Excellence in building materials supply



Monthly report for April 2024

(Published 02 July 2024)

Highlights



Total sales in January 2024 to April 2024 were -4.4% lower than the same period last year. Volume sales were -5.3% down with prices slightly up (+1.0%). Full comment on page 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 88% 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 January 2019 to December 2019.

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 April 2024 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.**



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 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 2024 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: Q1 2024 Report

Expert for Bricks & Roof Tiles:



الر Wienerberger

Gonzalo Bunse, Director of Sales and Customer Experience Wienerberger UK

Read latest Comment: Q1 2024 Report

Expert for Natural Stone & Porcelain Paving:





Krystal WilliamsManaging Director
Pavestone UK Ltd

Read latest Comment: Q1 2024 Report

Expert for Fasteners and Fixings:



Owlett Jaton

Ian DohertyChief Executive
Owlett-Jaton

Read latest Comment: Q1 2024 Report

Expert for Roof Windows:



Roof Windows

Jim Blanthorne

Managing Director

Keylite Roof Windows

Read latest Comment: Q1 2024 Report

Expert for Wood-Based Panels:



Illest Fraser

Simon Woods, European Sales Marketing & Logistics Director

West Fraser (formerly known as Norbord)

Read latest Comment: Q1 2024 Report

The Expert Panel

Speaking for their markets - 2



Expert for Steel Lintels:



*****Keystone

Derrick McFarlandManaging Director
Keystone Lintels

Read latest Comment: Q1 2024 Report

Expert for Adhesives & Sealants:



Bostik

Mathew Whitehouse

Marketing Director

Read latest Comment: Q1 2024 Report

Expert for Mineral Wool Insulation:



KNAUFINSULATION

Neil HargreavesManaging Director
Knauf Insulation

Read latest Comment: Q1 2024 Report

Expert for Cement & Aggregates:



Heidelberg Materials

Andrew SimpsonPacked Products Director
Heidelberg Materials

Read latest Comment: Q1 2024 Report

Expert for Paint:



Dulux TRADE

Bostik UK

Paul Edworthy Commercial Lead Dulux Trade

Read latest Comment: Q1 2024 Report

Expert for Website & Product Data Management Solutions:



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

Read latest Comment: Q4 2023 Report

Expert for Plumbing & Drainage:



Brett Martin

Charles BurnsDivisional Director
Brett Martin

Read latest Comment: Q4 2023 Report

Expert for Heating & Cooling:





Matt Williams
Managing Director
Polypipe

Read latest Comment: Q4 2023 Report



88% coverage of the market



As part of its ongoing drive to ensure the most accurate and relevant understanding of market coverage GfK conducts universe studies every few years.

These studies aim to understand the number of retailers / merchants and the branches they have in a defined universe - in this case the mainland Great Britain Builders Merchants channel.

The previous iteration of the BMBI used a universe study conducted in 2019, with coverage then estimated at 82% and revised up to 92% in the October 2023 report with the introduction of CMO, Huws Gray and JT Dove.

GfK has just completed its latest universe study for the channel and now estimates coverage to sit at 88%.

For any queries around this, please reach out to Emile van der Ryst at emile.van-der-ryst@gfk.com

GfK has just completed its latest universe study for the builders' merchant channel and estimates coverage is 88%.

Overview - 1



April 2024 value sales were +3.9% up compared with last year

Now based on 88% of actual sales in the market (see page 7), Total Builders Merchants value sales were up +3.9% in April 2024 compared with the same month last year. Volume sales were +4.7% higher with prices down -0.8%. Eight of the twelve categories performed better than Total Merchants, led by Workwear & Safetywear (+28.9%), Miscellaneous (+15.0%), Decorating (+14.1%) and Plumbing Heating & Electrical (+13.2%). But the three largest categories Heavy Building Materials (+1.4%), Timber & Joinery Products (+1.4%), and Landscaping (+3.2%) grew more slowly than Total Merchants. With three more trading days this year, like-for-like value sales (which take trading day differences into account) were down -11.0%.

April 2024 v March 2024

Total Merchants sales were +5.0% higher in April than in March 2024. Volume sales were +7.4% up, while prices were down -2.3%. Ten of the twelve categories sold more, with one of the largest categories, Landscaping (+15.4%), well up. But the two largest, Heavy Building Materials (+4.8%) and Timber & Joinery Products (+3.6%), grew more slowly. Plumbing Heating & Electrical (-1.4%) and Workwear & Safetywear (-4.6%) were the weakest performing categories. With one more trading day this month, like-for-like sales were flat (+0.0%).

April Index:

April's overall BMBI index was 117.7. All twelve categories exceeded 100. Seasonal category Landscaping (139.5) led the field followed by Workwear & Safetywear (131.8) and Renewables & Water Saving (130.8). There was no difference in trading days.

Latest three months v last year - February 2024 - April 2024 v February 2023 - April 2023

Total sales in February 2024 to April 2024 were -5.0% lower than the same period last year. Volume sales were down -5.9% and prices were slightly up (+0.9%). Six of the twelve categories sold more with Workwear & Safetywear (+14.3%) up the most. Renewables & Water Saving (-23.9%) was the weakest performing category. With one more trading day this year, like-for-like sales were down -6.6%.

Total Merchants sales were +5.0% higher in April than in March 2024.

Volume sales were +7.4% up. Prices were down -2.3%.

Overview continues on the next page...



Overview - 2



... continued from the previous page:

Latest three months v previous three months - February 2024 - April 2024 v November 2023 - January 2024

Total sales in February 2024 to April 2024 were +15.6% higher than in November 2023 to January 2024. Volume sales were up +20.8% but prices were down -4.3%. Eleven of twelve categories sold more. The three largest categories, Landscaping (+50.6%), Heavy Building Materials (+16.1%) and Timber & Joinery Products (+12.6%) grew strongly. Tools (+12.2%) and Decorating (+10.2%) also performed well. Workwear & Safetywear was weakest (-0.5%). With two more trading days this period, like-for-like sales were +11.8% higher.

Year-to-date v last year - January 2024 to April 2024 v January 2023 to April 2023

Total sales in January 2024 to April 2024 were -4.4% lower than the same period last year. Volume sales were -5.3% down with prices slightly up (+1.0%). Seven of the twelve categories sold more led by Workwear & Safetywear (+15.3%), but the two largest categories Heavy Building Materials (-6.7%) and Timber & Joinery Products (-7.6%) were down. Renewables & Water Saving (-25.0%) was weakest. With two more trading days this period, like-for-like sales were -6.6% lower.

Latest 12 months v last year - May 2023 - April 2024 v May 2022 - April 2023

Total value sales in the last 12 months, May 2023 to April 2024, were -4.7% down on the previous period, May 2022 to April 2023. Volume sales were -9.6% down with prices up +5.4%. Nine categories sold more, with Workwear & Safetywear (+8.3%), Decorating (+7.5%) and Miscellaneous (+5.3%) ahead the most. However, the three largest categories, Heavy Building Materials (-5.0%), Landscaping (-5.7%) and Timber & Joinery Products (-11.3%) sold less. With four more trading days this period, like-for-like sales were -6.3% lower.

Total value sales in the last 12 months, May 2023 to April 2024, were -4.7% down on the previous period, May 2022 to April 2023.

Volume sales were -9.6% down with prices up +5.4%.

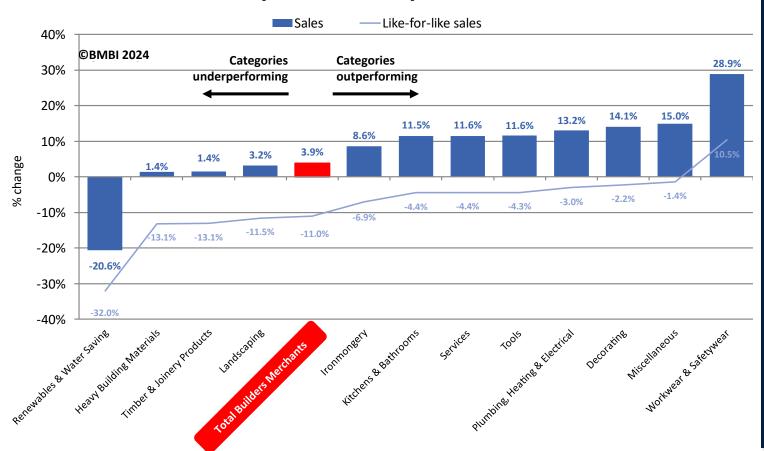
Latest month v last year

Sales and Like-for-like sales

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



April 2024 v April 2023



Source: GfK's
Builders Merchants
Total Category Report
January 2019 to April 2024

Eight of the twelve categories performed better than Total Merchants.

But the three largest, Heavy Building Materials (+1.4%), Timber & Joinery Products (+1.4%), and Landscaping (+3.2%) grew more slowly.

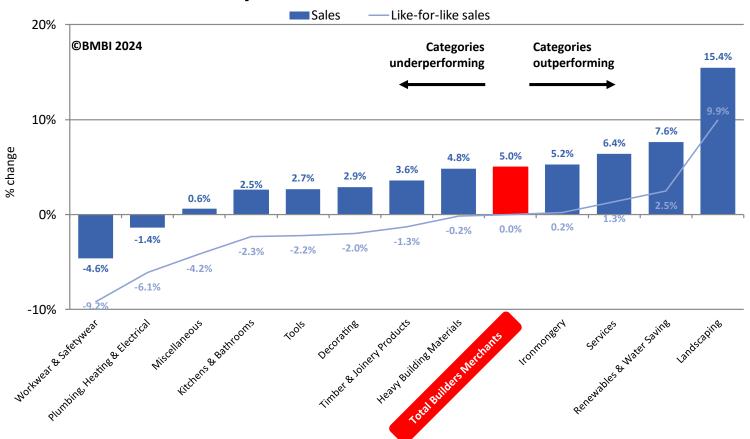
Latest month v previous month

Sales and Like-for-like sales

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



April 2024 v March 2024



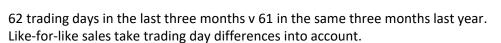
Source: GfK's
Builders Merchants
Total Category Report
January 2019 to April 2024

Total Merchants sales were +5.0% higher in April than in March 2024.

Volume sales were +7.4% up, but prices were down -2.3%.

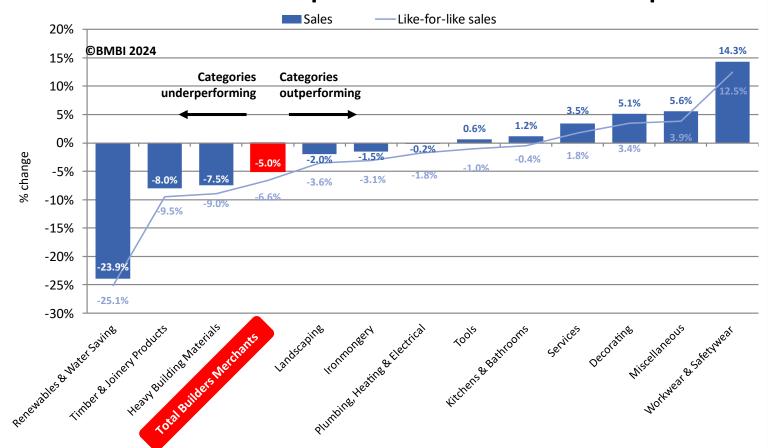
Latest 3 months v last year

Sales and Like-for-like sales





3 months Feb 24 to Apr 24 v 3 months Feb 23 to Apr 23





Total sales in
February 2024 to
April 2024 were
-5.0% lower than the
same period
last year.

Volume sales were down -5.9% and prices slightly up (+0.9%).

Latest 3 months v previous 3 months

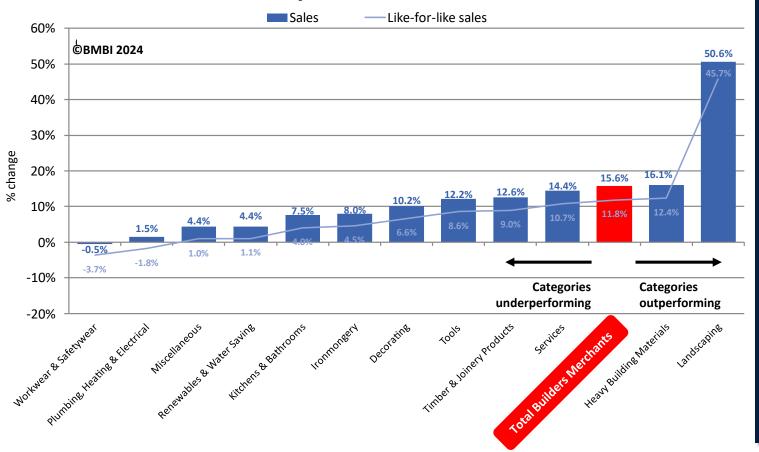
Sales and Like-for-like sales



Builders Merchant

62 trading days this recent period v 60 trading days in the previous period. Like-for-like sales take trading day differences into account.

3 months Feb 24 to Apr 24 v 3 months Nov 23 to Jan 24





Total sales in February 2024 to April 2024 were +15.6% higher than in November 2023 to January 2024.

Volume sales were up +20.8% but prices were down -4.3%.

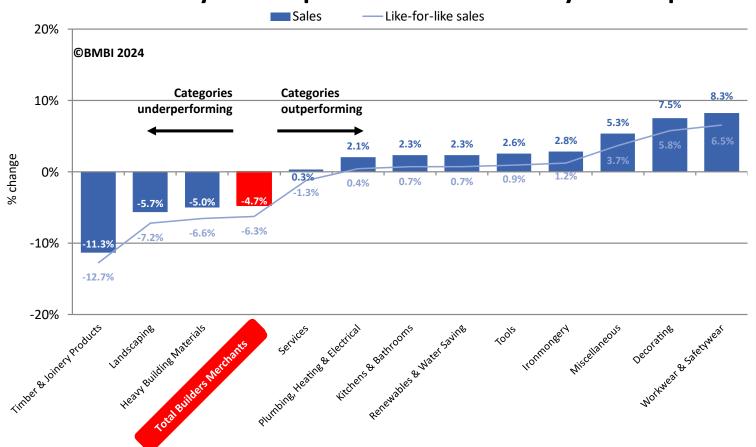
Latest 12 months v last year

Sales and Like-for-like sales

250 trading days this period v 246 trading days last 12 months. Like-for-like sales take trading day differences into account.



12 months May 23 to Apr 24 v 12 months May 22 to Apr 23





Nine categories sold more, with Workwear & Safetywear (+8.3%), Decorating (+7.5%) and Miscellaneous (+5.3%) ahead the most.

But the three largest categories, Heavy Building Materials (-5.0%), Landscaping (-5.7%) and Timber & Joinery Products (-11.3%) sold less.

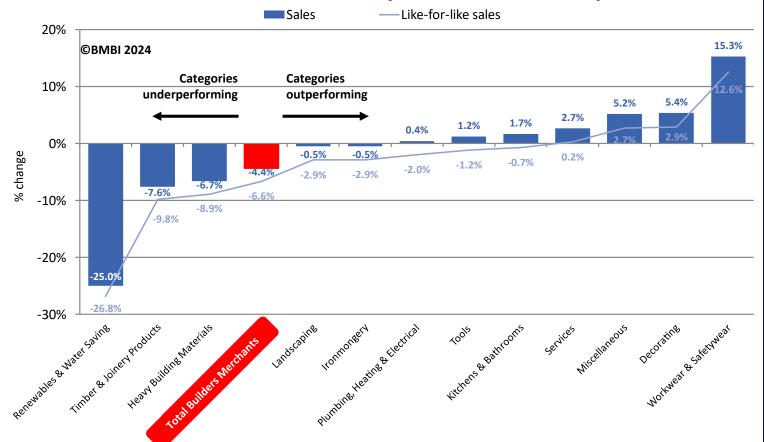
Year-to-date v last year

Sales and Like-for-like sales

84 trading days this year v 82 trading days last year. Like-for-like sales take trading day differences into account.



Year to date: Jan 24 to Apr 24 v Jan 23 v Apr 23



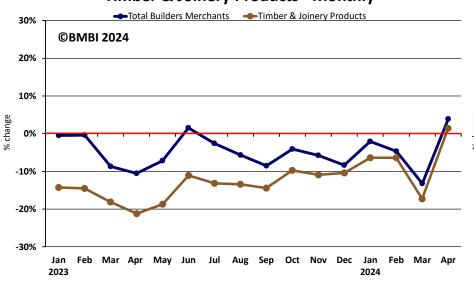
Source: GfK's
Builders Merchants
Total Category Report
January 2019 to April 2024

Seven categories sold more led by Workwear & Safetywear (+15.3%), but the two largest Heavy Building Materials (-6.7%) and Timber & Joinery Products (-7.6%) were down.

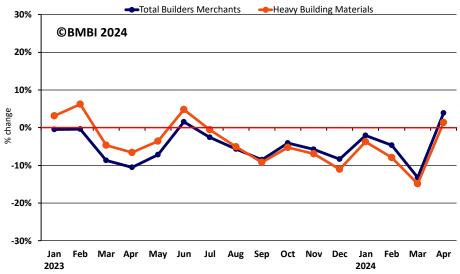
April 2024



Timber & Joinery Products - Monthly

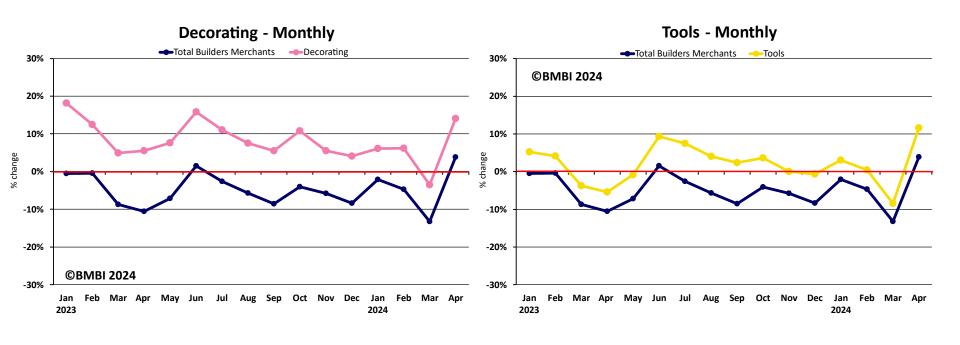


Heavy Building Materials - Monthly



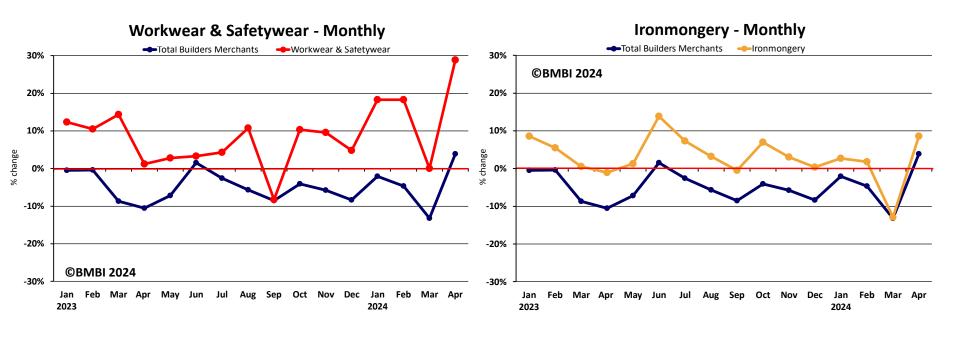
Source: GfK's
Builders Merchants
Total Category Report
January 2019 to April 2024





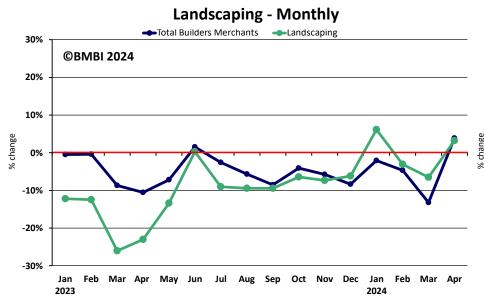


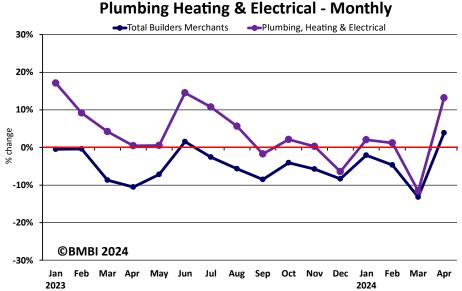










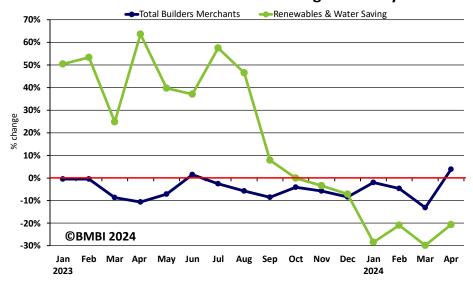




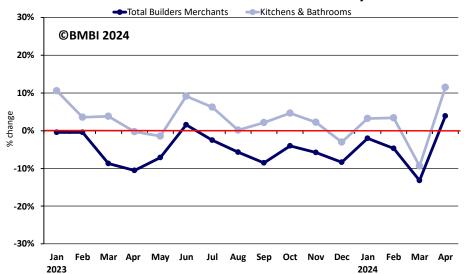
April 2024



Renewables & Water Saving - Monthly

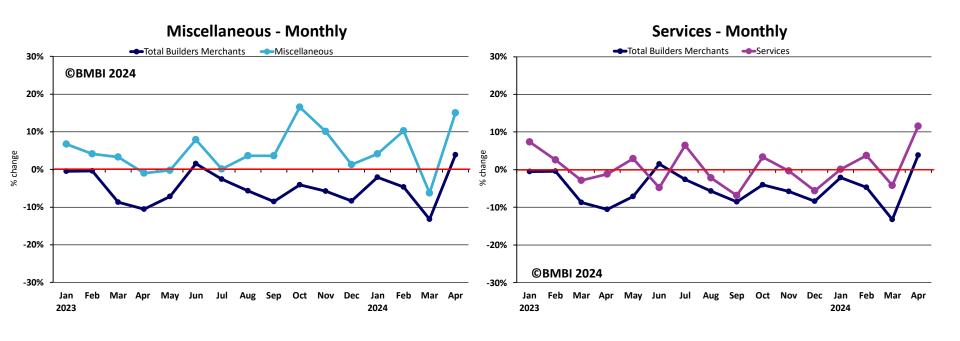


Kitchens & Bathrooms - Monthly



Source: GfK's **Builders Merchants Total Category Report** January 2019 to April 2024







Monthly: Index by Categories

March 2023* – April 2024

(Indexed on monthly average, January 2019 - December 2019)



		2023	2023										2024				
MONTHLY SALES VALUE INDEX	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr				
Total Builders Merchants	100	113.3	127.8	133.7	126.0	123.8	119.2	121.9	116.4	72.7	102.7	107.6	111.6	117.7			
Timber & Joinery Products	100	107.6	119.2	123.8	118.4	118.8	114.8	117.6	111.6	69.6	100.1	102.4	104.7	109.1			
Heavy Building Materials	100	116.4	132.6	139.5	130.5	127.3	122.9	124.9	118.0	71.6	102.0	108.0	112.2	118.0			
Decorating	100	107.8	119.8	126.3	122.1	122.6	121.2	127.8	127.7	83.7	114.7	116.8	117.7	122.9			
Tools	100	106.5	114.7	120.5	115.8	115.6	113.9	121.1	120.7	79.1	111.0	114.1	114.8	118.8			
Workwear & Safetywear	100	102.3	114.1	117.2	111.1	118.3	123.5	147.3	163.4	102.2	148.2	141.9	137.5	131.8			
Ironmongery	100	99.8	110.5	119.2	112.4	111.9	109.4	114.9	112.7	74.1	105.7	104.5	102.8	108.4			
Landscaping	100	135.2	160.2	171.3	144.0	134.9	121.4	113.6	97.5	56.3	85.7	100.2	120.4	139.5			
Plumbing, Heating & Electrical	100	100.6	108.5	112.4	109.9	110.0	112.2	125.2	130.1	91.6	122.5	119.9	115.1	113.8			
Renewables & Water Saving	100	164.8	169.6	155.0	178.8	164.1	154.9	148.9	145.2	99.6	118.9	127.4	121.4	130.8			
Kitchens & Bathrooms	100	106.8	116.2	123.5	125.1	124.0	123.1	123.4	132.5	82.2	113.4	117.6	115.6	119.1			
Miscellaneous	100	88.1	101.4	102.0	99.7	104.2	99.9	111.7	111.3	76.4	105.6	104.0	99.9	101.4			
Services	100	107.2	120.1	110.1	122.5	119.0	109.2	118.3	113.2	82.7	98.6	105.1	112.0	119.6			

^{*}Click the web link below to see the complete series of indices from January 2023.

Source: GfK's
Builders Merchants
Total Category Report
January 2019 to April 2024

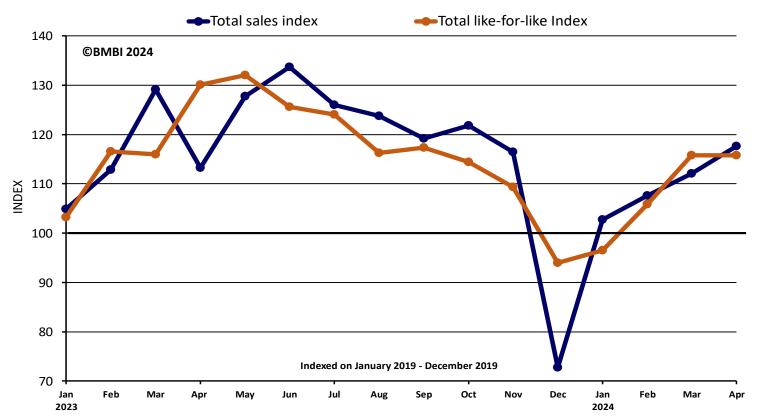
Monthly: Index

Sales and like-for-like sales

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



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





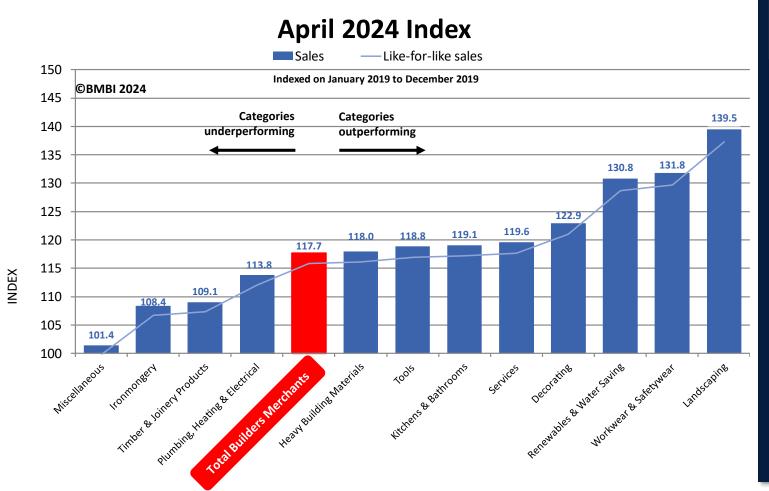
April's overall BMBI index was 117.7.

Latest month: Index by Categories

Sales and Like-for-like sales index

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





@theBMBI

Source: GfK's **Builders Merchants Total Category Report** January 2019 to April 2024

All twelve categories exceeded 100.

Seasonal category Landscaping (139.5) led the field followed by Workwear & Safetywear (131.8) and Renewables & Water Saving (130.8).

Trading Days

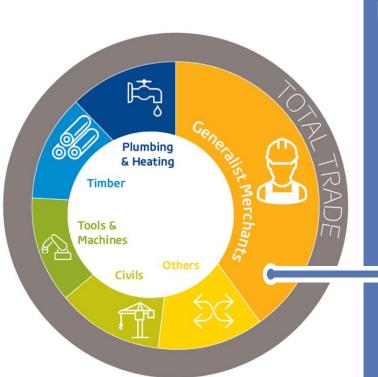


Month	ıly			Quarterly								Half Year		Full Year				
Index:	20.7											Index:	62					
2022												2022				2022		2022
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	H1	H2	046
20	20	23	19	21	20	21	22	21	21	22	16	63	60	64	59	123	123	246
2023												2023				2023		2023
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	H1	H2	248
21	20	23	18	20	22	21	22	21	22	22	16	64	60	64	60	124	124	240
2024												2024				2024		2024
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	H1	H2	
22	21	20	21									63						

Source: GfK's **Builders Merchants Total Category Report** January 2019 to April 2024

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 88%.

Examples include:

























GfK Insights Methodology









GfK Insights Methodology







Define sample requirements



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

Services

Other Misc

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-rvst@gfk.com

Available categories:

Heavyside

Bricks Insulation

Emulsion Paints (incl. Masonry & Base)

Trim Paints

Primers/Undercoats

Woodcare

Adhesives

Sealants

Fillers/PU Foam

Tile Fixing (Adhesives/Grout)

Excellence in building materials supply



BMF (Builders Merchant Federation) Forecast Report

BMF Forecast Report Spring 2024 Edition



Builders Merchants Industry Forecast Report

The latest forecast report of the BMF's Builders Merchants Industry Forecast, covering Spring 2024 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 2024 Edition now available. The forecast report and its previous editions 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



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