

SOUTH TEXAS ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT CENTERCorpus Christi  
REGIONAL ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

# SURVEY OF BUSINESS CONDITIONS

## 2018 Quarter 4

Released: 1/1/2019

### SUMMARY

Local business conditions remained robust during the last quarter of 2018, according to the latest *Survey of Business Conditions*. Yet business owners have been increasingly concerned about the impact of falling oil prices on the outlook of the local economy.

Only 13 percent of survey respondents indicated worsening business conditions in the most recent quarter, as the area was experiencing the lowest unemployment in a decade. Half of the respondents had experienced better business conditions, and more than two-third of them expected improvement in the economy or their own business in the next three months.

Despite a relatively bright near-term outlook, hiring and capital investment remained relatively weak. Weak sales conditions became the top challenge. The majority of comments concerned the impact of falling oil prices on the local economy. Labor costs and availability remained a key issue for 24 percent of local businesses, as compared to 35 percent at the beginning of the year.

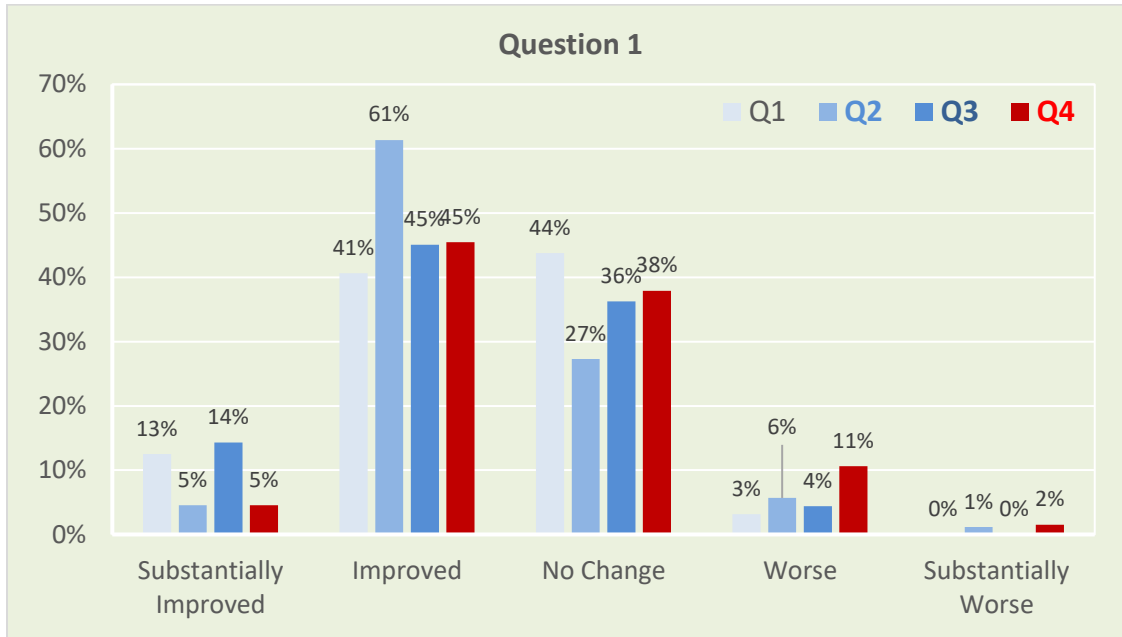
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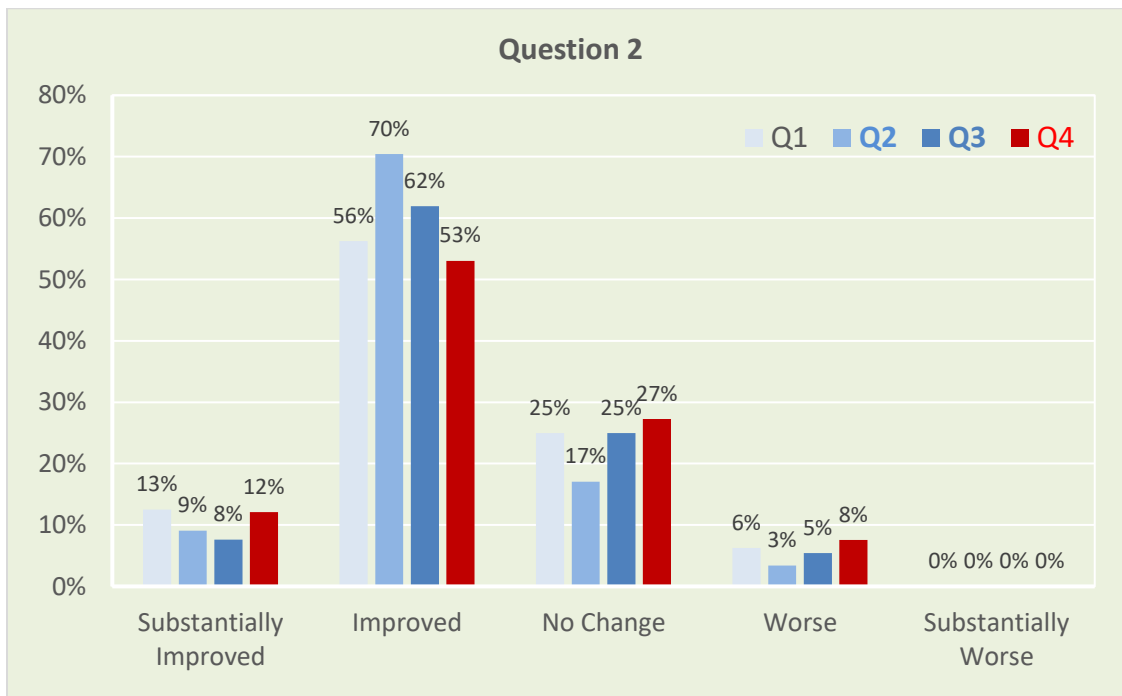
URL of the online survey: <http://tinyurl.com/stxoutlook>

Survey results are released quarterly at [SouthTexasEconomy.com](http://SouthTexasEconomy.com). The more recent survey generated a total of 72 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).

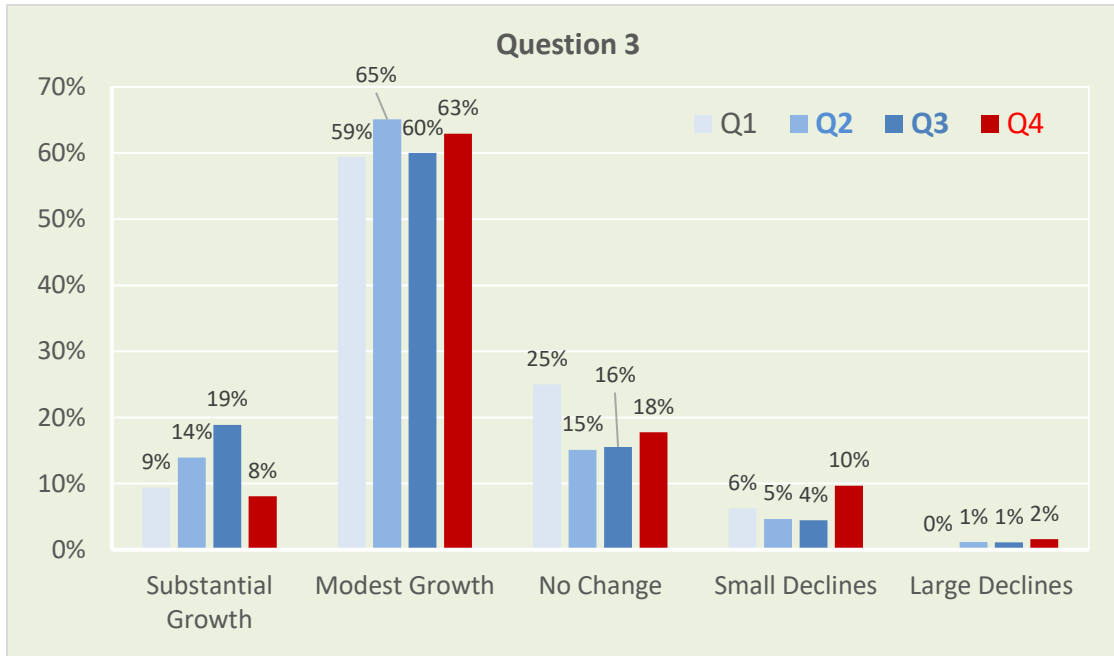
**1. How have overall business conditions changed since the last time you responded to this survey (or the last 3 months)?**



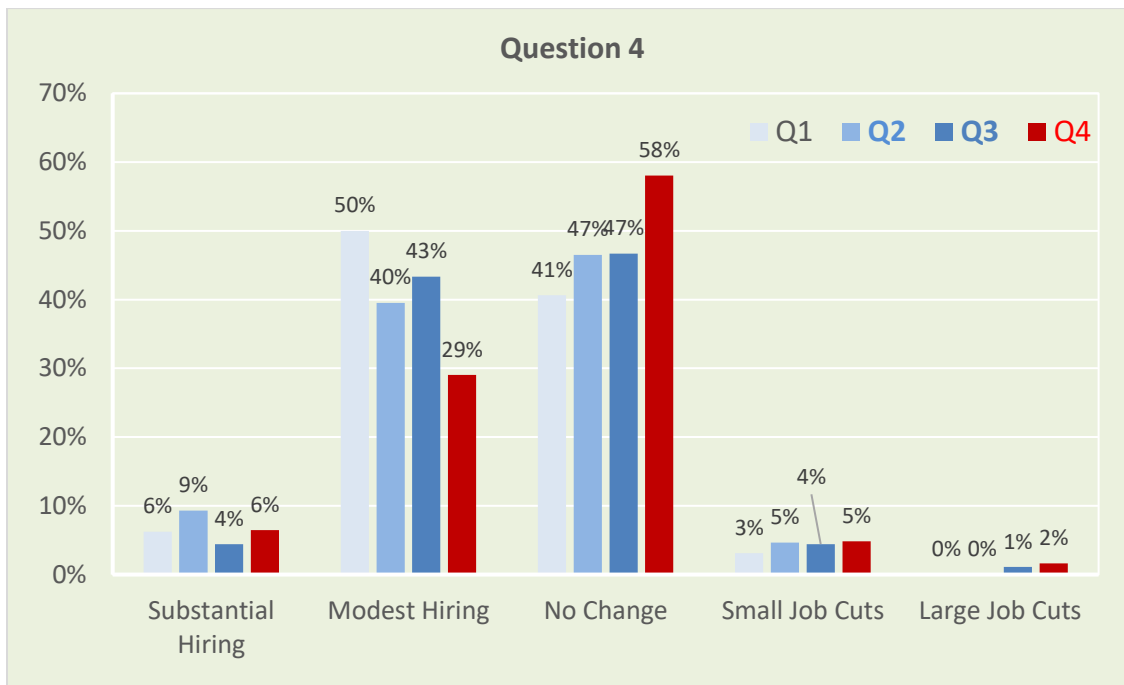
**2. How do you expect overall business conditions to change over the next 6 months?**



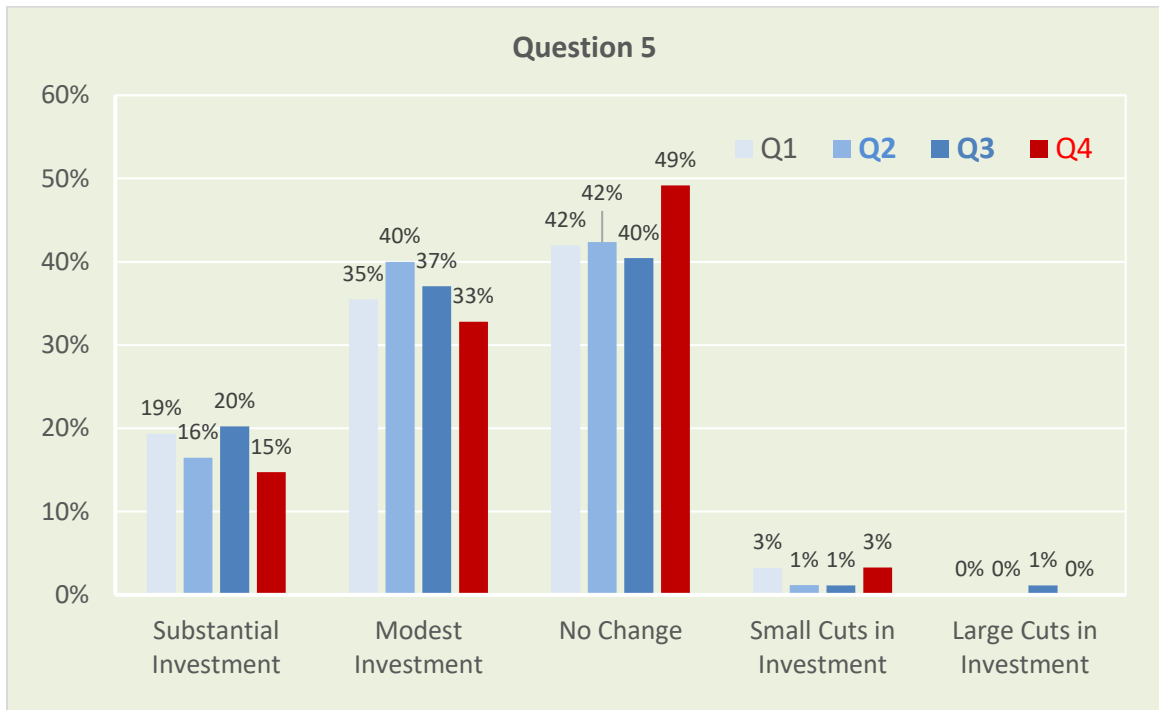
**3. What changes in your company's sales or business activity do you expect over the next 6 months?**



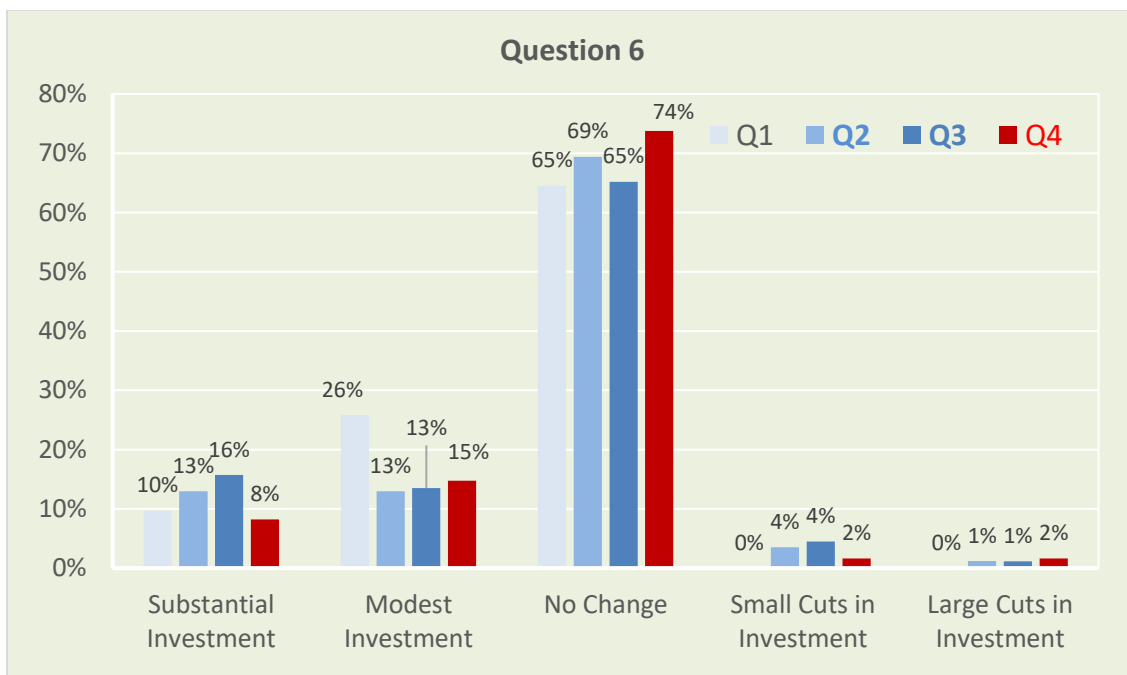
**4. Is your company hiring?**



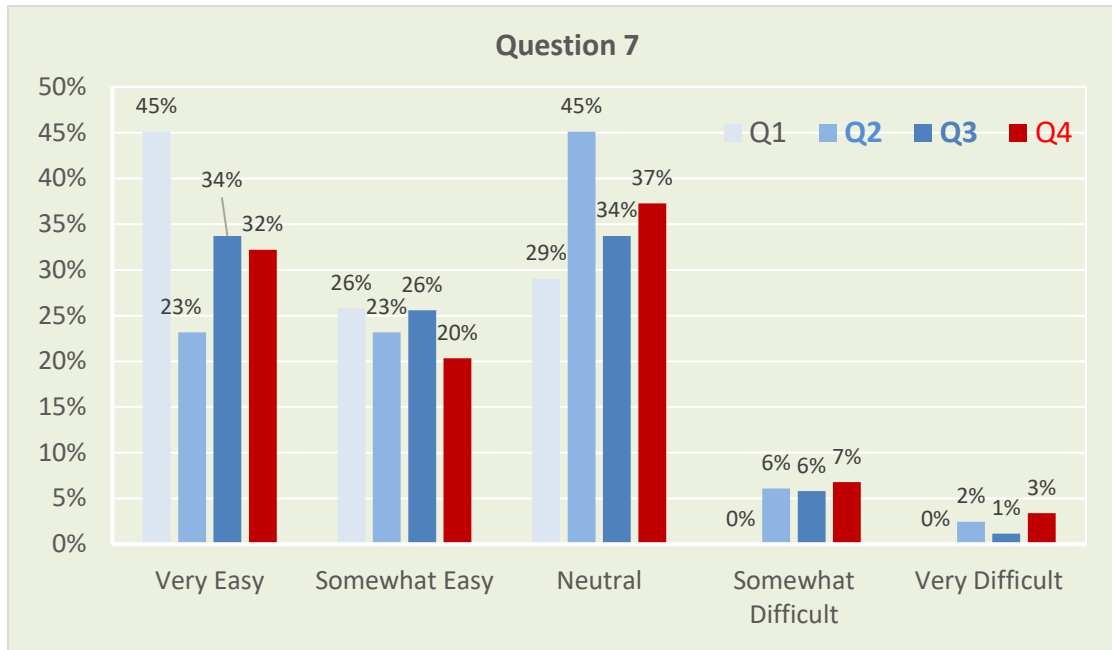
**5. Is your company investing in new equipment or software?**



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



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



**7. What is the most significant problem facing your company?**

