



# 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 multi-national.

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

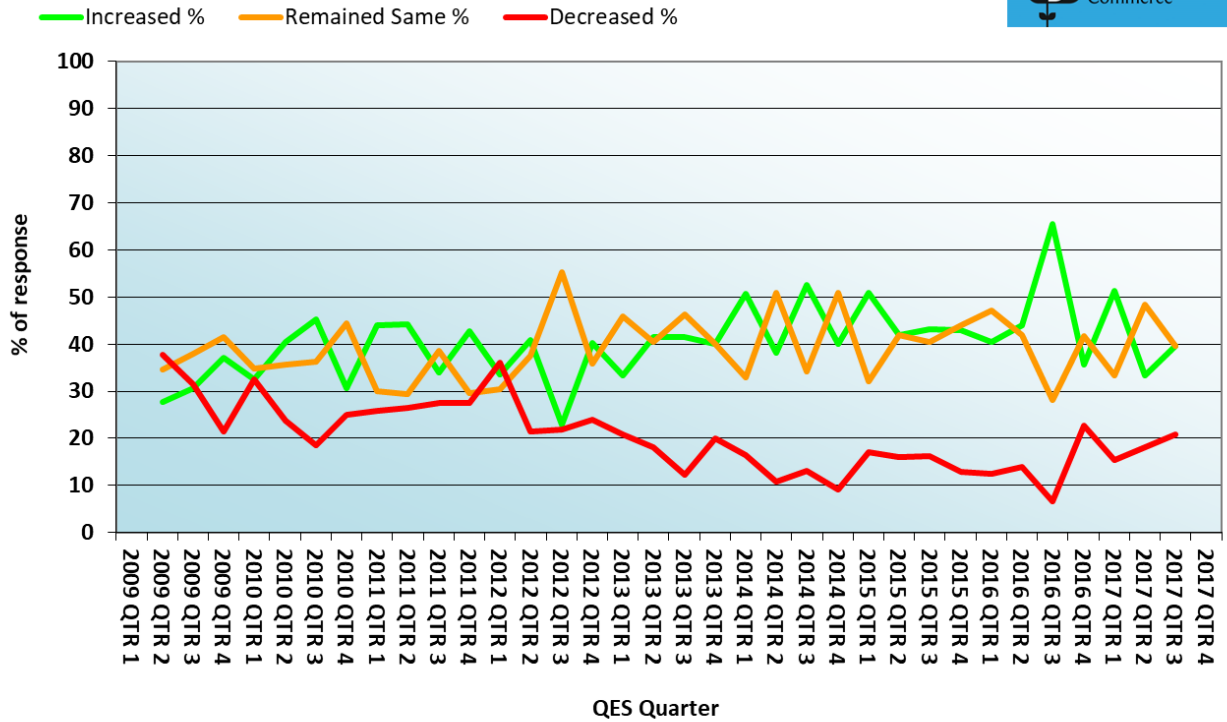
**Executive Overview**      **Qtr. 3 – 2017 (Survey undertaken over three weeks in Aug/Sept 2017)**

**Headline**                      **BREXIT STILL CONFUSING THE PICTURE**

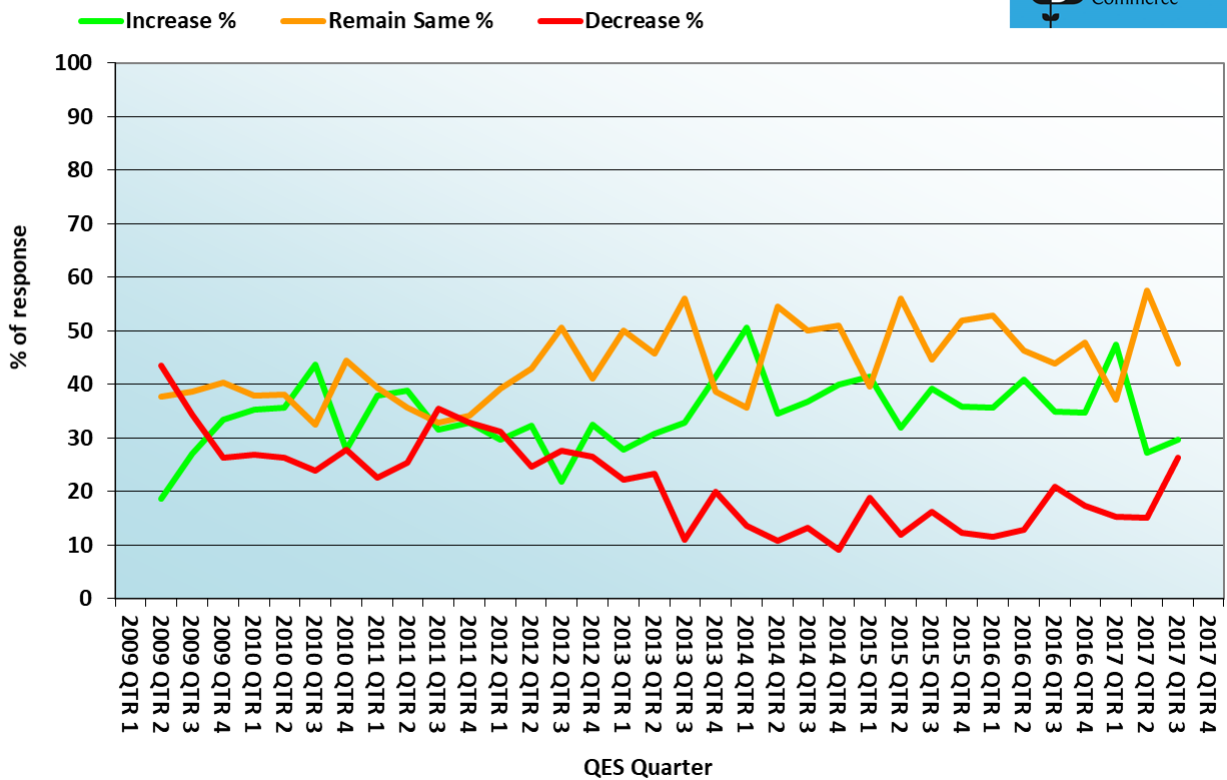
This quarter has proven to be quite unusual. It seems that reality is starting to show in the optimism levels. We are seeing confidence in turnover and profitability back down to the lows of recessions worst years. In pretty much equal quantities we see the numbers who have or project increases in domestic and overseas sales, matching those who see a fall. No longer are we as static as we have been. Workforce recruitment dropped slightly but a slight upturn is felt going forward. With unemployment at historic low, the number of businesses experiencing difficulties in recruiting suitable staff continues to grow, highlighting the risk from skill shortages and the fears of EU worker restrictions making the situation even worse. Nerves seem to be having a negative effect on investment too, with both plant and training budgets dropping back. Fear levels for worsening exchange rates, increased competition and inflation pressures have risen dramatically. Despite all this the number working to capacity has risen to 37% which is 8-point rise on the previous quarter.

# UK SALES

## UK Sales - for the past three month

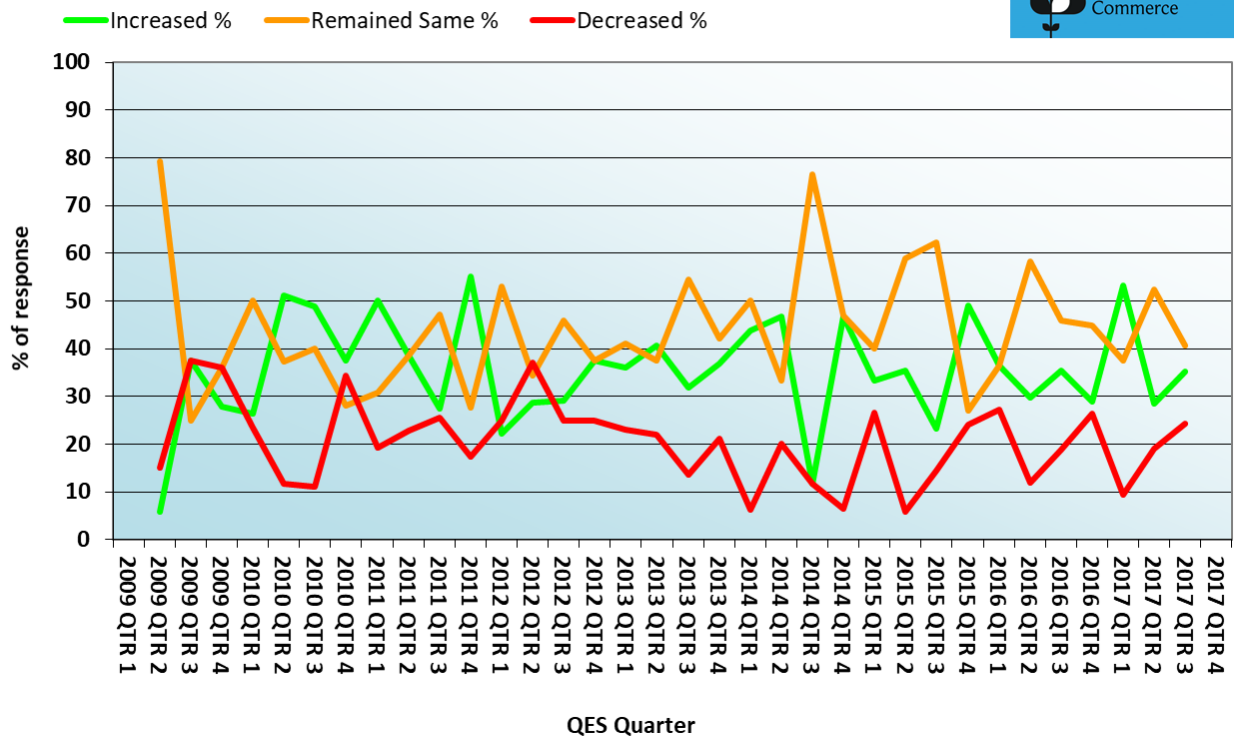


## UK Orders - anticipated for the next three months

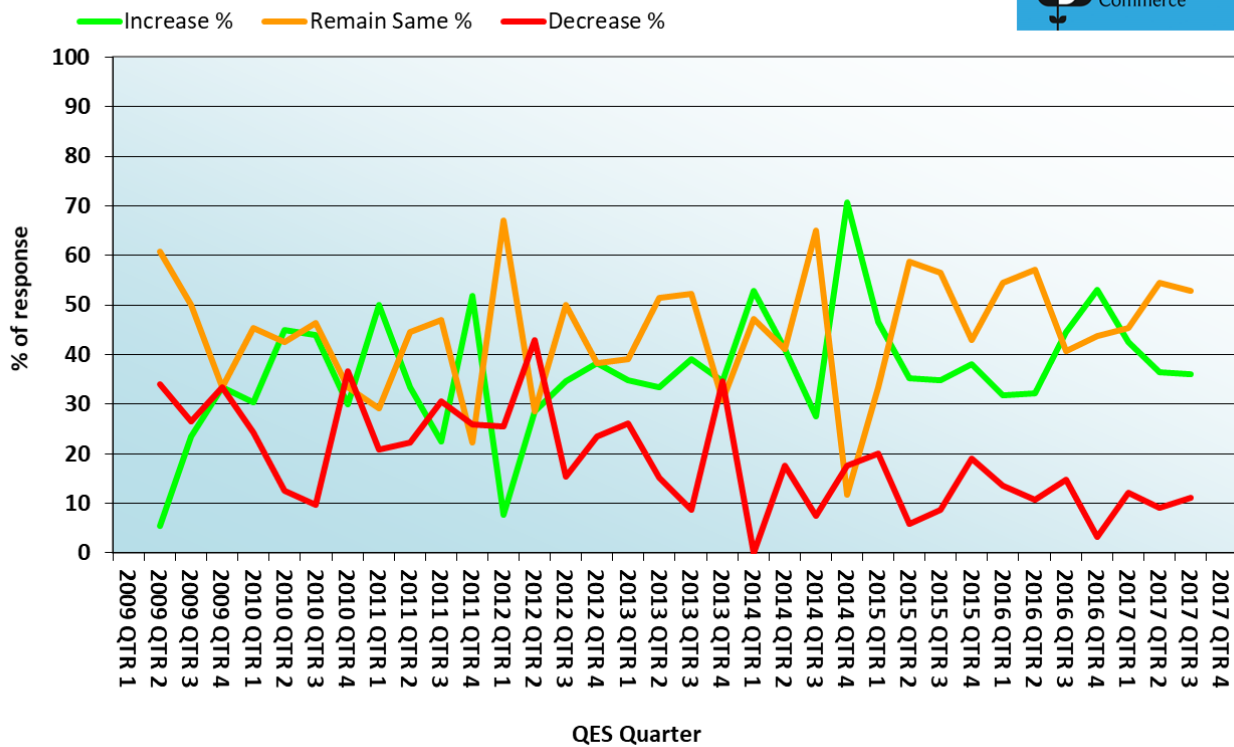


# EXPORTS

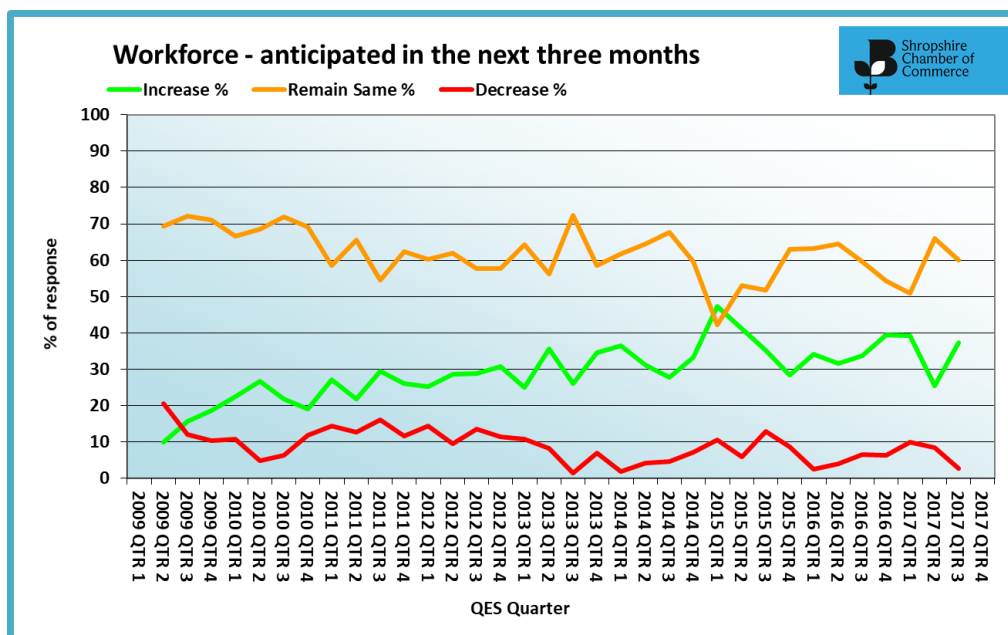
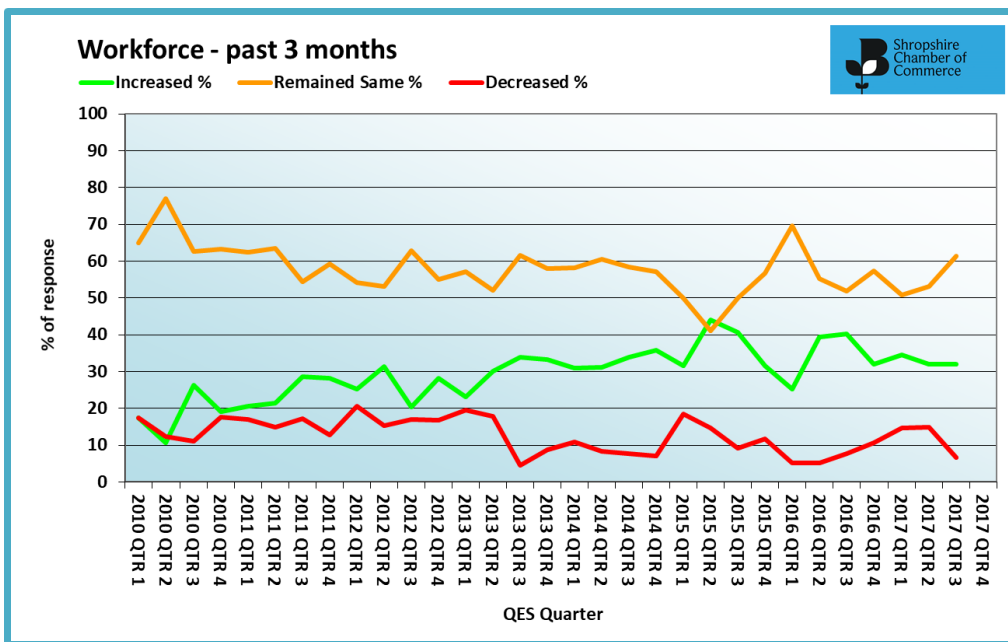
## Export Sales - for the past three months



## Export Orders - anticipated for the next three months

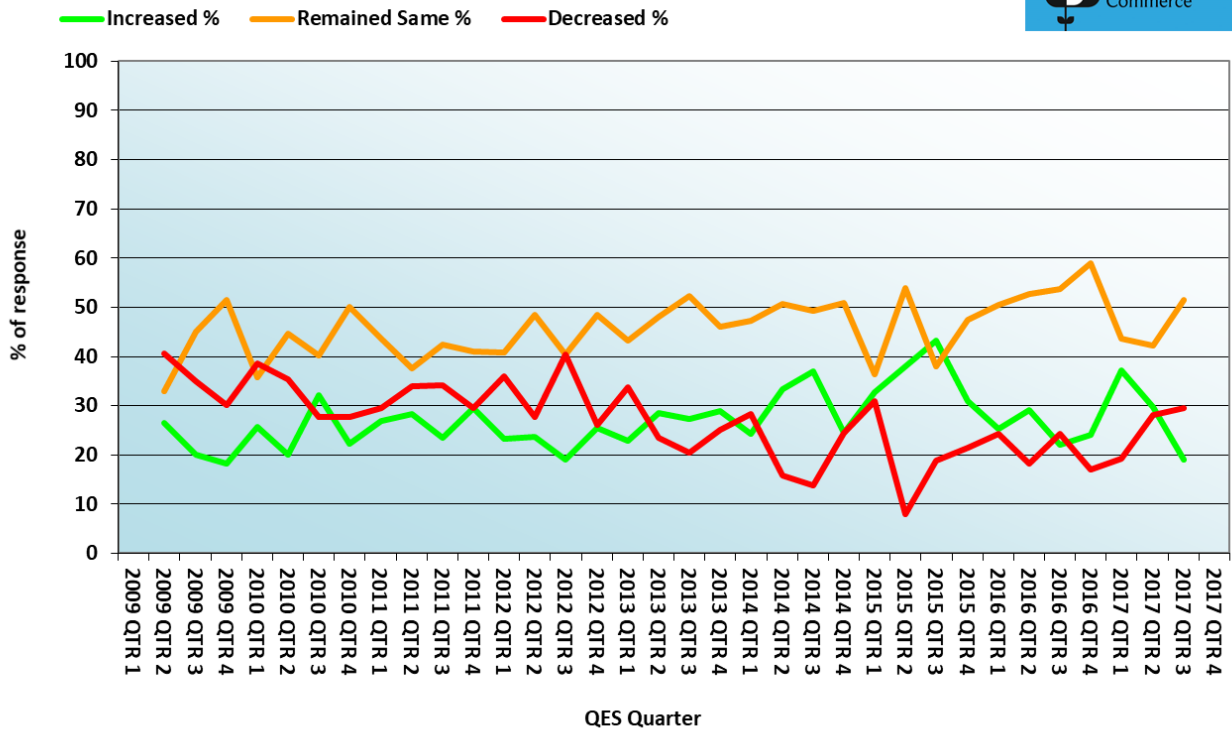


# STAFF

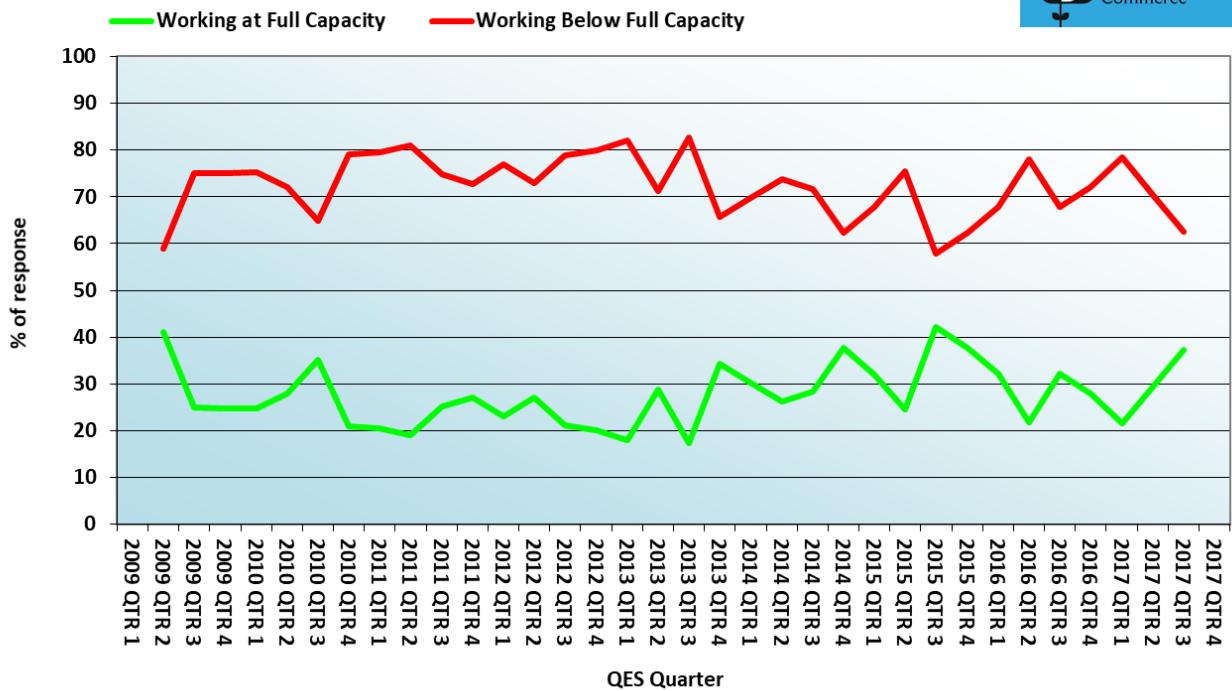


# CASH & CAPACITY

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

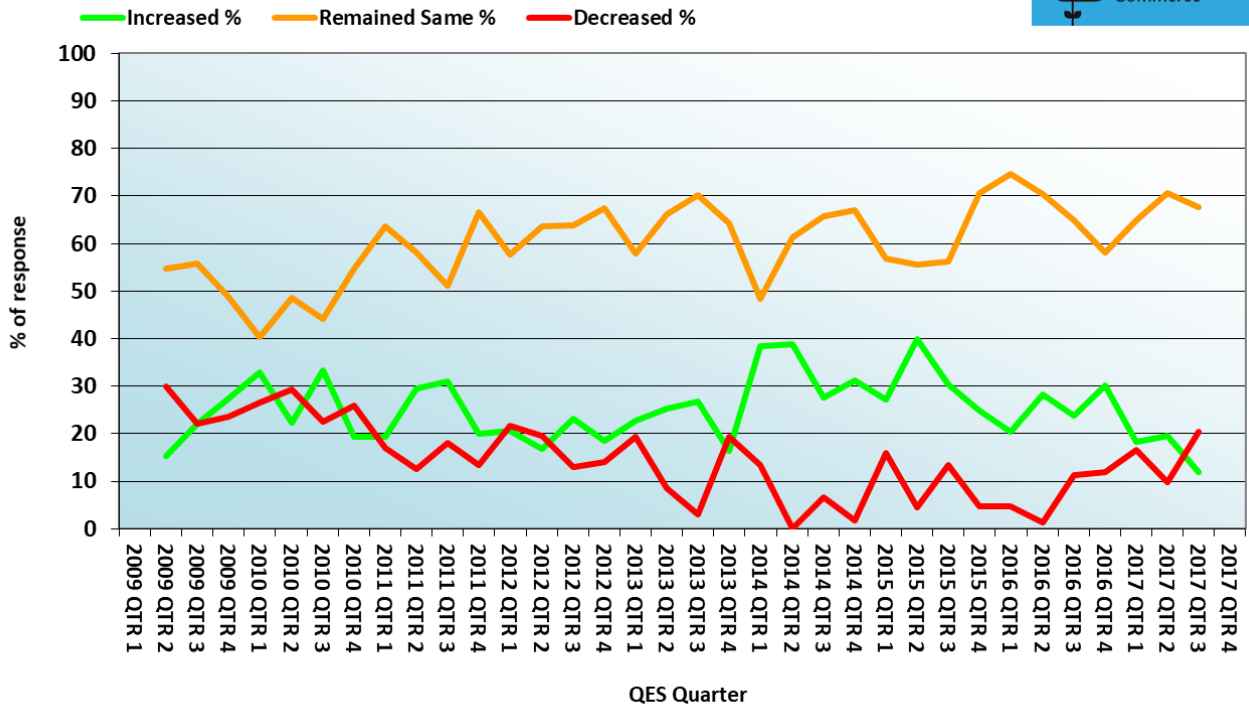


## Capacity - working at full or below capacity

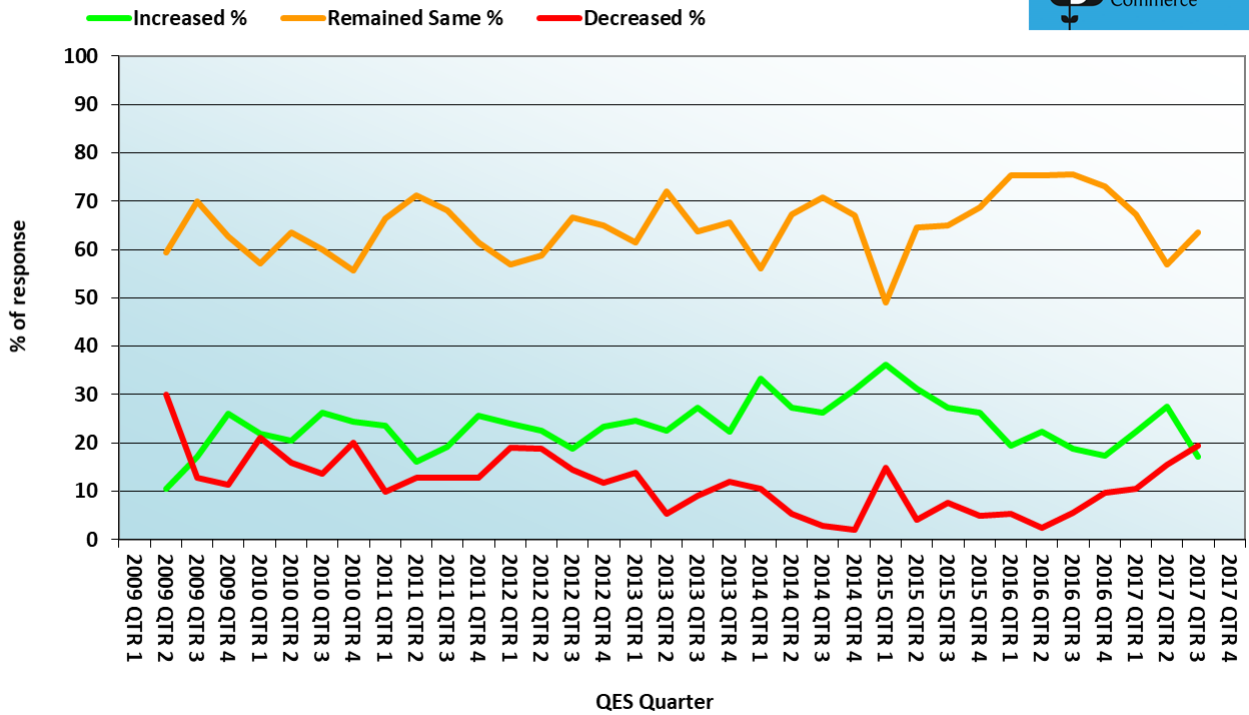


# INVESTMENT

## Investment Plans - Plant & Machinery



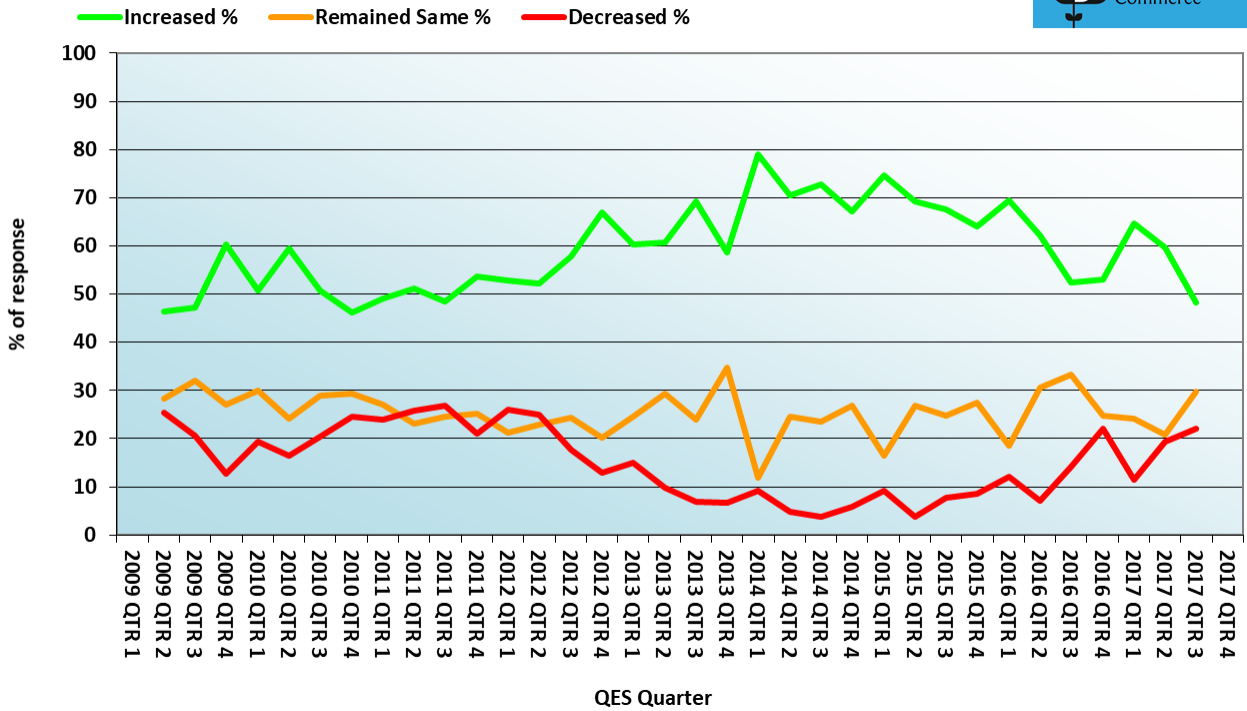
## Investment Plans - Training



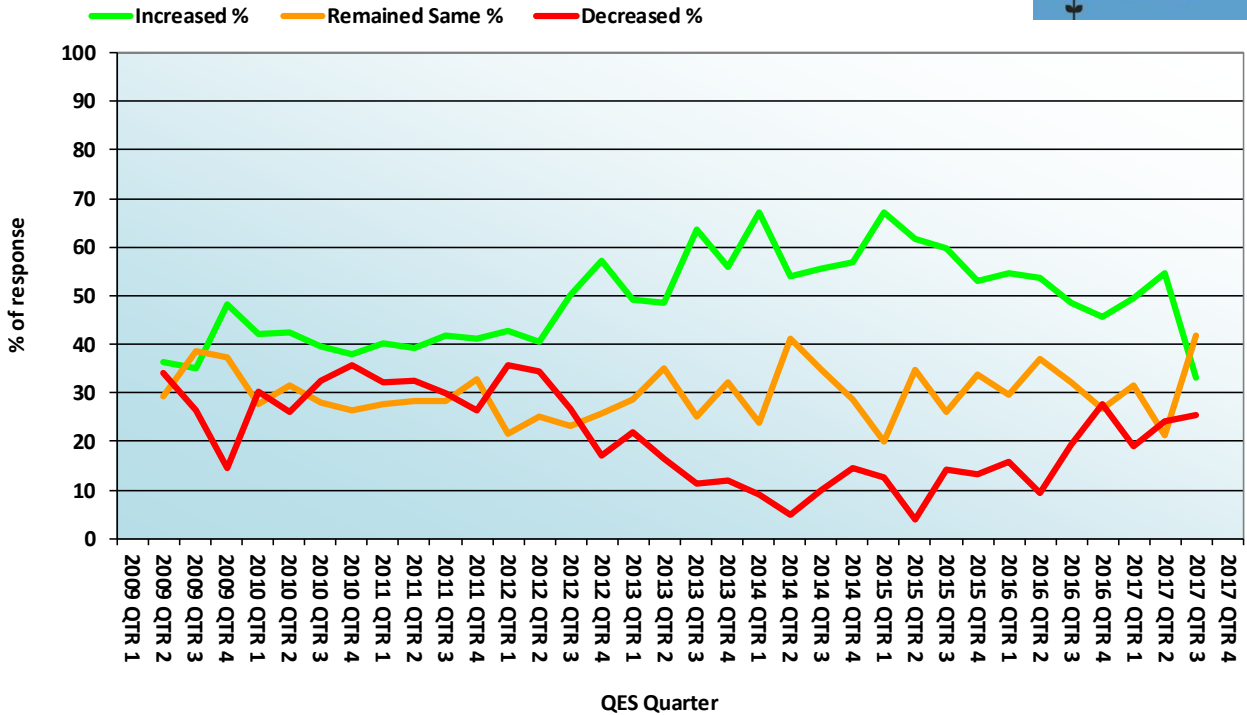


# CONFIDENCE

## Turnover Confidence - view of the next 12 months



## Profitability Confidence - view of the next 12 months



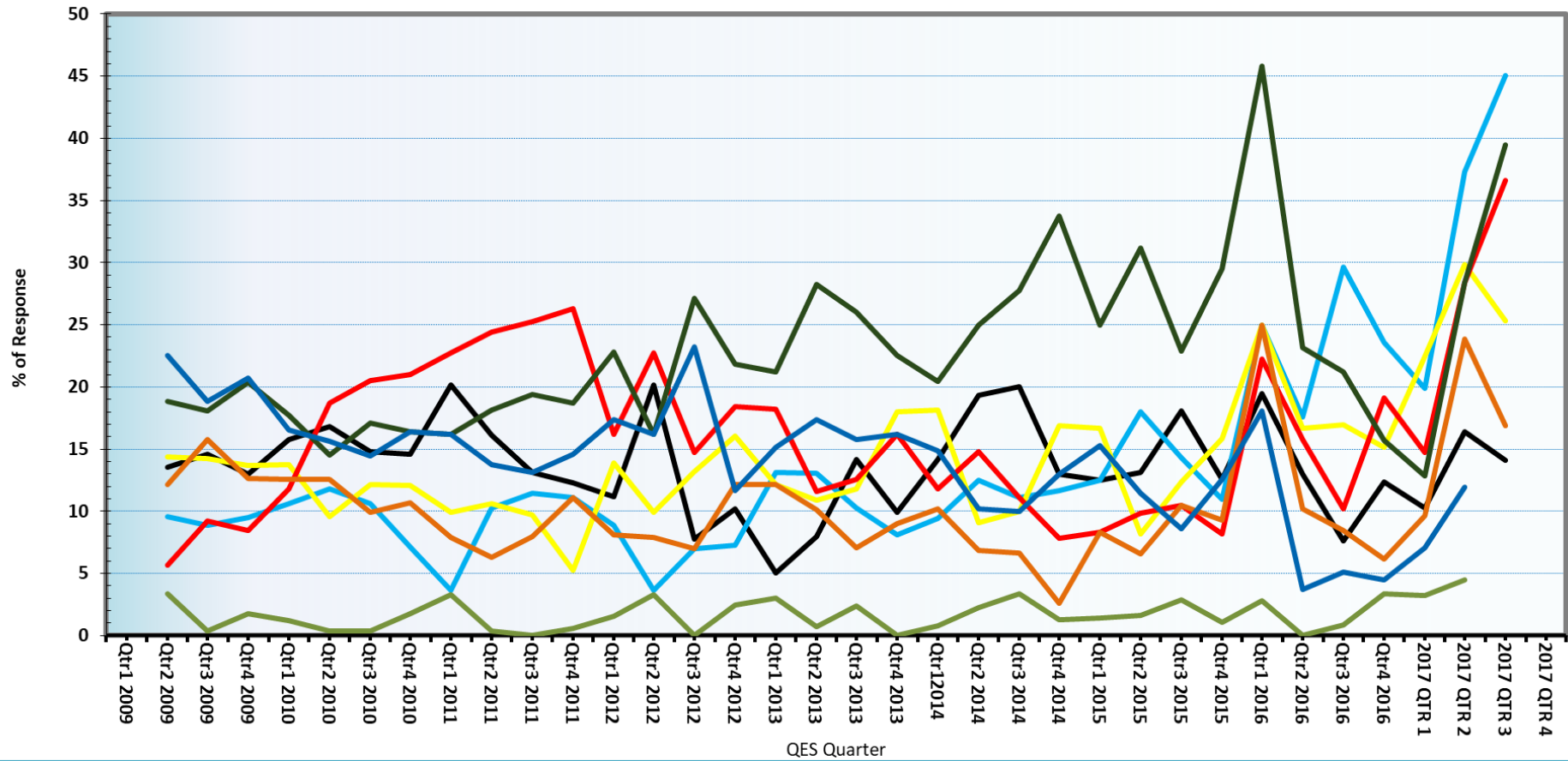
# FEAR FACTORS

## 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 Tax/Taxation Better Industrial Relations Improved Cash Availability



**Note:** The BCC gave stopped counting **Better Industrial Relations & Improved Cash Availability**. They have altered **Corporation Tax to Taxation**.