

Article

# Business Insights and Conditions Survey questions: 22 January to 2 February 2024

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## Table of contents

1. [Survey information](#)
2. [Trading Status of Your Business](#)
3. [Exporting](#)
4. [Importing](#)
5. [Supply Chains](#)
6. [Workforce trends](#)
7. [Workforce characteristics](#)
8. [Industrial action](#)
9. [Comments](#)

# 1 . Survey information

These questions are for Wave 101 of the fortnightly Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) dispatched on 22 January 2024.

## 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

Has your business exported goods or services in the last 12 months?

- Exported goods only
- Exported services only
- Exported both goods and services
- 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 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 December 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

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

## 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

Has your business imported goods or services in the last 12 months?

- Imported goods only
- Imported services only
- Imported both goods and services
- 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 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 December 2023, compared with the previous calendar month?

- Additional paperwork
- Change in exchange rates
- 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

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 . Supply Chains

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 December 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

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

- 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

## 6 . Workforce trends

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

- Yes
- No
- Not sure
- Not applicable

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 remove working
- Permanent redundancies
- Relocation
- Other (Please describe)
- Not sure
- Workforce will not be affected

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 (Please describe)
- Not sure
- Prefer not to say

On average, how did employees' hourly wages in December 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

## 7 . Workforce characteristics

How has the number of workers from within the EU at your business in December 2023 changed compared with this calendar month last year?

- Number of workers from within the EU has increased
- The business employs 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 December 2023 changed compared with this calendar month last year?

- Number of workers from outside the EU has increased
- The business employs 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

## 8 . Industrial action

Was your business affected by industrial action in December 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 December 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