



Small businesses want in on loans

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Owners of small businesses aren't happy with the bailouts of Wall Street firms.

A new survey of small-business owners by Suffolk University, on behalf of American Management Services, finds 81 percent of respondents feel the nation is in recession and 78 percent believe recent tax rebates have been useless in helping the economy.

Meanwhile, they're not happy that the Fed, Congress and Bush administration are going out of their way to help Wall Street and other large financial firms to get out of their subprime-mortgage mess, the survey said.

George Cloutier, chief executive of American Management, a small business consulting firm, said small-business owners are upset that non-Wall Street firms are being left to fend for themselves.

Cloutier, whose firm used to be based in Waltham and is now operated out of Orlando, Fla., said small businesses deserve the same emergency loan programs as those offered to large investment houses on Wall Street.