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, but Chamber Membership is not required to take part. 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's, who employ no staff, to the very largest businesses.

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.

The greater our business voice, the more valuable the information becomes, so we want to encourage every business, Chamber member or not, to add their voice to this vital survey.

EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

Executive Overview for Qtr.	**Qtr. 3 - 2020** (Survey undertaken over three weeks in Aug/Sept 2020)
Headline	**WILL IT BE A WINTER OF DISCONTENT AS COVID & BREXIT HOVER OVER US**

Covid-19 has ravaged the economy and changed all our habits; the picture is fluid as we sadly go into a second spike. Below simply sums up some of the changes the report highlights but until we have a more stable situation it will be hard to predict the future, be it consumer habits or business working methods and investments.

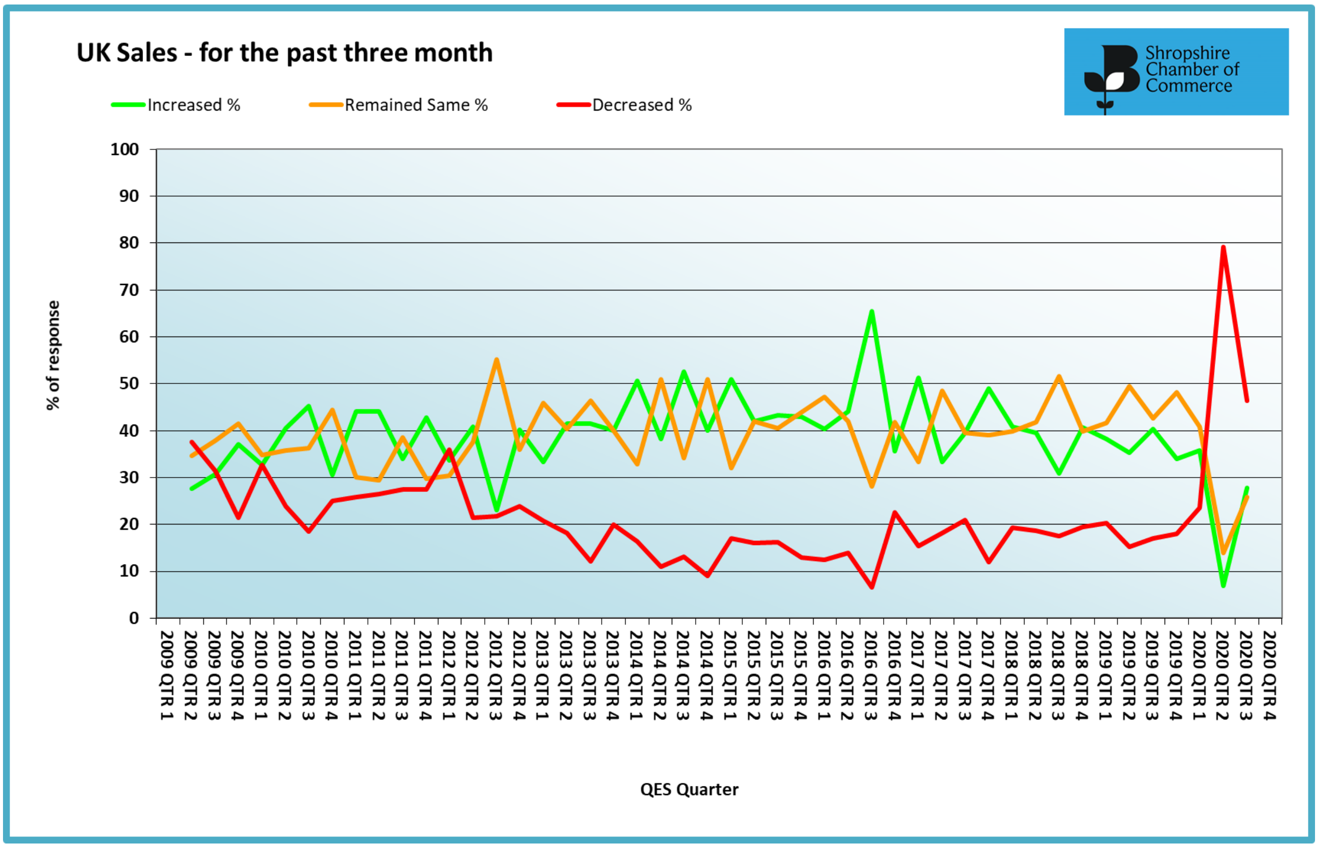
Brexit, though not the greatest worry currently for many, is still looming large. The bullish talk and the warnings of failure to agree with the EU are adding negative pressure to the already worried business world. QES Qtr. 4 which takes place in November will highlight better how worried UK businesses are about Brexit, but while the political brinkmanship goes on, it is hard to predict the end of year outcome.

Forward sales, businesses feel a little more confident about increased domestic sales than they do about the possibility of increased export sales. Workforce predictions have settled out, but we have not yet reached the end of furlough - again Q4 will enlighten as to the local picture. Though not back to previous levels, we did see a positive rise in those recruiting which may well be due to the repositioning of hospitality staff into food retail and general distribution roles, as restrictions altered the employment landscape.

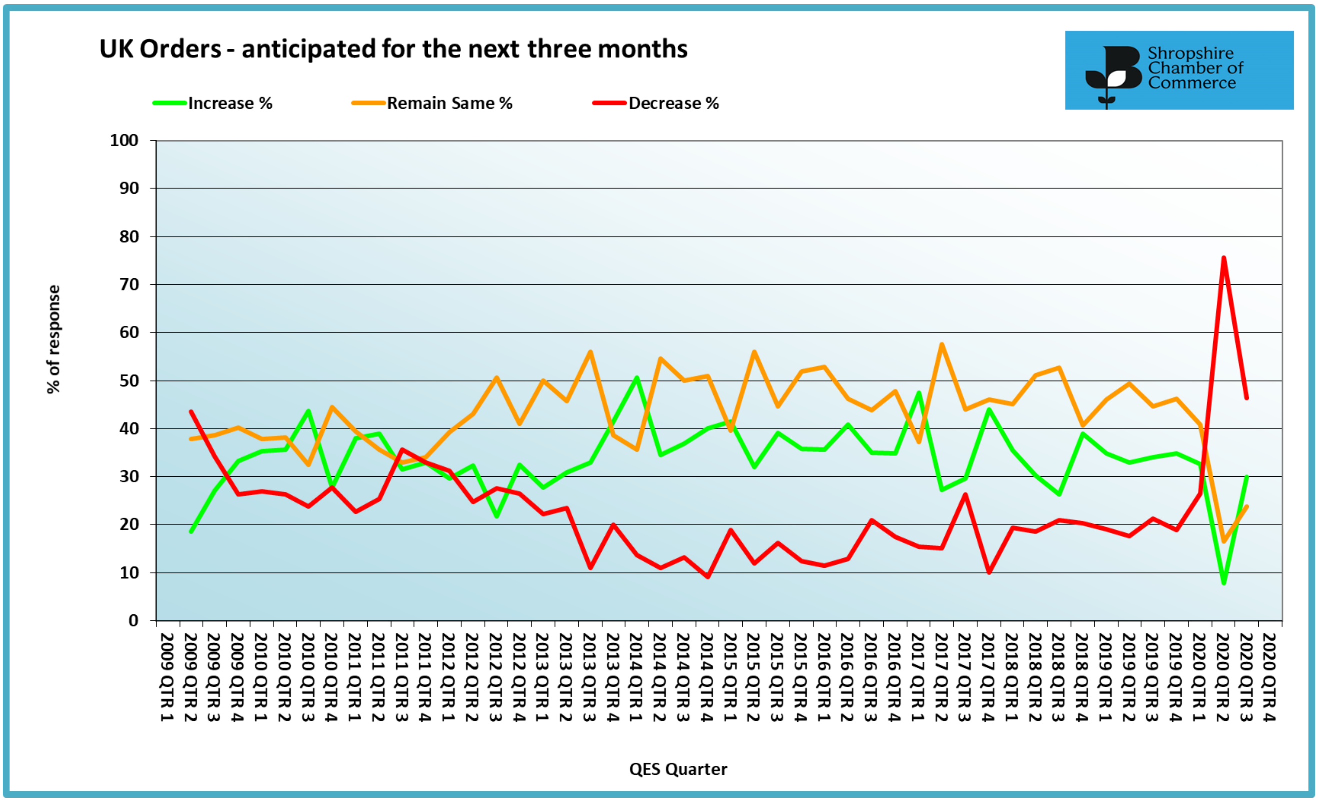
Investment plans have faltered and remain depressed as businesses wait to understand the future. Business confidence has risen both for turnover and profitability as the economy started to function more widely than during the 6-week lockdown. Under capacity working (capacity in the economy) has naturally increased. Covid has had the effect of reducing the numbers worrying about issues such as taxation, inflation, or exchange rates.

Bad debts have not risen significantly nor have demanded contract term changes, though we cannot predict the outcomes after furlough ends and the Spring 2021 loan repayment shadow. All this will depend on how the second spike acts, further intervention by the Government or the Bank of England, plus the final situation with Brexit and any lag that may cause.

UK SALES

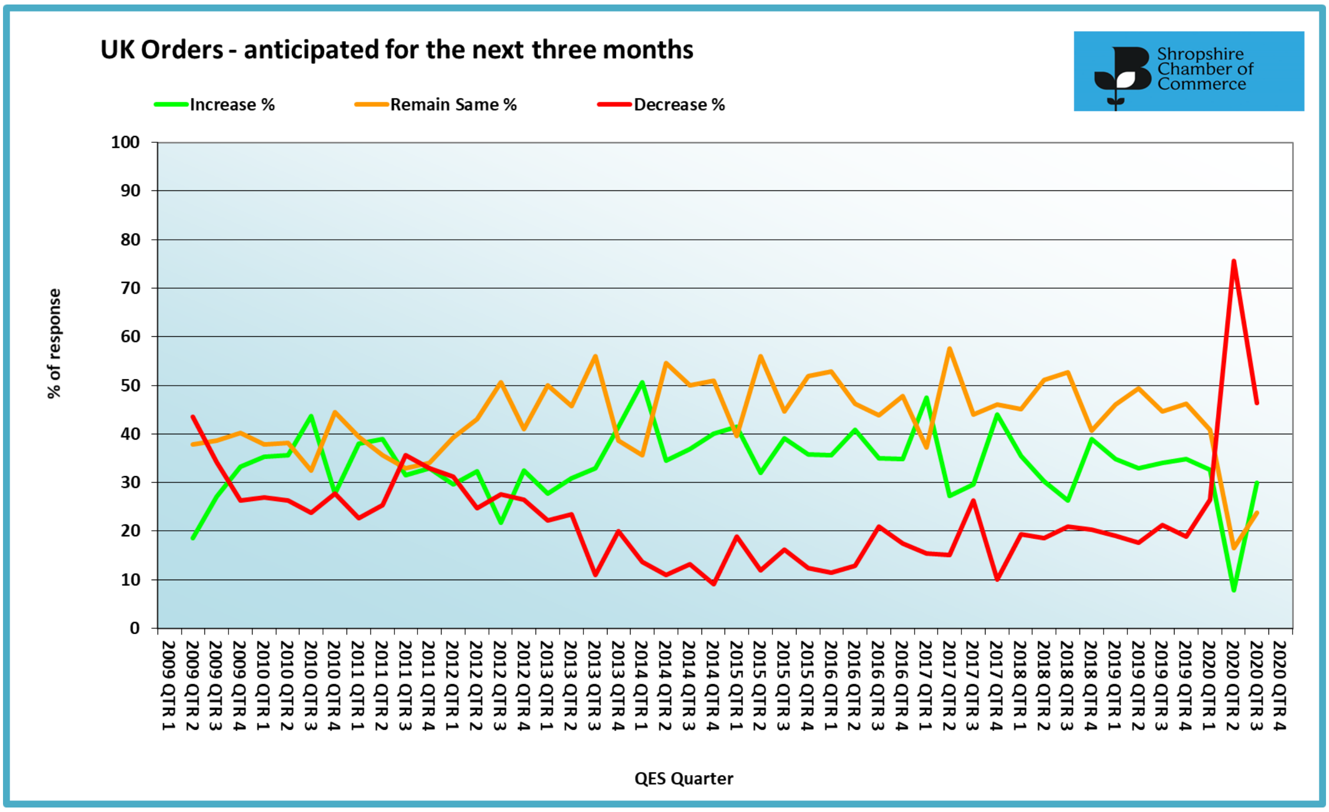


UK Sales - for the past three month
Shropshire Chamber of Commerce
Increased %
Remained Same %
Decreased %
% of response
QES Quarter



UK Orders - anticipated for the next three months
Shropshire Chamber of Commerce
Increase %
Remain Same %
Decrease %
% of response
QES Quarter

EXPORTS



UK Orders - anticipated for the next three months
Shropshire Chamber of Commerce
Increase %
Remain Same %
Decrease %
% of response
QES Quarter
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2009 QTR 1
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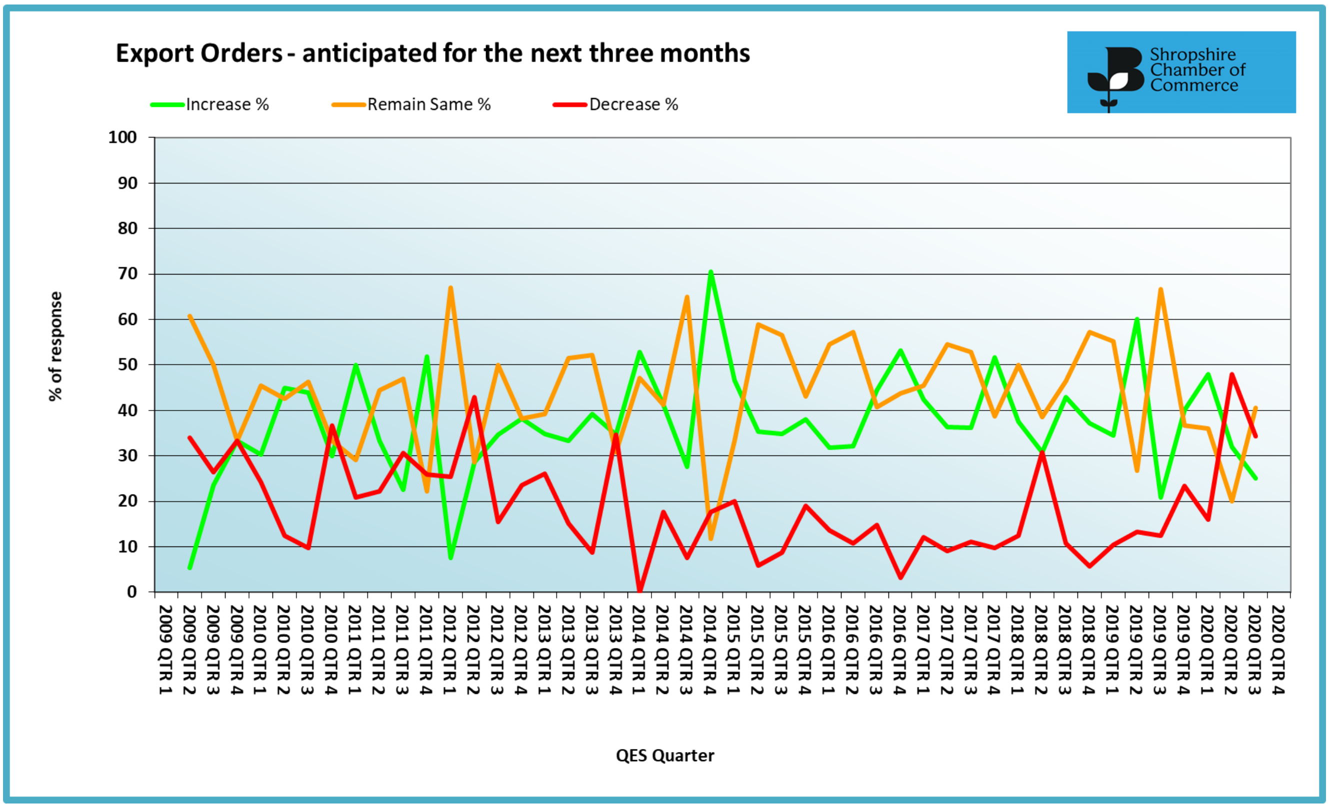

Export Orders - anticipated for the next three months
Shropshire Chamber of Commerce
Increase %
Remain Same %
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% of response
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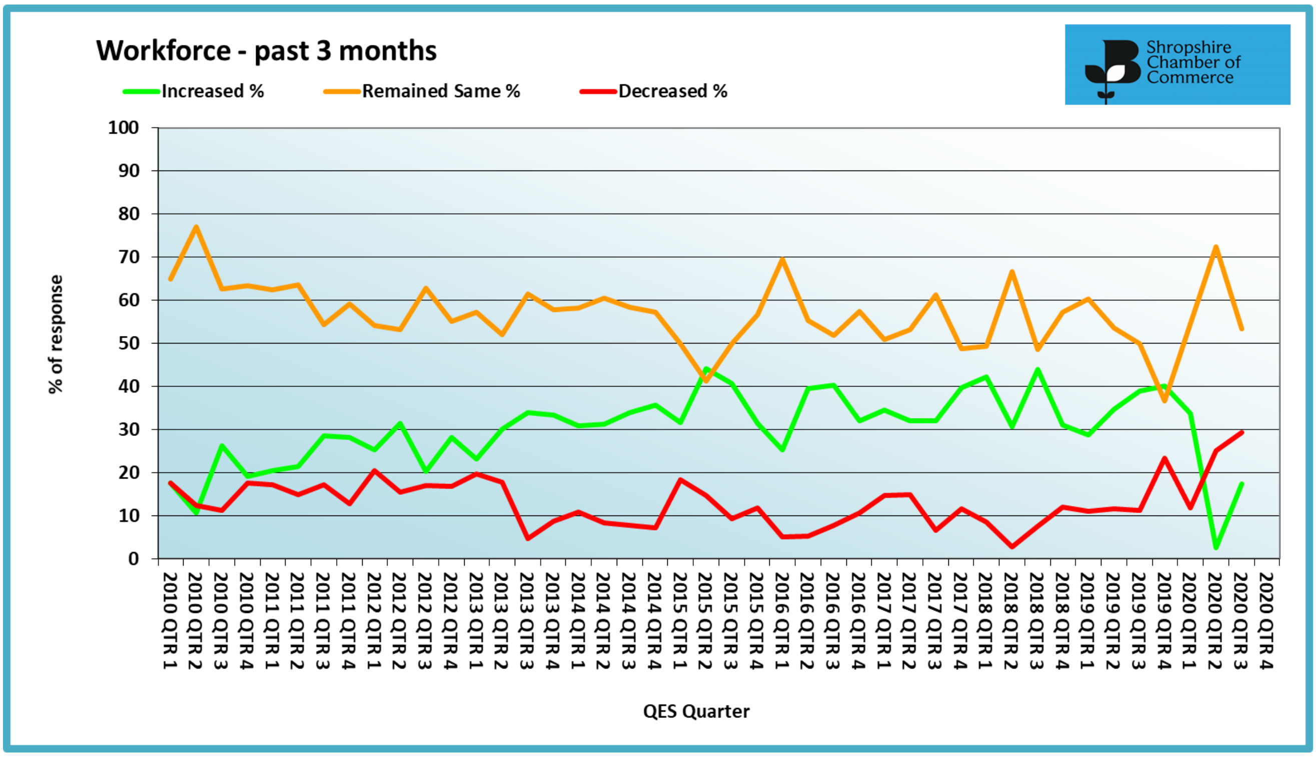
STAFF



Workforce - past 3 months
Shropshire Chamber of Commerce
Increased %
Remained Same %
Decreased %
% of response
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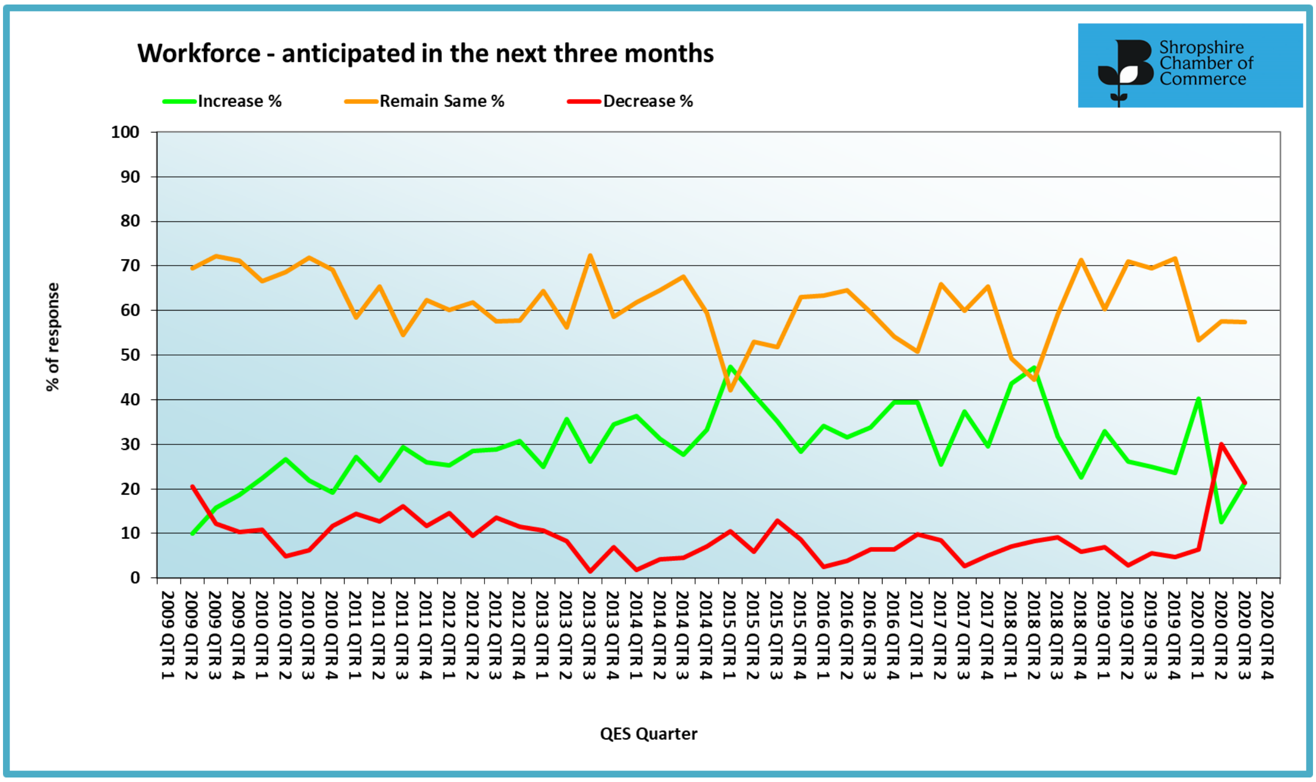
QES Quarter



Workforce - anticipated in the next three months
Shropshire Chamber of Commerce
Increase %
Remain Same %
Decrease %
% of response
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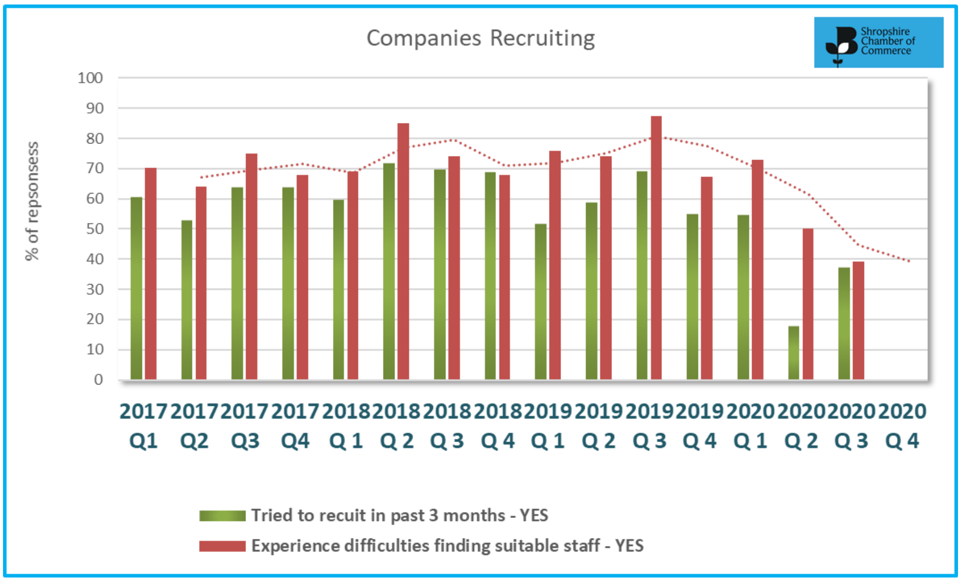
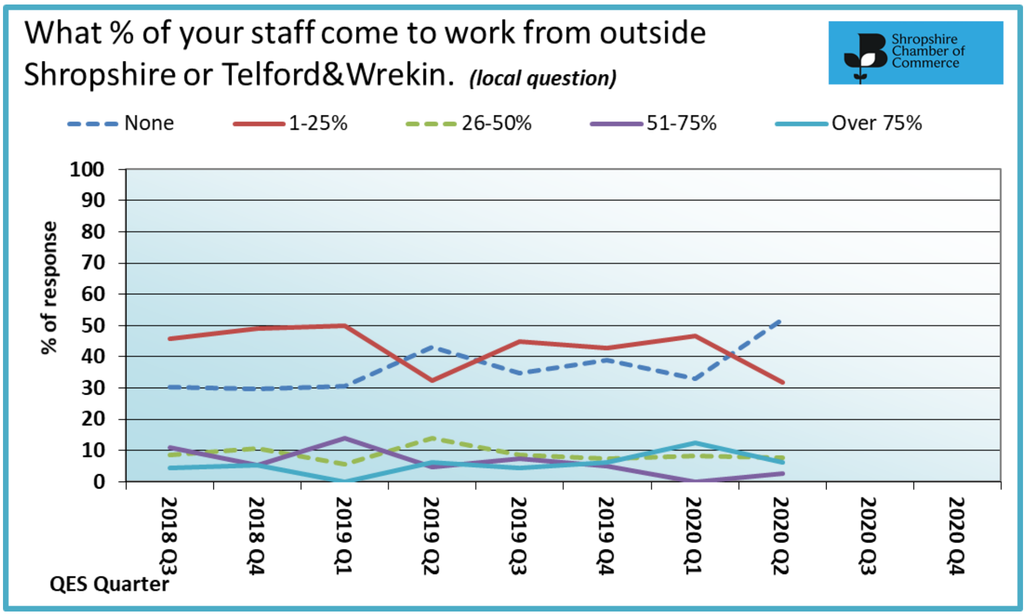
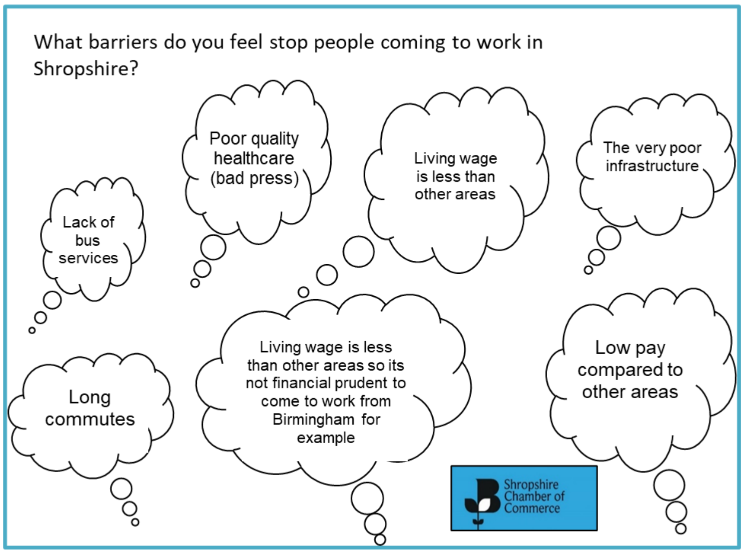
QES Quarter

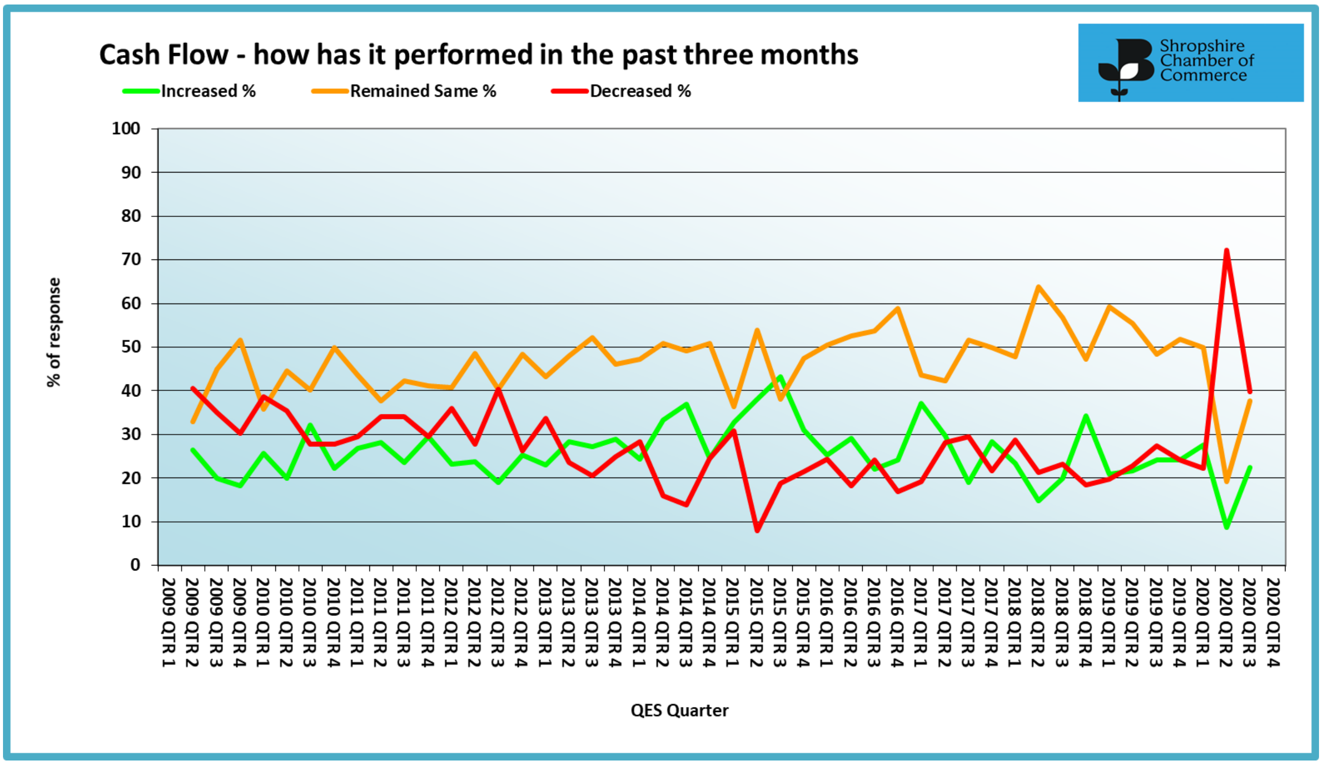
STAFF...continued

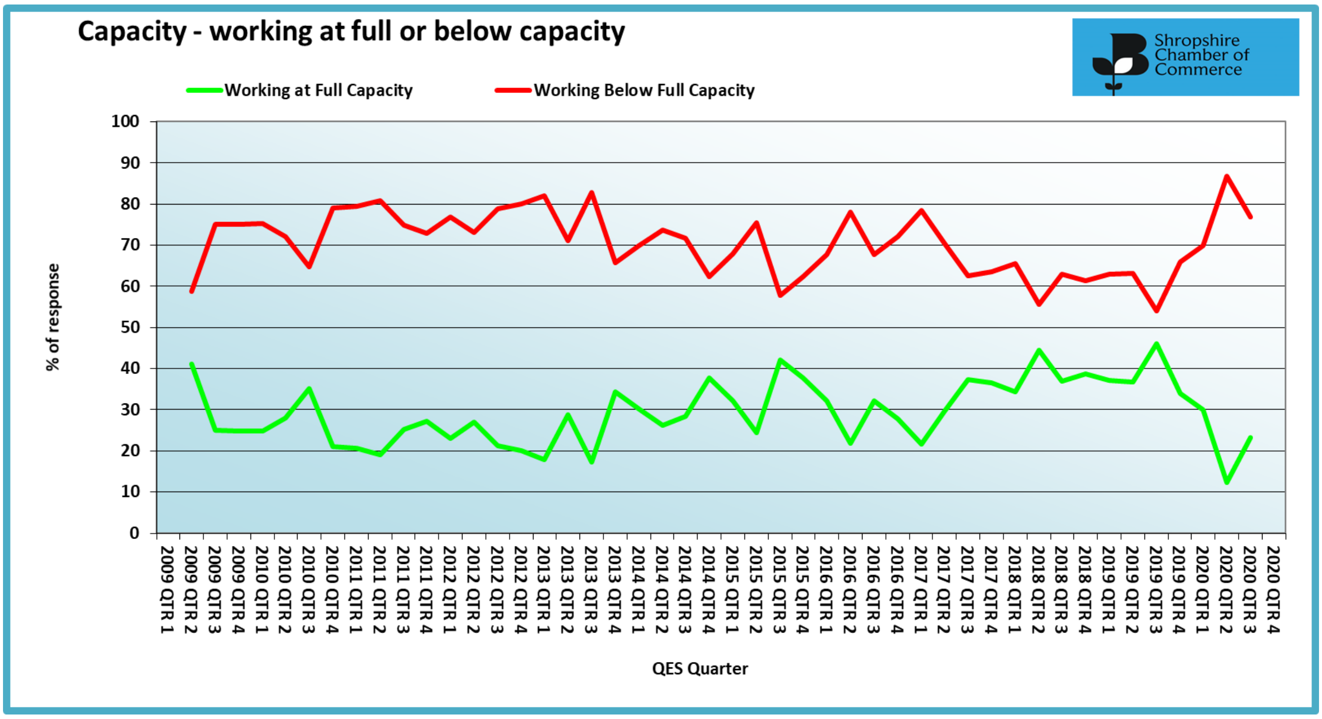






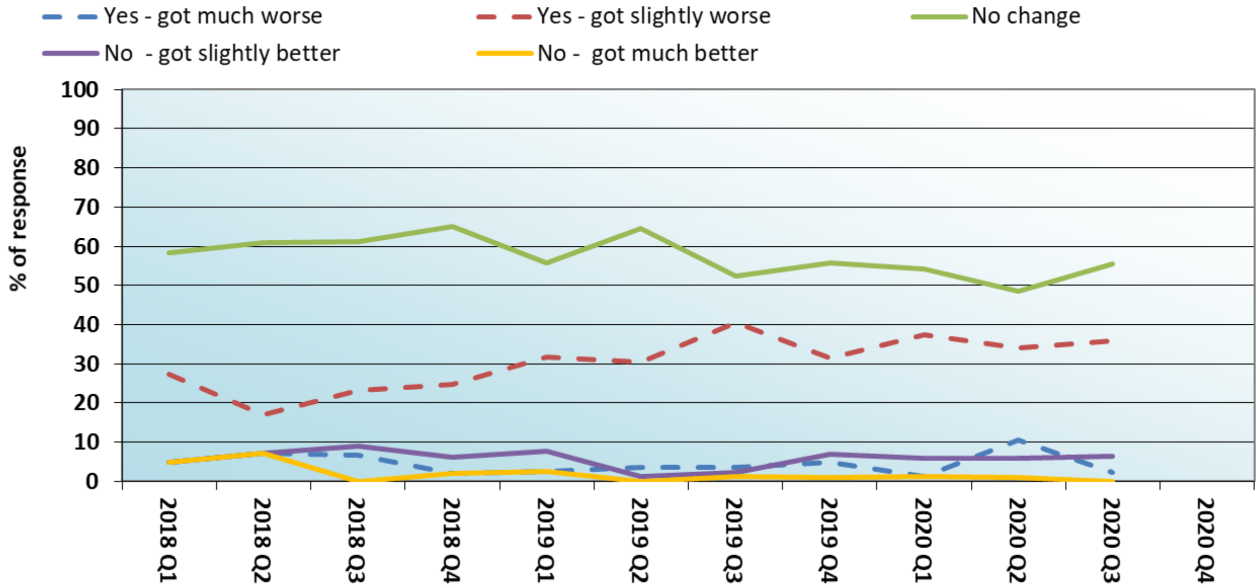
CASH & CAPACITY





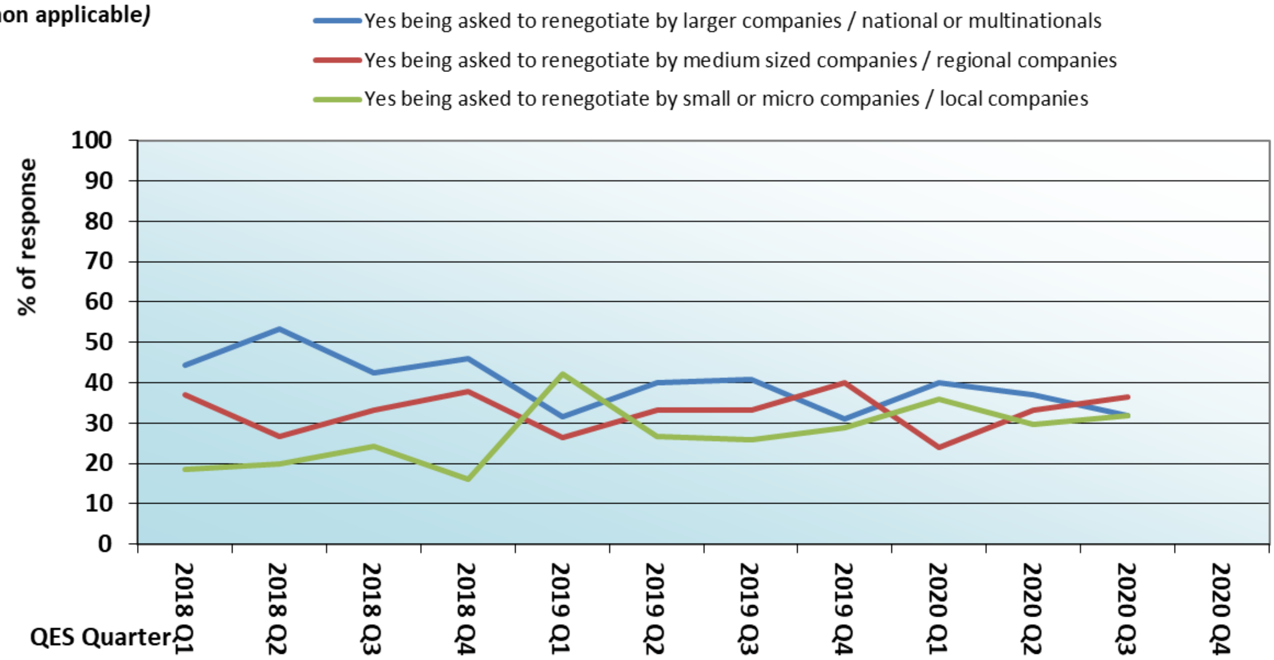
CASH & CAPACITY…continued

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



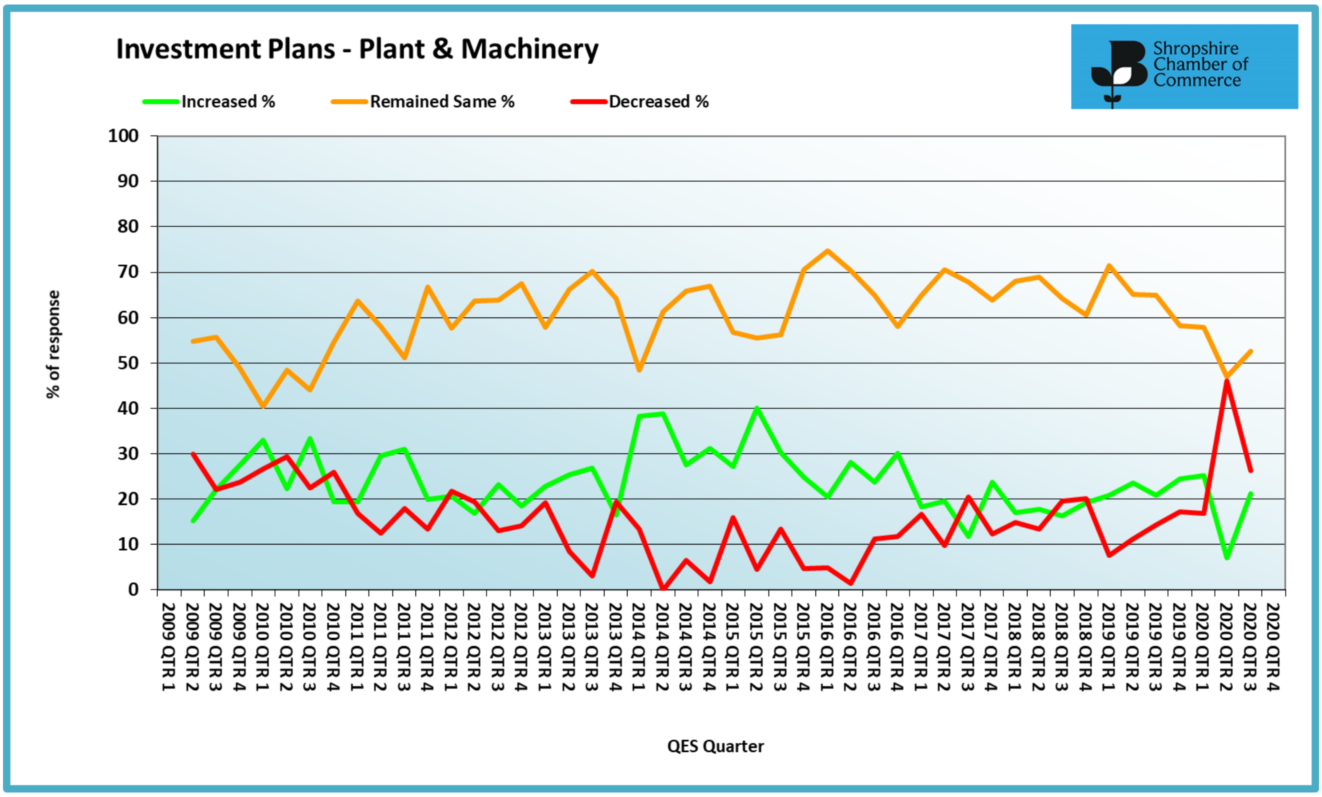
QES Quarter - not including those stating non applicable

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*** **- not including those stating non applicable*)***



QES Quarter

INVESTMENT


Investment Plans - Plant & Machinery
Shropshire Chamber of Commerce
Increased %
Remained Same %
Decreased %
% of response
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2009 QTR 1
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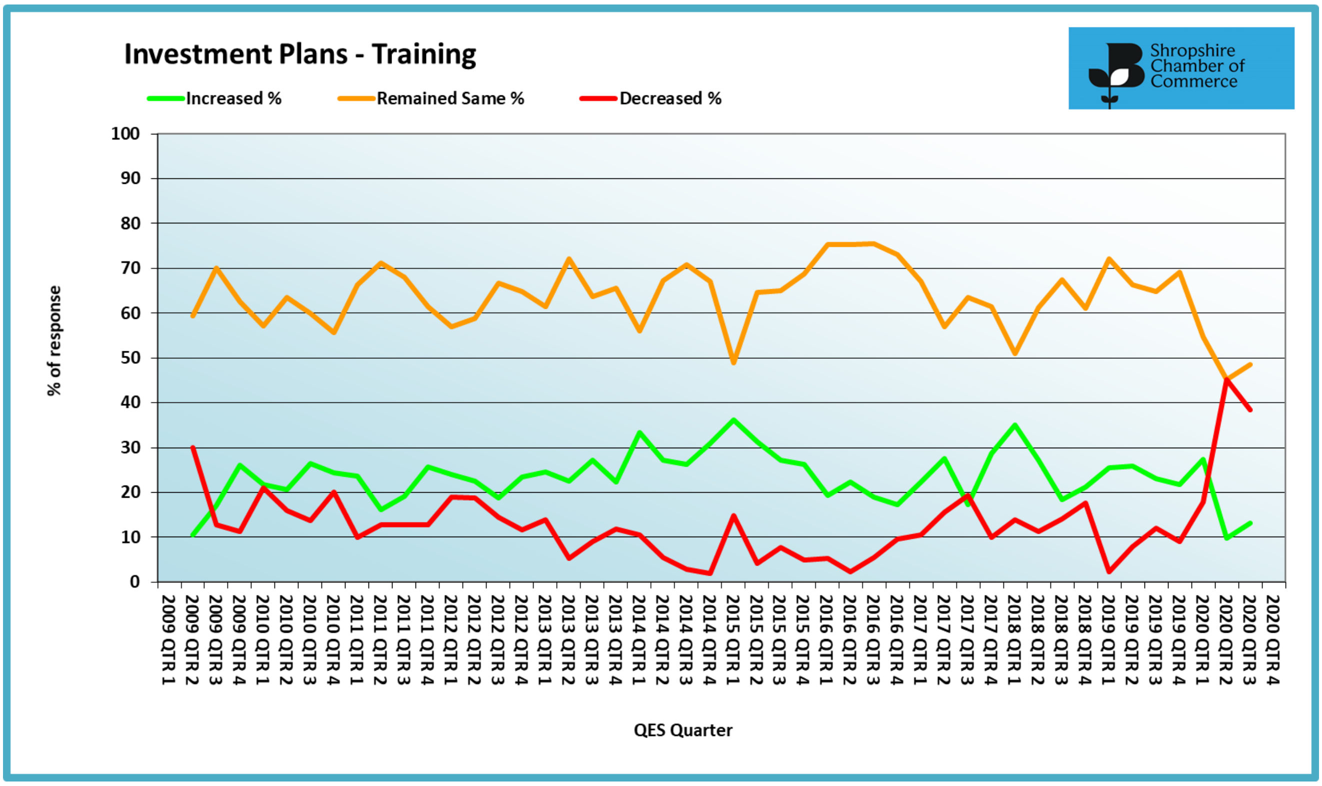
QES Quarter


Investment Plans - Training
Shropshire Chamber of Commerce
Increased %
Remained Same %
Decreased %
% of response
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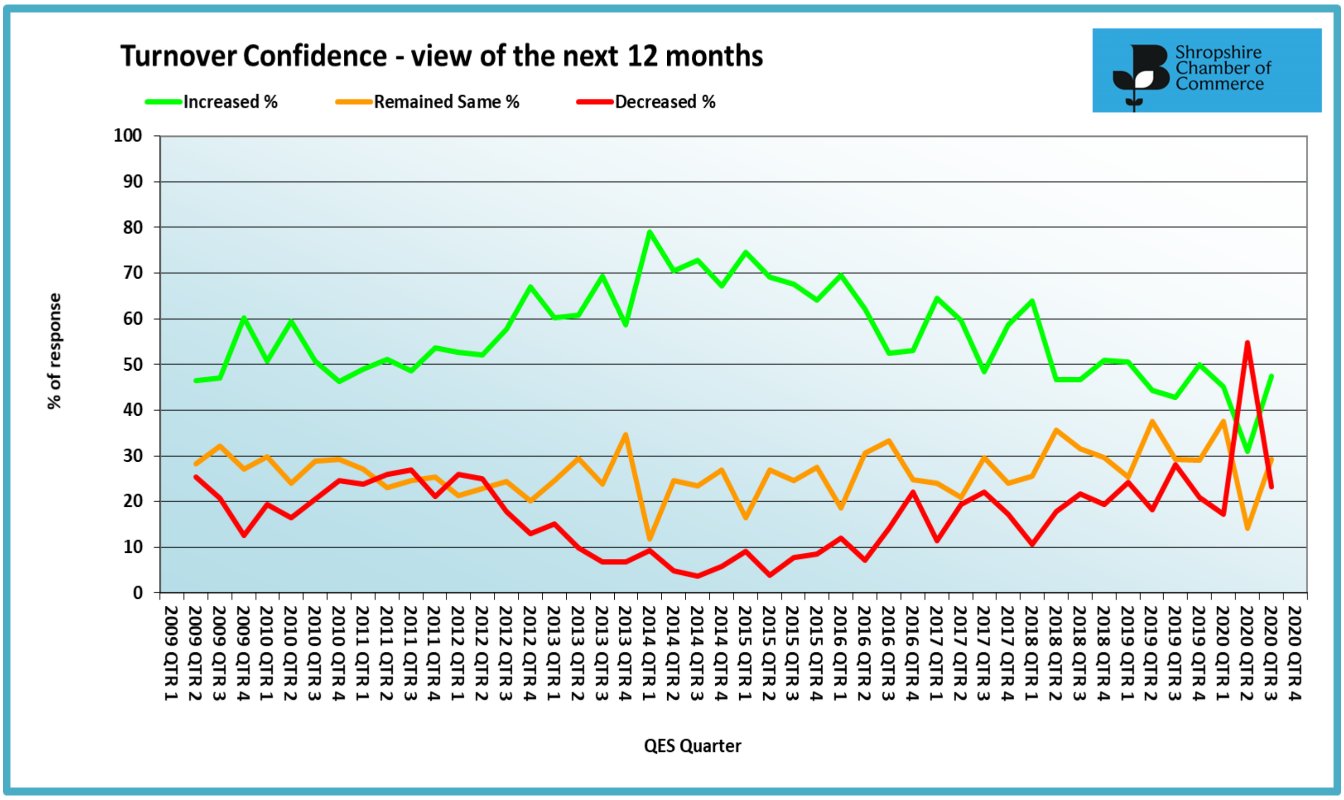
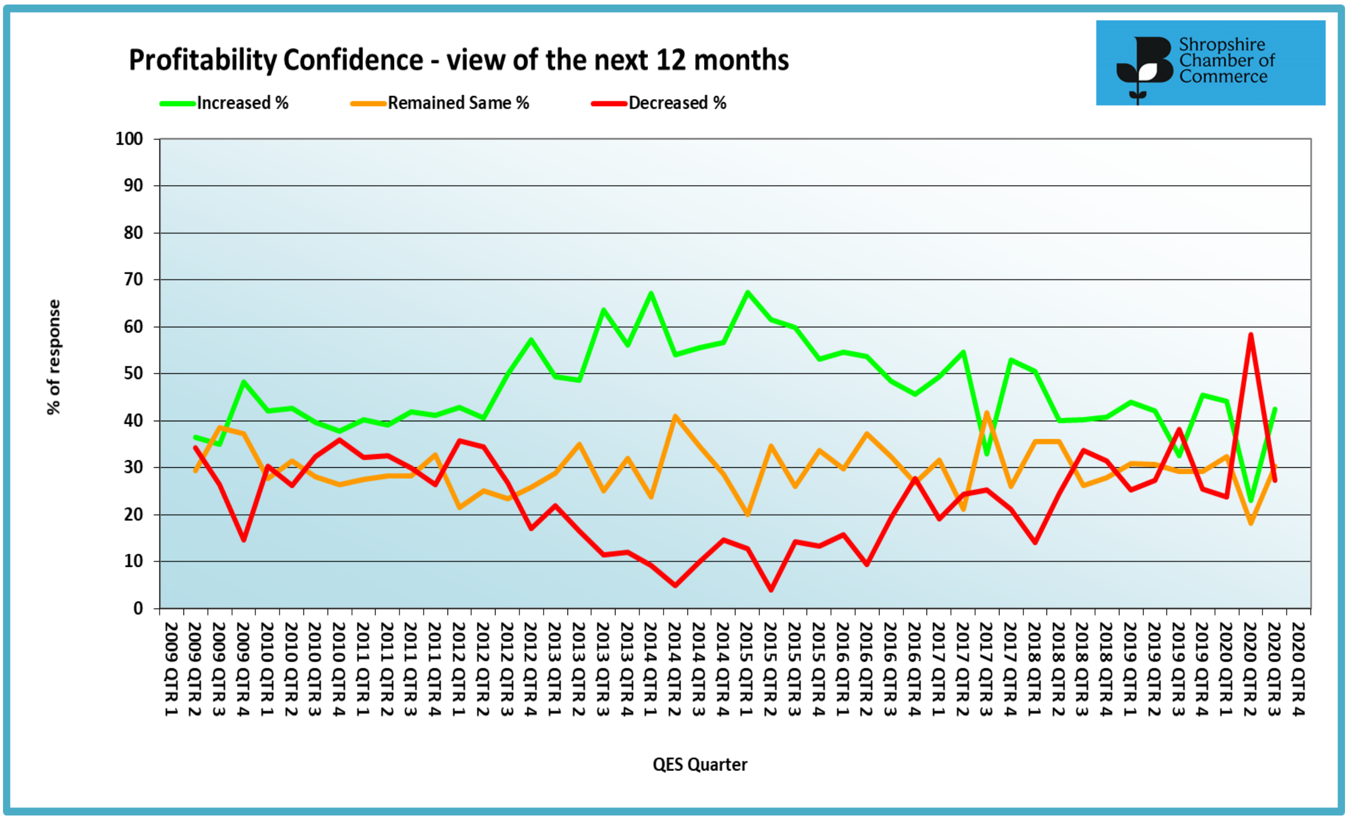
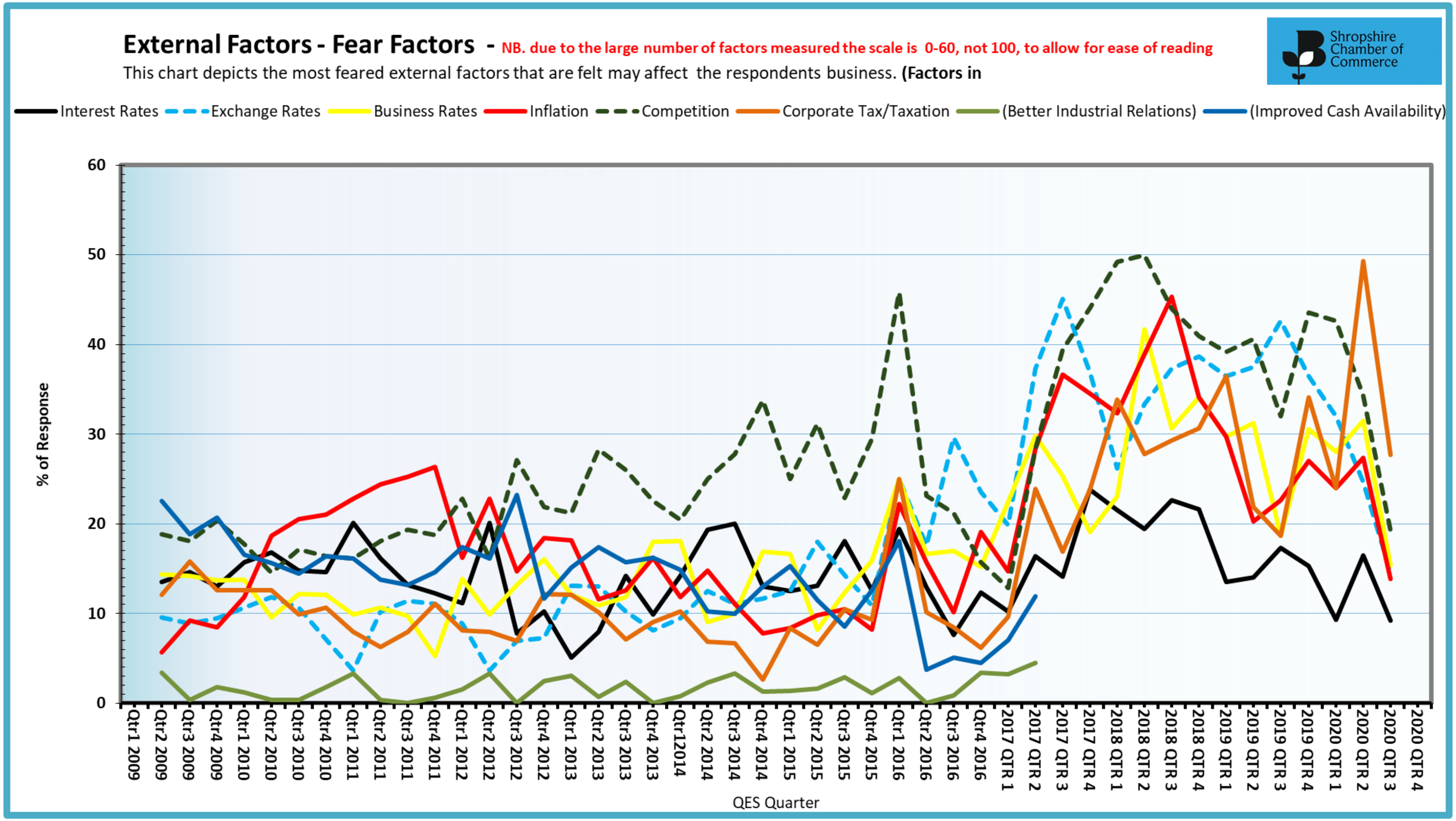
QES Quarter

CONFIDENCE


Turnover Confidence - view of the next 12 months
Shropshire Chamber of Commerce
Increased %
Remained Same %
Decreased %
% of response
QES Quarter


Profitability Confidence - view of the next 12 months
Shropshire Chamber of Commerce
Increased %
Remained Same %
Decreased %
% of response
QES Quarter

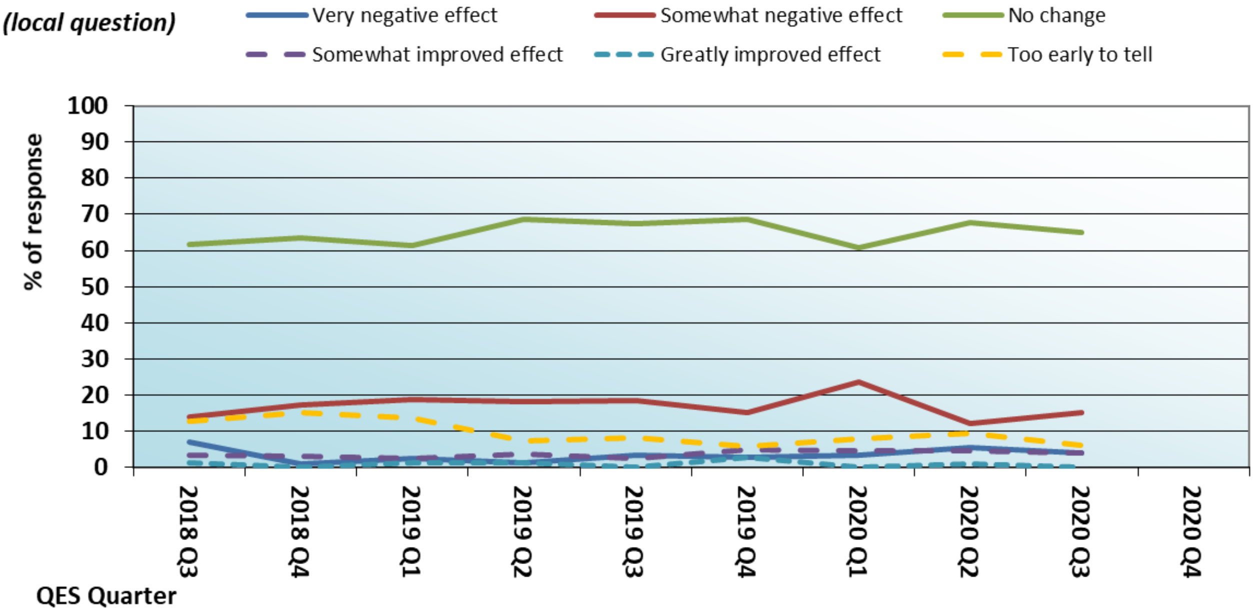
FEAR FACTORS



ADDITIONAL TOPICS

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)



What effect is Brexit having on your business?

(local question) - Asked from Qtr.2 2019 onward