

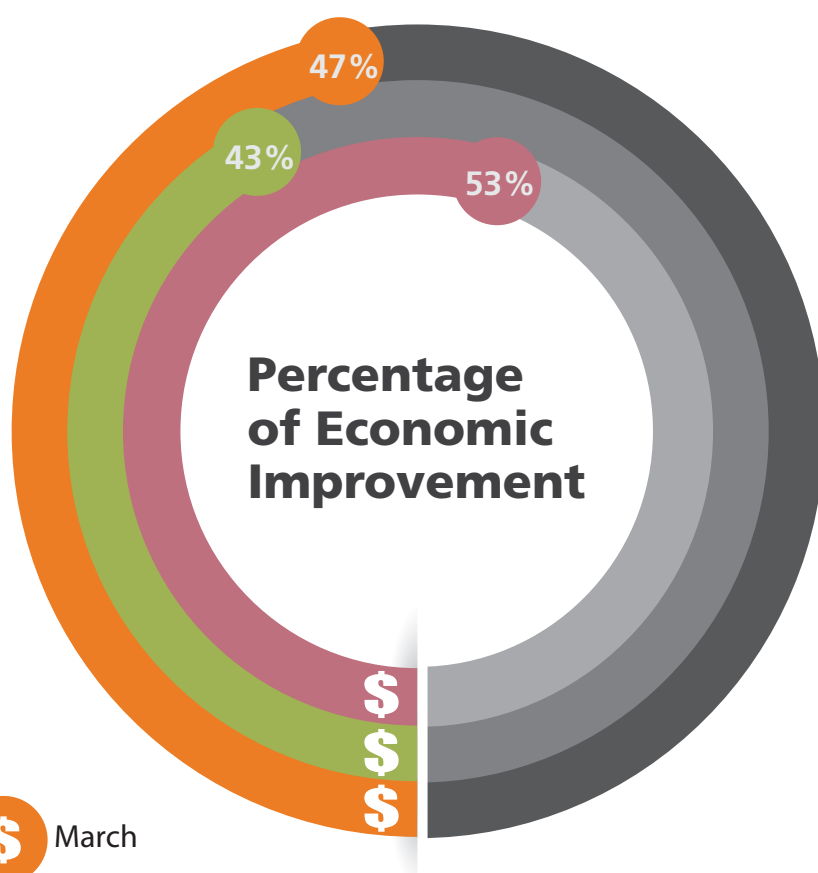
Spring Thaw Starts

MARCH 2014

The WSJ/Vistage Small Business CEO Confidence Index **inched upward to 107.4 in the March 2014 survey**, from 106.1 in February, and was well above the march 2013 index of 104.

ECONOMY

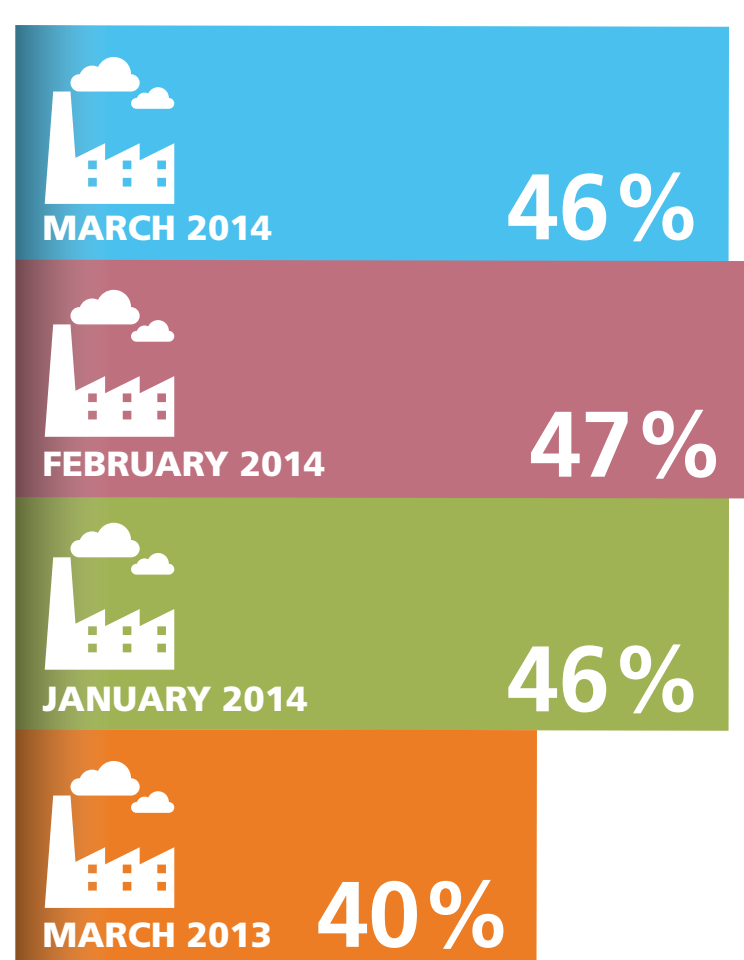
When asked about the current state of the economy, **47% of all firms reported that it had recently improved**, up from **43%** in February.



\$ January

\$ February

\$ March



46% of companies planned to increase fixed investments, just down from **47% in February**, compared to only **40% this time last year**

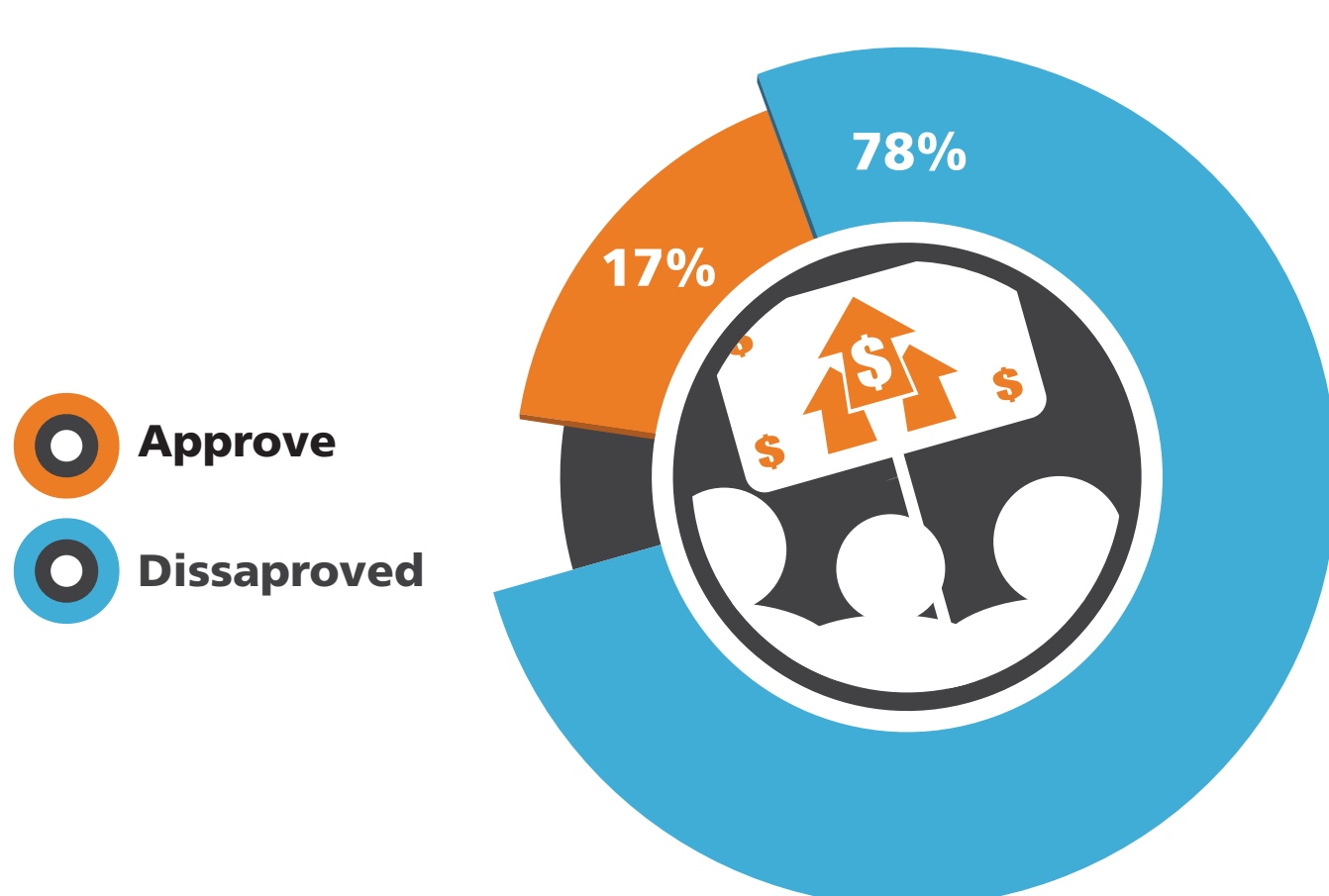
[Read the WSJ story](#)

“Overall, small firms recorded the most expansive investment plans in the last three months than at any other time in the prior eighteen months.”

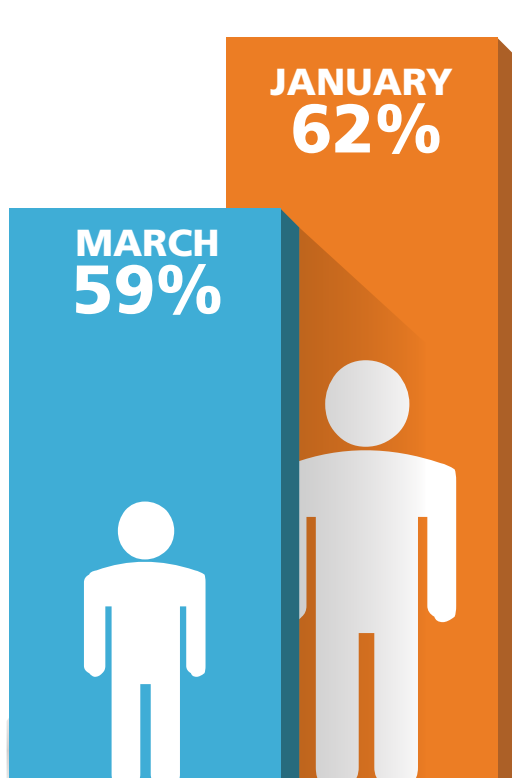
Dr. Richard Curtin, University of Michigan

MINIMUM WAGE

Three-in-four small firms (78%) voiced their disapproval of Obama’s proposal to raise the pay threshold to make more employees eligible for overtime pay; **just 17% of all firms voiced their support.**



HIRING



Net additions to the total number of employees were **planned by 59% of all small firms**, just below the peak of **62% set in January.**

“The continuing strength in both investment spending and hiring plans indicates that small firms anticipate robust demand for their products in the year ahead. To achieve their growth targets, hiring key personnel is the most critical task cited by small firms.”

Dr. Richard Curtin, University of Michigan