Here we present an at-a-glance overview of the key issues in Britain today. This issue our focus is on business. All statistics are from the Office of National Statistics unless otherwise stated.

Ownership and structure

88.7% of businesses have less than ten employees.

65% The percentage of UK private sector enterprises made up of family firms.

Source: Institute for Family Business

“Eat and drink with your relatives; do business with strangers” Greek proverb

Research and development

“Drive thy business or it will drive thee” Benjamin Franklin
Gender

14% of businesses with employees are majority women-led
Source: Government Equalities Office

8.3% The percentage of patents awarded to women by the European Patent Office (2008)
Source: European Commission

Average Turnover (Male Versus Female-Led Businesses)
Source: Government Equalities Office

Gender Average Turnover (Male Versus Female-Led Businesses)
Source: Government Equalities Office

Import and export

£224,316m Total value of UK exports for the 12 months ending December 2009
Source: HM Revenue and Customs

10.5% Decrease in total value of UK imports for the 12 months ending December 2009 compared to previous 12 months
Source: HM Revenue and Customs

“Business? It’s quite simple. It’s other people’s money” Alexandre Dumas

Insolvencies

19,077 The number of liquidations in England and Wales in 2009 (increase of 22.8% on 2008)
Source: The Insolvency Service

1 in 114 active companies went into liquidation in 2009
Source: The Insolvency Service

UK Imports and Exports (2009)
Source: Central Intelligence Agency

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Source: Central Intelligence Agency