

ZA6857

**Flash Eurobarometer 451
(Business Perceptions of Regulation)**

**Country Questionnaire
Ireland (English)**

FL451 Perception of regulation among businesses - IEX

ASK ALL

INT.: (READ OUT) Today I would like to ask you a few questions about legislation. In your daily business you have to comply with legislation. This may for example be legislation related to working time or late payments. Please note that the focus of this survey is not on legislation governing requirements for setting up a company.

D1 How many employees (full-time equivalent) excluding yourself does your company currently have?

(READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY)

None, you are self-employed	1
1 to 9 employees	2
10 to 19 employees	3
20 to 49 employees	4
50 to 249 employees	5
250 or more employees	6
DK/NA (DO NOT READ OUT)	7

NEW BASED ON FL448 D2

D2A When was your company established?

(WRITE DOWN YEAR WHEN COMPANY WAS ESTABLISHED - IF DOES NOT KNOW EXACTLY CODE '9999' AND INSIST ON GETTING AN ESTIMATE FOR NEXT QUESTION)

				Year
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NEW

ASK D2B IF CODE 9999 IN D2A

D2B When was your company established?

(READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY)

In 2016	1
In 2014 or 2015	2
In 2012 or 2013	3
Between 1997 and 2011	4
Before 1997	5
DK/NA (DO NOT READ OUT)	6

NEW

NEW BASED ON FL448 D4A

ASK D6B IF CODE 9999999999999999 IN D6A

D6B What was your company's total turnover in 2016?

(READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY)

Up to 50 000 euros	1
More than 50 000 to 100 000 euros	2
More than 100 000 to 500 000 euros	3
More than 500 000 to 2 million euros	4
More than 2 to 10 million euros	5
More than 10 to 50 million euros	6
More than 50 million euros	7
DK/ Refusal (DO NOT READ OUT)	8

NEW BASED ON FL448 D4B

ASK D7 IF COMPANY WAS ESTABLISHED AT LEAST 3 YEARS AGO (D2A<=2013 OR D2B=3,4,5)

D7 Since January 2015, has your company's turnover ...?

(READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY)

Increased	1
Remained approximately the same	2
Decreased	3
DK/NA (DO NOT READ OUT)	4

NEW

D8: ROTATE ANSWERS 1 TO 6

D8: CODES 7 AND 8 ARE EXCLUSIVE

D8 Within the next two years, does your company intend to do any of the following?

(READ OUT - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

Launch a new product or a new service	1,
Use a new selling channel	2,
Expand to another EU country	3,
Expand to another country outside the EU	4,
Invest in fixed assets e.g. building, machinery	5,

Create a new job or post	6,
None of these	7,
DK/NA (DO NOT READ OUT)	8,

NEW

D9 Legislation can originate with the EU or with a Member State. How well do you know the origin of legislation that applies to your company?

(READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY)

Very well	1
Fairly well	2
Not very well	3
Not at all	4
DK/NA (DO NOT READ OUT)	5

NEW

D10: CODES 4 AND 5 ARE EXCLUSIVE

D10 Are you aware of any campaigns or actions aiming at simplifying or reducing administrative tasks linked to legislation (for example online or simplified forms and declarations, "taking care of business", "REFIT" or "Better Regulation")?

(READ OUT - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

Yes, in your country	1,
Yes, in another EU country	2,
Yes, at EU level	3,
No, you are not aware of any campaign or action of this type	4,
DK/NA (DO NOT READ OUT)	5,

NEW

Q1 Overall, when you think about EU legislation, would you say that...

(READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY)

It is rather a support for your company	1
It is rather an obstacle for your company	2
It is neither a support nor an obstacle	3
It is both a support and an obstacle	4
You do not have the necessary information to answer (DO NOT READ OUT)	5
DK/NA (DO NOT READ OUT)	6

NEW

Q2: ROTATE STATEMENTS 1 TO 10

Q2 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

(READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY)

		Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	DK/NA (DO NOT READ OUT)
1	In general in the EU, legislation is reducing or removing the differences in legal requirements in different Member States, and this benefits companies	1	2	3	4	5
2	In general in the EU, legislation applying to businesses is an obstacle to innovation	1	2	3	4	5
3	In general in the EU, legislation improves access to suppliers and customers	1	2	3	4	5
4	In general in the EU, legislation increases the cost of administrative processes for companies	1	2	3	4	5
5	In general in the EU, legislation helps the companies to be competitive	1	2	3	4	5
6	In general in the EU, legislation increases the amount of paperwork for companies	1	2	3	4	5
7	In general in the EU, legislation encourages companies to invest	1	2	3	4	5
8	In general in the EU, legislation hampers your business growth	1	2	3	4	5

9	In general in the EU, legislation contributes to creating a level playing for all companies	1	2	3	4	5
10	In general in the EU legislation helps ensure the quality and the safety of products and services	1	2	3	4	5

NEW

Q3: ROTATE STATEMENTS 1 TO 7

Q3 Regulatory costs are all the costs that stem from compliance with legislation and from obligations to provide information. For each of the following areas of legislation, can you tell me if, in the last financial year, regulatory costs have decreased, stayed the same or increased?

(READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY)

		The costs decreased	The costs stayed the same	The costs increased	DK/NA (DO NOT READ OUT)
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1	VAT	1	2	3	4
2	Health and safety in the workplace	1	2	3	4
3	Consumer protection laws (e.g. consumer rights and liability)	1	2	3	4
4	Safety laws (e.g. food, chemicals, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals)	1	2	3	4
5	Labour market regulations (e.g. working time, posting of workers)	1	2	3	4
6	Laws on the environment	1	2	3	4
7	Laws on energy and climate	1	2	3	4

NEW

Q4: ROTATE STATEMENTS 1 TO 7

Q4 In the last financial year, would you say that complying with legislation in the following areas has become easier, has stayed the same, or has become more complex?

(READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY)

		Has become Easier	Has stayed the same	Has become more complex	DK/NA (DO NOT READ OUT)
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1	VAT	1	2	3	4
2	Health and safety in the workplace	1	2	3	4
3	Consumer protection laws (e.g. consumer rights and liability)	1	2	3	4
4	Safety laws (e.g. food, chemicals, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals)	1	2	3	4
5	Labour market regulations (e.g. working time directive, posting of workers)	1	2	3	4
6	Laws on the environment	1	2	3	4
7	Laws on energy and climate	1	2	3	4

NEW

Q5: ROTATE STATEMENTS 1 TO 4

Q5	For complying with legislation, can you tell me to what extent the following tasks are time consuming or not ?
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(READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY)

		Very time consuming	Quite time consuming	Not very time consuming	Not at all time consuming	DK/NA (DO NOT READ OUT)
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1	Understanding what is required in order to comply with legislation	1	2	3	4	5
2	Completing paperwork: such as filling out forms, keeping records and obtaining certificates of compliance	1	2	3	4	5
3	Having to provide the same information more than once to authorities	1	2	3	4	5
4	Having to keep up to date with regulatory changes	1	2	3	4	5

NEW

Q6: ROTATE ANSWERS 1 TO 6

Q6: CODES 8 AND 9 ARE EXCLUSIVE

Q6 Suppose you have complaints about administrative tasks stemming from legislation relating to your company. Would any of the following keep you from voicing your complaints?

(READ OUT - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

It would take too much time to make a complaint	1,
It takes too long for complaints to be dealt with	2,
You think your complaint would not make any difference	3,
You fear it may have negative repercussions for your company	4,
You do not know who to complain to	5,
You do not know how to complain	6,
Other (DO NOT READ OUT)	7,
None (DO NOT READ OUT)	8,
DK/NA (DO NOT READ OUT)	9,

NEW

D11: CODES 4 AND 5 ARE EXCLUSIVE

D11 In the last two years, have you ever done any of the following regarding an administrative task linked to legislation ?

(READ OUT - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

Made a complaint	1,
Thought about making a complaint but did not know where to complain	2,
Did not complain but shared your discontent with clients or business partners	3,
None of these (DO NOT READ OUT)	4,
DK/NA (DO NOT READ OUT)	5,

NEW