



Department  
for Business  
Innovation & Skills

ENGLISH BUSINESS SURVEY

User Consultation

JULY 2013

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# English Business Survey: User Consultation

The Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) currently releases English Business Survey (the Survey) statistics for each Month and Quarter. The Survey commenced in November 2011 and was designed to collect monthly information on business sentiment. Statistics are published for England and its regions each month and more detailed statistics for sub-regions each Quarter. The Survey's statistics are published as Experimental Official Statistics by BIS and are undergoing evaluation to ensure they meet Users' needs. The Survey has been running for almost 3 years and BIS is in the process of reviewing the Survey to determine options for its future direction. This User consultation forms part of the review.

Issued: **26/07/2013**

Respond by: **30/08/2013**

Enquiries to: Gary Wainman, 0114 207 5114, [ebsurvey@BIS.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ebsurvey@BIS.gsi.gov.uk)

This consultation is relevant to: users of English Business Survey statistics and Statistical releases

## 1. Executive Summary

1. The Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) currently releases English Business Survey (the Survey) statistics for each Month and Quarter. The Survey commenced in November 2011 and was designed to collect monthly information on business sentiment. Statistics are published for England and its regions each month and more detailed statistics for sub-regions each Quarter.<sup>1</sup> The Survey's statistics are published as Experimental Official Statistics<sup>2</sup> by BIS and are undergoing evaluation to ensure they meet Users' needs. The Survey has been running for almost 3 years and BIS is in the process of reviewing the Survey to determine options for its future direction. This User consultation forms part of the review, with the aim of helping BIS to gather User's views on:
  - a. the current Survey to understand who uses the publications, for what purpose, and how BIS can make them more useful; and,
  - b. their future needs from the Survey to understand whether there is a user requirement for such a Survey and what form it would take.
2. Responses will inform the review of the Survey with the results published within approximately three weeks of the consultation closing.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-business-innovation-skills/series/english-business-survey>

<sup>2</sup> Experimental statistics are defined in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics as "new official statistics undergoing evaluation. They are published in order to involve users and stakeholders in their development and as a means to build in quality at an early stage."

## 2. How to respond

3. When responding please state whether you are responding as an individual or representing the views of an organisation. If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please make it clear who the organisation represents by selecting the appropriate interest group on the consultation form and, where applicable, how the views of members were assembled.
4. You can reply to this consultation online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/bis-english-business-survey-2013>.
5. You can also submit your response by post or email to:  
  
Gary Wainman  
Enterprise and Economic Development Analysis  
Department of Business, Innovation and Skills  
2nd Floor, 2 St Paul's Place, 125 Norfolk Street, Sheffield, S1 2FJ  
Tel: 0114 207 5114  
Email: [ebsurvey@BIS.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ebsurvey@BIS.gsi.gov.uk)
6. You may make printed copies of this document without seeking permission.
7. Other versions of the document in Braille, other languages or audio-cassette are available on request.

## 3. Confidentiality & Data Protection

8. Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be subject to publication or release to other parties or to disclosure in accordance with the access to information regimes (these are primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004). If you want information, including personal data that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, under the FOIA, there is a statutory Code of Practice with which public authorities must comply and which deals, amongst other things, with obligations of confidence.
9. In view of this it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department.

## 4. Help with queries

10. Questions about the policy issues raised in the document can be addressed to:

Gary Wainman  
Enterprise and Economic Development Analysis  
Department of Business, Innovation and Skills  
2nd Floor, 2 St Paul's Place, 125 Norfolk Street, Sheffield, S1 2FJ  
Tel: 0114 207 5114  
Email: [ebsurvey@BIS.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ebsurvey@BIS.gsi.gov.uk)

The consultation principles are in Annex A.

## 5. What happens next?

11. We will publish a summary of the comments made approximately three weeks after the consultation closes.

## **Annex A: Consultation principles**

The principles that Government departments and other public bodies should adopt for engaging stakeholders when developing policy and legislation are set out in the consultation principles.

<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Consultation-Principles.pdf>

### **Comments or complaints on the conduct of this consultation**

If you wish to comment on the conduct of this consultation or make a complaint about the way this consultation has been conducted, please write to:

John Conway,  
BIS Consultation Co-ordinator,  
1 Victoria Street,  
London  
SW1H 0ET

Telephone John on 020 7215 6402  
or e-mail to: [john.conway@bis.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:john.conway@bis.gsi.gov.uk)

However if you wish to comment on the specific policy proposals you should contact the policy lead (see section 4).

## Annex B: English Business Survey User Consultation response form

The Department may, in accordance with the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information, make available, on public request, individual responses.

The closing date for this consultation is **30/08/2013**

Name:

Organisation (if applicable):

Address:

Please email completed forms to:

[ebsurvey@BIS.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ebsurvey@BIS.gsi.gov.uk)

Alternatively post forms to:

Gary Wainman

Enterprise and Economic Development Analysis

Department of Business, Innovation and Skills

2nd Floor, 2 St Paul's Place, 125 Norfolk Street, Sheffield, S1 2FJ

<input type="checkbox"/>	Business representative organisation/trade body
<input type="checkbox"/>	Central government
<input type="checkbox"/>	Charity or social enterprise
<input type="checkbox"/>	Health
<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual
<input type="checkbox"/>	Legal representative
<input type="checkbox"/>	Local Government
<input type="checkbox"/>	Media
<input type="checkbox"/>	Trade union or staff association
<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-profit institution
<input type="checkbox"/>	Private sector
<input type="checkbox"/>	School, college or university
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please describe)



**Type of respondent:**

- an analyst       a researcher       a policy maker  
 a journalist       a teacher or lecturer       a student  
 a consultant       a member of the general public

Comments:

**B1. Current Statistics**

This sections aims to capture Users' views of the current Survey and outputs.

**Question 1: Which statistics from the publication are you interested in and/or do you regularly use? (please provide the table number from the release or the chart numbers)**

Comments:

**Question 2: What do you use the statistics for?**

- General background information       Benchmarking       Monitoring  
 Modelling and/or forecasting       Writing briefs       Decision making  
 Research       Inclusion in reports       Do not use  
 Other, please specify:

**Question 3: What alternative sources of information on Business and Economic sentiment in England do you have?**

Comments:

**Question 4: What level of geography are you interested in and/or do you regularly use? Please select all that apply**

- England     NUTS1 region     NUTS2 region     Local Enterprise Partnership

Comments:

### Question 5: In relation to the Survey's Estimates how satisfied are you with the

On a scale of Very dissatisfied; Dissatisfied; Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied; Satisfied; Very satisfied, grade your overall approval.

	Very dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Satisfied	Very satisfied
timeliness of the publication	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ease of access	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
clarity (charts and accompanying advice)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
relevance to your needs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
accuracy of the estimates	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
comparability over time and between sources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
coherence with other statistical sources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
metadata (additional information about the data items, for example the User guide)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
adherence to planned publication dates	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
your experience of the web pages from which the statistics are released	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Do you have any additional comments you would like to make?

## B2. Future needs

This sections aims to capture Users' future needs from the Survey.

### **Question 6: What statistical information can you NOT find in the current statistics that you would like to?**

Comments:

### **Question 7: How could the current statistics be changed to better meet your needs?**

For example new developments, breakdowns, accessibility, clarity, methods, presentation, quality

Comments:

### **Question 8: Which of the models for collecting data best suits your needs?**

- Data collected on a monthly basis;
- Data collected on a quarterly basis.
- Other (please detail);

Comments:

Please provide the reasoning behind your response:

### **Question 9: What would be the impact on you if the survey design changed to collecting data on a quarterly basis rather than monthly?**

Comments:

**Question 10: Which of the models for releasing statistics best suits your needs**

- Publication of Monthly and Quarterly Statistical releases and supplementary data using the current publication schedule;
- Publication of a Quarterly Statistical release focusing on the Quarterly data and supplementary Monthly (data for each month within the Quarter) and Quarterly data tables, each quarter;
- Publication of a Quarterly Statistical release and Quarterly supplementary data tables, only, each quarter;
- Other (please detail);

Please provide the reasoning behind your response.

**Question 11: What would be the impact on you if the Survey ceased?**

Comments:

**Question 12: Are you aware of an alternative source for data from the Survey?**

Comments:

**Question 13: Do you have any additional comments?**

Comments:

**Do you have any other comments that might aid the consultation process as a whole?**

Please use this space for any general comments that you may have, comments on the layout of this consultation would also be welcomed.

Thank you for your views on this consultation. However, as part of the BIS wider customer survey plans, we would appreciate your views on the English Business Survey.

Thank you for taking the time to let us have your views. We do not intend to acknowledge receipt of individual responses unless you tick the box below.

Please acknowledge this reply

At BIS we carry out our research on many different topics and consultations. As your views are valuable to us, would it be okay if we were to contact you again from time to time either for research or to send through consultation documents?

Yes

No

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