

Article

Business Insights and Conditions Survey questions: 30th May to 12th June 2022

Contact:
Emily Hopson
bics@ons.gov.uk
+44 1633 455 592

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1 . Survey information

These questions are for Wave 58 of the fortnightly Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) dispatched on 30 May 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

Where in the UK are your sites temporarily or permanently closed, if any?

- 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
- Do not have any sites
- None of our sites are temporarily or permanently closed

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

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

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

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

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

How did the time spent on exporting in May 2022 compare with this calendar month last year?

- Time spent increased
- Time spent stayed the same
- Time spent decreased
- Not sure

Did your business experience any challenges with exporting goods or services in May 2022?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

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

- Additional paperwork
- 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 any challenges with exporting

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

Please explain in more detail the main cause of these exporting challenges

- Comments

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

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

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

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

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

How did the time spent on importing in May 2022 compare with this calendar month last year?

- Time spent increased
- Time spent stayed the same
- Time spent decreased
- Not sure

Did your business experience any challenges with importing in May 2022?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

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

- Additional paperwork
- 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

Please explain in more detail the main cause of these importing challenges

- Comments

5 . Supply chains

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

- Yes
- No
- Not sure
- Not applicable

Please give more details about how your business has been affected by global supply chain disruption

- Comments

Which of the following, if any, will be your business's main concern for July 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 my business

6 . Sending goods

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

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

In May 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 May 2022

- Comments

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

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

In May 2022, 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 May 2022

- Comments

7 . Operational performance

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
- Reduced wage bill
- Other
- 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
- Not sure

Which, if any, of the following skills has your business had a high demand for in the last 12 months?

- Advanced digital skills
- Basic digital skills
- Customer service skills
- Management or leadership skills
- Manual skills
- Transferable skills
- Other
- None of the above

Which, if any, of the following skills does your workforce require extra support or training in?

- Advanced digital skills
- Basic digital skills
- Customer service skills
- Management or leadership skills
- Manual skills
- Transferable skills
- Other
- None of the above

Is your business currently experiencing a shortage of workers?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure
- Not applicable

How has the shortage of workers affected your business?

- Employees working increased hours
- Had to pause trading entirely
- Had to pause trading of some of the business
- Had to recruit temporary workers
- Unable to meet demands
- Other
- Not sure
- Business has not been affected

8 . Comments

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

- Comments