

Article

# Business Insights and Conditions Survey questions: 5 to 19 September 2022

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# 1 . Survey information

These questions are for Wave 65 of the fortnightly Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) dispatched on the 5th 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 . Turnover

How did your business's turnover in August 2022 compare with the previous calendar month?

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

What are your business's expectations for turnover in October 2022?

- Expect turnover to increase
- Expect turnover to stay the same
- Expect turnover to decrease
- Not sure

## 4 . Prices

How did the prices of goods or services bought by your business in August 2022 compare with the previous calendar month?

- Prices increased
- Prices stayed the same
- Prices decreased
- Not sure
- Not applicable

How did the prices of goods or services sold by your business in August 2022 compare with the previous calendar month?

- Prices increased
- Prices stayed the same
- Prices decreased
- Not sure
- Not applicable

On average, how much did the prices of goods or services sold by your business increase in August 2022, compared with the previous calendar month?

- Less than 5%
- Between 5-10%
- Between 11-15%
- Between 16-20%
- More than 20%
- Not sure

What are your business's expectations for the prices of goods or services sold in October 2022?

- Prices will increase
- Prices will stay the same
- Prices will decrease
- Not sure
- Not applicable

Which of the following factors, if any, are causing your business to consider raising prices in October 2022?

- Energy prices
- Finance costs
- Labour costs
- Raw material prices
- Other
- Not sure
- Business is not considering raising prices

How did your business's domestic demand for goods and services in August 2022 compare with the previous calendar month?

- Demand increased
- Demand stayed the same
- Demand decreased
- Not sure
- Not applicable

How did your business's international demand for goods and services in August 2022 compare with the previous calendar month?

- Demand increased
- Demand stayed the same
- Demand decreased
- Not sure
- Not applicable

Has your business been affected by recent increases in energy prices?

- Yes, production has been affected
- Yes, suppliers have been affected
- Yes, both production and suppliers have been affected
- No, the business has not been affected
- Not sure
- Not applicable

In which of the following ways, if any, has your business been affected by price rises?

- Discontinued lines of sale
- Had to absorb costs
- Had to access more financial support
- Had to change suppliers
- Had to make redundancies
- Had to pass on price increases to customers
- Had to reduce staff work hours
- Unable to maintain workspaces
- Other
- Not sure
- The business has not been affected by price rises

## 5 . Stock levels

How did your business's stock levels of raw materials in August 2022 compare with the previous calendar month?

- Stock levels were higher
- Stock levels stayed the same
- Stock levels were lower
- Not sure
- Not applicable

How did your business's stock levels of finished goods in August 2022 compare with the previous calendar month?

- Stock levels were higher
- Stock levels stayed the same
- Stock levels were lower
- Not sure
- Not applicable

Is your business stockpiling any goods or materials?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

## 6 . Workforce trends

In August 2022, approximately what percentage of your business's workforce were:

- Using a hybrid model of working
- Working from home
- Working from a designated workspace
- On sick leave, or not working due to coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or self-isolation
- Made permanently redundant
- Other

How did the number of employees at your business in August 2022 compare with the previous calendar month?

- Number of employees increased
- Number of employees stayed the same
- Number of employees decreased
- Not sure

What are your business's expectations for the number of employees in October 2022?

- Number of employees will increase
- Number of employees will stay the same
- Number of employees will decrease
- Not sure

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

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

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 remote working
- Permanent redundancies
- Relocation
- Other
- 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
- Not sure
- Prefer not to say

Did your business experience any difficulties recruiting employees in August 2022?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure
- Not applicable

On average, how did employees' hourly wages in August 2022 compare with employees' hourly wages in the previous calendar month?

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

## 7 . Industrial action

Was your business affected by industrial action in August 2022?



- 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 August 2022?

- 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
- Not sure

## 8 . Business confidence

How would you describe your business's overall performance in August 2022, compared with this calendar month last year?

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

How do you expect your business's overall performance to change over the next 12 months?

- Performance will increase
- Performance will stay the same
- Performance will decrease
- Not sure

## 9 . Comments

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

- Comments