D&B U.S. Economic Health Tracker

A multi-dimensional view of the U.S. Economy

May 2014

Small Business Health Index

D&B’s Small Business Health Index stabilized during the last reporting period, indicating potential strengthening of the small business sector. Challenges remain, due largely to the lack of stronger top-line growth in the U.S. economy.

U.S. Jobs Health

D&B estimates 208,000 new jobs were added to U.S. payrolls in April 2014, with marked gains in retail and manufacturing.

Source: D&B Global Data, Insights & Analytics
The D&B U.S. Economic Health Tracker showed dogged improvement in April 2014. Small business health stabilized after a number months of decline. Although wintry weather took its toll in the Northeast and Midwest earlier in the year, small businesses continue to demonstrate strong on-time bill and credit-card payments. Meanwhile, an estimated 208,000 new jobs were created, driven by strong gains in the retail and manufacturing segments. Finally, the U.S. Business Health Index strengthened yet again in April, registering a 53.7-percent index value, the highest recorded level since the index began in December 2010. U.S. businesses show sustained balance sheet and financial health, based on the weighted average of D&B’s Viability Rating, Delinquency Predictor, and Total Loss Predictor. Overall, the American economic recovery remains a choppy one, albeit with signs of hope in specific sectors.

**U.S. Business Health Index**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Perspective</th>
<th>Viability</th>
<th>Delinquency</th>
<th>Total Loss</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Apr' 14</strong></td>
<td>12.2%</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>11.6%</td>
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Source: D&B Global Data, Insights & Analytics

U.S. business health improved 8.6 percent year-over-year in April 2014. Businesses faced a lower risk of failing and continued making on-time bill payments.

**Perspectives**

The D&B U.S. Economic Health Tracker showed dogged improvement in April 2014. Small business health stabilized after a number months of decline. Although wintry weather took its toll in the Northeast and Midwest earlier in the year, small businesses continue to demonstrate strong on-time bill and credit-card payments. Meanwhile, an estimated 208,000 new jobs were created, driven by strong gains in the retail and manufacturing segments. Finally, the U.S. Business Health Index strengthened yet again in April, registering a 53.7-percent index value, the highest recorded level since the index began in December 2010. U.S. businesses show sustained balance sheet and financial health, based on the weighted average of D&B’s Viability Rating, Delinquency Predictor, and Total Loss Predictor. Overall, the American economic recovery remains a choppy one, albeit with signs of hope in specific sectors.

**Methodology**

The Small Business Health Index measures year-over-year small business performance through equally weighted payment patterns and credit use. U.S. Jobs Health combines Small Business Health Index industry data with BLS figures to forecast monthly nonfarm payroll employment. The U.S. Business Health Index provides a year-over-year equally weighted average of D&B’s Viability Score, Delinquency Predictor and Total Loss Predictor. The index ranges from zero (with all businesses recording high levels of risk) to 100% (with all businesses recording low levels of risk). Data available as of Apr. 25, 2014.

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