



NEWS

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Business Outlook Improves Slightly According to Michiana-Area CFOs

(South Bend, IN). Kruggel, Lawton & Company LLC, today released results from its quarterly Michiana Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Outlook Survey. CFOs from for-profit Michiana-area companies gave their input on changes in their companies' 1st quarter (Q1) 2011 revenue, profitability and employment from the same quarter in 2010, along with their perception of economic and business prospects for their respective companies.

Most notably, CFOs' perception of economic and business prospects for their companies improved in Q1 2011 by 1.50% from 4th quarter (Q4) 2010's results. For the second quarter in a row, this was the highest-rated of the four survey metrics. However, survey results for revenue, profitability, and employment declined 1.43%, 3.82%, and 1.77% respectively from Q4 2010 survey results. As a result, the overall Q1 2011 CFO Outlook declined 1.30% from Q4 2010.

"The survey results indicate that private-sector businesses are holding somewhat steady in terms of key results in the first part of 2011" said Douglas K. Osthimer, CPA, Kruggel Lawton's chief executive partner. "It is certainly encouraging that CFOs' optimism has increased slightly, although that is tempered by a lack of improvement in profitability and revenues. These factors will likely need to improve before businesses will begin to substantially increase their employment levels."

With offices in South Bend and Elkhart, Kruggel, Lawton & Company, LLC is a full-service accounting and business consultation firm offering audit and accounting services, tax consulting, estate planning, business valuation, small business accounting services, and executive searches. Kruggel Lawton also offers national and international resources as an independent member of the BDO Seidman Alliance.

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