



SMALL BUSINESS FOR AMERICA'S FUTURE

Survey: Small Business Owners Want Action to Bring Down Rising Healthcare and Prescription Drug Costs

November 8, 2021

About Small Business for America's Future

- Small Business for America's Future is a national coalition of business owners and leaders working to provide small businesses a voice at every level of government.
- We're committed to ensuring policymakers prioritize Main Street by advancing a just and equitable economic framework that works for small business owners, their employees and their communities.





Key Findings

Small business owners see lowering healthcare and prescription drugs costs as a top priority

- From Oct. 18 - 26, 2021, Small Business for America's Future conducted a **national survey of 1,032 small business owners** in its network to learn more about their policy priorities and the legislative action America's small business community wants Congress and the administration to take.
- The issue of rising healthcare costs has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Small business owners said lowering healthcare and prescription drug costs is their top priority, with **73%** saying it is important to their business.
- **83%** said lawmakers' support for Medicare negotiation of drug prices will be important to determining their vote in the 2022 midterm elections (including **58%** saying it is very important)
- Small business owners want bold action to combat rising drug prices. Far more small business owners (**45%**) were worried that the Biden Administration and Congress would not go far enough to lower the cost of prescription drugs than are worried they would go too far (**25%**).



Small businesses face challenges due to the high cost of healthcare

Small business owners want to be able to provide quality, affordable healthcare coverage to their employees, but the rising cost of healthcare has put a strain on their ability to do so.

- Overall, **83%** of small business owners said rising health insurance costs had an impact on their business, including:
 - **42%** said it increased employee costs, deductible, or share of the premium
 - **41%** said it delayed growth opportunities for their business
 - **37%** increased prices of services or goods to cope with rising healthcare costs
 - **Nearly 1 in 3 (30%)** said they have become less competitive in hiring compared with other businesses that provide health benefits
 - **More than a quarter (29%) of small business owners** held off on hiring a new employee due to rising healthcare costs
 - **1 in 4 (26%)** changed or reduced health benefits for employees
 - **Nearly 1 in 6 (14%)** reduced workforce or laid off an employee



Small business owners support action to rein in healthcare and drug costs

The rise of consolidation in hospitals has led to the rapid increase in the cost of healthcare. Additionally, drug companies have continued to claim that increasing their prices is necessary to develop new treatments.

- **81%** of respondents said lowering drug prices would not hurt the industry's ability to develop new treatments and cures, compared to only **19%** who said drug companies are the engine for drug innovation and lower drug prices will lead to fewer new treatments and cures for other diseases.
- A staggering **87%** of small business owners agreed with the statement "Hospitals are unfairly charging high prices leading to higher health costs, and it is necessary to regulate hospital pricing," including **61%** strongly agreeing.
- **85%** of small business owners said it was important to them that federal and state governments intervene in the consolidation of the health systems, including **54%** saying it was very important.

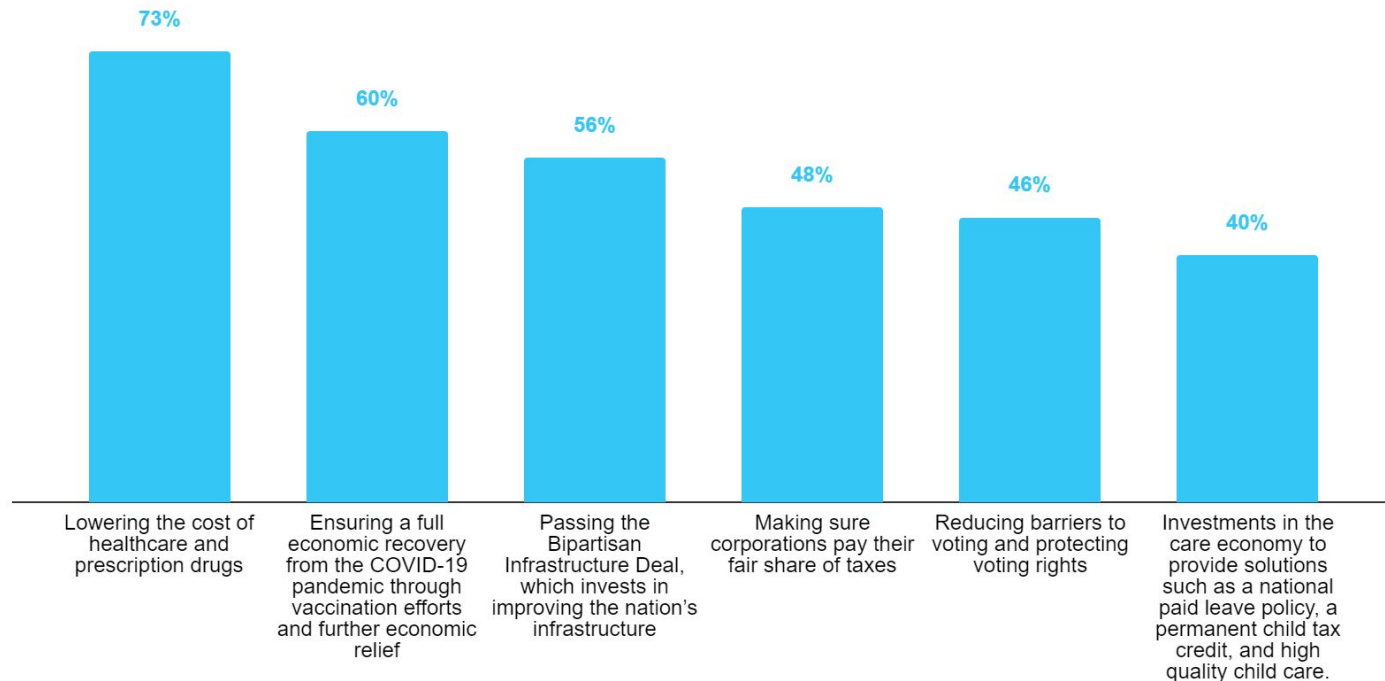


An overhead, top-down view of a collaborative office workspace. Several people are seated around a large wooden table, working on various devices including desktop monitors, laptops, and tablets. The workspace is cluttered with office supplies such as keyboards, mice, notebooks, pens, a coffee cup, and a small potted plant. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter, and the text "Survey Results" is prominently displayed in the center in a white, sans-serif font.

Survey Results

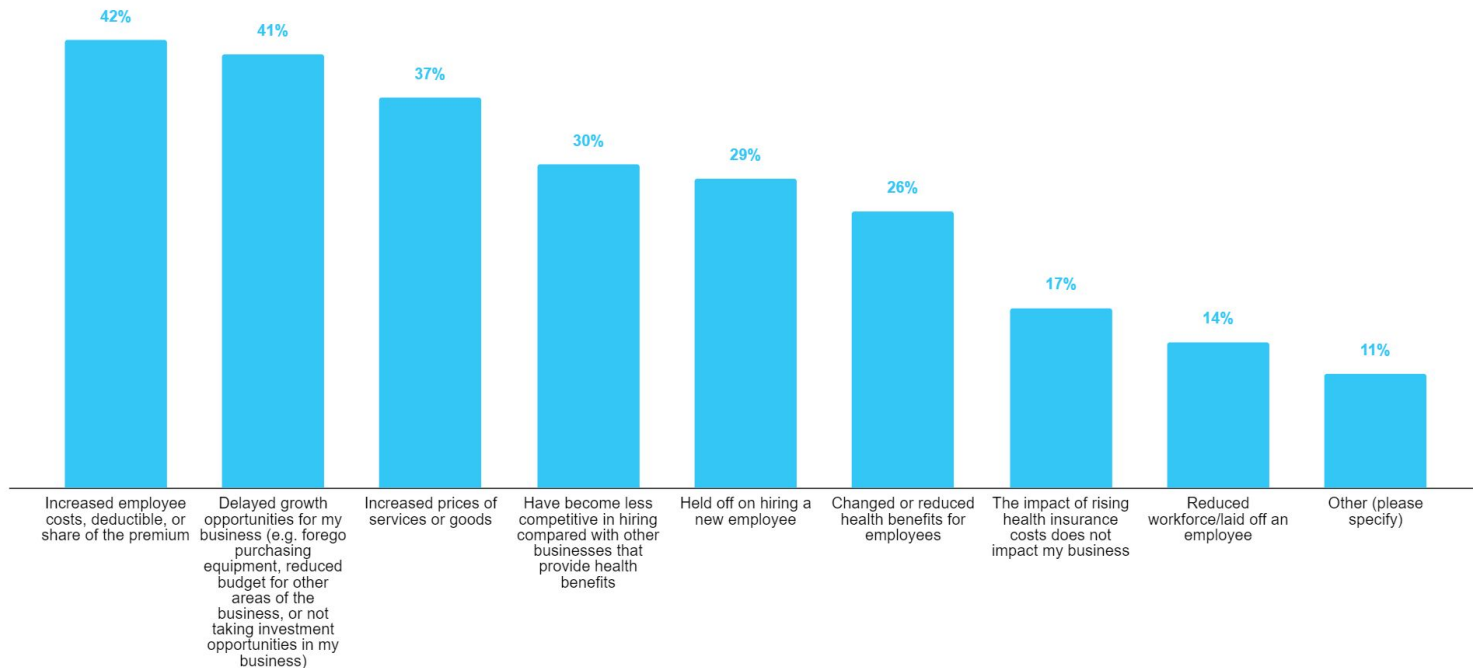
Below are issues the Biden Administration and Congress are discussing. Please select the issues that are important to your business. (Select all that apply).

n= 1,032



What is the impact of rising health insurance costs on your business? (Check all that apply)

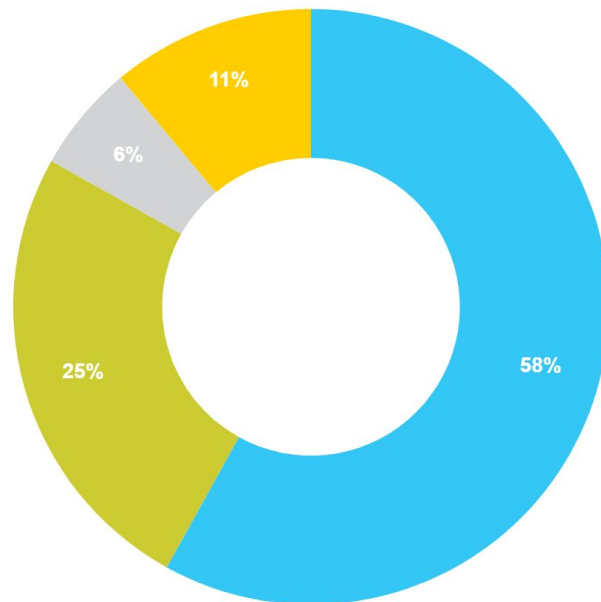
n= 1,032



Thinking about your vote in the 2022 midterm election, how important is it to you that your current senator and/or representative supports allowing Medicare to negotiate prescription drug prices when you decide whether to vote for them?

n= 1,032

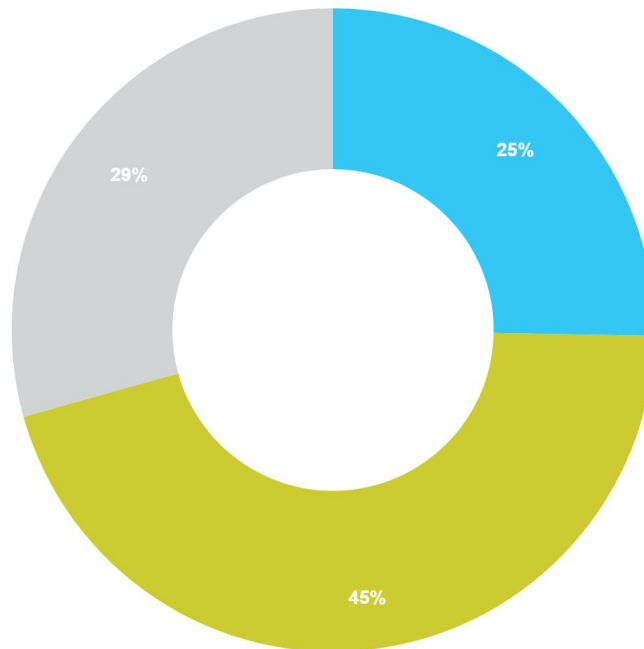
● Very important ● Somewhat important ● Somewhat unimportant ● Not important



What are you most concerned about when it comes to the federal government's efforts to lower the cost of prescription drugs?

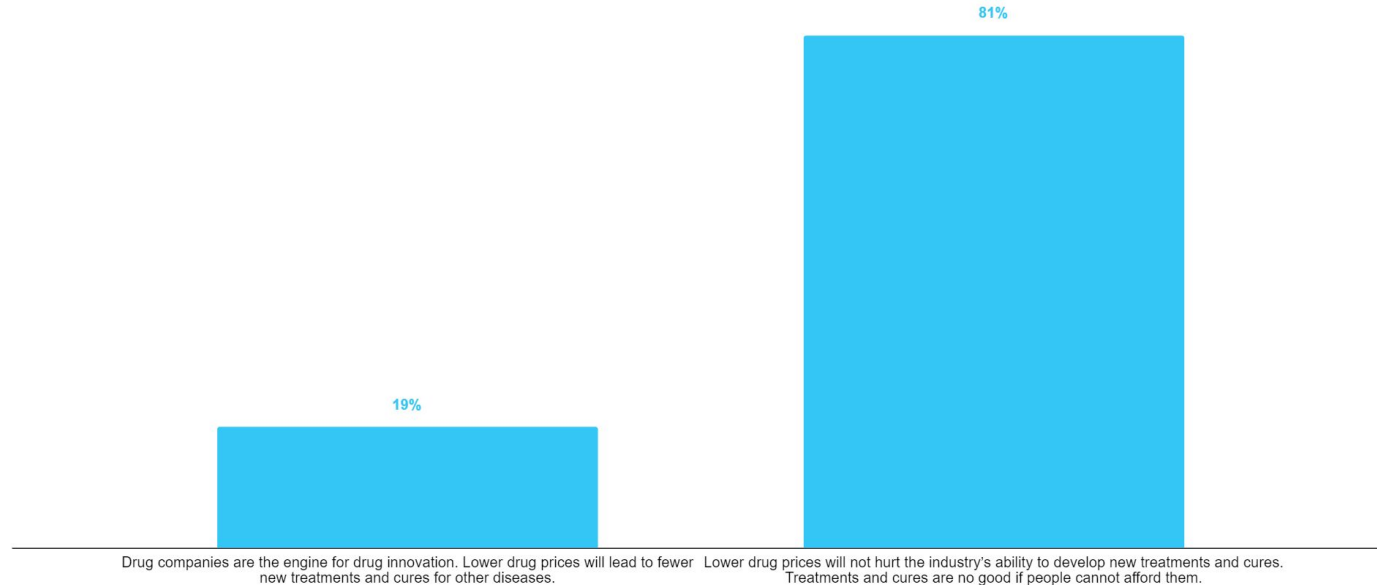
n= 1,032

- The Biden Administration and Congress will go too far.
- The Biden Administration and Congress will not go far enough.
- Neither too far or not far enough. I think the Biden Administration and Congress will take the appropriate amount of action.



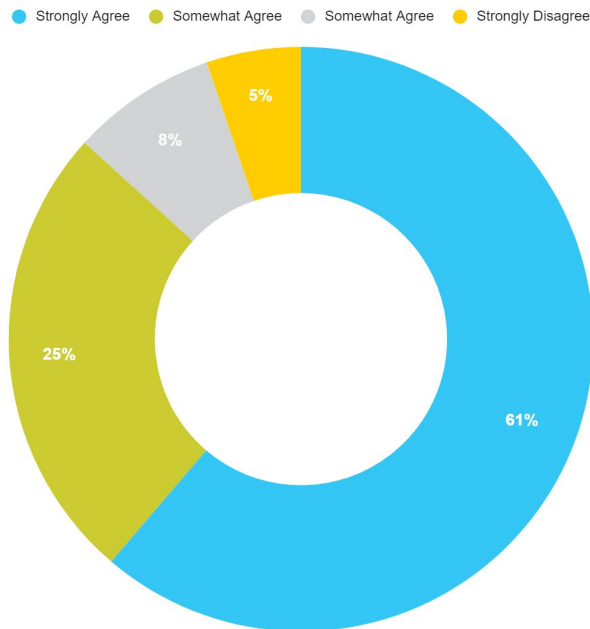
Drug companies generate revenue that far exceeds their spending on research and development; their profit margins exceed the performance of the S&P 500; and they spend millions on lobbying and marketing. Which of the following is more likely to happen if drug companies were forced to lower their prices?

n= 1,032



How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "Hospitals are unfairly charging high prices leading to higher health costs, and it is necessary to regulate hospital pricing."

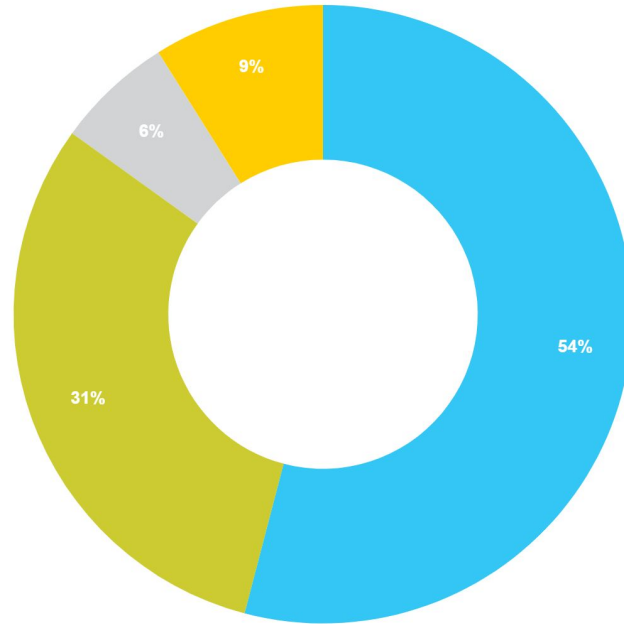
n= 1,032



Hospitals are becoming increasingly consolidated, leading to regional monopolies where healthcare providers have more market power to demand higher prices than private insurance companies and employers. How important is it that federal and state governments intervene in the consolidation of the health systems?

n= 1,032

● Very Important ● Somewhat Important ● Somewhat Unimportant ● Not important

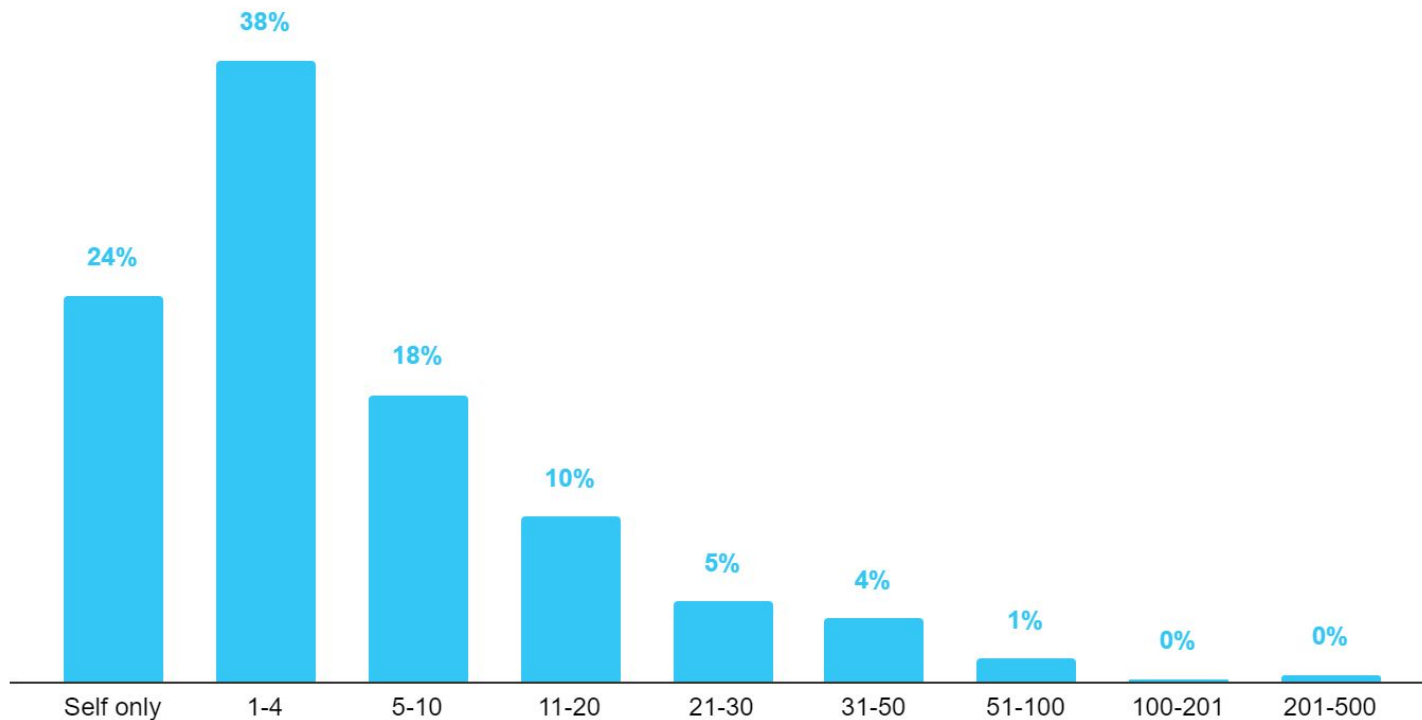


An aerial, high-angle photograph of a wide, paved pedestrian walkway. The ground is composed of large, light-colored rectangular tiles. Several people are walking across the frame in various directions. Some are walking in groups, while others are alone. The overall scene is captured with a blue color overlay, giving it a cool, modern feel. The text "Demographic Data" is centered in the middle of the image in a white, sans-serif font.

Demographic Data

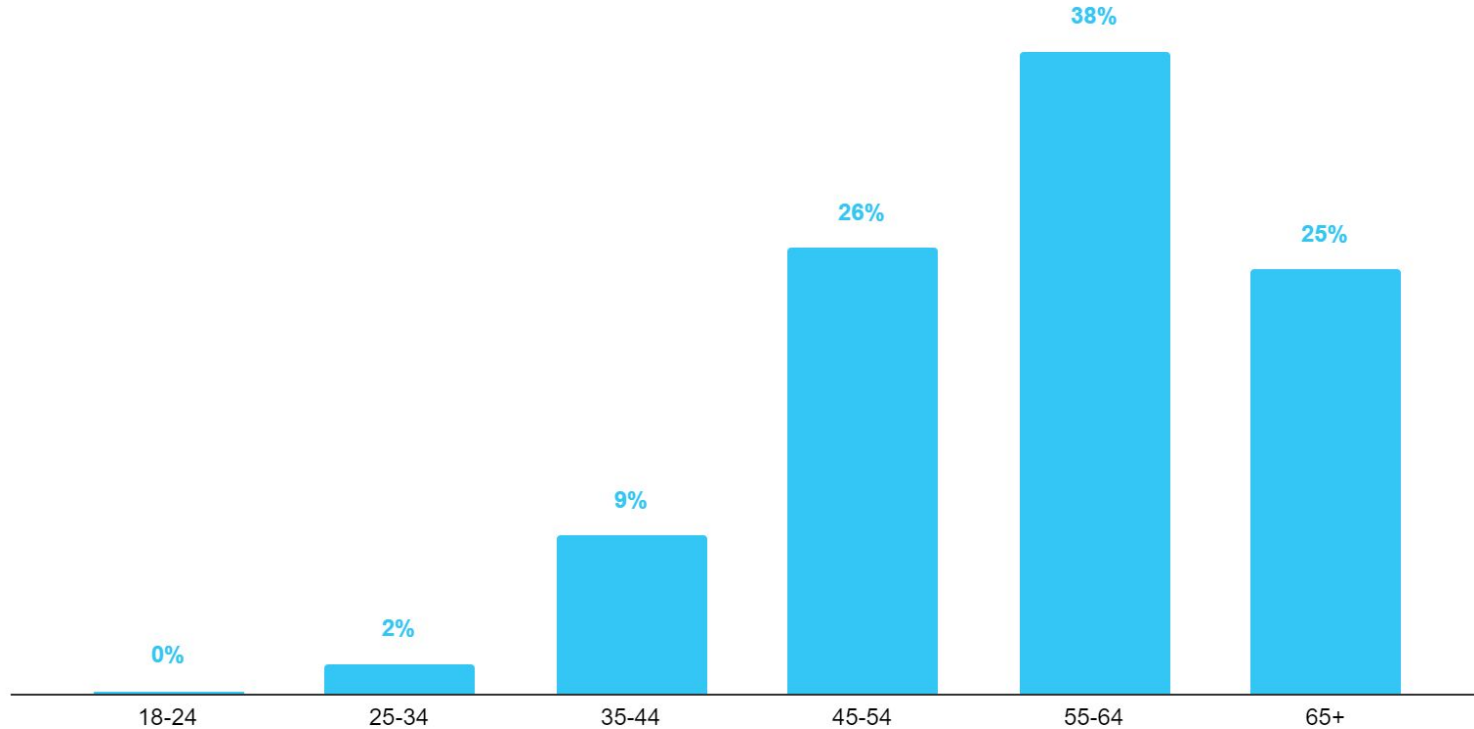
Not including yourself, how many employees do you have?

n= 1,032



What is your age?

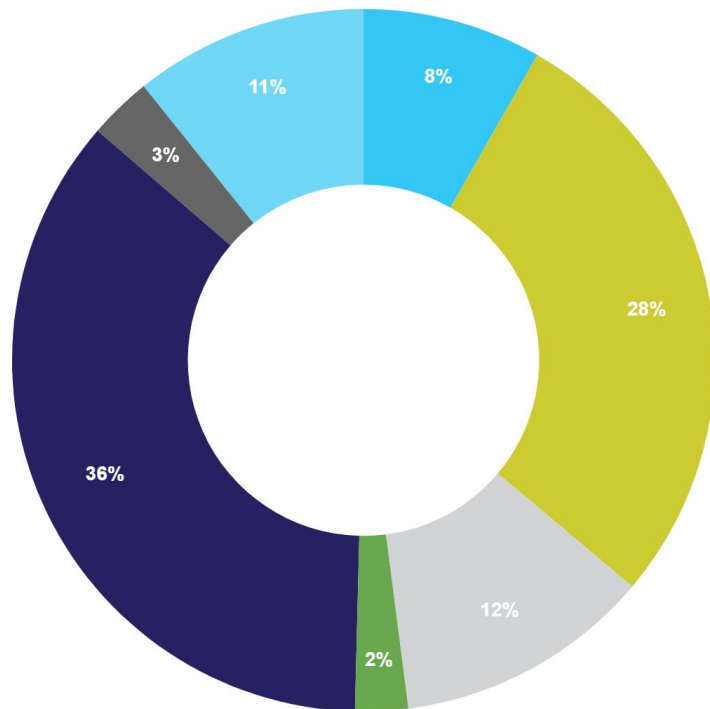
n= 1,032



How do you identify yourself? (Select all that apply).

n= 1,032

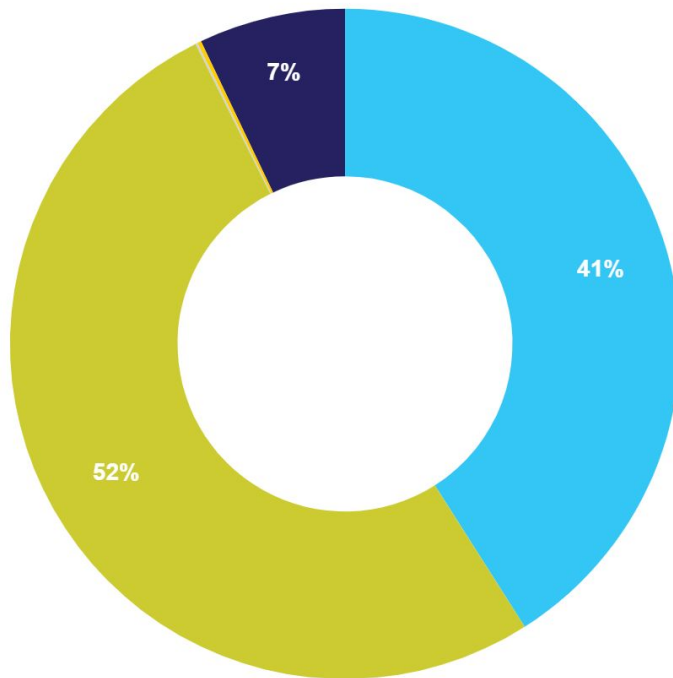
● AAPI ● Black ● Hispanic ● Native American ● White ● Multiracial ● Prefer not to say

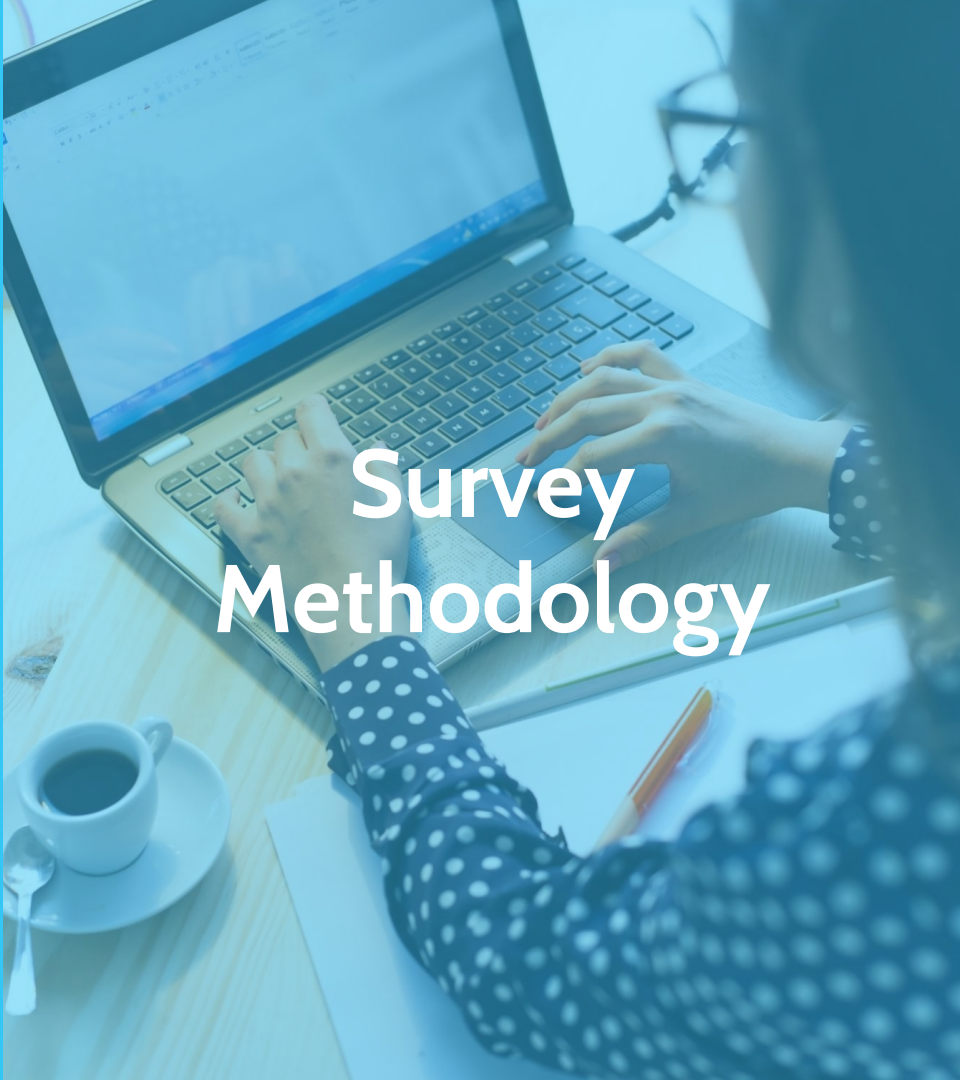


What is your gender identity?

n= 1,032

Female Male Transgender Non-Binary Prefer not to say



A person wearing a blue polka-dot shirt is sitting at a desk, typing on a laptop. A white cup of coffee on a saucer is on the desk to the left. The background is a light blue gradient.

Survey Methodology

1,032 Total Responses

Methodology:

Survey Monkey survey of Small Business for
America's Future small business network

Fielded Oct. 18-26, 2021

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