

September 2021
National Survey
Small Business Employers

Conducted By:
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Job Creators Network MONTHLY MONTHLY



Methodology

This national survey of 500 small business employers was conducted between September 1-21, 2021. This presentation includes JCN's SBIQ (Small Business Intelligence Quotient). The JCN Monthly Monitor tracks its SBIQ, identifies key trends, and offers valuable insights into policies impacting small business employers.

All interviews were conducted online with randomly distributed invitations. The geographic and demographic profiles were structured to represent the population of small business employers in the United States. The sample of 500 small business employers has an accuracy of +/- 4.4% at a 95% confidence interval. The numbers in this presentation have been rounded and may not equal 100%.



September SBIQ: 56.3

This survey provides a snapshot of JCN's SBIQ, which will be tracked monthly to identify trends at-large and among key small business employer segments. The JCN SBIQ is based on 7-questions:

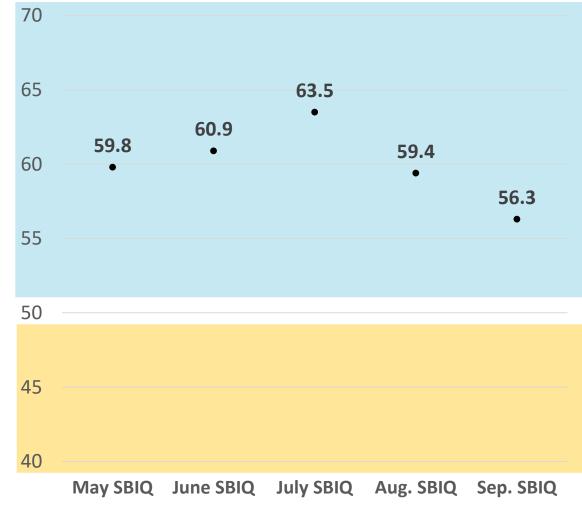
- Employer's Current Business Conditions
- Condition of U.S. Economy Today
- Current Climate for Small Businesses
- Direction of Employer's Business Over Next 3-Months
- Employer's Plans for Hiring Over Next 3-Months
- Direction of U.S. Economy
- Direction of Climate for Small Businesses

The JCN SBIQ is calculated on a scale from 0 to 100, with 100 being best possible conditions and 0 being worst possible conditions. A score of 50 is neutral, anything above 50 is positive and anything below is negative. To calculate the scores, point values are applied to each response and multiplied by the share of respondents giving that answer.

Current Conditions

Future

Expectations

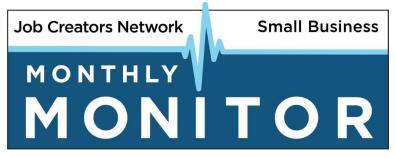


	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Net
SBIQ	59.8	60.9	63.5	59.4	56.3	-3.1
Current Conditions	61.8	60.7	65.5	62.6	58.8	-3.8
Future Expectations	58.3	61.0	61.9	57.0	54.5	-2.5



Major Findings

- Small business employer attitudes continue to degrade. The September JCN SBIQ decreased by 3-points from 59.4 to 56.3 (-3.1), a new low.
- The "Future Expectations" dropped 4-points from 62.6 to 58.8 (-3.8) while the "Current Conditions" rating declined more than 2-points from 57.0 to 54.5 (-2.5).
- Higher prices and inflation continues to be the leading concern followed by the economy/client spending, general operating costs, and Covid restrictions.
- Small business employers are feeling more threatened. Their sensitivity and pessimism towards tax increases and covid mandates is growing.

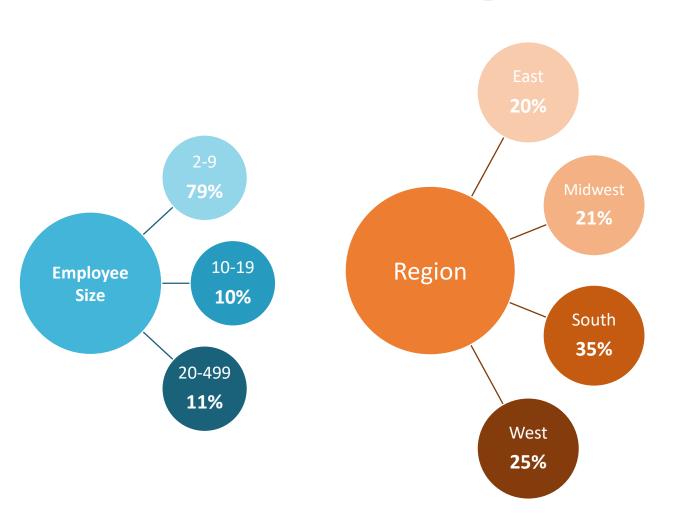


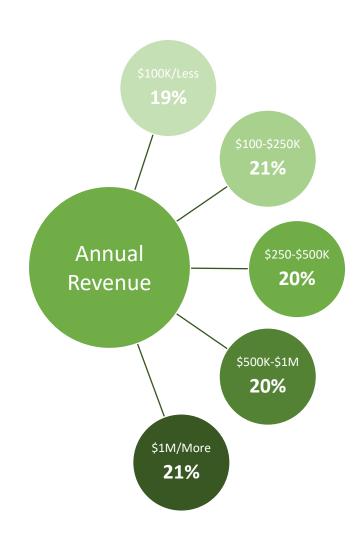
5 "So-What" Takeaways

- 1. In September, small business optimism about the economy took a big hit. Only 32 percent of small business owners consider the current economy excellent or good with 68 percent rating it fair or poor. This is a drop of more than 15 points since July's poll. What this means: the economy, vaccine mandates and political unrest are weighing on the minds of business owners and their optimism about the overall economy.
- 2. Respondents also felt worse about the business climate and conditions for small businesses, with 38 percent saying the climate was getting worse and only 30 percent saying it was getting better. This represents a seventeen-point net shift from August numbers. What this means: the same issues that are creating pessimism about the overall economy are translating to fears about their own businesses.
- 3. The overall Small Business Intelligence Quotient, an index of economic optimism dropped to its lowest point since we started tracking the number in May, going down for the second month in a row. While optimism grew from May through July, small businesses are increasingly concerned with the direction of the economy and upcoming policy that will increase costs and taxes.
- 4. Small business owners continue to be concerned about inflation. More than 32 percent of small businesses named inflation as their biggest or second biggest concern right now. A related issue—the economy and client spending—was named by 25 percent as their biggest or second-biggest concern right now. What this means: Consumers aren't the only ones concerned about inflation—small business owners are concerned as well. Democrats' massive spending plans will only increase inflation—bringing us back to the days of Jimmy Carter.
- 5. 81 percent of small businesses are concerned about increasing Covid-related mandates and restrictions, a five-point jump from August. What this means: Things like new mask and vaccine mandates are concerning small business owners.

Small Business Employer Profile

Who are the 500 respondents?





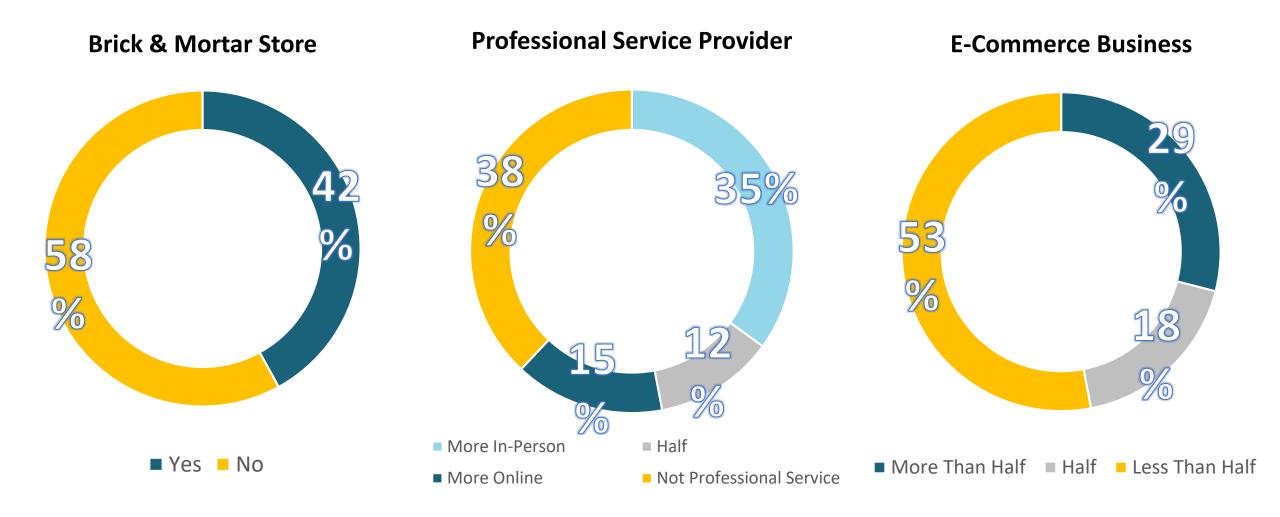
Minority
Owned
18%

Female Owned **20%**

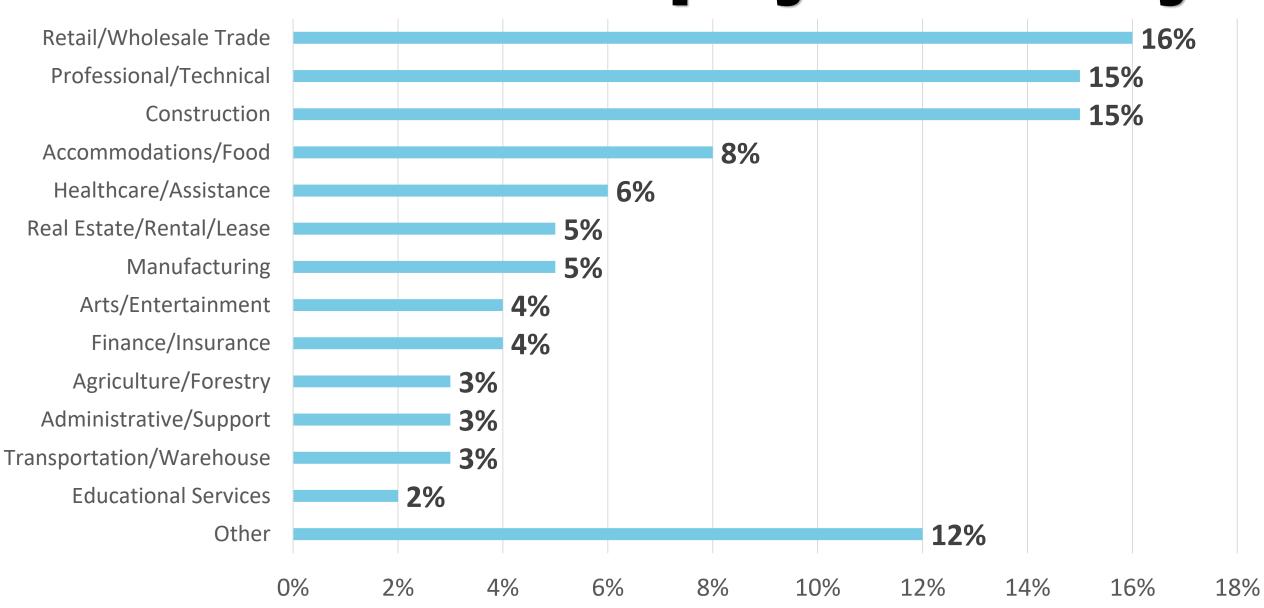
Veteran Owned **6%**

C-Corp 40% S-Corp 60%

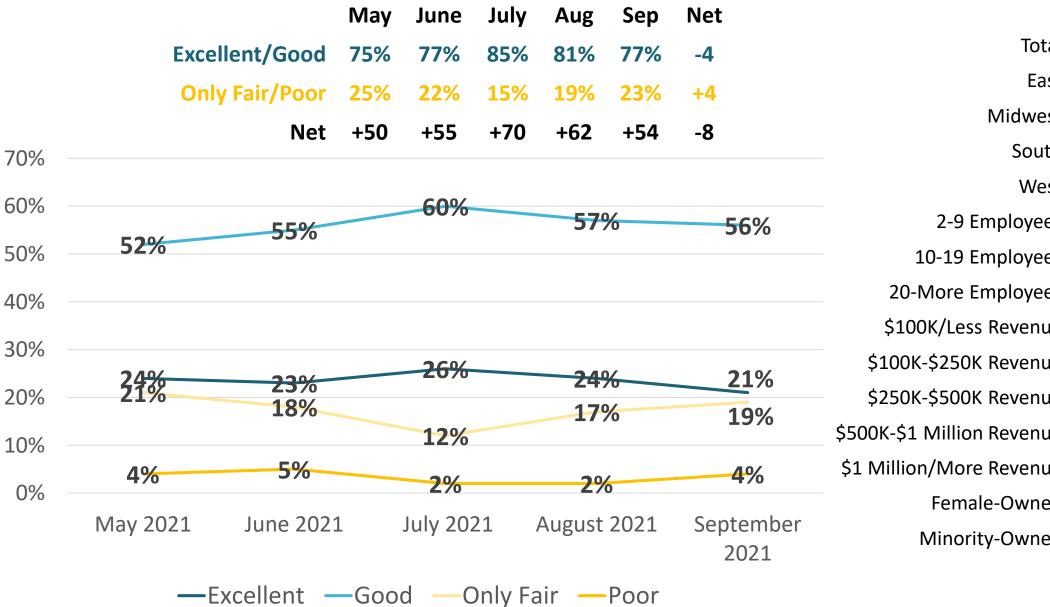
Small Business Employer Profile



Small Business Employer Industry



Current Financial Condition

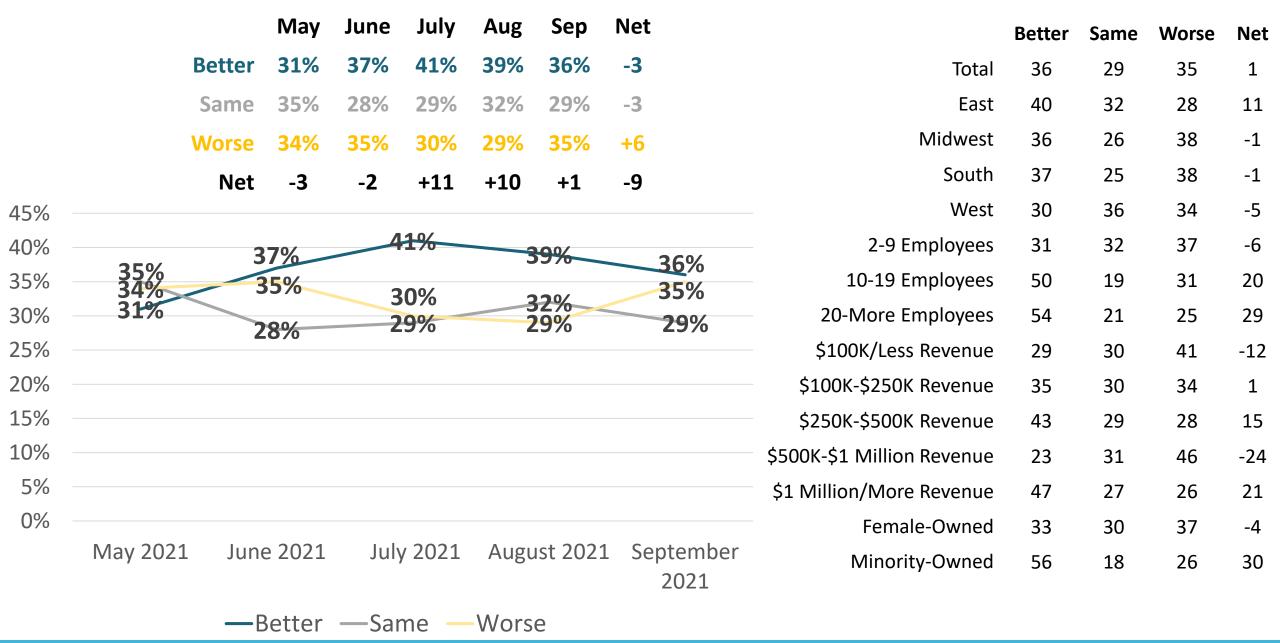


		Good	Poor	Net
	Total	77	23	54
	East	81	19	62
	Midwest	77	24	53
_	South	77	23	54
	West	74	26	47
	2-9 Employees	75	25	51
	10-19 Employees	83	17	66
	20-More Employees	83	17	65
	\$100K/Less Revenue	63	37	26
_	\$100K-\$250K Revenue	71	29	43
_	\$250K-\$500K Revenue	85	15	70
_ (\$500K-\$1 Million Revenue	77	23	53
	\$1 Million/More Revenue	88	12	75
	Female-Owned	71	30	41
	Minority-Owned	78	22	56

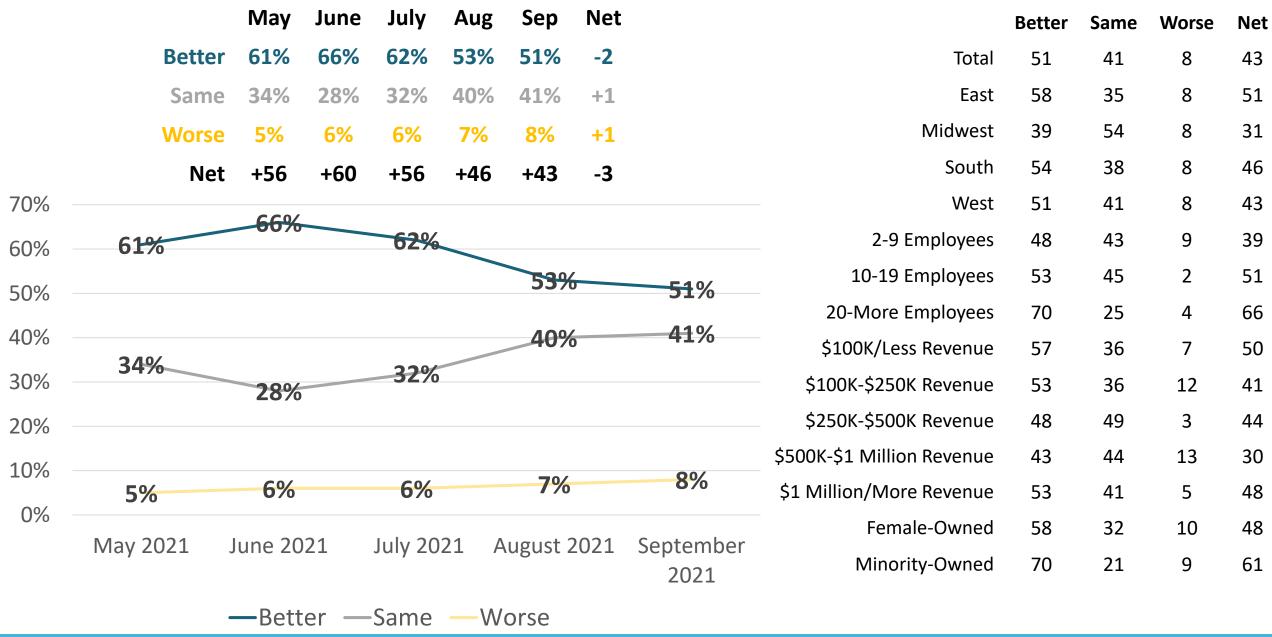
Excel/

Fair/

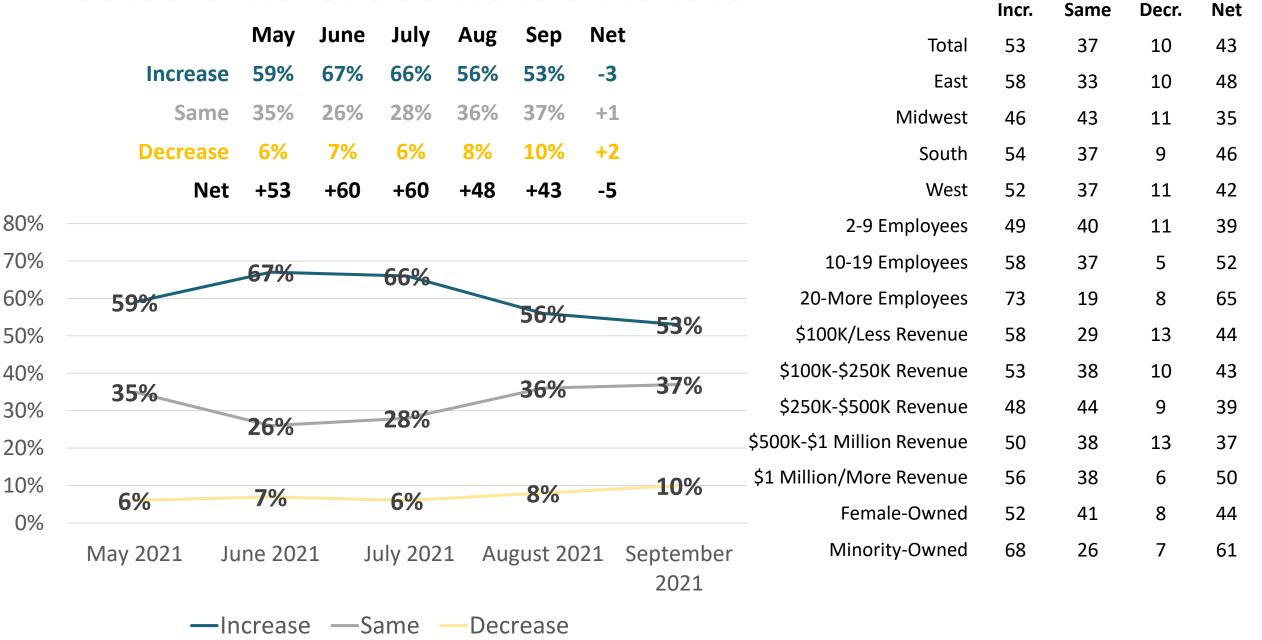
Financial Condition Over Last Year



Financial Condition Next 3-Months



Sales & Revenues Next 3-Months



Profitability Next 12-Months Profit Same Net Lose July Sep Net 66 28 5 61 May June Aug Total 67 31 2 East 64 **Earn Profit 75%** 74% 69% 66% 66% 0 Midwest 63 32 6 57 20% **Break Even** 26% 23% 30% 28% South 72 21 65 **Lose Money** 5% 3% 0 6% 5% 5% West 61 33 6 55 +63 +70 +71 0 Net +61 +61 29 6 59 2-9 Employees 65 **75%** 10-19 Employees 63 67 29 4 69% 66% 66% **20-More Employees** 76 22 2 74 \$100K/Less Revenue 9 58 33 48 \$100K-\$250K Revenue 2 68 29 66 \$250K-\$500K Revenue 65 32 61 4 30% **28**% 26% \$500K-\$1 Million Revenue 8 23% 65 28 57 20% \$1 Million/More Revenue 5 75 21 71 6% 5% 5% 5% Female-Owned 62 27 11 50 3% 71 9 61 Minority-Owned 20 May 2021 July 2021 June 2021 August 2021 September 2021

Lose Money

—Earn Profit

—Break Even

80%

70%

60%

50%

40%

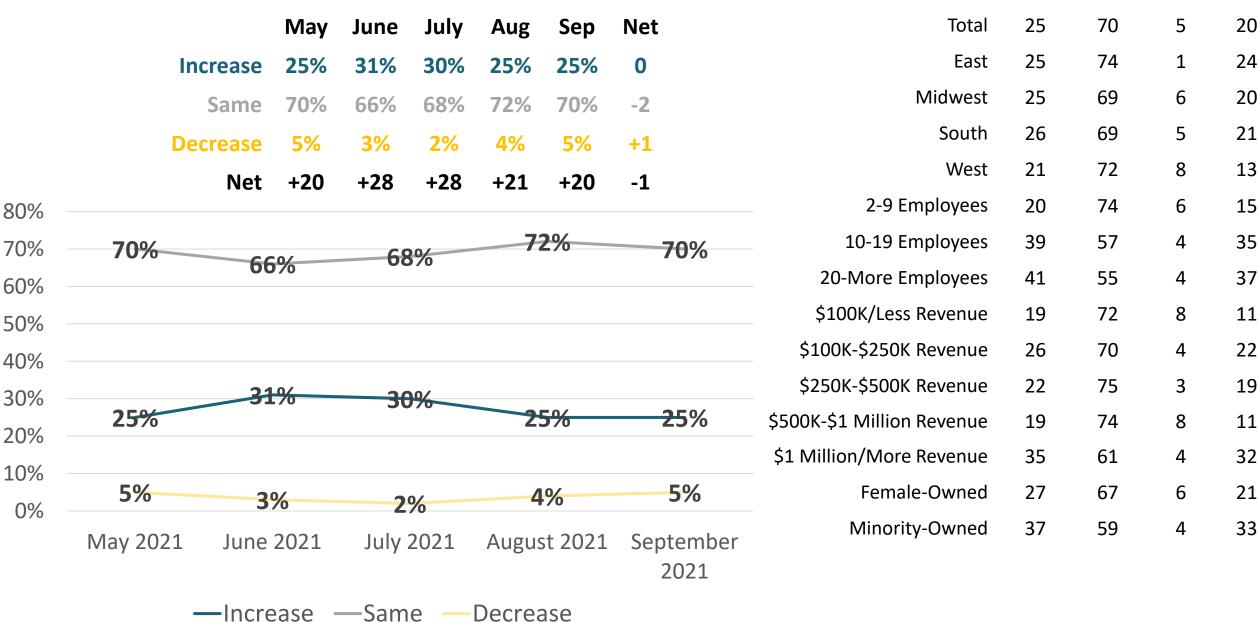
30%

20%

10%

0%

Employment Next 3-Months



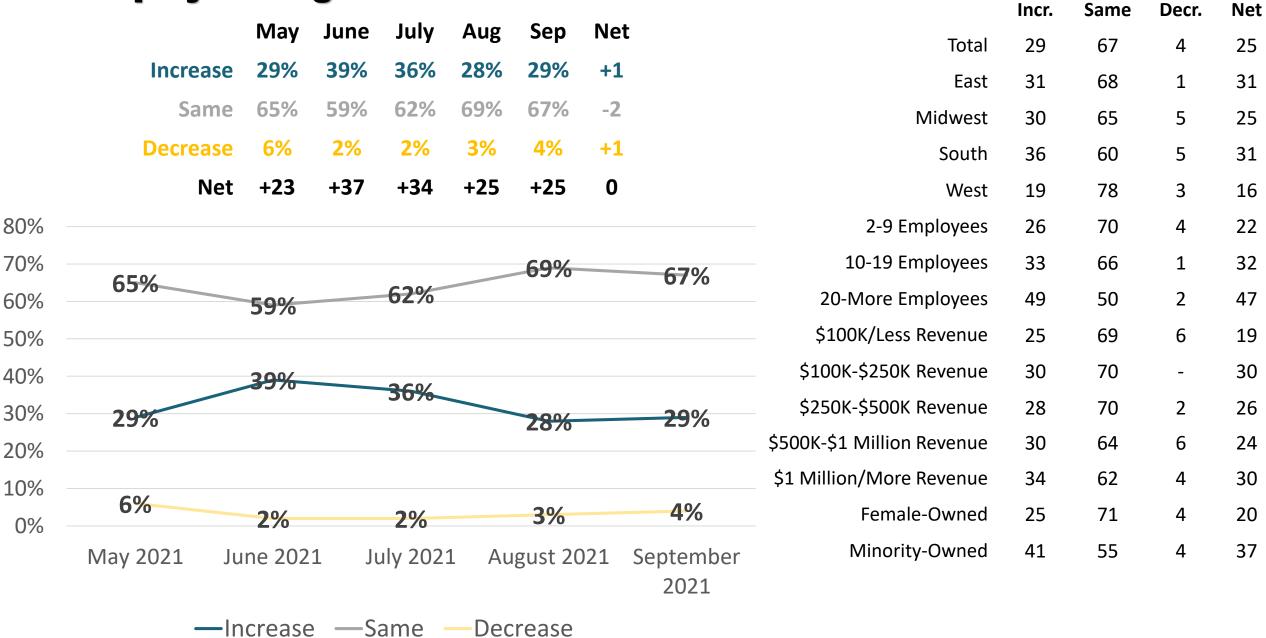
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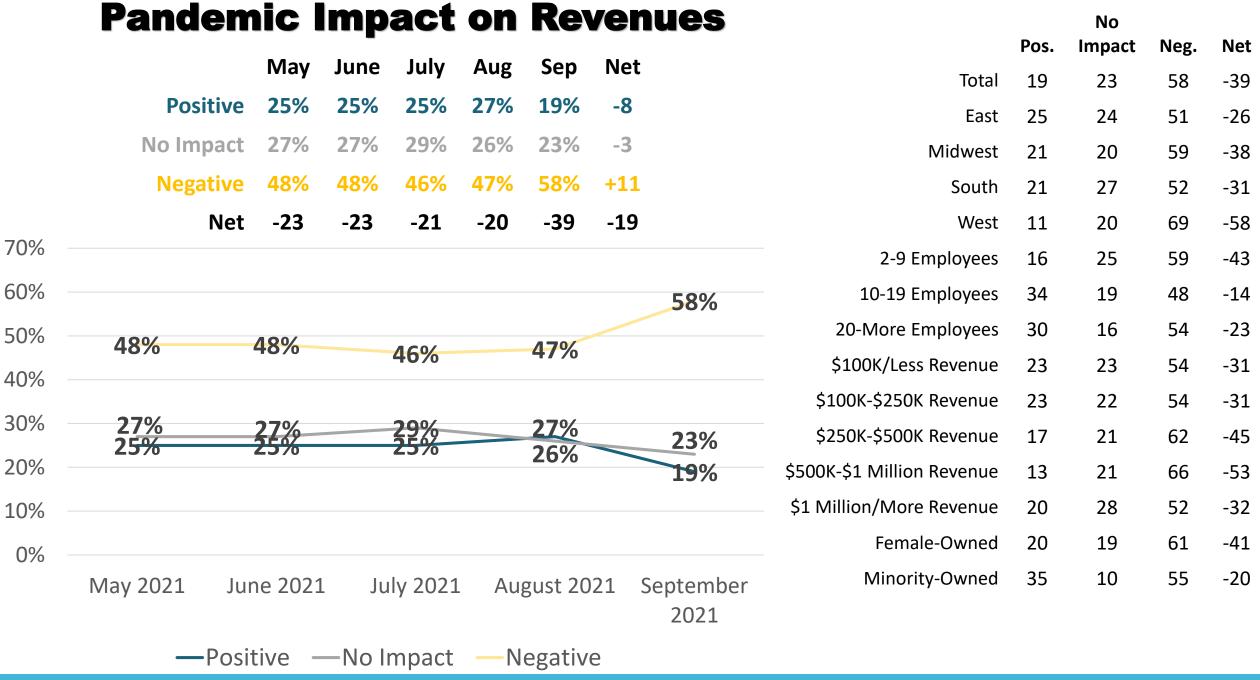
Same

Decr.

Net

Employee Wages/Hours Next 3-Months



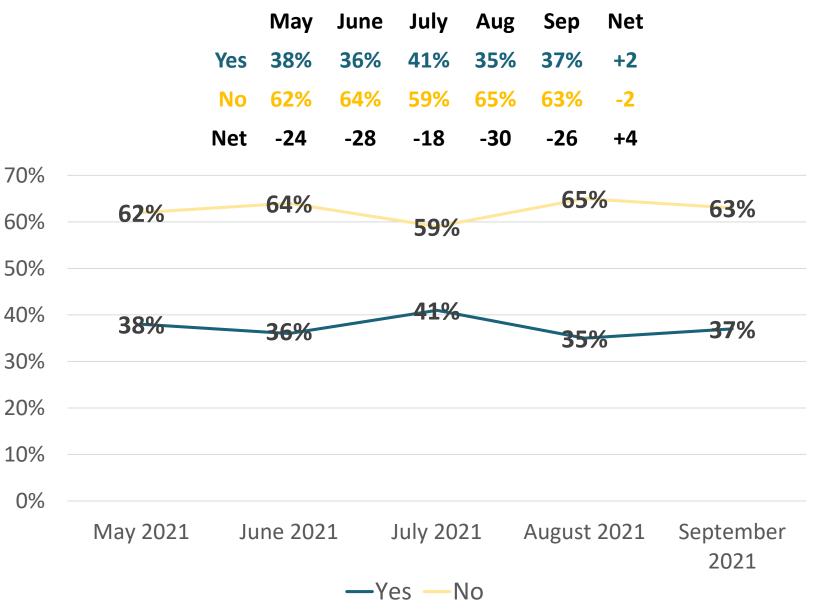


Pandemic Recovery (if negative impact)

	May Total	June Total	July Total	Aug Total	Sep Total	East	Mid west	South	West	2-9 Employ	10-19 Employ	20-More Employ
Already Full Recovery	6%	9%	10%	8%	11%	11%	13%	4%	18%	12%	10%	7%
Recovery Next 6-Months	43%	37%	39%	33%	26%	23%	23%	32%	25%	25%	30%	32%
Recovery After 6-Months	38%	42%	44%	49%	49%	57%	52%	46%	45%	49%	49%	46%
May Never Fully Recover	13%	12%	7%	9%	14%	9%	13%	19%	12%	14%	11%	14%

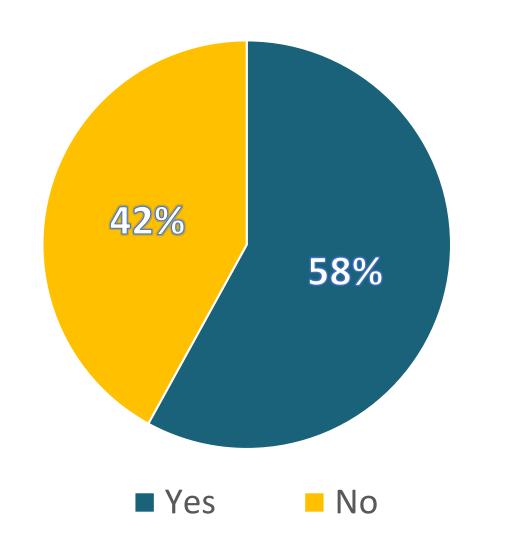
	\$100K- Less Rev.	\$100K- \$250K Rev.	\$250K- \$500K Rev.	\$500K- \$1 Mill Rev.	\$1 Mill- More Rev.	Female Owned	Minority Owned	C- Corp	S- Corp
Already Full Recovery	9%	15%	10%	12%	11%	7%	9%	13%	10%
Recovery Next 6-Months	18%	40%	23%	19%	32%	23%	35%	34%	21%
Recovery After 6-Months	55%	33%	61%	50%	44%	60%	49%	38%	56%
May Never Fully Recover	19%	13%	6%	19%	13%	10%	7%	16%	13%

Pandemic Loans



	Yes	No	Net
Total	37	63	-26
East	45	55	-10
Midwest	47	53	-5
South	29	71	-41
West	32	69	-37
2-9 Employees	34	66	-33
10-19 Employees	51	49	3
20-More Employees	45	55	-11
\$100K/Less Revenue	19	81	-61
\$100K-\$250K Revenue	33	67	-35
\$250K-\$500K Revenue	48	52	-4
\$500K-\$1 Million Revenue	38	62	-24
\$1 Million/More Revenue	44	56	-12
Female-Owned	26	74	-48
Minority-Owned	43	57	-14

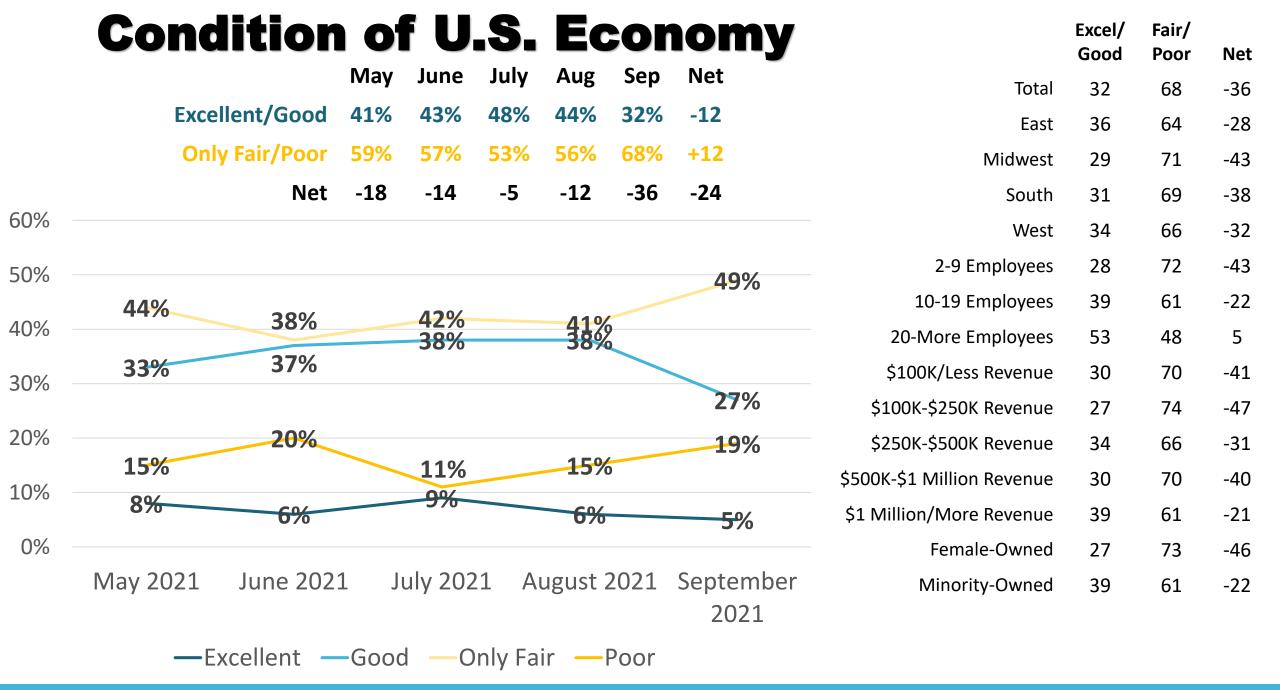
Has Your Loan Been Forgiven

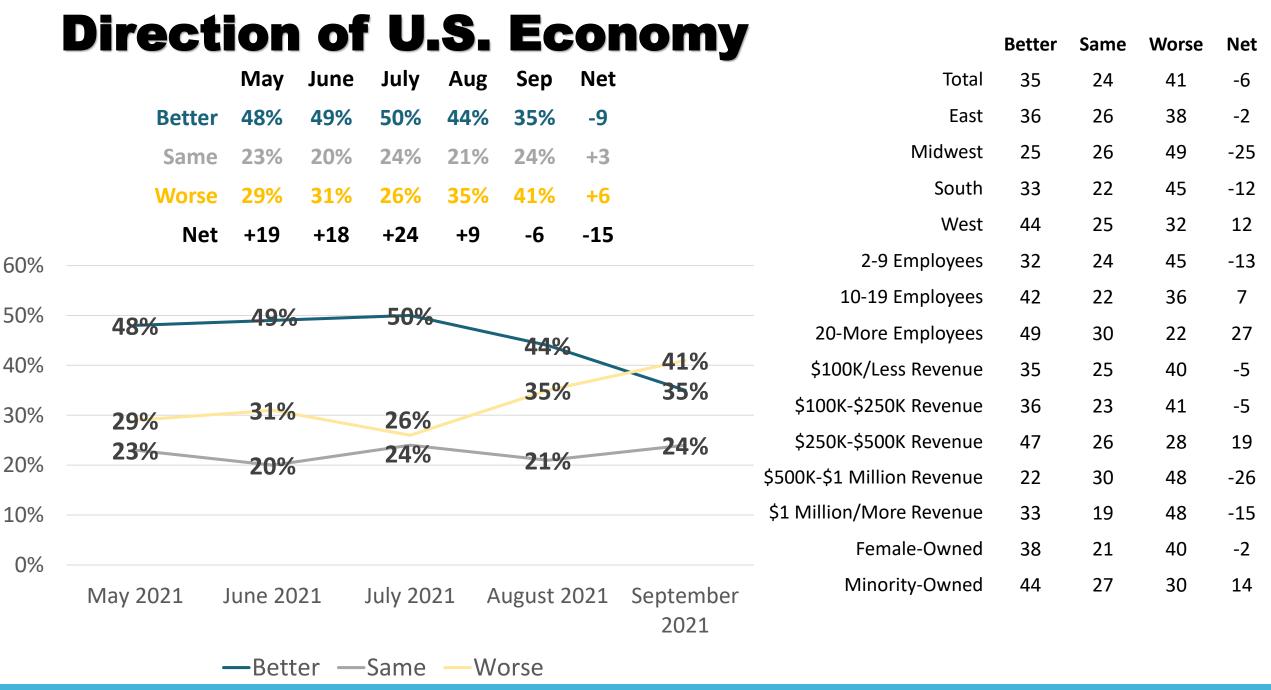


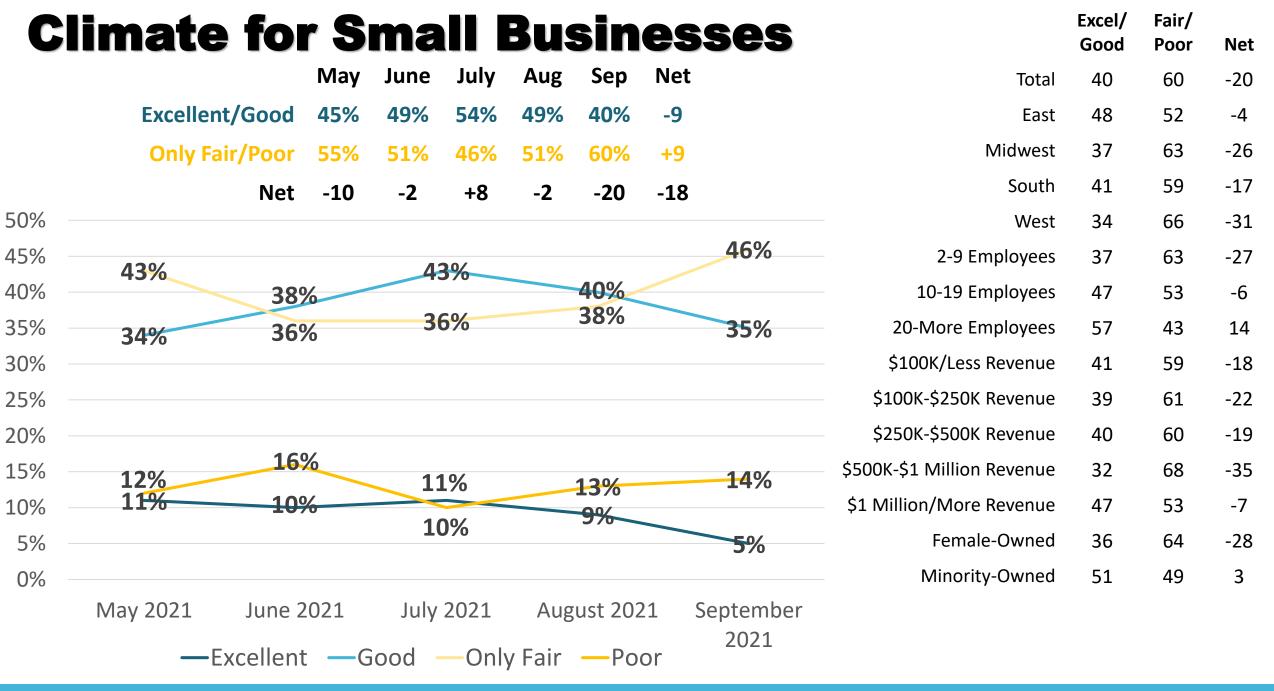
Total	58	42	16
East	68	32	36
Midwest	67	33	34
South	49	51	-1
West	49	51	-3
2-9 Employees	59	41	17
10-19 Employees	60	40	20
20-More Employees	55	45	10
\$100K/Less Revenue	70	30	39
\$100K-\$250K Revenue	42	58	-16
\$250K-\$500K Revenue	50	50	1
\$500K-\$1 Million Revenue	68	33	35
\$1 Million/More Revenue	66	34	33
Female-Owned	36	64	-27
Minority-Owned	47	53	-7

Yes

Net







Direction of Climate for Small Businesses Better Same Worse Net Sep May June July Aug Net **Total** 30 32 38 -8 44% 46% 47% 38% 30% -8 **Better** 33 37 -3 East 30 31% 26% 32% 32% 32% 0 Same Midwest 30 25 45 -15 -7 Worse 25% 28% 21% 30% 38% +8 South 30 34 37 West 26 38 36 -10 +26 +8 -8 Net +19 +18 +16 2-9 Employees 26 33 41 -15 50% 47% 10-19 Employees 46% 43 23 34 9 45% 44% 20-More Employees 43 35 23 20 40% 38% 38% 35% \$100K/Less Revenue 28 34 38 -9 32% 32% 32% 28% 31% 30% \$100K-\$250K Revenue -7 41 34 26 30% 30% 25% 25% 26% \$250K-\$500K Revenue -3 28 41 31 21% 20% \$500K-\$1 Million Revenue -22 23 33 45 15% \$1 Million/More Revenue -2 35 29 37 10% Female-Owned 29 31 40 -11 5% Minority-Owned 43 28 29 14 0% May 2021 June 2021 July 2021 August 2021 September 2021 —Better —Same -Worse

Biggest Business Concerns (1st & 2nd Choice Combo)

	May	June	July	August	September
Higher Prices/Inflation	**	32%	36%	35%	33%
Economy/Client Spending	36%	25%	23%	24%	25%
General Operating Costs	28%	24%	25%	20%	23%
Covid Restrictions/Sales	25%	15%	16%	21%	20%
Taxes	26%	21%	16%	17%	18%
Political Climate	13%	15%	14%	14%	16%
Available Workers	12%	12%	11%	15%	14%
Supply-Chain Disruptions	14%	15%	16%	14%	13%
Government Regulations	17%	12%	11%	13%	13%
Expansion Costs	7%	7%	5%	5%	7%
Gas Prices	**	**	**	**	6%
Healthcare Costs	12%	11%	12%	10%	4%
Compensation/Insurance	**	3%	7%	7%	4%
Interest Rates	6%	6%	6%	3%	2%
Loan Accessibility	6%	3%	2%	3%	2%

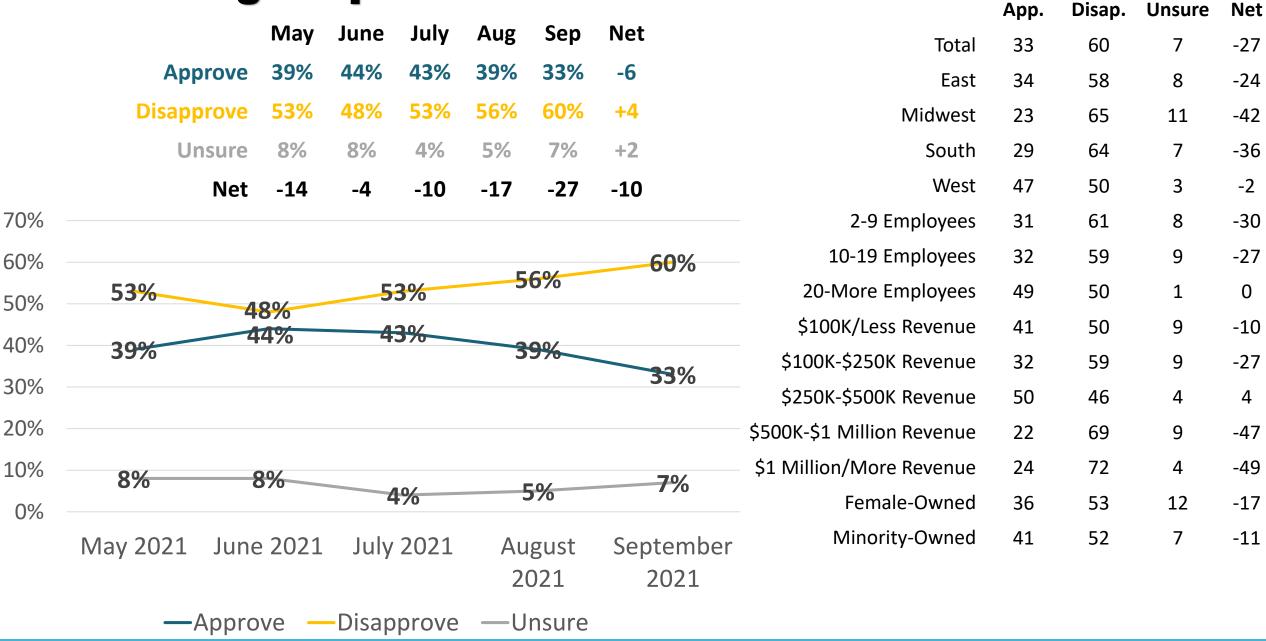
Biden Administration's Tax Increases Help/Hurt Small Business:

	July	Aug	Sep	Net	
Help	24%	26%	18%	-8	
No Impact	19%	18%	16%	-2	
Hurt	54%	51%	60%	+9	
Net	-30	-25	-42	-17	
					60%
54%		51%			0070
		260/			
24 % 19%		26% 18%			18%
		1070			16%
July 2021	Αι	ıgust 2	2021	Se	ptember 2021
—Help	—No	o Impa	ct —	Hurt	

	Help	Impact	Hurt	Net
Total	18	16	60	-42
East	18	19	55	-36
Midwest	14	14	67	-53
South	14	18	61	-47
West	28	14	56	-28
2-9 Employees	16	19	60	-44
10-19 Employees	28	6	54	-26
20-More Employees	27	9	63	-37
\$100K/Less Revenue	21	18	56	-35
\$100K-\$250K Revenue	27	14	51	-24
\$250K-\$500K Revenue	24	24	47	-24
\$500K-\$1 Million Revenue	5	17	72	-67
\$1 Million/More Revenue	14	9	71	-57
Female-Owned	19	15	54	-35
Minority-Owned	20	20	55	-35

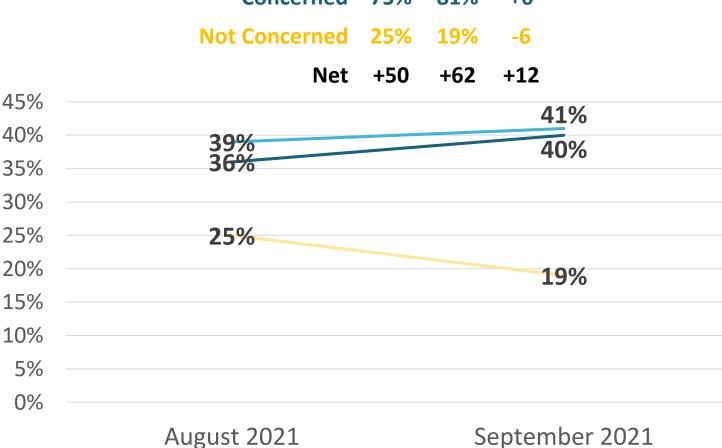
No

Raising Corporate Tax Rate



	Reduce/Eliminate the Current 20% "Pass Through" Tax Deduction						Hurt	Net
Help/Hurt				Total	24	18	46	-22
_	Aug	Sep	Net	East	24	21	42	-18
Help	31%	24%	-7	Midwest	18	17	51	-33
No Impact	14%	18%	+4	South	25	18	45	-20
Hurt	44%	46%	+2	West	29	18	48	-19
Net		-22	-9	2-9 Employees	22	18	48	-26
50% Net	-12	-22		10-19 Employees	30	18	38	-8
44%			46%	20-More Employees	36	20	40	-4
40%				\$100K/Less Revenue	27	23	35	-8
31%				\$100K-\$250K Revenue	29	17	38	-8
			24%	\$250K-\$500K Revenue	32	23	41	-9
20%			18%	\$500K-\$1 Million Revenue	18	12	60	-42
10% 10% 10%			11 %	\$1 Million/More Revenue	16	19	57	-41
1070				Female-Owned	26	16	43	-17
0%				Minority-Owned	31	18	40	-10
August 2021			September 2021	. C-Corp	30	17	43	-14
—Help —No Im	npact	—Hu	rt —Unsure	S-Corp	21	19	48	-28
Sentember 2021 LICN Monthly N	/onitor			John McL	aughlir	1 Scott	Rasm	ussen

Concern About Covid Cases Causing Government Mandates Impacting Businesses Aug Sep Net Concerned 75% 81% +6



—Very Concerned —Smwht Concerned —Not Concerned

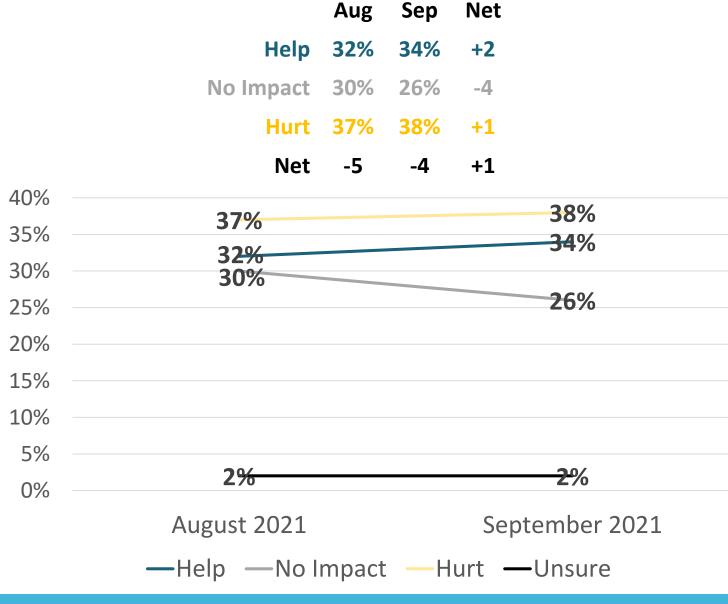
	Concerned	Concerned	net
Total	81	19	62
East	83	18	65
Midwest	71	29	42
South	84	16	68
West	83	17	67
2-9 Employees	81	19	61
10-19 Employees	83	17	66
20-More Employees	81	19	62
\$100K/Less Revenue	81	19	63
\$100K-\$250K Revenue	86	14	71
\$250K-\$500K Revenue	86	14	72
\$500K-\$1 Million Revenue	77	23	53
\$1 Million/More Revenue	75	25	50
Female-Owned	87	13	73
Minority-Owned	89	11	78

Concerned

Not

Concerned

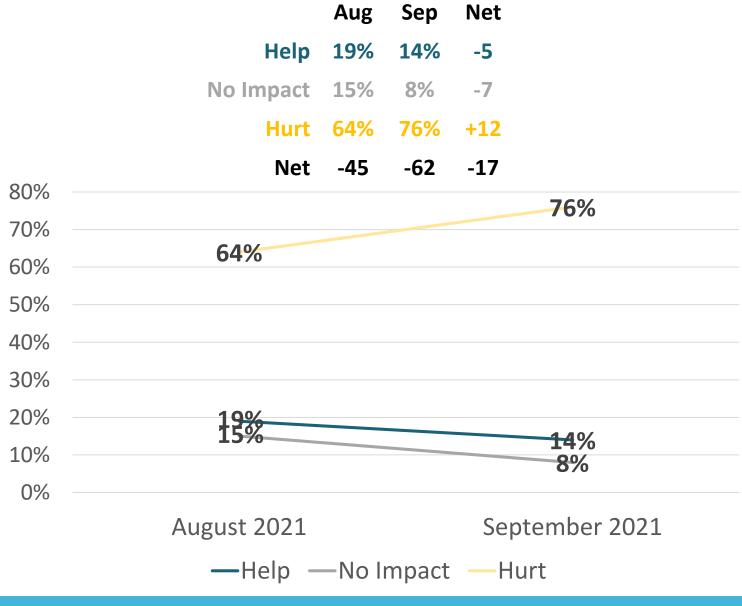
Government Indoor Mask Mandate Help/Hurt Small Business:



	Help	Impact	Hurt	Net
Total	34	26	38	-4
East	32	24	42	-10
Midwest	31	17	49	-18
South	37	30	30	7
West	36	28	36	0
2-9 Employees	31	26	40	-9
10-19 Employees	40	12	47	-7
20-More Employees	55	36	10	45
\$100K/Less Revenue	33	29	36	-3
\$100K-\$250K Revenue	40	20	38	2
\$250K-\$500K Revenue	38	28	33	6
\$500K-\$1 Million Revenue	28	28	40	-12
\$1 Million/More Revenue	33	24	41	-8
Female-Owned	45	18	34	11
Minority-Owned	54	26	18	37

No

Future Lockdowns w/Business Restrictions Help/Hurt Small Business:



	Help	Impact	Hurt	Net
Total	14	8	76	-62
East	14	5	80	-66
Midwest	18	4	78	-61
South	13	13	70	-57
West	12	8	80	-67
2-9 Employees	12	8	78	-67
10-19 Employees	22	4	74	-52
20-More Employees	23	15	62	-39
\$100K/Less Revenue	22	10	65	-43
\$100K-\$250K Revenue	19	9	69	-50
\$250K-\$500K Revenue	10	13	77	-67
\$500K-\$1 Million Revenue	10	2	86	-76
\$1 Million/More Revenue	10	7	83	-74
Female-Owned	18	12	66	-47
Minority-Owned	20	14	62	-42

No

