

NEW ENGLAND

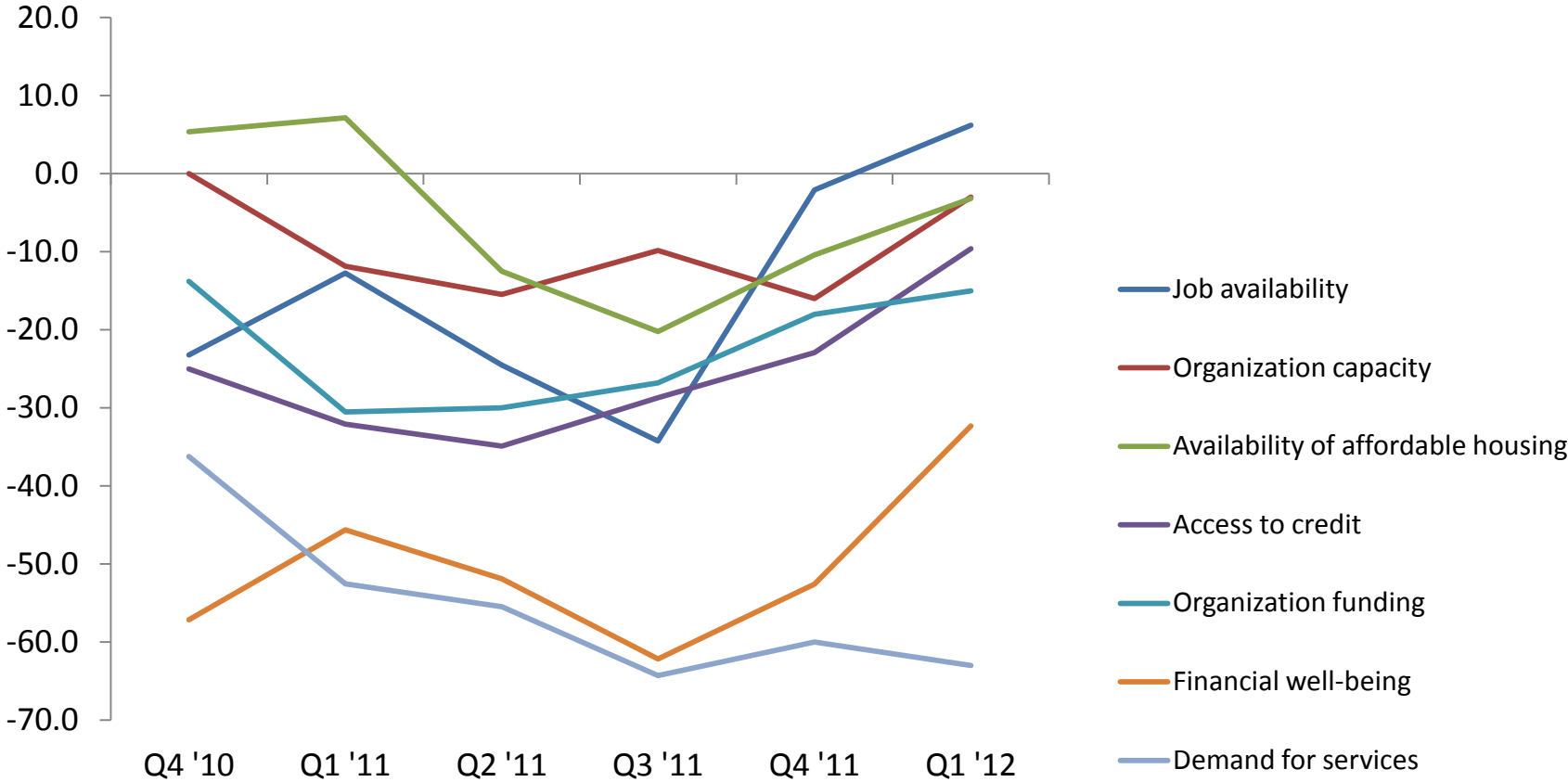
COMMUNITY OUTLOOK SURVEY.

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF BOSTON
Regional & Community Outreach

First Quarter 2012 Highlights

First Quarter Indexes

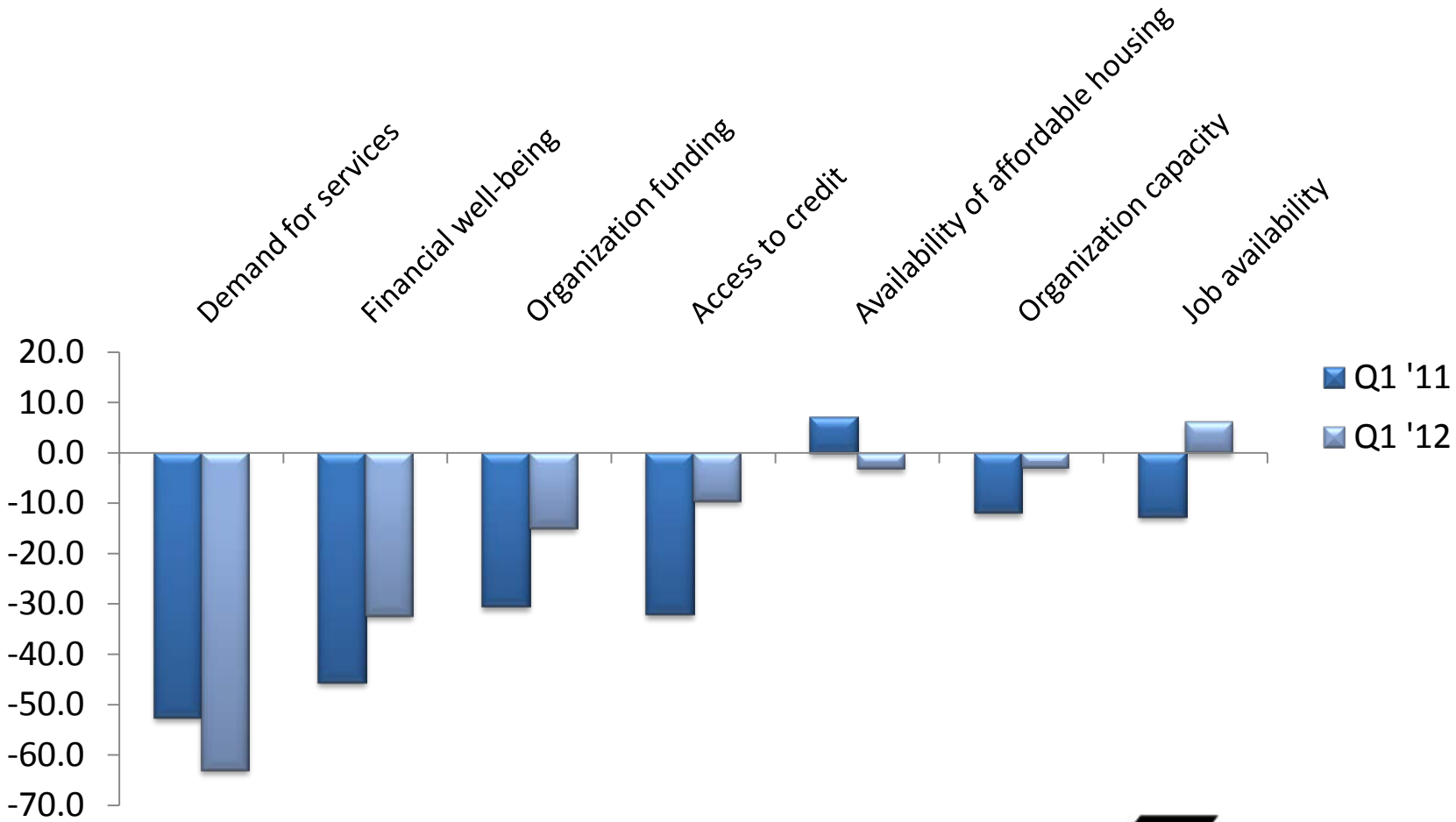
Six of **seven** indexes showed an improvement in the first quarter. The exception was the **demand for services** index, which declined over the quarter—indicating that demand for services increased. The **job availability index** was above zero for the first time, indicating that sentiment is positive. All other indexes remained below zero.



First Quarter Indexes

Change over the year (Q1 2011 to Q1 2012)

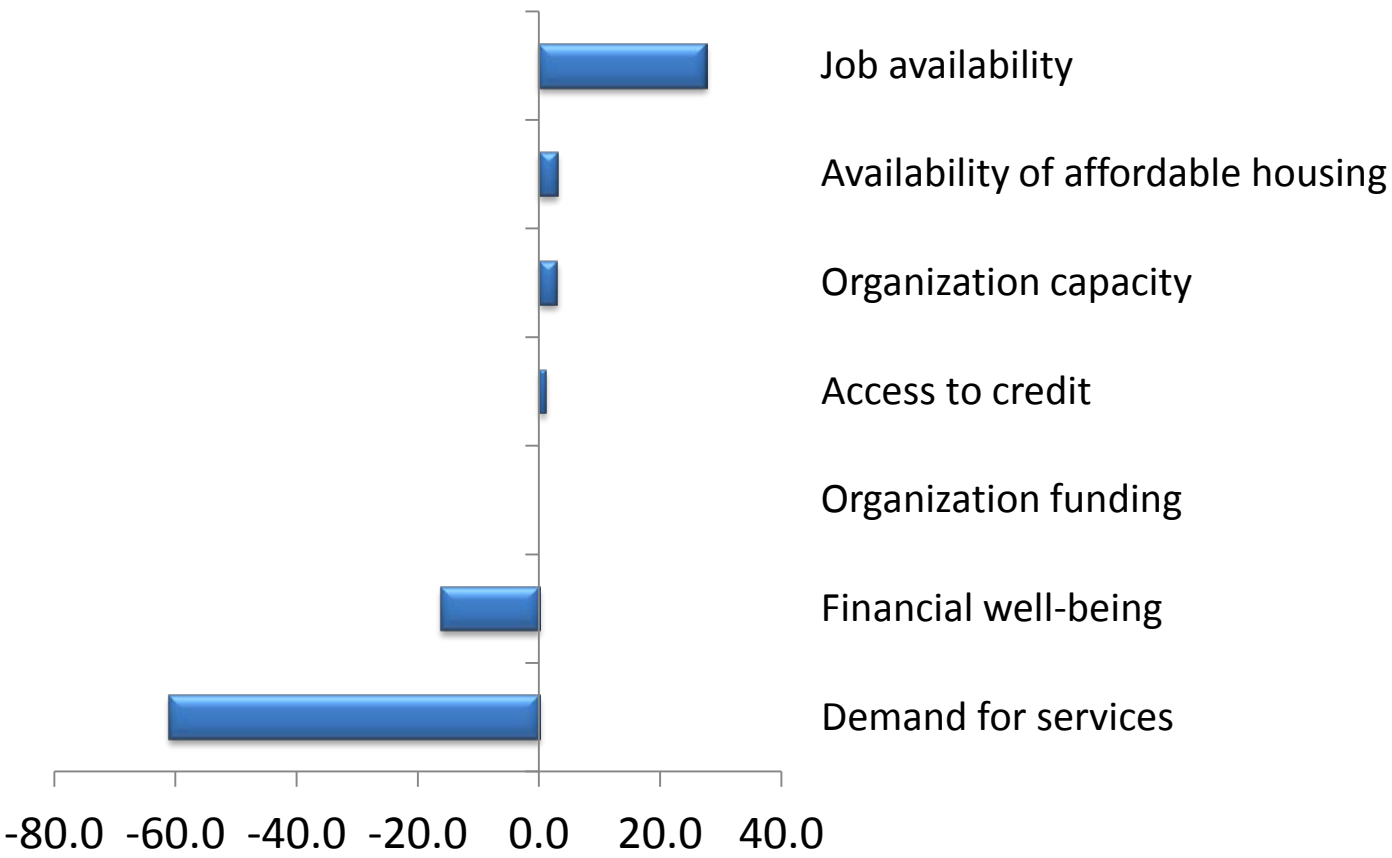
Most of the indexes showed an improvement from one year ago. The **exceptions** were the demand for services and availability of affordable housing indexes.



First Quarter Indexes

Expectations over the next quarter

Future expectations are **positive** for four of the indexes, especially for the job availability index. Expectations are **neutral or negative** for the remaining three indexes.



First Quarter Indexes

Summary of diffusion indexes for low- and moderate-income indicators

	1st Qtr 2012	4th Qtr 2011	3rd Qtr 2011	2nd Qtr 2011	1st Qtr 2011
Current conditions relative to previous quarter					
Financial well-being	-32.3	-52.6	-62.2	-51.9	-45.6
Job availability	6.2	-2.1	-34.3	-24.5	-12.7
Availability of affordable housing	-3.2	-10.4	-20.2	-12.5	7.1
Access to credit	-9.6	-22.9	-28.7	-34.9	-32.1
Demand for services	-63.0	-60.0	-64.3	-55.5	-52.6
Organization capacity	-3.0	-16.0	-9.8	-15.5	-11.9
Organization funding	-15.0	-18.0	-26.8	-30.0	-30.5
Current conditions relative to one year ago					
Financial well-being	-32.7	-50.5	-75.2	-67.9	-45.6
Job availability	29.9	7.3	-45.3	-23.8	-7.3
Availability of affordable housing	-2.1	-5.4	-11.8	-6.7	21.8
Access to credit	-10.8	-33.3	-46.7	-45.7	-28.3
Demand for services	-74.8	-62.0	-74.1	-58.2	-45.8
Organization capacity	-2.0	-14.0	-14.3	-18.2	6.8
Organization funding	-22.0	-27.0	-39.3	-41.8	-33.9
Expectation for conditions over the next quarter					
Financial well-being	-16.2	-31.6	-58.2	-38.1	-12.7
Job availability	27.6	10.5	-12.8	-5.6	22.2
Availability of affordable housing	3.1	2.1	-11.0	-7.5	5.6
Access to credit	1.1	-11.8	-23.8	-19.8	-13.2
Demand for services	-61.0	-69.0	-67.0	-57.3	-54.2
Organization capacity	3.0	2.0	-5.4	-10.9	-10.2
Organization funding	0.0	-22.0	-26.8	-33.6	-28.8

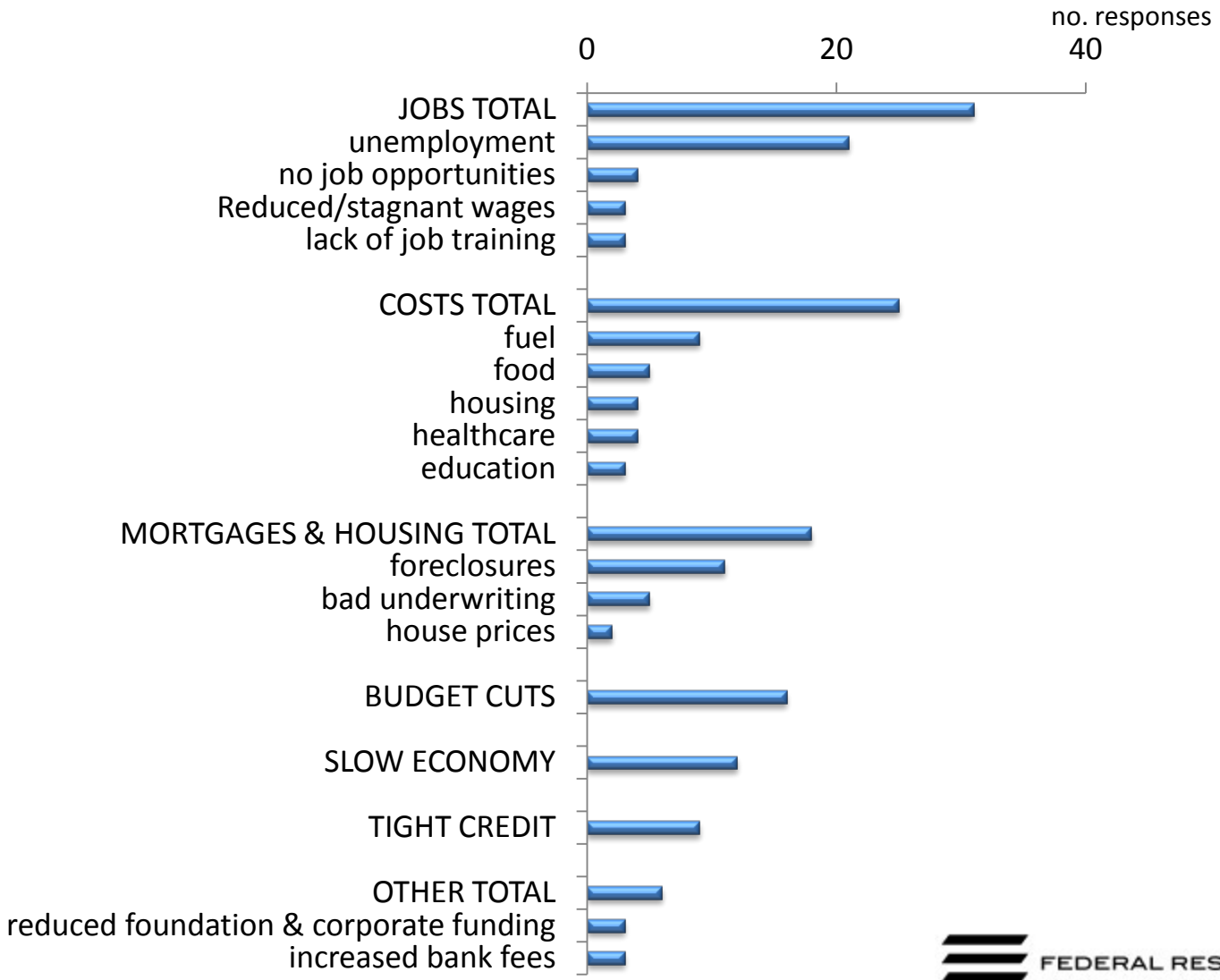
First Quarter Indexes

Interpreting the diffusion indexes

- For each index, we ask respondents to indicate whether conditions improved, declined, or remained unchanged. The index scores are calculated by taking the percentage of respondents that reported improvements in conditions and subtracting the percentage of respondents that reported declines.
- The exception is the Demand for Services Index, which we compute by subtracting the percentage of respondents reporting an increase in demand from the percentage reporting a decrease. We do this to show that an increase in demand for services indicates a decline in the condition of lower-income households and to allow for easier comparison of scores across indexes.
- A score above zero indicates respondents' attitudes are, on average, positive. A score below zero indicates respondents' attitudes are, on average, negative.

Household Financial Conditions Questions

What has affected LMI families' financial conditions since 2007?



Household Financial Conditions Questions

What has affected LMI families' financial conditions since 2007?

Factors that have affected LMI financial conditions for *good*:

- Increased nonprofit partnerships
- Increased attention to organizational capacity building and best practices
- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds, Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) and Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program (HPRP)
- Housing is more affordable
- Many households have deleveraged
- Recent drop in unemployment rates
- Healthcare reform
- Unemployment extensions
- Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) program
- Low-income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program