

# FTA Ireland

## COVID-19 IMPACT Survey



To understand the impact of COVID-19 FTA Ireland have carried out a Survey of our members between 30 March and 12 April 2020. The survey results are compiled from submissions from the following sectors: haulage, own account agri-food, retail, manufacturing and fuel distribution. For business, time is the most critical element of this pandemic, how long will it take for us to get the pandemic under control? How long will it take before businesses open again? even on a scaled basis! How long will businesses be able to survive before we get back to a normal trading environment? This survey was undertaken to assess the situation as it stands 3 weeks into the significant reduction in mobility for the general population. The supply chain and those working in it are considered essential in the fight against COVID-19. We are keeping the supermarket shelves stocked, ensuring essential PPE is getting to the most vulnerable and deserving front line workers. But the overall demand for services is down and everyone is impacted. The striking thing about the situation we all find ourselves in is the resilience of the supply chain and those working in it. There is no doubt that all within our sector will work to aid and support each other in returning to some sort of normal trading conditions at some point in the future.

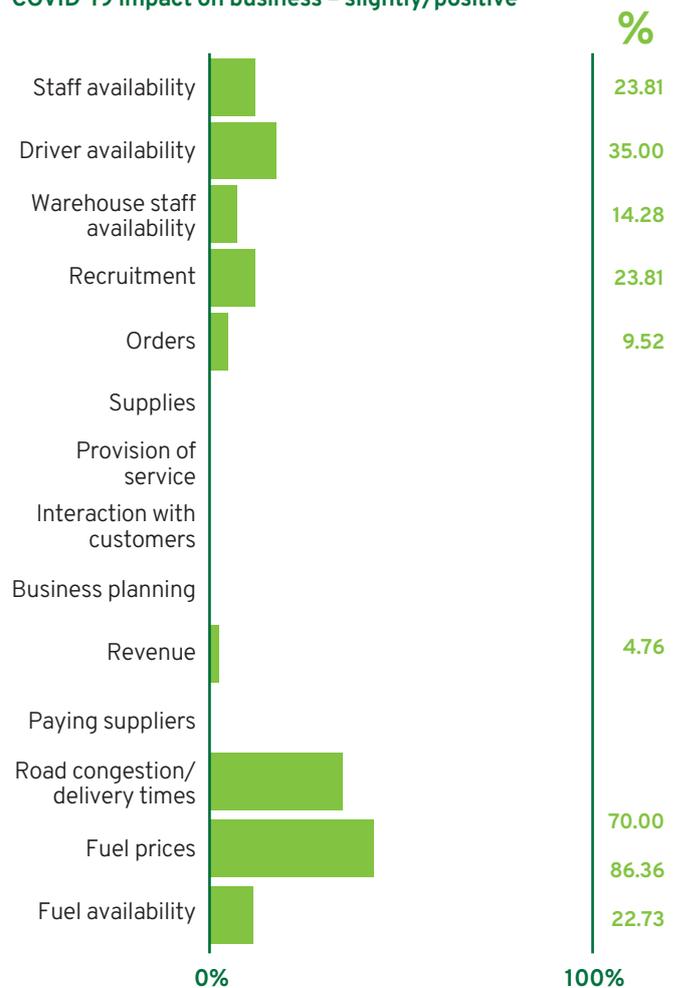
### Survey results

As expected, there is an overall negative impact on business across all functions. The induced uncertainty for business is manifested in the results, 90% of respondents see a negative impact on Business planning; 71% negative on Revenue. Other significant negative impact is on staff availability, supplies, orders, provision of services and interaction with customers.

#### COVID-19 Business Impact – negative

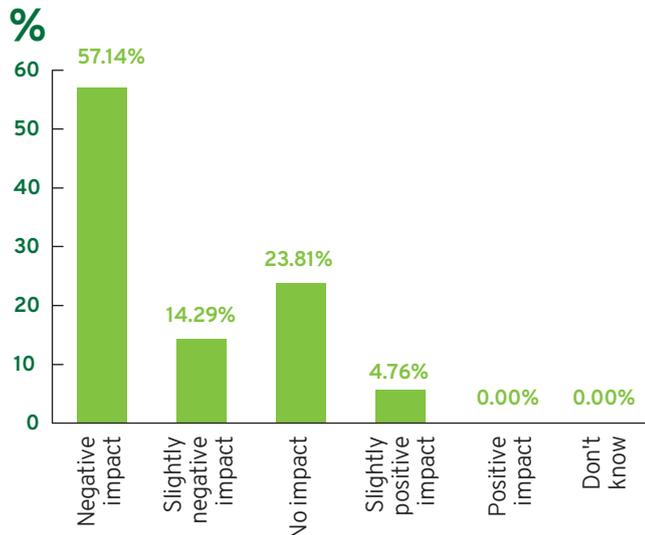


#### COVID-19 impact on business – slightly/positive



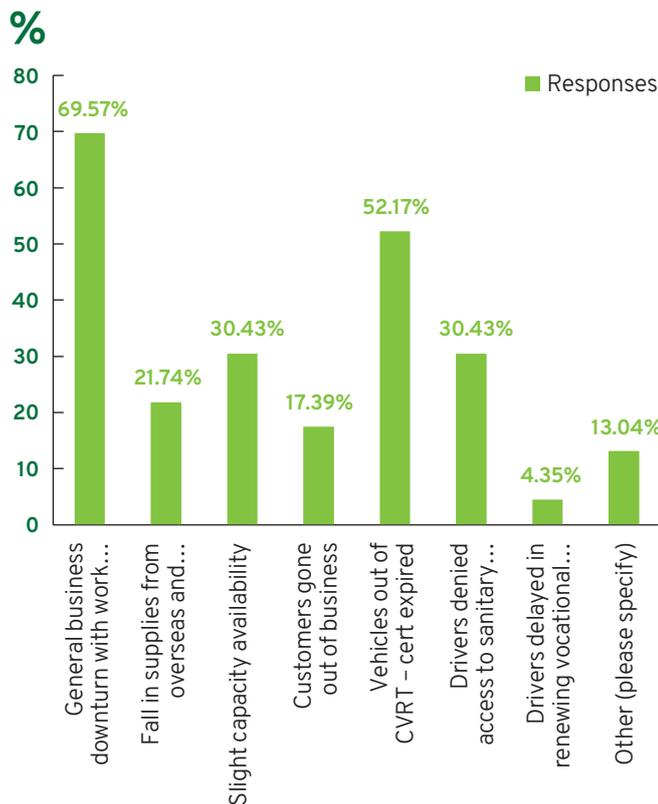
Very few categories are demonstrating positive impacts, however there are some. As we know some sectors are seeing high volumes of business and this is reflected in 23.81% of respondents seeing a positive impact on staff and driver availability (35%). Delivery times are having a significant positive impact as well as the impact on the reduction on fuel pricing.

## Revenue



Revenue is critical for the sustainability of all business. Only 4.76% of respondents have seen a positive impact on revenue; 23.81% have seen no impact and over 70% have been negatively impacted.

## Which of the following impacts has your business experienced as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic?



Over 69% of respondents are experience a general business downturn. This demonstrates the impact

COVID-19 is having on business in such a short space of time. 21.74% have experienced a fall in supplies from overseas. Pointedly, 17% identify customers going out of business as an impact on their business. Whether this is temporary or permanently, it is not defined, however where business have stopped trading it has a knock on impact on the supply chain. Unfortunately, 30.43% have experience of drivers being denied access to sanitary facilities. This was one of the first issues to manifest itself though our membership in the middle of March. Looking after the dignity of all our supply chain staff is paramount to ensuring that we all stay healthy in these difficult times. Providing sanitary facilities is critical in this regard and all business should carry out risk assessments to allow the provision of these facilities. Reference is drawn to the Department of Transport guidance in this regard: [www.gov.ie/en/publication/ed29dc-irelands-response-to-covid-19-transport-measures](http://www.gov.ie/en/publication/ed29dc-irelands-response-to-covid-19-transport-measures)

52% of respondents have vehicles out of CVRT during the period of April to July 2020. The RSA have announced that the test centres are closed until further notice.

26% of respondents' driving licences fall due for renewal between April and July 2020.

Respondents have identified a number of areas that they would like to see Government provide more guidance and action on:

- 1 Expand the criteria for the salary subsidy to include a reduction in turnover by 20% instead of 25%.
- 2 Provide VAT back to coach and bus operators for fuel purchases during the pandemic.
- 3 Provide a mechanism to be refunded motor tax for vehicles that are declared off road.
- 4 There should be a provision to get a refund for any full months of remaining tax:
  - a Operators will not be able to use the vehicle on a public road until the vehicles are taxed again.
- 5 Toll Holiday - as essential services, a benefit to all commercial vehicles operators would be to benefit from a toll holiday as it would have a positive impact on cash flow, reducing costly bills on a weekly basis.
- 6 Make the process of applying for Government assisted loans easier. Develop a clear roadmap on how to get people back to work as this will have an impact on the broader supply chain.
- 7 Government supplied PPE for all essential workers including those in Haulage industry, including face masks, gloves and hand sanitiser.