

Small Business Owners share their views on 2017

In its dedicated efforts to be the voice for small business owners and entrepreneurs across the globe, Sage recently conducted a survey to get a sense of how small business owners are feeling following the election and current policy as we head into 2017.

Small Business Owners ARE OPTIMISTIC

36% feel more confident about their business prospects in the next six months

HAVE BIG PLANS FOR 2017



Launch a new product

28%



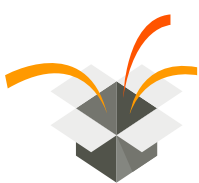
Hire more staff

24%



Branch into new industries

13%



Move to accommodate more people

9%



Move to somewhere more affordable

10%



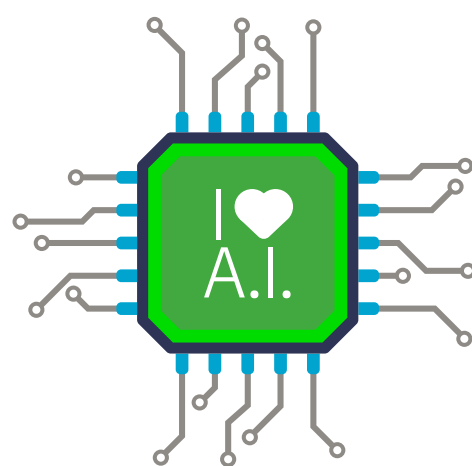
Start a new business

12%

WILL USE MORE TECHNOLOGY

48% would welcome an "admin free" world

More than half of respondents believe **artificial intelligence** to be the biggest trend for business in 2017



Listen Up, Policy Makers!

BUT

Only 25% of Small Business Owners believe that small businesses are fairly represented in our current political system



11% made cuts by getting rid of redundancies and closing their offices



13% reduced investment in innovation



15% froze hiring



12% made new hires to grow their business



15% changed investment strategies



45% have not done anything to safeguard their business from the impact of global political changes



Small Business Owners

SEE THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES AS



Too much Government bureaucracy and legislation (12%)



Tax rates/tax relief for business (12%)



Access to capital funding (13%)

WOULD LIKE SUPPORT THROUGH



Business support (e.g. grants, export opportunities)



Improvements to the tax environment



Good local services (e.g. transport, waste collection)

#SageBusinessBuilders

This survey is part of the Sage Forum for Business Builders, a platform that brings together insights, research, reports, regional events and policy-forming partnerships to provide entrepreneurs with the tools necessary to create a powerful collective voice that can be heard on the world stage. The Forum will also support in-person and virtual debates that bring entrepreneurs into the room with top decision-makers around the world.

<https://www.sage.com/company/business-builders>