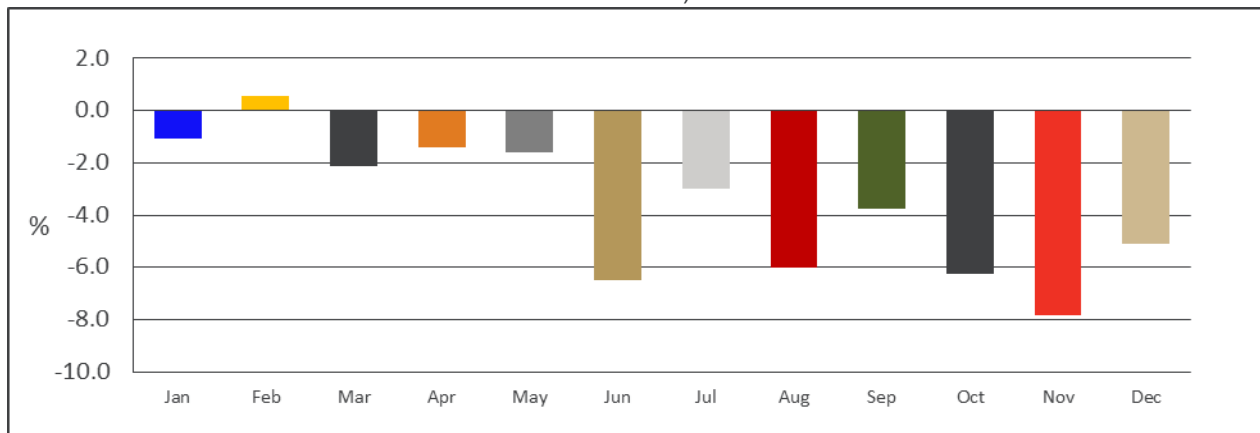
Serial	Block	Average prices of December 2012 (AED)	Average prices of December 2013 (AED)	Percentage change %
1	Hollow \ 4" 10x20x40 cm \ Thousand \ U.A.E.	1,850.0	1,600.0	-13.5 ▼
2	Hollow \ 6" 15x20x40 cm \ Thousand U.A.E.	2,000.0	1,800.0	-10.0 ▼
3	Hollow \ 8" 20x20x40 cm \ Thousand U.A.E.	2,200.0	2,000.0	-9.1 ▼
4	Solid \ 4" 10x20x40 cm \ Thousand \ U.A.E.	2,450.0	2,500.0	2.0 ▲
5	Solid \ 6" 15x20x40 cm \ Thousand \ U.A.E.	2,900.0	2,750.0	-5.2 ▼
6	Solid \ 8" 20x20x40 cm \ Thousand \ U.A.E.	3,600.0	3,100.0	-13.9 ▼

Source: Statistics Centre – Abu Dhabi

## Steel

The “Steel” group decreased by 5.1% in December 2013. Figure (2) shows that the declines ranged between 1.1% in January 2013 and 7.8% in November 2013 compared with the same months of 2012.

Figure (2): Annual percentage change in the average prices of the steel group (months of 2013 compared with 2012)



Source: Statistics Centre – Abu Dhabi

## Pipes

The average prices of “Pipes (PVC)” decreased in December 2013 compared with December 2012 by 11.2%. While the average prices of “Pipes (uPVC)” increased by 1.9% during December 2013.

**Some building materials items have seen an increase in December 2013 compared with December 2012**

**Natural Stone**

The average prices of the “Natural Stone” group increased by 18.0% in December 2013 compared with December 2012.

Table (5): Percentage change in the average prices of the natural stone group (December 2013 compared with December 2012)

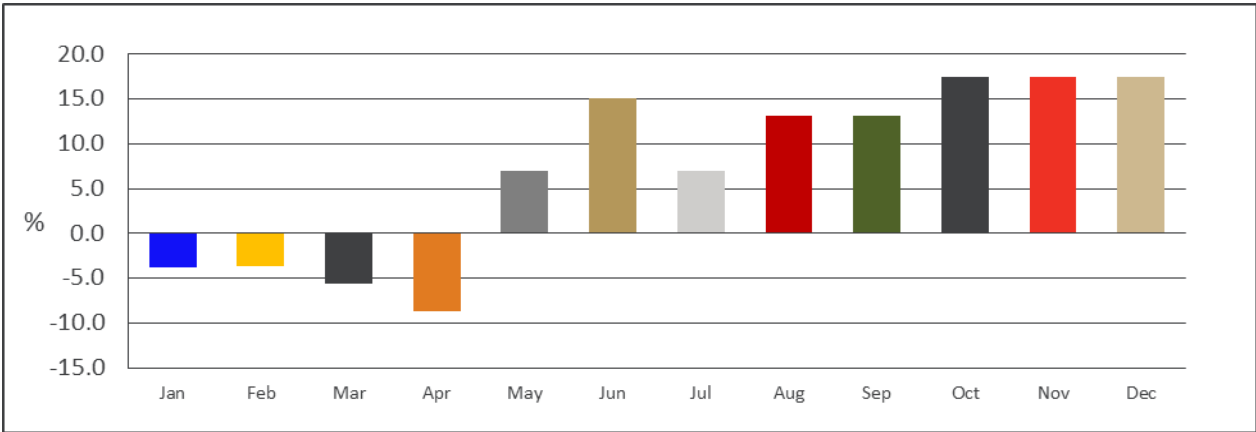
Serial	Natural stone	Average prices of December 2012 (AED)	Average prices of December 2013 (AED)	Percentage Change %
1	Natural Stone\ Width 25 cm, Height 3 cm \ White - Al Qtarana \ m <sup>2</sup> \ Jordan	75.0	75.0	0.0 <span style="color: blue;">—</span>
2	Natural Stone\ Width 25 cm, Height 3 cm \ Ajloun \ m <sup>2</sup> \ Jordan	130.0	160.0	23.1 <span style="color: red;">▲</span>
3	Natural Stone \ Width 25 cm, Height 3 cm \ Ma'an \ m <sup>2</sup> \ Jordan	135.0	180.0	33.3 <span style="color: red;">▲</span>

Source: Statistics Centre – Abu Dhabi

**Aggregates and sand**

The average prices of “Aggregates and sand” increased by 17.4% in December 2013 compared with December 2012, while most items in the group recorded an increase between 5.9% and 40.0%.

Figure (3): Annual percentage change in the average prices of the aggregates and sand group (months of 2013 compared with 2012)

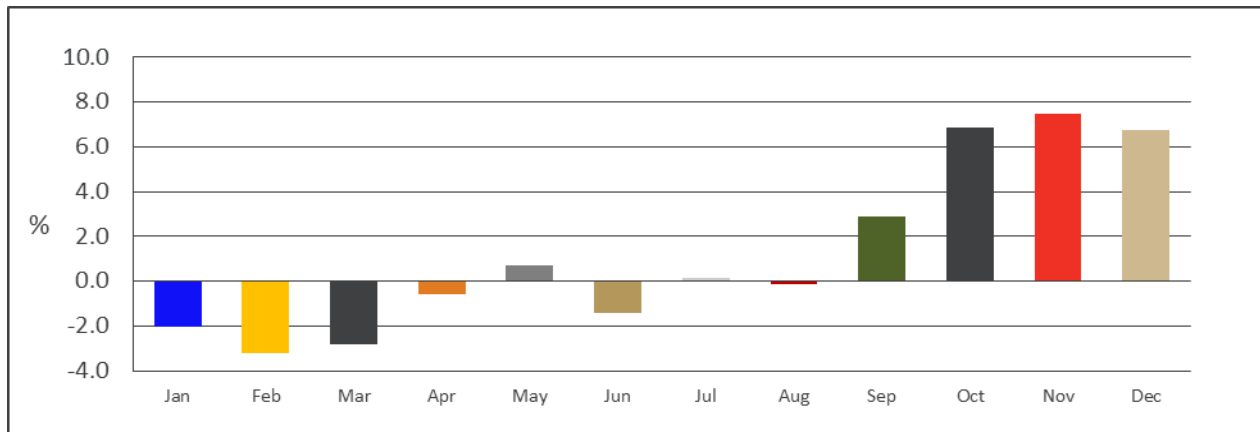


Source: Statistics Centre – Abu Dhabi

## Wood

The average prices of “Wood” increased by 6.8% in December 2013 compared with December 2012, while most items in the group recorded an increase.

Figure (4): Annual percentage change in the average prices of the wood group (months of 2013 compared with 2012)



Source: Statistics Centre – Abu Dhabi

### 3. Building materials prices for Q4 2013 compared with Q3 2013

Most of the commodity groups of building materials recorded higher average prices during Q4 2013 compared with Q3 2013.

Increases ranged between 0.1% for “Waterproofing products” and 4.2% for the “Wires for small building” group.

The average price for “Roofing materials”, “Tiles and marble”, “Natural stone”, “Sanitary ware”, “False ceiling”, “Glass” and “Diesel” showed no change in Q4 2013 compared with Q3 2013.

A number of commodity group prices decreased in Q4 2013 compared with Q3 2013. The average prices of “Steel” decreased by 4.3%, while “Paints”, “Block” and “Wires for apartments” decreased by 3.0%, 1.8% and 1.5% respectively.



#### **4. Building materials prices for Q4 2013 compared with Q4 2012**

The average prices of building materials showed variations with most decreasing during Q4 2013 compared with Q4 2012.

The price decreases ranged between 0.3% for “Tiles and marble” and 8.4% for “Block”. In addition, “(PVC) Pipes” decreased by 8.0%, “Steel” by 6.4% and “Power cable” by 5.3%.

Increases ranged between 0.7% for “Concrete” and 18.0% for “Natural stone”, while “Aggregates and sand” increased by 17.4% and “Sanitary ware- bathroom set without accessories” by 7.3%.

The average prices for the “Cement” and “Diesel” groups stabilized during Q4 2013, compared with Q4 2012.

**Table (6): Percentage change in the monthly average prices of building materials for December 2013, compared with November 2013 and December 2012.**

Serial No.	Commodity groups	Percentage change November 2013 to December 2013	Percentage change December 2012 to December 2013
1	<b>Cement</b>	0.0	-2.3
2	<b>Aggregates and sand</b>	0.0	17.4
3	<b>Concrete</b>	-4.4	0.0
4	<b>Steel</b>	0.6	-5.1
5	<b>Wood</b>	0.3	6.8
6	<b>Block</b>	0.0	-8.4
7	<b>Roofing materials</b>	0.0	0.0
8	<b>Waterproofing products</b>	1.2	0.0
9	<b>Waterproofing bituminous membrane</b>	n.a.	n.a.
10	<b>Natural stone</b>	0.0	18.0
11	<b>Tiles and marble</b>	0.0	0.4
12	<b>Sanitary ware</b>	0.0	0.0
12.1	Bathroom set without accessories	0.0	7.3
12.2	Bathroom set with accessories	0.0	0.0
12.3	Sink stainless steel with mixer-single	0.0	3.0
13	<b>False ceiling</b>	0.0	-0.2
14	<b>Paints</b>	0.0	-4.3
15	<b>Glass</b>	0.0	2.4
16	<b>Pipes</b>		
16.1	(PVC) pipes	0.0	-11.2
16.2	(uPVC) pipes	0.6	1.9
17	<b>Wires</b>		
17.1	Small building	0.0	-3.6
17.2	Apartments	0.0	-4.5
17.3	Residential towers	0.0	-0.7
18	<b>Power cable</b>	1.1	-4.8
19	<b>Transport equipment</b>	0.0	-1.0
20	<b>Employment</b>	-7.8	-10.7
21	<b>Diesel</b>	0.0	0.0

(n.a.): means not available

Source: Statistics Centre – Abu Dhabi

**Table (7): Percentage change in the monthly average prices of building materials for Q4 2013, compared with Q3 2013 and Q4 2012.**

Serial No.	Commodity groups	Percentage change Q3 2013 to Q4 2013	Percentage change Q4 2012 to Q4 2013
1	<b>Cement</b>	-0.6	0.0
2	<b>Aggregates and sand</b>	1.9	17.4
3	<b>Concrete</b>	-1.5	0.7
4	<b>Steel</b>	-4.3	-6.4
5	<b>Wood</b>	2.6	7.0
6	<b>Block</b>	-1.8	-8.4
7	<b>Roofing materials</b>	0.0	0.6
8	<b>Waterproofing products</b>	0.1	1.7
9	<b>Waterproofing bituminous membrane</b>	n.a.	n.a.
10	<b>Natural stone</b>	0.0	18.0
11	<b>Tiles and marble</b>	0.0	-0.3
12	<b>Sanitary ware</b>		
12.1	Bathroom set without accessories	0.0	7.3
12.2	Bathroom set with accessories	0.0	0.0
12.3	Sink stainless steel with mixer-single	0.0	2.9
13	<b>False ceiling</b>	0.0	-1.0
14	<b>Paints</b>	-3.0	-3.6
15	<b>Glass</b>	0.0	4.2
16	<b>Pipes</b>		
16.1	(PVC) pipes	-0.8	-8.0
16.2	(uPVC) pipes	1.1	2.4
17	<b>Wires</b>		
17.1	Small building	4.2	-4.6
17.2	Apartments	-1.5	-4.5
17.3	Residential towers	-0.5	-2.7
18	<b>Power cable</b>	0.6	-5.3
19	<b>Transport equipment</b>	-0.1	-2.4
20	<b>Employment</b>	0.7	0.4
21	<b>Diesel</b>	0.0	0.0

(n.a.): means not available

Source: Statistics Centre – Abu Dhabi

## **Methodology of Building Material Statistics**

The current methodology for Building Materials Price Statistics including conceptual basis, construction of the basket, data collection, validation, processing procedures, averaging and treatment of missing values, and potential sources of error are described in the Building Materials Price Statistics 2012 publication, which is available on SCAD's website at <http://www.scad.ae>.

Building Materials Price Statistics, for January 2014 will be released on 12 February 2014. For more information about prices and other official statistics, please visit the SCAD website at <http://www.scad.ae>.

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