

BEIS Public Attitudes Tracker: Net Zero and Climate Change Autumn 2021, UK

16 December 2021

Official Statistics

This report covers the quarterly questions in the BEIS Public Attitude Tracker on awareness of Net Zero and level of concern about climate change in Autumn 2021. The quarterly question on knowledge about need to change heating systems to meet the Net Zero target is covered in the topic report on Heat and Energy in the Home.

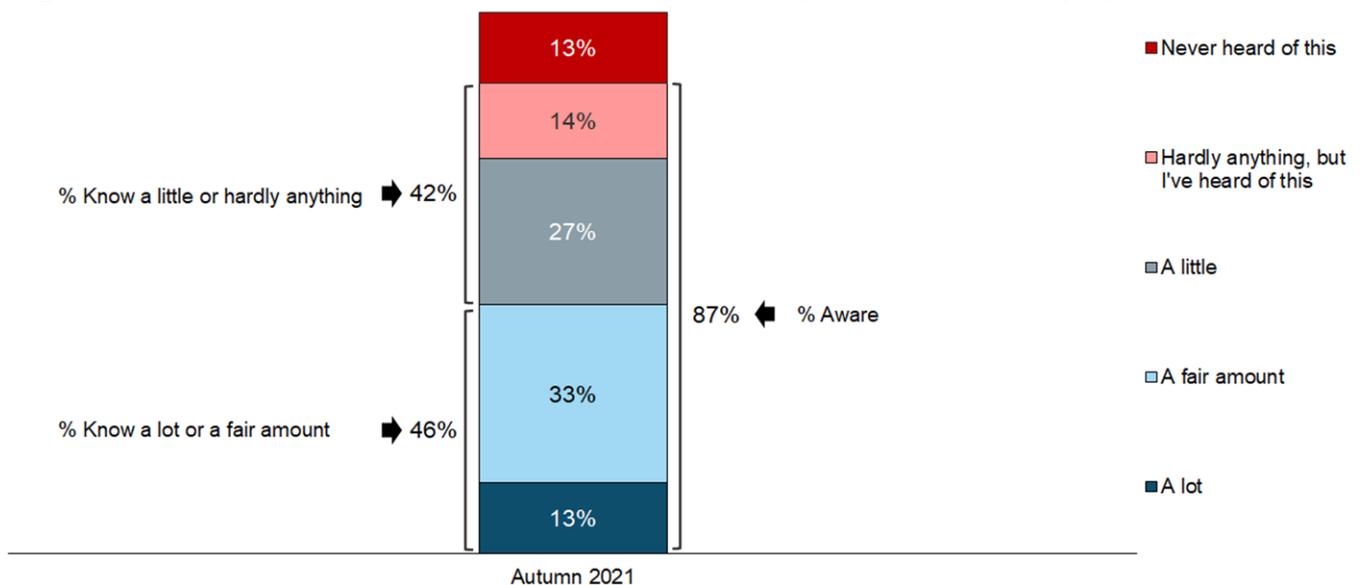
What you need to know about these statistics: This is the first BEIS Public Attitudes Tracker (PAT) wave using the new Address Based Online Survey (ABOS) methodology, which uses random probability sampling. The results should not be compared with previous PAT surveys, which used different data collection methods. For details, see the Technical Overview, Autumn 2021.

Awareness of Net Zero

In June 2019 the government announced a new target which will require the UK to bring all greenhouse gas emissions to Net Zero by 2050.

In Autumn 2021, almost nine in ten people (87%) said they had some awareness of the concept of Net Zero (Figure 1.1). Just under half (46%) said they knew at least a fair amount about Net Zero, including 13% who said they knew a lot. Four in ten people (42%) had heard of it but knew only a little or hardly anything at all, while 13% had never heard of it.

Figure 1.1: Awareness of the concept of “Net Zero” (based on all people), Autumn 2021



NZKNOW. The UK government is aiming to reduce UK greenhouse gas emissions to 'net zero' by 2050. This will involve significantly reducing emissions produced by our industries, transport, food, and homes. Any remaining emissions will be balanced by actions that reduce greenhouse gases already in the atmosphere, such as planting trees. Before today, how much, if anything, did you know about the concept of 'Net Zero'?

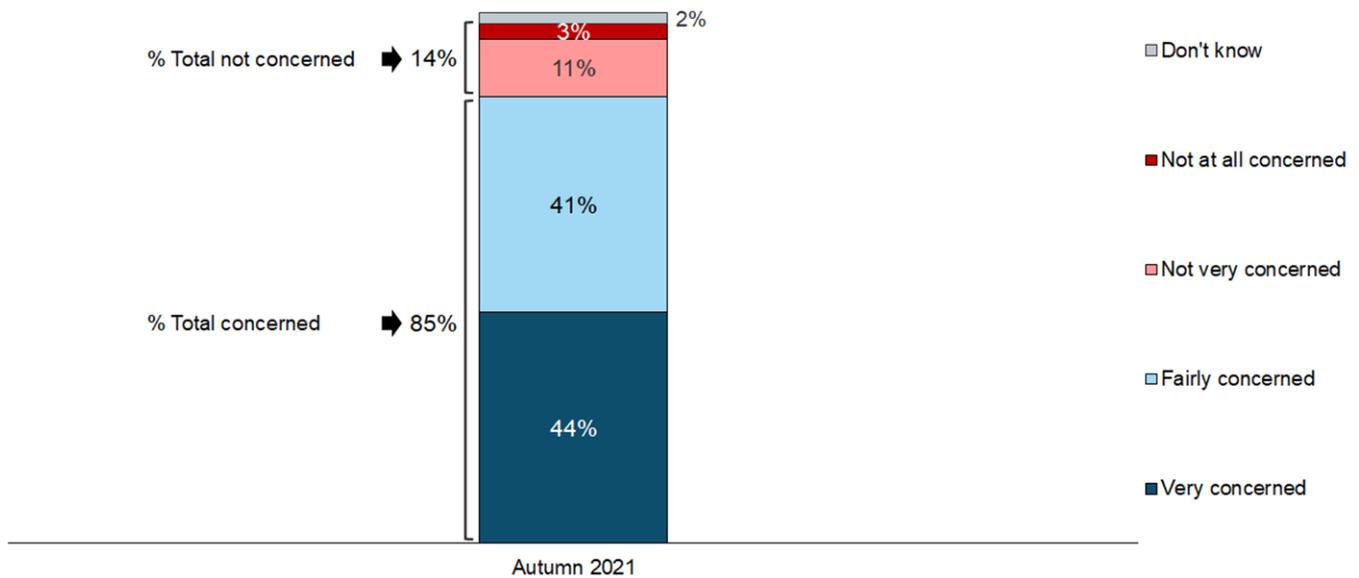
Base: All wave respondents – Autumn 2021 (5,558) (Asked Quarterly)

Overall awareness of Net Zero was higher among men than women (91% compared with 84%), people aged 55 or over (91% compared with 85% of people aged under 55), and people educated to degree level (94% compared with 87% of those with other qualifications and 76% of people with no qualifications).

Concern about climate change

In Autumn 2021, 85% of people said they were concerned about climate change, including 44% of people saying they were very concerned and 41% saying fairly concerned (Figure 1.2). In total, 14% said they were not concerned, including 3% of people who said they were not at all concerned.

Figure 1.2: Concern about climate change (based on all people), Autumn 2021



CLIMCONCERN. How concerned, if at all, are you about climate change, sometimes referred to as 'global warming'?

Base: All wave respondents – Autumn 2021 (5,557) (Asked Quarterly)

Concern was higher for people educated to degree level (91% compared with 83% of those with other qualifications and 78% of people with no qualifications). Adults with no qualifications were twice as likely as people with a degree education to say that they were not concerned (19% compared with 9%).



© Crown copyright 2021

This publication is licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0 except where otherwise stated. To view this licence, visit nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3 or write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

Where we have identified any third-party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

This publication is available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/public-attitudes-tracking-survey>

If you need a version of this document in a more accessible format, please email BEISPAT@beis.gov.uk. Please tell us what format you need. It will help us if you say what assistive technology you use.