



Policy Voice full results January 2023

Number of respondents: 941

Survey dates: 13 – 29 January 2023

On 9 January the Chancellor announced the level of support for business energy costs that would be available from April. To what extent do you feel reassured by this announcement?

Very reassured	2%
Quite reassured	30%
Not reassured	45%
I didn't notice the announcement	16%
Don't know	7%

We used this data in our Ministerial engagements with the Chancellor to inform his decisions on energy support.

The Prime Minister has proposed that students should study some form of maths to age 18. To what extent do you agree with this policy?

Strongly agree	23%
Agree	32%
Neither agree nor disagree	16%
Disagree	19%
Strongly disagree	9%
Don't know	1%

These results fed into an informal consultation response we sent into the Department for Education.

Have you experienced any of the following behaviours from your energy supplier in the last six months? Please select all that apply.

Refusing to renew a contract	6%
Refusing to negotiate payment terms when requested to do so	6%
Requesting a larger share of the bill to be paid in advance	11%
None	73%
Terminating or altering the terms of a contract before it comes up for renewal	4%
Other	9%

[We wrote to Ofgem](#) urging them to take action to secure a well-functioning energy market for non-domestic customers.

The following data contributed to our [Director's Economic Confidence Index](#), which we send directly into the heart of government each month. This index is widely reported in the media each month.

How optimistic are you about both the wider UK economy and also your organisation over the next 12 months?

	Wider UK economy	Your (primary) organisation
Very optimistic	2%	10%
Quite optimistic	22%	43%
Neither optimistic nor pessimistic	25%	29%
Quite pessimistic	38%	13%
Very pessimistic	14%	3%
Don't know	0%	1%

You said you were pessimistic about prospects for the UK economy. Which, if any, of the following factors best describes the reason you said you were pessimistic? Please select one response.

Total	486
Don't know	0.2%
Supply chain problems affecting the UK	3.3%
The international price of energy	4.9%
Falling customer demand in the UK	10.7%
Political instability in the UK government	18.9%
Difficulties in the UK's trading relationship with the EU	21.0%
The rate of inflation in the UK	25.7%
Other	15.2%

At what point, if at all, do you expect the rate of inflation in the UK to peak before starting to fall back again?

Inflation has already peaked	23.7%
Winter 2022-2023	11.5%
Spring 2023	18.6%
Summer 2023	14.7%
Autumn 2023	10.0%
Winter 2023-2024	8.0%
Spring 2024	4.4%
Summer 2024	2.3%
Later than Summer 2024	1.8%
Don't know	4.6%
Never	0.5%

Comparing the next 12 months with the last 12 months, what do you believe the outlook for your organisation will be in terms of:

	Business investment	Cost	Employee wages	Headcount	Revenue
Much higher	5.0%	22.4%	11.8%	2.9%	8.2%
Somewhat higher	22.4%	62.5%	57.3%	27.1%	46.5%
No change	45.5%	10.6%	26.2%	51.5%	24.7%
Somewhat lower	16.7%	3.0%	1.9%	14.5%	15.9%
Much lower	8.2%	0.4%	1.2%	2.8%	3.5%
Don't know	2.2%	1.1%	1.6%	1.3%	1.2%