

Article

# Business Insights and Conditions Survey questions: 15 April 2024 to 28 April 2024

Contact:  
Business Insights and Conditions  
Survey team (BICS)  
bics@ons.gov.uk  
+44 1633 456417

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# 1 . Survey information

These questions are for Wave 107 of the fortnightly Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) dispatched on 15 April 2024.

## 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

Has your business exported goods or services in the last 12 months?

- Exported goods only
- Exported services only
- Exported both goods and services
- Business has not exported goods or services in the last 12 months
- Not sure

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

Has your business had any extra costs directly related to changes in export regulations due to the end of the EU transition period?

- Costs increased but are now stable
- Costs increased and are still increasing
- Costs were stable but are now increasing
- No cost increases experienced at any point
- Not sure

How did your business's exporting in March 2024 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 March 2024 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 March 2024 compare with this calendar month last year?

- Time spent increased
- Time spent stayed the same
- Time spent decreased
- 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 distribution
- Understanding markets and demand issues
- Other (Please describe)
- None of the above

Does your business currently meet the rules of origin to access preferential tariffs on exports?

- All exports meet the rules of origin to access preferential tariffs
- Some exports meet the rules of origin to access preferential tariffs
- Exports do not meet the rules of origin to access preferential tariffs
- Not sure
- Not applicable

Why does your business not currently meet the rules of origin to access preferential tariffs on exports?

- Exports cannot meet rules of origin requirements
- Administrative costs of rules of origin are too high or burdensome
- Lack of knowledge
- Lack of understanding, staffing or expertise
- Other (Please describe)
- Not sure
- Not applicable

## 4 . Importing

Has your business imported goods or services in the last 12 months?

- Imported goods only
- Imported services only
- Imported both goods and services
- Business has not imported goods or services in the last 12 months
- Not sure

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

Has your business had any extra costs directly related to changes in import regulations due to the end of the EU transition period?

- Costs increased but are now stable
- Costs increased and are still increasing
- Costs were stable but are now increasing
- No cost increases experienced at any point
- Not sure

How did your business's importing in March 2024 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 March 2024 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 March 2024 compare with this calendar month last year?

- Time spent increased
- Time spent stayed the same
- Time spent decreased
- 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 distribution
- Understanding markets and demand issues
- Other (Please describe)
- None of the above

## **5 . UK Conformity Assessed (UKCA) marking**

Does your business manufacture, import or distribute products that require either a CE marking or a 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

To what extent is your business currently using UKCA marking for its products that require either a CE or a UKCA marking?

- Not using UKCA marking
- Using UKCA marking for a minority of products
- Using UKCA marking for a majority of products, but not all
- Using UKCA marking for all products
- Not sure

To what extent is your business planning to use UKCA marking in April 2025 for its products that require either a CE or a UKCA marking?

- Do not plan to use UKCA marking in this calendar month next year
- Plan to use UKCA marking for a minority of products in this calendar month next year
- Plan to use UKCA marking for a majority of products, but not all, in this calendar month next year
- Plan to use UKCA marking for all products in this calendar month next year
- Not sure

## 6 . Domestic trade

In the last 12 months, has your business purchased goods or services from suppliers in other UK nations?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

In the last 12 months, which of the following goods or services has your business purchased from suppliers in other UK nations?

- Casual labour
- Financial services
- Finished goods
- Professional services
- Semi-finished or intermediate goods
- Raw materials
- Other (Please describe)
- Not sure

In the last 12 months, has your business sold goods or services to customers in other UK nations?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

In the last 12 months, which of the following challenges, if any, has your business experienced when selling goods or services to customers in other UK nations?

- Challenges related to the Northern Ireland Protocol
- Differences in rules or regulations
- Lack of demand
- Supply chain disruption
- Transport capacity
- Transport costs
- Other (Please describe)
- Not sure
- Business did not experience any challenges

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

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

In March 2024, 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 March 2024

- Comments

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

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

In March 2024, 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 March 2024

- Comments

## 7 . International trade

Was your business able to get the materials, goods or services it needed from the EU in March 2024?

- 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

Does your business intend to open any new branches or subsidiaries in the EU in the next 12 months?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

## **8 . Comments**

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

- Comments