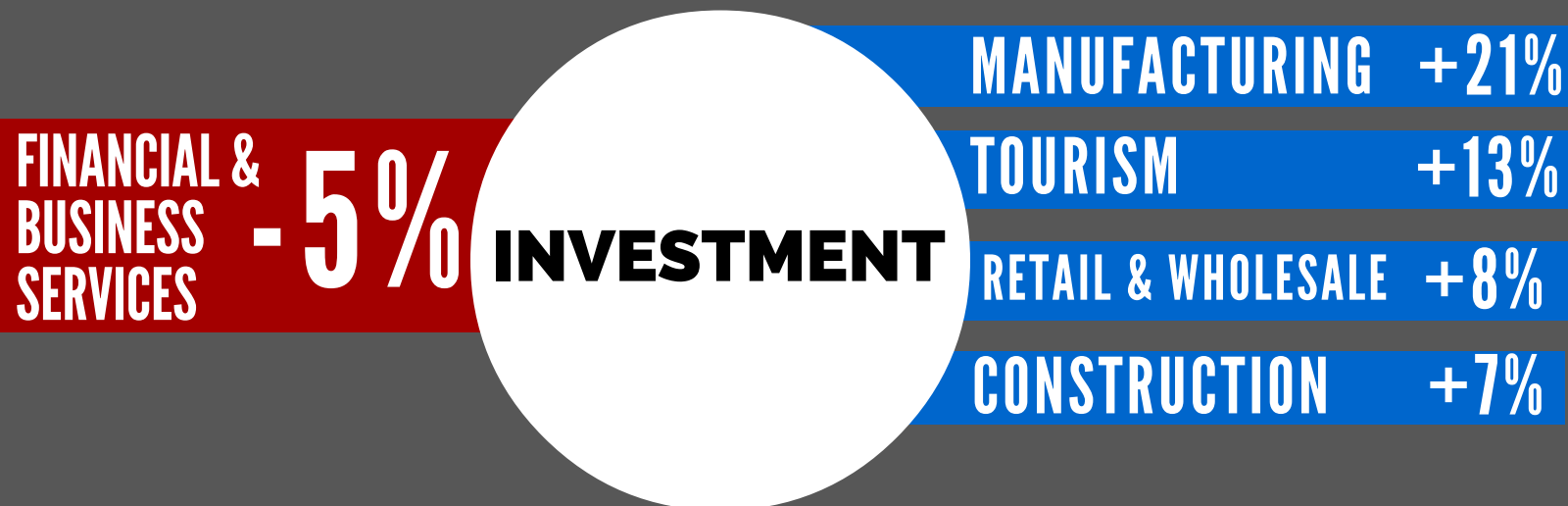


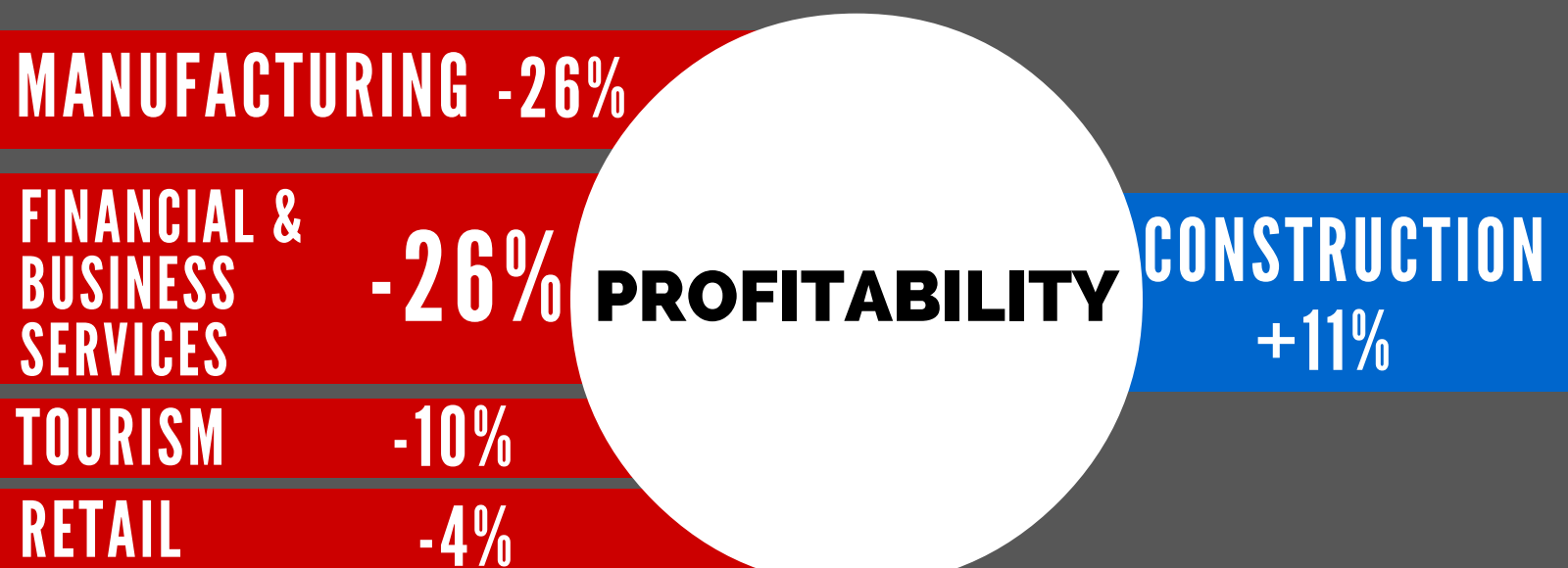


QUARTERLY ECONOMIC INDICATOR

The latest Q1 2016 results emphasise the need for economic growth to be the prime objective of the next Scottish Parliament



"Costs to businesses must be considered at a time when many firms are implementing the National Living Wage and auto-enrolment. As businesses take on more financial responsibilities over their employees, it is time that the rising burden of business rates was reduced."



"As the construction sector continues to experience worrying levels of skills shortages due to rapid growth following a period of recession, we must plan ahead now for the recovery in oil prices, ensuring that the oil and gas sector has the talent it needs when the sector resumes growth. Future skills needs must be met from the widest possible range of sources, including workplace learning and the reskilling of older workers."

