

Business Confidence Index in the State of Qatar Q2 2018

Development Indicators Series

Table of Contents

Subject	Page
Methodology	3
Business Confidence Index in Qatar	4
Sub-Indices for the Status of Qatar-Based Enterprises	5
BCI by Enterprise Size	6
BCI by Economic Activity	7
Economic Enterprises and Bank Finance	8
Production Capacity and Enterprise Future Plan	9
Economic Enterprises and Access to Markets	11
Challenges Hindering Economic Enterprises' Performance	14
Annex	
Overall Index and Sub-Indices of Business Confidence	16
Overall Index and Sub-Indices of Business Confidence by Enterprise Size	16
Overall Index and Sub-Indices of Business Confidence by Enterprise Activity	18
Ouestionnaire	21

Methodology

The Business Confidence Index (BCI) is based on international methodologies, especially the European Commission Methodology and the CESifo Group Munich Methodology.

The BCI measurement is based on (6) questions from which two sub-indices emerge (Current Situation Index and Future Situation Index).

These six questions that make up the sub-indices are centered on the following:

- Production size.
- Stock of finished products
- Prices of finished products of goods/services
- Business volume/ sales volume/ purchase orders.
- Labour force size.
- Profitability ratios

Index Value

The index value ranges between (-100) and (+100) points. It reaches its maximum (+100) if the views of all surveyed enterprises are positive, whereas it reaches neutrality (zero) when positive and negative views are equal. If the index value is below (zero), this indicates a negative assessment of enterprises status in Qatar.

For further information on methodology, please refer to issue No. 1.

 $\frac{http://www.mdps.gov.qa/en/statistics/Statistical\%20Releases/Economic/Confidenc}{eIndex/BCI/2014/Q2/BCI-Q2-2014-Ar.pdf}$

Doha – August, 2018

Business Confidence Index in Qatar:

In Q2, 2018, the Business Confidence Index (BCI) rose to (23.1) points, an increase of (0.1) point from Q1, 2018 (Graph 1). In terms of annual change, there was an increase of (1.0) point compared to Q2, 2017 where the value of the index was (22.1) points.

This increase reflects the strength and solidity of Qatari economy despite the unjust and illegal blockade imposed on Qatar by land, sea and air from some GCC countries since the first week of June 2017, thanks to the wise and rational leadership that

Change in BCIs between

Q1 and Q2, 2018

BCI
0.1

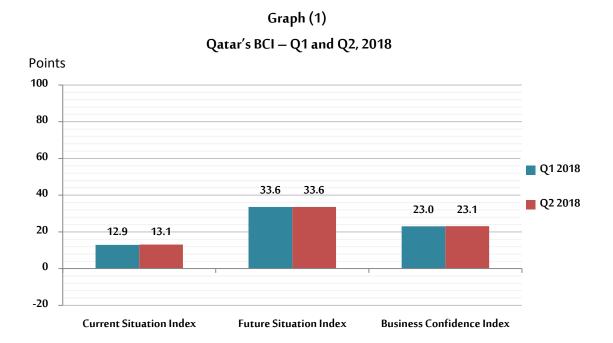
Current Situation Index

0.2

Future Situation Index

0.0

managed to turn blockade into victory, achieving long-term benefit. Currently, Qatar is witnessing an economic diversification and an unprecedented industrial boom based on diversification of the economy, promotion of investment and focus on food security projects in pursuit of self-sufficiency.

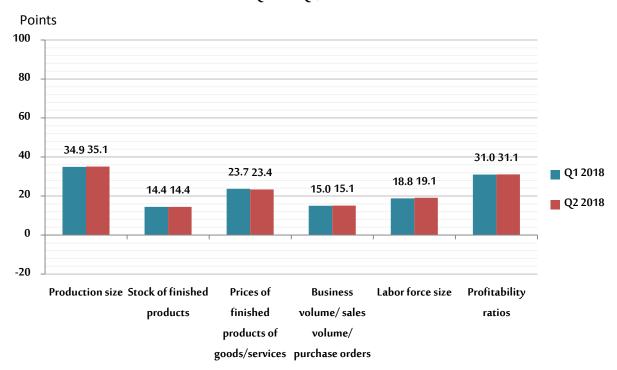


Sub-Indices for the Status of Qatar-Based Enterprises:

Sub-indices are the Current Situation Index and the Future Situation Index. The survey results indicate an increase of (0.2) point in optimism among Qatar-based enterprises over the current situation, recording (13.1) points, compared to (12.9) points in Q1, 2018. Whereas the levels of optimism among Qatar-based enterprises in the Future Situation Index remained unchanged, recording (33.6) points, which is the same value recorded in the previous quarter (Annex, p16).

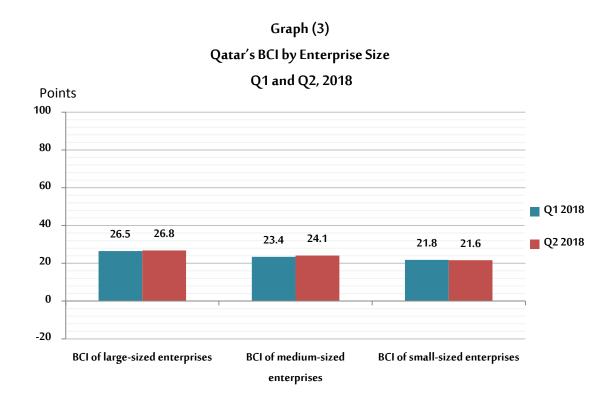
The surveyed business community sample expressed optimism about all sub-indices of enterprises status during Q2, 2018. The production volume recorded the highest level of optimism (35.1) points, followed by profitability ratios (31.1) points, and then prices of finished products of goods/services (23.4) points. See further details in Graph 2.

Graph (2)
Sub-Indices of Qatar-Based Enterprises Status
Q1 and Q2, 2018



BCI by Enterprise Size:

All large, medium and small-sized enterprises expressed their optimism over Qatar's economic conditions in Q2, 2018, recording (26.8), (24.1) and (21.6) points respectively, an increase of (0.3) and (0.7) points for large and medium-sized enterprises respectively, while small-sized enterprises decreased by (-0.2) point, compared to Q1, 2018, as shown in Graph (3).

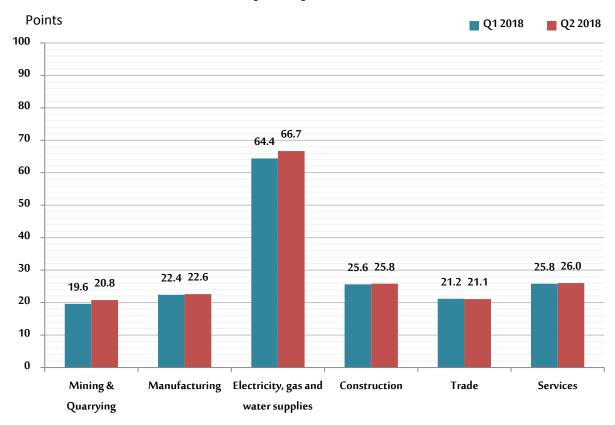


The results of Q2, 2018 reflect a rise in production size and business volume of large-sized enterprises, as the index reached (42.2) and (16.9) points compared to (40.9) and (15.7) points respectively in the previous quarter. The index of labor force size and stock of finished products of medium-sized enterprises also increased to (17.9) and (17.4) points compared to (15.9) and (15.8) points respectively in the previous quarter. The index of profitability ratios of small-sized enterprises increased to (30.8) points compared to (30.7) points in the previous quarter (Annex, p16).

BCI by Economic Activity:

With regards to economic activity of Qatar-based enterprises in Q2, 2018, the results indicate that the enterprises engaged in "electricity, gas and water supplies" were most optimistic (66.7) points about the country's economic conditions in general, and about their own businesses in particular, recording an increase of (2.3) points from the previous quarter. In second place came "services" activity (26.0) points, followed by "construction" (25.8) points, "manufacturing" (22.6) points, "trade" (21.1) points and "mining and quarrying" (20.8) points, an increase of (1.2) points compared to the previous quarter as shown in Graph (4).

Graph (4)
Qatar's BCI by Economic Activity
Q1 and Q2, 2018



Economic Enterprises and Bank Finance:

Survey results reveal that about (89.8%) of enterprises did not receive any bank finance in Q2, 2018, compared to (91.1%) in Q1, 2018. This is due to a variety of reasons topped by the fact that around (80.2%) of enterprises had sufficient internal funds, compared to (80.9%) in Q1, 2018, reflecting the enterprises' financial stability and high financial capacity. The second reason is that bank finance was considered an additional burden that might be exhausting according to (10.7%) of surveyed enterprises, compared to (10.4%) in Q1, 2018. See further details in Table (1) below.

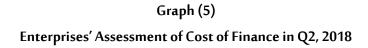
Table (1)

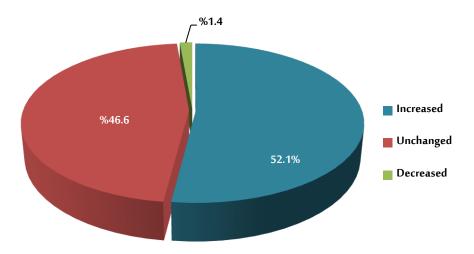
Reasons why enterprises did not avail of bank finance in Q2, 2018*

Reasons	Number of enterprises	Percentage of total enterprises that did not avail of bank finance
Sufficient internal funds	518	80.2%
Bank finance is an additional burden/commitment	69	10.7%
Bank charges/fees are unaffordable	29	4.5%
Enterprise's financial position does not allow to borrow from banks	22	3.4%
Banks do not lend enterprises operating in such sector/industry	17	2.6%
Others	8	1.2%

* You may choose more than one option.

These results, on one hand, reflect the stability of enterprises and their ability to bear financial burdens and cover their commitments without borrowing from banks. On the other hand, about (10.2%) of enterprises received bank finance in Q2, 2018, compared to about (8.9%) in Q1, 2018. When surveyed, (52.1%) of enterprises reported that the cost of finance increased, whereas (46.6%) reported that the cost of finance remained unchanged in Q2, 2018, compared to (27.0%) and (58.7%) respectively in Q1, 2018, as shown in Graph (5).

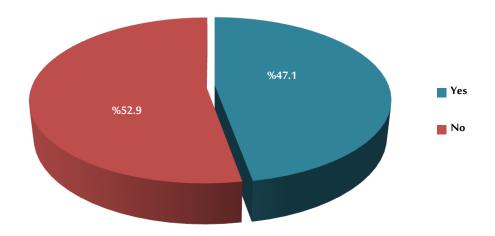




Production Capacity and Enterprise Future Plan:

Results of Q2, 2018 indicate that (47.1%) of enterprises have future plans to expand their production capacity, compared to (49.7%) in the previous quarter, as shown in graph (6).

Graph (6)
Percentage of Enterprises Planning to Expand Their Production Capacity
Q2, 2018



According to survey results, a high percentage of enterprises plan to expand their businesses. Thus, the percentage of enterprises planning to expand their current premises reached (57.5%) of total enterprises with future plan to expand their production capacity, and around (36.0%) plan to open new branches either in Qatar or in GCC countries, whereas (11.8%) plan to invest in business assets, such as factories, warehouses, machinery and vehicles. Furthermore, some other enterprises plan to add a new activity or develop marketing, as shown in Table (2) below.

Table (2)
Enterprises' future plan to expand their production capacity *
Q2, 2018

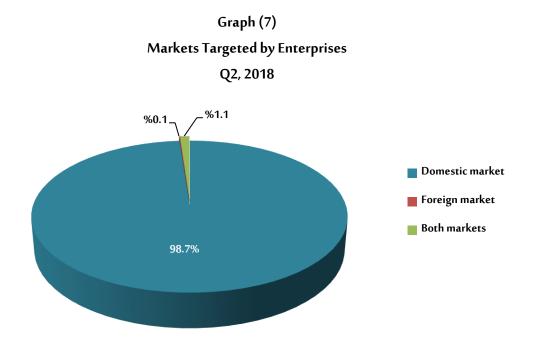
Enterprises' future plan	No. of enterprises	Percentage of total enterprises having a future expansion plan
Expand current premises	195	57.5%
Open new branches in Qatar or GCC countries	122	36.0%
Invest in business assets, such as factories, warehouses, machinery and vehicles	40	11.8%
Others	9	2.7%

^{*} You may choose more than one option.

According to survey results in Q2, 2018, the enterprises that did not have plans to expand their production capacity amounted to (52.9%) of respondents. This is due to inadequacy/instability of market conditions. Others reported that they had previously expanded and were satisfied with their current situation.

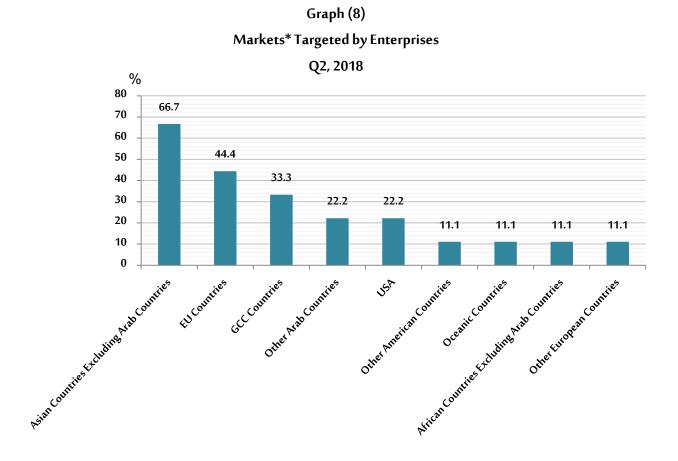
Economic Enterprises and Access to Markets:

As for access to markets, around (98.7%) of enterprises targeted domestic market and (1.1%) targeted both domestic and foreign markets, whereas (0.1%) of enterprises targeted only foreign markets, as shown in Graph (7).



According to survey results, the average percentage of enterprises' exports targeting foreign markets in Q2, 2018 amounted to (35.0%) of total production, compared to (34.6%) in Q1, 2018. We notice an increase despite the unjust blockade imposed on Qatar since the first week of June 2017, indicating that the blockade could not affect Qatar's exports to the world despite the air, land and sea embargo by the blockading countries.

The results indicate that the key foreign markets were: "Asian countries except Arab countries" by (66.7%), followed by EU countries" by (44.4%) and then "GCC countries" by (33.3%). See further details in Graph (8).

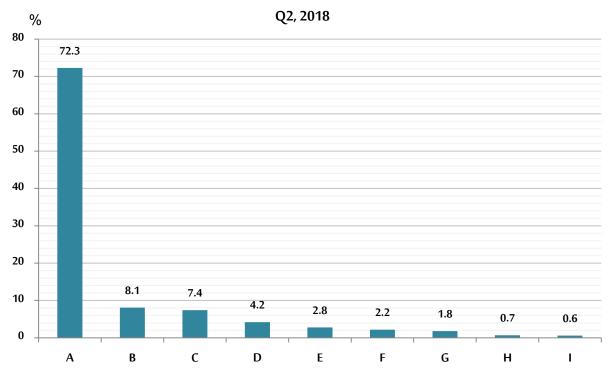


* You may choose more than one market.

Qatari Product Access to Foreign Markets:

The survey results of Q2, 2018 show that (27.7%) of enterprises encountered some obstacles hindering Qatari product access to foreign markets, compared to (34.0%) in Q1, 2018. The main obstacles were the high cost of Qatari products compared to those of other countries due to high cost of raw materials and the increasing demand for Qatari products in domestic market. Others believed that poor advertising and marketing were obstacles hindering Qatari product access to foreign markets, in addition to a number of other obstacles that are explained in Graph (9).

Graph (9)
Obstacles hindering Qatari product access to foreign markets



Α No obstacles В High cost of production Increased demand for products in domestic market and lack of factories C D Small market and poor marketing Less competitive product Ε F Blockade crisis G Weak support for exports Н Poor physical and human potential ı Others

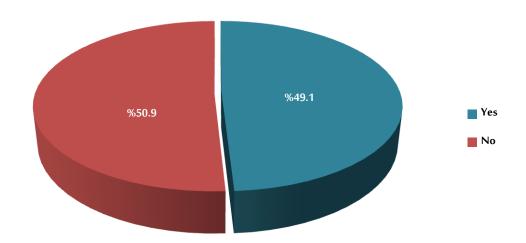
Challenges Hindering Economic Enterprises' Performance in Q2, 2018:

Results indicate that (49.1%) of enterprises faced some challenges hindering their performance, compared to (50.4%) in Q1, 2018, as shown in Graph (10).

Graph (10)

Percentage of Enterprises Facing Challenges Hindering their Performance

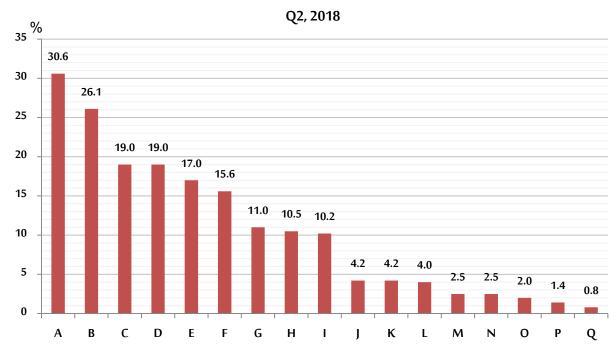
Q2, 2018



Results also show that the main challenges were low demand, high cost of rentals and receivables delay, as well as other challenges that are further detailed in Graph (11) below.

Graph (11)

Main Challenges Hindering Enterprises' Performance *



- * You may choose more than one option.
- A Cost of rental
- B Insufficient demand
- C Receivables delay
- D Competition
- E Cost of obtaining raw materials
- F Financial restraints
- G Shortage of materials and/or equipment
- H Cost of transport, shipping and storage
- I Difficulty to obtain raw materials
- J Shortage of labor force
- K Legislative restrictions and obstacles
- L Customs tariffs
- M Government fees
- N Routine
- O Others
- P Cost of services and utilities
- Q Access to land, property registration and taxes

Annex

First: Overall Index and Sub-Indices of Business Confidence - Q2, 2018

Index	Current Situation Index	Future Situation Index	Overall Index
Overall index	13.1	33.6	23.1
Production size	21.0	50.2	35.1
Stock of finished products	11.3	17.7	14.4
Prices of finished products of goods/services	13.7	33.6	23.4
Business volume/ sales volume/ purchase orders	8.8	21.7	15.1
Labor force size	9.7	28.9	19.1
Profitability ratios	14.1	49.5	31.1

${\bf Second: Overall\ Index\ and\ Sub-Indices\ of\ Business\ Confidence\ by\ Enterprise\ Size}$

1- Small-Sized Enterprises – Q2, 2018

Index	Current Situation Index	Future Situation Index	Overall Index
Overall index	11.8	32.1	21.6
Production size	16.6	48.9	32.2
Stock of finished products	12.3	13.5	12.9
Prices of finished products of goods/services	11.1	31.2	20.9
Business volume/ sales volume/ purchase orders	8.4	21.7	15.0
Labor force size	8.3	28.3	18.0
Profitability ratios	14.0	48.9	30.8

$\hbox{\bf 2-} \quad \textbf{Medium-Sized Enterprises} - \textbf{Q2,2018} \\$

Index	Current Situation Index	Future Situation Index	Overall Index
Overall index	13.7	35.2	24.1
Production size	23.4	53.9	38.1
Stock of finished products	10.7	24.4	17.4
Prices of finished products of goods/services	16.3	35.5	25.7
Business volume/ sales volume/ purchase orders	5.4	22.7	13.8
Labor force size	11.3	24.7	17.9
Profitability ratios	15.1	49.9	31.9

3- Large-Sized Enterprises- Q2, 2018

Index	Current Situation Index	Future Situation Index	Overall Index
Overall index	17.1	37.0	26.8
Production size	33.8	50.9	42.2
Stock of finished products	8.5	23.7	15.9
Prices of finished products of goods/services	20.1	40.1	29.9
Business volume/ sales volume/ purchase orders	13.5	20.3	16.9
Labor force size	13.4	35.8	24.3
Profitability ratios	13.5	51.0	31.5

Third: Overall Index and Sub-Indices of Business Confidence by Enterprise Activity

1- Mining and Quarrying – Q2, 2018

Index	Current Situation Index	Future Situation Index	Overall Index
Overall index	15.5	26.3	20.8
Production size	14.2	28.9	21.4
Stock of finished products	0.0	0.0	0.0
Prices of finished products of goods/services	21.7	35.5	28.5
Business volume/ sales volume/ purchase orders	28.6	35.8	32.2
Labor force size	7.2	21.7	14.3
Profitability ratios	21.4	35.8	28.5

2- Manufacturing – Q2, 2018

Index	Current Situation Index	Future Situation Index	Overall Index
Overall index	12.3	33.4	22.6
Production size	19.7	54.3	36.4
Stock of finished products	4.8	27.5	15.8
Prices of finished products of goods/services	8.2	16.6	12.4
Business volume/ sales volume/ purchase orders	11.4	17.7	14.5
Labor force size	9.3	31.3	20.1
Profitability ratios	20.6	53.2	36.3

3- Electricity, Gas and Water Supply – Q2, 2018

Index	Current Situation Index	Future Situation Index	Overall Index
Overall index	66.7	66.7	66.7
Production size	100.0	100.0	100.0
Stock of finished products	100.0	100.0	100.0
Prices of finished products of goods/services	0.0	0.0	0.0
Business volume/ sales volume/ purchase orders	100.0	100.0	100.0
Labor force size	0.0	0.0	0.0
Profitability ratios	100.0	100.0	100.0

4- Construction - Q2, 2018

Index	Current Situation Index	Future Situation Index	Overall Index
Overall index	13.8	38.6	25.8
Production size	18.9	54.6	36.1
Stock of finished products	7.0	27.2	16.9
Prices of finished products of goods/services	21.1	36.9	28.8
Business volume/ sales volume/ purchase orders	9.5	17.2	13.3
Labor force size	11.8	43.5	27.1
Profitability ratios	14.6	52.1	32.6

5- Trading – Q2, 2018

Index	Current Situation Index	Future Situation Index	Overall Index
Overall index	13.1	29.5	21.1
Production size	22.5	46.2	34.0
Stock of finished products	14.5	11.9	13.2
Prices of finished products of goods/services	15.0	31.3	23.0
Business volume/ sales volume/ purchase orders	7.0	19.8	13.3
Labor force size	7.6	23.1	15.2
Profitability ratios	12.3	44.7	27.9

6- Services – Q2, 2018

Index	Current Situation Index	Future Situation Index	Overall Index
Overall index	12.8	40.1	26.0
Production size	20.9	51.2	35.6
Stock of finished products	-	-	-
Prices of finished products of goods/services	9.4	42.1	25.2
Business volume/ sales volume/ purchase orders	8.9	28.4	18.4
Labor force size	11.5	26.3	18.8
Profitability ratios	13.2	52.7	32.1





Questionnaire Business Confidence Index in the State of Qatar

 * Q1 is the period between January and March.

 * Q2 is the period between April and June.

* Q3 is the period between July and September.

* Q4 is the period between October and December.

*The current quarter: Is the quarter in which the month form is filled .

* The previous quarter: Is the quarter preceding the quarter in which the month form was filled.

*The next quarter: Is the quarter following the quarter in which the month form is filled.

1. E	valuate the situation for the company performanc	e with	in the current qua	arte	er compared v	v ith t h	e previous quarter?	
1	Production Size		Increased		Remained unchanged		Decreased	Not Applied
2	Stock of finished products		Too large (above normal)	□ <i>′</i>	Adequate (normal)		Too small (below normal)	Not Applied
3	Prices of Finished goods Produced / Services prices		Increased		Remained unchanged		Decreased	Not Applied
4	Business Size / Sales Volume / Order Books		More than sufficient (above normal)		Sufficient (normal)		Not sufficient (below normal)	Not Applied
5	Wages		Increased		Remained unchanged		Decreased	Not Applied
6	Employment		Increased		Remained unchanged		Decreased	Not Applied
7	Profits		Increased		Remained unchanged		Decreased	Not Applied
8	Export order books		More than sufficient (above normal)		Sufficient (normal)		Not sufficient (below normal)	Not Applied
2.H	ow do you expect the Company performance with	in the	next quarter com	ıpar	ed with the c	ırrent	quarter?	
2.H 1	ow do you expect the Company performance with	in the	next quarter com	<u>.</u>	red with the co Remained unchanged	ırrent	quarter? Decreased	Not Applied
1		in the	· ·		Remained	urrent		Not Applied Not Applied
1 2	Production Size	in the	Increased [Remained unchanged		Decreased Too small	
1 2	Production Size Stock of finished products	in the	Increased [Too large (above normal)		Remained unchanged Adequate (normal) Remained		Decreased Too small (below normal)	Not Applied
1 2 3 4	Production Size Stock of finished products Prices of Finished goods Produced / Services prices	in the	Too large (above normal) Increased More than sufficient		Remained unchanged Adequate (normal) Remained unchanged Sufficient		Decreased	Not Applied Not Applied
1 2 3 4	Production Size Stock of finished products Prices of Finished goods Produced / Services prices Business Size / Sales Volume / Order Books		Increased Too large (above normal) Increased More than sufficient (above normal)		Remained unchanged Adequate (normal) Remained unchanged Sufficient (normal) Remained		Decreased	Not Applied Not Applied Not Applied
1 2 3 4	Production Size Stock of finished products Prices of Finished goods Produced / Services prices Business Size / Sales Volume / Order Books Wages		Increased Too large (above normal) Increased More than sufficient (above normal) Increased		Remained unchanged Adequate (normal) Remained unchanged Sufficient (normal) Remained unchanged Remained unchanged		Decreased	Not Applied Not Applied Not Applied Not Applied

			ter?			
Yes (go to Q4 t	hen Q6)			No (go to Q	5)	
Evaluate the changes in ba	nk financing costs v	within the curi	rent quarter?			
	Increased		Remained uncha	ınged		Decreased
What are the key reasons f	for not availing banl	k finance? (M	ultiple - choice)			
We have sufficient in	nternal funds.					
Banks don't lend to	companies in our sect	tor / industry.				
We consider bank fi	nance to be an addition	onal burden / c	ommitment.			
Our current financia	al position doesn't allo	ow us to borrow	from banks.			
Bank charges, fees a	nd interest rate were	not affordable.				
Others (Please Men	tion):					
How was the company con	npetitive position in	the domestic	market within the	current qua	rter?	
How was the company con	npetitive position in	the domestic	market within the Remained uncha		rter?	Deteriorated
How was the company con		the domestic			rter?	Deteriorated
	Improved		Remained uncha	inged		
	Improved		Remained uncha	inged		
	Improved		Remained uncha	inged	capacity)	
How was the company con At what capacity is the cor	Improved		Remained uncha	anged	capacity)	
At what capacity is the cor	Improved npany operating with the operating at	thin the curre	Remained uncha	anged	capacity)	

Describe the company expansion plan? (Multiple - choice)	
Expansion of the current office premises	
Investments in other business assets such as (factory, warehouse, machinery and vehicles)	
New branches in Qatar or GCC countries	
Others (please mention):	
)- Why the company doesn't plan to expand its business capacity? (Multiple - choice)	
O- Why the company doesn't plan to expand its business capacity? (Multiple - choice) Unavailability of required funds / capital investment.	
Unavailability of required funds / capital investment.	
Unavailability of required funds / capital investment. Unfavorable or unstable market conditions.	
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C.C.A.S.G	
Other Arab Countries	
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nited States of America	
ther American countries	
Oceanic Countries	
frica other than Arab Countries	
thers (please mention):	
opinion, what are the main export obstacles? (Multiple - choice)	
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opinion, what are the main export obstacles? (Multiple - choice)	quarter?

16-What main challenges were facing the company within the current quarter? (1	Multiple - choice)
Insufficient demand	
Shortage of material and/or equipment	
Financial constrains	
Receivables delay	
Political instability in the region	
Shortage of labour force	
Competition	
Government fees	
Cost of utilities	
Cost of rental	
Government Regulations	
Routine	
Access to land / Property Registration / Taxes	
Tariffs	
Cost of Material	
Optaining Materials	
Transportation cost, Shipping and Storage	
Others (please mention):	

In the future, could we get your response Through E-mail?						
	Yes	□ No				
Email:	Email:					