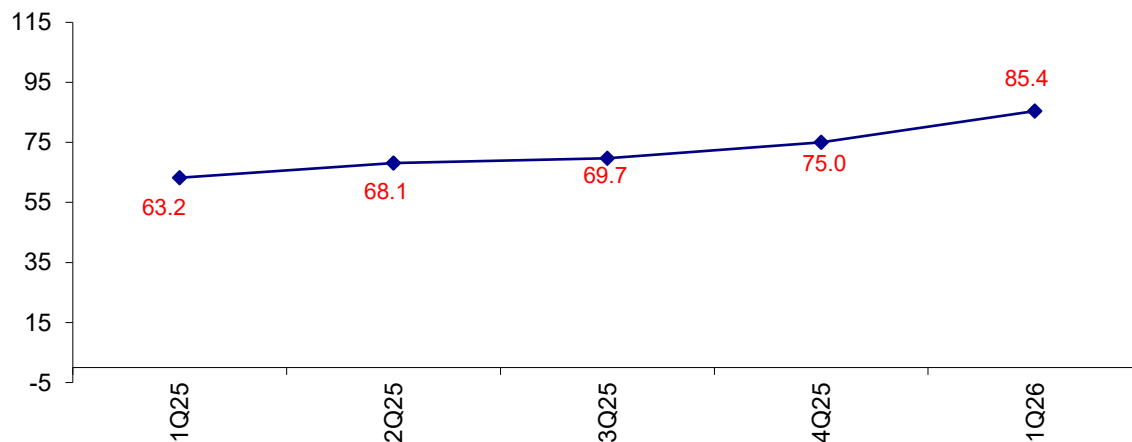


## Business Confidence Soars!

The Connector Confidence Index for the 1st quarter of 2026 is 85.4 up from 4th quarter 2025 at 75.0.

**World Connector Confidence Index (WCCI)**  
**>50.0 = Positive**



The **World Connector Confidence Index (WCCI)** is the average of all responses for “present situation,” and “future expectations.”

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## Present Business Expectations

Industry personnel were asked, "What is your appraisal of current business conditions (positive, negative, neutral)?"

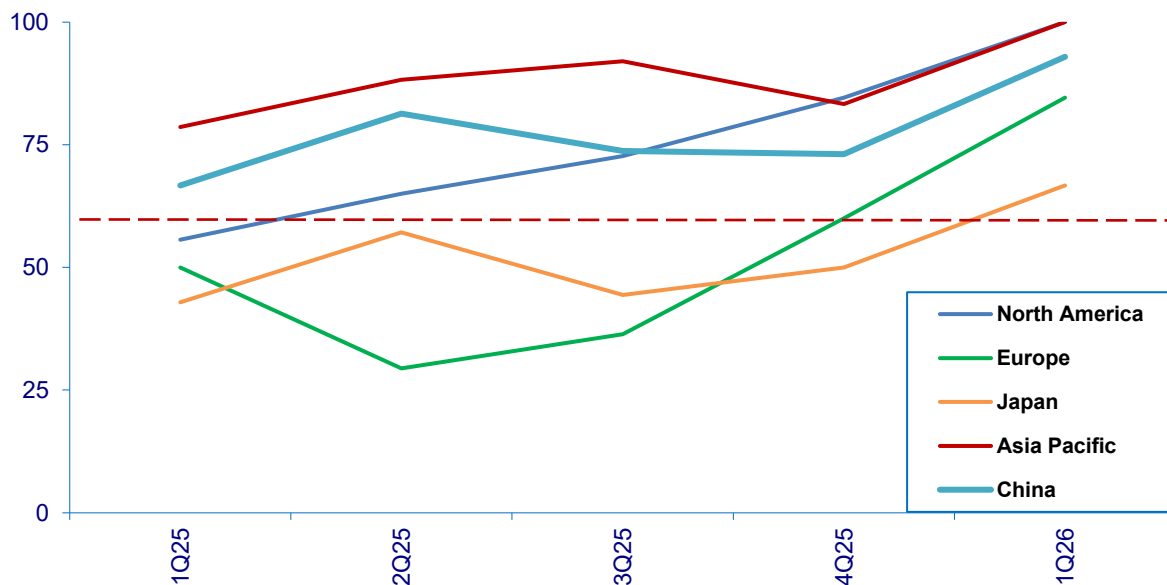
### Present Situation Index – 89.4

	1Q25	2Q25	3Q25	4Q25	1Q26	Confidence Level	Confidence Trend
North America	55.6	65.0	72.7	84.6	100.0	+	↑
Europe	50.0	29.4	36.4	60.0	84.6	+	↑
Japan	42.9	57.1	44.4	50.0	66.7	+	↑
Asia	78.6	88.2	92.0	83.3	100.0	+	↑
China	66.7	81.3	73.7	73.1	92.9	+	↑
<b>World</b>	<b>44.7</b>	<b>58.4</b>	<b>65.1</b>	<b>71.9</b>	<b>89.4</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>↑</b>
<b>Confidence</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>		
<b>Trend</b>		<b>↑</b>	<b>↑</b>	<b>↑</b>	<b>↑</b>		

All regions rose in confidence in present business conditions. North America and Asia have the highest confidence level at 100.0.

### Present Situation Index

>50.0 = Positive



## Future Expectations

Industry personnel were asked, “What is your expectation of future business conditions six months from now (positive, negative, or neutral)?”

### Future Expectations Index – 81.3

	1Q25	2Q25	3Q25	4Q25	1Q26	Confidence Level	Confidence Trend
North America	62.5	73.7	66.7	86.2	93.3	+	↑
Europe	62.5	46.7	64.0	73.9	70.0	+	↓
Japan	60.0	61.5	64.3	63.2	64.3	+	↑
Asia	81.3	100.0	96.2	87.5	92.3	+	↑
China	73.3	75.0	74.9	73.9	83.3	+	↑
<b>World</b>	<b>67.9</b>	<b>72.2</b>	<b>73.9</b>	<b>78.0</b>	<b>81.3</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>↑</b>
<b>Confidence</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>		
<b>Trend</b>		↑	↑	↑	↑		

Europe is the only region that dropped in future confidence. North America and Asia are not as confident about the future as they are about the present.

### Future Expectations Index

(>50.0 = Positive)

