

The UK Ceramic Tiles manufacturing industry



Update from the British Ceramic Confederation

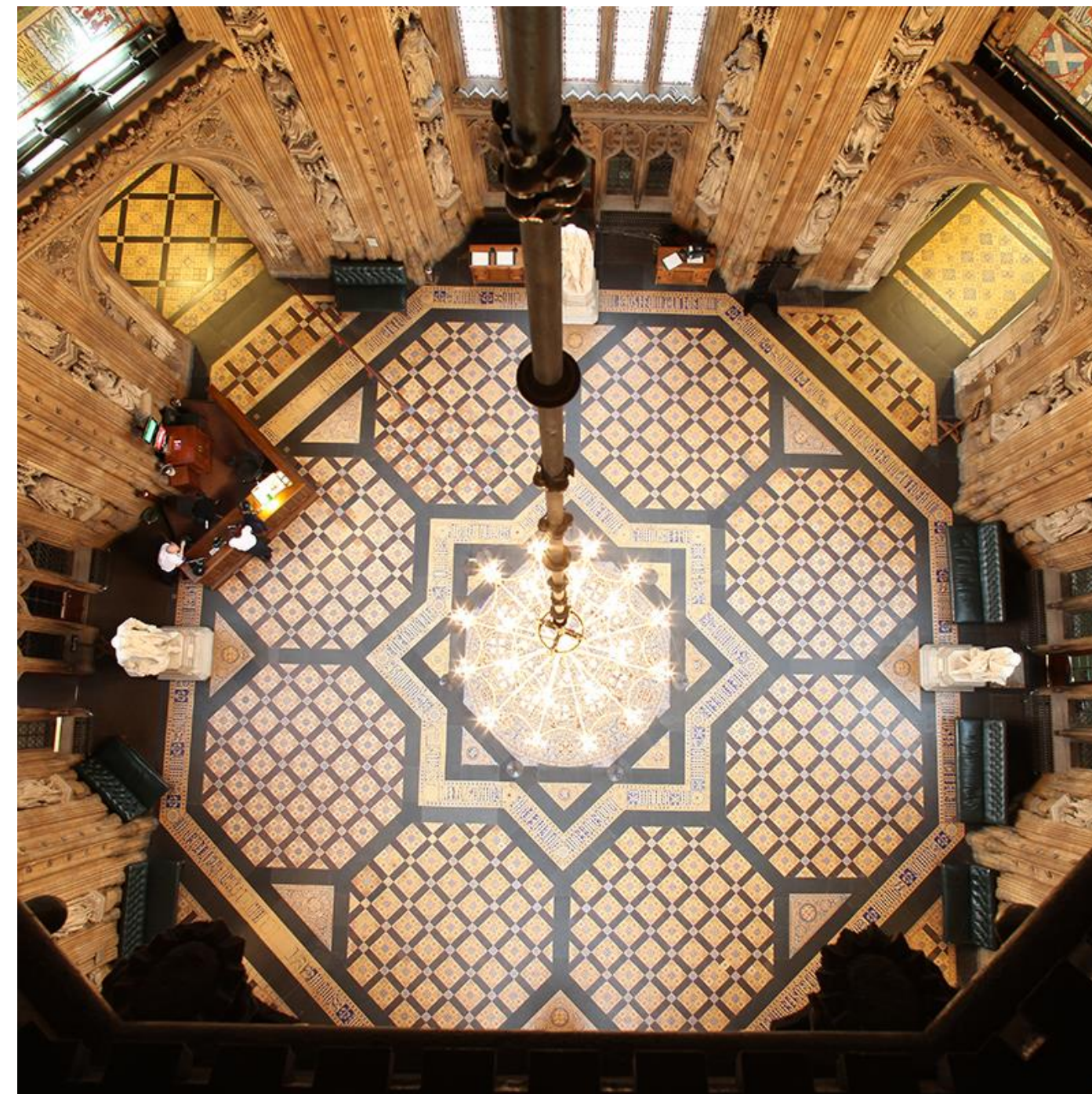
Confidential data has been removed.

Trade data is from HMRC's UK Trade Info.

Pictures: Left; [Original Style](#),
Middle and Right; [Johnson Tiles](#).

Contents

- State of the industry
- Import levels
- The risk from China
- Overview



Central lobby in Parliament, restored by [Craven Dunnill Jackfield](#)

State of the Industry

Today we have five tile producers in our membership, Johnson Tiles; producing tiles that are used in households and venues across this country and beyond, and four SMEs: Original Style; designing and creating inspiring tiles for 35 years, Craven Dunhill Jackfield; making handmade tiles in the oldest tile factory in the world, Alusid; using cutting edge techniques to create tiles from recycled materials, and Aldershaw handmade tiles, using clay from their own quarry next to the site.

JOHNSON • TILES 
MADE IN THE UK SINCE 1901

ALUSID®
Sustainable Surfaces


CRAVEN DUNHILL
JACKFIELD


SUSSEX TERRAZZOTTI


ORIGINALSTYLE
Tiles to Inspire

Production is located across the UK, in Stoke-on-Trent, Shropshire, Devon, Preston and Sussex, and employing 500 direct jobs, many more indirect jobs in the supply chain, including around 1,500 in the material supplier companies, providing highly skilled employment in areas typically in need of levelling-up and where skilled jobs are hard to find.

The kaolin and ball clay industry in Devon and Cornwall is also a key supplier to these industries, providing first-class quality clay, and the loss of tile UK manufacturers could result in a risk to other UK ceramic manufacturers if the volume of clays extracted became no longer commercially viable

Many companies also have retail shops, supporting local communities with valuable jobs and giving customers outstanding choice and design.

Tile makers provide an essential contribution to the exchequer, supporting export numbers and the UK's manufacturing capability.

BRITISH
ceramic
CONFEDERATION

Market share and import levels

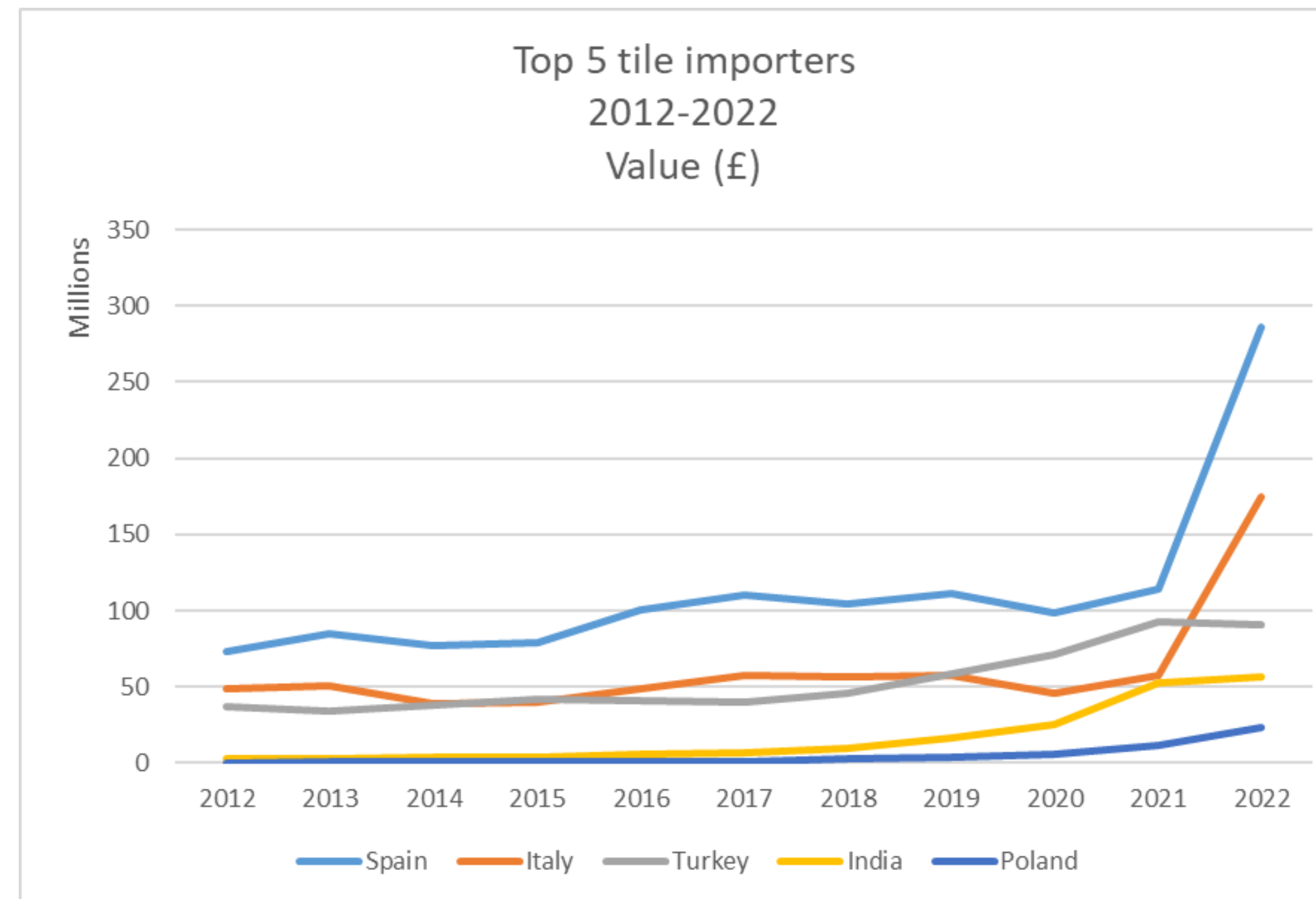
The European trade remedies on imports of wall and floor tiles from China worked to reduce imports from China, after reaching a peak in 2009/10:



Market share and import levels

Total tile imports in 2022 were worth £725m, exports from the UK were worth around £15m.

The five biggest tile importers into the UK excluding China are Spain, Italy, Turkey, India and Poland.



The Risk From China

- China is the world's largest producer of ceramic tiles and is responsible for more than half of the global output of ceramic tiles (53%).
- There is a significant overcapacity in China's annual production of ceramic tiles, this overcapacity and a slower development of domestic demand led Chinese producers to focus increasingly on export markets.
- Many countries around the world are investigating or have already adopted trade defence measures on imports of ceramic tiles originating in China, including the United States of America (US), European Union (EU), Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), India and Indonesia.
- The industry receives substantial subsidies as well as other support from the Chinese state.

Overview

- The industry is key to the UK's economy and to the construction and housebuilding sectors.
- During the peak of the Chinese imports in 2009/10, the UK tiles industry suffered considerably. The industry was able to recover after the measures came into place in 2011.
- Imports have soared in recent years from other countries and already put the remaining UK industry at risk.
- Removing the measures from Chinese tiles could badly damage the UK industry even further.