# CEO optimism slips from recent peaks; confidence remains at favorable levels.

The overall trend in CEO optimism has remained largely unchanged, maintaining favorable levels over the past year. In Q2 2018, the Vistage CEO Confidence Index was 104.1, between the prior quarter's 105.8 and last year's 103.1. The only quarter that was significantly higher in the past year was Q4 2017, which was elevated due the expected passage of the tax reform legislation (with the details of the tax reform largely unspecified).





In Q2 2018 the Vistage CEO Confidence Index was 104.1, between the prior quarter's 105.8 and last year's 103.1.

The minor decline in confidence in Q2 was due to slight falloff from last quarter in investment and hiring intentions as well as projected revenue and profit growth. Importantly, all of these factors were at least as favorable as a year ago.

Of some concern is that CEOs anticipate slowing growth in the national economy during the year ahead. In contrast, many observers now anticipated a stronger pace of economic growth in 2018, with a modest slowdown in 2019. If the 2nd quarter GDP comes in close to the 4% as now expected, CEOs may well change their outlook for the economy. In any event, trends in the Vistage CEO Confidence Index are a bit above the actual pace of GDP growth. Wages, commodities and interest costs will continue to edge upward during the year ahead, putting the emphasis on lowering costs as well as increasing prices.

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

June 4 - June 11 1,467 respondents



# Q2 2018 Vistage CEO Confidence Index Survey Construction

### **Construction Survey Highlights**

**31%** of CEOs expect the economy to improve in the year ahead (vs. **32%** nationally)

**44%** of CEOs expect to increase investments in the year ahead (vs. **48%** nationally)

**72%** of CEOs expect to increase revenue in the year ahead (vs. **78%** nationally)

**64%** of CEOs plan to expand their workforce in the next year (vs. **61%** nationally)

**66%** of CEOs thought the national economy had improved in the past year (vs. **64%** nationally)

**57%** of CEOs expect rising profits in the year ahead (vs. **62%** nationally)

#### **National Economic Outlook by Industry**

% of CEOs who expect the economy to improve in the year ahead (includes industries with at least 25 responses). Response count in parentheses.

#### **National Employment Outlook by Industry**

% of CEOs who plan to expand their workforce in the next year (includes industries with at least 25 responses). Response count in parentheses.

Other Services	49% (41)	Computer Systems Design and Related Services	75% (51)
Transportation & Warehousing	39% (41)	Health Care	74% (43)
Retail Trade	38% (48)	Consulting Services	73% (49)
Consulting Services	37% (49)	Architectural, Engineering, and Related Services	73% (44)
Finance and Insurance	35% (69)	Other Services	68% (41)
Health Care	33% (43)	Other Professional Services	67% (49)
Manufacturing	32% (293)	Other	64% (138)
Construction	31% (217)	Advertising & PR	64% (25)
Wholesale Trade	31% (103)	Construction	64% (215)
Other Professional Services	31% (49)	Finance and Insurance	62% (69)
Other	30% (138)	Transportation & Warehousing	61% (41)
Architectural, Engineering, and Related Services	30% (44)	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	61% (38)
Advertising & PR	27% (26)	Manufacturing	52% (291)
Computer Systems Design and Related Services	25% (51)	Wholesale Trade	50% (101)
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	24% (38)	Retail Trade	45% (47)

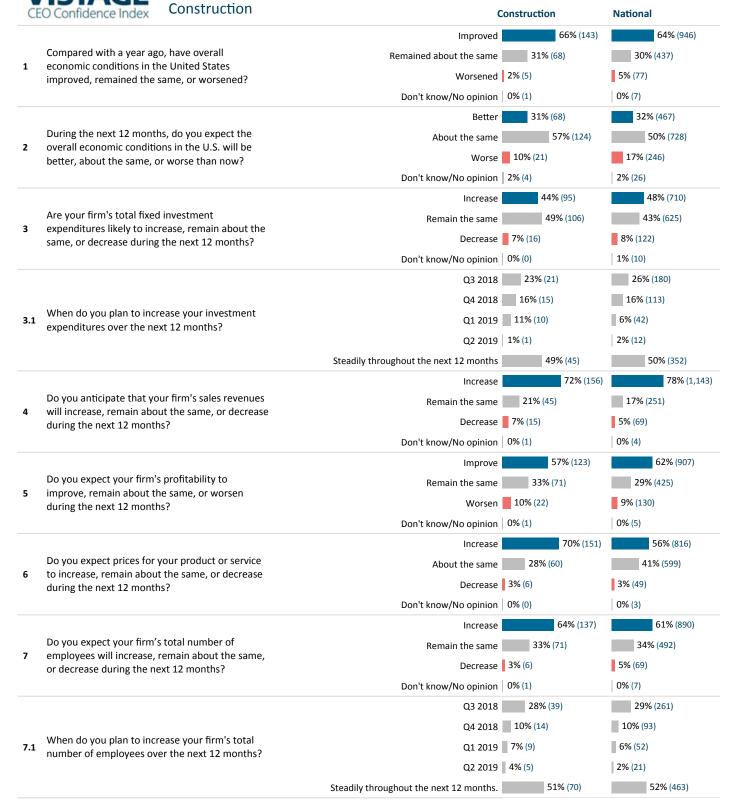
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## VISTAGE CFO Confidence Index

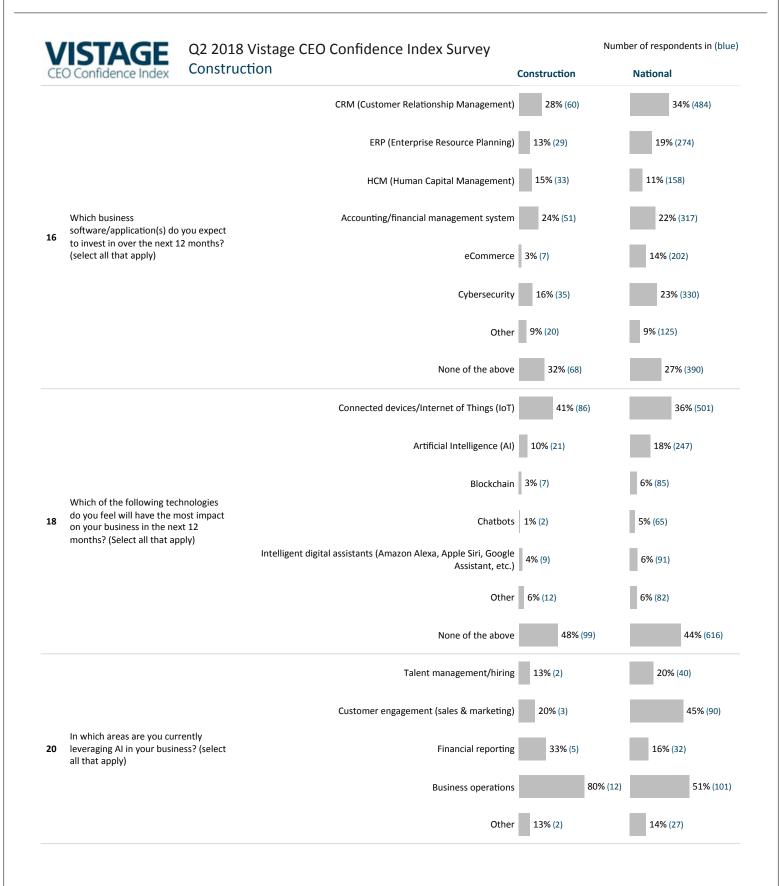
# Q2 2018 Vistage CEO Confidence Index Survey

Number of respondents in (blue)



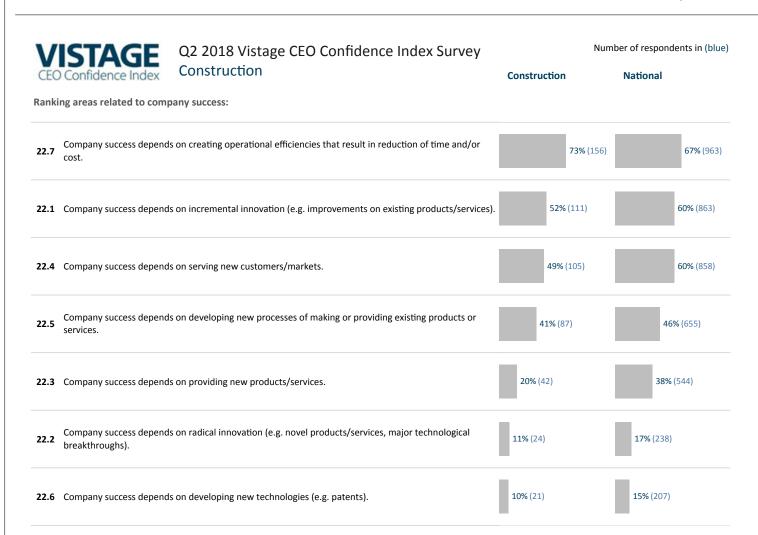
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