Colorado business leaders’ confidence warmed leading into next quarter

Colorado business leaders’ confidence is warming heading into the second quarter of 2019, according to the latest Leeds Business Confidence Index from CU Boulder.

Economist Richard Wobbekind (WAH-ba-kin) says business leaders are optimistic due to a number of positive factors.

CUT 1 “Well they remain optimistic because the conditions around them are just too positive, I think, to ignore. They see the state economy chugging along. Strong employment growth year over year. Low unemployment rates. Sales are still strong in the state. (:16) So they see the things around them that really continue to reinforce that, at least for the next quarter, things are positive.” (:24)

The LBCI measures Colorado business leaders’ expectations for the state and national economies, industry sales, profits, hiring plans and business investment. All six indicators ticked higher in the latest survey. The rise in the LBCI follows three quarters of declining business optimism in the state, says Wobbekind.

CUT 2 “Well the optimism increased from the first quarter, which was a good thing. Keeping it in positive territory and, again, moving up. (:06) And we had seen several quarters in a row of downward expectations, so movement up was one positive sign.” (:13)

But moving forward, Wobbekind says indications show that business leaders are concerned, especially when it comes to the national economy and politics.

CUT 3 “I think the chief concern is the national economy. They’re clearly worried about the national economy even in this coming quarter in Q2. But also signaled strong reservations about the economy out in Q3, as well. (:14) They are certainly worried about things like global trade. But they were very worried about politics and the uncertainty of politics.” (:21)

For more information go <https://www.colorado.edu/business/brd/publications/2019/04/02/leeds-business-confidence-index-lbci-q2-2019>.