

Statistical bulletin

Business insights and impact on the UK economy: 23 July 2026

The impact of challenges facing the economy and other events on UK businesses, including financial performance, workforce, trade and business resilience.

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Next release:

6 August 2026

Notice

23 July 2026

This release has a headline only format and is accompanied by our full dataset.

Table of contents

1. [Main points](#)
2. [Headline figures](#)
3. [Business Insights and Conditions Survey data](#)
4. [Data sources and quality](#)
5. [Glossary](#)
6. [Related links](#)
7. [Cite this statistical bulletin](#)

1 . Main points

- More than one in six (17%) trading businesses reported that their turnover had increased in June 2026 when compared with the previous month, broadly stable with May 2026; 28% of businesses with 10 or more employees reported that their turnover had increased, up 6 percentage points over the same period.
- Economic uncertainty (32%) remained the most reported challenge affecting turnover for trading businesses in July 2026, broadly stable with June; for businesses with 10 or more employees, cost of labour (36%) was the most reported challenge, also broadly stable with June.
- Almost one in seven (13%) trading businesses reported that they expect their turnover to increase in August 2026, broadly stable with expectations for July 2026; 18% reported that they expect their turnover to decrease, up 4 percentage points from expectations for July 2026 but broadly stable with August 2025.
- Three in ten (30%) trading businesses reported an increase in prices of goods and services bought in June 2026, down 7 percentage points from May 2026 but up 5 percentage points from June 2025; the movements follow a similar trend to previous years, where the proportion falls in the summer months following a peak in March or April.
- Approximately one in eight (13%) trading businesses expect the prices of goods and services that they sell to increase in August 2026, down 5 percentage points from July 2026 but up 2 percentage points from August 2025; 24% of trading businesses reported that they were considering raising their prices because of energy prices, up 10 percentage points compared with August 2025.
- Almost three in five (59%) businesses expressed some degree of concern regarding energy prices in early July 2026, down 5 percentage points from late June; please note that most responses were received before the conflict in the Middle East resumed.

These are [official statistics in development](#), and we advise caution when using the data. The Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) questions and topics are regularly reviewed, and questions are often added, removed, or amended to reflect changing circumstances and analytical priorities.

2 . Headline figures

The data presented in this bulletin are the final results from Wave 160 of the Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS), which was live from 6 to 19 July 2026.

This wave of the survey asked businesses questions about:

- turnover, including expectations for next month and current challenges affecting turnover
- prices of goods and services bought and sold, including expectations for next month
- energy (gas and electricity), and fuel prices
- global supply chain disruption
- worker shortages and recruitment difficulties
- business concerns
- business performance, including expectations for next year

For full details of the survey questions used, see our [Business Insights and Conditions Survey questions: 6 to 19 July article](#).

Data reported within BICS bulletins and datasets are estimates that are subject to [uncertainty](#); for example, sampling variability and [non-sampling error](#). Further information on quality is available in our [BICS quality and methodology information \(QMI\)](#), and we regularly update [confidence intervals](#) associated with the survey questions.

Single-site weighted regional estimates up to Wave 154 are available in our [Business insights and impact on the UK subnational single-site economy: May 2026 article](#).

More about economy, business and jobs

- Explore the latest trends in employment, prices and trade in our [economic dashboard](#).
- View [all economic data](#).

The percentage of businesses that reported they were trading in early July 2026 was 93%, with 84% fully trading, and 10% partially trading (for example, trading with reduced hours or staff numbers). Meanwhile, 5% of businesses reported "temporarily paused trading", and 2% reported "permanently ceased trading" as their business's trading status.

3 . Business Insights and Conditions Survey data

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

Dataset | Released 23 July 2026

Weighted estimates from the voluntary fortnightly Business Insights and Conditions 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 are official statistics in development.

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

Dataset | Released 23 July 2026

Confidence intervals for weighted estimates from the voluntary fortnightly Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) about financial performance, workforce, prices, trade, and business resilience. These are official statistics in development.

Access to microdata

You can access the microdata for Waves 1 to 159 of the Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) through 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 made confidential and do not disclose information on any specific business.

Only researchers accredited under the [Digital Economy Act, as explained on the UK Statistics Authority website](#) are able to access data in the SRS. You can apply for researcher accreditation using the People and Projects Service (PPS). For more information, please see our [guidance on how to become an accredited researcher](#).

To conduct analysis with microdata from the SRS, a project application must be submitted to the [Research Accreditation Panel \(RAP\), as explained on the UK Statistics Authority website](#). Project accreditation applications should be submitted using the Project Accreditation Service for SRS (PASS). For more information, please see our [guidance on applying for an accredited research project](#).

To use the SRS, you must access it through the appropriate safe setting. For more information on the full range of safe setting options, please see our [guidance on accessing data securely](#).

Making our published spreadsheets accessible

Following the [Government Statistical Service \(GSS\) guidance on releasing statistics in spreadsheets](#), we will be amending our published tables over the next couple of publications to improve the usability, accessibility and machine readability of our published statistics. If you have any questions or comments, please email us at bics@ons.gov.uk

4 . Data sources and quality

More quality and methodology information (QMI) on strengths, limitations, appropriate uses, and how the data were created is available in our [Business Insights and Conditions Survey \(BICS\) QMI](#), which was updated on 10 October 2024.

The BICS is voluntary, and the results are official statistics in development. More information is available in our [Guide to official statistics in development](#).

Table 1: Sample and response rates for Wave 158, 159 and 160 of the Business Insights and Conditions Survey

Wave	18 June 2026 Publication Wave 158	2 July 2026 Publication Wave 159	23 July 2026 Publication Wave 160
Sample	38,656	38,637	38,651
Response	10,054	10,311	10,073
Rate	26.0%	26.7%	26.1%

Source: Business Insights and Conditions Survey from the Office for National Statistics

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 160 survey was live for the period 6 to 19 July 2026. For full details of the survey questions used, see our [Business Insights and Conditions Survey questions: 6 to 19 July 2026 article](#).

Coverage

The BICS sampling frame is based on the same industries as our Monthly Business Survey (MBS). The MBS covers the UK for production industries only, and Great Britain for construction, retail and services industries. The MBS is an important input to the output measure of gross domestic product (GDP), which includes monthly GDP.

For detailed information on the industries covered by the MBS and BICS, see our [GDP\(o\) data sources catalogue](#). The following are some industries that are excluded from MBS and BICS:

- agriculture
- oil and gas extraction
- energy generation and supply
- public administration and defence
- public provision of education and health
- finance and insurance

For more information on the methodology of producing the BICS, such as [weighting](#), please see our [BICS QMI](#).

Strengths and limitations

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

5 . Glossary

Reporting unit

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

Private sector businesses

The Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) is a survey of private sector businesses, meaning that the public sector is not sampled. Some businesses are also excluded; please see the Coverage section of this bulletin's [Section 4: Data sources and quality](#) for more information.

Trading businesses

Trading businesses refers to businesses that responded that their trading status was “currently fully trading” or “currently partially trading” only.

If trading businesses is not specifically specified, the statistics presented refer to businesses that have “Not permanently stopped trading”. This includes trading businesses and those that said their trading status was “paused trading and intends to restart in the next two weeks” or “paused trading and does not intend to restart within the next two weeks”.

6 . Related links

[Economic activity and social change real-time indicators, UK, dashboard](#)

Dashboard | Updated frequently

An overview of the UK economy and society, based on rapid response surveys, novel data sources, and innovative methods.

[Economic activity and social change in the UK, real-time indicators](#)

Bulletin | Released monthly

Data on the UK economy and society. These faster indicators are created using rapid response surveys, novel data sources and innovative methods. These are official statistics in development.

[Business insights and impact on the UK subnational single-site economy: May 2026](#)

Article | Released 15 May 2026

Estimates from the voluntary fortnightly business survey (BICS) on prices, financial performance, workforce and business resilience.

7 . Cite this statistical bulletin

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