

BREXIT, TARIFFS AND EXCHANGE RATES holding back UK exports

In a major survey of more than 1,400 UK business leaders - released on 9 October 2019 - the British Chambers of Commerce and Bibby Financial Services reveal that uncertainty around Brexit, tariffs and exchange rate volatility are cited as the top barriers to exporting.

When asked which factors businesses considered a barrier to exporting goods or services...

47% 

of internationally active firms cited 'uncertainty around Brexit'.



35% of internationally active firms cited 'tariffs'.



33% of internationally active firms cited 'exchange rate volatility'.



The research also highlighted the issues that businesses are increasingly facing in relation to stockpiling, payments and the transportation of goods.

When asked whether businesses had experienced changes over the past 12 months...

31% 

of businesses reported that they had increased the volume of inventory held

15% 

reported that it takes longer to transport goods to and/or from overseas

29% 

reported that it takes longer to get paid by customers



"While international trade always involves an element of risk for businesses, government should be working to lower barriers rather than increasing them. Preventing a messy and disorderly Brexit is the immediate priority, but ensuring continuity of trade with third countries and providing firms with clear and timely information about future trade processes, would go a long way to removing unnecessary obstacles."

Dr Adam Marshall Director General, British Chambers of Commerce



"Chronic uncertainty resulting from Brexit is undoubtedly stifling international trade amongst UK SMEs. Importers and exporters are in limbo, and many are postponing investment decisions, while they await further information. Many others are focusing resources on ensuring they're prepared to deal with the potential impacts of a no-deal scenario."

Edward Winterton UK CEO, Bibby Financial Services