Statistical bulletin

Business insights and impact on the UK economy: 6 August 2026

The impact of challenges facing the economy and other events on UK businesses, including financial performance, workforce, trade and business resilience.

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Next release:
20 August 2026

Notice

6 August 2026

This release has a headline only format and is accompanied by our full dataset.

Table of contents

1 . Main points

- In late July 2026, 29% of businesses with 10 or more employees reported that they were concerned about international conflict affecting supply chains over the next year, while 20% were concerned about the impact of shipping disruption; these proportions were broadly stable from June 2026, but up 19 and 12 percentage points, respectively, from December 2025.

- Of businesses with 10 or more employees that reported on their supply chain concerns in late July 2026, 52% expected the cost of sourcing materials to be affected, broadly stable from June 2026; 47% expected transportation costs to be affected, also broadly stable from June but a 14-percentage point rise from December 2025.

- Almost three in five (57%) businesses expressed some degree of concern regarding energy prices in late July 2026, broadly stable from early July; for businesses with 10 or more employees, the proportion was 70%, also broadly stable from early July.

- Three in five (60%) businesses expressed some degree of concern regarding fuel prices in late July 2026, broadly stable compared with early July; for businesses with 10 or more employees, the proportion was higher at 70%, a 3-percentage point rise from early July.

- In late June 2026, 23% of trading businesses with 10 or more employees reported that they had exported goods, services, or both in the last 12 months; of these businesses, 39% reported their exporting costs increased in June 2026 compared with June 2025, a 9-percentage point increase compared with December 2025 and the highest proportion reported since June 2023 (43%).

These are official statistics in development, and we advise caution when using the data. The Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) questions and topics are regularly reviewed, and questions are often added, removed, or amended to reflect changing circumstances and analytical priorities.

2 . Headline figures

The data presented in this bulletin are the final results from Wave 161 of the Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS), which was live from 20 July to 2 August 2026.

This wave of the survey asked businesses questions about:

- exporting and importing including rules of origin
- UK Conformity Assessed (UKCA) markings
- supply chains
- domestic trade
- international trade including EU trade, US trade and US tariffs

For full details of the survey questions used, see our Business Insights and Conditions Survey questions: 20 July to 2 August article.

Data reported within BICS bulletins and datasets are estimates that are subject to uncertainty, for example, sampling variability and non-sampling error. Further information on quality is available in our Business Insights and Conditions Survey quality and methodology information (QMI), and we regularly update confidence intervals associated with the survey questions.

Single-site weighted regional estimates up to Wave 154 are available in our Business insights and impact on the UK subnational single-site economy: May 2026 article.

More about economy, business and jobs

- Explore the latest trends in employment, prices and trade in our economic dashboard.
- View all economic data.

The percentage of businesses that reported they were trading in late July 2026 was 94%, with 85% fully trading, and 10% partially trading (for example, trading with reduced hours or staff numbers). Meanwhile, 4% of businesses reported "temporarily paused trading", and 2% reported "permanently ceased trading" as their business's trading status.

3 . Data on the Business Insights and Conditions Survey

Business insights and impact on the UK economy: 6 August 2026
Dataset | Released 6 August 2026
Weighted estimates from the voluntary fortnightly Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) about financial performance, workforce, prices, trade, and business resilience. This dataset includes additional information collected as part of the survey not presented in this publication. These are official statistics in development.

Business insights and impact on the UK economy confidence intervals
Dataset | Released 6 August 2026
Confidence intervals for weighted estimates from the voluntary fortnightly Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) about financial performance, workforce, prices, trade, and business resilience. These are official statistics in development.

Access to microdata

You can access the microdata for Waves 1 to 160 of the Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) through the Secure Research Service (SRS). The BICS microdata for each wave are released on a rolling basis in the week following the publication of each wave. The microdata are made confidential and do not disclose information on any specific business.

Only researchers accredited under the Digital Economy Act, as explained on the UK Statistics Authority website are able to access data in the SRS. You can apply for researcher accreditation using the People and Projects Service (PPS). For more information, please see our guidance on the Integrated Data Service (IDS) website.

To conduct analysis with microdata from the SRS, a project application must be submitted to the Research Accreditation Panel (RAP), as explained on the UK Statistics Authority website. Project accreditation applications should be submitted using the Project Accreditation Service for SRS (PASS). For more information, please see our guidance on applying for an accredited research project.

To use the SRS, you must access it through the appropriate safe setting. For more information on the full range of safe setting options, please see our guidance on accessing data securely.

Making our published spreadsheets accessible

Following the Government Statistical Service (GSS) guidance on releasing statistics in spreadsheets, we will be amending our published tables over the next couple of publications to improve the usability, accessibility and machine readability of our published statistics. If you have any questions or comments, please email us at bics@ons.gov.uk

4 . Glossary

Private sector businesses

The Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) is a survey of private sector businesses, meaning that the public sector is not sampled. Some businesses are also excluded; please see the Coverage section of this bulletin for more information.

Reporting unit

The reporting unit is the business unit to which questionnaires are sent. The response from the reporting unit can cover the enterprise as a whole, or parts of the enterprise identified by lists of local units.

Trading businesses

Trading businesses refers to businesses that responded that their trading status was "currently fully trading" or "currently partially trading" only.

If trading businesses is not specifically specified, the statistics presented refer to businesses that have "not permanently stopped trading". This includes trading businesses and those that said their trading status was "paused trading and intends to restart in the next two weeks" or "paused trading and does not intend to restart within the next two weeks".

5 . Data sources and quality

More quality and methodology information (QMI) on strengths, limitations, appropriate uses, and how the data were created is available in our Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) quality and methodology information (QMI), which was updated on 10 October 2024.

The BICS is voluntary, and the results are official statistics in development. More information is available in our Guide to official statistics in development.

Table 1: Sample and response rates for Wave 159, 160 and 161 of the Business Insights and Conditions Survey

Wave	2 July 2026 Publication Wave 159	23 July 2026 Publication Wave 160	6 August 2026 Publication Wave 161
Sample	38,637	38,651	38,618
Response	10,311	10,073	10,034
Rate	26.7%	26.1%	26.0%

Source: Business Insights and Conditions Survey from the Office for National Statistics

Notes

1. Response rates for all waves can be found in the accompanying dataset.

The results are based on responses from the voluntary fortnightly BICS, which captures businesses' views on financial performance, workforce, prices, trade and business resilience. The Wave 161 survey was live for the period 20 July to 2 August 2026. For full details of the survey questions used, see our Business Insights and Conditions Survey questions: 20 July to 2 August article.

Coverage

The BICS sampling frame is based on the same industries as our Monthly Business Survey (MBS). The MBS covers the UK for production industries only, and Great Britain for construction, retail and services industries. The MBS is an important input to the output measure of gross domestic product (GDP), which includes monthly GDP.

For detailed information on the industries covered by the MBS and BICS, see our GDP(o) data sources catalogue. The following are some industries that are excluded from MBS and BICS:

- agriculture
- oil and gas extraction
- energy generation and supply
- public administration and defence
- public provision of education and health
- finance and insurance

For more information on the methodology of producing the BICS, such as weighting, please see our Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) quality and methodology information (QMI) report.

6 . Related links

Economic activity and social change real-time indicators, UK, dashboard
Dashboard | Updated frequently
An overview of the UK economy and society, based on rapid response surveys, novel data sources, and innovative methods.

Economic activity and social change in the UK, real-time indicators
Bulletin | Released monthly
Data on the UK economy and society. These faster indicators are created using rapid response surveys, novel data sources and innovative methods. These are official statistics in development.

Business insights and impact on the UK subnational single-site economy: May 2026
Article | Released 15 May 2026
Estimates from the voluntary fortnightly business survey (BICS) on prices, financial performance, workforce and business resilience.

7 . Cite this statistical bulletin

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