Business Member Support Overview

UPDATES FOR MAY 2026

Find out more at www.icaew.com/business or get in touch at business@icaew.com

1. Key insights topics

ICAEW Business Confidence Monitor – Q1 2026

The latest national Business Confidence Monitor (BCM) shows that business sentiment was on course to move into positive territory in Q1 2026, but the outbreak of the Iran war had a dramatic impact in the final weeks of the survey period, with confidence deteriorating sharply. While businesses reported improved annual domestic sales and exports growth and easing input price inflation compared with Q4 2025, the war introduced significant downside risks to the outlook for the coming year.

View our full national report, plus regional and sectoral reports

Economy

- The latest economic issues and trends including our recent article on how the Iran war is impacting the UK economy and End-of-year numbers show UK deficit lower than expected
- Chart of the week: Home living and More people living longer

Sectors

- Retail: Four cost management essentials for retailers
- Manufacturing: Manufacturing: how to control energy costs to manage volatility
- Construction: What will get the construction industry out of its rut?

Technology

- Keeping you up to date with tech issues and developments including AI makes cyber security business critical: how accountants should respond and Cyber: should we be afraid of Mythos?

ICAEW Podcast episodes

What does the Iran conflict really mean for British business? We've already seen immediate spikes and fluctuations in the oil price and the wider financial and commodity markets. But how will the UK economy be affected in the months to come and how heavy a price will British business pay? RSM Chief Economist Tom Pugh shares his thoughts.

All the above are published on ICAEW's Insights Hub, www.icaew.com/insights. Receive concise updates on the latest issues in ICAEW's **Daily, Weekly** and **Monthly** emails. Keep your preferences updated here.

2. Events, webinars and roundtables

Past events

Business Leaders' Dinner – 16 March 2026

Following great feedback from our Business Leaders' Drinks at the end of 2025, we invited our keynote speaker, Jo Olsen, back to talk about psychological safety in finance teams.

Sustainability for Business – 11 May 2026

This in-person event brought together business leaders to explore how sustainability is shaping the UK business landscape and influencing resilience, competitiveness, and access to capital.

For a summary and photos, please visit: https://www.linkedin.com/posts/simongrayaca_business-sustainability-resilience-activity-7459590769754923008-_X8

Upcoming events

Business Leaders' Dinner – 22 June 2026

Kerri Hollick returns to talk about the power of silence and why the best leaders stop talking.

Webinars
All webinars can be found at ICAEW's events page.

Date	Title
20/05/26	What determines the price of energy - factors, forecasts and future
04/06/26	Transformation series: The reality of transformation – real world experiences and practical insights
09/06/26	UK Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism: Time to Take Action
02/07/26	Finance options for small businesses
Various	ICAEW UK Regions: Economic updates

Various	ICAEW UK Regions: In conversation with the Bank of England

Local events and support
As well as webinars, ICAEW's regional team hosts business member forums, at which you can network with your peers and feedback into ICAEW's discussions with policymakers. More about regional activity here.

3. Consultations

Members' insights and suggestions are used to shape policy, support and inform government and other key external stakeholders. To contribute to these conversations, get in touch with us or attend your local business member network.

4. Good to know - ongoing support from ICAEW

Technical support

- **ICAEW's helpsheets** - concise, practical guidance on emerging and longstanding issues.
- **Support members scheme** - free, confidential advice from your peers.
- **Member enquiries** and **ICAEW helplines** - open to any enquiry by email, webchat and phone.
- **Business Advisory Service (BAS)** - provides a free consultation to businesses seeking trusted business advice.

Career support

- **ICAEW jobs -** search for your next role or recruit talent for your finance team.
- **Coaching and mentoring programmes -** enhance your career in finance.

Mental health and wellbeing

- ICAEW works with CABA to promote the mental health of chartered accountants and their families, producing articles, guides, webinars, videos and events - view our resources.