

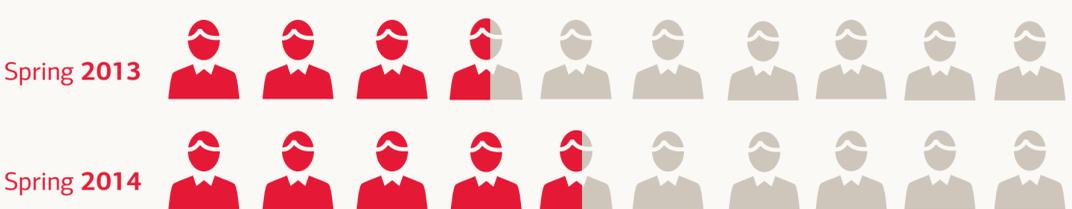
Bank of America

Small Business Owner Report

Chicago

Small Business Owners (SBOs) around Chicago are feeling optimistic

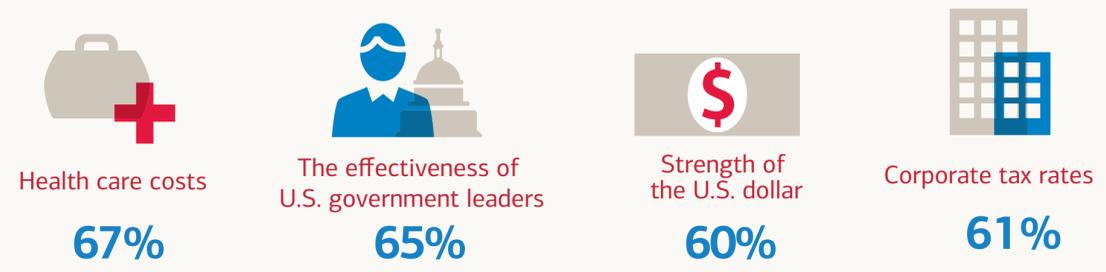
47 percent of SBOs expect to hire in the coming year, up 11 percent from the spring 2013 Small Business Owner Report



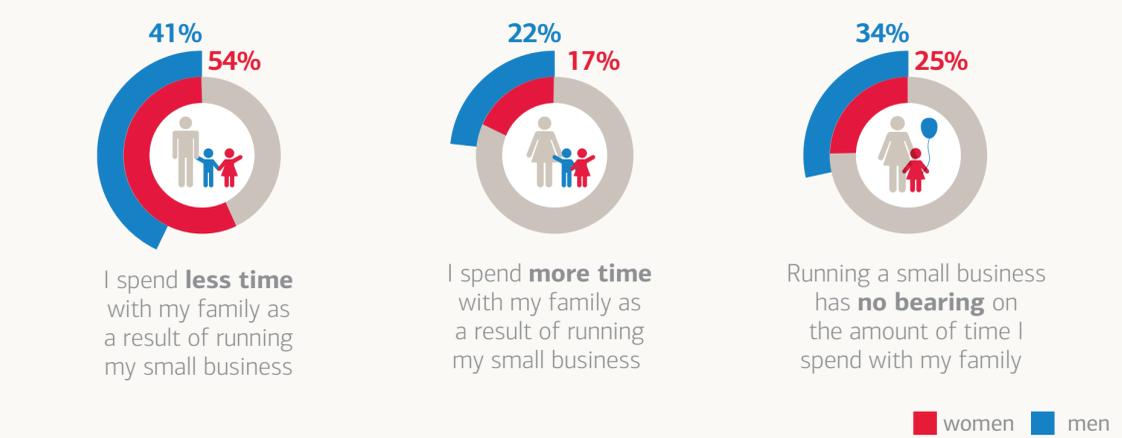
Women SBOs in Chicago are particularly optimistic about growth over the next five years



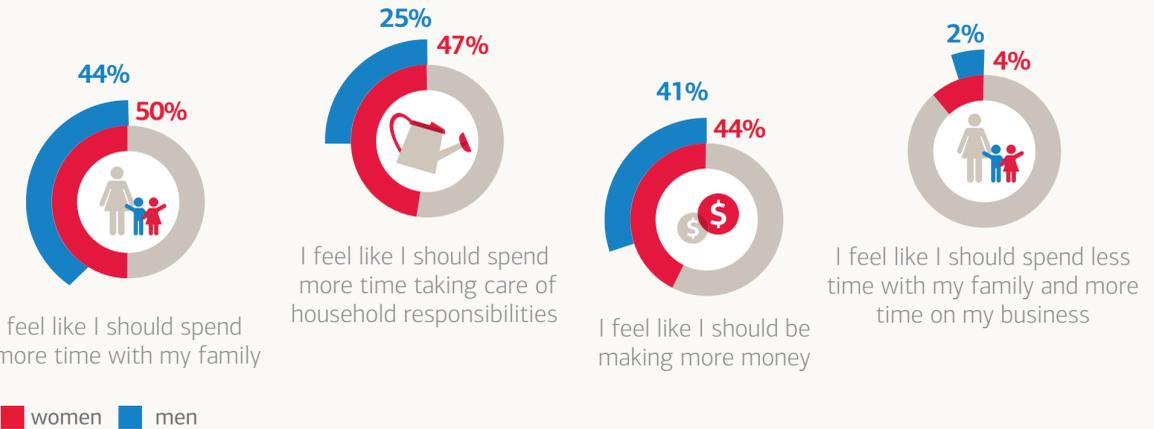
Chicago SBOs remain concerned about national economic issues



Women SBOs in Chicago spend less time with their families as a result of running their business

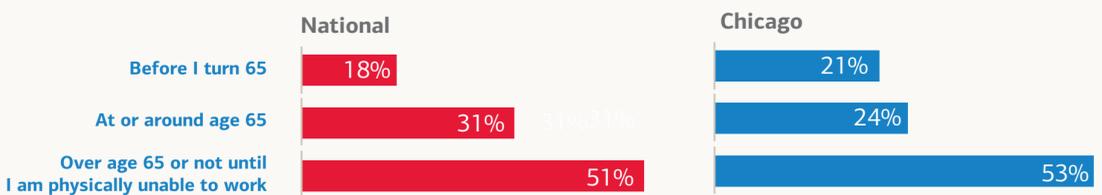


Women SBOs in Chicago are more conflicted than men about personal obligations

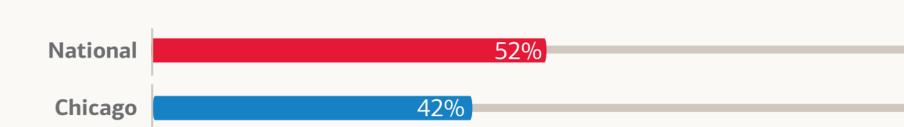


More than half of Chicago SBOs plan to retire later in life

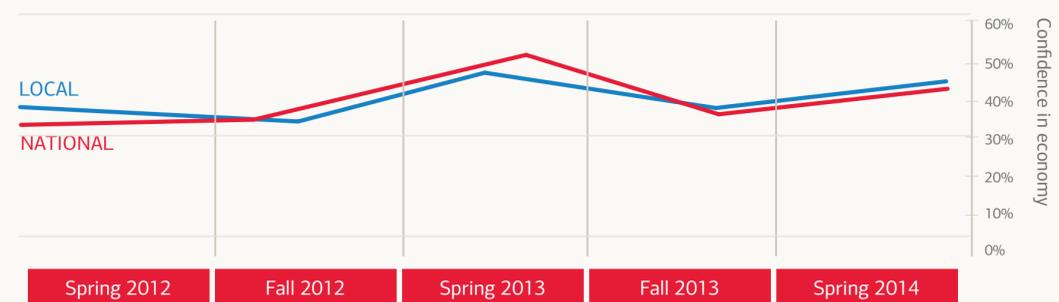
When asked when they plan to retire, SBOs answered:



Chicago SBOs are less likely to have a succession plan in place



Confidence in the economy is rising



Braun Research has conducted the Bank of America Small Business Owner Report survey by phone every six months since spring 2012 on behalf of Bank of America. The survey took place in March–April 2012, September–October 2012, March 2013, September 2013, and March 2014. Each time, Braun contacted a nationally representative sample of 1,000 small business owners in the United States with annual revenue between \$100,000 and \$4,999,999 and employing between 2 and 99 employees. In addition, 300 small business owners were also surveyed in nine target markets: Los Angeles, Dallas, Washington, D.C., New York, Boston, Chicago, San Francisco, Atlanta and Miami. The margin of error for the national sample is +/- 3.1 percent; the margin of error for the oversampled markets (where n=300) is +/- 5.7 percent; and the margin of error for the oversampled markets (where n=301) is +/- 5.6 percent, with each reported at a 95 percent confidence level.