



RBA Brief – Survey #4

COVID-19 Impact at a Glance – One Year Later

The RBA has been tracking the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on manufacturing in the electronics industry. In 2020 there were three surveys sent to more than 8,000 factories. One year later we conducted another survey to report on the continued impact and potential recovery in the manufacturing sector. This is the fourth factory COVID-19 Impact at a Glance. The focus of this RBA Brief is to provide updated information gathered from factory-level surveys conducted in March 2021.

The three-month trend analysis originally showed a recovery that started in spring of last year, particularly in China, however, it has since slowed. Anecdotal data suggest the recovery will continue as vaccines become more widely available. A majority of the workforce globally is back in place. The pandemic is having financial consequences on the sector, but the data shows it is not as severe as first anticipated. Additional helpful data points:

In China, one year later, respondents said ...

- 48% of factories are back at full production capacity, slightly worse than in May 2020
- 14% of factories are operating at below 50% capacity, slightly worse than in May 2020
- 59% of factories have 100% employees back to work
- 5% of factories have seen a “large” negative impact to revenue, slightly better than in May 2020

Globally, one year later, respondents said ...

- Only 36% of factories are not functioning at full capacity, slightly better than in May 2020
- 61% are receiving funding assistance from the local government, better than in May 2020
- 86% are less than one calendar quarter behind in production, better than in May 2020
- Only 54% of factories are seeing a negative impact to their revenue, slightly better than in May 2020

The results represent a statistically significant sample of the global supply chain of RBA members that have a registered account in RBA-Online. The data represents a 95% confidence level +/- 5.8% margin of error. Survey #4 respondents included 228 unique factories in 28 countries. The first survey, conducted in March 2020, was completed before the more serious actions were taken by governments around the globe. At the time the first survey launched, approximately 113,500* people had been infected globally and fewer than 4,000* had died as a result of the virus. At the time of this writing (3/17/2021) the number of infected has increased to over 120,000,000 * and the death toll has exceeded 2,600,000*, meaning the recorded global death toll has increased exponentially since the data we reported in March 2020. (*Data Source: [Johns Hopkins University COVID19 map](#)). We intend to conduct another survey in the coming months to monitor the pace of the recovery.

COVID-19: Production and Workforce Impacts - China vs. Rest of World

■ China
■ Rest of World

