



Thursday, 24th December 2015

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Positive employment conditions reported for local firms

Latest findings from the December edition of the IRIS Illawarra Business Survey have revealed there were mixed changes across key business indicators in the Illawarra region during the December 2015 quarter.

Local firms saw trading activity wane by 11.1% pts; however results remained in positive territory, as a net 14.7% of local firms experienced stronger trading conditions. This result sits 2.0% pts under the long term December average.

Relative profitability moved into positive territory during the three months to December as a net 3.1% of firms recorded increased profitability, down by 0.7% pts on the December 2014 quarter. This result is 2.0% pts above the long term December quarter average.

Consistent with the September quarter, employment prospects again improved for Illawarra firms compared to this time last year. The Employment Index rose by 1.9% pts, as a net 1.9% of local organisations reported improved conditions. This was 1.6% pts above the average December quarter result.

Just under a third (32.7%) of Illawarra businesses reported purchasing 'at least some' capital during the December quarter, up 3.0% pts in annual terms. Looking ahead, 32.9% of organisations in the local region anticipate the purchase of 'at least some' capital during the next three months.

More than one third (36.0%) of local businesses reported offering overtime to employees during this quarter. This result was 3.7% pts lower than the lead up to Christmas 2014 and 0.3% pts below the long term December quarter average (36.3%). Results showed 26.9% of firms expect to offer 'at least some' overtime to employees during the first three months of 2016.

Further comment:

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Media Release

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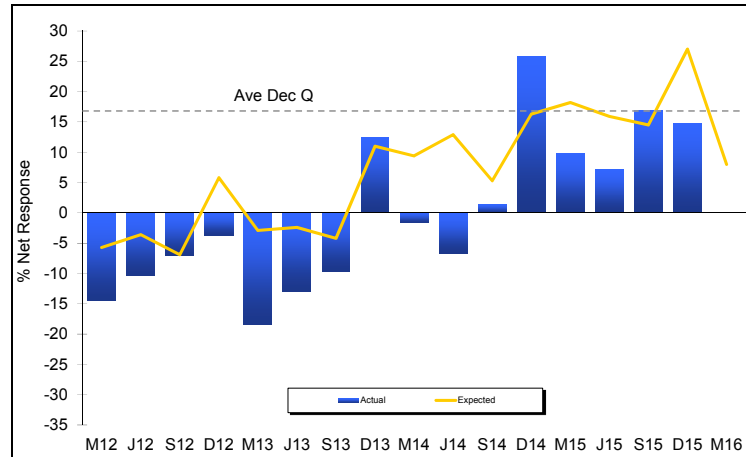
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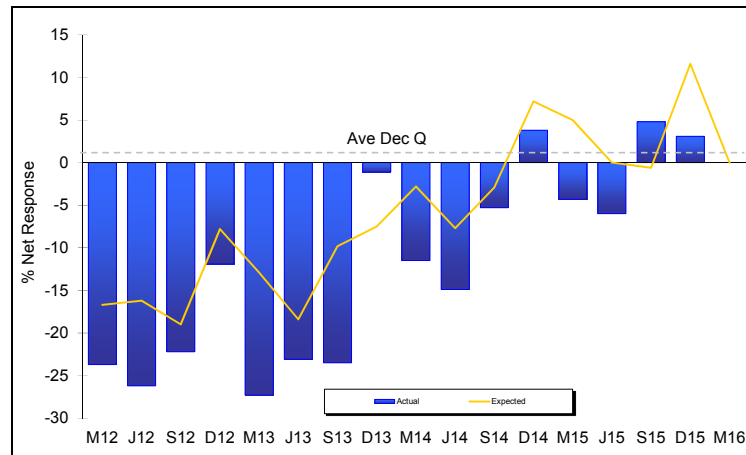
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Note: the graphs below can be provided electronically or in full page hard copy for scanning.

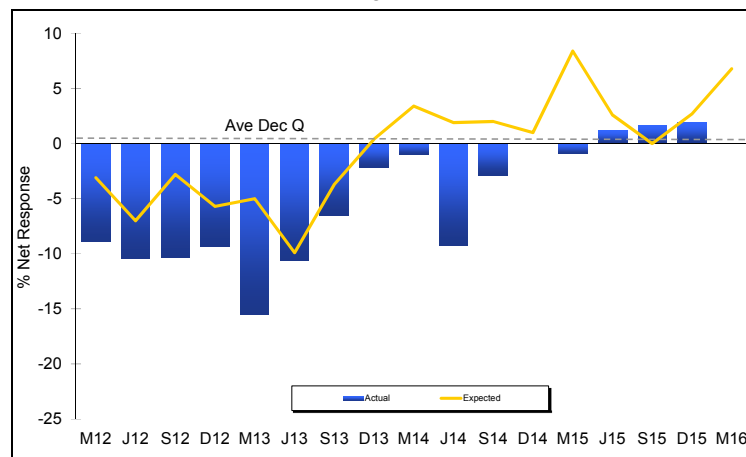
TRADING CONDITIONS



PROFITABILITY



EMPLOYMENT



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