

Tag 5: Questionnaire (SIC)

THE PHARMACY GUILD OF AUSTRALIA (27)
AND THE AUSTRALIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

SURVEY OF INVESTOR CONFIDENCE

THIS QUESTIONNAIRE WILL TAKE ONLY FIVE MINUTES TO COMPLETE

Most respondents to this survey should by now be familiar with its format. It is a survey which is designed to be filled in quickly and easily. But in replying to this questionnaire you will have helped us put the views of the business community to Government, public servants, industrial relations tribunals and the community at large. Your participation in this survey is important to its overall success. Please take the time to fill out this questionnaire. All returns will be kept strictly confidential.

Please send completed returns by **September 28** to:

Survey of Investor Confidence
ACCI
PO Box E14
Kingston, ACT 2604

Alternatively, completed forms may be faxed to us on:

02 - 6273 - 3286

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ENTERPRISE DETAILS

1. In which industry sector is your enterprise **primarily** involved?

Agriculture/Forestry	1
Mining	2
Manufacturing	3
Construction	4
Wholesale/Retail	5
Accommodation Cafes and Restaurants	6
Transport and Storage.....	7
Communication Service.....	8
Finance Insurance Property Business Services...	9
Education.....	10
Health and Community Services.....	11
Cultural Recreational Personal and Other Services	12

2. Number of employees covered by this return: _____

3. State or Territory in which most employees are employed _____

PART A
THE AUSTRALIAN ECONOMY

In this section please provide your assessment of the **Australian economy**.

1. How would you describe current business conditions in Australia?

WHERE IT IS		WHERE IT'S GOING	
Excellent	___ (1)	Improving Rapidly	___ (1)
Very good	___ (2)	Improving Slowly	___ (2)
Good	___ (3)	No change	___ (3)
Satisfactory	___ (4)	Deteriorating Slowly	___ (4)
Poor	___ (5)	Deteriorating Rapidly	___ (5)
Very poor	___ (6)		
Deeply depressed	___ (7)		

2. How would you describe the climate for investment in plant and capital equipment at the present time?

WHERE IT IS		WHERE IT'S GOING	
Excellent	___ (1)	Improving Rapidly	___ (1)
Very good	___ (2)	Improving Slowly	___ (2)
Good	___ (3)	No change	___ (3)
Satisfactory	___ (4)	Deteriorating Slowly	___ (4)
Poor	___ (5)	Deteriorating Rapidly	___ (5)
Very poor	___ (6)		
Deeply depressed	___ (7)		

3. Over the next twelve months what do you think will happen to economic growth as measured by Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Economic growth will be:	much higher than at present.	___ (1)	
	somewhat higher than at present.	___ (2)	
	about the same as at present.	___ (3)	
	somewhat lower than at present.	___ (4)	
	much lower than at present.	___ (5)	

4. Over the next twelve months what do you think will happen to investment growth in plant and capital equipment?

Investment growth will be:	much higher than at present.	___ (1)	
	somewhat higher than at present.	___ (2)	
	about the same as at present.	___ (3)	
	somewhat lower than at present.	___ (4)	
	much lower than at present.	___ (5)	

PART B - YOUR OWN BUSINESS

The questions in this section refer to conditions **within your own business**.

1. Generally speaking, how would you describe the state of your own business?

WHERE IT IS		WHERE IT'S GOING	
Excellent	___ (1)	Improving Rapidly	___ (1)
Very good	___ (2)	Improving Slowly	___ (2)
Good	___ (3)	No change	___ (3)
Satisfactory	___ (4)	Deteriorating Slowly	___ (4)
Poor	___ (5)	Deteriorating Rapidly	___ (5)
Very poor	___ (6)		
Deeply depressed	___ (7)		

2. How would you describe the level of sales in your own business?

WHERE IT IS		WHERE IT'S GOING	
Excellent	___ (1)	Improving Rapidly	___ (1)
Very good	___ (2)	Improving Slowly	___ (2)
Good	___ (3)	No change	___ (3)
Satisfactory	___ (4)	Deteriorating Slowly	___ (4)
Poor	___ (5)	Deteriorating Rapidly	___ (5)
Very poor	___ (6)		
Deeply depressed	___ (7)		

3. How would you describe the level of profitability of your own business?

WHERE IT IS		WHERE IT'S GOING	
Excellent	___ (1)	Improving Rapidly	___ (1)
Very good	___ (2)	Improving Slowly	___ (2)
Good	___ (3)	No change	___ (3)
Satisfactory	___ (4)	Deteriorating Slowly	___ (4)
Poor	___ (5)	Deteriorating Rapidly	___ (5)
Very poor	___ (6)		
Deeply depressed	___ (7)		

4. Looking ahead to the next six months, what is your expectation of the level of production/activity in your own business in comparison with the last six months?

Much higher	___ (1)
Somewhat higher	___ (2)
About the same	___ (3)
Somewhat lower	___ (4)
Much lower	___ (5)

5. Looking ahead to the next six months, what is your expectation for investment in plant and capital equipment within your own business in comparison with the last six months?

Much higher _____ (1)
 Somewhat higher _____ (2)
 About the same _____ (3)
 Somewhat lower _____ (4)
 Much lower _____ (5)

6. Looking ahead to the next six months, what is your current expectation of the number of full time employees in your own business?

Much higher _____ (1)
 Somewhat higher _____ (2)
 About the same _____ (3)
 Somewhat lower _____ (4)
 Much lower _____ (5)

7. In relation to expected demand over the next six months, how would you describe your current capacity?

More than adequate _____ (1)
 Adequate _____ (2)
 Less than adequate _____ (3)

8. Looking back over the past six months, how would you describe your actual level of sales in comparison with the level of sales which you had originally expected?

Sales were: **much higher** than expected _____ (1)
somewhat higher than expected _____ (2)
around the level expected _____ (3)
somewhat lower than expected _____ (4)
much lower than expected _____ (5)

9. Looking back over the past six months, how would you describe your actual level of profitability in comparison with the level of profitability which you had originally expected?

Profits were: **much higher** than expected _____ (1)
somewhat higher than expected _____ (2)
around the level expected _____ (3)
somewhat lower than expected _____ (4)
much lower than expected _____ (5)

CONSTRAINTS ON INVESTMENT

Using the following scale from 1-5, please indicate the extent to which each of the following factors represents a **constraint** on your level of **investment in plant and capital equipment** at the present time.

No constraint or not applicable	1 = No effect on investment whatsoever
Slight constraint	2
Moderate constraint	3
Large constraint	4
Critical constraint	5 = Causing a major reduction in investment

		Moderate	Large	Critical	NoneSlight
LABOUR RELATED CONSTRAINTS					
Wage costs	1	2	3	4	5
Non-wage labour costs (ie on-costs)	1	2	3	4	5
Resistance to workplace change from:					
Unions	1	2	3	4	5
Employees in general	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of suitably qualified employees	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of training facilities	1	2	3	4	5
FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS					
Current Levels of Debt	1	2	3	4	5
Cost of Finance					
Interest rates	1	2	3	4	5
Charges made by lending institutions	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of Finance					
Raising loans from financial institutions	1	2	3	4	5
Raising equity capital	1	2	3	4	5
Insufficient retained earnings	1	2	3	4	5
MACROECONOMIC CONSTRAINTS					
Insufficient demand	1	2	3	4	5
Local competition	1	2	3	4	5
Import competition	1	2	3	4	5
Exchange rate too high	1	2	3	4	5
PUBLIC SECTOR CONSTRAINTS					
Federal Government regulations	1	2	3	4	5
State Government regulations	1	2	3	4	5
Local Government regulations	1	2	3	4	5
Business taxes and government charges	1	2	3	4	5

Safety Net

In its decision in May 2001, the Industrial Relations Commission granted safety net increases of \$13 for employees on award wages up to \$490 per week, a \$15 increase for award employees earning between \$490 and \$590 per week and a \$17 increase for employees earning more than \$590 per week. The minimum wage was raised from \$400.40 to \$413.40 by the same decision. The questions below seek information on the effect that these increases had on your business.

In answering these questions, it is important to be able to distinguish increases granted as a result of the safety net decision from increases granted for other reasons. Please, therefore, answer the questions as carefully as possible.

1. Did any of your employees receive an increase in wages **directly** because of the Safety Net decision?

Yes No

2. According to the safety net decision, the increases granted were to be absorbed into overaward payments. Did you nevertheless raise the wages of *any* employees **receiving overaward payments** because of the increases granted even though you were not compelled to do so by the decision?

Increased wages of employees on overawards because of safety net decision

Did not increase wages of employees on overawards because of safety net decision

3. Did you raise the wages of *any* **non-award employees** because of the increases granted to award employees in the safety net decision?

Increased wages of non-award employees because of safety net decision

Did not increase wages of non-award employees because of safety net decision

4. Did the increases in the Safety Net have any effect on the level of employment in your own firm?

The number of employees was **higher** than it otherwise would have been

There was **no effect** on employment

The number of employees was **lower** than it otherwise would have been

5. Did the increases in the Safety Net have any effect on the level of **full-time employment** in your own firm?

The number of full-time employees was **higher** than it otherwise would have been

There was **no effect** on full-time employment

The number of full-time employees was **lower** than it otherwise would have been

6. As a result of the Safety Net decision did you reduce the number of full-time employees and increase the number of part-time or casual employees.

Yes No