

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 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

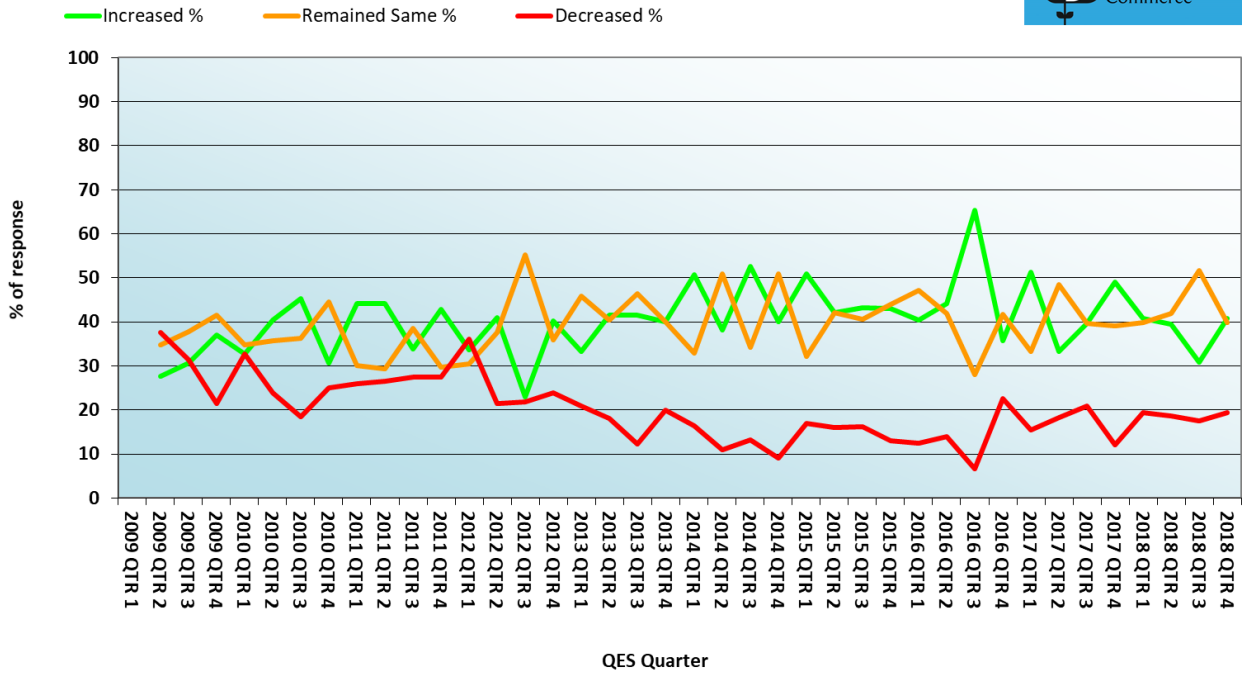
Executive Overview **Qtr. 4 – 2018 (Survey undertaken over three weeks in Nov 2018)**
for Qtr.

Headline **LULL BEFORE THE STORM?**

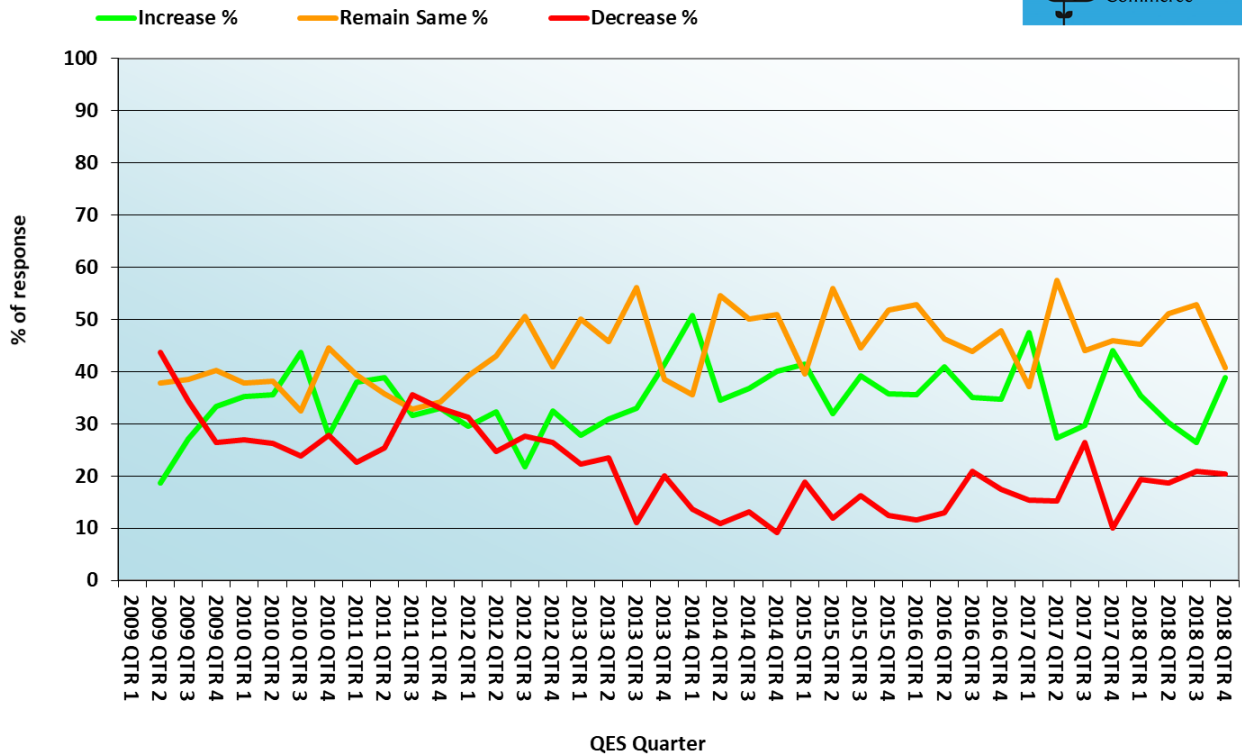
Both past domestic sales and forecast domestic sales have seen a slight rise, exports rose in the past three months but are then predicted to steady, rather than increase. Staffing remains an issue, as it is nationally. There has been a down turn in recruitment and staff employed, and this is expected to remain unchanged in the next quarter. Due to the skills shortage's companies are recruiting from outside the County, but this has its drawbacks as Shropshire has lower wages and is more rural than the neighbouring areas to the East. Cash flow and those working to capacity both improved. Yet again companies are being very restrained both in investment in machinery as well as in training. Business confidence has fractionally increased. Exchange rates and taxation remain as worries for businesses. The fall out from GDPR appears to still rumble on. Clear that Brexit is still a huge issue and keeping things very uncertain, restraining investment.

UK SALES

UK Sales - for the past three month

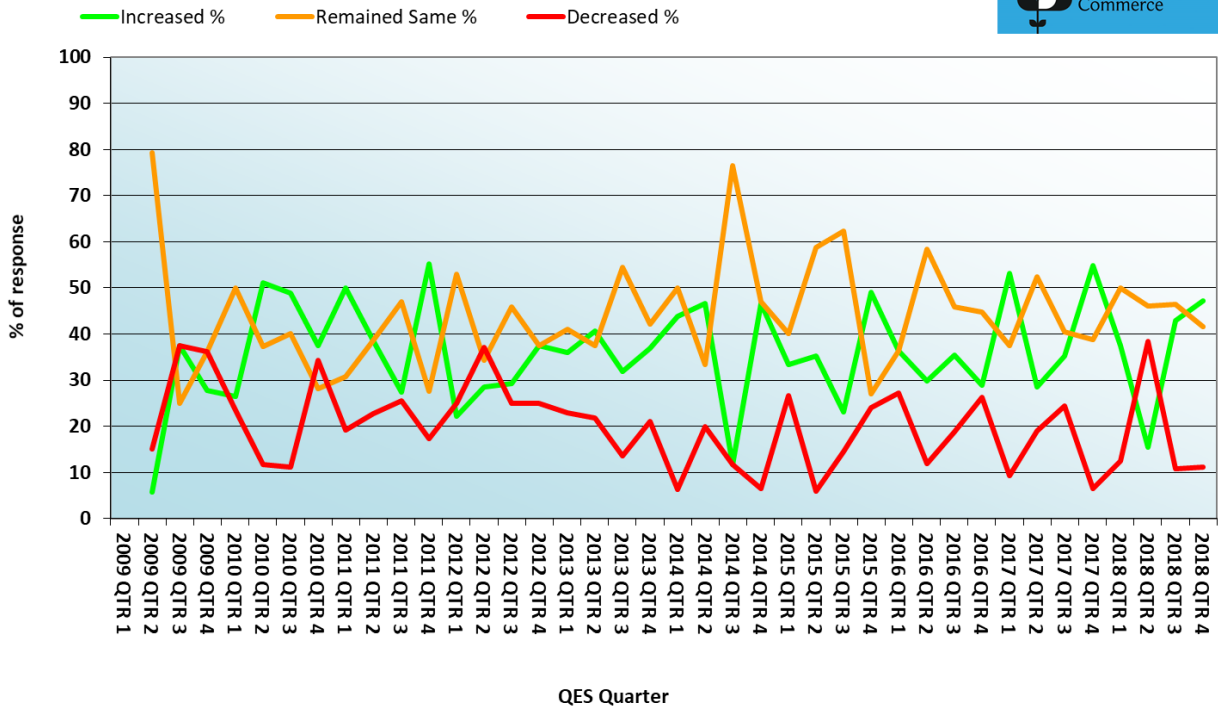


UK Orders - anticipated for the next three months

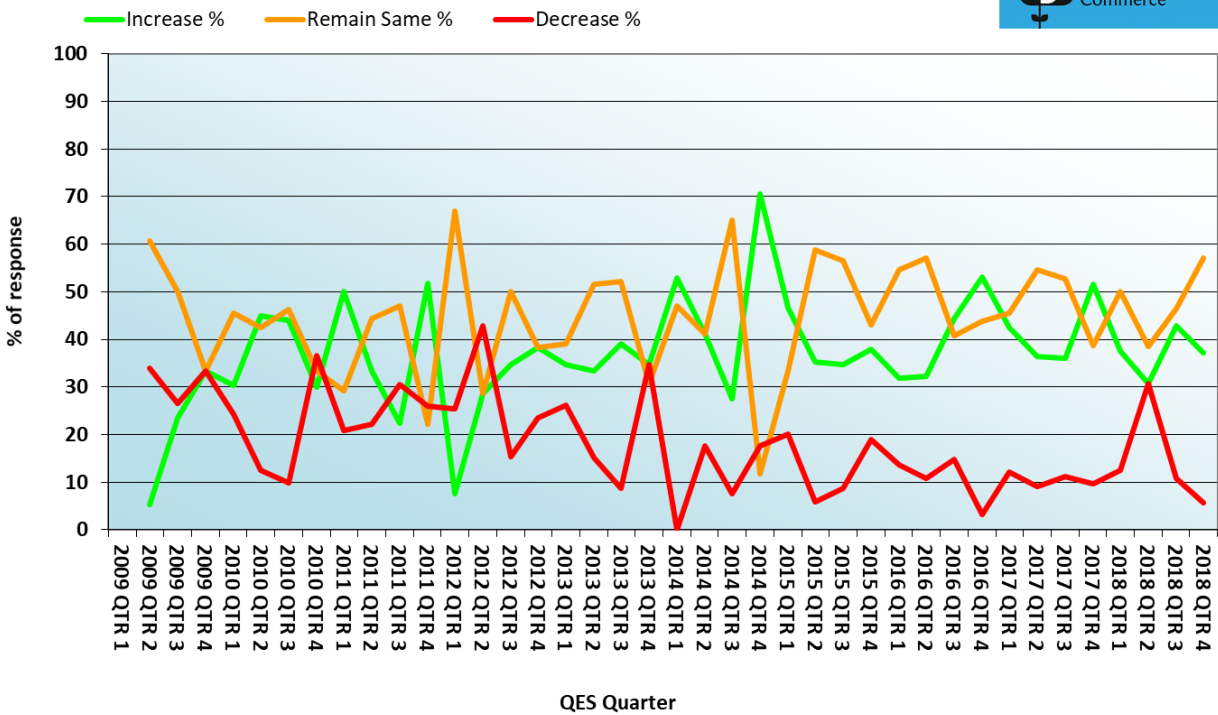


EXPORTS

Export Sales - for the past three months



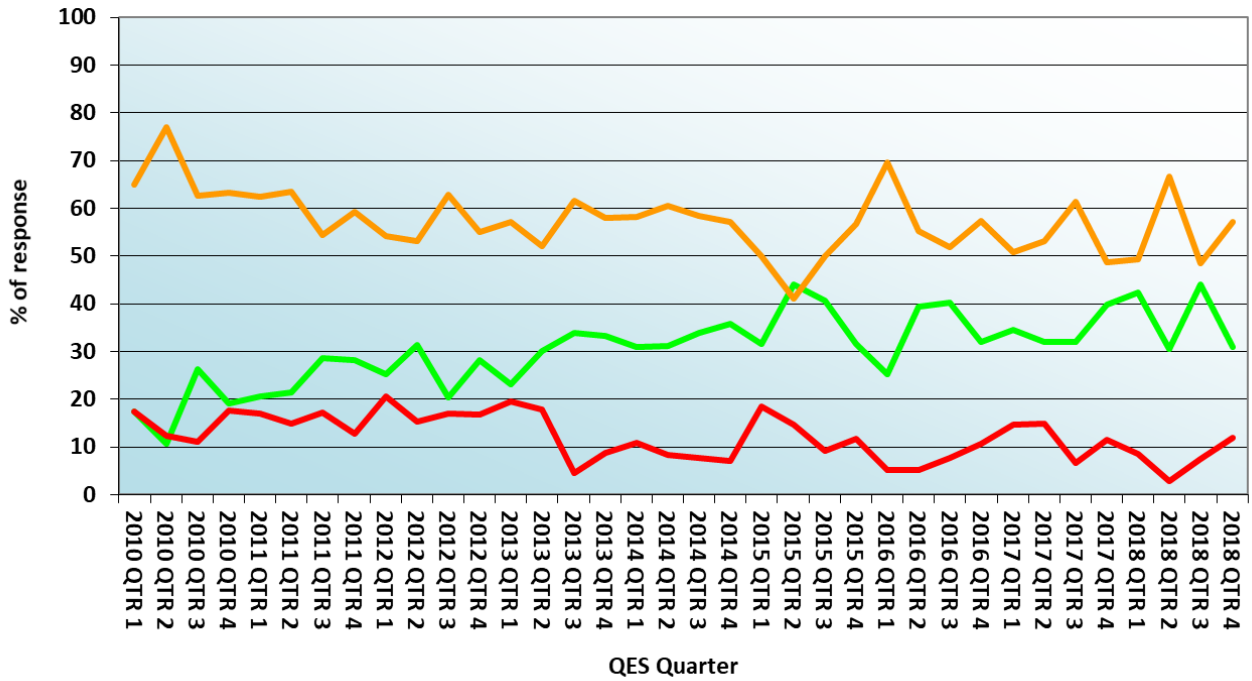
Export Orders - anticipated for the next three months



STAFF

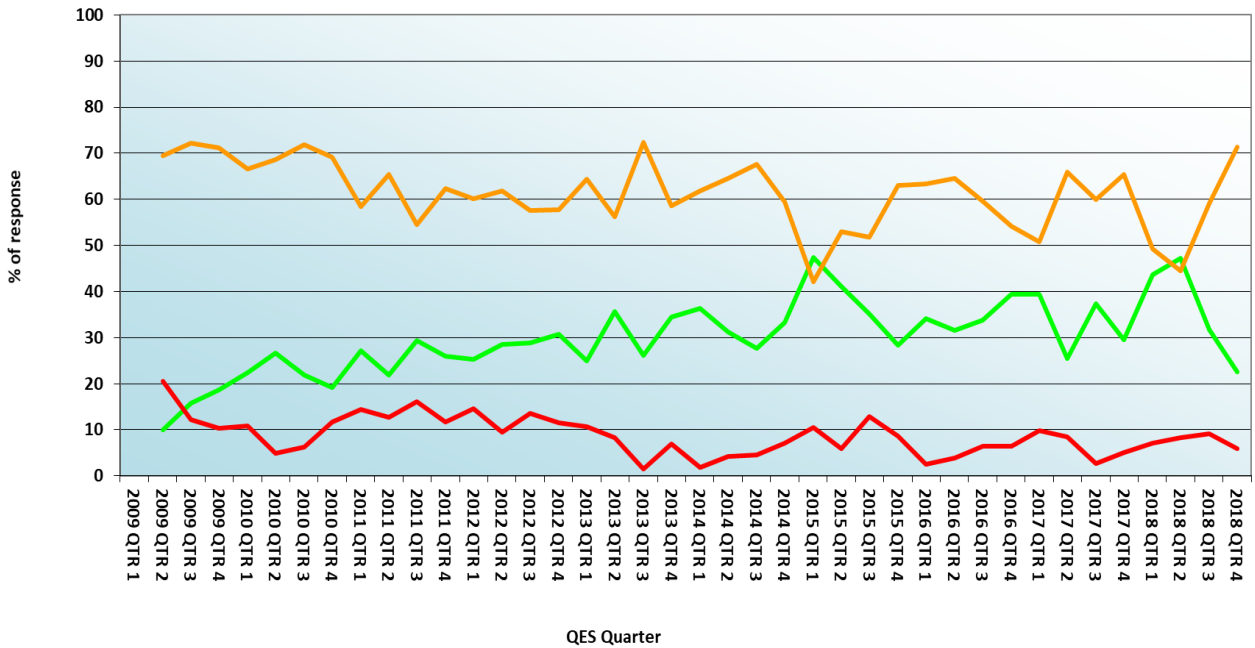
Workforce - past 3 months

Increased % Remained Same % Decreased %

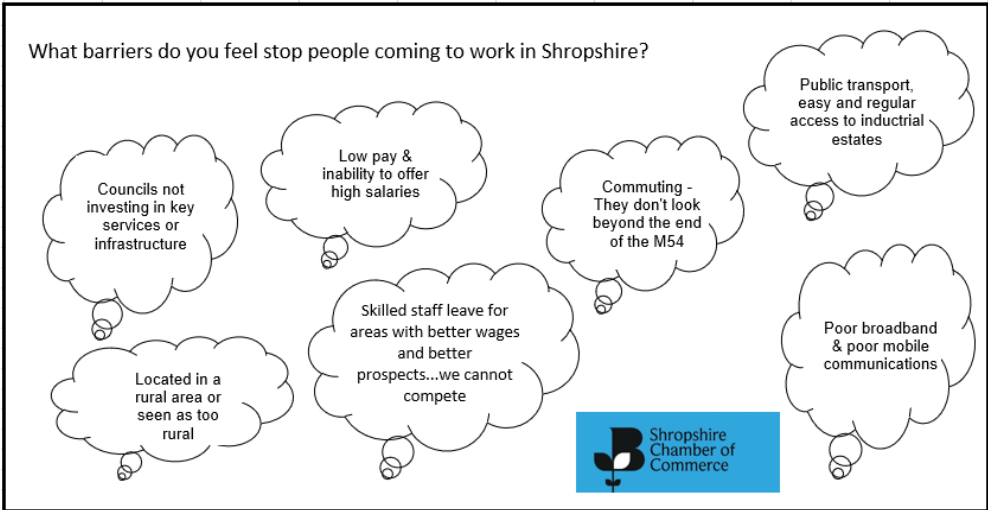
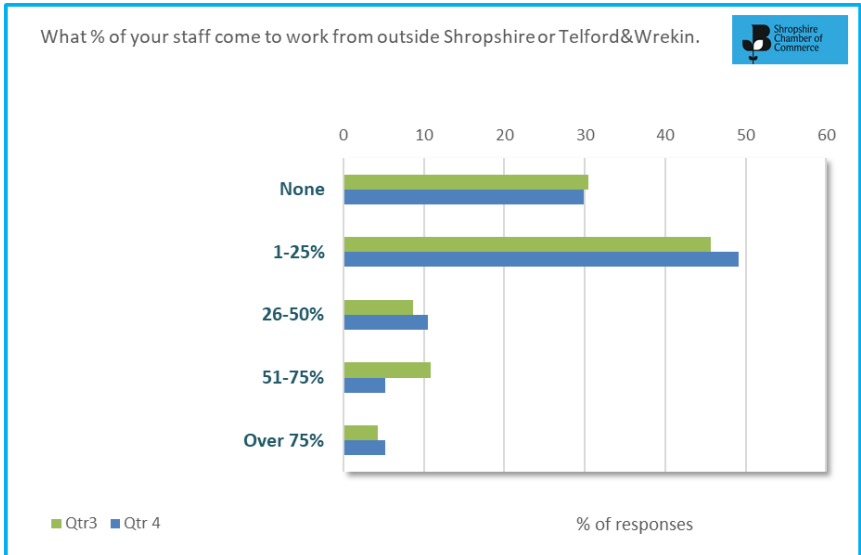


Workforce - anticipated in the next three months

Increase % Remain Same % Decrease %

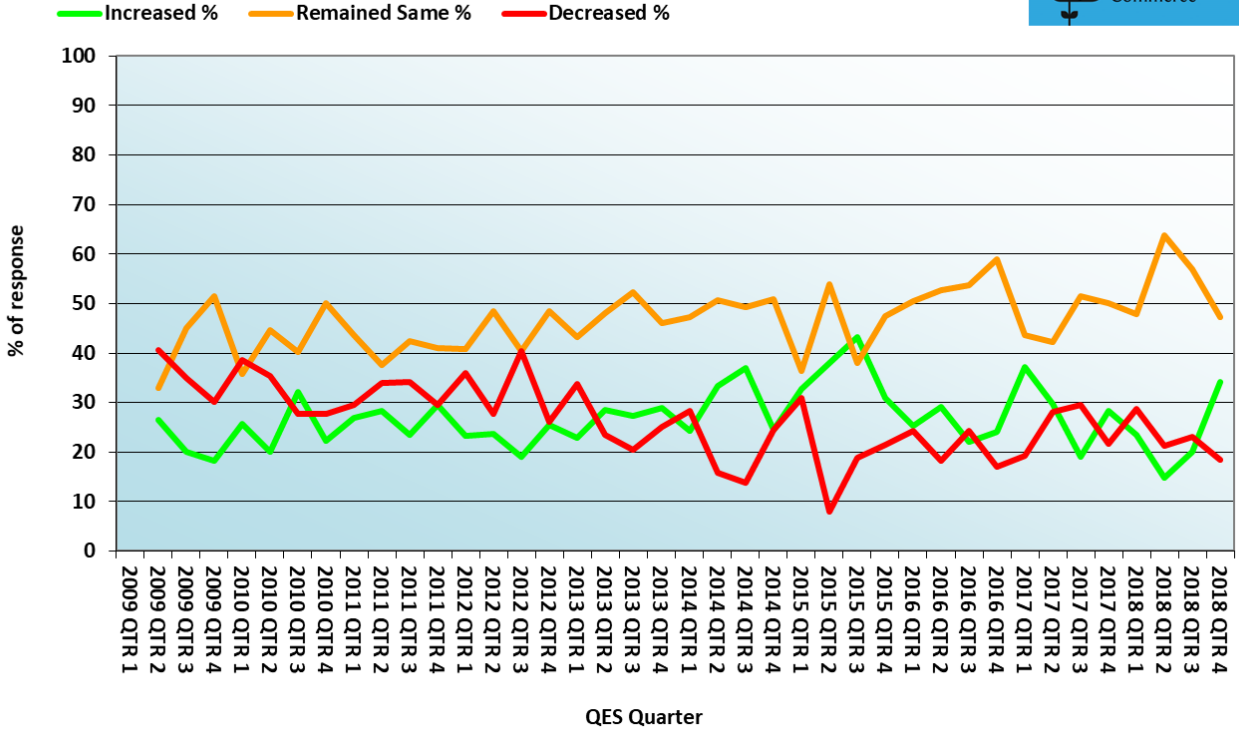


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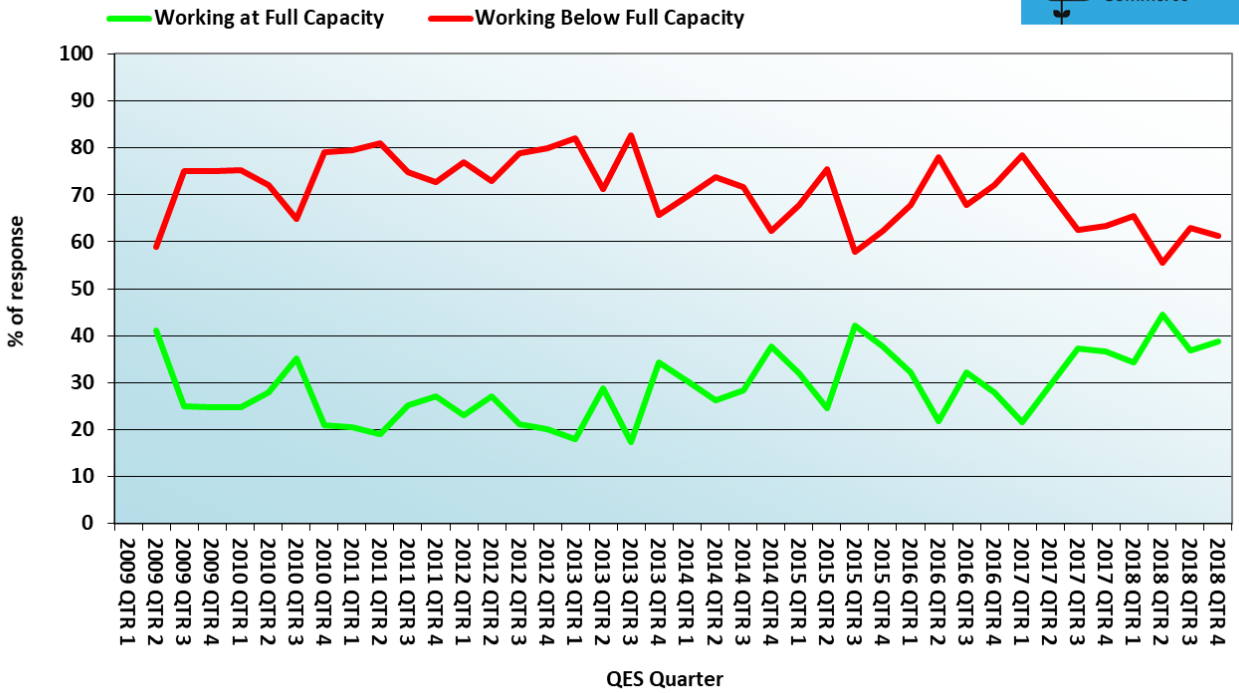


CASH & CAPACITY

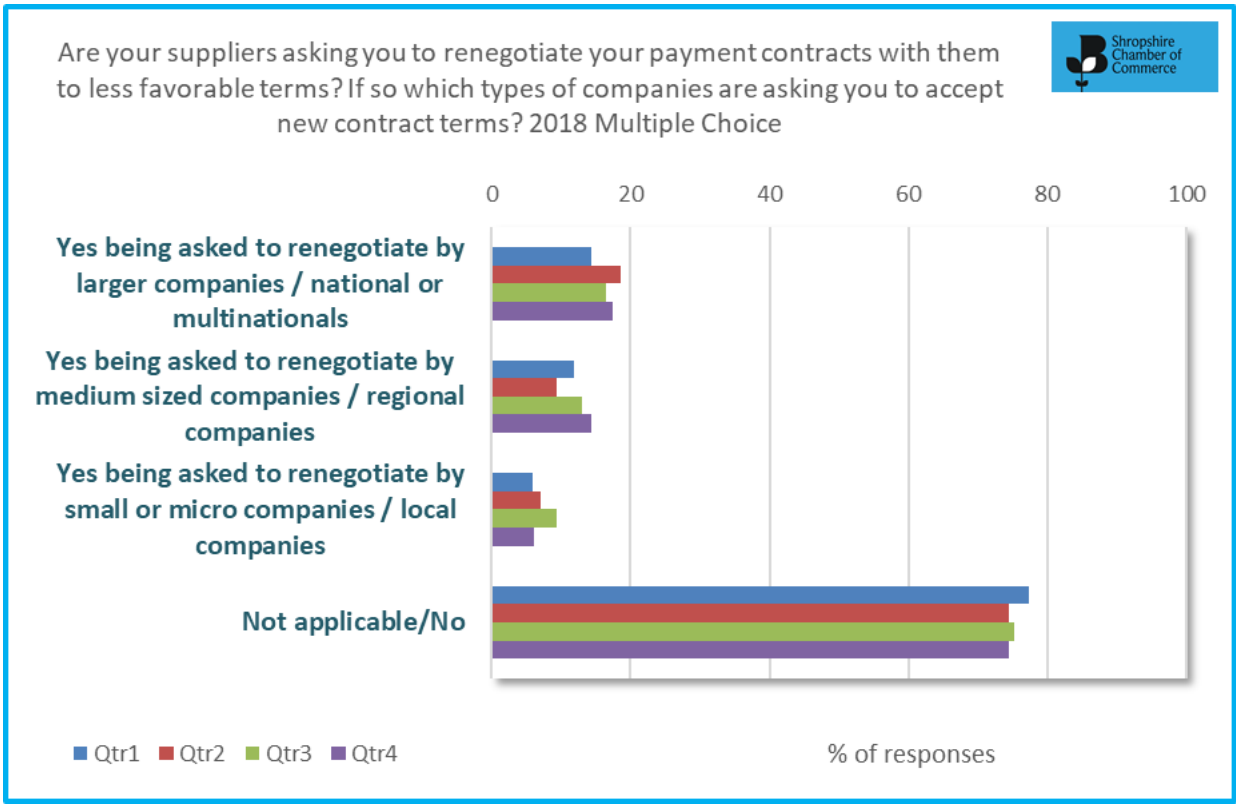
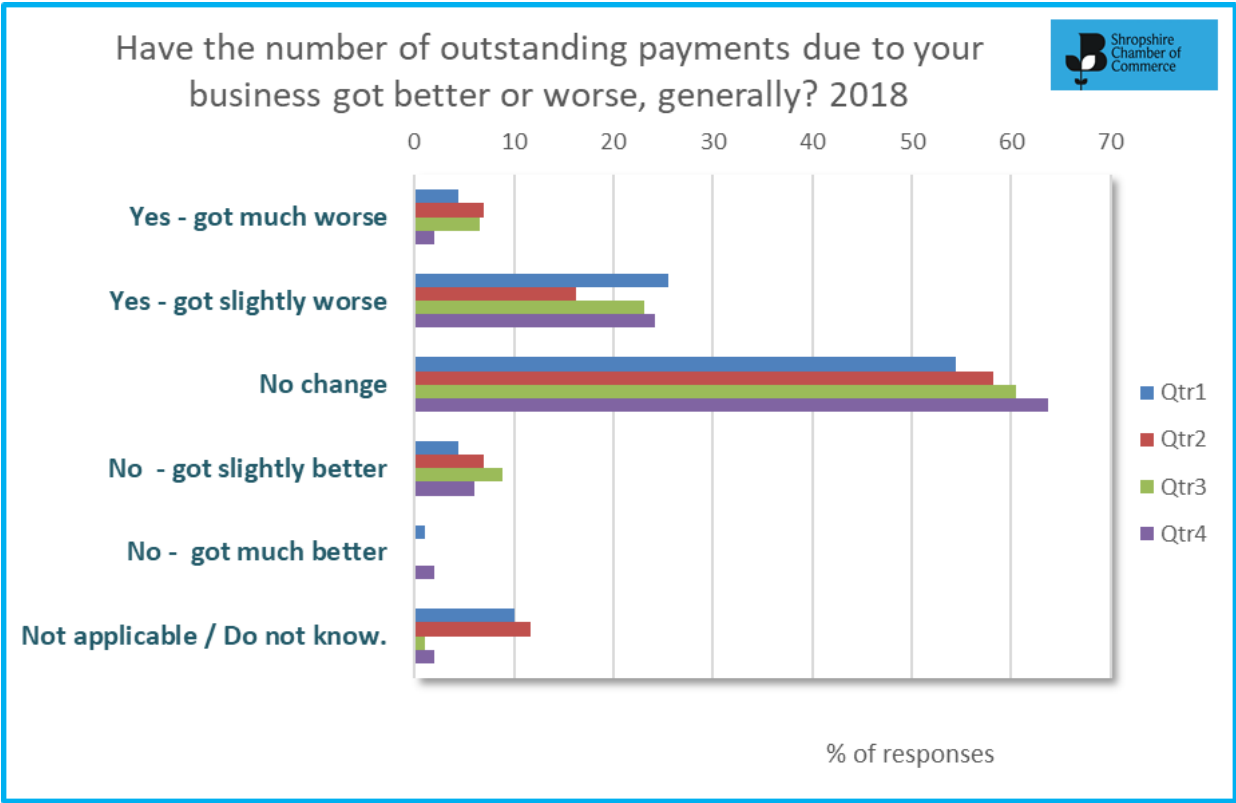
Cash Flow - how has it performed in the past three months



Capacity - working at full or below capacity

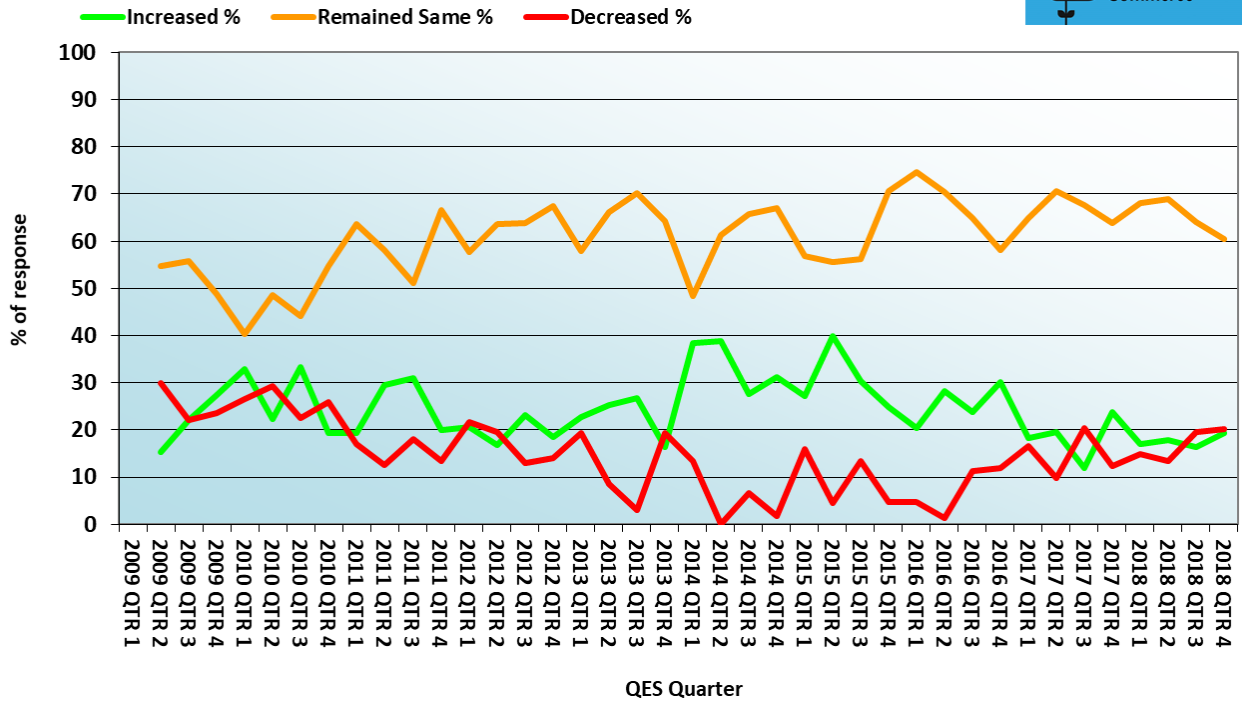


CASH & CAPACITY...continued

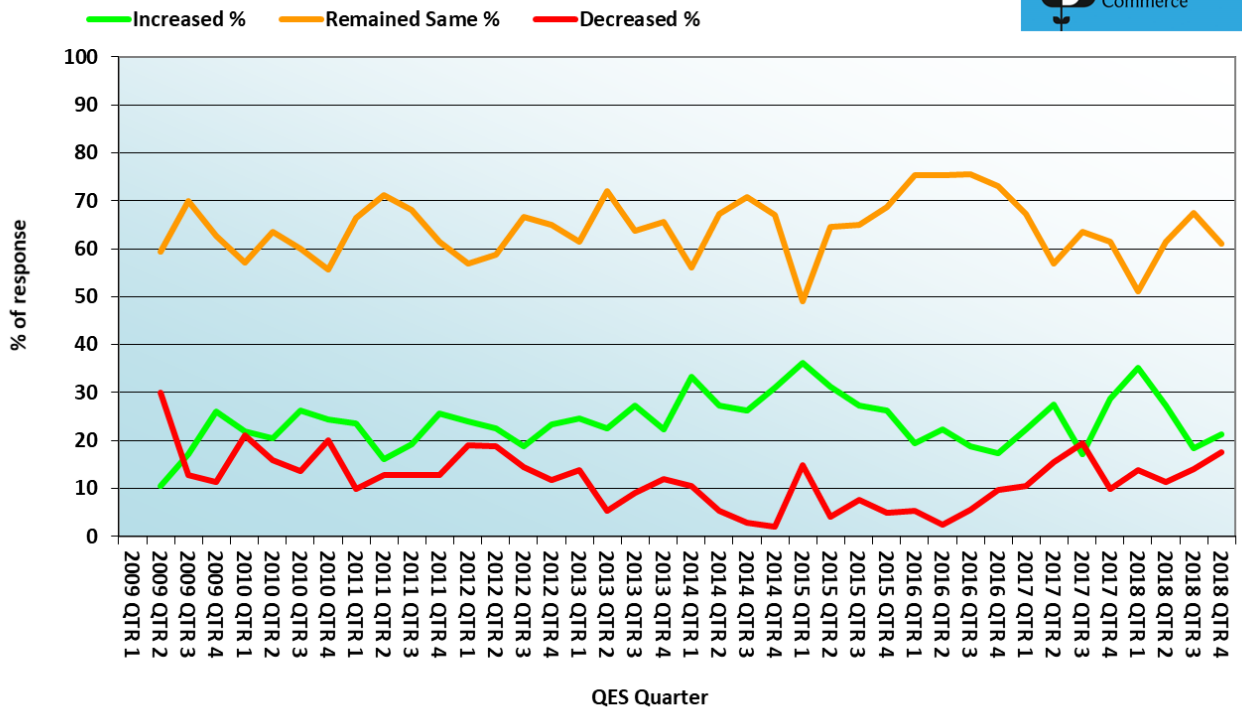


INVESTMENT

Investment Plans - Plant & Machinery

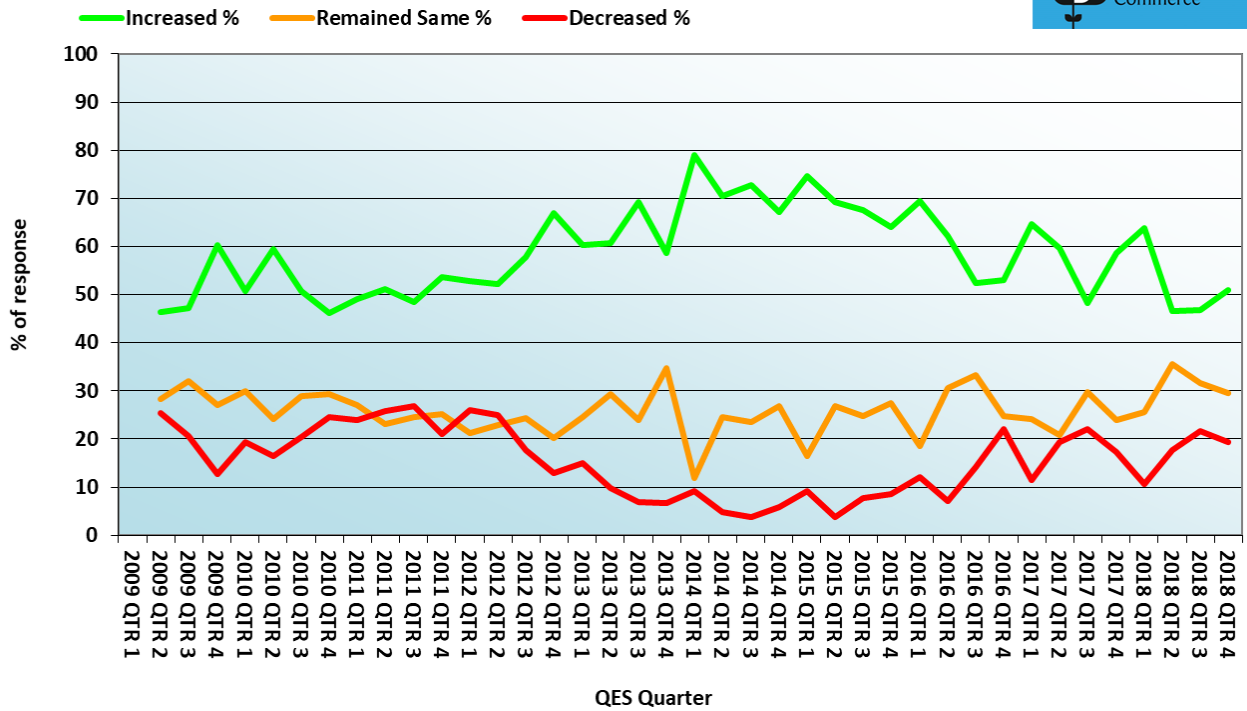


Investment Plans - Training

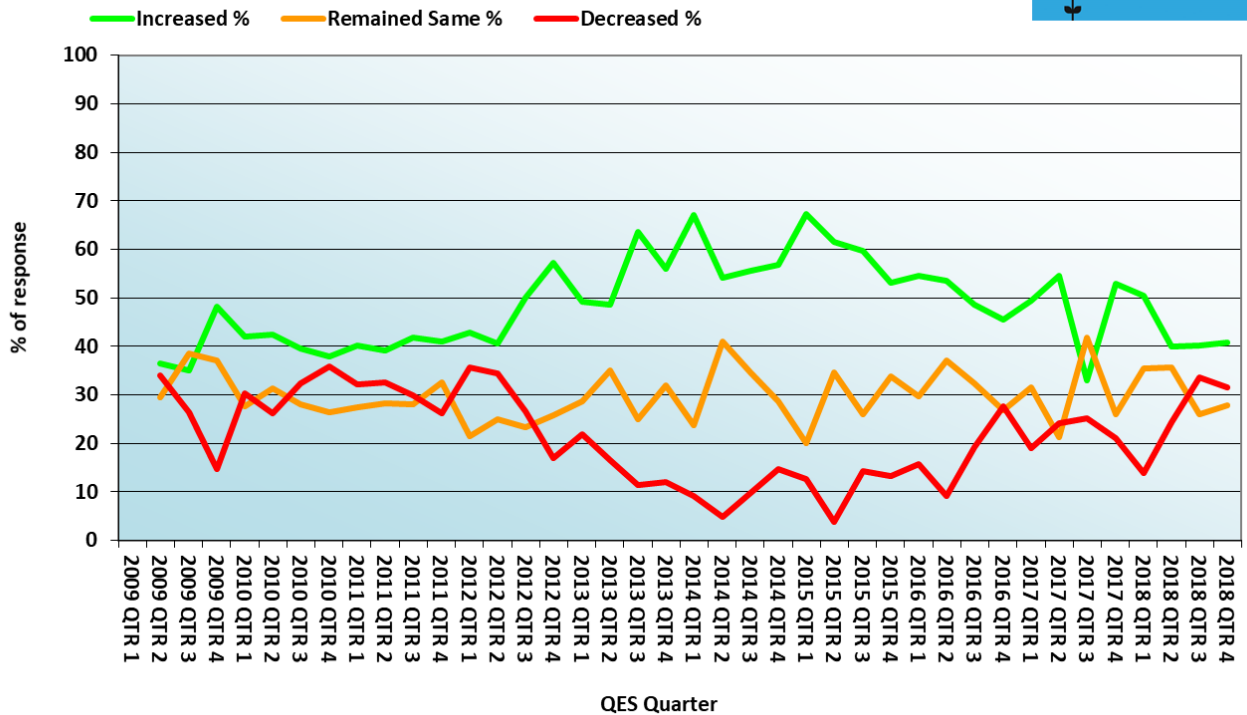


CONFIDENCE

Turnover Confidence - view of the next 12 months



Profitability Confidence - view of the next 12 months



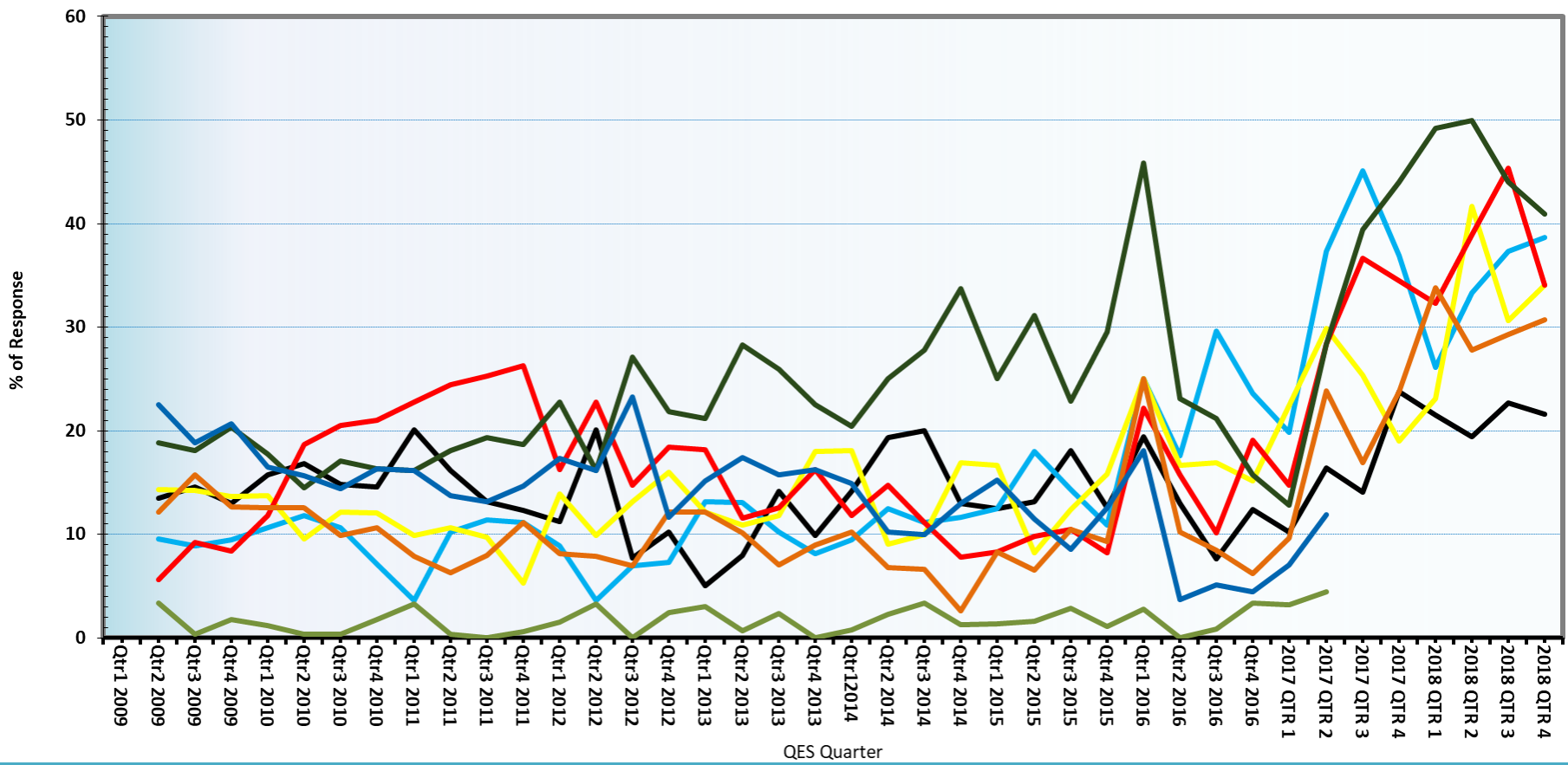
FEAR FACTORS

External Factors - Fear Factors

This chart depicts the most feared external factors that are felt may affect the respondents business. (Factors in brackets are no longer asked.)



— Interest Rates — Exchange Rates — Business Rates — Inflation — Competition — Corporate Tax/Taxation — (Better Industrial Relations) — (Improved Cash Availability)



OTHER FACTORS

GDPR - have the steps you had to take or were advised to take had any impact on your ability to market or sell your product or services?

