

PeopleAsk: A Community Survey

Though statistical data presents important insights into the health of our regional economy, it is always wise to balance it with the thoughts and opinions of the community members. As concerned stakeholders in Central Texas' regional economy, your informed opinion provides us with invaluable insight into what really are the key issues and opportunities around us.

We hope you will take a moment to reflect on these issues and share with us your candid feedback. There are no right or wrong answers.

We will present the results during the afternoon lunch break.

Thank you!

Please answer the following questions as they pertain to the Central Texas Regional Economy (i.e., Travis, Caldwell, Bastrop, Hays and Williamson counties).

1. What would you say is the number ONE barrier to equal economic opportunity for all individuals in our region?
 - a. Poor quality or insufficient jobs
 - b. Poor quality or insufficient education
 - c. Poor quality or insufficient affordable housing
 - d. Poor quality or insufficient health care
 - e. Other _____

2. What would you say is the number TWO barrier to equal economic opportunity for our region?
 - a. Poor quality or insufficient jobs
 - b. Poor quality or insufficient education
 - c. Poor quality or insufficient affordable housing
 - d. Poor quality or insufficient health care
 - e. Other _____

EDUCATION AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES

3. How would you rate job opportunities in the region?
 - a. Excellent
 - b. Good
 - c. Fair
 - d. Bad
 - e. I don't know

4. How would you rate current job opportunities for people **with your skills**?
 - a. Excellent
 - b. Good
 - c. Fair
 - d. Bad
 - e. I don't know

5. How do you feel about your education relative to the kinds of jobs that interest you?
 - a. I have enough education
 - b. I have too little education
 - c. I have too much education
 - d. I don't know



6. Given the kinds of jobs that you are qualified for, how do you feel about your ability to earn an income sufficient to support yourself and/or your family?
 - a. I am able to **comfortably** support myself and/or my family
 - b. I am **mostly able** to support myself and/or my family
 - c. I am **barely able** to support myself and/or my family
 - d. I am **not able** to support myself and/or my family

7. Which of the following obstacles do you think is the number ONE challenge for people seeking better job opportunities in the Central Texas region?
 - a. They did not graduate from high-school
 - b. They did not graduate from college
 - c. The schooling they have did not prepare them well for the jobs available
 - d. People from other cities are moving here and taking those jobs
 - e. Other

SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

8. In your opinion, please rate the quality of the regional economy for Small Business?
 - a. An excellent place to own/operate/start a small business
 - b. A good place to own/operate/start a small business
 - c. A bad place to own a small business
 - d. I don't know

9. Which of the following do you think is the number ONE challenge facing small businesses in the current economy?
 - a. Too much competition from other businesses in a tight market
 - b. Stagnant market/no business opportunities
 - c. Unskilled/underskilled labor market
 - d. Not enough credit available from financial institutions for necessary growth
 - e. Insufficient funds for professional/technical assistance, (such as legal, accounting, marketing, or financial services)

10. Which of the following do you think is the number TWO challenge facing small businesses in the current down economy?
 - a. Too much competition from other businesses in a tight market
 - b. Stagnant market/no business opportunities
 - c. Unskilled/underskilled labor market
 - d. Not enough credit available from financial institutions for necessary growth
 - e. Insufficient funds for professional/technical assistance, (such as legal, accounting, marketing, or financial services)

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

11. If you could live anywhere in Central Texas, which type of neighborhood would you prefer:
 - a. An urban, mixed-use area with homes, shops, and restaurants
 - b. A suburban neighborhood with predominantly single-family homes
 - c. A rural area with plenty of land
 - d. None of the above

12. As our city grows and traffic continues to increase, there are many possible solutions. Which of the following proposals would you prefer:
 - a. Improve car use with more and better roads and highways
 - b. Encourage bicycle use with more bicycle lanes and bicycle-friendly laws
 - c. Encourage mass-transit, such as buses, trains, and light rail
 - d. Encourage walking by creating pedestrian-friendly areas with shops and restaurants closer to homes
 - e. I don't know

13. Which of the following do you think is the number ONE challenge to affordable homeownership in the Central Texas region?
- Cost of land makes it difficult to build affordable homes that are desirable (size, location, appearance)
 - Property taxes and property values are too high for low- to moderate-income wages
 - Renters willing to pay top dollar for centrally-located homes keep prices high
 - Affordable homes located too far from job and city centers
 - Other

Finally, we would like some additional information about you to help us with statistical analysis.

14. The number ONE reason I choose to live in Central Texas is:
- Job/educational opportunities
 - It's affordable
 - Family
 - The overall quality of life
 - Other _____

15. Which of the following represents your involvement with the community:
- Local Business Leader
 - Community Member/Neighborhood Advocate
 - Government Employee/Official
 - Non-Profit Organization Employee
 - Other

16. Describe your employment status:
- Employed
 - Unemployed
 - Homemaker
 - Student
 - Retired

17. How old are you?
- Over 65
 - 50-64
 - 30-49
 - Under 30
 - Prefer not to say

18. What is your ethnic background?
- African American
 - Asian
 - Caucasian
 - Hispanic
 - Other

19. How did you hear about the Conference on Economic Opportunity?
- Newspaper Ad
 - Radio/TV
 - Friend/Co-Worker
 - Church/School
 - Other

20. Did you attend PeopleFund's East Austin Economic Summit in previous years?
- Yes
 - No