



March 2016

UK tradespeople optimistic for 2016

The UK's plumbers, electricians, builders, carpenters and other trades have optimistic business outlooks for 2016 as a result of expected high business levels, increased enquiries for work and confidence in the wider national economy, according to leading trade supplier, Plumbfix.

Positivity across the nation's tradespeople was revealed in the latest *Trade Pulse* report from Plumbfix's umbrella organisation, Screwfix. The majority (89%) of those questioned said they expect business to remain at the same level or to improve in the year ahead.

When compared to 12 months ago, more than one third (41%) are providing more quotes for potential work and nearly half (48%) of tradespeople reported that business is better.

The findings also revealed that nearly half (43%) are currently busier than expected. In fact, there is too much work to handle for 14% of the trade.

Confidence in the UK's general economy is also strong. The majority (78%) think it will stay the same or improve in the year ahead and 54% believe it has improved over the last 12 months.

Screwfix *Trade Pulse* is a monthly index which surveys more than 500 UK tradespeople including plumbers 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 Plumbfix, comments: "2016 looks set to continue from a busy 2015 for the nation's tradespeople and many are feeling great optimism for the year ahead. This is very positive and certainly reflects the feedback we've seen from customers in our Plumbfix trade counters, which are exclusive to qualified plumbers.

"To support tradesmen and women with busy workloads so they can maximise business opportunities, we're maintaining our store network expansion alongside the continued

development of other services. We are looking to open an additional 200 Screwfix stores including Plumbfix trade counters, with 60 of those due to open this year.

“As busy plumbers and other tradespeople look to minimise time off site, we’ve also seen certain services go 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 its needs to ensure we offer the services to support it the very best we can.”

Qualified plumbers looking to find their local Plumbfix store or its range of products should visit www.plumbfix.com or get in touch on 0808 101 0000 or via the mobile-friendly 03330 112 999 to find out more.

ENDS

Note to editors

*Screwfix *Trade Pulse* is a monthly index which surveys more than 500 UK tradesmen to track work levels and optimism among the trade.

About Plumbfix:

Plumbfix is an exclusive to plumbers supplier dedicated to plumbing and heating professionals. The business has developed pioneering partnerships with Gas Safe Register; CIPHE and OFTEC to support the industry, stamp out illegal gas work and promote safety in gas and oil installations. It uses the market leading business infrastructure of Screwfix to ensure customers get the very best products, trade price and fast, reliable service including:

- A network of Plumbfix counters throughout the UK located next door to Screwfix stores
- An award winning call centre with a dedicated Plumbfix Team
- Industry-leading next day delivery to UK addresses
- Easy same day collection through the Plumbfix counters
- Leading brands, including GROHE, FloPlast, Drayton, Mira, Vaillant and Cambridge Bosch Group
- All Plumbfix products now available to purchase online at www.plumbfix.com

For more information call FREE on 0808 101 0000 or visit www.plumbfix.com

PRESS information:

For more information, please contact:

Laura Westcott, McCann Public Relations, Tel: 07813 562717

laura.westcott@mccann.com

Rachel Tillman, McCann Public Relations, Tel: 0121 713 3593
rachel.tillman@mccann.com