



**Business
Canterbury**
Our Chamber of Commerce

Quarterly Canterbury Business Survey

May 2025 | In field: 13 May- 13 June

Canterbury businesses are holding steady, according to our latest Quarterly Canterbury Business Survey. After a surge in confidence late last year, expectations for continued momentum in 2025 have softened.

While confidence hasn't grown, it's far from a downturn. 59% of businesses expect to hire over the next 12 months, and 60% plan to invest in property, plant or equipment, up slightly from 57% last quarter.

Encouragingly, 82% of businesses say they're confident in their ability to manage disruption.

That said, challenges remain front of mind. Sluggish consumer demand, ongoing geopolitical instability, and concerns around inflation, compliance costs and cashflow are still weighing on sentiment.

The recovery looks different across sectors, some are growing, some are stabilising, and others are still navigating tough calls about the future. But with a diversified economy and more than 40,000 new residents moving to the region since 2018, Canterbury is well placed to seize opportunities when the market turns.

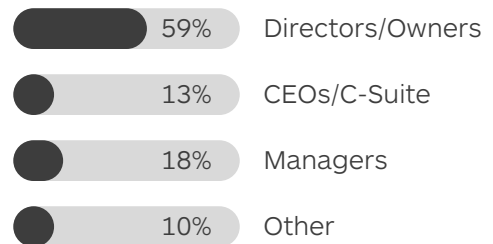
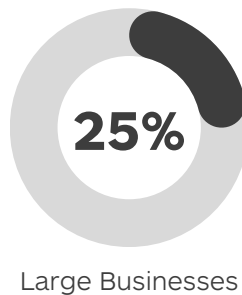
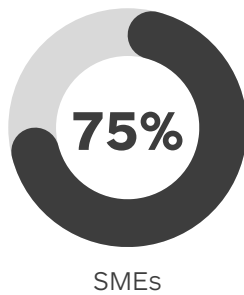
Access the full analysis and media release on our website for more detailed insights from our Chief Executive, Leeann Watson.



Canterbury Snapshot



Respondents



Top issues

1. Consumer confidence and demand
2. Productivity and growth
3. Inflation and interest rates
4. Cashflow and account receivable/payable
5. Compliance costs

Top Industry Response

1. Manufacturing
2. Professional services
3. Construction and civil
4. Hospitality, Accommodation, Retail & Tourism
5. Primary Industries and Agriculture

69%*

53% (previously reported net)

Expect the Canterbury economy to be stronger in 12 months.

60%

Expect to invest in property, plant, and equipment within the next 12 months.

59%

Expect to hire new staff within the next 12 months.

74%*

51% (previously reported net)

Expect stronger financial performance over the next 12 months.

54%*

37% (previously reported net)

Think the Government is managing the economy better than 12 months ago

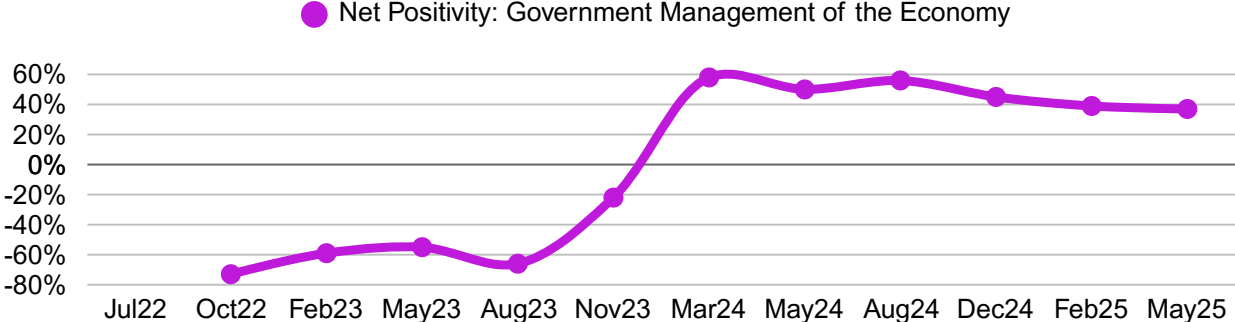
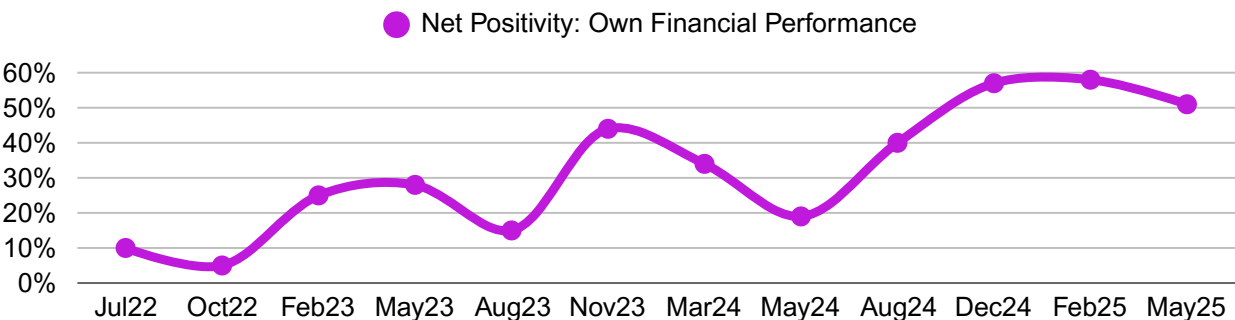
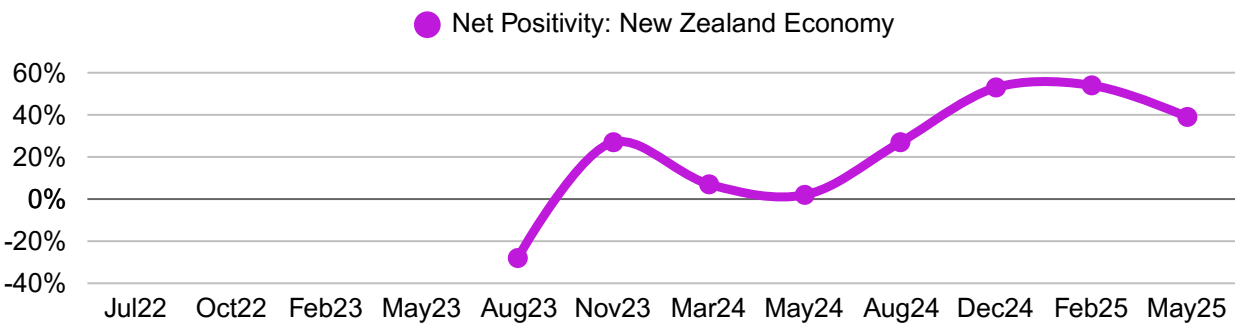
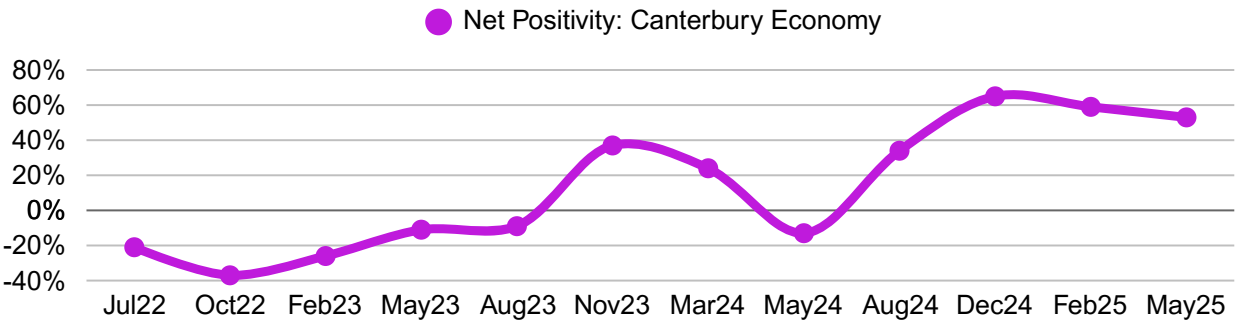
82%

Are confident in their ability to deal with disruption.

* Figures shown as share of total, directly comparable across periods. Updated 27 November 2025.

Business confidence: net positivity scores

To calculate a net positivity score, we subtract the percentage of negative responses from the percentage of positive responses. A higher net positivity score indicates a more positive overall sentiment, while a lower score suggests a more negative sentiment.



Top issues

In every survey, we ask respondents to select the three biggest concerns for them. The graph below shows the proportion of respondents who listed one of the following four issues among their top three concerns.

