



NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS SURVEY

DECEMBER 2009

Telephone N =750 MOE = 3.7%

conducted 12/11, 14-16/2009

QUESTION: Which best describes your position in the business?

Owner/Manager	73%
Owner, but NOT the manager	7%
Manager, but NOT the owner	20%

General Economy and Issues of Concern

QUESTION: Generally, do you think things in this country are going in the right direction or have they gotten off on the wrong track?

Right Direction	19%
Wrong Track	72%
Not Sure	9%

QUESTION: How would you rate the U.S. economy today, excellent, good, fair or poor?

Excellent	0%		
Good	5%	5%	total excellent/good
Fair	32%		
Poor	63%	95%	total fair/poor

QUESTION: Do you think the economy is improving, remaining the same or getting worse?

Improving	29%
Remaining the same	38%
Getting worse	33%

QUESTION: Of the following issues, which one do you think should be Congress's and elected officials top priority?

(ORDER ROTATED)

Improving the Economy by Protecting Jobs and Boosting Employment	40%
Reducing Government Spending	33%
Reforming the Healthcare System	12%
Winning the War on Terror	9%
Regulating Financial Companies and Banks	5%
Protecting the Environment by Reducing the Amount of Greenhouse Gas Emissions	0%
Other/Not Sure (NOT READ)	1%
(* - Less than 1%)	

QUESTION: Congress has been debating whether to establish a federal cap and trade system in the U.S. How familiar are you with cap and trade?

Very familiar	17%		
Somewhat familiar	30%	47%	total familiar
Not too familiar	27%		
Not at all familiar	26%	53%	total unfamiliar

QUESTION: A federal cap and trade system would mandate a government-run system to limit the amount of greenhouse gas emissions U.S. businesses can produce. Energy-intensive businesses that exceed the limit would be forced to pay for permits for more emissions. Those that emit below a certain level could sell their emissions rights.

(ORDER ROTATED)

Supporters say cap and trade creates a market system that decreases Emissions by replacing traditional energy sources such as oil, coal and natural Gas with renewable energy sources such as wind and solar. They believe this would lessen U.S. emissions, improve the global environment, create jobs and grow the economy.

Critics argue that cap and trade is a nearly a \$1 trillion energy tax that will significantly increase consumer and commercial energy costs, drive up the price of goods and services, cause major job losses and force businesses to close or move overseas to non-cap and trade countries like China and India. at a time we can least afford it.

After hearing this, do you favor or oppose a cap and trade system in the United States? (Is that strongly favor/oppose or somewhat favor/oppose?)

Strongly Favor	9%		
Somewhat Favor	15%	24%	total favor
Somewhat Oppose	21%		
Strongly Oppose	45%	66%	total oppose
Not Sure	10%		

QUESTION: Do you generally think a new federal cap and trade system will increase your energy costs, have no affect on your energy costs or lower your energy costs?

Increase energy costs	71%
Have no effect on energy costs	14%
Lower energy costs	5%
Not Sure	10%

QUESTION: Do you generally think new federal cap and trade system will create jobs, have no affect on jobs or lead to more lost jobs?

Increase jobs	17%
Have no effect on jobs	15%
Lead to more lost jobs	54%
Not Sure	14%

QUESTION: Do you generally think new federal cap and trade system will help increase economic growth, have no effect on economic growth or limit economic growth?

Increase economic growth	14%
Have no effect on economic growth	14%
Limit economic growth	58%
Not Sure	14%

QUESTION: The costs of a cap and trade system would be passed on to consumers, greatly increasing the cost of such items as fuel, electricity and food.

Do you agree or disagree with this statement? (Is that strongly agree/disagree or somewhat agree/disagree?)

Strong Agree	55%		
Somewhat Agree	26%	81%	total agree
Somewhat Disagree	9%		
Strong Disagree	7%	16%	total disagree
Not Sure	3%		

QUESTION: The U.S. must establish a cap and trade system now to address global warming regardless if countries like China and India mandate similar cap and trade systems.

Do you agree or disagree with this statement? (Is that strongly agree/disagree or somewhat agree/disagree?)

Strong Agree	12%		
Somewhat Agree	13%	25%	total agree
Somewhat Disagree	28%		
Strong Disagree	41%	69%	total disagree
Not Sure	6%		

QUESTION: Would you be more likely or less likely to support a candidate running for office who favored a cap and trade system in the United States? (Is that much more/less likely or somewhat more/less likely?)

Much more likely to support	5%		
Somewhat more likely to support	14%	19%	total more likely
Somewhat less likely to support	29%		
Much less likely to support	45%	74%	total less likely
Not Sure	7%		

DEMOGRAPHICS

SEX:

Male	481	64%
Female	269	36%

Are you registered to vote?

Yes	723	96%
No	27	4%

(IF REGISTERED VOTER) - In terms of your party identification do you consider yourself a Democrat, Republican, Independent or Other?

Democrat	101	14%
Republican	288	40%
Independent/Other	334	46%

(IF REGISTERED VOTER) - In terms of your political views, do you consider yourself a Conservative, Moderate or Liberal?

Conservative	362	50%
Moderate	277	38%
Liberal	67	9%
Other/DK	17	2%

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RACE/ETHNICITY:

White	652	87%
Black/African-American	34	5%
Hispanic/Latino	26	4%
Asian	23	3%
Other	7	1%
Refused (DO NOT READ)	8	1%

AGE:

18 – 34	84	11%
35 – 49	209	28%
50 – 64	357	48%
65+	93	12%
Refused	7	1%