

Aruba, June 12, 2013 - Small business owners say they're not yet feeling the effects of an improving economy, and most aren't rushing to hire, or seeking funds to invest in their businesses.

In an exclusive CNNMoney-Manta survey about the state of small business today, more than a third of owners polled said the U.S. economy is in better shape than last year. But most say their own customers aren't spending freely, and only 40% are reporting stronger sales.

No wonder just 14% said they're adding more workers than last year, while two-thirds aren't hiring at all. "Business is too unstable," said one respondent. "I can't afford to hire anyone else at this point." Most (65.6%) aren't seeking additional financing either.

[Special report: State of Small Business](#)

Entrepreneurs cite the economy (31%) and increasing costs of doing business (23%) as the issues weighing most heavily on their minds. Because of those two factors, "small companies have to take a greater hit to the wallet to compete with big businesses," wrote one respondent. "It's almost better to have a nine-to-five job than to be your own boss."

Others mentioned regulations (16%) as their biggest concern. Taxes were a popular write-in vote, although the survey didn't specifically list that option.

Health care is another issue that's top of mind for small firms. But the survey results showed that many businessowners are still trying to understand what effect Obamacare will have on their companies.

Read more/ Source: http://money.cnn.com/2013/05/20/smallbusiness/survey-entrepreneurs-economy/index.html?iid=SF_SB_River

