

SOUTH TEXAS ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT CENTERCorpus Christi  
REGIONAL ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

# SURVEY OF BUSINESS CONDITIONS

## 2018 Quarter 3

Released: 10/1/2018

### SUMMARY

Overall, the business outlook remains positive for Corpus Christi, according to the latest *Survey of Business Conditions*. Economic fundamentals have strengthened after years of slowdown following the end of the oil boom in 2014.

Nearly 60 percent of survey respondents saw improvement in the overall business condition during the last quarter, and even more of them (70%) expected improvement to continue in the near future. The vast majority of respondents (79%) also held a positive outlook for their own business. Despite rising interest rates, the proportion of respondents expressing ease in obtaining a loan increased remarkably to 65 percent. This explains corresponding increases in businesses that indicated recent purchases of new equipment and other capital spending.

Hiring remains slow though, according to the survey. Many respondents deemed labor the top challenge facing their company. The area overall remains behind in meeting the workforce needs of local businesses. Other than qualified workers, another major concern is the regulatory and legal environment especially in the wake of Hurricane Harvey.

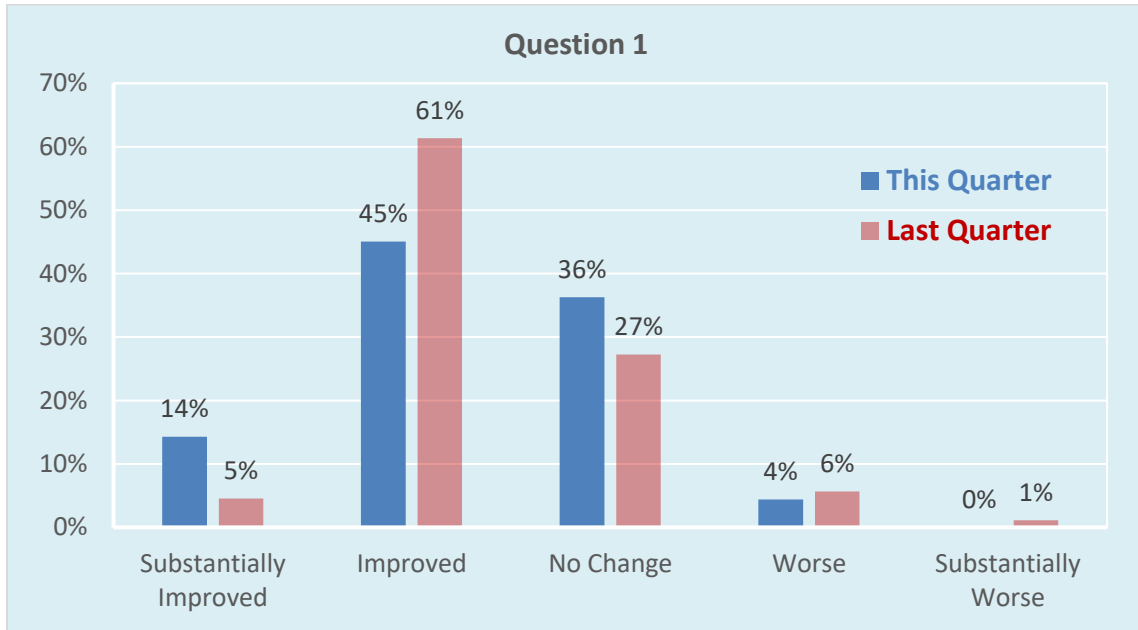
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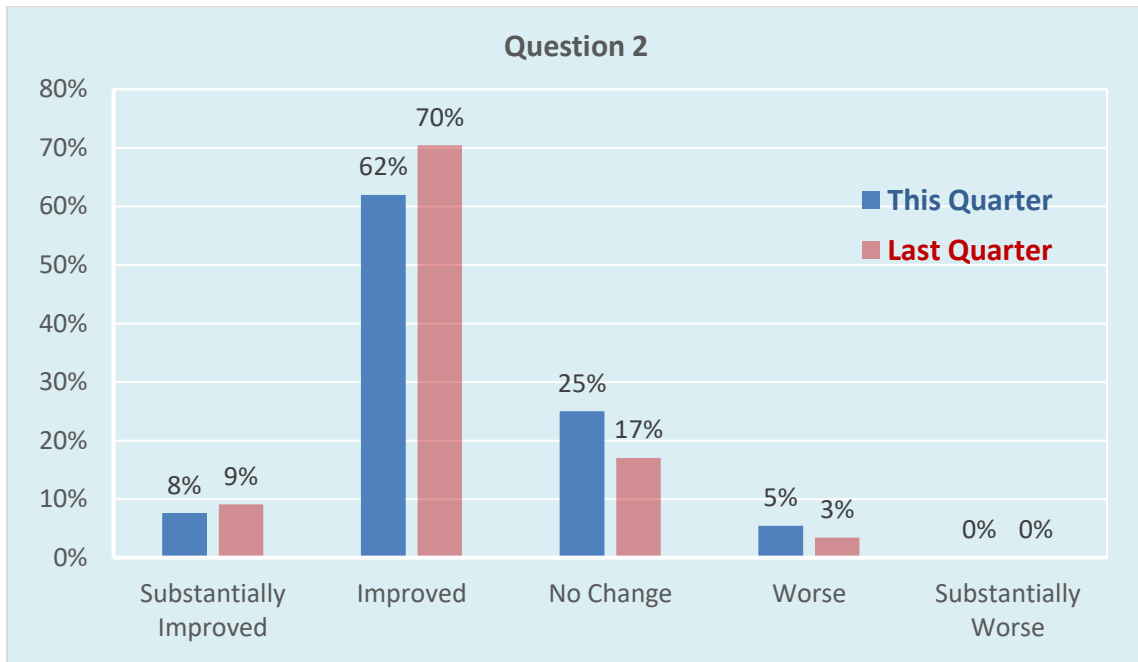
URL of the online survey: <http://tinyurl.com/stxoutlook>

Survey results are released quarterly at [SouthTexasEconomy.com](http://SouthTexasEconomy.com). This survey generated a total of 98 responses. We appreciate the time of our participants and our partners that helped distribute this survey. For questions, please contact Jim Lee at [jlee@tamucc.edu](mailto:jlee@tamucc.edu).

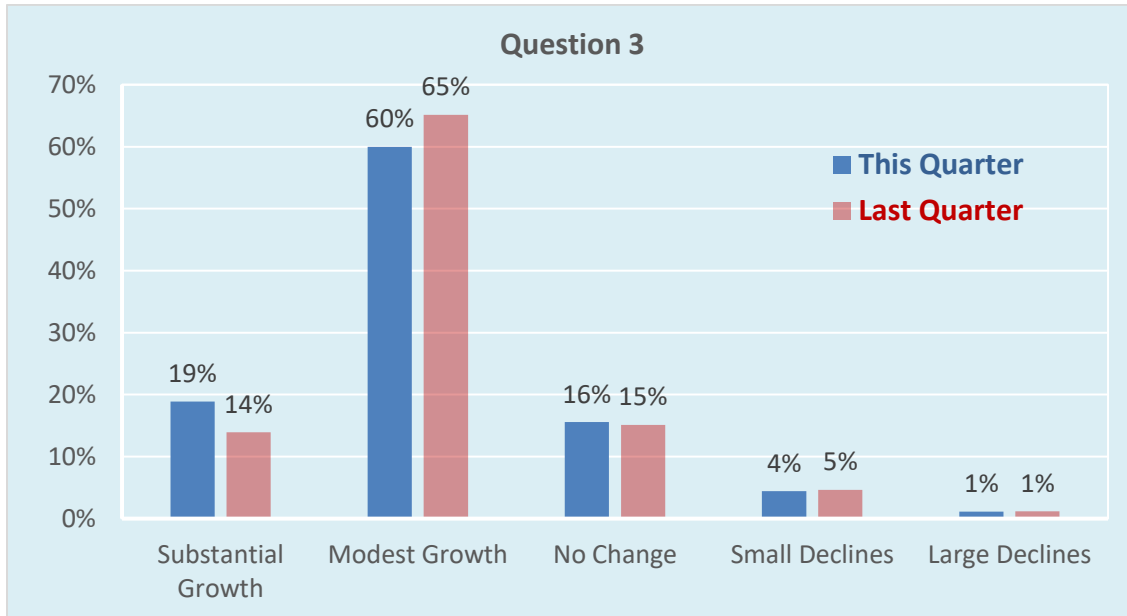
**1. How have overall business conditions changed since the last time you responded to this survey (or the last 3 months)?**



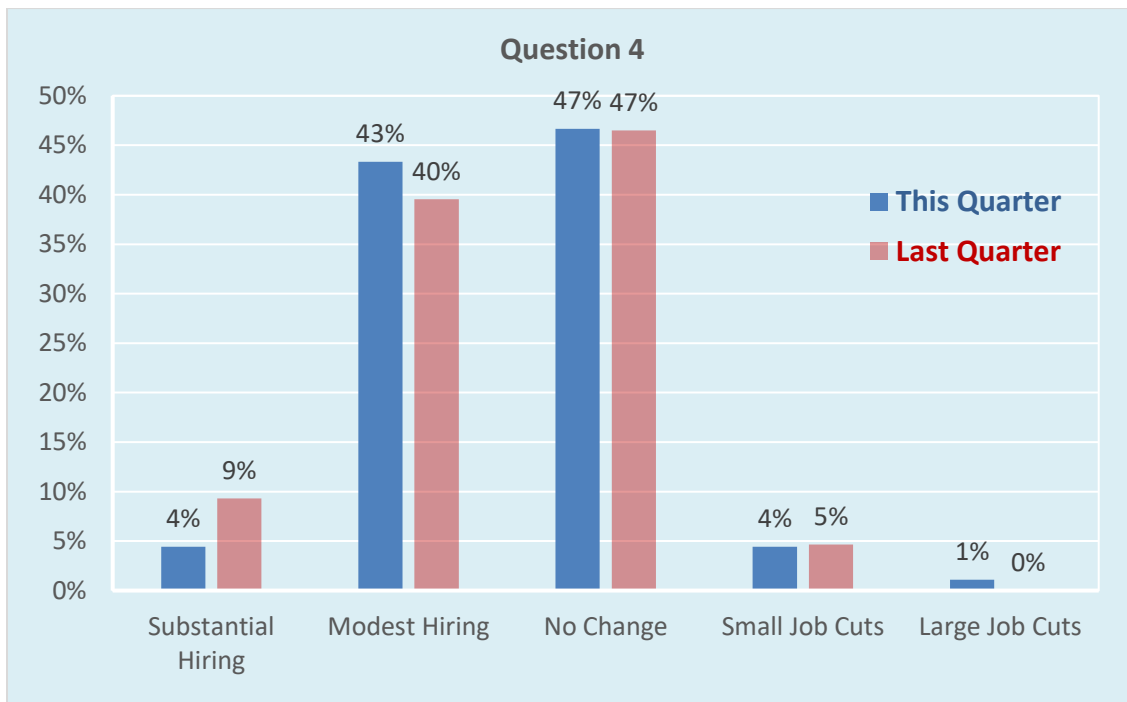
**2. How do you expect overall business conditions to change over the next 6 months?**



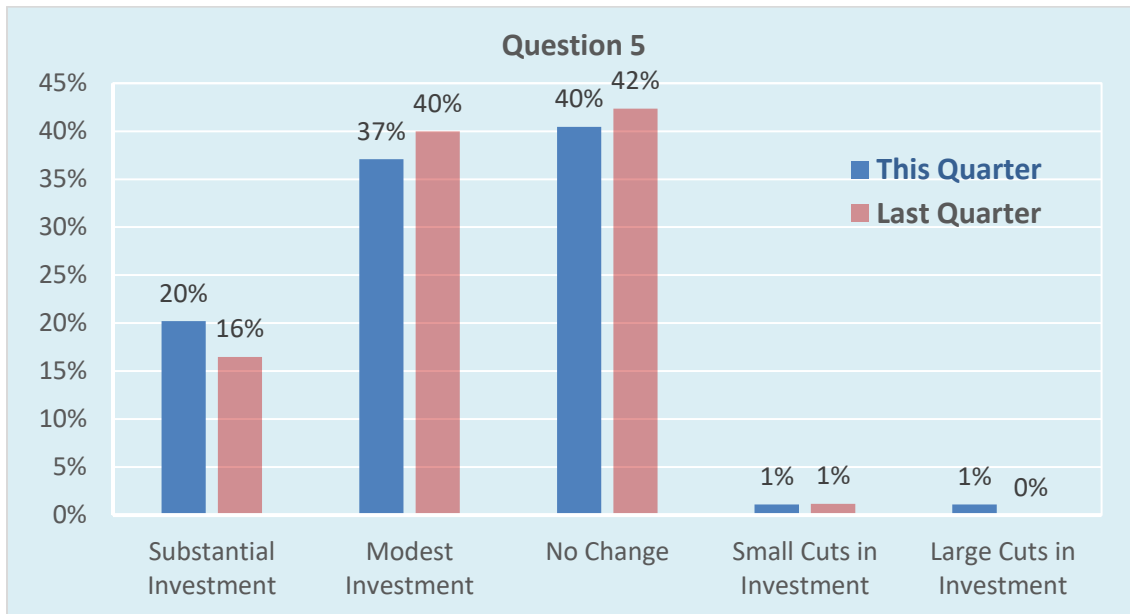
**3. What changes in your company's sales or business activity do you expect over the next 6 months?**



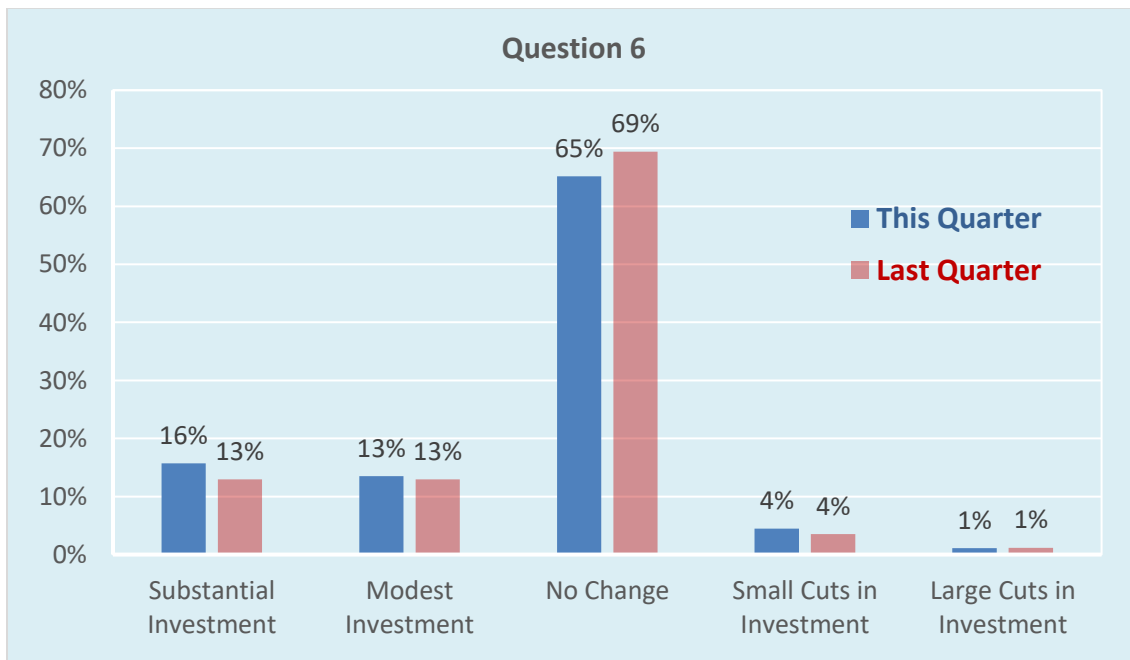
**4. Is your company hiring?**



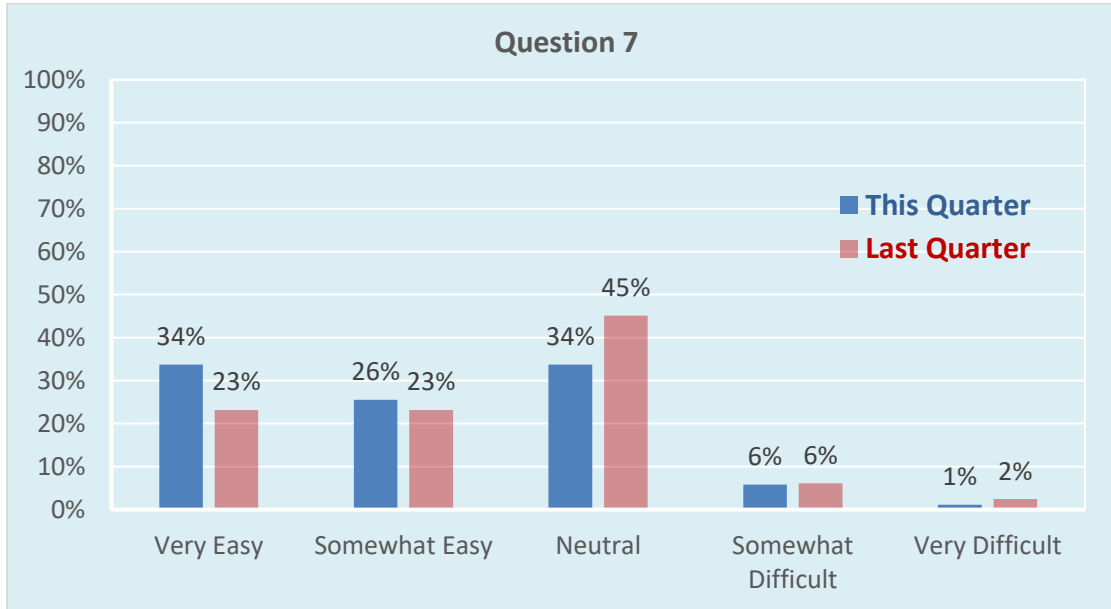
**5. Is your company investing in new equipment or software?**



**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?**

