

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

31 March 2022

Official Statistics

This report covers the quarterly questions on awareness of Net Zero and concern about climate change from the Autumn and Winter 2021 waves of the BEIS Public Attitude Tracker.

What you need to know about these statistics: These results from the BEIS Public Attitudes Tracker (PAT) were collected using the Address Based Online Surveying (ABOS) methodology introduced in Autumn 2021, 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.

The table below shows the topics covered in this report and when these questions were included in the BEIS Public Attitude Tracker. Links are included to the findings for each topic within this report.

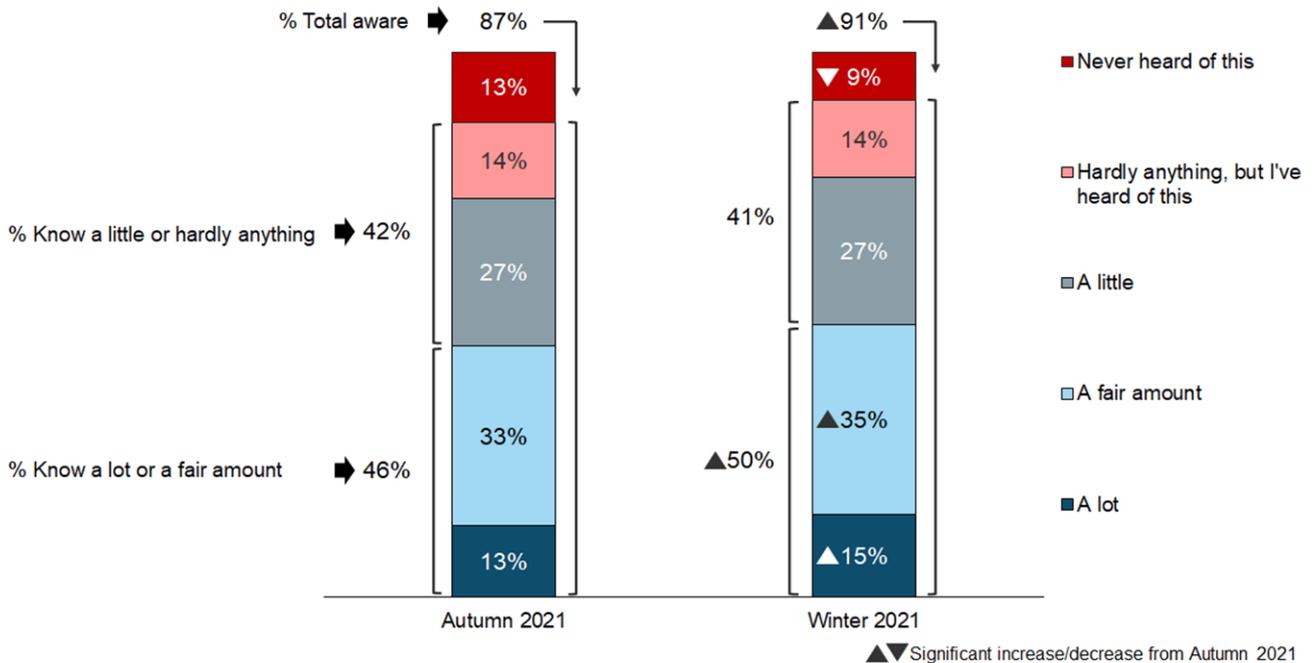
Topic	When included	Link to findings
Awareness of Net Zero	Quarterly	Link
Concern about Climate Change	Quarterly	Link

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 Winter 2021, 91% of the public were aware of the concept of Net Zero, a significant increase from Autumn 2021 (87%) (Figure 1.1). The public’s level of knowledge about Net Zero also increased significantly in this period, with 50% of people in Winter 2021 saying they knew either “a lot” (15%) or “a fair amount” (35%) about the concept (compared with 46% who knew “a lot” or “a fair amount” in Autumn 2021). Overall, 9% of people had not heard of Net Zero in Winter 2021, a decrease from 13% in Autumn 2021.

Figure 1.1: Awareness of the concept of “Net Zero” (based on all people), Winter 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), Winter 2021 (3,705) (Asked Quarterly)

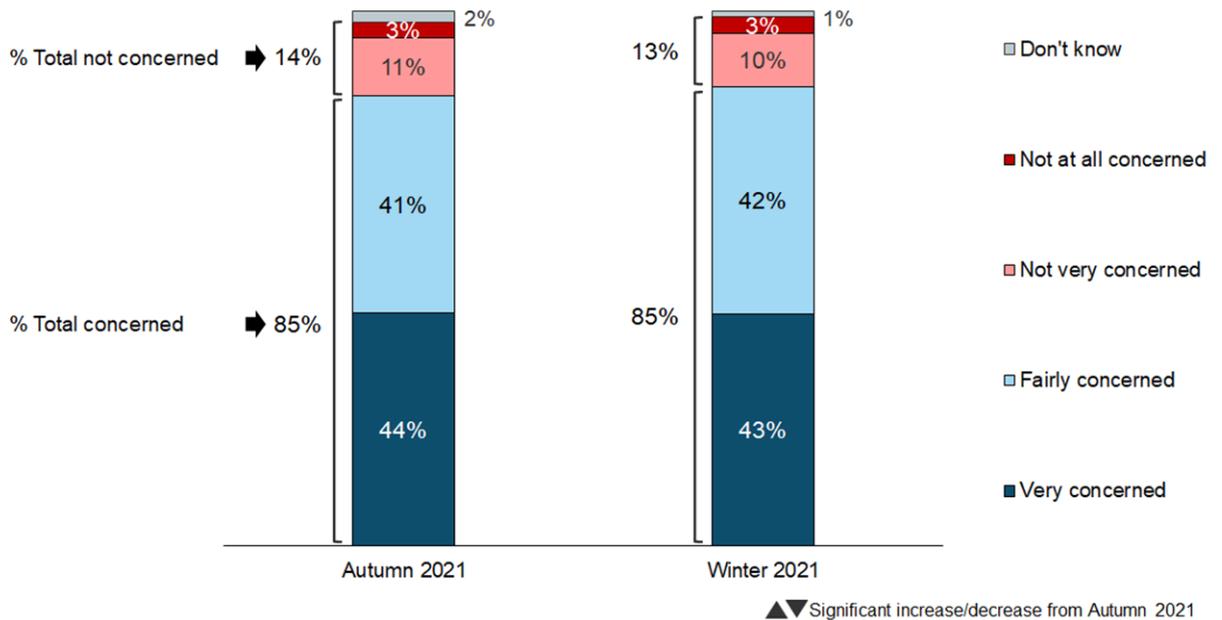
In Winter 2021, overall awareness of Net Zero was high among most subgroups although it was especially high amongst men (93%, compared with 89% of women), people aged 55 or over (94%, compared with 89% of people aged under 55), and people educated to degree level (96%, compared with 90% of those with other qualifications and 84% of people with no qualifications).

Although awareness of Net Zero was lower amongst people with no qualifications, there has been a notable increase in awareness amongst this group compared to Autumn 2021 (84% had at least some awareness of Net Zero in Winter 2021, compared to 76% in Autumn 2021).

Concern about climate change

In Winter 2021, 85% of people said they were concerned about climate change, with 43% saying they were “very concerned” and 42% saying they were “fairly concerned” (Figure 2.1). In contrast, only 13% of people said they were not concerned, comprising of 10% who were “not very concerned” and 3% who were “not at all concerned”. There was no change in levels of concern about climate change between Autumn and Winter 2021.

Figure 2.1: Concern about climate change (based on all people), Winter 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), Winter 2021 (3,701) (Asked Quarterly)

In Winter 2021, concern about climate change was higher for women (87%, compared with 83% of men) and people educated to degree level (90%, compared with 85% of those with other qualifications and 78% of people with no qualifications). These subgroup differences are consistent with those observed in Autumn 2021.



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