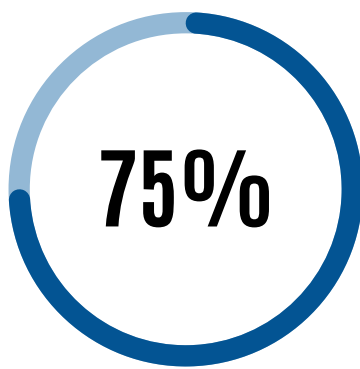


# QUARTERLY ECONOMIC INDICATOR QUICK GUIDE



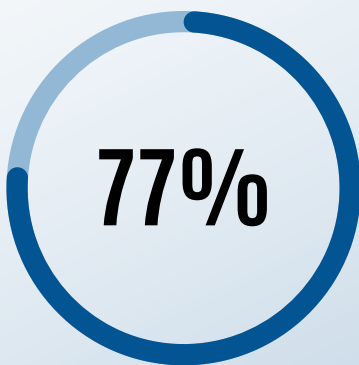
**55% of Ayrshire businesses expect to raise their prices over the next three months.**

.....  
**INFLATIONARY PRESSURES REPORTED BY:**



Three-quarters of all firms report increased concern from the impacts of inflation, although this has eased from eight in 10 last quarter.

.....  
**LABOUR COSTS REMAIN LEADING COST PRESSURE**



Labour costs remain the leading cost pressure for a second successive quarter, ahead of energy bills (68%) and raw materials (53%).

.....  
**INVESTMENT FLATLING**



Half of firms have put investment on hold, indicating that the current economic climate is impacting firms and making prospects for growth far more challenging.