## British Chambers of Commerce Government Spending Survey

METHODOLOGY NOTE<br>ComRes interviewed 2,064 British adults online from $13^{\text {th }}$ to $15^{\text {th }}$ February 2013. Data were weighted to be demographically representative of all GB adults aged $18+$. ComRes is a member of the British Polling Council and abides by its rules.

All press releases or other publications must be checked with ComRes before use. ComRes requires 48 hours to check a press release unless otherwise agreed.

## Government Spending Survey

## ONLINE Fieldwork : 13th-15th February 2013

Table 1
Q. 1 The Government is expected to spend £683bn this year - equivalent to $43 \%$ of the size of the UK economy. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
Base: All respondents

|  | Total | Gender |  | Age |  |  |  |  |  | Social Grade |  |  |  | Employment Sector |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Male | Female | 18-24 | 25-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55-64 | 65+ | AB | C1 | C2 | DE | Public | Private |
| Unweighted base | 2064 | 1005 | 1059 | 229 | 311 | 397 | 370 | 318 | 439 | 587 | 641 | 322 | 514 | 284 | 748 |
| Weighted base | 2064 | 1011 | 1053 | 248 | 330 | 392 | 351 | 310 | 433 | 557 | 599 | 433 | 475 | 324 | 832 |

The Government should shift its spending towards measures designed to boost economic growth like investing in road building and house building, even if this requires cuts to universal welfare benefits and other social spending

| Agree | $\begin{gathered} 1057 \\ 51 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 624 \\ & 62 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 434 \\ & 41 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 113 \\ & 46 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 162 \\ & 49 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 186 \\ 47 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 150 \\ & 43 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 178 \\ & 58 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 268 \\ & 62 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 341 \\ & 61 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 314 \\ 53 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 208 \\ & 48 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 194 \\ & 41 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 174 \\ & 54 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 458 \\ & 55 \% \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Disagree | $\begin{gathered} 581 \\ 28 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 265 \\ 26 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 316 \\ & 30 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 62 \\ & 25 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 88 \\ & 27 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 120 \\ 31 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 119 \\ 34 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 92 \\ & 30 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 100 \\ 23 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 131 \\ 24 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 157 \\ 26 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 117 \\ 27 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 176 \\ 37 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 94 \\ & 29 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 207 \\ 25 \% \end{gathered}$ |
| Don't know | $\begin{aligned} & 426 \\ & 21 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 123 \\ & 12 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 303 \\ 29 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 73 \\ & 29 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 80 \\ & 24 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 86 \\ & 22 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 82 \\ & 23 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 39 \\ & 13 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 66 \\ & 15 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 85 \\ & 15 \% \end{aligned}$ | 127 $21 \%$ | $\begin{aligned} & 109 \\ & 25 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 104 \\ 22 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 57 \\ & 17 \% \end{aligned}$ | 167 $20 \%$ |

The Government should lower taxes on businesses or investors (e.g. Business Rates, Corporation Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax) to boost economic growth, even if this requires cuts to universal welfare benefits and other social spending

| Agree | $\begin{gathered} 786 \\ 38 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 442 \\ 44 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 343 \\ 33 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 85 \\ & 34 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 123 \\ 37 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 152 \\ 39 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 124 \\ & 35 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 124 \\ 40 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 178 \\ 41 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 237 \\ 43 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 255 \\ 43 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 152 \\ 35 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 142 \\ 30 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 128 \\ 39 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 357 \\ 43 \% \end{gathered}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & 827 \\ & 40 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 423 \\ & 42 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 404 \\ 38 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 87 \\ & 35 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 135 \\ & 41 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 154 \\ 39 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 143 \\ & 41 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 137 \\ 44 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 170 \\ 39 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 214 \\ 38 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 208 \\ & 35 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 177 \\ & 41 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 228 \\ 48 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 137 \\ & 42 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 296 \\ 36 \% \end{gathered}$ |
| Don't know | $\begin{gathered} 452 \\ 22 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 146 \\ 14 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 305 \\ 29 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 76 \\ & 31 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 72 \\ & 22 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 86 \\ & 22 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 84 \\ & 24 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 49 \\ & 16 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 86 \\ & 20 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 107 \\ 19 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 136 \\ 23 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 105 \\ & 24 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 104 \\ 22 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 59 \\ & 18 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 178 \\ 21 \% \end{gathered}$ |

## ONLINE Fieldwork : 13th-15th February 2013

Table 1
Q. 1 The Government is expected to spend £683bn this year - equivalent to $43 \%$ of the size of the UK economy. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
Base: All respondents

|  | Region |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Which of the following best describes your current working status? |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Total | England | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Scot- } \\ & \text { land } \end{aligned}$ | North East | North West | Yorkshire \& Humberside | West <br> Mid- <br> lands | East <br> Mid- <br> lands | Wales | Eastern | London | South <br> East | South West | NET: <br> Work- <br> ing | $\begin{gathered} \text { Work- } \\ \text { ing } \\ \text { full } \\ \text { time } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | Working part time | NET: Not working | Not working seeking work | Not working and not seeking work | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Retired } \\ & \text { on a } \\ & \text { state } \\ & \text { pension } \\ & \text { only } \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | Retired with a private pension | House person |
| Unweighted base | 2064 | 1794 | 185 | 85 | 258 | 186 | 206 | 154 | 85 | 177 | 232 | 297 | 199 | 1032 | 680 | 352 | 1032 | 148 | 146 | 98 | 453 | 187 |
| Weighted base | 2064 | 1775 | 179 | 93 | 243 | 182 | 191 | 160 | 109 | 193 | 260 | 265 | 188 | 1156 | 908 | 248 | 908 | 118 | 112 | 106 | 400 | 172 |

The Government should shift its spending towards measures designed to boost economic growth like investing in road building and
house building, even if this requires cuts to universal welfare benefits and other social spending

| Agree | $\begin{aligned} & 1057 \\ & 51 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 898 \\ & 51 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 106 \\ & 59 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 52 \\ & 55 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 127 \\ & 52 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 86 \\ & 47 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 88 \\ & 46 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 71 \\ & 440 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 54 \\ & 49 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 102 \\ & 53 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 142 \\ & 55 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 136 \\ & 51 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 94 \\ & 50 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 631 \\ & 55 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 504 \\ & 55 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 127 \\ & 51 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 426 \\ & 47 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 24 \\ & 20 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 35 \\ & 31 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 64 \\ & 61 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 249 \\ & 62 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 53 \\ & 31 \% \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & 581 \\ & 28 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 500 \\ & 28 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 50 \\ & 28 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 25 \\ & 26 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 71 \\ & 29 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 51 \\ & 28 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 65 \\ & 34 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 55 \\ & 34 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 30 \\ & 28 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 43 \\ & 22 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 61 \\ & 24 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 72 \\ & 27 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 58 \\ & 31 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 301 \\ 26 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 224 \\ 25 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 77 \\ & 31 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 280 \\ & 31 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 57 \\ & 49 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 44 \\ & 39 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 23 \\ & 22 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 97 \\ & 24 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 58 \\ & 34 \% \end{aligned}$ |
| Don't know | $\begin{aligned} & 426 \\ & 21 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 378 \\ & 21 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 23 \\ & 13 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 17 \\ & 18 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 45 \\ & 19 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 45 \\ & 24 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 39 \\ & 20 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 34 \\ & 21 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 25 \\ & 23 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 49 \\ & 25 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 56 \\ & 22 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 57 \\ & 21 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 36 \\ & 19 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 224 \\ 19 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 180 \\ & 20 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 44 \\ & 18 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 202 \\ 22 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 37 \\ & 31 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 33 \\ & 29 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 18 \\ & 17 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 53 \\ & 13 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 61 \\ & 35 \% \end{aligned}$ |
| The Government should lower taxes on businesses or investors (e.g. Business Rates, Corporation Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax) to boost |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Agree | $\begin{aligned} & 786 \\ & 38 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 667 \\ & 38 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 77 \\ & 43 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 31 \\ & 34 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 75 \\ & 31 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 66 \\ & 36 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 77 \\ & 40 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 71 \\ & 45 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 42 \\ & 38 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 62 \\ & 32 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 104 \\ 40 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 102 \\ 39 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 77 \\ & 41 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 485 \\ 42 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 394 \\ 43 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 91 \\ & 37 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 301 \\ 33 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 24 \\ & 20 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 30 \\ & 27 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 36 \\ & 34 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 157 \\ & 39 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 54 \\ & 31 \% \end{aligned}$ |
| Disagree | $\begin{aligned} & 827 \\ & 40 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 715 \\ 40 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 64 \\ & 36 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 42 \\ & 45 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 113 \\ & 47 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 70 \\ & 39 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 75 \\ & 39 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 53 \\ & 33 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 48 \\ & 44 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 76 \\ & 39 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 101 \\ 39 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 107 \\ 40 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 77 \\ & 41 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 434 \\ 38 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 326 \\ 36 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 107 \\ 43 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 393 \\ 43 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 57 \\ & 48 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 54 \\ & 48 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 50 \\ & 47 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 166 \\ & 41 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 67 \\ & 39 \% \end{aligned}$ |
| Don't know | $\begin{aligned} & 452 \\ & 22 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 394 \\ 22 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 38 \\ & 21 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 20 \\ & 21 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 54 \\ & 22 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 46 \\ & 25 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 39 \\ & 20 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 36 \\ & 23 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 20 \\ & 19 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 55 \\ & 28 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 55 \\ & 21 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 55 \\ & 21 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 34 \\ & 18 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 237 \\ & 21 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 188 \\ & 21 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 49 \\ & 20 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 214 \\ & 24 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 37 \\ & 31 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 28 \\ & 25 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 20 \\ & 19 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 77 \\ & 19 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 51 \\ & 30 \% \end{aligned}$ |

