

Future Business Index

December 2013 Quarter

AUSTRALIAN MID-MARKET COMPANIES ARE INCREASINGLY OPTIMISTIC WITH CONFIDENCE NOW AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL

SINCE THE INTRODUCTION OF THE FUTURE BUSINESS INDEX IN SEPTEMBER, 2011.

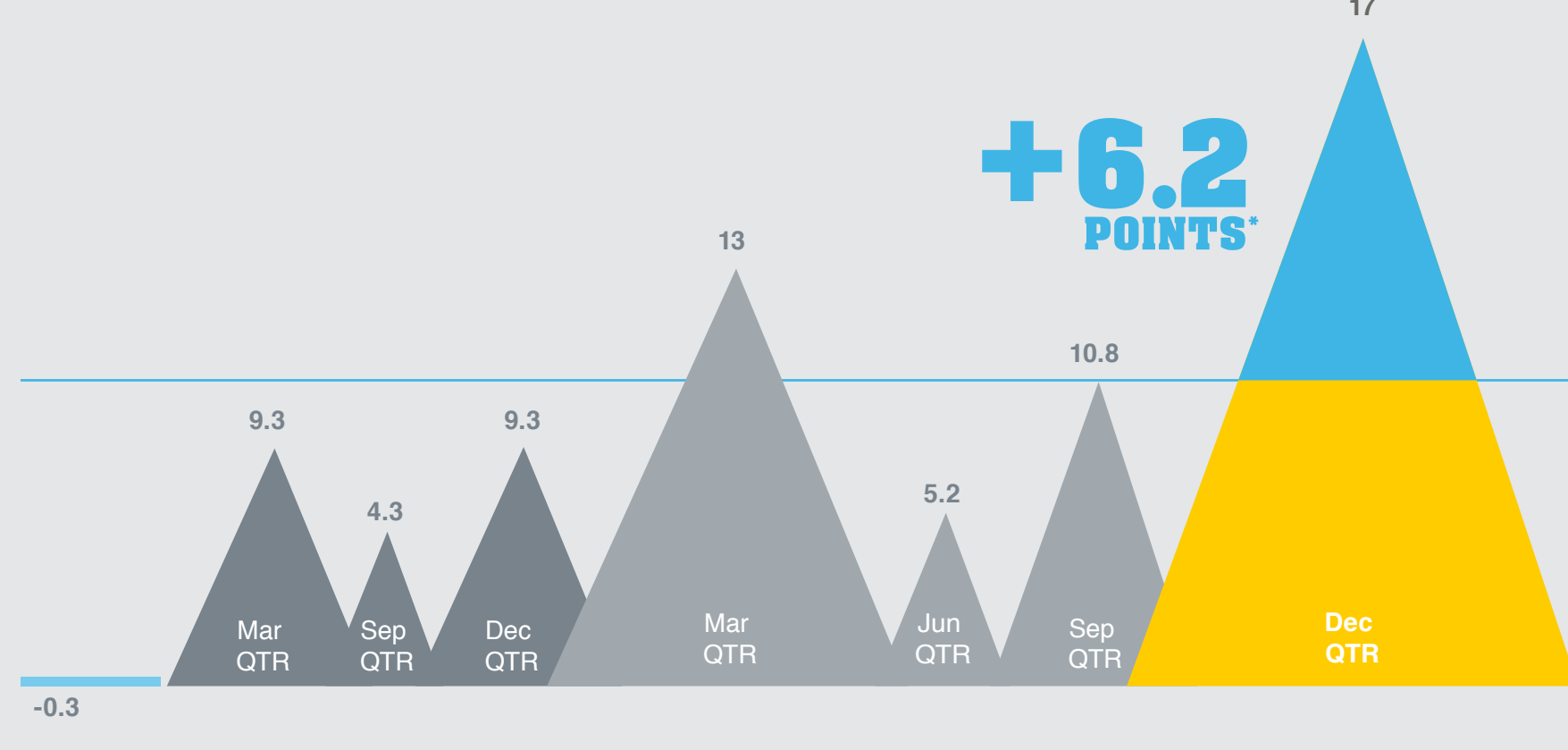


HERE IS WHY:

1

Significant improvements in business confidence.

The Commonwealth Bank Future Business Index is now at 17.0 points*, a significant increase from 10.8 points recorded in September 2013 Quarter.



2

Positive outlook for the next 6 months.

47%

of mid-market companies expect business conditions to improve over the next 6 months.

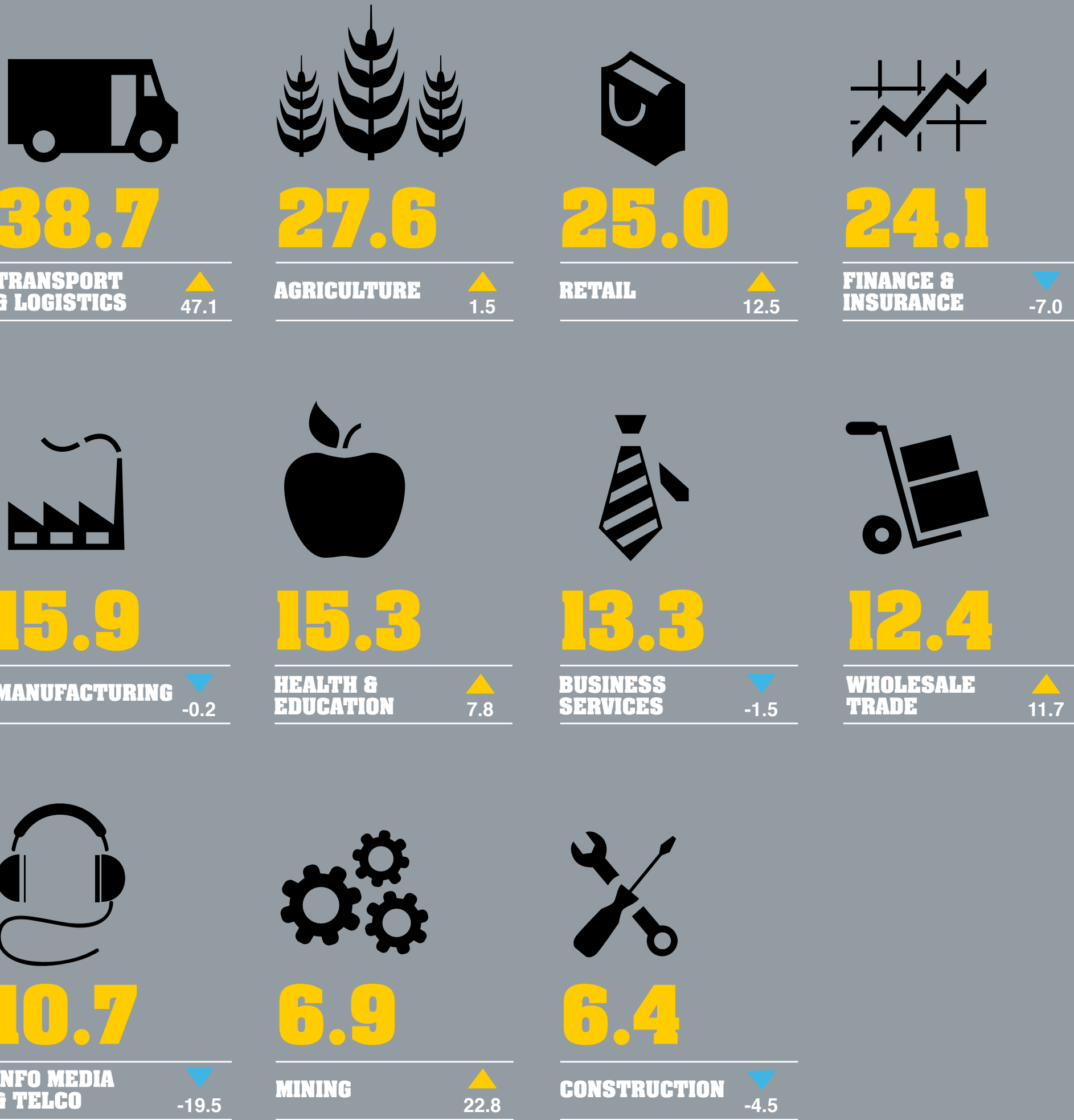
Businesses are exhibiting the highest level of optimism since March 2013.

77%

expect their business to perform better in 2014 than in 2013.

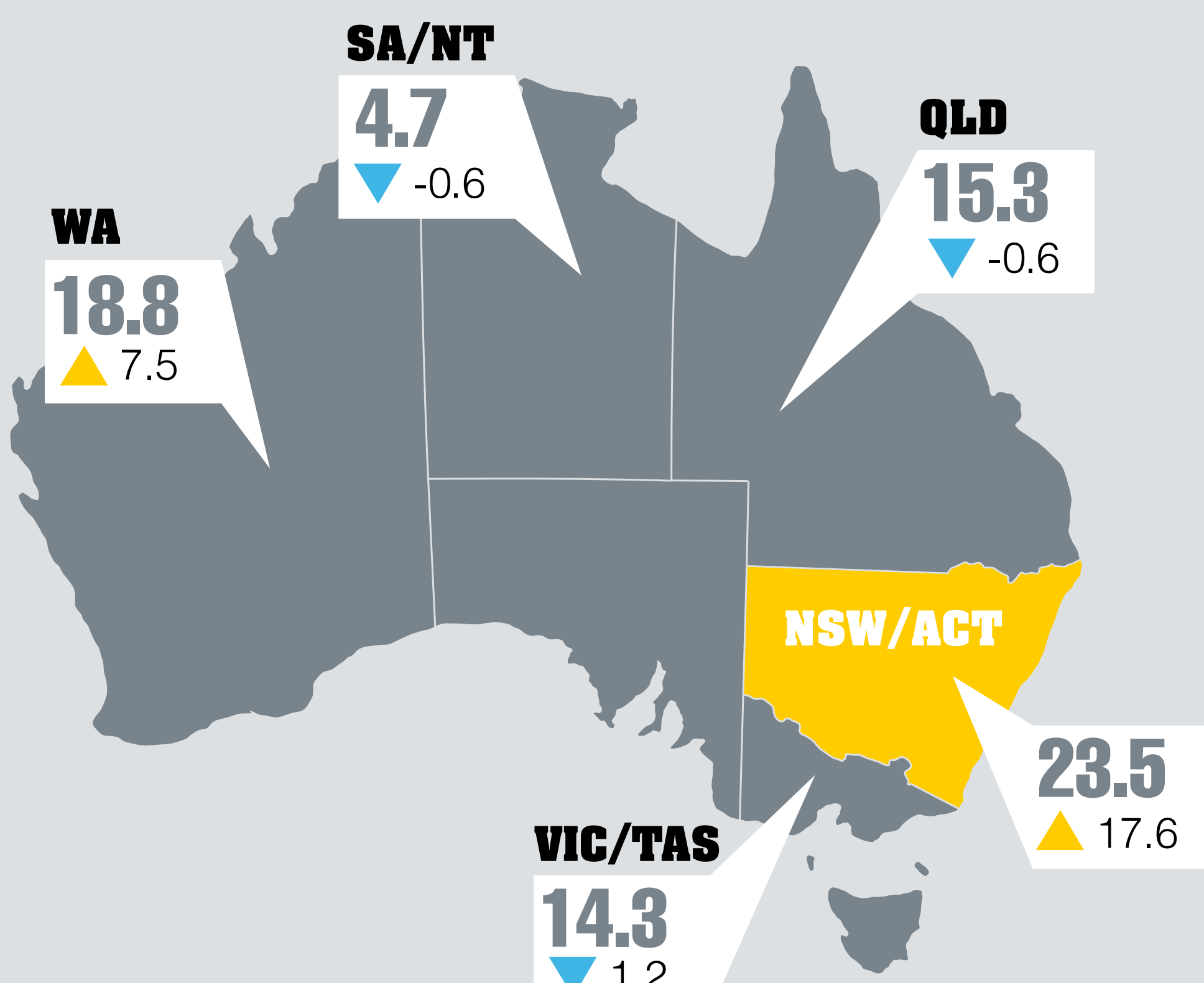
3

Transport and Logistics industry had the largest increase in confidence amongst Industries.



4

NSW/ACT is the most confident state with the largest increase this quarter.



5

Although optimism is high the mid-market feels less prepared.



There is now less confidence regarding:



cost management



business strategy



forecasting



risk management plans

6

Significant challenges facing the mid-market in 2014

Domestic



Weak confidence

13%

International



Economic slowdown in China

10%



Increased international competition

9%

Download the Future Business Index Report for the latest findings at commbank.com.au/futurebusinessindex



Things to know before you Can:

The Commonwealth Bank Future Business Index, conducted by ACA Research is based on a detailed quantitative survey of 422 financial decision-makers in public and private companies throughout Australia with turnover between \$10 million and \$100 million, research for Wave 8 was conducted between 11th November - 6th December, 2013.