



# 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

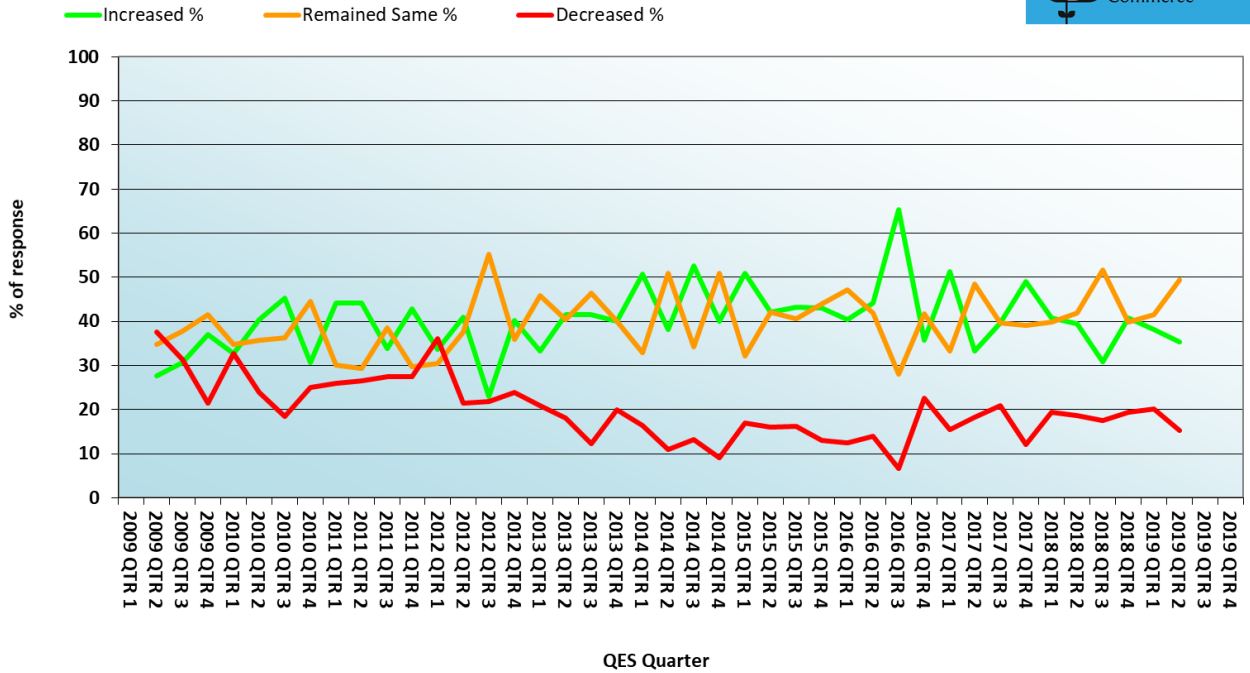
**Executive Overview**      **Qtr. 2 – 2019 (Survey undertaken over three weeks in May/June 2019)**  
**for Qtr.**

**Headline**      **BREXIT STILL CASTS A SHADOW ON THE WIDER ECONOMY**

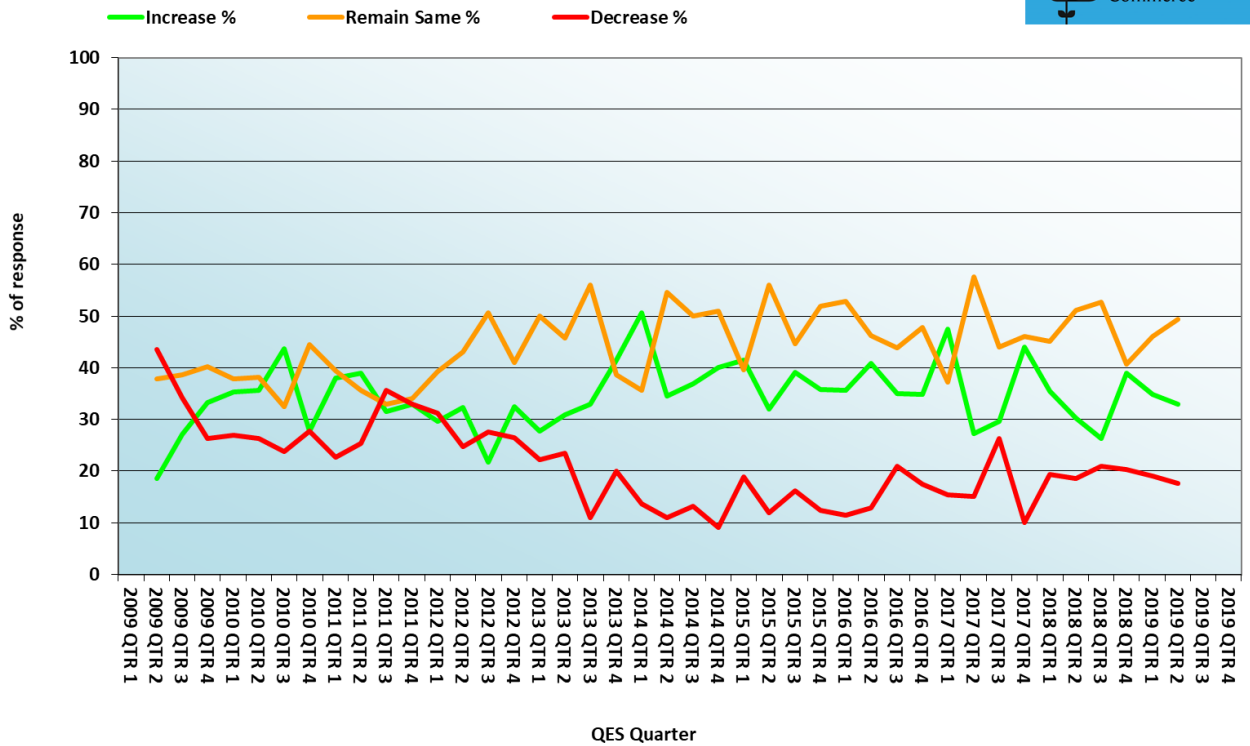
Domestic sales have started to stagnate, whereas exports continued to grow. Exporters feel that this positive trend will continue. Recruitment though currently strong but is expected to slow down. Of the 60% who tried to recruit 70% had difficulty finding suitable staff, and now at all skill levels. It seems that more local staff are being recruited than those from outside the County, as recruiting skills from outside proves hard due the rural nature of the area & perceptions about living here. Cashflow and capacity have remained pretty static. Over 60% say investment in plant or training will remain unchanged. Confidence has dropped both in terms of profitability and cashflow, the Brexit shadow causing uncertainty and worry for many. The main fears are competition and exchange rates, in contrast we see a downturn in the number worrying about Corporation tax, which is in line with the decrease in confidence with relation to profitability. The delay in Brexit has caused further uncertainty and this is reflected in this quarter's results.

# UK SALES

## UK Sales - for the past three month

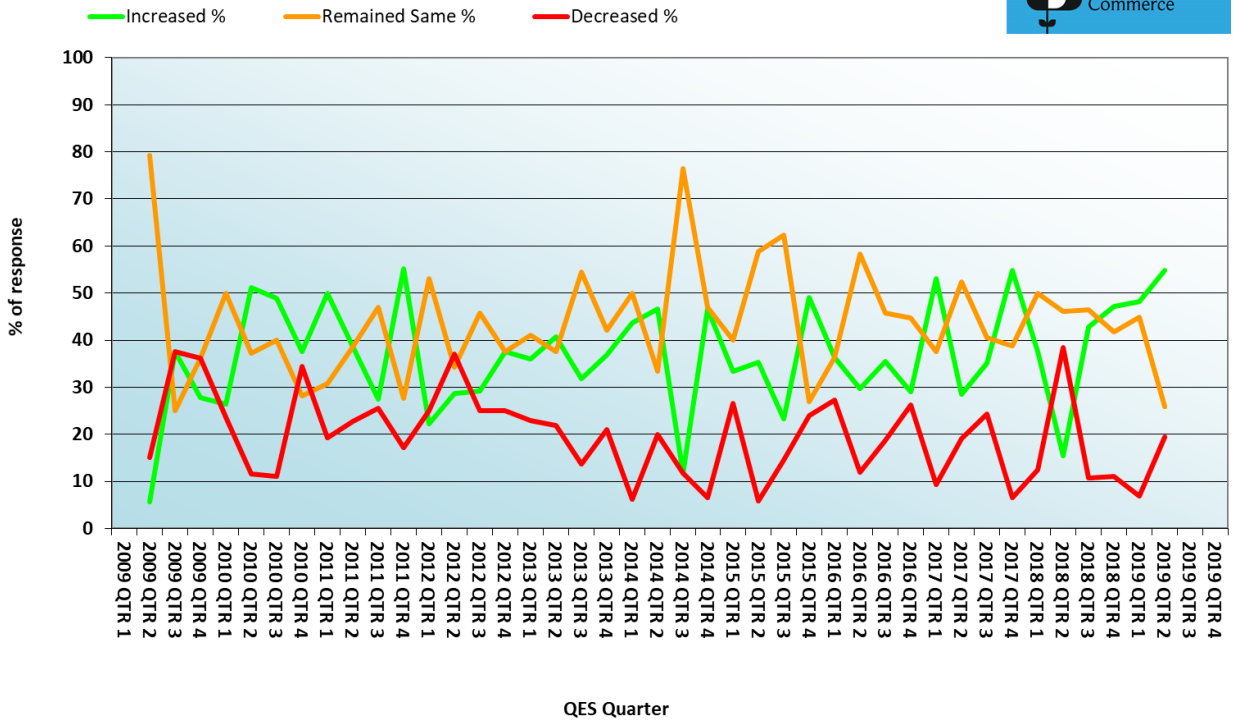


## UK Orders - anticipated for the next three months

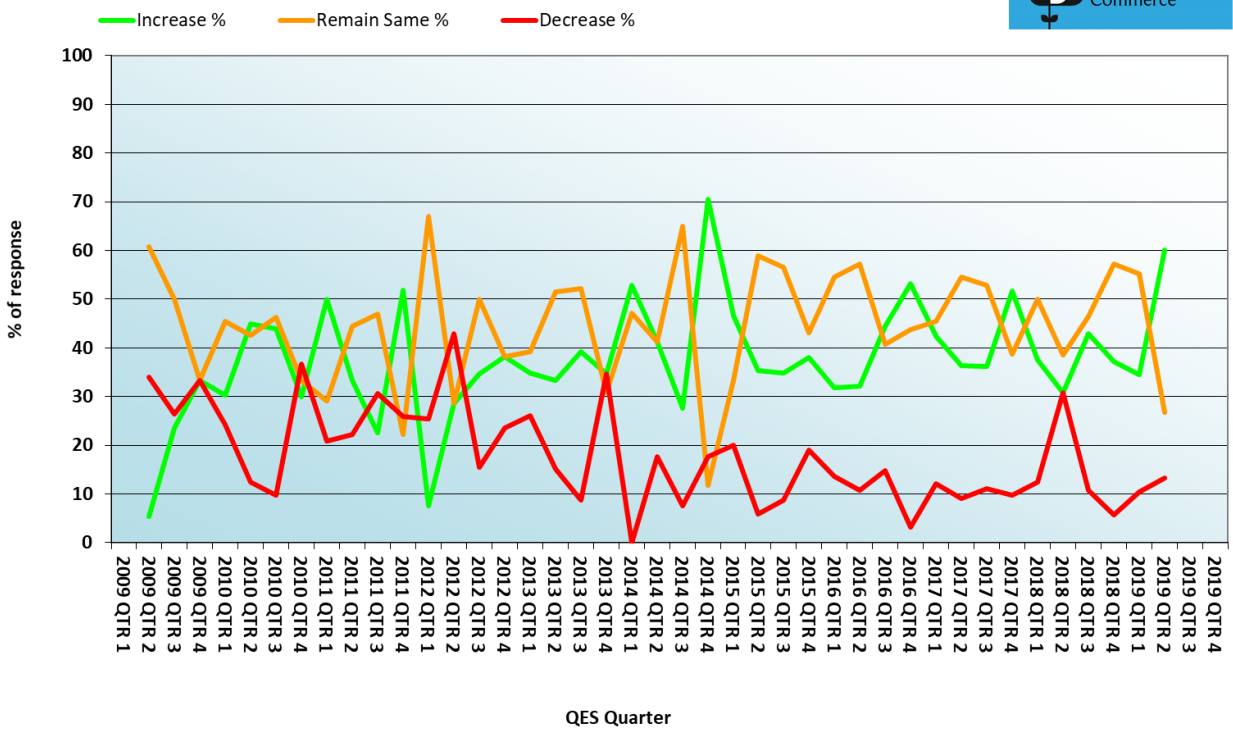


# EXPORTS

**Export Sales - for the past three months**

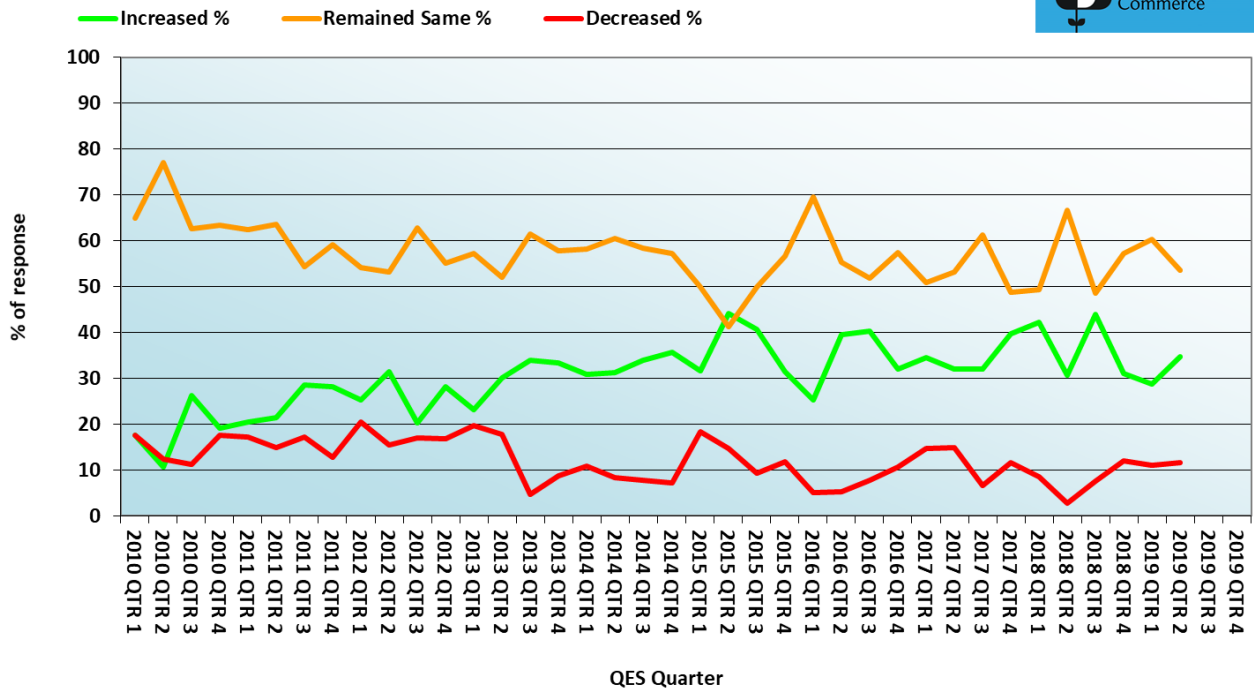


**Export Orders - anticipated for the next three months**

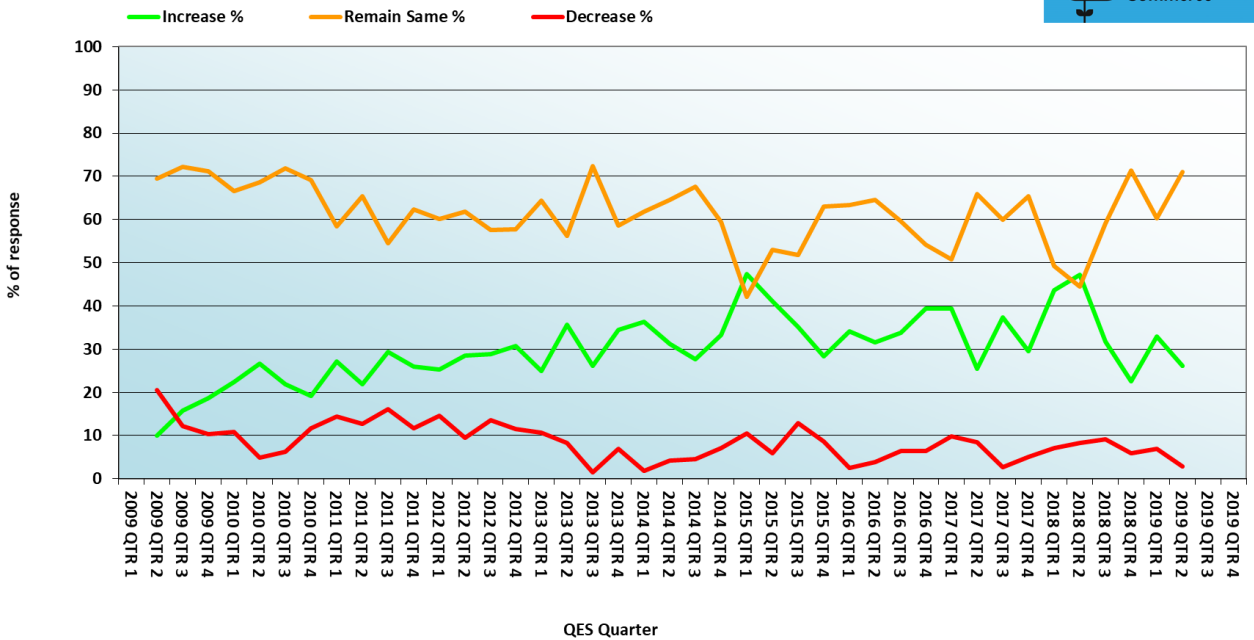


# STAFF

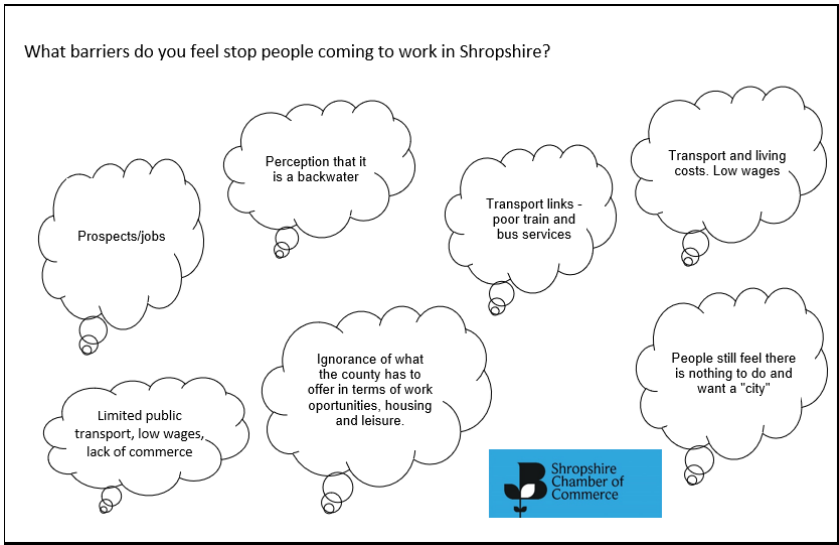
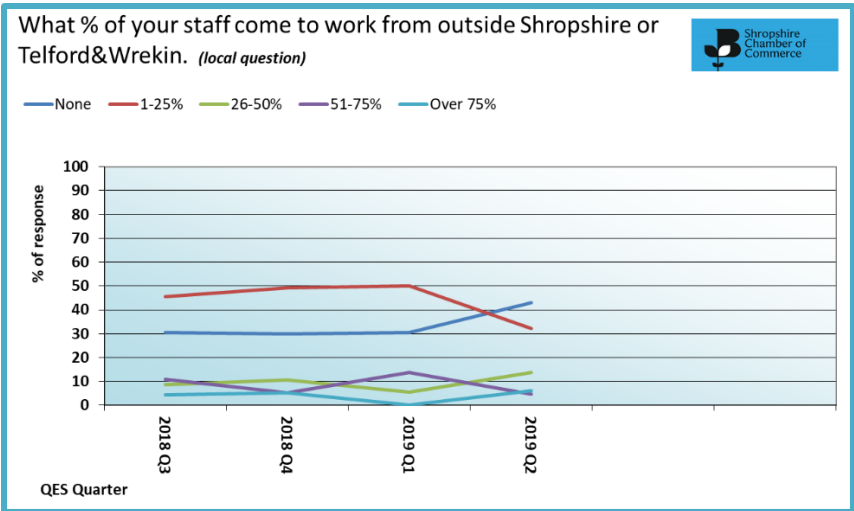
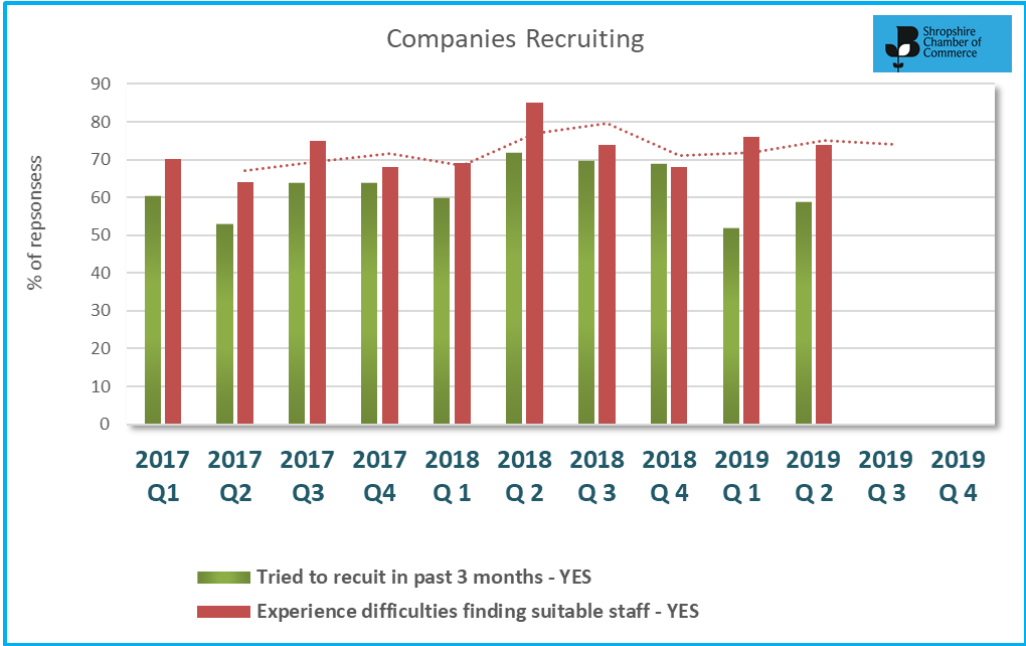
## Workforce - past 3 months



## Workforce - anticipated in the next three months

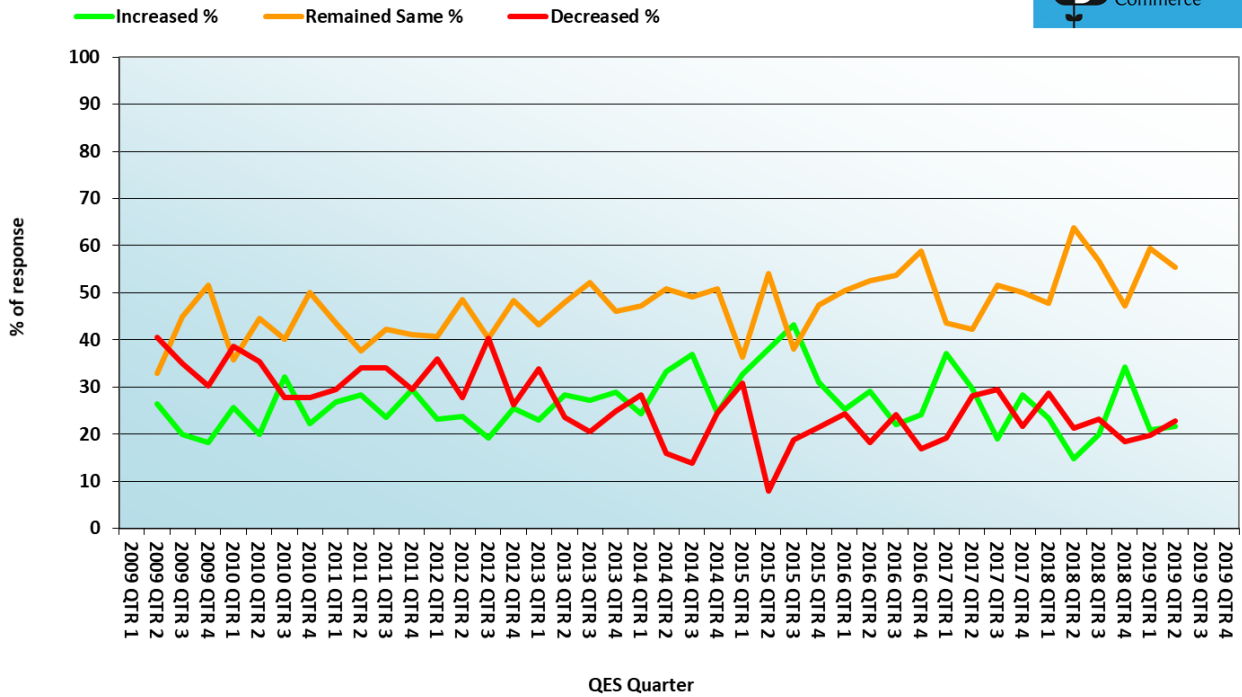


# STAFF...continued

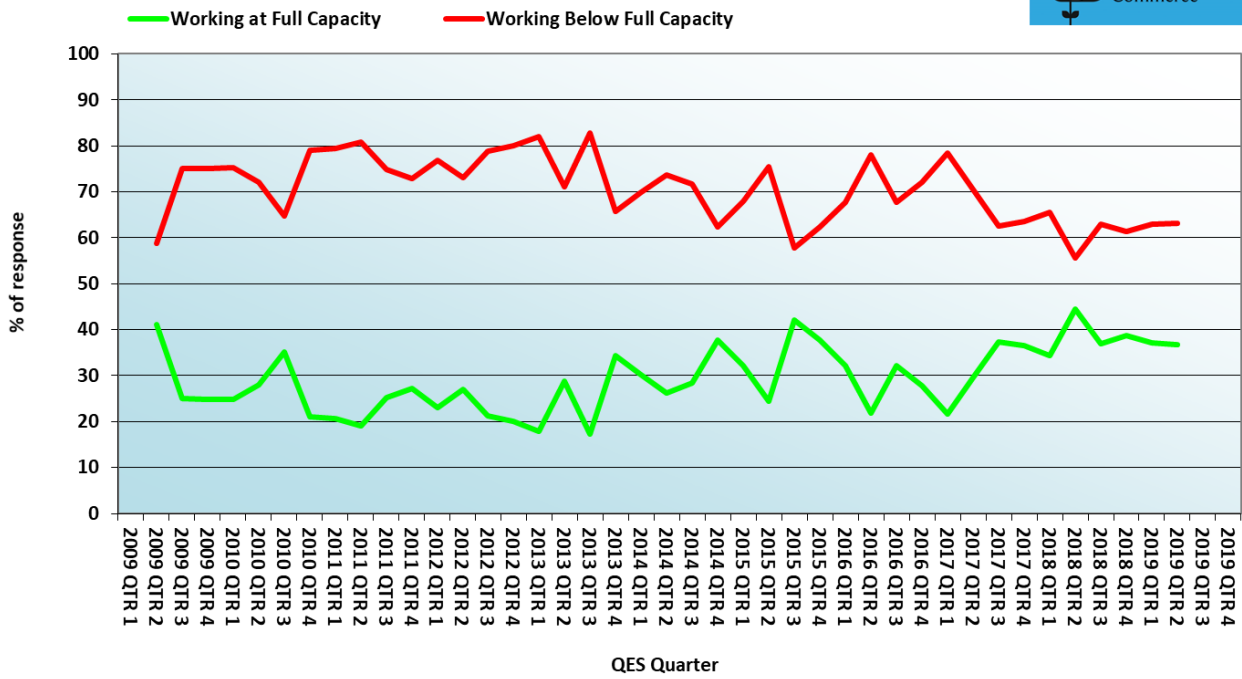


# CASH & CAPACITY

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

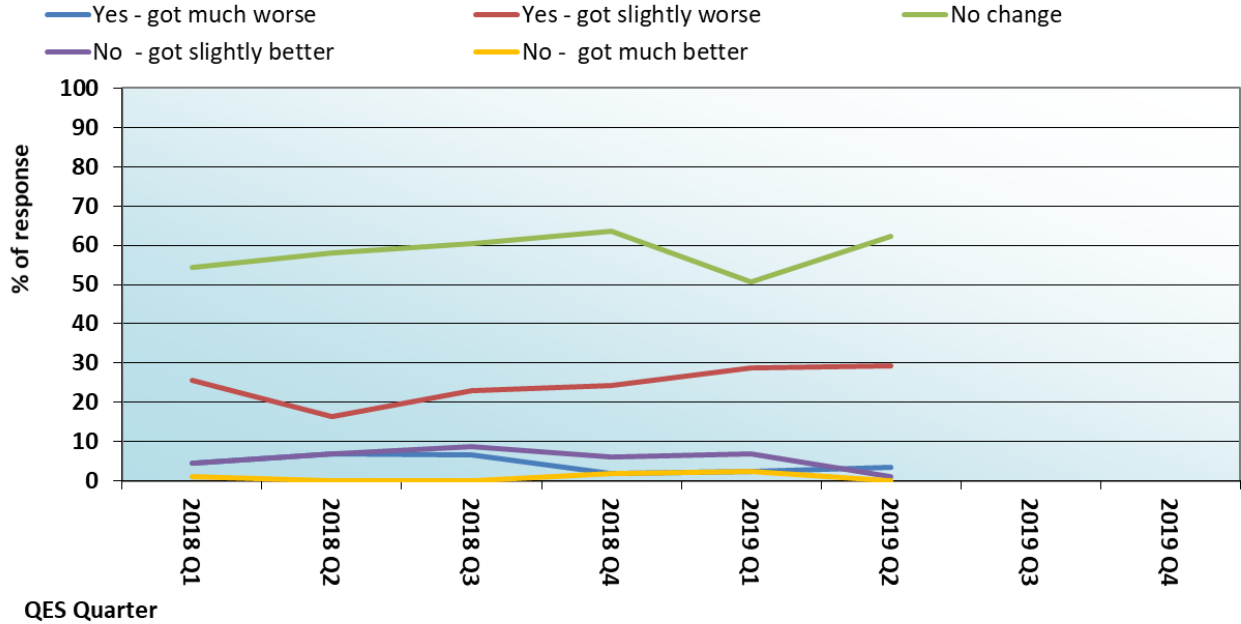


## Capacity - working at full or below capacity

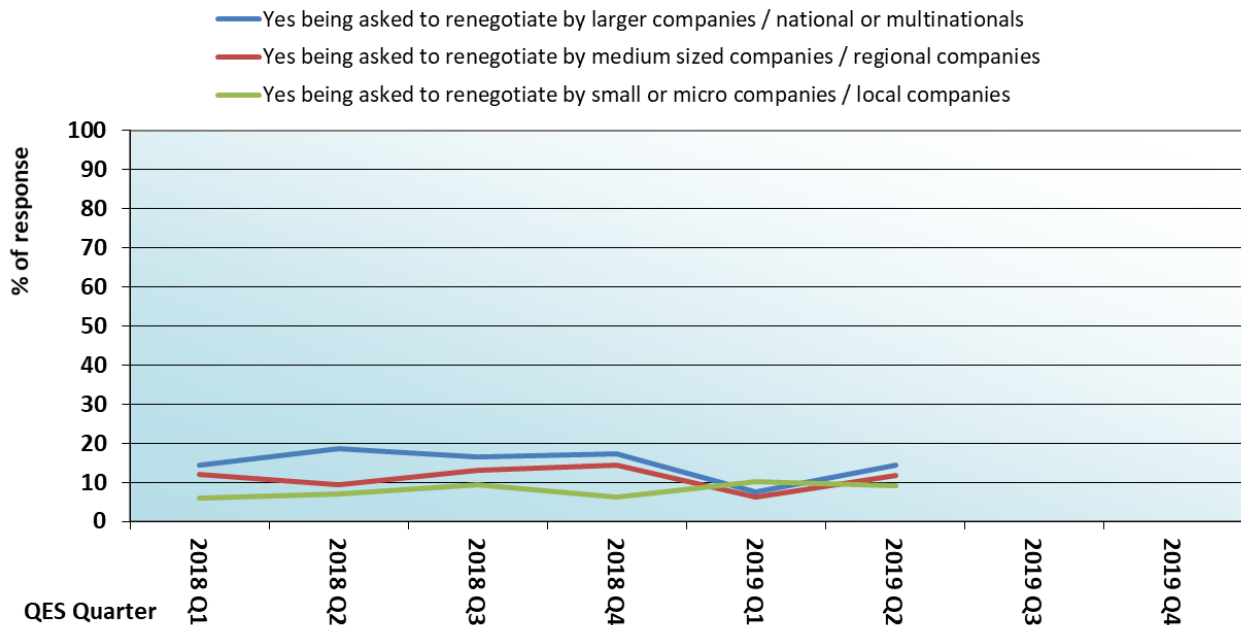


# CASH & CAPACITY...continued

**Have the number of outstanding payments due to your business got better or worse, generally? (local question)**

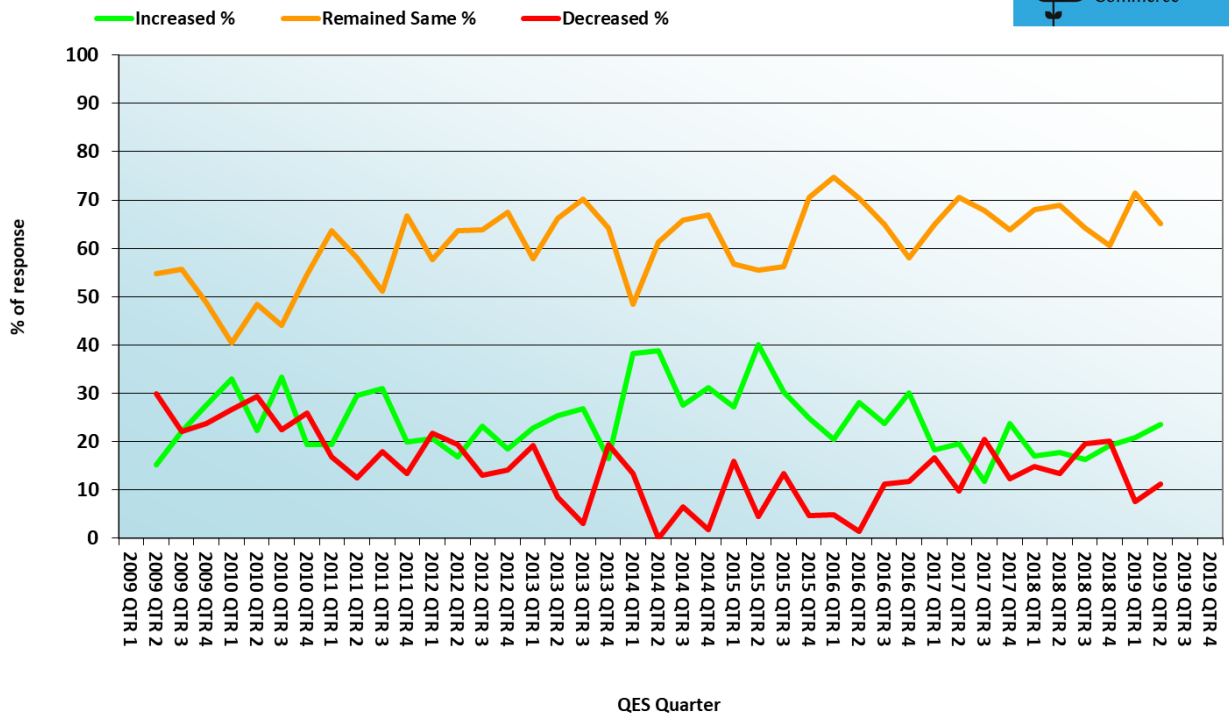


**Are your suppliers asking you to renegotiate your payment contracts with them to less favorable terms? If so which types of companies are asking you to accept new contract terms? (multi choice - local question)**

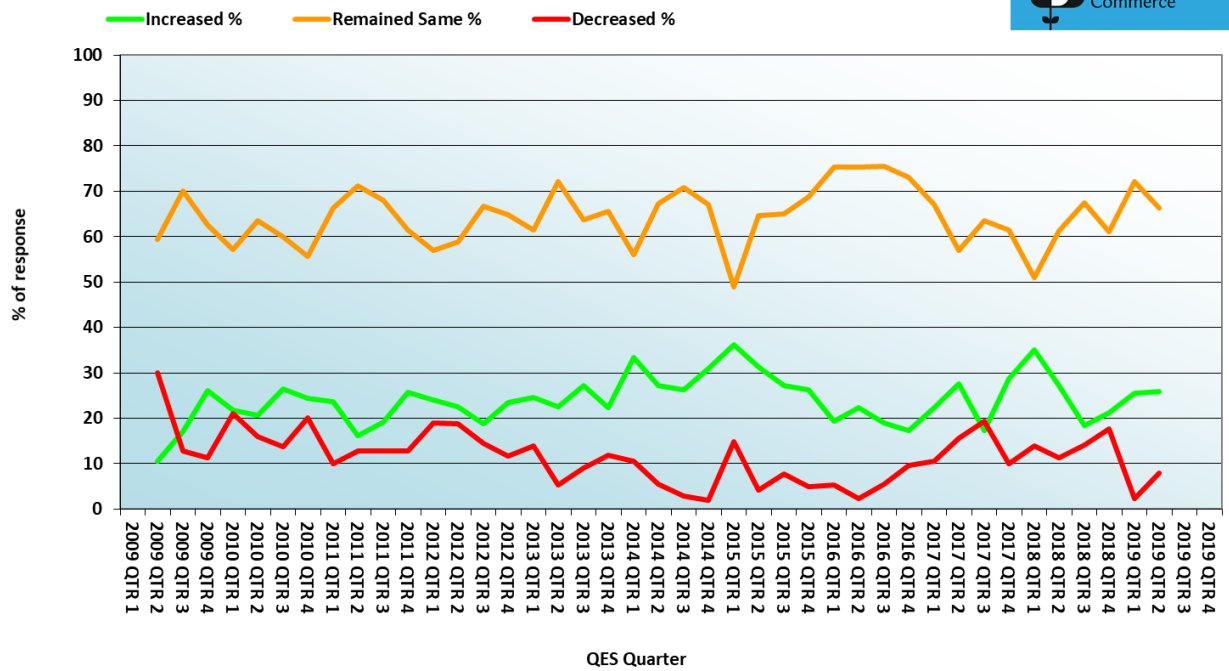


# INVESTMENT

## Investment Plans - Plant & Machinery



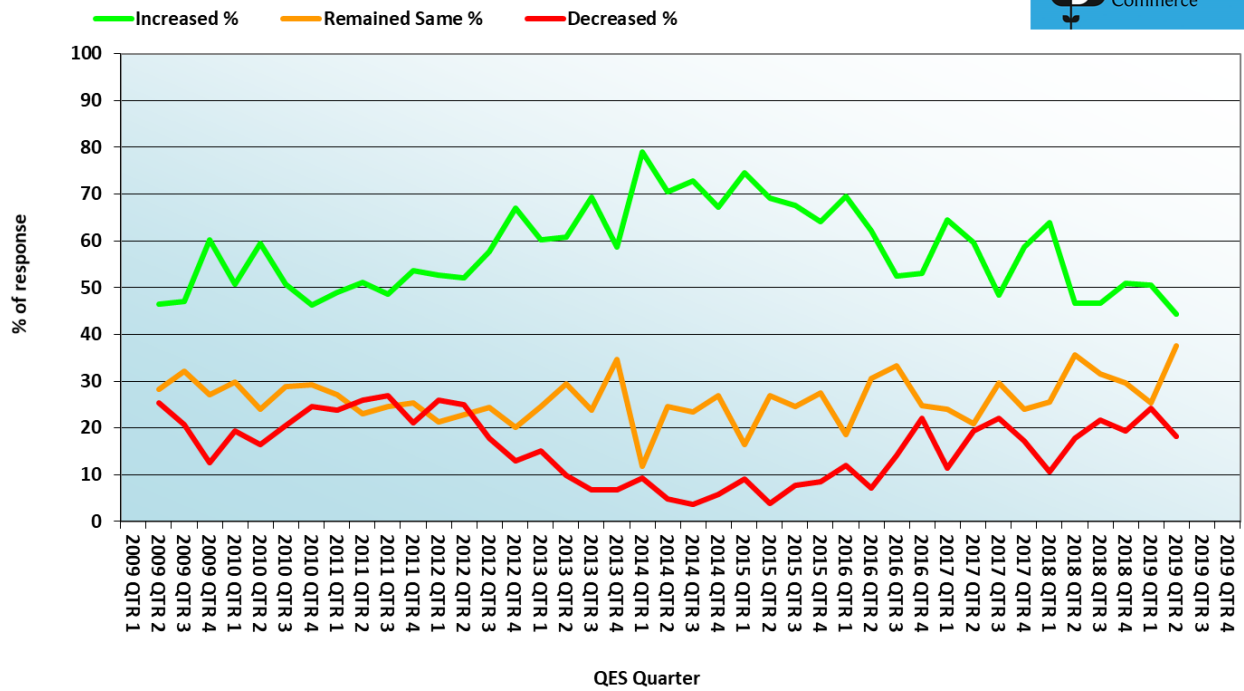
## Investment Plans - Training



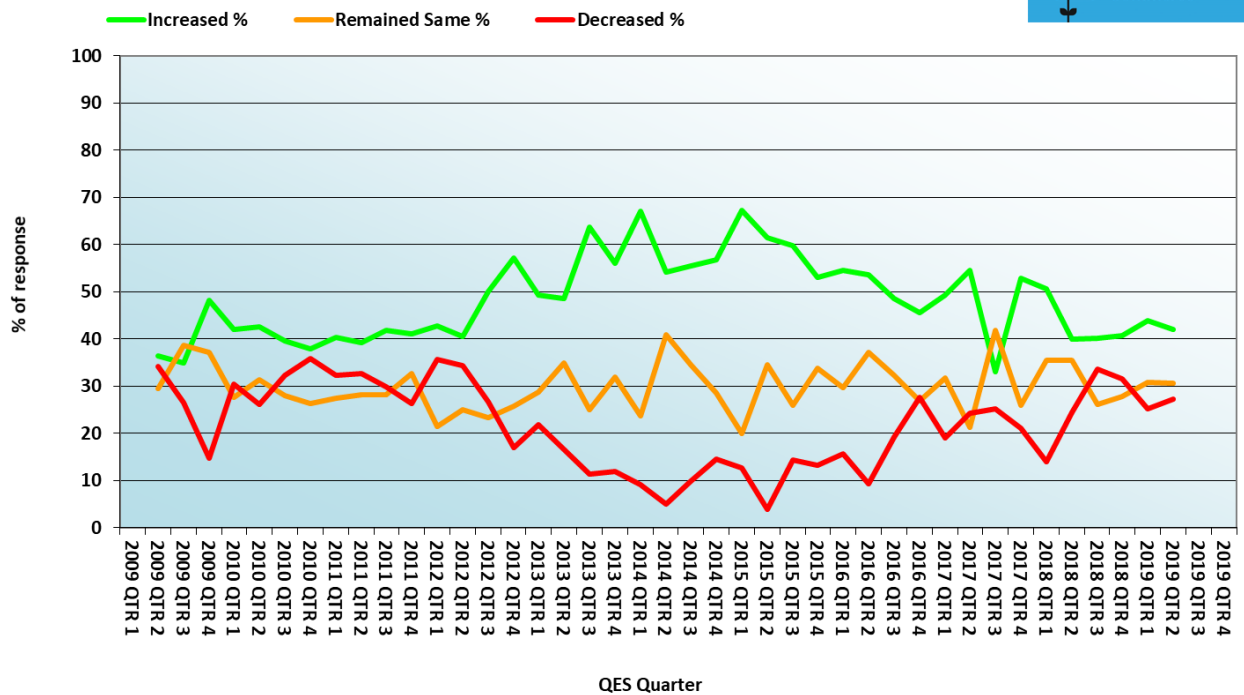


# CONFIDENCE

## Turnover Confidence - view of the next 12 months



## Profitability Confidence - view of the next 12 months



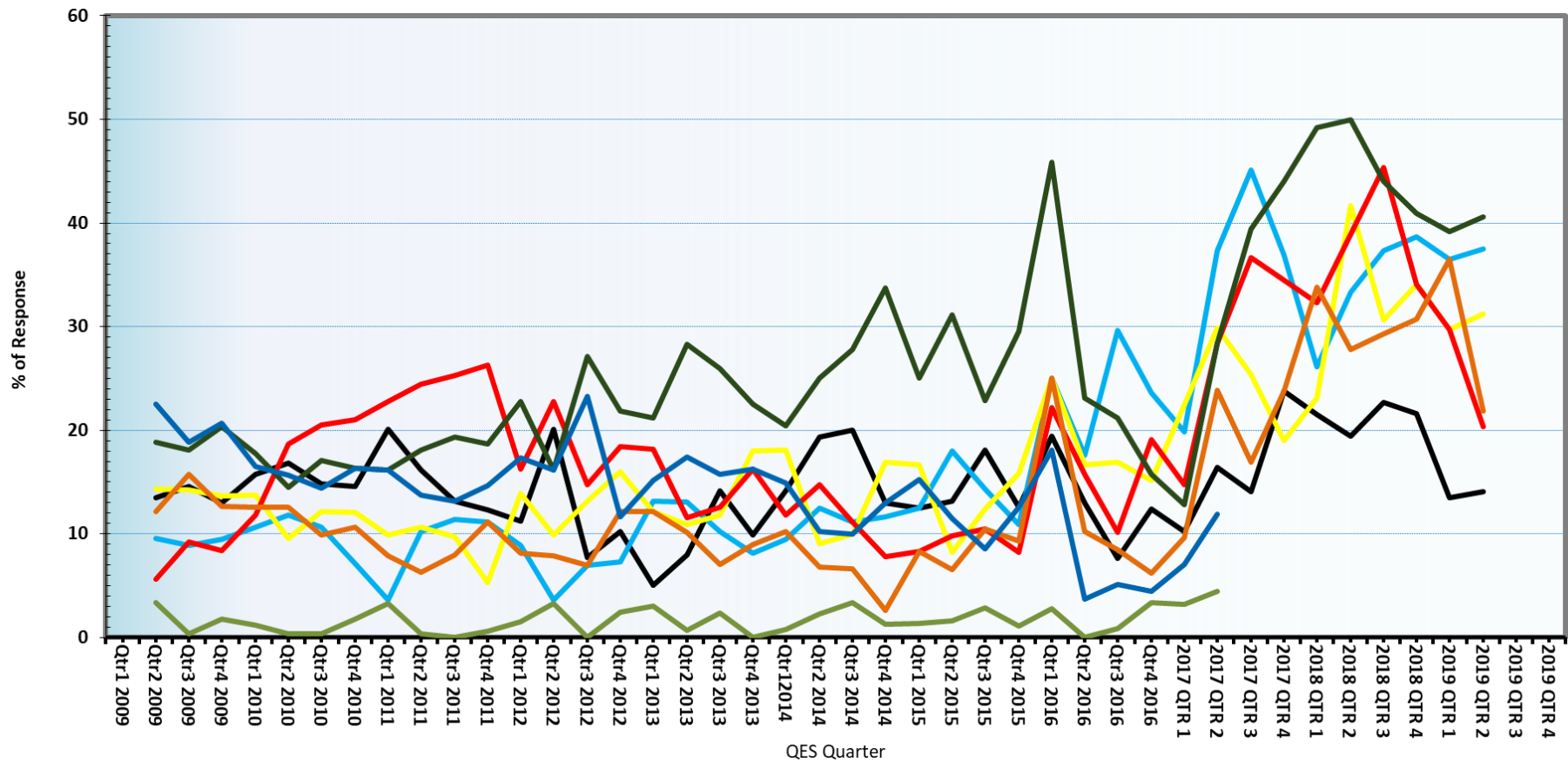
# FEAR FACTORS

## 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)



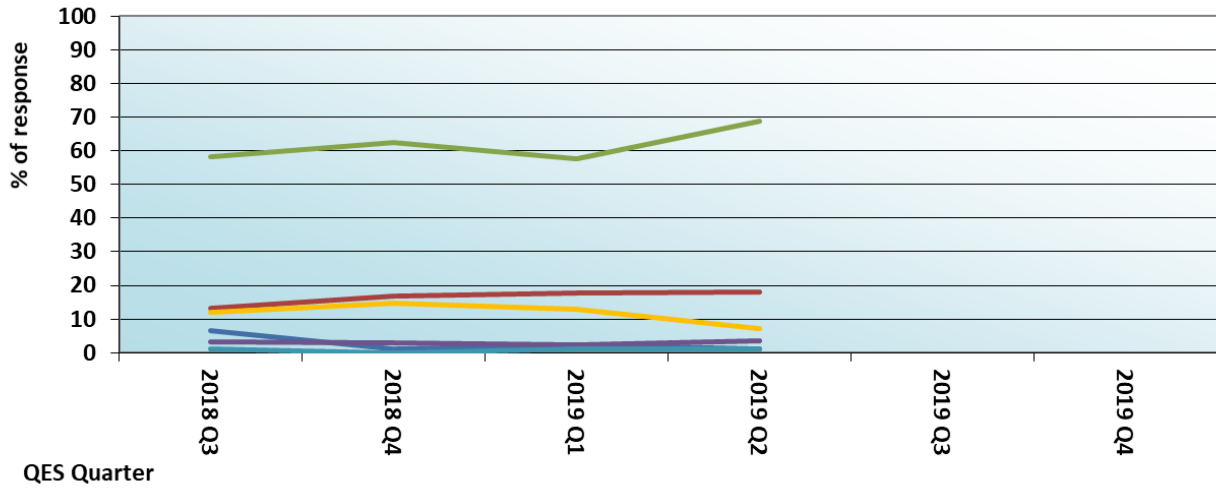
# OTHER FACTORS

**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?**



*(local question)*

- Very negative effect
- Somewhat negative effect
- No change
- Somewhat improved effect
- Greatly improved effect
- Too early to tell



**What effect is Brexit having on your business?**



*(local question)*

- Very negative effect
- Somewhat negative effect
- No change
- Somewhat improved effect

