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Dear English Business Survey User.

### Cessation of the English Business Survey

Recently the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) reviewed the experimental statistics published from the English Business Survey (the Survey) to ensure they continue to meet both the needs of the Department and users. A broad programme of consultation was conducted to better understand the current use and impact of the Survey. BIS engaged stakeholders through a variety of channels, including formal user consultation and an event to determine their use of the statistics. BIS used this information to investigate a range of possible alternatives and modifications to the existing Survey to determine the configuration that would best serve the needs of BIS and the Survey's users.

The conclusion of this work is that BIS believes its current sub-national intelligence needs are best served by information provided in a different form; and, that users can access similar short-term information business and economic sentiment information from third parties. **BIS has therefore decided to cease the collection of data and publication of statistics from the English Business Survey; the last publication will take place on the 30 April 2014.**

BIS would like to thank users that helped to shape the evolution of the Survey. To help to minimise the impact on users, BIS have created a brief list of some of the alternative sources of information provided by the English Business Survey – see the attached Annex.

Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss any queries or comments regarding this decision.

Kind regards

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## Annex: Alternative sources of short-term business and economic performance

There are a range of alternative information sources which provide data on short-term business and economic performance. This information is disseminated in a range of ways, with some available free of charge and others requiring subscription. The information is produced to meet specific needs and it is recommended that users understand the methodology used and its impact on its appropriateness for their particular use<sup>1</sup>. Contained below is a short summary of alternatives sources of short-term business and economic performance.

### **Short-term performance measures**

ONS produces a range of statistics that include information on changes in business and economic conditions over the recent past. This includes information on changes in consumer prices, labour market information and short-term GDP estimates. These can be used to track the short-term performance of the economy, mainly at a National level, but in some cases, sub-nationally and for different sectors. These statistics are available without charge.

Source	Link
<i>Gross Domestic Product</i>	<a href="http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/release-calendar/index.html?newquery=*&amp;title=Gross+Domestic+Product%3A+Preliminary+Estimate&amp;pagetype=calendar-entry&amp;lday=&amp;lmonth=&amp;lyear=&amp;uday=&amp;umonth=&amp;uyear=">http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/release-calendar/index.html?newquery=*&amp;title=Gross+Domestic+Product%3A+Preliminary+Estimate&amp;pagetype=calendar-entry&amp;lday=&amp;lmonth=&amp;lyear=&amp;uday=&amp;umonth=&amp;uyear=</a>
<i>Retail sales</i>	<a href="http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/rsi/retail-sales/index.html">http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/rsi/retail-sales/index.html</a>
<i>Production output</i>	<a href="http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/release-calendar/index.html?newquery=*&amp;title=Index+of+Production&amp;pagetype=calendar-entry&amp;lday=&amp;lmonth=&amp;lyear=&amp;uday=&amp;umonth=&amp;uyear=">http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/release-calendar/index.html?newquery=*&amp;title=Index+of+Production&amp;pagetype=calendar-entry&amp;lday=&amp;lmonth=&amp;lyear=&amp;uday=&amp;umonth=&amp;uyear=</a>
<i>Volume of construction</i>	<a href="http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Output+in+the+Construction+Industry">http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Output+in+the+Construction+Industry</a>
<i>Annual inflation</i>	<a href="http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Price+Indices+and+Inflation">http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Price+Indices+and+Inflation</a>
<i>Employment</i>	<a href="http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Employment">http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Employment</a>
<i>Unemployment rate</i>	<a href="http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=People+not+in+Work">http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=People+not+in+Work</a>

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<sup>1</sup> An example of the work to understand the effect of different methodologies can be found in *External Coherence, Measuring Coherence Between Official Estimates of Economic Activity and External Indicators* ; <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/elmr/external-coherence/measuring-coherence-between-official-estimates-of-economic-activity-and-external-indicators/index.html>

## **Short-term measures of business and economic performance and expectations**

### *UK*

Eurostat publish a range of information on Business Sentiment. This information is collected for monthly and quarterly periods, depending on the coverage. The information can be accessed from the European Commission's website - [http://ec.europa.eu/economy\\_finance/db\\_indicators/surveys/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/db_indicators/surveys/index_en.htm)

### *England*

A range of providers of short-term expectations of business and economic conditions are available for a range of time periods. Those identified by users in the recent User Consultation are detailed below. Headline information from the sources below, may be available without charge, but more detailed information may be chargeable.

<b>Source</b>	<b>Link</b>
<i>Monthly Markit Purchasing Manager's Index</i>	<a href="http://www.markit.com/product/pmi">http://www.markit.com/product/pmi</a>
<i>Confederation of British Industry's surveys</i>	<a href="http://www.cbi.org.uk/business-issues/economy/business-surveys/">http://www.cbi.org.uk/business-issues/economy/business-surveys/</a>
<i>House of Commons Library</i>	<a href="http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/research/briefing-papers/SN02817/business-and-consumer-confidence-economic-indicators-page">http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/research/briefing-papers/SN02817/business-and-consumer-confidence-economic-indicators-page</a>
<i>British Chamber of Commerce reports</i>	<a href="http://www.britishchambers.org.uk/policy-maker/economic-data/quarterly-economic-survey/">http://www.britishchambers.org.uk/policy-maker/economic-data/quarterly-economic-survey/</a>
<i>The Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS) National Barometer</i>	<a href="http://www.mymas.org/resources/the-mas-national-manufacturing-barometer-survey-1">http://www.mymas.org/resources/the-mas-national-manufacturing-barometer-survey-1</a>
<i>ICAEW / Grant Thornton UK Business Confidence Monitor</i>	<a href="http://www.icaew.com/home/about-icaew/what-we-do/business-confidence-monitor">http://www.icaew.com/home/about-icaew/what-we-do/business-confidence-monitor</a>
<i>Lloyds Regional PMI</i>	<a href="http://www.lloydsbankinggroup.com/media1/economic_insight/regional_pmi_page.asp">http://www.lloydsbankinggroup.com/media1/economic_insight/regional_pmi_page.asp</a>