



Philip Dunne MP LUDLOW CONSTITUENCY

RESULTS

Many thanks to all who found the time to complete and return this survey to me, the results of which are published below.

- 1** Has the recession affected you or your business?
NO 5% PERSONALLY AS AN INDIVIDUAL 24% AS A BUSINESS 47% SOMEONE YOU KNOW 17% AN EMPLOYEE 7%
- 2** Have you noticed an increase/decrease in business compared to this same period last year? INCREASE 8% DECREASE 70% NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE 22%
- 3** Has the cost of running your business risen in the past twelve months?
YES, A LITTLE 46% ABOUT THE SAME 10% YES, A LOT 41% NO, IT HAS GONE DOWN 3%
- 4** Which of these aspects of the rising cost of running a business most concerns you? *(Please tick one)*
BUSINESS RATES 17% COST OF SUPPLIES 19% FUEL COSTS 14% OTHER 4%
UTILITY BILLS 22% TRANSPORT COSTS 13% TAX 11%
- 5** Have you and your business made any cutbacks in recent months?
CUTTING BACK ON WORKING HOURS 21% CUTTING BACK ON ENTERTAINMENT ALLOWANCES 13%
REDUCED THE NUMBER OF FULL-TIME STAFF 20% TRIED TO REDUCE WASTAGE, i.e. FUEL BILLS 41%
OTHER 5%
- 6** How has the recession affected business at a local level?
MORE SHOPS/BUSINESSES HAVE CLOSED 33% DECLINE IN INCOME 25% OTHER 6%
FEWER PEOPLE OUT SHOPPING 31% NO OBVIOUS EFFECTS 5%
- 7** a) Has your business had problems getting access to credit or experienced a withdrawal of existing credit lines? YES 25% NO 75%
b) Have any of the Government schemes to help with access to credit been any help? YES 5% NO 95%
- 8** What steps do you think the Government could take to help small business locally?
ALLOW SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED BUSINESSES TO DEFER THEIR VAT BILLS FOR UP TO 6 MONTHS 22% CUT NATIONAL INSURANCE FOR ALL BUSINESS WITH FEWER THAN FIVE EMPLOYEES 38%
CUT CORPORATION TAX 27% OTHER 13%
- 9** Are you aware that shops and small businesses can claim Small Business Rate Relief? YES 63% NO 37%
- 10** If no, would you like more information on how to claim? YES 70% NO 30%
- 11** Do you hold your business account at a local High Street Bank?
YES 78% NO 9% PART OF A BIGGER ORGANISATION 13% NOT APPLICABLE 0%
- 12** If you run a business overdraft, have you recently had your interest rate cut? YES 26% NO 29% DON'T KNOW 8% NOT APPLICABLE 37%
- 13** Are you more or less confident that your bank will continue to support your business? MORE 23% LESS 39% DON'T KNOW 38%
- 14** Has the reduction in VAT involved a lot of extra work? MORE 28% LESS 43% ABOUT THE SAME 29%
- 15** Do you think the benefits of the new rate outweigh the disruption caused? MORE 17% LESS 62% TOO EARLY TO SAY 21%
- 16** Have you any posts within your business that remain unfilled? YES 5% NO 95%
- 17** Do you have problems recruiting staff locally with the necessary skills? YES 30% NO 70%
- 18** Are you prepared to work closer with local schools and colleges to make sure that these concerns are addressed?
YES 25% NO 37.5% ALREADY WORK WITH LOCAL SCHOOLS/COLLEGES 37.5%
- 19** Where do you see yourself and your business in 12 months time?
BETTER OFF 8% ABOUT THE SAME 27% WORSE OFF 50% DON'T KNOW 15%
- 20** What is your business type?
MANUFACTURING 18% TECHNICAL SERVICES 5% RETAIL 29%
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES 17% DISTRIBUTION 6% CONTRACTUAL 1%
OTHER SERVICES 24%:
The largest 'other' group being tourism and leisure industry, then construction and farming.