

Article

Business Insights and Conditions Survey questions: 7 September 2026 to 20 September 2026

Contact:
Business Insights and Conditions Survey team (BICS)
bics@ons.gov.uk
+44 1633 455592

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1 . Survey information

These questions are for Wave 164 of the fortnightly Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) dispatched on 7 September 2026.

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 2026 compare with the previous calendar month?

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

Which of the following challenges, if any, are currently impacting your business's turnover?

- Competition
- Cost of labour
- Cost of materials
- Economic uncertainty
- Financial costs
- Insufficient domestic demand
- Insufficient international demand
- Lack of equipment
- Shortage of labour
- Shortage of materials
- Weather conditions
- Other (Please describe)
- Not sure
- Not currently experiencing any challenges

What are your business's expectations for turnover in October 2026?

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

How did your business's domestic demand for goods and services in August 2026 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 2026 compare with the previous calendar month?

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

4 . Prices

How did the prices of goods or services bought by your business in August 2026 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 2026 compare with the previous calendar month?

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

What are your business's expectations for the prices of goods or services sold in October 2026?

- 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 2026?

- Energy prices
- Finance costs
- Labour costs
- Raw material prices
- Transportation or haulage costs
- Other (Please describe)
- Not sure
- Business is not considering raising prices

5 . Stock

Is your business stockpiling any goods or materials?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

How did your business's stock levels of raw materials in August 2026 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 2026 compare with the previous calendar month?

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

6 . Supply chains

Was your business able to get the materials, goods or services it needed from within the UK in August 2026?

- 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 2026?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure
- Not applicable

What was the main reason for global supply chain disruption?

- Conflict in Ukraine
- Conflict in the Middle East
- Increased costs
- Severe weather or climate event
- Shortage of hauliers and carriers
- Shortage of materials
- UK exiting the EU
- United States tariffs
- Other transportation issues
- Other (Please describe)
- Not sure

7 . Energy prices

How concerned is your business about energy prices?

- Very concerned
- Somewhat concerned
- Not concerned
- Not sure

How concerned is your business about increases in fuel prices?

- Very concerned
- Somewhat concerned
- Not concerned
- Not sure

8 . Trade

Did your business export or import any goods or services in August 2026?

- Both exported and imported
- Exported only
- Imported only
- Business did not export or import
- Not sure

9 . Workforce trends

What are your business's expectations for the number of employees in October 2026?

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

Is your business currently experiencing a shortage of workers?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure
- Not applicable

Did your business experience any difficulties recruiting employees in August 2026?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure
- Not applicable

10 . Business operations

Which of the following, if any, will be the main concern for your business in October 2026?

- Business rates
- Competition with other UK businesses
- Energy prices
- Exchange rates
- Falling demand of goods and services
- Inflation of goods and services prices
- Interest rates
- Property rental costs
- Supply chain disruption
- Taxation
- Worker shortages
- Other (Please describe)
- Not sure
- No concerns for the business

How would you describe your business's overall performance in August 2026, compared with the same 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

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

- Less than one month
- One to three months
- Four to six months
- More than six months
- Not sure
- Business has no cash reserves

What is your business's risk of insolvency?

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

How much confidence does your business have that it will meet its current debt obligations?

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

11 . Comments

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

- Comments