

London, 2 November 2022

NEWS RELEASE

“Challenging times ahead”, but for the German-British business community the UK is still a relatively good market and place for doing business.

According to our autumn survey, the outlook for the German-British business community shows a relatively balanced picture, but it has worsened over the last six months, with only a quarter of respondents expecting their business to perform better over the coming twelve months.

In terms of the overall development of the UK economy, firms take a much more negative view, as only 5% expect the UK economy to perform better (81% expect it to perform worse or significantly worse over the coming twelve months).

However, nearly 40% of companies still expect to hire new employees over the coming year – even if this is a somewhat lower figure than in spring 2022 (50%), it suggests that demand for labour is still going strong.

Rising energy/input costs (cost pressures) and skills shortages have become the largest challenges faced by our business community. Additionally, logistical problems, a lack of demand as well as trade barriers continue to be high up on the agenda. In other words, the war in the Ukraine, supply chain bottlenecks, inflation and Brexit continue to have a significant impact on businesses.

As a result of the current crises, only a few companies have relocated or plan to move some of their business activities to other locations. This suggests that despite the current political and economic uncertainty, companies still value the operating environment in the UK.

Dr Ulrich Hoppe, Director General of the German-British Chamber of Industry & Commerce, commented, "The survey results suggest that the German-British business community is not immune to global trends, but so far it has successfully managed to navigate the current challenges."

59 online interviews were conducted with members of the German-British business community with UK operations. The study was part of the World Business Outlook and conducted in conjunction with the Association of German Chambers of Commerce and Industry. Fieldwork was conducted between 13 and 21 October 2022. The full results can be found at: <https://grossbritannien.ahk.de/en/german-british-business-outlook>

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Notes for editors:

The German-British Chamber of Industry & Commerce in London, founded in 1971, is a business to business organisation of about 750 British and German member firms. It provides business contacts, information and advice to its members and many thousands of non-members in both countries. More information can be obtained through its website: www.germanbritishchamber.co.uk.

We would be grateful for copies of articles published.

London, 5 May 2022

NEWS RELEASE

The German-British business community remains more positive about its own activities in the UK than about the British economy overall. The war in Ukraine and global supply chain issues present new challenges, which are increasingly affecting the business community. On the other hand, addressing climate change will offer significant business opportunities, however current initiatives in the UK are not yet seen as sufficient.

Similar to the autumn of 2021, half of our companies are positive or very positive about their own current and expected future performance in the UK, with half planning to increase their investment and to recruit more staff.

However, more respondents are expecting the UK economy to continue to 'cool' in the coming 12 months: 38% expect a worsening performance and only 23% expect it to perform better.

Logistical problems remain the largest challenge for businesses, but for the first time, rising energy and other input costs are listed as key challenges, indicating a significant economic impact of the war in Ukraine (56% are already feeling economic effects). Shortage of skills and trade barriers/customs formalities have been pushed down the list of challenges. With the lifting of most Covid restrictions, travel restrictions are also no longer major issues.

Concerning climate change-mitigating policies in the UK, fewer than 5% of respondents see them as very effective. However, more is expected to happen in future to address these challenges. As a result, companies see significant potential future business opportunities in the field of renewable energy production, energy efficiency and hydrogen technologies. E-mobility as a business opportunity, perhaps surprisingly, does not feature that high on the list.

Dr Ulrich Hoppe, Director General of the German-British Chamber of Industry & Commerce, commented, "The survey results suggest that, despite the recent significant decline in bilateral trade, the German-British business community remains positive about their own operations in the UK. In other words, the companies which are already successful in the UK will continue to be so. In addition, future business opportunities are seen in the field of climate change-mitigating technologies but Brexit-related issues and the war in Ukraine continue to have a negative impact on businesses and may become even more challenging in the near future."

64 online interviews were conducted with members of the German-British business community with UK operations. The study was part of the World Business Outlook survey of the Association of German Chambers of Industry & Commerce. Fieldwork was conducted between 8 April and 20 April 2022. The full results can be found at: <https://grossbritannien.ahk.de/en/german-british-business-outlook>.

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London, 27 April 2022

NEWS RELEASE

New packaging and electrical & electronic equipment (EEE) obligations for sellers on German online marketplaces

From 1 July 2022 online marketplaces and fulfilment service providers operating in Germany will be subject to new extended producer responsibility obligations for packaging that they place on the market, with similar regulations for electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) coming into force on 1 January 2023.

Due to recent German packaging law changes, operators of online marketplaces will no longer be allowed to offer packaged products, and fulfilment service providers must not carry out any activities, such as storing, packaging or dispatching goods, if the sellers of these products have not complied with their legal obligations. Sellers need to be registered with the German Central Packaging Register LUCID and license their packaging with a German compliance scheme. These regulations apply to both product and shipping packaging.

On 1 January 2023, similar regulations will come into force for electrical and electronic equipment, i.e. operators of online marketplaces must not offer this equipment – and fulfilment service providers must not carry out any of their activities – if the manufacturer of this equipment is not properly registered. The German-British Chamber recommends that companies affected by the EEE regulations start the registration process as soon as possible to be able to continue selling products in Germany next year, as the registration process takes at least 6-7 weeks, but can be much longer at busy times.

The new regulations aim to close a loophole by making each individual marketplace seller and each user of fulfilment services accountable for complying with packaging law and EEE obligations, respectively. In addition, marketplace operators and fulfilment service providers themselves must be able to demonstrate that they are complying with the legal requirements.

Goods in non-licensed packaging face a sales ban from 1 July, with violations attracting potential fines of up to EUR 200,000, while non-compliance with EEE rules could be fined up to EUR 100,000 after 1 January 2023.

Additionally, existing sellers of licensed packaging will need to have registered their non-licensable packaging, e.g. transport and deposit packaging, in the German Central Packaging Register LUCID by 1 July. The simplified registration process is due to start on 4 May, however, data reports for the quantities of packaging are not necessary.

The German-British Chamber of Industry & Commerce offers a service which helps companies fulfil their obligations under the German packaging law and can also assist companies with their EEE compliance. For more information, please contact Jana Toon, email: recycling@ahk-london.co.uk.

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29 March 2022

NEWS RELEASE

German-British Chamber and NRW.INVEST webinar “Entering the German Market: Business Opportunities in North Rhine-Westphalia”

The German-British Chamber of Industry & Commerce and NRW.Global Business GmbH, the state-owned economic development agency of North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW), are holding a webinar on “Entering the German Market: Business Opportunities in North Rhine-Westphalia” on 21 April 2022. The event is aimed at British companies planning to enter the German market and those which have already gained some experience and want to learn about how to adapt to the current challenges.

Current developments have shown the importance of collaboration between nations that share the same values. Many UK companies with a major client base in Europe should consider establishing a presence in the EU to ensure their business can benefit from the advantages of the Single Market, whilst helping to grow their business in continental Europe.

The event will provide participants with all the necessary information on entering the German market, including information on legal and recruitment issues as well as on how to start a business in Germany. A particular focus will be the region of North Westphalia as an advantageous business location. The presentations will conclude with the case study of Detectamet, a British manufacturer with an established successful base in North Rhine-Westphalia, followed by a Q&A session.

Dr Ulrich Hoppe, Director General of the German-British Chamber of Industry & Commerce, added, “Especially in light of recent events, we need to cooperate more strongly in our ‘community of values’ in Europe and one way of achieving this is to share best practices in business. The current developments act as a stark reminder that today’s challenges affect all nations. In other words, strong ties across the Channel are crucial, even if in real terms they might have become a bit weaker in recent years. Therefore, we must work on reinvigorating those ties, and business collaboration is a major step towards it.”

The webinar will be held on 21 April 2022, from 3.30pm to 4.45pm, on Zoom.

Participation is free but places are limited. For further information and to register please visit <https://grossbritannien.ahk.de/en/events/event-details/entering-the-german-market-3> or contact Sven Riemann on Tel: 020 7976 4185, email s.riemann@ahk-london.co.uk.

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