

2005 Town of Empire Community Survey Results

Question 1: Throughout history, Empire has been described as a rural, agricultural community. If you could control the future, which one phrase would you select to describe Empire in 10 and 20 years?

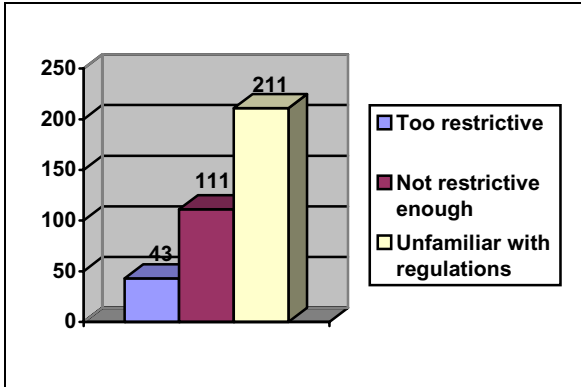
	In 10 years		In 20 years	
	Count	%	Count	%
Rural, agricultural community	177	46.6%	126	33.2%
Residential community	8	2.1%	16	4.2%
Business community	1	.3%		
Industrial community			1	.3%
Mixed agricultural/residential	184	48.4%	201	52.9%
Mixed residential/business community	6	1.6%	29	7.6%
Other	4	1.1%	7	1.8%

Question 2: Family farms within the Town of Empire are declining in numbers. In your opinion, how should the town address this situation? (select any)

	Not selected		Selected	
	Count	%	Count	%
Take no action	341	86.5%	53	13.5%
Restrict the number of land divisions on prime farmland by requiring 35 acre parcels	260	66.0%	134	34.0%
Allow for a limited number of small parcels (e.g. one acre) to be created on each farm	344	87.3%	50	12.7%
Restrict the location of homes developed in prime farmland areas to the edges of farm fields to maintain contiguous tracks of farmland	271	68.8%	123	31.2%
Cluster subdivisions	315	79.9%	79	20.1%
Other ideas	370	93.9%	24	6.1%

Question 3: Empire's zoning restrictions currently meet landowner's needs.

	Empire's zoning restrictions currently meet landowner's needs.	
	Count	%
Too restrictive	43	11.8%
Not restrictive enough	111	30.4%
Unfamiliar with regulations	211	57.8%



Question 4: From 1994 to 2005, Empire's population grew from 2,459 to 2,755 (27 people/year). Do you favor growth at:

	Count	%
Faster rate	26	6.6%
Present rate	249	63.5%
Slower rate	88	22.4%
No growth	29	7.4%

Question 5: The 2005 population of Empire was 2,775. What size would you like to see the town in 10 years?

	Count	%
Much larger	32	8.2%
Somewhat larger	217	55.5%
About the same size	131	33.5%
Smaller than it is now	11	2.8%

Question 6: Prime and Marginal agricultural land should be allowed to be divided/subdivided for what kinds of development?

Prime Agricultural:

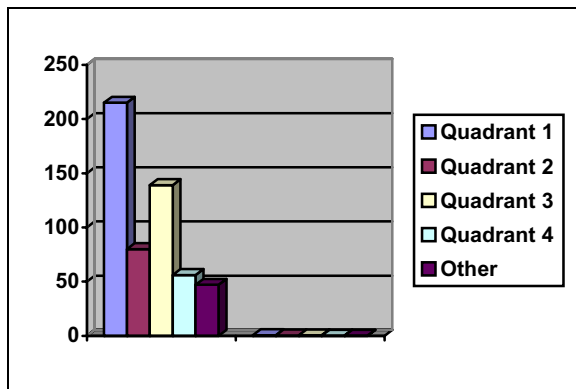
	Selected	
	Count	%
Residential Only - PA	36	9.2%
Commercial Only - PA	7	1.8%
Both residential and commercial - PA	34	8.7%
Divide into 35 acre lots - PA	106	27.0%
Divide into 1 acre lots - PA	34	8.6%
Cluster subdivisions - PA	54	13.7%
No land divisions allowed - PA	149	37.8%
Other - PA	9	2.3%

Marginal Agricultural:

	Selected	
	Count	%
Residential Only - MA	101	25.6%
Commercial Only - MA	26	6.6%
Both residential and commercial - MA	118	30.2%
Divide into 35 acre lots - MA	107	27.3%
Divide into 1 acre lots - MA	83	21.2%
Cluster subdivisions - MA	145	36.9%
No land divisions allowed - MA	25	6.4%
Other - MA	16	4.1%

Question 7: From 1990 to 2005, total housing units in Empire increased from 831 to 1065. In what part of the Town would you most like to see future residential development?

	Selected	
	Count	%
Quadrant 1	215	54.7%
Quadrant 2	80	20.3%
Quadrant 3	139	35.3%
Quadrant 4	56	14.2%
Other	47	12.0%



Question 8: Which of the following do you favor?

	Count	%
Annexation of land by the city of FDL to extend services	41	10.7%
Annexation of land to accommodate future growth for FDL	24	6.3%
No annexation of land beyond the city growth area	318	83.0%

Question 9: The Town of Empire Subdivision Ordinance requires that new subdivision development include at least 20% of the land (beyond what cannot be developed anyway) is preserved as open space or farmland. Cluster developments are recommended. What is your opinion of this requirement for subdivisions?

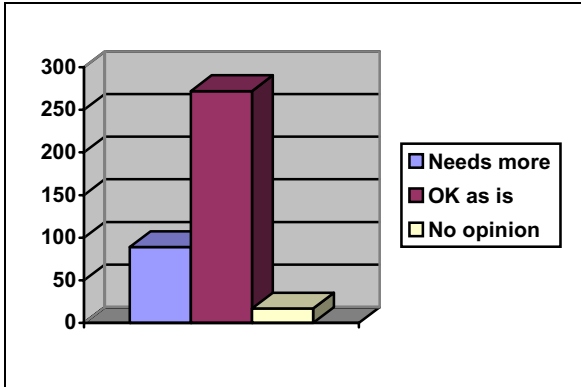
	Subdivision development	
	Count	%
Support cluster development as currently recommended	117	30.2%
Cluster development - 30% of land preserved	44	11.3%
Cluster development - 40% of land preserved	39	10.1%
Cluster development - 50% of land preserved	95	24.5%
Do not support cluster development	37	9.5%
No opinion	15	3.9%
I don't understand the ordinance	14	3.6%
Other	27	7.0%

Question 10: The Town adopted a zoning ordinance in 1999 that divides the Town into six different categories... Do you believe the ordinance should be:

	Ordinance belief	
	Count	%
Maintained as is	165	42.4%
Completely redone	16	4.1%
Don't know	167	42.9%
Slightly revised	25	6.4%
Eliminated	11	2.8%
Other	5	1.3%

Question 12: Do you feel the town of Empire needs more commercial development or is it OK as it is now?

	Count	%
Needs more	89	23.5%
OK as is	272	72.0%
No opinion	17	4.5%



Question 13: What types of business would you like to have available in the Town of Empire?

	Selected	
	Count	%
Bed and breakfast	87	22.2%
Senior housing	135	34.4%
Restaurants	129	32.9%
Farm/Produce stands	96	24.4%
Other	145	36.9%

Question 14: Should businesses be concentrated in a few areas or dispersed throughout the Town?

	Selected	
	Count	%
Quadrant 1	213	54.6%
Quadrant 2	75	19.2%
Quadrant 3	85	21.8%
Quadrant 4	26	6.7%
Other	92	23.6%

Question 15: What type of industrial developments is acceptable?

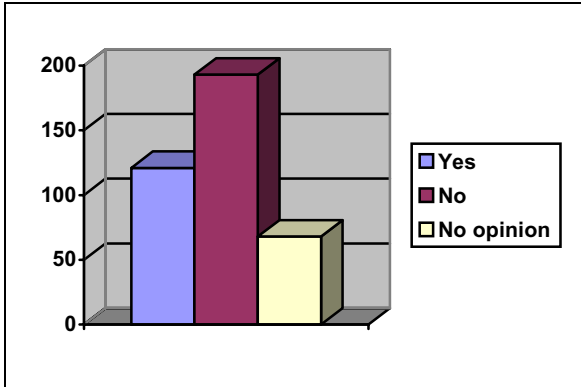
	Selected	
	Count	%
Heavy industry	15	3.8%
Manufacturing	58	14.9%
Warehousing	96	24.6%
None	161	41.7%
Other	20	5.1%
Light industrial	160	41.2%
Assembly	92	23.6%
Industrial Park	95	24.5%

Question 16: Many residents have identified the Niagra Escarpment (the Ledge) as an important natural resource and feel it needs to be protected. In your opinion, what tools should be used to protect the Niagra Escarpment?

	Selected	
	Count	%
Zoning overlay	145	37.4%
Land trust acquisition for preservation	189	49.2%
Cluster Subdivision	65	16.8%
Other	28	7.2%
Required setbacks	137	35.2%
Transfer of development rights	48	12.3%

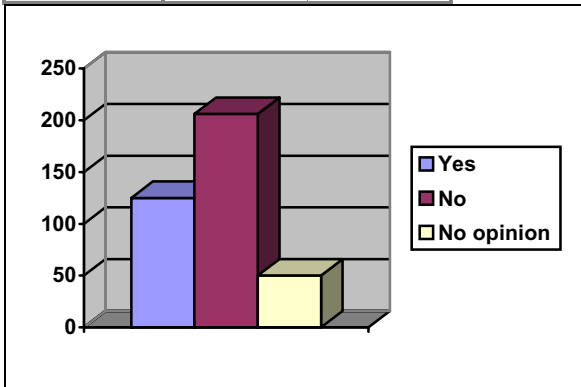
Question 17: Would you be willing to pay additional taxes to support Land Trust or Transfer of Development Rights?

	Selected	
	Count	%
Yes	121	31.7%
No	193	50.5%
No opinion	68	17.8%



Question 18: Should we allow activities that are the privatized use of natural resources for profit?

	Count	%
Yes	125	32.8%
No	206	54.1%
No opinion	50	13.1%

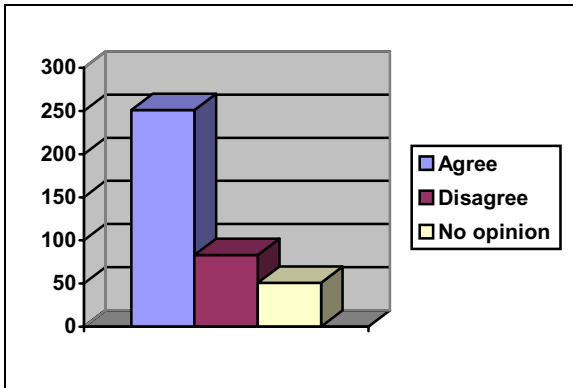


Question 19: What involvement should Empire Town government have in the protection of groundwater quality and drinking water?

	Count	%
No involvement	18	4.7%
Provide information only	61	16.0%
Regulate land uses that would adversely impact groundwater	303	79.3%

Question 20: New developments should be required to develop shared sanitary systems or join a sanitary district.

	Count	%
Agree	<i>251</i>	<i>65.2%</i>
Disagree	<i>83</i>	<i>21.6%</i>
No opinion	<i>51</i>	<i>13.2%</i>



Question 21: Is the present garbage/recycling system working?

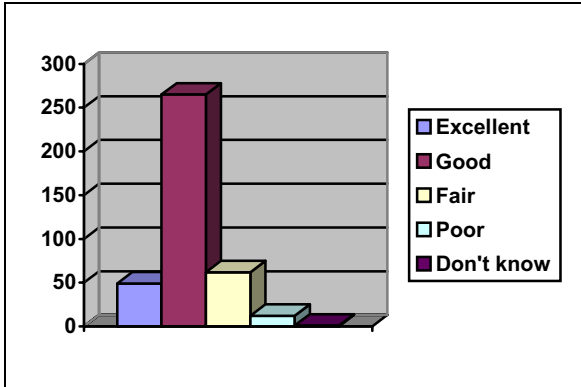
	Count	%
Yes	<i>377</i>	<i>96.9%</i>
No	<i>4</i>	<i>1.0%</i>
No opinion	<i>8</i>	<i>2.1%</i>

Question 22: Have you ever attended a meeting or function at the town hall other than voting?

	Count	%
Yes	<i>252</i>	<i>64.5%</i>
No	<i>139</i>	<i>35.5%</i>

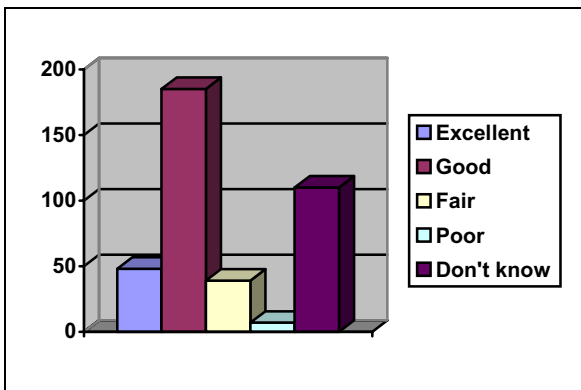
Question 23: How would you assess the maintenance of town roads?

	Count	%
Excellent	<i>49</i>	<i>12.6%</i>
Good	<i>265</i>	<i>68.1%</i>
Fair	<i>62</i>	<i>15.9%</i>
Poor	<i>12</i>	<i>3.1%</i>
Don't know	<i>1</i>	<i>.3%</i>



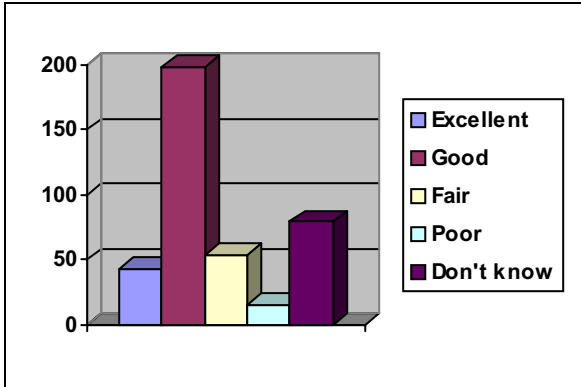
Question 24: How would you rate the fire protection/emergency medical services in the town?

	Count	%
Excellent	48	12.3%
Good	185	47.6%
Fair	39	10.0%
Poor	7	1.8%
Don't know	110	28.3%



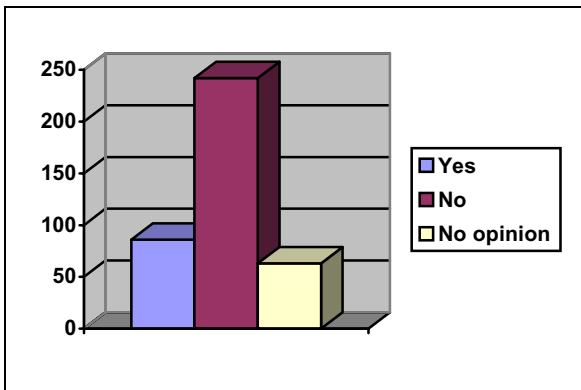
Question 25: How would you rate police protection services in the town?

	Count	%
Excellent	43	11.0%
Good	198	50.8%
Fair	54	13.8%
Poor	16	4.1%
Don't know	79	20.3%



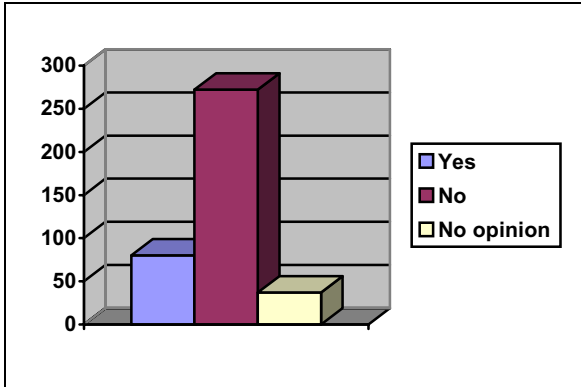
Question 26: Should Empire purchase and maintain a town park?

	Count	%
Yes	86	22.0%
No	242	61.9%
No opinion	63	16.1%



Question 27: Would you be willing to pay additional taxes to purchase and maintain a park?

	Count	%
Yes	80	20.6%
No	272	69.9%
No opinion	37	9.5%

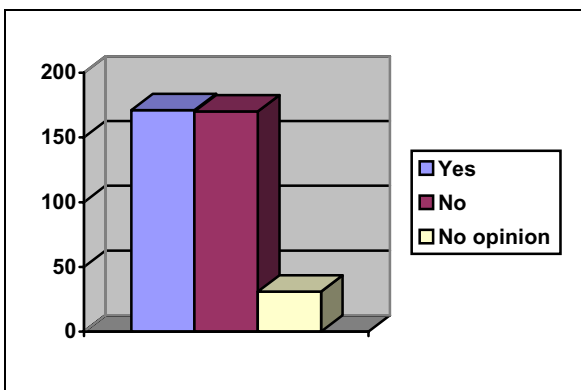


Question 28: What types of uses would you like to see in a Town park?

	Selected	
	Count	%
Trails: hiking, biking, skiing	115	29.3%
Tennis courts	18	4.6%
Picnic shelter	78	19.9%
Other	10	2.6%
Baseball diamond	30	7.6%
Playground	50	12.7%
A town park should not be created	75	19.1%

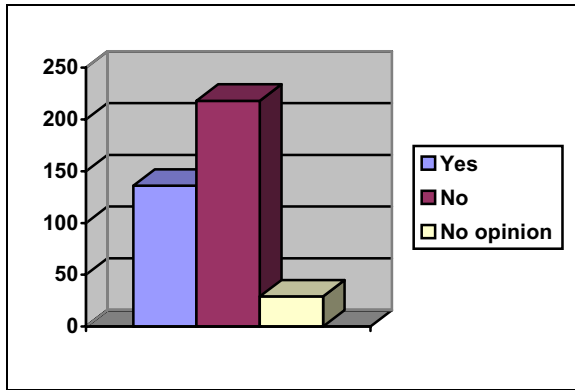
Question 29: Would you like to see recreation trails developed in Empire?

	Count	%
Yes	171	46.0%
No	170	45.7%
No opinion	31	8.3%



Question 30: Would you be willing to pay additional taxes to purchase and maintain trails?

	Count	%
Yes	136	35.5%
No	218	56.9%
No opinion	29	7.6%



Question 31: If trails were developed in Empire, how often would you (or members of your household) use them?

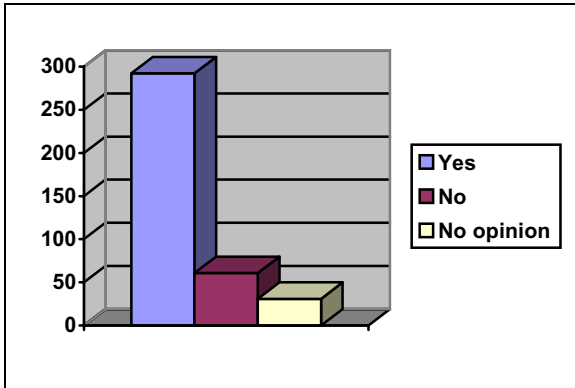
	Count	%
Daily	10	2.7%
Weekly	89	23.9%
Monthly	108	29.0%
Never	166	44.5%

Question 32: If recreational trails were developed in Empire, where should they be located?

	Selected	
	Count	%
Within existing neighborhoods to provide trail connections between subdivisions	103	26.3%
Within new subdivisions developments	89	22.6%
Leading into natural areas	204	52.6%
Other	60	15.3%

Question 33: Are the property taxes you pay fair considering the services you receive?

	Count	%
Yes	292	76.0%
No	61	15.9%
No opinion	31	8.1%



Question 34: Would you be willing to pay for these additional services or programs?

	Count	%
Yes	28	18.3%
No	125	81.7%

Question 35: Are town government officials responsive to your needs?

	Count	%
Yes	192	49.6%
No	41	10.6%
No opinion	154	39.8%

Question 36: Do you feel that Town government provides adequate information on issues?

	Count	%
Yes	243	63.4%
No	76	19.8%
No opinion	64	16.7%

Question 37: What is the most effective way Empire Town government can provide information on issues to its citizens?

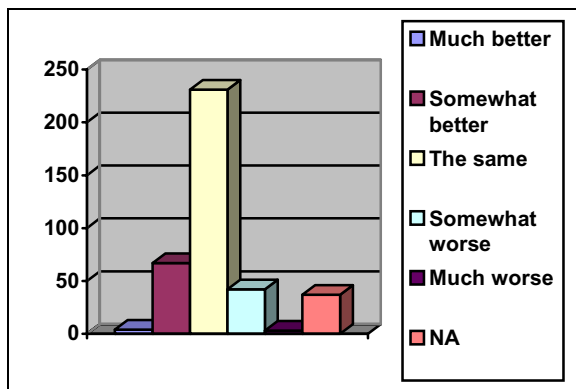
	Count	%
Town board meetings	10	2.6%
Newspaper articles	24	6.2%
Town newsletter	101	26.1%
Town website	27	7.0%
Other	14	3.6%
Direct mail fact sheets	96	24.8%
Separate public information meeting	3	.8%
E-mail	112	28.9%

Question 38: How satisfied are you with the Town of Empire as a place to live?

	Count	%
Very satisfied	216	55.5%
Satisfied	169	43.4%
Dissatisfied	4	1.0%

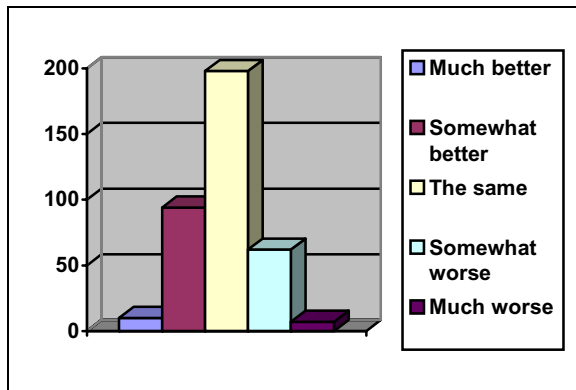
Question 39: Compared with 5 years ago, the quality of life in the Town of Empire is:

	Count	%
Much better	4	1.0%
Somewhat better	67	17.4%
The same	231	60.2%
Somewhat worse	42	10.9%
Much worse	3	.8%
NA	37	9.6%



Question 40: In the next 5 years, I believe the quality of life in the Town of Empire will be:

	Count	%
Much better	10	2.7%
Somewhat better	94	25.3%
The same	198	53.4%
Somewhat worse	62	16.7%
Much worse	7	1.9%

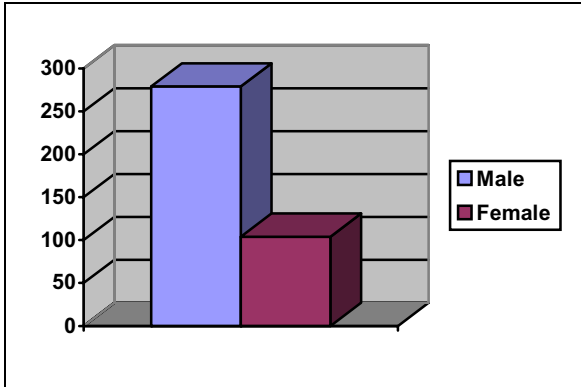


Question 41: What do you like most about the Town of Empire?

	Selected	
	Count	%
Friendly people	124	31.8%
Rural, country atmosphere	318	81.3%
Quietness	194	49.9%
Location	197	50.8%
Other	21	5.4%
Good services	87	22.3%
Safety/feeling of security	113	28.9%
Good government	70	17.9%

Question 44: What is your gender?

	Count	%
Male	279	72.8%
Female	104	27.2%



Question 45: What is your age?

	What is your age?	
	Count	%
Under 18	1	.3%
18-24	2	.5%
25-34	22	5.7%
35-44	62	16.0%
45-54	124	32.0%
55-64	94	24.2%
65-74	54	13.9%
75 years and older	29	7.5%

Question 46: What are the ages of the persons in your household not listed in question 45?

	Number of individuals in each age range
Under 18	218
18-24	77
25-34	43
35-44	80
45-54	127
55-64	88
65-74	52
75 years and older	30

Question 47: Do you rent or own property in the Town?

	Count	%
Rent	2	.5%
Own	384	99.5%

Question 48: How long have you lived in the Town of Empire?

	Count	%
Less than 5 years	68	17.5%
5-10 years	64	16.5%
11-20 years	93	24.0%
20 years or longer	129	33.2%
Lifetime resident	34	8.8%

Question 49: Are you currently employed?

	Count	%
Yes	282	72.7%
No	106	27.3%

Question 50: Approximately how many miles do you travel to your place of employment?

	Count	%
0, Work at home	25	6.7%
0, Retired	78	21.0%
0, Unemployed	4	1.1%
1 to 4 miles	27	7.3%
5 to 10 miles	143	38.4%
11 to 19 miles	31	8.3%
20 to 44 miles	43	11.6%
45 or more miles	21	5.6%

Question 51: If you are employed, in what category is your occupation?

	Count	%
Agriculture/Farming	18	6.0%
Manufacturing	65	21.7%
Wholesale trade	6	2.0%
Other service occupations	45	15.1%
Government	17	5.7%
Homemaker	6	2.0%
Other	62	20.7%
Construction	20	6.7%
Utilities	3	1.0%
Retail trade	13	4.3%
Finance, insurance, or real estate	18	6.0%
Education	26	8.7%