



BREXIT SURVEY DECEMBER 2017

Introduction

HLB International is one of the world's largest accountancy networks with over 660 member firms in 140 countries. Given the importance of Brexit to the UK, HLB recently undertook a brief survey of UK clients and contacts to see what they thought of Brexit and its current progress.

Four of HLB's UK member organisations took part by inviting their clients and contacts to complete the survey. The organisations were:

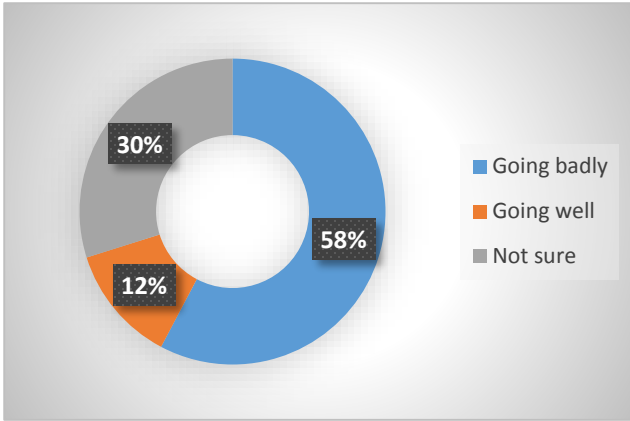
French Duncan LLP – Scotland
Lovewell Blake – East England
Hazelwoods – South West England
Menzies – London & South East England

We should emphasise that HLB is not a polling organisation and therefore the survey was not scientific and cannot be deemed to be an accurate representation of the views of British business. However, we would highlight that a few of the questions are the same as some of those asked in the "Just 15 Months To Go: What Scotland Is Making of Brexit" a piece of research produced by Sir John Curtice, Senior Research Fellow at NatCen and Professor of Politics at Strathclyde University and the responses we received are not dissimilar to the responses received by Sir John Curtice.

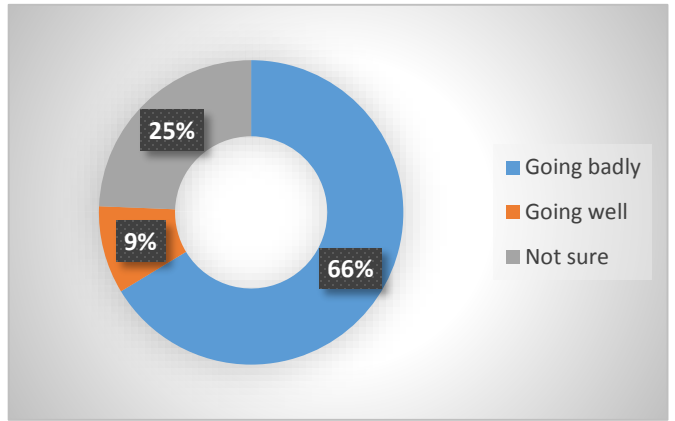
We would emphasise that the survey was not in any way intended to be partisan and is instead merely gathering the views of business people on a very important topic.

For the purpose of analysing the results we will refer to French Duncan LLP's respondents as "Scottish".

How well do you think the Brexit negotiations are going for the UK?

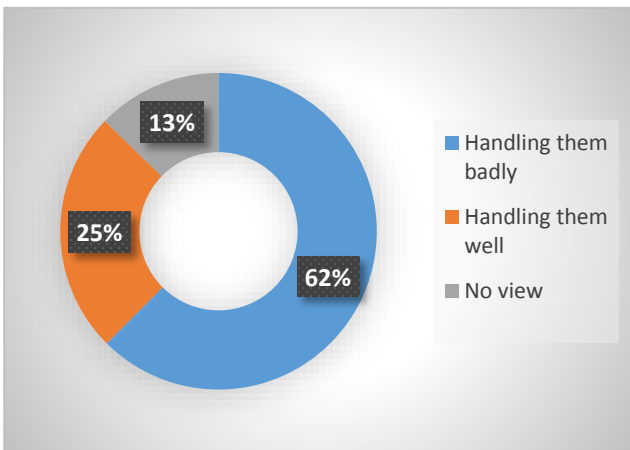


All respondents

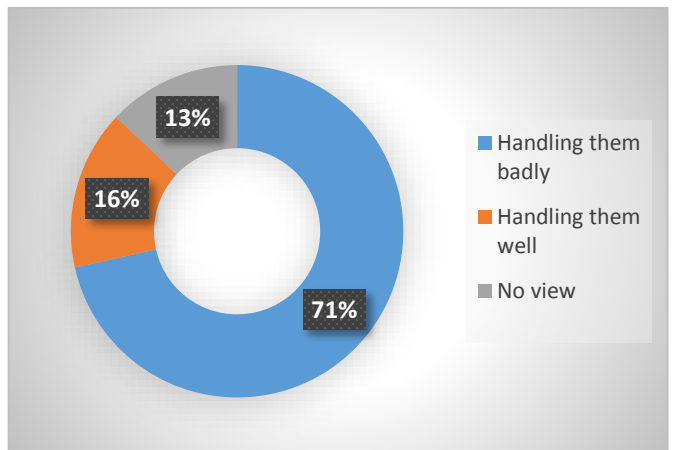


Scottish respondents only

How do you think the UK Government are handling negotiations?

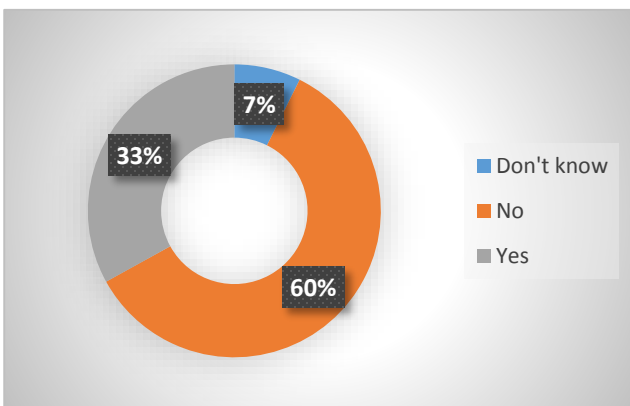


All respondents

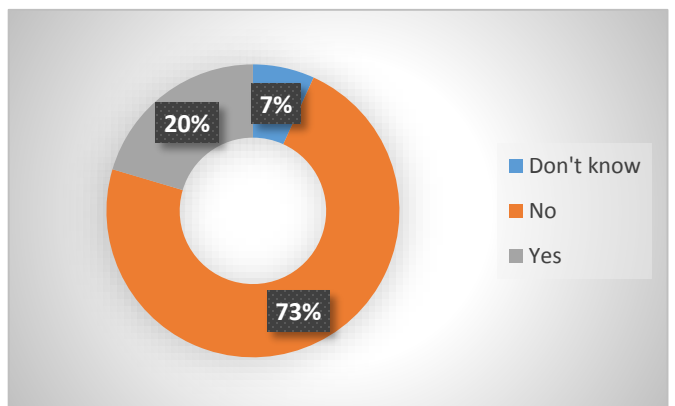


Scottish respondents only

Do you think the Prime Minister is showing strong leadership?

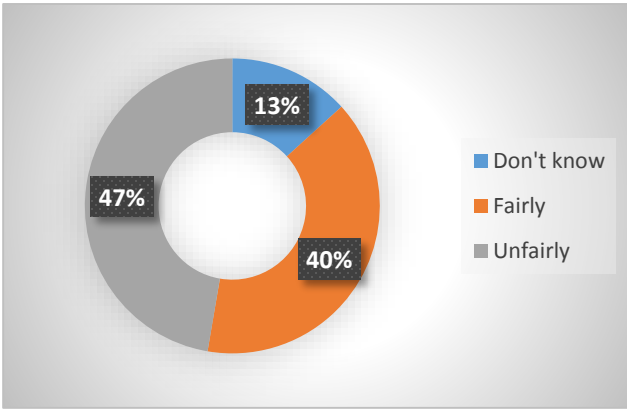


All respondents

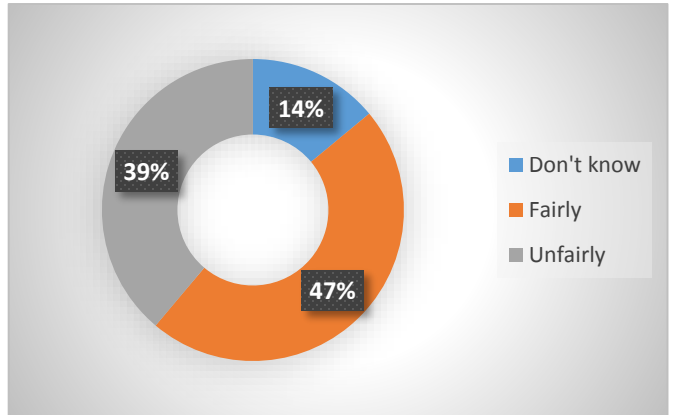


Scottish respondents only

Do you think the EU are behaving fairly or unfairly in the negotiations?

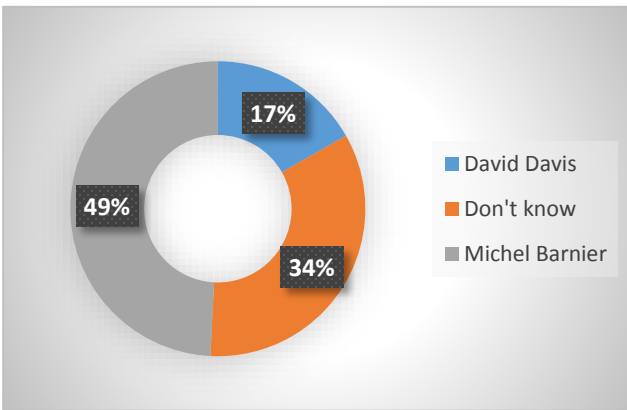


All respondents

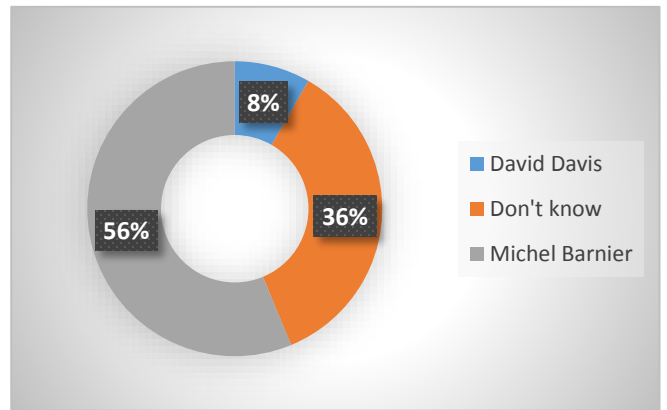


Scottish respondents only

Who do you think will negotiate the better deal - David Davis or Michel Barnier?

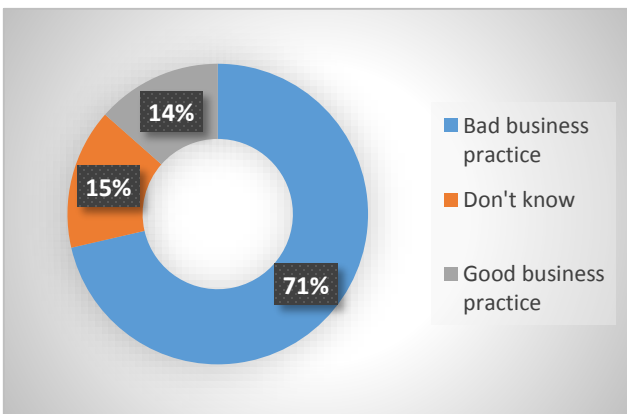


All respondents

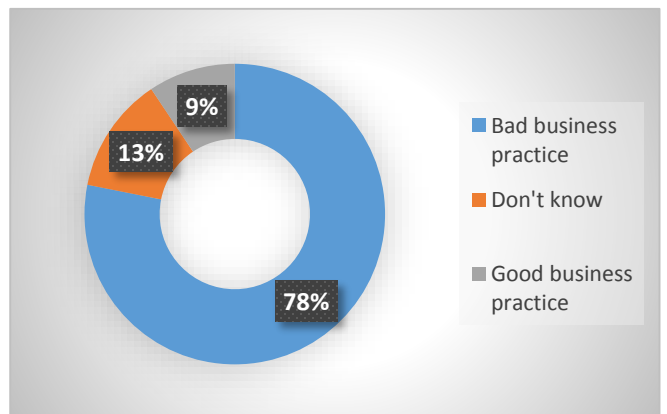


Scottish respondents only

David Davis recently informed the Parliamentary Brexit Committee that the Government had not prepared an economic 'forecast' of what will happen to the UK economy after Brexit. Do you think the Government's lack of a forecast is?:

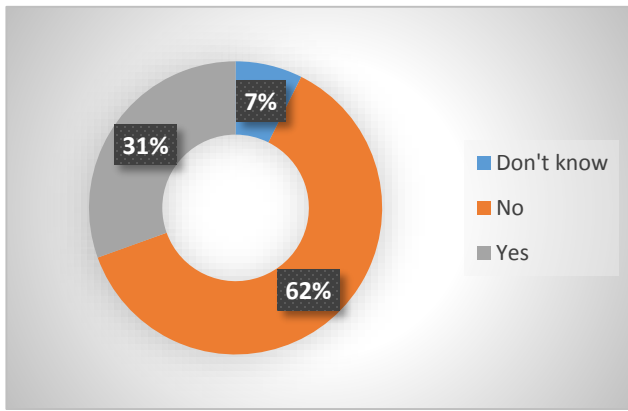


All respondents

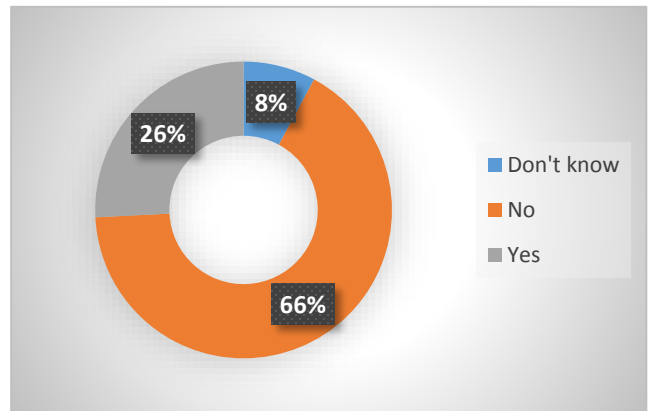


Scottish respondents only

Would you have preferred the UK to go for a 'Hard Brexit'?

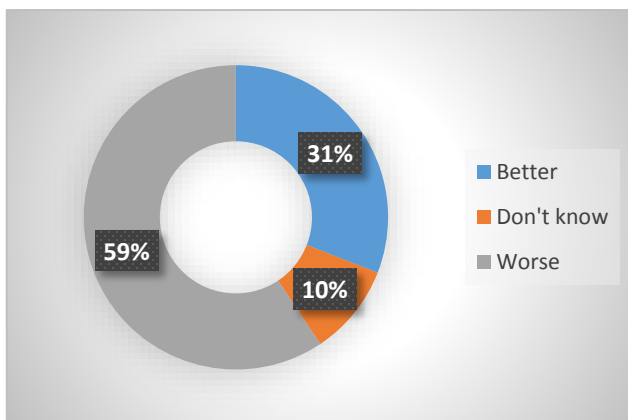


All respondents

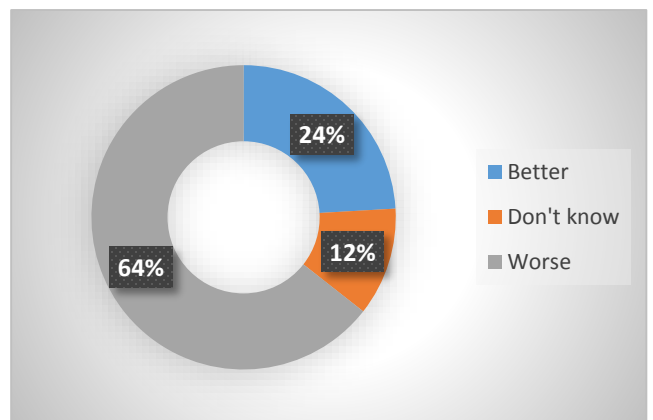


Scottish respondents only

Do you think the UK economy over the next decade will do better or worse as a result of Brexit?

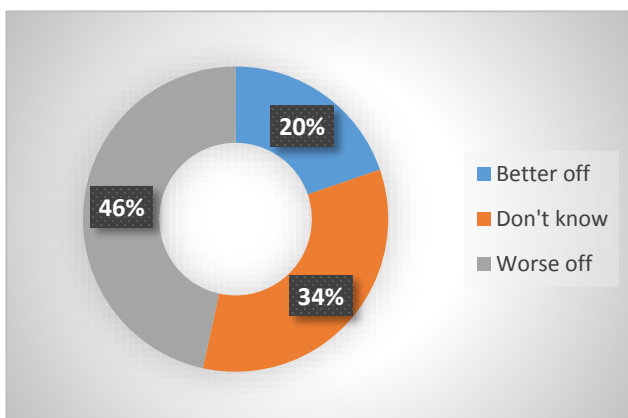


All respondents

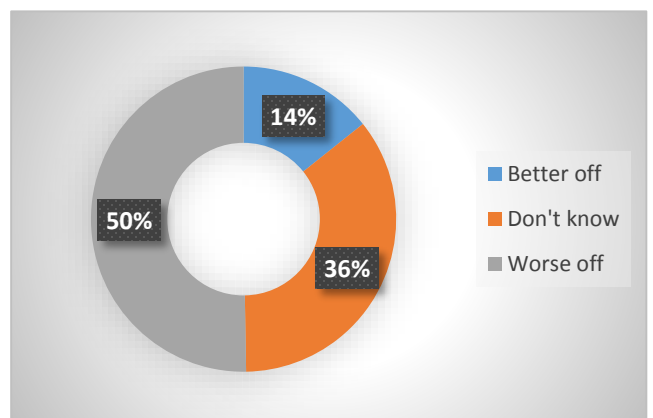


Scottish Respondents only

Do you think your business will be financially better or worse off as a result of Brexit?

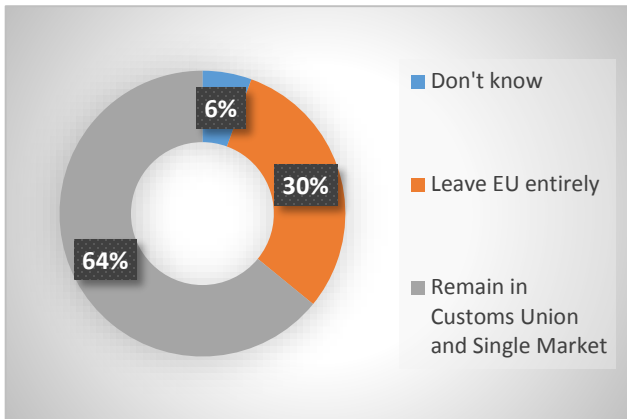


All respondents

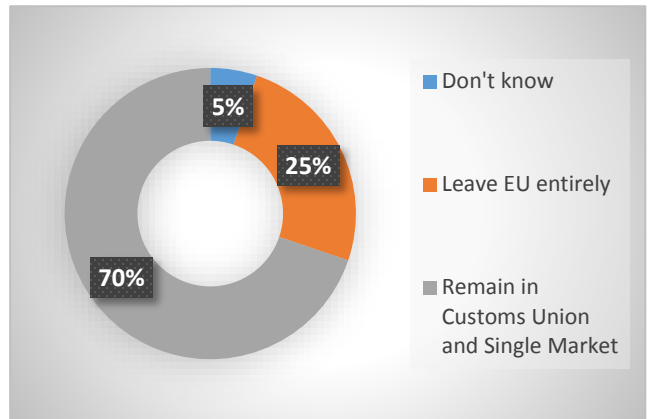


Scottish respondents only

Assuming Brexit happens, do you think we should leave the EU entirely or remain as part of a Customs Union or Single Market?

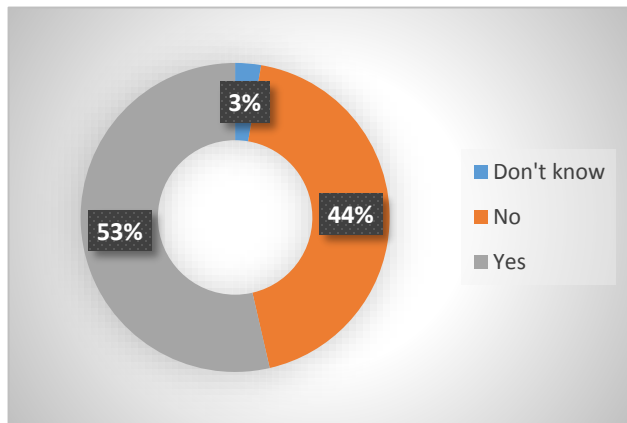


All respondents

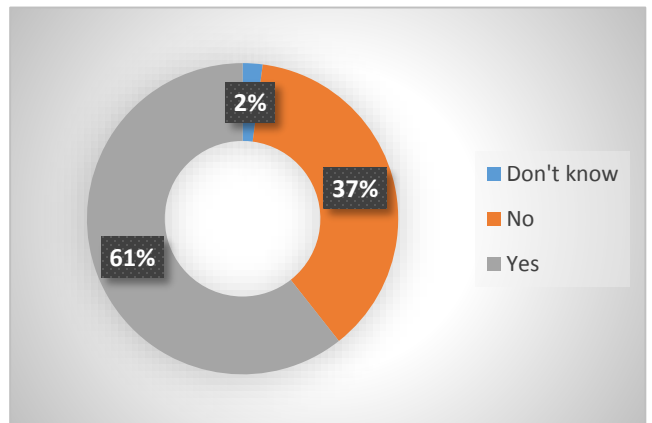


Scottish respondents only

Were you aware of there being a 'Divorce Bill' at the time of the Brexit vote?

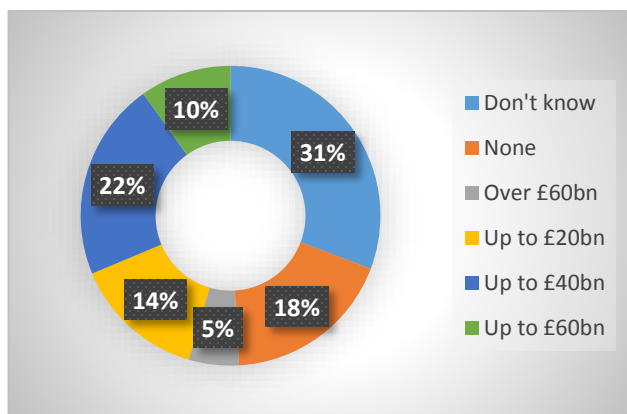


All respondents

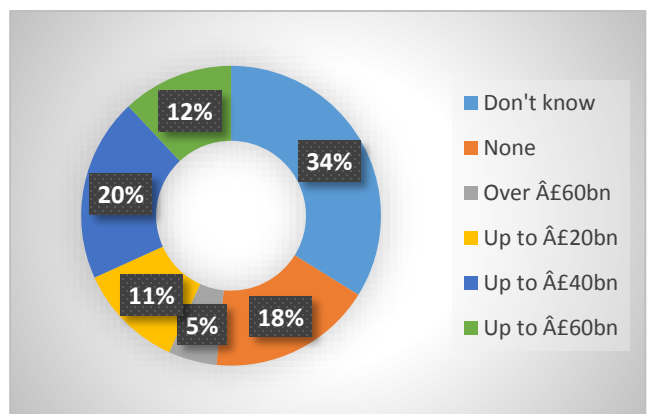


Scottish respondents only

How much of a 'Divorce Bill' do you think we should be prepared to pay?

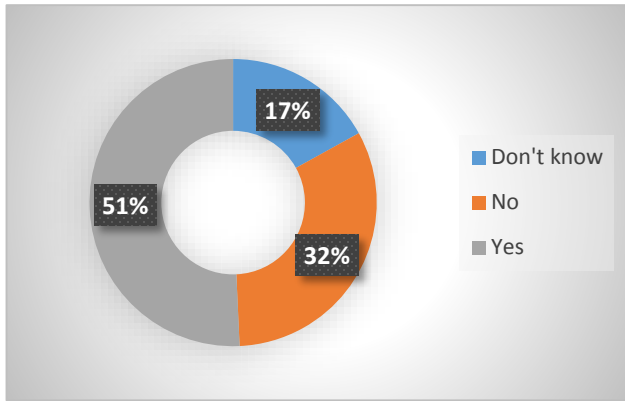


All respondents

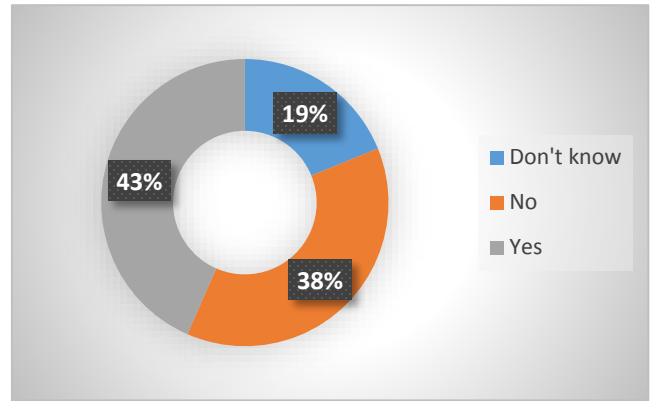


Scottish respondents only

Do you think that after Brexit having no hard border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland would be workable?

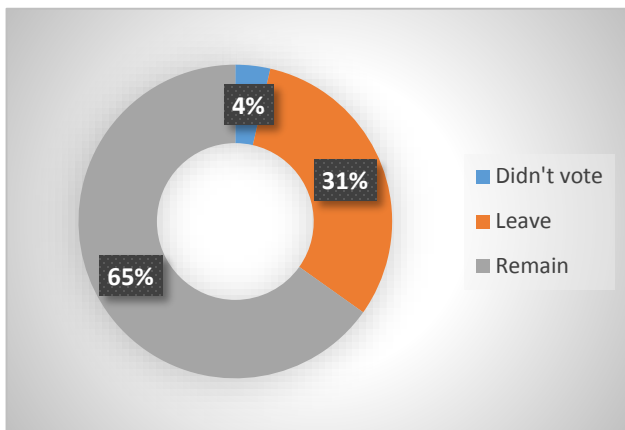


All respondents

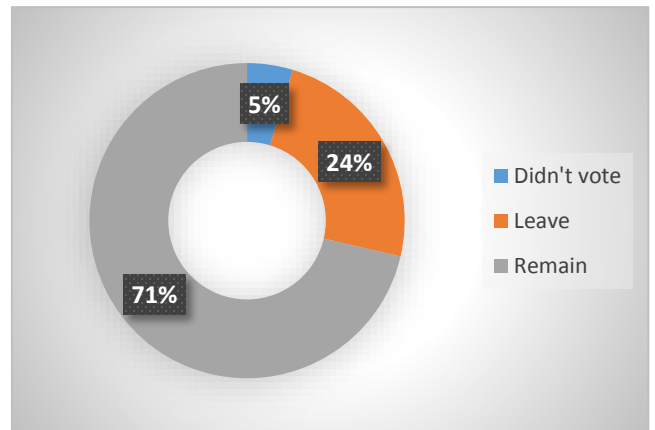


Scottish respondents only

Did you vote to Remain or Leave in the Brexit Referendum?

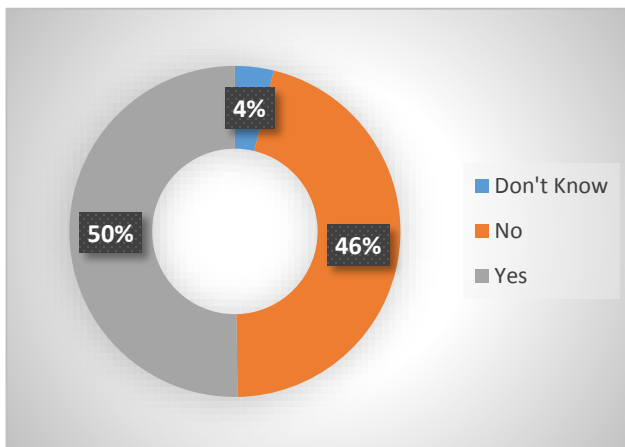


All respondents

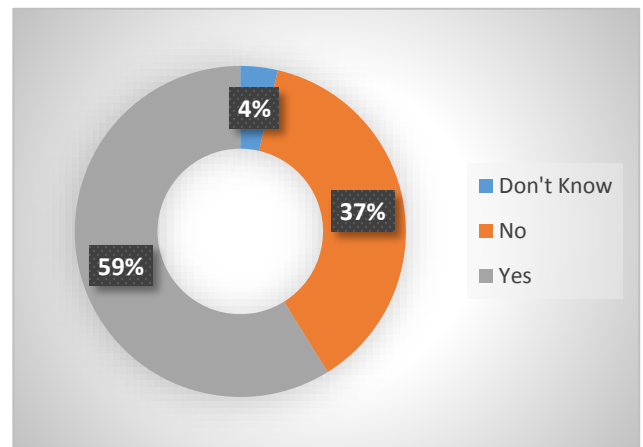


Scottish respondents only

Do you think there should be a second Brexit Referendum?



All respondents



Scottish respondents only

Conclusion

It appears that the majority of the respondents have a broadly anti-Brexit view but this view is more strongly held in Scotland and less strong in the rest of the UK.

It should also be noted that of the respondents, 65% had voted "Remain" in the referendum and so a slight bias in the numbers towards being anti-Brexit may be understandable.

While the question was not asked of respondents elsewhere in the UK, if there was a Second Referendum 66% of Scottish respondents would vote to remain. It should be noted that this is not materially different from the Scottish vote of 62% in 2016.