

# QUARTERLY CANTERBURY BUSINESS SURVEY

CANTERBURY  
EMPLOYERS'  
CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE

May 2023

Business expectations of the strength of the Canterbury economy continue to improve, but cost pressures, immigration settings, and compliance requirements remain barriers to growth and productivity for businesses.

Nearly half of all respondents indicated cost pressures as their biggest concern – the first time this issue has been at the top of the list for businesses in Canterbury. 80 per cent said these pressures have had a moderate or significant impact on their businesses.

These rising cost costs, whether they be from inflation or driven by regulatory compliance, are also having a disproportionate impact on SMEs, when it comes to expected investment in their business.

For example, 72 per cent of SMEs expect to invest in their businesses over the next 12 months, compared to 84 per cent among larger businesses, and 55 per cent of SMEs plan to hire staff over the next three months, compared to 81 per cent of larger businesses.

When respondents were asked to explain what was going well for them, good levels of staff retention and a stable workforce was most cited, with a number of responses solely naming staff as what was going well for them.

For more information about the survey and for further commentary on the results, visit our website [www.cecc.org.nz](http://www.cecc.org.nz)

## 27%

Expect the Canterbury economy to be moderately or substantially stronger in 12 months.

## 50%

Expect earnings to be moderately or substantially better in 12 months.

## 64%

Intend to hire new staff within the next three months.

---

## Top Issues

## 80%

Experiencing moderate or significant impacts from inflation & rising interest rate rates.

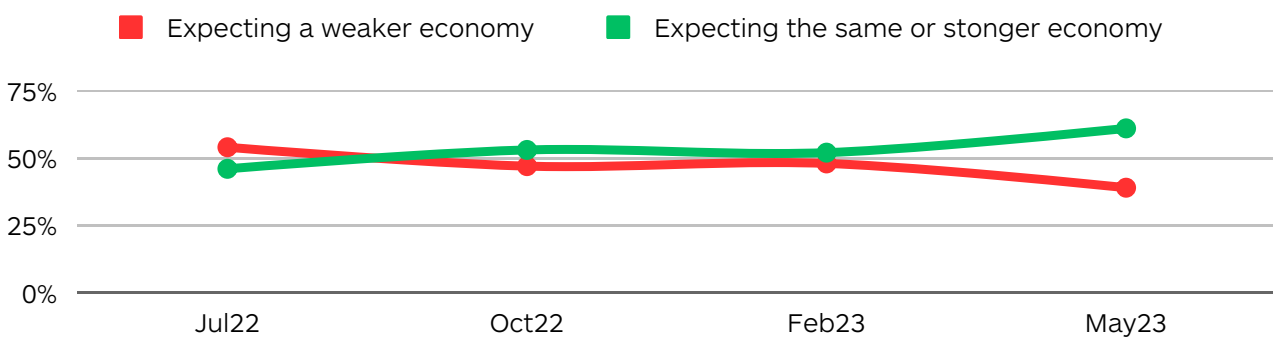
**1. Inflationary Pressure**

**2. Labour Market Constraints**

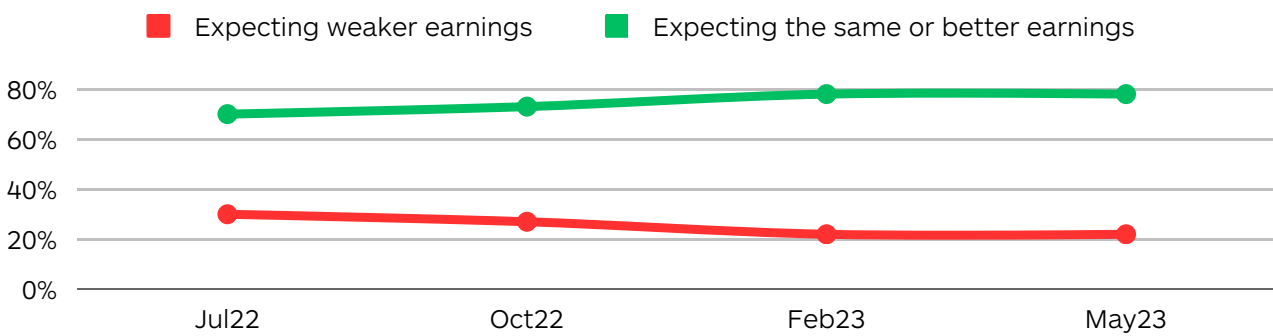
**3. Increased Compliance Costs**

Businesses expecting to invest over the next 12 months	Businesses expecting to hire new staff over the next three months
All respondents: 76%	All respondents: 64%
SMEs: 72%	SMEs: 55%
Large businesses: 84%	Large businesses: 81%

### Expectations of the Canterbury economy in 12 months

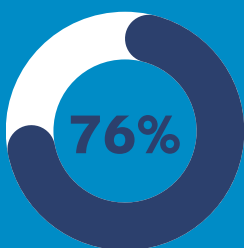


### Expectations of own earnings in 12 months



## Respondent snapshot

SMEs



Large Businesses



- 41% Directors/Owners
- 10% CEOs
- 28% Managers
- 21% Other