

Article

Business Insights and Conditions Survey questions: 7 March to 20 March 2022

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1 . Survey information

These questions are for Wave 52 of the fortnightly Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) dispatched on the 7th of March 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

Please explain the reason for your business's paused trading status

- Comments

3 . Supply chains

Has your business made changes to supply chains due to the end of the EU transition period?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure
- Not applicable

Were these changes to supply chains made as a result of a new UK trade agreement?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

In which of the following ways has your business changed supply chains due to the end of the EU transition period?

- Expanding to different modes of freight
- Increasing the diversity in suppliers
- Moving the supply chain away from the short straits crossings
- Using more UK suppliers
- Using more EU suppliers
- Using more non-EU suppliers
- Other
- Not sure

Has your business had any extra costs due to the end of the EU transition period?

- Additional transportation costs
- Costs associated with changing supply chains
- Costs associated with the storage of goods
- Costs due to increased red tape
- Costs incurred from wasted goods
- Cost of setting up EU subsidiaries
- Extra costs in the prices of goods and services imported
- Extra tariffs or taxes
- Other
- Not sure
- No extra costs

Was your business able to get the materials, goods or services it needed from the EU over the last month?

- Yes, the business has been 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 has not been 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 over the last month?

- Yes, the business has been 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 has not been able to get the materials, goods or services needed
- Not applicable

4 . Prices

How did the prices of materials, goods or services bought by your business change over the last month, compared with normal price fluctuations?

- Prices increased more than normal
- Prices did not change any more than normal
- Prices decreased more than normal
- Some prices increased, some prices decreased
- Not sure
- Not applicable

Please explain the reason for selecting your previous answer

- Comments

How did the prices of goods or services sold by your business change over the last month, compared with normal price fluctuations?

- Prices increased more than normal
- Prices did not change any more than normal
- Prices decreased more than normal
- Some prices increased, some prices decreased
- Not sure
- Not applicable

Please explain the reason for selecting your previous answer

- Comments

Has your business had an increase in demand for goods or services sold over the last month?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure
- Not applicable

Has your business been affected by recent increases in energy prices?

- Yes, production has been affected
- Yes, suppliers have been affected
- Yes, both production and suppliers have been affected
- No, my business has not been affected
- Not sure
- Not applicable

Are your business's electricity costs fixed or hedged?

- Yes, expiring by March 2022
- Yes, expiring by June 2022
- Yes, expiring after June 2022
- No, electricity prices are variable
- Not sure
- Not applicable

Are your business's gas costs fixed or hedged?

- Yes, expiring by March 2022
- Yes, expiring by June 2022
- Yes, expiring after June 2022
- No, gas prices are variable
- Not sure
- Not applicable

In which of the following ways, if any, has your business been affected by price rises?

- Discontinued lines of sale
- Had to absorb costs
- Had to change suppliers
- Had to make redundancies
- Had to pass on price increases to customers
- Had to reduce staff work hours
- Unable to maintain workspaces
- Other
- Not sure
- My business has not been affected by price rises

5 . Sending goods to or from Northern Ireland

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

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

What route did your business mainly use, over the last 12 months, to send goods from GB to Northern Ireland?

- From GB direct to Northern Ireland
- From GB via Republic of Ireland
- Other
- Not sure

Over the last month, has the volume of goods your business would normally send from GB to Northern Ireland changed?

- Volume has increased
- Volume has stayed the same
- Volume has 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 over the last month

- Comments

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

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Over the last month, has the volume of goods your business would normally send from Northern Ireland to GB changed?

- Volume has increased
- Volume has stayed the same
- Volume has 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 over the last month

- Comments

6 . Stock and capital expenditure

How do your business's stock levels over the last month compare to normal expectations for this time of year?

- Stock levels are higher than normal
- Stock levels have not changed
- Stock levels are lower than normal
- Not sure
- Not applicable

Over the last month, what has had the greatest impact to your business's stock levels?

- 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

Is your business stockpiling any goods or materials?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

How does your business's capital expenditure for the last two weeks compare to normal expectations for this time of year?

- Capital expenditure is higher than normal
- Capital expenditure has not been affected
- Capital expenditure is lower than normal
- Capital expenditure has stopped
- Not sure
- Not applicable

What was the main reason for this change in your business's capital expenditure?

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

Please explain in more detail how your business's capital expenditure has been affected

- Comments

How do you expect the super-deduction allowance to affect your business's capital expenditure in the next three months?

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

Over the last month, has your business scrapped any capital assets earlier than intended?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure
- Not applicable

Please explain in more detail what type of assets your business scrapped early and why

- Comments

7 . UK Conformity Assessed (UKCA) marking

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

Are you 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

8 . Operational performance

In the last two weeks, approximately what percentage of your business's workforce were:

- Using a hybrid model of working
- Working from home
- Working from a designated workspace
- On sick leave or not working due to coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, self-isolation or quarantine
- Made permanently redundant
- Other

Is your business providing regular coronavirus (COVID-19) testing for its workforce?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

What percentage of your workforce are receiving regular coronavirus (COVID-19) testing?

- Approximate percentage of your workforce receiving regular testing
- Not sure

Is your business collecting, or intending to collect, contact details for the purpose of contact tracing at your sites?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure
- Not applicable

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
- My business has not been affected

How does your business's ability to fill vacancies over the last month compare with normal expectations for this time of year?

- Vacancies were easier to fill
- No difference in the ability to fill vacancies
- Vacancies were more difficult to fill
- Did not have any vacancies to fill
- Not sure

Why did your business find filling vacancies more difficult, over the last month, compared with normal expectations for this of year?

- Business cannot offer an attractive pay package to applicants
- Increased number of vacancies for other reasons
- Lack of qualified applicants for the roles on offer
- Low number of applications for the roles on offer
- Reduced number of applicants aged 16 to 24 years
- Reduced number of applicants aged over 50 years
- Reduced number of EU applicants
- Other
- Not sure

9 . Workforce characteristics

How has the number of workers from within the EU at your business changed, compared with normal expectations for this time of year?

- Number of workers from within the EU has increased
- We employ workers from within the EU, and the number has stayed the same
- Number of workers from within the EU has decreased
- Not relevant, as have not employed workers from within the EU
- Not sure
- Prefer not to say

How has the number of workers from outside the EU at your business changed, compared with normal expectations for this time of year?

- Number of workers from outside the EU has increased
- We employ workers from outside the EU, and the number has stayed the same
- Number of workers from outside the EU has decreased
- Not relevant, as have not employed workers from outside the EU
- Not sure
- Prefer not to say

10 . Comments

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

- Comments