

SOUTH TEXAS ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT CENTERCorpus Christi
REGIONAL ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

SURVEY OF BUSINESS CONDITIONS

2016 Quarter 4

Released on 1/3/2017

SUMMARY

Business confidence is the bellwether of the future direction of an economy. According to the latest *Survey of Business Conditions* for Corpus Christi, almost three-quarters of survey respondents expected the overall business conditions as well as their own business to improve in the immediate future. A brighter outlook also induced relatively more businesses to invest in office space and new equipment.

Reversing the downtrend in 2015, responses concerning past and expected future business conditions tended to improve over the four quarters of 2016. Still respondents remained cautious about hiring. In the last quarter, slightly less than 30 percent of respondents would hire more employees, compared to 38 percent in the second quarter. According to various surveys in the past, labor costs and availability might have been the reasons for their reluctance to hire.

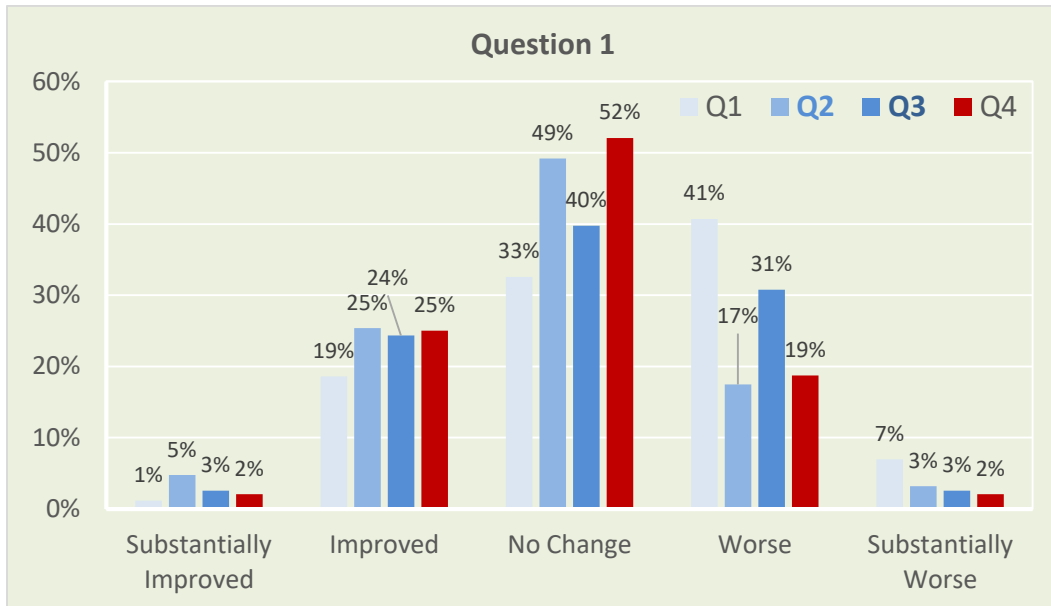
For 2016, weak sales were the top business challenge, followed by government regulations. In the latest quarter, relatively fewer respondents expressed concern about developments in the oil market.

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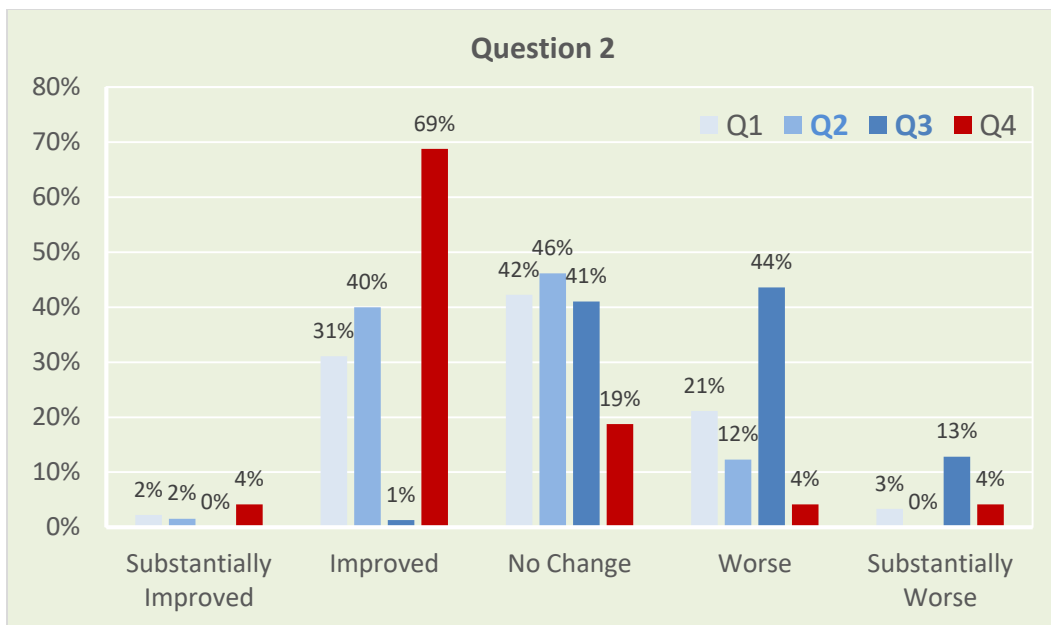
URL of the online survey: <http://tinyurl.com/stxoutlook>

Survey results are posted quarterly at SouthTexasEconomy.com. The previous survey generated a total of 53 responses. We appreciate the time of our participants and those who helped distribute this survey. For questions, please contact Jim Lee at jlee@tamucc.edu.

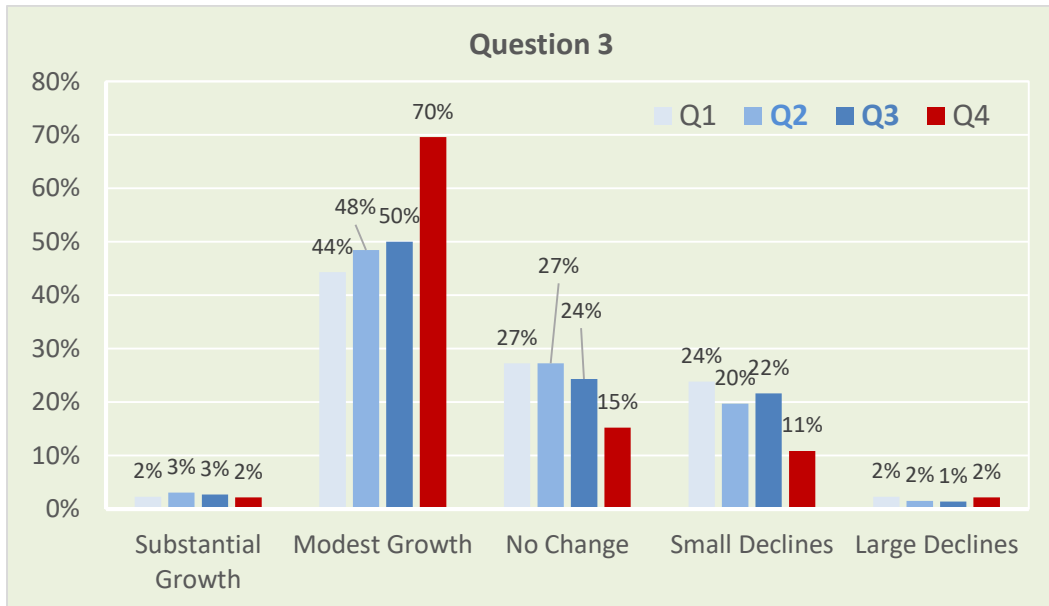
1. How have overall business conditions changed since the last time you responded to this survey (or the last 3 months)?



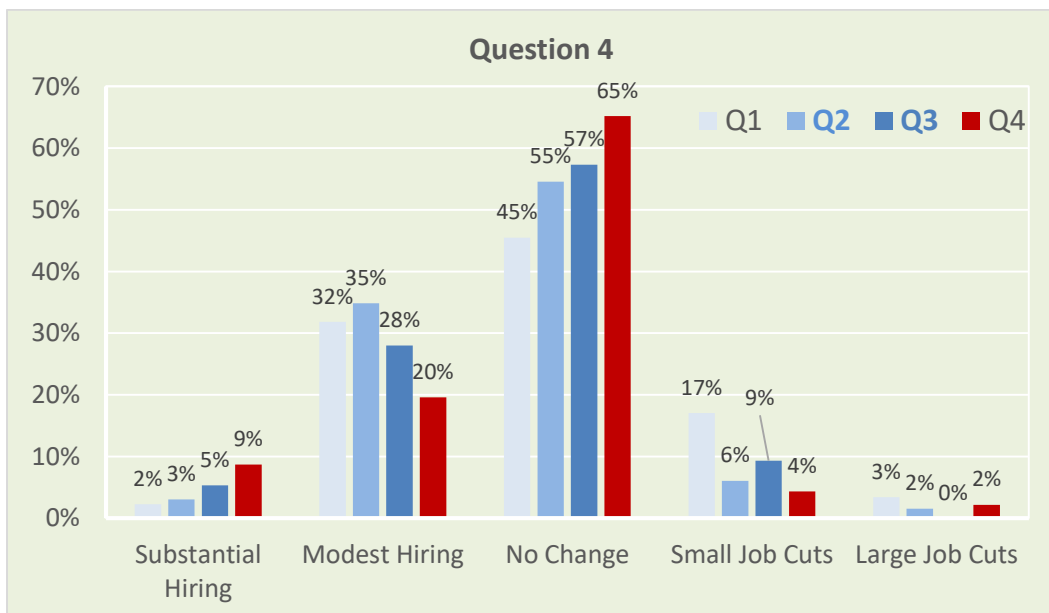
2. How do you expect overall business conditions to change over the next 6 months?



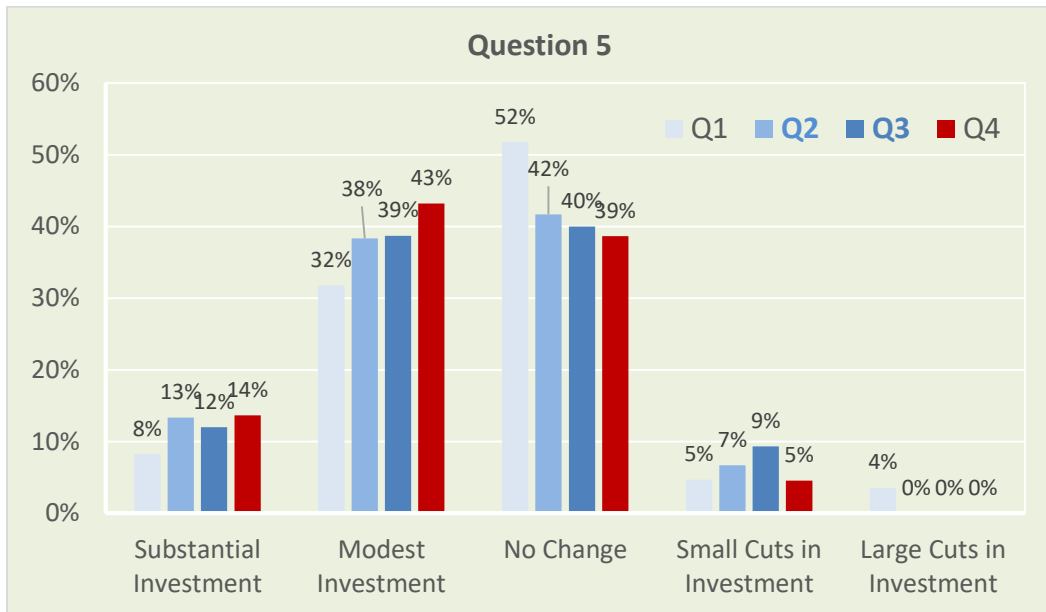
3. What changes in your company's sales or business activity do you expect over the next 6 months?



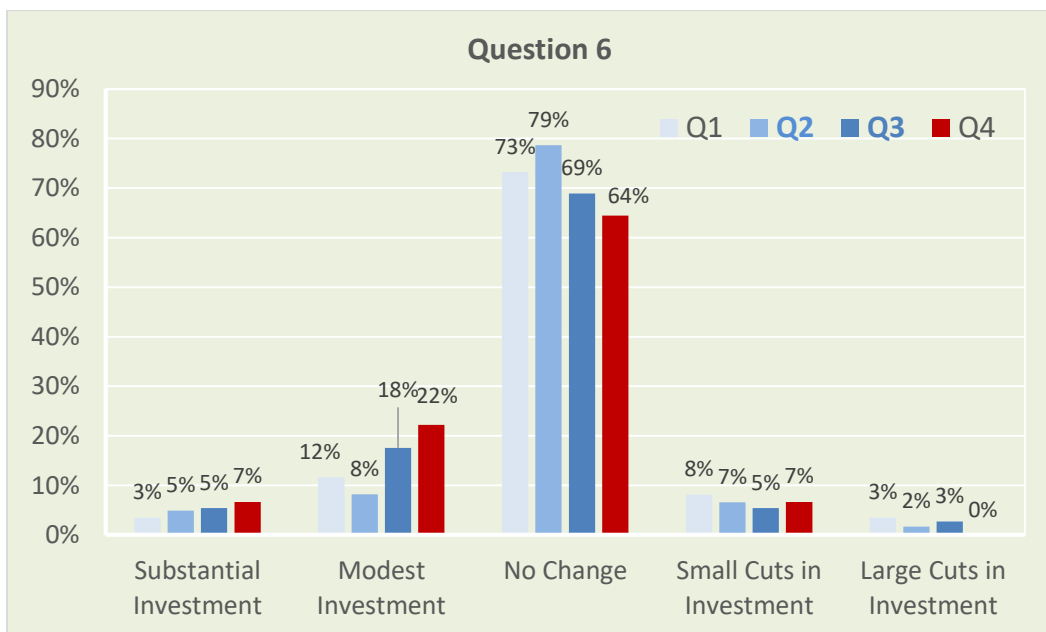
4. Is your company hiring?



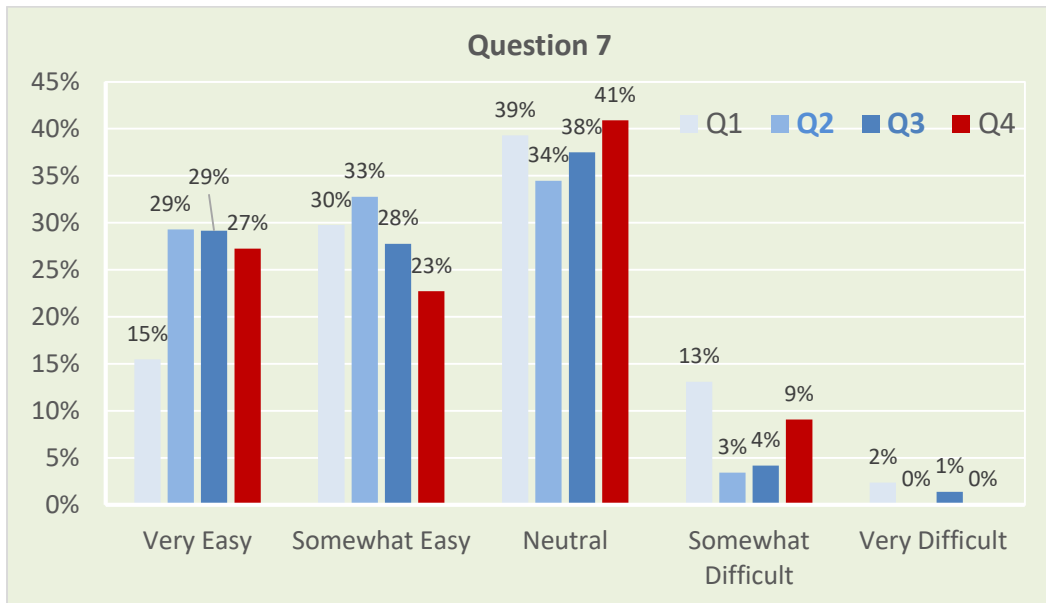
5. Is your company investing in new equipment or software?



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?

