

in many cases the construction materials producing industries. In this connection, perhaps the most striking trend is the relative de-emphasis of on-site craft activities in favor of off-site fabrication in industrial plants. Many new factory-based power tools now produce prefabricated building products and components which formerly were made and put in place with the use of hand tools directly at the construction site. Prefinishing has increased markedly. In the case of aluminum alone, prefinishing was estimated to have tripled between 1957 and 1961. Thus major changes in construction productivity both off and on the site have taken place.

TABLE 5.—Average annual rates of change in production of selected construction materials ¹ (1948-63)

Material	Unit of measure	Production		Average annual percent change
		1948	1963	
FAST GROWTH (5 PERCENT OR MORE)				
Douglas fir (softwood) plywood	Millions of square feet	1,871	9,923	+11.8
Air-conditioning systems, commercial (excluding heat pumps).....	Thousands.....	² 84	152	³ +9.7
Sand and gravel.....	Millions of short tons.....	319	831	+6.6
Floor and wall tile, glazed and unglazed.....	Millions of square feet.....	102	266	+6.6
Galvanized sheets.....	Thousands of short tons.....	1,643	3,922	+6.0
Asphalt.....	Millions of barrels.....	51	111	+5.3
MODERATE GROWTH (0-4.9 PERCENT)				
Warm air furnaces.....	Thousands.....	777	1,414	+4.1
Concrete reinforcing bars.....	Thousands of short tons.....	1,542	2,683	+3.8
Cement.....	Millions of barrels.....	205	353	+3.7
Gypsum, wallboard, including lath.....	Millions of square feet.....	5,035	8,658	+3.7
Water heaters, gas.....	Thousands.....	1,513	2,602	+3.7
Water closets.....	do.....	3,408	5,653	+3.4
Insulating board and hardboard.....	Thousands of short tons.....	1,270	2,102	+3.4
Lavatories, total.....	Thousands.....	3,303	5,111	+3.0
Flushtanks, vitreous china.....	do.....	3,082	4,809	+3.0
Fabricated structural steel.....	Thousands of short tons.....	2,718	4,097	+2.8
Calcined gypsum.....	do.....	6,249	9,182	+3.6
Cast iron soil and pressure pipe and fittings.....	do.....	1,809	2,590	+2.4
Paint, varnish and laquer.....	Millions of gallons.....	272	379	+2.2
Construction paper and board.....	Thousands of short tons.....	2,592	3,558	+2.1
Bathtubs, total.....	Thousands.....	1,948	2,600	+1.9
Asphalt shingles.....	Thousands of squares.....	30,026	39,521	+1.8
Brick, common and face.....	Millions of standard brick.....	5,707	7,398	+1.7
Glass, sheet (window).....	Thousands of boxes of 50 square feet.....	⁴ 18,947	24,968	+1.7
Clay sewer pipe and fittings, vitrified.....	Thousands of short tons.....	1,433	1,750	+1.3
Steel line pipe.....	do.....	1,888	2,260	+1.2
Facing tile, glazed and unglazed (hollow).....	Millions of brick.....	322	366	+0.9
Oak flooring.....	Millions of board feet.....	832	832	+0.0
DECLINE				
Lumber, total.....	Billions of board feet.....	37	35	-.4
Water heaters, electric.....	Thousands.....	1,040	950	-.6
Asphalt roll roofing.....	Thousands of squares.....	29,913	23,610	-1.6
Gas-fired direct heating equipment.....	Thousands.....	2,084	1,218	-3.5
Ponderosa pine doors.....	do.....	4,091	1,986	-4.7
Insulated sidings, all types.....	Thousands of squares.....	2,560	852	-7.1
Structural clay tile.....	Thousands of short tons.....	1,271	377	-7.8
Asphalt siding.....	Thousands of squares.....	3,290	794	-9.0
Radiators and convectors.....	Millions of square feet.....	60	12	-10.2

¹ Source: "Patterns of Output Growth," Survey of Current Business, September 1964. Measured in physical units.

² 1953.

³ 1957-63.

⁴ 1947.