

Article

Business Insights and Conditions Survey questions: 22 August to 4 September

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1 . Survey information

These questions are for Wave 64 of the fortnightly Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) dispatched on the 22nd of August 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
- 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 August 2022 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 August 2022 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 August 2022 compare with this calendar month last year?

- Time spent increased
- Time spent stayed the same
- Time spent decreased
- 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
- 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
- Not sure

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

How did your business's cost of importing in August 2022 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 August 2022 compare with this calendar month last year?

- Time spent increased
- Time spent stayed the same
- Time spent decreased
- 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
- 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
- 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

6 . Supply chains

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

Did your business experience any global supply chain disruption in August 2022?

- Yes
- No
- 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

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

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
- Not sure
- No concerns for the business

7 . Sending Goods to or From Northern Ireland

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

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

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

In August 2022, 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 August 2022

- Comments

8 . Operational Performance

In which of the following ways, if any, is your business currently improving its management practices?

- Conducts experimental changes
- Consults employees about potential improvements
- Consults managers in other organisations about potential improvements
- Hires management consultants
- Reads management literature
- Receives formal training in person
- Receives formal training online
- Other
- Not sure
- Not applicable
- Business is not currently improving management practices

What is currently the main challenge for improving the way your business is managed?

- Available information is not useful or tailored enough
- Changes are too costly
- Changes are too disruptive
- Employees are resistant to change
- Lack of time to find relevant information or plan changes
- Other
- Not sure
- Business does not currently experience any challenges

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
- Not sure
- Business has not been affected

9 . Comments

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

- Comments