Department for Business Innovation & Skills

English Business Survey – Quarter 2 2013

This release presents the key messages from the English Business Survey (EBS) for Quarter 2 2013 (April - June). The EBS interviews 3,000 workplaces each month and provides timely intelligence on business conditions in England. The Survey provides an assessment of past, current and future conditions. Quarterly statistics are created by aggregating three months' of responses and using a quarterly weighting scheme, instead of a monthly weighting scheme. The quarterly release differs from the regular monthly Statistical Release by providing sub-regional geographical information in the accompanying tables.

Terminology

What these statistics mean:

- The EBS is a survey of workplaces. A workplace can be a single business, or a workplace that is part of a larger enterprise, for example the local store of a large supermarket chain. Ninety-seven per cent of enterprises consist of a single workplace.[1] The term business will be used throughout this release.

- In order to reflect the relative importance or contribution of different sized workplaces to the local economy, the survey uses the number of people employed at each workplace as the measure of its contribution to the economy. Where the size of business is reported in the release, this refers to the number of people employed at each workplace.

- Where 'Balances' are presented, they are the difference between the positive responses and the negative responses. Balances allow a general assessment of whether businesses feel positive or negative about something. More detailed information on the terminology used is included in the Background Notes to the release.

---

[1] Source: UK Business: Activity, Size and Location, 2012

Key Points

- The estimated balance score for output was positive for Quarter 2 2013 (+31%) compared to the same quarter the previous year (+20%). This is the highest balance score seen since the survey began in October 2011[2]. Expectations of future output activity were also positive, registering a balance score of +22%.

- The employment performance for Quarter 2 2013 were positive, with an estimated positive balance score of +10%, the highest since the series began[3]. In comparison to the same quarter the previous year, this is an improvement of 4 percentage points.

- Expectations for future employment levels were also very positive for Quarter 2 2013 (+10%). This is similar to the estimated balance score reported for the same quarter the previous year (+8%).

- The proportion of Exporting businesses reporting higher exports compared to the previous quarter increased for quarter 2 2013 with a balance score estimate of +15%, the highest since the series began[4] and 7 percentage points higher than the same period the previous year. Expectations for future exports were equally positive with exporting businesses reporting a positive balance estimate of +15%.

Economic Context

This section provides contextual information on the economic performance over the survey period (Quarter 2 2013) to help the user to interpret the statistics.

Official statistics showed the value of the UK economy – Gross Domestic Product (GDP) – was estimated to have expanded in Quarter 2 2013 by 0.7% when compared with Quarter 1 2013[5]. According to Eurostat, GDP increased by 0.3% in the Euro area and by 0.4% in the EU27 during the second quarter of 2013 compared to the previous quarter. Compared with the same quarter of the previous year, Quarter 2 2012, GDP in the Euro area contracted by 0.5%, but was stable in EU27 (0.0%) while the UK had expanded by 1.5%.[6]

Official business statistics are optimistic about the UK economy. In the three months to June, retail sales increased,[7] production and manufacturing output

---

[2] Estimates are not seasonally adjusted.

[3] Estimates are not seasonally adjusted.

[4] Estimates are not seasonally adjusted.

[5] http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/naa2/second-estimate-of-gdp/q2-2013/index.html

[6] http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_PUBLIC/2-04092013-BP/EN/2-04092013-BP-EN.PDF

[7] http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/rsi/retail-sales/june-2013/index.html

rose[8], as did the volume of construction[9] which was in the previous quarter at its lowest level since Quarter 4 1998. Annual inflation was estimated to have stayed at 2.8% in July, a fall of 0.1% from June's inflation rate of 2.9% and above the Bank of England target rate of 2.0%.[10]

The labour market was stable in Quarter 2 2013: the employment rate rose by 0.1 percentage points in Quarter 2 2013 compared to Quarter 1 2013 while the unemployment rate stayed at 7.8% in Quarter 2 2013[11].

Latest EBS results

Output

Output results were positive in Quarter 2 2013 for England overall and the sub-national picture was also consistently positive.

Chart 1: Level of output in England, Quarter 2 2012 to Quarter 2 2013
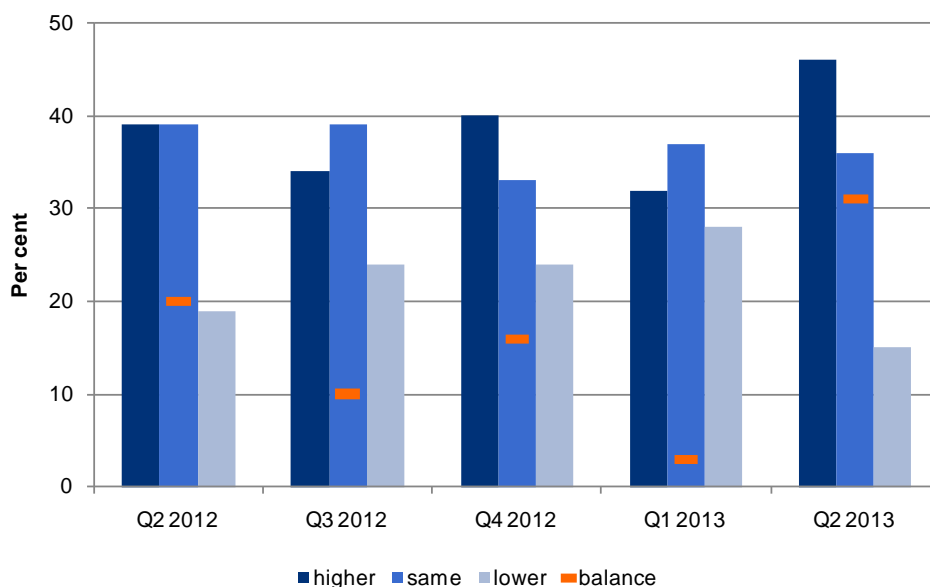
Notes:
1. Workplaces were asked about the level of output in the preceding Quarter when compared to the reference Quarter, for example Quarter 2 2013 results compare Quarter 2 2013 with Quarter 1 2013.
2. Estimates are not seasonally adjusted.
3. Survey results sum to 100%=(% Higher)+(% The same)+(% Lower)+(% Don't know). Estimates for 'Don't know' have been excluded from this chart, but are available in the tables that accompany the release.

Source: BIS - English Business Survey, Quarter 2 2013

[8] http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/iop/index-of-production/june-2013/stb-iop-jun-2013.html

[9] http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/construction/output-in-the-construction-industry/june-and-q2-2013/index.html

[10] http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/cpi/consumer-price-indices/july-2013/stb---consumer-price-indices---july-2013.html

[11] http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/lms/labour-market-statistics/august-2013/index.html

Across England as a whole, output performed strongly for Quarter 2 2013 (+31%) – registering the highest estimated balance score since the survey began[12]. This is an increase of 11 percentage points compared to the same period the previous year[13]. This positive result was driven by almost half of all businesses (46%) reporting an increase in the level of output activity[14] in Quarter 2 2013. Quarter 1 2013 results showed an estimated balance score of +3%[15],

At the regional level, the South East registered the highest estimated balance score (+34%) whilst the North East reported the lowest (+26%). This marginal variation is replicated at the NUTS2 level (hereafter referred to as sub-regions) [16], with the strongest performance recorded for West Yorkshire (+40%), Shropshire & Staffordshire (+39%) and Surrey East & West Sussex (+38%). South Yorkshire, and Tees Valley and Durham continue from the previous quarter to perform the weakest with balance scores of +17% and +24% respectively. However, this is a considerable improvement from the previous quarter where they both recorded a negative balance score of -9%[17].

When examining the survey results by the size of the business,[18] micro businesses (1-9 employees) continued to perform the weakest with an estimated balance score of +15%. This is however a large rise from the previous quarter negative balance score of -13%. Medium size businesses (50-249 employees) performed strongest with an estimated balance score of +37%

Expected output performance

Businesses were optimistic about future levels of output activity in England and across English regions.

Expectations of future output in Quarter 2 2013 were very positive. At the national level, this is similar to the same quarter the previous year where businesses also reported an estimated positive balance score of +22%. Quarter 1 2013 balance score was +37%[19].

---

[12] Estimates are not seasonally adjusted.

[13] Responses across all categories (i.e. Higher, The same, Lower and Don't Know) sum to 100%. See data tables (https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-business-innovation-skills/series/english-business-survey) for detailed figures.

[14] Businesses are asked whether they believe their level of business activity or volume of output at a workplace is the same, higher or lower.

[15] Estimates are not seasonally adjusted

[16] NUTS1 refers to the 9 English Regions; NUTS2 refers to 30 areas in England that are mainly groups of counties and unitary authorities, referred to as sub-regions.

[17] Estimates are not seasonally adjusted

[18] Business size is measured in terms of the number of employees at the workplace.

[19] Estimates are not seasonally adjusted

**Chart 2: Expected level of output in England, Quarter 2 2012 to Quarter 2 2013**
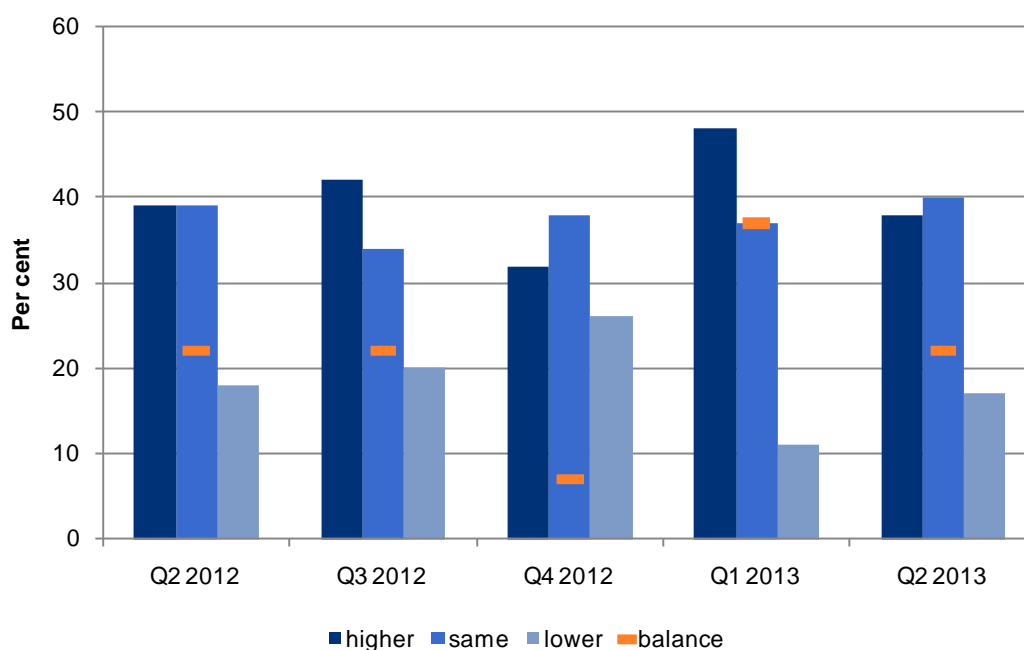
Notes:

1. Workplaces were asked about their expectations for the level of output in the next Quarter when compared to the reference Quarter, for example Quarter 2 2013 results compare Quarter 2 2013 with Quarter 3 2013.
2. Estimates are not seasonally adjusted.
3. Survey results sum to 100%=(% Higher)+(% The same)+(% Lower)+(% Don't know). Estimates for 'Don't know' have been excluded from this chart, but are available in the tables that accompany the release.

Source: BIS - English Business Survey, Quarter 2 2013

All regions had positive balance score estimates for expectations of future output. The strongest result was recorded for South East with a balance score of +25% while the North East and East of England shared the weakest balance score of +18%. At the sub-regional level Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly had the highest estimated balance score of +37% while East Riding was largely the least optimistic with an estimated balance score of +2%.
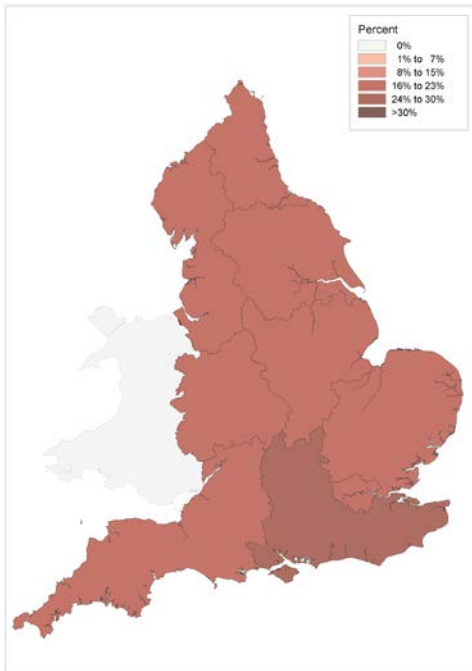
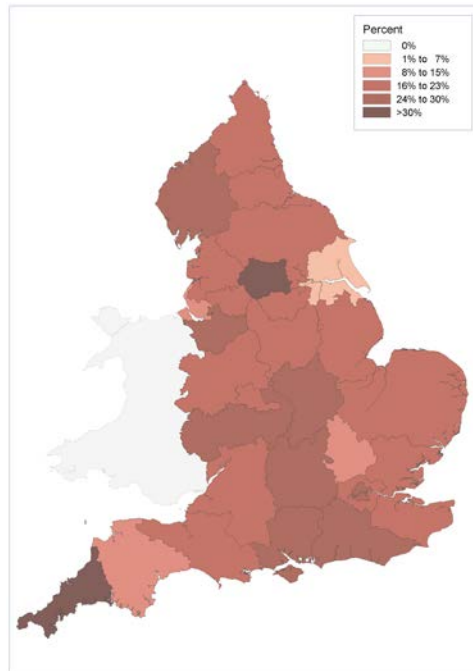**Map 1: Balance Statistics for level of output, Quarter 2 2013, by NUTS1 region**
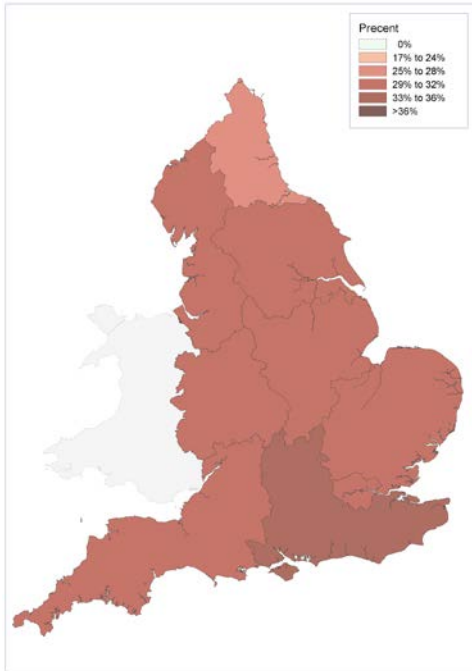
Map 2: Balance Statistics for level of output, Quarter 2 2013, by NUTS2 region
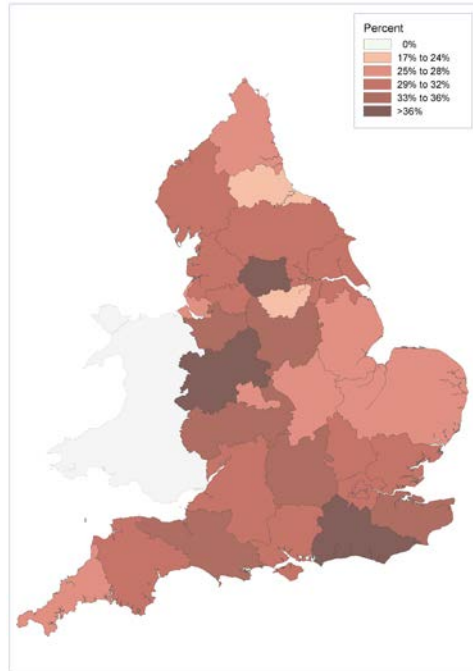
Map 3: Balance Statistics for expected level of output, Quarter 2 2013, by NUTS1 region

Map 4: Balance Statistics for expected level of output, Quarter 2 2013, by NUTS2 region
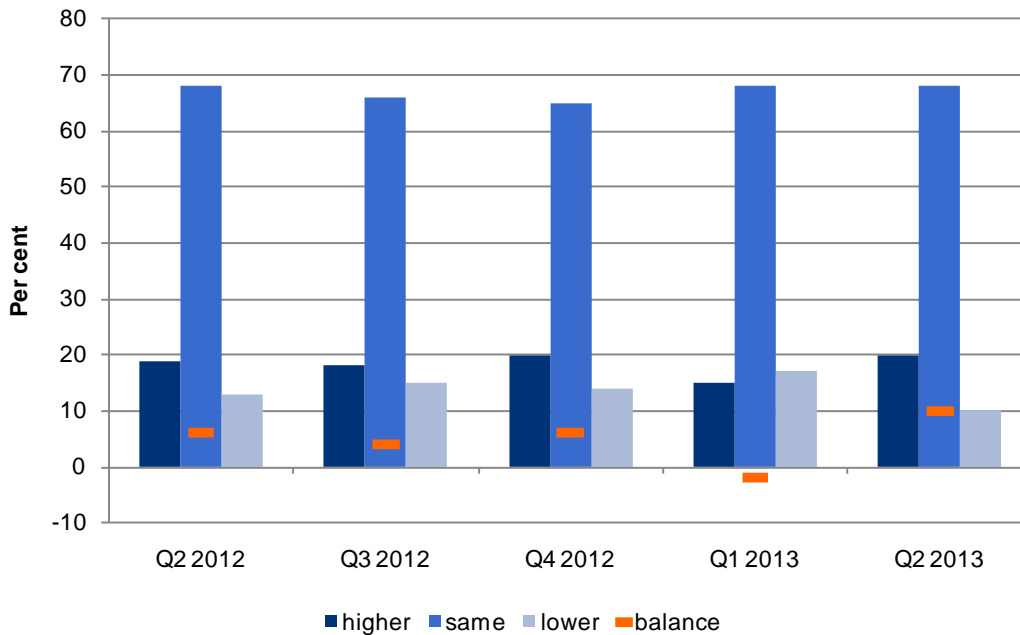

Notes:

1. Map 1 & 2: Workplaces were asked about the level of employment in Quarter 2 2013 compared with Quarter 1 2013.

2. Map 3 & 4: Workplaces were asked about the level of employment in Quarter 2 2013 compared with Quarter 3 2013

3. Results are weighted to be representative of total employment in England, not workplaces.

4. Balance statistics are simple the estimate for higher minus the estimate for lower. A positive balance indicates more business expected higher output than lower output.

5. Contains Ordnance Survey Data © Crown Copyright and database right

Source: BIS - English Business Survey

Employment

Employment results were positive for England and its regions, with more businesses reporting higher employment levels in Quarter 2 2013 than Quarter 1 2013.

Chart 3: Level of employment in England, Quarter 2 2012 to Quarter 2 2013

Notes:

1. Workplaces were asked about the level of employment in the preceding Quarter when compared to the reference Quarter, for example Quarter 2 2013 results compare Quarter 2 2013 with Quarter 1 2013.
2. Estimates are not seasonally adjusted.
3. Survey results sum to 100%=(% Higher)+(% The same)+(% Lower)+(% Don't know). Estimates for 'Don't know' have been excluded from this chart, but are available in the tables that accompany the release.

Source: BIS - English Business Survey, Quarter 2 2013

Employment performance for Quarter 2 2013 was positive with an estimated balance score of +10%; the highest since the series began. In comparison to the same quarter the previous year, this is an improvement of 4 percentage points. Estimated balance score for the previous quarter, Quarter 1 2013, was -2%[20].

All regions reported positive employment balance score estimates in Quarter 2 2013: the East Midlands and South East shared the strongest balance scores (+12%) while the North East reported the weakest balance score (+6%). Similarly all sub-regions reported positive balance scores: Lincolnshire and Cornwall and Isles of Scilly recorded the highest balance scores of +18%

[20] Estimates are not seasonally adjusted

and +17%, respectively. In contrast Tees Valley and Durham (+2%), Outer London (+4) and South Yorkshire (+4%) reported the weakest balance scores.

There were reported increases in employment levels across all business sizes with medium sized businesses recording the highest balance score, an estimated +16%. Small businesses also performed strongly registering an estimated balance score of +12%. Large businesses and micro businesses performed the weakest with balance score estimates of +2% and +7%, respectively.

Expectations for future employment

Expectations for future employment continue to be positive for England and across English regions.

Chart 4: Expected level of employment in England, Quarter 2 2012 to Quarter 2 2013
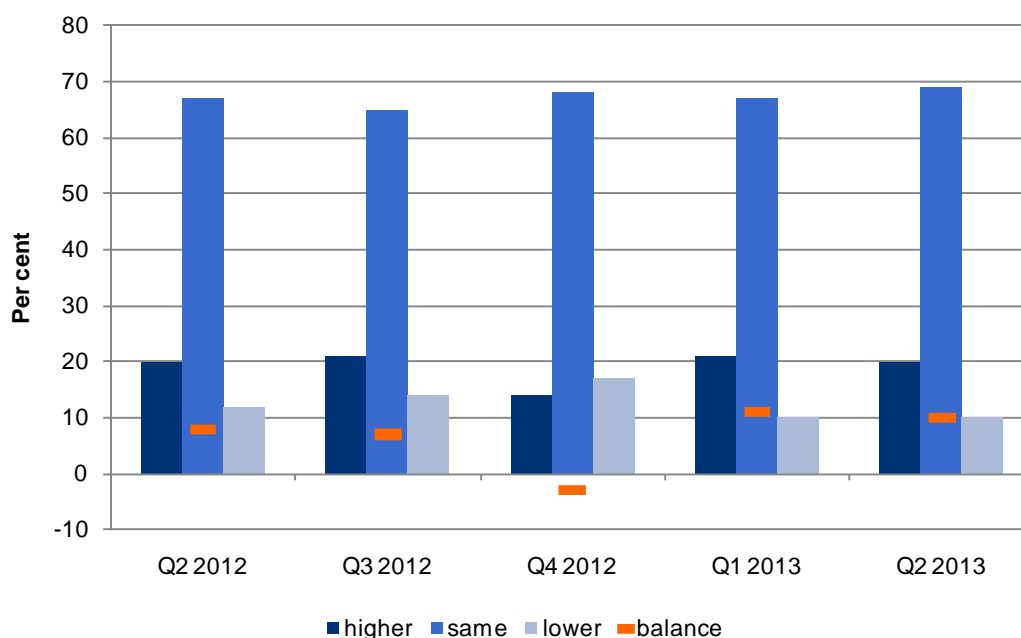

Notes:

1. Workplaces were asked about their expectations for the level of employment in the next Quarter when compared to the reference Quarter, for example Quarter 2 2013 results compare Quarter 2 2013 with Quarter 3 2013.
2. Estimates are not seasonally adjusted.
3. Survey results sum to 100%=(% Higher)+(% The same)+(% Lower)+(% Don't know). Estimates for 'Don't know' have been excluded from this chart, but are available in the tables that accompany the release.

*Source: BIS - English Business Survey, Quarter 2 2013*

The balance score for future employment expectation in quarter 2 2013 was estimated at +10%. This is similar to the balance score reported for the same quarter the previous year (+8%). Compared to the previous quarter, Quarter 1 2013, the balance was +11% [21].

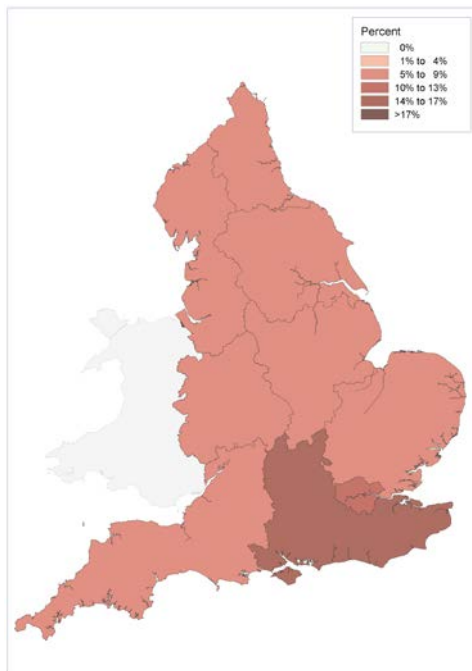[21] Estimates are not seasonally adjusted

Map 5: Balance Statistics for level of employment, Quarter 2 2013, by NUTS1 region
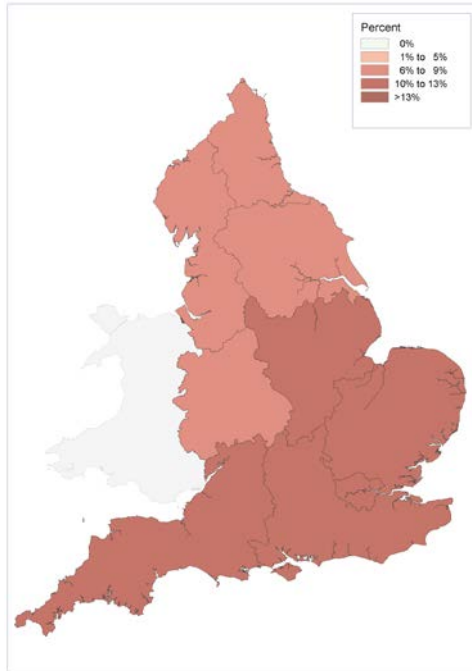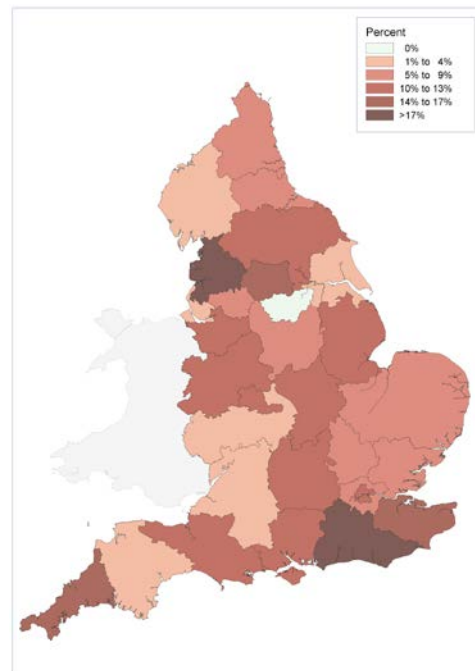

Map 6: Balance Statistics for level of employment, Quarter 2 2013, by NUTS2 region
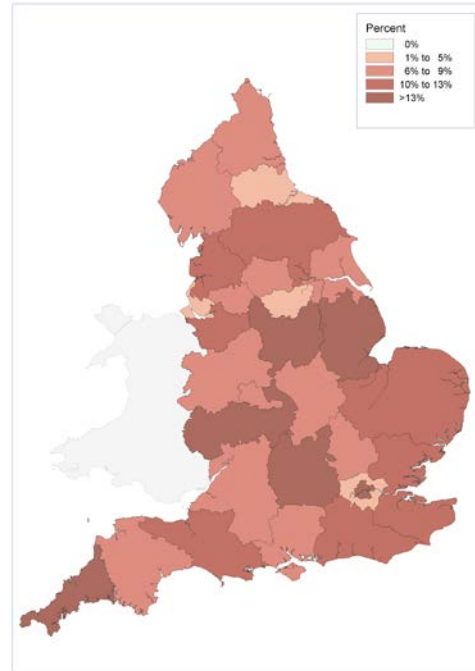
Map 7: Balance Statistics for expected level of employment, Quarter 2 2013, by NUTS1 region

Map 8: Balance Statistics for expected level of employment, Quarter 2 2013, by NUTS2 region

Notes:

1. Map 5 & 6: Workplaces were asked about the level of employment in Quarter 2 2013 compared with Quarter 1 2013.

2. Map 7 & 8: Workplaces were asked about the level of employment in Quarter 2 2013 compared with Quarter 3 2013

3. Results are weighted to be representative of total employment in England, not workplaces.

4. Balance statistics are simple the estimate for higher minus the estimate for lower. A positive balance indicates more business expected higher output than lower output.

5. Contains Ordnance Survey Data © Crown Copyright and database right

Source: BIS - English Business Survey

9

All regions reported positive balance score estimates for future expectations of employment. The South East continues to be the most optimistic region with the highest balance of (+15%) unchanged from previous quarter. The South East recorded the lowest balance score (+6%). At sub-regional level, positive balance scores were reported for all areas. Surrey East and West Sussex reported the highest balance (+20%) followed closely by Lancashire (+18%). South Yorkshire and Devon, reported the lowest balance scores of +0% and +1% respectively.

Exports

The share of exporting businesses reporting higher exporting activity was an estimated, +15% in Quarter 2 2013 results, the highest since the series began[22] and 7 percentage points higher on the same period the previous year. Quarter 1 2013 estimated balance score was +5%. Expectations for future exports were equally positive with exporting businesses reporting a positive balance of +15%. All regions reported a positive balance score for the first time since the survey began[23].

Chart 5: Volume of exports in England, Quarter 2 2012 to Quarter 2 2013
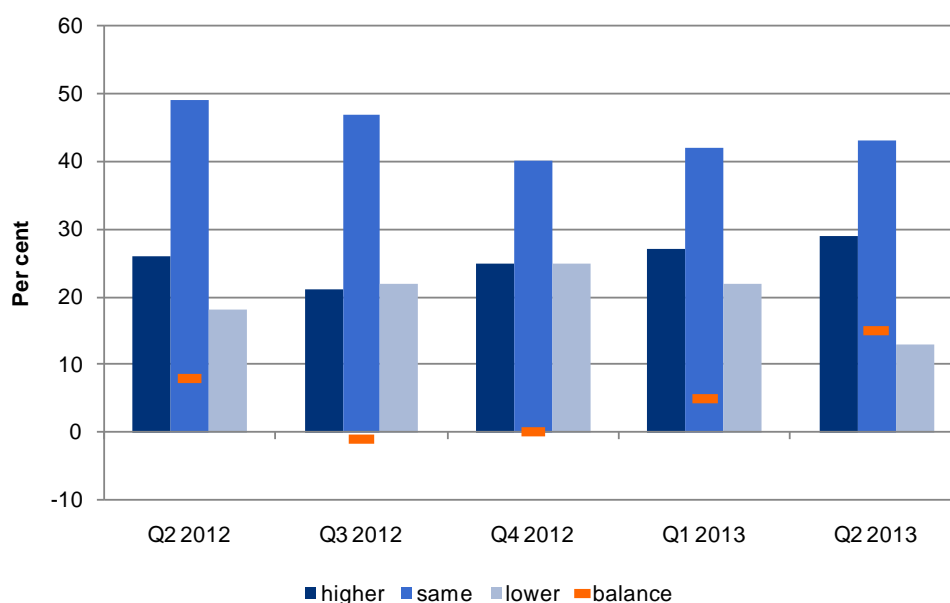
Notes:

1. Workplaces were asked about the volume of exports in the preceding Quarter when compared to the reference Quarter, for example Quarter 2 2013 results compare Quarter 2 2013 with Quarter 1 2013.
2. Estimates are not seasonally adjusted.
3. Survey results sum to 100%=(% Higher)+(% The same)+(% Lower)+(% Don't know). Estimates for 'Don't know' have been excluded from this chart, but are available in the tables that accompany the release.

Source: BIS - English Business Survey, Quarter 2 2013

---

[22] Estimates are not seasonally adjusted

[23] Estimates are not seasonally adjusted

Exporting businesses are a sub-set of the business population and it is estimated that approximately 19% of small and medium sized businesses, that have employees, export goods or services[24] – which means that statistics on exports can only be published on a quarterly basis due to the small number of monthly responses. Within this section the estimates refer to exporting businesses only.

All regions reported a positive export balance estimates with the strongest results in the South West (+30%) and North East (+22%). The North West and East of England which were the strongest performers in the previous quarter reported the weakest performance (+7% and +10% respectively) this quarter, Quarter 2 2013.

Comparing across firm size, exporting activity across all business sizes in Quarter 2 2013 was higher compared to Quarter 1 2013 results. Small, medium and large businesses reported similar strong balance score estimates of exporting activity (+17%, +17% and +16% respectively). Micro businesses reported the weakest (+6%), this is however a considerable improvement from the negative balance score -5%.

Expected export performance

Expectations for the volume of future exports for England and its regions, are positive.

Quarter 2 2013 results show a positive balance score estimate of +15%. However, this is still a large decline in exporting expectations recorded in Quarter 1 2013 of +27%.

All English regions in Quarter 2 2013 reported positive balance scores estimates. The North West and the East Midlands reported the strongest level of optimism for future exporting activity with balance scores of +21% and +19% respectively.

---

[24] BIS Small Business Survey, 2012

Chart 6: Expected volume of exports in England, Quarter 2 2012 to Quarter 2 2013
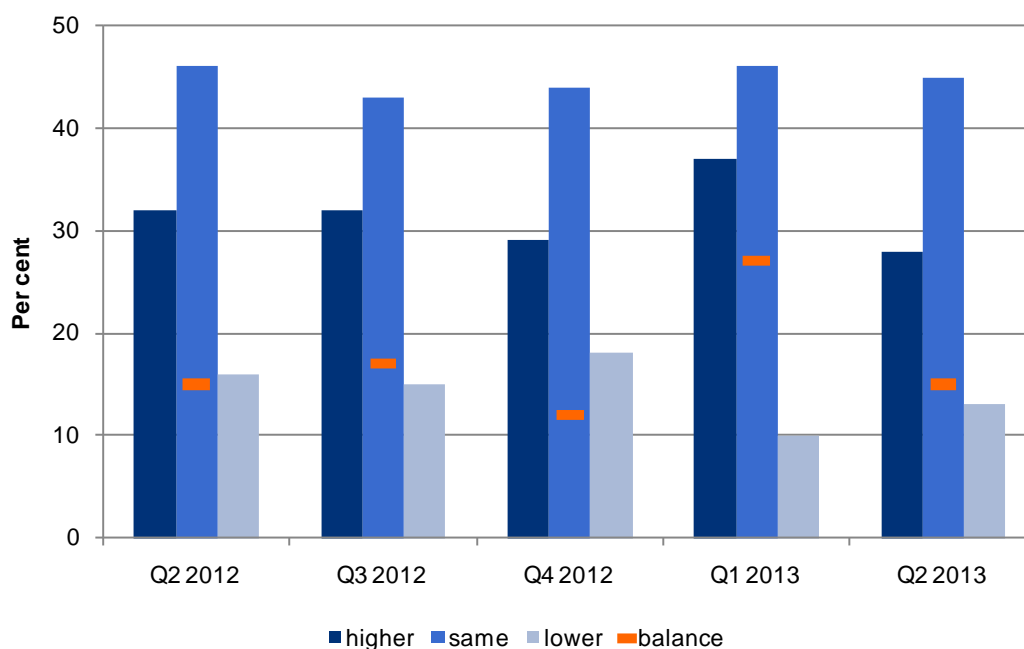
Notes:

1. Workplaces were asked about their expectations for the volume of exports in the next Quarter when compared to the reference Quarter, for example Quarter 2 2013 results compare Quarter 2 2013 with Quarter 3 2013.
2. Estimates are not seasonally adjusted.
3. Survey results sum to 100%=(% Higher)+(% The same)+(% Lower)+(% Don't know). Estimates for 'Don't know' have been excluded from this chart, but are available in the tables that accompany the release.

Source: BIS - English Business Survey, Quarter 2 2013

All sizes of business reported positive balance score estimates, with small businesses continuing to have the highest balance score of +22%.Notably, micro businesses are more optimistic (+17%) about future exporting activity than medium size businesses (+16%), with large businesses (+8%) least optimistic.

Coherence with similar data

Other business surveys, conducted by both trade bodies and private companies, collect information across a range of variables. Although some of this information overlaps with that collected through the EBS, the EBS has the advantages that it: brings the data together in a single place; allows sub-regional analysis each quarter; and, covers all sectors of the economy, including the public/not-for-profit sectors.

Along with many other business surveys, data from the EBS is difficult to reconcile with official statistics, particularly output. The Confederation of British Industry's (CBI) *Industrial Trends Survey*[25] reported an expansion in

---

[25] http://www.cbi.org.uk/business-issues/economy/business-surveys/industrial-trends-survey/

output volumes in July compared to April, with the strongest performance in the North East and West Midlands. In the EBS, the South East had the strongest results. In both the CBI and EBS, expectations of future output were positive with the strongest expectations recorded in the North East in the CBI, while the South East registered the strongest expectations in the EBS.

The monthly *Purchasing Manager's Index* (PMI)[26] reports an expansion in business activity in each of the three months to July 2013. It has followed an increasing trend since March 2013, which is consistent with the strong EBS balance score for output in Quarter 2 2013 which was the highest in the series. The North East, over the 3 month period to July continued to record the weakest performance for quarter 2 2013 as it did over the same period for quarter 1 2013. The EBS showed a similar result for the North East.

The British Chamber of Commerce (BCC)'s *Quarterly Economic Survey*[27] found an increase in domestic sales over Quarter 2 2013. The *Quarterly Economic Survey* indicated that employment increased in Quarter 2 2013, and predicts employment will continue to increase in Quarter 3. This is similar to the results from the EBS. The *Industrial Trends Survey* similarly recorded a positive balance of +10% for employment expectations for the three months to July.

---

[26] http://www.markiteconomics.com/Survey/Page.mvc/AboutPMIData

[27] http://www.britishchambers.org.uk/policy-maker/policy-reports-and-publications/quarterly-economic-survey-q4-2012.html

Background Notes

Product Development

The survey has undergone extensive development and testing, including pilot testing of the survey and cognitive testing of the survey questions. The Report on the EBS Questionnaire[28] contains details of the development and testing of the questionnaire; the *Technical Guide* details the methods which underpin the survey. Both documents are available on the EBS webpage.[29]

EBS methods and questionnaire continue to be reviewed and analysed to ensure they remain the best possible. Should you have any comments on the statistics – including on the methods used and dissemination of the statistics – or would like to inform us how you use the statistics, please contact ebsurvey@bis.gsi.gov.uk.

Quality and use

The English Business Survey provides timely and robust information on a regular and geographically detailed basis, the survey enhances understanding of business perceptions and economic conditions throughout England and ultimately improves policy making through this understanding. The statistics are also useful to businesses, providing intelligence about local economic and business conditions.

These estimates are currently classified as experimental statistics as they are undergoing development and have not yet been assessed against the standards required for National Statistics. It is recommended that users exercise caution when interpreting time series data, as the data are likely to include seasonal patterns, which have not been removed through seasonal adjustment[30]. It is expected that seasonal patterns will differ by industry, for example, all else being equal, some industries would expect output to be much lower in January compared to November due to seasonal patterns. It is recommended that until the statistics are assessed for seasonality that time series results are interpreted with caution.

Methodology

The English Business Survey is a monthly telephone survey that asks managers at sampled workplaces about their expectations and experiences on a range of measures such as output or sales. The data are weighted so that the weighted sample matches the population with respect to sub-region

---

[28] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/english-business-survey-report-on-questionnaire-development

[29] https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-business-innovation-skills/series/english-business-survey

[30] The recommended approach for removing seasonality in UK Official Statistics requires three years of monthly data or 5 years of quarterly data.

and employment[31]. This is designed to capture the importance of the workplace to the economy; employment is used as a proxy for economic importance as a robust measure of turnover is not available for all workplaces. The use of employment means that the results effectively estimate: the proportion of employees whose manager believes a particular measure is positive/negative/the same.

To aid understanding and assist in the interpretation of the survey findings there are two documents aimed at different types of user: a non-technical User Guide[32], which provides information about how to interpret results, and a Technical Guide[33], which contains detailed information about the methodology.

Strengths and Limitations

The EBS has a number of strengths:

- a relatively large monthly sample with the potential to provide timely sub-national statistics;

- a workplace focus, which will enable data on local conditions to be collected;

- an 'economic influence'-type weighting approach to try to better represent what is happening for sub-national economies;

- coverage of all sectors of the economy, including the public/not-for-profit sectors; and

- timely statistics, allowing policy makers and businesses to react promptly to issues as they arise in the current macroeconomic climate.

However, it also has some limitations:

- the nature of data collection being at workplace level mean that statistics about region, employment size and industry all relate to that of the workplace, rather than for the enterprise. Accordingly, inferences about the enterprise-level business population are more limited; and

- due to the coverage of the sampling frame – the Inter-Departmental Business Register – the EBS does not cover non-registered[34] businesses. This is potentially important as such businesses make up a significant

---

[31] The characteristics used for weighting include: location (NUTS2 Region) and employment size (0-49, 50-249 and 250+).

[32] https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/210768/12-598-english-business-survey-user-guide.pdf

[33] https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/227025/bis-13-1075-english-business-survey-technical-guide.pdf

[34] Non-registered businesses are not registered for either PAYE or VAT, which means they are generally, the very smallest non-employing businesses.

proportion of the overall business population (55% of businesses) although they account for a smaller share of employment (12%) and turnover (3%)[35].
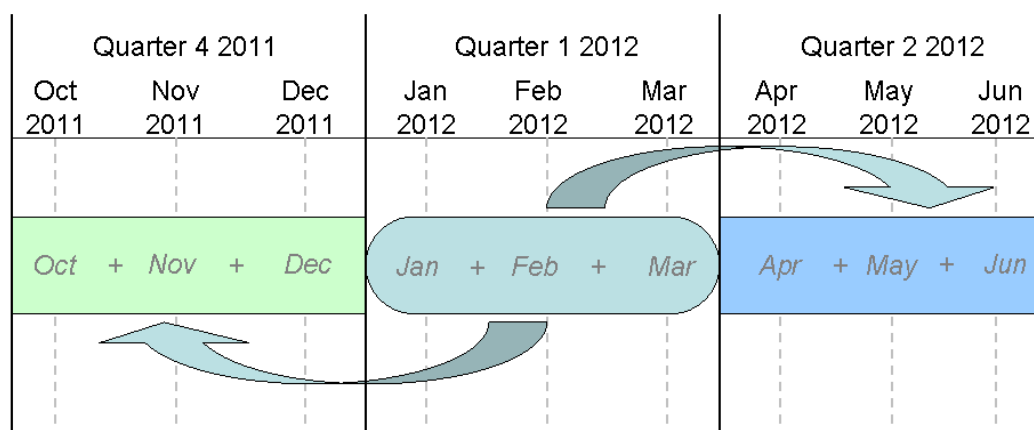
Interpreting the results

Workplace based survey

1. The main purpose of the EBS is to provide sub-national information. For this reason the EBS is a survey of workplaces and the region, employment size and industry all relate to that of the workplace.

Period covered

2. EBS Releases are labelled by the period which workplaces are asked about – the reference quarter. In most questions workplaces are asked to compare the reference quarter (quarter T) with the previous quarter (T-1) and the next quarter (T+1). For example, in the Quarter 1 2012 EBS, most backward-looking questions compare Quarter 1 2012 with Quarter 1 2012 and forward-looking questions compare Quarter 2 with Quarter 1 2012.

Quarter 4 2011			Quarter 1 2012			Quarter 2 2012		
Oct 2011	Nov 2011	Dec 2011	Jan 2012	Feb 2012	Mar 2012	Apr 2012	May 2012	Jun 2012
Oct + Nov + Dec			Jan + Feb + Mar			Apr + May + Jun		

Key

◯ Quarter of Survey

🟩 Quarter backward-looking question refers to

🟦 Quarter forward-looking question refers to

Feb Months aggregated to form the quarterly data

3. Questions on capital investment and capacity constraints cover the reference period; however, these statistics present a single month's responses – rather than three months - and have a smaller sample size that does not allow sub-regional analysis. Periods being compared are clearly labelled on the tables. This is also explained in the EBS *User Guide*.

---

[35] Statistics on the non-registered businesses are taken from Business Population Estimates for the UK and Regions 2012

Balance Statistics

4. A balance can be achieved through a number of different scenarios in the underlying results, for example a balance of zero can be achieved from Higher and Lower both being 0% or both being 50%. It is therefore important to consider the underlying figures. All figures in this document and the underlying data can also be found in the supporting tables.

5. It is important to remember that these questions only ask workplaces whether output was higher or lower and this does not take into account the size of any changes. Therefore a balance of 50% does not necessarily mean output growth will be higher than if the balance was 20%, as the growth rate seen by those contributing to the 20% positive balance may, in aggregate, outweigh the growth rates seen or expected by those contributing to the positive 50% balance. The difference in size between two higher percentages simply means that businesses accounting for a larger proportion of the economy, reported that output was higher.

Time Series Comparisons

6. Data from the EBS is still in its infancy and therefore it is not yet possible to seasonally adjust the data. The results presented in this release are not seasonally adjusted and users should be aware of this when interpreting the results, as it is likely that comparisons over time will show large changes for certain groups; these changes could be true changes, but they could be a result of seasonal patterns.

Accuracy

7. All estimates based on a sample of the population rather than a census are subject to sampling error. Calculation of these errors for the EBS is still being developed and will be released when available, however, provisional information on the likely size of these sampling errors is provided in the *Technical Guide*.

8. Like all statistics, the estimates in the EBS are subject to potential non-sampling errors – for example biases; measurement errors; and calculation errors. However, attempts have been made to minimise these by, for example, rigorous testing of the questionnaires, monitoring the work of interviewers and response rates to the survey.

Presentation

9. All figures and percentages in this release, including the accompanying tables, have been rounded. Unweighted counts have been rounded to the nearest 5 and percentages have been rounded to the nearest integer. Balances are calculated based on unrounded figures and rounded independently therefore differences in the components may not equal the difference between the rounded figures.

Timeliness

10. Quarterly statistics from the EBS are published within two months of the period to which they refer. The date of publication will be announced at least four weeks in advance. We are working towards a regular publication cycle; however, due to the experimental nature of the data, the publication date for each quarter may initially vary. Future publication dates will be added to the National Statistics Publication Hub.[36]

Revisions

11. While every care has been taken to produce reliable statistics, EBS is still being developed and has been designated an Experimental Official Statistic. As the EBS develops statistics may be subject to revision if improvements in methodology are identified. All revisions will be pre-announced where practicable and all known users notified.

Additional information

Geographical units and NUTS levels

12. The Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics (NUTS) provides a single uniform breakdown for the production of regional statistics for the European Union. Results are published at two of the three NUTS levels in England:

- NUTS1: 9 English Regions;

- NUTS2: 30 areas in England that are mainly groups of counties and unitary authorities; can be referred to as sub-regions.

13. More information on NUTS areas can be found on ONS' Beginner's Guide to Geography - http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/geography/beginner-s-guide/eurostat/index.html

Sub-regional data

14. The English Business Survey Reporting Tool[37] allows users to access detailed EBS statistics for individual periods (months and quarters) as well as

---

[36] http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/index.html

[37] http://dservuk.tns-global.com/English-Business-Survey-Reporting-Tool/

cumulative periods, starting in October 2011 for monthly statistics and Quarter 1 2012 for Quarterly statistics. The reporting tool includes a more extensive range of statistics than presented in the Statistical Release and the supporting tables.

15. The English Business Survey Interactive Map[38] allows users to determine how NUTS 2 areas are performing, relative to England, over time for a Output, Employment and levels of Stock.

Micro data

16. EBS Micro data are available to 'approved researchers' via ONS' Virtual Micro Laboratory[39] and an aggregated version of the dataset is available to academics from the UK Data Archive[40].

Contact details

For enquiries, or to give feedback on this publication, please use the details below:

Statistician: Gary Wainman   **Tel:** 0114 207 5114

Assistant Economist: Michael Morondiya   **Tel:** 0207 215 8191

E-mail: ebsurvey@bis.gsi.gov.uk

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

If you require this publication in an alternative format, email enquiries@bis.gsi.gov.uk, or call 020 7215 5000.

---

[38] http://aalookup.bis.gov.uk/ebs/map/

[39] http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/about-ons/who-we-are/services/vml/index.html

[40] http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/