

SOUTH TEXAS ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT CENTERCorpus Christi
REGIONAL ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

SURVEY OF BUSINESS CONDITIONS

2017 Quarter 1

Released: 4/1/2017

SUMMARY

According to the latest *Survey of Business Conditions* in Corpus Christi, the overall business environment and outlook continued to improve during the first quarter of 2017.

Proportionally more respondents also expressed an intention to hire new employees or invest in new equipment.

The overall results of this survey extended the upward trend throughout 2016, following persistent deterioration of the local economy in 2015. By the end of this March, less than 10 percent of business leaders in the survey had faced a less favorable business condition than last year. Nearly 80 percent of those respondents also expected business growth in the next six months. While their willingness to hire employees or invest in new equipment remained strong, the outlook for investing in long-term capital, such as office space, remained weak due in part to lingering economic uncertainty.

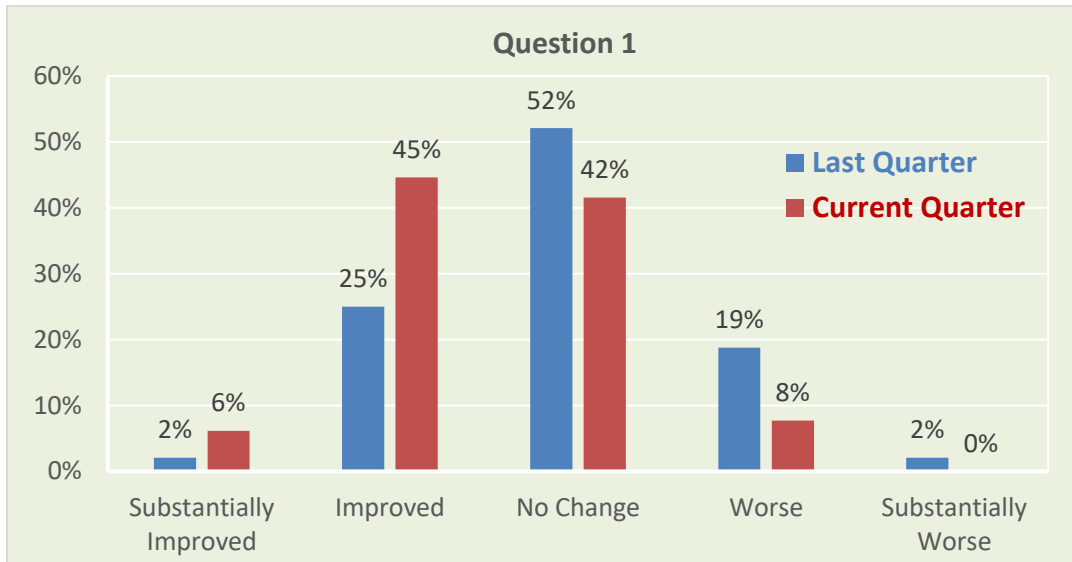
In this survey, relatively fewer respondents expressed concern about weak sales, the top business challenge last year. Instead there was a growing concern about labor costs and legal requirements.

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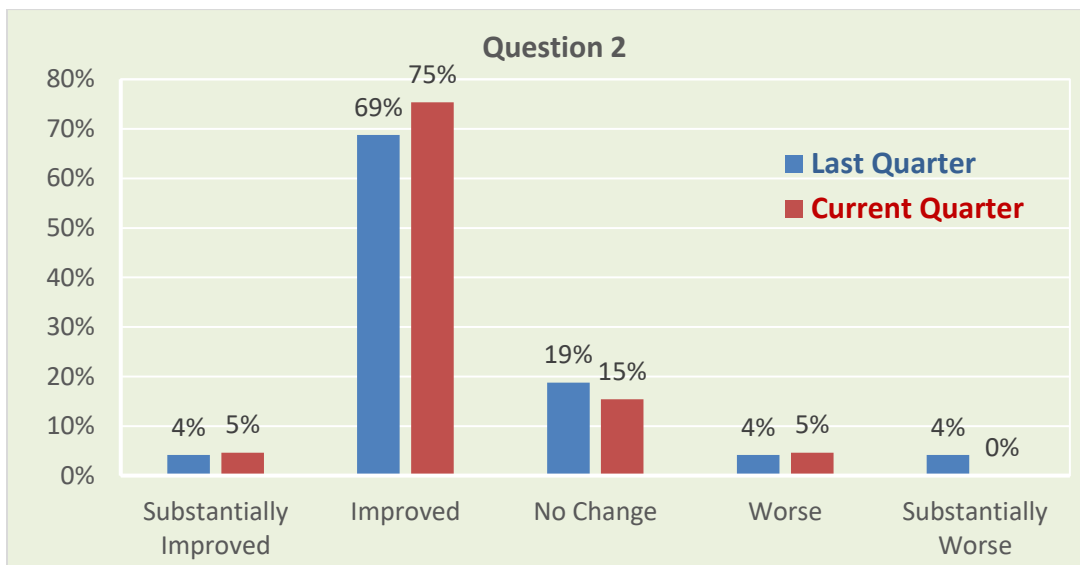
URL of the online survey: <http://tinyurl.com/stxoutlook>

Survey results are released quarterly at SouthTexasEconomy.com. The latest survey generated a total of 75 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.

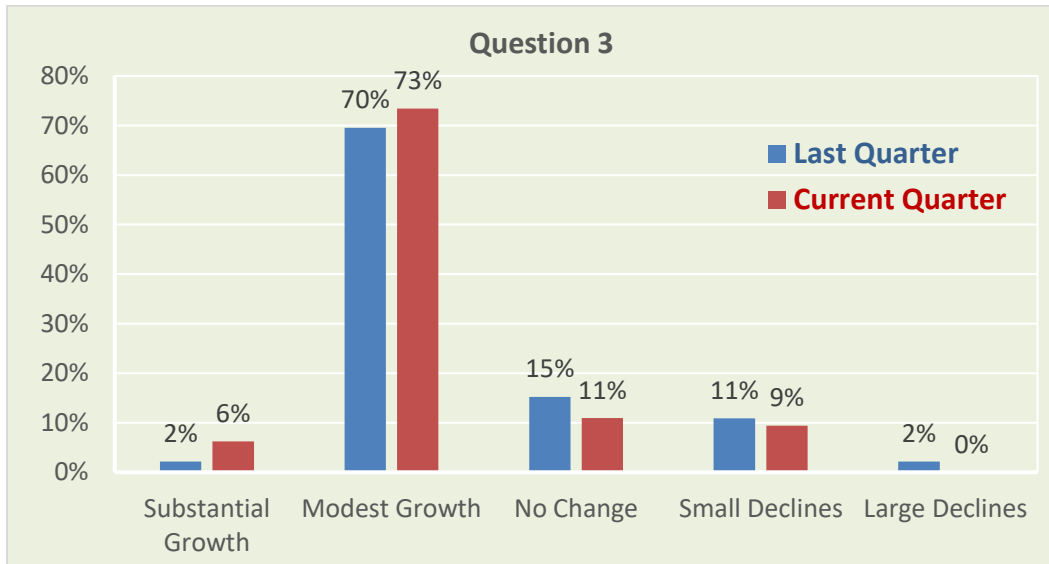
1. How have overall business conditions changed since the last time you responded to this survey (or the last 3 months)?



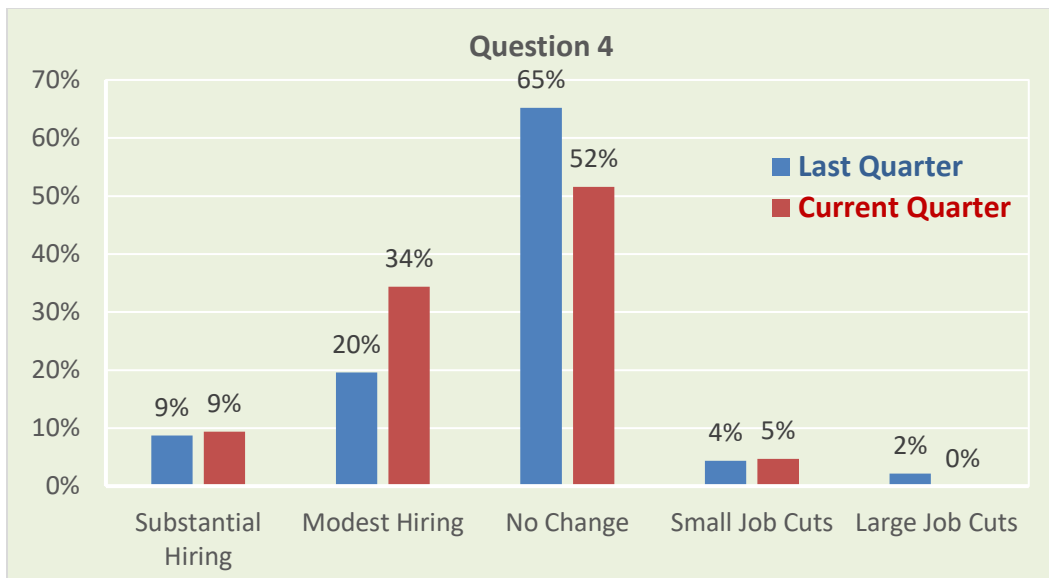
2. How do you expect overall business conditions to change over the next 6 months?



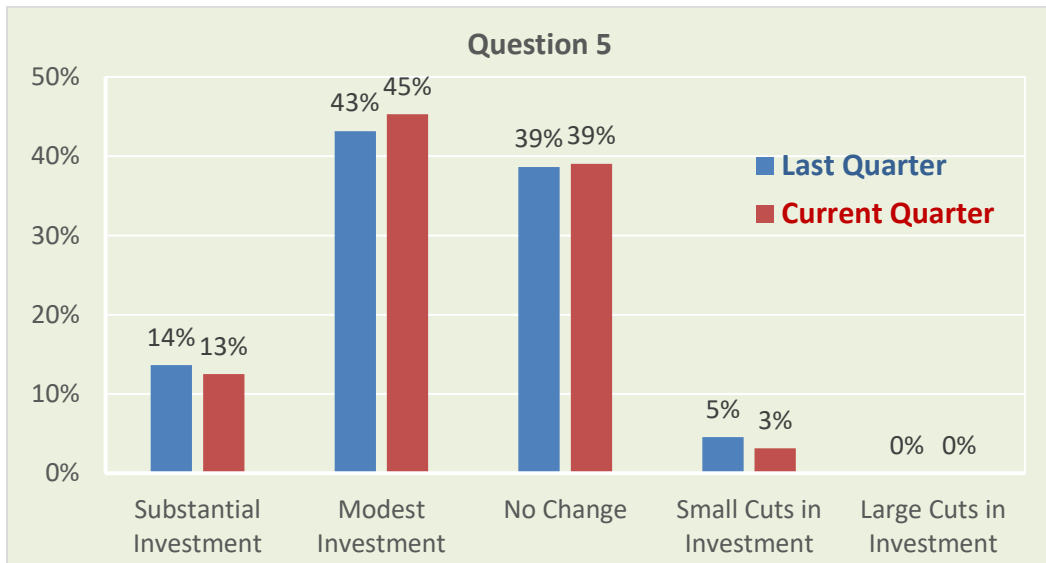
3. What changes in your company's sales or business activity do you expect over the next 6 months?



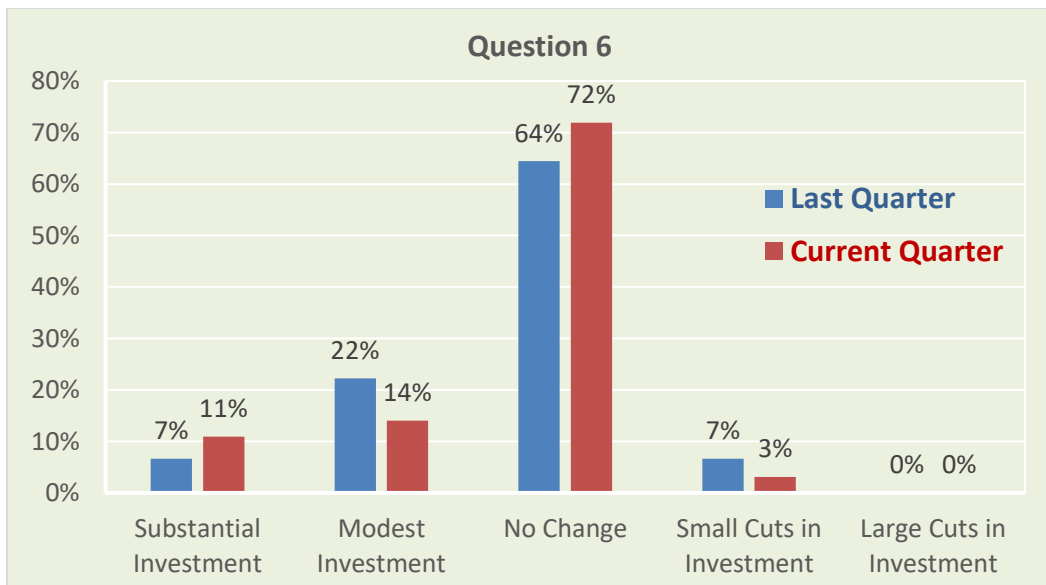
4. Is your company hiring?



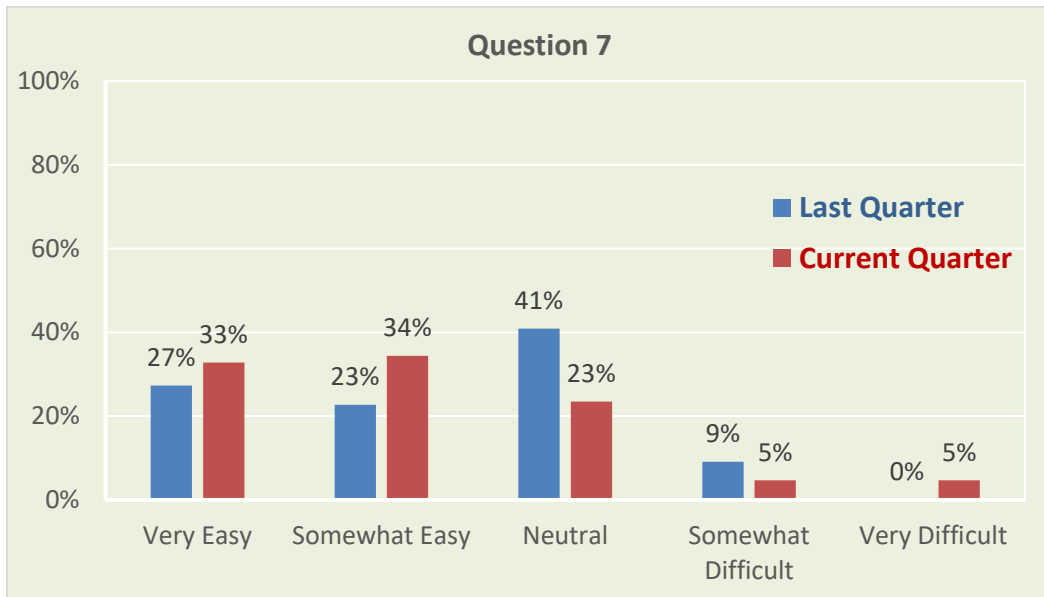
5. Is your company investing in new equipment or software?



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?

