

Report: Small business owners sour on economy **Orlando Business Journal**

Small business owners think that the economy is headed in the wrong direction and things need to change, according to a poll released Tuesday by Suffolk University and American Management Services.

Suffolk University in Boston conducted the poll of 400 small business owners around the country mid-October.

The research found 70 percent of respondents did not benefit from the Dow Jones being at an all-time high in 2007. Also, 56 percent of respondents said that the high price of oil was having a negative impact on their small businesses.

Another 59 percent said the economy is headed in the wrong direction.

"It's Main Street versus Wall Street. Bottom line is that the economy is great for the big corporations and for Wall Street but small businesses are not feeling the affects of a supposedly strong economy as Wall Street would have you believe," says George Cloutier, founder, chairman and chief executive officer of American Management Services, a Boston-based turnaround services provider that sponsored the research.