

AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS IN ASEAN

COVID-19 IMPACT UPDATE



**AustCham
ASEAN**

Australia-ASEAN Chamber of Commerce

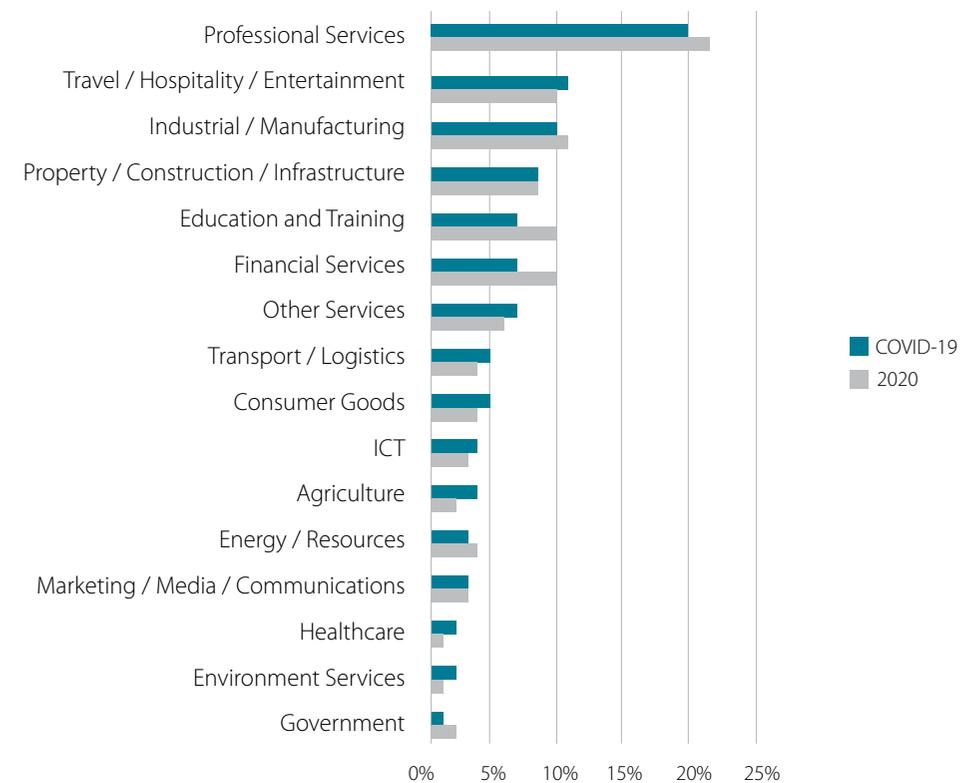
IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON BUSINESS IN ASEAN

Circumstances in world economies have changed significantly since the Australian Business in ASEAN 2020 survey was undertaken, with the COVID-19 virus being declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organisation, leading to unprecedented policy responses. These responses from governments in all corners of the world have had an extraordinary economic impact, with the International Monetary Fund already declaring that the world has entered recession. In order to supplement the findings of the annual survey, in the first week of April 2020 AustCham ASEAN ran a short additional survey to better understand the impact that the pandemic is having on business in South East Asia.

If you would like to access the results of the broader Australian Business in ASEAN Survey 2020 you can do so [here](#).

INDUSTRIES REPRESENTED IN THE COVID-19 SURVEY

The responses to this additional survey were broadly representative of the wider business community, with the industries represented roughly similar to the general survey.



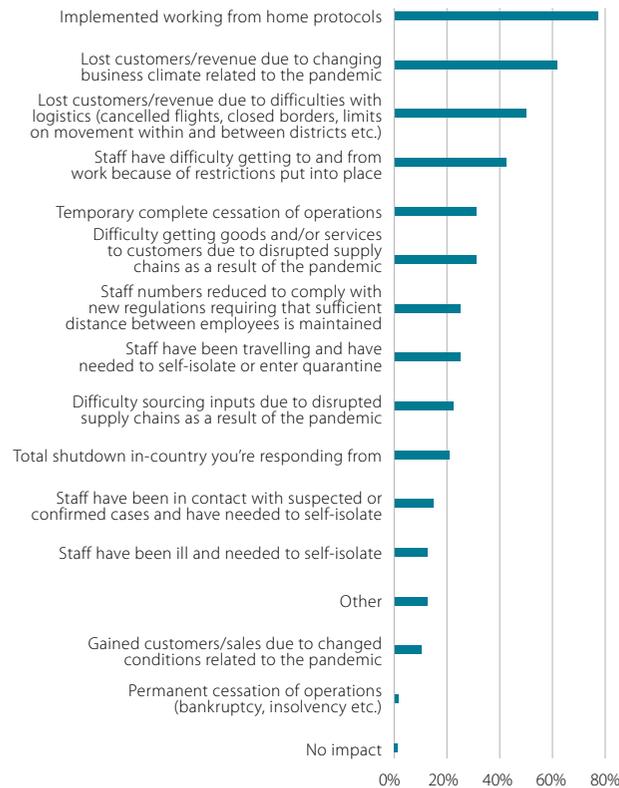
WHAT IMPACT DO YOU ANTICIPATE THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC HAVING ON YOUR BUSINESS?

Unsurprisingly, the majority of firms anticipated that the pandemic would have a negative impact on their business, with 48% expecting a strongly negative impact. Some businesses were anticipating some upside as a result of the pandemic, with 6% anticipating strongly positive impacts, and an additional 4% expecting somewhat positive outcomes for their business.



HAS YOUR BUSINESS EXPERIENCED ANY OF THE FOLLOWING?

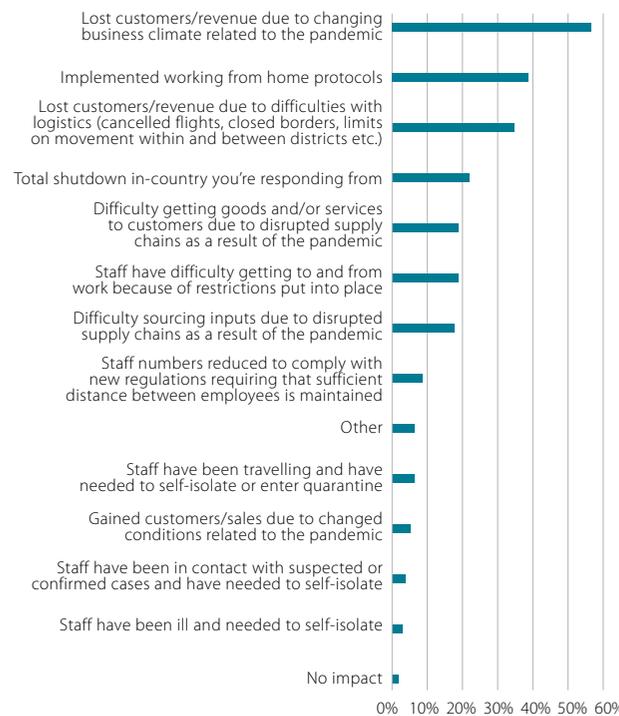
In terms of impacts, 77% of firms have implemented working from home protocols, with 61% having lost customers and/or revenue due to the changed business climate, and a majority of firms have been impacted by logistical difficulties.



WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING HAS HAD THE GREATEST IMPACT ON YOUR BUSINESS?

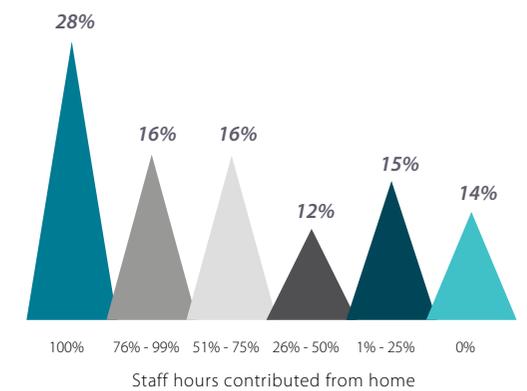
Respondents were asked to select up to three responses that had the greatest impact on their business

Of these impacts, the loss of customers and/or revenue due to the changing business climate has had the greatest impact on the Australian business community, and was nominated by 57% of respondents as one of their top three impacts. Implementing working from home protocols has had a significant impact on 39% of firms, with losses of customers and/or revenue due to logistical complaints being a key challenge for more than one-third (35%) of firms.



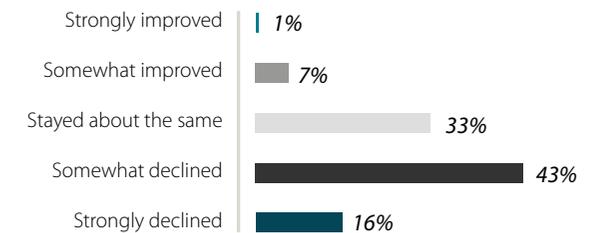
TO WHAT EXTENT HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE TO IMPLEMENT WORK FROM HOME ARRANGEMENTS?

More than one-quarter of firms have all of their staff working from home during the early stage of the pandemic, with only 14% of firms unable to implement working from home protocols for any of their staff.



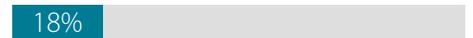
THE PRODUCTIVITY OF MY FIRM UNDER WORKING FROM HOME ARRANGEMENTS

For those who have implemented working from home arrangements, it has had a detrimental impact on the productivity of 59% of firms, with productivity declining strongly for 16% of firms. Productivity remains unchanged for one-third of respondents, with 8% reporting productivity improvements.



HAVE YOU EVACUATED OR REPATRIATED STAFF?

Almost one-fifth (18%) of firms in ASEAN had evacuated or repatriated staff in response to the pandemic.



Presented by

With thanks to our Foundation Members who assisted in disseminating this COVID-19 Survey to their members

Australian Chamber of Commerce, Cambodia

Indonesia Australia Business Council

The Australia Chamber of Commerce Lao PDR

Malaysia-Australia Business Council

Australian Chamber of Commerce, Myanmar

The Australia-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce (Philippines) Inc

Australian-Thai Chamber of Commerce

The Australian Chamber of Commerce in Vietnam

ABOUT AUSTCHAM ASEAN

AustCham ASEAN is a 'chamber of chambers' with its Foundation Members consisting of the officially registered Australian chambers and business councils from across ASEAN - Australian Chamber of Commerce, Cambodia, Indonesia Australia Business Council, The Australia Chamber of Commerce Lao PDR, Malaysia-Australia Business Council, Australian Chamber of Commerce Myanmar Association, The Australia-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce (Philippines) Inc, Australian Chamber of Commerce, Singapore, Australian-Thai Chamber of Commerce and The Australian Chamber of Commerce in Vietnam.

With advocacy as its key focus AustCham ASEAN is committed to helping Australian business achieve success through:

1. Informing Australian business on regional integration developments and the business landscape with a particular focus on an annual business survey;
2. Explaining the contribution of Australian business to ASEAN markets; and
3. Advocating for policies, rules and regulations that support Australian business activities in ASEAN (including organizing sector roundtables in key areas of interest for Australian business.

A key AustCham ASEAN activity, on behalf of its Foundation Members, involves an annual survey of Australian businesses operating in ASEAN. This survey in an enhanced form was a focal point of the ASEAN Australia Special Summit in March 2018. The 2020 edition incorporates a special COVID-19 update outlining the current impact of the virus to Australian business across ASEAN. It is intended to follow up with a further survey in June 2020.

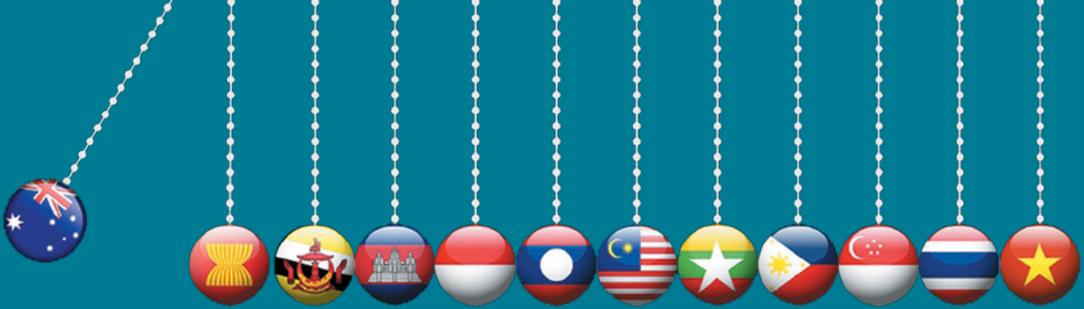
As the officially recognized in-ASEAN leader for Australia in engagement with the ASEAN Business Advisory Council and the ASEAN Economic Community, AustCham ASEAN is perfectly positioned to be the vehicle for a stronger relationship for the Australian business community in its continued engagement and partnership with ASEAN.

The Presidency of AustCham ASEAN is currently held by AusCham Vietnam for 2020. The rotating presidency will align with the ASEAN Host Country.

With special thanks to the survey production team:

*Jodi Weedon, Executive Director
Daniel Willett, Senior Policy Advisor
Norazuin Lokman, Graphic Design
Annette Tilbrook, Director*

www.austchamasean.com



PRODUCED BY

