

Article

# Business Insights and Conditions Survey questions: 17 October to 30 October 2022

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Release date:  
31 October 2022

Next release:  
To be announced

## Table of contents

1. [Survey information](#)
2. [Trading status of your business](#)
3. [Exporting](#)
4. [Importing](#)
5. [UKCA](#)
6. [Supply chains](#)
7. [Sending goods](#)
8. [Workforce trends](#)
9. [Industrial action](#)
10. [Comments](#)

# 1 . Survey information

These questions are for Wave 68 of the fortnightly Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) dispatched on the 17th of October 2022. These are the most up-to-date survey questions.

## 2 . Trading status of your business

Which of the following statements best describes your business's trading status?

- Currently fully trading
- Currently partially trading
- Paused trading but intends to restart in the next two weeks
- Paused trading and does not intend to restart in the next two weeks
- Permanently ceased trading

## 3 . Exporting

Which of the following statements best describes your business's exporting status?

- Exported in the last 12 months
- Exported more than 12 months ago
- Never exported but have goods or services that could be developed for export
- Never exported and do not have goods or services suitable for export
- Not sure

Has your business exported goods or services in the last 12 months?

- Exported goods only
- Exported services only
- Exported both goods and services
- Not sure

Have you changed where you have exported your goods or services to in the last three months?

- Changed from EU to non-EU
- Changed from non-EU to EU
- Changed in a different way
- Not sure
- No changes made

Where has your business exported goods or services to in the last three months?

- EU only
- Non-EU only
- Both EU and non-EU
- Not exported in the last three months
- Not sure

How did your business's exporting in September 2022 compare with this calendar month last year?

- Exported more
- Exporting stayed the same
- Exported less
- Business was unable to export
- Not sure

Did your business experience an increase in any of the following exporting challenges in September 2022, compared with the previous calendar month?

- Additional paperwork
- Change in exchange rates
- Change in transportation costs
- Customs duties or levies
- Destination countries changing their border restrictions
- Disruption at UK borders
- Finding information on how to export
- Lack of hauliers to transport goods or lack of logistics equipment
- Reduced demand for products and services
- Time taken for checks at the border
- Work permit or visa restrictions, or lack of mutual recognition of professional qualifications
- Other
- Did not experience an increase in any exporting challenges

What was the main cause of these exporting challenges?

- Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic
- End of the EU transition period
- Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the end of the EU transition period
- Other
- Not sure

How much disruption to your business have these challenges caused?

- Major disruption
- Moderate disruption
- Minor disruption
- No disruption
- Not sure

Which of the following support options has your business benefitted from, to help with exporting challenges?

- Customs and tariffs
- Export licences
- Financial support
- Finding new markets
- Finding new overseas contacts or customers
- Information on exporting
- Legal support
- Transport and distribution
- Understanding markets and demand issues
- Other
- None of the above

## 4 . Importing

Which of the following statements best describes your business's importing status?

- Imported in the last 12 months
- Imported more than 12 months ago
- Never imported
- Not sure

Has your business imported goods or services in the last 12 months?

- Imported goods only
- Imported services only
- Imported both goods and services
- Not sure

Have you changed where you have sourced your imports of goods or services from in the last three months?

- Changed from EU to non-EU suppliers
- Changed from non-EU to EU suppliers
- Changed in a different way
- Not sure
- No changes made

Where has your business imported goods or services from in the last three months?

- EU only
- Non-EU only
- Both EU and non-EU
- Not imported in the last three months
- Not sure

How did your business's importing in September 2022 compare with this calendar month last year?

- Imported more
- Importing stayed the same
- Imported less
- Business was unable to import
- Not sure

Did your business experience an increase in any of the following importing challenges in September 2022, compared with the previous calendar month?

- Additional paperwork
- Change in exchange rates
- Change in transportation costs
- Customs duties or levies
- Disruption at UK borders
- Finding information on how to import
- Lack of hauliers to transport goods or lack of logistics equipment
- Suppliers not customs ready
- Time taken for checks at the border
- Other
- Did not experience an increase in any importing challenges

What was the main cause of these importing challenges?

- Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic
- End of the EU transition period
- Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the end of the EU transition period
- Other
- Not sure

How much disruption to your business have these challenges caused?

- Major disruption
- Moderate disruption
- Minor disruption
- No disruption
- Not sure

Which of the following support options would your business benefit from, to help with importing challenges?

- Customs and tariffs
- Finding new alternative supply chains
- Finding new overseas contacts or customers
- Import licences
- Information on importing
- Legal support
- Transport and distribution
- Understanding markets and demand issues
- Other
- None of the above

## 5 . UKCA

Does your business manufacture, import, or distribute products that require either a CE marking or the new UKCA marking?

- Yes, we manufacture products that need a CE or UKCA marking
- Yes, we import products that need a CE or UKCA marking
- Yes, we distribute products that need a CE or UKCA marking
- Not sure
- No, we do not manufacture, import or distribute products that need a CE or UKCA marking

Is your business aware that most CE marked products need to be UKCA marked from 1 January 2023?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Is your business using, or intending to use, the UKCA marking by 1 January 2023?

- Already using UKCA marking
- Not aware of, or do not know how to meet, requirements for the UKCA
- Not using the UKCA marking, but plan to by 1 January 2023
- Will not use UKCA marking, as not relevant to our products or business
- Not sure

## 6 . Supply chains

Was your business able to get the materials, goods or services it needed from within the UK in September 2022?

- Yes, the business was able to get the materials, goods or services it needed
- Yes, but the business had to change suppliers or find alternative solutions
- No, the business was not able to get the materials, goods or services needed
- Not applicable

Did your business experience any global supply chain disruption in September 2022?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure
- Not applicable

Which of the following, if any, will be the main concern for your business in November 2022?

- Business rates
- Competition
- Energy prices
- Exchange rates
- Inflation of goods and services prices
- Interest rates
- Supply chain disruption
- Taxation
- Other
- Not sure
- No concerns for the business

What actions, if any, has your business taken to reduce energy costs in the last three months?

- Changed to more energy-efficient electrical equipment
- Reduced or simplified goods or services
- Reduced the number of days the business trades in a week by one day
- Reduced the number of days the business trades in a week by two or more days
- Reduced the number of hours the business trades in a week, but the number of days the business trades in a week remained as usual
- Switched electrical equipment to standby or off more than usual when not in use
- Switched energy suppliers
- Temporarily closed a business site
- Undertaken an energy audit
- Other
- Not sure
- Business has not taken action to reduce energy consumption

What actions, if any, does your business plan to take to reduce your energy costs in November 2022?

- Change to more energy-efficient electrical equipment
- Reduce or simplify goods or services
- Reduce the number of days the business trades in a week by one day
- Reduce the number of days the business trades in a week by two or more days
- Reduce the number of hours the business trades in a week, but the number of days the business trades in a week remain as usual
- Switch electrical equipment to standby or off more than usual when not in use
- Switch energy suppliers
- Temporarily close a business site
- Undertake an energy audit
- Other
- Not sure
- Business does not plan to reduce energy consumption

In the last 12 months, has your business sold goods or services to customers in other UK nations?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

In the last 12 months, which of the following challenges, if any, has your business experienced when selling goods or services to customers in other UK nations?

- Challenges related to the Northern Ireland Protocol
- Differences in rules or regulations
- Lack of demand
- Supply chain disruption
- Transport capacity
- Transport costs
- Other
- Not sure
- Business did not experience any challenges

## 7 . Sending goods

Has your business sent goods from GB to Northern Ireland in the last 12 months?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

In September 2022, how did the volume of goods your business sent from GB to Northern Ireland compare with the previous calendar month?

- Volume increased
- Volume stayed the same
- Volume decreased
- Stopped sending goods to Northern Ireland
- Not sure
- Not applicable

Please give more details about why the volume of goods sent from GB to Northern Ireland changed in September 2022

- Comments

## 8 . Workforce trends

On average, how did employees hourly wages in September 2022 compare with employees hourly wages in the previous calendar month?

- Wages increased
- Wages stayed the same
- Wages decreased
- Not sure

## 9 . Industrial action

Was your business affected by industrial action in September 2022?

- Yes, the business was affected
- No, the business was not affected
- Not sure
- Not applicable
- Prefer not to say

How was your business affected by industrial action in September 2022?

- Business was unable to obtain necessary goods
- Business was unable to obtain necessary services
- Business was unable to operate fully
- Part or all of the workforce were directly involved in industrial action
- Workforce had to change their working location
- Workforce were unable to perform their roles
- Other
- Not sure

## 10 . Comments

Please tell us anything else about your business's current situation relating to topics covered in this survey

- Comments