"building excellence in materials supply"



Monthly report for May 2023

(Published 21 July 2023)

Highlights



Total Merchants sales in June 2022 to May 2023 were -0.3% lower than in June 2021 to May 2022, with volume down -13.6% and price inflation of +15.4%. Full comment on pages 7-8.



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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.

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 May 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.

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** <a href="https://example.com/hereit/



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 Q1 2023 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 Parnell Sales Director British Gypsum

Read latest comment: Q1 2023 Report

Expert for Bricks & Roof Tiles:



رار Wienerberger

Kevin TolsonCommercial Director
Wienerberger UK

Read latest Comment: Q1 2023 Report

Expert for Natural Stone & Porcelain Paving:



PAVESTONE

Krystal WilliamsManaging Director
Pavestone UK Ltd

Read latest Comment: Q1 2023 Report

Expert for Fasteners and Fixings:





Ian DohertyChief Executive
Owlett-Jaton

Read latest Comment: Q1 2023 Report

Expert for Roof Windows:





Keylite Roof Windows

Read latest Comment: Q1 2023 Report

Expert for Wood-Based Panels:





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

Read latest Comment: Q1 2023 Report

The Expert Panel

Speaking for their markets - 2



Expert for Windows & Doors:



deceuninck

Rob McGlennon Managing Director Deceuninck UK

Read latest Comment: Q1 2023 Report

Expert for Steel Lintels:



MKeystone

Derrick McFarland Managing Director Keystone Lintels

Read latest Comment: Q1 2023 Report

Expert for Adhesives & Sealants:



Bostik

Mathew Whitehouse Marketing Director Bostik UK

Read latest Comment: Q1 2023 Report

Expert for Mineral Wool Insulation:



KNAUFINSULATION

Neil Hargreaves Managing Director Knauf Insulation

Read latest Comment: Q1 2023 Report

Expert for Cement & Aggregates:



Hanson HEIDELBERGCEMENT Group

Andrew Simpson
Packed Products Director
Hanson Cement

Read latest Comment: Q1 2023 Report

Expert for Paint:





Paul Edworthy Commercial Lead Dulux Trade

Read latest Comment: Q1 2023 Report

Expert for Website & Product Data Management Solutions:



eci

Chris Fisher

Vice President of the EMEA lumber, building material and hardware (LBMH) division

Read latest Comment: Q1 2023 Report

The new Expert for Plumbing & Drainage is...





Charles BurnsDivisional Director
Brett Martin



Overview - 1



May value sales -6.0% down year-on-year, with volume down -15.1% and prices up +10.8%

Total Builders Merchants value sales were down -6.0% in May 2023 compared with the same month last year. Volume sales were -15.1% lower with price up +10.8%. With one less trading day, like-for-like sales (which take trading day differences into account) were -1.3% lower. Eight of the twelve categories sold more than in May 2022, led by Renewables & Water Saving (+41.8%), Decorating (+10.2%) and Workwear & Safetywear (+5.9%). Landscaping (-13.4%) and Timber & Joinery Products (-18.2%) were weakest.

May 2023 v April 2023

Total Merchants sales were +12.4% higher in May 2023 than in April 2023. Volume sales were +14.1% higher with price down -1.5%. With two more trading days this month, like-for-like sales were +1.1% higher. All categories sold more. Landscaping (+18.6%) and Heavy Building Materials (+13.3%) grew the most but Workwear & Safetywear (+11.3%), Decorating (+10.7%), Timber & Joinery Products (+10.6%) and Ironmongery (+10.3%) were among five categories in double figures. Plumbing, Heating & Electrical (+7.1%) and Tools (+7.2%) grew least.

May Index:

May's overall BMBI index was 152.6. With one less trading day, the like-for-like index was 158.4. All categories exceeded 100, with seasonal category Landscaping (200.8) well out in front, followed by Heavy Building Materials (152.8), Timber & Joinery Products (151.4), Kitchens & Bathrooms (146.4) and Ironmongery (144.6). Tools (108.8) had the lowest index.

Last three months, year on year

Total sales in March 2023 to May 2023 were -7.2% lower than in March 2022 to May 2022, with volume down -18.3% and price inflation of +13.7%. With two less trading days this year, like-for-like sales were -4.2% lower. Seven of the twelve categories sold more. Renewables & Water Saving (+39.8%), Workwear & Safetywear (+10.0%) and Decorating (+8.8%) did best. Timber & Joinery Products (-18.5%) and Landscaping (-20.6%) were weakest.

Last three months v previous three months

Total sales in March 2023 to May 2023 were +24.7% higher than in December 2022 to February 2023, with volume up +27.2% and prices down -2.0%. With four more trading days this period, like-for-like sales were +16.5% higher. All categories sold more with Landscaping (+72.4%) the strongest, followed by Heavy Building Materials (+26.1%) and Timber & Joinery Products (+20.2%). Plumbing, Heating & Electrical (+2.6%) grew the least.

Overview continues on the next page...

Total Merchants sales were +12.4% higher in May 2023 than in April 2023. Volume sales were +14.1% up with price down -1.5%.

With two more trading days this month, like-for-like sales were +1.1% higher.

Overview - 2



... continued from the previous page:

Year-to-date

The current year to date, January 2023 to May 2023 was -4.5% lower than in the previous period, January 2022 to May 2022. Volume sales were -16.9% lower with price up +14.9%. With one less trading day this period, like-for-like sales were -3.6% lower. Nine of the twelve categories sold more. Renewables & Water Saving (+44.5%) grew the most, followed by Decorating (+12.0%), Workwear & Safetywear (+10.9%) and Plumbing, Heating & Electrical (+9.7%). Timber & Joinery Products (-16.9%) and Landscaping (-18.2%) sold less.

MAT

Total Merchants sales in June 2022 to May 2023 were -0.3% lower than in June 2021 to May 2022, with volume down -13.6% and price inflation of +15.4%. With five less trading days in the most recent period, like-for-like sales were +1.8% higher. Ten of the twelve categories sold more. Renewables & Water Saving (+41.0%) did best but Workwear & Safetywear (+14.3%), Plumbing, Heating & Electrical (+12.2%), Decorating (+11.6%) and Kitchens & Bathrooms (+11.0%) also made double figures. Landscaping (-10.4%) and Timber & Joinery Products (-13.6%) were weakest.

The year to date, January 2023 to May was -4.5% lower than January to May 2022.

Volume sales were
-16.9% lower with
price up +14.9%.
With one less trading
day this period, likefor-like sales were
-3.6% lower.

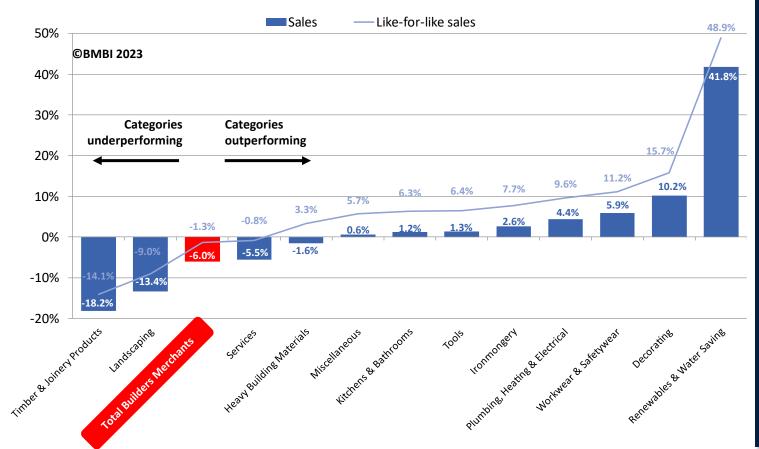
Monthly: This year v last year

May 2023 sales

20 trading days this year v 21 trading days last year. Like-for-like sales take trading day differences into account.



May 2023 v May 2022



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

Eight of the twelve categories sold more than in May 2022, led by Renewables & Water Saving (+41.8%).

Monthly: Year on Year

Sales and Like-for-like sales

20 trading days this year v 21 trading days last year. Like-for-like sales take trading day differences into account.





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

Value sales were down -6.0% in May 2023 compared with May last year.

Volume sales were -15.1% lower with price up +10.8%.

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

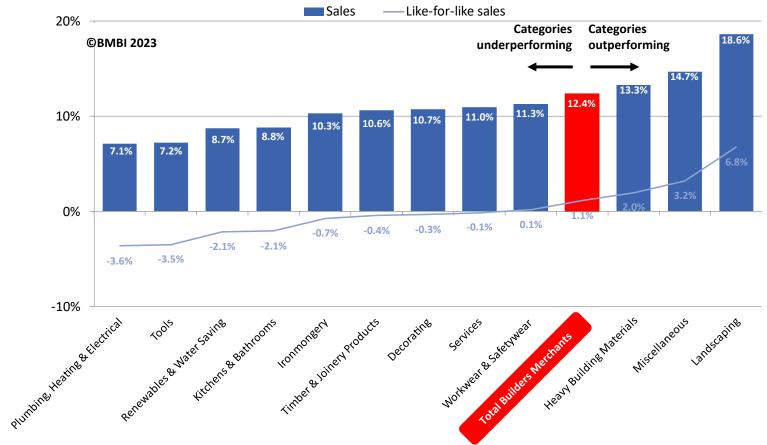
Monthly: This month v last month

May 2023 sales

20 trading days this month v 18 trading days last month. Like-for-like sales take trading day differences into account.







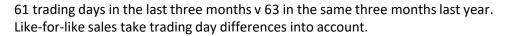
Source: GfK's
Builders Merchants
Total Category Report
July 2015 to May 2023

Total Merchants sales were +12.4% higher in May than in April.

With two more trading days this month, like-for-like sales were +1.1% higher.

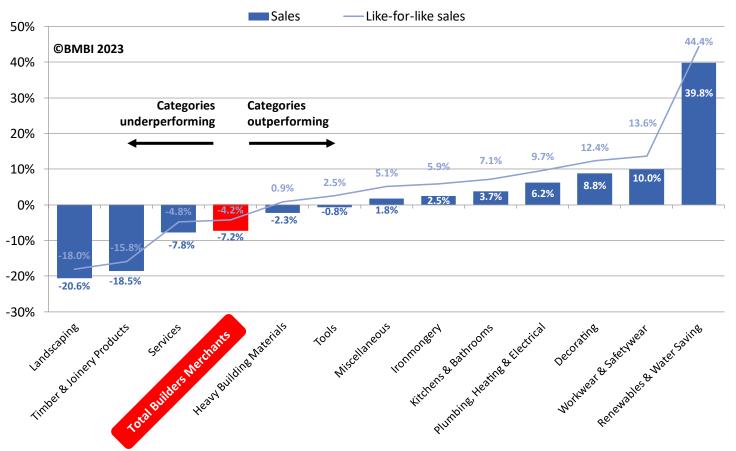
Latest 3 months: v last year

March 2023 to May 2023 sales





3 months Mar 23 to May 23 v 3 months Mar 22 to May 22



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

Total sales in March 2023 to May were - 7.2% lower than in March to May 2022, with volume down - 18.3% and price inflation of +13.7%.

Seven of the twelve categories sold more. Renewables & Water Saving (+39.8%), Workwear & Safetywear (+10.0%) and Decorating (+8.8%) did best.

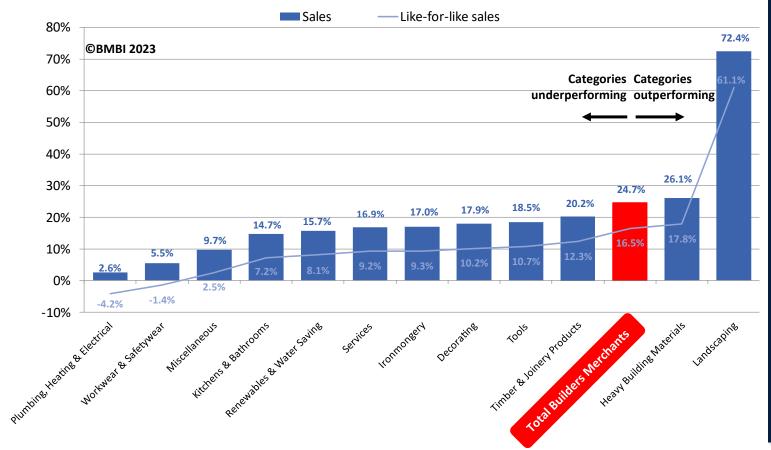
Latest 3 months: v previous 3 months

March 2023 to May 2023 sales

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



3 months Mar 23 to May 23 v 3 months Dec 22 to Feb 23



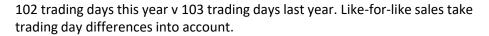
Source: GfK's
Builders Merchants
Total Category Report
July 2015 to May 2023

Total sales in March to May 2023 were +24.7% higher than in December to February 2023, with volume up +27.2% and prices down - 2.0%.

With four more trading days this period, like-for-like sales were +16.5% higher.

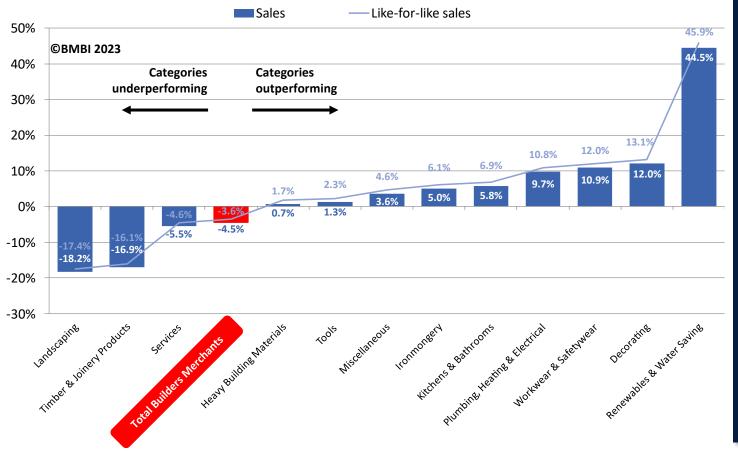
Year to date: v 2022

Last 5 months sales and like-for-like sales





Year to date: Jan 23 to May 23 v Jan 22 v May 22



@theBMBI

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

Nine categories sold more. Renewables & Water Saving (+44.5%) grew the most.

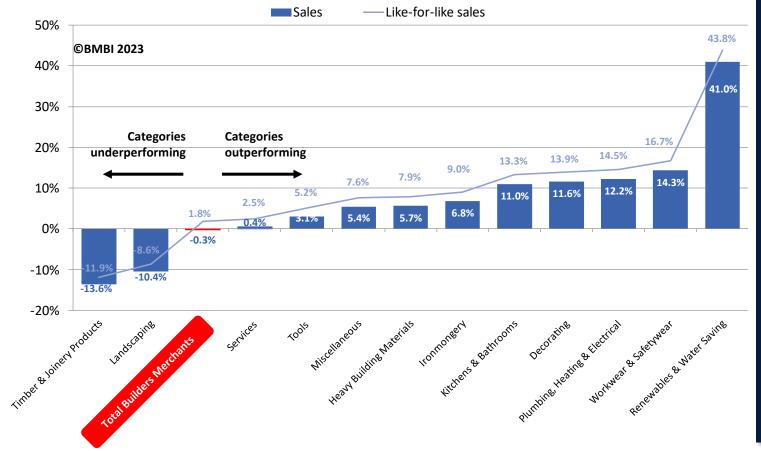
Last 12 Months: Year on Year

Sales and like-for-like sales

245 trading days this year v 250 trading days last year. Like-for-like sales take trading day differences into account.



12 months Jun 22 to May 23 v 12 months Jun 21 to May 22



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

Total Merchants sales in June 2022 to May 2023 were -0.3% lower than in June 2021 to May 2022.

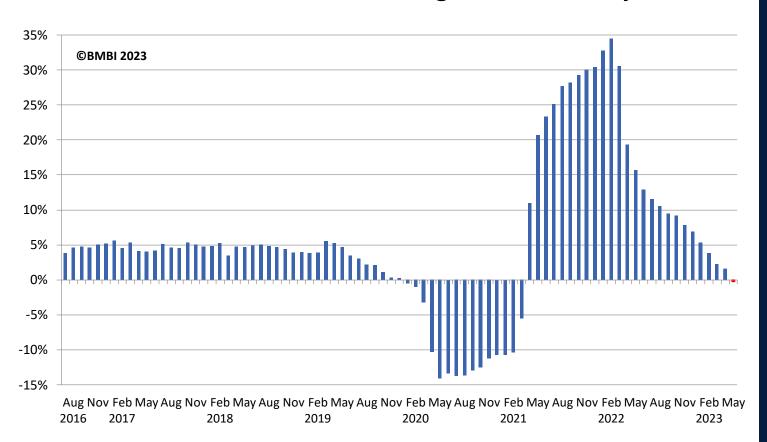
With volume down -13.6% and price inflation of +15.4%.

12 months: Year on Year

Moving Annual Total (MAT) sales



MAT: Total Builders Merchants August 2016 to May 2023



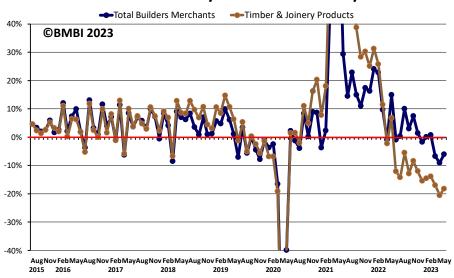
Source: GfK's
Builders Merchants
Total Category Report
July 2015 to May 2023

Sales in 12 months June 2022 to May 2023 were -0.3% lower than June 2021 to May 2022.

May 2023

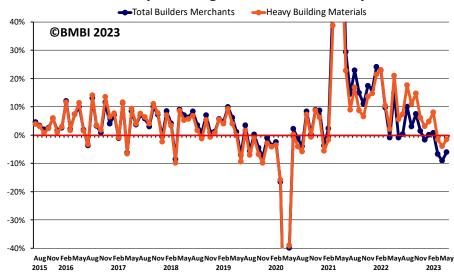


Timber & Joinery Products - Monthly



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



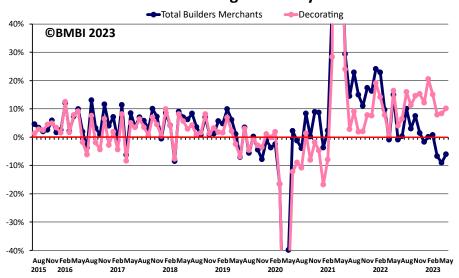
Covid19 peaks and troughs (off the chart)		
April 2020 trough:	Heavy Building Materials	-74.7%
	Total Builders Merchants	-76.5%
April 2021 peak:	Heavy Building Materials	+350.6%
	Total Builders Merchants	+419.2%



May 2023

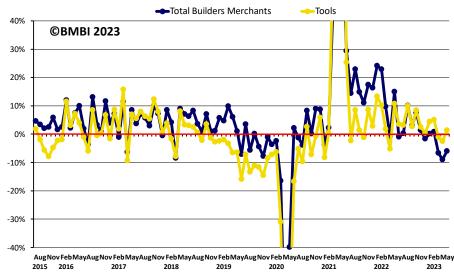


Decorating - Monthly



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



Covid 19 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%

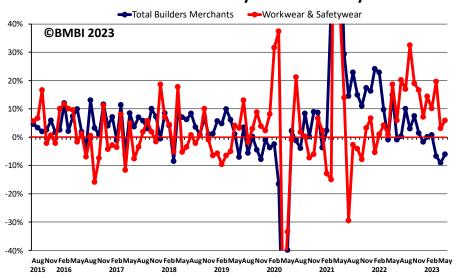
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May 2023

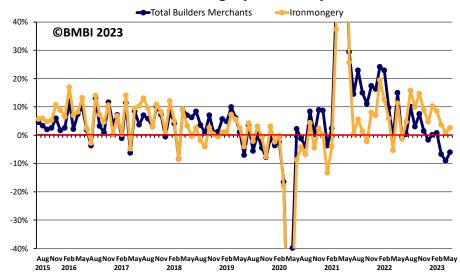


Workwear & Safetywear - Monthly



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



Covid 19 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%

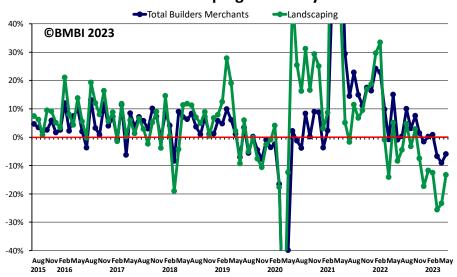
Covid10 pools and travels (off the short)



May 2023

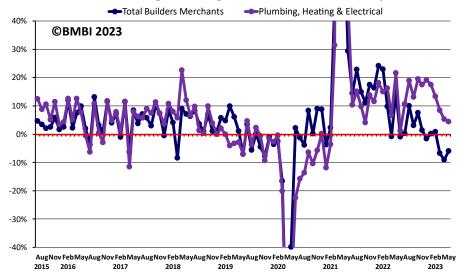


Landscaping - Monthly



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



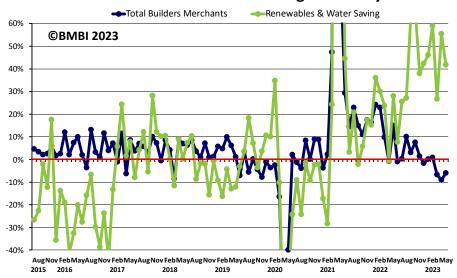
Covid19 peaks and troughs (off the chart)		
April 2020 trough:	Plumbing Heating & Electrical	-77.9%
	Total Builders Merchants	-76.5%
April 2021 peak:	Plumbing Heating & Electrical	+369.9%
	Total Builders Merchants	+419.2%



May 2023

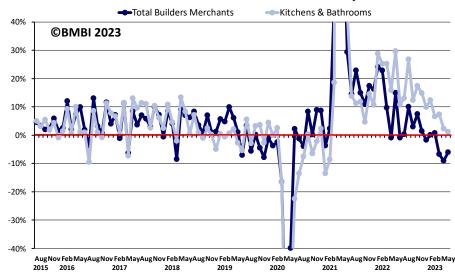


Renewables & Water Saving - Monthly



Covid19 peaks and troughs (off the chart)		
April 2020 trough:	Renewables & Water Saving	-77.4%
	Total Builders Merchants	-76.5%
April 2021 peak:	Renewables & Water Saving	+518.1%
	Total Builders Merchants	+419.2%

Kitchens & Bathrooms - Monthly



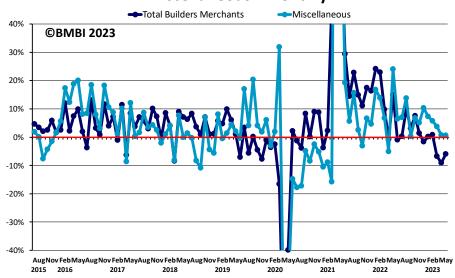
Covid19 peaks and troughs (off the chart)		
April 2020 trough:	Kitchens & Bathrooms	-86.8%
	Total Builders Merchants	-76.5%
April 2021 peak:	Kitchens & Bathrooms	+706.3%
	Total Builders Merchants	+419.2%



May 2023

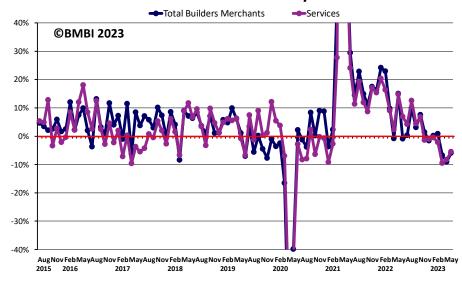


Miscellaneous - Monthly



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	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%										



Monthly: Index and Categories

May 2022* – May 2023

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



		2022									2023					
MONTHLY SALES VALUE INDEX	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May			
Total Builders Merchants	100	162.4	155.6	151.5	153.1	152.4	151.0	147.1	95.5	125.2	135.5	155.6	135.8	152.6		
Timber & Joinery Products	100	185.0	175.2	171.0	172.2	168.5	165.9	160.4	100.7	134.9	139.4	162.4	136.9	151.4		
Heavy Building Materials	100	155.1	150.8	147.0	149.4	151.3	150.1	144.0	92.4	122.2	135.5	153.8	134.9	152.8		
Decorating	100	124.2	122.0	122.1	126.2	127.8	130.6	137.4	92.0	123.7	126.3	142.3	123.9	137.2		
Tools	100	109.9	103.7	100.3	102.7	102.9	108.2	111.3	73.2	99.7	106.7	121.0	101.5	108.8		
Workwear & Safetywear	100	113.7	118.5	111.5	112.0	141.0	137.3	152.6	100.5	132.3	123.7	147.6	108.2	120.4		
Ironmongery	100	141.3	135.2	135.3	139.2	141.9	142.6	144.7	98.3	135.7	135.9	156.8	131.1	144.6		
Landscaping	100	231.7	215.1	195.5	183.5	166.1	152.6	132.7	76.5	102.4	130.7	163.8	169.2	200.8		
Plumbing, Heating & Electrical	100	137.3	125.1	125.9	130.5	143.3	156.6	168.4	127.6	154.4	156.8	172.8	133.8	143.3		
Renewables & Water Saving	100	93.3	86.3	90.4	89.9	115.3	118.1	113.8	82.6	123.5	127.5	133.7	120.8	131.4		
Kitchens & Bathrooms	100	144.6	138.7	143.1	150.1	147.5	146.7	161.4	106.4	136.6	143.3	162.2	134.6	146.4		
Miscellaneous	100	137.9	127.1	130.6	132.4	128.6	125.0	133.3	99.4	134.5	125.9	142.3	117.6	134.9		
Services	100	141.8	140.5	138.4	146.6	139.4	136.3	133.2	101.6	112.0	117.6	132.6	120.7	134.0		

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



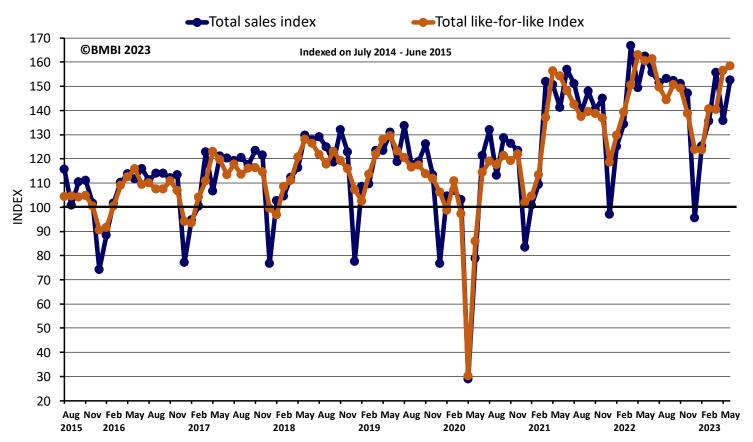
Monthly: Index

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 May 2023

May's overall BMBI index was 152.6.

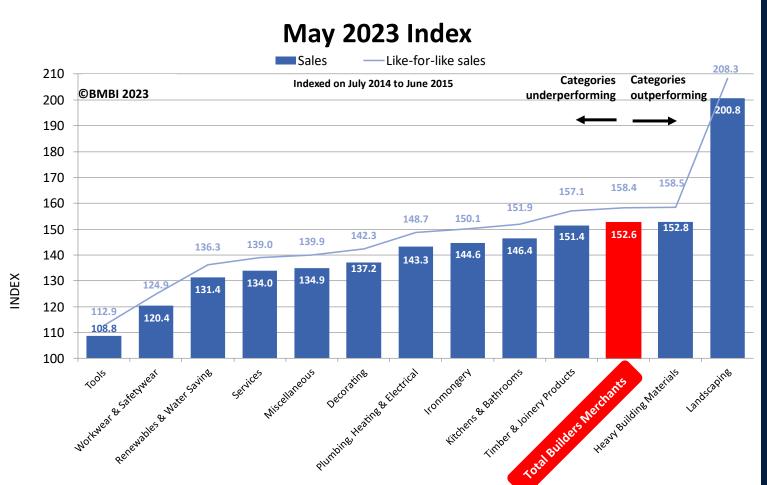
With one less trading day, the like-for-like index was 158.4.

Monthly: Index and Categories

May 2023 index

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





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

All categories exceeded 100, with seasonal category Landscaping (200.8) well out in front.

Tools (108.8) had the lowest index.

Trading Days

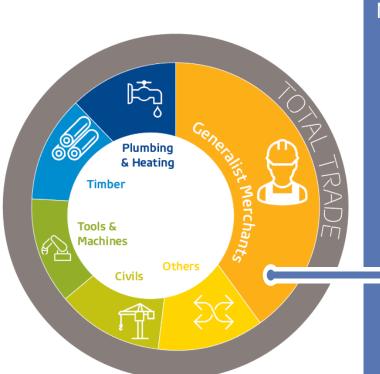


Monthly													Quarterly				ear	Full Year
Index:	Index: 20.8													Index: 62.3				
2021												2021				2021		2021
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	H1	H2	249
20	20	23	20	19	22	22	21	22	21	22	17	63	61	65	60	124	125	249
2022												2022				2022		2022
Jan	Feb	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	23	18	20								64						



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







Define sample requirements applying statistical methods

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 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

Sealants

Calains

Fillers/PU Foam

Tile Fixing (Adhesives/Grout)

"building excellence in materials supply"



BMF (Builders Merchant Federation) Forecast Report

BMF Forecast Report

Spring 2023 edition



Builders Merchants Industry Forecast Report

The latest forecast report of the BMF's Builders Merchants Industry Forecast, covering Spring 2023 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 Spring 2023 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



@theBMBI

Best use of research & insight



Contact us

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