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ABI Survey Reports Stability Among Iowa Employers

DES MOINES, Iowa — Iowa employers report stable financial health and a neutral outlook on the economy for the 4th quarter according to the Iowa Association of Business and Industry's most recent quarterly business survey.

Key survey findings include:

- **47%** expect sales to expand over the next quarter, while 53% expect sales to remain about the same.
- **63%** plan to make capital expenditures in the next quarter, with 20% planning to make modest investments.
- **74%** identify workforce and talent as a top business challenge, followed by health care costs at 58%.

The survey results show Iowa employers continuing to invest in their businesses despite ongoing challenges related to finding and retaining talent. Nearly half of respondents expect sales to expand, and nearly two-thirds plan to make capital expenditures in the coming quarter.

Workforce continues to be the most cited business challenge. Similarly, respondents were asked about the top priority for the new Governor to strengthen Iowa's business climate, and workforce was the most common answer to the open-ended question.

"Iowa employers remain confident in their businesses, with many planning to invest in the coming quarter," said Nicole Crain, ABI President. "At the same time, workforce and talent remain significant challenges for employers across the state. ABI, through the initiatives of our Foundation, remains committed to educating Iowa students about the opportunities that exist in their communities."

ABI surveys its board of directors each quarter to track business sentiment, identify common concerns and inform advocacy and programming priorities. For previous survey results, business resources and upcoming events, visit www.iowaabi.org.

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The Iowa Association of Business and Industry (ABI) has been the voice of Iowa business since 1903. Its mission is to provide a strong, unified voice to business and industry on issues affecting Iowa employers. ABI is comprised of member companies representing all industries and sizes in Iowa's 99 counties. ABI members employ more than 330,000 Iowans.