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## **Survey: business owners' optimism up**

By Kent Hoover and Bill Frogameni

Owners of small- and mid-size businesses are more optimistic about the future, according to a recent national economic survey of business owners and primary decision-makers conducted by City Business Journals Network, an affiliate of the South Florida Business Journal.

Fifty-two percent of business owners feel business prospects in the next 12 months will be “a lot” or “a little better,” up from 35 percent five months ago, the study says.

But, owners are reluctant to agree the economy has “definitely” started to turn around. Twenty-eight percent believe the shift has happened, 30 percent are not sure, and 42 percent say no turnaround has yet begun. Among these naysayers, the expected timing for the turnaround has decreased to “two years or less” from “more than two years” – the belief held in March.

“I think there is beginning to be a solid encouragement,” said Barney T. Bishop III, president and CEO of Associated Industries of Florida. “We’re seeing across-the-board renewed vigor in companies.”