

GEAUGA GROWTH PARTNERSHIP, INC.

2014 Member Survey Summary

Survey Statistics

Total number of surveys distributed: 100

Total number of surveys distributed to business members: 71

Total number of completed surveys returned: 44

Total number of surveys completed by business members: 34

Response rate: 44%

Response rate of all business members: 48%

The following questions were focused on economic conditions:

Over the next 6 months do you expect business conditions for your business to?

56.8% Improve (25) 43.18% Stay the same (19) 0% Decline(1 skipped)

Do you plan to hire any new employees in the next six months?

66.2% Yes (30) 31.8% No (14) (1 skipped)

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

50.2% 1 to 4 (22) 5.4 % 5 to 10 (2) 9.3% more than 10 (4)
(16 skipped)

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

45.4%% Yes (20) 48.6% No (24) (1 skipped)

The following questions were focused on determining GGP priorities:

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

- #1 uncertainty/negative effects government policy or regulations
- #2 uncertainty about the U.S. economy
- #3 difficulty in hiring properly qualified workers
- #4 new Federal Healthcare regulations
- #5 price of raw materials or components

- #6 price or reliability of energy
- #7 reluctance of banks to loan for ordinary business purposes
- #8 low consumer confidence
- #9 taxes, local zoning
- #11 uncertainty in global markets
- #12 other

What are the top five major factors of most concern to you as a business owner/manager in Geauga County?

- #1 Health Insurance
- #2 Upper Level workforce (2 yr,4yr or higher education)
- #3 Entry level workforce (high school graduates)
- #4 Energy cost
- #5 County or local regulations, e.g. zoning, water/sewer

- #6 Drug/ alcohol use in the workplace
- #7 Attitudes in Geauga County toward business
- #8 Broadband availability
- #9 Transportation
- #10 Energy Reliability

What skills do you need in your workforce, but are most lacking in high school graduates? 38 answered, 7 skipped

#1 Problem solving/teamwork	58%
#2 Interpersonal Skills	47%
#3 Soft Skills	34%
#4 Writing skills	29%
#5 Math/Numeracy Skills	26%
#6 Computer/Technology	21%

If you were asked to pick the top 5 topics for the Geauga Growth Partnership to tackle, in the next 12 months what would they be?

- #1 Attract new business to Geauga County
- #2 Bring education and business together to develop skilled workforce
- #3 Attracting and growing entrepreneurs
- #4 Attracting a qualified workforce
- #5 Healthcare Reform, federal HC regulations, cost of insurance

- #6 Provide business consulting for process, organization and finance
- #7 Alternative financing options for growth companies
- #8 Prepare HS students for the workforce
- #9 Need for technical workers
- #10 Import/export strategy