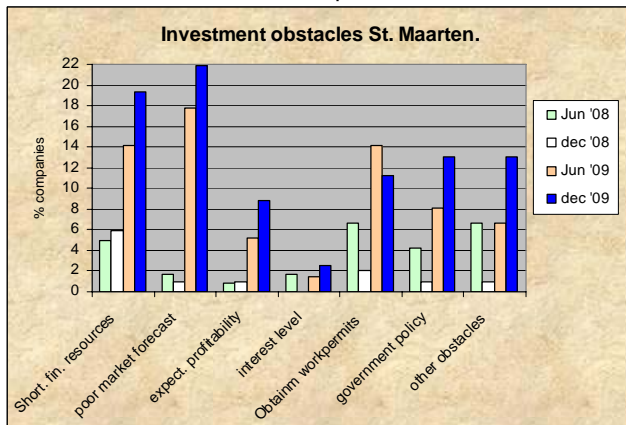


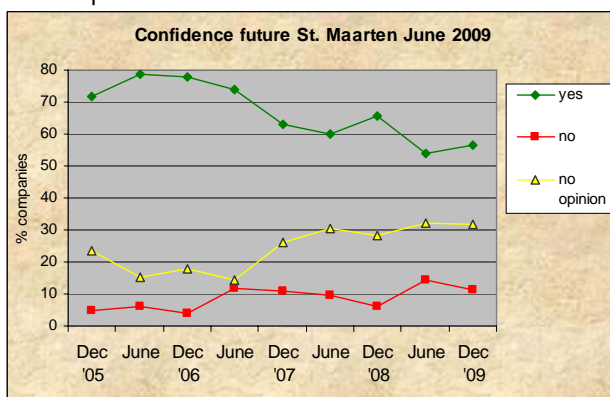
Investment obstacles

A very high percentage of 39 percent of the entrepreneurs indicated that they experience investment obstacles. As can be seen in the figure, these are mainly due to a shortage of financial resources (increased from 14 to 19%) and a poor market forecast (from 18 to 22%). Also the obtainment of working permits (from 14 to 11%) and government policy are important obstacles for investments, the latter increased from 8 to 13 percent.



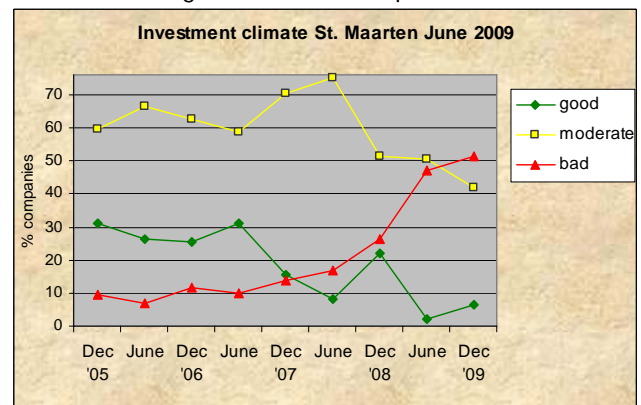
Increase confidence in the future

Confidence in the future increased slightly. This went up with 4 percent points to 57 percent. The number of companies which have no confidence in the future decreased, from 14 to 12 percent. 'No opinion' stayed with 32 percent on the same level.



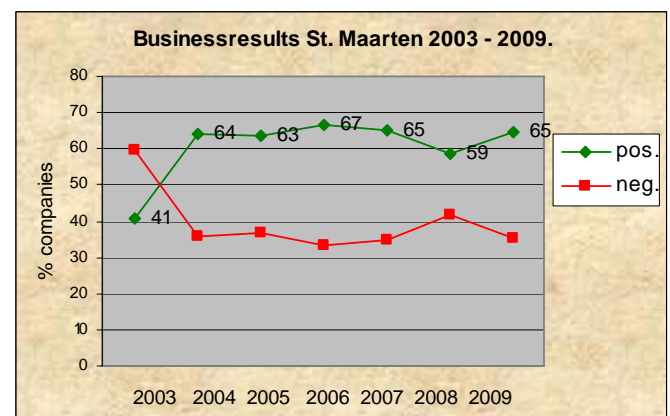
Opinion investment climate stabilizing

The opinions towards the investment climate have stabilized somewhat. More companies rated the investment climate as good: from 2 in June 2009 to 7 percent last December. And 'bad' increased slightly, this percentage went from 48 to 51. Most companies now consider the investment climate to be 'bad'. Moderate changed from 51 to 42 percent.



Business results went down

An important property of the economy is the expected profit for the year. The percentage of companies with positive results increased from 59 to 65 percent. In accordance to this, less companies, 35 percent, have made a loss in 2009.



Business Cycle Survey St. Maarten 2009 Some facts



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