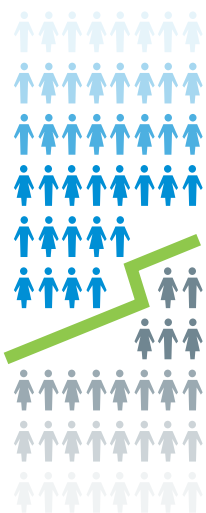
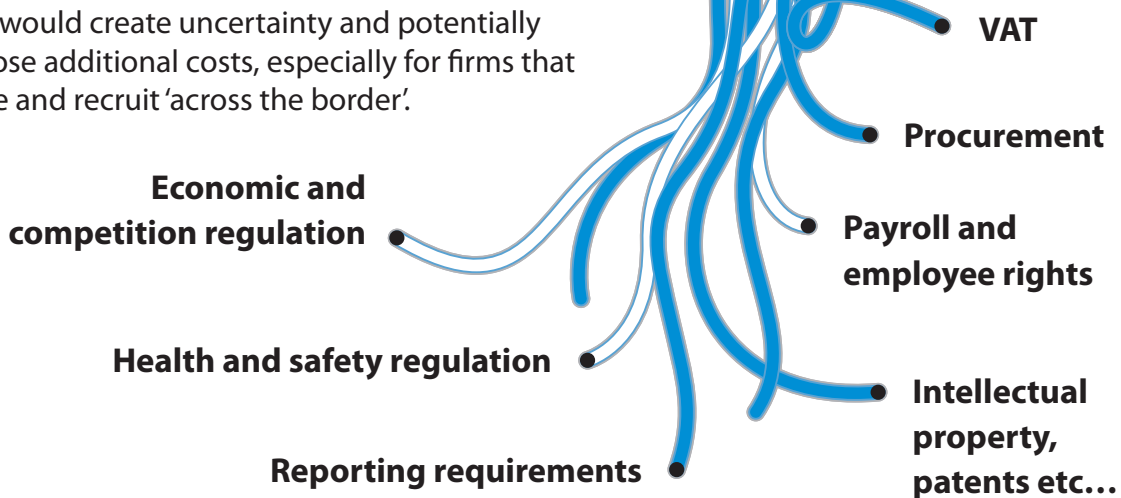


## Burdens on business

In the event of independence, Scottish businesses would need to adapt to new requirements for jobs and trade.

This would create uncertainty and potentially impose additional costs, especially for firms that trade and recruit 'across the border'.



## Cross-border enterprises



**2,665** registered enterprises in Scotland

are ultimately owned in the rest of the UK.

In 2012, they accounted for **19%** of employment

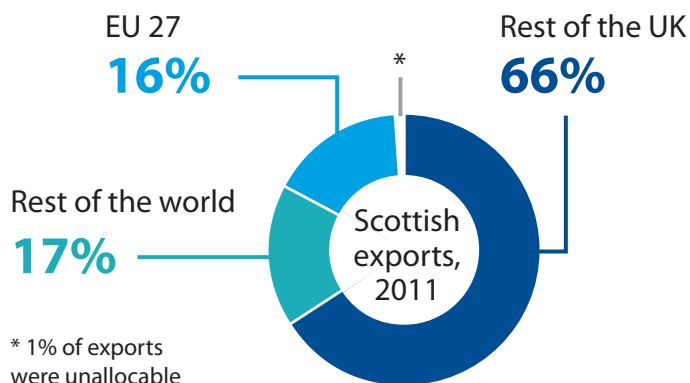
and **338,000 Scottish jobs.**

Firms which currently operate in both Scotland and the wider UK risk having workers subject to different employment laws depending on their location. Complying with different legal obligations would increase the non-wage costs of employing staff. Given the substantial number of registered private sector enterprises in Scotland with ultimate ownership in the rest of the UK, such costs are likely to be significant.

## Trade

Demand from the rest of the UK for Scottish-produced goods and services is high.

In 2011 it resulted in sales representing 29% of Scottish GDP, totaling £45.5 billion (excluding oil and gas).



## Funding & investment

**879** organisations in Scotland received help/funding from the Technology Strategy Board in the last financial year.

**50 per cent** of these organisations are either micro, small or medium-sized companies.

Scotland's large rural areas have benefited from the UK's Rural Broadband Programme, receiving **£100.8m** of the £530m budget.

The UK Government is working hard to ensure that all UK residents have access to broadband networks, as increased uptake of broadband boosts productivity and job creation: Up to 600,000 jobs are predicted to be directly created by 2015 through the rollout of superfast broadband to around 9 million premises in the UK.

Royal Mail, the UK's universal postal service provides for the same standards of service for Scotland as it does across the rest of the UK. **Over 90%** of Scottish rural or small businesses use or rely on the universal service, which exceeds the EU minimum universal service requirement.

