

How Small and Midsize Companies in the United Kingdom Navigate New Economic Realities



Every small and midsize company faces moments of economic highs and lows. But this most recent cycle of change is testing everyone's limits to the point where old norms and rules no longer apply.

According to new research from Oxford Economics, "transforming operations around new technologies and human experiences will be critical to resilience and growth in the years ahead." Read the **Oxford Economics report, "Digital, Resilient, and Experience-Driven,"** for tips on navigating new economic realities.

Among Top Strategies, Experience Is Key

Q: What are your organization's strategic priorities over the next three years?

1

Improving the customer experience

2

Attracting new customers

3

Increasing profits and reducing costs

4

Driving business growth

5

Minimizing risk

Top Drivers for Customer Experience

Q: How critical or moderately important are the following factors to providing a high-quality customer experience? (Top five responses of all surveyed small and midsize businesses.)



- 73% High-quality products and services
- 65% Fast and convenient delivery
- 63% Data protection and privacy
- 59% Personal relationships and interactions
- 57% Sustainable practices

Key Factors in Employee Experiences

Q: How critical or moderately important are the following factors to providing a high-quality employee experience? (Top five responses of all surveyed small and midsize businesses.)



- 72% Benefits and perks for employee well-being
- 69% Meaning and purpose in the work
- 67% Effective leadership
- 66% Clarity in business strategy
- 64% Training, development, and growth opportunities

Digital Technology Shapes Experiences . . .

Q: To what extent do you agree or strongly agree with the following statements about your organization and your industry?



Digital technologies have meaningfully improved the employee experience



Digital technologies have meaningfully improved the customer experience

. . . and Offers a Variety of Additional Benefits

Q: In which of the following ways do you expect automation and digital technologies to support your organization's business goals? (Respondents could select all that apply.)



43% Increase process efficiency by reducing error, risk, and cost



40% Allow employees to focus on higher-level business tasks



39% Improve productivity through transformation and intelligent process automation



38% Improve understanding of the wants and needs of customers, employees, and partners

Digital Transformation Continues to Grow

Q: How would you describe your organization's current and planned progress toward digital transformation?

Today

In three years

25% → 51%

Are making substantial or complete progress toward digital transformation

Learn more

Find out how going digital can help your company steer through any economic condition with a high level of resilience. Read the Oxford Economics report, **"Digital, Resilient, and Experience-Driven."**

All findings are sourced from "Digital, Resilient, and Experience-Driven," Oxford Economics, sponsored by SAP, 2020. The research was based on 2,000 respondents, including 100 from the United Kingdom.