

The impact of COVID-19 on the exhibition industry

The Independent Cinema Office is the UK's national body that supports independent cinemas, film festivals and exhibitors of all forms. Our mission is to develop an open, challenging and thriving film sector. We want everyone to have access to cinema that nourishes the soul and changes lives.

We conducted a survey to understand the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the exhibition industry to understand how cinemas can survive in the immediate crisis and be sustainable following resumption of service.

37%

employers have made or expect to make redundancies.

68%

employers expect to be able to pay workers at the current level for one to three months

21%

workers have had their contract terminated

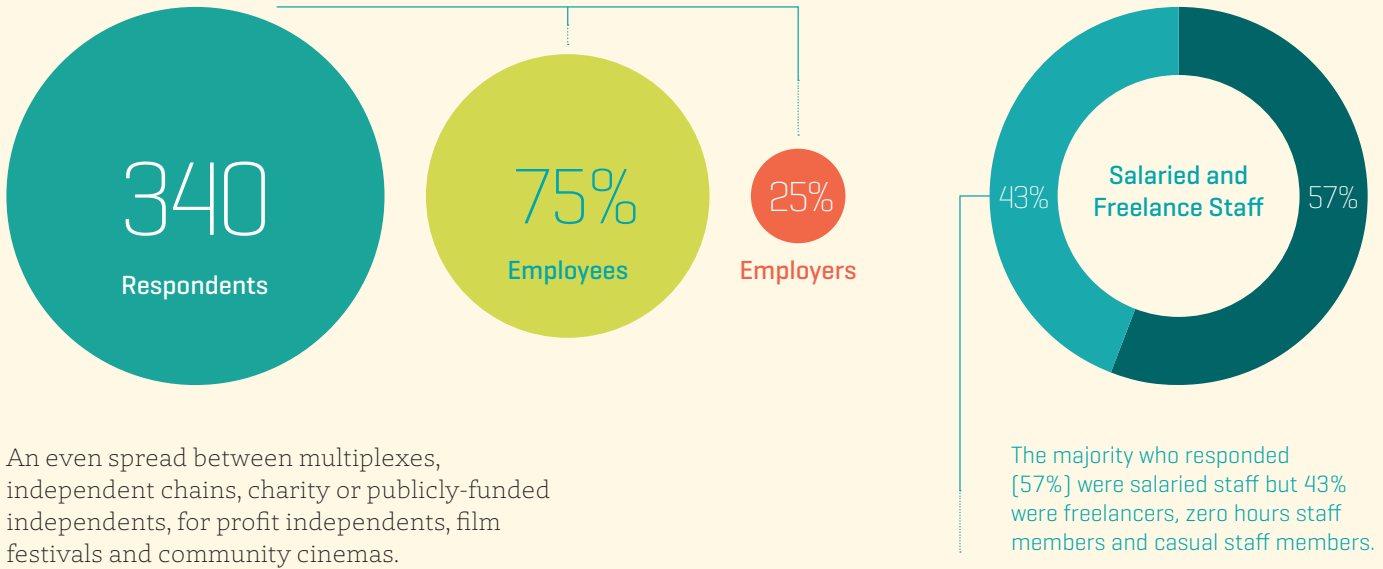
24%

workers have no income at this time

What follows is a top line summary of our survey. To discuss this further, please contact Catharine Des Forges, Director, ICO at catharine@independentcinemaoffice.org.uk.

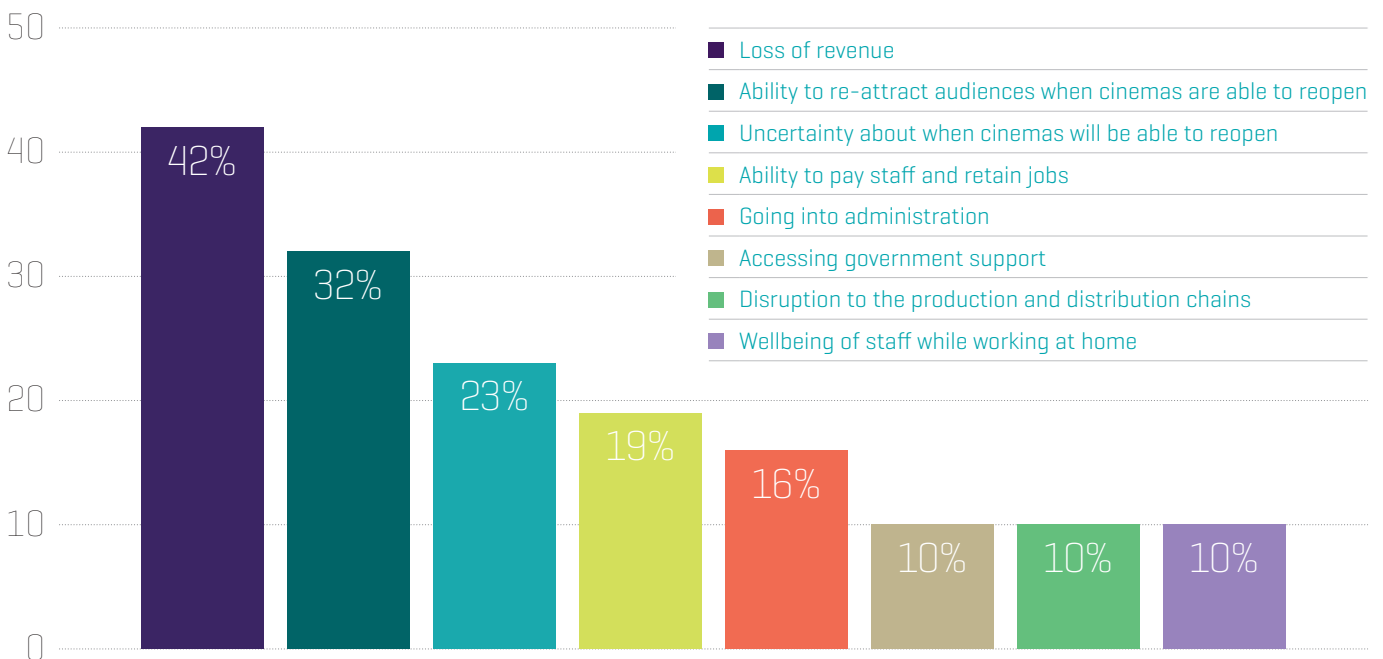
The Survey

Who we surveyed



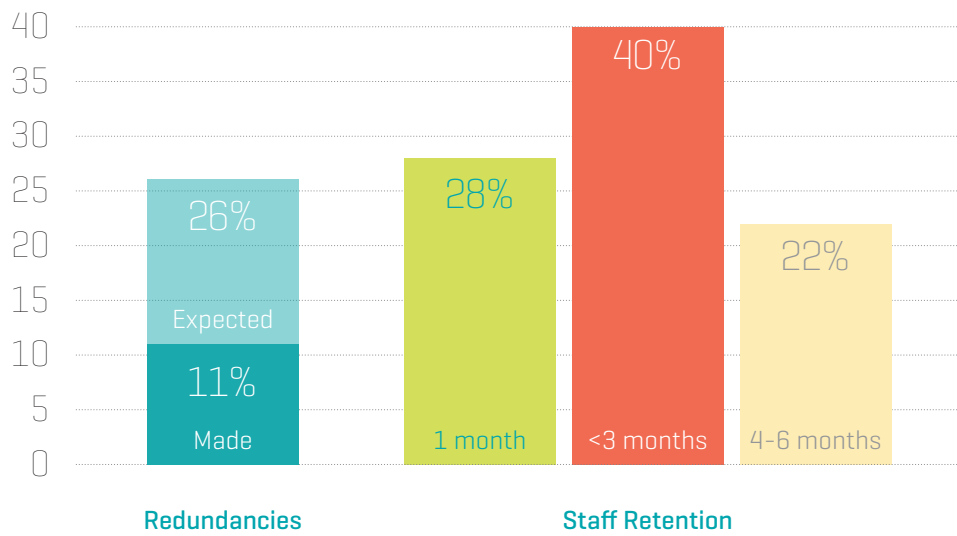
Main Concerns

Cinemas main concerns for the coming months are:



Future Outlook

What employers said about future outlook



37% of employers have made or expect to make redundancies.

28% of employers expect only to be able to pay workers at the current level for the next month. 40% see this horizon at less than three months.

79% of employers plan to access the Coronavirus job retention scheme from the government.

Only 31% are taking a business rates holiday.

Independent Cinemas

The majority of independent cinemas (with public funding) estimate they will only be able to pay their staff at current levels of support for 2-3 months.

Commercial Cinemas

The majority of commercial cinemas (69%) are continuing to pay their salaried staff, but only 31% are continuing to pay freelancers and casual staff.

Film Festivals

50% of film festivals are currently unable to pay their staff, with 20% having to make redundancies.

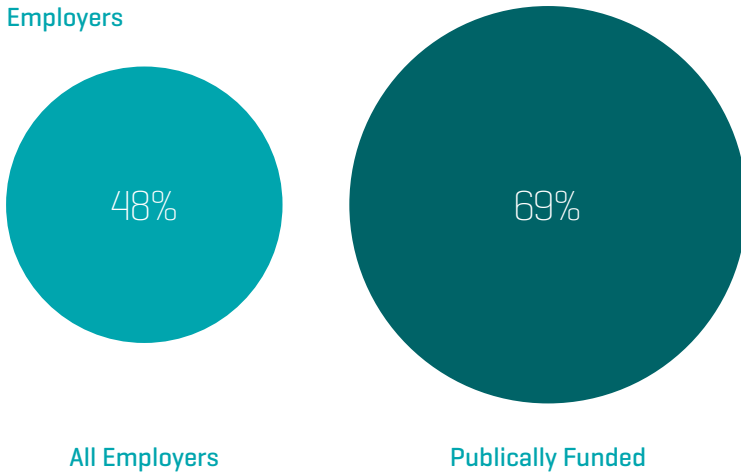
The majority of film festivals think they'll be able to pay their staff at current levels for 2-3 months.

SCREEN 2

Current Income

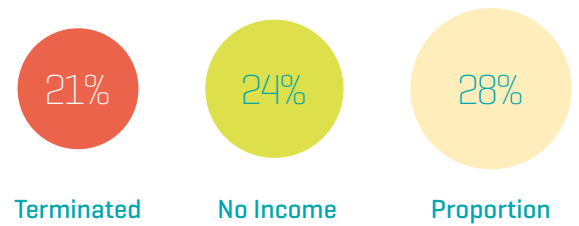
What respondents said about their current income

Employers



48% of employers have agreed to pay people their full salary or an average of their wages. 69% of publicly-funded cinemas have agreed to keep paying staff.

Employees Income



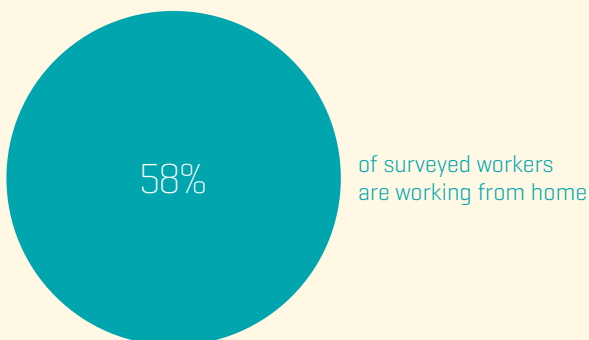
21% of workers have either had their contract terminated, with or without an indication of re-employment when the crisis ends. 24% of workers have no income at this time.

28% of workers are being paid a proportion of their wages.

Many festival employees have had their contract terminated with no sign of usual renewal.

Current Working

What respondents said about their current working



What respondents said about the response from their community

Individual cinemas reported that many saw their priority as giving back to their community, they did this by...

