



Canberra
Business Chamber

Can we make Canberra the greatest place in Australia to do business?



Image: Visit Canberra

Supported by:



35,000 businesses
in the ACT employ
173,000 people -
that's around two-thirds of
all workers in Canberra.!

Private businesses,
including social enterprise
and not-for-profits drive
the Canberra economy -
creating vibrancy, vitality,
and paying taxes.



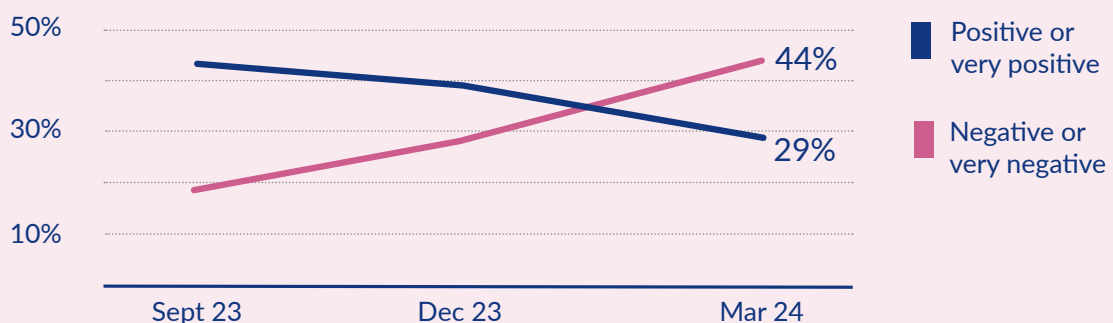


The business environment is challenging at present.

Most businesses are not hitting their business targets. Only 29 per cent are confident in the future of their business, and 44 per cent are feeling negative or very negative.ⁱⁱ

Nearly one-third expect their businesses to shrink over the next 12 months.

Overall level of business confidence at the present time



The ACT needs an environment where business can thrive.

We are calling for steps to:

1.

Make the ACT more competitive for business so we can grow and attract new firms by:

- + Stopping regulatory creep, reducing red tape and cutting compliance costs. For example, by harmonising rules and regulations with other states, halting extensions to 'portable long-service leave' and refocusing health and safety rules on serious risk.
- + Providing the lowest-cost Government services across Australia.
- + Reducing the payroll tax burden which creates a real disincentive for businesses to grow. The Payroll Tax rate is currently the highest in Australia meaning that medium and large businesses pay more in Payroll Tax in ACT.
- + Reducing the cost of workers' compensation by harmonising rules across jurisdictions, increasing the choice of providers, and by focusing strictly on work-related harm.



2.

Make it easier to deal with the ACT Government by:

- + Driving cultural change within the ACT Public Service to deliver a “can-do” customer-focused approach.
- + Making it easier for ACT businesses to join procurement panels and pitch for business, with transparent decisions and feedback.
- + Setting targets for response times, measuring performance and reporting on the outcomes.
- + Measuring and publishing customer satisfaction on an ongoing basis by introducing a Net Promoter Score methodology for all dealings with the ACT Government directorates and agencies.

3.

Deliver the framework, infrastructure and resources to support growth by:

- + Funding a serious marketing campaign to attract workers to address the current skills gaps.
- + Accelerating planning for the new Convention Centre and Stadium, and secure Federal funding with a long-term infrastructure plan.
- + Releasing more affordable land faster, and removing regulatory and practical barriers to building.





**Our vision is to
make Canberra
the greatest place
in Australia to do
business.**

But we have a lot
of work to do.

Will you support us?



Image: Visit Canberra

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behalf of the Canberra business community.

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www.canberrabusiness.com

ⁱ Bureau of Statistics

ⁱⁱ Canberra Business Beat Survey, first quarter 2024