



BUSINESS SERVICES

FY 21-22

FY 20-21

COMPANY VISITS

307 TOTAL VISITS

305 TOTAL VISITS

BUSINESS LEVELS – Area businesses reported business levels as:

67% INCREASING

55% INCREASING

29% STABLE

37% STABLE

4% DECREASING

8% DECREASING

EXPANSIONS – Area businesses reporting plans to expand in the next year

49%

51%

TOP PRIORITIES FOR THE COMMUNITY – Area businesses ranked the following

1. Quality of Life
2. Amount/Affordability of Housing
3. Entertainment Venues
4. Health & Wellness Opportunities
5. Creation of More Local, Renewable Energy
6. Environment – Reduction of Waste
7. Air & Water Quality Improvements
8. Other

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TOP 3 BARRIERS TO GROWTH

Finding Employees/Employee Training
Economic Uncertainty
Supply Chain

Finding Employees/Employee Training
Economic Uncertainty
Regaining Customers

TOP 3 COMMUNITY STRENGTHS

Quality of Life/Amenities
Community Leadership/Support/
Partnerships
Market Size/Location/Customer Loyalty

Quality of Life/Amenities
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TOP 3 COMMUNITY WEAKNESSES

Workforce Challenges
Population/Market Size/Capacity
Transportation (Air, Ground, Other)

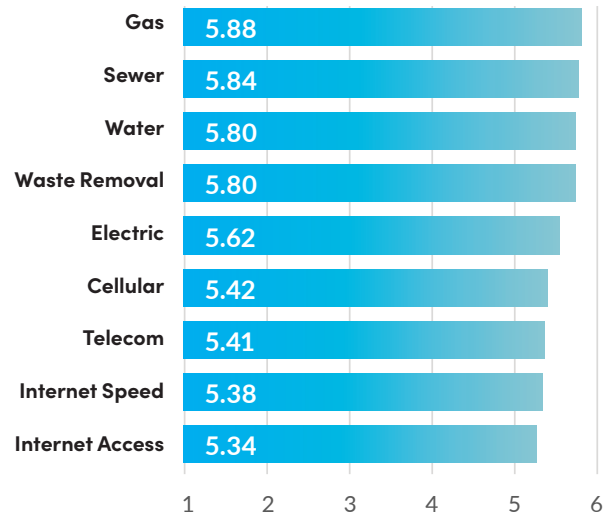
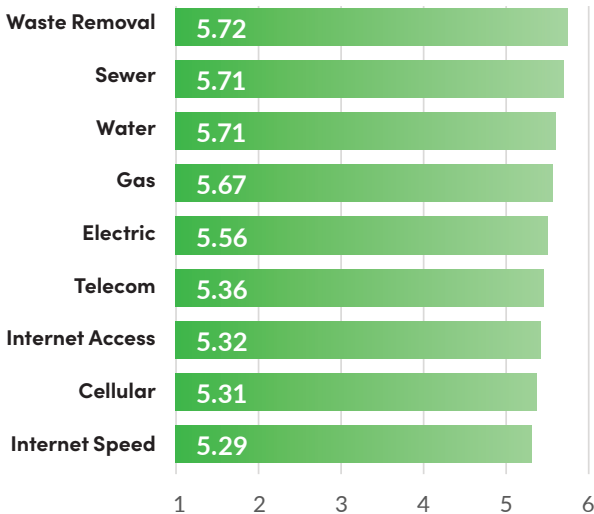
Workforce Challenges
Population/Market Size/ Capacity
Transportation (Air, Ground, Other)

IT INFRASTRUCTURE – Is the community's IT infrastructure adequate for your company's needs?

93% YES **7%** NO

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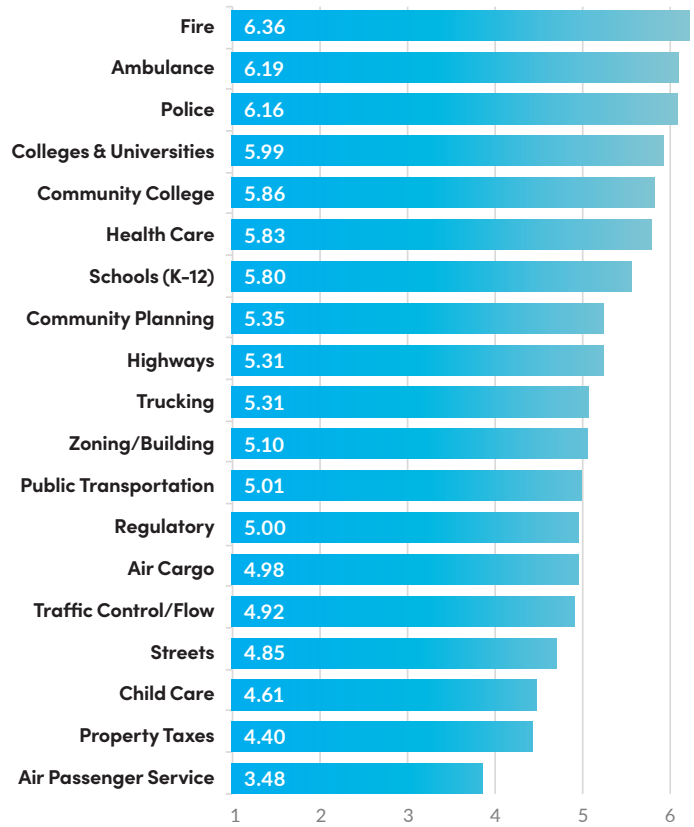
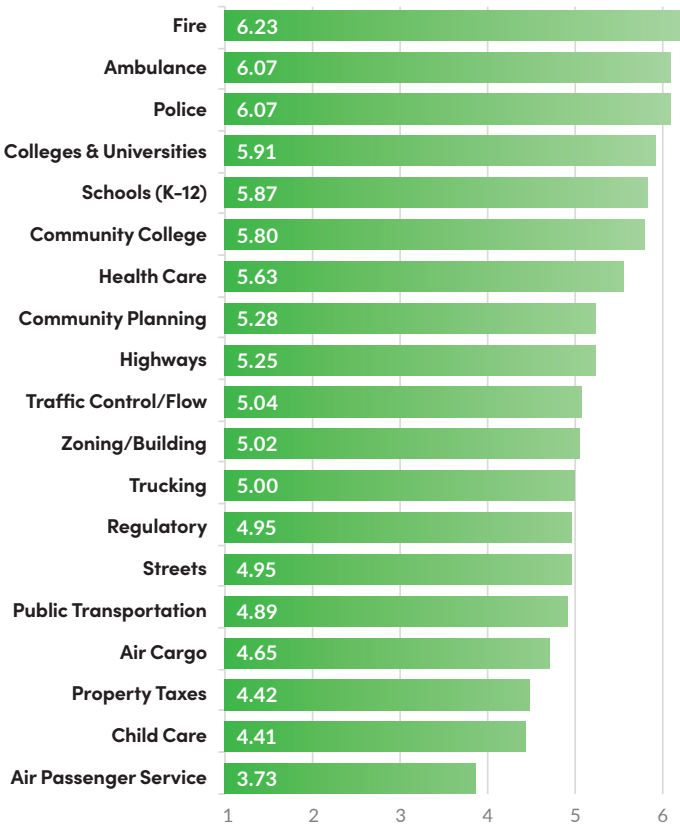
UTILITY SERVICES INDEX – Scales of 1 to 7: 1 is Low, 7 is High



FY 21-22

FY 20-21

PUBLIC SERVICES INDEX – Scales of 1 to 7: 1 is Low, 7 is High



WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS

FY 21-22

FY 20-21

JOB CREATION – Companies planning to add net new jobs in the next 12 months

66% YES

34% NO

59% YES

41% NO

RECRUITMENT CHALLENGES – Companies reporting recruitment challenges

73%

59%

FY 21-22

FY 20-21

EMPLOYMENT BARRIERS – Area businesses ranked the following as barriers for current employees or those seeking employment

1. Child Care
2. Transportation
3. Housing
4. Substance Abuse
5. Criminal History/Background Check
6. Other
7. Elder Care

1. Child Care
2. Transportation
3. Substance Abuse
4. Criminal History/Background Check
5. Other

WAGES – Area businesses report on whether their wages are above average, average, or below average

39% ABOVE AVERAGE
52% AVERAGE
9% BELOW AVERAGE

36% ABOVE AVERAGE
55% AVERAGE
9% BELOW AVERAGE

BENEFITS – Area businesses report on whether their benefits are above average, average, or below average

52% ABOVE AVERAGE
42% AVERAGE
6% BELOW AVERAGE

54% ABOVE AVERAGE
40% AVERAGE
6% BELOW AVERAGE

TOP TAKEAWAYS

- **Workforce continues to dominate the conversation**

Seventy-three percent of companies cited having recruitment challenges (up from last year's 59%)

- **Workforce is listed as both the top barrier to growth and the top weakness of doing business in this region**

- **Companies looking to add net new jobs is up**

66% (FY 21-22) vs. 59% (FY 20-21)

- **Supply-chain issues are real**

This issue has moved into the top three list of barriers to growth (behind workforce and economic uncertainty). In the previous year, during the height of the pandemic, 'regaining customers' held the spot now occupied by supply-chain.

- **Child care concerns continue to grow**

Listed as a top barrier for employees and those seeking employment, child care availability now holds the second lowest score on the community services index, just ahead of commercial air service.

- **Affordable housing is cited as a top community priority**

It is also cited as a growing concern for workforce retention and recruitment.

- **Businesses noted stronger sales levels from previous year**

67% (FY 21-22) vs. 55% (FY 20-21)

- **Forty-nine percent of businesses have plans to expand and invest**

(Investments would include new space, machinery, equipment, technology, or jobs.) This number is down just slightly from last year's 51% noting growth plans.