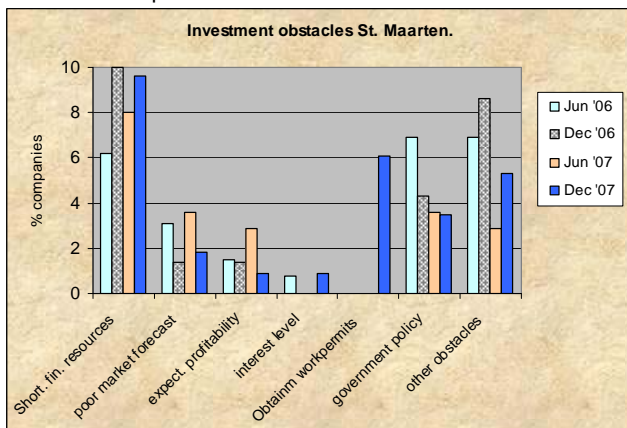




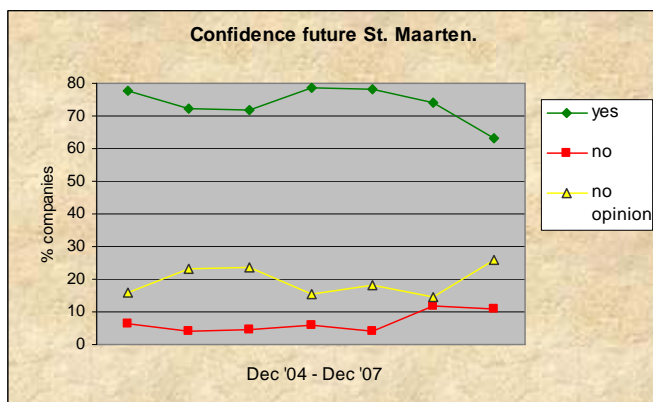
### Investment obstacles

Only 18 percent of the entrepreneurs indicated that they experience investment obstacles. As can be seen in the figure, these obstacles were mainly due to a shortage of financial resources (10% of the businesses) and obtainment of working permits (6%). The latter obstacle for the business community is new and has been added since December 2007. With 5 percent, 'other obstacles' also remains an important obstacle for investments.



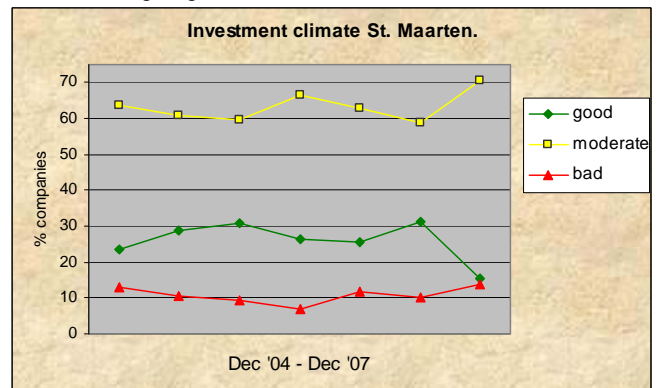
### Confidence in the future decreasing again

The confidence in the future has decreased again, with 11 percent points to 63 percent. The number of companies which have no confidence in the future has almost stayed the same; from 12 to 11 percent. The 'no opinion' percentage increased considerably with 11 percent points to 26 percent.



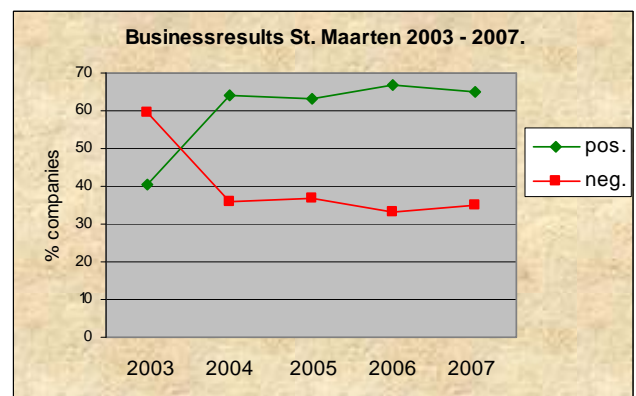
### Investment climate opinion less positive

The opinions towards the investment climate worsened quite suddenly. The percentage of companies which rated the investment climate as good decreased from 31 to 16 percent. 'Bad' has increased with 4 percent to 14 percent. As always, most of the companies considered the investment climate to be 'moderate': this time 71 percent, an all time high figure.



### Unchanged business results

The gross profit results of the Sint Maarten business community stayed more or less the same. The number of companies who have made a profit decreased slightly from 67 to 65 percent. In accordance to this, 35 percent of the companies have not been able to make a profit but had a loss.



# Business Cycle Survey Sint Maarten 2007 Some facts



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