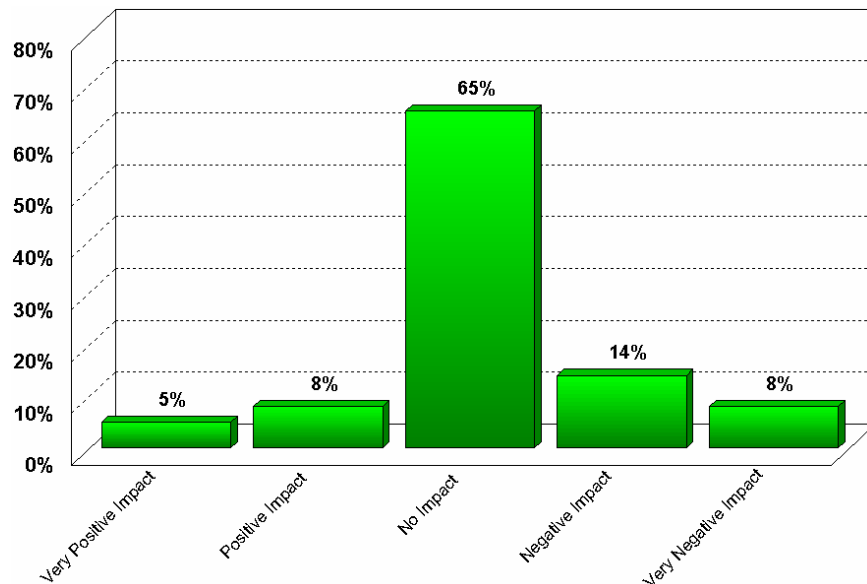


Employer Sanctions Law: Small Businesses Say Impact is More Negative than Positive

According to a just-released survey of Arizona small businesses, the majority of Arizona small businesses (65%) indicate that the new employer sanctions law has had no impact on their business. Among those who have noted an impact, however, that impact is more negative than positive. The poll's director, Dr. Michael O'Neil observed, "A total of 22% indicate a negative impact compared to only 13% who indicated a positive impact. Furthermore, when we look only at the extreme cases, the proportion who cite a "very" negative impact (8%) is nearly twice the proportion who indicate a "very" positive impact (5%)."



O'Neil Continued, "Some might find these results surprising, given the amount of press the issue has gotten. The big number is that for two-thirds of businesses it has made no difference whatsoever. But a significant minority, approaching a quarter of Arizona small businesses, the law has been a negative. We suspect that for most of the 14% who cited a "negative" impact, but not a "very negative" one, it may be a reflection of increased paperwork, or modest increases in vendor costs. The 8% who cited a "very negative" impact, however, warrant attention. A serious negative impact on 8% of the state's businesses may warrant attention. We will monitor trends on this matter in next quarter's survey."

The Silver State Bank/ASBA/O'Neil Associates Arizona Economic Indicators Monitor is made possible by Silver State Bank, with cooperation of ASBA (the Arizona Small Business Association). O'Neil Associates, a national public opinion research firm based in Tempe, sent surveys to ASBA's membership of 3,000 small businesses across the state in late March. The survey covered a wide range of economic issues including business performance, revenue and job growth, and overall business confidence ratings.

For a complete copy of the *Silver State Bank/ASBA/O'Neil Associates Arizona Economic Indicators Monitor* visit <http://www.oneilresearch.com/publicdomain>

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