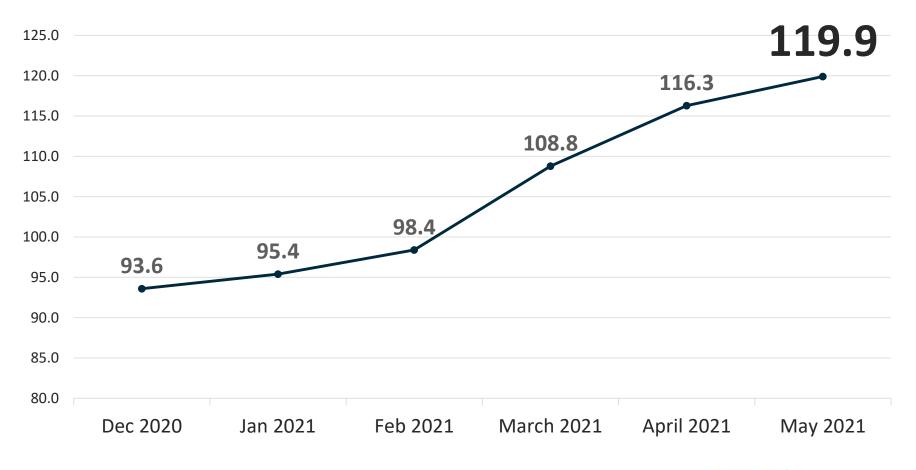
# The WSJ/Vistage Small Business CEO Confidence Index continues slow climb in May, nears all-time peak

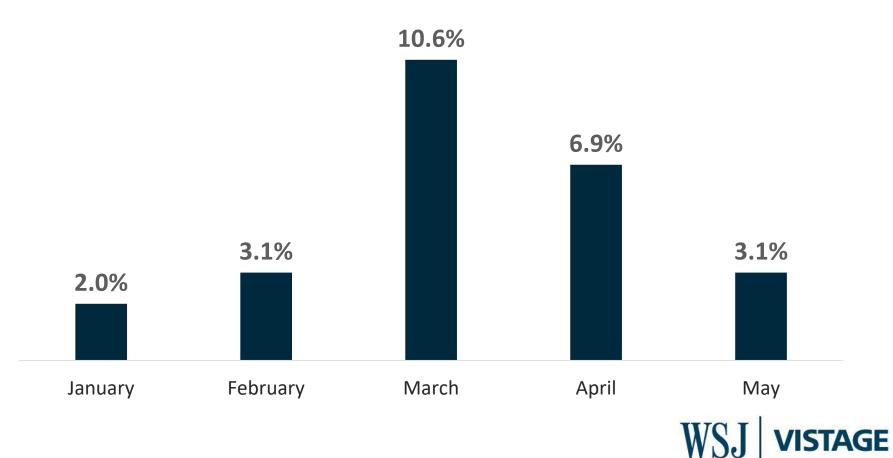




Source: May 2021 WSJ/Vistage Small Business CEO Confidence Index n=611

Pace of monthly gains in WSJ/Vistage Small Business CEO Confidence Index has slowed since jump from February to March

> Month-over-month gains in WSJ/Vistage Small Business CEO Confidence Index

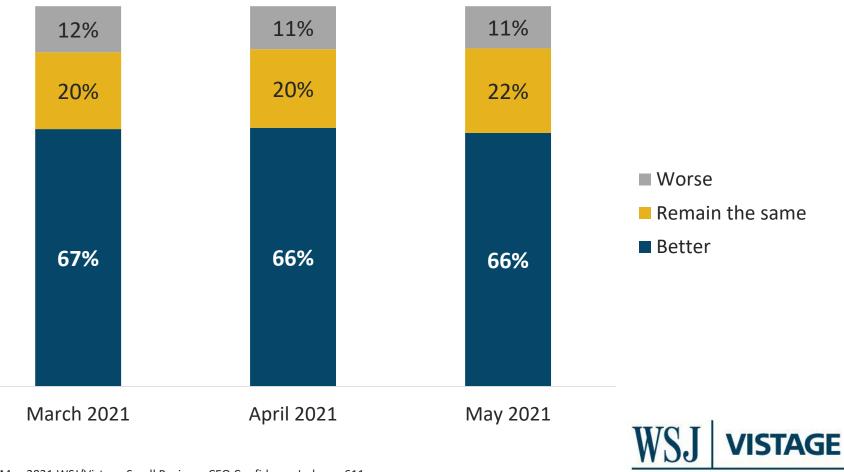


Source: May 2021 WSJ/Vistage Small Business CEO Confidence Index n=611

Small Business CEO Survey

# Expected improvements in the U.S. economy among small businesses maintains 3-month high

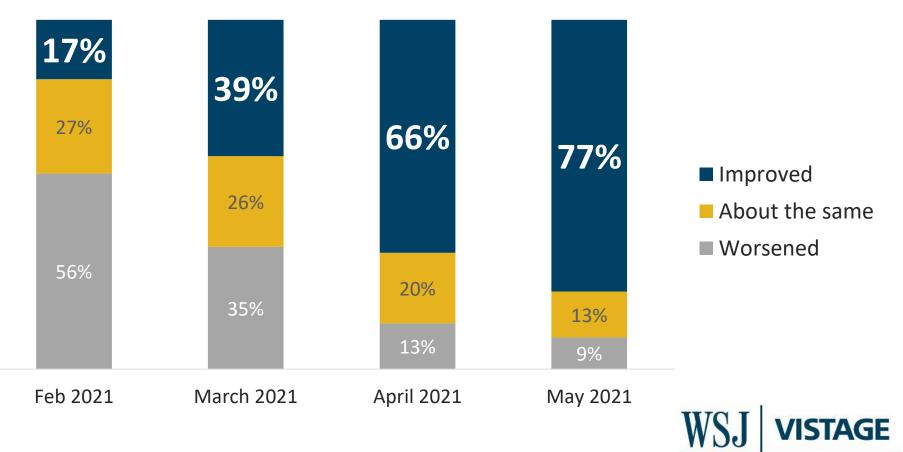
Expected changes in U.S. economy over next 12 months



Source: May 2021 WSJ/Vistage Small Business CEO Confidence Index n=611

#### Small businesses optimism about U.S. economy reaches 9year peak; 77% report recent improvements

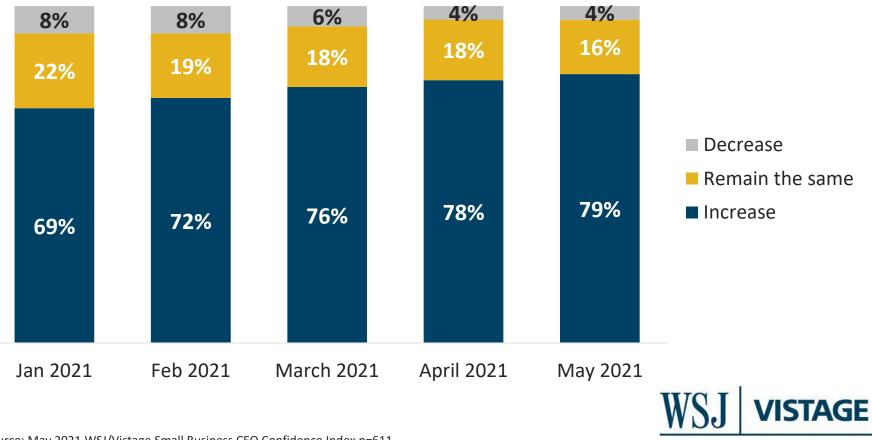
Compared with a year ago, how have overall economic conditions in the U.S. changed?



Source: May 2021 WSJ/Vistage Small Business CEO Confidence Index n=611

## Increased revenues anticipated by nearly 8-in-10 small businesses, highest since early 2018

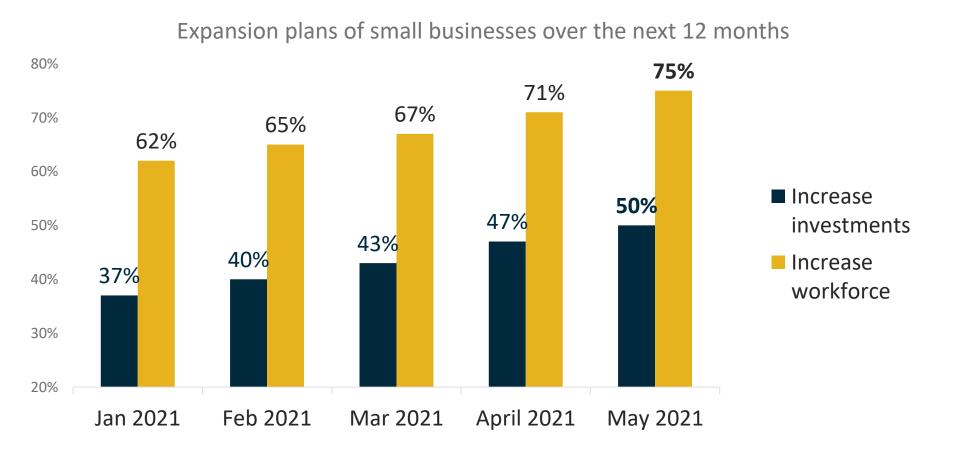
Small business projections for revenues over next 12 months



Source: May 2021 WSJ/Vistage Small Business CEO Confidence Index n=611

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#### Plans to increase investments and expand workforce on the rise among small businesses



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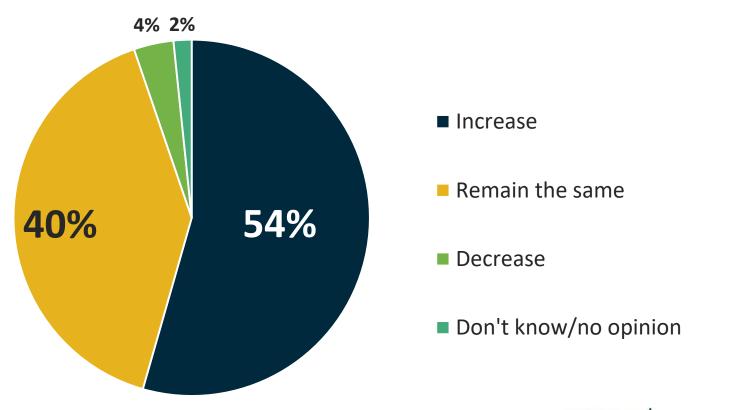
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Small Business CEO Survey

Source: May 2021 WSJ/Vistage Small Business CEO Confidence Index n=611

### Marketing investments on the rise to capitalize on projected improvements in economy

How do you expect your investment in marketing to change this year compared to pre-pandemic levels?

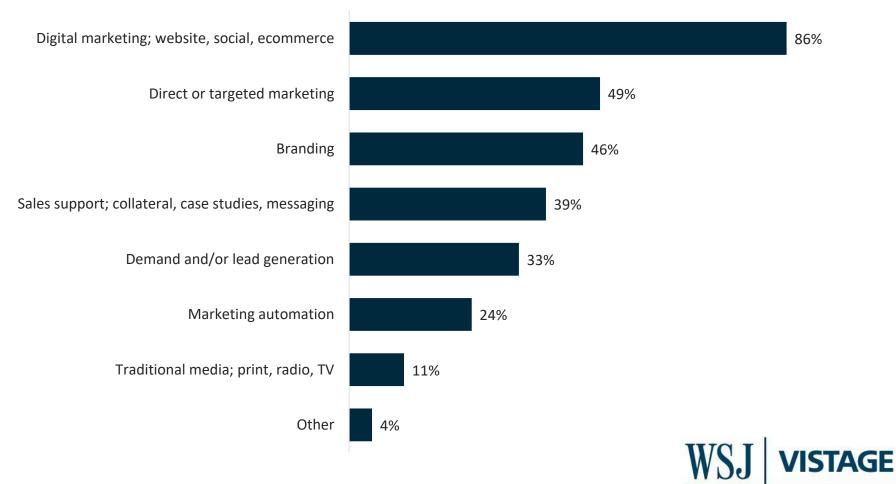




Source: May 2021 WSJ/Vistage Small Business CEO Confidence Index n=611

### Marketing investments of small businesses largely focus on digital marketing

#### Which areas of marketing are you investing in this year?

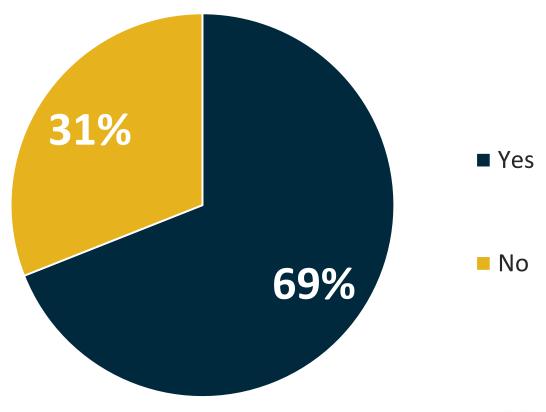


Source: May 2021 WSJ/Vistage Small Business CEO Confidence Index n=611

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# Nearly 7-in-10 small businesses report having trouble finding qualified employees

Is your business having trouble finding qualified employees?

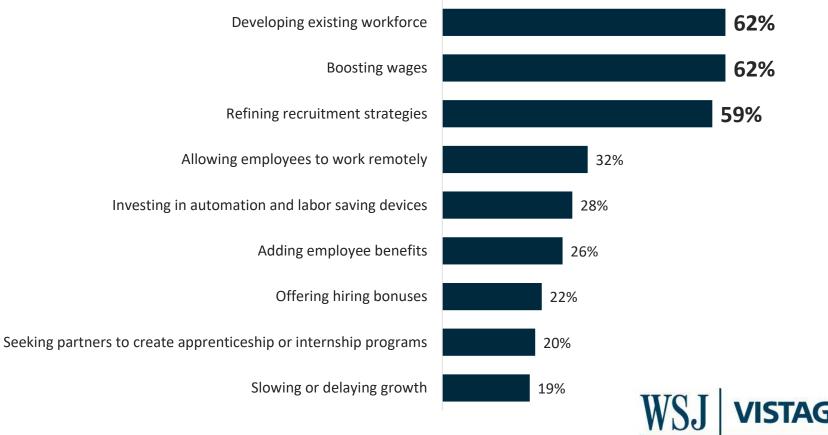




Source: May 2021 WSJ/Vistage Small Business CEO Confidence Index n=611

#### Small businesses focus on developing existing employees, boosting wages in response to hiring challenges

If hiring has become more difficult, what are you doing in response?

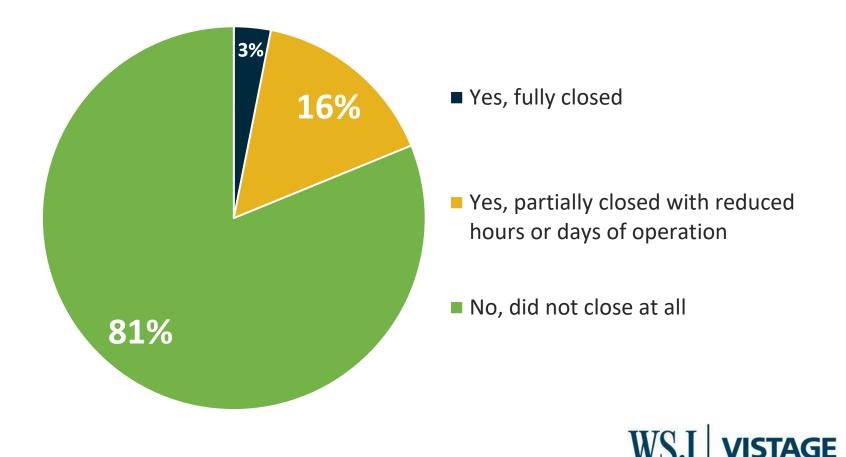


Source: May 2021 WSJ/Vistage Small Business CEO Confidence Index n=611

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# The majority of small businesses did not close during the pandemic

Did your business partially or fully close during the pandemic?





# Less than one-in-five small businesses made special arrangements with creditors during the pandemic

Did your landlord, bank or other creditor provide your business with any special payment arrangements during the pandemic, such as reducing or deferring amounts owed?

