



The Voice of Australian Business 2016:

Business confidence, political and economic impacts, retirement planning, tech and foreign investment

The 2016 Voice of Australian Business survey (Wave 5), asks micro, small and medium businesses across Australia, about the challenges they face in regards to business confidence, impacts of domestic and international economic and political events, technology

uptake, foreign investment and attitudes towards superannuation and retirement.

The findings allow Bentleys' experts to offer relevant and comprehensive insight and advice to our clients.



For the purposes of this survey;



Metropolitan refers to businesses located in a capital city or surrounding suburbs



Non-metropolitan refers to businesses located outside of state capitals.

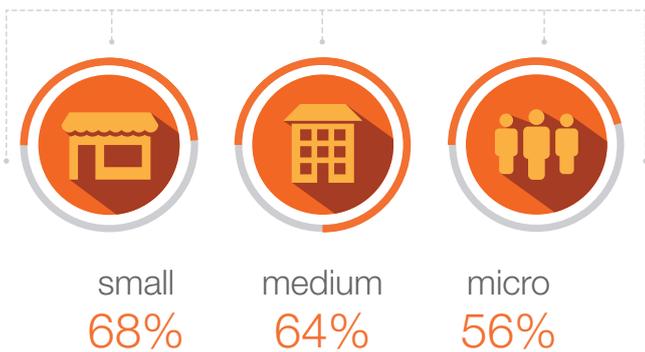
The current SME environment

Confidence is beginning to recover

Overall, more than half of SMEs are somewhat or extremely confident in their prospects over the coming 12 months; up from a dip seen six months ago.

Small and medium businesses display greater confidence in their prospects than micro businesses.

Somewhat confident or extremely confident about their prospects in the next 12 months



Growth slated for the year ahead

Medium and small businesses were more likely than micro to be planning for growth; indicating an expectation to hire new staff and investing in new premises, equipment, products and services.

Business intentions for the next 12 months



Main business goals for the next 12 months



Top 3 barriers to growth and success



Micro



Small



Medium



Outsourcing

SME owners are still holding onto key tasks in their business that take up a significant amount of time.

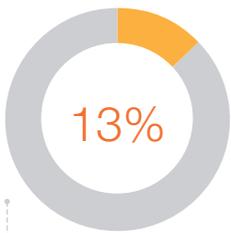
Outsourced tasks



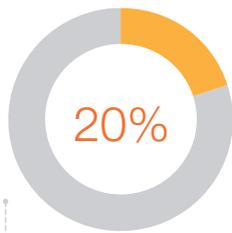
Tapping into expert advice can help your business grow and succeed. We can remove the complex barriers that are in your way. Get in touch with your local Bentleys office via Bentleys.com.au

Attitudes towards technology

SMEs will generally apply technology once they feel it is needed, rather than proactively implement.



proactively implement new technology



don't take much interest in new technology



32% currently using cloud services



26% are planning to introduce more cloud services

Those intending to introduce new cloud services in the next year most commonly **anticipate the cost to be 3-5% of the business' revenue.**

**Giving you the confidence to integrate new technologies into your business.
See how your local Bentleys office can help at Bentleys.com.au**

Access to the NBN

There has been mixed reception to the NBN.



have access



anticipate access in the next year



anticipate access will take longer than a year



extremely concerned by lack of access



not concerned with lack of access

Domestic and international influences

Reactions to the Turnbull Government

Expectations of the Turnbull Federal Government acting on issues that matter to SMEs were not particularly hopeful.



45% have low or very low expectations



16% have high or very high expectations

26% said the proposed Federal Budget will have a negative impact on their business

28% believe the 'slim majority' Government will have a negative impact on SMEs

Domestic matters

SMEs were hopeful for a positive impact from the recent interest rate cuts. However, the falling Aussie dollar divided sentiment, while negative impacts were more commonly expected from the threat of a downgrade to Australia's credit rating.



Interest rate cuts

30% expect a **positive impact**

13% expect a **negative impact**



Falling Aussie dollar

18% expect a **positive impact**

29% expect a **negative impact**

AAA

Threat to AAA credit rating

7% expect a **positive impact**

24% expect a **negative impact**



International influences

There was little anticipation of positive impacts resulting from international events. **General market volatility** was the area of greatest concern (43% anticipate a negative impact), followed by the **slowdown of China's economy** (28% anticipate a negative impact) and **terrorist activity** (23% anticipate a negative impact).

We only worry about one thing – making sure your business runs smoothly, ensuring you are well equipped to efficiently deal with local and global political and economic events. To find out more, connect with your nearest Bentleys office to speak to one of our advisers.

Superannuation and retirement

Surviving retirement

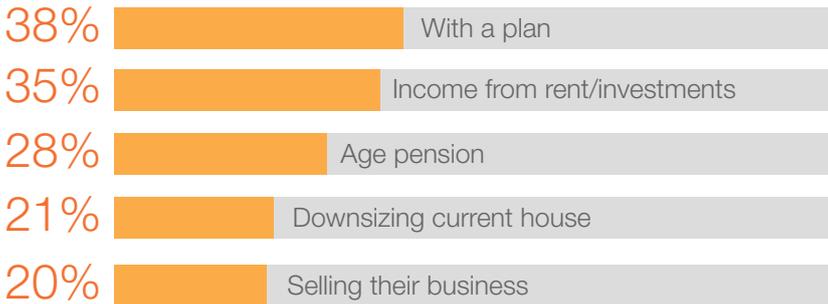


48% confident that they will afford the lifestyle they want in retirement

57% have a 'strategy' for their retirement



How will they fund their retirement

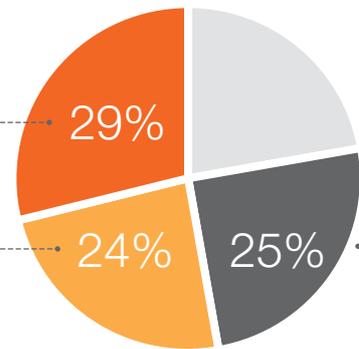


...of those **34%** involve a financial adviser in running it **67%** run it themselves

Come and speak to our superannuation experts to ensure you retire to the lifestyle you deserve. Visit a Bentleys office today to speak to one of our experienced advisers.

Proposed changes to superannuation

said the **lowering of the super concessional contributions** cap to \$25,000 p.a. would have a moderate to extreme impact on them



said the requirement for those with **combined incomes and super contributions greater than \$250,000** to pay 30% tax on their concessional contributions would have a moderate to extreme impact on them

said **introducing a \$1.6 million super transfer balance cap** on the total amount of super that an individual can transfer into retirement phase accounts would have a moderate to extreme impact on them



If you're a SME owner and would like to take part in our next survey please email us at ceo@bentleysnetwork.com



For more information, visit your local Bentleys office at Level 1, 12 Baldwin Street Caloundra, QLD 4551 or call us 07 5436 0300.

