

# Brexit Survey

HLB Ireland



[www.hlbireland.ie](http://www.hlbireland.ie)

# Welcome to HLB Ireland's Brexit Survey.

As Britain prepares for its referendum on its continued membership of the EU on 23<sup>rd</sup> June, there are a number of issues that could potentially impact on Irish businesses.

Accountancy and business advisory network HLB Ireland undertook a survey in May 2016 focusing on a number of key questions on how business owners feel about that potential change from an Irish perspective.

The findings of a survey are detailed in this document.

The recent survey reveals that 91% of respondents say Brexit will negatively affect Ireland.

The study noted that not surprisingly 74% said free trade is the most critical issue for Ireland.

According to the study, 75% see the uncertainty around Britain's future in the EU as an opportunity for Ireland for FDI.

## **Key findings in summary:**

1. 94% say Britain should remain in the EU
2. 91% say Brexit will negatively affect Ireland
3. 74% say Free Trade is the most important pro of Britain staying in the EU
4. 72% say trade loss is the key negative of BREXIT
5. 10% think Brexit will settle UK-EU relations once and for all
6. 75% believe the uncertainty around BREXIT provides an opportunity for FDI
7. 71% believe Brexit will destabilise the EU and the Euro
8. Most vulnerable sectors were identified as agriculture, renewals and retail.

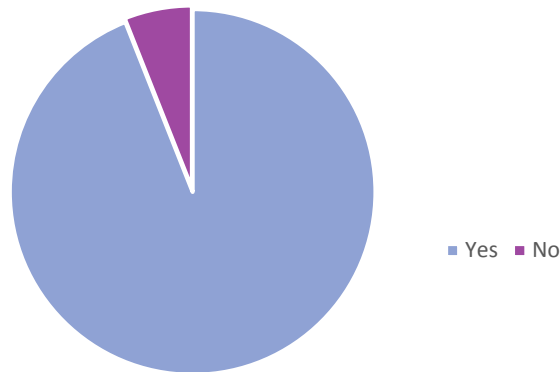


The survey of business owners was conducted over a two-week period starting on 5th May 2016. Total respondents were 218.

**Do you think that the U.K should remain a member of the European Union?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	94.0%	205
No	6.0%	13
<i>answered question</i>		<b>218</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>

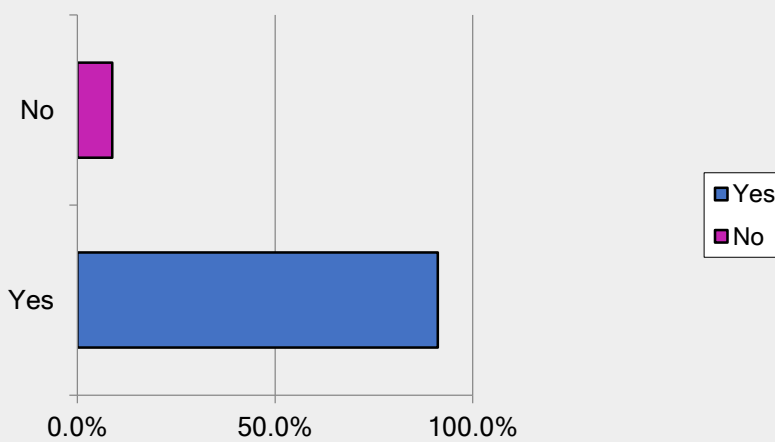
Do you think that the U.K should remain a member of the European Union?



**Would a Brexit negatively affect Ireland?**

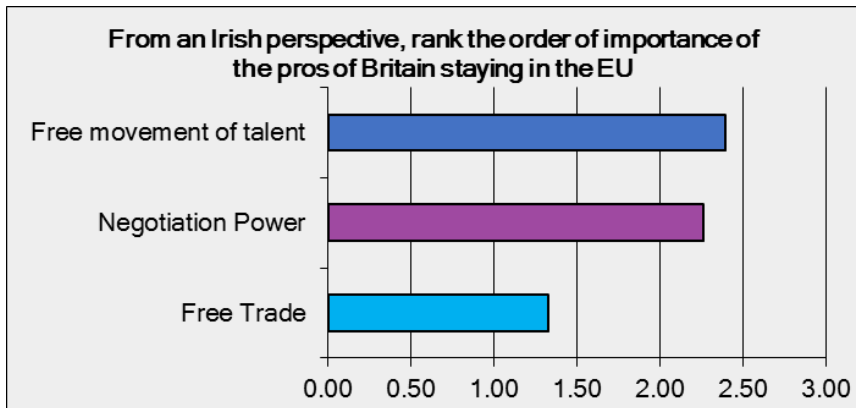
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	91.2%	196
No	8.8%	19
<i>answered question</i>		<b>215</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>3</b>

**Would a Brexit negatively affect Ireland?**



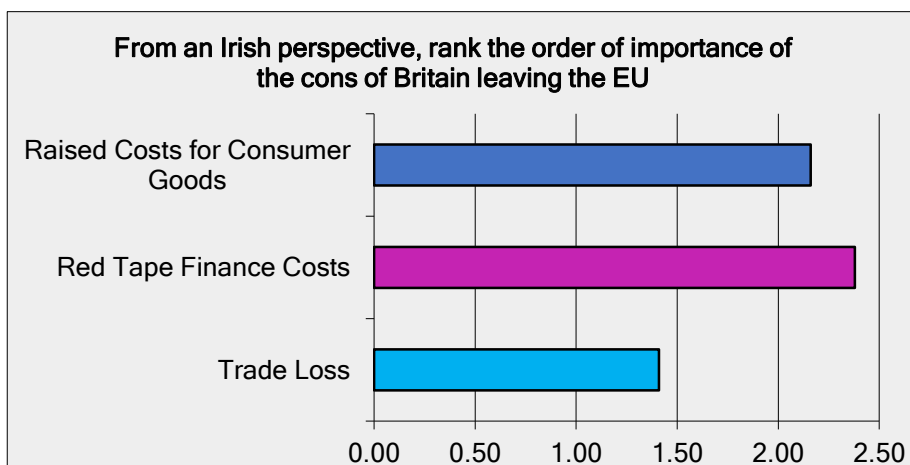
**From an Irish perspective, rank the order of importance of the pros of Britain staying in the EU**

Answer Options	1	2	3	Rating Average	Response Count
Free Trade	149	38	14	1.33	201
Negotiation Power	32	84	83	2.26	199
Free movement of talent	22	83	102	2.39	207
<i>answered question</i>					212
<i>skipped question</i>					6



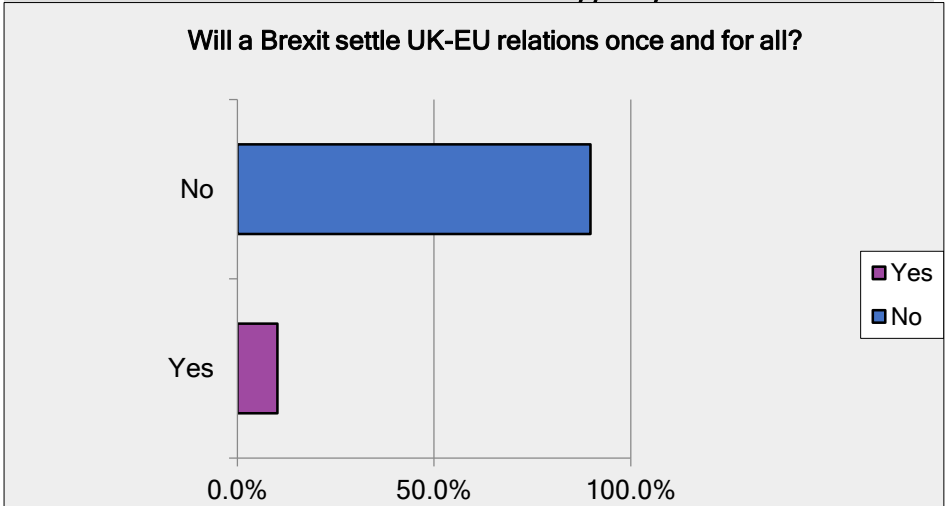
**From an Irish perspective, rank the order of importance of the cons of Britain leaving the EU**

Answer Options	1	2	3	Rating Average	Response Count
Trade Loss	141	30	25	1.41	196
Red Tape Finance Costs	35	53	109	2.38	197
Raised Costs for Consumer Goods	29	120	63	2.16	212
<i>answered question</i>					214
<i>skipped question</i>					4



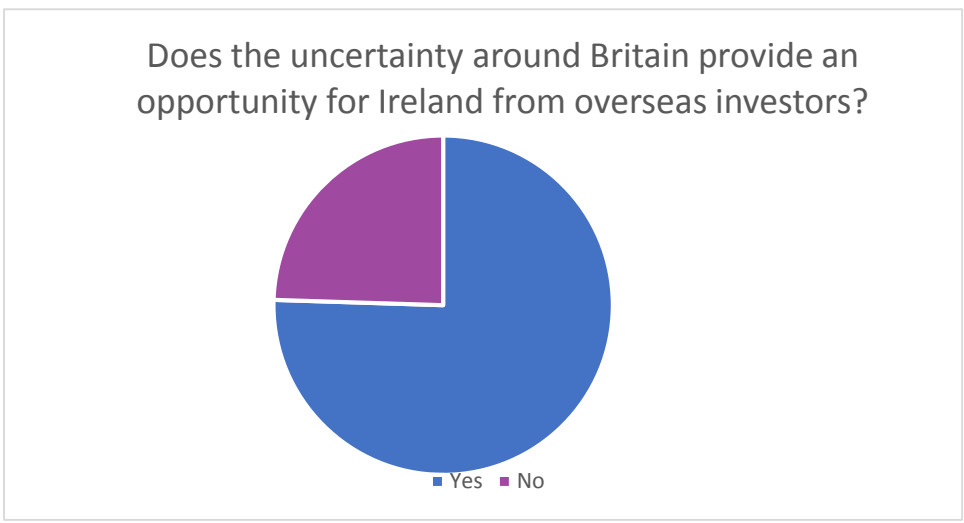
**Will a Brexit settle UK-EU relations once and for all?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	10.2%	22
No	89.8%	193
<i>answered question</i>		<b>215</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>3</b>



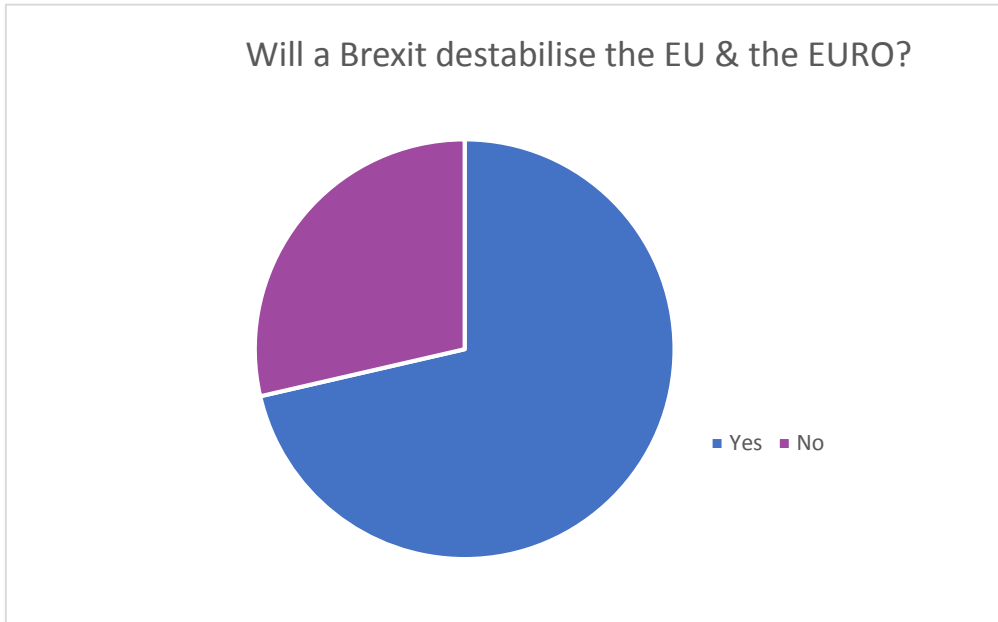
**Does the uncertainty around Britain provide an opportunity for Ireland from overseas investors?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	75.5%	163
No	24.5%	53
<i>answered question</i>		<b>216</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>2</b>



**Will a Brexit destabilise the EU & the EURO?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	71.4%	155
No	28.6%	62
<i>answered question</i>		<b>217</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>1</b>



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