• Overall index still remains in “negative territory”
• March overall reading of 84 shows a slight uptick compared with December’s reading of 79
• Slightly higher overall reading a reflection of higher optimism over prospects for 2010
• Panelists viewed “current conditions” as “significantly worse” than 3 months ago reflecting reduced backlogs and a more pessimistic current overall attitude
• 24% expect general business conditions in 2010 to be better than today
• Little change over the past 3 months regarding both current and expected general availability of bank credit
• Working lines of capital are essentially unchanged