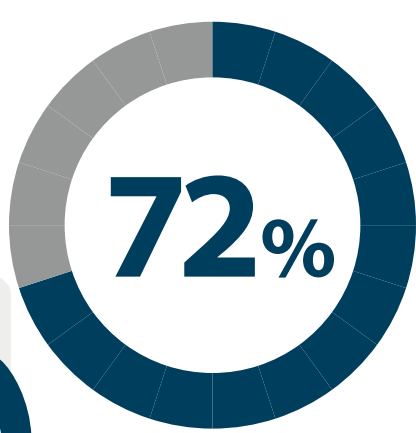


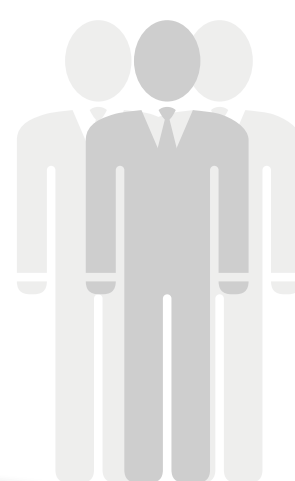


The research is based on responses by 413 CEOs, MDs and owners of largely medium-sized and larger-small businesses conducted in December 2013 by Vistage the world's leading CEO organisation.

Four months of economic confidence gives medium sized business owners high hopes for 2014



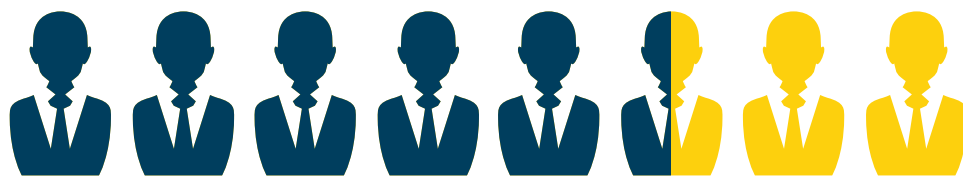
SMEs want to expand their workforce in 2014, this has increased by **50%** since September.



British Mittelstand businesses continue to be strongly optimistic about 2014

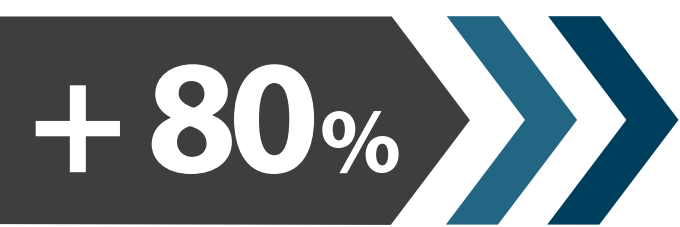


73% expect economy to improve this year!



2013 was a good year for the UK economy, **76%** of SMEs report improved economic conditions to a year ago.

The expansion of the workforce at most SME businesses is being driven by strong expectations that the better economic times will translate into sales –with **80%** expecting an increase in sales revenue over 2014.



Germany's medium-sized businesses are rightly feted as the reason for its economic success. By contrast, Britain's mittelstand companies are the UK economy's unsung heroes, despite their huge importance to a sustained recovery and sustained job-creation.

Many have emerged from the economic malaise of recent years in good health and cash-rich. Our research shows they are expecting a good 2014 and most have active plans to expand their workforces to take advantage of this – in fact many are doing this already.

Steve Gilroy, CEO of Vistage



To download the full report, please [click here](#).