



The
Growth
Company

GC SITUATION REPORT AND QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY RESULTS

JULY 2024

WITH QUARTERLY DATA FOR 2ND MAY 2024 TO 2ND AUGUST 2024

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1. ECONOMY - ECONOMIC CONTEXT AND SURVEY HEADLINES - CHECKS

The GC Situation Report for April to July contains leading economic data from both national (mostly ONS) and local business survey sources. This month's survey report findings are based on 749 surveys completed between 2nd May and 2nd August 2024. Comparison can be made with last quarter 679 responses completed between 2nd April and 2nd July 2024. The survey response profile is broadly representative of the GM business base, but for an over-representation of SMEs, Manufacturing, DCT firms, and under-representation of Retail and Tourism & Hospitality businesses – largely reflecting the Business Growth Hub client profile.

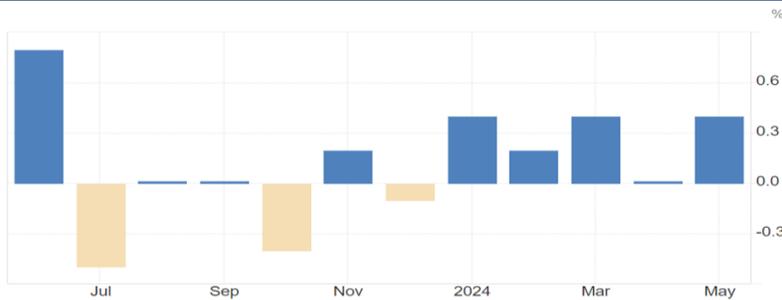
Economic context

- **Global economic outlook:** Global projections remain unchanged at 3.2% this year and slightly higher at 3.3% for next year.
- **Commodity prices:** CPI Inflation is expected to increase to around 2.75% in the second half of this year, as declines in energy prices last year fall out of the annual comparison data.
- **Inflation:** Core inflation has fallen across many countries, while CPI has also declined to 5.7% in June.
- **Monetary policy:** The verdict of MPC meeting carried out on 31st July was that the majority of the MPC of BoE voted to reduce bank rate by 0.25 percentage points, to 5% while four members preferred to maintain bank rate at 5%.
- **UK economy:** GDP has picked up quite sharply so far this year, but underlying momentum appears weaker as UK economy grew by 0.4% in May.
- **Global digital trade agreement:** UK joins the first global digital trade agreement negotiated under WTO, UK and other 90 countries have negotiated a set of new rules designed to make global trade faster, fairer, cheaper and more secure.
- **Financial conditions:** Private sector regular average weekly earnings growth has fallen to 5.6%, in the three months to May.

Organisation Growth Survey - business headlines (previous survey results in brackets, and more detail given in main report)

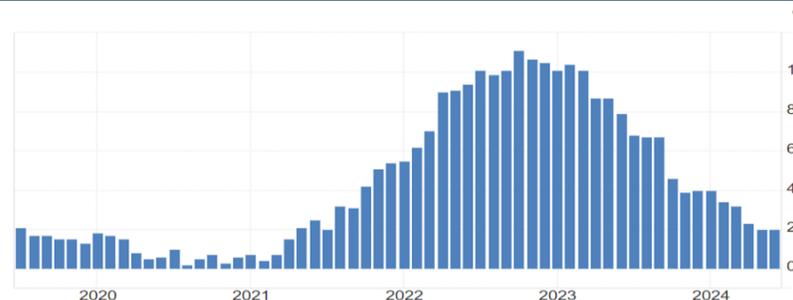
- **Business Confidence:** The GC Business Confidence Index remains stable at 7.3 out of 10, with higher confidence in Automotive & Engineering, Construction, Business Finance, and Green-Tech; lowest in Consumer goods and Life Sciences.
- **Sales and Profits:** 19% (vs 17%) of firms reported increased sales in the latest quarter, and 64% (vs 64%) expect profits to rise, with only 2% expecting a decrease.
- **Investment:** 42% (vs 38%) of firms plan to increase capital expenditure, particularly in Digital Technology, Manufacturing, and Green-Tech.
- **Cashflow and Reserves:** 19% (vs 18%) of firms face cashflow issues, notably micro-size firms, while 59% (vs 60%) have cash reserves lasting over 6 months, cash reserves are highest in DCTs and Manufacturing.
- **Workforce Skills:** 47% (vs 46%) of firms find workforce skills partially adequate in their business, with the main gaps reported as technical skills 29% (vs 31%), sales skills 19% (vs 17%), and leading and motivating staff 17% (vs 17%).
- **Innovation and Digital Transformation:** 39% (vs 37%) invested in new/improved services, with 25% (vs 27%) planning future R&D investments, particularly in Life Sciences, DCT, and Engineering.

UK GDP expands by 0.4% in May 2024



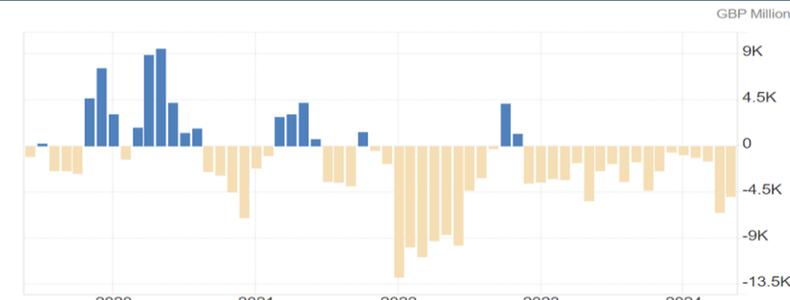
- UK GDP expanded by 0.4% month over month in May 2024, beating market expectations of 0.2% increase.
- Both retailers and wholesalers had a good month, following a weak April.
- Construction grew at its fastest rate in almost 12 months by 1.9%, the services sector grew by 0.3% and was the largest contributor to overall growth. Industrial production grew by 0.2%, mostly driven by an increase in manufacturing of 0.4%.

UK CPI - Inflation remains at 2% in June 2024



- The annual inflation rate in the UK remained steady at 2% in June 2024, despite forecasts pointing to a drop to 1.9%. The cost of restaurants and hotels (6.2% vs 5.8%) were the largest upward contribution.
- Prices for transport accelerated at a faster rate (0.9% vs 0.5%), The average price of petrol fell by 3.0 pence per litre between May and June 2024 to 145.8 pence per litre.
- Clothing and footwear (1.6% vs 3%) were the largest downward contributor. Prices for housing and utility continued to decline, whilst inflation remained steady for services.

UK Balance of Trade falls to £4.89bn in May 2024



- The UK's trade deficit decreased to £4.89 billion in May 2024, down from April's revised £6.42 billion.
- Imports shrank by 2.8% to £74.7 billion, while exports fell by 0.9% to £70.1 billion.
- Goods imports declined by 4.6%, mainly due to a £1 billion decrease in machinery and transport equipment imports from Europe. Services imports went up by 0.4%.
- Goods exports fell by 2.5% mainly due to a £0.6 billion drop in machinery and transport equipment to Europe. There was also a £0.5 billion drop in fuel exports in non-EU countries (notably China).

1. ECONOMY - SECTOR INSIGHT AND PURCHASING MANAGER INDICES

Retail sales in the UK fell by 1.2% month-over-month in June 2024, following a 2.9% rise in May 2024. Sales volumes fell across most sectors, with department stores and clothing retailers returning to their quarter 1 levels, overall non-food store sales dropped by 2.1%. Sales at food stores declined by 1.1% mostly due to supermarkets and online sales fell by 2.7%. Looking at the quarter sales volumes dropped by 0.1% in Quarter 2 (April to June) 2024, in comparison to Quarter 1 2024 and down by 0.2% in comparison to Quarter 2 2023. Retailers noted that election uncertainty, poor weather and low footfall affected sales.

The GfK Consumer Confidence indicator in the UK increased to -13 in July 2024 from -14 in June, improving for the fourth consecutive month to the highest level since September 2021, with better attitudes regarding major purchases hinting at retail optimism. Feelings around the UK's economy remained unchanged as recent sporting, political events had little effect on national optimism.

The S&P Global/CIPS UK Composite PMI increased to 52.7 in July 2024, from 52.3 in June, exceeding forecasts of 52.6, and indicating an expansion (above 50). This is the ninth consecutive month of expansion, with the average index of 53.0 so far in 2024. Hiring rates increased at the fastest pace in 13 months, new businesses increased the most in 15 months and business confidence rebounded, whilst average prices rose at the slowest rate in over three years.

Company insolvencies: In June 2024, there were 2,361 registered company insolvencies in England and Wales, which is 16% higher than in May 2024 and was the highest number of company insolvencies since May 2023 and the third highest number in the monthly time series since 2000. Despite the decrease, the number of insolvencies remained significantly higher compared to the COVID-19 pandemic period and the years between 2014 and 2019. Insolvencies in June included 302 compulsory liquidations, 1,866 creditors' voluntary liquidations (CVLs), 170 administrations, and 23 company voluntary arrangements (CVAs).

All types of company insolvency were higher than in both June 2023 and May 2024. Between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024, 55.8 per 10,000 companies (1 in 179) entered insolvency, up from 55.1 per 10,000 companies in the previous 12-month period. These rolling rates help highlight longer-term trends by reducing the volatility inherent in single-month estimates. Whilst the insolvency rate has risen since the lows of 2020 and 2021, it is still much lower than the peak of 113.1 per 10,000 companies seen during the 2008-09 recession. This is attributed to the significant increase in the number of companies on the effective business register, which has more than doubled since that period.

The S&P Global/CIPS Manufacturing PMI



- **The S&P Global/CIPS UK Manufacturing PMI** increased to 51.8 in July 2024, in comparison to 50.9 in June, indicating an expansion.
- Factory output increased the most since February 2022, amid stronger order book volumes and aims to reduce outstanding workload. Job numbers also became stable after 21 months of consecutive decline.
- Manufacturing firms saw the strongest rise in costs in one and a half years, due to global freight challenges linked with the Red Sea crisis. Despite this, business confidence improved among expectations of better demand conditions, political stability and potential business investment interest rate cuts.

The S&P Global/CIPS Service PMI



- **The S&P Global/CIPS UK Services PMI** moved higher to 52.4 in July 2024, from June's 52.1, indicating an expansion (above 50) and the ninth consecutive period of expansion.
- New business contracts rose at a significant pace from the previous month. Higher demand for services drove firms to increase their staffing numbers, despite a number of surveyed firms noting budget cuts.
- Input inflation eased to a 41-month low, due to softer costs of wages, tech equipment and paper, allowing firms to slow down their output charges.

The S&P Global/CIPS Construction PMI



- **The S&P Global UK Construction PMI** rose to 55.3 in July 2024, from 52.2 in June 2024, indicating an expansion (above 50). The reading is the 5th consecutive month of expansion and was the quickest since May 2022.
- All three categories of construction saw increased activity, with housing projects showing a return to growth. Civil engineering saw the fastest expansion in almost two and a half years, as well as commercial activity experiencing a strong increase.
- New orders and activity both rapidly increased during July, which lead to increased purchasing and staffing levels for a 3rd consecutive month.

2. BUSINESS - LOCAL SURVEY DETAILED RESULTS

Previous survey results shown in brackets

GROWTH, BUSINESS CONFIDENCE AND INVESTMENT

- **GC Business Confidence Index (GC-BCI).** A ranking of how confident businesses are on their growth prospects for the year ahead. This currently stands at 7.3 out of 10, same as previous quarter (7.3), indicating stable growth. GC-BCI is higher than average for all organisations within Engineering, Green-Tech, Business Finance, Education; lowest in Hospitality & Leisure, Retail & Life sciences.
- **Sales and profits.** 19% (vs 17% previously) of firms reported that they experienced an increase in sales in the latest quarter, and 64% expect profits to increase in the year ahead (vs 64%). Just 2% expect profits to decrease, the same as last month's report. The main sectors expecting an increase in future sales were Manufacturing, Engineering, Green-Tech and Business Finance – lowest in Hospitality, Health & Social Care.
- **Investment.** 42% (vs 38%) of firms expect to increase cap-ex spend in the year ahead. Green-Tech, Manufacturing, DCT, Retail, Green-Tech, Health & Social Care are most likely to say they will increase cap-ex spending overall in the year ahead. Sectors most likely to looking to increase invest in workforce development in the year ahead are Logistics, Health & Social Care, and Construction).

MAIN IMPACTS AND FINANCIAL RESILIENCE

- **Main impacts.** The main impacts of the current economic climate are rising costs 26% (vs 30% previously), increased sales 19% (vs 17% previously), cashflow issues 18% (vs 18%), and minor supply chain issues 11% (vs 12%).
- **Cash reserves.** 59% (vs 60%) of firms report that they have cash reserves to last over 6 months. 33% (vs 47% previously) of SMEs with 0-49 employees have cash reserves to last over 6 months. Reserves were highest in DCT, Manufacturing, Health & Social Care, and Prof. Services.
- **Cashflow.** 18% (vs 18%) of firms said they had cashflow problems. Micro-size firms (<5 employees) were more likely to report cashflow issues compared to SMEs (49-250+ FTEs). Cashflow risks were more likely to be reported by firms within DCT, Manufacturing, and Retail. Late payments were reported by just 5% of organisations (vs 6%).
- **Analysis of insolvency risk** for July 2024 shows a small rise in the total number of firms in GM and small fall in the UK count - with 10 or more employees) and 1-3 red flags. Data for GM: 714 (753 last month) firms in have 1 flag - some insolvency risk; 221 (166 last month) have 2 flags - medium risk; 34 (39 last month) have 3 flags - insolvency imminent. GM 1-3 flags total rose 0.3% month-on-month in July, and 0.2% nationally.

FUTURE BUSINESS CHALLENGES AND SUPPORT NEEDS

- **The main pressing challenges facing business in the immediate future** are access to new domestic sales opportunities 54% (vs 53%) - highest in DCTs, Manufacturing, Green-Tech, Prof. Services, and Retail.
- **The next most popular challenges** were developing new products / services 37% (vs 36%), developing business models 36% (vs 34%), managing business finances 31% (vs 31%), and addressing workforce development/skills was reported by 23% of firms (vs 23%).
- **International trade**, 12% (vs 12%) of firms undertaking overseas trade reported they were looking to expand in current markets. 16% (vs 16%) of firms are expanding into new markets. This trend is more notable among firms in Manufacturing, DCTs, and Retail & Wholesale.
- **The main areas of future support**, identified are business planning 39% (vs 37%), innovation 39% (vs 39%), marketing at 35% (vs 37%). WfD is a priority for 29% of firms (vs 30%), 28% (vs 29%) said financial advice, and 16% (vs 18%) wanted help in addressing environmental impact.

RECRUITMENT, EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS ISSUES

- **Recruitment.** 24% (vs 25% previously) of firms surveyed are currently recruiting new staff. CDT, Manufacturing, Health care, Business Finance were more likely to be recruiting, less likely in Retail and Education).
- **Workforce skill gaps.** 39% (vs 39%) of firms said that their existing workforce skills are at the right level to meet business plan objectives.
- 47% (vs 46% previously) of firms indicated that workforce skills are partially at the required level, while 2% reported that the skills are not at the right level. Notably, small SMEs, including those with 10-49 employees, were mostly likely to identify skills gaps.
- **The main technical skill gaps** reported relate to specialist technical skills 30% (vs 29%), knowledge of products / services 14% (vs 12%), advanced specialist IT skills 11% (vs 10%), solving complex problems 11% (vs 10%) and adapting to new materials 9% (vs 9%).
- **The main people and practical / personal skill gaps** reported are sales 19% (vs 17%), motivating staff 17% (vs 17%), and customer handling skills affecting 12% (vs 11%) of firms.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION

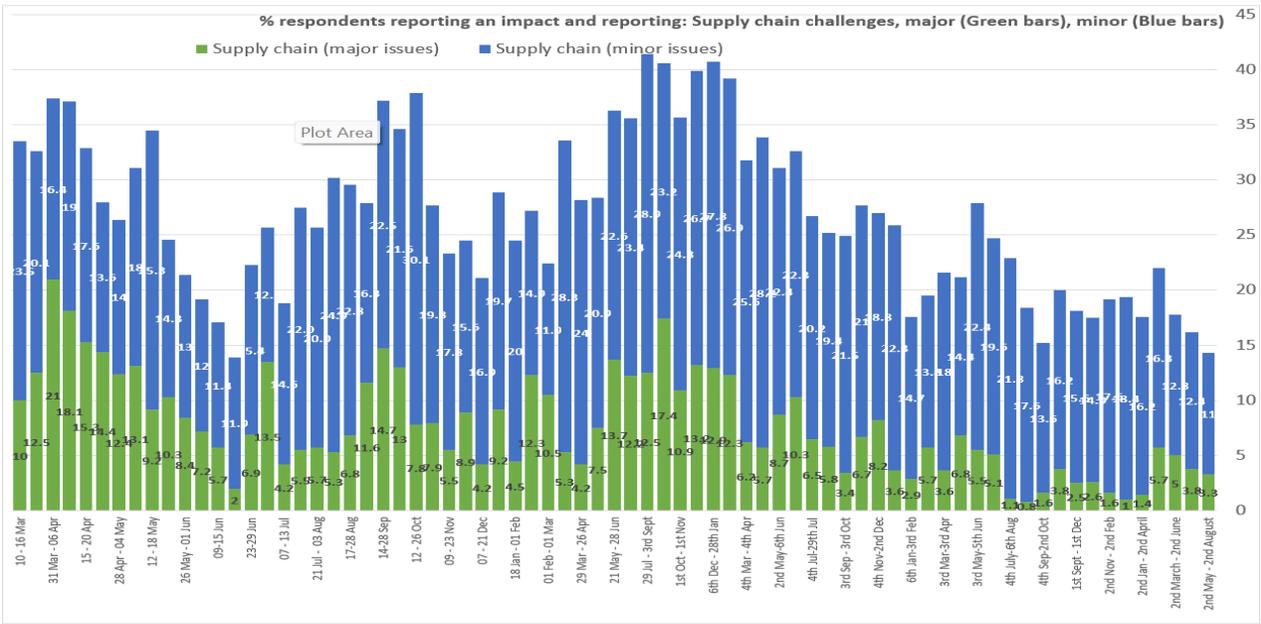
- **Innovation activity.** 39% (vs 37%) have invested in new / significantly improved services, 25% (vs 27%) in R&D, 23% (vs 23%) introduced new / significantly improved goods, 20% (vs 19%) new business practices, and 15% (vs 14%) new production methods.
- **Digital innovation.** 13% (vs 14%) invested in acquisition of digital products; and 6% (vs 6%) made investments in the acquisition of advanced machinery or equipment - specifically within innovation.
- **The main barriers to growing innovation.** 11% (vs 9%) said availability of finance, 10% (vs 8%) said that market is dominated by established businesses, 7% (vs 7%) said cost of finance, and 6% (vs 7%) said direct innovation costs are too high.
- **Digital Transformation.** 13% firms are looking to invest in D.T. BY sector, firms in DCT, Logistics, BFPS, and Engineering were most likely to say they are likely to increase investment in future.
- **Future innovation and R&D.** 35% (vs 34%) firms are looking to invest in R&D in future, in particular Life-sciences, DCT, Engineering, Green Tech.

SOCIAL VALUE AND GOOD EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES

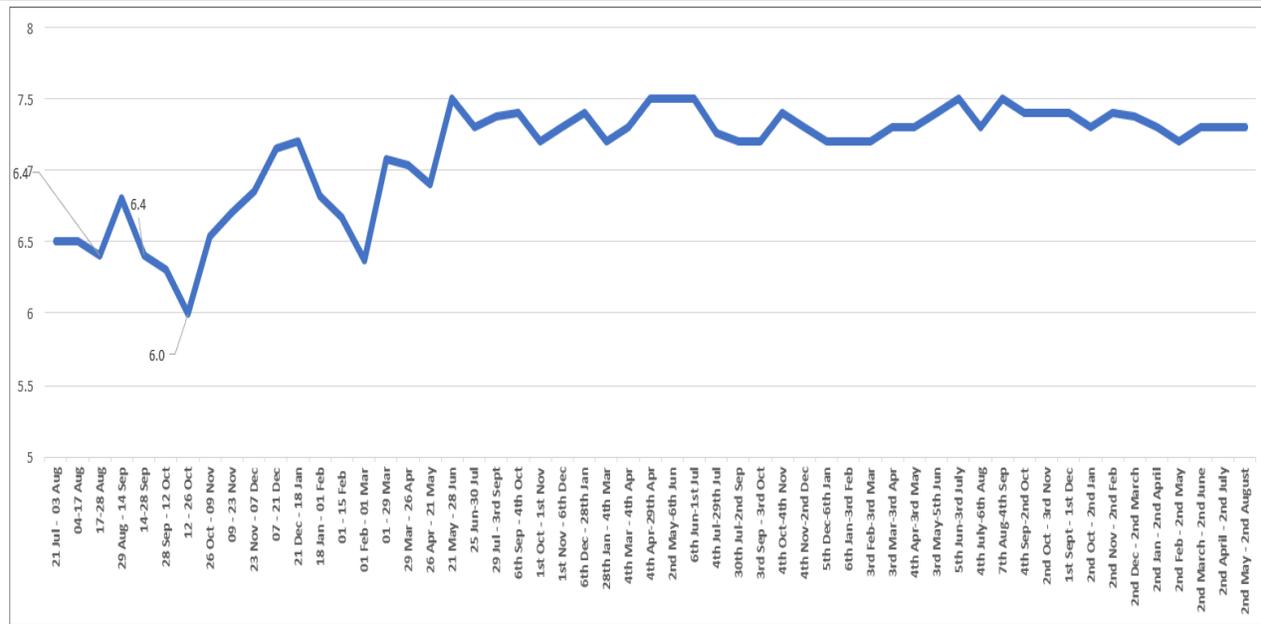
- Businesses are asked the extent to which they have, or would consider implementing, the following:
- **Guarantee at least 16 hours of work per week.** 56% (vs 59%) said this currently applies, 23% (vs 21%) likely to consider in future.
 - **Paying the Real Living Wage.** 55% of firms (vs 45%) paid the RLW, while 27% (vs 26%) indicated they are likely to implement it in the future.
 - **Offer flexible working options to employees.** 45% (vs 45%) said this currently applies, and 32% (vs 30%) said likely to include in future.
 - **Involve employees in the overall direction of the business.** 36% (vs 32%) said this currently applies. 34% (vs 34%) likely to do in future.
 - **Looking to increase the diversity of the workforce.** 41% of firms said this currently applies (vs 41%), while 35% indicated they are likely to include this in the future (up from 34% last month).
 - **Promoting healthy work practices.** 47% of firms (vs 47%) said this currently applies, while 31% (vs 29%) indicated likely to in future.

2. BUSINESS - SURVEY DATA TIME SERIES OF MAIN IMPACTS OF ECONOMY ON BUSINESS

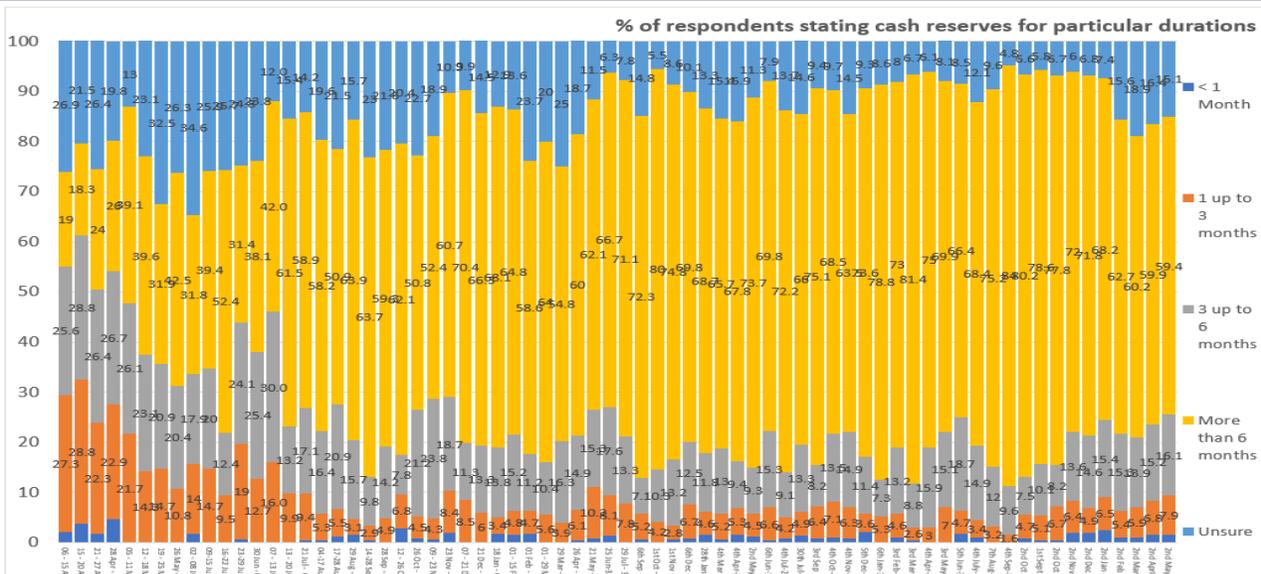
Percentage reporting minor supply chain issues (blue), major issues (green)



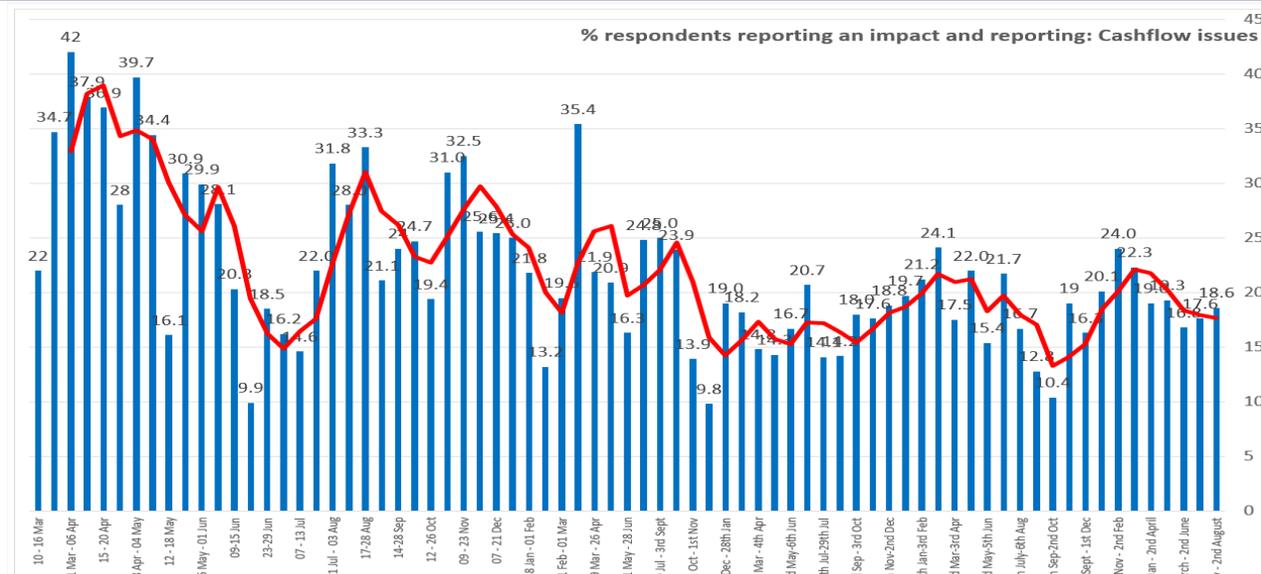
Aggregate confidence index – 1 low confidence, 10 high confidence



Percentage of respondents stating cash reserves can sustain certain periods of time

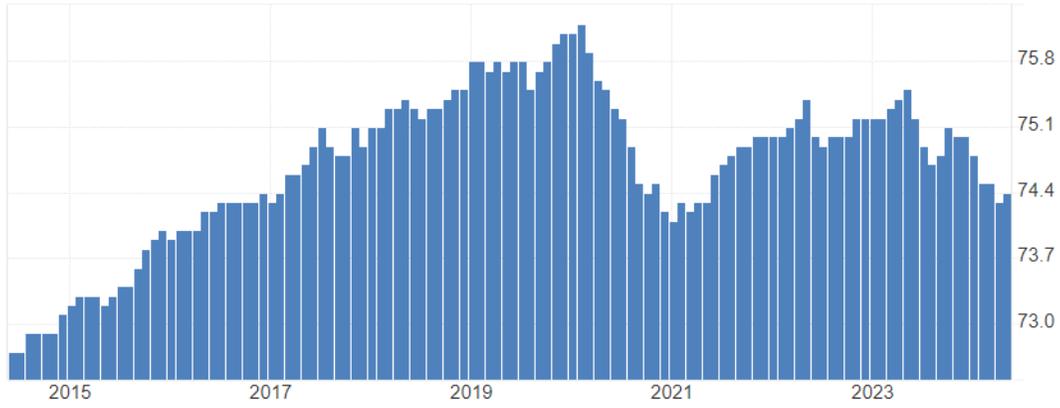


Percentage reporting cashflow problems



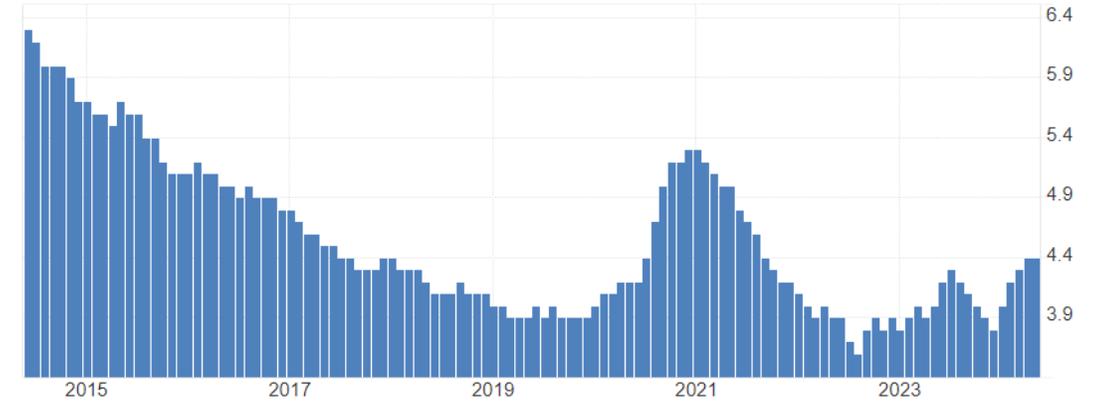
3. LABOUR MARKET HEADLINES – ONS QUARTERLY LABOUR FORCE SURVEY

United Kingdom Employment Rate



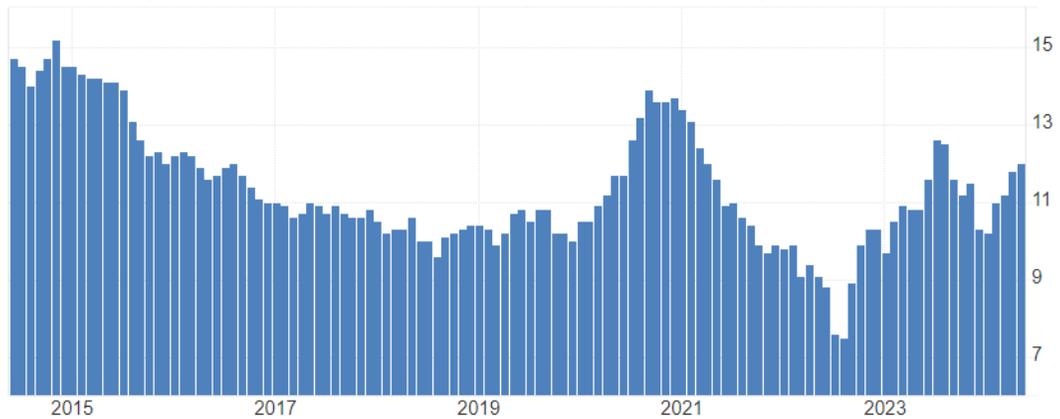
- The Employment Rate in the United Kingdom decreased to 74.4 percent in May 2024 (latest), up from 74.3 percent the month before.
- The Employment Rate in the United Kingdom averaged 71.6 percent from 1971 until 2024, reaching an all-time high of 76.2 percent in February of 2020 (and a record low of 65.6 percent in April of 1983).

United Kingdom Unemployment Rate



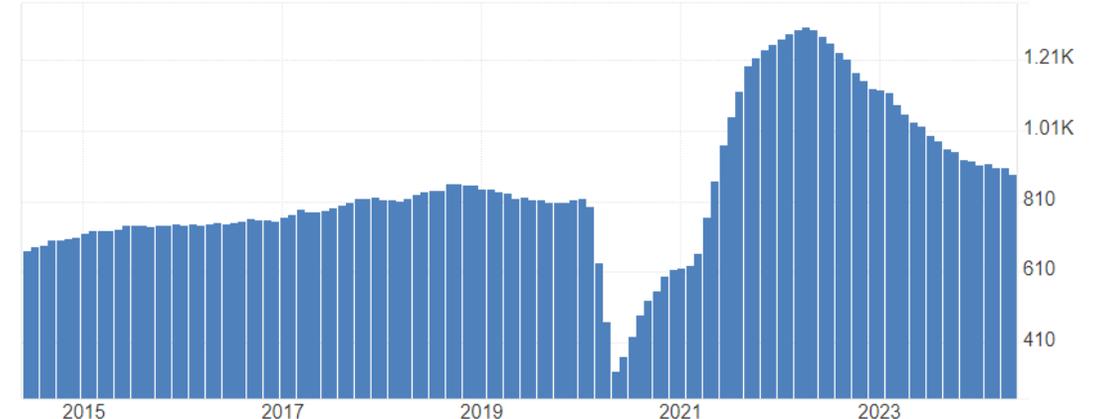
- The United Kingdom's unemployment rate stood at 4.4% from March 2024 to May 2024, remained at its highest reading since the three months.
- The number of unemployed individuals rose by 88,000 to 1.53 million even though number of employed individuals also went up. The economic inactivity rate also fell by 0.2 percentage points to 22.1%.

United Kingdom Youth Unemployment Rate



- The Youth Unemployment Rate in the United Kingdom increased to 12 percent in May 2024, up from 11.8 percent in April 2024.
- The Youth Unemployment Rate in the United Kingdom averaged 13.2 percent from 1992 until 2024, reaching an all-time high of 20.3 percent in November of 2011 and a low of 7.5 percent in August of 2022.

United Kingdom Vacancy notifications



- The number of job vacancies notified on job vacancy boards in the United Kingdom decreased to 889,000 in May down from 905,000 in April.
- Job Vacancies in the United Kingdom averaged 692,630 between 2001 and 2024, reaching an all-time high of 1.3 million in April of 2022, and a record low of 328,000 in May of 2020.

4. HOSPITALITY, LEISURE, TOURISM - IMPACTS AND SUPPORT

VisitBritain - Domestic Consumer Sentiment Tracker (Fieldwork 1st – 7th July 2024)

VisitBritain published results of the sentiment tracker in August 2023.

This tracker looks to understand the impact of major events such as the cost-of-living crisis on the UK public’s intent to take overnight trips within the UK and abroad. It addresses areas such as current attitude to travel, intention to travel for daytrips, short breaks and holidays, when they plan to book and take the trip, destination and accommodation chosen.

The main headlines are:

- Perception of the ‘worst still to come’ regarding cost-of-living crisis is at 35% which is down 2% from May 2024.
- Proportion intending a UK overnight trip in the next 12 months is 77%, consistent with May 2024.
- Proportion intending an overseas overnight trip in the next 12 months 61%, up 1% from May 2024.
- Rising cost of living, UK weather and personal finances remain the top 3 barriers to an overnight stay in the UK. This is consistent with May 2024.
- Top 3 areas for an overnight stay July 2024 to September 2024 is Southwest, Scotland and London. Northwest drops to 4th position. Top 3 areas for overnight stays October 2024 to December 2024 is London, Southwest, Northwest. Northwest has moved up 2 places since May 2024 .
- Top 3 destinations June 2024 to September 2024 are coastal/seaside town, countryside or village and city or large town. Top 3 destinations October 2024 to December 2024 are city or large town, countryside or village, coastal/seaside town.
- Hotels remain top accommodation choice for both June to September 2024 and October to December 2024.

Link: <https://www.visitbritain.org/research-insights/domestic-sentiment-tracker>

Hotel Performance monitor – April 2024 (Source MM)

- Greater Manchester occupancy in June (82%) is slightly ahead of 2023 (81%) but behind 2019 rates (84%).
- Manchester city centre occupancy (81%) is consistent with 2023 rates (81%) but still behind 2019 (85%). The average daily rate for GM (£101) is slightly behind 2023 (£102) whilst in Manchester city centre (£115) is slightly ahead of 2023 (£113). Both are still above 2019 rates.
- The revenue per available room for GM (£84) and Manchester city centre (£93) were slightly above 2023 levels and significantly above those of 2019.

	GM Occupancy %	GM Average Rate £	GM REVPAR £	Mcr City Centre Occupancy %	Mcr City Centre Average Rate £	Mcr City Centre REVPAR £
2024	82%	£101	£84	81%	£115	£93
2023	81%	£102	£82	81%	£113	£92
Baseline (2019)	84%	£85	£71	85%	£96	£82

Marketing Manchester Campaigns Impact

- Reach: 98.8 million across all channels.

5. GOVERNMENT MEASURES, OTHER DATA AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THEME	ANNOUNCEMENT / ISSUE - (HOLD CTRL AND CLICK ON <LINKS> TO ACCESS THE FULL ITEM)
International Investment Summit	<p>The UK will hold another UK International Investment Summit on 14th October 2024. The summit is cited as a key milestone in the Government’s growth mission and will underpin their Industrial Strategy. The current UK ambition to maintain the highest sustained growth in the G7, working in partnership with the private sector to get the best out of British industries. <Link></p>
Aerospace Projects for Green Air Travel	<p>£100m of government-industry funding has been announced to support cutting-edge aerospace tech projects to support greener air travel. The funding will be delivered through the Aerospace Technology Institute (ATI) Programme, to five aerospace R&D projects led by GKN Aerospace, Queens University, Rolls-Royce, Short Brothers and ZeroAvia. The projects will help pioneer innovations such as zero emission hydrogen-powered flight, new sustainable propulsion systems and turbine technologies, boosting thousands of high-skilled aerospace jobs across the UK and encouraging investment into the UK’s aerospace industry, as the Government prepares to launch its new Industrial Strategy. <Link></p>
Great British Energy and The Crown Estate	<p>The new publicly owned investment vehicle Great British Energy will benefit from a partnership with the Crown Estate. This has the potential to leverage up to £60bn of private investment into the UK’s drive for energy independence. The Crown Estate has a portfolio of £16bn worth of land and seabed and in partnership with GBE will further expand its investment in offshore wind . The Crown Estate is currently running one of the world’s largest commercial scale floating wind leasing programmes in the Celtic Sea. <Link></p>
WTO E-Commerce Joint Initiative	<p>The UK has joined an agreement which is designed to grow the economy by boosting global digital trade. The UK and 90 other countries have finalised the E-Commerce Joint Initiative at the World Trade Organization (WTO). Once implemented, the agreement will commit all participants to the digitalisation of customs documents and processes. The signatories to the agreement will also commit to recognising e-documents and e-signatures, reducing the need for businesses to physically sign contracts and post them around the world. This has been welcomed warmly by the Chamber of Commerce. <Link></p>
UK Biobank Investment	<p>Following £127m investment by UKRI, it has been confirmed that the new headquarters of UK Biobank at Bruntwood SciTech’s Manchester Science Park will open in 2026 . Additionally, the government has announced that Amazon Web Services (AWS) will provide £8m worth of cloud computing credits to the UK Biobank, to support its cloud infrastructure requirements. This investment has been matched by the government as part of the public-philanthropic consortium to help ensure the Biobank’s long-term future. Previous funding provided by Eric Schmidt and Ken Griffin means that around £50m of backing has been achieved for the UK Biobank. <LinkE></p>
Establishment of Skills England	<p>Skills England will be established in phases over the next 9-12 months, with Richard Pennycook CBE, former Chief Executive of the Co-Operative Group as the interim Chair. Skills England will convene employers, unions, education and training providers, and experts with national government to develop a single picture of national and local skills needs.</p> <p>Skills England will work with industry, the Migration Advisory Committee, unions and the Industrial Strategy Council to build and maintain a comprehensive assessment of current and future skills needs. This will also inform the Department for Education’s policy priorities.</p> <p>It will identify the training for which the Growth and Skills Levy will be accessible - this includes consulting on and maintaining a list of levy-eligible training; and ensure that the national and regional skills systems are meeting skills needs and aligned.</p> <p>Skills England will convene MCAs and other key stakeholders to identify system issues and provide advice to Government, leading to a more coherent system. To deliver this role, Skills England will take on several of the functions the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education. <Link></p>



APPENDIX 1: SURVEY RESPONSE RATES

JULY 2024

WITH QUARTERLY DATA FOR 2ND MAY 2024 TO 2ND AUGUST 2024

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**APPENDIX 2:
GROWTH SURVEY DETAILED RESULTS
AND LOCAL AUTHORITY DATA**

JULY 2024

WITH QUARTERLY DATA FOR 2ND MAY 2024 TO 2ND AUGUST 2024

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OGS: BUSINESS CONFIDENCE INDEX (GC-BCI)

Respondents

749

HOME

Region	Electoral Ward	Foreign owned	Female led	Survey submitted	
All	All	All	All	02/05/2024	02/08/2024
Local Authority	Deprived Ward	Exporter	BAME led		
All	All	All	All		
Sector	Workstream	Size (employees)	Disability led		
All	All	All	All		

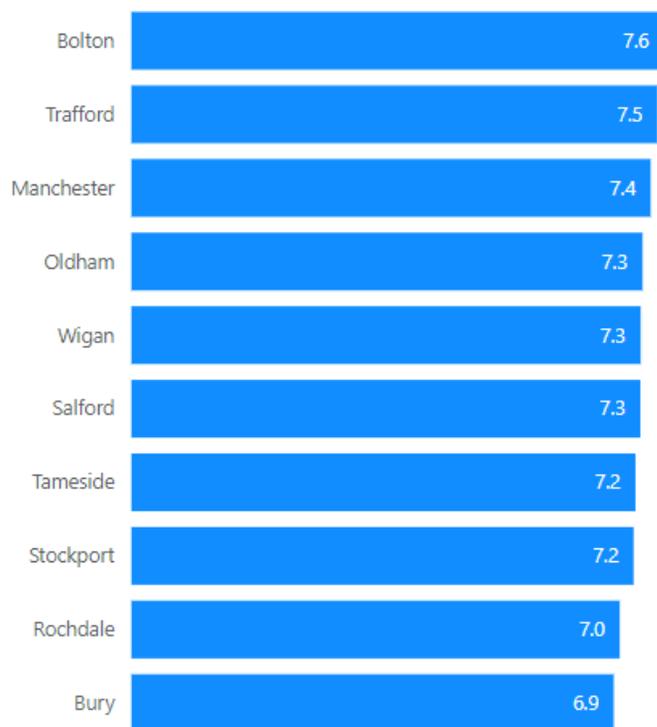


GC-BCI score

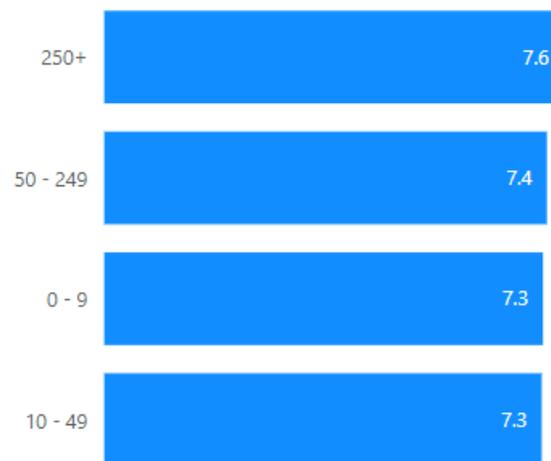
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GC-BCI by LA# (1 low - 10 high)



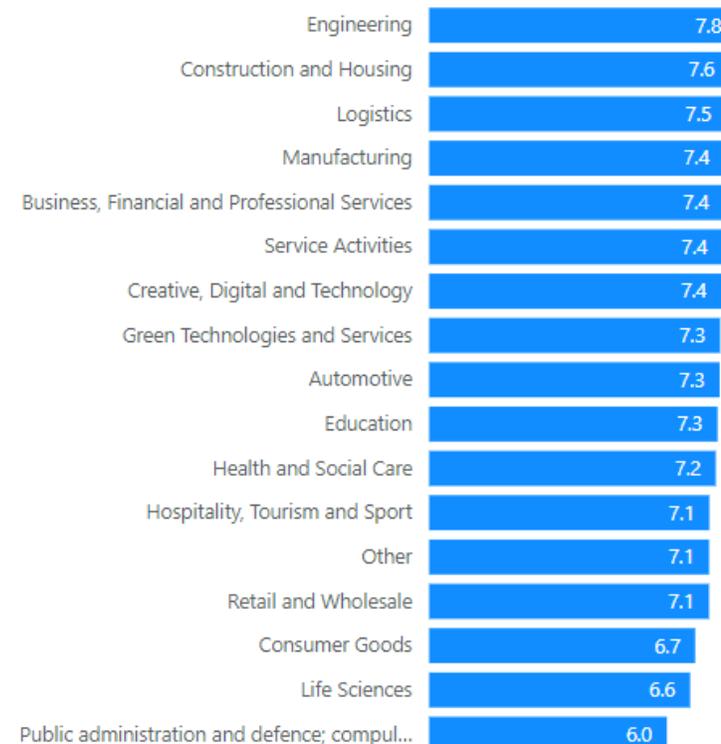
GC-BCI by size - employees (1 low - 10 high)



GC-BCI average score (1 low - 10 high)

7.3

GC-BCI by sector (1 low - 10 high)



OGS: OPTIMISIM - PROFITABILITY / TURNOVER / CAP-EX SPENDING

Respondents
749

HOME

Region All	Electoral Ward All	Foreign owned All	Female led All
Local Authority All	Deprived Ward All	Exporter All	BAME led All
Sector All	Workstream All	Size (employees) All	Disability led All

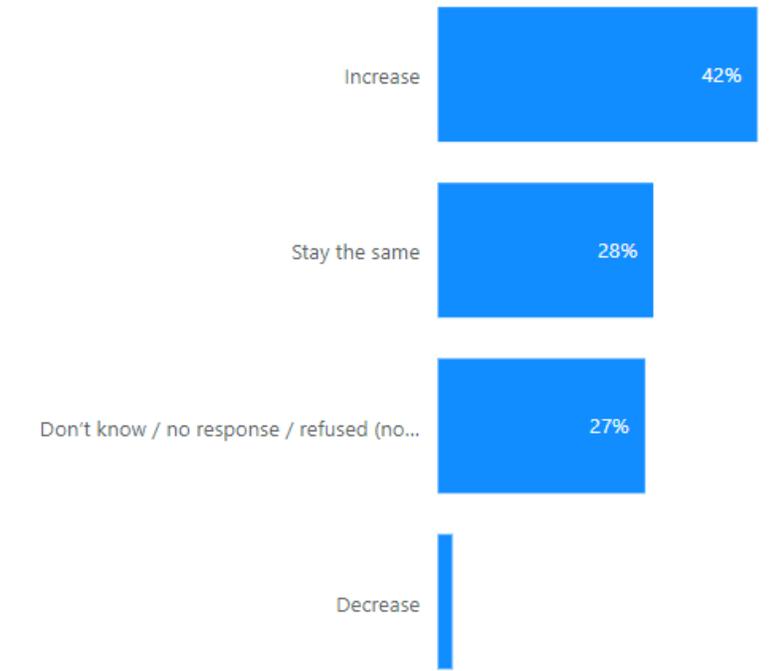
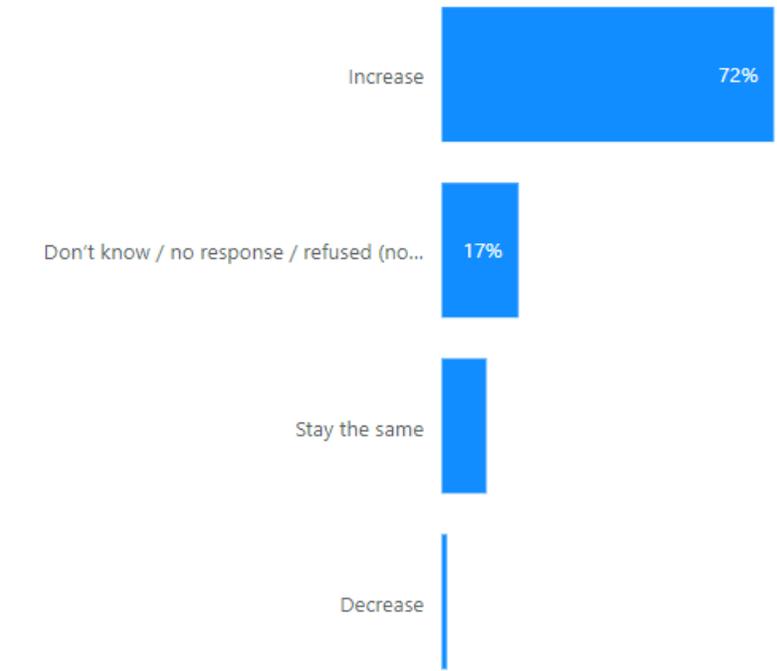
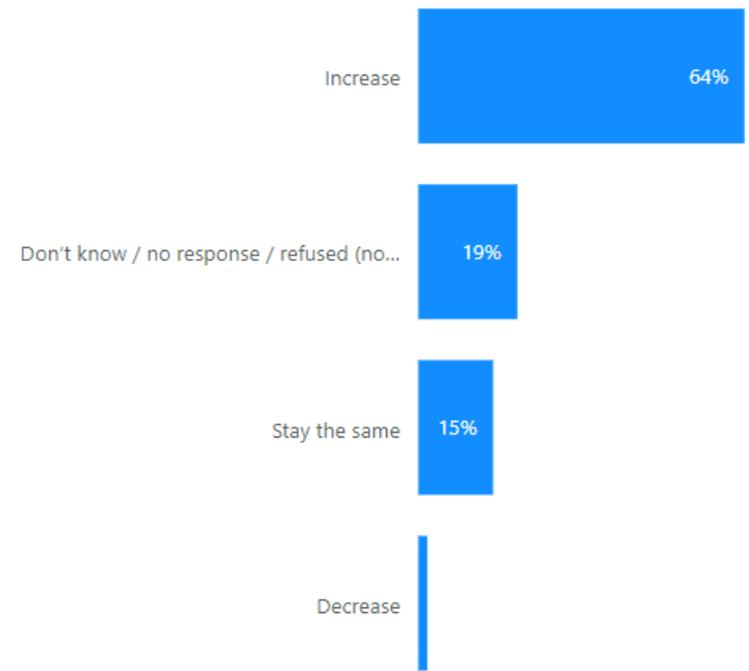
Survey submitted
02/05/2024 02/08/2024



Expectations for profitability increase (%)

Expectations for turnover increase (%)

Expectations for cap-ex spending increase (%)



OGS: CHALLENGES AND FUTURE SUPPORT NEEDS

Respondents

749

HOME

Region

All

Electoral Ward

All

Foreign owned

All

Female led

All

Survey submitted

02/05/2024

02/08/2024

Local Authority

All

Deprived Ward

All

Exporter

All

BAME led

All

Sector

All

Workstream

All

Size (employees)

All

Disability led

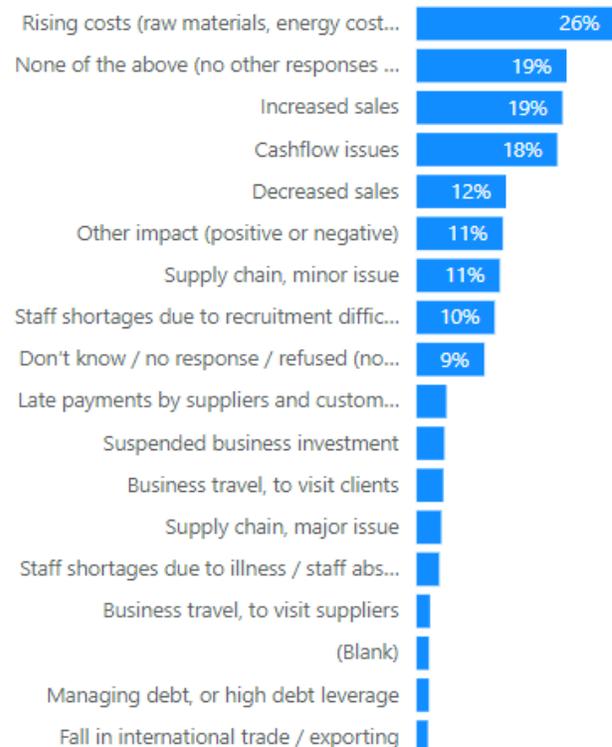
All

GC-BCI score

0

10

Main economic impacts faced in last 3 months (%)



Main current challenges facing the organisation (%)



Future support needs in year ahead (%)



OGS: MAIN IMPACTS BY LOCAL AUTHORITY WITHIN LAST 3 MONTHS

Respondents

749

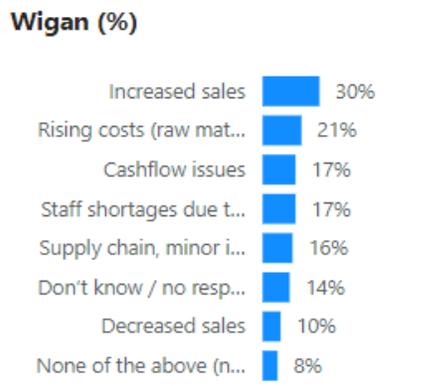
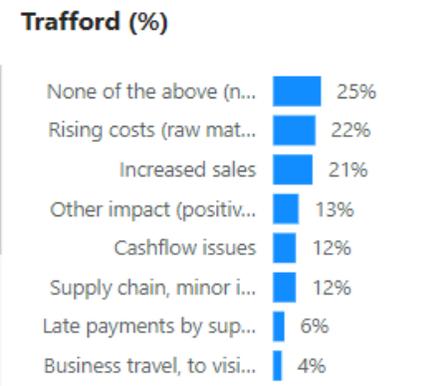
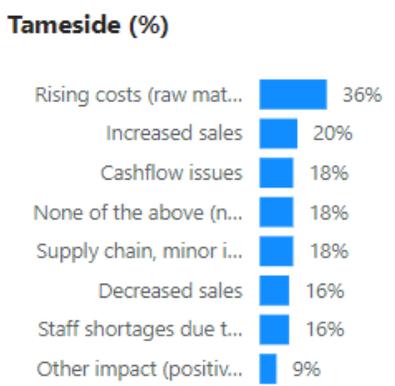
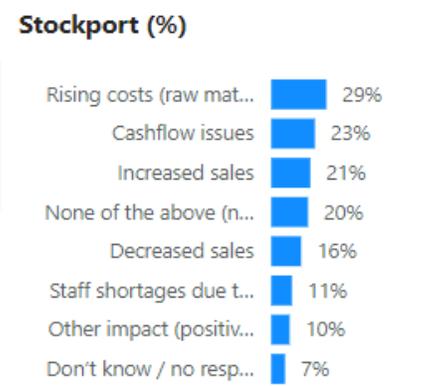
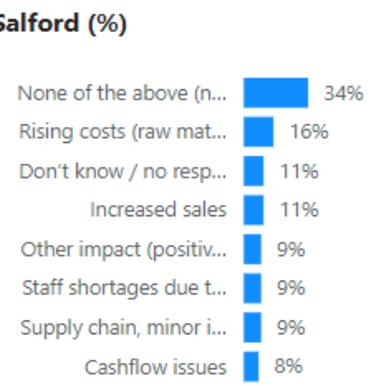
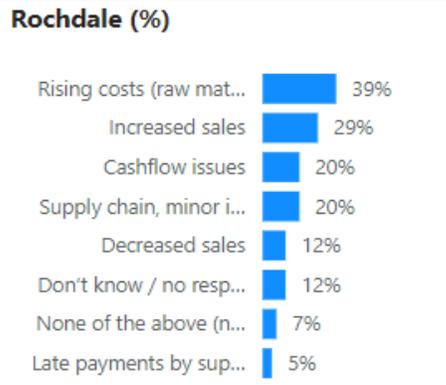
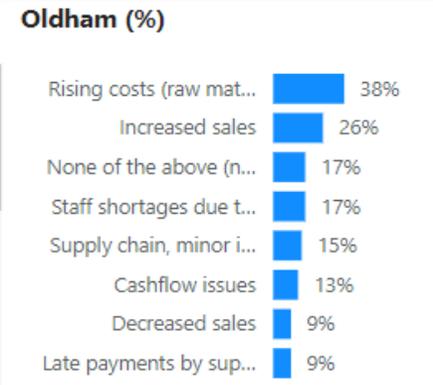
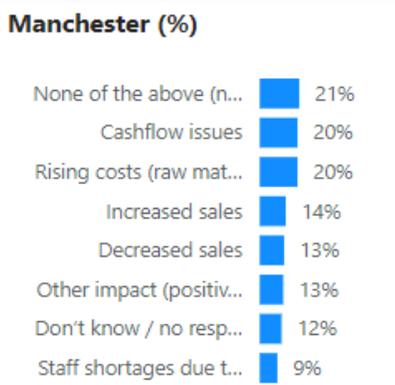
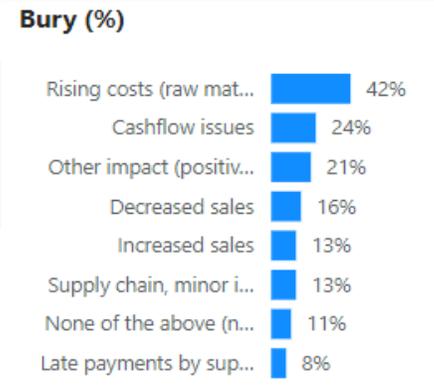
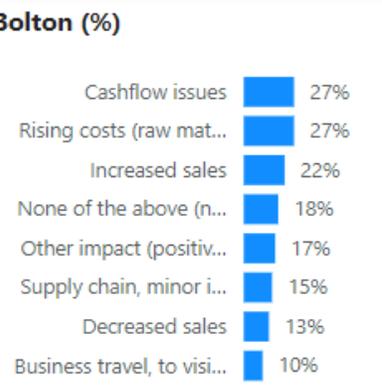
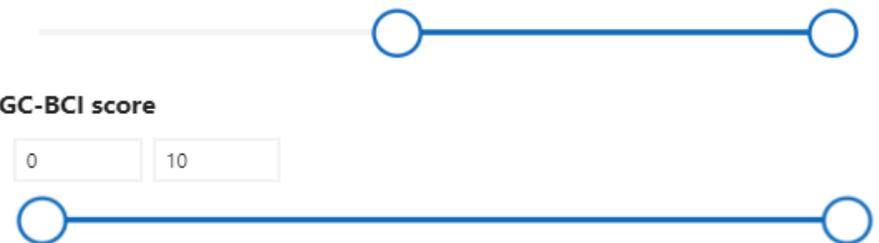
HOME

Region **Electoral Ward** **Foreign owned** **Female led** **Survey submitted**

Local Authority **Deprived Ward** **Exporter** **BAME led**

Sector **Workstream** **Size (employees)** **Disability led**

GC-BCI score



OGS: MAIN CHALLENGES FACING ORGANISATIONS BY LOCAL AUTHORITY

Respondents

749

HOME

Region

All

Electoral Ward

All

Foreign owned

All

Female led

All

Survey submitted

02/05/2024

02/08/2024

Local Authority

All

Deprived Ward

All

Exporter

All

BAME led

All

Sector

All

Workstream

All

Size (employees)

All

Disability led

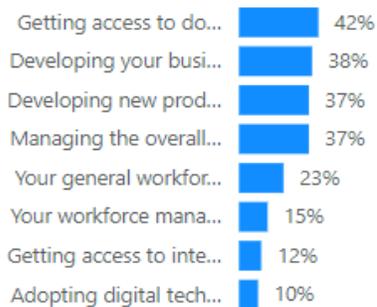
All

GC-BCI score

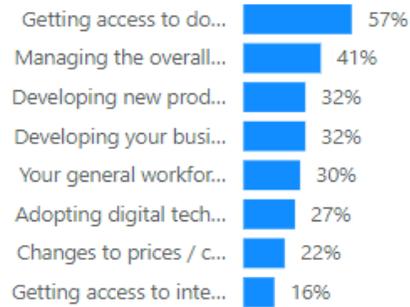
0

10

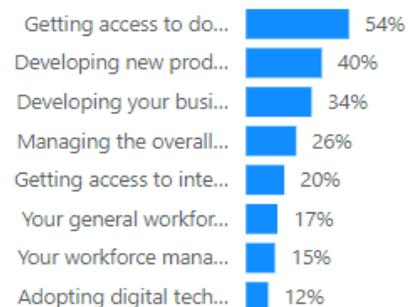
Bolton (%)



Bury (%)



Manchester (%)



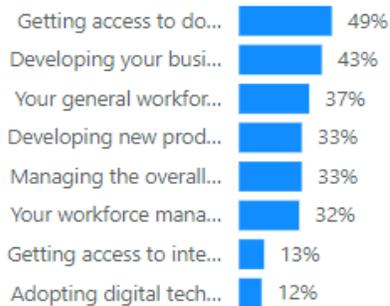
Oldham (%)



Rochdale (%)



Salford (%)



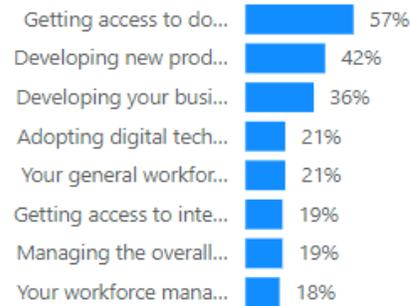
Stockport (%)



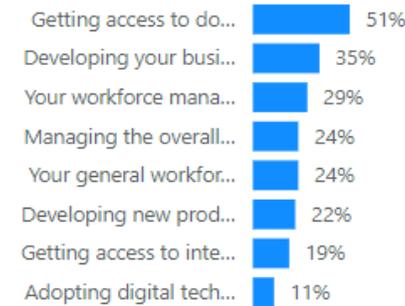
Tameside (%)



Trafford (%)



Wigan (%)



OGS: FUTURE SUPPORT NEEDS BY LOCAL AUTHORITY

Respondents
749

HOME

Region **Electoral Ward** **Foreign owned** **Female led** **Survey submitted**

Local Authority **Deprived Ward** **Exporter** **BAME led**

Sector **Workstream** **Size (employees)** **Disability led**

GC-BCI score

Bolton (%)



Bury (%)



Manchester (%)



Oldham (%)



Rochdale (%)



Salford (%)



Stockport (%)



Tameside (%)



Traford (%)



Wigan (%)



OGS: INNOVATION DETAILS

Respondents
749
[HOME](#)

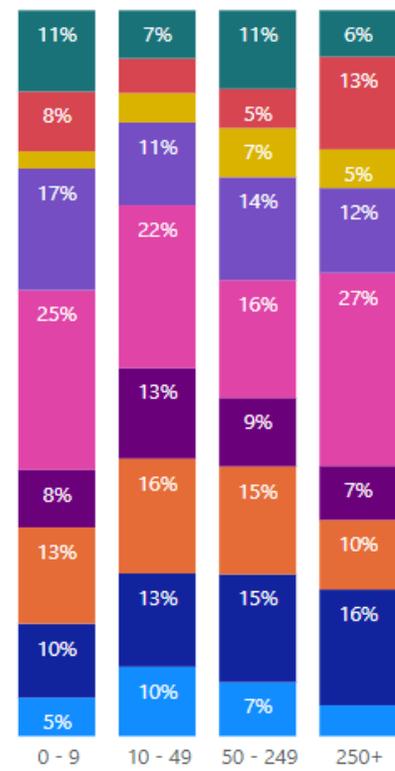
Region **Electoral Ward** **Foreign owned** **Female led** **Survey submitted**

Local Authority **Deprived Ward** **Exporter** **BAME led**

Sector **Workstream** **Size (employees)** **Disability led**

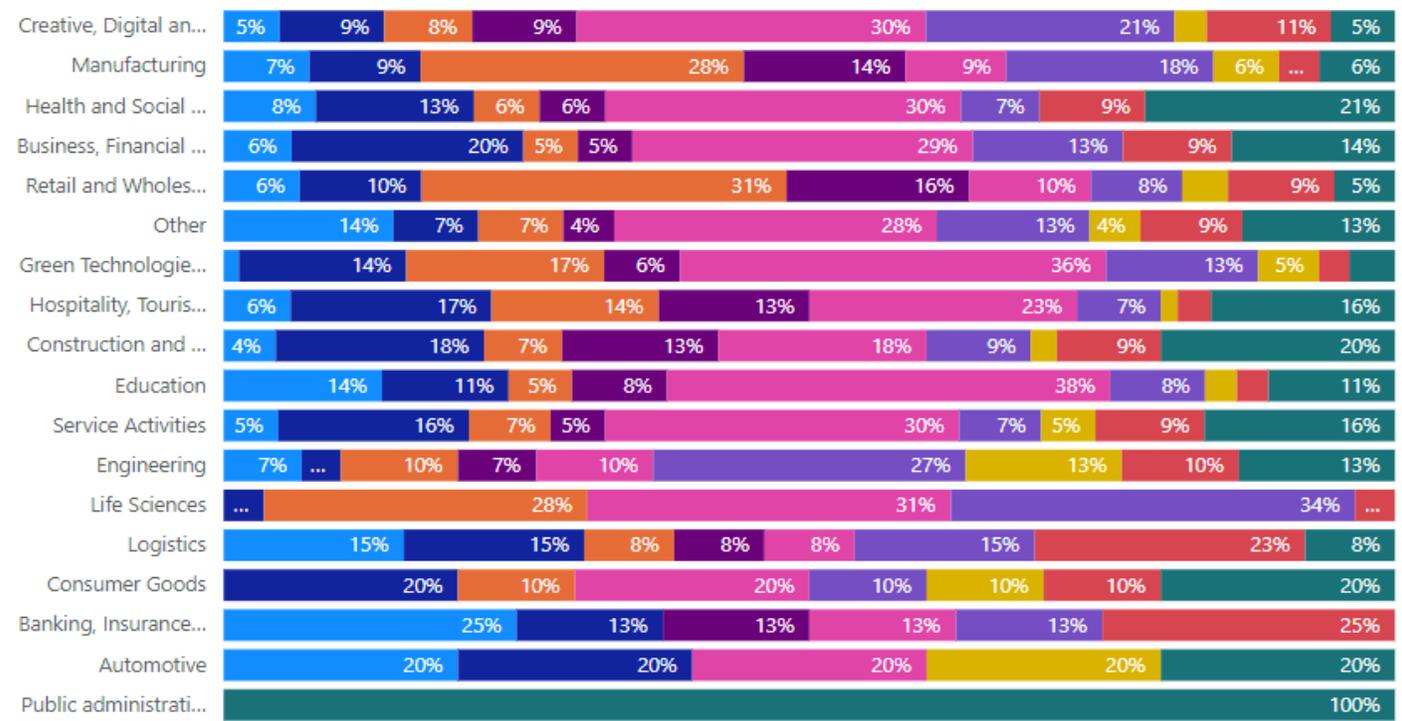
GC-BCI score

Innovation activities by size (%)



Innovation activities by sector (%)

- Don't know / no response / refused (no other responses sh...)
- Implemented new business practices for organising proced...
- Introduced new / significantly improved goods
- Introduced new / significantly improved methods for prod...
- Introduced new / significantly improved services
- Invested in Research & Development (internal or external)
- Invested in the acquisition of advanced machinery or equip...
- Invested in the acquisition of digital products or digital ser...
- None of the above (no other responses should be complet...



OGS: INNOVATION AND INVESTMENT

Respondents
749

HOME

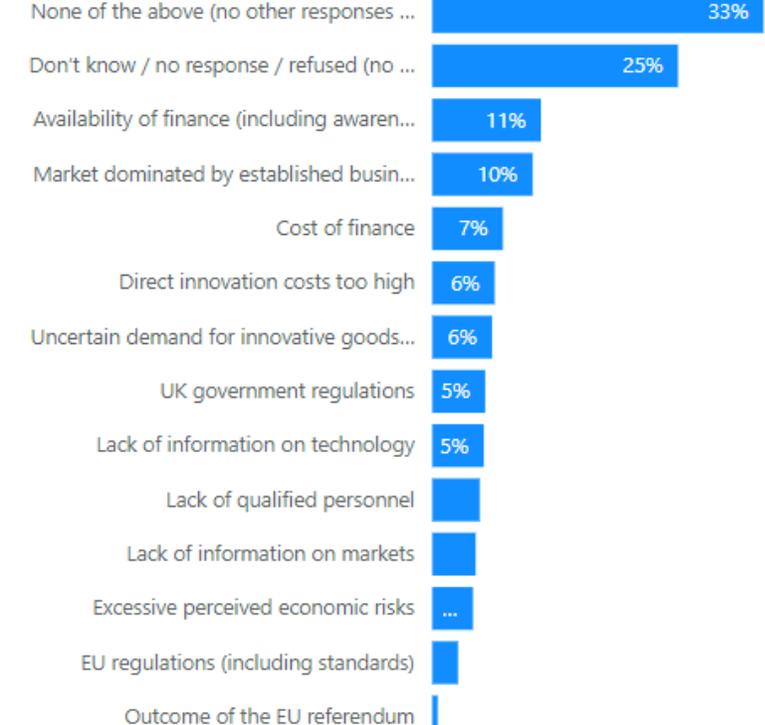
Region	Electoral Ward	Foreign owned	Female led	Survey submitted	
All	All	All	All	02/05/2024	02/08/2024
Local Authority	Deprived Ward	Exporter	BAME led		
All	All	All	All		
Sector	Workstream	Size (employees)	Disability led		
All	All	All	All		



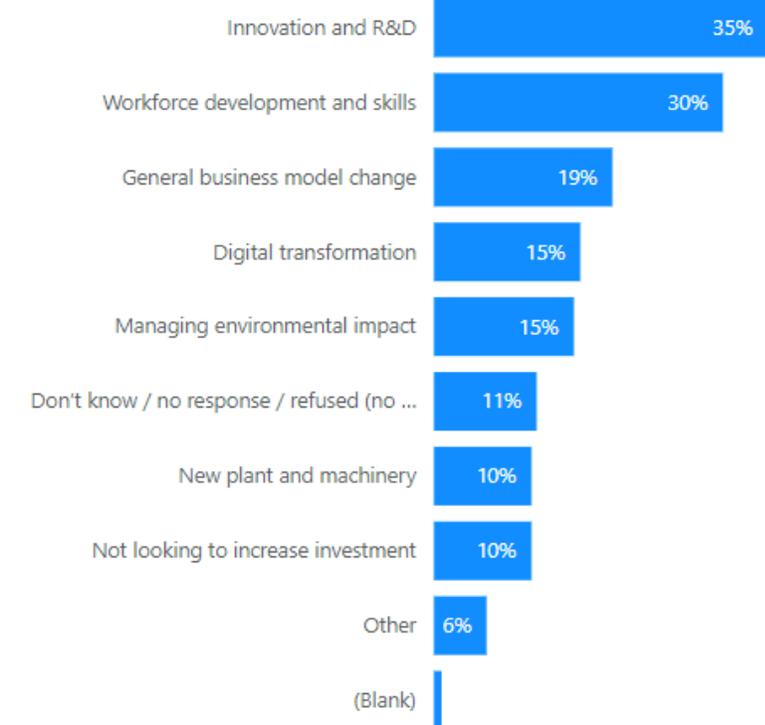
Innovation activities in last year (%)



Main barriers to Innovation (%)



Looking to increase investment in ... (%)



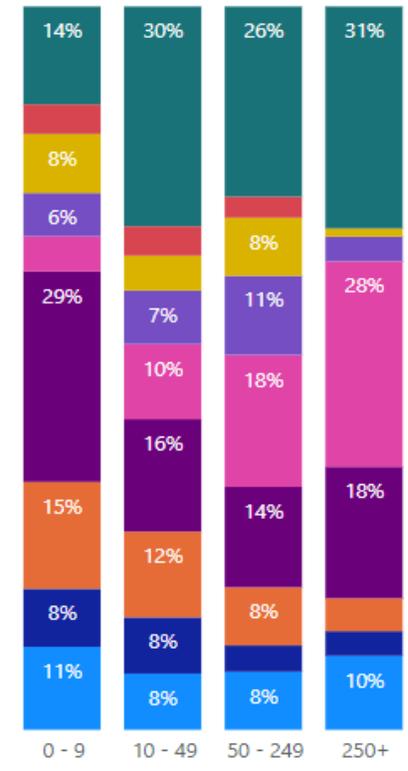
OGS: INVESTMENT

Respondents
749
[HOME](#)

Region **Electoral Ward**
Local Authority **Deprived Ward**
Sector **Workstream**
Foreign owned **Female led**
Exporter **BAME led**
Size (employees) **Disability led**
Survey submitted

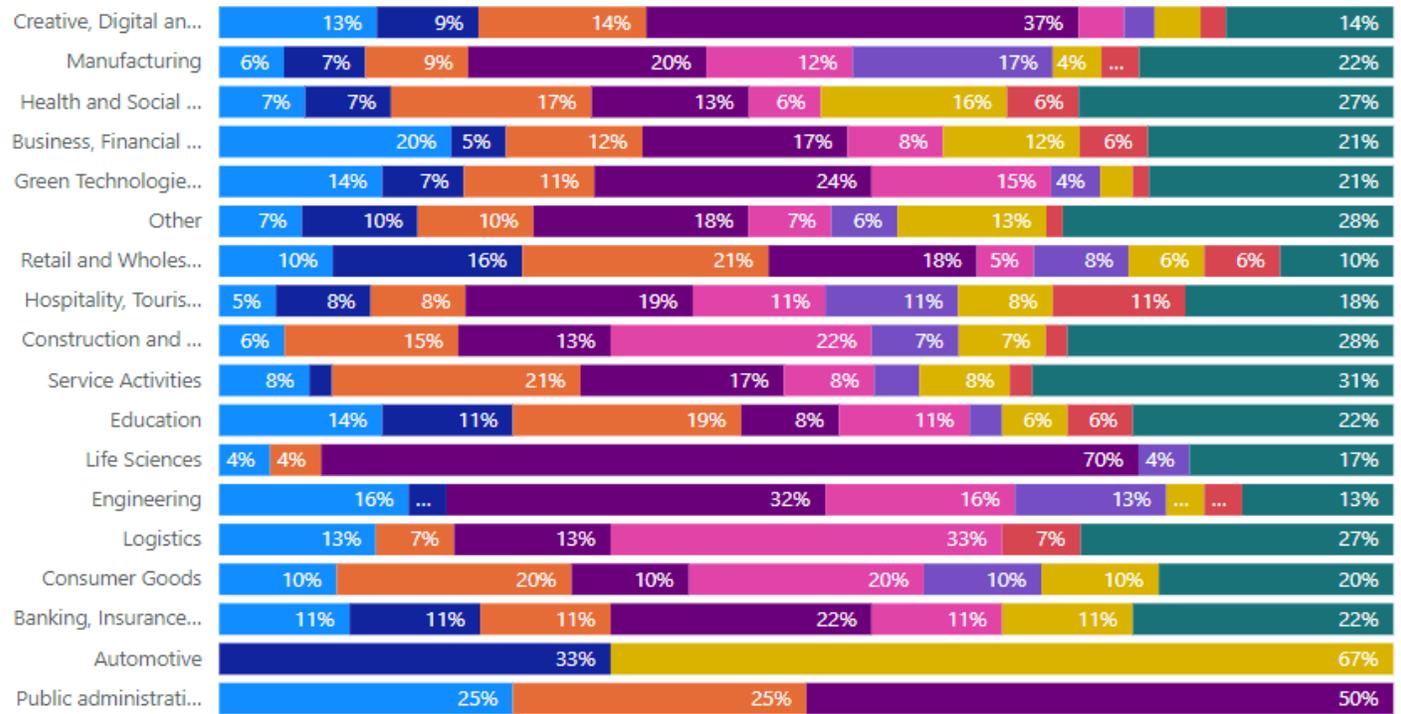


Investment activities by size (%)



Investment activities by sector (%)

- Digital transformation
- Don't know / no response / refused (no other responses sh...)
- General business model change
- Innovation and R&D
- Managing environmental impact
- New plant and machinery
- Not looking to increase investment
- Other
- Workforce development and skills



OGS: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE - BY TYPE AND BARRIERS TO ADOPTION

Respondents
749
[HOME](#)

Region All	Electoral Ward All	Foreign owned All	Female led All
Local Authority All	Deprived Ward All	Exporter All	BAME led All
Sector All	Workstream All	Size (employees) All	Disability led All

Survey submitted
02/05/2024 02/08/2024



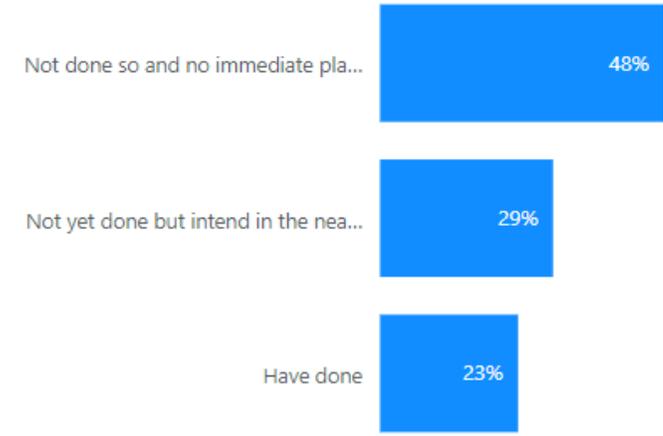
GC-BCI score
0 10

A horizontal progress bar with a blue line and two circular markers at the ends, representing a score range from 0 to 10.

Which areas of AI implemented (%)



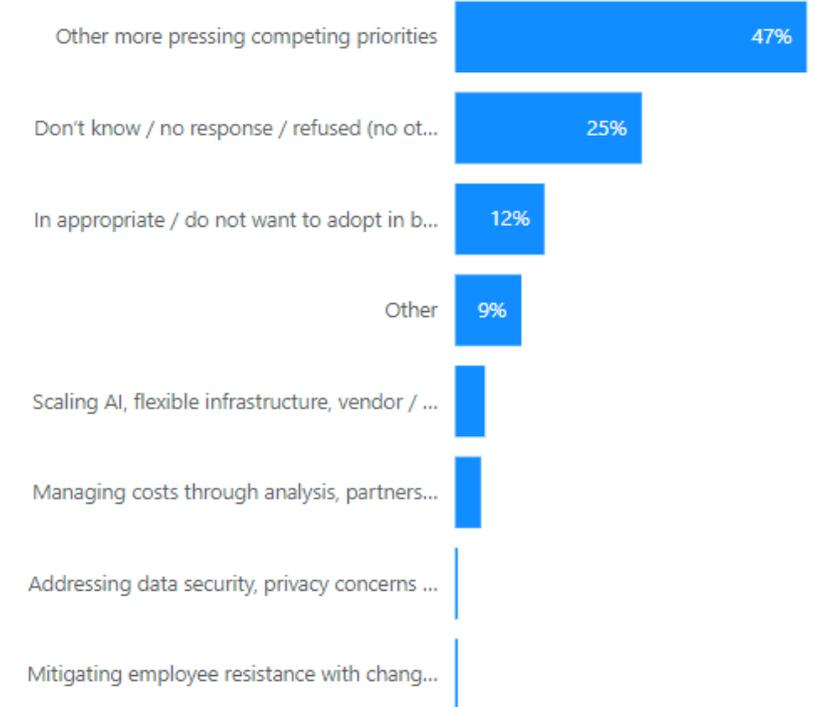
Adopted AI into business (%)



Adopted AI into business - average (%)

22.7

AI - What is holding up plans (%)



OGS: SKILLS GAPS

Respondents
749

HOME

Region **Electoral Ward** **Foreign owned** **Female led**

Local Authority **Deprived Ward** **Exporter** **BAME led**

Sector **Workstream** **Size (employees)** **Disability led**

Survey submitted



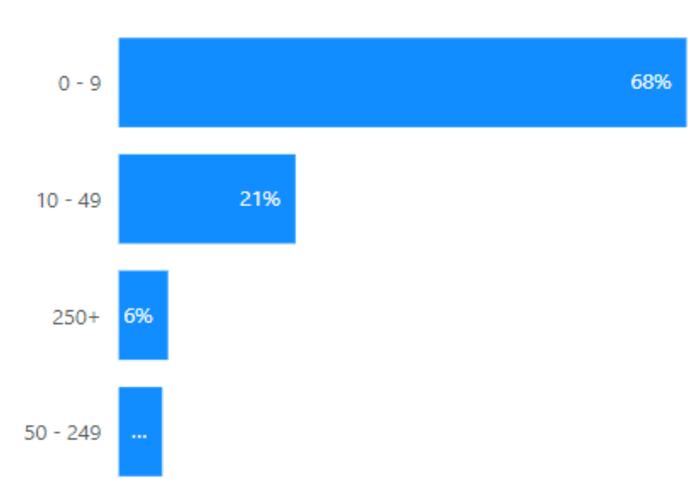
GC-BCI score



Technical and practical skills gaps (%)



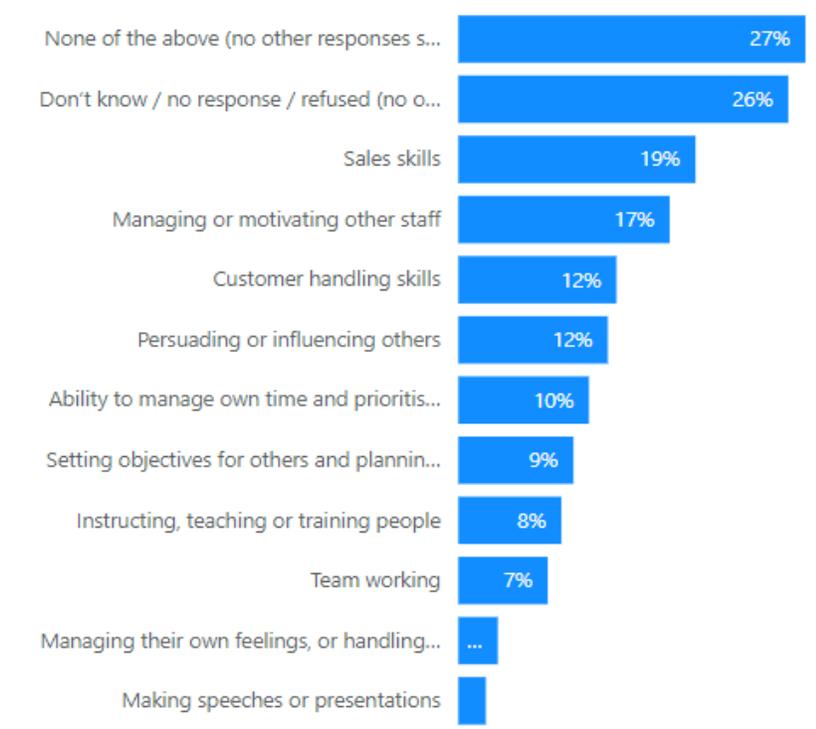
Current workforce skills at right level by size (%)



Current workforce skills at right level - average (%)

38.6

People and personal skills gaps (%)



OGS: SKILLS GAPS IN EXISTING WORKFORCE BY LOCAL AUTHORITY

Respondents
749

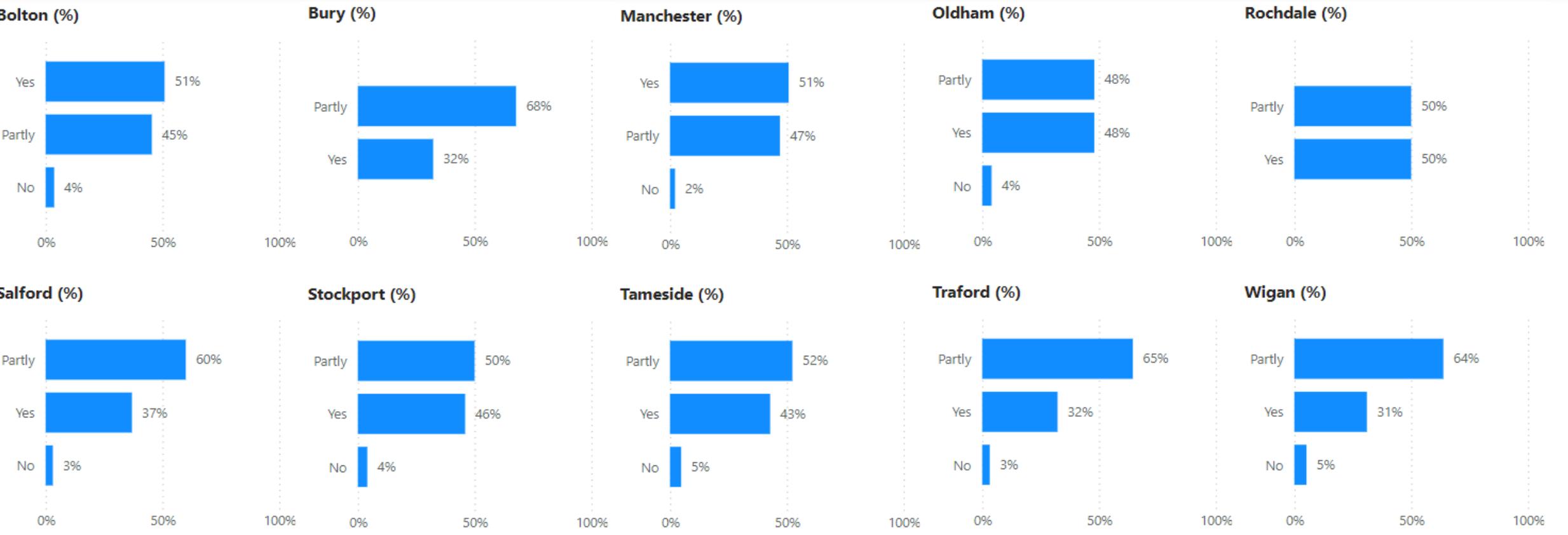
HOME

Region **Electoral Ward** **Foreign owned** **Female led** **Survey submitted**

Local Authority **Deprived Ward** **Exporter** **BAME led**

Sector **Workstream** **Size (employees)** **Disability led**

GC-BCI score



OGS: INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Respondents

749

HOME

Region All	Electoral Ward All	Foreign owned All	Female led All
Local Authority All	Deprived Ward All	Exporter All	BAME led All
Sector All	Workstream All	Size (employees) All	Disability led All

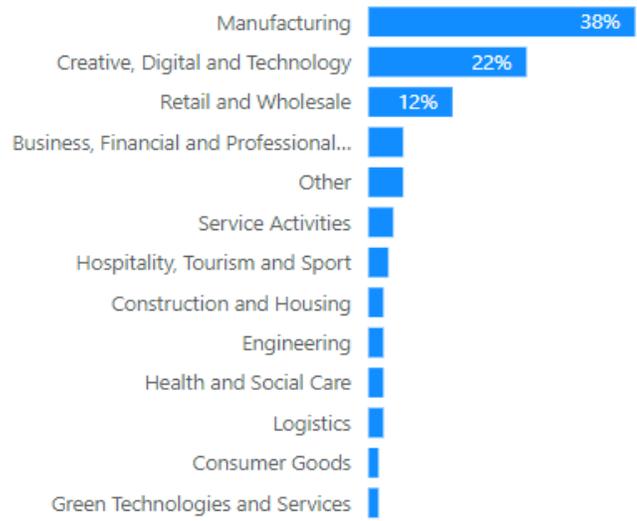
Survey submitted
02/05/2024 02/08/2024



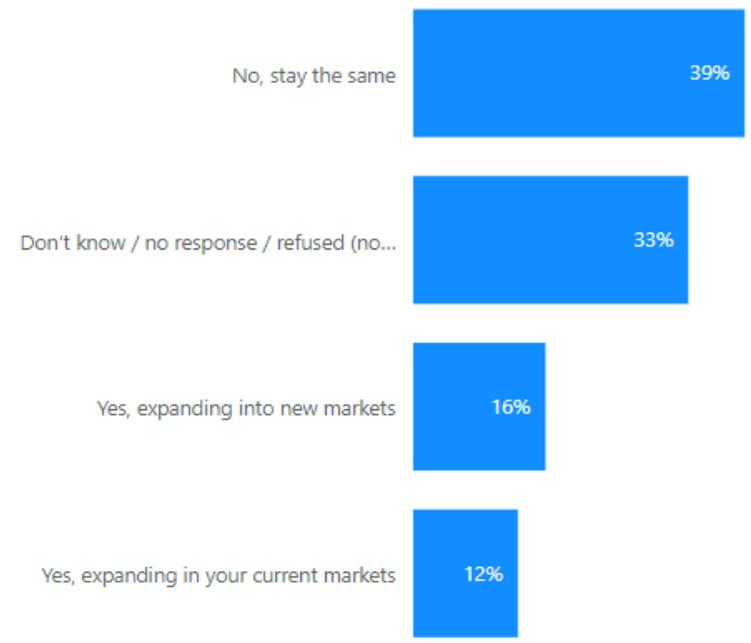
Currently export goods or services (%)



Currently export goods or services by sector (%)



Planning to increase levels of exports next year (%)



Currently export good or services - average (%)

19.4

OGS: SOCIAL VALUE

Respondents

749

HOME

Region

All

Electoral Ward

All

Foreign owned

All

Female led

All

Survey submitted

02/05/2024

02/08/2024

Local Authority

All

Deprived Ward

All

Exporter

All

BAME led

All

Sector

All

Workstream

All

Size (employees)

All

Disability led

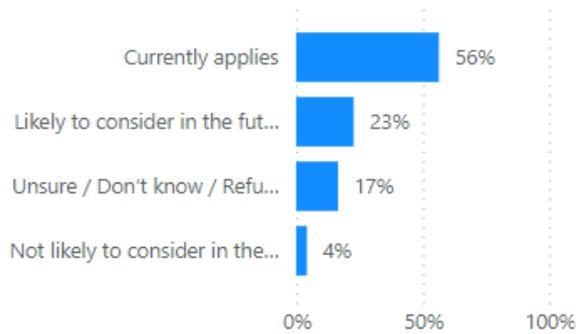
All

GC-BCI score

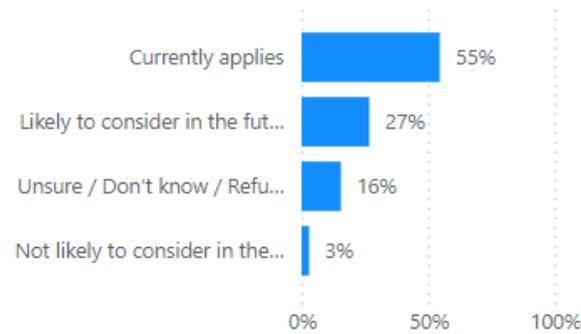
0

10

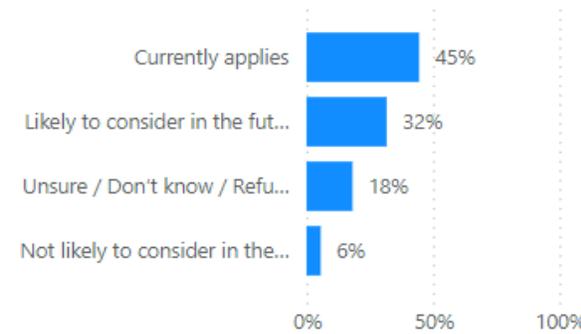
Guarantee at least 16 hours (%)



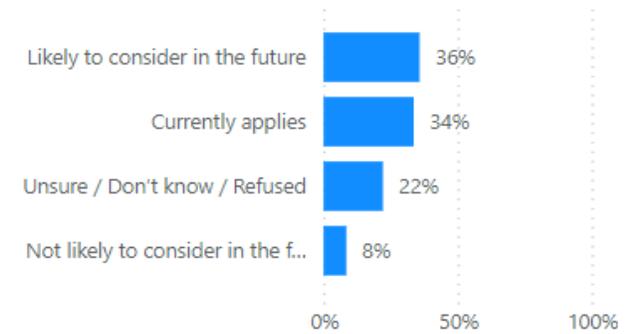
Pay real living wage (%)



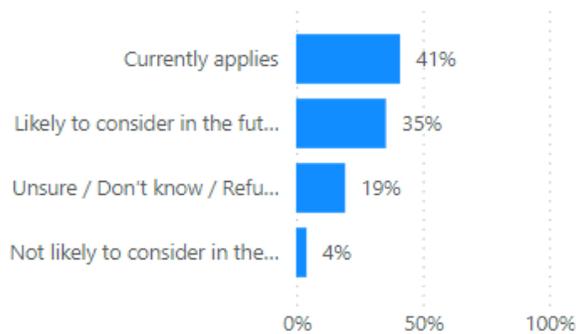
Flexible working options (%)



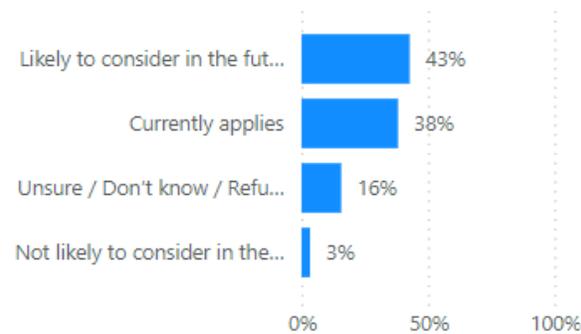
Involve employees in the direction of business (%)



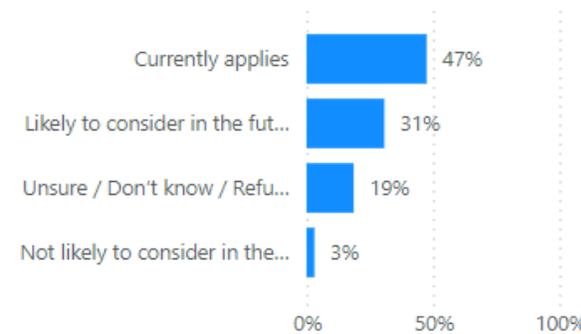
Looking to increase diversity of workforce (%)



Invest in leadership (%)



Promote healthy work practices (%)



Firms with Social Value

537

OGS: LOCAL AUTHORITY DATA - GREATER MANCHESTER SUMMARY

GC-BCI
7.31

Respondents
749

HOME

Region All	Electoral Ward All	Foreign owned All	Female led All	Survey submitted 02/05/2024 02/08/2024	
Local Authority All	Deprived Ward All	Exporter All	BAME led All	GC-BCI score 0 10	
Sector All	Workstream All	Size (employees) All	Disability led All		

Main economic impacts on firms in last year (%)



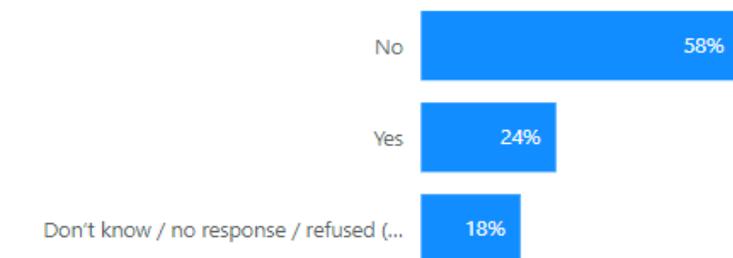
Main business support needs (%)



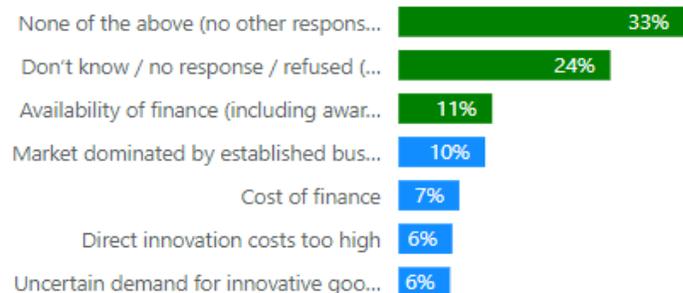
Main current challenges facing firms (%)



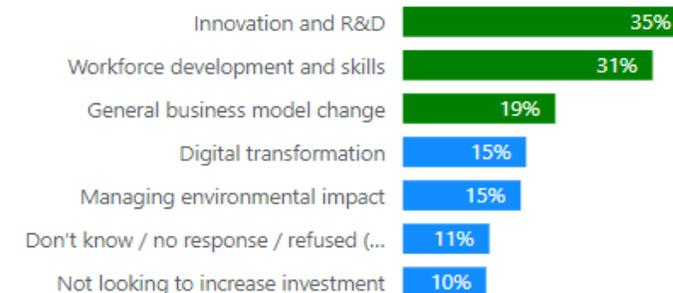
Firms recruiting new staff (#)



Barriers to innovation (%)



Firms looking to increase investment in ... (%)



OGS: LOCAL AUTHORITY DATA - BOLTON

GC-BCI
7.60

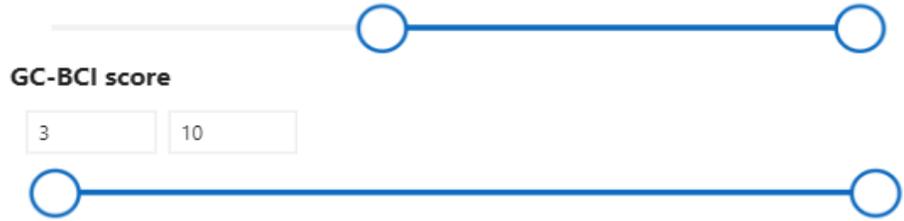
Respondents
60

HOME

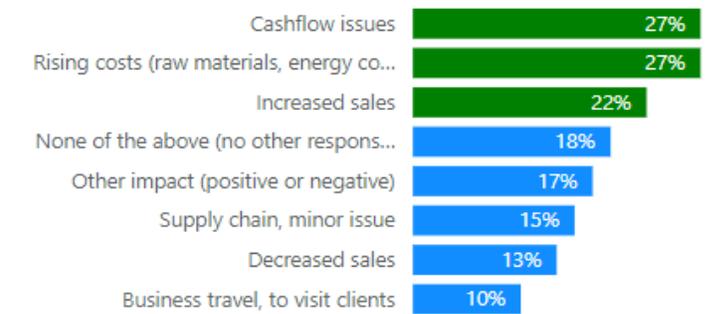
Region	Electoral Ward	Foreign owned	Female led
All	All	All	All
Local Authority	Deprived Ward	Exporter	BAME led
All	All	All	All
Sector	Workstream	Size (employees)	Disability led
All	All	All	All

Survey submitted

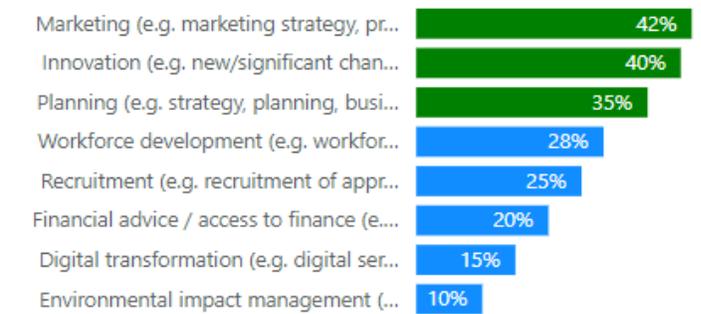
02/05/2024 02/08/2024



Main economic impacts on firms in last year (%)



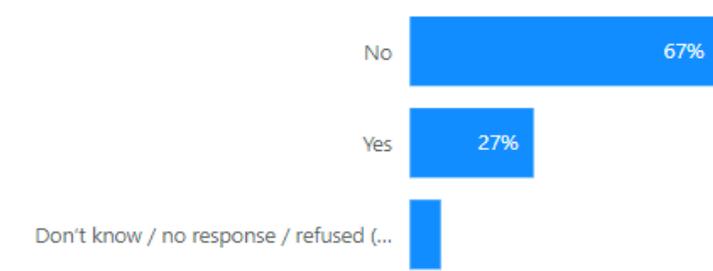
Main business support needs (%)



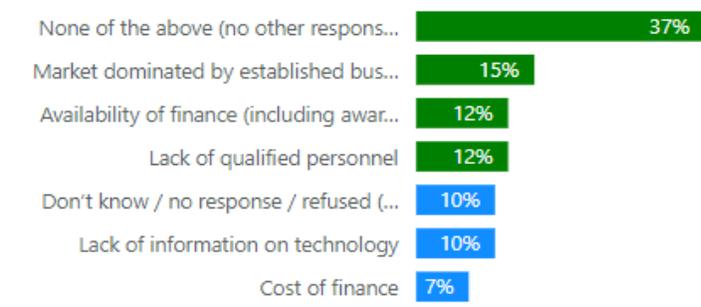
Main current challenges facing firms (%)



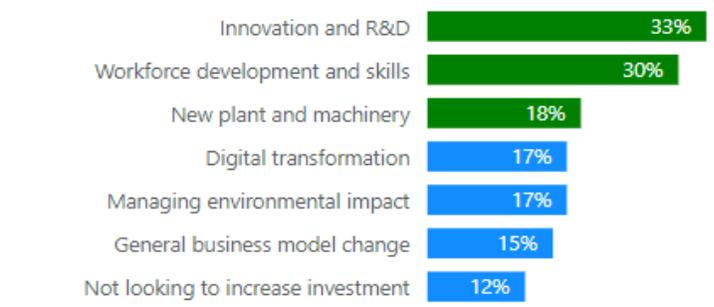
Firms recruiting new staff (#)



Barriers to innovation (%)



Firms looking to increase investment in ... (%)



OGS: LOCAL AUTHORITY DATA - BURY

GC-BCI
6.89

Respondents
38

[HOME](#)

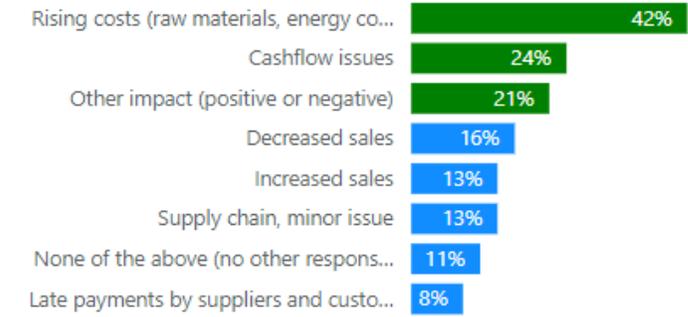
Region	Electoral Ward	Foreign owned	Female led
All	All	All	All
Local Authority	Deprived Ward	Exporter	BAME led
All	All	All	All
Sector	Workstream	Size (employees)	Disability led
All	All	All	All

Survey submitted

02/05/2024 02/08/2024



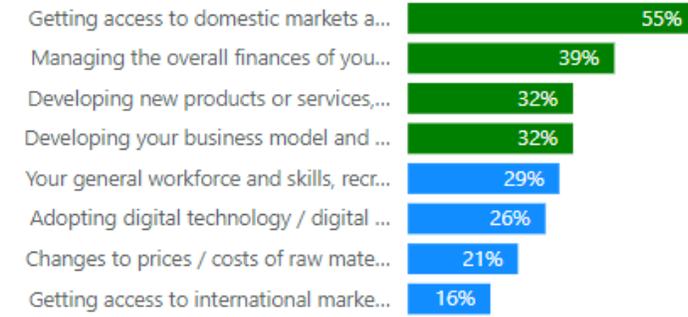
Main economic impacts on firms in last year (%)



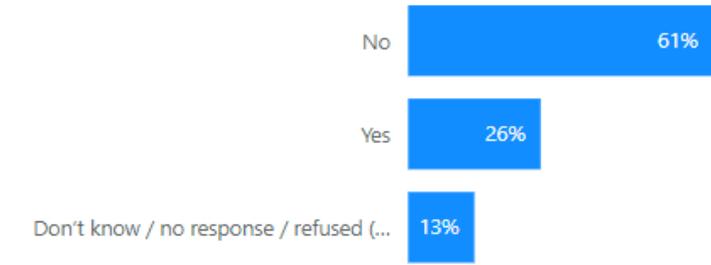
Main business support needs (%)



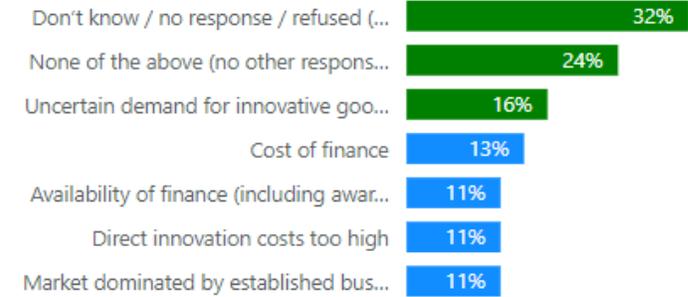
Main current challenges facing firms (%)



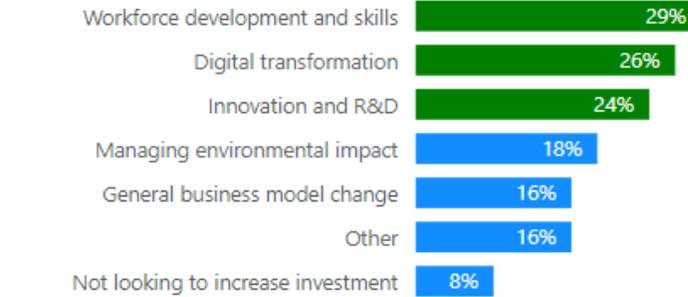
Firms recruiting new staff (#)



Barriers to innovation (%)



Firms looking to increase investment in ... (%)



OGS: LOCAL AUTHORITY DATA - MANCHESTER

GC-BCI
7.42

Respondents
224

HOME

Region	Electoral Ward	Foreign owned	Female led
All	All	All	All
Local Authority	Deprived Ward	Exporter	BAME led
All	All	All	All
Sector	Workstream	Size (employees)	Disability led
All	All	All	All

Survey submitted

02/05/2024

02/08/2024

GC-BCI score

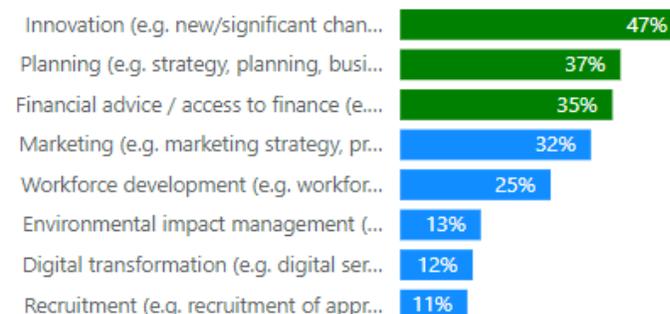
0

10

Main economic impacts on firms in last year (%)



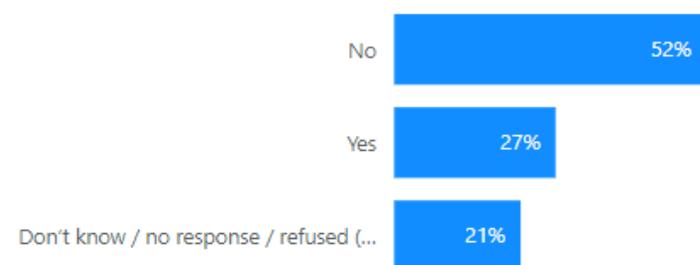
Main business support needs (%)



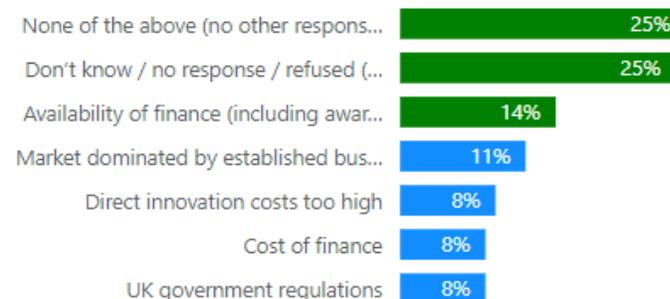
Main current challenges facing firms (%)



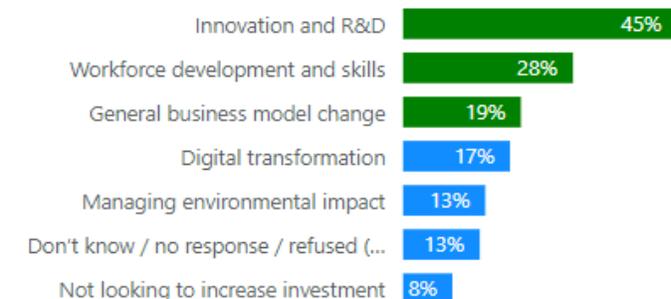
Firms recruiting new staff (#)



Barriers to innovation (%)



Firms looking to increase investment in ... (%)



OGS: LOCAL AUTHORITY DATA - OLDHAM

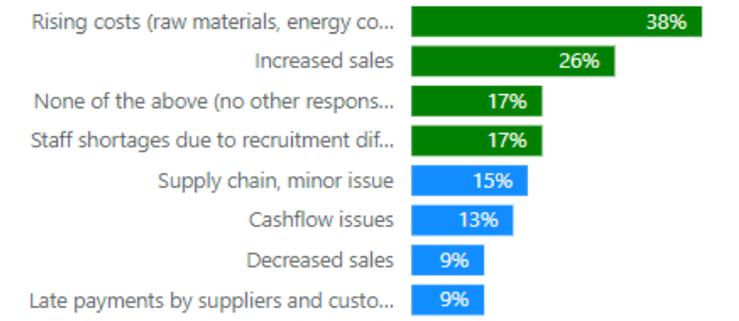
GC-BCI 7.30	Respondents 53
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[HOME](#)

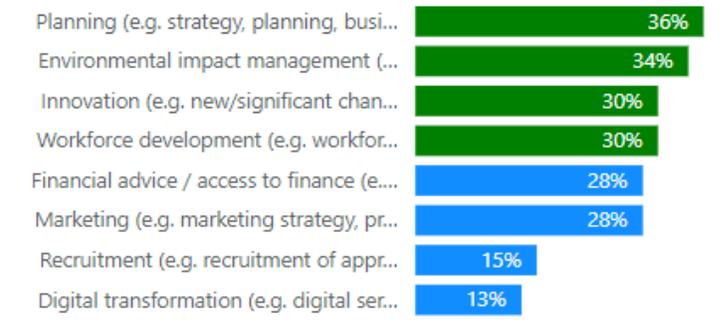
Region All	Electoral Ward All	Foreign owned All	Female led All	Survey submitted 02/05/2024 02/08/2024
Local Authority All	Deprived Ward All	Exporter All	BAME led All	
Sector All	Workstream All	Size (employees) All	Disability led All	



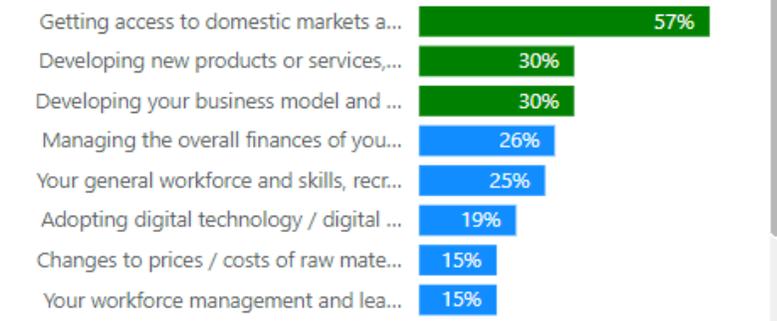
Main economic impacts on firms in last year (%)



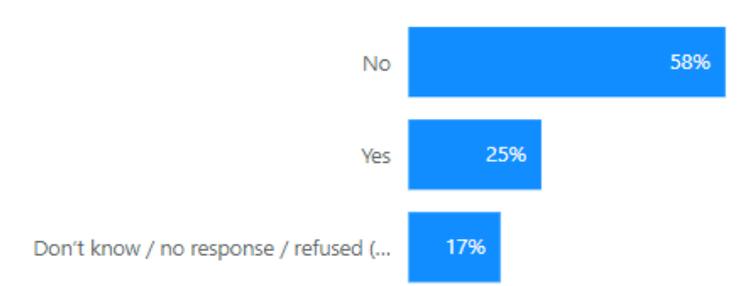
Main business support needs (%)



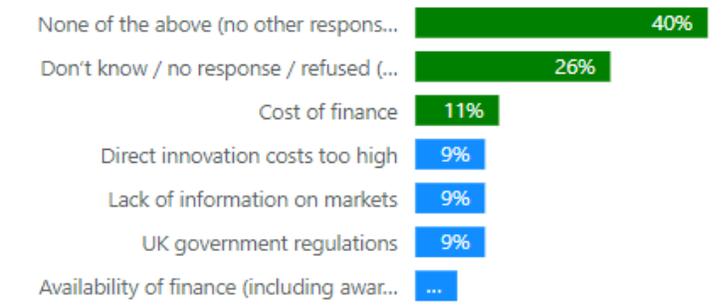
Main current challenges facing firms (%)



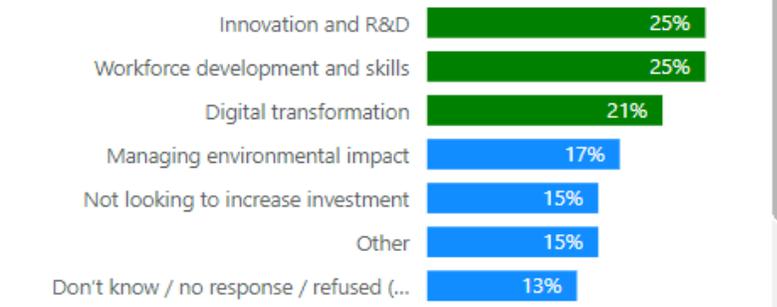
Firms recruiting new staff (#)



Barriers to innovation (%)



Firms looking to increase investment in ... (%)



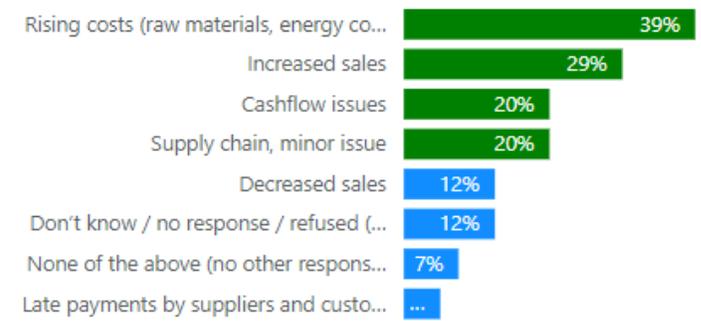
OGS: LOCAL AUTHORITY DATA - ROCHDALE

GC-BCI 6.98	Respondents 41
-----------------------	--------------------------

[HOME](#)

Region All	Electoral Ward All	Foreign owned All	Female led All	Survey submitted 02/05/2024 02/08/2024	
Local Authority All	Deprived Ward All	Exporter All	BAME led All	GC-BCI score 4 9	
Sector All	Workstream All	Size (employees) All	Disability led All		

Main economic impacts on firms in last year (%)



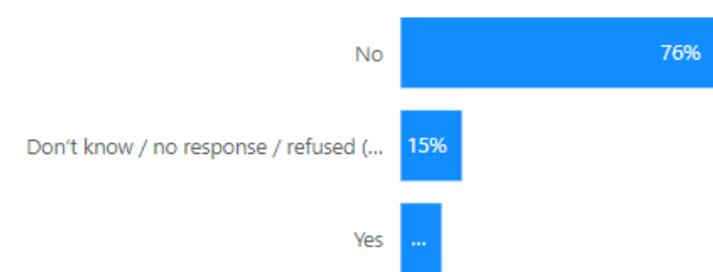
Main business support needs (%)



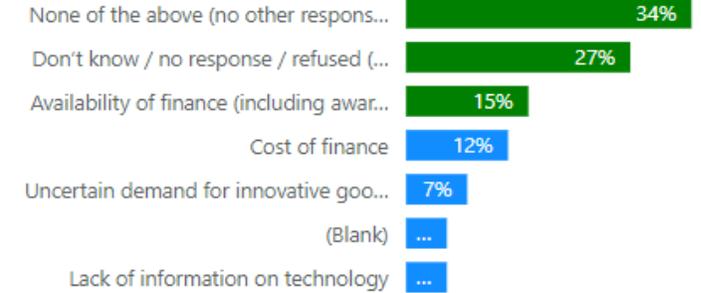
Main current challenges facing firms (%)



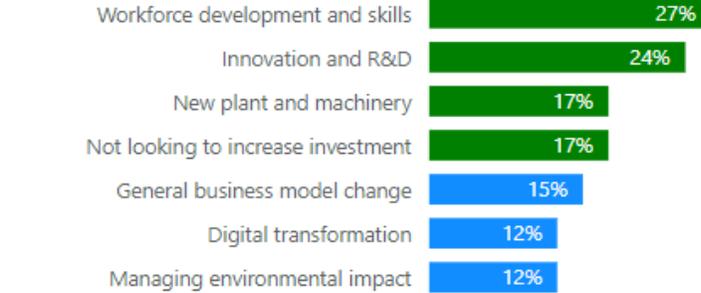
Firms recruiting new staff (#)



Barriers to innovation (%)



Firms looking to increase investment in ... (%)



OGS: LOCAL AUTHORITY DATA - SALFORD

GC-BCI **7.27** Respondents **76**

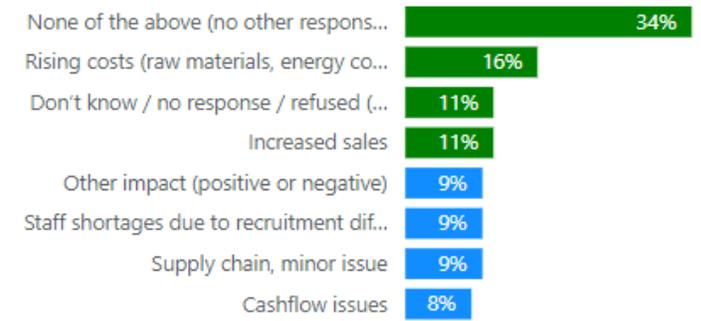
[HOME](#)

Region All	Electoral Ward All	Foreign owned All	Female led All
Local Authority All	Deprived Ward All	Exporter All	BAME led All
Sector All	Workstream All	Size (employees) All	Disability led All

Survey submitted
02/05/2024 02/08/2024



Main economic impacts on firms in last year (%)



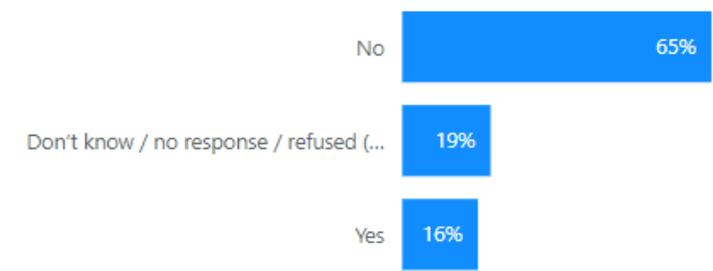
Main business support needs (%)



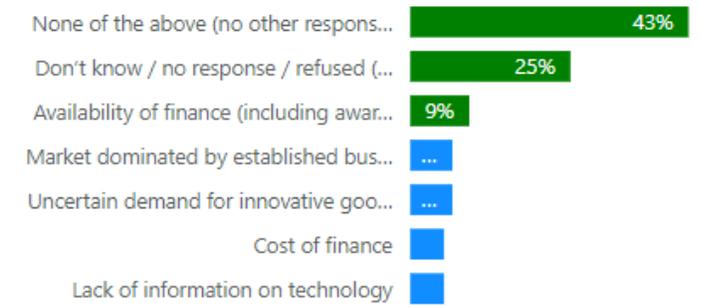
Main current challenges facing firms (%)



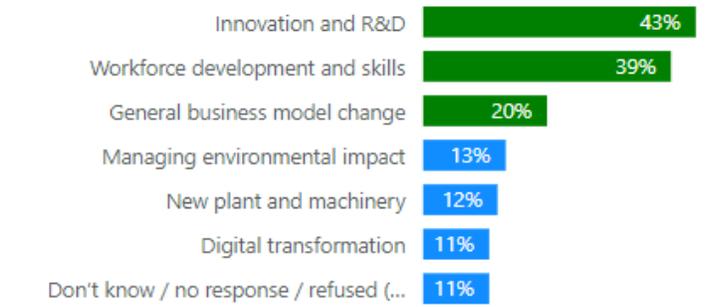
Firms recruiting new staff (#)



Barriers to innovation (%)



Firms looking to increase investment in ... (%)



OGS: LOCAL AUTHORITY DATA - STOCKPORT

GC-BCI 7.17	Respondents 82
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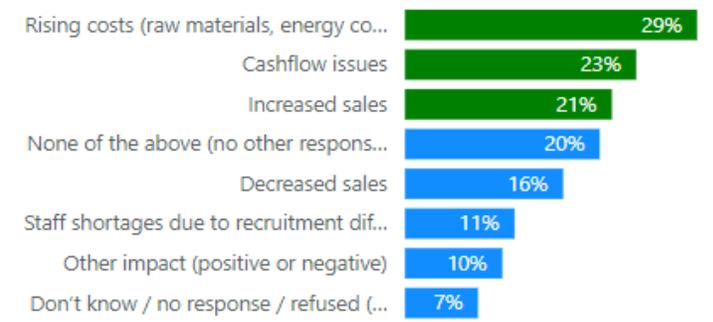
[HOME](#)

Region All	Electoral Ward All	Foreign owned All	Female led All
Local Authority All	Deprived Ward All	Exporter All	BAME led All
Sector All	Workstream All	Size (employees) All	Disability led All

Survey submitted
 02/05/2024 02/08/2024



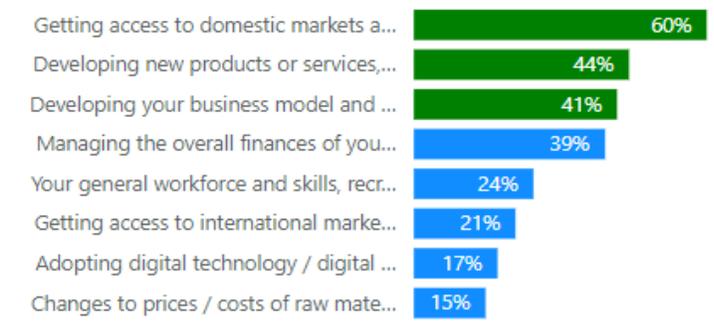
Main economic impacts on firms in last year (%)



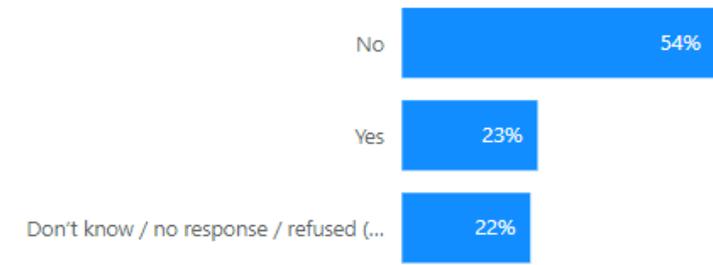
Main business support needs (%)



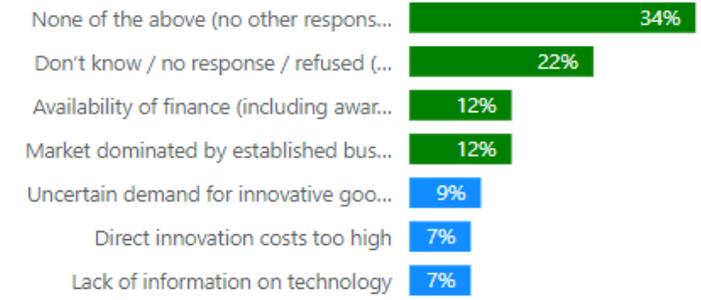
Main current challenges facing firms (%)



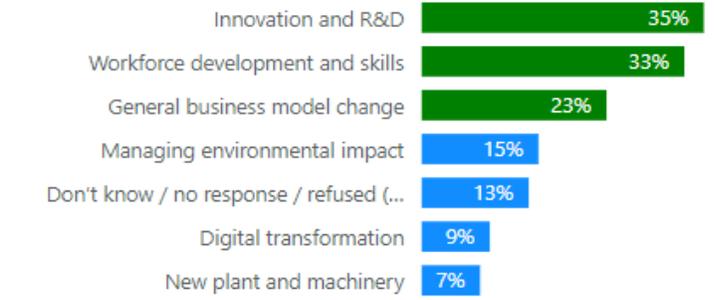
Firms recruiting new staff (#)



Barriers to innovation (%)



Firms looking to increase investment in ... (%)



OGS: LOCAL AUTHORITY DATA - TAMESIDE

GC-BCI 7.20	Respondents 45
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Region All	Electoral Ward All	Foreign owned All	Female led All
Local Authority All	Deprived Ward All	Exporter All	BAME led All
Sector All	Workstream All	Size (employees) All	Disability led All

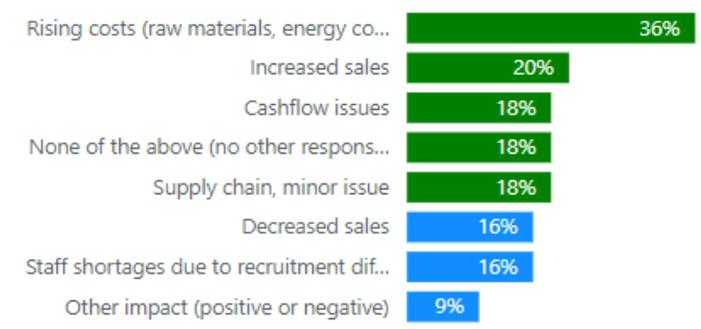
Survey submitted

02/05/2024 02/08/2024

GC-BCI score

2 10

Main economic impacts on firms in last year (%)



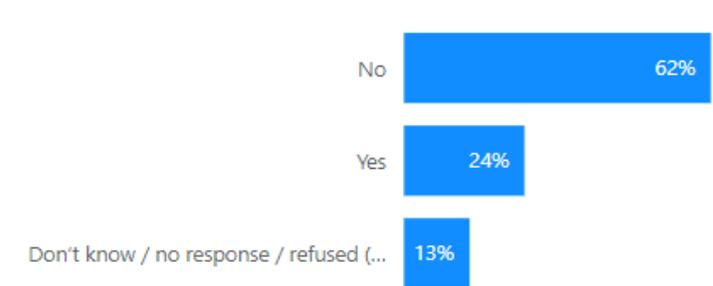
Main business support needs (%)



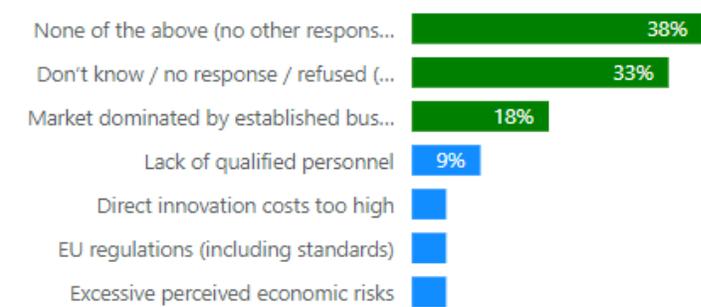
Main current challenges facing firms (%)



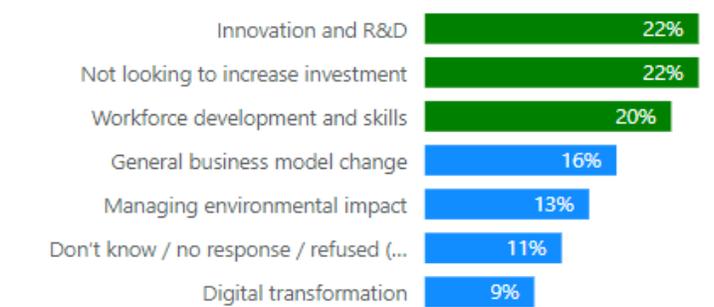
Firms recruiting new staff (#)



Barriers to innovation (%)



Firms looking to increase investment in ... (%)



OGS: LOCAL AUTHORITY DATA - TRAFFORD

GC-BCI 7.52	Respondents 67
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Region All	Electoral Ward All	Foreign owned All	Female led All	Survey submitted 02/05/2024 - 02/08/2024
Local Authority All	Deprived Ward All	Exporter All	BAME led All	
Sector All	Workstream All	Size (employees) All	Disability led All	GC-BCI score 1 - 10

Main economic impacts on firms in last year (%)



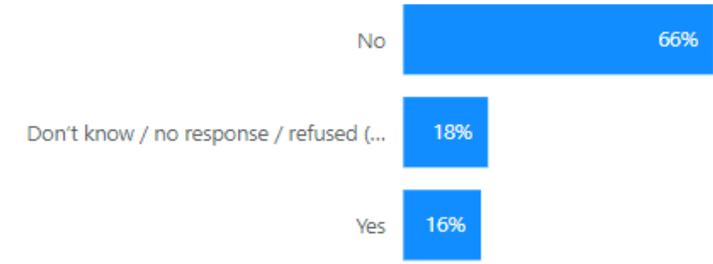
Main business support needs (%)



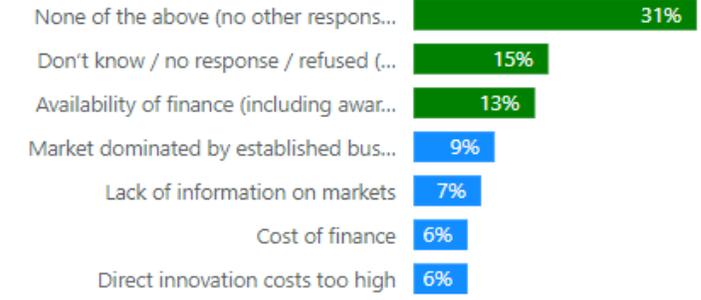
Main current challenges facing firms (%)



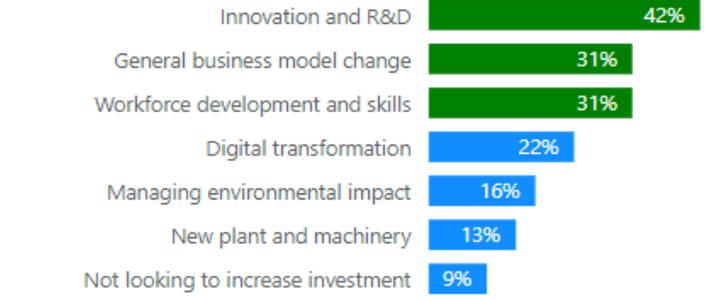
Firms recruiting new staff (#)



Barriers to innovation (%)



Firms looking to increase investment in ... (%)



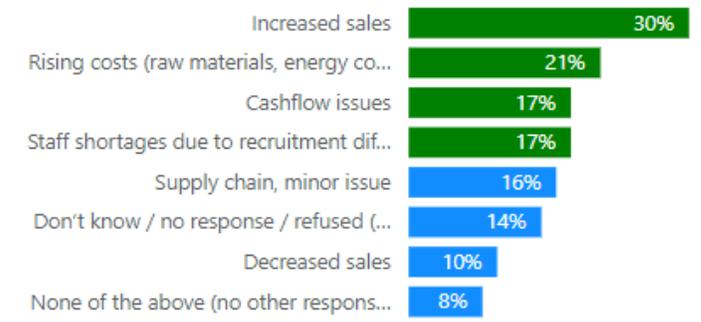
OGS: LOCAL AUTHORITY DATA - WIGAN

GC-BCI 7.27	Respondents 63
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Region All	Electoral Ward All	Foreign owned All	Female led All	Survey submitted 02/05/2024 02/08/2024 GC-BCI score 3 10
Local Authority All	Deprived Ward All	Exporter All	BAME led All	
Sector All	Workstream All	Size (employees) All	Disability led All	

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Main economic impacts on firms in last year (%)



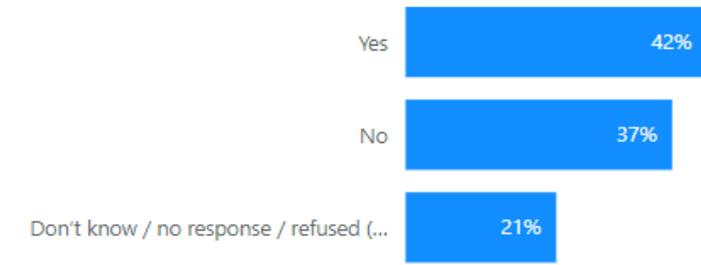
Main business support needs (%)



Main current challenges facing firms (%)



Firms recruiting new staff (#)



Barriers to innovation (%)



Firms looking to increase investment in ... (%)

