Survey: Small Businesses Hit by Omicron, Inflation & Worker Shortages say BBB Policies Would Help

January 25, 2022
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
Small businesses hit by omicron, inflation & worker shortages say BBB policies would help

- From Dec. 8 - 30, 2021, Small Business for America’s Future conducted a national survey of 1,744 small business owners in its network to learn more about the ongoing economic challenges they face and actions they want Congress and the administration to take to address them.

- Two-thirds (67%) of small business owners say they were somewhat or very concerned about how the Omicron variant will impact their businesses.

- Most small business owners have been impacted by recent economic challenges, including 88% saying they have been impacted by inflation, 72% saying their business has been impacted by supply chain issues, and 57% saying they have had trouble filling open positions.

- Most small business owners surveyed believe policies proposed in the Build Back Better Act (BBB), and investments made by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal, will help with those issues.
  - 63% of small business owners surveyed say investments made in the BBB would help address the worker shortage and 62% believe the it would help ease inflationary pressures.
Small businesses hit by omicron, inflation & worker shortages say BBB policies would help

- **69%** of small business owners surveyed said they support the BBB.
- When asked which policies in the legislation would have the most positive impact on their community, the top three responses selected were:
  - Reforms to lower the cost of healthcare and bring down prescription drug prices
  - Ensuring large corporations and the wealthy pay their fair share of taxes
  - Extending the child tax credit and capping childcare costs for families
- Small business owners are prepared to base their midterm election votes on lawmakers’ position on the Build Back Better Act:
  - **66%** saying they would be more likely to vote for a lawmaker who supported the BBB
  - Small business owners were critical of the U.S. Senate, where the Build Back Better Act is stalled, with only **36%** of small business owners approving of their handling of small business issues compared to **64%** disapproving.
Survey Results
Q1: Are you a small business owner?

n = 1744

Yes
Q2: Not including yourself, how many people do you employ?
n=1744
Q3: Given what you know about the Omicron COVID-19 variant, how concerned are you about how it will impact your business?

n=1744

- Very concerned: 41%
- Somewhat concerned: 26%
- Not very concerned: 16%
- Not concerned at all: 16%
- I have not heard enough about the Omicron COVID-19 variant: 2%
Q4: To help stop the spread of Covid-19, the Biden Administration has suggested a workplace requirement for large businesses with over 100 employees that their employees must be vaccinated against Covid-19. The vast majority of businesses -- 96%, which includes most small businesses -- would be exempt. Do you:

n=1744

- Support the mandate on business with more 100 employees to help slow the spread of Covid-19
- Do not support the mandate on businesses with more than 100 employees

40%

60%
Q5: Do you support the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal?

n=1744

- Strongly support: 50%
- Somewhat support: 25%
- Somewhat oppose: 16%
- Strongly oppose: 9%
Q6: When thinking about the 2022 elections for Congress, are you more or less likely to vote for a lawmaker who supported the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal?

n=1744

- Much more likely: 45%
- Somewhat more likely: 23%
- Somewhat less likely: 13%
- Much less likely: 19%
Q7: Which infrastructure investments do you believe will make the most positive impact on your community? (Select all that apply)

- Improvements to roads and bridges: 65%
- Investments in ports and airports: 48%
- Water systems and lead pipe removal: 48%
- Broadband internet access for rural and underserved communities: 46%
- Environmental resilience investments to mitigate natural disasters: 39%
- The economic activity generated by the building activities these investments will generate: 35%
- These investments will not help my community: 16%

n=1744
Q8: What infrastructure investments do you believe will have the most positive impact on small businesses? (Select all that apply)

n= 1744

- The economic activity generated by the building activities these investments will create (51%)
- Improvements to roads and bridges (47%)
- Broadband internet access for rural and underserved communities (45%)
- Environmental resilience investments to mitigate natural disasters (29%)
- Investments in ports and airports (29%)
- Water systems and lead pipe removal (26%)
- These investments will not help small businesses (22%)
Q9: Do you support the Build Back Better Act?

n=1744

- **Strongly support**: 49%
- **Somewhat support**: 19%
- **Somewhat oppose**: 6%
- **Strongly oppose**: 25%
Q10: When thinking about the 2022 elections for Congress, are you more or less likely to vote for a lawmaker who supports the Build Back Better Act?

n = 1744

- Much more likely: 26%
- Somewhat more likely: 8%
- Somewhat less likely: 20%
- Much less likely: 47%
Q11: What investments in the Build Back Better Act do you believe will have the most positive impact on your community? (Select all that apply)

n=1744

- Leveling the playing field by ensuring large corporations and the wealthiest Americans pay their fair share: 82%
- Reforms to reduce the cost of healthcare and prescription drugs: 64%
- The extension of the Child Tax Credit and capping child care costs for families: 43%
- Investments to combat climate change and promote clean energy: 39%
- The creation of a federal paid leave program that funds four weeks of paid family leave for every worker: 35%
- These investments will not help my community: 25%
Q12: What investments in the Build Back Better Act do you believe will have the most positive impact on small businesses? (Select all that apply)

n=1744

- Investments in Small Business Administration loan programs and the Minority Business Development Agency: 64%
- Reforms to reduce the cost of healthcare and prescription drugs: 50%
- Leveling the playing field by ensuring large corporations and the wealthiest Americans pay their fair share: 44%
- The extension of the Child Tax Credit and capping child care costs for families: 33%
- Investments to combat climate change and promote clean energy: 30%
- The creation of a federal paid leave program that funds four weeks of paid family leave for every worker: 30%
- These investments will not help small businesses: 24%
Q13: The Build Back Better Act includes funding to the IRS to crack down on tax evasion among the wealthiest corporations and individuals. How important is it that the federal government take steps to ensure the wealthiest corporations and individuals fulfill their full tax responsibilities?

n= 1744
Q14: Has your business had more trouble filling positions with qualified applicants?

n=1744

43% Yes
57% No
Q15: In order to attract qualified applicants to fill positions, have you had to:
n=1744

- Raise wages: 40%
- Increase benefits: 3%
- Both: 30%
- Neither: 27%
Q16: Do you believe the worker shortage is negatively impacting small businesses?

n=1744

- Significantly impacting: 64%
- Somewhat impacting: 26%
- Not significantly impacting: 6%
- Not impacting at all: 4%
Q17: How important is it to your business that Congress and the administration address the worker shortage?

n=1744

- Very important: 62%
- Somewhat important: 23%
- Not very important: 8%
- Not at all important: 8%
Q18: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement? “The Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal, which has already been signed into law, will help address the worker shortage by creating new, well paying jobs and improving community infrastructure like water and broadband?”

n = 1744

- Strongly agree: 31%
- Somewhat agree: 25%
- Somewhat disagree: 14%
- Strongly disagree: 30%
Q19: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement? “The Build Back Better Act, which is being debated in the Senate, will help address the worker shortage by improving social infrastructure like more affordable child care and healthcare and access to paid leave and long-term care so workers feel more prepared to balance work and home life?”

n=1744
Q20: Has your business been impacted by inflation?
n=1744

- Yes: 87%
- No: 13%
Q21: Do you believe inflation is negatively impacting small businesses?  
n= 1744

- Significant negative impacts: 69%
- Some negative impacts: 27%
- No significant impacts: 3%
- No negative impacts at all: -
Q22: How important is it to your business that Congress and the administration address inflation?

n=1744
Q23: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement? “The Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal will help address inflation by increasing counter-inflationary investments in the economy?”

n=1744
Q24: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement? “The Build Back Better Act will help ease inflationary pressure by reducing costs of healthcare, child care, and housing?”

n = 1744
Q25: Has your business been impacted by supply chain issues?

n=1744

- Yes: 72%
- No: 28%
Q26: Do you believe supply chain issues are negatively impacting small businesses?

n=1744
Q27: How important is it to your business that Congress and the administration address the supply chain?

n=1744
Q28: What do you believe is primarily responsible for supply chain issues?

- The impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic: 46%
- Congressional inaction: 7%
- Biden Administration policies: 27%
- Corporate greed: 9%
- Worker shortage: 11%

n=1744
Q29: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement? “Do you believe the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal, which has been signed into law, will help address supply chain problems by increasing investment in roads, bridges, ports and airports, and other infrastructure?”

n=1744
Q30: Do you approve or disapprove of how the House of Representative is handling small business issues?

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Q31: Do you approve or disapprove of how the Senate is handling small business issues?
n= 1744
Demographic Data
Q32: What is your age?
n = 1744
Q33: How do you identify yourself?

n=1744
Q34: What is your gender identity?
n= 1744
Survey Methodology

Methodology:
Survey Monkey survey of Small Business for America’s Future small business network
Fielded from Dec.8-30, 2021

1744 Total Responses