

Business Expectations Survey

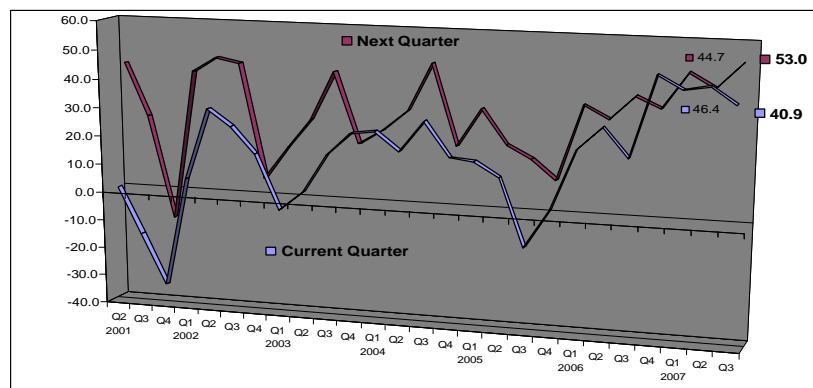
Third Quarter 2007

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BUSINESS CONFIDENCE REMAINS BUOYANT IN THIRD QUARTER 2007

Overall Business Outlook

Overall Business Confidence Index
Q2 2001 – Q3 2007



Business sentiment remains buoyant.

The results of the BES for the third quarter of 2007 showed that business confidence remained buoyant. For every ten respondents, those who were confident about the macroeconomy outnumber those who were not by 4. The overall business confidence index (CI) for the current quarter remained at the 40.0 percent mark for the fourth consecutive quarter at 40.9 percent, up by 19.2 index points compared to the year-ago level.¹ Quarter-on-quarter, however, the index fell by 5.5 points. This quarter-on-quarter trend was consistent with the perception during the second quarter survey that the third quarter index would be slightly lower compared to the second quarter.

The slight dip in quarter-on-quarter sentiment is due in part to seasonality and concerns over a possible economic slowdown in the US.

The slightly more cautious business outlook in the third quarter relative to the second quarter was attributed by respondent firms to the following factors: 1) the slackening of production for the third quarter due to seasonality; 2) possible slowdown in the US economy due to problems in the housing market; 3) competition of cheap imports mostly from China; 4) increase in crude oil prices; and 5) power and water shortage.

Business activity is expected to surge in the fourth quarter.

Respondents expected that business activity would surge in the fourth quarter as the index climbed to 53.0 percent, the highest level since the survey was first conducted in the second quarter of 2001.

¹ The CI is computed as the percentage of firms that answered in the affirmative less the percentage of firms that answered in the negative in a given indicator. A positive CI indicates a favorable view, except for the average inflation rate and the average peso-borrowing rate, where a positive CI indicates the opposite.

Behind this optimism was the respondents' more positive view of fourth-quarter macroeconomic conditions due to: 1) a generally stable macroeconomic environment (as reflected in low inflation, stable interest rates, improved investment conditions and the strengthening peso); 2) increased remittances of overseas Filipinos; 3) solid performance of Asian economies; 4) the holiday season; and 5) new and enhanced business strategies.

During this quarter, respondents from the NCR (National Capital Region) were more bullish than their counterparts from the AONCR (Areas Outside the NCR) as the overall confidence index of the former was higher at 44.9 percent compared to 34.0 percent of the latter. This trend is expected to persist in the next quarter, as the index for the NCR outlook remained more bullish at 57.1 percent compared to that of AONCR at 44.8 percent.

Importers are most optimistic in the current and next quarters.

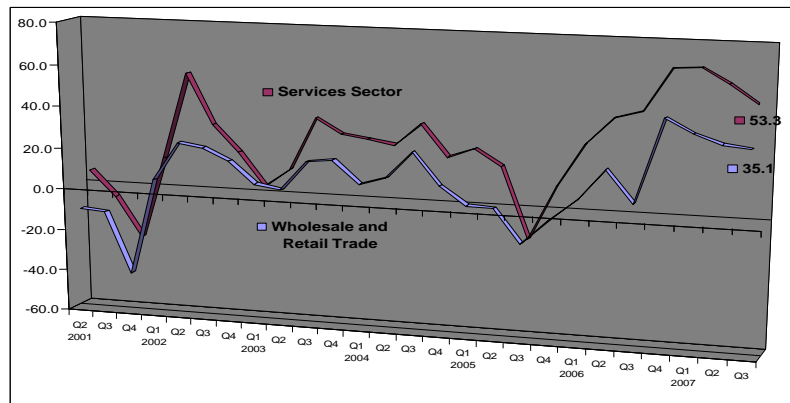
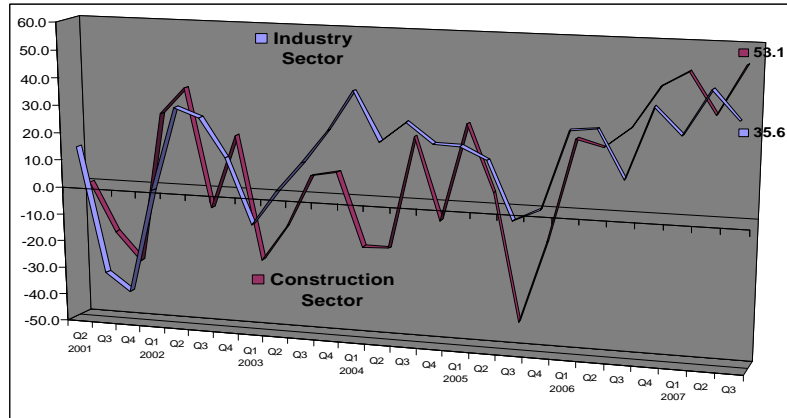
A breakdown of respondent firms according to whether they are importers, exporters or engaged in dual roles (i.e., importer and exporter) showed that importing firms are most optimistic of the macroeconomy in the current and next quarters ahead. Importers registered the highest CI at 47.5 percent in the third quarter and 59.6 percent in the fourth quarter. Firms that were both importers and exporters were also optimistic at 41.5 percent and 42.5 percent, in the current and next quarters, respectively. Exporters, on the other hand, were the least optimistic about their business outlook at 4.2 percent in the current quarter and 6.3 percent in the next quarter. Exporters cited the continuing appreciation of the peso, as well as the weakening consumer demand in the US as factors that adversely affected their outlook. This category comprised only 6.6 percent of total respondents.

Sentiment of medium and large firms are highly favorable for the third and fourth quarters, respectively.

A look at firms by employment size revealed that the CI of medium-sized firms (100-499 employees) was the highest at 42.2 percent, followed by large-sized firms (500 and more employees) at 39.5 percent and small-sized firms (less than 100 employees) at 33.6 percent in the third quarter. In the next quarter, however, large firms were most optimistic at 55.1 percent.



**Business Outlook Index by Sector
Current Quarter
Q2 2001 – Q3 2007**



The individual sectoral outlooks are consistent with overall outlook.

Except for the construction sector, the sectoral sentiments on the macroeconomy in the current quarter generally tracked that of the overall sentiment as indices were on the uptrend, year-on-year, but were lower quarter-on-quarter. These trends were consistent with the next quarter expectations based on the survey in the previous quarter.

Optimism in the construction sector, meanwhile, peaked at an all-time high of 53.1 percent in the third quarter. The late onset of rainy season could partly explain the rise in index by 23.1 points and 17.2 points, year-on-year and quarter-on-quarter, respectively.

Sentiment in the services sector remained strong at 53.3 percent (up by 5.4 points, year-on-year but down by 8.3 points, quarter-on-quarter). Among the services sub-sectors, respondents from the financial intermediation sub-sector registered the highest confidence level at 61.3 percent. On the other hand, the CI of the hotels and restaurants sub-sector at 59.7 percent exhibited an increase for both quarter-on-quarter (up by 20.0 points) and year-on-year (up by 15.5 points), reflecting strong tourist arrivals. Likewise, the index of the community and social services sub-sector at 54.3 percent increased by 25.5 points

year-on-year and 16.9 points quarter-on-quarter. The improvement in this sub-sector can be traced mainly to the favorable outlook of health care-oriented institutions such as hospitals, medical colleges, and insurance providers. Lastly, sentiment in the renting and business activities sub-sector remained almost steady at 54.1 percent.

The outlook for the industry sector inched up by 21.6 points year-on-year at 35.6 percent. This was, however, lower by 10.1 points quarter-on-quarter. This view largely reflected that of the manufacturing sub-sector which comprised 87.2 percent of total respondents in the industry sector. Specifically, manufacturing firms noted that production during the third quarter traditionally slackens quarter-on-quarter due to the start of the wet season and the slowdown in consumer spending after the enrollment period. Other reasons cited by other sub-sectors such as electricity, gas and water supply for the slightly bearish quarter-on-quarter sentiment were the threat of impending water and power shortages and high input costs.

The CI for the wholesale and retail trade sector declined marginally at 35.1 percent from last quarter's 36.5 percent. However, this was 27.3 points higher than its comparable quarter last year.

Business mood is quite bullish in the next quarter.

All sectors were bullish about the economy in the fourth quarter, with all indices climbing up year-on-year and quarter-on-quarter.

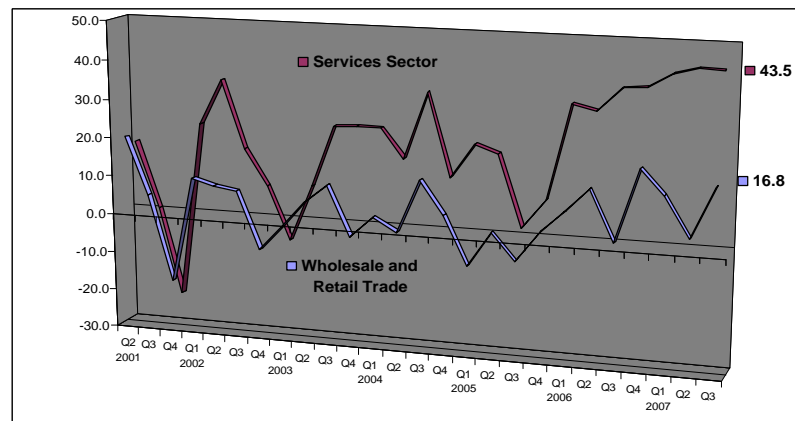
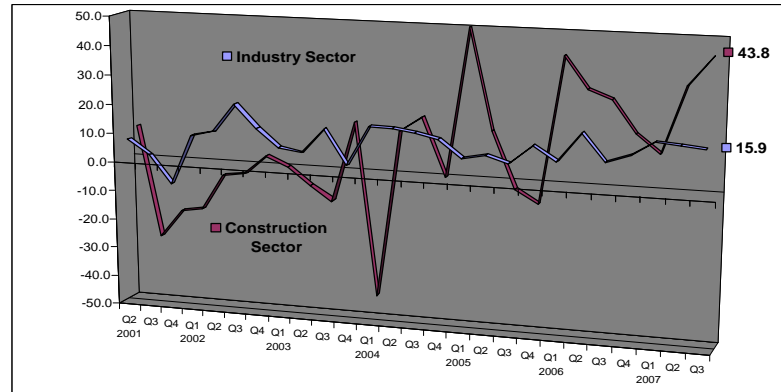
The services sector index, the highest at 68.1 percent, was up by 6.1 points, year-on-year and 7.4 points quarter-on-quarter. The hotels and restaurants sub-sector was the most confident with an index of 81.2 percent (up by more than 50 points quarter-on-quarter and steady year-on-year). This was due in large part to expectations for greater business opportunities during the holiday season. Likewise, the CI of the financial intermediation sub-sector remained robust at almost 80.0 percent.

The business confidence of the construction sector continued to be on the uptrend, with the CI at 63.8 percent. This is the sector's highest CI in 6 years, mirroring the upswing in the real property sector.

The wholesale and retail trade sector as well as the industry sector edged up to 51.6 percent and 41.4 percent, respectively. The CI for trade was higher by more than 15 points year-on-year and quarter-on-quarter. On the other hand, the industry sector was 10.7 points and 2.1 points higher compared to levels last year and previous quarter. This favorable outlook was driven by expectation of seasonal increase in demand in the last quarter of the year.

Business Confidence on Own Operations

Current Quarter Business Confidence Index by Sector
Q2 2001 – Q3 2007



Businesses have an upbeat view regarding their own operations.

Businesses, in general, were bullish that their operations would continue to be favorable in the current quarter as indices remained higher relative to levels recorded a year-ago and during the last quarter.

The construction sector was the most optimistic, with its index at 43.8 percent (up by 15.1 points year-on-year and 9.5 points quarter-on-quarter). The wholesale and retail trade sector likewise continued to be upbeat as its index (at 16.8 percent) was up by 15.2 points year-on-year and 12.9 points quarter-on-quarter. Confidence indices of the industry and services sectors at 15.9 percent and 43.5 percent, respectively, were higher year-on-year (by 5.9 points and 5.3 points) and almost steady compared to levels last quarter.

The favorable outlook on own performance in the third quarter compared to year-ago levels was due to the following factors: higher volume of business activity (at 27.3 percent); higher total order book (at 22.9 percent); and higher average capacity utilization (at 78.6 percent).



Access to Credit, Financial Condition, Employment and Expansion Plans

Access to credit remains favorable while financial condition improves. The access to credit index increased to 10.4 percent (from 0.5 percent year-on-year and 9.0 percent quarter-on-quarter), indicating an improvement in the availability of lending facilities as perceived by respondents. This trend is consistent with data on outstanding loans granted by banks, which has been on the uptrend since July 2006. The financial condition index, though still in the negative territory, eased to -5.1 percent (up by 15 points year-on-year and 5.9 points quarter-on-quarter). This indicated that firms' cash positions are becoming generally more liquid.

Employment expectations are at all-time high. The employment outlook index for the next quarter rose to reach an all-time high at 21.1 percent (higher by 7.3 points year-on-year and 3.8 points quarter-on-quarter), suggesting that respondents are optimistic about employment conditions. The employment outlook was particularly strong for the construction and services sectors, (e.g., the renting and business activities, financial intermediation and real estate sub-sectors).

Expansion plan index remains positive. Meanwhile, 28.7 percent of respondent industry firms indicated plans to expand operations in the next quarter, compared with 31.1 percent of the previous quarter.

Business Constraints

Competition and insufficient demand are considered to be major impediments to stronger business activity. Executives continued to cite competition, particularly emanating from local firms, and insufficient demand leading to low volume of sales as major risks to their business.

Expectations on Key Economic Indicators

Survey respondents are positive on key economic indicators. Outlook on selected economic indicators was also positive. Majority of the respondents anticipated that the peso would remain strong in the third and fourth quarters. The inflation rate and interest rates are expected to decelerate in the third quarter but could move up in the fourth quarter.

About the Survey

A total of 1,063 firms were surveyed. The third quarter 2007 BES was conducted from 09 July to 10 August 2007. A total of 1,063 firms nationwide were surveyed. They were drawn from the Securities and Exchange Commission 2005 Top 5,000 Corporations as follows: 477 companies in NCR and 586 firms in AONCR, covering all 17 regions nationwide. The overall survey response rate for this quarter is 68.9 percent (71.0 percent last quarter). For NCR, the response rate was 66.9 percent (78.4 percent last quarter); and for AONCR, the response rate was 70.5 percent (from 65.0 percent).



BUSINESS EXPECTATIONS SURVEY *
2001 - 2007

	2001			2002				2003				2004				2005				2006				2007		
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
1. Overall Business Outlook on the Macroeconomy																										
Confidence Index: All Sectors																										
Current Quarter	1.7	-14.7	-32.6	5.9	31.0	25.2	16.2	-3.0	4.0	17.2	24.9	26.0	19.9	30.5	18.6	17.6	12.9	-10.4	2.8	23.4	31.6	21.7	49.4	44.9	46.4	40.9
NCR	1.7	-14.7	-32.6	5.9	31.0	25.2	16.2	-3.0	4.0	17.2	24.6	15.1	15.7	33.6	19.8	21.1	12.3	-13.0	-0.8	26.9	35.1	28.2	58.7	53.0	53.1	44.9
AONCR											26.8	50.5	29.5	23.6	16.0	11.1	14.0	-5.6	9.3	17.3	25.0	9.4	32.1	30.6	34.6	34.0
Next Quarter	44.3	26.0	-9.8	42.3	47.5	45.8	6.3	17.5	27.6	44.5	20.1	25.2	32.4	48.7	21.3	34.2	22.3	18.1	11.3	37.2	32.8	40.9	37.1	49.4	44.7	53.0
NCR	44.3	26.0	-9.8	42.3	47.5	45.8	6.3	17.5	27.6	44.5	20.4	15.7	32.8	52.5	17.3	34.2	20.7	14.3	11.0	43.0	32.4	43.8	38.7	53.3	48.2	57.1
AONCR											18.4	46.6	31.6	40.2	30.1	34.2	25.4	25.1	11.7	27.5	33.6	35.6	34.0	42.2	37.2	44.8
2. Business Outlook Index on the Macroeconomy by Sector: Current Quarter																										
Industry Sector	14.7	-31.5	-38.0	0.3	30.7	27.5	13.6	-10.1	2.7	13.3	25.4	39.7	22.3	29.9	22.6	22.3	17.9	-2.7	2.0	29.6	30.7	14.0	39.2	30.0	45.7	35.6
Construction Sector	0.0	-18.2	-28.6	26.7	36.4	-6.7	20.0	-25.0	-11.8	7.1	8.8	-17.6	-17.4	23.2	-6.1	28.6	4.8	-40.9	-11.4	25.3	22.9	30.0	44.7	50.0	35.9	53.1
Wholesale and Retail Trade	-10.0	-11.1	-40.4	6.3	24.7	23.0	17.3	7.0	4.8	19.0	20.3	9.6	13.3	26.0	11.0	2.6	2.0	-13.9	-2.1	8.4	22.8	7.8	47.3	40.6	36.5	35.1
Services Sector	6.8	-5.5	-24.7	14.7	56.1	32.0	19.5	3.8	12.5	37.5	30.6	29.1	26.7	37.3	22.3	26.8	19.4	-13.8	11.3	31.6	44.1	47.9	67.6	68.5	61.6	53.3
of which:																										
Financial Intermediation	-11.8	-41.4	33.3	20.6	64.7	40.0	14.3	3.8	22.6	46.7	36.1	28.8	18.0	37.3	26.1	31.1	37.5	-19.7	11.1	53.0	67.2	64.7	92.2	90.8	74.3	61.3
Hotels and Restaurants	0.0	77.8	-9.1	50.0	33.3	0.0	71.4	10.0	-7.7	8.3	62.5	40.0	40.0	36.7	45.8	36.8	35.3	17.6	31.8	50.0	24.5	44.2	93.3	86.4	39.7	59.7
Renting and Business Activities	20	0.0	-41.7	7.7	53.8	20.0	30.0	0.0	22.2	38.9	24.4	49.5	45.6	46.9	40.4	11.8	19.6	5.2	15.6	32.7	31.6	53.1	53.3	60.8	53.8	54.1
Community and Social Services	0.0	0.0	-40.0	-10.0	30.0	20.0	15.4	30.8	-14.3	21.4	19.6	17.7	19.2	43.7	2.7	23.6	25.7	5.2	6.7	20.6	16.6	28.8	58.7	44.9	37.4	54.3
3. Business Outlook Index on the Macroeconomy by Sector: Next Quarter																										
Industry Sector	35.3	10.4	-10.0	26.7	38.6	46.8	4.6	12.6	26.2	41.2	20.9	38.4	30.6	37.1	27.1	38.7	19.0	16.6	12.0	32.6	30.7	30.7	26.7	46.5	39.3	41.4
Construction Sector	55.6	36.4	-14.3	46.7	45.5	26.7	33.3	18.8	29.4	7.1	32.3	-9.4	23.9	41.0	33.5	47.7	36.1	12.2	-5.7	57.7	45.8	36.6	45.5	39.9	59.0	63.8
Wholesale and Retail Trade	46.7	22.2	-17.0	51.2	48.1	43.7	3.7	25.6	28.9	49.4	13.3	18.0	30.5	60.2	14.3	27.1	19.5	22.3	17.1	34.8	23.7	36.2	37.2	43.6	35.7	51.6
Services Sector	47.6	37.0	-4.1	42.8	67.6	53.4	16.6	14.0	33.6	50.2	24.2	17.4	39.6	55.8	17.4	34.0	28.7	16.1	5.6	43.9	44.9	62.0	51.0	62.1	60.7	68.1
of which:																										
Financial Intermediation	29.4	31.0	-7.4	50.0	73.5	57.5	0.8	19.2	41.9	53.3	36.1	15.7	34.0	58.6	20.8	28.9	39.2	6.4	20.0	51.8	67.2	79.1	83.3	75.4	73.0	79.5
Hotels and Restaurants	50.0	77.8	0.0	50.0	44.4	70.0	14.3	40.0	30.8	58.3	58.6	25.2	26.1	71.0	21.3	62.7	35.3	54.9	16.5	50.1	31.4	81.4	55.4	56.8	28.5	81.2
Renting and Business Activities	60.0	41.7	-8.3	38.5	61.5	46.7	25.0	47.6	44.4	55.6	12.2	45.4	71.0	53.0	38.6	44.7	21.6	26.8	25.2	45.1	39.9	53.9	23.6	68.6	67.7	64.9
Community and Social Services	42.9	0.0	0.0	30.0	60.0	10.0	0.0	21.4	21.4	-4.3	12.3	36.9	46.1	14.3	25.7	25.7	23.4	-20.4	29.6	45.7	37.9	60.0	55.1	73.8	71.6	
4. Business Confidence Index on Own Operations by Sector: Current Quarter																										
Industry Sector	7.8	2.8	-6.7	10.4	12.2	22.0	14.2	8.0	6.8	15.2	3.6	17.1	16.8	15.8	14.2	8.1	9.9	7.7	13.8	9.3	18.9	10.0	12.9	17.4	16.8	15.9
Construction Sector	11.1	-27.3	-17.9	-16.7	-4.5	-3.3	3.3	0.0	-5.9	-10.7	16.6	-42.4	14.5	19.7	0.0	50.0	16.3	-2.6	-7.0	42.2	31.7	28.7	18.3	11.9	34.3	43.8
Wholesale and Retail Trade	20.0	5.2	-17.0	10.4	8.6	7.7	-7.0	-0.8	6.0	11.0	-1.8	3.5	0.1	13.9	5.3	-7.1	1.8	-4.9	2.8	8.3	14.3	1.6	20.3	13.9	3.9	16.8
Services Sector	17.9	0.5	-21.9	23.4	35.0	17.5	8.3	-5.5	9.0	24.8	25.1	25.1	17.7	34.7	13.6	22.4	20.4	2.2	9.6	33.7	32.4	38.2	38.7	42.2	43.8	43.5
5. Business Outlook index on Own Operations: Current Quarter																										
Volume of Business Activity Index	7.8	0.0	-14.7	-5.1	23.6	20.9	22.1	-8.1	13.2	21.1	31.1	6.5	25.4	26.9	23.7	9.3	19.2	0.7	17.0	16.0	31.3	21.8	42.4	22.6	35.7	27.3
Volume of Total Order Book Index	-0.9	-3.4	-19.6	-5.7	22.7	20.9	20.4	-8.7	10.2	19.8	25.6	3.8	18.0	19.5	20.0	7.4	14.8	-0.5	15.5	14.5	25.9	16.4	34.2	17.1	27.7	22.9
Credit Access Index	-18.3	-19.8	-26.1	-27.6	-20.0	-14.9	-15.0	-17.9	-12.5	-5.9	-12.7	-13.4	-14.6	-7.3	-7.5	-9.8	-12.2	-13.2	-11.5	-5.5	-3.5	0.5	2.8	10.1	9.0	10.4
Financial Condition	-47.0	-40.7	-48.9	-46.6	-30.6	-30.8	-35.6	-46.4	-34.8	-26.6	-27.5	-32.8	-31.4	-25.7	-25.0	-28.3	-28.6	-36.5	-30.9	-20.0	-20.2	-20.1	-14.1	-8.8	-11.0	-5.1
Average Capacity Utilization	67.0	66.2	68.8	62.7	66.2	70.3	69.1	69.4	69.1	69.2	71.3	76.2	76.7	74.8	75.4	78.2	74.2	73.3	73.5	75.5	75.0	75.8	75.6	83.1	83.4	78.6
6. Business Outlook Index on Own Operations: Next Quarter																										
Volume of Business Activity Index	41.7	24.9	0.0	35.2	32.9	42.7	2.7	28.8	31.0	43.4	20.0	30.6	36.4	50.2	24.2	29.7	28.5	27.5	16.2	37.7	36.7	39.0	35.3	48.1	40.4	49.5
Employment Outlook Index	3.5	-1.1	-19.6	-8.8	-8.6	0.3	-5.5	-4.6	-6.3	2.0	-2.0	-2.8	4.9	16.8	7.5	11.6	6.5	7.3	-0.5	14.4	12.6	13.8	8.9	16.6	17.3	21.1

A quarterly survey conducted by the
Department of Economic Statistics
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Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Manila, Philippines
www.bsp.gov.ph



* From 2001 to 2003, survey respondents came from a random sample of firms in SEC's Top 5000 Corporations in the Philippines which are located in the NCR. Beginning Q4 2003, the survey was expanded to include those areas which are located outside NCR specifically Regions I, VII & XI. Finally in Q4 2006, the BES was further expanded to become a nationwide survey of firms in the top 5000 corporations.

**BUSINESS EXPECTATIONS SURVEY *
2001 - 2007**

	2001			2002				2003				2004				2005				2006				2007		
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
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NCR	1.7	-14.7	-32.6	5.9	31.0	25.2	16.2	-3.0	4.0	17.2	24.6	15.1	15.7	33.6	19.8	21.1	12.3	-13.0	-0.8	26.9	35.1	28.2	58.7	53.0	53.1	44.9
AONCR											26.8	50.5	29.5	23.6	16.0	11.1	14.0	-5.6	9.3	17.3	25.0	9.4	32.1	30.6	34.6	34.0
Next Quarter	44.3	26.0	-9.8	42.3	47.5	45.8	6.3	17.5	27.6	44.5	20.1	25.2	32.4	48.7	21.3	34.2	22.3	18.1	11.3	37.2	32.8	40.9	37.1	49.4	44.7	53.0
NCR	44.3	26.0	-9.8	42.3	47.5	45.8	6.3	17.5	27.6	44.5	20.4	15.7	32.8	52.5	17.3	34.2	20.7	14.3	11.0	43.0	32.4	43.8	38.7	53.3	48.2	57.1
AONCR											18.4	46.6	31.6	40.2	30.1	34.2	25.4	25.1	11.7	27.5	33.6	35.6	34.0	42.2	37.2	44.8
2. Business Outlook Index on the Macroeconomy by Sector: Current Quarter																										
Industry Sector	14.7	-31.5	-38.0	0.3	30.7	27.5	13.6	-10.1	2.7	13.3	25.4	39.7	22.3	29.9	22.6	22.3	17.9	-2.7	2.0	29.6	30.7	14.0	39.2	30.0	45.7	35.6
Construction Sector	0.0	-18.2	-28.6	26.7	36.4	-6.7	20.0	-25.0	-11.8	7.1	8.8	-17.6	-17.4	23.2	-6.1	28.6	4.8	-40.9	-11.4	25.3	22.9	30.0	44.7	50.0	35.9	53.1
Wholesale and Retail Trade	-10.0	-11.1	-40.4	6.3	24.7	23.0	17.3	7.0	4.8	19.0	20.3	9.6	13.3	26.0	11.0	2.6	2.0	-13.9	-2.1	8.4	22.8	7.8	47.3	40.6	36.5	35.1
Services Sector	6.8	-5.5	-24.7	14.7	56.1	32.0	19.5	3.8	12.5	37.5	30.6	29.1	26.7	37.3	22.3	26.8	19.4	-13.8	11.3	31.6	44.1	47.9	67.6	68.5	61.6	53.3
of which:																										
Financial Intermediation	-11.8	-41.4	33.3	20.6	64.7	40.0	14.3	3.8	22.6	46.7	36.1	28.8	18.0	37.3	26.1	31.1	37.5	-19.7	11.1	53.0	67.2	64.7	92.2	90.8	74.3	61.3
Hotels and Restaurants	0.0	77.8	-9.1	50.0	33.3	0.0	71.4	10.0	-7.7	8.3	62.5	40.0	40.0	36.7	45.8	36.8	35.3	17.6	31.8	50.0	24.5	44.2	93.3	86.4	39.7	59.7
Renting and Business Activities	20	0.0	-41.7	7.7	53.8	20.0	30.0	0.0	22.2	38.9	24.4	49.5	45.6	46.9	40.4	11.8	19.6	5.2	15.6	32.7	31.6	53.1	53.3	60.8	53.8	54.1
Community and Social Services	0.0	0.0	-40.0	-10.0	30.0	20.0	15.4	30.8	-14.3	21.4	19.6	17.7	19.2	43.7	2.7	23.6	25.7	5.2	6.7	20.6	16.6	28.8	58.7	44.9	37.4	54.3
3. Business Outlook Index on the Macroeconomy by Sector: Next Quarter																										
Industry Sector	35.3	10.4	-10.0	26.7	38.6	46.8	4.6	12.6	26.2	41.2	20.9	38.4	30.6	37.1	27.1	38.7	19.0	16.6	12.0	32.6	30.7	30.7	26.7	46.5	39.3	41.4
Construction Sector	55.6	36.4	-14.3	46.7	45.5	26.7	33.3	18.8	29.4	7.1	32.3	-9.4	23.9	41.0	33.5	47.7	36.1	12.2	-5.7	57.7	45.8	36.6	45.5	39.9	59.0	63.8
Wholesale and Retail Trade	46.7	22.2	-17.0	51.2	48.1	43.7	3.7	25.6	28.9	49.4	13.3	18.0	30.5	60.2	14.3	27.1	19.5	22.3	17.1	34.8	23.7	36.2	37.2	43.6	35.7	51.6
Services Sector	47.6	37.0	-4.1	42.8	67.6	53.4	16.6	14.0	33.6	50.2	24.2	17.4	39.6	55.8	17.4	34.0	28.7	16.1	5.6	43.9	44.9	62.0	51.0	62.1	60.7	68.1
of which:																										
Financial Intermediation	29.4	31.0	-7.4	50.0	73.5	57.5	0.8	19.2	41.9	53.3	36.1	15.7	34.0	58.6	20.8	28.9	39.2	6.4	20.0	51.8	67.2	79.1	83.3	75.4	73.0	79.5
Hotels and Restaurants	50.0	77.8	0.0	50.0	44.4	70.0	14.3	40.0	30.8	58.3	58.6	25.2	26.1	71.0	21.3	62.7	35.3	54.9	16.5	50.1	31.4	81.4	55.4	56.8	28.5	81.2
Renting and Business Activities	60.0	41.7	-8.3	38.5	61.5	46.7	25.0	47.6	44.4	55.6	12.2	45.4	71.0	53.0	38.6	44.7	21.6	26.8	25.2	45.1	39.9	53.9	23.6	68.6	67.7	64.9
Community and Social Services	42.9	0.0	0.0	30.0	60.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	21.4	21.4	-4.3	12.3	36.9	46.1	14.3	25.7	25.7	23.4	-20.4	29.6	45.7	37.9	60.0	55.1	73.8	71.6
4. Business Confidence Index on Own Operations by Sector: Current Quarter																										
Industry Sector	7.8	2.8	-6.7	10.4	12.2	22.0	14.2	8.0	6.8	15.2	3.6	17.1	16.8	15.8	14.2	8.1	9.9	7.7	13.8	9.3	18.9	10.0	12.9	17.4	16.8	15.9
Construction Sector	11.1	-27.3	-17.9	-16.7	-4.5	-3.3	3.3	0.0	-5.9	-10.7	16.6	-42.4	14.5	19.7	0.0	50.0	16.3	-2.6	-7.0	42.2	31.7	28.7	18.3	11.9	34.3	43.8
Wholesale and Retail Trade	20.0	5.2	-17.0	10.4	8.6	7.7	-7.0	-0.8	6.0	11.0	-1.8	3.5	0.1	13.9	5.3	-7.1	1.8	-4.9	2.8	8.3	14.3	1.6	20.3	13.9	3.9	16.8
Services Sector	17.9	0.5	-21.9	23.4	35.0	17.5	8.3	-5.5	9.0	24.8	25.1	17.7	34.7	13.6	22.4	20.4	2.2	9.6	33.7	32.4	38.2	38.7	42.2	43.8	43.5	
5. Business Outlook index on Own Operations: Current Quarter																										
Volume of Business Activity Index	7.8	0.0	-14.7	-5.1	23.6	20.9	22.1	-8.1	13.2	21.1	31.1	6.5	25.4	26.9	23.7	9.3	19.2	0.7	17.0	16.0	31.3	21.8	42.4	22.6	35.7	27.3
Volume of Total Order Book Index	-0.9	-3.4	-19.6	-5.7	22.7	20.9	20.4	-8.7	10.2	19.8	25.6	3.8	18.0	19.5	20.0	7.4	14.8	-0.5	15.5	14.5	25.9	16.4	34.2	17.1	27.7	22.9
Credit Access Index	-18.3	-19.8	-26.1	-27.6	-20.0	-14.9	-15.0	-17.9	-12.5	-5.9	-12.7	-13.4	-14.6	-7.3	-7.5	-9.8	-12.2	-13.2	-11.5	-5.5	-3.5	0.5	2.8	10.1	9.0	10.4
Financial Condition	-47.0	-40.7	-48.9	-46.6	-30.6	-30.8	-35.6	-46.4	-34.8	-26.6	-27.5	-32.8	-31.4	-25.7	-25.0	-28.3	-28.6	-36.5	-30.9	-20.0	-20.2	-20.1	-14.1	-8.8	-11.0	-5.1
Average Capacity Utilization	67.0	66.2	68.8	62.7	66.2	70.3	69.1	69.4	69.1	69.6	71.3	76.2	76.7	74.8	75.4	78.2	74.2	73.3	73.5	75.5	75.0	75.8	75.6	83.1	83.4	78.6
6. Business Outlook Index on Own Operations: Next Quarter																										
Volume of Business Activity Index	41.7	24.9	0.0	35.2	32.9	42.7	2.7	28.8	31.0	43.4	20.0	30.6	36.4	50.2	24.2	29.7	28.5	27.5	16.2	37.7	36.7	39.0	35.3	48.1	40.4	49.5
Employment Outlook Index	3.5	-1.1	-19.6	-8.8	-8.6	0.3	-5.5	-4.6	-6.3	2.0	-2.0	-2.8	4.9	16.8	7.5	11.6	6.5	7.3	-0.5	14.4	12.6	13.8	8.9	16.6	17.3	21.1

A quarterly survey conducted by the
Department of Economic Statistics
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Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Manila, Philippines
www.bsp.gov.ph



* From 2001 to 2003, survey respondents came from a random sample of firms in SEC's Top 5000 Corporations in the Philippines which are located in the NCR. Beginning Q4 2003, the survey was expanded to include those areas which are located outside NCR specifically Regions I, VII & XI. Finally in Q4 2006, the BES was further expanded to become a nationwide survey of firms in the top 5000 corporations.

**BUSINESS EXPECTATIONS SURVEY
2001 - 2007**

	2001			2002				2003				2004				2005				2006				2007		
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
7. Companies with Expansion Plans (in percent): Next Quarter																										
All Industry Sector	5.9	20.7	20.6	13.0	20.3	10.7	18.7	24.3	22.6	19.9	20.0	21.5	15.9	24.3	27.5	27.0	22.0	16.0	20.8	25.9	25.8	23.0	23.0	27.2	31.1	28.7
Mining Quarrying	0.0	0.0	0.0	25.0	25.0	33.3	0.0	0.0	50.0	50.0	100.0	39.1	39.1	78.3	78.3	50.0	0.0	0.0	8.3	33.3	41.7	25.0	83.3	66.7	42.9	42.9
Manufacturing	19.4	21.0	7.3	0.0	0.0	8.5	21.2	23.5	23.0	19.0	17.5	31.7	15.2	22.9	25.7	28.9	21.3	16.9	20.3	25.3	24.0	22.7	20.8	23.7	28.1	27.1
Electricity, Gas and Water	0.0	25.0	25.0	13.3	20.4	33.3	0.0	20.0	0.0	16.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.0	6.0	11.6	11.6	35.9	25.4	47.2	44.3	48.5	54.0	42.8	
Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	33.3	0.0	0.0	50.0	25.0	33.3	52.6	19.6	25.0	32.5	37.5	13.1	39.1	8.2	40.4	28.3	32.4	23.2	35.4	62.2	64.0	42.4
8. Business Constraints: Current Quarter																										
High Interest Rate	49.6	46.9	38.0	46.0	35.9	28.2	24.2	31.5	32.9	28.6	34.2	33.0	33.1	38.4	39.8	37.0	34.7	35.9	36.2	32.4	30.0	29.1	27.6	23.0	23.6	23.7
Unclear Economic Laws	36.5	37.9	29.9	37.8	31.1	30.3	31.0	34.0	33.5	35.9	41.2	34.7	35.2	37.0	38.2	37.6	38.0	45.9	48.7	40.3	41.4	34.3	33.1	27.6	27.2	24.5
Lack of Equipment	27.8	17.5	15.8	21.8	20.6	19.6	19.4	18.8	20.0	22.0	24.2	19.8	21.5	22.0	20.8	24.4	22.6	23.8	24.6	21.2	19.5	19.4	17.9	17.1	17.9	16.0
Insufficient Demand	67.8	65.0	75.5	76.3	72.4	77.2	67.5	67.2	70.9	69.7	63.7	56.4	57.2	58.7	61.1	61.3	60.9	64.3	65.4	58.7	60.6	58.7	55.3	51.6	49.8	46.8
Access to Credit	40.0	32.8	31.0	42.1	35.5	34.5	30.0	24.5	25.2	26.8	29.0	30.7	25.4	27.9	27.3	31.1	30.3	30.4	31.8	29.2	30.8	24.8	23.4	19.1	19.6	18.9
Financial Problems	34.8	33.3	32.1	39.4	30.8	33.4	30.8	31.4	30.2	30.8	34.2	31.9	31.1	33.5	33.6	36.2	36.1	37.6	37.6	31.1	30.5	29.4	27.5	27.2	26.0	24.7
Competition	73.9	71.8	77.7	77.9	76.8	78.4	73.8	70.7	73.3	77.3	73.0	62.5	68.8	70.3	73.1	74.0	73.4	74.2	74.4	74.1	75.3	37.1	38.7	62.6	66.0	62.2
Labor Problems	22.6	23.2	22.3	24.1	20.0	28.6	32.3	25.9	23.0	21.3	23.5	18.5	20.8	22.8	23.5	27.7	26.8	26.5	25.3	23.0	22.9	20.9	21.7	20.3	18.6	19.7
Lack of Materials Input	22.6	18.1	17.4	21.7	18.3	18.3	18.6	23.4	23.2	22.9	24.6	19.4	24.2	23.6	28.3	26.8	24.7	24.4	25.7	21.8	21.6	22.1	21.2	22.3	20.1	19.0
Others	26.1	27.7	22.8	25.0	19.6	19.4	20.7	20.9	18.3	17.3	16.2	16.4	19.0	13.2	15.8	16.7	17.1	21.0	20.0	16.5	15.9	19.4	18.7	17.4	16.8	17.5
None	3.5	3.4	7.6	2.1	2.5	6.4	1.7	3.5	5.0	5.0	6.3	6.5	6.2	6.3	5.7	5.1	4.6	3.0	3.4	5.5	4.2	4.7	3.6	5.4	6.9	7.9
9. Business Expectations Index on Selected Economic Indicators: Current Quarter																										
P/\$ Exchange Rate	19.1	36.7	20.1	-0.1	7.5	-8.0	4.3	11.2	6.9	7.5	0.5	-15.9	-1.5	-2.5	-8.3	10.8	7.2	-11.9	10.1	7.5	11.8	7.5	39.5	31.1	34.3	35.0
Inflation Rate	37.4	65.0	46.2	-8.4	1.4	3.9	32.4	36.8	25.8	27.9	42.1	45.8	52.0	51.0	61.9	30.3	51.0	61.4	53.6	22.9	32.8	31.6	-3.1	-13.9	-5.1	-2.3
Peso Borrowing Rate	6.1	22.6	23.4	-37.2	-32.9	-6.7	11.4	16.0	26.5	9.5	27.2	33.7	38.7	39.8	43.2	21.7	28.3	41.9	37.1	6.8	10.8	17.3	-5.8	-23.5	-15.4	-3.2
10. Business Expectations Index on Selected Economic Indicators: Next Quarter																										
P/\$ Exchange Rate	11.3	10.7	22.3	11.7	4.9	-8.9	6.3	9.4	11.3	5.5	-11.5	-15.6	0.2	4.6	-7.3	3.4	0.9	-5.0	-0.9	-3.6	5.7	18.0	23.3	11.2	21.9	37.9
Inflation Rate	23.5	46.9	44.0	-0.4	15.7	16.6	26.0	43.2	28.6	31.6	33.4	52.9	42.2	41.6	53.3	29.7	44.4	55.1	45.7	27.8	30.3	31.0	-0.6	4.1	5.5	9.5
Peso Borrowing Rate	4.4	19.8	20.7	-21.8	1.8	4.8	10.0	29.3	25.3	15.1	22.0	32.6	31.8	32.0	42.5	25.5	29.8	39.4	31.4	16.5	17.6	18.3	-2.6	-4.9	-2.3	3.2
11. Percentage Distribution of Respondent Firms by Employment Size																										
Small (<100)	41.7	44.6	42.4	41.9	38.1	41.4	43.5	41.8	38.4	36.3	35.5	33.7	31.8	36.1	36.2	35.0	34.4	31.8	33.6	32.1	31.5	34.2	33.2	33.9	33.9	38.3
Medium (100-~500)	36.5	31.1	31.0	32.1	35.6	34.3	32.1	27.6	31.7	30.8	29.6	35.1	36.1	33.8	31.4	36.2	36.9	37.6	33.7	35.8	32.8	33.8	35.7	36.0	32.4	32.6
Large (500 & up)	14.8	13.0	12.0	13.2	14.4	14.3	16.6	13.3	14.0	17.3	14.9	15.3	15.6	15.0	17.0	16.1	14.8	14.6	16.0	17.2	15.8	18.1	16.2	17.4	17.8	15.6
No Response	7.0	11.3	14.7	12.8	11.9	10.0	7.8	17.3	15.9	15.6	20.0	15.9	16.5	15.1	15.4	12.7	13.9	16.0	16.7	14.9	19.9	13.9	14.9	12.7	15.9	13.6
12. Distribution of Respondent Firms by Sector																										
All Sectors	115	177	184	234	236	251	271	294	315	289	348	377	429	574	500	510	614	614	627	673	652	748	786	765	757	732
Industry	34	48	50	54	59	56	75	109	119	104	141	135	137	208	174	169	223	219	218	270	262	284	311	287	279	292
Construction	9	11	14	15	11	15	15	16	17	14	20	11	15	21	19	17	20	18	20	25	22	28	32	22	20	20
Wholesale and Retail Trade	30	45	47	80	81	87	81	86	83	79	96	93	118	153	132	165	187	187	196	195	187	237	238	265	262	237
Services	42	73	73	85	85	93	100	83	96	92	91	138	159	192	175	159	184	190	193	183	181	199	205	191	196	183
Financial Intermediation	17	29	27	34	34	40	42	26	31	30	28	45	50	57	53	45	52	50	48	45	43	49	50	48	48	46
Hotels and Restaurants	4	9	11	9	9	10	7	10	13	12	15	20	20	23	21	16	23	19	23	20	20	16	18	17	16	13
Renting and Business Activities	5	12	12	13	13	15	20	16	18	18	16	24	26	33	27	29	35	40	41	41	42	42	44	45	38	34
Community and Social Services	7	8	5	10	10	10	13	13	14	14	13	17	22	29	26	26	23	27	27	27	26	33	31	29	30	29



Business Expectations Survey 2007

Business Outlook Index on the Macroeconomy ¹ by Importer/Exporter Category

	Importer			Exporter			Both (Importer and Exporter)		
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q1	Q2	Q3
Current Quarter	39.5	49.4	47.5	24.4	37.5	4.2	38.9	50.0	41.5
Next Quarter	40.7	44.8	59.6	39.0	37.5	6.3	51.1	44.2	42.5

Business Outlook Index on the Macroeconomy ¹ by Employment Size

	Small (<100)			Medium (100-<500)			Large (500 & up)		
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q1	Q2	Q3
Current Quarter	41.7	43.2	33.6	41.5	37.8	42.2	42.3	54.4	39.5
Next Quarter	51.7	43.2	53.8	44.4	43.8	48.8	50.0	43.4	55.1

¹ Diffusion Index - Positive index indicates the percentage of those who answered improving more than those who answered deteriorating and vice versa.