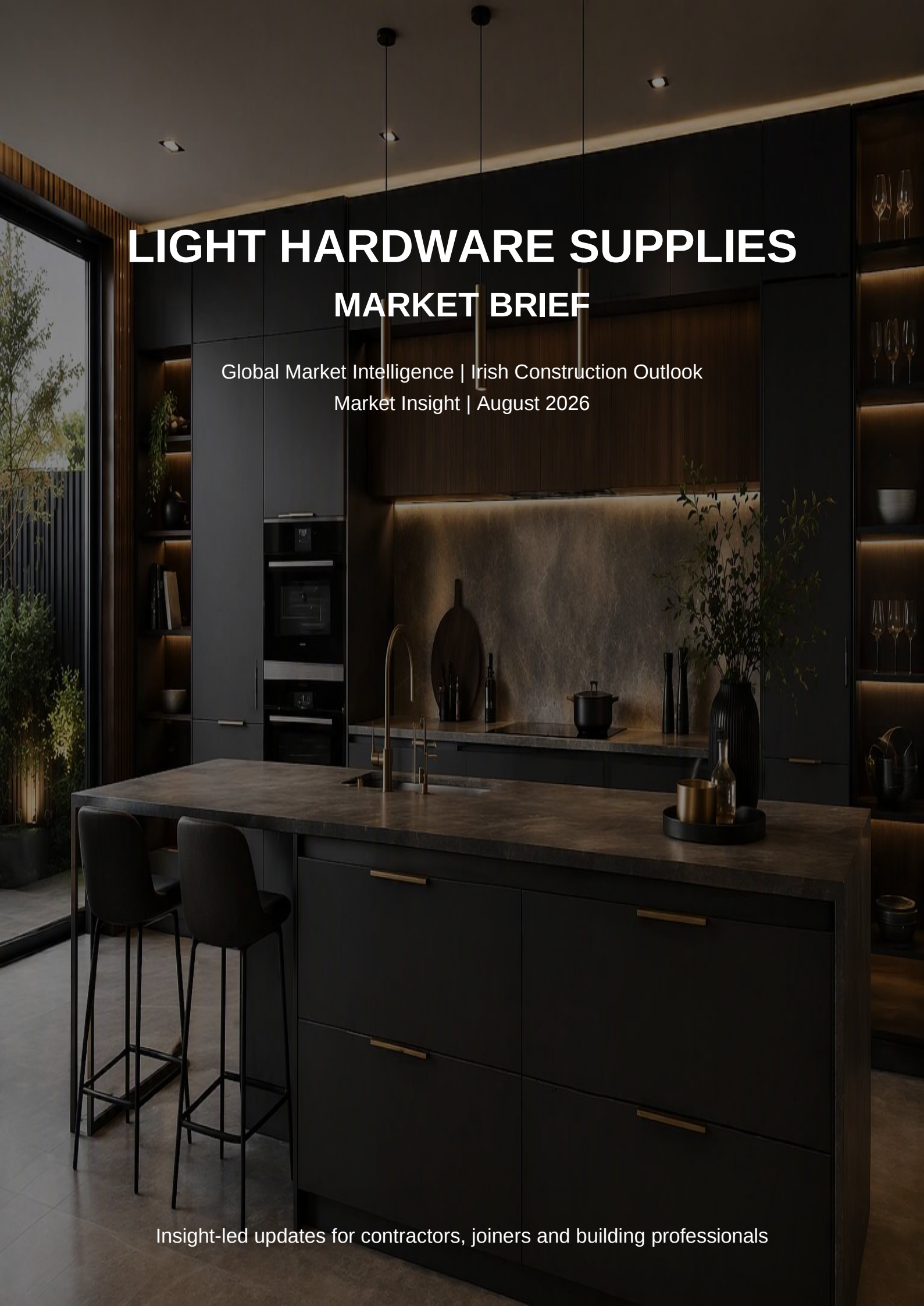


A modern, dark-toned kitchen with a large island, open shelving, and a large window. The kitchen features dark cabinetry, a large island with a dark countertop, and a large window on the left side. The island has a sink and a faucet. The background shows a kitchen area with a backsplash, a sink, and various kitchen items. The lighting is warm and ambient, with recessed lights in the ceiling and under the shelves.

LIGHT HARDWARE SUPPLIES

MARKET BRIEF

Global Market Intelligence | Irish Construction Outlook
Market Insight | August 2026

Insight-led updates for contractors, joiners and building professionals

Global Market Update

Material Cost Pressures Continue

Construction markets globally continue to monitor the impact of energy costs, tariffs and supply chain volatility on steel, concrete and other building materials. These factors are influencing construction pricing throughout Europe and beyond.

Ireland Construction Outlook

Construction Activity Growing

The latest AIB Ireland Construction PMI reported the fastest pace of activity growth in a year, with stronger housing and commercial construction activity, increasing employment and rising purchasing activity across the sector.

Market Insight

Trade Focus: The 5 Kitchen Questions Driving Modern Renovations

1. Is Storage Now More Important Than Appliances?

Many homeowners are discovering that poor storage creates more frustration than older appliances.

Trade professionals should be asking:

"Have we maximised every available inch of storage?"

Key growth categories:

- Pull-out larders - Soft-close drawer systems - Corner cabinet solutions - Internal organisers - Hidden recycling & waste systems

The trend is towards functionality first, luxury second. Homeowners increasingly want kitchens that reduce clutter and improve everyday living.

2. Are Kitchen Islands Becoming the New Family Hub?

Kitchen islands are no longer simply preparation spaces.

Today's customers expect:

- Seating areas - Charging points – Storage - Entertaining space - Homeworking flexibility

For installers, this creates opportunities for integrated power systems, concealed fixings, lighting solutions and premium hardware finishes.

3. Is Open Plan Giving Way to Smarter Zoning?

Open-plan living remains popular, but many households now want subtle separation between cooking, dining and living areas.

Ask your clients:

"Do you actually want one large room, or several connected spaces?"

Demand is growing for:

- Pocket door systems - Sliding door hardware - Internal glazing - Decorative partitions - Acoustic solutions

This trend creates opportunities for specialist architectural hardware and ironmongery.

4. How Important Is Sustainability in Kitchen Design?

Energy efficiency and sustainability are no longer niche concerns.

Homeowners are increasingly considering:

- LED lighting systems - Water-saving taps - Durable hardware with longer life cycles - Efficient extraction and ventilation - Sustainable materials

This trend aligns closely with Ireland's ongoing retrofit and energy efficiency programmes.

5. Is the Utility Room the New Must-Have Feature?

Across Ireland, utility spaces have become one of the most requested additions in renovation projects.

Homeowners want practical spaces for:

- Laundry - Cleaning products - Pet equipment – Storage - Family organisation

This trend drives continued demand for shelving systems, hooks, brackets, cabinet hardware and storage accessories.