

Article

# Business Insights and Conditions Survey questions: 4 October 2021 to the 17 October 2021

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# 1 . Survey information

These questions are for Wave 41 of the fortnightly Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) dispatched on the 4th October. 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

Where in the UK are your sites temporarily or permanently closed, if any?

- 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
- Do not have any sites
- None of our sites are temporarily or permanently closed

### 3 . Turnover

How does your business's turnover for the last two weeks, compare to normal expectations for this time of year?

- Turnover has increased by more than 50%
- Turnover has increased between 20% and 50%
- Turnover has increased by up to 20%
- Turnover has not been affected
- Turnover has decreased by up to 20%
- Turnover has decreased between 20% and 50%
- Turnover has decreased by more than 50%
- Not sure

What was the main reason for this change to your business's turnover in the last two weeks?

- The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic
- End of the EU transition period
- The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the end of the EU transition period
- Other
- Not sure

What are your expectations about turnover for the next two weeks?

- Expect turnover to substantially increase
- Expect turnover to increase a little
- Expect turnover to stay the same
- Expect turnover to decrease a little
- Expect turnover to substantially decrease
- Not sure

### 4 . Exporting

Which of the following best describes your business's exporting status?

- Exported in the last 12 months
- Exported more than 12 months ago
- Never exported and do not have goods or services suitable for export
- Never exported but have goods or services that could be developed 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

Have you changed where you have exported your goods or services to in the last two months?

- Changed from EU to non-EU
- Changed from non-EU to EU
- Changed in a different way
- No changes made
- Not sure

Where has your business exported goods or services to in the last two weeks?

- EU only
- Non-EU only
- Both EU and non-EU
- Not exported in the last two weeks
- Not sure

How does your business's exporting in the last two weeks compare to normal expectations for this time of year?

- Exporting more than normal
- Exporting as normal
- Exporting, but less than normal
- Not been able to export in the last two weeks
- Not sure

How does the cost of exporting in the last two weeks compare with normal expectations for this time of year?

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

How does the time spent on exporting in the last two weeks compare with normal expectations for this time of year?

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

Have you experienced any of the following challenges with exporting goods or services in the last two weeks?

- Additional paperwork
- Basing some staff in an EU member state to be allowed to work
- Change in transportation costs
- Closure of infrastructure used to export goods or services
- 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 any challenges with exporting

What was the main cause of these exporting challenges?

- The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic
- End of the EU transition period
- The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the end of the EU transition period
- Other
- Not sure

How much disruption to your business have these challenges caused?

- Major disruption
- Moderate disruption
- Minor disruption
- No disruption
- Not sure

Which of the following UK 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
- None of the above

## 5 . Importing

Which of the following 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

Have you changed where you have sourced your imports of goods or services from in the last two months?

- Changed from EU to non-EU suppliers
- Changed from non-EU to EU suppliers
- Changed in a different way
- No changes made
- Not sure

Where has your business imported goods or services from in the last two weeks?

- EU only
- Non-EU only
- Both EU and non-EU
- Not imported in the last two weeks
- Not sure

How does your business's importing in the last two weeks compare with normal expectations for this time of year?

- Importing more than normal
- Importing as normal
- Importing, but less than normal
- Not been able to import in the last two weeks
- Not sure

How does the cost of importing in the last two weeks compare with normal expectations for this time of year?

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

How does the time spent on importing in the last two weeks compare with normal expectations for this time of year?

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

Have you experienced any of the following challenges with importing over the last two weeks?

- Additional paperwork
- Change in transportation costs
- Closure of infrastructure used to import goods or services
- Customs duties or levies
- Destination countries changing their border restrictions
- Disruption at UK borders
- Finding information on how to import
- Lack of hauliers to transport goods or lack of logistics equipment
- Suppliers not continuing to trade
- Suppliers not customs ready
- Time taken for checks at the border
- Other
- Did not experience any challenges with importing

What was the main cause of these importing challenges?

- The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic
- End of the EU transition period
- The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the end of the EU transition period
- Other
- Not sure

How much disruption to your business have these challenges caused?

- Major disruption
- Moderate disruption
- Minor disruption
- No disruption
- 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
- None of the above

Which of the following best describes your business's use of the GB landbridge over the last 12 months?

- Currently use the GB landbridge
- Never used the GB landbridge
- Stopped using the GB landbridge
- Not sure
- Not applicable

## **6 . Access to financial support**

Has your business received any government-backed loans or finance agreements during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Has your business received payment from any of the following grants or schemes in the last month?

- Additional Restriction Grant
- Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS)
- Kickstart Job Scheme for young people
- Recovery Loan Scheme
- Sector-specific grant
- Small business grant
- Super-deduction
- Other
- Not sure
- Not received any of these grants in the last month

How long do you think your business's cash reserves will last?

- No cash reserves
- Less than 1 month
- 1 to 3 months
- 4 to 6 months
- More than 6 months
- Not sure

How much confidence does your business have that it will survive the next three months?

- High confidence
- Moderate confidence
- Low confidence
- No confidence
- Not sure

Over the last month, 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 debt obligations?

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

What is your business's risk of insolvency?

- Severe risk
- Moderate risk
- Low risk
- No risk
- The business is insolvent
- Not sure

How has your business's risk of insolvency changed in the last two months?

- Risk has increased
- Risk has stayed the same
- Risk has decreased
- Not sure

## **7 . Operational performance**

In the last two weeks, approximately what percentage of your business's workforce were:

- On partial or full furlough leave
- Mainly working at the same place they were working before the pandemic
- Mainly working from home, instead of where they were working before the pandemic
- On sick leave or not working due to coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, self-isolation or quarantine
- Made permanently redundant
- Other

Of those partially and fully furloughed, what percentage are fully furloughed in the last two weeks?

- Approximate percentage of furloughed staff who are 'fully furloughed'
- Not sure

Is your business using, or intending to use, increased homeworking as a permanent business model going forward?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure
- Not applicable

Why is your business using, or intending to use, increased homeworking as a permanent business model going forward?

- Ability to better match jobs to skills
- Ability to recruit from a wider geographical pool in the UK
- Ability to recruit from a wider geographical pool internationally
- Improved staff wellbeing
- Increased productivity
- Reduced carbon emissions
- Reduced overheads
- Reduced sickness absence
- Reduced wage bill
- Other
- Not sure

Why is your business not intending to use increased homeworking as a permanent business model going forward?

- Concerns with integrating new starters into the workplace
- Difficulties managing staff remotely
- Negative impact on working culture
- Not suitable for our business
- Reduced communication
- Reduced productivity
- Reduced reliability and retention of staff
- Security concerns
- Other
- Not sure

When do you expect your workforce to return to their normal place of work?

- Within the next month
- Between one and three months
- Between four and six months
- More than six months
- Workforce already returned to their normal place of work
- Not expecting workforce to return to their normal place of work
- Not sure
- Not applicable

What percentage of your workforce do you expect to return to their normal place of work in the time period you selected?

- Above 75% of the workforce
- Between 50-75% of the workforce
- Between 25-49% of the workforce
- Less than 25% of the workforce
- Not sure

## 8 . Net-zero carbon emissions

Which of the following actions, if any, has your business taken to reduce its carbon emissions?

- Adjusting heating and cooling systems
- Electrifying your vehicle fleet
- 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
- Not sure
- No actions have been taken to reduce emissions
- No not have any emissions

Do any of the following prevent action being taken by your business to reduce its carbon emissions?

- Implementing change is too costly for the business
- Implementing change is too costly for the customer
- Lack of expertise to assess different options for change
- Lack of expertise to implement any changes
- Lack of strategic ownership
- Payback on implementation takes too long
- Unsure of how to measure emission output
- Other
- Not sure
- Action is not being prevented

Have any of the following been used to assess the impact of climate change on your business's ability to operate?

- Assessment of demand for goods or services
- Assessment of finance, investments or insurance
- Excessive heat risk assessment
- Flooding risk assessment
- Resource efficiency assessment
- Technological assessment
- Water scarcity risk assessment
- Other
- Not sure
- Have not conducted any assessments

## 9 . Comments

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

- Comments