

Black Country Business Attitudes toward the European Union

As part of our economic outlook survey series, WMEF has been requested by Margot James MP to assess the attitudes of Black Country businesses towards the EU. In particular, we would like to assess what reforms would benefit your commercial operations.

The overall survey should take no longer than eight minutes to complete, and the results will be published completely anonymously.

For further information, please contact David Hearne on 07703 735408 or visit www.westmidlandseconomicforum.co.uk.

WARNING

Google Chrome users should save this form to their computer before completion.

SECTION 1

About you

1.1 Where are you based?

1.2 In which sector does your business principally operate?

1.3 What is your job title (or management level in the company)?

About your business

1.4 How many employees are employed in your business here?

0-9 10-49 50-249 Over 250

1.5 Which is the principal market for your sales?

Export & Import Go to > SECTION 2

Export Only Go to > SECTION 3

Import Only Go to > SECTION 4

Domestic Only Go to > SECTION 5

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

SECTION 2

For Companies both Exporting & Importing

2.1 Which is your main market for sales?

Domestic International

2.2 Which markets do you export to:

EU Non-EU Both

If the Non-EU, which of the following:

Other (Non-EU) Europe
Asia Middle East & North Africa
North America South America
Sub-Saharan Africa Australasia

2.3 Which markets do you import from:

EU Non-EU Both

If the Non-EU, which of the following:

Other (Non-EU) Europe
Asia Middle East & North Africa
North America South America
Sub-Saharan Africa Australasia

2.4. Do you find the EU the easiest market to export to?

Yes No No real difference

2.5. Do you find the EU the easiest market to import from?

Yes No No real difference

2.6 What are the biggest advantages of selling within the EU?

Product Standardisation (including technical specs)
Standardisation of Procedure
Simplicity of paying & reclaiming taxes & duties
Business support programmes
Open Borders
Other (please specify)

2.7 What are the biggest disadvantages of selling within the EU?

Product Standardisation (including technical specs)
Standardisation of Procedure
Simplicity of paying & reclaiming taxes & duties
Business support programmes
Open Borders
Other (please specify)

2.8 The UK has a number of bilateral trade agreements with EU member states. Have you found these to be advantageous, and to which countries do these apply?

SECTION 3

Exporters Only

3.1 Which is your main market for sales?

Domestic International

3.2 Which markets do you export to:

EU Non-EU Both

If the Non-EU, which of the following:

Other (Non-EU) Europe
Asia
Middle East & North Africa
North America
South America
Sub-Saharan Africa
Australasia

3.3 Do you find the EU the easiest market to export to?

Yes No No real difference

3.4 What are the biggest advantages of selling within the EU?

Product Standardisation (including technical specs)
Standardisation of Procedure
Simplicity of paying & reclaiming taxes & duties
Business support programmes
Open Borders
Other (please specify)

3.5 What are the biggest disadvantages of selling within the EU?

Product Standardisation (including technical specs)
Standardisation of Procedure
Simplicity of paying & reclaiming taxes & duties
Business support programmes
Open Borders
Other (please specify)

3.6 The UK has a number of bilateral trade agreements with EU member states. Have you found these to be advantageous, and to which countries do these apply?

SECTION 4

Importers Only

4.1 Which is your main market for sales?

Domestic International

4.2 Which markets do you import from:

EU Non-EU Both

If the Non-EU, which of the following:

- Other (Non-EU) Europe
- Asia
- Middle East & North Africa
- North America
- South America
- Sub-Saharan Africa
- Australasia

4.3 Do you find the EU the easiest market to import from?

Yes No No real difference

4.4 What are the biggest advantages of purchasing within the EU?

- Product Standardisation (including technical specs)
- Standardisation of Procedure
- Simplicity of paying & reclaiming taxes & duties
- Business support programmes
- Open Borders
- Other (please specify)

4.5 What are the biggest disadvantages of purchasing within the EU?

- Product Standardisation (including technical specs)
- Standardisation of Procedure
- Simplicity of paying & reclaiming taxes & duties
- Business support programmes
- Open Borders
- Other (please specify)

4.6 The UK has a number of bilateral trade agreements with EU member states. Have you found these to be advantageous, and to which countries do these apply?

SECTION 5

Domestic only

5.1 Have you ever considered exporting to the EU?

If yes, for what reasons did you decide not to pursue the option?

If no, for what reasons did you decide not to pursue the option?

5.2 Are you aware of any of your main customers exporting to the EU?

Yes No

5.3 Do your main customers export principally to the EU?

Yes No

5.4 Are there any incentives that might encourage you to export to the EU?

5.5 Given effective incentives and support, do you think that exporting would improve your business prospects?

5.6 What kind of reforms within the EU would encourage you to export there?

5.7 If you received more objective and realistic information about the EU, would this encourage you to export?

Yes No

SECTION 6

EU opinions and reforms

6.1 What do you consider to be the biggest benefit of EU membership?

6.2 What do you consider to be the biggest drawback of EU membership?

6.3 Do you find it easy to access unbiased information on the EU?

Yes No

6.4 Are you aware of, or have you received, advice on the EU from any of the following?

MEP
MP
Local Council
Local Councillor
Council Officer
Local Enterprise Partnership

6.5 Does EU membership positively impact on any of the following factors relating to your business?

Company returns
Paying Taxes and reclaiming VAT and other duties
Human resources (including recruitment & retention)
Health and safety
Product standard
Standard Procedures
Global Free Trade Agreements
Free movement of people

6.6 Does EU membership negatively impact on any of the following factors relating to your business?

Company returns
Tax returns
Human resources (including recruitment & retention)
Health and safety
Product standard
Standard Procedures
Global Free Trade Agreements

6.7 On balance, what do you think the impact of remaining in a reformed EU will have on your company and the wider economy?

Positive Negative Neutral

6.8 Which specific reforms to the EU would you advocate, that would benefit your company and the wider British economy?

Ensuring all EU members implement single market rules
Completing the single market, ie in digital services
Repatriating powers to the UK
Ensure UK regulations are not tougher than EU regulations
Establishing a new balance between the Eurozone core and the member states outside Negotiating Free Trade Agreements with non-EU major economies ie the USA or Japan
Driving structural reforms to increase the competitiveness of the whole EU
Working with the EU to reduce the amount of regulation on business
Increasing scrutiny of the EU by the national parliaments
Reforming the EU budget, spending more on R&D and less on the Common Agricultural Policy
Any other reform (please state)

6.9 The Prime Minister's four objectives for the renegotiation of the UK's membership of the EU are as follows:

In order of your preference, please rank how important these objectives are to you, with 1 being **most** important and 4 being **least**.

Explicit recognition that non-eurozone member states cannot be disadvantaged by eurozone member states changing EU rules.
An exemption from "ever closer union", with an increased emphasis on national parliaments.
Completing the single market while reducing the burden of regulation.
Restricting in-work and out-of-work benefits to EU migrants.

6.10 With regards to your business, what is your preferred option for Britain in the longer term?

Remain in the EU
Remain in the EU following successful reforms
Leave the EU

Once complete do one of the following:

A. Click submit to send your application (not compatible with some webmail)

B. Attach your saved application to an email addressed to mail@westmidlandseconomicforum.co.uk

SUBMIT

Thank you for completing this survey.

Our findings will be published early March 2016.
You can register to receive the findings at westmidlandseconomicforum.co.uk