

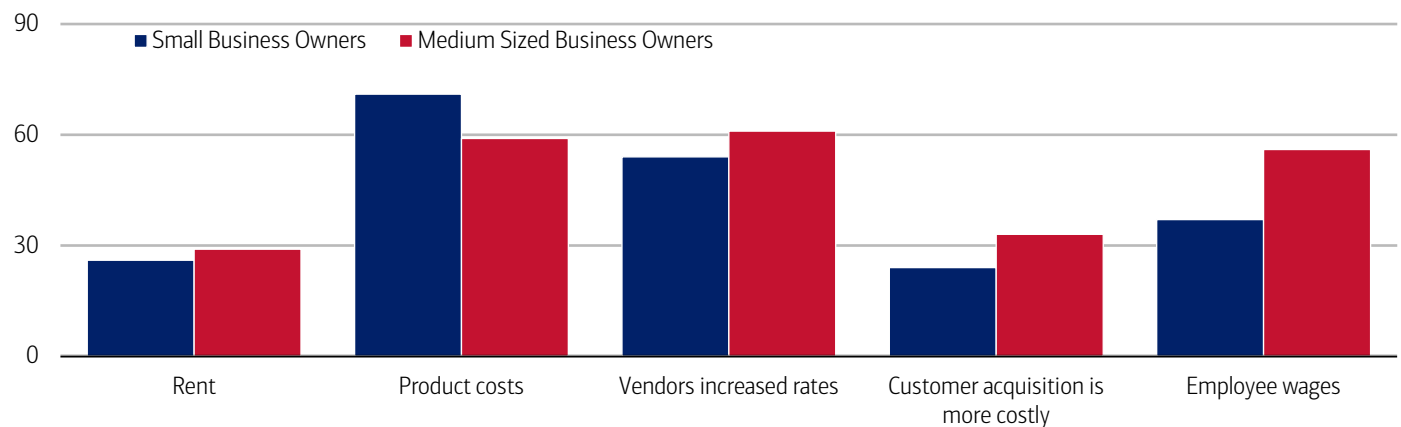
Daily Insights

Increasing product costs acutely impact small businesses

19 November 2025

When asked why costs have increased, more small business owners reported rising product costs compared to medium-sized business owners

Why have your business costs increased? (% of respondents by owner type)



Source: 2025 Bank of America Business Owner Report

BANK OF AMERICA INSTITUTE

The [2025 Bank of America Business Owner Report](#) reveals that small businesses have shouldered increasing business costs over the past 12 months, with a majority of small firms pointing to rising product costs as a key driver.

However, some costs reflect strategic investments that fuel growth. A prime example is AI, which the report notes has been adopted by 77% of business owners over the past five years, underscoring its growing importance. And Bank of America small business account data backs this trend – small business payments to tech services, including AI, were up nearly 8% year-over-year in October.

For more, read [Small Business Checkpoint: In OK-shape](#).

Methodology

Selected Bank of America transaction data is used to inform the macroeconomic views expressed in this report and should be considered in the context of other economic indicators and publicly available information. In certain instances, the data may provide directional and/or predictive value. The data used is not comprehensive; it is based on **aggregated and anonymized** selections of Bank of America data and may reflect a degree of selection bias and limitations on the data available.

Any **Small Business** payments data represents aggregate spend from Small Business clients with a deposit account or a Small Business credit card. Payroll payments data include channels such as ACH (automated clearing house), bill pay, checks and wire. Bank of America per Small Business client data represents activity spending from active Small Business clients with a deposit account or a Small Business credit card and at least one transaction in each month. Small businesses in this report include business clients within Bank of America and are generally defined as under \$5mm in annual sales revenue.

Unless otherwise stated, data is not adjusted for seasonality, processing days or portfolio changes, and may be subject to periodic revisions.

Revenue tiers are determined by the combination of following factors: 1) stated revenue on small businesses credit applications, 2) actual account inflow into Bank of America Deposit Accounts, and 3) third party revenue estimation.

The alternative hiring indicator consists of payments from Bank of America small business clients to small business-focused hiring firms which include both direct deposits through Automated Clearing House (ACH) and payments via credit and debit cards.

Data regarding merchants who receive payments are identified and classified by the Merchant Categorization Code (MCC) defined by financial services companies. The data are mapped using proprietary methods from the MCCs to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), which is also used by the Census Bureau, in order to classify spending data by subsector. Spending data may also be classified by other proprietary methods not using MCCs.

Ipsos conducted the 2025 Bank of America Business Owner Report survey online between September 11 and September 23, 2025, using a pre-recruited online sample of business owners. Ipsos contacted a national sample of 819 small business owners in the United States with annual revenue between \$100,000 and \$4,999,999 and employing between two and 99 employees. Ipsos also interviewed a national sample of 253 medium-sized business owners in the United States with annual revenue between \$5,000,000 and \$49,999,999 and employing between two and 499 employees. The final results for the national small, medium-sized, and combined (small and medium-sized) business owner samples were weighted to their respective national benchmark standards for size, revenue and region.

Additional information about the methodology used to aggregate the data is available upon request.

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Disclosures

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