

Article

Business Insights and Conditions Survey questions: 16 May to 29 May 2022

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1 . Survey information

These questions are for Wave 57 of the fortnightly Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) dispatched on the 16th of May 2022.

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 . Turnover

How did your business's turnover in April 2022 compare with the previous calendar month?

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

What are your business's expectations for turnover in June 2022?

- Expect turnover to increase
- Expect turnover to stay the same
- Expect turnover to decrease
- Not sure

4 . Prices

How did the prices of goods or services bought by your business in April 2022 compare with the previous calendar month?

- Prices increased
- Prices stayed the same
- Prices decreased
- Not sure
- Not applicable

How did the prices of goods or services sold by your business in April 2022 compare with the previous calendar month?

- Prices increased
- Prices stayed the same
- Prices decreased
- Not sure
- Not applicable

What are your business's expectations for the prices of goods or services sold in June 2022?

- Prices will increase
- Prices will stay the same
- Prices will decrease
- Not sure
- Not applicable

Which of the following factors, if any, are causing your business to consider raising prices in June 2022?

- Energy prices
- Finance costs
- Labour costs
- Raw material prices
- Other
- Not sure
- Business is not considering raising prices

How did your business's domestic demand for goods and services in April 2022 compare with the previous calendar month?

- Demand increased
- Demand stayed the same
- Demand decreased
- Not sure
- Not applicable

How did your business's international demand for goods and services in April 2022 compare with the previous calendar month?

- Demand increased
- Demand stayed the same
- Demand decreased
- 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

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
- The business has not been affected by price rises

5 . Stock

How did your business's stock levels of raw materials in April 2022 compare with the previous calendar month?

- Stock levels were higher
- Stock levels stayed the same
- Stock levels were lower
- Not sure
- Not applicable

How did your business's stock levels of finished goods in April 2022 compare with the previous calendar month?

- Stock levels were higher
- Stock levels stayed the same
- Stock levels were lower
- Not sure
- Not applicable

Is your business stockpiling any goods or materials?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Where is your business sourcing these stockpiled goods or materials from?

- UK suppliers
- EU suppliers
- Non-EU suppliers
- Not sure

Which of the following goods or materials in your business stockpiling?

- Agricultural products
- Chemicals
- Coal, gas or oil
- Food
- Manufacturing parts
- Metals and materials
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Pharmaceuticals
- Other consumer goods
- Other
- Not sure

Where are the stockpiled goods or materials being stored?

- UK
- EU countries
- Non-EU countries
- Not sure

6 . Workforce trends

In April 2022, 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

How did the number of employees at your business in April 2022 compare with the previous calendar month?

- Number of employees increased
- Number of employees stayed the same
- Number of employees decreased
- Not sure

What are your business's expectations for the number of employees in June 2022?

- Number of employees will increase
- Number of employees will stay the same
- Number of employees will decrease
- Not sure

Does your business expect to make any of your workforce redundant over the next three months?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

When do you expect these redundancies to happen?

- Within the next 2 weeks
- Between 2 weeks and 1 month
- Between 1 and 3 months
- Not sure

Why is your business making these redundancies?

- Automation
- Business is closing or insolvent
- Certain job roles are no longer required
- Change in management
- Relocation of the business
- Site closures
- To reduce staff costs
- Other
- Not sure
- Prefer not to say

Did your business experience any difficulties recruiting employees in April 2022?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure
- Not applicable

Is your business intending to permanently close any business sites in the next three months?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Where in the UK are the sites that will permanently close in the next three months?

- 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

How do you expect closing these sites to affect your workforce?

- Decreased hours
- Increased hours
- Move to remote working
- Permanent redundancies
- Relocation
- Other
- Not sure
- Workforce will not be affected

7 . Business confidence

In April 2022, how did your business's debt repayments compare with turnover?

- Repayments were more than 100% of turnover
- Repayments were between 50% and 100% of turnover
- Repayments were between 20% and 50% of turnover
- Repayments were up to 20% of turnover
- Not sure
- Not applicable

How much confidence does your business have that it will meet its current debt obligations?

- High confidence
- Moderate confidence
- Low confidence
- No confidence
- Not sure
- Do not have any debt obligations

What is your business's risk or insolvency?

- Sever risk
- Moderate risk
- Low risk
- No risk
- Not sure
- The business is solvent

How would you describe your business's overall performance in April 2022, compared with this calendar month last year?

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

How do you expect your business's overall performance to change over the next 12 months?

- Performance will increase
- Performance will stay the same
- Performance will decrease
- Not sure

8 . Comments

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

- Comments