

Business Expectations Survey (BES) February* 2025

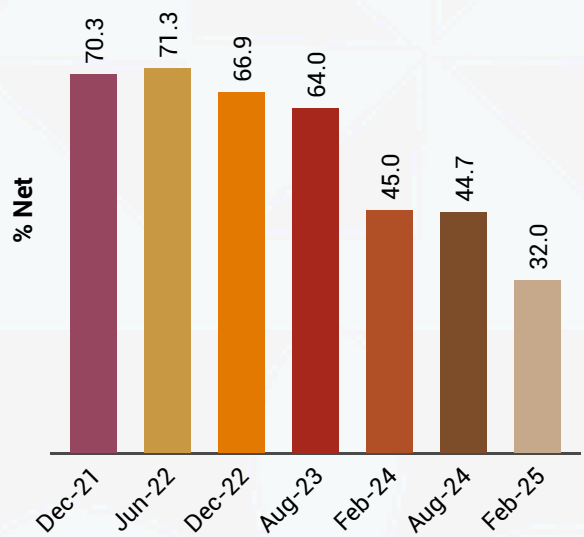
SNAPSHOT for the MEDIUM TERM (next 12 months)



1. General Business Conditions

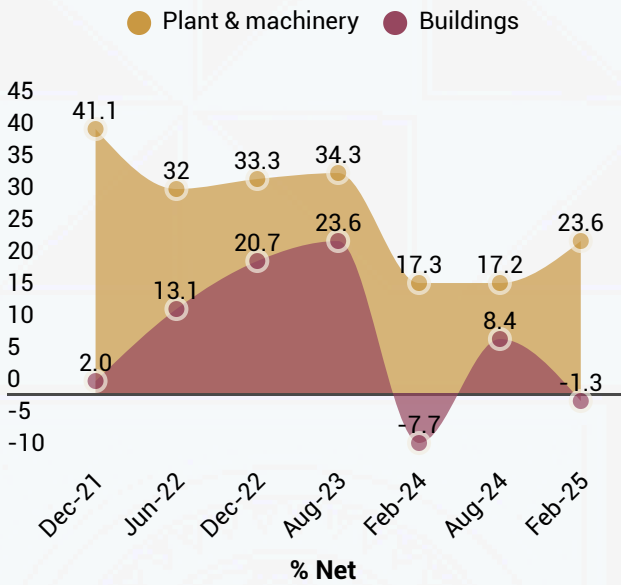
(Next 12 months)

Most businesses anticipate an improvement in general business conditions, however, optimism levels are lower than the previous August 2024 survey.



2. Investment

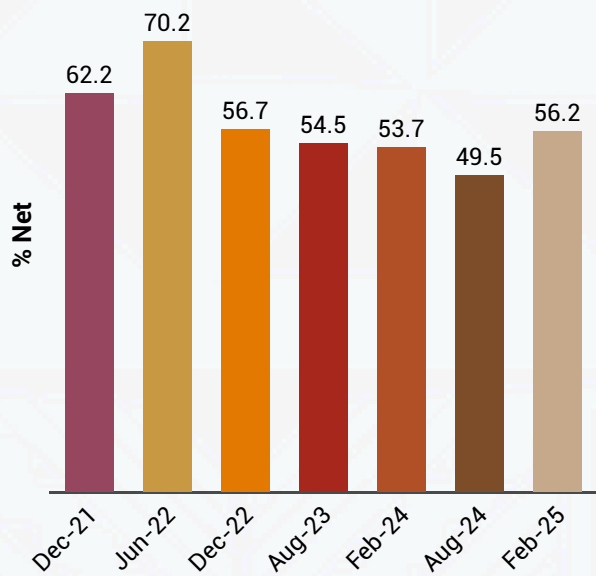
Respondents' intentions to invest in plant & machinery rose but dropped for buildings when compared to the last survey.



3. Production

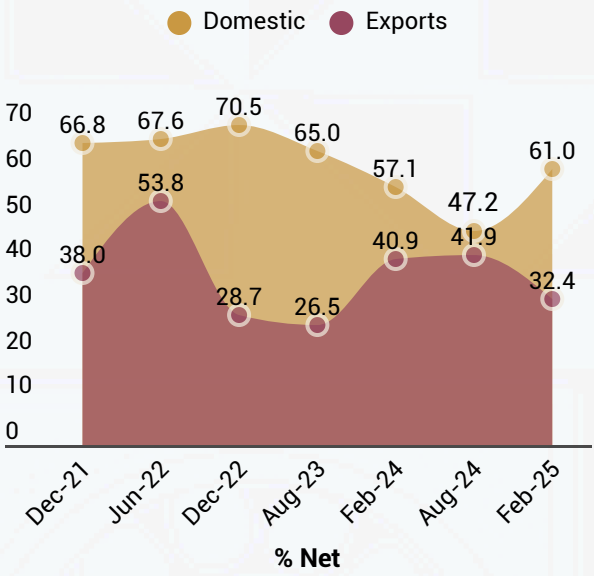
(Next 12 months)

Net positive intentions to raise production, improved from the previous survey results.



4. Sales

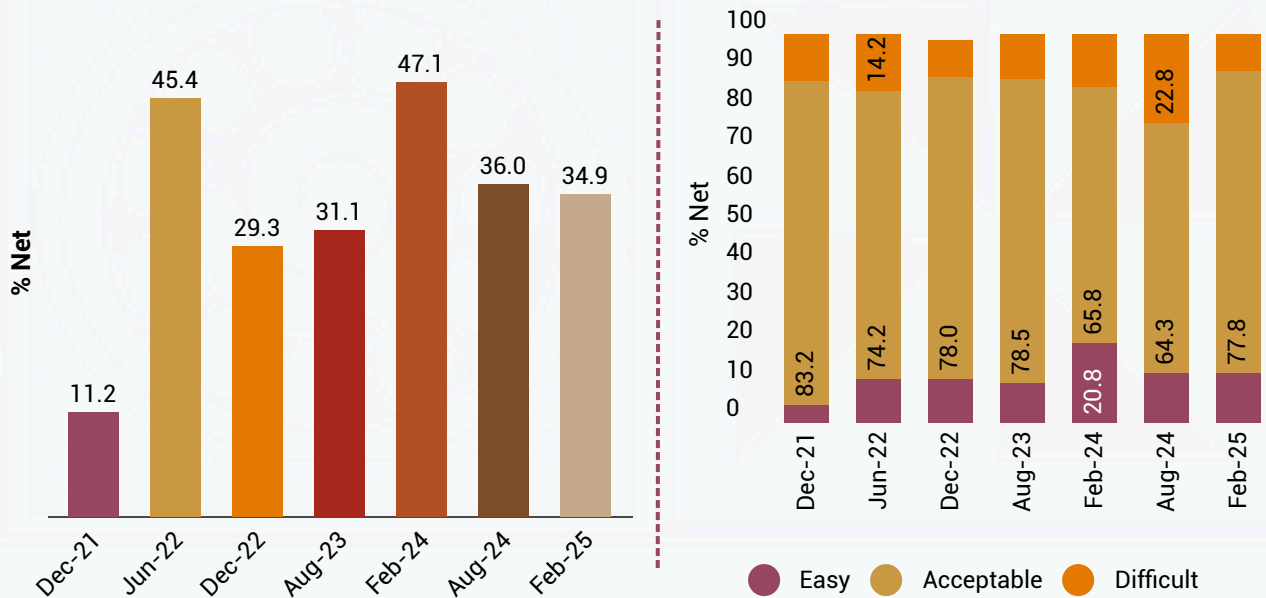
Businesses expect a pickup in domestic sales and a slowdown in export sales.



5. Borrowing and Access to Credit

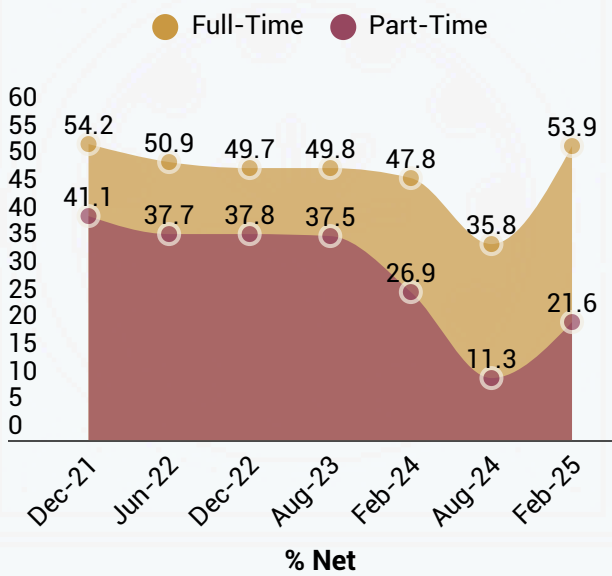
(Next 12 months)

Businesses expect the demand for credit to decelerate (34.9%) slightly, although more respondents (77.8%) view accessing credit as "acceptable" compared to Aug-24 survey



6. Employment Outlook

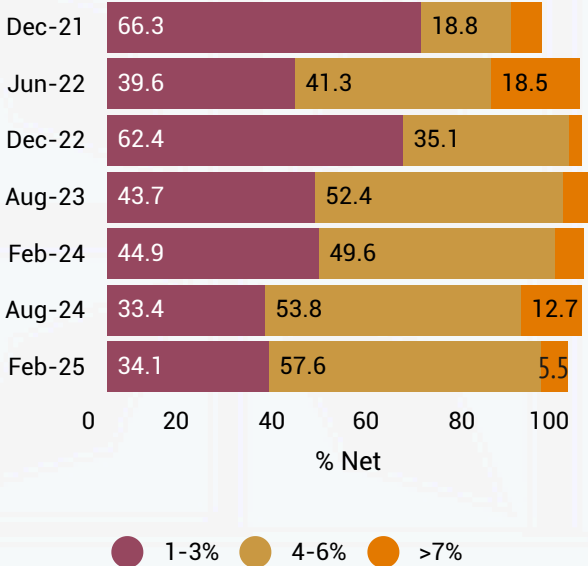
Hiring intentions remain on net positive higher than the previous survey.



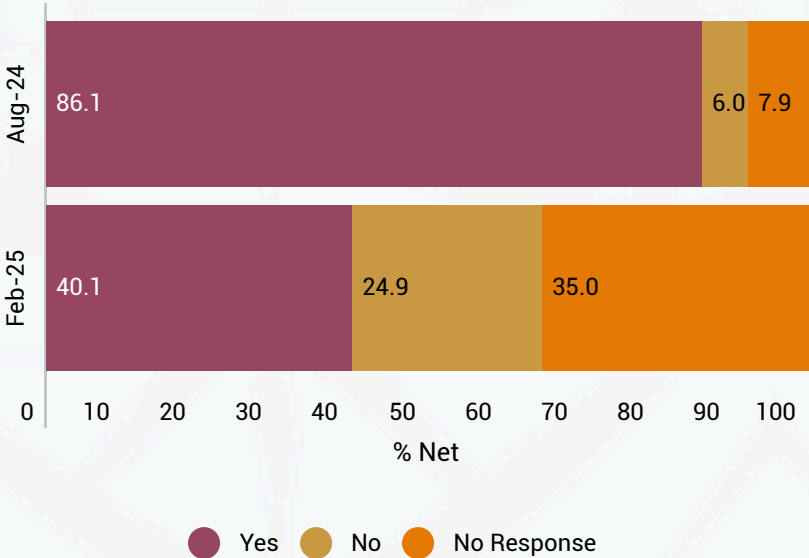
7. Inflation Outlook

(Next 12 months)

Majority of businesses expect inflation to fall within 4% - 6% range.



Businesses affected by Migration



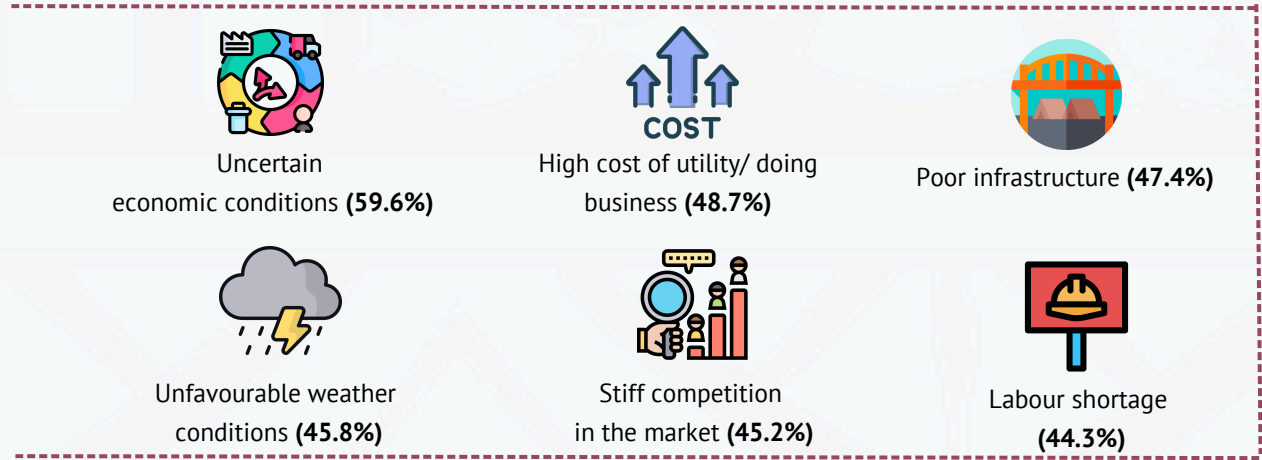
Respondents indicate that migration is still an issue, though a smaller percent compared to the Aug-24 survey.

42.5% of labour loss were semi skilled, and another 43.1% were highly skilled workers.

By years of experience, most were within the 5-10 years and 3-5 years range.

Major Business Constraints

Businesses have highlighted the following top 6 impediments.



* The survey is done bi-annually (Feb & Aug)

** Net % reflects the general direction of change and is calculated by subtracting the % of respondents expecting a decrease from the % expecting an increase.

Survey disclaimer: Survey results are based on the responses of the surveyed sample and do not represent the views of the RBF