



11TH ANNUAL  
**STATE OF  
THE ECONOMY**

PRESENTING SPONSOR



# AGENDA

## WELCOME

Bradley Byrne, President & CEO, Mobile Chamber

## INTRODUCTION

Roy Duncan, P.E. Vice President for Gulf Coast and Western Operations, Hargrove Engineers & Constructors

## KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

Tom Wickham, Vice President & Managing Director of Government Affairs, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

## MOBILE AREA ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

David Rodgers, CEcD, Vice President of Economic Development, Mobile Chamber

## PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Jim Forsythe, Business Development, Columbia Southern University

## CLOSING

Patrick Murphy, Chairman, Mobile Chamber & Vice President of Economic Development, Alabama Power

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

## TOM WICKHAM

Vice President & Managing  
Director of Government Affairs,  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Tom Wickham is Vice President and Managing Director of Government Affairs at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, leading the Chamber's legislative advocacy and policy initiatives. He previously served 25 years on Capitol Hill, including as Parliamentarian of the U.S. House of Representatives, advising congressional leadership on legislative strategy and procedure.



2026 MOBILE AREA  
ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

# ***SURVEY RESULTS***

Survey sent to Mobile Chamber members.



# LOCAL VS. NATIONAL

## BUSINESS CLIMATE

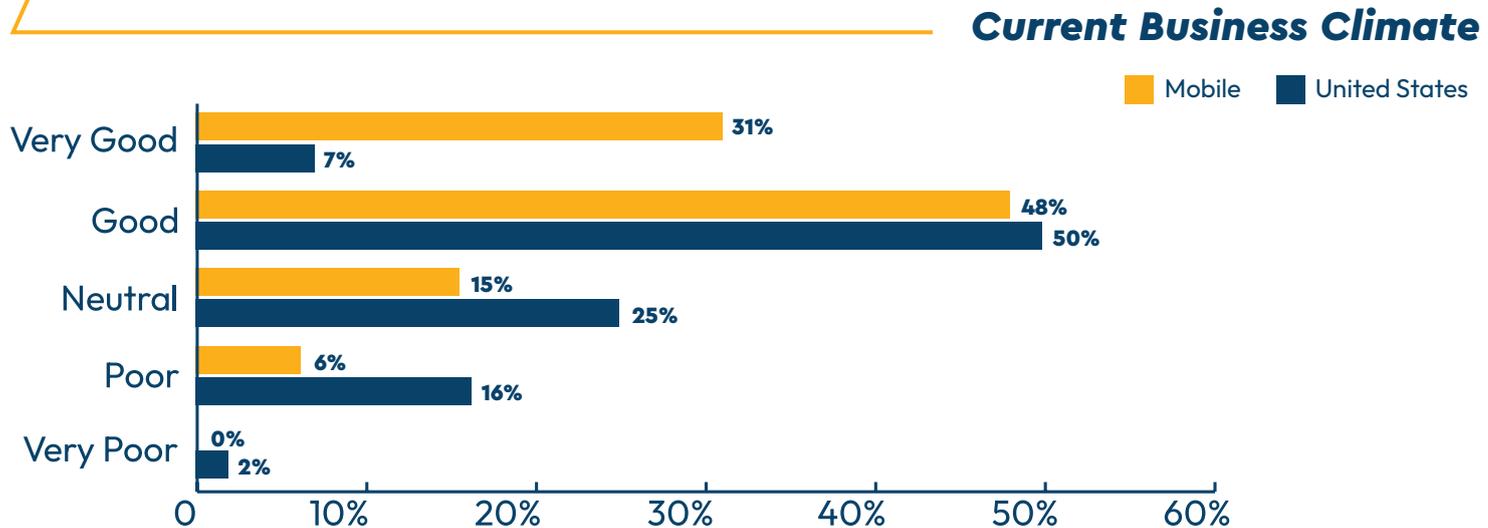
**Very Good:** Thriving with excellent growth prospects.

**Poor:** Some challenges and limited opportunities.

**Good:** Positive conditions and moderate growth opportunities.

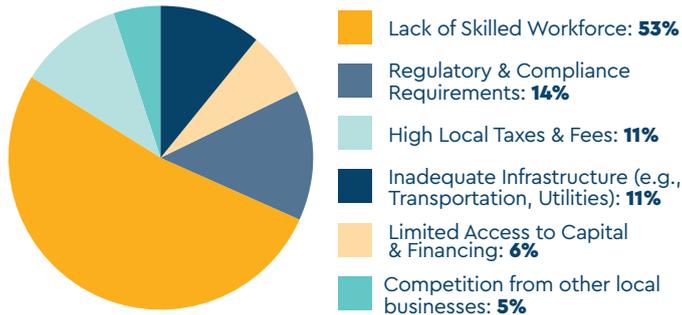
**Very Poor:** Significant challenges and economic difficulties.

**Neutral:** Stable with no significant issues or opportunities.



# LOCAL VS. NATIONAL BIGGEST BARRIERS TO DOING BUSINESS

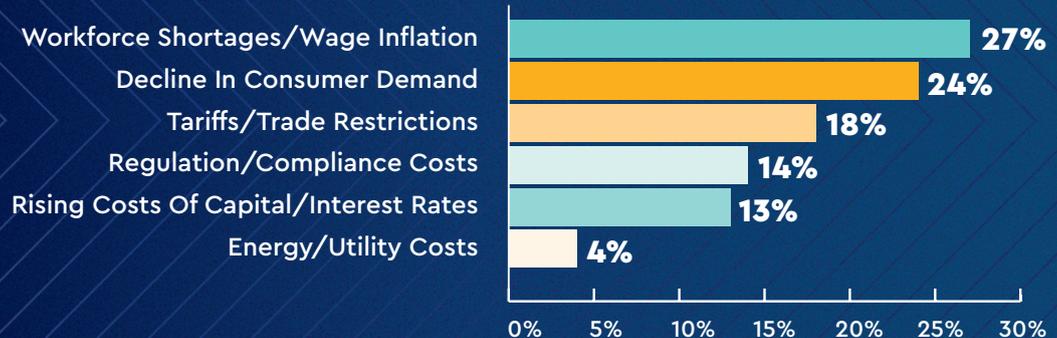
## IN MOBILE



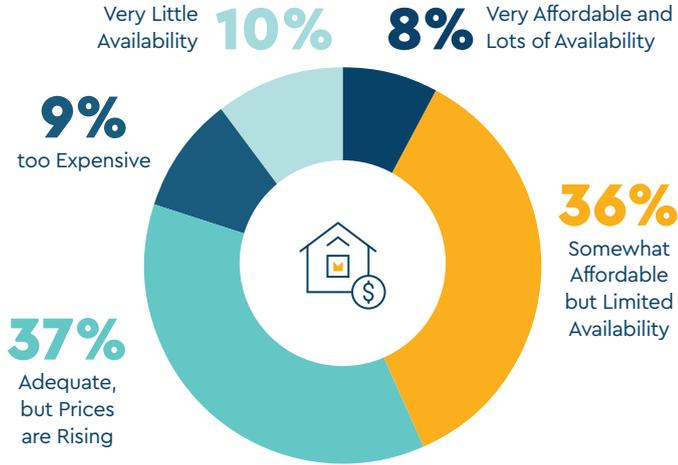
## IN THE UNITED STATES



## BIGGEST RISK TO BUSINESS IN MOBILE

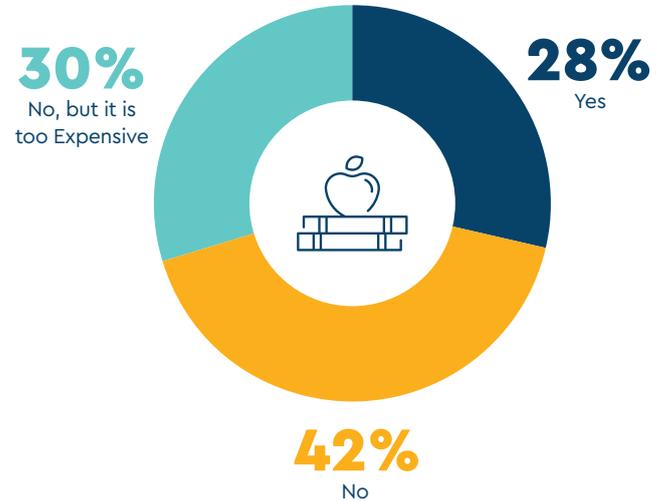


## PERCEPTION OF HOUSING IN MOBILE

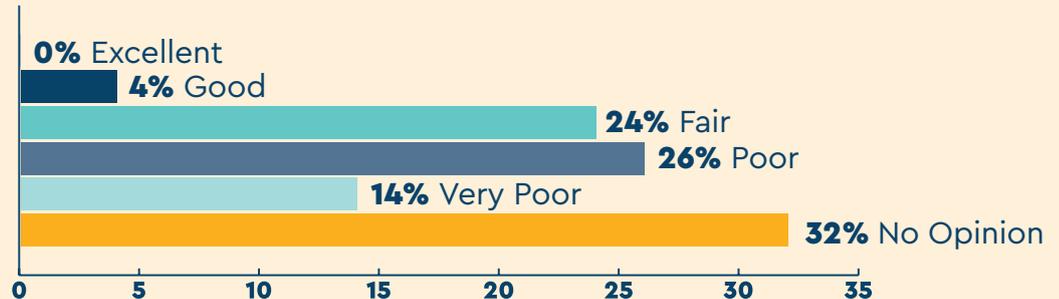


## PERCEPTION OF CHILDCARE

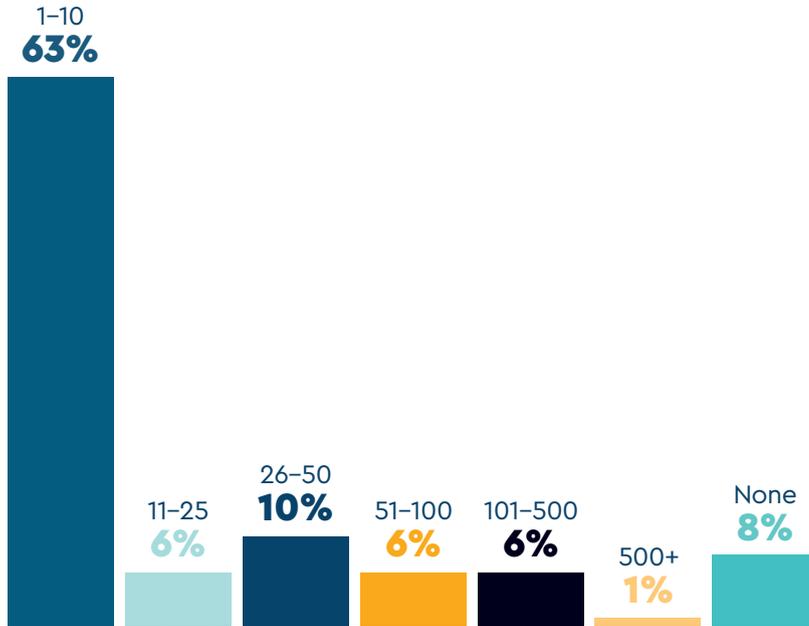
Do you or your employees have trouble finding childcare?



## PERCEPTION OF TRANSPORTATION



## EMPLOYEES HIRED IN 2025



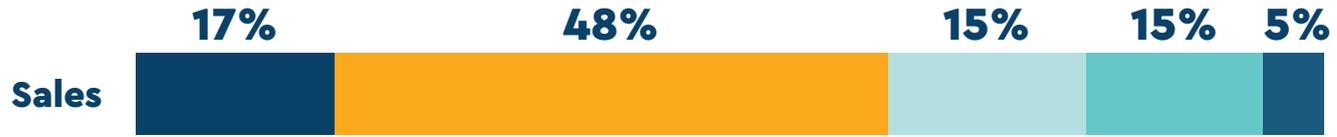
**92%**  
of respondents  
hired a new  
employee in 2025.

**80%** of respondents hired three-quarters  
of their employees locally.

2025

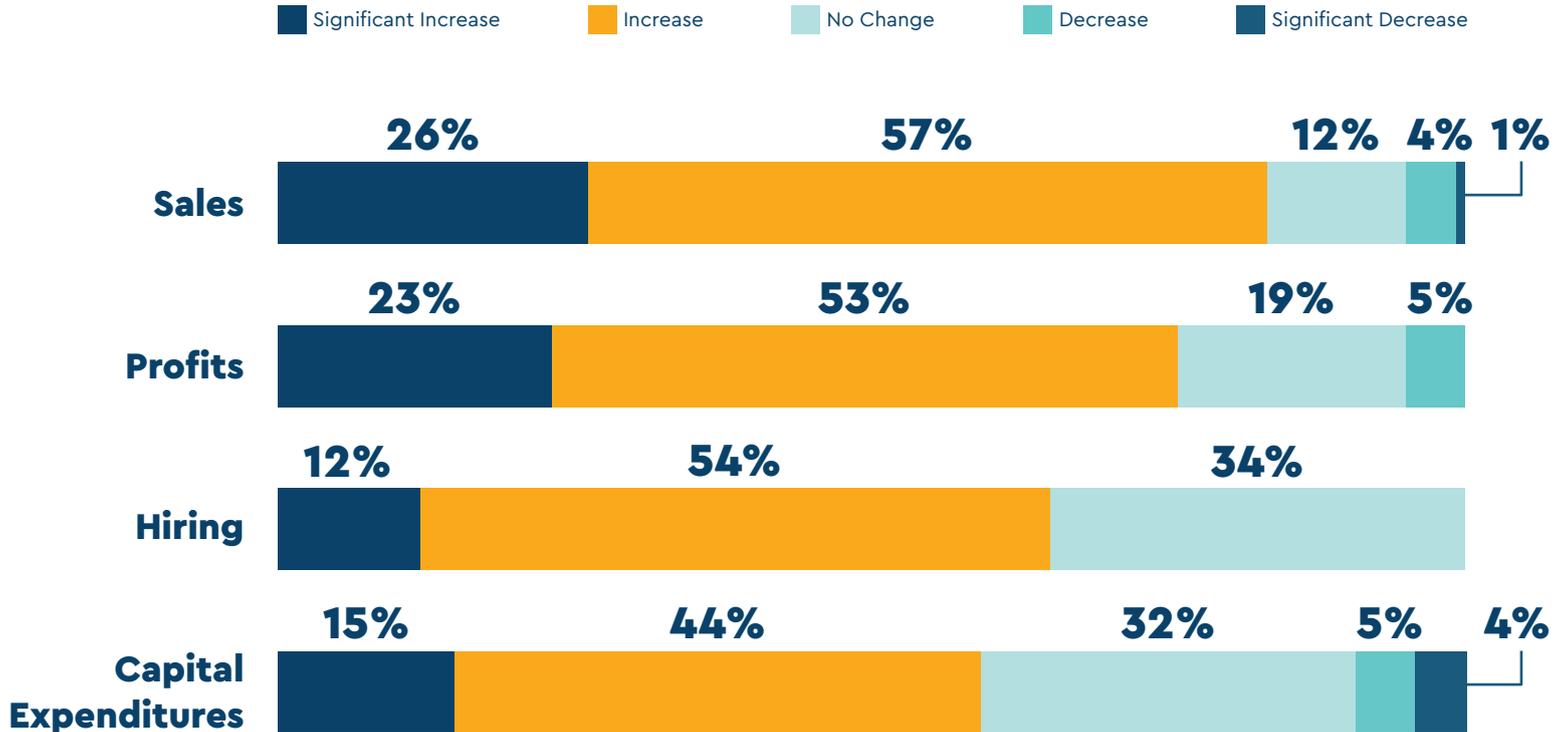
# BUSINESS PERFORMANCE

■ Significant Increase   ■ Increase   ■ No Change   ■ Decrease   ■ Significant Decrease



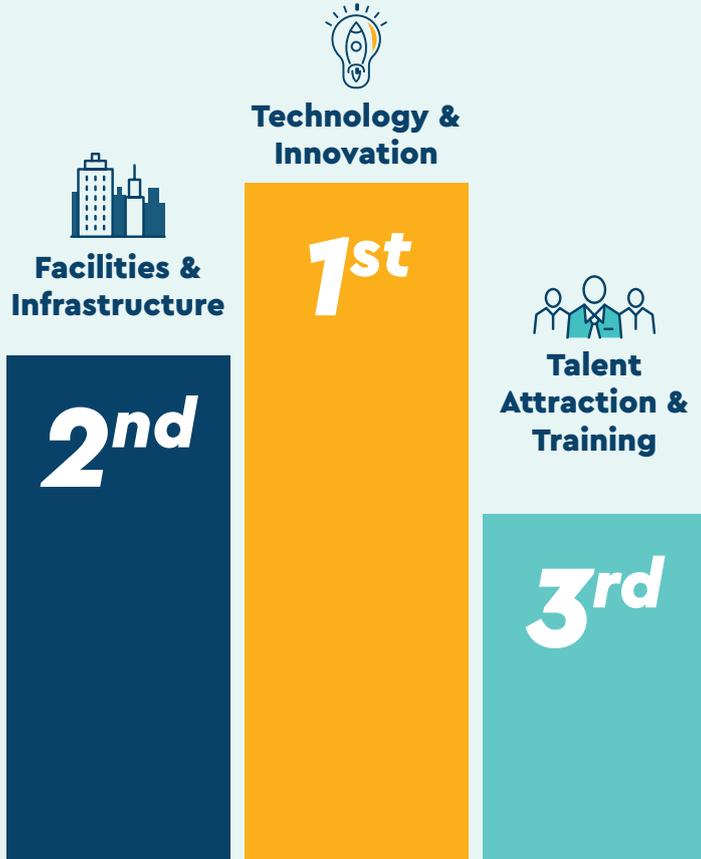
2026

# BUSINESS EXPECTATIONS



2025

# TOP INVESTMENT AREAS

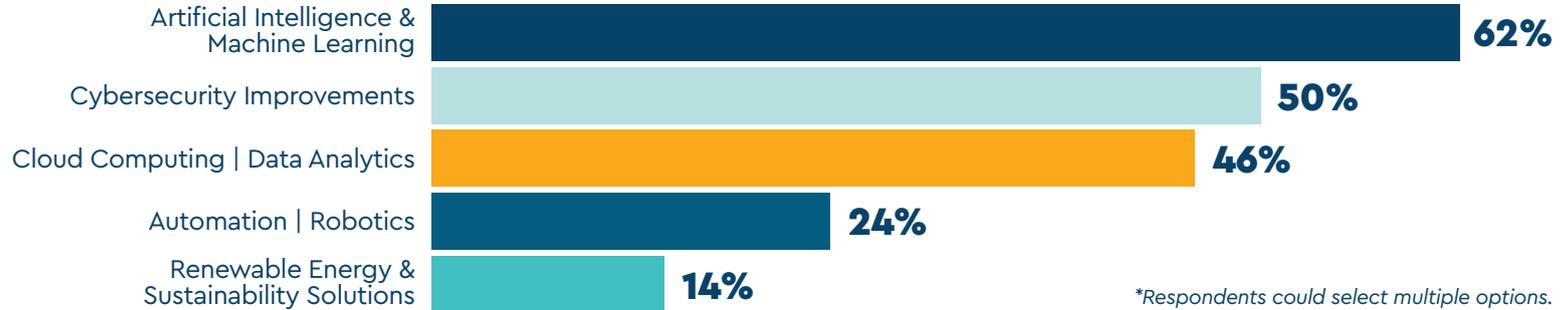


2026

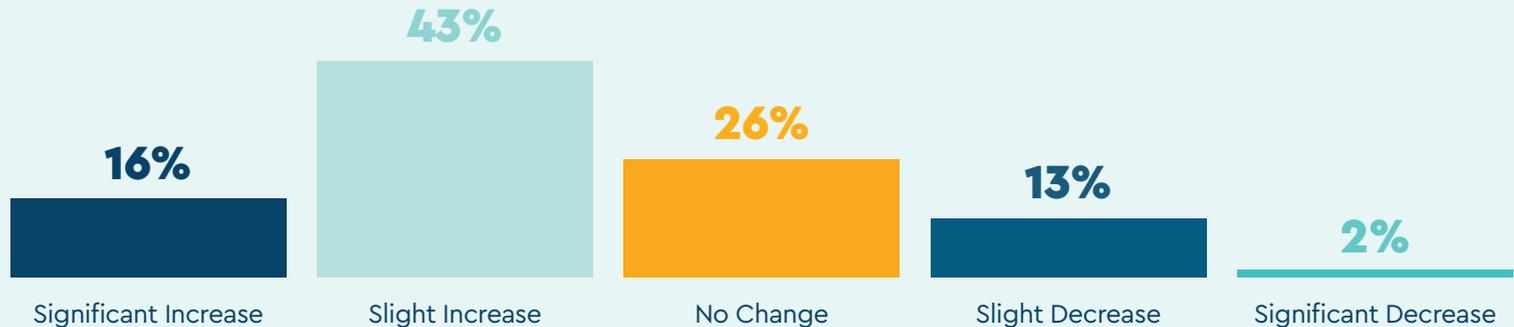
# TOP EXPECTED INVESTMENT AREAS



# INVESTING IN NEW TECHNOLOGIES



## HOW HAS CUSTOMER DEMAND FOR YOUR PRODUCT CHANGED?



# TOP 3 ECONOMIC PRIORITIES FOR 2026

\*Respondents were only allowed one choice.



Attracting New  
Industries &  
Investments



Improving  
Public  
Infrastructure



Enhancing Education  
& Workforce  
Development

# TOP INDUSTRIES FOR RECRUITMENT FOR 2026

\*Respondents were only allowed one choice.



Manufacturing &  
Industry

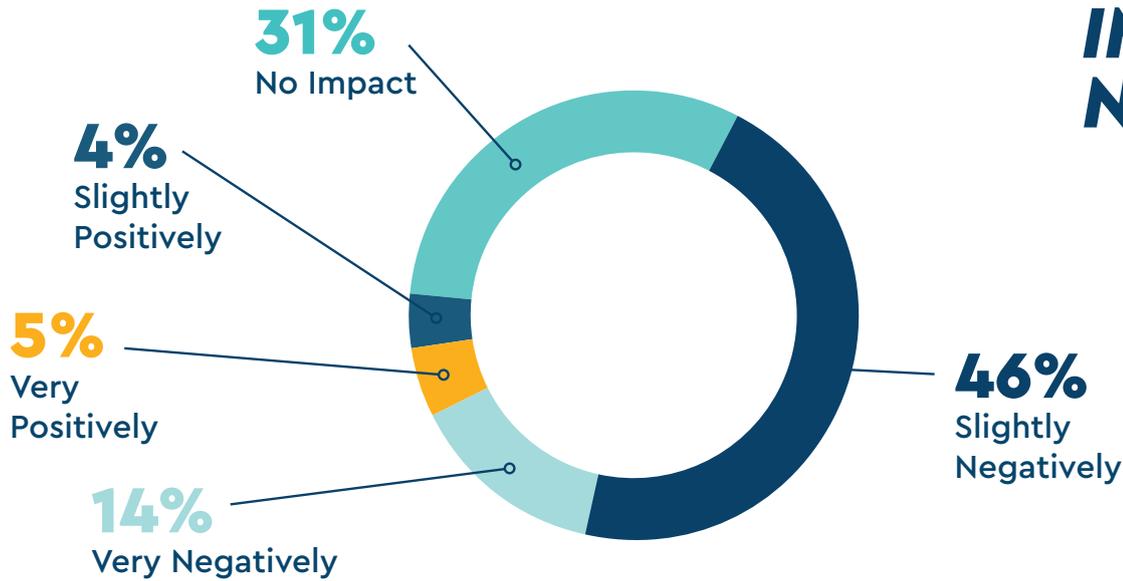


Technology &  
Innovation



Logistics &  
Transportation

# IMPACTS OF NEW TARIFF POLICIES



## CONFIDENCE INDEX OVER THE NEXT 12 MONTHS

MOBILE  
ECONOMY



USA  
ECONOMY







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