



Adding *life* to your business.

LEE COUNTY

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

BUSINESS SNAPSHOT
SURVEY RESULTS
2ND QUARTER - 2008

Survey prepared by:

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<http://www.smrfla.com>

Business classification			
Construction Commercial	12.1%	23	
Construction Residential	11.6%	22	
Banking / Financial Services	11.1%	21	
Real Estate / Commercial	9.5%	18	
Retail sales	9.5%	18	
Professional Services / Business-to-Business / Chambers of Commerce	8.4%	16	
Home Repair / Home Services	7.9%	15	
Real Estate / Residential	7.9%	15	
Health Care	6.3%	12	
Travel & Tourism / Hotels/Motels/Guest Accommodations	6.3%	12	
Education	5.3%	10	
Engineering	4.7%	9	
Government	4.7%	9	
Manufacturing	4.7%	9	
Media / Advertising / Marketing	4.2%	8	
Utilities	3.7%	7	
Architectural	1.6%	3	
Community Service / 501 c (3)	1.6%	3	
Furniture	1.6%	3	
Other	20.5%	39	
Totals	*	*	

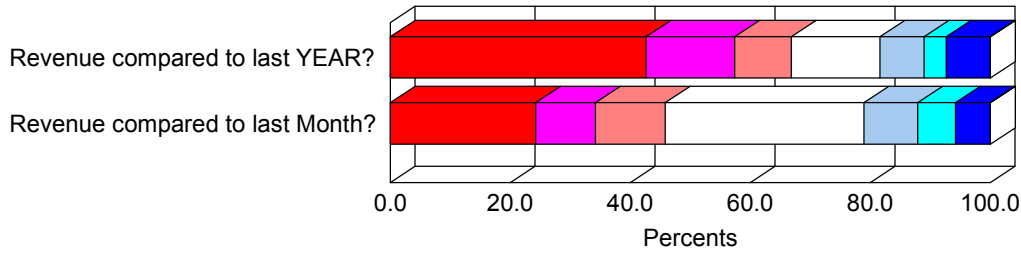
* Note: Multiple answer percentage-count totals not meaningful.

How would you classify your core Business? (Choose all that apply)

- 23 Construction Commercial
- 22 Construction Residential
- 21 Banking / Financial Services
- 18 Real Estate / Commercial
- 18 Retail sales
- 16 Professional Services / Business-to-Business / Chambers of Commerce
- 15 Home Repair / Home Services
- 15 Real Estate / Residential
- 12 Health Care
- 12 Travel & Tourism / Hotels/Motels/Guest Accommodations
- 10 Education
- 9 Engineering
- 9 Government
- 9 Manufacturing
- 8 Media / Advertising / Marketing
- 7 Utilities
- 3 Architectural
- 3 Community Service / 501 c (3)
- 3 Furniture
- 3 chamber of commerce
- 2 Insurance
- 2 Restaurant
- 32 Other

- Waste to energy
- Real Estate Development Consulting
- Commercial insurance
- Working with lenders to dispose of growing amount of real estate
- Banking Optimization Consultants
- Plumbing repair commercial and residential
- Solid Waste and Recycling Services
- merchant services
- Real Estate Marketing for FSBO
- Workfoce Development
- Photography Services
- Profit recovery and medical insurance resolution
- Hospitality Restaurant
- Distribution of fod and beverages to schools
- Green Tours and Adventures
- Insurance sales
- environmental resource permitting for water dependent facilities (Federal, state, county, and city)
- Operations Management
- telecommunications
- Data communucations
- Self Storage
- Insurance and financial services
- restaurants and bars
- restaurants
- Fire, Water, Mold - Cleanup & Restoration
- cpa firm
- Static Guard Security
- pest control business
- Office Equipment
- Non Profit Construction Related
- Accounting/CPA Firm
- Engineering, manufacturing and construction of hurricane protection products.

In general, how would you compare your company's total revenue related to this area with the same time last YEAR/MONTH?



■ Down more than 10%
 ■ -10%
 ■ -5%
 Even
■ +5%
 ■ +10%
■ Up more than 10%

	Revenue comparisons			
	Revenue compared to last YEAR?		Revenue compared to last Month?	
Frequencies:				
Down more than 10%	42.6%	81.0	24.2%	46.0
-10%	14.7%	28.0	10.0%	19.0
-5%	9.5%	18.0	11.6%	22.0
Even	14.7%	28.0	33.2%	63.0
+5%	7.4%	14.0	8.9%	17.0
+10%	3.7%	7.0	6.3%	12.0
Up more than 10%	7.4%	14.0	5.8%	11.0
Totals	100.0%	190.0	100.0%	190.0

Q1 RESULTS:

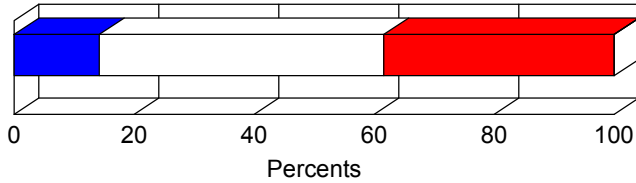
	Revenue comparisons	
	Revenue compared to last YEAR?	Revenue compared to last Month?
Frequencies:		
Down more than 10%	35.8%	14.0%
-10%	17.0%	10.3%
-5%	12.3%	9.3%
Even	15.1%	39.3%
+5%	9.4%	14.0%
+10%	1.9%	3.7%
Up more than 10%	8.5%	9.3%
Totals	100.0%	100.0%

How does the number of employees working for your company in Lee County compare to this time last year?

Q1 RESULTS:

Employees change	
Has increased	14.2%
About the same	47.4%
Has decreased	38.4%
No Answer	0.0%
Totals	100.0%

Employees change	
Has increased	15.9%
About the same	38.3%
Has decreased	45.8%
No Answer	0.0%
Totals	100.0%



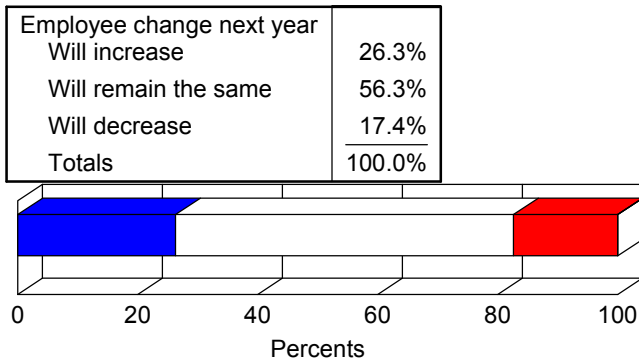
Employees change

■ Has increased
 About the same
 ■ Has decreased

Increased past jobs		
0	3.7%	1
1	14.8%	4
2	25.9%	7
3	11.1%	3
4	11.1%	3
9	3.7%	1
10	7.4%	2
13	3.7%	1
20	3.7%	1
40	3.7%	1
50	3.7%	1
100	3.7%	1
330	3.7%	1
Totals	100.0%	27
Mean		23.00

Decreased past jobs	
1	8.2%
2	1.4%
2	8.2%
3	4.1%
4	8.2%
5	8.2%
6	4.1%
8	1.4%
10	4.1%
12	2.7%
13	2.7%
15	12.3%
20	8.2%
21	1.4%
25	5.5%
30	6.8%
35	1.4%
50	2.7%
55	1.4%
60	1.4%
65	1.4%
70	1.4%
80	1.4%
100	1.4%
Totals	100.0%
Mean	17.53

How do you anticipate your number of employees in Lee County will change by this time next year?



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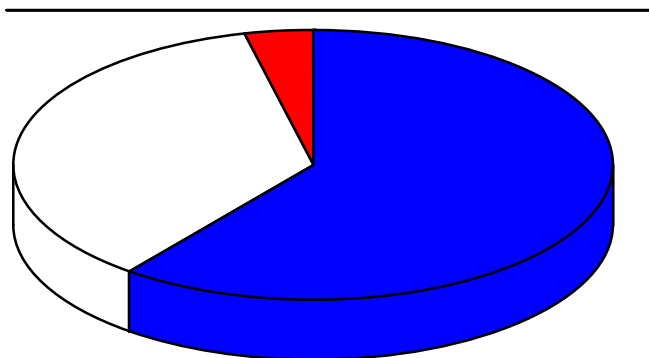
Employee change next year

■ Will increase
 ■ Will remain the same
 ■ Will decrease

Increased future jobs		
1	14.0%	7
2	36.0%	18
3	14.0%	7
4	4.0%	2
5	6.0%	3
6	2.0%	1
8	2.0%	1
10	4.0%	2
12	2.0%	1
13	2.0%	1
15	4.0%	2
20	2.0%	1
21	2.0%	1
25	4.0%	2
50	2.0%	1
Totals	100.0%	50
Mean		6.34

Decreased future jobs		
1	3.0%	1
1	12.1%	4
2	18.2%	6
3	6.1%	2
4	9.1%	3
5	12.1%	4
10	15.2%	5
15	6.1%	2
20	3.0%	1
25	9.1%	3
35	3.0%	1
50	3.0%	1
Totals	100.0%	33
Mean		9.53

Over the past 90 days, have you had any difficulty filling job openings with qualified applicants?



Difficulty filling job openings	
No problem... plenty of qualified applicants... easy to fill openings	60.5% 115
Some problems... plenty of applicants... but few qualified	35.8% 68
Serious problem... hard to attract applicants	3.7% 7
Totals	100.0% 190

Difficulty filling job openings

■ No problem... plenty of qualified applicants... easy to fill openings
■ Some problems... plenty of applicants... but few qualified
■ Serious problem... hard to attract applicants

Q1 RESULTS:

Difficulty filling job openings	
No problem... plenty of qualified applicants... easy to fill openings	51.4% 55
Some problems... plenty of applicants... but few qualified	43.9% 47
Serious problem... hard to attract applicants	4.7% 5
Totals	100.0% 107

Would you prefer a higher sales tax in exchange for a lower property tax?

Higher sales tax/lower property tax	
Yes	49.5%
Uncertain	26.3%
No	24.2%
Totals	100.0%
Mean	2.25



Comment/Explanation

Higher sales tax/lower property tax = Yes

- This would require renters, snowbirds and visitors all to pay for the beauty of Lee County. It should have been done a long time ago.
- Property Values are significantly over inflated on the tax roles.
- let the tourists contribute
- Property Taxes our business have increased to the point we can no longer make a profit.
- Sales tax is the only equitable way of taxing for across the board government services.
- Yes, but no more than a 1% increase in sales tax rate.
- This benefits those that are on fixed incomes as they can choose to spend as they are able while hitting those who spend the most with a higher tax burden. Logically, I would assume those with greater means will be spending higher amounts. It will also help capture additional tourism dollars.
- I very much favor this.
- Home owners are not the only people that utilize services that are funded by their taxes. The use and tax should match as closely as possible; somewhat taking economic status into account.
- You can have some control over expenditures.
- The burden of County expenses are shifted to all users. We cannot compete with other areas of the country when you factor in the taxes as a component of the cost of rent.
- Would spread some of the tax burden to the 'renter' and others who are using the services but not paying for it.
- if this is the final result it would be better for residents and business owners, operators. But, what will happen is we will have a higher sales tax, and property taxes will remain the same for a short time and then they will also increase. The tax revenues need to be tied to the cost of living increases in equal amounts. Period.
- I would prefer to see a more equitable solution.
- Absolutely!
- Property taxes are severely hurting the resale opportunities in Lee County and all of Florida.
- Spreads tax more evenly and attracts people to buy in Florida is property tax is not so high.
- This would be good for our county and state!
- Only if property taxes are more equitable with Save Our Homes issue AND minimal increase in sales tax to capture additional revenue paid by tourists and those that don't own homes.
- This is my second survey attempt --- and I can't remember my answers from the first try. But, I feel that the higher sales tax would put a fair burden on the visitors and seasonal guest that use our infrastructure. I also feel that no matter, it would not reduce property tax amounts for any reasonable length of time. Taxes will continue to increase as always. Let's hope that someday they will be controlled by the cost of living scale.
- I feel it is unfair for property owners and investment owners who supply homes for people to rent to have to pay the outrageous property tax fees alone. Renters cannot pay what it costs the property owner to maintain the mortgage, insurance, taxes and repairs. I have to borrow \$50,000/year to pay my property taxes.
- I do not complain about sales taxes for numerous reasons; they are a form of flat tax, you can choose to make the purchase or not, since consumption is "bad" taxing the "negative act" is better than taxing things that should be encouraged such as property ownership.

Higher sales tax/lower property tax = Uncertain

- We are in construction. Unless INFRASTRUCTURE is funded, we will be laying off and possibly closing if we do not successfully bid jobs. The few jobs that come out are "bought" by very low bidders or awarded to OUT OF AREA contractors. We have worked in this county for 25+ years and provided hundreds of jobs over the years. It is critical that

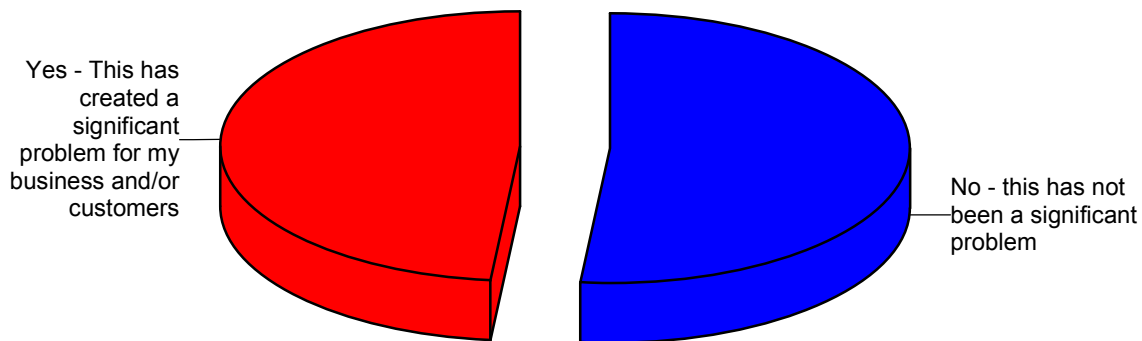
local government support local companies and fund infrastructure. The trickle down affect of the employed who work in this construction will benefit our county. Thank you.

- it depends on what the TBRC interpetation will be by the Leg if it passes in Nov
- I want lower taxes. Not sure based on my sales activity if a higher sales tax would result in lower overall taxes for me or not. I don't think most people know for sure. If all were doing is swapping one form of tax for another but our taxes don't go down then it's a wasted effort and nothing more than politics.
- Shifting the burden to a larger "population" in theory sounds good. Concerned about current economic conditions and impacts to businesses. It seems that everytime a tax change is made that it benefits the consumer but hurts the businesses that are driving the economy. Having said that, don't think consumers pay that much attention to the sales tax unless it is considerably different in surrounding counties.
- I haven't studied the issue enough to provide an intelligent answer.
- Jungling taxes doesn't translate to tax relief. All of our taxes have gone up, all of our assessments have gone up. There is no real recourse if you do not agree on valuation. And there is no accountability on the part of the County Government. How can I trust that there would be any "exchange" at all.
- Need more specific information on increases either way
- There always seems to be a consiquence to a action in Lee County, take away from here...raise here....if we do this this year are we going to change it when property values go up again in a few years???
- I believe that a more cost effective government would be a better third option. Get rid of all department heads/assistants, give more money and responsibility to secretaries and their office managers, give more money and responsibility to field supervisors and personal. Force the Commissioners to deal directly with the workers in these departments. It may be inconvenient for them but they serve at our discretion not the other way around. Cut back on the zoning laws and enforcement and invest in field people and infrastructure. Cut back on the amount bureaucracies created by Lee County Government and put more people in the field and less in the office. Over taxation has been the down fall of all great democratic civilizations. Break the cycle.
- I would have to see what the exact percentages would be.
- It is a doubled edged sword, but it would seem that increased sales tax would be better than increased property tax. Attracting qualified professionals becomes more and more difficult when finding affordable housing is an obstacle.
- depends on what the increase and decrease is
- If the sales tax was on items other than household and needed goods.

Higher sales tax/lower property tax = No

- Businesses are going under left and right. The high median age residents and visitors in our area are VERY price sensitive and are already curtailing their purchases. The young working people are also suffering and cutting back, AND MOVING AWAY. Any additional price pressures will crush the few remaining businesses who are clinging on for dear life. Pretty soon we'll be left with just Realtors, pharmacy's, Wal-mart and Mc'donalds. Is that the type of town you want to live in?
- There is no reason why florida residents should have to shoulder paying more tax for non home steadere who want lower taxes
- I am concerned that the change would result in lower revenues and I am not sure that local governement (including schools) can properly serve us with the resultant decrease in staff.
- Do not want to see any additional sales tax going to Tallahassee for "distribution at their discretion" - could be detrimental to needy areas.
- I FEEL IT WOULD HURT THE POOREST RESIDENTS IN OUR AREA, MOST OF WHOM RENT AND ALREADY HAVE TROUBLE MAKING IT FROM PAYCHECK TO PAYCHECK.
- We are in the hotel industry that received a 2% increase just over two years ago. Sales tax for a room in Lee county (in total FLA State and Lee County) is 11% and it has affected guests in their spending pattern. It will hurt in the long run for us and would not help with property tax enough.
- I would NEVER want to penalize/punish people for buying MORE goods & services!!It would be counterproductive to economic GROWTH!
- Would expect we'd pay more in services and end up shouldering more burden than currently
- Our county, like so many others, is experiencing a major economic downturn. Adverse housing, construction, and development markets have required many companies and government agencies to make significant cutbacks to survive. Though business is depressed, good companies will do OK and rebound when the market corrects - most likely in late 2009.

Has your company/business revenue been impacted by tighter credit and lending policies?



Tight credit impact

The impact of tighter lending policies and credit has affected:

Tight credit affects		
My business	10.9%	10
My customers	22.8%	21
Both	66.3%	61
Totals	100.0%	92

Please explain how your business and/or customers have been affected.

Tight credit affects = My business

- We have auction rate securities and the interest rate on this debt has increased. This is a direct result of tighter lending, credit and market liquidity issues.
- More difficult to attract investors to open new stores
- Even good credit customers are finding it difficult to purchase property.
- With my current cash flow I have no chance of getting any further credit approved and my customers have less chance getting credit to purchase my products. The working class has been eased out of the buying market because general living expenses are out of control.
- I am a Realtor and only QUALIFIED buyers are able to buy...
- getting vehicle loan

Tight credit affects = My customers

- Our developer clients have had difficulty securing financing for multi-family projects.
- less available credit for home improvements and/or ownership has curtailed investing in both areas.
- More difficulty in paying audits and premiums
- Due to lack of cash flow my customers are hesitant to move forward
- High ticket retailers and first time home buyers; General retail sales: Have an employee who took out an equity home loan and (according to him) despite that he has paid faithfully and regularly, the bank is now asking for big \$\$ paid into it to add to collateral because the equity of the home is less than when the loan was secured. These people were the ones buying TVs and computers.
- We are in the Home Building Business. Our customers have a hard time getting approved as well as appraisals are very low due to short sales, etc.

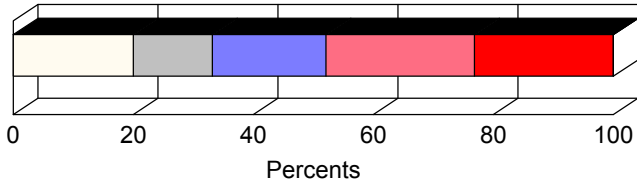
Tight credit affects = Both

- Less opportunities
- Cash calls from lenders on real estate loans to try to get to target LTV amounts.
- can't close deals when no financing is available for the purchaser. I have a 3.3 mil deal that has been trying to close for a year now because of the buyer's inability to get financing.
- It has stalled growth and investment in our area. The foreclosure crisis has also killed business as our customer base is in debt up to their eyeballs.
- difficulty qualifying for mortgage
- Almost no one wants to commit to spending.....including banks.....banks will lend to people that don't need to borrow but not to people that can't secure debt five times over.....
- Tighter credit has reduced the number of qualified clients for mortgages
- Up front cost of our product sometimes requires the purchaser to find outside resources. This has become more difficult for them with heavier restrictions on borrowing and the fact that their business revenues are down, making it a riskier

proposition for lenders. We are a highly effective advertising medium for approximately 10 cents on the dollar of any other professional media, but since our contracts are for three years it is more costly upfront as stated and right now some business owners are not sure they will be around that long, It is a catch 22 for all of us.

- I work in the lending arena
- reduced number of lenders Increased restrictions almost absurd requirements double and triple checking, increasing the time to process
- Customers dont have money to spend, that simple
- Unable to get financing to close on contracted homes. Tight money keeps prospects from buying a new home.
- It is harder for clients to pay because they are having a harder time getting approved with their construction draws or lines of credit.
- Banks are withholding payouts resulting in 93% layoffs within company.
- We are a building and development company. If our customers can't get mortgages, we don't sell properties.
- In financial markets
- as a commercial real estate company we are adversely impacted by a tightening of credit availability and policy.
- folks can not borrow money to upgrade/repair their homes, THAT IS our business.
- My customers have fewer choices for financing, which impacts my business.
- We operate a title insurance agency. Our customers are mortgage professionals, realtors and their clients. Tighter lending policies have made it more difficult to get deals done.
- Owners have put projects on hold or have pulled them off the shelf therefore reducing my company's revenue.
- I am not able to get customers that are new in business approved like I was 2 years ago.
- Customers have seen the house values go down and down to the point they do not want to do renovations or invest in hurricane protection. Their banks have also tightened up on home improvement loans as part of the sub prime lending crisis.

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being "None" and 5 being "A lot", how much has the rising cost of gasoline affected your normal volume of business?



Gas impact - business volume

Rated 1
 Rated 2
 Rated 3
 Rated 4
 Rated 5

How has the rising price of gasoline impacted your business operations?

Gas price impact-operations		
Impacts my employees but not my business	29.5%	56
Forced us to make minor changes in our business operations	38.9%	74
Forced us to make major changes in our business operations	15.8%	30
Other	15.8%	30
Totals	100.0%	190

How has the rising price of gasoline impacted your business operations?

- rise in competitive retail prices
- We run construction equipment and vehicles. It is definitely impacting the bottom line lessening the raises, benefits etc we can offer. Also affects our bidding on projects.
- it also has a minor impact on various aspects of our business.
- has created a fear of the unknown for investors.
- results in less money available for housing thus impact on employees and business
- As an organization it has forced us to change how we look at all of our operations because of the impact on our members.
- Impacted Employees dramatically and forced us to make changes in our business operations.
- Both - impacts my employees and creates higher operating costs for my business
- Decrease our profits because we don't want to raise prices.
- Reduces profit
- Impacts my employees and my costs
- affects us indirectly with customers unable to make payments
- its hurting our budgets and bottomline
- It is creating total uncertainty in the marketplace.
- I am on the road every day for meetings, so my earnings drop due to the cost of fuel
- we have to drive to monitor meetings all over the County but we try to carpool more or plan better with regard to other business and personal errands
- not impacted
- try to do all showings in one area
- Has caused and increased in my business and will do the same to all green businesses
- Self employed sales, so drive a lot
- we are increasingly searching for ways to lesson our use of gasoline.
- Seniors are more reluctant to travel to our offices.
- It has narrowed my market reach to customers with far drives.
- not applicable
- Impacts employees, but also customers, as we are a destination requiring a motor vehicle.
- May stop people from coming out to Matlacha.
- My clients do not have extra money to pay for the insurance needs they may have such as life and health insurance to protect them.
- impacts customers coming to locations
- decrease in domestic market increase in overseas yes employees effected

How would you characterize your company's business prospects for the next 90 days/12 months?

	Business prospects	
	Business prospects - next 90 days	Business prospects - next 12 months
Frequencies:		
Improving	17.4%	38.9%
Holding steady	53.7%	38.9%
Declining	28.9%	22.1%
Totals	100.0%	100.0%

Comments:

Business prospects - next 90 days = Improving

- o More business coming in.
- o Waiting for FHA financing approval - we have the several marketing plans ready and in place to surge forward when our approval arrives. We will be able to cover both real estate and finance for the foreclosure market.
- o Getting work primarily from out of local area. This market stinks.
- o As the economy declines employees go back to college so we see an increase of 10%
- o BNI is the best referral organization and steadily grows our business
- o We are not at all dependant on the local economy

Business prospects - next 90 days = Holding steady

- o I am a native Floridian and have seen it as bad and possibly worse, economically than this. Our strongest sales tool is the believe in our area and how it will recover. Right now it is getting more difficult to convince other businesses to convince themselves that is true. We believe our streets ARE paved with gold but it still takes polishing to keep them looking great.
- o Only because I have to work twice and three times as long and hard to do the same amount of business.
- o We will hang on till the turn around.
- o Meaning, declining as usual for the summer.
- o Off season always worse
- o don't know
- o Really don't know, but I'm concerned

Business prospects - next 90 days = Declining

- o As current projects are completed, we will have to lay people off unless we are successful bidder on new projects. The type of projects in our niche to bid are few.
- o I hope and pray we make it through the summer. 3 months of business doesn't work when you have 12 months of bills. We are seriously considering moving to another state.
- o The seasonality of our area has me very concerned about those who will survive the summer.
- o Declining which is typical for this time of the year.
- o Not sure if this is the right answer. I can only guess what is ahead for my construction business. At present it appears it will continue to decline, but I will work to hold the line or improve my position.
- o Summer is BRUTAL in GOOD economic conditions....this economy SEASON was difficult!
- o Inclimate weather plus gas prices.
- o We are concentrating our business development efforts outside the Lee County area as we see the business prospects in Lee County to continue to decline for at least the next 12 months.
- o More employees will be let go.

Q1 RESULTS

	Business Prospects	
	Business prospects - next 90 days	Business prospects - next 12 months
Frequencies:		
Improving	23.4%	36.4%
Holding steady	57.0%	45.8%
Declining	19.6%	17.8%
Totals	100.0%	100.0%

Comments:

Business prospects - next 12 months = Improving

- o We are marketing in Europe, and heavily in the Northeast to bring money into our local economy
- o We are not pursuing local projects, we are getting all of our projects from out of the local area.
- o Always looking to the next season!
- o If Lee County does not stop me with over zoning.
- o The economic landscape is not likely to change, but we will learn how to adapt better.
- o Our company is pursuing business throughout the State and bidding on large contracts elsewhere to counter the down market. We have also invested in new product development which is soon to be launched as another countermeasure along with product line additions.

Business prospects - next 12 months = Holding steady

- o I'm hoping this is true because I need to keep on moving forward.
- o "This too shall pass"
- o I hope or at last year's numbers.

Business prospects - next 12 months = Declining

- o We are totally screwed. I'll never vote republican again and if I ever meet George W in a bar I'll kick him square in the N*tz.
- o Same ---- I'm not sure, but will work at it. Some prospects are still out there.
- o If no changes be done soon Situation will be worsen
- o Tight credit, high impact fees and an increase in unemployemnt will continue the decline in business opportunities.
- o Unknown

What information/questions would you like for the Business Climate Task Force to collect or research?

- ensure our tax dollars are spent with more intelligence and only do business with companies that contribute to the tax base here in Lee County
- Programs to offer existing businesses on maintaining market share and growth - to the next level.
- Projected number of visitors to the area by automobile.
- How does the seeming disfunction of the current BOCC affect your operations, outlook or customers/potential customers?
- I would like a "snapshot" of businesses similar to ours and see how we stack up. Are architects and engineers in the construction profession optimistic about the future here in Lee County?
- Your question about hiring needs to have another alternative answer....."Have not tried to hire anyone in the last 12 months....."
- current and emerging needs for training and re-training of the regional workforce
- would you construct a new building if impact fees were reduced?
- Names of reputable private lenders.
- Our area has stagnated, how can we recover lost value (and I don't mean property values) in the community and how can we retain the value that is still here? People that are young, bright and mobile are leaving the area and the country as fast as they can. Soon all that will be left are those who are too old to work and those who don't want to work (we may already be there.) You can't have industry if no one is industrious.
- I would like to know some of the ways in which businesses are changing their day-to-day operations to survive/cope during this time.
- state involvement in insurance business
- Progress of Lee County's reassessment of impact fee levels?
- new companies coming to town and policies geared to attract them
- Housing market needs to come back and get rid of impact fees
- With so much of our county completely dependent on the tourism industry (a Commissioner just said last night over 60% of our revenue) will be hit by gas prices. Both from out of state and instate travel declining, how can we help spur REAL economic growth in the private business sector and what can our individual municipalities, along with county support, help that?
- Possible Training needs a businesses over the next 12-18 months.
- Will there be any change in appraisal guidelines (allowing for cost approach appraisals on new homes)due to the large number of foreclosures in this area?
- How to support small businesses re: utilities, property taxes, gas prices and insurance relief.
- Find a true and accurate method of determining how the financial market is handling the foreclosure situation and look at the real estate market on "excess unit availability" and also the commercial market needs in the next year or two. Construction and tourism are the two major markets in this area and determine what business can see in the future
- When will lending money get back to normal?
- Why businesses are afraid to recover past due accounts before 90 days in an economy where cash flow is the most important thing
- why is Lee county not cutting back it's workforce as much as are all businesses?
- Ways to increase consumer confidence both locally and nationwide.
- Business incentives to stay here
- The question I asked about the sales tax or property tax
- Alternatives to raising taxes or cutting in the field positions. How does Lee County plan to cut their huge Bureaucratic wastes? Before throwing good money after bad we should control the Bureaucratic wastes running rampant in the county. Why does the county parks have an open bid policy for vendors but then only choose the same old vender's (even through those same vender's proposals give less money to the county)? County parks at the Hide Away Marina in Bokeelia is a perfect example. How do you plan to make Lee County treat all businesses fairly?
- Is it just my perception or is there a real increase in complexity and duplication of permit work at the local levels, requesting same information as the agencies that have issued permits already, or presenting a catch 22 situation of not supplying documentation needed to achieve an agency permit.
- How do we get more engineers and high-end technical people to SW Florida?
- The impact & cost of additional marketing of S.W. Florida, by agencies & Chambers
- How the impact of city/county codes and regulations (most of them worthless or unproductive) impact business owners and how much does compliance to such rules cost the productive business owners each year.
- How is the unemployment rate impacting business.
- Sales Tax increase versus property taxes that are too high.
- new businesses opening vs closings
- Education & Training Needs
- Research and offer accurate information regarding the number of residential properties being foreclosed on and the number of units available, unsold, etc. These figures will offer the answer to my business concerns.
- Diversification of business brought into the SW Florida area. (something other than construction, real estate and supporting businesses and retail)
- Commercial Vacancy Rates
- They are already doing all that can be done given this market.