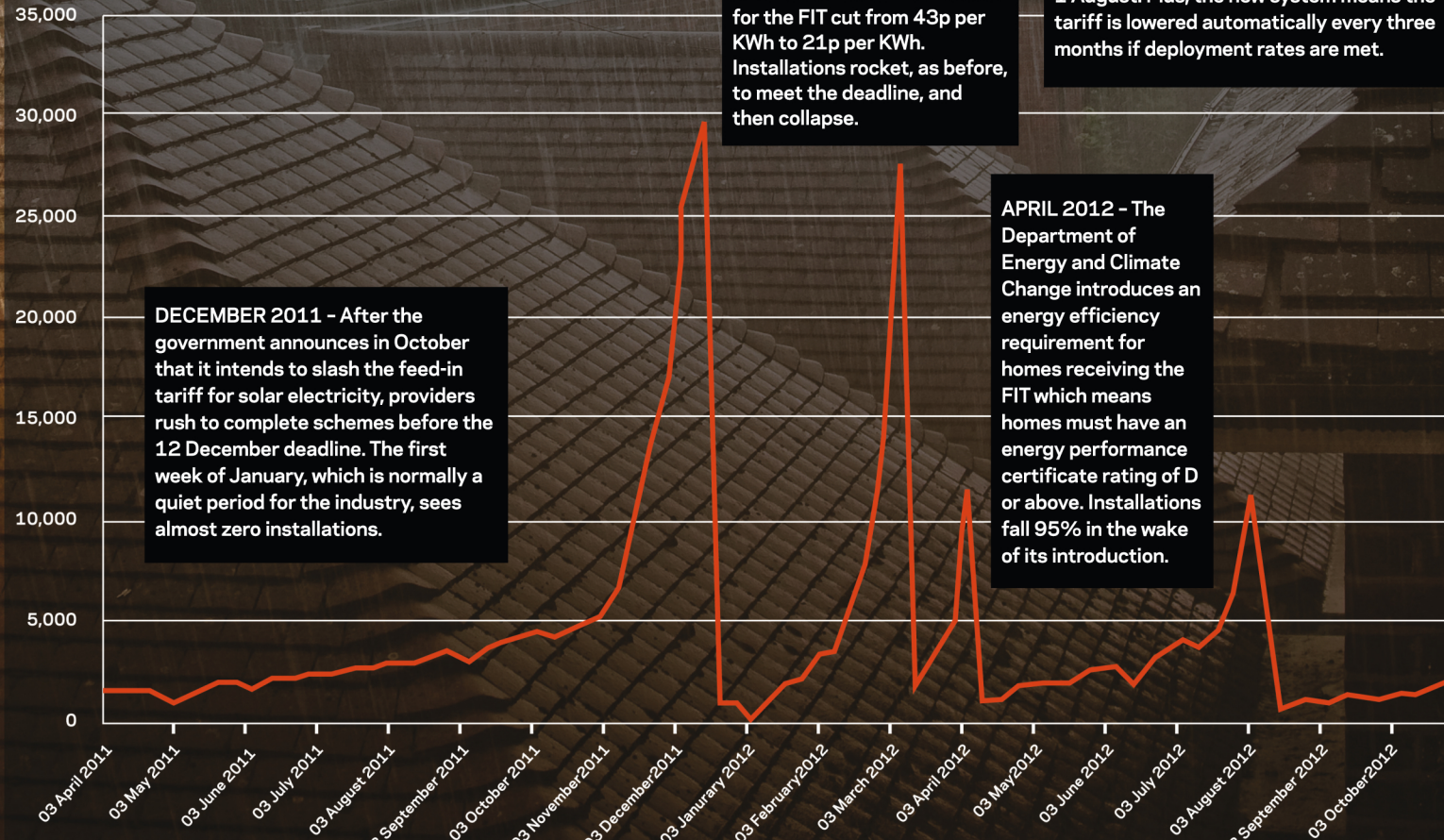


FITS AND STARTS: NUMBER OF PVS INSTALLED EACH WEEK

SOURCE: DECC



DECEMBER 2011 - After the government announces in October that it intends to slash the feed-in tariff for solar electricity, providers rush to complete schemes before the 12 December deadline. The first week of January, which is normally a quiet period for the industry, sees almost zero installations.

MARCH 2012 - In order to head off a legal challenge, the government sets a revised date of the third of the month for the FIT cut from 43p per kWh to 21p per kWh. Installations rocket, as before, to meet the deadline, and then collapse.

APRIL 2012 - The Department of Energy and Climate Change introduces an energy efficiency requirement for homes receiving the FIT which means homes must have an energy performance certificate rating of D or above. Installations fall 95% in the wake of its introduction.

AUGUST 2012 - Installations soar to beat the introduction of the new cost-control mechanism. The rate for small installations falls from 21p per kWh to 16p per kWh on 1 August. Plus, the new system means the tariff is lowered automatically every three months if deployment rates are met.