

SOUTH TEXAS ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT CENTERSouthTexasEconomy.com

SURVEY OF BUSINESS CONDITIONS

2016 Quarter 2

Released on 7/1/2016

SUMMARY

Business confidence is the bellwether of the future direction of an economy. According to the latest *Survey of Business Conditions* for Corpus Christi, the overall business environment has continued to improve so far this year. While weak sales still plagued local businesses in the second quarter, the great majority of respondents held a positive outlook by year's end.

A brighter economic outlook is supported by substantial increases in the shares of respondents who indicated an improvement in business conditions or sales, as well as the shares of those expecting further improvement within the next six months. The proportion of businesses either hiring more staff or investing in new equipment also increased from the first to second quarter of this year.

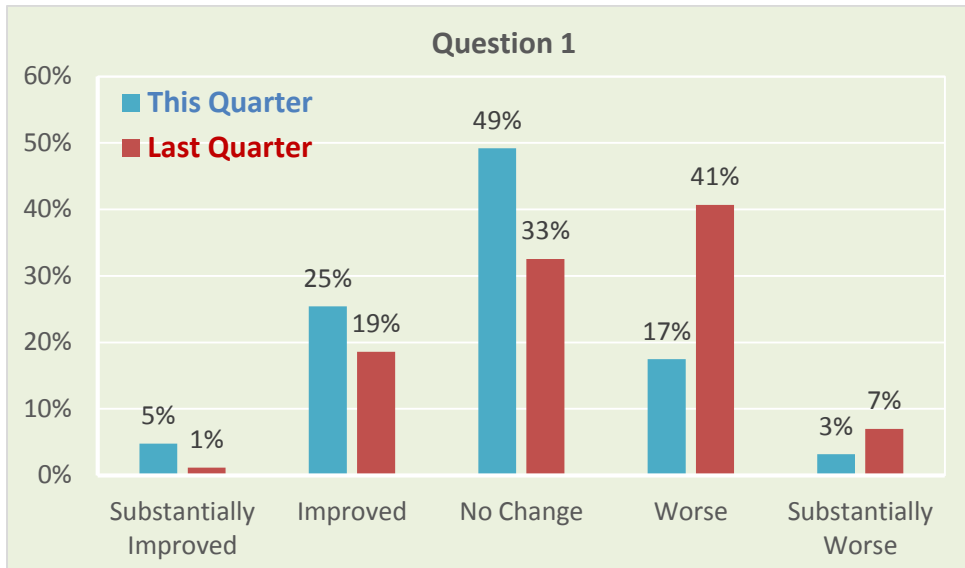
Among different potential business obstacles, financing continued to be of least concern. On the contrary, more than half of the respondents faced weak business activity, and nearly 30 percent viewed stringent government regulations, including provisions associated with the Affordable Care and Dodd-Frank Acts, as key impediments to business growth.

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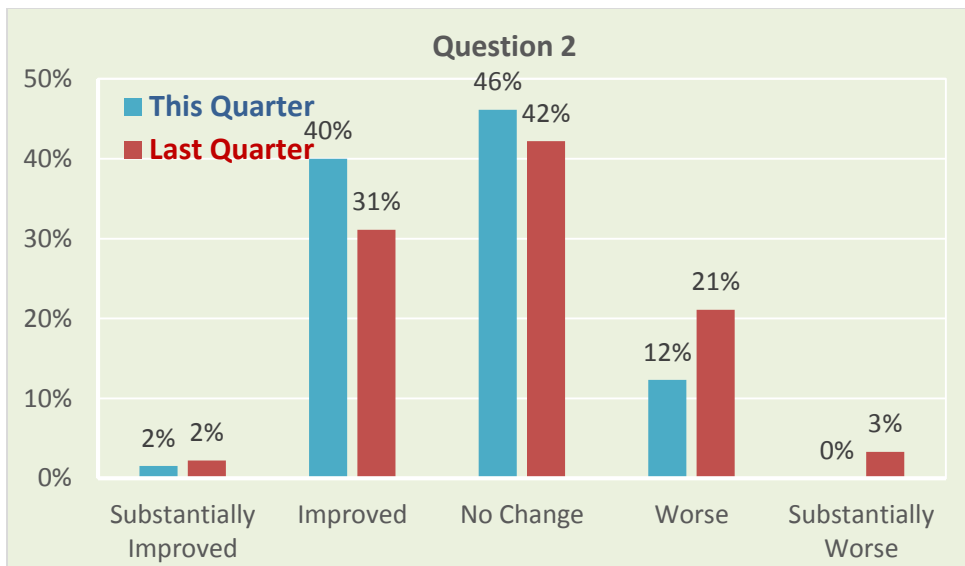
URL for the online survey: <http://tinyurl.com/stxoutlook>

Survey results are posted quarterly at SouthTexasEconomy.com. The last survey generated a total of 66 responses. For questions, please contact Jim Lee at jlee@tamucc.edu.

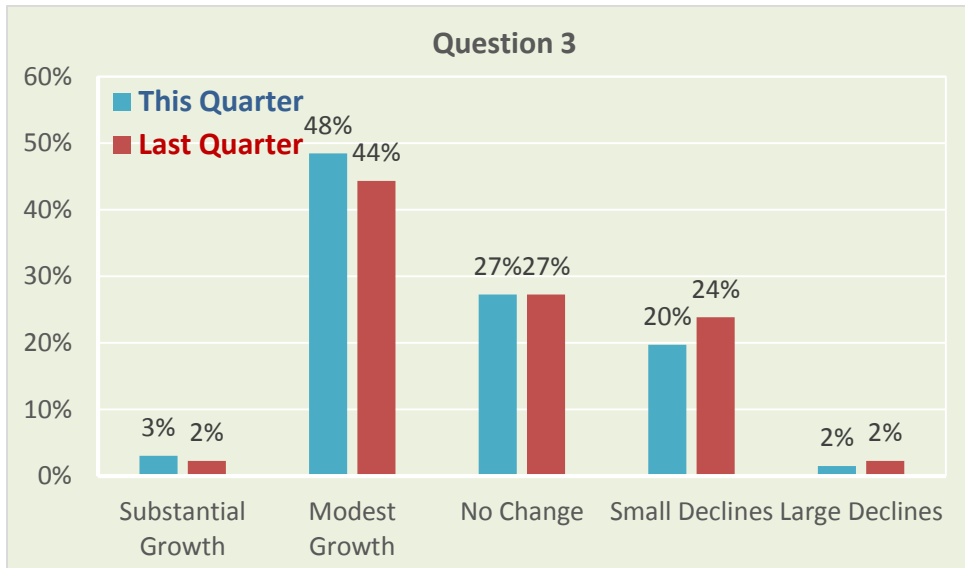
1. How have overall business conditions changed since the last time you responded to this survey (or the last 3 months)?



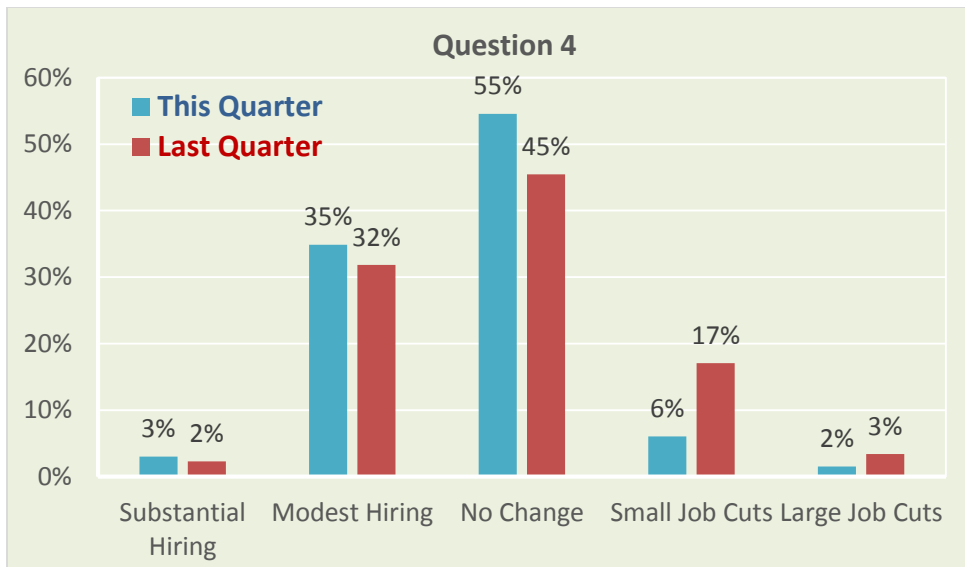
2. How do you expect overall business conditions to change over the next 6 months?



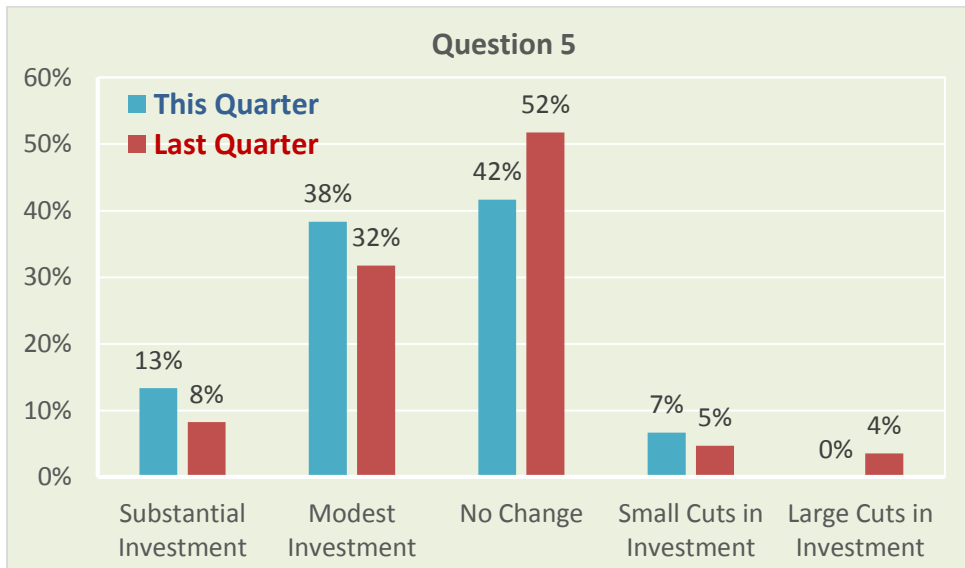
3. What changes in your company's sales or business activity do you expect over the next 6 months?



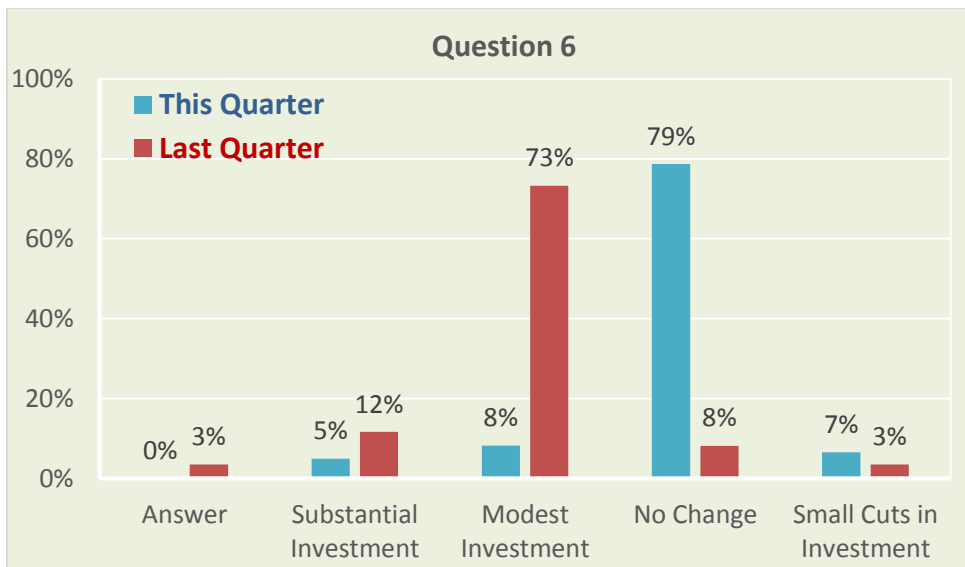
4. Is your company hiring?



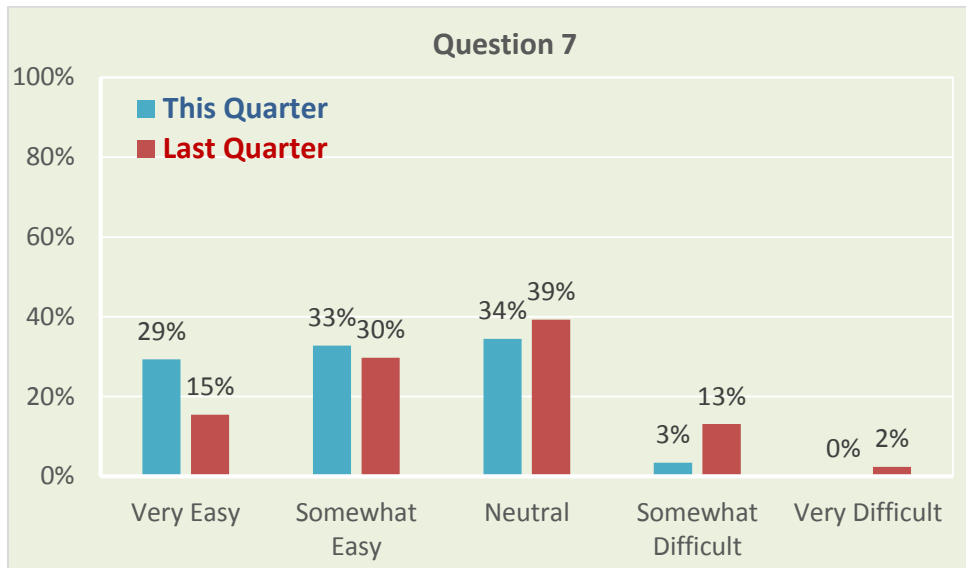
5. Is your company investing in new equipment or software?



6. Is your company investing in new office or other space?



7. How easy is it for your company to obtain financing on reasonable terms?



8. What is the most significant problem facing your company?

