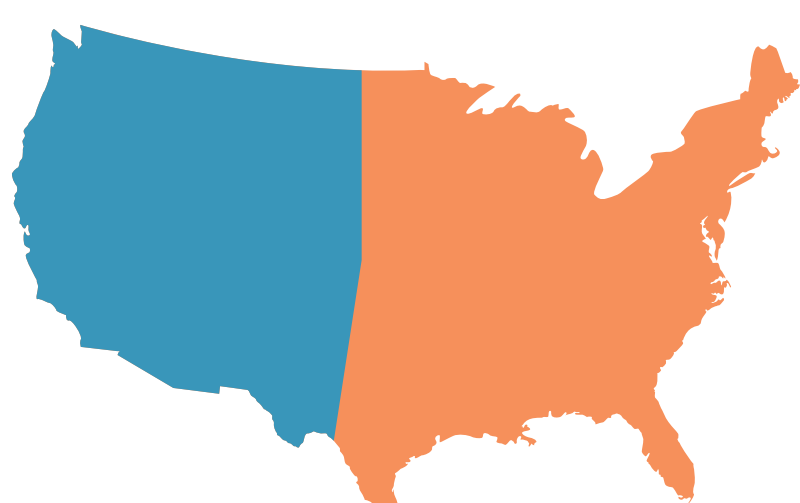


The WSJ/Vistage Small Business Confidence Index was **105.3 in the September 2013** survey, substantially above the 95.4 in last September's survey. Overall, small firms are expressing the highest level of confidence since the first survey was conducted in June 2012.

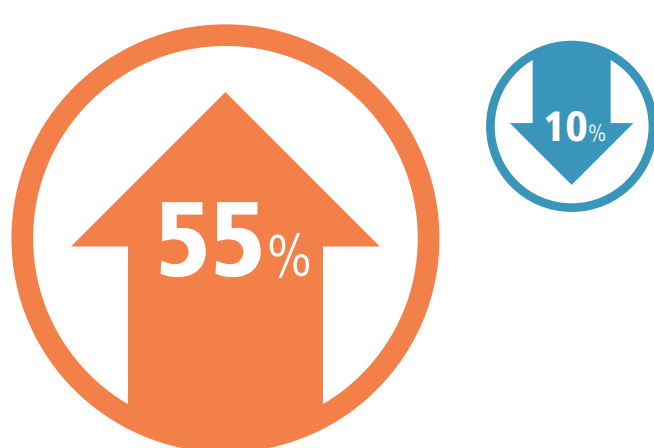
ECONOMY



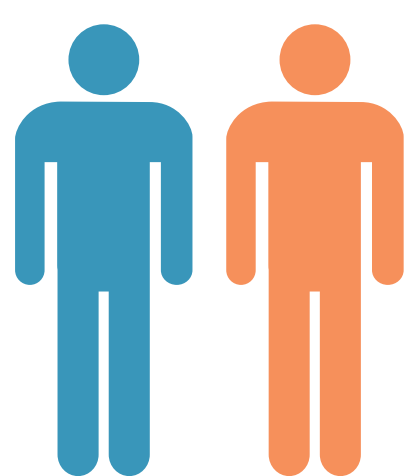
47% of small firms said economic conditions **had improved**, up from 25% a year ago.



New investments in plant and equipment were planned by 43% of small firms in September, **the largest proportion recorded in the past year.**



Profitability was expected to improve by 55% of all small firms in September (**the highest in a year**), and declining profitability was anticipated by just 10% (**the lowest in a year**).



Net additions to the total number of employees were planned by **56% of all small firms, while just 5% anticipated reductions**, establishing the most expansive hiring plans recorded during the past year.

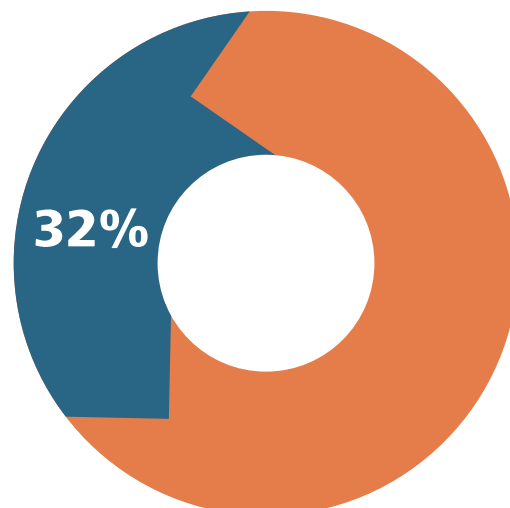
HEALTH CARE



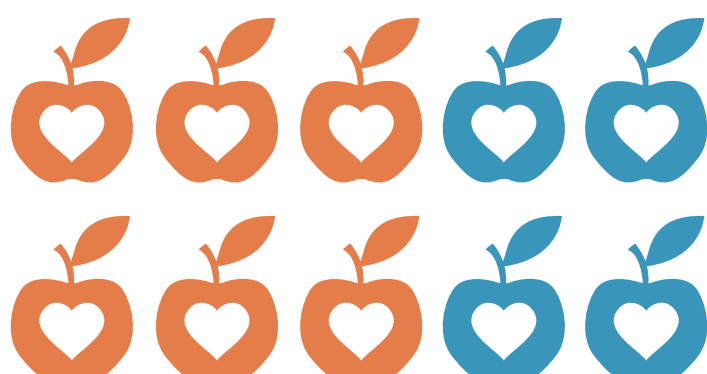
39% of small firms rate health-care costs as their leading expense after payroll.

32% of small firms reported renewing their health-care plans earlier than in the past.

[Read the WSJ story](#)



WELLNESS



41% of small firms now offer or plan to offer incentives to improve the health of their employees (such as discounts at local gyms).