

The affects of extreme heat have found their way into every corner of British industry. To find out exactly how it's affecting the trades industry, here at Rhino we surveyed over 1,000 tradespeople for out 2026 Summer Survey. We asked how the heat has affected their work, their health and how they feel about it going forward.

Below, you'll find the results of how extreme heat is affecting sole traders and small businesses throughout the UK.

This data was collected as part of Rhino Trade Insurance's 2026 Summer Survey of 1,079 UK tradespeople. If you reference, reproduce or reuse any of these findings, please credit Rhino Trade Insurance as the source, with a link back to rhinotradeinsurance.com where possible.

What trade do you work in?

Total answered: 1079

Trade	%age	Count
Plumbing, Gas & Heating Engineer	48.5%	523
Electrician	20.8%	224
Carpenter	5.8%	63
Gardener / Landscaper / Fencing	4.7%	51
Builder	4.6%	50
Painter & Decorator	2.6%	28
Chimney Sweep / Stove & Fireplace Installer	2.6%	28
Handyman / Property Maintenance	2.3%	25
Plasterer / Renderer	1.3%	14
Bricklayer	0.9%	10
Other	5.8%	63

Where do you mainly work?

Total answered: 1079

Answer	%age	Count
Mostly outdoors	11.31%	122
Mostly indoors	56.81%	613
Roughly even mix	31.88%	344

Has your work been affected by hot weather this summer?

Total answered: 1079

Answer	%age	Count
Yes	58.76%	634
No	41.24%	445

How many days have you finished work early this summer because of heat?

Total answered: 1079

Answer	%age	Count
None	29.66%	320
1–3 days	36.33%	392
4–10 days	27.43%	296
More than 10 days	6.58%	71

Which of these have you experienced this summer because of the heat?

Total answered: 1079

Trade	%age	Count
Slower work pace	70.81%	764
Finished work early	46.71%	504
Stopped work entirely on a job	9.08%	98
Called off a job before starting	6.95%	75
Felt unwell	15.01%	162
Equipment or materials affected	16.31%	176
Client cancelled or postponed	14.46%	156
Other (please specify)	9.92%	107

How many times this summer have you called off or postponed a job before starting because of forecast heat?

Total answered: 1079

Answer	%age	Count
None	72.57%	783
1-2	21.32%	230
3-5	4.91%	53
More than 5	1.20%	13

Have you or anyone on your team suffered any heat-related illness this summer (e.g. heat exhaustion, dehydration, heatstroke, dizziness/fainting)?

Total answered: 1079

Answer	%age	Count
Yes	17.24%	186
No	82.76%	893

Have you moved jobs indoors, or prioritised indoor jobs, to avoid working in the heat?

Total answered: 1079

Answer	%age	Count
Yes	34.01%	367
No	65.99%	712

Have you changed your working hours this summer to cope with the heat?

Total answered: 1079

Answer	%age	Count
Yes	38.46%	415
No	61.54%	664

How did you change your working hours? Leave blank if N/A

Total answered: 486

Answer	%age	Count
Started earlier	77.16%	375
Worked evenings	7.61%	37
Avoided midday hours	15.23%	74

What precautions do you take when working in hot weather? Select all that apply:

Total answered: 1079

Answer	%age	Count
None of the above	2.04%	22
More breaks	51.90%	560
More water intake	91.94%	992
Sun cream	49.58%	535
Protective clothing or hat	38.37%	414
Working in shade where possible	49.40%	533

Has extreme heat caused delays to project deadlines or timelines?

Total answered: 1079

Answer	%age	Count
Yes, major delays	3.24%	35
Yes, minor delays	35.22%	380
No delays	61.54%	664

Do you think the industry needs a legal maximum working temperature or clearer heat-safety standards?

Total answered: 1079

Answer	%age	Count
Yes	64.23%	693
No	35.77%	386

Compared to previous years, is extreme heat a growing concern for your ability to work?

Total answered: 1079

Answer	%age	Count
Yes	41.98%	453
No	58.02%	626