

## 4.01.04. Items - Usage tab

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The Usage tab allows you to view the historic item usage per month in the store that you are logged in to. This information is very useful for quickly spotting a trend in usage for a particular item. You can also change how mSupply makes forecasting calculations about this item when [creating automatic tenders](#), [calculated purchase orders](#) or [suggested ordering reports](#).

This is what the tab looks like:

The screenshot shows the 'Item details' window with the 'Usage' tab selected. The item name is 'CONDOM, male, lubr., 53mm width, natural, WHO/UNFPA Prequalified, pce'. The table below shows usage data from 2024-02 to 2025-02. Below the table, there are controls for forecasting, including a 'Months' dropdown set to 24, 'Mean usage' of 3280.167, and 'Standard dev' of 5311.943. There is also an 'Include builds' checkbox. The 'Forecasting' section has four radio button options: 'Use historical Average Monthly Consumption (AMC)', 'Use historical AMC increased by a factor of: 0%', 'Use a fixed, estimated AMC of: 0 items/month', and 'Use projection: A'. The 'Projections' section has an 'Add year' button and a 'Save projection' button. At the bottom, there are buttons for 'Delete', 'OK & Previous', 'OK & Next', 'Cancel', and 'OK'.

Year-Month	Consumption	Mean Stock	Days out of stock
2025-02	0	9000	0
2025-01	5000	10419	0
2024-12	2000	14581	0
2024-11	9060	20347	0
2024-10	24000	26854	0
2024-09	13060	46070	0
2024-08	2500	7323	0
2024-07	1000	8903	0
2024-06	1000	9900	0
2024-05	3500	12645	0
2024-04	2500	15917	0
2024-03	4000	18339	0
2024-02	2320	21200	0


The **Date** field above the table on the right hand side is read only and shows the range of dates covered by the historic usage information in the table. The last date will always be the current date, the first date will be the number of months in the **Months** drop down list before the current date.

The **Months** drop down list allows you to choose how many months usage data to show in the table, from 1 to 60 (5 years!). After choosing a value, the *Mean usage* (average) and *Standard deviation* figures will be updated to give the figures for the period chosen (the period is from the selected number of months ago to the current day i.e. the period shown in the **Date** field above the right hand side of the table).

**Refresh usage button:** This button allows you to update the usage with transactions that were added since you opened the window (this applies to multi-user mode). It also allows you to show the usage with or without build transactions included in the totals, depending on whether or not the **Include builds** checkbox is checked.

**Include builds** checkbox: if checked then mSupply will include confirmed builds (see the [4.07. Building \(manufacturing\) items](#) page for details) in the usage calculations. If it is not checked (the

normal setting) then build will not be included.

 If a user has the **View items** permission but not the **Edit items** permission, they are still able to use the functionality described here to investigate the usage of items in the store that they are currently logged in to since this makes no changes to the properties of the item itself.

### Show Graph button

Clicking the **Show Graph** button will replace the table with a graph showing the information selected in the drop down list to its right. Here is an example of a *Consumption* graph:



The horizontal (X) axis is the period selected on the **Months** drop down list, the vertical (Y) axis shows the value of the property selected in the drop down list next to the **Show/Hide graph** button for each month.

You can show consumption, mean stock, days out of stock, projection A and projection B on this graph.

### Forecasting

This section allows you to set how mSupply calculates future usage of this item when automatically

generating tenders, calculating purchase orders or creating a suggested order report. Refer to the section on [Forecasting](#) to see how the lower part of the Usage tab can be used.

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