



Greece

Overview

EIB INVESTMENT SURVEY

2021

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EIB Investment Survey Country Overview: Greece

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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 13 500 firms. It covers firms in all European Union Member States and also includes a sample of firms in the United Kingdom and 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 firms face, such as climate change and digital transformation. The EIBIS, which uses a stratified sampling methodology, is representative across all 27 EU Member States, the United Kingdom 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

The series of reports provide an overview of data collected for the 27 EU Member States, the United Kingdom and the United States. The reports 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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Disclaimer

The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the position of the EIB.

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Ipsos Public Affairs works closely with national governments, local public services and the not-for-profit sector, as well as international and supranational organisations. Its around 200 research staff in London and Brussels focus on public service and policy issues. Our research makes a difference for decision makers and communities.

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EIBIS 2021 – Greece

KEY RESULTS

Investment Dynamics and Focus

EIBIS 2021 shows that the share of firms that invested remained similarly low as in EIBIS 2020. Firms have become more optimistic for 2021, however, with more firms in Greece expecting to increase rather than decrease their investment. This represents a substantial positive shift from EIBIS 2020. On average, businesses across Greece spent more than one-third (37%) of their investment on replacement. The highest share of investment went into machinery and equipment (38%).

Impact of COVID-19

COVID-19 hit firms in different ways. When asked about the impact on sales, half of firms (50%) report a decline in sales compared to the beginning of 2020. COVID-19 had a small impact on firms' investment in Greece, with one-sixth (16%) reducing their planned investment due to COVID-19. Firms that experienced a stronger impact from the crisis in terms of reduction in sales, reduced investment more. Asked about the short-term actions due to COVID-19, digitalisation stood out, with half of firms (49%) reporting that they have taken action or made investment to become more digital.

Investment Needs and Priorities

Firms clearly expect COVID-19 to have a long-term impact on needs and priorities. Again, digitalisation stands out, with a half of firms indicating that they expect COVID-19 to lead to an increased use of digital technologies in the long-term (51%), even more than they did in EIBIS 2020 (32%).

The majority of Greek firms do not perceive gaps in terms of investment. In spite of the difficult circumstances, 68% believe their investment over the last three years was about the right amount, and 15% believe it was too much, higher than the EU average (2%). However, there has been a decline in the share of firms that were operating at or above full capacity (from 62% to 47%).

Innovation Activities

Around one-third of firms (32%) developed or introduced new products, processes or services as part of their investment activities, with 10% having undertaken innovation that is new to the country or the world. Around one-fifth (18%) of firms are 'active innovators' and 5% are developers.

Around three in five firms (58%) have implemented the advanced digital technologies they were asked about. This is similar to the EU average (61%).

Drivers and Constraints

Firms in Greece are more optimistic than firms in the EU overall in terms of their short-term outlook. They are most optimistic about business prospects in their sector (55% versus -3% in EIBIS 2020) followed by the economic climate (48% versus -46% in EIBIS 2020).

Business regulations and uncertainty about the future remain the two most commonly cited barriers to investment (both 91%). Aside from availability of skilled staff, firms in Greece are more likely than the EU overall to identify any one barrier to investment as relevant to their situation.

Investment Finance

One in six firms (16%) can be considered finance constrained, in line with EIBIS 2020 (13%) but above the EU average (5%). Constraints are particularly binding for SMEs, with one in five identifying issues.

As a result of COVID-19, one in eight firms (13%) has increased their debt position. Financial support was considerably important: six in ten firms (58%) have received some kind of financial support in response to COVID-19, in line with the EU average (56%).

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency

When asked about climate change, six in ten firms (59%) feel that their business is being impacted by climate change, in line with the EU overall (58%). Overall, more firms see the transition to stricter climate standards and regulations as an opportunity rather than a risk for their business over the next five years (30% and 12% respectively).

Two in ten firms (17%) have already invested to tackle climate change, and 27% have plans to invest. This is below the EU average in both cases (43% and 47% respectively). Moreover, 25% of the firms invested in measures to improve energy efficiency in 2020 and these firms that invest dedicated 5% on average of their total investment to improving energy efficiency. This is below the EU average (37% and 9% respectively).

Firm management, gender balance and employment

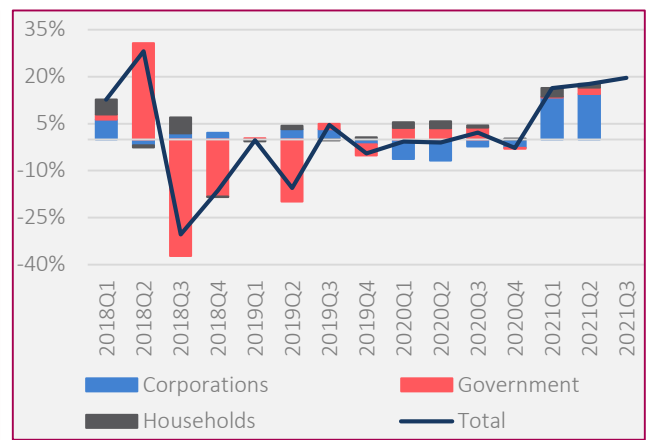
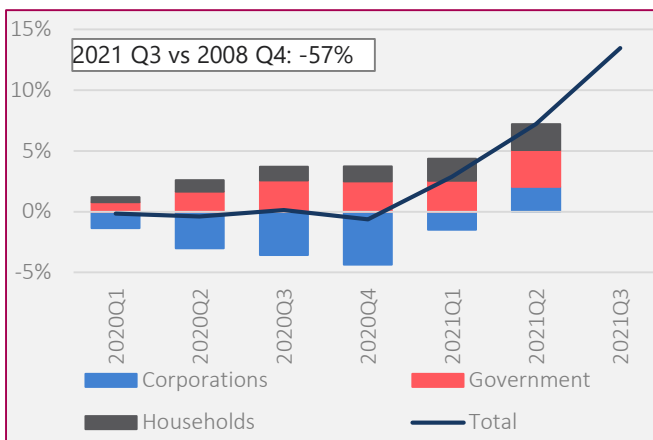
Firms in Greece are more likely than EU firms overall to have used a strategic monitoring system (67% versus 55%) and to have strived for gender balance (86% versus 60%). Overall, firms did not experience a large change in employment during COVID-19.

Investment Dynamics and Focus

INVESTMENT DYNAMICS BY INSTITUTIONAL SECTOR

The COVID-19 crisis abruptly affected the economy, mainly affecting corporate investment. While corporate investment dropped more than 4% below pre-pandemic levels in Q4 2020, government and household spending counterbalanced this negative trend, bringing total investment only slightly below pre-pandemic levels.

At the beginning of 2021, investment levels exceeded the pre-crisis level again by 3% and, driven by the recovery of corporate investment, total investment continued growing in Q2 and Q3 2021 (7% and 13% above the pre-crisis levels, respectively).

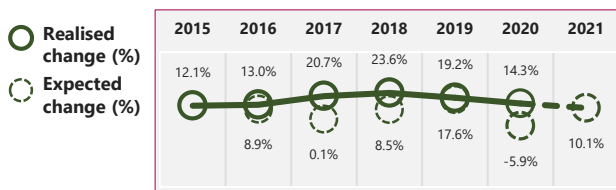


The graph on the left shows the evolution of total Gross Fixed Capital Formation (in real terms); by institutional sector. The data are transformed into four-quarter sums, deflated using the implicit deflator for total GFCF. The four-quarter sum of total GFCF in 2019 Q4 is normalized to 0. Source: Eurostat
The graph on the right shows the year-on-year growth of total gross fixed capital formation (in real terms); by institutional sector. The data are deflated using the implicit deflator for total GFCF. Source: Eurostat.

INVESTMENT CYCLE AND EVOLUTION OF INVESTMENT EXPECTATIONS

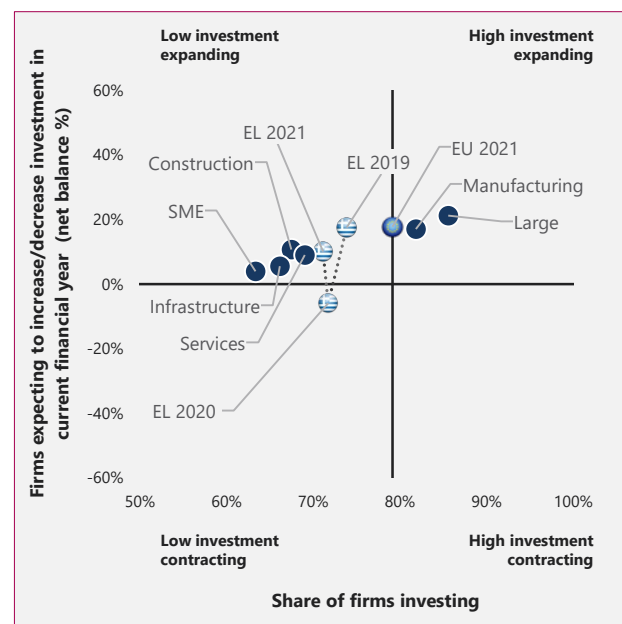
EIBIS 2021 shows that in Greece, more firms expected to increase rather than decrease investment for 2021 (10%), presenting more optimistic views compared to EIBIS 2020. Firms in Greece are close to the EU average in terms of expectations.

The share of firms in Greece who have invested remains low (71% versus 72% in EIBIS 2020) relative to the EU average (79%). Investment remained low for SMEs and firms in the services sector, whereas large firms and manufacturing firms were still more likely to invest compared to other sectors.



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

Base: All firms



Share of firms investing shows the percentage of firms with investment per employee greater than EUR 500. The y-axis line crosses x-axis on the EU average for EIBIS 2021.

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

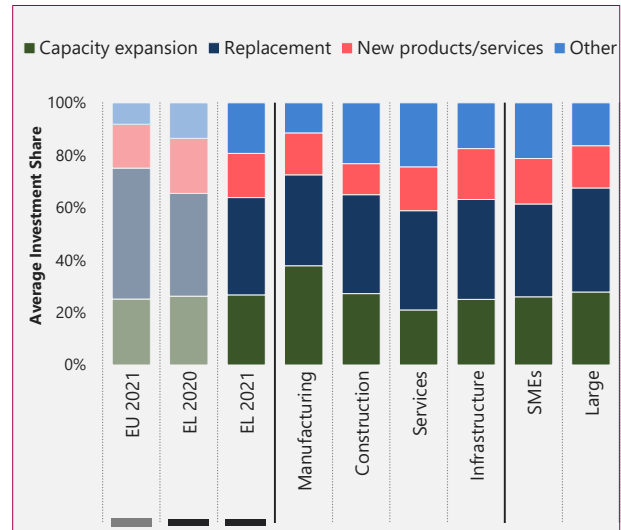
Investment Dynamics and Focus

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

On average, firms across Greece spent just over a third of their investment in 2020 as reported in EIBIS 2021 (37%) on replacing buildings and equipment, similar to EIBIS 2020 (39%), but lower than the EU average (50%). Investment in capacity expansion accounted for (27%) of investment in 2020. In Greece, one-fifth (19%) of firms' investment was allocated to purposes other than capacity expansion, replacement or new products or services, higher than the EU average (8%).

Among manufacturing firms, the largest share of investment went into capacity expansion (38%), while the lowest share went into other (11%).

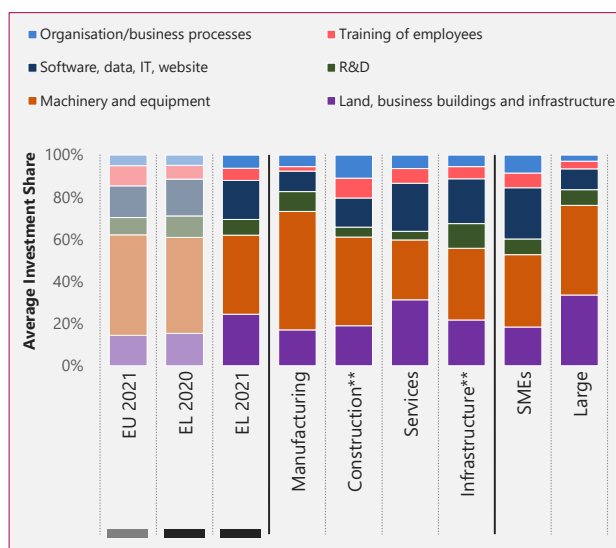
Firms' investment share for the different purposes is broadly similar across SMEs and large firms.



Q. What proportion of total investment was for (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 who have invested in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses)

INVESTMENT AREAS



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?

**Caution small base size

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

Out of the six investment areas considered, the largest share of investment in 2020 by Greek firms was in machinery and equipment (38%), followed by land, business buildings and infrastructure (24%), the share of which has jumped from EIBIS 2020 (15%) and exceeds that of the EU average (14%). Next is investment in software, data, IT and websites (19%), which was also higher than the EU average (15%).

Manufacturing firms allocated a larger share of their investment to machinery and equipment (56%), while services firms allocated a larger share to land, business buildings and infrastructure (31%), as well as software, data, and IT (23%).

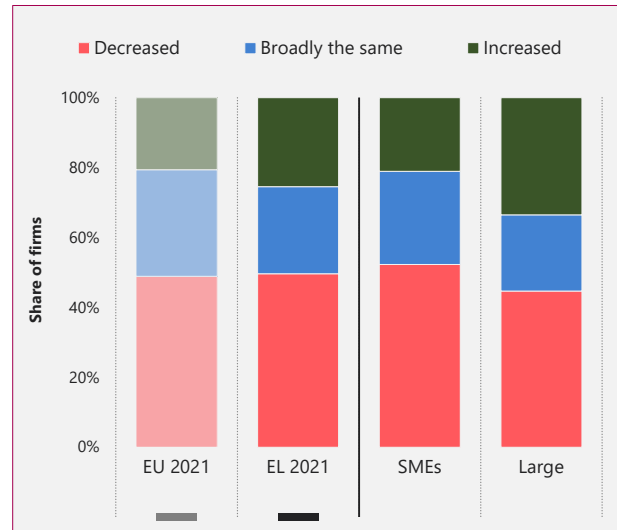
In addition, large firms devoted a higher share of investment for land, business buildings and infrastructure (34%) but a smaller share for software, data, IT and websites (10%) compared to SMEs (18% and 24% respectively).

Impact of COVID-19

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON SALES

COVID-19 hit firms in various ways. When asked about the impact on sales, half of firms in Greece (50%) report a decline in sales or turnover due to COVID-19 compared to the beginning of 2020, while a quarter (25%) report an increase. The share of firms reporting an increase is higher than the EU average of 21%.

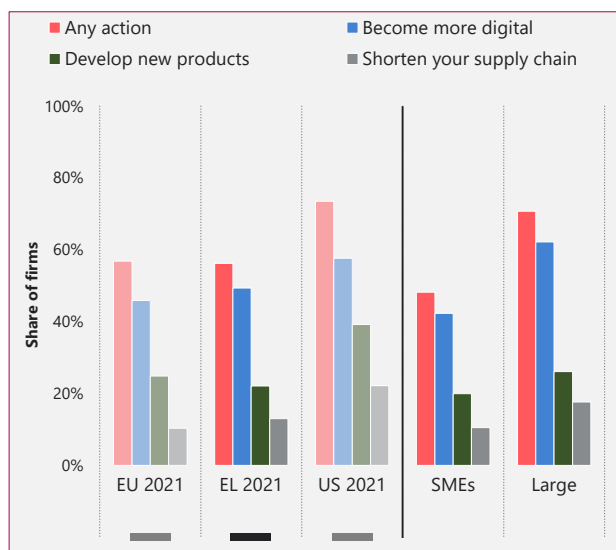
SMEs are slightly more likely to report a decline in sales or turnover (52%) than large firms (45%).



Q. What has been the impact so far of the COVID-19 pandemic on your company's sales or turnover compared to the beginning of 2020?

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

SHORT-TERM ACTIONS AS A RESULT OF COVID-19



Almost three in five firms in Greece (56%) have taken at least one of the short-term actions they were asked about, as a result of COVID-19, with half (49%) reporting they have become more digital. This is similar to the EU average (46%).

Large firms are more likely than SMEs to have taken some sort of action (71% versus 48%) and are also more likely to have become digital than SMEs (62% versus 42%).

Q. As a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, have you taken any actions or made investments to...?

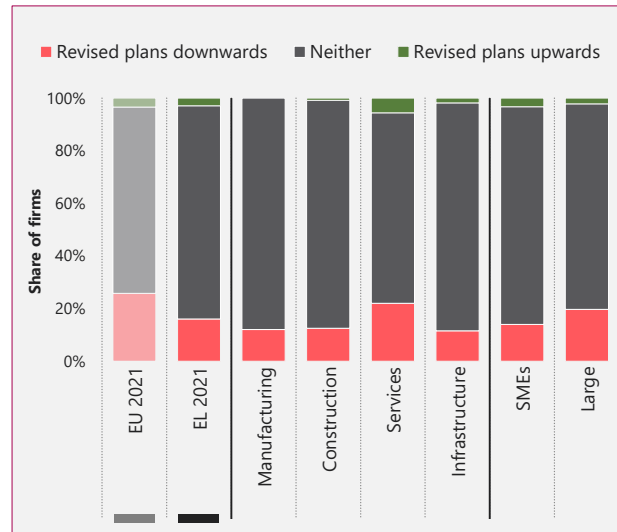
Base: All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses)

Impact of COVID-19

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON INVESTMENT

Against a background of Greek firms already having exhibited relatively low investment rates pre-pandemic, COVID-19 has had an impact on investment. One in six firms in Greece (16%) report having revised plans downwards as a result of COVID-19, lower than the EU average (26%). Only a few (3%) report an upward revision of investment plans.

Services firms are the most likely to report having revised plans downwards (22%).

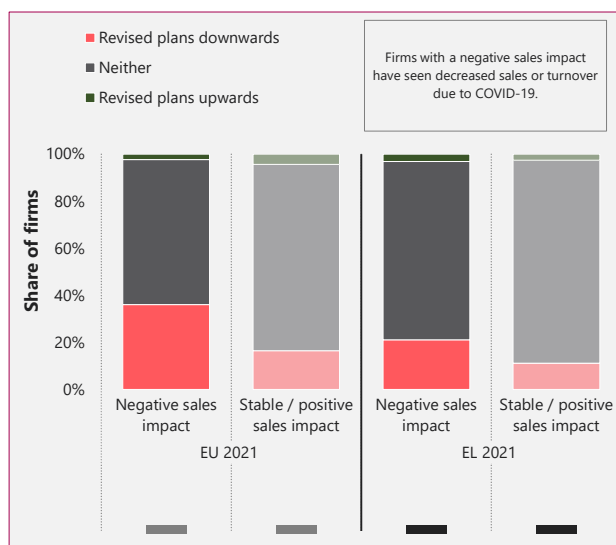


Q. Has your company taken any of the following actions as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?

Q. You mentioned revising your investment plans due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Did you revise them upward or downward?

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

DIFFERENCES IN IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON INVESTMENT



In Greece, firms whose sales or turnover had been negatively impacted by COVID-19 are more likely to report that they revised plans downwards compared to firms whose sales or turnover had been buoyant (21% versus 11%).

Fewer firms in Greece with a negative sales impact revised their investment plans downwards than among EU firms (21% versus 36%).

Q. Do you expect the COVID-19 outbreak to have a long-term impact on any of the following?

Q. What has been the impact so far of the COVID-19 pandemic on your company's sales or turnover compared to the beginning of 2020? Has it...?

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

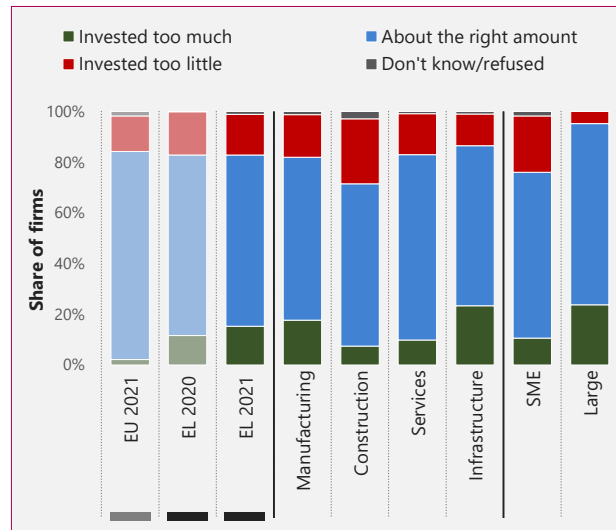
Investment Needs and Priorities

PERCEIVED INVESTMENT GAP

The majority of Greek firms do not perceive major gaps in terms of investment. In spite of the difficult circumstances, two-thirds of firms (68%) believe their investment over the last three years was about the right amount, in line with EIBIS 2020 (71%) and below the EU average (82%). Whilst compared to the EU fewer Greek firms believe that they invested about the right amount, a higher share of firms in Greece think that they invested too much than in the EU overall (15% versus 2%).

Infrastructure firms and large firms are the most likely to believe their investment was too much (23% and 24% respectively).

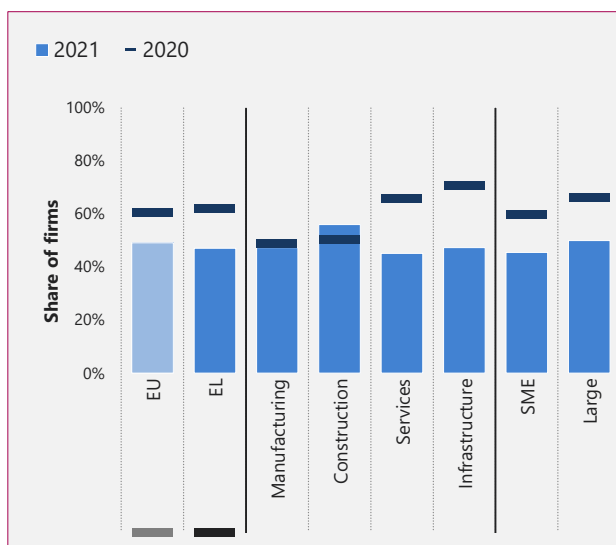
In contrast, construction firms and SMEs are more likely to believe their investment was too little (26% and 22% respectively).



Q. Looking back at your investment over the last 3 years, was it too much, too little, or about the right amount?

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

SHARE OF FIRMS AT OR ABOVE FULL CAPACITY



Full capacity is the maximum capacity e.g. company's general practices regarding the utilization of machines and equipment, overtime, work shifts, holidays etc.

Q. In the last financial year, was your company operating above or at maximum capacity attainable?

Base: All firms (data not shown for those operating somewhat or substantially below full capacity)

Almost half of firms (47%) were operating at or above full capacity in 2020, less than in 2019 (62%) but in line with the EU average (49%).

Construction firms are the most likely to report operating at or above full capacity (56%). The share of services and infrastructure firms operating at or above full capacity in 2020 is down 21 and 23 percentage points respectively from EIBIS 2020.

A similar picture is seen among large firms and SMEs.

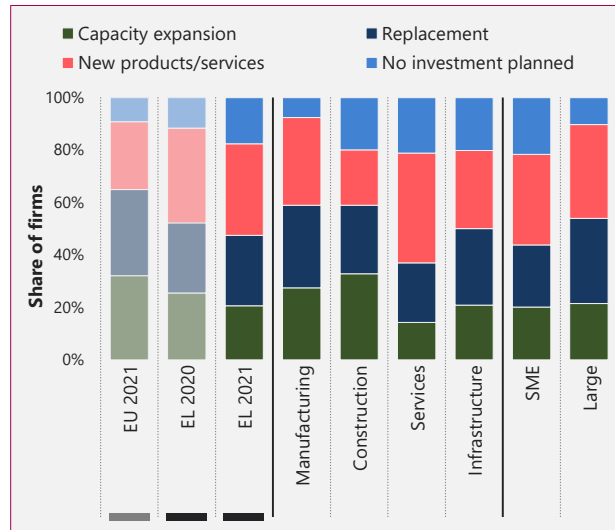
Investment Needs and Priorities

FUTURE INVESTMENT PRIORITIES (% of firms)

Looking ahead to the next three years, developing or introducing new products or services is the most commonly cited investment priority among firms (35%), higher than the EU average (26%), followed by the replacement of existing buildings and equipment (27%) and capacity expansion (21%), both lower than the EU average (33% and 32% respectively). The main difference from EIBIS 2020 is the increased share of firms with no investment planned (18% versus 12% in EIBIS 2020).

Construction firms are more likely to cite capacity expansion as a priority (33%) but less likely to cite new products or services (21%).

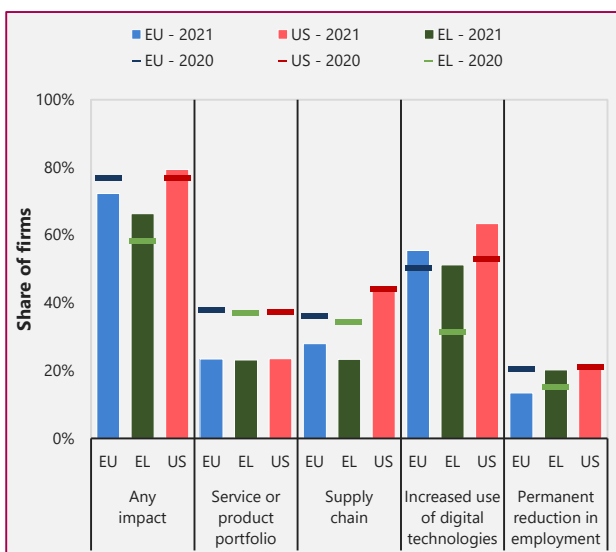
SMEs are less likely to prioritise replacing capacity (24%) and more likely to have no investment planned (22%) compared to large firms (32% and 10% respectively).



Q. Looking ahead to the next 3 years, which is your investment priority (a) replacing 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)

COVID-19 LONG-TERM IMPACT



Firms clearly expect that COVID-19 will have a long-term impact on needs and priorities, as reported by 66% of firms. This is less than among EU firms (72%).

The view that COVID-19 will increase the use of digital technologies has become more widespread since EIBIS 2020 (51% versus 32% EIBIS 2020). Firms in Greece are more pessimistic about a permanent reduction in employment than firms in the EU (20% versus 15%). In contrast, they are more optimistic about their service or product portfolio and their supply chain, with fewer firms expecting COVID-19 to have a long-term impact on these aspects.

Q. Do you expect the COVID-19 outbreak to have a long-term impact on any of the following?

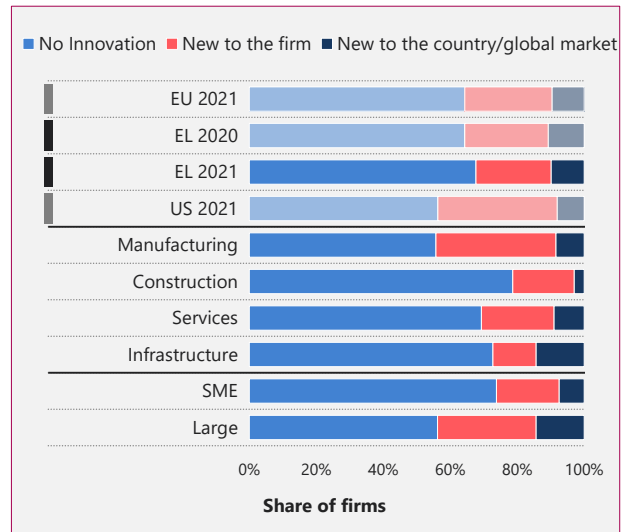
Base: All firms

Innovation Activities

INNOVATION ACTIVITY

Around a third of all firms (32%) developed or introduced new products, processes or services as part of their investment activities in 2020, with one in ten (10%) having undertaken innovation that is new to the country or the global market. This is in line with what was reported in EIBIS 2020 and the EU average.

Manufacturing and large firms are more likely to have innovated (both 44%), while construction firms and SMEs are less likely to have done so (21% and 26% respectively).

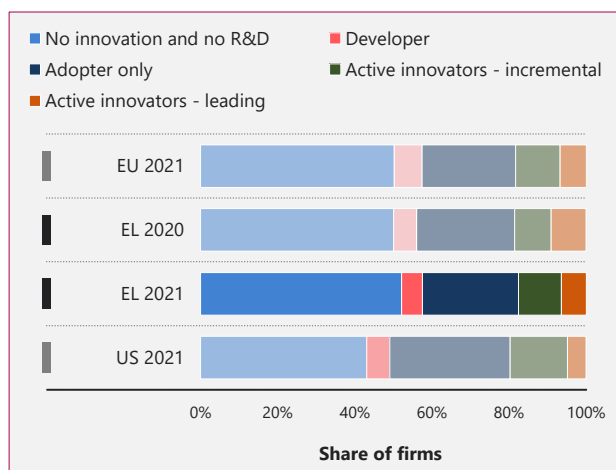


Q. What proportion of total investment was for developing or introducing new products, processes, services?

Q. Were the products, processes or services new to the company, new to the country, new to the global market?

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

INNOVATION PROFILE



Q. What proportion of total investment was for developing or introducing new products, processes, services?

Q. Were the products, processes or services new to the company, new to the country, new to the global market?

Q. In the last financial year, how much did your business invest in Research and Development (including the acquisition of intellectual property) with the intention of maintaining or increasing your company's future earnings?

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

When firms' innovation and research and development behaviour is profiled more widely, 18% of firms in Greece can be classified as 'active innovators', and a further 5% of firms as 'developers'.

This breakdown is in line with EIBIS 2020 and the EU average.

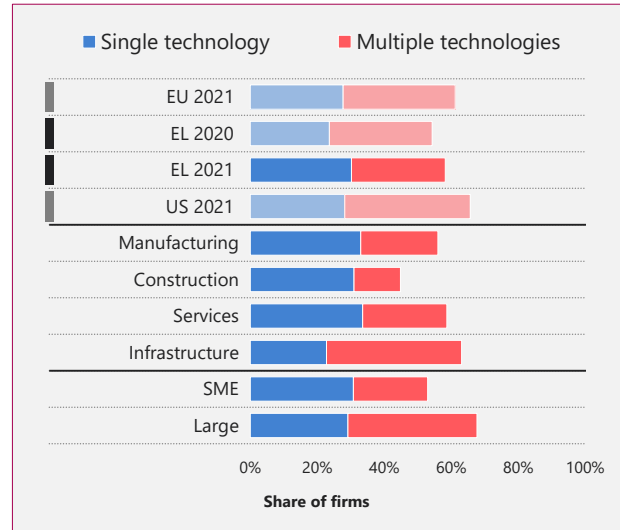
The 'No innovation and no R&D' group comprises firms that did not introduce any new products, processes or services in the last financial year. The 'Adopter only' introduced new products, processes or services but without undertaking any of their own research and development effort. 'Developers' are firms that did not introduce new products, processes or services but allocated a significant part of their investment activities to research and development. 'Incremental' and 'Leading innovators' have introduced new products, processes and services and also invested in research and development activities. The two profiles differ in terms of the novelty of the new products, processes or services. For incremental innovators these are 'new to the firm'; for leading innovators these are new to the country/world'.

Innovation Activities

IMPLEMENTATION OF ADVANCED DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

Three in five firms (58%) have implemented at least one of the advanced digital technologies they were asked about. This is in line with EIBIS 2020 (54%) and the EU average (61%), although firms in Greece are less likely to have implemented multiple technologies than the EU overall (28% versus 33%).

Large firms and infrastructure firms are the most likely to have implemented advanced digital technologies (68% and 63% respectively). In addition, the proportions of firms from those sectors having implemented multiple technologies (39% and 40% respectively) is higher than the country average. Compared to the country average, construction firms and SMEs are less likely to have implemented digital technologies (45% and 53% respectively). SMEs are also less likely to have implemented digital technologies than large firms.

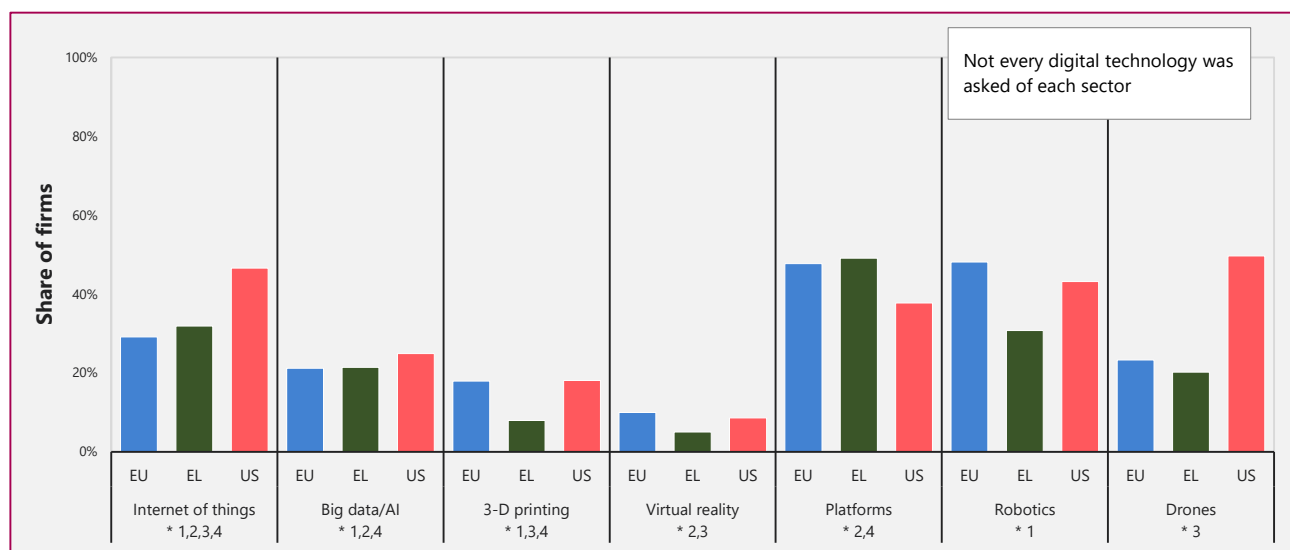


Q. Can you tell me for each of the following digital technologies if you have heard about them, not heard about them, implemented them in parts of your business, or whether your entire business is organised around them?

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

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

ADVANCED DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES



* Sector: 1 = Asked of Manufacturing firms, 2 = Asked of Services firms, 3 = Asked of Construction firms, 4 = Asked of infrastructure firms

Q. Can you tell me for each of the following digital technologies if you have heard about them, not heard about them, implemented them in parts of your business, or whether your entire business is organised around them?

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

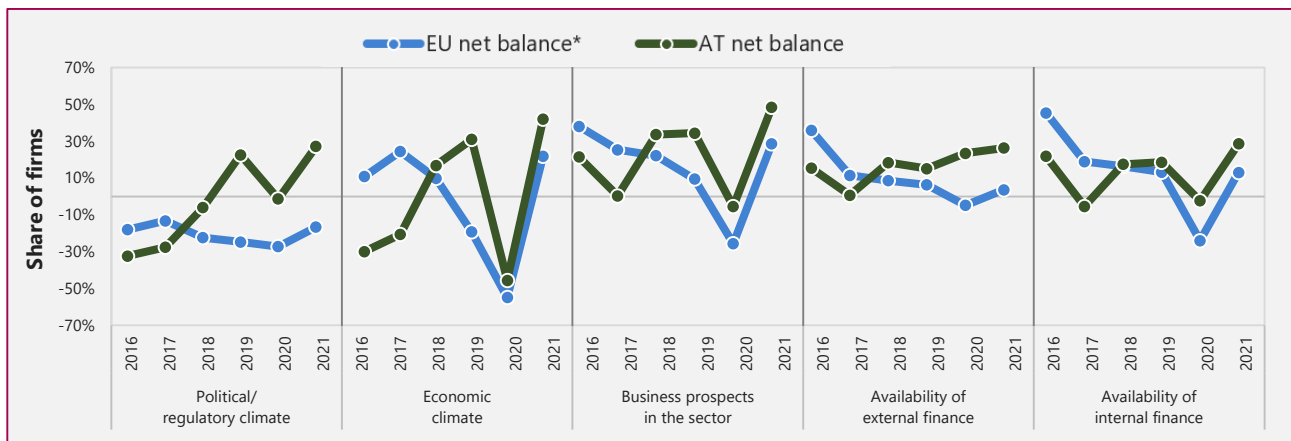
Base: All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses);
Sample size EL: Manufacturing (106); Construction (95); Services (96); Infrastructure (96)

Drivers And Constraints

SHORT-TERM FIRM OUTLOOK

Over the next twelve months, firms in Greece are optimistic about the short-term outlook, with more firms expecting an improvement than a worsening. They are most optimistic about business prospects in their sector (rising from -3% to 55%) followed by

the economic climate (rising from -46% to 48%), with these two areas showing the largest percentage point increases since EIBIS 2020. In all cases, optimism among firms in Greece is greater than the EU overall.

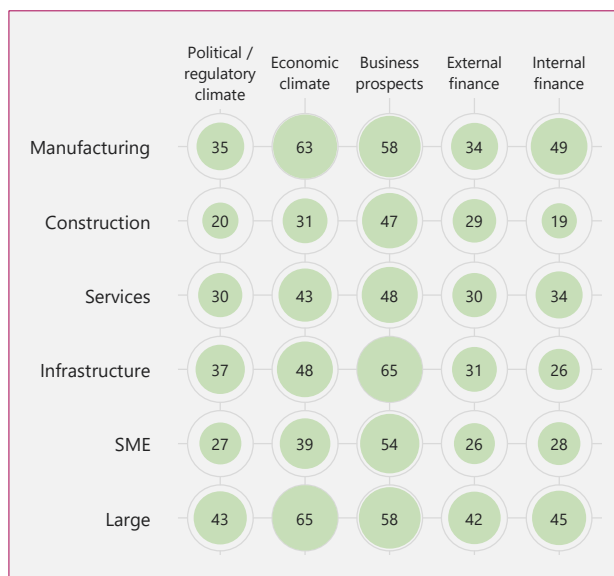


Q. Do you think that each of the following will improve, stay the same, or get worse over the next twelve months?

*Net balance is the share of firms seeing improvement minus the share of firms seeing a deterioration

Base: All firms

SHORT-TERM FIRM OUTLOOK BY SECTOR AND SIZE (NET BALANCE %)



Please note: green figures are positive, red figures are negative

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

Base: All firms

Across all measures of sentiment, the number of optimistic firms exceeds that of pessimistic ones.

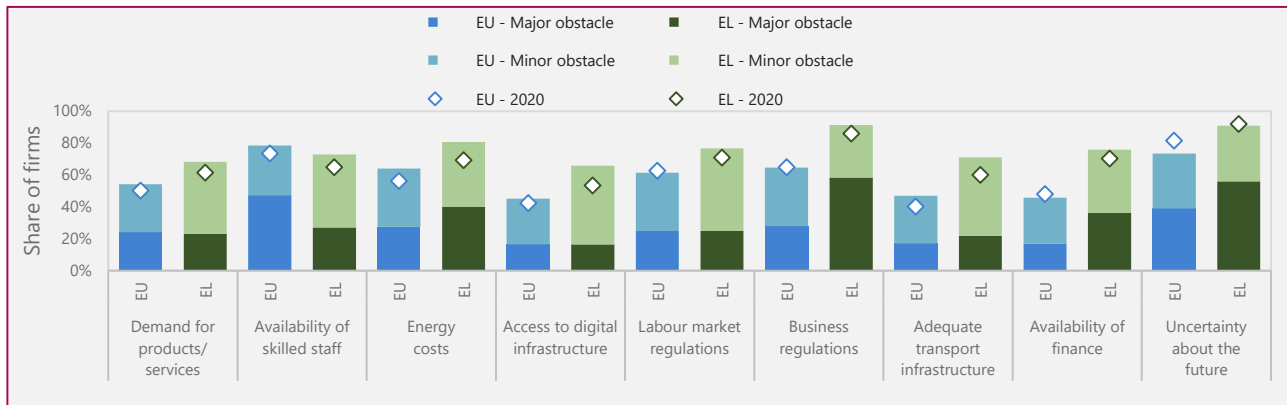
The highest share of optimistic firms is found among large firms about the economic climate and infrastructure firms about business prospects in their sector (both 65%). Construction firms are the least optimistic in all measures compared to other sectors. SMEs tend to be consistently less optimistic than large firms across all measures.

Drivers And Constraints

LONG-TERM BARRIERS TO INVESTMENT

Business regulations and uncertainty about the future remain the two most commonly cited barriers to investment (both 91%). With the exception of the availability of skilled staff, firms in Greece are more likely than the EU average to identify any one barrier to investment as affecting them.

Compared to EIBIS 2020, firms in Greece are now more likely to consider the availability of skilled staff (rising from 65% to 73%), energy costs (rising from 69% to 81%), access to digital infrastructure (rising from 53% to 66%), business regulations (rising from 86% to 91%) and adequate transport infrastructure (rising from 60% to 71%) as barriers to investment.



Q. Thinking about your investment activities in Greece, 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 who said not an obstacle at all/don't know/refused)

LONG-TERM BARRIERS BY SECTOR AND SIZE



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

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

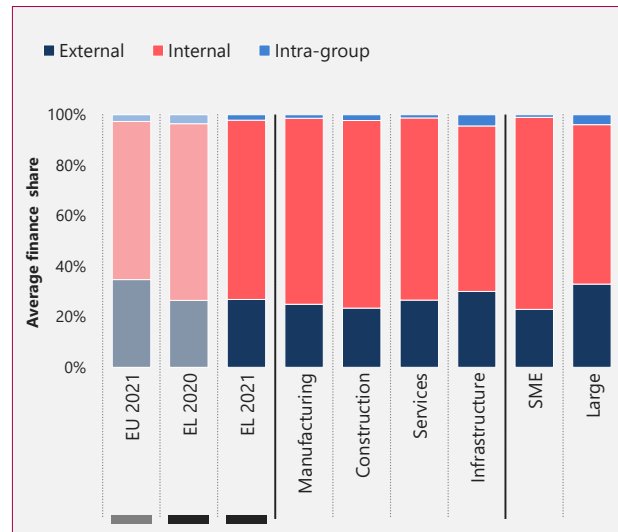
Base: All firms (data not shown for those who said not an obstacle at all/don't know/refused)

Investment Finance

SOURCE OF INVESTMENT FINANCE

Firms in Greece continued to fund the majority of their investment in 2020 through internal financing (71%), which is similar to EIBIS 2020 (70%) but higher than the EU average (63%).

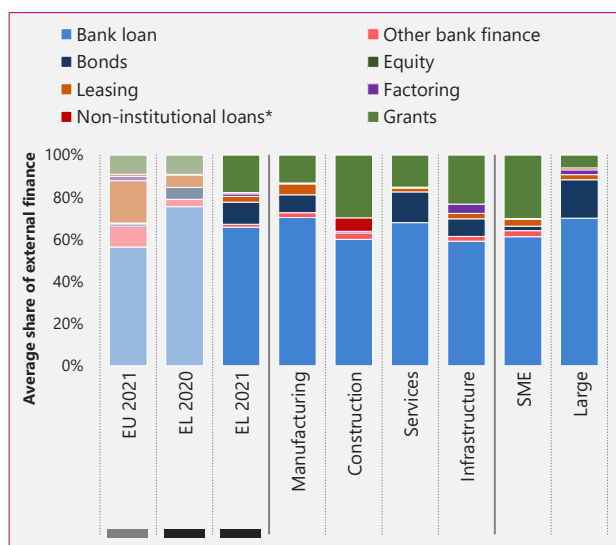
The picture is broadly similar across all sectors, though size appears to be a discriminating factor. SMEs report a higher share of internal finance than large firms (76% versus 63%) and a smaller share of external finance (23% versus 33%).



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

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

TYPE OF EXTERNAL FINANCE USED FOR INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES



Bank loans continued to make up the largest share of external finance in 2020 (66%), well above the EU average (56%). The shares of external finance from grants (18%) and newly issued bonds (10%) have both slightly increased from EIBIS 2020 (9% and 6% respectively) and are also greater than the EU average (9% and 1% respectively).

Comparing the sectors, grants made up the highest share of external finance among construction firms (30%). Grants made up a higher share of external finance among SMEs than large firms (30% versus 6%) while bonds made up a lower share (2% versus 18%).

Q. Approximately what proportion of your external finance does each of the following represent?

*Loans from family, friends or business partners

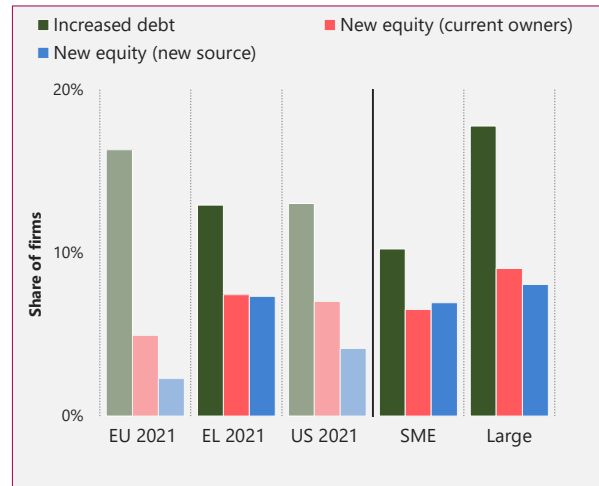
Base: All firms who used external finance in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses)

Investment Finance

ACTIONS TAKEN AS A RESULT OF COVID-19

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, around one in eight firms (13%) have increased their debt position, in line with the EU average (16%). Firms in Greece are more likely to have raised new equity both from current owners and new sources (both 7%) compared to the EU average (5% and 2% respectively).

SMEs are less likely than large firms to have increased their debt position (10% versus 18%).



Q. Has your company taken any of the following actions as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?

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

SHARE OF FIRMS RECEIVING FINANCIAL SUPPORT IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19



Six in ten firms (58%) have received some kind of financial support in response to COVID-19, in line with the EU average (56%). Firms in Greece are more likely to have received deferral of payments (20%) and other financial support (12%) compared to the EU average (16% and 8% respectively), and less likely to have received subsidies or other financial support that does not need to be paid back (29% versus 36%).

SMEs are more likely than large firms to have received some kind of financial support (63% versus 50%) and subsidies and other financial support that does not need to be paid back (36% versus 16%), and less likely to have received new subsidised or guaranteed credit (15% versus 25%).

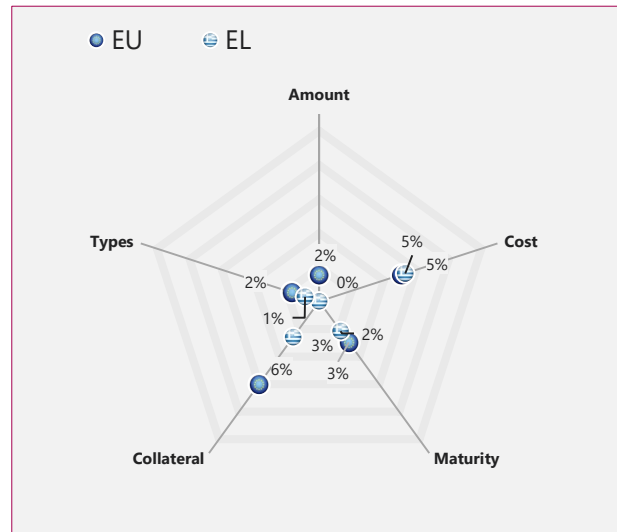
Q. Since the start of the pandemic, have you received any financial support in response to COVID-19? This can include finance from a bank or other finance provider, or government-backed finance

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

Access To Finance

DISSATISFACTION WITH EXTERNAL FINANCE RECEIVED

Firms who used external finance in 2020 report that they are, on balance, satisfied with the amount, cost, maturity, collateral and the type of external finance received. This picture is in line with the EU average across the five measures. The highest level of dissatisfaction recorded among firms in Greece is with the cost of finance (5%), while the lowest is with the amount of finance.



Q. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with ...?

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

DISSATISFACTION BY SECTOR AND SIZE (%)



As mentioned above, overall dissatisfaction levels are low, with the highest level of dissatisfaction being with the cost of finance among SMEs (11%).

Infrastructure firms show the highest levels of dissatisfaction with cost, maturity and collateral, compared to other sectors. Among SMEs, levels of dissatisfaction with cost of finance (11%), maturity (4%) and collateral (5%) are higher than among large firms, which show the lowest levels of dissatisfaction across all measures.

Q. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with ...?

*Caution small base size

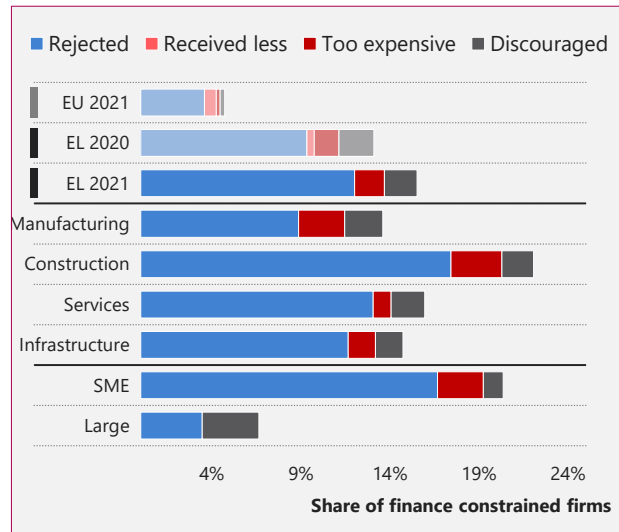
Base: All firms who used external finance in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses)

Access To Finance

SHARE OF FINANCE CONSTRAINED FIRMS

One in six firms in Greece (16%) can be considered finance constrained, in line with EIBIS 2020 (13%) but well above the EU average (5%).

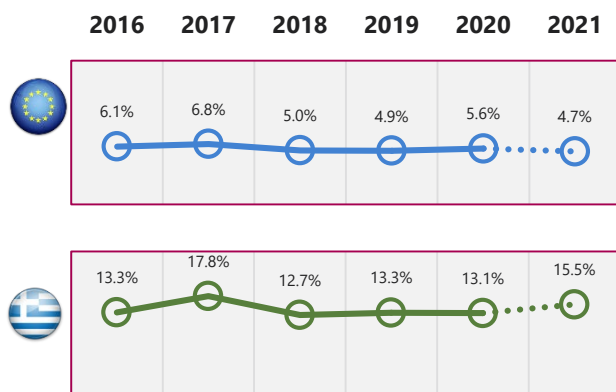
Construction firms are the most likely to be considered finance constrained (22%). SMEs are also more likely to be considered finance constrained (20%) than large firms (7%) and the country average.



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 who 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



There has been little change in the share of finance constrained firms since EIBIS 2020. This remains broadly in line with previous years, but remains considerably higher than the EU average (5%).

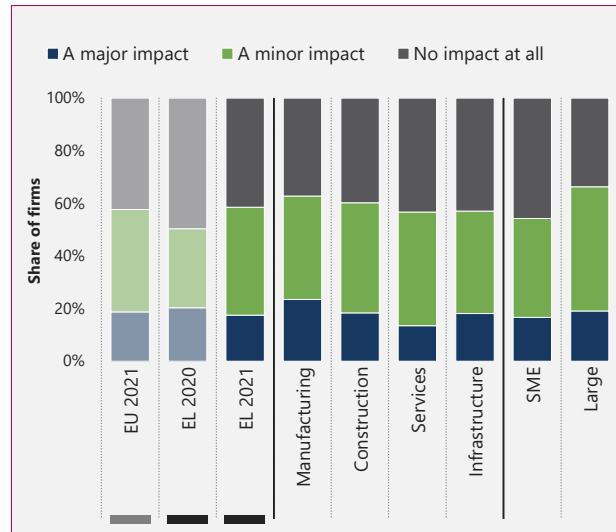
Base: All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses)

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency

IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE – PHYSICAL RISK

Perceptions of physical risks from climate change have turned slightly more pessimistic, coming in line with the EU average. Six in ten firms (59%) feel their business is currently being impacted by climate change and the related changes in weather patterns, with 17% reporting a major impact. This is in line with the EU average (58% and 19% respectively), and an increase compared to EIBIS 2020, most notably on the share of firms reporting a minor impact has increased (41% versus 30% in EIBIS 2020).

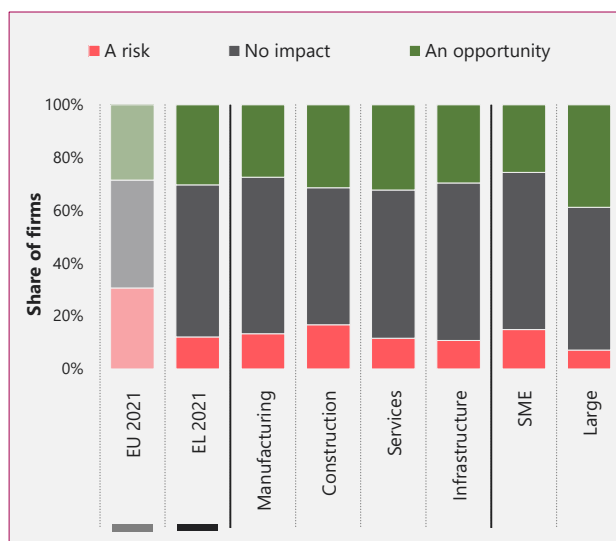
The picture is broadly similar across the sectors. Instead, SMEs are less likely than large firms to feel their business has been impacted by climate change (54% versus 66%).



Q. Thinking about climate change and the related changes in weather patterns, would you say these weather events currently have a major impact, a minor impact or no impact at all on your business?

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

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



Only a relatively small share of Greek firms is concerned about the transition to a net zero economy. One in eight firms (12%) believe the transition to stricter climate standards and regulations over the next five years will be a risk to the company, well below the EU average (31%). Three in ten (30%) believe the transition will be an opportunity, in line with the EU average (28%).

The picture is broadly consistent across the sectors. Large firms are more likely than SMEs to see the transition to stricter climate standards and regulations as an opportunity (39% versus 26%).

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)

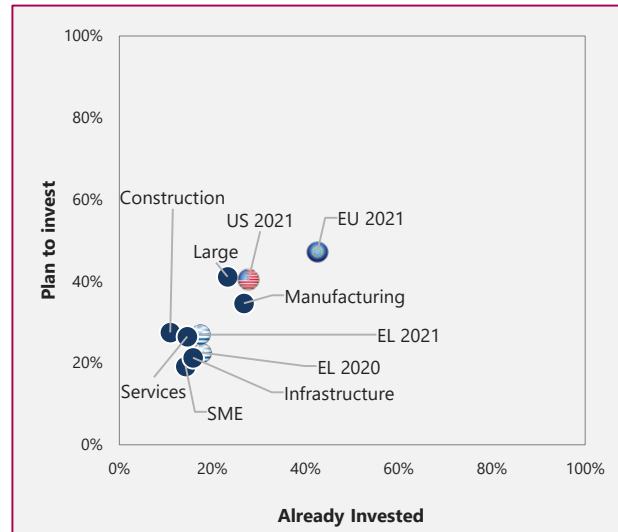
Climate Change and Energy Efficiency

INVESTMENT PLANS TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT

There is room for improvement in regard of firms' plans to tackle climate change. Whereas almost two in ten firms (17%) have already invested in plans to tackle the impact of climate change, and almost three in ten firms (27%) plan to invest. This is well below the EU average (43% and 47% respectively) but broadly in line with EIBIS 2020 (18% and 23% respectively).

Manufacturing firms are the most likely to have already invested (27%) while construction firms and SMEs are less likely to have done so (11% and 14% respectively).

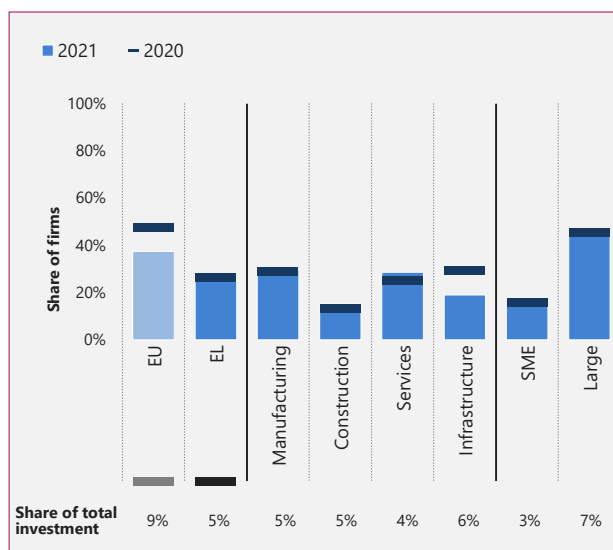
Large firms are more likely to be planning to invest (41%) than SMEs (19%).



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?

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

SHARE OF FIRMS INVESTING IN MEASURES TO IMPROVE ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND SHARE OF TOTAL INVESTMENT



The share of firms that invested in energy efficiency measures in 2020 remains low. A quarter of firms (25%) invested in measures to improve energy efficiency, in line with EIBIS 2020 (26%), with an average of 5% of their total investment going towards such measures. This is below the EU average (37% and 9% respectively).

Construction firms and SMEs are the least likely to have invested in such measures (15% and 14% respectively), with SMEs having contributed a lower average share of their total investment (3%). Moreover, compared to SMEs, large firms are more likely to be investing (45%) and these large firms contribute a higher average of their total investment (7%).

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 (for share of firms investing)

Base: All firms who have invested in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses) (average share of investment)

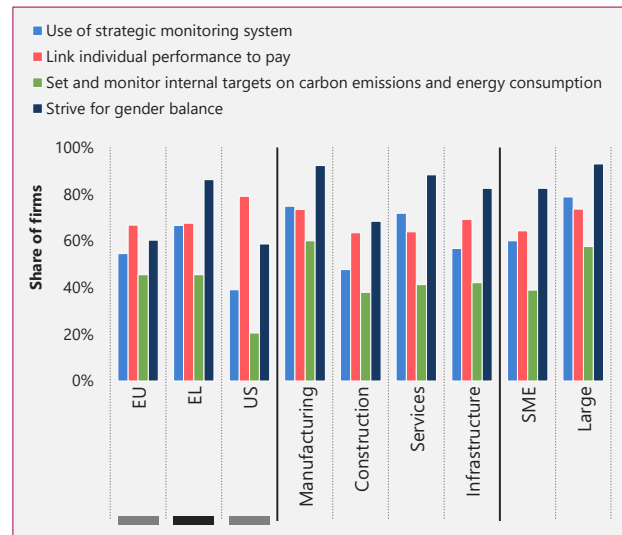
Firm management, climate targets, gender balance and employment

FIRM MANAGEMENT, CLIMATE TARGETS AND GENDER BALANCE

Firms in Greece are more likely than EU firms to have used a strategic monitoring system (67% versus 55%) and to have strived for gender balance in 2020 (86% versus 60%).

Manufacturing firms are more likely to have used a strategic monitoring system and to have monitored internal climate change targets than other sectors, while construction firms are less likely to have strived for gender balance (68%) than other sectors (ranging from 83% to 92%).

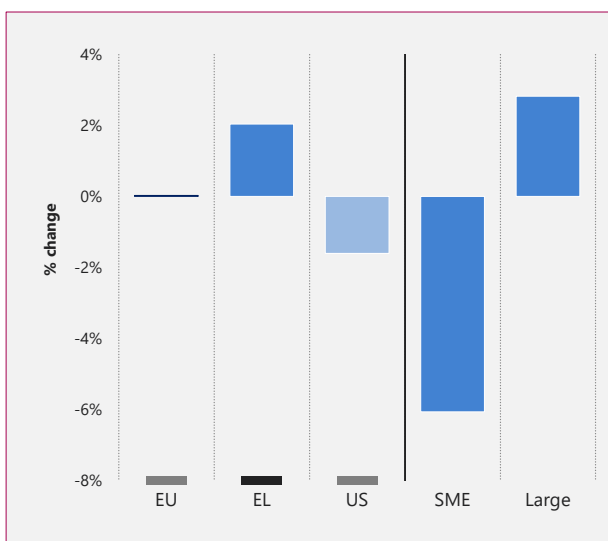
Large firms are more likely than SMEs to have used a strategic monitoring system (79% versus 60%), have monitored climate targets (58% versus 39%) and have strived for gender balance (93% versus 83%).



Q. In 2020, did your company...?

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

CHANGE IN EMPLOYMENT DURING COVID-19



Overall, firms in Greece did not experience a large change in employment during COVID-19 (+2%), in line with the EU average.

SMEs and large firms were impacted in a different way, with SMEs seeing an overall decrease in employment during COVID-19 (-6%) and large firms seeing an increase (3%).

Q. How many people does your company employ either full or part time at all its locations, including yourself?

Q. How many people did your company employ either full or part time at all its locations at the beginning of 2020, before the COVID-19 pandemic?

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

EIBIS 2021 – 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	Constr vs Manuf.	SME vs Large
	(11920)	(802)	(402)	(106)	(95)	(97)	(97)	(322)	(80)	(11920 vs 402)	(95 vs 106)	(322 vs 80)
10% or 90%	1.1%	3.5%	2.9%	5.2%	5.2%	5.3%	5.3%	3.1%	6.0%	3.1%	7.3%	6.8%
30% or 70%	1.7%	5.3%	4.5%	7.9%	8.0%	8.2%	8.2%	4.8%	9.2%	4.8%	11.2%	10.3%
50%	1.8%	5.8%	4.9%	8.6%	8.7%	8.9%	8.9%	5.2%	10.0%	5.2%	12.2%	11.3%

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 2021 country overview refers interchangeably to 'the past/last financial year' or to '2020'. Both refer to results collected in EIBIS 2021, where the question is referring to the past financial year, with the majority of the financial year in 2020 in case the financial year is not overlapping with the calendar year 2020.

EIBIS 2021 – Country Technical Details

The country overview presents selected findings based on telephone interviews with 402 firms in Greece (carried out between March and July 2021).

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




Base definition and page reference	EU 2021/2020	US 2021	EL 2021/2020	Manufacturing	Construction	Services	Infrastructure	SME	Large
All firms, p. 2, p. 6, p. 7, p. 10, p. 11	11920/11971	802	402/403	106	95	97	97	322	80
All firms (excluding 'Company didn't exist three years ago' responses), p. 6	11910/11949	802	402/403	106	95	97	97	322	80
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 2	11620/11634	768	395/394	105	92	95	96	317	78
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 4 (top)	11860/NA	800	402/NA	106	95	97	97	322	80
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 4 (bottom)	11891/NA	802	401/NA	106	95	96	97	321	80
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 5 (top)	11814/11971	768	396/403	104	95	94	96	317	79
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 5 (bottom)	11760/0	766	396/0	104	95	94	96	317	79
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 7 (top)	11765/11727	793	396/395	105	92	96	96	317	79
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 8 (top)	11648/11720	779	394/395	105	93	96	94	318	76
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 8 (bottom)	8780/9039	618	279/292	78	65	70	63	213	66
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 9	11891/11938	802	400/398	106	95	96	96	320	80
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 13 (top)	11882/NA	777	400/NA	105	95	96	97	320	80
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 13 (bottom)	11857/NA	775	399/NA	104	95	96	97	320	79
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 15	11518/11477	743	393/388	102	94	95	95	315	78
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 16 (top)	11849/11898	798	399/396	105	95	96	96	320	79
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 16 (bottom)	11384/NA	783	390/NA	102	94	92	95	313	77
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 17	11659/11739	775	392/389	101	95	95	94	314	78
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 18 (top)*	11616/NA	774	382/NA	97	91	93	93	307	75
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 18 (bottom)	11664/11402	794	394/388	105	92	96	95	317	77
All firms who have invested in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 3 (top)	9670/10138	674	297/310	82	68	72	70	226	71
All firms who have invested in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 3 (bottom)	9523/9874	667	302/305	81	71	75	71	231	71
All firms who have invested in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 12	8675/9255	621	294/290	79	71	72	67	225	69
All firms who have invested in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses)*, p. 17	11920/11971	802	402/403	106	95	97	97	322	80
All firms who used external finance in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 12	4003/4354	284	129/111	41	28	31	28	88	41
All firms who used external finance in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 14*	3964/4310	281	125/110	39	26	29	29	84	40



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Greece

Overview

EIB INVESTMENT SURVEY

2022

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