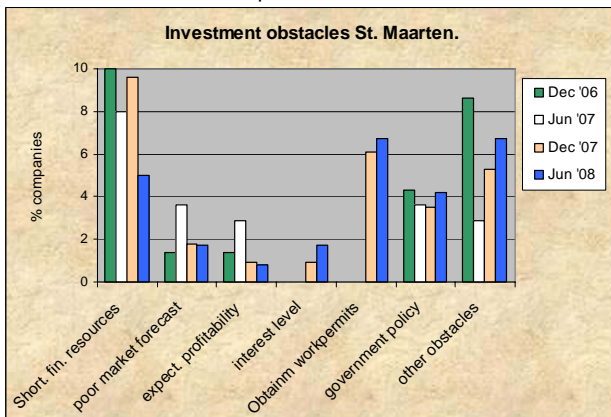




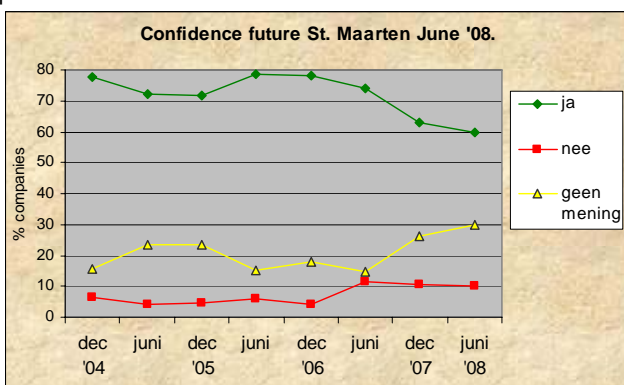
Investment obstacles

An all time low percentage of 14 percent of the entrepreneurs indicated that they experience investment obstacles. As can be seen in the figure, these obstacles were mainly due to the obtainment of working permits (7% of the businesses) and a shortage of financial resources (down from 10 till 5%). With 7 percent, also 'other obstacles' remains an important obstacle for investments.



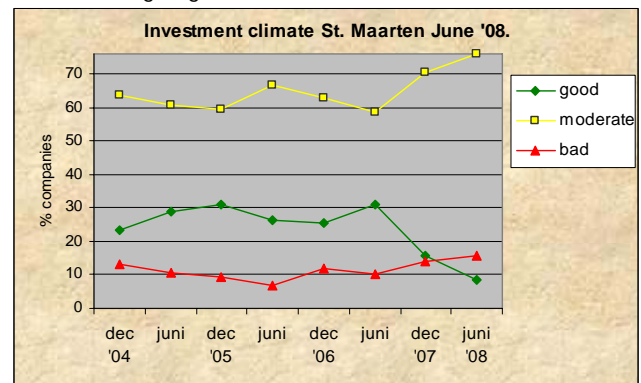
Small decrease confidence in the future

The confidence in the future has decreased again, though slightly, with 3 percent points to 60 percent. The number of companies which have no confidence in the future has almost stayed the same; from 11 to 10 percent. The 'no opinion' percentage increased with 4 percent points to 30 percent.



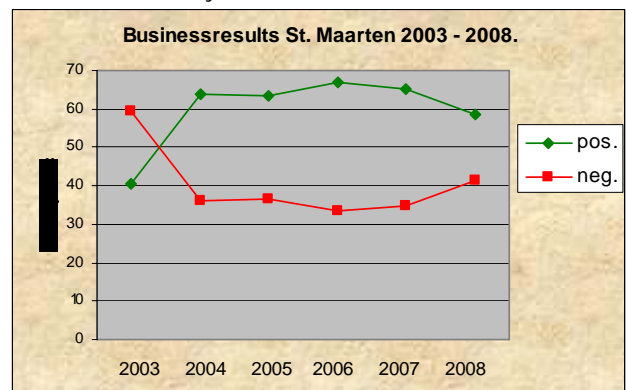
Opinion investment climate diminishing

The opinions towards the investment climate worsened again. The percentage of companies which rated the investment climate as good decreased from 16 to 8 percent. 'Bad' has increased slightly with 2 percent to 16 percent. As usual, most of the companies consider the investment climate to be 'moderate': this time 76 percent, an all time high figure.



Expectations business results moderate

The expectations for this year of the gross profit results of the business community suggest a decline of the number of companies who will make a profit. The percentage will decrease, if expectations are correct, from 65 to 58 percent. In accordance to this, 42 percent of the companies expect to make a loss this year.



Business Cycle Survey St. Maarten 1st half 2008 Some facts



Central Bureau of Statistics

Fort Amsterdam z/n
Curaçao
Tel. (599 9) 4611 031
Fax (599 9) 4611 696
E-mail info@cbs.an

Kaya Gobernador Debrot 41,
Bonaire
Tel. (599 7) 178676
Fax (599 7) 178406
E-mail cbs.bon@telbonet.an

W.G. Buncamper Road 33,
St. Maarten
Tel (599 5) 422355
Fax (599 5) 422355
E-mail info@cbs.an