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nationwide, a survey released Thursday by Bank of America found.

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South Florida small business owners are more optimistic than their counterparts nationwide, a survey released Thursday by Bank of America found.

Fifty-five percent of Miami-area small business owners plan to hire more employees

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significantly higher than the national average (67 percent). And 83 percent expect to hit their year-end revenue goals, slightly higher than the 77 percent nationally.

More than half (57 percent) of South Florida small business owners plan to give salary bonuses to their employees during the holidays, 39 percent plan to offer flexible hours or vacation time, and 37 percent plan to give their employees holiday gifts, the survey said.

Despite this optimism, South Florida small business owners have concerns about specific issues, showing greater concern than their counterparts nationally about consumer spending (65 percent, versus 59 percent nationally) and credit availability (51 percent, versus 44 percent nationally).

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