

## Number of businesses who believe they can keep trading for more than 9 months has increased to 68%, up 5% from April

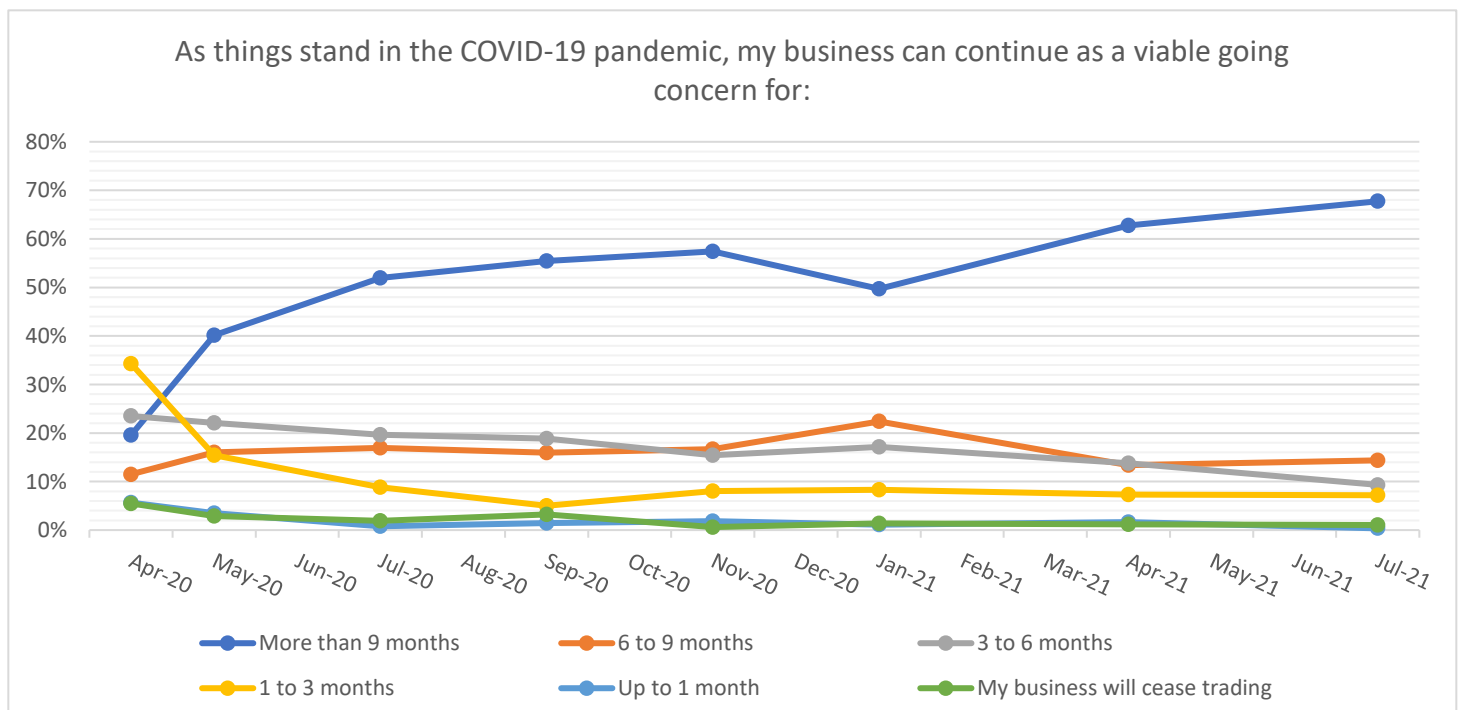
22nd July 2021

- 24% of businesses have availed of a Restart Grant, a 4% decrease on the 28% who had applied in April.
- 4% of businesses have availed of the SBCI working capital scheme, down 2% from April.
- Only 1% have availed of a MicroFinance Ireland loan.
- 5% have availed of the Credit Guarantee Scheme, up 2% from April.

Today, the 22nd of July ISME release the results of our eighth flash survey on COVID-19. The survey found that 62% of respondents are availing of the TWSS or EWSS, meaning wage supports remain by far the largest liquidity solution availed of by business. 17% of those surveyed are availing of the COVID Restrictions Support Scheme, up 9% from April.

19% of respondents were availing of the pandemic unemployment payment (PUP) as a self-employed person, up 3% from April.

On a continued positive note, as you will see below, the number of respondents who believe their business can operate for more than 9 months has increased to 68%, up 5% from April. The number of respondents who believe their businesses will cease operating remains steady at 1%, similar to January and April- full data below.



73% of SMEs have yet to seek assistance from their banks. 14% of businesses are owed money by the State, down 5% from April. Of those, 30% are owed less than €10,000, and 65% are owed between €10,000 and €250,000.

**ISME CEO, Neil Mc Donnell commented:**

**“This, our eighth Covid report of the pandemic, shows a continued increase in business optimism, with 82% of businesses confident they will survive for six months or more. The number who believe their business will fail is down to 1%. It is significant however that 11% of respondents report that all their staff remain laid off.**

**The EWSS, Restart Grants, PUP and CRSS remain the most important business supports. Revenue forbearance is also a significant source of working capital. Given the imminent departure of Ulster Bank from the Irish market, it is notable that Bank of Ireland and AIB already account for 82% of respondents.”**

**WASH HANDS | MASK UP | MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCE | FOLLOW THE FRAMEWORK**

**The list of Questions asked to the 279 respondents:**

1. Does your business operate in one of the essential business categories here?
2. How has COVID-19 affected your staffing?
3. Have you availed of any of the following liquidity supports specifically to address COVID-19 liquidity?
4. Describe how your bank is dealing with you during this crisis:
5. What is the name of your bank?
6. Are you owed any trade monies by a State, or Semi-State agency?
7. If so, how much are you owed?
8. As things stand in the COVID-19 pandemic, my business can continue as a viable going concern for:
9. What is the total of your business' outstanding debtors today?
10. What is the total of your business' outstanding creditors (excluding payroll but including the Revenue) today?

**NOTES:**

For further information please contact [sheema@isme.ie](mailto:sheema@isme.ie)

Sheema Lughmani

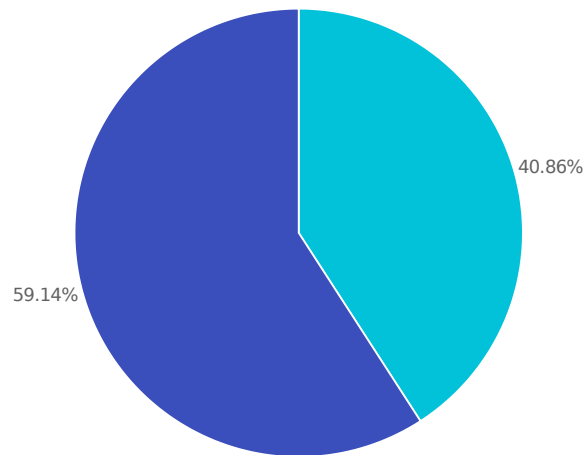
Press, Policy and Research Officer

Q1

Does your business operate in one of the essential business categories here?

Please see **here** for the Government's list of essential business.

Answered: 279 Skipped: 0



- Non-essential business
- Listed as essential by the government

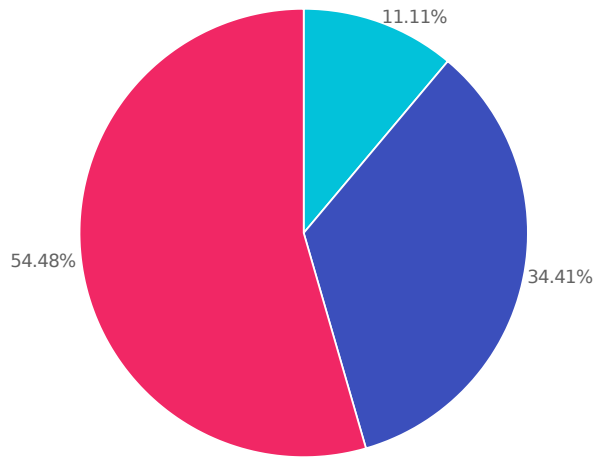
Choices	Response percent	Response count
Non-essential business	40.86%	114
Listed as essential by the government	59.14%	165

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Q2

### How has COVID-19 affected your staffing?

Answered: 279 Skipped: 0



● All staff laid off

● Some staff laid off, some on wage subsidy scheme

● No effect on staff- working normally

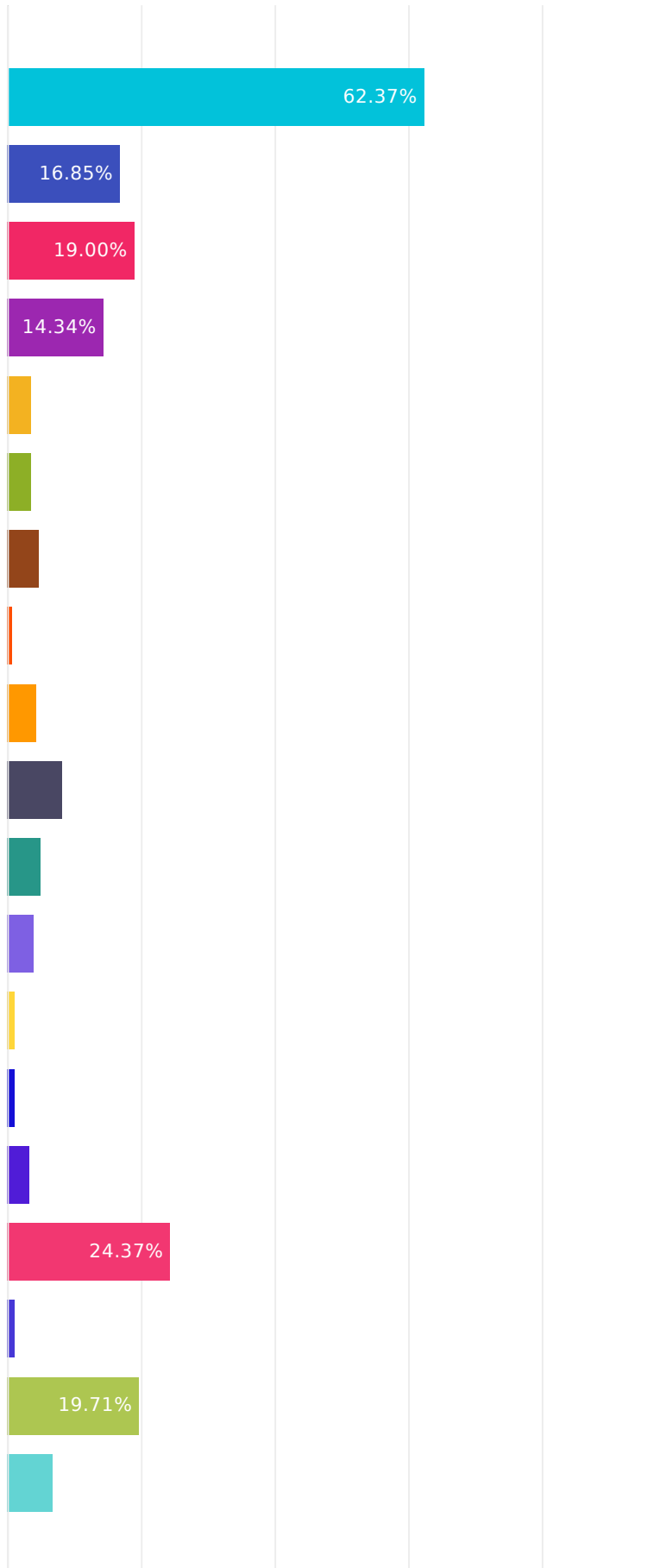
Choices	Response percent	Response count
All staff laid off	11.11%	31
Some staff laid off, some on wage subsidy scheme	34.41%	96
No effect on staff- working normally	54.48%	152

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Q3

Have you availed of any of the following liquidity supports specifically to address COVID-19 liquidity? (tick all that apply)

Answered: 279 Skipped: 0



0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

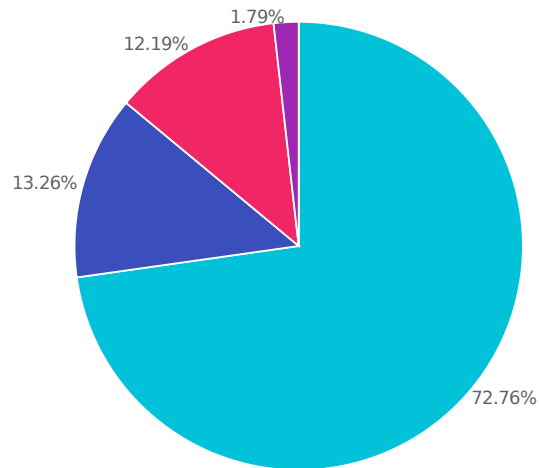
- COVID-19 Wage Subsidy Scheme (TWSS or EWSS)
- COVID-19 Restrictions Support Scheme (CRSS)
- COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment (self-employed)
- Revenue refunds/forbearance
- SBCI COVID-19 Working Capital Scheme
- Small Business Assistance Scheme for COVID (SBASC)
- The Credit Guarantee Scheme
- MicroFinance Ireland COVID-19 loan
- Business mortgage payment break
- Business loan payment break
- Hire purchase/lease payment break
- Short term loan
- Peer to peer finance
- Invoice finance
- Director's loan
- Restart Grant/Restart Grant Plus
- Ready for Customs Grant
- Not Applicable
- Other (Please specify)

Choices	Response percent	Response count
COVID-19 Wage Subsidy Scheme (TWSS or EWSS)	62.37%	174
COVID-19 Restrictions Support Scheme (CRSS)	16.85%	47
COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment (self-employed)	19.00%	53
Revenue refunds/forbearance	14.34%	40
SBCI COVID-19 Working Capital Scheme	3.58%	10
Small Business Assistance Scheme for COVID (SBASC)	3.58%	10
The Credit Guarantee Scheme	4.66%	13
MicroFinance Ireland COVID-19 loan	0.72%	2
Business mortgage payment break	4.30%	12
Business loan payment break	8.24%	23
Hire purchase/lease payment break	5.02%	14
Short term loan	3.94%	11
Peer to peer finance	1.08%	3
Invoice finance	1.08%	3
Director's loan	3.23%	9
Restart Grant/Restart Grant Plus	24.37%	68
Ready for Customs Grant	1.08%	3
Not Applicable	19.71%	55
Other (Please specify)	6.81%	19

Q4

Describe how your bank is dealing with you during this crisis:

Answered: 279 Skipped: 0



● I have not sought assistance from my bank

● My bank is showing flexibility and forbearance in dealing with my company

● My bank is being neither helpful nor unhelpful: business as usual

● My bank is being unhelpful or is refusing my request for help

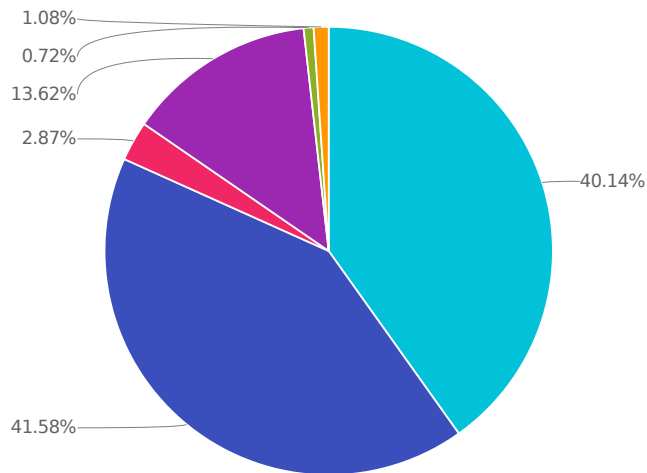
Choices	Response percent	Response count
I have not sought assistance from my bank	72.76%	203
My bank is showing flexibility and forbearance in dealing with my company	13.26%	37
My bank is being neither helpful nor unhelpful: business as usual	12.19%	34
My bank is being unhelpful or is refusing my request for help	1.79%	5



Q5

### What is the name of your bank?

Answered: 279 Skipped: 0



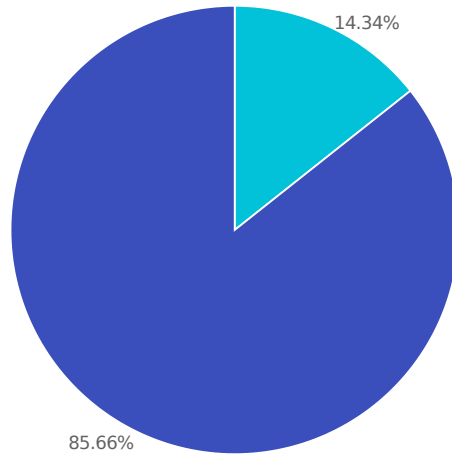
- AIB
- BOI
- PTSB
- Ulster Bank
- KBC
- Danske
- UniCredit
- CitiBank
- Other (Please specify)

Choices	Response percent	Response count
AIB	40.14%	112
BOI	41.58%	116
PTSB	2.87%	8
Ulster Bank	13.62%	38
KBC	0.00%	0
Danske	0.72%	2
UniCredit	0.00%	0
CitiBank	0.00%	0
Other (Please specify)	1.08%	3

Q6

Are you owed any trade monies by a State, or Semi-State agency?

Answered: 279 Skipped: 0



● Yes

● No

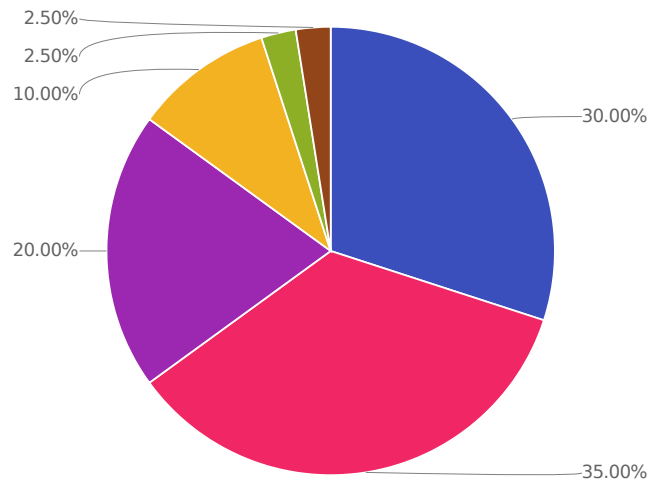
Choices	Response percent	Response count
Yes	14.34%	40
No	85.66%	239

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Q7

### If so, how much are you owed?

Answered: 40 Skipped: 239



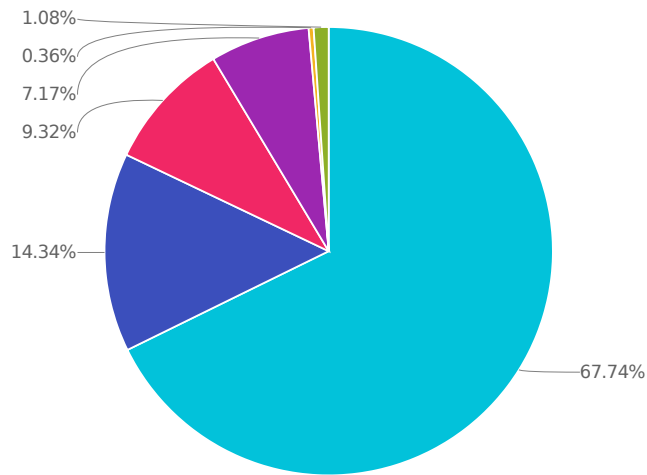
- None
- Less than €10k
- €10k- €50k
- €50k- €100k
- €100k- €250k
- €250k- €500k
- €500k and above

Choices	Response percent	Response count
None	0.00%	0
Less than €10k	30.00%	12
€10k- €50k	35.00%	14
€50k- €100k	20.00%	8
€100k- €250k	10.00%	4
€250k- €500k	2.50%	1
€500k and above	2.50%	1

Q8

As things stand in the COVID-19 pandemic, my business can continue as a viable going concern for:

Answered: 279 Skipped: 0



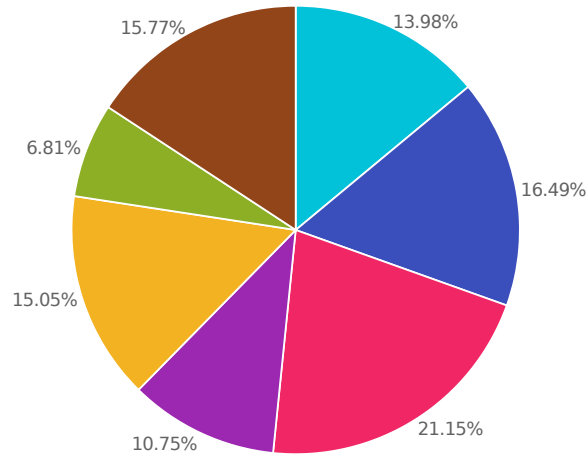
- More than 9 months
- 6 to 9 months
- 3 to 6 months
- 1 to 3 months
- Up to 1 month
- My business will cease trading

Choices	Response percent	Response count
More than 9 months	67.74%	189
6 to 9 months	14.34%	40
3 to 6 months	9.32%	26
1 to 3 months	7.17%	20
Up to 1 month	0.36%	1
My business will cease trading	1.08%	3

Q9

### What is the total of your business' outstanding debtors today?

Answered: 279 Skipped: 0



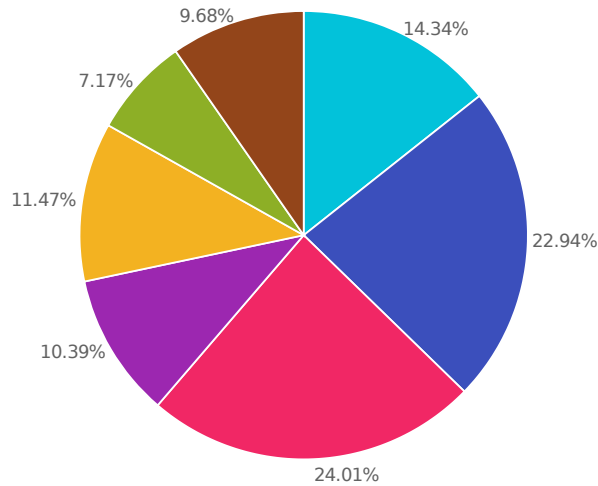
- None
- Less than €10k
- €10k- €50k
- €50k- €100k
- €100k- €250k
- €250k- €500k
- €500k and above

Choices	Response percent	Response count
None	13.98%	39
Less than €10k	16.49%	46
€10k- €50k	21.15%	59
€50k- €100k	10.75%	30
€100k- €250k	15.05%	42
€250k- €500k	6.81%	19
€500k and above	15.77%	44

Q10

What is the total of your business' outstanding creditors (excluding payroll but including the Revenue) today?

Answered: 279 Skipped: 0



- None
- Less than €10k
- €10k- €50k
- €50k- €100k
- €100k- €250k
- €250k- €500k
- €500k and above

Choices	Response percent	Response count
None	14.34%	40
Less than €10k	22.94%	64
€10k- €50k	24.01%	67
€50k- €100k	10.39%	29
€100k- €250k	11.47%	32
€250k- €500k	7.17%	20
€500k and above	9.68%	27