GC SITUATION REPORT AND QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY RESULTS

JUNE 2025

WITH QUARTERLY DATA FOR 2ND APRIL 2025 TO 2ND JULY 2025

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1. ECONOMIC CONTEXT AND SURVEY HEADLINES

The GC Situation Report contains leading economic data from both national (mostly ONS) and local business survey sources. This month's survey report findings are based on 708 survey responses completed between 2nd April 2025 and 2nd July 2025 by GC clients from the Business Growth Hub and MIDAS. Comparisons have been made with last quarter's 659 responses completed between March and May 2025. The survey response profile is broadly representative of the Greater Manchester business base, but for an over-representation of SMEs, Manufacturing, and DCT firms, and an under-representation of Retail and Hospitality businesses – reflecting the Business Growth Hub and MIDAS client profiles.

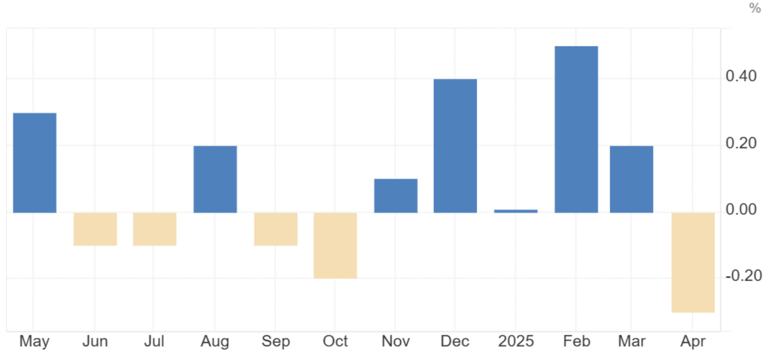
Economic context

- **UK economy.** UK GDP grew by 0.7% in Q1 2025, the strongest since early 2024, but April's in month 0.3% contraction and weak monthly growth in May (0.1%) suggest a weakening economy with annual average growth forecast at 1.0-1.25%.
- **UK Labour market.** The labour market has softened since late 2024, with unemployment rising to 4.6% and payroll employment declining, though stable redundancy levels suggest a slowdown rather than a sharp economic downturn.
- **Sector-specific job losses.** Job losses are concentrated in hospitality and retail—sectors representing 20% of total employment, but accounting for over half of recent redundancies nationally.
- **Monetary policy**. The Bank of England's MPC on 19th June maintained a cautious, quarterly rate-cut strategy, holding the base rate at 4.25%, with cuts expected in August &November 2025 barring broader inflation shocks. 3 MPC members voted for a rate cut in the meeting, citing falling payrolls, slowing wages, & April's negative GDP as signs of economic fragility.
- **Inflation**. Headline inflation eased to 3.4% in May 2025, supported by lower transport costs, though inflation in services (4.7%) and food inflation (4.4%) remain elevated, providing a challenge to achieving the Government's 2% target.
- **Energy Price Risks.** UK Electricity decreased 30 GBP/MWh (-29.3%) since the beginning of 2025. Historically, the UK Electricity Price reached an all time high of 580.6 in September of 2022.

Organisation Growth Survey - business headlines, more detail in main report

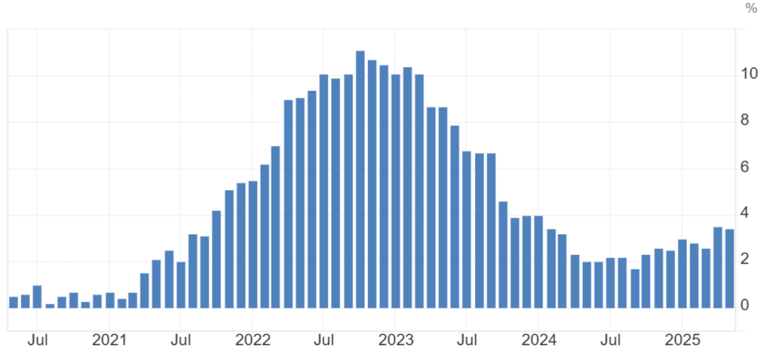
- **The GC Confidence Index** increased to 7.2 from 7.1 last quarter (10 high : 1 = low). Confidence levels are above average for Business Financial & Professional Services, Engineering, Manufacturing, DCTs, and Construction; and the lowest confidence Index scores were reported in Green-Tech, Health & Social Care, Life Sciences, Education and Logistics.
- **Future profits.** The proportion of firms expecting future profits to rise increased to 58% from (vs 53%). Sectors more likely to indicate an increase in future profits are Business, Finance & Professional Services, DCTs, Hospitality, and Retail.
- **Economic Impacts.** The main economic impacts reported are rising costs (28%, unchanged from the last report), followed by cashflow 11% (unchanged), decreased sales 11% (unchanged), and minor supply chain issues 6% (unchanged).
- **Current pressing challenges** facing businesses include access to domestic markets 49% (unchanged), developing new pd/ services 30% (vs 31%), developing business models 31% (unchanged), finances 25% (vs 29%), and skills 23% (vs 20%).
- **The main areas of future support,** include business planning 34% (vs 32%), sales & marketing 31% (vs 29%), innovation 30% (unchanged), workforce development & skills 28% (vs 25%) and financial advice 21% (unchanged).
- **Recruitment:** 23% (vs 20%) of firms are currently recruiting new staff. This is higher amongst SMEs than other sizes of business, and amongst Business, Finance & Professional Services, Retail, Education, Construction, and Hospitality.

UK GDP decreases by 0.3% in April 2025 (Latest)



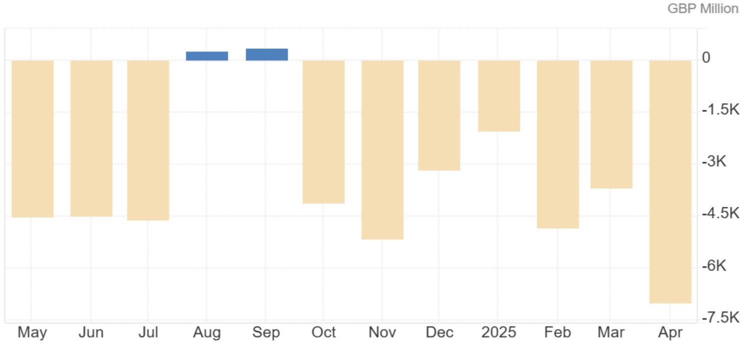
- UK GDP contracted by 0.3% in April 2025, the first decline in six months and the sharpest drop since October 2023 and exceeded expectations of a 0.1% decline.
- The main contributions to the latest figures are higher energy bills and regulated service costs, the implementation of increased employers' NI contributions, a rise in Stamp Duty Land Tax rates, and tariff announcements.
- Services output was the largest contributor to the GDP decline followed by legal activities, advertising & market research costs, and wholesale trade performance. Production output also contracted month on month.
- Despite the April setback, GDP grew by 0.7% overall in the 3 months to April.

UK CPI - Inflation decreased to 3.4% in May 2025 (*Note ONS April error)



- The annual UK inflation rate fell to 3.4% in May 2025 from 3.5% in April, matching expectations, but well above levels recorded the same time last year.
- The largest downward contribution to inflation came from transport prices, reflecting falls in air fares, as well as falling motor prices.
- An error in the Vehicle Excise Duty series contributed to the drop April's data, which is corrected in the latest May figures. Further downward pressure came from the cost for housing and household services, mostly owner occupiers' housing costs. Services inflation also slowed in May, whereas food and non-alcoholic drink and household goods were the largest upwards contributions.

UK trade deficit widens sharply in April 2025 (Latest)

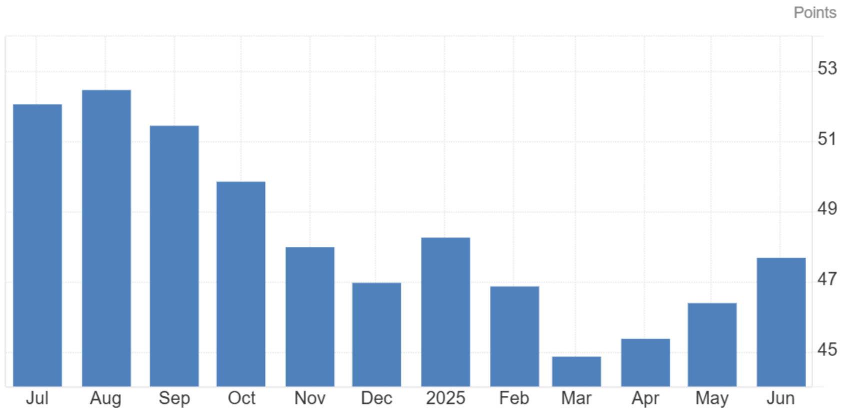


- The UK's trade deficit decreased to £7.03bn in April 2025, from £3.70bn in March, marking the largest trade gap since June 2022. Export value fell by 3.4% to a four-month low of £73.44bn, and imports grew by 1.0% to a 32-month high of £80.47bn.
- Goods exports shrank by 8.8%, largely due to reduced fuel exports. Exports to non-EU countries well significantly by 12.6% during April.
- Service exports rose 0.4% to £45.08bn whilst goods imports rose 1.2% to £51.57bn. Non-EU imports fell 1.3% and service imports increased by 0.6%.

2. SECTOR INSIGHT AND PURCHASING MANAGER INDICES (PMIs)

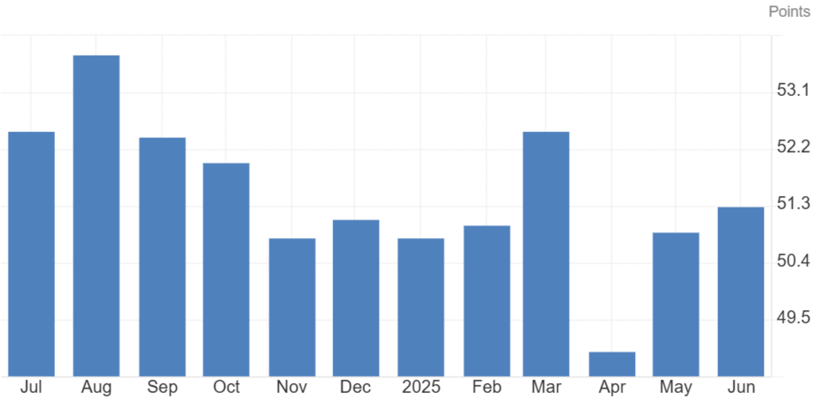
- **The S&P Global UK Composite Purchasing Manager's Index (PMI)** rose to 50.7 in June 2025 from 50.3 in May 2025, indicating an expansion (i.e. values above 50). This marks the second consecutive period of expansion in British private sector activity. Growth was led by the services sector, offsetting the softer decline in activity by the manufacturing sector (index <50). New business at the aggregate level increased for the first time since November 2024, although at a marginal pace, amid the improvement in domestic business and consumer spending. This contrasts with export orders, which contracted amid concerns about tariffs in the US.
- **Company Insolvencies.** There were 2,238 company insolvencies in England and Wales in May, 8% higher than in April 2025 (2,074) and 15% higher than in May 2024 (1,946). Company insolvencies in May 2025 consisted of 354 compulsory liquidations, 1,734 creditors' voluntary liquidations (CVLs), 136 administrations and 14 company voluntary arrangements (CVAs). There were no receivership appointments in May.
- **Compulsory liquidations.** The number of CVLs in May 2025 was higher than both April 2025 and the 2024 monthly average. Administrations were higher than in April 2025, while CVAs were lower. One in 189 companies (53.0 per 10,000 companies) entered insolvency between 1 June 2024 and 31 May 2025. This was a decrease from 55.6 per 10,000 companies in the 12 months ending on the 31st May 2024.
- **Retail sales** are estimated to have fallen by 2.7% in May 2025 following a rise of 1.3% in April 2025. This was the largest fall on the month since December 2023. Sales volumes fell by 1.3% over the year to May 2025. Food stores sales fell by 5.0% in May 2025 following growth of 4.7% in April, mainly due to reduced sales volumes in supermarkets. Non-food stores fell by 1.4% over the month, mainly because of falls in clothing and household goods stores such as hardware, paints and glass retailers.
- **GfK Consumer Confidence Index.** The Index increased to -18 in June 2025, marking the second consecutive monthly improvement after readings of -23 in April and -20 in May. This was driven by a more optimistic view of the broader economy, although overall sentiment remains cautious amid ongoing global tariff disputes and geopolitical tensions.
- **Lloyds Bank Regional Business Barometer.** Business confidence in the North-West rose during June by 3 points to 55% month-on-month, according to the latest Business Barometer from Lloyds. While companies in the North-West reported lower confidence in their own business prospects month-on-month, down two points at 52%, their optimism in the broader economy rose eight points to 57%. Taken together, this gives a headline confidence reading of 55%. A net balance of 59% North-West businesses also expect to increase staff levels over the next year, up 13 points on last month.

The S&P Global UK Manufacturing PMI 47.7 (<50 = contraction)



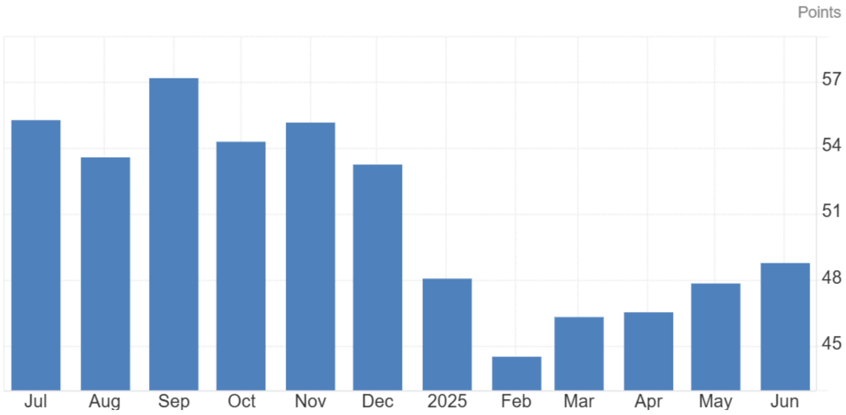
- **S&P Global UK Manufacturing PMI rose to 47.7 in June 2025 from 46.4 in May. The sector contracted (Index <50), the softest contraction since January.**
- New orders fell the least in the current nine-month sequence, pressuring output levels to scale down as companies reported weak market conditions due to uncertain economic policy, geopolitical backdrops, and tariffs.
- Lower new orders were observed from foreign clients, particularly US, Europe, and China. Jobs were cut for the eighth consecutive month. Input costs rose for the 18th straight month amid higher shipping and labour costs, which were partly passed to clients through increases in output charges.

The S&P Global UK Services PMI 51.3 (>50 = expansion)



- **The S&P Global UK Services PMI was 51.3 in June 2025 and above from 50.9 in May 2025, indicating an expansion (Index >50).**
- This indicates another expansion in the country's services sector that was the strongest in three months. There was a rebound in new business intakes, but the rise was only slights, while exports continued to fall. Employment also continued to decrease.
- Inflationary pressures subsided during June, with average prices rising at the slowest pace in over 4 years. Output growth expectations dropped, reflecting growing unease about international and domestic economic conditions.

The S&P Global UK Construction PMI 48.8 (<50 = contraction)



- **The S&P Global UK Construction PMI rose to 48.8 in June 2025, up from 47.9 in May. This reading indicates a contraction (Index<50).**
- Residential building returned to modest growth, outweighed by steeper declines in commercial and civil engineering activity.
- New orders fell for the sixth month, with firms citing weak demand, fewer tenders, and cautious client spending. Business confidence dropped to its lowest level since Dec 2022. Construction employment continued to decline amid cost-cutting efforts. Purchasing activity fell at the slowest rate in 5 months, and supplier performance improved. Input cost inflation eased to its lowest level since January.

3. ORGANISATION GROWTH SURVEY RESULTS

Previous survey results shown in brackets

GROWTH, BUSINESS CONFIDENCE AND INVESTMENT

The GC Business Confidence Index (GC-BCI) is a ranking (1 low to 10 high) of how confident businesses are on their growth prospects for the year ahead.

- **GC Business Confidence Index (GC-BCI)** for June 2025 stands at 7.2 out of 10, showing a 0.1 increase from the previous quarter's figure of 7.1. Confidence levels are above average for Business Financial & Professional Services, Manufacturing and Engineering, DCTs, Construction, Hospitality, and Retail; and the lower than average confidence was reported in Green-Tech, Health & Social Care, Life Sciences, Education and Logistics. The latest confidence figures show increasing levels uncertainty (a rising proportion of lower score ratings) in: Green-Tech, and Health & Social Care.
- **Current sales.** 15% (vs 13%) of firms reported an increase in sales.
- **Future profits.** 58% (vs 53%) expect profits to increase in the year ahead. 2% (vs 3%) expect profits to decrease. The sectors most optimistic about future profitability are BFPS, DCTs, Hospitality and Retail; and lower in Manufacturing & Engineering, Education, Green-Tech, Health & Social Care and Construction.
- **Investment.** 31% (vs 29%) of firms expect to increase capital expenditure in the year ahead. Construction, DCTs, Health Care, and Hospitality are most optimistic, and investment expectations are lowest in Retail, Life-Sciences, BFPS, Green-Tech, and Manufacturing & Engineering.
- **Workforce Development.** 29% (vs 27%) of firms plan to increase investment in Workforce Development. Sectors more likely to increase investment are BFPS, Construction, Education, and Logistics.

MAIN IMPACTS AND FINANCIAL RESILIENCE

- **Sales.** 15% (vs 13%) reported increased sales, and 11% (unchanged) reported decreased sales in the last 12 weeks – at its lowest level since May 2024.
- **Main impacts.** 28% (unchanged) reported rising costs as the main impact, followed by cashflow issues 11% (unchanged), decreased sales 11% (unchanged), and minor supply chain issues 6% (unchanged).
- **Cash reserves.** 60% of firms (vs 58%) report having cash reserves to last over 6 months, with 67% of SMEs (10–249 employees) reporting cash reserves for this duration. Reserves were highest in the BFPS, Construction, Hospitality, Retail, and Engineering, while Health Care and DCTs had the lowest 6+mths reserves.
- **Cashflow.** 11% (unchanged) of firms reported cashflow problems. Micro-sized firms (<10 employees) were more likely to face cashflow challenges than larger SMEs (50–249+ FTEs), with higher cashflow risks reported in Hospitality, Education, Construction, Health & Social Care, Manufacturing, and Logistics. 3% (vs 4%) of firms reported late payments.
- **Analysis of insolvency risk for June 2025** shows decrease in the total number of firms (10+ employees) in GM reporting a heighted level of risk:
    - 652 (down from 828 last month) firms in have 1 flag - some risk;
    - 35 (down from 55) have 2 red flags - medium risk;
    - 27 (down from 40) have 3 red flags - insolvency imminent.
- Month-on-year change in total with 1 to 3 red flags. -1.2% points (UK 0.1%pt). Year-on-year. The proportion of firms with 1 to 3 red flags is 1 ppt lower than same time last year. (UK same as June last year).

FUTURE BUSINESS CHALLENGES AND SUPPORT NEEDS

- **The primary challenges for businesses in the near term** are accessing new domestic sales opportunities, 49% (unchanged). This challenge is more acute in Construction, DCTs, Education, BFPS and Retail.
- **The next most common challenges** include developing new products and services 30% (vs 31%), developing business models 31% (unchanged), managing business finances 25% (vs 29%), and workforce development 23% (vs 20%).
- **International trade.** 24% of firms (vs 21%) export goods or services, with 15% (vs 13%) expanding into new markets, a trend particularly notable in the DCTs, Manufacturing and BFPS. Additionally, 11% (vs 10%) of firms engaged in overseas trade are looking to expand in their current markets.
- **Key areas where businesses seek future support** include business planning 34% (vs 32%), sales & marketing 31% (vs 29%), innovation 30% (unchanged), workforce development 28% (vs 25%) and financial advice 21% (unchanged).
- Micro-size and small firms (0-49 FTEs) were more likely to indicate future support needs in business planning, sales and marketing, and innovation. Whereas firms with 50+ employees were more likely to request requested support in workforce development & skills, recruitment, managing environmental impacts, and digital transformation.
- **9% (vs 12%) require assistance with managing their environmental impact.** Larger SMEs and large firms were more likely to specify this support need, compared with micro-size firms. By sector this was more likely to be reported by Manufacturing, Retail, Construction, Hospitality, and Green tech sectors.

RECRUITMENT, EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS

- **Recruitment:** 23% (vs 20%) of firms are currently recruiting new staff. Recruitment rates (% recruiting) are higher amongst SMEs than other size of businesses. By sector, recruitment is more active in BFPS, Retail, Education, Construction, and Hospitality. Life Sciences, DCTs and Engineering sectors were the least likely to be currently recruiting between April and June.
- **Workforce skill gaps.** 46% (vs 41%) reported that their existing workforce skills are fully aligned with their business plan objectives. 37% (vs 41%) indicated that skills are only partially at the required level, and 2% (vs 3%) stated that their workforce skills are not at the right level (15% said 'don't know'). Smaller SMEs, were more likely to report gaps in sales & customer skills, whilst firms with 50+ FTEs were more likely to report gaps in team working & management skills.
- **The main technical skill gaps.** Specialist technical skills 23% (vs 26%), advanced IT skills 11% (vs 10%), solving complex problems 9% (vs 8%), and knowledge of specific products and services 7% (unchanged).
- **The main people and practical / personal skill gaps.** Sales and selling 19% (vs 20%), motivating staff 13% (unchanged), customer handling skills 10% (unchanged), and team working 9% (vs 7%).

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION

- **Innovation activities in last year:** 34% (unchanged) have invested in new / significantly improved services, 28% (vs 27%) in R&D, 21% (unchanged) new business practices, 20% (vs 17%) introduced new / significantly improved goods, and 12% (vs 14%) have invested in improved production methods.
- **Digital innovation.** 11% (unchanged) have invested in acquisition of digital products, and 5% (unchanged) made investments in the acquisition of new machinery especially in Manufacturing & Engineering, and Hospitality.
- **Future innovation.** 30% (vs 28%) of firms are looking to increase investment and R&D in future, in particular within Life-Sciences, DCTs, and Engineering. 29% (vs 27%) said they were likely to invest in workforce development, in particular within the Retail, BFPS, Construction, Hospitality, Health Care sectors.
- **Digital Transformation**. 18% (VS 19%) firms are looking to invest in digital transformation, within BFPS, Construction, DCTs and Retail, service activities, and less likely in Life Sciences, Health Care, Hospitality and Education.
- **AI Adoption:** 41% (vs 35%) have adopted AI into business. Firms were most likely to have implemented AI in data analytics, sales and marketing systems, replacing admin tasks, and for automating routine production processes.

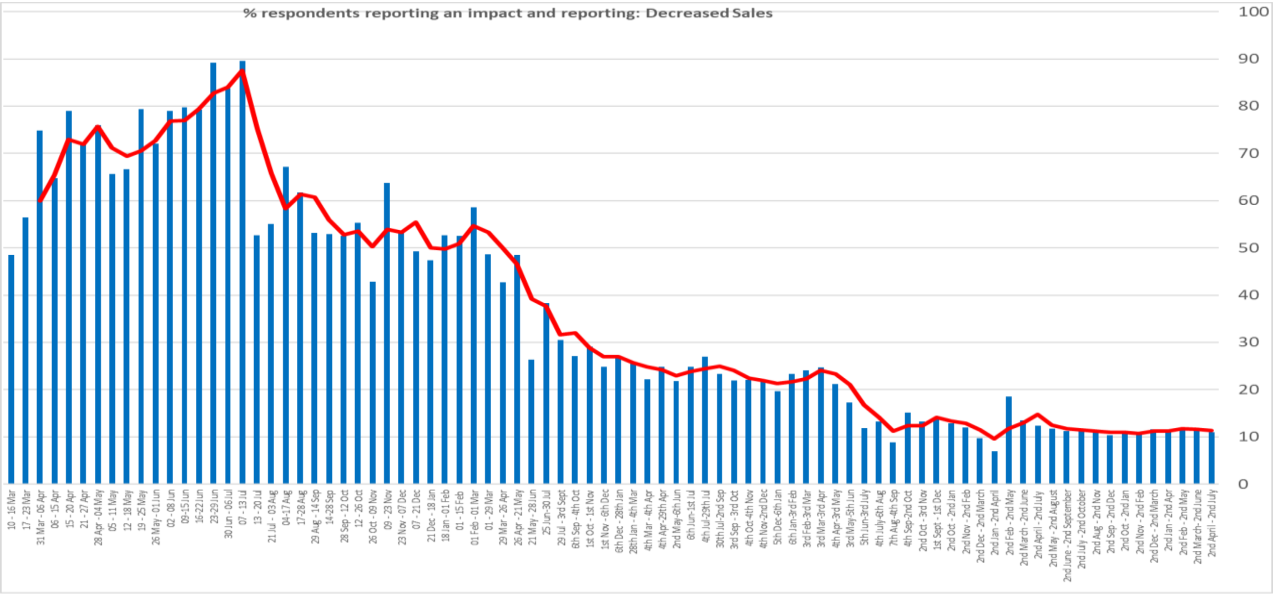
SOCIAL VALUE AND GOOD EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES

Organisations were asked if they had/or intended to have the following:

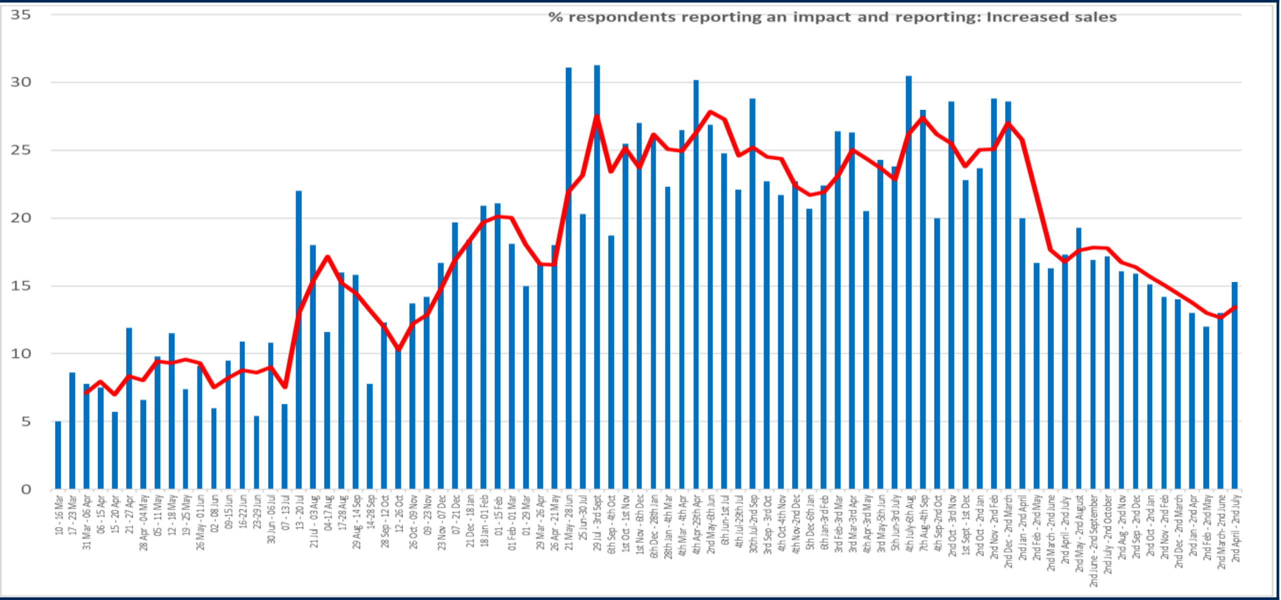
- **Guaranteeing at least 16 hours of work per week.** 71% (vs 87%) said this currently applies, and 27% (vs 12%) said they are likely to consider in future.
- **Paying the Real Living Wage.** 53% of firms (vs 48%) paid the RLW, while 21% (vs 24%) indicated they are likely to implement it in the future.
- **Offering flexible working options to employees.** 47% (vs 42%) said this currently applies, and 25% (vs 27%) said likely to include in future.
- **Involving employees in the overall direction of the business**. 35% (vs 30%) said this currently applies. 31% (vs 32%) said likely to do so in future.
- **Looking to increase the diversity of the workforce.** 40% (vs 34%) of firms said this currently applies, and 29% (vs 32%) said likely to include this in the future.
- **Promoting healthy work practices.** 44% (vs 41%) said this currently applies, while 25% (vs 26%) indicated they are likely to do so in future.
- **Investing in leadership.** 43% (vs 37%) said that they are investing in leadership, while 35% (vs 38%) indicated they are likely to do so in future.

TIME SERIES OF THE MAIN IMPACTS OF ECONOMY ON BUSINESS

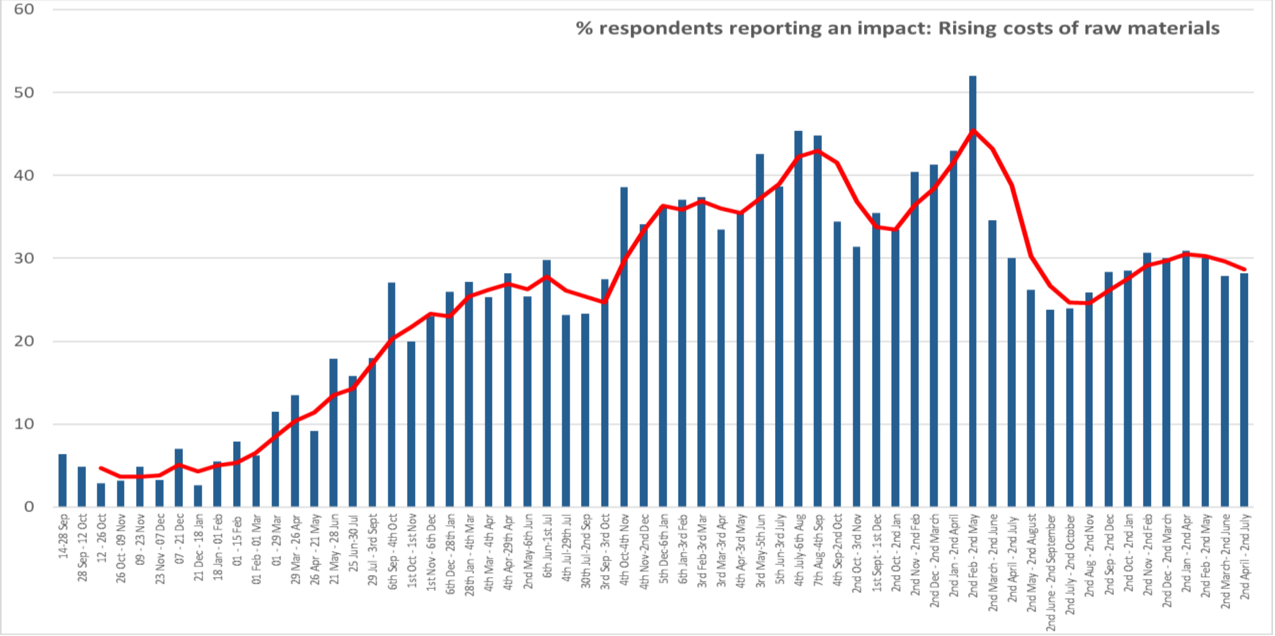
Percentage stating decreased sales (Red line = moving average)



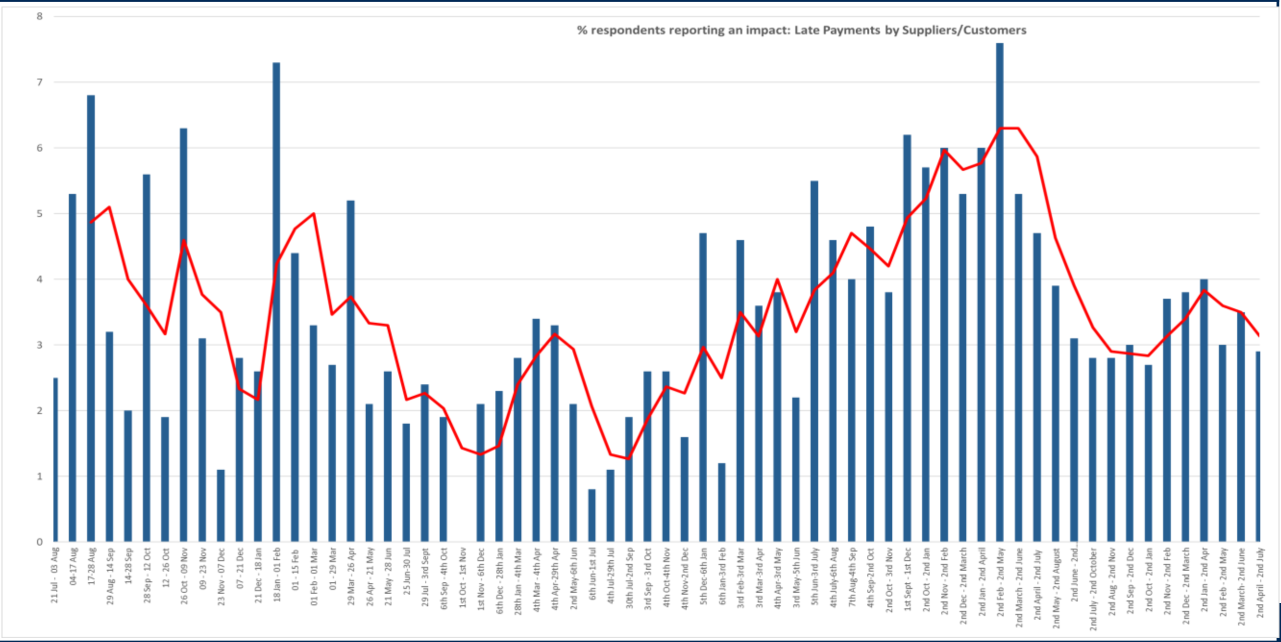
Percentage stating increased sales



Percentage stating rising costs

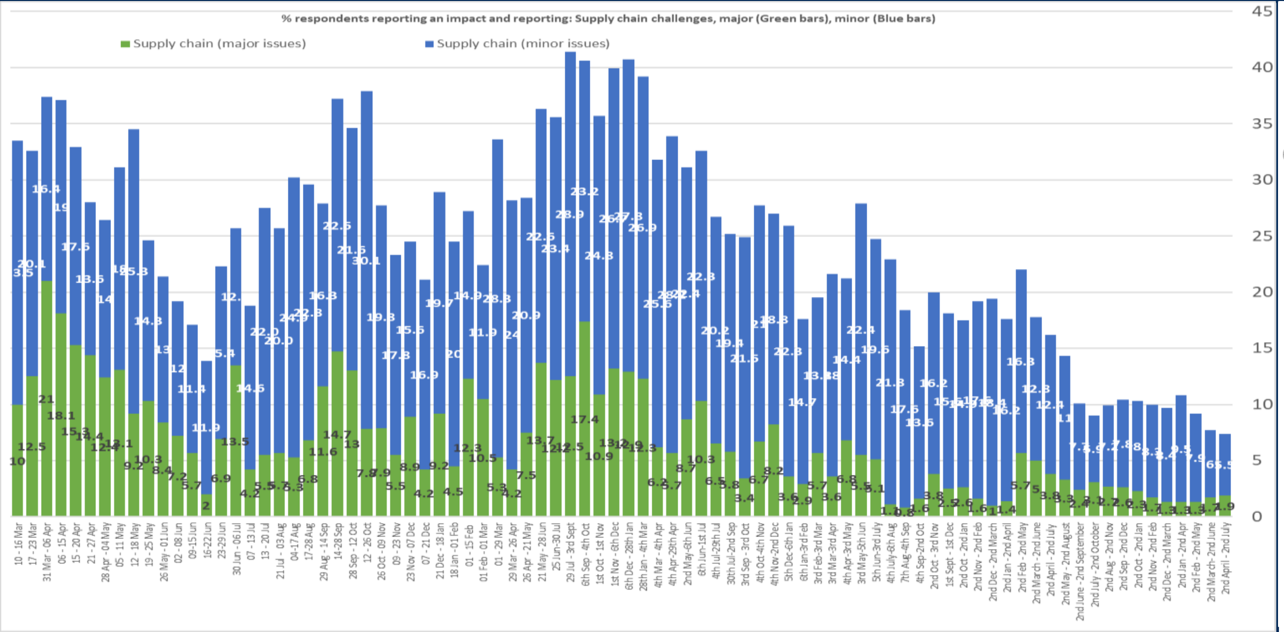


Percentage stating late payments

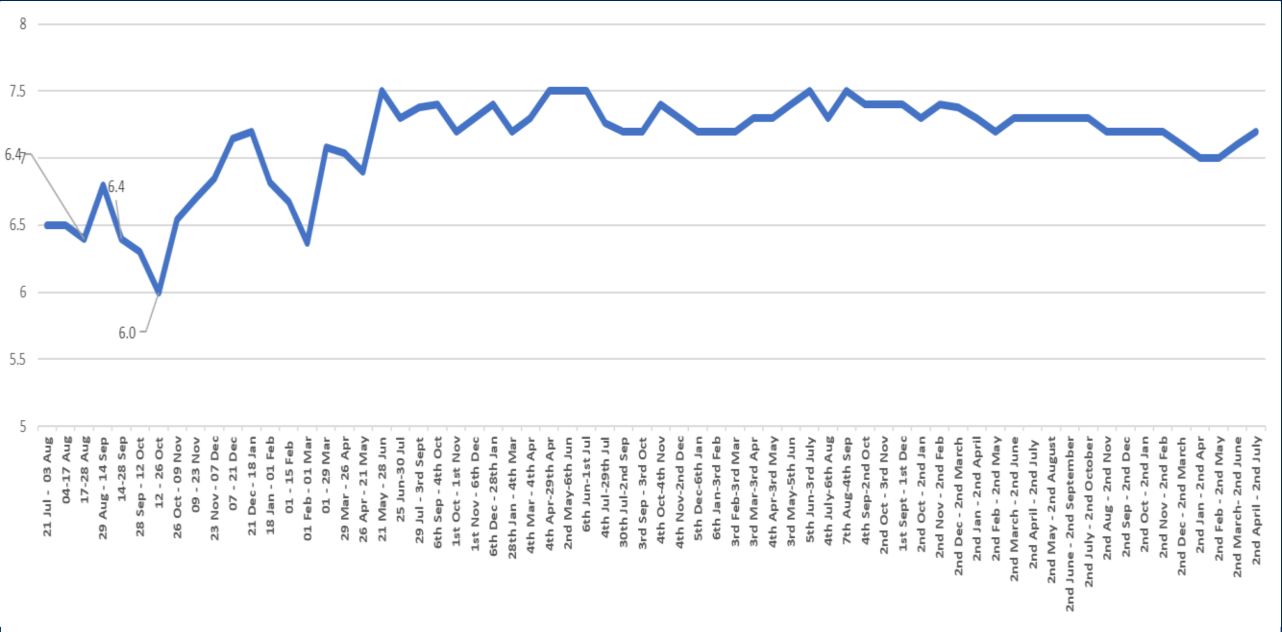


TIME SERIES OF THE MAIN IMPACTS OF ECONOMY ON BUSINESS

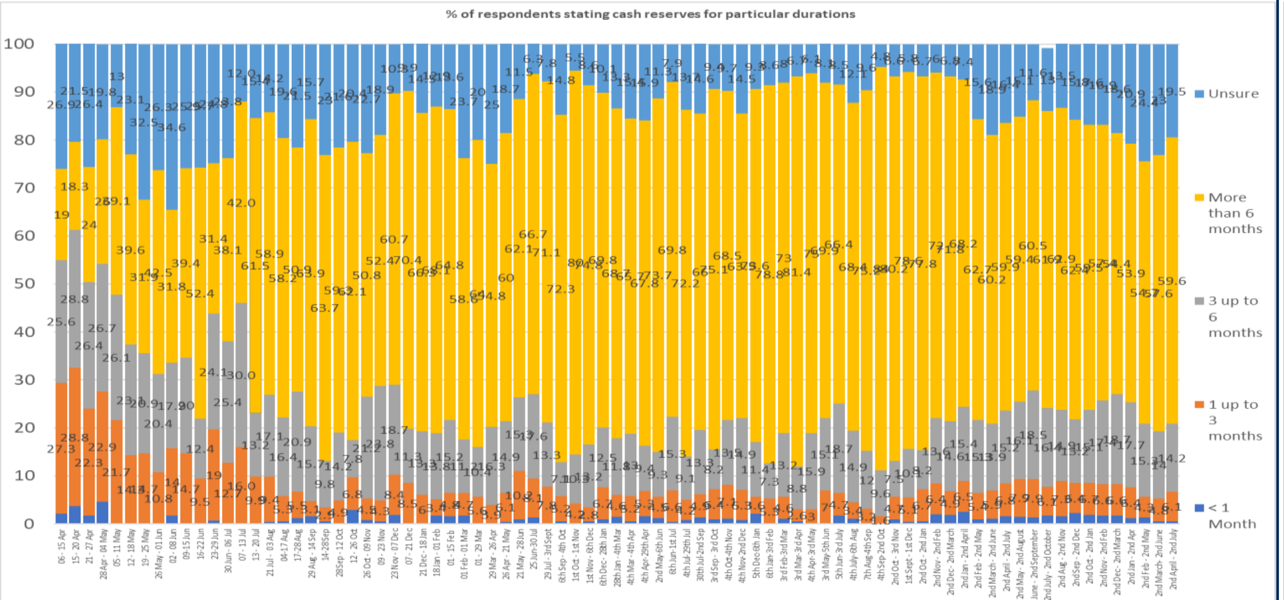
Percentage reporting minor supply chain issues (blue), major issues (green)



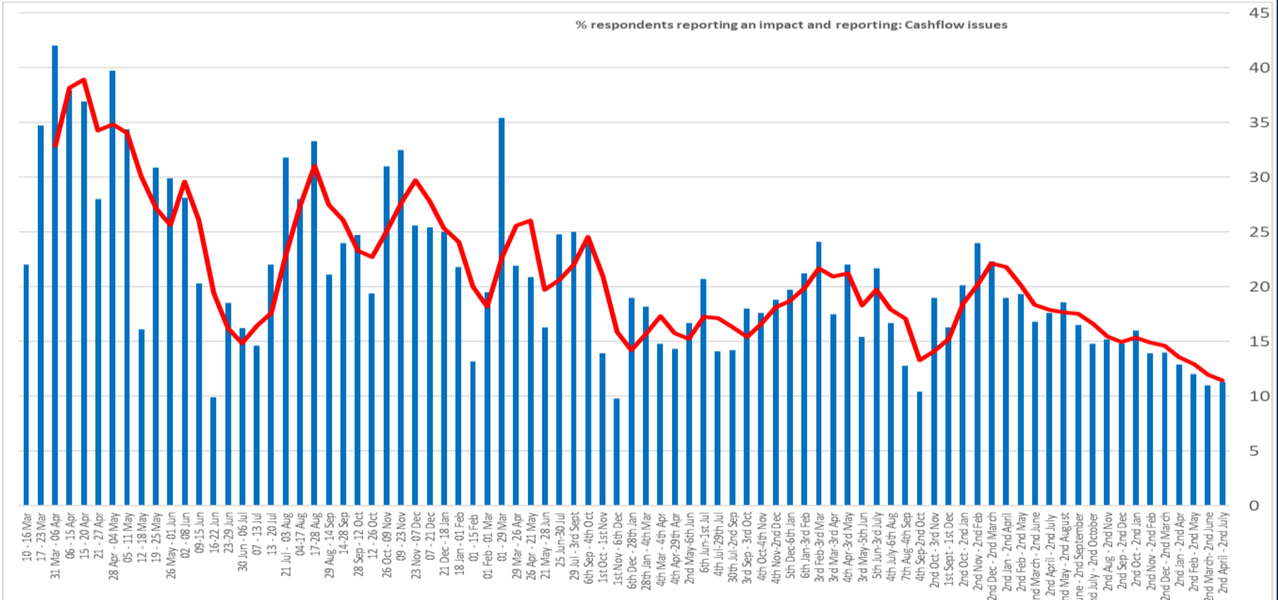
Aggregate confidence index – 1 low confidence, 10 high confidence



Percentage stating cash reserves can sustain certain periods of time

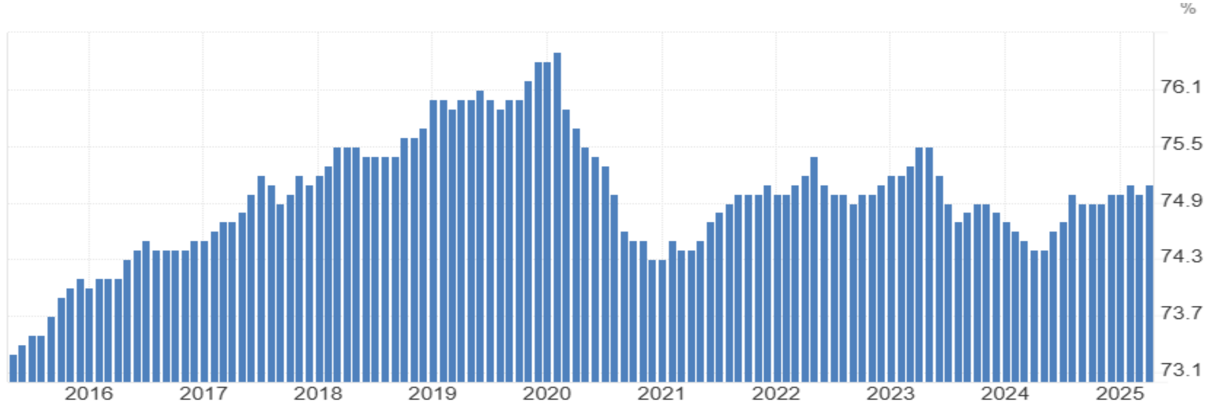


Percentage reporting cashflow problems



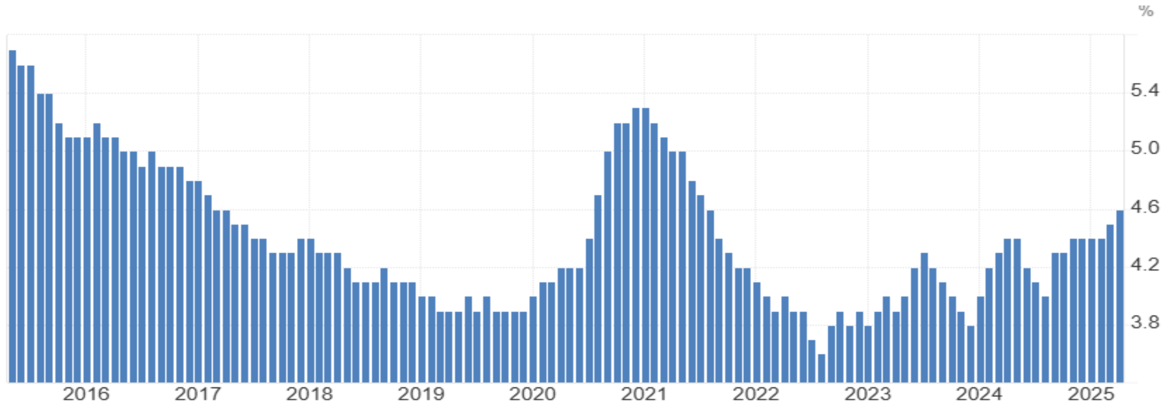
4. LABOUR MAKRET HEADLINES – ONS QUARTERLY LABOUR FORCE SURVEY

United Kingdom - Employment Rate 75%



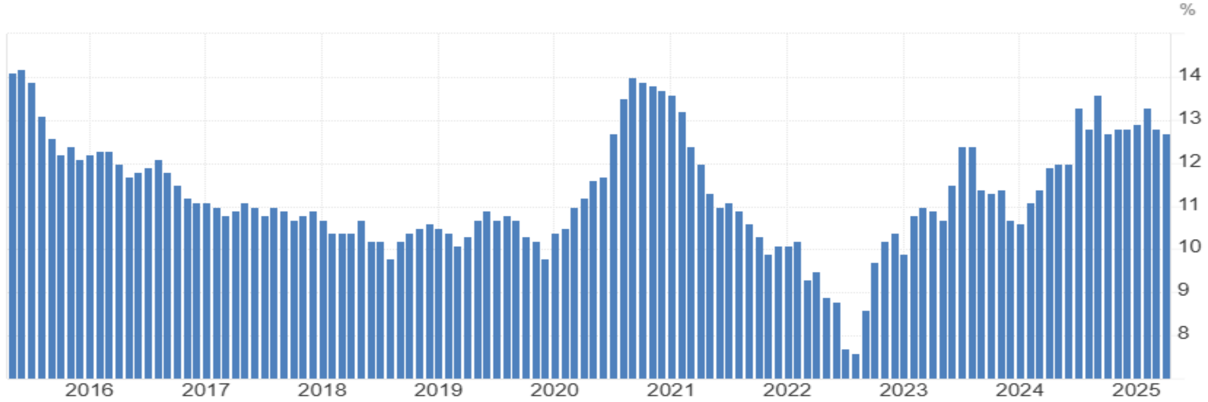
- **Employment Rate** in the United Kingdom increased to 75.1% in April from 75.0% in March of 2025.
- The Employment Rate in the United Kingdom averaged 71.6% from 1971 until 2025, reaching an all time high of 76.5% in February of 2020 and a record low of 65.6% in April of 1983.

United Kingdom - Unemployment Rate 4.6%



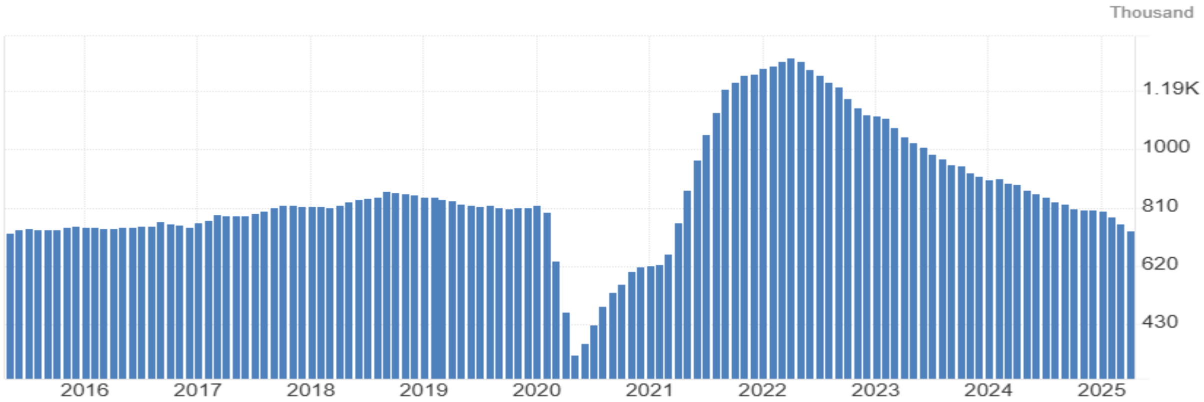
- **United Kingdom's unemployment** rate edged up to 4.6% in the three months to April 2025 from 4.5% in the previous period, matching market expectations. This marked the highest level since the three months ending in August 2021, and is attributed to moderating wage growth following sharp increases in payroll taxes and a 6.7% rise in the national minimum wage. The number of people unemployed for up to six months increased, as did those unemployed for over 12 months.
- **The number of employed individuals** rose by 89k to 34 million, marking the smallest increase in employment so far this year, with gains driven by higher numbers of both part-time and full-time workers.
- **The number of people holding second jobs** also rose, now accounting for 4% of all employed individuals. Lastly, the economic inactivity rate decreased by 0.2 percentage points to 21.3%

United Kingdom - Youth Unemployment Rate 12.7%



- **Youth Unemployment Rate** in the United Kingdom decreased to 12.7% in April from 12.8% in March of 2025.
- The Youth Unemployment Rate in the United Kingdom averaged 13.2% from 1992 until 2025, reaching an all time high of 20.3% in November of 2011 and a record low of 7.6% in August of 2022.

United Kingdom - Vacancy Notifications 736k



- **Job Vacancies** in the United Kingdom decreased to 736k in April from 760k in March of 2025.
- Job Vacancies in the United Kingdom averaged 695.7k from 2001 until 2025, reaching an all time high of 1.3 million in April of 2022, and a record low of 328k in May of 2020.

5. HOSPITALITY, LEISURE, TOURISM - IMPACTS AND SUPPORT

VisitBritain - Domestic Consumer Sentiment Tracker Fieldwork 2nd to 9th June 2025

- **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 day trips, short breaks and holidays, when they plan to book and take the trip, destination and accommodation chosen.**

The key headlines are:

- Perception of the 'worst still to come' regarding cost-of-living crisis is at 46% which is down 6% from May 2025.
- Proportion intending a UK overnight trip in the next 12 months is 76% down by 2% since May 2025.
- Proportion intending on taking an overseas overnight trip in the next 12 months is 61%, consistent with May 2025.
- The top 3 barriers to an overnight stay in the UK in June are:
  - UK weather (moves up from 2nd in May)
  - rising cost of living (moving down from 1st in May 2025)
  - rising costs of holidays/leisure (remaining in 3rd)
- The top 3 areas for an overnight stay Jul–Sep 2025 is South-West, London & North-West (up from 4th in May).
- The top 3 areas for overnight stays Oct–Dec 2025 is London, South-West and Scotland. North-West is 4th.
- The top 3 destinations Jul–Sep 2025 are city or large town, coastal/seaside town and countryside or village - all consistent with May 2025.
- The top 3 destination Oct–Dec 2025 are city or large town, countryside or village, coastal/seaside town.
- Hotels remain top accommodation choice for Jul–Sep 2025, consistent with May, and also for Oct–Dec 2025.
- **Source:** https://www.visitbritain.org/research-insights/domestic-sentiment-tracker

Hotel Performance Monitor – May 2025 (Source MM)

- The occupancy rate in May for Greater Manchester (78%) was below the same period in 2024 (79%), whilst Manchester city centre (77%) was on a par with the same time last year (77%).
- The average daily rates for Greater Manchester (£94) and Manchester city centre (£107), were both above 2024 rates (£92 and £104 respectively).
- The revenue per available room for Greater Manchester (£74) and Manchester city centre (£83) were both above levels recorded the same time last year (£73 and £80 respectively).

	Greater Manchester			Manchester		
	Room occupancy	Average rate	Revenue per room	Room occupancy	Average rate	Revenue per room
Value	%	£	£	%	£	£
2025	78%	£94	£74	77%	£107	£83
2024	79%	£92	£73	77%	£104	£80

Marketing Manchester Campaigns Impact
Reach across all channels

129.7 million

6. GOVERNMENT MEASURES, OTHER DATA AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THEME	ANNOUNCEMENT / ISSUE - (HOLD CTRL AND CLICK ON <LINKS> TO ACCESS THE FULL ITEM)
UK Industrial Strategy and Sector Strategies	The government have published their Industrial Strategy. This is a 10-year plan to significantly increase business investment in 8 growth-driving sectors, by making it quicker and easier for businesses to invest and providing them with the certainty and stability needed for long-term investment decisions. For each sector, specific details are set out in separate Sector Plans. **<Link>**
UK Trade Strategy	A strategy document setting out the government's plans to maximise trade opportunities now and in the future, published 26 June. It sets out the UK's unique position as a services superpower whilst also supporting the advanced manufacturing base in a rapidly changing global landscape. It also sets out how the UK will deliver economic security as well as growth through trade. **<Link>**
UK Export Finance - enhanced business support	Smaller businesses are set to benefit from extra government support to maximise orders from international buyers. UKEF has enhanced its export insurance with a new Small Export Builder option, making export protection more accessible to smaller businesses seeking financial security when trading internationally. The Business & Trade Department is also introducing a 'Repeat Order Guarantee' so international buyers can easily keep accessing goods and services from their most trusted UK suppliers of all sizes, and in a more streamlined way. **<Link>**
Government publishes the Employment Rights Bill Implementation Roadmap	Landmark changes delivered through the Employment Rights Bill including sick pay for up to 1.3 million of the lowest earners and day one rights to parental and paternity leave will be introduced for the first time from early next year. Informed by more than 190 pieces of engagement with businesses and other stakeholders over the last 12 months, a phased approach was taken to give workers clarity and employers time to prepare. Key measures in the Bill will come into effect in 2026 and 2027, whilst further consultations are planned. **<Link>**
Argentina grants Scotch Whisky protection	Argentina has given Scotch Whisky a seal of approval as the first ever international product to receive Geographical Indication (GI) status in the country. This legal protection ensures products labelled as Scotch Whisky are genuine and meet strict production standards. This will help tackle counterfeit products, giving shoppers confidence they are buying an authentic product and distillers reassurance to expand their presence in a market without risk of imitation products undermining their reputation. **<Link>**
Innovator passports for NHS procurement	A new 'innovator passport' - to be introduced over the next 2 years - will allow new technology that has been robustly assessed by one NHS organisation to be easily rolled out to others. The move is a key part of the Government's 'Plan for Change' and it's 10 Year Health Plan. **<Link>**

APPENDIX 1:
SURVEY RESPONSE RATES

JUNE 2025

WITH QUARTERLY DATA FOR 2ND APRIL 2025 TO 2ND JULY 2025

SURVEY RESPONSE RATES FOR GM OVER TIME VS ONS ENTERPRISE UNIT PROFILE FOR GM (EXCLUDES OUT OF AREA)

Size / Sector (as identified by the business) C = Confidential, 5 or less responses *Percentages rounded to nearest figure*	GM ONS IDBR 2022	JUNE 2025	MAY 2025	APRIL 2025	MAR 2025	FEB 2025	JAN 2025	Dec 2024	NOV 2024	OCT 2024	SEP 2024	AUG 2024	JUL 2024	JUN 2024	MAY 2024	MAR 2024	FEB 2024	JAN 2024	DEC 2023	NOV 2023	OCT 2023	SEP 2023	AUG 2023
Size-band (employees)	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
'0' employment to 9 (MICRO)	89%	54%	55%	58%	55%	58%	56%	59%	54%	55%	56%	62%	60%	58%	59%	57%	46%	49%	53%	51%	59%	41%	58%
10 to 49 (SMALL)	9%	24%	24%	24%	25%	24%	23%	20%	24%	25%	26%	24%	23%	24%	24%	26%	27%	22%	13%	20%	16%	24%	16%
50 to 249 (MEDIUM)	2%	15%	15%	13%	13%	12%	14%	15%	15%	13%	12%	9%	11%	6%	7%	9%	9%	7%	14%	16%	13%	19%	13%
250+ (LARGE)	<1%	7%	6%	6%	6%	7%	7%	7%	7%	7%	6%	C	7%	12%	10%	8%	10%	10%	11%	8%	7%	10%	6%
UNKNOWN	-	-	-	-	-	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	8%	12%	8%	C	C	6%	8%
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
BUSINESS FINANCIAL, PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	27%	12%	13%	13%	14%	13%	13%	12%	12%	12%	12%	10%	8%	10%	10%	10%	13%	14%	14%	18%	11%	22%	15%
CONSTRUCTION	12%	5%	C	C	C	C	C	6%	6%	C	C	C	C	C	C	6%	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
DIGITAL, CREATIVE, TECHNOLOGY	6%	18%	18%	19%	21%	23%	23%	24%	25%	24%	21%	21%	22%	18%	16%	13%	18%	19%	22%	23%	23%	24%	23%
EDUCATION	2%	6%	6%	C	C	6%	C	8%	9%	8%	6%	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
ENGINEERING	2%	2%	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
UTILITIES, ENERGY, WATER, WASTE, GREEN TECH	C	3%	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	6%	6%	6%	7%	8%	10%	6%	7%	C	C	C	C	8%
HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE	C	7%	C	7%	7%	6%	C	C	6%	7%	9%	9%	8%	8%	7%	8%	C	C	C	6%	C	6%	C
HOSPITALITY, TOURISM, & SPORT	7%	5%	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	6%	7%	6%	7%	C	C	5%	7%	6%	10%	C	8%
LOGISTICS	5%	1%	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	6%	C
MANUFACTURING (excluding Engineering)	3%	19%	18%	18%	18%	17%	15%	13%	12%	13%	13%	15%	17%	16%	16%	21%	26%	20%	19%	18%	19%	17%	22%
LIFE SCIENCES	N/A	3%	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
RETAIL & WHOLESALE	18%	6%	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	6%	7%	9%	9%	9%	9%	11%	8%	7%	9%	C	6%
OTHER SERVICES (excluding SIC unknown)	4%	12%	7%	7%	11%	7%	6%	6%	C	6%	6%	8%	6%	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C

LOCAL AUTHORITY SURVEY RESPONSE (EXCLUDING RESPONSES OUTSIDE AREA): PROFILE BY SIZE, SECTOR, AND LOCATION

Size / Sector (as identified by the business) C = Confidential, 5 or less responses *Percentages rounded to nearest figure*	GM ONS IDBR Enterprise Count 2022	GM	Bolton	Bury	Manchester	Oldham	Rochdale	Salford	Stockport	Tameside	Trafford	Wigan
Size-band (employees)	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
‘0’ employment to 9 (MICRO)	**89%**	**54%**	57%	64%	56%	35%	52%	56%	50%	46%	55%	55%
10 to 49 (SMALL)	**9%**	**24%**	15%	25%	25%	43%	21%	23%	23%	18%	20%	23%
50 to 249 (MEDIUM)	**2%**	**15%**	26%	6%	12%	11%	21%	14%	14%	25%	15%	19%
250+ (LARGE)	**<1%**	**7%**	2%	6%	6%	11%	5%	7%	7%	11%	10%	3%
UNKNOWN	-	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C

APPENDIX 2:
GROWTH SURVEY DETAILED RESULTS, AND LOCAL AUTHORITY, EQUALITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION DATA

JUNE 2025

WITH QUARTERLY DATA FOR 2ND APRIL 2025 TO 2ND JULY 2025

www.growthco.uk

OGS: BUSINESS CONFIDENCE INDEX (GC-BCI)

Local Authority All

Sector All

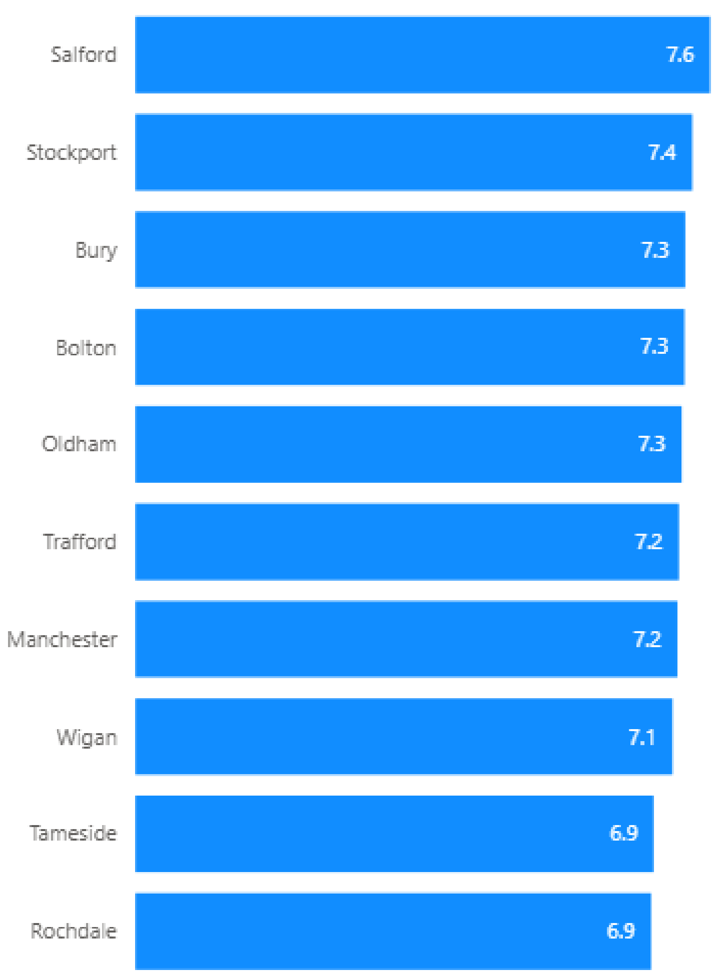
Size Band All

Submitted Date 02/04/2025 – 02/07/2025

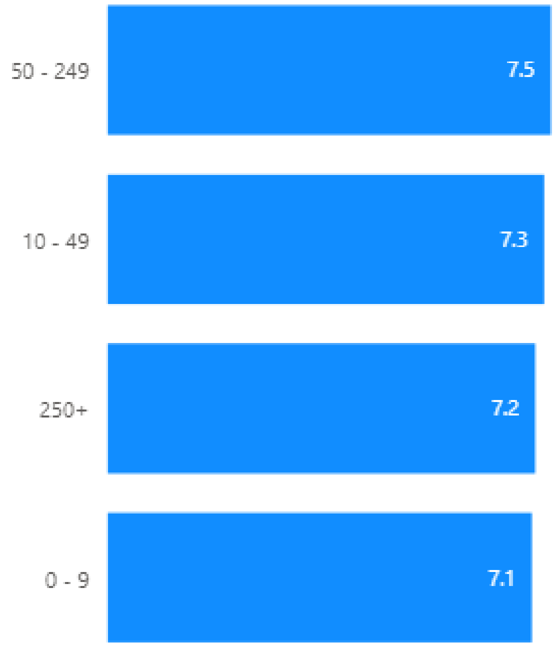
HOME

Responses 708

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



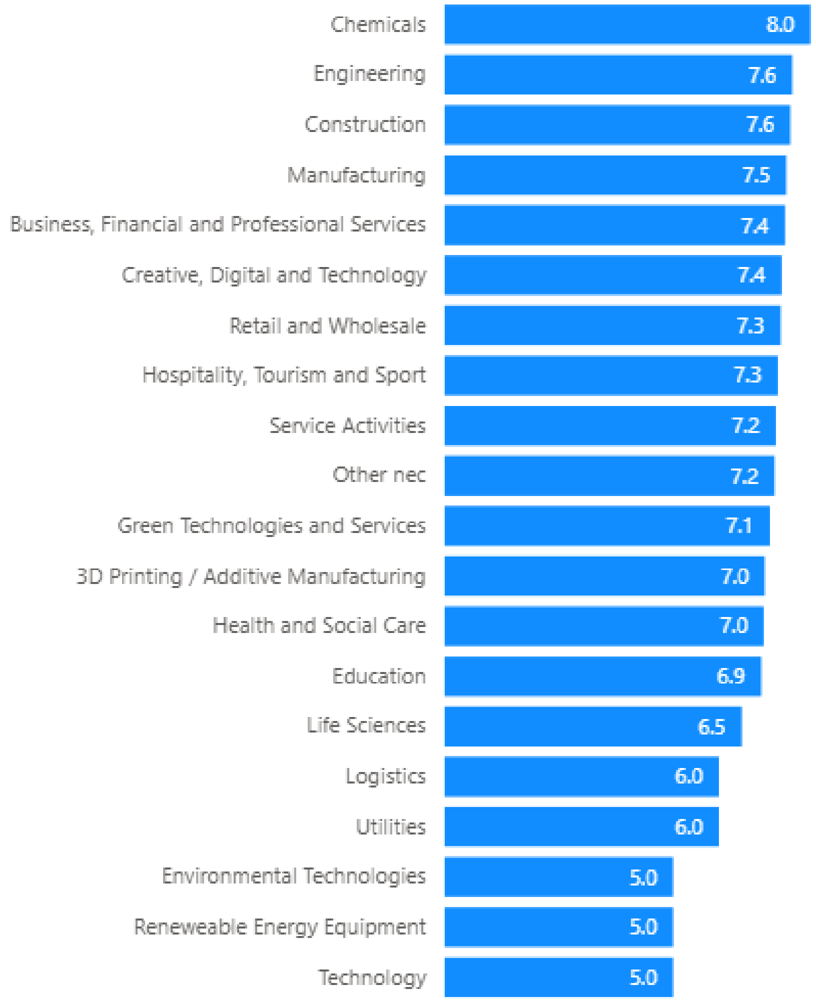
GC-BCI by size - employees (1 low - 10 high)



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

7.2

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



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

Responses	Respondents
708	552

HOME

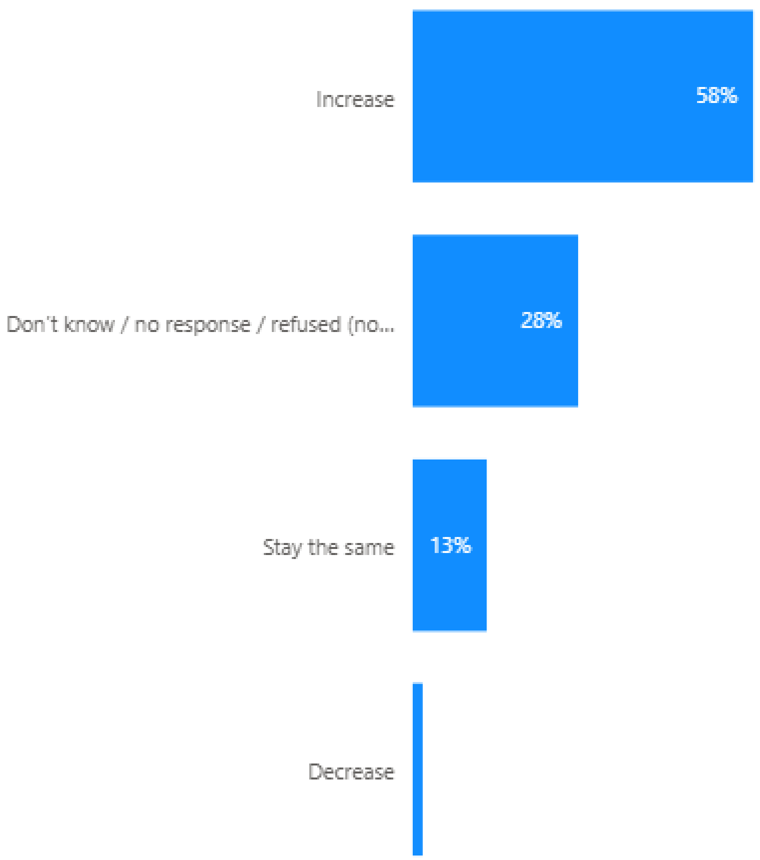
Local Authority: All

Sector: All

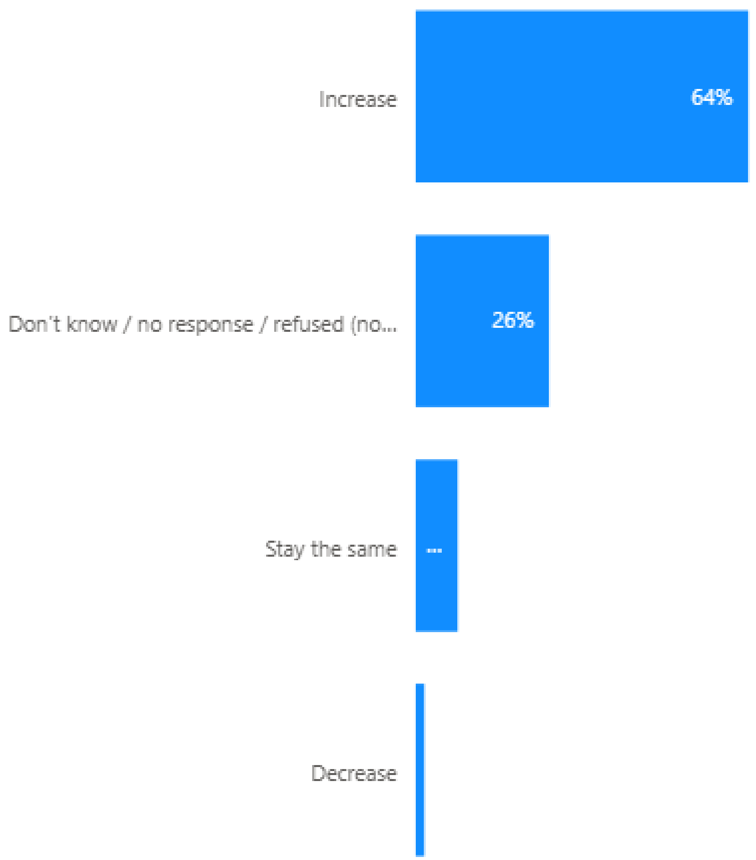
Size Band: All

Submitted Date: 02/04/2025 – 02/07/2025

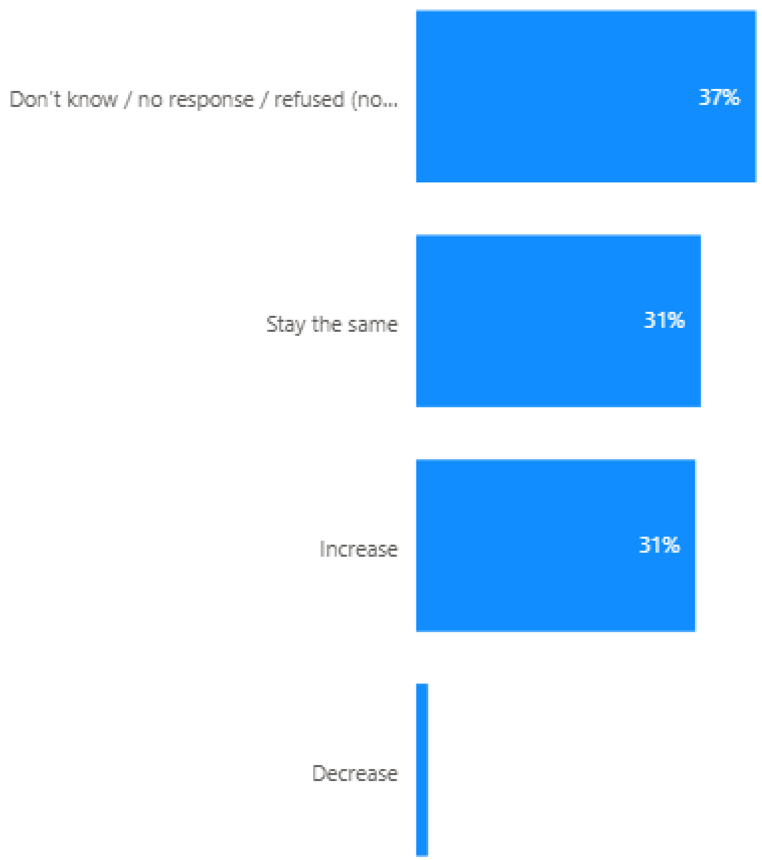
Expectations for profitability increase (%)



Expectations for turnover increase (%)



Expectations for cap-ex spending increase (%)



OGS: CHALLENGES AND FUTURE SUPPORT NEEDS

Responses	Respondents
708	552

HOME

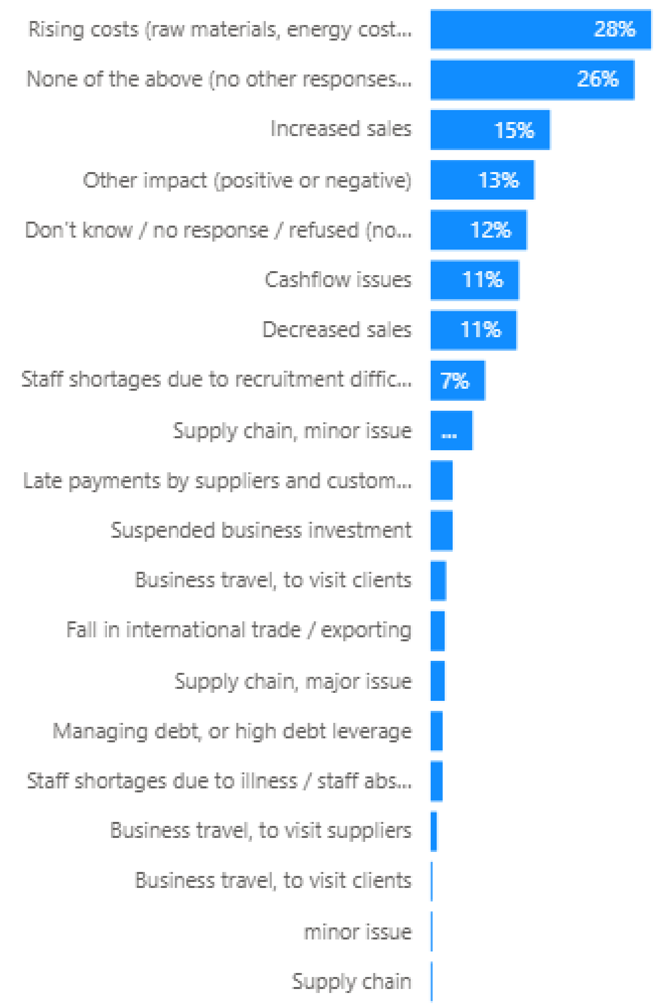
Local Authority
All

Sector
All

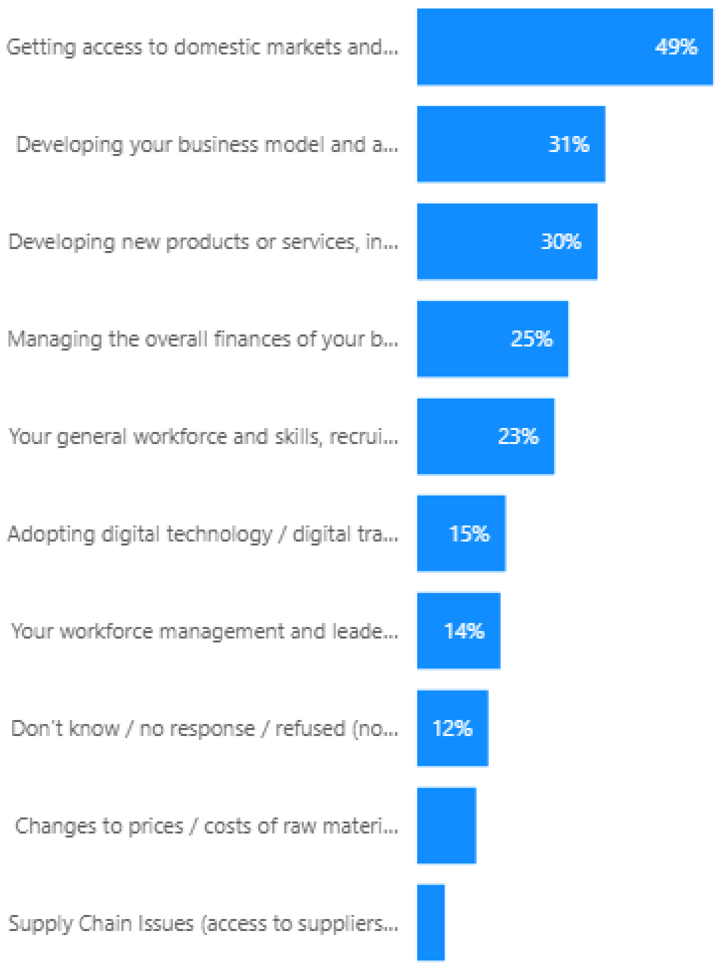
Size Band
All

Submitted Date
02/04/2025 — 02/07/2025

Main economic impacts faced in last 3 months (%)



Main current challenges facing the organisation (%)



Future support needs in year ahead (%)

OGS: INNOVATION AND INVESTMENT

Responses	Respondents
708	552

HOME

Local Authority
All

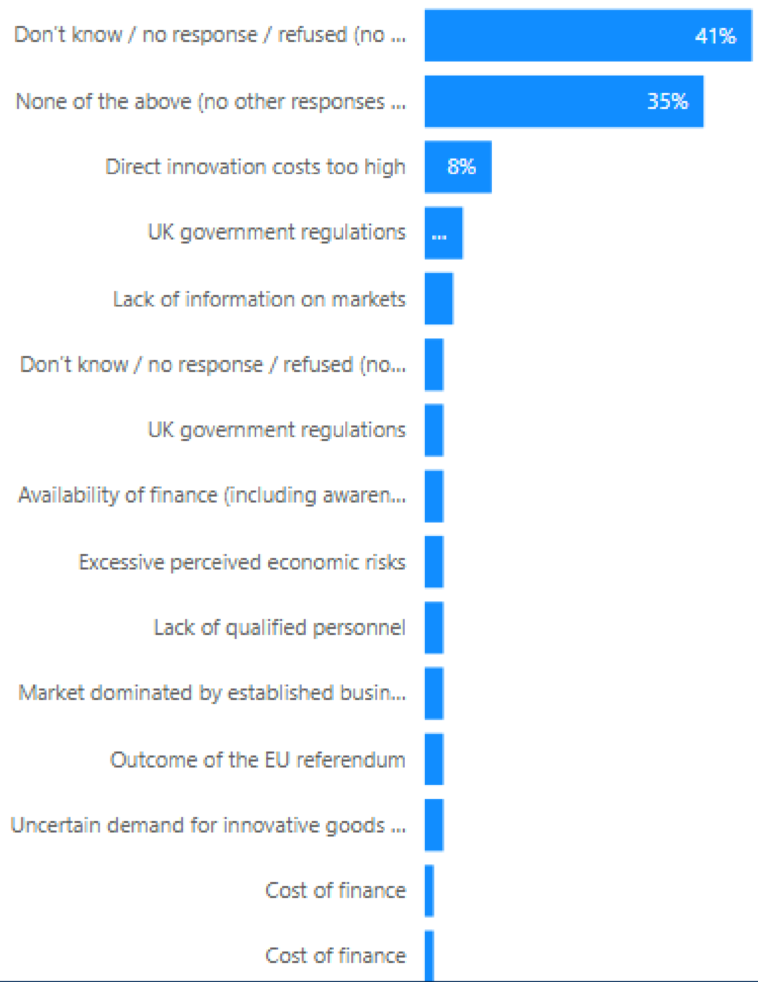
Sector
All

Size Band
All

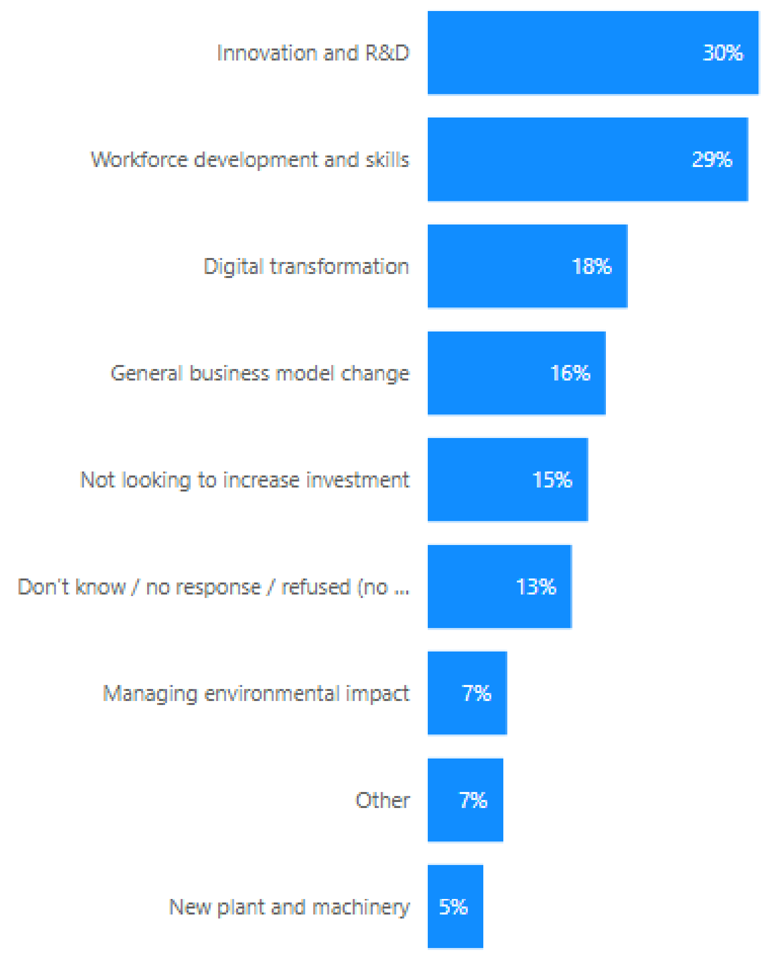
Submitted Date
02/04/2025 – 02/07/2025

Innovation activities in last year (%)

Main barriers to Innovation (%)



Looking to increase investment in ... (%)



OGS: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE - BY TYPE AND BARRIERS TO ADOPTION

Responses	Respondents
708	552

HOME

Local Authority All

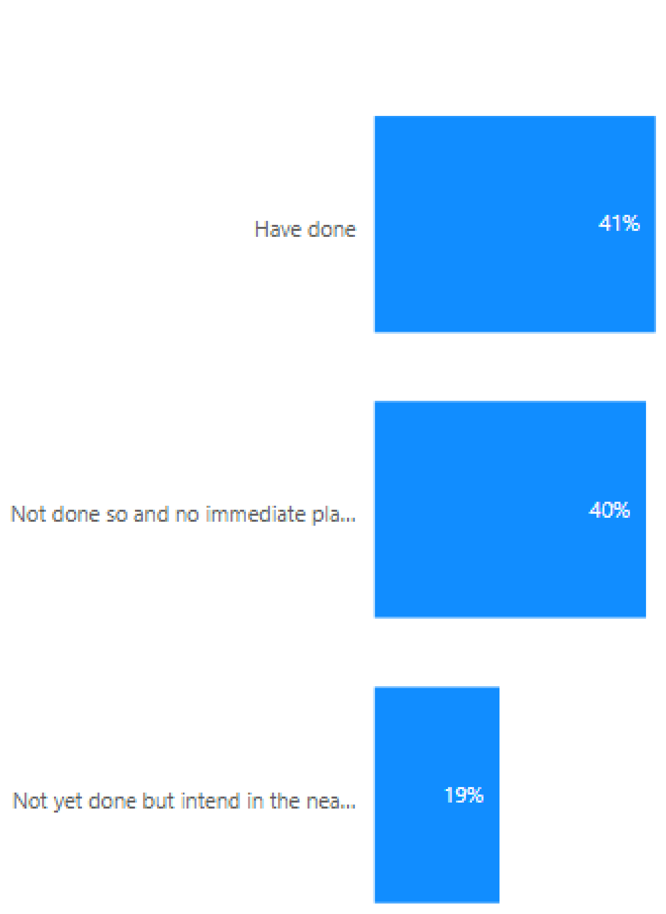
Sector All

Size Band All

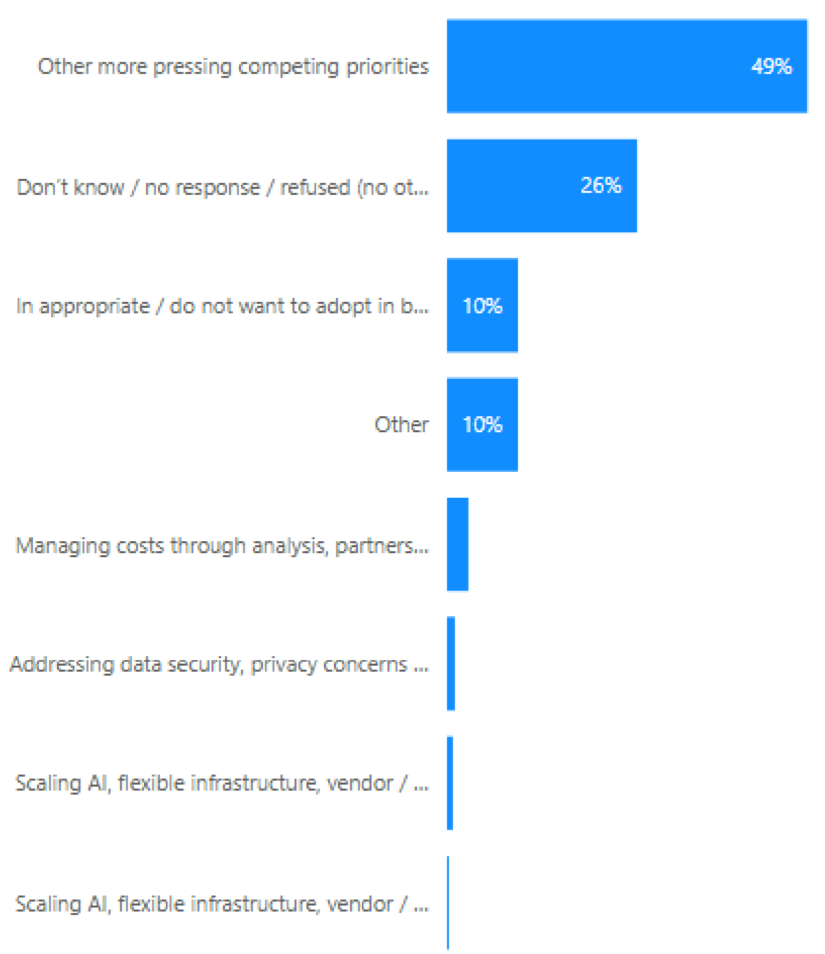
Submitted Date 02/04/2025 02/07/2025

Which areas of AI implemented (%)

Adopted AI into business (%)



AI - What is holding up plans (%)

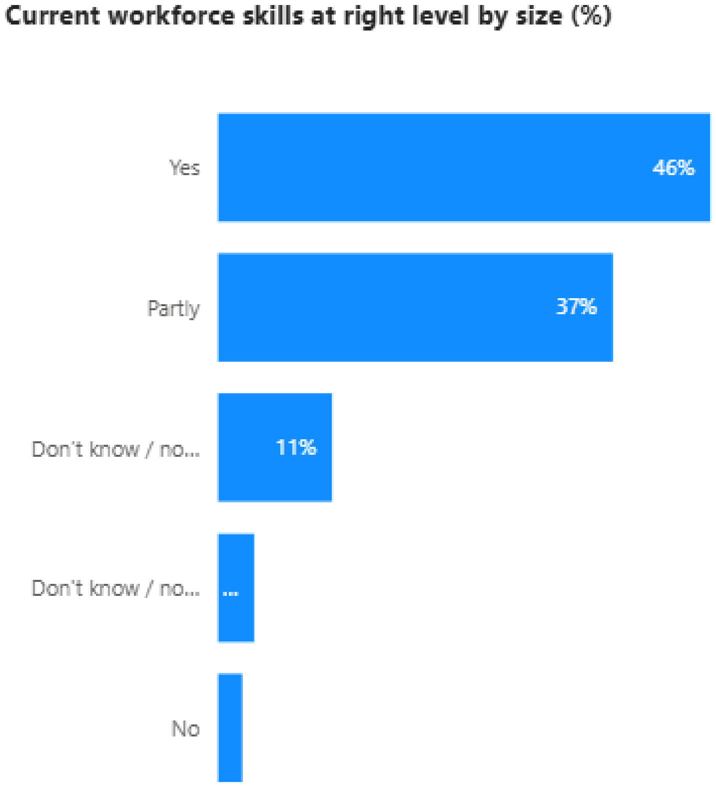


OGS: SKILLS GAPS

Responses	Respondents
708	552

HOME

Local Authority: All
Sector: All
Size Band: All
Submitted Date: 02/04/2025 – 02/07/2025



Current workforce skills at right level - average (%)

45.6

OGS: SOCIAL VALUE

Responses	Respondents
708	552

HOME

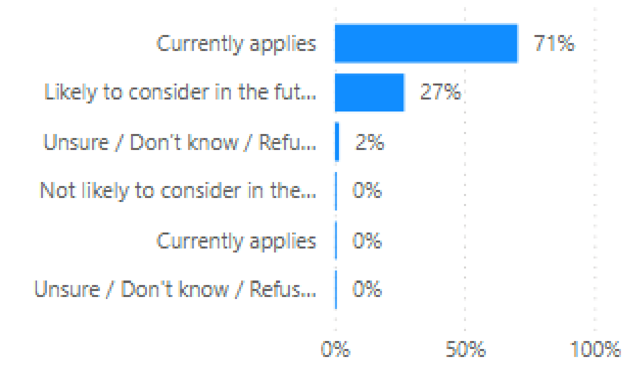
Local Authority All

Sector All

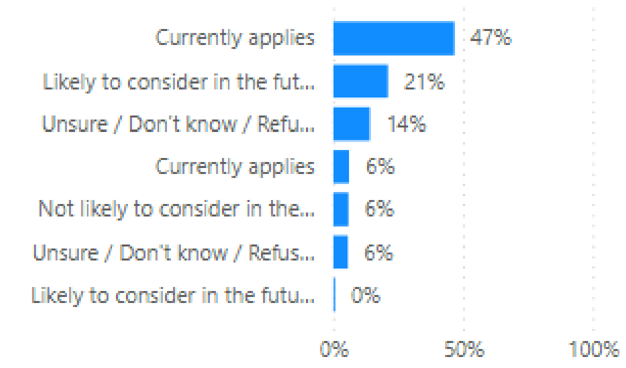
Size Band All

Submitted Date 02/04/2025 – 02/07/2025

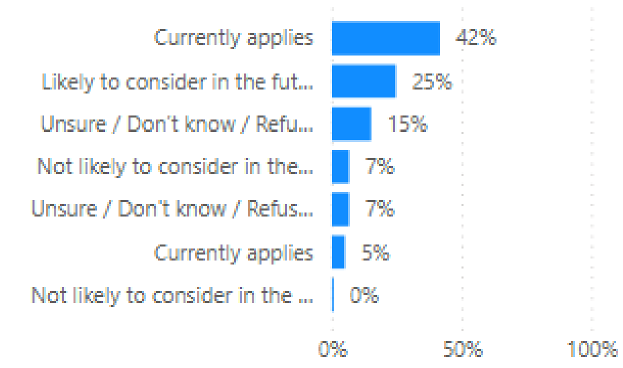
Guarantee at least 16 hours (%)



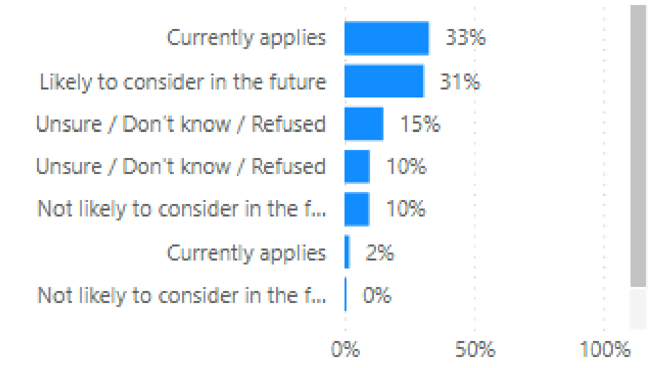
Pay real living wage (%)



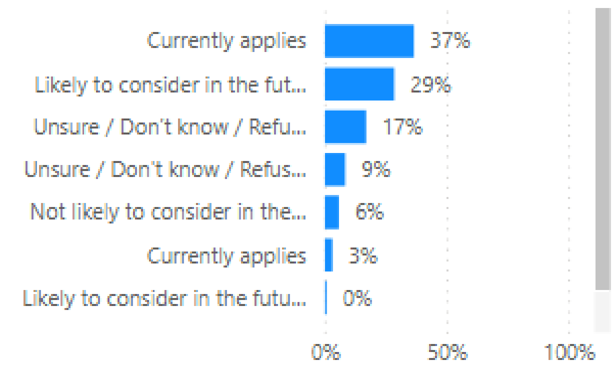
Flexible working options (%)



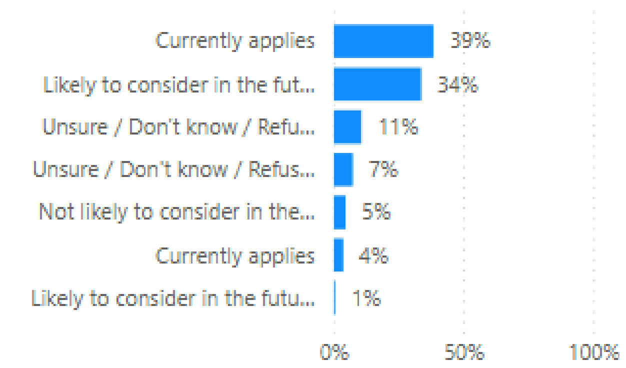
Involve employees in the direction of business (%)



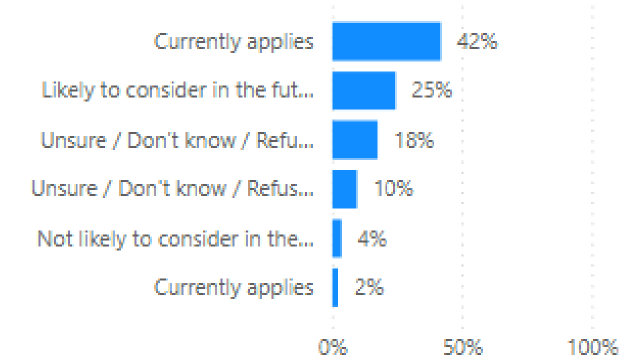
Looking to increase diversity of workforce (%)



Invest in leadership (%)



Promote healthy work practices (%)



Firms with Social Value

407

OGS: INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Responses	Respondents
708	552

HOME

Local Authority
All

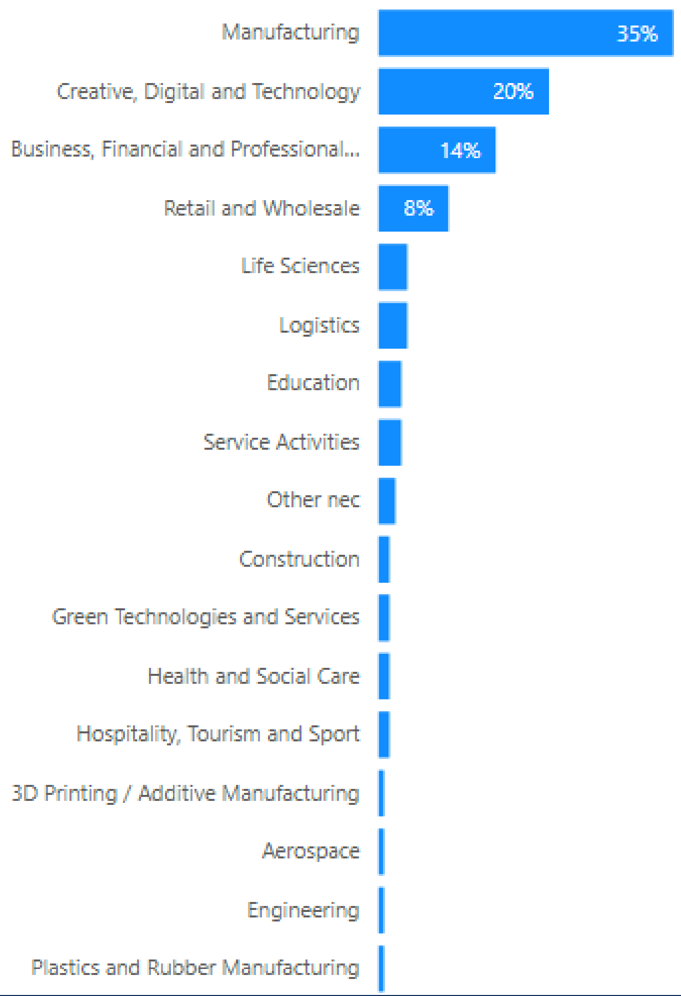
Sector
All

Size Band
All

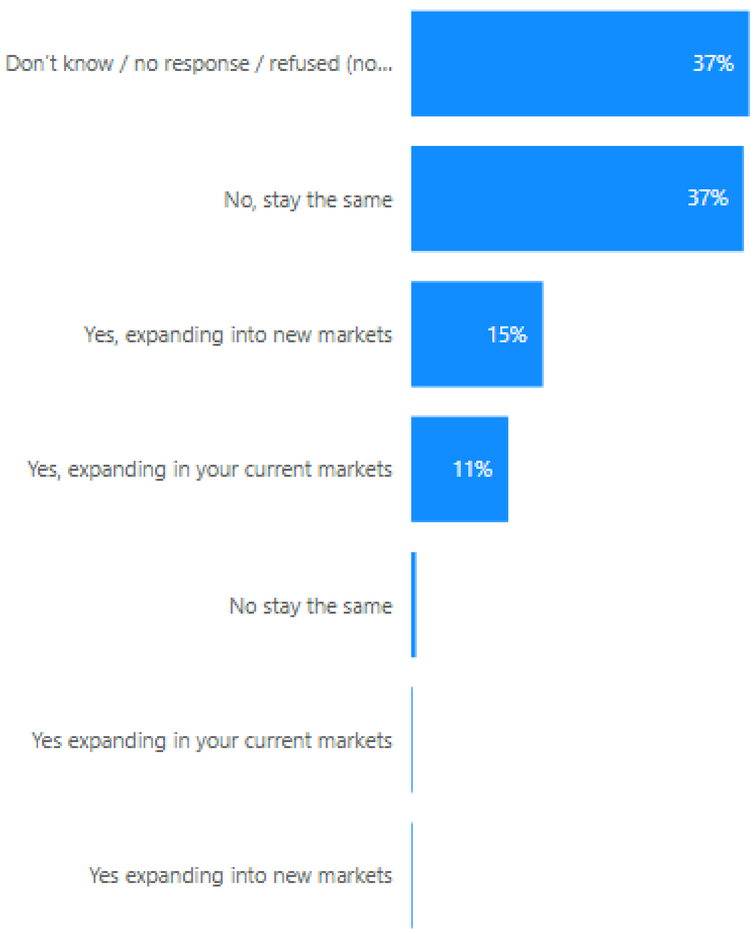
Submitted Date
02/04/2025 02/07/2025

Currently export goods or services (%)

Currently export goods or services by sector (%)



Planning to increase levels of exports next year (%)



OGS: RECRUITMENT

Responses	Respondents
708	552

HOME

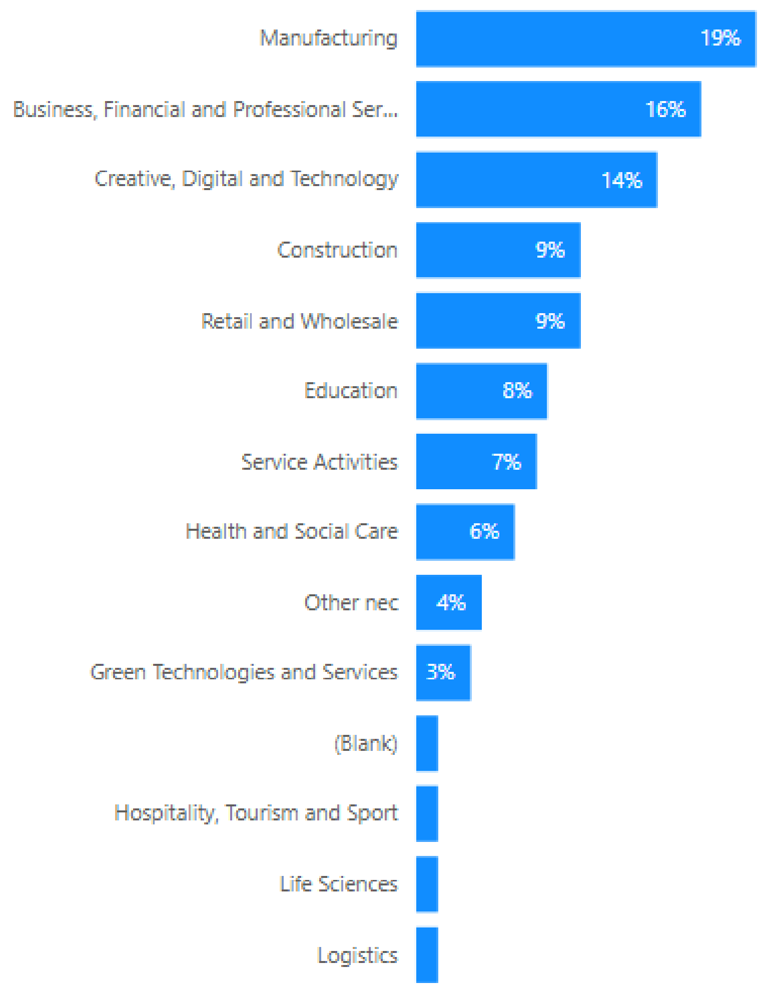
Local Authority
All

Sector
All

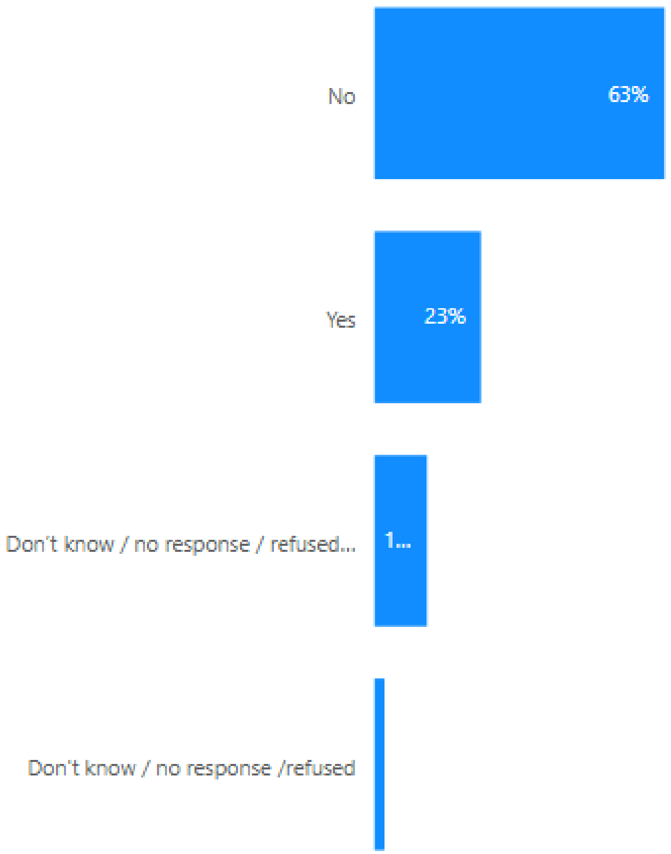
Size Band
All

Submitted Date
02/04/2025 02/07/2025

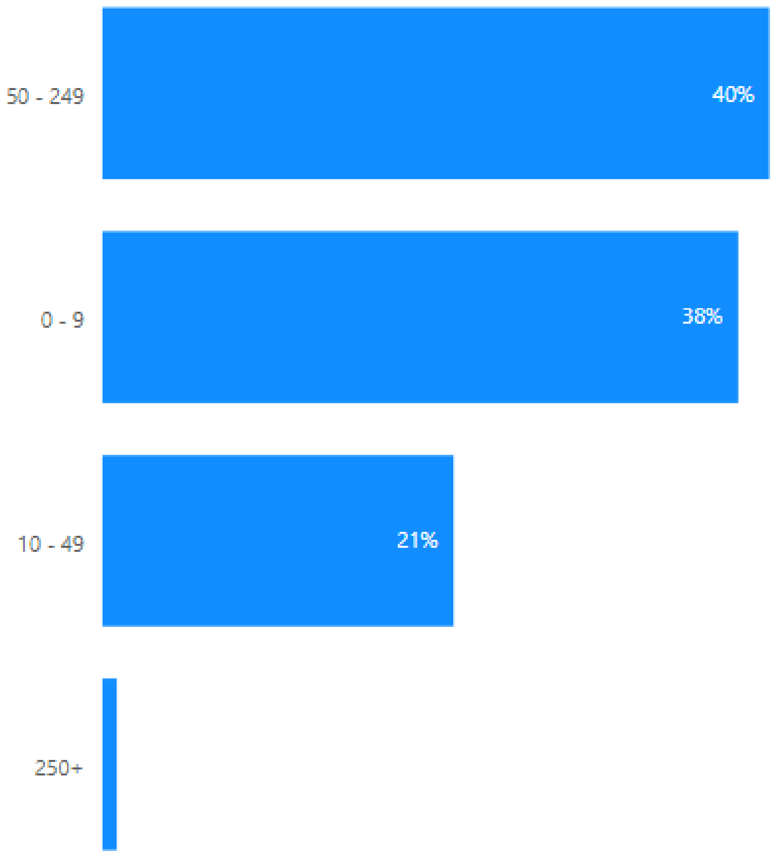
Currently recruiting new staff by Sector (%)



Currently recruiting new staff (%)



Currently recruiting new staff by size band



OGS LOCAL AUTHORITY DATA - FEMALE LED

Responses 256 | **Respondents** 225

HOME

Local Authority All

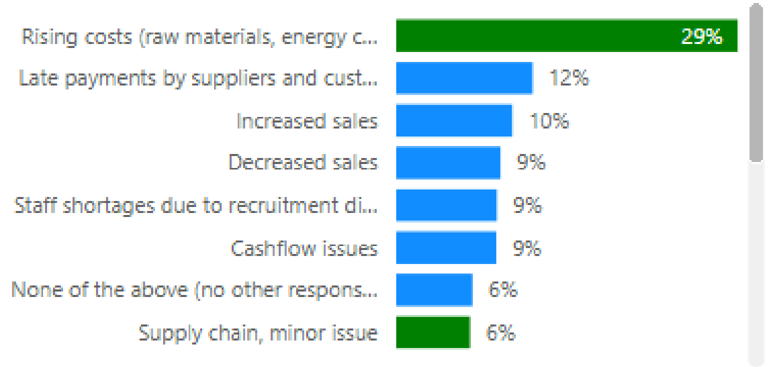
Sector All

Size Band All

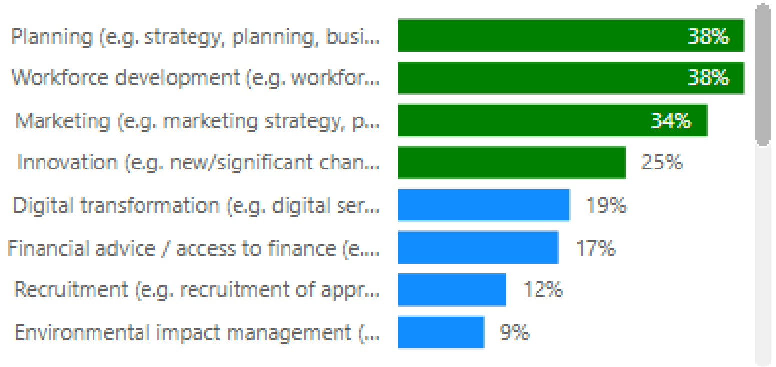
Submitted Date 02/04/2025 – 02/07/2025

Note: BGH clients only for Female Led

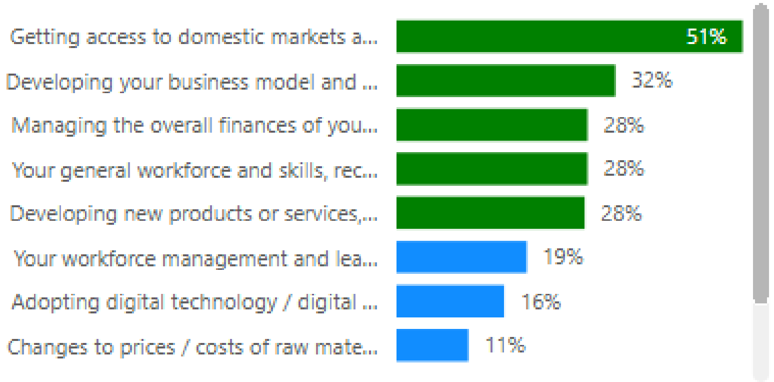
Economic Impact



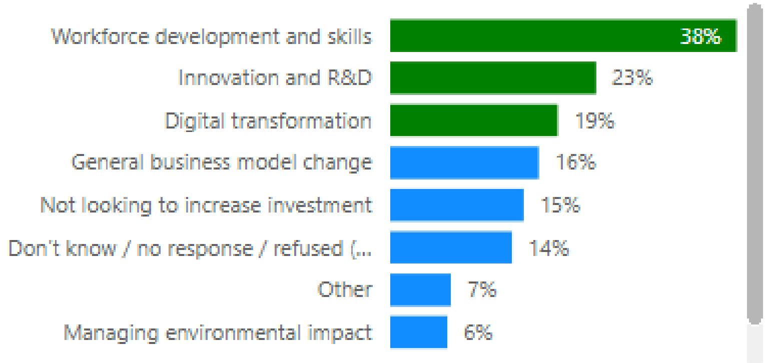
Current challenges facing firms (%)



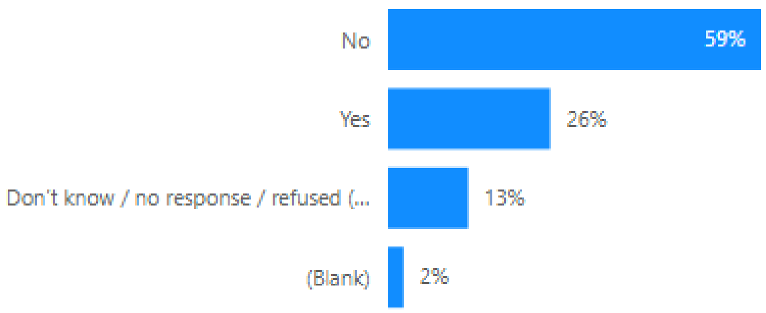
Future support needs (%)



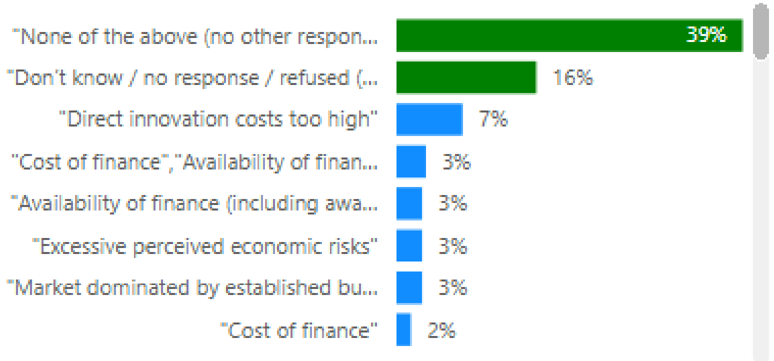
Main area for investment (%)



Innovation activity (%)



Barriers to innovation (%)



OGS LOCAL AUTHORITY DATA - ETHNIC MINORITY GROUP

Responses	Respondents
110	98

Local Authority All

Sector All

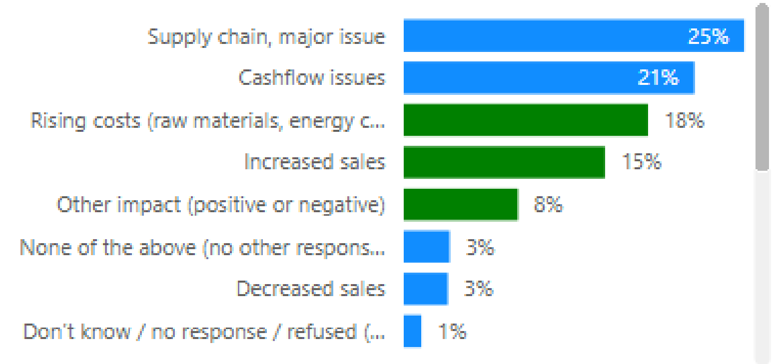
Size Band All

Submitted Date 02/04/2025 02/07/2025

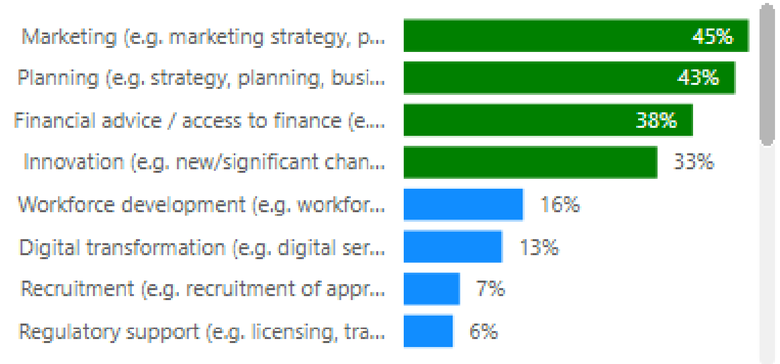
HOME

Note: BGH clients only for Ethnic Minority Group

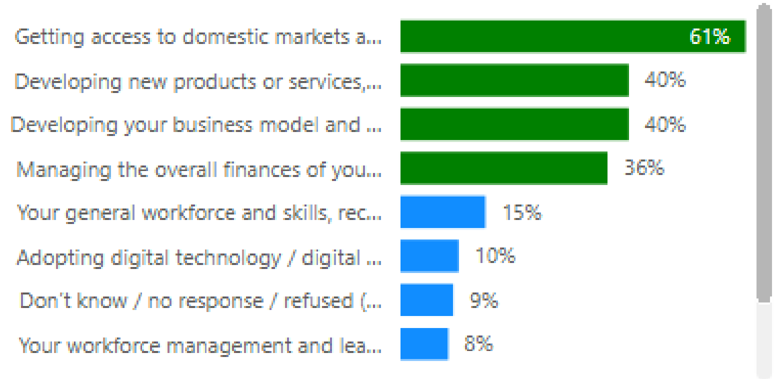
Economic Impact



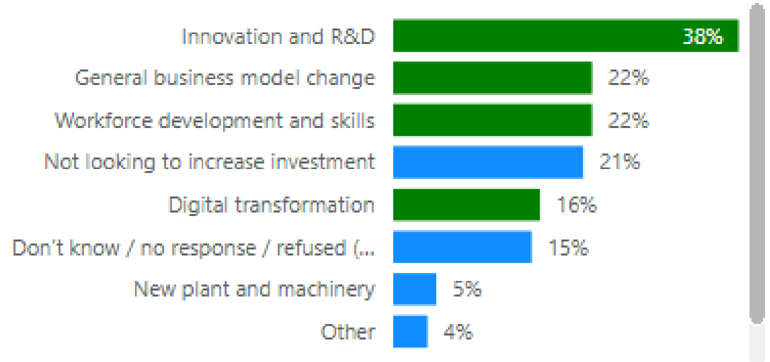
Current challenges facing firms (%)



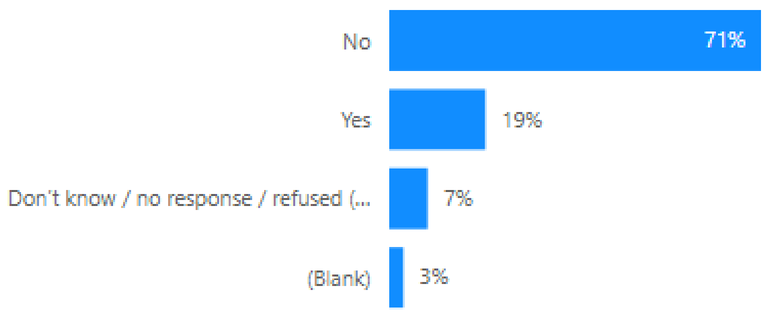
Future support needs (%)



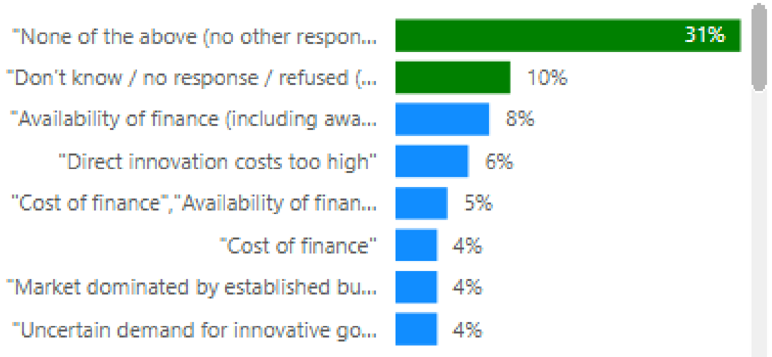
Main area for investment (%)



Innovation activity (%)



Barriers to innovation (%)



OGS LOCAL AUTHORITY DATA - OVER 50s LED INSIGHTS

Responses	Respondents
171	145

HOME

Local Authority All

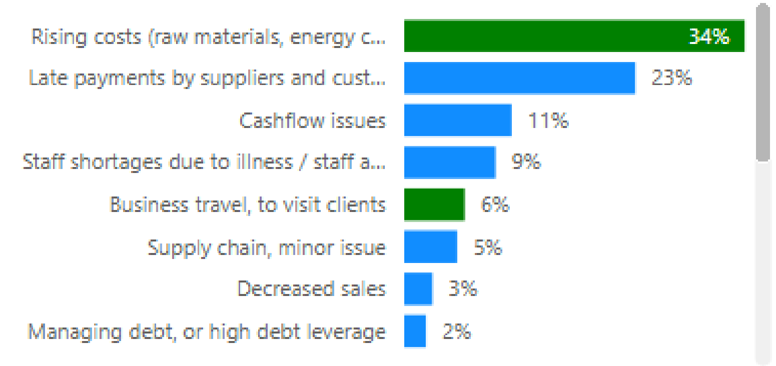
Sector All

Size Band All

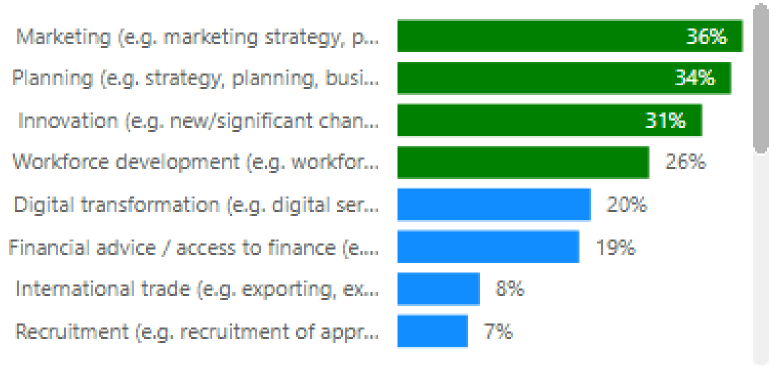
Submitted Date 02/04/2025 02/07/2025

Note: BGH clients only for Over 50s

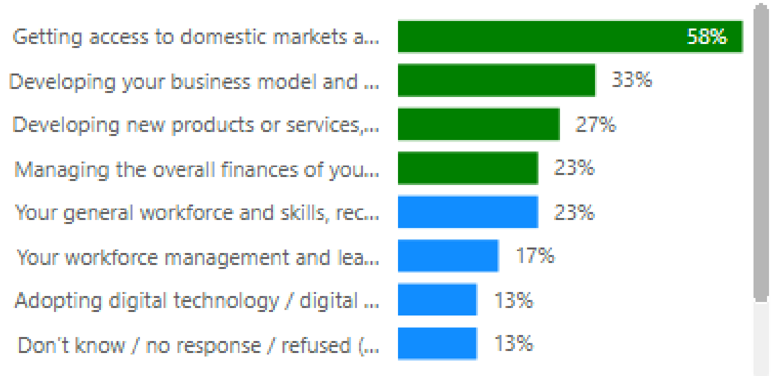
Economic Impact



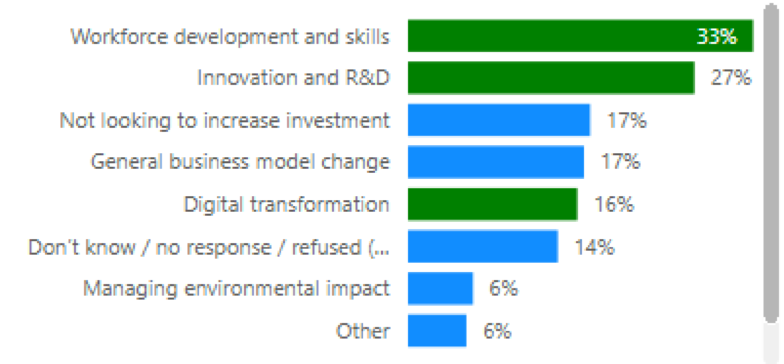
Current challenges facing firms (%)



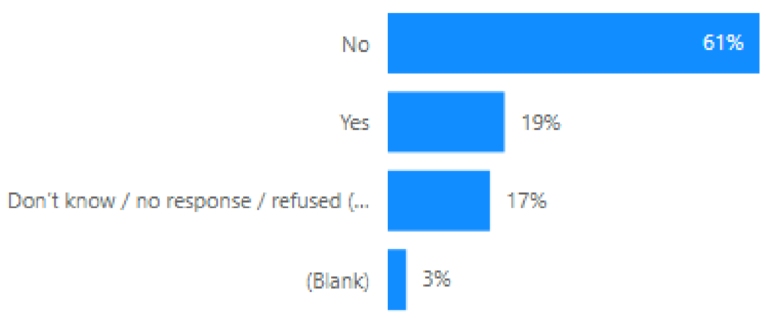
Future support needs (%)



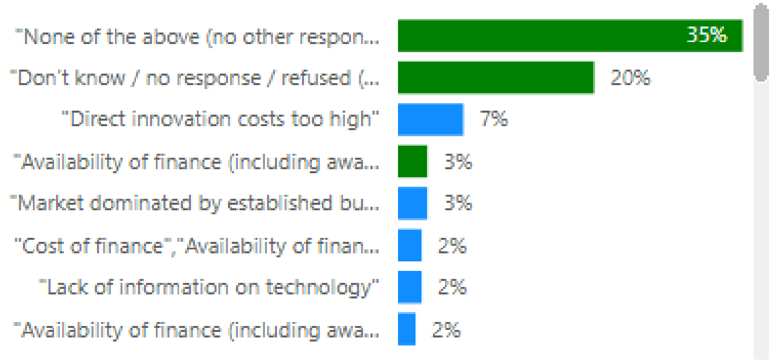
Main area for investment (%)



Innovation activity (%)



Barriers to innovation (%)



OGS LOCAL AUTHORITY DATA - DISABILITY LED INSIGHTS

Responses	Respondents
34	29

HOME

Local Authority All

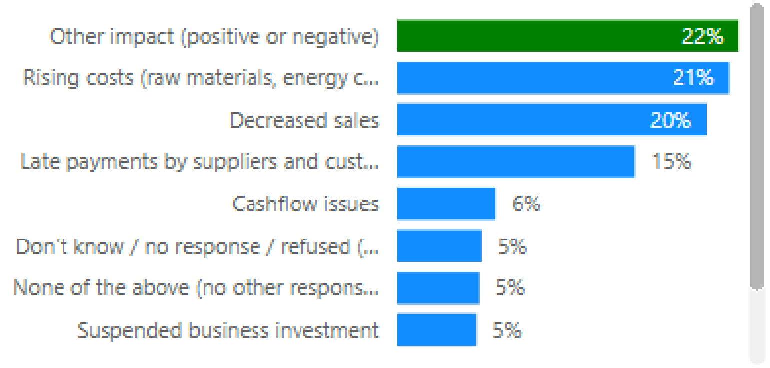
Sector All

Size Band All

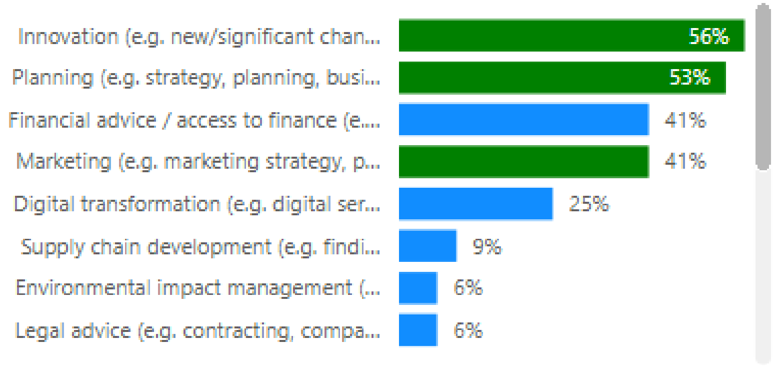
Submitted Date 02/04/2025 – 27/06/2025

Note: BGH clients only for Disability Led

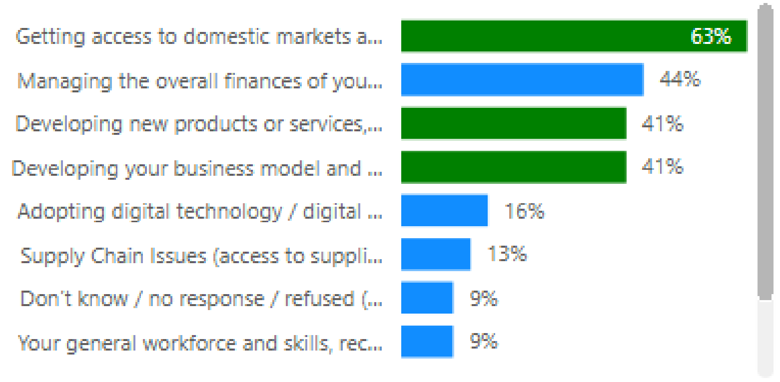
Economic Impact



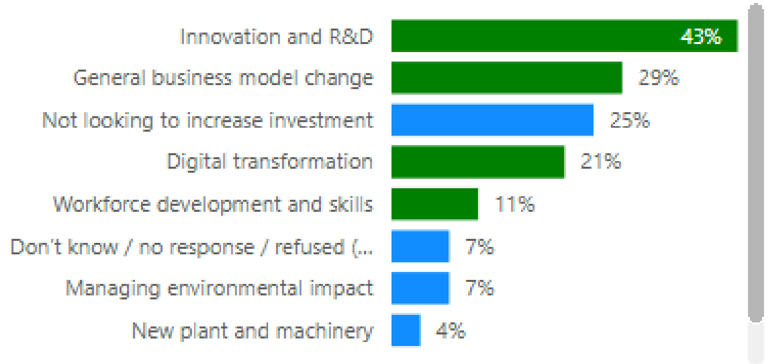
Current challenges facing firms (%)



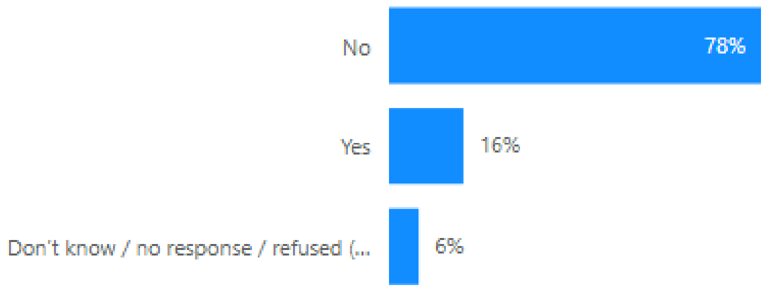
Future support needs (%)



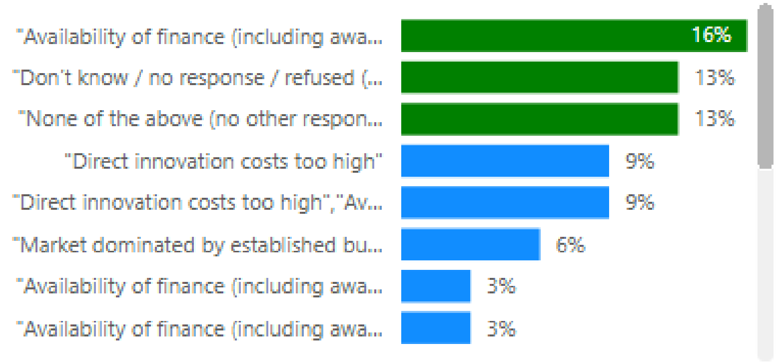
Main area for investment (%)



Innovation activity (%)



Barriers to innovation (%)



OGS LOCAL AUTHORITY DATA - GREATER MANCHESTER SUMMARY

Responses	Respondents
708	552

HOME

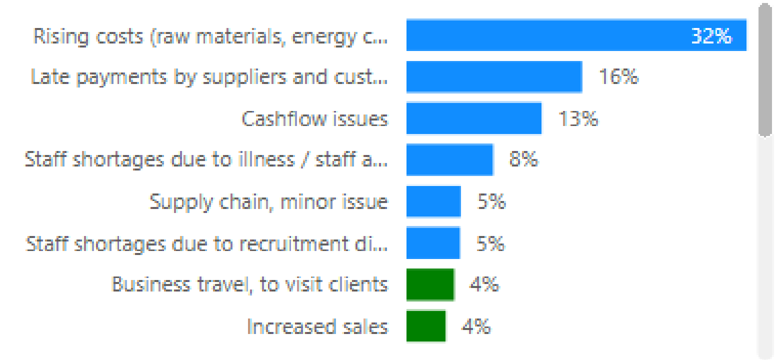
Local Authority All

Sector All

Size Band All

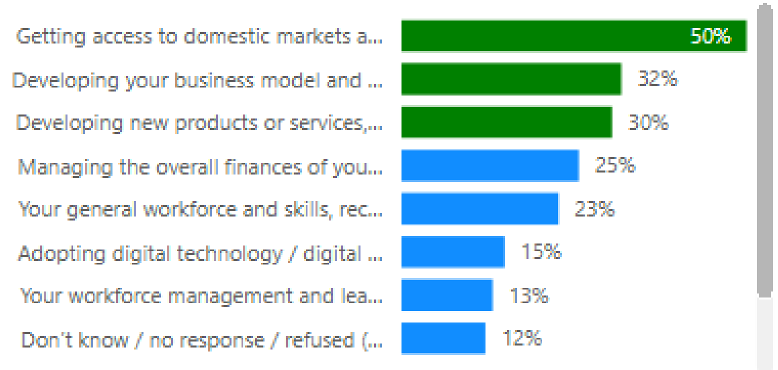
Submitted Date 02/04/2025 02/07/2025

Economic Impact

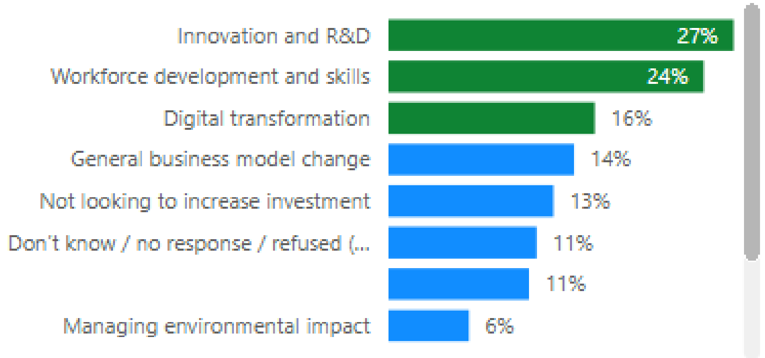


Current challenges facing firms (%)

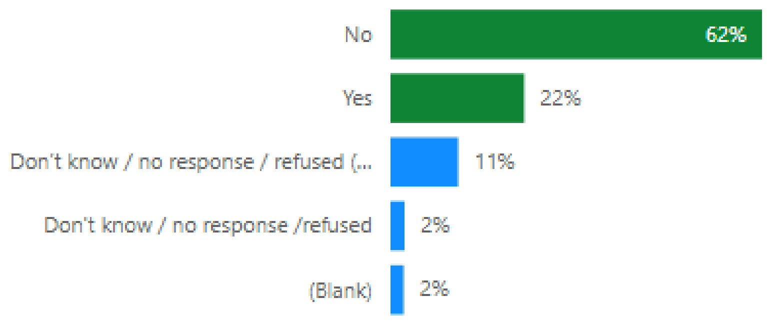
Future support needs (%)



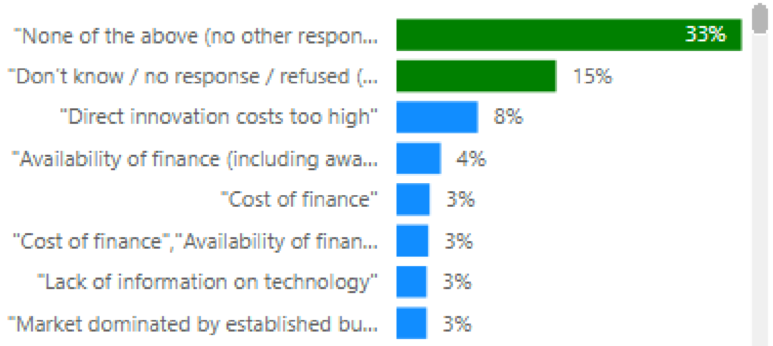
Main area for investment (%)



Innovation activity (%)



Barriers to innovation (%)



OGS LOCAL AUTHORITY DATA - BOLTON

Responses	Respondents
61	50

HOME

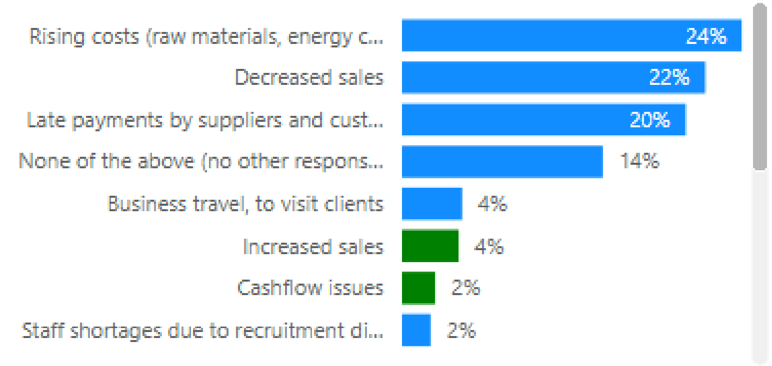
Local Authority: Bolton

Sector: All

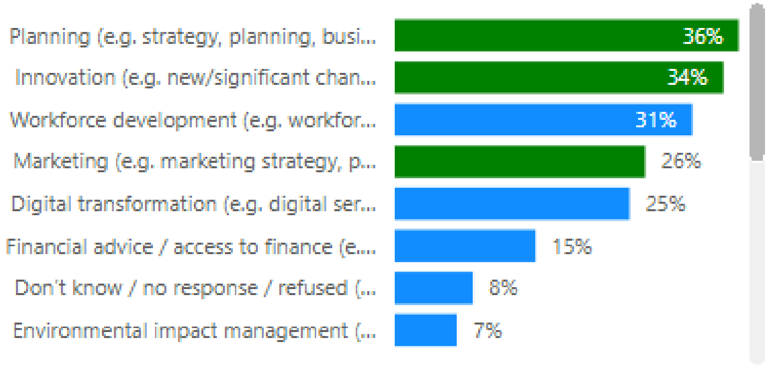
Size Band: All

Submitted Date: 02/04/2025 – 01/07/2025

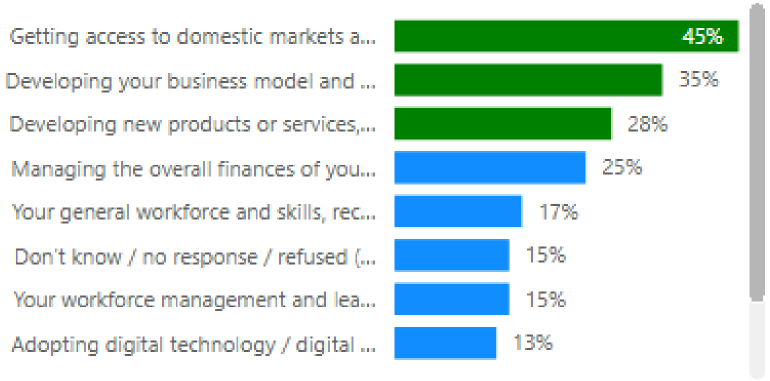
Economic Impact



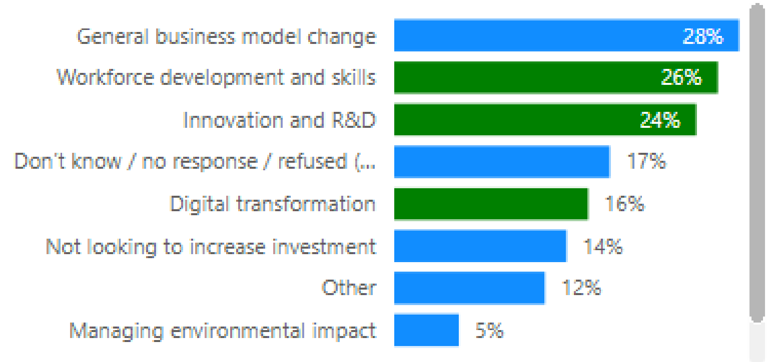
Current challenges facing firms (%)



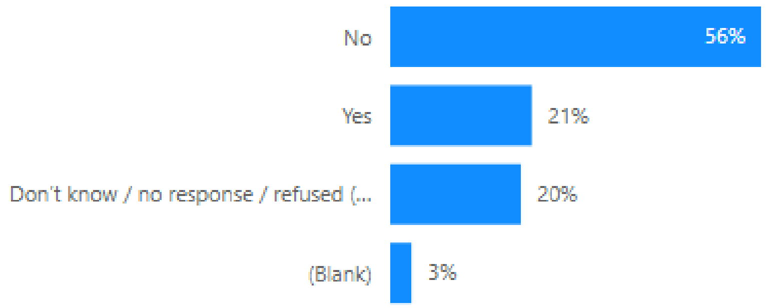
Future support needs (%)



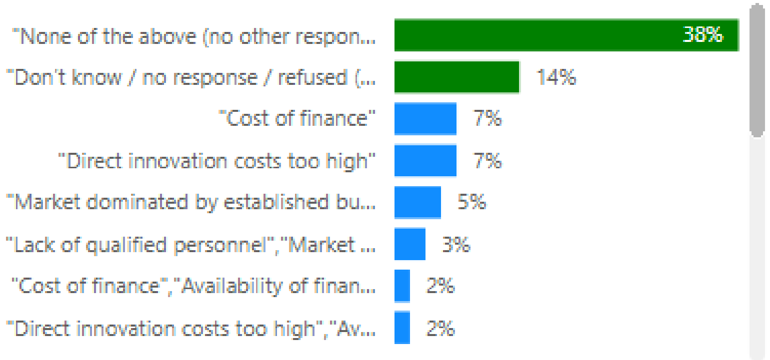
Main area for investment (%)



Innovation activity (%)



Barriers to innovation (%)



OGS LOCAL AUTHORITY DATA - BURY

Responses	Respondents
36	32

HOME

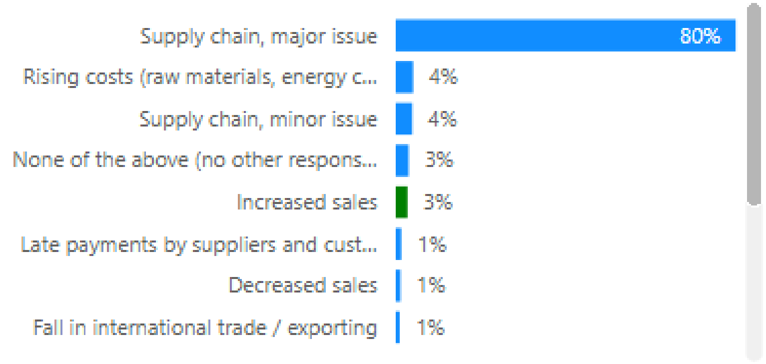
Local Authority: Bury

Sector: All

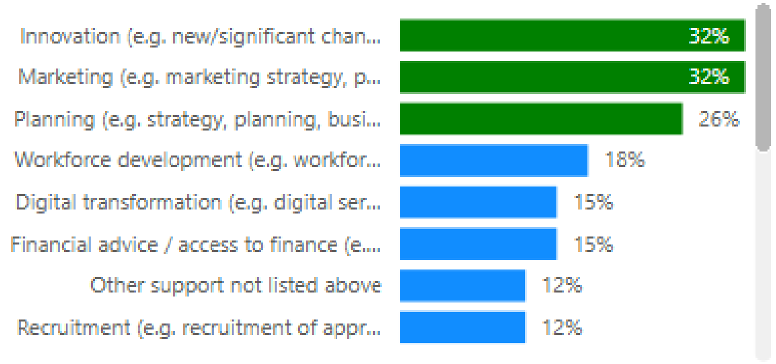
Size Band: All

Submitted Date: 02/04/2025 – 02/07/2025

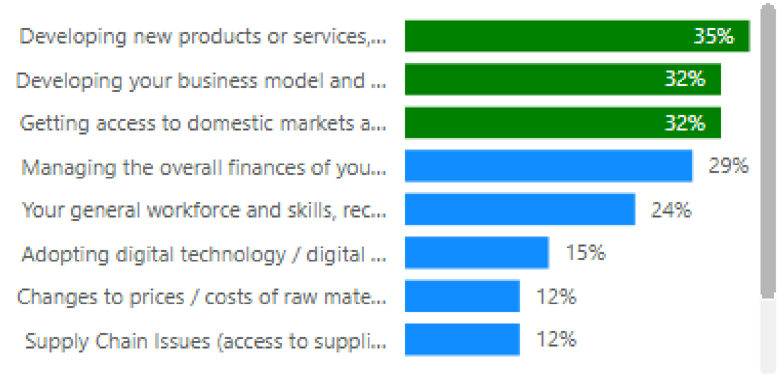
Economic Impact



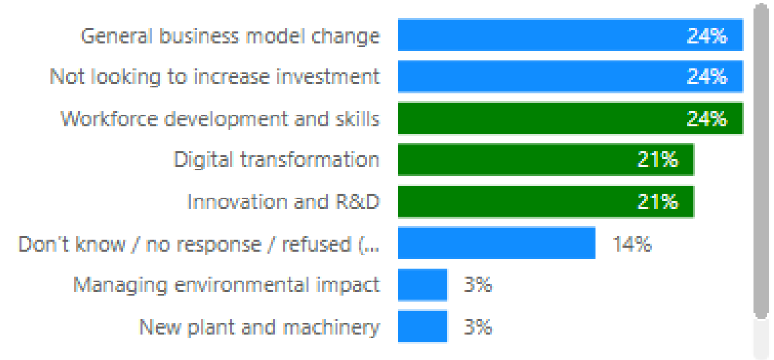
Current challenges facing firms (%)



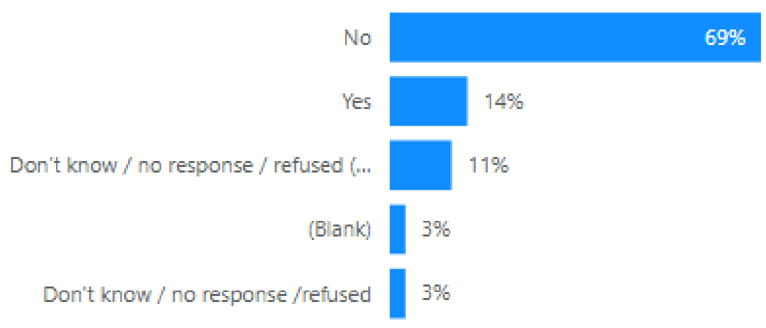
Future support needs (%)



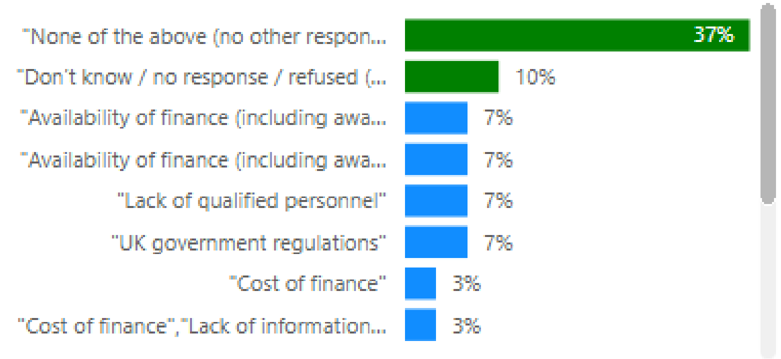
Main area for investment (%)



Innovation activity (%)



Barriers to innovation (%)



OGS LOCAL AUTHORITY DATA - MANCHESTER

Responses	Respondents
220	169

HOME

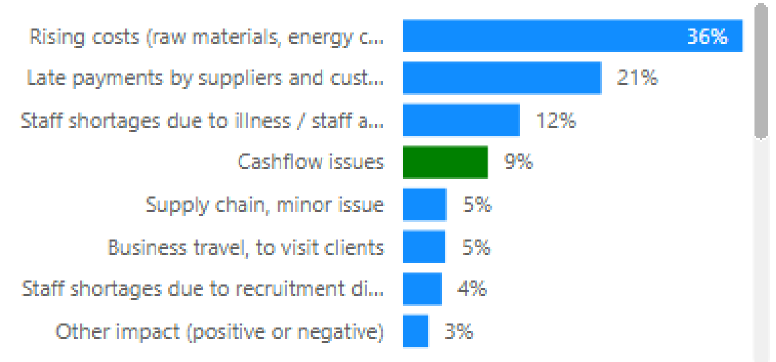
Local Authority: Manchester

Sector: All

Size Band: All

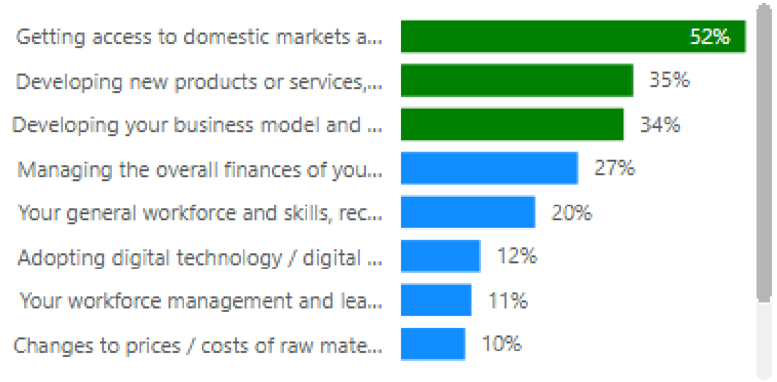
Submitted Date: 02/04/2025 – 02/07/2025

Economic Impact

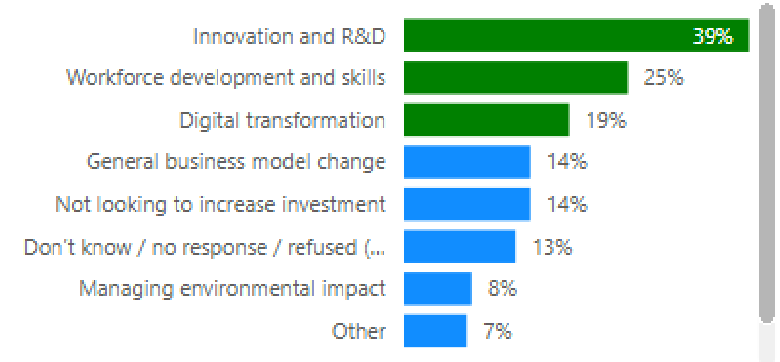


Current challenges facing firms (%)

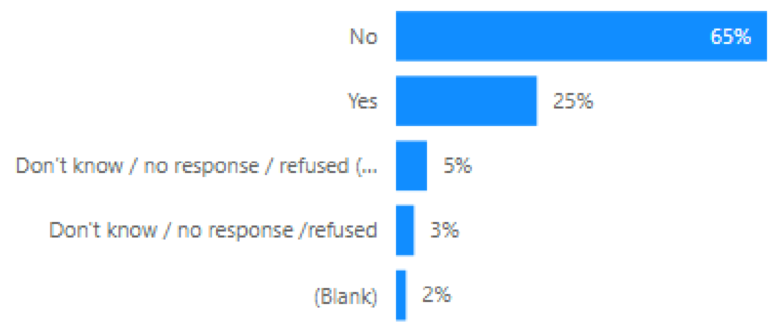
Future support needs (%)



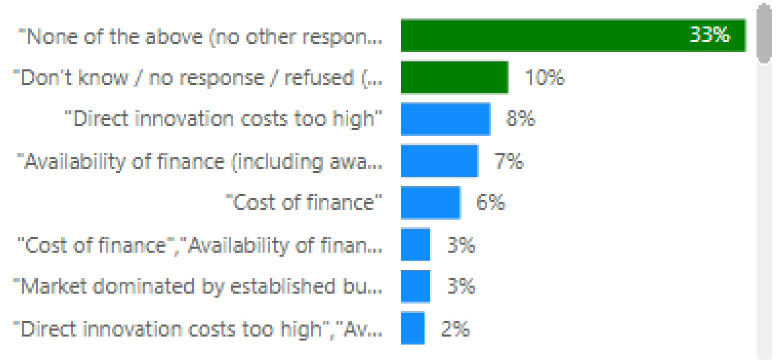
Main area for investment (%)



Innovation activity (%)



Barriers to innovation (%)



OGS LOCAL AUTHORITY DATA - OLDHAM

Responses	Respondents
37	32

HOME

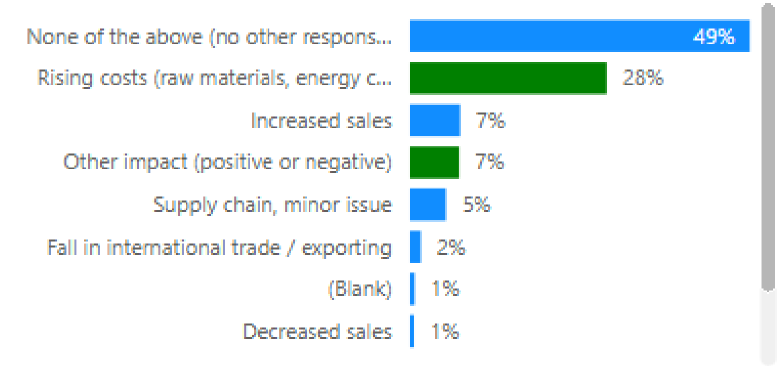
Local Authority: Oldham

Sector: All

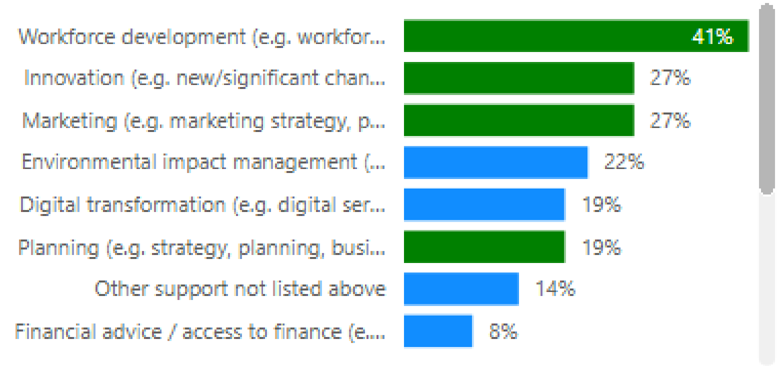
Size Band: All

Submitted Date: 02/04/2025 – 02/07/2025

Economic Impact

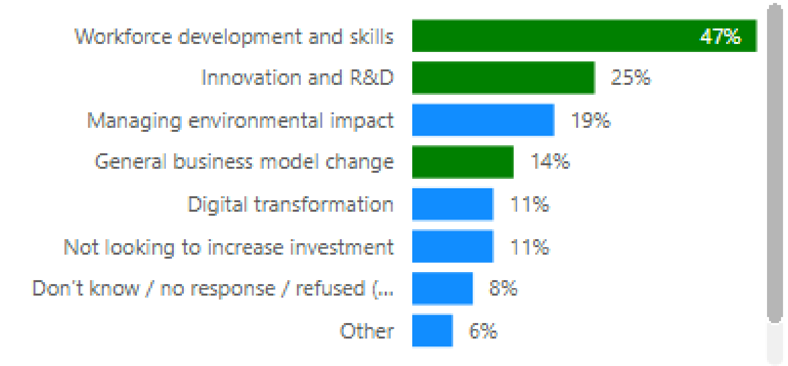


Current challenges facing firms (%)

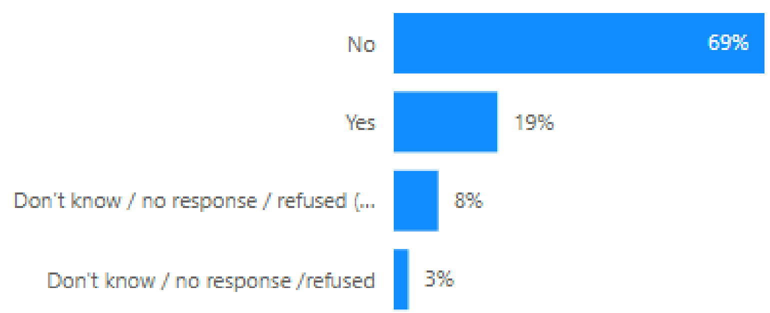


Future support needs (%)

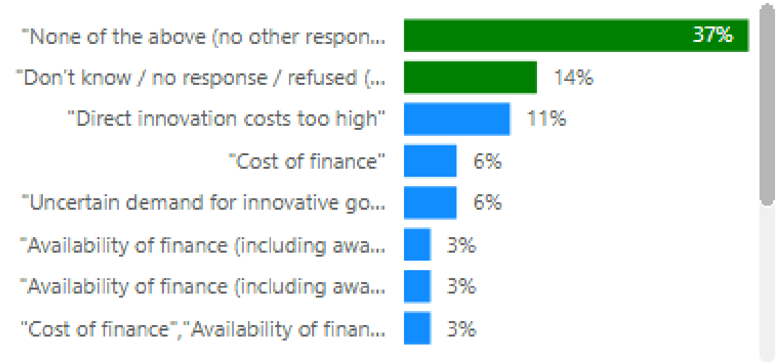
Main area for investment (%)



Innovation activity (%)



Barriers to innovation (%)



OGS LOCAL AUTHORITY DATA - ROCHDALE

Responses	Respondents
42	28

Local Authority: Rochdale

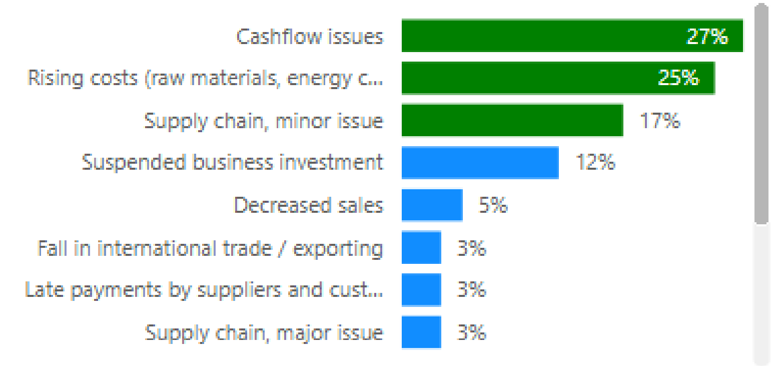
Sector: All

Size Band: All

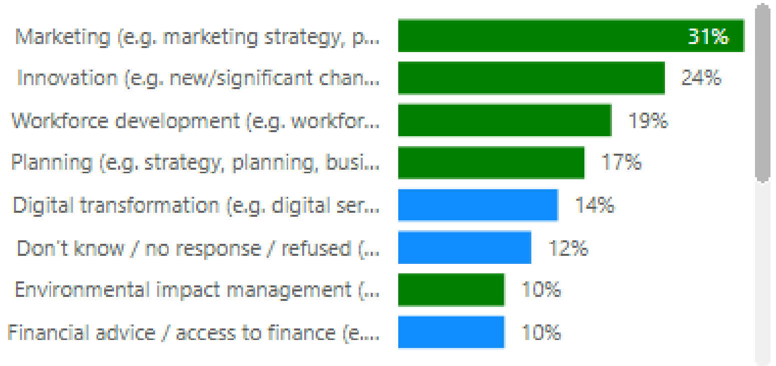
Submitted Date: 02/04/2025 – 26/06/2025

HOME

Economic Impact

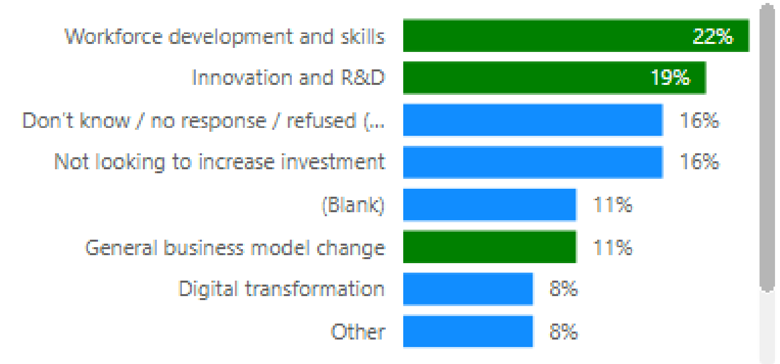


Current challenges facing firms (%)

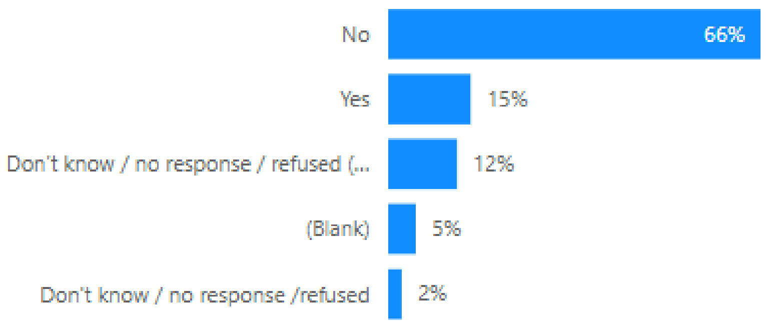


Future support needs (%)

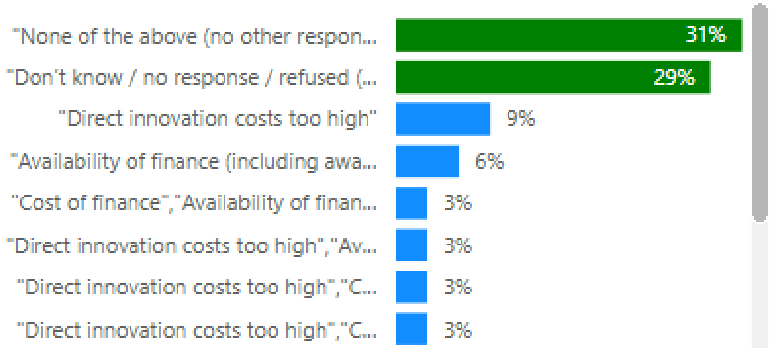
Main area for investment (%)



Innovation activity (%)



Barriers to innovation (%)



OGS LOCAL AUTHORITY DATA - SALFORD

Responses	Respondents
71	58

HOME

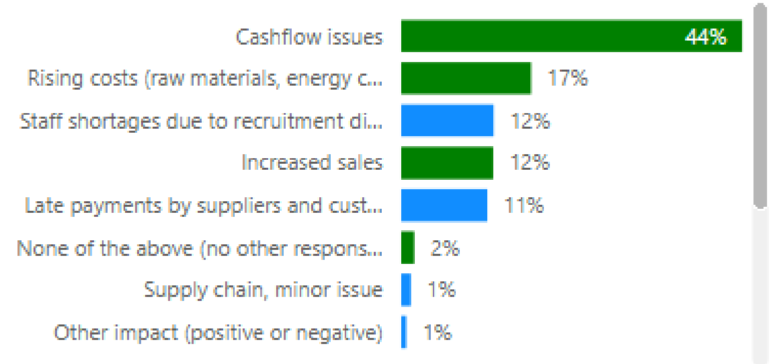
Local Authority: Salford

Sector: All

Size Band: All

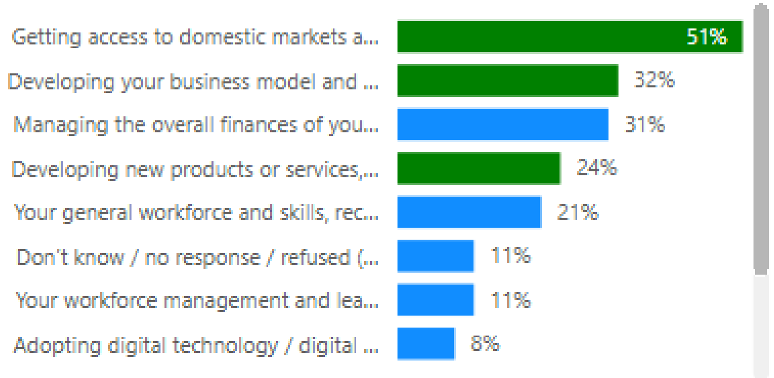
Submitted Date: 02/04/2025 – 02/07/2025

Economic Impact

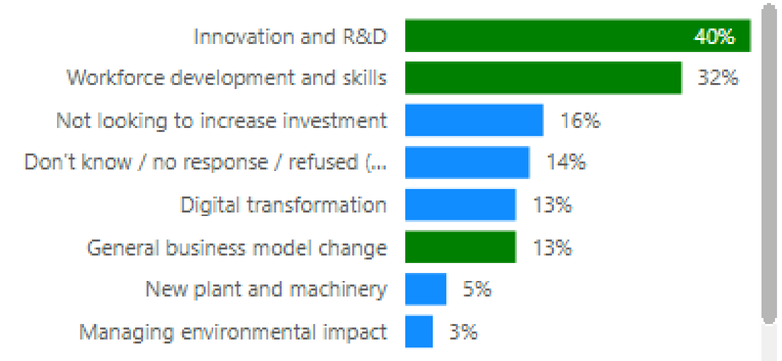


Current challenges facing firms (%)

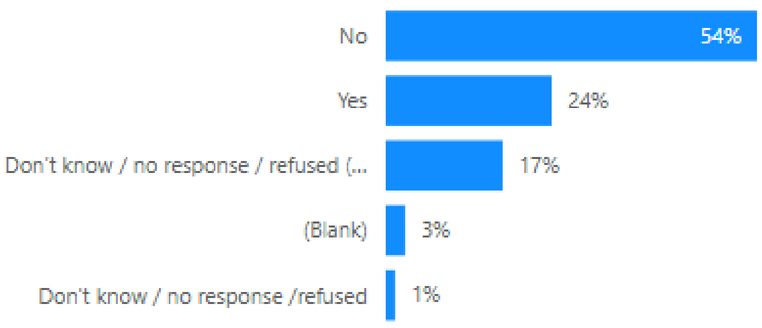
Future support needs (%)



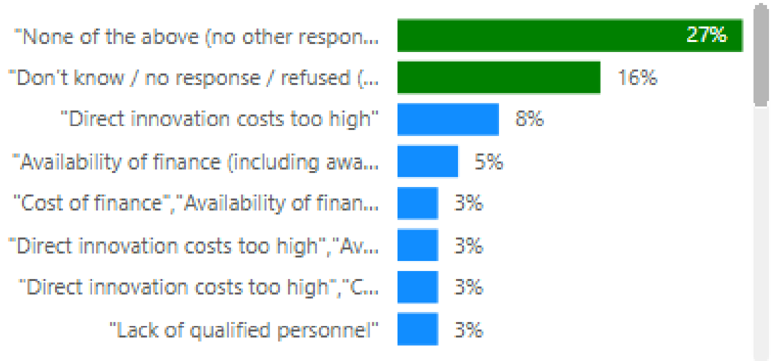
Main area for investment (%)



Innovation activity (%)



Barriers to innovation (%)



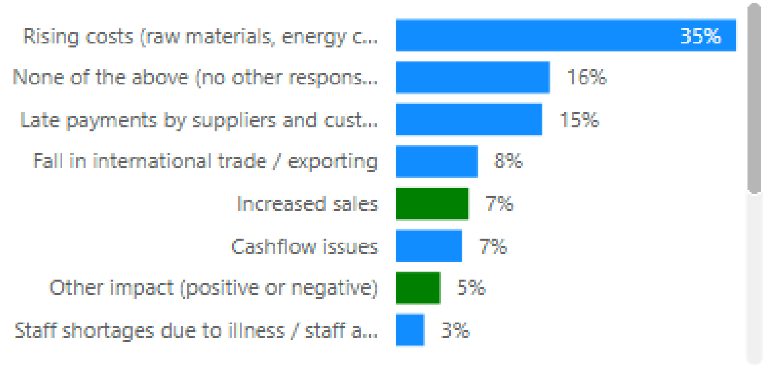
OGS LOCAL AUTHORITY DATA - STOCKPORT

Responses	Respondents
80	66

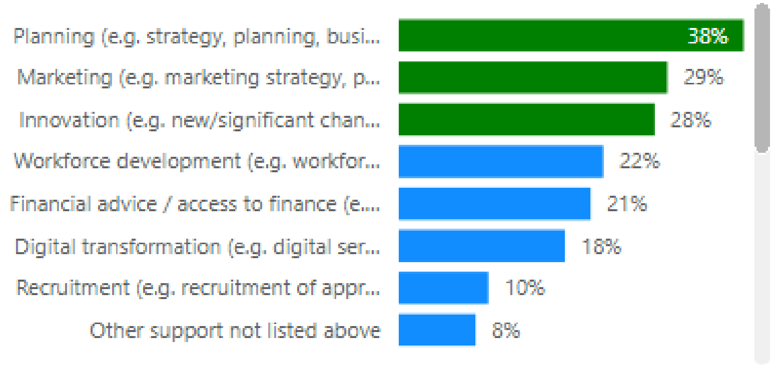
HOME

Local Authority	Sector	Size Band	Submitted Date
Stockport	All	All	02/04/2025 – 02/07/2025

Economic Impact

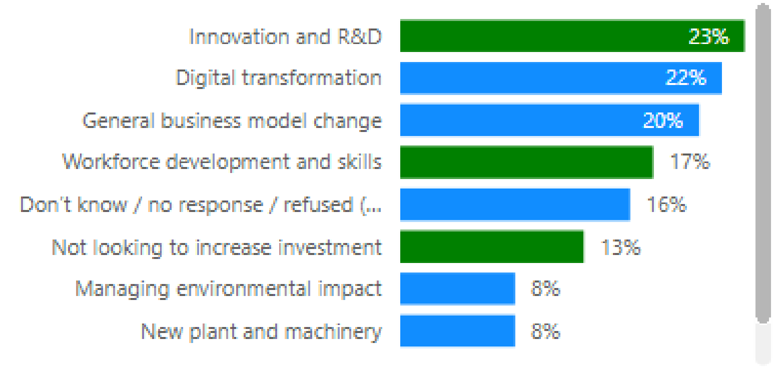


Current challenges facing firms (%)

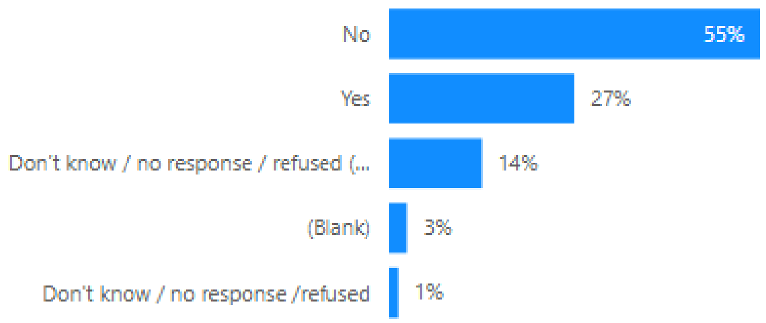


Future support needs (%)

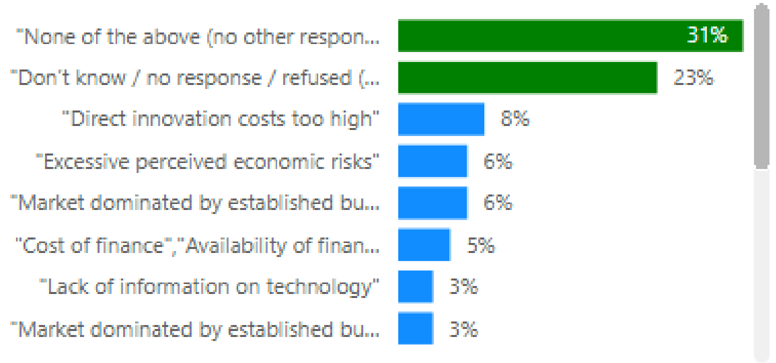
Main area for investment (%)



Innovation activity (%)



Barriers to innovation (%)



OGS LOCAL AUTHORITY DATA - TAMESIDE

Responses	Respondents
28	23

HOME

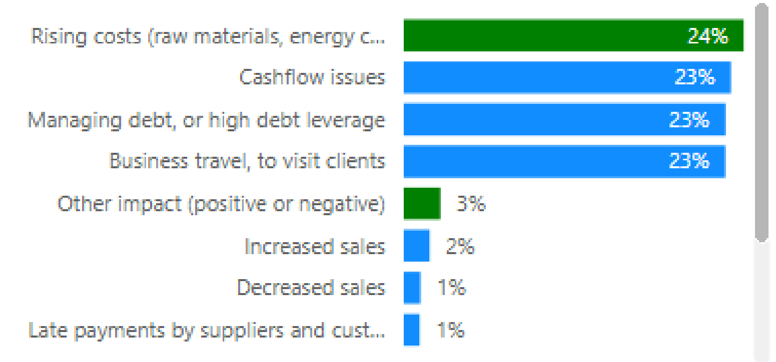
Local Authority: Tameside

Sector: All

Size Band: All

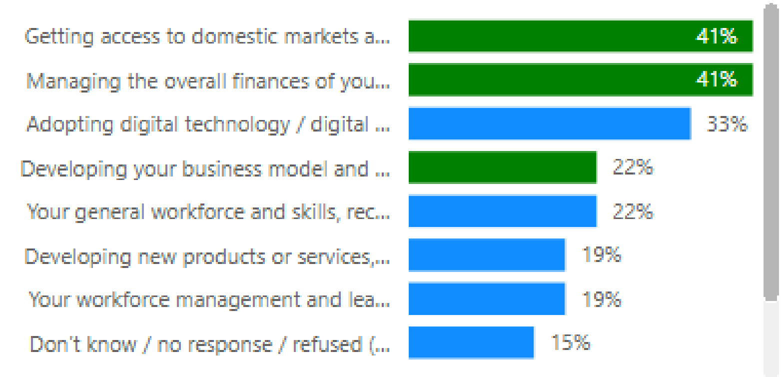
Submitted Date: 02/04/2025 – 02/07/2025

Economic Impact

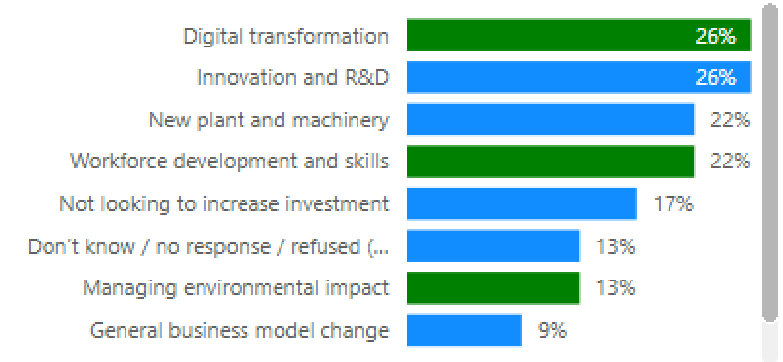


Current challenges facing firms (%)

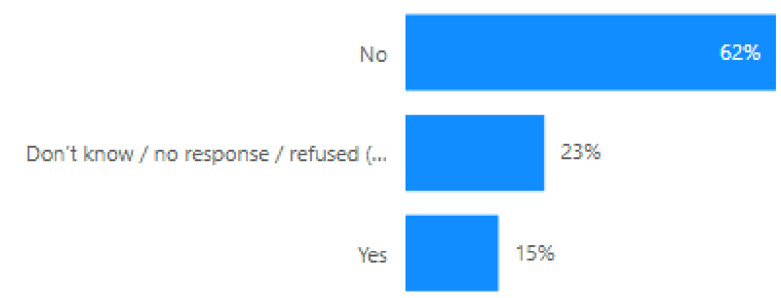
Future support needs (%)



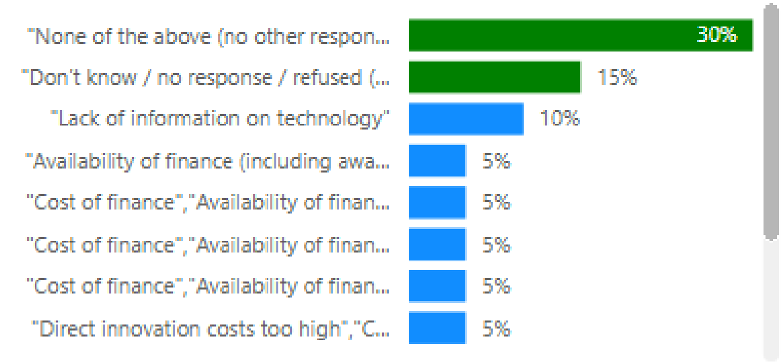
Main area for investment (%)



Innovation activity (%)



Barriers to innovation (%)



OGS LOCAL AUTHORITY DATA - TRAFFORD

Responses	Respondents
71	51

HOME

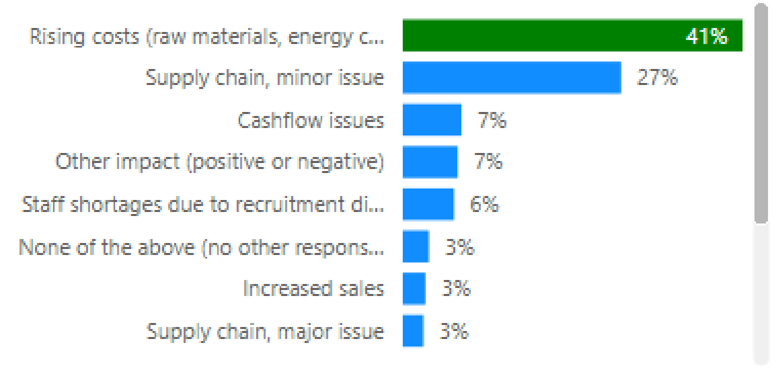
Local Authority: Trafford

Sector: All

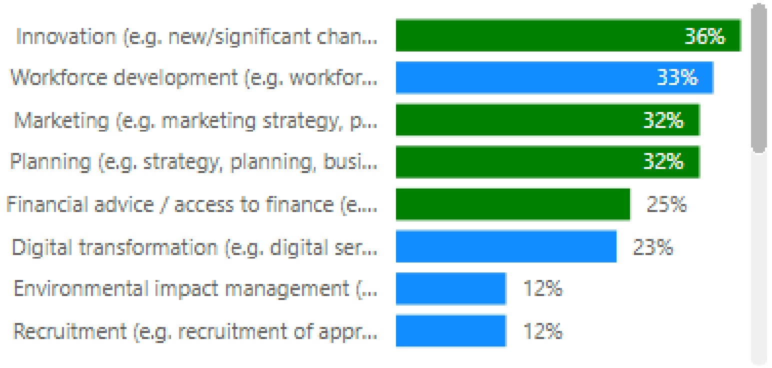
Size Band: All

Submitted Date: 02/04/2025 – 02/07/2025

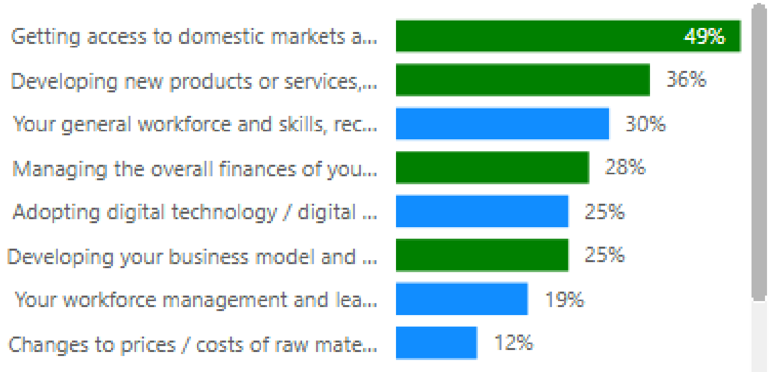
Economic Impact



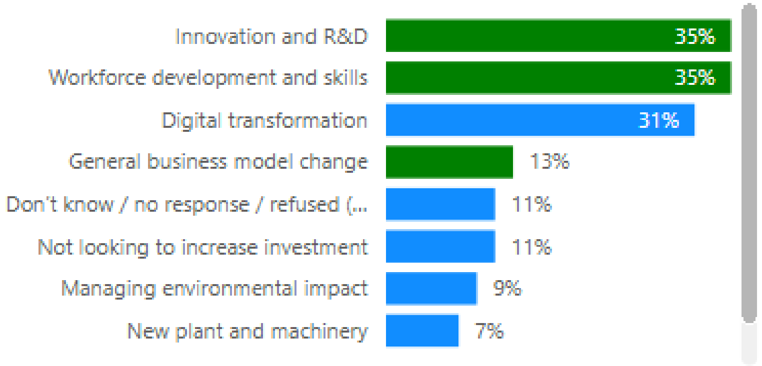
Current challenges facing firms (%)



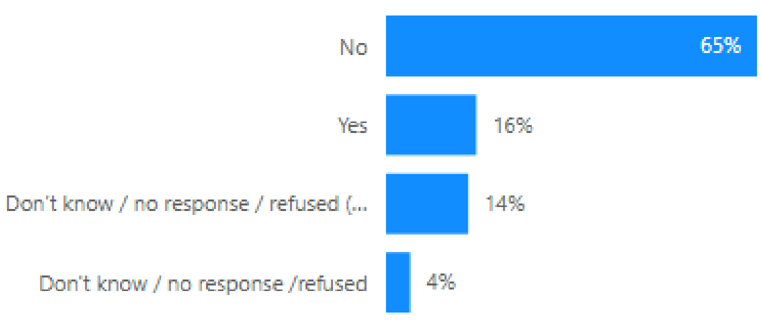
Future support needs (%)



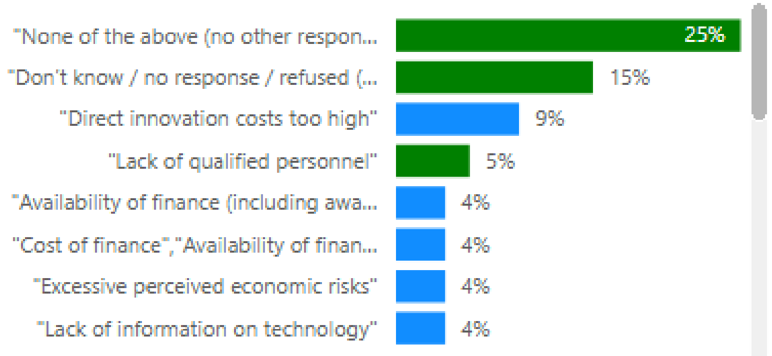
Main area for investment (%)



Innovation activity (%)



Barriers to innovation (%)



OGS LOCAL AUTHORITY DATA - WIGAN

Responses	Respondents
62	52

HOME

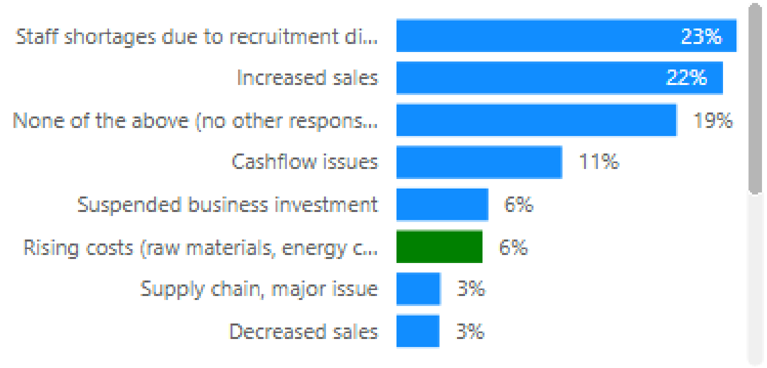
Local Authority: Wigan

Sector: All

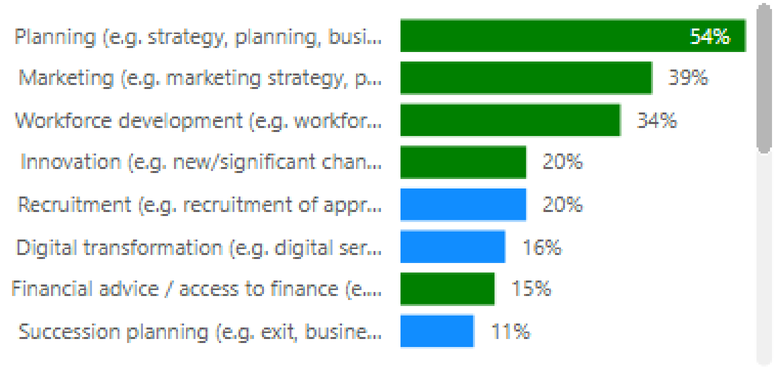
Size Band: All

Submitted Date: 02/04/2025 – 02/07/2025

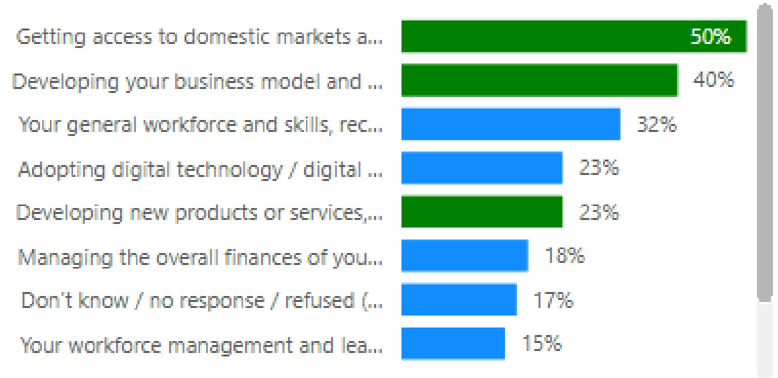
Economic Impact



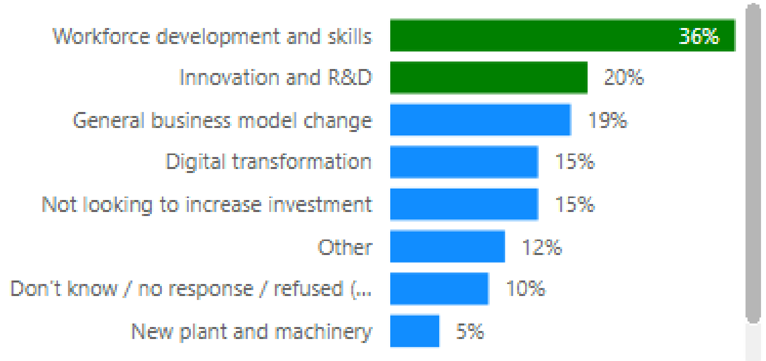
Current challenges facing firms (%)



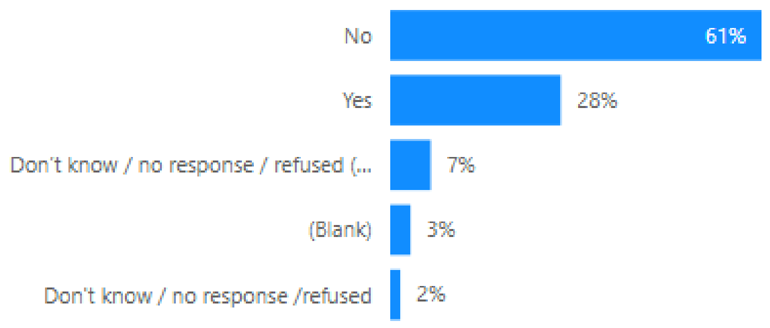
Future support needs (%)



Main area for investment (%)



Innovation activity (%)



Barriers to innovation (%)