



North:

45% of SMEs in the North of Great Britain say the economic downturn has had no impact on their business. Of those who did say they were affected:

22% said projects were taking longer to come to fruition

33% reported they had cut back on business travel

21% revealed companies had started to pay them later than before

16% felt they are now spending more time chasing late payments than before the economic downturn commenced.

(130 SME businesses in the North interviewed)

Midlands:

Of the 59% of SMEs in the Midlands who say their business has been affected by the much publicised economic downturn:

38% said projects were taking longer to come to fruition

38% reported they had cut back on business travel

32% revealed companies had started to pay them later than before

29% felt they are now spending more time chasing late payments than before the economic downturn commenced.

(107 SME businesses in the Midlands interviewed)

National comparison:

Of the 58% of SMEs nationally who say their business has been affected by the much publicised economic downturn:

37% said projects were taking longer to come to fruition

37% reported they had cut spending on business travel

30% revealed companies had started to pay them later than before

28% felt they are now spending more time chasing late payments than before the economic downturn commenced.

(453 SME businesses interviewed in June 2008. Fieldwork and data tables processed by Continental Research. Data weighted to be representative of GB SME business profile ie: 1.2 million SMEs)

South:

Of the 64% of SMEs in Southern England who say their business has been affected by the much publicised economic downturn:

46% said projects were taking longer to come to fruition

39% reported they had cut back on business travel

35% revealed companies had started to pay them later than before

34% felt they are now spending more time chasing late payments than before the economic downturn commenced.

(216 SME businesses in the South interviewed)