

Article

Business Insights and Conditions Survey questions: 18 March 2024 to 1 April 2024

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Release date:

2 April 2024

Next release:

To be announced

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1 . Survey information

These questions are for Wave 105 of the fortnightly Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) dispatched on 18 March 2024.

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 . Stock

Is your business stockpiling any goods or materials?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

What are your business's expectations for capital expenditure between April and June 2024?

- Capital expenditure will increase
- Capital expenditure will stay the same
- Capital expenditure will decrease
- Not sure
- Not applicable

Why is your business expecting to authorise capital expenditure between April and June 2024?

- For replacements
- To expand capacity
- To increase efficiency
- To provide new services
- To reach new customers
- To use new technology
- Other
- Not sure
- Not applicable

Which of the following, if any, do you expect to limit your business's capital expenditure between April and June 2024?

- Inability to raise external finance
- Inadequate return on proposed investment
- Shortage of internal finance
- Shortage of labour
- Uncertainty about demand or business prospects
- Other
- Not sure
- Not expecting any limits to capital expenditure

Did your business invest in plant and machinery between January and March 2024?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Did your business use the full expensing capital allowance on qualifying plant and machinery investments between January and March 2024?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

4 . Environment

Is your business concerned about the impact climate change may have on the business?

- Yes, very concerned
- Yes, somewhat concerned
- No, not concerned
- Not sure

Which of the following actions, if any, has your business taken to protect the environment?

- Has a climate change strategy
- Has a net zero or greenhouse gas emissions target
- Has a net zero or greenhouse gas emissions target which includes supply chain
- Has a nature or biodiversity strategy
- Has a nature or biodiversity target
- Has a nature or biodiversity target which includes supply chain
- Monitors climate-related risks
- Monitors nature or biodiversity-related risks
- Publishes an annual sustainability report
- Other
- Not sure
- None of the above

Which of the following actions, if any, have you taken to reduce your business's carbon emissions?

- Adjusting heating and cooling systems
- Electrifying your vehicle fleet
- Installing a smart meter
- Installing charging points
- Installing your own renewable electricity or heating
- Insulating your buildings
- Introducing a cycle to work scheme
- Switching to LED bulbs
- Other
- Not sure
- No actions have been taken to reduce emissions

5 . Technology

Which of the following artificial intelligence technologies, if any, does your business currently use?

- Autonomous vehicles
- Data processing using machine learning
- Image processing using machine learning
- Robotics
- Text generation using Large Language Models
- Visual content creation
- Other
- Not sure
- Business does not currently use artificial intelligence technologies

What does your business currently use artificial intelligence technologies for?

- Develop a new product or service
- Explore a new market
- Improve business operations
- Provide, or personalise, products or services to customers
- Other
- Not sure
- Not applicable

How did your business adopt these artificial intelligence technologies?

- Developed in-house
- Outsourced to external providers or third parties
- Through purchase of external software or ready-to-use
- Other
- Not sure
- Not applicable

Which of the following artificial intelligence technologies, if any, does your business plan to adopt within the next 3 months?

- Autonomous vehicles
- Data processing using machine learning
- Image processing using machine learning
- Robotics
- Text generation using Large Language Models
- Visual content creation
- Other
- Not sure
- Business does not plan to adopt artificial intelligence technologies in the next 3 months

What does your business plan to adopt artificial intelligence technologies for?

- Develop a new product or service
- Explore a new market
- Improve business operations
- Provide, or personalise, products or services to customers
- Other
- Not sure
- Not applicable

In the last 3 months, which, if any, of the following factors have prevented or delayed your business in the adoption of artificial intelligence technologies?

- Cost
- Difficulty identifying business use cases
- Employee concern about any potential impact of using artificial intelligence technologies
- Level of expertise in artificial intelligence
- Product or service availability
- Security concerns
- Uncertainty about government regulations or industry standards
- Other
- Not sure
- Business has not attempted to use artificial intelligence technologies
- Business has not been prevented or experienced delays in the adoption of artificial intelligence technologies

6 . Comments

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

- Comments