

NORTHERN REGION

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

Business Vitality



25 August 2015

Media Release: For Immediate release

BUSINESS CONFIDENCE PLUMMETS

The latest Chamber survey of business confidence in the Northern region revealed that 40% of businesses in the region believe business conditions will deteriorate in the next 6 months.

Only 18% of respondents believe business confidence will improve. This is a sharp reversal from just 3 months ago when only 13% believed business conditions would deteriorate and 39% believed business confidence would improve.

Business owners were more positive about their own businesses, where 51% were positive about business conditions for the next 6 months.

Skilled employees were still hard to find, with 27% of employers indicating that finding the right skills was a constraint to their business.

The quarterly Business Confidence Survey also showed a third of respondents see demand as a constraint to growth, indicating caution was already being exercised. Business expectation of interest rates was for a further decline.

Other survey results:

- Fewer firms are expecting to employ full-time and part-time employees
- Average costs and selling prices are expected to be up
- Profitability expectations are up.

ENDS