# **Paints and Varnishes Market Report**

Description: The UK paint industry is currently riding the wave of the upturn in the housing market in the UK, and the consequent knock-on effect for the

do-it-yourself (DIY) industry. Sales of mix-to-order paints grew by 56% in the UK in 1997, reflecting the increasing use of paint by home owners in preference to wallpaper and growing boldness in both colour and use.

Prior to the upsurge in the economy and home ownership, the UK paints and varnishes market had been characterised by low levels of growth, and several sectors of the market were actually contracting.

Retailers have introduced new ranges of own brands to capitalise upon the current trends including Habitat and Marks and Spencer.

Between 1993 and 1997, the manufacturers' sales of paint rose by 48% to £2.17bn in 1997. The retail market was somewhat more sluggish, growing by 25.6% between 1993 and 1997, to reach £638m. This slower rate of growth reflects the competitive nature of the UK retail market for paints and varnishes.

The market remains concentrated in the hands of a small number of multinational companies, such as Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI). A number of the major players in the UK market are foreign companies, such as Basf and Akzo Nobel.

Despite continuing price competition in the retail market and the decline of industrial need for paint, continued exports as well as a growing DIY and housing market will push manufacturers' sales up by 58.6% between 1998 and 2002, reaching £4.01bn.

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