

## March Business Health News from Company Pulse

### P - People + Processes

#### **EU migrants say UK employers have been 'very poor' on Brexit support**

*People Management 29 March 2018*

More than a third of EU citizens working in the UK say their employer has been 'very poor' in answering their questions and providing support around Brexit, according to an exclusive People Management poll and almost half are making plans to leave the country.

Read more: <https://www.peoplemanagement.co.uk/news/articles/eu-migrants-uk-employers-poor-brexit-support>

#### **Pay rises are accelerating and the labour market is still roaring**

*EEF 22 March 2018*

EEF's Pay Bulletin has seen a quite sustained growth in manufacturing wages in the last few months. Annual three-month average growth between 2.2% and 2.5% has been recorded in the last six months with an extremely low number of pay freezes and deferrals.

Read more: <https://www.eef.org.uk/campaigning/news-blogs-and-publications/blogs/2018/mar/pay-rises-are-accelerating-and-the-labour-market-is-still-roaring>

#### **Spotlight on apprenticeships highlights role of levy on training investment**

*Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development 9 March 2018*

National Apprenticeship Week 2018 highlights some great work. But reform of the apprenticeship levy is needed for more progress on skills.

Read more: <https://www.cipd.co.uk/news-views/news-articles/national-apprenticeship-week>

### U - Utilisations + Outcomes

#### **Private sector growth slows in quarter to March**

*Confederation of British Industry 29 March 2018*

Growth in the UK's private sector slowed in the three months to March, according to the latest CBI Growth Indicator.

Read more: <http://www.cbi.org.uk/news/private-sector-growth-slows-in-quarter-to-march/>

#### **Looking at manufacturing output from a different angle**

*EEF 29 March 2018*

GDP growth in the last quarter of 2018 was confirmed by the ONS at 0.4%. 2017 annual growth was slightly revised up to 1.8%. Business investment was also revised up by 0.3%. Now, let's see these numbers in another way.

Read more: <https://www.eef.org.uk/campaigning/news-blogs-and-publications/blogs/2018/mar/looking-at-manufacturing-output-from-a-different-angle>

## **Small business confidence bounces back as economic forecasts lift**

*Federation of Small Businesses 27 March 2018*

Confidence among small UK firms is rebounding against a backdrop of lower inflation, progress on Brexit talks and a positive Spring Statement, according to the latest FSB Small Business Index.

Read more: <https://www.fsb.org.uk/media-centre/press-releases/small-business-confidence-bounces-back-as-economic-forecasts-lift>

## **L - Logistics + Infrastructure**

### **Manufacturers agree: They need more cyber-security support**

*EEF 27 March 2018*

Manufacturers understand cyber-security is a serious threat to businesses of all sizes, but often feel unprepared for tackling the challenge of safeguarding their organisation.

Read more: <https://www.eef.org.uk/about-eef/media-news-and-insights/blogs/2018/mar/manufacturers-agree-they-need-more-cyber-security-support>

### **Big Northern and Midlands cities outperforming rest of country**

*Centre for Cities 21 March 2018*

A new report reveals the scale of urban transformation in big Northern and Midlands cities over recent decades and shows that the number of people living and working in Manchester, Leeds and Birmingham city centres has soared in comparison to other cities across the country.

Read more: <http://www.centreforcities.org/press/major-northern-midlands-cities-outperforming-rest-country-attracting-jobs-residents-city-centres-action-needed-protect-commercial-space-driving-growth/>

### **BCC launches 'No More Not Spots' campaign**

*British Chambers of Commerce 20 March 2018*

The UK's leading business group is launching a campaign that will bring together business communities and those involved in delivering coverage to identify coverage challenges and work through solutions to improve poor mobile coverage.

Read more: <http://www.britishchambers.org.uk/press-office/press-releases/bcc-launches-%E2%80%98no-more-not-spots%E2%80%99-campaign.html>

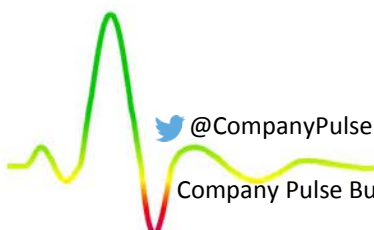
## **S - Strategy + Finance**

### **Trade and skills top of small business wish list as Brexit countdown hits one year**

*Federation of Small Businesses 29 March 2018*

With a year left on the Brexit clock, small businesses are urging the Government to agree the future economic partnership with the EU. According to FSB research, the EU single market is a priority trading bloc with 63% of small firms wanting to see a trade deal prioritised with the EU.

Read more: <https://www.fsb.org.uk/media-centre/press-releases/trade-and-skills-top-of-small-business-wish-list-as-brexit-countdown-hits-one-year>



### **Consumers already paying the price of Brexit twelve months ahead of official separation**

*Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply 20 March 2018*

Brexit uncertainty is causing businesses to pass the increase in costs incurred as a result of supply chain challenges on to consumers, according to new research from CIPS – nearly one third of UK businesses have increased their prices as a result of Brexit.

Read more: <https://www.cips.org/en-gb/news/news/consumers-already-paying-the-price-of-brexit-twelve-months-ahead-of-official-separation-/>

### **UK economy remains subdued despite uplift from strong global growth**

*British Chambers of Commerce 19 March 2018*

The BCC has upgraded its growth expectations for the UK economy, raising its forecast for GDP from 1.1% to 1.4% in 2018 and from 1.3% to 1.5% for 2019, and its first forecasts for 2020 is for 1.6% growth.

Read more: <http://www.britishchambers.org.uk/press-office/press-releases/bcc-forecast-uk-economy-remains-subdued-despite-uplift-from-strong-global-growth.html>

## **E - Ethos + Relationships**

### **Gender pay gap: multiple firms submit questionable data**

*The Guardian 29 March 2018*

The equalities watchdog has insisted it will pursue companies that submit inaccurate figures on their gender pay gaps after multiple firms appeared to file questionable information as some firms have entered zero in all fields or claimed mathematically impossible gaps.

Read more: <https://www.theguardian.com/news/2018/mar/29/gender-pay-gap-several-firms-submit-questionable-data>

### **Use of legal measures to silence workplace harassment victims more widespread**

*People Management 29 March 2018*

A parliamentary panel heard evidence on how the use of non-disclosure agreements to silence employees from speaking out about workplace sexual harassment had become endemic – with some former employees only now starting to speak about them

Read more: <https://www.peoplemanagement.co.uk/news/articles/legal-measures-silence-workplace-harassment-widespread>

### **Engaging with staff on workplace pensions 'fundamental' to successful retirements**

*Confederation of British Industry 27 March 2018*

Offering high-quality workplace pensions is critical to successful businesses and retirements, but more workers and firms need to 'open their eyes' to the benefits of pensions and be alert to the risks of failing to engage.

Read more: <http://www.cbi.org.uk/news/engaging-with-staff-on-workplace-pensions-fundamental-to-successful-retirements/>

