

## CEO optimism tempered in Q1.

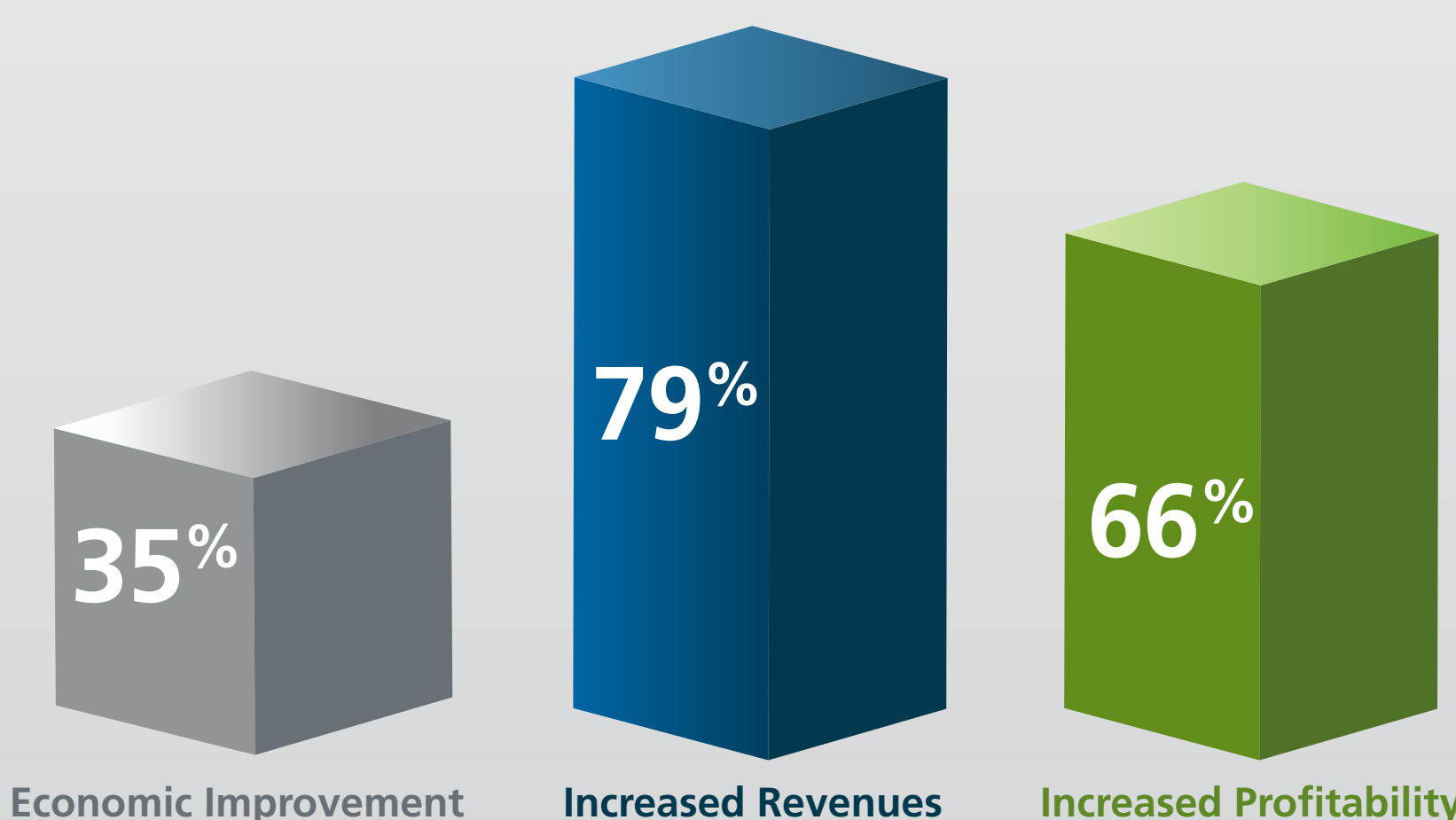
The Q1 2018 Vistage CEO Confidence Index was 105.8, below the Q4 2017 index of 110.3 as well as the Q1 2017 index of 106.9.

### Outlook for business performance remains high despite decreased optimism for economy.

More than 3 out of 5 CEOs indicated the national economy improved recently.



While only 35% of CEOs expected continued improvement in the economy, 79% anticipated increased revenues in the year ahead for their own business and 66% expected increased profits.



### Robust hiring and investment intentions.

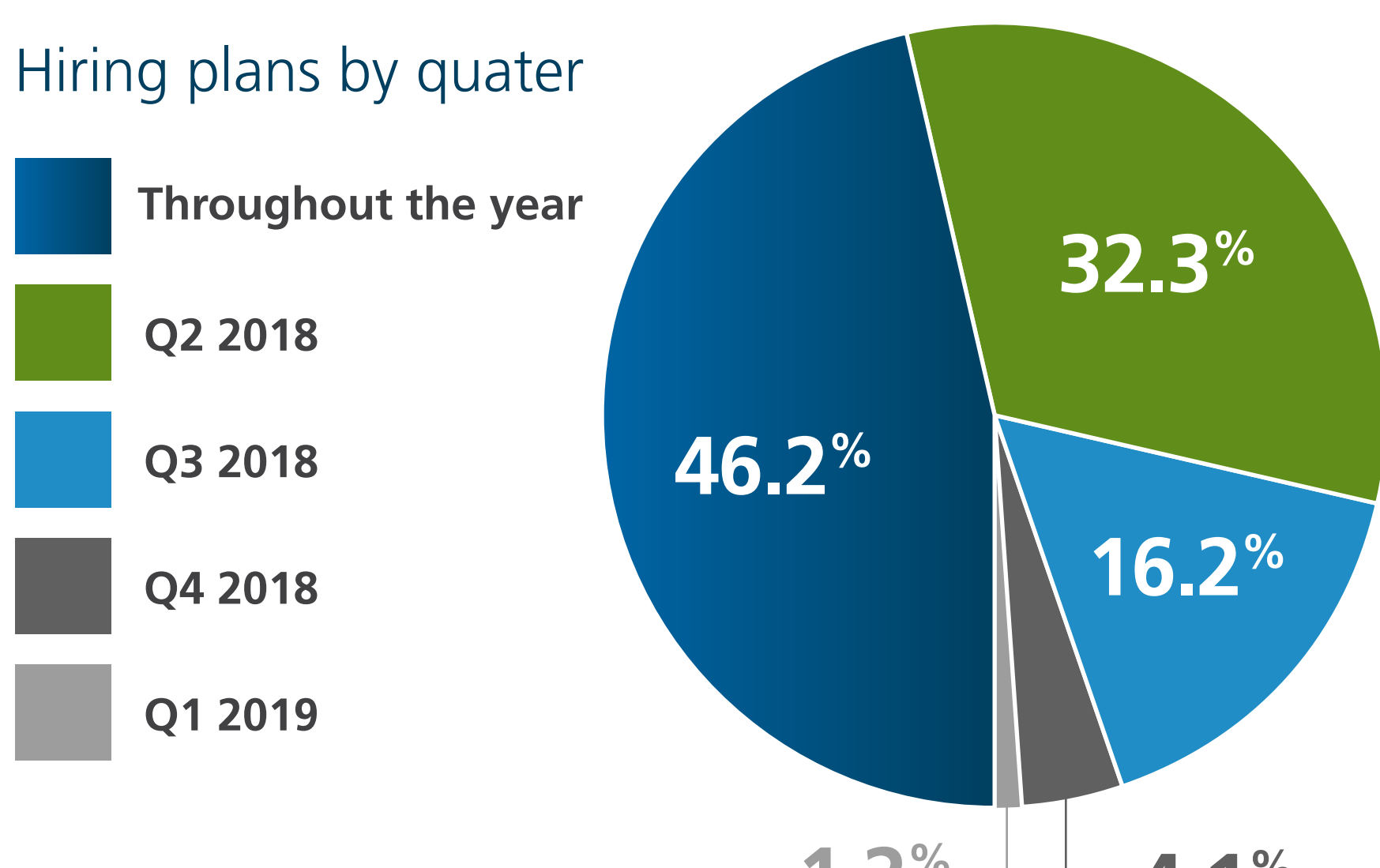
64% of CEOs are planning for workforce expansion, a 7 point decline since Q4 2017.



Developing the existing workforce is the number one thing CEOs are doing in response to challenges hiring:

- Developing existing workforce
- Boosting wages
- Adding employee benefits

While the majority of hiring will take place throughout the year, 32% will take place in the next quarter.



51% of CEOs planned to increase investments.



### These factors may slow growth

While some firms may be impacted by rising costs due to tariffs imposed by trade wars, all firms may face a rising inflation rate and higher interest rates, which could slow the pace of job growth and the growth rate in the overall economy.



– Analysis provided by Dr. Richard Curtin, University of Michigan

Source: Q1 2018 Vistage Business CEO Confidence Index survey, n= 1,712