Tag 5: Questionnaire (SIC)

THE PHARMACY GUILD OF AUSTRALIA (27)
AND THE AUSTRALIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
SURVEY OF INVESTOR CONFIDENCE

THIS QUESTIONNAIRE WILL TAKE ONLY FIVE MINUTES TO COMPLETE

Most respondents to this survey should by now be familiar with its format. It is a survey which is designed to be filled in quickly and easily. But in replying to this questionnaire you will have helped us put the views of the business community to Government, public servants, industrial relations tribunals and the community at large. Your participation in this survey is important to its overall success. Please take the time to fill out this questionnaire. All returns will be kept strictly confidential.

Please send completed returns by September 28 to:

Survey of Investor Confidence
ACCI
PO Box E14
Kingston, ACT 2604

Alternatively, completed forms may be faxed to us on:

02 - 6273 - 3286

***

ENTERPRISE DETAILS

1. In which industry sector is your enterprise primarily involved?

Agriculture/Forestry ............................. 1
Mining .............................................. 2
Manufacturing ..................................... 3
Construction ...................................... 4
Wholesale/Retail .................................. 5
Accommodation Cafes and Restaurants 6
Transport and Storage............................ 7
Communication Service.......................... 8
Finance Insurance Property Business Services... 9
Education.............................................. 10
Health and Community Services............... 11
Cultural Recreational Personal and Other Services 12

2. Number of employees covered by this return: ______________

3. State or Territory in which most employees are employed ______________
PART A

THE AUSTRALIAN ECONOMY

In this section please provide your assessment of the Australian economy.

1. How would you describe current business conditions in Australia?

   WHERE IT IS       WHERE IT'S GOING
   Excellent       ___ (1)       Improving Rapidly ___ (1)
   Very good      ___ (2)       Improving Slowly   ___ (2)
   Good           ___ (3)       No change       ___ (3)
   Satisfactory   ___ (4)       Deteriorating Slowly ___ (4)
   Poor           ___ (5)       Deteriorating Rapidly ___ (5)
   Very poor      ___ (6)       Deeply depressed ___ (7)
   Deeply depressed ___ (7)

2. How would you describe the climate for investment in plant and capital equipment at the present time?

   WHERE IT IS       WHERE IT'S GOING
   Excellent       ___ (1)       Improving Rapidly ___ (1)
   Very good      ___ (2)       Improving Slowly   ___ (2)
   Good           ___ (3)       No change       ___ (3)
   Satisfactory   ___ (4)       Deteriorating Slowly ___ (4)
   Poor           ___ (5)       Deteriorating Rapidly ___ (5)
   Very poor      ___ (6)       Deeply depressed ___ (7)
   Deeply depressed ___ (7)

3. Over the next twelve months what do you think will happen to economic growth as measured by Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

   Economic growth will be:   much higher than at present.   ___ (1)
                              somewhat higher than at present. ___ (2)
                              about the same as at present.   ___ (3)
                              somewhat lower than at present. ___ (4)
                              much lower than at present.     ___ (5)

4. Over the next twelve months what do you think will happen to investment growth in plant and capital equipment?

   Investment growth will be:   much higher than at present.   ___ (1)
                                somewhat higher than at present. ___ (2)
                                about the same as at present.   ___ (3)
                                somewhat lower than at present. ___ (4)
                                much lower than at present.     ___ (5)
5. Over the next twelve months what do you think will happen to Australia's inflation rate as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI)?

The rate of inflation will be: much higher than at present. ___ (1)  
somewhat higher than at present. ___ (2)  
about the same as at present. ___ (3)  
somewhat lower than at present. ___ (4)  
much lower than at present. ___ (5)

6. Over the next twelve months what do you think will happen to the unemployment rate in Australia?

The unemployment rate will be: much higher than at present. ___ (1)  
somewhat higher than at present ___ (2)  
about the same as it is now. ___ (3)  
somewhat lower than at present. ___ (4)  
much lower than at present. ___ (5)

7. Over the next twelve months what do you think will happen to the level of wages in Australia as measured by Average Weekly Earnings (AWE)?

Wages will rise: much more rapidly than at present. ___ (1)  
somewhat more rapidly than at present. ___ (2)  
at about the same rate as at present. ___ (3)  
somewhat more slowly than at present. ___ (4)  
much more slowly than at present. ___ (5)

8. Over the next twelve months what do you think will happen to interest rates?

Interest rates will: rise well above current levels ___ (1)  
rise moderately above current levels ___ (2)  
not change from current levels ___ (3)  
fall moderately below current levels ___ (4)  
fall well below current levels ___ (5)

9. Over the next twelve months what do you think will happen to the value of the Australian dollar in comparison with the US dollar?

The Australian dollar will: rise well above its current exchange rate ___ (1)  
rise moderately above its current exchange rate ___ (2)  
remain the same as at present. ___ (3)  
fall moderately below its current exchange rate ___ (4)  
fall well below its current exchange rate ___ (5)

10. Over the next twelve months what do you think will happen to the current account deficit as a proportion of GDP?

The current account deficit will: rise well above the current level ___ (1)  
rise moderately above the current level ___ (2)  
remain the same as at present ___ (3)  
fall moderately below current level ___ (4)  
fall well below current level ___ (5)
PART B - YOUR OWN BUSINESS

The questions in this section refer to conditions **within your own business**.

1. Generally speaking, how would you describe the state of your own business?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHERE IT IS</th>
<th>WHERE IT'S GOING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>Improving Rapidly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very good</td>
<td>Improving Slowly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>No change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>Deteriorating Slowly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Deteriorating Rapidly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very poor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deeply depressed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   1.  ___ (1) ___ (1)
   2.  ___ (2) ___ (2)
   3.  ___ (3) ___ (3)
   4.  ___ (4) ___ (4)
   5.  ___ (5) ___ (5)
   6.  ___ (6) ___ (6)
   7.  ___ (7) ___ (7)

2. How would you describe the level of sales in your own business?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHERE IT IS</th>
<th>WHERE IT'S GOING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>Improving Rapidly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very good</td>
<td>Improving Slowly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>No change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>Deteriorating Slowly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Deteriorating Rapidly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very poor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deeply depressed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   1.  ___ (1) ___ (1)
   2.  ___ (2) ___ (2)
   3.  ___ (3) ___ (3)
   4.  ___ (4) ___ (4)
   5.  ___ (5) ___ (5)
   6.  ___ (6) ___ (6)
   7.  ___ (7) ___ (7)

3. How would you describe the level of profitability of your own business?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHERE IT IS</th>
<th>WHERE IT'S GOING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>Improving Rapidly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very good</td>
<td>Improving Slowly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>No change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>Deteriorating Slowly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Deteriorating Rapidly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very poor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deeply depressed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   1.  ___ (1) ___ (1)
   2.  ___ (2) ___ (2)
   3.  ___ (3) ___ (3)
   4.  ___ (4) ___ (4)
   5.  ___ (5) ___ (5)
   6.  ___ (6) ___ (6)
   7.  ___ (7) ___ (7)

4. Looking ahead to the next six months, what is your expectation of the level of production/activity in your own business in comparison with the last six months?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHERE IT IS</th>
<th>WHERE IT'S GOING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Much higher</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat higher</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>About the same</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat lower</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Much lower</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   1.  ___ (1)
   2.  ___ (2)
   3.  ___ (3)
   4.  ___ (4)
   5.  ___ (5)
5. Looking ahead to the next six months, what is your expectation for investment in plant and capital equipment within your own business in comparison with the last six months?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Much higher</td>
<td>(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat higher</td>
<td>(2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>About the same</td>
<td>(3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat lower</td>
<td>(4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Much lower</td>
<td>(5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. Looking ahead to the next six months, what is your current expectation of the number of full time employees in your own business?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Much higher</td>
<td>(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat higher</td>
<td>(2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>About the same</td>
<td>(3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat lower</td>
<td>(4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Much lower</td>
<td>(5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. In relation to expected demand over the next six months, how would you describe your current capacity?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More than adequate</td>
<td>(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adequate</td>
<td>(2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than adequate</td>
<td>(3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. Looking back over the past six months, how would you describe your actual level of sales in comparison with the level of sales which you had originally expected?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sales</th>
<th>Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>much higher</td>
<td>(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>somewhat higher</td>
<td>(2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>around the level expected</td>
<td>(3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>somewhat lower</td>
<td>(4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>much lower</td>
<td>(5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. Looking back over the past six months, how would you describe your actual level of profitability in comparison with the level of profitability which you had originally expected?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Profits</th>
<th>Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>much higher</td>
<td>(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>somewhat higher</td>
<td>(2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>around the level expected</td>
<td>(3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>somewhat lower</td>
<td>(4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>much lower</td>
<td>(5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## CONSTRAINTS ON INVESTMENT

Using the following scale from 1-5, please indicate the extent to which each of the following factors represents a constraint on your level of investment in plant and capital equipment at the present time.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Constraint</th>
<th>Moderate</th>
<th>Large</th>
<th>Critical</th>
<th>None</th>
<th>Slight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No constraint or not applicable</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slight constraint</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate constraint</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large constraint</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical constraint</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### LABOUR RELATED CONSTRAINTS

- Wage costs: 1 2 3 4 5
- Non-wage labour costs (ie on-costs): 1 2 3 4 5
- Resistance to workplace change from:
  - Unions: 1 2 3 4 5
  - Employees in general: 1 2 3 4 5
  - Availability of suitably qualified employees: 1 2 3 4 5
  - Availability of training facilities: 1 2 3 4 5

### FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS

- Current Levels of Debt: 1 2 3 4 5
- Cost of Finance
  - Interest rates: 1 2 3 4 5
  - Charges made by lending institutions: 1 2 3 4 5
- Availability of Finance
  - Raising loans from financial institutions: 1 2 3 4 5
  - Raising equity capital: 1 2 3 4 5
  - Insufficient retained earnings: 1 2 3 4 5

### MACROECONOMIC CONSTRAINTS

- Insufficient demand: 1 2 3 4 5
- Local competition: 1 2 3 4 5
- Import competition: 1 2 3 4 5
- Exchange rate too high: 1 2 3 4 5

### PUBLIC SECTOR CONSTRAINTS

- Federal Government regulations: 1 2 3 4 5
- State Government regulations: 1 2 3 4 5
- Local Government regulations: 1 2 3 4 5
- Business taxes and government charges: 1 2 3 4 5
Safety Net

In its decision in May 2001, the Industrial Relations Commission granted safety net increases of $13 for employees on award wages up to $490 per week, a $15 increase for award employees earning between $490 and $590 per week and a $17 increase for employees earning more than $590 per week. The minimum wage was raised from $400.40 to $413.40 by the same decision. The questions below seek information on the effect that these increases had on your business.

In answering these questions, it is important to be able to distinguish increases granted as a result of the safety net decision from increases granted for other reasons. Please, therefore, answer the questions as carefully as possible.

1. Did any of your employees receive an increase in wages directly because of the Safety Net decision?
   Yes ☐ No ☐

2. According to the safety net decision, the increases granted were to be absorbed into overaward payments. Did you nevertheless raise the wages of any employees receiving overaward payments because of the increases granted even though you were not compelled to do so by the decision?
   Increased wages of employees on overawards because of safety net decision ☐
   Did not increase wages of employees on overawards because of safety net decision ☐

3. Did you raise the wages of any non-award employees because of the increases granted to award employees in the safety net decision?
   Increased wages of non-award employees because of safety net decision ☐
   Did not increase wages of non-award employees because of safety net decision ☐

4. Did the increases in the Safety Net have any effect on the level of employment in your own firm?
   The number of employees was higher than it otherwise would have been ☐
   There was no effect on employment ☐
   The number of employees was lower than it otherwise would have been ☐

5. Did the increases in the Safety Net have any effect on the level of full-time employment in your own firm?
   The number of full-time employees was higher than it otherwise would have been ☐
   There was no effect on full-time employment ☐
   The number of full-time employees was lower than it otherwise would have been ☐

6. As a result of the Safety Net decision did you reduce the number of full-time employees and increase the number of part-time or casual employees.
   Yes ☐ No ☐