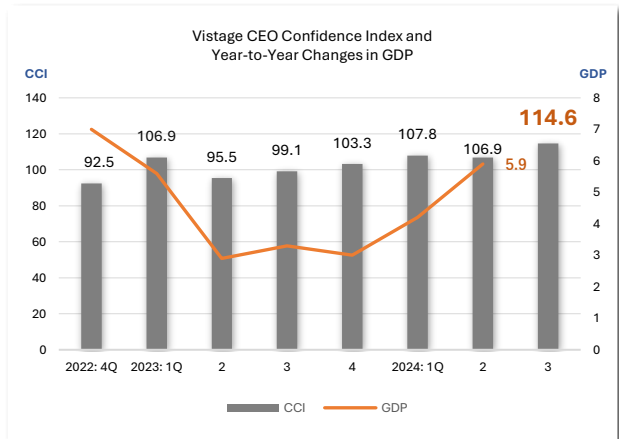


## POSITIVE TRENDS IN CEO CONFIDENCE INDEX

The Vistage-MIER CEO Confidence Index (CCI) has risen since 2Q2023, with figures increasing by each quarter until the current 3Q2024 stands at 114.6. This reflects a relatively optimistic outlook among Malaysian CEOs about the nation's economic prospects. Other than that, this marks an increase of 7.7 points compared to the 2Q2024 and a notable increment of 15.5 points compared to the 3Q2023. This index measures CEO sentiment on various key economic indicators, including business conditions, revenue projections, and investment expectations. Concurrently, Malaysia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth for 2Q2024 is at 5.9%, signaling robust economic expansion.



	4Q 2022	1Q 2023	2Q 2023	3Q 2023	4Q 2023	1Q 2024	2Q 2024	3Q 2024
VISTAGE-MIER CEO CONFIDENCE INDEX	92.5	106.9	95.5	99.1	103.3	107.8	106.9	114.6
Current Economic Conditions	97	117	90	87	89	104	103	122
Expected Economic Conditions	77	125	102	114	117	124	125	147
Expected Change in Employment	142	148	139	142	145	146	145	149
Planned Fixed Investment	124	137	128	131	135	143	144	146
Expected Revenue Growth	138	151	141	144	154	158	155	158
Expected Profit Growth	121	130	122	131	141	140	136	144

Note: All component questions are scored as the percent giving favorable replies minus the percent for unfavorable plus 100. The VISTAGE-MIER CEO Confidence Index is the sum of the components calculated as a percentage of the level recorded in 2nd quarter 2003 survey.

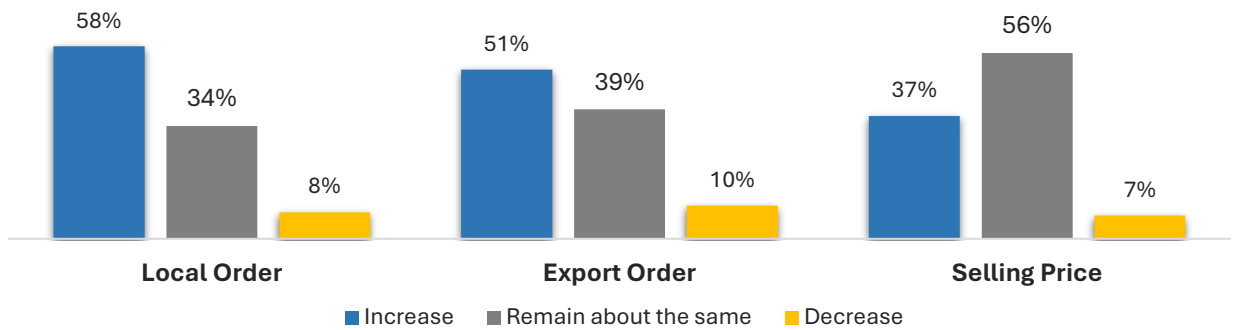
## VISTAGE CEO CONFIDENCE INDEX HIGHLIGHT

In 3Q2024, the current economic conditions index rose to 122, a 19-point increase from 2Q2024, indicating improved market activity and stronger-than-expected consumption. This shows a 35-point rise since 3Q2023, highlighting sustained economic momentum. The Expected Economic Conditions index also reflects optimism, starting at 125 in 2Q2024 and surging by 22 points to 147 in 3Q2024, signaling expectations for robust growth and improved market dynamics. The 33-point rise since 3Q2023 underscores the growing economic confidence.

The expected change in employment for 3Q2024 shows a steady upward trend which is increasing from 145 to 149, reflecting confidence in labor market stabilization and indicating modest workforce expansion. This represents a 7-point increase since 3Q2023, highlighting strengthening employment momentum. The index for plan fixed investment saw a slight rise of 2 points from 144 in 2Q2024. More than 50% of the CEOs are planning to increase their investment soon.

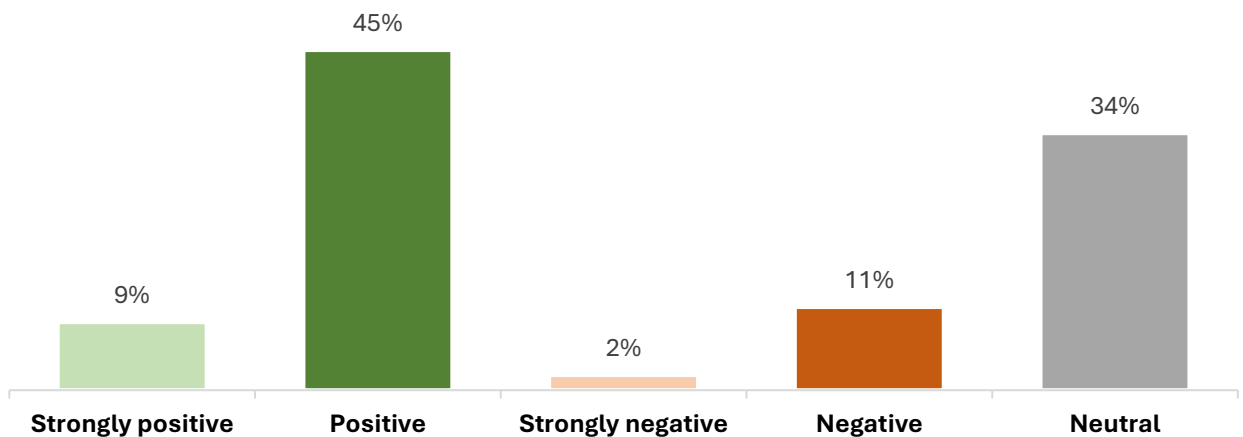
Expected revenue growth indicates a positive trajectory (3Q2024 at 158), reflecting a 3-point increase from 2Q2024 at 155. This steady increment suggests that 67% of CEOs are projecting an increase in revenues over the next quarter. Simultaneously, expected profit growth shows an 8-point increase in 3Q2024 compared to the previous quarter. There is also an increase to 144 (3Q2024) compared to 131(3Q2023), reflecting a 13-point increment between 3Q2023 and 3Q2024, further highlighting the positive trend in profit growth over the past year questions.

### Local Order, Export Order & Prices



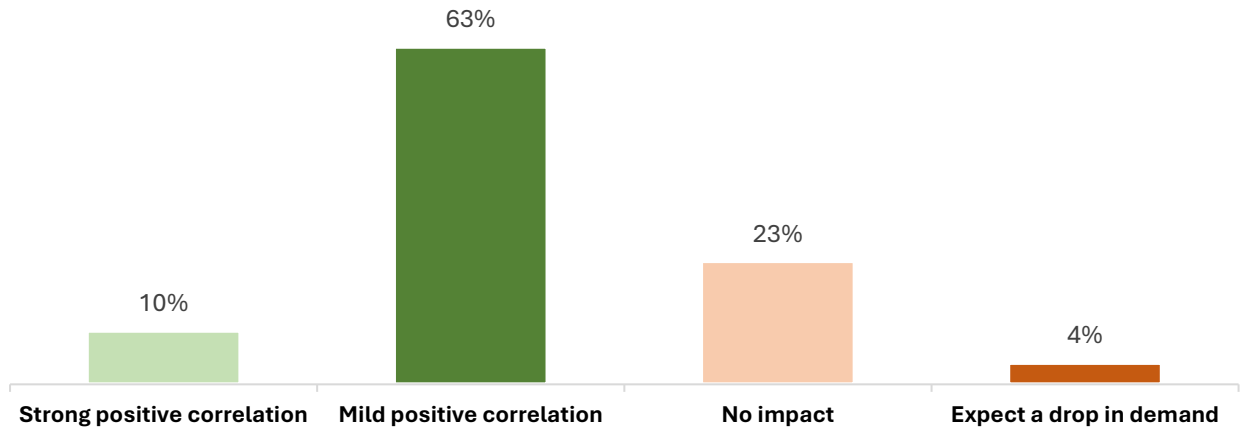
CEOs exhibit a high degree of optimism and confidence regarding both the domestic and export markets, with over 85% anticipating a positive trajectory for both local and export orders. The majority of CEOs, 56% anticipate that selling prices will remain stable. Additionally, 37% of CEOs foresee an increase in selling prices. However, a minority of the respondents, approximately 7%, expressed concerns about a potential decrease in selling prices.

### NAVIGATING THE APPRECIATION OF THE RINGGIT



The majority of respondents, around 54% reported a positive or strongly positive impact from the Ringgit's appreciation. This indicates that many businesses or individuals may have benefitted from the stronger Ringgit, potentially through lower import costs, improved purchasing power, or favorable conditions for foreign investments. Meanwhile, 34% of respondents indicated a neutral stance, suggesting that for a significant portion and strengthening of the Ringgit has not materially affected their operations or personal circumstances. On the other hand, only 13% of respondents reported a negative or strongly negative impact.

## BUSINESS PERCEPTIONS ON THE GDP GROWTH

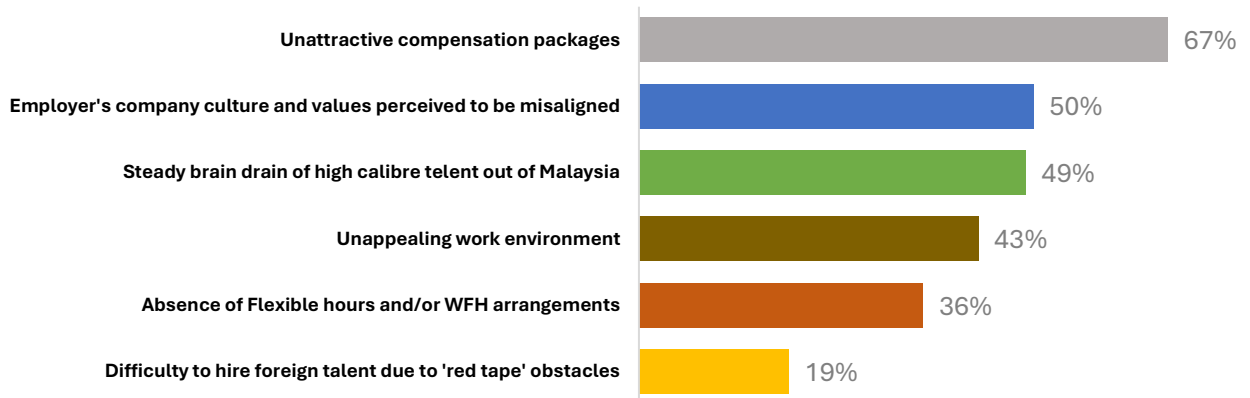


A GDP growth rate of 5.9% for the 2nd quarter was recorded. Almost 63% of respondents perceive a mild positive correlation between GDP growth and increased domestic demand. In contrast, 23% of respondents anticipate no impact on demand. A notable 10% of respondents expect a strong positive correlation, suggesting substantial gains in consumer spending, while 4% of respondents predict a potential decline in demand despite the favorable GDP growth rate. Increased consumer spending, bolstered by rising incomes and low unemployment rates has significantly boosted economic activity.

## Strategic Priorities on Wish List for Budget 2025

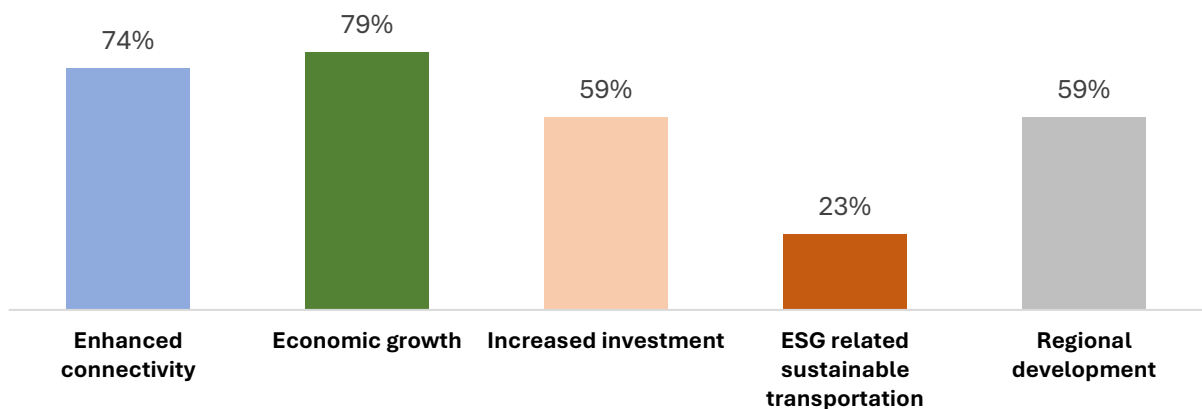
For Budget 2025, our respondents have highlighted the key fiscal priorities, with the top three wishes centering on taxation adjustments. Leading the list, respondents expressed a strong desire to reduce taxes and emphasize the need for lower financial burdens. Following closely, we recorded that our respondents are advocating for tax relief measures and seeking more favorable conditions for taxpayers facing specific economic pressures. Lastly, respondents call for tax incentives aimed at promoting investments and economic growth through targeted fiscal benefits. These insights reflect a clear focus on easing tax-related pressures in the upcoming budget. Many CEOs advocate for tax reduction as a strategy to enhance their company's financial health and competitiveness. Lower taxes can lead to increased profitability, allowing businesses to reinvest savings into growth initiatives, research and development, and workforce expansion. Additionally, reduced tax burdens can improve cash flow, providing greater flexibility for strategic investments and operational improvements. By advocating for tax reductions, CEOs aim to optimize their company's economic efficiency and long-term sustainability, ultimately benefiting shareholders and driving overall corporate success.

## ADDRESSING TALENT ACQUISITION AND RETENTION CHALLENGES



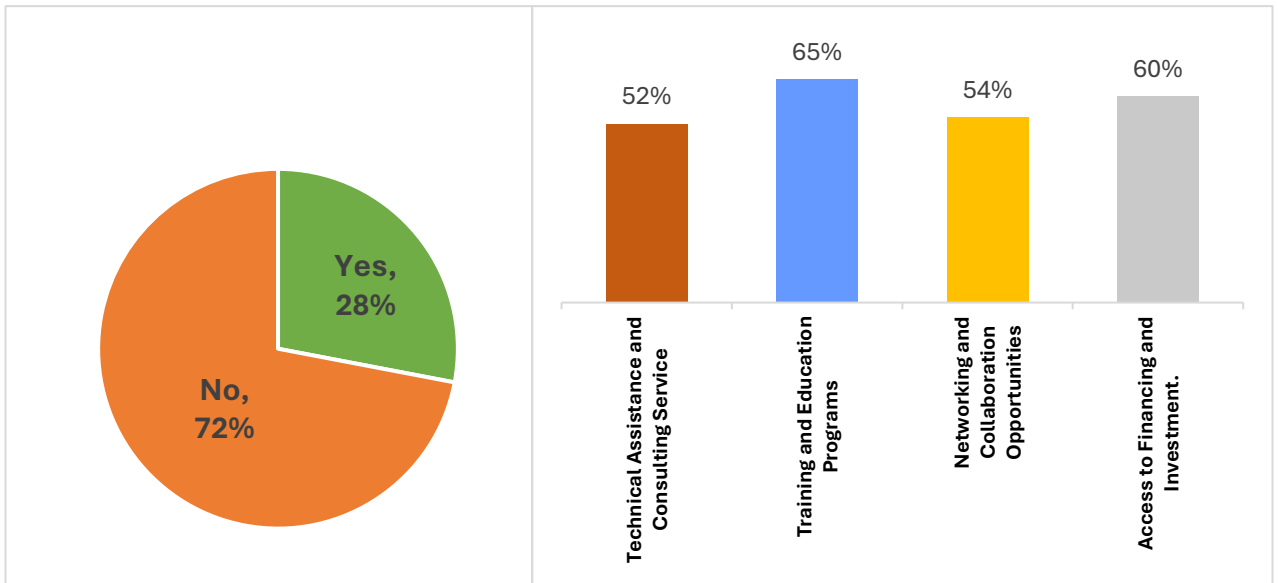
The primary issues identified include unattractive compensation packages, representing 67% of CEO's responses, followed by the perception of misaligned company culture and values, cited by 50% of respondents. The steady brain drain of high-caliber talent from Malaysia was noted by 49% of respondents, while 43% reported an unappealing work environment. Additionally, the lack of flexible hours and/or work-from-home arrangements was a concern for 36% of respondents. Finally, difficulties in hiring foreign talent due to bureaucratic obstacles were identified by 19% of those surveyed. These factors, along with education and skill gaps, make it difficult for companies to attract and retain top candidates in a competitive job market, leading to high turnover and struggles in maintaining a stable, skilled workforce.

## HIGH-SPEED RAIL REVIVAL: STAKEHOLDER BENEFITS AND EXPECTATIONS



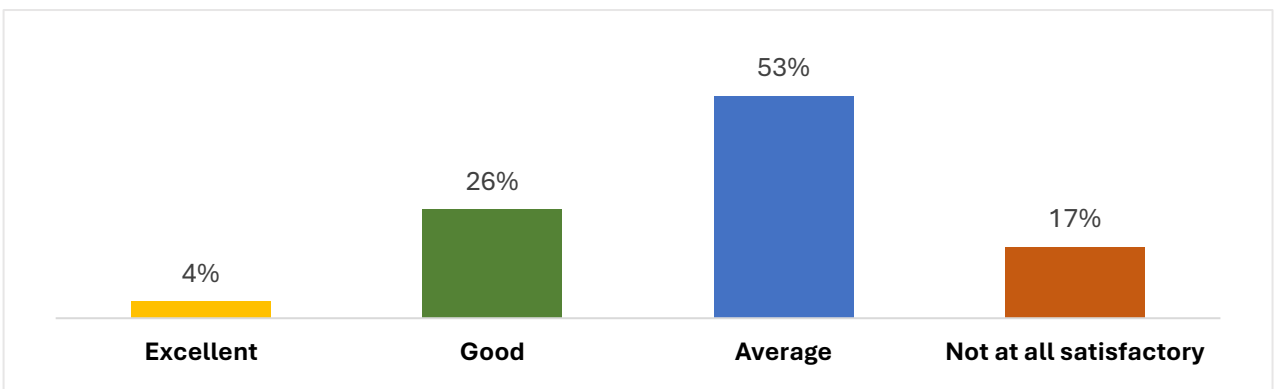
According to the 2Q2024 Index survey, 83% of respondents strongly support reviving the Kuala Lumpur-Singapore High Speed Rail (HSR) Project. Stakeholders anticipate significant benefits, with 79% citing substantial economic growth, 74% emphasizing enhanced connectivity, and 59% supporting increased investment and regional development. Additionally, 23% value the project for its ESG-related sustainable transportation benefits. Correspondingly, reviving the high-speed rail project is expected to expand the talent pool by easing cross-border commuting between Singapore and Kuala Lumpur. It will offer employees the flexibility to work in either city and is likely to shift travel from cars to trains, reducing carbon emissions, alleviating traffic congestion, and enhancing environmental sustainability and air quality in both cities.

## SUPPORT REQUIRED TO ADOPT DIGITALIZATION INITIATIVES



According to the survey, 72% of respondents have not applied for grants/incentives that are being offered by the Digital Ministry. Meanwhile, only 28% of respondents have done so. In addition to grants and tax incentives, the Digital Ministry is anticipated to provide several other forms of support, as highlighted by the survey respondents. The most sought-after form of assistance is access to financing and investment, with 60% of the respondents indicating its importance. Following closely, 65% of the respondents expressed a need for training and education programs to enhance their skills and knowledge. Networking and collaboration opportunities are also highly valued, with 54% of the respondents highlighting their significance. On the other hand, technical assistance and consulting services are requested by 52% of the respondents, demonstrating a strong desire for expert guidance.

## EVALUATING THE PERFORMANCE AND DELIVERABILITY OF DIGITAL NASIONAL BERHAD'S 5G NETWORK



The majority of feedback, representing 53% of the respondents, indicates an average level of satisfaction regarding download speed, territorial coverage, cybersecurity protection, efficacy, and cost management. A significant portion, around 26% considers the network's performance good, while 17% express dissatisfaction with its achievements. Only 4% of the respondents rate the network's performance as excellent. This distribution suggests a generally moderate reception, with many users finding the service lacking in certain areas of DNB's 5G network performance evaluation.



## ABOUT VISTAGE MALAYSIA AND MIER

Vistage Malaysia is a fully owned subsidiary of Vistage International, USA, the world's most trusted resource for CEOs, business owners, and key executives of small and medium-sized businesses to help them become better leaders, make better decisions, and deliver better results, providing unparalleled access to issue resolution and better performance through monthly peer advisory group meetings, one-on-one business coaching, expert speaker presentations, and extensive online connectivity spread over across 37 countries with more than 45,000 members worldwide.

Vistage Malaysia has more than 1,400 members with a combined annual revenue of RM90 billion and employing over 130,000 employees. Vistage member companies grow, on average, 2.2 times faster than they did prior to joining Vistage. In 4Q2005, Vistage Malaysia entered into a strategic alliance with the Malaysian Institute of Economic Research (MIER) to co-brand the CEO Confidence Index. MIER is an independent, private, non-profit organization, devoted to economic, financial, and business research that would serve as a think-tank for the government and private sector by providing an objective and impartial understanding of socioeconomic issues of national, regional and global importance.