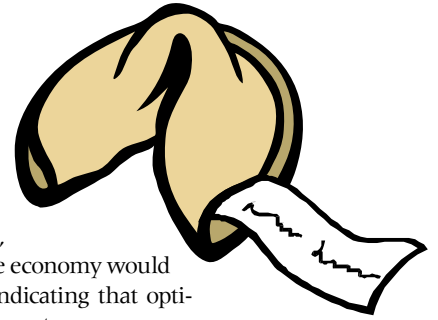


Reading the future



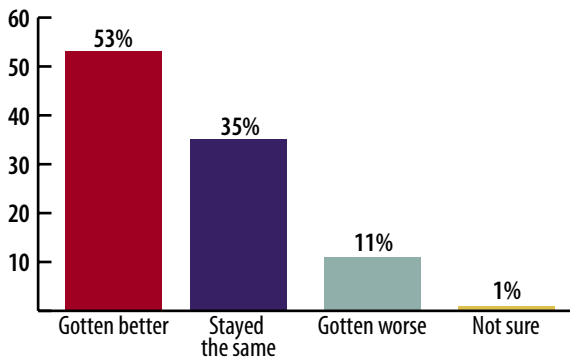
The mood of the business community, as measured by *Oregon Business'* quarterly online subscriber poll, is modestly optimistic going into the last quarter of 2005. But it's clear that business people don't anticipate growth in 2006 to measure up to 2005's robust performance.

Among the 700 respondents to our survey, conducted by research firm Conkling Fiskum & McCormick at the end of August, four in 10 anticipate the Oregon economy will get better in 2006. Only 13% are downbeat about the state's prospects.

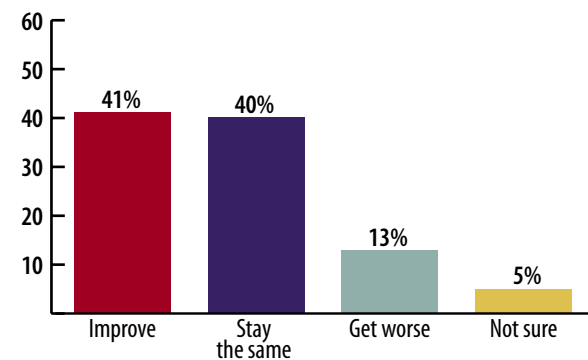
However, when we asked the same question in mid-2004, 54% of respondents thought the economy would improve in the coming year, indicating that optimism is waning as the recovery matures.

Oregon Business readers are more upbeat about their own businesses than they are about the state economy, with 55% thinking their bottom line will improve next year and 38% planning to hire new workers, while only 10% plan to downsize.

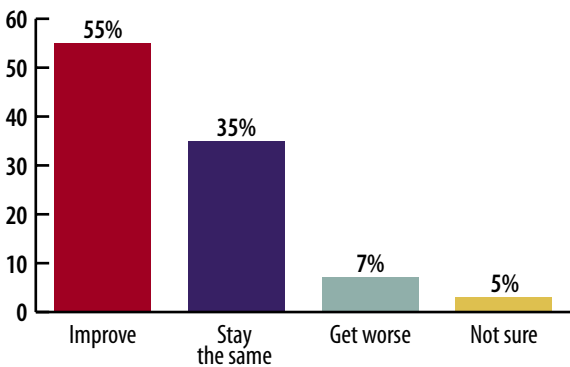
Over the past year, would you say Oregon's economy has:



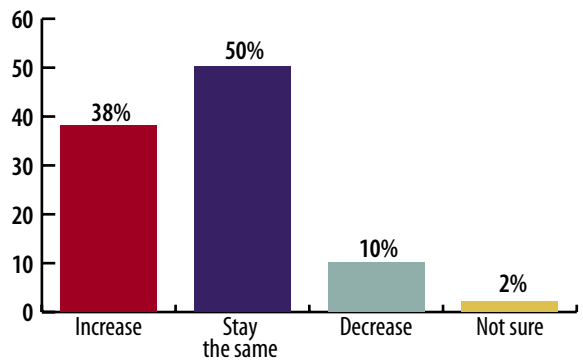
Over the next year, do you expect Oregon's economy to:



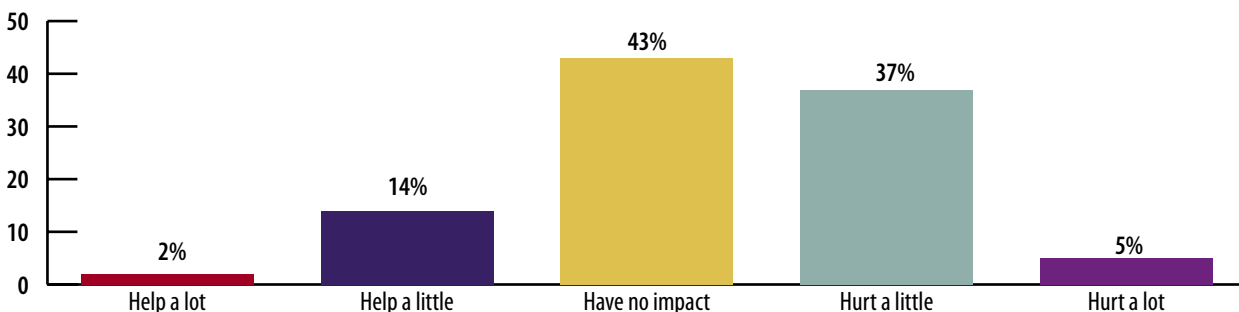
Over the next year, do you expect your business to:



Over the next year, the number of new jobs at your company is likely to:



What impact will the decisions of the 2005 Oregon Legislature have on your business or organization's activities?



Research by Conkling Fiskum & McCormick