European Investment Bank

Greece

Overview

EIB INVESTMENT SURVEY

2023

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Investment Bank

EIB Investment Survey Country Overview 2023: Greece

About the EIB Investment Survey (EIBIS)
The EIB Group Survey on Investment, which has been administered since 2016, is a unique, annual survey of some 13 000 firms. It covers firms in all European Union Member States and also includes a sample of firms in the United States.

The survey collects data on firm characteristics and performance, past investment activities and future plans, sources of finance, financing issues and other challenges that businesses face, such as climate change and digital transformation. The EIBIS, which uses a stratified sampling methodology, is representative across all 27 EU Members States and the United States, as well as across four classes of firm size (micro to large) and four main economic sectors (manufacturing, construction, services and infrastructure). The survey is designed to build a panel of observations, supporting the analysis of time-series data. Observations can also be linked back to data on firm balance sheets and profit and loss statements. The EIBIS was developed by the EIB Economics Department. It is managed by the department with the support of Ipsos MORI.

About this publication
These reports provide an overview of data collected for the 27 EU Member States and the United States. They are intended to provide a snapshot of the data. For the purpose of these publications, data are weighted by value-added to better reflect the contribution of different firms to economic output. Contact: eibis@eib.org.

Download the findings of the EIB Investment Survey for each EU country or explore the data portal at www.eib.org/eibis.

About the Economics Department of the EIB
The mission of the EIB Economics Department is to provide economic analyses and studies to support the Bank in its operations and in the definition of its positioning, strategy and policy. The department and its team of 40 economists is headed by Debora Revoltella, director of economics.

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EIBIS 2023 – Greece overview

KEY RESULTS

Investment dynamics and focus

In the context of a strong rebound from the pandemic despite tightening monetary policy and the energy shock, firms in Greece hold a positive investment outlook in 2023, with a net balance of 23% of firms expecting to increase rather than decrease investment, slightly below what was reported in EIBIS 2022 (28%) but higher than the EU average (14%). The proportion of Greek firms that report to have carried out investments in 2022 increased since 2021 (75% versus 67%, respectively) but remained lower than the EU average (85%).

Investment needs and priorities

Only two in three Greek firms (68%) consider their investment over the past three years as optimal, which is below the EU average (82%). Indeed, Greek firms are more likely than the EU average to believe that they have invested too little (17% versus 13%). Looking forward to the next three years, investment in capacity expansion (36%) is the most commonly cited priority, followed by investment in new products or services (32%) and replacement (24%).

Firms in Greece are, on balance, optimistic about the investment conditions for the next year with more firms expecting an improvement rather than a deterioration. Firms are particularly optimistic about the business prospects in the sector (net balance of +45%), the political or regulatory climate (+29%) and the economic climate (+37%). These figures are much higher than across the EU as a whole.

Energy market developments

Firms in Greece are as likely as those across the whole EU to have faced increases in energy spending (92% versus 93%), particularly manufacturing and large firms. However, Greek firms are less likely than those across the EU to have responded to the energy shock by adopting at least one of the strategies proposed in the survey (90% versus 95%), with the most frequently adopted strategy or priority being seeking energy savings/efficiencies (70%).

International trade

Overall, 75% of Greek firms report that they engaged in international trade, higher than the EU average (62%). However, fewer firms report being impacted by disruption in international trade relative to the EU average, with concerns focused on disruption to logistics and transport as an obstacle to international trade (67%).

Climate change and energy efficiency

Half of firms in Greece report weather events as having an impact on their business (51%). This is in line with EIBIS 2022 (55%) but below the EU average (64%). Similarly, almost half (48%) of Greek firms have developed or invested in measures to build resilience to the physical risks to their company caused by climate change. This is higher than the EU average (36%). Greek firms were as likely to invest in solutions to avoid or reduce the exposure to physical risk (19%) as to adapt their strategy (19%), but they were more likely to have bought insurance products to off-set climate-related losses (33% versus 13%).

EIBIS 2023 – Greece overview

The share of Greek firms seeing the transition to stricter climate standards and regulations as a risk is similar to the share that see it as an opportunity (21% and 19%, respectively). These figures are both in line with EIBIS 2022 (20% and 18%, respectively) but lower than the EU average (33% and 29%, respectively). Two in three Greek firms (68%) are taking actions to reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, well below the EU average (89%). The main action taken by Greek firms is waste minimisation and recycling (50%), followed by investments in energy efficiency (37%) and sustainable transport options (30%). Greek firms are also less likely than the EU overall to report that they set and monitor targets for their own GHG emissions (21% versus 42%).

Three in ten Greek firms (30%) invested in measures to improve energy efficiency in 2023. This is broadly in line with EIBIS 2022 (25%), but well below the EU average of 51%. In Greece, 21% of firms have already invested in tackling the impacts of weather events and dealing with the process of reducing carbon emissions. This is broadly in line with EIBIS 2022 (27%) but also well below the EU average (56%).

Innovation activities
Only three in ten Greek firms (28%) developed or introduced new products, processes or services as part of their investment activities in 2022, in line with what was reported for 2021 in EIBIS 2022 (25%) but below the EU average (39%). Only 5% of firms in Greece report the development or introduction of products, processes or services new to either the country or global market. This is in line with EIBIS 2022 (7%) but below the EU average (13%).

Fewer firms in Greece used at least one advanced digital technology than in the EU overall (61% versus 70%). The digital technologies that Greek firms are most likely to be using are robotics (44%) and digital platforms (44%). Compared to firms across the EU as a whole, they are making relatively less use of robotics, 3D printing and augmented or virtual reality, but comparatively more use of drones.

Investment impediments
The most frequently mentioned long-term barriers to investment in Greece are uncertainty about the future (89%), energy costs (85%) and availability of skilled staff (82%). Compared to EIBIS 2022, firms in Greece are less likely to consider several of these as barriers. These include uncertainty about the future (89% versus 97%), energy costs (85% versus 96%), labour market regulations (62% versus 71%), adequate transport infrastructure (62% versus 70%), and availability of finance (62% versus 72%).

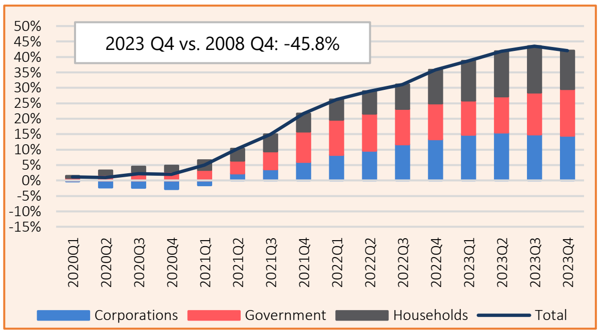
Access to finance
The proportion of Greek firms that are finance constrained has halved since EIBIS 2022, from 16.0% to 7.9%, bringing it closer to the EU average. This is a significant change from the last seven years. Following monetary policy tightening and deteriorating external financing conditions, one in four firms in Greece (26%) is dissatisfied with the cost of finance. This is far higher than the EU average (14%).

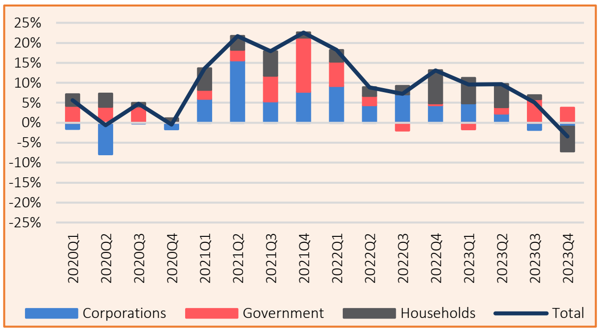
Note on how to read the results:
EIBIS 2023 overview presents the results of the survey run in 2023. Questions in the survey might point to "last financial year" (2022) or expectations for the current year (2023). The text and the footnote referring to the question will specify in each case which year is considered.

Investment dynamics and focus

INVESTMENT DYNAMICS BY INSTITUTIONAL SECTOR

- Greek investment rebounded strongly since the years after the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Since Q1 2021, aggregate investment has been on an upward trajectory, and in Q4 2023 they were 42% higher than in Q4 2019.
- Investment slowed down in the last quarter of 2023 as household investment growth has turned negative, YoY, in Q4 2023.

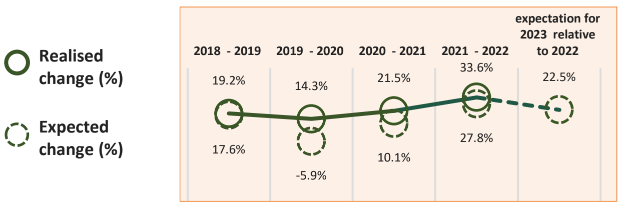




The LHS chart shows the evolution of total gross fixed capital formation (GFCF) by institutional sector, in real terms and non seasonally nor calendar adjusted. The nominal GFCF source data was transformed into four-quarter sums and deflated using the implicit deflator for total GFCF (2015=100 euro). The four-quarter sum of total GFCF in 2019Q4 is normalised to 0.
The RHS chart shows the y-o-y % change in total real GFCF by institutional sector. The implicit deflator for total GFCF (2015=100 euro) was used for deflating the nominal GFCF source data.
Source: Eurostat, authors' own calculations.

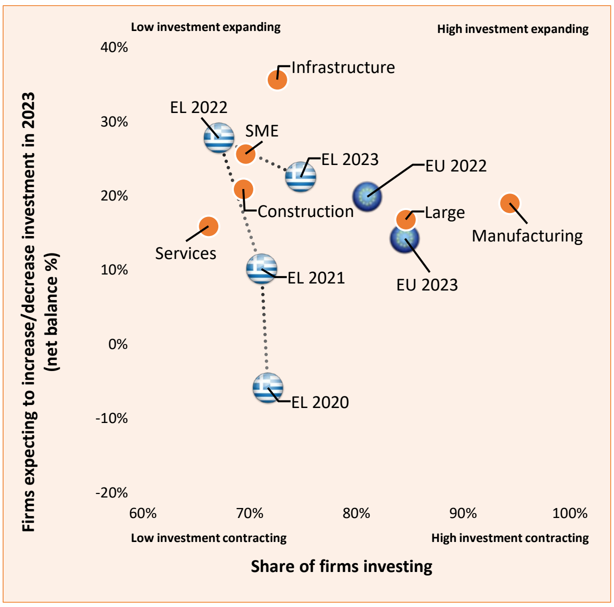
INVESTMENT CYCLE AND EVOLUTION OF INVESTMENT EXPECTATIONS

- Firms operating in Greece hold a positive investment outlook in 2023, with a net balance of 23% of firms expecting to increase rather than decrease investment. This is higher than the average across the EU (14%), and slightly below EIBIS 2022 (28%).
- Infrastructure firms are the most likely to expect to increase rather than decrease their investment in 2023 (net balance 36%).
- Overall, the share of Greek firms having invested in 2022 remains lower than in the EU as a whole (75% versus 85%).



'Realised change' is the share of firms that invested more minus those that invested less; 'Expected change' is the share of firms that expect(ed) to invest more minus those that expect(ed) to invest less.

Base for expected and realised change: All firms



Share of firms investing shows the percentage of firms with investment per employee greater than €500.

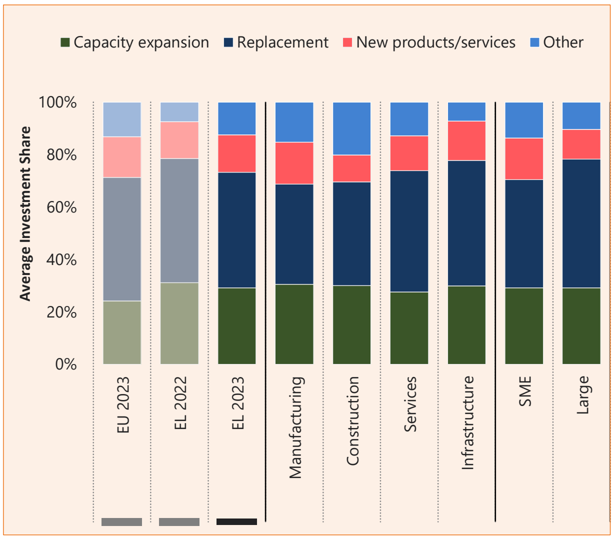
Base for share of firms investing: All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses)

Base for expected and realised change: All firms

Investment dynamics and focus

PURPOSE OF INVESTMENT IN LAST FINANCIAL YEAR (% of firms' investment)

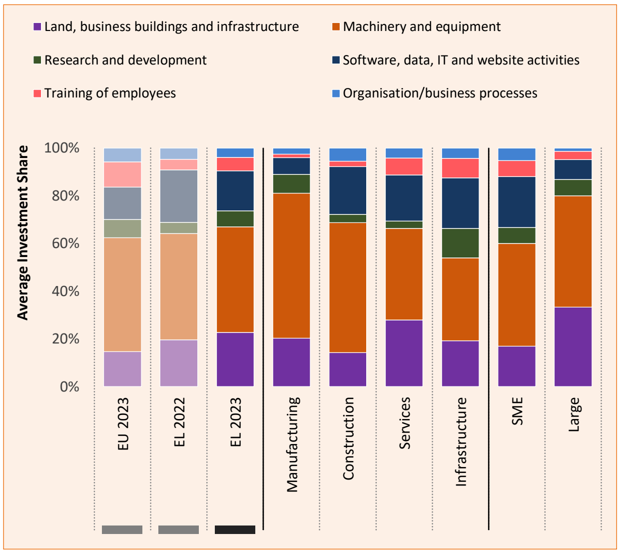
- On average, firms in Greece spent 44% of their investment on replacement in 2022, in line with what was reported in EIBIS 2022 (47%) and in line with the current EU average (47%).
- Investment in capacity expansion also accounted for a large proportion of total investment (29%), higher than the EU average (24%) and in line with EIBIS 2022 (31%).
- Investment in new products and services accounted for a lower share of the total expenditure (14%).
- Investment in other areas accounted for a similar share of the total expenditure (12%). This represents an increase since EIBIS 2022 (7%) and is highest in the construction sector (20%).



Q. What proportion of total investment in the last financial year was for (a) developing or introducing new products, processes, services; (b) replacing capacity (including existing buildings, machinery, equipment and IT); (c) expanding capacity for existing products/services?

Base: All firms that have invested in the last financial year (excluding don't know/ refused responses)

INVESTMENT AREAS



- Investment in intangible assets (R&D, software, training and business processes) by firms in Greece accounted for 33% of total investment, in line with EIBIS 2022 (36%). Overall investment in intangibles also matches the EU average (38%), but Greek firms have invested a higher proportion in software (17% versus 13%), and a smaller proportion in training (6% versus 11%) and business processes (4% versus 6%).
- Investment activities varied depending on the sector and size of the business. Compared to large firms, small and medium companies (SMEs) have invested a higher share in intangible assets (40% versus 20%) and a lower share in tangible assets (land, buildings, infrastructure and machinery) (60% versus 80% for large firms).
- Infrastructure firms are the most likely to have invested in intangible assets (46%), while manufacturing firms have invested the lowest proportion (19%).

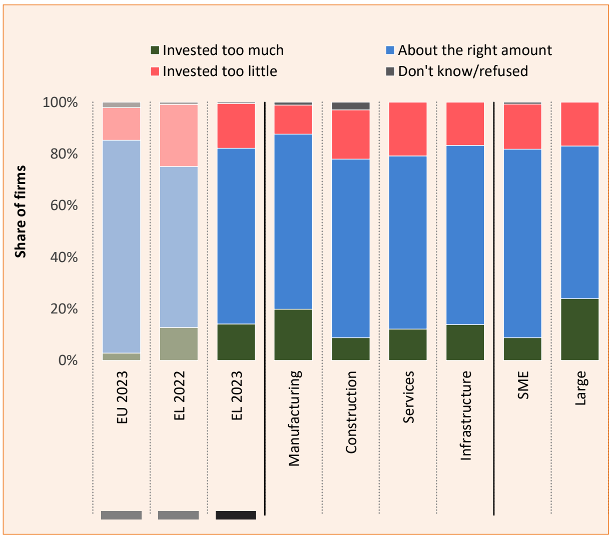
Q. In the last financial year, how much did your business invest in each of the following with the intention of maintaining or increasing your company's future earnings?

Base: All firms that have invested in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses)

Investment needs and priorities

PERCEIVED INVESTMENT GAP

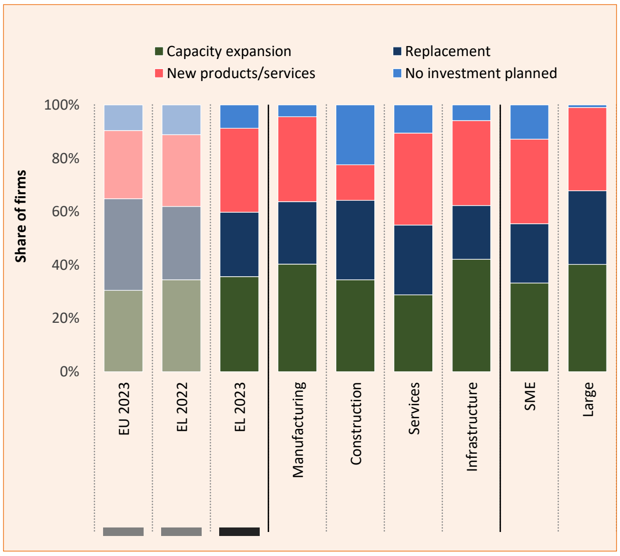
- Only two in three Greek firms (68%) believe that their investment activities over the last three years were about the right amount, broadly similar to the share reported in EIBIS 2022 (62%), yet below the EU average (82%).
- One in six firms in Greece (17%) believe they invested too little, broadly in line with EIBIS 2022 (24%) and higher than the EU average (13%). A slightly smaller proportion of firms in Greece (14%) believe they invested too much, in line with EIBIS 2022 (13%) and well above the EU average (3%).
- In Greece, manufacturing firms (20%) and large firms (24%) are the most likely to say they have invested too much over the past three years.



Q. Looking back at your investment over the last three years, was it too much, too little, or about the right amount?

Base: All firms (excluding 'Company didn't exist three years ago' responses)

FUTURE INVESTMENT PRIORITIES



- In line with EIBIS 2022, investment in capacity expansion (36%) is the most commonly cited priority for the next three years. This is followed by investment in new products or services (32%) and replacement (24%).
- The share of firms with no investment planned represents around one in ten firms (9%), similar to EIBIS 2022 (11%).
- The investment priorities of firms in Greece are slightly different to those across the EU as a whole. Firms in Greece are more likely to prioritise capacity expansion (36% versus 30%) and investment in new products or services (32% versus 26%), and less likely to prioritise replacement (24% versus 34%).
- The share of firms with no investment planned is highest among construction firms (22%) and SMEs (13%).

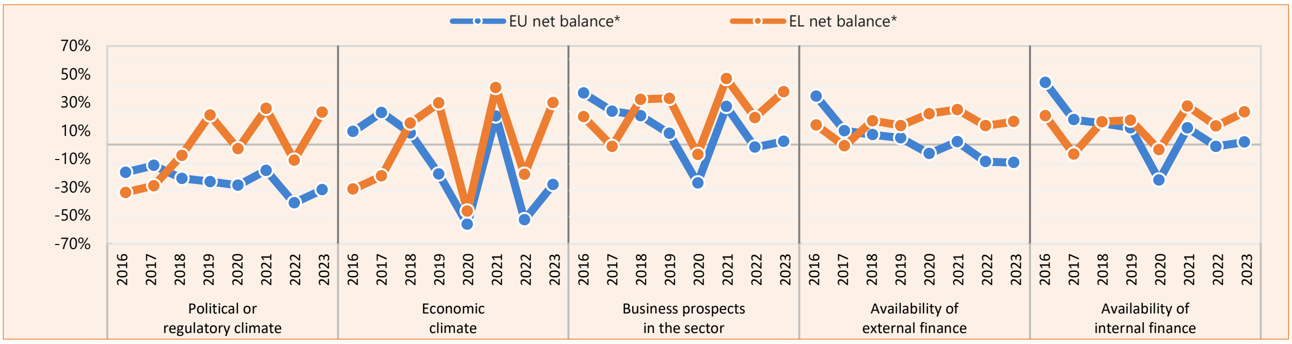
Q. Looking ahead to the next three years, which is your investment priority (a) replacing capacity (including existing buildings, machinery, equipment, IT) (b) expanding capacity for existing products/services (c) developing or introducing new products, processes, services?

Base: All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses)

Investment needs and priorities

SHORT-TERM DRIVERS AND CONSTRAINTS

- Firms in Greece are more optimistic, on balance, about the investment conditions than last year, with the highest net balance for business prospects in the sector (+45%).
- In Greece, net expectations turned once again optimistic for the political or regulatory climate on balance (+29% versus -7% in EIBIS 2022) and the economic climate (+37% versus -18% in EIBIS 2022).
- Contrary to the rest of the EU, expectations remain on balance optimistic regarding availability of external finance. Overall, the net balance of firms expecting an improvement versus a deterioration is higher than across the EU overall, for each of the measures.



Q. Do you think that each of the following will improve, stay the same, or get worse over the next 12 months?

Base: All firms

**Net balance is the share of firms expecting an improvement minus the share of firms anticipating a deterioration.*

SHORT-TERM DRIVERS AND CONSTRAINTS BY SECTOR AND SIZE (net balance %)

	Political / regulatory climate	Economic climate	Business prospects	External finance	Internal finance
Greece	29%	37%	45%	22%	30%
Manufacturing	30%	30%	36%	30%	29%
Construction	27%	40%	60%	29%	29%
Services	29%	38%	47%	18%	29%
Infrastructure	30%	41%	45%	21%	31%
SME	22%	35%	42%	24%	27%
Large	42%	40%	51%	20%	34%

Please note: green figures represent a positive net balance, while red figures represent a negative net balance.

Q. Do you think that each of the following will improve, stay the same, or get worse over the next 12 months?

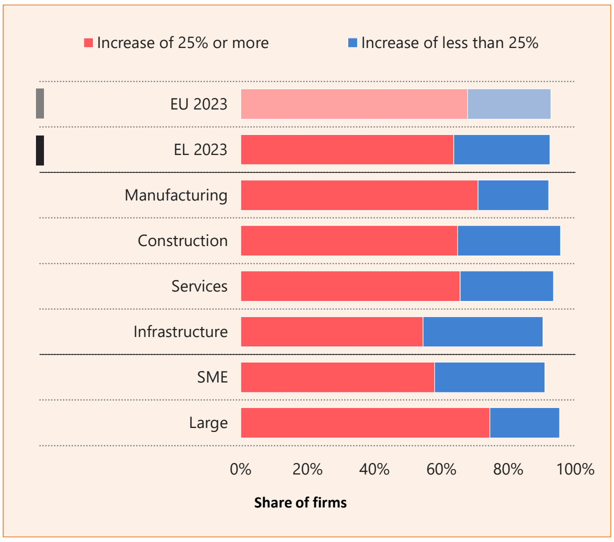
Base: All firms

- Firms in Greece are consistently more likely to be positive than negative across each of the measures.
- Construction firms in Greece are the most optimistic, on balance, about business prospects (+60%).
- Large firms are much more optimistic than SMEs about the political or regulatory climate (net balance of +42% versus +22%).

Energy market developments

INCREASED SPENDING ON ENERGY

- Firms in Greece are as likely as those across the EU as a whole to have faced increases in energy spending (92% versus 93% respectively).
- The proportion of firms facing increased energy cost is relatively consistent across sectors, although manufacturing firms are the most likely to have faced an increase of 25% or more (71%). This compares to 55% among infrastructure firms, the least affected sector.
- Large firms are more likely than SMEs to have faced an increase of 25% or more (74% versus 58%).



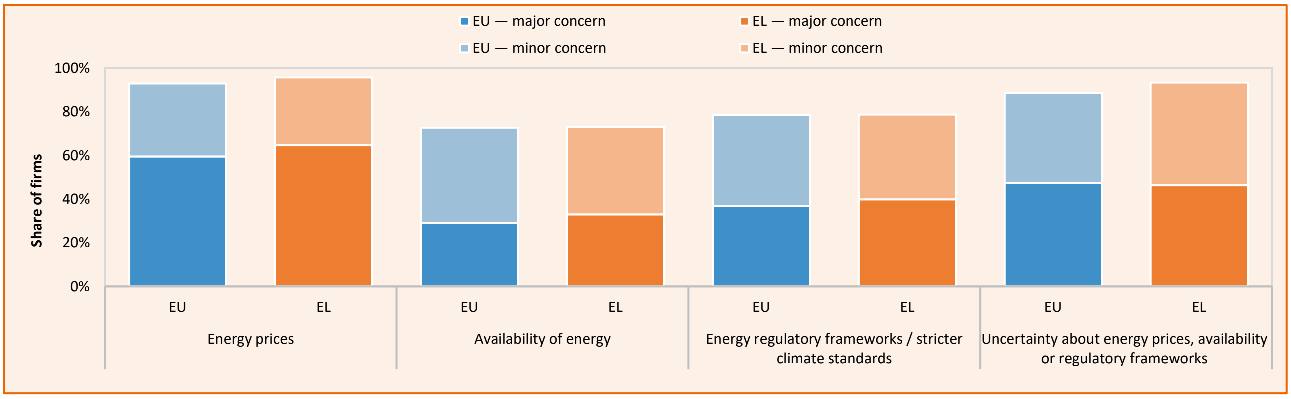
Q. Since the beginning of 2022, by how much has your company's spending on energy (including gas, electricity, oil) changed on average?

Please note: Responses of 'spending on energy stayed about the same' and 'spending on energy decreased' not shown on chart.

Base: All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses)

IMPACT OF ENERGY SHOCK

- The energy crisis hit Greek firms hard. The concerns mentioned most often by firms in Greece are energy prices (96%) and uncertainty about energy prices, availability, or regulatory frameworks (93%), both of which are higher than the EU average (93% and 89% respectively).
- The majority of firms in Greece consider energy prices a major concern (65%), higher than the EU average (59%). While the majority of firms in Greece are concerned about energy availability (73%), it is a major concern for only 33% of them.



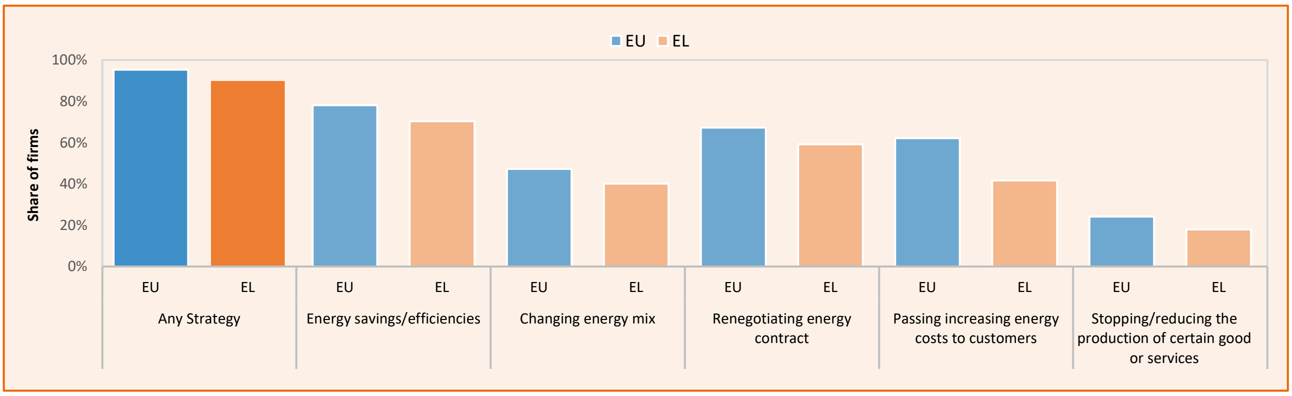
Q. Thinking about the energy shock, to what extent is your company concerned about …?

Base: All firms (data not shown for those that said not an obstacle at all/don't know/refused)

Energy market developments

STRATEGIES TO DEAL WITH THE ENERGY SHOCK

- Greek firms are less likely than those across the EU as a whole (90% versus 95%) to have responded to the energy shock by adopting at least one of the strategies proposed (although the vast majority have).
- In Greece, the most frequently adopted strategy or priority is to seek energy savings/efficiencies (70%).
- While Greek firms are less likely than those across the overall EU to have adopted each of the strategies proposed, the difference is greatest for passing increasing energy costs to customers (42% among Greek firms versus 62% across the EU).

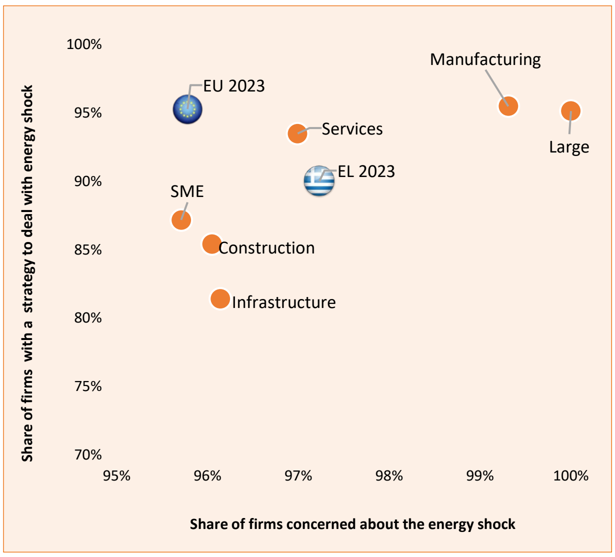


Q. Which, if any of the following, are your priorities/strategies to deal with the recent developments in the energy market?

Base: All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses)

IMPACT AND STRATEGIES TO DEAL WITH ENERGY SHOCK

- The proportion of firms in Greece concerned about the energy shock is similar to that seen across the EU as a whole (97% versus 96%). However, Greek firms are marginally less likely than the EU average to have adopted strategies to help deal with recent developments in the energy market (90% versus 95%).
- In Greece, concern was at a similar level for firms in all sectors, ranging from 96% in the construction sector to 99% in the manufacturing sector. Concern is also very high among SMEs (96%) and large firms (100%).
- Manufacturing (95%) and services firms (93%) are more likely to have adopted strategies to deal with the recent developments in the energy market, compared to firms in construction (85%) and infrastructure (81%).
- Manufacturing and large firms are the most concerned about the energy shock and the most likely to have adopted a strategy to deal with it.



Q. Which, if any, of the following, are your priorities/ strategies to deal with the recent developments in the energy market?

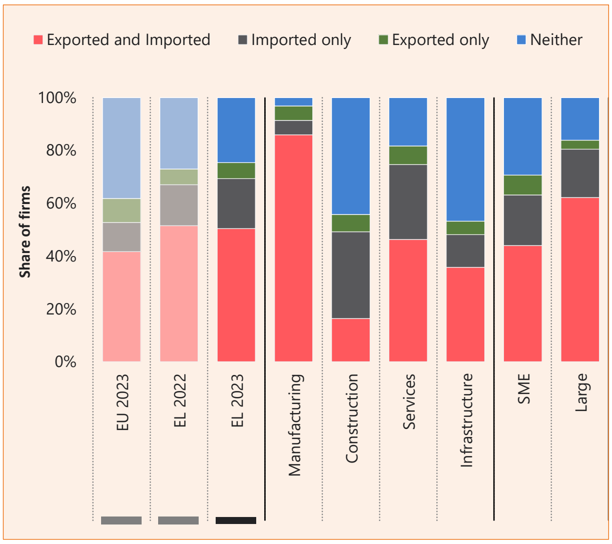
Q. Thinking about the energy shock, to what extent is your company concerned about …

Base: All firms for 'share of firms concerned about the energy shock'
Base: All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses) for 'share of firms with a strategy to deal with the energy shock'

International trade

ENGAGEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE

- Overall, 75% of Greek firms report to be engaged in international trade in 2022. This is in line with EIBIS 2022 (73%) and higher than the EU average (62%).
- Almost all manufacturing firms interviewed in Greece (97%) are trading internationally. This is higher than engagement in international trading among service firms (82%), which is itself higher than among firms in construction (56%) and infrastructure (53%).
- Large firms are more likely than SMEs to be engaged in international trade (83% versus 71%).

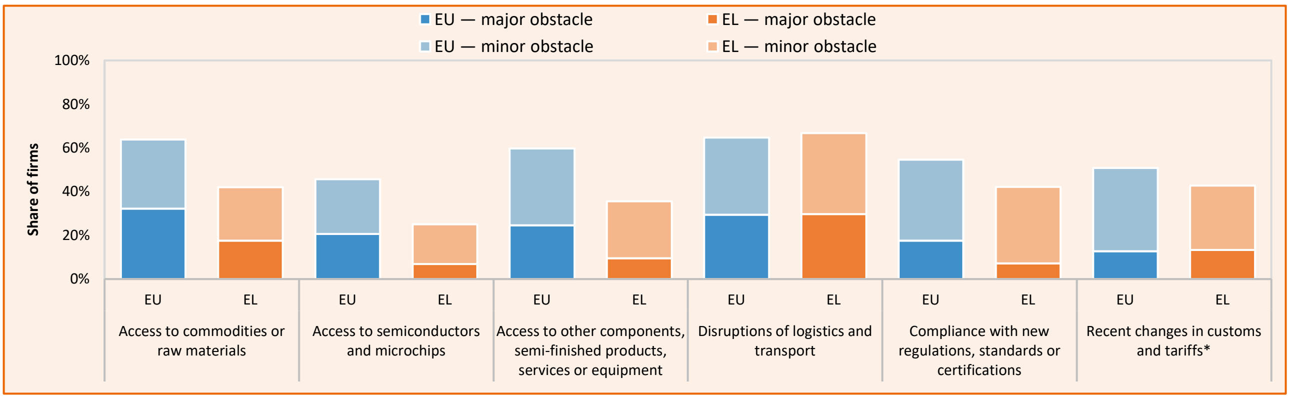


Q. In 2022, did your company export or import goods and/or services?

Base: All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses)

DISRUPTIONS RELATED TO INTERNATIONAL TRADE

- The majority of traders in Greece consider disruption to logistics and transport as an obstacle to international trade (67%), in line with the EU average (65%).
- For each of the other obstacles, a minority of Greek traders are affected, and the proportions are well below the corresponding EU averages.
- Disruption of logistics and transport is a major obstacle for 30% of Greek traders, followed by access to commodities or raw materials (17%) and recent changes in customs and tariffs (13%).



Q. Since the beginning of 2022, were any of the following an obstacle to your business's activities?

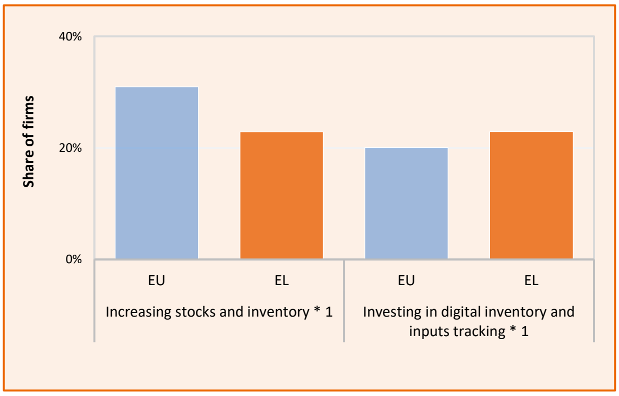
Base: All firms (excluding don't know/refused/not applicable responses)
**Base: All importers and exporters (excluding don't know/refused/not applicable responses)*

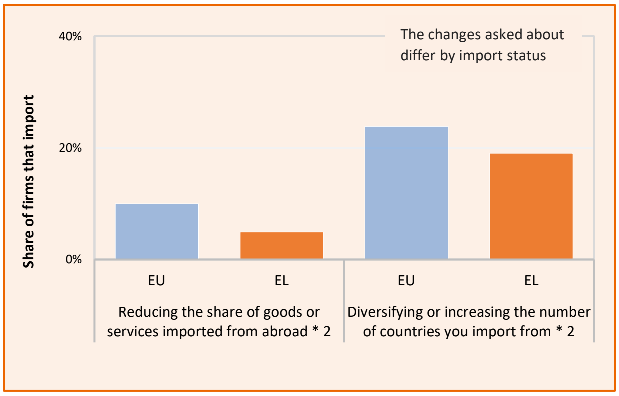
International trade

SOURCING STRATEGY

- Asked about potential changes to their sourcing strategy, firms in Greece are less likely than those across the whole EU to be increasing or have plans to increase stocks and inventory (23% versus 31%), and just as likely to be investing in digital inventory and inputs tracking or have plans to do so (23% versus 20%).

- Greek importers are less likely than those across the EU as a whole to have reduced or plan to reduce the share of goods or services imported from abroad (5% versus 10%), while almost as likely to have diversified or increased the number of countries they import from or have plans to do so (19% versus 24%).





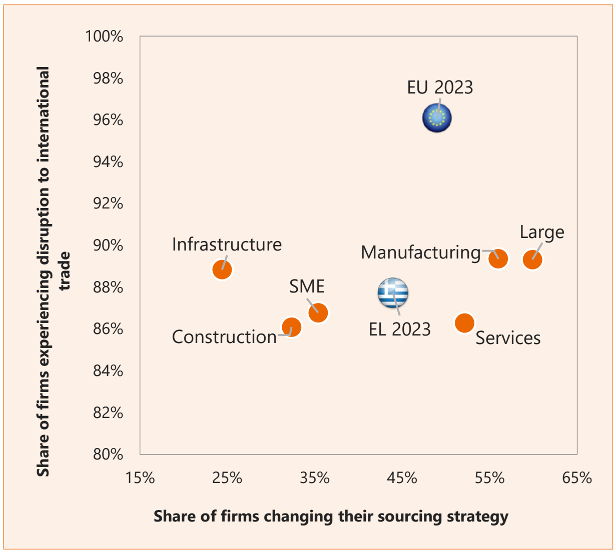
*** 1 = Asked to all, 2 = Asked to all importers**

Q. Since the beginning of 2022, has your company made or are you planning to make any of the following changes to your sourcing strategy?

Base: All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses)
Base: All firms that import (excluding don't know/refused responses)

DISRUPTIONS AND SOURCING STRATEGY

- Fewer firms in Greece faced disruption to international trade than in the EU as a whole (88% versus 96%).
- While the majority of firms in Greece faced at least one type of disruption to international trade (88%), fewer than half (44%) have changed their sourcing strategy or are planning to change it. The proportion changing or planning to change their sourcing strategy is close to the EU average (44% versus 49%), while the proportion experiencing disruption to international trade is also below the EU average (88% versus 96%).
- Manufacturing and large firms are most likely to have changed or have plans to change their sourcing strategy (56% and 60% respectively). Infrastructure firms are the least likely to have done so (24%).



Q. Since the beginning of 2022, were any of the following an obstacle to your business's activities?

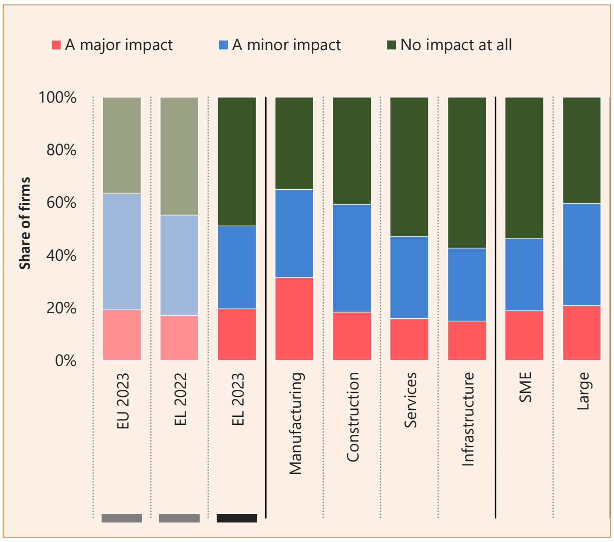
Q. Since the beginning of 2022, has your company made or are you planning to make any of the following changes to your sourcing strategy?

Base: All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses)

Climate change and energy efficiency

IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE – PHYSICAL RISK

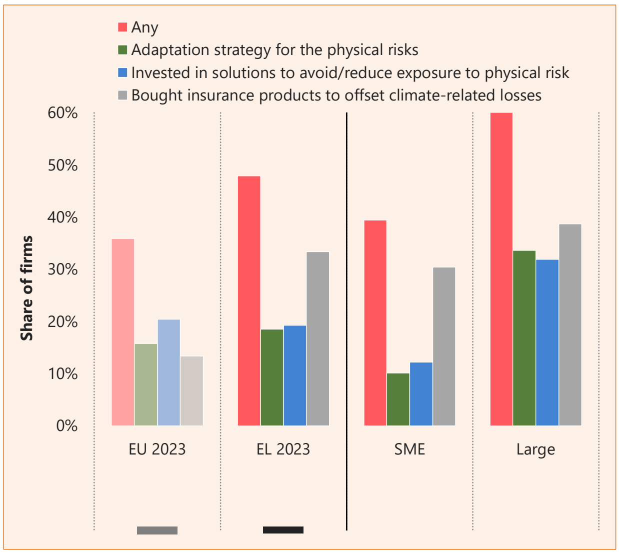
- Just over half of firms in Greece report weather events as having an impact on their business (51%). This is in line with EIBIS 2022 (55%) but below the EU average (64%).
- Manufacturing firms are most likely to report weather events as having impacted their business (65%), followed by firms in construction (59%), services (47%) and infrastructure (43%). Manufacturing firms are also more likely to report this having a major impact (32%) than firms in other sectors.
- The majority of large firms (60%) say weather events have impacted their business, while just under half of SMEs say this (46%).



Q. Thinking about the impact of climate change on your company, such as losses due to extreme climate events, including droughts, flooding, wildfires or storms or changes in weather patterns due to progressively increasing temperature and rainfall. What is the impact, also called physical risk, of this on your company?

Base: All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses)

BUILDING RESILIENCE TO PHYSICAL RISK



- Almost half (48%) of Greek firms have developed or invested in measures to build resilience to the physical risks to their company caused by climate change. This is higher than the EU average (36%).
- Greek firms were as likely to invest in solutions to avoid or reduce the exposure to physical risk (19%) as to adapt their strategy (19%). This is similar to the EU average (20% and 16% respectively).
- Greek firms were more likely than those across the EU as a whole to have bought insurance products to offset climate-related losses (33% versus 13%).
- Large firms were more likely than SMEs to have taken at least one of the actions mentioned to build resilience to physical risk (63% versus 39%).

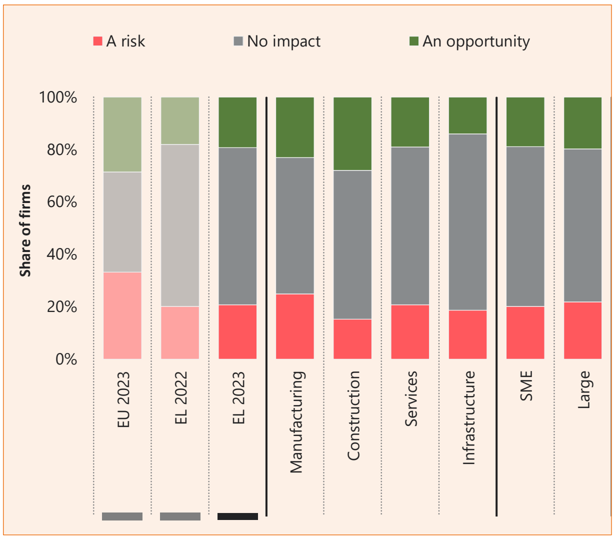
Q. Has your company developed or invested in any of the following measures to build resilience to the physical risks to your company caused by climate change?

Base: All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses)

Climate change and energy efficiency

IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE – RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE TRANSITION TO A NET ZERO EMISSION ECONOMY OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

- The share of Greek firms seeing the transition to stricter climate standards and regulations as a risk is similar to the proportion that see it as an opportunity (21% and 19%, respectively). These figures are both in line with EIBIS 2022 (20% and 18%, respectively) but lower than the EU average (33% and 29%, respectively).
- Construction firms are most likely to regard the transition to a net zero emission economy over the next five years as an opportunity (28%), which is higher than infrastructure firms (14%). Manufacturing firms are more likely to regard the transition as a risk (25%).
- Similar proportions of large firms and SMEs think the transition represents an opportunity (20% and 19%, respectively).

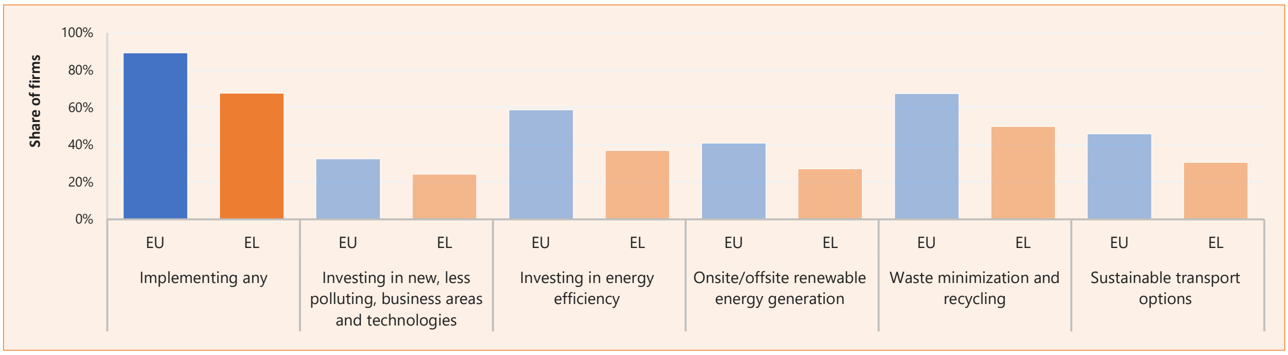


Q. Thinking about your company, what impact do you expect this transition to stricter climate standards and regulations will have on your company over the next five years?

Base: All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses)

ACTIONS TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

- Two in three Greek firms (68%) are taking actions to reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. However, this is well below the EU average (89%).
- The main action taken by Greek firms is waste minimisation and recycling (50%), followed by investments in energy efficiency (37%) and sustainable transport options (30%).
- The figures for specific actions are all lower than the EU averages.



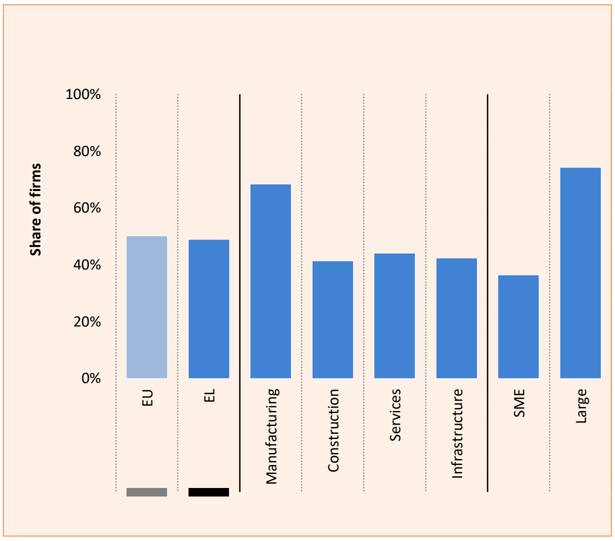
Q. Is your company investing or implementing any of the following, to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions?

Base: All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses)

Climate change and energy efficiency

ENERGY AUDIT

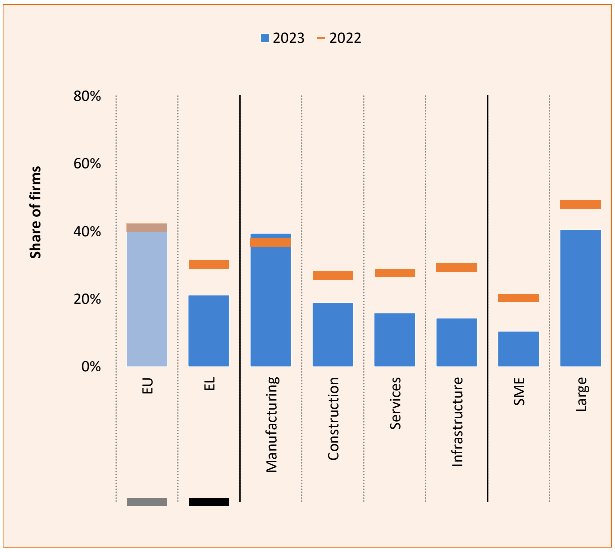
- Half (49%) of Greek firms have had an energy audit in the past three years. That is an assessment of the energy needs and efficiency of their company's building or buildings. This is in line with the EU as a whole (50%).
- In Greece, the majority of manufacturing firms (68%) have had an energy audit, higher than the proportion of firms in other sectors.
- Three-quarters of large firms (74%) have had an energy audit in the past three years. This is double the proportion for SMEs (37%).



Q. In the past three years, has your company had an energy audit (i.e. an assessment of the energy needs and efficiency of your company's building or buildings?

Base: All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses)

CLIMATE CHANGE TARGETS FOR OWN GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS



- Only one in five firms in Greece (21%) report that they set and monitor targets for their own GHG emissions. This is lower than in EIBIS 2022 (30%) and well below the EU average (42%).
- Four in ten manufacturing firms in Greece (39%) set and monitor these targets, higher than the proportion of firms in other sectors.
- Large firms are four times as likely as SMEs to say they set and monitor targets for their own GHG emissions (41% versus 10%).

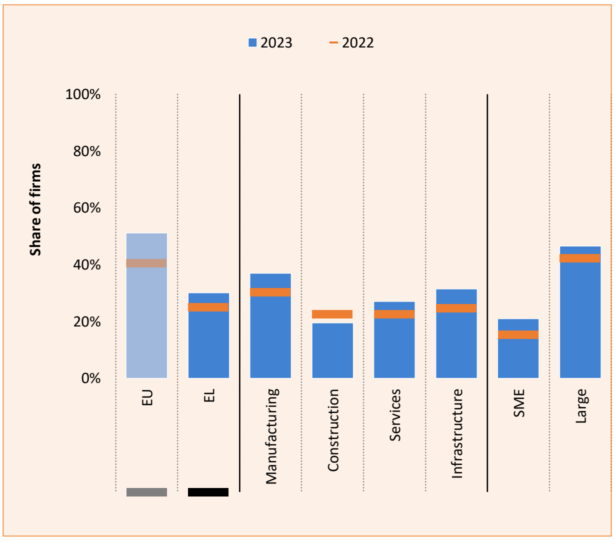
Q. Does your company… set and monitors targets for its own greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions

Base: All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses)

Climate change and energy efficiency

SHARE OF FIRMS INVESTING IN MEASURES TO IMPROVE ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- In 2022, three in ten Greek firms (30%) invested in measures to improve energy efficiency. This is broadly in line with EIBIS 2022 (25%), but well below the EU average of 51%.
- Manufacturing firms in Greece were the most likely to be investing in energy efficiency (37%), while construction firms were the least likely to be doing so (20%).
- Large firms were more likely than SMEs to be investing in energy efficiency (47% versus 21%).

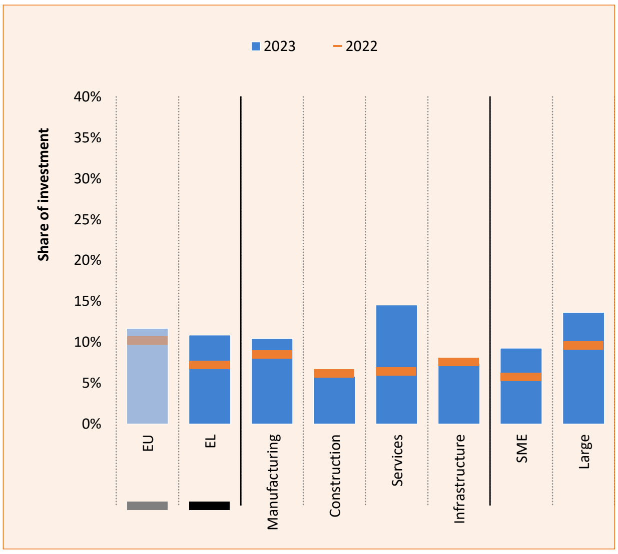


Q. What proportion of the total investment in the last financial year was primarily for measures to improve energy efficiency in your organisation?

Base: All firms

AVERAGE SHARE OF INVESTMENT IN MEASURES TO IMPROVE ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- An average of 11% of the investment made by firms in Greece was directed towards measures to improve the organisation's energy efficiency. This is just a little higher than EIBIS 2022 (7%) while almost identical to the current EU average (12%).
- Firms in the services sector and large firms spent the highest share of their investment on efficiency (15% and 14%, respectively).

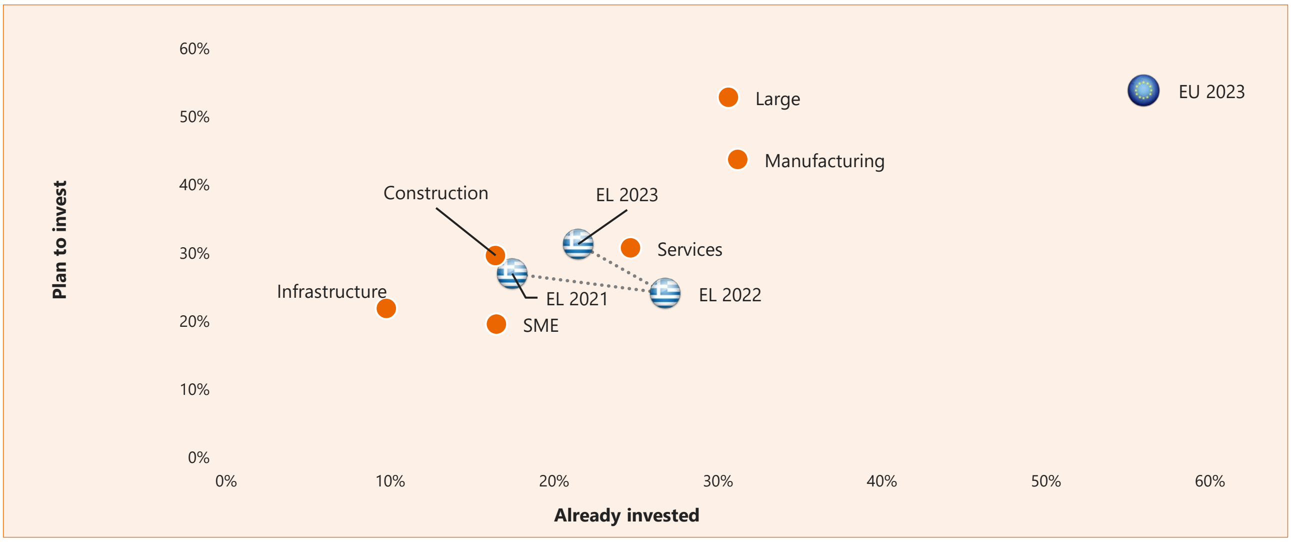


Q. What proportion of the total investment in the last financial year was primarily for measures to improve energy efficiency in your organisation?

Base: All firms that have invested in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses)

Climate change and energy efficiency

INVESTMENT PLANS TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT



EIBIS 2022/2023:
Q. Which of the following applies to your company regarding investments to tackle the impacts of weather events and to help reduce carbon emissions?
EIBIS 2021:
Q. Now thinking about investments to tackle the impacts of weather events and to deal with the process of reduction in carbon emissions, which of the following applies?

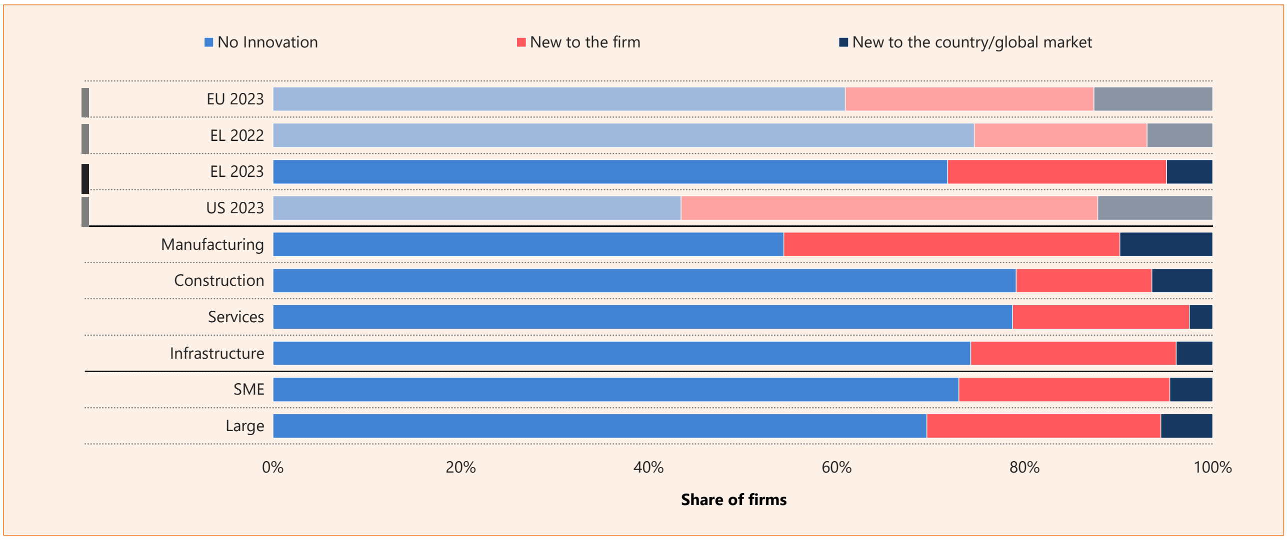
Please note: question change and an additional answer option was included in 2022, this may have influenced the data. Treat comparison to 2021 with caution.

Base: All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses)

- In Greece, 21% of firms have already invested in tackling the impacts of weather events and dealing with the process of reducing carbon emissions. This is broadly in line with, albeit lower than, EIBIS 2022 (27%) and well below the EU average (56%).
- Three in ten Greek firms (31%) have plans to invest in these areas in the next three years. This is higher than EIBIS 2022 (24%) but well below the EU average (54%).
- Manufacturing firms are the most likely to have already invested to tackle the impact of weather events (31%) and also to have plans to invest (44%). Infrastructure firms are the least likely to have already invested (10%) and to have plans to invest (22%) in this.
- Compared to SMEs, large firms are both more likely to have already invested to tackle the impact of weather events (31% versus 16%) and to have plans to invest (53% versus 20%).

Innovation activities

INNOVATION ACTIVITY



Q. What proportion of total investment in the last financial year was for developing or introducing new products, processes or services?
Q. Were the products, processes or services new to the company, new to the country or new to the global market?

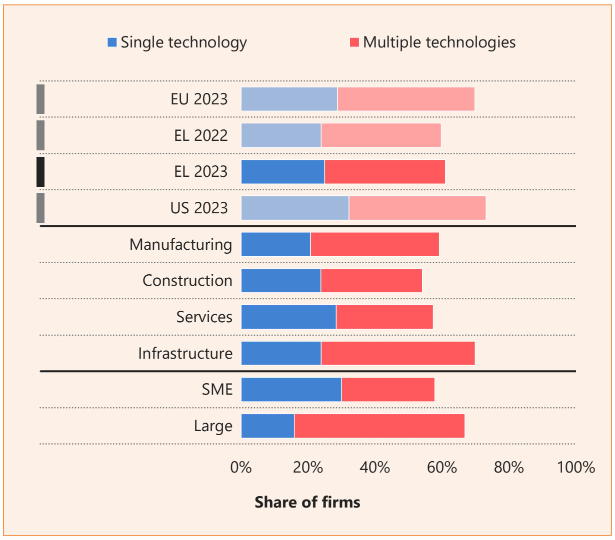
Base: All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses)

- Almost three in ten Greek firms (28%) developed or introduced new products, processes or services as part of their investment activities in 2022 in line with EIBIS 2022 (25%) but below the EU average (39%) and the US (57%).
- Only 5% of firms in Greece report the development or introduction of products, processes or services new to either the country or global market. This is in line with EIBIS 2022 (7%) but below the EU average (13%).
- Manufacturing firms are more likely to have invested in innovation (46%) compared to firms in other sectors, with 10% saying they had developed or introduced products, processes or services that were new to either the country or global market.
- Large firms are just as likely as SMEs to have invested in innovation (30% and 27%, respectively).

Innovation activities

USE OF ADVANCED DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

- Overall, 61% of firms in Greece used at least one advanced digital technology. This is in line with EIBIS 2022 (60%) but below the EU average (70%).
- Infrastructure firms are the most likely to have adopted at least one advanced digital technology (70%), with 46% adopting multiple advanced digital technologies.
- Large firms are more likely than SMEs to have adopted multiple advanced digital technologies (51% versus 28%).
- The digital technologies that Greek firms are most likely to be using are robotics (44%) and digital platforms (44%). In comparison to firms across the whole EU, they are making relatively less use of robotics (44% versus 54%), 3D printing (15% versus 23%) and augmented or virtual reality (5% versus 11%). However, Greek firms are making comparatively more use of drones than firms across the EU (33% versus 24%), although this is well below the use of drones in the US (60%).



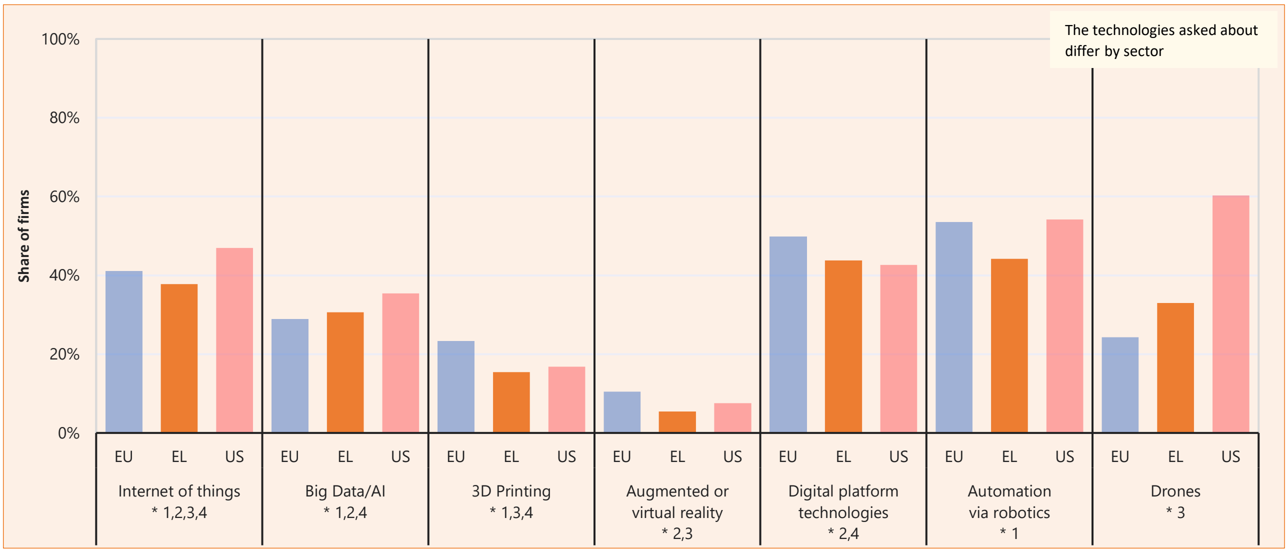
Reported shares combine "used" the technology "in parts of business" and "entire business organised around it."

Single technology is where firms have used one of the technologies asked about. Multiple technologies is where firms have used more than one of the technologies asked about.

Q. To what extent, if at all, are each of the following digital technologies used within your business? Please say if you do not use the technology within your business.

Base: All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses)

ADVANCED DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES



*** Sector: 1 = Asked to manufacturing firms, 2 = Asked to services firms, 3 = Asked to construction firms, 4 = Asked to infrastructure firms**

Q. To what extent, if at all, are each of the following digital technologies used within your business? Please say if you do not use the technology within your business.

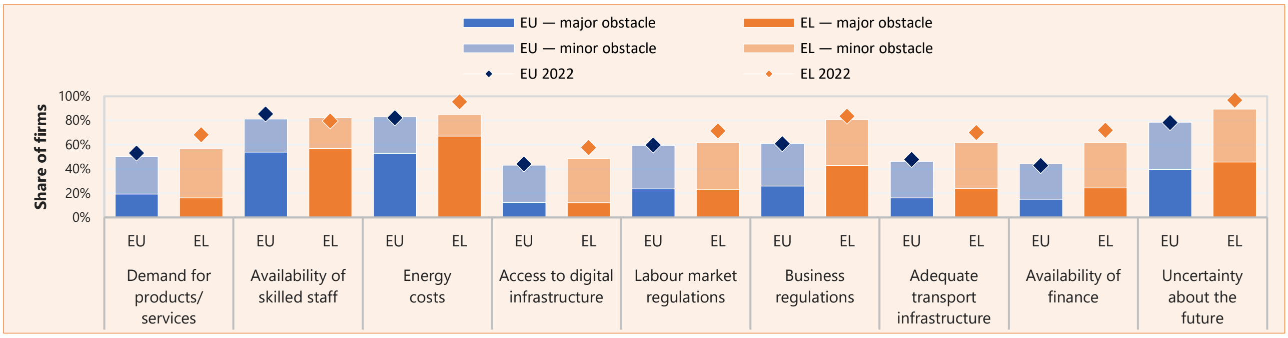
Reported shares combine used the technology 'in parts of business' and 'entire business organised around it'

Base: All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses);
Sample size EL: Manufacturing (118); Construction (88); Services (103); Infrastructure (79).

Investment impediments

LONG-TERM BARRIERS TO INVESTMENT

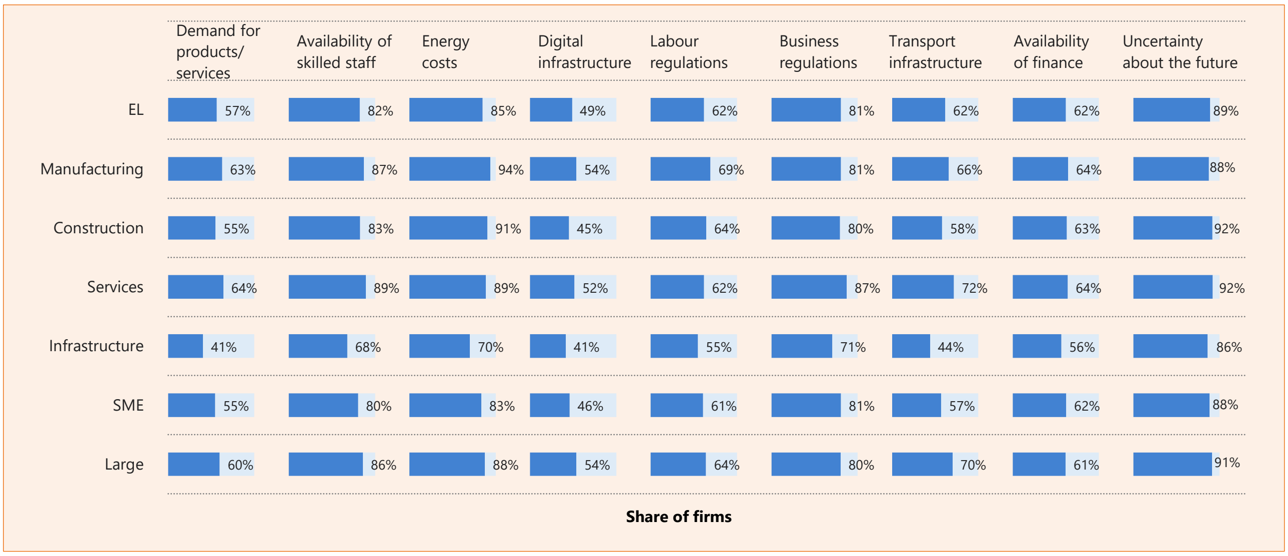
- As in EIBIS 2022, the most frequently mentioned long-term barriers to investment in Greece are uncertainty about the future (89%), energy costs (85%) and availability of skilled staff (82%). These are also the main barriers for firms across the EU as a whole.
- Compared to EIBIS 2022, firms in Greece are less likely to consider several of these as barriers. These include uncertainty about the future (89% versus 97%), energy costs (85% versus 96%), labour market regulations (62% versus 71%), adequate transport infrastructure (62% versus 70%), and availability of finance (62% versus 72%).
- Infrastructure firms are the least likely to regard each of these as barriers to investment.



Q. Thinking about your investment activities, to what extent is each of the following an obstacle? Is it a major obstacle, a minor obstacle or not an obstacle at all?

Base: All firms (data not shown for those that said not an obstacle at all/don't know/refused)

LONG-TERM BARRIERS BY SECTOR AND SIZE



Reported shares combine 'minor' and 'major' obstacles into one category

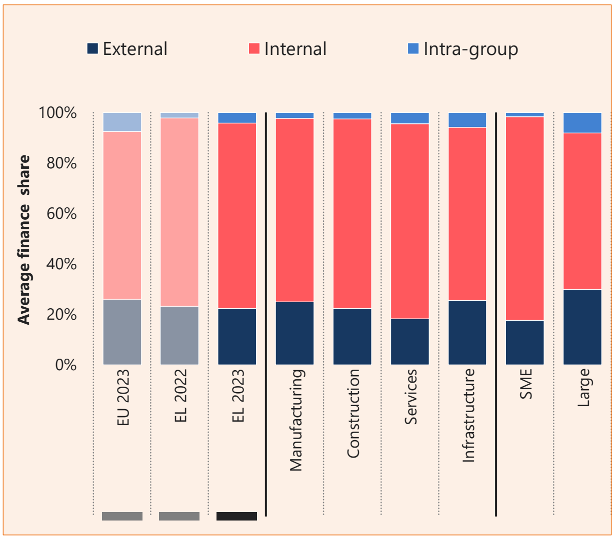
Q. Thinking about your investment activities, to what extent is each of the following an obstacle? Is it a major obstacle, a minor obstacle or not an obstacle at all?

Base: All firms (data not shown for those that said not an obstacle at all/don't know/refused)

Access to finance

SOURCE OF INVESTMENT FINANCE

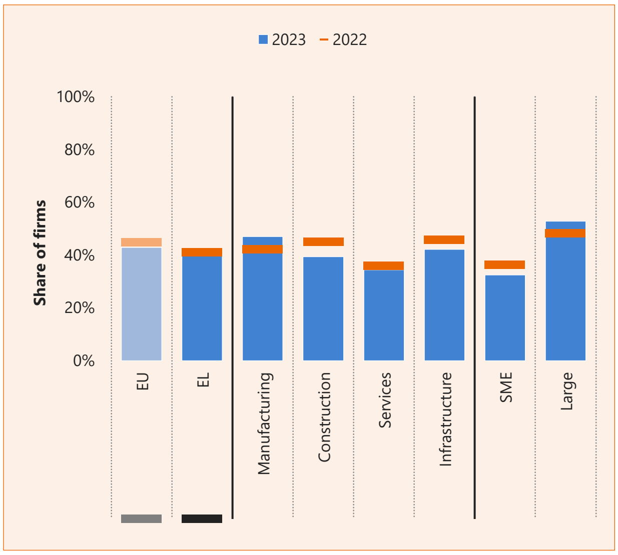
- Internal sources accounted for the largest share of investment finance for firms in Greece (74%), followed by external finance (22%). The remainder (4%) came from intra-group financing. All proportions are in line with EIBIS 2022.
- Firms in Greece relied more heavily on internal finance than in the EU overall (74% versus 66%), while external finance supported a lower proportion of their investments (22% versus 26%).
- The relative proportions of internal and external sources are similar across sectors.
- Large firms were more likely than SMEs to have used external finance (30% versus 18%), and less likely to have used internal finance (62% versus 81%).



Q. What proportion of your investment was financed by each of the following?

Base: All firms that invested in the last financial year (excluding don't know/ refused responses)

USE OF EXTERNAL FINANCE



- Four in ten firms in Greece (40%) that invested in the last financial year, financed at least some of this investment through external sources. This is in line with EIBIS 2022 (41%) and the EU average (43%).
- The proportion of firms using external finance was highest in the manufacturing sector (47%) and lowest in the services sector (34%).
- Large firms that invested were more likely than investing SMEs to obtain finance from external sources (53% versus 32%).

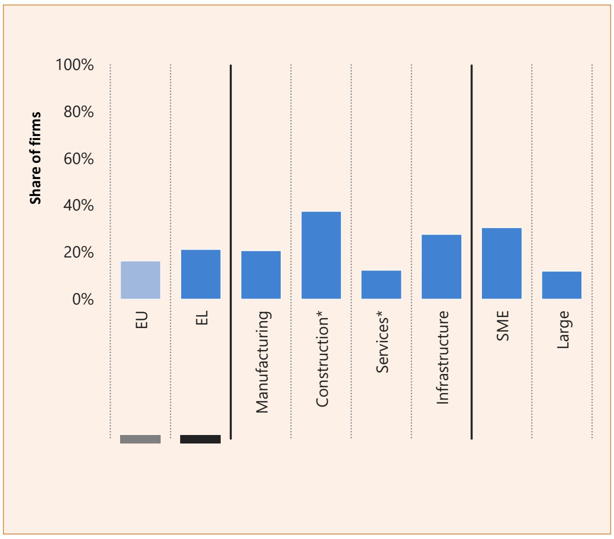
Q. Approximately what proportion of your investment in the last financial year was financed by each of the following

Base: All firms that invested in the last financial year (excluding don't know/ refused responses)

Access to finance

SHARE OF FIRMS WITH FINANCE FROM GRANTS

- One in five firms using external finance in Greece received grants (21%). This is broadly in line with the EU average (16%).
- Construction firms using external finance are most likely to have received grants (37%), followed by infrastructure firms (28%).
- SMEs using external finance are more likely than large firms using external finance to have received grants (30% versus 12%).

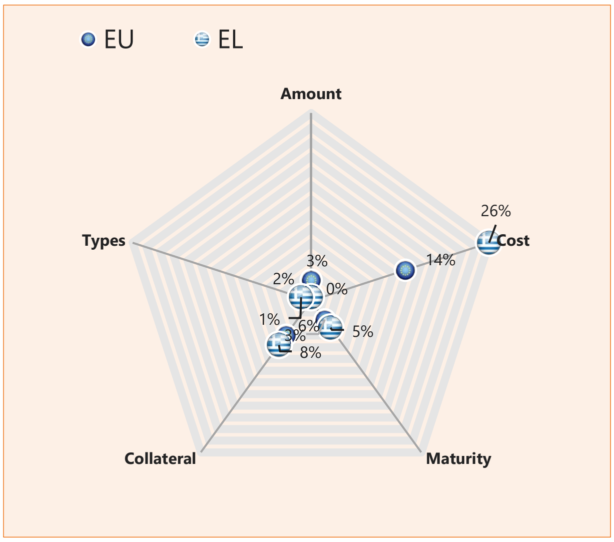


Q. What proportion of your total investment in the last financial year was financed by grants?

Base: All firms using external finance (excluding don't know/refused responses)
*Caution very small base size less than 30

DISSATISFACTION WITH EXTERNAL FINANCE RECEIVED (% of firms)

- Except for the cost of external finance obtained, no more than 8% of firms in Greece are dissatisfied with any of the other aspects included in the survey.
- However, one in four firms in Greece (26%) are dissatisfied with the cost of finance. This is far higher than the EU average (14%).
- In other cases, levels of dissatisfaction in Greece are broadly similar to the EU average.



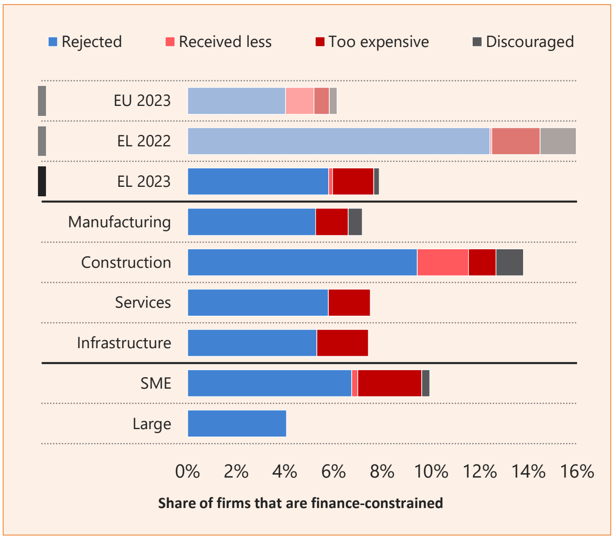
Q. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with …?

Base: All firms that used external finance in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses)

Access to finance

SHARE OF FINANCE-CONSTRAINED FIRMS

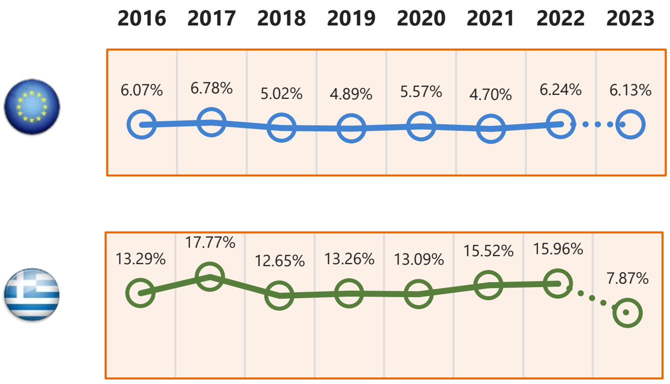
- The proportion of finance constrained firms in Greece (7.9%) is similar to the EU average (6.1%) and about half of the proportion in EIBIS 2022 (16.0%).
- The proportion of finance constrained firms in Greece is highest in the construction sector (13.8%) and among SMEs (10.0%).
- As in EIBIS 2022, the main constraint reported by firms in Greece is rejection (5.8%), followed by finance being too expensive (1.7%).



Finance-constrained firms include: those dissatisfied with the amount of finance obtained (received less), firms that sought external finance but did not receive it (rejected) and those that did not seek external finance because they thought borrowing costs would be too high (too expensive) or they would be turned down (discouraged)

Base: All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses)

FINANCING CONSTRAINTS OVER TIME

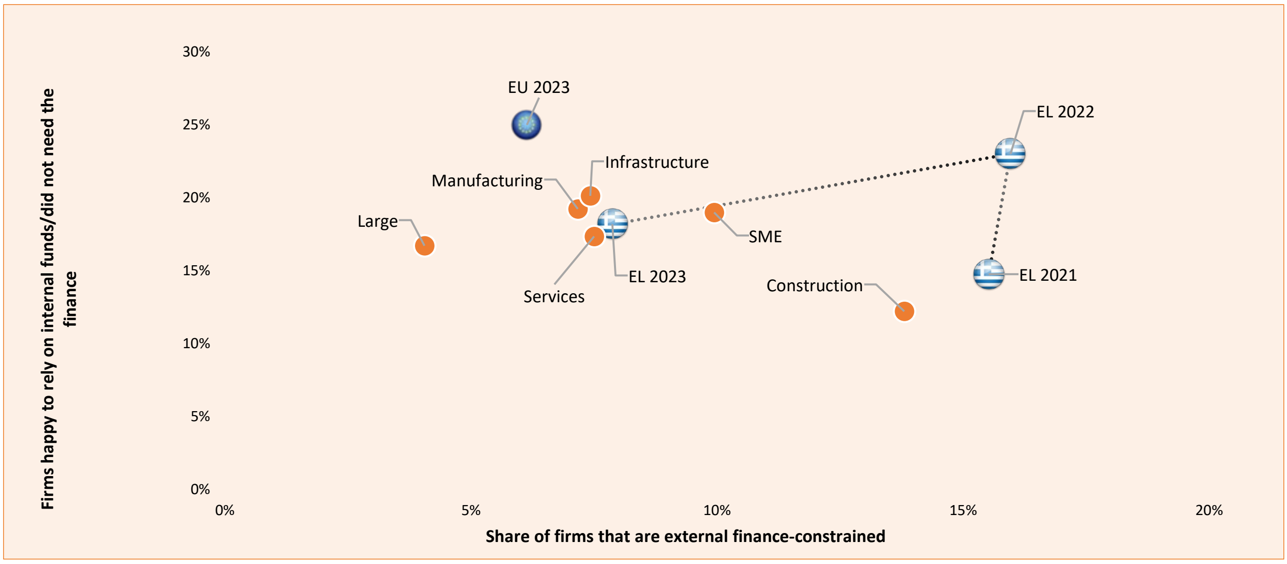


- The proportion of Greek firms that are finance constrained has halved since EIBIS 2022, from 16.0% to 7.9%. This is a significant change from the last seven years.
- For the past seven years, the proportion of finance constrained firms in Greece has been higher than the EU average. It is now similar (7.9% and 6.1% respectively).

Base: All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses)

Access to finance

FINANCING CROSS



Data derived from the financial constraint indicator and firms indicating main reason for not applying for external finance was 'happy to use internal finance/didn't need finance'

Base: All firms (excluding don't know / refused)

- While 7.9% of Greek firms can be considered finance constrained in EIBIS 2023, almost one in five (18%) are happy to rely on internal finance. The proportion of firms in Greece that are happy to rely on internal finance is broadly in line with although a little lower than EIBIS 2022 (23%).
- However, while similar proportions of Greek firms and firms across the EU are finance constrained (7.9% and 6.1% respectively), fewer Greek firms are happy to rely on internal finance (18% versus 25%).
- In Greece, construction firms are most likely to be finance constrained (13.8%) but also least happy to rely on internal finance (12%).
- The differences between large firms and SMEs are not statistically significant. One in ten (9.9%) SMEs are finance constrained compared to 4.1% of large firms, while 19% of SMEs are happy to rely on internal finance compared to 17% of large firms.

EIBIS 2023 – Country technical details

SAMPLING TOLERANCES APPLICABLE TO PERCENTAGES AT OR NEAR THESE LEVELS

The final data are based on a sample, rather than the entire population of firms in Greece, so the percentage results are subject to sampling tolerances. These vary with the size of the sample and the percentage figure concerned.

	EU	US	EL	Manufacturing	Construction	Services	Infrastructure	SME	Large	EU vs EL	Manuf vs Constr	SME vs Large
	(12030)	(802)	(403)	(120)	(91)	(106)	(82)	(326)	(77)	(12030 vs 403)	(120 vs 91)	(326 vs 77)
10% or 90%	1.1%	3.9%	2.9%	4.9%	5.4%	5.2%	5.8%	3.1%	6.1%	3.1%	7.3%	6.8%
30% or 70%	1.8%	6.0%	4.5%	7.5%	8.2%	7.9%	8.9%	4.7%	9.3%	4.8%	11.1%	10.4%
50%	1.9%	6.5%	4.9%	8.2%	9.0%	8.6%	9.7%	5.2%	10.2%	5.2%	12.1%	11.4%

GLOSSARY

Investment	A firm is considered to have invested if it spent more than EUR 500 per employee on investment activities with the intention of maintaining or increasing the company's future earnings.
Investment cycle	Based on the expected investment in current financial year compared to last one, and the proportion of firms with a share of investment greater than EUR 500 per employee.
Manufacturing sector	Based on the NACE classification of economic activities: firms in group C (Manufacturing).
Construction sector	Based on the NACE classification of economic activities: firms in group F (Construction).
Services sector	Based on the NACE classification of economic activities: firms in group G (wholesale and retail trade) and group I (accommodation and food Services activities).
Infrastructure sector	Based on the NACE classification of economic activities: firms in groups D and E (utilities), group H (transportation and storage) and group J (information and communication).
SME	Firms with between 5 and 249 employees.
Large firms	Firms with at least 250 employees.

Note: the EIBIS 2023 country overview refers interchangeably to 'the past/last financial year' or to '2022'. Both refer to results collected in EIBIS 2023, where the question is referring to the past financial year, with the majority of the financial year in 2022 in case the financial year is not overlapping with the calendar year 2022.

EIBIS 2023 – Country technical details

The country overview presents selected findings based on telephone interviews with 403 firms in Greece (carried out between April and July 2023).

BASE SIZES *(*Charts with more than one base; due to limited space, only the lowest base is shown)*

Base definition and page reference	EU 2023/2022	US 2023	Greece 2023/2022	Manufacturing	Construction	Services	Infrastructure	SME	Large
All firms, p. 5 (bottom left), p. 8 (top), p. 8 (bottom), p. 16 (top)	12030/12021	802	403/400	120	91	106	82	326	77
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 5 (bottom right)	11624/11682	776	392/386	116	89	103	80	319	73
All firms who have invested in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 6 (top)	10147/9704	692	329/312	106	73	81	65	263	66
All firms who have invested in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 6 (bottom)	9948/9501	704	307/291	97	69	79	58	249	58
All firms (excluding 'Company didn't exist three years ago' responses), p. 7 (top)	12015/12005	802	402/400	120	90	106	82	325	77
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 7 (bottom)	11880/11814	794	398/393	117	90	105	82	323	75
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 9 (top)	11812/NA	782	395/NA	117	89	104	81	322	73
All firms (data not shown for those that said not an obstacle at all/don't know/refused), p. 9 (bottom)	12030/NA	802	403/NA	120	91	106	82	326	77
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 10 (top)	11739/NA	786	395/NA	117	89	104	79	319	76
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 10 (bottom)	11739/NA	786	395/NA	117	89	104	79	319	76
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses) p. 11 (top)	11978/11975	800	403/397	120	91	106	82	326	77
All firms (excluding don't know/refused/not applicable responses), p. 11 (bottom)	6692/NA	284	235/NA	70	45	62	33	186	49
All firms (excluding Don't know/refused responses), p. 12 (top left)	11918/NA	797	399/NA	118	91	106	80	324	75
All firms that import (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 12 (top right)	6151/NA	240	263/NA	105	45	78	35	202	61
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 12 (bottom)	10139/NA	717	315/NA	107	74	81	50	251	64
All firms (excluding Don't know / refused responses) p. 13 (top)	11930/11911	797	401/398	120	91	105	81	324	77
All firms (excluding Don't know / refused responses), p. 13 (bottom)	11944/11909	789	399/396	117	91	105	82	322	77
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 14 (top)	11433/11172	771	381/386	114	84	101	78	305	76
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 14 (bottom)	11956/11964	800	402/399	120	91	106	81	325	77
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 15 (top)	11549/NA	766	372/NA	106	87	100	76	305	67
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 15 (bottom)	11836/11712	791	398/393	118	90	106	80	321	77
All firms that have invested in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 16 (bottom)	10210/9752	707	329/317	106	71	82	66	264	65
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 17	11721/11685	770	399/393	119	91	105	80	323	76
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 18	11738/11735	780	402/395	120	90	106	82	325	77
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 19 (top)	12009/11980	801	403/399	120	91	106	82	326	77
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 19 (bottom)	11916/11844	800	392/385	118	88	103	79	316	76
All firms (data not shown for those who said not an obstacle at all/don't know/refused), p. 20 (top)	12030/12021	802	403/400	120	91	106	82	326	77
All firms (data not shown for those who said not an obstacle at all/don't know/refused), p. 20 (bottom)	12030/12021	802	403/400	120	91	106	82	326	77
All firms who invested in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 21 (top)	10517/10051	697	335/320	108	74	83	66	264	71
All firms who invested in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 21 (bottom)	10517/10051	697	335/320	108	74	83	66	264	71
All firms using external finance (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 22 (top)	4269/4107	265	128/127	48	29	25	26	91	37
All firms that used external finance in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 22 (bottom)	4184/3988	264	119/124	44	26	24	24	84	35
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 23 (top)	11544/11504	729	388/387	115	88	101	80	314	74
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 23 (bottom)	11544/11504	729	388/387	115	88	101	80	314	74
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 24	11544/11473	729	388/386	115	88	101	80	314	74

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Greece

Overview

EIB INVESTMENT SURVEY

2023