

# The Affordable Care Act Unaffordable for Small Business



The National Small Business Association (NSBA) did a survey of 780 small businesses. The Affordable Care Act was the topic. The **2014 Small Business Health Care Survey** conclusion: ObamaCare is keeping many small companies from growing.

- 91% said healthcare costs went up during the recent renewal period.
- The monthly average for insurance for an employee has hit \$1,121.
- In 2009 that figure was \$590 so the increase is almost double.

That said, the study also notes the number of small businesses offering health insurance to employees has gone up. In 2009 it was 66%. Today the figure is 70%. While this seems like a positive for employees, it might not be the case. The study found 15% of those surveyed are going to drop their employee coverage.

Stats gathered by the NSBA study shows ObamaCare is causing small businesses to not grow:

- 34% say they are holding off hiring a new employee because of the cost of health insurance.
- 12% say they've laid people off because of the cost of health insurance.

NSBA President Todd McCracken said, "Cost is the number one driver of whether or not a small business will offer health insurance. These costs have real-world implications: one-third of small businesses held off on hiring a new employee and more than half say they held off on salary increases for employees."

Another problem says NSBA Chair Jeff Van Winkle is confusion. "Widespread confusion over the Affordable Care Act still exists among the majority of small firms. Small businesses report spending on average 13 hours and \$1,274 per month — and that's just on the administrative side of understanding the law itself."