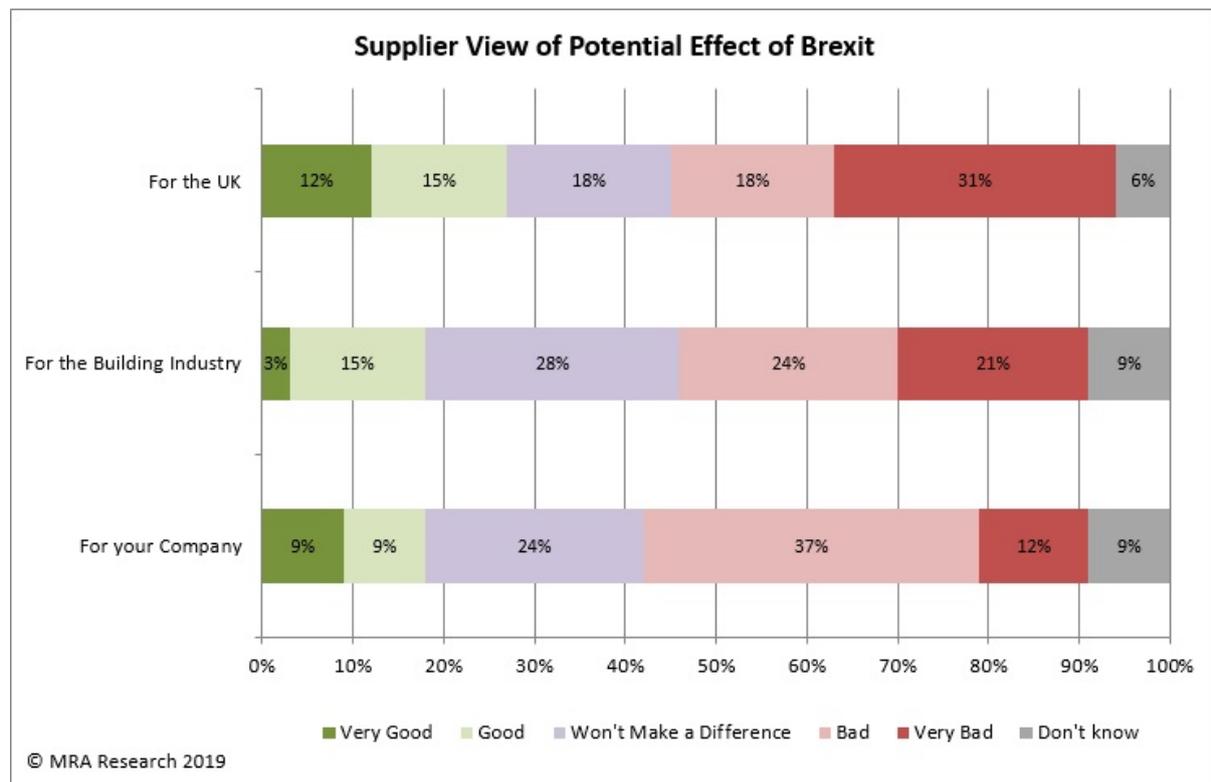


Construction industry suppliers are prepared for Brexit

As part of a larger survey which included merchants and other construction industry stakeholders, MRA Research, the specialist research division of MRA Marketing, asked building and home improvement product suppliers what they thought the impact of Brexit would be on the UK, the building industry and the company they worked for.



Like voters and MPs, industry suppliers are split in their expectations for Brexit. Almost half of the suppliers interviewed (49%) think Brexit will be either bad or very bad for the UK as a country, while 27% think the effect on the UK will be good or very good. Nearly one in five (18%) think it will have no impact. Many respondents commented separately that, although there may be a slight dip in the short term as a result of leaving, they thought there would be less of a negative impact in the longer term.

Reviewing the potential impact on the building industry, 18% of suppliers surveyed said Brexit would be good or very good for the building industry, compared to 45% who thought it would be bad or very bad. Twenty eight percent thought it wouldn't make much difference either way.

Interestingly, suppliers felt less strongly about the potential impact on their own company than they did about the effect on the UK. Eighteen percent expect the company they work for to be better off as a result of Brexit, compared to 27% expecting the same for the country. Respondents were also asked about changes they expected to see as a result of Brexit in sales, prices, stock levels and other issues in the next 12 months.

Mike Rigby, who started MRA Research over 25 years ago, comments: “Although 49% of suppliers expect their company to be worse off in the short term because of a dip in confidence due to Brexit-related uncertainty, and despite concerns around the supply chain and international trade, most suppliers have made contingency plans, feel well prepared for any negative effects Brexit might bring and have a positive outlook in the longer term”. MRA Research focuses on market and customer insight in the building materials and construction markets.

“Good for Britain in long run, but will have a negative impact in the short run.” Bathroom & Kitchen Products Supplier

“Regardless of your political view, the economy is expected to expand at a slower rate than the longer-term average.” Insulation Supplier

“Potentially we could be better off. Unlike many other companies we took measures over a year ago to mitigate effects, so may end up picking up work from the less prepared. We are also European owned and currently they are investing in our UK operation.” Door Manufacturer

“In the short term I believe it will have negative effect on currency and supply delays but it could be better in the long term.” Building Products Supplier

“Will affect confidence, certainly in the short term.” Timber Engineering Company

“In the long run it will be very good. Since it was announced our business has grown.” UK Brick & Tile Manufacturer

“May encourage more product manufacturing in the UK” Roof Tile Manufacturer

“Sales are increasing currently because of stockpiling.” Supplier of Bathroom Products

“Prices will rise because people will use Brexit as an excuse, not a reason” Washroom Systems Supplier

“Expecting to see an impact on labour availability, with reductions in the availability of skilled tradespeople” Roofing & Waterproofing Supplier

MRA Research focuses on market and customer insight in the building materials and construction markets.

The full report, which includes views from merchants and others in the industry, as well as supplier expert comments, is free to download from www.mra-research.co.uk/brexit or call Anna Eriksson on 01453 521621 or email anna@mra-marketing.com for your copy.