



مركز الإحصاء
STATISTICS CENTRE



Building Materials Price Statistics



March
First Quarter 2015

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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 4). 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 March 2015 compared with February 2015 and March 2014, and during the first quarter of 2015 compared with the fourth quarter of 2014 and first quarter of 2014. The key changes were:

- During March 2015 the average prices of the 'Glass', 'Paints', 'False ceiling' and 'Power cable' groups increased by 15.3%, 2.8%, 2.2% and 1.9% respectively, compared with February 2015.
- During March 2015 the average prices of the 'Natural stone' group decreased by 5.9%, 'Employment' and 'Sanitary ware- Bathroom set without accessories' decreased by 2.9% for each, compared with February 2015.
- During March 2015 the average price of the 'Glass' group increased by 11.2% and both 'Concrete' and 'Block' increased by 4.6% compared with March 2014.
- During March 2015, the average prices of 'Employment', 'Wires for residential towers' and 'Waterproofing products' decreased by 19.3%, 15.3% and 13.0% respectively, compared with the same period in the previous year.
- During the first quarter of 2015 compared with the fourth quarter of 2014, the average price of the 'Glass' group increased by 3.2%, 'Pipes (PVC)' group by 3.0% and 'Tiles and marble' increased by 2.1%. The average prices of 'Employment', 'Waterproofing products' and 'Power cable' decreased by 14.1%, 7.5%, and 6.8% respectively,
- During the first quarter of 2015 compared with the same period in the previous year, the average prices of 'Block', 'Concrete' and 'Aggregates and sand' increased by 4.6%, 4.6% and 2.8% respectively. The average prices of 'Employment', 'Wires for residential towers' and 'Power cable' fell by 13.2%, 12.8% and 10.0% respectively.

1. Key changes in the monthly average prices of building materials for March 2015 compared with February 2015

The building materials groups have seen a change in the average prices in March 2015 compared with February 2015, with increases ranging between 0.6% for the 'Wires for apartment' group and 15.3% for the 'Glass' group. Decreases ranging from 1.2% for the 'Steel' group to 5.9% for the 'Natural stone' group were recorded.

Glass

The average prices of 'Glass' increased by 15.3% in March 2015 compared with February 2015. Table (1) shows increases ranged between 12.9% and 30.6%.

Table 1: Percentage change in the average prices of the glass group during March 2015 compared with February 2015

Serial No.	Glass	Average prices of February 2015 (AED)	Average prices of March 2015 (AED)	Percentage Change %	
1	Glass \ 4 mm \ m ² \ Saudi Arabia	46.5	52.5	12.9	▲
2	Glass \ 6mm \ m ² \ Saudi Arabia	55.5	72.5	30.6	▲
3	Tinted Glass \ 4mm \ m ² \ Saudi Arabia	n.a.	n.a.		
4	Tinted Glass \ 6 mm \ m ² \ Saudi Arabia	71.0	85.0	19.7	▲
5	Mirror Glass \ 4 mm \ m ² \ Saudi Arabia	88.0	88.0	0.0	—
6	Mirror Glass \ 6 mm \ m ² \ Saudi Arabia	112.5	130.0	15.6	▲

(n.a.): means not available

Source: Statistics Centre – Abu Dhabi

Natural stone

The average prices of 'Natural stone' decreased by 5.9% in March 2015 compared with February 2015.

Paints

The average prices of 'Paints' increased by 2.8% in March 2015 compared with February 2015.

Employment

The average wages of 'Employment' decreased by 2.9% in March 2015 compared with February 2015. Table (1) shows decreases ranged between 3.0% and 12.0%.

Table 2: Percentage change in the average wages of the employment group during March 2015 compared with February 2015

Serial No.	Employment	Average wages of February 2015 (AED/ h)	Average wages of March 2015 (AED/ h)	Percentage Change %	
1	Helper	7.0	7.5	7.1	▲
2	Semi – skilled worker	7.5	7.8	3.3	▲
3	Carpenter	8.3	8.0	-3.0	▼
4	Blacksmith	8.3	8.0	-3.0	▼
5	Electrician	13.0	13.0	0.0	—
6	Surveyor	18.0	16.0	-11.1	▼
7	Driver	25.0	22.0	-12.0	▼

Source: Statistics Centre – Abu Dhabi

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

Waterproofing products

The 'Waterproofing products' group decreased by 2.5% in March 2015, as a result of a decrease in some items in this group compared with February 2015.

Power cable

The average prices of 'Power cable' increased by 1.9% in March 2015 compared with February 2015, as a result of increase in all items in this group.

Table 3: Percentage change in the average prices of the power cable group during March 2015 compared with February 2015

Serial No.	Power cable	Average prices of February 2015 (AED)	Average prices of March 2015 (AED)	Percentage Change %	
1	CU 11 KV \ 3*240 mm ² \ 1 km	278,860.0	285,320.0	2.3	▲
2	CU 33 KV \ 3*240 mm ² \ 1 km	325,400.0	332,080.0	2.1	▲
3	CU 132 KV \ 1*800 mm ² \ 1 km	549,780.0	557,260.0	1.4	▲

Source: Statistics Centre – Abu Dhabi

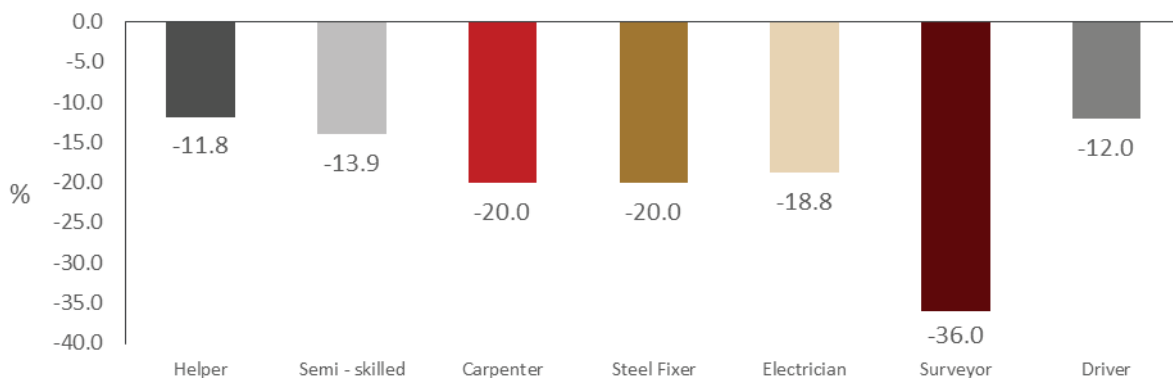
2. Key changes in the monthly average prices of building materials for March 2015 compared with March 2014

The monthly average prices for 15 groups of building materials have decreased in March 2015 compared with March 2014. The decreases ranged between 0.4% for 'Transport equipment' and 19.3% for 'Employment'.

Employment

The average wages of 'Employment' decreased by 19.3% in March 2015 compared with March 2014, as a result of decreases in most items in this group between 11.8% and 36.0%.

Figure 1: Percentage change in the average prices of the employment group items during March 2015 compared with March 2014



Source: Statistics Centre – Abu Dhabi

Wires

The average prices of 'Wires' decreased in March 2015 compared with March 2014. 'Wires for residential towers' accounted for the largest decrease of 15.3%, followed by 'Wires for small buildings' with 6.8% while 'Wires for apartment' decreased by 1.8%.

Waterproofing products

The average prices of 'Waterproofing products' decreased by 13.0% in March 2015 compared with March 2014, as a result of decreases in most items in this group.

(uPVC) Pipes

The average prices of '(uPVC) Pipes' decreased by 8.7% in March 2015 compared with March 2014.

Some building materials items have seen an increase in March 2015 compared with March 2014.

Glass

The average prices of 'Glass' increased by 11.2% in March 2015 compared with March 2014, with most items in the group recording an increase.

Block

The 'Block' group increased by 4.6% in March 2015 compared with March 2014.

Concrete

The average prices of 'Concrete' increased by 4.6% in March 2015 compared with March 2014, as a result of increases in all items in this group.

3. Building materials prices for Q1 2015 compared with Q4 2014

Most of the commodity groups of building materials recorded higher average prices during Q1 2015 compared with Q4 2014.

Increases ranged between 1.1% for 'Roofing materials' and 3.2% for the 'Glass' group. While the average price for some groups showed no change in Q1 2015 compared with Q4 2014.

A number of commodity group prices decreased in Q1 2015 compared with Q4 2014, the average prices of 'Employment' decreased by 14.1%, while 'Waterproofing products', 'Power cable' and 'Wires for apartment' decreased by 7.5%, 6.8% and 4.7% respectively.

4. Building materials prices for Q1 2015 compared with Q1 2014

The average prices of building materials showed variations with some increasing during Q1 2015 compared with Q1 2014.

The price increases ranged between 0.2% for '(PVC) Pipes' and 4.6% for both 'Block' and 'Concrete'. In addition, 'Aggregates and sand' increased by 2.8%, 'Cement' by 2.3% and also 'Natural stone' by 2.0%.

Decreases ranged between 0.2% for 'Sanitary ware- Bathroom set without accessories' and 13.2% for 'Employment', while 'Wires for residential towers' decreased by 12.8% and 'Power cable' by 10.0%.

The average price for some building materials groups stabilized during Q1 2015, compared with Q1 2014.

Table 4: Percentage change in monthly average prices of building materials for March 2015, compared with February 2015 and March 2014.

Serial No.	Commodity groups	Percentage change March 2015 / February 2015	Percentage change March 2015 / March 2014
1	Cement	1.6	2.8
2	Aggregates and sand	0.0	2.8
3	Concrete	0.0	4.6
4	Steel	-1.2	-8.0
5	Wood	-2.0	0.1
6	Block	0.0	4.6
7	Roofing materials	0.0	1.7
8	Waterproofing products	-2.5	-13.0
9	Waterproofing bituminous membrane	n.a.	n.a.
10	Natural stone	-5.9	-2.1
11	Tiles and marble	-1.7	0.9
12	Sanitary ware		
12.1	Bathroom set without accessories	-2.9	-2.2
12.2	Bathroom set with accessories	-1.5	-1.5
12.3	Sink stainless steel with mixer-single	0.0	-1.4
13	False ceiling	2.2	2.2
14	Paints	2.8	-5.5
15	Glass	15.3	11.2
16	Pipes		
16.1	(PVC) pipes	0.7	-0.8
16.2	(uPVC) pipes	-2.1	-8.7
17	Wires		
17.1	Small building	-2.0	-6.8
17.2	Apartments	0.6	-1.8
17.3	Residential towers	-1.9	-15.3
18	Power cable	1.9	-6.5
19	Transport equipment	0.0	-0.4
20	Employment	-2.9	-19.3
21	Diesel	0.0	0.0

(n.a.): means not available

Source: Statistics Centre – Abu Dhabi

Table 5: Percentage change in the quarterly average prices of building materials for Q1 2015, compared with Q4 2014 and Q1 2014.

Serial No.	Commodity groups	Percentage change Q1 2015 / Q4 2014	Percentage change Q1 2015 / Q1 2014
1	Cement	-0.7	2.3
2	Aggregates and sand	0.0	2.8
3	Concrete	-2.2	4.6
4	Steel	-4.3	-6.7
5	Wood	1.6	1.4
6	Block	0.0	4.6
7	Roofing materials	1.1	1.1
8	Waterproofing products	-7.5	-8.3
9	Waterproofing bituminous membrane	n.a.	n.a.
10	Natural stone	2.0	2.0
11	Tiles and marble	2.1	1.8
12	Sanitary ware		
12.1	Bathroom set without accessories	-0.5	-0.2
12.2	Bathroom set with accessories	-0.5	-0.5
12.3	Sink stainless steel with mixer-single	0.0	-1.4
13	False ceiling	1.4	0.7
14	Paints	-2.3	-7.5
15	Glass	3.2	0.0
16	Pipes		
16.1	(PVC) pipes	3.0	0.2
16.2	(uPVC) pipes	-3.5	-7.6
17	Wires		
17.1	Small building	-0.5	-5.6
17.2	Apartments	-4.7	-0.4
17.3	Residential towers	-4.0	-12.8
18	Power cable	-6.8	-10.0
19	Transport equipment	-0.3	-0.6
20	Employment	-14.1	-13.2
21	Diesel	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 2014 publication, which is available on SCAD's website at <http://www.scad.ae>.

Building Materials Price Statistics, for April 2015 will be released on 15 May 2015. For more information about prices and other official statistics, please visit the SCAD website at <http://www.scad.ae>.

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