

The Sangamon County Business Economic Outlook Survey



Sponsors:
The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce
and
University of Illinois at Springfield
Center for Entrepreneurship / Center for State Policy and Leadership
 February, 2009

Note about website version: You can also take the survey “on line” by going to:

<http://cspl.uis.edu/surveyresearchoffice/sitename.htm>

Your **PROJECT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER** is the number at the top right corner of this page.

The **PASSWORD** for this survey is: **SCBEOS** (uppercase).

Expectations for Sangamon County

1. **Over the next 12 months**, what are your expectations *for each* of the following aspects of the local Sangamon County economy? Do you think the aspect will decline quite a bit, decline a little, stay about the same, increase a little, or increase quite a bit? (*Give us your best guess by circling a choice for each item; if you don't have a guess for an item, circle "dk" for "don't know."*)

Decline	Stay	Increase			
Quite A Bit	Decline A Little	About Same	Increase A Little	Quite A Bit	Don't Know

In Sangamon County:

A. Overall employment	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	dk
B. Capital investment	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	dk
C. Interest rates	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	dk
D. Gross sales / revenue	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	dk
E. Inflation / price of goods and services	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	dk
F. Contributions to non-profit organizations.....	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	dk
G. The overall economy in Sangamon County	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	dk

2. **Over the next 12 months**, what are your expectations for the economic performance of the following economic sectors **in Sangamon County**?

Give us your best guess by circling a choice for each item. If you don't have a guess for an item, circle "dk" for "don't know."

Decline	Stay	Increase			
Quite A Bit	Decline A Little	About Same	Increase A Little	Quite A Bit	Don't Know

A. Construction / building	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	dk
B. Manufacturing	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	dk
C. Wholesale trade	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	dk
D. Retail trade	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	dk
E. Transportation / warehousing	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	dk
F. Finance / insurance / real estate	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	dk
G. Medical / health care	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	dk
H. Education / educational services	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	dk
I. Accommodations / food / entertainment / recreation ..	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	dk
J. Information and communications systems/services	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	dk
K. Business and professional support services	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	dk
L. Personal services	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	dk

TURN PAGE OVER TO COMPLETE THE QUESTIONNAIRE

Expectations for your Sangamon County Business / Firm

1. ***In the next 12 months***, what are your expectations for each of the following aspects **of your Sangamon County business/firm**? Do you expect the aspect to decline quite a bit, decline a little, stay about the same as it has been the past 12 months, increase a little, or increase quite a bit?

Give us your best guess by circling a choice for each item. If you don't have a guess or the item is not applicable, circle "dk/na."

	Decline		Stay		Increase		Don't
	Quite	Decline	About	Increase	Quite		Know/
	A Bit	A Little	Same	A Little	A Bit		Not
							Applic.
A. Capital investment in firm	-2	-1	0	+1	+2		dk/na
B. Total number of employees.....	-2	-1	0	+1	+2		dk/na
C. Gross revenue / sales.....	-2	-1	0	+1	+2		dk/na
D. Profitability.....	-2	-1	0	+1	+2		dk/na
E. Overall	-2	-1	0	+1	+2		dk/na

2. Right now, as you look over the next 12 months, what are the three biggest challenges facing your firm in the local economy? [Circle **UP TO THREE NUMBERS** next to your choice(s).]

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Inflation | 8 Competition from local/state/national firms |
| 2 Interest rates | 9 Global competition |
| 3 Employee compensation / benefits | 10 State government finances |
| 4 Consumer confidence and spending | 11 Government regulations and taxation |
| 5 Energy prices | 12 Other – specify: _____ |
| 6 Commodity prices | 13 Other – specify: _____ |
| 7 Availability of skilled/trained workers | 14 Other – specify: _____ |

Final Questions

1. Compared to the current performance of the overall national economy, would you say the current performance of the overall economy in Sangamon County is: (circle number of choice)

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|---|
| 1 much better than the nat'l economy | 3 about the same | 4 somewhat worse than the nat'l economy |
| 2 somewhat better than nat'l economy | | 5 much worse than nat'l economy |

2. So that we can analyze the results by sector, please indicate the economic sector that best describes your firm's primary economic activity. (Circle the one number that best describes this.)

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1 Construction/building | 9 Accommodations/food/entertainment/recreation |
| 2 Manufacturing | 10 Information and communications systems/services |
| 3 Wholesale trade | 11 Business & professional support services |
| 4 Retail trade | 12 Personal services |
| 5 Transportation/warehousing | 13 Social assistance / welfare organization |
| 6 Finance/insurance/real estate | 14 Membership organization (advocacy/services for members) |
| 7 Medical/health care | |
| 8 Education/educational services | 15 Other – specify: _____ |

3. Compared to the current performance of your economic sector in the nation as a whole, would you say the current performance of your firm's economic sector in Sangamon County is: (circle number)

- | | | |
|--|------------------|---|
| 1 much better than for sector nationally | 3 about the same | 4 somewhat worse |
| 2 somewhat better | | 5 much worse than for sector nationally |

4. You are in (circle one): 1 Private sector 2 Non-profit sector 3 Public sector

Thank you for your time and the information you have provided !

Please return the questionnaire in the enclosed postage-paid envelope or to:
 Survey Research Office; University of Illinois at Springfield
 One University Plaza, MS HRB 120; Springfield, Illinois 62703-5407