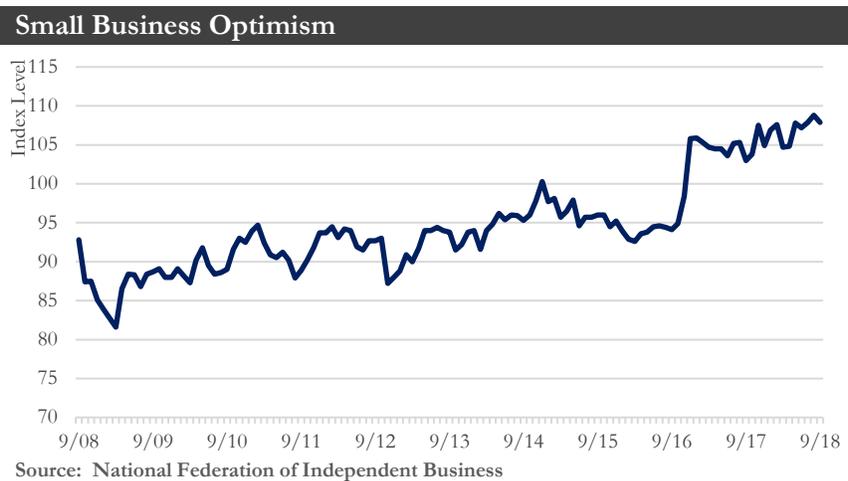


CMC UPDATE: Small Business Optimism Index Remains Upbeat
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The NFIB's small business optimism index remained upbeat in September, pulling back less than one point to 107.9 from an all-time high of 108.8 in August. Despite some backpedaling among the survey details, most sub components remain near multi-year or multi-decade highs.

Despite a slight pullback in the NFIB optimism measure this month, the narrative remains broadly unchanged – confidence among small businesses remains the most upbeat it's been in decades. This bodes well for the continued growth of the U.S. economy.



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