

# Future Business Index

March 2014 Quarter

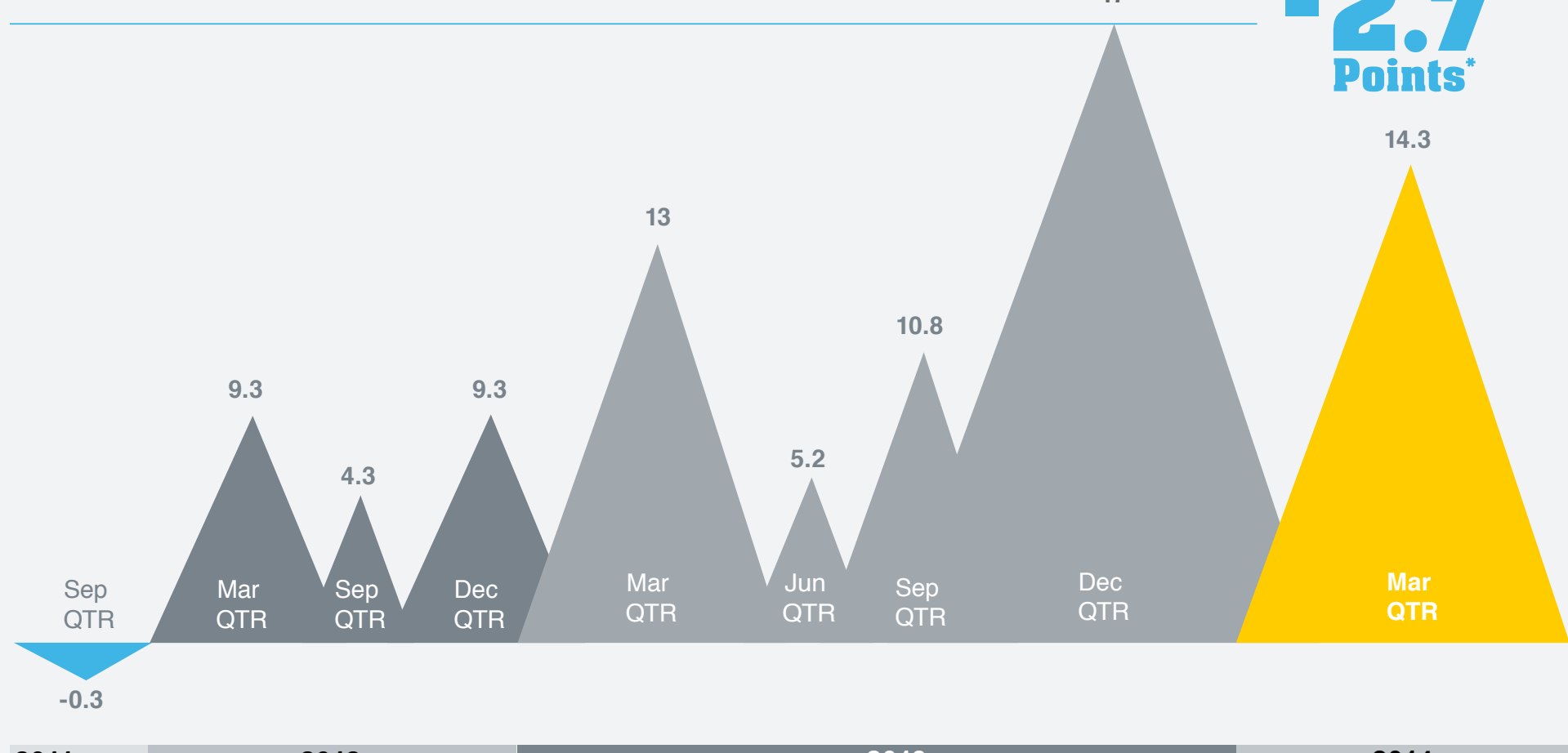
Australian mid-market companies have slightly weaker sentiment compared to the highs experienced in the December 2013 quarter. However, the index is the second highest recorded since the survey began in September 2011.



Here is why:

## 1 Confidence eases slightly but Index remains positive.

The Commonwealth Bank Future Business Index is now at 14.3 points, a slight decrease from 17 points recorded in December 2013 quarter.



\*The Future Business Index is a point gauge of business confidence over the next 6 months.

## 2 The outlook remains reasonably positive.

**28%** of firms expect to increase use of debt facilities for capital investment/expansion

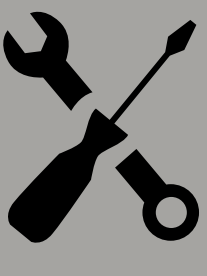
**\$** Funding from domestic and international sources is also on the rise since last quarter

**73%** of firms believe their financial position is strong

**1/2** Almost half of all mid-market firms are looking forward to rising revenues in the months ahead

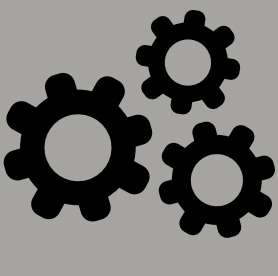
## 3 Confidence has soared in Construction & Property Management and Mining.

But the Transport & Logistics industry has dropped from its December 2013 quarter highs.



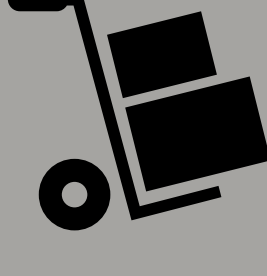
**31.5**

Construction & Property **▲ 25.1**



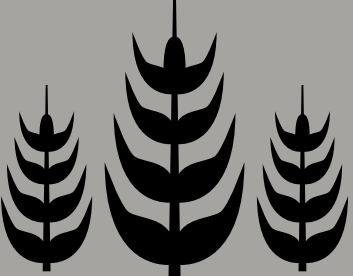
**28.0**

Mining **▲ 21.1**



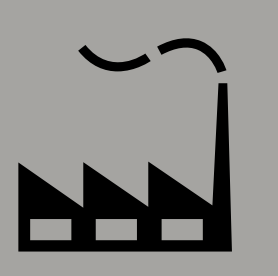
**19.8**

Wholesale Trade **▲ 7.4**



**17.2**

Agriculture **▼ -10.4**



**15.2**

Manufacturing **▼ -0.7**



**8.5**

Retail **▼ -16.5**



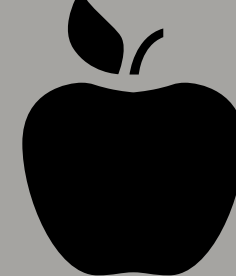
**7.8**

Business Services **▼ -5.5**



**5.6**

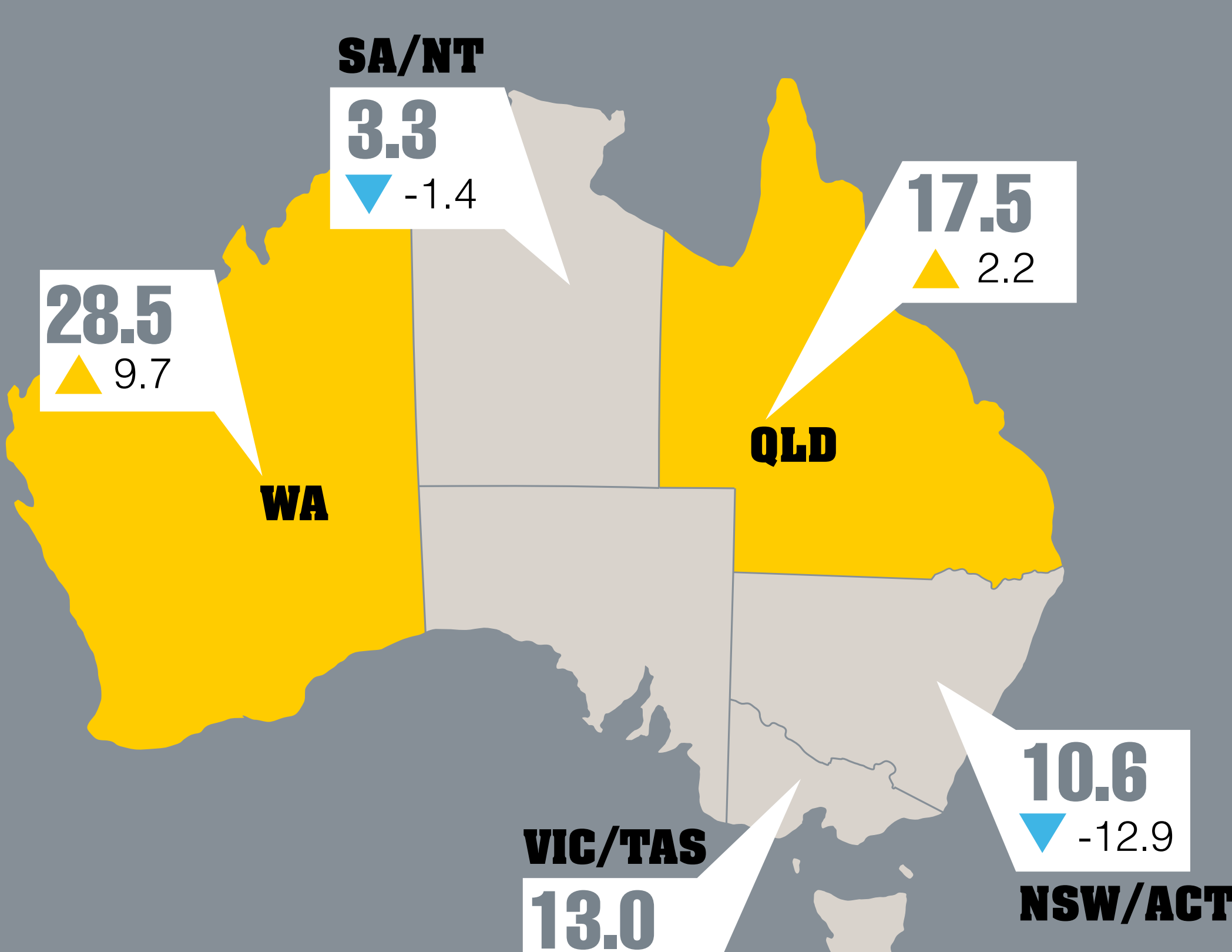
Transport & Logistics **▼ -33.1**



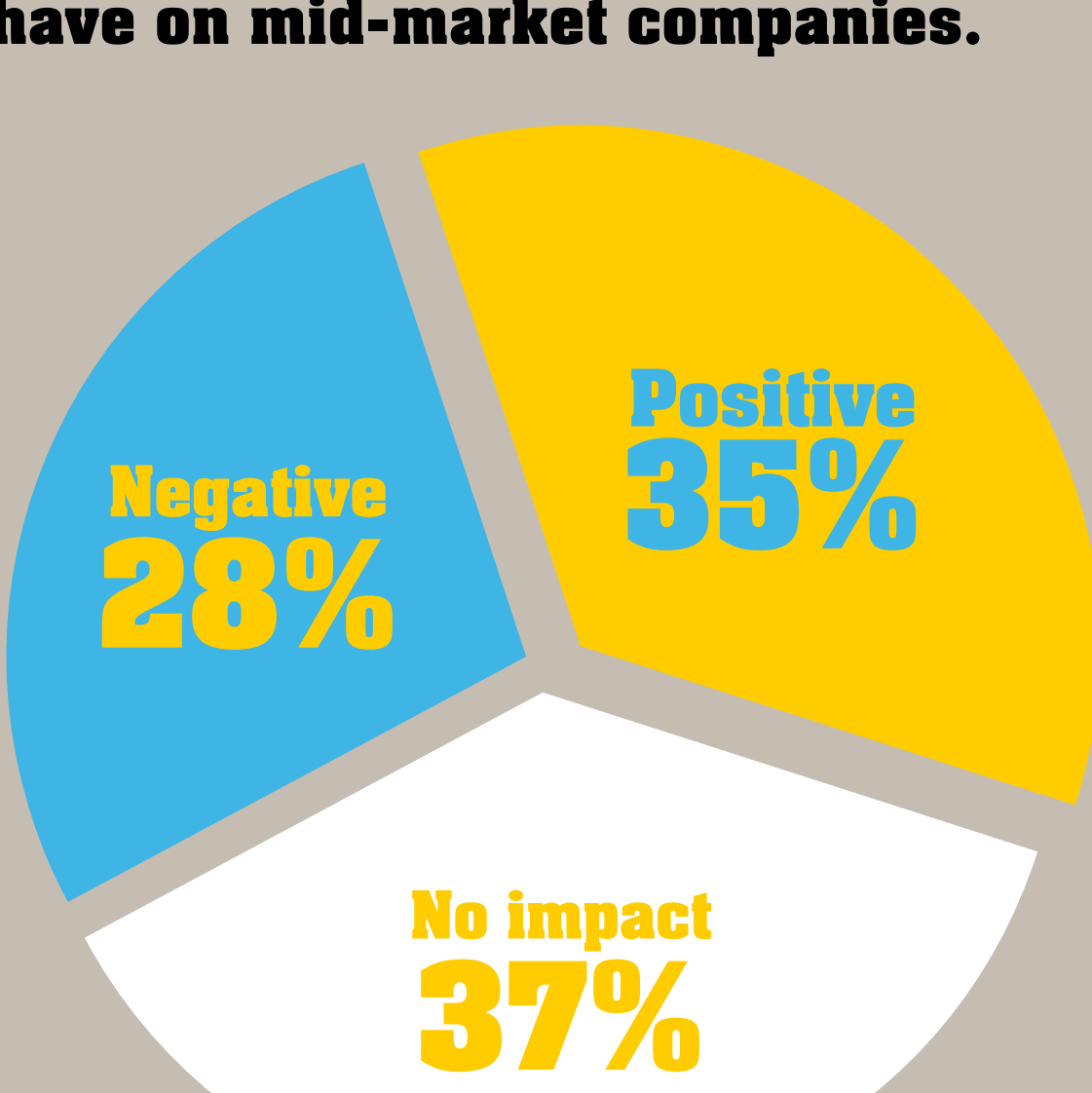
**1.2**

Government, Health & Education **▼ -14.1**

## 4 WA and Queensland are the most optimistic states while confidence in NSW & ACT has dropped.



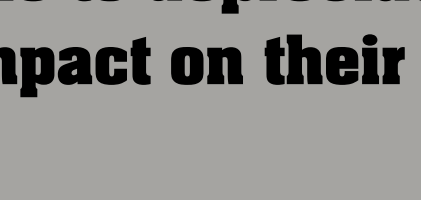
## 5 Opinions vary on impact the Federal Budget will have on mid-market companies.



## 6 The majority of mid-market companies believe the Australian dollar will continue to depreciate but only 36% agree this will have a positive impact on their business.



Appreciate **14%**



No change **29%**



Depreciate **57%**

Download the Future Business Index Report for the latest findings at [commbank.com.au/futurebusinessindex](http://commbank.com.au/futurebusinessindex)



**Things to know before you Can:**  
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