

Quarterly Economic Survey Report

Q2 2023

Produced by



Cambridgeshire
Chambers of
Commerce

Photo credit: Damien Vickers Photography

Quarterly Economic Survey

Introduction

Every quarter, we ask businesses to take part in our Quarterly Economic Survey (QES), where the findings are shared with the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) to contribute to one of the UK's largest and most reputable barometers of business opinion.

QES findings are vital in the BCC's and Cambridgeshire Chamber's lobbying efforts because they are broken down to individual accredited Chamber-level, making sure your voice is properly heard both nationally and locally on the issues that matter.

This survey is used to form a picture of the local economic prospects as well as contributing to the regional analysis which is known to be held in high regard by the government, Bank of England and economic commentators.

A message from Vic Annells, CEO, Cambridgeshire Chambers of Commerce:

“The results of the Q2 survey reflect no sustained improvement in business investment confidence. SME's are currently facing additional pressures due to interest rate rises and increased borrowing rates.

Inflationary pressures show signs of easing, however, this research shows persistent concerns surrounding labour costs so it is crucial for the Government and the Bank of England to carefully consider these findings.

In addition, imminent alterations in trade with the EU, involving the introduction of new customs prerequisites and import levies will amplify the inflationary impact on prices. More information on the asks by the British Chambers of Commerce regarding Trade and the impact on local businesses are in the new Manifesto [here](#).”

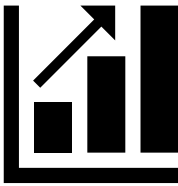
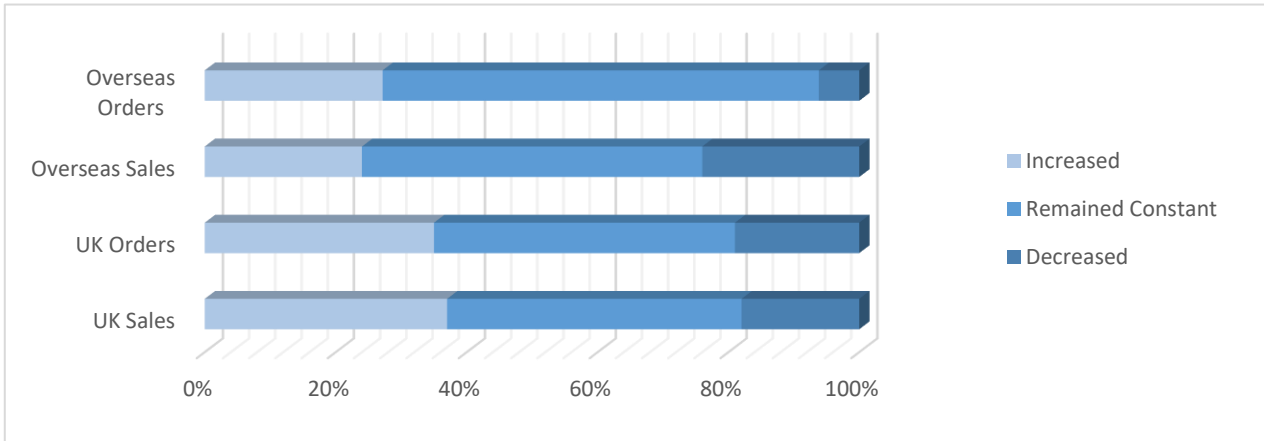


Vic Annells
CEO, Cambridgeshire
Chambers of Commerce

Quarterly Economic Survey

QES Q2 - 2023

SALES AND ORDERS

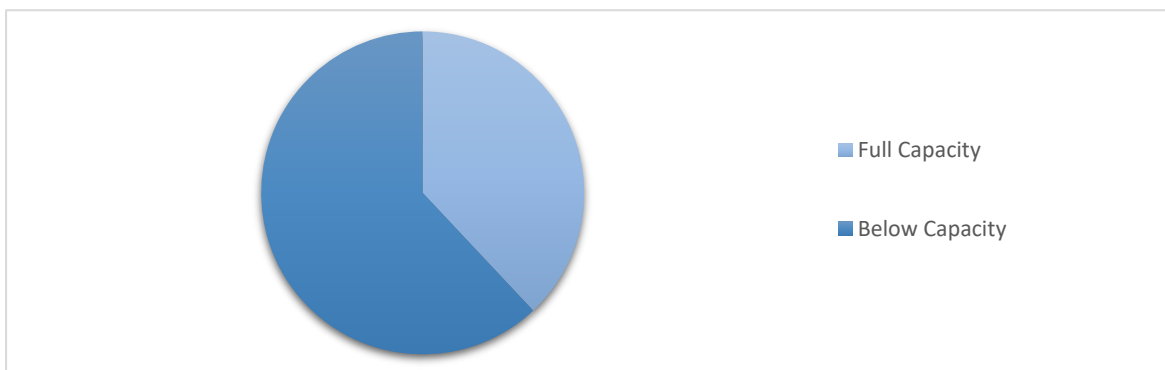


37% thought that **UK sales** had increased
35% thought that **UK orders** had increased

24% reported an increase in **overseas sales**
22% reported an increase in **overseas orders**



Businesses running at...

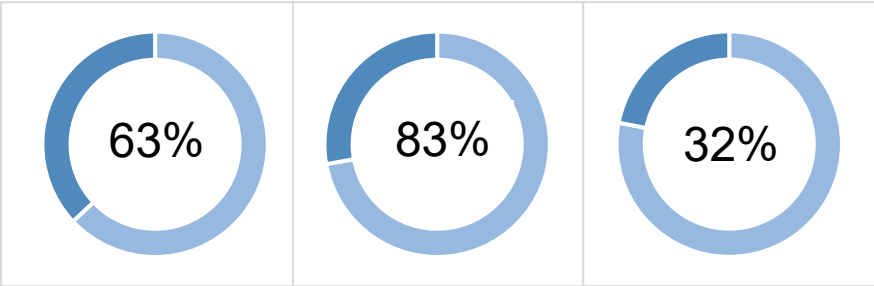


38% running at **full capacity**
62% running **below capacity**

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QES Q2 - 2023

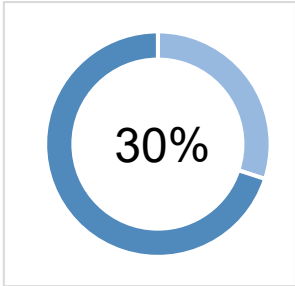
OVER THE PAST 3 MONTHS



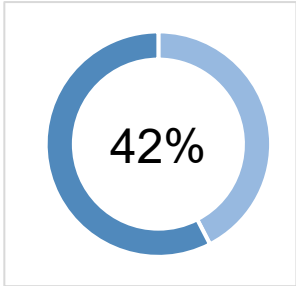
63% had attempted to **recruit** staff
83% for **full-time** roles
32% for **permanent** roles



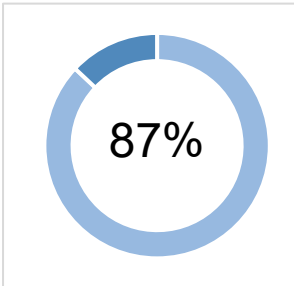
30% saw their **workforce** increase
42% think their **workforce** will increase



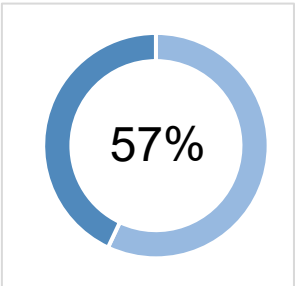
Saw their workforce increase



Think their workforce will increase



Experienced difficulties recruiting



Experienced difficulties recruiting professional/managerial staff

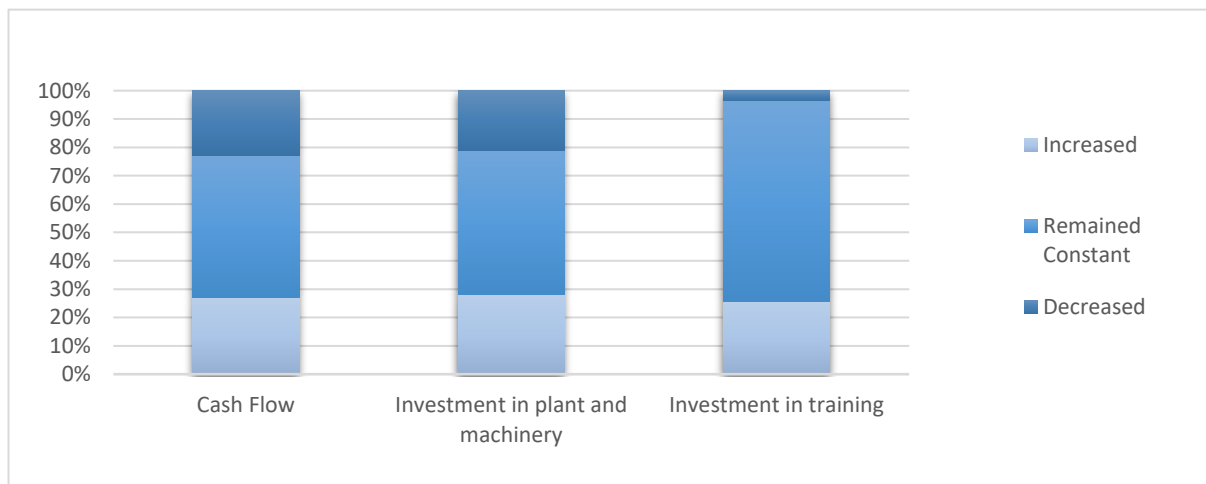
87% experienced difficulties **recruiting**

57% experienced difficulties recruiting **professional/managerial** staff



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QES Q2 - 2023



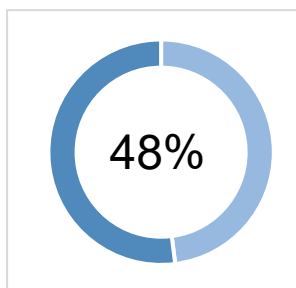
27% said **cash flow** had increased

28% said investment in **plant and machinery** had increased



22% said investment in **training** had increased

IN THE NEXT 3 MONTHS



Felt the price of their goods and services would increase

48% felt the price of their **goods** and **services** would increase



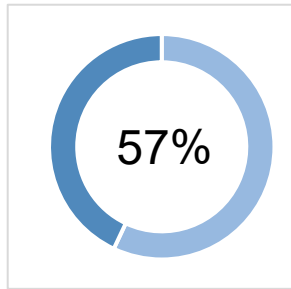
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QES Q2 - 2023

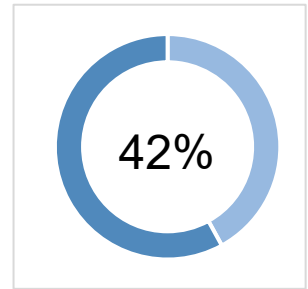
OVER THE NEXT 12 MONTHS



57% expect **turnover** to improve
42% expect **profitability** to improve



Expect turnover to improve



Expect profitability to improve

Price rise pressures

Labour costs – 73%

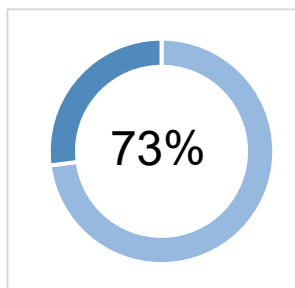
Raw materials prices – 46%

Fuel – 36%

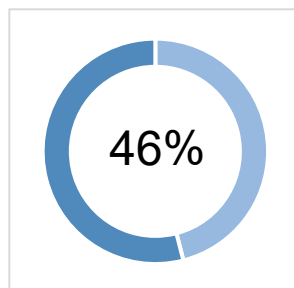
Finance costs – 23%

Other overheads – 34%

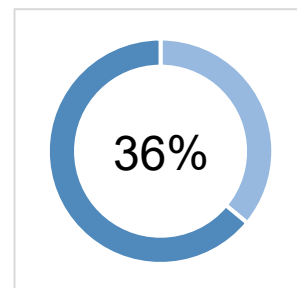
Utilities – 58%



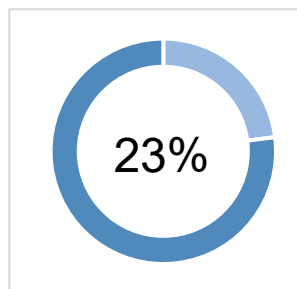
Labour costs



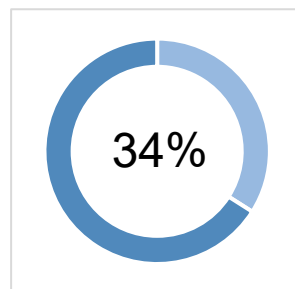
Raw material prices



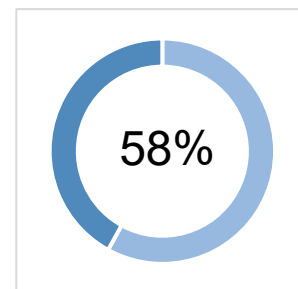
Fuel



Finance costs



Other overheads



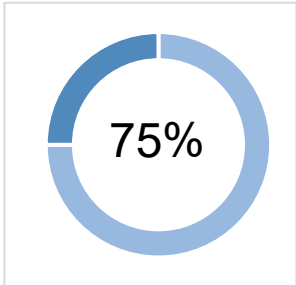
Utilities

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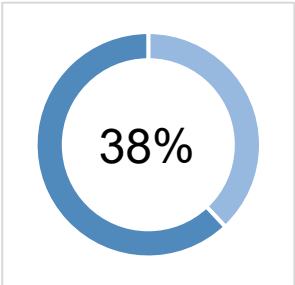
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Top 3 factors affecting businesses

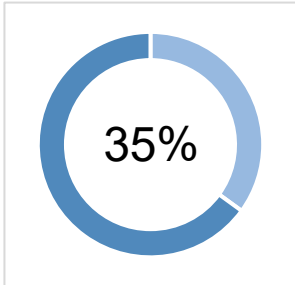
- 75% inflation
- 38% interest rates
- 35% business rates



Inflation



Interest rates

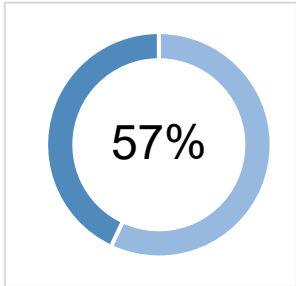


Business rates

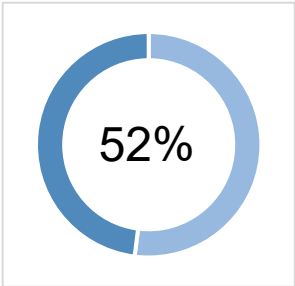
Top 3 skills shortages



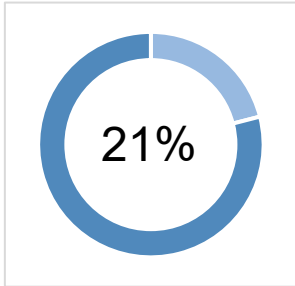
- 57% professional/managerial
- 52% skilled/manual/technical
- 21% semi/unskilled



Professional/managerial



Skilled/manual/technical



Semi/unskilled



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If you are interested in getting involved or would like to find out more about the QES report, please contact Mariana at: m.garcia@cambscci.co.uk

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