

# Shropshire – Quarterly Economic Update

Each quarter Shropshire Chamber takes part in the British Chambers of Commerce national economic survey. Below you will see the results for Shropshire, trending from as far back as 2009.

If you and your company would like to take part in these surveys please contact [policy@shropshire-chamber.co.uk](mailto:policy@shropshire-chamber.co.uk) giving your name, company name and the e mail to which reminders should be sent. Please note this is only open to businesses in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin. Those in neighbouring counties should approach the [British Chambers of Commerce](#) to locate their nearest BCC accredited chamber. This survey is open to businesses from all sectors including public sector and third sector. The survey is open to any size of business from micro to massive.

The data is used both locally and nationally to lobby those in power on the main topics of concern. The national survey is highly respected and is used by Central Government to understand the economic situation and pressures facing businesses in the UK.

## EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

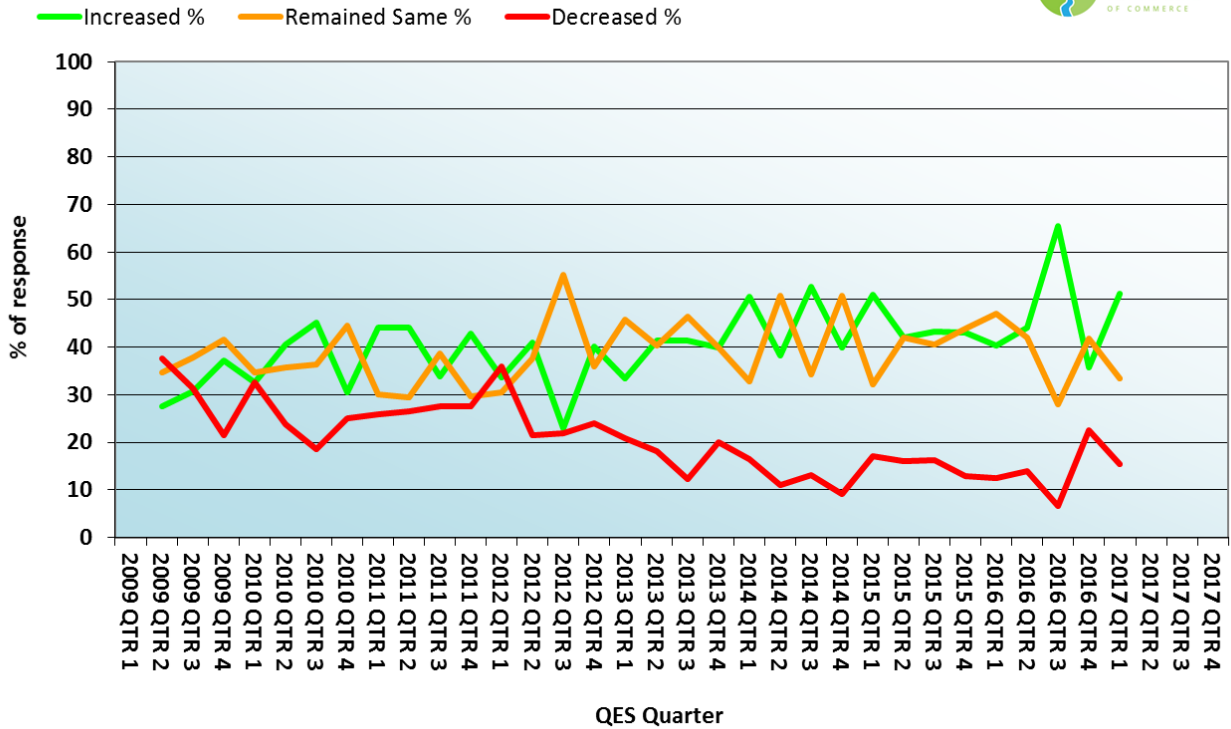
**Executive Overview**      **Qtr. 1 – 2017 (Survey undertaken over three weeks in Feb/March 2017)**

**Headline**                      **CALM CONFIDENCE**

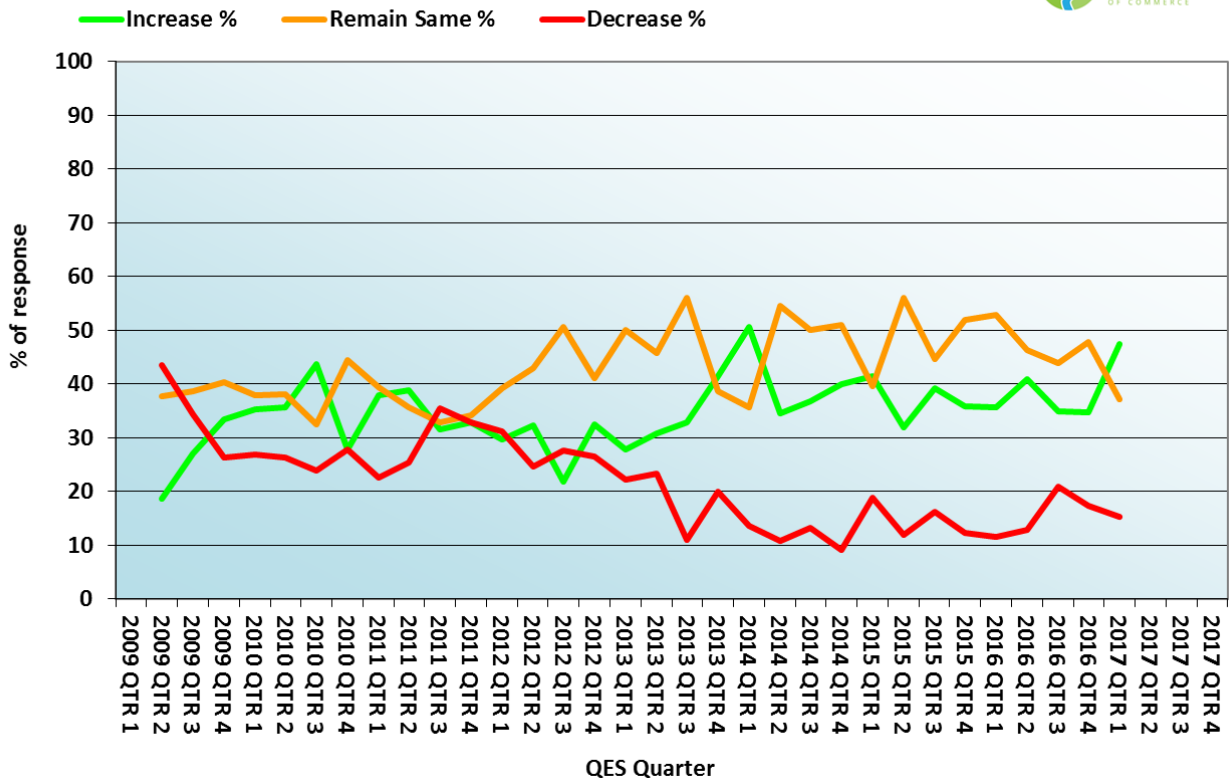
This quarter sees improvements over the previous quarter. UK Sales past and future both show rises; these rises not only taking from those saying static but encouragingly from those who previously reported decline. Past exports showed a marked improvement, but forward orders anticipate a decline. Staff levels remain pretty static. This quarter we add in a new graph highlighting the issues for those recruiting, showing there is still shortages in skills, work readiness or numbers available. Cash flow has improved, unlike those working to capacity which has decreased. Plans for investment in plant has seen a decline and training a modest increase. Confidence, especially in turnover rises after a decline post Brexit vote. Business worries are clearly changing, after years of competition being the number one fear this is now replaced by business rate increases and exchange rates. Competition fear has dropped steeply since the Brexit out vote. Next quarter will see the impact of the Commons/Lords vote to trigger Brexit.

# UK SALES

## UK Sales - for the past three month

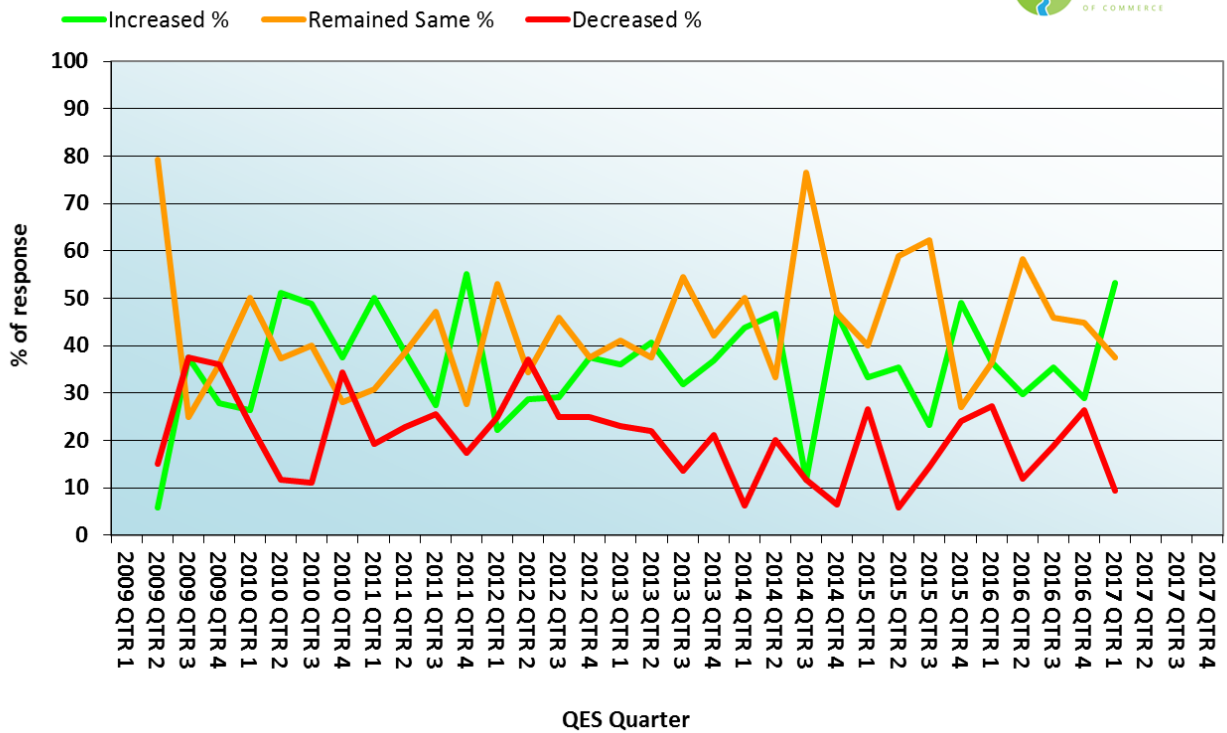


## UK Orders - anticipated for the next three months

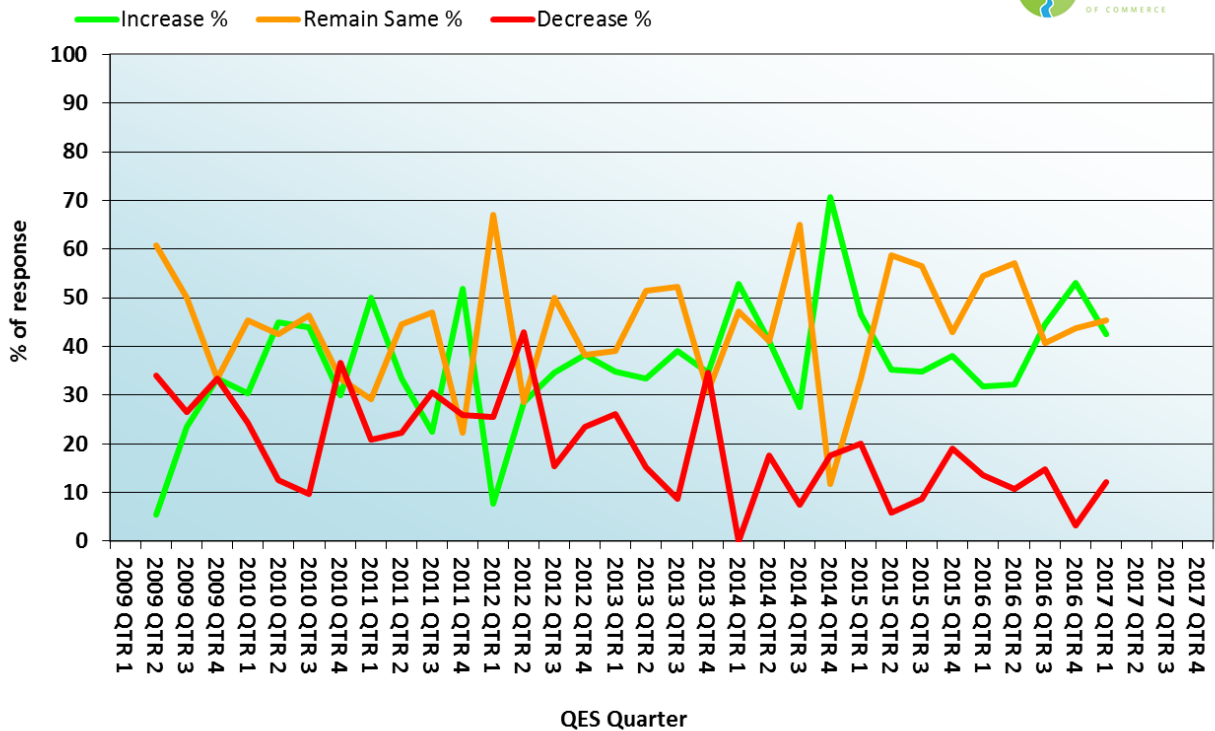


# EXPORTS

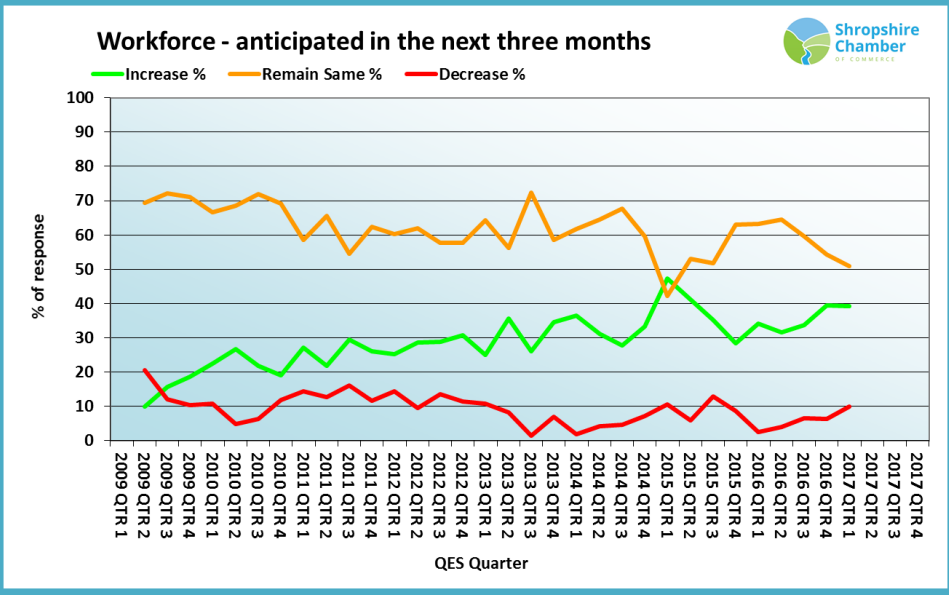
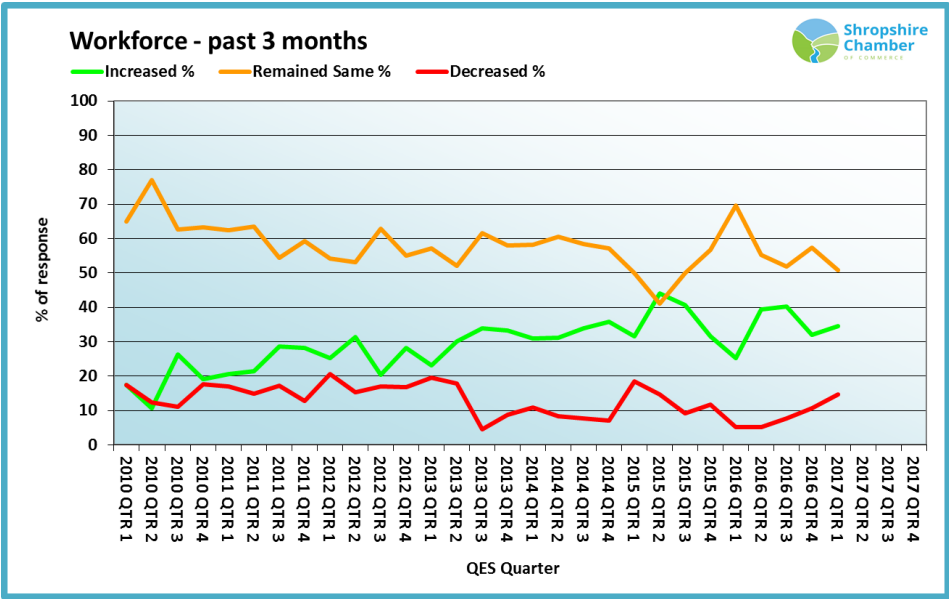
## Export Sales - for the past three months



## Export Orders - anticipated for the next three months

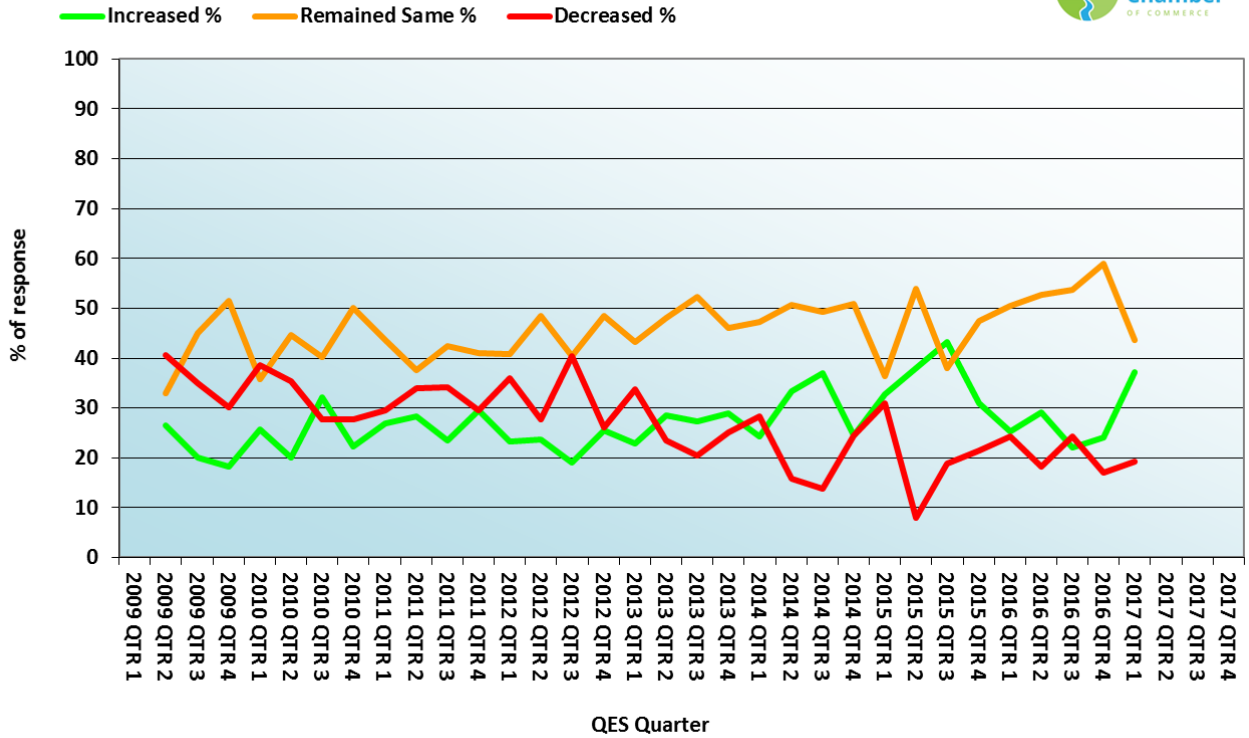


# STAFF

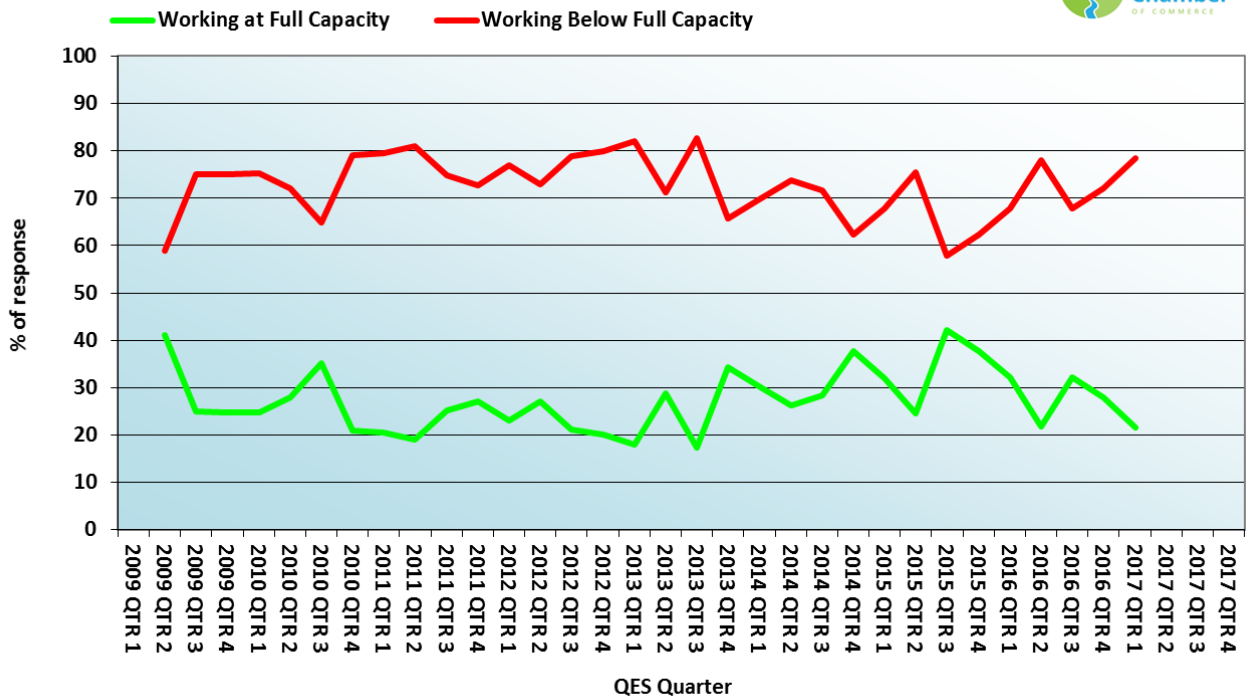


# CASH & CAPACITY

## Cash Flow - how has it performed in the past three months

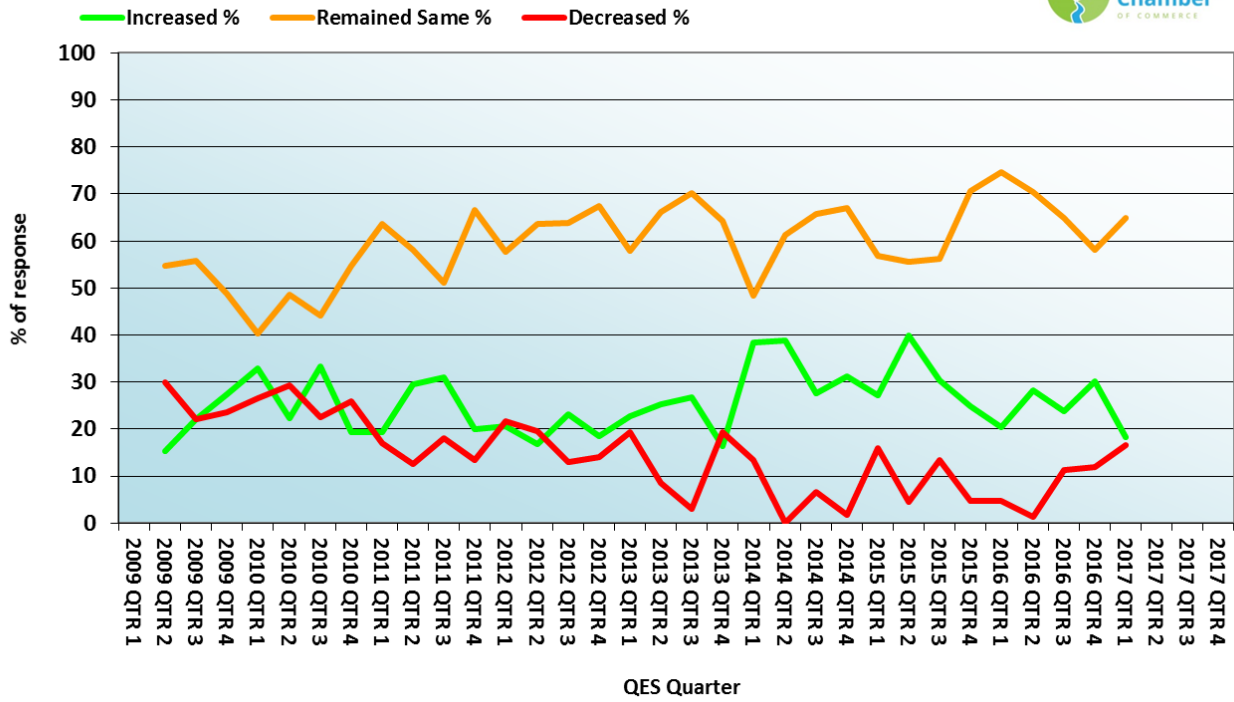


## Capacity - working at full or below capacity

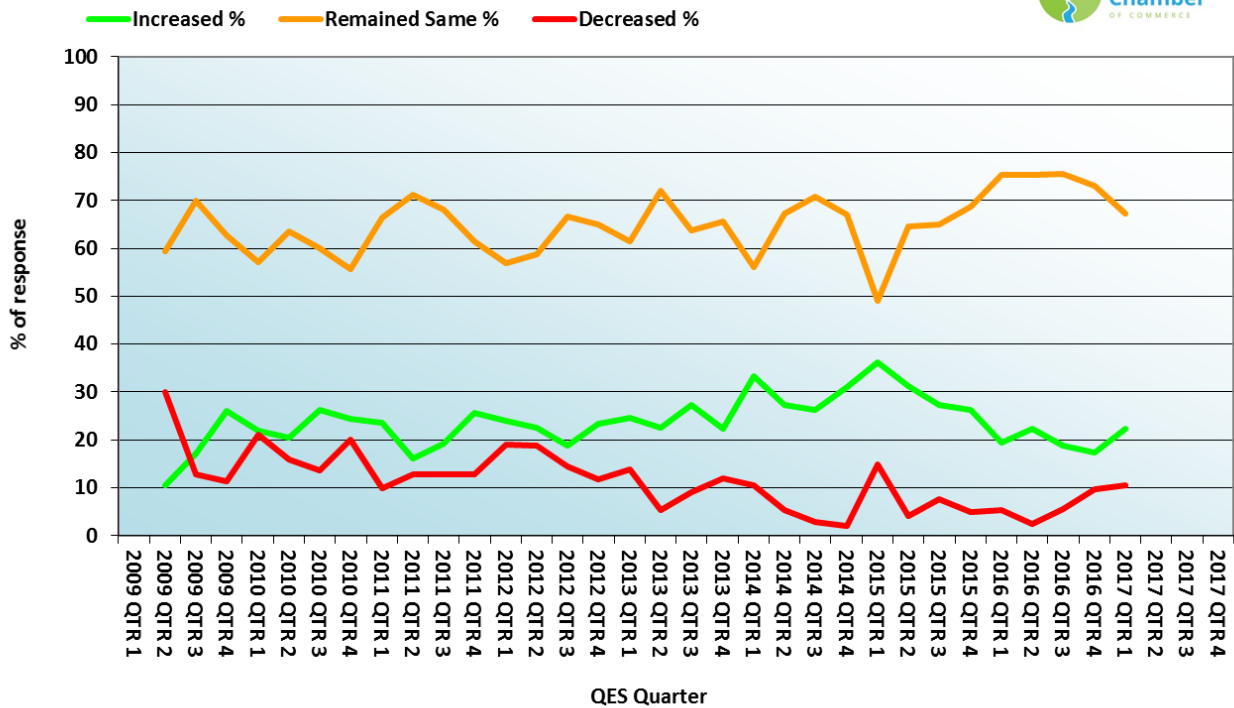


# INVESTMENT

## Investment Plans - Plant & Machinery

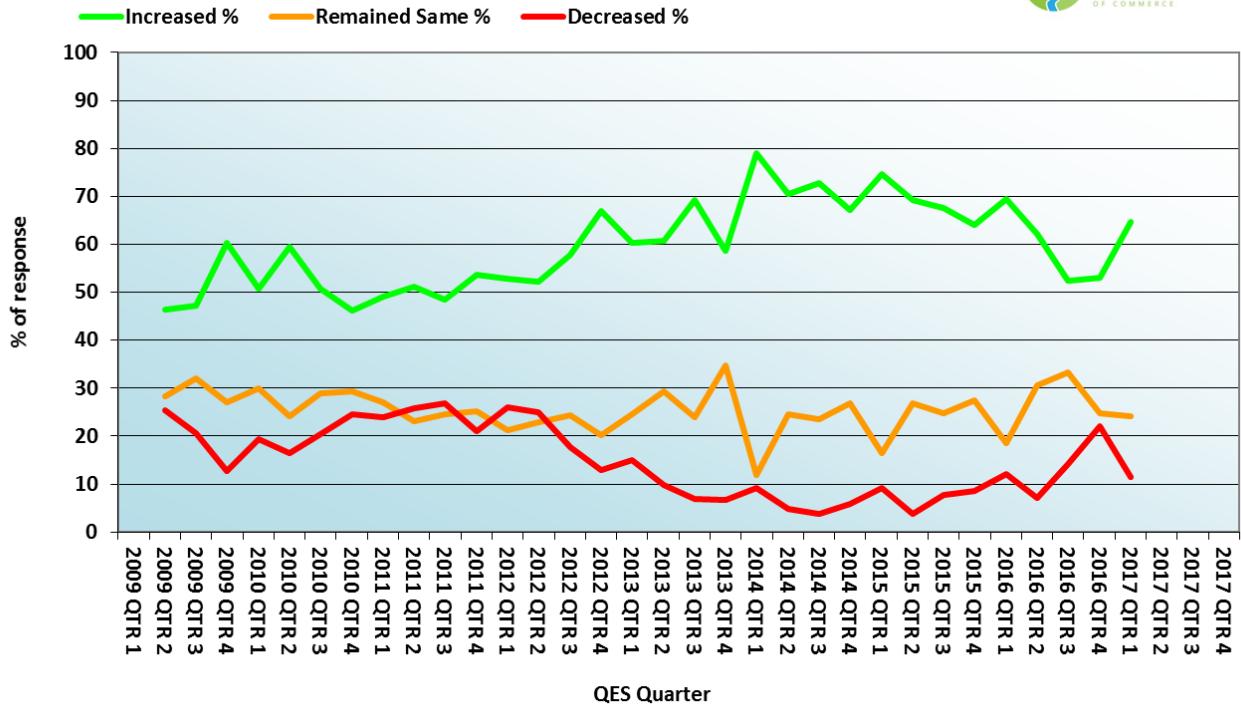


## Investment Plans - Training

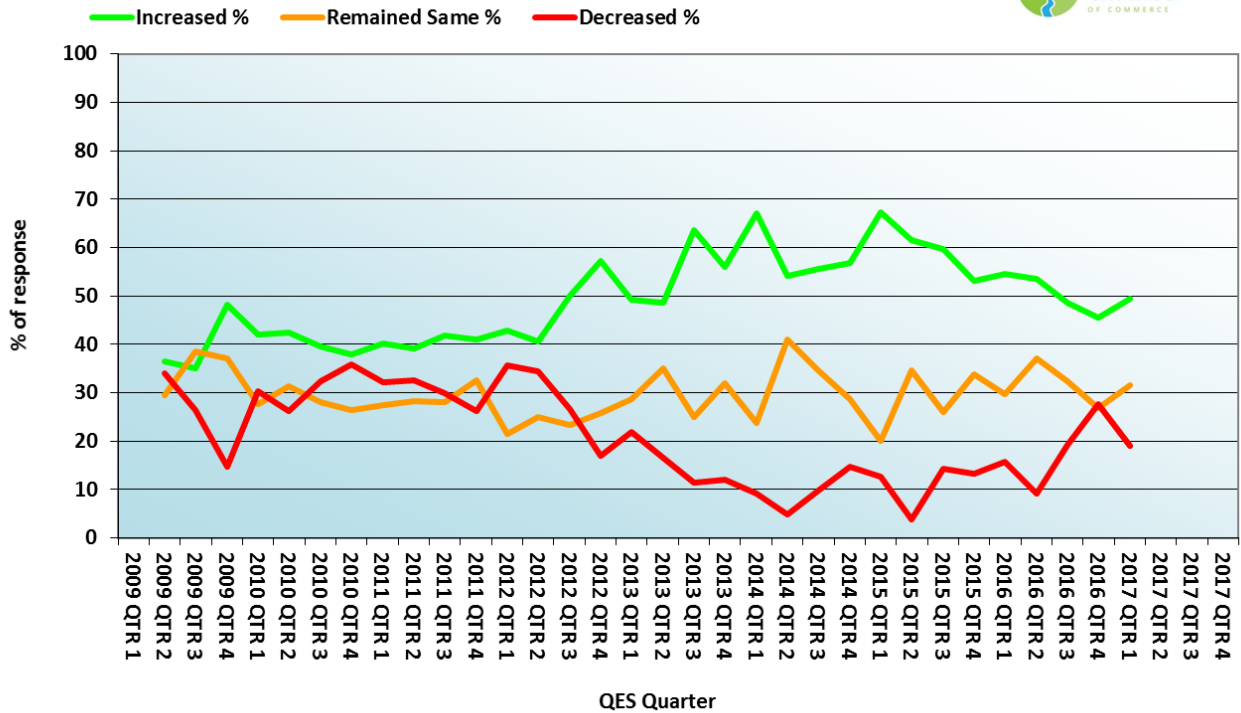


# CONFIDENCE

## Turnover Confidence - view of the next 12 months



## Profitability Confidence - view of the next 12 months



# FEAR FACTORS

## External Factors - Fear Factors

This chart depicts the most feared external factors that are felt may affect the respondents business



Interest Rates Exchange Rates Business Rates Inflation Competition Corporate Taxation Better Industrial Relations Improved Cash Availability

