

Article

Business Insights and Conditions Survey questions: 20 January 2025 to 2 February 2025

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1 . Survey information

These questions are for Wave 125 of the fortnightly Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) dispatched on 20 January 2025.

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 December 2024 compare with the same 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 December 2024 compare with the same calendar month last year?

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

How did the time spent on exporting in December 2024 compare with the same 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 December 2024 compare with the same 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 December 2024 compare with the same calendar month last year?

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

How did the time spent on importing in December 2024 compare with the same 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 for the GB market that use a CE or UKCA marking?

- Yes, the business manufactures products that need a CE or UKCA marking
- Yes, the business imports products that need a CE or UKCA marking
- Yes, the business distributes products that need a CE or UKCA marking
- Not sure
- No, the business does not manufacture, import or distribute products that need a CE or UKCA marking

Approximately, what proportion of the products your business manufactures, imports or distributes for the GB market currently use the UKCA marking instead of, or in addition to, the CE marking?

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

Approximately, what proportion of the products that your business intends to manufacture, import or distribute for the GB market in or after October 2025 will use the UKCA marking instead of, or in addition to, the CE marking?

- Business intends to use UKCA marking for all products in this calendar month next year
- Business intends to use UKCA marking for a majority of products, but not all, in this calendar month next year
- Business intends to use UKCA marking for a minority of products in this calendar month next year
- Business does not intend to use UKCA marking 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 December 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 December 2024

- Comments

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

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

In December 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 December 2024

- Comments

7 . International trade

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

Does your business plan to import or export goods to or from UK Freeports in the next 12 months?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Why is your business not planning to import or export goods from UK Freeports within the next 12 months?

- Application process is burdensome
- Application is unlikely to be processed in time
- Application was rejected by HM Revenue and Customs
- Business does not import or export goods to or from the UK
- Business is already utilising existing customs procedures
- Business is not located in a designated freeport area
- Other
- Not sure

8 . Workforce

Has your business gone through a collective redundancy consultation in the last 12 months?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure
- Not applicable

Approximately, how many redundancies did your business make following this collective redundancy consultation process?

- More than 120
- Between 100 and 119
- Between 60 and 99
- Between 20 and 59
- Between 1 and 19
- Not sure

Approximately, how many redundancies was your business considering before the collective redundancy consultation process?

- More than 120
- Between 100 and 119
- Between 60 and 99
- Between 20 and 59
- Between 1 and 19
- Not sure

9 . Comments

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

- Comments