



FSB Voice of Small Business Panel: June 2011 Survey Topline Results

- Results are based on an online survey carried out by 1633 members of the FSB Voice of Small Business Panel. This represents a response rate of 38%.
- Surveys were completed between 13th and 24th June 2011.
- The national data has been weighted to the membership profile.
- Where results do not sum to 100%, this may be due to multiple responses or rounding.
- Results are based on all respondents (1633) unless otherwise stated.
- Study undertaken by Research by Design on behalf of the Federation of Small Businesses.



Q1. How many employees work in your business at present?

Base: 1328

1	18%
2	18%
3	11%
4	9%
5-9	23%
10-49	19%
50+	2%

Q2. What was the total number of working days lost by your employees for health reasons over the past 12 months?

Base: 686

0	25%
1-4	14%
5-9	14%
10-14	10%
15-20	12%
21-40	12%
41-60	5%
61 or more	9%

Q3. To what extent, if any, has your business been impacted by the following?)

	High overall levels of sickness absence	Frequent short-term sickness absence by some employees	Long-term sickness absence
Base	1047	1049	1040
1- Not at all	64%	60%	81%
2	13%	15%	5%
3	6%	6%	2%
4	3%	4%	1%
5	4%	3%	2%
6	2%	3%	1%
7	1%	3%	1%
8	2%	2%	2%
9	1%	1%	2%
10- Significant impact	3%	3%	4%

Q4. How much do you estimate that sickness absence has cost your business over the past 12 months?

Base: 1074

£0 - Nothing	42%
£1 - £100	5%
£101 - £200	5%
£201 - £500	7%
£501 - £750	4%
£751 - £1,000	6%
£1,001 - £1,500	6%
£1,501 - £3,000	6%
£3,001 - £5,000	5%
£5,001 - £7,500	4%
£7,501 - £10,000	2%
£10,000 +	3%
Don't know	5%

Q5. In which of the following ways, if any, have you managed sickness absence in the past 12 months?

Base: 1062

Provided paid leave entitlement for routine health appointments	23%
Collected routine data on employee sickness absence	16%
Provided paid leave entitlement	7%
Utilised the Fit Note	6%
Provided other financial support	4%
Provided access to occupational health services	3%
Other	7%
None of these	57%

Q6. Which of the following, if any, affects your management of sickness absence?

Base: 1058

Lack of time	16%
Confusion about employers and employees rights	9%
Confusion about the help available from government	8%
Inability to find alternative work for employees	7%
Lack of timely access to NHS treatment or diagnosis	6%
GPs' failure to make use of the new Fit Note	6%
Expense of private advice	5%
Inability to adapt working terms and conditions	3%
Employee resistance to treatment or re-habilitation	3%
Lack of access to health professionals for advice	3%
Other	3%
None of these	68%