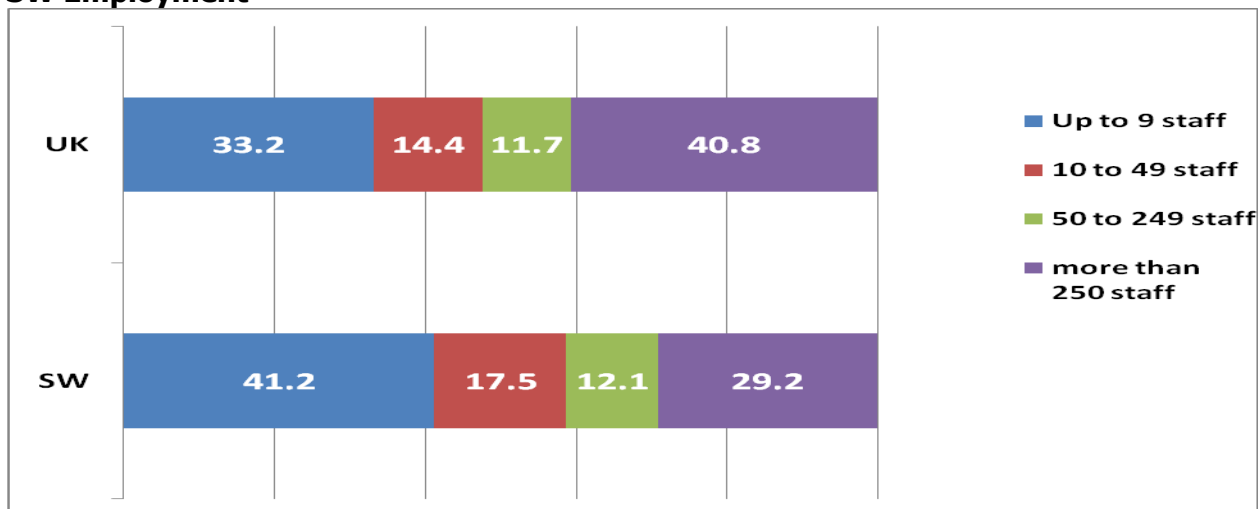


SW England and Small Businesses – some facts and figures

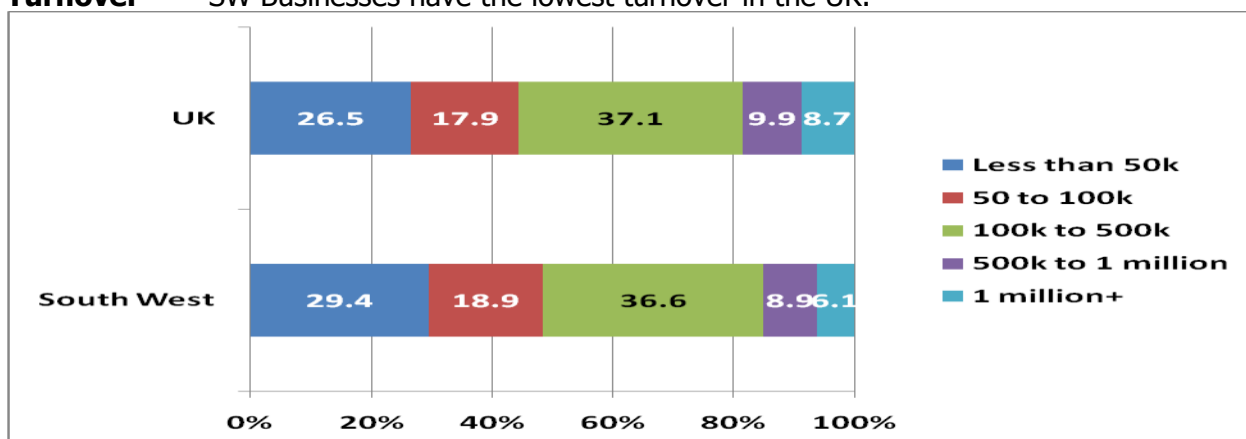
SW Employment¹



Legal Structure :- 19% SW business are partnerships and 34% are 'sole traders' who can and do employ staff. 46% have limited company status.

Business Ambition for the next 2 years : - 44% want to grow moderately (up to 20%) and 16% of SW businesses want to grow rapidly (20%+)

Turnover SW Businesses have the lowest turnover in the UK.



National Minimum Wage

25% of SW businesses reported the National Minimum Wage as having a negative or very negative effect on their business.

Working Hours

22% of SW business owners work more than 60 hours a week in their business
66% of SW business owners work more than 48 hours a week in their business

Red Tape Burden The average small business owner spends 28 hours a month filling in forms, time they could much better spend growing the business to create more local jobs.²

Crime 62% of SW businesses suffered from crime in the last 12 months. 42% reported it.

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Data Sources – all the data has come from the 'Barriers' Survey 2008, carried out by Glamorgan University in behalf of the FSB except for :- (1) Small Business Service stats 200 and (2) Vantis Survey Dec 2005

Policy Points from the SW FSB

On Training, the FSB would like to see:-

1. The flexible training now provided for some courses greatly extended, so that FE colleges can provide training when required on a modular basis.
2. Improve the level of literacy and numeracy attainment in schools, especially primary schools.
3. Greater adoption of new technology to facilitate distance learning; eg video conferencing.
4. Provide the right courses at the right time.
5. FE colleges to sell their courses to ALL local businesses.
6. Single point of contact in colleges for businesses.

On Education, the FSB would like to see:-

1. Genuine partnerships with local businesses.
2. Focussing the school curriculum on the basics plus 'learning to learn' or 'self study' skills and general knowledge
3. Changing school ethos so it is no longer 'cool' to be lazy and not work.
4. Planned, structured work experience for both students and teachers.
5. Ensuring that schools reflect work as it is likely to become, with people having several careers, retraining at regular intervals and moving between employment and self employment as the situation arises.
6. Teachers CPD must include real experience of business, including small businesses and self employment.

On Energy, the FSB would like to see:-

1. Government policy aimed at securing a variety of sources for UK energy
2. Government Policy aimed at ensuring that long term projected supply is adequate to meet the long term projected demand.
3. Government to instruct the Energy Regulator to ensure that maintenance is on a 'time expired' basis to minimise breakdowns.
4. Government to instruct the Energy Regulator to ensure there is adequate spare capacity to ensure resilience of supply.
5. Public sector to lead by example by economising on its use of energy
7. Resource efficiency including energy forming part of any diagnostic for business.
8. Energy contracts for small businesses to have the same protection as domestic consumers.

On Waste, the FSB would like to see:-

1. Small businesses offered practical and simple assistance to recycle.
2. Small businesses offered practical assistance to work together to combine waste streams and reduce unit cost.
3. Schemes to 'match' waste producers with businesses that can use such waste as a resource. To be effective, such schemes need to be well thought out integrated processes that are affordable.
4. Businesses to be free to choose from a well publicised list of registered private waste contractors.
5. Access to civic amenity sites for small businesses
6. More pressure on large businesses to reduce the packaging they demand from SMEs as well as use.

These 'Policy Points' are extracts from a number of SW FSB Policy documents which can be found on the FSB website or by contacting Vivienne Rayner at swpu.policy@fsb.org.uk

VAR 10th April 2007

Updated 21st July 2009