



# State of Business Survey 2013

## Survey Results





# **Survey Dates:**

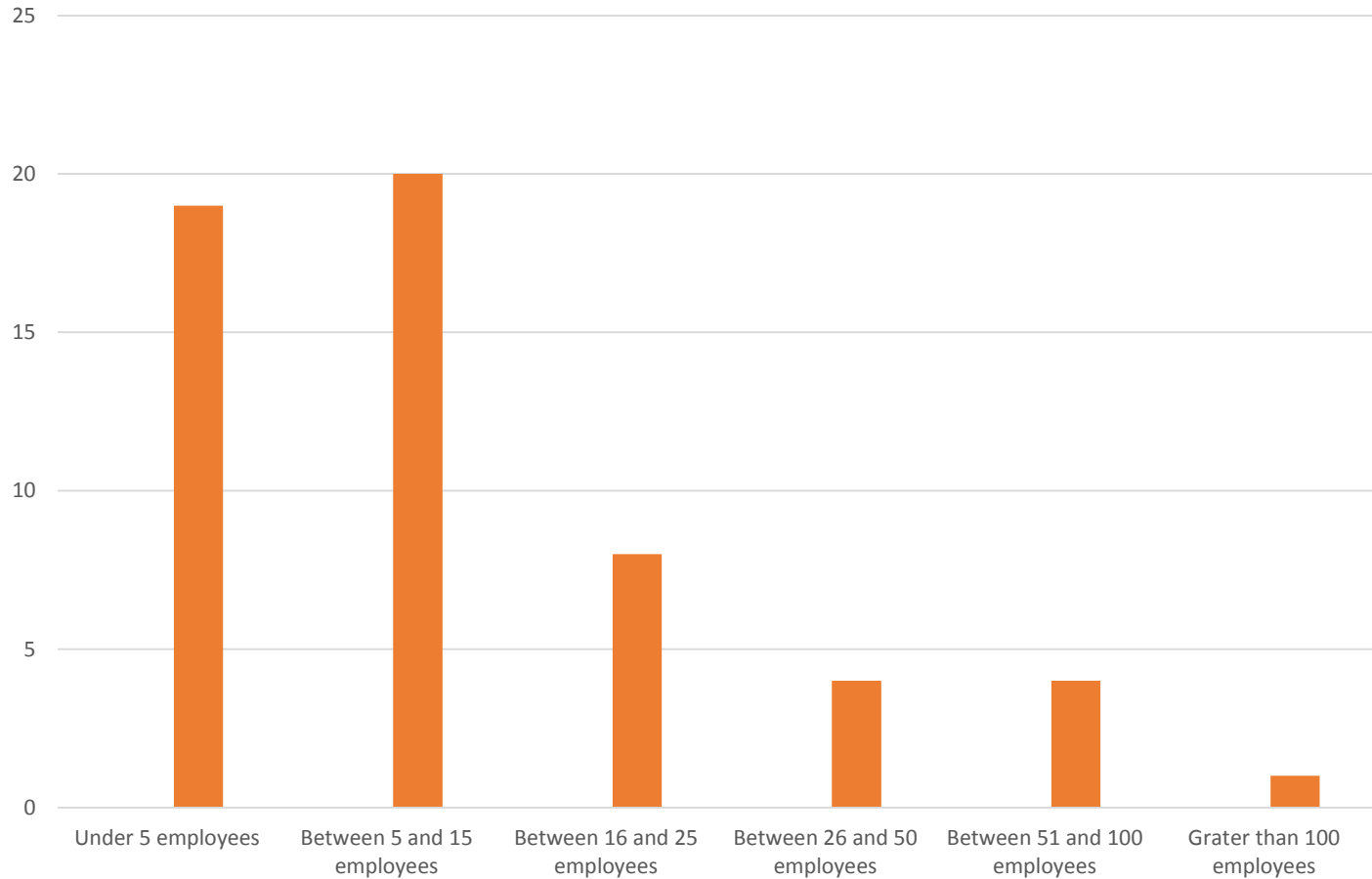
**October 13 – November 30, 2013**

**56 Surveys completed**





## My Business Employs:



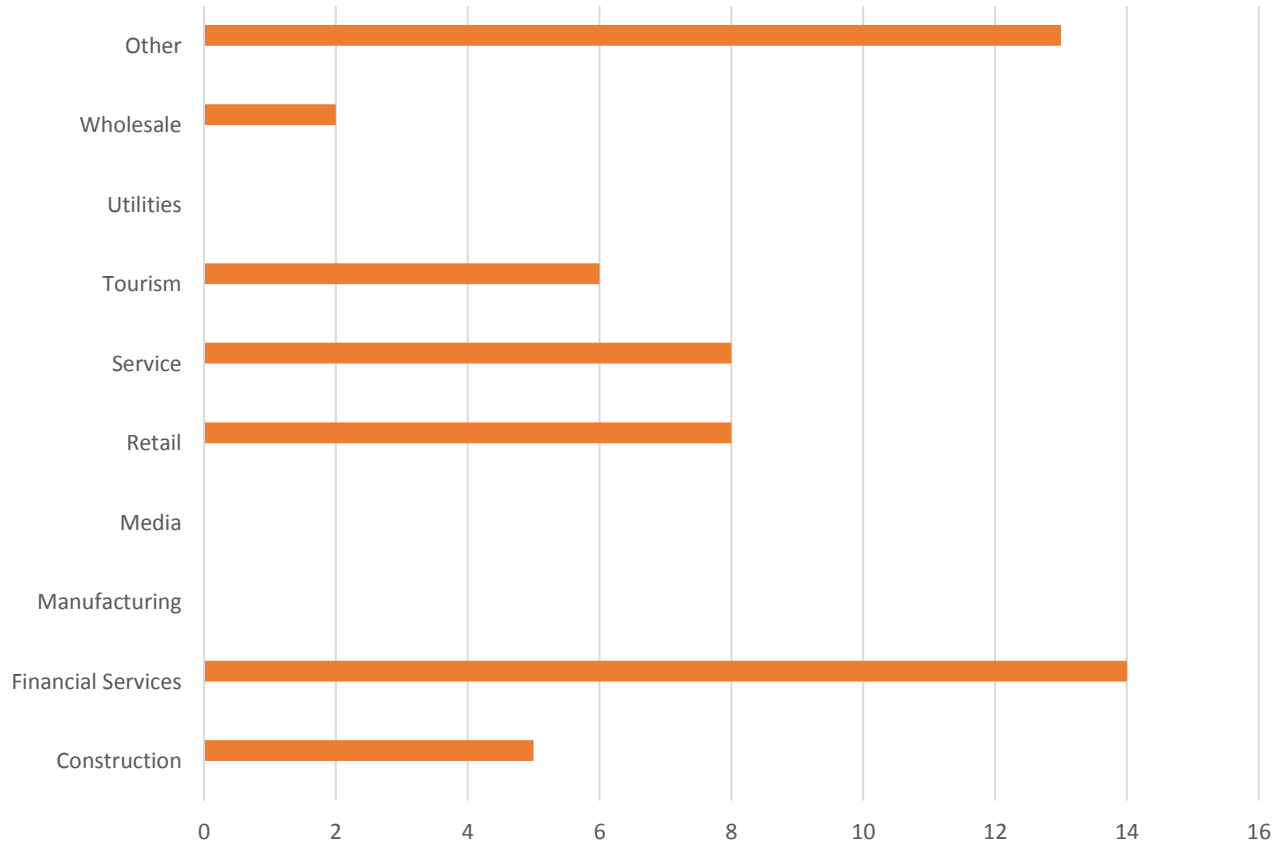


**69.6%** of respondent businesses employ  
**between 1 and 15** staff members





## Industry Sector





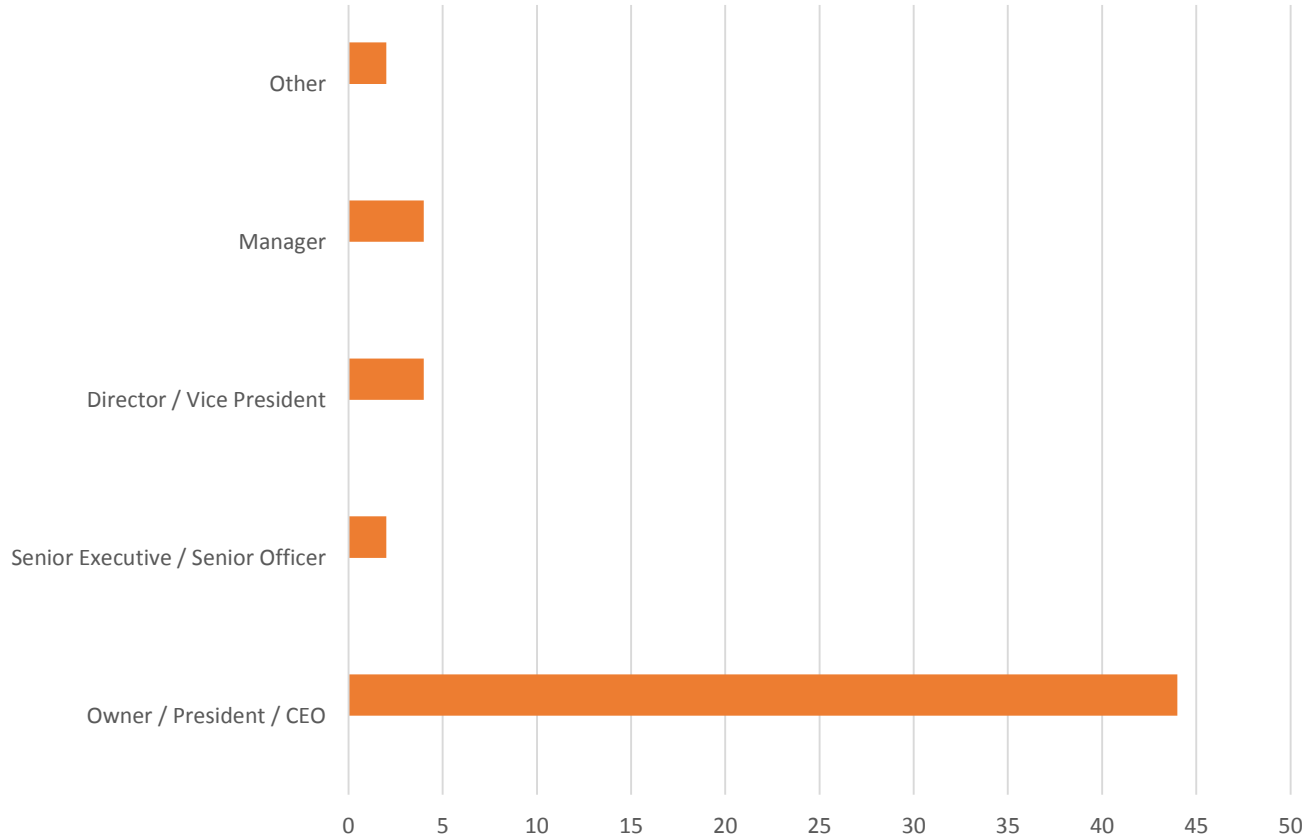
## **Top 3 Industry Sectors:**

**Financial Services**  
**Service Industry**  
**Retail**





Position



**78.5% of  
respondents  
were the  
Owner,  
President or  
CEO**



In the first half of 2013, my profits:



**33.9%**

**Increased**

**37.5 %**

**Decreased**

**28.5 %**

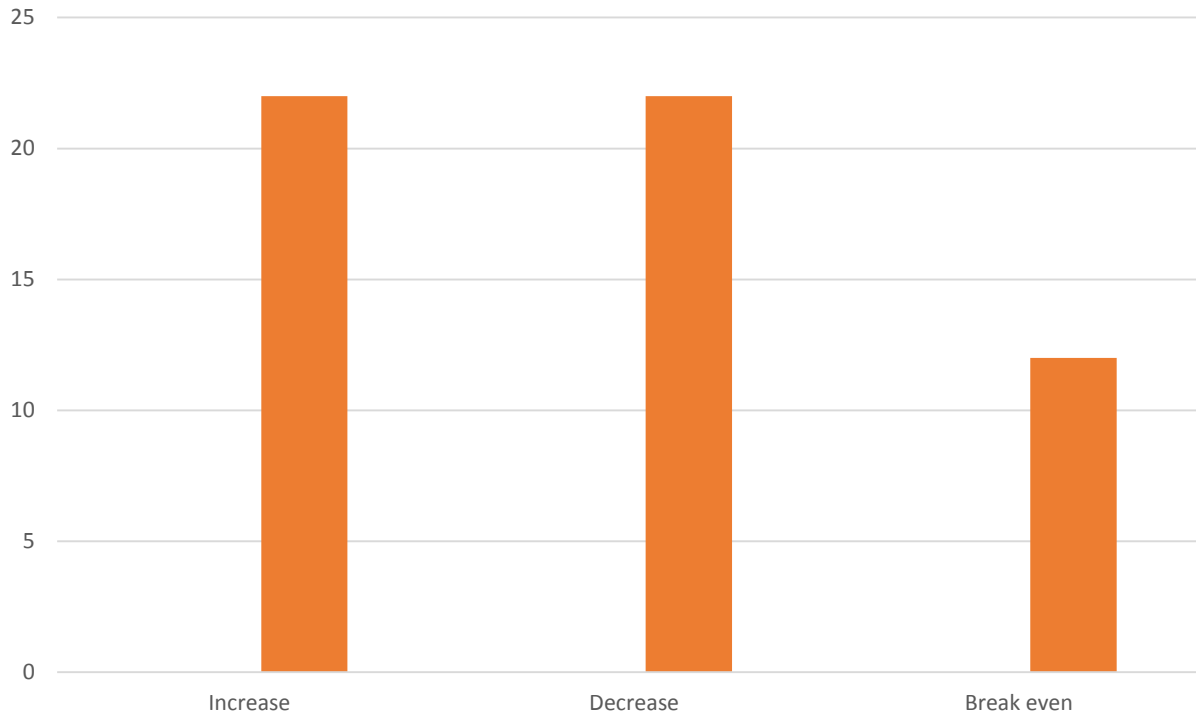
**Broke Even**







In the second half of 2013, I predict  
my profits to:



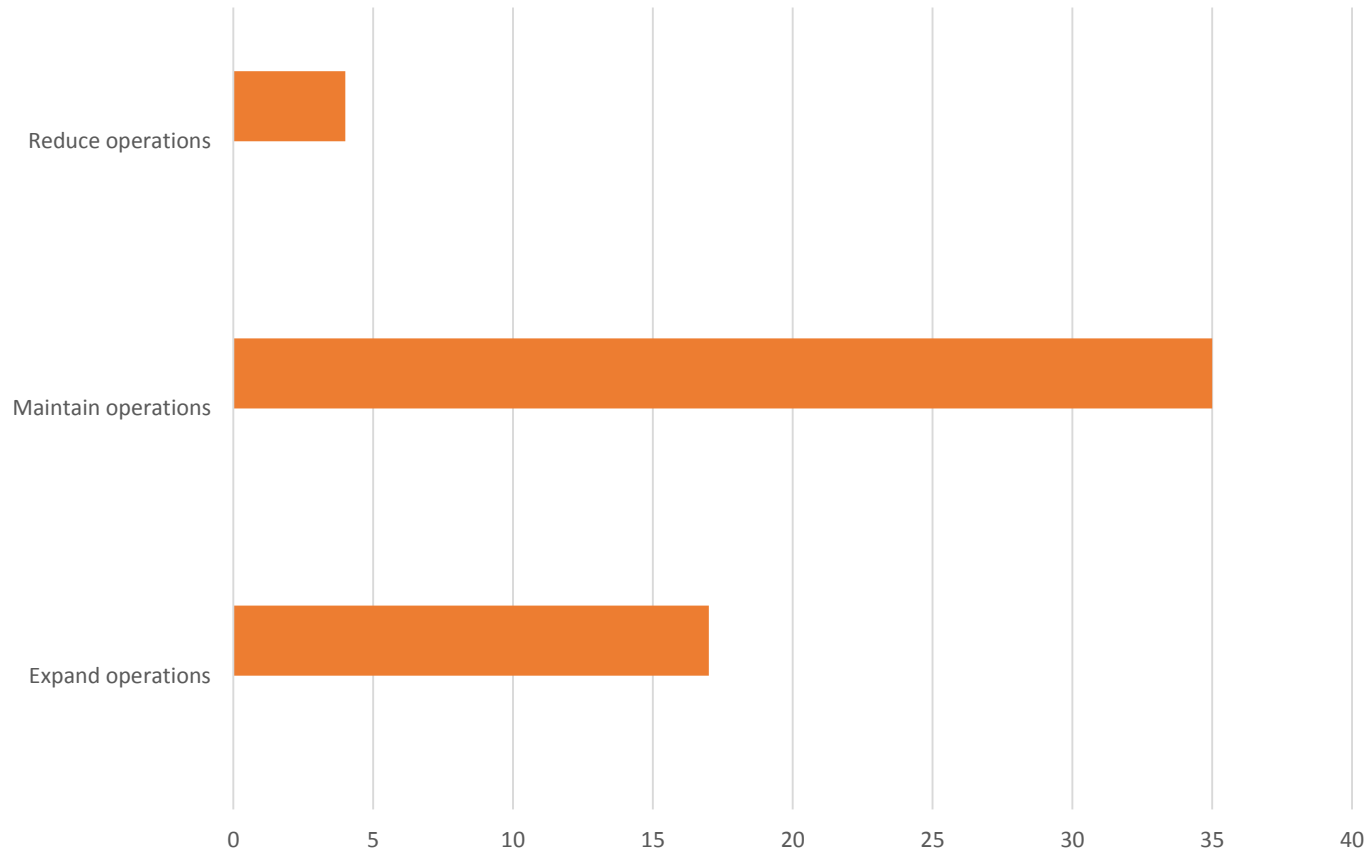
**39.2%**  
**Increase**

**39.2 %**  
**Decrease**

**21.4 %**  
**Break Even**



## In 2014, my business plans to:



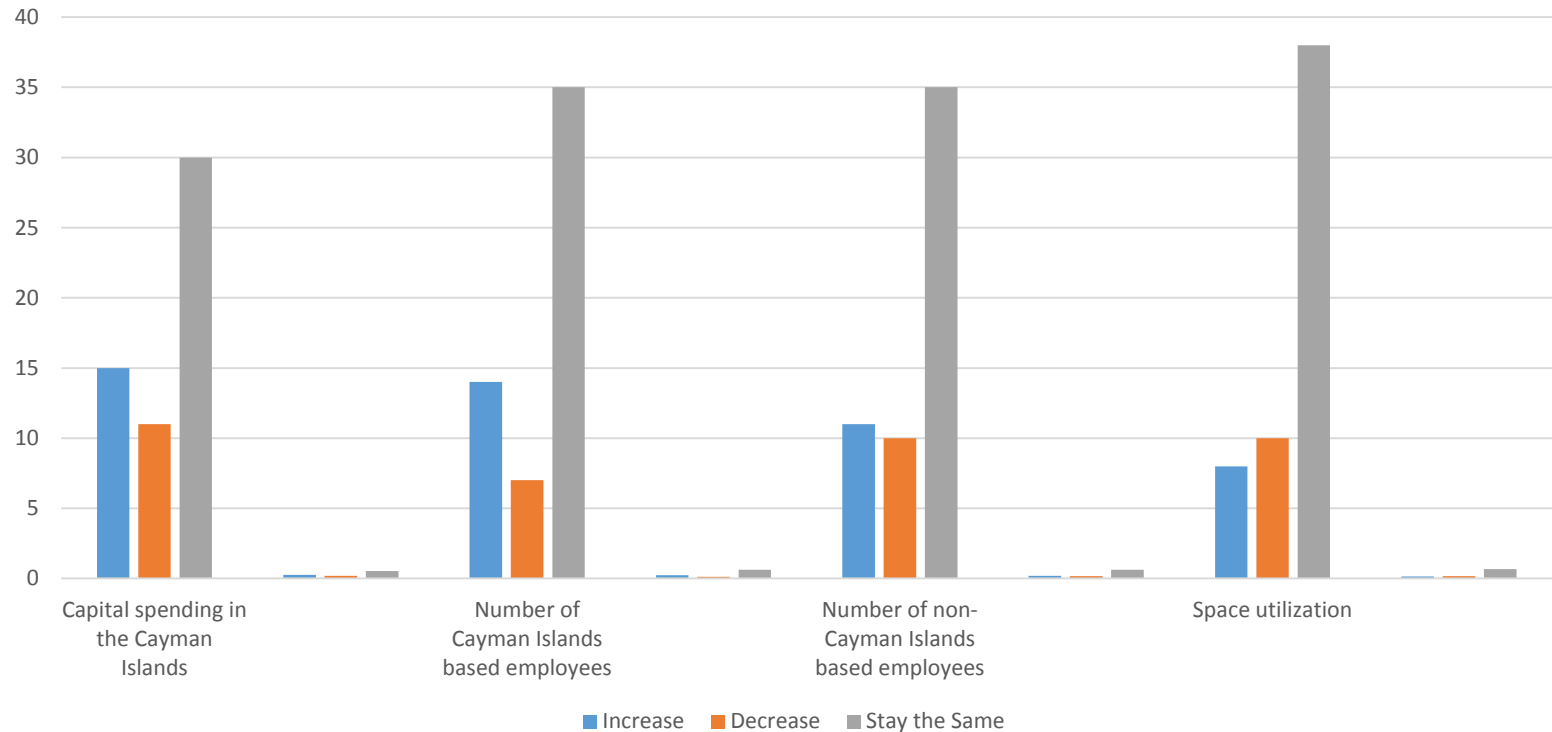


**62.5%** of businesses surveyed plan to  
**maintain operations** in 2014





## During the next 12 months, my business will:



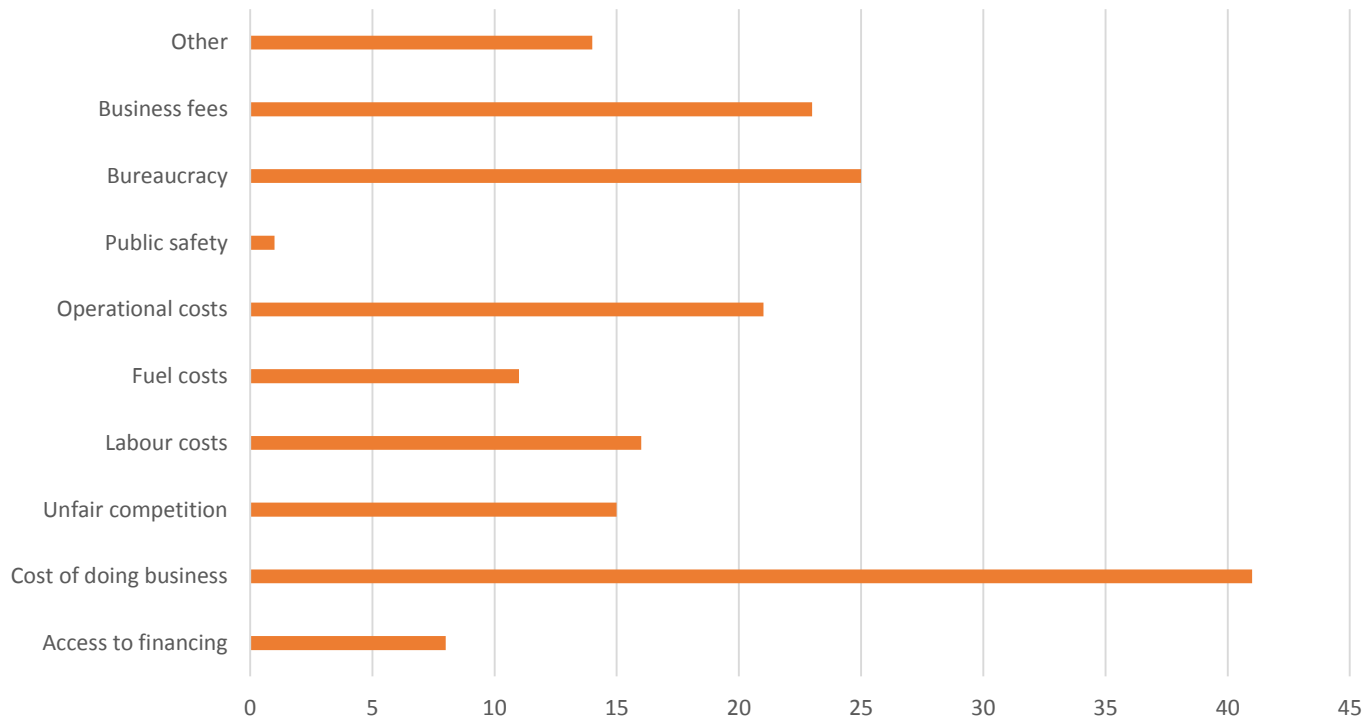


**Businesses reported they will “Stay the Same” in regard to Capital Spending, Cayman and non-Cayman based employees and space utilization in 2014**





## The leading constraints for my business growth are:





# **Top constraints** for Business Growth:

**Cost of doing business**

**Bureaucracy**

**Business fees**

**Operational costs**

**Labour costs**



# **Top constraints** for Business Growth:

Complicated immigration

Immigration has ruined me for many years

Ability to recruit suitably qualified Caymanians

Government fees and regulations are at an intolerable level

Stricter immigration policies may eliminate key people from my team







# **58.9%** of respondents **agree** that their business continues to experience the impact of the global economic recession

Changes in international competitive advantages for the Cayman Islands have become negligible. Bureaucracy and cost of business have increased.

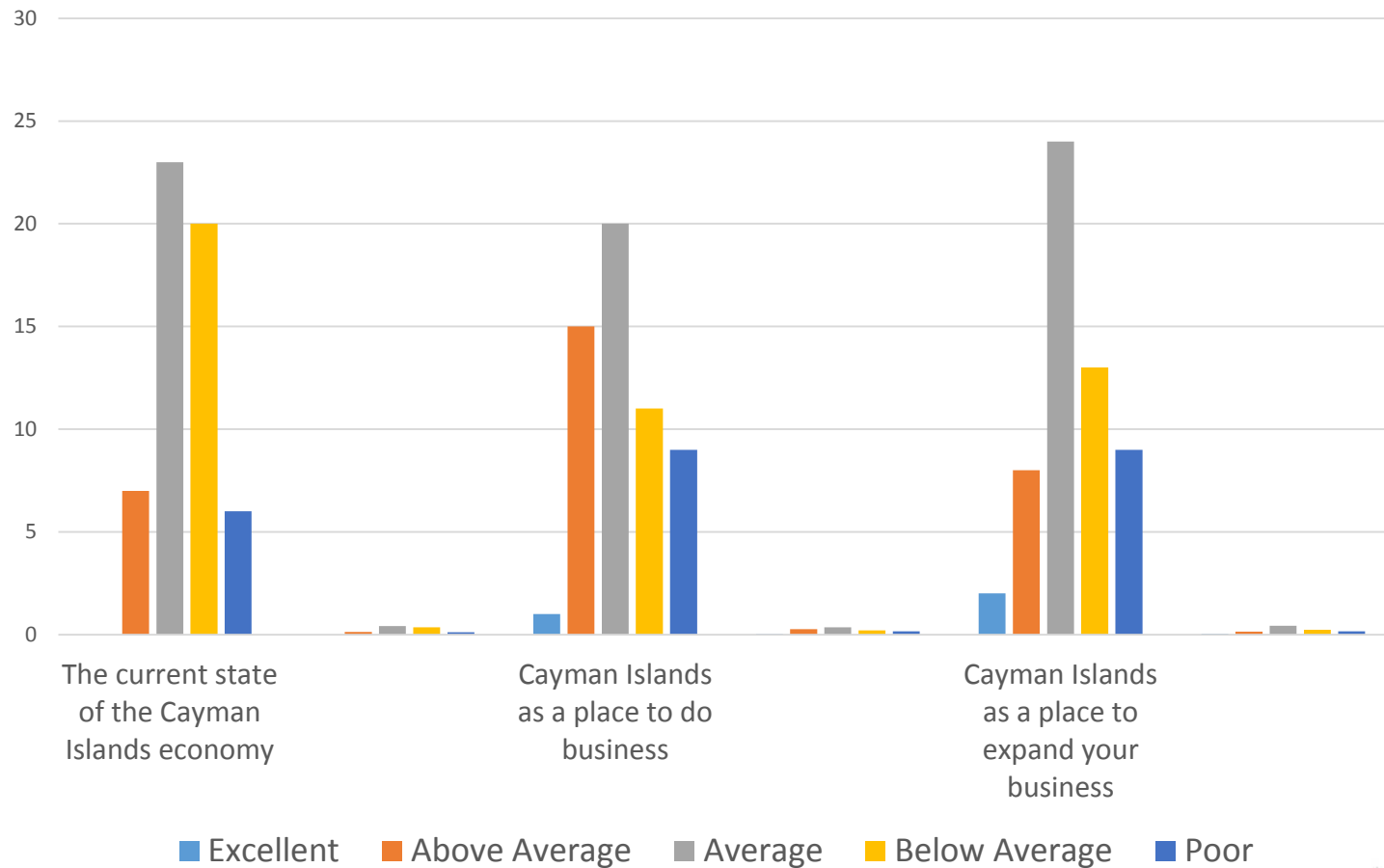
Our customers have had their business reduced by the recession and that reduced our sales.

While everyone thinks the global economic recession is hurting their business, it has made our product much closer and favourable with the United States, where in better times, many of our customers would have went to other more exotic destinations. Airfare is the key component here... It must stay the same!





Please rate each of the following:





**The Cayman Islands rated “Average” in  
the state of the economy, a place to do  
business and a place to expand your  
business**





# **44.6%** of respondents **agree** that the Cayman Islands economy has shown improvements in 2013

Our business volume increases when the economy is not performing well. We have seen significant slowdown in volume for 2013 indicating to us that the economy is performing better.

Modest improvement over prior year, although this is almost entirely down to the growth of "fiduciary services" sector which has slightly more than offset the continued demise of fund administration and banking





# **39.2%** of respondents believe that the Cayman Islands economy **will improve** over the next 12 months

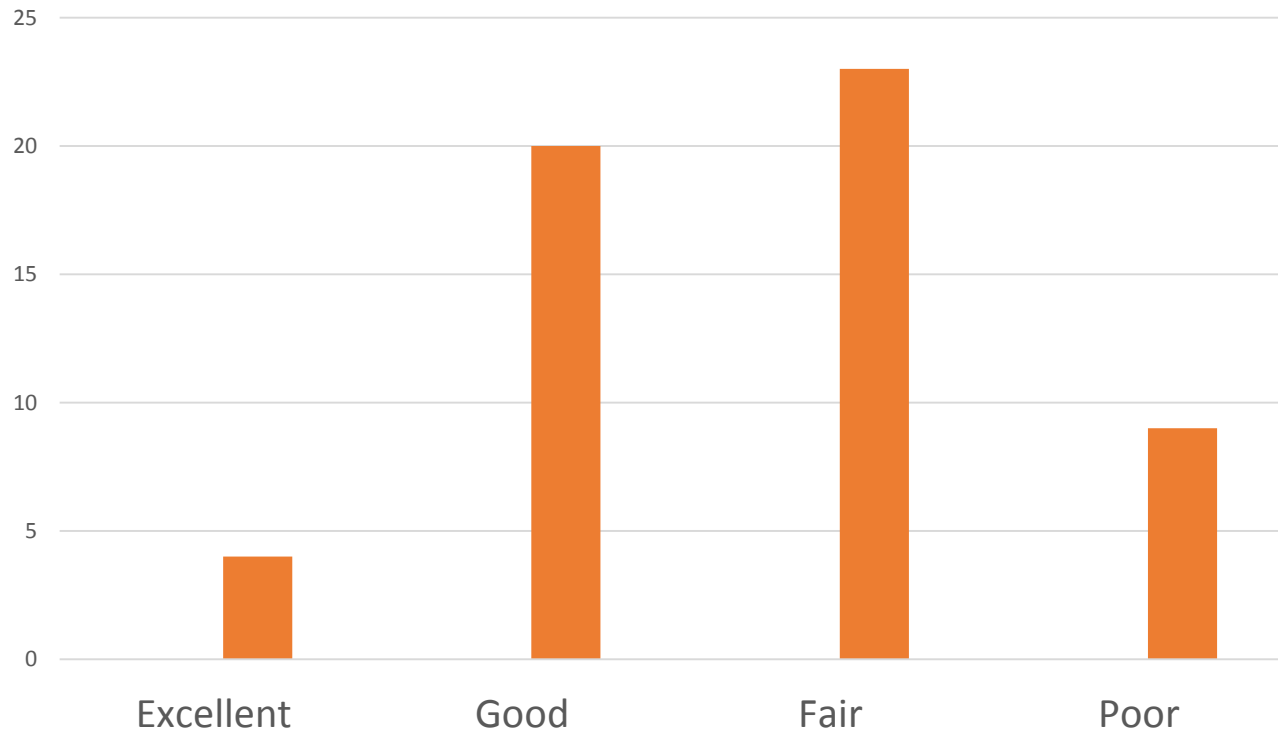
There are encouraging signs, but the current immigration dilemma will create uncertainty among some potential high spenders.

The US and Europe are continuing to create their own economic bubbles. For the next year, I see that boding well for Cayman as there is more money in the system. We should make hay while the sun is shining, because that bubble will eventually bust, but I don't see that happening this year





My current level of confidence in the  
Cayman Islands economy is:





**39.2%** of respondents have a **good to fair**  
confidence in the Cayman Islands  
economy





**48.2% disagree** that the Cayman Islands  
Government has become more  
responsive to the needs of the business  
community







## Please list the top three public policy priorities that you want the Chamber Council to address in 2014:

Customs duties for small businesses, Access to financing for small businesses, Marketing incentives like the DMS offer on sign up

Modernization of pension plans' legislation, Reduction of the bureaucracy that businesses have to comply with, Government expenses reduction and privatization of non-essential services (garbage collection, Water Authority, Port Authority, Airport services, etc.)

Reduced costs of business fees and work permits for small businesses (with scaling as businesses grow), Anything that encourages entrepreneurial activity !





## Please list the top three public policy priorities that you want the Chamber Council to address in 2014:

1. Government policies specifically to address the needs of SMALL Businesses (the Chamber only seems concerned about BIG businesses - SMALL businesses need a voice too).
2. Lobbying of local Banks to cater more to small business needs.
3. A fostering of all businesses, big or small advocating cooperation vs. competition.

Skill development for Caymanians, High cost of living, Immigration

Immigration, Immigration, Immigration.

1. Limit increases in fees to the finance sector- it may kill the golden goose or cause the loss of local jobs.
2. Crime can kill tourism - something needs to change.
3. Increase concerns over the environment and it affects on tourism and the health of residents





Please list the top three public policy priorities that you want the Chamber Council to address in 2014:

1) Corruption & Crime 2) Environmental Protection 3) Energy & Fuel Costs

The Cayman Islands needs to build the foundation to support a thriving economy, through controlled government spending, equality between public and private sectors and developing a centralized database through mandatory government numbering for ALL citizens and companies.

1 Health Insurance costs 2 Revising and improving health insurance law.  
3 Unfair competition. Domestic brewers and distillers should not be getting tax breaks. Imported beer and liquor is heavily taxed. We hire Caymanians. The Brewery employs many foreigners.





*Thank you for your  
attention*

