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Windows and Doors Market

Published on October 2008

Report Summary

This Key Note Market Report covers the UK market for windows and doors, which is broadly divided into four sectors by main material used: unplasticised polyvinyl chloride (PVC-U), wood, aluminium and steel. In 2007, the market was worth an estimated £5.69bn. PVC-U products account for the largest share of the market, although sales in this sector have seen a downward trend in recent years. Also significant is the wooden products sector, which has experienced growth in market value.

The windows and doors market is largely dependent on the housebuilding and repair/maintenance sectors. There are also important sales to be made in the commercial sector, which includes office, education and retail construction. This Market Report includes statistics on trends in these sectors.

The market faces a difficult period, resulting from the current credit crisis, which is restricting the amount of funding that is available for mortgages and home improvements. House prices are very high in relation to salaries, and new entrants to the housing market cannot afford to buy their first home without a large loan (which banks are unwilling to lend at present). Although house prices are falling, they are still high in relation to salaries and available loans. Compared with the first half of 2007, the same period of 2008 saw a dramatic fall in the number of mortgages taken out and the number of housing transactions.

Sustainability in the construction industry is now an important issue and, thus, a topical aspect of the windows and doors market. The wooden sector has been promoting its environmental credentials for a number of years and, more recently, the PVC-U sector has begun to highlight its positive points in this respect.

Recyclability of windows/doors is an activity that is becoming more important and presenting new challenges, particularly in the PVC-U sector, as old windows of this type are replaced with more modern products.

As a result of requirements for improved buildings standards, new performance rating criteria have been developed for windows, particularly regarding their thermal insulation properties.

In terms of its structure, the windows and doors industry is experiencing a difficult time. There have been some job losses and some companies have ceased to trade ' a result of the generally poor economic climate and increasing penetration of the replacement market.

Conditions are forecast to be difficult through 2008 and 2009, followed by a recovery in 2010. In the longer term, there are better prospects for the windows and doors market, given the Government's housing expansion plans.

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