About Small Business for America’s Future

- Small Business for America’s Future is a national coalition of business owners and leaders working to provide small businesses a voice at every level of government.

- We’re committed to ensuring policymakers prioritize Main Street by advancing a just and equitable economic framework that works for small business owners, their employees and their communities.
Key Findings
National Small Business Survey: Economic Optimism and Support for Inflation Reduction Act

Between Aug. 4-15, 2023, Small Business for America’s Future conducted a national survey of 961 small business owners to gauge their sentiment around the economy and the Inflation Reduction Act on its one-year anniversary.

Key Insights

- Most Main Street entrepreneurs responding to the survey are optimistic about their business’ future, and believe government initiatives and investments have contributed recent positive economic developments.
- Over half believe the Inflation Reduction Act has had a positive impact on small businesses.
- Most believe measures in the Act to control inflation benefit small business.
- Most believe the IRS needs to improve and support funds to do so.
- Awareness of the Act’s details remains somewhat limited.

Economic Findings

- 57% of respondents are optimistic about their business’s future, while just 23% are pessimistic (most only moderately).
- A strong 63% believe that government spending and investments, including the Inflation Reduction Act, have contributed to positive economic momentum.
National Small Business Survey: Economic Optimism and Support for Inflation Reduction Act

IRS Sentiments and the Inflation Reduction Act

- 62% of small business owners responding believe the IRS should enhance its service and responsiveness to small businesses.
- 63% support the Act's decade-long investments to improve and modernize the IRS.

A majority of respondents support the Inflation Reduction Act’s provisions:

- 78% back the Act's measures allowing Medicare to negotiate lower prescription drug prices.
- 70% favor extending these negotiated prices from Medicare to private insurance plans.
- 66% feel that measures in the Act to control inflation benefit small businesses.
- 50% believe that the Act’s investment in the clean energy sector, including tax incentives, promotes business opportunities.
- Specifically, 58% intend to invest in or adopt clean energy technologies soon.
- 65% agree elevating the small business Research and Development Refundable Tax Credit will help entrepreneurs.
Survey Results
Q1: Are you a small business owner?

Yes
Q2: Not including yourself, how many employees do you have?
Q3: Given the current economic climate, what is your level of optimism for the future of your business?
Q4: How familiar would you say you are with the details of the Inflation Reduction Act?
Q5: Given the provisions of the IRA, such as establishing a 15% minimum corporate tax on large corporations to ensure they pay their fair share, raising the Refundable Research and Development tax credit for small businesses, reducing healthcare costs through Medicare negotiation of drug prices and extension of the ACA’s premium subsidies, and measures to combat inflation, to what extent do you believe these measures will benefit small business?
Q6: Please rate the potential impact each of the following Inflation Reduction Act provisions on small businesses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provision</th>
<th>Will significantly benefit small business</th>
<th>Will somewhat benefit small business</th>
<th>Will have no impact on small business</th>
<th>Might somewhat harm small business</th>
<th>Might significantly harm small business</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Establishing a 15% minimum corporate tax on large corporations to ensure they pay their fair share</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raising the Refundable Research and Development tax credit for small businesses</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extending the Affordable Care Act’s premium subsidies</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementing measures to combat inflation like deficit reduction</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allowing Medicare to negotiate the price of prescription medicines directly with drug companies for the first time</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementing two dozen tax provisions to invest in the clean energy economy</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>15%</td>
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</table>
Q7: How supportive are you of the Inflation Reduction Act's measures to lower prescription drug prices?
Q8: Would you support the government extending the negotiated drug prices from Medicare to private insurance plans?

- Strongly support: 52%
- Somewhat support: 18%
- Neither support nor oppose: 14%
- Somewhat oppose: 4%
- Strongly oppose: 5%
- Unsure/Prefer not to answer: 7%
Q9: How would you characterize your overall opinion of the Inflation Reduction Act?

- Extremely beneficial: 22%
- Somewhat beneficial: 31%
- Neutral: 22%
- Somewhat detrimental: 7%
- Extremely detrimental: 8%
- I'm unsure/Don't have enough information to have an opinion: 10%
Q10: Now, drawing on your experience as a small business owner with the process of paying your taxes, how would you characterize your overall opinion of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS)?

- Extremely favorable: 7%
- Generally favorable: 24%
- Neither favorable nor unfavorable: 35%
- Generally unfavorable: 16%
- Extremely unfavorable: 12%
- Not sure / Prefer not to answer: 6%
Q11: Reflecting on your interactions and experiences with the IRS as a small business owner, are there specific aspects where you believe the IRS should improve its service and responsiveness to the small business community?
Q12: In your view, and remembering that it is Congress—not the IRS—that creates tax policy and sets the level of taxation, which areas should the IRS focus on for improvement? (Please select all that apply)
Q13: As you may know, the Inflation Reduction Act will invest over the next 10 years to modernize the IRS and improve its service delivery. The intent of this investment is not to increase audit scrutiny on small businesses or middle-income Americans. In fact, the Department of Treasury has directed that audit rates will not rise relative to recent years for households making under $400,000. With this context, to what extent do you support or oppose this targeted investment to modernize and enhance the efficiency of the IRS?

- Strongly support: 39%
- Somewhat support: 24%
- Neither support nor oppose: 16%
- Somewhat oppose: 5%
- Strongly oppose: 9%
- Not sure / Prefer not to answer: 8%
Q14: The Inflation Reduction Act includes a significant investment in the clean energy economy. There are more than two dozen tax incentives including a credit if you install qualified vehicle refueling and recharging property in your home or business as well as credits for the use of American-made equipment for clean energy production. To what extent do you believe these tax incentives will contribute to creating new opportunities for small businesses in the clean energy sector?
Q15: How likely are you to invest in or adopt clean energy technologies for your business in the near future?
Q16: What are the main factors influencing your decision to invest in or adopt clean energy technologies for your business? Please select all that apply:

- Financial incentives and tax credits: 54%
- Environmental consciousness and sustainability goals: 47%
- Potential cost savings on energy bills: 51%
- Enhancing your business's reputation and brand image: 24%
- Government regulations and compliance requirements: 30%
Q17: As we see signs of economic recovery from the global pandemic, to what extent do you agree or disagree that the government’s investments in workers and the economy, including initiatives such as job creation programs, stimulus checks, small business loans, enhanced unemployment benefits and investments in manufacturing and infrastructure, have contributed to this positive momentum?
Demographic Data
Q18: What is your age?
Q19: How do you identify yourself?

- Asian American/Pacific Islander (including Japanese American, Korean American, Filipino American, Southwest Asian American, Vietnamese American, and Chinese American): 6%
- Black, African or African American: 34%
- Hispanic, Latino: 15%
- Native American or Alaska Native: 1%
- White or Caucasian: 31%
- Multiracial, Other: 5%
- Prefer not to answer: 9%
Q20: What is your gender identity?

- Female: 48%
- Male: 46%
- Transgender: 1%
- Non-binary/ non-conforming: 0%
- Prefer not to say: 6%
Survey Methodology

Methodology:
Survey Monkey survey of Small Business for America's Future small business network
Fielded August 4-15, 2023

961 Total Responses