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## Illawarra business sector reveals positive June quarter results

The latest edition of the IRIS Illawarra Business Survey revealed an improvement in business confidence with expectations remaining relatively flat going into the September quarter. The Trading Conditions, Profitability, Employment and Overtime Indices all experienced a positive shift compared to June, 2014.

Trading activity in the Illawarra region increased in comparison to the June, 2014 quarter, with a net 7.2% of local firms experiencing positive trading conditions (up 13.9% points). Expectations remain positive for the September quarter with a net 14.5% of businesses expecting improved trading conditions.

Profitability recorded improved results compared to June, 2014 with a net 6.0% of local firms recording decreased profitability (up 8.9% pts). This result remains well above the June quarter average. Looking ahead, profitability expectations remain relatively flat with a net 0.6% of firms expecting decreased profitability.

The June quarter saw employment prospects strengthen for firms in the Illawarra region. The Employment Index gained 10.4% pts in comparison to the June, 2014 quarter with a net 1.2% of local firms recording an increase in employment levels. Expectations remain flat going into the September quarter.

Capital expenditure amongst Illawarra firms experienced an increase during the twelve months to June. Overall, 38.9% of local businesses reported purchasing 'at least some' capital, up from 32.7% recorded during the previous June quarter.

27.5% of local businesses reported offering 'at least some' overtime to employees, down 2.8% points on the previous June quarter. This result falls 5.2% points below the long term June quarter average. 30.1% of local firms expect to offer workers overtime during the upcoming September quarter.

### Further comment:

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# Media Release

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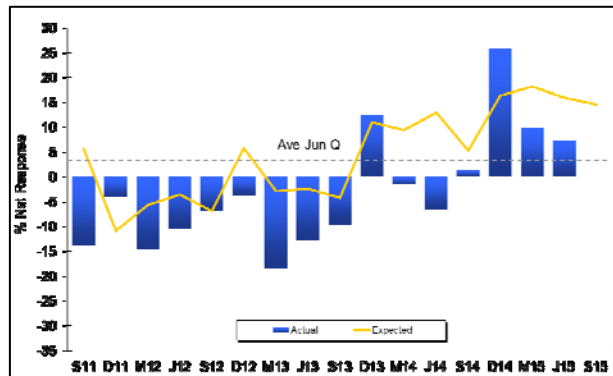
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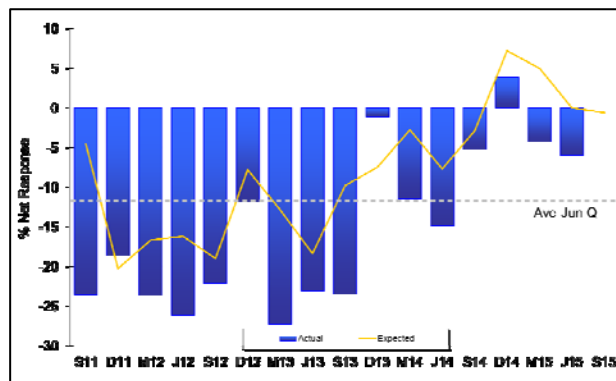
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**Note:** the graphs below can be provided electronically or in full page hard copy for scanning.

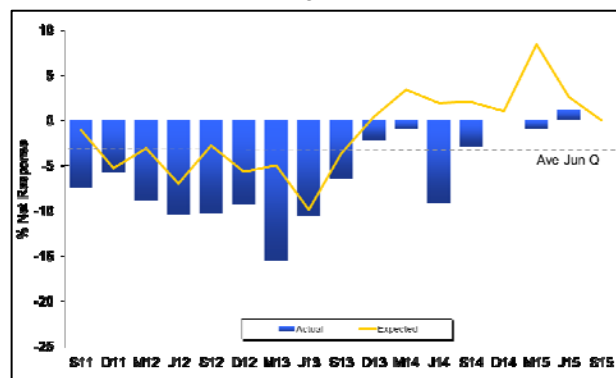
**TRADING CONDITIONS**



**PROFITABILITY**



**EMPLOYMENT**



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