"building excellence in materials supply"



Monthly report for January 2020

Building the Industry & Building Brands from Knowledge





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



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Quarterly reports contain additional analysis, macroeconomic factors and expert comments. Click the images below to read or download the Q4 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.

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: British Gypsum, Wienerberger, Midland Lead, Polypipe, The Crystal Group, Keylite Roof Windows, Alumasc Water Management Solutions, Hanson Cement, IKO PLC, Keystone Lintels, Knauf Insulation, Talasey Group, Heatrae Sadia (Baxi Heating UK), Dulux Trade and Lakes.

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. From time to time, news outlets, including the BBC contacts BMBI Experts and MRA for commentary on the industry.

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

Subdued start to 2020

Year-on-Year

Total Builders' Merchant sales in January were down 2.6% compared with January 2019. Seven categories sold less, with Timber & Joinery Products (-7.0%) weakest, followed by Tools (-6.1%) which had its lowest average sales a day since BMBI data was first recorded in July 2014. Heavy Building Materials (the largest category) was down 2.7%. Five categories sold more this year, including Workwear & Safetywear (+7.3%) and Landscaping (+3.9%).

Month-on-Month

Comparing sales between January and December is always affected by a significant difference in the number of trading days (22 in January 2020 and 15 in December 2019). As a result, total January sales were 34.4% higher.

However average sales a day provides a more meaningful comparison, with January 8.4% weaker than December. Kitchens & Bathrooms (-14.0%) and Decorating (-12.4%) were particularly low. Although still selling less each day, six categories did better than merchants overall - including Timber & Joinery Products (-5.5%) and Workwear & Safetywear (-1.8%).

Other periods

Sales in the 12 months February 2019 to January 2020 were down 0.5% on the same period a year earlier, with one less trading day. Four categories sold less: Tools (-6.7%); Timber & Joinery Products (-2.0%); Plumbing Heating & Electrical (-0.8%) and Heavy Building Materials (-0.7%). The eight categories selling more included Landscaping (+2.9%), Workwear & Safetywear (+2.5%) and Kitchens & Bathrooms (+1.8%). Average sales a day in the last 12 months were down 0.1% overall.

Index

January's BMBI index was 105.3, with one additional trading day. Nine categories exceeded 100, with seasonal category Plumbing, Heating & Electrical (128.9) doing best. Workwear & Safetywear (119.9) and Ironmongery (118.4) also performed well. Landscaping (90.5) was one of only three categories below 100. The average sales a day index for January was 99.3.

Total Builders'
Merchant sales in
January were down
2.6% compared with
the same month in
2019.

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 Q4 2019 report, which includes commentary from our experts is available here

Meet the Builders Merchant Building Index Experts:

Expert for Drylining Systems:





Stacey Temprell,Marketing Director
British Gypsum

Read latest comment: Q4 2019 Report

Expert for Bricks & Roof Tiles:





Kevin Tolson, Commercial Director Wienerberger UK

Read latest Comment: Q4 2019 Report

Expert for PVC-U Windows & Doors:





Kevin Morgan Group Commercial Director The Crystal Group

Read latest Comment: Q4 2019 Report

Expert for Civils & Green Urbanisation:



Polypipe

Steve Durdant-Hollamby,Managing Director
Polypipe Civils

Read latest Comment: Q4 2019 Report

Expert for Lead:





Lynn StreetSales & Marketing Manager
Midland Lead

Read latest Comment: Q4 2019 Report

Expert for Roof Windows:





John Duffin Managing Director Keylite Roof Windows

Read latest Comment: Q4 2019 Report

The Expert Panel

Speaking for their markets - 2



Expert for Steel Lintels:



Keystone

Derrick McFarland **Managing Director Keystone Lintels**

Read latest Comment: Q4 2019 Report

Expert for Civils, Metal Rainwater & Drainage:





John Coe Commercial Director **Alumasc Water Management Systems** Read latest Comment: Q4 2019 Report

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





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

Read latest Comment: Q4 2019 Report

Expert for Mineral Wool Insulation:



KNAUFINSULATION

Neil Hargreaves Managing Director **Knauf Insulation**

Read latest Comment: Q4 2019 Report

Expert for Cement & Aggregates:





Andrew Simpson Packed Products Director Hanson Cement

Read latest Comment: Q4 2019 Report

Expert for Paint:





Paul Roughan Trade Merchants Sales Director **Dulux Trade**

Read latest Comment: Q4 2019 Report

Expert for Water Heating:



HEATRAESADIA

Jeff House Head of External Affairs Baxi Heating UK (incorporating Heatrae Sadia)

Read latest Comment: Q4 2019 Report

Expert for Roofing Products:





Paul Owen Commercial Director Distribution IKO PLC

Read latest Comment: Q4 2019 Report

Expert for Shower Enclosures and Showering:





Mike Tattam Sales & Marketing Director

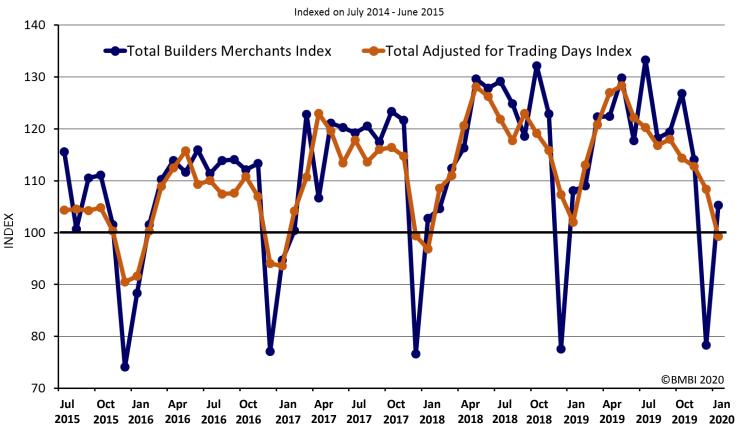
Read latest Comment: Q4 2019 Report

Monthly: Index

Adjusted and unadjusted for trading days



Total Builders Merchants Index v Total Adjusted for Trading Days Index







Monthly: Index and Categories January 2019* – January 2020

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



| | | 2019 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|
| MONTHLY SALES VALUE INDEX | Index | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | July | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan |
| Total Builders Merchants | 100 | 108.1 | 109.0 | 122.3 | 122.4 | 129.8 | 117.7 | 133.3 | 118.2 | 119.4 | 126.8 | 114.1 | 78.4 | 105.3 |
| Timber & Joinery Products | 100 | 115.4 | 112.6 | 124.1 | 123.3 | 128.9 | 119.3 | 131.9 | 118.1 | 120.5 | 128.8 | 115.9 | 77.4 | 107.2 |
| Heavy Building Materials | 100 | 106.7 | 108.2 | 121.4 | 121.3 | 129.4 | 116.5 | 132.8 | 117.5 | 119.3 | 126.3 | 112.5 | 76.3 | 103.8 |
| Decorating | 100 | 105.0 | 103.8 | 115.1 | 110.1 | 115.5 | 108.5 | 124.7 | 113.6 | 112.9 | 122.7 | 113.7 | 81.6 | 104.9 |
| Tools | 100 | 101.0 | 100.2 | 109.3 | 100.0 | 104.9 | 97.2 | 107.3 | 97.7 | 100.4 | 113.7 | 103.9 | 70.3 | 94.8 |
| Workwear & Safetywear | 100 | 111.8 | 97.9 | 102.0 | 95.8 | 100.5 | 99.5 | 109.1 | 97.3 | 111.7 | 135.4 | 135.1 | 83.2 | 119.9 |
| Ironmongery | 100 | 121.5 | 116.3 | 126.2 | 123.2 | 128.4 | 118.6 | 134.0 | 121.6 | 121.7 | 132.9 | 119.9 | 88.4 | 118.4 |
| Landscaping | 100 | 87.1 | 98.2 | 131.7 | 154.6 | 171.1 | 146.7 | 165.5 | 136.8 | 125.5 | 120.2 | 99.0 | 66.7 | 90.5 |
| Plumbing, Heating & Electrical | 100 | 132.2 | 127.0 | 132.6 | 118.7 | 121.3 | 110.8 | 124.9 | 112.9 | 126.0 | 143.0 | 135.9 | 98.5 | 128.9 |
| Renewables & Water Saving | 100 | 70.3 | 67.1 | 81.0 | 66.1 | 63.6 | 74.8 | 78.3 | 79.6 | 77.5 | 76.7 | 74.2 | 54.1 | 79.7 |
| Kitchens & Bathrooms | 100 | 110.4 | 116.0 | 123.5 | 115.9 | 117.3 | 113.6 | 130.2 | 117.4 | 119.5 | 128.7 | 126.7 | 88.3 | 111.4 |
| Miscellaneous | 100 | 123.5 | 112.2 | 115.7 | 114.2 | 123.1 | 114.6 | 136.8 | 119.6 | 128.7 | 132.4 | 121.9 | 90.8 | 120.3 |
| Services | 100 | 94.6 | 99.8 | 110.0 | 113.6 | 121.8 | 106.5 | 125.6 | 116.0 | 113.2 | 122.7 | 113.1 | 87.2 | 100.1 |

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

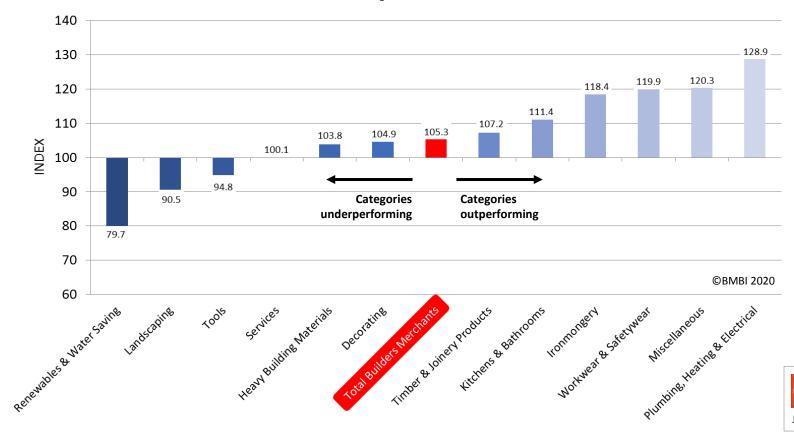


Monthly: Index and Categories

January 2020 index



January 2020 Index



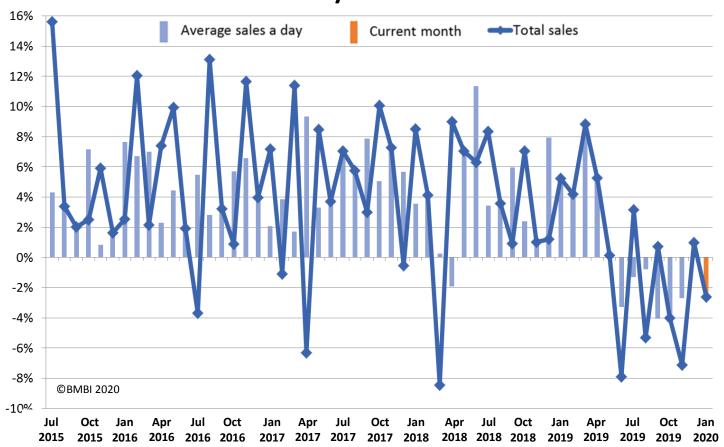


Monthly: Sales Indices Year on Year

Adjusted and unadjusted for trading days



Monthly: Year on Year



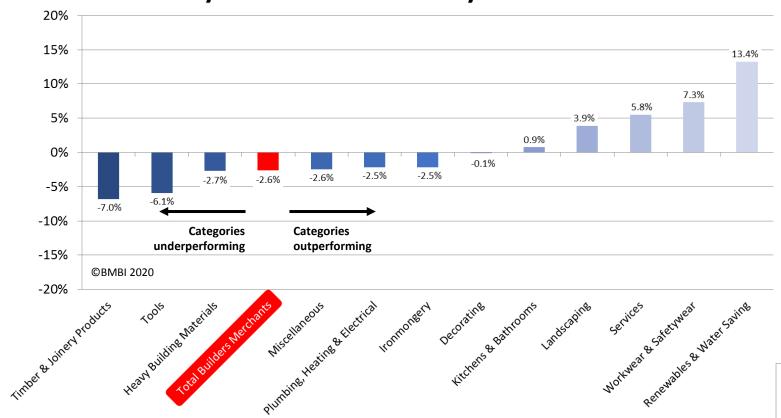


Monthly: This Year v Last Year

January 2020 sales indices



January 2020 index v January 2019 index



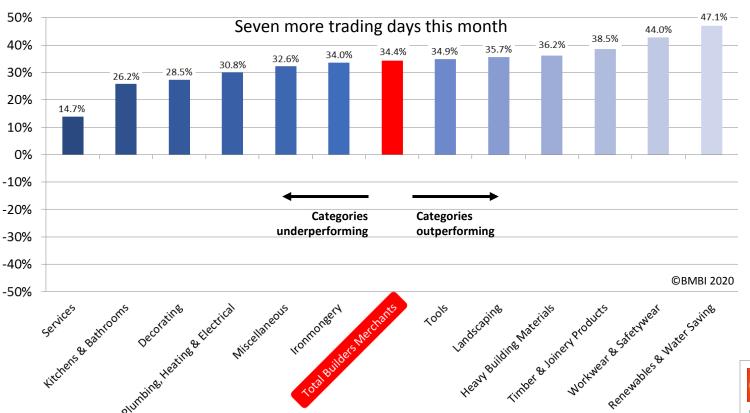


Monthly: This Month v Last Month

January 2020 sales indices



January 2020 index v December 2019 index



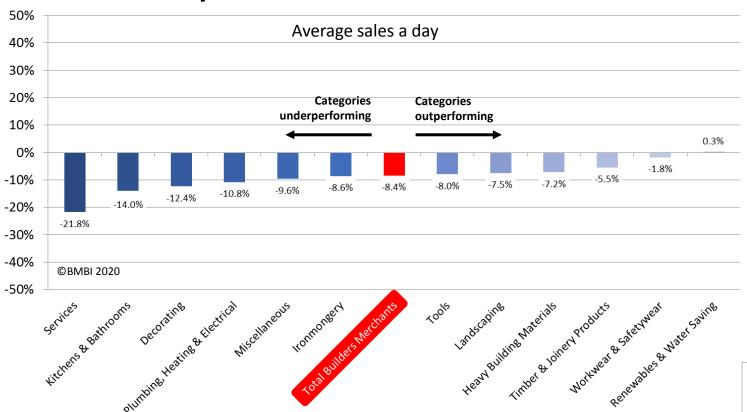


Monthly: This Month v Last Month

January 2020 average sales a day indices



January 2020 index v December 2019 index





Quarter 4 2018* to Quarter 4 2019

(Indexed on July 2014 to June 2015)



| QUARTERLY SALES VALUE INDEX | Index | Q4 2018 | Q1 2019 | Q2 2019 | Q3 2019 | Q4 2019 |
|--------------------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Total Builders Merchants | 100 | 110.9 | 113.1 | 123.3 | 123.6 | 106.4 |
| Timber & Joinery Products | 100 | 115.1 | 117.4 | 123.8 | 123.5 | 107.4 |
| Heavy Building Materials | 100 | 110.1 | 112.1 | 122.4 | 123.2 | 105.0 |
| Decorating | 100 | 106.9 | 108.0 | 111.4 | 117.1 | 106.0 |
| Tools | 100 | 104.9 | 103.5 | 100.7 | 101.8 | 96.0 |
| Workwear & Safetywear | 100 | 111.5 | 103.9 | 98.6 | 106.0 | 117.9 |
| Ironmongery | 100 | 116.4 | 121.3 | 123.4 | 125.8 | 113.8 |
| Landscaping | 100 | 98.8 | 105.7 | 157.5 | 142.6 | 95.3 |
| Plumbing, Heating & Electrical | 100 | 128.8 | 130.6 | 117.0 | 121.3 | 125.8 |
| Renewables & Water Saving | 100 | 64.2 | 72.8 | 68.2 | 78.5 | 68.3 |
| Kitchens & Bathrooms | 100 | 111.3 | 116.7 | 115.6 | 122.3 | 114.6 |
| Miscellaneous | 100 | 110.7 | 117.2 | 117.3 | 128.4 | 115.0 |
| Services | 100 | 106.4 | 101.4 | 113.9 | 118.3 | 107.7 |

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

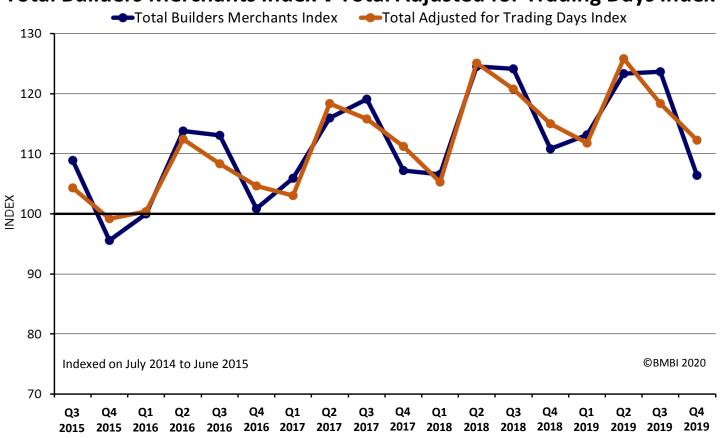


Quarterly: Index

Adjusted and unadjusted for trading days



Total Builders Merchants Index v Total Adjusted for Trading Days Index

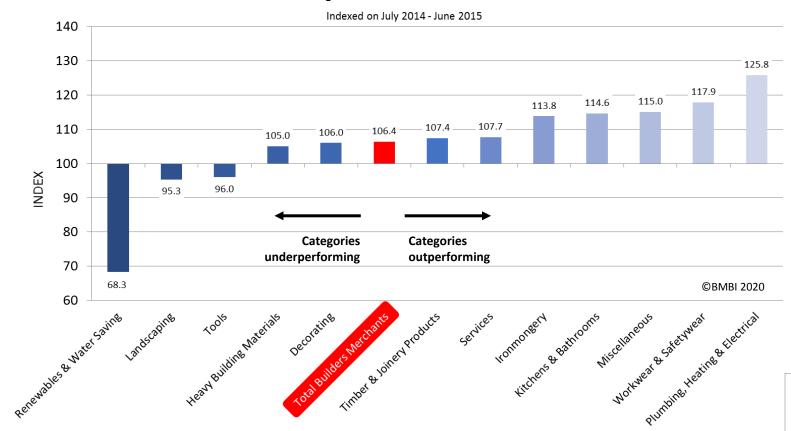




Q4 2019 index



Quarter 4 2019

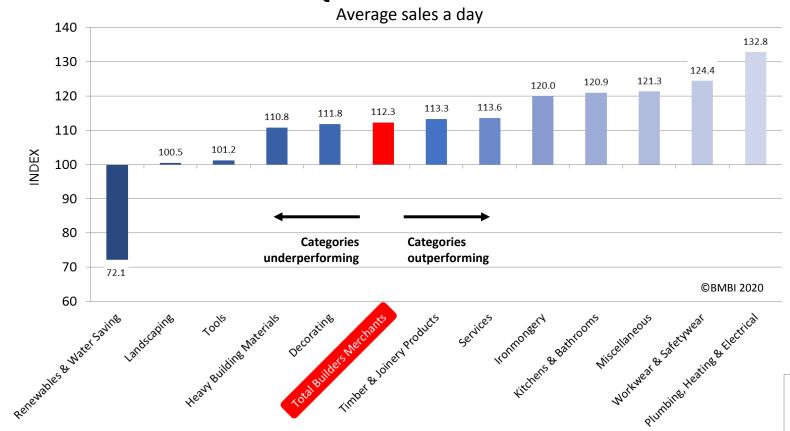




Q4 2019 average sales a day index



Quarter 4 2019





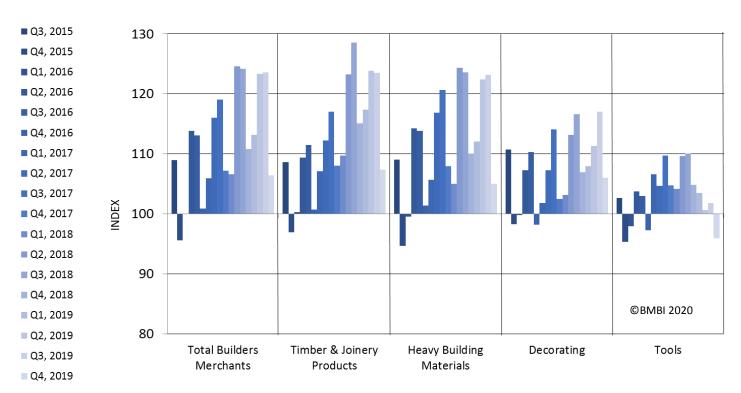
Indexed on July 2014 - June 2015

Quarterly indices



Quarterly Indices

Q3 2015 to Q4 2019





Indexed on July 2014 to June 2015



Quarterly indices



Quarterly Indices

Q3 2015 to Q4 2019





Indexed on July 2014 to June 2015

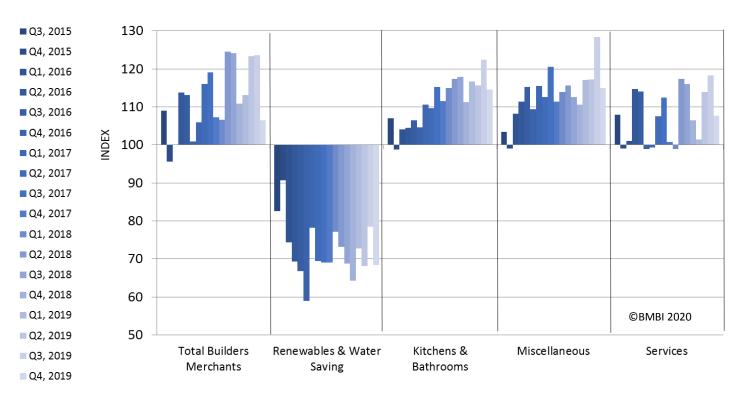


Quarterly indices



Quarterly Indices

Q3 2015 to Q4 2019





Indexed on July 2014 to June 2015

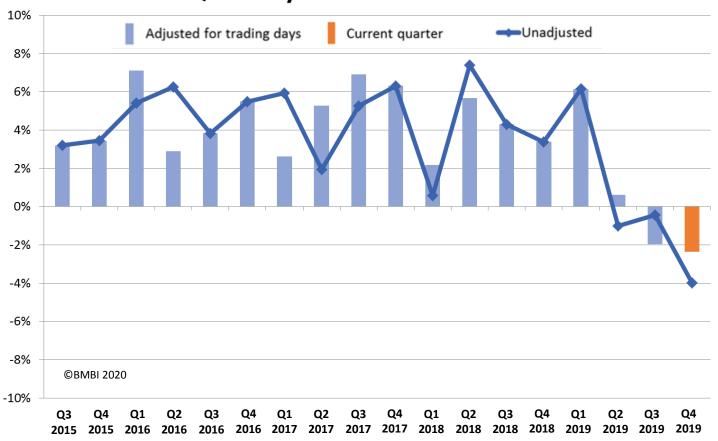


Quarterly: Sales Indices

Adjusted and unadjusted for trading days



Quarterly Indices: Year on Year



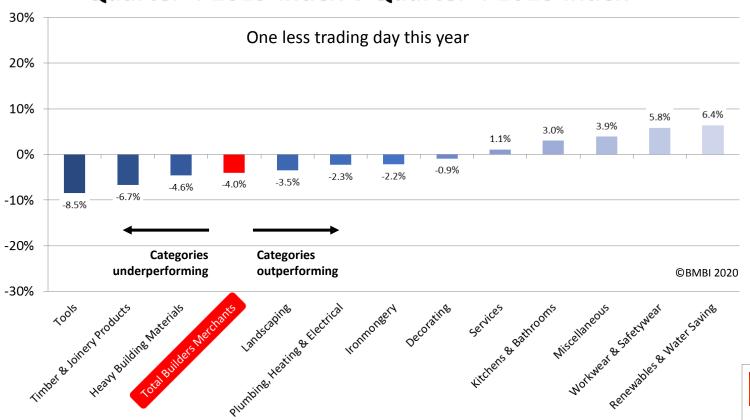


Quarterly: This Year v Last Year

Q4 2019 sales indices



Quarter 4 2019 index v Quarter 4 2018 index



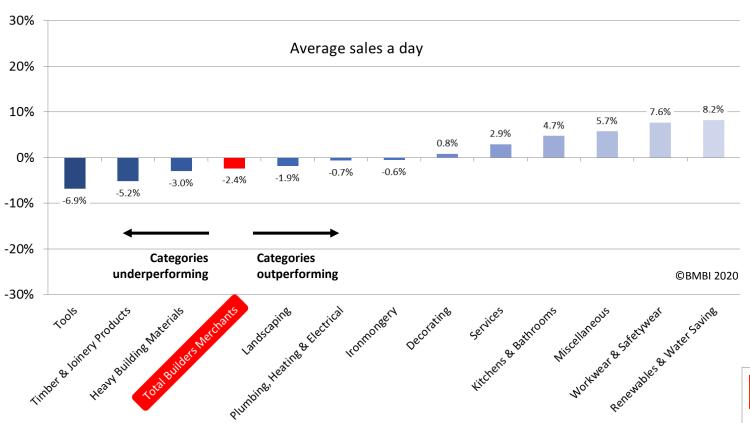


Quarterly: This Year v Last Year

Q4 2019 average sales a day indices



Quarter 4 2019 index v Quarter 4 2018 index



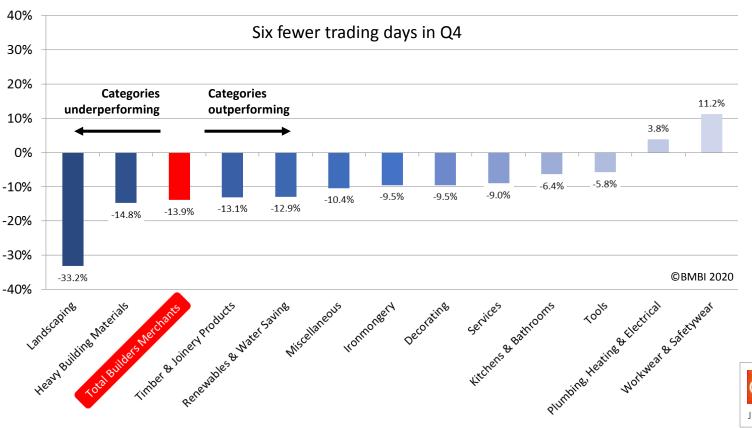


Quarterly: Quarter on Quarter

Q4 2019 sales indices



Quarter 4 2019 v Quarter 3 2019



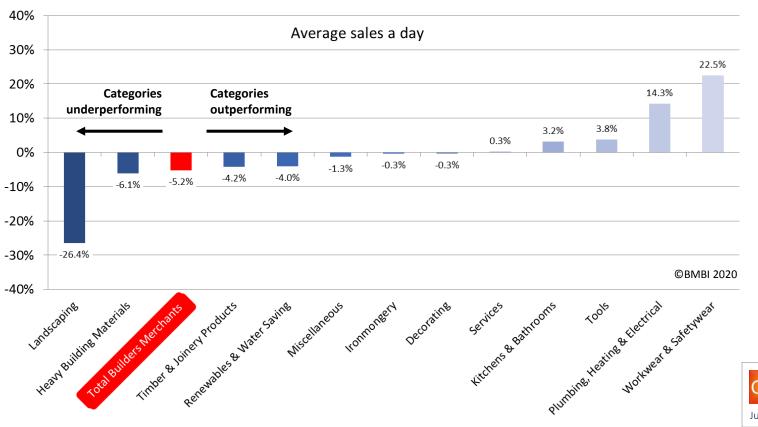


Quarterly: Quarter on Quarter

Q4 2019 average sales a day indices



Quarter 4 2019 v Quarter 3 2019



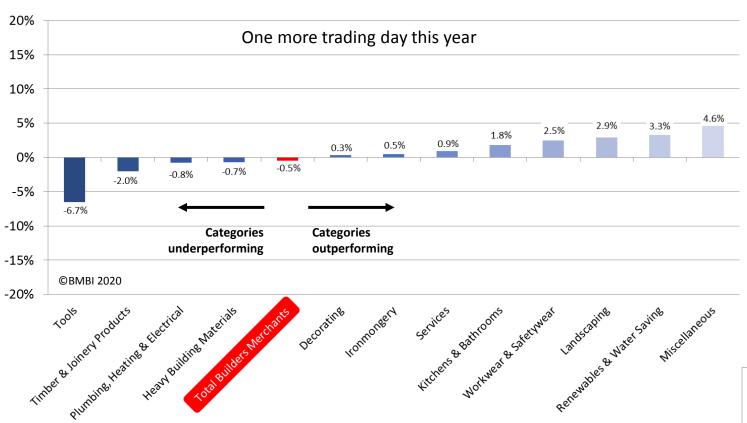


Last 12 Months: Year on Year

Rolling 12 months sales indices



12 months Feb 19 to Jan 20 v 12 months Feb 18 to Jan 19



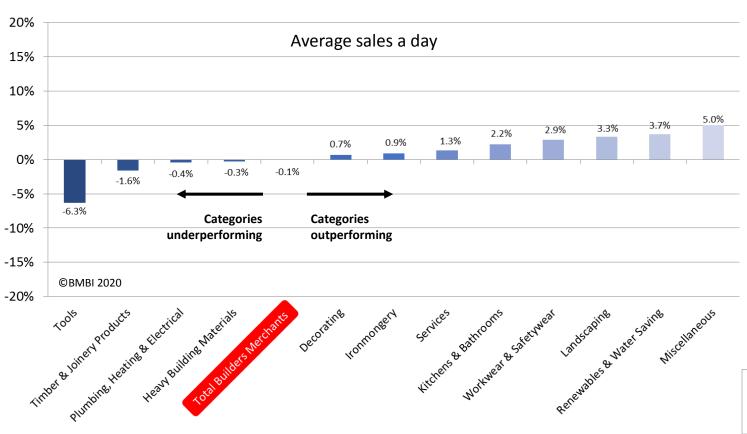


Last 12 Months: Year on Year

Rolling 12 months average sales a day indices



12 months Feb 19 to Jan 20 v 12 months Feb 18 to Jan 19





Monthly: Indices

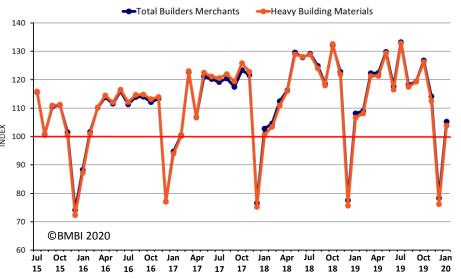
January 2020



Timber & Joinery Products

Total Builders Merchants Timber & Joinery Products 140 130 120 110 INDEX ND 100 90 80 70 **©BMBI 2020** Oct Jan Apr Jul Oct Jan Apr Jul Oct Jan Apr Jul Oct Jan Apr 16 17 17 17 18 18 19

Heavy Building Materials



Indexed on July 2014 – June 2015

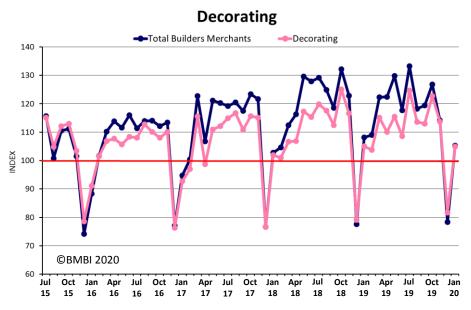
Indexed on July 2014 – June 2015

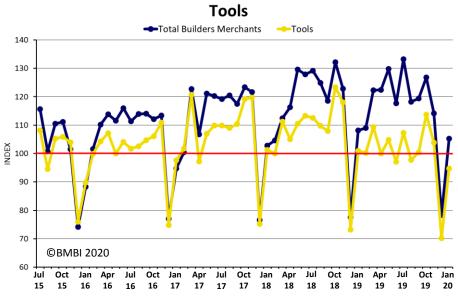


Monthly: Indices

January 2020







Indexed on July 2014 - June 2015

Indexed on July 2014 – June 2015



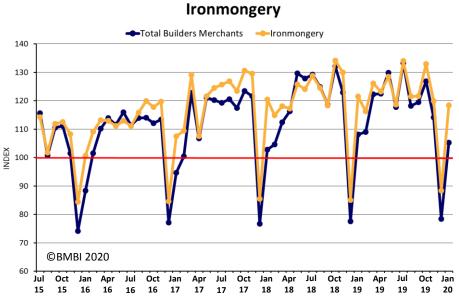
Monthly: Indices January 2020



Builders Merchant **Building Index**

Workwear & Safetywear Total Builders Merchants Workwear & Safetywear 140 130 120 110 N 100 90 80 70 ©BMBI 2020 Oct Jan Apr Jul Oct Jan Apr Jul Oct Jan Apr Jul Jul Oct Jan Apr Jul 16 17 17 17 18 18 19

Indexed on July 2014 – June 2015



Indexed on July 2014 – June 2015

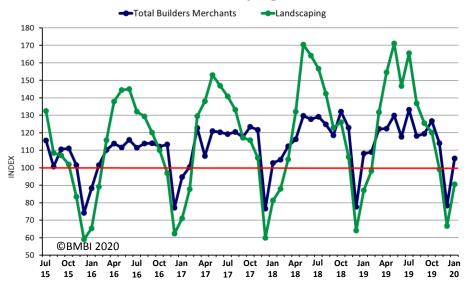


Monthly: Indices

January 2020

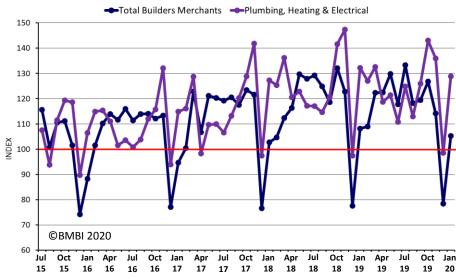


Landscaping



Indexed on July 2014 – June 2015

Plumbing, Heating & Electrical



Indexed on July 2014 – June 2015

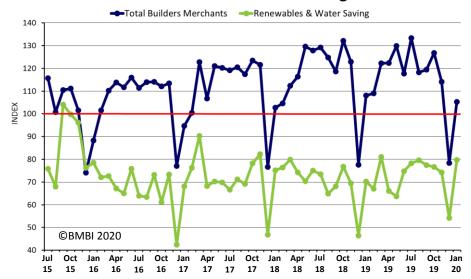


Monthly: Indices January 2020



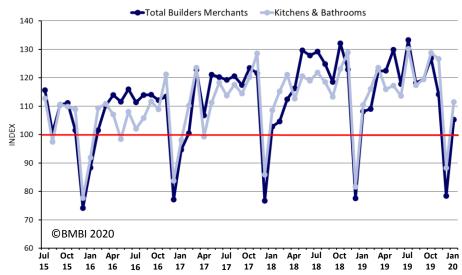
Builders Merchant

Renewables & Water Saving



Indexed on July 2014 – June 2015

Kitchens & Bathrooms

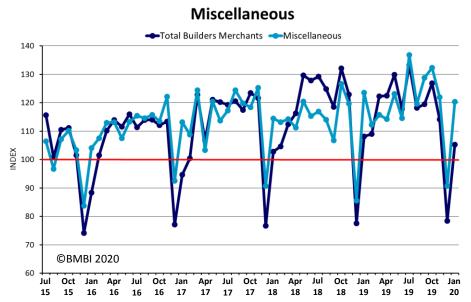


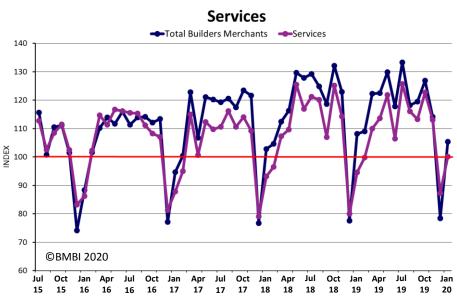
Indexed on July 2014 – June 2015



Monthly: Indices January 2020







Indexed on July 2014 - June 2015

Indexed on July 2014 – June 2015



Trading Days



| Month | ly | | | | | | | | | | | Quarte | rly | | | Half Ye | ear | Full Year |
|--------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|------|----|----|---------|-----|------------|
| Index: | 20.8 | | | | | | | | | | | Index: | 62.4 | | | Index: | 125 | Index: 250 |
| 2015 | | | | | | | | | | | | 2015 | | | | 2015 | | |
| | | | | | | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | | | Q3 | Q4 | | H2 | |
| | | | | | | 22 | 20 | 22 | 22 | 21 | 17 | | | 64 | 60 | | 124 | |
| 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 | 250 |
| 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 | |
| 2018 | | | | | | | | | | | | 2018 | | | | 2018 | | 2018 |
| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | H1 | H2 | 249 |
| 22 | 20 | 21 | 20 | 21 | 21 | 22 | 22 | 20 | 23 | 22 | 15 | 63 | 62 | 64 | 60 | 125 | 124 | |
| 2019 | | | | | | | | | | | | 2019 | | | | 2019 | | 2019 |
| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | H1 | H2 | 248 |
| 22 | 20 | 21 | 20 | 21 | 20 | 23 | 21 | 21 | 23 | 21 | 15 | 63 | 61 | 65 | 59 | 124 | 124 | |
| 2020 | | | | | | | | | | | | 2020 | | | | 2020 | | 2020 |
| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | H1 | H2 | |
| 22 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

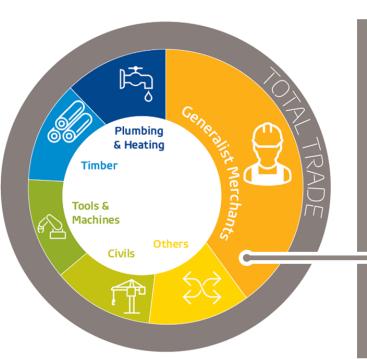


GfK's Panel

Generalist Builders Merchant Panel (GBM's)



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 Doors/Door Frames

Heavy Building Materials

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

IIIIII Faiillo

Primers/Undercoats

Woodcare

Adhesives

Sealants

Jealai II3

Fillers/PU Foam

Tile Fixing (Adhesives/Grout)

BMF Forecast Report

Spring 2020 edition



Builders Merchants Industry Forecast Report

The BMF has released the Spring 2020 edition of its 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 Spring 2020 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 2020 - 2022

Spring edition – £195 Year in Review

he DMF. Building your people. Building your skills. Building your business. Building your voice.

Building excellence.



Contact us

For further information







Emile van der Ryst
Senior Client Insight Manager - Trade

Emile.van-der-ryst@gfk.com

+44 (0) 20 7890 9615



Neil Frackiewicz
Head of Retail UK
Neil.frackiewicz@gfk.com

+44 (0) 20 7890 9123





Nyssa Patel
Industry Analyst / Economist
nyssa.patel@bmf.org.uk

+44 (0) 24 7685 4994





Lucia Di Stazio

Managing Director

<u>lucia@mra-marketing.com</u>

+44 (0) 1453 521621



Tom Rigby

Commercial Manager

tom@mra-marketing.com

+44 (0) 7392 081276