



# Survey Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce

## 2006 Economic Outlook Survey Results - Summary

Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce

In November of 2005 the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce circulated its annual economic outlook survey to the membership.

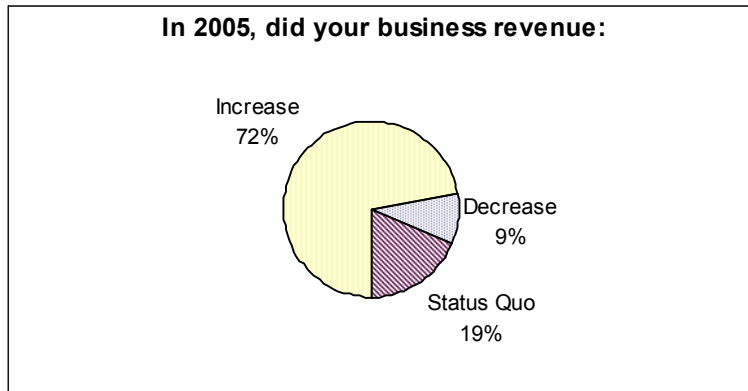
### Industry Response

Manufacturing or Processing: 22.2%  
Professional: 11.1%  
Retail: 16.7%  
Other: 13%  
Agriculture: 1.9%  
Wholesale or Distributing: 7.4%  
Hotels or Restaurants: 5.6%

Financial: 5.6%  
Insurance or Real Estate: 5.6%  
Contractors: 3.7%  
Transportation or Communication: 5.6%  
Did not indicate a particular industry: 1.9%  
Natural Resources: 0%

### 1. Business Volume

#### 1.1. 2005 Business Revenue



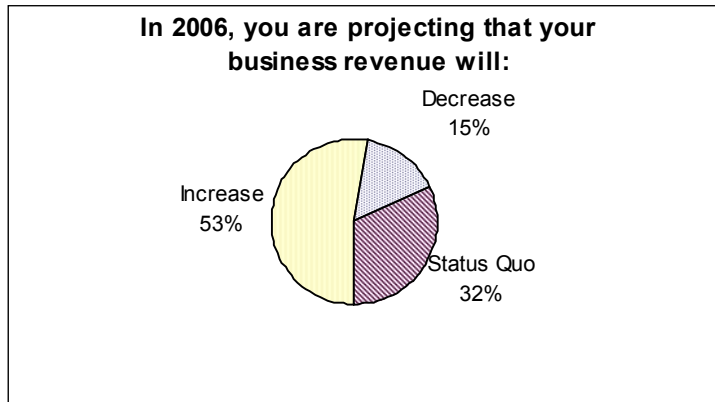
For those that experienced an increase in business revenue:

- The average increase was 17.64%
- The most common increase was 10%
- The largest increase was 65%
- The smallest increase was 2%

For those that experienced a decrease in business revenue:

- The average decrease was -20.7%
- The most common decrease was -10%
- The largest decrease was -62%
- The smallest decrease was -5%

## 1.2. Projected Business Revenue for 2006



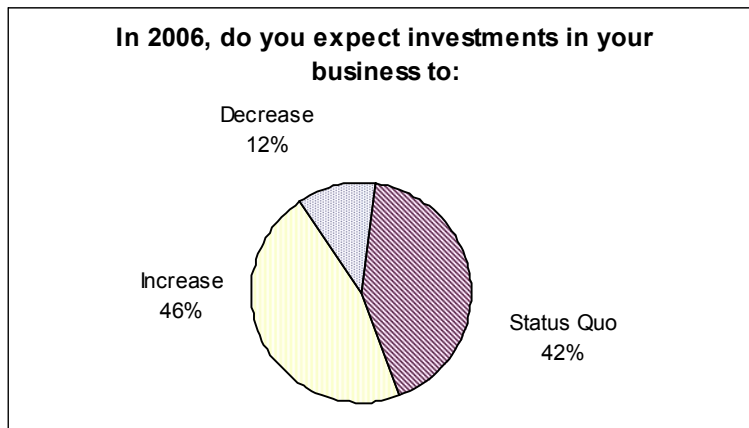
For those that expect an increase:

- The average increase was 13.7%
- The most common increase was 10%
- The greatest increase was 45%
- The smallest increase was 1%

For those that expect a decrease:

- The average decrease was -21.3%
- The largest decrease was -50%
- The smallest decrease was -5%

## 1.3. Expected Investments in Business in 2006



For those that expect an increase in investment:

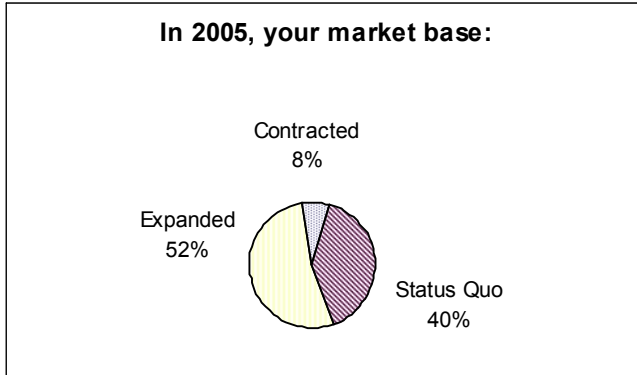
- The average increase was 13.7%
- The most common increase was 10%
- The greatest increase was 40%
- The smallest increase was 1%

For those that expect a decrease in investment:

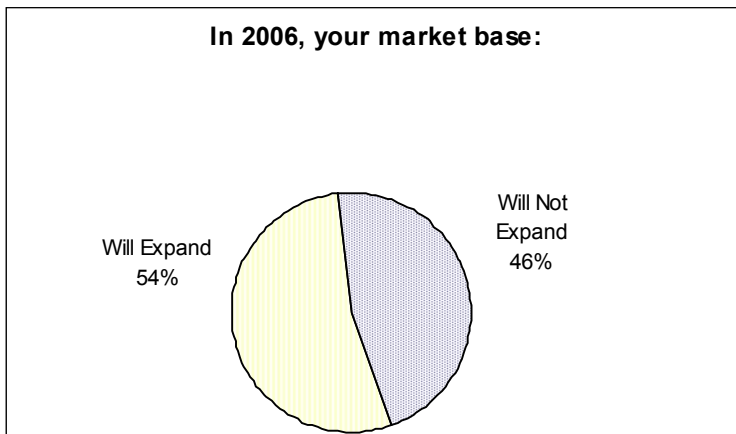
- The average decrease was -28.3%
- The largest decrease was -50%
- The smallest decrease was -15%

## 2. Market Expansion

### 2.1. 2005 Market Base

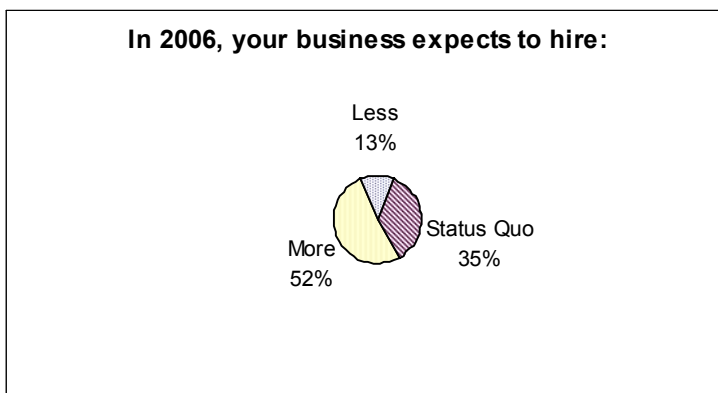


### 2.2. Expectations for Market Base in 2006



## 3. Job Creation

### 3.1. Employment Projection



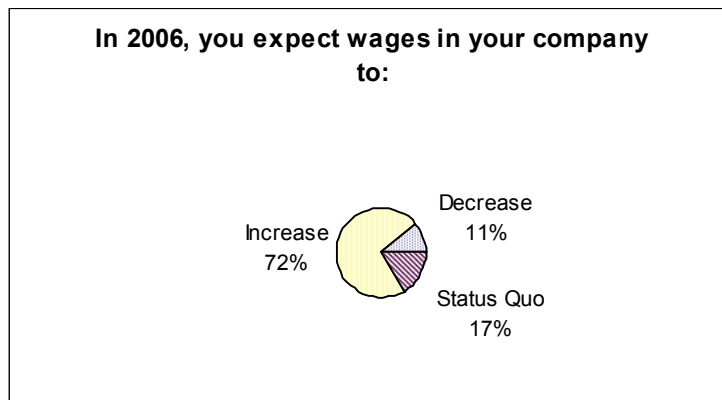
For those that expect to hire more people

- The average increase in full time employees was 6.1
- The most common response was 2 full time employees
- The largest increase in full time employees was 40
- The smallest increase in full time employees was 1
- The average increase in part time employees was 2
- The most common response was 1 part time employee
- The largest increase in part time employees was 4
- The smallest increase in part time employees was 1

For those that expect to hire fewer people

- The average decrease in full time employees was -115
- The most common decrease in full time employees was -2
- The largest decrease in full time employees -700
- The smallest decrease in full time employees was -1
- The average decrease in part time employees was -6.3
- The largest decrease in part time employees was -42
- The smallest decrease in part time employees was -1

### 3.2. *Expected Wage Levels*



- The average wage increase that is expected for 2004 was 2.1%
- The most common wage increase that is expected was 3%
- The largest wage increase that is expected was 15%
- The smallest wage increase that is expected was 2%
- The largest wage decrease that is expected was – 80%
- The smallest wage decrease that is expected was – 2 %

## 4. **General Comments**

- “Very optimistic about the success we will have in 2006”.
- “Due to the international agricultural situation and the terrible growing conditions of the last few years, I don’t foresee any growth in my sector of Tisdale”.
- “Reduce government intervention [through] fewer taxes, less regulation, more employment friendly, more investor friendly, etc.”
- “We have decided to close our core business operations and pursue other interests”.
- “Banks and lending institutions [should] be allowed sell insurance products through their locations. Banks have closed 2000 locations in the last decade mostly in small towns. Brokers have opened up 280 new locations across Canada. Brokers represent 300 companies across Canada. As you can see Insurance Brokers are serving the public well.”
- “This Provincial Government continues to be deeply suspicious of the private sector. The result is lower than acceptable private sector investment associated [with] private wealth creation. The resource boom may have increased government revenues but private sector employment continues to stagnate. Elimination of the capital tax and harmonization of the PST would help greatly.”
- “Our proximity to the Prince Albert pulp mill will impact our sales in 2006 negatively. The farm economy has been hit hard in this area following two poor harvests. Failure of our leaders to assist farmers battling the elements and unfair trade subsidies is strangling our producers.”

- “Saskatchewan is considered a marginal growth areas; the provincial situation is at best considered a ‘manufacturing neutral’ situation in international contexts.”
- “Government cannot regulate and compete in an industry at the same time”
- “Lack of both skilled and unskilled labour”.
- “Having to pay PST on used vehicles and equipment is a big burden on companies and the general population.”
- “Change the Labour [Standards] Act so that companies/institutions have the same rights as unions.”
- “Life is good; we need to recognize that and stop at other areas and dumping on our own province. It is difficult to attract people and business to this province when everyone is so negative. We need to appreciate what we have and promote it world-wide. Let’s look at opportunities rather than always concerns”.