Foreign companies in the United Kingdom

1. Introduction

Hello!

This survey is interested in your views about the role of foreign multinational companies in the UK economy.

The first part of the survey (Questions 1-10) will ask you a few questions about your personal background and the second part (Questions 11-17) about your political views; the third and fourth parts (Questions 18-26) focus on your views about foreign companies specifically and the fifth part (Questions 27-32), finally, on your general economic views.

Please note that this survey is not an exam: there are no 'right' or 'wrong' answers to any of the questions below. We are only and purely interested in your personal opinion and views of these issues.

Some questions include an optional field for additional comments. Please use these boxes if you would like to make more detailed comments (otherwise you can also leave them blank).

Many thanks for taking your time to fill out this survey and for sharing your opinion! We appreciate your contribution to this study.

2. Your background

Terminate if YOB is lower than 1935 and higher than 1991

1. a. What is your year of birth? *

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1. b. Please indicate your gender

- Male
- Female

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2. What is the highest degree of education that you have completed so far?

- GCSE
- A-Levels
- Bachelor's degree
- Graduate certificate or diploma
- Postgraduate certificate or diploma
- Master's degree
- Doctorate
- I don't understand the question
- I prefer not to answer

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3. Have you ever attended an economics course during your formal education?

- Yes
- No
- I don't understand the question
- I prefer not to answer

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4. What is your current employment status?

- Student
- Employed in public sector
- Employed in private sector
- Self-employed
- Stay-at-home parenting/care-taking
- Unemployed
- Retired
- I don't understand the question
- I prefer not to answer

SC, IF retired at Q4 show Q5 otherwise show Q6

5. In case that you are retired: in which sector did you spend most of your working life?

- Employed in public sector
- Employed in private sector
- Self-employed
- Stay-at-home parenting/care-taking
- Unemployed
- I don't understand the question
- I prefer not to answer

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6. More specifically, which of the following occupational classification categories best describes your current or most recent job? [In case that you are retired please refer to the last job you held before retiring]

- Corporate manager or director
- Other manager or proprietor
- Science, research, engineering or technology professional
- Science, engineering or technology associate professional
- Health professional
- Health or social care associate professional
- Teaching or educational professional
- Business, media or public service professional
- Business or public service associate professional
- Protective services professional
- Culture, media or sports professional
- Administrative occupation
- Secretarial or related occupation
- Skilled agricultural and related trades
- Skilled metal, electrical and electronic trades
- Skilled construction and building trades
- Textiles, printing and other skilled trades
- Caring personal service occupation
- Leisure, travel or related personal service occupations
- Sales occupation

- ☐ Customer service occupation
- ☐ Process, plant or machine operative
- ☐ Transport and mobile machine driver or operative
- ☐ Elementary trades or related occupation
- ☐ Elementary administration or service occupation
- ☐ Stay-home parenting or care-taking
- ☐ Student
- ☐ Unemployed
- ☐ I don't understand the question
- ☐ I prefer not to answer

Comments:

MC, codes 1,4,5 exclusive

7. Have you or one of your immediate family members ever been employed by a foreign multinational company operating in the UK?

- ○ No, never (1)
- ○ Yes, I am/have been employed by a foreign company (2)
- ○ Yes, an immediate family member of mine is/has been employed by a foreign company(3)
- ◉ I don't understand the question (4)
- ○ I prefer not to answer (5)

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8. In case that you are not currently employed by a foreign company, would you be interested to work for a foreign multinational company in the future?

- ○ Yes, I would be interested to work for a foreign multinational company in the future
- ○ No, not really; I prefer to work for a British company
- ○ I'm undecided
- ○ I don't understand the question
- ○ I prefer not to answer

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9. How much is your individual total annual gross income before tax?

- Less than £5,000 per year
- Between £5,000 and £15,000 per year
- Between £15,000 and £25,000 per year
- Between £25,000 and £35,000 per year
- Between £35,000 and £45,000 per year
- Between £55,000 and £65,000 per year
- Between £65,000 and £75,000 per year
- More than £75,000 per year
- I don't understand the question
- I prefer not to answer

SC, Validation in place – value selected at Q9 should be equal or lower than the value at Q10

10. How much is the combined total annual gross income before tax of all members of your household together?

- Less than £5,000 per year
- Between £5,000 and £15,000 per year
- Between £15,000 and £25,000 per year
- Between £25,000 and £35,000 per year
- Between £35,000 and £45,000 per year
- Between £55,000 and £65,000 per year
- Between £65,000 and £75,000 per year
- Between £75,000 and £85,000 per year
- Between £85,000 and £95,000 per year
- More than £95,000 per year
- I don't understand the question
- I prefer not to answer

3. Your political views

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11. Which political party did you support at the 2015 UK General Election?

- Conservative Party
- Labour Party
- Liberal Democrats
- Scottish National Party
- UK Independence Party
- Green Party
- Plaid Cymru
- Sinn Fein
- Democratic Unionist Party
- Ulster Unionist Party
- Social Democratic and Labour Party
- Other
- I don't remember
- I don't understand the question
- I prefer not to answer

SC

12. Which side did you support in the referendum vote on Britain's membership of the EU held on 23 June 2016?

- The Leave campaign
- The Remain campaign
- Neither of the two
- I don't understand the question
- I prefer not to answer

SC

13. If you were already eligible to vote in the 1970s, which of the following candidates did you support at the 1974 General Election?

- Harold Wilson (Labour Party)
- Edward Heath (Conservative Party)
- Jeremy Thorpe (Liberal Party)
- Other
- I don't remember
- I wasn't yet eligible to vote in 1974

- I wasn’t interested in politics in 1974
- I don't understand the question
- I prefer not to answer

SC

14. Which of the following best describes your national identity?

- British
- English
- Scottish
- Northern Irish
- Welsh
- National of another country than those above
- Other (please specify in comments box below)
- I don't understand the question
- I prefer not to answer

Comments:

SC

15. How much do you agree with the following statement? "I would rather be a citizen of my country than of any other country in the world."

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't understand the question
- I prefer not to answer

SC

16. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "In the United Kingdom, our people are not perfect, but our culture is superior to others."

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't understand the question
- I prefer not to answer

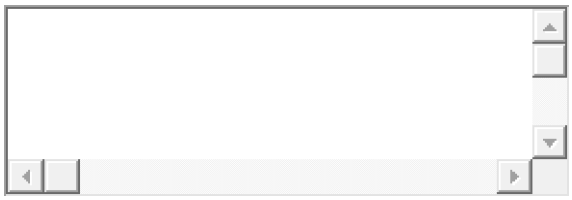
SC

17. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "The world would be a better place if people from other countries were more like the British."

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't understand the question
- I prefer not to answer

4. Your views of foreign companies

18. When you think about foreign companies that operate in the UK, which are the five companies that come to your mind first?



19. In your personal view, what are the most important positive or beneficial effects of the presence of foreign companies here in the UK (if any)? [Multiple answers are possible; please mention all points that come to your mind.]

20. In your personal view, what are the most important negative or harmful effects of the presence of foreign companies here in the UK (if any)? [Again multiple answers are possible; please mention all points that come to your mind.]

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21. Overall, do you think the presence of foreign companies in the UK are rather a good thing or a bad thing for the UK economy?

- A very good thing
- A rather good thing
- Neither a good nor a bad thing
- A rather bad thing
- A very bad thing
- I don't understand the question
- I prefer not to answer

Comments:

22. If you were to read in your favourite newspaper that foreign investments in the UK have increased a lot over the past months, what do you think would be the meaning of this for the state of the UK economy? Would you see it as a good or a bad sign? Why?

MC, code 7,8,9 exclusive

23. Below is a list of answers that other respondents have given to the previous question in an earlier survey. Please tick all statements that you personally agree with:

- ☐ Increases in foreign investments tell us that British industry is becoming weaker and less competitive (1)
- ☐ Increases in foreign investments show that the global market is confident about the UK economy (2)
- ☐ Increases in foreign investments are a sign that our government is doing a good job (3)
- ☐ Increases in foreign investments demonstrate that our government is selling out our economic future to foreigners (4)
- ☐ The fact that foreigners want to invest here shows that our economy is innovative and attracts the best talents from all over the world (5)
- ☐ These developments show how dependent we have become on foreign money. We have lost our economic independence. (6)
- ☐ I don't agree with any of these statements (7)
- ☐ I don't understand the question (8)
- ☐ I prefer not to answer (9)
- Comments:

SC

24. Like most other countries of the world, the UK has a government agency in place that aims to actively attract foreign investors by persuading them to come to the UK and invest here. [Yet, despite these efforts, the UK has lagged behind France and some other continental European economies as a destination for foreign investments in recent years. In this light,] [D]o you think the UK government should step up its efforts to attract more foreign companies to the UK?

- Yes, the UK government should do more, [so that we catch up with France and other European economies and receive at least as much foreign investment as they do]
- No, the UK government is already doing enough (or too much) to attract foreign investors
- I don't understand the question
- I prefer not to answer

Comments:

5. Different types of foreign investment

In essence, foreign companies wishing to invest in the UK can do so in two different ways: They can either build an entirely new company (e.g. manufacturing plant, shop, offices, etc.) here, or they can buy an already existing local company.

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25. Thinking about these two types of investment separately, do you think it is rather a good or a bad thing for the UK economy if foreign companies *build new companies* here?

- A very good thing
- A rather good thing

- Neither a good nor a bad thing
- A rather bad thing
- A very bad thing
- I don't understand the question
- I prefer not to answer

SC

26. Keeping in mind this distinction and thinking about the two types of investments described above separately, do you think it is rather a good or a bad thing for the UK economy if foreign companies *buy up already existing local companies*?

- A very good thing
- A rather good thing
- Neither a good nor a bad thing
- A rather bad thing
- A very bad thing
- I don't understand the question
- I prefer not to answer

6. Your economic views

SC

27. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "We live in a global economy. The economic success of countries depends primarily on global market forces, which are out of control of national governments. In this sense, national borders have become increasingly irrelevant in economic terms."

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't understand the question
- I prefer not to answer

SC

28. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "Rather than attempting to build strong domestic industries, our politicians and policymakers should primarily focus on making our country an attractive place where globally mobile multinational companies want to be."

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't understand the question
- I prefer not to answer

SC

29. How much do you agree or disagree with the following question: "To guarantee the long-term prosperity of our nation, we cannot just rely on the international economy. Our government has to think in national terms and defend our economic sovereignty."

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't understand the question
- I prefer not to answer

SC

30. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "For the good of the national economy, it is essential to have strong domestic companies that are owned by UK nationals."

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't understand the question
- I prefer not to answer

Comments:

SC

31. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "Foreign companies cannot be trusted to act in our national interest."

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't understand the question
- I prefer not to answer

Comments:

SC

32. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "Foreign companies operating here in the UK are just as valuable to our economy as British companies. It doesn't really matter whether its owners are British or foreign nationals."

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't understand the question
- I prefer not to answer

Comments: