

JULY TO DECEMBER 2022



THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN CENTRAL BANK

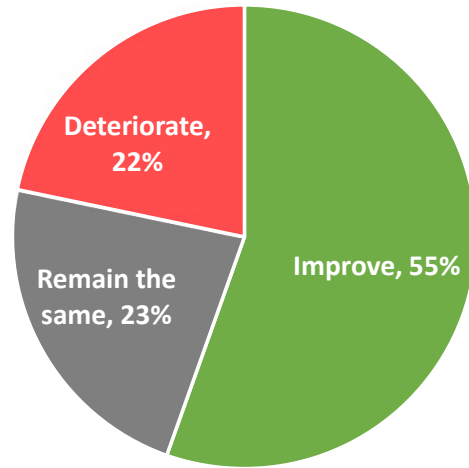
BUSINESS OUTLOOK SURVEY

Overview

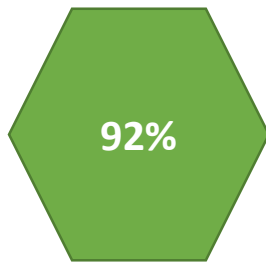
- The Business Outlook Survey (BOS) is a semi-annual survey modelled in a way as to garner the opinions of the business sector of the eight (8) member countries within the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU).
- A sample of the business sector (25 businesses per country) is selected and their thoughts and opinions are collected as it relates to their individual business operations and the economies in which they function.
- Businesses surveyed were also asked to provide their thoughts on fluctuations in the major areas of business activity such as the prices of goods and services, sales and employment.
- Captured in this survey are the views of businesses and their expectations for the July to December 2022 period and any ex-post information on the business environment for July to December 2021. The official survey period ran from 3 to 31 July, 2022. However, extensions were granted because of COVID-19 related delays.
- Critical to this analysis is a statistic known as the Net Percentage Indicator (NPI). The NPI (%) is calculated by taking the difference between responses marked “improved/increased” and “deteriorated/decreased”.

Results: Business Outlook Survey: July to December 2022

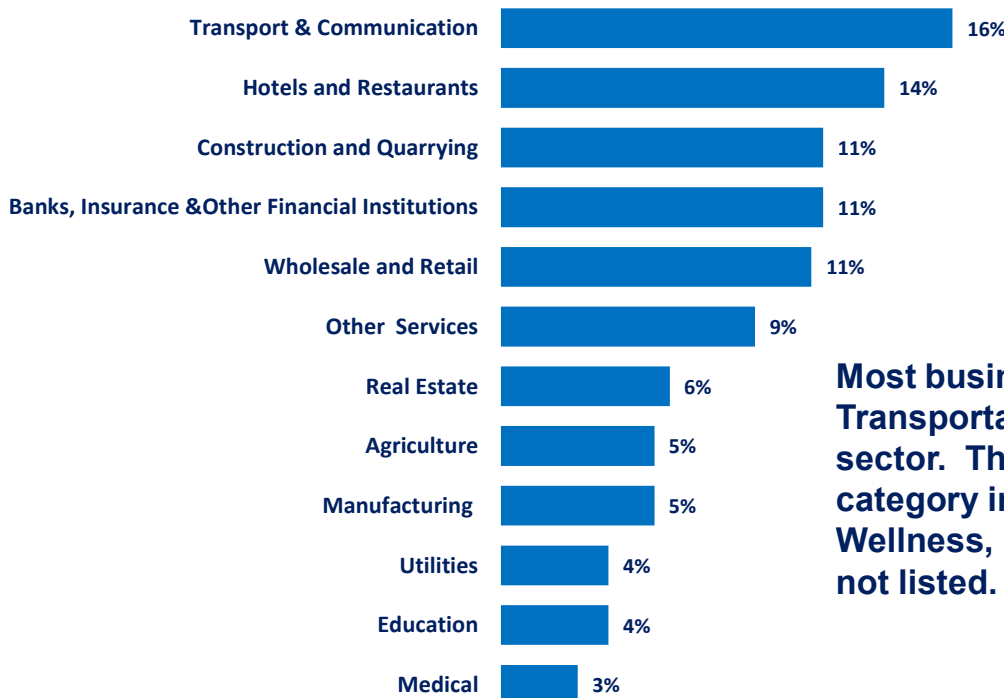
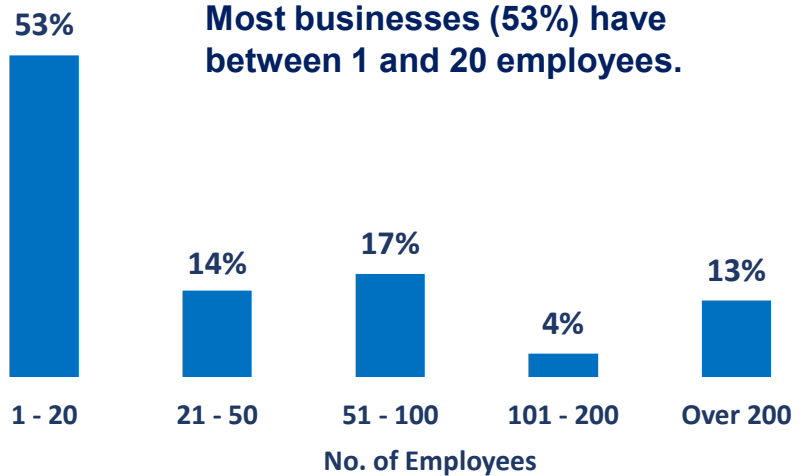
More than half (55%) of the businesses surveyed indicated that they expect the general economic conditions to improve over the period July to December 2022 compared with July to December 2021.



Response Rate



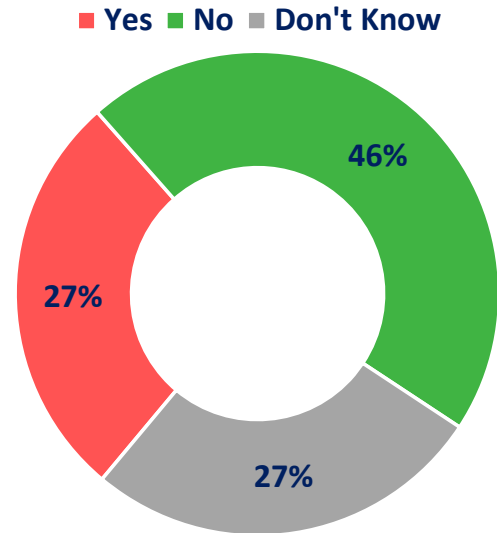
184 businesses were surveyed. Most businesses (53%) have between 1 and 20 employees.



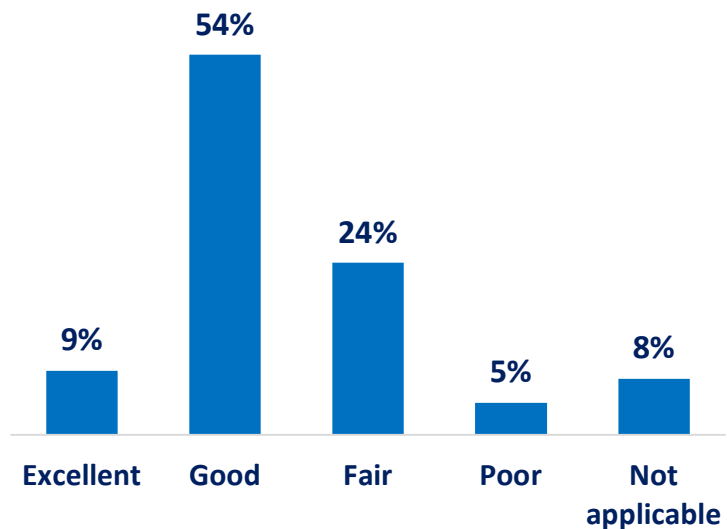
Most businesses operate in the Transportation & Communications sector. The Other Services category include Beauty & Wellness, Legal and other services not listed.

Results: Business Outlook Survey: July to December 2022

46% of the businesses surveyed reported that they do not expect their businesses to face any supply chain disruptions that might constrain their ability to meet demand over the 2nd half of 2022.



Most of the businesses surveyed (63%) rated their current ability to deal with supply-side challenges as excellent and good.

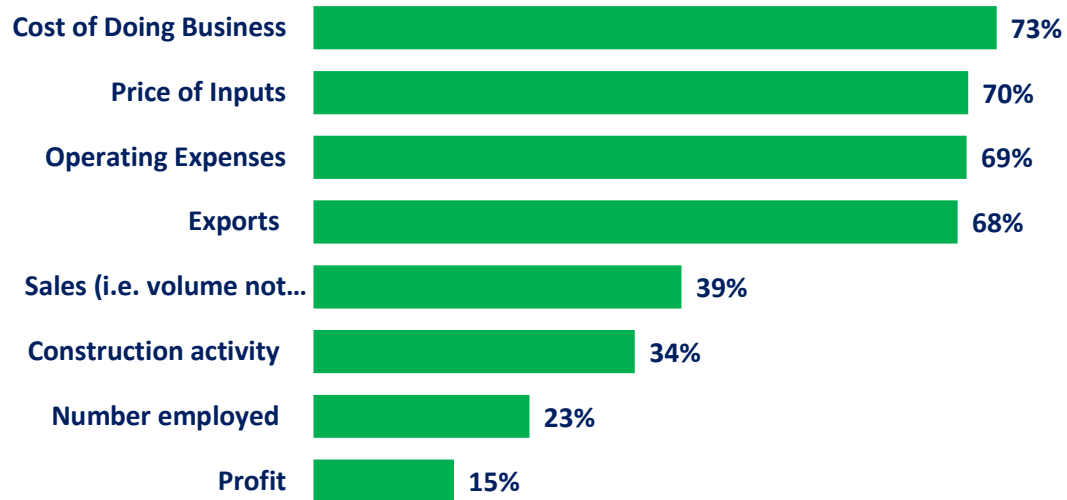


Of the top 5 challenges faced by the businesses that were surveyed, Low Sales Turnover was ranked number 1.

Despite the rise in commodity prices globally, Inflation ranked #4 in terms of challenges for the businesses that were surveyed.

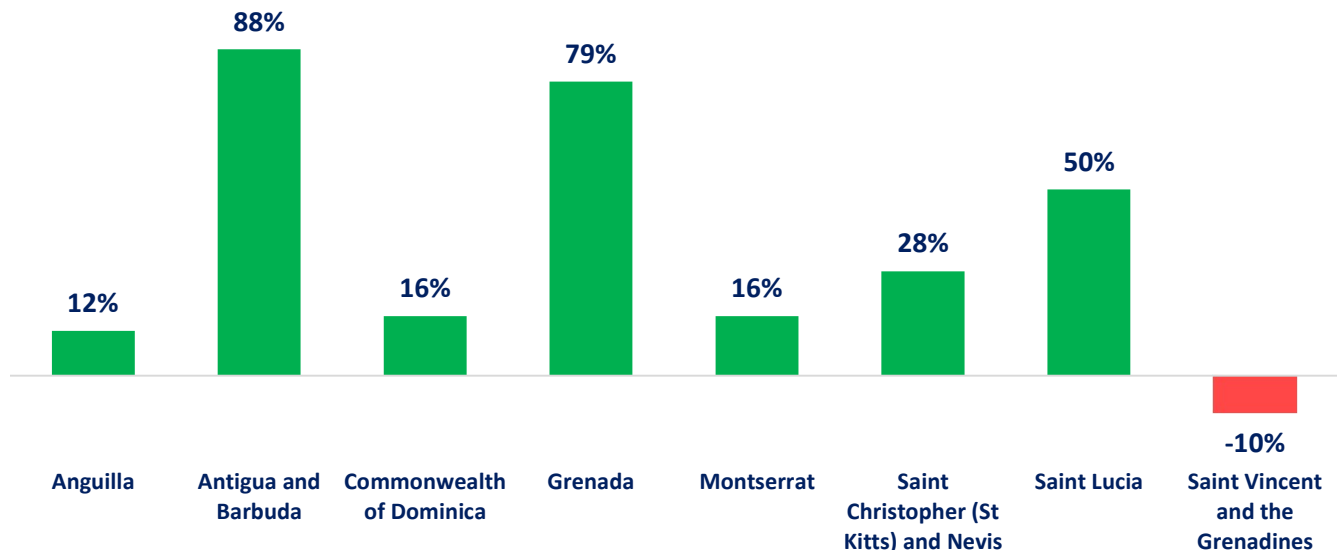
Results: Business Outlook Survey: July to December 2022

**Expected NPI (%)* in selected business variables over the period
July to December 2022 compared with July to December 2021**



Across all selected business variables, businesses surveyed expect to see increases during the second half of 2022 compared to same period in 2021. The largest increase is expected for the Cost of Doing Business (73%) while the smallest increase is expected for Profit (15%).

**Expected NPI (%)* For General Business Conditions by Country:
July to December 2022 compared with July to December 2021**



Businesses surveyed indicated that they expect general business conditions to improve over the July to December 2022 compared to same period in 2021. Only one country, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, registered a negative NPI, indicating that respondents expect general business conditions to deteriorate.

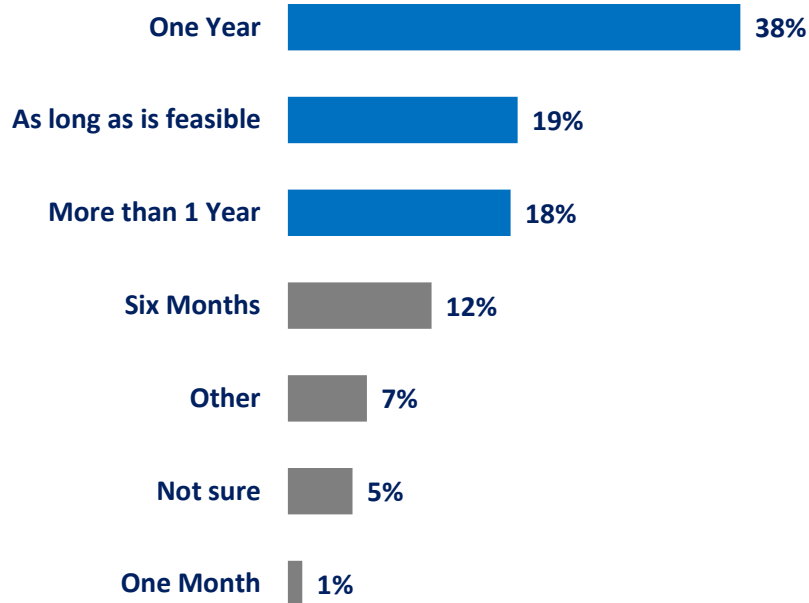
The ECCU registered a NPI of 34% which characterizes an overall positive outlook for the 2nd half of 2022, compared to the same period in 2021.

Results: Business Outlook Survey: July to December 2022



COVID-19 Related

Most businesses surveyed (75%) indicated that they could continue to weather the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic for 1 year or more.



Most businesses surveyed (84%) indicated that they put safety measures in place to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic during the period January to June 2022.

