

Statistical bulletin

Business insights and impact on the UK economy: 30 June 2022

The impact of challenges facing the economy and other events on UK businesses. Based on responses from the voluntary fortnightly business survey (BICS) to deliver real-time information to help assess issues affecting UK businesses and economy, including financial performance, workforce, trade, and business resilience.

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1 . Main points

- In May 2022, half (50%) of businesses currently trading reported that the prices of goods or services bought had increased from April 2022, while 21% reported that prices sold had increased across the same period; both figures have remained stable since March 2022.
- In late June 2022, 35% of businesses reported their production and/or suppliers had been affected by recent increases in energy prices, up from 33% reported in early May 2022.
- Among currently trading businesses, 30% expect to increase the price of goods or services they sell in July 2022, with energy prices continuing to be reported as the main factor for considering doing so, at 42%.
- Approximately one in five (20%) trading businesses reported that their turnover in May 2022 was lower than in April 2022; nearly a third (32%) of businesses in the accommodation and food service activities industry reported their turnover was lower across the same period.
- Trading businesses in the accommodation and food service activities industry have reported on their expectations for July 2022; nearly half (46%) expect the price of goods or services they sell will increase in July 2022, while a quarter (25%) of businesses expect their turnover to decrease.
- Of businesses not permanently stopped trading, 15% reported that domestic demand for goods and services in May 2022 decreased compared with the previous calendar month, broadly stable with April 2022; in contrast half (50%) reported domestic demand stayed the same.

2 . Headline figures

The data presented in this bulletin are the final results from Wave 59 of the Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS), which was live from 13 to 26 June 2022.

Experimental single-site weighted regional estimates up to Wave 49 (24 January to 6 February 2022), are available in our [Understanding the business impacts of local and national restrictions, UK: February 2022 article](#). An updated publication will be released on 11 July 2022.

Please note that businesses were asked to exclude seasonal changes when answering questions contained within BICS.

More about economy, business and jobs

- All ONS analysis, summarised in our [economy, business and jobs roundup](#).
- Explore the latest trends in employment, prices and trade in our [economic dashboard](#).
- View [all economic data](#).

Figure 1: Headline figures from the Business Insights and Conditions Survey

Notes:

1. For presentational purposes, response options have been combined and/or have been excluded.
2. Workforce: the data for the equivalent period last year are not available as the question was not asked for this time period.
3. Prices: for presentational purposes, the data shows an increase to prices bought and sold compared with the previous calendar month.
4. Data are plotted in the middle of the period of each wave.

Download the data

[.xlsx](#)

In late June 2022, 93% of businesses reported they were trading, with 86% fully trading and 8% partially trading (for example, trading with reduced hours or staff numbers). Meanwhile, 4% of businesses reported “temporarily paused trading” and 3% reported “permanently ceased trading”, as their business’s trading status.

Based on the responses of businesses not permanently stopped trading, the proportion of the workforce that were working as part of a hybrid model in May 2022, was 22%. The remaining proportion of the workforce were:

- working from home – 8%
- working from a designated workspace – 64%
- on sick leave, or not working due to coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, self-isolation or quarantine – less than 1%
- made permanently redundant – less than 1%
- other – 6%

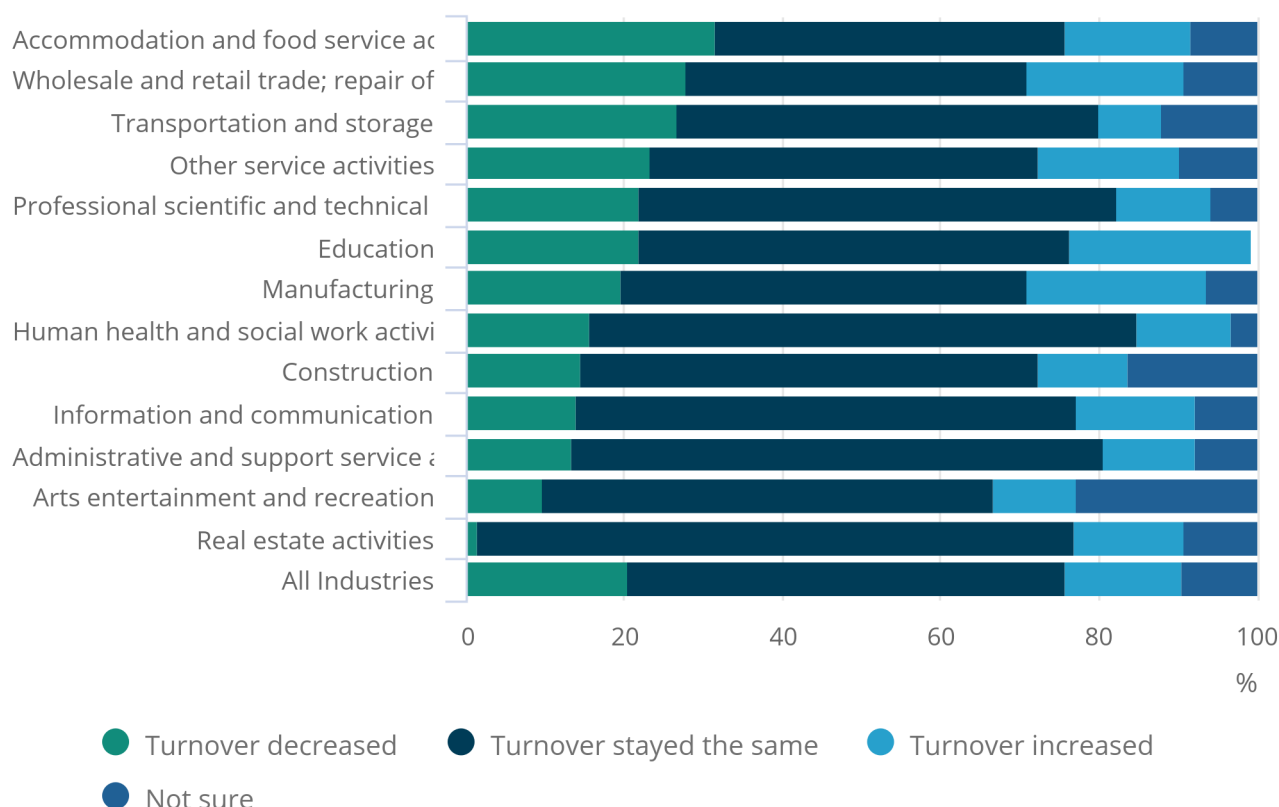
3 . Financial performance

Figure 2: One in five (20%) businesses reported turnover in May 2022 was lower compared with April 2022

Impact on turnover, businesses currently trading, broken down by industry, weighted by count, UK, 1 to 31 May 2022

Figure 2: One in five (20%) businesses reported turnover in May 2022 was lower compared with April 2022

Impact on turnover, businesses currently trading, broken down by industry, weighted by count, UK, 1 to 31 May 2022



Source: Office for National Statistics – Business Insights and Conditions Survey

Notes:

1. Bars may not sum to 100% because of rounding and percentages less than 1% being removed for disclosure purposes.
2. “Mining and quarrying” and “Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities” have been removed for disclosure purposes, but their totals are included in “All industries”.

The percentage of businesses currently trading who reported their turnover had decreased compared with the previous month is down 3 percentage points from the 23% reported in April 2022. The accommodation and food service activities industry continued to report the highest percentage of businesses experiencing lower turnover, at 32%.

The manufacturing industry saw the largest movement in the percentage of businesses who reported they experienced lower turnover in May 2022 at 20%, down 10 percentage points from the 30% reported in April 2022. This decrease can be attributed to those businesses who reported their turnover was higher in May 2022, which increased 10 percentage points over the same period.

Businesses that reported their turnover had stayed the same in May 2022, was 56%. This percentage is up 3 percentage points from April 2022.

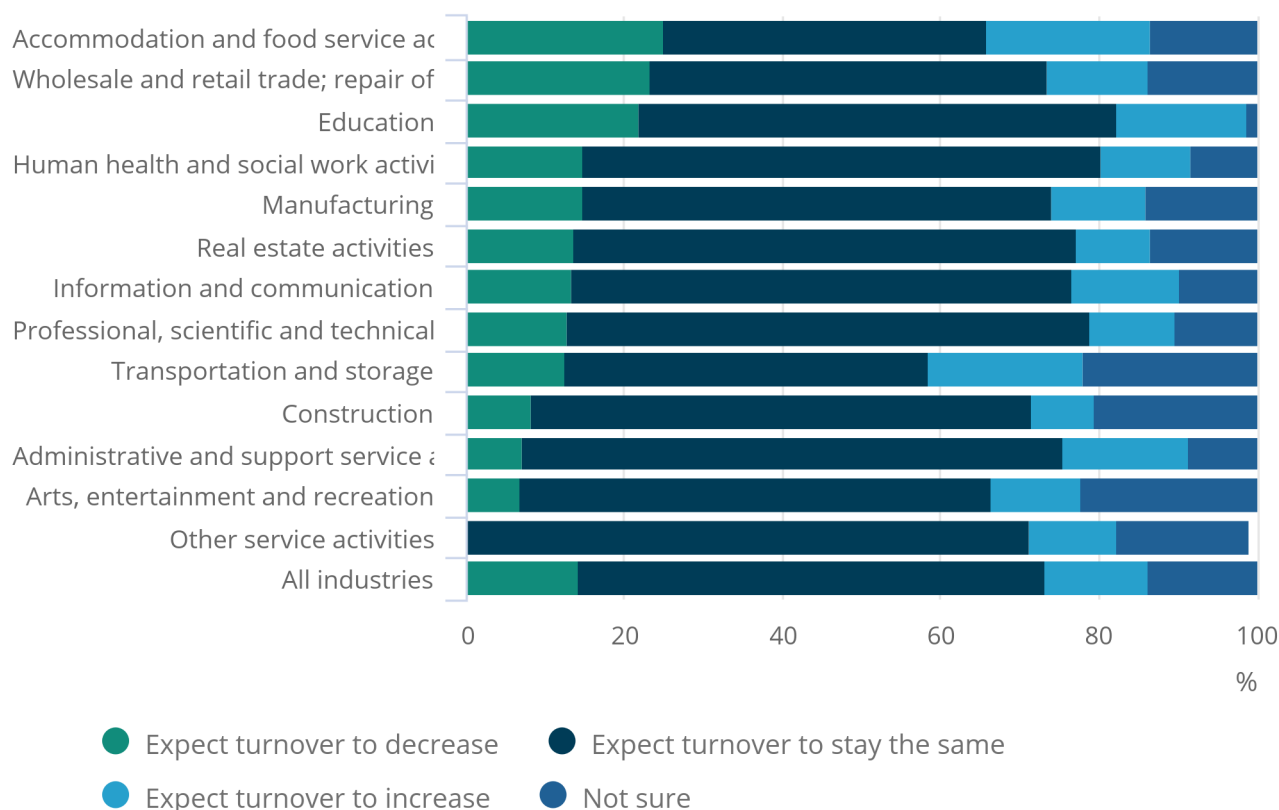
The transportation and storage industry reported the largest increase in businesses reporting their turnover stayed the same across this period. This increase can be attributed to the percentage of businesses in the transportation and storage industry that reported an increase in turnover falling from 18% to 8% between April and May 2022.

Figure 3: A quarter (25%) of businesses in the accommodation and food service activities industry expect their turnover to decrease in July 2022

Impact on turnover expectations, businesses currently trading, broken down by industry, weighted by count, UK, 1 to 31 July 2022

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Impact on turnover expectations, businesses currently trading, broken down by industry, weighted by count, UK, 1 to 31 July 2022



Source: Office for National Statistics – Business Insights and Conditions Survey

Notes:

1. Bars may not sum to 100% because of rounding and percentages less than 1% being removed for disclosure purposes.
2. “Mining and quarrying” and “Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities” have been removed for disclosure purposes, but their totals are included in “All industries”.

Approximately one in seven (14%) businesses currently trading reported they expect their turnover to decrease in July 2022. This has been broadly stable since March 2022.

A quarter of businesses (25%) in the accommodation and food service activities industry reported they expect their turnover to decrease in July 2022, despite usually being busier in the summer months.

Approximately three in five (59%) businesses currently trading reported that they expect their turnover to stay the same in July 2022. This percentage is up from the 56% of businesses who expected their turnover in April 2022 to stay the same.

4 . Prices

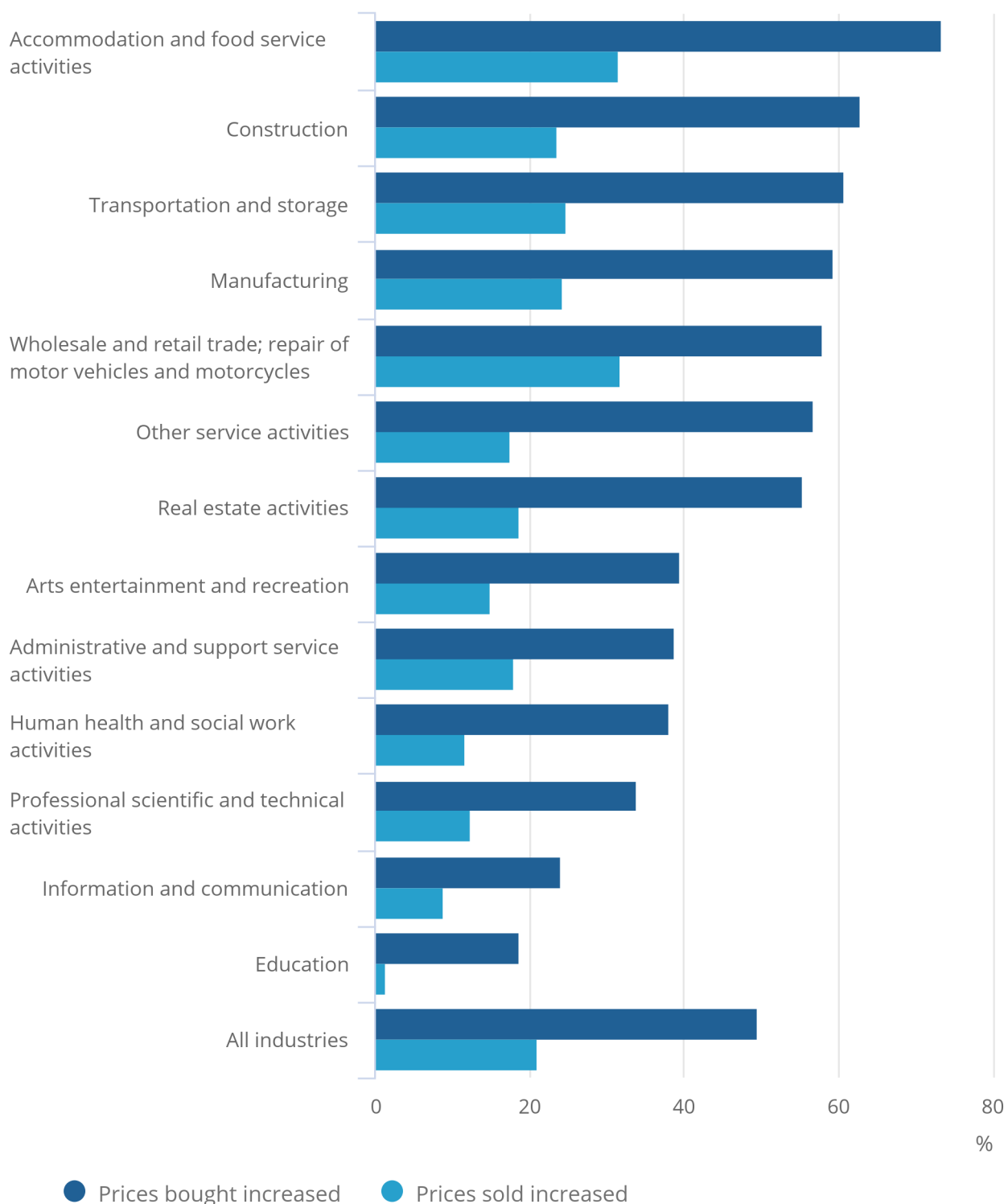
Prices bought and sold

Figure 4: Nearly three-quarters (73%) of businesses in the accommodation and food service activities industry reported an increase in the price of goods or services they bought in May 2022

Prices bought and sold increased, businesses currently trading, broken down by industry, weighted by count, UK, 1 to 31 May 2022

Figure 4: Nearly three-quarters (73%) of businesses in the accommodation and food service activities industry reported an increase in the price of goods or services they bought in May 2022

Prices bought and sold increased, businesses currently trading, broken down by industry, weighted by count, UK, 1 to 31 May 2022



Notes:

1. For presentational purposes, response options have been excluded.
2. “Mining and quarrying” and “Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities” have been removed for disclosure purposes, but their totals are included in “All industries”.

Latest estimates suggest that a number of trading businesses continue to experience an increase each month in the prices of goods or services bought and sold. This has been constant since March 2022.

The accommodation and food service activities industry reported the largest difference in the percentage of businesses reporting the price of goods or services bought versus the price of goods or services sold, with a 42 percentage point difference. This suggests businesses are reporting increased input costs compared with the proportion of businesses reporting increased selling costs for their goods or services.

Price expectations

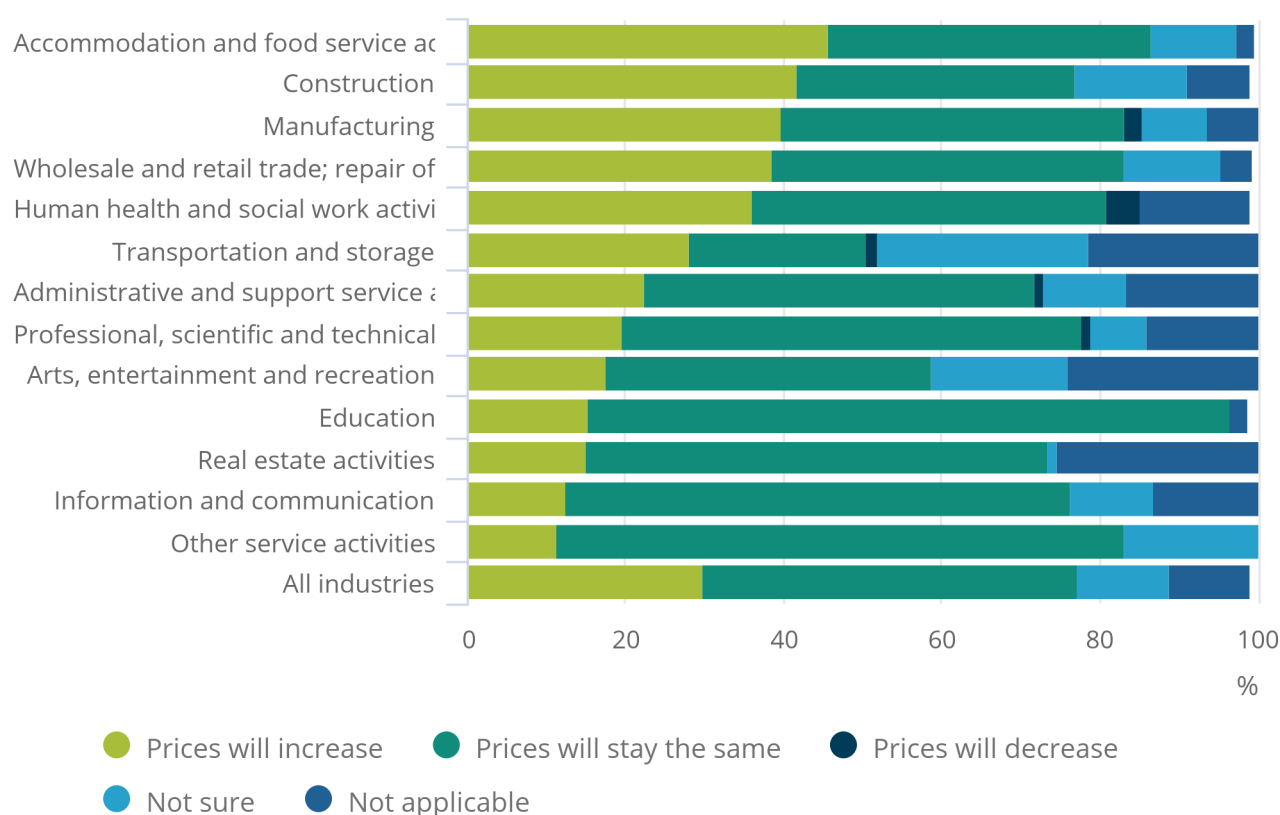
Of businesses currently trading, 30% expected to increase the price of the goods or services they sell in July 2022. In contrast, less than 1% of businesses expect their prices to decrease.

Figure 5: Nearly half (46%) of businesses in the accommodation and food service activities industry expect the price of the goods or services they sell to increase in July 2022

Price expectations, businesses currently trading, broken down by industry, weighted by count, UK, 1 to 31 July 2022

Figure 5: Nearly half (46%) of businesses in the accommodation and food service activities industry expect the price of the goods or services they sell to increase in July 2022

Price expectations, businesses currently trading, broken down by industry, weighted by count, UK, 1 to 31 July 2022



Source: Office for National Statistics – Business Insights and Conditions Survey

Notes:

1. Bars may not sum to 100% because of rounding and percentages less than 1% being removed for disclosure purposes.
2. “Mining and quarrying” and “Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities” have been removed for disclosure purposes, but their totals are included in “All industries”.

The most common reason businesses currently trading are considering raising their prices, is energy prices. Approximately two in five (42%) businesses reported this as a factor; up from 38% of businesses reporting this for June 2022. The accommodation and food service activities industry reported the highest proportion of businesses selecting energy prices, at 75%.

Across all industries, other factors reported included:

- raw material prices (29%), with the manufacturing industry reporting the highest percentage (59%)
- labour costs (22%), with the accommodation and food service activities industry reporting the highest percentage (34%)

Of businesses who reported they are not considering raising their prices (33%), the information and communication industry reported the highest percentage (55%).

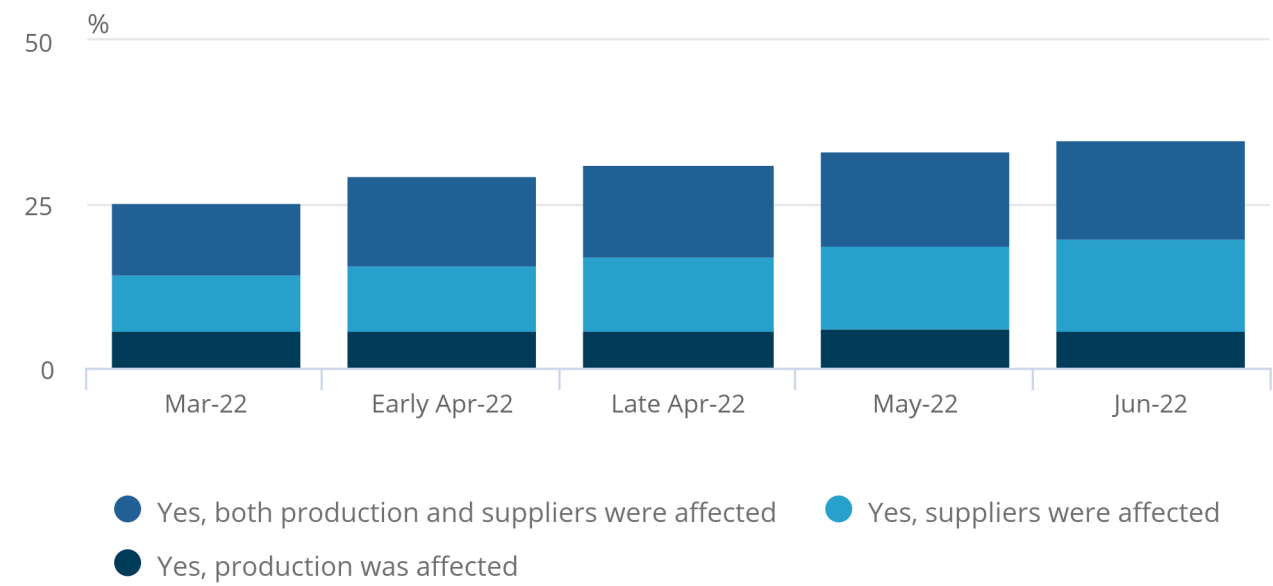
5 . Energy prices

Figure 6: Businesses reporting their production and/or suppliers had been affected by energy prices was up 10 percentage points since March 2022

Impact of energy prices, businesses not permanently stopped trading, weighted by count, UK, 7 March to 26 June 2022

Figure 6: Businesses reporting their production and/or suppliers had been affected by energy prices was up 10 percentage points since March 2022

Impact of energy prices, businesses not permanently stopped trading, weighted by count, UK, 7 March to 26 June 2022



Source: Office for National Statistics – Business Insights and Conditions Survey

Notes:

- 1. Businesses were asked if their production and/or suppliers had been affected by recent increases in energy prices.
- 2. For presentational purposes, some response options have been excluded.
- 3. Response options may not sum to 100% because of rounding and percentages less than 1% being removed for disclosure purposes.
- 4. Data are plotted in the middle of the period of each wave.

The percentage of businesses that reported they were affected by recent increases in energy prices in late June 2022, remained broadly stable with the 33% reported in early May 2022. However, this percentage has seen a steady increase since the first time the question was asked in early March 2022 (25%).

The accommodation and food service activities industry continued to report the highest percentage of businesses affected by recent increases in energy prices, at 61%, closely followed by the manufacturing industry at 59%.

All response options broken down by industry and size band can be found in the [accompanying dataset](#).

6 . Impact of prices

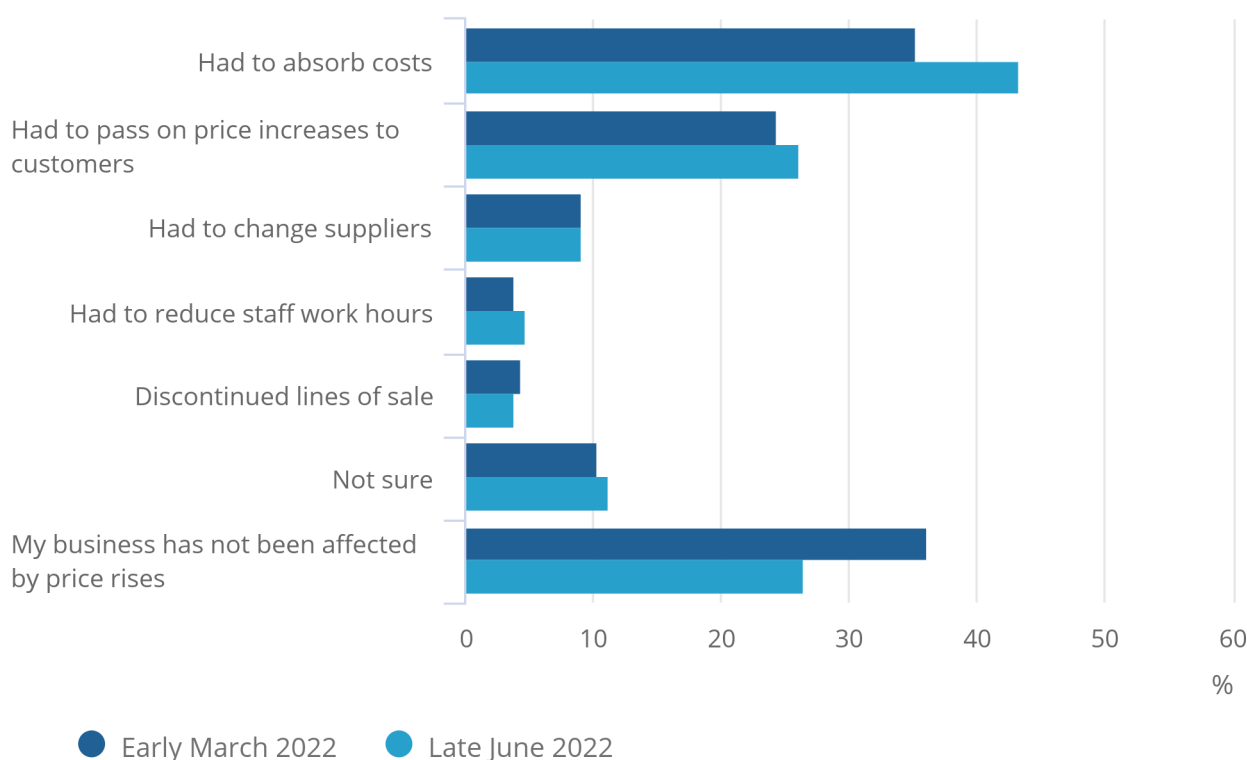
In late June 2022, businesses not permanently stopped trading were asked in which ways their business had been affected by any price rises they had experienced.

Figure 7: In late June 2022, 43% of all businesses reported they had to absorb costs because of the effect of price rises on their business

Impact of price rises, businesses not permanently stopped trading, broken down by response option, weighted by count, UK, 7 March to 26 June 2022

Figure 7: In late June 2022, 43% of all businesses reported they had to absorb costs because of the effect of price rises on their business

Impact of price rises, businesses not permanently stopped trading, broken down by response option, weighted by count, UK, 7 March to 26 June 2022



Source: Office for National Statistics – Business Insights and Conditions Survey

Notes:

1. Businesses were asked in which way, if any, has their business been affected by price rises.
2. Response options will not sum to 100% as businesses were able to select multiple options, and some response options have been excluded for presentational purposes.
3. Data are plotted in the middle of the period of each wave.

More than 6 in 10 businesses (62%) reported they were affected by general increases in prices in one or more ways in late June 2022. This is the highest percentage reported since this question was introduced in early March 2022.

The following industries reported the greatest percentage for the top two most reported impacts:

- had to absorb costs – with the human health and social work activities industry (private sector businesses only) reporting the highest, at 60%, up from 43% in early March 2022
- had to pass on price increases to customers – with the manufacturing industry reporting the highest, at 42%, down from 44% in early March 2022

Further response options broken down by industry and size band can be found in the [accompanying dataset](#).

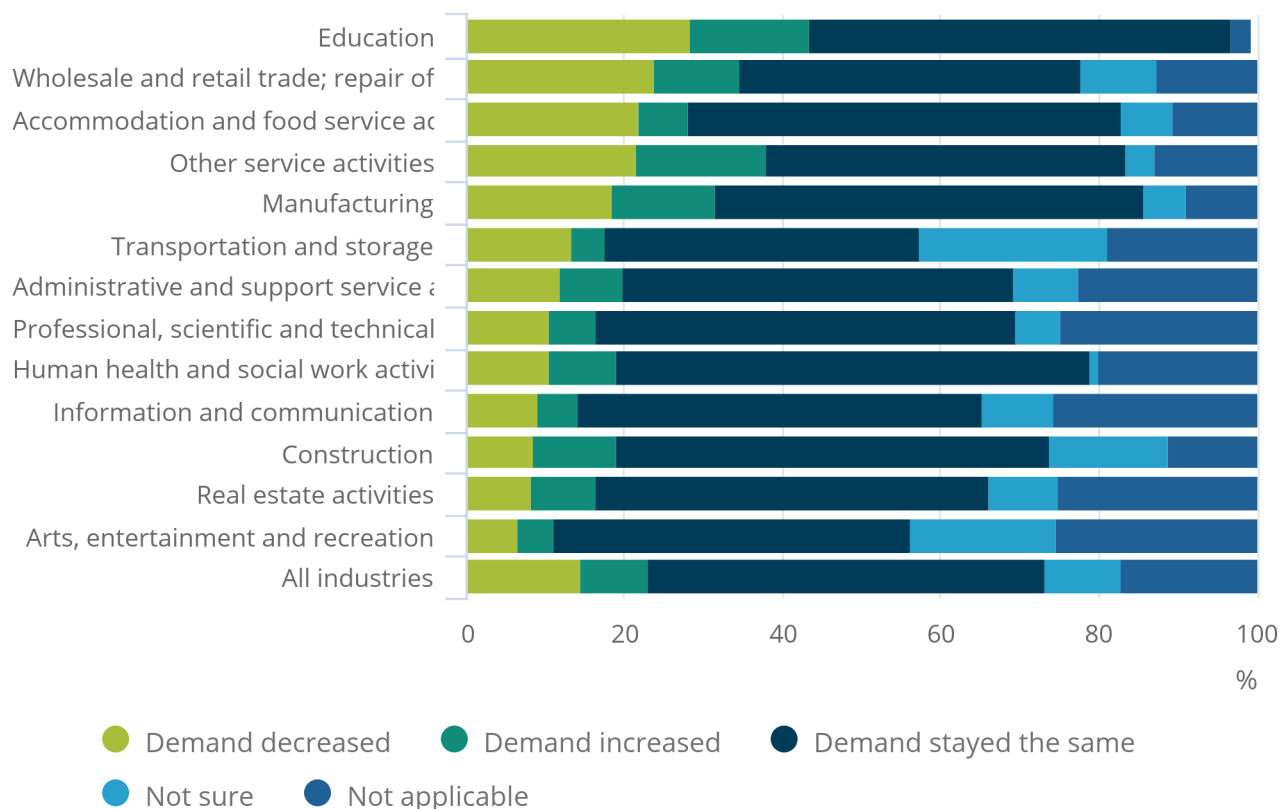
7 . Domestic demand

Figure 8: In May 2022, 15% of all businesses reported a decrease in domestic demand compared with the previous calendar month

Domestic demand, businesses not permanently stopped trading, broken down by industry, weighted by count, UK, 1 to 31 May 2022

Figure 8: In May 2022, 15% of all businesses reported a decrease in domestic demand compared with the previous calendar month

Domestic demand, businesses not permanently stopped trading, broken down by industry, weighted by count, UK, 1 to 31 May 2022



Source: Office for National Statistics – Business Insights and Conditions Survey

Notes:

1. Industries may not sum to 100% because of rounding and percentages less than 1% being removed for disclosure purposes.
2. “Mining and quarrying” and “Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities” have been removed for disclosure purposes, but their totals are included in “All industries”.

Of businesses not permanently stopped trading, 15% reported domestic demand for goods and services had decreased in May 2022 compared with 17% reported for April 2022.

The manufacturing industry recorded a rise in the proportion of businesses reporting that domestic demand for goods and services had stayed the same in May 2022 compared with the previous month, up from 41% to 54%. This industry also reported a fall in the proportion of businesses reporting an increase or decrease in demand.

Further response options broken down by industry and size band can be found in the [accompanying dataset](#).

8 . Business Insights and Conditions Survey data

[Business insights and impact on the UK economy](#)

Dataset | Released 30 June 2022

Weighted estimates from the voluntary fortnightly Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) about financial performance, workforce, prices, trade, and business resilience. This dataset includes additional information collected as part of the survey not presented in this publication.

[Business insights and impact on the UK economy confidence intervals](#)

Dataset | Released 1 June 2022

Confidence intervals for weighted estimates from the voluntary fortnightly business survey (BICS) about financial performance, workforce, prices, trade, and business resilience. These data are not official statistics but have been developed to deliver timely indicators to help understand the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and other events.

Access to microdata

You can access the BICS microdata for Waves 1 to 58 through the Secure Research Service (SRS). The BICS microdata for each wave are released on a rolling basis in the week following the publication of each wave. The microdata are made confidential and do not disclose information on any specific business.

Only researchers accredited under the [Digital Economy Act](#) are able to access data in the SRS. You can apply for accreditation through the [Research Accreditation Service \(RAS\)](#). You need to have relevant academic or work experience and must successfully attend and complete the assessed Safe Researcher Training.

To conduct analysis with microdata from the SRS, a project application must be submitted to the [Research Accreditation Panel \(RAP\)](#). To access the SRS, you must also work for an organisation with an Assured Organisational Connectivity agreement in place.

9 . Glossary

Reporting unit

The business unit to which questionnaires are sent is called the reporting unit. The response from the reporting unit can cover the enterprise as a whole or parts of the enterprise identified by lists of local units.

10 . Measuring the data

More quality and methodology information on strengths, limitations, appropriate uses, and how the data were created is available in our [Business Insights and Conditions Survey \(BICS\) QMI](#), updated on 24 January 2022.

The BICS is voluntary, and the results are experimental. More information is available in our [Guide to experimental statistics](#).

Table 1: Sample and response rates for Waves 57, 58 and 59 of the Business Insights and Conditions Survey

Wave	1 June 2022 Publication Wave 57	16 June 2022 Publication Wave 58	30 June 2022 Publication Wave 59
Sample	37,987	37,929	38,146
Response	9,418	8,671	9,605
Rate	24.8%	22.9%	25.2%

Source: Office for National Statistics - Business Insights and Conditions Survey

Notes

1. Response rates for all waves can be found in the accompanying dataset.

The results are based on responses from the voluntary fortnightly BICS, which captures businesses' views on financial performance, workforce, prices, trade, and business resilience. The Wave 59 survey was live for the period 13 to 26 June 2022. The [BICS survey questions](#) are available.

Coverage

The Monthly Business Survey (MBS) covers the UK for production and Great Britain (GB) only for services. The Retail Sales Index (RSI) and construction are GB focused. Therefore, the BICS will be UK focused for production-based industries but GB focused for the other elements of the economy covered. The industries covered are:

- non-financial services (includes professional, scientific, communication, administrative, transport, accommodation and food, private health and education, and entertainment services)
- distribution (includes retail, wholesale, and motor trades)
- production (includes manufacturing, oil and gas extraction, energy generation and supply, and water and waste management)
- construction (includes civil engineering, housebuilding, property development and specialised construction trades such as plumbers, electricians, and plasterers)

The following industries are excluded from the survey:

- agriculture
- public administration and defence
- public provision of education and health
- finance and insurance

For more information on the methodology of producing the BICS, such as [weighting](#), please see our [BICS quality and methodology information](#).

11 . Strengths and limitations

More quality and methodology information (QMI) on strengths, limitations, appropriate uses, and how the data were created is available in our [Business Insights and Conditions Survey \(BICS\) QMI](#).

12 . Related links

[Comparison of furloughed jobs data, UK: March 2020 to June 2021](#)

Article | Released 2 September 2021

An overview of the similarities and differences between the fortnightly Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) furlough estimates and HMRC's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme statistics, over the period 23 March 2020 to 30 June 2021.

[COVID-19 question bank](#)

Webpage | Updated frequently

This webpage provides a bank of questions from multiple Office for National Statistics (ONS) surveys related to coronavirus (COVID-19) to be used in other surveys to further support harmonisation and questionnaire development. This bank also provides users with an understanding of what data the ONS has in relation to the coronavirus pandemic.

[Understanding the business impacts of local and national restrictions, UK: February 2022](#)

Article | Released 17 February 2022

Experimental estimates from the voluntary fortnightly Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS), for single-site businesses only, on topics such as trading status, financial performance, workforce, and business resilience. Geographical breakdowns include country, regional and local authority levels.

[Business and individual attitudes towards the future of homeworking, UK: April to May 2021](#)

Article | Released 14 June 2021

Analysis of the effects of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on office working and of business and individual attitudes to future working practices.

[Business Impact of Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Survey: preliminary weighted results](#)

Article | Released 14 September 2020

Early estimates of weighted responses from the voluntary fortnightly business survey, focusing on businesses' responses on how turnover, workforce and trading status have been affected in two-week reference periods, from Wave 7 (1 to 14 June 2020) to Wave 12 (10 to 23 August 2020).