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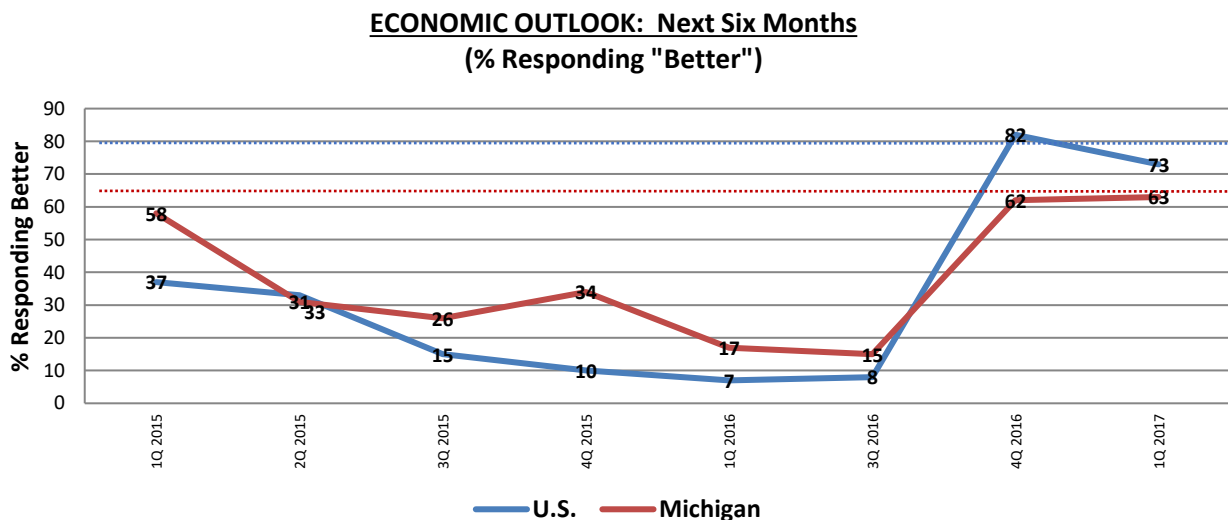
## BUSINESS LEADERS QUARTERLY ECONOMIC FORECAST: Optimism Still High Among Business Leaders about MI & U.S. Economies

DETROIT, March 15, 2017– Michigan business leaders continue to be optimistic about future growth prospects of the state and national economies, according to the latest quarterly survey of Business Leaders for Michigan (BLM) members.

“The state’s top executives believe the economy will continue to grow and add jobs during the next six to 18 months,” said Doug Rothwell, BLM President & CEO. “There was a marked improvement immediately after the national election and that has continued during the first few months of the new Administration.”

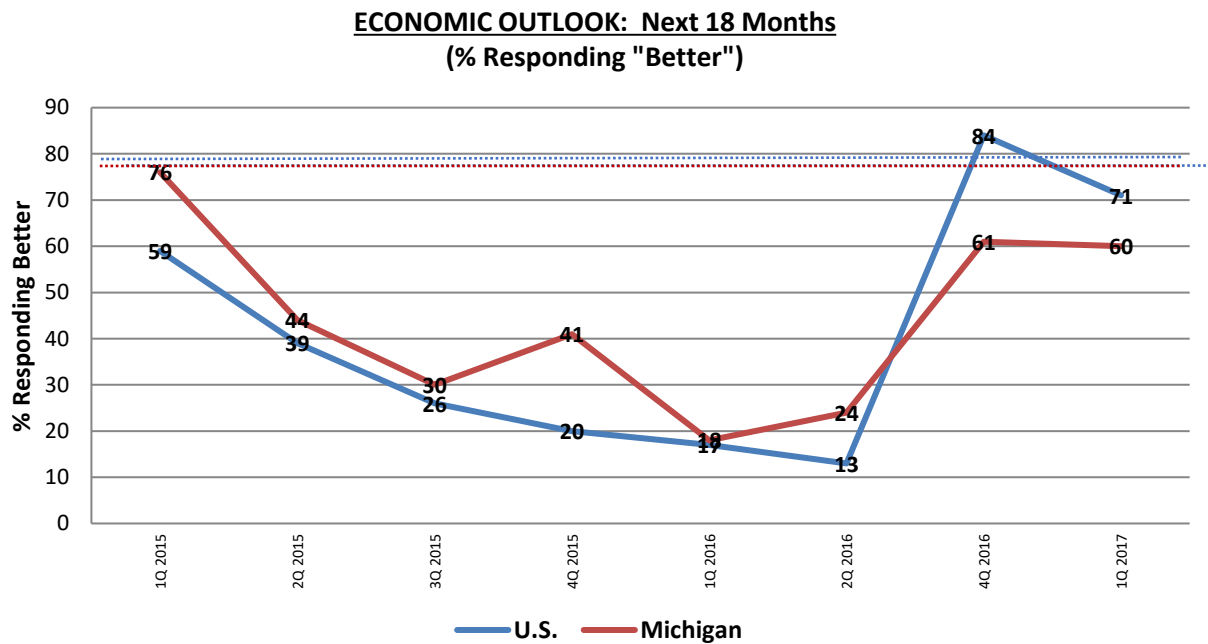
Highlights of the survey of Business Leaders for Michigan include:

- **Next six months:** Most business leaders believe the Michigan and U. S. economies will be better over the next six months (63 percent and 73 percent, respectively). This continues to be significantly higher than surveys conducted the past couple of years.



(more)

- **Next 18 months:** With continued optimism, 71 percent of business leaders believe the U.S. economy will improve over the next 18 months. Also, almost two-thirds (60 percent) of the respondents believe the Michigan economy will be better during the next 18 months.



The survey also found more than half (56 percent) of business leaders project their companies will add jobs and about 38 percent plan to make capital investments in Michigan over the next six months.

Quarterly Economic Outlook Reports are available at:  
<https://businessleadersformichigan.com/category/data/surveys/>.

**About Business Leaders for Michigan:**

Business Leaders for Michigan, the state’s business roundtable, is dedicated to making Michigan a "Top Ten" state for jobs, personal income and a healthy economy. The organization is composed exclusively of the chairpersons, chief executive officers, or most senior executives of Michigan's largest companies and universities. Our members drive 32 percent of the state’s economy, provide nearly 375,000 direct jobs in Michigan, generate over \$1 trillion in annual revenue and serve nearly one-half of all Michigan public university students. Find out more at: [www.businessleadersformichigan.com](http://www.businessleadersformichigan.com).