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Business Confidence Rises

Small business owners are feeling more confident in the economy and expect an economic turnaround in 2010, an Administaff survey reveals. Fifty-eight percent of those polled believe the U.S. economy will rebound in 2010. An additional 14% expect a rebound by the end of this year.

Eighty-three percent say the economy is their biggest concern for 2009, while 53% cite government healthcare reform. Nearly 45% say controlling operating costs is their biggest concern.

Only 15% expect their sales to decline during the remainder of 2009, and 41% forecast a sales increase. Thirty-five percent predict their sales will remain the same. In addition, 60% say they are meeting or exceeding their 2009 performance plans.

Workers Believe Employers Are Taking Right Steps to Weather Recession

The majority of professionals believe their employers are rising to the occasion when it comes to responding to the downturn, a survey by Robert Half International reveals. Sixty-nine percent of workers interviewed said their companies are taking appropriate steps to weather current economic conditions. Additionally, 55% feel their employers will emerge from the recession stronger than before. Still, there is room for improvement: 30% of respondents said their companies are doing only some things or nothing right.

"Many employers have stepped up communication efforts to help employees understand the challenging circumstances the business faces and the basis for difficult decisions that are made," comments chairman and CEO Max Messmer. "Sharing pertinent information can prevent rumors and speculation."

Adds Messmer, "Letting employees know how the company plans to persevere and grow also builds confidence. Professionals who feel positive about their firm's prospects are more apt to stay on board for the long term."