



Q1 2018 Survey Findings



Growth slowed during the first quarter of 2018.



Most key balances fell over the quarter, particularly in manufacturing.



Sales and order books are not strong, particularly in the domestic (UK) market.

2013

The domestic sales balances are at their lowest recorded since 2013.



NI's regional position is very weak, ranking lowest across the UK regions for most key balances.

1/14

Only 1 of the 14 key balances in manufacturing ranks above the UK average and in services 5 of the 14.



Pressure to raise prices eased during Q1 2018.



Exchange rate pressures also eased during Q1. **37%** of members state that exchange rates are more of a concern now than 3 months ago. This was 55% in Q4 17.



Around two-thirds of those trying to recruit are finding it difficult to attract the right staff, largely professional/managerial in services and skilled trades in manufacturing.

28%

Inflation and interest rates are growing concerns for members. The share of members citing interest rates as a concern increased to 28% in Q1 (13% in Q1 17).

Brexit Watch



One in four members have made changes to their business model due to Brexit.



Almost 1 in 10 members (8%) have established a presence outside Northern Ireland and 20% are thinking about doing so.

Wage Prospects for 2018



76% of members are experiencing pressure to raise wages in their business/organisation.



Competition to keep/attract staff and pressure due to the rising cost of living are key drivers.

Almost 270 members responded to the NI Chamber of Commerce & Industry Quarterly Economic Survey, in partnership with BDO, during the 1st quarter of 2018. Together they account for over 19,000 jobs.

Note: The 'balance' refers to the difference between the % of firms reporting an increase in a key indicator minus the % reporting a decrease.

