YORKS & HUMBERSIDE

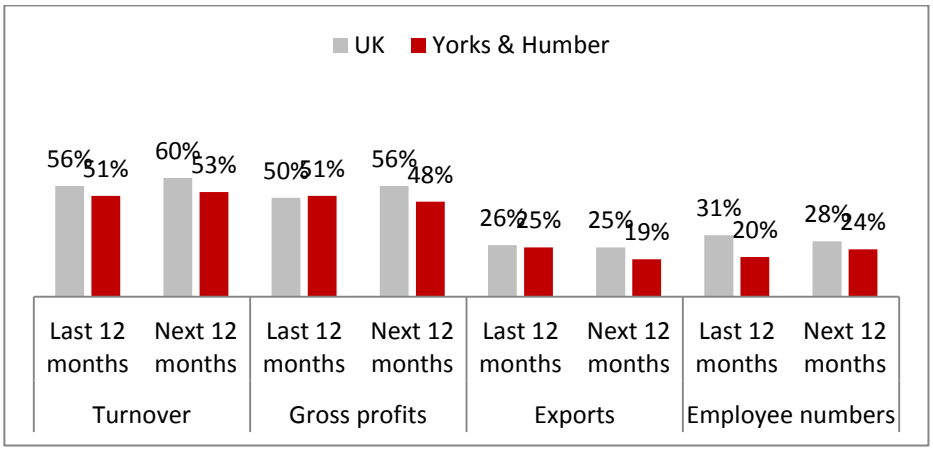
Background

1,010 members in UK businesses were interviewed by phone for the *ICAEW UK Enterprise Survey 2011* between June and Sept 2011 by Kudos Research; 90 of them in the Yorks & Humber region. The survey forms our 15th annual UK Enterprise Report which, along with our Global Enterprise report, can be seen at icaew.com/SMEResearch. The 2011 survey was sponsored by SAP.

Summary

Yorkshire & Humberside businesses stand out for being the least positive about the business friendliness of the UK's tax and regulatory system.

Growth – % reporting growth in last 12 months and expecting in next 12 months



Growth in turnover and profits is likely to be less widespread in Yorks & Humber than the UK average.

About half of Yorks & Humber businesses expect growth in the next year – lower than proportions seeing growth over the last 12 months. A quarter expect to increase their headcount.

Challenges and opportunities

- The greatest anticipated business opportunities for Y&H businesses are seen to be finding new customers / markets and increasing market share.
- Competitive pressure is expected by about a third to become more of a challenge in the coming 12 months, but above average proportions see late payments as an increasing pressure (27%).
- Key objectives for businesses here and across the UK are to increase profitability – the single main objective for 39% and increase turnover (23%).
- 63% of Y&H businesses say the UK tax and regulatory environment is not business-friendly.

Globalisation

- Increasing globalisation is expected to have a positive impact for 41% of Y&H businesses – lower than the UK average (49%) - while 46% believe it does not affect them, in line with the UK overall.
- 69% of the region's businesses have international activities – in line with the UK average; 46% in Y&H export (average 44%).
- Those interested in exporting would benefit from country and sector intelligence, and information on commercial and product regulations.