"building excellence in materials supply"



Monthly report for October 2019

Building the Industry & Building Brands from Knowledge





CfK Powerful, accurate, continuous insights MRA Experienced industry experts BMF The voice of the industry



Best use of Research & Insight

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Quarterly reports contain additional analysis, macroeconomic factors and expert comments. Click the images below to read or download the Q3 report.



Introduction



This Builders Merchant Building Index (BMBI) report contains data from GfK's ground-breaking Builders Merchants Panel, which analyses data from over 80% of generalist builders' merchants' sales throughout Great Britain. GfK's Builders Merchant Point of Sale Tracking Data sets a gold standard in reliable market trends. Unlike data from sources based on relatively small samples or estimates, or sales from suppliers to the supply chain, this up-to-date data is based on actual sales from merchants to builders and other trades. It's therefore a very good proxy for housing RMI.

BMBI trend data is indexed on the 12 month period July 2014 to June 2015. The monthly series tracks what is happening in the market month by month and includes an in-depth review every quarter. This trend series gives the industry access to far more accurate and comprehensive insights than that available to other construction sectors. BMBI data is highlighted by the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy in its monthly construction update, alongside the ONS, CPA, Experian, IHS Markit and the Bank of England.

MRA Marketing produces the Builders Merchant Building Index, a brand of the BMF, to communicate to the wider market as the voice of the industry as well as the voice of individual Expert Brands: The Crystal Group, Keylite Roof Windows, Timbmet, Alumasc Water Management Solutions, Hanson Cement, IKO PLC, Keystone Lintels, Knauf Insulation, Encon Insulation, Ibstock, Talasey Group, Heatrae Sadia, Dulux Trade and Lakes, who provide valuable commentary on market trends and influences.

Further recognition for BMBI

One of the aims of BMBI is to reach across and beyond construction. It's now syndicated to a growing number of trade magazines in different sectors on a regular basis. Outside the industry, economists, banks, consultancies, investment bodies and the big accountants regularly refer to it and BMBI is referenced alongside the Office for National Statistics (ONS) data in the Government Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) monthly construction update. In addition, the Sunday Times sought BMBI Experts in February for a contribution to a review on preparations for Brexit. This August, BBC News contacted one of the BMBI Experts and MRA on the same subject.

More data available

This BMBI report provides valuable top-level indices but there's considerably more data available. GfK insights go much deeper and include sales value data. GfK can quantify market values and drill down into contributing categories, tracing product group performance, to focus on aspects that are critical to you.

GfK can also produce robust like-for-like market comparability tailored to the requirements of an individual business. As more merchants join to submit their monthly sales-out data the quality of this information can only become more extensive and rigorous. Merchants or suppliers who are interested in acquiring data or getting involved should contact Emile van der Ryst at emile.van-der-ryst@gfk.com.

Overview

Merchants' October sales remain subdued

After a strong start to the year, the uncertain economic climate has continued to impact negatively on merchants' sales into October 2019.

Year-on-Year

Total Builders Merchants' sales in October were down 4.4% compared with the same period in 2018, on an equal number of trading days. The best performing sectors in October were Workwear & Safetywear (+9.0%) and Kitchens & Bathrooms (+4.1%), with Plumbing, Heating & Electrical (+0.3%) also showing marginal growth.

Among categories with a weaker performance were Tools (-9.2%) and Timber & Joinery (-7.2%). Landscaping (-5.4%) and Heavy Building Materials (-4.9%) also performed less well year-on-year.

Month-on-Month

The picture was more positive month-on-month, as total October 2019 sales were up by 6.0% compared with September. However, when adjusted for the two-day trading difference, sales were down 3.2%.

Most product categories saw relatively strong growth month-on-month, including Workwear & Safetywear (+21.4%), Plumbing, Heating & Electrical (+13.5%) and Tools (11.8%) and Ironmongery (9.3%). Timber & Joinery (+6.8%) and Heavy Building Materials (+5.7%), the largest categories, also saw sales increase on an unadjusted basis, but not in terms of average sales a day.

Other periods

Sales in the rolling 12 months November 2018 to October 2019 were up 0.5% on the same period last year. Year-to-date sales also remained positive but was down to 0.5% compared with the same time last year.

Index

October's BMBI index was 126.0, with Plumbing, Heating & Electrical the highest at 141.5.

Total Builders
Merchants sales in
October 2019 were
down 4.4%
compared with the
same period in 2018.

The Expert Panel Speaking for their markets - 1



The Builders Merchant Building Index (BMBI) includes a growing panel of industry Experts. In each quarterly report they comment on the market, with a particular focus on the story behind the trends. Experts are leading brands, or brands aspiring to become leaders, who are the voice of their markets.

The Q3 2019 report, which includes commentary from our experts is available here

Meet the Builders Merchant Building Index Experts:



Kevin MorganGroup Commercial Director
The Crystal Group

Expert for PVC-U Windows & Doors

John Coe Expert for Civils, Metal Rainwater & Commercial Director Drainage
Alumasc Water Management Systems



Read latest Comment: Q3 2019 Report



Read latest Comment: Q3 2019 Report



John Duffin Managing Director Keylite Roof Windows





Andrew SimpsonNational Commercial Director
Hanson Cement





Read latest Comment: Q3 2019 Report



Read latest Comment: Q3 2019 Report

Expert for Roofing Products



Nigel Cox Managing Director Timbmet

Expert for Timber & Panel Products



Paul Owen
Commercial Director Distribution
IKO PLC



Read latest Comment: Q3 2019 Report



Read latest Comment: Q3 2019 Report

The Expert Panel Speaking for their markets - 2





Derrick McFarland Managing Director **Keystone Lintels**

Expert for Steel Lintels

Simon Taylor Director of Sales – Builders Merchants Ibstock

Expert for Bricks

Keystone

Read latest Comment: Q3 2019 Report



Read latest Comment: Q3 2019 Report



Neil Hargreaves Managing Director **Knauf Insulation**

Expert for Mineral Wool Insulation



Jeff House **Expert for Water Heating** Head of External Affairs Baxi Heating UK (incorporating Heatrae Sadia)



Read latest Comment: Q3 2019 Report



Read latest Comment: Q3 2019 Report



Mike Beard Merchant Development Director Encon Insulation



Expert for Insulation Products -Distribution



Malcolm Gough **Group Sales & Marketing** Director **Talasey Group**



Expert for Natural Stone Landscaping Products, **Vitrified Paving & Artificial Grass**

Read latest Comment: Q3 2019 Report



Paul Roughan Trade Merchants Sales Director Dulux Trade



Expert for Paint

Read latest Comment: Q3 2019 Report

Read latest Comment: Q3 2019 Report



Mike Tattam Sales & Marketing Director Lakes



Expert for Shower Enclosures and Showering

Read latest Comment: Q3 2019 Report

Monthly: Index and Categories October 2018* – October 2019

Builders Merchant Building Index

(Indexed on monthly average, July 2014 - June 2015)

		2018			2019									
MONTHLY SALES VALUE INDEX	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	
Total Builders Merchants	100	131.8	122.5	77.4	107.8	108.7	121.9	122.0	129.3	117.2	132.8	117.7	118.9	126.0
Timber & Joinery Products	100	137.2	126.8	79.9	114.7	112.2	123.3	122.3	127.9	118.3	130.9	117.0	119.3	127.4
Heavy Building Materials	100	132.4	121.8	75.6	106.6	108.1	121.2	121.1	129.2	116.2	132.5	117.3	119.1	125.9
Decorating	100	124.8	116.3	78.9	104.7	103.4	114.8	109.7	115.1	108.1	124.2	113.2	112.5	122.1
Tools	100	123.2	117.8	73.0	100.3	99.8	108.8	99.5	104.5	96.7	106.7	97.3	100.0	111.8
Workwear & Safetywear	100	123.5	129.5	79.9	111.5	96.8	101.5	95.5	100.1	99.3	108.8	95.5	110.9	134.6
Ironmongery	100	133.6	129.3	84.5	120.8	115.5	125.2	122.5	127.6	117.7	133.1	120.6	120.7	131.9
Landscaping	100	126.0	106.1	64.0	87.1	98.2	131.6	154.5	171.1	146.6	165.4	136.7	125.3	119.1
Plumbing, Heating & Electrical	100	141.1	146.5	96.9	130.8	125.7	131.2	117.6	120.2	109.7	123.8	111.8	124.6	141.5
Renewables & Water Saving	100	76.4	68.5	45.8	69.3	65.7	78.5	64.5	61.4	73.1	76.1	78.0	76.0	74.6
Kitchens & Bathrooms	100	122.5	128.2	81.2	109.5	115.3	122.8	115.2	116.5	112.7	129.2	116.4	118.5	127.6
Miscellaneous	100	126.3	119.1	85.1	122.7	111.6	115.1	113.6	122.5	113.7	135.8	118.5	128.0	131.6
Services	100	125.1	114.2	79.9	94.5	99.7	110.0	113.6	121.8	106.4	125.6	116.0	113.2	122.6

^{*}Click the web link below to see the complete series of indices from July 2015.

NB: The April 2019 index for services has been updated following a data submission revision.

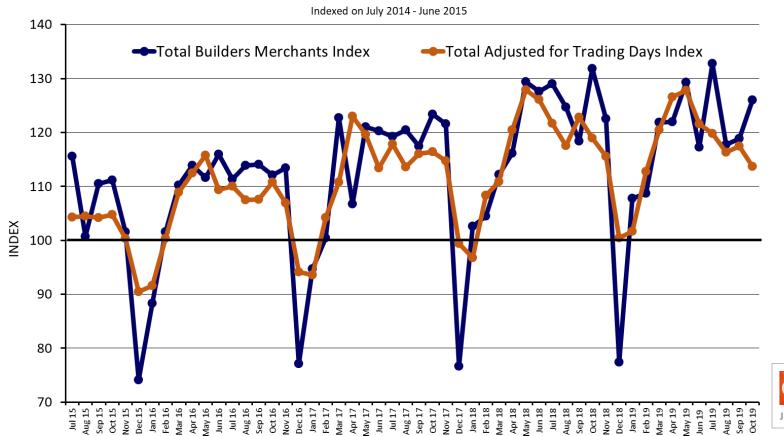


Monthly: Index Adjusted and unadjusted for trading days



Total Builders Merchants Index v Total Adjusted for Trading Days Index

For number of trading days, see Slide 35

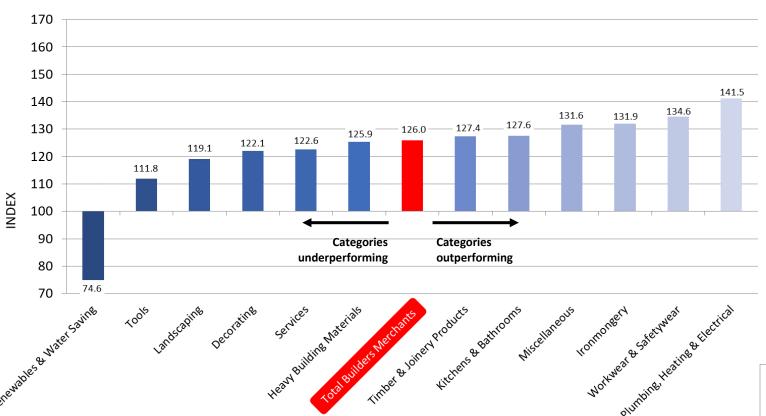




Monthly: Index and Categories October 2019 index



October 2019 Index



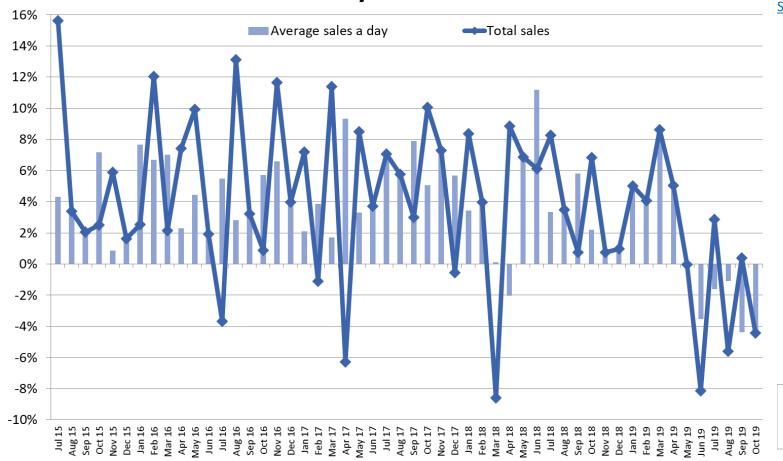


Monthly: Sales Indices Adjusted and unadjusted for trading days



Monthly: Year on Year

For number of trading days, see Slide 36

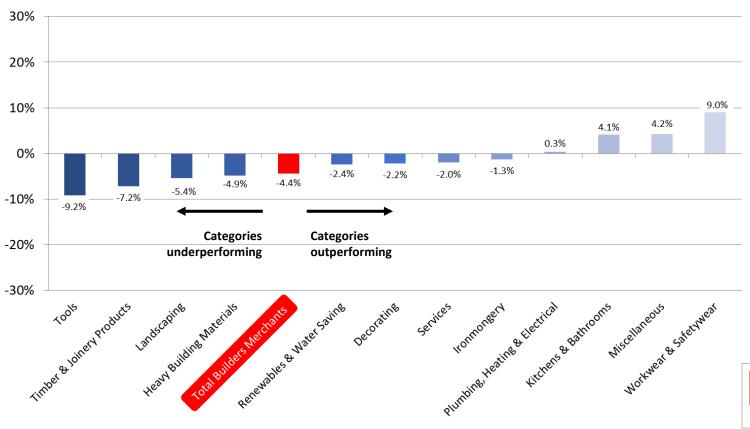




Monthly: This Year v Last Year October 2019 sales indices



October 2019 index v October 2018 index





Monthly: This Month v Last Month

October 2019 sales indices



October 2019 index v September 2019 index



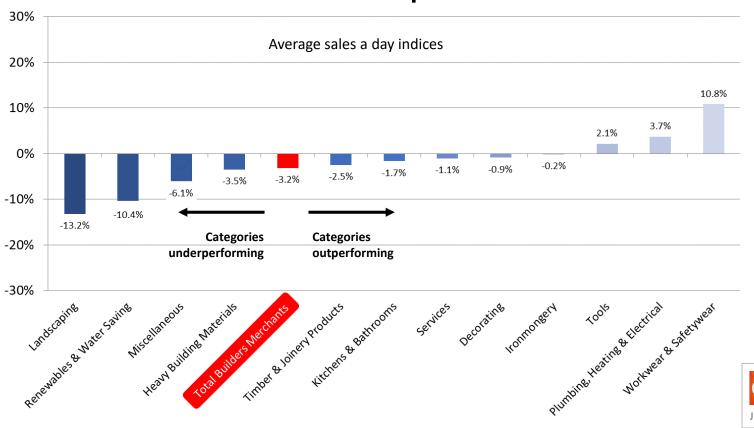


Monthly: This Month v Last Month

October 2019 average sales a day indices



October 2019 index v September 2019 index





Quarter 3 2018* to Quarter 3 2019

(Indexed on July 2014 to June 2015)



QUARTERLY SALES VALUE INDEX	Index	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019
Total Builders Merchants	100	124.0	110.6	112.7	122.9	123.1
Timber & Joinery Products	100	128.3	114.7	116.7	122.8	122.4
Heavy Building Materials	100	123.5	109.9	112.0	122.2	123.0
Decorating	100	116.5	106.5	107.5	111.0	116.6
Tools	100	110.1	104.7	103.0	100.2	101.4
Workwear & Safetywear	100	100.6	110.9	103.2	98.3	105.0
Ironmongery	100	123.7	115.8	120.5	122.6	124.8
Landscaping	100	140.6	98.7	105.6	157.4	142.5
Plumbing, Heating & Electrical	100	117.2	128.1	129.2	115.8	120.1
Renewables & Water Saving	100	68.7	63.6	71.2	66.3	76.7
Kitchens & Bathrooms	100	117.6	110.6	115.9	114.8	121.4
Miscellaneous	100	112.4	110.1	116.5	116.6	127.4
Services	100	116.1	106.4	98.8	113.9	118.3

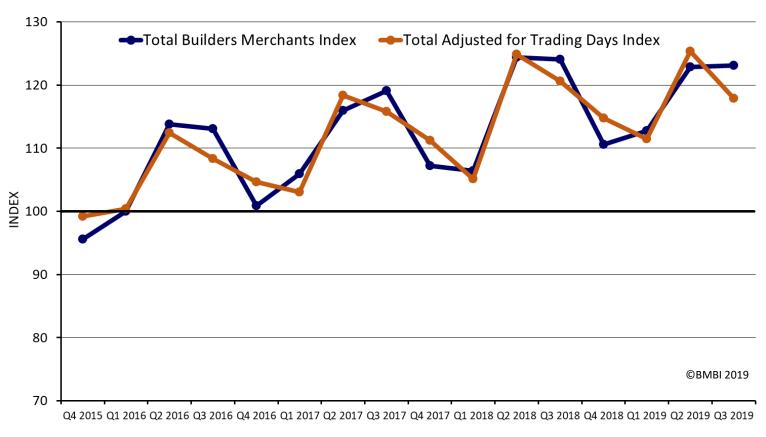
^{*}Click the web link below to see the complete series of quarterly indices from Q2, 2015.



Quarterly: Index

Adjusted and unadjusted for trading days



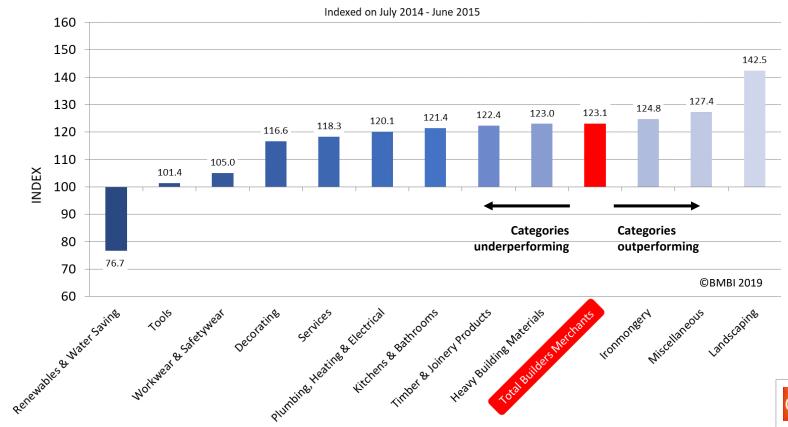




Q3 2019 index



Quarter 3 2019



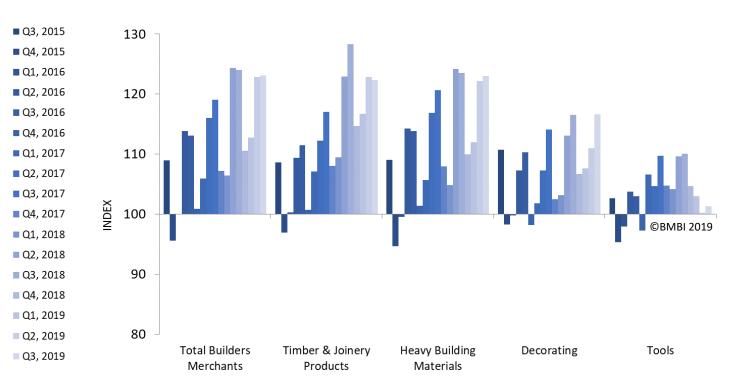


Quarterly indices



Quarterly Indices

Q3 2015 to Q3 2019



Source: GfK's
Builders Merchants
Total Category Report
July 2015 to September 2019

Indexed on July 2014 to June 2015

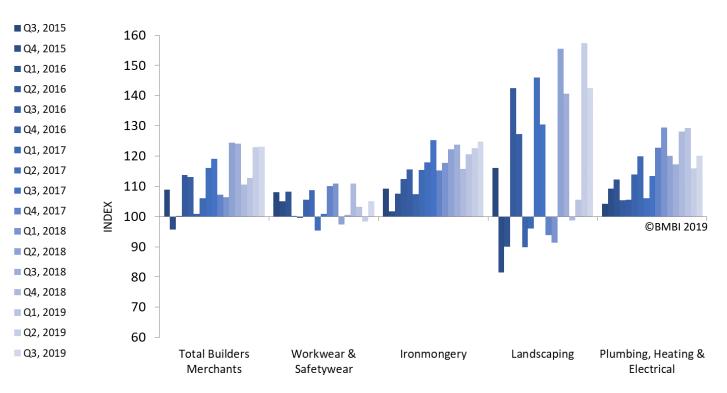


Quarterly indices



Quarterly Indices

Q3 2015 to Q3 2019



Source: GfK's
Builders Merchants
Total Category Report
July 2015 to September 2019

Indexed on July 2014 to June 2015

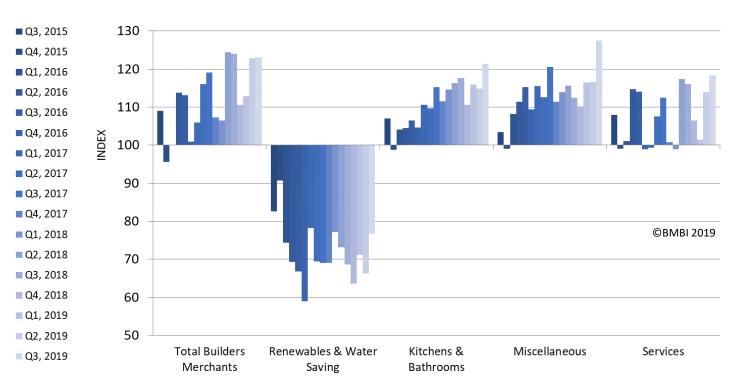


Quarterly indices



Quarterly Indices

Q3 2015 to Q3 2019





Indexed on July 2014 to June 2015

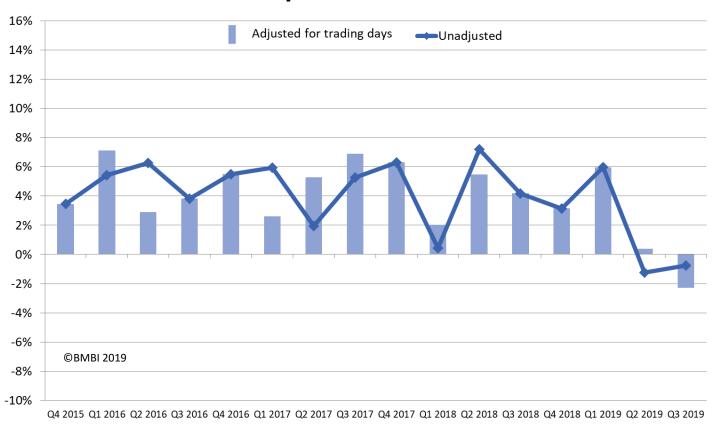


Quarterly: Sales Indices

Adjusted and unadjusted for trading days



Quarterly Indices: Year on Year



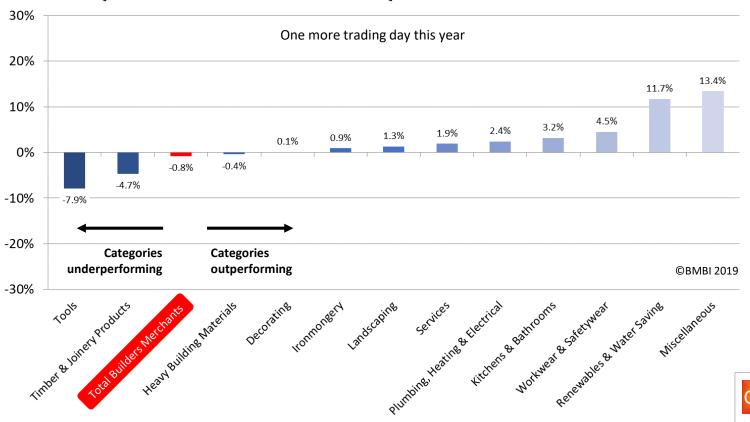


Quarterly: This Year v Last Year

Q3 2019 sales indices



Quarter 3 2019 index v Quarter 3 2018 index



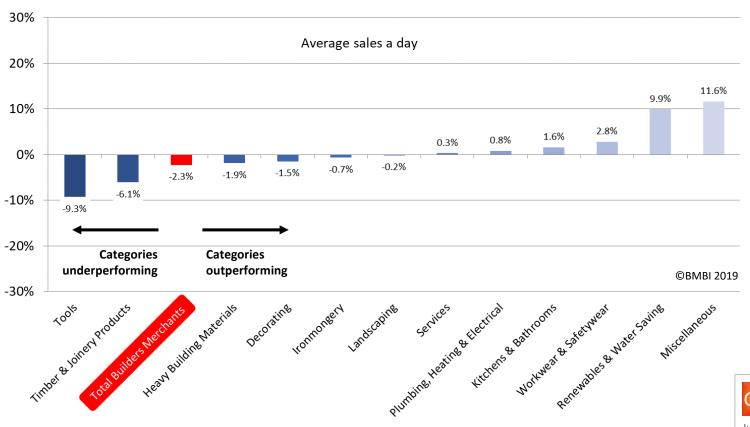


Quarterly: This Year v Last Year

Q3 2019 average sales a day indices



Quarter 3 2019 index v Quarter 3 2018 index



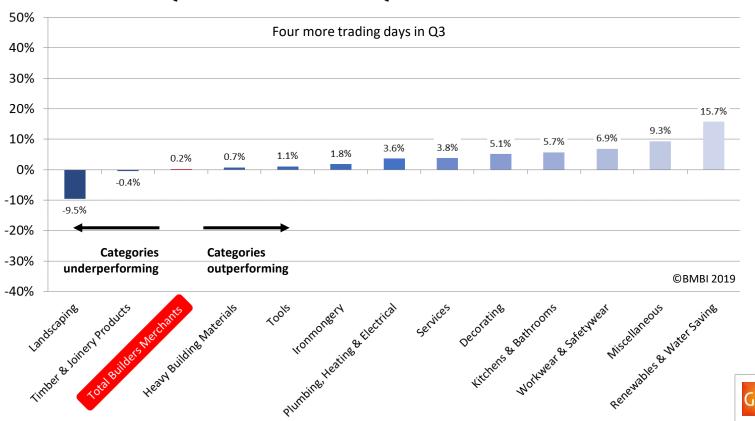


Quarterly: Quarter on Quarter

Q3 2019 sales indices



Quarter 3 2019 v Quarter 2 2019





Source: GfK's

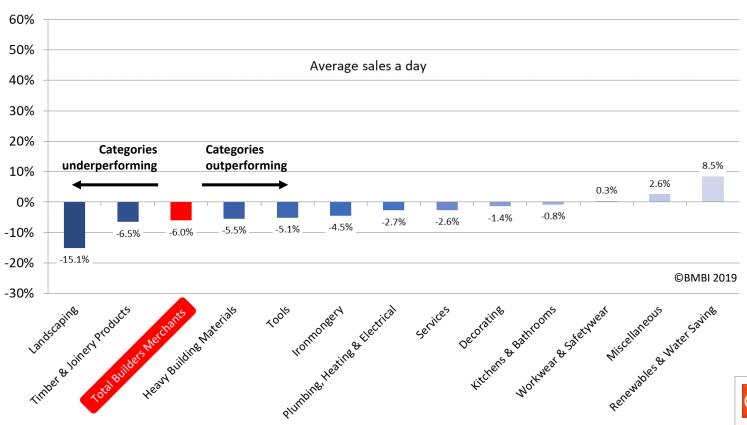
Total Category Report July 2015 to September 2019

Quarterly: Quarter on Quarter

Q3 2019 average sales a day indices



Quarter 3 2019 v Quarter 2 2019



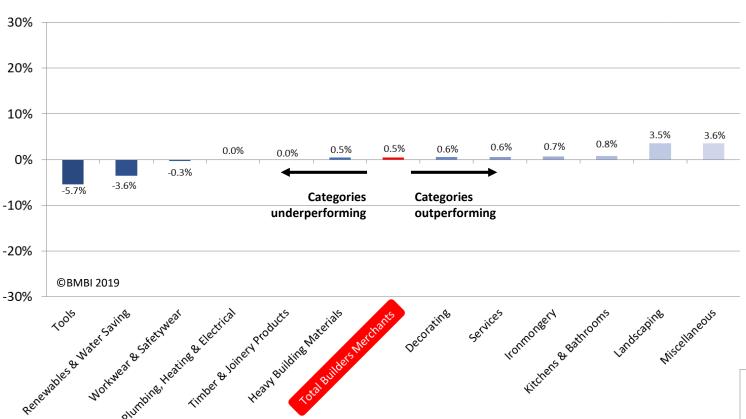


Last 12 Months: Year on Year

Rolling 12 months sales indices



12 months Nov 18 to Oct 19 v 12 months Nov 17 to Oct 18



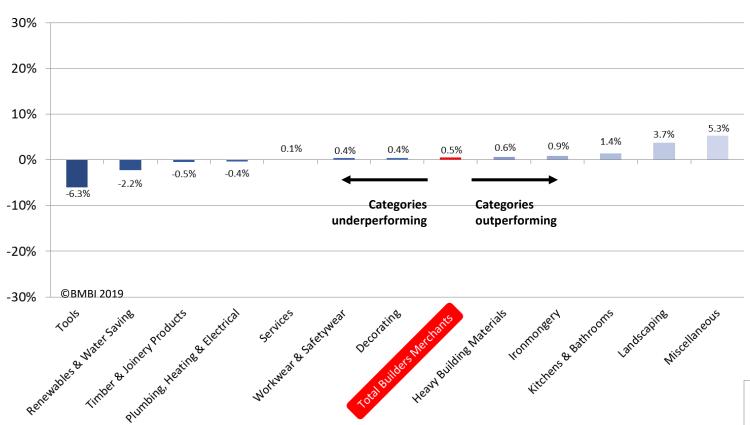


Year to Date: Year on Year

January to October



YTD Jan to Oct 2019 -v- Jan to Oct 2018







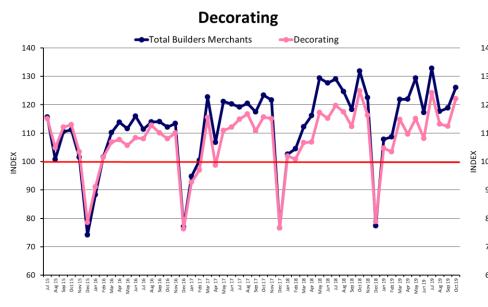
Timber & Joinery Products Heavy Building Materials Total Builders Merchants Heavy Building Materials Total Builders Merchants Timber & Joinery Products 140 140 130 130 120 120 110 110 100 INDEX 90 90 80 80 70 70

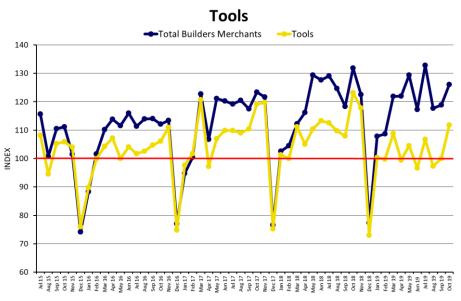


Indexed on July 2014 – June 2015

Indexed on July 2014 - June 2015





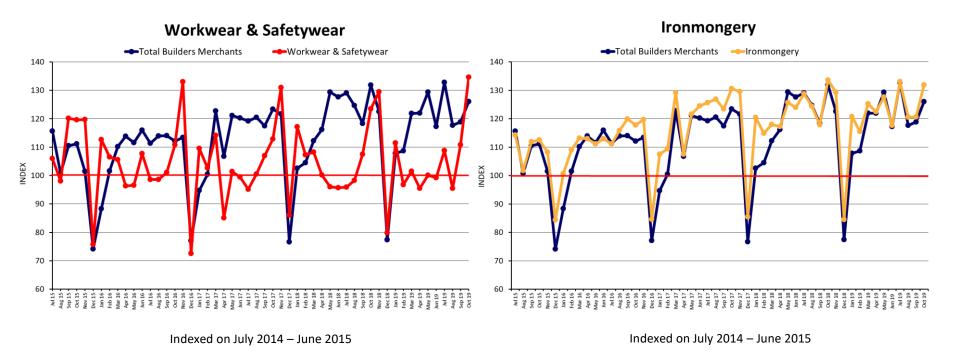


Indexed on July 2014 - June 2015

Indexed on July 2014 – June 2015



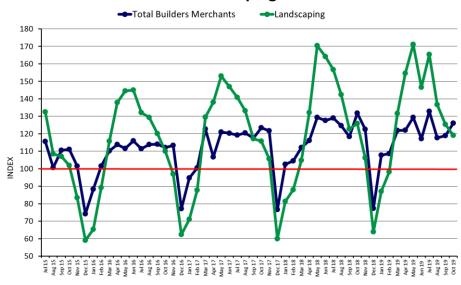




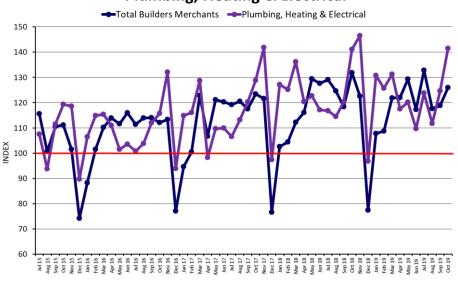




Landscaping



Plumbing, Heating & Electrical



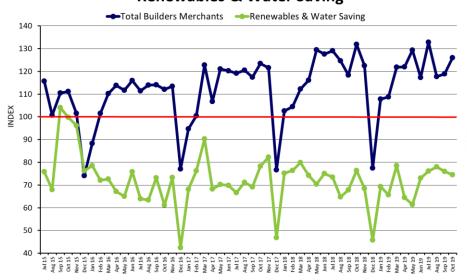
Indexed on July 2014 – June 2015

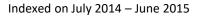
Indexed on July 2014 - June 2015





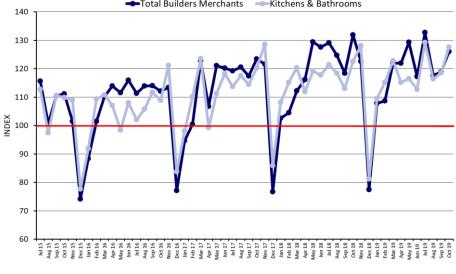
Renewables & Water Saving 140





◆Total Builders Merchants ≪Kitchens & Bathrooms

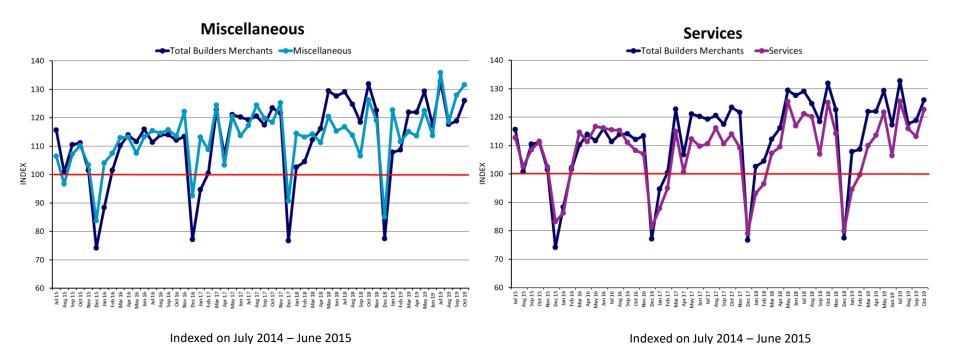
Kitchens & Bathrooms



Indexed on July 2014 - June 2015









Source: GfK's **Builders Merchants Total Category Report**

July 2015 to October 2019

Trading Days



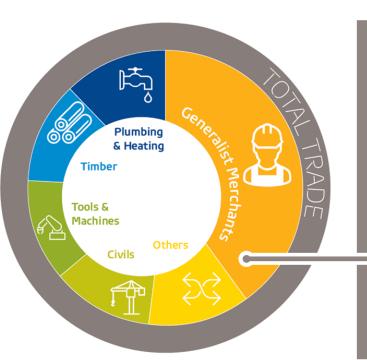
Month	ly											Quarte	rly			Half Ye	ar	Full Year
Index:	20.8											Index:	62.4			Index:	125	Index: 250
2015												2015						
						Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec				Q4			
						22	20	22	22	21	17				60			
2016												2016				2016		2016
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	H1	H2	250
20	21	21	21	20	22	21	22	22	21	22	17	62	63	65	60	125	125	230
2017												2017				2017		2017
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	H1	H2	249
21	20	23	18	21	22	21	22	21	22	22	16	64	61	64	60	125	124	245
2018												2018				2018		2018
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	H1	H2	250
22	20	21	20	21	21	22	22	20	23	22	16	63	62	64	61	125	125	250
2019												2019				2019		2019
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct			Q1	Q2	Q3		H1	H2	124
22	20	21	20	21	20	23	21	21	23			63	61	65		124		124



GfK's Panel Generalist Builders Merchant Panel (GBM's)

GFK

The Multiple Generalist Builders Merchants Channel



Generalist Builders Merchants

Builder Merchants handle an extended range of building materials and components (e.g. doors, windows, interior furnishing materials, insulation materials, tiles, cement, mortar, adhesives, sealants, nails, hardware products, pipes, ironware, paint) and generate their turnover with professional end users.

Multiple merchants are those defined as having more than 3 outlets or a turnover of greater than £3m p.a.

Examples include:





















© GfK

GfK Insights Methodology









Define sample requirements applying statistical methods

GfK Insights Methodology







GfK collect live sales-out data from our panel of merchant partners.

We add value to that data through the application of each sold product's unique technical features. We compare like-for-like products and categories from like-for-like merchants and aggregate this within our reports.

Our international methodology is based on robust scientific principles and delivers continuous, reliable information that can be applied to your business requirements.

GfK's Product Categories

Reports cover category headline values & in-depth, brand-level insights

Headline values available

Timber & Joinery Products

Timber Sheet Materials Cladding Flooring & Flooring Accessories Mouldings Stairs & Stairparts Window & Frames

Heavy Building Materials

Doors/Door Frames

Bricks Blocks & Damp Proofing Drainage/Civils/Guttering Lintels Cement/Aggregate/Cement Accs Concrete Mix/Products Plasters Plasterboards and Accessories Roofing Products Insulation Cement Mixers/Mixing Buckets Products

Other Heavy Building Equipment/Material

Decorating

Builders Metalwork

Paint/Woodcare Paint Brushes Rollers & Pads Adhesives/Sealants/Fillers Tiles And Tiling Accessories **Decoration Preparation & Decorating Sundries** Wall Coverings

Tools

Hand Tools Power Tools Power Tool Accessories Ladders & Access Equipment

Workwear And Safetywear

Clothing Safety Equipment

Ironmongery

Fixings And Fastenings Security Other Ironmongery

Landscaping

Garden Walling/Paving Driveways/Block Paving/Kerbs **Decorative Aggregates** Fencing And Gates Decking Other Gardening Equipment

Plumbing Heating & Electrical

Plumbing Equipment Boilers Tanks & Accessories Heating Equipment/Water Heaters/Temperature Control/Air Treatment Radiators And Accessories Electrical Equipment Lighting And Light Bulbs

Renewables And Water Management

Water Saving Renewables & Ventilation

Kitchens & Bathrooms

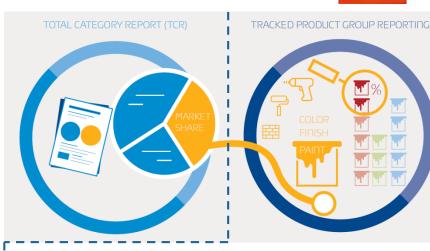
Bathroom (Including Showering) Fitted Kitchens Major Appliances

Miscellaneous

Cleaning/Domestic/Personal Automotive Glass Other Furniture & Shelving Other Misc

Services

Toolhire / Hire Services Other Services



In-depth product group reporting

Monthly sales values, volumes, pricing analysis & distribution facts available by brand and key product features.

For insights on your product group please contact Pete Church at GfK (pete.church@gfk.com).

Available categories:

Heavyside

Bricks Insulation

Lightside

Emulsion Paints (incl. Masonry & Base)

Trim Paints

Primers/Undercoats

Woodcare

Adhesives

Sealants

Fillers/PU Foam

Tile Fixing (Adhesives/Grout)

BMF Forecast Report Q3 2019 edition



Builders Merchants Industry Forecast Report

The BMF have released the Q3 edition of their Builders Merchants Industry Forecast.

While Builders Merchants Building Index (BMBI) data, which is provided by GfK and is based on actual sales category performance, has enabled users to see which products and regions are currently growing, the forecast report takes this one stage further to meet the industry's need for accurate forecasting.

The BMF forecast model incorporates several lead indicators to signal future events that will impact our markets.

Using BMBI data coupled with advanced modelling techniques the BMF have developed a channel specific forecasting model to show what is likely to happen in the next 12 months, making it possible for merchants and suppliers to forecast their customers' requirements more accurately.

The report is updated on a quarterly basis, with the Q3 edition available now. The forecast report can be downloaded by BMF members free of charge - once logged in – here.

Non-members can purchase the report by contacting Nyssa Patel on 024 7685 4994 or email nyssa.patel@bmf.org.uk



Builders Merchants Industry Forecast 2019 - 2021

Winter edition - £195

The BMF. Building your people. Building your skills. Building your business. Building your voice.

Building excellence.



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