

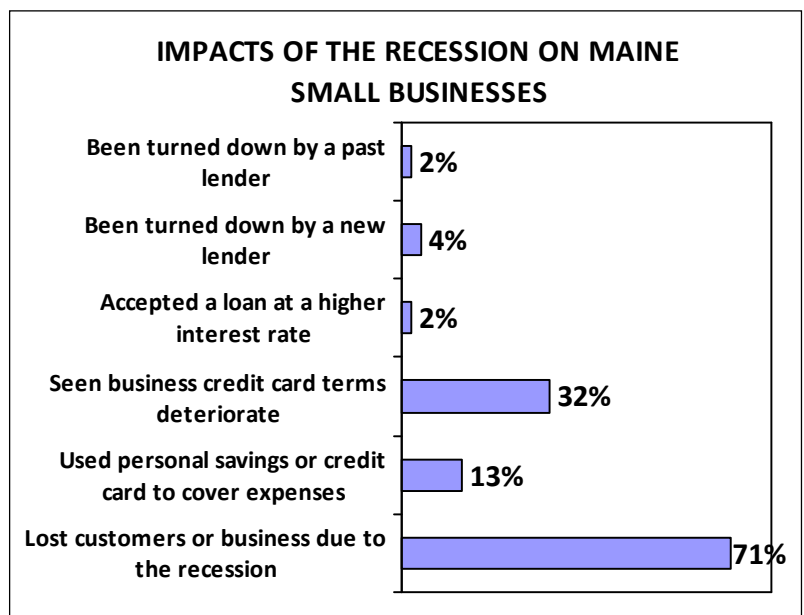
STATE SNAPSHOT: MAINE

In Maine, 100 small business owners participated in the survey on financial issues and financial reform. Most respondents came from Augusta, Bangor, Gorham, Orono, Portland, and Windham.

Impacts of the Recession on Maine Small Businesses

The survey asked small business owners about their experiences in the current recession.

Since June 2008, more than two thirds (71 percent) of Maine respondents reported losing customers or business due to the recession. Approximately one in seven (13 percent) used personal savings or credit cards for expenses normally covered with external loans or business credit cards. Almost a third (32 percent) saw their business credit card terms deteriorate. Meanwhile, 2 percent reported being turned down by a past lender, while 4 percent reported being turned down by a new lender.

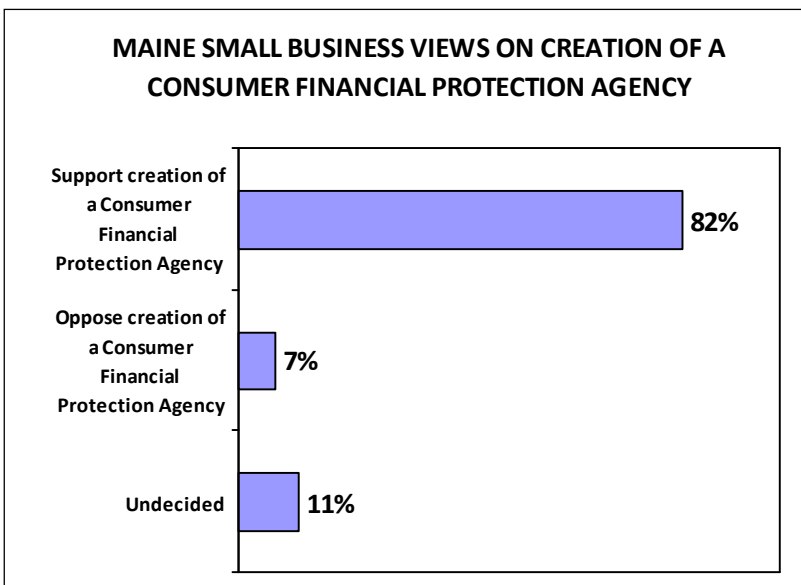
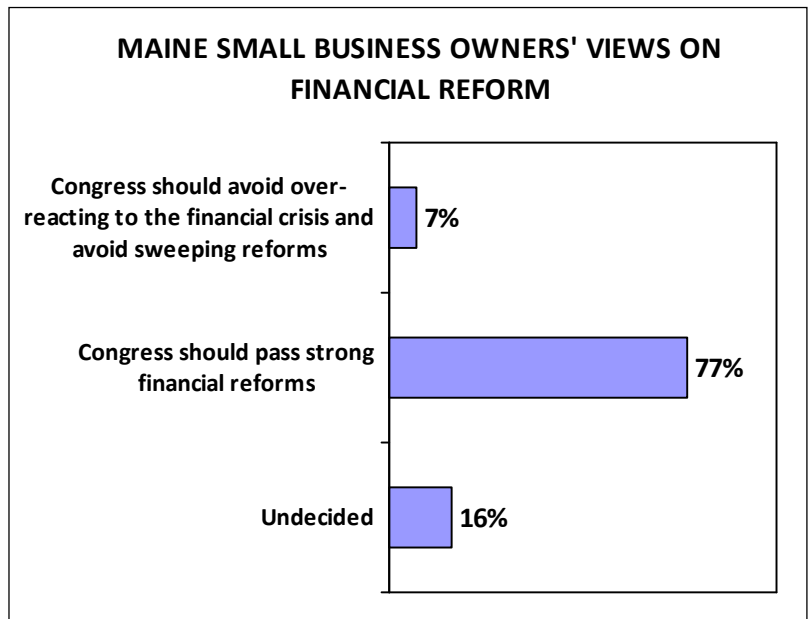


Maine Small Business Owners' Views on Financial Reform

The survey presented respondents with two possible ways Congress could react to the financial crisis:

A) Congress should avoid over-reacting to the financial crisis and avoid sweeping reforms. Too many regulations would stifle business growth and threaten our recovery.
Or,
B) Congress should pass strong financial reforms. Strong measures are needed to ensure accountability on Wall Street, promote fair access to credit for small businesses, and prevent another collapse.

More than three quarters of responding Maine small business owners (77 percent) support strong financial reforms, compared to less than one tenth (7 percent) favoring less government involvement.



Maine Small Business Views on Creation of a Consumer Financial Protection Agency

Small business owners were then asked whether they would support or oppose creation of a Consumer Financial Protection Agency (CFPA).

More than eight tens of Maine respondents (82 percent) said they would support the creation of a CFPA, less than a tenth (7 percent) opposing it.