



Q2 2024

HALIFAX BUSINESS CONDITIONS

DATA RELEASE

**HALIFAX
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE**

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAMBER'S POLICY TEAM

The overall goal of the Halifax Chamber of Commerce is to create value and prosperity for our 1,900+ members and their over 94,000 employees. Through our Strategic Plan, we are providing the services businesses need, hosting events that will help them learn, and advocating for the conditions in the economy that enhance their prosperity.

Our advocacy positions, which are obtained through Chamber task force meetings, discussions with our attendees and members at round tables, and countless hours of calls each month where we connect with our membership, is also supported by detailed analysis and empirical data. This data release is intended to enhance our overall advocacy role as the voice of business in HRM by sharing some of that data with our business members, key decision makers, and other relevant stakeholders.

Kent Roberts
Vice President of Policy
kent@halifaxchamber.com

Nick Cunningham
Policy Analyst
nicholas@halifaxchamber.com



BUSINESS OUTLOOK

Apr - May 2024

KEY FINDINGS

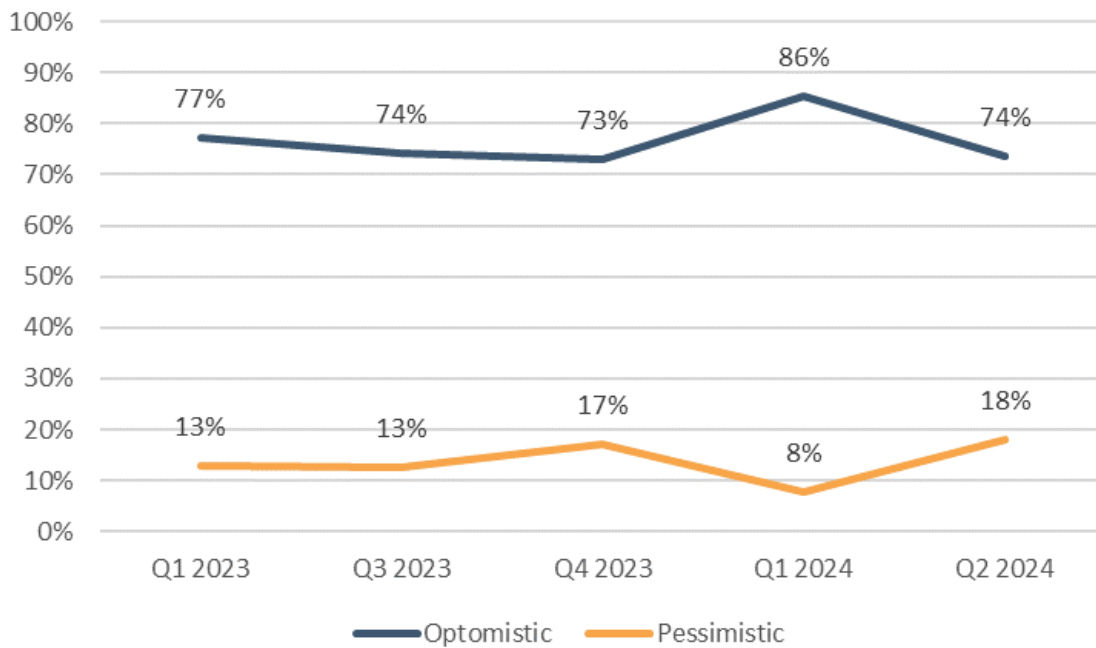
The number of Halifax businesses with an optimistic outlook for the next 12 months decline from the previous quarter.

Cost-related obstacles remain the biggest concern, with 71% of Halifax businesses indicating it to be an obstacle over the next 3 months.

Inflation related obstacles saw the biggest negative change from Q1 to Q2 of 2024 and remains a top concern for Halifax businesses.

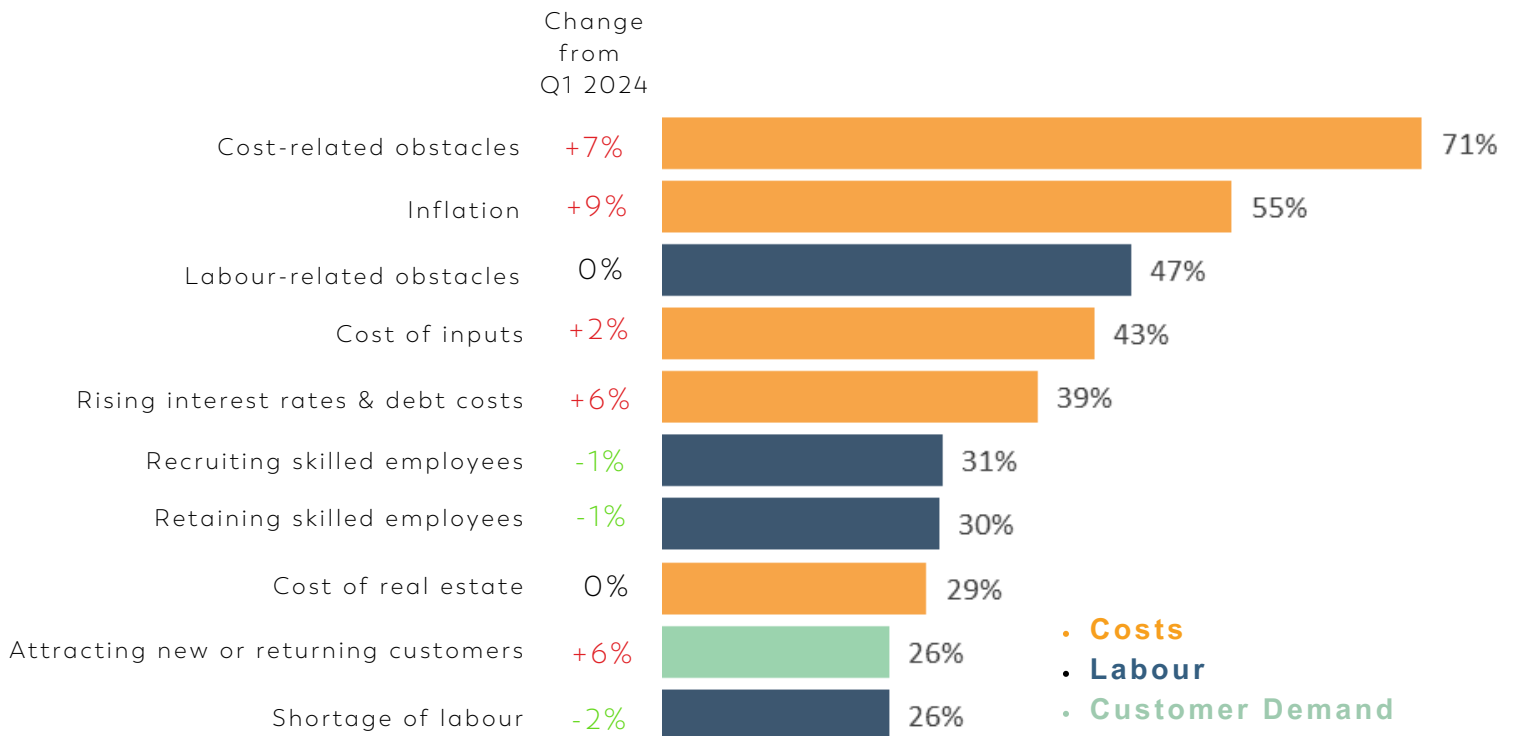
Businesses with an optimistic outlook for the next 12 months

% of respondents, by major CMA, change from previous quarter in parentheses



Top 10 Halifax business obstacles expected, next three months.

% of respondents



COST PRESSURES

Apr - May 2024

KEY FINDINGS

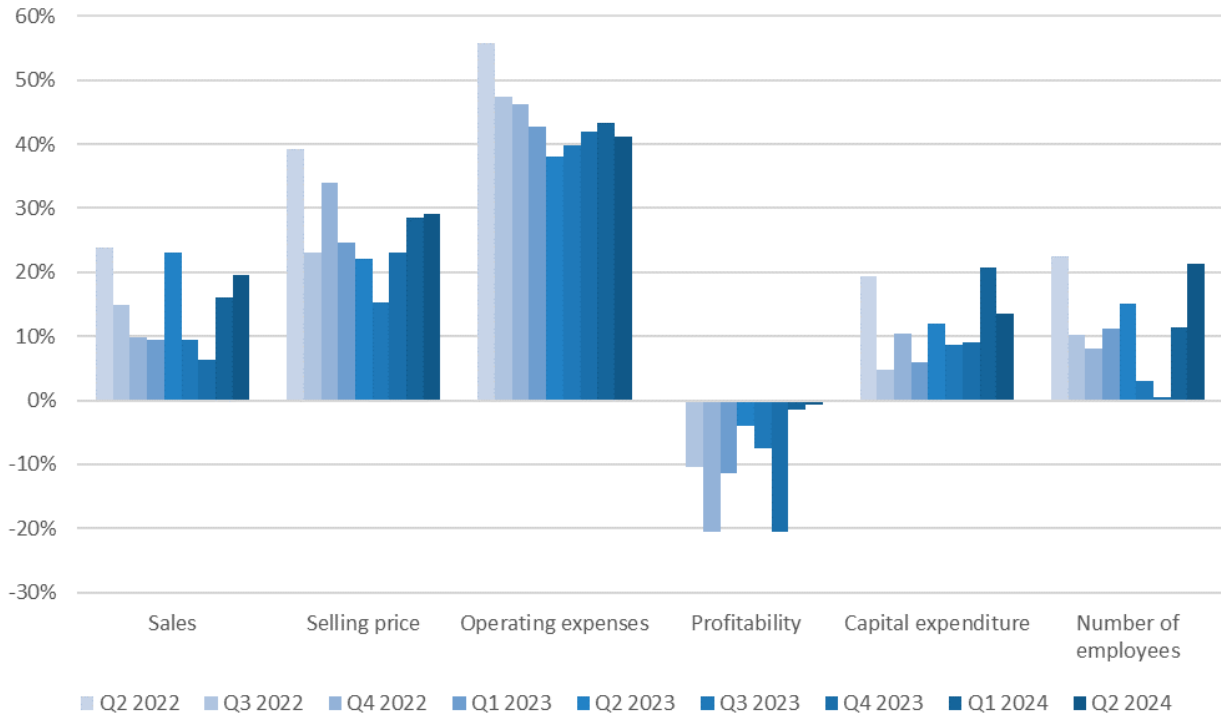
An increase in expected sales combined with higher sales prices are improving expectations of profitability. This appears to continue have a positive impact on capital expenditures and hiring despite higher expectations of operating expenses.

The number of businesses expecting to raise their selling prices of good and services has increased for three consecutive quarters.

While transportation and insurance costs pressures have lessened, input costs, debt servicing and inflationary pressures have worsened.

Expected changes for your business, next three months

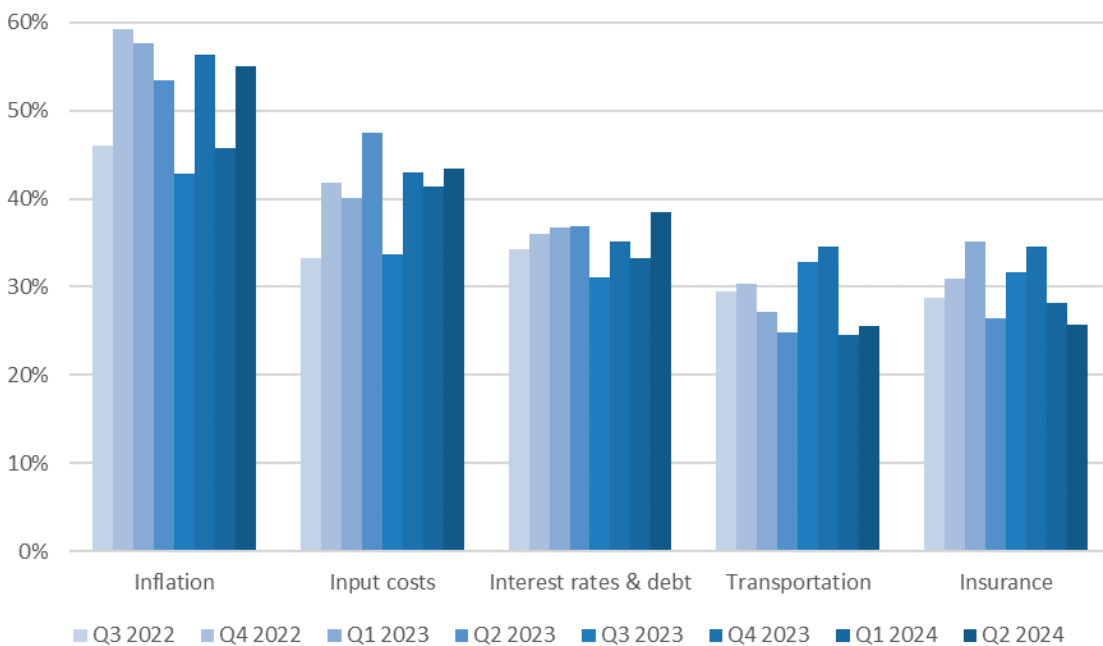
Balance of opinion*



* % of respondents that answered "increase" less % that answered "decrease" by metric

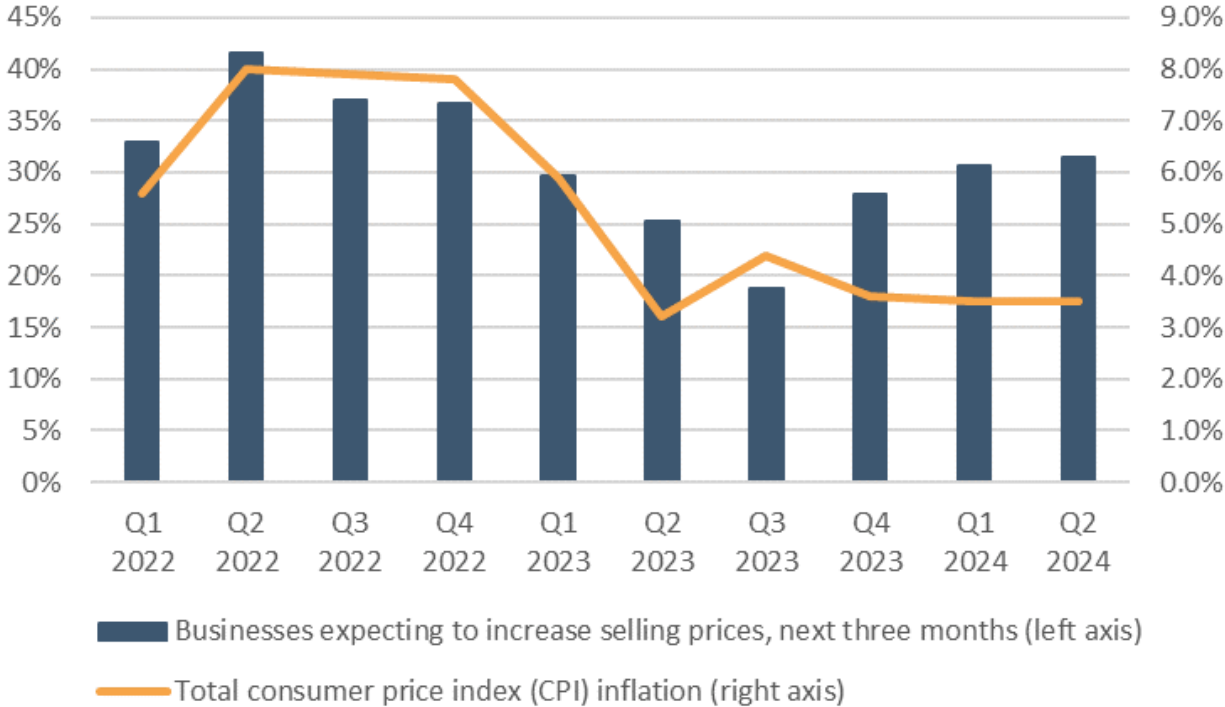
Businesses expecting cost-related obstacles, next three months

% of respondents



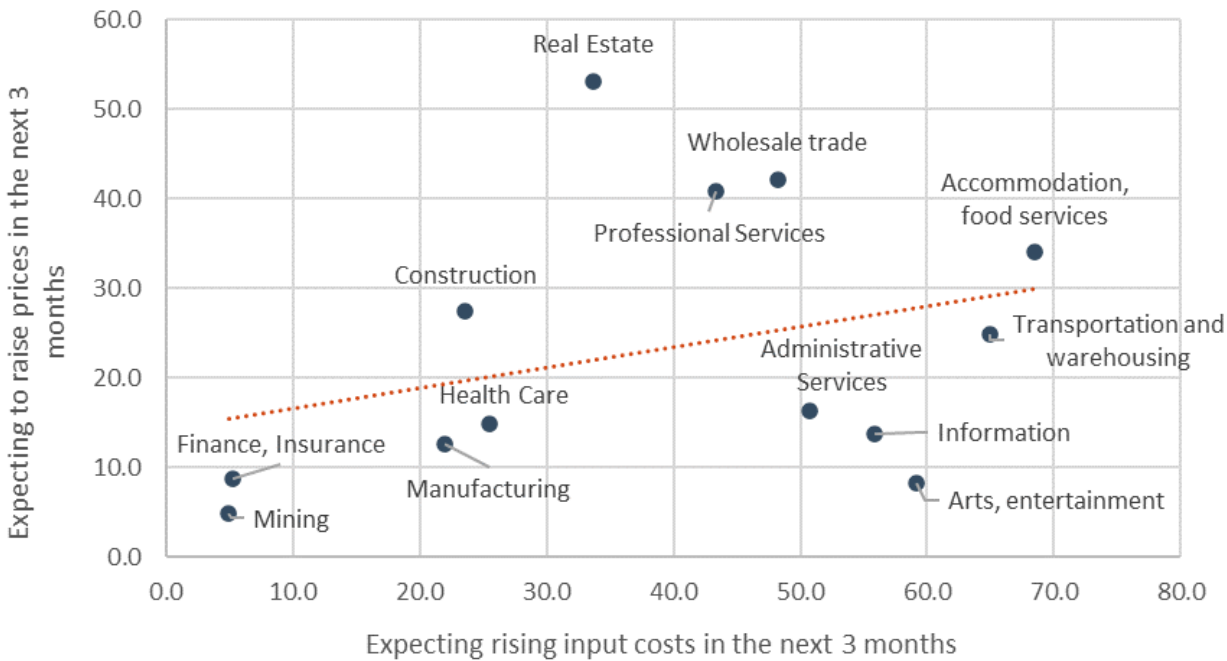
Businesses expecting to raise the selling price of their goods and services, next three months and CPI inflation

Left axis % of respondents; right axis Quarter-over-quarter % change



Cost pressures impacting prices of goods and services offered, next three months

% of respondents by industry



LABOUR

Apr - May 2024

KEY FINDINGS

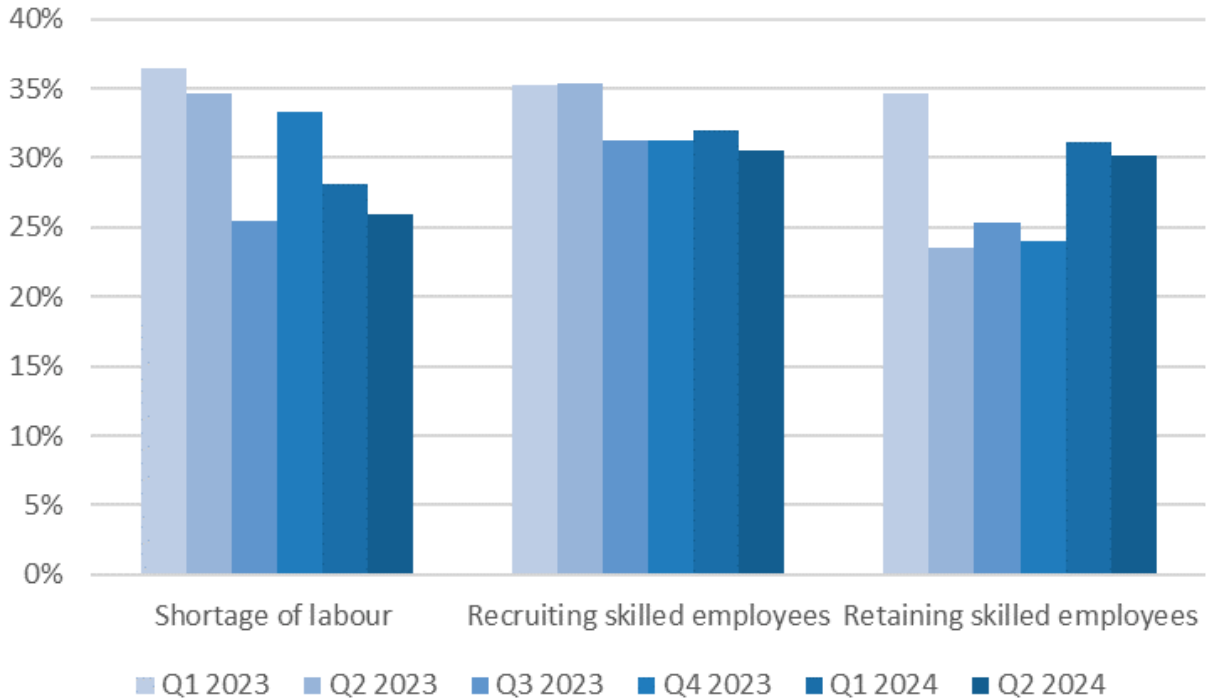
Labour-related challenges remained unchanged from Q1 to Q2 of 2024 with 46% of Halifax businesses expecting challenges over the next three months

Labour-related challenges for larger firms (100+) are expected to remain a challenge for the next three months.

While labour shortages and recruitment continue to slightly improve, Halifax businesses are facing increasing retention challenges.

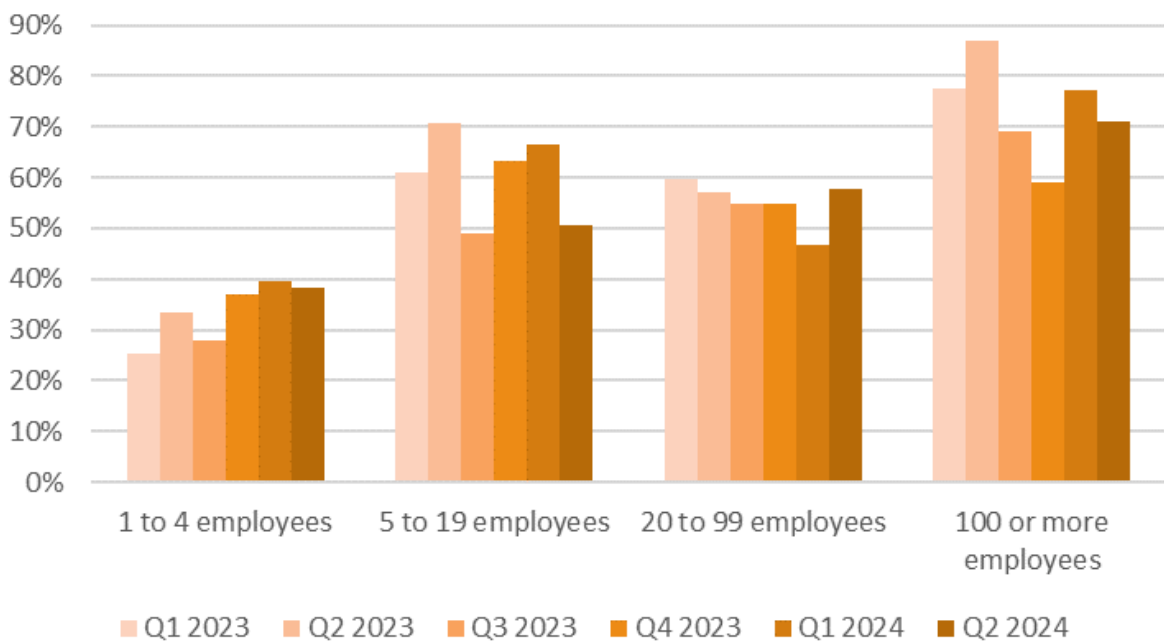
Expected labour related obstacles, next three months.

% of respondents by industry



Expected labour related obstacles, next three months.

% of respondents by firm size





FINANCING

Apr - May 2024

KEY FINDINGS

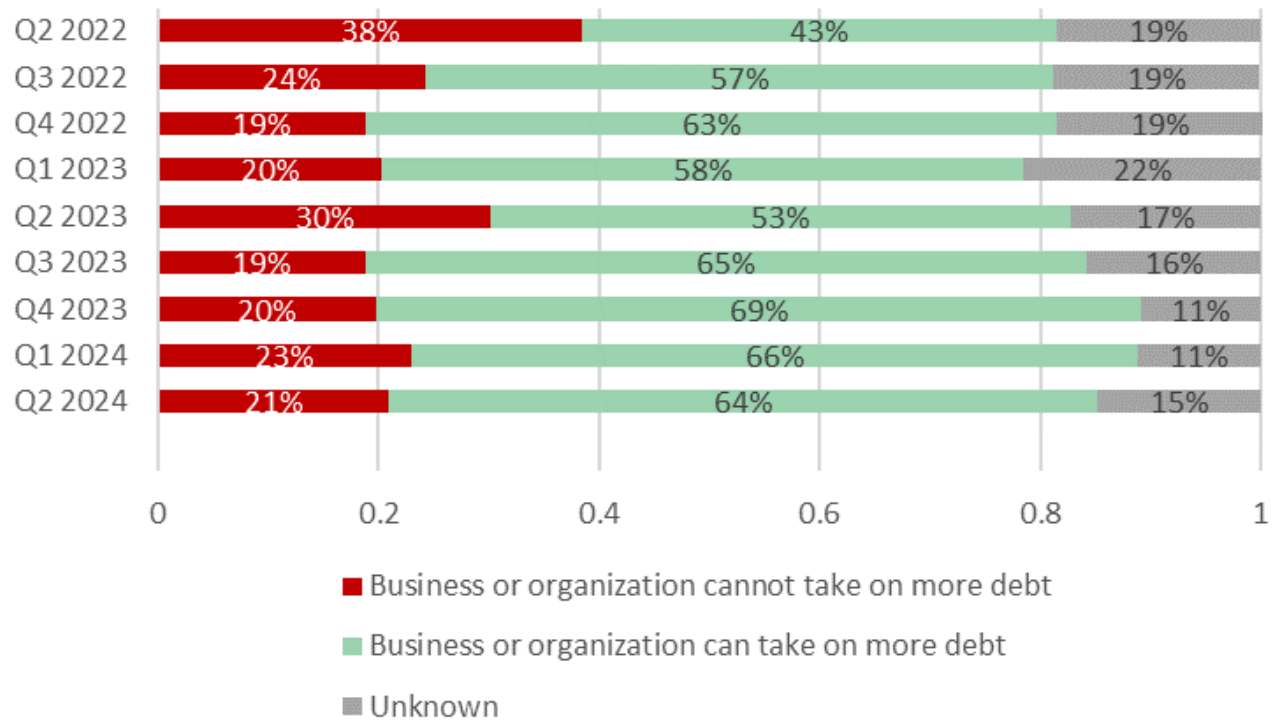
Compared to two years ago, the financial health of Halifax businesses has significantly improved with 64% of businesses indicating they could take on more debt, up 21% from 2022.

The share of businesses who indicated they can take on more debt decreased slightly (-3%) from Q3 to Q4 of 2023.

Small and medium sized Halifax businesses conti.

Ability for the business to take on more debt.

% of respondents by quarter of survey



Ability for the business to take on more debt.

% of respondents by firm size



SUPPLY CHAINS

Apr - May 2024

KEY FINDINGS

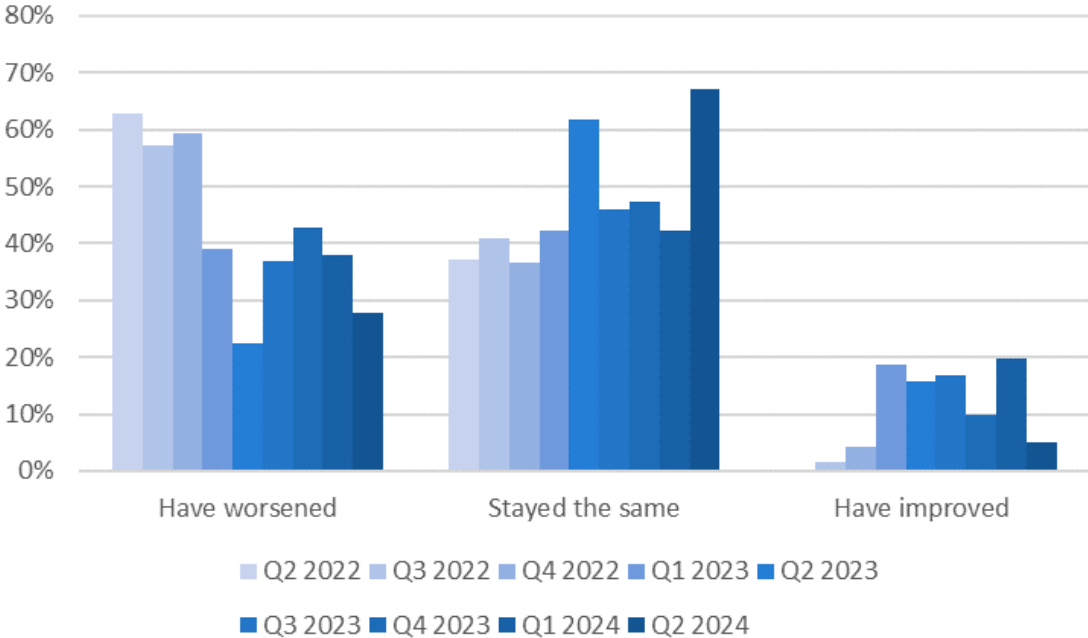
Despite some improved quarters and some worsening quarters, Supply Chains are at about the same level as one year ago.

The biggest factors that contributed to worsening supply chain challenges were:

- Increased delays in deliveries of inputs, products, or supplies.
- Increased prices of inputs, products, or supplies.
- Supply shortages resulting in fewer inputs being available.

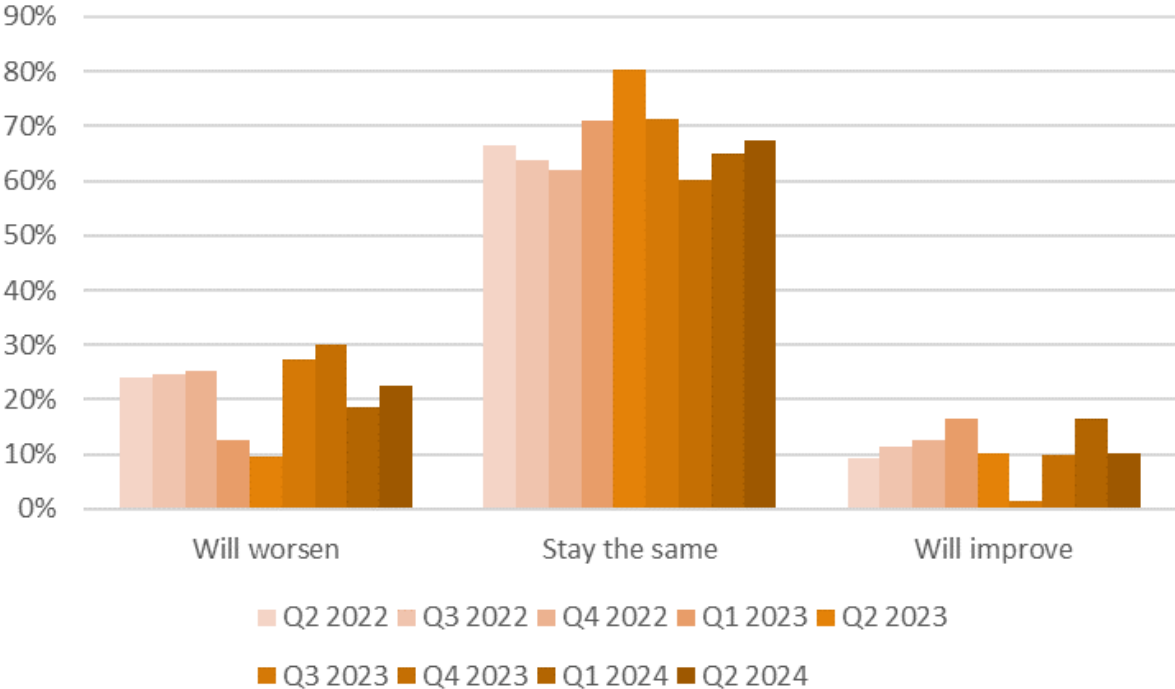
Supply-Chain obstacles experienced, last three months.

% of respondents, of those that expect supply chain obstacles



Supply-chain obstacles expected, next three months.

% of respondents, of those that expect supply chain obstacles



END NOTES

Survey objectives: The Canadian Survey on Business Conditions (CSBC) was created in spring 2020 by Statistics Canada in partnership with the Canadian Chamber of Commerce to provide timely, relevant data on business conditions in Canada, as well as businesses' expectations and views on emerging issues. These surveys are used by governments, chambers of commerce, business associations and analysts to monitor evolving business conditions and devise policies to support Canadian business.

Survey period: The Q2 2024 CSBC data collection period was April 2 to May 6, 2024.

Survey approach: The survey was conducted by Statistics Canada via electronic questionnaire, using a stratified random sample of business establishments with employees, classified by geography, industry sector and size.

Population totals are estimated using calibration weights. The results in this report are based on responses from 318 businesses in Halifax.

Charts may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

SPECIAL THANKS

A special thank you to the Canadian Chamber of Commerce's Business Data Lab for providing the Halifax CMA level data set.

For an overview of the national Q2 2024 business conditions, see the CCC BDL's release [here](#)