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UK tradespeople quoting for more work than 12 months ago

- **95% of UK tradesmen and women are currently working**
- **Nearly half (48%) believe business will improve for them in the next year**
- **However, nearly one in three (32%) believe the UK economy will worsen in next 12 months**

Nearly half (44%) of the UK's plumbers, electricians, builders, carpenters and other trades say they are quoting for more work than 12 months ago, according to multi-channel retailer, Screwfix.

Of the 95% of tradespeople currently working, the majority (67%) say they have enough work to keep them busy and 16% claim to have more work than they can handle, with nearly half (48%) believing business will improve for them over the next year.

However, the latest *Trade Pulse** report also revealed this optimism is tempered with a degree of concern around the general UK economy. Nearly one in three (32%) think it will worsen in the next 12 months, increasing from 20% who felt the same way 12 months ago.

Screwfix *Trade Pulse* is a monthly index which surveys more than 500 UK tradespeople to track work levels and optimism among the trade. The retailer undertakes the research to gain greater insight into the needs of its customers to ensure it provides the services and products required.

Andrew Livingston, CEO of Screwfix, comments: "The optimism seen among the UK's tradespeople at the start of 2016 is continuing, however, there also seems to be more uncertainty on the nation's economic outlook from the trade. Despite this, it is very encouraging to see that many continue to be in work, with more jobs to come, which is something we see reflected by our busy trade customers across our network of over 470 stores.

“We are focused on supporting tradespeople to maximise the business opportunities available to them and continue to open more stores, with 50 due to open this year. Currently, 90% of the UK population is within a 20 minute drive time of a Screwfix store, so we’re looking to bring Screwfix even closer to our customers.

“It’s greater convenience for busy tradespeople that has also led to certain services going from strength-to-strength, including our five minute Click & Collect service and Sunday delivery. As one of the key suppliers to the trade, we remain close to their needs to ensure we offer the services to support them the very best way we can.”

ENDS

Note to editors

About Screwfix:

Screwfix is part of Kingfisher plc, a home improvement company with over 1,100 stores in 10 countries in Europe, Russia and Turkey. For further information go to www.kingfisher.com.

Screwfix is recognised as being “where the trade buys”, offering a straightforward and transparently-priced retail experience that enables busy trade customers to shop 267,000 products over the phone, online, via their mobile or from their local store.

- From power tools and work wear to cables and pipe fittings, more than 11,000 products are available to pick up from the national network of over 470 stores. A further range of over 16,000 products can be ordered over the phone, online or from a local store, with orders taken up until 7pm for next day delivery to home or site.
- Screwfix.com attracts 2.2 million unique visitors per week and the Screwfix Click & Collect service means customers can conveniently purchase supplies online (or over the phone) and then collect from store just five minutes later.
- Customers can call the UK-based Screwfix Contact Centre 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (including bank holidays) on 03330 112 112.
- UK stores are open 7 days a week, from 7am Monday to Saturdays and 10pm Sundays.
- 9 out of 10 customers would recommend Screwfix to a friend.

PRESS information:

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