



Confidence Tracker

December 2019

Figure 1: Confidence, Net %

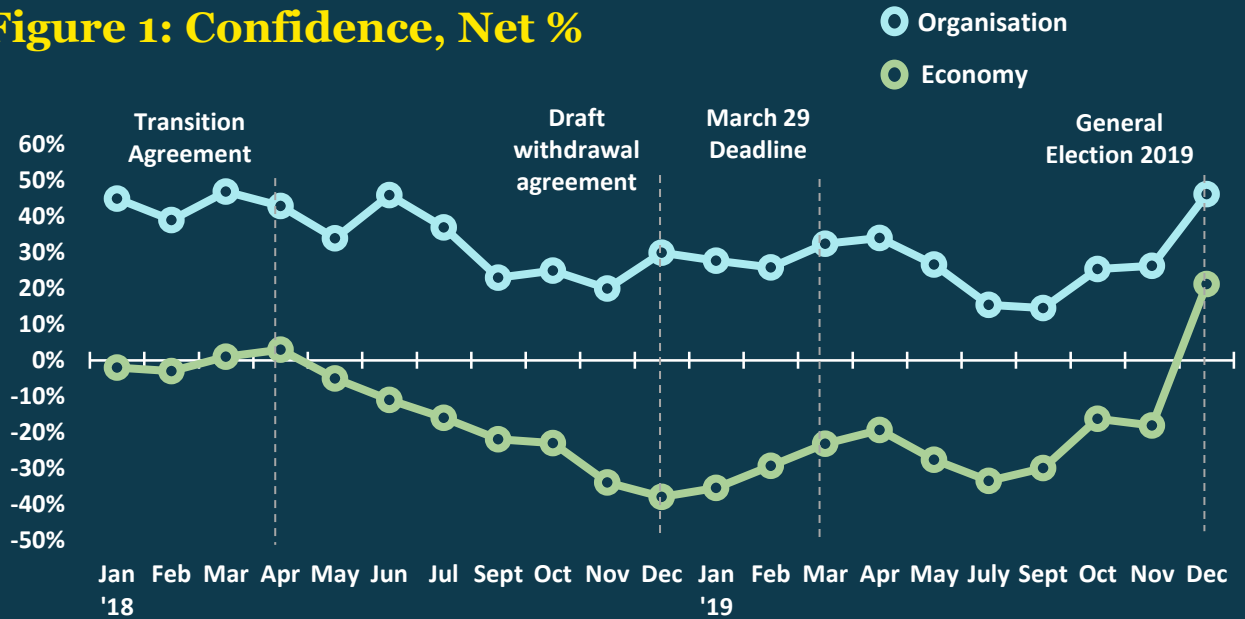
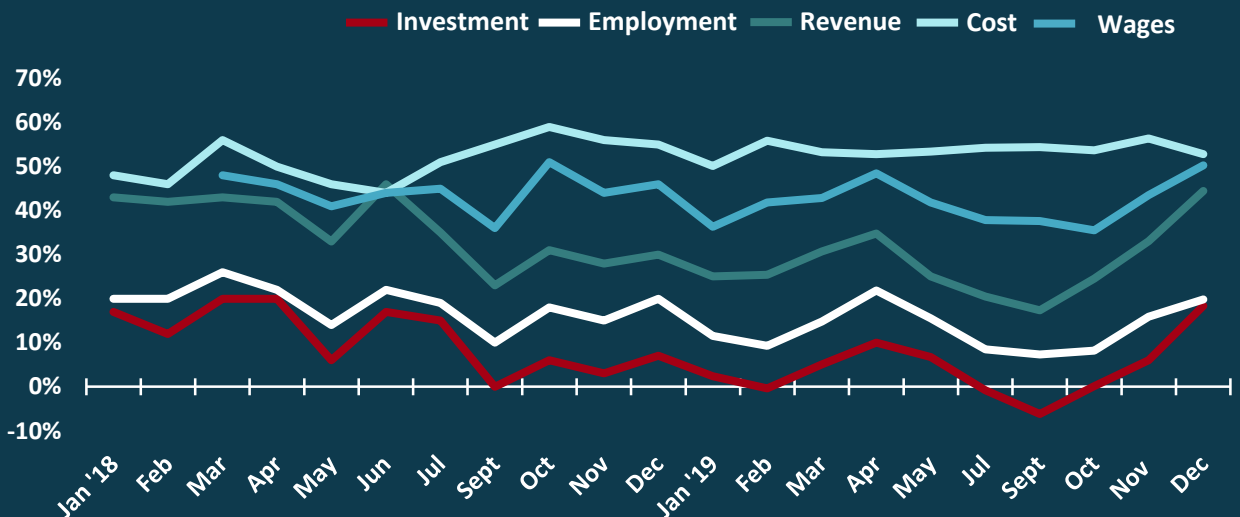


Figure 2: Firm-Level Confidence, December, Net %

	Total	Small	Medium	Large
Economy	21%	19%	27%	26%
Organisation	46%	43%	60%	45%

In December, business leaders became optimistic in their 12-month outlook for the economy (21%) for the first time since April 2018, while confidence in their own firms also became more upbeat (46%) [Fig 1]. Directors in larger organisations tended to be more optimistic about prospects for the economy and their organisation for the year ahead [Fig 2]. Across businesses, the outlook for increasing hiring (20%) and investment (18%) in 2020 picked up and expectations for higher revenues increased notably (44%), meanwhile a significant balance of members projected costs (53%) and wages (50%) to rise next year [Fig 3].

Figure 3: Business Expectations, Net %

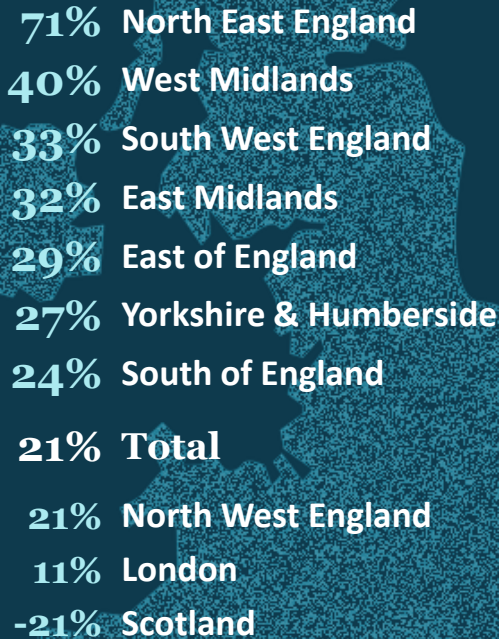




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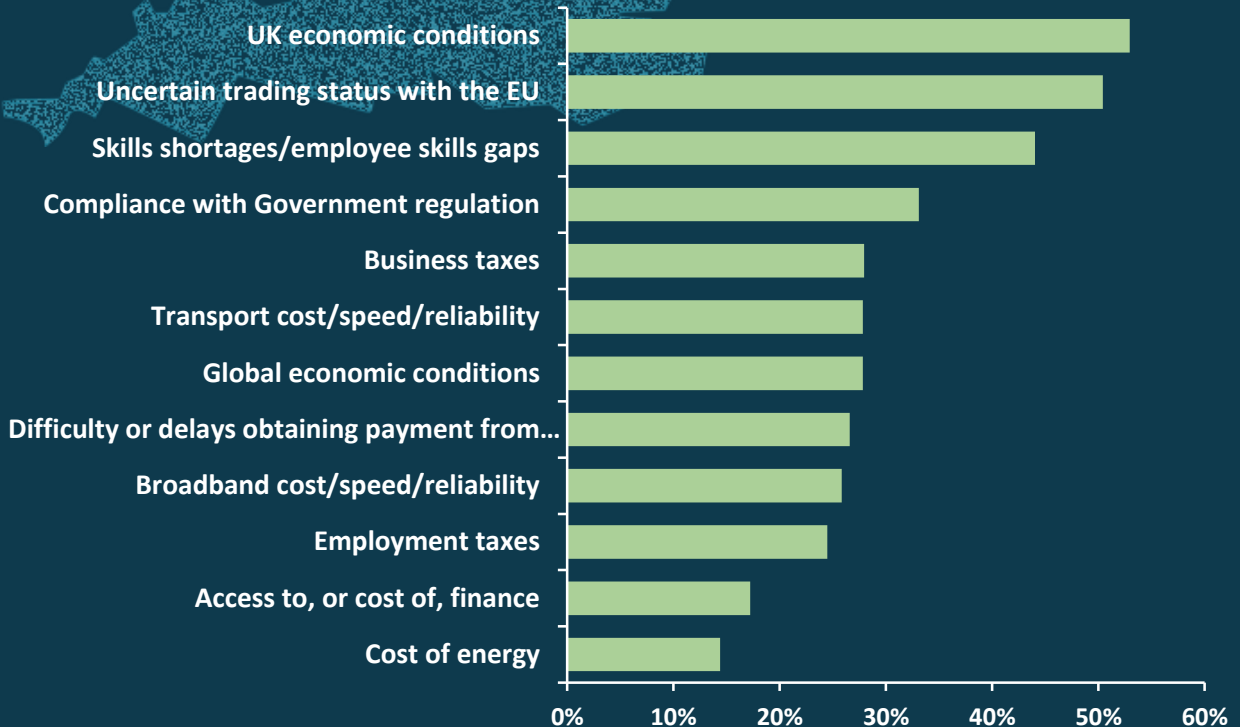
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Figure 4: Regional Confidence, December, Net %



Business leaders in all regions and devolved nations, except Scotland, now report optimism in their economic outlook for the 12-months ahead, with North East England, the Midlands and South West England notably more positive in their outlook when compared to the UK total [Fig 4]. Alongside broader economic conditions (53%), uncertainty around future trading arrangements with the EU (50%), skills shortages (44%), and the burden of regulation (33%) were considered the top concerns for business leaders in December [Fig 5].

Figure 5: Top Business Concerns, December, Total %



Footnotes:

1. Figures 1-4 show a net balance of respondents reporting on the next 12 months (Respondents reporting an increase minus a decrease in each variable.) Figure 5 shows total respondents reporting on the current month.
2. In Figure 4 data are suppressed for regions and devolved nations where sample size is insufficient.
3. Data are based on monthly surveys with members. The number of respondents vary between 700-1000.