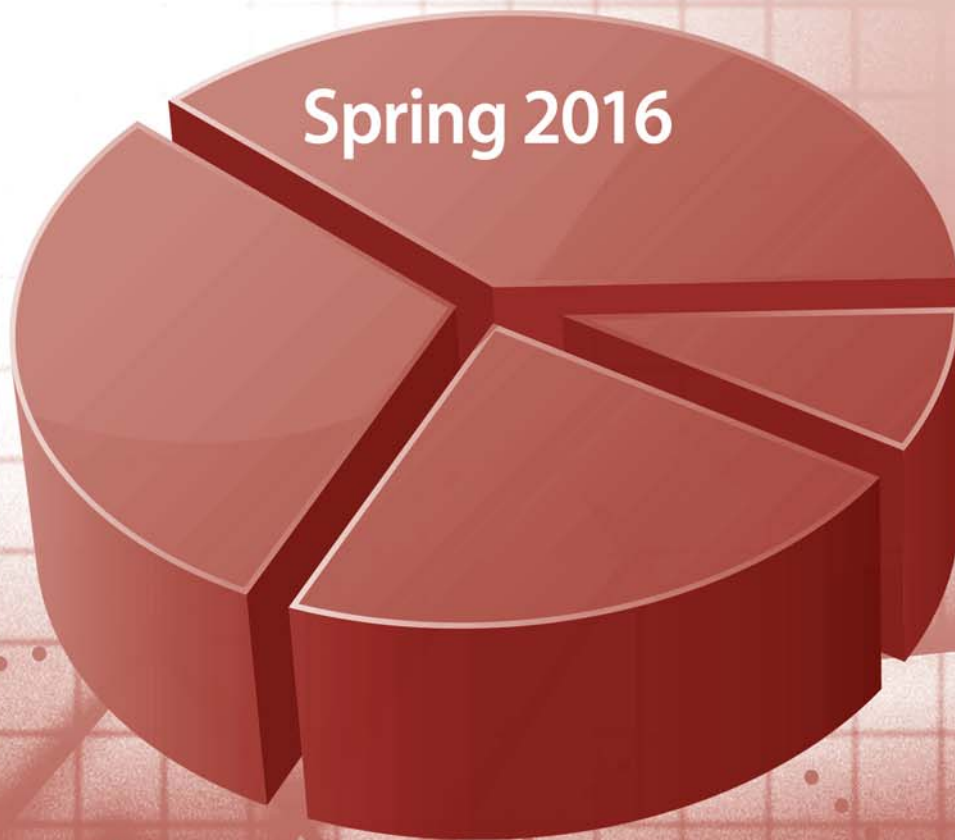


Sangamon County Economic Outlook Survey

*Assessing the economic expectations of business and
non-profit organizations in Sangamon County*



Survey Research Office

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SPRINGFIELD



Report conducted by:



*Sponsored by the University of Illinois Springfield Chancellor's Office, the
Center for State Policy and Leadership at UIS, and The Greater
Springfield Chamber of Commerce*

Table of Contents

Project Overview	p. 1
Executive Summary	p. 3
Sangamon County Economy	p. 6
Examining Expectations for Economic Sectors	p. 8
Overall Expectations for “Your” Business/ Firm/ Organization	p. 9
Biggest Challenges Facing Sangamon County Employers	p. 10
Spring 2016 Topical Section	p. 12
Appendix A. Transparency Initiative Methodological Report	p. 16
Appendix B. Mail Survey Instrument	p. 17
Appendix C. Top Line Report	p. 21
Appendix D. Responses to Open-ended Questions	p. 32

Project Overview

The Sangamon County Economic Outlook Survey examines the economic perceptions, expectations, and evaluations of Sangamon County businesses as well as public, and non-profit organizations. The survey has been conducted biannually (March and September) since 2008¹ with the goal of providing a longitudinal analysis of the local economy through the lens of area organizations.

The 2016 survey results are from 262 local organizations who were contacted in March 2016 via mail surveys and via email invitation using Qualtrics Research Suite. A discussion of this project's methodology is available in the Transparency Initiative Methodological Report on page 15.²

For more information about this survey, please contact Juan Carlos Donoso at jdono2@uis.edu or at (217) 206-7956. Special thanks to Richard Schuldt, Dr. Beverly Bunch, Dr. Patricia Byrnes at the University of Illinois Springfield and Josh Collins at the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce, the Economic Outlook Survey steering committee for their guidance on this project.

Report written by:

Juan Carlos Donoso, SRO Director

Matthew Case, SRO Research Manager

Assistance provided by:

Josephine Liu

Tondalaya Reece

¹ The only exception being September 2011. It is important to note that the methodology for the survey has changed slightly over the past seven years. More information on this is available in the Transparency Initiative Methodological Report.

² In 2015, the UIS Survey Research Office (SRO) became a charter member of the American Association for Public Opinions Research's Transparency Initiative (TI). By joining the TI, the SRO is supporting broader and more effective disclosure of research methods by all organizations. The Transparency Initiative provides formal public recognition by AAPOR of an organization's voluntary commitment to abide by the disclosure standards in the AAPOR Code of Professional Ethics and Practices, while benefiting the public by providing more information with which to evaluate the quality of individual surveys.

Table 1. Business Demographics of Respondents

	Responses		Valid frequency
Sector			
Private sector (for-profit)	198		77.6%
Non-profit sector	40		15.7%
Public sector (government)	17		6.7%
	Responses		Valid frequency
Primary Economic Activity			
Construction	14		8.1%
Manufacturing	4		2.3%
Wholesale trade	3		1.1%
Retail trade	25		14.5%
Transportation/warehousing	3		1.7%
Finance/insurance/real estate	32		18.6%
Medical/health care	22		12.8%
Education/educational services	13		7.6%
Accommodations/food/entertainment/recreation	18		10.5%
Information and communication systems	7		4.1%
Business and professional support services	18		10.5%
Personal services	3		1.7%
Natural resources and mining	4		2.3%
Public administration	6		3.5%
	Responses		Valid frequency
Number of employees			
Less than 5 employees	55		24.3%
5-14 employees	59		26.1%
15-29 employees	36		15.9%
30-44 employees	13		5.8%
45-59 employees	11		4.9%
60-79 employees	7		3.1%
80-99 employees	3		1.3%
100-149 employees	13		5.8%
150-299 employees	13		5.8%
300 or more employees	16		7.1%
	Mean	Maximum	St. Deviation
Years in operation			
Number of years in current location	24.8	141	25.4
Number of years in Sangamon County	39.3	195	36.1
Number of years in Illinois	41.6	195	37.2

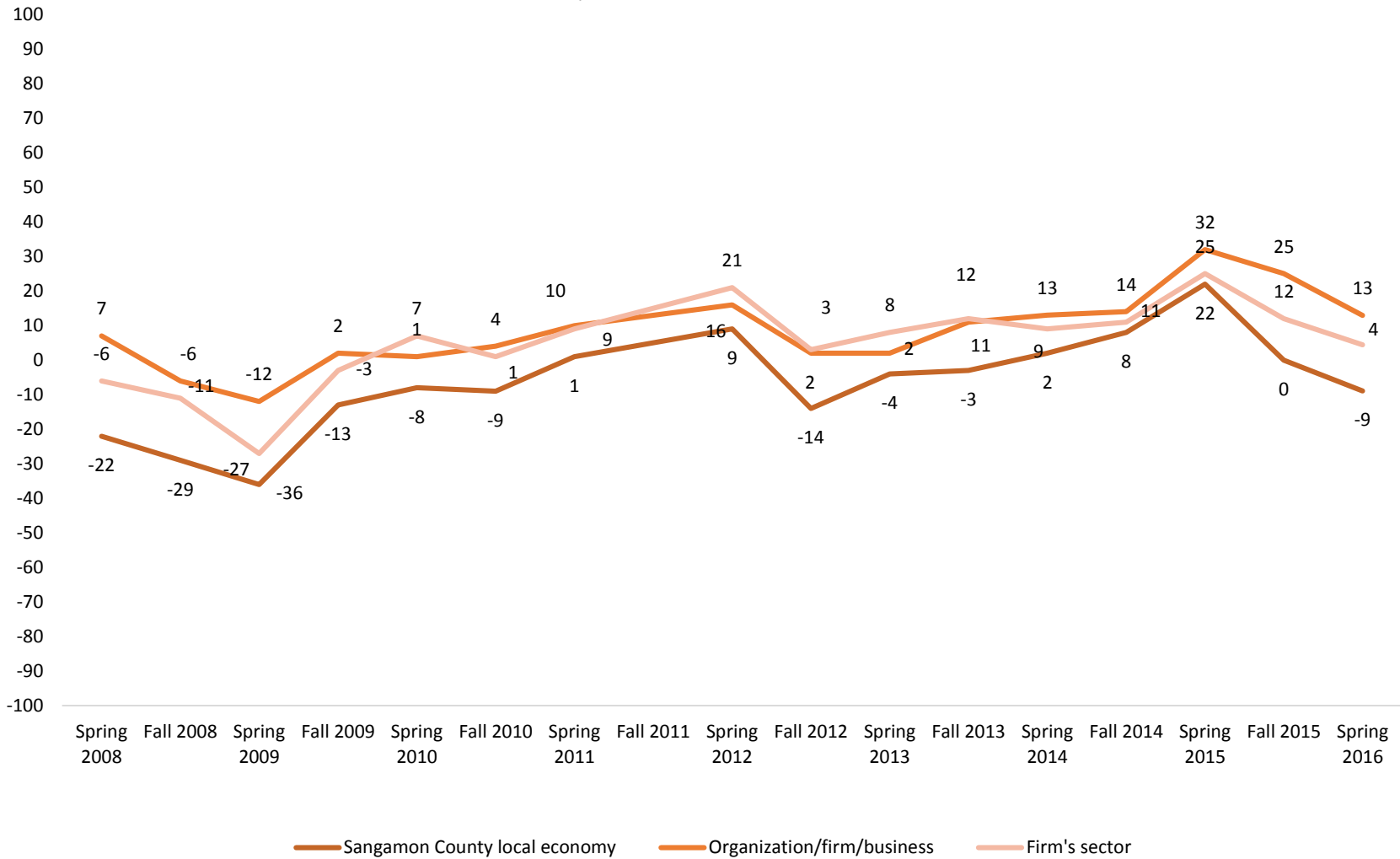
Executive Summary

The Sangamon County Economic Outlook Survey studies local businesses/firms as well as non-profit and public organizations in order to gauge expectations for the next twelve months across several economic indicators. By creating the Intensity Index Scores (the main indicator for economic expectations), researchers are able to compare expectations of individual business, sectors, and the overall economy each survey iteration. The Intensity Index Score is the average of all ratings when the following values are assigned to each response: large decline (-100), small decline (-50), stay the same (0), small increase (+50), and large increase (+100). The Intensity Index Score measures the expected change in each of the economic factors over the next 12 months. Figure 1 (p. 4) displays the longitudinal analysis of Intensity Index Scores (IIS) for the overall Sangamon County economy, respondents' firm's sector, and individual firms/businesses/organizations.

As seen in figure 1 (p. 4), expectations for the overall Sangamon County economy, for firms' own sectors, and for respondents' own firms have remained relatively stable since the spring of 2008. For example, while the figure shows that expectations for Sangamon County's economy were as low as -36 points on the Intensity Index during the spring of 2009 and as high as 22 points during the spring of 2015, it is important to note that the Intensity Index Score covers a span of 200 points, as indicated above. Thus, the mean Intensity Index Scores cluster mainly around the "stay the same" response option, as displayed in the figure below.

The Spring 2016 survey reveals that economic expectations in Sangamon County have decreased slightly in the last six months, but the mean Intensity Index Scores indicate that the prevailing opinion among employers is that things will largely remain the same for the next 12 months.

Figure 1. Intensity Index Scores of expectations about overall Sangamon County, firm's sector, and own firm across time



The Spring 2016 Sangamon County Economic Outlook Survey report is divided into five sections and several appendices:

- The first section of the report examines the overall expectations for the Sangamon County economy. The survey finds that, on average, expectations have declined slightly for every indicator, except for expectations for an increase of interest rates and inflation, which have gone down in the last six months. The study also finds that more than a third of respondents (35.9%) expect to see a decline in the state of the overall economy in the next 12 months. Similarly, four-in-ten of those surveyed (40.9%) believe that there will be a decline in contributions to non-profits in the next year.
- The second section of the report looks at expectations for individual economic sectors. The results show that although the average Intensity Index Score for respondents' own economic sector remains positive, there is a decline of 8 points between the fall of 2015 and the spring of 2016. Similarly, the average Intensity Index Score decreased slightly across all economic sectors.
- The third section of the report focuses on the expectations of respondents for their own organizations in the upcoming 12 months. The survey finds that expectations for individual businesses/ firms/ organizations over the next 12 months are positive across the board but are less positive than in the Fall 2015 survey. As was the case in Fall 2015 survey, respondents remain positive about their prospective gross revenue/sales and overall status.
- The fourth section of the report examines the biggest challenges facing Sangamon County businesses and organizations. Respondents were asked to identify the three biggest challenges for their business over the next 12 months from a list of pre-identified challenges. Of all the employers who responded to this survey, 54.4 percent (n=140) report that state government finances are going to be one of the biggest challenges facing them in the next 12 months.
- The fifth section revisits the Fall 2015 discussion on the impact that the budget impasse is having on Sangamon County's economy and that of its businesses and organizations. The data show that for all but one item (gross revenue/sales) a majority of respondents indicate the state budget impasse had no effect on their organization. The study also finds that non-profit and public sector organizations are more likely to report being negatively affected than organizations in the private sector.
- A short methodology section follows the body of the report, along with a copy of the mail questionnaire, a topline report containing the frequencies for all questions, and a list of open-ended responses.

Sangamon County Economy

The Spring 2016 SCEOS shows declining expectations for the overall Sangamon County economy compared to the Spring 2015 survey. Respondents' expectations are calculated with a tool called the Intensity Index Score. The "Intensity Index Score" is developed using the economic indicator questions, which have consistently appeared in every Economic Outlook Survey. The score is the average of all ratings when the following values are assigned to each response: large decline (-100), small decline (-50), stay the same (0), small increase (+50), and large increase (+100). The Intensity Index Score measures the expected change in each of the economic factors over the next 12 months.

Table 2 displays the current Intensity Index Scores, the Fall 2015 Intensity Index Scores, and the difference in scores from Fall 2015 to Spring 2016. The column at the far right of the table shows that, overall, expectations have declined slightly for each indicator. Expectations regarding an increase of inflation and interest rates have gone down in the last 6 months.³ Respondents' current prospects for overall employment and capital investment are relatively stable, in the aggregate. Expectations for gross sales/revenue are still positive (+5) but have declined since the last fall.

Table 2. Mean Intensity Index Scores for overall Sangamon County factors

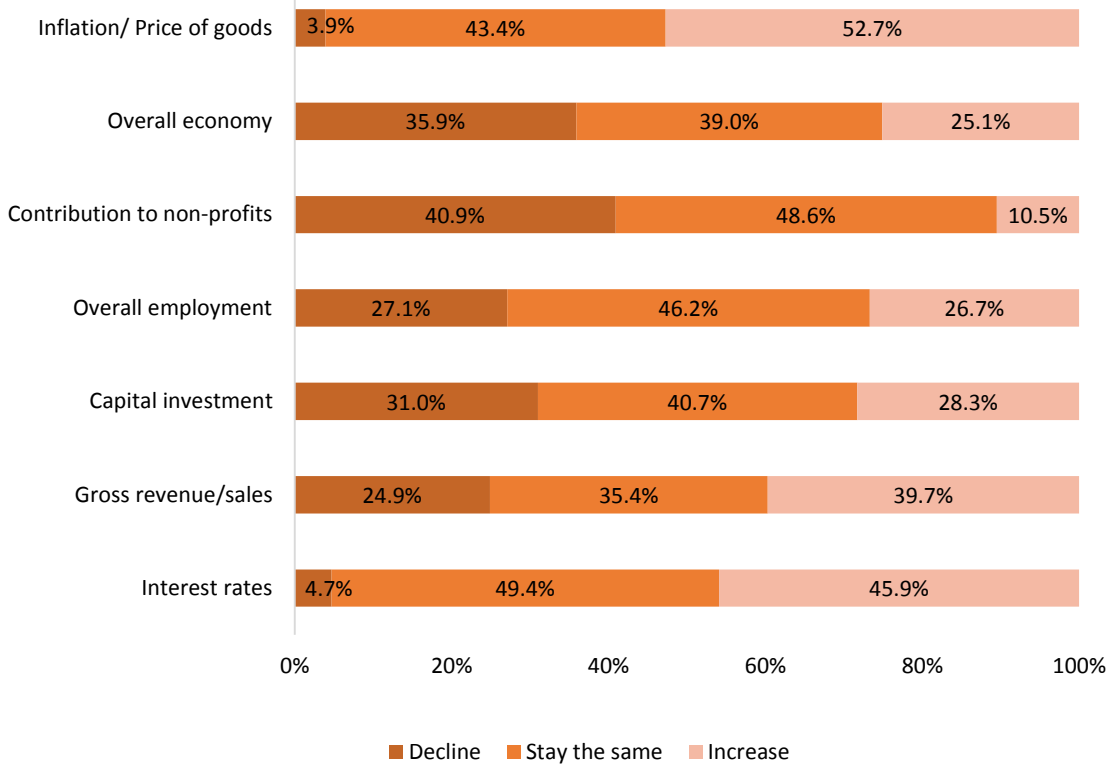
	Spring 2016 IIS	Fall 2015 IIS	Difference (Spring 2016 – Fall 2015)
Inflation/ price of goods	25	35	-10 ⁴
Contributions to non-profits	-18	-8	-10
Overall economy	-9	0	-9
Interest rates	21	29	-8
Gross sales/revenue	6	11	-5
Capital investment	-5	-2	-3
Overall employment	-2	-1	-1

The most negative expectations are related to contributions to non-profits and to the overall state of the economy. In the fall of 2015, prospective views regarding the state of the economy in Sangamon County were neutral. The current survey shows that those views have become slightly more negative. More than a third (35.9%) of those surveyed expect a decline in the state of the overall economy in the next 12 months (see Figure 2, p. 7). Similarly, four-in-ten (40.9%) believe that there will be a decline in contributions to non-profits in the next year.

³ In October 2015, Federal Reserve Chairwoman Janet Yellen announced that the Federal Reserve will begin raising interest rates later this year, after announcing to keep the rates stable during the September meeting (the Federal Reserve has kept its benchmark interest rate near zero for the past 6 years).

⁴ It is important to note that a decrease in expectations pertaining to inflation is not necessarily a negative change. According to the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, a stable inflation rate is the most positive expectation so any change, positive or negative, could be seen as a challenge to financial stability.

Figure 2. Expectations of the Sangamon County economy



Examining Expectations for Economic Sectors

Overall, respondents' outlook for the next 12 months is moderately negative across all economic sectors. Although the average Intensity Index Score for respondents' own economic sector remains positive, the survey finds a decline of 8 points between the fall of 2015 and the spring of 2016. Furthermore, the average intensity score in the spring of 2015 was 25, which means that there has been a decline of 21 points in the last year.

Table 3. Intensity Index Scores for specific economic sectors

	Spring 2016 IIS	Fall 2015 IIS	Difference (Spring 2016 - Fall 2015)
Education/ educational services	-15	1	-16
Medical/ health care	37	52	-15
Retail trade	-2	12	-14
Information and communications systems	11	23	-12
Wholesale trade	-9	2	-11
Transportation/ warehousing	-4	6	-10
Construction	-1	8	-9
Public administration	-18	-9	-9
<i>Own firm's sector</i>	4	12	-8
Finance/ insurance/ real estate	9	17	-8
Natural resources/ mining	-29	-21	-8
Personal services	-3	4	-7
Manufacturing	-16	-14	-2
Accommodations/ food/ entertainment/ recreation	3	5	-2
Business and professional services	3	5	-2

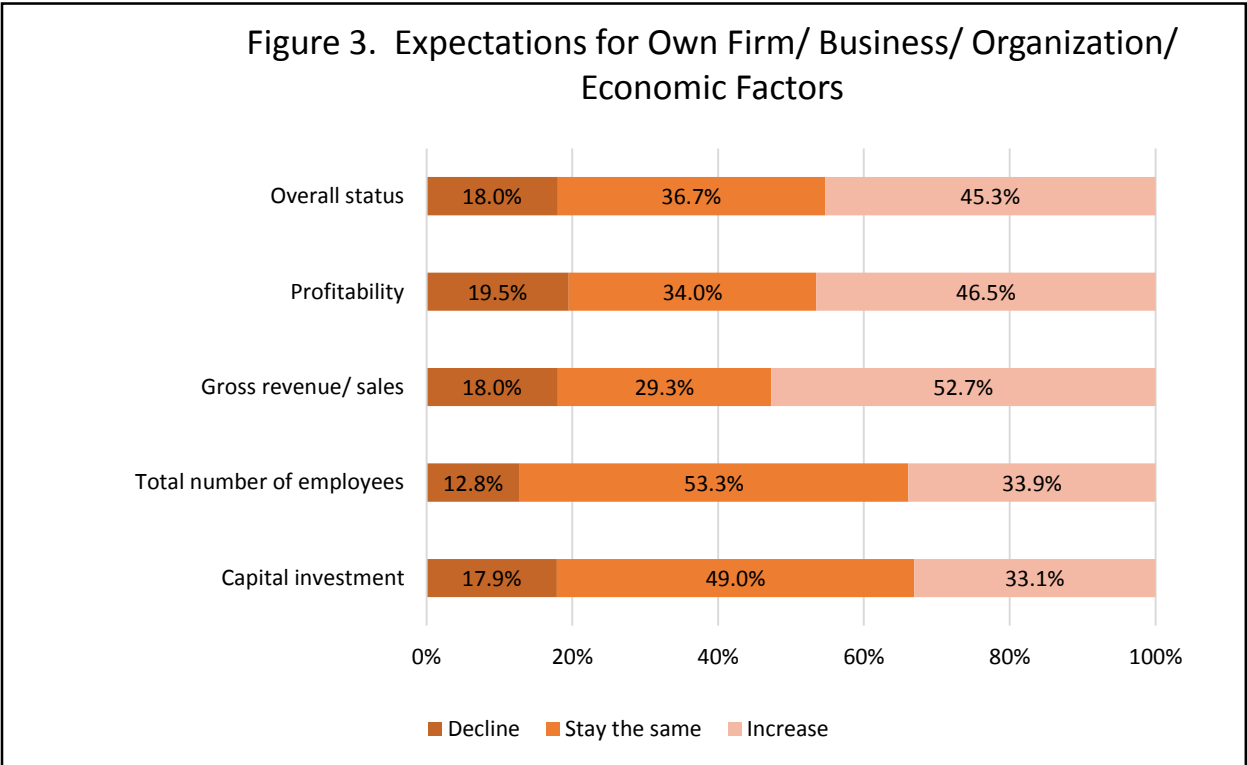
The sectors that receive the most negative ratings by respondents are natural resources/mining (-29), public administration (-18), and manufacturing (-16). Once again, the medical/ health care sector is the most positively rated economic sector in Sangamon County with an IIS of 37. However, the score decreased from a score of 52 in the fall of 2015, one of the largest drops registered in this round of the survey. The educational services sector saw the biggest decrease in expectations (from +1 in Fall 2015 to -15 in spring 2016, a change of -16 in the IIS). While these changes seem to indicate a slightly pessimistic outlook, the mean scores for all economic sectors are clustered around the "stay the same" response option, which means that on average, respondents are largely expecting their economic sectors to perform the same over the next twelve months.

Overall Expectations for “Your” Business/ Firm/ Organization

Respondents in the Spring 2016 survey have positive expectations across the board on the five aspects of their firm we asked about. As was the case in the Fall survey, respondents are most positive about gross revenue/ sales and their overall status. Respondents are slightly less positive now than they were in the Fall 2015 survey. In fact, all ratings declined from fall to spring as seen in table 4 below. The most precipitous drops are in gross revenue/sales and overall status. For these items, Intensity Index Scores dropped by 20 points each whereas for profitability, the Index Score dropped by 15 points. It is worth noting again that while a decrease of twenty points seems large, it represents a 10 percentage point decrease on the *IIS* which is a 200-point scale.

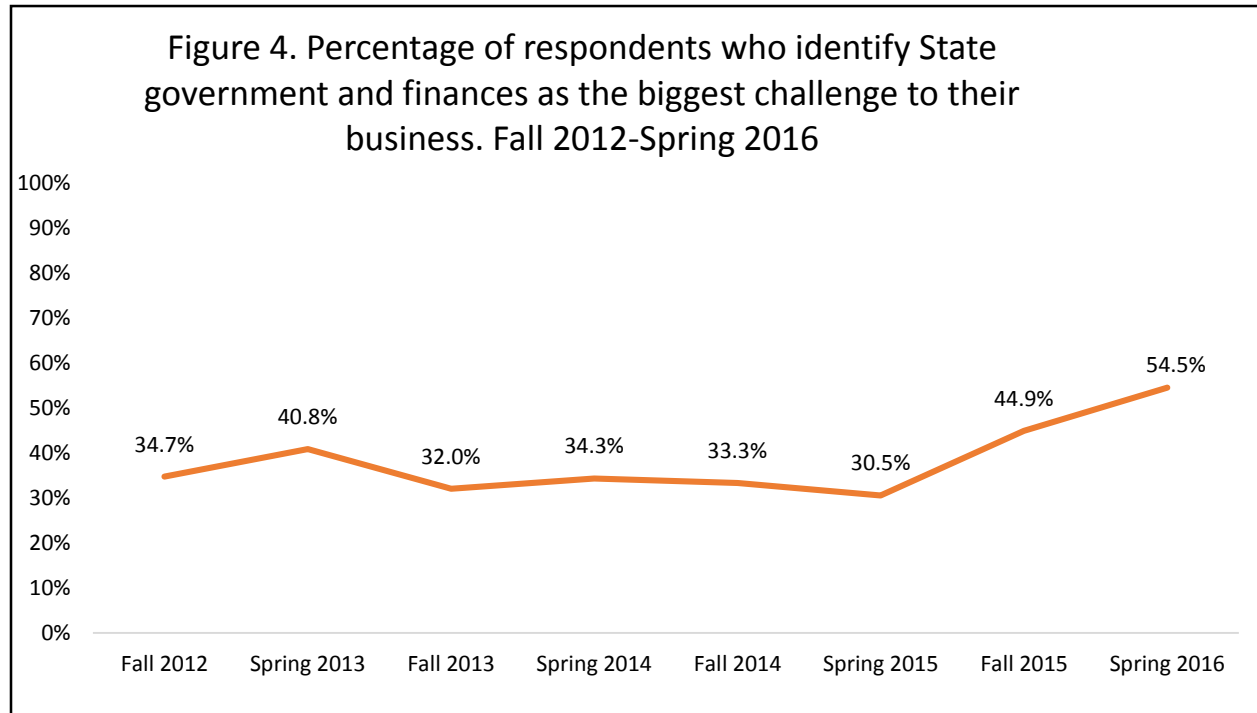
Table 4. Intensity Index Scores for own firm/ business/ organization expectations			
	Spring 2016 <i>IIS</i>	Fall 2015 <i>IIS</i>	Difference (Fall 2015-Spring 2015)
Gross revenue/ sales	17	37	-20
Overall status	13	33	-20
Profitability	12	27	-15
Capital investment	7	16	-9
Total number of employees	10	16	-6

As seen in figure 3, a slight majority (52.7%) of respondents report an expected increase on just one of the five measures (gross revenue/ sales). This is nearly 15 percentage points lower than the 67.3% who indicated in the fall of 2015 that they expected to see their gross revenue/sales increase. Close to one in five respondents expect to see a decline in four out of the five measures over the next twelve months (the sole exception being total number of employees).



Biggest Challenges Facing Sangamon County Employers

Survey respondents were asked to identify the three biggest challenges for their business/ firm/ organization over the next 12 months from a list of pre-identified challenges. As seen in Table 5 (p. 11), state government finances, a subject further examined in this year's topical section (see p. 12) weigh the heaviest on the minds of local area respondents. Of all the employers who responded to this survey, 54.4 percent (n=140) report that state government's finances are going to be one of the biggest challenges facing their organization over the next 12 months. Figure 4 shows how concern with the State's government and finances has risen considerably in the last four years.



The second biggest challenge facing local employers, as Table 5. shows, is government regulations and taxation (42%). Employers also report concerns with consumer confidence (36.6%), availability of skilled/trained workers (33.5%), competition from local/state/national firms (32.3%), and healthcare for employees (30.4%). Issues like global competition, interest rates, inflation, and energy and commodity prices were among the least chosen challenges in this survey.

State government and finances were selected as the most important challenge by non-profit and government institutions as well as by companies in the private sector. Approximately three-quarters of all respondents in the non-profit/government sector (73.7%) identified the State’s government and finances as their biggest challenge, compared with almost half of those in the private sector (48.5%).⁵

Table 5. Biggest Challenges Facing Sangamon County Employers		
	Number of responses	Valid Percent
State government finances	140	54.5%
Government regulations and taxation	108	42%
Consumer confidence/ spending	94	36.6%
Availability of skilled/trained workers	86	33.5%
Competition from local/state/national firms	83	32.3%
Healthcare for employees (e.g. Affordable Care Act)	78	30.4%
Employee (union and nonunion) compensation and benefits (not healthcare)	43	16.7%
Commodity prices	25	9.7%
Energy prices	19	7.4%
Inflation	18	7%
Interest rates	18	7%
Global competition	9	3.5%

⁵ Out of employers interviewed, 57 (22%) belong to the non-profit/government sector.

Spring 2016 Topical Section

Revisiting the State Budget Impasse: In the fall of 2015, we asked respondents how the state budget impasse was affecting seven different aspects of their organization: gross revenue/sales, profitability, on-hand cash, potential hiring, capital investment, total number of employees, and the overall status of their firm. Respondents were asked to “please let us know if the budget impasse has had a large negative effect, a small negative effect, no effect, a small positive effect, or a large positive effect.” When the steering committee reviewed potential topics for inclusion in the Spring 2016 survey, members thought that asking the same set of questions would be worthwhile. At the time, the state budget impasse had not been resolved and the prospect of examining longitudinal differences seemed interesting. To this end, the topical section in the current report looks at how respondents see the state budget impasse impacting their organizations now as well as how views have changed since the fall 2015 survey.

The survey asked respondents how the state budget impasse affected their organization across seven different aspects (see Figure 5). For six of the seven questions, respondents selected “no effect” most frequently. Yet while respondents are more likely to say the budget impasse has had no effect on their organization, a sizeable minority indicate it has had a negative effect on six of the seven questions and a slight majority (53.9%) say the impasse has negatively affected their gross revenue/ sales. Only a few indicate that the state budget impasse has had a positive effect on their organization on any aspect.

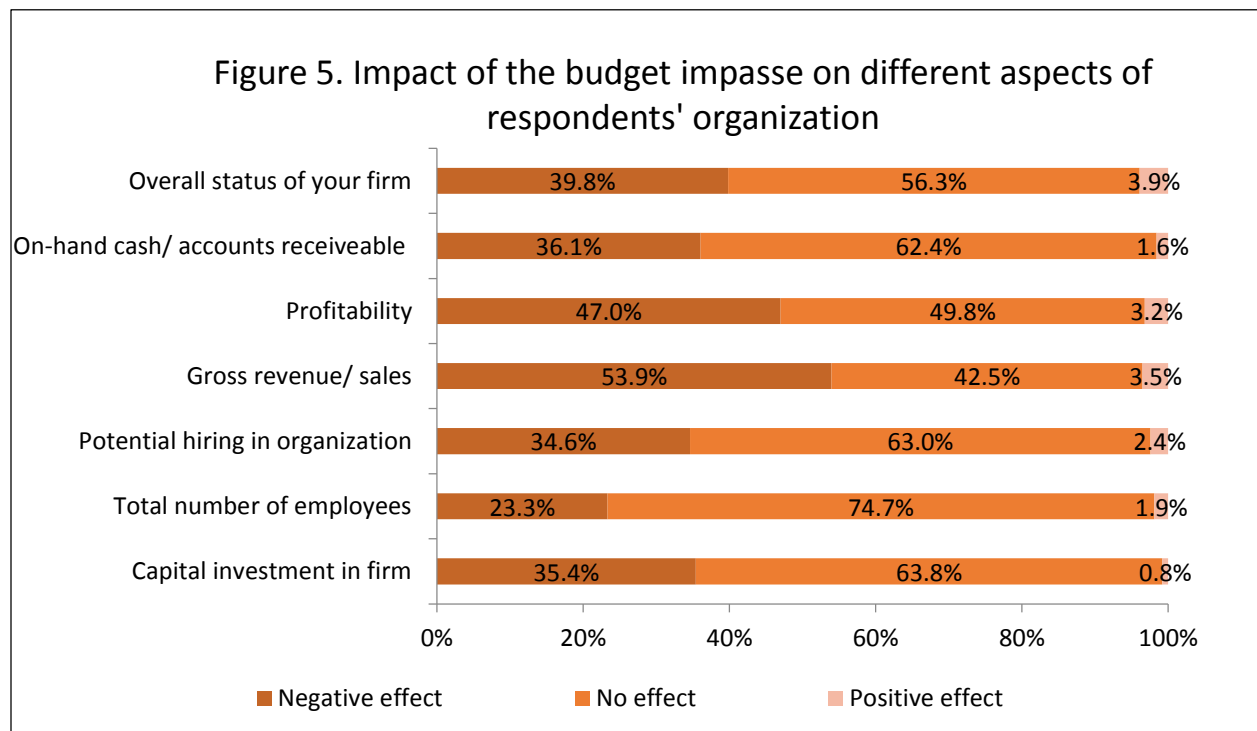
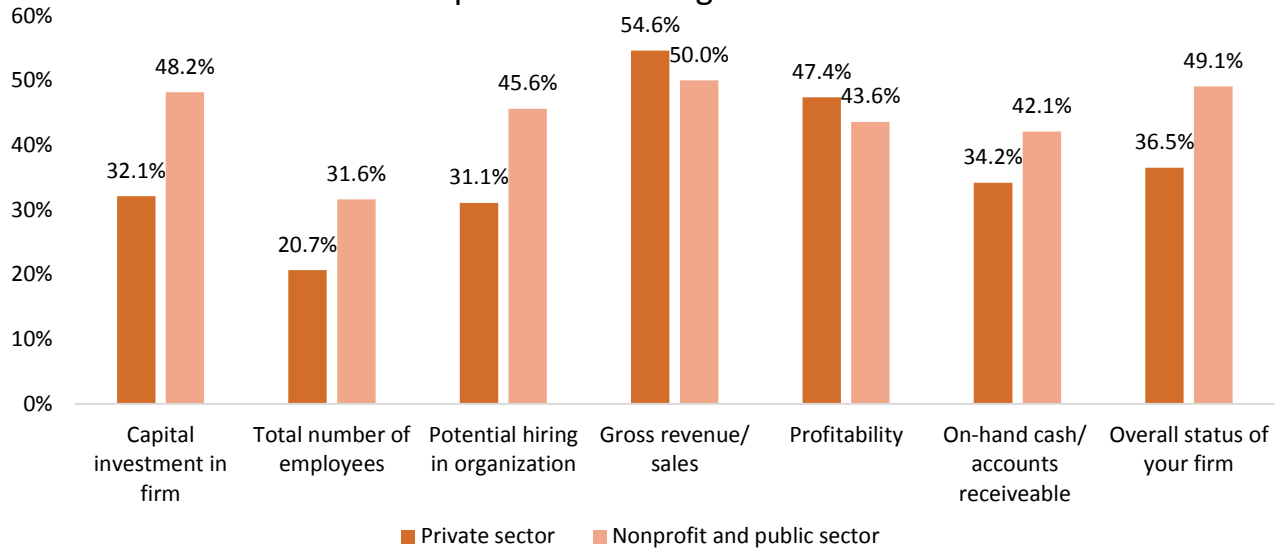


Figure 6. Percent reporting a "negative effect" on the following aspects of their organization



Comparison of private sector and non-profit/public sector organizations: Given that non-profit organizations and public institutions are often the recipients of aid from the State, it is conceivable that these organizations would be more likely to report being negatively affected by the budget impasse than private corporations. Figure 6 shows that this indeed the case.⁶ On nearly all of the aspects respondents were asked about, non-profit and public sector organizations were more likely to report being negatively affected than organizations in the private sector.

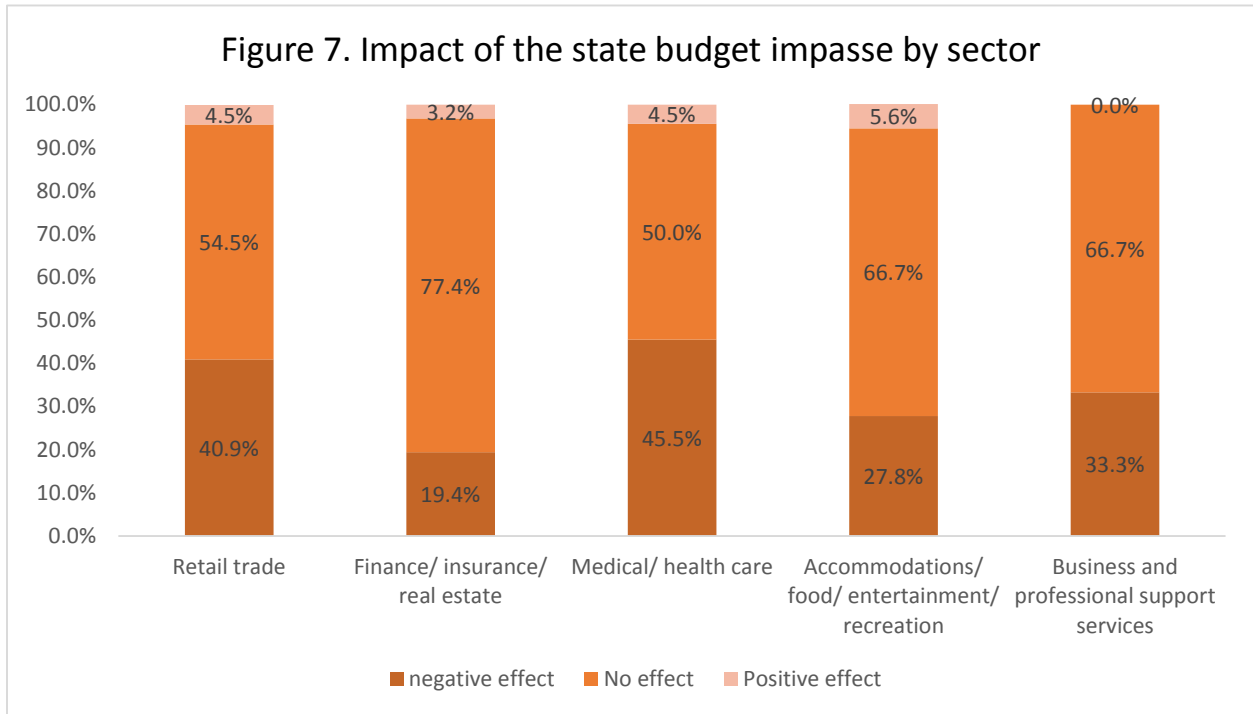
Need and ability to borrow: In addition to the questions above, respondents were asked whether the state budget impasse impacted their organization's need to borrow and ability to borrow. Responses to these questions were nearly identical: 86.5% said that the state budget impasse had no effect on their organization's need to borrow whereas 83.7% said the impasse had no effect on their organization's ability to borrow. We did not find any significant differences between respondents in the private versus non-profit and public sectors.

Open-ended responses: In order to find out more about how the state budget impasse has affected organizations in Sangamon County, we included an open-ended question in the survey: "Is there is any other way that the budget impasse has affected your organization?" Many of the respondents who answered this question spoke of delayed payments. One respondent answered, "I cannot do business with the State of Illinois because they do not pay their bills." Another concern was the non-replacement of retired State employees. One respondent wrote "State employees that have retired have not been replaced. [These people] used to be customers and now are not." Another respondent provided a similar response: "Continued decline in population growth compared to other states. No new customers in Illinois, just someone else's customers." Respondents also indicated that the budget impasse and its

⁶ Once again, it is worth noting that there are more businesses in the sample than non-profits or public sector organizations.

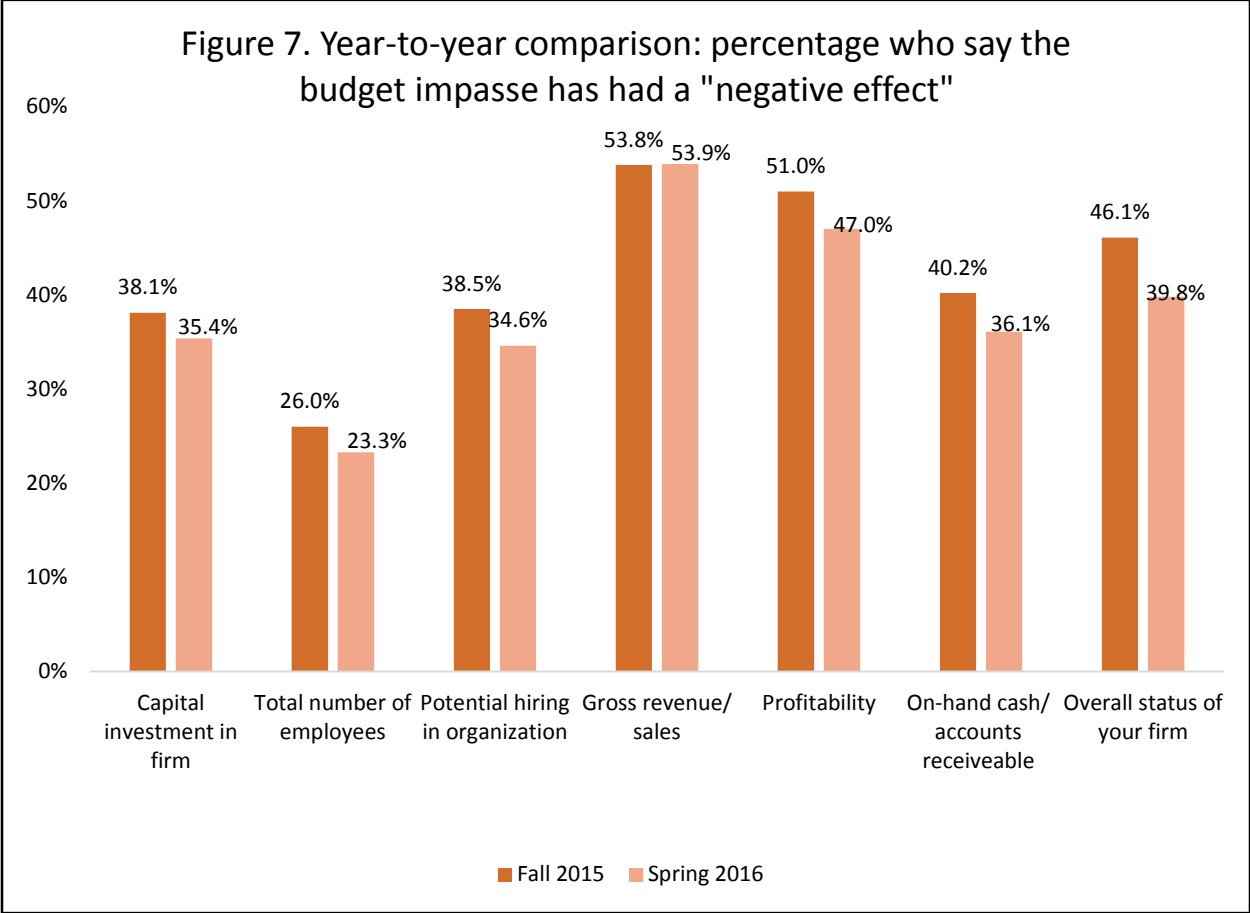
effects had caused uncertainty in the Springfield area. For instance, one respondent wrote “uncertainty affects our consumers which is nearly impossible to measure/quantity.”

Comparisons across sectors: The survey finds that respondents across all sectors⁷ were more likely to report that the state budget impasse had no effect than either a positive or a negative effect on the overall status of their organization. Figure 7 shows how responses across five different sectors. As the figure shows.



⁷ Due to small subgroup size, only sectors with an *n* greater than 18 are considered for the purpose of this analysis.

Differences from the fall 2015 survey: Data from the Fall 2015 survey to the current survey does not differ appreciably from the Spring 2016 survey. Figure 7 shows the percentage of respondents who report that the state budget impasse has had a negative effect on seven different aspects of their organization. As the figure shows, there has been little movement since the last survey.



Appendix A. Transparency Initiative Methodological Report



In 2015, the UIS Survey Research Office (SRO) became a charter member of the American Association for Public Opinions Research's Transparency Initiative (TI). By joining the TI, the SRO is supporting broader and more effective disclosure of research methods by all organizations. The Transparency Initiative provides formal public recognition by AAPOR of an organization's voluntary commitment to abide by the disclosure standards in the AAPOR Code of Professional Ethics and Practices, while benefiting the public by providing more information with which to evaluate the quality of individual surveys. As part of SRO's continued investment in this initiative, it has committed to providing a detailed methodological report of all of its survey projects. For more information on the TI, please visit <http://transparency.aapor.org/index.php/transparency/about>

Sangamon County Economic Outlook Survey

The project is sponsored by the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce with a contribution from the University of Illinois Springfield's Office of the Chancellor. It was conducted by researchers at the University of Illinois Springfield's Survey Research Office. A steering committee assisted with questionnaire development (comprised of University and Chamber representatives). The topline report includes actual question wording and frequencies for each answer category as well as all open-ended responses.

Sample and Methodology

A list of local firms and organizations to be included in the Spring 2016 Sangamon County Economic Outlook Survey was generated by examining a list of Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce members provided by the Chamber. After some initial cleaning and removal of duplicates, there were 1,568 identified organizations deemed eligible to participate. On February 29th, 2016, the Survey Research Office sent a packet consisting of an introductory letter and a mail questionnaire. Then, on March 9th at 9:30am, SRO sent a reminder email to all organizations for which there was an email address on file and for which a mail response had not been received. Of the 1,568 organizations for which we had a mailing address, 1,533 (97.8%) had a corresponding email address. A follow-up email was sent on March 15th at 9:30am. Responses via web or mail were accepted until March 31st at 5:00pm at which time the survey closed.

Of the 1,568 organizations in the sample to which surveys were sent, 10 were undeliverable. A total of 262 surveys were completed including 178 via mail and 84 via the web. The response rate for the survey is 17.6% (AAPOR Response Rate 3). The margin of error for this project ± 5.53 percentage points. When examining subgroups of data respondents, the margin of error will increase. Margins of error for this survey are not adjusted for design effect. In addition, the data is not weighted.

For more information on this study, please contact SRO Director, Dr. Juan Carlos Donoso at jdono2@uis.edu, or 217-206-7956.

Appendix B. Mail Survey Instrument

SANGAMON COUNTY ECONOMIC OUTLOOK SURVEY

Spring 2016

Sponsored by the University of Illinois Springfield in cooperation with
the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce



*Please return the completed questionnaire in the business reply envelope enclosed. For questions,
contact the SRO at (217) 206-6591 or sro@uis.edu*

Section 1: Sangamon County Economic Expectations

Over the next 12 months, do you expect the following aspects of **the local economy** to see a large decline, small decline, stay the same, a small increase, or a large increase? *Please mark the response that best matches your expectations.*

	Large decline	Small decline	Stay the same	Small increase	Large Increase
Overall employment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Capital investment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Interest rates	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Gross sales/revenue	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Inflation/price of goods	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Contributions to non-profits	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The overall economy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Section 2: Expectations for Sangamon County Economic Sectors

Over the next 12 months, what are your expectations for the following **economic sectors** in Sangamon County? Do you think each sector will see a large decline, small decline, stay the same, small increase, or large increase? *Please mark the response that best matches your expectations.*

	Large decline	Small decline	Stay the same	Small increase	Large Increase
Construction	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Manufacturing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wholesale trade	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Retail trade	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Transportation/warehousing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Finance/insurance/ real estate	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Medical/ health care	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Education/ educational services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Accommodations/ food/ entertainment/ recreation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Information and communications systems	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Business and professional support services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Personal services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Natural resources and mining	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public administration	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Which of the above economic sectors best describes your firm's **primary economic activity**? *Please mark your answer in the space provided:* _____

Section 3: Expectations for Your Business/Firm/Organization in Sangamon County

Over the next 12 months, what are you expectations for **your business/firm/ organization** in Sangamon County? Do you think each aspect of your organization will see a large decline, small decline, stay the same, small increase, or a large increase? *Please mark the response that best matches your expectations.*

	Large decline	Small decline	Stay the same	Small increase	Large Increase
Capital investment in firm	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Total number of employees	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Gross revenue/ sales	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Profitability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Overall status	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Right now, as you look over the next 12 months, what are the **three biggest challenges** facing your organization? *Please mark only three choices.*

- Inflation
- Interest rates
- State government finances
- Energy prices
- Commodity prices
- Availability of skilled/trained workers
- Employee (union and nonunion) compensation and benefits (not healthcare)
- Competition from local/state/national firms
- Global competition
- Consumer confidence/ spending
- Healthcare for employees (e.g. Affordable Care Act)
- Government regulations and taxation
- Other, specify: _____

Section 4: Fiscal Year 2016 State Budget Impasse

The State of Illinois has been operating without a budget for FY2016. We are interested in the effect, if any, this impasse has had on **your organization**. Has the budget impasse had a large negative effect, small negative effect, no effect, a small positive effect, or a large positive effect on the following aspects of **your organization**?

	Large negative effect	Small negative effect	No effect	Small positive effect	Large positive effect
Capital investment in your firm	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Total number of employees	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Potential hiring in organization	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Gross revenue/ sales	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Profitability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your organization's on-hand cash	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Overall status of your firm	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your organization's ability to borrow	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your organization's need to borrow	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Appendix C. Top Line Report (N=262)

Section 1: Sangamon County Economic Expectations

Over the next 12 months, what are your expectations for the local economy in Sangamon County? Do you think each aspect of the local economy will see a large decline, small decline, stay the same, small increase, or large increase?

Overall employment (IIS: -2.3)

	Valid percent (n)
Large decline	5.3% (14)
Small decline	21.8% (57)
Stay the same	46.2% (121)
Small increase	25.6% (67)
Large increase	1.1% (3)

Capital investment (IIS: -4.7)

	Valid percent (n)
Large decline	7% (18)
Small decline	24% (62)
Stay the same	40.7% (105)
Small increase	27.9% (72)
Large increase	0.4% (1)

Interest rates (IIS: +20.8)

	Valid percent (n)
Large decline	0.4% (1)
Small decline	4.3% (11)
Stay the same	49.4% (127)
Small increase	45.1% (116)
Large increase	0.8% (2)

Gross sales/revenue (IIS: +5.6)

	Valid percent (n)
Large decline	4.7% (12)
Small decline	20.2% (52)
Stay the same	35.4% (91)
Small increase	38.5% (99)
Large increase	1.2% (3)

Inflation/price of goods (IIS: +25.2)

	Valid percent (n)
Large decline	1.6% (4)
Small decline	2.3% (6)
Stay the same	43.4% (112)
Small increase	49.6% (128)
Large increase	3.1% (8)

Contributions to non-profits (IIS: -18.5)

	Valid percent (n)
Large decline	7% (18)
Small decline	33.9% (87)
Stay the same	48.6% (125)
Small increase	10.1% (26)
Large increase	0.4% (1)

The overall economy (IIS: -8.9)

	Valid percent (n)
Large decline	7.3% (19)
Small decline	28.6% (74)
Stay the same	39% (101)
Small increase	24.7% (64)
Large increase	0.4% (1)

Section 2: Expectations for Sangamon County Economic Sectors

Over the next 12 months, what are your expectations for following economic sectors in Sangamon County? Do you think each aspect of the local economy will see a large decline, small decline, stay the same, small increase, or large increase?

Construction (IIS: -1.2)

	Valid percent (n)
Large decline	6.6% (17)
Small decline	25.6% (66)
Stay the same	32.6% (84)
Small increase	34.1% (88)
Large increase	1.2% (3)

Manufacturing (IIS: -16)

	Valid percent (n)
Large decline	2.3% (6)
Small decline	35.8% (92)
Stay the same	53.7% (138)
Small increase	7.8% (20)
Large increase	0.4% (1)

Wholesale trade (IIS: -9.4)

	Valid percent (n)
Large decline	2.7% (7)
Small decline	23.1% (59)
Stay the same	64.7% (165)
Small increase	9% (23)
Large increase	0.4% (1)

Retail trade (IIS: -2.3)

	Valid percent (n)
Large decline	2.3% (6)
Small decline	27.2% (70)
Stay the same	43.6% (112)
Small increase	26.5% (68)
Large increase	0.4% (1)

Transportation/ warehousing (IIS: -4.4)

	Valid percent (n)
Large decline	1.6% (4)
Small decline	21.6% (54)
Stay the same	61.2% (153)
Small increase	15.2% (38)
Large increase	0.4% (1)

Finance/insurance/real estate (IIS: +9.3)

	Valid percent (n)
Large decline	2% (5)
Small decline	18.2% (46)
Stay the same	41.1% (104)
Small increase	36.8% (93)
Large increase	2% (5)

Medical/health care (IIS: +37.4)

	Valid percent (n)
Large decline	1.6% (4)
Small decline	6.6% (17)
Stay the same	20.6% (53)
Small increase	58% (149)
Large increase	13.2% (34)

Education/ educational services (IIS: -14.7)

	Valid percent (n)
Large decline	8.6% (22)
Small decline	28.6% (73)
Stay the same	47.1% (120)
Small increase	14.9% (38)
Large increase	0.8% (2)

Accommodations/food/entertainment/recreation (IIS: +3.1)

	Valid percent (n)
Large decline	2.4% (6)
Small decline	20.8% (53)
Stay the same	45.9% (117)
Small increase	30.2% (77)
Large increase	0.8% (2)

Information and communications systems (IIS: +11)

	Valid percent (n)
Large decline	0.4% (1)
Small decline	10.2% (26)
Stay the same	58.4% (149)
Small increase	29% (74)
Large increase	2% (5)

Business and professional support services (IIS: +2.7)

	Valid percent (n)
Large decline	0.8% (2)
Small decline	17.6% (45)
Stay the same	57.3% (146)
Small increase	23.9% (61)
Large increase	0.4% (1)

Personal services (IIS: -3)

	Valid percent (n)
Large decline	2.8% (7)
Small decline	22% (56)
Stay the same	53.9% (137)
Small increase	20.9% (53)
Large increase	0.4% (1)

Natural resources and mining (IIS: -29.2)

	Valid percent (n)
Large decline	10% (25)
Small decline	44.4% (111)
Stay the same	39.6% (99)
Small increase	6% (15)
Large increase	0% (0)

Public administration (IIS: -18.5)

	Valid percent (n)
Large decline	4.7% (12)
Small decline	36.2% (92)
Stay the same	50.4% (128)
Small increase	8.7% (22)
Large increase	0% (0)

Which of the above economic sectors best describes your firm's primary economic activity (Intensity index score for own sector: +4.4)

	Valid percent (n)
Construction	8.1% (14)
Manufacturing	2.3% (4)
Retail Trade	14.5% (25)
Transportation/warehousing	1.7% (3)
Finance/ insurance/ real estate	18.6% (32)
Medical/ health care	12.8% (22)
Education/ educational services	7.6% (13)
Accommodations/ food/ entertainment/ recreation	10.5% (18)
Information and communication systems	4.1% (7)
Business and professional support services	10.5% (18)
Personal services	1.7% (3)
Natural resources and mining	2.3% (4)
Public administration	3.5% (6)
Wholesale trade	1.7% (3)

Section 3: Expectations for Your Business/Firm/Organization Sangamon County

Over the next 12 months, what are your expectations for your business/firm/ organization in Sangamon County? Do you think each aspect of the local economy will see a large decline, small decline, stay the same, small increase, or large increase?

Capital investment in firm (IIS: +7)

	Valid percent (n)
Large decline	5.4% (14)
Small decline	12.5% (32)
Stay the same	49% (126)
Small increase	28.8% (74)
Large increase	4.3% (11)

Total number of employees (IIS: +9.7)

	Valid percent (n)
Large decline	2.7% (7)
Small decline	10.1% (26)
Stay the same	53.3% (137)
Small increase	32.7% (84)
Large increase	1.2% (3)

Gross revenue/sales (IIS: +17.4)

	Valid percent (n)
Large decline	4.7% (12)
Small decline	13.3% (34)
Stay the same	29.3% (75)
Small increase	48% (123)
Large increase	4.7% (12)

Profitability (IIS: +12.3)

	Valid percent (n)
Large decline	7% (18)
Small decline	12.5% (32)
Stay the same	34% (87)
Small increase	41.8% (107)
Large increase	4.7% (12)

Overall status (IIS: +12.9)

	Valid percent (n)
Large decline	5.5% (14)
Small decline	12.5% (32)
Stay the same	36.7% (94)
Small increase	41.4% (106)
Large increase	3.9% (10)

Right now, as you look over the next 12 months, what are the three biggest challenges facing your business/firm/organization.

	Percent of respondents (n)
State government finances	54.5% (140)
Government regulations and taxation	42% (108)
Availability of skilled/ trained workers	33.5% (86)
Competition from local/ state/ national firms	32.3% (83)
Healthcare for employees (e.g., Affordable Care Act)	30.4% (78)
Consumer confidence/ spending	36.6% (94)
Employee (union and nonunion) compensation and benefits (not healthcare)	16.7% (43)
Commodity prices	9.7% (25)
Interest rates	7% (18)
Inflation	7% (18)
Energy prices	7.4% (19)
Global competition	3.5% (9)
Other, specify:	6.6% (17)

Other: Cash flow; Changes in industry; Charitable giving; Consumer confidence/spending; Government regulations and taxation; Corporate incompetence; Cost of medical supplies; Demographic/societal shifts; Direction for U.S. after election; Donations to our non-profit; Environmental regulations; Government lawsuits as an alternative tax; Lack of vision for Springfield growth; OGR corporate direction that may adversely impact Springfield site; State not paying with no budget; Slow growth national (global) economy; Weather

Section 4:

This section is the topical portion of the survey and changes during each survey administration.

The State of Illinois has been operating without a budget for fiscal year 2016. We are interested in the effect, if any, this impasse has on your organization. Please let us know if the budget impasse has had a large negative effect, small negative effect, no effect, a small positive effect, or a large positive effect on the following aspects of your business?

Capital investment in firm

	Valid percent (n)
Large negative effect	10.2% (26)
Small negative effect	25.2% (64)
No effect	63.8% (162)
Small positive effect	0.4% (1)
Large positive effect	0.4% (1)

Total number of employees

	Valid percent (n)
Large negative effect	7% (18)
Small negative effect	16.3% (42)
No effect	74.7% (192)
Small positive effect	1.6% (4)
Large positive effect	0.4% (1)

Potential hiring in organization

	Valid percent (n)
Large negative effect	9.4% (24)
Small negative effect	25.2% (64)
No effect	63% (160)
Small positive effect	2.4% (6)
Large positive effect	0% (0)

Gross revenue/sales

	Valid percent (n)
Large negative effect	13.8% (35)
Small negative effect	40.2% (102)
No effect	42.5% (108)
Small positive effect	3.5% (9)
Large positive effect	0% (0)

Profitability

	Valid percent (n)
Large negative effect	12.3% (31)
Small negative effect	34.8% (88)
No effect	49.8% (126)
Small positive effect	2.8% (7)
Large positive effect	0.4% (1)

Your organization's on-hand cash/accounts receivable

	Valid percent (n)
Large negative effect	14.9% (38)
Small negative effect	21.2% (54)
No effect	62.4% (159)
Small positive effect	1.2% (3)
Large positive effect	0.4% (1)

Overall status of your firm

	Valid percent (n)
Large negative effect	9.4% (24)
Small negative effect	30.5% (78)
No effect	56.3% (144)
Small positive effect	3.9% (10)
Large positive effect	0% (0)

Your organization's ability to borrow

	Valid percent (n)
Large negative effect	6.3% (16)
Small negative effect	6.3% (16)
No effect	86.5% (218)
Small positive effect	0.4% (1)
Large positive effect	0.4% (1)

Your organization's need to borrow

	Valid percent (n)
Large negative effect	5.2% (13)
Small negative effect	9.5% (24)
No effect	83.7% (211)
Small positive effect	0.8% (2)
Large positive effect	0.8% (2)

Section 5: Demographic Information

This last section is used for analysis purposes only and is not intended to identify respondents.

Are you in the private sector, non-profit sector, or public sector?

	Valid percent (n)
Private sector (for profit)	77.6% (198)
Non-profit sector	15.7% (40)
Public sector (government)	6.7% (17)

How many years has your organization been operating in your current location:

	Valid percent (n)
2 years or less	11.7% (28)
3-5 years	12.1% (29)
6-10 years	13.8% (33)
11-20 years	18.8% (45)

21-30 years	16.3% (39)
31-40 years	8.4% (20)
41- 50 years	6.7% (16)
More than 50 years	12.1% (29)

How many years has your organization been operating in Sangamon County:

	Valid percent (n)
2 years or less	6.4% (15)
3-5 years	6% (14)
6-10 years	8.5% (20)
11-20 years	19.2% (45)
21-30 years	16.7% (39)
31-40 years	9% (21)
41- 50 years	7.3% (17)
More than 50 years	26.9% (63)

How many years has your organization been operating in Illinois:

	Valid percent (n)
2 years or less	5.2% (12)
3-5 years	5.2% (12)
6-10 years	9.2% (21)
11-20 years	17.5% (40)
21-30 years	17% (39)
31-40 years	9.6% (22)
41- 50 years	7.4% (17)
More than 50 years	28.8% (66)

Number of total full-time employees:

	Valid percent (n)
Less than 5	24.3% (55)
5-14 employees	26.1% (59)
15-29 employees	15.9% (36)
30-44 employees	5.8% (13)
45-59 employees	4.9% (11)
60-79 employees	3.1% (7)
80-99 employees	1.3% (3)
100-149 employees	5.8% (13)
150-299 employees	5.8% (13)
300 or more employees	7.1% (16)

Responses to Open-ended Questions

Is there any other way in which the budget impasse has affected your organization?

A CDB project of ours was shelved right as construction was about to begin. We would have had fees from that.
Ability for firms to pay services then supported by state funds.
Being located in Illinois is now a negative factor for Bond Rating Agencies (exp: Moody's) for health care organizations.
Business confidence in investing in Illinois is down.
Challenges in recruiting associates to the state
Closing or reduction of small non-profit agencies to which we provide business consulting.
Consumer confidence related to capital investment.
Consumers especially state and government workers I believe are scared to make purchases because they don't know what is going to happen because of the budget.
Continued decline in population growth compared to other states. No new customers in Illinois, Just someone else's customers.
Created a lot of uncertainty in the marketplace.
Customers are closing their stores. Have slowed or stopped paying bills.
Customers that can't buy Have needed work done A business malaise throughout the state An overriding hatred for the Chicago democrats
Decrease in sales to government agencies, decrease in sales to schools who are not getting their state payments.
Decreased philanthropy
Delay in receipt of funds for services- received but delayed
Delayed payments
Delayed payments for health care services and increased financial hardship for safety net organizations that we partner with.
Deterred us from accepting patients with Medicaid replacement plans at the rate we had taken then prior.
Donors ability to give has declined as the donor needs the cash from state contracts.
Due to lack of leadership and compromise to cut costs of state government and invest in education our government leaders are causing consumer confidence to decrease which decreases spending and has encouraged businesses to leave Illinois.
Employee's looking for housing.
Employees are paying medical costs upfront. This has eroded confidence in State Government.
finer due to no notification on plate renewal
Grant sweeps- large negative impact
HAs impacted several customers that lease commercial real estate to State of Illinois and provide services to state of Illinois employee- dentists, chiropractors, etc...
Hiring freeze and firing means remaining employees are struggling to fill multiple job slots (2-4) with no pay increase for their trouble.
hurting local non-profits who must reduce services or lay off employees
I cannot do business with the state because they don't pay bills.

It has effected the way others view the state of Illinois as a viable place to work, live and visit.
I was employed by the state of IL during 2015, but left my position to start my own company. I did not leave because of the impasse; however, I did notice low morale among state workers, which did not contribute to a positive work environment.
Illinois State Museum was a large client of our business.
Impact on our clients who receive and support from state government.
Interior furnishings are not considered necessary when businesses are crunched based on lack of a state budget- plus the state used to buy and pay for lots of furniture! No More!
It had affected the clients and other social service opportunities they need for moving towards self-sufficiency.
It has impacted a few current projects. Its potential will be felt within the next six months. The longer it goes on, the more devastating it will become.
It is starting to affect our clients which eventually will affect my business
Lack of confidence and overall support makes everyone reluctant to plan participate.
Layoffs around the community have decreased disposable income, which in turn affects the frequency and amount of money spent when dining out.
Less catering orders from schools, state departments etc, less visits/spending from customers.
Lost employees No salary increase Decrease market Borrowed money to pay salaries
Low morale, uncertainty
Major effect to our clients which has trickled down to our business- causing a lay off.
Many people are losing jobs, social services are stretched. Pressure will be felt by the consumers.
My clients are party non-profit associations that rely on state funds. They are disappearing- losing long-term investments in people, processes, and networks. and spending less with local small businesses. As these organizations fail, more people are put out of work.
my lapse ratio has increased because businesses like daycare's aren't being paid so they can't pay their bills. Clients aren't purchasing new insurance products because they want to see what will happen with their job.
My office receivables are based on insurance reimbursement (at about 70% of total revenue) and since the state has stopped paying medical claims, my cash flow on reimbursement from state of IL health has dropped me overall revenue about 30%.
N/A
N/A
NA
No
No cash flow
No payment from the state
No replacement for retired employees possible move to much smaller quarters possible shut down within the year.
None. Customers/clients seem to understand that this is part of the process to break the stranglehold that democrat policies have had on government and business in general support the moves Govern Rauner trying to push!
Not sure. I guess yes based on target market is downtown business professionals.
Our contract with the state covers about 45% of our expenses. The budget impasse has resulted in the loss of two employees; increased a lot of borrowing costs; and limited hiring and expansion opportunities.

Our customers (Dr.'s, dentists, landlords) are suffering
Our customers are slow to pay us now because many are not being paid by state.
Our media services are impacted by the trickle down of non-payments by the State and the slowdown in the local economy. We have several clients pulling their schedules off the air because of a shortfall in their cash flow due to the state not paying them in a timely manner. Plus the overall high level of local business owners feeling uncertainty of the future direction of the State.
Our organization relies on volunteer blood donors. When state employee morale drops, so do blood donations from this group.
Overall dissatisfaction with politics.
paying interest when we needed to borrow money
People are afraid to spend money. They are doing less and buying less. Everyone knows someone who is owed money and fear is increasing.
People are conserving cash. State late paychecks are killing an state provider.
People have no confidence 1 out of 4 people in Springfield work for state medical community not being reimbursed- disasters they support our business- they have no confidence.
Postponed hiring due to construction projects being put on hold.
Recruiters are working to attract our best personnel to out of state opportunities. Uncertainty fatigue stress in staff, morale challenges.
reluctance of clients to spend on areas they aren't sure will provide immediate ROI
Securing contracts and not being paid and have to continue work
Slow release of Fed funding by state of IL.
Some clients have not received services from Senior Services of Central IL (SSCI). Also, SSCI is not closed on Fridays.
State employees as potential consumers seem wary and hesitant, at times, to spend their disposable income.
State employees that have retired and not been replaced used to be customers and now are not. Cuts in social benefits have affected many of my lower income customers' ability to visit us.
State workers are very concerned with spending money on services.
The budget impasse has effected some clients that receive state funding.
The lack of a state budget has greatly impacted the construction and education markets that we serve.
The lack of tax increase has helped our business.
The length of the between purchases and payments from the state.
The overall image and concern about state government, employees budget.
The unknown and the what if's! We are continuing to hear that once a Budge is finally passed there may be no payment made to any entity for 3 months. We could also be affected by across the board cuts once a Budge is finally set in stone!
Tremendously hurts organizations our organization supports.
Uncertainty effects our consumers which is nearly impossible to measure/quantify.
Uncertainty- Bond ratings are lower- they state, state fiscal crisis as a reason.
We are a non-for-profit. The budget impasse does hurt confidence and the ability of persons to give
We are hoping for our funds(grants) from the state to balance our budget we have had to really tighten on belts and serious to clients.
We are now over 15 months behind with our payments from the state.

yes as far as state work

Yes. Our organization receives federal dollars for employment and training of workers. Since the state is not funding MAP grants, cutting child care and not providing support for post-secondary education, our organization is picking up thousands of dollars of additional costs. As a result, we will serve less workers/job seekers because we are paying more per person due to the state budget problem. In addition, if this continues, educational institutions offering workforce training programs may not be viable and forced to shut down due to the state budget impasse.

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your economic outlook for the next twelve months?

A factor that would make a large positive effect business is state money, given to public education, to spend on my clinical services.

About the same as last 6 years- slow growth

Buy Local!

Christian County. borders Sangamon

Continue to grow in spite of financial restrictions

Current government policies lead to a slow growth environment.

Dysfunctional state government looks worse to people seeking to invest in Illinois than high taxes. Something to be done since the downward spiral in state government makes us look like a banana republic.

Effects on schools will have major negative effects on communities.

I am positive for our business

I would leave Sangamon County and Illinois in a heart beat if I could move my business! Sick of politicians and the self interest.

If consumer confidence in the government and economy would increase I believe it would have a tremendous impact on our business and team.

If no budget, I don't get paid- I don't spend money. bad for local economy.

Illinois has good natural resources and talented people. The lack of government leaders compromise has resulted in a declining economy due to reluctance to reduce debts which has accumulated for 30+ years. I expect more of the same in the next 12 months resulting in economic low growth and possible deflation.

In the entertainment sector, if the economy is bad, sales are bad for us. If the "feel good" factor is bad, sales are bad for us. The negative state budget issues have a negative impact on our entertainment sales.

Infrastructure is in poor shape in Illinois. This has a negative effect on our being able to operate here.

It sucks!

Its going to be the apocalypse if Trump or Clinton takes presidency.

Just the obvious -- a need for a State Budget.

Local, regional and national uncertainty seems to be causing the local B2B spending levels to be very conservative and business owners seem very tentative to make annual investments.

Looks bleak !

N/A

N/A
need industry back in Sangamon county from overseas, no growth for any one without new money
Nice easy survey. Thank you
No
No commercial construction work on north end. North end is a dead zone.
No.
Note that this survey was completed by HSHS. If St. John's Hospital submits a survey, the number of employees in Sangamon County for HSHS (not including St. John's) is closer to 1,000
Our business is weather dependent and disposable income dependent. Lack of a state budget forces people to review where they spend discretionary income.
Our state needs to become more competitive with our surrounding states- work comp. fiscally we have more people leaving our state than our neighbor.
Rebranding efforts will take share from market to increase sales/profitability but overall economic decline expected, especially with uncertainty in state government and presidential election.
Springfield and Sangamon county do not seem to have the leadership read to become a growing capitol city/ county in our country. this part of the Midwest is over burdened with control by unions and legislators that are bought and paid for.
State budget impasse is significantly hurting our overall economy.
The long term effects of the state budget impasse are yet to be seen- but I would anticipate a large negative effect short term and long term as many will not be able to recover.
The next 12 months there will be little to no improvement; However, the greater concern is the long effect of public pensions on the economic health of the city, county, and state. Major restructuring is necessary.
The no idea when a budget gets passed has such a psychologically negative effect on our business. It's borderline criminal to work, be held to the highest standard, provide the same quality of care, and not get paid fairly for it.
The state budget impasse is a big negative for the economy of Central Illinois.
The state needs a real an comprehensive solution to the budget impasse. No more kicking the can down the road. Especially after this much pain. Illinois needs to look to other states and countries for best practices and adopt them. It's time for political reform. You can only give to a campaign in which you are registered to vote. An elected official cannot run for office while holding office (they must wait until their elected term has completed [even if they resign office]).
The state's lack of good business practices is hurting many small businesses.
The Un-affordable Care Act has negatively impacted our organization. The threat of Unions in our industry has also caused alarm. We provide in-home care to Seniors.
Vote republican if you want to keep capitalism alive in the USA
We are new and determined . No excuses.
We have several capital projects on hold due in large part, to state of Illinois budget related concerns/uncertainties.
We hope that tourism will bring us a bigger sales increase in the summer months.
With no budget, it effects everyone in a negative way. Even if you do not do business with the state directly, it still has a negative effect on everyone. The government need to do the job they were elected to do, stay until the budget is passed.
You cannot downsize to success- look at Minnesota as an example NOT Wisconsin!