"building **excellence** in materials supply"



Monthly report for August 2020

(Published 20 October 2020)

Building the Industry & Building Brands from Knowledge







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Quarterly reports contain additional analysis, macroeconomic factors and expert comments. Click the images below to read or download the Q2 2020 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: eCommonSense, British Gypsum, Wienerberger, Midland Lead, Polypipe, The Crystal Group, Keylite Roof Windows, Hanson Cement, Keystone Lintels, Knauf Insulation, Talasey Group, Heatrae Sadia (Baxi Heating UK), Dulux Trade and Lakes. Meet the Experts here and on pages 9 and 10 of this report.

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 contact 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 <u>emile.van-der-ryst@gfk.com</u>.

Trading day differences explained



BMBI reports track changes in Merchants' performance over a variety of time periods. However, the number of trading days in a period can change how we judge relative performance. More trading days in a month could boost total sales, whereas the level of sales a day could be lower.

So, it's useful to also show average sales a day so we can compare apples with apples. Where trading days are different, we include two charts for the particular period under review:

Direct comparison of sales indices:



The first of the two charts directly compares revenue in the two periods, regardless of the number of trading days. Total Builders Merchants sales (the red column) were 7.4% lower.

Average sales a day indices comparison:



In the second chart, revenue has been divided by the number of trading days. In this example, revenue in November 2019 has been divided by 21 days, revenue November 2018 by 22 days and the results compared, showing a 3.0% fall in Total Builders Merchants sales activity (the red column) stripped of trading day differences.

The charts provide two valid views of the same data. Direct comparisons (on the left) show what happened in absolute numbers – average sales a day (on the right) enables trading day differences to be set aside.

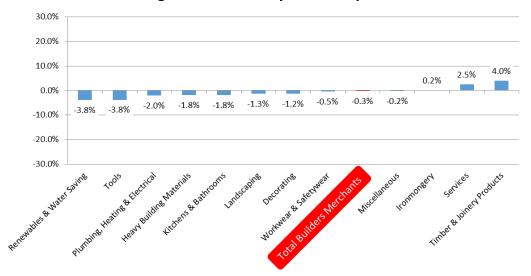
GfK's Builders Merchant Panel update



After almost six years without change, GfK's Builders Merchant Panel, which powers the Builders Merchant Building Index, saw three merchants leave and three join in Spring 2020. A lengthy transition period took place in the background and as a result, data covering January 2019 onwards now reflects the new panel. This has ensured the robust nature of the Builders Merchant Building Index has been maintained.

The overall impact of the changes was very small, with total revenue for the 12 months May 2019 to April 2020 being just -0.3% different to that previously published. Individual categories had mostly small changes, some a little up and some a little down, depending on the mix of sales contributed by the joining and leaving merchants. Small category **Renewables & Water Saving was** more significant, and only Timber & Joinery Products and Tools among the main categories were appreciably different, as illustrated in this chart.

Change in revenue May 2019 to Apr 2020



The tables and charts in this report use the refreshed data from January 2019 onwards. For example, the values between June 2019 and April 2020 in the Indices table on page 12 are marginally different to those in reports published prior to May 2020. The chart on page 11 incorporates the new values from January 2019 onwards but the differences are relatively small.

Incorporating the new data back to January 2019 has also meant that year-on-year, month-on-month and year-to-date comparisons are all calculated using the refreshed data throughout, to ensure accurate reporting – a hallmark of the Builders Merchant Building Index.

If you have questions on the changes email Tom@mra-marketing.com or Emile.van-der-Ryst@gfk.com

Overview

The recovery continues – but more slowly in August

Year-on-Year

Total Builders Merchants value sales were 3.9% lower in August than in August 2019, with one less trading day this year. Three categories did better, with Landscaping (+16.3%) the top performer. Workwear & Safetywear (+1.8%) was the only other category to exceed last year, while Timber & Joinery Products sold 2.0% less. The remaining nine categories were weaker. These included largest category Heavy Building Materials (-5.8%), Decorating (-10.8%) and Plumbing Heating & Electrical (-13.7%). Average sales a day, which takes trading day differences into account, were 0.9% up on August 2019

Month-on-Month

Total Merchants August sales were 14.2% lower than in July, which had three more trading days. All categories sold less. Kitchens & Bathrooms (-4.3%) did best, followed by Plumbing Heating & Electrical (-7.6%). Heavy Building Materials (-13.5%) performed a little better than merchants generally. The two weakest categories were Workwear & Safetywear (-25.3%) and Landscaping (-24.5%). Average sales a day were 1.3% lower in August than July.

Other periods

Sales in the last three months (June to August) were down 1.0% overall compared with the same three months in 2019, with one more trading day this year. Season-category Landscaping (+30.9%) was strongest. Workwear & Safetywear (+7.9%) and Timber & Joinery Products (+0.4%) were the only other categories that sold more. The nine selling less included Plumbing Heating & Electrical (-17.3%), Kitchens & Bathrooms (-14.4%) and Tools (-10.4%). Average sales a day across the three months were 2.5% lower than last year.

Sales were up 73.8% in the last three months compared with the previous three months (March to May), when many merchants had closed branches as a result of the Covid-19 lockdown. Six categories did better, led by Tools (+124.1%). Kitchens & Bathrooms sold 91.0% more and Timber & Joinery Products was up 82.5%. With two more trading days in June to August, average sales a day were 63.1% higher.

In the first eight months of 2020, total sales were down 18.4% compared with January to August 2019. Workwear & Safetywear (+1.3%) was the only category that sold more. Tools (-29.4%), Kitchens & Bathrooms (-26.0%) and Plumbing Heating & Electrical (-25.8%) were weakest and still have much ground to make up in recovering sales lost during the Covid-19 lockdown period.

Index

August's BMBI index was 113.3. Landscaping (157.2) was strongest, followed by Timber & Joinery Products (120.6).

Sales in the last three months (June to August) were down 1.0% overall compared with the same three months in 2019. Landscaping (+30.9%) was strongest.

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 Q2 2020 report, which includes commentary from our experts is available here



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The Expert Panel Speaking for their markets - 2



Expert for Steel Lintels:



Derrick McFarland Managing Director Keystone Lintels

Read latest Comment: Q2 2020 Report

Expert for Mineral Wool Insulation:



KNAUFINSULATION

Neil Hargreaves Managing Director Knauf Insulation Read latest Comment: O2 2020 Report

Expert for Water Heating:



Jeff House Head of External Affairs Baxi Heating UK (incorporating Heatrae Sadia) Read latest Comment: Q2 2020 Report

Expert for PVC-U Windows & Doors:



No.1 for choice • No.1 for colour **Kevin Morgan** Group Commercial Director The Crystal Group

Crystal

Read latest Comment: Q2 2020 Report

Expert for Cement & Aggregates:





Andrew Simpson Packed Products Director Hanson Cement Read latest Comment: Q2 2020 Report

Expert for Shower Enclosures and Showering:



Mike Tattam Sales & Marketing Director Lakes Read latest Comment: Q2 2020 Report Expert for Natural Stone Landscaping Products, Vitrified Paving & Artificial Grass:



TALASEY GROUP Malcolm Gough Group Sales & Marketing Director Talasey Group Read latest Comment: Q2 2020 Report

Expert for Paint:



Paul Roughan Trade Merchants Sales Director Dulux Trade

Read latest Comment: Q2 2020 Report

Interested in joining our panel of Experts?:



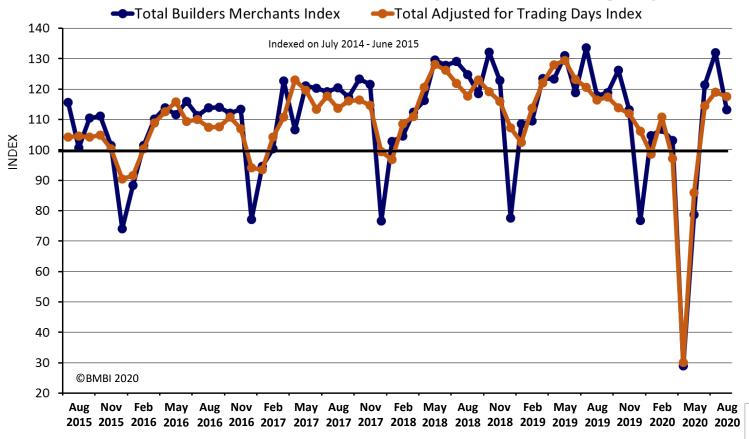
If you have a finger on the pulse of your industry sector and would like to join the Expert panel, please contact Tom Rigby at MRA Marketing: tom@mra-marketing.com



Monthly: Index Adjusted and unadjusted for trading days



Total Builders Merchants Index v Total Adjusted for Trading Days Index



Monthly: Index and Categories August 2019* – August 2020





		2019					2020							
MONTHLY SALES VALUE INDEX	Index	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug
Total Builders Merchants	100	117.8	118.8	126.2	113.3	76.8	104.7	106.9	103.1	29.0	78.7	121.4	131.9	113.3
Timber & Joinery Products	100	123.1	125.4	134.4	120.4	79.1	111.5	109.0	105.0	26.9	80.5	126.7	140.3	120.6
Heavy Building Materials	100	115.3	116.9	123.5	109.9	73.5	101.7	103.8	102.0	30.5	78.5	116.4	125.6	108.6
Decorating	100	112.2	111.5	121.5	112.5	80.0	103.6	104.5	95.2	19.8	54.8	94.4	112.4	100.1
Tools	100	95.0	96.0	108.9	100.8	67.0	91.8	91.9	74.2	8.6	35.1	79.3	99.0	85.8
Workwear & Safetywear	100	96.7	110.7	135.0	134.8	82.4	119.4	127.7	139.1	37.7	66.6	98.2	131.7	98.4
Ironmongery	100	121.9	122.0	133.2	120.0	87.7	118.7	116.1	104.0	27.3	58.9	108.8	128.7	113.6
Landscaping	100	135.2	122.6	116.3	94.9	62.4	86.9	103.0	110.4	40.3	152.5	223.7	208.2	157.2
Plumbing, Heating & Electrical	100	110.4	123.4	140.7	133.7	95.9	126.3	124.8	104.3	25.4	51.8	84.4	103.1	95.3
Renewables & Water Saving	100	76.9	73.0	74.0	72.0	51.4	75.2	86.1	68.6	12.7	26.7	55.1	69.3	58.2
Kitchens & Bathrooms	100	115.0	116.9	127.6	125.4	85.4	109.1	117.5	101.7	14.1	43.7	87.3	111.1	106.3
Miscellaneous	100	118.7	128.5	131.8	122.0	90.8	119.9	114.7	152.6	36.7	55.1	98.0	112.4	98.2
Services	100	118.7	116.6	125.5	115.7	89.7	103.0	106.1	105.3	42.3	70.2	105.9	119.4	109.2

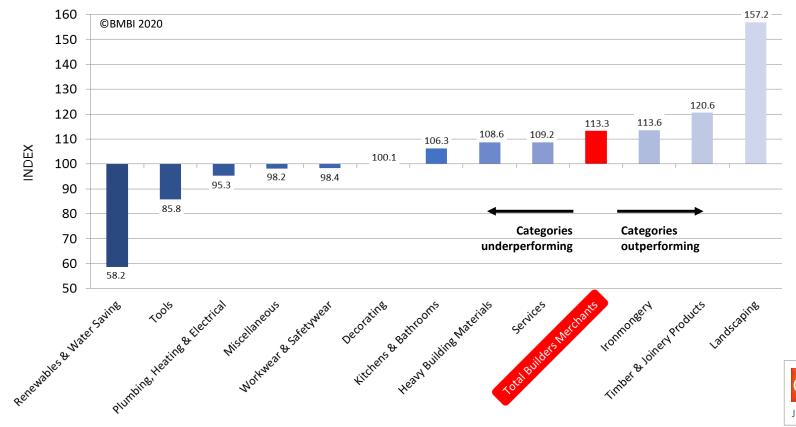
*Click the web link below to see the complete series of indices from July 2015.



Monthly: Index and Categories August 2020 index

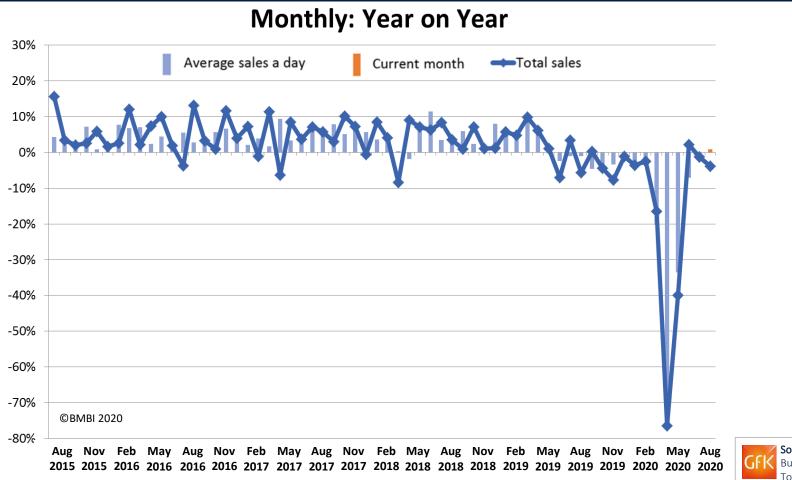


August 2020 Index



Monthly: Sales Indices Year on Year Adjusted and unadjusted for trading days



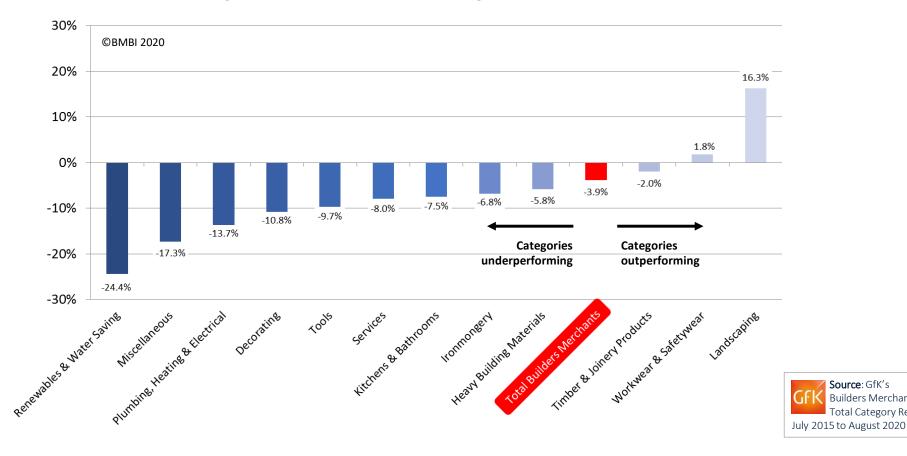




Monthly: This Year v Last Year August 2020 sales indices

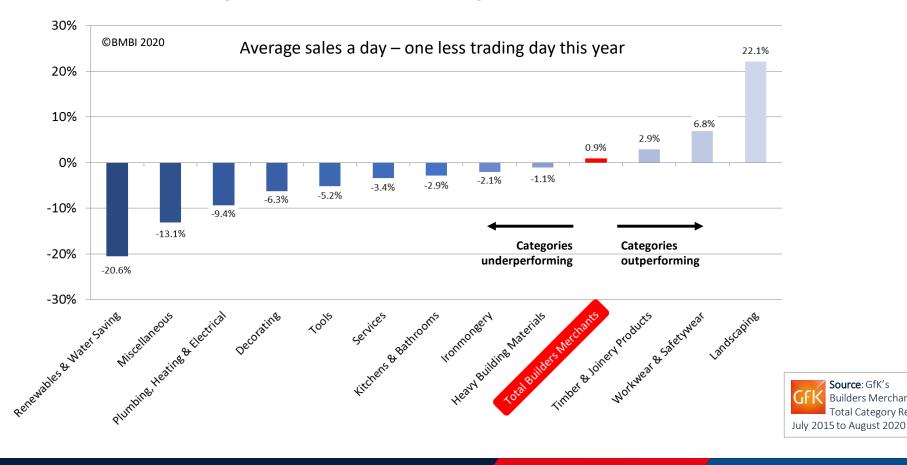


August 2020 index v August 2019 index





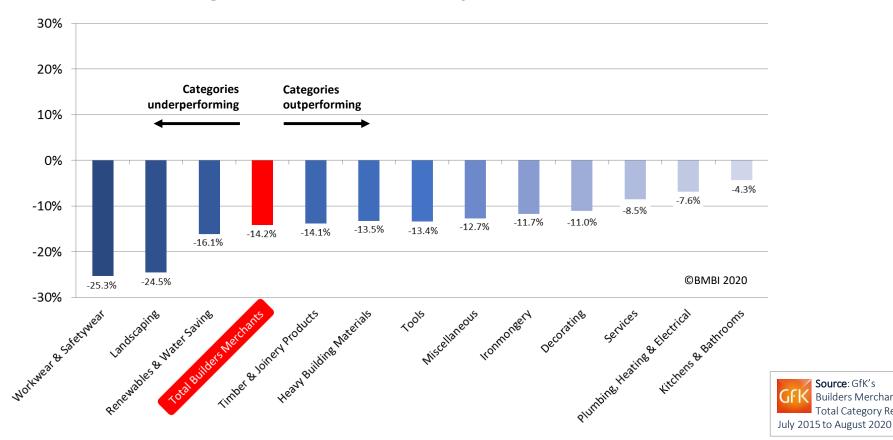
August 2020 index v August 2019 index



Monthly: This Month v Last Month August 2020 sales indices



August 2020 index v July 2020 index

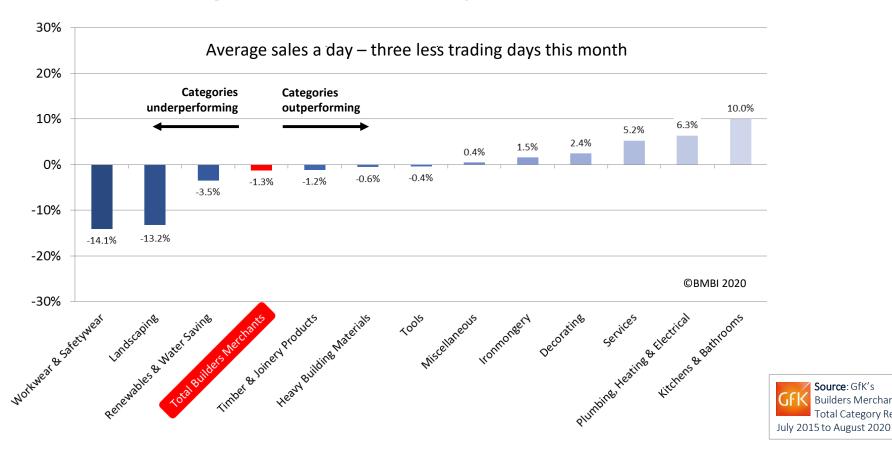


Monthly: This Month v Last Month

August 2020 average sales a day indices



August 2020 index v July 2020 index



Quarter 2 2019* to Quarter 2 2020

(Indexed on July 2014 to June 2015)



QUARTERLY SALES VALUE INDEX	Index	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Q4 2019	Q1 2020	Q2 2020
Total Builders Merchants	100	124.4	123.4	105.4	104.9	76.4
Timber & Joinery Products	100	129.5	128.9	111.3	108.5	78.0
Heavy Building Materials	100	121.9	121.0	102.3	102.5	75.1
Decorating	100	110.3	115.7	104.7	101.1	56.3
Tools	100	98.9	98.5	92.2	86.0	41.0
Workwear & Safetywear	100	98.1	105.3	117.4	128.7	67.5
Ironmongery	100	124.0	126.1	113.6	112.9	65.0
Landscaping	100	160.2	141.3	91.2	100.1	138.8
Plumbing, Heating & Electrical	100	114.9	118.7	123.4	118.5	53.9
Renewables & Water Saving	100	66.4	75.3	65.8	76.6	31.5
Kitchens & Bathrooms	100	115.0	120.2	112.8	109.4	48.4
Miscellaneous	100	118.0	128.0	114.9	129.1	63.3
Services	100	116.6	121.8	110.3	104.8	72.8

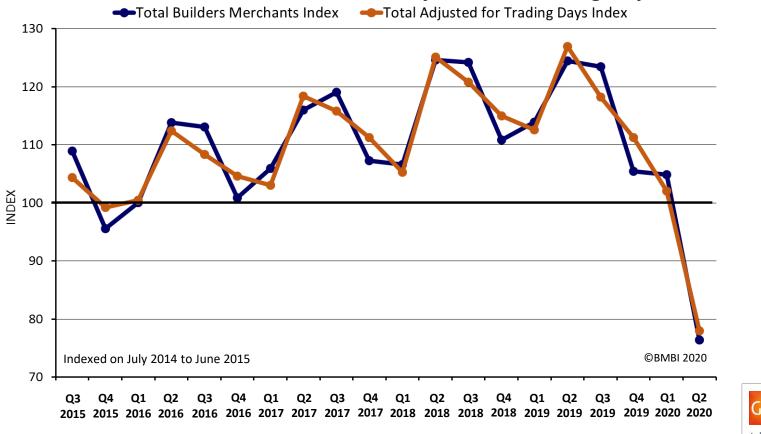
*Click the web link below to see the complete series of quarterly indices from Q2, 2015.



Quarterly: Index Adjusted and unadjusted for trading days



Total Builders Merchants Index v Total Adjusted for Trading Days Index

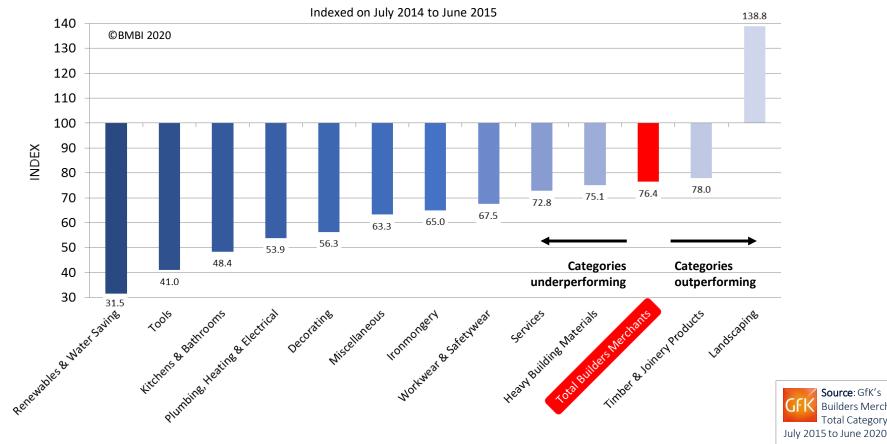


GFK Source: GfK's Builders Merchants Total Category Report July 2015 to June 2020

Quarterly: Index and Categories Q2 2020 index



Quarter 2 2020



Quarterly: Index and Categories Quarterly indices



Quarterly Indices Q3 2015 to Q2 2020 Indexed on July 2014 to June 2015 Q3, 2015 130 Q4, 2015 120 Q1, 2016 Q2, 2016 110 Q3, 2016 INDEX 100 Q4, 2016 Q1, 2017 90 Q2, 2017 80 Q3, 2017 Q4, 2017 70 Q1, 2018 60 Q2, 2018 Q3, 2018 50 Q4, 2018 40 Q1, 2019 © BMBI 2020 Q2, 2019 30 **Total Builders Timber & Joinery** Heavy Building Tools Decorating Q3, 2019 Merchants Products Materials Q4, 2019 Q1 2020 Q2 2020

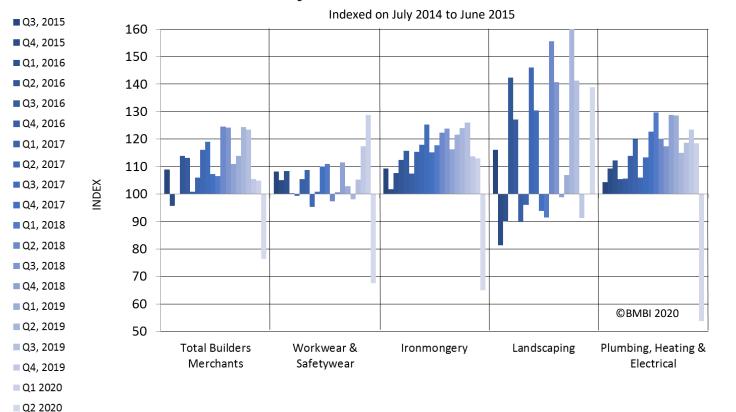
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GFK Builders Merchants Total Category Report July 2015 to June 2020

Quarterly: Index and Categories Quarterly indices



Quarterly Indices Q3 2015 to Q2 2020

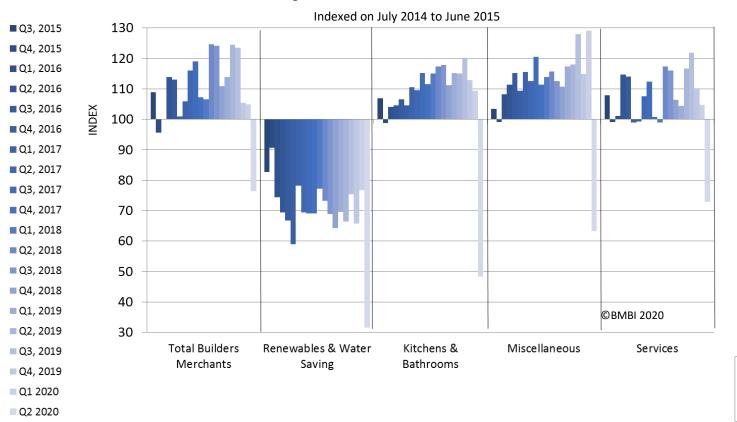


GFK Source: GfK's Builders Merchants Total Category Report July 2015 to June 2020

Quarterly: Index and Categories Quarterly indices



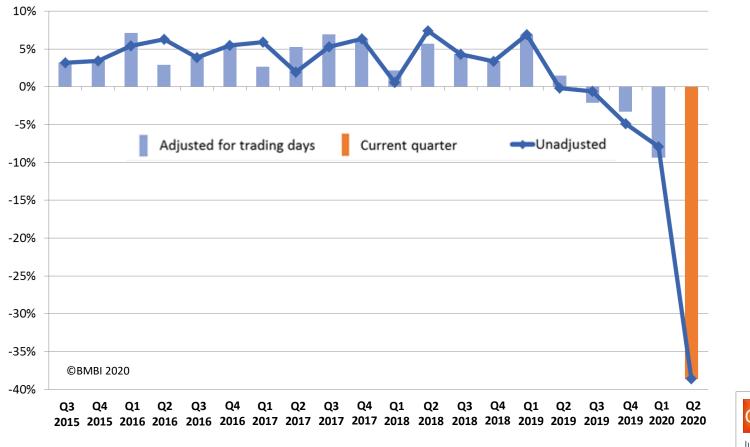
Quarterly Indices Q3 2015 to Q2 2020



Quarterly: Sales Indices Adjusted and unadjusted for trading days



Quarterly Indices: Year on Year

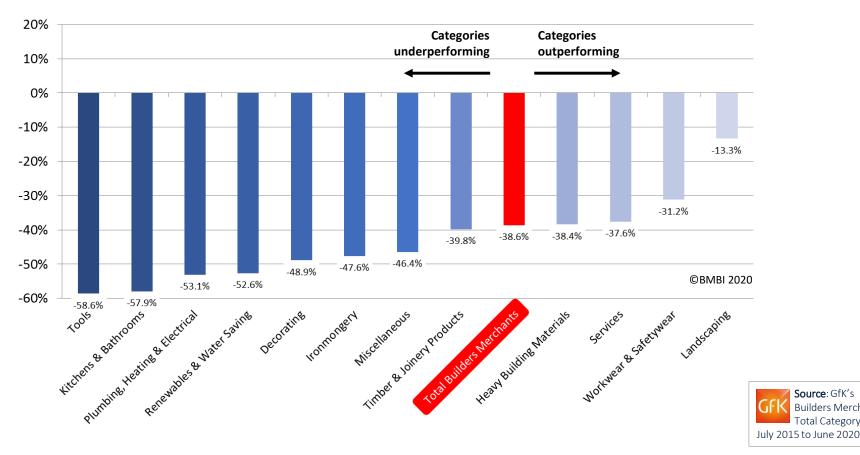


GFK Source: GFK's Builders Merchants Total Category Report July 2015 to June 2020

Quarterly: This Year v Last Year Q2 2020 sales indices



Quarter 2 2020 index v Quarter 2 2019 index

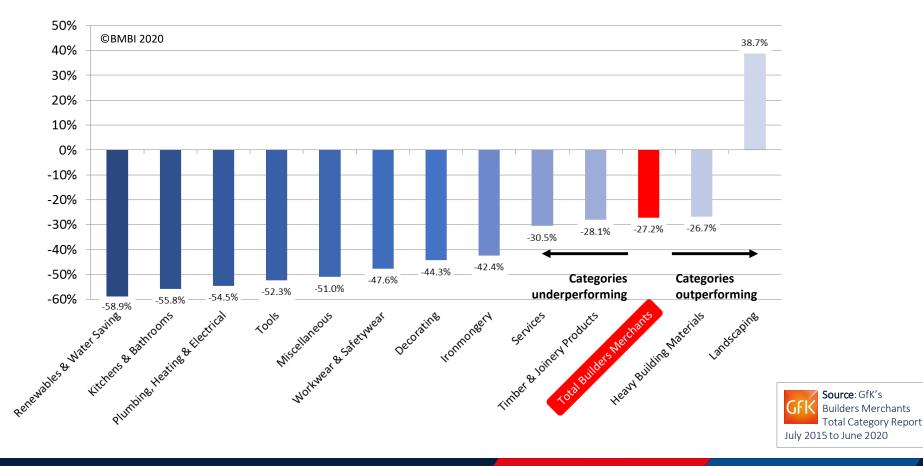


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Quarterly: Quarter on Quarter Q2 2020 sales indices



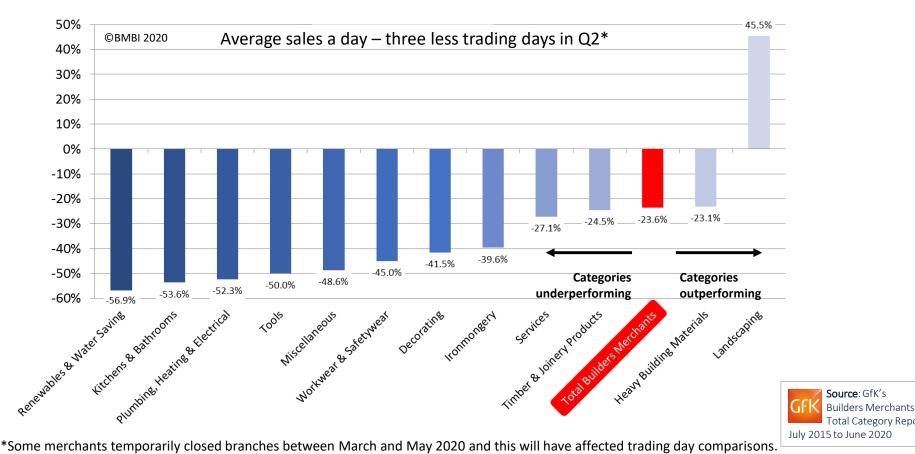
Quarter 2 2020 index v Quarter 1 2020 index



Quarterly: Quarter on Quarter Q2 2020 average sales a day indices



Quarter 2 2020 index v Quarter 1 2020 index



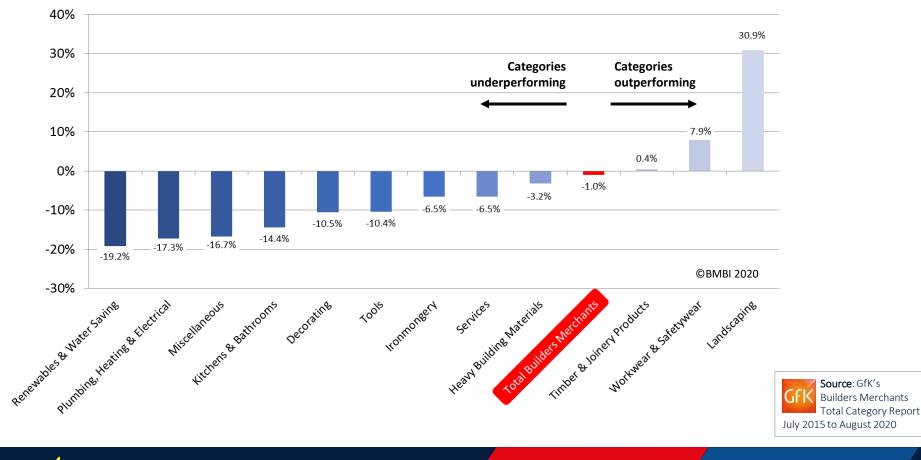
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Latest 3 months: Year on Year

June to August sales indices



3 months Jun 20 to Aug 20 v 3 months Jun 19 to Aug 19



Latest 3 months: Year on Year

June to August average sales a day indices



3 months Jun 20 to Aug 20 v 3 months Jun 19 to Aug 19

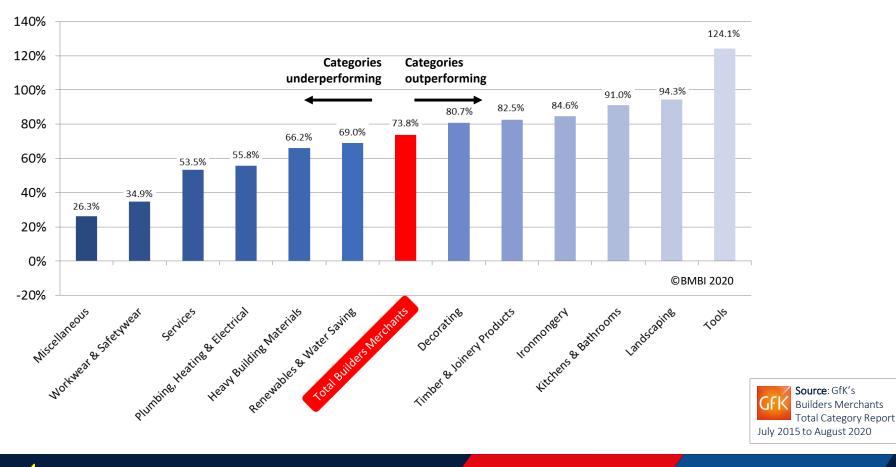


Latest 3 months: previous 3 months

June to August sales indices



3 months Jun 20 to Aug 20 v 3 months Mar 20 to May 20

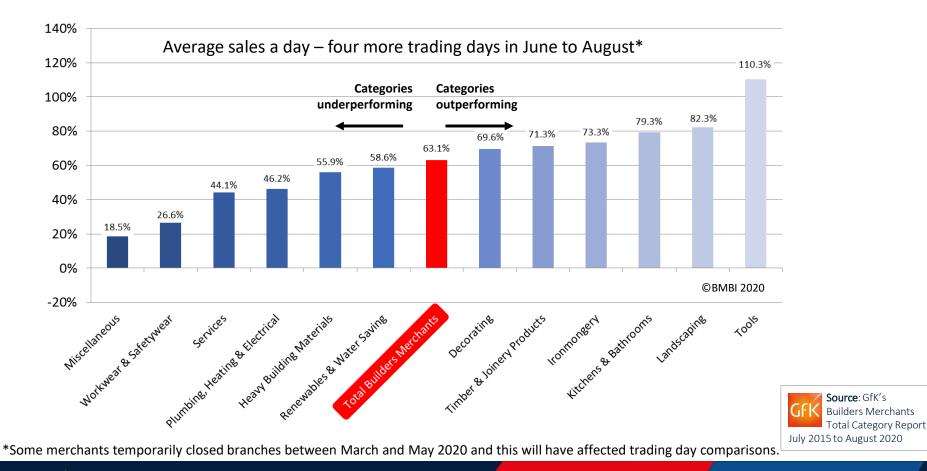


Latest 3 months: previous 3 months

June to August average sales a day indices



3 months Jun 20 to Aug 20 v 3 months Mar 20 to May 20

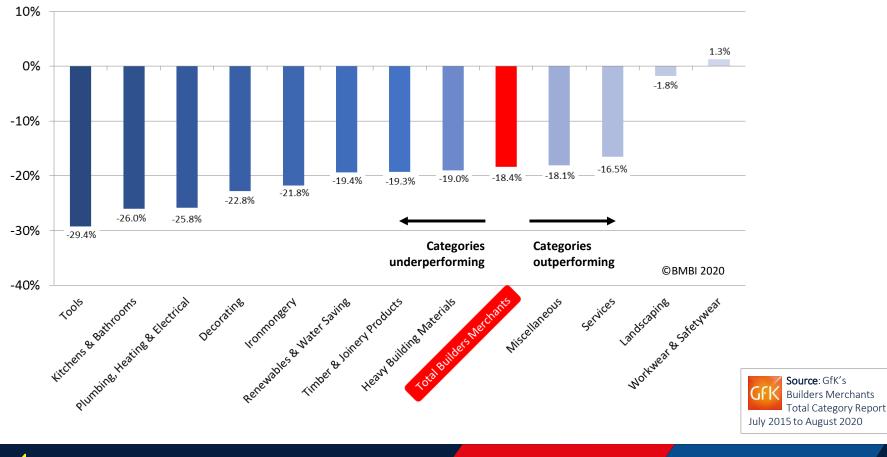


Year to date: Year on Year

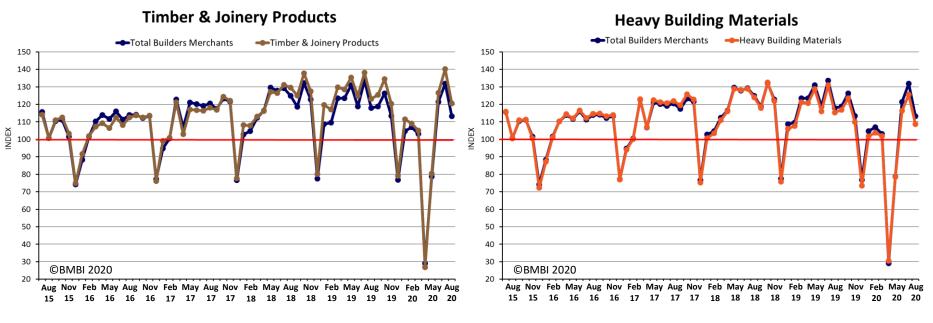
Last 8 months sales indices



Year to date: Jan 20 to Aug 20 index v Jan 19 to Aug 19 index



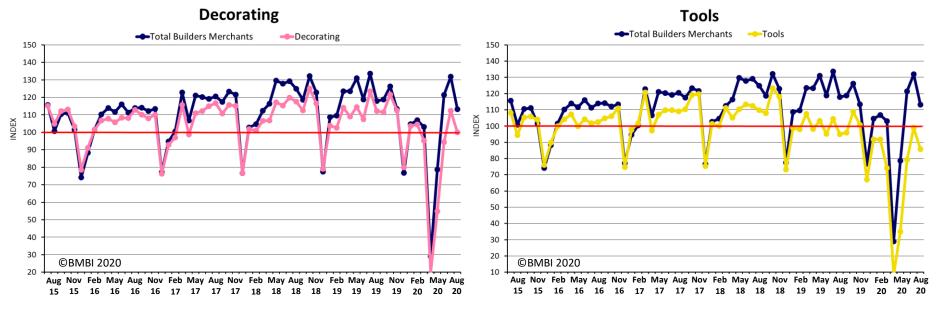




Indexed on July 2014 – June 2015



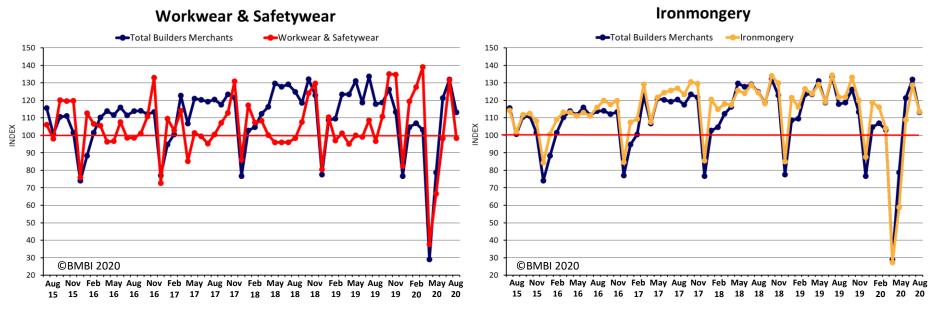




Indexed on July 2014 – June 2015



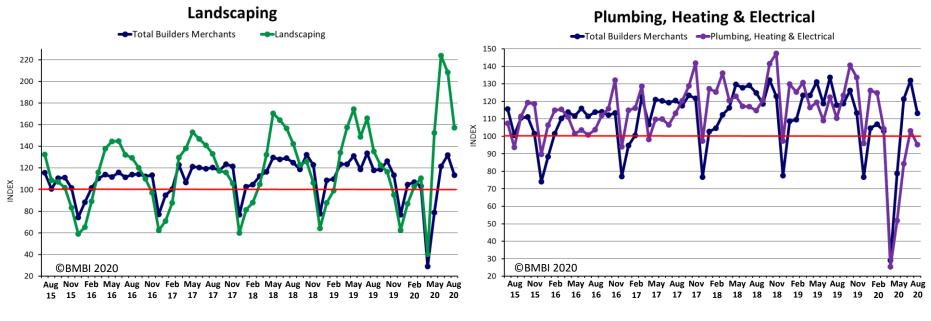




Indexed on July 2014 – June 2015



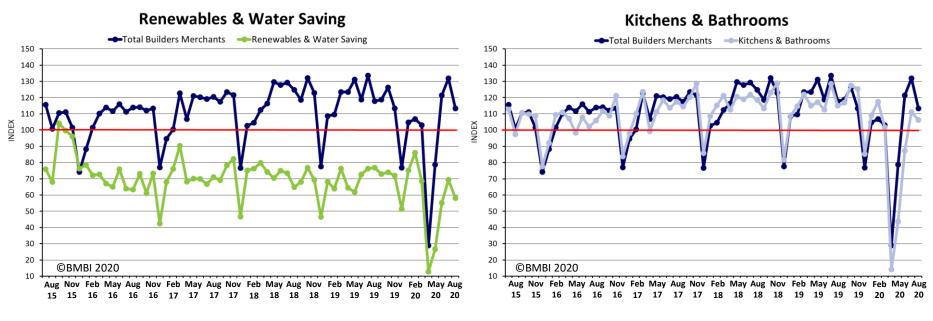




Indexed on July 2014 – June 2015



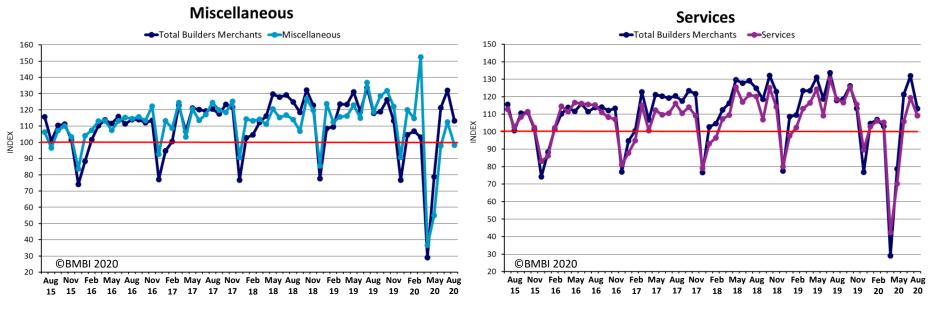




Indexed on July 2014 – June 2015







Indexed on July 2014 – June 2015



Trading Days



Month Index:												Quarterly Index: 62.3				Half Ye	ear	Full Year
2015												2015				2015		
						Jul 22	Aug 20	Sep 22	Oct 22	Nov 21	Dec 17			Q3 64	Q4 60		H2 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	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	249
22	20	21	20	21	21	22	22	20	23	22	15	63	62	64	60	125	124	245
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	240
2020			de									2020				2020		2020
Jan	Feb	*Mar	*Apr	*May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	H1	H2	
22	20	22	20	19	22	23	20					64	61			125		

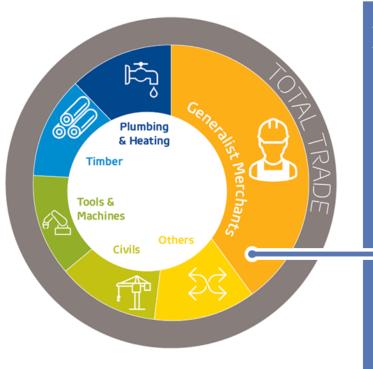
*Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, some merchants temporarily closed branches in the period March to May 2020, hence their trading days may have differed from the standard numbers shown above.





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

We define the Builders Merchants channel as the following:



Generalist Builders Merchants definition

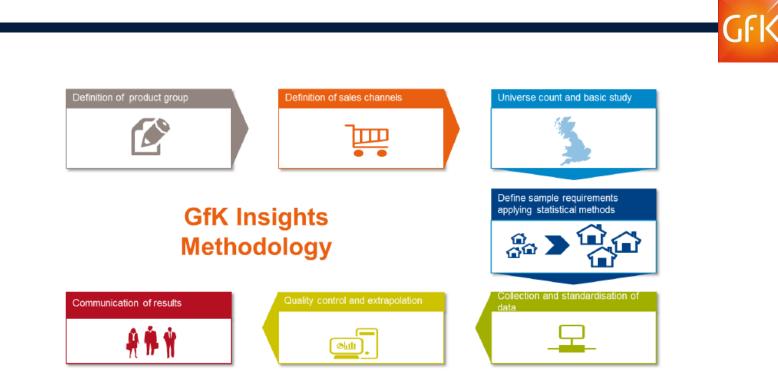
- Builder Merchants handle an extended range of building materials and components (e.g. doors, windows, interior furnishing materials, insulation materials, tiles, cement, mortar, adhesives, sealants, nails, hardware products, pipes, ironware, paint) and generate their turnover with professional end users. This excludes branches that generate all of their sales from specialized areas such as Civils, Tiles and Tools. Estimated coverage of this channel sits at 82%.
- Multiple merchants are those defined as having more than 3 outlets or a turnover of greater than £3m p.a.

Examples include:





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 Builders Metalwork Other Heavy Building Equipment/Material

Decorating

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

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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 Emile van der Ryst at GfK <u>emile.van-der-ryst@gfk.com</u>

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)

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BMF Forecast Report Autumn 2020 edition



Builders Merchants Industry Forecast Report

The BMF has released the Autumn 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 has 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 Autumn 2020 edition available now. The forecast report can be downloaded by BMF members free of charge - once logged in - <u>here</u>.

Non-members can purchase the report by contacting Nyssa Patel on 024 7685 4984 or email <u>nyssa.patel@bmf.org.uk</u>



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

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