

Firms positioning for recovery, says Business Outlook Index

The private sector has adopted a cautiously optimistic outlook towards the coming year, despite most admitting financial performance had dipped in the past six months.

This was the findings of the Business Outlook Index (BOI) for Q4 2025.

The Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce (T&T Chamber) conducted the survey for the index in partnership with the UWI Arthur Lok Jack Global School of Business (ALJGSB).

In a release announcing the results, the BOI said it marked the reintroduction of the country's national business confidence measure.

The release stated, "The Q4 2025 Business Outlook Index reveals a private sector navigating short-term strain but demonstrating guarded optimism over the medium term. Fifty-four (54) per cent of executives reported worsened financial performance in the last six months, yet remain confident about financial and investment prospects for both the next 6- and 12-month horizons. Employment expectations are steady in the short term and turn positive over the year ahead, signalling cautious expansion intentions."

However, the BOI stated that confidence in the economy remained "negative across most sectors, underscoring persistent structural challenges, while views on the global economy shift from short-term pessimism to medium-term optimism."

The report also noted that business executives were "uncertain about the new Government's likely areas of positive impact, with no clear consensus emerging."

The summary of the BOI stated, "Overall, the data suggest that despite current pressures, firms are positioning for recovery and investment-led growth, albeit within an environment of domestic economic uncertainty."

The chamber explained in the release that the BOI was formerly known as the Corporate Confidence Index, adding that the survey reflects a broader and more modern approach to capturing private sector sentiment in an evolving economic and policy environment. The BOI is a bi-annual survey with the next release expected in April 2026.