

# BEIS Public Attitudes Tracker: Technical Overview Autumn 2022, UK

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Official Statistics

This report covers general information about the Public Attitudes Tracker (PAT) survey completed in Autumn 2022. More detailed technical information on the survey series, including details of the new data collection methodology adopted in Autumn 2021 and previous methodologies, is available in the annual [Technical Report](#).

## Introduction

The BEIS Public Attitudes Tracker (PAT) survey measures public awareness, attitudes and behaviours relating to Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) policies such as energy, climate change, consumer rights, artificial intelligence and workers' rights.

This report presents summary headline findings from the Autumn 2022 survey wave which is based on a representative sample of 4,161 adults aged 16 or over in the UK. Data collection ran from 1 September 2022 to 3 October 2022. The cut off for responses was extended slightly, from 29 September, to account for delays due to postal strikes and suspension of data collection on the day of the Queen's funeral.

This is the fifth wave in a series of surveys which began in Autumn 2021. Earlier waves have been conducted as follows:

- Autumn 2021 (15 September to 17 October 2021)
- Winter 2021 (24 November to 22 December 2021)
- Spring 2022 (24 February to 24 March 2022)
- Summer 2022 (9 June to 7 July 2022)

Before Autumn 2021, previous tracker surveys had been conducted covering many of the same topics. In Autumn 2021 the BEIS PAT moved to a 'push-to-web' survey method referred to as Address Based Online Surveying (ABOS). The Autumn 2022 wave represents the fifth wave of the new time series following this change in methodology. Significant changes affecting both survey sample and mode mean that the results from this wave are not directly comparable with results collected via surveys conducted using the previous methodology. However, where questions have been included in more than one wave under the new methodology, comparisons between waves are made.

A summary of the methodology is provided below. Full details of the methodology are provided in the annual Technical Report, published alongside the Summer 2022 results.

## Autumn 2022 survey

The Autumn 2022 questionnaire covered the following topics:

- Net Zero
- Climate change
- Energy sources:

- Renewables
- Shale gas
- Small modular reactors
- Fusion energy
- Carbon capture and storage
- Workers' rights
- Consumer rights

## Interpretation of findings and further resources

In this publication, differences between groups are only reported where they are statistically significant at the 95% confidence interval level.

Alongside this Technical Overview report we have also provided: individual topic reports covering results from the survey grouped by theme, a set of tables showing the time series for questions asked on multiple occasions since Autumn 2021, a set of tables containing crosstabulations for headline questions by gender, age, highest qualification and region and the online and paper versions of the questionnaire.

## Introduction to the Address Based Online Surveying (ABOS) data collection model

ABOS is a type of 'push-to-web' survey method.

The basic ABOS design is simple: a **stratified random sample of addresses** is drawn from the Royal Mail's postcode address file and an invitation letter is sent to each one, containing username(s) and password(s) plus the URL of the survey website. Sampled individuals can log on using this information and complete the survey as they might any other web survey. Once the questionnaire is complete, the specific username and password cannot be used again, ensuring data confidentiality from others with access to this information.

It is usual for at least one reminder to be sent to each sampled address and it is also usual for an **alternative mode** (usually a paper questionnaire) to be offered to those who need it or would prefer it. It is typical for this alternative mode to be available only 'on request' at first. However, after nonresponse to one or more web survey reminders, this alternative mode may be given more prominence.

Paper questionnaires ensure coverage of the offline population and are especially effective with sub-populations that respond to online surveys at lower-than-average levels. However, paper questionnaires have measurement limitations that constrain the design of the online questionnaire and also add considerably to overall cost. For the BEIS PAT, **paper questionnaires are used in a limited and targeted way**, to optimise rather than maximise response.

## Autumn 2022 sample design

The sampling was designed to yield a respondent sample that was representative with respect to geography, neighbourhood deprivation level, and age group.

Figure 1 shows the (initially issued) sample structure with respect to the major strata. Higher sampling fractions were applied to the three least populous International Territorial Levels (ITL)<sup>1</sup> regions (NE England, Wales and N Ireland) so that the expected number of completed questionnaires was at least 220 in each one.

**Figure 1: Addresses issued by area deprivation and household age structure: Autumn 2022**

Expected household age structure	Most deprived	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	Least deprived
All <=35	1,479	1,114	730	551	399
Other	4,573	3,178	2,611	2,395	1,761
All >=65	757	728	658	563	515

## Autumn 2022 Fieldwork

The data collection took place from 1 September to 3 October 2022.

All resident adults aged 16+ were invited to complete the survey, although for practical reasons the number of logins was limited to up to four adults per household, with more available on request. The number of logins was based on the estimated number of adults living in the household, based on external data. In Autumn 2022, the mean number of logins per address was 2.8.

To ensure the survey was accessible to the offline population, some mailings included paper questionnaire alternatives (based on addresses where external data indicated that all residents were aged 65 or over). Paper questionnaires were also available on request.

- 22,012 invites were sent out initially and 20,904 reminders were sent in the second week of fieldwork.
- The achieved sample size (after data cleaning) was 4,161 individuals, of which 3,435 were completed online and 726 (17%) on paper.
- 207 cases were identified as invalid based on quality assurance checks and were removed from the dataset, representing 4.7% of cases.
- The household response rate was 15.3% and the estimated individual response rate was 10.9%.
- The average (median) time to complete the survey online was 15 minutes and 20 seconds.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ons.gov.uk/aboutus/whatwedo/programmesandprojects/europeancitystatistics>

Weighting was used to compensate for differences in both sampling probability and response probability.

## Changes to the survey in Autumn 2022

A list of changes to the Autumn 2022 questionnaire, in comparison to previous versions of these questions, is provided below:

- In Workers' rights the responses for DISPUTE1 – DISPUTE3 were changed from 'I was unfairly dismissed' to 'Been unfairly dismissed'
- In Consumer Issues
  - Two additional responses were added to CONSUMERORGS
    - Consumer Scotland
    - Consumer Council for NI
  - One additional response was added to CDRKNOW.
    - Resolver

# Further information

## Future updates to these statistics

Results from the Public Attitudes Tracker are published quarterly. The next release is scheduled to be published in March 2023. Note that not all tracker questions are included in each wave.

## Revisions policy

The [BEIS statistical revisions policy](#) sets out the revisions policy for these statistics, which has been developed in accordance with the UK Statistics Authority [Code of Practice for Statistics](#).

## Related Statistics

There are various other surveys which seek the general public's opinion on topics related to those covered by the BEIS Public Attitudes Tracker. These include:

### [Public Attitudes to Science](#)

A collection of studies looking at the UK public's attitudes to science, scientists and science policy.

### [National Travel Attitudes Study \(NTAS\)](#)

The Department for Transport publishes a wide range of reports on the public's attitude to various modes of transport.

### [Transport and Transport Technology: Public Attitudes Tracker](#)

The Department for Transport also publishes an attitudes tracker to monitor trends in public attitudes to and awareness of transport technologies in England

### [Public Attitudes to Trade Tracker](#)

The Department for International Trade runs a survey twice a year to collect data on public attitudes towards trade and government trade policy.

### [The English Housing Survey](#)

The English Housing Survey is a continuous national survey commissioned by the Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities (formerly Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government). It collects information about people's housing circumstances and the condition and energy efficiency of housing in England.

BEIS also publishes a wealth of energy statistics which provide context for the attitude data collected by the PAT. These are available on the [Statistics at BEIS](#) website.

## Uses of these statistics

These statistics are used by BEIS to guide BEIS policy, by many academics in their related studies, by ministers and by the general public. Some examples on the uses of previous waves of the PAT include:

- Monitoring attitudes towards energy sources such as fracking by policy makers, the media and local groups to understand how this is changing over time and the reasons why people support or oppose it.
- Understanding public awareness of key BEIS policies such as the concept of Net Zero.
- Monitoring public attitudes to climate change and government policies associated with this and understanding how concern varies between demographic groups.
- Understanding public acceptability of different renewable energy sources which contribute to the Government's aim to reduce the dependence on fossil fuels.

## User engagement

Users are encouraged to provide comments and feedback on how these statistics are used and how well they meet user needs. Comments on any issues relating to this statistical release are welcomed and should be sent to: [BEISPAT@beis.gov.uk](mailto:BEISPAT@beis.gov.uk).

The BEIS statement on [statistical public engagement and data standards](#) sets out the department's commitments on public engagement and data standards as outlined by the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#).

## Pre-release access to statistics

Some ministers and officials receive access to these statistics up to 24 hours before release. Details of the arrangements for doing this and a list of the ministers and officials that receive pre-release access to these statistics can be found in the [BEIS statement of compliance](#) with the Pre-Release Access to Official Statistics Order 2008.

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This publication is available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/public-attitudes-tracking-survey>

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