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"To succeed in tomorrow's tough trading environment, kitchen retailers will need to continue to invest in showroom displays in order to keep ahead of the competition. Retailers will increasingly recognise the importance of a great showroom environment to give people ideas about how to create an attractive and practical kitchen."

- Jane Westgarth, Senior Retail Analyst

This report looks at the following areas:

- · Will more fitted kitchen purchases go online?
- · How price sensitive are people when they refit a kitchen?
- · What role does planning play in influencing where people buy kitchens?

After several years of flat demand, more households are revamping their kitchens. The stimulus is helped by growing consumer confidence and a strengthening economy. The housing market began to pick up momentum in 2012 and 2013-14 has seen a return to boom conditions for London and the South East, as well as a revival in some other parts of the UK. And when people move house, they are more inclined to refit their kitchens.

DIYers are in the minority when it comes to refitting a kitchen. These projects are large and complex and too much for many people to cope with. This report looks at the consumer base who have opted for DIY or fitters and examines who uses the services provided by the retailers themselves.

There have been sweeping changes among retailers in recent years. MFI, once the market leader, went out of business in 2008, and then the fourth-largest DIY chain, Focus DIY, closed in 2011. We also saw the kitchen specialist, Moben (part of Homeform Group) close in 2011. Howdens Joinery and Wren Living have stepped in to fill the gap created by MFI and other companies have also added kitchens and kitchen fitting to their product mix including John Lewis, Tesco and Next. Meanwhile B&Q, Homebase, IKEA and Wickes have all invested in better ranges, stronger branding and more comprehensive services in order to capture more of this market. The builders' merchants are also improving showroom space and building their image with the consumer.

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DID YOU KNOW?

This report is part of a series of reports, produced to provide you with a more holistic view of this market



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