## Industrial Outlook Survey of the Manufacturing Sector for Q4:2017-18

Today, the Reserve Bank released results of the $81^{\text {st }}$ round of the Industrial Outlook Survey (IOS) conducted in January-March 2018. The Survey captures qualitative assessments of business sentiments in the Indian manufacturing sector for Q4:2017-18 and expectations for Q1:2018-19 ${ }^{1}$. Responses were received from 1250 companies in this round of the survey.

## Highlights:

## 1. Assessment for Q4: 2017-18

1.1 Respondents were optimistic on demand conditions in Q4:2017-18, as reflected in their assessment of all the major parameters like production, order books, capacity utilisation, imports, exports and employment.
1.2 Respondents also found the overall financial situation to have improved with positive sentiments on availability of finance, especially from internal accruals, outweighing higher cost.
1.3 Persistent pressure from the cost of raw materials, coupled with inadequate pricing power, led to further lowering of the profit margin of the sampled companies.
1.4 Overall, the business sentiment of the Indian manufacturing sector improved as seen in the Business Expectations Index (BEI) ${ }^{2}$ rising from 109.8 in Q3:2017-18 to 112.4 in Q4:2017-18.


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## 2. Expectations for Q1: 2018-19

2.1 The upturn anticipated in demand conditions in the previous two quarters dipped in Q1:2018-19 with a subdued outlook on all indicators barring exports and imports.
2.2 Sentiment on availability of finance was also less optimistic for Q1:2018-19.
2.3 Input price pressure (of both raw materials and the capital) and sluggish demand conditions may lead to lower profit margins in Q1:2018-19.
2.4 About 10 percent of the respondents are expected to raise the selling price of their products.
2.5 The BEI (expectation) declined from 115.8 in Q4:2017-18 to 114.6 in Q1:2018-19.

| Summary Table <br> Net response ${ }^{3}$ (in \%) comparison over previous quarter |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Parameters | Assessment period |  | Expectation period |  |
|  | Q3:2017-18 | Q4:2017-18 | Q4:2017-18 | Q1:2018-19 |
| Production | 22.1 | 27.3 | 34.1 | 29.5 |
| Order Books | 19.2 | 24.5 | 30.3 | 28.4 |
| Pending Orders | 9.5 | 10.3 | 5.7 | 7.6 |
| Capacity Utilisation | 11.3 | 14.8 | 19.5 | 17.9 |
| Exports | 7.8 | 12.5 | 16.6 | 18.6 |
| Imports | 9.1 | 11.0 | 13.5 | 13.8 |
| Employment | 8.4 | 9.4 | 11.7 | 11.1 |
| Financial Situation (Overall) | 17.1 | 22.4 | 28.6 | 28.0 |
| Availability of Finance (from internal accruals) | 13.8 | 14.7 | 21.4 | 18.2 |
| Availability of Finance (from banks \& other sources) | 14.0 | 11.9 | 16.5 | 14.6 |
| Availability of Finance (from overseas, if applicable) | 4.0 | 3.4 | 6.6 | 4.3 |
| Cost of Finance | -3.1 | -10.3 | -4.1 | -12.2 |
| Cost of Raw Materials | -42.7 | -49.5 | -34.0 | -39.0 |
| Selling Price | 4.5 | 6.7 | 7.9 | 10.4 |
| Profit Margin | -10.0 | -9.9 | 0.1 | -0.7 |
| Overall Business Situation | 23.9 | 30.2 | 36.1 | 36.9 |
| Salary | 27.2 | 26.6 | 22.9 | 35.0 |

[^1]Table 1: Assessment \& Expectation for Production
(Percentage responses) ${ }^{@}$

| Quarter | Total response | Assessment |  |  |  | Expectation |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Increase | Decrease | No change | Net response ${ }^{\#}$ | Increase | Decrease | No change | Net response ${ }^{\#}$ |
| Q4:2016-17 | 1244 | 35.8 | 17.8 | 46.4 | 18.0 | 41.1 | 13.3 | 45.6 | 27.8 |
| Q1:2017-18 | 1250 | 34.5 | 18.5 | 47.0 | 16.0 | 41.6 | 11.7 | 46.7 | 29.9 |
| Q2:2017-18 | 1141 | 34.9 | 18.5 | 46.6 | 16.4 | 42.2 | 12.0 | 45.8 | 30.2 |
| Q3:2017-18 | 1299 | 36.8 | 14.7 | 48.5 | 22.1 | 43.4 | 9.1 | 47.5 | 34.3 |
| Q4:2017-18 | 1250 | 40.7 | 13.4 | 45.9 | 27.3 | 42.5 | 8.4 | 49.7 | 34.1 |
| Q1:2018-19 |  |  |  |  |  | 40.4 | 11.0 | 48.6 | 29.5 |

'Increase' in production is optimistic.
@: Due to rounding off percentage may not add up to 100.
\#: Net Response (NR) is the difference of percentage of the respondents reporting optimism and that reporting pessimism. The range is -100 to 100 . Any value greater than zero indicates expansion and any value less than zero indicates contraction.

Table 2: Assessment \& Expectation for Order Books
(Percentage responses)

| Quarter | Total response | Assessment |  |  |  | Expectation |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Increase | Decrease | No change | Net response | Increase | Decrease | No change | Net response |
| Q4:2016-17 | 1244 | 34.8 | 19.2 | 46.0 | 15.6 | 35.1 | 14.2 | 50.7 | 20.9 |
| Q1:2017-18 | 1250 | 32.7 | 19.0 | 48.3 | 13.7 | 39.5 | 11.5 | 49.0 | 28.0 |
| Q2:2017-18 | 1141 | 31.8 | 19.7 | 48.5 | 12.1 | 39.7 | 11.7 | 48.6 | 28.0 |
| Q3:2017-18 | 1299 | 35.4 | 16.2 | 48.4 | 19.2 | 39.6 | 9.6 | 50.8 | 29.9 |
| Q4:2017-18 | 1250 | 38.9 | 14.4 | 46.7 | 24.5 | 40.5 | 10.2 | 49.3 | 30.3 |
| Q1:2018-19 |  |  |  |  |  | 38.8 | 10.4 | 50.8 | 28.4 |

'Increase' in order books is optimistic. Footnotes '@' and '\#' given in Table 1 are applicable here.

Table 3: Assessment \& Expectation for Pending Orders
(Percentage responses)

| Quarter | Total response | Assessment |  |  |  | Expectation |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Below Normal | Above Normal | Normal | Net response | Below Normal | Above Normal | Normal | Net response |
| Q4:2016-17 | 1244 | 18.1 | 5.1 | 76.8 | 13.0 | 15.3 | 5.0 | 79.7 | 10.3 |
| Q1:2017-18 | 1250 | 17.0 | 5.7 | 77.3 | 11.3 | 13.4 | 4.9 | 81.8 | 8.5 |
| Q2:2017-18 | 1141 | 17.9 | 4.2 | 77.9 | 13.7 | 12.5 | 6.5 | 81.0 | 6.0 |
| Q3:2017-18 | 1299 | 16.2 | 6.7 | 77.1 | 9.5 | 11.4 | 4.7 | 83.9 | 6.7 |
| Q4:2017-18 | 1250 | 14.8 | 4.5 | 80.7 | 10.3 | 12.5 | 6.8 | 80.7 | 5.7 |
| Q1:2018-19 |  |  |  |  |  | 12.6 | 4.9 | 82.5 | 7.6 |

Pending orders 'Below Normal' is optimistic. Footnotes '@' and '\#' given in Table 1 are applicable here.

Table 4: Assessment \& Expectation for Capacity Utilisation (Main Product)
(Percentage responses)

| Quarter | Total response | Assessment |  |  |  | Expectation |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Increase | Decrease | No change | Net response | Increase | Decrease | No change | Net response |
| Q4:2016-17 | 1244 | 25.9 | 15.7 | 58.4 | 10.2 | 27.6 | 11.2 | 61.2 | 16.4 |
| Q1:2017-18 | 1250 | 22.5 | 15.4 | 62.1 | 7.1 | 28.1 | 10.9 | 61.0 | 17.2 |
| Q2:2017-18 | 1141 | 22.9 | 15.8 | 61.3 | 7.1 | 27.6 | 11.3 | 61.1 | 16.3 |
| Q3:2017-18 | 1299 | 23.9 | 12.7 | 63.4 | 11.3 | 28.8 | 8.0 | 63.2 | 20.8 |
| Q4:2017-18 | 1250 | 27.4 | 12.6 | 60.0 | 14.8 | 28.4 | 8.9 | 62.7 | 19.5 |
| Q1:2018-19 |  |  |  |  |  | 27.8 | 9.8 | 62.4 | 17.9 |

'Increase' in capacity utilisation is optimistic. Footnotes '@' and '\#' given in Table 1 are applicable here.

Table 5: Assessment \& Expectation for Level of CU (compared to the average in last 4 quarters)

| Quarter | Total response | Assessment |  |  |  | Expectation |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Above Normal | Below Normal | Normal | Net response | Above Normal | Below Normal | Normal | Net response |
| Q4:2016-17 | 1244 | 9.3 | 16.1 | 74.6 | -6.8 | 10.6 | 12.9 | 76.5 | -2.3 |
| Q1:2017-18 | 1250 | 8.4 | 15.1 | 76.5 | -6.7 | 9.9 | 12.2 | 77.9 | -2.3 |
| Q2:2017-18 | 1141 | 9.7 | 15.6 | 74.7 | -6.0 | 9.7 | 10.8 | 79.5 | -1.1 |
| Q3:2017-18 | 1299 | 10.3 | 14.1 | 75.6 | -3.8 | 11.4 | 9.6 | 79.0 | 1.8 |
| Q4:2017-18 | 1250 | 12.6 | 13.5 | 73.9 | -0.9 | 13.0 | 10.7 | 76.3 | 2.3 |
| Q1:2018-19 |  |  |  |  |  | 13.0 | 10.6 | 76.5 | 2.4 |

'Above Normal' in Level of capacity utilisation is optimistic. Footnotes '@' and '\#' given in Table 1 are applicable here.

Table 6: Assessment \& Expectation for Assessment of Production Capacity (with regard to expected demand in next 6 months)
(Percentage responses)

| Quarter | Total response | Assessment |  |  |  | Expectation |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | More than adequate | Less than adequate | Adequate | Net response | More than adequate | Less than adequate | Adequate | Net response |
| Q4:2016-17 | 1244 | 14.1 | 7.1 | 78.8 | 7.0 | 11.9 | 7.4 | 80.7 | 4.5 |
| Q1:2017-18 | 1250 | 12.3 | 7.4 | 80.3 | 4.9 | 13.3 | 6.7 | 79.9 | 6.6 |
| Q2:2017-18 | 1141 | 10.4 | 7.4 | 82.2 | 3.0 | 12.2 | 6.6 | 81.2 | 5.6 |
| Q3:2017-18 | 1299 | 11.8 | 7.1 | 81.1 | 4.7 | 11.1 | 6.5 | 82.4 | 4.6 |
| Q4:2017-18 | 1250 | 12.2 | 6.3 | 81.5 | 5.9 | 12.9 | 6.9 | 80.2 | 6.0 |
| Q1:2018-19 |  |  |  |  |  | 13.0 | 6.0 | 81.0 | 7.0 |

'More than adequate' in Assessment of Production Capacity is optimistic.Footnotes '@' and '\#' given in Table 1 are applicable here.

Table 7: Assessment \& Expectation for Exports
(Percentage responses)

| Quarter | Total response | Assessment |  |  |  | Expectation |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Increase | Decrease | No change | Net response | Increase | Decrease | No change | Net response |
| Q4:2016-17 | 1244 | 24.3 | 17.7 | 58.0 | 6.6 | 25.3 | 13.2 | 61.5 | 12.1 |
| Q1:2017-18 | 1250 | 22.2 | 18.8 | 59.0 | 3.4 | 26.5 | 11.3 | 62.2 | 15.2 |
| Q2:2017-18 | 1141 | 24.2 | 15.4 | 60.4 | 8.8 | 27.9 | 11.6 | 60.5 | 16.3 |
| Q3:2017-18 | 1299 | 22.5 | 14.7 | 62.8 | 7.8 | 27.6 | 8.6 | 63.8 | 19.0 |
| Q4:2017-18 | 1250 | 26.3 | 13.8 | 59.9 | 12.5 | 25.4 | 8.8 | 65.8 | 16.6 |
| Q1:2018-19 |  |  |  |  |  | 28.4 | 9.8 | 61.8 | 18.6 |

'Increase' in exports is optimistic. Footnotes '@' and '\#' given in Table 1 are applicable here.

Table 8: Assessment \& Expectation for Imports
(Percentage responses)

| Quarter | Total response | Assessment |  |  |  | Expectation |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Increase | Decrease | No change | Net response | Increase | Decrease | No change | Net response |
| Q4:2016-17 | 1244 | 17.5 | 10.7 | 71.8 | 6.8 | 17.7 | 9.3 | 73.1 | 8.4 |
| Q1:2017-18 | 1250 | 17.4 | 10.3 | 72.3 | 7.1 | 17.3 | 7.2 | 75.5 | 10.1 |
| Q2:2017-18 | 1141 | 17.1 | 8.2 | 74.7 | 8.9 | 18.6 | 7.9 | 73.5 | 10.7 |
| Q3:2017-18 | 1299 | 18.2 | 9.1 | 72.7 | 9.1 | 17.8 | 5.0 | 77.2 | 12.8 |
| Q4:2017-18 | 1250 | 19.8 | 8.7 | 71.5 | 11.0 | 19.7 | 6.2 | 74.1 | 13.5 |
| Q1:2018-19 |  |  |  |  |  | 19.6 | 5.8 | 74.7 | 13.8 |

'Increase' in imports is optimistic. Footnotes '@' and '\#' given in Table 1 are applicable here.
Table 9: Assessment \& Expectation for level of Raw Materials Inventory
(Percentage responses)

| Quarter | Total response | Assessment |  |  |  | Expectation |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Below average | Above average | Average | Net response | Below average | Above average | Average | Net response |
| Q4:2016-17 | 1244 | 6.9 | 12.4 | 80.7 | -5.5 | 6.8 | 9.0 | 84.2 | -2.2 |
| Q1:2017-18 | 1250 | 6.7 | 12.2 | 81.1 | -5.5 | 6.1 | 8.7 | 85.2 | -2.6 |
| Q2:2017-18 | 1141 | 6.2 | 13.1 | 80.7 | -6.9 | 6.1 | 10.7 | 83.2 | -4.6 |
| Q3:2017-18 | 1299 | 6.0 | 14.6 | 79.4 | -8.6 | 4.3 | 10.4 | 85.4 | -6.1 |
| Q4:2017-18 | 1250 | 5.9 | 14.0 | 80.1 | -8.1 | 6.0 | 11.5 | 82.5 | -5.5 |
| Q1:2018-19 |  |  |  |  |  | 5.7 | 10.9 | 83.5 | -5.2 |

'Below average' Inventory of raw materials is optimistic.Footnotes '@' and '\#' given in Table 1 are applicable here.

Table 10: Assessment \& Expectation for level of Finished Goods Inventory
(Percentage responses)

| Quarter | Total response | Assessment |  |  |  | Expectation |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Below average | Above average | Average | Net response | Below average | Above average | Average | Net response |
| Q4:2016-17 | 1244 | 7.3 | 16.6 | 76.1 | -9.3 | 6.5 | 11.6 | 81.9 | -5.1 |
| Q1:2017-18 | 1250 | 6.8 | 14.2 | 79.0 | -7.5 | 6.4 | 10.7 | 82.8 | -4.3 |
| Q2:2017-18 | 1141 | 7.1 | 15.9 | 77.0 | -8.8 | 6.0 | 11.6 | 82.4 | -5.6 |
| Q3:2017-18 | 1299 | 6.9 | 14.5 | 78.6 | -7.6 | 6.2 | 10.0 | 83.8 | -3.8 |
| Q4:2017-18 | 1250 | 6.5 | 13.3 | 80.2 | -6.8 | 6.5 | 10.9 | 82.6 | -4.4 |
| Q1:2018-19 |  |  |  |  |  | 5.8 | 10.4 | 83.9 | -4.6 |

'Below average' Inventory of finished goods is optimistic.Footnotes '@' and '\#' given in Table 1 are applicable here.

Table 11: Assessment \& Expectations for Employment Outlook
(Percentage responses)

| Quarter | Total response | Assessment |  |  |  | Expectation |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Increase | Decrease | No change | Net response | Increase | Decrease | No change | Net response |
| Q4:2016-17 | 1244 | 15.9 | 9.3 | 74.8 | 6.6 | 12.1 | 6.9 | 81.0 | 5.2 |
| Q1:2017-18 | 1250 | 14.6 | 9.2 | 76.2 | 5.4 | 15.9 | 6.6 | 77.5 | 9.3 |
| Q2:2017-18 | 1141 | 15.5 | 8.2 | 76.3 | 7.3 | 15.2 | 6.5 | 78.3 | 8.7 |
| Q3:2017-18 | 1299 | 15.8 | 7.4 | 76.8 | 8.4 | 15.8 | 5.3 | 78.9 | 10.4 |
| Q4:2017-18 | 1250 | 17.5 | 8.1 | 74.4 | 9.4 | 17.0 | 5.3 | 77.7 | 11.7 |
| Q1:2018-19 |  |  |  |  |  | 17.7 | 6.6 | 75.7 | 11.1 |

'Increase' in employment is optimistic.Footnotes '@' and '\#' given in Table 1 are applicable here.

Table 12: Assessment \& Expectation for Overall Financial Situation
(Percentage responses)

| Quarter | Total <br> response | Assessment |  |  |  | Expectation |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Better | Worsen | No <br> change | Net <br> response | Better | Worsen | No <br> change | Net <br> response |
| Q4:2016-17 | 1244 | 30.6 | 13.6 | 55.8 | 17.0 | 34.1 | 9.5 | 56.4 | 24.6 |
| Q1:2017-18 | 1250 | 30.9 | 11.8 | 57.3 | 19.1 | 37.9 | 7.0 | 55.1 | 30.9 |
| Q2:2017-18 | 1141 | 29.0 | 13.2 | 57.8 | 15.8 | 35.6 | 7.7 | 56.6 | 27.9 |
| Q3:2017-18 | 1299 | 28.6 | 11.4 | 60.0 | 17.2 | 35.3 | 6.6 | 58.1 | 28.7 |
| Q4:2017-18 | 1250 | 31.9 | 9.5 | 58.6 | 22.4 | 35.2 | 6.6 | 58.2 | 28.6 |
| Q1:2018-19 |  |  |  |  |  | 34.5 | 6.5 | 59.0 | 28.0 |

'Better' overall financial situation is optimistic.Footnotes '@' and '\#' given in Table 1 are applicable here.

Table 13: Assessment \& Expectation for Working Capital Finance Requirement
(Percentage responses)

| Quarter | Total <br> response | Assessment |  |  |  | Expectation |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Decrease | No <br> change | Net <br> response | Increase | Decrease | No <br> change | Net <br> response |  |
| Q4:2016-17 | 1244 | 30.2 | 5.6 | 64.2 | 24.6 | 29.2 | 5.3 | 65.5 | 23.9 |
| Q1:2017-18 | 1250 | 29.3 | 5.7 | 65.0 | 23.6 | 29.4 | 5.1 | 65.5 | 24.3 |
| Q2:2017-18 | 1141 | 29.7 | 6.3 | 64.0 | 23.4 | 29.4 | 5.7 | 65.0 | 23.7 |
| Q3:2017-18 | 1299 | 34.4 | 5.0 | 60.6 | 29.4 | 30.5 | 4.1 | 65.4 | 26.4 |
| Q4:2017-18 | 1250 | 35.5 | 5.3 | 59.2 | 30.1 | 32.4 | 3.6 | 64.0 | 28.8 |
| Q1:2018-19 |  |  |  |  |  | 30.8 | 5.3 | 63.9 | 25.4 |

'Increase' in working capital finance is optimistic.Footnotes ‘@' and '\#' given in Table 1 are applicable here.

Table 14: Assessment \& Expectation for Availability of Finance (from Internal Accruals)

| Quarter | Total <br> response | Assessment |  |  |  |  | Improve | Worsen | No <br> change | Net <br> response |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Worsen | No <br> change | Net <br> response |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Q4:2016-17 |  | 25.6 | 10.3 | 64.1 | 15.3 | 25.4 | 8.0 | 66.6 | 17.4 |  |
| Q1:2017-18 |  | 23.5 | 9.5 | 67.0 | 14.1 | 27.5 | 6.2 | 66.3 | 21.3 |  |
| Q2:2017-18 | 1141 | 23.2 | 9.5 | 67.3 | 13.7 | 26.8 | 6.4 | 66.9 | 20.4 |  |
| Q3:2017-18 | 1299 | 22.2 | 8.4 | 69.4 | 13.8 | 25.8 | 5.6 | 68.6 | 20.2 |  |
| Q4:2017-18 | 1250 | 23.7 | 8.9 | 67.4 | 14.7 | 26.6 | 5.2 | 68.2 | 21.4 |  |
| Q1:2018-19 |  |  |  |  |  | 25.1 | 6.9 | 67.9 | 18.2 |  |

'Improvement' in availability of finance is optimistic. Footnotes '@' and '\#' given in Table 1 are applicable here.

Table 15: Assessment \& Expectation for Availability of Finance (from banks \& other sources)
(Percentage responses)

| Quarter | Total <br> response | Assessment |  |  |  | Expectation |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Worsen | No <br> change | Net <br> response | Improve | Worsen | No <br> change | Net <br> response |  |
| Q4:2016-17 |  | 21.3 | 7.6 | 71.1 | 13.7 | 22.5 | 5.6 | 71.9 | 16.9 |
| Q1:2017-18 | 1250 | 21.0 | 6.1 | 72.9 | 14.9 | 24.8 | 4.9 | 70.3 | 19.9 |
| Q2:2017-18 | 1141 | 19.8 | 6.1 | 74.1 | 13.8 | 21.5 | 4.6 | 73.9 | 17.0 |
| Q3:2017-18 | 1299 | 19.8 | 5.8 | 74.4 | 14.0 | 18.6 | 4.5 | 77.0 | 14.1 |
| Q4:2017-18 | 1250 | 18.8 | 7.0 | 74.2 | 11.9 | 20.9 | 4.4 | 74.7 | 16.5 |
| Q1:2018-19 |  |  |  |  |  | 20.9 | 6.4 | 72.7 | 14.6 |

'Improvement' in availability of finance is optimistic. Footnotes '@' and '\#' given in Table 1 are applicable here.
Table 16: Assessment \& Expectation for Availability of Finance (from overseas, if applicable)
(Percentage responses)

| Quarter | Total <br> response | Assessment |  |  |  | Expectation |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Worsen | No <br> change | Net <br> response | Improve | Worsen | No <br> change | Net <br> response |  |
| Q4:2016-17 |  | 8.1 | 3.3 | 88.6 | 4.8 | 10.0 | 3.5 | 86.5 | 6.5 |
| Q1:2017-18 |  | 9.5 | 3.7 | 86.8 | 5.8 | 9.8 | 2.8 | 87.4 | 7.0 |
| Q2:2017-18 | 1141 | 8.0 | 3.0 | 89.0 | 5.0 | 10.9 | 3.9 | 85.2 | 7.0 |
| Q3:2017-18 | 1299 | 7.9 | 3.9 | 88.2 | 4.0 | 7.2 | 3.0 | 89.8 | 4.1 |
| Q4:2017-18 | 1250 | 8.0 | 4.6 | 87.4 | 3.4 | 9.2 | 2.6 | 88.2 | 6.6 |
| Q1:2018-19 |  |  |  |  |  | 8.6 | 4.3 | 87.1 | 4.3 |

'Improvement' in availability of finance is optimistic. Footnotes '@' and '\#' given in Table 1 are applicable here.

Table 17: Assessment \& Expectation for Cost of Finance
(Percentage responses)

| Quarter | Total <br> response | Assessment |  |  |  | Expectation |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Decrease | Increase | No <br> change | Net <br> response | Decrease | Increase | No <br> change | Net <br> response |
| Q4:2016-17 | 1244 | 15.8 | 16.7 | 67.5 | -0.9 | 14.5 | 14.8 | 70.8 | -0.3 |
| Q1:2017-18 | 1250 | 13.6 | 14.8 | 71.6 | -1.2 | 12.9 | 15.4 | 71.7 | -2.5 |
| Q2:2017-18 | 1141 | 14.0 | 14.5 | 71.5 | -0.5 | 10.9 | 14.7 | 74.5 | -3.8 |
| Q3:2017-18 | 1299 | 11.6 | 14.5 | 73.9 | -3.1 | 11.9 | 14.1 | 74.0 | -2.2 |
| Q4:2017-18 | 1250 | 18.1 | 7.9 | 74.0 | -10.3 | 9.8 | 13.9 | 76.3 | -4.1 |
| Q1:2018-19 |  |  |  |  |  | 18.7 | 6.4 | 74.9 | -12.2 |

'Decrease' in cost of finance is optimistic. Footnotes '@' and '\#' given in Table 1 are applicable here.

Table 18: Assessment \& Expectation for Cost of Raw Materials
(Percentage responses)

| Quarter | Total response | Assessment |  |  |  | Expectation |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Decrease | Increase | No change | Net response | Decrease | Increase | No change | Net response |
| Q4:2016-17 | 1244 | 3.5 | 51.4 | 45.1 | -47.9 | 5.1 | 39.4 | 55.6 | -34.3 |
| Q1:2017-18 | 1250 | 5.1 | 47.2 | 47.7 | -42.1 | 4.1 | 42.0 | 54.0 | -37.9 |
| Q2:2017-18 | 1141 | 5.0 | 46.8 | 48.2 | -41.8 | 4.0 | 40.4 | 55.6 | -36.5 |
| Q3:2017-18 | 1299 | 5.2 | 47.9 | 46.9 | -42.7 | 5.7 | 37.6 | 56.7 | -31.9 |
| Q4:2017-18 | 1250 | 3.3 | 52.8 | 43.9 | -49.5 | 4.3 | 38.3 | 57.4 | -34.0 |
| Q1:2018-19 |  |  |  |  |  | 3.7 | 42.7 | 53.6 | -39.0 |

'Decrease' in cost of raw materials is optimistic. Footnotes '@' and '\#' given in Table 1 are applicable here.

Table 19: Assessment \& Expectation for Selling Price
(Percentage responses)

| Quarter | Total response | Assessment |  |  |  | Expectation |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Increase | Decrease | No change | Net response | Increase | Decrease | No change | Net response |
| Q4:2016-17 | 1244 | 21.4 | 13.0 | 65.6 | 8.4 | 16.8 | 10.9 | 72.3 | 5.9 |
| Q1:2017-18 | 1250 | 20.1 | 15.1 | 64.8 | 5.0 | 21.6 | 9.1 | 69.3 | 12.5 |
| Q2:2017-18 | 1141 | 16.1 | 16.2 | 67.7 | -0.1 | 18.9 | 11.0 | 70.2 | 7.9 |
| Q3:2017-18 | 1299 | 17.7 | 13.2 | 69.1 | 4.5 | 17.5 | 10.6 | 71.9 | 7.0 |
| Q4:2017-18 | 1250 | 19.3 | 12.6 | 68.1 | 6.7 | 17.4 | 9.5 | 73.1 | 7.9 |
| Q1:2018-19 |  |  |  |  |  | 19.2 | 8.9 | 71.9 | 10.4 |

'Increase' in selling price is optimistic. Footnotes '@' and '\#' given in Table 1 are applicable here.

Table 20: Assessment \& Expectation for Profit Margin
(Percentage responses)

| Quarter | Total <br> response | Assessment |  |  |  | Expectation |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Decrease | No <br> change | Net <br> response | Increase | Decrease | No <br> change | Net <br> response |  |
| Q4:2016-17 | 1244 | 16.7 | 27.8 | 55.5 | -11.1 | 18.5 | 21.3 | 60.2 | -2.8 |
| Q1:2017-18 | 1250 | 15.7 | 28.2 | 56.1 | -12.5 | 20.3 | 19.2 | 60.4 | 1.1 |
| Q2:2017-18 | 1141 | 14.5 | 28.5 | 57.0 | -14.0 | 20.3 | 20.0 | 59.7 | 0.3 |
| Q3:2017-18 | 1299 | 15.4 | 25.4 | 59.2 | -10.0 | 19.6 | 17.8 | 62.5 | 1.8 |
| Q4:2017-18 | 1250 | 16.2 | 26.1 | 57.7 | -9.9 | 18.8 | 18.7 | 62.5 | 0.1 |
| Q1:2018-19 |  |  |  |  |  | 18.0 | 18.7 | 63.3 | -0.7 |

'Increase' in profit margin is optimistic. Footnotes '@' and '\#' given in Table 1 are applicable here.

Table 21: Assessment \& Expectation for Overall Business Situation (Percentage responses)

| Quarter | Total response | Assessment |  |  |  | Expectation |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Better | Worsen | No change | Net response | Better | Worsen | No change | Net response |
| Q4:2016-17 | 1244 | 36.3 | 14.3 | 49.4 | 22.0 | 39.4 | 11.5 | 49.1 | 27.9 |
| Q1:2017-18 | 1250 | 34.4 | 13.0 | 52.6 | 21.4 | 43.6 | 7.6 | 48.8 | 36.0 |
| Q2:2017-18 | 1141 | 31.7 | 14.4 | 53.9 | 17.3 | 42.7 | 9.0 | 48.4 | 33.7 |
| Q3:2017-18 | 1299 | 35.1 | 11.2 | 53.7 | 23.9 | 42.9 | 6.0 | 51.1 | 36.9 |
| Q4:2017-18 | 1250 | 39.2 | 9.0 | 51.8 | 30.2 | 42.5 | 6.4 | 51.2 | 36.1 |
| Q1:2018-19 |  |  |  |  |  | 42.7 | 5.8 | 51.5 | 36.9 |

'Better’ Overall Business Situation is optimistic. Footnotes '@' and '\#' given in Table 1 are applicable here.

Table 22: Assessment \& Expectation for Salary/Other Remuneration
(Percentage responses)

| Quarter | Total response | Assessment |  |  |  | Expectation |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Increase | Decrease | No change | Net response | Increase | Decrease | No change | Net response |
| Q4:2016-17 | 1244 | 30.0 | 2.7 | 67.3 | 27.3 | 25.0 | 3.3 | 71.8 | 21.7 |
| Q1:2017-18 | 1250 | 42.1 | 2.7 | 55.2 | 39.4 | 38.8 | 2.2 | 59.0 | 36.6 |
| Q2:2017-18 | 1141 | 36.7 | 2.2 | 61.1 | 34.5 | 34.5 | 2.5 | 63.0 | 32.0 |
| Q3:2017-18 | 1299 | 29.4 | 2.2 | 68.4 | 27.2 | 25.9 | 2.0 | 72.1 | 23.9 |
| Q4:2017-18 | 1250 | 28.8 | 2.2 | 69.0 | 26.6 | 25.2 | 2.3 | 72.5 | 22.9 |
| Q1:2018-19 |  |  |  |  |  | 36.8 | 1.8 | 61.3 | 35.0 |

[^2]Table 23: Business Expectations Index (BEI)

| Quarter | BEI-Assessment Quarter | BEI-Expectation Quarter |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Q4:2016-17 | 106.0 | 111.1 |
| Q1:2017-18 | 105.4 | 114.2 |
| Q2:2017-18 | 103.7 | 113.3 |
| Q3:2017-18 | 109.8 | 115.0 |
| Q4:2017-18 | 112.4 | 115.8 |
| Q1:2018-19 |  | 114.6 |


[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ The survey responses are those of the respondents and are not necessarily shared by the Reserve Bank of India. The $80^{\text {th }}$ round (Q3:2017-18) survey results were released on January 18, 2018 on the RBI website.
    ${ }^{2}$ The Business Expectations Index (BEI) is a composite indicator calculated as a weighted (share of GVA of different industry group) net response of nine business indicators. The nine indicators considered for the computation of the BEI are: (1) overall business situation; (2) production; (3) order books; (4) inventory of raw material; (5) inventory of finished goods; (6) profit margin; (7) employment; (8) exports; and (9) capacity utilisation. It gives a snapshot of the business outlook in every quarter. BEI takes values between 0 and 200, and 100 is the threshold separating expansion from contraction.

[^1]:    ${ }^{3}$ Net Response (NR) is the difference of percentage of the respondents reporting optimism and that reporting pessimism. The range is -100 to 100 . Any value greater than zero indicates expansion/optimism and any value less than zero indicates contraction/pessimism i.e., NR = (I - D); where, I is the percentage response of 'Increase/optimism', and D is the percentage response of 'Decrease/pessimism' and Eis the percentage response as 'no change/Equal'; I+D+E=100. For example, increase in production is optimism whereas decrease in cost of raw material is optimism.

[^2]:    'Increase in Salary / other remuneration' is optimistic.Footnotes '@' and '\#' given in Table 1 are applicable here.

