

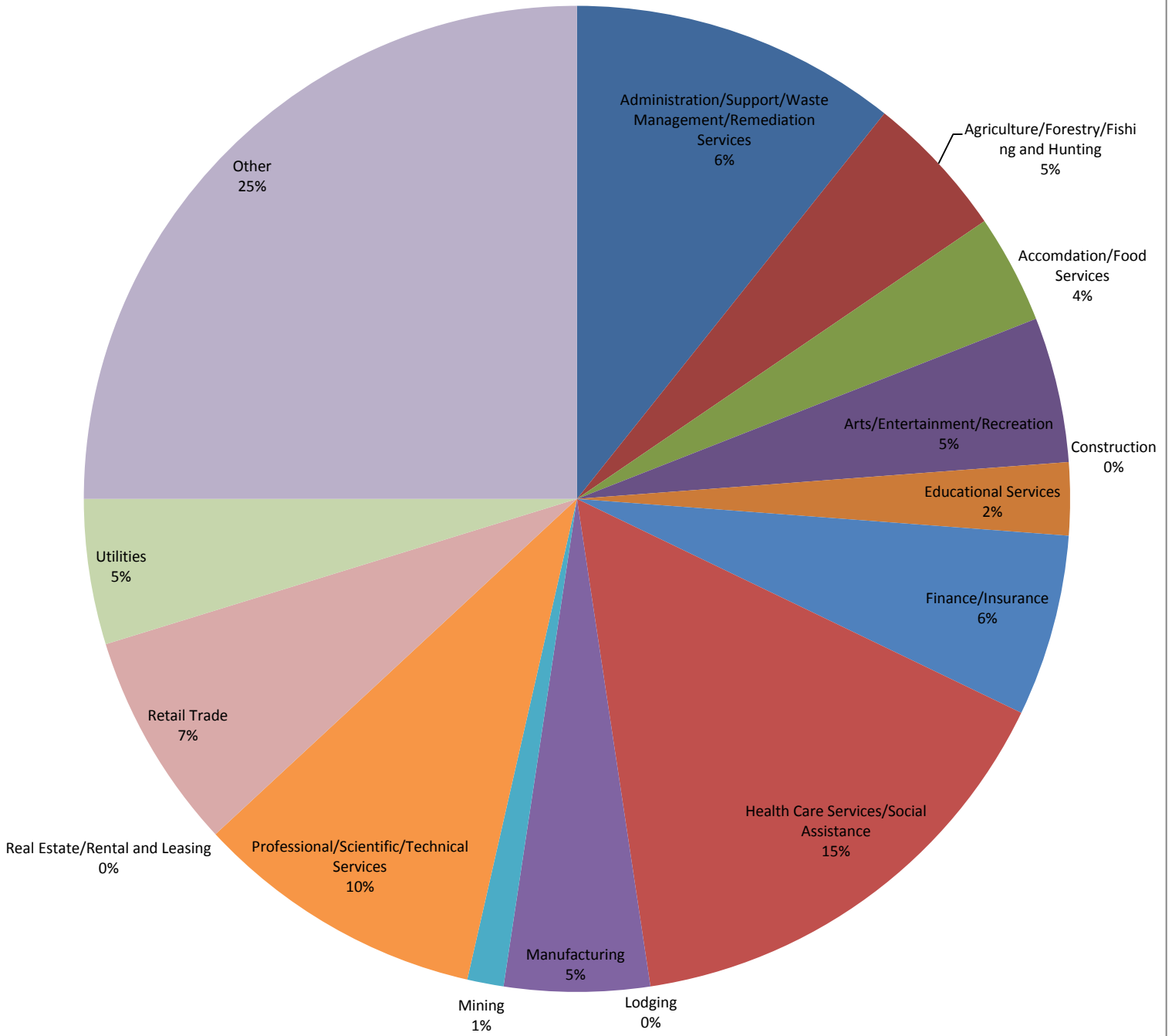
Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce 2017

Membership Committee Report

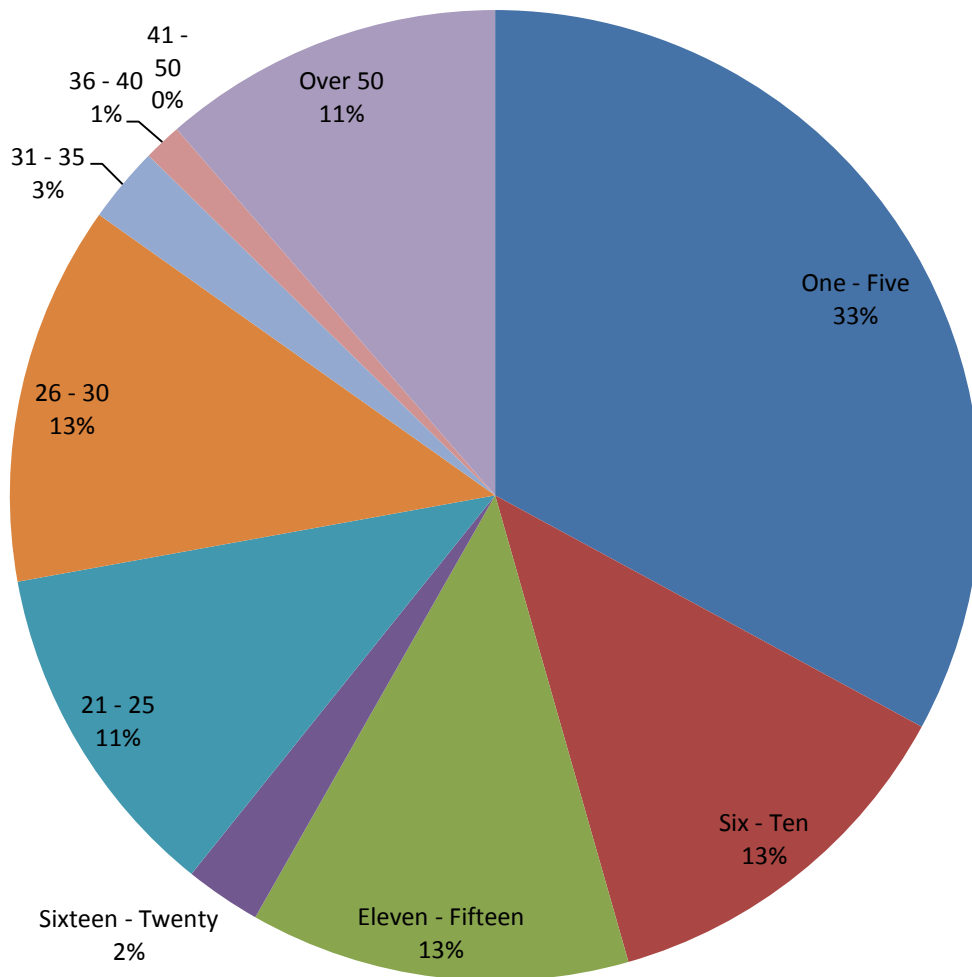
Seventy-Nine Surveys



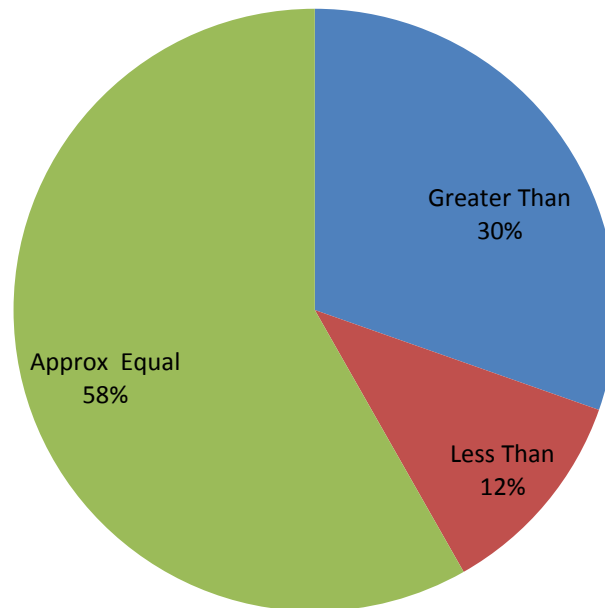
1. What is your primary business sector at this location?



2. What is your total number of FTE's at this facility?



3. How has the number of jobs at this facility changed in the last year?

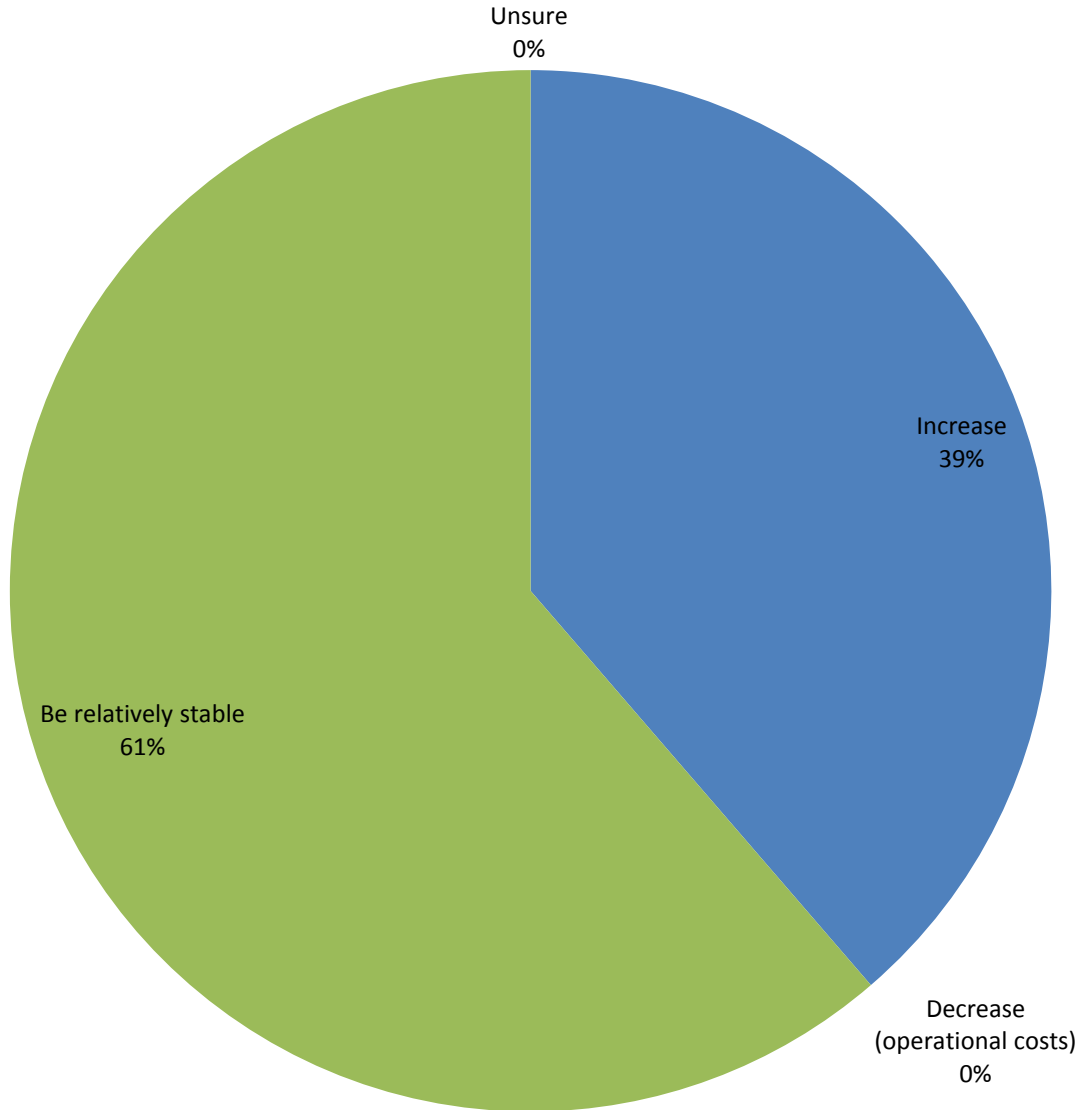


Examples of "Greater":

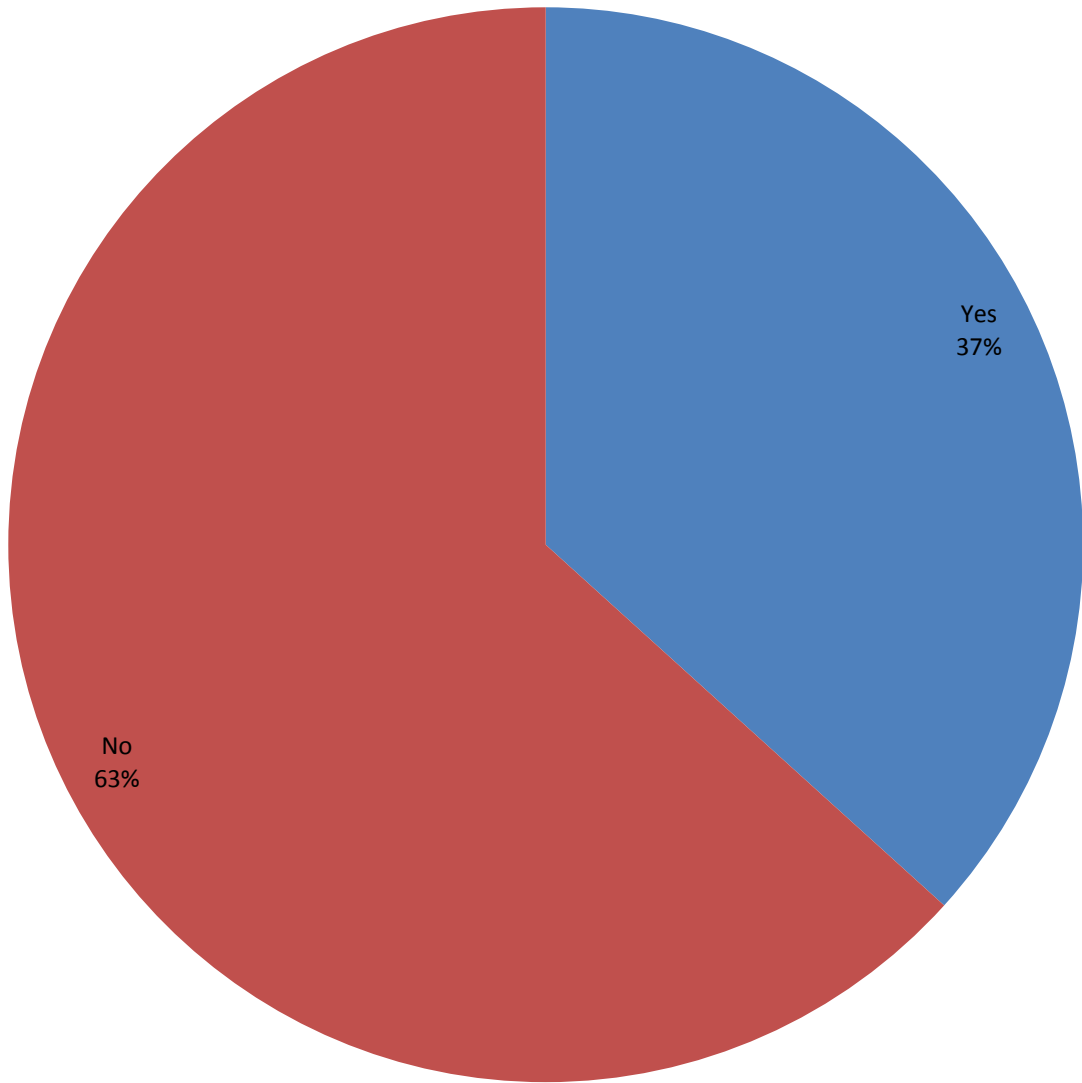
- Increase of Part - time people
- Economy picked up – increase in sales
- Added Part – time help to help with the weekend traffic
- Increase in sales added another employee
- Added more employees

Across the board the ones that said 'Greater' added more employees for increases in traffic & sales

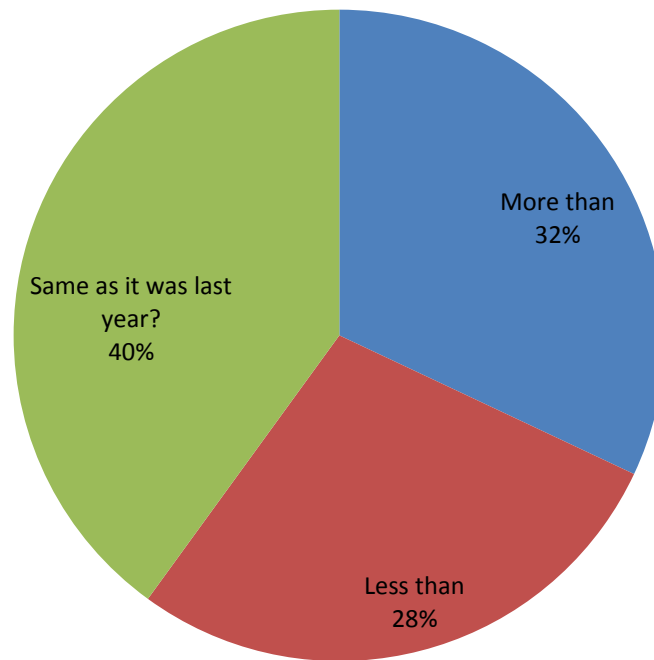
4. In the next year, do you expect the number of jobs at this facility to



5. Has the company's ownership or top management changed in the last year?



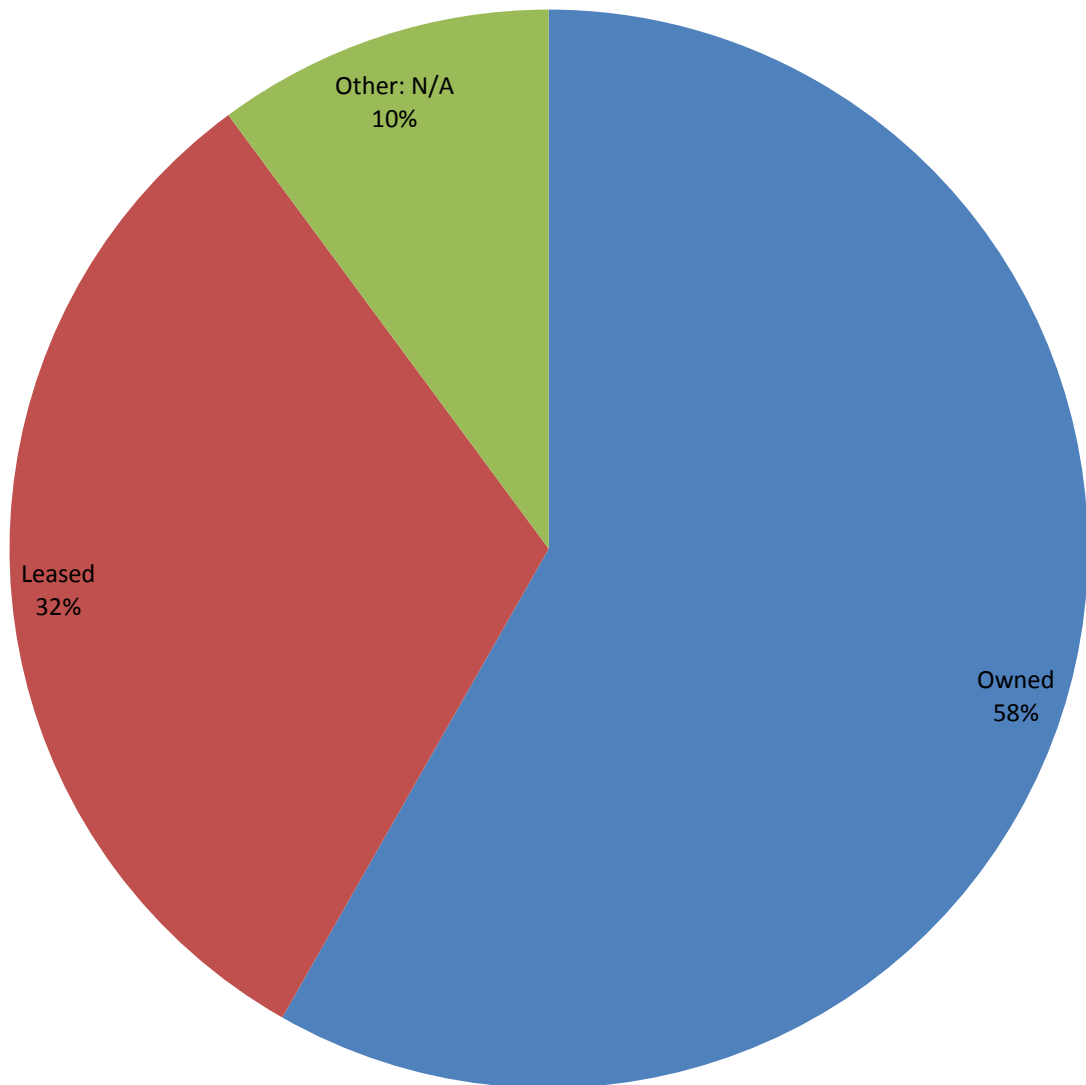
6. Is your operating expense



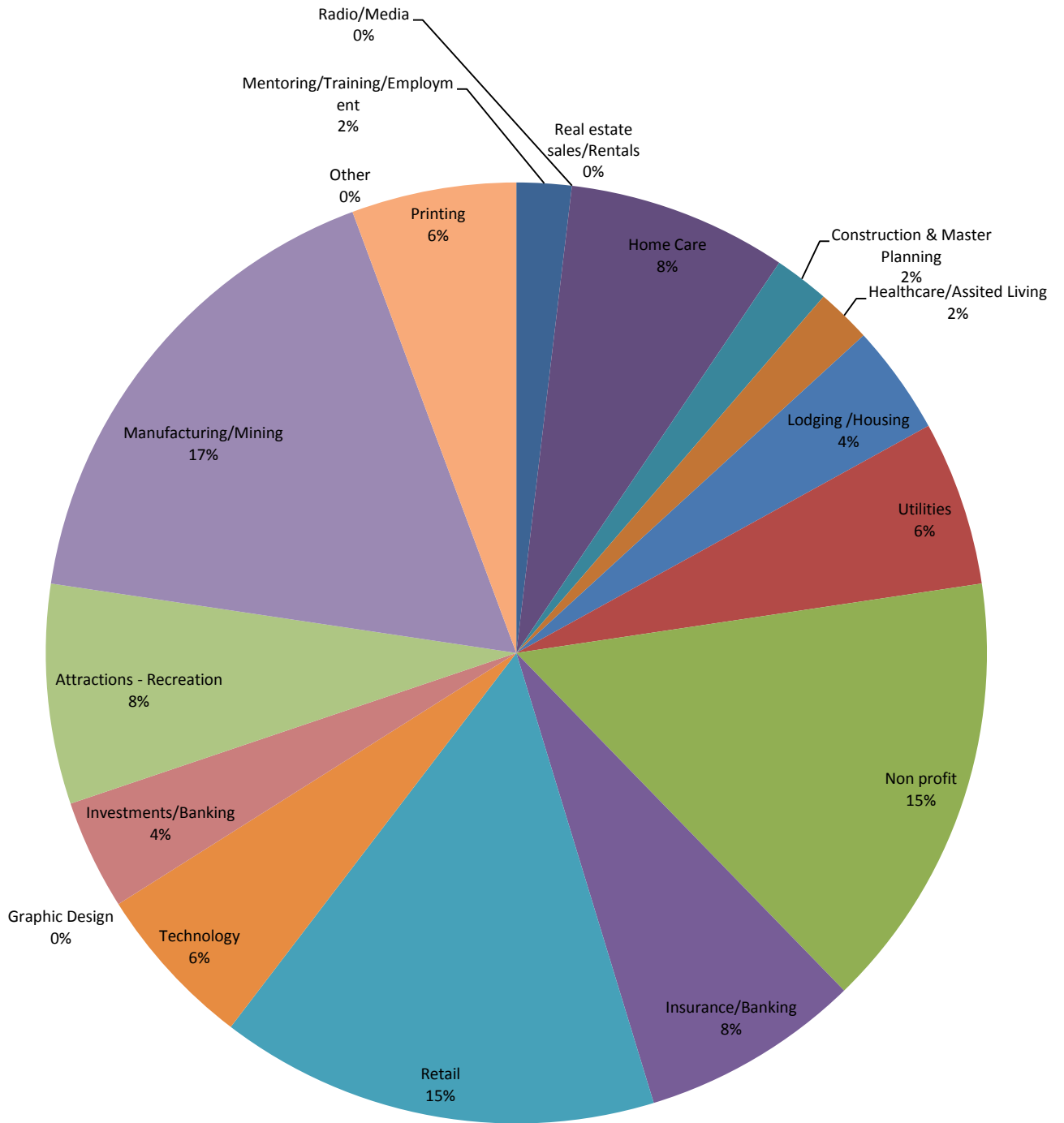
Examples of "Increase":

- Increase in employee budget
- Focused on more expensive product better for customer
- Added more merchandise
- Shipping costs
- Renovation/New building

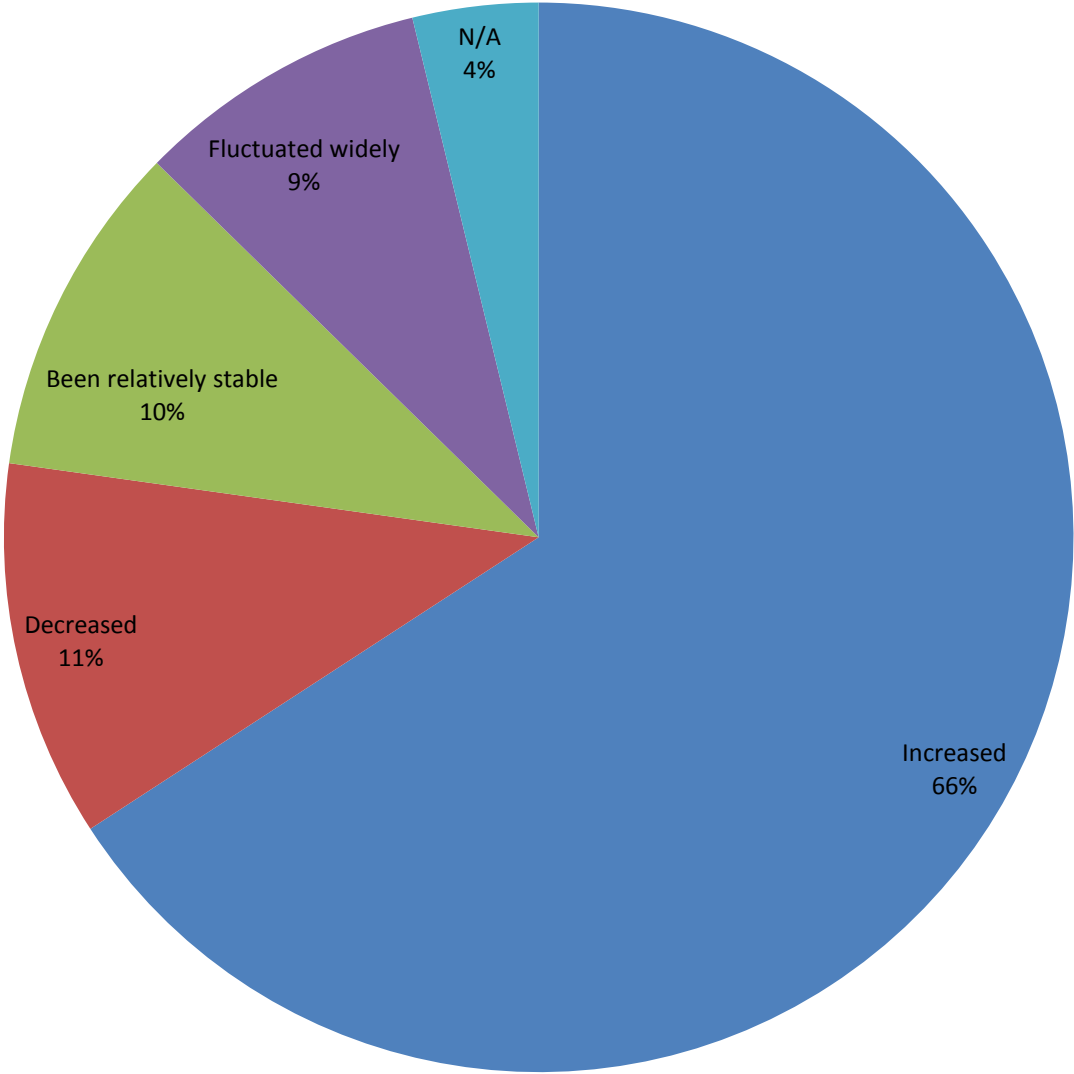
7. Is the facility



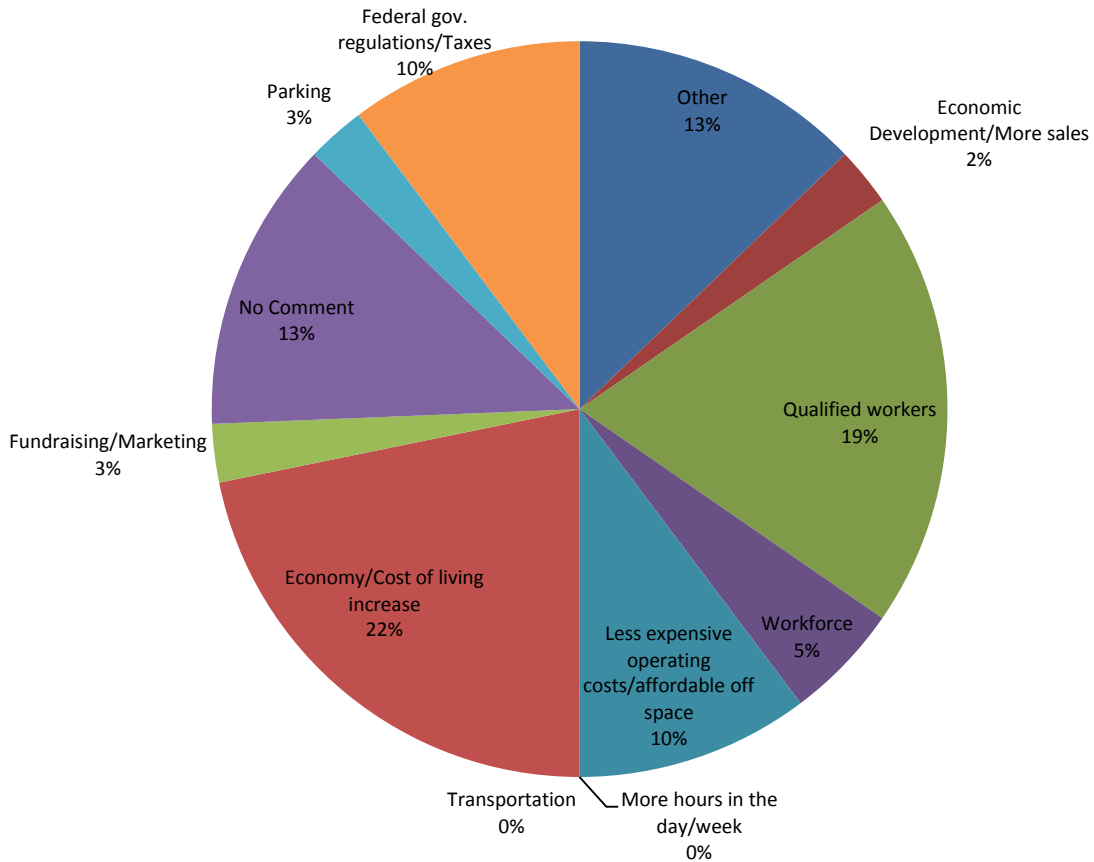
8. What are this company's major products or services?



9. Over the past year, has the total company sales



10. What three changes would need to take place in order to increase your profitability?

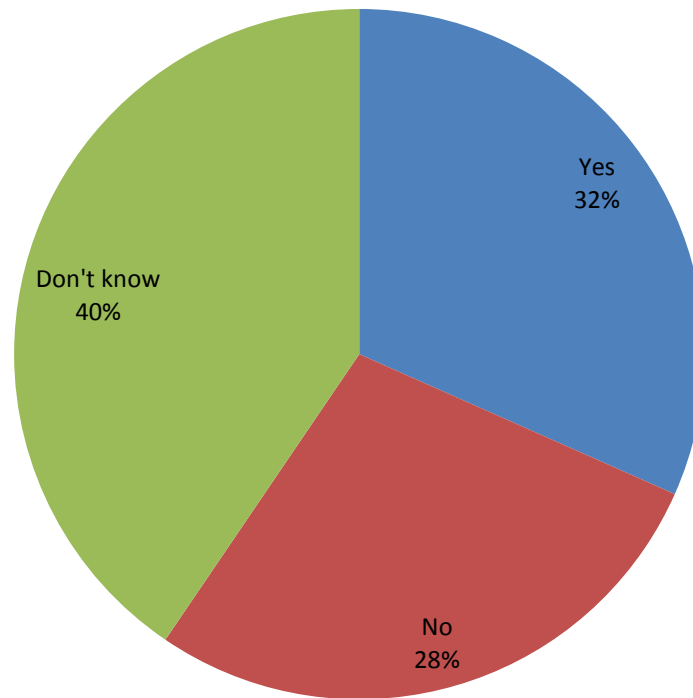


Examples of "Other":

- High Cost of building insurance
- Less State mandates
- Insurance costs
- Regulations/Insurance
- Taxes – Insurance

Across the board the ones that said "Other" were concerned about Taxes and Insurance (liability Insurance, Health Insurance and other Insurances)

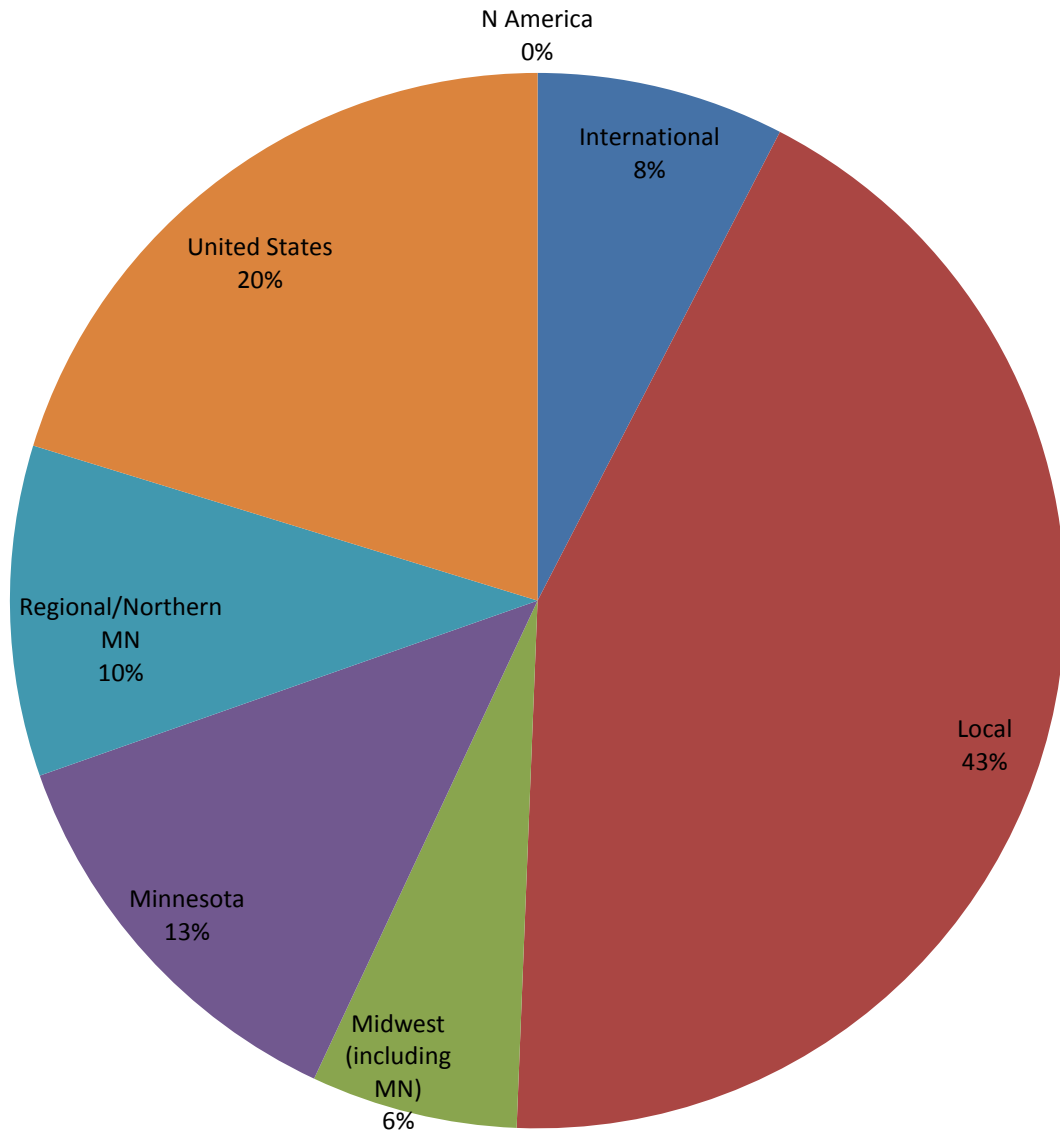
11. Are there "supporting businesses" that you use that could be recruited to our area?



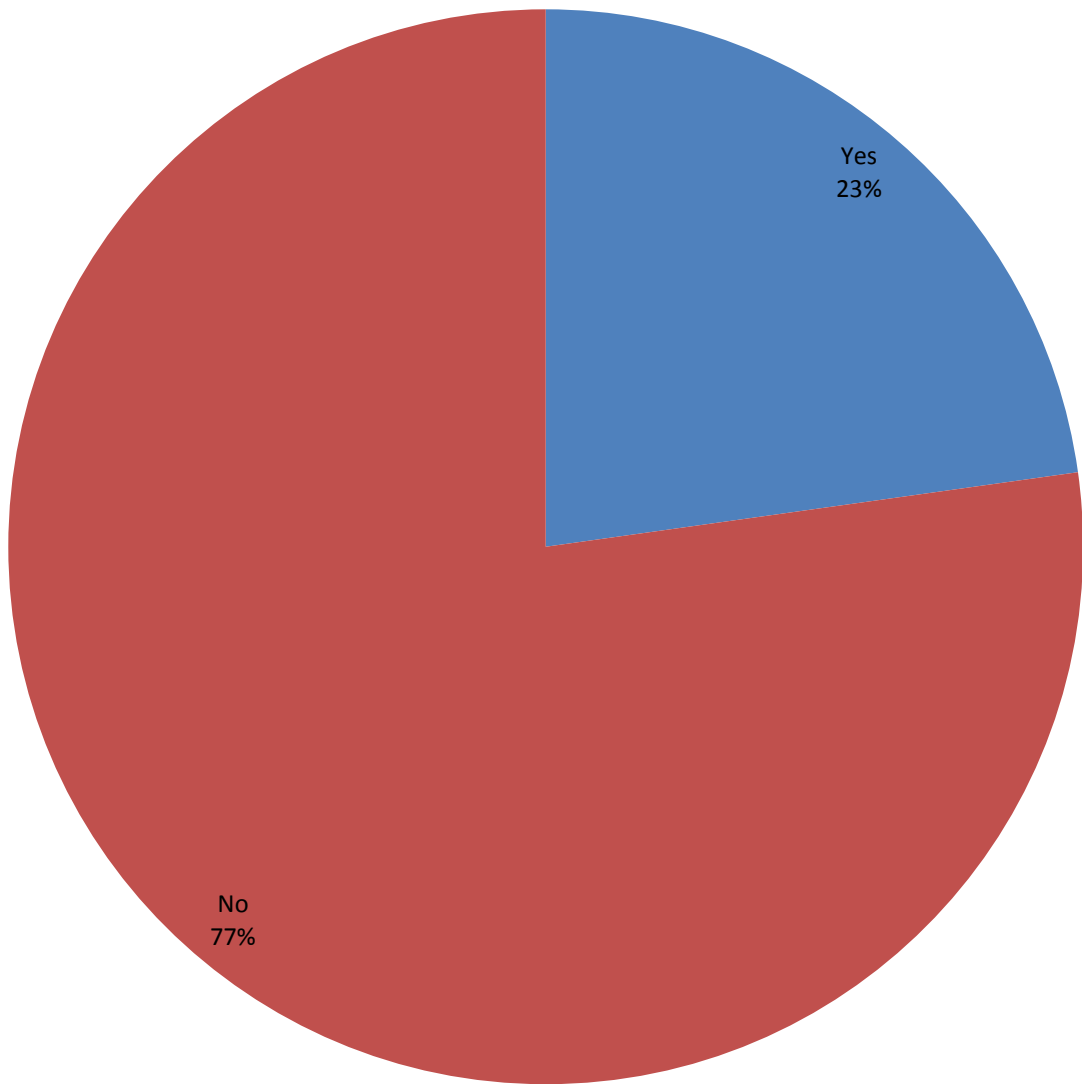
Examples of "Supporting Businesses":

- Steam Producers
- More Shopping
- Wholesale Places for all types of businesses
- Industrial Suppliers
- Air Travel was named 7 different times – Although they said people can fly into Hibbing - Transportation is sometimes an issue

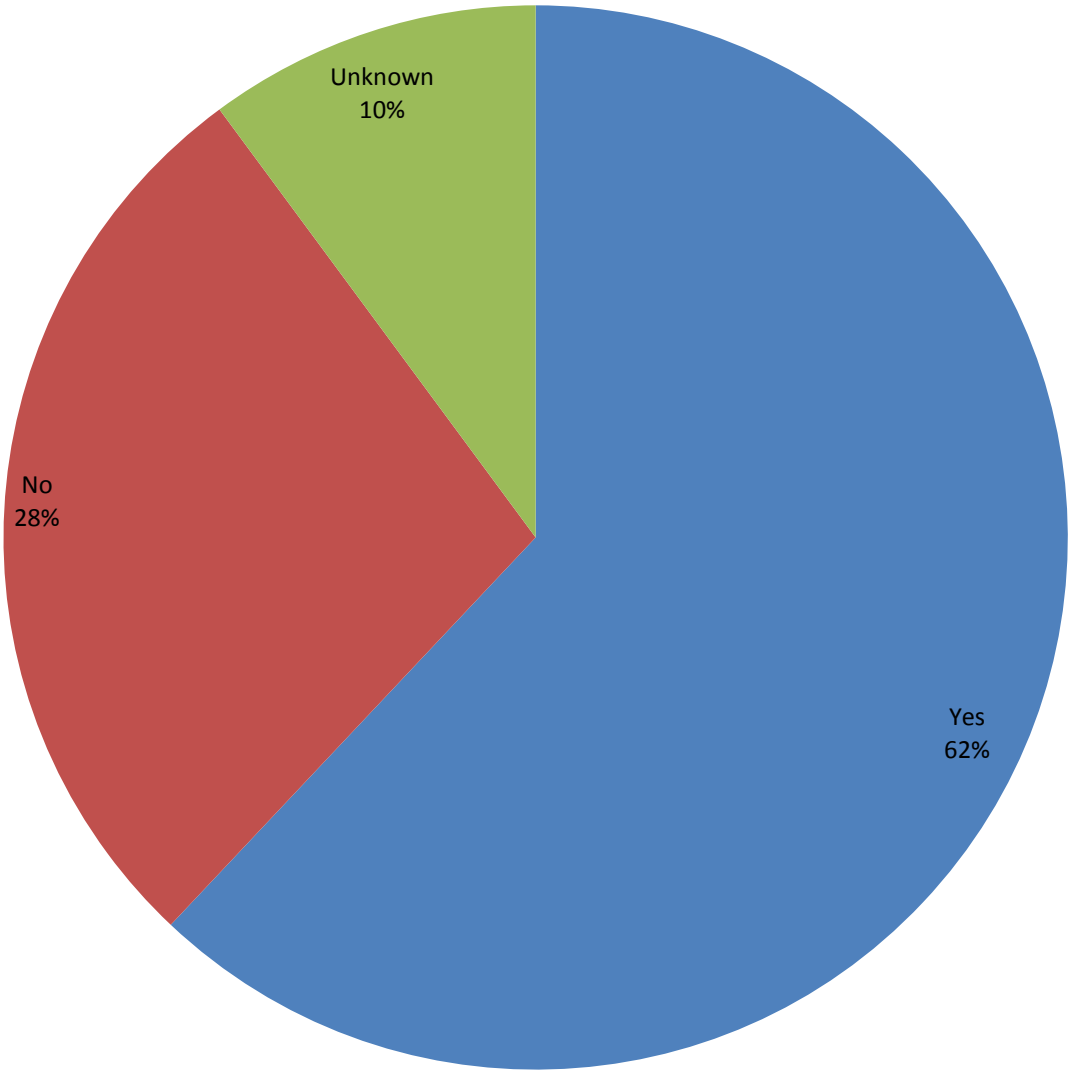
12. What is the company's primary market?



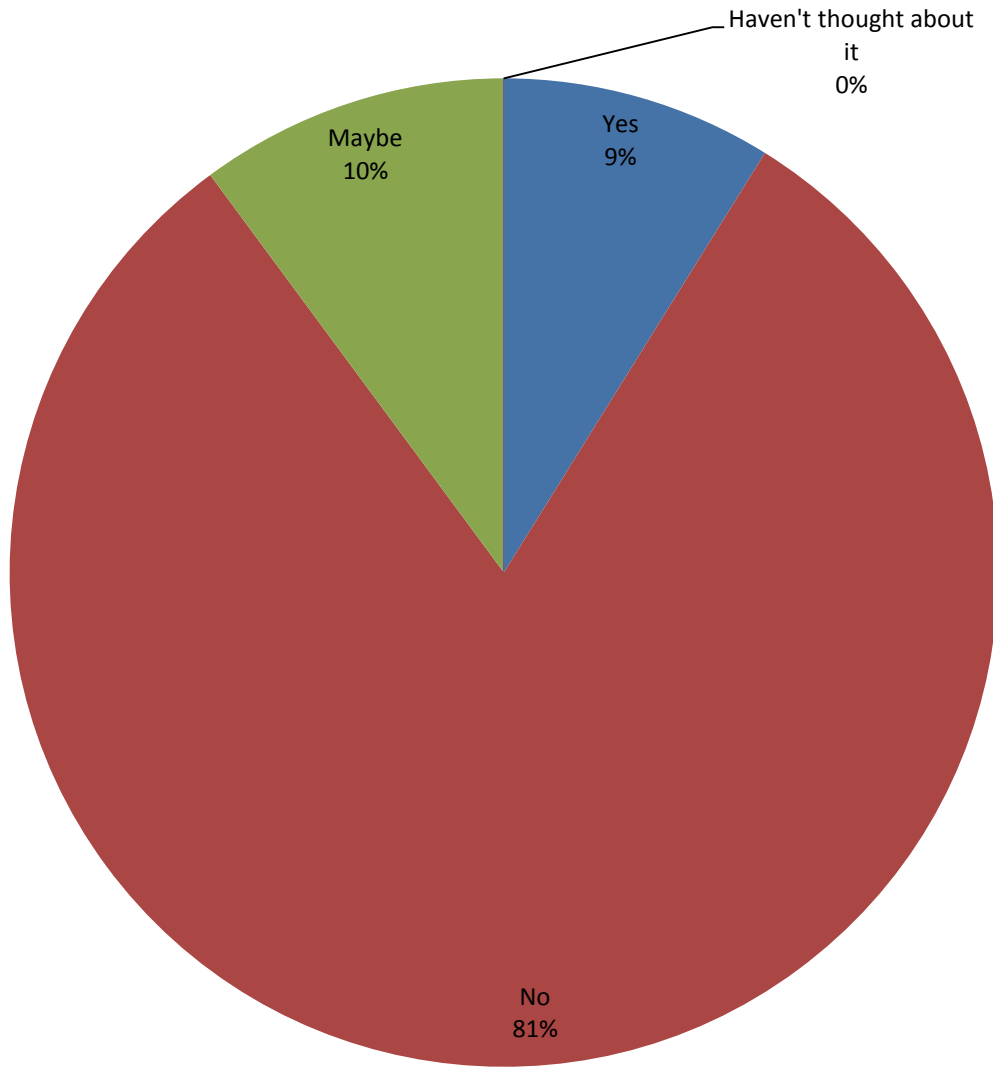
13. Does the company export?



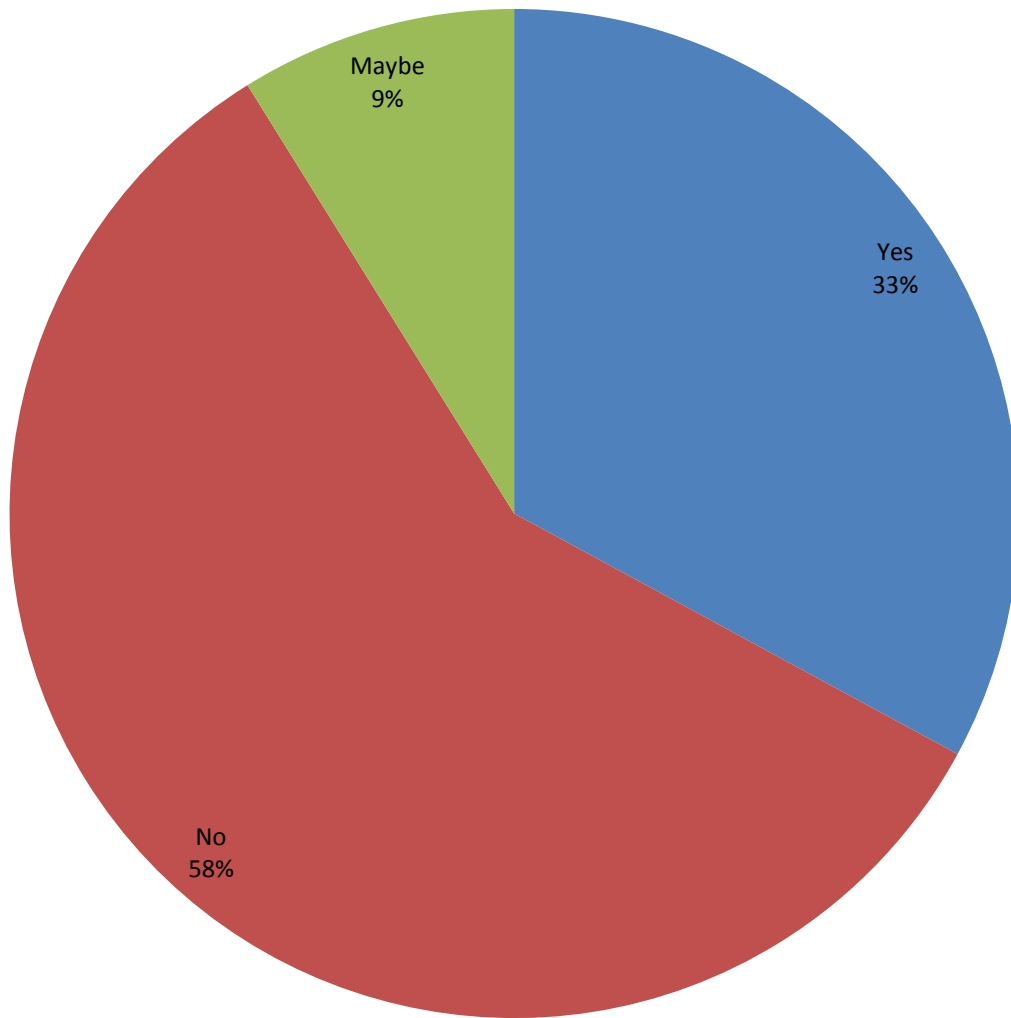
14. Does this company have plans for new investments?

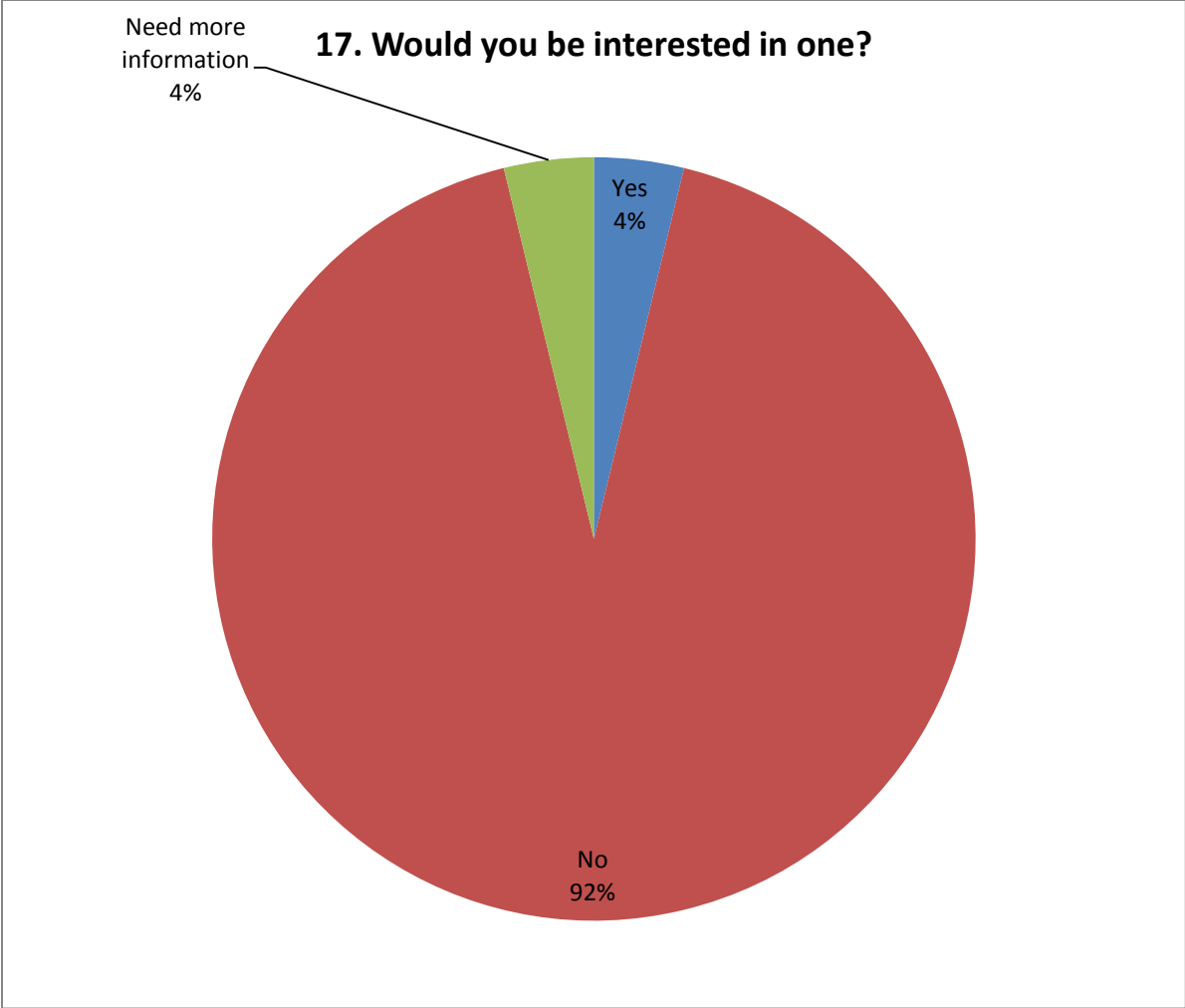


15. Are you planning on selling your business in the near future?



16. Do you have a plan for a "successional owner" to take your business when you want to sell it or retire from it?

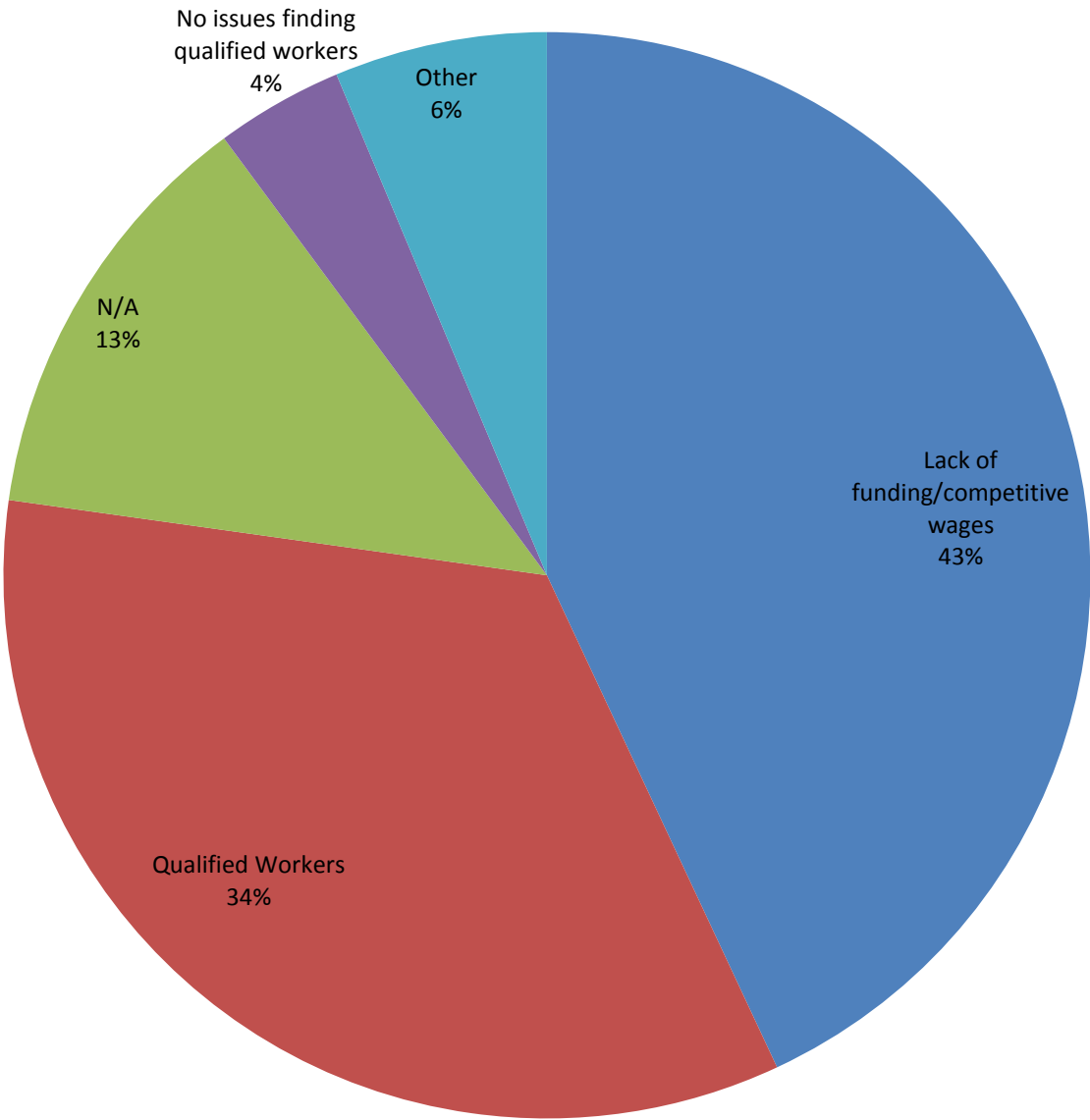




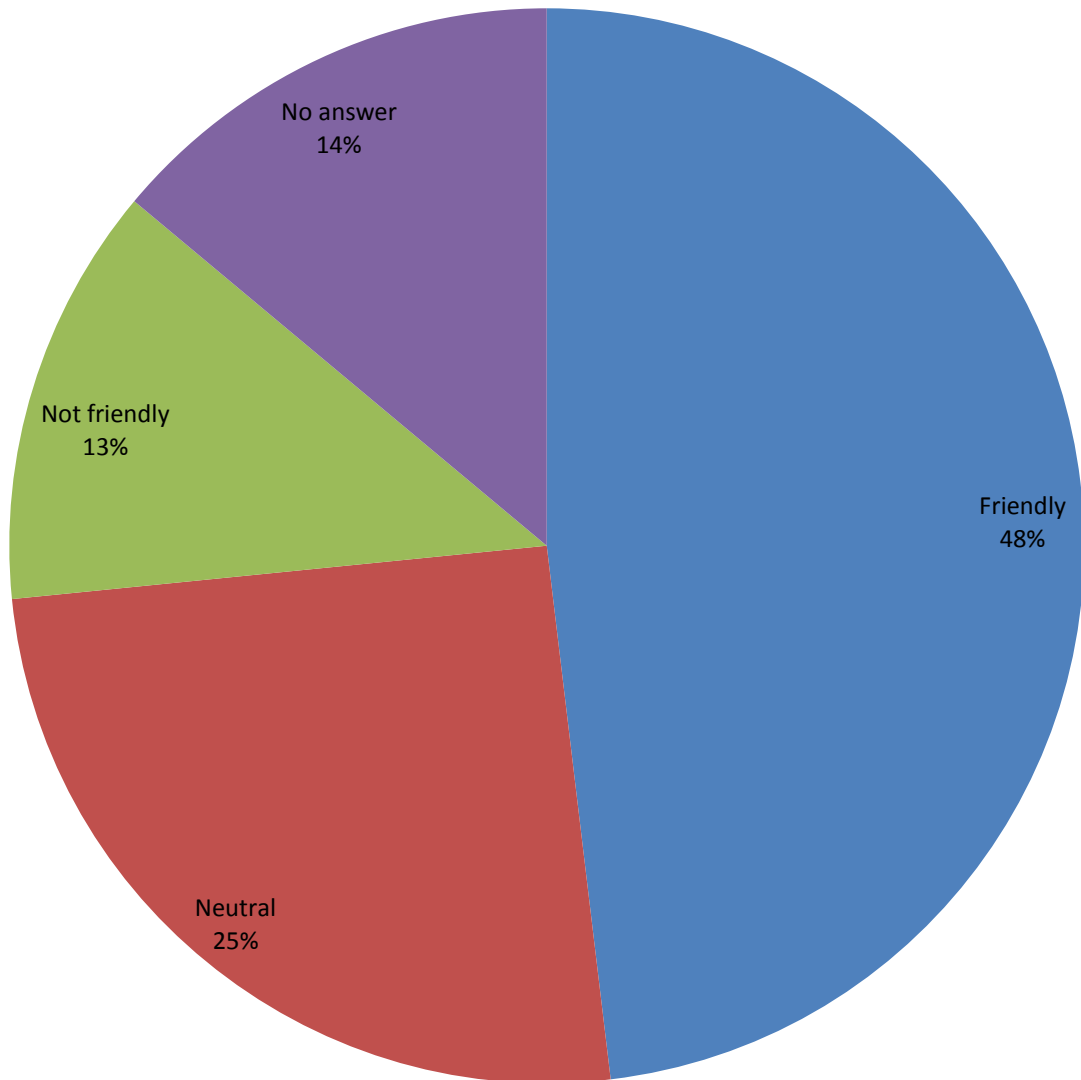
Six businesses were planning successional owners

- Three already had a plan
- Three needed more information

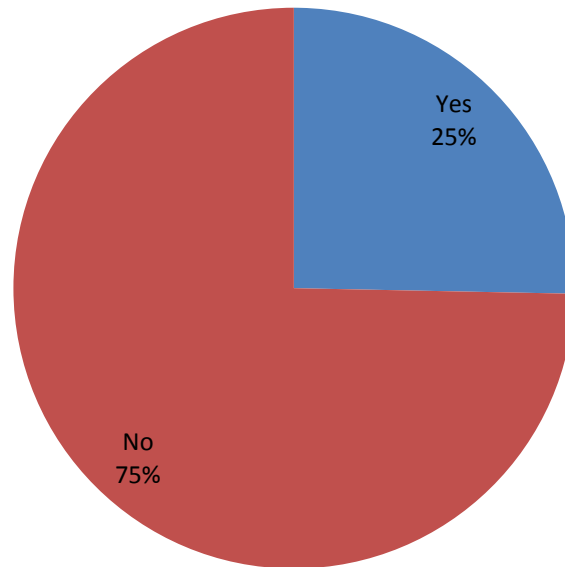
18. What three things are your biggest challenges in hiring and retaining employees? Be specific.



19. How do you view your City Government when it comes to being "business friendly"?



20. Were there specific issues that you would like to mention?

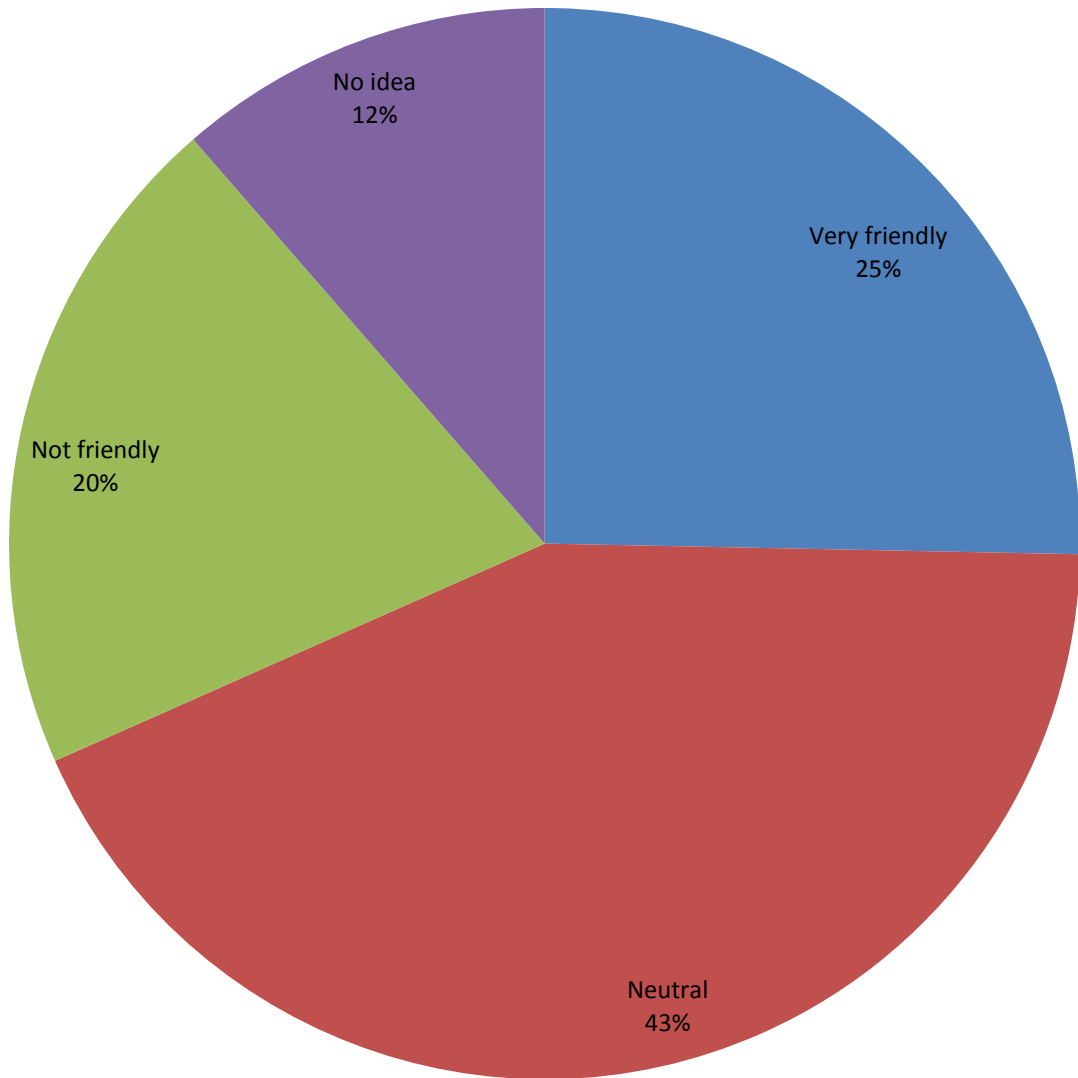


Examples of "Issues":

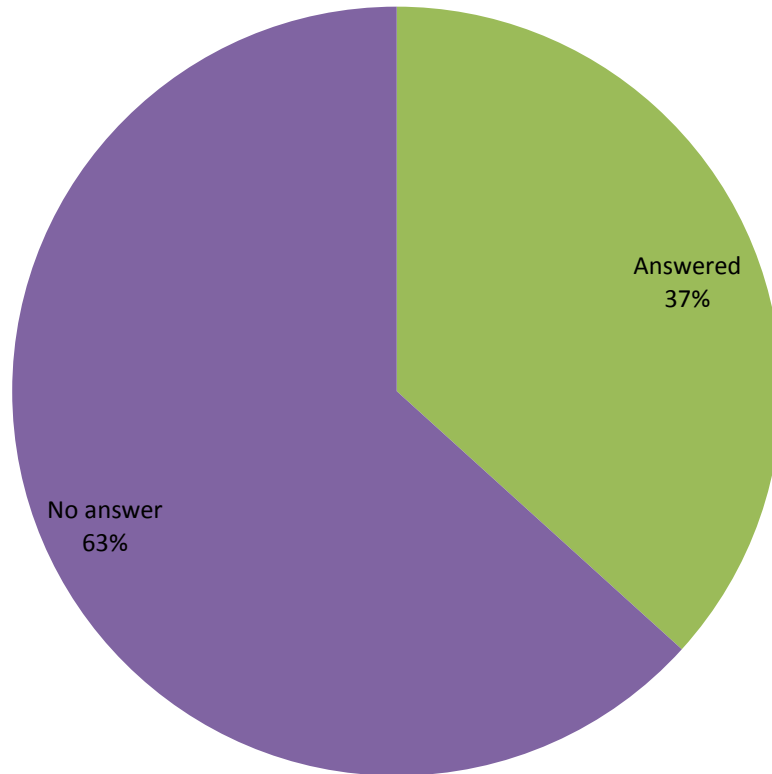
- Red tape
- Annexation
- Building fees
- Taxes High
- Get rid of empty buildings - eye sore to the community (many comments)

Several other reports suggested taxes being too high

21. How do you view your County Government when it comes to being "business friendly"?



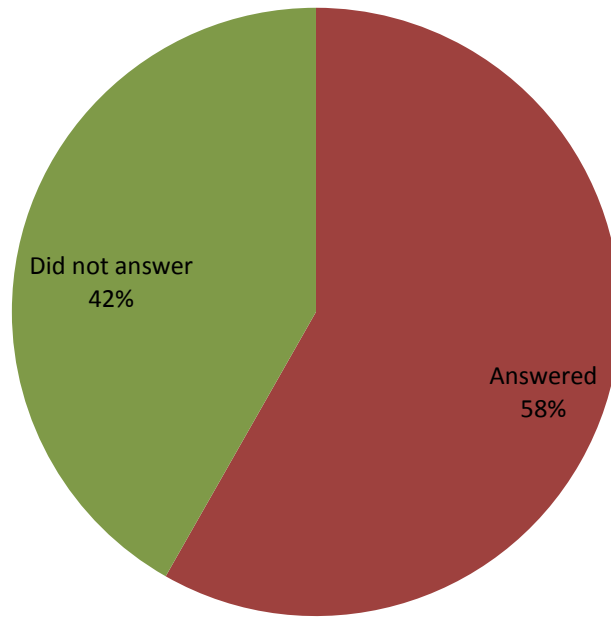
22. Were there specific issues that you would like to mention?



Examples of "Issues":

- Abatement
- County not engaged no idea what is really going on
- Horrible attitude
- Appear to be disengaged
- Government seems to be bailing out to many businesses

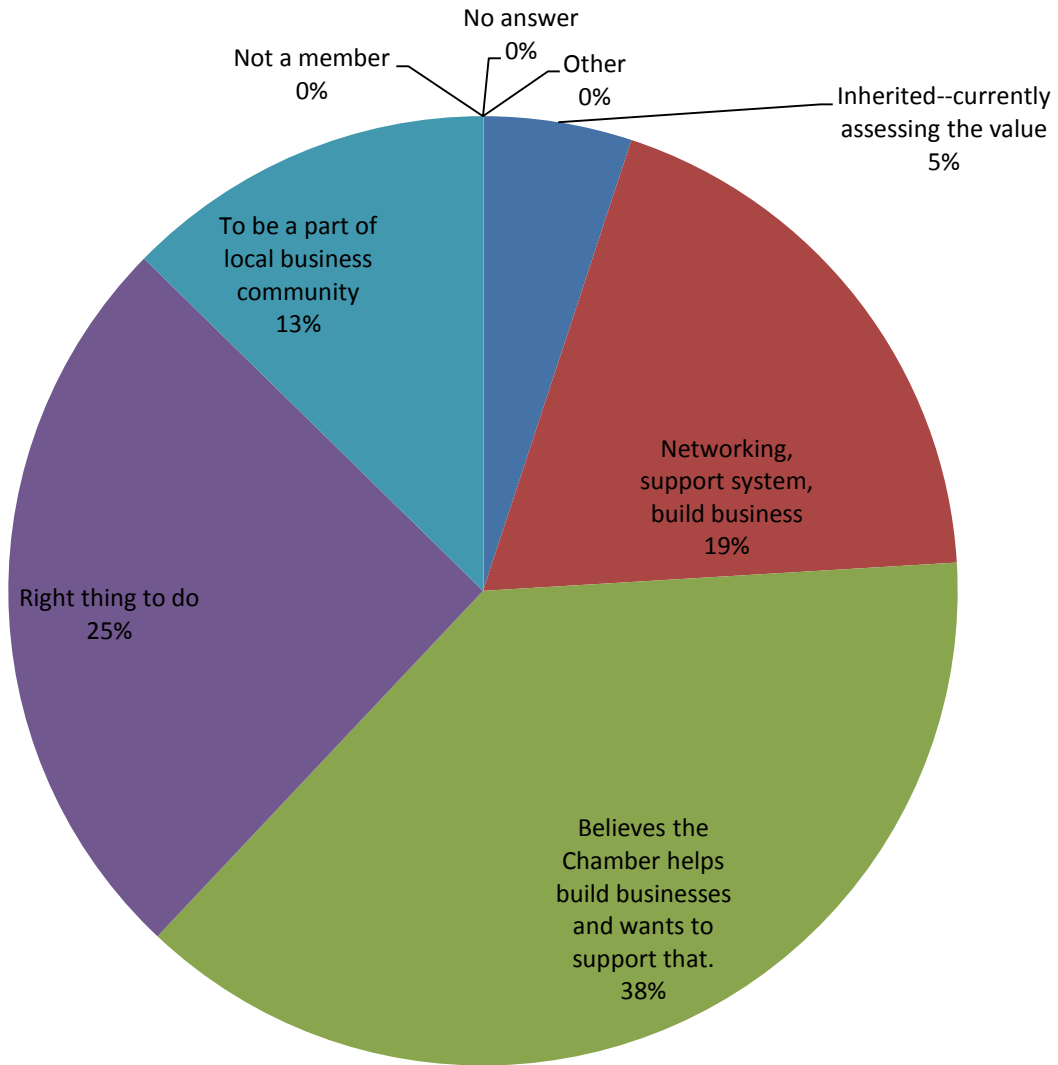
23. What three things do you think the Chamber could explore to serve the membership better? Be specific.



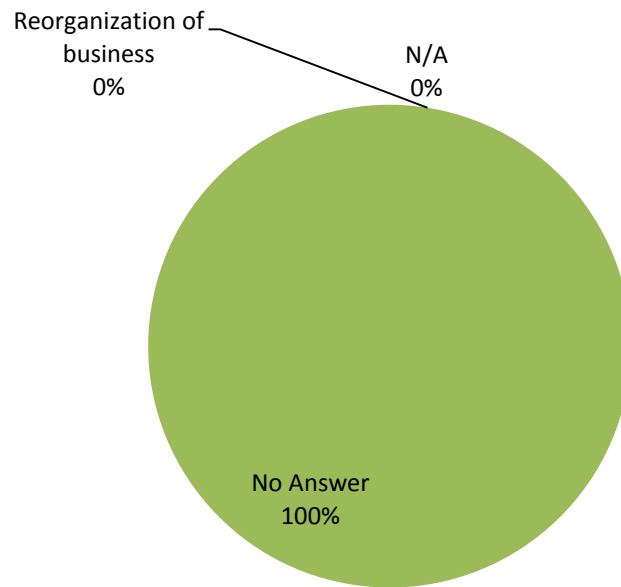
Examples of “Three Things Chamber Could do Better”:

- Web Interface
- More Community Events
- Working better with Visit Grand Rapids
- Not concentrating so much on Forestry other industries are just as important
- Be involved more in Business Recruitment part

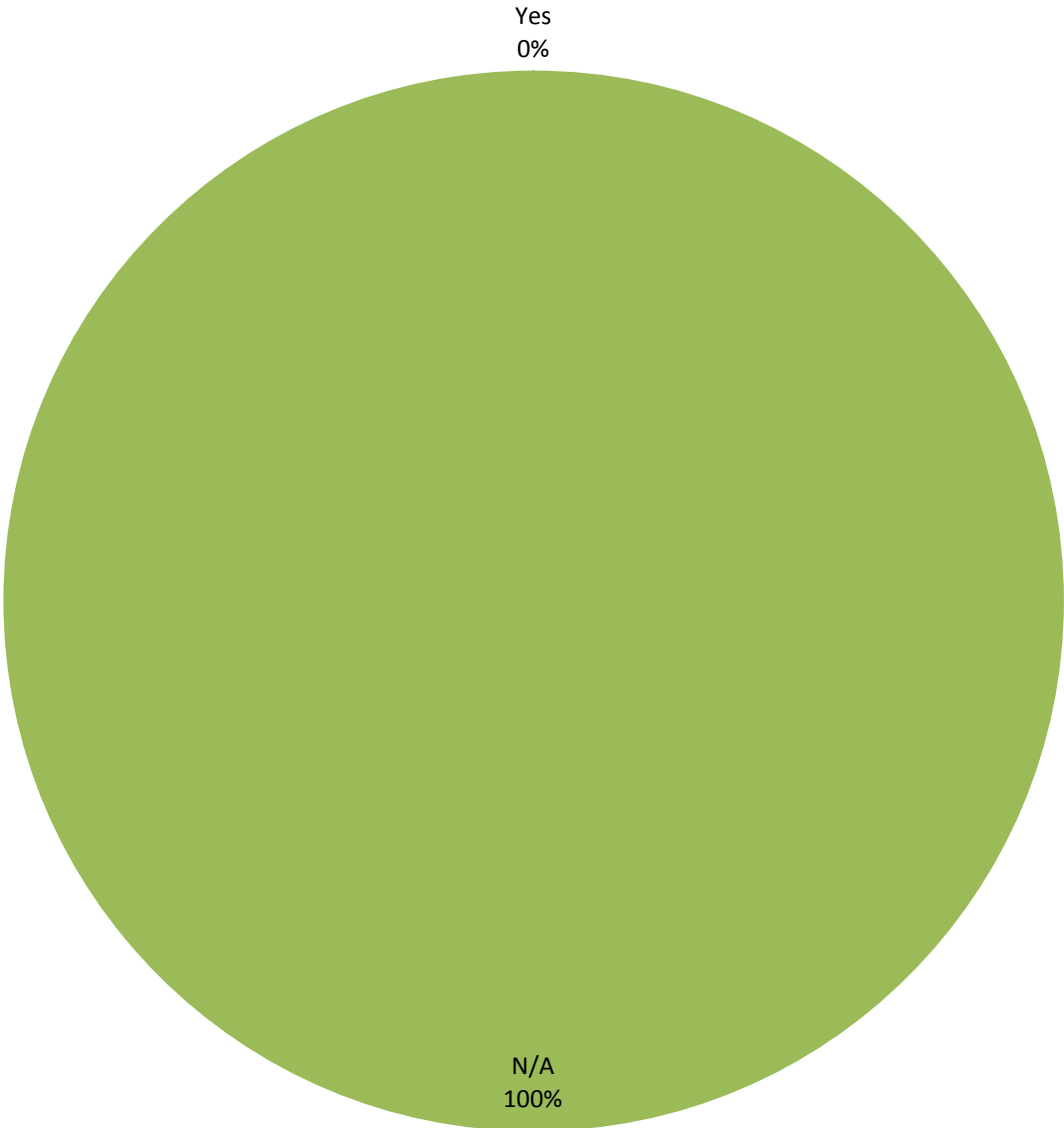
24. Why do you belong to the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce?



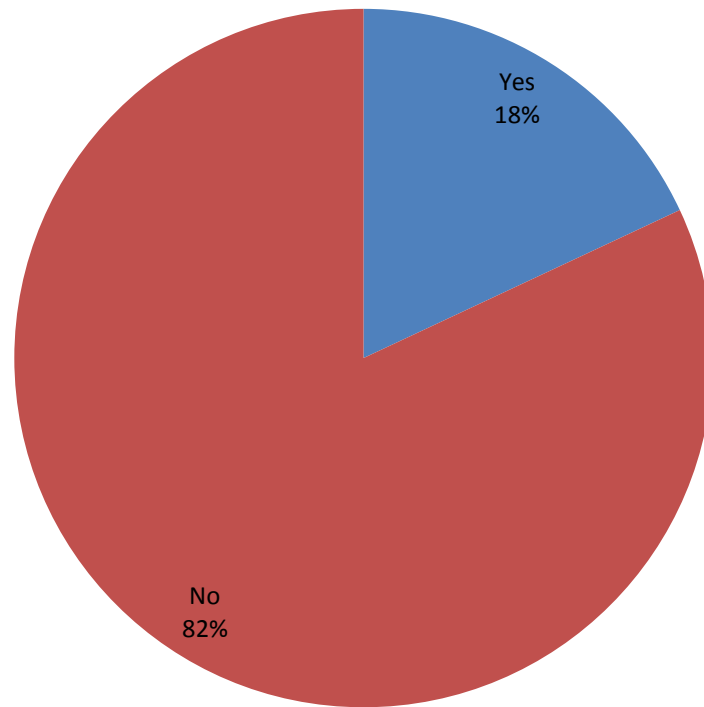
25. Your business was a member of the Chamber at one time? What was the reason that you terminated your relationship with the Chamber?



26. Would you consider rejoining the Chamber?

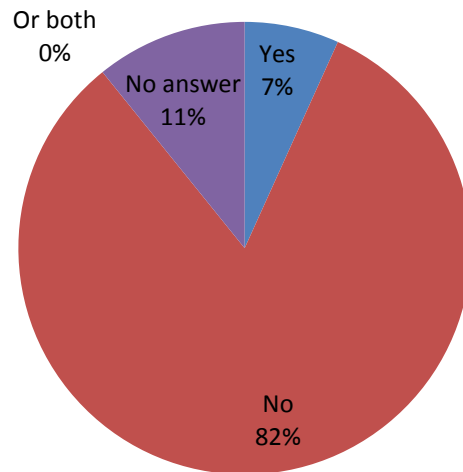


27. Does this company require follow up?



The Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce followed up on all the ones that needed to be followed up on at that time.

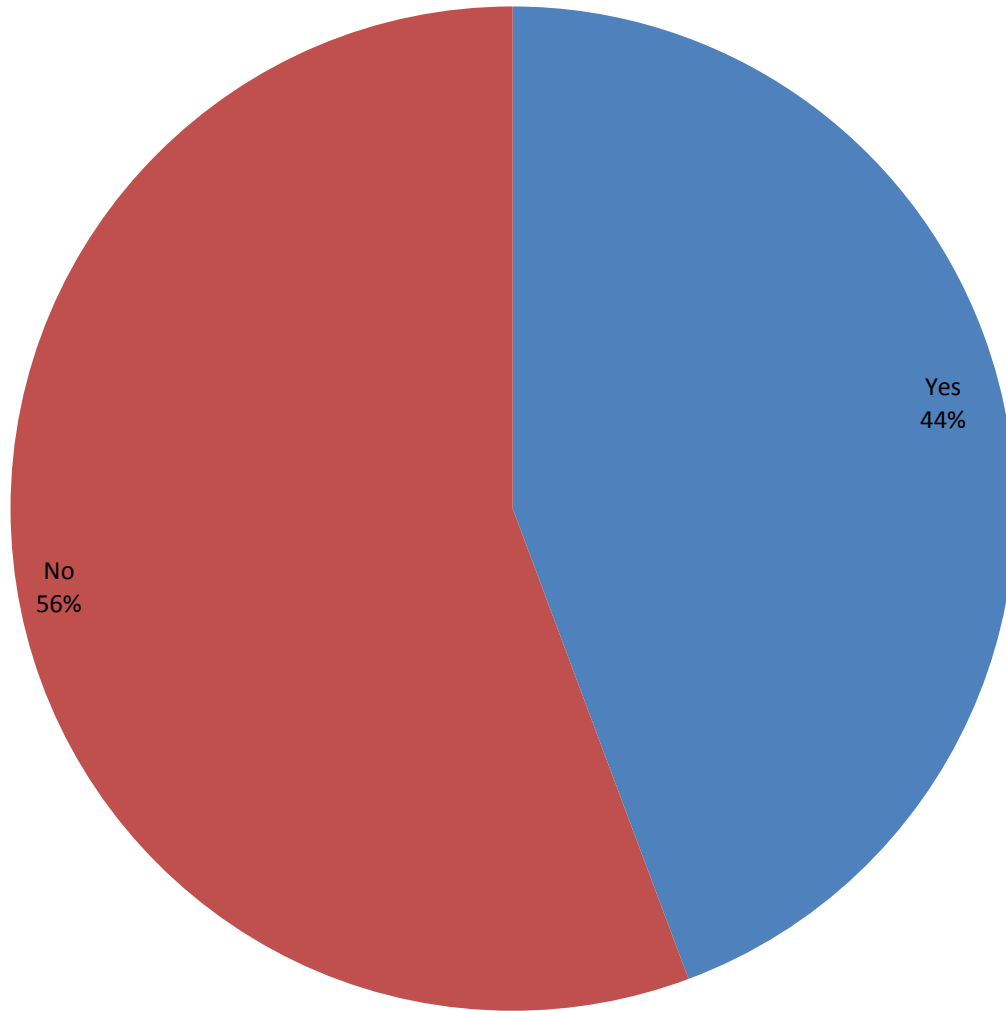
28. Are you interested in training opportunities for employees and or employers?



Examples of "Training:

- CPR FIRST AID Training
- Soft Skills – Basic training
- Marketing Training
- Computer Training
- Facebook & Social Media Training (Many Comments on this)

29. Do you have any interest in exploring internships with high school or college students?



Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce has this Internship list available if anyone who would like this information – Please contact Kerry Larsen at kerry@grandmn.com or 218-326-6619

Is it ok with you if we enter the data from this interview into the "Grow Minnesota" Project data base?

