

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

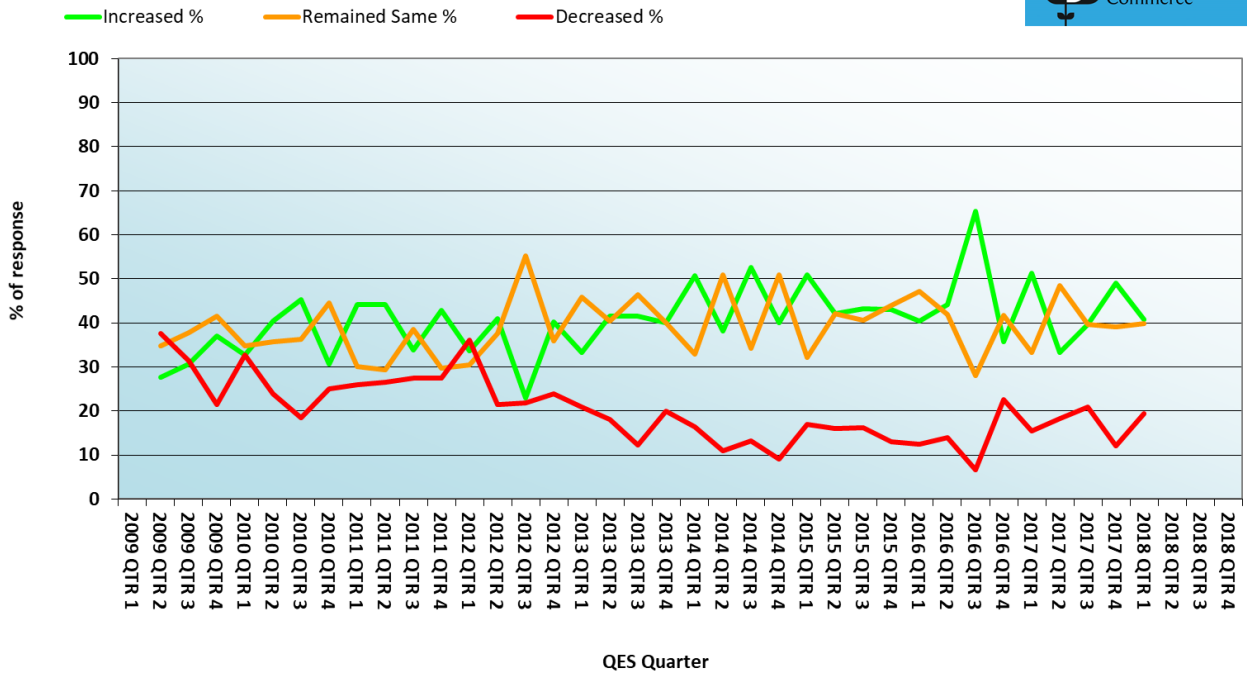
Executive Overview **Qtr. 1 – 2018 (Survey undertaken over three weeks in Feb/March 2018)**
for Qtr.

Headline **BECALMED IN CHOPPY WATERS**

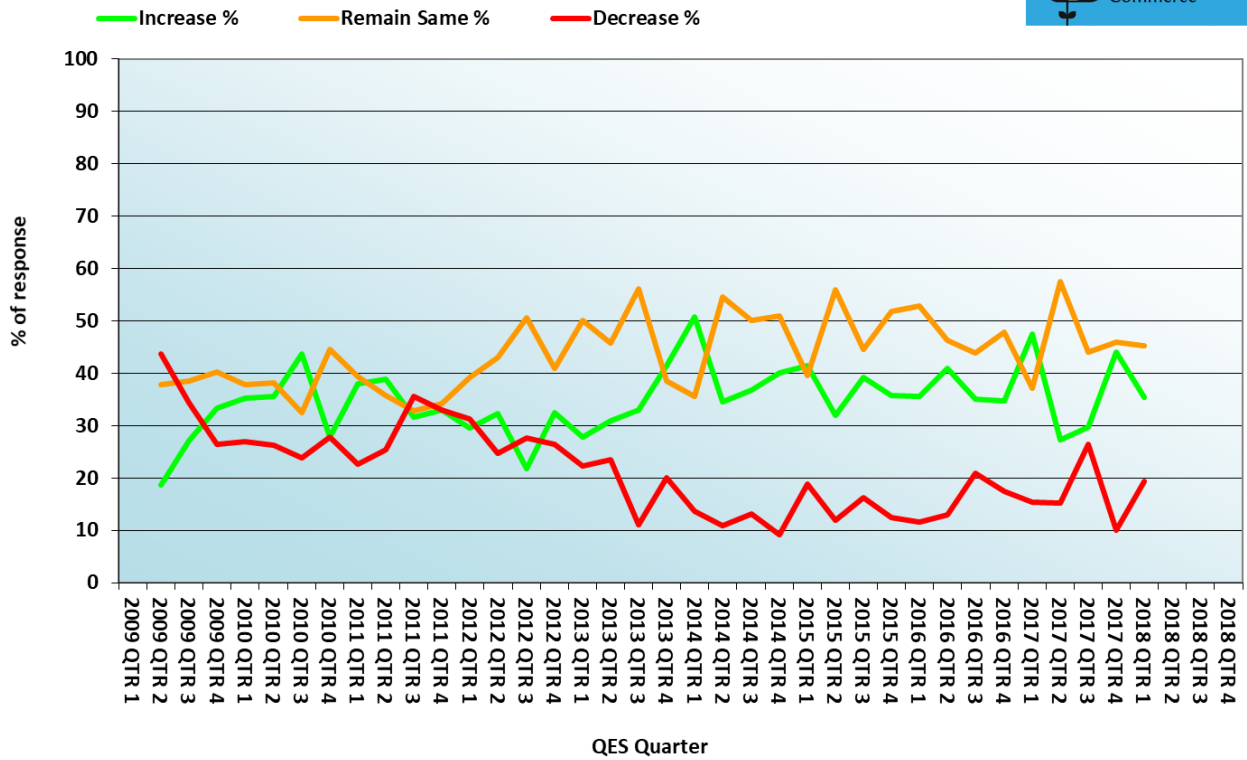
Qtr.1 2018 sees a slight fall back in domestic sales and orders, also reflected in the export figures. However, recruitment of staff is rising. Sales vs. recruitment may indicate a drop-in productivity. Cash flow has marginally worsened, as has the number working to capacity. Plant investment remains stagnant but in line with the rise in recruitment, we see a rise in the investment in training. Confidence, as always, is buoyant. Competition races ahead as the number one fear. Brexit, staff returning home and a down turn in high street spend are all impacting locally, as well as nationally.

UK SALES

UK Sales - for the past three month

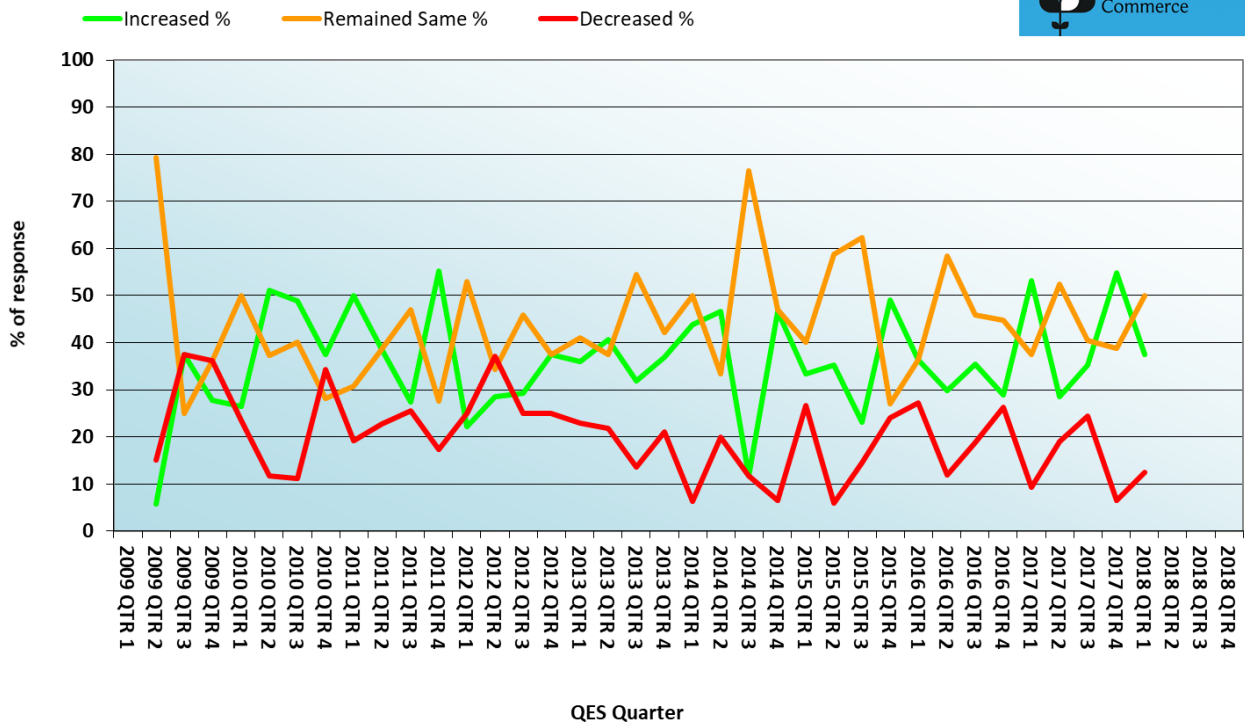


UK Orders - anticipated for the next three months

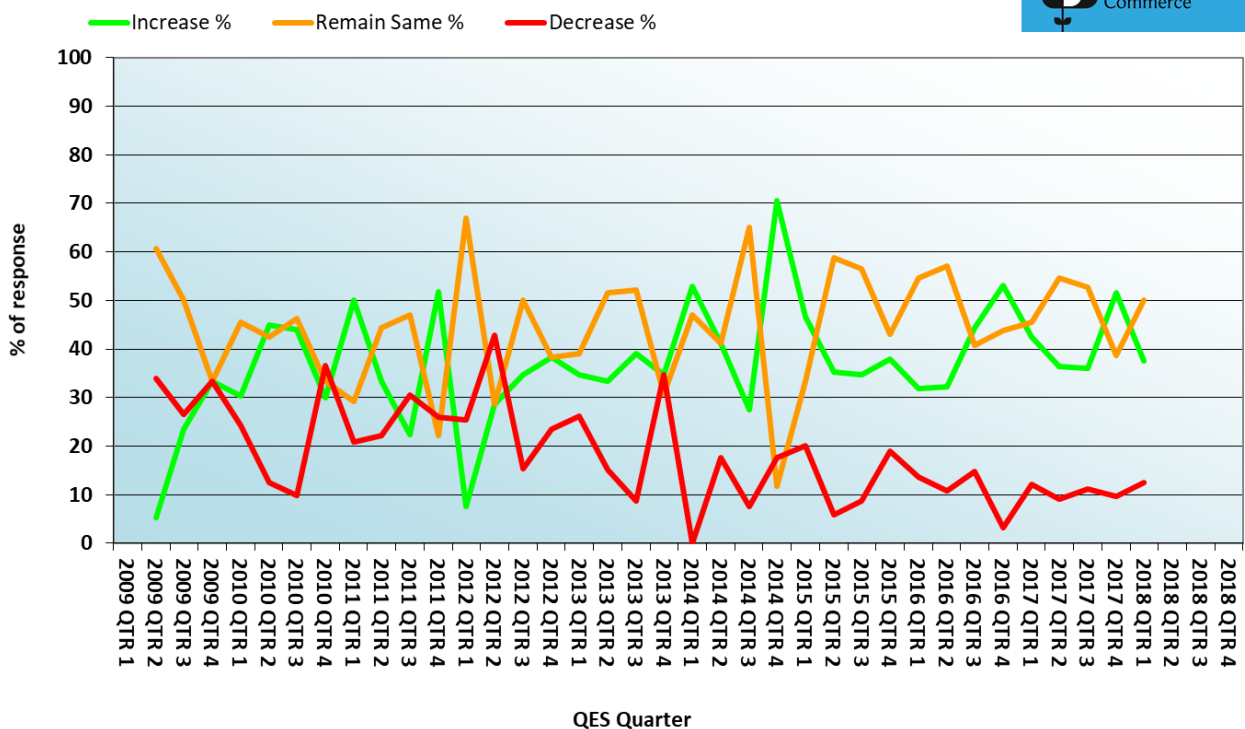


EXPORTS

Export Sales - for the past three months

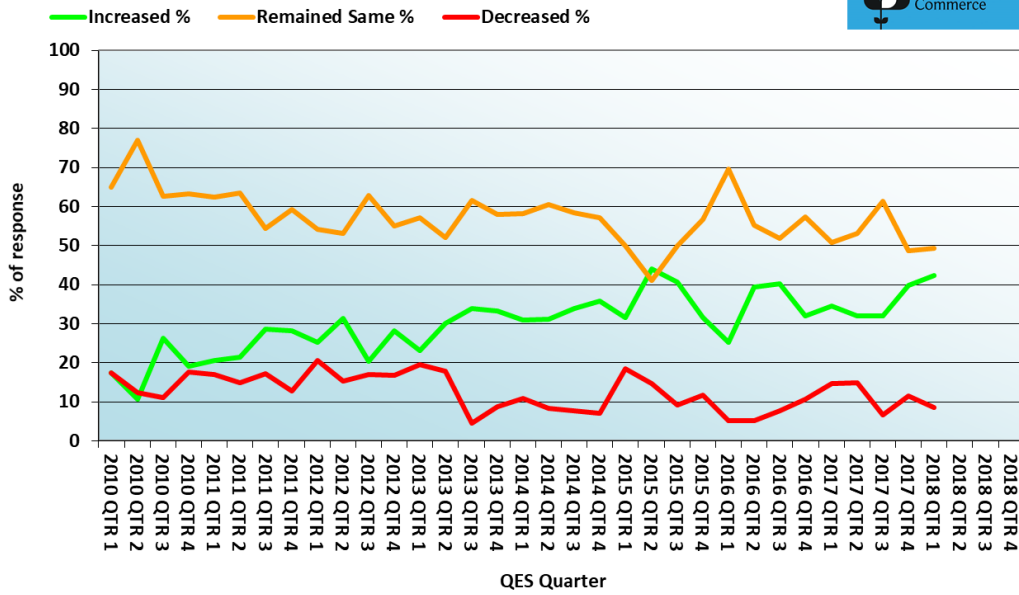


Export Orders - anticipated for the next three months

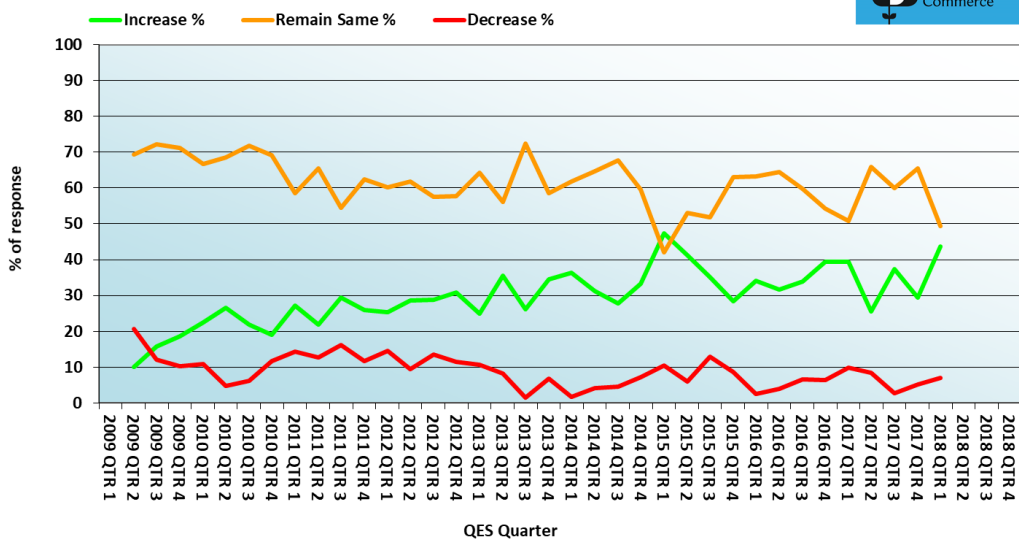


STAFF

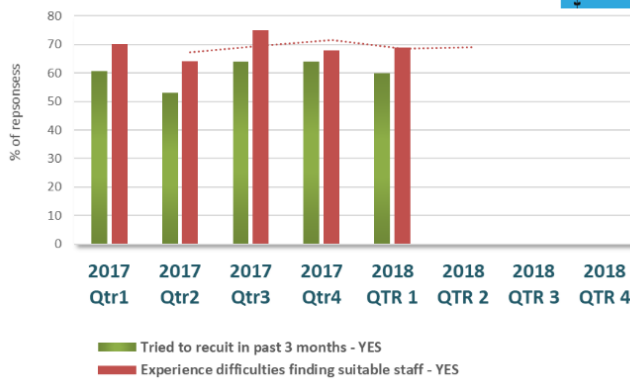
Workforce - past 3 months



Workforce - anticipated in the next three months

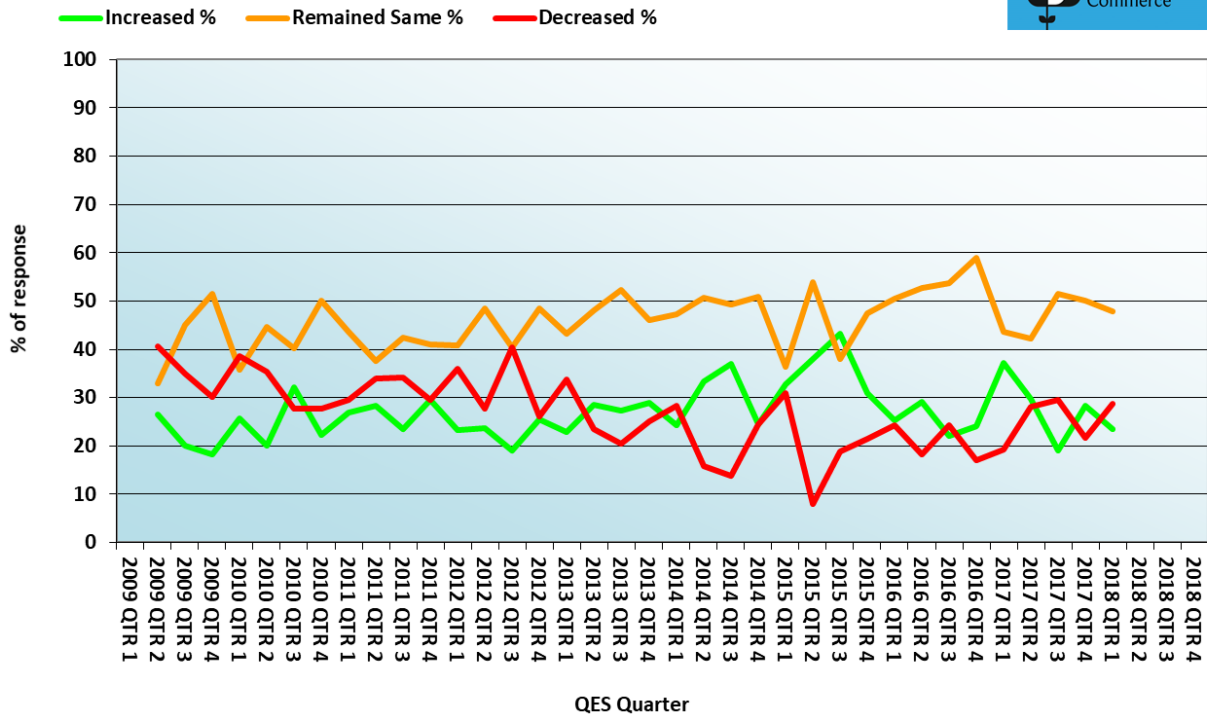


Companies Recruiting

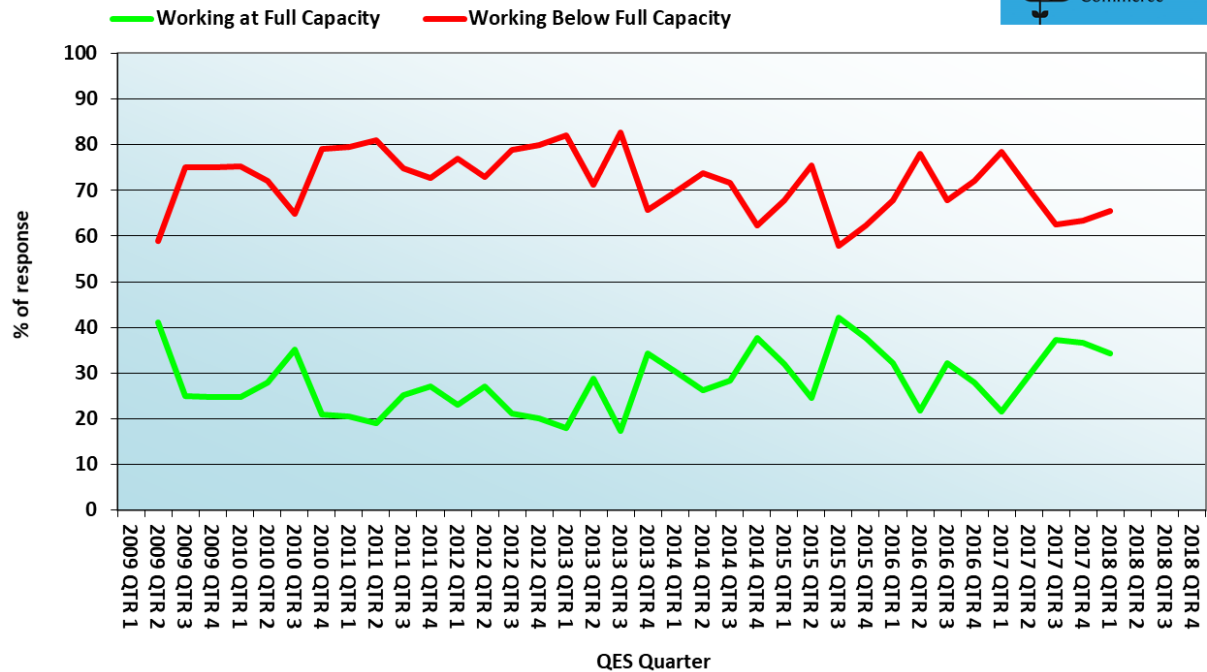


CASH & CAPACITY

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

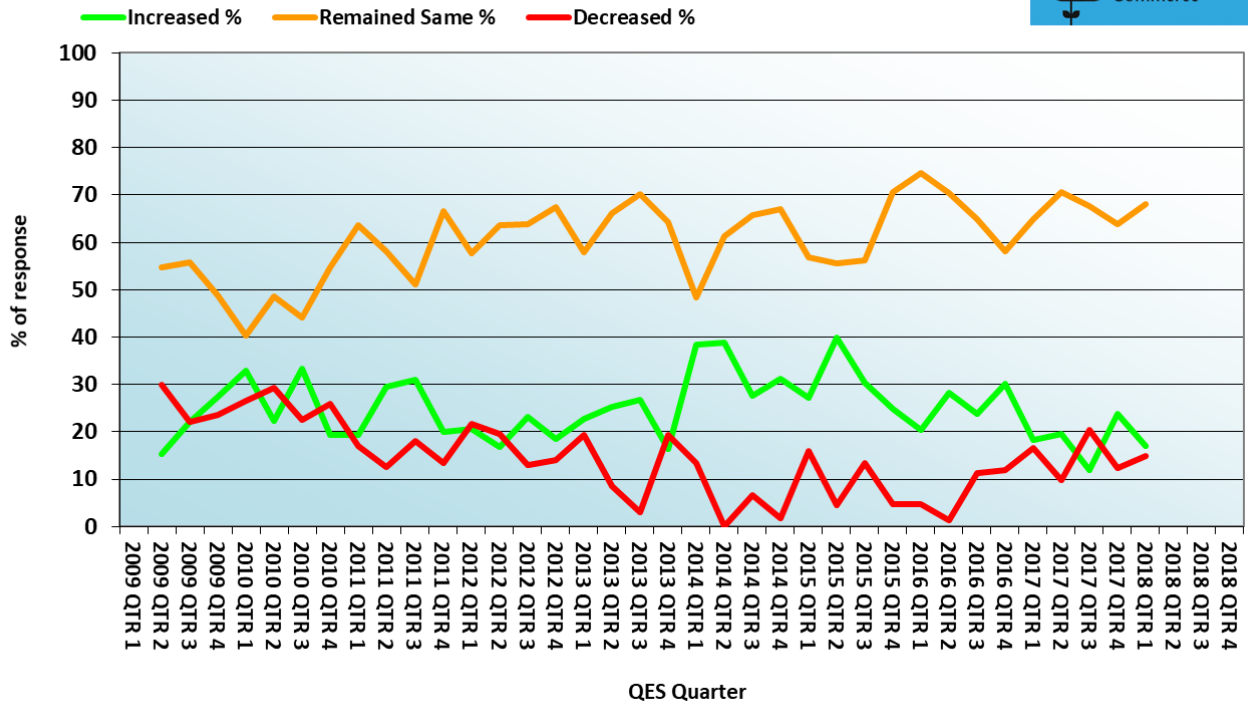


Capacity - working at full or below capacity

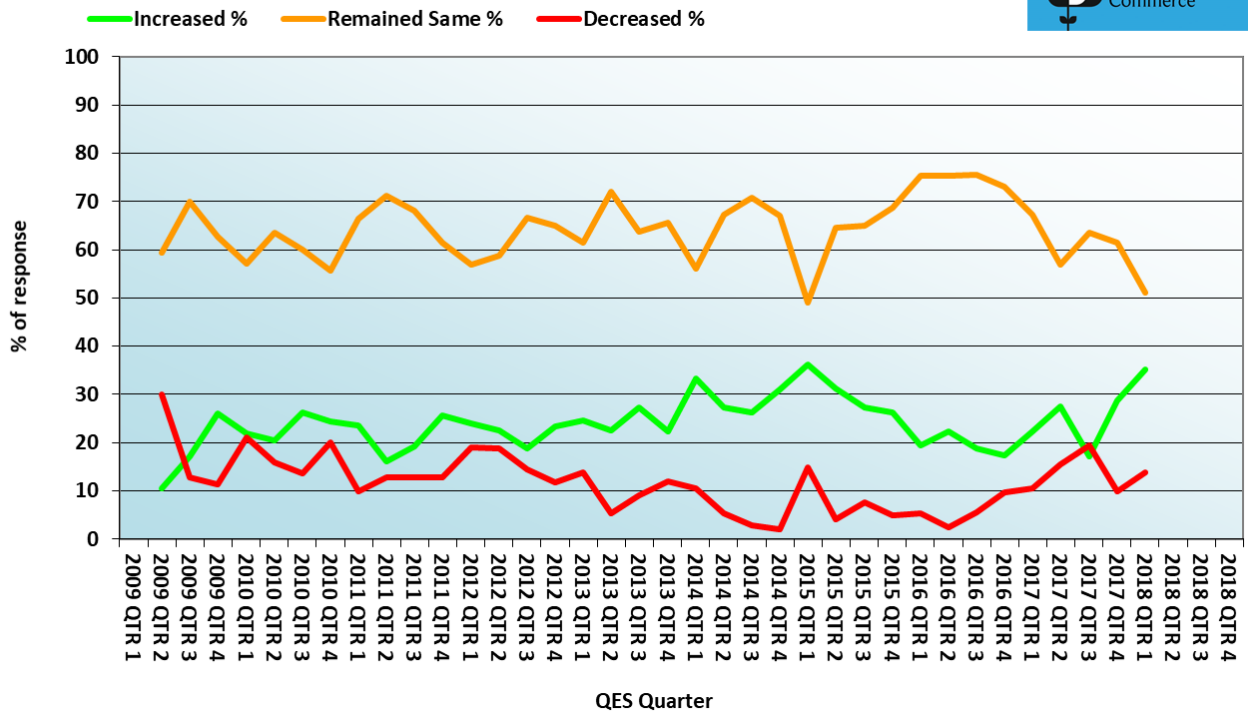


INVESTMENT

Investment Plans - Plant & Machinery

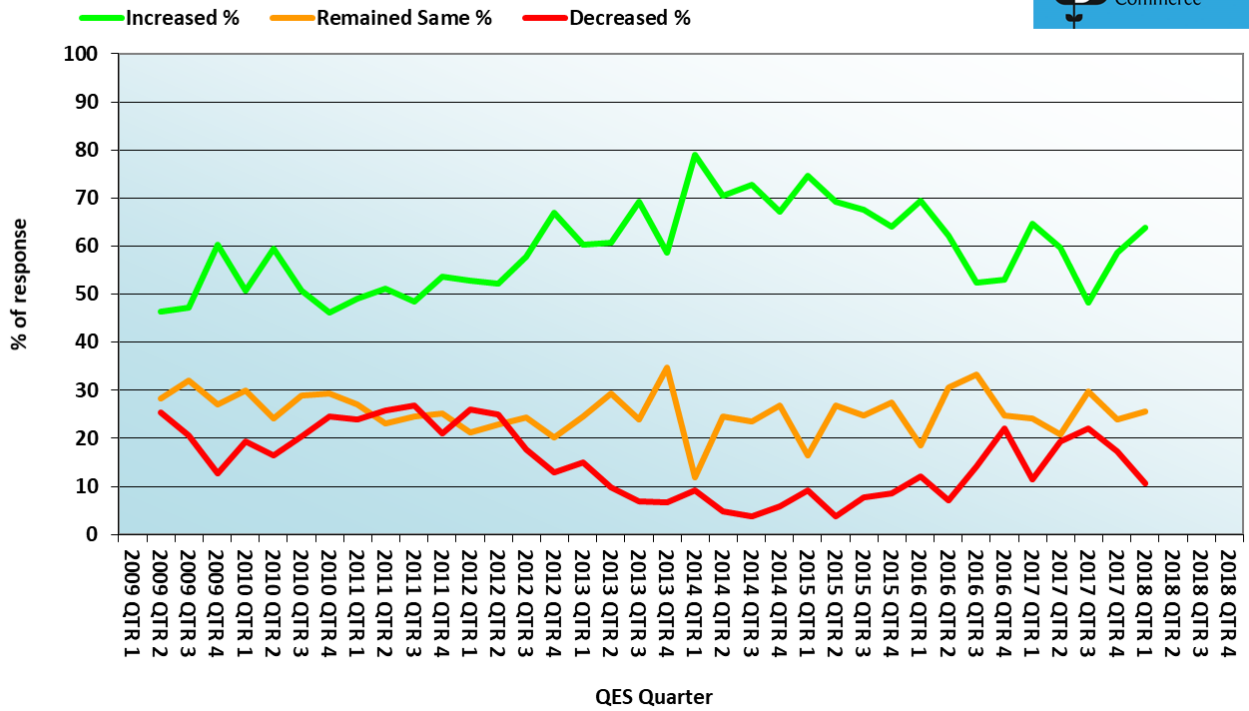


Investment Plans - Training

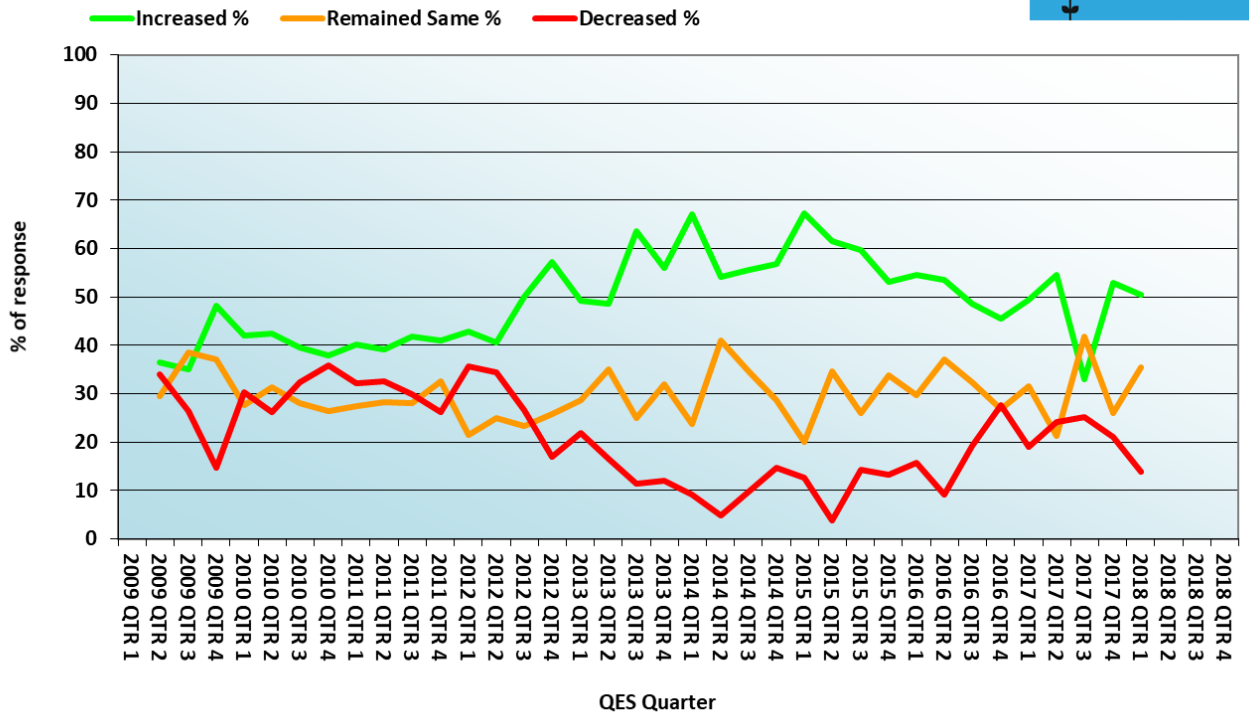


CONFIDENCE

Turnover Confidence - view of the next 12 months



Profitability Confidence - view of the next 12 months



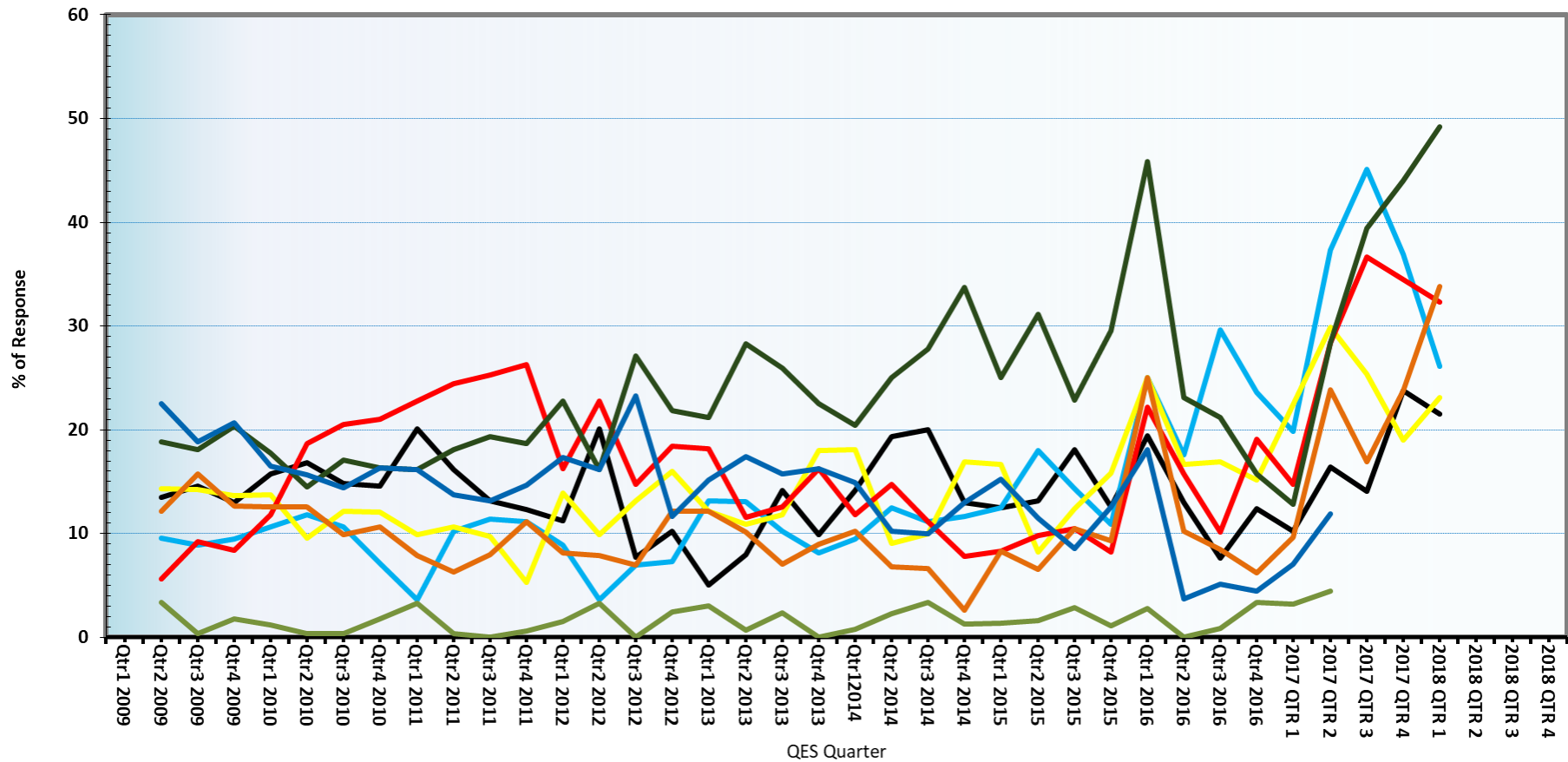
FEAR FACTORS

External Factors - Fear Factors

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

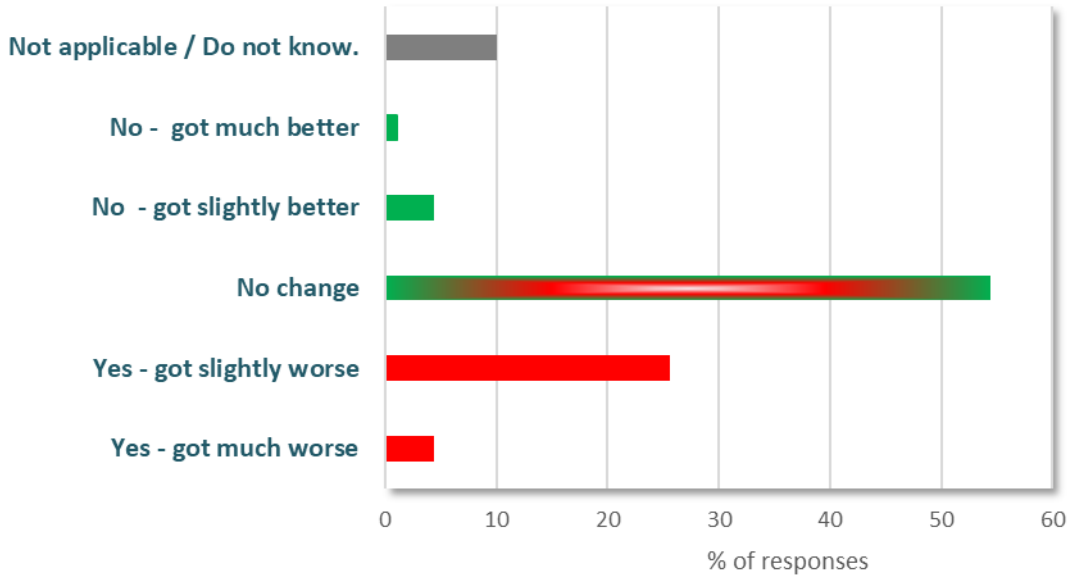


— Interest Rates — Exchange Rates — Business Rates — Inflation — Competition — Corporate Tax/Taxation — (Better Industrial Relations) — (Improved Cash Availability)



Additional Local Questions

Have the number of outstanding payments due to your business got better or worse, generally? Qtr 1 2018



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? Qtr 1 2018

