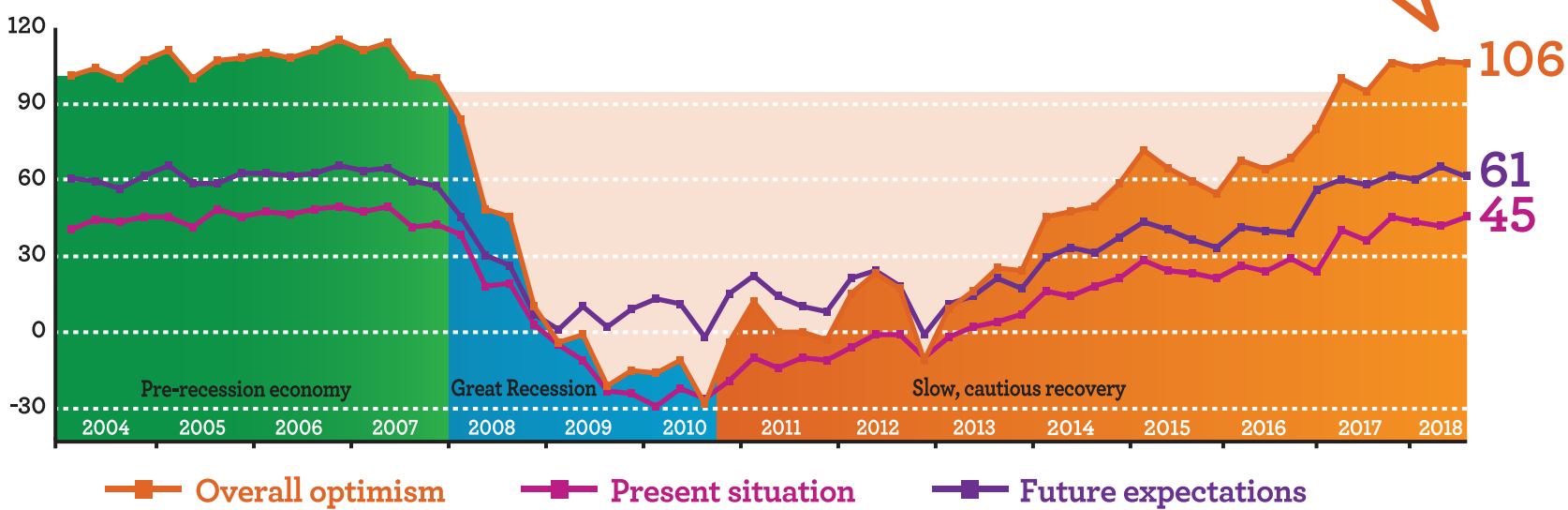


Hiring a Challenge for Small Businesses in Q2

The Q2 Wells Fargo/Gallup Small Business Index

Index reading

Overall Index score was 106 in Q2.



Q2 Wells Fargo/Gallup Small Business Index score was 106, down just one point from 107 in January.

Hiring Remains a Top Challenge

A tight labor market is proving challenging for small business owners who plan to hire new employees.

64% said finding well-qualified employees will be a challenge for the growth of their business over the next 12 months.



The top challenge of small business owners surveyed in April was hiring and retaining qualified staff.



Business owners are confident the economy is headed in the right direction.

75% said the economy is on the right track for their businesses to grow over the next 12 months.



Increased investments in their businesses:

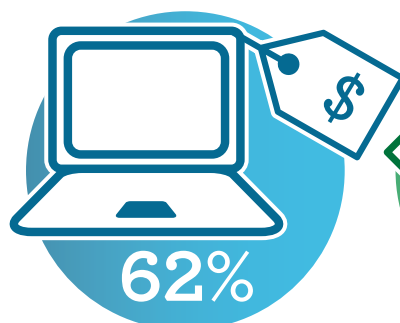
Small business owners say they are very likely or somewhat likely to...

...provide salary or wage increases to their employees over the next 12 months.



...provide bonuses or other benefits to employees.

...purchase new equipment.



...invest in new products or services to expand their businesses.