Statistical bulletin

Business insights and impact on the UK economy: 7 August 2025

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:
21 August 2025

Notice

7 August 2025

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

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1 . Main points

- In late July 2025, 21% 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, 22% reported that they exported more in June 2025 compared with this time last year (the highest proportion reported since this response option was introduced in March 2022).
- Of those trading businesses with 10 or more employees that had exported, 34% reported that the cost of exporting in June 2025 was higher than in June 2024; this is down 2 percentage points from March 2025 compared with March 2024.
- In late July 2025, 27% of trading businesses with 10 or more employees reported that they had imported goods, services, or both in the last 12 months; of these businesses, 17% reported they had imported more in June 2025 compared with June 2024, while 14% imported less.
- Of those trading businesses with 10 or more employees that had imported, 35% reported that the cost of importing in June 2025 was higher than in June 2024; while this is down 5 percentage points from March 2025 compared with March 2024, it is broadly stable with December 2024 compared with December 2023.
- In late July 2025, 32% of businesses with 10 or more employees that had exported goods in the last 12 months reported they were impacted by US tariffs in the last month; the most-reported impact was businesses experiencing additional costs (18%).
- In late July 2025, 31% of businesses with 10 or more employees that had exported goods in the last 12 months reported they expect to be impacted by US tariffs in the next month; the most-reported expected impact was having to pass on additional costs to customers (13%).

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 137 of the Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS), which was live from 21 July to 3 August 2025.

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 130 are available in our Business insights and impact on the UK subnational single-site economy: May 2025 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 2025 was 95%, with 85% fully trading, and 10% partially trading (for example, trading with reduced hours or staff numbers). Meanwhile, 3% 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
Dataset | Released 7 August 2025
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 7 August 2025
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 136 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).

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

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.

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.

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) 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 Waves 135, 136 and 137 of the Business Insights and Conditions Survey

Wave	3 July 2025 Publication Wave 135	24 July 2025 Publication Wave 136	7 August 2025 Publication Wave 137
Sample	38,920	38,970	38,909
Response	10,615	10,721	10,667
Rate	27.3%	27.5%	27.4%

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

Notes

1. Response rates for all waves can be found in our 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 136 survey was live for the period 21 July to 3 August 2025. For full details of the survey questions used, see our Business Insights and Conditions Survey questions: 21 July 2025 to 3 August 2025 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 the 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 methods used to produce the BICS, such as weighting, please see our Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) QMI report.

Strengths and limitations

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) QMI.

6 . Related links

Economic activity and social change in the UK, real-time indicators: 7 August 2025
Bulletin | Released 7 August 2025
Early 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 2025
Article | Released 30 May 2025
Estimates from the voluntary fortnightly business survey (BICS) on financial performance, prices and workforce. These are official statistics in development.

7 . Cite this statistical bulletin

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