

SOUTH TEXAS ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT CENTERCorpus Christi  
REGIONAL ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

# SURVEY OF BUSINESS CONDITIONS

## 2019 Quarter 3

Released: 10/1/2019

### SUMMARY

According to the most recent quarterly *Survey of Business Conditions*, local businesses have experienced a more mixed environment, which has also affected their near-term outlook. While more than one in three respondents (38%) saw their businesses improve or substantially improve during the second quarter, about the same number of them (33%) were concerned about weak sales as their primary challenge.

Reflecting a slowdown and heightened uncertainty about the national economy, the distributions of local businesses' views about their business conditions and the local market have become more mixed. The shares of respondents that expressed ease as well as difficulty in financing both increased remarkably. Still more than half of respondents indicated hiring and investment in new software and hardware.

Due in part to economic uncertainty, the share of respondents considering weak sales as their primary challenge rose 10 percentage points from the previous survey to 33%. Labor shortages continued to be a major concern for another one-third (33%) of respondents. Participants' comments reflect both strengths and weaknesses of the regional economy.

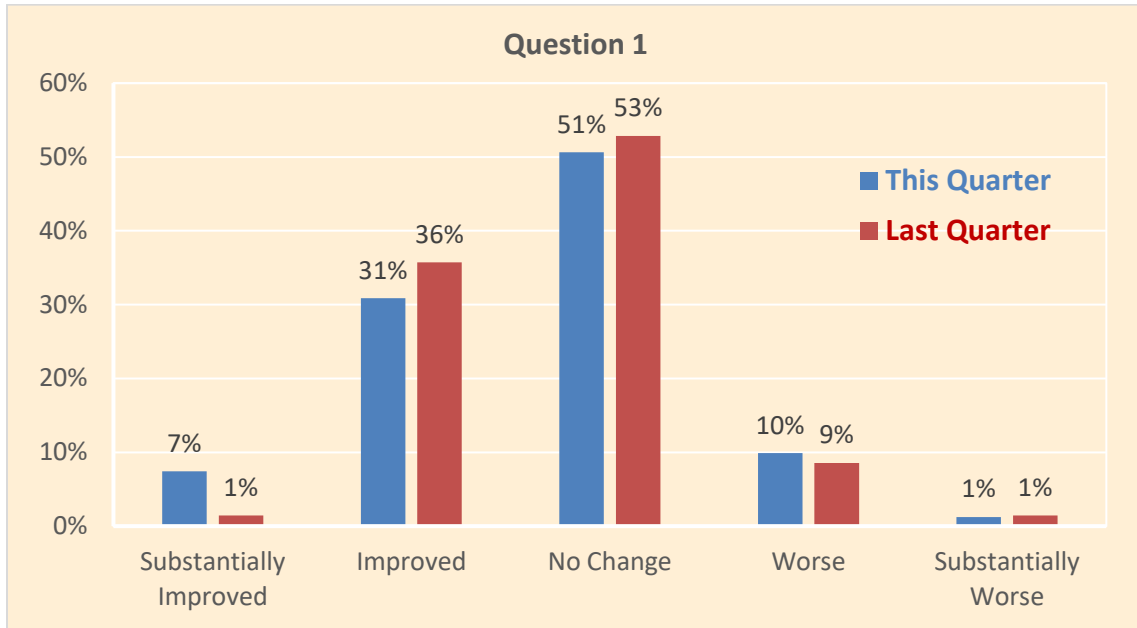
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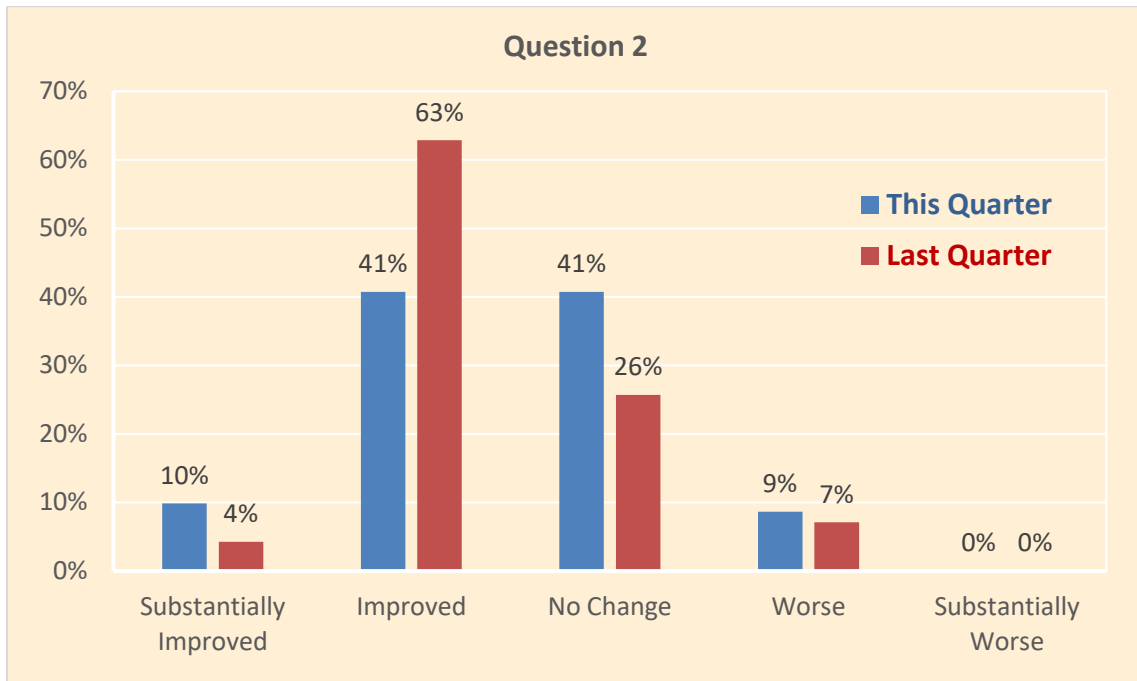
URL of the online survey: <http://tinyurl.com/stxoutlook>

Survey results are released quarterly at [SouthTexasEconomy.com](http://SouthTexasEconomy.com). The last survey generated 82 responses. Again, 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](mailto:jim.lee@tamucc.edu).

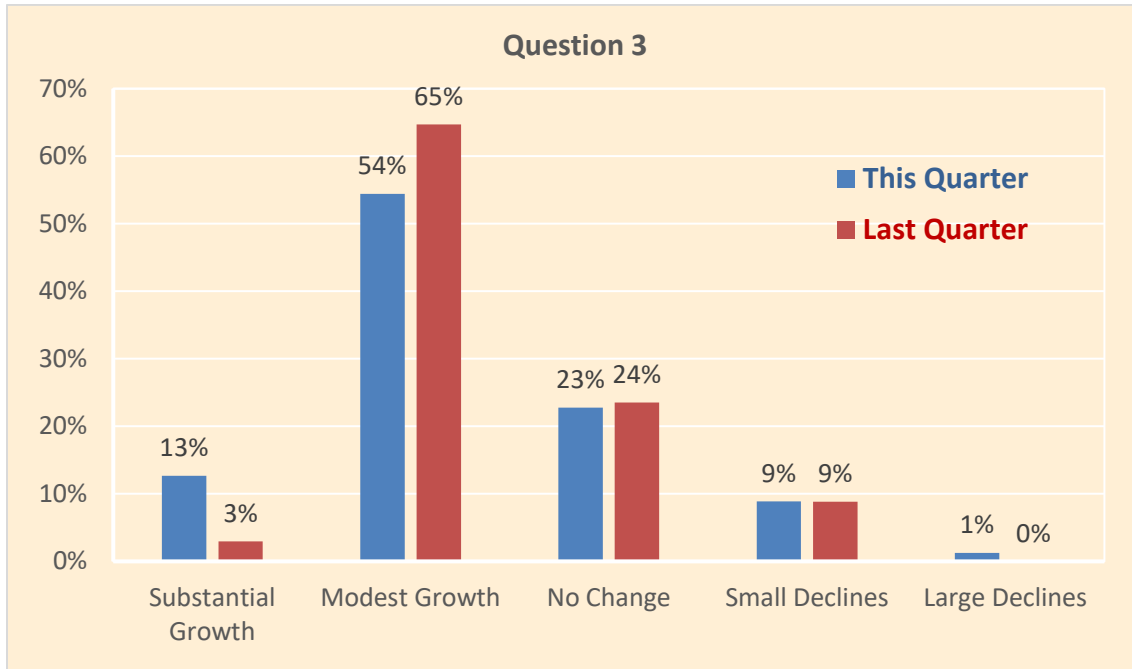
**1. How have overall business conditions changed since the last time you responded to this survey (or the last 3 months)?**



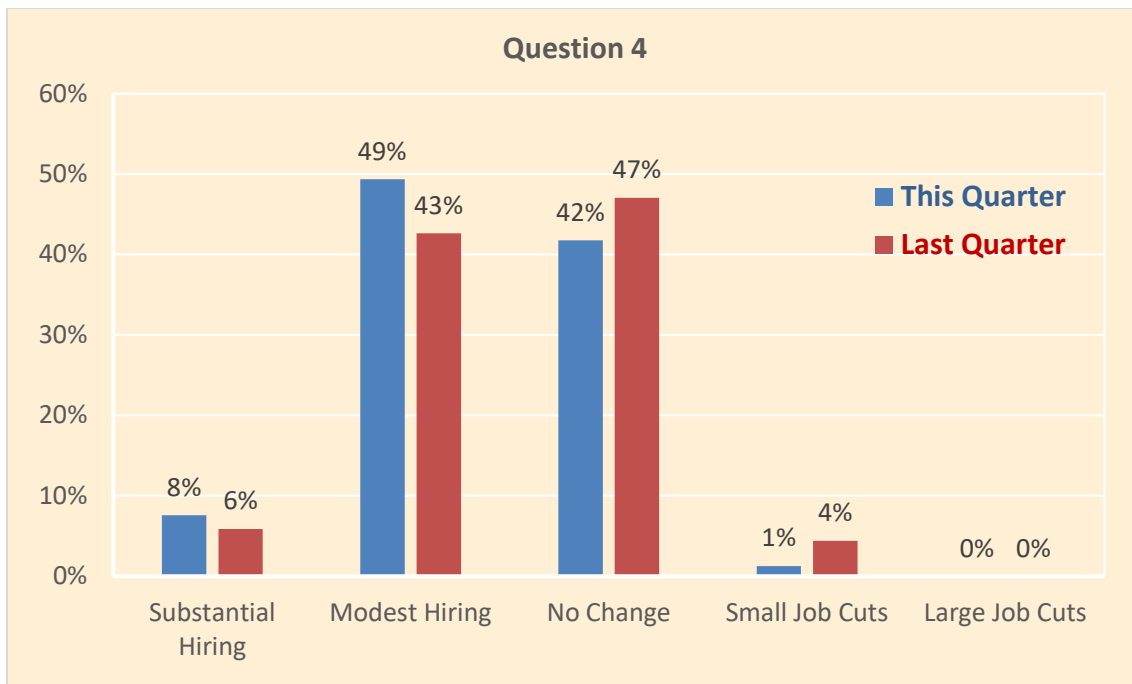
**2. How do you expect overall business conditions to change over the next 6 months?**



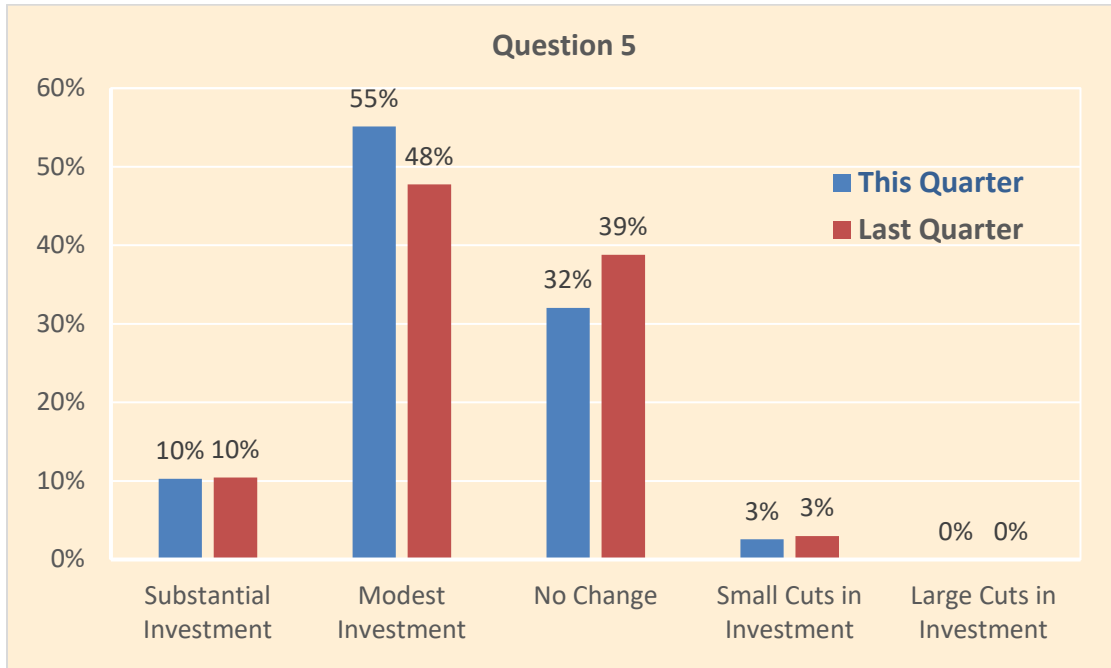
**3. What changes in your company's sales or business activity do you expect over the next 6 months?**



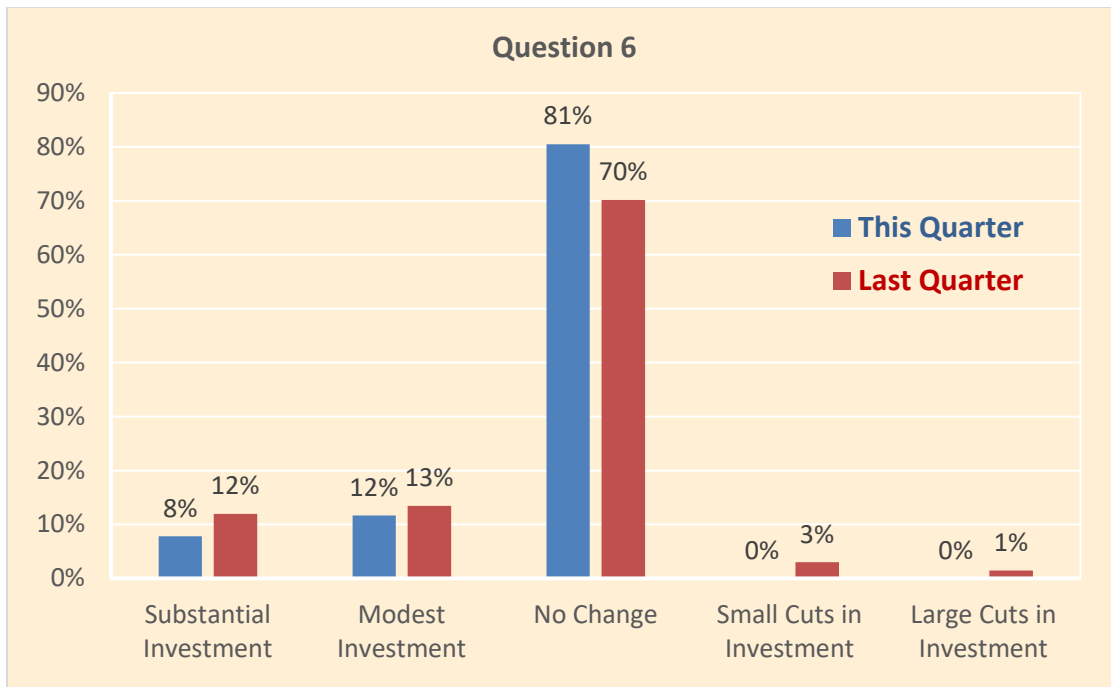
**4. Is your company hiring?**



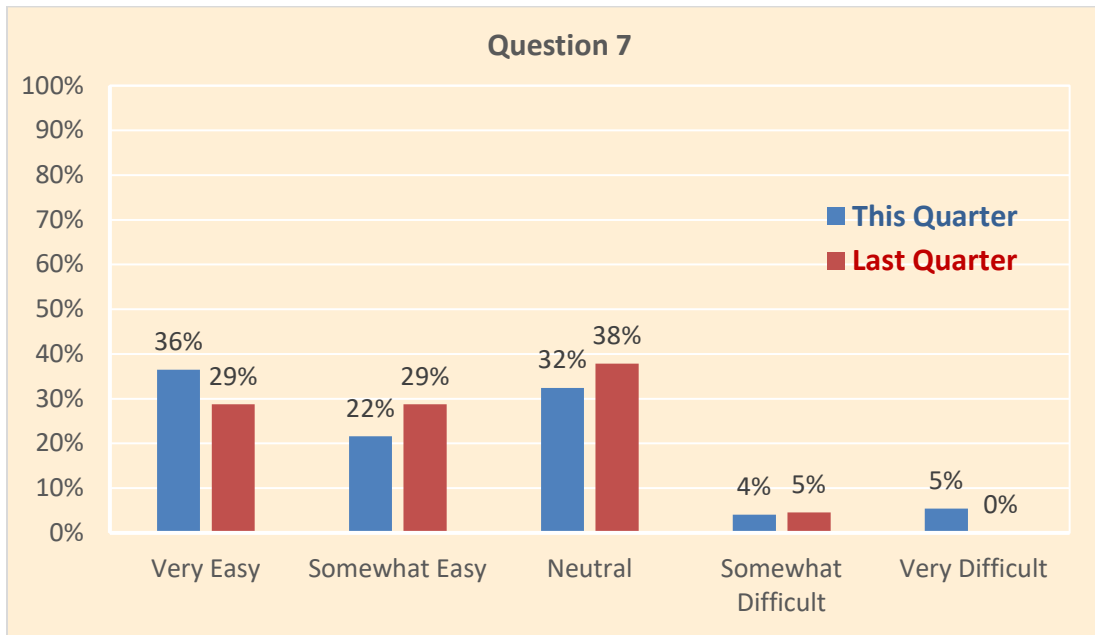
**5. Is your company investing in new equipment or software?**



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



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



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

