



**SMALL BUSINESS**  
FOR AMERICA'S FUTURE

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**Survey:**  
**Small Businesses Support Extending  
Unemployment Benefits, National  
Covid Recovery Plan & Mask Mandate**

July 20, 2020

# ABOUT SMALL BUSINESS FOR AMERICA'S FUTURE

- Small Business for America's Future (formerly Businesses for Responsible Tax Reform) 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.



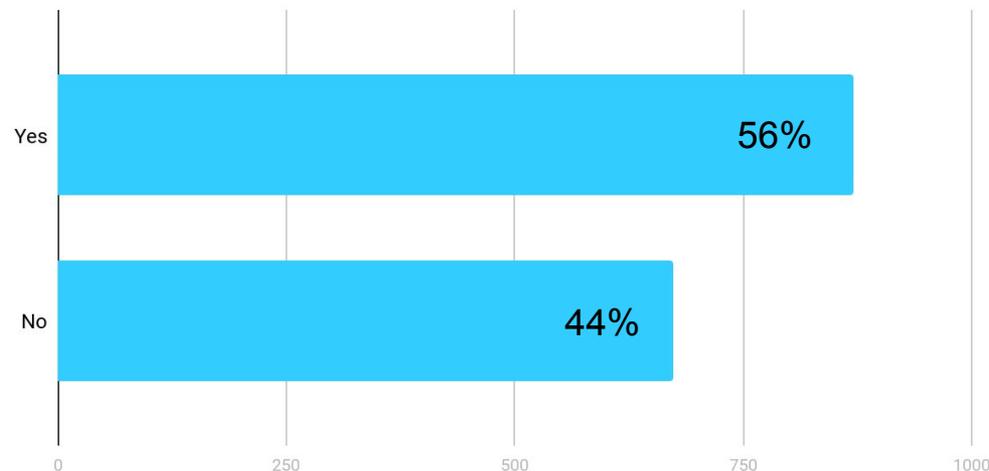
# SUMMARY

- From July 10-17, Small Business for America's Future conducted a survey of 1,544 small business owners in its network to learn about how the pandemic has impacted their business and what they need to recover
- Results found small businesses overwhelmingly support extending enhanced unemployment benefits and mask mandates, and they say a national plan for opening safely would give them a better chance at long-term survival
- 80% of small business owners expect Covid-19 to disrupt business for the rest of 2020 or longer

# RESULTS: SMALL BUSINESSES WANT UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS EXTENDED

- 56% of survey respondents support extending the \$600 a week enhanced unemployment benefits for workers who have been laid off due to COVID-19

Do you support the federal government extending the \$600 a week enhanced unemployment benefits for workers who have been laid off



# RESULTS: SMALL BUSINESSES WANT UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS EXTENDED

- 56% of survey respondents are concerned that letting enhanced unemployment benefits expire at the end of July will have a negative impact on consumer spending

The \$600 a week enhanced unemployment benefits for workers who have been laid off due to COVID-19 are set to expire at the end of July. How concerned are you that letting them expire will have a negative impact on consumer spending?

Answer Choices	Responses
Very concerned	32%
Somewhat concerned	24%
Somewhat unconcerned	19%
Very unconcerned	26%

# RESULTS: SMALL BUSINESSES WANT UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS EXTENDED

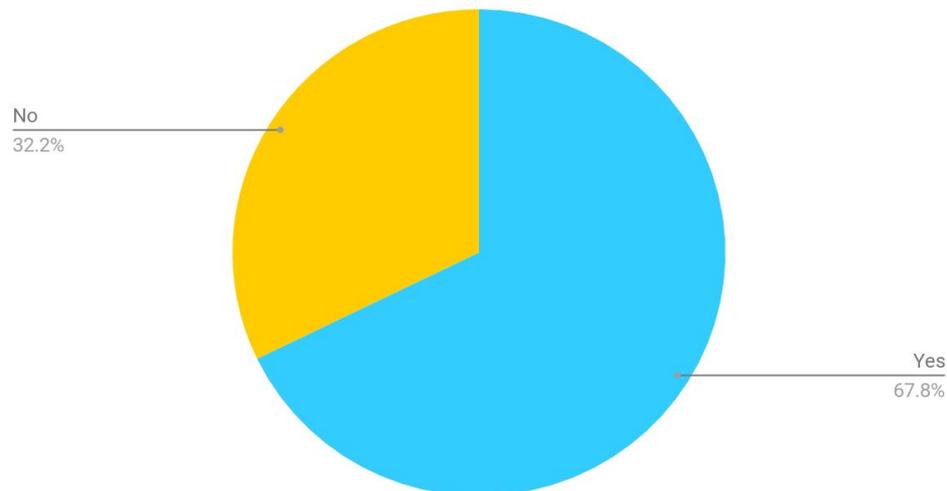
- Only 20% of employers are concerned that extended unemployment benefits are preventing employees from returning to work; more say employees are concerned about safety risks and childcare

Top Challenges With Employees	Responses
Not returning to work because they are making more money from unemployment	20%
They are frightened about being in a workplace setting close to others	27%
Having problems finding care for children and family members	28%
Not facing any employee related challenges due to COVID	39%

# RESULTS: SMALL BUSINESSES WANT A NATIONAL REOPENING PLAN

- 68% of survey respondents want a nationwide plan for reopening safely
- 66% say such a plan would give businesses a better chance at surviving the pandemic

Do you think we need a nationwide plan for reopening safely?

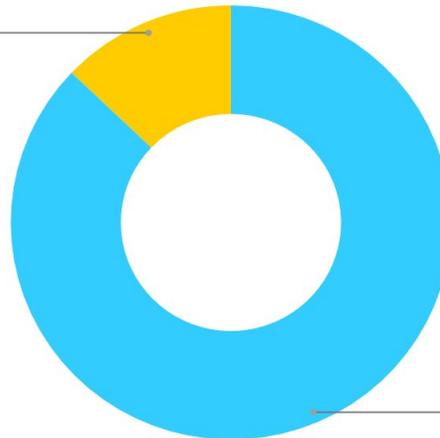


# RESULTS: SMALL BUSINESSES SUPPORT MASK MANDATES

- 87% say business owners should be able to deny entrance to customers who refuse to wear masks
- 77% support government policies requiring customers and employees to wear masks in a business, 58% strongly support them

Do you think businesses should have the right to deny entrance to customers who refuse to wear masks?

No  
12.9%

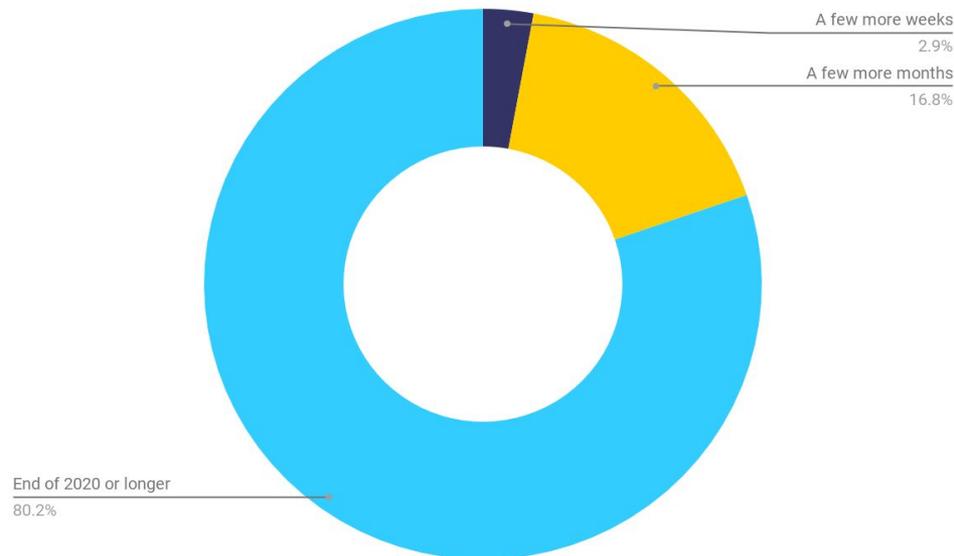


Yes  
87.1%

# RESULTS: SMALL BUSINESSES ARE NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE

- 80% of survey respondents believe Covid-19 will disrupt business until the end of 2020 or longer

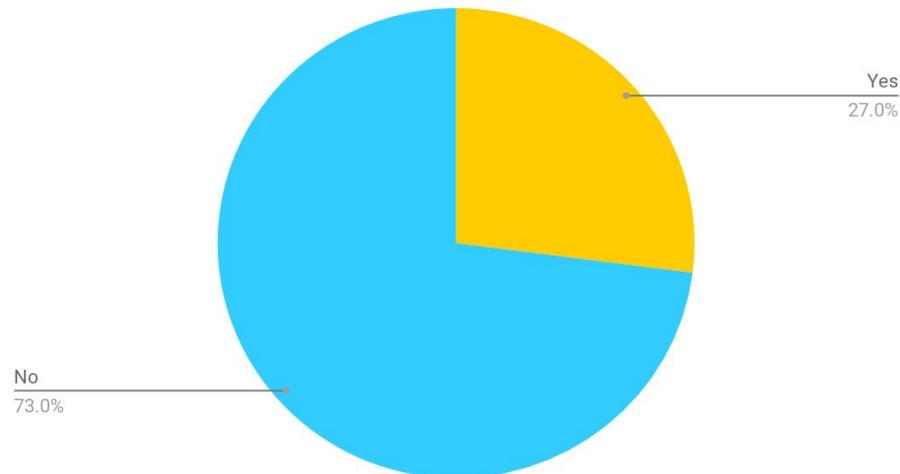
How long do you think that Covid-19 will disrupt business at some level before returning to normal?



# RESULTS: SMALL BUSINESSES ARE STRUGGLING

- 27% of small business owners have considered closing their business permanently due to Covid-19; 21% are facing the possibility of declaring bankruptcy due to Covid-19

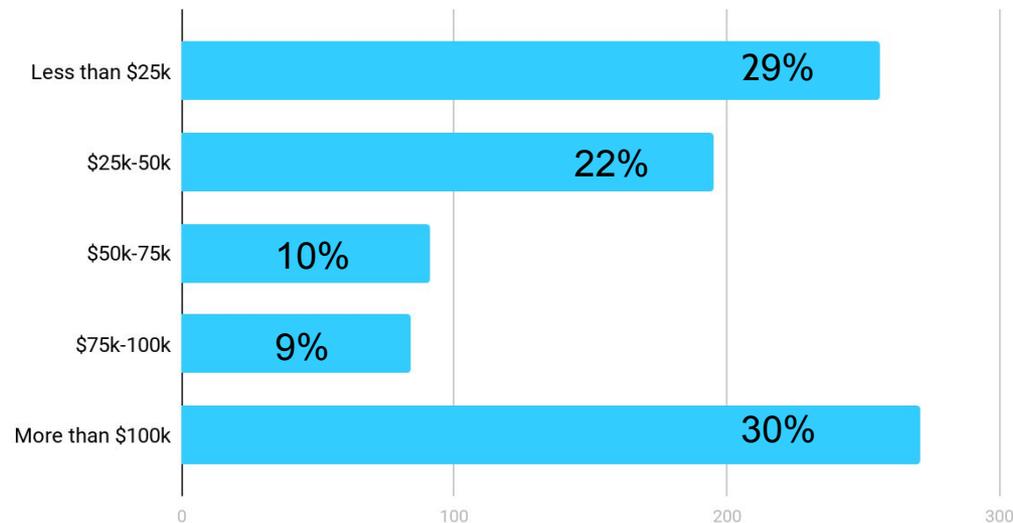
Have you considered closing your business permanently?



# RESULTS: SMALL BUSINESSES ARE STRUGGLING

- 58% have new debt related to the COVID-19 crisis
- Of those who have new debt, nearly 50% have new debt of \$50,000 or more; 30% have taken on new debt of more than \$100,000

How much new debt has your business taken on?



# RESULTS: SMALL BUSINESSES WILLING TO DO THEIR PART, WITH GOVT SUPPORT

- 76% of survey respondents are willing to close or comply with health recommendations that contain the spread of COVID-19, even if it reduces customer traffic, if they have government support such as grants or long-term, low-interest loans to help their businesses and employees survive financially

Willingness to close/comply	Responses
Very willing	53%
Somewhat willing	23%
Somewhat unwilling	8%
Very unwilling	16%

# RESULTS: OWNERS BLAME GOVT, THOSE NOT FOLLOWING HEALTH GUIDELINES FOR FAILURE TO CONTROL COVID

- 27% of survey respondents primarily blame the Trump administration for failure to control Covid-19, and 29% blame people who don't follow health guidelines such as wearing masks or practicing social distancing

<b>What group or entity would you hold most responsible for having to slow reopening or resume business shutdowns to control the spread of Covid-19?</b>	
The president and his administration	27%
State and local government officials	25%
People who don't follow health guidelines such as wearing masks or practicing social distancing	29%
The media	16%
Other	3%

# TOPLINES

# SBAF Small Business Response Survey Toplines



**1,544**

Total Responses

Methodology:

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

Fielded July 10-17, 2020



**Q1: Are you facing the possibility of having to declare bankruptcy due to COVID-19?**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	21.11%	326
No	78.89%	1218
Total	1544	



## Q2: Have you considered closing your business permanently?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	27.01%	417
No	72.99%	1127
Total	1544	



### Q3: Do you have new debt related to the Covid-19 crisis?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	57.97%	895
No	42.03%	649
Total	1544	

## Q4: How much new debt has your business taken on?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Less than \$25,000	28.54%	256
\$25,000-\$50,000	21.74%	195
\$50,000-\$75,000	10.14%	91
\$75,000-\$100,000	9.36%	84
More than \$100,000	30.21%	271
Total	897	



**Q5: How long do you think that Covid-19 will disrupt business at some level before returning to normal?**

Answer Choices	Responses	
A few more weeks	2.91%	45
A few more months	16.84%	260
Until the end of 2020 or longer	80.25%	1239
Total	1544	



**Q6: Have you spent money on expenses related to reopening your business after Covid-19 shelter-in-place orders eased?**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	55.57%	858
No	44.43%	686
Total	1544	



**Q7: Are you facing the possibility of having to reinstate stronger social distancing restrictions or closing again after having reopened your business once before?**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	43.07%	665
No	56.93%	879
Total	1544	



**Q8: If you have to close your business again due to reimposed shelter-in-place orders, will you be able to reopen again?**

<b>Answer Choices</b>	<b>Responses</b>	
Yes, I will be able to reopen again	23.70%	366
No, I will likely have to close permanently	8.55%	132
It would have a negative impact on my business but I would be able to reopen	34.59%	534
Not applicable	33.16%	512
<b>Total</b>	<b>1544</b>	



**Q9: Do you think we need a nationwide plan for reopening safely?**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	67.81%	1047
No	32.19%	497
Total	1544	



**Q10: Do you think that a nationwide plan for reopening safely would give businesses a better chance at surviving the pandemic?**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	66.19%	1022
No	33.81%	522
Total	1544	



**Q11: Do you think businesses should have the right to deny entrance to customers who refuse to wear masks?**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	87.11%	1345
No	12.89%	199
Total	1544	



**Q12: Do you support or oppose government policies requiring customers and employees to wear masks in a business?**

<b>Answer Choices</b>	<b>Responses</b>	
Strongly support	58.42%	902
Somewhat support	18.85%	291
Somewhat oppose	8.35%	129
Strongly oppose	14.38%	222
Total	1544	



**Q13: What group or entity would you hold most responsible for having to slow reopening or resume business shutdowns to control the spread of Covid-19?**

<b>Answer Choices</b>	<b>Responses</b>	
The president and his administration	27.14%	419
State and local government officials	24.74%	382
People who don't follow health guidelines such as wearing masks or practicing social distancing	28.82%	445
The media	16.06%	248
Other	3.24%	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>1544</b>	

**Q14: If you had proper government assistance such as grants or low- interest, long-term loans to help your business and employees survive financially, how willing would you be to keep your business closed and/or comply with health recommendations that contain the spread of Covid-19 but lead to reduced customer traffic (such as limiting the number of people in your business or only doing business outside)?**

<b>Answer Choices</b>	<b>Responses</b>	
Very willing	52.91%	817
Somewhat willing	22.54%	348
Somewhat unwilling	8.16%	126
Very unwilling	16.39%	253
Total	1544	

**Q15: Which of the following challenges are you facing in regards to employees? Select all that apply.**

Answer Choices	Responses	
They are not returning to work because they are making more money from unemployment than they would working	19.62%	303
They are frightened about being in a workplace setting close to others	27.01%	417
They have problems finding care for children and family members, which makes it difficult for them to work consistently	28.24%	436
Not facing any employee related challenges due to Covid	39.18%	605
Other	14.90%	230
Total	1544	

**Q16: The \$600 a week enhanced unemployment benefits for workers who have been laid off due to Covid-19 are set to expire at the end of July. How concerned are you that letting them expire will have a negative impact on consumer spending?**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Very concerned	31.54%	487
Somewhat concerned	23.58%	364
Somewhat unconcerned	19.11%	295
Very unconcerned	25.78%	398
Total	1544	

**Q17: Do you support the federal government extending the \$600 a week enhanced unemployment benefits for workers who have been laid off due to Covid-19, which are expected to expire at the end of July?**

<b>Answer Choices</b>	<b>Responses</b>	
Yes	56.35%	870
No	43.65%	674
Total	1544	



## Q18: Do you own or manage a small business?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	92.01%	1544
Yes, but I had to close	4.83%	81
No	3.16%	53
Total	1678	

## Q19: How do you identify yourself?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Asian American	5.89%	91
Black, African or African American	11.72%	181
Hispanic, Latino	13.80%	213
Native American or Alaska Native	1.17%	18
White or Caucasian	54.60%	843
Other/Prefer not to answer	12.82%	198
Total	1544	

## Q20: What is your gender?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Female	40.61%	627
Male	55.63%	859
Non-binary / third gender	.19%	3
Prefer not to say	3.50%	54
Prefer to self-describe	0.06%	1
Total	1544	



## Q21: How many people does your small business employ?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Self	16.26%	251
1-5	38.54%	595
6-10	17.55%	271
11-30	17.88%	276
31-50	5.76%	89
51-100	3.11%	48
101-200	.84%	13
200-500	.06%	1
Total	1544	