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Middle Georgia Economic Outlook Survey Year-End 2016

BB&T Center for
Undergraduate Research in
Public Policy and Capitalism

Middle Georgia Economic Outlook Survey – Year-End 2016

The BB&T Center for Undergraduate Research in Public Policy and Capitalism and the Stetson School of Business and Economics at Mercer University present the results of the 2016 Year-End Middle Georgia Economic Outlook Survey. The Middle Georgia Economic Outlook Survey is a semiannual electronic survey of economic sentiment answered by a wide range of businesses in Middle Georgia. The Middle Georgia Economic Outlook Survey was first implemented in December 2014. The present edition corresponds to the second half of 2016 and will be followed by a 2017 mid-year edition to be distributed in July 2017.

We would like to thank the Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce, the Robins Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Forsyth-Monroe County Chamber of Commerce, the Milledgeville-Baldwin Chamber of Commerce, the Jones County/Gray Chamber of Commerce, the Roberta-Crawford County Chamber of Commerce and the Wilkinson County Chamber of Commerce for their help identifying potential respondents and, in some cases, distributing the survey among their members.

Survey Distribution

Invitations to complete the survey were sent to individuals associated with businesses identified by the different chambers of commerce mentioned above. In addition to the e-mails that the BB&T Center for Undergraduate Research in Public Policy and Capitalism sent directly to these individuals, the Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce, the Robins Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Forsyth-Monroe County Chamber of Commerce sent separate e-mails to their members promoting the completion of the survey.

The survey was sent to a total of 2,556 individual e-mail addresses. We received 76 responses resulting in a response rate of approximately 3%. Importantly, not all 76 responses included answers for all questions in the survey. Thus, the analyses for individual questions typically reflect responses from a slightly smaller sample. The survey was active from Feb. 13 through March 1, 2017, and one reminder was sent in addition to the initial invitation.

Methodology

To assess the economic sentiment of respondents with respect to a particular question or subject, we utilized the **diffusion index**, which is calculated by subtracting the percentage of respondents who selected negative answers from the percentage of respondents who selected positive answers. For example, when a question offered the choices “much lower,” “lower,” “about the same,” “higher” and “much higher,” the diffusion index was calculated by adding the percentage of respondents who selected “higher” and “much higher” and subtracting from that sum the sum of the percentages of respondents who selected “lower” and “much lower.”

For questions involving rankings, we used the **intensity index**, which calculates a weighted average of the number of times a particular answer was ranked No. 1, No. 2 or No. 3 out of all possible answers received. The weight for answers ranked as No. 1 was 1, the weight for answers ranked as No. 2 was 0.75 and the weight for answers ranked as No. 3 was 0.5.

For questions for which the answers were descriptive (text) rather than numeric, we used **word clouds** to capture the relative importance of particular answers or concepts. Specifically, the size of the word or concept in a word cloud is based on the frequency with which the word or concept is mentioned in the responses.

Description of the Results

The survey consisted of 22 questions designed to extract information about businesses’ performance during the second half of 2016 and businesses’ expectations for the first half of 2017.

In general terms, businesses in Middle Georgia seemed to have experienced a positive second half of 2016. As in previous editions of the survey, however, businesses in Middle Georgia remain cautiously optimistic about the future. Indeed, despite the positive outlook for the economy in Middle Georgia for the first half of 2017, the majority of businesses do not identify

this period as a good time to expand their operations. In addition, respondents continue to identify government regulations and/or red tape, taxes and the quality and cost of labor as the top obstacles to their business activities.

BUSINESS INDICATORS

The diffusion index for **net earnings or income (after taxes)** was 2.63% for the second half of 2016 indicating that 31.6% of the businesses had higher or much higher net earnings, and 29% of the businesses had lower or much lower net earnings, than what those businesses expected at mid-year. The diffusion index for expectations of net earnings for the first half of 2017 was much higher at 32.86% indicating strong optimism for this variable for the next six months.

The diffusion indices for **sales volume** were -1.32% for the second half of 2016 and 32.86% for the first half of 2017. The equivalent diffusion indices for **average selling prices** were 7.89% and 27.15%. As in the case of net earnings or income (after taxes), these indices suggest that the results of the second half of 2016 were not very different from what businesses expected at mid-year but that there seems to be strong optimism for the first half of 2017.

During the second half of 2016, businesses in Middle Georgia added employees only slightly beyond their expectations at mid-year. Continuing this trend, businesses remain mildly optimistic about adding employees during the first half of 2017. The diffusion index for **total number of employees** was 4% for the second half of 2016 and 10% for the first half of 2017. Interestingly, businesses show mild optimism about adding employees despite believing that **average employee compensation** was higher during the second half of 2016 than expected at mid-year, and that it will further increase in the first half of 2017. The diffusion indices for this last variable were 12% for the second half of 2016 and 24.3% for the first half of 2017.

The diffusion indices for **inventories** were -2.63% for the second half of 2016 and 4.28% for the first half of 2017. Typically, low (or negative) values for this index are taken as positive indicators suggesting higher sales. In this case, however, given that the diffusion index for unit sales volume for the second half of 2016 was -1.32%, the negative diffusion index for inventories for the same period may be reflecting slow production and/or wholesale distribution.

Interestingly, the diffusion index for **ability to obtain financing** was -4% during the second half of 2016 suggesting that businesses in Middle Georgia felt that obtaining financing has become more difficult and/or expensive. This is the first time this diffusion index has been negative since this survey was first implemented in 2014. Interest rate increases and expectations of further increases in the same variable may be explaining this negative value. The diffusion index for ability to obtain financing recovers, however, for the first half of 2017, reaching 11.43%.

On the investment side, the diffusion index for **capital expenditures for plant and/or physical equipment** was 15.79% for the second half of 2016, indicating that local firms engaged in larger investment activity than they expected at mid-year. They expect something similar for the first half of 2017 – the diffusion index for that period was 14.49%.

Non-labor, non-capital costs were higher than expected for many firms in the region as indicated by a diffusion index of 13.16% for the second half of 2016. A similar trend is expected for the next six months as indicated by a diffusion index of 12.85%. This result, together with that of average employee compensation, indicates that overall costs of production were higher than expected at mid-year and businesses expect this trend to continue into the first half of 2017. While this could be seen as negative for the businesses responding to our survey, it is an expected trend as the economy continues its expansion. Moreover, as we mentioned above, businesses also saw higher selling prices than expected during the second half of 2016 and expect the same for the first half of 2017. When put together, all of these results are consistent with several analyses for the U.S. economy indicating a surge in inflationary levels during 2016.

Finally, the number of **accounts payable that are past due** were in line with expectations at mid-year as reflected by a diffusion index of 1.32%. Firms are more optimistic about the first half of 2017 as indicated by a diffusion index of -10%.

Tables 1 and 2 and Figures 1a and 1b show the detailed breakdown of these results for Middle Georgia.

OBSTACLES TO BUSINESS

The most significant obstacles to business identified by the respondents for both the second half of 2016 and the first half of 2017, as evidenced by intensity indices, are **the quality of labor, government regulations and/or red tape, cost of labor, poor sales and taxes**. When “other” obstacles are specified, overhead costs, high wages, low demand, competition and oil prices are the most frequently mentioned obstacles. Tables 3 and 5 and Figures 2, 3, 5 and 6 present this information.

Trying to further understand the nature of the business obstacle related to government regulations and/or red tape, we asked only those that identified this obstacle as a major concern to specify if they referred to government regulations and/or red tape at the **federal, state or local** level. The overwhelming majority (75.68%) responded that they referred to the federal level for the second half of 2016 and they expect that to be the case (81.25%) in the first half of 2017 as well. Tables 4 and 6 and Figures 4 and 7 present these results.

OUTLOOK FOR THE FIRST HALF OF 2017

Question 7 asks, **“How likely is it that the first half of 2017 will be a good time for your business to expand in Middle Georgia?”** The diffusion index was -4.22% suggesting that, in general, businesses do not expect to expand their operations in the first half of 2017. Tables 7 and 8 and Figure 8 show these results for Middle Georgia as well as for individual counties.

Interestingly, respondents are much more optimistic about the Middle Georgia economy during the first half of 2017 than about expanding their own businesses. The diffusion index for the question **“In general, how do you think the overall economy of Middle Georgia will be doing in the first half of 2017?”** is 32.4%. Tables 9 and 10 and Figure 9 present this information.

EMPLOYMENT AND HUMAN CAPITAL

The average number of employees among the businesses that responded the survey was 91.56 and 90.14% of the businesses had less than 101 employees during the second half of 2016 (see Tables 11 and 22).

In general, businesses in Middle Georgia indicated that it was not easy to fill vacancies during the second half of 2016. The diffusion index for the question **“During the second half of 2016, how easy was it for your company to fill vacancies in Middle Georgia?”** was -35.72% (see Tables 12 and 13 and Figure 10). When asked about the **main obstacles faced when attempting to fill vacancies in Middle Georgia** some of the most frequently mentioned factors were the difficulty of finding qualified workers, the difficulty of motivating highly skilled workers to move to Bibb County, lack of available workers, no incentives to work and red tape (see Figure 11).

Question 12 asked **what were the labor skills most difficult to find during the second half of 2016**, the answers with the largest percentages were “sales and customer representatives,” “office and administration support,” “laborers and freight/stock/material movers,” and “maintenance and repair workers” (see Tables 14 and 15). If “other” was specified, the most frequently mentioned professions were engineers, correctional officers, carpenters and hotel employees (see Figure 12).

Similar results were found for expectations for the first half of 2017. Question 13 asked **“What particular labor skill sets would you be looking for in potential employees during the first half of 2017?”** The answers with the largest percentages were “sales and customer representatives,” “laborers and freight/stock/material movers,” “maintenance and repair workers” and “other” (see Tables 16 and 17). Within this last category engineers and hospitality workers were the professions most frequently mentioned (see Figure 13).

As far as hiring plans for the first half of 2017, 71.43% of the respondents answered that they **plan to hire new employees in the first half of 2017** (27.14% plan to hire part time employees and 44.29% plan to hire full time employees). Table 18 presents these results. In question 15 we asked respondents in **which county they plan to hire new employees during the first half of 2017**. Businesses plan to hire 26.53% of the new employees in Bibb County. Houston and Monroe counties come in second and third place with 20.41% and 12.24%, respectively (see Table 19 and Figure 14).

Consistent with the previous results, only 8.82% of the respondents plan to reduce the number of employees during the first half of 2017. Most of the businesses that plan to reduce the number of employees are located in Bibb County (27.78%) and Houston and Monroe counties (both with 11.11%) (see Tables 20 and 21).

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESPONDENTS

The following information can be found in Tables 22 to 26.

- Approximately 90.14% of the businesses surveyed in Middle Georgia have less than 101 employees.
- Approximately 63.77% of our respondents indicated that they were the owners of the business.
- Approximately 80.88% of the businesses indicated that they are headquartered in Middle Georgia.
- Most of the companies surveyed indicated that they are located in Bibb County (46.43%), Houston County (26.79%) and Monroe County (8.93%). The rest (17.86%) are located in the Baldwin, Crawford, Wilkinson and Peach counties.
- The businesses surveyed operate in a wide range of industries. The top three percentages are “professional and technical service” (13.04%), “finance and insurance” (11.59%) and “retail trade” (8.7%).

Tables and Figures

BUSINESS INDICATORS

1. Compared to the expectations you had for the second half of 2016 (July through December)
at mid-year, your company's...

Table 1: Business Indicators for the Second-Half of 2016								
Question	Much lower	Lower	About the same	Higher	Much higher	Not applicable	Total Responses	Diffusion Index
Net earnings or income (after taxes) are....	2.63%	26.32%	35.53%	25.00%	6.58%	3.95%	76	2.63%
Unit sales volume is...	1.32%	26.32%	34.21%	22.37%	3.95%	11.84%	76	-1.32%
Average selling prices are...	2.63%	10.53%	52.63%	18.42%	2.63%	13.16%	76	7.89%
Total number of employees is...	2.63%	7.89%	71.05%	14.47%	0.00%	3.95%	76	3.95%
Average employee compensation is...	1.33%	6.67%	66.67%	20.00%	0.00%	5.33%	75	12.00%
Inventories are...	1.32%	11.84%	50.00%	10.53%	0.00%	26.32%	76	-2.63%
Ability to obtain financing is...	2.67%	9.33%	49.33%	6.67%	1.33%	30.67%	75	-4.00%
Capital expenditures for plant and/or physical equipment are...	2.63%	7.89%	52.63%	23.68%	2.63%	10.53%	76	15.79%
Non-labor, non-capital costs are...	0.00%	2.63%	67.11%	13.16%	2.63%	14.47%	76	13.16%
Accounts payable that are past due are...	2.63%	11.84%	40.79%	11.84%	3.95%	28.95%	76	1.32%

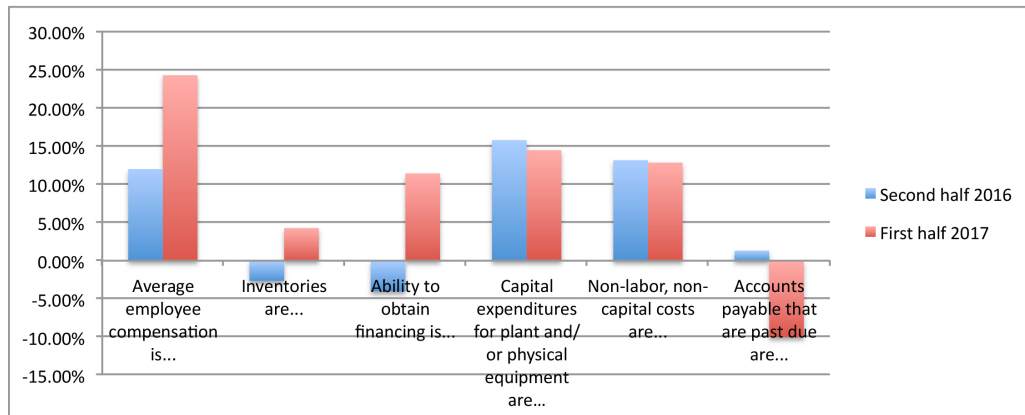
2. Looking ahead to the first half of 2017, exclusively for your company, you expect...

Table 2: Business Indicators for the First-Half of 2017								
Question	Much lower	Lower	About the same	Higher	Much higher	Not applicable	Total Responses	Diffusion Index
Net earnings or income (after taxes) are....	1.43%	11.43%	37.14%	42.86%	2.86%	4.29%	70	32.86%
Unit sales volume is...	1.43%	5.71%	44.29%	37.14%	2.86%	8.57%	70	32.86%
Average selling prices are...	0.00%	5.71%	52.86%	32.86%	0.00%	8.57%	70	27.15%
Total number of employees is...	0.00%	5.71%	75.71%	15.71%	0.00%	2.86%	70	10.00%
Average employee compensation is...	0.00%	0.00%	71.43%	24.29%	0.00%	4.29%	70	24.29%
Inventories are...	1.43%	2.86%	62.86%	7.14%	1.43%	24.29%	70	4.28%
Ability to obtain financing is...	0.00%	7.14%	48.57%	17.14%	1.43%	25.71%	70	11.43%
Capital expenditures for plant and/or physical equipment are...	2.90%	4.35%	62.32%	21.74%	0.00%	8.70%	69	14.49%
Non-labor, non-capital costs are...	0.00%	2.86%	68.57%	15.71%	0.00%	12.86%	70	12.85%
Accounts payable that are past due are...	1.43%	12.86%	51.43%	2.86%	1.43%	30.00%	70	-10.00%

Figure 1a Business Indicators



Figure 1b Business Indicators



OBSTACLES TO BUSINESS

3. Please rank the three most significant obstacles that applied to your business during the second half of 2016. Enter 1 next to the most important, 2 next to second most important and 3 next to third most important.

Table 3: Most Significant Obstacles to Business Second Half of 2016						
Answer	1	2	3	Other rankings	Total Responses	Intensity Index
Taxes	14	6	7	1	28	10.68%
Inflation	3	1	4	1	9	2.79%
Poor sales	17	7	5	0	29	12.01%
Access to financing	4	2	5	0	11	3.88%
Interest rates	1	3	1	1	6	1.82%
Cost of labor	5	19	11	1	36	12.01%
Quality of labor	13	16	12	1	42	15.05%
Government regulations and/or red tape	11	10	16	1	38	12.86%
Other (please specify)	3	3	1	0	7	2.79%

Figure 2

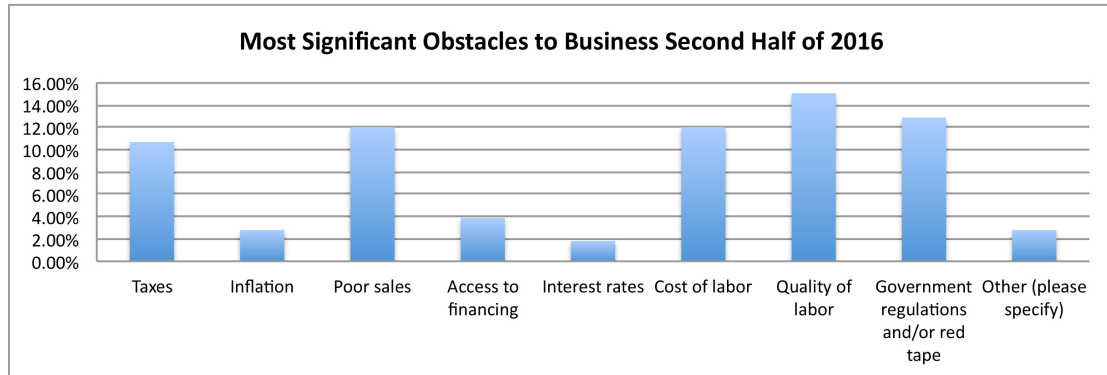


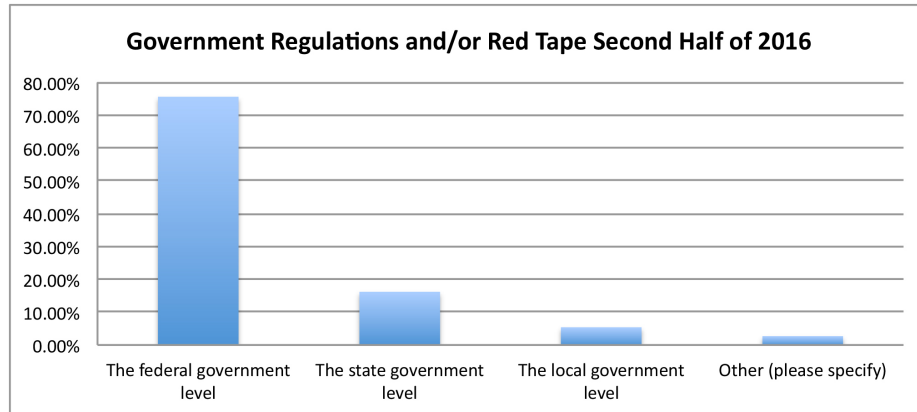
Figure 3: Most Significant Obstacles to Business Second Half of 2016 – Other, please specify.

oil price
high wages
recession
overhead costs
low demand
competition

4. You indicated that one of the three most significant obstacles that applied to your business during the second half of 2016 was “government regulations and/or red tape.” Could you identify if such regulations and/or red tape were at...

Table 4: Regulations and or Red Tape Second Half of 2016		
Answer	Response	Percentage
The federal government level	28	75.68%
The state government level	6	16.22%
The local government level	2	5.41%
Other (please specify)	1	2.70%
Total	37	100%

Figure 4



5. Please rank the three most significant obstacles that you expect will apply to your business in the first half of 2017. Enter 1 next to the most important, 2, next to the second most important, and 3, next to the third most important.

Table 5: Most Significant Obstacles to Business First Half of 2017						
Answer	1	2	3	Other rankings	Total Responses	Intensity Index
Taxes	10	4	7	1	22	8.55%
Inflation	4	3	3	1	11	4.02%
Poor sales	15	4	6	0	25	10.88%
Access to financing	1	5	3	1	10	3.24%
Interest rates	2	0	3	0	5	1.81%
Cost of labor	6	20	14	1	41	14.51%
Quality of labor	17	14	7	1	39	16.06%
Government regulations and/or red tape	8	11	13	0	32	11.79%
Other (please specify)	5	2	1	0	8	3.63%

Figure 5

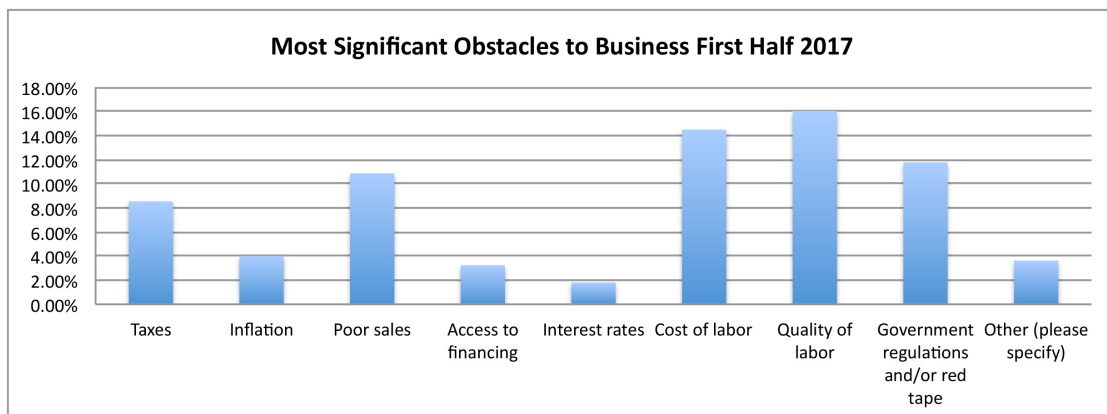


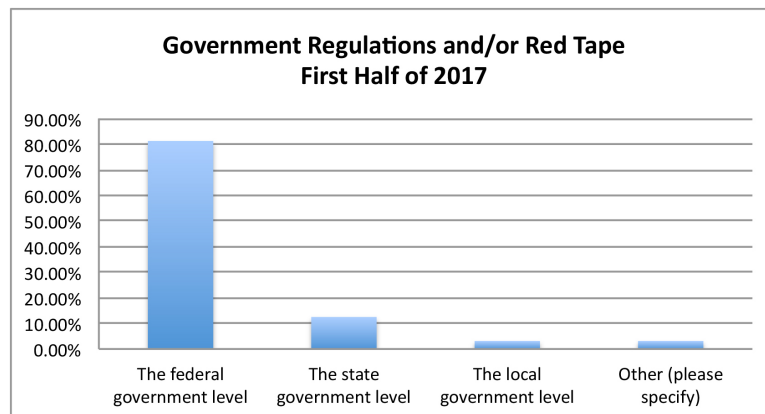
Figure 6: Most Significant Obstacles to Business Second Half of 2016 – Other, please specify.



6. You indicated that one of the three most significant obstacles that you expect will apply to your business in the first half of 2017 will be “government regulations and/or red tape.” Do you expect such regulations and/or red tape to be at...

Answer	Response	Percentage
The federal government level	26	81.25%
The state government level	4	12.50%
The local government level	1	3.13%
Other (please specify)	1	3.13%

Figure 7



OUTLOOK FOR THE FIRST HALF OF 2017

7. How likely is it that the first half of 2017 will be a good time for your business to expand in Middle Georgia?

Table 7: Likelihood of Business Expansion First Half of 2017		
Answer	Response	Percentage
Very Unlikely	6	8.45%
Unlikely	17	23.94%
Undecided	28	39.44%
Likely	17	23.94%
Very Likely	3	4.23%
Total	71	100%
Diffusion Index		-4.22%

Figure 8

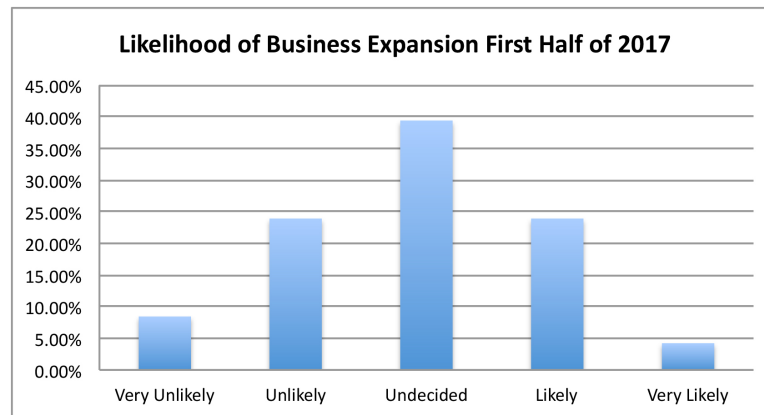


Table 8: Likelihood of Business Expansion in the First Half of 2017 at the County Level					
Answer	Middle Georgia	Baldwin	Bibb	Monroe	Houston
Very Unlikely	8.45%	16.67%	7.69%	20.00%	13.33%
Unlikely	23.94%	16.67%	19.23%	0.00%	20.00%
Undecided	39.44%	50.00%	42.31%	20.00%	40.00%
Likely	23.94%	16.67%	26.92%	60.00%	26.67%
Very Likely	4.23%	0.00%	3.85%	0.00%	0.00%
Responses	71	6	26	5	15
Diffusion Index	-4.22%	-16.67%	3.85%	40%	-6.67%

8. In general, how do you think the overall economy of Middle Georgia will be doing in the first half of 2017?

Table 9: Outlook for the Middle Georgia Economy for the First Half 2017		
Answer	Response	Percentage
Much Worse	0	0.00%
Worse	7	9.86%
About the Same	34	47.89%
Better	27	38.03%
Much Better	3	4.23%
Total	71	100%
Diffusion Index		32.4%

Figure 9

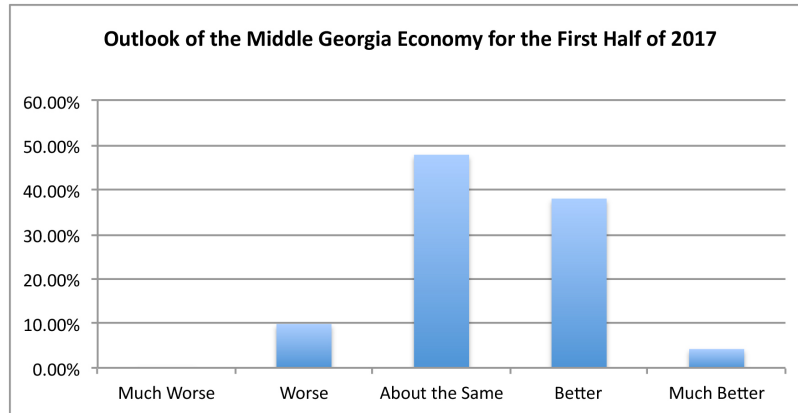


Table 10: Outlook for the Middle Georgia Economy for the First Half of 2017 at the County Level

Answer	Middle Georgia	Baldwin	Bibb	Monroe	Houston
Much Worse	0.00%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Worse	9.86%	16.67%	7.69%	20%	0%
About the Same	47.89%	50%	42.31%	20%	53.33%
Better	38.03%	33.33%	50%	40%	40%
Much Better	4.23%	0%	0%	20%	6.67%
Responses	100%	11	38	14	28
Diffusion Index	32.4%	16.7%	42.3%	40.0%	46.7%

EMPLOYMENT AND HUMAN CAPITAL

9. Approximately, how many employees do you currently have, full- and part-time, in the Middle Georgia area?

Table 11: Number of Employees

	Middle Georgia
Average	91.56
Standard Deviation	473.34
Total Responses	71

10. During the second half of 2016, how easy was it for your company to fill vacancies in Middle Georgia?

Table 12: Easiness of Filling Vacancies

Answer	Response	Percentage
Very Difficult	3	4.29%
Difficult	31	44.29%
Neutral	27	38.57%
Easy	8	11.43%
Very Easy	1	1.43%
Total	70	100%
Diffusion Index		-35.72%

Figure 10

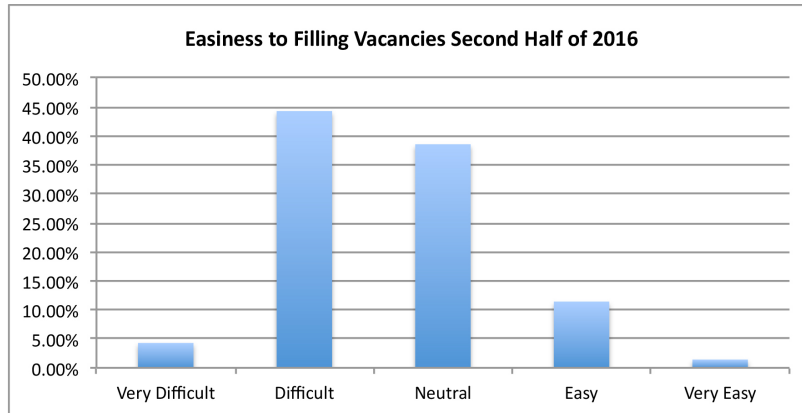


Table 13: Easiness of Filling Vacancies at the County Level Second Half of 2016				
Answer	Baldwin	Bibb	Monroe	Houston
Very Difficult	0%	12%	0%	0%
Difficult	66.67%	48%	60%	26.67%
Neutral	33.33%	28%	40%	53.33%
Easy	0%	12%	0%	13.33%
Very Easy	0%	0%	0%	6.67%
Responses	6	25	5	15
Diffusion Index	-66.67%	-48%	-60%	-6.67%

Figure 11: Main Obstacles Faced When Filling Vacancies Second Half of 2016



12. Did you have any difficulty finding employees with particular labor skill sets during the second half of 2016? If so, what labor skill sets were the most difficult to find? Please mark all that apply.

Table 14: Skills Most Difficult to Find Second Half of 2016		
Answer	Responses	Percentage
Sales and customer representatives	22	37.29%
Cashiers and clerks	6	10.17%
Office and administration support	10	16.95%
Laborers and freight/stock/material movers	10	16.95%
Construction workers and supervisors	9	15.25%
Agricultural workers	1	1.69%
Machinists, welders, cutters, solderers and brazers	2	3.39%
Maintenance and repair workers	10	16.95%
Industrial production managers	2	3.39%
Marketing professionals	7	11.86%
Finance and accounting professionals	3	5.08%
Lawyers and legal representatives	0	0%
Healthcare practitioners	5	8.47%
Other (please specify)	17	28.81%

Figure 12 : Skills Most Difficult to Find First Half of 2016 – Other, please specify.

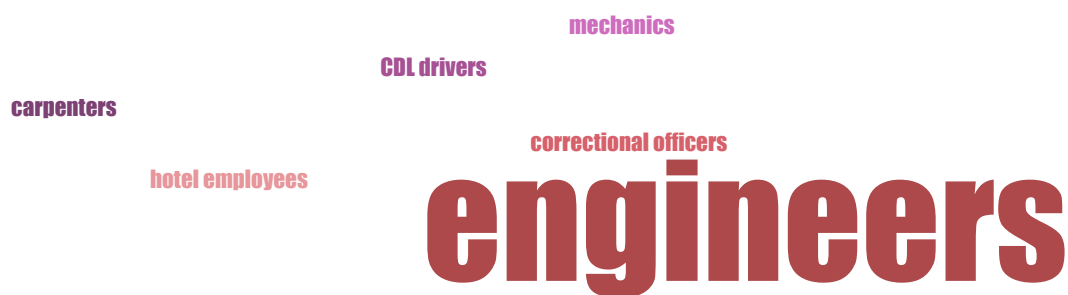


Table 15: Skills Most Difficult to Find Second Half of 2016 at the Country Level					
	Middle Georgia	Baldwin	Bibb	Monroe	Houston
Sales and customer representatives	37.29%	10%	21.62%	28.57%	23.53%
Cashiers and clerks	10.17%	10%	2.70%	14.29%	5.88%
Office and administration support	16.95%	0%	10.81%	0%	17.65%
Laborers and freight/stock/material movers	16.95%	10%	10.81%	14.29%	0%
Machinists, welders, cutters, solderers and brazers	15.25%	0%	2.7%	0%	0%
Maintenance and repair workers	1.69%	10%	10.81%	14.29%	11.76%
Industrial production managers	3.39%	0%	2.7%	0%	0%
Marketing professionals	16.95%	10%	2.7%	0%	11.76%
Finance and accounting professionals	3.39%	0%	2.7%	0%	5.88%
Lawyers and legal representatives	11.86%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Healthcare practitioners	5.08%	10%	8.11%	0%	5.88%
Agricultural workers	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other (please specify)	8.47%	20%	10.81%	28.57%	11.76%
Construction workers and supervisors	28.81%	20%	13.51%	0%	5.88%

13. What particular labor skill sets would you be looking for in potential employees during the first half of 2017?

Table 16: Labor Skills Needed First Half of 2017		
Answer	Responses	Percentage
Sales and customer representatives	9	18.75%
Cashiers and clerks	2	4.17%
Office and administration support	3	6.25%
Laborers and freight/stock/material movers	5	10.42%
Construction workers and supervisors	4	8.33%
Agricultural workers	0	0.00%
Machinists, welders, cutters, solderers and brazers	1	2.08%
Maintenance and repair workers	5	10.42%
Industrial production managers	0	0.00%
Marketing professionals	3	6.25%
Finance and accounting professionals	4	8.33%
Lawyers and legal representatives	0	0.00%
Healthcare practitioners	3	6.25%
Other (please specify)	9	18.75%

Figure 13: Labor Skills Needed First Half of 2017 – Other, please specify.

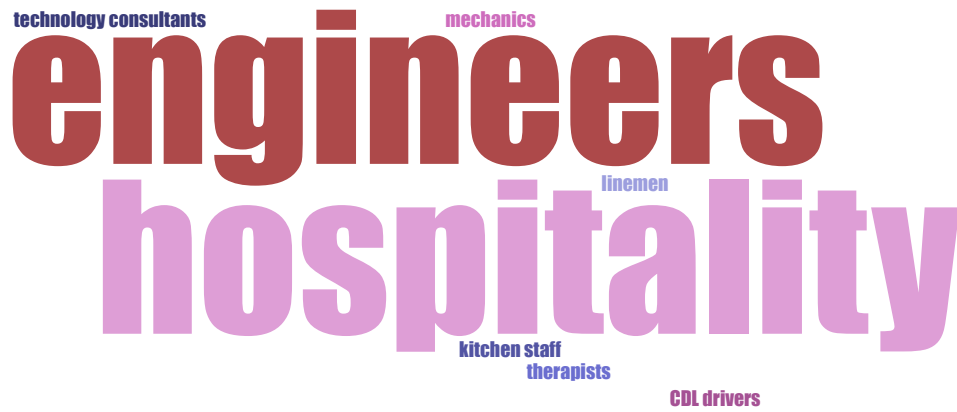


Table 17: Labor Skills Needed First Half of 2017 at the County Level					
	Middle Georgia	Baldwin County	Bibb County	Monroe County	Houston County
Sales and customer representatives	18.75%	0%	11.11%	0%	40%
Cashiers and clerks	4.17%	25%	0%	0%	0%
Office and administration support	6.25%	0%	0%	0%	10%
Laborers and freight/stock/material movers	10.42%	25%	11.11%	25%	0%
Construction workers and supervisors	8.33%	0%	16.67%	0%	0%
Agricultural workers	0.00%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Machinists, welders, cutters, solderers and brazers	2.08%	0%	5.56%	0%	0%
Maintenance and repair workers	10.42%	0%	16.67%	25%	0%
Industrial production managers	0.00%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Marketing professionals	6.25%	0%	11.11%	0%	10%
Finance and accounting professionals	8.33%	0%	11.11%	0%	20%
Lawyers and legal representatives	0.00%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Healthcare practitioners	6.25%	25%	5.56%	0%	10%
Other (please specify)	18.75%	25%	11.11%	50%	10%

14. If you plan to hire new employees in Middle Georgia during the first half of 2017, will they mostly be...

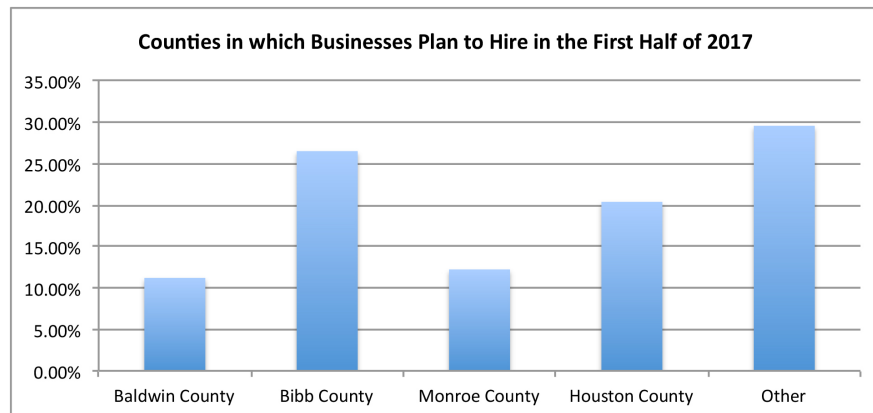
Table 18: Type of Employees that Businesses Plan to Hire First Half of 2017		
Answer	Response	Percentage
Part Time	19	27.14%
Full Time	31	44.29%
We do not plan to hire new employees	20	28.57%
Total	70	100%

15. In which Middle Georgia County do you plan to hire new employees during the first half of 2017?

Please check all that

Table 19: County in which Businesses Plan to Hire First Half of 2017		
Answer	Response	Percentage
Baldwin County	11	11.22%
Bibb County	26	26.53%
Monroe County	12	12.24%
Houston County	20	20.41%
Other	29	29.59%

Figure 14



16. If you plan to REDUCE the number of employees in Middle Georgia during the first half of 2017, will those affected mostly be...

Table 20: Type of Employees that Businesses Plan to Reduce First Half of 2017		
Answer	Response	Percentage
Part Time	4	5.88%
Full Time	2	2.94%
We do not plan to reduce the number of employees	62	91.18%
Total	68	100%

17. In which Middle Georgia County do you plan to REDUCE the number of employees during the first half of 2017?
Please check all that apply.

Table 21: County in which Businesses Plan to Reduce Employees First Half of 2017		
Answer	Response	Percentage
Baldwin County	1	5.56%
Bibb County	5	27.78%
Monroe County	2	11.11%
Houston County	2	11.11%
Other	8	44.44%

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESPONDENTS

18. Approximately, how many employees do you currently have, full- and part-time, in the Middle Georgia area?

Table 22: Number of Employees by Ranges		
Number of employees	Businesses	Percentage
Under 10	26	36.62%
10 to 20	14	19.72%
21 to 50	16	22.54%
51 to 100	8	11.27%
101 to 500	6	8.45%
501+	1	1.41%

19. Do you own your business?

Table 23: Business Ownership		
Answer	Response	Percentage
Yes	44	63.77%
No	25	36.23%
Total	69	100%

20. Is your company headquartered in Middle Georgia?

Table 24: Company Headquartered in Middle Georgia		
Answer	Response	Percentage
Yes	55	80.88%
No	13	19.12%
Total	68	100%

21. In which Middle Georgia County is your principal office located?

Table 25: Principal Office Location		
Answer	Response	Percentage
Baldwin County	6	10.71%
Bibb County	26	46.43%
Monroe County	5	8.93%
Crawford County	1	1.79%
Peach County	1	1.79%
Wilkinson County	2	3.57%
Houston County	15	26.79%
Total	56	100%

22. Please classify your major business activity using one of the categories below.

Table 26: Business Classification		
Answer	Response	Percentage
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	0	0%
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	0	0%
Construction	3	4.35%
Manufacturing	3	4.35%
Utilities	1	1.45%
Wholesale Trade	5	7.25%
Retail Trade	6	8.7%
Transportation and warehousing	1	1.45%
Information	1	1.45%
Finance and Insurance	8	11.59%
Real estate and rental and leasing	6	8.7%
Professional and technical service	9	13.04%
Management of companies and enterprises	0	0%
Administrative and waste services	0	0%
Educational services	0	0%
Health care and social services	5	7.25%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	4	5.8%
Accommodation and food services	4	5.8%
Other services except public administration	6	8.7%
Public administration	3	4.35%
Unclassified	4	5.8%
Total	69	100%

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