

# MONTHLY POLL

August 2023 Job Creators Network Foundation Small Business Monthly Poll

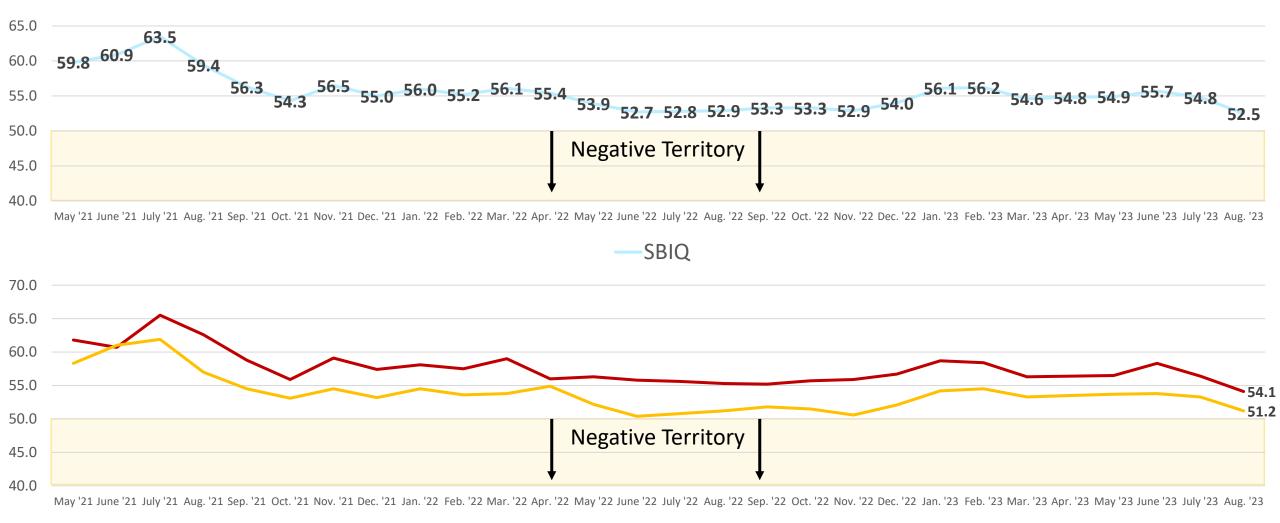
**Conducted By:** John McLaughlin Scott Rasmussen



# Methodology

This national survey of 400 small business employers was conducted between August 5-30, 2023. This presentation includes JCNF's SBIQ (Small Business Intelligence Quotient). The Small Business IQ Monthly Poll 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 400 small business employers has an accuracy of +/- 4.9% at a 95% confidence interval. The numbers in this presentation have been rounded and may not equal 100%. Small Business Intelligence Quotient The JCNF 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. The JCNF SBIQ is based on 7-questions: Current Conditions: Employer's Business, U.S. Economy, and Climate for Small Businesses Future Expectations: Employer's Business Next 3-Months, Employer's Hiring Next 3-Months, Direction of U.S. Economy, and Direction of Climate for Small Business



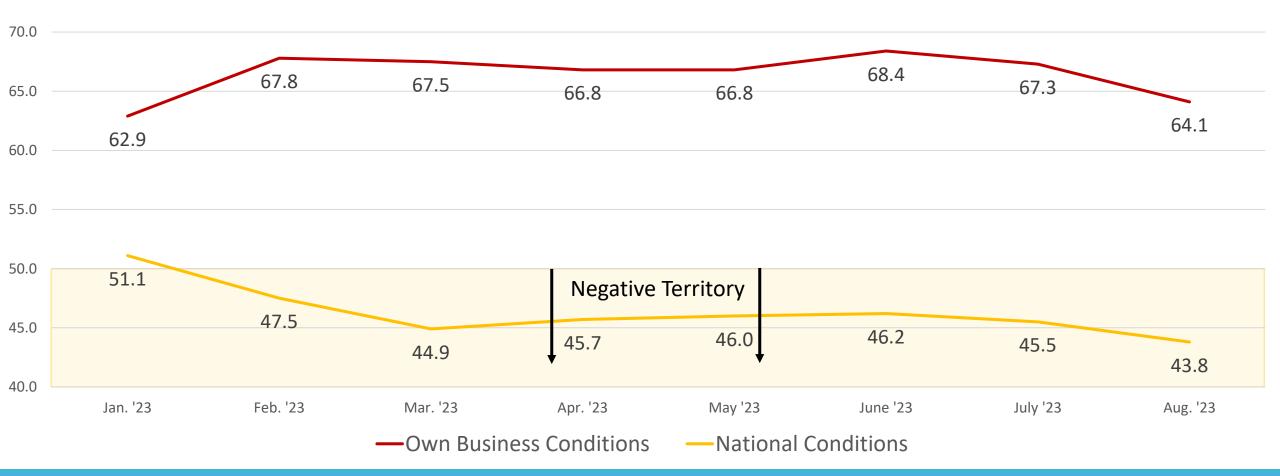
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70.0



The JCNF 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. The JCNF SBIQ is based on 7-questions:
Own Business Conditions: Employer's Business, Employer's Business Next 3-Months, and Employer's Hiring Next 3-Months
National Conditions: U.S. Economy, and Climate for Small Businesses, Direction of U.S. Economy, and Direction of Climate for Small Business

## **Divergence Between Perception of Own Business & National Economic Conditions**

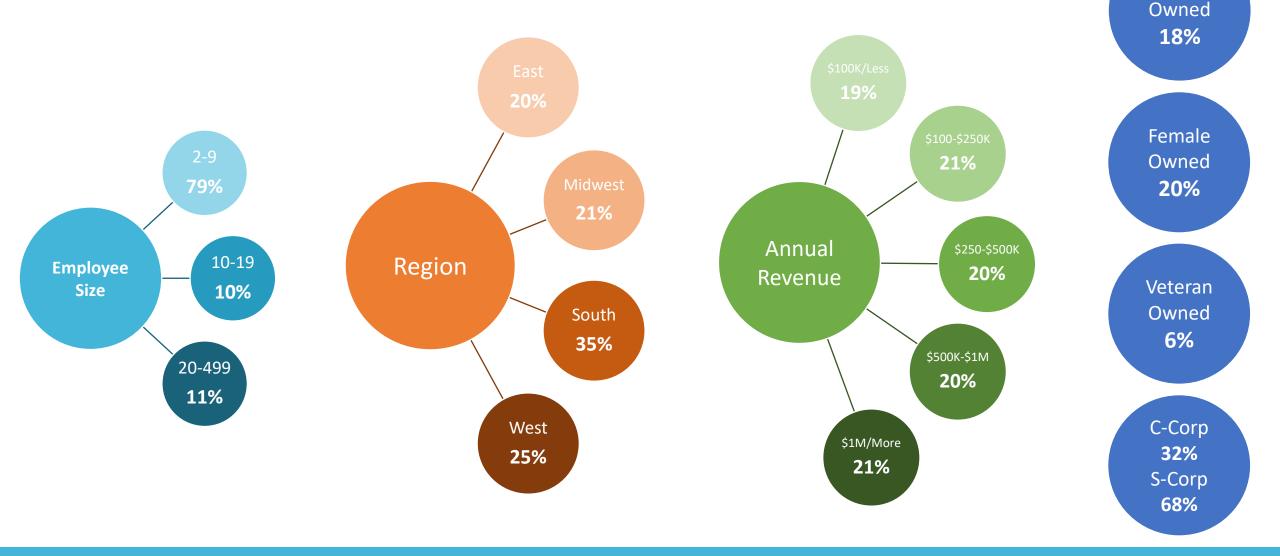


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- Only 25 percent of small businesses think the economy is "Excellent" or "Good," dropping 4 points this month and 59 percent say the economy is getting worse (up from 51 percent last month.) So What? Entrepreneurs are concerned about the overall economy.
- 78 percent of small businesses would give Joe Biden a C grade or lower for his performance in helping small businesses. With 43 percent giving him an F grade. So What? Small businesses don't think this administration is doing enough to help the little guy.
- 3. Inflation, inflation, inflation. While the administration continues to talk about how inflation is dropping, small businesses are still dealing with sky-high prices. Inflation is one of the top two concerns for 52 percent of small businesses. 4 points higher than last month. *So What? Inflation continues to be top of mind and small business owners aren't seeing relief.*
- 4. When discussing higher education, 90 percent of small businesses think Colleges and Universities overcharge students. *So What? Schools need to be held accountable for out-of-control spending.*
- 5. The availability of workers is a significant concern, with 17 percent of small businesses calling it their first or second concern. This is a 4-point jump from last month. *So What? Labor participation is still struggling in our post pandemic economy.*

# **Small Business Employer Profile** Who are the 400 respondents?

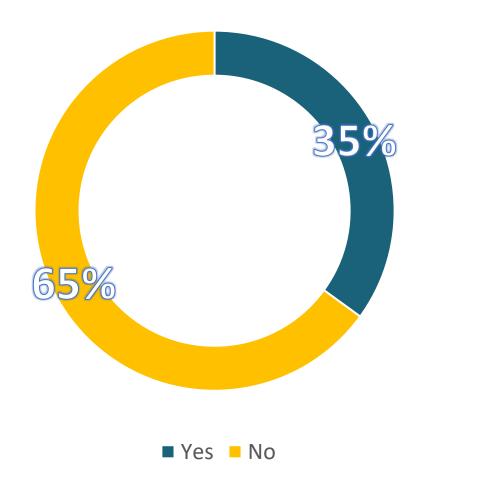


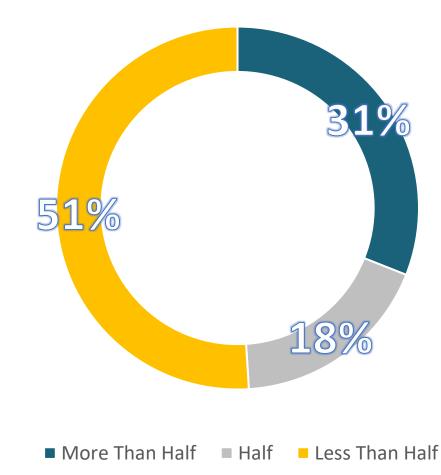
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# **Small Business Employer Profile**

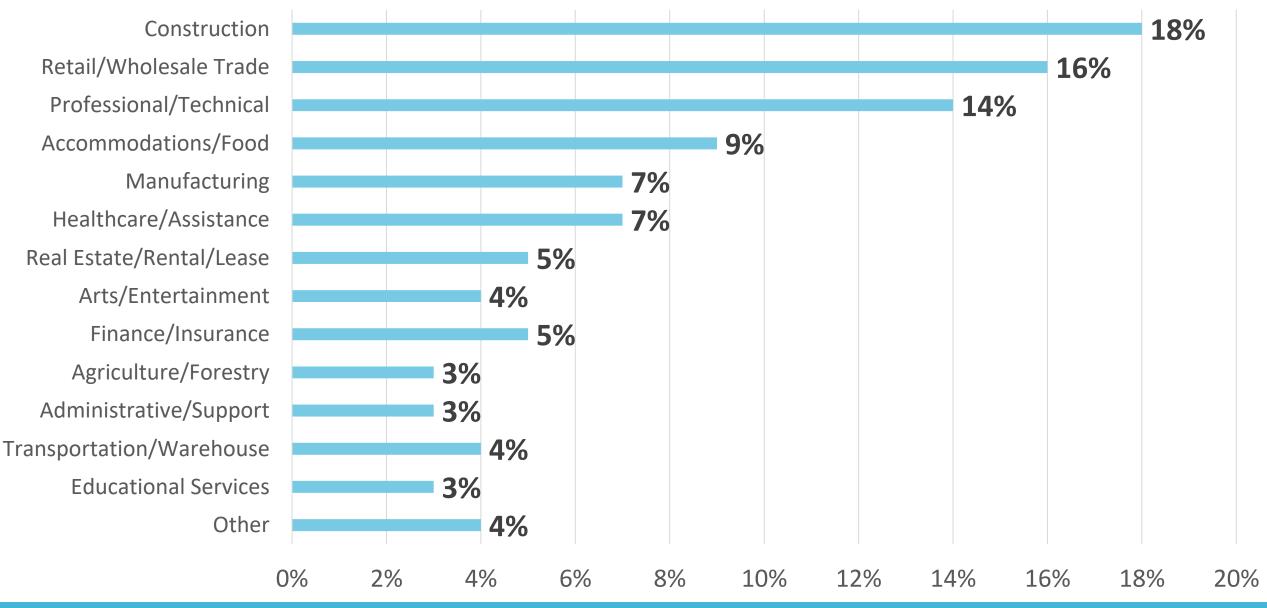
### **Brick & Mortar Store**

**E-Commerce Business** 



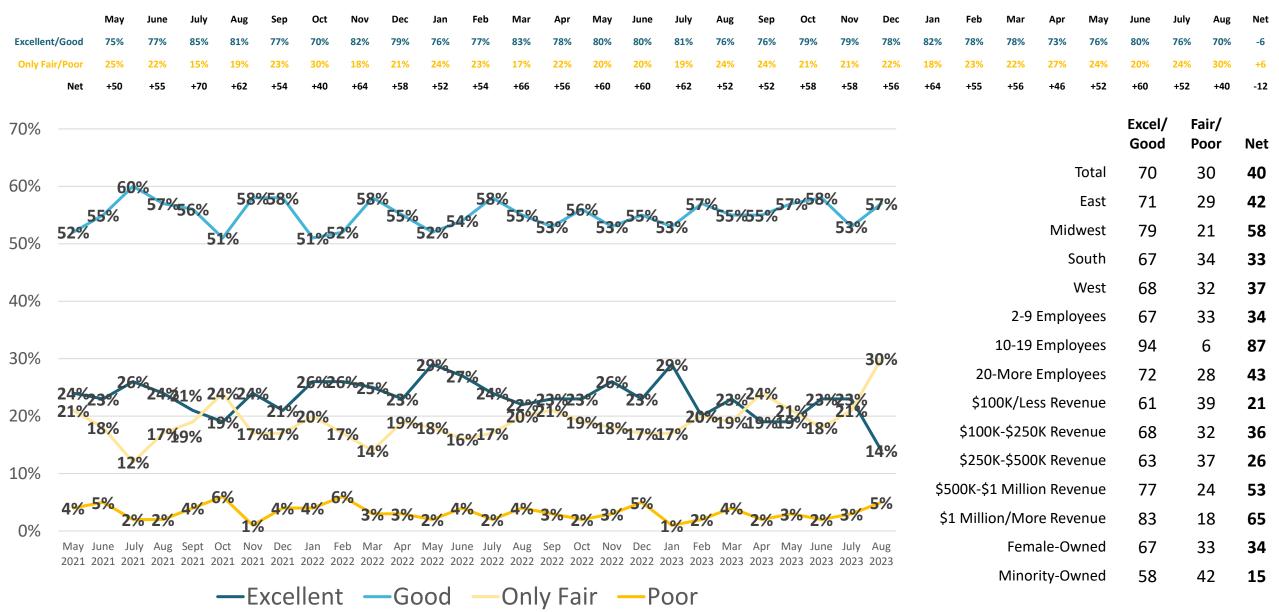


# **Small Business Employer Industry**



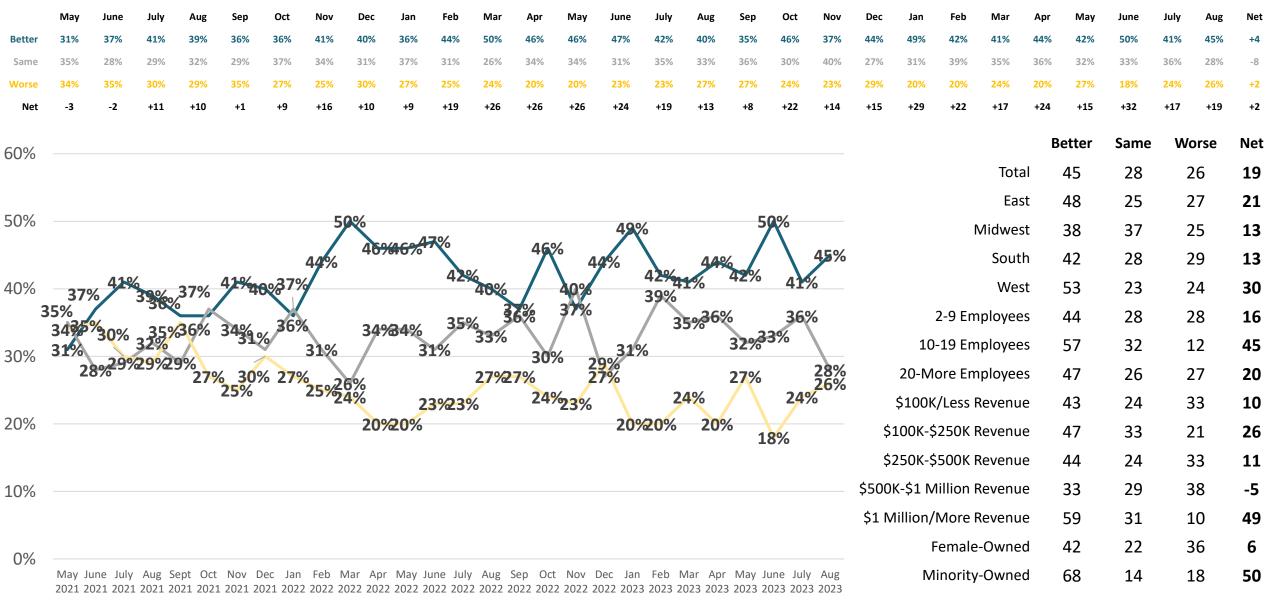
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# **Current Financial Condition**



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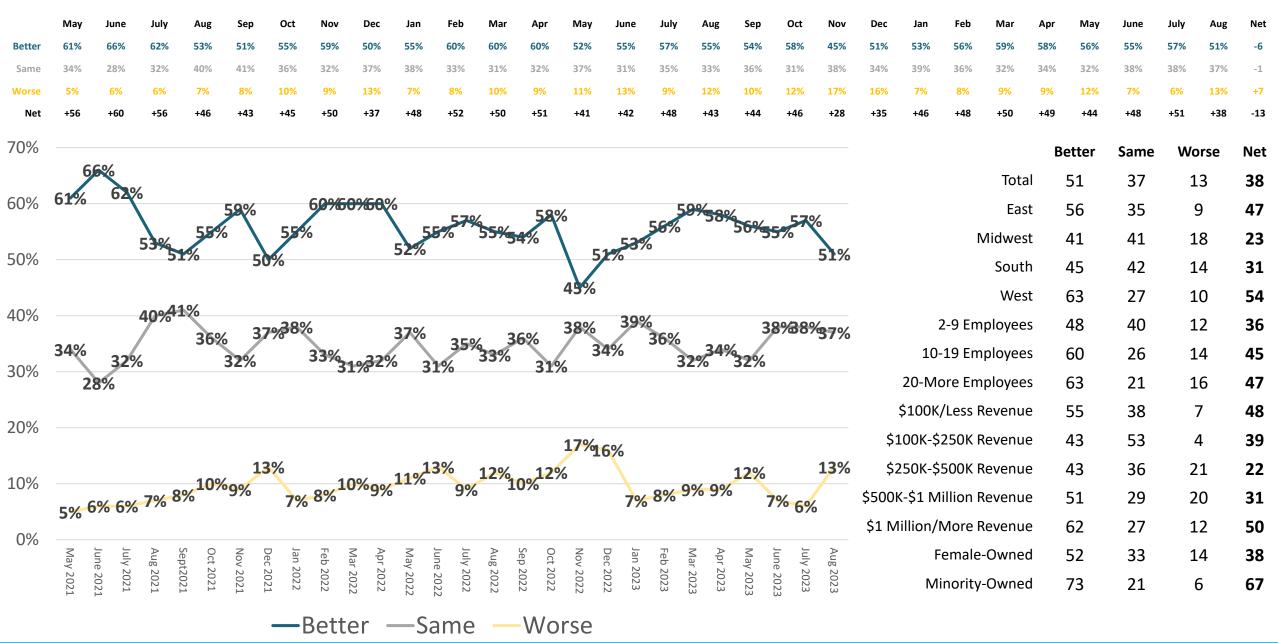
## **Financial Condition Over Last Year**



-Better -Same -Worse

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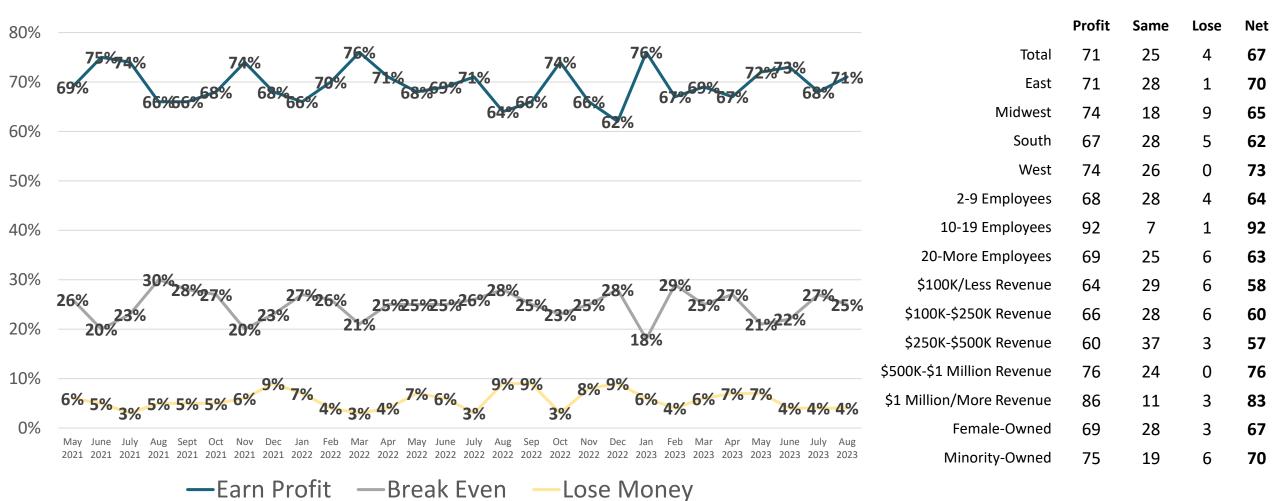
## **Financial Condition Next 3-Months**



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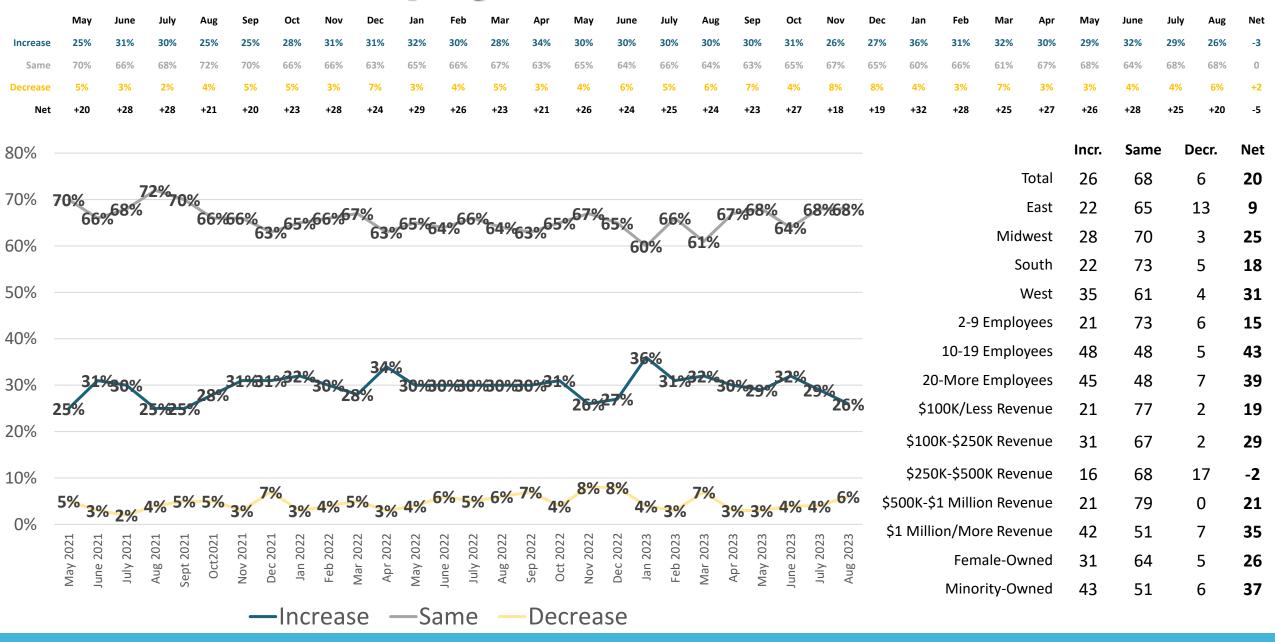
# **Profitability Next 12-Months**

	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Net
Earn Profit	<b>69%</b>	75%	74%	66%	66%	68%	74%	68%	66%	70%	76%	71%	68%	69%	71%	64%	66%	74%	66%	<b>62%</b>	76%	67%	<b>69%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>72%</b>	73%	68%	71%	+3
Break Even	26%	20%	23%	30%	28%	27%	20%	23%	27%	26%	21%	25%	35%	25%	26%	28%	25%	23%	25%	28%	18%	29%	25%	27%	21%	22%	27%	25%	-2
Lose Money	<mark>6%</mark>	5%	3%	5%	5%	5%	<mark>6%</mark>	<mark>9%</mark>	7%	4%	3%	4%	7%	<mark>6%</mark>	3%	9%	9%	3%	8%	9%	<mark>6%</mark>	4%	<mark>6%</mark>	7%	7%	4%	4%	4%	0
Net	+63	+70	+71	+61	+61	+63	+68	+59	+59	+66	+73	+67	+61	+63	+69	+55	+57	+71	+58	+53	+70	+63	+63	+60	+65	+69	+64	+67	+3



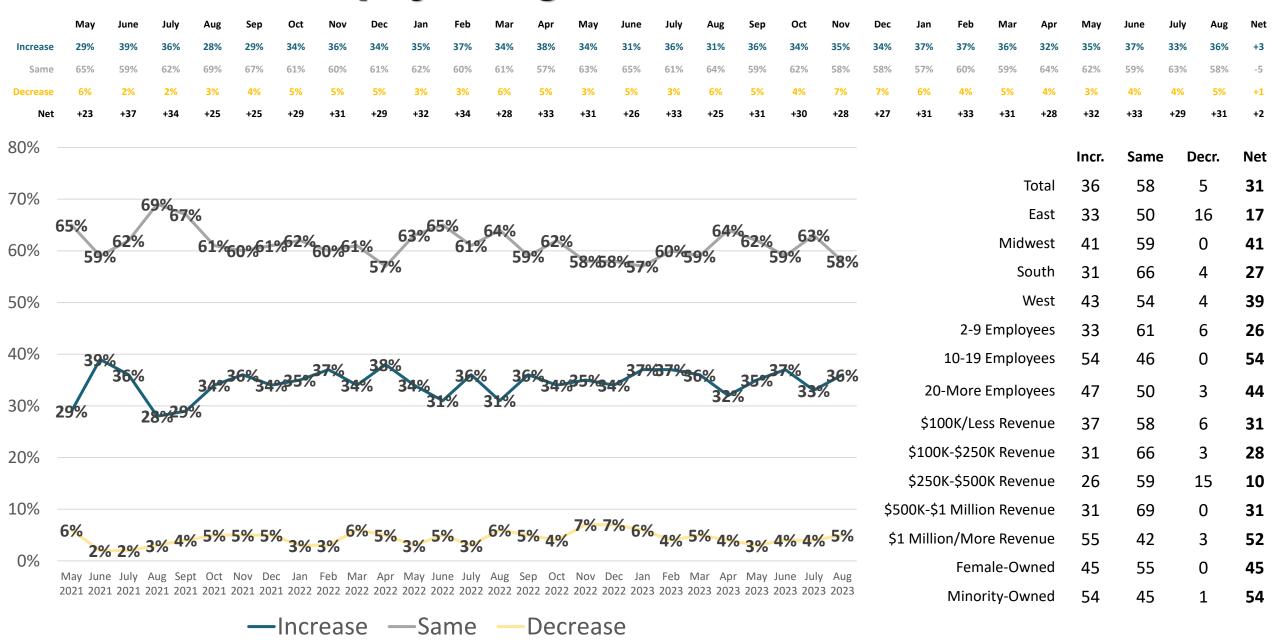
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# **Employment Next 3-Months**



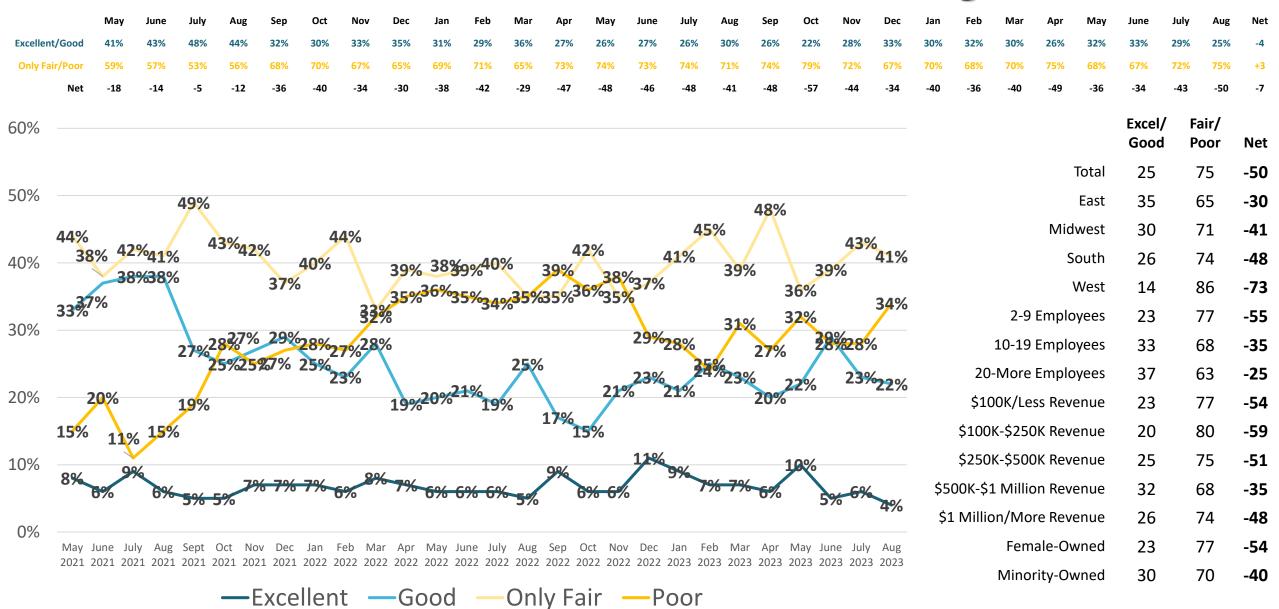
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## **Employee Wages/Hours Next 3-Months**



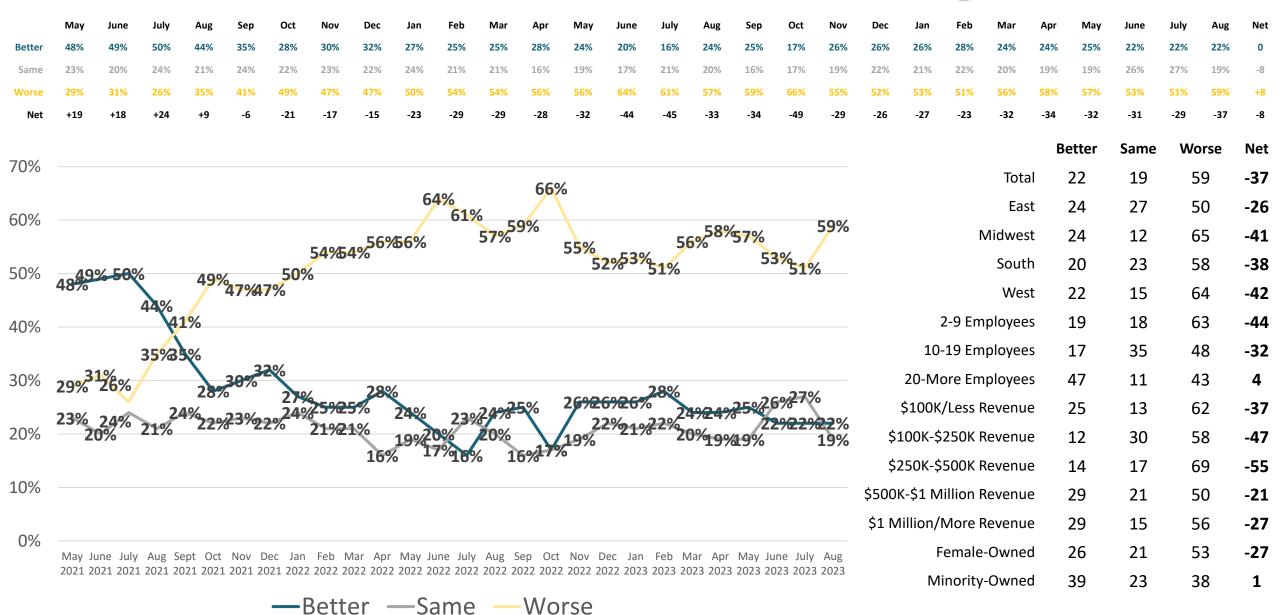
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# **Condition of U.S. Economy**



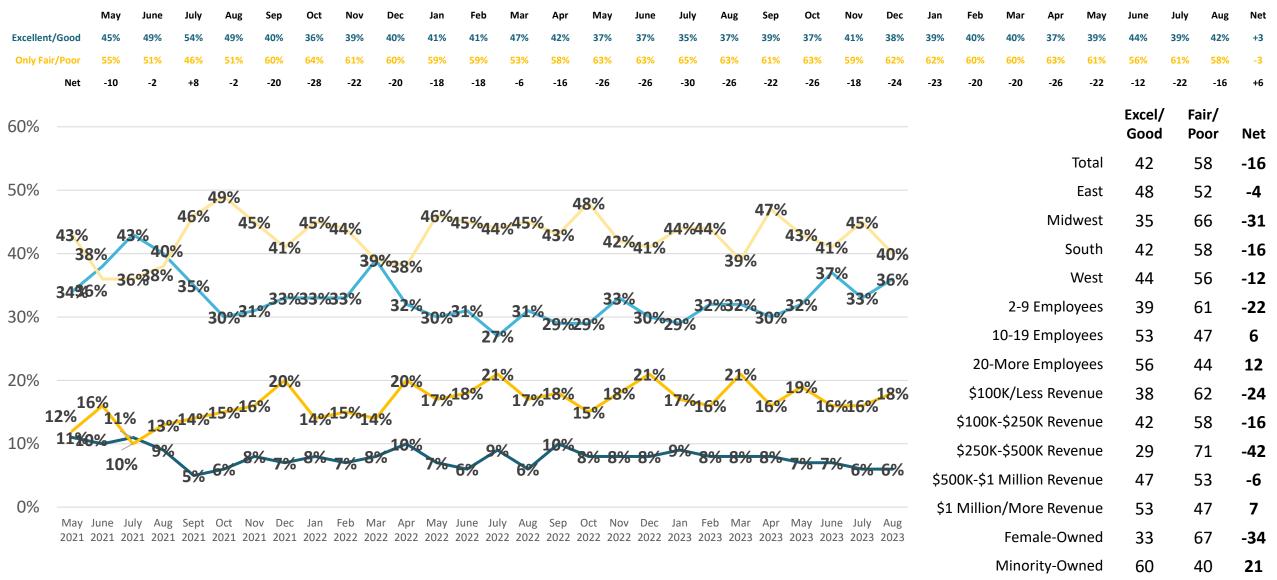
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# **Direction of U.S. Economy**



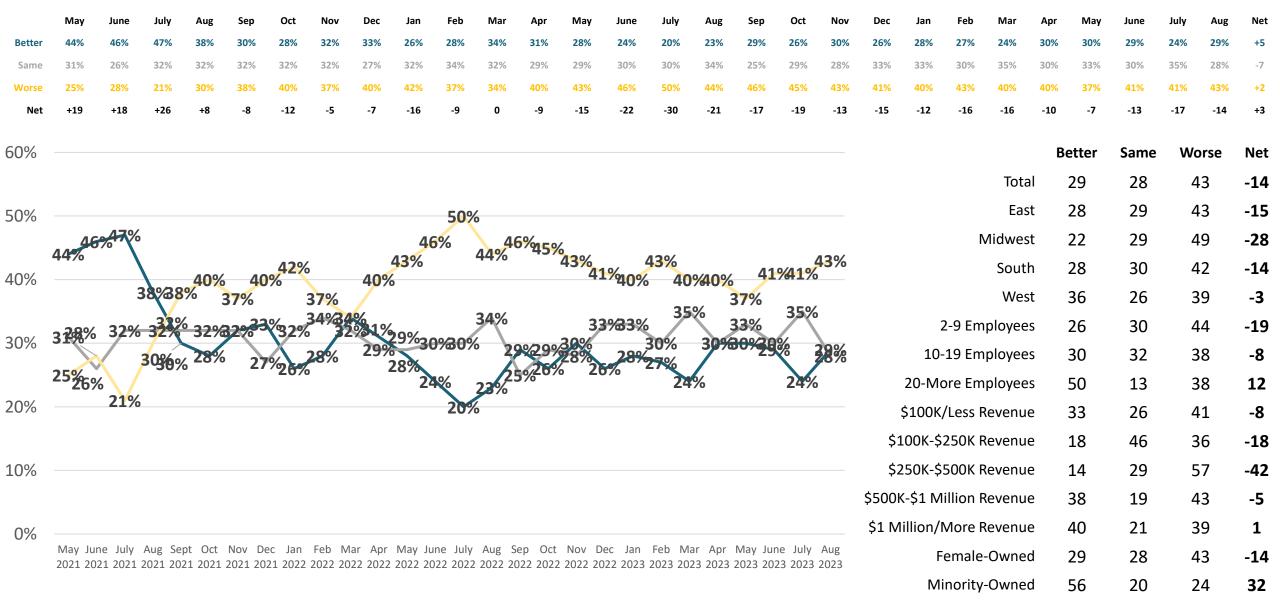
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# **Climate for Small Businesses**



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## **Direction of Climate for Small Businesses**



-Better -Same -Worse

### How would you grade Joe Biden's Job Performance helping small businesses

	Nov. 2022	Dec. 2022	Aug 2023	East	Mid- West	South	West	2-9 Employ	10-19 Employ	20/More Employ				
Positive	24%	23%	20%	30%	17%	14%	22%	18%	21%	33%				
A-Grade	7%	9%	5%	10%	3%	3%	8%	4%	10%	9%				
B-Grade	18%	13%	15%	20%	15%	12%	14%	14%	11%	24%				
Negative	71%	75%	78%	68%	83%	82%	75%	79%	79%	65%				
C-Grade	18%	22%	18%	13%	17%	17%	24%	17%	20%	26%				
D-Grade	11%	16%	16%	14%	9%	18%	21%	17%	8%	18%				
F-Grade	43%	37%	43%	41%	56%	46%	30%	45%	51%	22%				
GPA	1.3	1.4	1.2	1.4	1.0	1.0	1.5	1.2	1.2	1.8				
	-	100K- ss Rev.	-	100K- 0K Rev.	, ¢	\$250K- 500K Rev	y. ş	\$500K- 51 Mill Rev.	\$1 N More		emale wned	Minority Owned	C- Corp	S- Corp
Positive		23%		24%		9%		20%	24	%	20%	37%	31%	15%
A-Grade		3%		8%		2%		5%	72	%	6%	17%	13%	2%
B-Grade	-	20%		15%		7%		15%	17	'% í	14%	20%	18%	13%
Negative		73%		75%		88%		78%	73	% 8	80%	63%	68%	82%
C-Grade	-	19%		17%		15%		16%	22	%	21%	25%	14%	20%
D-Grade	-	15%		24%		15%		18%	11	.%	29%	15%	13%	18%
F-Grade				220/				450/	40	NO/ ·	30%	23%	41%	44%
	4	40%		33%		58%		45%	40	170 :	5070	23/0	4170	44/0

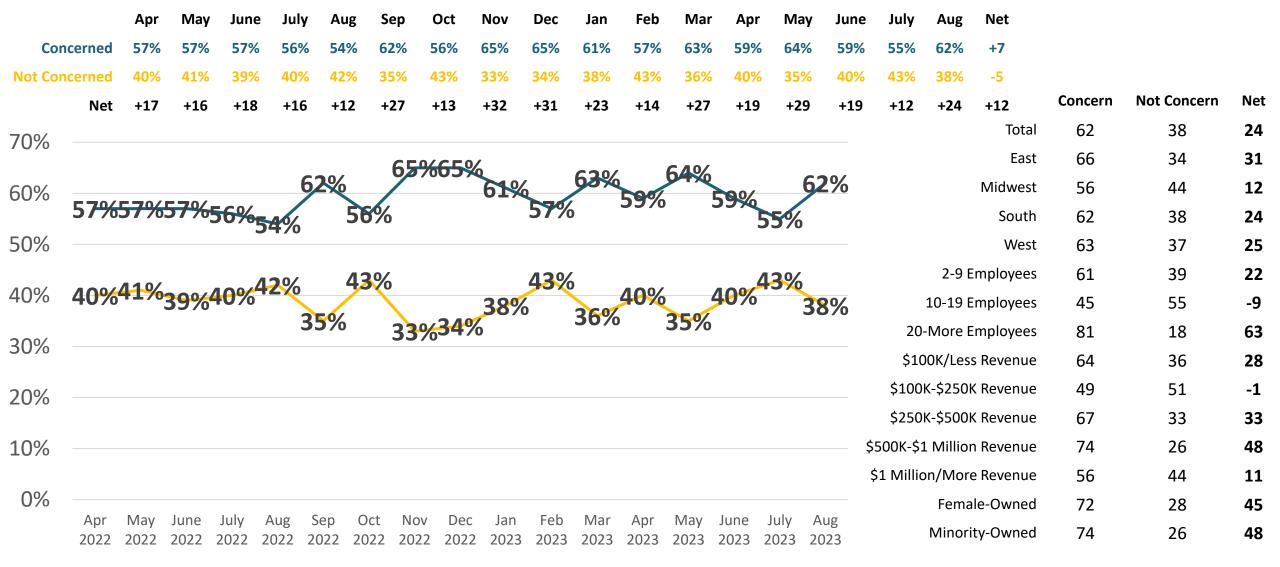
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### **Biggest Business Concerns (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Choice Combo)**

	Jan '22	Feb '22	Mar '22	Apr '22	May '22	June '22	July '22	Aug '22	Sep '22	Oct '22	Nov '22	Dec '22	Jan '23	Feb '23	Mar '23	Apr '23	May '23	Jun '23	July '23	Aug '23
Higher Prices/Inflation	40%	40%	43%	42%	41%	46%	48%	43%	48%	40%	49%	49%	41%	47%	45%	49%	53%	53%	48%	52%
Economy/Client Spending	21%	19%	20%	23%	26%	22%	28%	27%	26%	29%	31%	31%	27%	27%	29%	31%	31%	28%	32%	27%
General Operating Costs	21%	24%	21%	28%	14%	18%	23%	26%	20%	23%	26%	26%	19%	23%	30%	20%	25%	31%	24%	26%
Taxes	14%	15%	13%	15%	11%	12%	16%	12%	12%	12%	15%	14%	21%	13%	17%	15%	15%	12%	17%	17%
Available Workers	11%	14%	12%	15%	14%	13%	8%	12%	12%	13%	12%	13%	10%	15%	16%	14%	12%	8%	13%	17%
Interest Rates	6%	2%	4%	5%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	10%	8%	10%	10%	10%	13%	9%	8%	6%	9%	11%
Gas Prices	9%	10%	25%	19%	23%	27%	26%	19%	19%	13%	15%	13%	11%	9%	11%	11%	10%	9%	5%	10%
Supply-Chain Disruptions	20%	20%	14%	16%	15%	16%	12%	18%	21%	14%	14%	11%	13%	14%	9%	12%	14%	11%	14%	8%
Healthcare Costs	5%	7%	7%	4%	8%	7%	3%	5%	7%	6%	6%	6%	7%	7%	6%	4%	7%	3%	5%	8%
Government Regulations	14%	10%	10%	8%	10%	4%	8%	5%	7%	9%	4%	7%	11%	8%	6%	6%	7%	9%	9%	6%
Loan Accessibility	3%	4%	4%	4%	6%	4%	4%	3%	3%	3%	4%	2%	3%	3%	3%	4%	1%	3%	4%	5%
Political Climate	10%	9%	12%	8%	9%	9%	11%	8%	7%	12%	4%	8%	11%	6%	8%	10%	10%	13%	11%	4%
Expansion Costs	4%	4%	4%	4%	6%	6%	3%	6%	6%	5%	7%	2%	7%	8%	4%	8%	2%	6%	4%	4%
Compensation/Insurance	2%	6%	3%	4%	6%	4%	3%	2%	2%	4%	4%	5%	3%	4%	3%	3%	4%	5%	2%	3%
Covid Restrictions/Sales	21%	16%	9%	7%	5%	6%	4%	10%	5%	5%	3%	5%	5%	6%	2%	3%	2%	1%	4%	2%

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# How Concerned That Economic Conditions Could Force You to Close Your Business



—Concerned —Not Concerned

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### **Concerned Bank Failures & Instability Will Impact Their Small Business**

	April Total	May Total	June Total	July Total	Aug Total	East	Mid- West	South	West	2-9 Employ	10-19 Employ	20/More Employ
Concerned	59%	57%	57%	55%	59%	49%	54%	58%	73%	57%	57%	72%
Very	16%	20%	19%	12%	20%	20%	12%	25%	20%	19%	21%	25%
Somewhat	43%	37%	38%	43%	39%	28%	41%	33%	52%	38%	36%	47%
Not Concerned	40%	42%	42%	44%	40%	48%	46%	40%	27%	42%	43%	22%
Unsure	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	4%	0%	2%	0%	1%	1%	6%

	\$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
Concerned	57%	58%	54%	71%	54%	72%	77%	64%	57%
Very	30%	13%	23%	12%	23%	20%	26%	18%	21%
Somewhat	28%	45%	31%	59%	31%	51%	51%	46%	36%
Not Concerned	41%	<b>42%</b>	46%	24%	45%	29%	19%	35%	42%
Unsure	2%	0%	0%	5%	0%	0%	4%	1%	2%

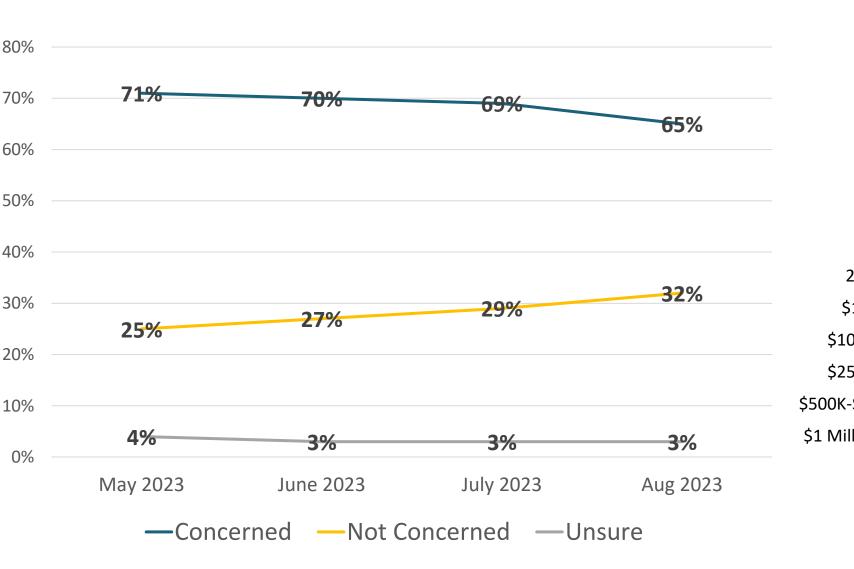
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## Amount of Time Your Business Deals with Local, State & Federal Regulations

	March Total	April Total	May Total	June Total	July Total	Aug Total	East	Mid- West	South	West	2-9 Employ	10-19 Employ	20/More Employ
Time Consuming	61%	56%	62%	60%	49%	56%	59%	58%	58%	51%	54%	59%	70%
Not Consuming	36%	43%	36%	39%	50%	42%	41%	40%	41%	48%	44%	41%	30%
Unsure	3%	2%	3%	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%	0%	0%

	\$100K- Less Rev.	\$100K- \$250K Rev.	\$250K- \$500K Rev.	\$500K- \$1 Mill Rev.	\$1 Mill- More Rev.		-		S- Corp
Time Consuming	53%	65%	51%	64%	49%	72%	62%	61%	54%
Not Consuming	42%	35%	48%	36%	51%	27%	38%	38%	44%
Unsure	5%	0%	2%	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	2%

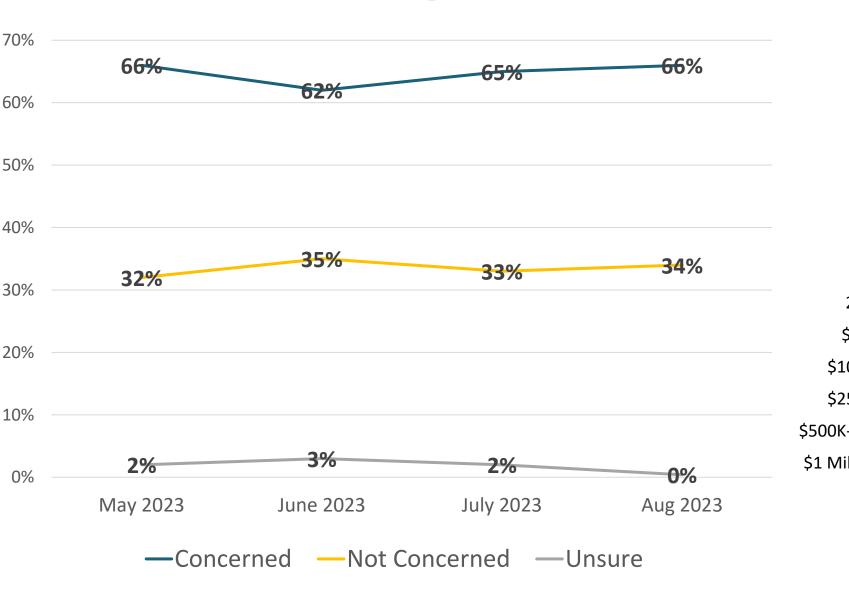
# **Concerned About New Banking Regulations Will Make It More Expensive to Give Loans**



		Not	
	Concerned	Concerned	Net
Total	65	32	33
East	70	30	41
Midwest	64	35	29
South	60	34	27
West	69	29	40
2-9 Employees	63	34	28
10-19 Employees	67	32	36
20-More Employees	83	17	66
\$100K/Less Revenue	64	35	29
\$100K-\$250K Revenue	65	30	35
\$250K-\$500K Revenue	55	37	19
00K-\$1 Million Revenue	69	31	38
. Million/More Revenue	72	28	44
Female-Owned	73	27	46
Minority-Owned	78	22	57

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# **Concerned About Rising Interest Rates Will Affect Business' Ability to Access Credit**



		Not	
	Concerned	Concerned	Net
Total	66	34	32
East	65	35	30
Midwest	60	40	20
South	70	30	40
West	66	33	33
2-9 Employees	65	35	29
10-19 Employees	60	40	19
20-More Employees	80	18	63
\$100K/Less Revenue	52	47	5
\$100K-\$250K Revenue	70	30	41
\$250K-\$500K Revenue	64	35	29
\$500K-\$1 Million Revenue	77	23	55
\$1 Million/More Revenue	65	35	30
Female-Owned	66	34	32
Minority-Owned	82	18	64

#### August 2023 | JCNF SBIQ Monthly Poll

### Where are you most likely to go if your business wanted to get a financial loan?

	May Total	June Total	July Total	Aug Total	East	Mid- West	South	West	2-9 Emplo	10-1 y Empl	/		
Big Bank	22%	26%	29%	26%	26%	24%	31%	19%	22%	49%	<b>6 30</b> 5	%	
Small Bank/Credit Union	60%	57%	51%	51%	65%	56%	46%	44%	54%	41%	6 <b>45</b> 9	%	
Fintech/Online Bank	6%	7%	9%	9%	3%	4%	8%	21%	9%	7%	5 149	%	
Unsure	12%	10%	10%	14%	6%	16%	14%	17%	15%	3%	5 119	%	
	\$100	К-	\$100K	-	\$250K-		¢ F O O V	¢1 I	Mill-	Fomolo	Minority	<b>C</b>	C
		-	•		γ <b>Ζ</b> ĴŪΝ-		\$500K-	γī	VIIII-	Female	Minority	C-	S-
	Less R	ev. \$2	250K R		500K Re		Sook- Mill Rev.	•		Owned	Owned	C- Corp	S- Corp
Big Bank	Less R	•	250K Ro 20%		•		•	More			-		_
Big Bank Small Bank/Credit Union		6			500K Re		Mill Rev.	More 32	e Rev.	Owned	Owned	Corp	Corp
	17%	6 6	20%		500K Re		Mill Rev. 23%	More 32 48	e Rev. 2%	Owned 20%	Owned 29%	Corp 33%	Corp 22%

# **Best Way to Address Declining Test Scores in Public Schools**

	July		Mid-			2-9	10-19	20/More
	Total	East	West	South	West	Employ	Employ	Employ
Pay Teachers	21%	18%	19%	19%	26%	19%	34%	19%
Reduce Class	25%	19%	16%	31%	30%	26%	13%	32%
Expand Choices	19%	25%	23%	15%	15%	17%	31%	21%
Involve Parents	28%	27%	33%	31%	21%	31%	17%	20%
Unsure	7%	10%	8%	4%	8%	7%	5%	8%

	\$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
Pay Teachers	30%	27%	8%	16%	23%	21%	29%	25%	19%
<b>Reduce Class</b>	17%	23%	27%	28%	31%	29%	31%	26%	25%
Expand Choice	14%	13%	31%	13%	22%	18%	15%	9%	23%
<b>Involve Parents</b>	31%	29%	28%	39%	16%	29%	22%	31%	27%
Unsure	8%	8%	6%	5%	8%	3%	3%	9%	6%

#### August 2023 | JCNF SBIQ Monthly Poll

# Agree/Disagree: Colleges and Universities Overcharge Students

	July		Mid-			2-9	10-19	20/More	
	Total	East	West	South	West	Employ	Employ	Employ	
Agree	90%	88%	95%	86%	92%	90%	97%	79%	
Disagree	7%	7%	4%	10%	7%	7%	3%	13%	
Unsure	3%	5%	1%	4%	1%	3%	0%	9%	

	\$100K- Less Rev.	\$100K- \$250K Rev.	\$250K- \$500K Rev.	\$500K- \$1 Mill Rev.	\$1 Mill- More Rev.		Minority Owned	_	S- Corp
Agree	83%	91%	95%	91%	89%	81%	81%	89%	90%
Disagree	16%	7%	2%	7%	5%	15%	16%	8%	7%
Unsure	2%	2%	3%	2%	6%	4%	3%	3%	3%