

Suffolk
Chamber of
Commerce

Suffolk Chamber of Commerce Quarterly Economic Survey

Suffolk analysis Q2 2026

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The Voice of Suffolk Business since 1884

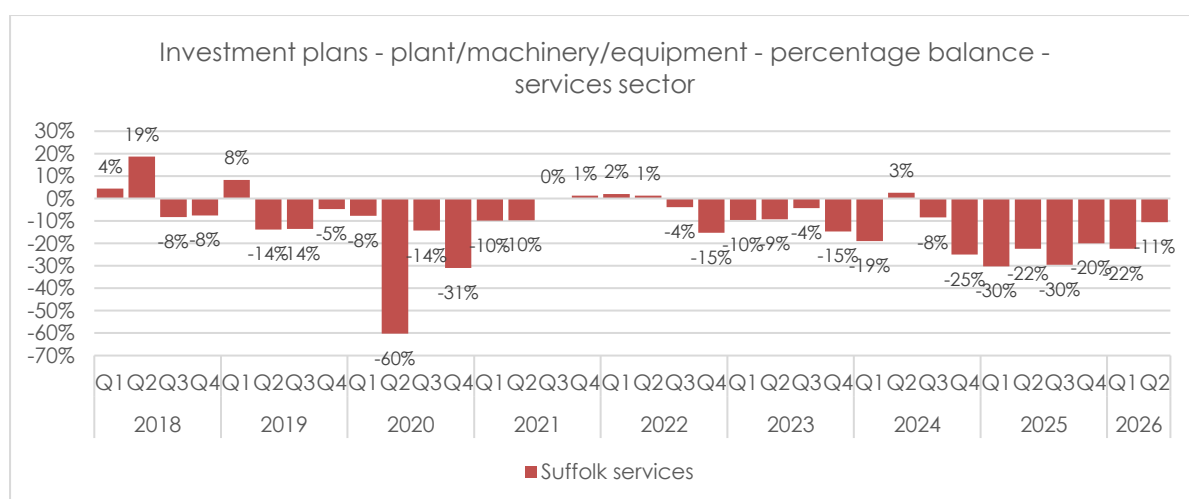
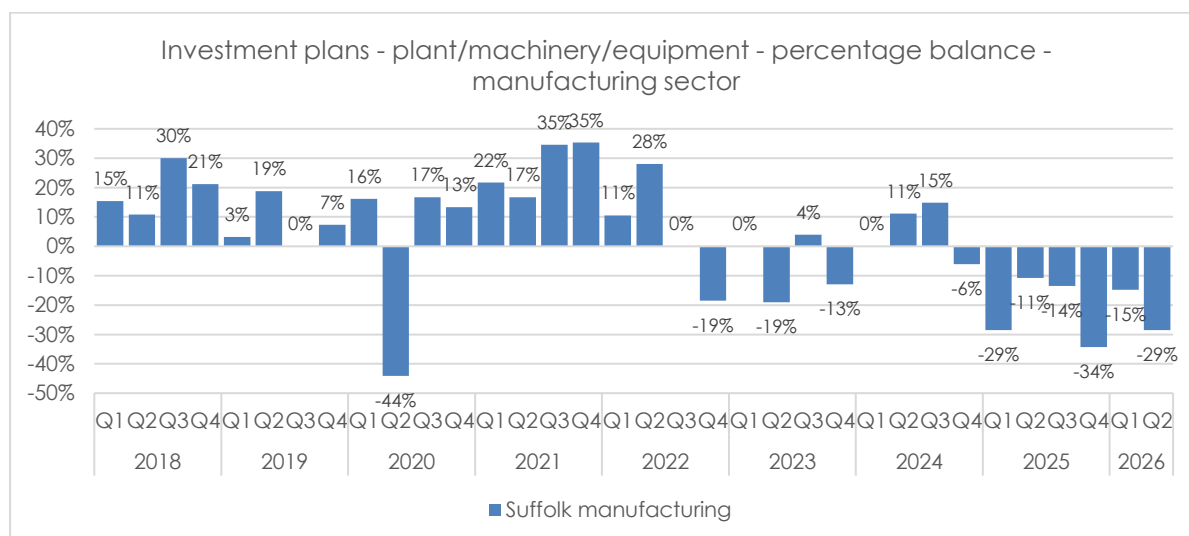
Summary of changes from Q1 to Q2

	Manufacturing	Services
Domestic sales	-24%	0%
Domestic orders	-21%	6%
Export sales	-44%	-18%
Export orders	-44%	-25%
Employment trends	-4%	11%
Employment expectations	8%	11%
Attempted to recruit	23%	18%
Recruitment difficulties	17%	19%
Cashflow	12%	9%
Investment in plant and machinery	-14%	12%
Investment in training	15%	13%
Confidence in improving turnover	-22%	9%
Confidence in improving profitability	-36%	13%
Capacity utilisation	-8%	14%
Prices and pressures on prices	3%	12%

Summary of balances in Q2

	Manufacturing	Services
Domestic sales	-20%	-7%
Domestic orders	-29%	-7%
Export sales	-50%	-13%
Export orders	-56%	-40%
Employment trends	4%	2%
Employment expectations	12%	18%
Attempted to recruit	86%	61%
Recruitment difficulties	88%	85%
Cashflow	-18%	-9%
Investment in plant and machinery	-29%	-11%
Investment in training	4%	-2%
Confidence in improving turnover	-14%	2%
Confidence in improving profitability	-39%	-16%
Capacity utilisation	25%	34%
Prices and pressures on prices	64%	49%

Investment plans – plant/machinery/equipment

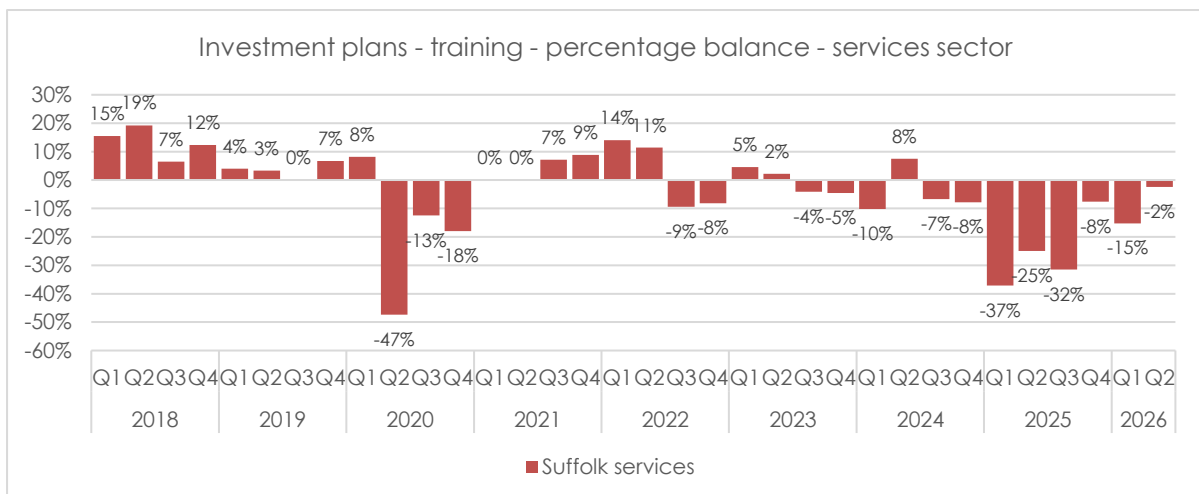
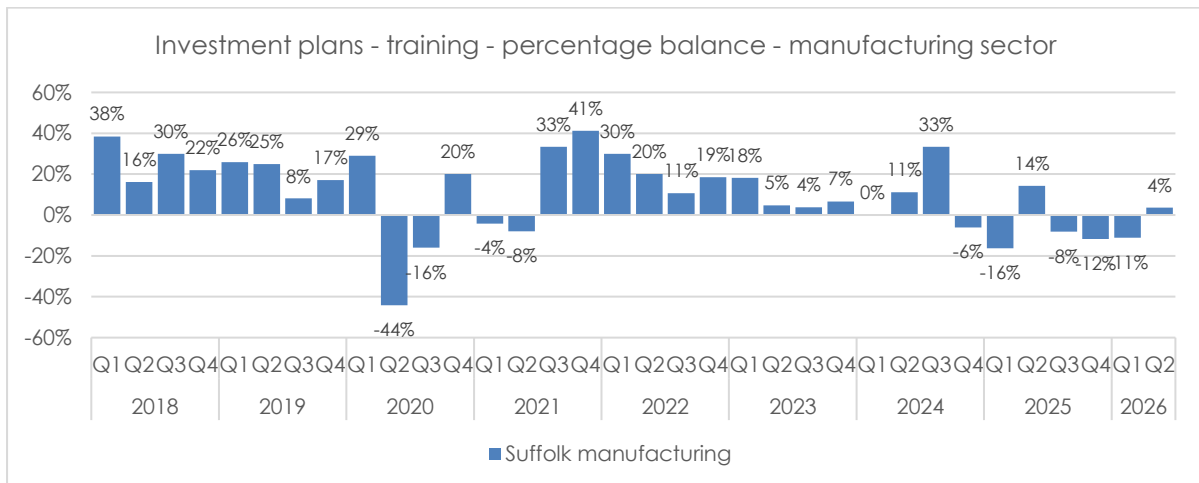


A positive balance indicates that more businesses reported plans to increase their investment in plant/machinery/equipment than those reporting a planned decrease in investment in this area.

Manufacturing: ↓ 14 percentage points to **-29%**

Services: ↑ 12 percentage points to **-11%**

Investment plans – training

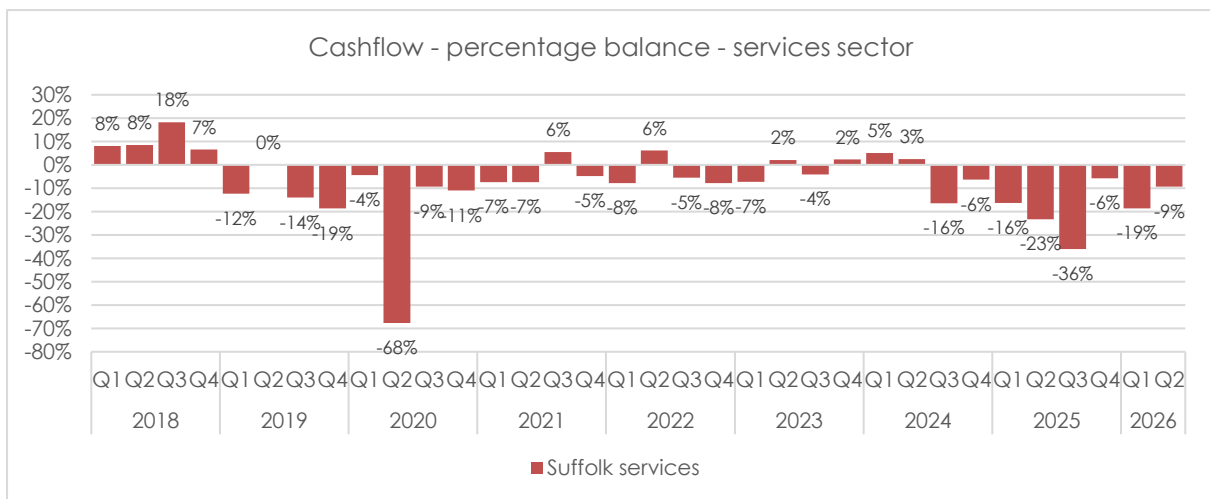
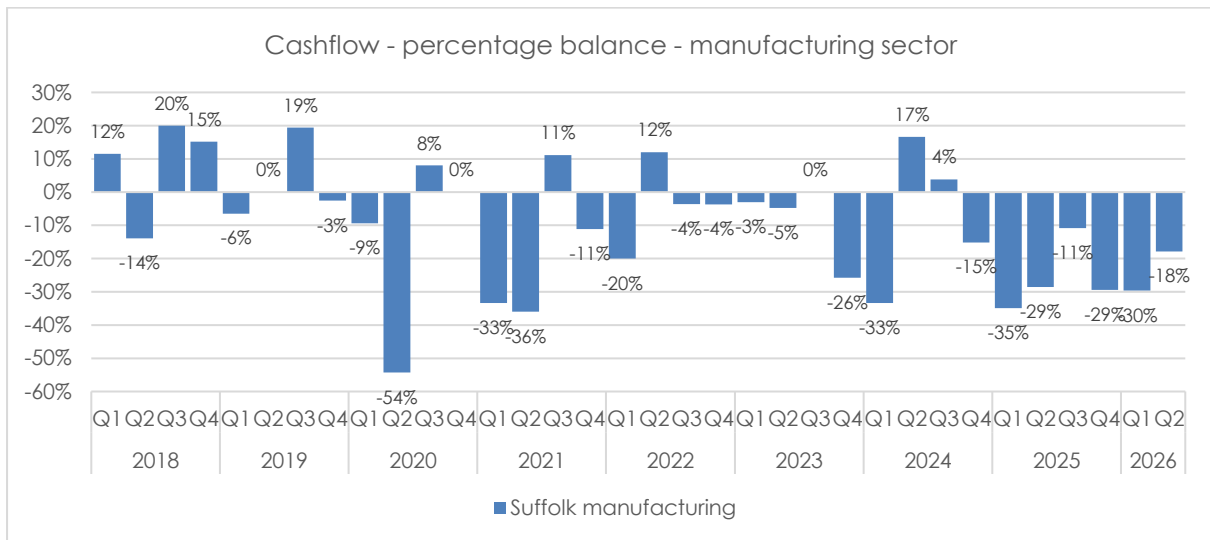


A positive balance indicates that more businesses reported plans to increase their investment in training than those reporting a planned decrease in investment in this area.

Manufacturing: ↑ 15 percentage points to **+4%**

Services: ↑ 13 percentage points to **-2%**

Cashflow

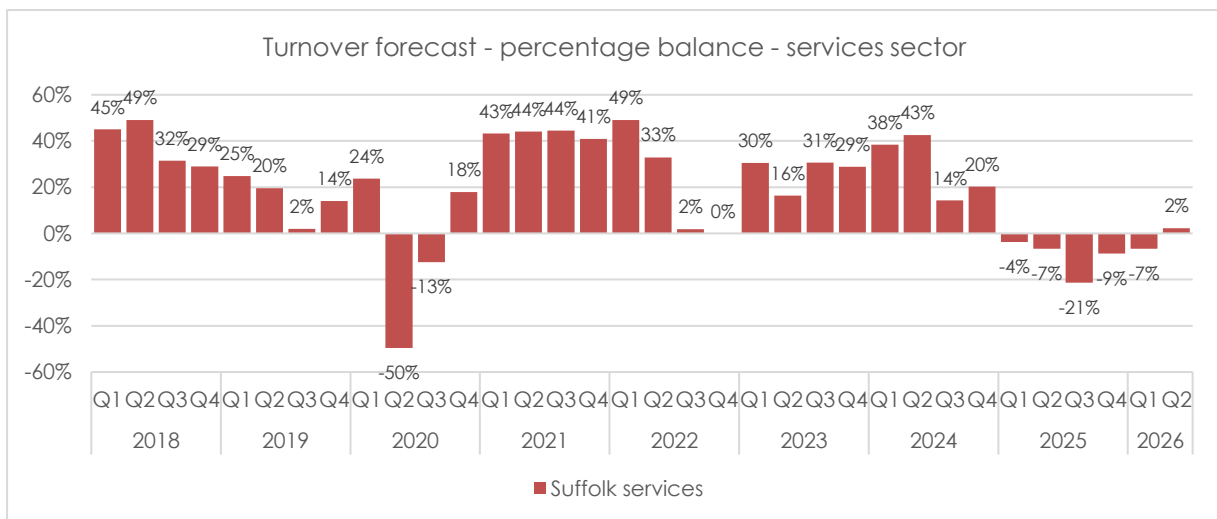
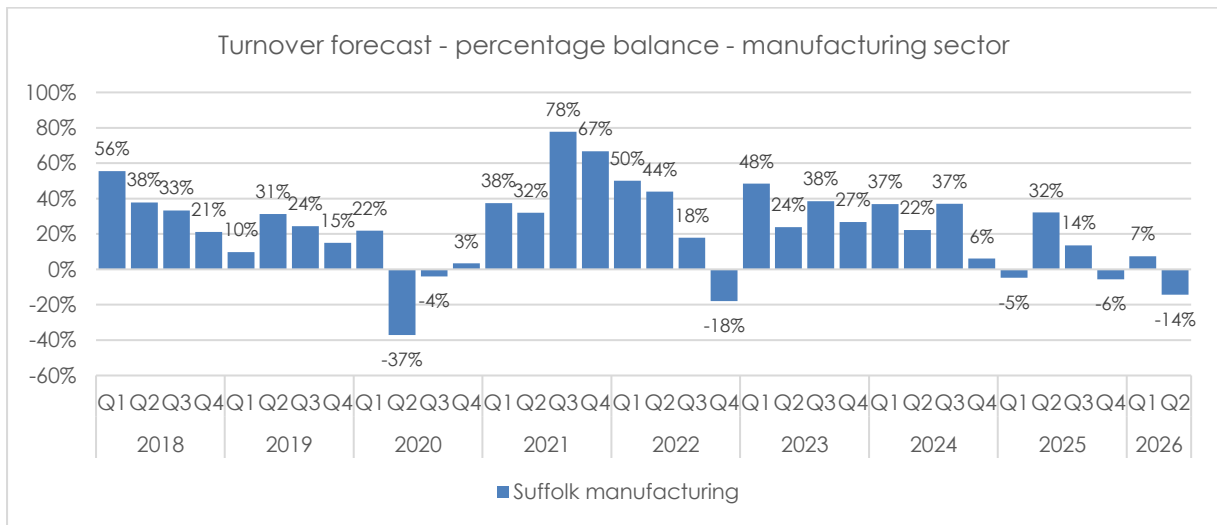


A positive balance indicates that more businesses reported improved cashflow than those reporting a decrease.

Manufacturing: ↑ 12 percentage points to **-18%**

Services: ↑ 9 percentage points to **-9%**

Confidence in improving turnover

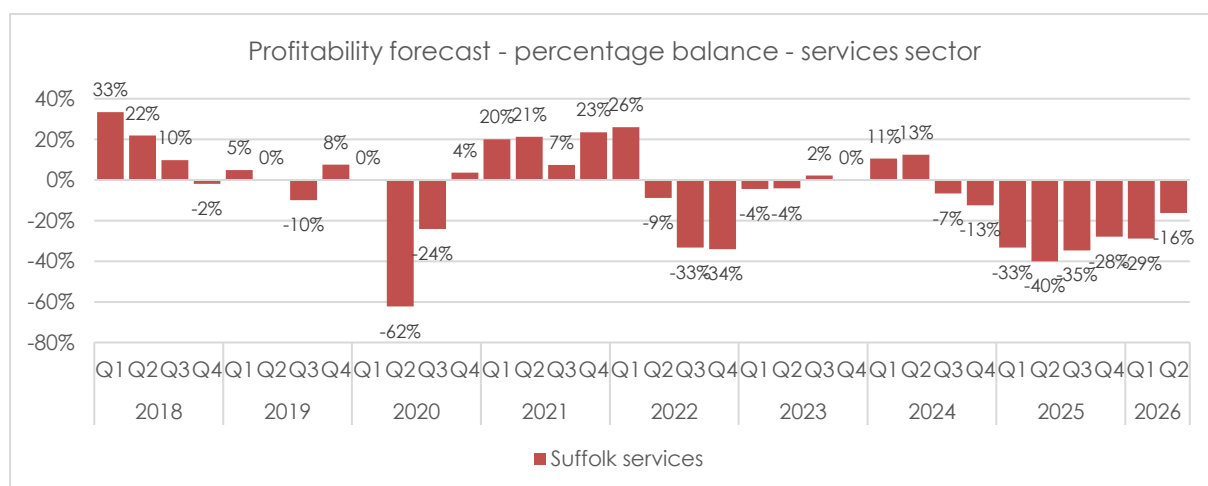
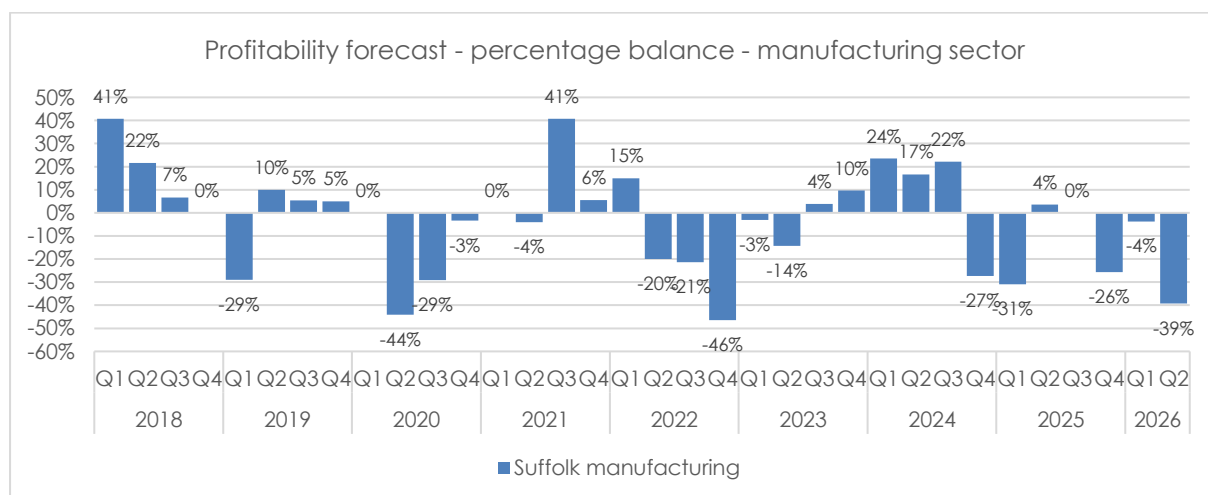


A positive balance indicates that more businesses reported an improved turnover forecast than those reporting a weaker forecast.

Manufacturing: ↓ 22 percentage points to **-14%**

Services: ↑ 9 percentage points to **+2%**

Confidence in improving profitability

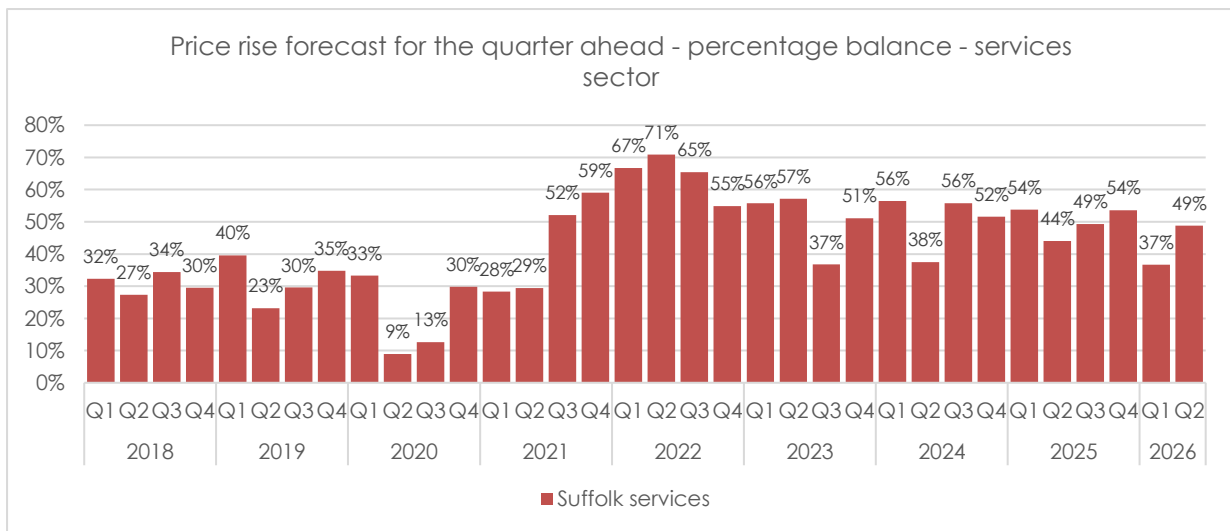
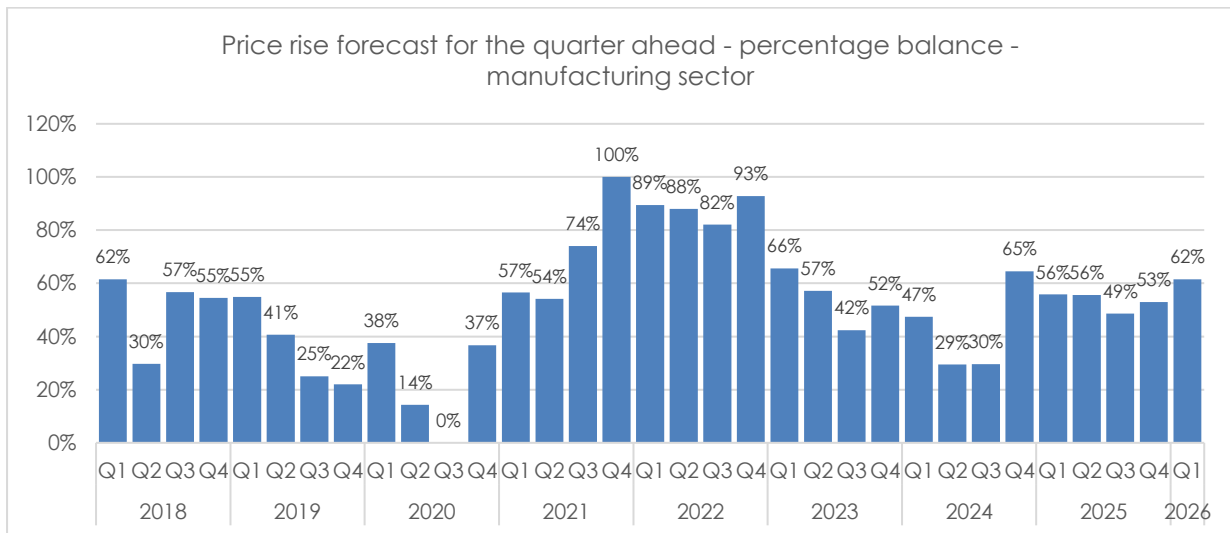


A positive balance indicates that more businesses reported an improved profitability forecast than those reporting a weaker forecast.

Manufacturing: ↓ 36 percentage points to **-39%**

Services: ↑ 13 percentage points to **-16%**

Price rise forecast

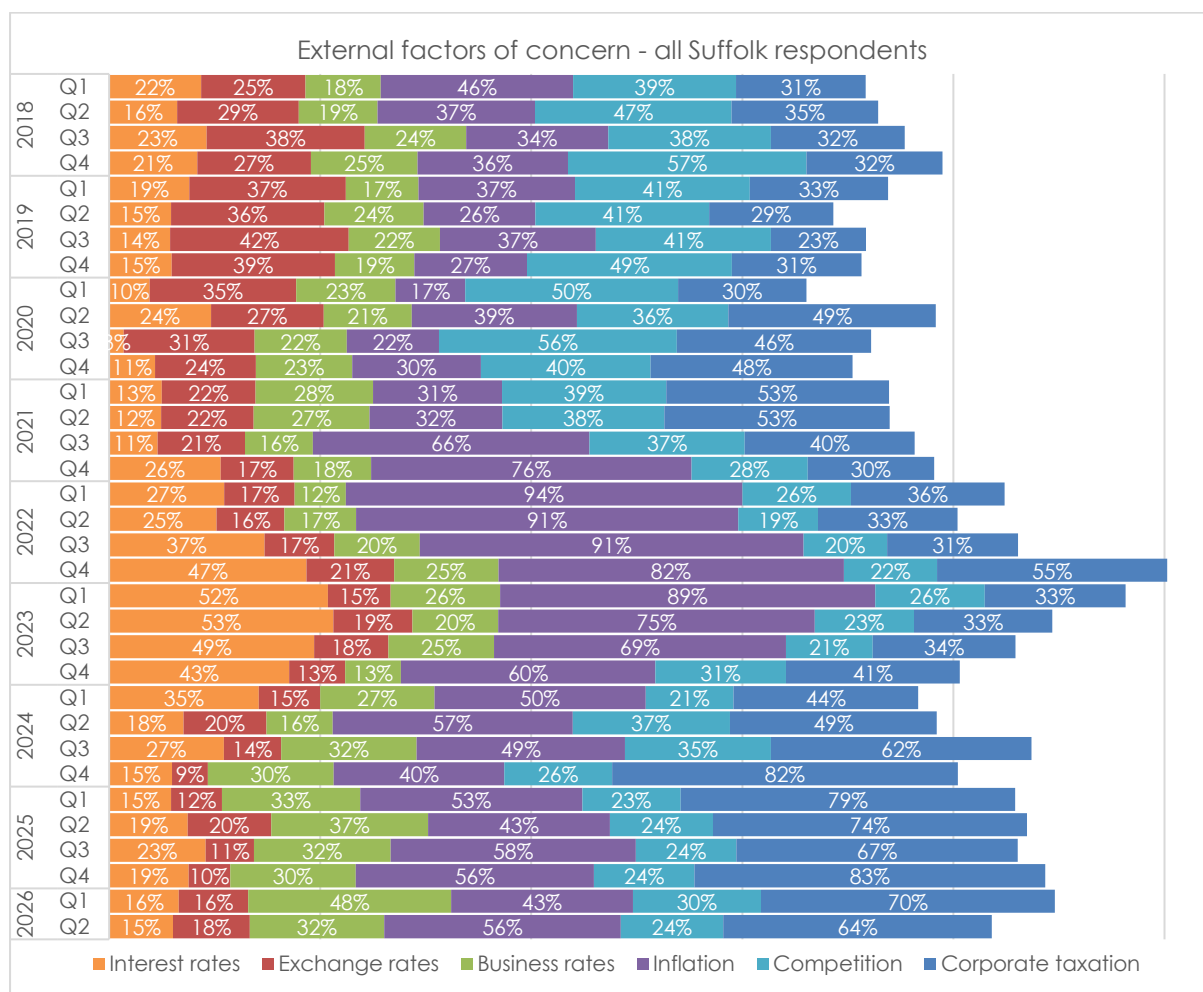


A positive balance indicates that more businesses reported an intention to increase prices than those planning to decrease prices.

Manufacturing: ↑ 3 percentage points to **64%**

Services: ↑ 12 percentage points to **49%**

External factors of concern



The data displayed here are simple percentages of respondents that identified each of these factors as being of concern during the past quarter.

Interest rates: ▼ 1 percentage points to **15%**

Exchange rates: ▲ 2 percentage points to **18%**

Business rates: ▼ 16 percentage points to **32%**

Inflation: ▲ 13 percentage points to **56%**

Competition: ▼ 6 percentage points to **24%**

Corporate taxation: ▼ 6 percentage points to **64%**

Overall: ▼ 15 percentage points



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