One year into the pandemic, small business optimism remains low.
Small Business Index, Overall Sentiment

Among those small businesses that did seek financing, compared to 2019, fewer small businesses in 2020 sought financing for growth and expansion. Shutdowns and reduced consumer demand meant financing was needed to simply meet operating expenses.

The pandemic also altered the type of financing product sought by small businesses.

Millions of small businesses applied for emergency funding in the form of PPP loans.

Emergency funding helping small businesses meet immediate needs and retain employees. But their experience differed depending on source of PPP funds.