



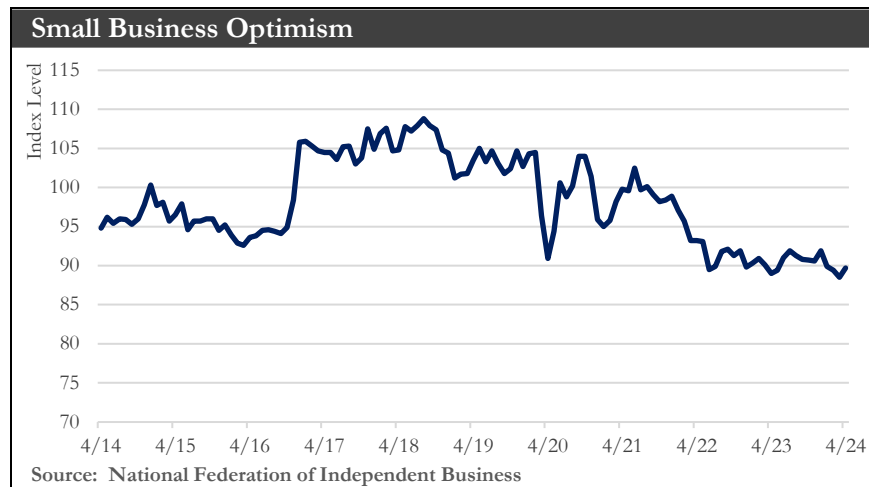
CMC UPDATE: Small Business Optimism Rebounds in April

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After declining for the past three months, small business confidence improved in April. NFIB's Small Business Optimism Index rose 1.2 points to 89.7 in April. Seven of the ten subcomponents improved on the month, two deteriorated and one remained unchanged.

Most small businesses are planning to increase capital investments and headcounts over the coming months, with sales expectations improving gradually. However, high-level expectations for the economy were little changed on the month, with most small businesses continuing to expect the economy to weaken and credit conditions to remain tight moving forward.



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