

Statement

For immediate release



12th January 2010

Commenting on the Quarterly Economic Survey for Q4 results released today by the British Chamber of Commerce (BCC), Graham Morgan, Director of the South Wales Chamber said: “The survey results for Q4 have revealed that businesses in South Wales are taking a positive approach to the forthcoming months, and business optimism is on the increase.

“Generally, UK Sales and UK Orders have a positive outcome in Q4. The number of companies with the same or increasing UK sales was 68% with Q3 showing 62%. The number of companies with decreased UK sales is 28% - a positive 8% decrease from Q3.

“This quarter showed 76% of businesses had stable or growing workforces and 88% expect that to be the case next quarter. However, cash flow has worsened for more companies in Q4, yet the number of companies that saw equal or increased cash flow in Q4 is 69% compared to 63% of companies in Q3.

“There are still a number of areas, despite a more positive approach, that concern our members and we shouldn't become complacent. Competition (27%) remains to be the major external factor causing concerns for business, followed by taxation at 21% and fears about business rates at 15%. In Q4, 30% of businesses also see themselves as being under pressure from increasing raw material prices.

“We have launched our National Recovery Plan for Wales today to address some of the concerns outlined in Q4 results. It explores three key areas: Building Future Business, Business Infrastructure and Breaking Barriers for Growth. Despite there being a more positive outlook as we come to the end of what has been a tough year for business we still need to make sure that there are structures in place to keep the figures increasing and re-motivate businesses.”

Ends

Notes for editors

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