

Highlights from Productive Business Index

8th edition



The news might lead you to believe that SMBs are giving up hope. But the PBI data shows that something very different is happening.

Insights based on Productive Business Index online survey across 1000 decision-makers at UK SMEs with 2-249 employees, between 3rd and 16th September 2025.

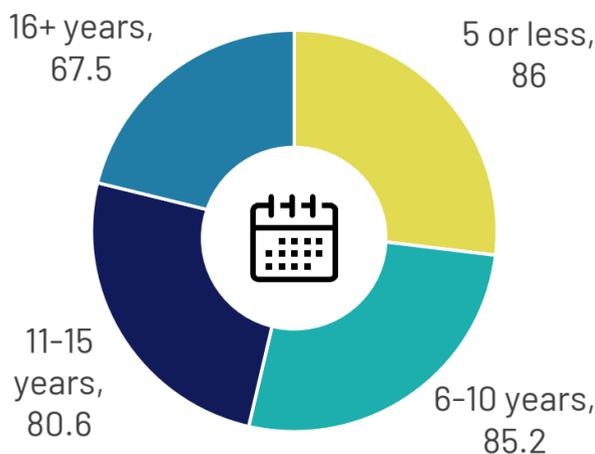
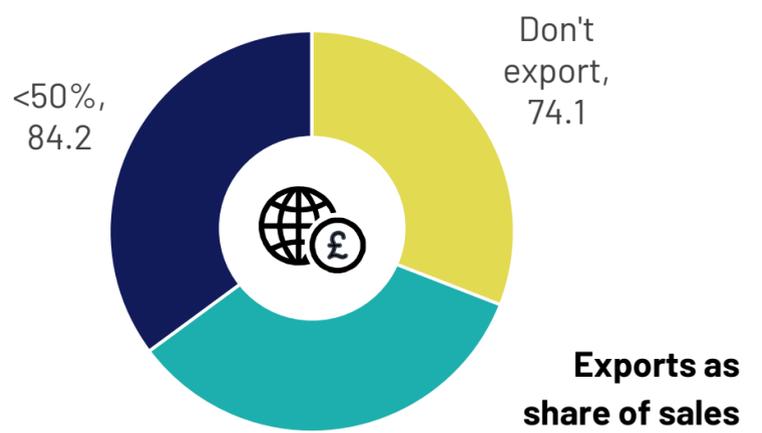
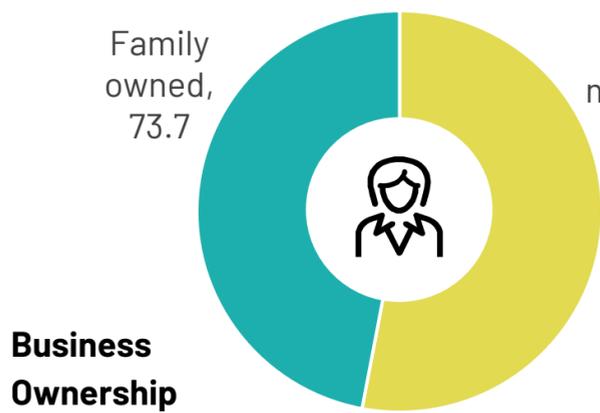
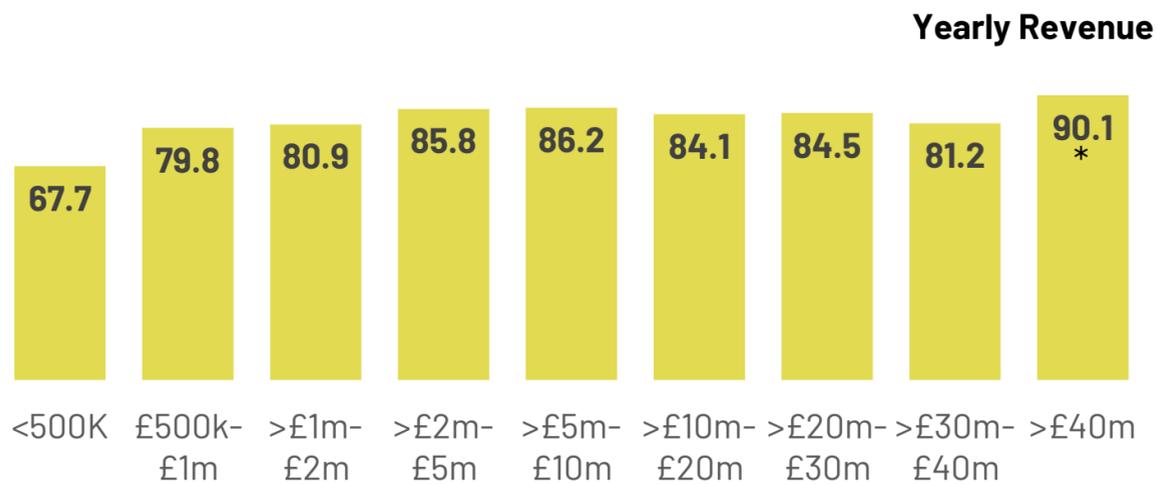
Jan 2026

Exporters, younger firms and owner-managed businesses are the UK's most productive SMBs

PRODUCTIVE BUSINESS INDEX

81.5

Overall Index Score

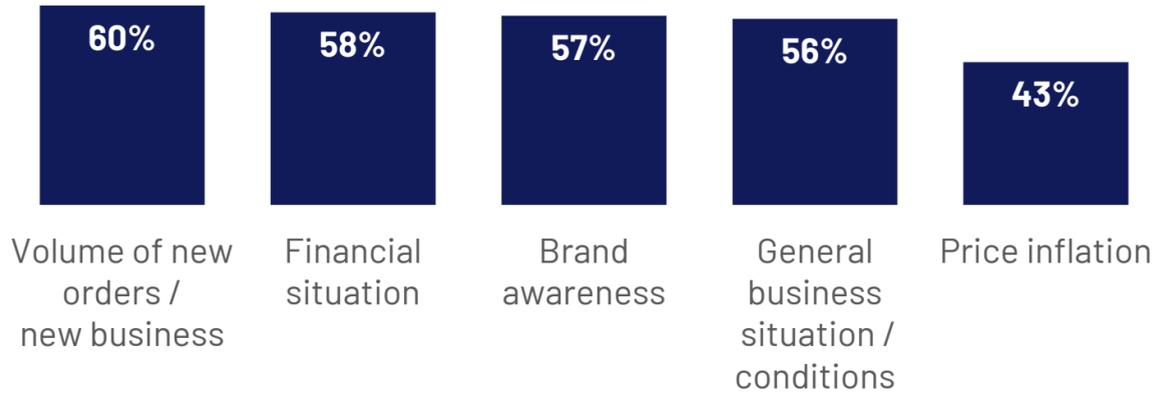


When looking backwards, SMBs feel positive about performance and productivity over the past three months.

55%

Business leaders believe general business conditions for them have improved

Q. Considering the external factors, which if any, of the following factors are most impacting your business positively / negatively?



Base: 1,000 decision-makers at UK companies with 2-249 employees, online, between 3rd and 16th September 2025.

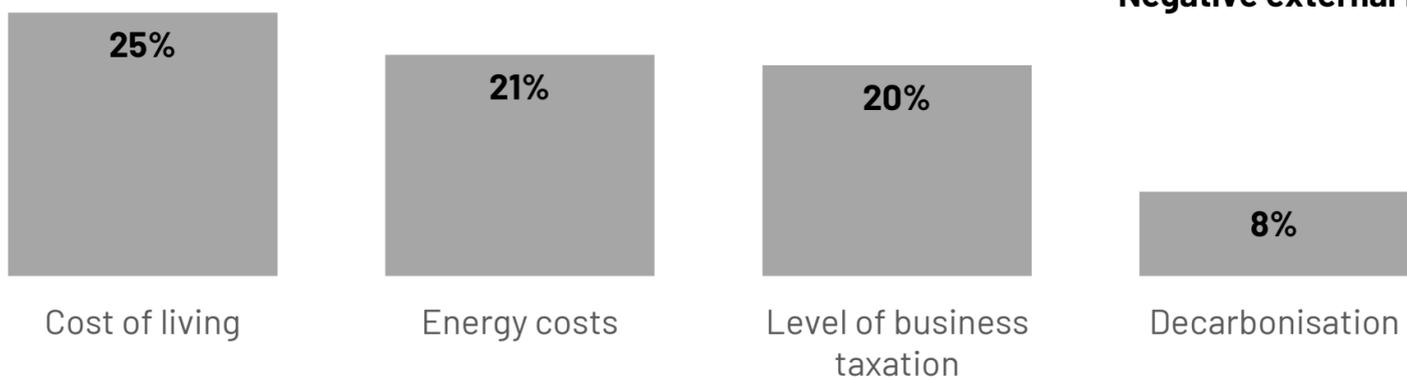
Source: Be the Business Productive Business Index | 8th Edition | November 2025 in association with Ipsos

When looking backwards, SMBs feel positive about performance and productivity over the past three months.

Positive external factors



Negative external factors



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For more insights, or subscription information, contact Nick Philp, nick.philp@ipsos.com, ipsos.com/en-uk

The Productive Business Index (PBI) tracks SME performance and outlook, offering insights into growth expectations, confidence, investment trends, macro impacts, key challenges, and near-term priorities.

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