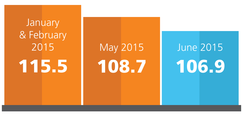
Optimism falls to lowest level in 12 months

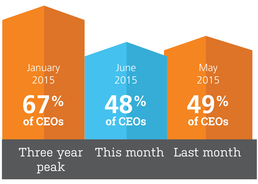
June 2015

The WSJ/Vistage Small Business CEO Confidence Index was 106.9 in the June 2015 survey, just below May's 108.7 and significantly below January and February's 115.5.

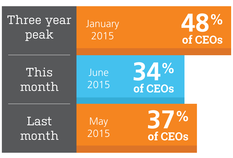


Economy

48% of CEOs reported that the economy had recently improved, just below last month's 49% and well below January's three-year peak of 67%.



34% of CEOs expect economic conditions will improve in the year ahead, down from last month's 37% and the three-year peak of 48% recorded six months ago.

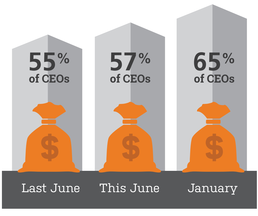


Investments

73% of CEOs expect higher sales revenues in the year ahead.
While this was below the 80% who expected sales growth at the start of the year, it was just between last month's 74% and last year's 72%.

Profits

57% of CEOs anticipated higher profits in both May and June, compared with 65% recorded in January, and the 55% who expected rising profits last June.



Hiring

57% of CEOs plan to increase their payrolls, down from 61% last month and last June's 59%.

Flex work

Two-in-three CEOs reported offering one or more flexible work options, and among these CEOs, **three-in-ten reported cost savings due to these flexible options.**

Of those CEOs who offered flex work options:

67% offered flexible work schedules

45% offered working from home options

20% offered the ability to work as contractors

16% offered other options

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Small Business CEO Survey