

Article

Business Insights and Conditions Survey questions: 20 September to 2 October 2022

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1 . Survey information

These questions are for Wave 66 of the fortnightly Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) dispatched on the 20th of September 2022. These are the most up-to-date survey questions.

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

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 August 2022 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 August 2022, compared with the previous calendar month?

- Additional paperwork
- 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 August 2022 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 August 2022, compared with the previous calendar month?

- Additional paperwork
- Change in transportation costs
- Customs 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 . UKCA

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

Is your business aware that most CE marked products need to be UKCA marked from 1 January 2023?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Is your business using, or intending to use, the UKCA marking by 1 January 2023?

- Already using UKCA marking
- Not aware of, or do not know how to meet, requirements for the UKCA
- Not using the UKCA marking, but plan to by 1 January 2023
- Will not use UKCA marking, as not relevant to our products or business
- Not sure

Overall, how prepared is your business for the mandatory use of UKCA marking for most CE marked products from 1 January 2023?

- Fully prepared
- Somewhat prepared
- Not prepared
- Not sure
- Not applicable

6 . 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 August 2022?

- 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

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 August 2022?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure
- Not applicable

What was the main reason for global supply chain disruption?

- Conflict in Ukraine
- Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic
- Increased costs
- Shortage of hauliers and carriers
- Shortage of materials
- UK exiting the EU
- Other transportation issues
- Other (please describe)
- Not sure

Which of the following, if any, will be the main concern for your business in October 2022?

- Business rates
- Competition
- Energy prices
- Exchange rates
- Inflation of goods and services prices
- Interest rates
- Supply chain disruption
- Taxation
- Other (please describe)
- Not sure
- No concerns for the business

To what extent has your business already passed through higher costs to prices?

- More than 75%
- Between 50-74%
- Between 25-49%
- Less than 24%
- Not sure
- Business has not passed through any higher costs

How frequently does your business pay its gas bills?

- Annually
- Quarterly
- Monthly
- Weekly
- Other (please describe)
- Not sure
- Not applicable

Are your business's gas prices fixed or hedged?

- Yes, expiring by 31 December 2022
- Yes, expiring by 31 March 2023
- Yes, expiring after 31 March 2023
- No, gas prices are variable
- Not sure
- Not applicable

How much do you expect your business's gas bill to increase once your fixed contract ends?

- More than 300%
- Between 200-299%
- Between 100-199%
- Between 1-99%
- Do not expect business's gas bill to increase
- Not sure

If your business had a fixed price contract for gas end within the last 12 months, what were the new arrangements made with your supplier?

- Moved on to a variable price contract
- New fixed contract at higher price
- New fixed contract at the same price or lower
- Fixed contract has not ended within last 12 months
- Not sure
- Not applicable

How frequently does your business pay its electricity bills?

- Annually
- Quarterly
- Monthly
- Weekly
- Other (please describe)
- Not sure
- Not applicable

Are your business's electricity prices fixed or hedged?

- Yes, expiring by 31 December 2022
- Yes, expiring by 31 March 2023
- Yes, expiring after 31 March 2023
- No, electricity prices are variable
- Not sure
- Not applicable

How much do you expect your business's electricity bill to increase once your fixed contract ends?

- More than 300%
- Between 200-299%
- Between 100-199%
- Between 1-99%
- Do not expect business's electricity bill to increase
- Not sure

If your business had a fixed price contract for electricity end within the last 12 months, what were the new arrangements made with your supplier?

- Moved on to a variable price contract
- New fixed contract at higher price
- New fixed contract at the same price or lower
- Fixed contract has not ended within last 12 months
- Not sure
- Not applicable

7 . Sending goods

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

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

In August 2022, 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 August 2022

- Comments

8 . Operational performance

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

9 . Workforce characteristics

How has the number of workers from within the EU at your business in August 2022 changed compared with this calendar month last year?

- Number of workers from within the EU has increased
- We employ workers from within the EU, and the number has stayed the same
- Number of workers from within the EU has decreased
- Not relevant, as have not employed workers from within the EU
- Not sure
- Prefer not to say

How has the number of workers from outside the EU at your business in August 2022 changed compared with this calendar month last year?

- Number of workers from outside the EU has increased
- We employ workers from outside the EU, and the number has stayed the same
- Number of workers from outside the EU has decreased
- Not relevant, as have not employed workers from outside the EU
- Not sure
- Prefer not to say

10 . Environmental action

Is your business concerned about the impact climate change may have on the business?

- Yes, very concerned
- Yes, somewhat concerned
- No, not concerned
- Not sure

Which of the following actions, if any, has your business taken to protect the environment?

- Publishes an annual sustainability report
- Has a climate change strategy
- Has a net zero or greenhouse gas emissions target
- Has a net zero or greenhouse gas emissions target which includes supply chain
- Monitors climate-related risks
- Has a nature or biodiversity strategy
- Has a nature or biodiversity target
- Has a nature or biodiversity target which includes supply chain
- Monitors nature or biodiversity-related risks
- Other (please describe)
- Not sure
- None of the above

Which of the following actions, if any, have you taken to reduce your business's carbon emissions?

- Adjusting heating and cooling systems
- Electrifying your vehicle fleet
- Going paperless
- Installing a smart meter
- Installing charging points
- Installing your own renewable electricity or heating
- Insulating your buildings
- Introducing a cycle to work scheme
- Switching to LED bulbs
- Other (please describe)
- Not sure
- No actions have been taken to reduce emissions

11 . Comments

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

- Comments

