

GOVERNMENT

## UK election results in hung Parliament

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London. Image courtesy of Burberry

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By STAFF REPORTS

The general election held in the United Kingdom on June 8 led to a more divided Parliament as the Conservative Party lost its majority.

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Prime Minister Theresa May called the snap election to more thoroughly secure her authority as the UK heads into negotiations for its separation from the European Union. Instead of solidifying her support and quieting opponents of her Brexit plans, the election tipped the debate in the Labour party's favor, creating more uncertainty surrounding the UK's strategy for its diplomatic break up.

### Brexit back and forth

While it had a slight majority before the election, the Conservative Party lost seats, putting them about 10 members short of the 326 seats needed for an overall majority, per the [BBC](#). Meanwhile, the Labour Party picked up almost 30 seats.

In light of this power shift, Ms. May's Labour opponent Jeremy Corbyn has asked her to step down. However, the Prime Minister has announced her plans to stay in power in spite of the loss of her party's majority.

There is a sense that British citizens have changed their minds regarding Brexit, especially as the UK Independence Party that pushed for the split lost its single seat in Parliament.

Even with this upset to Conservatives, Brexit is still expected to happen. While wanting to separate from the EU for different reasons, the Labour Party also wanted a divorce from the union, making the increased weight in Parliament unlikely to have an impact on Brexit going through.



### *The British Parliament is now more divided*

However, the hung Parliament is expected to make negotiations more difficult, with bickering about terms anticipated ([see story](#)).

Following the election results, British luxury organization Walpole issued a statement from its CEO Helen Brocklebank, who said, "A hung parliament presents a challenging situation for the British luxury sector, as for British business overall, in that the crucial Brexit negotiations cannot take place until the government is settled, yet the EU is unlikely to be willing to delay. It may bring the welcome prospect of a softer Brexit but the immediate impact is, of course, a great deal of uncertainty.

"However, whatever the outcome, we will continue to work with government to further the interests of our members whose value to the UK economy is a significant 32.2 billion."

While the United Kingdom is just beginning its negotiations to leave the European Union, a recent report from Walpole finds that about half of the luxury organization's members are already experiencing some negative effects from the split.

Now that the U.K. has triggered article 50, Walpole is making policy recommendations that will support the luxury industry's needs, including trade, talent and tourism. A valuable part of Britain's economy, the luxury sector represents 2.2 percent of the nation's total GDP ([see story](#)).

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