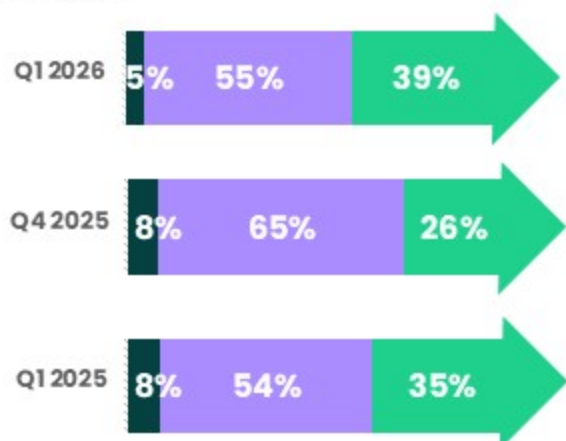


## ✓ BUSINESS POSITION

// Businesses were asked about their business position

### BY QUARTER



In Q1 stability remained the dominant feature at 55% with over one third of businesses reporting growth.

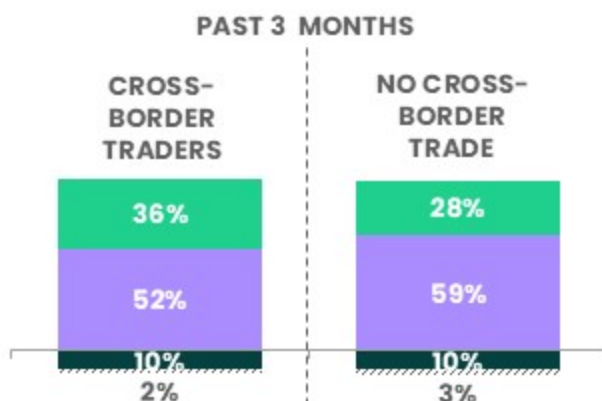
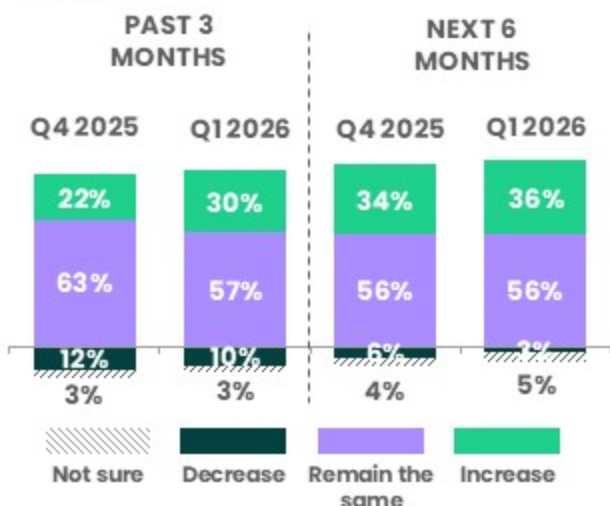


\*Due to rounding percentages add to 99%-101%

## SALES AND PROFITABILITY

// Businesses were asked about their sales and profitability

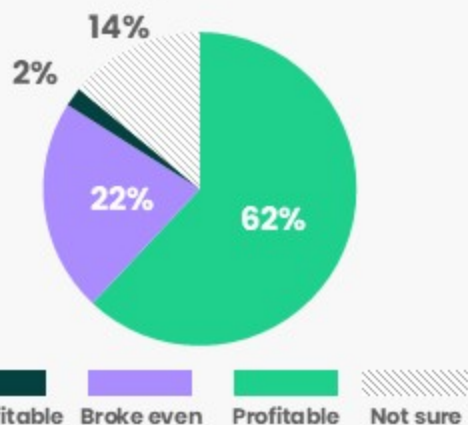
### SALES



Sales of cross-border traders continue to outperform domestically focused firms.

\*Rounding may cause the total percentage to fall between 99% and 101%

### PROFITABILITY Q1 2026



Six out of ten businesses are still profitable while only 2% are unprofitable.



# BUSINESS ISSUES

// Businesses were asked about their current business issues

## CHALLENGES FACING BUSINESS



Rising energy costs (56%)



Rising cost of other overheads (32%)



Rising wages/ staffing costs (31%)



Difficulties recruiting people (22%)



Difficulties recruiting skills (21%)

## MAIN OTHER OVERHEAD PRESSURES

Supplies/ consumables

57%

Insurance costs

54%

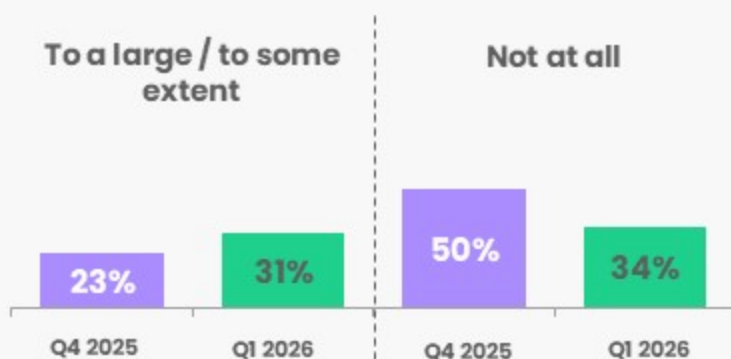
Transport

32%

## % SAYING ISSUES ARE IMPACTING GROWTH

To a large / to some extent

Not at all



There has been an increase in % of businesses reporting issues are impacting growth.



## RISING ENERGY COSTS

// Businesses were asked about issues with rising energy costs

### MAIN ENERGY COST PRESSURES AMONG AFFECTED BUSINESSES



Electricity



Fuel



Gas

\*\*\*% of those experiencing difficulties with rising energy costs

\*\*\*Multiple choice question, therefore percentages add to more than 100%

InterTradeIreland is committed to supporting SMEs in dealing with the current challenges, with our expert teams on hand to provide businesses with the right supports, funding and advice to help unlock their export potential. By tapping into our range of supports and networks, we can boost the innovation power of your business through cross-border collaboration and help you to identify new market and funding opportunities. Visit [www.intertradeireland.com](http://www.intertradeireland.com) today or call 028 3083 4100 (048 from Ireland)

A telephone survey of 760 businesses was conducted on an all-island basis, with the aim to provide a deeper understanding of the needs, experiences and issues facing businesses. The survey was conducted between the 31<sup>st</sup> March – 29<sup>th</sup> April 2026.