



**Business  
Canterbury**  
Our Chamber of Commerce

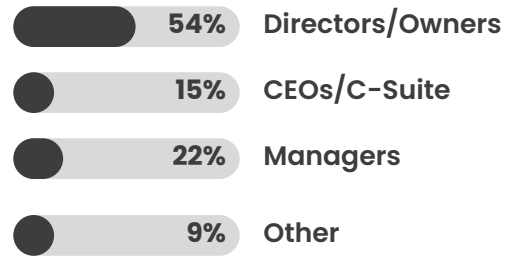
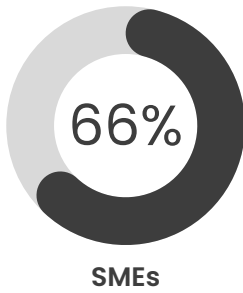
# Quarterly Canterbury Business Survey

May 2026 | In field: 11 May - June 3

# Canterbury Snapshot



## Respondents



## Top issues

1. Consumer confidence and demand
2. Inflation and interest rates
3. International trade and geopolitical risks
4. Productivity and growth
5. Cashflow and account receivable/payable

## Top Industry Response

1. Manufacturing
2. Professional services
3. Construction and civil
4. Primary industries & agriculture
5. Retail, accommodation and hospitality

↓ 24%

52%

Expect the Canterbury economy to be stronger in 12 months.

↓ 3%

68%

Expect to invest in property, plant, and equipment within the next 12 months.

↓ 4%

66%

Expect to hire new staff within the next 12 months.

↓ 16%

60%

Expect stronger financial performance over the next 12 months.

↓ 8%

43%

Think the Government is managing the economy better than 12 months ago

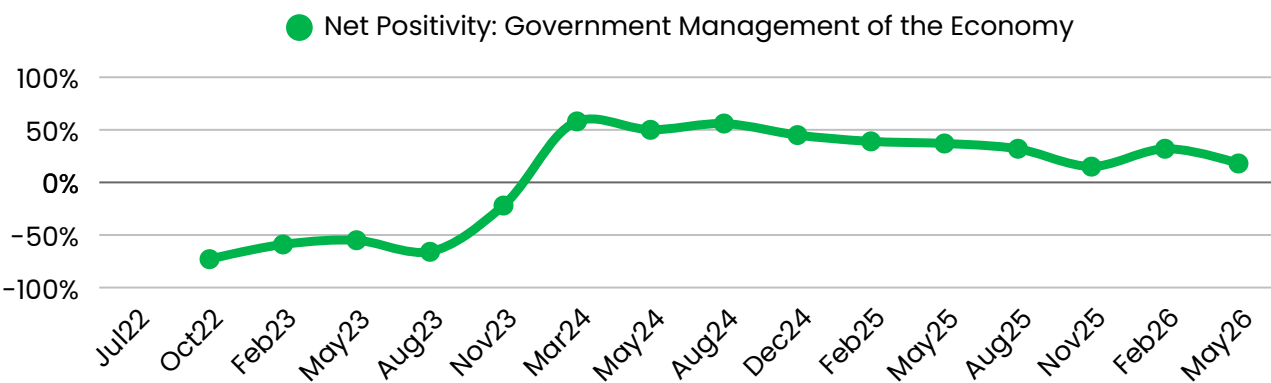
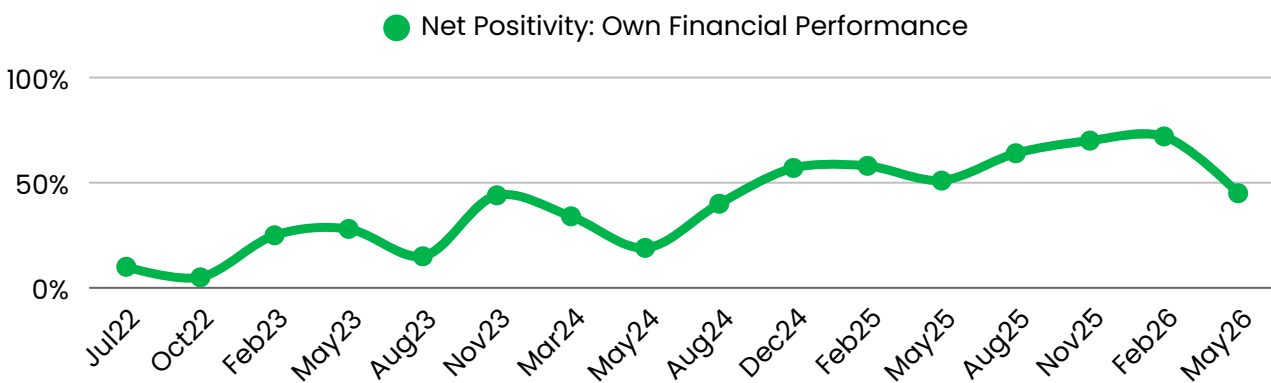
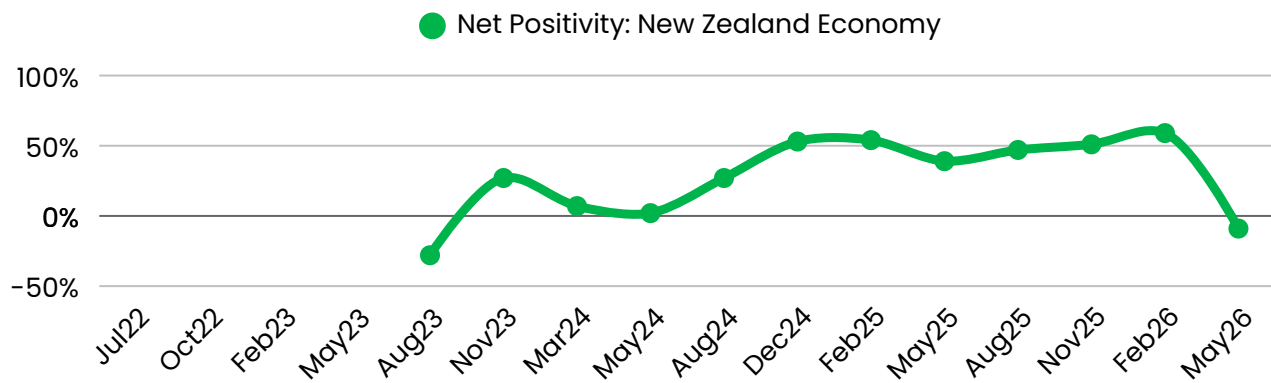
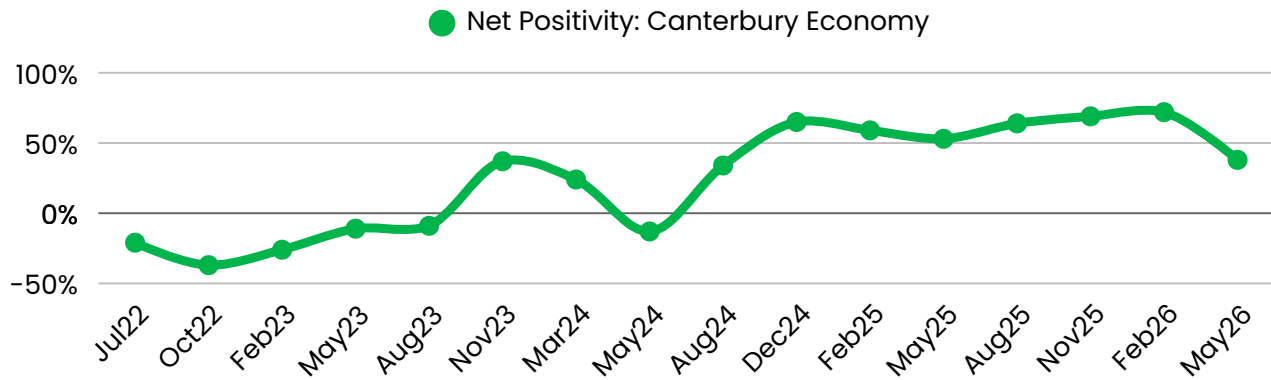
↓ 4%

80%

Are confident in their ability to deal with disruption.

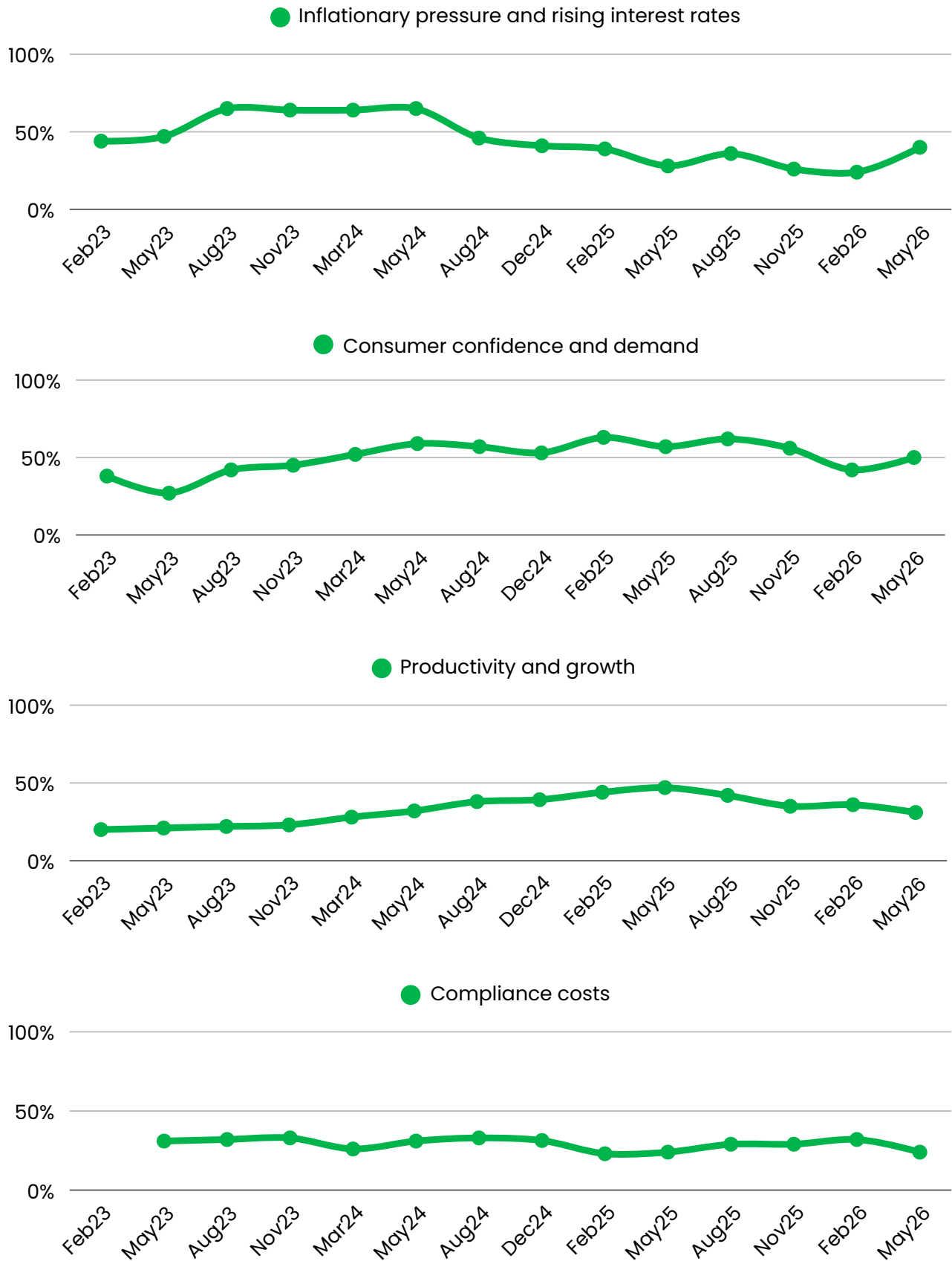
## Business confidence: net positivity scores

To calculate a net positivity score, we subtract the percentage of negative responses from the percentage of positive responses. A higher net positivity score indicates a more positive overall sentiment, while a lower score suggests a more negative sentiment.



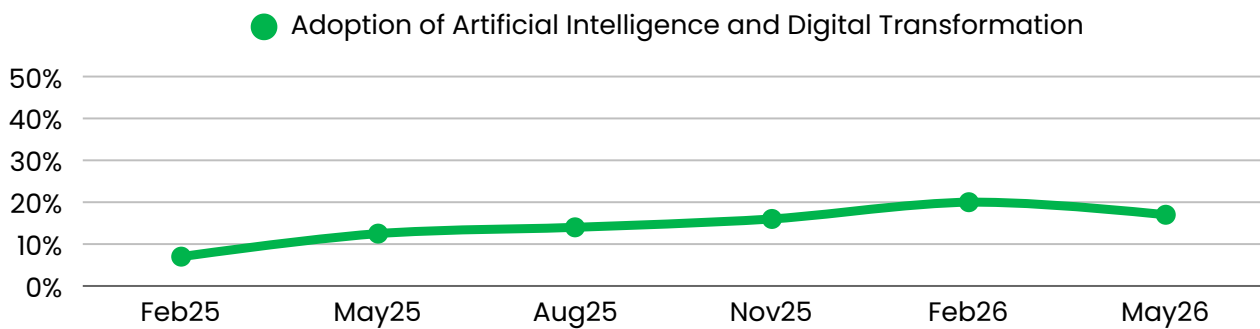
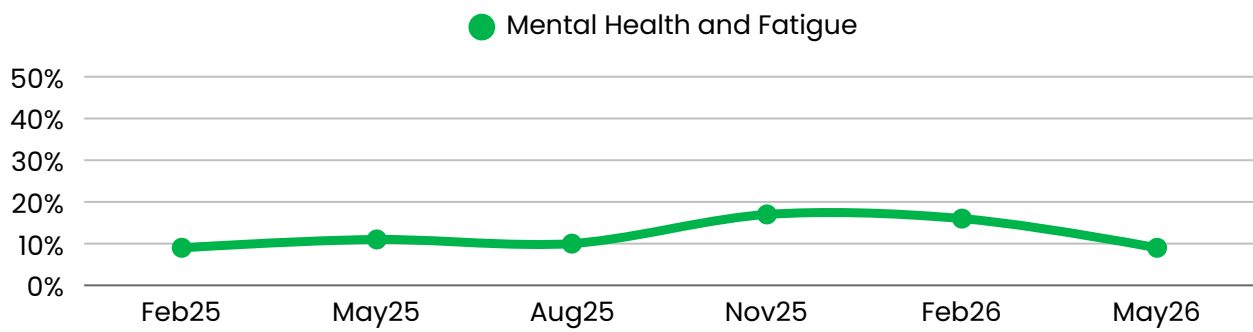
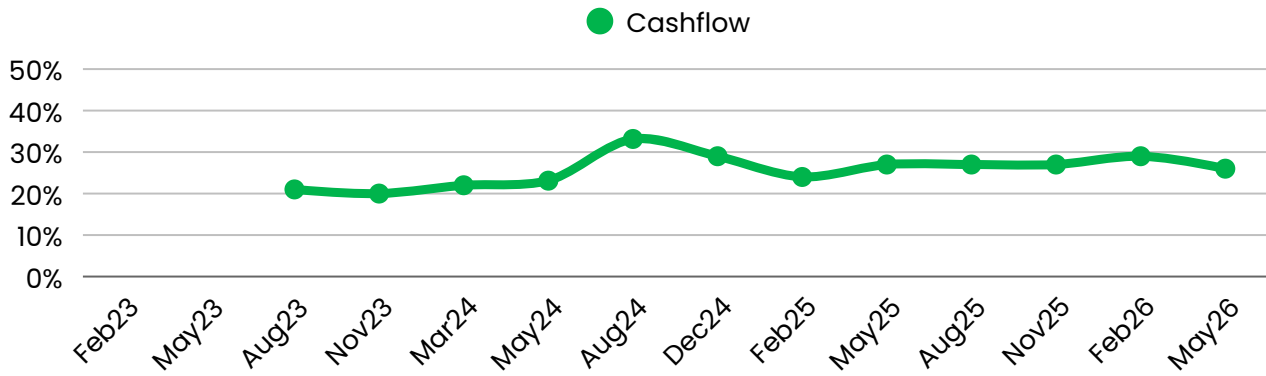
## Top issues

In every survey, we ask respondents to select the three biggest concerns for them. The graph below shows the proportion of respondents who listed one of the following issues among their top three concerns.



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# What respondents are saying

## What do you think is going well for the local economy?

(mentions → % of all responses)

- Migration, population growth & city attractiveness → 23.6%
- Agriculture & primary industries (especially dairy) → 21.8%
- Anchor projects & infrastructure (stadium, rebuild, development) → 20.0%
- Economic activity (growth, demand, employment, exports) → 16.4%
- Business confidence, optimism & momentum → 9.1%
- Tourism, hospitality & events → 9.1%

## What is going well for your business right now?

(mentions → % of all responses)

**Sales, demand & pipeline strength → 28.4%**

- "Sales are up."
- "Lots of work in the pipeline."

Strongest theme by a clear margin – many businesses report steady or rising demand, forward workload, and solid enquiry levels even in a mixed environment.

**Growth, expansion & new opportunities (incl. markets) → 18.7%**

- "We are still growing locally and export to Australia."
- "New markets opening up."

Growth is occurring both locally and internationally, with expansion into new regions, sectors, and product offerings a key driver.

**Export activity & international demand → 12.9%**

- "Building export customers consistently in Asia Pacific region."
- "We have started exporting into Europe which massively helps spread risks."

Export-led resilience is a major theme, particularly tied to diversification and global demand.

**Projects, construction & sector activity → 10.6%**

- "Large commercial projects starting."
- "Construction Sector Activity."

Project pipelines – especially in construction, infrastructure, and commercial work – are supporting workloads and stability.

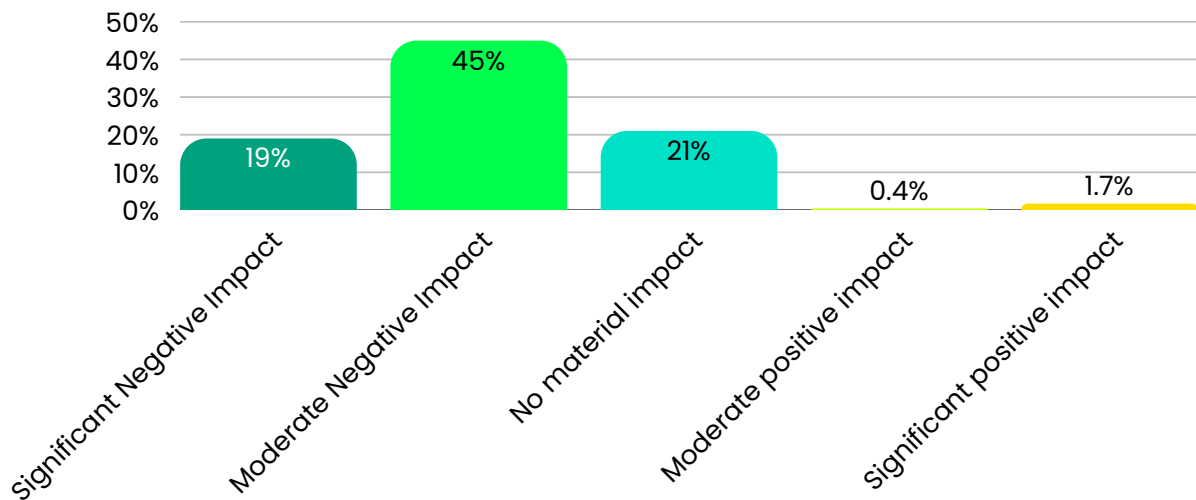
**Efficiency, systems, technology & AI → 8.9%**

- "Efficiencies and adapting to new technologies."
- "Use of AI is significant."

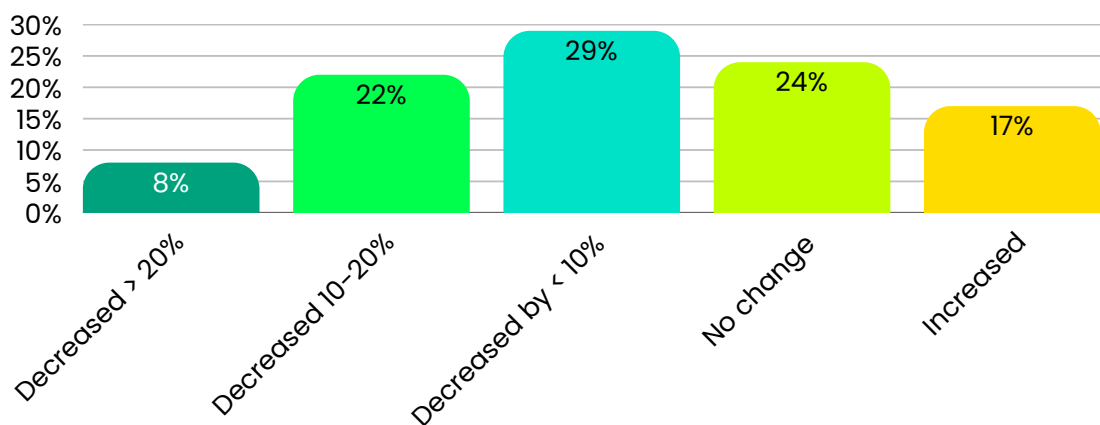
Operational improvements and tech adoption are helping offset cost pressures and improve performance.

# Middle East Snapshot

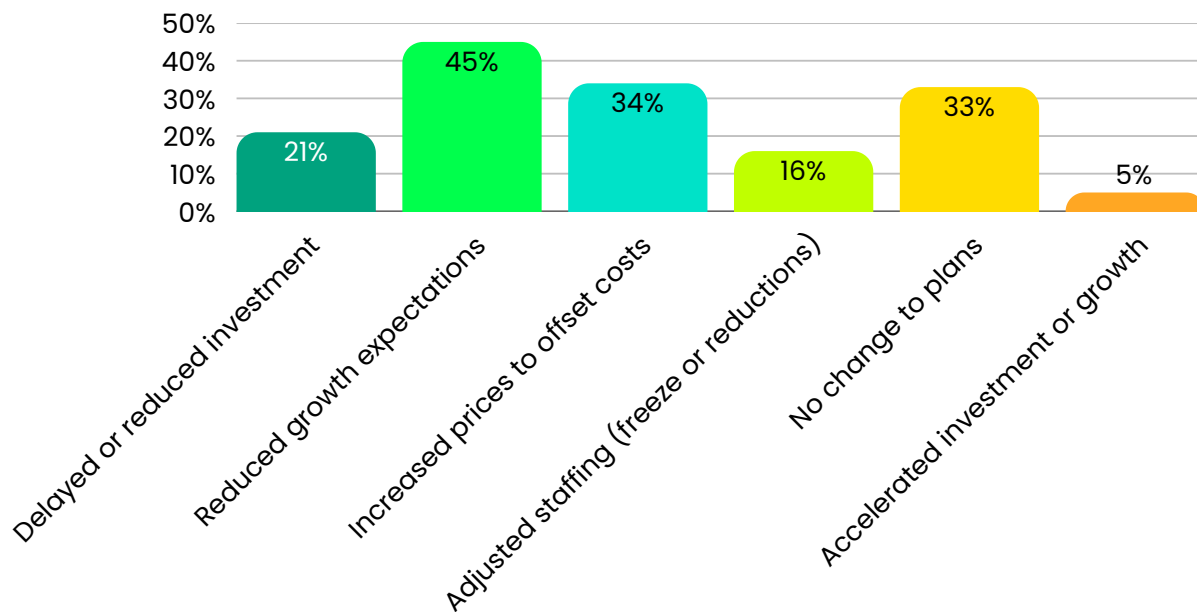
**To-date, what has been the overall impact of conflict in the Middle East been on your business?**



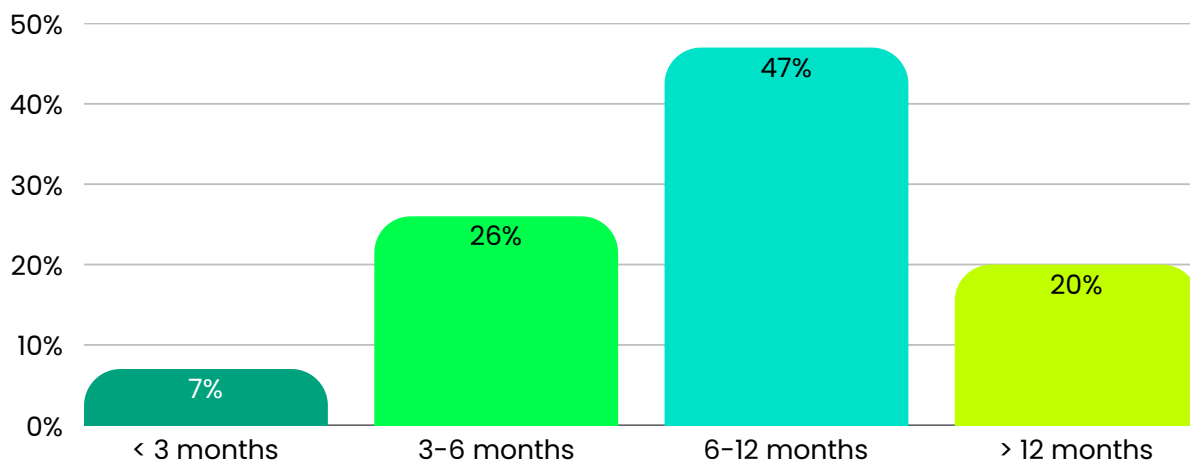
**What do you expect the impact on your business profitability to be over this financial year?**



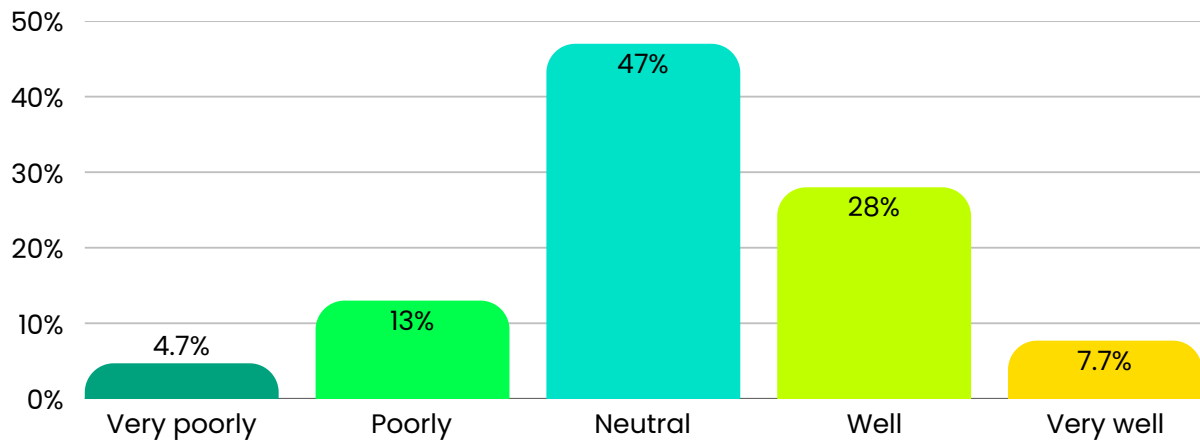
## How have current conditions changed your business plans for the next 12 months?



## How long do you expect these conditions to continue affecting your business?



## How well do you think the Government has responded to the conflict in the Middle East?



## What should be the top priorities for government in response to current conditions?

Reducing cost pressures	62%
Support for supply chains and exporters	34%
Tax or regulatory relief	34%
Access to finance / credit support	14%
Workforce and skills support	17%
Access to advisory services to support planning	11%
No additional intervention needed	17%
Other	8%