

Article

Business Insights and Conditions Survey questions: 15 May to 29 May 2023

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1 . Survey information

These questions are for Wave 83 of the fortnightly Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) dispatched on 15 May 2023.

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

Where in the UK are your sites temporarily or permanently closed, if any?

- Northern Ireland
- Scotland
- Wales
- East of England
- East Midlands
- Greater London
- North East of England
- North West of England
- South East of England
- South West of England
- West Midlands
- Yorkshire and The Humber
- Not sure
- Do not have any sites
- None of our sites are temporarily or permanently closed

3 . Exporting

Which of the following statements 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

How did your business's exporting in April 2023 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 an increase in any of the following exporting challenges in April 2023, compared with the previous calendar month?

- Additional paperwork
- Change in exchange rates
- 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 (Please describe)
- Did not experience an increase in any exporting challenges

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 (Please describe)
- Not sure

Does your business currently use rules of origin to access lower or zero tariffs on exports?

- Yes, to EU countries
- Yes, to non-EU countries
- Yes, to both EU and non-EU countries
- No
- Not sure

How has using rules of origin when exporting to the EU changed the amount of administration for your business?

- Administration has increased
- Administration has stayed the same
- Administration has decreased
- Not sure

Why does your business not currently use rules of origin to access lower or zero tariffs?

- Administrative costs of rules of origin outweigh the potential tariff saving
- Exports do not meet rules of origin requirements
- Lack of understanding, staffing or expertise to use rules of origin
- The business has attempted to use rules of origin but has been unsuccessful
- The EU does not charge tariffs on the goods the business exports
- Other (Please describe)
- Not sure
- Not applicable

4 . Importing

Which of the following statements best describes your business's importing status?

- Imported in the last 12 months
- Imported more than 12 months ago
- Never imported
- Not sure

How did your business's importing in April 2023 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 an increase in any of the following importing challenges in April 2023, compared with the previous calendar month?

- Additional paperwork
- Change in exchange rates
- Change in transportation costs
- Custom 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 (Please describe)
- Did not experience an increase in any importing challenges

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 (Please describe)
- Not sure

5 . Supply Chains

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 (Please describe)
- Not sure
- No extra costs

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

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Was your business able to get the materials, goods or services it needed from within the UK in April 2023?

- 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 materials, goods or services needed
- Not applicable

How much disruption to your business have these challenges caused?

- Major disruption
- Moderate disruption
- Minor disruption
- No disruption
- Not sure

Did your business experience any global supply chain disruption in April 2023?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure
- Not applicable

Which of the following will be the main concern for your business in June 2023?

- Business rates
- Competition with other UK businesses
- Energy prices
- Exchange rates
- Falling demand of goods and services
- Inflation of goods and service prices
- Interest rates
- Property rental costs
- Supply chain disruption
- Taxation
- Other (Please describe)
- Not sure
- No concerns for the business

6 . Sending goods

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

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

In April 2023, 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 2023:

- Comments

7 . Workforce trends

Is your business using, or intending to use, increased homeworking as a permanent business model going forward?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure
- Not applicable

Why is your business using, or intending to use, increased homeworking as a permanent business model going forward?

- Ability to better match jobs to skills
- Ability to recruit from a wider geographical pool in the UK
- Ability to recruit from a wider geographical pool internationally
- Improved staff wellbeing
- Increased productivity
- Reduced carbon emissions
- Reduced overheads
- Reduced sickness absence
- Reduce wage bill
- Other (Please describe)
- Not sure

Why is your business not intending to use increased homeworking as a permanent business model going forward?

- Concerns with integrating new starters into the workplace
- Costs of employee equipment
- Difficulties managing staff remotely
- Negative impact on working culture
- Not suitable for our business
- Reduced communication
- Reduced productivity
- Reduced reliability and retention of staff
- Security concerns
- Other (Please describe)
- Not sure

On average, how did employees' hourly wages in April 2023 compare with employees' hourly wages in the previous calendar month?

- Wages increased
- Wages stayed the same
- Wages decreased
- Not sure

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
- Business had to pause trading entirely
- Had to pause trading of some of the business
- Business had to recruit temporary workers
- Unable to meet demands
- Other (Please describe)
- Not sure
- Business has not been affected

8 . Industrial action

Was your business affected by industrial action in April 2023?

- Yes, the business was affected
- No, the business was not affected
- Not sure
- Not applicable
- Prefer not to say

How was your business affected by industrial action in April 2023?

- Business was unable to obtain necessary goods
- Business was unable to obtain necessary services
- Business was unable to operate fully
- Part or all of the workforce were directly involved in industrial action
- Workforce had to change their working location
- Workforce were unable to perform their roles
- Other (Please describe)
- Not sure

9 . Comments

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

- Comments