

RBA members more upbeat

Rochester-area companies saw the economy pick up in 2011 and are cautiously optimistic about further improvement this year, according to a Rochester Business Alliance survey of its members.

Fifty-nine percent of RBA members said their sales increased from a year ago and 63 percent expect sales to improve this year.

Fifty-five percent expect to hire in 2012, with two-thirds of that group saying the staff additions would be full-time.

Companies are still concerned about health care, **taxes** and regulations, the RBA said, citing both Albany and Washington "for failing to work toward solutions that will help their businesses, and the economy, to grow," said RBA President Sandy Parker.