

# Long Island Business News

<https://libn.com/2019/05/16/ceos-are-bullish-on-the-economy-survey-finds/>

## CEOs are bullish on the economy, survey finds

By: Bernadette Starzee May 16, 2019

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CEOs of middle-market companies are bullish on the economy, according to results released this week from a national joint survey by accounting firm Marcum and the Hofstra University Frank G. Zarb School of Business.

CEOs across all 17 industry sectors included in the survey expressed a positive view of the current business environment. Nearly two-thirds (64 percent) rated their outlook for the coming year an 8 out of 10 or higher. Nearly a fifth (18 percent) rated it a perfect 10, and the mean score was 7.79.

And 64 percent of the company leaders said they planned to invest in their business over the next year. When asked about their top three priorities for capital investment, technology was cited most often, followed by equipment upgrades and then talent recruitment.

The CEOs were asked whether their companies realized a decrease in tax obligations following the 2017 Tax Cut & Jobs Act. Only 27 percent said their companies' taxes went down, while 18 percent reported an increase in taxes. Nearly half (46 percent) saw no effect, while the remainder of respondents were unsure.

C-suite executives at 255 companies participated in the Marcum LLP-Hofstra University CEO Survey. The results are the first of three installments to be released this year from the survey, which is part of the curriculum in the school's MBA program.

"It is a very positive signal for the economy and the national mood that the first Marcum-Hofstra survey revealed CEOs' strong optimism about the business environment, despite the economic and policy flux that has characterized the past year, and the complex new tax code that has changed the dynamics of commerce from the local to the international level," Jeffrey Weiner, chairman and CEO of Marcum, said in a statement.