



**IOWA  
ASSOCIATION  
OF BUSINESS  
AND INDUSTRY**

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### **Iowa Business Maintains Strength Through Economic Changes**

DES MOINES, Iowa – As Iowa businesses prepare to navigate ongoing economic changes in the second quarter of 2025, the Iowa Association of Business and Industry (ABI) shares key insights from its latest Quarterly Business Survey, conducted in early March 2025.

Highlights from the survey include:

- **Capital Expenditures** - 64% of respondents intend to make capital expenditures this quarter, demonstrating a commitment to business growth and operational improvements.
- **Workforce Trends** - 86% of businesses expect the number of employees to remain unchanged, signaling stability in workforce demands.
- **Trade Policy** – 80% of respondents are concerned with tariffs. Nearly half of businesses are very concerned over tariffs on Canadian or Mexican goods, and 60% of respondents are somewhat concerned about tariffs on Chinese imports.

Business leaders are closely monitoring trade policy developments to understand the potential impact on supply chains and costs. At the same time, companies are increasingly turning to artificial intelligence to drive efficiency while investing in workforce training to strengthen employee skills and improve margins. Overall, business sentiment on the economy remains cautious, with most respondents expressing a neutral outlook.

“Despite economic uncertainties, Iowa businesses remain focused on finding opportunities for growth and innovation,” said Nicole Crain, ABI President. “Their ability to adapt and invest in the future is what keeps our state’s economy strong.”

For more than 120 years, ABI has helped businesses navigate regulatory challenges and provide resources and programming for employers to recruit and retain top talent. ABI remains committed to advocate for policies that support economic stability and provide a competitive advantage for Iowa businesses.

“Thanks to Governor Reynolds and our legislative leaders, Iowa is fortunate to have a business-friendly environment that positions our state and employers for success,” said Crain.

For previous survey results, business resources, and upcoming events, visit [www.iowaabi.org](http://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.