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| **PRESS RELEASE FOR ISSUE TO:** | National and trade media |
| **WITH/WITHOUT PHOTOGRAPH:** | With - infographic |
| **FOR ISSUE ON:** | w/c 24 August |
| **FOR APPROVAL BY:** | D Sweet |
| **DEADLINE FOR APPROVAL:** | 21 August |

**August 2020**

**STRONG WORK LEVELS AND BUSINESS OPTIMISM FOR UK TRADESPEOPLE**

* **Majority of UK tradespeople continued to work through the lockdown**
* **UK trades say business levels are the same or better than 12 months ago**
* **Nearly one in three UK tradespeople are busier than expected**

UK tradespeople are reporting strong levels of work activity in the first half of 2020 despite the Coronavirus pandemic.

According to research undertaken independently on behalf of Screwfix, 88 per cent of the plumbers, electricians, builders and carpenters questioned in Screwfix’s Trade Pulse\* index, said they are working at the moment, with 72 per cent in work through lockdown during April and 77 per cent in May.

More than half (56 per cent) of tradespeople say they are preparing at least as many quotes for jobs as they were this time last year and, nearly one in three (32 per cent) are busier than expected.

Many tradespeople remain optimistic for the next 12 months, with more than two thirds expecting business activity to remain the same or improve.

John Mewett, CEO of Screwfix, comments: “Remaining open throughout lockdown meant our colleagues were working hard serving our customers to ensure tradespeople could continue their essential work. This enabled us to see first-hand how busy the nation’s tradespeople were, many of whom play a crucial role in keeping homes warm, safe and with power. The past few months have been hugely challenging for everyone and, our customers have had to adapt to new ways of working on site to keep themselves and their customers safe. That’s why it’s even more reassuring to see that these latest findings show many tradespeople remain in work and are preparing quotes for future jobs.

“We want to thank and reward tradespeople for everything they do and especially for their efforts over the last few months. To do this, we’re launching our annual competition to find Screwfix’s Top Tradesperson, to recognise those who go above and beyond for their customers, the industry and their communities. As previous winners show, winning the accolade can have a positive impact on their business, so it’s definitely worth entering!”

Darren McGhee, a roofer from North Lanarkshire, is the current champion of Screwfix’s Top Tradesperson and says: “Winning this competition is the ultimate recognition a tradesperson can receive. In the past year, I have continued to grow my business while helping to raise the standards of the roofing industry. This year has been tough for everybody, so now more than ever, I would definitely encourage others to enter this life changing opportunity!”

Screwfix’s Top Tradesperson is a nationwide competition. One exceptional winner will win the profile-boosting accolade and £20,000 trade bundle. Entries for Screwfix’s Top Tradesperson are open until 30 August. To find out more and to enter, please search: Screwfix Top Tradesperson.

*\*Screwfix Trade Pulse is an index which surveys more than 500 UK tradespeople to track work levels and optimism among the trade.*

**ENDS**

**About Screwfix:**

Screwfix is part ofKingfisher plc, the international home improvement company with over 1,300 stores in 9 countries across Europe, Russia and Turkey, supported by a team of over 77,000 colleagues. It operates under retail brands including B&Q, Castorama, Brico Dépôt, Screwfix and Koçtaş. It offers home improvement products and services to nearly six million consumers and trade professionals who shop in its stores and through its digital channels every week.

It believes everyone should have a home they feel good about, so its purpose is to make home improvement accessible for everyone. [www.kingfisher.com](http://www.kingfisher.com)

Screwfix is convenient, straightforward and affordably-priced, helping its trade customers get the job done quickly, affordably and right first time. Tradespeople can shop 33,000 products over the phone, online, via their mobile or in-person from their local store.

* From power tools and work wear to cables and pipe fittings, Screwfix offers over 11,000 products available to pick up from over 680 UK stores nationwide.
* Over 33,000 products can be ordered over the phone, online or from a local store, with orders taken up until 8pm (weekdays) for next day delivery to home or site.
* The Screwfix Click & Collect service, which enables customers to pick-up their goods in as little as one minute after ordering online or over the phone, is used more than 10 million times a year.
* UK-based Screwfix Contact Centre open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (including bank holidays) on 03330 112 112.
* See [www.screwfix.com/stores](http://www.screwfix.com/stores) for store opening information.
* Next day delivery is available within store opening hours.
* World leading customer satisfaction levels.
* Screwfix was awarded in the A-Z of Recognised Retailers in the Retail Top 100 Movers & Shakers Report 2019
* Screwfix was awarded Retail Week’s Mark of Excellence’ for Best Place to Work in 2019
* The Screwfix and Wincanton team came highly commended in the **Chep Award for Supply Chain Strategy and Design** at the Logistics Manager Supply Chain Excellence Awards 2019.
* For more information about Screwfix please visit our media centre: [www.screwfixmedia.co.uk](http://www.screwfixmedia.co.uk)

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