

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

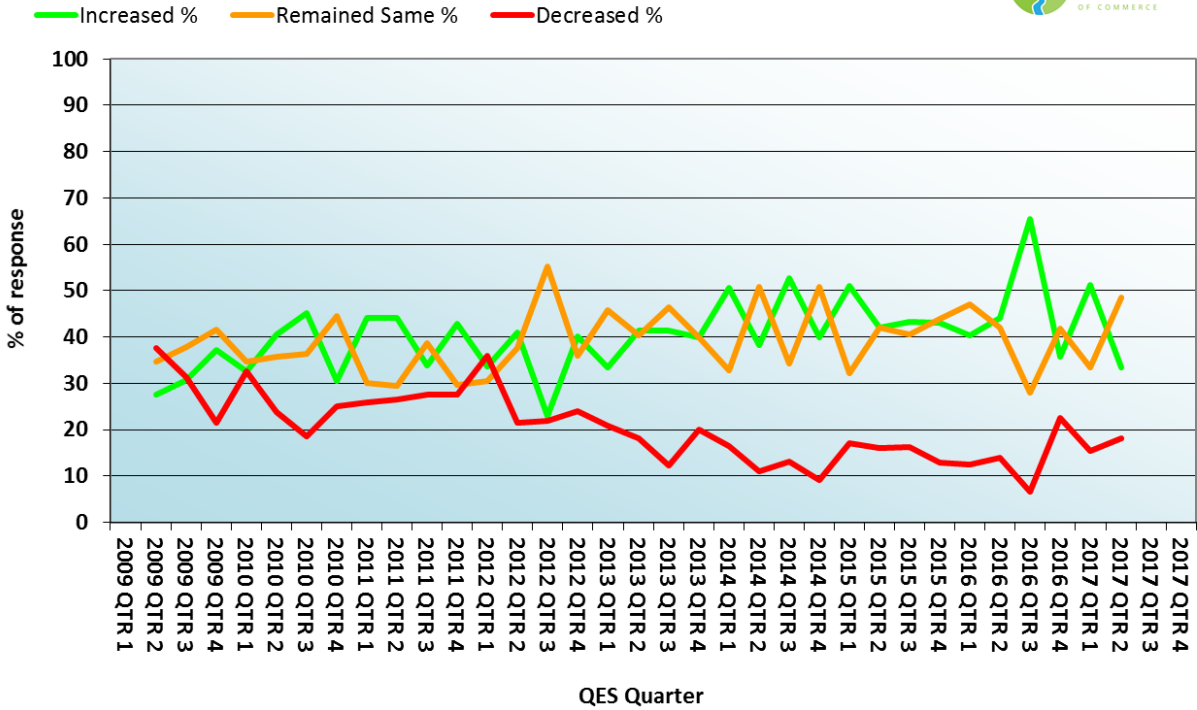
Executive Overview **Qtr. 2 – 2017 (Survey undertaken over three weeks in May/June 2017)**
for Qtr.

Headline **UNCERTAIN TIMES IN UNCHARTED WATERS**

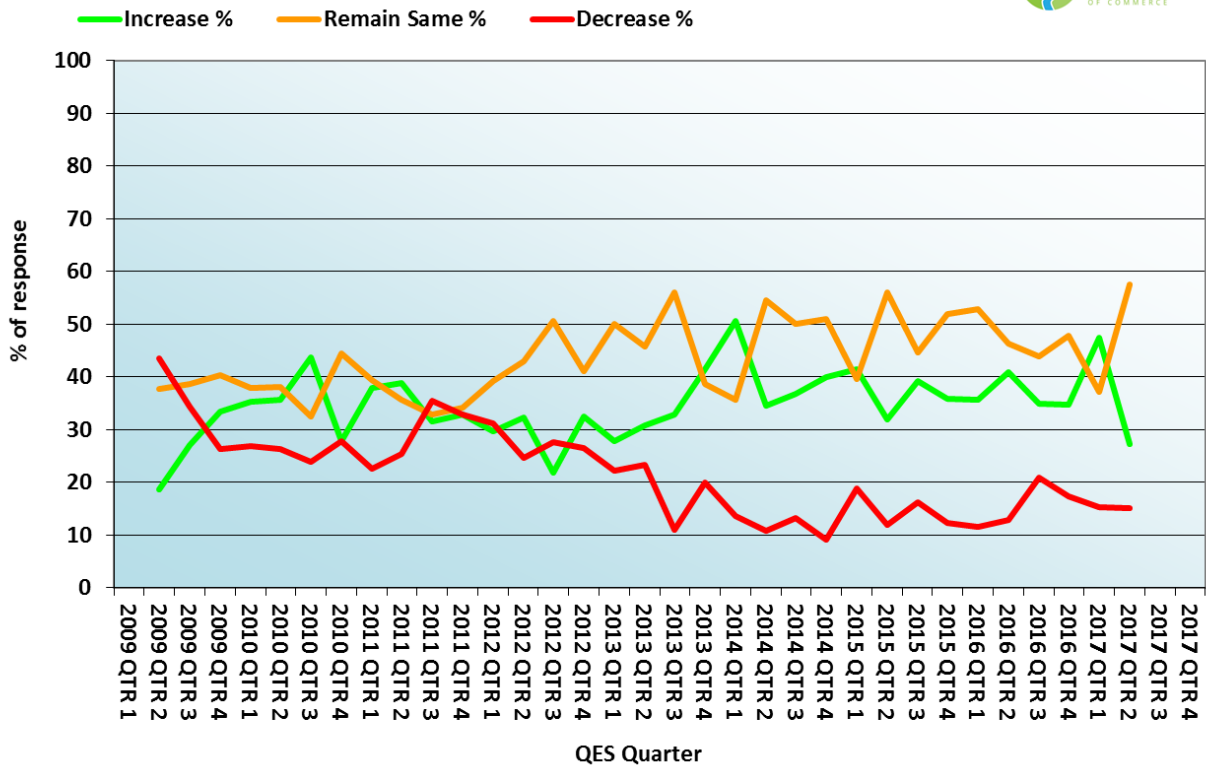
UK sales past and future have seen a fall, but the increase is in the number of companies saying sales unchanged, rather than decreased. Exports saw a similar change; however past sales did see a rise in those stating a decrease in sales. Past three months recruitment was steady but numbers planning to increase recruitment in the next three months has fallen. We still see the continued problems of shortages of suitable staff, due to skills shortages and candidates work readiness. Cash flow performance has declined. However, we see a slight rise in the numbers working to capacity, now at 30% of all those interviewed. Static is the best way to describe investment in plant or training, carrying on the trend that has been the norm for several years. We have seen over the years that confidence always runs way above the facts, this quarter is no different. Rates are the greatest fear; exchange rate, business rates, interest rates etc. Brexit is still causing great uncertainty, which is dampening investment plans. Next quarter should see the election fall out. It should be noted that nearly all took the survey before the election took place.

UK SALES

UK Sales - for the past three month

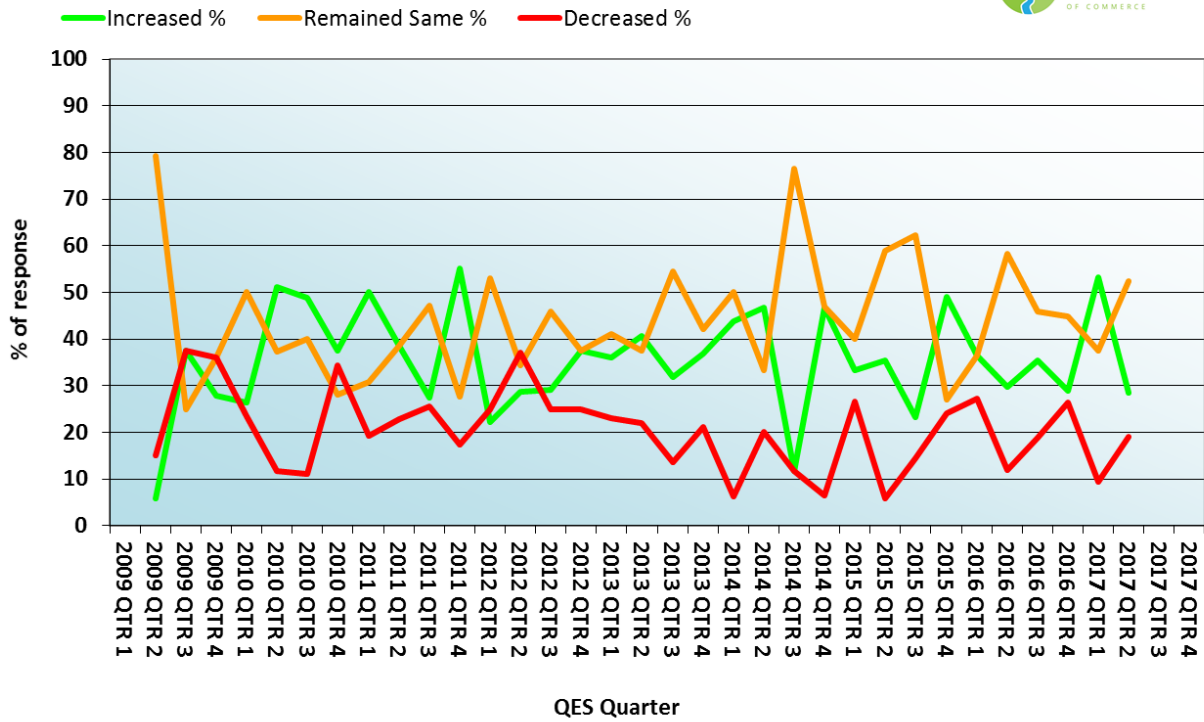


UK Orders - anticipated for the next three months

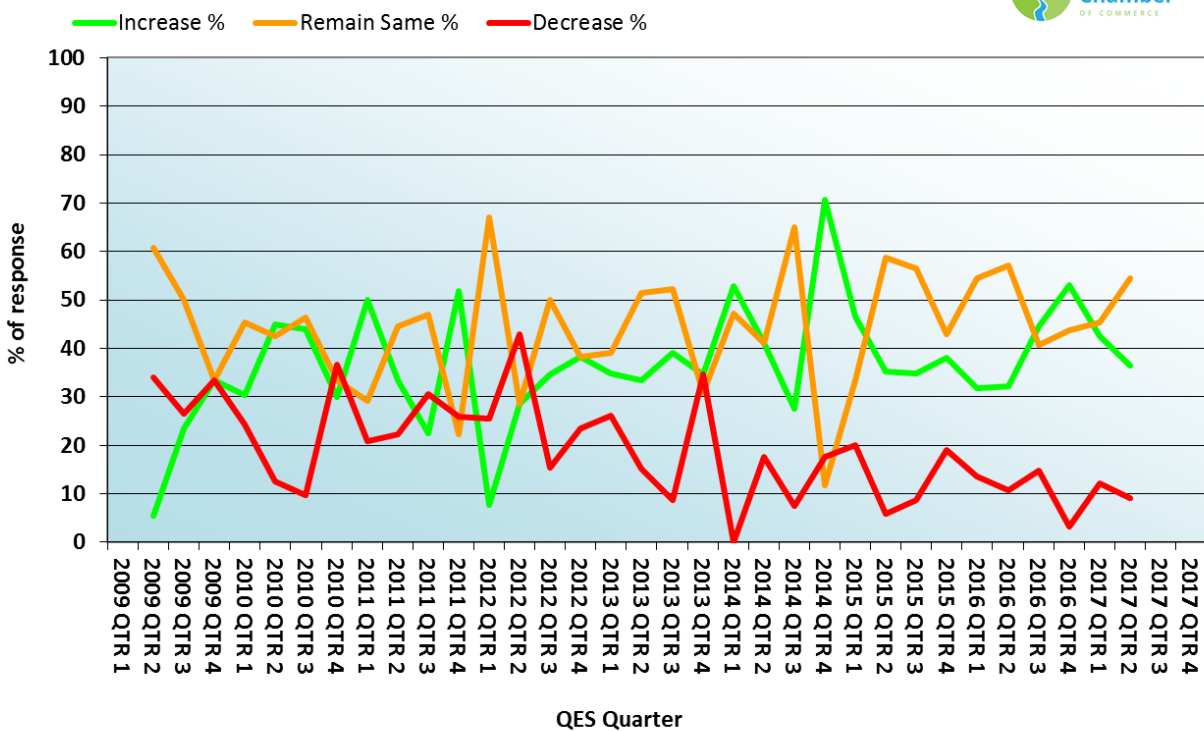


EXPORTS

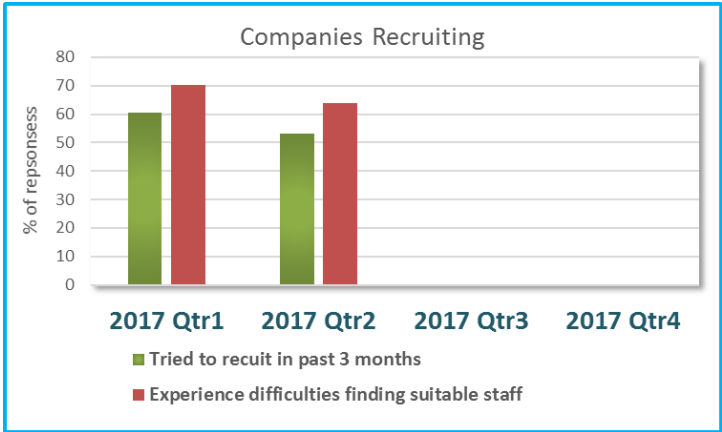
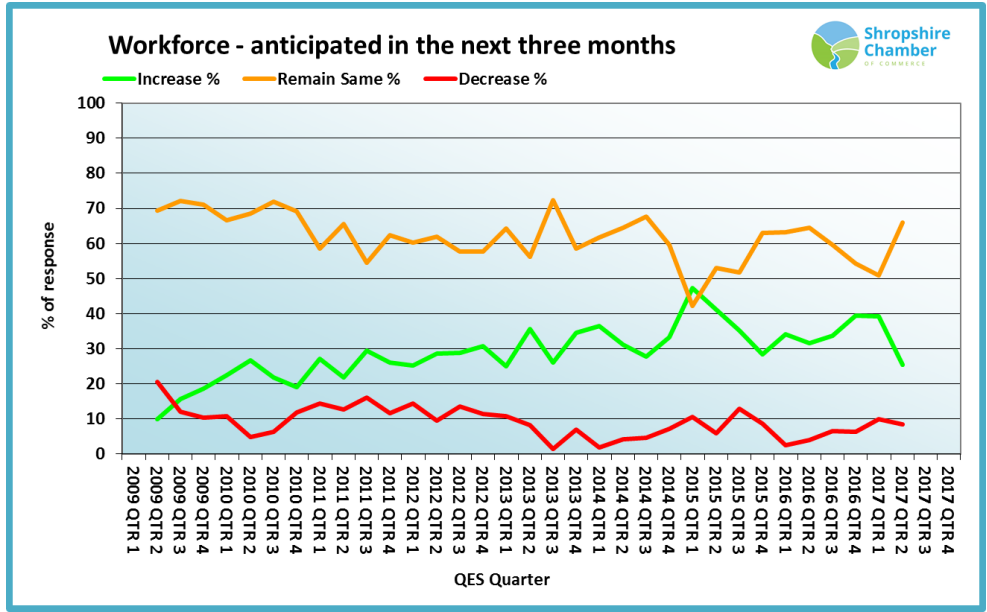
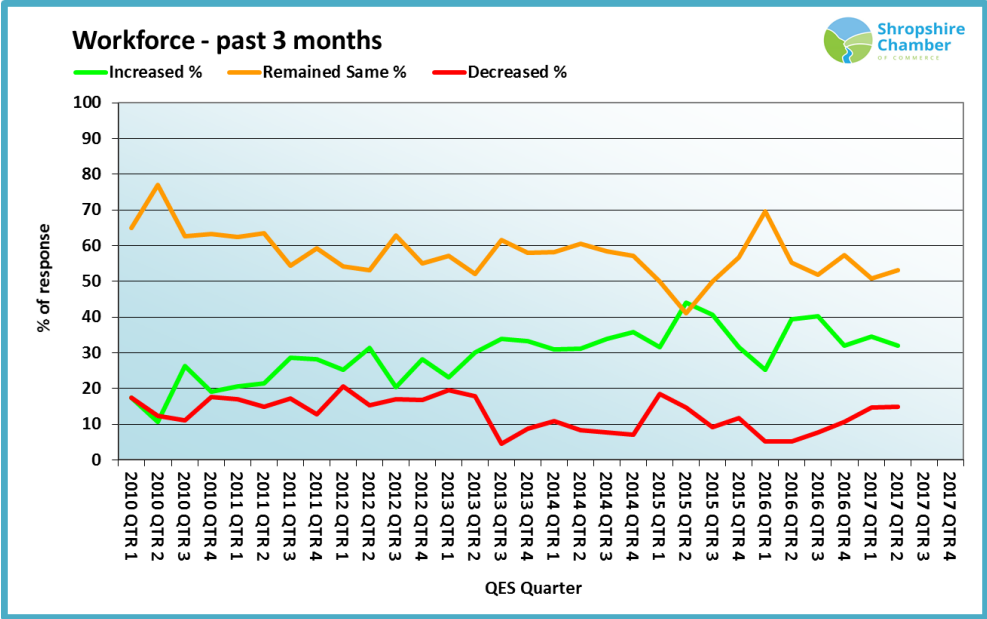
Export Sales - for the past three months



Export Orders - anticipated for the next three months

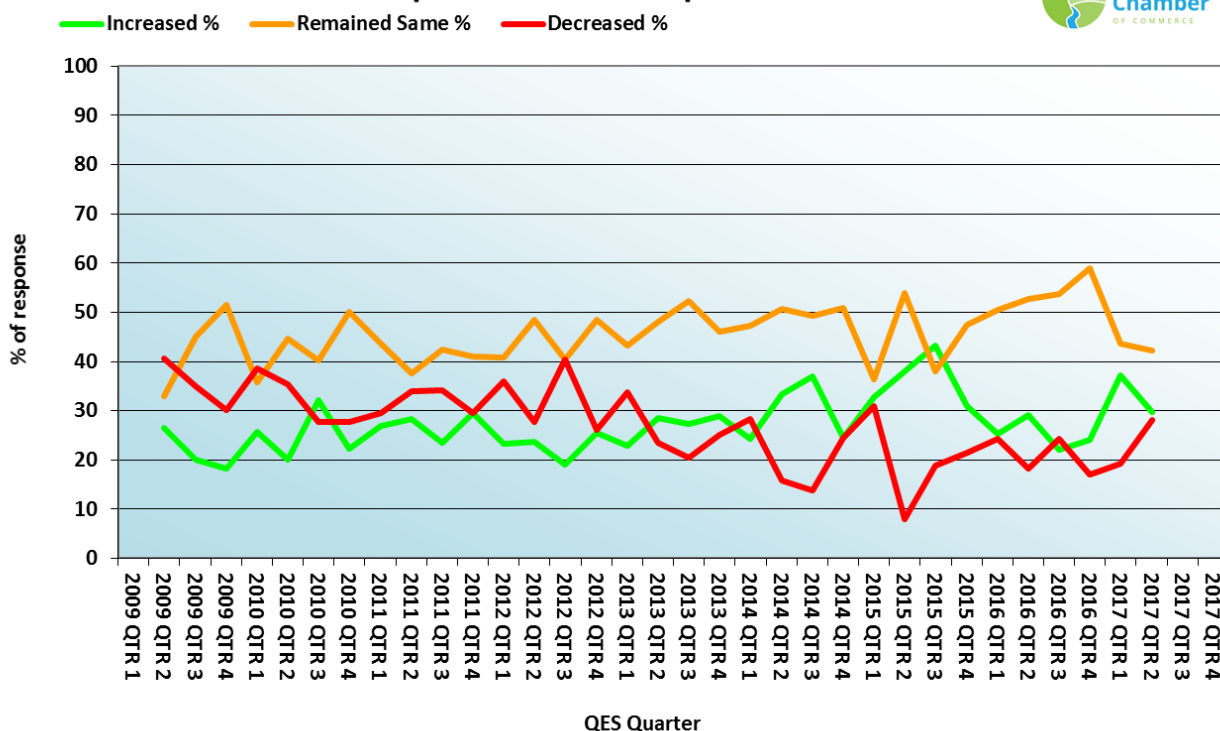


STAFF

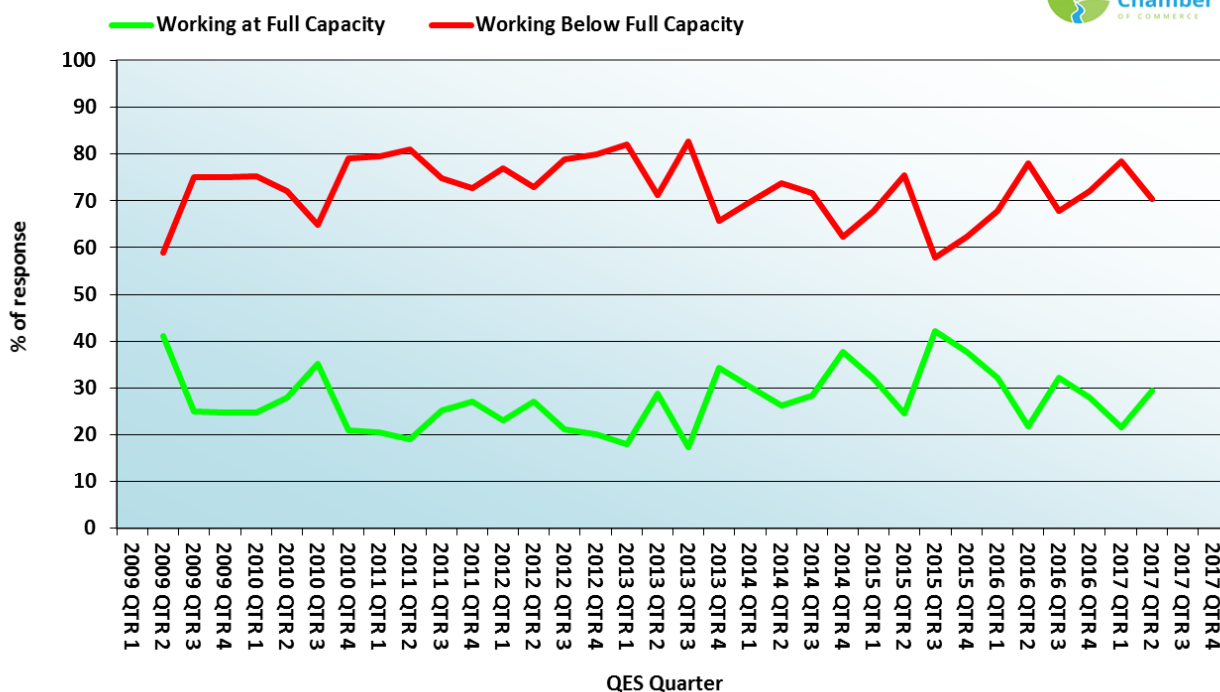


CASH & CAPACITY

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

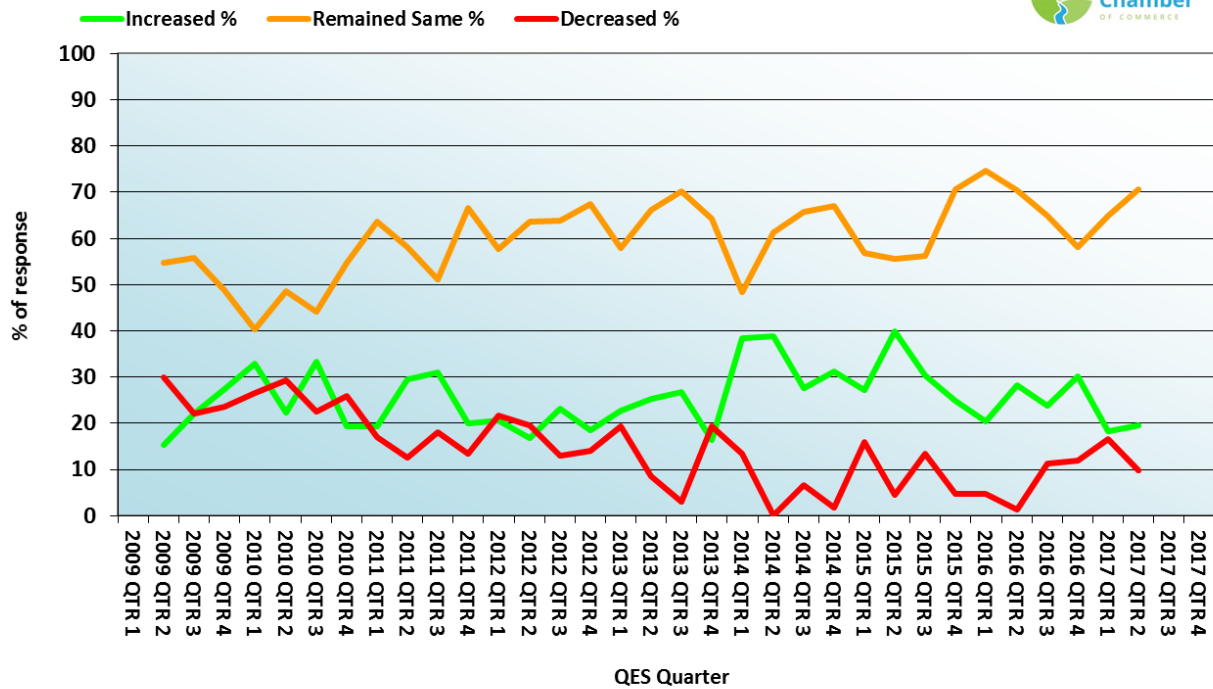


Capacity - working at full or below capacity

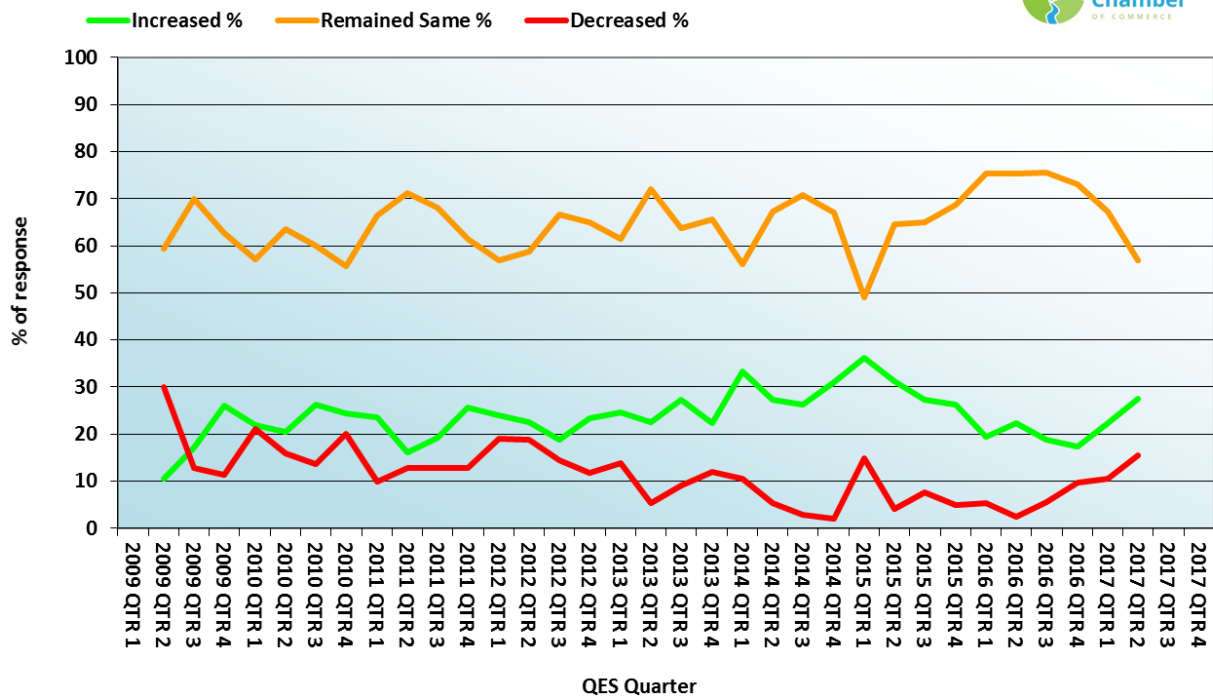


INVESTMENT

Investment Plans - Plant & Machinery

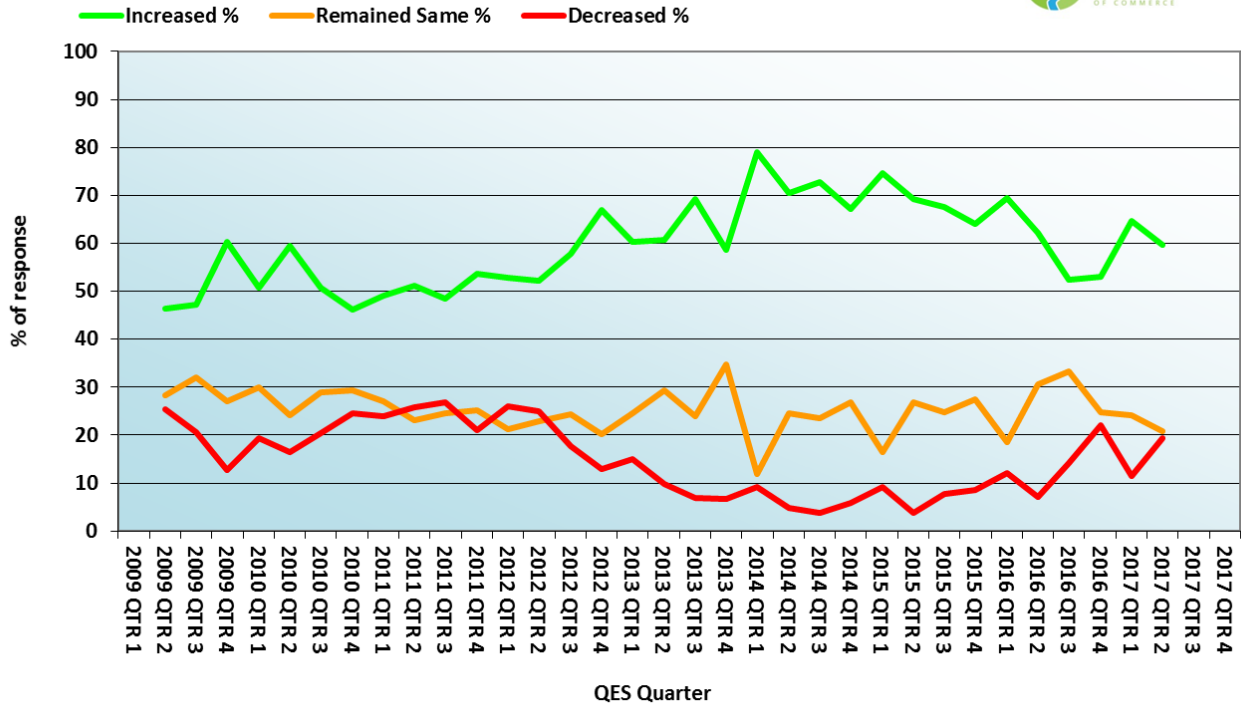


Investment Plans - Training

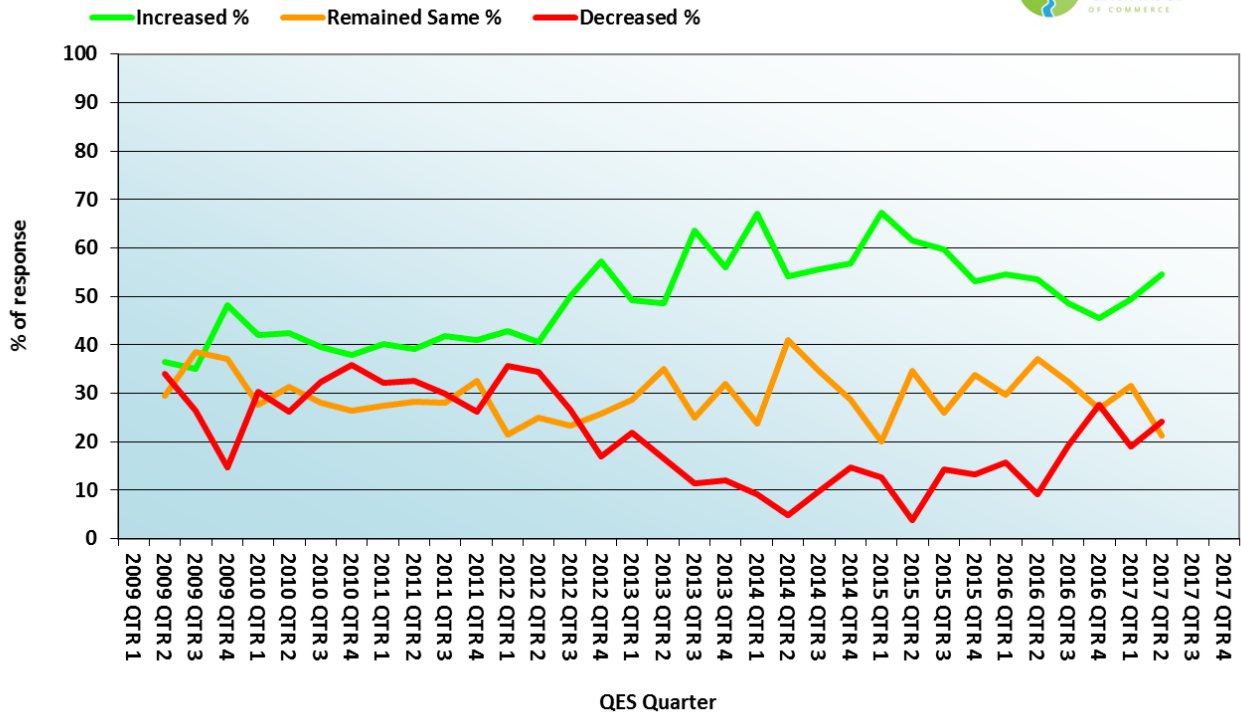


CONFIDENCE

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

