

# Clothing sales top garden centre charts for August

29 September 2014, by Matthew Appleby, [Be the first to comment](#)

Garden Centre Association August trading figures show clothing sales were the most successful sector, being up 25.85 per cent as compared to August, 2013, in a generally flat month for garden centres.



Garden centre customers

Catering was up 7.14 per cent, seed and bulb sales were up 13.5 per cent, furniture and barbecues were up 6.97 per cent, gifts 6.7 per cent up, hard landscaping 3.65 per cent up and food hall/farm shop up 3.55 per cent.

Outdoor plants were about 10 per cent down and sundries five per cent down.

Overall, year to date garden centres are up to eight per cent on average up on 2013.

Meanwhile, private sector growth continued to perform strongly in the three months to September, with expectations for a mild pick up in the next quarter, according to the CBI's Growth Indicator.

The survey of 817 respondents showed a balance of +23 per cent of those surveyed saw growth in the last quarter. Although this is below the record high seen in May (+35 per cent), it remains well above the long-run average.

The outlook for the next three months remains robust, with a modest increase in growth anticipated (+27 per cent). However, expectations have eased from last month's near record high (+38 per cent) and from the generally stronger predictions seen over the course of the year.

CBI economics director Rain Newton-Smith said: "While optimism in the private sector may have lost a little of the spring in its step, this is in line with our forecast for a slight easing in the second half of the year.

"Growth remains robust though, and the recovery is progressing along the right path.