

media release



MASTERS OF OUR INDUSTRY

Master Builders Association of Victoria
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Regional Builder Optimism Increases

Victoria's regional builders are more optimistic now than six months ago, a new survey has found.

Master Builders *Building Trends* survey of country-based members has found 46 per cent believe business activity will pick up in the next twelve months and only 16 per cent of builders expect their workforce numbers to decrease.

Master Builders Executive Director, Brian Welch said regional residential builders have benefited from the boosted Federal First Home Buyers Grants and State Bonus.

"Our survey has found regional builders are seeing some economic green shoots coming through," Mr Welch said.

"These survey results reflect the positive impact of the government support for first home buyers," he said.

"Although the supersized grants will be scaled back in coming months, they have assisted the building industry during a very lean period – especially first home builders.

"The building industry is a critical industry in rural areas as it supports several other secondary industries such as materials manufacturing, transport companies and local businesses such as hardware stores.

"Every million dollars of extra demand results in close to three million dollars total benefit to the economy."

Key *Building Trends* Survey Statistics:

	June 2009	Dec 2008
Business activity to pick up:	46 per cent	34 per cent
Workforce numbers decreasing:	16 per cent	30 per cent

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