"building excellence in materials supply"



Monthly report for February 2023

(Published 21 April 2023)

Highlights



Total Merchants sales in March 2022 to February 2023 were +3.8% higher than in March 2021 to February 2022, with price inflation of (+16.6%), and volume (-11.0%). Full comment on page 7.



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Introduction:

Builders Merchant Building Index



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.

The monthly series tracks what is happening in the market month by month and includes an in-depth review every quarter. BMBI Index data is calculated on the 12 month base period July 2014 to June 2015. This trend series gives the industry access to far more accurate and comprehensive insights than that available to other construction sectors.

Executive Summary

Short of time and just want to read the headlines? Download an Executive Summary that provides a snapshot of value sales and trends from Britain's Builders' Merchants for February 2023 here.

BMBI Expert Panel

MRA Research 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. Meet the Experts and read their comments on pages 5 and 6 of this report or read their previous comments here.

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 & Trade** monthly construction update. **Download the latest update** here.">here.



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**.

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 2022 report, which includes commentary from our experts is available here

Meet the Builders Merchant Building Index Experts here and on the next page:

Expert for Drylining Systems:





Gordon ParnellSales Director British
Gypsum

Read latest comment: Q4 2022 Report

Expert for Bricks & Roof Tiles:



الر Wienerberger

Kevin Tolson Commercial Director Wienerberger UK

Read latest Comment: Q4 2022 Report

Expert for Natural Stone & Porcelain Paving:





Krystal WilliamsManaging Director
Pavestone UK Ltd

Read latest Comment: Q4 2022 Report

Expert for Fasteners and Fixings:





Ian DohertyChief Executive
Owlett-Jaton

Read latest Comment: Q4 2022 Report

Expert for Roof Windows:





Keylite Roof Windows

Read latest Comment: Q4 2022 Report

Expert for Wood-Based Panels:





Simon Woods, European Sales Marketing & Logistics Director West Fraser (formerly known as Norbord)

Dood letest Comments Of 2022 Beneat

Read latest Comment: Q4 2022 Report

The Expert Panel

Speaking for their markets - 2



Expert for PVC-U Windows & Doors:





No.1 for choice • No.1 for colour

Kevin Morgan Group Commercial Director The Crystal Group

Read latest Comment: Q4 2022 Report

Expert for Steel Lintels:



MKeystone

Derrick McFarland Managing Director Keystone Lintels

Read latest Comment: Q4 2022 Report

Expert for Adhesives & Sealants:



Bostik

Mathew Whitehouse Marketing Director Bostik UK

Read latest Comment: Q4 2022 Report

Expert for Mineral Wool Insulation:



KNAUFINSULATION

Neil Hargreaves Managing Director Knauf Insulation

Read latest Comment: Q4 2022 Report

Expert for Cement & Aggregates:



Hanson
HEIDELBERGCEMENTGroup

Andrew Simpson
Packed Products Director
Hanson Cement

Read latest Comment: Q4 2022 Report

Expert for Paint:





Paul Edworthy Commercial Lead Dulux Trade

Read latest Comment: Q4 2022 Report

Expert for Website & Product Data Management Solutions:



eci

Andy ScothernDirector of Business Development
eCommerce

Read latest Comment: Q4 2022 Report

Builders Merchant Building Index



Overview - 1



February sales up + 0.8% year-on-year, with volume down -12.2% and price up +14.9%

Total Builders Merchants value sales were up +0.8% in February 2023 compared with the same month last year. Volume sales were -12.2% lower with price up +14.9%. There was no difference in trading days. Nine of the twelve categories sold more, including Renewables & Water Saving (+58.9%), Decorating (+15.0%), Plumbing, Heating & Electrical (+13.3%), Workwear & Safetywear (+10.1%) and Ironmongery (+8.5%). Services (-2.1%), Landscaping (-12.5%) and Timber & Joinery Products (-13.9%) sold less.

February 2023 v January 2023

Total Merchants sales were +8.2% higher in February 2023 than in January 2023. Volume sales were +13.4% higher with price down -4.6%. With one less trading day this month, like-for-like sales (which take trading day differences into account) were +13.6% higher. Landscaping (+27.6%) was up the most, followed by Heavy Building Materials (+10.9%). Workwear and Safetywear (-6.5%) was weakest.

February Index:

February's overall BMBI index was 135.5, helped by Plumbing, Heating & Electrical (156.8). With one less trading day, the like-for-like index was 140.6. All categories exceeded 100, with Kitchens & Bathrooms (143.3), Timber & Joinery Products (139.4) and Ironmongery (135.9) ahead the most. Tools (106.7) was weakest.

Last three months, year on year

Total sales in December 2022 to February 2023 were -0.1% lower than in December 2021 to February 2022, with price inflation of +17.9%, and volume down -15.3%. There was no difference in trading days. Nine of the twelve categories sold more. Renewables & Water Saving (+49.7%), Plumbing, Heating & Electrical (+16.4%) and Decorating (+16.1%) did best. Timber & Joinery Products (-14.5%) was weakest.

Last three months v previous three months

Total sales in December 2022 to February 2023 were -20.9% lower than in September to November 2022, with volume down -27.3% and +8.7% price inflation. With seven less trading days this period, like-for-like sales were -11.2% lower. All categories sold less. Heavy Building Materials (-21.4%), Timber & Joinery Products (-24.2%) and seasonal category Landscaping (-31.4%) declined the most.

MAT

Total Merchants sales in March 2022 to February 2023 were +3.8% higher than in March 2021 to February 2022, with price inflation of +16.6%, and volume -11.0%. With two less trading days in the most recent period, like-for-like sales were +4.7% higher. Ten of the twelve categories sold more. Renewables & Water Saving (+35.0%) did best. Kitchens & Bathrooms (+16.1%), Plumbing, Heating & Electrical (+14.6%), Workwear & Safetywear (+13.8%), Decorating (+11.5%) and Heavy Building Materials (+9.5%) did better than merchants overall. Landscaping (-5.1%) and Timber & Joinery Products (-7.6%) sold less.

Total sales in the three months
December 2022 to
February 2023 were
-0.1% lower than in
December 2021 to
February 2022, with
price inflation of
+17.9%, and volume
down -15.3%.

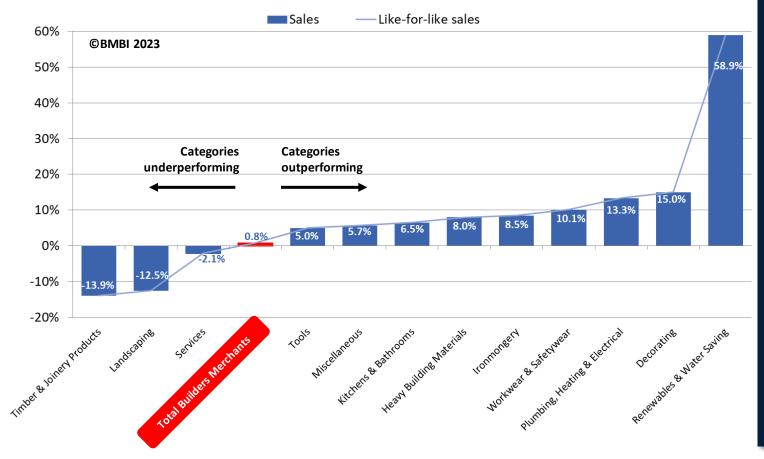
Monthly: This year v last year

February 2023 sales

There was no difference in trading days. Like-for-like sales take trading day differences into account.



February 2023 v February 2022

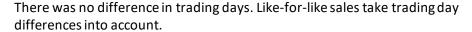


Source: GfK's
Builders Merchants
Total Category Report
July 2015 to February 2023

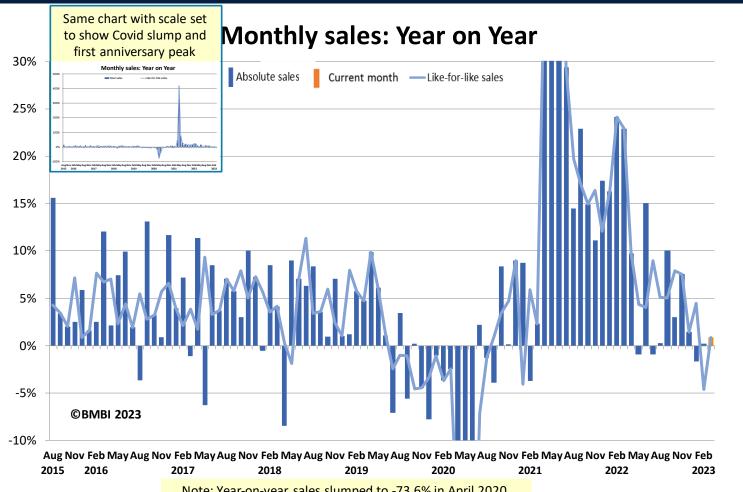
Total Builders
Merchants value
sales were up +0.8%.
Nine of the twelve
categories sold more.

Monthly: Year on Year

Sales and Like-for-like sales







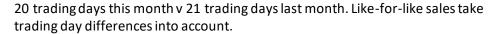
Source: GfK's
Builders Merchants
Total Category Report
July 2015 to February 2023

Sales growth in February was up +0.8% compared to the same month last year.

Note: Year-on-year sales slumped to -73.6% in April 2020. Year-on-year sales peaked at 419.2% in April 2021.

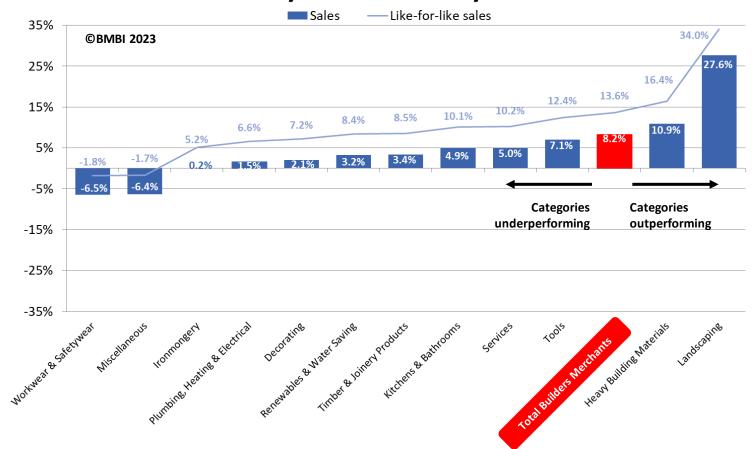
Monthly: This month v last month

February 2023 sales





February 2023 v January 2023



Source: GfK's
Builders Merchants
Total Category Report
July 2015 to February 2023

Total February 2023 sales were +8.2% higher than in January 2023.

Landscaping (+27.6%) grew most followed by Heavy Building Materials (+10.9%).

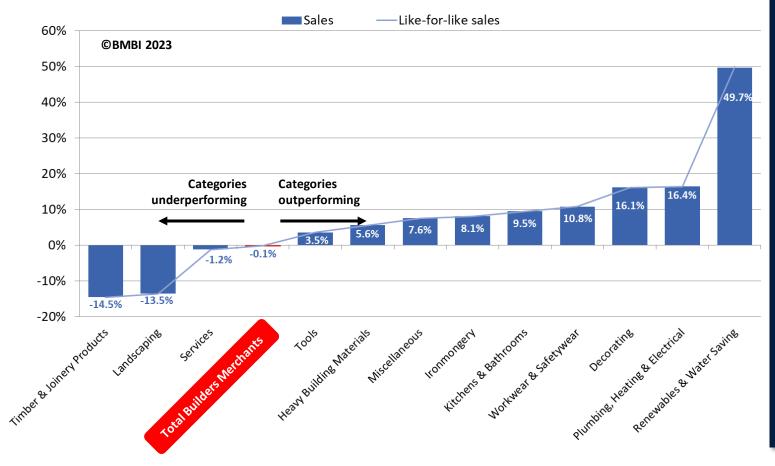
Latest 3 months: v last year

December 2022 to February 2023 sales

There was no difference in trading days. Like-for-like sales take trading day differences into account.



3 months Dec 22 to Feb 23 v 3 months Dec 21 to Feb 22



Source: GfK's
Builders Merchants
Total Category Report
July 2015 to February 2023

Sales in the last three months were -0.1% lower than in the same period last year.

Renewables & Water Saving (+49.7%) grew fastest.

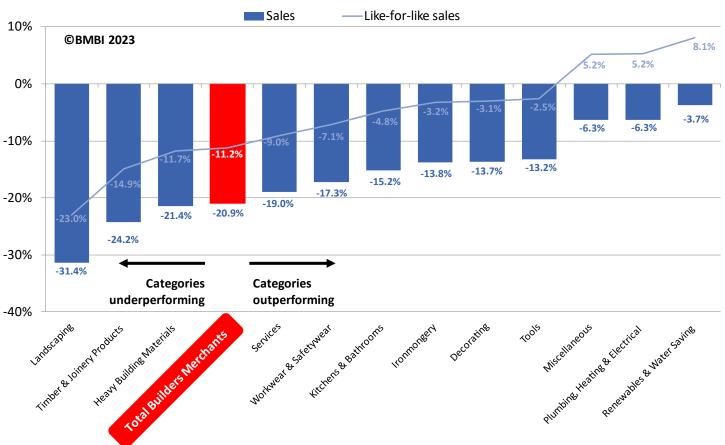
Latest 3 months: v previous 3 months

December 2022 to February 2023 sales

57 trading days in the latest three months v 64 trading days in the previous three months. Like-for-like sales take trading day differences into account.



3 months Dec 22 to Feb 23 v 3 months Sep 22 to Nov 22



Source: GfK's
Builders Merchants
Total Category Report
July 2015 to February 2023

Total sales in the last three months were -20.9% lower than in the previous three months.

All categories sold less.

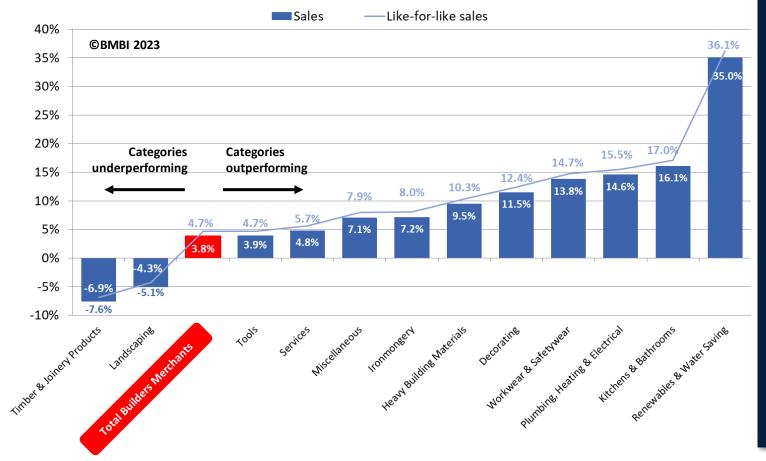
Last 12 Months: Year on Year

Sales and like-for-like sales

247 trading days this year v 249 trading days last year. Like-for-like sales take trading day differences into account.



12 months Mar 22 to Feb 23 v 12 months Mar 21 to Feb 22



Source: GfK's
Builders Merchants
Total Category Report
July 2015 to February 2023

Sales in the twelve months to February 2023 were +3.8%.

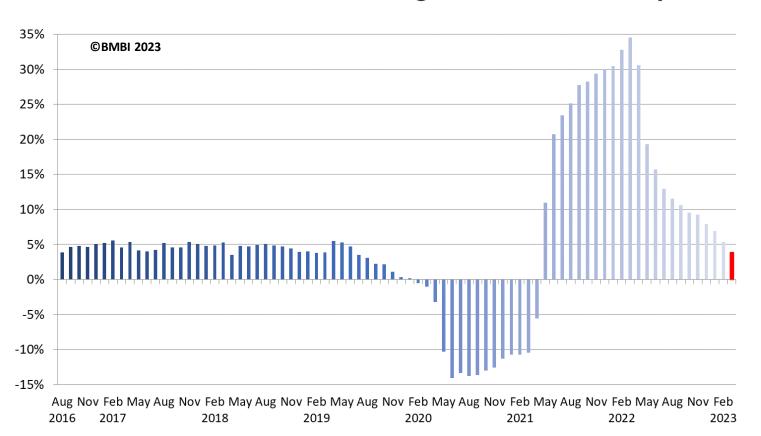
Ten of the twelve categories sold more led by Renewables & Water Saving (+35.0%).

12 months: Year on Year

MAT sales



MAT: Total Builders Merchants August 2016 to February 2023



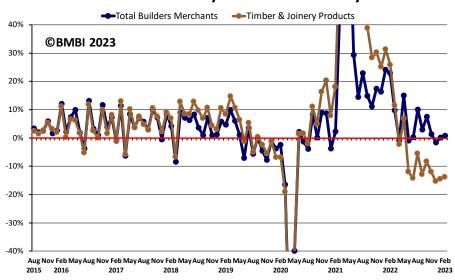
Source: GfK's
Builders Merchants
Total Category Report
July 2015 to February 2023

Sales in the past 12 months March 2022 to February 2023 were +3.8% higher than in March 2021 to February 2022, although the rate of growth continued to reduce.

February 2023

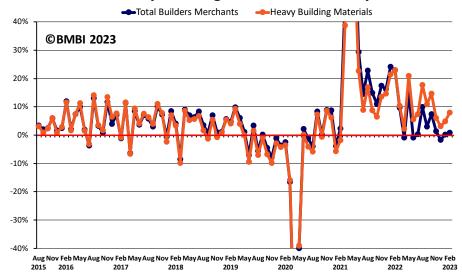


Timber & Joinery Products - Monthly



Covid19 peaks and troughs (off the chart)		
April 2020 trough:	Timber & Joinery Products	-79.0%
	Total Builders Merchants	-76.5%
April 2021 peak:	Timber & Joinery Products	+555.8%
	Total Builders Merchants	+419.2%

Heavy Building Materials - Monthly



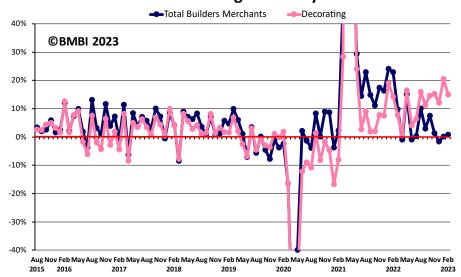
Covid19 peaks and troughs (off the chart)		
April 2020 trough:	Heavy Building Materials	-74.7%
	Total Builders Merchants	-76.5%
April 2021 peak:	Heavy Building Materials	+350.6%
	Total Builders Merchants	+419.2%



February 2023

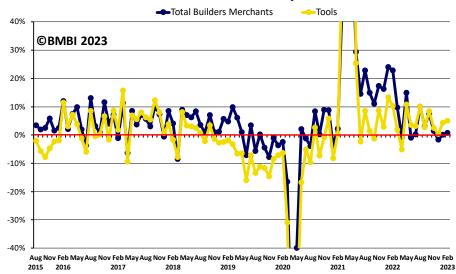


Decorating - Monthly



Covid19 peaks and troughs (off the chart)		
April 2020 trough:	Decorating	-81.6%
	Total Builders Merchants	-76.5%
April 2021 peak:	Decorating	+472.1%
	Total Builders Merchants	+419.2%

Tools - Monthly



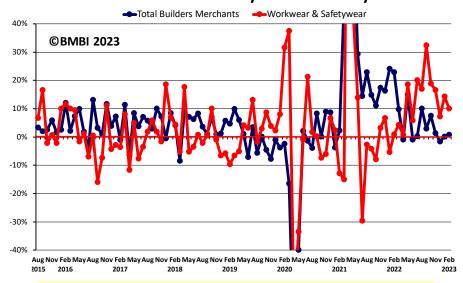
Covid19 peaks and troughs (off the chart)		
April 2020 trough:	Tools	-90.0%
	Total Builders Merchants	-76.5%
April 2021 peak:	Tools	+1188.1%
	Total Builders Merchants	+419.2%

Source: GfK's
Builders Merchants
Total Category Report
July 2015 to February 2023

February 2023

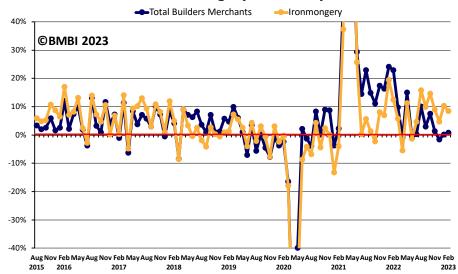


Workwear & Safetywear - Monthly



Covid19 peaks and troughs (off the chart)		
April 2020 trough:	Workwear & Safetywear	-60.2%
	Total Builders Merchants	-76.5%
April 2021 peak:	Workwear & Safetywear	+175.8%
	Total Builders Merchants	+419.2%

Ironmongery - Monthly



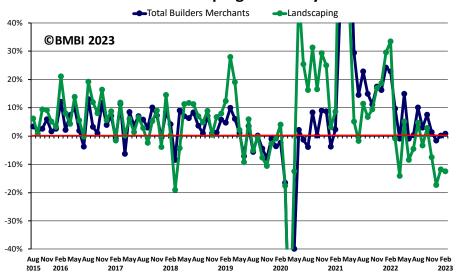
Covid19 peaks and troughs (off the chart)		
April 2020 trough:	Ironmongery	-77.8%
	Total Builders Merchants	-76.5%
April 2021 peak:	Ironmongery	+403.2%
	Total Builders Merchants	+419.2%

Source: GfK's
Builders Merchants
Total Category Report
July 2015 to February 2023

February 2023

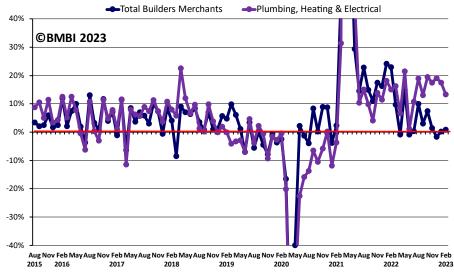


Landscaping - Monthly



Covid19 peaks and troughs (off the chart) April 2020 trough: Landscaping -74.4% Total Builders Merchants -76.5% April 2021 peak: Landscaping +538.4% Total Builders Merchants +419.2%

Plumbing Heating & Electrical - Monthly



Covid19 peaks and troughs (off the chart)		
April 2020 trough:	Plumbing Heating & Electrical	-77.9%
	Total Builders Merchants	-76.5%
April 2021 peak:	Plumbing Heating & Electrical	+369.9%
	Total Builders Merchants	+419.2%

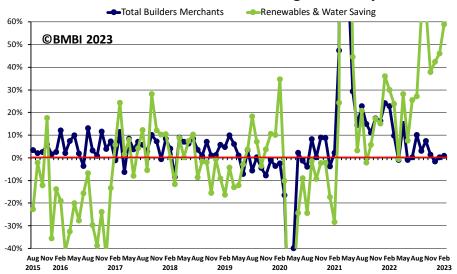
Source: GfK's
Builders Merchants
Total Category Report
July 2015 to February 2023

18

February 2023

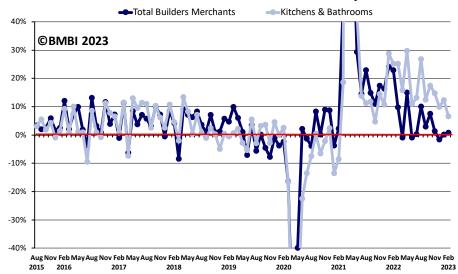


Renewables & Water Saving - Monthly



Covid19 peaks and troughs (off the chart) April 2020 trough: Renewables & Water Saving Total Builders Merchants -76.5% April 2021 peak: Renewables & Water Saving Total Builders Merchants +518.1% Total Builders Merchants +419.2%

Kitchens & Bathrooms - Monthly



Covid19 peaks and troughs (off the chart)		
April 2020 trough:	Kitchens & Bathrooms	-86.8%
	Total Builders Merchants	-76.5%
April 2021 peak:	Kitchens & Bathrooms	+706.3%
	Total Builders Merchants	+419.2%

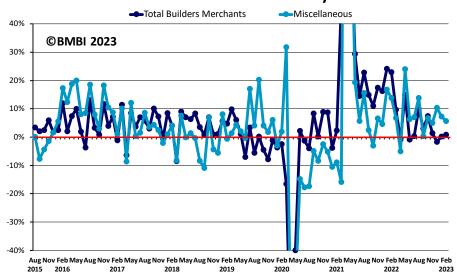
Source: GfK's
Builders Merchants
Total Category Report
July 2015 to February 2023

19

February 2023

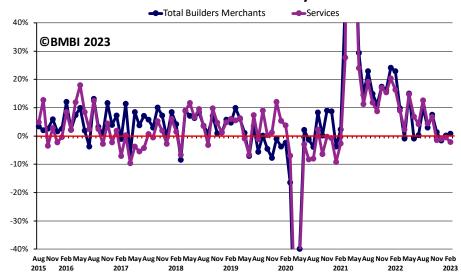


Miscellaneous - Monthly



Covid19 peaks and troughs (off the chart)		
April 2020 trough:	Miscellaneous	-67.7%
	Total Builders Merchants	-76.5%
April 2021 peak:	Miscellaneous	+243.5%
	Total Builders Merchants	+419.2%

Services - Monthly



Covid19 peaks and troughs (off the chart)		
April 2020 trough:	Services	-62.9%
	Total Builders Merchants	-76.5%
April 2021 peak:	Services	+204.2%
	Total Builders Merchants	+419.2%

Source: GfK's
Builders Merchants
Total Category Report
July 2015 to February 2023

Monthly: Index and Categories

February 2022* – February 2023

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



		2022											2023	
MONTHLY SALES VALUE INDEX	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	
Total Builders Merchants	100	134.4	166.8	149.3	162.4	155.6	151.5	153.1	152.4	151.0	147.1	95.5	125.2	135.5
Timber & Joinery Products	100	161.8	195.6	172.3	185.0	175.2	171.0	172.2	168.5	165.9	160.4	100.7	134.9	139.4
Heavy Building Materials	100	125.4	156.2	140.4	155.1	150.8	147.0	149.4	151.3	150.1	144.0	92.4	122.2	135.5
Decorating	100	109.3	131.2	114.0	124.2	122.0	122.1	126.2	127.8	130.6	137.4	92.0	123.7	126.3
Tools	100	101.9	124.2	104.6	109.9	103.7	100.3	102.7	102.9	108.2	111.3	73.2	99.7	106.7
Workwear & Safetywear	100	112.4	123.3	104.9	113.7	118.5	111.5	112.0	141.0	137.3	152.6	100.5	132.3	123.7
Ironmongery	100	125.5	151.5	130.1	141.3	135.2	135.3	139.2	141.9	142.6	144.7	98.3	135.7	135.9
Landscaping	100	149.5	220.0	220.8	231.7	215.1	195.5	183.5	166.1	152.6	132.7	76.5	102.4	130.7
Plumbing, Heating & Electrical	100	138.3	159.4	127.1	137.3	125.1	125.9	130.5	143.3	156.6	168.4	127.6	154.4	156.8
Renewables & Water Saving	100	80.9	106.8	78.6	93.3	86.3	90.4	89.9	115.3	118.1	113.8	82.6	123.5	127.5
Kitchens & Bathrooms	100	134.5	151.1	131.5	144.6	138.7	143.1	150.1	147.5	146.7	161.4	106.4	136.6	143.3
Miscellaneous	100	122.4	141.7	119.9	137.9	127.1	130.6	132.4	128.6	125.0	133.3	99.4	134.5	125.9
Services	100	120.1	146.6	131.7	141.8	140.5	138.4	146.6	139.4	136.3	133.2	101.6	112.0	117.6

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



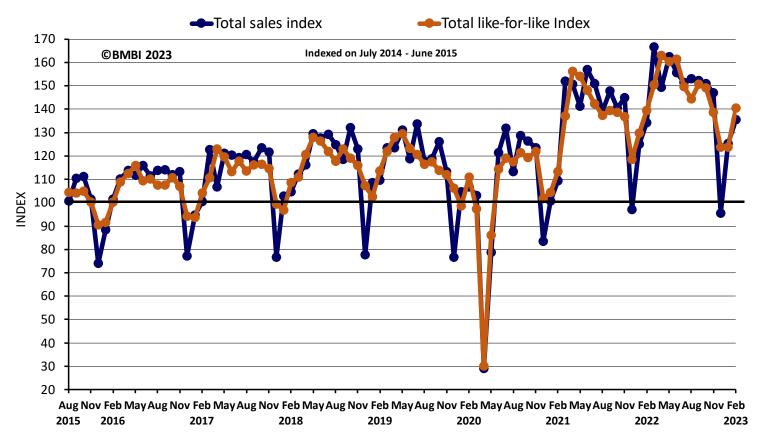
Monthly: Index

Sales and like-for-like sales



20 trading days this month v 21 trading days in the index base period. Like-for-like sales take trading day differences into account.

Total Builders Merchants sales v like-for-like sales index

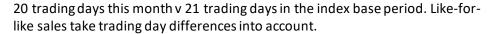


Source: GfK's
Builders Merchants
Total Category Report
July 2015 to February 2023

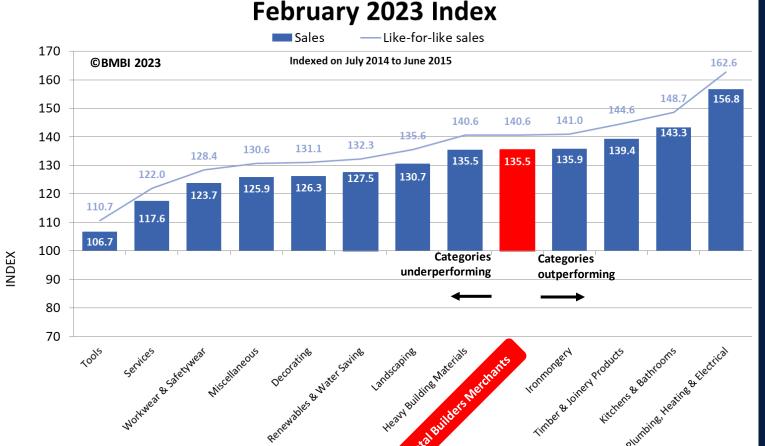
February's overall BMBI Index was 135.2. With one less trading day, the likefor-like index was 140.6.

Monthly: Index and Categories

February 2023 index







Source: GfK's
Builders Merchants
Total Category Report
July 2015 to February 2023

All categories indexed above 100 in February with Plumbing, Heating & Electrical (156.8) doing best.

Trading Days

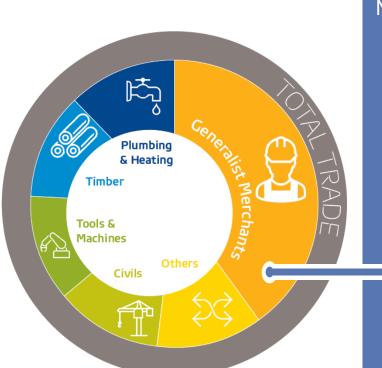


Monthly											Quarte	erly			Half Year		Full Year	
Index:	20.8											Index:	62.3					
2021												2021				2021		2021
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	H1	H2	249
20	20	23	20	19	22	22	21	22	21	22	17	63	61	65	60	124	125	243
2022												2022				2022		2022
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	H1	H2	246
20	20	23	19	21	20	21	22	21	21	22	16	63	60	64	59	123	123	240
2023												2023				2023		2023
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	H1	H2	
21	20																	



GfK's Definition of Builders Merchant Panel





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. Only multiple merchants are considered; they are defined as having more than 3 outlets or a turnover of greater than £3m p.a.
- This excludes branches that generate all their sales from specialized areas such as Civils, Tiles and Tools. Estimated coverage of this channel sits at 82%.

Examples include:



























GfK Insights Methodology









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

GFK

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

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

emile.van-der-ryst@gfk.com

Available categories:

Heavyside

Bricks Insulation

Lightside

Emulsion Paints (incl. Masonry & Base)

Trim Paints

Primers/Undercoats

Woodcare

Adhesives

Adilesive

Sealants

Fillers/PU Foam

Tile Fixing (Adhesives/Grout)



"building excellence in materials supply"



BMF (Builders Merchant Federation) Forecast Report

BMF Forecast Report

Winter 2022 edition



Builders Merchants Industry Forecast Report

The latest forecast report of the BMF's Builders Merchants Industry Forecast, covering Winter 2022 onwards, is available now.

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 Winter 2022 edition now available. The forecast report can be downloaded by BMF members free of charge - once logged in - here.

Non-members can purchase the report by contacting Thomas Lowe on 024 7685 4994 or email: thomas.lowe@bmf.org.uk



Building the Industry & Building Brands from Knowledge









Best Product Launch



Best use of research & insight



Contact us

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