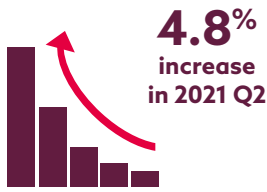


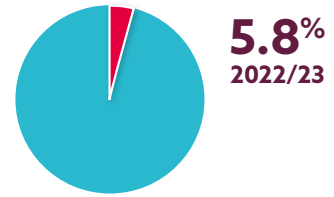
## Continued recovery but mixed forecasts



UK GDP continues its recovery.



Unemployment down from 4.4% in 2021 Q1 in Wales.



Forecast unemployment for Wales.

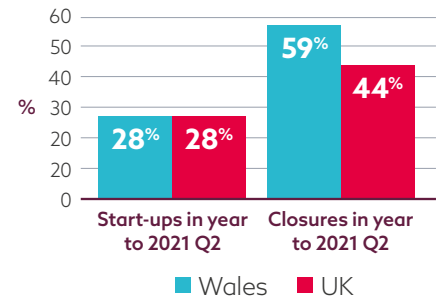
## Business challenges continue



Highest vacancies ever recorded are hindering UK business prospects.

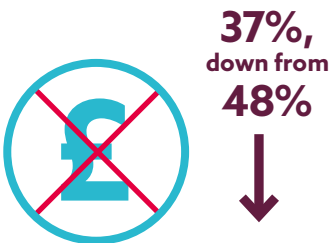


Business investment levels still 15% below pre-pandemic levels.



Wales' business closures overtake start-ups in 2021 Q2.

## Welsh SME finance

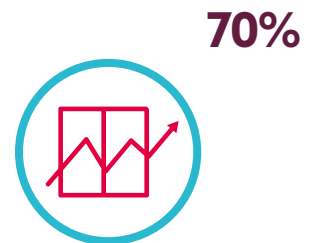


Welsh firms cash reserves will last no more than six months.



**27%**  
using more  
finance

Welsh SMEs using more finance now, the second highest in the UK.



Welsh SMEs report finance demand exceeds supply.