



A summary of survey responses on the impact of COVID-19 on the haulage industry

Summary

The RHA undertook three surveys in April 2020 to understand how the COVID-19 crisis is affecting haulage operations in the UK and what support the industry needs to recover. We've drawn on the feedback to build the strongest case to press the Government for financial support to get firms through the crisis and drive the recovery effort.

An initial survey (4,500 respondents) assessed the early impact of the pandemic on haulage operators focusing on numbers of 'inactive' trucks and drivers.

A second survey (1,200) examined operators' current finances, access to government support packages and volumes of work.

The third survey followed up those who responded to the first, asking how long they thought their businesses would survive. We received feedback from 865 firms.

The surveys were open to members and non-members and we received a proportionate number of responses by sector and region.

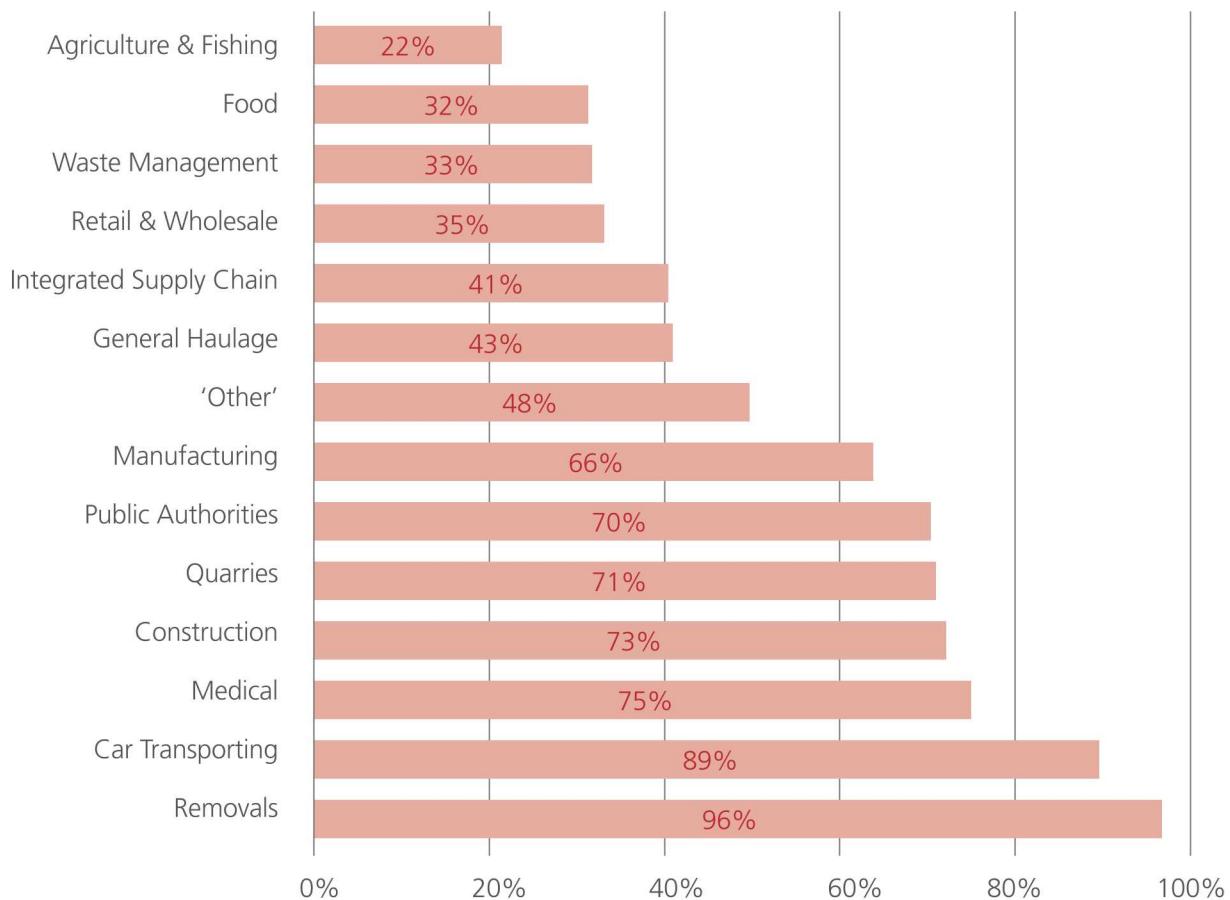
We received responses from firms with fleets ranging from 1 – 50+, but the vast majority (75%) came from SMEs operating up to 15 trucks.

Key findings across the three surveys Inactivity



The average number of inactive trucks per operator is 15.

Trucks inactive by sector:

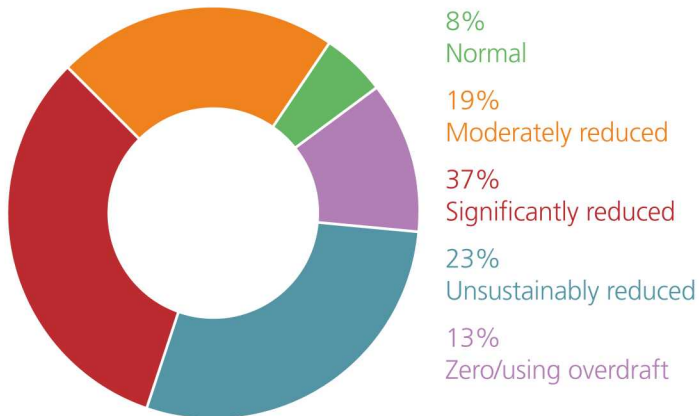


Finances

Operators report a huge impact on their finances and the difficulties they're having securing loans through the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS).

73% of firms say their **cashflow** is significantly reduced or worse (13% have no cashflow).

What is your current cashflow like?



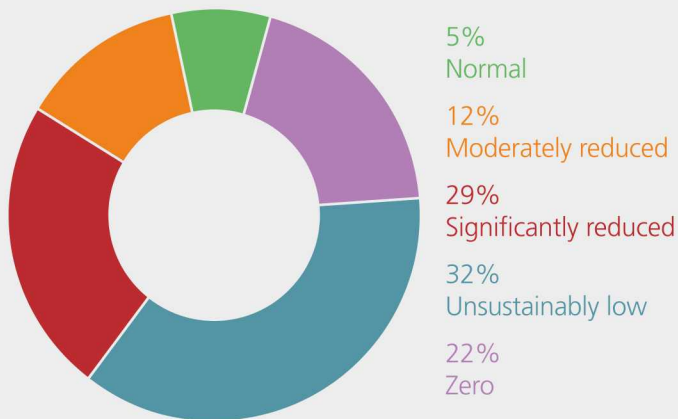
15%

of operators have applied for **CBILS loans** – 95% of these have had their applications rejected by banks and other lenders.

56%

of operators said they intended to apply for **furlough** cash through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme.

What are your current volumes like?



Hauliers report that volumes have fallen drastically during the crisis:

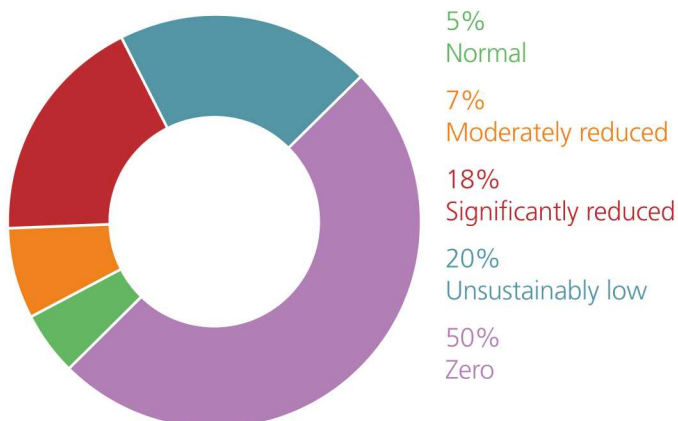
83%

say **volumes** have significantly reduced or worse (22% have no work).

88%

(of 913 responses) say **backloads** are significantly reduced or worse (50% have no backloads).

What are your current backlog/return volumes like?



How long will firms survive with current volumes of work?

When firms were asked how long they expected to survive with the current volume of work, 88% said they didn't expect their business to survive the effects of the pandemic if their amount of work doesn't improve after the economy restarts.

