

Consumers and the Economic Outlook - UK - September 2019

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“It is a confusing time for the British public. The new Government has been unable to agree a Brexit deal with the EU and Parliament has passed legislation obliging the Prime Minister to request a further extension if he cannot get one.”

– **Rich Shepherd, Associate Director – Financial Services**

This report looks at the following areas:

Despite this, Boris Johnson has maintained his stance that the UK will leave the EU on 31 October, with a deal or without one.

The coverage of Brexit is another source of uncertainty. Depending on the newspaper they read, consumers can take Brexit to mean many different things. Even official statements about the anticipated effects are starting to fall on deaf ears as people have become weary after years of Brexit dominating national politics and the news cycle.

And yet, despite all this uncertainty, the things that affect people on a daily basis are fairly stable. Unemployment remains at a decades-long low and wages are rising above inflation. In general, those who want a job have got one and are seeing their spending power increase. As a result, Mintel's consumer sentiment trackers are all at or around record highs.

With the new Brexit Day and a likely general election around the corner, however, it will be interesting to see how much longer consumer confidence can overcome the wider uncertainty.

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This report is part of a series of reports, produced to provide you with a more holistic view of this market

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