

Article

Business Insights and Conditions Survey questions: 3 May to 15 May 2022

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

Release date:
16 May 2022

Next release:
To be announced

Table of contents

1. [Survey information](#)
2. [Trading status of your business](#)
3. [Exporting](#)
4. [Importing](#)
5. [UK Conformity Assessed marking](#)
6. [Supply chains](#)
7. [Sending goods from Great Britain to Northern Ireland](#)
8. [Operational performance](#)
9. [Innovation](#)
10. [Comments](#)

1 . Survey information

These questions are for Wave 56 of the fortnightly Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) dispatched on 3 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

3 . Exporting

Which of the following 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?

- Changes from EU to non-EU
- Changes 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 April 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 any of the following challenges with exporting goods or services in April 2022?

- 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

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 disruption
- Understanding markets and demand issues
- Other
- None of the above

4 . Importing

Which of the following 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 and 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 April 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 any of the following challenges with importing goods or services in April 2022?

- 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 any challenges with importing

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 disruption
- Understanding markets and demand issues
- Other
- None of the above

5 . UK Conformity Assessed marking

Does your business manufacture, import, or distribute products that require either a CE marking or the new UK Conformity Assessed (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 the EU in April 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

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

- Yes
- No
- Not sure
- Not applicable

Which of the following, if any, will be the main concern for your business in May 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

7 . Sending goods from Great Britain to Northern Ireland

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

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

In April 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 April 2022

- Comments

8 . Operational performance

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

9 . Innovation

How has your business's innovation changed since March 2020?

- There has been more innovation
- Innovation has not changed
- There has been less innovation
- Not sure
- Not applicable

In which of the following areas, if any, did your business increase innovation since March 2020?

- Adoption of home or hybrid working
- Adoption of online sales models
- Improvement of existing products and services
- Improvements in methods of logistics, delivery or distribution
- Improvements in methods of manufacturing products and services
- Introduction of new products and services
- Investment in innovation activities
- Other
- Not sure
- Business did not increase innovation

In which of the following areas, if any, did your business make adjustments to support innovations since March 2020?

- Communication with external stakeholders
- Communication within the business
- Employee monitoring and incentives
- Hiring, redundancy and promotion
- Key performance indicators
- Processes for dealing with, and anticipating, problems
- Responsibility for key decisions
- Target-setting within the business
- Other
- Not sure
- Business did not make any adjustments

10 . Comments

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

- Comments