



Policy Voice full results March 2023

Number of respondents: 915

Survey dates: 10 - 26 March 2023

ESG is an increasingly referenced concept in modern business. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about ESG?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't know	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
I have a clear understanding of the meaning of ESG	30.8%	40.9%	0.8%	13.8%	8.9%	4.9%
Taking account of ESG factors helps me make better business decisions	17.3%	32.6%	3.2%	29.3%	10.1%	7.7%

The results of these questions contributed to our IoD Centre for Corporate Governance Paper, '[ESG – where do we stand?](#)' Many businesses see the value of incorporating ESG-type factors into their decision-making processes, especially the governance aspect. Getting governance right should be the starting point for the directors of all kinds of organisation.

Which is most important to your organisation within ESG: the E, the S, or the G?

E - environmental policy	16.72%
S - social policy	8.96%
G - governance policy	25.46%
They are of equal importance	42.40%
Don't know	6.45%
Grand Total	100.00%

Does your organisation offer apprenticeships?	
Yes	34.2%
No	56.0%
N/A	8.1%
Don't know	1.7%
Grand Total	100.0%

We passed this data on to colleagues at the Department for Education, and the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education. Government departments often request to view Policy Voice data as it helps them to understand exactly how businesses will respond to policy developments in different areas.

Why does your organisation not offer apprenticeships? Please select all that apply.	
Can't find apprenticeship programmes which meet our skills needs	14.4%
Cashflow pressures on our business	13.9%
Other forms of training are more relevant	24.6%
The apprenticeship system is too bureaucratic	12.5%
Other (please specify in the further comments box below)	34.7%
Grand Total	100.0%

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	2.7%	12.2%
Quite optimistic	27.8%	47.2%
Neither optimistic nor pessimistic	26.2%	24.6%
Quite pessimistic	34.0%	13.8%
Very pessimistic	9.2%	1.9%
Don't know	0.1%	0.3%

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. March's data suggested the UK economy grew strongly as order books strengthened and expectations of future revenue, hiring and investment all pointed upwards.

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	28.0%
Spring 2023	16.9%
Summer 2023	18.1%
Autumn 2023	12.0%
Winter 2023-2024	10.1%
Spring 2024	4.3%
Summer 2024	2.2%
Later than Summer 2024	2.8%
Never	0.5%
Don't know	5.0%
Grand Total	100.0%

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	Headcount	Revenue
Much higher	6.8%	3.7%	8.2%
Somewhat higher	31.6%	33.6%	52.6%
No change	40.4%	47.8%	20.4%
Somewhat lower	14.0%	12.1%	14.0%
Much lower	6.7%	2.4%	4.4%
Don't know	0.5%	0.4%	0.4%

This question is about how demand for your organisation's product or services has changed in the last three months; that is, since the end of last year. You might think of this as your order book, your work pipeline, sales volumes or the level of activity. Do you think demand for your organisation's products or services has got stronger or weaker in the last three months, or has there been no change?

Much stronger	13.55%
A bit stronger	36.61%
No change	27.10%
A bit weaker	16.94%
Much weaker	4.81%
Don't know	0.98%
Grand Total	100.00%