Black Country Chamber of Commerce

BLACK COUNTRY

QUARTERLY ECONOMIC SURVEY RESULTS SNAPSHOT

Q2 2026

BUSINESS IS DONE BETTER TOGETHER

KEY STATISTICS

Sales Trends (Domestic & Export)

33% of firms reported an increase in domestic sales, while 27% reported no change and 26% reported a decrease.

7% of firms reported an increase in overseas sales, while 17% reported no change and 6% reported a decrease.

27% of businesses saw an increase in domestic orders this quarter while 9% of businesses reported an increase in overseas orders.

Recruitment

50% of Black Country firms attempted to recruit over the past quarter, which has decreased from 53% in Q1.

45%

of firms across the Black Country experienced recruitment difficulties in Q2 compared to 55% in Q1.

Majority of firms in the region have found it difficult to recruit Professional and Managerial staff.

KEY STATISTICS

Business Resilience

Rising labour costs and the rise of utility prices are the pressure points for businesses this quarter.

Taxation and inflation are amongst the highest concern for firms across all sectors in the region at 41% and 52% respectively.

Cashflow has increased for 20% of firms while investment plans for training increased for 20% of Black Country businesses.

Overall, firms expect prices to remain constant over the next 3 months.

Business Confidence

51% of Black Country businesses believe turnover will improve over the next 12 months compared to 51% in Q1.

42% of Black Country businesses believe profitability will improve over the next 12 months, unchanged from 42% in Q1.

ABOUT QES

The Black Country Quarterly Economic Survey Snapshot gives an up-to-date picture of the performance of the Black Country business community.

The figures in this report have been informed from quarterly economic surveys conducted by the Black Country Chamber of Commerce.

National QES results can be found on British Chambers of Commerce website **here.**

As the most authoritative national business confidence survey, and the first to be published in each quarter, the results of this survey are closely watched by both HM Treasury and the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee and help to inform decisions that impact upon interest rates and business policy.

The survey itself has reliably anticipated the onset of the two recessions since the early 1990s before they began and continues to act as a reliable indicator of national and regional economic performance. The Black Country Chamber of Commerce uses the results of the survey to inform upon detailed economic performance and trends throughout the local region and beyond.