

Statistical bulletin

Business insights and impact on the UK economy: 1 July 2021

The impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and other events on UK businesses and the economy. Based on responses from the voluntary fortnightly business survey (BICS) about financial performance, workforce, prices, trade, and business resilience.

Contact:
Emily Hopson
bics@ons.gov.uk
+44 (0)1633 455592

Release date:
1 July 2021

Next release:
15 July 2021

Table of contents

1. [Main points](#)
2. [Other pages in this release](#)
3. [Headline figures](#)
4. [Industry insights](#)
5. [Exporting and importing challenges](#)
6. [Net zero](#)
7. [International trade in services](#)
8. [Business Insights and Conditions Survey data](#)
9. [Glossary](#)
10. [Measuring the data](#)
11. [Related links](#)

1 . Main points

- The percentage of businesses currently trading has increased steadily from 71% in January 2021 to 88% in late June 2021, the highest percentage since comparable estimates began in June 2020.
- The proportion of businesses' workforce reported to be on full or partial furlough leave has fallen from 20% in late January 2021 to its lowest level since the furlough scheme began, at 6% (provisional confidence interval: 5% to 7%) in early June 2021, as a result of coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions being relaxed across the UK.
- The percentage of currently trading businesses that reported turnover was lower than normal has continued to fall, from 65% in June 2020 to 30% in early June 2021.
- The proportions of businesses experiencing challenges in importing and exporting are broadly unchanged since January 2021, with additional paperwork remaining the top challenge faced by businesses for importing and exporting.
- The transportation and storage industry had the lowest percentage of businesses currently trading in late June 2021, at 76%; this has steadily declined from 94% in early October 2020, at a time when a shortage of lorry drivers was being reported in some media.
- Switching to LED bulbs is the most reported action that businesses not permanently stopped trading have taken, and intend to take, to reduce carbon emissions.

2 . Other pages in this release

More commentary on the impacts of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on the UK economy and society is available on the following pages:

- [Economic activity and social change in the UK, real-time indicators](#)
- [Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain](#)

More about economy, business and jobs

- All ONS analysis, summarised in our [economy, business and jobs roundup](#).
- Explore the latest trends in employment, prices and trade in our [economic dashboard](#).
- View [all economic data](#).

3 . Headline figures

The data presented here are final results from Wave 33 of the Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS), which was live for the period 14 to 27 June 2021.

For questions regarding the last two weeks, businesses were asked for their experience for the reference period 31 May to 13 June 2021.

For experimental single-site weighted regional estimates up to Wave 30 (17 to 30 May 2021), please see [Understanding the business impacts of local and national restrictions, UK: May 2021](#).

Figure 1: Headline figures from the Business Insights and Conditions Survey

Notes:

1. Final weighted results, Wave 7 to Wave 33 of the Office for National Statistics' (ONS') Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS).
2. Weighted estimates are available from Wave 7 onwards only. The sample redesign in Wave 7 improves our coverage for the small-sized businesses, allowing for weighted results to be truly reflective of all businesses.
3. Data are plotted in the middle of the two-week period of each wave.
4. Trading status: for presentational purposes, currently trading categories and paused trading categories have been combined.
5. Financial performance: for presentational purposes, decreased turnover categories and increased turnover categories have been combined, and the option "Not sure" has been removed.
6. Business resilience: for presentational purposes, cash reserves categories between zero and three months have been combined, and the option "Not sure" has been removed.
7. Workforce: for presentational purposes, the options "Made permanently redundant" or "Other" have been removed. From Wave 33, the response options changed: "On sick leave or not working because of coronavirus (COVID-19), self-isolation or quarantine" was removed, "Working from home instead of at their normal place of work" has changed to "Mainly working from home, instead of where they were working before the pandemic", and "Working at their normal place of work" has changed to "Mainly working at the same place they were working before the pandemic".
8. Financial performance and Workforce: Businesses were asked for their experiences for the reference period. However, for questions regarding the last two weeks, businesses may respond from the point of completion of the questionnaire.

Download this chart

[.xlsx](#)

The percentage of businesses currently trading has increased steadily from 71% in January 2021 to 88% in June 2021. This is the highest percentage of businesses currently trading since comparable estimates began in June 2020, and higher than in late September and early October 2020 when fewer coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions were in place across the UK.

Businesses currently trading were asked how their turnover compared with normal expectations for this time of year:

- the percentage of businesses experiencing a decrease in turnover has fallen to 30% in early June 2021 – the lowest percentage recorded since comparable estimates began in June 2020
- the percentage of businesses experiencing an increase in turnover has remained generally stable and stood at 14% in early June 2021

Within the industries covered by the BICS sample, the proportion of businesses' workforce that are reported to be on full or partial furlough leave (the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS)) has fallen from around 20% in late January 2021 to 6% in early June 2021 (we have provisionally calculated that these estimates have a standard error of 0.5% and a coefficient of variation of 4.1%¹, which means there is an approximate range of between 5% to 7% of businesses' workforce), as a result of coronavirus restrictions continuing to be relaxed across the UK. This is the lowest proportion of businesses' workforce reported to be on furlough leave since the furlough scheme began.

The estimated 6% (with a confidence interval range of 5% to 7%) of businesses' workforce reported to be on full or partial furlough leave in early June 2021 suggests that approximately 1.3 to 1.9 million people were furloughed within the industries surveyed in BICS, although please note that this is an early survey-based estimate rather than official statistics, which are published later by Revenue and Customs (HMRC). Surveys by definition collect information from only a proportion of companies, a point reflected in the existence of standard errors, and collect information via a questionnaire which can lead to differences from administrative data, which is the source of the official statistics.

The BICS number is based on multiplying the BICS weighted furlough proportions by HMRC CJRS official statistics eligible employments² for only those industries covered by the BICS sample (exceptions from BICS are agriculture, public administration and defence, public provision of education and health and finance and insurance). Therefore, caution should be taken when interpreting the BICS-derived estimates as they are not fully representative of the true number of employees on furlough. Figure 2 shows the relationship between the BICS early estimates and [HMRC's CJRS official statistics](#), to 31 May 2021, to demonstrate the impact of the points made in relation to BICS estimates.

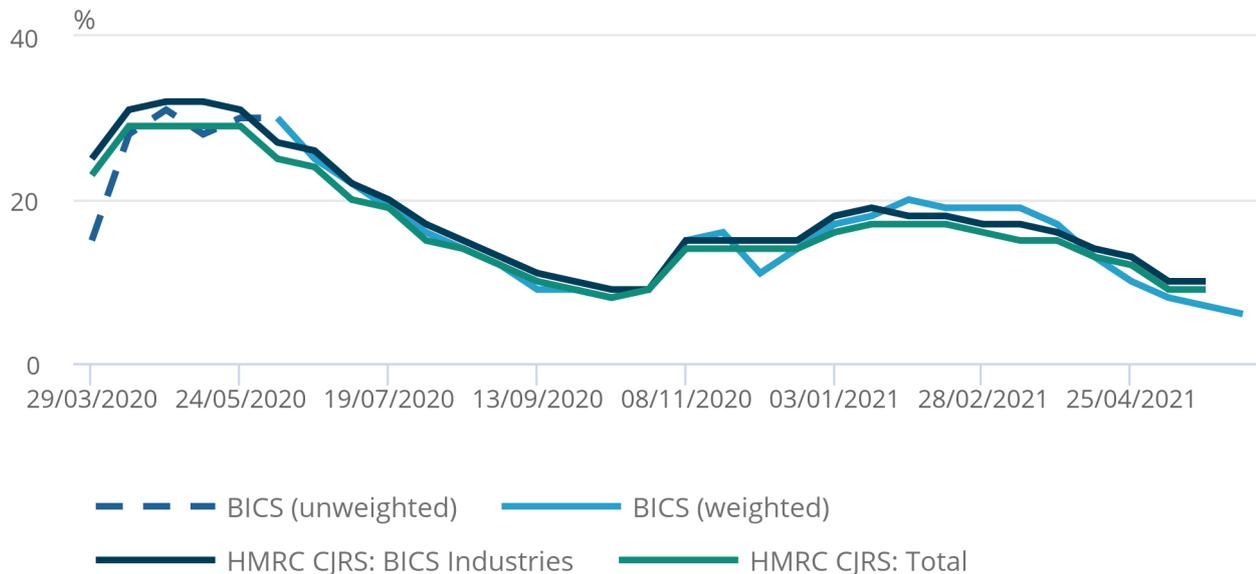
For an overview of the differences between the fortnightly BICS furlough estimates HMRC's CJRS data, please see the Description of methods section in: [Comparison of furloughed jobs data, UK: March 2020 to January 2021](#).

Figure 2: Comparison between CJRS official statistics and BICS estimates on proportions of the workforce on furlough

Proportion of workforce on furlough, broken down by Wave, UK, 23 March 2020 to 13 June 2021

Figure 2: Comparison between CJRS official statistics and BICS estimates on proportions of the workforce on furlough

Proportion of workforce on furlough, broken down by Wave, UK, 23 March 2020 to 13 June 2021



Source: Office for National Statistics – Business Insights and Conditions Survey

Notes:

1. Final unweighted results, Wave 2 to Wave 6, and final weighted results, Wave 7 to Wave 33, of the Office for National Statistics' (ONS') Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS); businesses not permanently ceased trading.
2. CJRS official statistic's May 2021 estimates are provisional and subject to revision.
3. Only industries included in the BICS samples are included in the "CJRS Statistics: BICS Industries only" series, but all industries are included in "CJRS Statistics: All industries" series.
4. An "employment" in the HMRC CJRS Official Statistics is defined as anyone who meets the scheme criteria set out within the published guidance, and data comes from the whole population of HMRC CJRS claims (those applied) and PAYE Real Time Information systems (RTIs).
5. The CJRS official statistic's proportion furloughed is an average of the number of employments furloughed over the two-week BICS reference period, divided by the total eligible employments.
6. The dates used in the plot are for the middle of each BICS Wave.
7. Businesses were asked for their experiences for the reference period. However, for questions regarding the last two weeks, businesses may respond from the point of completion of the questionnaire.

Of the workforce that are reported to be on full or partial furlough leave, 48% were reported to be fully furloughed in early June 2021. This is the lowest proportion of furloughed employees reported to be fully furloughed since the question was introduced in October 2020. The figure has steadily fallen from 69% in mid-March 2021 when the whole UK was subject to increased coronavirus regulations.

Since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, working patterns have also changed substantially.

In the last two weeks, currently trading businesses reported that 11% of their workforce have moved (from furlough or fully homeworking) to a hybrid model of working.

In the next two weeks, 9% of the workforce of not permanently ceased trading businesses are expected to move to a hybrid model of working.

Notes for: Headline figures

1. Initial standard error and coefficient of variation values for BICS Wave 33 proportion of workforce on furlough. These are provisional, subject to revision, and are reflective of the businesses responding to BICS, so are not fully representative of the true proportion or number of employees on furlough.
2. An “employment” in the HMRC CJRS Official Statistics is defined as anyone who meets the scheme criteria set out within the published guidance, and data come from the whole population of HMRC CJRS claims (those applied) and Pay As You Earn (PAYE) Real Time Information systems (RTIs). The assessment of whether a person was employed on the qualifying dates is based on the methodology used for the joint HMRC and ONS statistics release, [Earnings and employment from Pay As You Earn Real Time Information](#).

4 . Industry insights

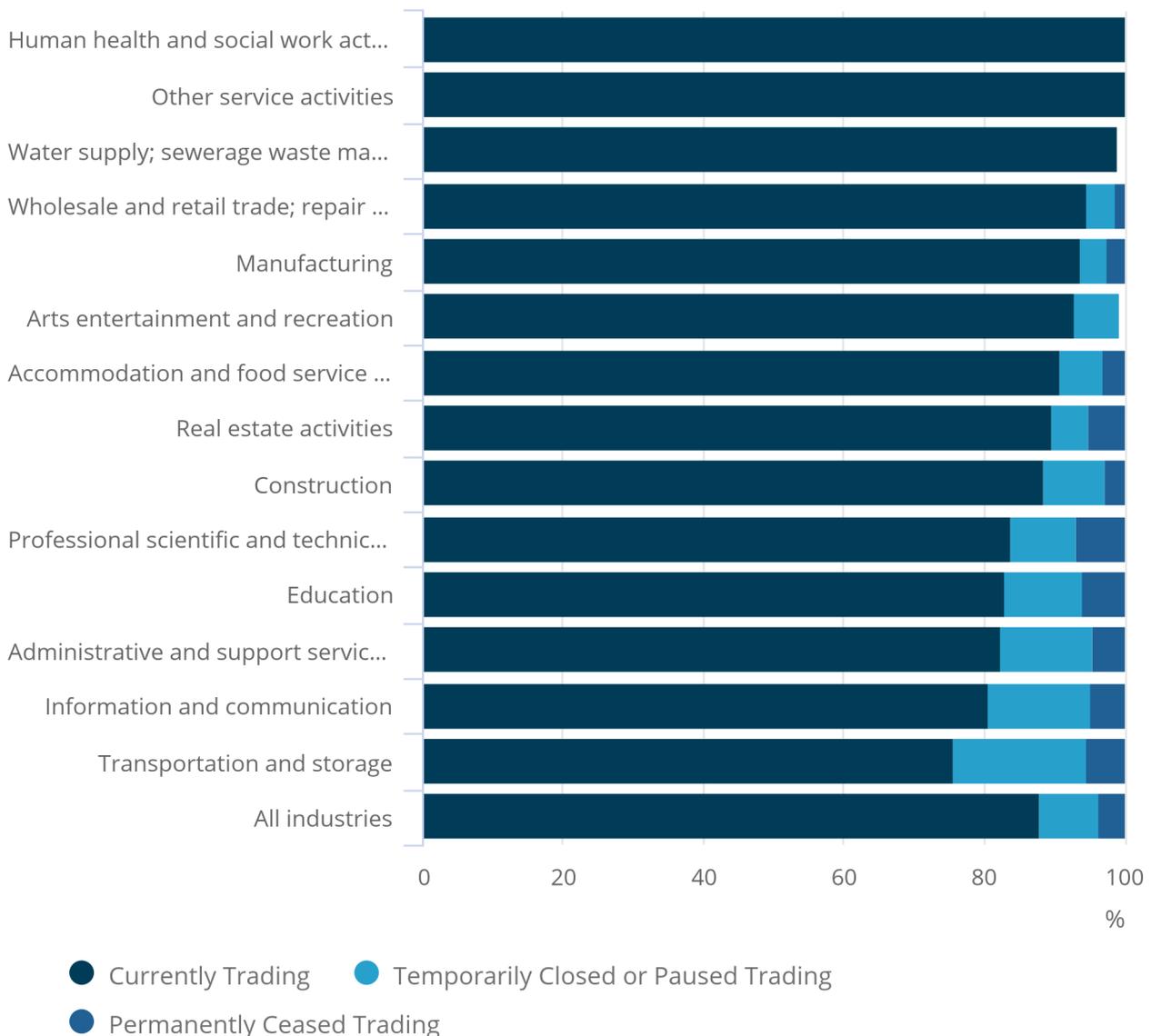
Trading status

Figure 3: The transportation and storage industry had the lowest percentage of businesses currently trading, at 76%

Current trading status, all businesses, broken down by industry, weighted by count, UK, 14 to 27 June 2021

Figure 3: The transportation and storage industry had the lowest percentage of businesses currently trading, at 76%

Current trading status, all businesses, broken down by industry, weighted by count, UK, 14 to 27 June 2021



Source: Office for National Statistics – Business Insights and Conditions Survey

Notes:

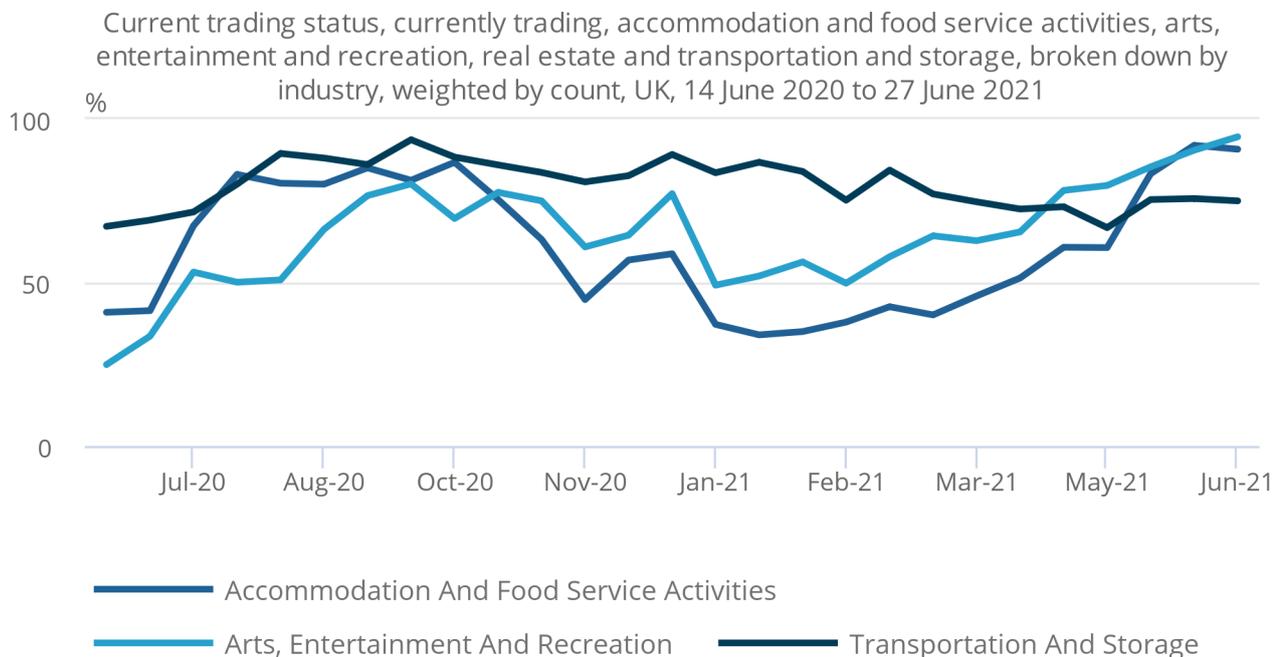
1. Final weighted results, Wave 33 of the Office for National Statistics' (ONS') Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS).
2. For presentational purposes, currently trading categories and paused trading categories have been combined.
3. Industries may not sum to 100% because of rounding and percentages less than 1% being removed for disclosure purposes.
4. Mining and quarrying has been removed for disclosure purposes, but its total is included in "All industries".
5. The weighted percentage for "permanently ceased trading" can be affected by multiple businesses reporting this option over multiple waves.

Across all industries, there has been a steady increase in trading status, from 71% currently trading in January 2021, to 88% in late June 2021. Both the other service activities industry, and human health and social work activities industry are reporting the highest currently trading percentages since October 2020, at 100%.

Figure 4: Two of the industries most affected by coronavirus restrictions have seen large growth in the percentage currently trading, whilst the transportation and storage industry has fallen

Current trading status, currently trading, accommodation and food service activities, arts, entertainment and recreation, real estate and transportation and storage, broken down by industry, weighted by count, UK, 14 June 2020 to 27 June 2021

Figure 4: Two of the industries most affected by coronavirus restrictions have seen large growth in the percentage currently trading, whilst the transportation and storage industry has fallen



Source: Office for National Statistics – Business Insights and Conditions Survey

Notes:

1. Final weighted results, Wave 7 to Wave 33 of the Office for National Statistics' (ONS') Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS).
2. Data are plotted in the middle of the two-week period of each wave.
3. Trading status: for presentational purposes, currently trading categories have been combined.

The two industries most affected by coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions in 2020 and early 2021 were accommodation and food service activities, and arts, entertainment and recreation. However, both industries have seen the largest movements in trading status, increasing from 37% to 91%, and 49% to 93%, from January to June 2021 respectively.

The transportation and storage industry had the lowest percentage of businesses currently trading in late June 2021, at 76%, which has fallen from 94% in early October 2020. The low percentage in late June 2021 is driven by freight transport by road, which reported 36% of businesses are temporarily closed, paused trading, or permanently ceased trading. This is possibly linked to recent reports of the industry experiencing a [shortage of lorry drivers](#), where training and testing of new drivers has not been possible during the pandemic.

It should be noted that the definition of currently trading used within the Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) refers to the business currently trading in any capacity. It does not cover whether a business has completely reopened to trading at full capacity, experienced before the coronavirus pandemic or if the business is operating at a reduced level of capacity but is still trading.

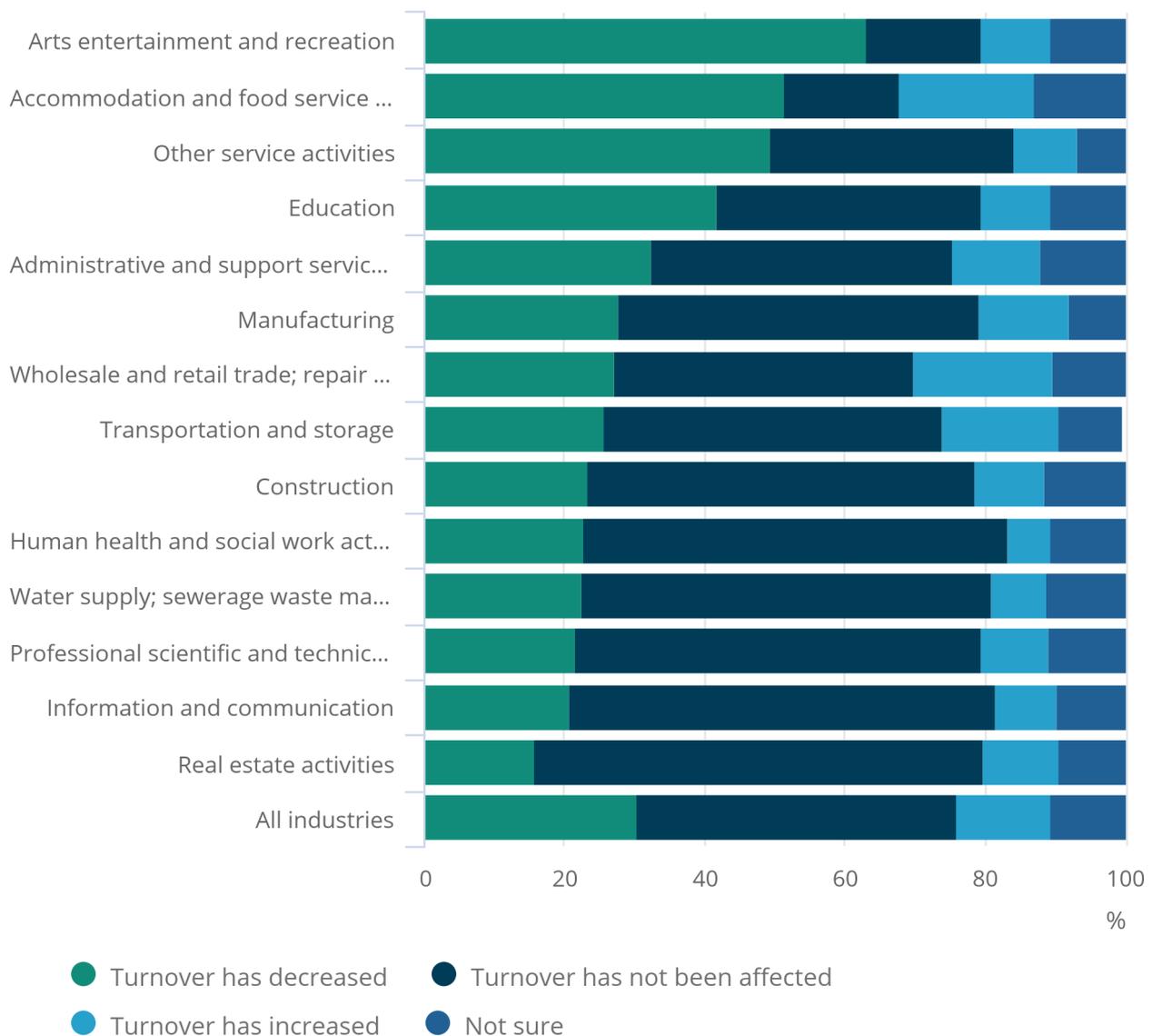
Financial performance

Figure 5: The arts, entertainment and recreation industry has more than 60% of businesses experiencing a decrease in turnover compared with normal expectations for this time of year

Impact on turnover, businesses currently trading, broken down by industry, weighted by turnover, UK, 31 May to 13 June 2021

Figure 5: The arts, entertainment and recreation industry has more than 60% of businesses experiencing a decrease in turnover compared with normal expectations for this time of year

Impact on turnover, businesses currently trading, broken down by industry, weighted by turnover, UK, 31 May to 13 June 2021



Notes:

1. Final weighted results, Wave 33 of the Office for National Statistics' (ONS') Business Insights and Conditions Survey.
2. For presentational purposes, decreased turnover categories and increased turnover categories have been combined.
3. Industries may not sum to 100% because of rounding and percentages less than 1% being removed for disclosure purposes.
4. Mining and quarrying has been removed for disclosure purposes, but its total is included in "All industries".
5. Businesses were asked for their experiences for the reference period 31 May to 13 June 2021. However, for questions regarding the last two weeks, businesses may respond from the point of completion of the questionnaire (14 to 27 June 2021).

The percentage of currently trading businesses that reported turnover was lower than normal has continued to fall, to 30% in early June 2021.

In early June 2021 the arts, entertainment and recreation industry, the other service activities industry, and the accommodation and food service activities industry had the highest percentage of businesses experiencing a decrease in turnover, compared with normal expectations for this time of year.

For the accommodation and food services industry, the proportion of businesses experiencing a decrease in turnover compared with normal expectations has declined from 81% in January 2021 to 52% in early June 2021.

Similarly, in the arts, entertainment and recreation industry, the proportion of businesses experiencing a decrease in turnover compared with normal expectations has fallen from 73% in February 2021 to 63% in early June 2021.

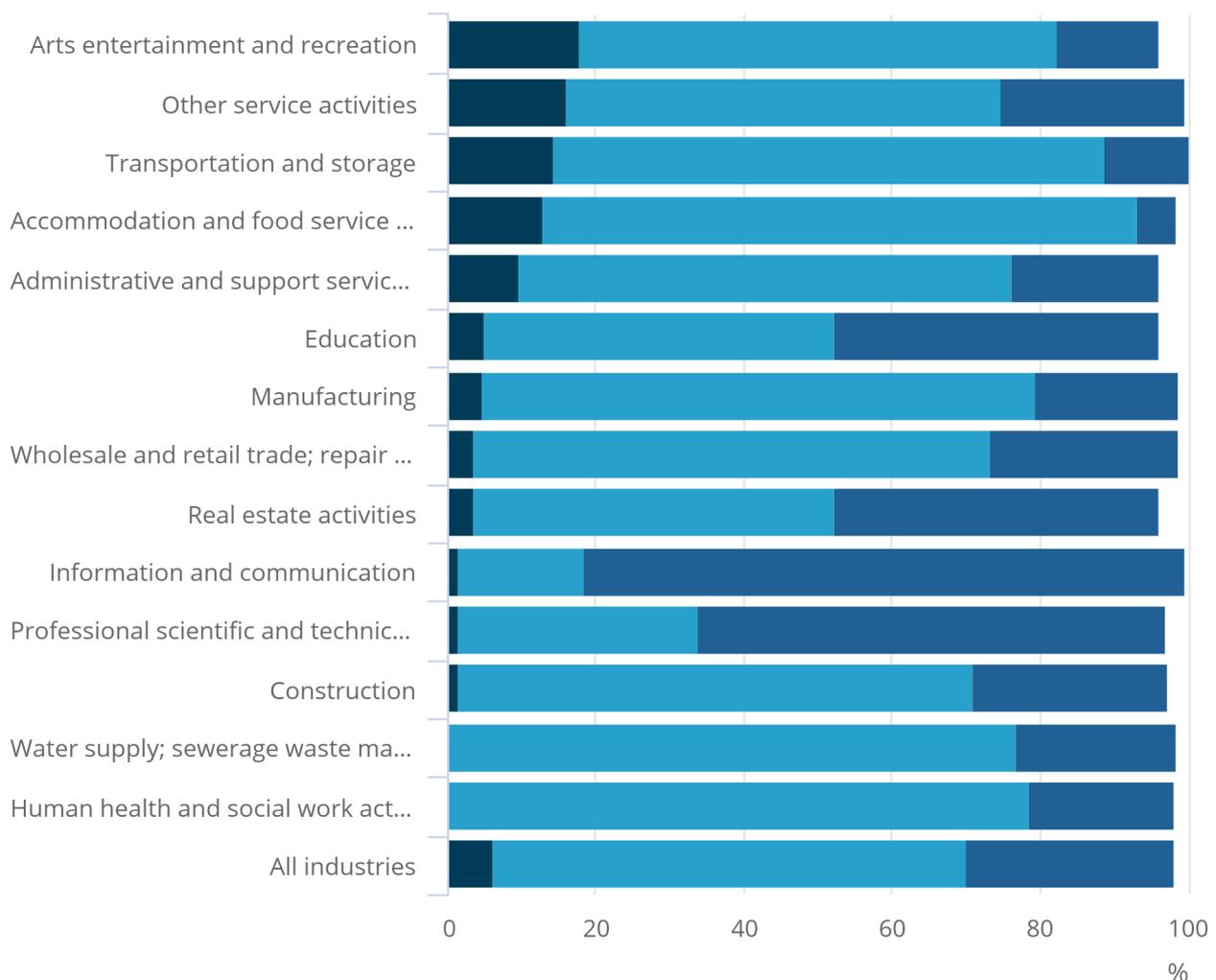
Workforce

Figure 6: The arts, entertainment and recreation industry reported the highest proportion of its workforce on furlough leave, at 18%

Working arrangements, businesses not permanently stopped trading, broken down by industry, weighted by employment, UK, 31 May to 13 June 2021

Figure 6: The arts, entertainment and recreation industry reported the highest proportion of its workforce on furlough leave, at 18%

Working arrangements, businesses not permanently stopped trading, broken down by industry, weighted by employment, UK, 31 May to 13 June 2021



- On partial or 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

Source: Office for National Statistics – Business Insights and Conditions Survey

Notes:

1. Final weighted results, Wave 33 of the Office for National Statistics' (ONS') Business Insights and Conditions Survey.
2. Industries will not sum to 100% because of rounding, percentages less than 1% being removed for disclosure purposes, and the options "Made permanently redundant" or "Other" being removed.
3. Mining and quarrying has been removed for disclosure purposes, but its total is included in "All industries".
4. Businesses were asked for their experiences for the reference period 31 May to 13 June 2021. However, for questions regarding the last two weeks, businesses may respond from the point of completion of the questionnaire (14 to 27 June 2021).

Although the percentage of the workforce reported to be on partial or full furlough leave fell and is again the lowest reported percentage since the furlough scheme began, some industries continue to have a notably higher percentage of their workforce on furlough leave. The arts, entertainment and recreation industry reported the highest proportion of their workforce to be on furlough leave, at 18%, followed by the other service activities industry, at 16%.

In trend terms, half of industries not permanently ceased trading have reported their lowest proportion of workforce on partial or full furlough leave since the pandemic began. The largest movement in the data is seen in the arts, entertainment and recreation industry (fallen by 3 percentage points) in early June 2021 compared with late May 2021.

Of the proportion of businesses currently trading and returning from furlough leave, roughly 30% of their workforce are mainly working at the same place they were working before the pandemic.

5 . Exporting and importing challenges

Of currently trading businesses, 11% had exported and 12% imported in the last 12 months and reported how their exporting or importing compared with normal expectations for this time of year. These businesses were asked about the challenges they had experienced with exporting or importing in the last two weeks.

Figure 7: Exporting and importing figures from the Business Insights and Conditions Survey

Notes:

1. Final weighted results, Wave 12 to Wave 33 of the Office for National Statistics' (ONS') Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS).
2. Data are plotted in the middle of the two-week period of each wave.
3. Exporting or importing compared to normal expectations: Percentage of businesses currently trading and had reported they had exported/imported in the last year. For presentational purposes, "exporting /importing, but less than normal" and "not been able to export/import in the last two weeks" have been combined.
4. Experiencing a challenge: Percentage of businesses currently trading that are experiencing a challenge in exporting/importing, who had exported/imported in the last 12 months and who reported how exports /imports compared with normal expectations.
5. Exporting/importing challenges: Percentage of businesses currently trading, who had exported/imported in the last 12 months and who reported how exports/imports compared with normal expectations. Rows will not sum to 100% because businesses could select multiple options. Some options have been edited to fit onto the graph.
6. Caution should be taken when interpreting these results based on the specific routing of this question meaning that only a small number of businesses responded.
7. Businesses were asked for their experiences for the reference period for each wave, however, for questions regarding the last two weeks, businesses may respond from the point of completion of the questionnaire.
8. Data for the period 2 November to 13 December 2020 have been modelled due to changes to the routing of the question at this time.

Download this chart

[.xlsx](#)

The proportion of currently trading businesses experiencing a challenge in importing and exporting increased from December 2020 until January 2021, to be over 50%, and has remained broadly stable since then. The data suggest businesses are more likely to be experiencing an importing challenge than an exporting challenge.

The proportion of currently trading businesses' experiencing the top three challenges in importing and exporting has remained broadly stable between Wave 32 and Wave 33.

Further industry and size band breakdowns of trade questions are available in the accompanying [dataset](#).

6 . Net zero

Businesses not permanently stopped trading were asked if their business had taken any actions, and if they intend to take actions in the next 12 months, to reduce carbon emissions.

Table 1 shows the percentage of not permanently stopped trading businesses, that have taken and intend to take actions to reduce carbon emissions.

Table 1: Switching to LED bulbs is the most reported action that businesses not permanently stopped trading have both taken, and intend to take, to reduce carbon emissions
 Actions and intentions to reduce carbon emissions, businesses not permanently stopped trading, weighted by count, UK, 14 to 27 June 2021

	Which of the following actions, if any, have you taken to reduce your business' emissions?	Which of the following actions, if any, does your business intend to take to in the next 12 months to reduce your business' emissions?
Switching to LED bulbs	28.8%	11.0%
Adjusting heating and cooling systems	15.9%	9.2%
Installing a smart meter	11.6%	5.6%
Insulating your buildings	5.7%	2.7%
Electrifying your vehicle fleet	3.6%	5.0%
Introducing a cycle to work scheme	3.1%	2.0%
Installing charging points	2.6%	2.6%
Installing your own renewable electricity or heating	1.9%	1.3%
Not sure	15.7%	34.3%
No actions have been taken to reduce emissions	46.4%	41.6%

Source: Office for National Statistics - Business Insights and Conditions Survey

Notes

1. Final weighted results Wave 33 of the Office for National Statistics' (ONS') Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS); businesses not stopped trading.
2. Table will not sum to 100% because businesses could select multiple options.

Actions taken, and intended to be taken, to reduce carbon emissions, among businesses not permanently stopped trading were as follows:

- 29% reported they had switched to using LED bulbs and 11% intend to switch to using LED bulbs
- 16% reported they had adjusted heating and cooling systems and 9% intend to adjust heating and cooling systems
- 12% reported they had installed a smart meter and 6% intend to install a smart meter

A large proportion of not permanently stopped trading businesses responded that they had not or did not intend to take any actions in the next 12 months to reduce carbon emissions, at 46% and 42% respectively.

7 . International trade in services

Businesses not permanently stopped trading were asked if their international trade in services had changed in the last 12 months, and how their trade in international services in the last two weeks compares with normal expectations for this time of year.

Of businesses not permanently ceased trading, 4% reported their trade in international services had changed in the last 12 months. Of these businesses, half reported that in the last two weeks they had either not been able to trade or had been trading but less than normal.

Table 2: Half of businesses that trade internationally have been trading less than normally expected or not been trading in the last 2 weeks

International trade in services, businesses not permanently stopped trading and international trade in services has changed in the last 12 months, weighted by count, UK, 31 May to 13 June 2021

	Trading more than normal	Trading as normal	Trading, but less than normal	Not been able to trade in services in the last two weeks	Not sure
All industries	8.7%	22.0%	31.3%	19%	19.1%

Source: Office for National Statistics - Business Insights and Conditions Survey

Notes

1. Final weighted results, Wave 33 of the Office for National Statistics' (ONS') Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS); businesses not stopped trading.
2. Caution should be taken when interpreting these results based on the specific routing of this question meaning that only a small number of businesses responded.
3. Businesses were asked for their experiences for the reference period 31 May to 13 June 2021. However, for questions regarding the last two weeks, businesses may respond from the point of completion of the questionnaire (14 to 27 June 2021).

Further industry and size band breakdowns of trade questions are available in the accompanying [dataset](#).

8 . Business Insights and Conditions Survey data

[Business insights and impact on the UK economy](#)

Dataset | Released 1 July 2021

Weighted estimates from the voluntary fortnightly business survey (BICS) about financial performance, workforce, prices, trade, and business resilience.

This dataset includes additional information collected as part of the survey not presented in this publication.

These data are not [official statistics](#) but have been developed to deliver timely indicators to help understand the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and other events in a timely way.

Access to microdata

The BICS microdata for Waves 1 to 33 can now be accessed via the [Secure Research Service \(SRS\)](#). The BICS microdata for each wave are released on a rolling basis in the week following the publication of each wave.

The microdata are confidentialised and do not disclose any specific business.

Only researchers accredited under the [Digital Economy Act](#) are able to access data in the SRS. You can apply for accreditation through the [Research Accreditation Service \(RAS\)](#). You need to have relevant academic or work experience and must successfully attend and complete the assessed Safe Researcher Training.

To conduct analysis with microdata from the SRS, a project application must be submitted to the [Research Accreditation Panel \(RAP\)](#). To access the SRS, you must also work for an organisation with an Assured Organisational Connectivity agreement in place.

9 . Glossary

Coronavirus

Coronaviruses are a family of viruses that cause disease in people and animals. They can cause the common cold or more severe diseases, such as COVID-19.

COVID-19

COVID-19 is the name used to refer to the disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is a type of coronavirus. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) takes COVID-19 to mean presence of SARS-CoV-2 with or without symptoms.

EU exit transition period

The EU exit transition is the period agreed in the UK-EU Withdrawal Agreement in which the UK is no longer a member of the EU but continues to be subject to EU rules and remains a member of the single market and customs union. When the UK left the EU on 31 January 2020, it entered the transition period. The transition period came to an end on 31 December 2020.

Furlough

Furlough is a temporary absence from work allowing workers to keep their job while the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic continues.

Reporting unit

The business unit to which questionnaires are sent is called the reporting unit. The response from the reporting unit can cover the enterprise as a whole or parts of the enterprise identified by lists of local units.

10 . Measuring the data

More quality and methodology information on strengths, limitations, appropriate uses, and how the data were created is available in the [BICS QMI](#), published 20 May 2021.

The Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) is voluntary and the results are experimental.

Table 3: Sample and response rates for Waves 31, 32 and 33 of the Business Insights and Conditions Survey, UK, June 2021

Wave	3 June 2021 Publication Wave 31	17 June 2021 Publication Wave 32	1 July 2021 Publication Wave 33
Sample	38,752	38,672	38,621
Response	9,436	9,009	9,645
Rate	24.4%	23.3%	25.0%

Source: Office for National Statistics – Business Insights and Conditions Survey

Notes

1. Response rates for all waves can be found in the accompanying dataset.

The results are based on responses from the voluntary fortnightly BICS, which captures businesses' views on financial performance, workforce, prices, trade, and business resilience. The Wave 33 survey was live for the period 14 to 27 June 2021. For questions regarding the last two weeks, businesses were asked for their experience for the reference period 31 May to 13 June 2021. The [survey questions](#) are available.

Coverage

The Monthly Business Survey (MBS) covers the UK for production and only Great Britain for services. The RSI and Construction are Great Britain-focused. Therefore, the BICS will be UK for production-based industries but Great Britain for the other elements of the economy covered.

The industries covered are:

- non-financial services (includes professional, scientific, communication, administrative, transport, accommodation and food, private health and education, and entertainment services)
- distribution (includes retail, wholesale and motor trades)
- production (includes manufacturing, oil and gas extraction, energy generation and supply, and water and waste management)
- construction (includes civil engineering, housebuilding, property development and specialised construction trades such as plumbers, electricians and plasterers)

The following industries are excluded from the survey:

- agriculture
- public administration and defence
- public provision of education and health
- finance and insurance

For more information on the methodology of producing the Business Insights and Conditions Survey (such as [weighting](#)), please see the [BICS QMI](#).

11 . Related links

[Business and individual attitudes towards the future of homeworking, UK: April to May 2021](#)

Article | Released 14 June 2021

Analysis of the effects of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on office working and of business and individual attitudes to future working practices.

[Understanding the business impacts of local and national restrictions, UK: May 2021](#)

Article | Released 25 May 2021

Experimental estimates from the voluntary fortnightly business survey (BICS), for single site businesses only, on topics such as trading status, financial performance, workforce and business resilience. Geographical breakdowns include country, regional and local authority levels.

[Business Impact of Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Survey: preliminary weighted results](#)

Article | Released 14 September 2020

Early estimates of weighted responses from the voluntary fortnightly business survey, focusing on businesses' responses on how turnover, workforce and trading status have been affected in two-week reference periods, from Wave 7 (1 to 14 June 2020) to Wave 12 (10 to 23 August 2020).

[Business Insights and Conditions Survey, analysis over time, UK: 24 August 2020 to 4 April 2021](#)

Article | Released 6 May 2021

These indicators and analysis are based on selected responses over time from the new voluntary fortnightly business survey (BICS), which captures businesses' responses on how their turnover, trade and business resilience have been affected in the two-week reference period. The data relate to the period 24 August 2020 to 4 April 2021 (Wave 13 to Wave 27).

[Business Impact of Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Survey, expectation responses over time, UK: 1 June to 23 August 2020 \(Waves 6 to 11\)](#)

Article | Released 8 September 2020

Turnover expectations of the same businesses over time, using the final results of Waves 6 to 11 of the voluntary fortnightly BICS, covering the period 1 June to 23 August.

[Coronavirus and the experiences of UK businesses, textual analysis: March 2020 to July 2020](#)

Article | Released 6 August 2020

Analysis of qualitative responses from selected questions from the fortnightly Business Impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19) Survey (BICS), which provides further insights on individual business experiences over the course of the pandemic so far.

[Comparison of furloughed jobs data, UK: March 2020 to January 2021](#)

Article | Released 5 March 2021

An overview of the similarities and differences between the fortnightly Business Insights and Conditions Survey furlough estimates and HMRC's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme statistics, over the period 23 March 2020 to 7 February 2021.