



**Chamber Survey
THE ECONOMY IN 2008**

Survey conducted: December 11, 2007 to December 18, 2007

Number of Responses: 163

How do you think the economy will perform in 2008 compared with 2007?

- Better than 2007 28.4%
- About the same as 2007 58.6%
- Worse than 2007 13.0%

How do you think your business will perform in 2008 compared with 2007?

- Better than 2007 64.4%
- About the same as 2007 30.1%
- Worse than 2007 5.5%

What will happen with employment levels in your company in 2008 compared with 2007?

- Increase 40.6%
- About the same 53.1%
- Decrease 6.3%

Which of the following external factors will have the biggest impact on how your company will perform in 2008?

- Consumer confidence 39.0%
- Canadian dollar exchange rate 19.5%
- Other 17.0%
- Education (hiring qualified employees) 11.9%
- Government red tape 8.2%
- Business taxes 4.4%

Which of the following operating costs will have the biggest impact on how your company will perform in 2008?

- Employment costs (payroll, benefits, etc.) 49.7%
- Transportation costs 13.2%
- Capital spending 12.6%
- Technology costs 11.9%
- Other 8.2%
- Energy costs 4.4%

How will your spending on capital and technology items in 2008 compare with that in 2007?

- More than 2007 36.2%
- About the same as 2007 47.5%
- Less than 2007 16.3%

What do you think will happen to your company's pay levels in 2008?

- Increase by more than the inflation rate 26.5%
- Increase by the inflation rate 42.6%
- Increase by less than the inflation rate 8.0%
- Stay the same as 2007 pay levels 21.6%
- Decrease from 2007 pay levels 1.3%

OTHER INTERESTING STATISTICS

- The number of respondents who felt the economy will improve dropped significantly (38% in 2007 to 28% in 2008)
- The number of respondents who felt energy cost will have the biggest impact on their businesses dropped significantly (from 22% in 2006 to 12% in 2007 to 4.4% in 2008)