

GEAUGA GROWTH PARTNERSHIP, INC.

2013 Member Survey Summary

Survey Statistics

Total number of surveys distributed: 78

Total number of surveys distributed to business members: 57

Total number of completed surveys returned: 37

Total number of surveys completed by business members: 27

Response rate: 47%

Response rate of all business members: 48%

The following questions were focused on economic conditions:

1. How do you see the climate for your business over the next six months when comparing it to the last six months? Will your business

62.9% Improve (22) 37.1% Stay the same (13) 0% Decline (2 skipped)

2. How do you see your employments needs over this same period? Will you hire more employees?

50% Yes (18) 50% No (18) (1 skipped)

If you answered "Yes", how many employees do you expect to hire?

61.1% 1 to 3 (11) 22.2 % 4 to 8 (4)* 16.7% more than 8 (3)

*15 of 37 respondents anticipate hiring in the next 6 months
(41% of respondents)
(20% of GGP members)

3. Will you be making any significant investment in plant or equipment over the next six months?

51.4%% Yes (18) 48.6% No (17) (2 skipped)

Of those investing – 49.7% in Geauga County (16) 5.7% outside Geauga County (2)

The following questions were focused on determining GGP priorities:

4. What are the major factors affecting the outlook for your business over the next six months (please rank the top three):

#1 20 new Federal health care programs and regulations

#2 12 uncertainty about the U.S. economy

#3 11 price of raw materials or components

8 difficulty of hiring properly qualified workers, please indicate type of worker

Difficulty of hiring came in fifth place of all choices (8 chose this as one of their top 3 challenges). However, 12 of 25 respondents answered the question regarding what type of workers were hard to find, some chose more than one type:

33.3% entry level (high school or certificate training) (4 indicated this type)

33.3% college or graduate degree (4 indicated this type)

67.7 specific job categories (please specify) (8 indicated this type)

5. If you were asked to pick the top issue for the Geauga Growth Partnership to tackle, what would it be?

#1 – Healthcare reform, federal healthcare regulations, cost of insurance, etc.

#2 – Attract qualified workforce, prepare and train workforce

#3 – Prepare high school students for the workplace

#4 – Attract business

Other ideas mentioned: provide alternate funding for business expansion, develop affordable housing, develop an upscale business park, energy expansion in the county.

6. Please give us any other comments or suggestions for GGP activities:

Respondents expressed satisfaction with current initiatives especially on the healthcare and internship initiatives.

QUOTES

They also want to see educational programming continue regarding all current topics such as shale energy, entrepreneur support, etc.

QUOTE

Other ideas mentioned:

- Create internships for college students
- Provide job postings

7. Other challenges respondents identified:

- Need for technical workers
- Federal regulations are overwhelming
- Tax forms and regulations are overwhelming

RESPONDENT QUOTES: