

**B.C. Business Confidence Rises in April**

According to the Canadian Federation of Independent Business' monthly **Business Barometer Index**, confidence among small and medium enterprises (SME) in British Columbia increased in April to an index value of 71.1 from a March reading of 68. This was the first month-over-month gain since the onset of a minor downtrend in November 2009. The monthly gain in B.C. business optimism contrasted with a dip in the national index, which was driven by declines in Ontario, Quebec and Manitoba.

On balance, surveyed B.C. respondents expect business conditions to improve in the coming year. Currently, 53% of respondents noted that the overall state of business was satisfactory and 32% rated it as being good. Despite the positive reading, most SMEs expect employment levels to remain unchanged over the next three to four months.

**Incorporations Stabilize at Pre-Recession Levels**

Based on figures from B.C. Stats, seasonally adjusted **incorporations** in British Columbia edged down 2.6% in April to an annualized rate of 29,550. Since declining to a recession low of 15,700 in March 2009, incorporations have rebounded to pre-recession levels and have hovered near an annualized rate of 30,000-32,000 since November.

Incorporation statistics provide a timely indicator of business formation and investment in B.C. The recent uptrend reflects improved business sentiment and the gradual improvements in the economy.

*Bryan Yu, Economist*  
*byu@central1.com*  
*604 742 5346*

