

SOUTH TEXAS ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT CENTERCorpus Christi
REGIONAL ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

SURVEY OF BUSINESS CONDITIONS

2019 Quarter 1

Released: 4/1/2019

SUMMARY

The outlook for business conditions in Corpus Christi has continued to improve, according to the first quarterly *Survey of Business Conditions* of year 2019. The vast majority of business owners also foresaw the bright economic outlook to continue over the next six months.

Increasingly more businesses held a positive outlook. More than half of survey respondents (54%) saw improved business conditions so far this year. The shares of respondents that expected improvement in their own business or the overall economy to continue in the near term also rose by more than 10 percentage points from the previous survey.

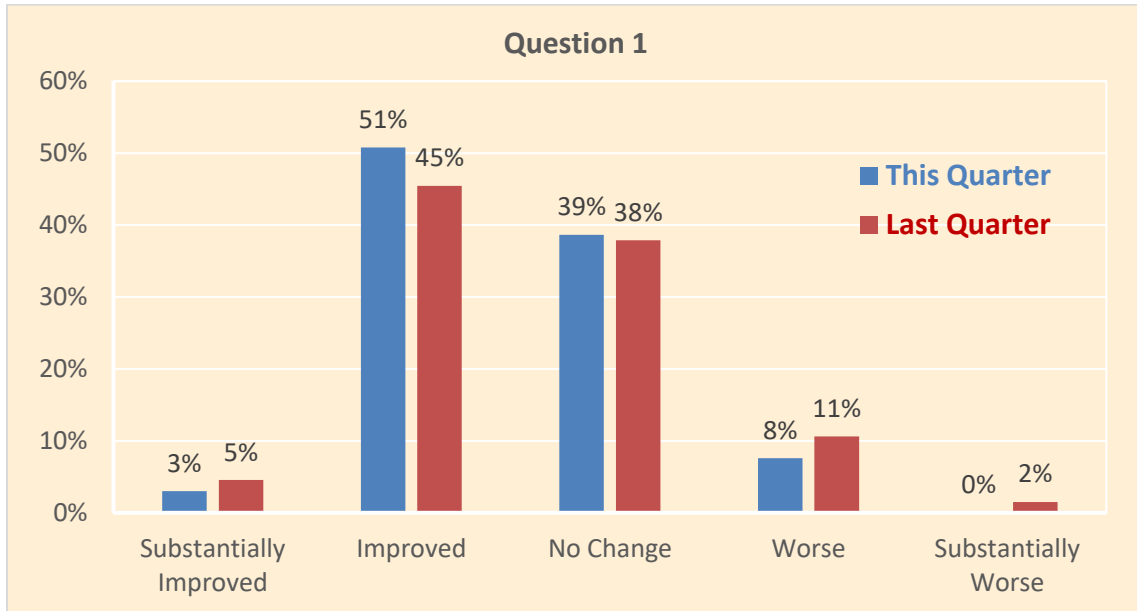
A remarkably upbeat near-term outlook might have raised the likelihood of more hiring and investment in equipment among businesses. Yet, amid a tight labor market across the nation, the availability of qualified workers and labor costs remained the top challenges for local businesses. Other concerns included the impacts of low oil prices on the local economy and the speed of community recovery from Hurricane Harvey.

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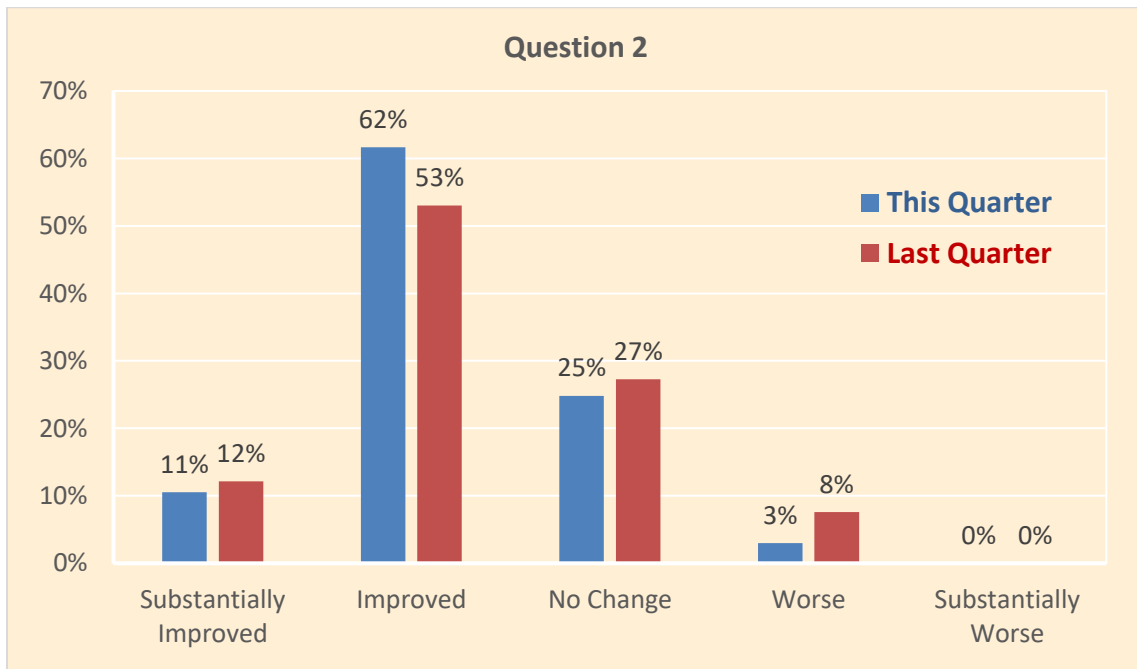
URL of the online survey: <http://tinyurl.com/stxoutlook>

Survey results are released quarterly at SouthTexasEconomy.com. The last survey generated a record number of 140 responses. We appreciate the time of our participants and our partners that helped distribute this survey. For questions, please contact Jim Lee at jim.lee@tamucc.edu.

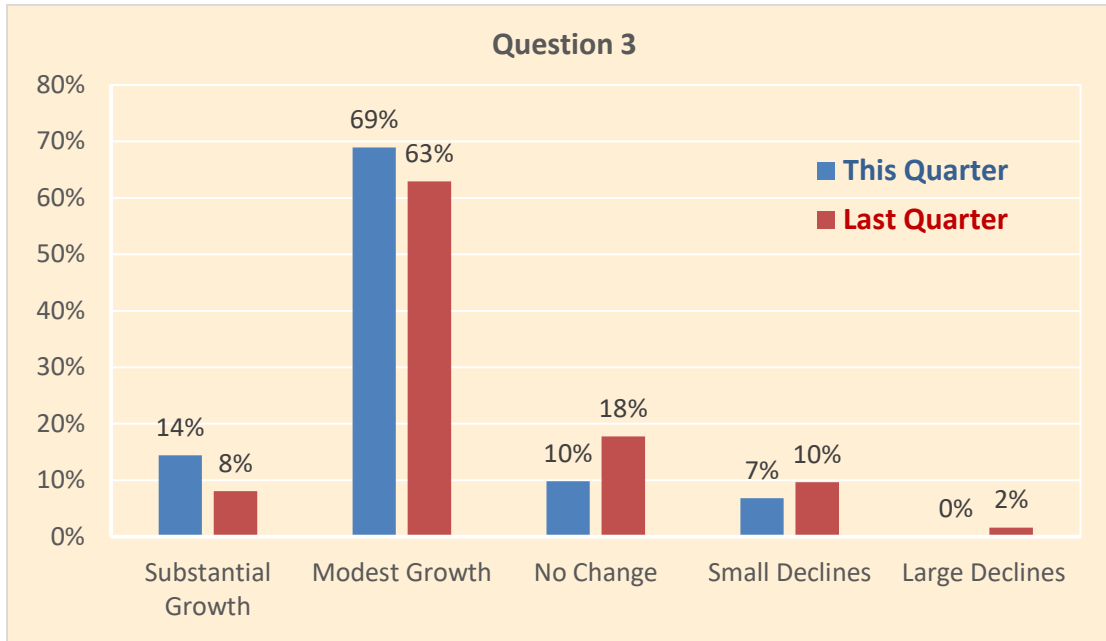
1. How have overall business conditions changed since the last time you responded to this survey (or the last 3 months)?



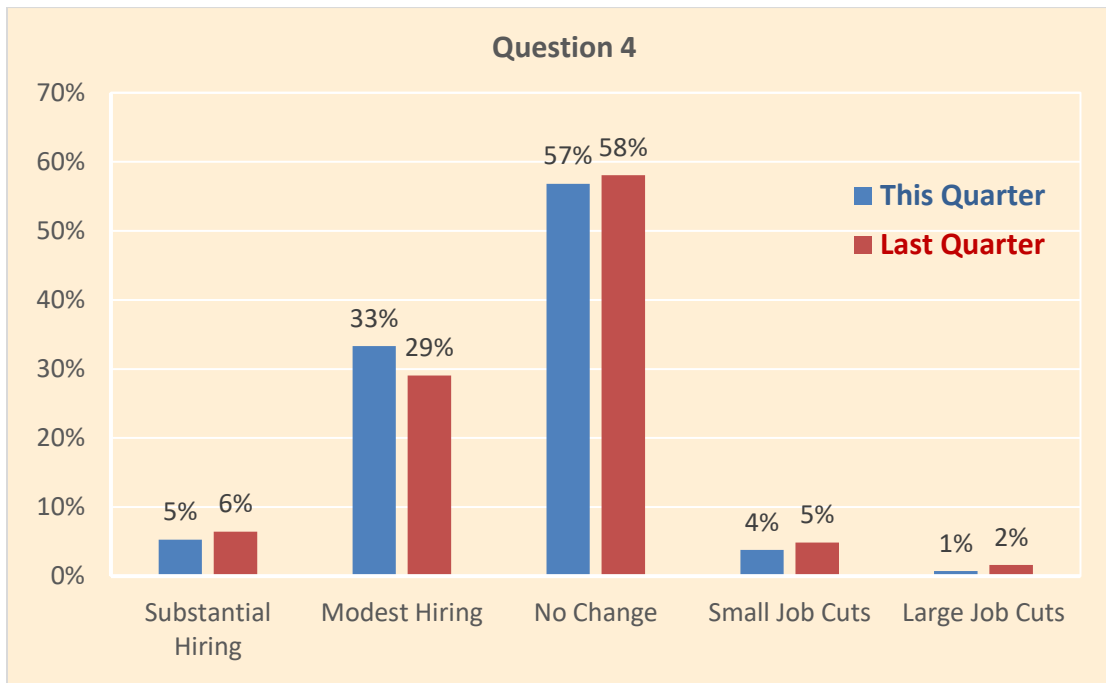
2. How do you expect overall business conditions to change over the next 6 months?



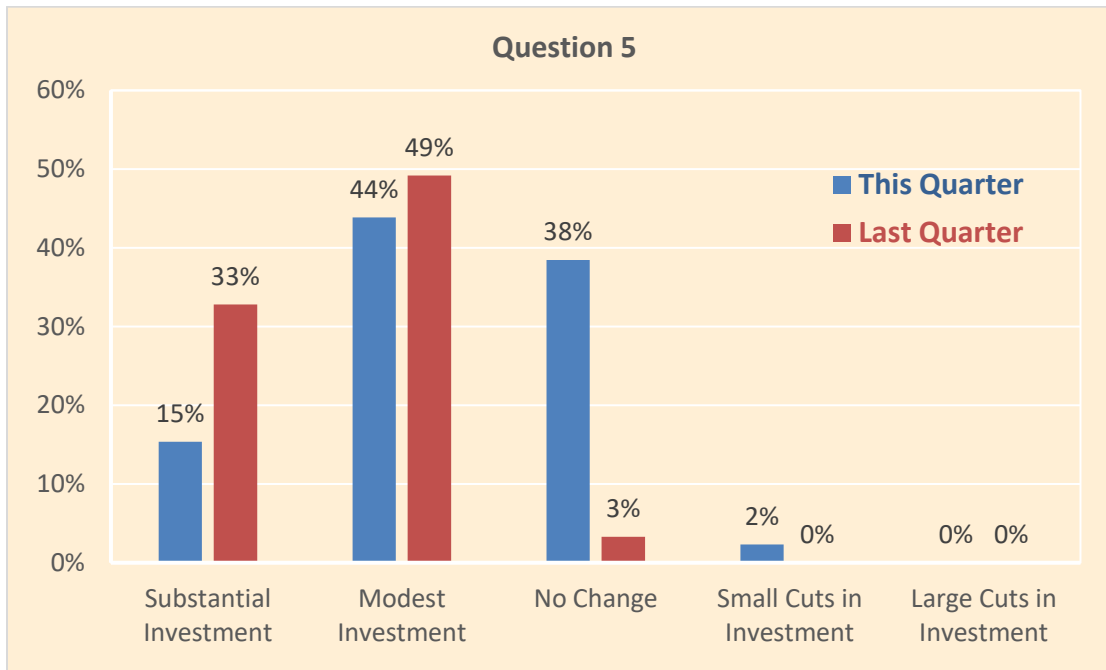
3. What changes in your company's sales or business activity do you expect over the next 6 months?



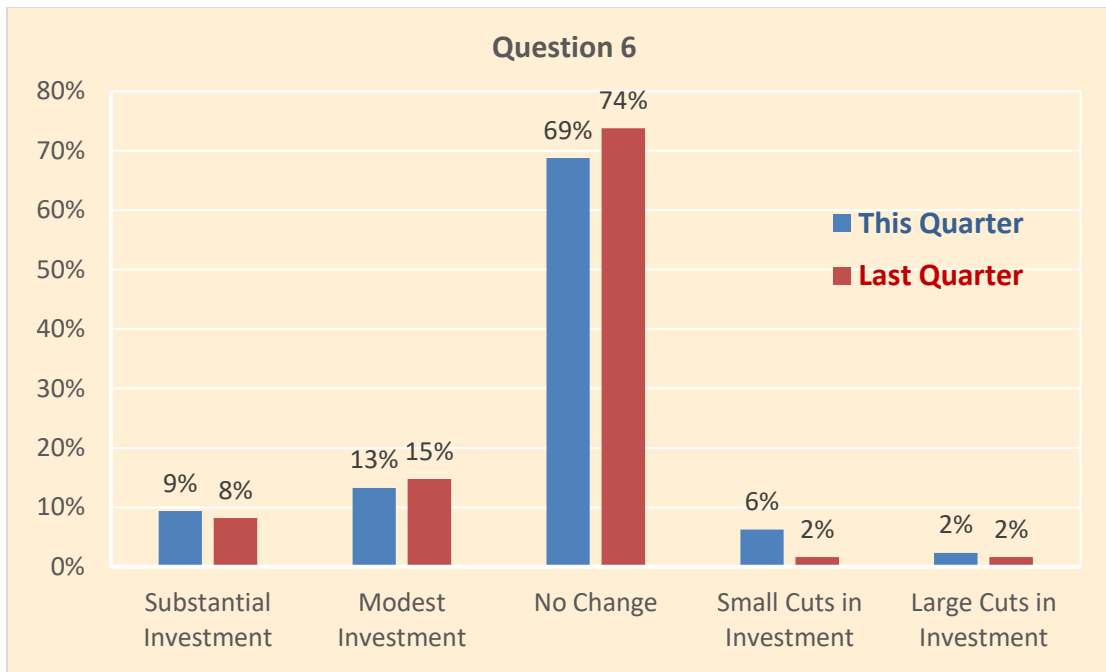
4. Is your company hiring?



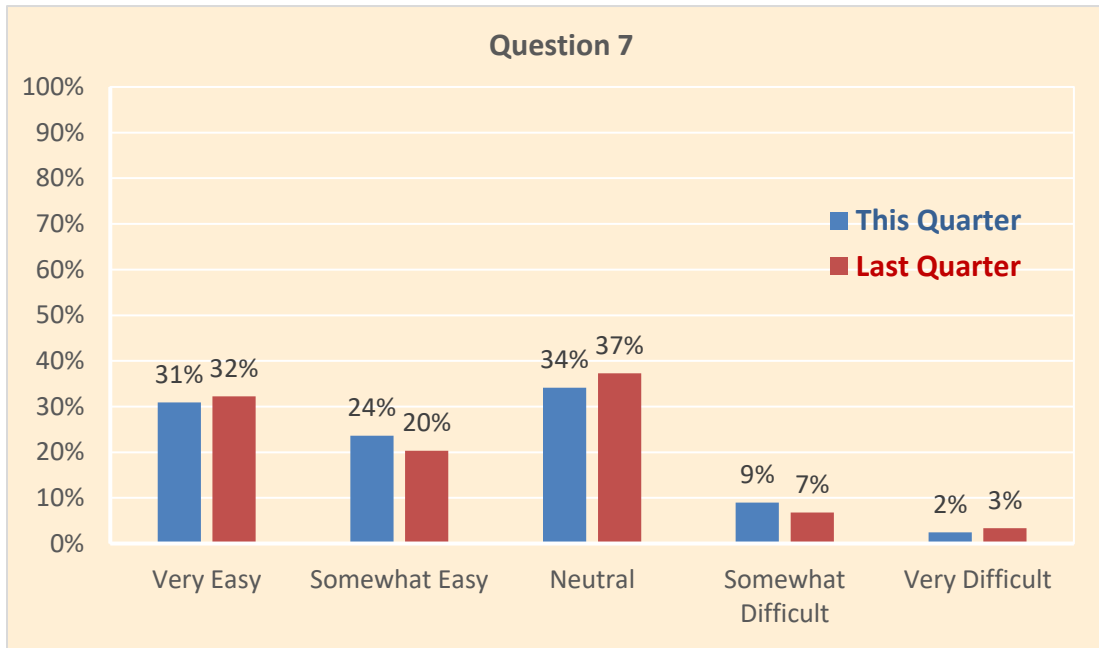
5. Is your company investing in new equipment or software?



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?

