



## NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Bonnie Hayflick  
904-398-9663

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### **Survey Indicates Small Business Concern About Crime and a Lack of Preventive Measures to Enhance Physical and Electronic Security**

(JACKSONVILLE) – Results of CenterBank’s latest *Small Business Trends and Expectations Survey of Small Business Performance in North Florida (T.E.S.)* indicate nearly 58 percent of business owners have a high level of concern for how crime affects their business. However, less than half have plans to increase physical or electronic security.

According to Andres Gallo, Ph.D., Professor of Economics at the University of North Florida, “It is interesting to observe that businesses in neighborhoods with a higher percentage of concern regarding physical security are not the ones willing to take further measures for security.”

More than 115 Jacksonville small business owners responded to CenterBank’s recent T.E.S. Survey, which is conducted as a joint project with UNF. Other highlights of the survey include:

- Businesses perceived the local economic performance to be better than the national performance.
- In the fourth quarter of 2006, businesses experienced an improvement in general economic activity.
- The local economy is expected to improve in the next six months as companies expect to increase jobs, capital investments, and revenue.
- Most respondents believe a stronger emphasis on public education and economic incentives to help businesses provide more jobs would make Jacksonville safer for small businesses.

“Whether the topic is electronic security or economic performance, it’s vital that small business owners act on the information they receive,” said Raymond K. Mason Jr., President and Chairman of the Board for CenterBank, a Jacksonville based

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community bank. “That’s why CenterBank orchestrates these surveys – to help businesses focus on issues that affect their success and well being.”

CenterBank’s T.E.S. Indicator is conducted twice a year. Participants for the next survey will be notified in August 2007. The current survey report is available to view on CenterBank’s website at [www.centerbankjax.com](http://www.centerbankjax.com).

CenterBank, with \$198 million in assets, is an employee owned community bank focused on serving small businesses, their principals and employees. The bank is a Preferred SBA Lender and is committed to being the resource for small business and helping those businesses grow and develop. CenterBank provides their customers no fee services including courier, online banking, bill pay, cash management and ATM fee reimbursements. CenterBank is located in San Marco at 1325 Hendricks Avenue. Contact the bank at 904-348-3100 or visit online at [www.centerbankjax.com](http://www.centerbankjax.com).

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