

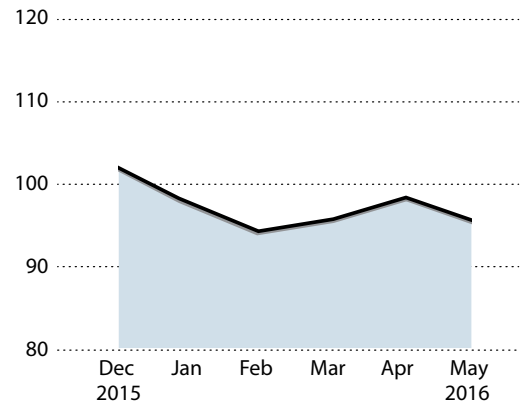
CEOs Expect Slower Economic Gains

Confidence declined in the May WSJ/Vistage Small Business CEO Survey, nearly reversing all of the gains recorded in the prior two months. The retreat was widespread, affecting CEOs' views of the overall economy as well as their own firm's prospects. The WSJ/Vistage Small Business CEO Confidence Index was 95.9 in the May 2016 survey, down from 99.9 one month ago and 108.7 one year ago.

The meager 1st quarter GDP growth rate is likely to have had a negative influence on judgments about the health of the economy. CEOs still anticipate that the economic expansion will continue during the year ahead, but the majority expected the pace of gains to remain very slow. While the majority of CEOs anticipated growing revenues and payrolls, the levels of those anticipated revenues and hiring plans were the lowest since 2013. Although small business CEOs, like most other observers, anticipate a pickup in the pace of economic growth in the balance of 2016, the data indicate that few expect GDP growth as fast as last year's tepid 2.4%.

*Analysis provided by Dr. Richard Curtin,
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WSJ/Vistage Small Business CEO Confidence Index



Visit vistageindex.com to see the interactive tool and view results from previous months.

Question	Answer	Respondents	
1. Compared with a year ago, have overall economic conditions in the United States improved, remained the same, or worsened?	Improved	167	26%
	Remained about the same	364	56%
	Worsened	119	18%
	Don't know/No opinion	4	1%

Question	Answer	Respondents	
		#	%
2. During the next 12 months, do you expect the overall economic conditions in the U.S. will be better, about the same, or worse than now?	Better	131	20%
	About the same	385	59%
	Worse	118	18%
	Don't know/No opinion	20	3%
3. Are your firm's total fixed investment expenditures likely to increase, remain about the same, or decrease during the next 12 months?	Increase	248	38%
	Remain the same	305	47%
	Decrease	94	14%
	Don't know/No opinion	7	1%
4. Do you anticipate that your firm's sales revenues will increase, remain about the same, or decrease during the next 12 months?	Increase	449	69%
	Remain the same	145	22%
	Decrease	58	9%
	Don't know/No opinion	2	0%
5. Do you expect your firm's profitability to improve, remain about the same, or worsen during the next 12 months?	Improve	341	52%
	Remain the same	228	35%
	Worsen	83	13%
	Don't know/No opinion	2	0%
6. Do you expect your firm's total number of employees will increase, remain about the same, or decrease during the next 12 months?	Increase	335	51%
	Remain the same	262	40%
	Decrease	56	9%
	Don't know/No opinion	1	0%

Question	Answer	Respondents	
		#	%
7. During your company's last fiscal year, what was its total employment?	1-9 employees	52	8%
	10-19 employees	112	17%
	20-49 employees	251	38%
	50-99 employees	149	23%
	100-499 employees	80	12%
	500-999 employees	5	1%
	1000-4999 employees	2	0%
	10000+ employees	2	0%
	None	1	0%

WSJ | VISTAGE

Small Business CEO Survey

A monthly survey measuring the sentiment of U.S. small business CEOs and owners about the economy.

Visit vistageindex.com to view an interactive tool with full results from previous months.