Small business optimistic

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Small business owners are a little more optimistic about how their companies will do after the election, according to a survey released Tuesday.

The National Federation of Independent Business says owners it surveyed last month expect their companies' sales and overall business conditions to pick up after the election and the end of the year.

That brighter outlook helped lift the NFIB's small business optimism index by 1.7 point in August to 92.9.

The NFIB, which lobbies on behalf of small business owners, compiled the index from its survey of 736 of its members.

Other survey results:

» **New jobs:** But the number of owners who said they expect to create new jobs rose 5 percentage points from July to 10 percent.

» **Better sales:** The number of owners expecting their sales to improve also rose 5 percentage points to 1 percent, erasing a negative reading in July.

» **Capital expenditures:** Nearly a quarter of the owners, 24 percent, said they plan to make capital expenditures in the next three to six months, up 3 percentage points.