

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 / March, 2008

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

<http://cspl.uis.edu/surveyresearchoffice/WEBSITE> (not correct address)

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			Don't
Quite A Bit	Decline A Little	About Same	Increase A Little	Quite A Bit	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			Don't
Quite A Bit	Decline A Little	About Same	Increase A Little	Quite A Bit	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 Quite A Bit	Decline A Little	Stay About Same	Increase A Little	Increase Quite A Bit	Don't Know/ 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. 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: _____ |

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

3. We plan on conducting this survey again in about 6 months, and we would like you to participate in it once again. For the next survey, we can send information about how to take the survey on-line to your email address, or we can send a questionnaire through the mail. *Please choose your preference below and, if applicable, send us your email address by returning the enclosed form or by going to the survey website (<http://cspl.uis.edu/surveyresearchoffice/WEBSITE>).*

- 1 Send the next one to me through email (please return the enclosed card and/or go to website)
- 2 Send the next survey to me by mail (as was done for this survey)

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*