

COVID-19 Impact Survey: Affiliate July 2021 (looking back at May/June)





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Introduction

This survey was carried out in July 2021, reflecting on business in May and June 2021. It was circulated to the principal contacts of 81 affiliated manufacturer members of EDA. There were 44 responses representing a 54% response rate.

50% of the respondents represented medium businesses (50-249 employees), 30% represented small organisations (less than 50 employees) and just over 20% responded on behalf of large organisations (250+ employees).

Highlights

The three most pressing business challenges for manufacturers in May and June 2021 mirrored those reported in April 2021: the increased cost of raw materials, the increased cost of shipping and the growing shortage of raw materials.

In July 67.44% of respondents reported that raw material costs have increased 10% or more in the last 6 months

The July 2021 survey shows a 10% increase in businesses effected by Test & Trace on January 2021.

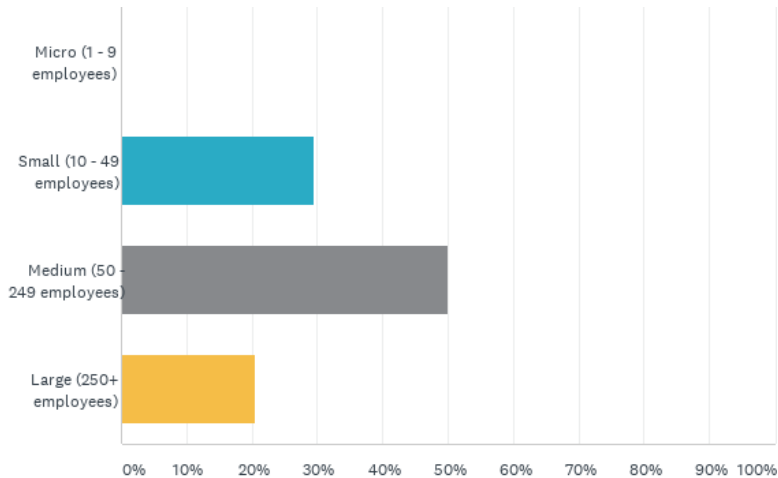
Over 95% of respondents were actively recruiting during May and June 2021.

88.64% of respondents reported that turnover in June 2021 was either the same as 2019 or had increased.

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Q1: Please tell us the size of your business



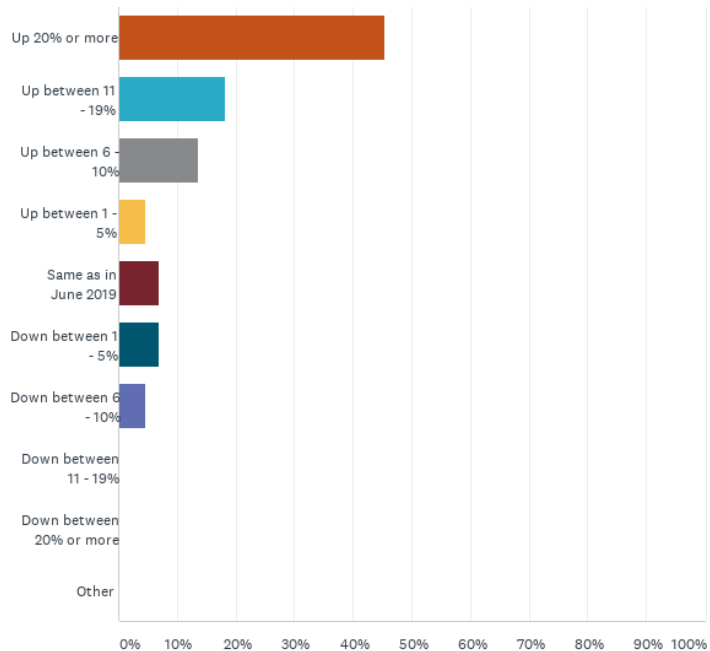
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Micro (1 - 9 employees)	0.00%	0
Small (10 - 49 employees)	29.55%	13
Medium (50 - 249 employees)	50.00%	22
Large (250+ employees)	20.45%	9
TOTAL		44

Comments

Half of the respondents represent Medium Size Businesses.



Q2: Comparing June 2021 to June 2019, to what extent do you estimate your turnover has been affected?

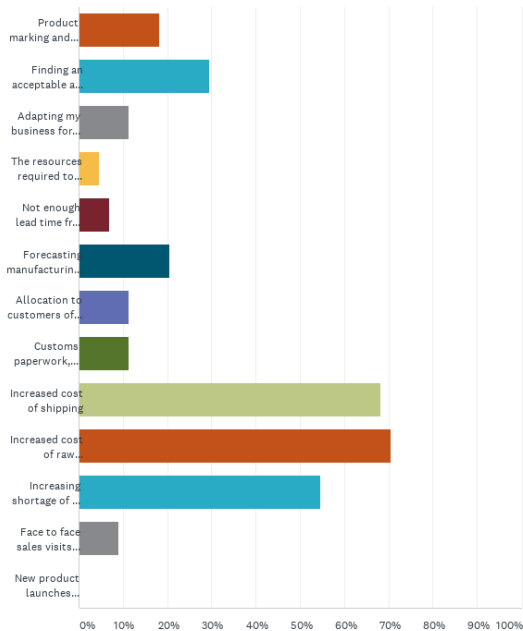


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Up 20% or more	45.45%	20
Up between 11 - 19%	18.18%	8
Up between 6 - 10%	13.64%	6
Up between 1 - 5%	4.55%	2
Same as in June 2019	6.82%	3
Down between 1 - 5%	6.82%	3
Down between 6 - 10%	4.55%	2
Down between 11 - 19%	0.00%	0
Down between 20% or more	0.00%	0
Other	0.00%	0
TOTAL		44

Comments

88.64% of respondents reported that turnover in June 2021 was either the same as 2019 or had increased.

Q3: Which three business challenges are your most pressing at this time?



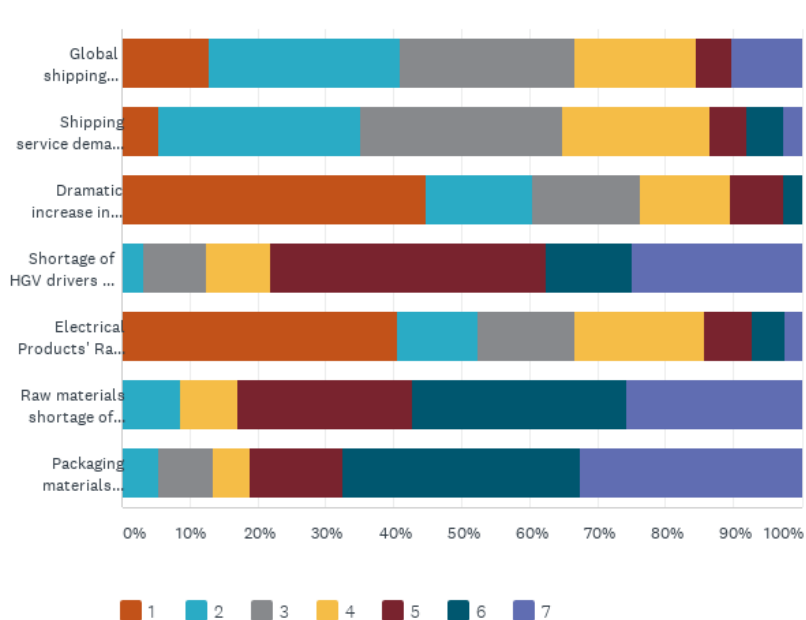
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Product marking and certification including UKCA/CE and/or energy labelling	18.18% 8
Finding an acceptable and commercially viable level for price increases in H2	29.55% 13
Adapting my business for a more digitalised world	11.36% 5
The resources required to digitalise our product data	4.55% 2
Not enough lead time from wholesalers	6.82% 3
Forecasting manufacturing output or stock levels	20.45% 9
Allocation to customers of limited stock	11.36% 5
Customs paperwork, customs delays and red tape relating to Brexit	11.36% 5
Increased cost of shipping	68.18% 30
Increased cost of raw materials	70.45% 31
Increasing shortage of raw materials	54.55% 24
Face to face sales visits with wholesalers	9.09% 4
New product launches because of limited access to wholesaler customers	0.00% 0
Total Respondents: 44	

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Q4: The construction industry is booming but, as you know, there are major concerns regarding product/materials shortages, and rising prices. Rank the affects your business where 1 is the most important.

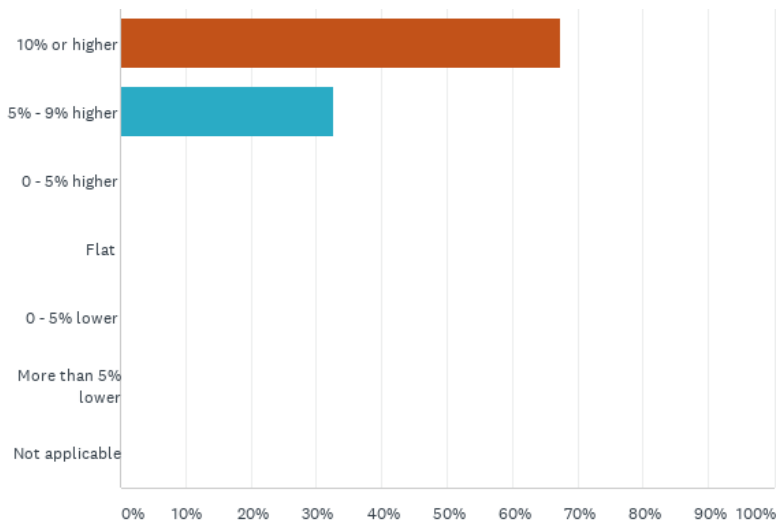


	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	TOTAL	SCORE
3 Global shipping container shortage	12.82% 5	28.21% 11	25.64% 10	17.95% 7	5.13% 2	0.00% 0	10.26% 4	39	4.85
4 Shipping service demand outstripping supply	5.41% 2	29.73% 11	29.73% 11	21.62% 8	5.41% 2	5.41% 2	2.70% 1	37	4.81
1 Dramatic increase in cost of container shipping	44.74% 17	15.79% 6	15.79% 6	13.16% 5	7.89% 3	2.63% 1	0.00% 0	38	5.68
5 Shortage of HGV drivers in the UK	0.00% 0	3.13% 1	9.38% 3	9.38% 3	40.63% 13	12.50% 4	25.00% 8	32	2.75
2 Electrical Products' Raw materials shortage - those used in the manufacture of electrical products (eg. semi-conductors, steel)	40.48% 17	11.90% 5	14.29% 6	19.05% 8	7.14% 3	4.76% 2	2.38% 1	42	5.36
6 Raw materials shortage of those used in the wider construction industry (eg. timber, roof tiles, cement)	0.00% 0	8.57% 3	0.00% 0	8.57% 3	25.71% 9	31.43% 11	25.71% 9	35	2.51
7 Packaging materials shortage	0.00% 0	5.41% 2	8.11% 3	5.41% 2	13.51% 5	35.14% 13	32.43% 12	37	2.38

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Q5: How much have your raw material costs increased in the last 6 months?



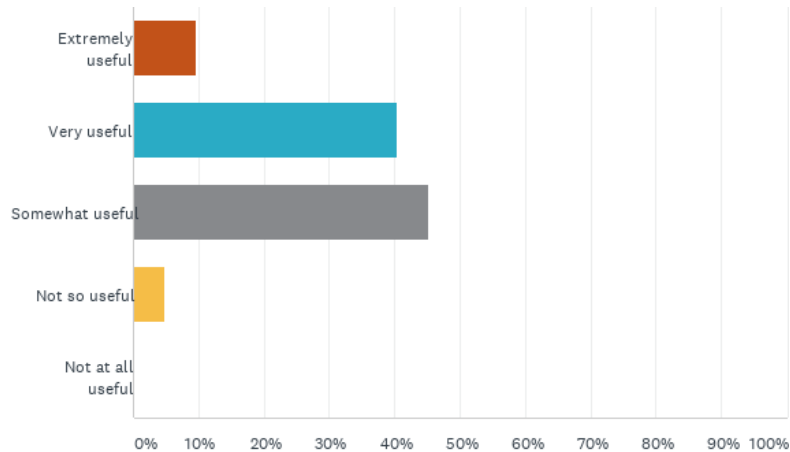
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
10% or higher	67.44%	29
5% - 9% higher	32.56%	14
0 - 5% higher	0.00%	0
Flat	0.00%	0
0 - 5% lower	0.00%	0
More than 5% lower	0.00%	0
Not applicable	0.00%	0
TOTAL		43

Comments

In July 67.44% of respondents reported that raw material costs have increased 10% or more in the last 6 months in comparison to 54.17% of respondents in May.



Q6: Managing customer expectations: How useful did you find the Construction Leadership Council (CLC) statement about product supply which the EDA circulated recently?



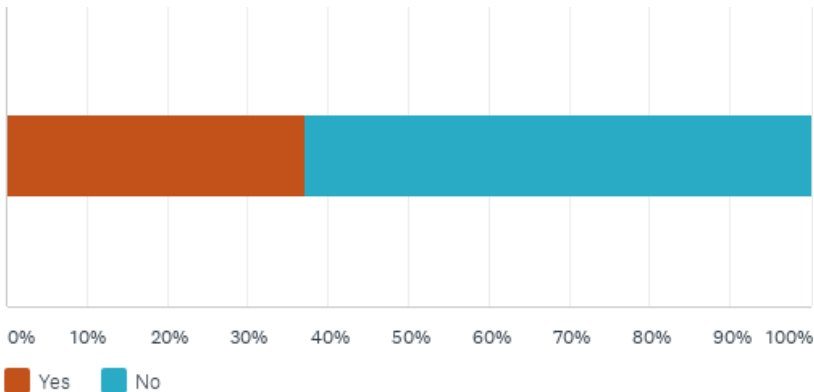
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Extremely useful	9.52%	4
Very useful	40.48%	17
Somewhat useful	45.24%	19
Not so useful	4.76%	2
Not at all useful	0.00%	0
TOTAL		42

Comments

Over 95% of respondents found the statement to be useful. Read the latest edition of the [Construction Product Availability Statement here](#).



Q7: During May and June 2021, has your team been affected by Test & Trace?



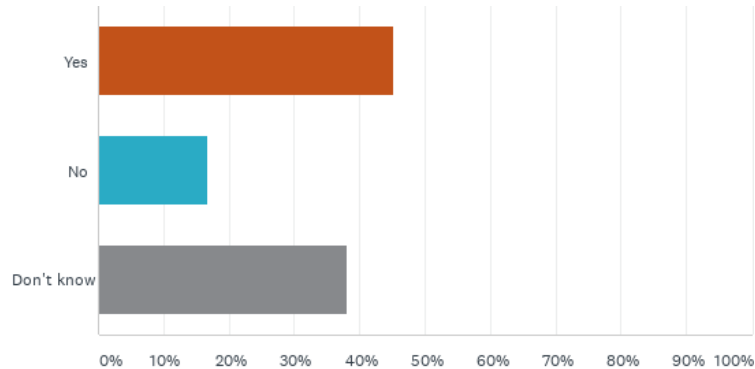
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	37.21% 16
No	62.79% 27
TOTAL	43

Comments

The July 2021 survey shows a 10% increase in businesses effected by Test & Trace on January 2021. As the survey was taken before restrictions were lifted on 19th July, this survey will not reflect the dramatic increase in those asked to isolate or the “pingdemic” as the media have recently termed it.



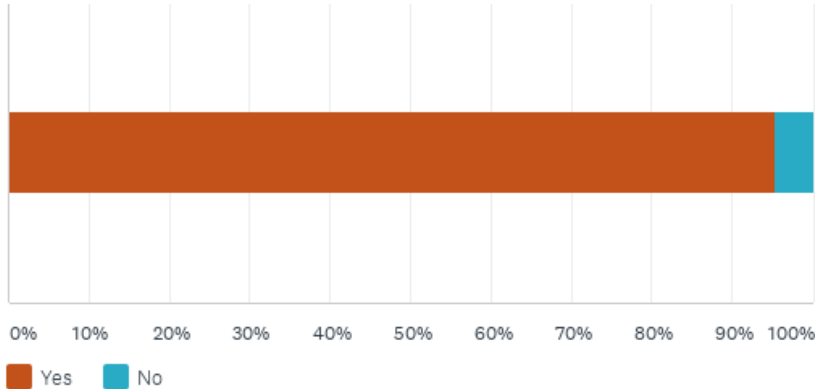
Q8: If you employ EU nationals, did they apply for UK Settled Status before the deadline on 30 June 2021?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	45.24%	19
No	16.67%	7
Don't know	38.10%	16
TOTAL		42



Q9: Have you been actively recruiting during May and June 2021?



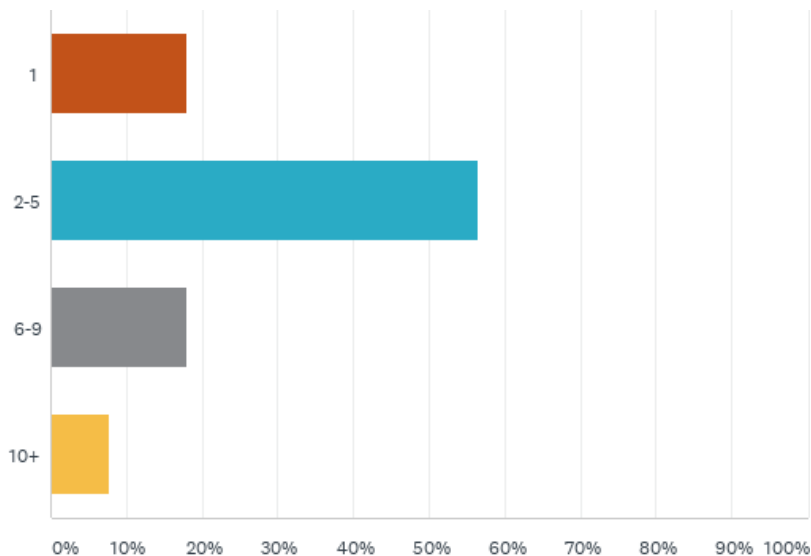
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	COUNT
Yes	95.35%	41
No	4.65%	2
TOTAL		43

Comments

4% more respondents reported that they were actively recruiting during May and June in comparison to April 2021.



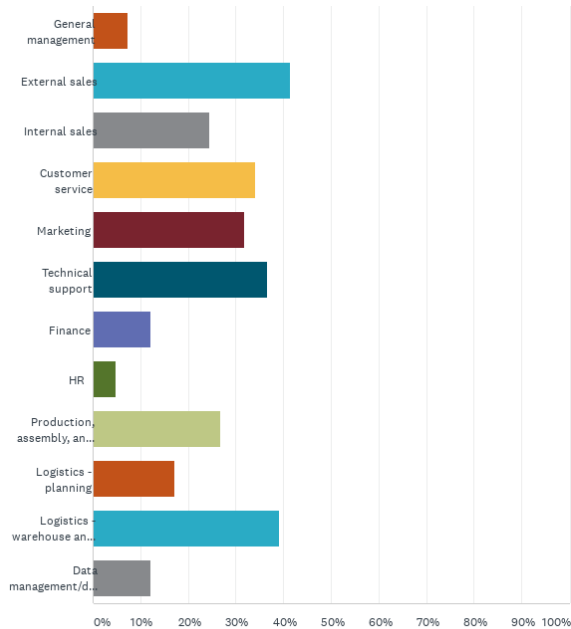
Q10: How many job roles do you have available currently which are a result of incremental growth rather than replacing people who have left?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1	17.95%	7
2-5	56.41%	22
6-9	17.95%	7
10+	7.69%	3
TOTAL		39



Q11: In which areas of your business do you have vacancies?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
General management	7.32%	3
External sales	41.46%	17
Internal sales	24.39%	10
Customer service	34.15%	14
Marketing	31.71%	13
Technical support	36.59%	15
Finance	12.20%	5
HR	4.88%	2
Production, assembly, and engineering	26.83%	11
Logistics - planning	17.07%	7
Logistics - warehouse and transport	39.02%	16
Data management/data analysis	12.20%	5
Total Respondents: 41		

Comments

In July, respondents reported the most vacancies in Logistics - Warehouse & Transport, technical support and External Sales

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Q12: Are you finding it hard to retain staff?

Yes

- Yes - many are re-appraising their work life balance, particularly those that have long journeys.
- Salary
- During the pandemic key to our employees was job security ... now with a pick up in activity there is clearly a renewed pressure on wages since coming back to work for ex has required a perceived extra cost.. people are looking to work closer to home
- I think flexibility in working environment will be key to retention of staff post lock down easing

No

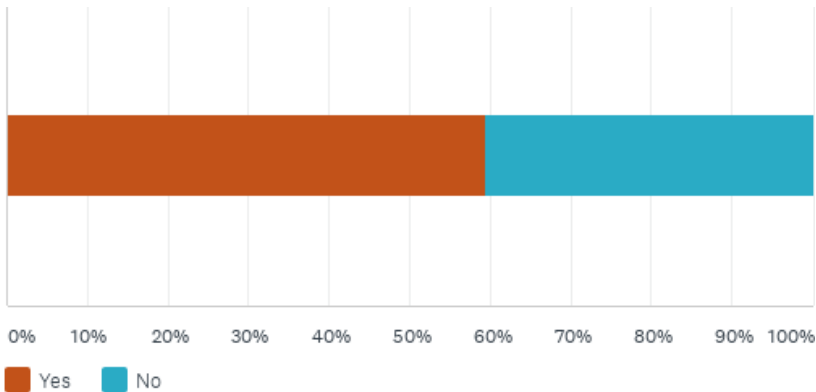
- No, but as soon as market opens up again, it will become a problem
- No
- No, not particularly
- No issues at all
- No



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Q13: Have you found it difficult to recruit the staff you need?



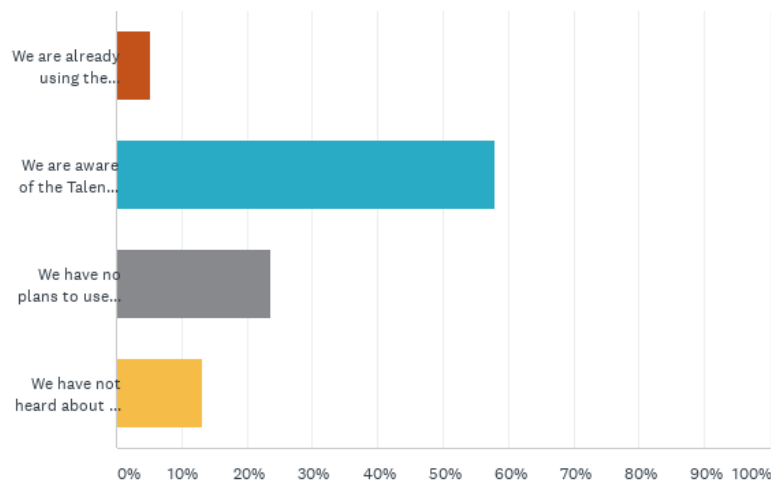
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	59.52% 25
No	40.48% 17
TOTAL	42

Further comments

- There is a severe lack of qualified personnel in the market to fill available positions.
- lack of high quality talent, with concerns about changing roles if currently under the government furlough arrangements
- Many job hunters are retraining/ attracted in other growth areas (Amazon delivery drivers etc)



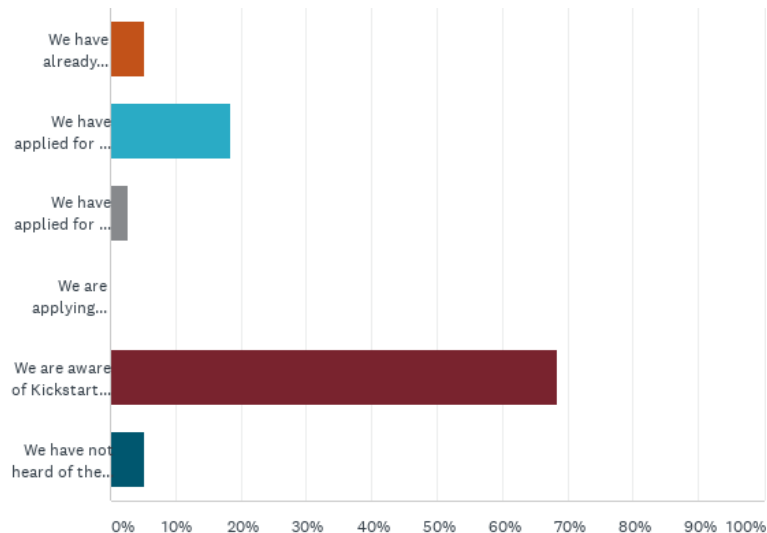
Q14: Free recruitment portal the Construction Talent Retention Scheme: choose the statement that applies to your business.



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
We are already using the Talent Retention Scheme	5.26% 2
We are aware of the Talent Retention Scheme and may use it in the future	57.89% 22
We have no plans to use the Talent Retention Scheme	23.68% 9
We have not heard about the Talent Retention Scheme	13.16% 5
TOTAL	38



Q15: Government's Kickstart Scheme: help us understand your level of engagement and experience by choosing one of the following statements:



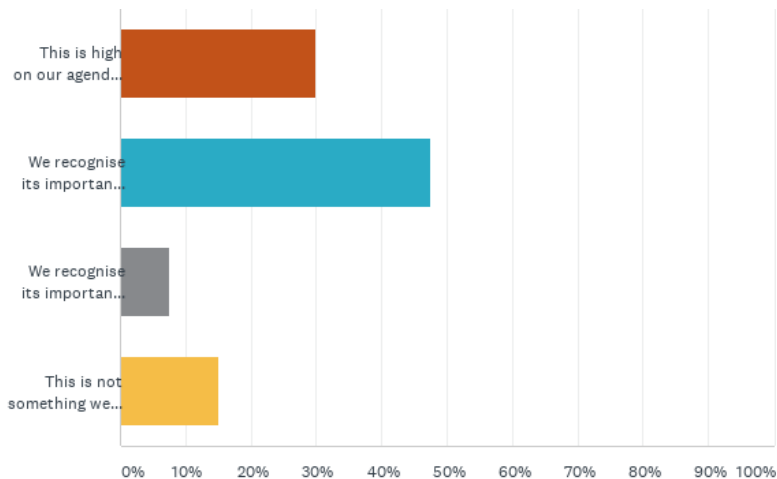
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
We have already recruited a Kickstarter through the EDA Support Service	5.26% 2
We have applied for a Kickstarter through the EDA Support Service but no one has been appointed yet	18.42% 7
We have applied for a Kickstarter through a service other than the EDA's	2.63% 1
We are applying directly to the Department for Work and Pensions for a Kickstarter	0.00% 0
We are aware of Kickstart but have not engaged so far	68.42% 26
We have not heard of the Kickstart Scheme	5.26% 2
TOTAL	38

Further comments

- Applied but no news
- Kickstarter is not available in Northern Ireland
- the process is painful and takes far too long. we do not consider this a viable option



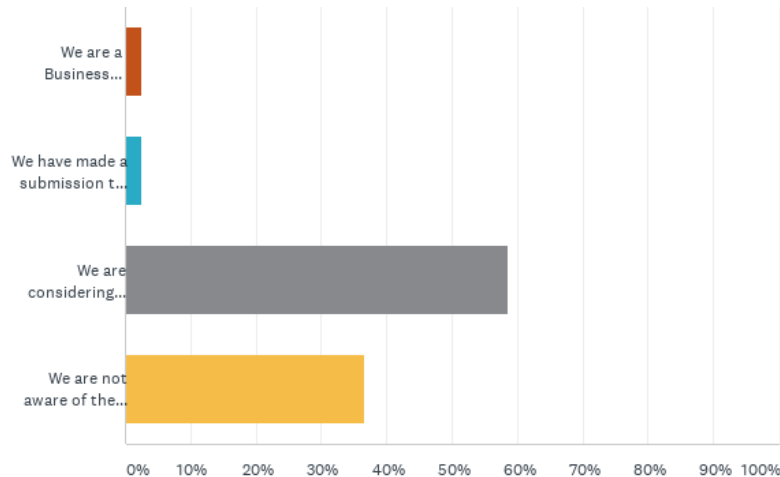
Q16: Inclusion and diversity is important in recruiting and retaining talent: which statement best describes your businesses' approach



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
This is high on our agenda: we have a strategy/policy in place and are acting upon it	30.00% 12
We recognise its importance and potential and will be developing our strategy/policy in the future	47.50% 19
We recognise its importance and potential but need help/support to progress further	7.50% 3
This is not something we are considering	15.00% 6
TOTAL	40



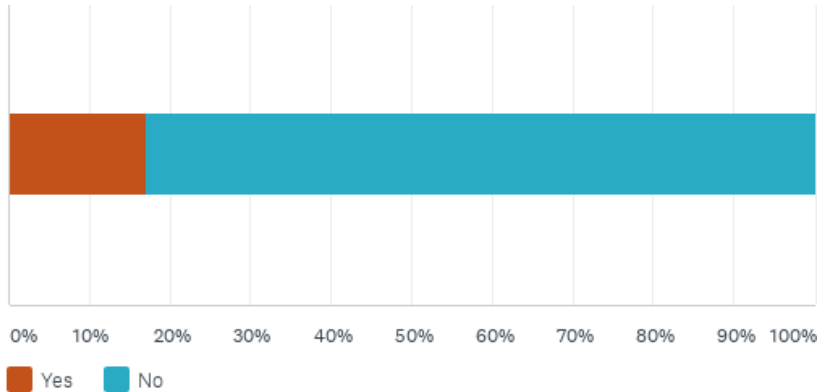
Q17: Construct Zero Business Champions: please choose the statement that best suits your business.



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
We are a Business Champion	2.44%	1
We have made a submission to become a Business Champion and are awaiting feedback	2.44%	1
We are considering becoming a Business Champion	58.54%	24
We are not aware of the Business Champion opportunity	36.59%	15
TOTAL		41



Q18: Do you need support from your trade association to help your business start its journey to reduce emission?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	17.07% 7
No	82.93% 34
TOTAL	41

Further comments

- We are involved with Beama support
- Advice or case study