



Policy Voice full survey results May 2026

- Business. A force for good?
- Companies House reforms
- National Living and Minimum Wage
- Quarterly negative impact tracking

Number of respondents: 615
Survey Dates: 15-27 May 2026



Business. A force for good?

The Institute recently launched a Commission examining the role of business in society and the extent to which business is – and is not – acting as a force for good in today's world.

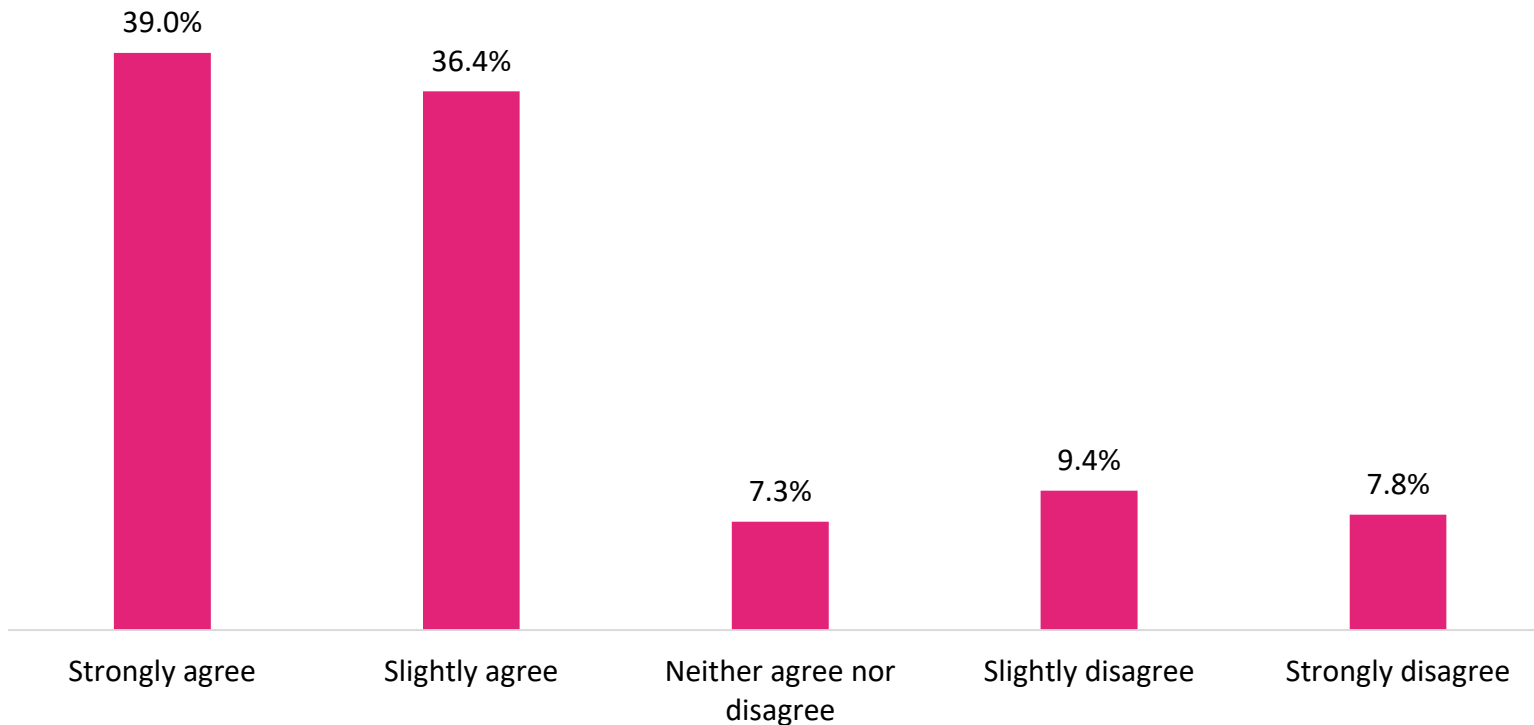
As with all of the IoD's policy and advocacy work, the views and experiences of our members are central to the discussion - so this data will directly feed into the work.



IoD members broadly agree profit is a company's primary purpose

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement:

"The ultimate purpose of a company is to make money and generate shareholder profits."

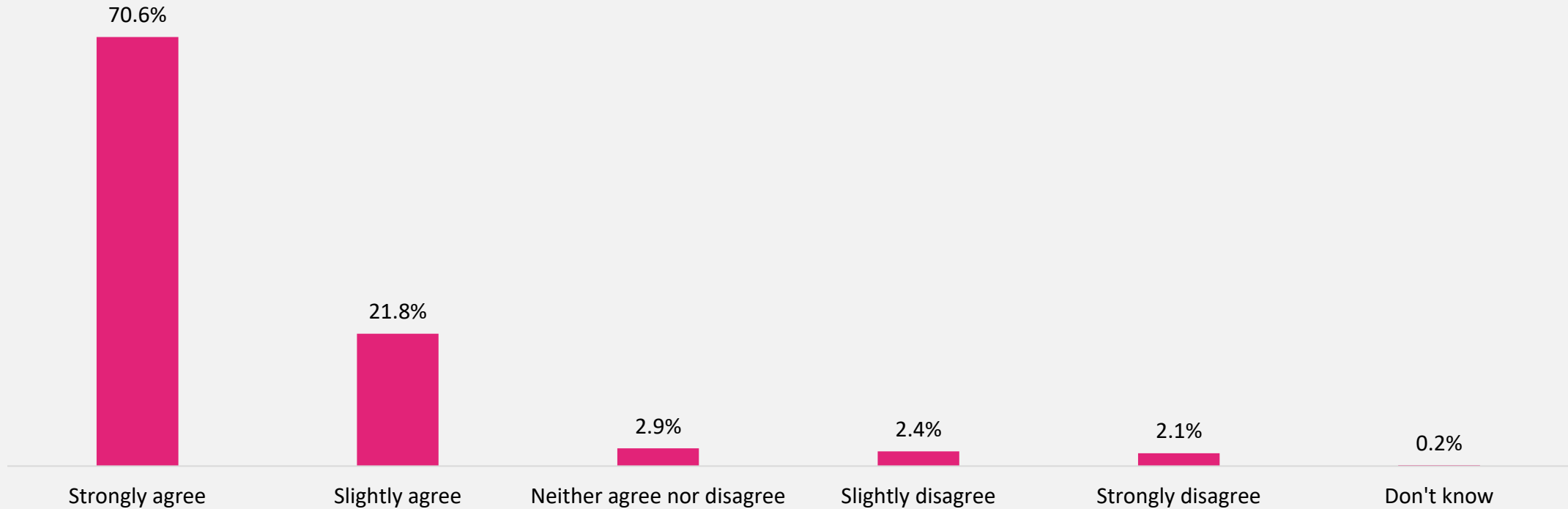




Overwhelming support for balancing shareholder and wider stakeholder interests

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement:

"Directors' fiduciary duties should include the consideration of other stakeholders, in addition to shareholders, when they make business decisions."





Thinking about the long-term success and sustainability of your organisation, how important are the following factors to your organisation?

	Very important	Quite important	Neutral	Not very important	Not important at all
Environmental stewardship and climate	35.9%	42.1%	15.9%	3.4%	2.6%
Fair treatment, development and wellbeing of employees	79.2%	18.0%	2.1%	0.3%	0.3%
Long term profitability and sustainable value creation	80.8%	16.7%	2.3%	0.0%	0.2%
Moral and ethical leadership (integrity, transparency, responsible decision making)	82.0%	14.6%	2.3%	0.7%	0.5%
Positive societal impact (contribution to communities, social mobility, equality and wellbeing)	48.0%	35.1%	12.2%	2.8%	2.0%
Responsible governance and accountability (including executive pay, incentives and board oversight)	74.0%	21.1%	3.7%	0.8%	0.3%

There was broad agreement among respondents that business should play a positive role in society, but views differed on how far this should go. Most members saw profit as essential, while also recognising the importance of ethics, stakeholders, and long-term impact. Overall, many described profit and purpose as connected rather than competing.

A clear theme was that profit is the starting point for everything else. Without it, businesses cannot survive or contribute more widely.

“From my viewpoint - if a business cannot make a profit, then it runs out of money and is useless to all. There are CICs and charities for other purposes. I do not see a business as purely profit-focused either, but profit is survival for a business and is a high priority, especially with the lack of continuous government support. A business must ensure that it creates the funds to fend for itself. Next it needs to support its structure - its shareholders, its employees, its stakeholders and other support, such as funders. The most important thing is working ethically, and if government supported business better, then yes, doing more for society is a huge priority, however until that is embedded in global government policy, including a clearly identified priority of support, a company will firstly need to look after itself before it can begin to support others.” (East Midlands, administrative and support services, 0-1 employees/sole trader)

“It’s a tricky one because without profit, it’s difficult for a business to be a force for good. The question is how much profit is enough before one gives something back. This is where business and especially private equity-backed business is failing” (North East England, professional, scientific and technical activities, 0-1 employees/sole trader)

“We should be mindful that successful companies are profitable companies. They employ people, they pay taxes and they are run by people who live in the same world as we do. They are therefore automatically invested in the world around them.” (South East England, administrative and support services, 0-1 employees/sole trader)



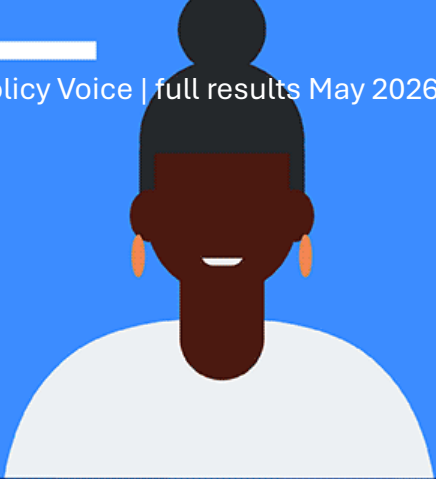
Many respondents also said profit and purpose should go together, not be treated as a trade-off.

This often came through as a call for balance:

“There is a false binary between 'making money' and 'doing good' - we need businesses to be strong and profitable so that they can be good employers and contribute to the Exchequer. This is doing good.” (London, arts, entertainment and recreation, 10-49 employees)

“We start and create businesses to gain an income and grow our wealth. That being said I am a firm believer that successful businesses are those that are purpose-driven and contribute to society and others. It is not a choice of my profit or others. It should be an and equation” (London, professional, scientific and technical activities, 2-9 employees)

“Profitability is essential for any organisation, but long-term value is only created when financial performance is supported by strong governance, ethical leadership, and responsible treatment of employees and stakeholders. Businesses that invest in data integrity, transparency, and sustainable practices are better positioned to make informed decisions, manage risk, and build resilience. In my experience, organisations that balance commercial outcomes with societal impact ultimately deliver stronger, more sustainable results for shareholders and the wider community” (South West England, agriculture, forestry and fishing, 10-49 employees)



A related theme was the importance of thinking beyond shareholders. Many members said long-term success depends on employees, customers, and communities.

“Companies do not operate in a vacuum. They operate in a society and should take into account the overall impact of their decisions on society as a whole, as well as the more immediate interests of their shareholders. In the long term, shareholder value will be damaged if companies do not do this, so it is completely compatible with the duty of directors towards shareholders.” (North East England, construction, 10-49 employees)

“To have a well-run, sustainable business for the long term it's critical to consider all of these aspects. All stakeholders can impact on profitability and performance in their own way which in turn will impact on those who own the business. Where the focus is purely on maximising short-term profitability and extracting as much as possible it is unlikely to provide long-term benefit to all the shareholders.” (London, professional, scientific and technical activities, 10-49 employees)

“Every business is located in a community and is in partnership with its employees, customers and stakeholders as well as shareholders” (London, education, 100-249 employees)

However, there was also a clear group who felt business should stay focused on profit and core activity, with social goals left to government. These responses were often more direct:

“Business in a capitalist society is intrinsically a force for good, as it provides wealth creation for citizens and society as a whole, drives innovation and enables improvements in quality of life. Companies do not exist to push for 'social justice' (whatever that means) or other fashionable political causes and if they focus on this, rather than their core (and legal) purpose of generating value for shareholders, they are likely to fail.” (East Midlands, education, 10-49 employees)

“The business of business is business. Make money, employ people, pay tax as efficiently as possible.” (South West England, information and communication, 2-9 employees)

“We pay taxes so the elected government can pursue social objectives. Our job is to run our businesses efficiently.” (London, financial services, 50-99 employees)

Another strong theme was that ethics and leadership matter for long-term success. Regardless of their view on purpose, many stressed doing the right thing.

“I think it is vital that directors always behave ethically and define this as doing the right thing even when no one is watching and that includes where it is in the best interest of the organisation and not necessarily themselves.” (West Midlands, manufacturing, 250+ employees)

“Treating staff in a purely extractive way undermines trust and employee engagement. Leadership behaviour and investment are fundamental to building or destroying trust within the workforce. We reap what we sow.” (South West England, professional, scientific and technical activities, 0-1 employees/sole trader)

“True leaders do not lead only through success or achievement - they lead by example, through integrity, compassion, responsibility, and the courage to do good even when it is difficult. Their greatest legacy is not wealth or power, but the inspiration they leave behind in the next generation. We need leaders who carry responsibility with humility, who uplift others, who act with care and purpose, and who inspire young people to build a better, kinder, and more responsible world. Leadership is ultimately about service - about creating hope, opportunity, and a standard others aspire to follow.” (London, information and communication, 10-49 employees)



Finally, some respondents highlighted the role of government and the wider environment. Many felt businesses are willing to do more, but are held back by costs, regulation, or lack of incentives.

“The Government is making it harder and harder for businesses to do the right thing for employees and communities by loading too much cost and regulation onto businesses, which can actually have a detrimental effect. Also, look at the unemployment the Government has caused recently with their policies. If they need money they should be going after the companies that are making huge profits, giving large dividends, and vast incentive packages. Not just raising the blanket costs of so many SMEs with NI rises, business rates, and minimum wage rises, which then ripple through the organisation and mean companies put up prices, feeding inflation. This does not help us to support our staff or our communities.” (London, wholesale and retail trade including motor repair, 250+ employees)

“I believe most business owners would agree that social, environmental and moral or ethical duties are important. However it is very difficult to see any positive evidence for this in government, regulatory or social policy. It's all stick and no carrot.” (South East England, financial services, 2-9 employees)

“Businesses cannot be a force for good unless they are generating enough profit after tax to invest, whether staff time, cash, or goods and services in kind. Valuing businesses that do make this impact makes it desirable, and over time will offer a competitive advantage. However the first duty of a business is to its shareholders and investors, and that must be sacrosanct” (South East England, construction, 10-49 employees)

Companies House reforms

The Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act 2023 created new requirements for the filing of accounts with Companies House. This included requiring (1) small businesses and micro entities to file profit and loss accounts, as other companies do; (2) all companies to file their accounts using specific software; and (3) some technical modifications.

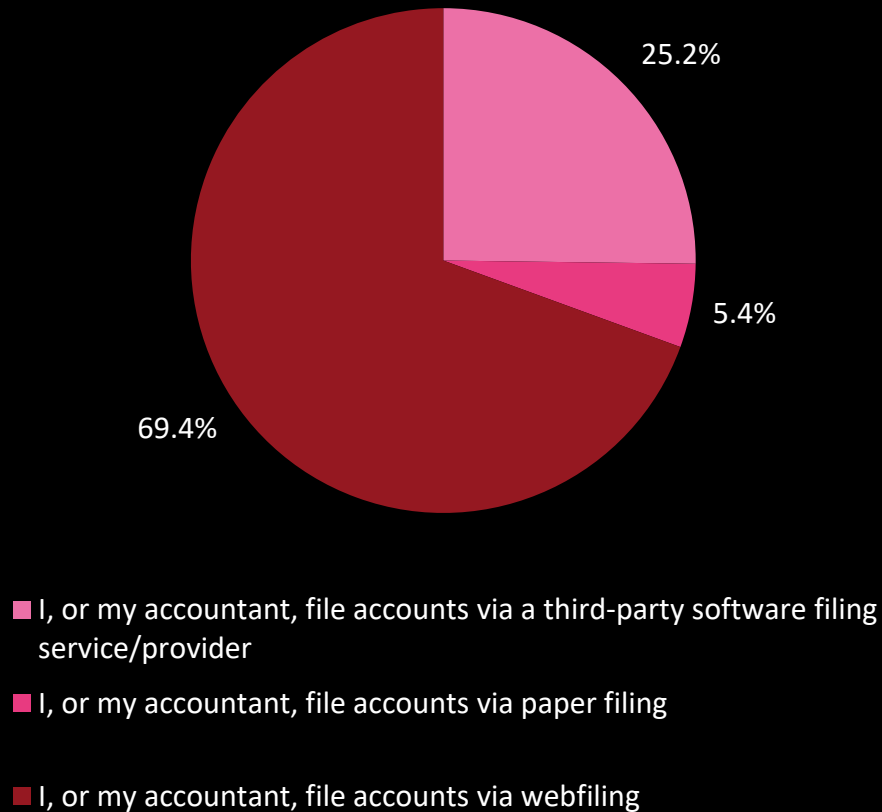
The government is reviewing the implementation of the reforms in response to stakeholder concerns. Answers to the following questions will help to inform the final decision on the reforms.





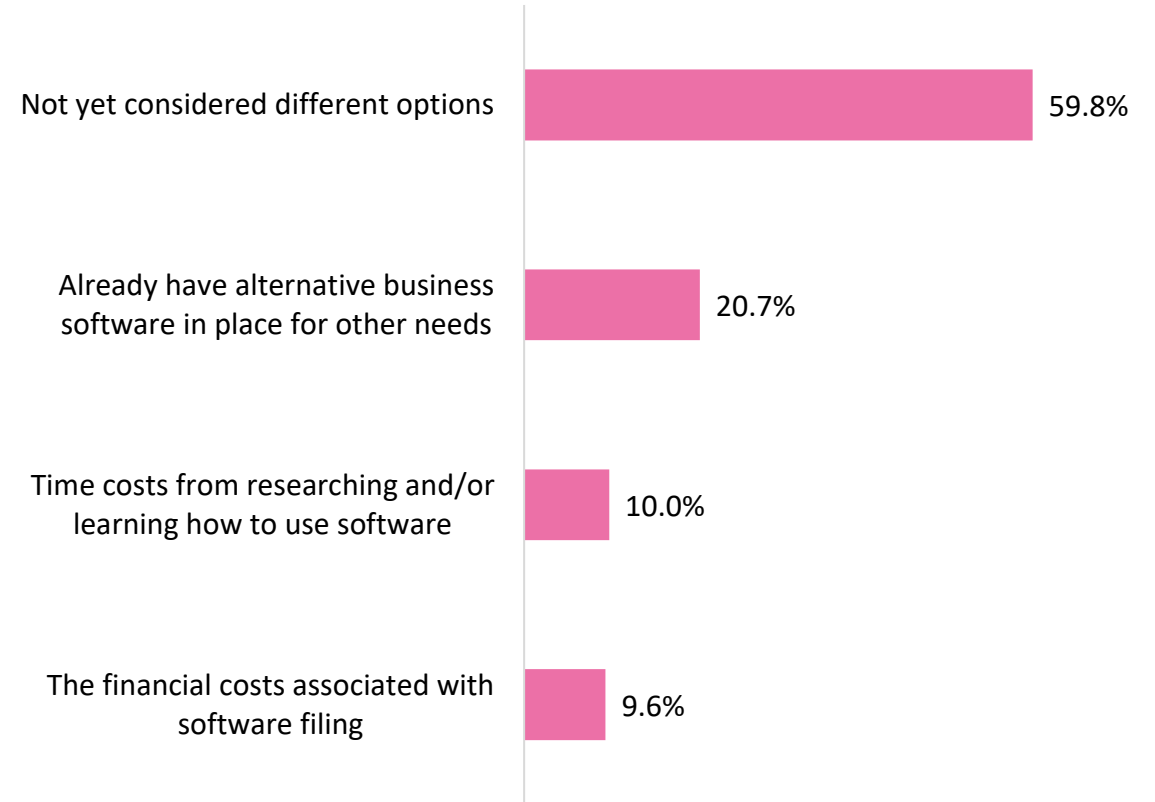
Majority of IoD members file accounts via webfiling

How do you currently file accounts at Companies House?



You said you currently file via paper or existing web-services.

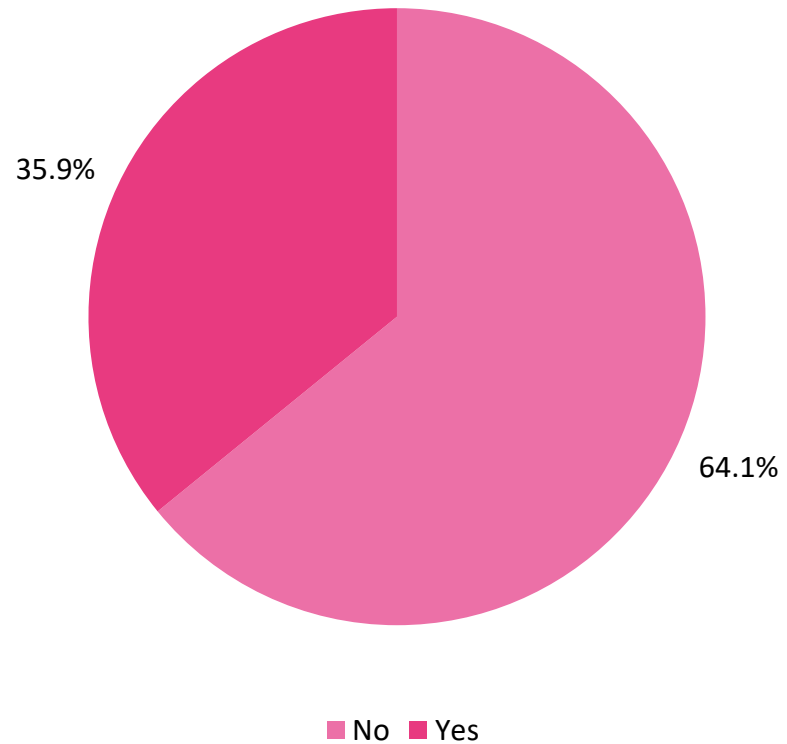
What reasons prevent you from currently moving to software filing?



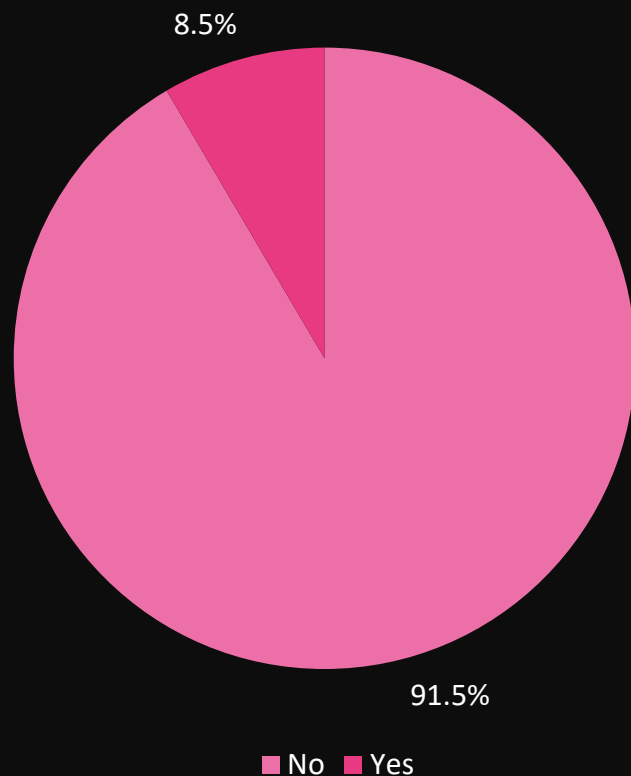
This question was answered by IoD members who indicated they, or an accountant, files accounts via a third-party software filing service provider, or by paper



Are you aware of Companies House's software look-up tool to find suitable software for accounts filing?



Have you made an assessment of the approximate cost for your business to file accounts at Companies House through a third party software provider?



How much do you think this will cost your business?



This question was answered by IoD members who indicated they, or an accountant, files accounts via a third-party software filing service provider or by paper, and who said they had assessed the approximate cost.

Among this more cost-aware group, responses show a wide spread of estimated costs, but most cluster in the low to mid-hundreds up to around £1–2k per year, suggesting typical costs are relatively modest for smaller firms, even where identified separately.

A smaller group report higher costs running into the thousands or more, which are likely to reflect larger firms, more complex requirements, or broader service packages rather than software alone.

Alongside these figures, there is a notable strand of responses emphasising that cost is either minimal, not the primary concern, or difficult to isolate, with some members focusing instead on time, value, or questioning the framing of the cost itself.

“Is cost the right question. Time saved on admin may make a sensible ROI” (South East England, health and social work, 10-49 employees)

“Minimal but we are familiar with current method” (Yorkshire and the Humber, other services, 250+ employees)

“More than I can afford” (Scotland, professional, scientific and technical activities, 2-9 employees)

Overall, even among members who have assessed costs, responses indicate significant variation and limited standardisation, with most costs relatively modest, but a consistent view that value, time, and wider service context are often more relevant than the standalone cost of filing.



Which software filing service or provider do you use to file your company's accounts with Companies House?

This question was answered by IoD members who indicated they, or an accountant, files accounts via Companies House WebFiling.

The most common pattern is that filing is outsourced to accountants, with many business leaders having limited visibility over the specific software used. Responses frequently indicate reliance on an accountant or audit firm, with little direct engagement in the filing process itself.

“Don’t know, my accountant does it.” (London, information and communication, 2-9 employees)

“An accountant does it and I have no idea what software they use” (London, professional, scientific and technical activities, 0-1 employees/sole trader)

“The statutory accounts once approved by the company, are filed by the company's accountants. The company's accountants have not disclosed what software they use. Further, I have little interest therein, as the only reason for filing the accounts is to comply with the Companies Act.” (South West England, manufacturing, 10-49 employees)

A smaller group of firms (often SMEs and sole traders) report using named third-party software, with Xero, QuickBooks, Sage, IRIS, and FreeAgent most frequently mentioned. This suggests some level of direct engagement with digital tools, though usage remains fragmented across providers.

“Xero” (South East England, information and communication, 2-9 employees)

“QuickBooks” (London, financial services, 250+ employees)

“FreeAgent” (London, other services, 2-9 employees)

Overall, responses suggest that while WebFiling is widely used, in practice many businesses rely on intermediaries, with only a minority directly engaging with specific filing software providers.



Approximately, how much do you pay per year for this service to file your accounts with Companies House?


This question was answered by IoD members who indicated they, or an accountant, files accounts via Companies House WebFiling.

The dominant pattern is that costs are bundled into wider accountancy or audit fees, meaning many business leaders cannot identify a separate filing cost. A large share of responses indicate that the service is included within broader packages, with limited visibility on the specific charge.

“Included in accountant retainer fee - we pay £2,400 a year for everything from our accountant (annual and quarterly accounts; quarterly reforecasting; VAT returns; general support)” (West Midlands, administrative and support services, 2-9 employees)

“Don't know the exact cost off the top of my head as it is part of my accountant's cost.” (West Midlands, professional, scientific and technical activities, 2-9 employees)

“It's part of a package for other things as well so not sure exactly. I pay about £2500 plus VAT a year” (East of England, professional, scientific and technical activities, 0-1 employees/sole trader)



A second clear group report no direct or very low cost, either because filing is included in software, provided free through banking/accounting services, or handled internally. These responses are more common among sole traders and micro businesses:

“Free with bank” (South East England, financial services, 0-1 employees/sole trader)

“Nothing I do it myself so it's just the cost of the software” (East of England, financial services, 0-1 employees/sole trader)

There is also a wide spread of reported costs among those who do identify a figure, ranging from under £100 to several thousand pounds, reflecting variation in business size, complexity, and whether services are bundled with wider accounting support. Higher figures are typically linked to broader service packages:

“£2,160 incl VAT and payroll services” (South East England, other services, 2-9 employees)

“£8400” (South East England, health and social work, 50-99 employees)

Overall, responses suggest that while WebFiling is widely used, the true cost of filing is often unclear or absorbed within wider professional services, with only a minority of firms tracking it as a distinct expense.



What is the approximate cost for your business to file accounts through a third party software provider?

This question was answered by IoD members who indicated they, or an accountant, files accounts via Companies House WebFiling.

A clear pattern is that many firms either pay nothing directly or do not track a separate cost, often because third-party software is bundled into wider accountancy or audit services. A large share of business leaders either report zero cost or indicate that the cost sits within broader fees, limiting visibility.

“£0” (London, other services, 2-9 employees)

“FreeAGENT is free with our business bank account” (South East England, professional, scientific and technical activities, 2-9 employees)

“Not known, accountant does it and no direct cost to us” (South East England, professional, scientific and technical activities, 2-9 employees)

A second group report low to moderate standalone costs, typically a few hundred pounds per year, suggesting direct use of software tools or partial unbundling from wider services. These are most common among SMEs and sole traders.

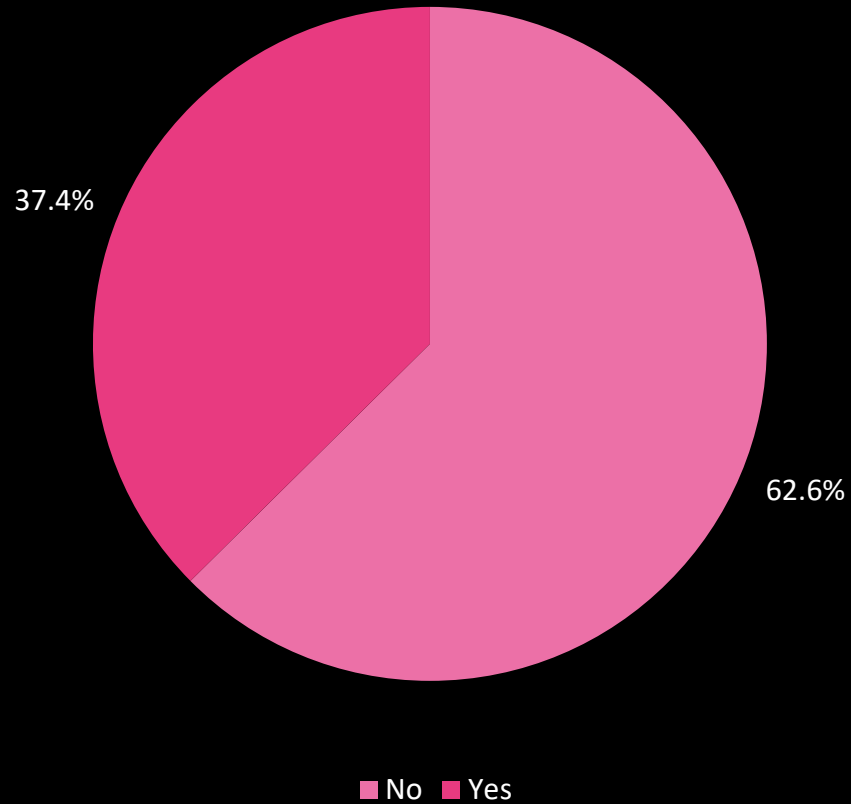
“£300–£600 per year (as part of the accountant’s annual accounts preparation fee).” (South West England, agriculture, forestry and fishing, 10-49 employees)

“Xero licence is £60pm for all our software accountancy needs.” (South East England, financial services, 2-9 employees)

There is also a smaller but distinct group reporting higher costs, often running into the thousands, which likely reflects more complex businesses or broader service provision rather than software alone.

Overall, responses suggest that while some firms incur identifiable software costs, for most IoD members the true cost of third-party filing software is either minimal, bundled, or not clearly understood, making it difficult to isolate as a distinct expense.

Are you aware of Companies House's software look-up tool to find suitable software for accounts filing?



National Living Wage and National Minimum Wage

In April 2026, the National Living Wage increased from £12.21 to £12.71 per hour, the National Minimum Wage for 18-20-year-olds rose from £10 to £10.85 per hour, and both the National Minimum Wage for 16-17-year-olds and the Apprenticeship Rate rose from £7.55 to £8 per hour.

Answers to these questions will be used in meetings with government officials and other stakeholders.

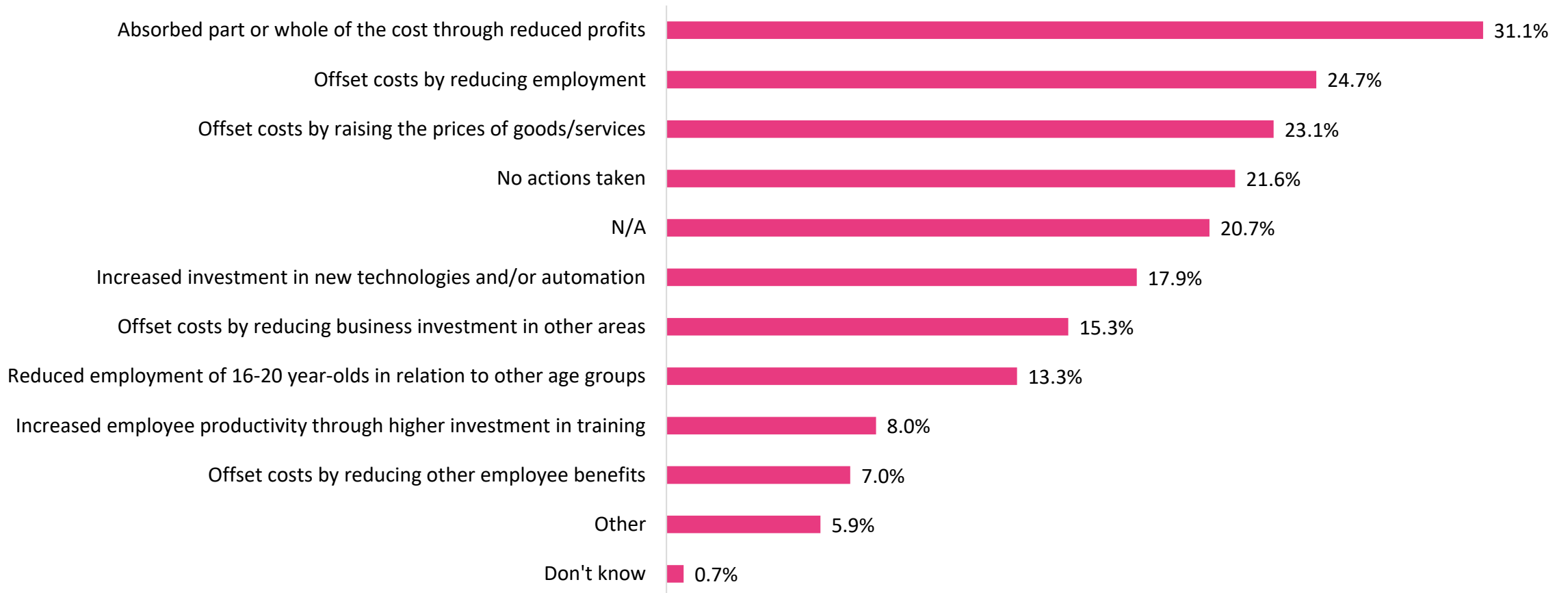




Profits and levels of employment have fallen as a result of increases to minimum and living wages

Which action/s, if any, has your organisation taken, or is planning to take, in response to these increases?

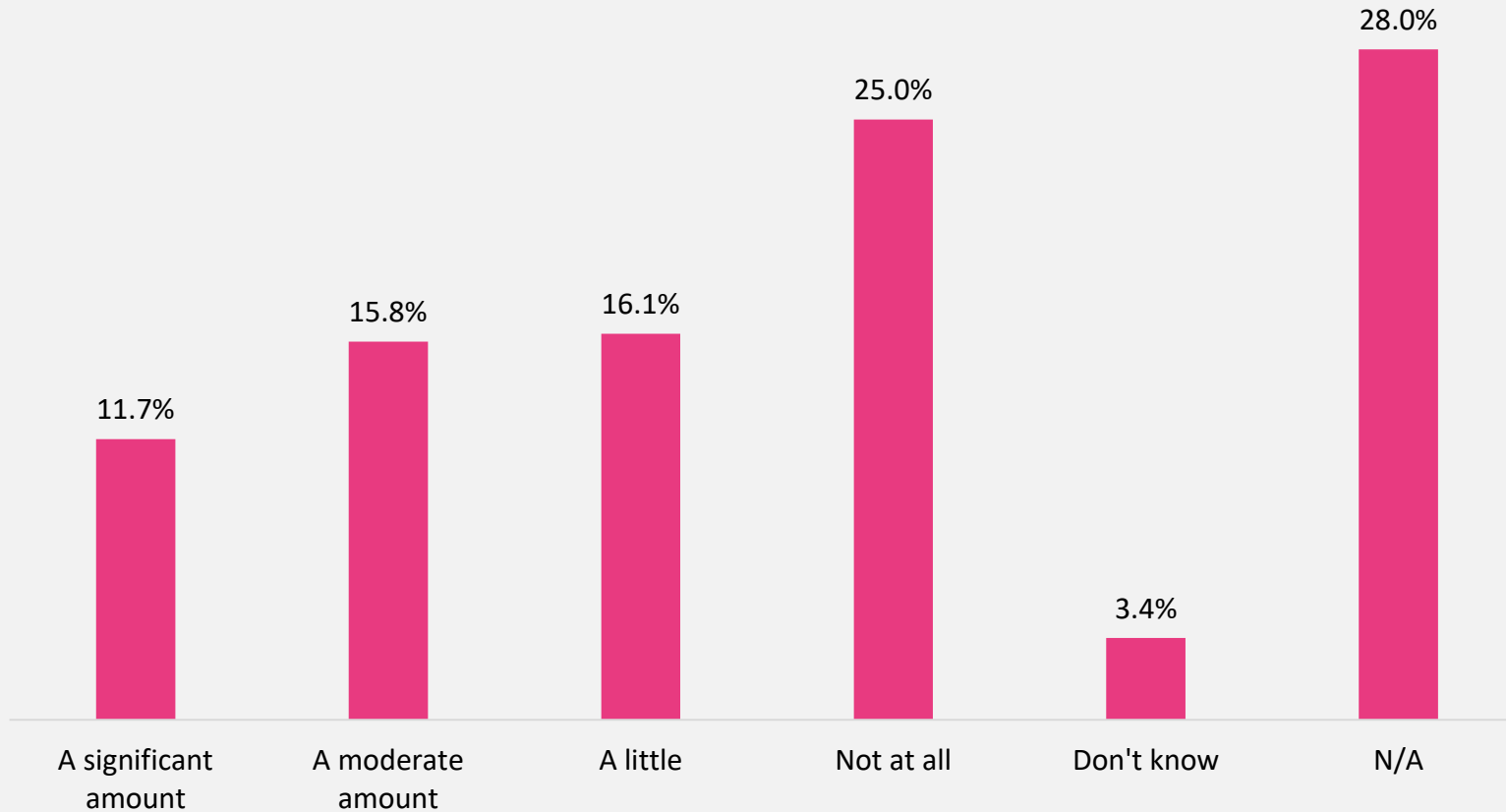
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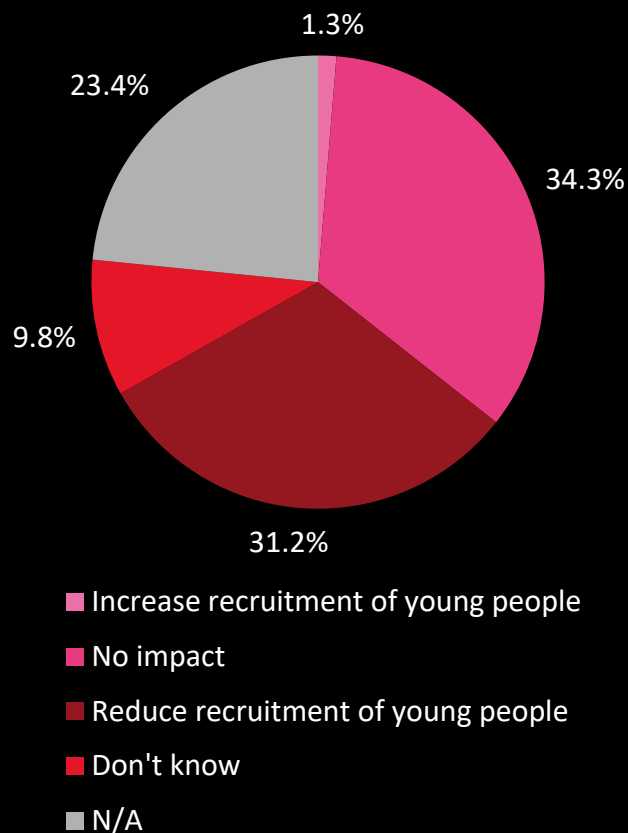
IoD members report limited impact of the National Living Wage on pay differentials

To what extent has the National Living Wage narrowed pay differentials between entry-level and more experienced staff in your organisation?





If the gap between the National Living Wage and youth rates were narrowed further, how would this affect your organisation's approach to recruiting young people?



IoD members reported a range of responses to April's National Minimum and Living Wage increases, with the most commonly reported responses being absorbing the costs via reduced profits (31%), reducing employment (25%), and increasing the costs of their products (23%).

44% of business leaders also reported that recent minimum wage increases have compressed pay differentials in their organisation:

"The wage differential knock-on effect does have an impact. More so if it is viewed as a percentage increase across the board, which may then become unsustainable with regard to high earners. We have a tendency to increase the wages by the cash amount, with some smaller upward adjustments for different employees." (50-99 employees, Manufacturing, London)

"Increases in minimum wage have narrowed the gap to, for example, junior managerial posts which, in turn, creates problems with the existing salary structure. It also creates issues with apprentice and graduate salaries." (250+ employees, Other services, South West England)

"Wage compression and lower differentials between experienced staff and those with supervisory or training responsibilities compared to new hires is a bigger problem than the NMW itself." (250+ employees, Wholesale and retail trade (including motor repair), South East England)



Many respondents also reported that the narrowing of the gap between the youth and headline minimum wage rates in recent years has eroded the business case for them hiring young people:

“We have ceased to employ apprentices after 21 years of doing so, it isn't just the salary, it is the cost / welfare / parenting the youth - the new employment laws make it more a risk to employ than not. So we either employ at our international offices, use AI or seek senior staff who are more efficient.” (100-249 employees, Information and communication, South East England)

“Why would you recruit new, untrained staff, if they cost almost the same as more experienced (and proven) staff?!” (2-9 employees, Financial services, Yorkshire and the Humber)

“We can no longer afford to place junior staff on projects to only learn as we have always done, they must now deliver significantly more value from day one as they can no longer be an overhead.” (10-49 employees, Electricity and/or gas supply, South West England)

“We have a policy of recruiting youngsters from our community and training them. We have been badly affected by the increase for 18+ as a proportion of pay rises and are experiencing differential arguments from supervisory staff.” (10-49 employees, Accommodation and food services, North West England)



Quarterly negative impact tracking

We ask the following questions quarterly, in order to gauge how the wider political and economic environment is impacting our members.

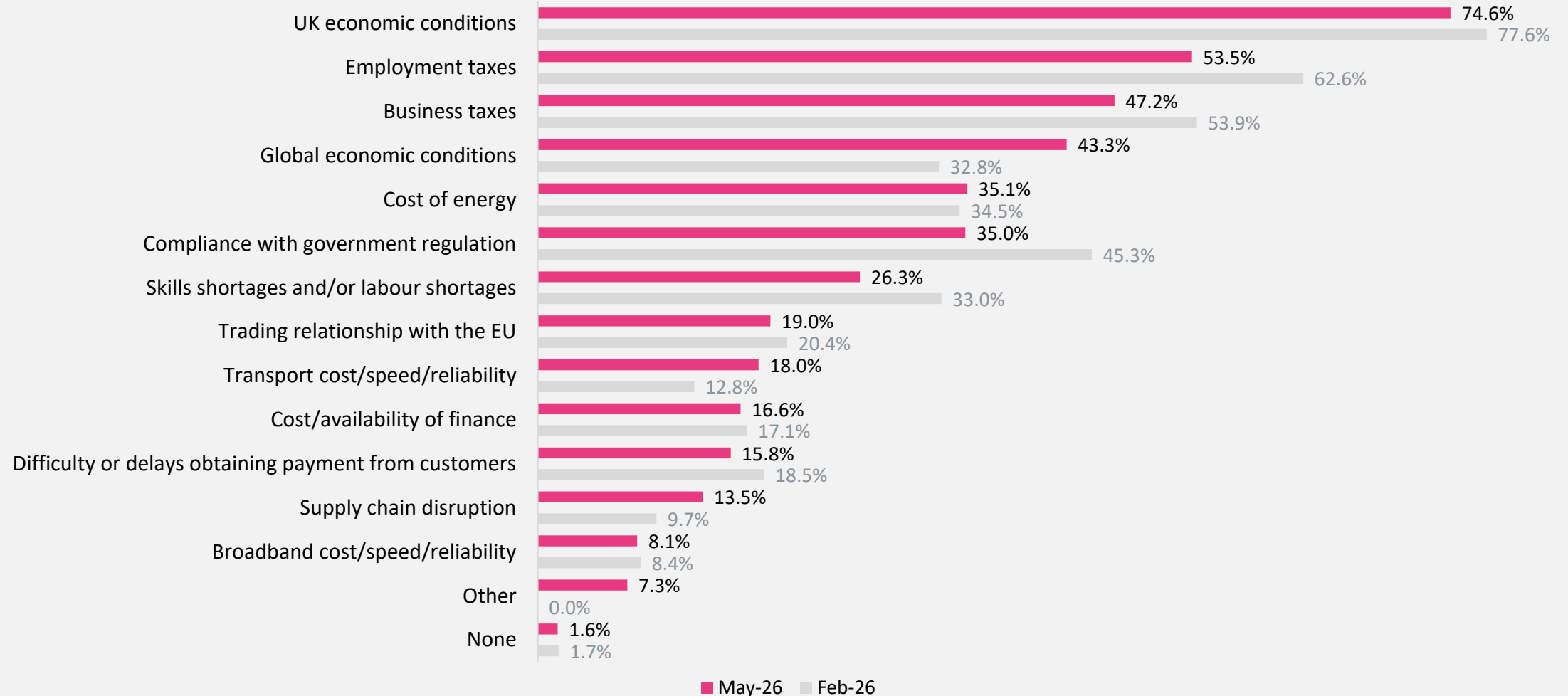
This data is used to set our advocacy focus for the rest of the year.





Top three negative impact factors remain unchanged from February 2026

Which of the following, if any, are having a negative impact on your organisation?

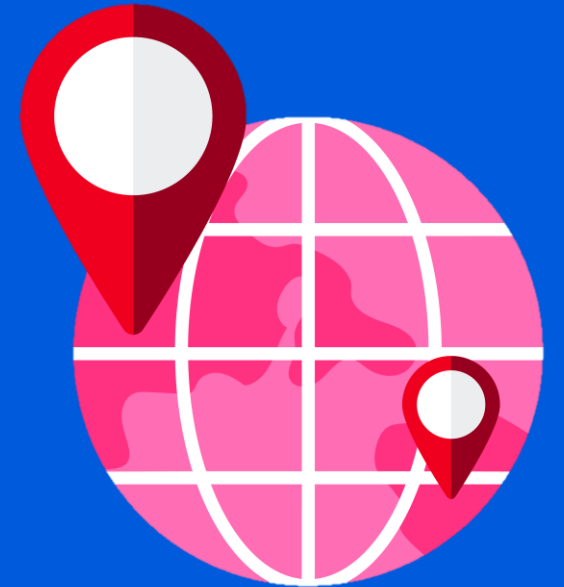
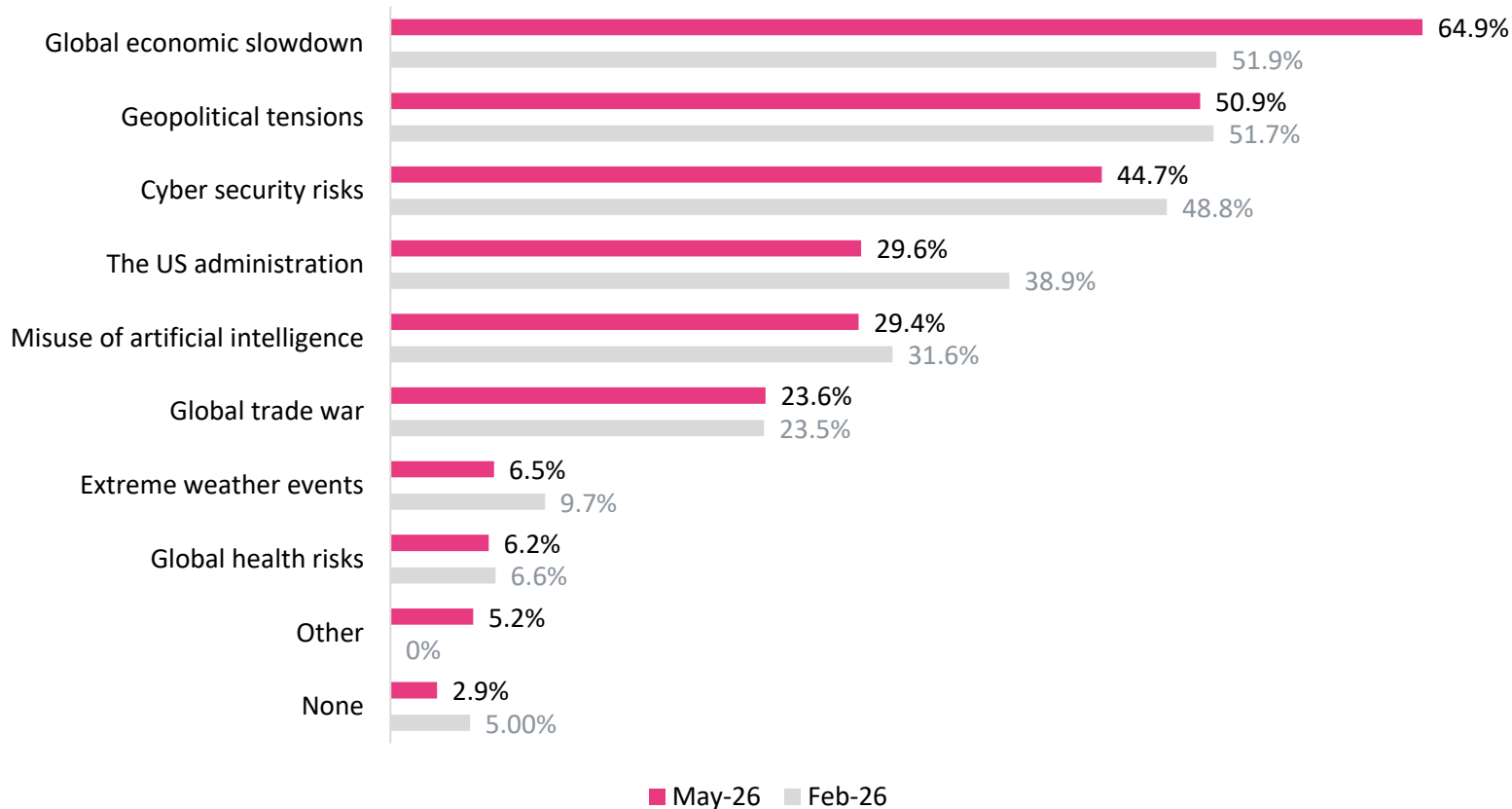




Two thirds of businesses now concerned about global economic slowdown

Which of the following global risks are the most concerning for your business in 2026?

Please choose up to three.



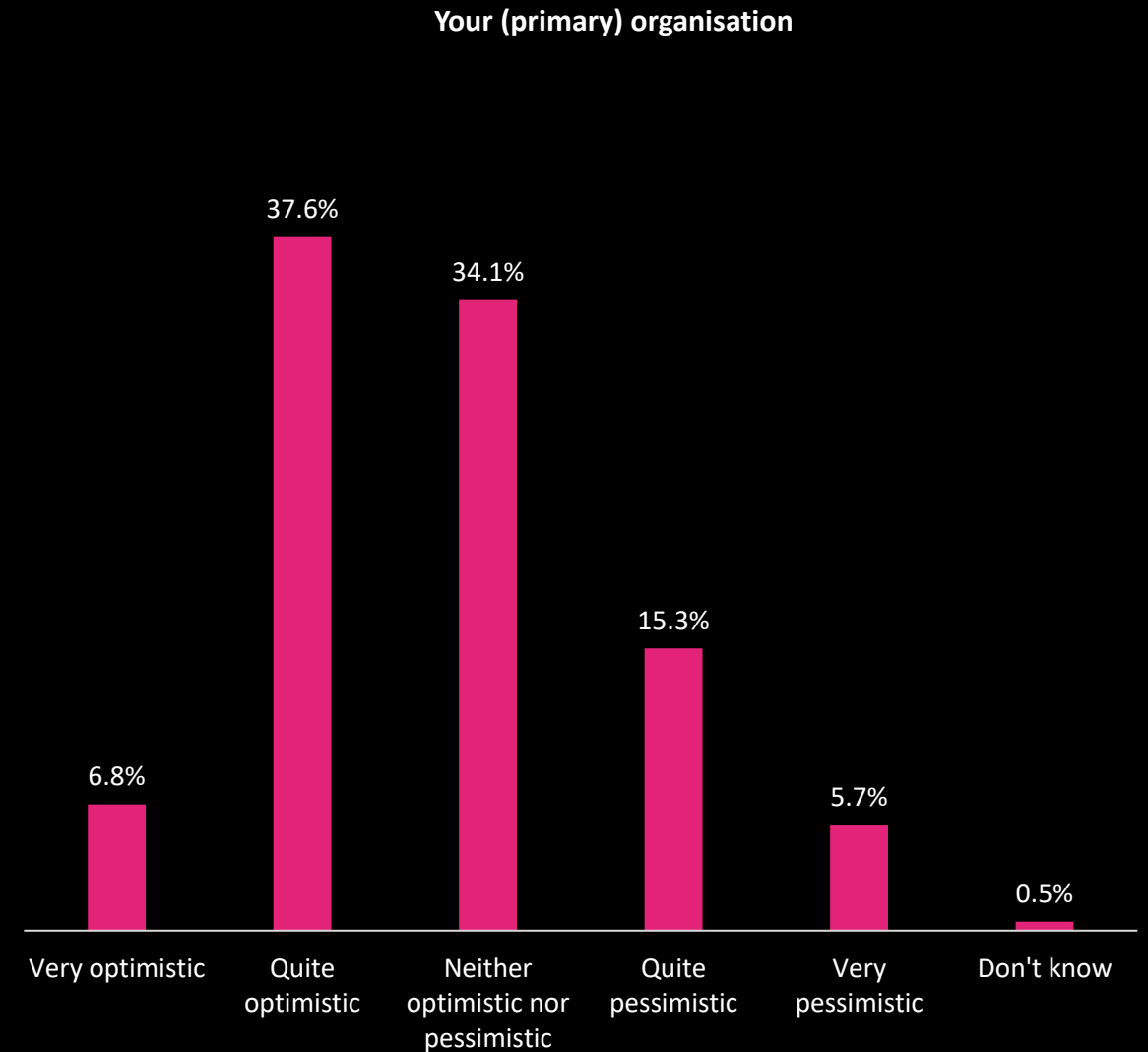
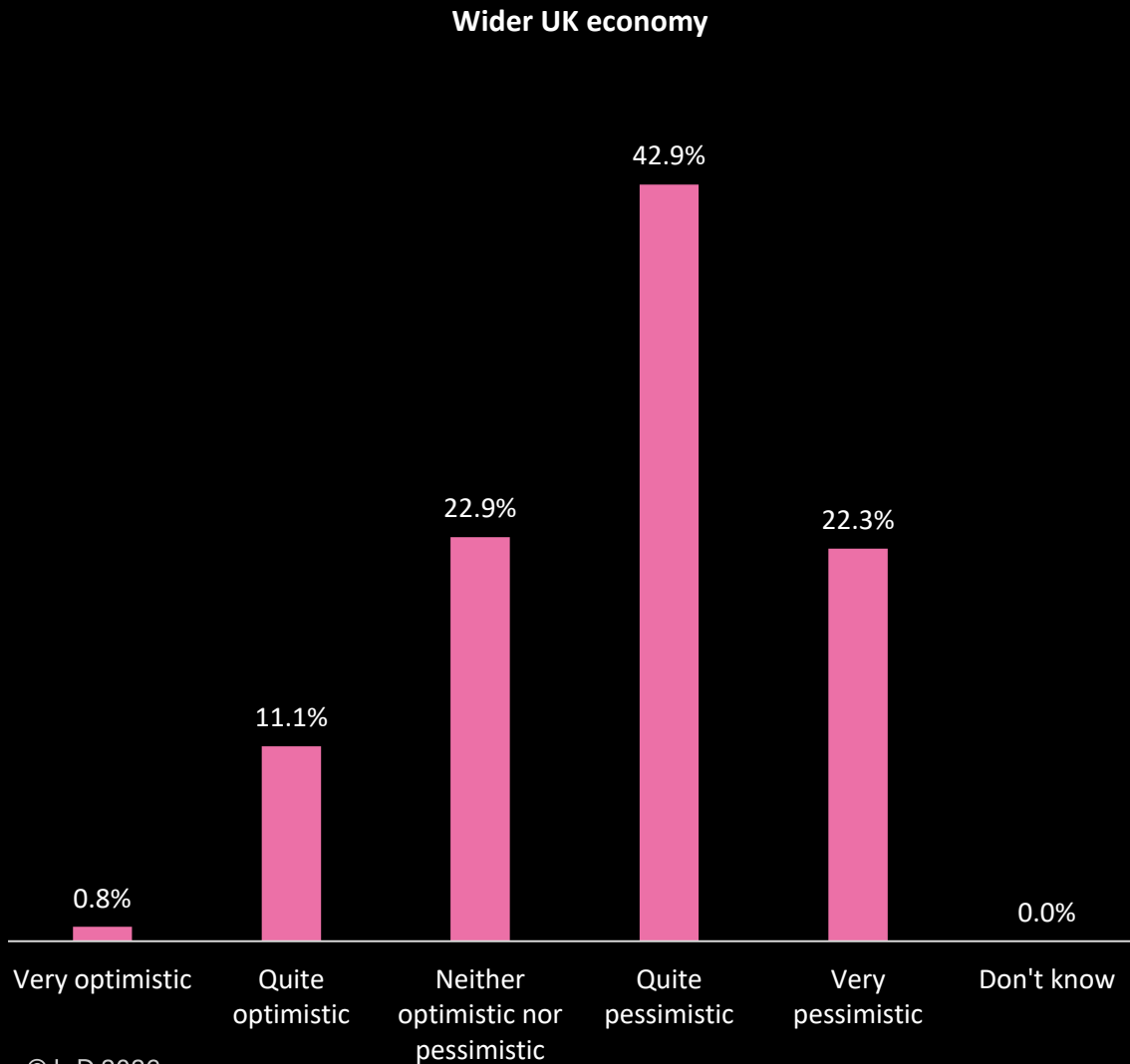
Economic Monitoring: data

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

This data is widely reported in the national media.



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





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

	Much higher	Somewhat higher	No change	Somewhat lower	Much lower	N/A	Don't know
Business investment	3.4%	24.1%	41.3%	20.7%	8.1%	1.8%	0.7%
Costs	19.8%	67.0%	9.1%	2.1%	0.3%	1.5%	0.2%
Exports	3.1%	14.0%	28.3%	5.7%	2.3%	45.9%	0.8%
Headcount	2.1%	20.2%	49.3%	21.8%	3.3%	2.9%	0.5%
Revenue	7.0%	44.6%	22.3%	20.5%	4.1%	1.1%	0.5%
Wages	5.7%	46.0%	37.4%	6.3%	1.3%	2.8%	0.5%



There is a mixed but clearly cautious picture across IoD members. While some firms report growth or stability, many describe a tougher trading environment driven by rising costs, weaker demand, and ongoing uncertainty. A common theme is that businesses are holding up, but with increasing pressure on margins, cash flow, and confidence.

A dominant theme is rising costs and squeezed margins. IoD members frequently cite inflation, employment costs, taxation, and input prices as having a direct impact on profitability and business decisions, with some firms forced to absorb costs rather than pass them on.

“Our biggest problem this year is adapting to changes in the UK Government's strategic direction, together with its complete inability to follow its own stated strategic direction” (London, financial services, 2-9 employees)

“Struggling. Increases in payroll and tax, supplier increases, rates increases. Can't pass the cost on or I will have no customers to worry about. Footfall is down” (North East England, arts, entertainment and recreation, 50-99 employees)

“We have cut to the bone to weather the storm. We are also offshoring staff as UK hiring is now too onerous and expensive” (North West England, information and communication, 2-9 employees)

A second key theme is weaker demand and slower client decision-making. Many business leaders report that customers are delaying spending, reducing activity, or taking longer to commit, creating knock-on effects for revenue, pipeline confidence, and planning.

“Clients are delaying spending money and pushing back necessary technology investment” (North East England, professional, scientific and technical activities, 250+ employees)

“Very very tough , lots of delays in customer decision , no commitment to invest , lots of customers failing or going bust” (South East England, administrative and support services, 2-9 employees)

“We sell SaaS business management software: it's harder and takes longer to close deals. Deal size down. Purchasers very cautious. Purchasers buy a little test purchase before committing” (South West England, information and communication, 10-49 employees)



Uncertainty is also a significant factor shaping business performance. IoD members consistently link this to government policy, global instability, and wider economic conditions, with many suggesting it is holding back investment, hiring, and long-term planning.

“Our main challenge is unstable government and knee-jerk legislation” (Wales, financial services, 2-9 employees)

“Global uncertainty is reducing the willingness of potential clients to invest in the new technologies and products that the company has developed” (North West England, professional, scientific and technical activities, 10-49 employees)

“The general economic climate affects us directly and I am certain that if the Middle East war continues, it will get more challenging for us” (South East England, other services, 2-9 employees)

Despite these pressures, a smaller group of firms report resilience or growth, often linked to sector-specific demand or strategic positioning. However, even here, business leaders remain cautious about the outlook.

“A strong pipeline of new work and increased staffing” (South East England, professional, scientific and technical activities, 10-49 employees)

“Good year on year growth being experienced as a result of NHS waiting list initiatives” (West Midlands, health and social work, 10-49 employees)

“Our business is in a good condition with successful and growing EU business with increasing opportunity” (South West England, administrative and support services, 0-1 employees/sole trader)



Finally, many IoD members highlight how they are adapting to the current climate, focusing on cost control, diversification, and productivity improvements. This reflects a shift from expansion towards resilience, with firms taking practical steps to manage ongoing pressures.

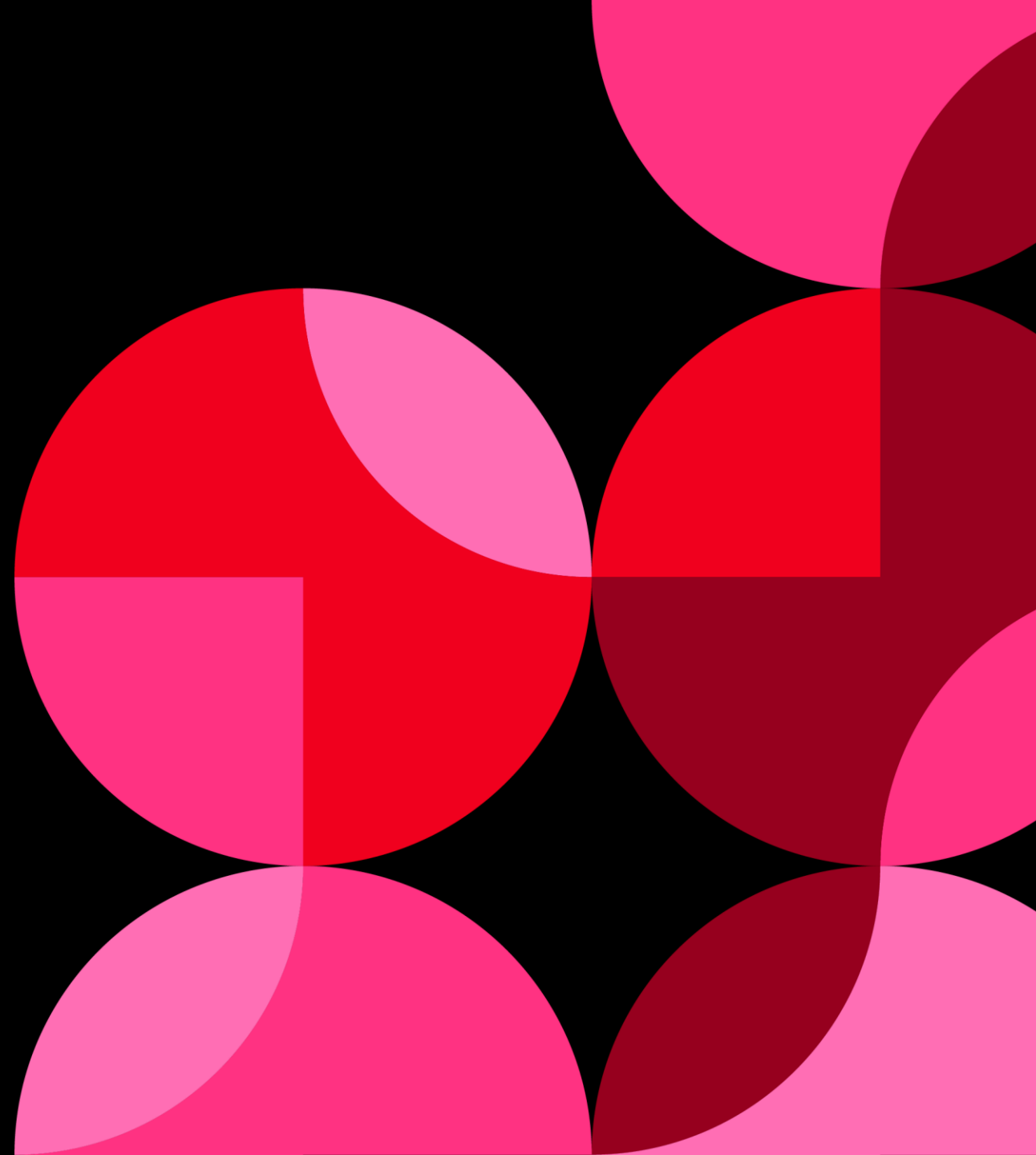
“We are actively seeking diversification and moving into other channels. We are positive and actively seeking new business, we are losing business to the economic climate. Businesses closing down. So we have to look to replace” (South East England, wholesale and retail trade including motor repair, 10-49 employees)

“Growing year on year, we could grow faster if we could find experienced staff and are having to invest in AI to increase productivity to complete more automated tasks” (South East England, other services, 2-9 employees)

“We are doing our best to generate new sources of income and keeping tabs on cost. Might need to do some cost cutting or get frugal to keep profitability” (London, professional, scientific and technical activities, 2-9 employees)

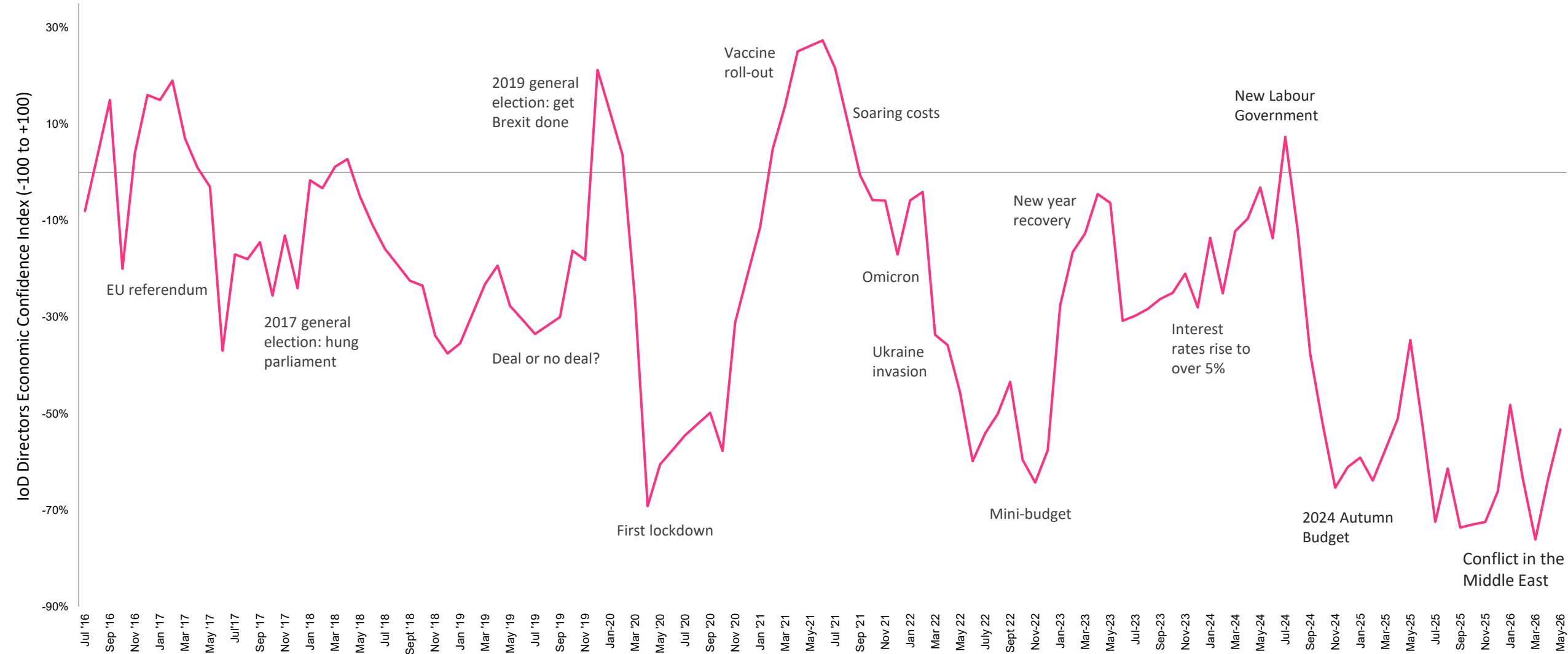
Overall, while there are pockets of resilience, the prevailing picture is one of businesses operating under sustained pressure, with confidence and expansion more constrained by costs, demand, and uncertainty.

Economic Monitoring: trends





Business confidence improves despite rising concerns about Iran conflict

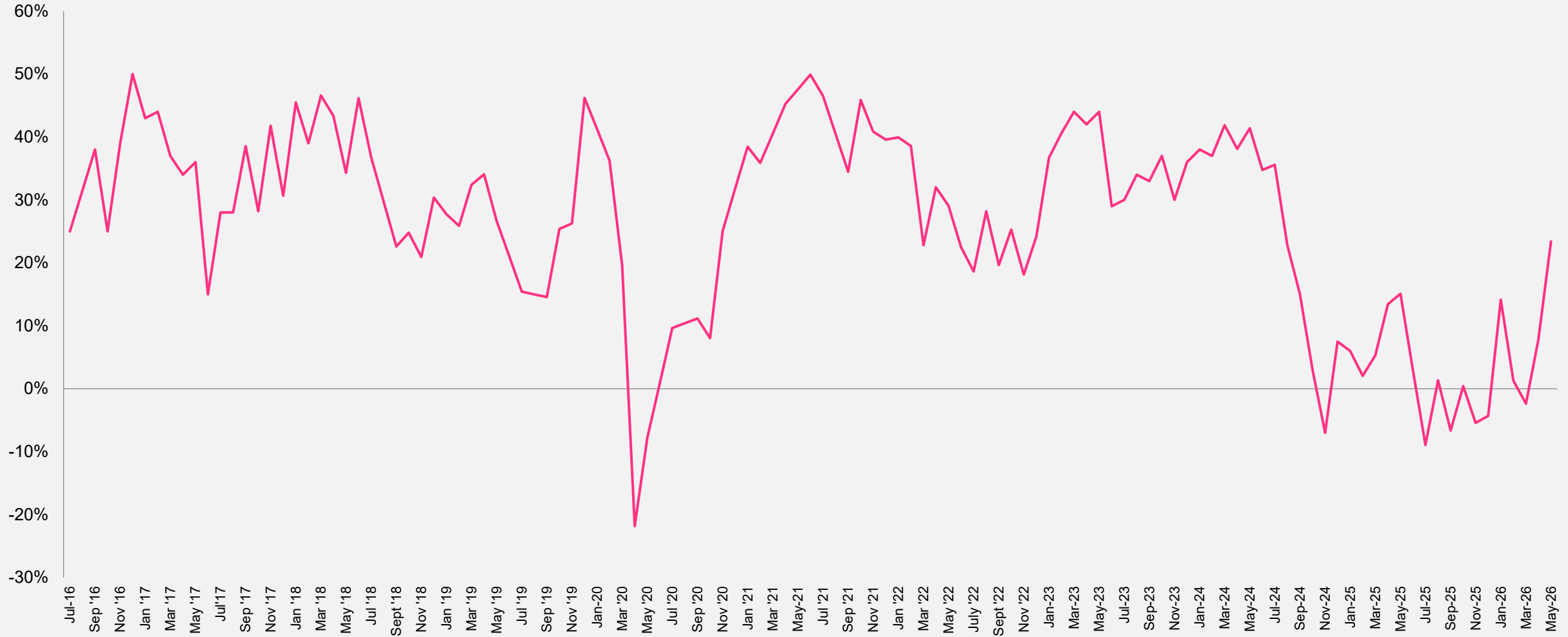




Business leader confidence in their own organisations also rose, to +23 in May, from +8 in April

How optimistic are you about your own organisation over the next 12 months?

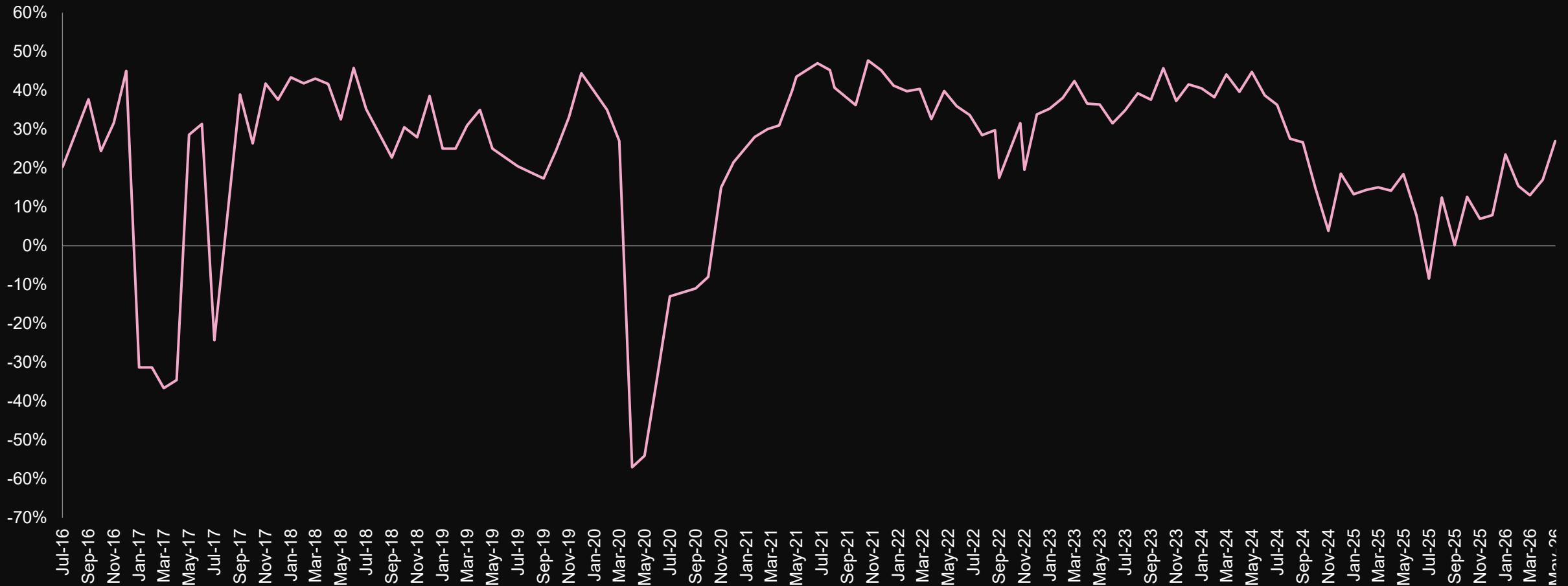
5-point scale from very optimistic to very pessimistic, net optimistic % Source: IoD monthly Policy Voice surveys





Revenue expectations rose to +27 from +17

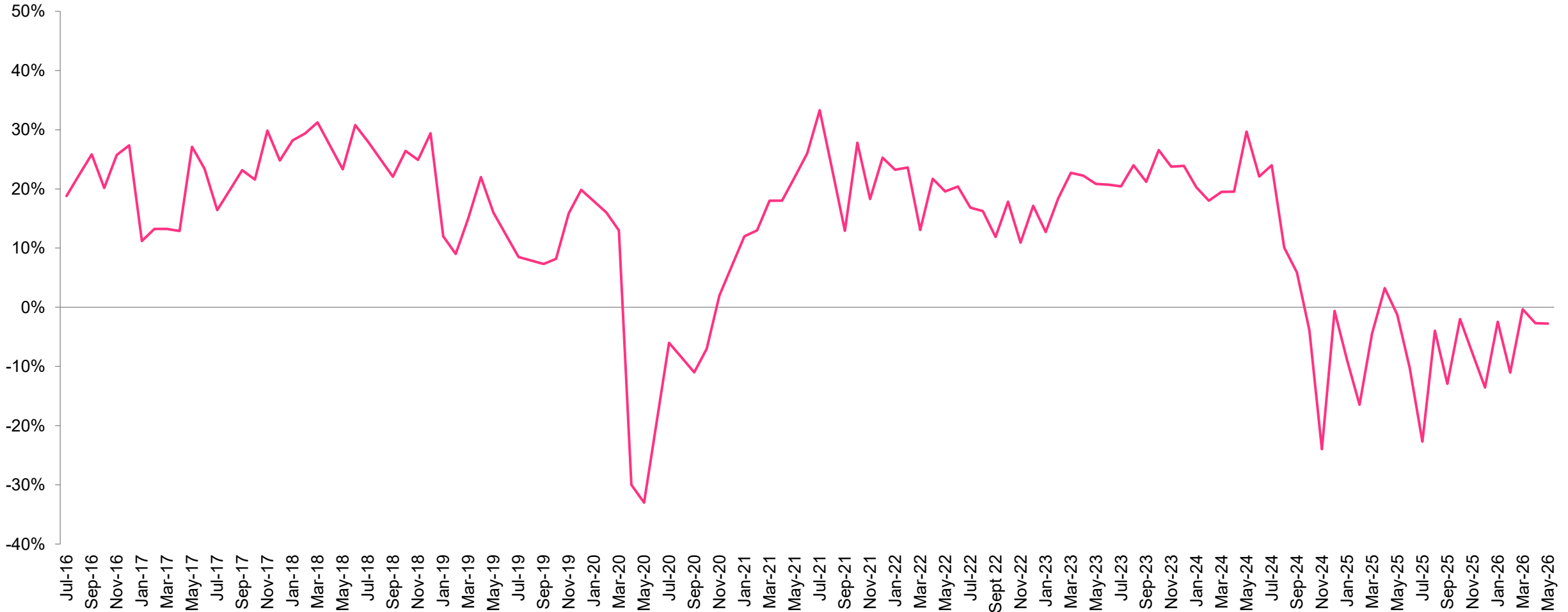
Comparing the next 12 months with the last 12 months, what do you believe the outlook for your organisation will be in terms of: REVENUE.
Net positive % (% higher minus % lower) Source: IoD monthly Policy Voice surveys





Headcount expectations remained unchanged at -3

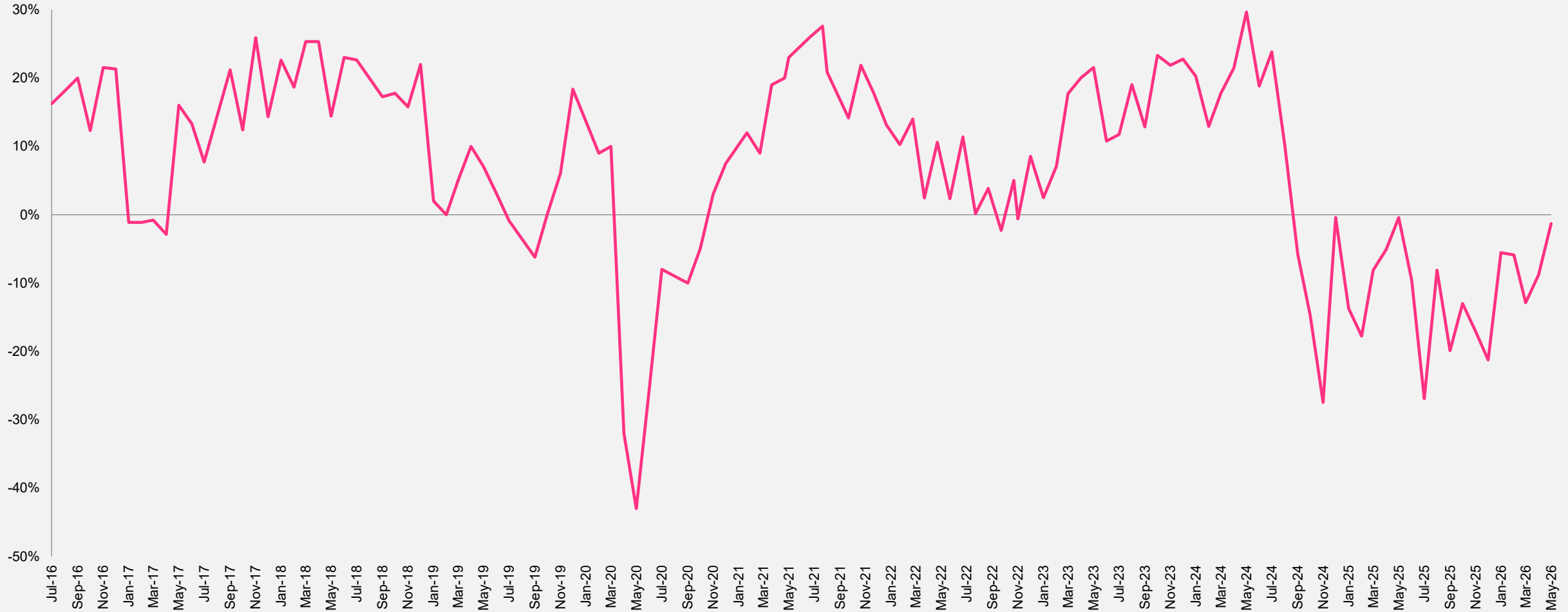
Comparing the next 12 months with the last 12 months, what do you believe the outlook for your organisation will be in terms of: HEADCOUNT.
Net positive % (% higher minus % lower) Source: IoD monthly Policy Voice surveys





Investment intentions rose to -1 from -9

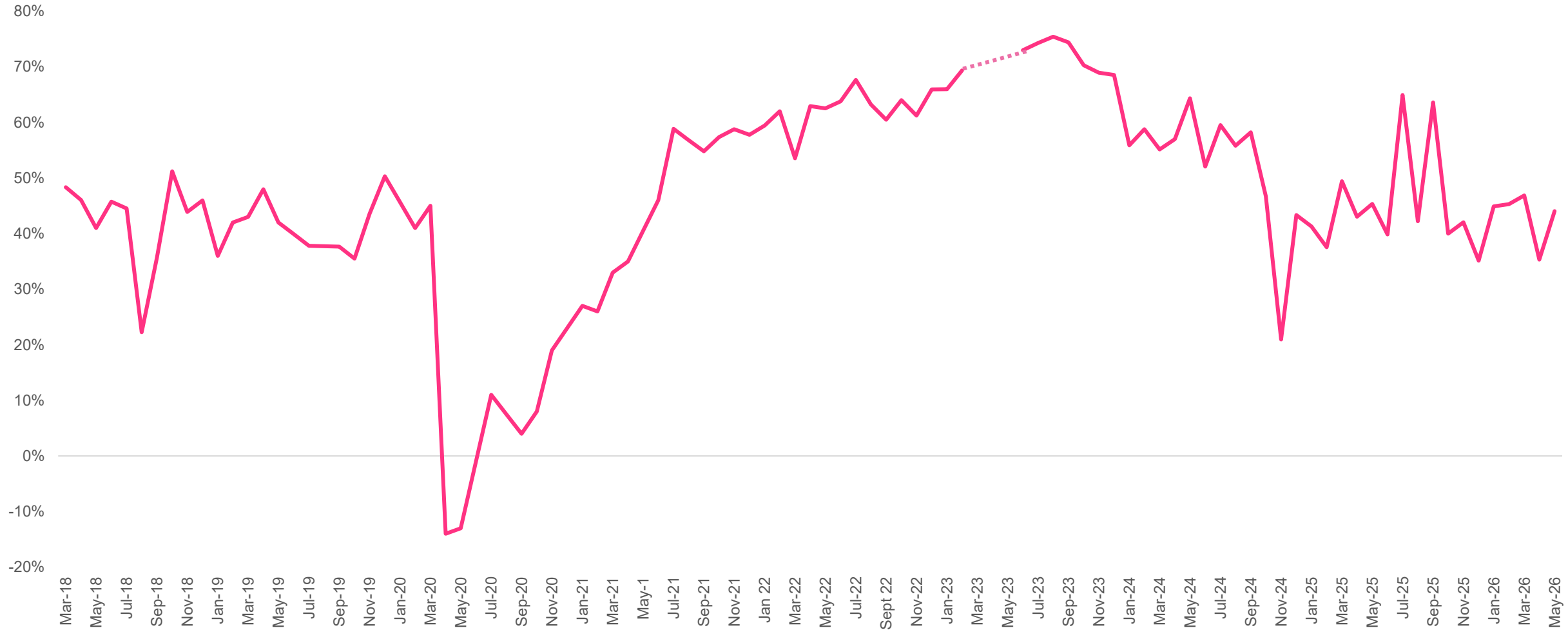
Comparing the next 12 months with the last 12 months, what do you believe the outlook for your organisation will be in terms of: INVESTMENT.
Net positive % (% higher minus % lower) Source: IoD monthly Policy Voice surveys





Wage expectations rose to +44 from +35

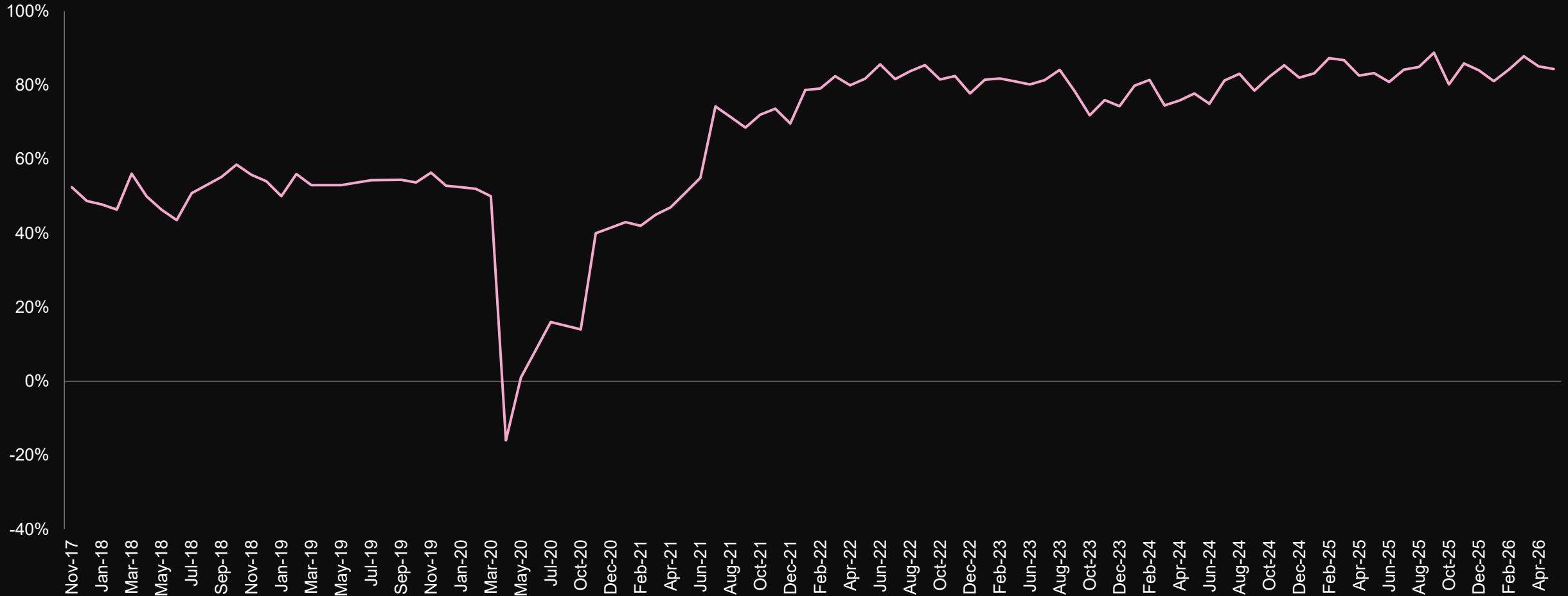
Comparing the next 12 months with the last 12 months, what do you believe the outlook for your organisation will be in terms of: WAGES.
Net positive % (% higher minus % lower) Source: IoD monthly Policy Voice surveys





Cost expectations fell marginally to +84 from +85

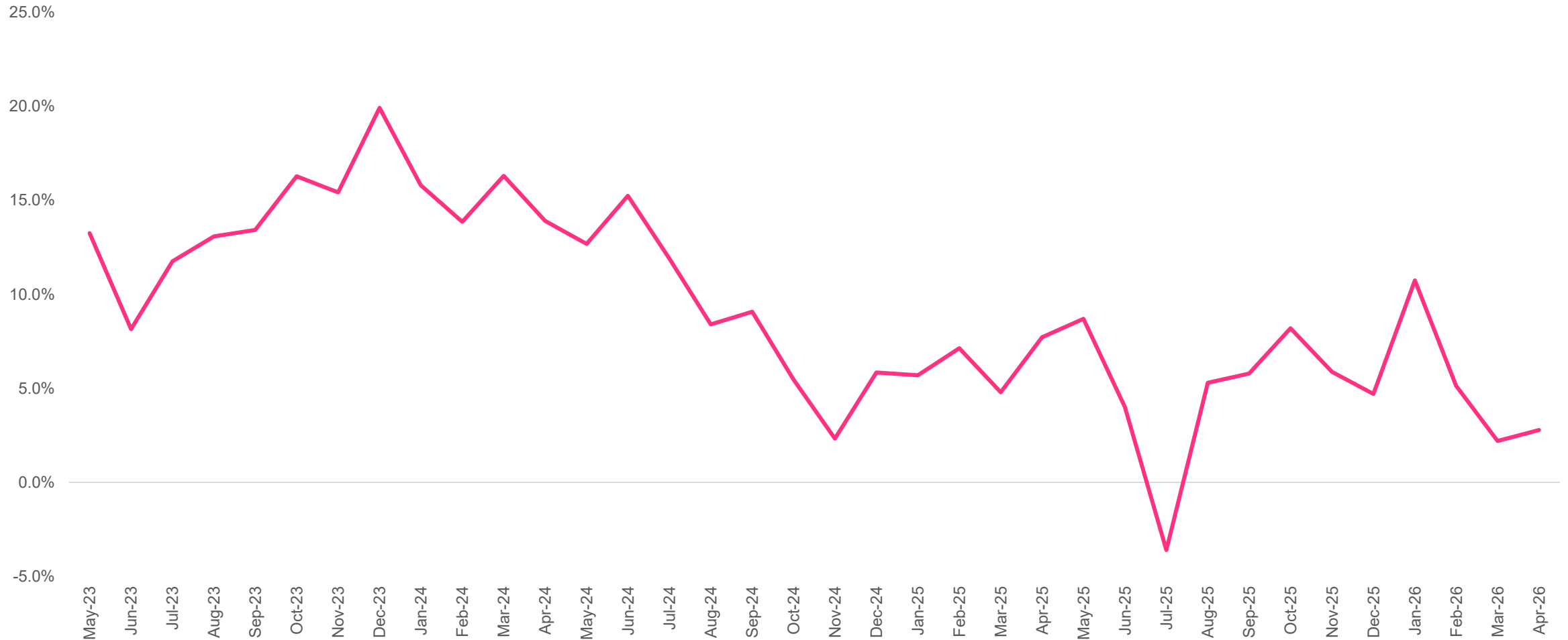
Comparing the next 12 months with the last 12 months, what do you believe the outlook for your organisation will be in terms of: COSTS.
Net positive % (% higher minus % lower) Source: IoD monthly Policy Voice surveys





Export expectations were broadly unchanged at +3 from +2 in March

Comparing the next 12 months with the last 12 months, what do you believe the outlook for your organisation will be in terms of: EXPORTS
Net positive % (% higher minus % lower) Source: IoD monthly Policy Voice surveys. Question first asked in April 2023.





Economic Monitoring: sectoral breakdown



Wider UK economy

	Accommodation and food services	Administrative and support services	Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	Arts, entertainment and recreation	Civil service/public administration	Construction	Education	Electricity and/or gas supply	Financial services
Very optimistic	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.7%
Quite optimistic	9.1%	25.0%	0.0%	6.7%	0.0%	11.4%	28.6%	40.0%	9.3%
Neither optimistic nor pessimistic	22.7%	8.3%	40.0%	40.0%	50.0%	28.6%	19.0%	20.0%	27.8%
Quite pessimistic	45.5%	50.0%	20.0%	33.3%	50.0%	40.0%	23.8%	20.0%	35.2%
Very pessimistic	22.7%	16.7%	40.0%	20.0%	0.0%	20.0%	28.6%	20.0%	24.1%
Don't know	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.7%
Total number of respondents	22	12	5	15	6	35	21	5	54

	Health and social work	Information and communication	Manufacturing	Mining and quarrying	Other services	Professional, scientific and technical activities	Real estate	Transportation and storage	Water supply, sewerage and waste management	Wholesale and retail trade (including motor repair)
Very optimistic	3.7%	0.0%	1.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Quite optimistic	18.5%	12.1%	9.2%	100.0%	8.3%	9.7%	11.5%	0.0%	16.7%	5.6%
Neither optimistic nor pessimistic	14.8%	20.7%	26.2%	0.0%	16.7%	23.9%	7.7%	50.0%	33.3%	11.1%
Quite pessimistic	40.7%	39.7%	41.5%	0.0%	58.3%	46.5%	34.6%	50.0%	50.0%	38.9%
Very pessimistic	22.2%	27.6%	21.5%	0.0%	16.7%	19.4%	46.2%	0.0%	0.0%	44.4%
Don't know	3.7%	0.0%	1.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total number of respondents	27	58	65	1	72	155	26	12	6	18



Your (primary) organisation

	Accommodation and food services	Administrative and support services	Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	Arts, entertainment and recreation	Civil service/public administration	Construction	Education	Electricity and/or gas supply	Financial services
Very optimistic	4.5%	0.0%	0.0%	6.7%	0.0%	5.7%	0.0%	0.0%	13.0%
Quite optimistic	36.4%	33.3%	60.0%	26.7%	66.7%	37.1%	33.3%	60.0%	35.2%
Neither optimistic nor pessimistic	27.3%	50.0%	20.0%	40.0%	33.3%	37.1%	28.6%	20.0%	35.2%
Quite pessimistic	27.3%	8.3%	0.0%	6.7%	0.0%	11.4%	19.0%	0.0%	13.0%
Very pessimistic	4.5%	0.0%	20.0%	20.0%	0.0%	5.7%	19.0%	20.0%	3.7%
Don't know	0.0%	8.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total number of respondents	22	12	5	15	6	35	21	5	54

	Health and social work	Information and communication	Manufacturing	Mining and quarrying	Other services	Professional, scientific and technical activities	Real estate	Transportation and storage	Water supply, sewerage and waste management	Wholesale and retail trade (including motor repair)
Very optimistic	11.1%	5.2%	10.8%	0.0%	5.6%	7.1%	0.0%	8.3%	16.7%	5.6%
Quite optimistic	22.2%	51.7%	43.1%	100.0%	38.9%	33.5%	38.5%	41.7%	33.3%	22.2%
Neither optimistic nor pessimistic	29.6%	31.0%	29.2%	0.0%	33.3%	41.3%	11.5%	41.7%	16.7%	44.4%
Quite pessimistic	25.9%	10.3%	12.3%	0.0%	13.9%	15.5%	34.6%	8.3%	33.3%	22.2%
Very pessimistic	11.1%	1.7%	4.6%	0.0%	6.9%	2.6%	15.4%	0.0%	0.0%	5.6%
Don't know	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total number of respondents	27	58	65	1	72	155	26	12	6	18

Objects of the Institute of Directors' Royal Charter



To promote for the public benefit high levels of skill, knowledge, professional competence and integrity on the part of directors, and equivalent office holders however described, of companies and other organisations.

To promote the study, research and development of the law and practice of Corporate Governance, and to publish, disseminate or otherwise make available the useful results of such study or research.

To represent the interests of members and of the business community to government and in the public arena, and to encourage and foster a climate favourable to entrepreneurial activity and wealth creation.

To advance the interests of members of the Institute, and to provide facilities, services and benefits for them.