

## Opinion poll: Small businesses struggling with rising healthcare costs, support bipartisan policy solutions

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Download full report from our website: <https://smallbusinessmajority.org/our-research/healthcare/small-businesses-struggling-rising-healthcare-costs-support-bipartisan-policy-solutions>

### Methodology

This poll reflects a survey of 318 small business owners and decisionmakers nationwide. The poll was an online survey conducted Jan. 5, 2024 via SurveyMonkey’s online panel. The margin of error is +/- 5% at 95% confidence level.

### Survey Toplines

**1. Are you the owner of a small- or medium-sized business, or do you manage the business' operations?**

Yes, business owner .....	84%
Yes, manage operations .....	16%

**2. Please select your business industry**

Agriculture and Mining.....	5%
Consulting and Business Services .....	9%
Education and Youth Services .....	9%
Energy and Utilities .....	3%
Engineering.....	6%
Food and Beverage.....	7%
Healthcare, Pharmaceuticals and Biotech .....	13%
Health, Beauty, and Fitness .....	4%
Insurance and Financial Services .....	2%
Manufacturing .....	3%
Media and Entertainment.....	4%
Nonprofit .....	1%
Real Estate and Construction .....	11%
Retail.....	9%
Service and Consumer Services .....	5%
Software and Internet .....	1%
Technology, Computers and Electronics .....	3%
Telecommunications.....	3%
Transportation and Storage.....	1%
Travel, Recreation and Leisure .....	1%
Wholesale and Distributors .....	1%

**3. What year did the business start?**

Less than two years.....	2%
Two to five years .....	23%
Six to ten years .....	22%
More than 10 years .....	53%

**4. How many people does your company/organization employ, including yourself? Please include full-time and part-time employees, but do not include independent contractors**

Self-employed .....	32%
Small business, 2-10 employees.....	23%
Small business, 10-24 employees.....	15%
Small business, 25-49 employees .....	13%
Small business, 50-74 employees .....	8%
Small business, 75-100 employees.....	10%

**5. What is your business' annual revenue?**

Less than \$25,000 .....	16%
\$25,000-\$49,999.....	10%
\$50,000-\$99,999 .....	15%
\$100,000-\$249,999 .....	22%
\$250,000-\$499,999 .....	13%
\$500,000-\$999,999 .....	13%
Over \$1 million .....	8%
Prefer not to say.....	3%

**6. How optimistic or pessimistic are you about your business prospects over the next 6 months?**

Very optimistic.....	37%
Somewhat optimistic .....	32%
Neutral .....	22%
Somewhat pessimistic.....	6%
Very pessimistic .....	3%

**7. Rank the overall state of your business, where 1 indicates that your business is performing very poorly and 5 indicates it is performing very well.**

1.....	3%
2 .....	15%
3 .....	24%
4 .....	40%
5 .....	19%

**8. In the past three months, has your revenue, expenses and headcount increased, decreased or stayed the same?**

	Increased	Decreased	Stayed the same
Revenue .....	56%	18%	26%
Expenses .....	61%	16%	23%
Headcount.....	47%	13%	41%

**9. Do you identify with any of the following racial or ethnic groups? (Select all that apply)**

Asian, Asian American, East Asian, South Asian, and/or Southeast Asian .....	9%
Black, African or African American .....	9%
Hispanic, Latino/a or Spanish Origin .....	10%
Middle Eastern or North African .....	2%
Native American or Alaskan Native.....	1%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander .....	0%
White or Caucasian .....	65%
Prefer not to answer.....	3%
Another option not listed here .....	1%

**10. What is your gender?**

Male .....	49%
Female.....	48%
Non-binary.....	2%

**11. Is your primary language English?**

Yes.....	94%
No.....	5%
Prefer not to say .....	1%

**12. Are you an immigrant or a first-generation U.S. citizen?**

Yes.....	49%
No.....	48%
Prefer not to say .....	3%

**13. Do you have health insurance for yourself?**

Yes.....	95%
No.....	5%

**14. Where did you obtain your insurance? (Asked of those with health insurance. N=301)**

Through a group plan offered through my business .....	29%
Through my spouse or partner's health insurance .....	20%
Through a plan I purchased on the individual healthcare exchange .....	19%
Medicare .....	21%
Medicaid .....	6%
Other .....	5%

**15. Does your company provide health insurance benefits to any of its employees, either through a group plan or by reimbursing for individual healthcare coverage via a health reimbursement account (HRA)?** (Asked of employers with employees. N=217)

- Yes, group plan ..... 53%
- Yes, via HRA reimbursements ..... 25%
- I do not offer any health insurance to my employees ..... 22%

**16. Generally, for each of the following related to your health insurance plan, in the past few years, have costs increased, decreased or stayed the same.** (Asked of those who offer health coverage to employees. N=219)

	Large Increase	Somewhat increased	Stayed the same	Somewhat decreased	Large decrease	Not sure
Insurance premiums.....	36%	42%	17%	4%	2%	0%
Deductibles .....	26%	31%	30%	10%	3%	1%
Copays.....	23%	37%	29%	5%	4%	2%
Prescription drug copays .....	25%	35%	28%	8%	2%	2%
Hospital visits .....	31%	28%	26%	9%	4%	3%

**17. Below are some steps others have taken to address rising healthcare costs. Have you done any of the following.** (Select all that apply) (Asked of those who offer health coverage to employees. N=215)

- Dropped health coverage altogether ..... 24%
- Moved to an insurance plan offering more limited coverage..... 47%
- Increased employee contributions to health plans ..... 51%
- Cut other employee benefits ..... 29%
- Raised prices on my business' goods or services ..... 21%
- Eliminated or reduced wage increases..... 4%

**18. Which of the following groups, if any, do you think is responsible for recent healthcare cost increases - insurers, hospitals, physicians, drug companies?** (Select all that apply)

- Insurers..... 56%
- Hospitals..... 54%
- Physicians ..... 41%
- Drug companies ..... 47%
- Other (please specify) ..... 6%

**19. To your knowledge, have you ever been charged a hospital "facility fee" that is in addition to other hospital charges? This fee would be indicated on your bill as a "facility fee," but not necessarily explained.**

- Yes..... 58%
- No..... 17%
- Not sure ..... 24%

**20. Below are some potential policy solutions to control healthcare costs. For each of the following, please indicate whether you support or oppose the policy.**

	Support	Oppose
Healthcare providers should be required to publicly post the prices they charge for services .....	96%	4%
Government should ban hospital "Facility fees" and other unfair billing practices.....	88%	12%
Government should set price caps for what hospitals can charge for particular services .....	82%	18%
Government should have greater authority to block mergers and acquisitions in the healthcare industry .....	75%	25%

**21. Currently, Medicare pays more for services performed in a hospital instead of the same service in an outpatient/physician setting. This creates market incentives for outpatient facilities to merge with hospitals. Do you agree or disagree that Medicare should reimburse hospitals the same price for the same service, regardless of where the service was performed?**

Strongly agree .....	43%
Somewhat agree.....	35%
Neither agree nor disagree/not sure.....	18%
Somewhat disagree .....	2%
Strongly disagree .....	1%

**22. Thinking now about a slightly different subject, do you think prescription drug prices in America are too high, too low, or about right?**

Too high.....	76%
Too low.....	13%
About right.....	11%

**23. The government should create commissions comprised of healthcare experts and other stakeholders to set upper price limits for certain drugs.**

Strongly agree .....	39%
Somewhat agree.....	34%
Neither agree nor disagree / not sure .....	20%
Somewhat disagree .....	3%
Strongly disagree .....	3%

**24. Drug companies should be required to justify their prices by disclosing how much they spend on research, manufacturing, and marketing and how much they are making in profits.**

Strongly agree .....	53%
Somewhat agree.....	31%
Neither agree nor disagree/not sure.....	13%
Somewhat disagree .....	3%
Strongly disagree .....	1%

**25. States should use their purchasing power to negotiate lower drug prices for Medicaid plans and insurance marketplaces**

Strongly agree .....	53%
Somewhat agree .....	30%
Neither agree nor disagree/not sure .....	13%
Somewhat disagree .....	3%
Strongly disagree .....	1%

**26. It should be illegal for a drug company to pay another company that makes generic drugs to delay the release of a generic drug.**

Strongly agree .....	61%
Somewhat agree .....	22%
Neither agree nor disagree/not sure .....	15%
Somewhat disagree .....	1%
Strongly disagree .....	1%