



## **FSB Survey on the Aftermath of the General Election**

The FSB surveyed its members (May 7<sup>th</sup> - May 10<sup>th</sup>) following the results of the General Election. The survey received over 3,200 responses.

The survey focussed on business confidence post election, future Government priorities and the economic reforms that members see as most important for their business.

The results are below.

### **Q.1 Following the election, how do you feel about the UK's economic prospects?**

<b>Choice</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Very confident	0.6%
Confident	13.7%
No change	29.4%
Unconfident	38.4%
Very unconfident	14.6%
Don't know	3.3%



**Q.2 What should be the top priorities for an incoming Government? (Please mark up to three)**

<b>Choice</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Reduce the budget deficit	71.7%
Reform the public sector	43.2%
Reform the electoral system	25.4%
Reform the banking system	44.2%
Steady the financial markets	38.9%
Reform the tax system	23.5%
Reform the benefits system	36.2%
Other, please specify	8.5%
Don't know	0.3%

**Q.3 How should the new Government go about reducing the budget deficit? (multiple responses allowed)**

<b>Choice</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Reduce public spending now	52.2%
Continue public spending, but at a slower rate	30.6%
Increase public spending to stimulate demand	7.9%
Reduce public spending next year	20.6%
Increase taxation now	23.6%
Increase taxation in the future	22.4%
Print more money	3.3%
Other, please specify	16.7%
Don't know	3.7%



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**Q.4 Have you put on hold expanding your business, employing staff or investing in new products or services due to uncertainty around the outcome of the election?**

Choice	Percentage
Yes	39.2%
No	42.1%
N/A	18.7%

**Q.5 Will you now be moving forward with expanding your business, employing staff or investing in new products or services?**

Choice	Percentage
Yes	25.7%
No	53.9%
N/A	20.4%

**Q.6 In your view, will a hung Parliament affect the UK's economic recovery?**

Choice	Percentage
Yes, it will improve it	13.1%
Yes, it will hinder it	55.4%
No direct impact	15.8%
Don't know	15.8%



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**Q.7** In your opinion, following the result of a hung Parliament, should there be another General Election within the next six months?

Choice	Percentage
Yes	49.1%
No	33.6%
Don't know	17.3%