

Article

# Business Insights and Conditions Survey questions: 24 July to 6 August 2023

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# 1 . Survey Information

These questions are for Wave 88 of the fortnightly Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) dispatched on 24 July 2023.

## 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 . 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 2025?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Is your business using, or intending to use, the UKCA marking by 1 January 2025?

- 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 2025
- Will not use UKCA marking, as not relevant to our products or business
- Not sure

Why is your business not currently using the UKCA marking?

- Comments

## 4 . Supply Chains

Was your business able to get the materials, goods or services it needed from within the EU in June 2023?

- 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

Was your business able to get the materials, goods or services it needed from within the UK in June 2023?

- 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 June 2023?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure
- Not applicable

What was the main reason for global supply chain disruption?

- Conflict in Ukraine
- Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic
- Increased costs
- Shortage of hauliers and carriers
- Shortage of materials
- UK exiting the EU
- Other transportation issues
- Other (Please describe)
- Not sure

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 (Please describe)
- Not sure
- Business did not experience any challenges

## 5 . Sending goods

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

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

In June 2023, 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 June 2023:

- Comments

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

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

In June 2023, how did the volume of goods your business sent from Northern Ireland to GB compare with the previous calendar month?

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

Please give more details about why the volume of goods sent from Northern Ireland to GB changed in June 2023:

- Comments

## 6 . Workforce trends

Is your business using, or intending to use, increased homeworking as a permanent business model going forward?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure
- Not applicable

Why is your business using, or intending to use, increased homeworking as a permanent business model going forward?

- Ability to better match jobs to skills
- Ability to recruit from a wider geographical pool in the UK
- Ability to recruit from a wider geographical pool internationally
- Improved staff wellbeing
- Increased productivity
- Reduced carbon emissions
- Reduced overheads
- Reduced sickness absence
- Reduce wage bill
- Other (Please describe)
- Not sure

Why is your business not intending to use increased homeworking as a permanent business model going forward?

- Concerns with integrating new starters into the workplace
- Costs of employee equipment
- Difficulties managing staff remotely
- Negative impact on working culture
- Not suitable for our business
- Reduced communication
- Reduced productivity
- Reduced reliability and retention of staff
- Security concerns
- Other (Please describe)
- Not sure

Is your business intending to permanently close any business sites in the next three months?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure
- Not applicable

Where in the UK are the sites that will permanently close in the next three months?

- Northern Ireland
- Scotland
- Wales
- East of England
- East Midlands
- Greater London
- North East of England
- North West of England
- South East of England
- South West of England
- West Midlands
- Yorkshire and the Humber
- Not sure

How do you expect closing these sites to affect your workforce?

- Decreased hours
- Increased hours
- Move to remove working
- Permanent redundancies
- Relocation
- Other (Please describe)
- Not sure
- Workforce will not be affected

## **7 . Environmental action**

For which, if any, of the following effects of climate change has your business assessed risks?



- Coastal erosion
- Increased flooding
- Supply chain disruption and distribution
- Temperature increases
- Water scarcity
- Not sure
- None of the above

Which, if any, of the following effects of climate change has your business taken action to adapt to?

- Coastal erosion
- Increased flooding
- Supply chain disruption and distribution
- Temperature increases
- Water scarcity
- Not sure
- None of the above

Which, if any, of the following reasons have prevented your business from taking action against any of these climate change effects?

- Business has been unable to take action due to costs
- Business has been unable to take action due to lack of information or guidance
- Business does not expect to be impacted by these effects
- Other (Please describe)
- Not sure
- Business has not been prevented from taking action

## 8 . Industrial action

Was your business affected by industrial action in June 2023?

- 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 June 2023?

- 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 (Please describe)
- Not sure

## 9 . Comments

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