



Survey: Top Goals (and Challenges) for Businesses in 2026

According to the 2026 Paychex [Business Leaders Priorities survey](#), two-thirds of businesses say growth is their top goal for 2026. Since most business clients have an ongoing growth strategy, this is nothing new. What is different this year are the obstacles businesses say they are facing.

Conducted by the independent research firm, [Bredin](#), the survey sampled 750 business development and HR managers in companies across the United States with under 1,000 employees.

Many businesses worry that growth will be hindered by the rising costs of inflation, the lack of skilled employees, and the need to keep up with technology. Other concerns were managing the complexities of benefits administration, regulatory compliance, and data security.

An emerging solution to these challenges? Artificial intelligence. In a separate survey conducted by Bredin, small businesses say they're increasingly using AI to automate workflows, improve data security, and upgrade customer service.

To get the full story, plus a free download of the full Business Leaders Priorities survey, [click here](#).

Resource Center

Compliance Calendar

March 31:

- IRS Form 1099-R — IRS (Electronic Filing)

April 1:

- Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) Required Beginning Date Deadline

April 15:

- Return of Excess (ROE) Distributions - Section 402(g) Annual Contribution Limit
- Tax Filing/ Deductive Contribution Deadline - Sole Proprietorships & C-Corps

Heading to the 2026 NAPA 401(k) Summit? We'll see you there!

Join us for our Breakfast Session titled, *Payroll Partners: Friend or Foe? Seize the Lead with a Forward-Thinking Platform* on Tues., April 21, 9:15 a.m. [More details](#).

