

BEIS Public Attitudes Tracker: Net Zero and Climate Change Spring 2022, UK

16 June 2022

Official Statistics

This report covers the quarterly questions on awareness of Net Zero and concern about climate change from the following three waves of the BEIS Public Attitude Tracker: Autumn 2021, Winter 2021 and Spring 2022.

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

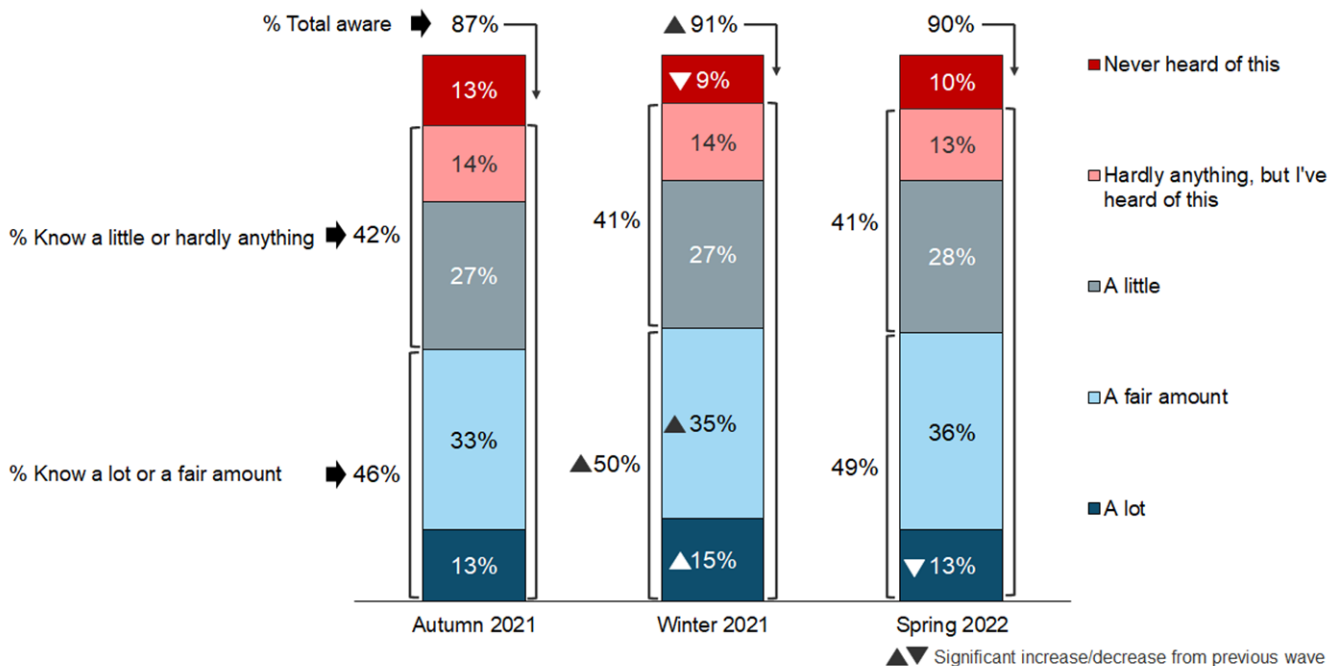
In June 2019, the government announced a new target which will require the UK to bring all greenhouse gas emissions to Net Zero by 2050. Before asking level of awareness, respondents were provided with a brief description as follows: *'The UK government is aiming to reduce UK greenhouse gas emissions 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'*.

In Spring 2022, total awareness of the concept of Net Zero stood at 90% of the public. This level was unchanged compared with Winter 2021, but represents a significant increase compared with Autumn 2021 (87%) (Figure 1.1).

In Spring 2022, about half (49%) said they knew at least a fair amount about Net Zero, while 41% knew only a little or hardly anything. The public's level of knowledge about Net Zero also increased significantly between Autumn 2021 and Spring 2022, with the proportion of people saying they knew at least a fair amount increasing from 46% to 49% over this period.

Overall, 10% of people had not heard of Net Zero in Spring 2022, a decrease from 13% in Autumn 2021.

Figure 1.1: Awareness of the concept of “Net Zero” (based on all people), Spring 2022



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), Spring 2022 (4,374) (Asked Quarterly)

In Spring 2022, overall awareness of Net Zero was high among most subgroups although it was relatively higher among men (93%, compared with 88% of women), people aged 45 or over (94%, compared with 85% of people aged under 45), and people educated to degree

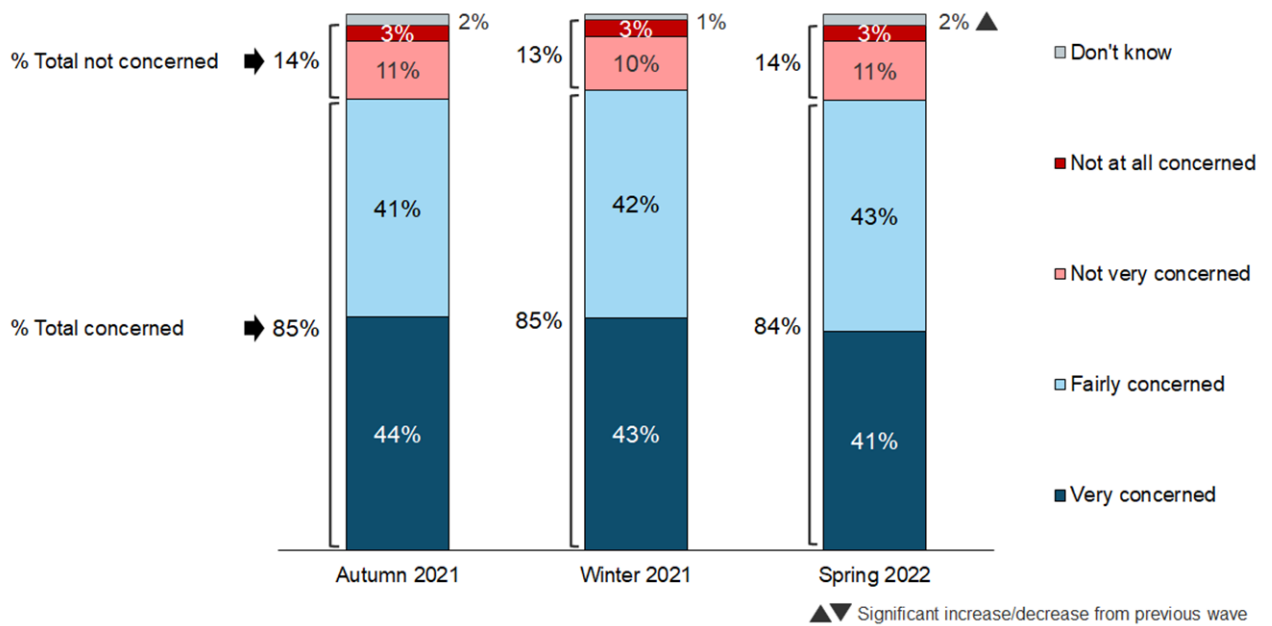
level (96%, compared with 91% of those with other qualifications and 81% of people with no qualifications).

There were similar patterns for level of knowledge about Net Zero, but with larger differences by sex and education. The proportion saying they knew a lot or a fair amount was much higher among men (61% compared with 38% of women), and people educated to degree level (67%, compared with 46% of those with other qualifications and 31% of people with no qualifications).

Concern about climate change

In Spring 2022, 84% of people said that they were concerned about climate change, with 41% saying they were “very concerned” and 43% saying they were “fairly concerned” (Figure 2.1). Overall, 14% said they were either not very concerned (11%) or not at all concerned (3%). The overall level of concern was similar to Autumn and Winter 2021 (85%).

Figure 2.1: Concern about climate change (based on all people), Spring 2022



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), Spring 2022 (4,375) (Asked Quarterly)

In Spring 2022, overall concern about climate change was higher for women (86%, compared with 81% of men) and people educated to degree level (90%, compared with 84% of those with other qualifications and 75% of people with no qualifications).



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