

Five County Association of Governments

1070 West 1600 South, Building B
St. George, Utah 84770

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**** M E M O R A N D U M ****

TO: ALL STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND INTERESTED PARTIES

FROM: GARFIELD COUNTY COMMISSIONER JERRY TAYLOR, CHAIR

DATE: January 31, 2023

SUBJECT: STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING, AT 1:30 P.M. MST ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2023 IN CEDAR CITY, UTAH

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE WILL BE HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2023 AT 1:30 P.M. MST** AS AN IN-PERSON MEETING. THE MEETING LOCATION IS: **FESTIVAL HALL CONFERENCE CENTER; COMBINED ROOMS 5&6; ADDRESS: 96 NORTH MAIN ST., CEDAR CITY, UTAH.**

LINK TO GOOGLE MAP OF MEETING LOCATION: <https://goo.gl/maps/wbda98LYbKhSVBnx7>

PLEASE NOTE: WHILE IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE BY STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS IS PREFERRED AND ENCOURAGED, ANY STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER MAY PARTICIPATE VIA A ZOOM MEETING, IF NECESSARY, IN ORDER FOR THEM TO JOIN IN THIS MEETING. ALSO, PRESENTERS MAY ALSO BE GRANTED ACCESS TO UTILIZE THIS METHOD, IF NECESSARY. THE PUBLIC MAY PARTICIPATE AS A VIEWER USING THE SAME ZOOM LINK. PLEASE MUTE YOUR AUDIO WHEN JOINING IN.

MATERIALS ARE ATTACHED TO ASSIST BOARD MEMBERS IN PREPARING FOR THIS MEETING AND TO INFORM OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES, SUCH AS MAYORS, OTHER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, CLERKS, AND OTHER OFFICIALS, AND THE PUBLIC OF WHAT WILL BE TAKING PLACE DURING THIS MEETING OF OUR ASSOCIATION'S GOVERNING BODY.

PLEASE REVIEW ALL MATERIALS AND ADDRESS ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS TO THE AOG STAFF, C/O EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BRYAN D. THIRIOT. STAFF WILL THUS BE ABLE TO RESEARCH ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS PRIOR TO THE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO BOARD MEMBER PARTICIPATION IN THIS MEETING IN CEDAR CITY.

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*** A G E N D A ***

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

FESTIVAL HALL CONFERENCE CENTER; COMBINED ROOMS 5&6;
ADDRESS: 96 NORTH MAIN ST., CEDAR CITY, UTAH
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2023
1:30 P.M. MST

ALSO AVAILABLE, IF NEEDED, VIA ZOOM MEETING (SEE ATTACHMENT FOR INFORMATION)

- I. WELCOME BY GARFIELD COUNTY COMMISSIONER JERRY TAYLOR, CHAIR
- II. INTRODUCTION OF NEW STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS
- III. ROTATION OF THE CHAIR & VICE-CHAIR *(clockwise - Kane: Chair, Washington: Vice-Chair)*
- IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE *(Led by invitation of the new Chair)*
- V. MINUTES – JANUARY 11, 2023 - REVIEW AND APPROVE. *(Chair)* [REQUIRES A MOTION & VOTE] {2 minutes}
- VI. REGION'S CIB 3rd TRIMESTER PROJECT APPLICATION REVIEW BY THE STEERING COMMITTEE. *(Gary Zabriskie, Deputy Director, FCAOG)* [REQUIRES A MOTION & VOTE] {3 minutes}
- VII. U.S. DOT GRANT AWARD TO FCAOG – DEVELOP COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY ACTION PLAN (SAFE STREETS FOR ALL). *(Bryan Thiriot, Executive Director, FCAOG)* {5 minutes}
- VIII. STATE OF UTAH – BUSINESS SURVEY UPDATE. *(Bryan Thiriot)* {10 minutes}
- IX. WASHINGTON COUNTY TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL – Opens August 2023. *(LaRene Cox, Dave Gardner, Chris Homer. Washington County School Board Member)* {30 minutes}
- X. WOOD BIOMASS IN REGION - BOARD DISCUSSION / POSSIBLE ACTION. *(Chair)* [ACTION REQUIRES A MOTION & VOTE] {10-15 minutes}
- XI. UTAH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - ON-GOING DISCUSSION. *(Board)* {10 minutes}
- XII. CONGRESSIONAL STAFF UPDATES. {15 minutes}
- XIII. STATE AGENCY UPDATES. {5 minutes}
- XIV. UNIVERSITIES AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES UPDATES. {15 minutes}
- XV. LOCAL AFFAIRS DISCUSSION, IF NEEDED. {5 minutes}
- XVI. ADJOURN. [CHAIR'S PREROGATIVE TO CALL THE MEETING ADJOURNED]

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program: Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities by calling Jen Wong, Human Resources Director, (435)673-3548 ext. 127. Individuals with speech and/or hearing impairments may call Relay Utah by dialing 711. For Spanish Relay Utah call: 1(888)346-3162.

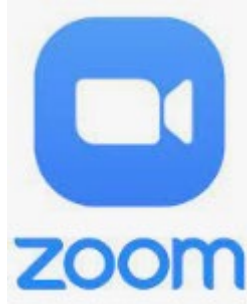
BEAVER

GARFIELD

IRON

KANE

WASHINGTON



ZOOM MEETING

Board Members, and presenters, may utilize the link to participate in the meeting. Members of the public may utilize the ZOOM video conference, in order to view the meeting.

Here is the ZOOM meeting information:

Topic: Steering Committee

Time: Wednesday, February 8, 2023 at 1:30 PM MST

Join ZOOM meeting via direct link:

<https://zoom.us/j/98697043631?pwd=MWIVYStsd0dDdlpQQUE3NzkyZW5lUT09>

If joining from the Zoom app you may use the following:

Meeting ID: 986 9704 3631

Passcode: 12345

AGENDA ITEM #V.

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[DRAFT MINUTES – TO BE APPROVED ON FEBRUARY 8, 2023]

MINUTES FIVE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2023 at 1:30 P.M.

MEETING HELD AT: FESTIVAL HALL; COMBINED ROOMS 5&6; 105 N. 100 E., CEDAR CITY, UTAH.

MEETING WAS ALSO BROADCAST TO THE PUBLIC VIA A ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE IN-PERSON

Commissioner Jerry Taylor, Chair
Commissioner Gil Almqvist
Commissioner Wade Hollingshead
Commissioner Celeste Meyeres
Hurricane City Mayor Nanette Billings
Milford City Mayor Nolan Davis
Tyler Fails
Commissioner Paul Cozzens
Escalante City Mayor Melani Torgersen
Henrie Walton (ex-officio, non-voting member)

REPRESENTING

Garfield County Commission
Washington County Commission
Beaver County Commission
Kane County Commission
Washington Co. Mayor's Representative
Beaver County Mayor's Representative
Beaver County School Board
Iron County Commission
Garfield County Mayor's Representative
Dixie State University

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Bryan Thiriot
Gary Zabriskie
Nate Wiberg
Cindy Bulloch
Heath Hansen
Kyle Wilson

REPRESENTING

Five County AOG Executive Director
Five County AOG Deputy Dir./Chief Technology Officer
Five County Senior Planner
Congressman Chris Stewart
Senator Mike Lee
Senator Mitt Romney

BEAVER

GARFIELD

IRON

KANE

WASHINGTON

AGENDA ITEM I. WELCOME BY CHAIR.

At 1:30 p.m. sharp, Garfield County Commissioner Jerry Taylor, as Steering Committee Chair, after recognizing that there were nine members in attendance, welcomed everyone to the Five County Association of Governments Steering Committee meeting. It was noted that the Association Bylaws require a quorum present, which is at least eight voting members, in order to conduct a meeting.

Prior to moving into the meeting the Chair asked the Steering Committee's newest member, Kane County Commissioner Celeste Meyeres, to introduce herself. Commissioner Meyeres explained that prior to being elected and sworn in as a Kane County commissioner she had previously been on the city planning commission for Kanab, which is the county seat and then moved onto city council about five years ago. She said that she started on the commission just last week and thanked everyone for letting her be there, and said she was super thrilled to have this assignment. The Chair said that the Board appreciates that she has already been very active from the day that she was elected. He said that he and Commissioner Meyeres had been in several recent discussions, and that Commissioner Meyeres had followed outgoing Kane County Commissioner Andy Gant around and has been involved with Garfield County, so she has already hit the ground running, which is good for us. Commissioner Meyeres said that Commissioner Gant had been very gracious about onboarding her.

Mr. Bryan Thiriot, Executive Director, mentioned that Mr. Henrie Walton was in attendance in the audience, and stated that as a formal member of the Steering Committee, Mr. Walton may participate at the table. Mr. Gary Zabriskie, Deputy Director, explained that Mr. Walton is an ex-officio non-voting member. Mr. Walton took a seat at the table with the other board members.

AGENDA ITEM II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

The Chair then asked its newest member, Commissioner Celeste Meyeres to lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ITEM III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 9, 2022 MEETING AND DECEMBER 29, 2022 MEETING.

The Chair asked if everyone had a chance to read those minutes, and if they had any questions, comments, or concerns? He then called for a motion for approval of the minutes for the previous two meetings, the November 9, 2022 and December 29, 2022 Steering Committee meetings.

Commissioner Gil Almquist moved to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mayor Nanette Billings.

The Chair, after asking for any needed discussion, and seeing there was none, called for a vote.

The vote of the members was unanimous in the affirmative to approve the minutes as presented.

AGENDA ITEM IV. UTAH LEGISLATURE PREVIEW / BOARD DISCUSSION.

The Chair explained that this agenda item is an open item amongst the members of the Board about what bills anyone knows about that are coming. He said that they had a Utah Association of

Counties (UAC) meeting that morning where they talked about everything. He indicated that there is a place that one can go online and can track the bills. He said that for county commissioners, they have a place on UAC's website tracking bills, and the Legislature's own website.

Commissioner Wade Hollingshead said that one bill he is aware of is one that will affect every county, if it becomes law. He said it is the Recorder Bill where there is a potential for a recorder to be appointed by the state. He said that there is a real frustration from the recorder in their county saying it is not a good idea, in her opinion. The Commissioner said he did not know how all the rest of the counties feel about this prospect, but he said that he agrees with their county's recorder that they need to keep that as local control. The Chair said that his county will push back on that bill. Commissioner Paul Cozzens asked if that would change it from being an elected position to someone hired by the state? Mr. Bryan Thiriot, Executive Director of the Association, said that it would be a state office.

The Chair commented that he had heard that there are a couple of counties up north that each do things a little bit different, and it upsets the realtors. Commissioner Almquist said he heard that it all stems from a couple of cases where something was recorded, when someone comes in and they record what they asked to have recorded, but somebody did not like the fact that there was some information that they did not want anybody in the public to see. No one was aware of who was running this bill, but Commissioner Hollingshead said he would look into it. Mr. Bryan Thiriot also mentioned that this was also brought up with the economic development meeting at UAC last week. The Chair stated that his county will push back on it because they do not want that to happen in Garfield County.

Mayor Nanette Billings said that there are three bills, for issues that they are looking into, that would probably affect some in Washington County. One bill involves EMS services, where any town that is in a third class through fifth class county, can participate in EMS to help fund the emergency services and fire districts. She said that in the Hurricane Valley they have a challenge with their fire district with having enough funding. She explained that with a national park and two state parks they see a lot of service calls for EMS. She said what is proposed is to expand the EMS funding to cities in a second-class county to have that. She said that there are a couple of legislators that are helping with that to draft a bill. She explained that a second bill is for new interoperable radios for the police and they have to pay \$275,000 for them, and that is mandatory that they have that by this coming year. She said that is a lot of money for smaller communities to have to pay. She said the final one that they are working on is the corridor fund, which would probably just affect the road to Sand Hollow State Park, a city road, which she explained is probably the only road in southern Utah, or in Utah, that goes to a state park that is fully within a city. She said that the City needs to widen that road, because they get millions of visitors, and there is not enough room, and it is dependent on the city to make it wider, and also needs turning lanes in both directions. Commissioner Almquist mentioned that the 2021 visitation count for Sand Hollow State Park was 2.5 million visitors.

Commissioner Meyeres mentioned that she would very much like to see uses of Transient Room Taxes (TRT) to include fire protection, but also said that is a short-term low-hanging-fruit fix. She said that the larger fix in fixing this mess, where 47% of TRT funding has to go back into promotions and the tourism establishment, which just gets the counties into the cycle of they have to do tourism, because that is the only thing they are allowed to do in their little county anymore. She said then all the money that we get from tourism (47% of the money) has to go back into getting

more tourism, So they cannot get under that boot of tourism that is on our neck and we cannot get out from under it. She said that what needs to happen is there needs to be an adjustment in the ratios to be slanted less towards marketing. She said she would love to see 25%/75% split, but maybe 60%/40% is more realistic.

The Chair said that Garfield County struggles with the amount of visitors that they have coming into Garfield County, things like the garbage collection that they have to deal with. He said that with all of the visitors coming in, a lot of times, they buy their goods somewhere else and then they come in, they play around, and then as they leave, they leave all their garbage with us. He did say that they do love having them there, because that is what we have now, but the County does not get the benefit of them buying their groceries and everything here. He said that they may get a tank of gas going out, but we do get all the garbage to properly dispose of, but with all of the other stuff that the County has to do like search and rescue, law enforcement, etc., it is tough. He said that there needs to be some equity there. He said that the county has all these people coming in, camping, parking, recreating, so there is a large amount of stuff that goes on that the County is in charge of, and they have to take care of, so there needs to be some type of compensation back to the counties, and back to rural Utah and gateway communities. He mentioned that within Garfield County, or nearby, they have three national parks, three state parks, the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument, and the Glen Canyon National Recreational Area. He said that in Garfield County, with 3% of the land left in private ownership, it is a challenge. He said that they could probably talk about public lands forever but asked if there was anything left that was not covered. Seeing none, the Chair moved the meeting onto the next agenda item.

AGENDA ITEM V. FIVE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDs) UPDATE.

The Chair turned the time over to Mr. Nate Wiberg, Senior Planner at the Association, to discuss the status of the Five County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) update. Mr. Wiberg explained that this is a regional plan and the AOG staff has been on this plan for a while trying to get input from the economic development directors, or those who are tasked with economic development, from all of the five counties, and from whoever else will give comments. He said that staff is reaching out to them, and they are on our advisory committee. He said the Association staff has been working very closely with the state of Utah, which is working on a statewide economic development strategy. He said that the state wants to pull information that is a little more locally generated, so the Association staff has been polling our advisory committees and inviting people from the steering committee to come to our CEDs plan meetings. He said there is going to be the third and last meeting the following week on January 19th at the Dixie Tech campus up on the bluff in St. George and the Association is hoping to get the last bit of the feedback for the state plan. He said that Camoin Associates, the economic development consulting firm who was selected by the state, and has been working on the CEDs for the state, will pull it all together, and we will have a statewide plan. He said that some of the data they have already pulled they have given to us for local use as well.

Mr. Wiberg explained to the Board that the Five County Association of Governments is an EDA Economic Development District, also known as an EDD, and one of the main goals of EDDs is to coordinate locally with all of the commissioners, the mayors, the economic development staff, and really anybody who is involved with economic development in the region, and put together the CEDs. He said that is the main goal, because putting together the CEDs allows our region to use

EDA grants. He said without that document, and without being an EDD, we cannot access those EDA funds. He said they just had a phone call with the Denver region EDA staff, who work with Utah, to talk a little bit about those grants. Mr. Wiberg told those in attendance that if anyone has a project idea, to get in contact so we can find out if that project is eligible. He said that the Denver staff is great to work with right now. He said they do not want a jurisdiction to go through a whole application process just to find out that a particular project is ineligible, so they will be very upfront with entities about that. Mr. Wiberg said that the Association will probably be going to the public comment phase of the CEDS document development in August and have it wrapped up before the end of the year, and of course the staff will bring it to this body again, because the Steering Committee is the Executive Committee for the EDD, so it has to come to it for its review. Mr. Wiberg said that the CEDS document does not have to be approved, or anything like that, but we want to let the EDD Executive Committee be aware of what is in it and just give us their okay.

Mr. Wiberg then mentioned that the Association does have an economic development website: <https://fivecountyecon.org> that has some information. He said that mainly right now it hosts the plans that we do. He said that the CEDS is a document that creates space for the region to identify its strengths and weaknesses, and brings together a diverse set of partners to generate good jobs. He said that is the whole goal, to create jobs. He said that through the CEDS we are trying to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats, and hopefully it will develop into projects that we can apply to EDA for.

Mr. Thiriot said a number of projects that took place in this region are because of the role of the Five County Association of Governments, being the EDD, that allows cities, counties, and universities to make an application with the EDA. He said that one of those applications was Atwood Innovation Plaza, which is probably the most recent one. He said because of that EDA grant, it was able to really lift off and get going. He said that in addition to that Innovation Plaza grant for equipment, there was an additional University Center grant that Utah Tech partnered with SUU. He said that the University Center grant is still ongoing and provides funding for economic development activity across the Five County region. He said those are just a few examples.

Mr. Wiberg said that there is an airport connecting road, that was done way before his time here at the Association, that took place at the Cedar City airport. Mr. Zabriskie said that he knows quite a bit about that project, which assisted the expansion of the CyberJet plant in Cedar City. He said the EDA funding provided for a paved connection that went across from their private jet manufacturing facility east of the airport runway to the airport and included a bridge over a canal and some other things, like a gate to roll the aircraft through so they could get the newly built aircraft to the airport runway. He said that the project was an EDA funded project, and it was a big deal for this area. Mr. Zabriskie also mentioned that there was EDA funding in the industrial area of Hurricane which became home to the large Walmart Distribution Center and other large warehouses and businesses. He said that project was one that the late John Williams, former executive director of the Association, worked with the City of Hurricane to do that business park. Mr. Zabriskie said that park was called Gateway at the time, but he is not sure if it is still called that, but that is what it was originally called. He said that the EDA funding for that was to help put infrastructure in for that, to get water and sewer lines extended, and all that kind of stuff, to that area. He said that area is massive now and houses many jobs and there is new development going in now, and eventually there is going to be a new freeway interchange on I-15 at the north end of the industrial park.

Mr. Wiberg finished by saying that our goal is to start getting more EDA investment into our region, so we are really trying to be a little more proactive. He said that this is why the Association held the meeting last week with the Denver EDA staff, so our region's people can better understand the grants. He said that it is not typical, like with the CIB and CDBG, where you come to the Association staff to apply for those grants. With EDA, you go directly to EDA, but the Association's community and economic development staff can really help facilitate necessary meetings with and the application process. He said that if a region is not an EDA Economic Development District, you cannot go to EDA, so that is why it is so important that we are a district here.

AGENDA ITEM VI. FOREST SERVICE WOODY BIOMASS / FOREST PRODUCTS UPDATE.

The Chair turned the time for this agenda item over to Mr. Wiberg and Mr. Thiriot to discuss biomass. Mr. Wiberg said that there are four grants available through biomass products: Community Wood Grant; Wood Innovation Grant; Wood Products Infrastructure Assistance; and Firewood Banks.

Mr. Thiriot said that the U.S. Forest Service held a meeting in Richfield the previous day on the topic of biomass and using wood products. He said that he and Mr. Wiberg Zoomed into the meeting. He said that they wanted to learn more about what was happening in that realm of forest products. He said that they want to be able to help the Steering Committee keep tabs on what is going on. He said that this is an important industry for our region and there are those grants that are available through the Forest Service. He said that there have only been only a few investments in Utah, but we would like to see some in our region.

Mr. Wiberg said that he is happy to, since he does not know a ton about this, to get the PowerPoint slides to the Steering Committee members, or even get the individual who presented this information to come and talk to you a little bit more about it. The Chair mentioned that part of the problem with anything to do with forest products is that until you get a 20-year guarantee of material, nobody is going to want to invest. He said that the Forest Service says that we put out all this green timber now for people to bid on, and they do not bid on it. He said that is because we do not have mills anymore that will cut green timber. Mr. Thiriot said that one industry that was looking at biomass is one that is actually happening, and said he wants to learn more about it. He said they are creating jet fuel out of this product, and this was his first time to hear of it and see that it is actually happening. He said that the individual who was speaking about that was from Montana and said that he and Mr. Wiberg will follow-up on that and find out how they did it. Mr. Wiberg said that there is also going to be a grant opportunity for doing a revolving loan fund for smaller companies to be able to get smaller equipment for this industry. He said he does not know if it is going to be the state, or the region, or what, but they are going to be doing a revolving loan fund.

The Chair said that in a lot of the forest right now they go in and burn it, trying to control things by burning it. He said that there are companies around like the Daltons from Piute County that are willing to go and take all of that and chop it up and shred it up into shavings to send to the turkey farms. He asked a rhetorical question that "instead of taxpayers paying the Forest Service to go in and burn that, why don't they just give somebody that material to a private firm, if they will go in and clean that out?" He said that they will make money off of that material and will also create jobs in the communities with that material. He said that it just does not make sense to him that the government is putting this on the expense side of the financial statement, when that material could

be creating jobs and opportunities within local rural communities. He said this affects each one of us. Mr. Wiberg said that the person who is going to be running this program is Bergen Eskildsen, with the Utah Department of Natural Resources – Forestry, Fire, and State Lands. He told the Chair that he could set up a meeting with Mr. Eskildsen with the Chair and Mr. Thiriot. Mr. Thiriot said it would be good for the Steering Committee if we could have him come to a future meeting.

Mr. Wiberg said that he thinks the goal with this program is that they are trying to get companies who could use some of this biomass to be able to just come and get it, so we need to somehow connect the dots. The Chair said that we have so much of it in the forest right now, that is so overgrown, and that it is hurting the watershed, it is hurting everything. He said to look at what the Brian Head fire did to Panguitch alone. Mr. Wiberg said that the Association staff is willing to put together meetings.

Mayor Billings asked about the loan fund that was talked about and whether that will be for private businesses, or will that be for the municipalities? Mr. Wiberg said was not sure. He said it is either going to be like the state, or the AOGs, that are going to be running that new revolving loan fund, but thinks it is going to be more for industry like small businesses. Mr. Thiriot said he just took a screenshot of it, and as we get the slide deck, we will forward it onto the Committee members. He said that it is called the “Rural Opportunity Program - Rural Communities Opportunity Loan” and it is a \$21 million revolving loan fund. He said that the slides say that the rural community will need demonstrate it has exhausted all other means of securing funding from the state of Utah and that the loan, not more than 0.5% above bond market interest rates, is available to counties and communities, including communities of less than 10,000 in second class counties. He said that the fund is not currently open right now, but more information will be coming as it opens up. Mr. Thiriot said that we are just kind of letting you know. Mr. Wiberg said that we will keep an eye on it for you. The Chair asked Commissioner Cozzens what kind of a turnout did the meeting the night before. Commissioner Cozzens said there was about 75 in attendance. Ms. Cindy Bulloch, with Congressman Chris Stewart’s office, said that there were a lot more governmental people than industry people in attendance. Commissioner Meyeres said that maybe those people can help disseminate that information so that the word gets out.

Mr. Zabriskie brought up the defederalization of our revolving loan fund that we have had at the Association, which was EDA funded way back in 1987. He said that it has been defederalized and he rebranded it last year to be the “*Southwest Utah Microloan Program - established by the Five County Association of Governments*”, and it can provide loans of up \$50,000 for either startup businesses, or expanding small businesses. He said it is not bound by any of those old federal rules, or anything like that, and he is the one that approves the loans, now that we do not have to have a formal loan board, which was a requirement of the federal government back then. He said that he has done, in the last year or so, six new microloans, most of them were at the \$50,000 maximum, with a few much smaller than that. He said that one was for \$15,000 for equipment for a food trailer that was in St. George that they shipped it over from China where the fire suppression system that was inside did not meet the fire code here. He said they had to have a company over here retrofit it and they came in for a loan for \$10,000. When they came for the microloan, I asked what funds are they going to use to buy their initial food with? He said that they responded saying that they had not thought about that just yet. Mr. Zabriskie said that he loaned them some additional funds as working capital to buy their initial food inventory. He said that they then went to all kinds of different local public events. He said that he did not know if any of the Committee had seen the trailer, but it was a Chinese Food trailer and is bright yellow. The owners, unfortunately, had to

move up north, so they sold the business down here and I got repaid, but it is still here. Mr. Zabriskie said that if anyone knows of anybody that has a small business that wants to get started, to not send them to him first. He said to send them up to DixieTech, to the Small Business Development Center, and have them see Mr. Jeff Mather. Mr. Zabriskie said that Mr. Mather is a filter because the Microloan Program here is only a small portion of his work at Five County, not the only thing. He said that he could spend all day just dealing with microloans. He said that Mr. Mather filters the ones that have a good business plan, one that makes sense, and the business isn't a dog. Mr. Zabriskie said that if you have ever taken a finance professional education course, you learn to determine if a prospective borrower's business proposal is a dog. He said that if you determine it is a dog, you don't touch it because you don't know if it's going to bite your hand off. He said Mr. Mather will filter the "dogs" out, and just send to me the "good ones", and I then review them. We then can both concur that, yes, this one, or that one, makes sense. Then our program funds it. Mr. Zabriskie mentioned again that the maximum microloan amount is \$50,000. He said that rather than doing one \$200,000 loan like we used to do as an RLF, he would rather do four \$50,000 microloans.

Mr. Thiriot said that we will bring back more information on that new loan program once they have it. The Chair said for everyone to be proactive in all of this. He said everyone needs to push this forest products biomass matter and thinks there are jobs for southern Utah in that. He finished by saying that it will also improve the environment, the watershed, and almost everything. He finished by saying: "Let's push it".

AGENDA ITEM VII. CONGRESSIONAL STAFF UPDATES.

The Chair turned the time over for Congressional Updates.

Ms. Cindy Bulloch with Congressman Chris Stewart's office said that the House is in session and said they are working after an interesting vote for Speaker of the House. She said that they were supposed to, and are hoping to, know by the end of business that day what committees everyone will be on. She said that they were not expecting changes with Congressman Stewart, but they will wait to see. She said that they did pass a bill to get rid of the 87,000 IRS agents, but now it is up to the Senate. She said that it probably will not pass, but it was at least a statement. She said that other than that, we are reintroducing bills that they were working on last year, one of which is this ambulance EMS bill that is going to help some of these smaller communities for equipment. She said if there is a community with a small population and a large visitor count they will get more points to be able to buy ambulances. She said that right now it is not fire trucks, but they are hoping for that, and it might get to that. She said that this bill has not been introduced yet in this but said she will keep the Steering Committee informed. She said that they are working and it is early in the new session and they will soon see where it is going. She told the Steering Committee members to reach out to the Congressman's staff if they have any questions. She said they are watching things from the state level and said if there are things that you need something similar, or parallel, for the feds, to let them know because they can introduce that as well. She said they are closely watching a lot of the water related matters. She said that new Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rules were passed out at the last minute on December 30th and there is a pending lawsuit. She said they were really hoping that they would not pass that out until they had the decision from the Supreme Court. But it has been, and said that they will watch that and see what happens.

Commissioner Meyeres brought up a matter that she said is just horrible, in her opinion, which is a federal overreach from the current administration, that is impacting our small businesses. She said

that small businesses across America are being harassed about census, and surveys, and things like that where the feds will send communication after communication trying to get the businesses to report every single thing about the business. She said it is essentially an audit. She said that the other thing that is happening is there is a new requirement to make sure that your bank is lined up with your EIN, supposedly just for the security and safety of everyone, but it is just so they can know every single thing about you. She said that any pushback on that by the Congressman would be so appreciated.

Ms. Bulloch asked where these communications came from, so that they can look into it on their side. Commissioner Meyeres said they are from the Census Bureau, and they just send them out every now and again and ask how many employees you have, or whatever, but now basically since Biden went into office, have been incredibly persistent, and just spending a ton of money trying to get this information from people.

Mr. Kyle Wilson with Senator Mitt Romney's office said that the Senate is out of session until January 23rd. He said that Senator Romney is part of a bipartisan group of eight senators to send a letter to Interior Secretary Deb Haaland urging her to withdraw some guidance impeding energy projects in the Intermountain West. He said that is something that they currently are knee deep in. He said that like Congressman Stewart's staff, they are also watching the WOTUS rule that was issued on the 30th. He said that they were also hoping that there would be a decision in the Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency case before that came about, but that did not happen, so there is a lot in flux there. He said that the WOTUS rules are terrifying for farmers and ranchers and he said he is personally concerned about it. He said it was something that Senator Romney was pushing back on at the end of the last session. He did say that the Senate did get some pretty cool stuff across the finish line. He said that PILT was funded in its entirety. He said that \$1 billion in funding was provided for wildfire fuels reduction, watershed projects, and landscape-size projects which are 100,000 to 200,000 acre projects that are really going to move the needle in terms of forest and watershed ecology in southern Utah. He said that they are happy about that. He brought up the matter of all of the international climate agreements. He said that China is treated as a developing nation, so they are not held to the same standards that the United States is. He said that they got a bill across the finish line that would help change China's designation as a developing nation because they are the biggest polluter on the planet, yet the U.S. are being held to the fire, where theirs are not. He said that along those lines, is a bill to decrease dependence on critical minerals from China and Russia and develop that industry domestically. He said, lastly, as it pertains to rural hospitals in southern Utah, two Medicare programs were expanded that we hope will also move the deal for health care in this area.

Commissioner Cozzens said he recently saw a news article where military members who refused vaccines were removed and there was a vote to require the military to reinstate them, and wanted Mr. Wilson to explain the Senator's vote on that. Mr. Wilson said that he would have to ask, and would get back to Commissioner Cozzens personally. Mayor Billings said she would also like to know about that as well.

Mayor Billings asked Mr. Wilson about the six different energy bills that they are putting forth. She said that she wants to see Congress loosen up energy right now as it is because of supply and demand that prices are so high. She said that there are some real issues here in Utah, like their municipality which is part of the IPA in Delta, Utah and they are using all they are entitled to. She said that even though it is transitioning between coal and natural gas, which is going to give the

users way less energy, it is still something. She said that they are worried because they are part of this nuclear power plant that is going to be built in Idaho, but they do not have enough generation. Mr. Wilson said he agreed and said that it is important to Senator Romney, and the Senator spent a lot of time on energy, specifically in August 2022, but there was not a piece of legislation, in particular, that he can refer to. He said that there has been some pushback from a bipartisan group of senators saying this is not sustainable energy-wise. Mr. Wilson said he was up at 4:00 a.m. that morning reading that the environmentalists want to ban gas cooktops in kitchens, so he said that the attack on fossil fuels continues. Commissioner Cozzens said that the environmentalists want them to go to electricity, but they are tearing down our coal-fired power plants.

Mayor Billings said that we really need to push back against the EV (electric vehicle) tide. She said it is just not sustainable. Mr. Wilson said he agreed that in no way, shape, or form is it sustainable. He said it does not pencil out and is pie in the sky and they are aware of that, and the Senator is aware of that.

Commissioner Almquist said it is not necessarily a Congressional appropriation, but thinks it was more from the executive side for a \$25 million study of the Great Salt Lake. He said that they have already studied the water clear out of it. He opined that the \$25 million could build something that would really do something. He said he does not want a bunch of “think tanks” employed to waste that money by saying stuff everyone already knows.

Mr. Wilson said this is more relevant to north of the Great Salt Lake, but there are some proposals for fallowing agricultural land and paying those producers a per-acre fee for sending that or for keeping that water in the stream, which he said he thinks is a terrible idea for a couple of reasons: one, because he said he is a farmer and loves agriculture; two, because we all need to eat; and three, because we do not know if that is going to make a difference. He said that we have reduced the use of water in the agriculture community to such a degree, and it has not helped, obviously, because the Great Salt Lake is still having level and salinity problems. He said that hopefully that study funds real solutions, because the pie in the sky ones, like fallowing agriculture ground in Box Elder County, where there is no data to support that it will make any difference, whatsoever. He said it will destroy communities.

The Chair gave an example of his experience with water in the state of Utah. He said that he owns a business that sits on about eight acres in West Jordan, Utah, in an industrial park. He said that the City makes him, out of that eight acres, to plant so much lawn and so many trees in an industrial park. He said that they made him tear out four parking spots and plant trees in those parking spots in an industrial park. He said we are wasting water trying to green up an industrial park, and it is crazy what we are doing, and yet they tell you to conserve water, but your communities have in their planning and zoning that it has to have so much lawn, so many trees. He said that it is ridiculous.

Mr. Wilson said that he hopes that study finds some real data driven solutions, because the solutions that we are coming up with now are harmful, and we have no idea if they will work.

Commissioner Almquist said that we do know that certain nozzles on overhead agricultural spray irrigation do effectively work, and so they should buy \$25 million of those, for the farmers who are being told what to do, so they can grow the same amount of alfalfa, or whatever they are growing, and use about 25% to 30% less water.

Mayor Billings suggested secondary water systems and explained that most communities do not have them. She said they use culinary water inside and secondary for outside water, so that would be something that would really benefit.

The Chair said that he is pushing right now the reservoir restoration plan in the state of Utah for us to go in and improve our reservoirs, fix them up, clean them out, take care of it where we can store more water, to help our communities. He said that water is the key to the west. He said that we need to all get on board with that, and take care of that, and start using water and looking to the future, and, if not, our reservoirs are going to be full of silt, our forests are going to be overgrown, and we are going to be out of business in Utah, especially the farmers and ranchers. He said even in little communities like Escalante, we fight for every ounce of water we can get, and every time you turn around, there is a state agency that says, oh, no, you can't do this, and no, you can't do that. He said that is just baloney. He said that we have all got to look to the future and be a little bit forward thinking about what we are doing, and we need to take care of that, especially our water.

Commissioner Meyeres said that is especially the case with some of the smaller aquifers. She said that with Lake Powell, her understanding is they have the opposite problem, where there are things that have floated down to the bottom, minerals and things like that, that they don't want to disturb, because if they disturb it, then it becomes a cleanup site for that particular reservoir. She said that there is a fight to maybe not dredge up all that stuff and then have it become a cleanup site.

Commissioner Almquist said that from this study we just do not want a stack of papers 3 feet high, we want actual boots on your ground sort of stuff, not just words. The Chair added that we want to see bricks and mortar.

Mr. Heath Hansen, with Senator Mike Lee's office said that the Senate has not started its work yet. He said it will be back in session on the 23rd, so that means the Senators have not officially received committee assignments, but said that Senator Lee anticipates that he will remain on the same committees which are the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, where he will continue to be the ranking member of the Public Land Subcommittee. Mr. Hansen said that Senator Lee will be on the Judiciary Committee, as well as on the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee. Mayor Billings asked if the Senator was off of the Antitrust Committee? Mr. Hansen said that Senator Lee is still the ranking member of Antitrust, and he thinks that that is the Senator's favorite committee because he likes doing employer stuff. He said that Senator Lee will continue with many of the things he has been pushing like NEPA reforms, the "Houses Act" and the online protections for minors, things like that, but he is always looking for new ideas. Mr. Hansen said if you have got any ideas, if you see problems that you think could be fixed with legislation, please get in touch. He said that is because the Senator is always looking for new ideas, new things to cause trouble with up on the Hill with the Energy Natural Resources Committee. He said that there is a Democrat Senator from Nevada who has a big Nevada public lands bill and a Republican Senator from Wyoming who has a big Wyoming public lands bill that may want to get passed. He said that this may create an opportunity for a larger public lands package which is what they are starting to talk about doing more in this Congress. He said that typically these do not happen until the end of the Congress, so it may not happen for a couple of years when this Congress is about to wind down. Mr. Hansen said that he just wanted to put this out on your radar screens that there may be an opportunity for a public lands package, centered around these two bigger Nevada and Wyoming pieces. Mr. Hansen said that they would love to make sure that Utah gets some priorities in a bill

like that as well. He said that there was no rush or anything, but just to keep that in the back of your mind. He said that if there are public lands related issues, land transfers, land disposals that you think might be a good idea, be making a note, and get in touch with him. He said that there is no guarantee this will happen, and if it does, it probably will not happen for a little while, but just know now that there soon may be an opportunity that comes up during this Congress. Mr. Hansen brought up the fact that the current administration is also gearing up to redo the Sage Grouse regulations. He said they were going to address that last year, but they did not get to it, so they are aiming for summer of this year to release their initial Draft Environmental Impact Statement. He said that it will most likely look a lot like the 2015 Sage Grouse rules that the Obama administration promulgated that were not good for rural Utah. He said these new proposed rules may actually contain even stricter regulations, if we are reading the tea leaves correctly in this administration. He said they will be watching that one very closely when that draft EIS hits. He said if what is suspected to appear in the draft EIS occurs, it will require a redo of a lot of the local BLM Resource Management Plans here in Utah. Mr. Hansen said in one sense that kind of gives us an advantage, because the local BLM offices will have to go through public notice and comment, so we will all have opportunities to weigh in, and the process can be a long one. He said to just be on the lookout for that. He said that if you couple that with WOTUS, and all the other stuff this administration is doing, rural Utah could be in a world of hurt. He said that on that same vein, the ozone transport rule that the EPA is promulgating, that in Washington County, Dixie Power is extremely concerned about that bill. He said Colorado is blaming Utah for a lot of the pollution that is showing up in Denver and so they are trying to find a justification to shut down even more of our coal fired power plants. Mr. Tyler Fails asked how do they decide where the pollution they have comes from? Mr. Hansen said that they say it is science. Commissioner Cozzens asked if it is really just California pollution passing through Utah? The Chair said that that brings up a good point, and we ought to monitor the air along the Utah-Nevada border and see how much of that pollution is coming from Nevada and California, before we do anything with Colorado.

Mr. Kyle Wilson commented that it does not account for any discharges from wildfires, for example, so it is a really stupid idea. Mr. Hansen said he knows that there is already talk at the state legislature about providing some funding to the Attorney General's office to fight this legally. He said that the EPA has until March 23rd of this year to either decide whether they are going to accept, or reject, Utah's plan, which they previously said wasn't strong enough, and if they confirm that ruling, they will impose a much stricter federal implementation plan. Mayor Billings said that Craig Miles has been working on this and wondered if there could be some collaboration there. Mr. Hansen said that we need to get collaboration, not just within Utah, but also other states like Wyoming that are going to suffer from this as well, and he knows that is being worked on. Mr. Hansen said that Senator Lee is having conversations with Wyoming Senator Barrasso back in DC to try to form an alliance to stand up to this. Mr. Hansen said that the last thing he will mention is the matter of Navy Lieutenant Ridge Alkonis who was serving in Japan. He said that over the fall Lt. Alkonis was with his family and they were driving up a mountain and he blacked out from an acute illness caused when one gets too high up in altitude. He said that when Lt. Alkonis blacked out, his family car hit another family, a Japanese family, and killed members of that family. He said Lt. Alkonis was prosecuted in Japanese court and they sentenced him to three years in a Japanese prison. Mr. Hansen said that Senator Lee has been working very closely with the Japanese government and with the Biden administration, and also Rahm Emanuel, former Governor of Illinois, who is the current U.S. Ambassador to Japan, trying to arrange some way to get Lt. Alkonis home before his three year sentence. He said they are engaging in talks about prisoner swaps, things like that. Mr. Hansen said that up to this point, Lt. Alkonis has been relying on leave time

because he is no longer considered on active duty, as he is in prison, and his active duty status expired on December 28th. Mr. Hansen said that Lt. Alkonis and his family were going to be left without pay and benefits. He said that Senator Lee was able to, as part of the government funding measure that just passed, get an amendment passed that will continue the pay and the benefits to Lt. Alkonis and his family. He said that Senator Lee did not vote for the overall bill, but the silver lining for him was that he was able to secure some funding for this Lieutenant that is currently in prison over in Japan.

Commissioner Cozzens brought up that he had talked to Mr. Hansen the previous night at the Forest Service meeting in Richfield about “LEED Certified” buildings, which he said are supposedly “environmentally-friendly” buildings. He said that, in his opinion, they are a scam, and cost the taxpayers about 10% more money. He said, as an example, a \$100 million hospital that is LEED Certified is probably going to cost \$10 million more. He said that in his industry, the cabinet industry, there is something called FSC or Forest Stewardship Council. He said what it is is a chain of custody so when the timber guy cuts down the tree, he creates a paper, and they have a chain of custody, a paper trail, all the way to where they mill the product and install it, and it costs us about twice as much money for that raw material. He said that it is a scam, and we need to get away from it. Commissioner Cozzens said that Mr. Hansen had told him that a lot of this stuff gets crammed through in these 50,000 page congressional bills that nobody reads, and the Commissioner said that we have got to start pushing back against the environmentalists because they are fleecing the taxpayer, and the environmentalists are getting rich off of this crap. He said that there might be a few things with windows, such as UV filtering and things like that, so there might be some good aspects, but in his industry, he said it is a scam, and we have got to figure out a way to get away from that stuff.

Mayor Billings asked about what Senator Lee was doing in regard to judicial reform? Mr. Hansen said that would be a state issue. He said that Senator Lee has always been focused on criminal justice reform. He said he has been very involved in the antitrust subcommittee, so he has been heavily involved in looking into the meat packing issue and all of the consolidation in that industry. He said that Senator Lee was the key Republican supporter of the “First Step Act”, which passed under President Trump, and that gave judges a little bit more leeway, and especially when they are looking at things like nonviolent drug crimes, specifically for first offenses. He said we were putting people away for 20 to 40 years, and it was breaking up homes, and it was very destructive.

The Chair thanked Mr. Hansen for his update report.

AGENDA ITEM VIII. STATE AGENCY UPDATES.

Mr. Thiriote stated that Mr. David Busk with Workforce Services had contacted him prior to the meeting and apologized that he was not able to attend, and asked to be excused. There were no other state agencies to report, so the chair moved the meeting on to Agenda Item # IX, University and Technical College Updates.

AGENDA ITEM IX. UNIVERSITIES AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES UPDATES.

Mr. Gary Zabriskie informed the Committee that he had sent out an individual e-mail to Mr. Brennan Wood, President of Southwest Tech, and Mr. Jordan Ruston, President of DixieTech and informed them that at our most recent meeting of the Steering Committee, which is our governing board, it

was a consensus of the Steering Committee members, to invite the president of each of the two technical colleges in this region, or their designated representative, to have an opportunity to update the Steering Committee, on a regular basis, of what is happening, exciting new things, reporting, etc. Mr. Zabriskie said that the Association's Bylaws, which have been in place for 50 years this year, our 50th anniversary, forms the makeup of our 17 member Steering Committee. He explained that it is comprised of a mayor's representative from each county, a county commissioner, and a school board representative, plus the two presidents of the two universities, which at the time those bylaws were written were both colleges, or their designated representative as members of the Committee but as ex-officio non-voting members. Mr. Zabriskie said he has never heard discussed by the Steering Committee whether to add the presidents of the two technical colleges to the governing board as ex-officio non-voting members, but if that were to be the case in the future, that would require amending the Bylaws. Mr. Zabriskie said that in his e-mail to those technical college presidents that the Steering Committee would love to have them, or their designated representative, attend either in person or by a Zoom, to give an update from time-to-time, as needed, regarding what is happening at their respective colleges. Mr. Zabriskie said that he sent the whole packet out to them so they could see what takes place, but had not received a response back from either of those by that date, but they were invited to participate in that meeting. He said that he will follow up with them again for next month, but thinks it is a great idea to have them, because they are a big part of our region, just like the universities are. It was noted that there was no one representing Southern Utah University in attendance to report, so the Chair turned the time over to Henrie Walton, with Utah Tech University, to provide an update.

Mr. Henrie Walton, representing Utah Tech University, said he would just share a few updates relative to the University of things that have been accomplished during 2022. He said that they added three new bachelors degrees, two associates degrees, several certificates, and maybe most importantly, eight online baccalaureate degrees. He said that there is a growing need for online baccalaureate degree programs for returning students and non-traditional students. He said that they are very excited about expanding into that space. He said they welcomed in their largest student body ever last fall of 12,500 students. He said that their library was recognized recently by the federal government as a "Patent and Trademark Resource Center" He said that they are one of two patent and trademark resource centers in the state of Utah, the other being in Salt Lake City. He said that the closest one to here is in Las Vegas, Nevada. He said that this important recognition is an outgrowth of the exciting activity that is happening at the Atwood Innovation Plaza with patents and trademarks, and the federal government was happy to recognize the library on our campus as a "Patent and Trademark Center". He said that this allows citizens in the community to have access to resources if they are interested in applying for patents and trademarks. Mr. Walton said that the University also hosted over 100 community events over the past year. He said they are anxious to engage with the community. He said that they recently opened the Water Canyon Center in Hildale. Mr. Walton said that they now have educational centers in Panguitch, Hildale, Hurricane, and Kanab that all provide concurrent enrollment in college courses to high school students in those areas. He said that last, but not least, they recently concluded their partnership, the City Alliance partnership, with St. George City, and have begun a City Alliance partnership with Santa Clara. He said that City Alliance is something he has talked about previously to the Committee, where the University partners with different municipalities to work on projects that are important to them and provide them with needed resources. He said that there are a lot of exciting things going on at the University, a lot of momentum, and a lot of growth, and he said he just appreciates the opportunity to spend time here on the Steering Committee. He then said that he would be happy to answer any questions, if anyone had any. Commissioner Almquist brought up the new housing

on campus taking place. Mr. Walton said that they were just about to break ground on another 550-bed apartment. He said housing is a real challenge, not only in Washington County, but everywhere, and it is something that Utah Tech University continues to struggle with on campus. He said it creates a soft cap on our enrollment, so they recently built two new 500+ bed apartments on the campus, and they were planning to wait at least another year, or 18 months, before breaking ground on the third one, but they have decided to move forward with, and the Legislature has given us approval to move forward on, that third unit immediately. Mr. Nate Wiberg asked Mr. Walton how many patents and businesses have come out of the Atwood Innovation Plaza? Mr. Walton said that he did not have those exact numbers with him, but said it is well over 150 patents applied for and businesses it is around 50, but he was not entirely certain on that number, but it is a significant number. He said that it is not just a plaza that is open for students, faculty, and staff, but community members are also able to come into Atwood Innovation Plaza and use the resources available there. Mr. Zabriskie asked Mr. Walton if there were any updates on the Desert Color Southern Campus since he last reported on it in the November meeting? Mr. Walton thanked Mr. Zabriskie for reminding him on that, and said that several months ago, he shared an update on the Innovation Campus and Desert Color property that is going to be built out near exit two off of I-15, near the border with Arizona. He said that they have put together several committees that are working to determine a master planning document for that property. He said that they have 183 acres, and a portion of that property will become an innovation district, which is like Atwood Innovation Plaza on steroids. He said that the idea is to take businesses that have been incubated and are beginning to grow, and are no longer able to fit in the confines of Atwood Innovation Plaza, ample space to grow in what is called an innovation district, where they can bump into and collaborate and partner with other businesses and researchers and things along those lines. He said they plan this summer to begin master planning on that property. He said that they have 110 acres on Utah Tech's main campus in downtown St. George, but they only have one or two building pads left. He said that the University will continue to grow as the community grows, so that new 183 acres will be really important to the University for the coming decades. Because of his urban planning background, Mr. Zabriskie asked if the University was planning on any kind of a shuttle bus system, separate from the city's bus system, that the University itself could cut down on the amount of traffic between the two campuses, and the required parking for cars. Mr. Walton said they are having conversations about that, but they are very preliminary at this point, because it is going to take us several years to buildout that campus. He did confirm that there have been conversations about ensuring that there is some sort of shuttle system between the two campuses as it is about a 10 to 15 minutes car drive between those two campuses.

The Chair thanked Mr. Walton for his update.

AGENDA ITEM X. LOCAL AFFAIRS DISCUSSION.

The Committee had a brief follow-up discussion on the matter of County Recorders. The consensus is that this proposal to make Recorders in each county a state function is overreach by the state that is very similar to the overreach that our state leaders and politicians complains that the federal government is doing to the state.

Mayor Nolan Davis said that he was in a Zoom meeting that morning with the Utah Rail Passenger Association and after preliminary talks and studies what they want to do is implement a passenger service again. He said that Amtrak used to run from Salt Lake directly, and Denver to Las Vegas and Denver down to Sacramento, and then it was discontinued about 20 years ago. He said it was called the Desert Wind. He explained that the talk now is to go ahead and implement passenger rail service

from Ogden down to Moab, and Ogden down to Cedar City with a bus bridge from St. George to Cedar City, to allow the larger population in this area, St. George, to be able to utilize that service. He said that former Governor Herbert was on the call that morning about this and brought up a lot of interesting points. He said that they are going to go back to the table, and they have got to do a lot of studies because trying to put Amtrak back on that rail where it was normally at 79 miles an hour, they want to up it to 125 miles an hour. Mayor Davis said that what he can tell the Committee from his experience of working on the rail for 32 years, is that it is not going to happen on the rail they have got right now. He said that they have got a lot of work to do, and it is going to cost a lot of money. He said that the project itself, he thinks, is a great idea, because once it gets into southern Utah, they can expand it to a lot of the rural communities using bus bridges to bring everybody in to it. This is so they can get to the train and can get up to Salt Lake City and Ogden, He said that there is the talk about expanding it clear to Las Vegas, maybe going west toward Reno and/or north towards Boise later on down the road. He said that this is just in the preliminary phase now, so they are going to have some more meetings later on in the year. He said that when more information comes out, he will bring that back to the Steering Committee. Commissioner Cozzens asked Mayor Davis if the current infrastructure will not handle those increased speeds? Mayor Davis said that the biggest sections, from Salt Lake to Cedar City is when you go on the Lund siding coming up the branch to Cedar City, which is only up to Iron Springs, is 40 miles an hour. He said Iron Springs into Cedar City is only 20 miles an hour track and there is no safety systems, no signal systems in place. He said that basically they are going to have to gut that whole system and build the whole new rail system all the way from Lund to Cedar City. He said the trains cannot go past the airport here in Cedar City anymore because they have taken all the tracks out going up into town, traffic crossings and everything. He said what they are talking about is setting up turnaround service at the airport right for buses so passengers can just take the train right into the airport, doing everything from there, and try to adjust the proposed bus bridge schedules accordingly, where they can have flights out of Cedar City, or the train, and stuff like that. He said that there is a lot of work that has got to be done. Mayor Davis said he had heard about it about eight months ago and did not think too much of it, then they called just a couple of days ago and said to get on this Zoom call. He did, but like former Governor Gary Herbert said, one of the biggest factors is they were worried about the return rate on their money, but Mr. Herbert said you cannot worry about a return rate. He said that we spend millions and millions of dollars every year on our highways to improve our infrastructure and you cannot worry about a return rate, because there is no return rate. He said when you get down to rural counties with B and C funding, that is how we are all able to operate and keep some of these roads passable. He said that they have got to take that out of the equation right now. He said they are just going to have to spend money to make this work, provide the service, relieve the traffic on I-15 off the Wasatch Front. Mayor Davis said that there is a lot to be done so it can be quite a few years, but the conversation is started, so we will just see where it goes.

Mr. Bryan Thiriot asked the Chair to give the General Plan updates progress report that was compiled by Mr. Kevin Smedley, Associate Planner in the Community and Economic Development Division at the Association. The Chair read the report which said that “the Community and Economic Development Division staff had met with most of the communities in the five-county area to complete community surveys, and based on their input, and the dates of their most recent general plans, some of which are from the 1990s and early 2000s, the staff will focus on assisting five rural communities this year”. The Chair said that the report says that “those five will be Escalante, Panguitch, Minersville, Kanarraville and Paragonah, and the assistance is pending their respective town council's approvals to move forward.”

Mr. Gary Zabriskie mentioned to the Committee that the Utah Broadband Council staff would like to work with each individual rural county and the jurisdictions within those counties to determine how jobs can be brought out to those counties. The Utah Broadband Council staff wanted to know whether the counties preferred that interaction to be on a county-by-county basis or on a regional basis. The consensus of the Steering Committee members was to do it on a county-by-county basis, but the hope is that this is to actually implement things, and just not be another plan.

AGENDA ITEM XI. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair asked if anybody else had anything to bring up. Mr. Thiriot reminded everyone that at the February 8, 2023, there will be a rotation of the Chair and Vice-Chair. The Chair said at the next meeting he will turn the Chair of the Committee over to Kane County Commissioner Meyeres, and he will then be sitting in the background. He then thanked all for attending the meeting. The Chair called the meeting adjourned at 2:49 p.m.

These minutes were transcribed and typed by Mr. Gary Zabriskie, Deputy Director at the Five County Association of Governments.

The minutes will be presented for approval by the Steering Committee at their February 8, 2023 meeting in Cedar City, Utah.

DRAFT

AGENDA ITEM #VI.

Permanent Community Impact Fund Board Application ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT REGIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEW

APPLICANT City of St. George		PROJECT TITLE St. George City Hall and Parking Structure	
DATE OF REVIEW 02/08/2023	TRIMESTER APPLYING 3rd Trimester	PROJECT ON 1 YEAR CIB APPLICATION LIST? YES	CAPITAL ASSET INVENTORY ON FILE WITH THE AOG? YES
AOG Five County AOG	APPLICANT COUNTY Washington	PROJECT PUBLIC HEARING HELD PRIOR TO AOG REVIEW?*	IS THIS A PLANNING PROJECT? NO
CIB REQUEST \$20,000,000.00	GRANT AMT \$0	PROJECT CONSISTENT WITH LOCAL AND REGIONAL PLANS?	LOCAL YES REGIONAL YES
LOAN AMT \$20,000,000.00	LOAN TERMS 2.0% for 30 years	DOES THIS PROJECT ADDRESS AN IDENTIFIED NEED FROM THE CAPITAL ASSET INVENTORY? YES	DOES THIS PROJECT ADDRESS AN IDENTIFIED TOP PRIORITY FROM THE CAPITAL ASSET INVENTORY? YES

PROJECT DESCRIPTION/SCOPE OF WORK Description of what will be purchased with CIB funding.

The City will construct a new City Hall downtown on Main Street across the street to the east of the Town Square that will be three levels with a total of approximately 69,500 square feet that will include the City Council Chambers/Community Room.

An on-site Parking Structure will consist of four levels and includes 308 parking space. Efficiency, productivity, necessity, transparency, and functionality have been major drivers in its design.

The total cost of the facility is estimated to be \$45,870,027. After the design is completed it is estimated that construction will commence in August 2023.

WHAT IS THIS PROJECT'S INTENDED PURPOSE TO THE COMMUNITY? How does this project help the community?

To provide for better citizen and employee safety. To provide adequate space for employees. The City cannot add new employees at the existing City offices. The current Chambers are too small. The new building will have much larger Council Chambers, and make space available for other public meetings and gatherings. The new building will have a number of conference Rooms.

The existing office building's conference rooms have been converted to office space. The new building will have adequate and improved public restrooms. The new building will allow for anticipated growth over the next 30+ years. The building will be energy efficient and water-wise.

HOW DOES THIS PROJECT FULFILL CIB'S MANDATE TO USE ITS LIMITED FUNDS TO "RESULT IN THE GREATEST USE OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR THE GREATEST NUMBER OF CITIZENS OF THIS STATE"?

The City of St. George is the fifth largest city, population-wise, in the state of Utah, with a 2022 estimated population of 99,958 persons. The current facility's space is woefully inadequate, and completely lacks adequate parking to service the needs of the residents and visitors to the City. The proposed facility will serve the community as it grows over the next 30+ years. The city is projected to double in population over the next 40 years. This is a fairly frugally planned facility with an attached multi-use parking garage. In comparison, Provo City, with a population of 114,000 just built, in 2022, a five-story 204,000 sq. ft. building (albeit with fire and police administration included) that this will not require, at a total cost of \$69 million.

AOG RECOMMENDATION

THE ABOVE-NAMED AOG GOVERNING BODY REVIEWED THIS PROJECT ON THE DATE INDICATED AND VOTED TO:

Steering Committee

REVIEWED BY _____

SUPPORT THE PROJECT

Steering Committee Chair

SIGNATURE _____

TITLE _____

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENT, PLEASE CONTACT

Gary Zabriskie

435-673-3548 ext.126

gzabriskie@fivecounty.utah.gov

NAME

PHONE NUMBER

EMAIL

*Public Hearing: The CIB requires all applicants to have a vigorous public participation effort. All applicants shall hold a formally noticed public hearing to solicit comment concerning the size, scope, and nature of any funding request submitted to the CIB before review by the Board. A complete and detailed scope of work shall be given to the public, and its financing and be documented in the minutes. The information shall include the financial impact to the public as user fees, special assessments, or property taxes. (The Board has adopted a funding matrix tool to assist reasonable consistency regarding grant/loan award.) The CIB may require further public hearings if it determines the applicant did not adequately disclose to the public the possible financial impact of the financial assistance. Projects will not be placed on a CIB agenda until a public hearing has been held.

AGENDA ITEM #VII.



U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of the Secretary of Transportation

1200 New Jersey Ave., S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

NOTICE OF GRANT AWARD

Title:	Safe Streets For All (SS4A)
DOT Agency Disbursing Funds:	Office of Secretary of Transportation
Project Name/Number:	Five County Association of Governments Action Plan
Award Recipient	Five County Association of Governments
City/County/State	, UT
Place of Performance	Five County
State Congressional District	2
Entitlement Amount	\$ 0.00
Discretionary Amount	\$ 1,000,000.00
COVID Relief Amount	\$ 0.00
Total Grant Amount	\$ 1,000,000.00
DOT Regional Office/Telephone Number	Tonya Gross tonya.gross@dot.gov

Description:

The award will be used by the Five County Association of Governments to develop a comprehensive safety action plan.

Should you have any questions, please contact the Office of Governmental Affairs (202)366-4573.

AGENDA ITEM #VIII.

- State of Utah •

BUSINESS SURVEY RESULTS

Presented: November 2022

Internal Document



Introduction

This report delivers the results from the State of Utah Business survey. The survey was active between August 2022 and September 2022.

Surveys were distributed through established channels among economic development partners at the state, as well as promoted at on-site meetings in early September 2022.

Distribution efforts considered how and where to collect responses to best reflect Utah's existing business mix.

The survey results show statewide trends, as well as findings broken out by region. The results of this survey will be used to support strategies of Utah's Coordinated Action Plan for Economic Vision 2030.

Methodology

There were 300 responses to the survey. Camoin Associates removed responses from government entities and duplicate entries, leaving 291 responses.

Survey participants were asked 66 questions, with response rates to individual questions ranging from 290 to 77. Twenty-six respondents indicated they have locations in more than one region of the state. While their responses are included in the statewide results, they were excluded from the regional analysis to better identify regional differences.

It is important to note that these results should not be considered fully representative of employers in the region. Rather, the results clarify general trends among employers and workforce housing issues requiring further investigation.

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STATEWIDE

Characteristics of Respondents.....	4-7
Workforce Trends.....	8-10
Operation Trends.....	11-14
Challenges.....	15-20
Business Environment.....	21-27
State and Local government.....	28-30

REGIONAL BREAKDOWN

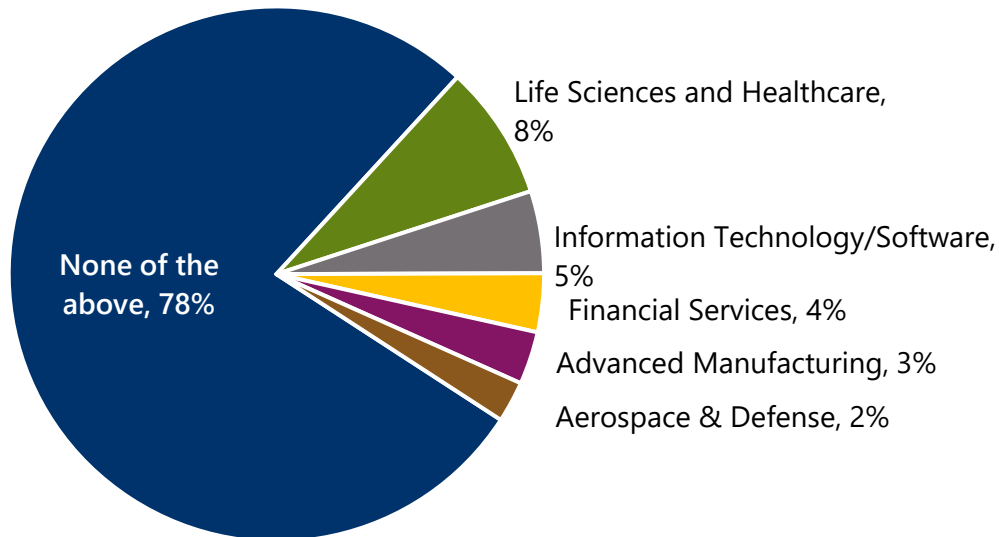
Overview.....	31-35
Challenges.....	36- 43
Regional Business Environment.....	44-50

RESULTS BY INDUSTRY.....	51
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Characteristics of Respondents

- More than three-quarters (78%) of respondents do not fall into one of Utah's strategic clusters. The cluster with the highest representation is Life Sciences and Healthcare.
- More than three-quarters (77%) of respondents are owners, chairpersons, presidents, or CEOs. Members of senior management are 14% of respondents.

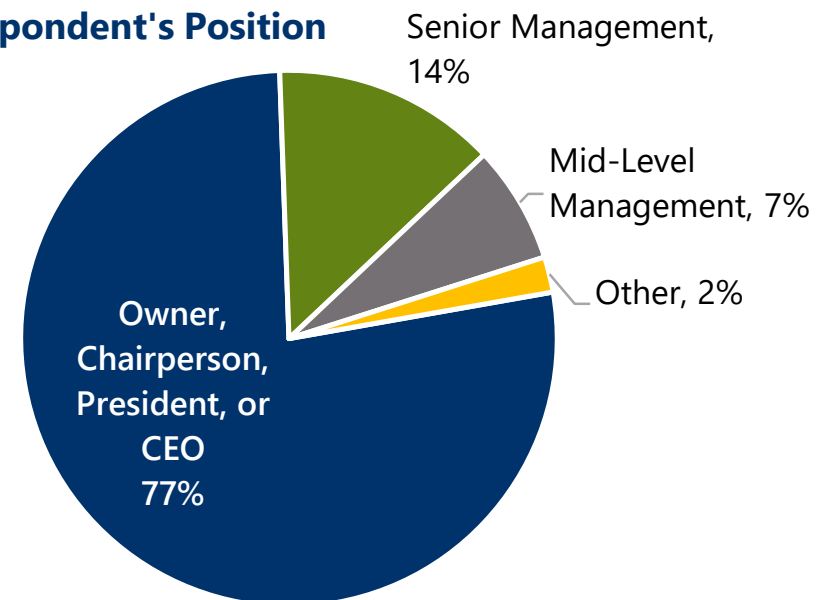
Percentage of Respondents by Strategic Cluster



n = 282

Source: Camoin Associates

Respondent's Position



n = 281

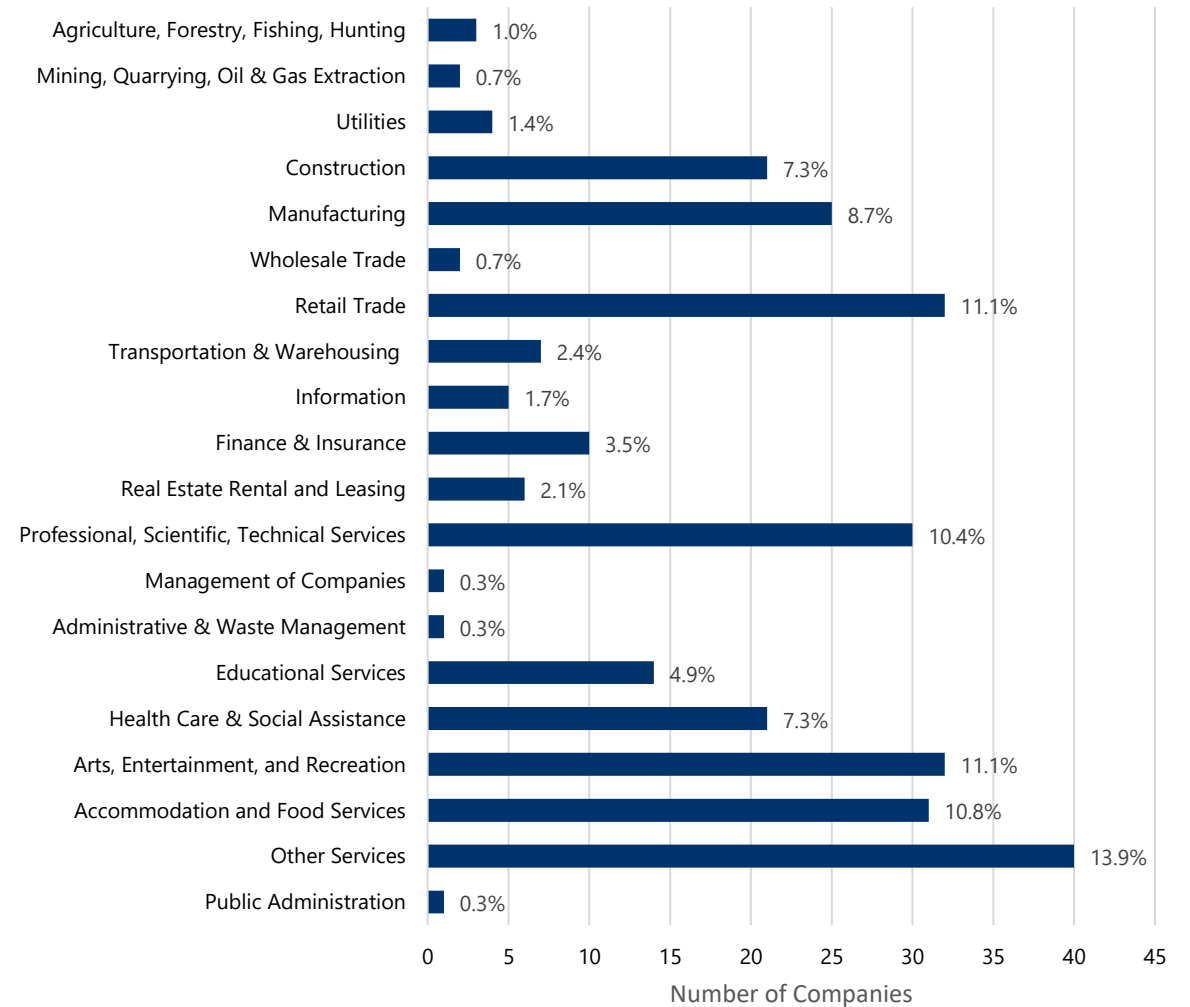
Source: Camoin Associates

Characteristics of Respondents

- The largest numbers of respondents are businesses in:
 - Other Services (14%),
 - Retail Trade (11%),
 - Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation (11%),
 - Accommodation and Food Services (11%), and
 - Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (10%).

These five industries account for 57% of respondents.

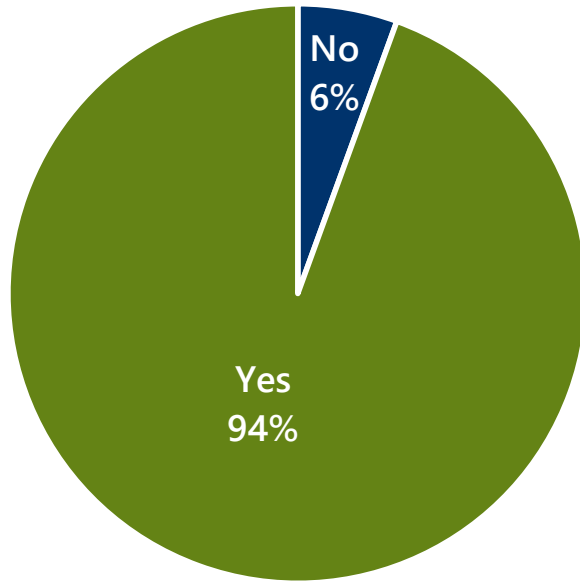
Industry Summary



Characteristics of Respondents

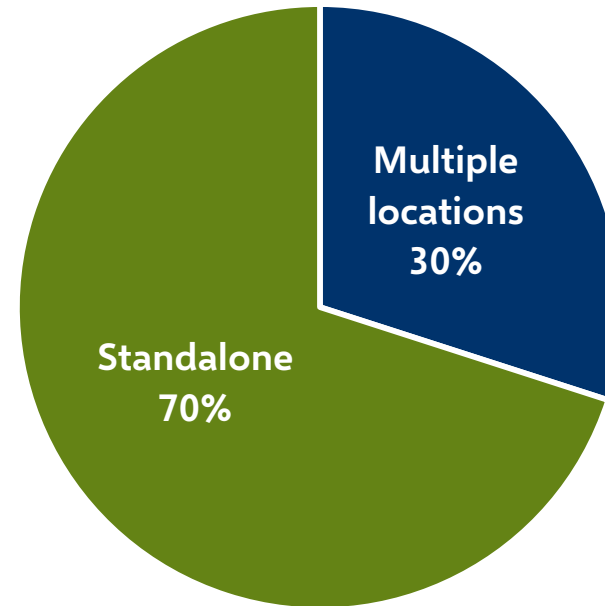
- Most (94%) respondents are businesses headquartered and incorporated in Utah.
- 70% operate a single location, while the remainder have multiple locations.
- Three-quarters of non-Utah-headquartered businesses operate multiple locations versus 27% of Utah-headquartered businesses.

Headquartered in Utah



n = 288

Source: Camoin Associates



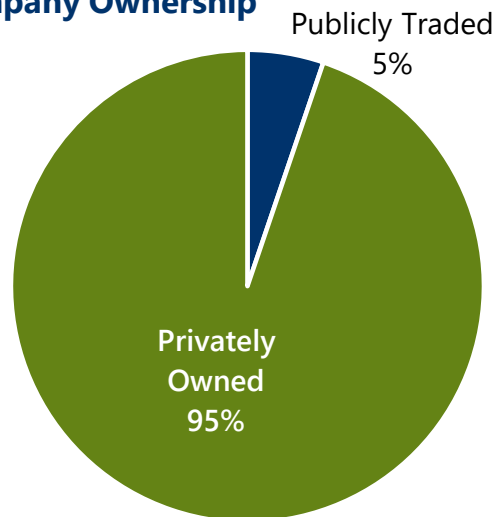
n = 287

Source: Camoin Associates

Characteristics of Respondents

- Most (95%) respondents are privately owned businesses.
- The largest number of respondents (38%) have been in business for over 20 years.
- Nearly one-quarter (23%) have operated for 11 to 20 years, and roughly one-fifth (19%) each are 6 to 10 years or 1 to 5 years old.
- Approximately one-fifth (19%) of businesses are woman-owned businesses, 4% are minority-owned, and 2% are owned by disabled veterans.

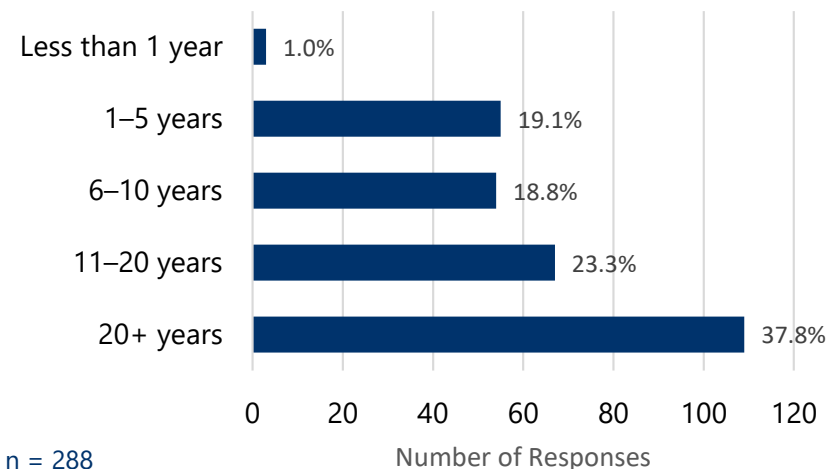
Company Ownership



n = 288

Source: Camoin Associates

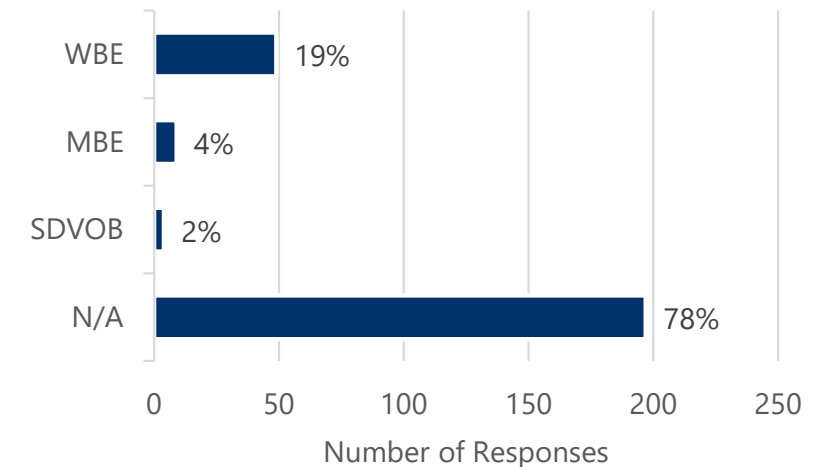
Age of Business



n = 288

Source: Camoin Associates

Certified Special Status



WBE: Women Business Enterprise

MBE: Minority Business Enterprise

SDVOB: Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business

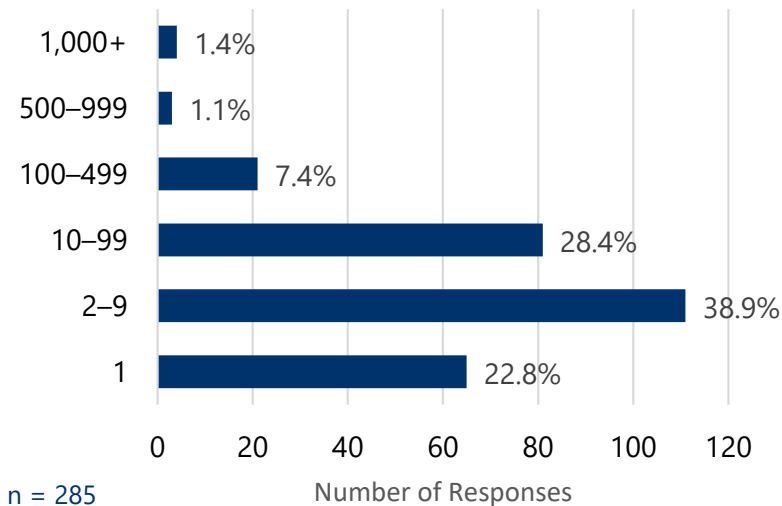
n = 252. Note: Seven businesses included themselves in multiple categories.

Source: Camoin Associates

Workforce Trends Among Respondents

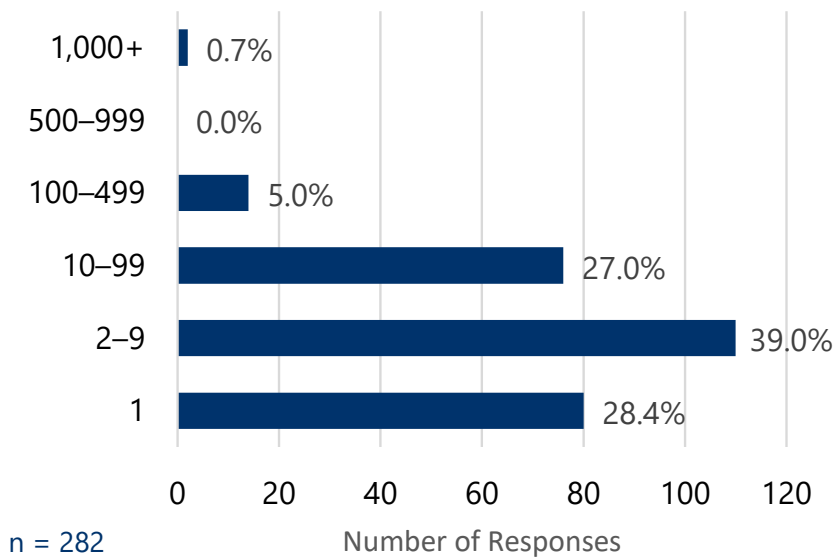
- 90% of respondents have fewer than 100 employees.
- This is similar to the distribution in 2018, although some companies have grown since then.
- Over the last year, 31% of companies grew, 28% shrank, and 41% stayed the same.

Current Number of Employees



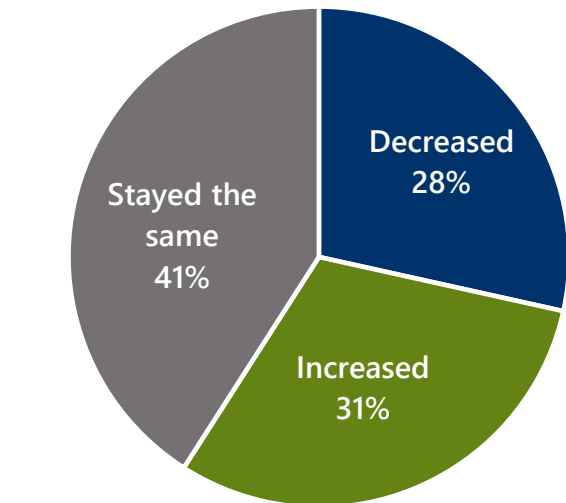
Source: Camoin Associates

Employees in 2018



Source: Camoin Associates

Workforce Change Over Last Year



Source: Camoin Associates

Workforce Trends Among Respondents

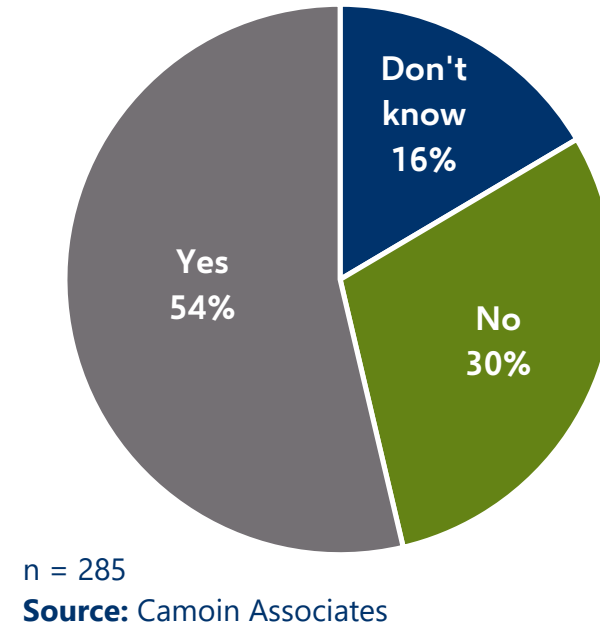
- Over the last five years, 56% of companies faced shortages of entry-level employees, 37% faced shortages of technical or credentialed workers, and roughly one-quarter faced shortages of both mid-skill production workers and supervisors.

- More than half (54%) of respondents anticipate hiring more full-time employees in Utah over the next year.

Workforce Shortages



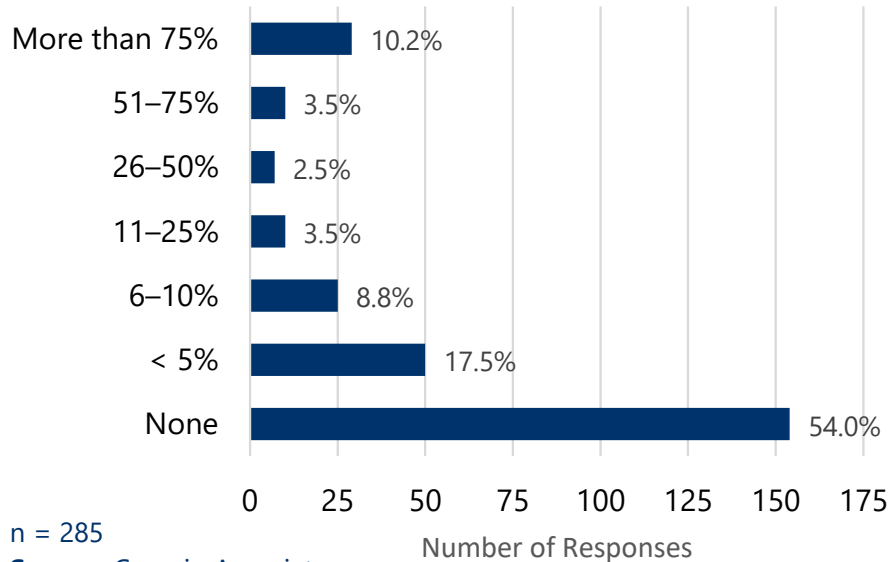
Anticipate Hiring



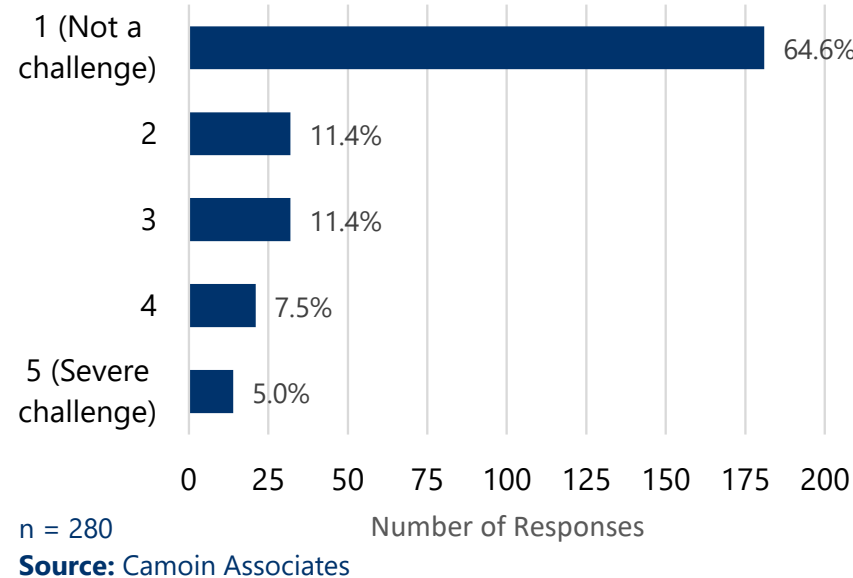
Workforce Trends Among Respondents

- At almost half of respondents (46%) at least some of their employees are working remotely.
- At one in 10 companies, more than 75% of employees are remote.
- Nearly two-thirds of businesses (65%) have not had difficulty adapting to and/or managing remote workers.
- However, only 20% of businesses expect to increase the share of remote workers in the next two years.

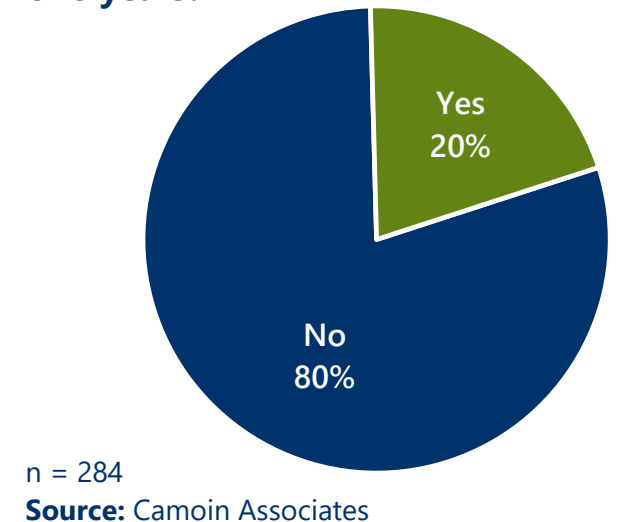
Remote Workers



Adapting to/Managing Remote Workers



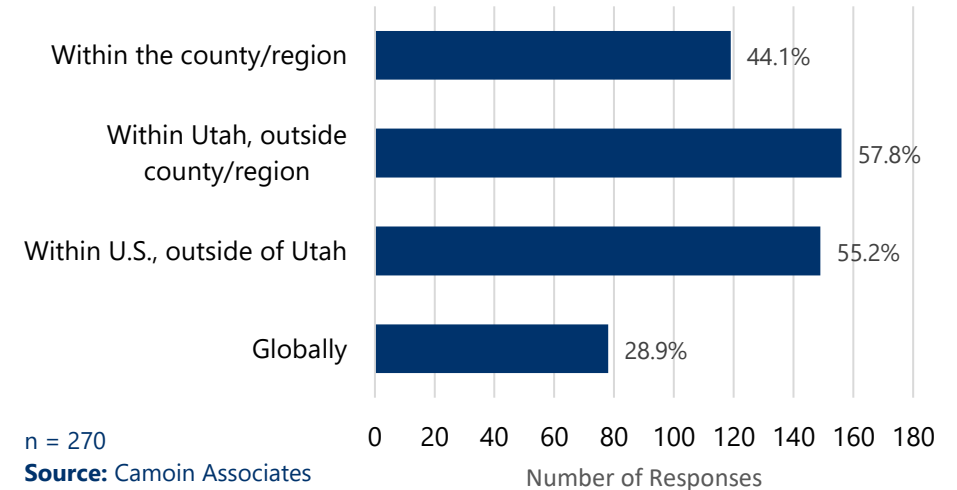
Do you expect more of your workforce will be working remotely in the next two years?



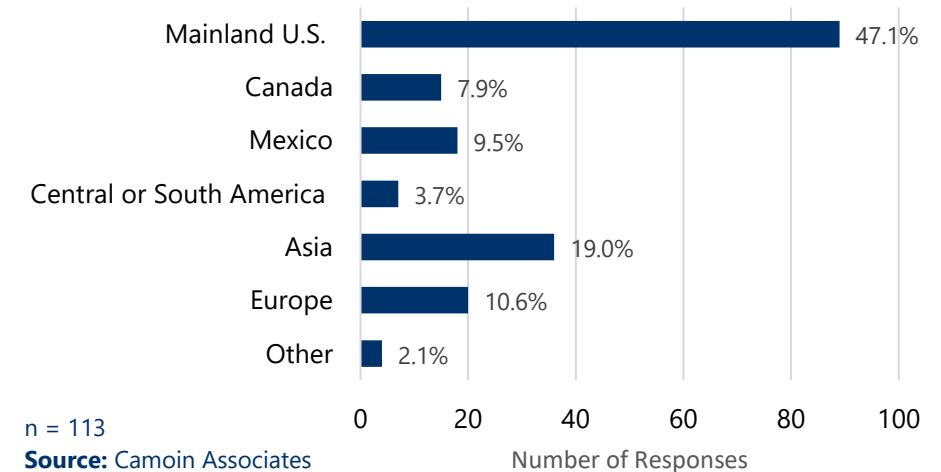
Operation Trends Among Respondents

- Over half of businesses obtain supplies from within Utah but outside their county or region (58%) and from within the U.S. but outside of Utah (55%).
- 44% purchase from local suppliers and 29% purchase supplies internationally.
- 39% of respondents indicated that they import raw materials and supplies. Of these 47% import from the mainland U.S., 19% from Asia, and 10% from Europe and Mexico.

Supplier Locations



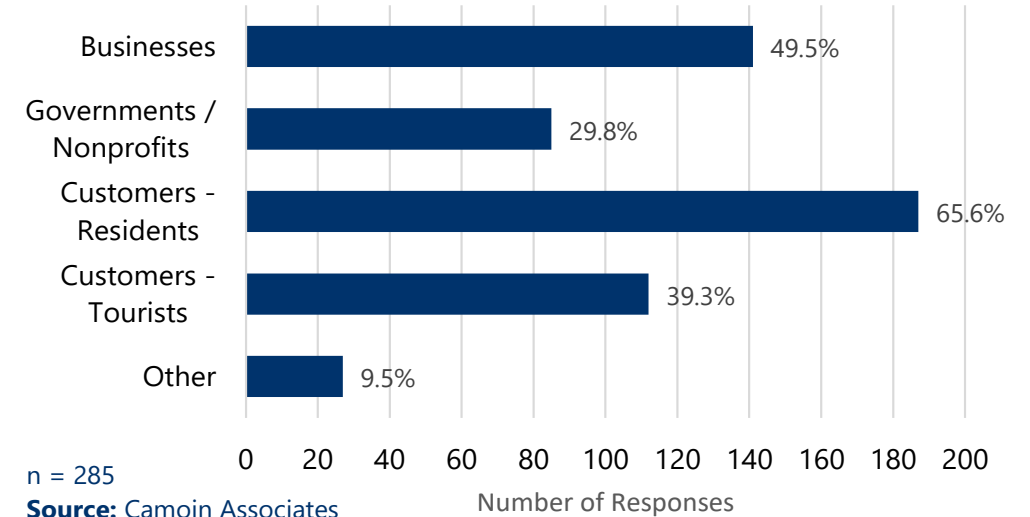
Import Sources



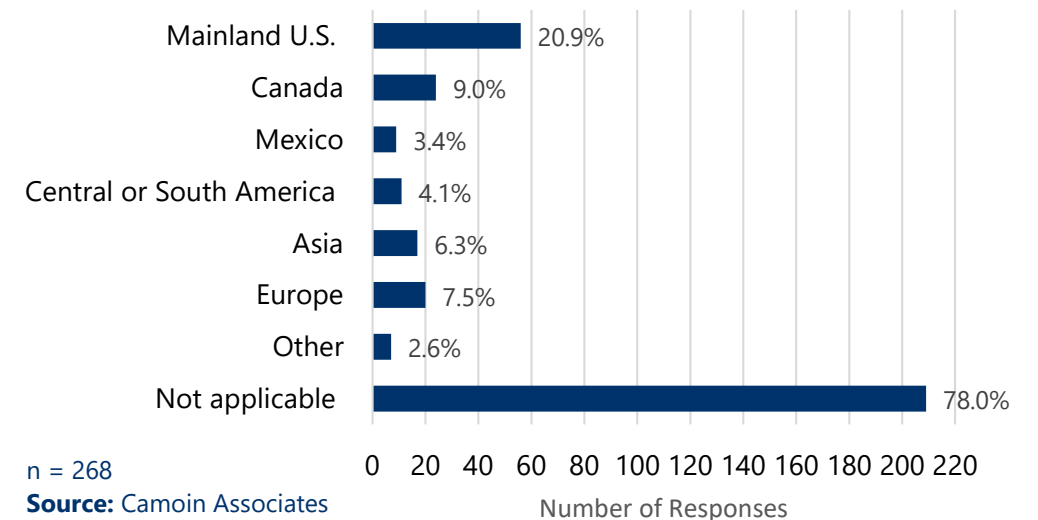
Operation Trends Among Respondents

- Two-thirds (66%) of businesses sell to resident customers and half (49%) sell to other businesses.
- Almost 40% sell to tourists and 30% sell to governments and nonprofits.
- 21% of respondents export products to within the mainland U.S., 9% export to Canada, and almost 8% export to Europe.
- 78% of respondents do not export at all.

Clientele



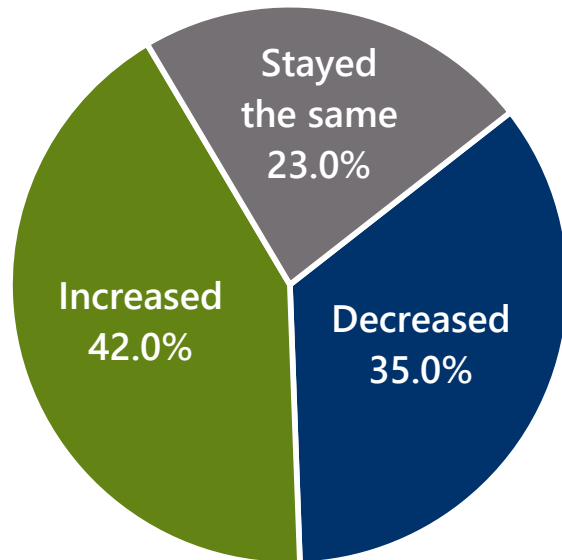
Export Destinations



Operation Trends Among Respondents

- 42% of businesses saw their revenues increase over the past 12 months; 35% saw a decline in revenues.
- Slightly less than half (47%) of respondents are planning a facility expansion in the next two to three years.

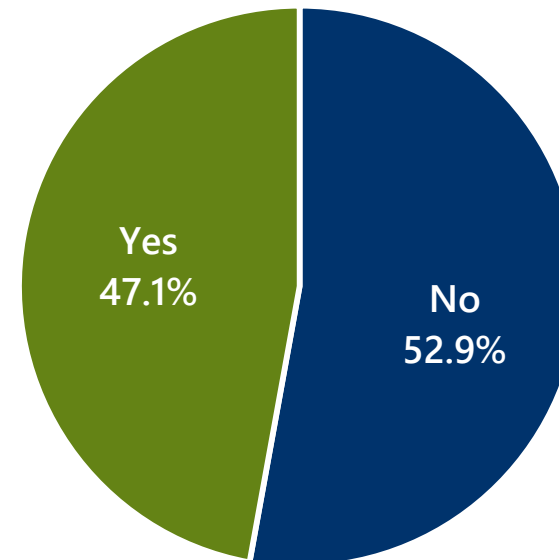
Revenue Change



n = 283

Source: Camoin Associates

Facility Expansion?



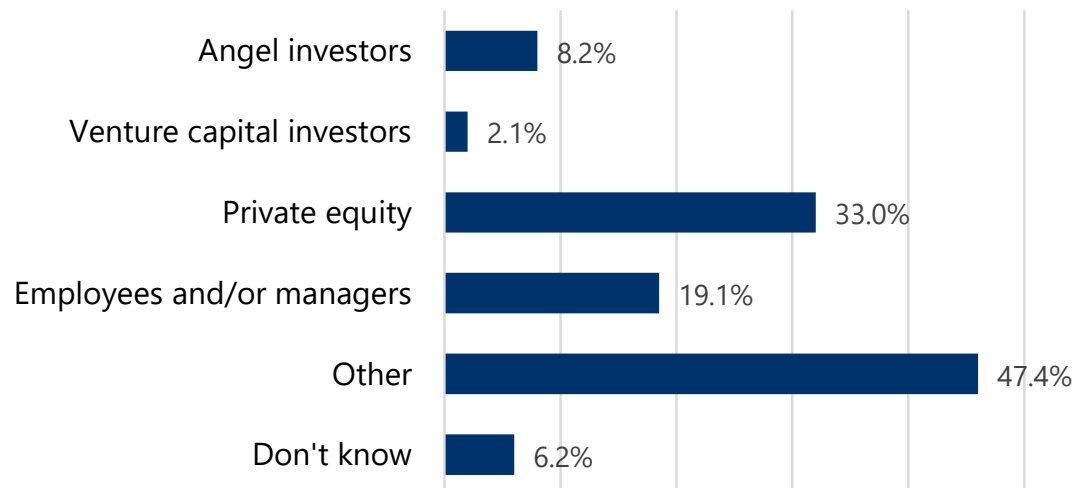
n = 280

Source: Camoin Associates

Operation Trends Among Respondents

- At least 94% of respondents have investors.
- One-third (33%) have private equity investors, employees invest in 19% of companies, and nearly half (47%) receive investment from other sources.
- Over one-third of businesses (37%) need financial assistance for capital improvements, 33% need working capital, and 16% need payroll assistance or plant and equipment financing.
- Roughly one-third of businesses (34%) do not need financial assistance.

Investors

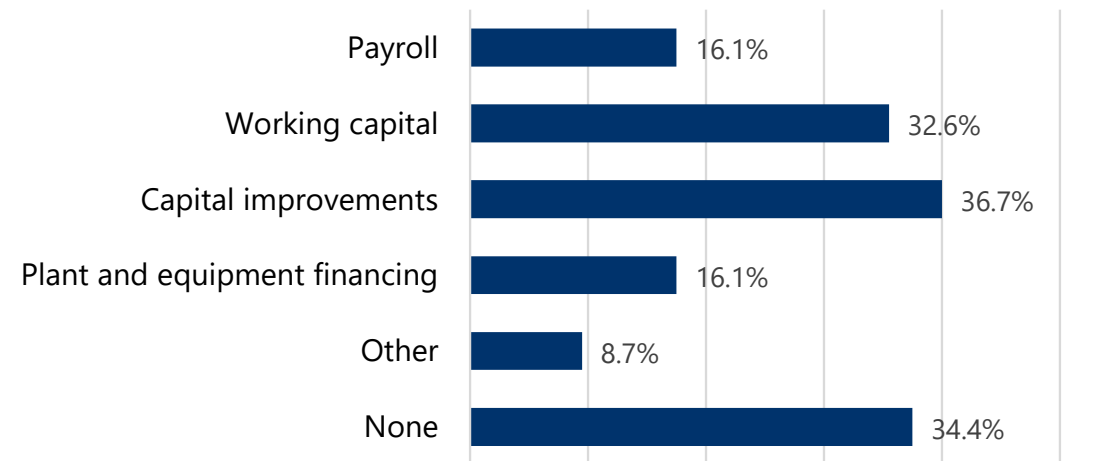


n = 194

Source: Camoin Associates

Number of Responses

Financial Assistance Needs



n = 218

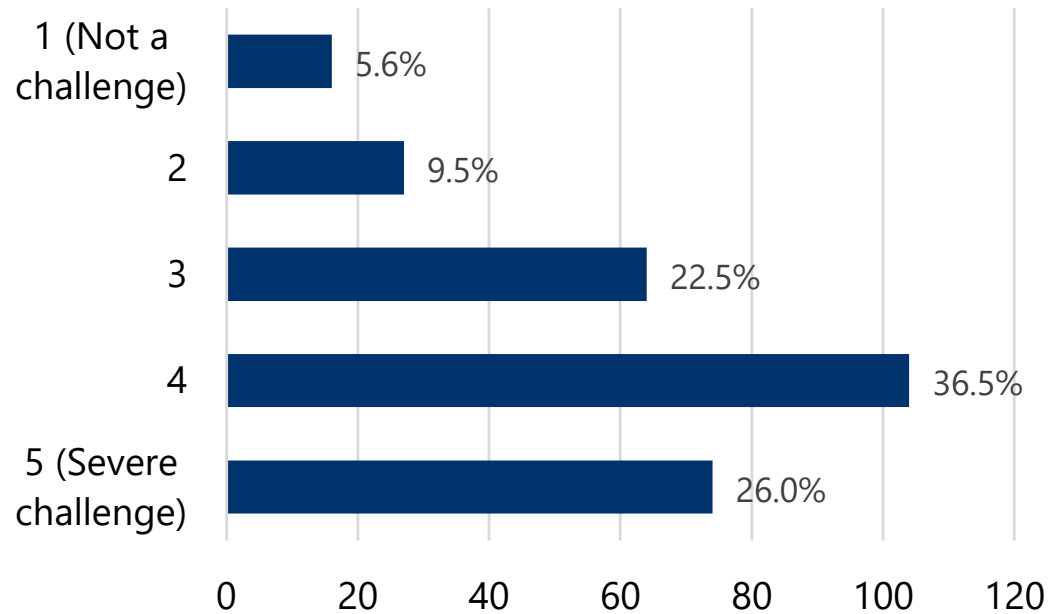
Source: Camoin Associates

Number of Responses

Challenges

- A majority of respondents (62%) find unexpected changes in economic conditions or industry demand to be a major challenge (ranking it 4 or 5 out of 5).
- Less than 6% say they are not a challenge.
- More than one-third of businesses (36%) say new disruptive technologies in their industry are not a challenge
- 28% rank them as a moderate challenge, and less than 5% see them as a severe challenge.

Unexpected Economic Changes

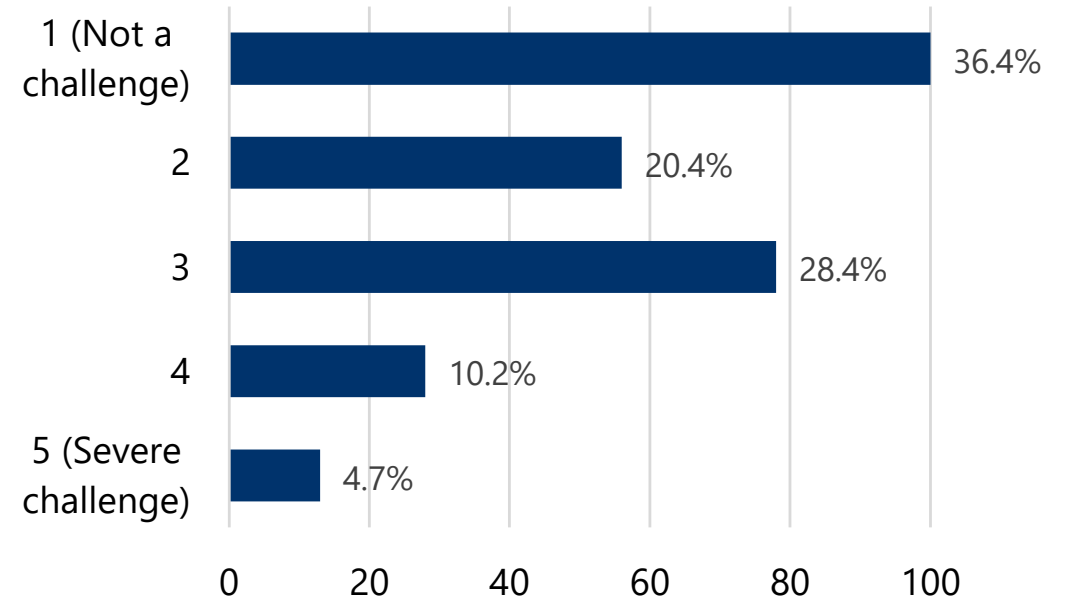


n = 269

Number of Responses

Source: Camoin Associates

New Disruptive Technologies



n = 275

Number of Responses

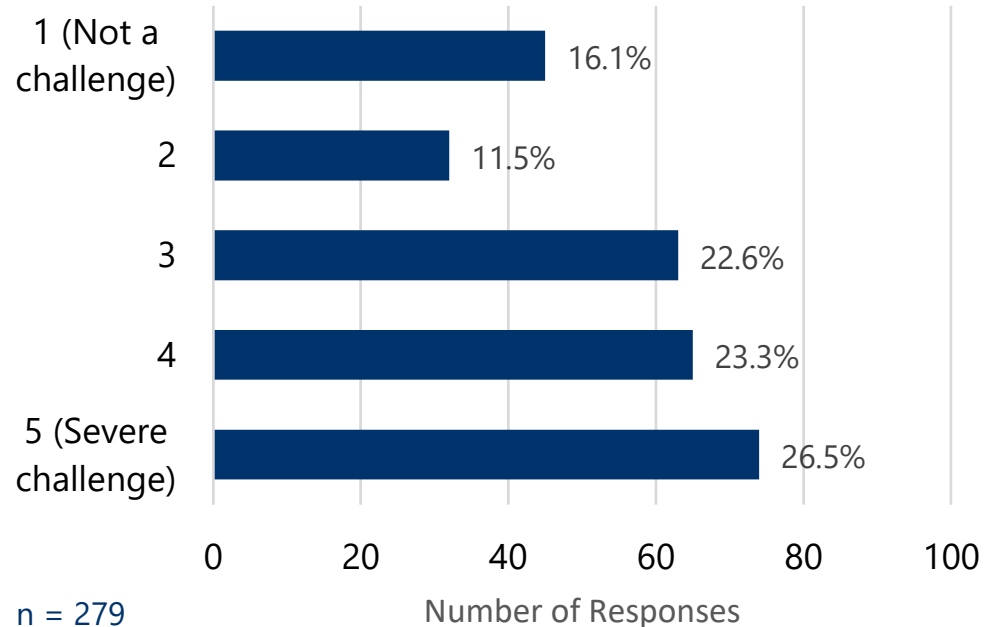
Source: Camoin Associates

Challenges

- Half of respondents (50%) rank supply chain disruptions as a major challenge (ranking it 4 or 5 out of 5).
- For 16% of businesses, they are not a challenge.

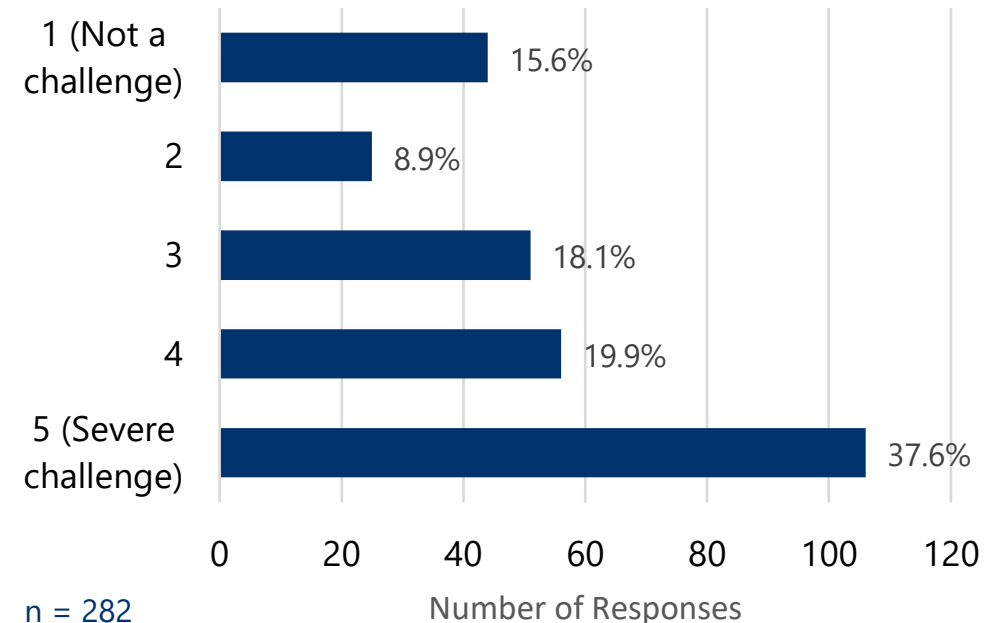
- For more than one-third of businesses (38%), recruiting the best workforce is a severe challenge, with another 20% ranking it 4 out of 5.
- Hiring the best workforce is not a challenge for 16% of businesses.

Supply Chain Disruptions



Source: Camoin Associates

Recruiting the Best Workforce

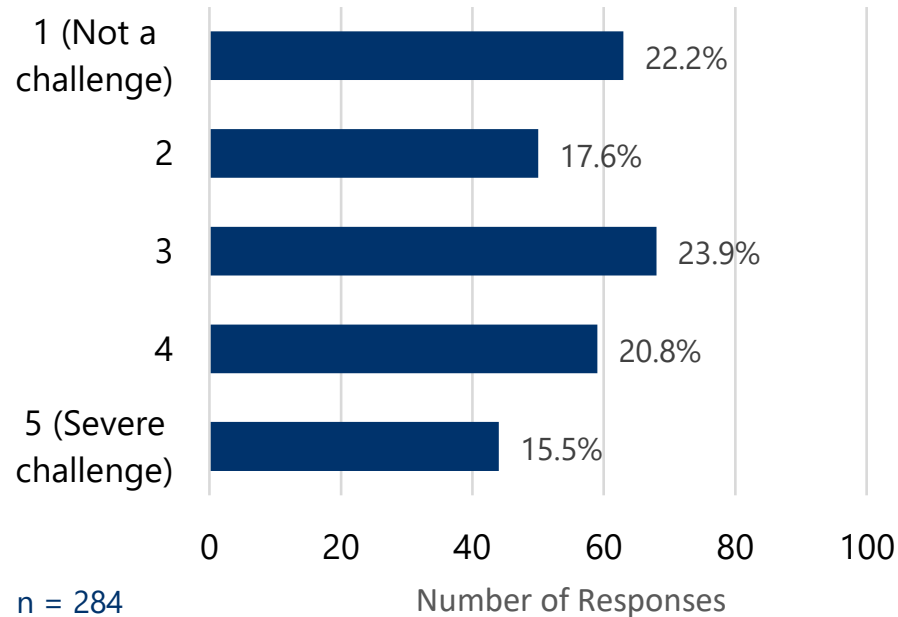


Source: Camoin Associates

Challenges

- For 40% of businesses, navigating legislative and regulatory barriers is a minor challenge (ranking it 1 or 2 out of 5).
- It is a major challenge for 36% of businesses (ranking it 4 or 5 out of 5).

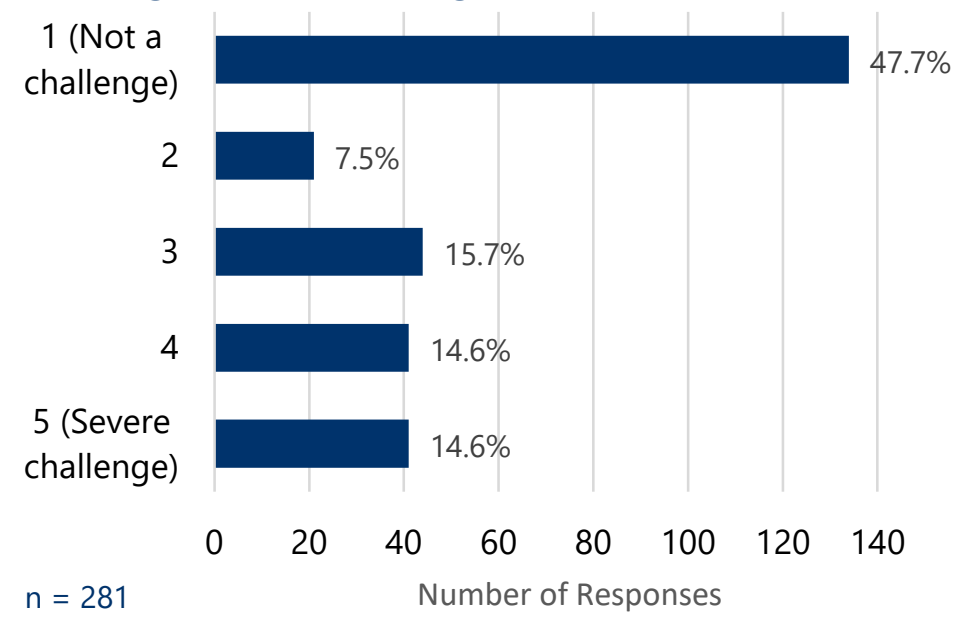
Legislative and Regulatory Barriers



Source: Camoin Associates

- Finding land and buildings for growth is not a challenge for close to half of businesses (48%).
- For 29% of businesses, it is a major challenge (ranking it 4 or 5 out of 5).

Finding Land or Buildings for Growth

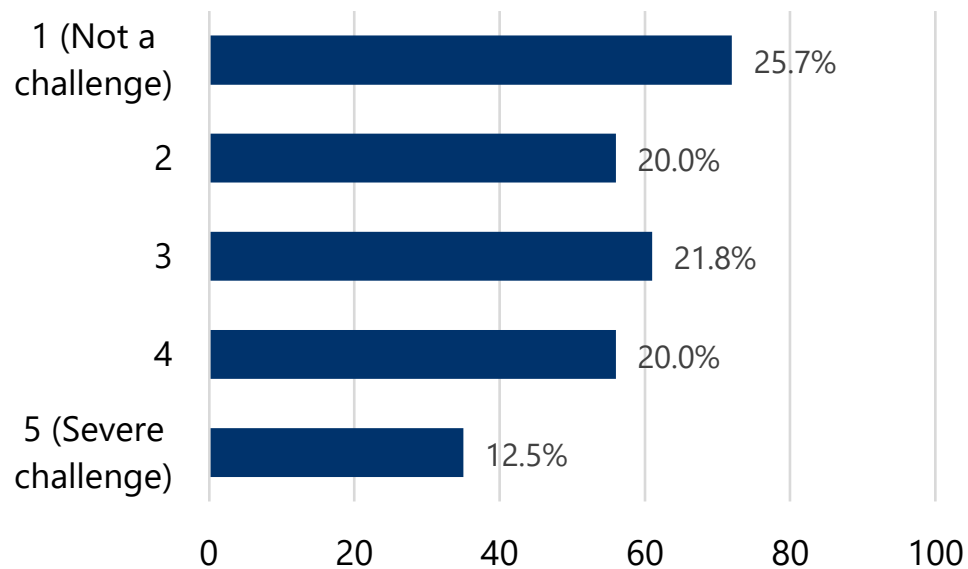


Source: Camoin Associates

Challenges

- Obtaining growth financing and capital is a major challenge for about one-third of businesses (33%), including a severe challenge for one-in-eight businesses.
- Over 45% of businesses have little to no difficulty.
- More than one-third of businesses (35%) have no difficulty attracting external sources of growth capital.
- For a little over one-quarter of businesses (27%), it is a major difficulty (ranking 4 or 5 out of 5).

Obtaining Growth Financing and Capital

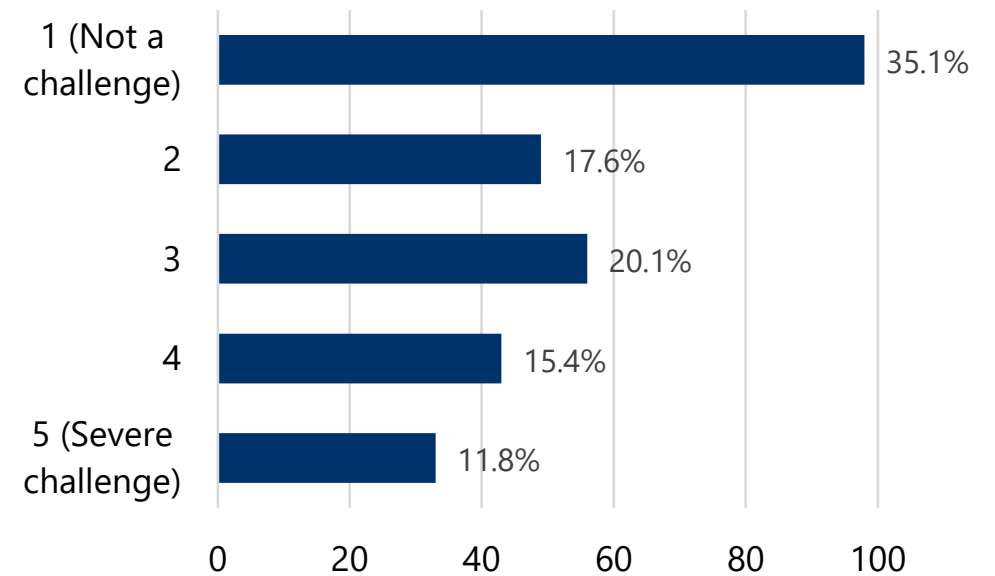


n = 280

Number of Responses

Source: Camoin Associates

Attracting External Growth Capital



n = 279

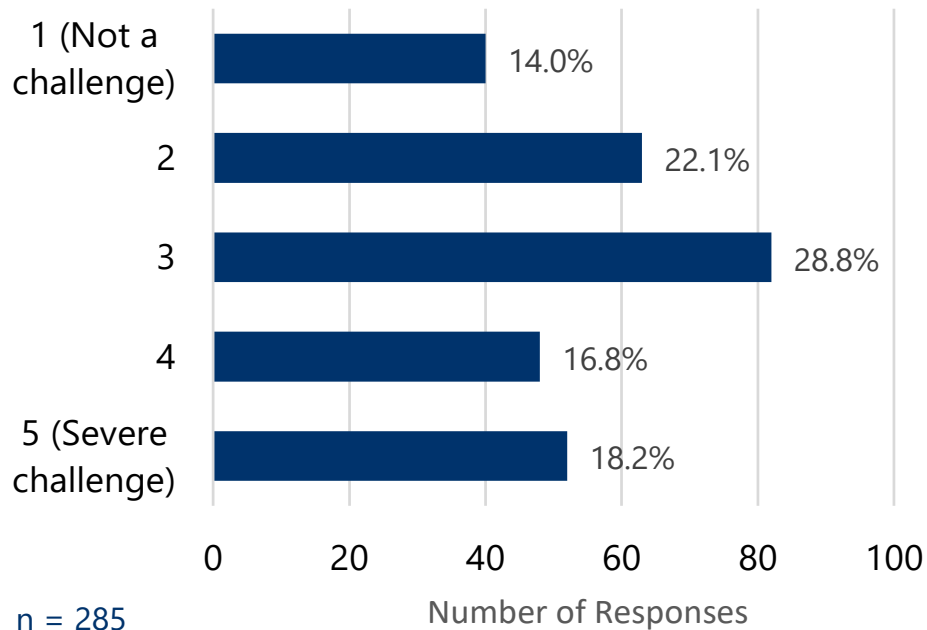
Number of Responses

Source: Camoin Associates

Challenges

- Managing cash flow is at most a minor challenge for about one-third of businesses (36% rank it as a 2 or 1 out of 5), but it is a major challenge for another third of businesses (35% rank it a 4 or 5).

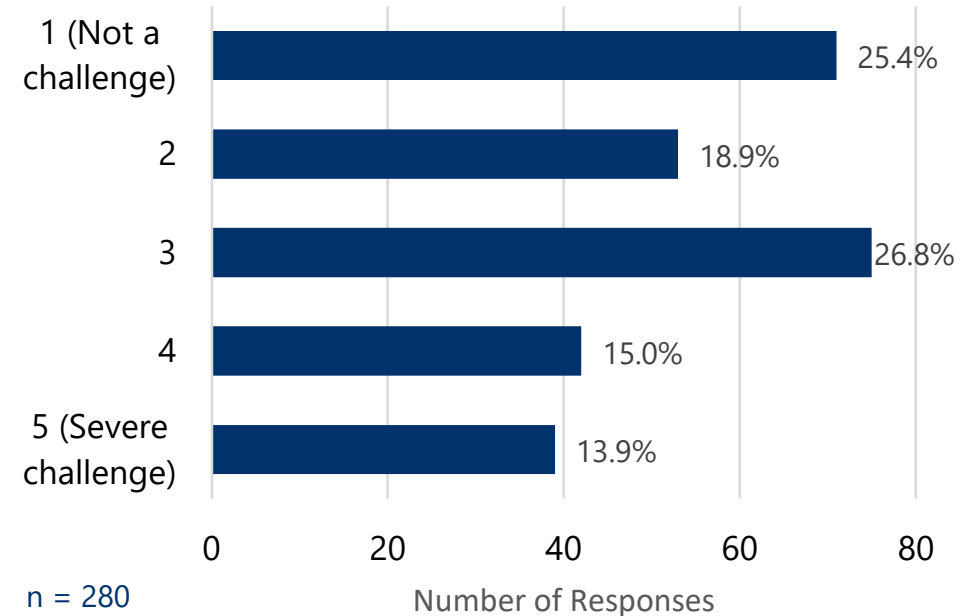
Managing Cash Flow



Source: Camoin Associates

- 44% of businesses have little difficulty financing new equipment and/or facilities, but this is a major challenge for 29% of businesses, including a severe challenge for 14%.

Financing New Equipment/Facilities

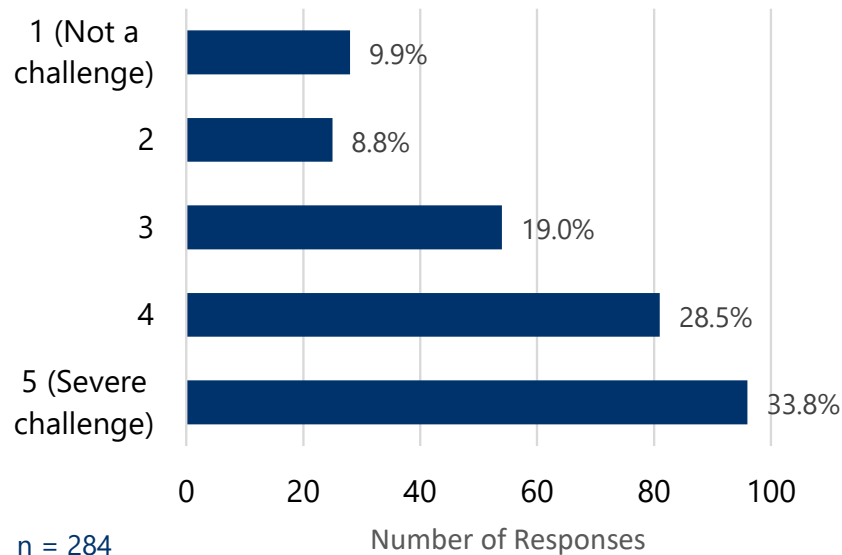


Source: Camoin Associates

Challenges

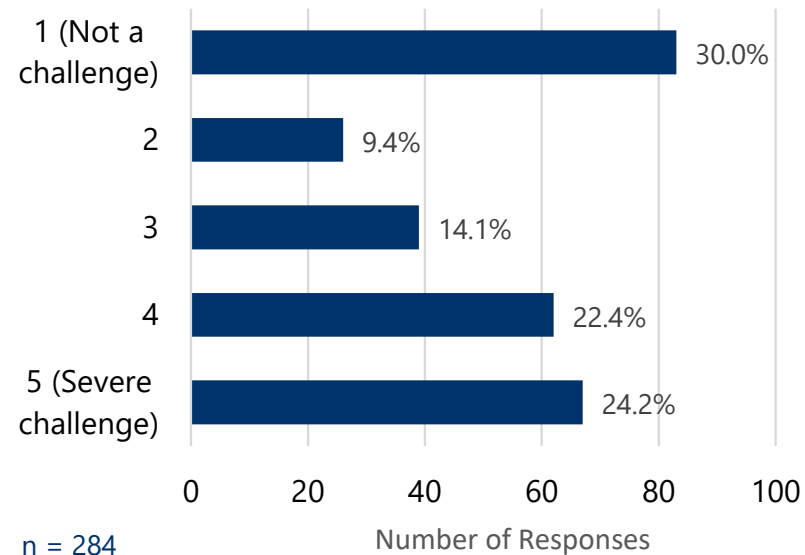
- Rising labor costs pose a significant challenge for a large majority of businesses (62% rank it a 4 or 5), with 34% severely challenged by the cost of labor.
- The cost of real estate is a major challenge for almost half of businesses (47% rank it a 4 or 5) but is not a challenge for 30% of businesses.
- Rising utility costs are a major challenge for 36% of businesses (ranking them a 4 or 5), but at most a minor challenge for 35% (ranking as a 2 or 1).

Increasing Labor Costs



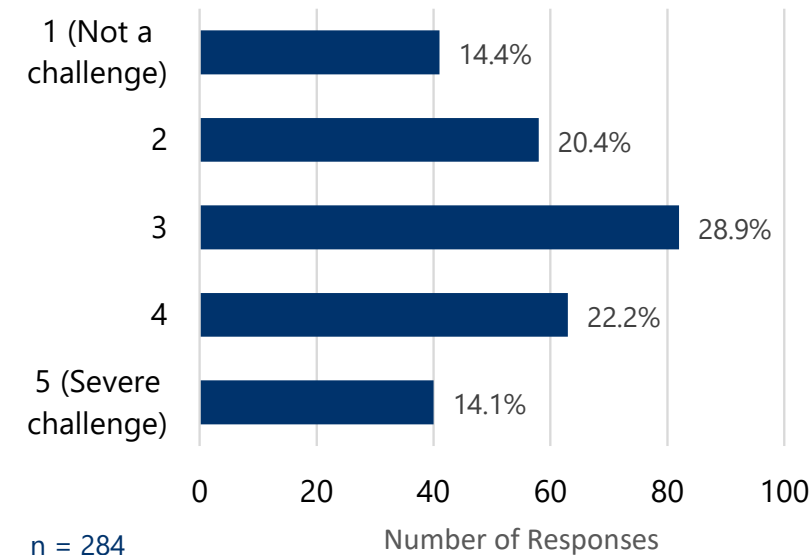
Source: Camoin Associates

Cost of Real Estate



Source: Camoin Associates

Increasing Cost of Utilities

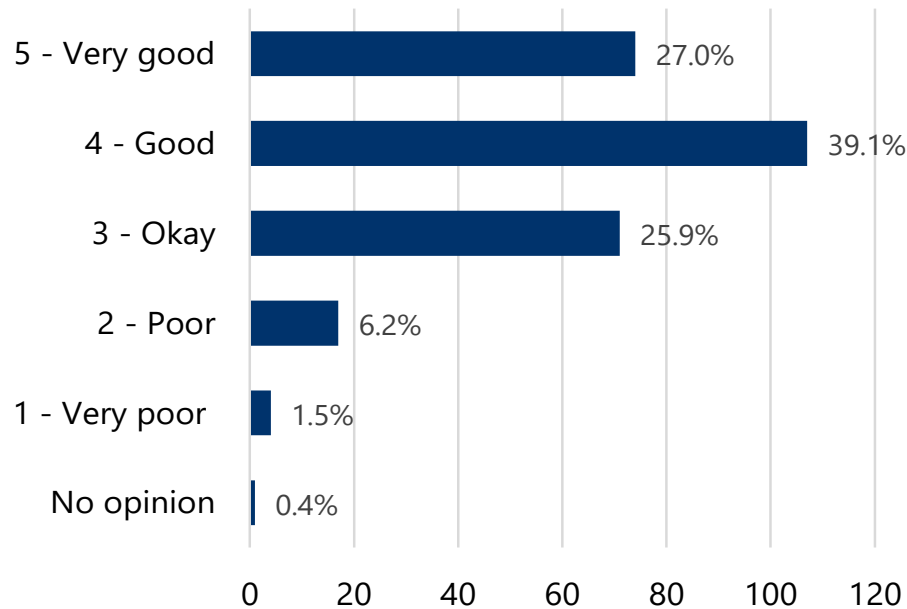


Source: Camoin Associates

Business Environment

- Approximately two-thirds (66%) of respondents rank Utah's business climate as good or very good.
- Less than 8% rank it poor or very poor.

Overall Perception of Business Climate

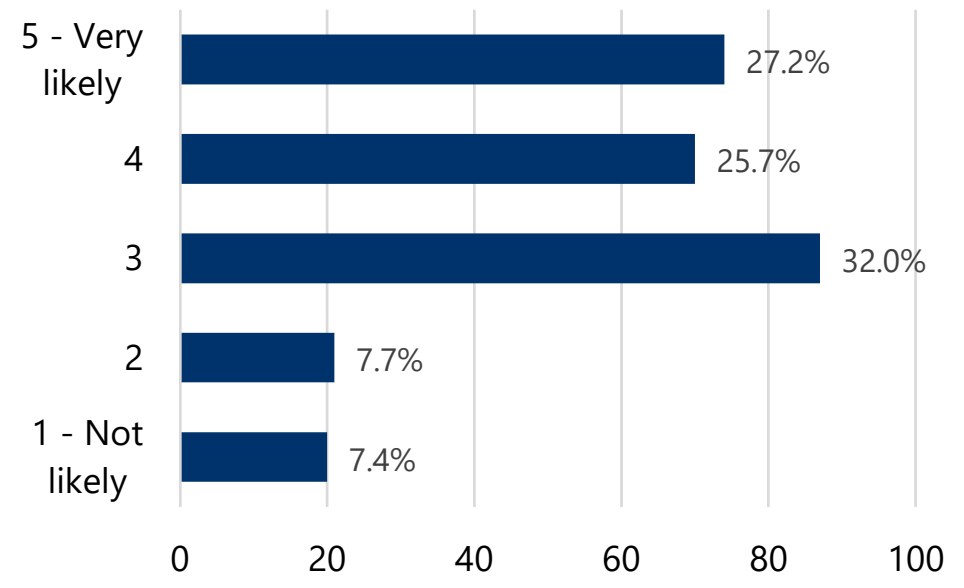


n = 274

Source: Camoin Associates

- More than half of respondents (53%) are likely or very likely to recommend Utah as a place to do business to a CEO considering relocating there.
- Nearly one-third (32%) were indifferent.

Recommend Utah for Business



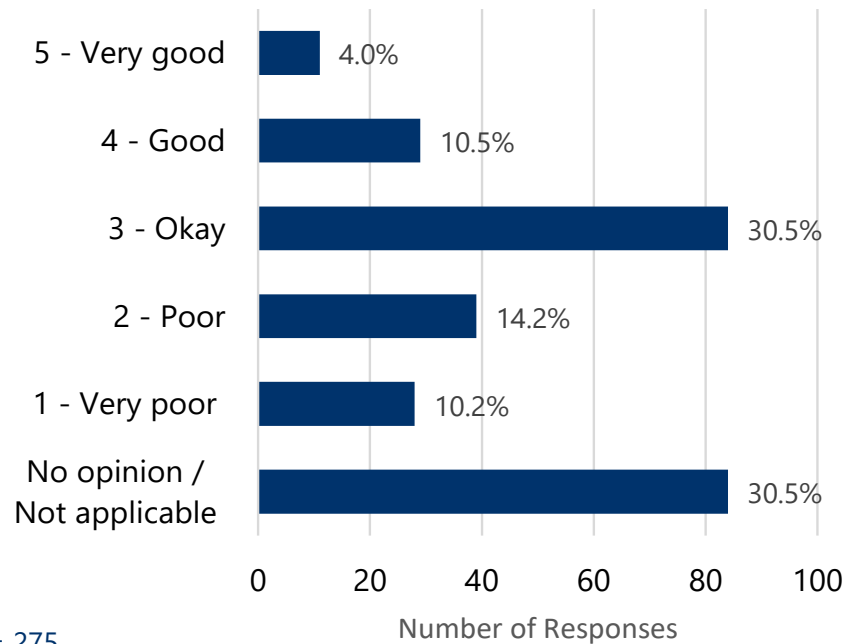
n = 272

Source: Camoin Associates

Business Environment

- Less than 15% of respondents rate access to capital in Utah as good or very good.
- 14% rate it poor and another 10% rate it very poor.
- However, 30% either had no opinion or it was not applicable to their business.

Access to Capital

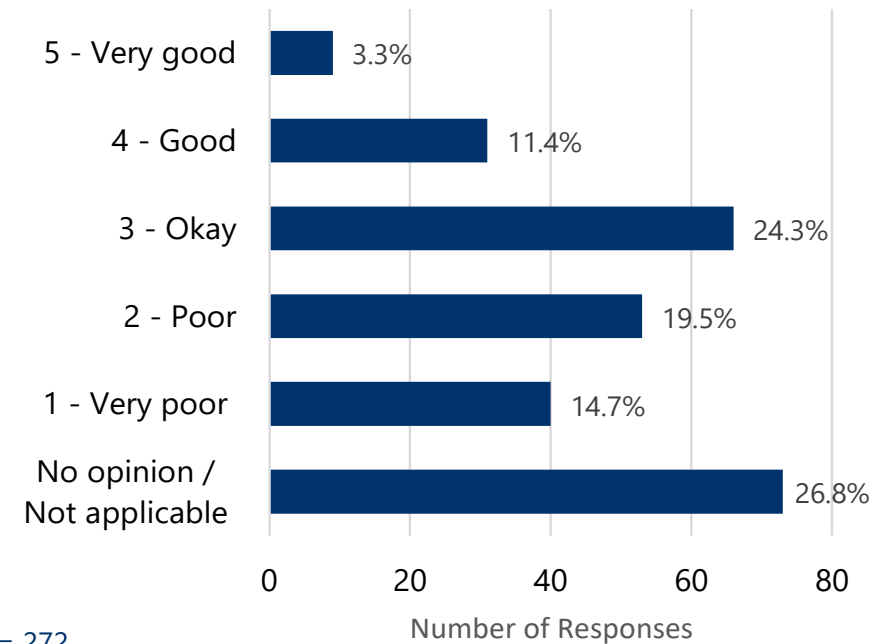


n = 275

Source: Camoin Associates

- Less than 15% of respondents rank Utah's state-provided financial incentives as good or very good, with 41% rating them poor or very poor.
- Roughly one-quarter (27%) had no opinion or incentives were not applicable.

State Financial Incentives



n = 272

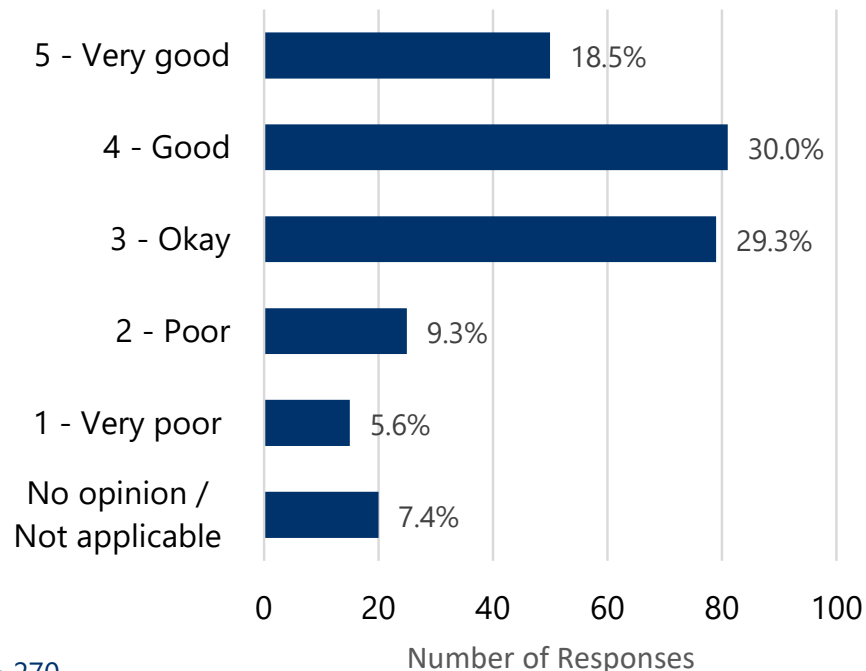
Source: Camoin Associates

Business Environment

- Nearly half of respondents (49%) rate Utah's entrepreneurial environment as good or very good.
- 9% rate it poor and 6% rate it very poor.

- 40% of respondents rate Utah's community amenities as good or very good.
- 12% rate them poor and 7% rate them very poor.

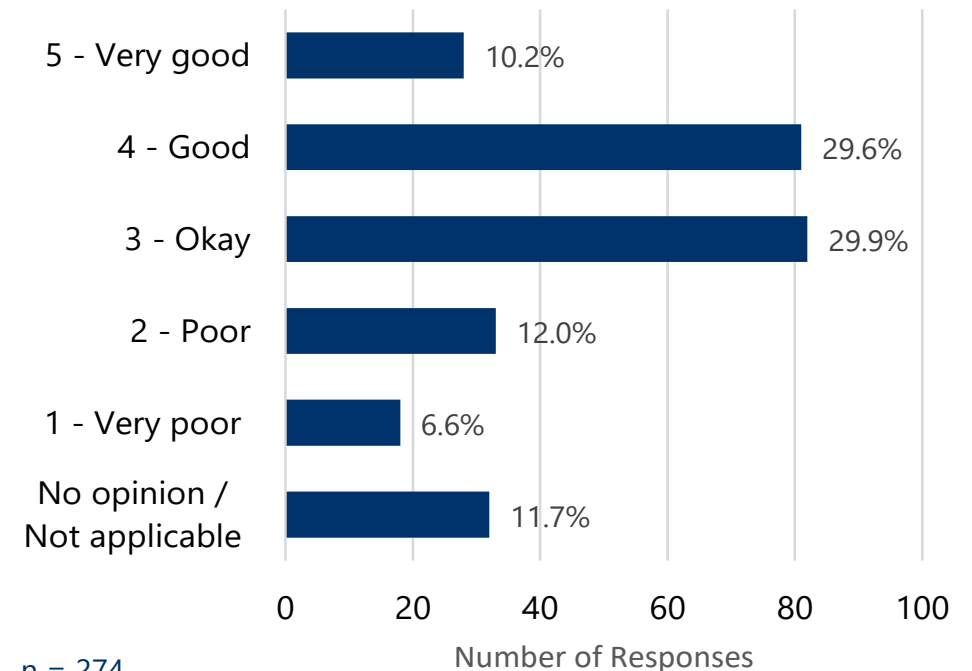
Entrepreneurial Environment



n = 270

Source: Camoin Associates

Community Amenities



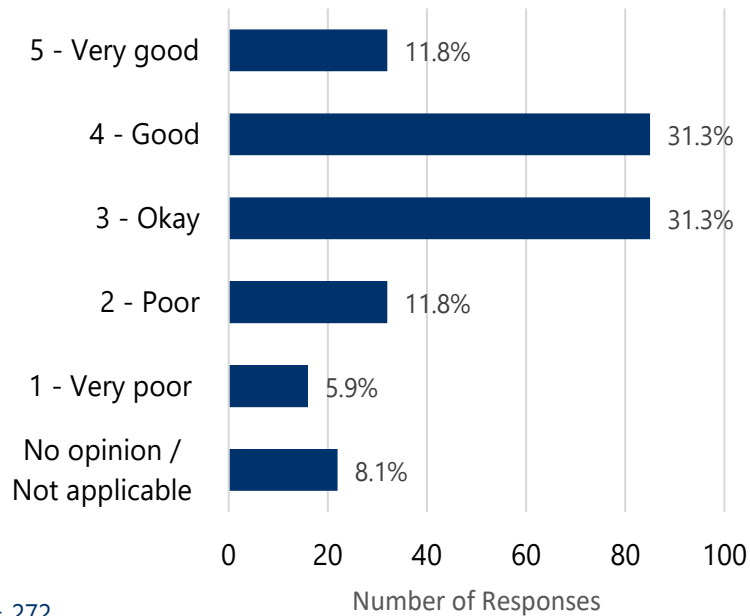
n = 274

Source: Camoin Associates

Business Environment

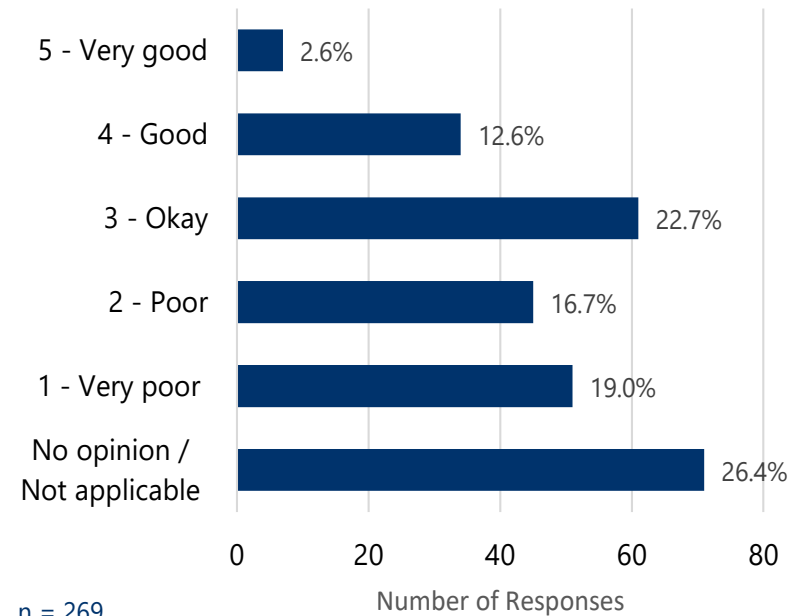
- 43% of respondents rate Utah's highways as good or very good.
- 18% rate them poor or very poor.
- 15% of respondents rate the state's public transportation systems as good or very good.
- 19% rate them very poor, 17% rate them poor.
- About one-quarter (24%) of respondents rate Utah's airline service as good or very good.
- 15% find it poor or very poor, but nearly half (47%) have no opinion.

Highways



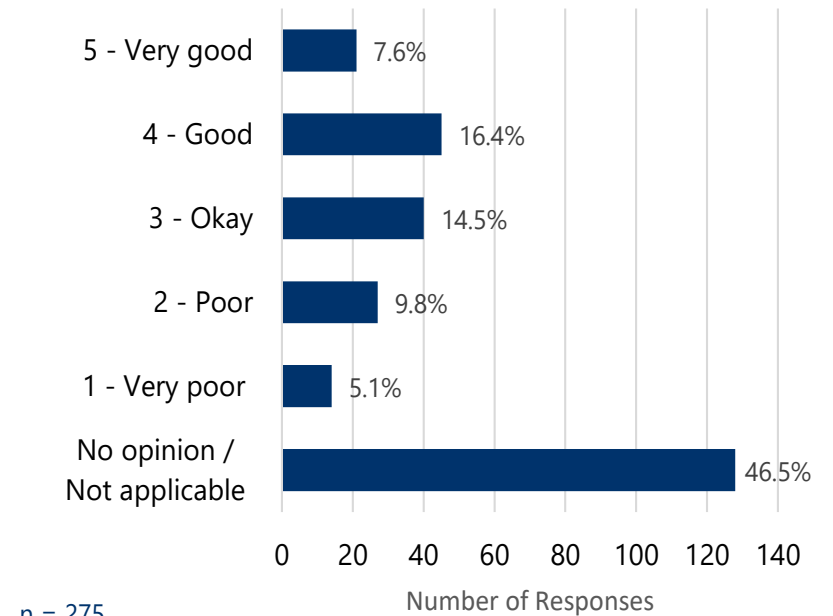
n = 272
Source: Camoin Associates

Public Transportation



n = 269
Source: Camoin Associates

Airline Service

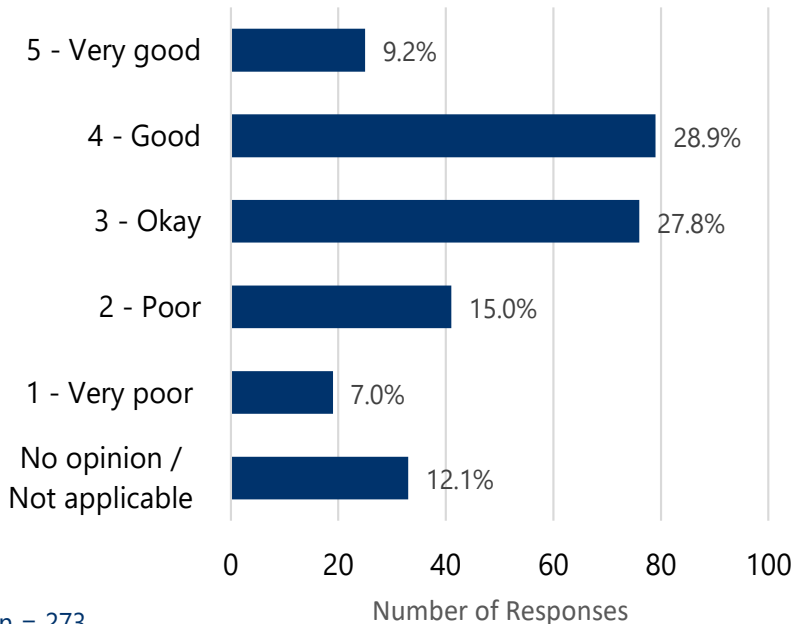


n = 275
Source: Camoin Associates

Business Environment

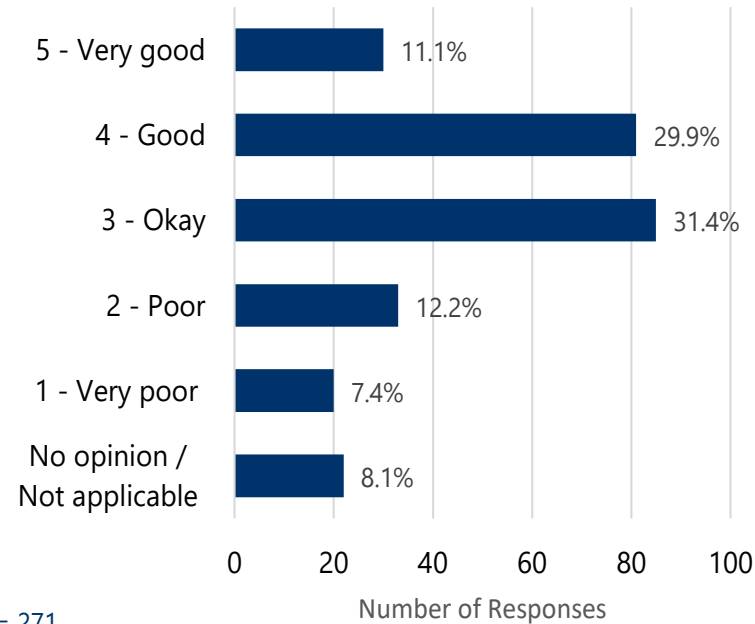
- 38% of respondents rate Utah's healthcare as good or very good.
- 22% rate it poor or very poor.
- 41% of respondents rate the state's education systems as good or very good.
- 20% rate them poor or very poor.
- Only 8% of respondents rate childcare in Utah as good or very good.
- 31% find it poor or very poor, but 41% have no opinion.

Healthcare



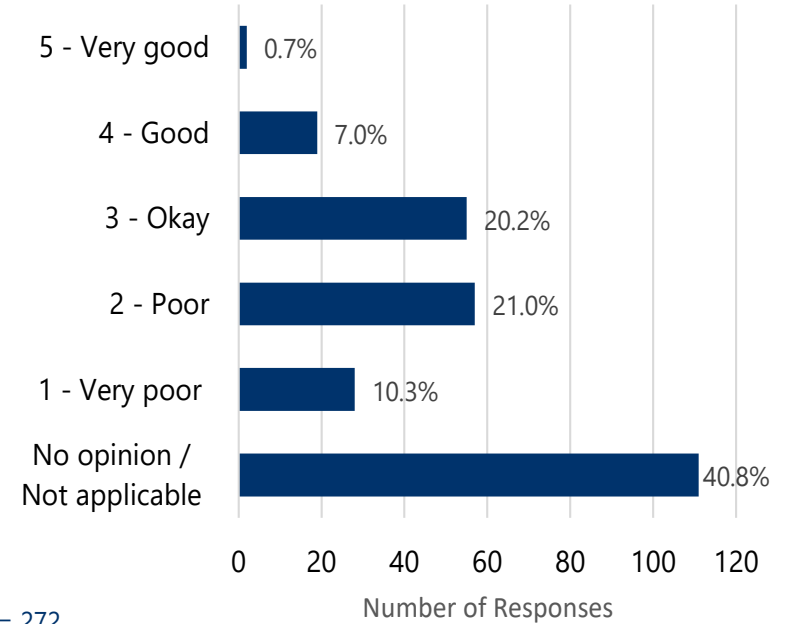
Source: Camoin Associates

Education System



Source: Camoin Associates

Childcare

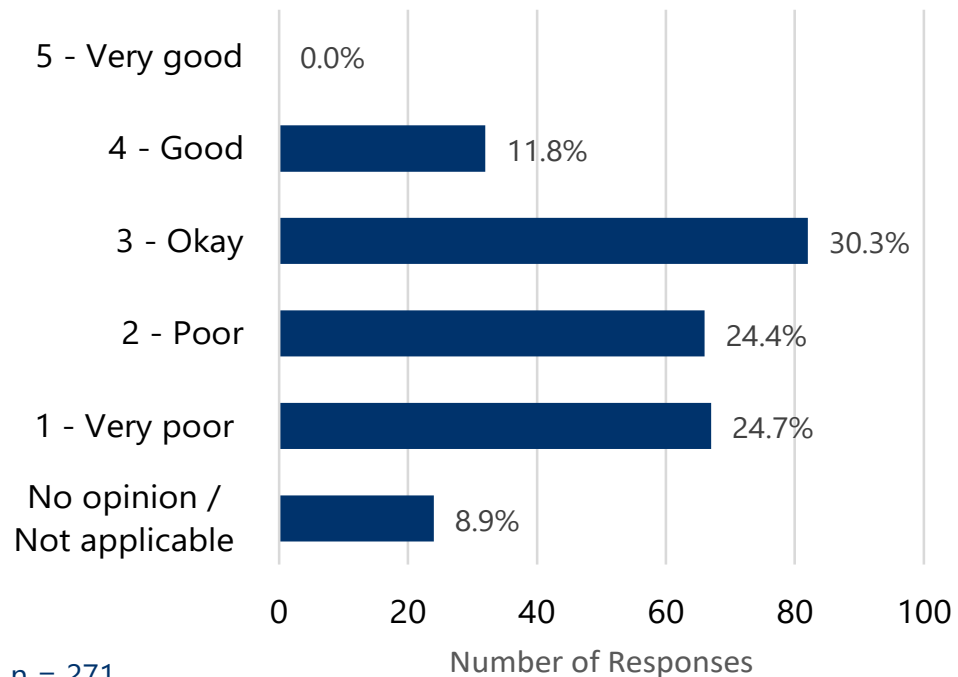


Source: Camoin Associates

Business Environment

- No respondents rate Utah's housing situation as very good and just 12% rate it good.
- Nearly half (49%) rate it poor or very poor.
- 46% of respondents rate broadband internet service in Utah as good or very good.
- 17% rate it poor or very poor.

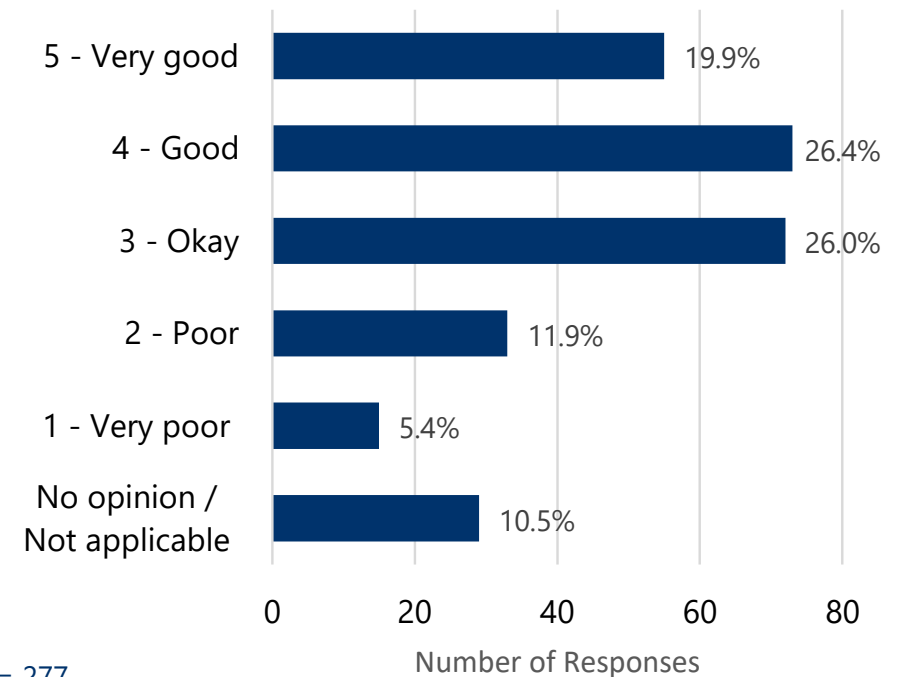
Housing



n = 271

Source: Camoin Associates

Broadband Internet



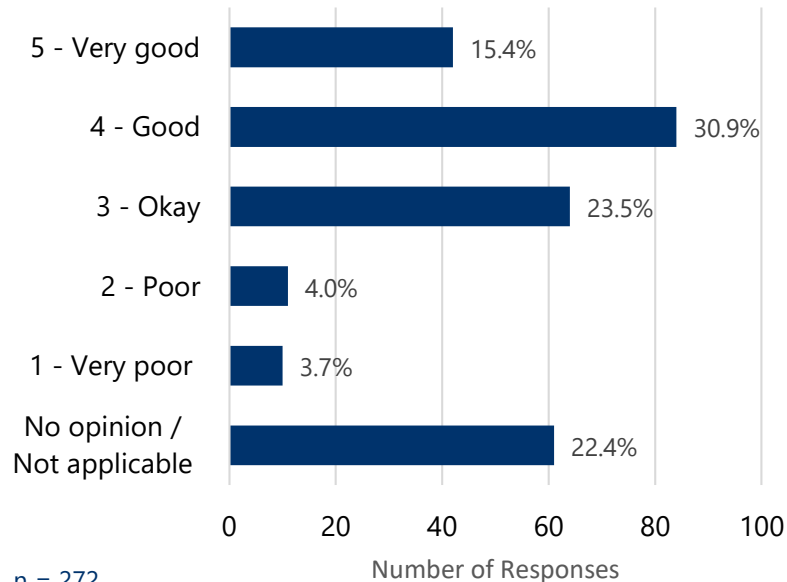
n = 277

Source: Camoin Associates

Business Environment

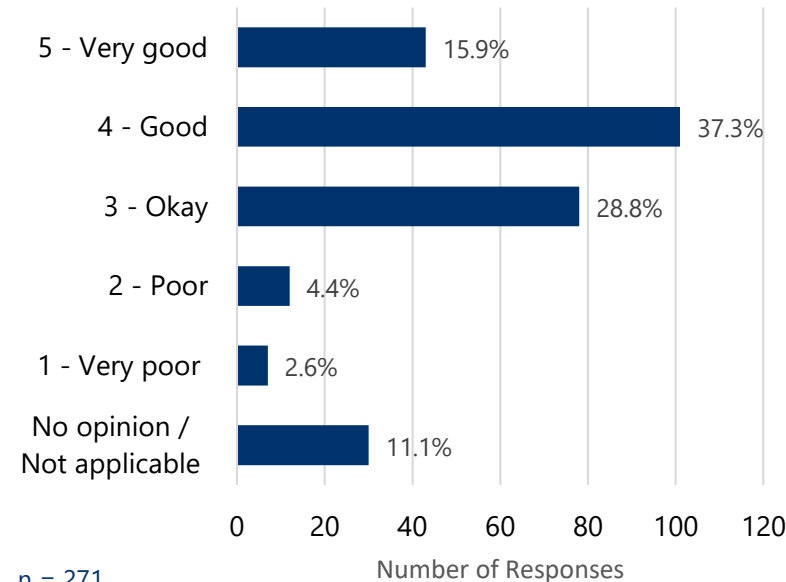
- 46% of respondents rate Utah's natural gas supply as good or very good.
- Just 8% rate it poor or very poor.
- 22% have no opinion.
- Over half of respondents (53%) rate the state's electric power supply as good or very good.
- Just 7% rate it poor or very poor.
- 48% of respondents rate water supplies in Utah as good or very good.
- 10% find them poor or very poor.

Natural Gas



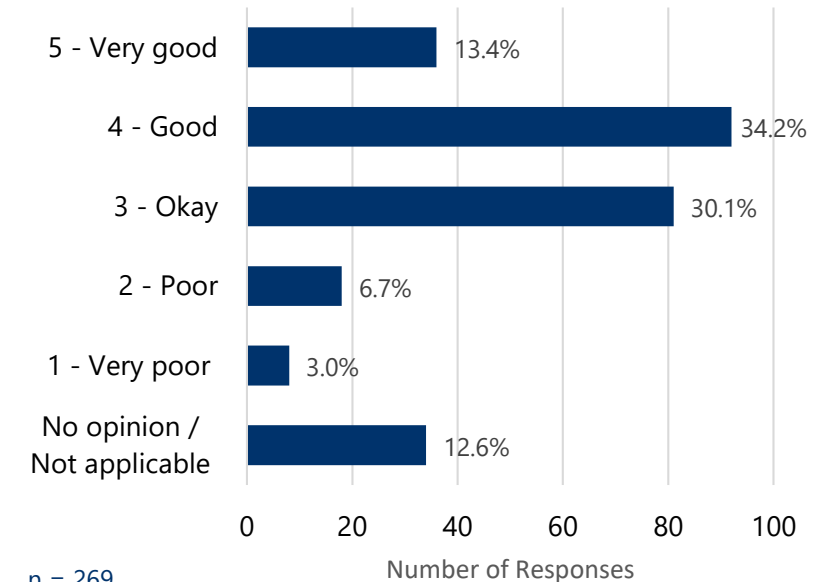
Source: Camoin Associates

Electric



Source: Camoin Associates

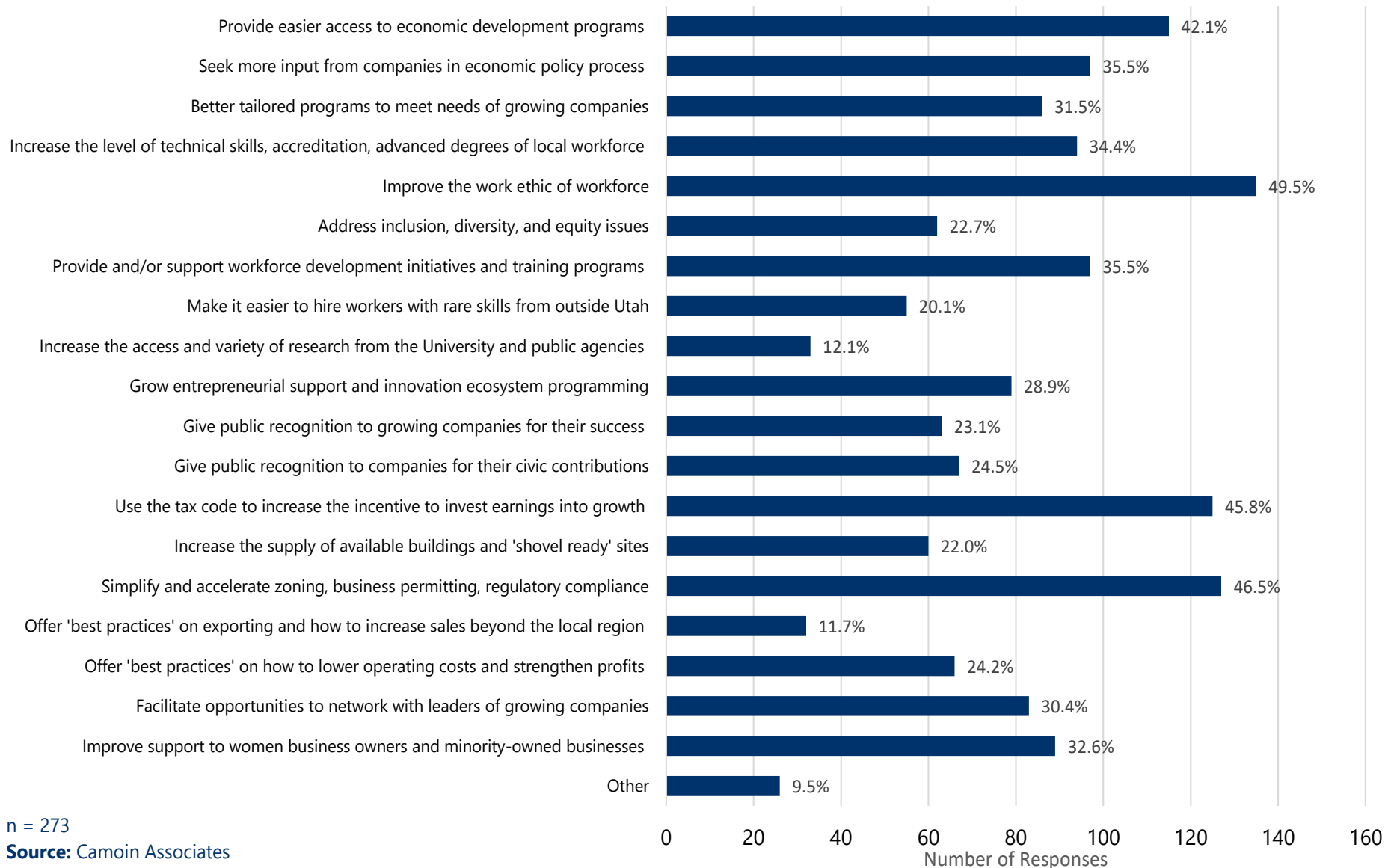
Water



Source: Camoin Associates

State and Local Government

How Could the State Improve Support for Companies Seeking Growth?



Findings presented on the following page.

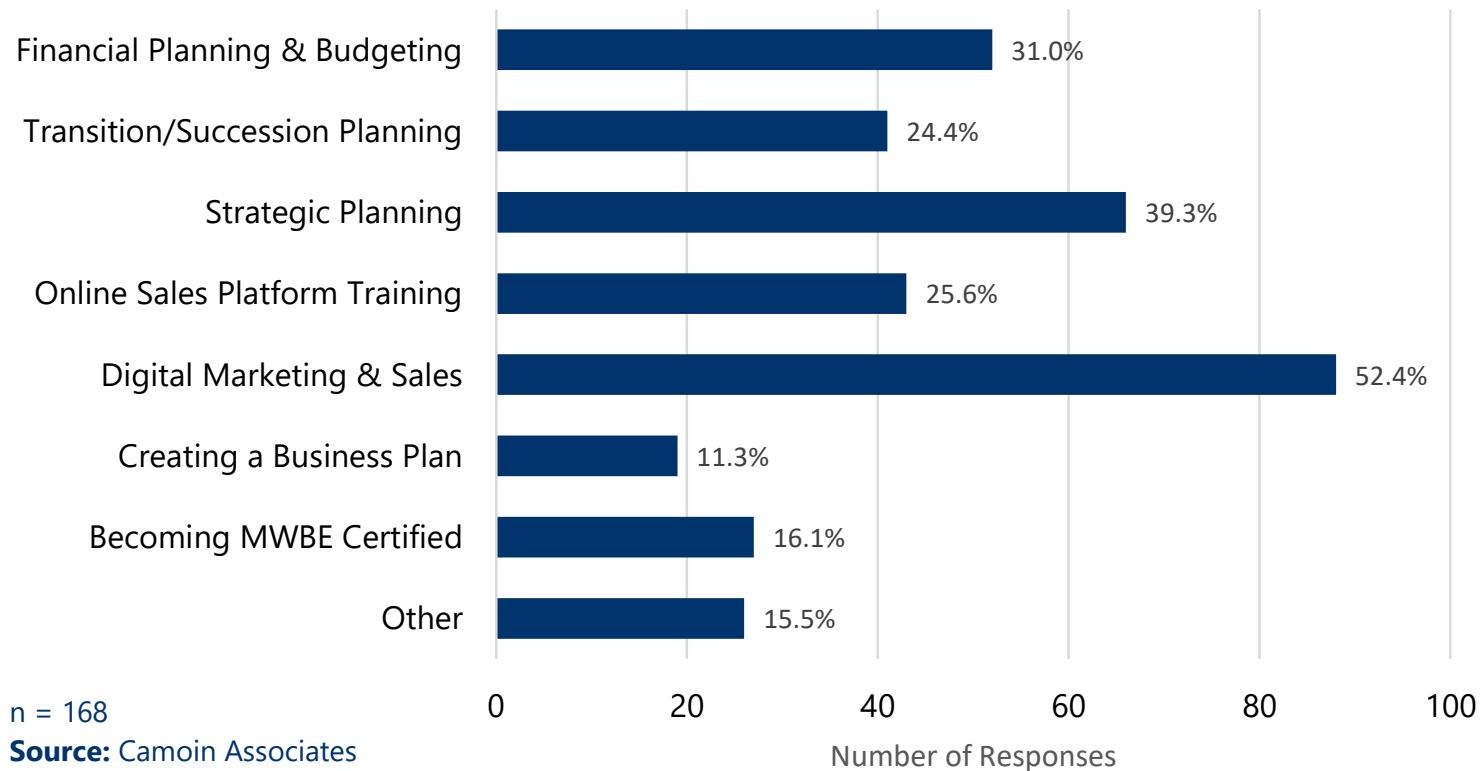
State and Local Government

- Over 40% of respondents would like the State of Utah to:
 - improve the work ethic of the workforce,
 - streamline zoning, business permitting, and regulatory compliance,
 - use the tax code to better incentivize investment in growth,
 - and improve access to economic development programs.
- Over 30% would like the State to:
 - seek more input from companies in the economic policy process,
 - provide and/or support workforce development initiatives and training programs,
 - increase the level of technical skills, accreditation, and advanced degrees of the local workforce,
 - improve support for women- and minority-owned businesses, and
 - better tailor programs to meet the needs of growing companies.

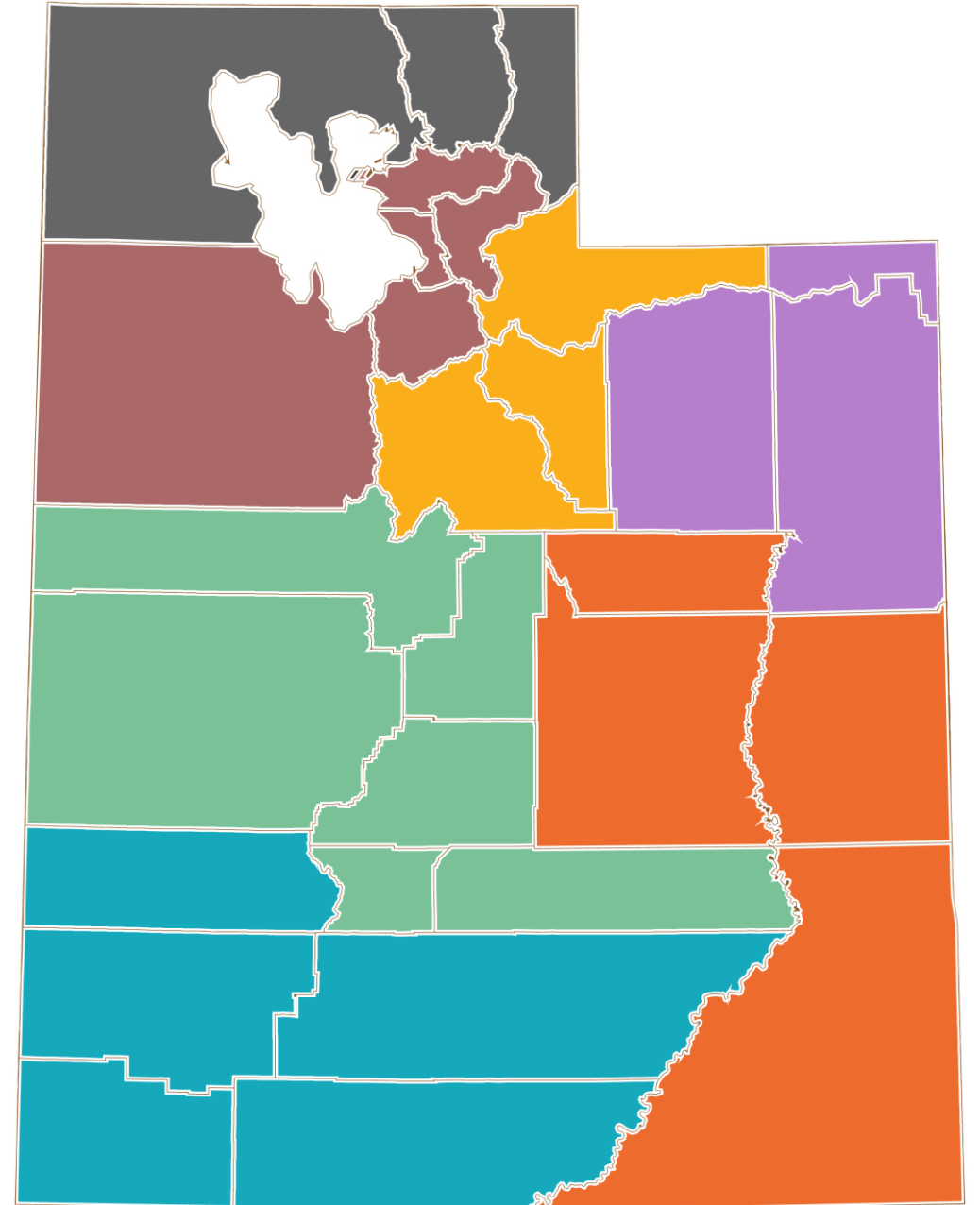
State and Local Government

- Over half of respondents (58%) indicated their business needs technical assistance.
- Of these, more than half (52%) need help with digital marketing and sales, 39% need strategic planning assistance, 31% need financial planning and budgeting help, and roughly one-quarter need online sales platform training and/or transition/ succession planning assistance.

Does Your Business Need Technical Assistance?



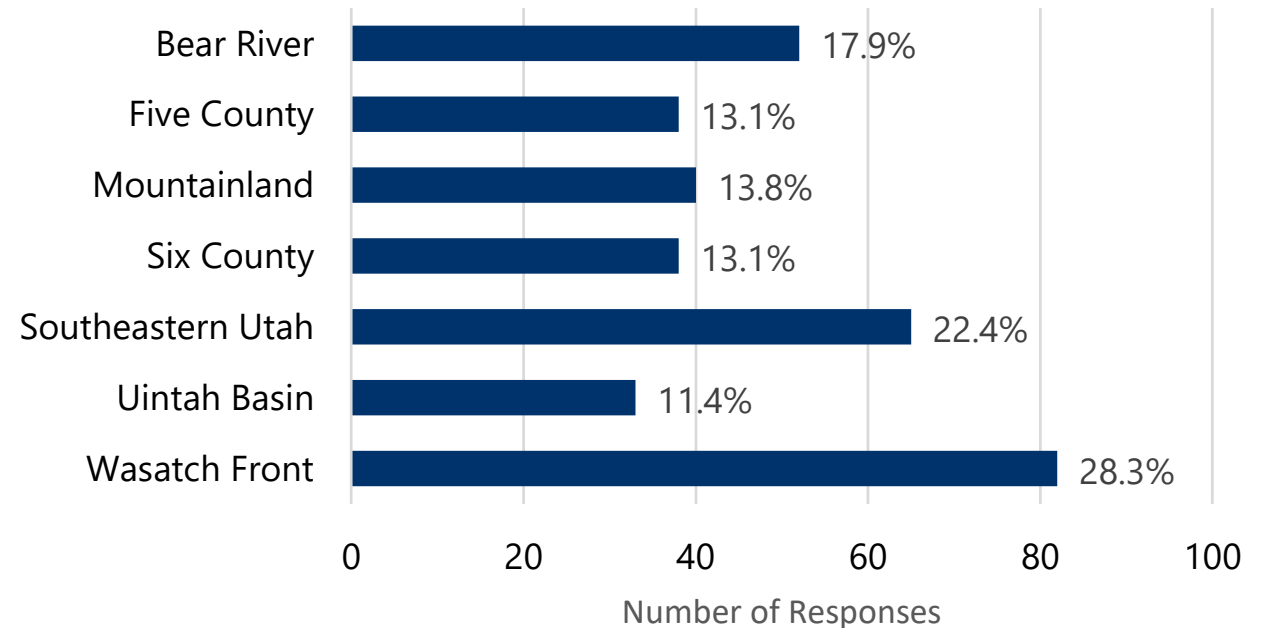
REGIONAL BREAKDOWN



Regional Overview

- The largest share of respondents (28%) is located within the Wasatch Front EDD; the second-largest share (22%) is located within the Southeastern Utah EDD.
- Roughly one-tenth each (11%–13%) are located in the Five County, Six County, and Uintah Basin EDDs.
- Nearly one-fifth (18%) have locations in the Bear River EDD.
- 26 respondents selected multiple regions.

Respondents by Region



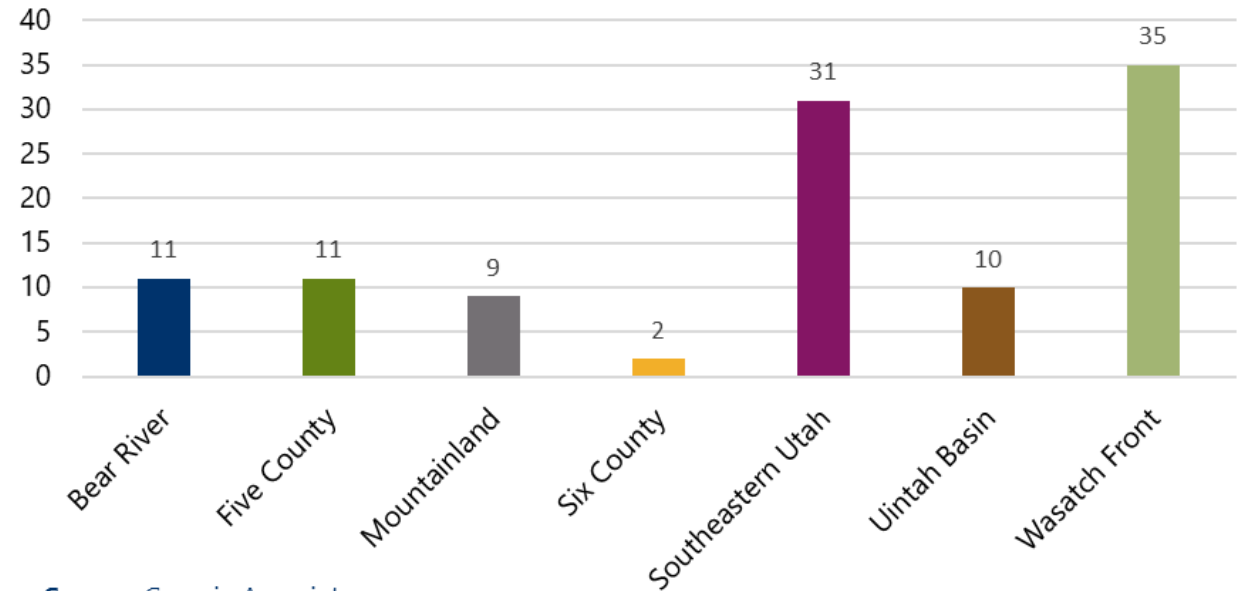
n = 290. Note: 26 respondents indicated multiple regions; they are counted in each region.

Source: Camoin Associates

Overview

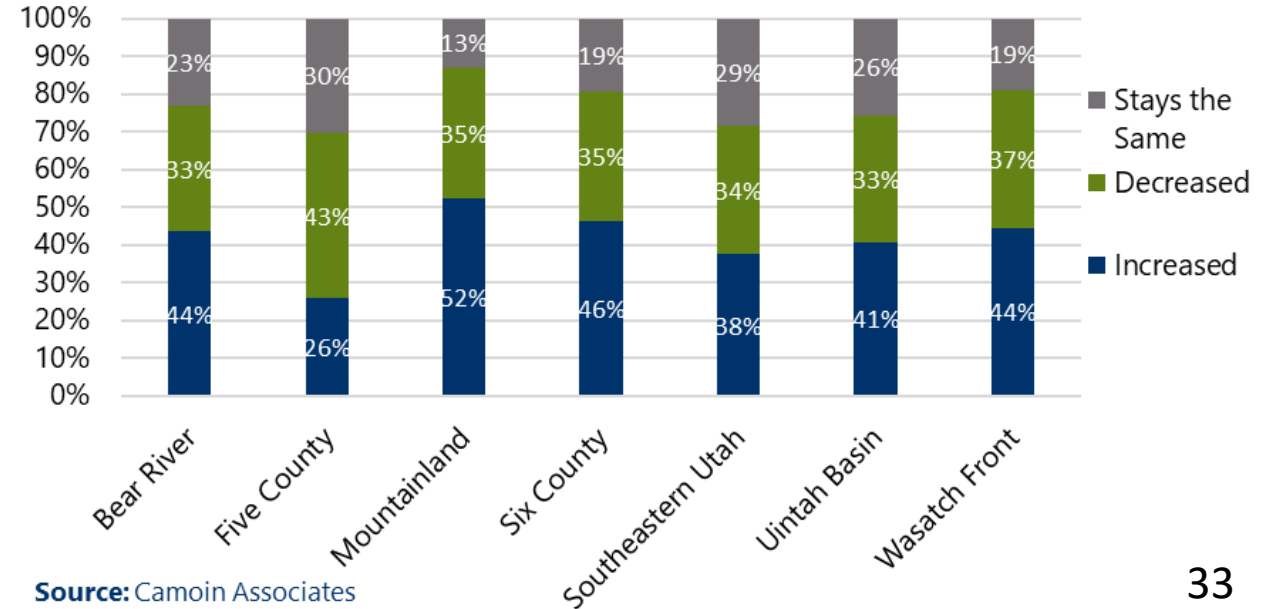
- Most facility expansion is occurring in Southeastern Utah and the Wasatch Front, both with 30-plus facilities planned for expansion.
- Mountainland region respondents were the only region with over half its facilities experiencing a revenue increase in the last 12 months.
- Five County region respondents experienced the highest proportion of facilities with a revenue decrease in the last 12 months.

Are you Planning a Facility Expansion in the Next 2-3 Years



Source: Camoin Associates

How Has Revenue Changed in the Last 12 Months

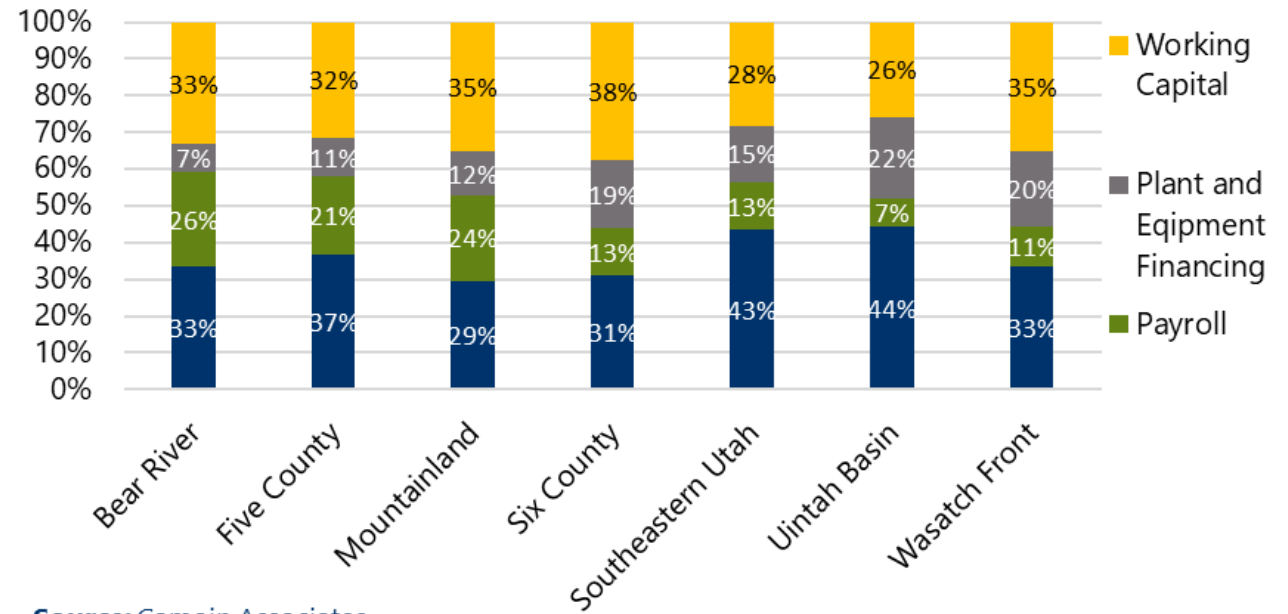


Source: Camoin Associates

Overview

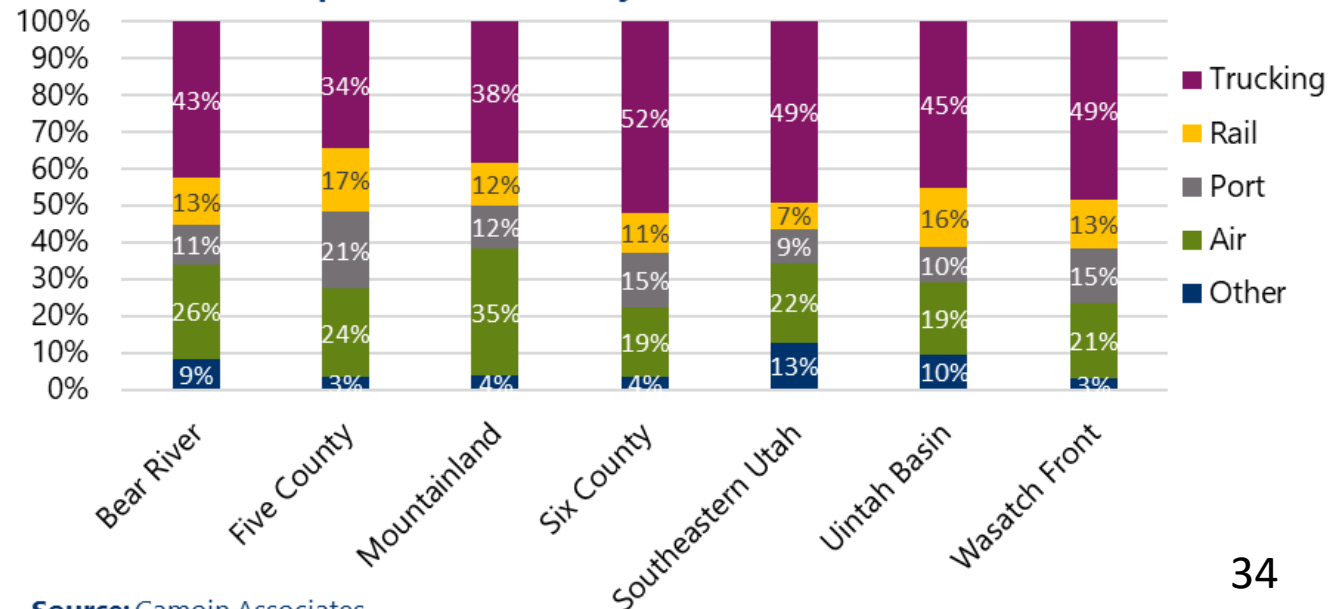
- Across regions, the greatest areas of financial assistance need are in working capital and capital improvements.
- Across the regions, the respondents use trucking for most of their transportation requirements.
- Except in Bear River and the Uintah Basin, rail is the least utilized transportation method.

Where are Your Financial Assistance Needs



Source: Camoin Associates

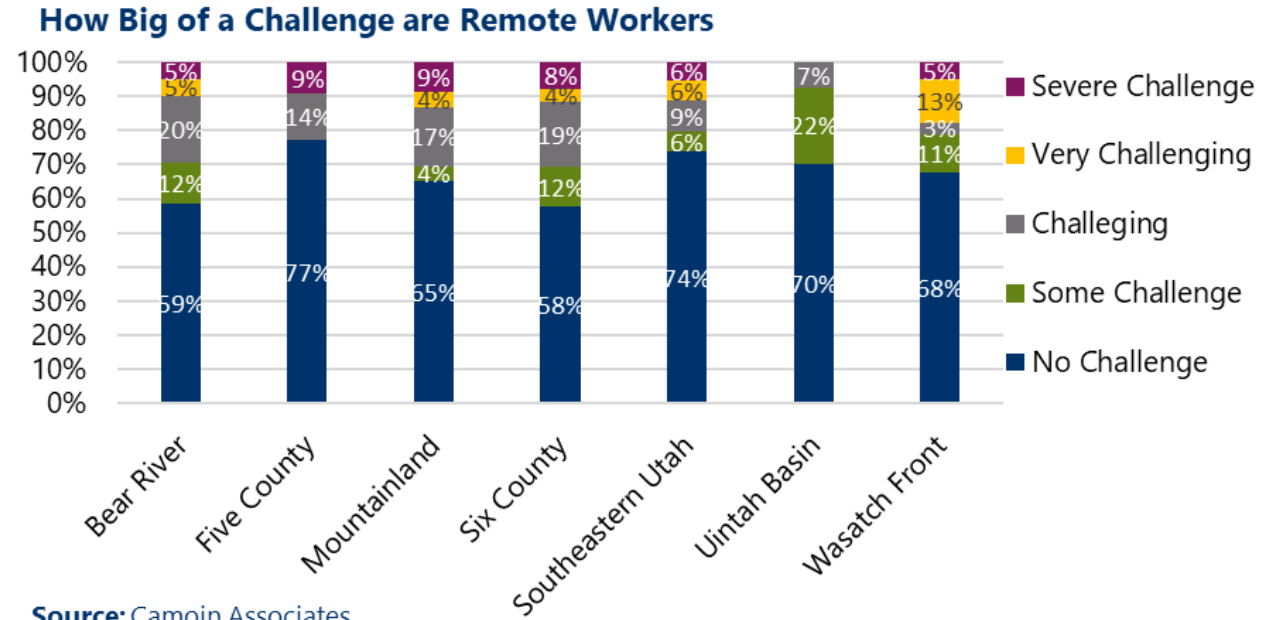
How Do You Transport at Your Facility



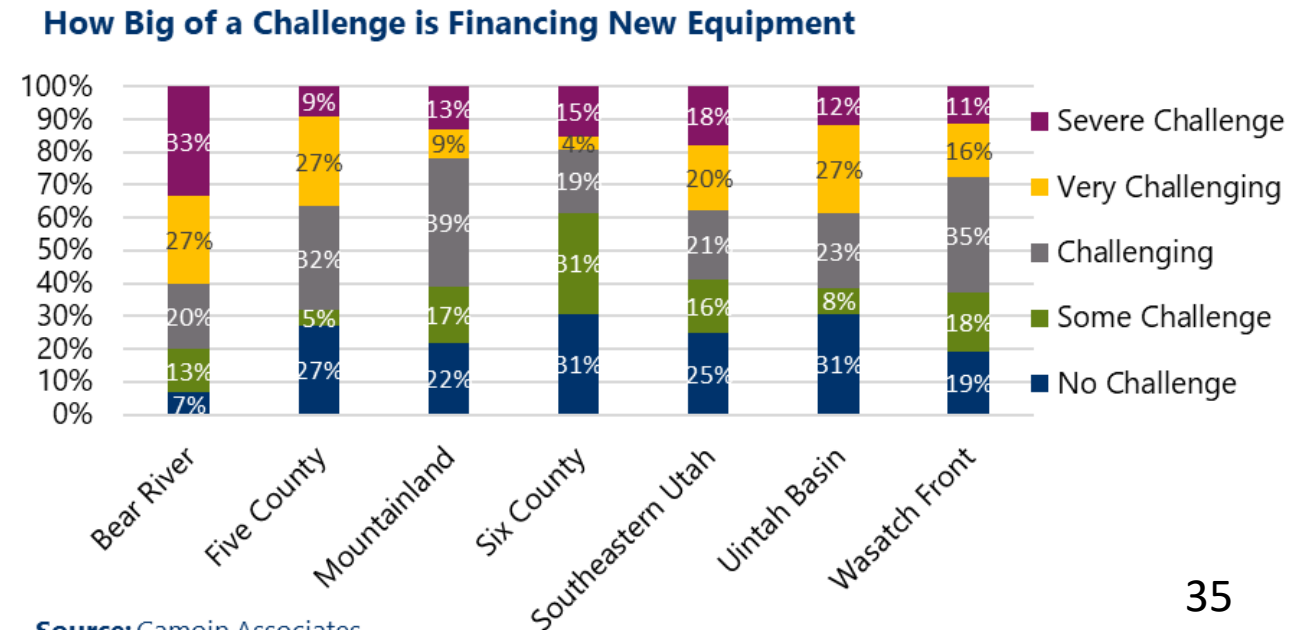
Source: Camoin Associates

Challenges

- Across the board the majority of regional respondents stated that dealing with remote workers was not a challenge.
- Six County region respondents did however find this to be more challenging than any other region.
- Financing new equipment is at least challenging for most of the regional respondents.
- Financing new equipment was the least challenging for Six County respondents.



Source: Camoin Associates

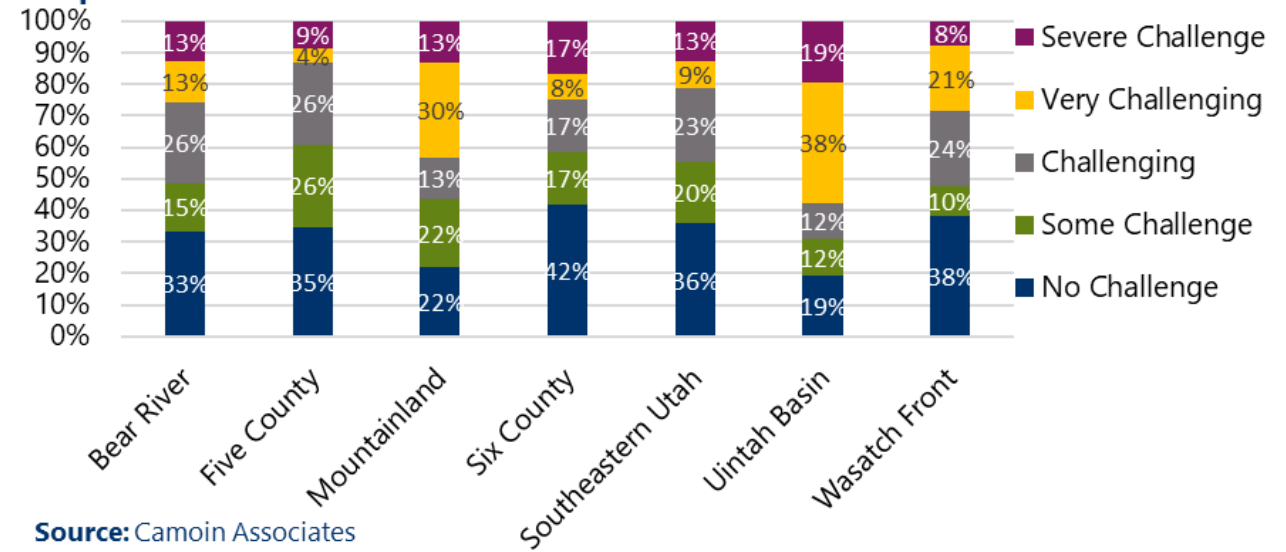


Source: Camoin Associates

Challenges

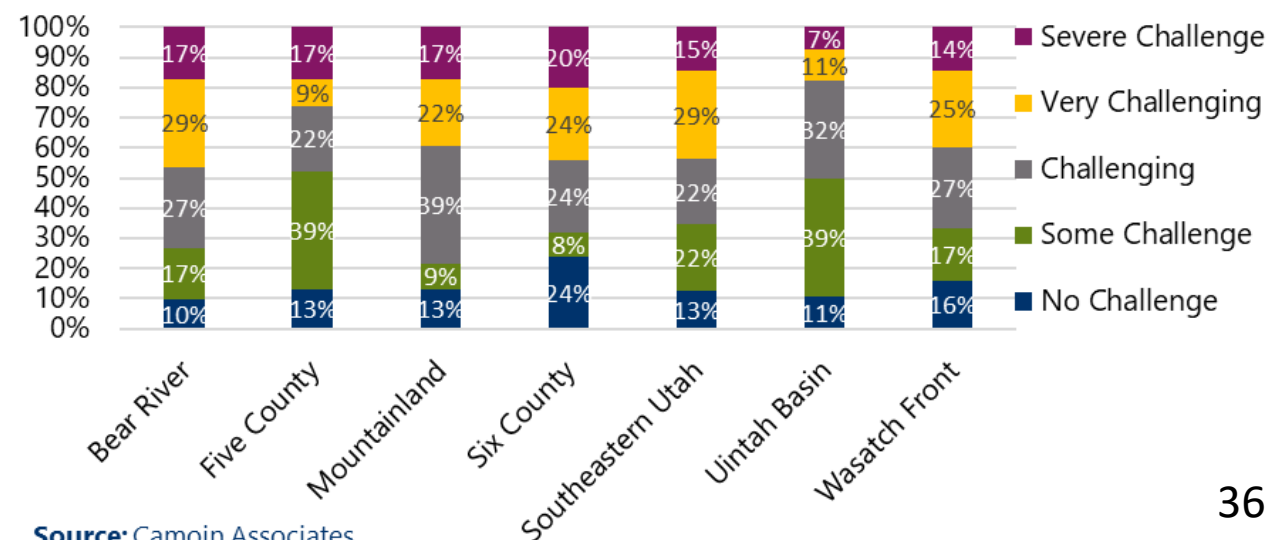
- A majority of regional respondents stated that attracting external sources of growth capital was a challenge.
- Attracting external sources of growth capital was the most challenging for Uintah Basin and Mountainland respondents.
- Dealing with the increasing cost of utilities was at least challenging for most of the regional respondents.
- The exceptions to this being in the Five County and Uintah Basin regions.

How Big of a Challenge is Attracting External Sources of Growth Capital



Source: Camoin Associates

How Big of a Challenge is Dealing with the Increasing Cost of Utilities

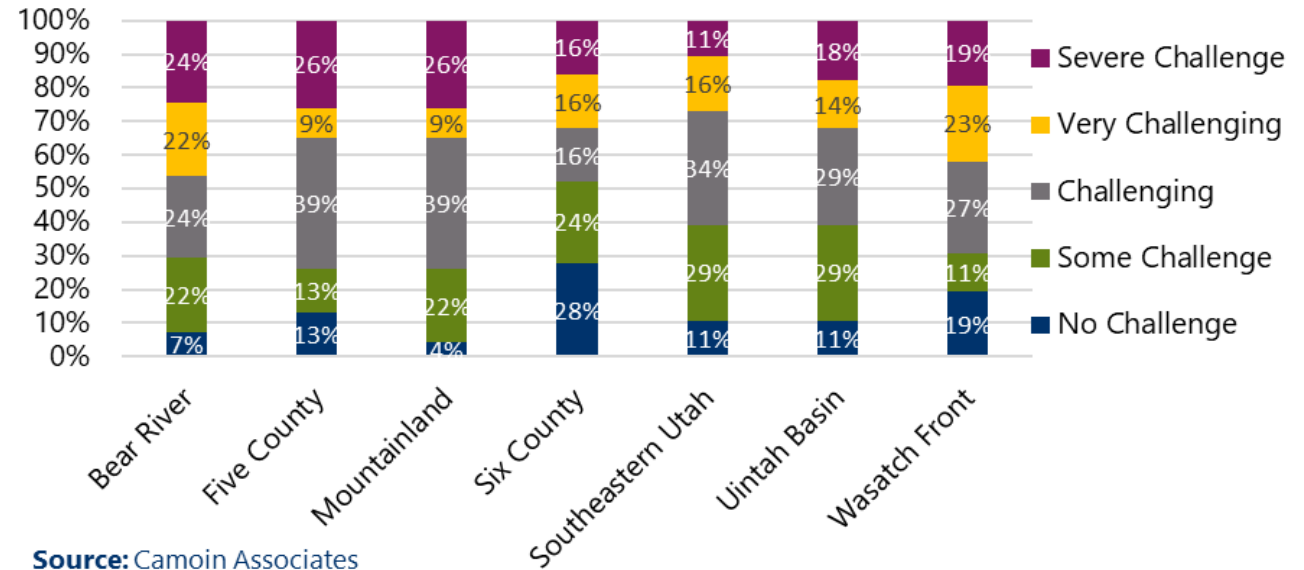


Source: Camoin Associates

Challenges

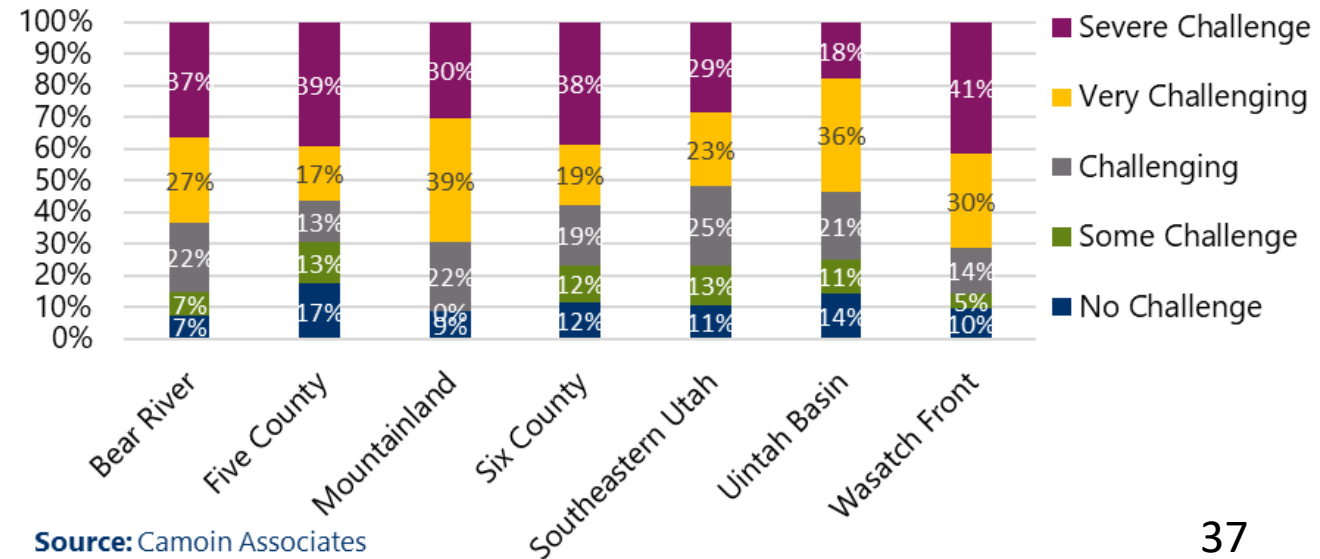
- A majority of regional businesses stated that managing cash flow was a challenge.
- Six County region respondents struggled with this the least.
- A significant majority of respondents stated that dealing with the increasing cost of labor was at least challenging.
- It was the least challenging in the Five County region and the most challenging in the Mountainland region.

How Big of a Challenge is Managing Cash Flow



Source: Camoin Associates

How Big of a Challenge is Dealing with the Increasing Cost of Labor

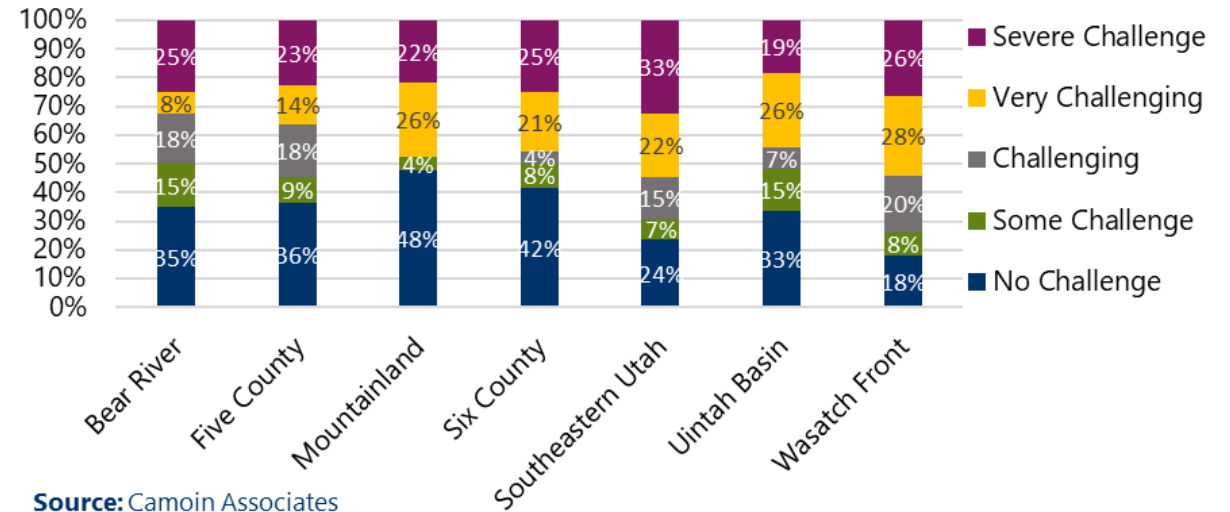


Source: Camoin Associates

Challenges

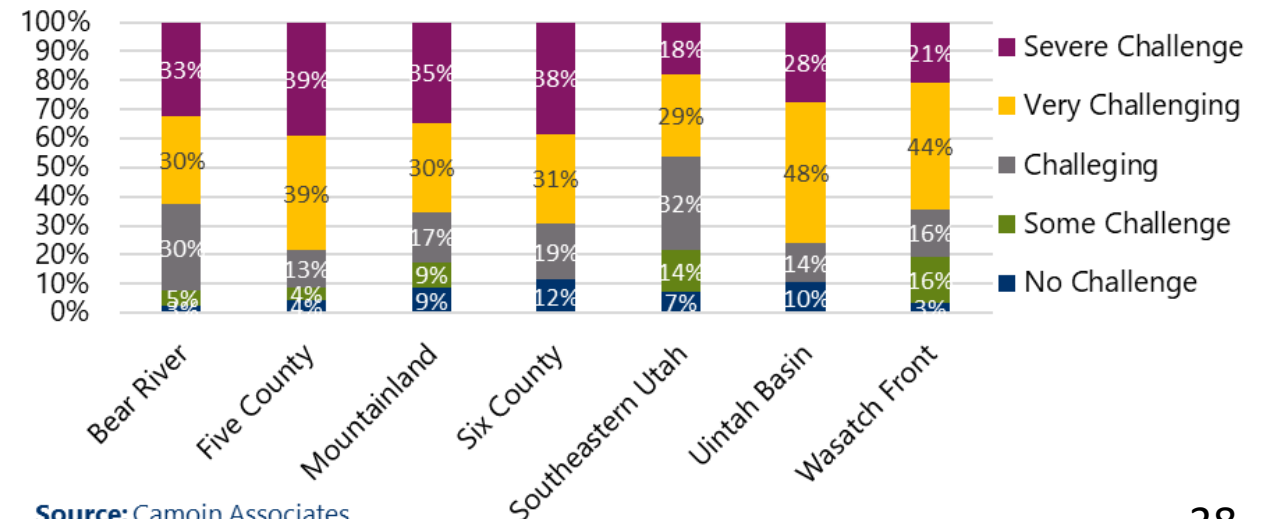
- A majority of regional respondents stated that dealing with the increasing cost of real estate was at least challenging.
- Real estate costs were the most challenging in the Wasatch Front and Southeastern Utah.
- A majority of regional respondents stated that dealing with unexpected changes in economic conditions was a big challenge.
- Bear River and Five County respondents struggle with this challenge the most compared to the other regions.

How Big of a Challenge is Dealing with the Increasing Cost of Real Estate



Source: Camoin Associates

How Big of a Challenge is Dealing with Unexpected Changes in Economic Conditions or Input Demand

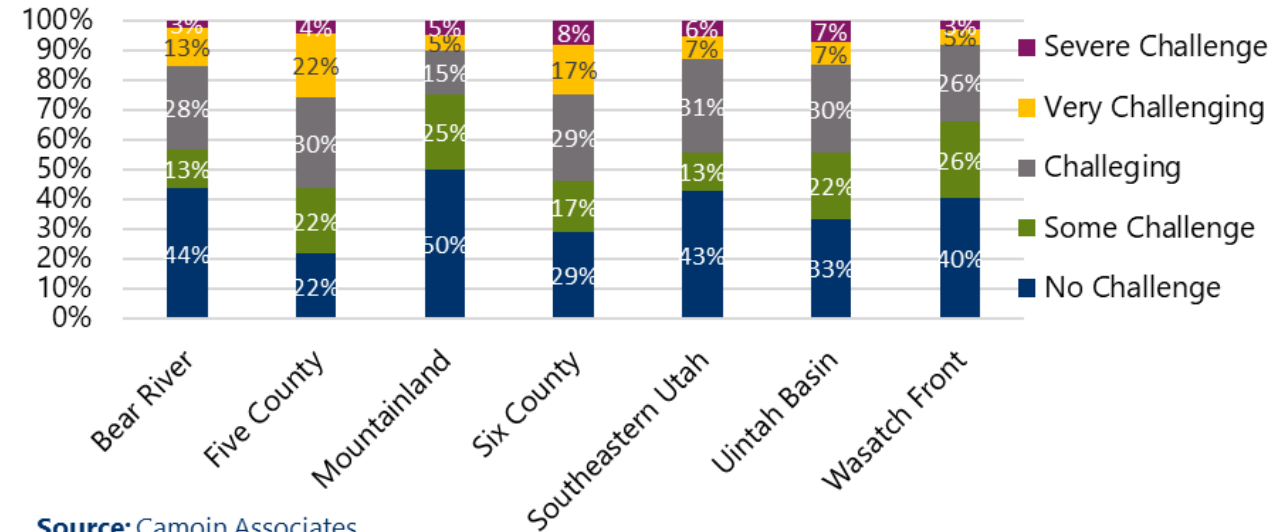


Source: Camoin Associates

Challenges

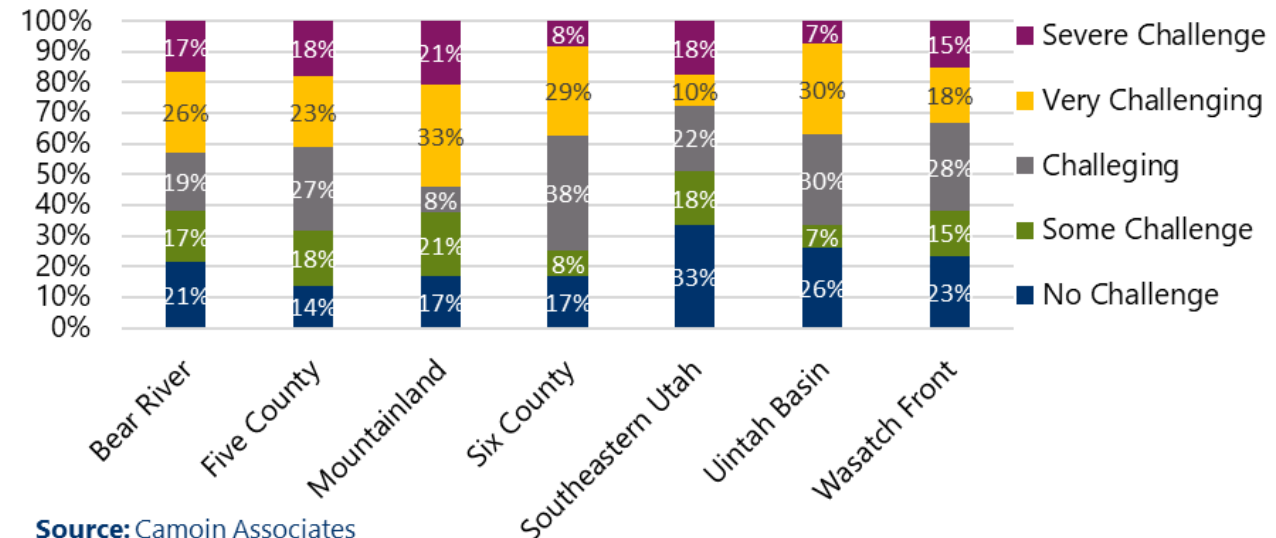
- Mountainland region respondents had the least difficulty responding to new disruptive technologies.
- A majority of the regional respondents stated that navigating legislative and regulatory barriers was at least challenging.
- Six County respondents found this the most challenging.

How Big of a Challenge is Dealing with Responding to New Disruptive Technologies



Source: Camoin Associates

How Big of a Challenge is Navigating Legislative and/or Regulatory Barriers

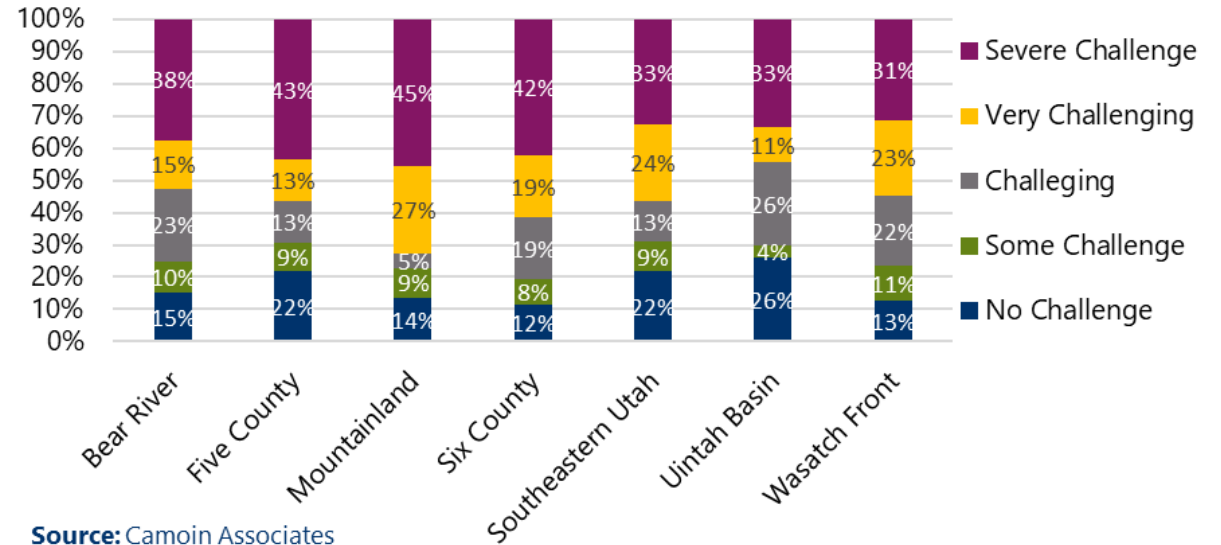


Source: Camoin Associates

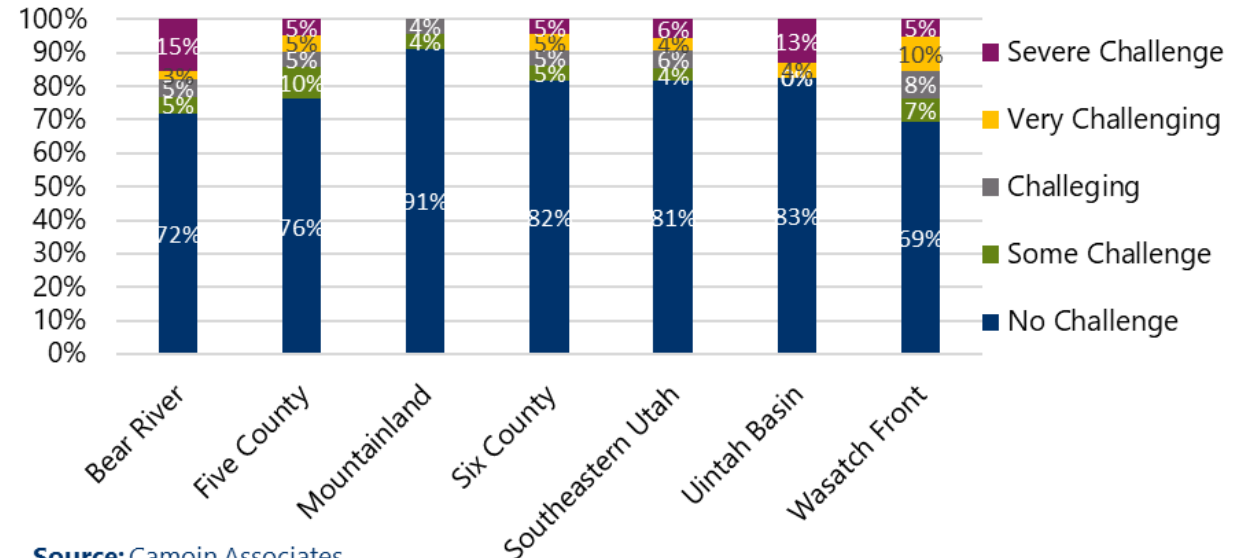
Challenges

- A majority of the regional respondents stated that recruiting the best workforce possible was at least a challenge.
- Six County, Mountainland, and Wasatch Front respondents found this to be the most challenging.
- A significant majority of the regional respondents stated that entering foreign markets was not a challenge (78% of respondents do not export).
- Bear River and Wasatch Front respondents found this to be more challenging than the other regions.

How Big of a Challenge is Recruiting the Best Workforce Possible



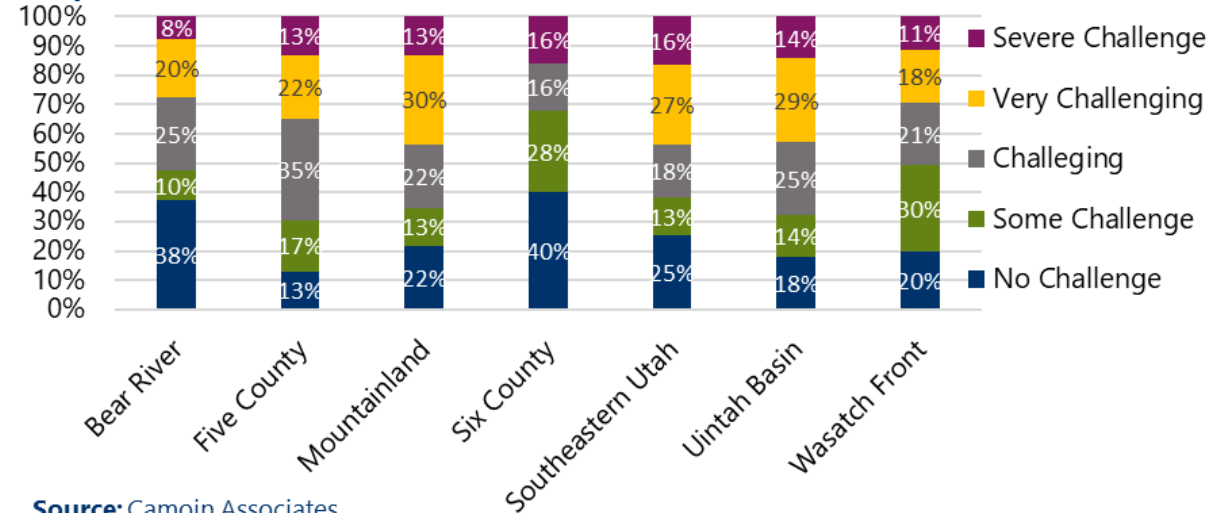
How Big of a Challenge is Entering into Foreign Markets



Challenges

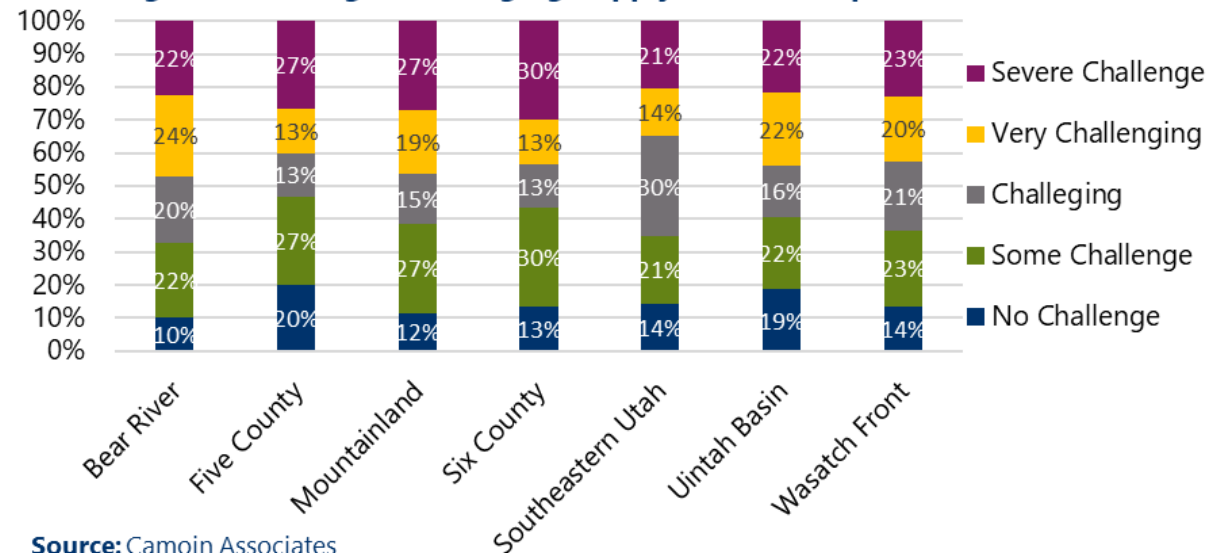
- A majority of the regional respondents stated that obtaining growth financing and capital was at least challenging.
- The exception being the Six County Region, who found this the least challenging.
- A majority of the regional respondents stated that managing supply chain disruptions was at least challenging.
- The Bear River and Southeastern Utah regions found this the most challenging.

How Big of a Challenge is Obtaining Growth Financing and Capital



Source: Camoin Associates

How Big of a Challenge is Managing Supply Chain Disruptions

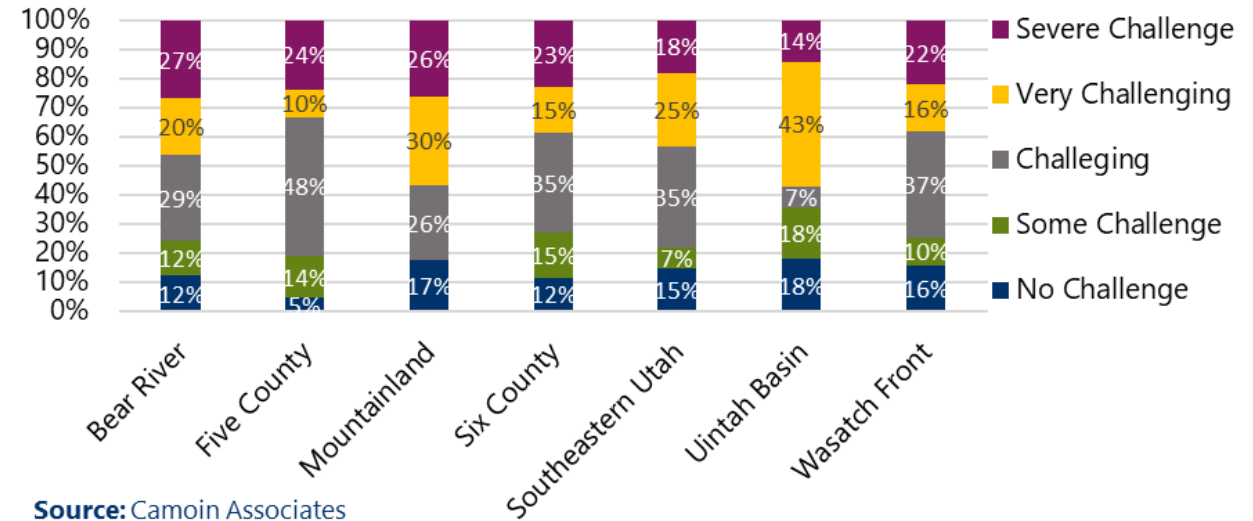


Source: Camoin Associates

Challenges

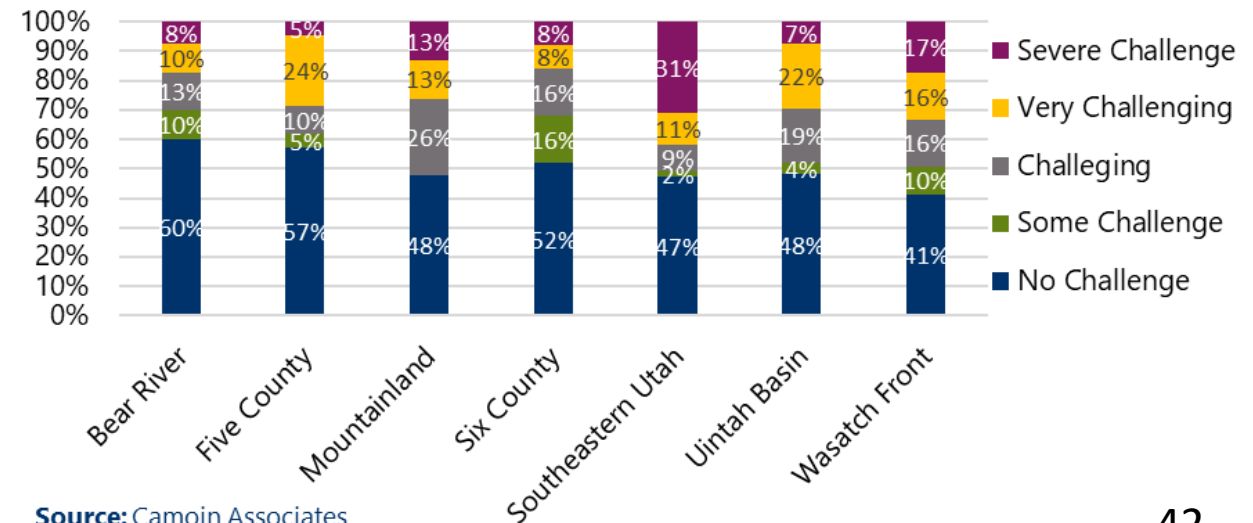
- A majority of the regional respondents stated that maintaining high margins on their existing products and services was at least challenging.
- Mountainland, Five County, and Southeastern Utah respondents found this the most challenging.
- Most respondents did not think that finding suitable land and buildings to grow their businesses was a significant challenge.
- Only in Mountainland and Southeastern Utah did more than half of respondents find it to be at least challenging.

How Big of a Challenge is Maintaining High Margins on Your Existing Products or Services



Source: Camoin Associates

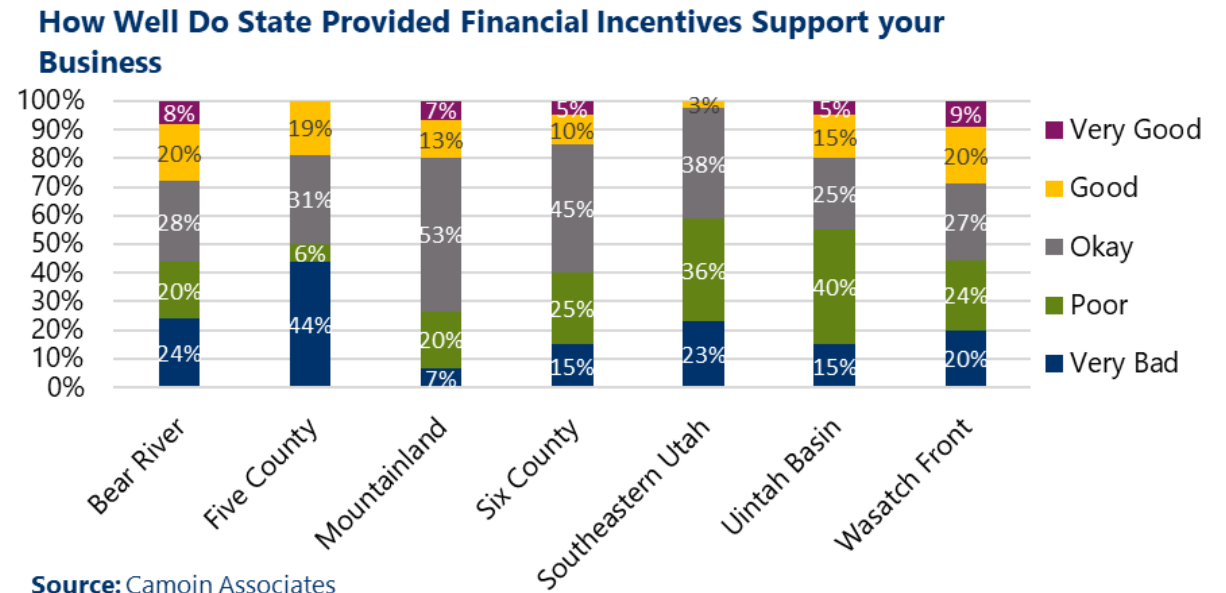
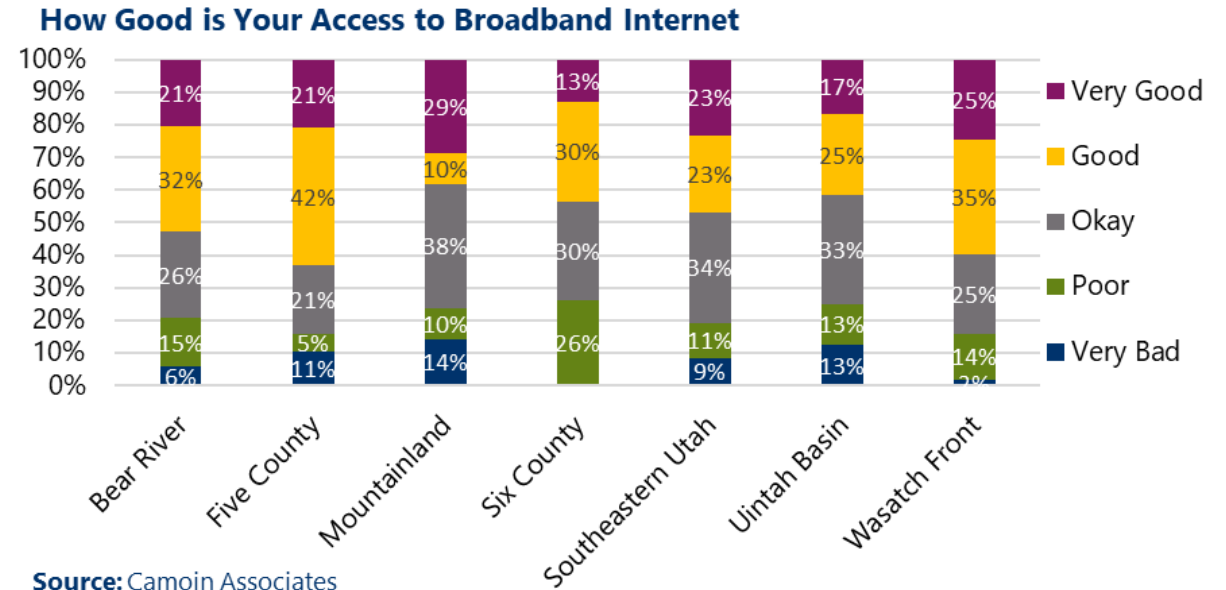
How Big of a Challenge is Finding Suitable Land or Buildings to Grow Business



Source: Camoin Associates

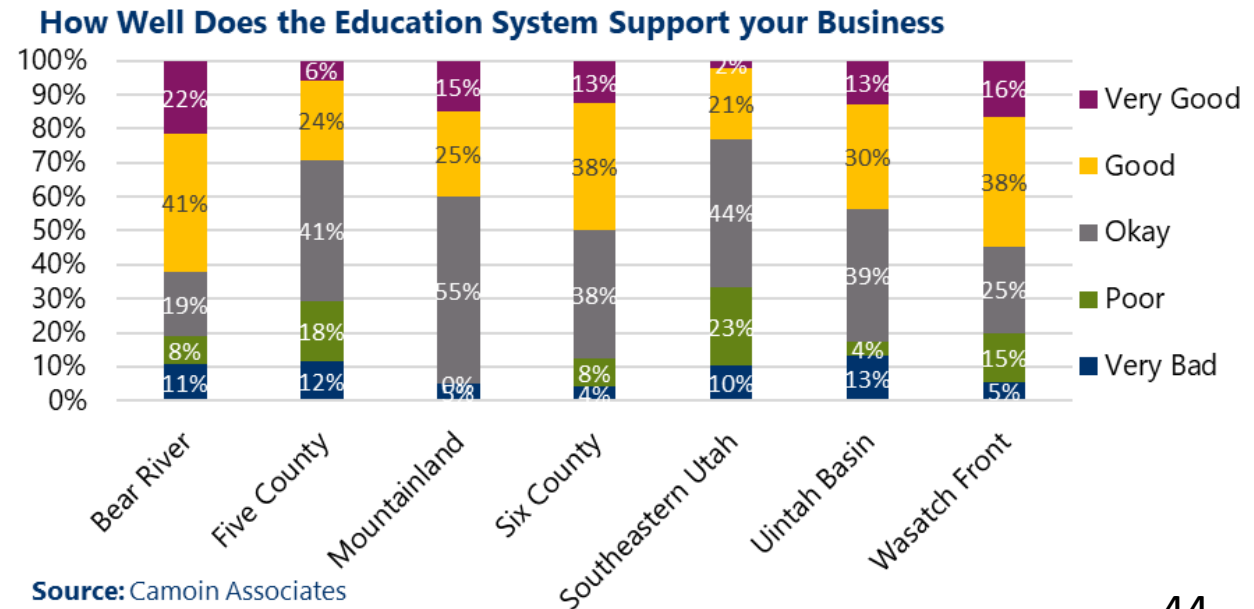
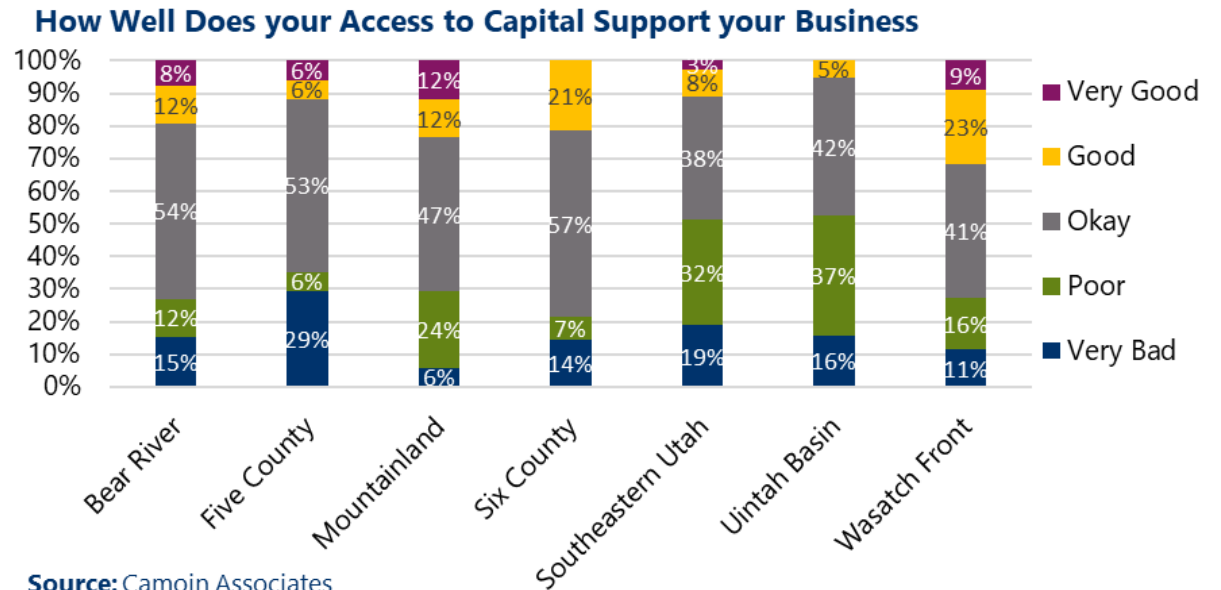
Business Environment

- A majority of the respondents said their broadband internet access was at least okay.
- The largest shares of respondents reporting poor or very poor access were in Six County and the Uintah Basin.
- In four regions most respondents thought that state-provided financial incentives did at least an okay job supporting their businesses.
- Southeastern Utah and Uintah Basin felt the worst about state-provided financial incentives supporting their businesses.



Business Environment

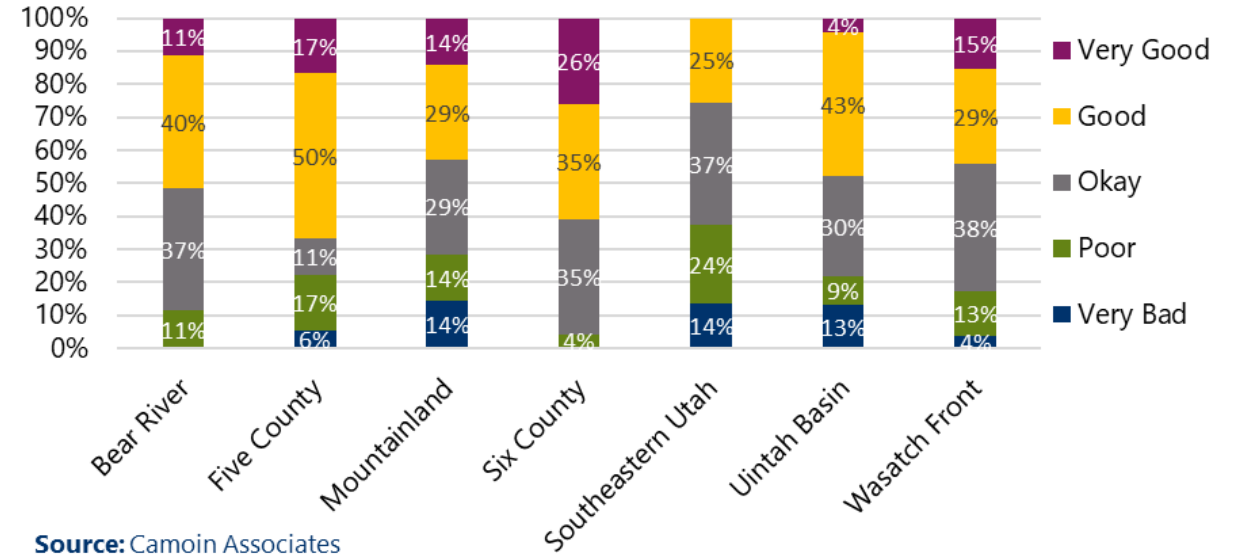
- Most regions found access to capital to be at least okay.
- Uintah Basin was the least pleased with access to capital.
- A majority of respondents think that the education system does at least an okay job supporting their businesses.
- Southeastern Utah and Five County were the least satisfied with the education system.



Business Environment

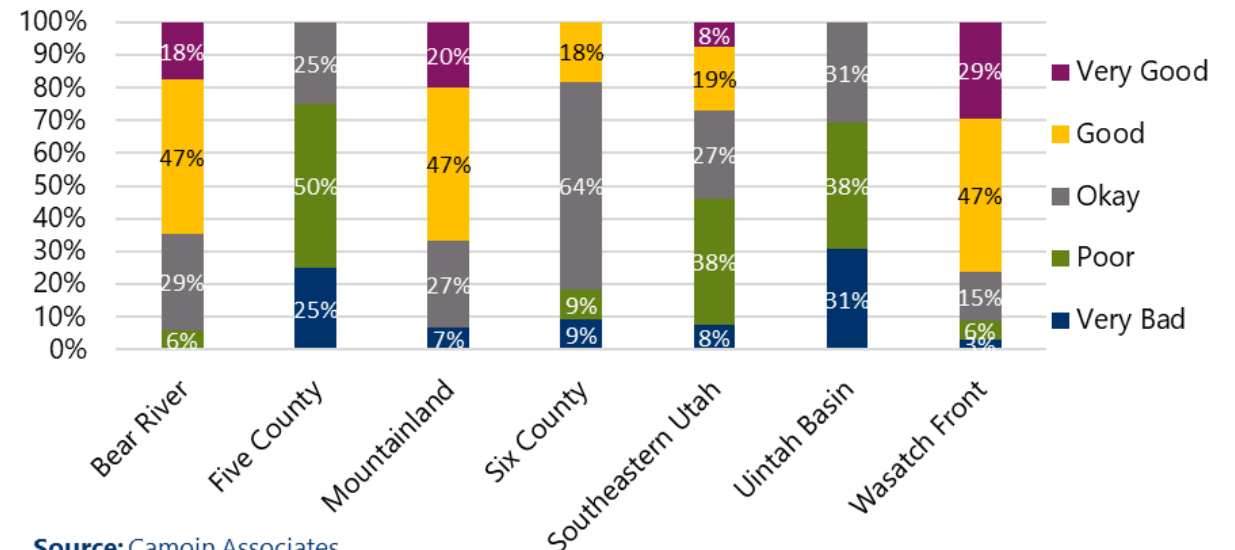
- A majority of respondents state that the highways did at least an okay job supporting their businesses.
- The regional respondents with the best view of the highways were the Six County and Bear River respondents.
- Respondents' views on how well airline services supported their business were the most diverse of the questions asked.
- A majority of Bear River, Mountainland, Six County, Southeastern Utah, and Wasatch Front respondents felt airline service was at least okay.
- A majority of Five County and Uintah Basin respondents felt that airline services were poor or worse.

How Well Do the Highways Support your Business



Source: Camoin Associates

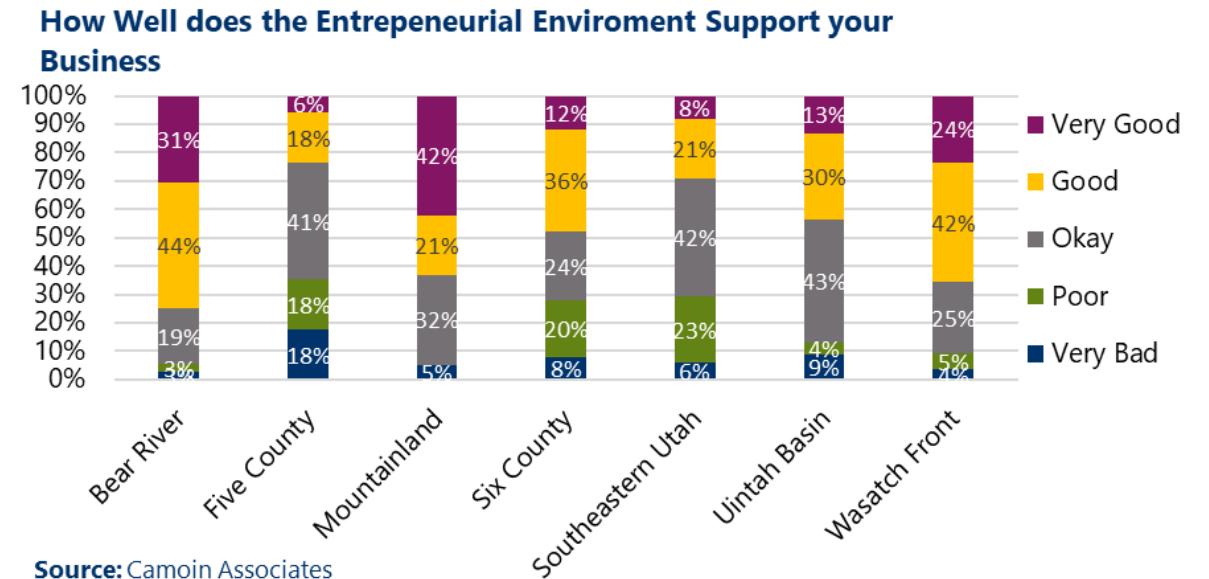
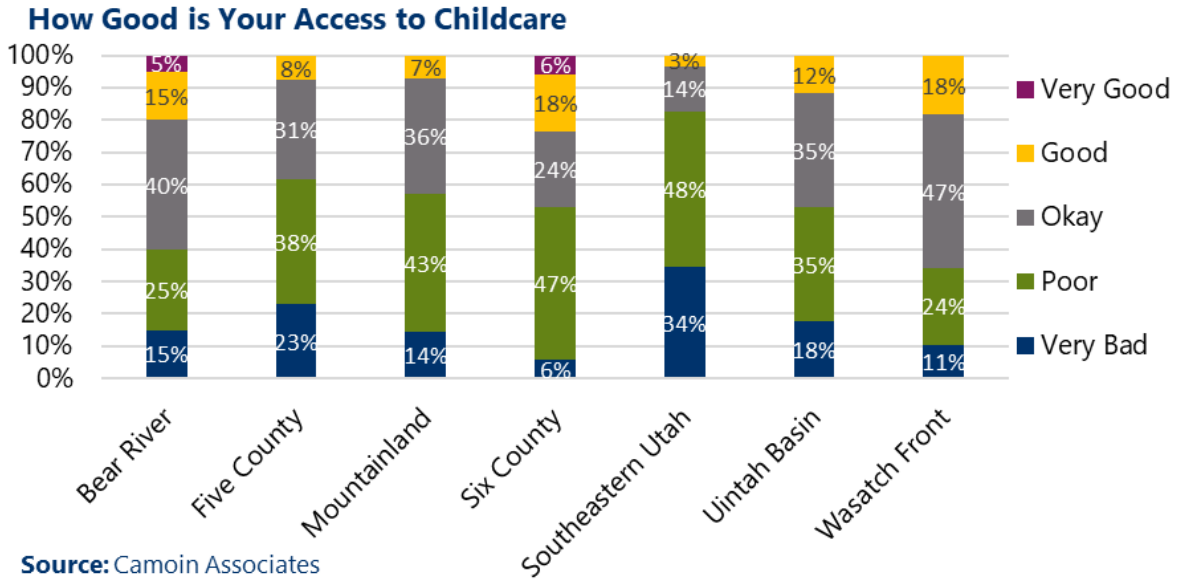
How Well Does Access to Airline Services Support your Business



Source: Camoin Associates

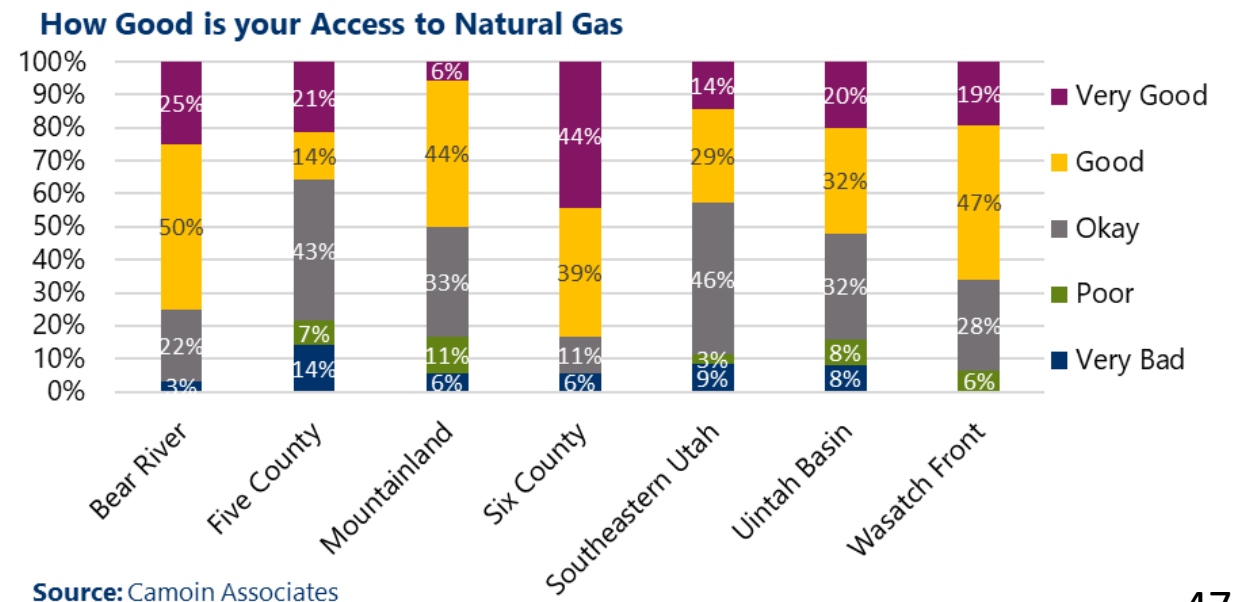
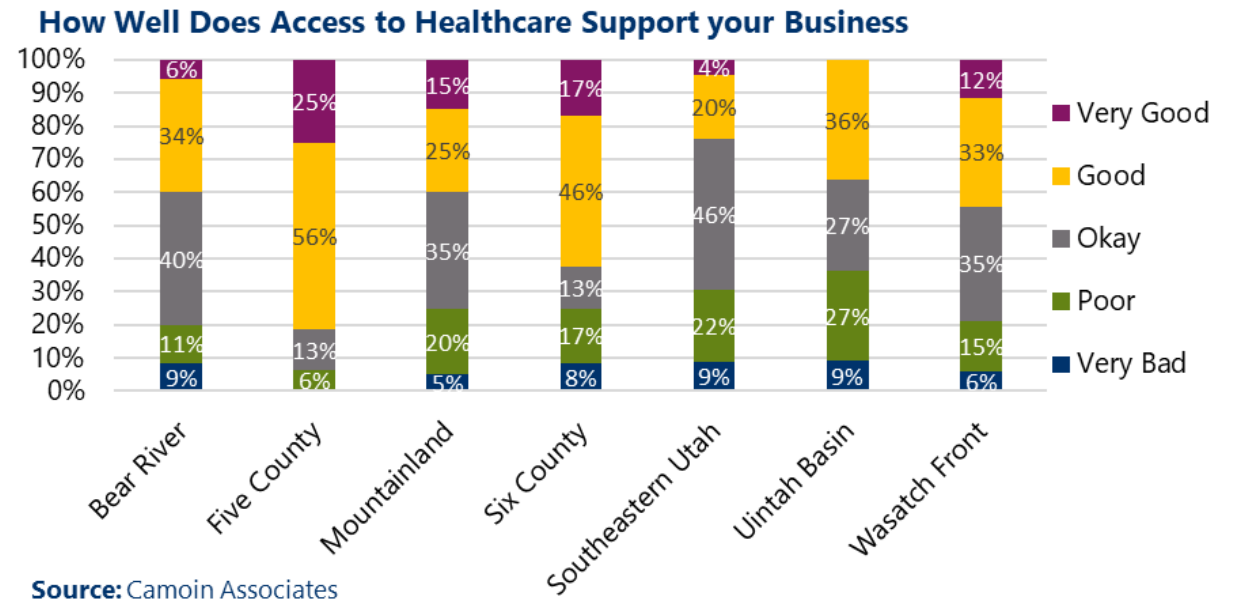
Business Environment

- Except in Bear River and the Wasatch Front, a majority of respondents stated that their access to childcare was poor or worse.
- A majority of respondents across the regions felt that the entrepreneurial environment did at least an okay job supporting their businesses.
- Mountainland and Bear River respondents had the most positive feeling of the entrepreneurial environment; Five County was the least positive.



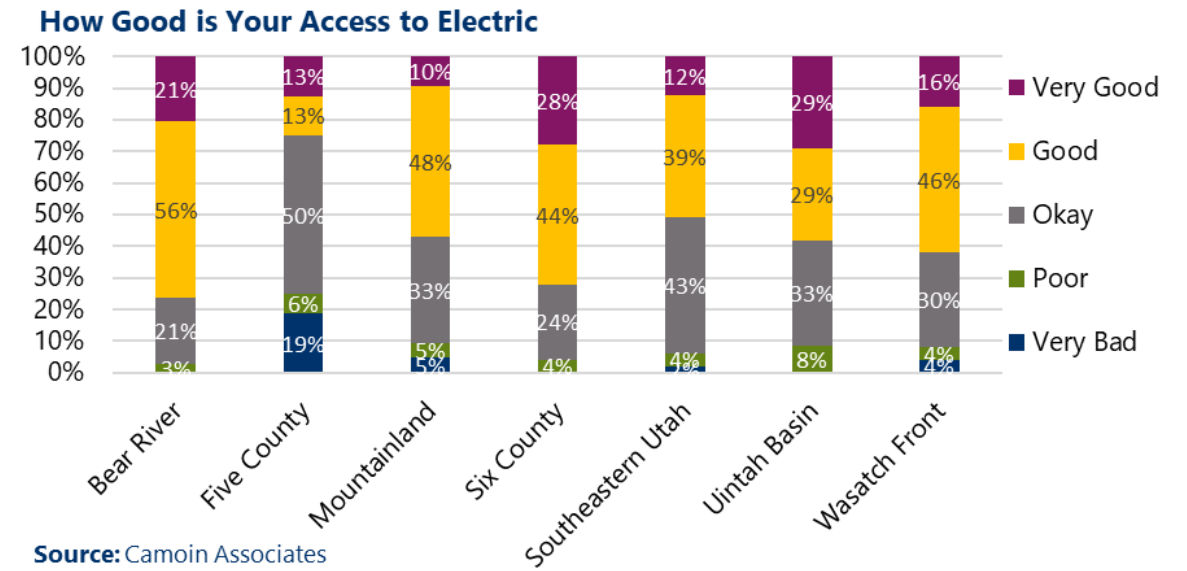
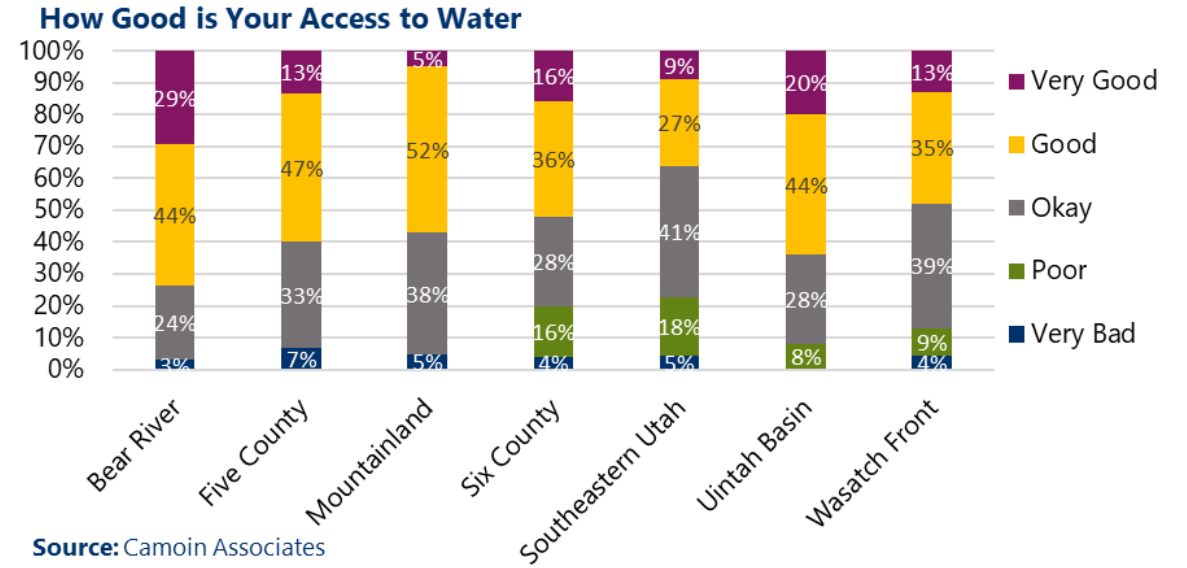
Business Environment

- A majority of respondents stated that their access to healthcare was at least okay across regions.
- Five County and Bear River respondents felt the most positive about their access to healthcare compared to other regions.
- A majority of respondents across the regions felt that their access to natural gas was at least okay.
- Five County and Mountainland respondents felt the most negative about their access to natural gas



Business Environment

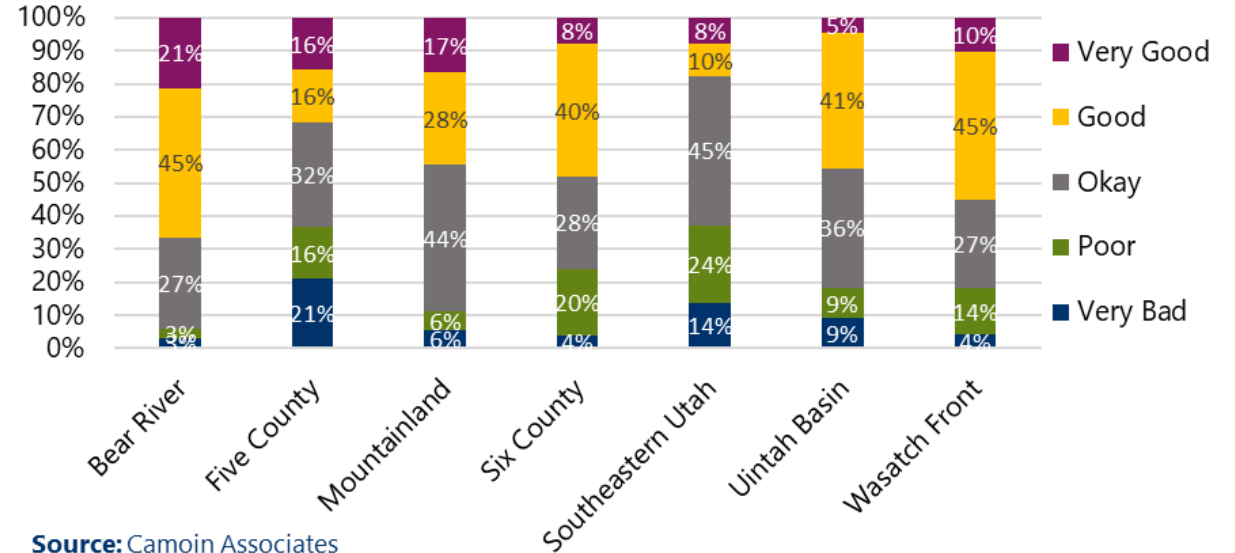
- A majority of respondents stated that their access to water was at least okay across regions.
- Six County and Southeastern Utah respondents felt the worst about their access to water.
- A majority of respondents across the regions felt that their access to electricity was at least okay.
- Five County respondents were the least positive about their access to electricity.



Business Environment

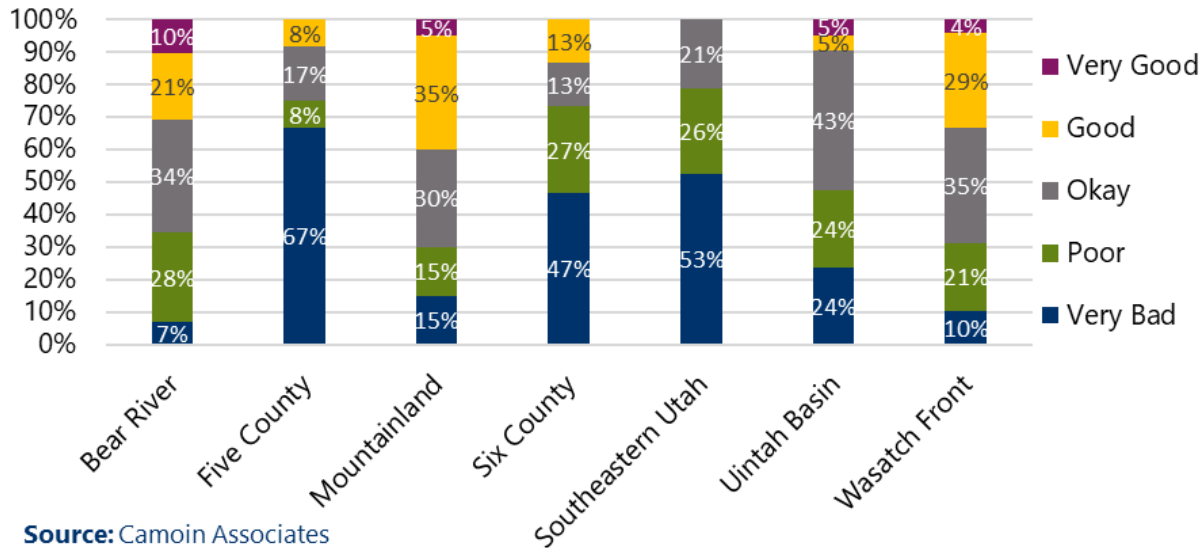
- A majority of the respondents across regions felt that community amenities did an at least okay job supporting their business.
- A majority of Five County, Six County, and Southeastern Utah respondents felt their access to public transportation was poor or worse.
- A majority of Five County, Six County, Southeastern Utah, and Wasatch Front respondents felt their access to housing was poor or worse.

How Well Do Community Amenities Support your Business



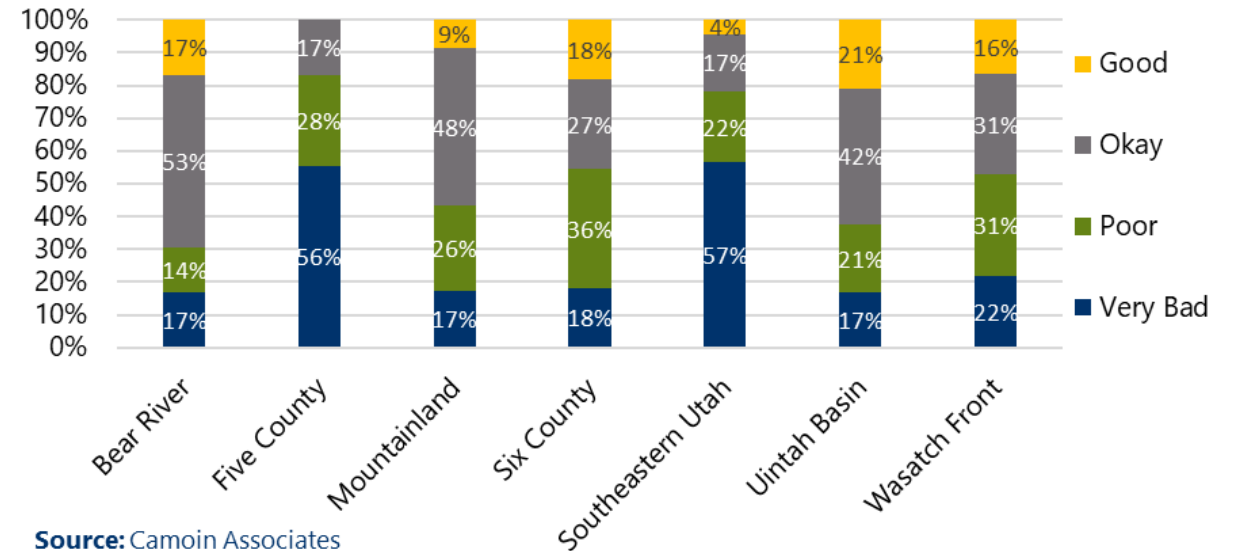
Source: Camoin Associates

How Good is Your Access to Public Transportation



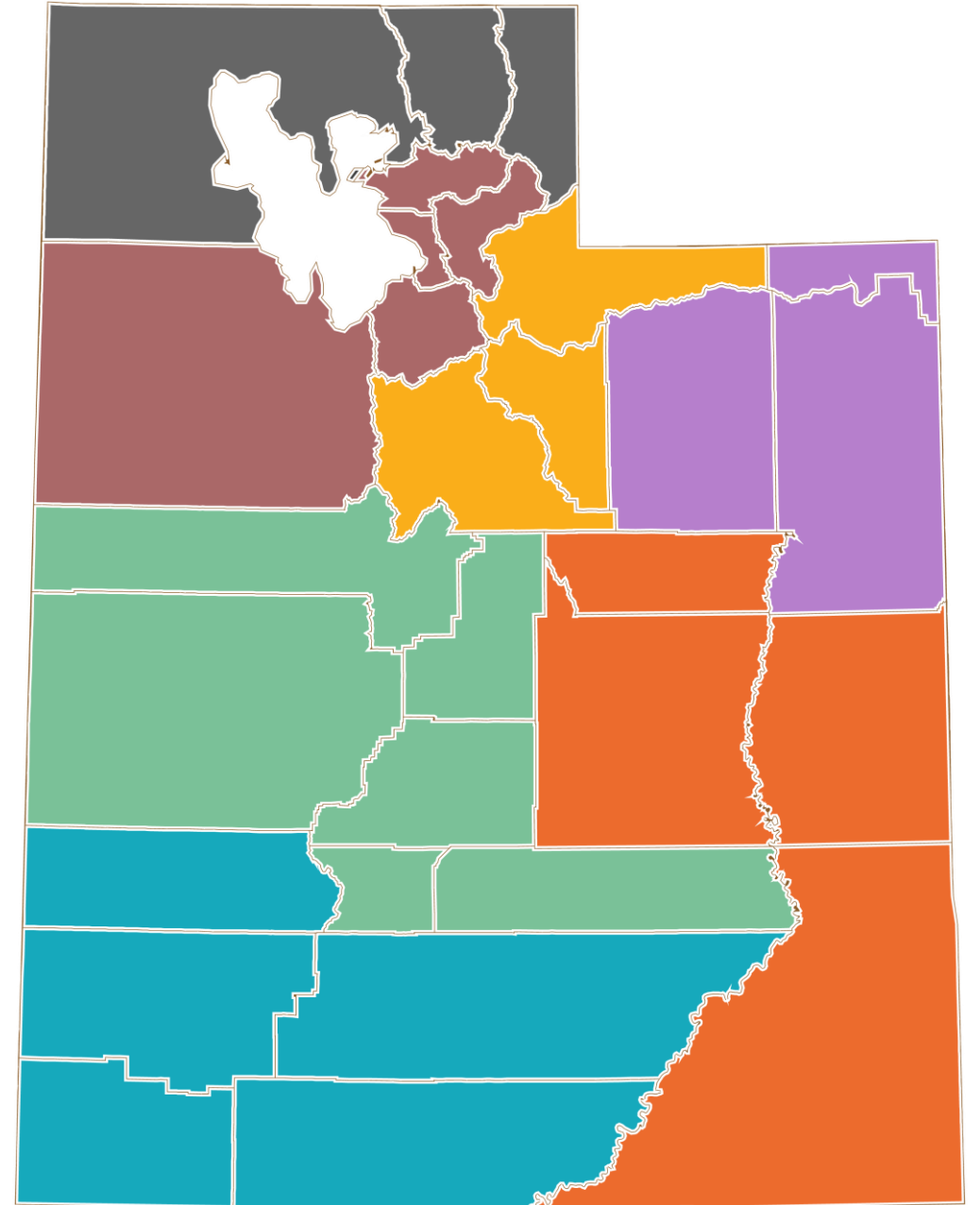
Source: Camoin Associates

How Good is your Access to Housing



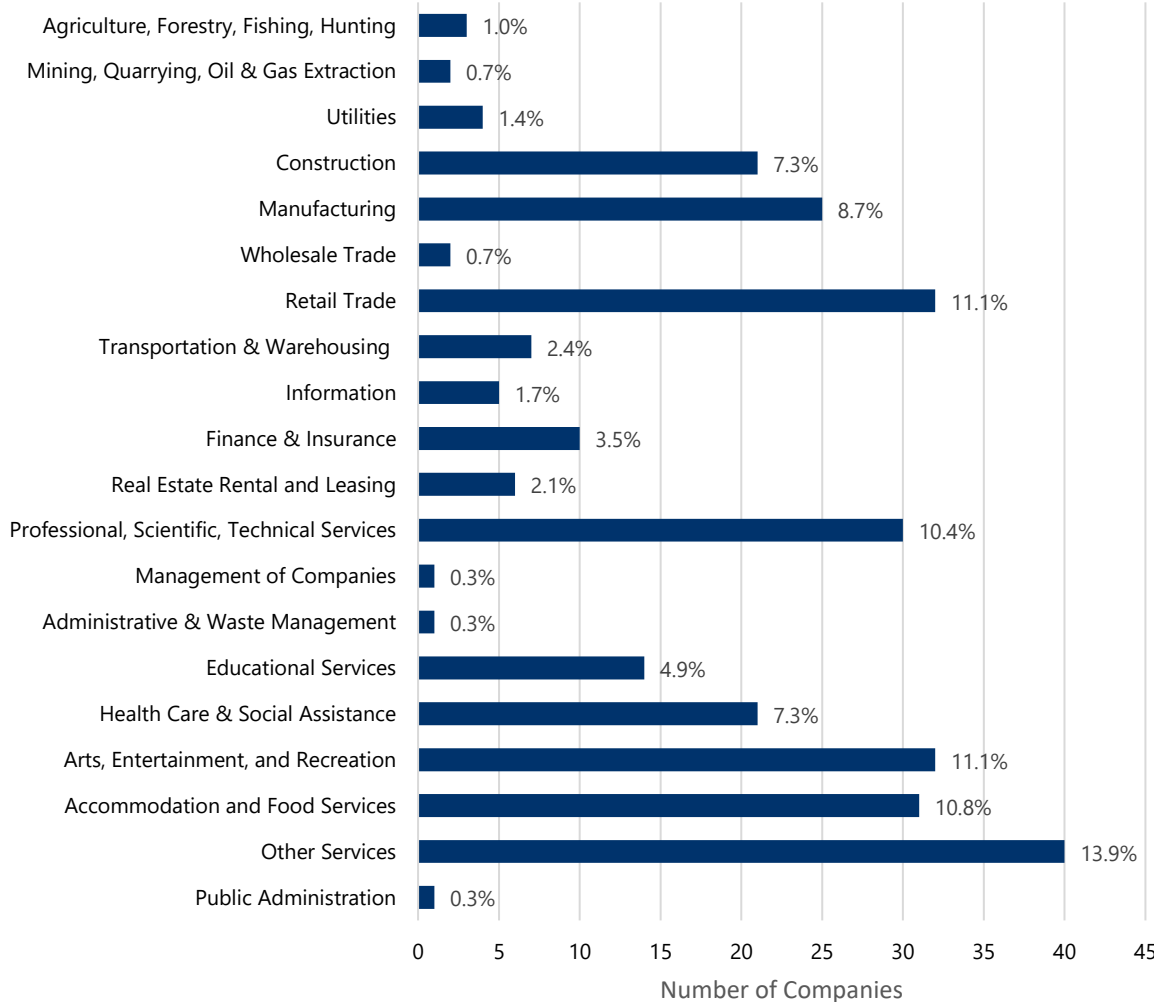
Source: Camoin Associates

RESULTS BY INDUSTRY



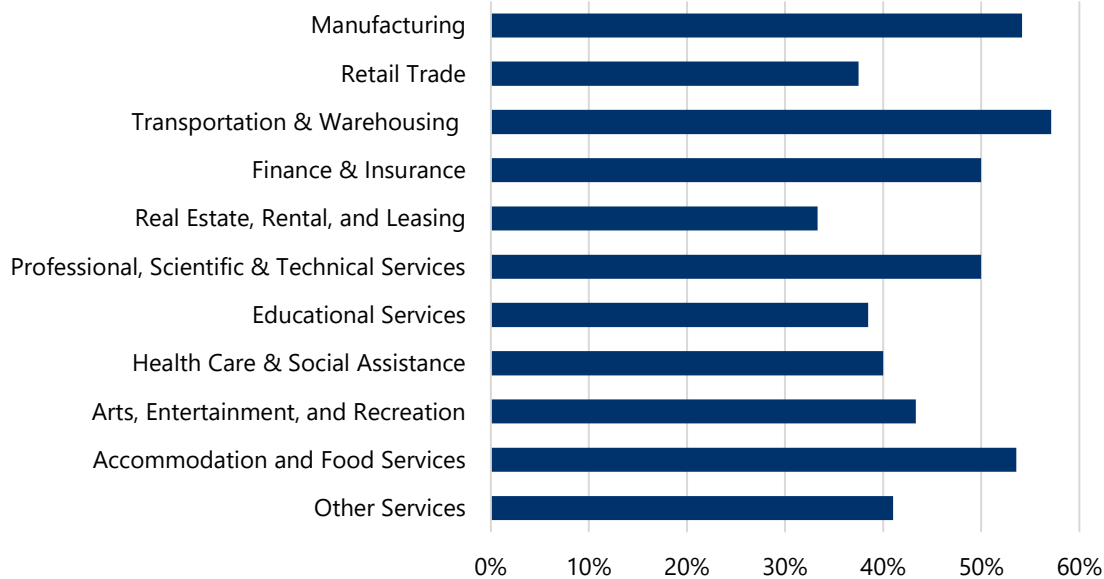
Results by Industry

Industry Summary



- Among respondents, more than half of those in the Manufacturing, Transportation & Warehousing, and Accommodation and Food Services industries are planning a facility expansion in the next two to three years

Share of Largest Industries Planning a Facility Expansion



Note: Industries shown are those representing at least 2% of responses.
n = 279

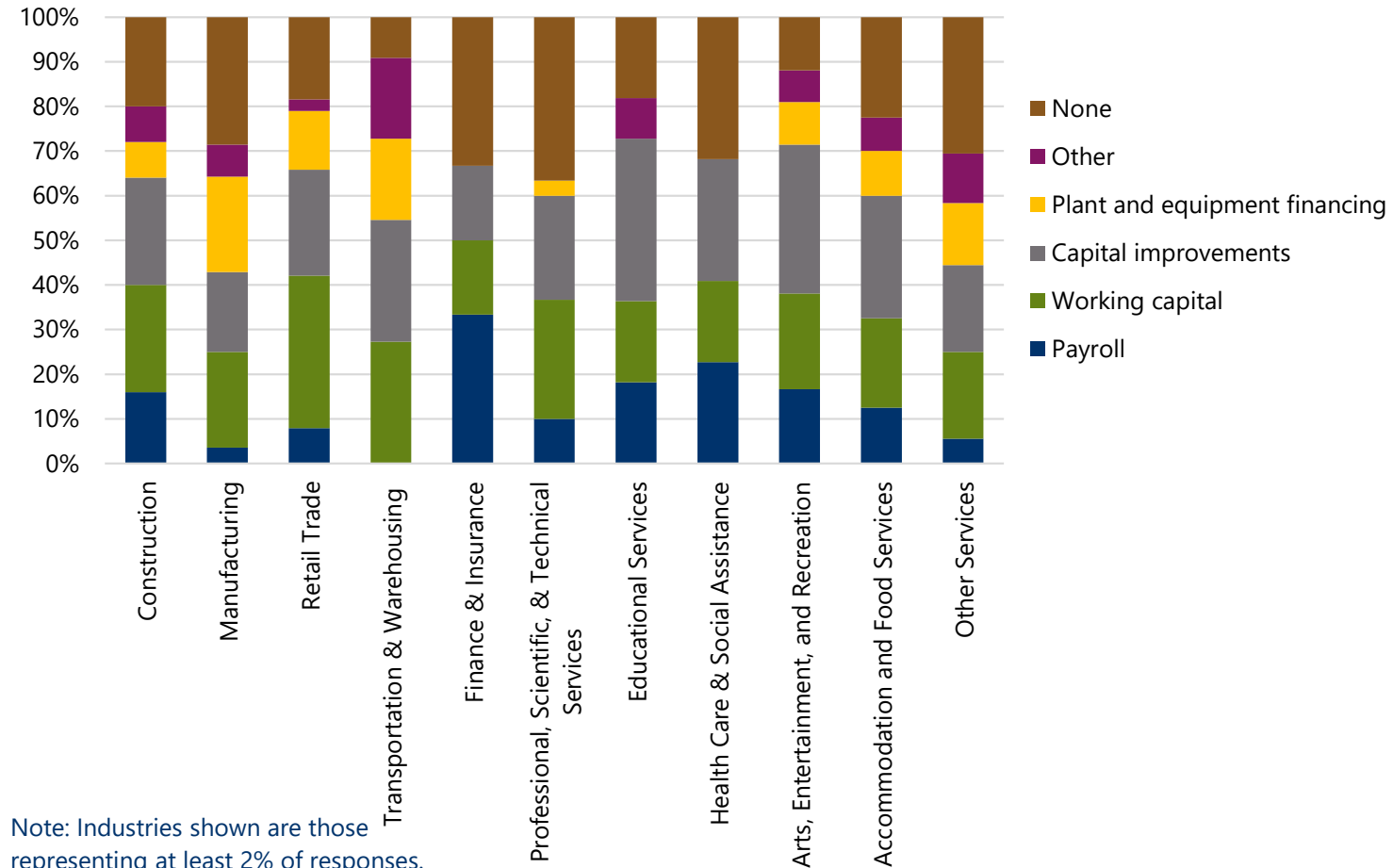
Source: Camoin Associates

Results by Industry

Note: Only those industries representing at least 2% of responses are shown.

- Capital improvements and working capital are the most common areas of financial assistance need across industries, averaging 25% and 22% of respondents, respectively.
- Educational Services (36%) and Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation (33%) businesses are the most likely to need assistance with capital improvements.
- Approximately one-third (34%) of Retail businesses and roughly one-quarter of Construction (24%), Transportation & Warehousing (27%), and Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services (27%) businesses need working capital assistance.

Financial Assistance Needs of Largest Industries



Note: Industries shown are those representing at least 2% of responses.
n = 216

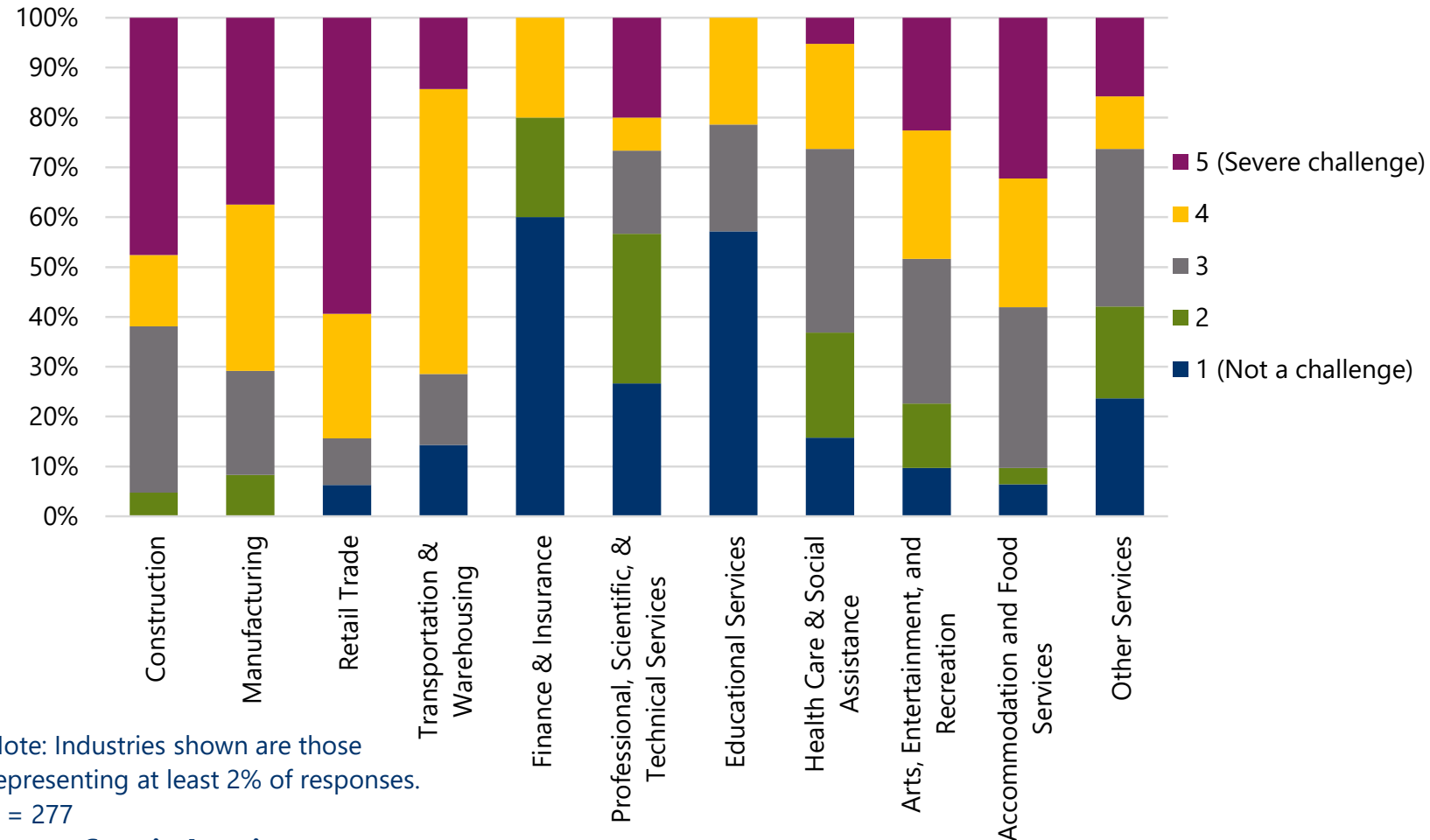
Source: Camoin Associates

Results by Industry

Note: Only those industries representing at least 2% of responses are shown.

- Supply chain disruptions are a major challenge (ranking 4 or 5) for most businesses in the Construction, Manufacturing, Retail Trade, Transportation & Warehousing, and Accommodation and Food Service industries.
- Over 80% of Retail respondents say supply chain disruptions are a major challenge.

Supply Chain Challenges



Note: Industries shown are those representing at least 2% of responses.
n = 277

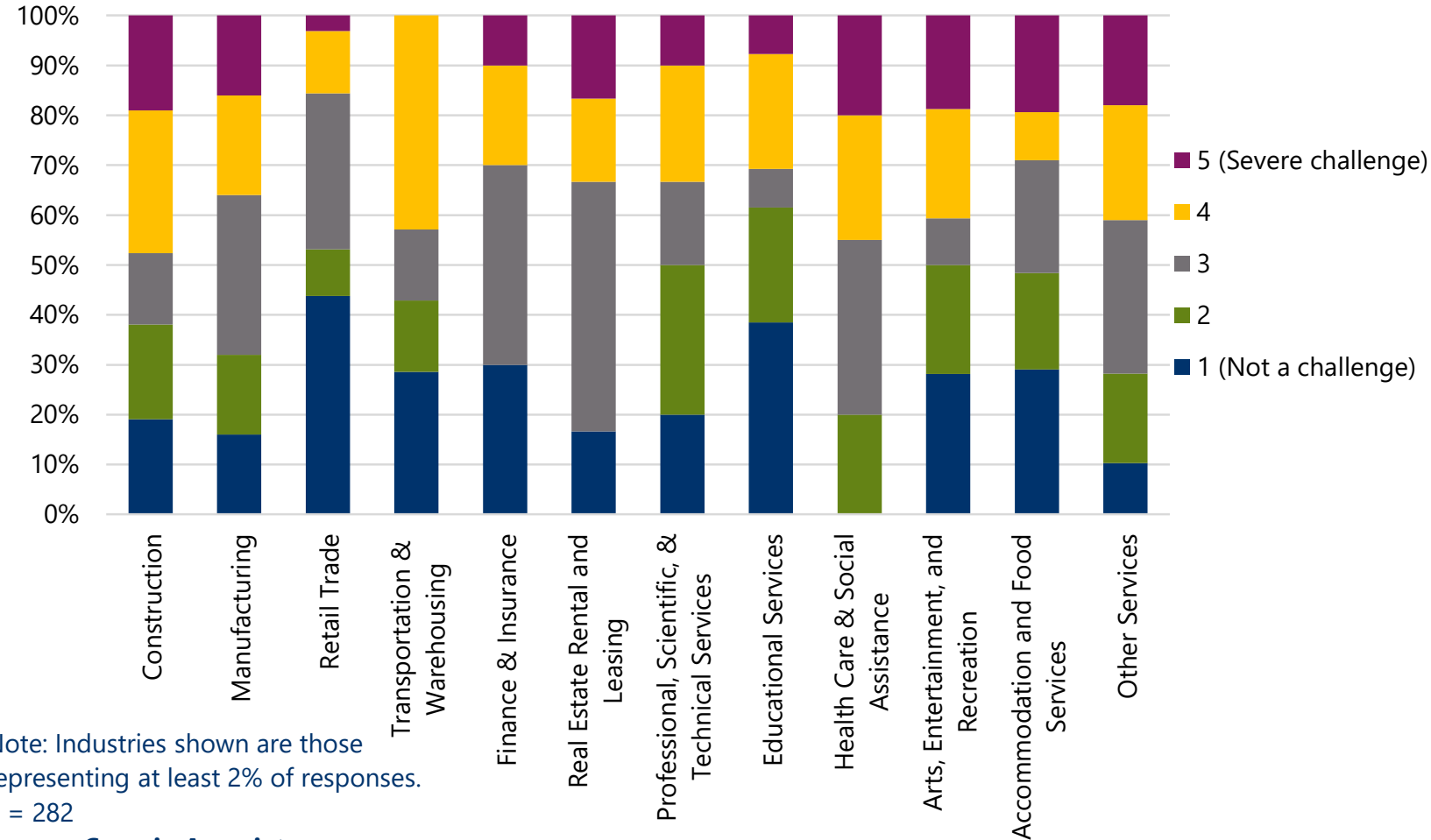
Source: Camoin Associates

Results by Industry

Note: Only those industries representing at least 2% of responses are shown.

- Navigating legislative and/or regulatory barriers is a major challenge (ranking 4 or 5) for 48% of Construction businesses, 45% of Health Care & Social Assistance businesses, 43% of Transportation & Warehousing, and 41% of both Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation and Other Services businesses.

Navigating Legislative/Regulatory Barriers



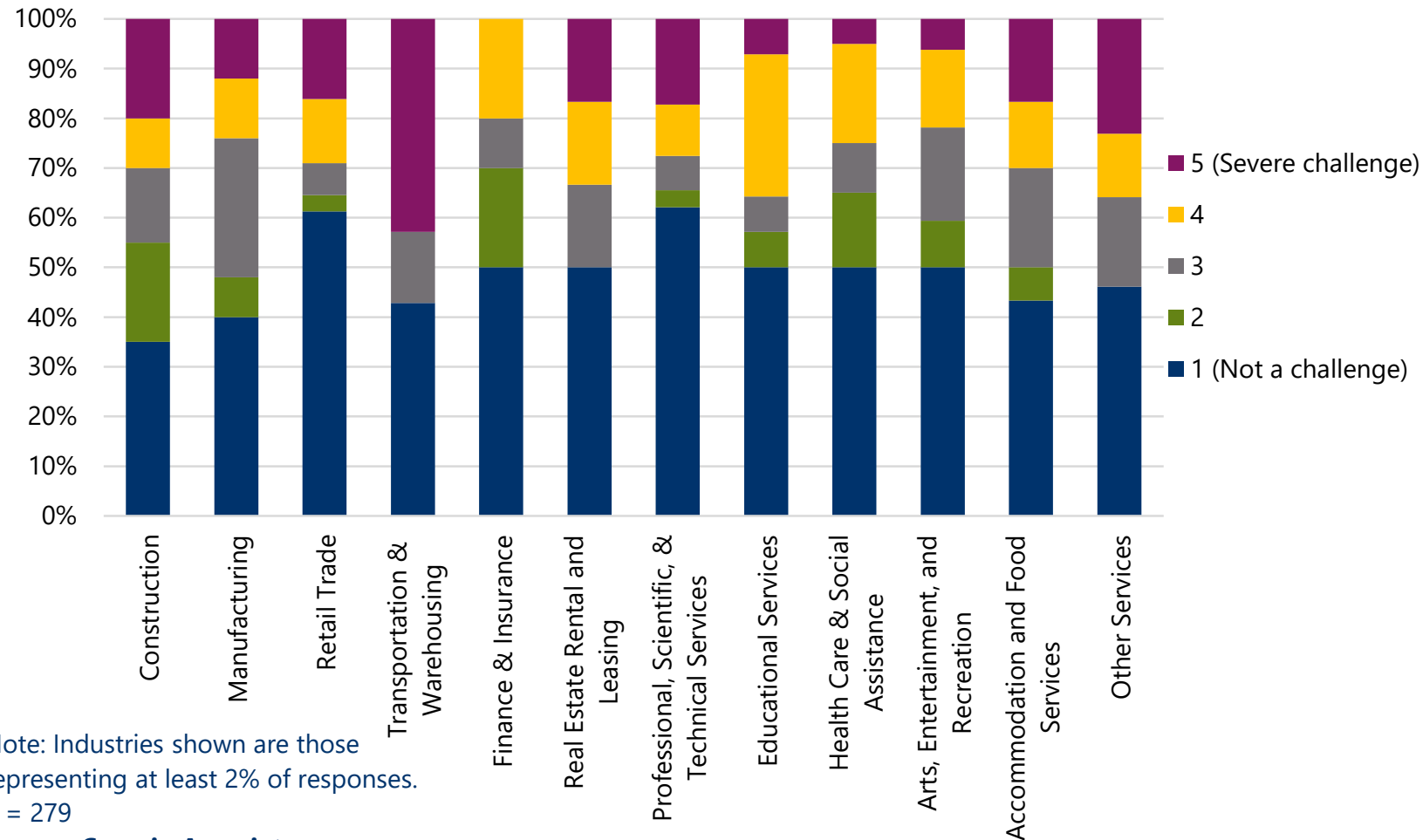
Source: Camoin Associates

Results by Industry

Note: Only those industries representing at least 2% of responses are shown.

- Finding suitable land or buildings to accommodate business growth is a major challenge (ranking 4 or 5) for at least one-third of Transportation & Warehousing, Real Estate, Educational Services, and Other Services businesses.

Finding Suitable Land or Buildings for Growth



Note: Industries shown are those representing at least 2% of responses.
n = 279

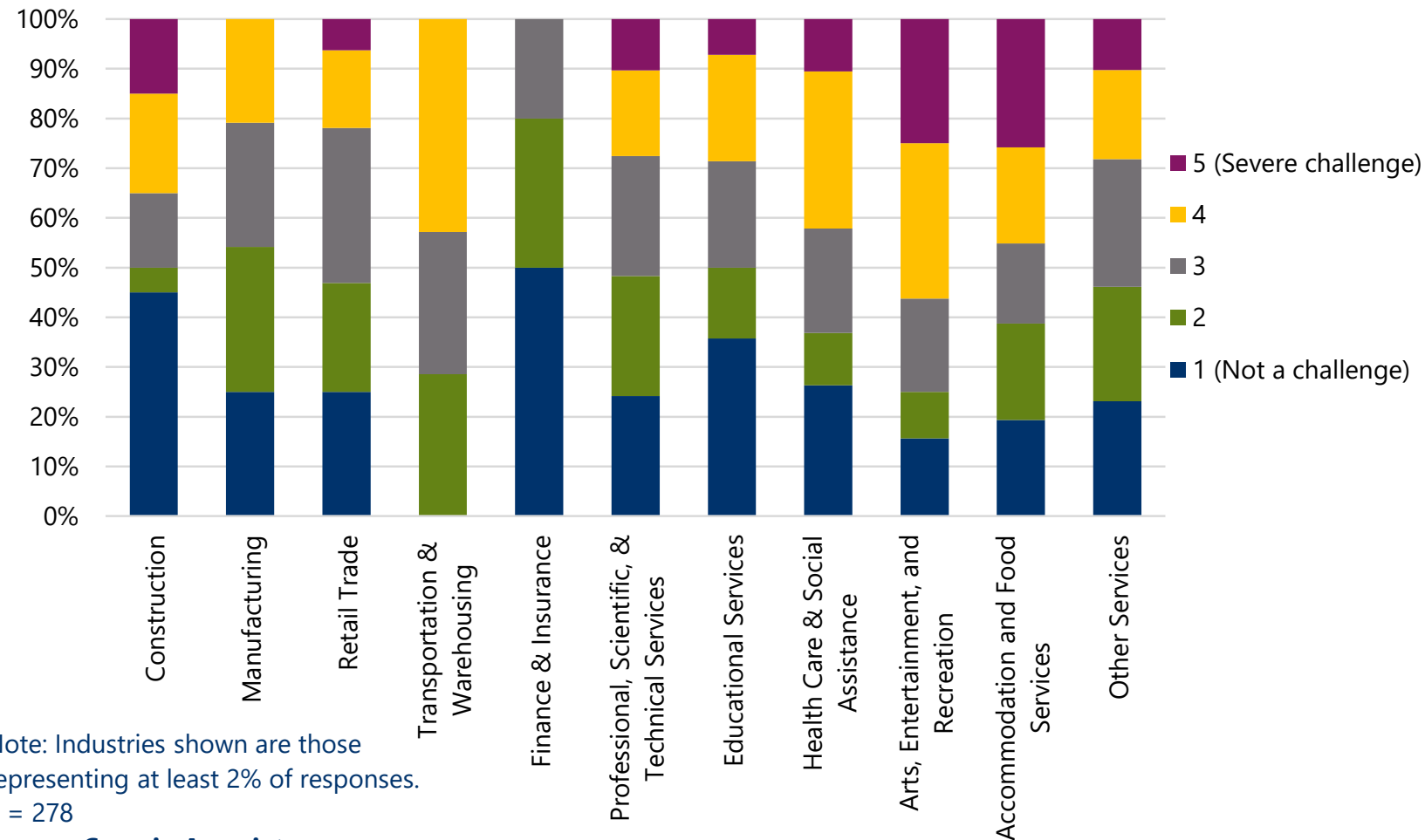
Source: Camoin Associates

Results by Industry

Note: Only those industries representing at least 2% of responses are shown.

- Obtaining growth financing and capital is a major challenge (ranking 4 or 5) for more than half (56%) of Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation businesses.
- More than one-third of Construction, Transportation & Warehousing, Health Care & Social Assistance, and Accommodation and Food Service businesses find it a major challenge.

Obtaining Growth Financing and Capital



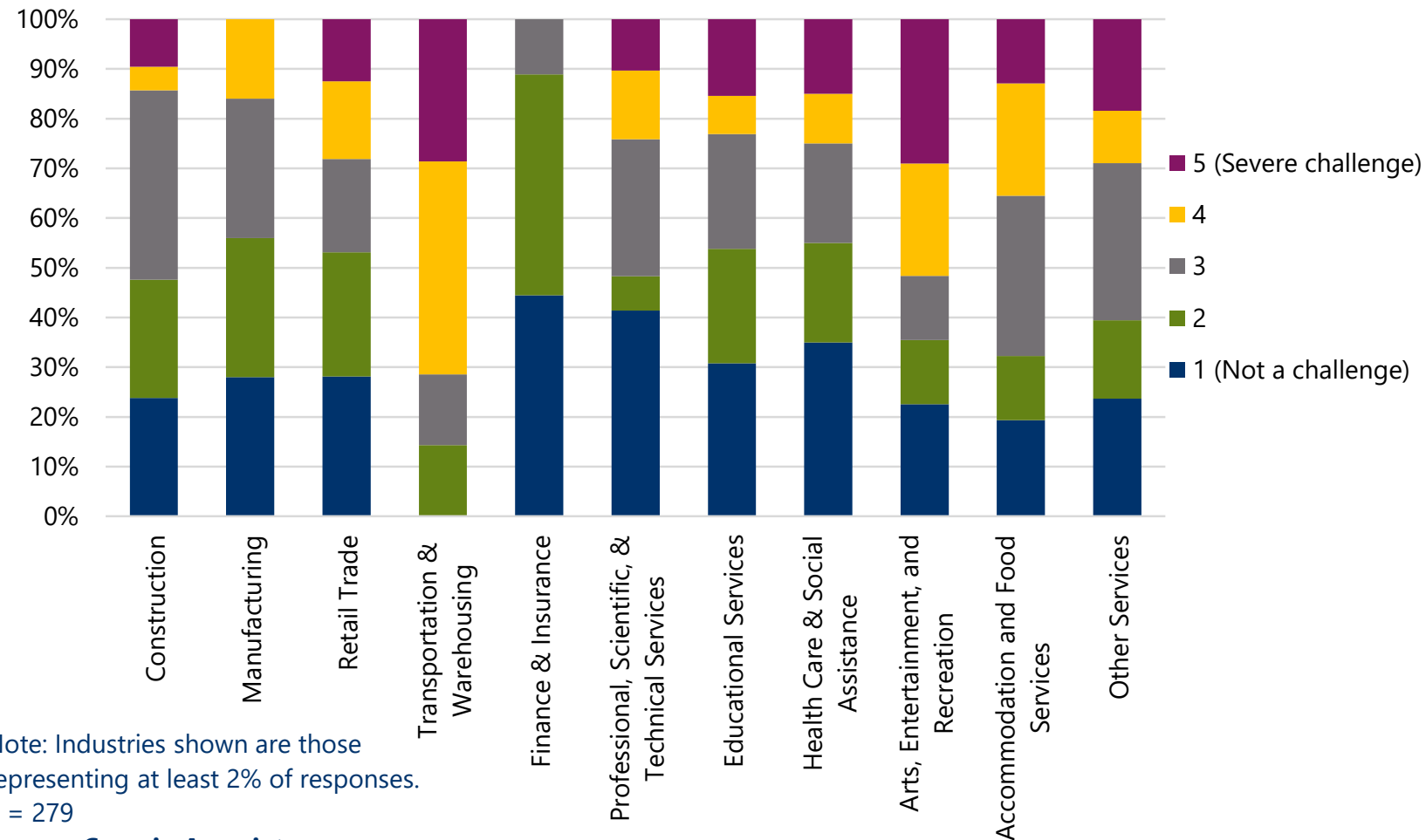
Source: Camoin Associates

Results by Industry

Note: Only those industries representing at least 2% of responses are shown.

- Financing new equipment and/or facilities is a major challenge (ranking 4 or 5) for more than half of Transportation & Warehousing (71%) and Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation businesses (52%).
- At least one-quarter of Retail Trade, Health Care & Social Assistance, Accommodation and Food Services, and Other Services businesses find it a major challenge.

Financing New Equipment and/or Facilities



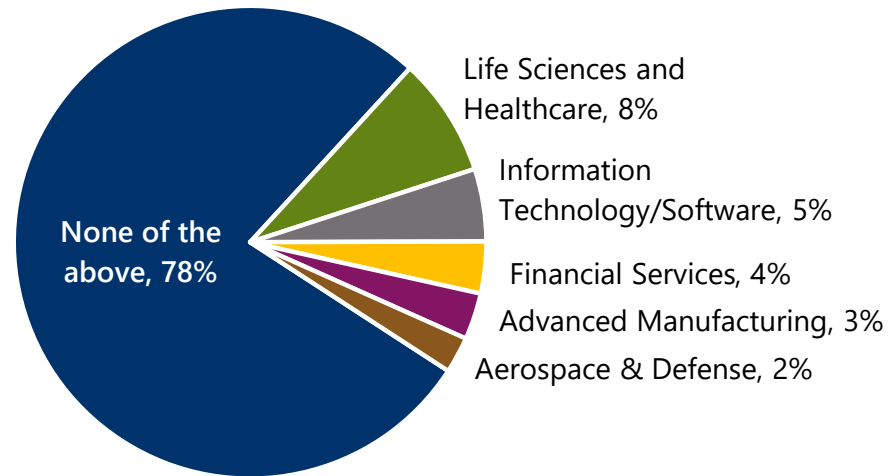
Note: Industries shown are those representing at least 2% of responses.
n = 279

Source: Camoin Associates

Results by Targeted Industry

- Respondents from most of Utah’s targeted industries are more likely to be planning a facility expansion in the next two to three years than other businesses.
- More than half of businesses in Advanced Manufacturing, Aerospace & Defense, Financial Services, and Information Technology/Software are planning an expansion versus 45% of companies not in targeted industries.

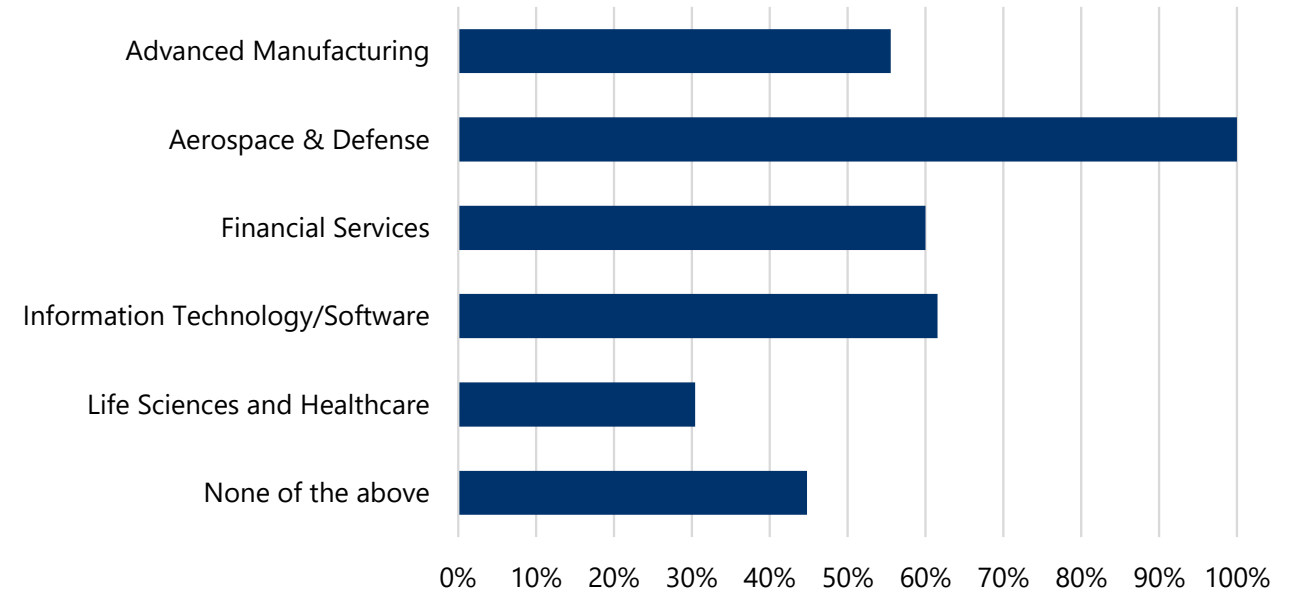
Share of Respondents by Targeted Industry



n = 282

Source: Camoin Associates

Share of Targeted Industries Planning a Facility Expansion

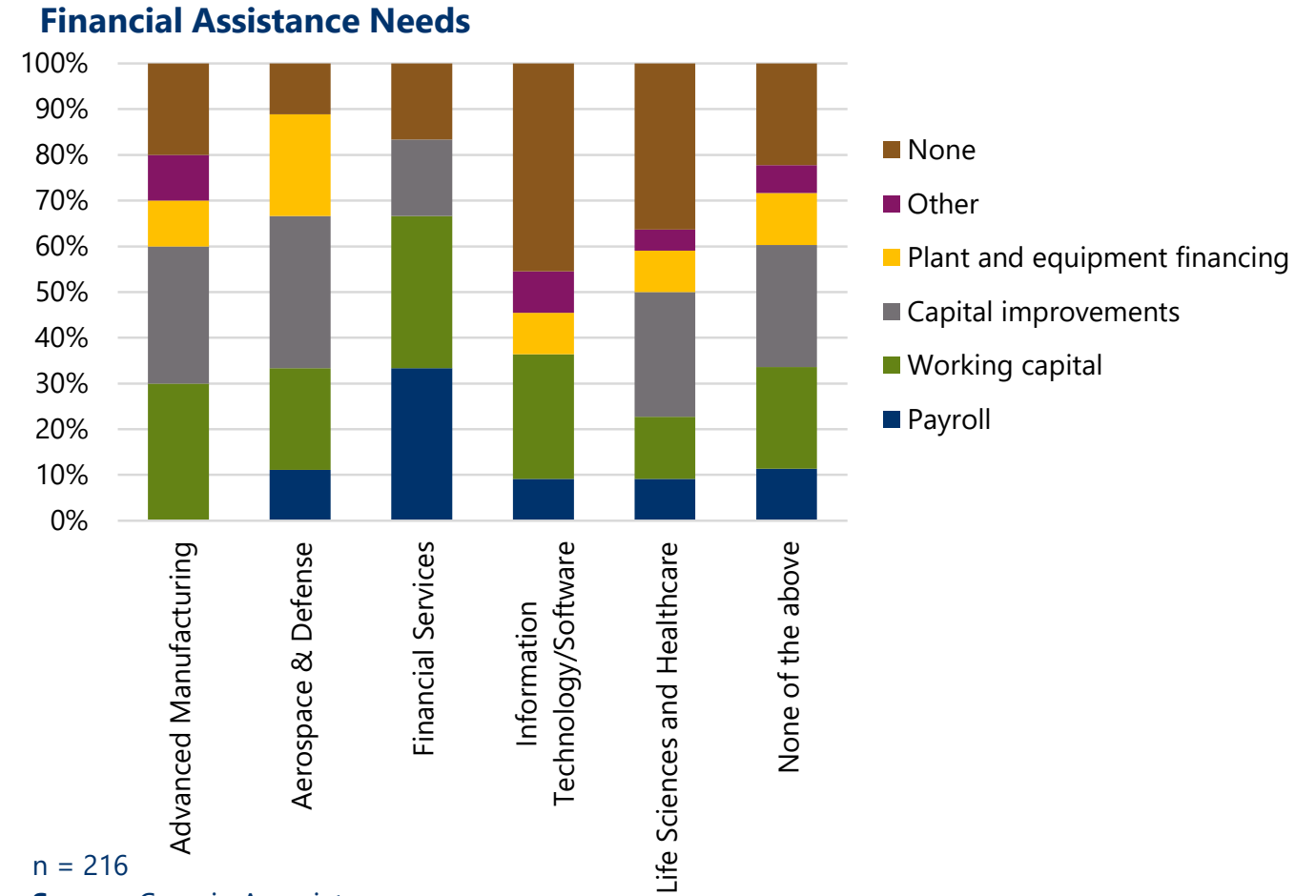


n = 274

Source: Camoin Associates

Results by Targeted Industry

- Businesses in all targeted industries and others report a need for assistance with working capital.



n = 216

Source: Camoin Associates

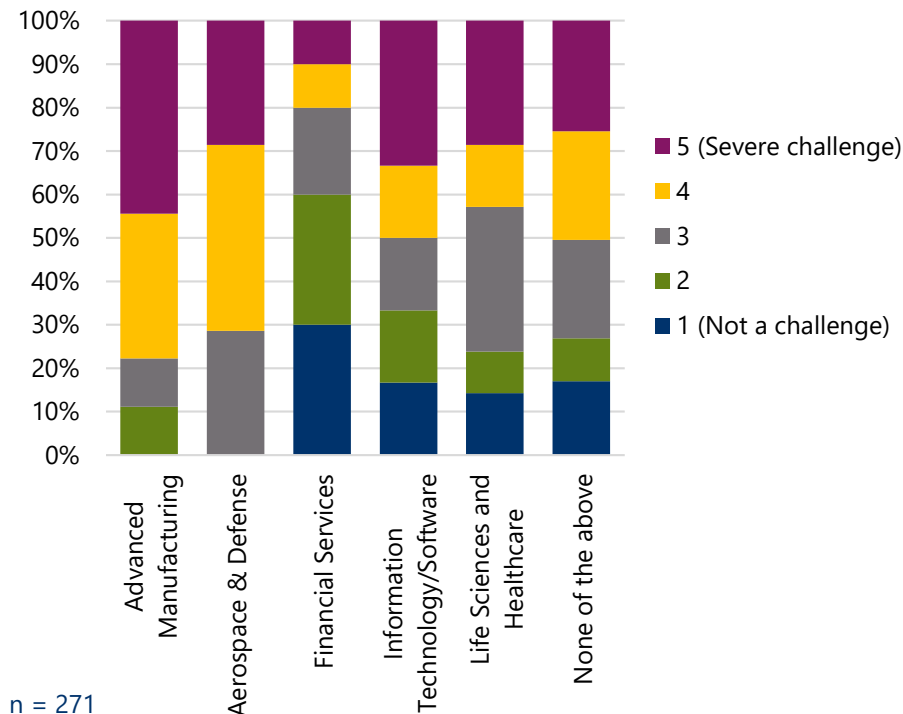
Results by Targeted Industry

- Supply chain disruptions are a major challenge (ranking 4 or 5) for over 70% of businesses in the Advanced Manufacturing and Aerospace & Defense industries and for half of IT/Software businesses and non-targeted industries. Overall, about half of businesses in targeted industries and in other industries find supply chain disruptions a major challenge.

- Aerospace & Defense and Financial Services businesses are most likely to be challenged by navigating legislative and/or regulatory barriers.

- About one-third (35%) of businesses in non-targeted industries find legislative and/or regulatory barriers a major challenge versus 43% of businesses in targeted industries.

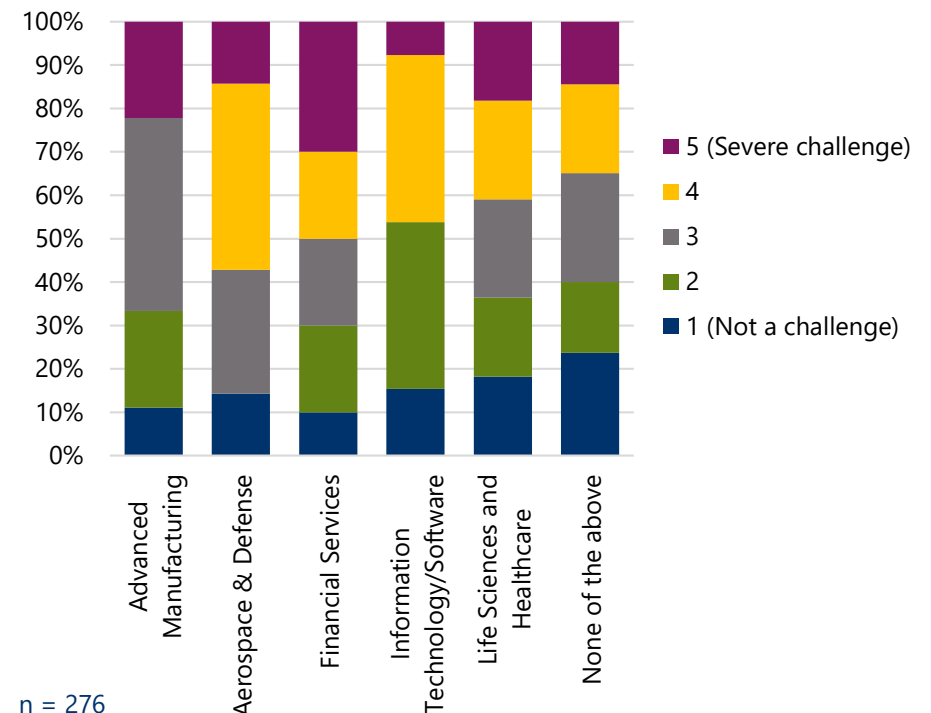
Supply Chain Challenges



n = 271

Source: Camoin Associates

Navigating Legislative/Regulatory Barriers



n = 276

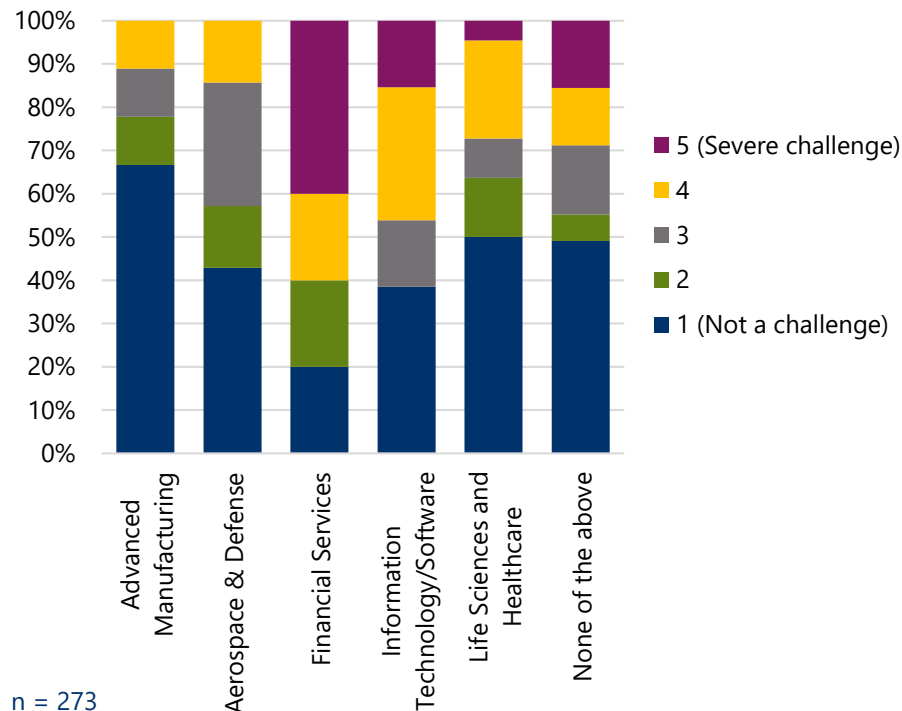
Source: Camoin Associates

Results by Targeted Industry

- Finding suitable land or buildings for growth is a major challenge for 33% of businesses in targeted industries and for 29% of other businesses.
- Financial Services firms are most likely to find this a major challenge (60%) while Advanced Manufacturing businesses are least likely to (11%).

- One-third of businesses (34%) in non-targeted industries find it a major challenge (ranking 4 or 5) to obtain growth financing and capital versus 28% of targeted industry firms.
- Financial Services firms are least likely to have difficulty (11%) while Life Sciences businesses are most likely to (40%).

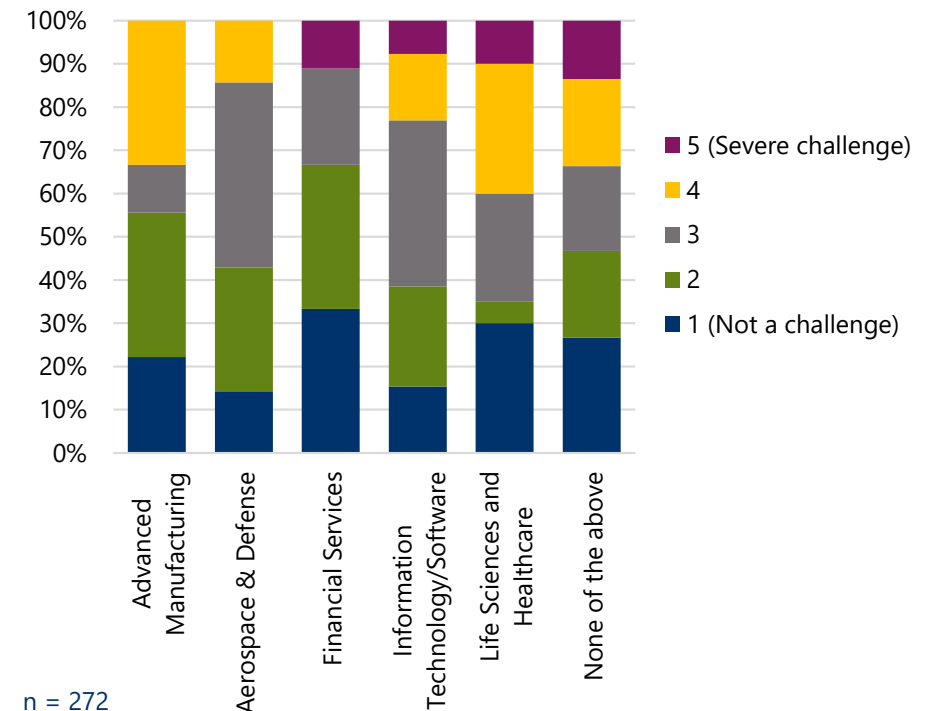
Finding Suitable Land or Buildings for Growth



n = 273

Source: Camoin Associates

Obtaining Growth Financing and Capital



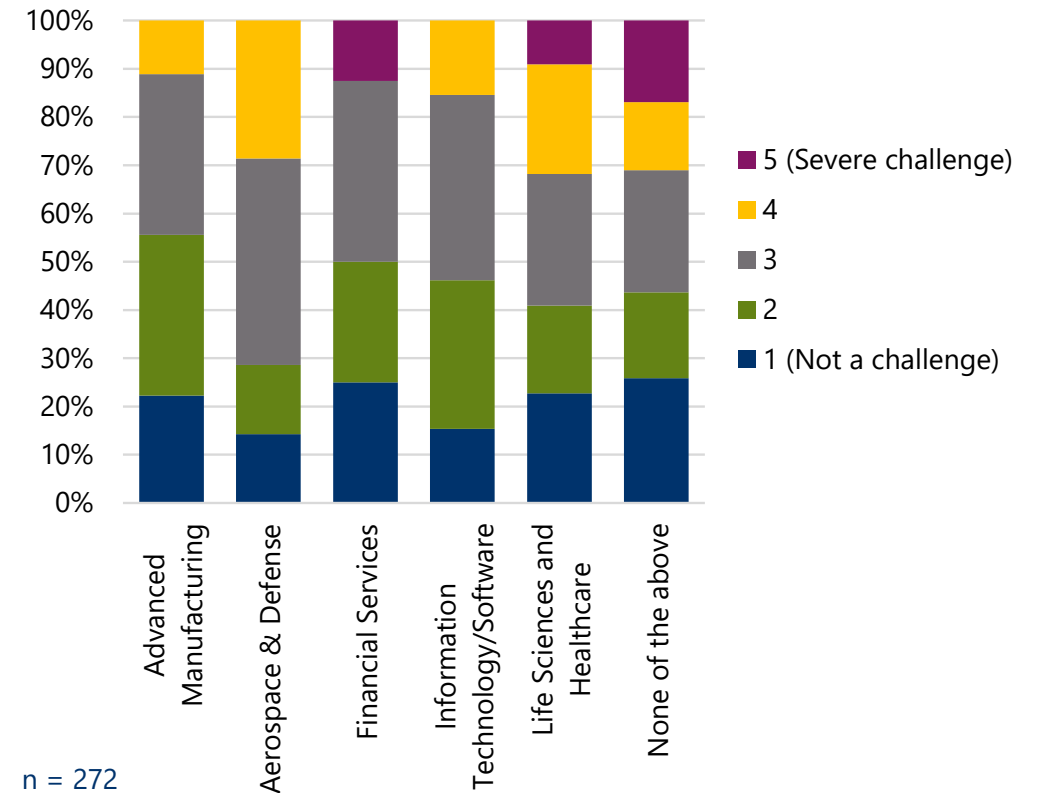
n = 272

Source: Camoin Associates

Results by Targeted Industry

- Financing new equipment and/or facilities is a major challenge (ranking 4 or 5) for 31% of businesses in non-targeted industries and for 22% of businesses in targeted industries.
- Life Sciences companies are the most likely to find this a major challenge (32%) whereas just 11% of Advanced Manufacturing businesses do.

Financing New Equipment and/or Facilities



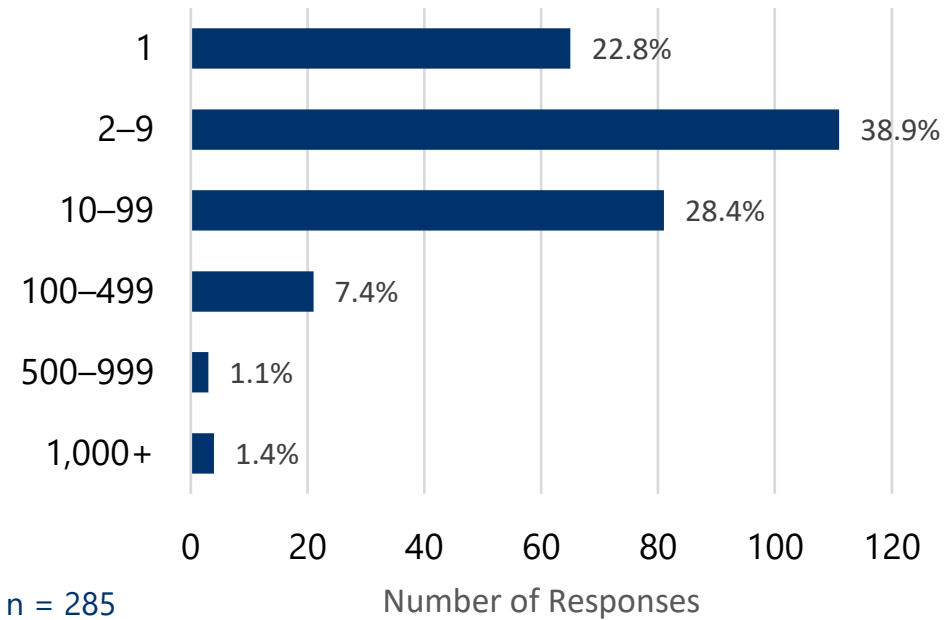
n = 272

Source: Camoin Associates

Results by Size of Business

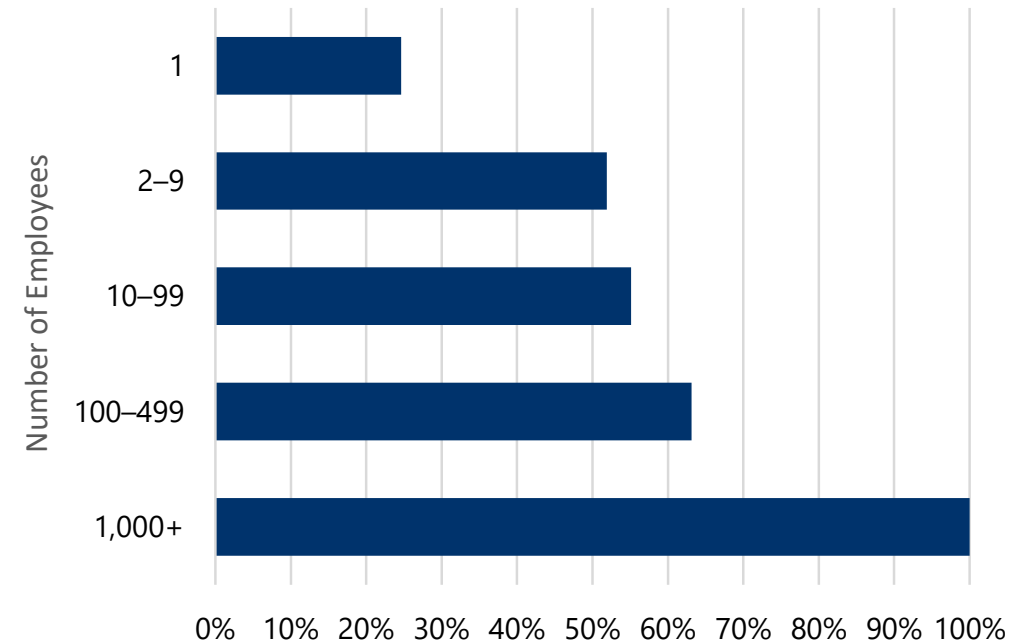
- The likelihood of a business planning a facility expansion in the next two to three years increases with the size of the business.
- One-quarter of single-employee businesses are planning an expansion, while more than half of larger businesses are.

Current Number of Employees



Source: Camoin Associates

Planning a Facility Expansion



n = 274

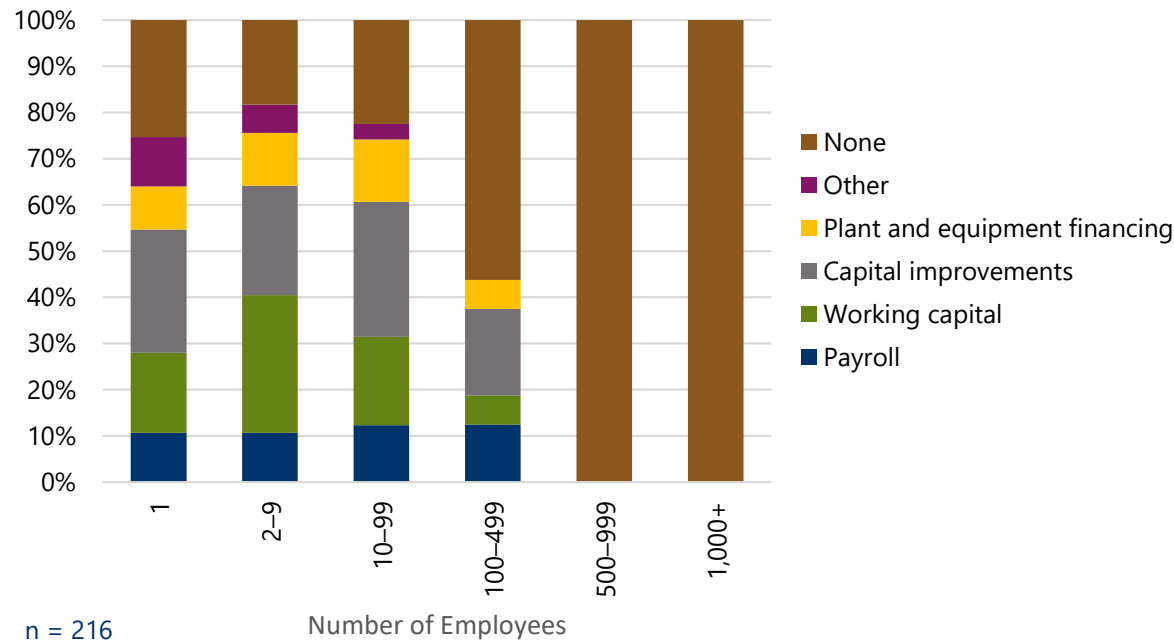
Source: Camoin Associates

Results by Size of Business

- In general, the larger the business, the less likely it is to require financial assistance.
- Assistance with capital improvements and working capital are the most common needs among smaller businesses.

- Larger businesses tend to find supply chain disruptions a major challenge (ranking 4 or 5).
- More than 50% of businesses with 2 to 99 employees find supply chain disruptions a major challenge; two-thirds of businesses with at least 500 employees do; but less than 30% of single-employee businesses do.

Financial Assistance Needs

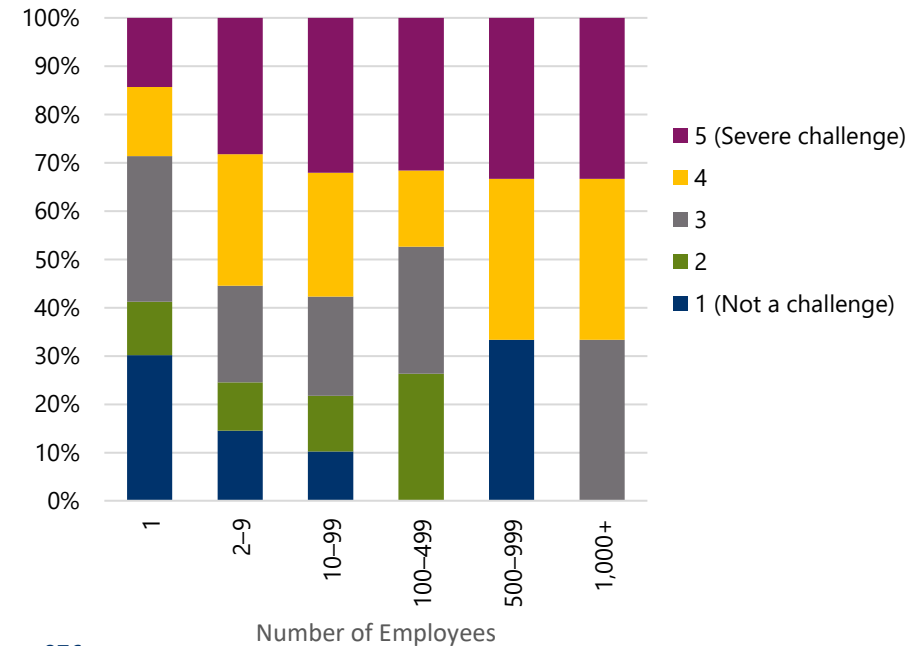


n = 216

Number of Employees

Source: Camoin Associates

Supply Chain Challenges



n = 276

Number of Employees

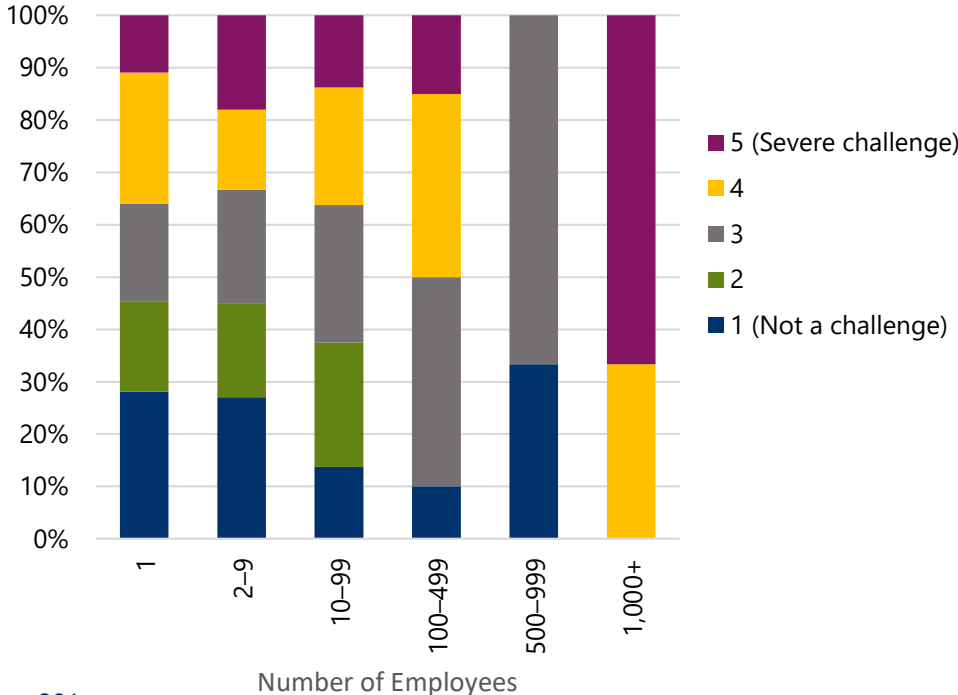
Source: Camoin Associates

Results by Size of Business

- Navigating legislative and/or regulatory barriers is a major challenge (ranking 4 or 5) for all of the largest businesses but for no businesses with 500 to 999 employees.
- Legislative and regulatory barriers are a major challenge for roughly one-third of smaller businesses (1 to 99 employees).

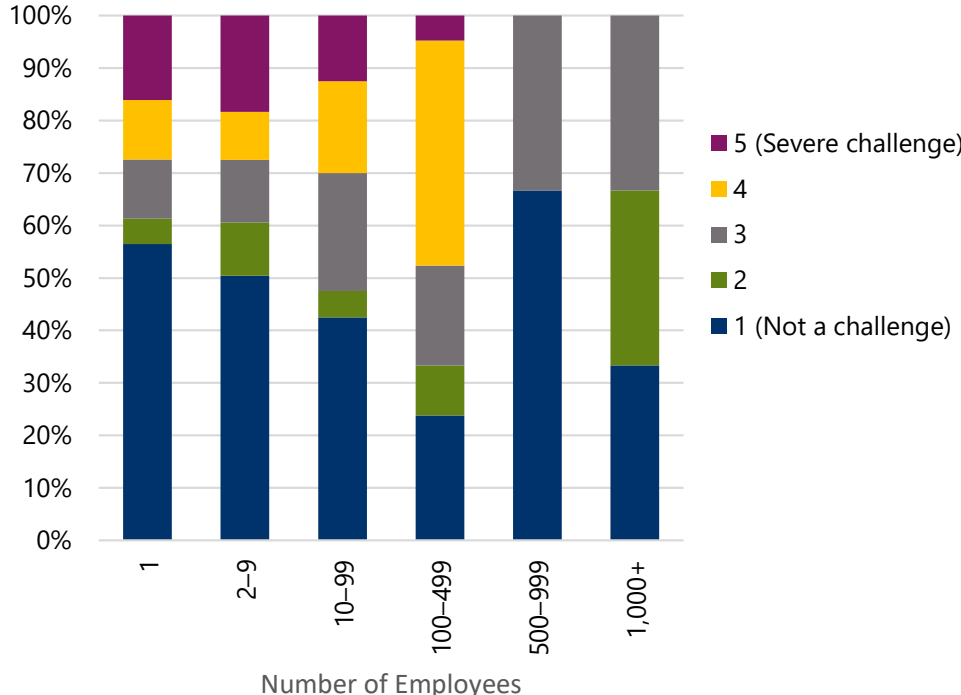
- Finding suitable land or buildings for growth is a major challenge for 48% of midsize businesses (100 to 499 employees) and for about 30% of smaller businesses (1 to 99 employees), but not for larger businesses.

Navigating Legislative/Regulatory Barriers



n = 281
Source: Camoin Associates

Finding Suitable Land or Buildings for Growth



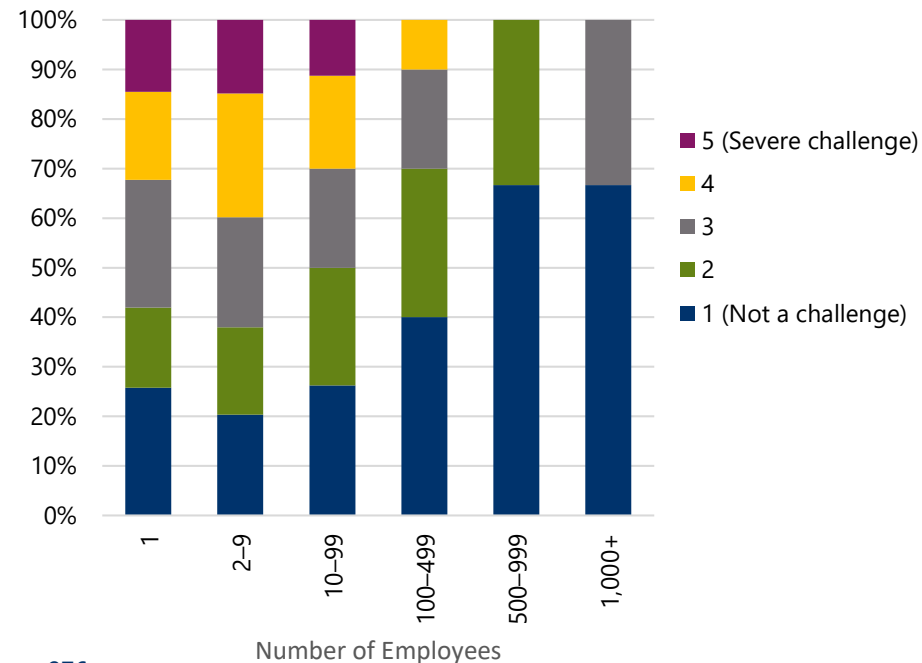
n = 278
Source: Camoin Associates

Results by Size of Business

- Obtaining growth financing and capital is a major challenge (ranking 4 or 5) for 30% to 40% of businesses with up to 99 employees.
- Growth financing and capital is not a major challenge for larger businesses with at least 500 employees.

- Nearly 40% of single-employee businesses find it a major challenge to finance new equipment and/or facilities.
- This share diminishes with business size, although 33% of businesses with 500 employees or more ranked equipment/facility financing as 4 out of 5.

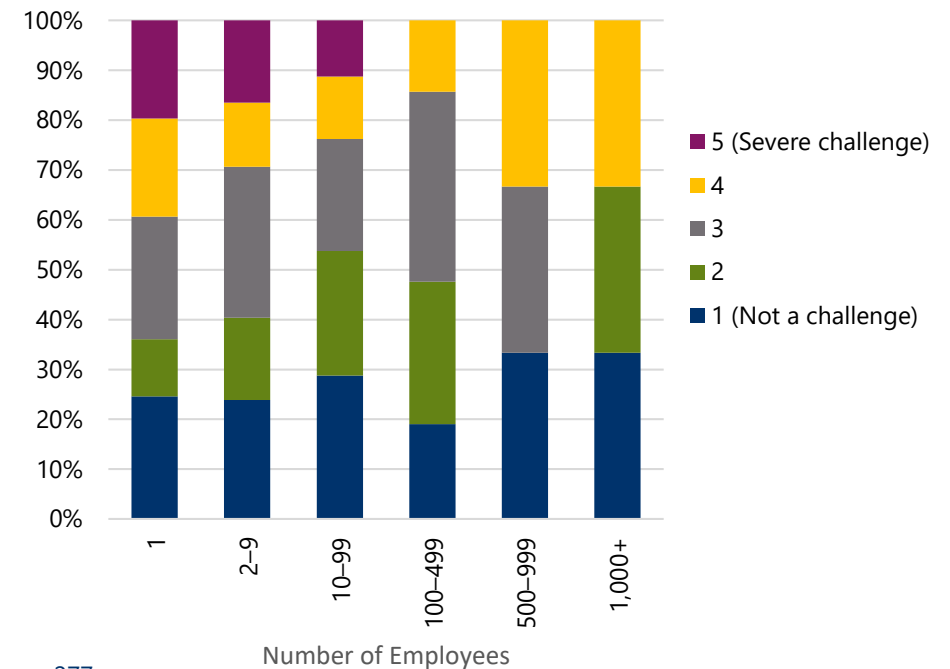
Obtaining Growth Financing and Capital



n = 276

Source: Camoin Associates

Financing New Equipment and/or Facilities



n = 277

Source: Camoin Associates

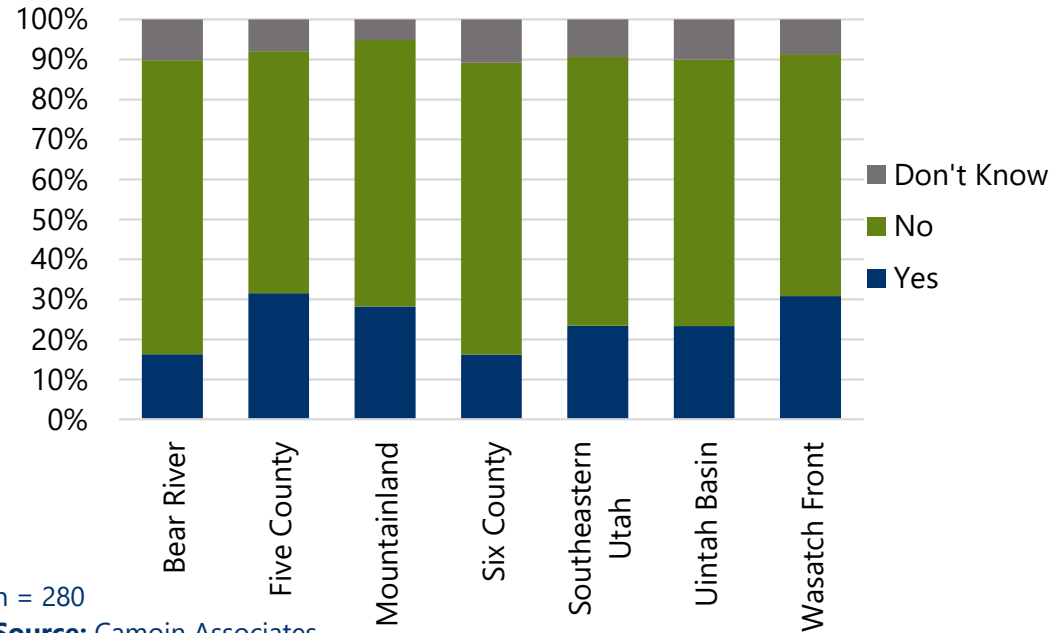
Government Outreach

- Businesses in the Five County (32%) and Wasatch Front (31%) EDDs are the most likely to have been contacted by state or local government in the past three years to discuss their needs and challenges.

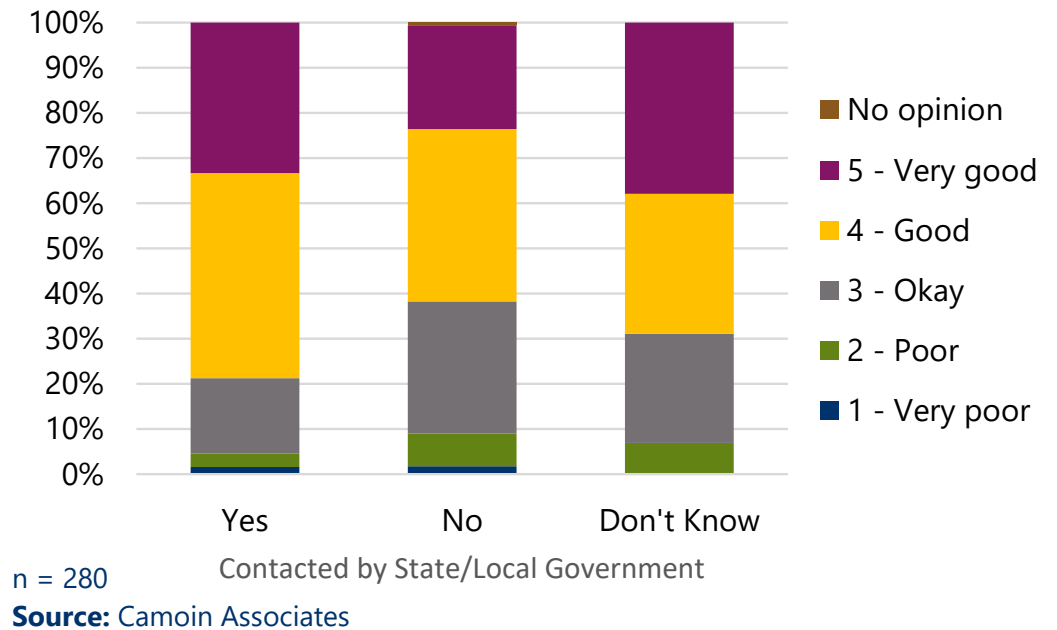
- Businesses in the Six County EDD are the least likely (16%) to have been contacted.

- Businesses that have been contacted by state or local government are more likely to have a good or very good perception of Utah's business climate: 79% versus 61% of those who have not been contacted.

Contacted by State/Local Government



Perception of Utah's Business Climate



www.camoinassociates.com

Twitter: @camoinassociate

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/camoin-associates>



AGENDA ITEM #IX.

CAREER
TECH
HIGH SCHOOL



A NEW OPPORTUNITY
FOR STUDENTS IN
WASHINGTON COUNTY
SCHOOL DISTRICT

OPENING
AUGUST 2023

8 CAREER
PATHWAYS



CONSTRUCTION &
ARCHITECTURE



INFO TECH &
CYBER SECURITY



GRAPHIC DESIGN &
DIGITAL MEDIA



HEALTH
SCIENCE



EARLY CHILDHOOD
ED. &
K-12 TEACHING



CULINARY ARTS,
TOURISM &
HOSPITALITY



ENGINEERING
TECHNOLOGY &
ROBOTICS



BUSINESS
MARKETING &
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

IS CTHS THE RIGHT SCHOOL FOR YOU?

FIND OUT MORE

VISIT > CTHS.WASHK12.ORG



A UNIQUE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

CTHS is a state of the art campus in Washington County School District and a one of a kind venue in the intermountain west. Our campus is designed specifically for the CTE pathways that make up the CTHS curriculum. The design integrates flexible indoor and outdoor spaces, natural light and cutting edge technology. In addition to providing a unique instructional environment, the building will have the capacity to host community and professional events.



FIND YOUR WHY AT CAREER TECH HIGH

VISION

Graduate from CTHS with Industry-recognized credentials and certification, college credit, and a meaningful and relevant high school diploma.

LEARN

The CTHS building is a unique, state of the art, technologically advanced facility - The only building like it in the State of Utah and the Intermountain West.

EXPLORE

CTHS will provide you with relevant career related experiences, and authentic project based activities.

INTERACT

CTHS will help you build relationships with business, community and professional leaders through field trips, guest speakers, mentorships and internships.

CONNECT

CTHS is a new opportunity, a new and different school culture, a new challenge where you can connect with like-minded students.

ENGAGE

At CTHS you can engage in a creative, professional, unique and high expectations environment.



HELPFUL FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



SCAN ME

- HOW TO APPLY?
- TRANSPORTATION?
- EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES?
- WHAT GRADES CAN ATTEND?

AGENDA ITEM #X.A.



BDO Zone Ratings

Accelerating development of clean fuel production facilities in the U.S.:
Bioeconomy Development Opportunity Zone Ratings

Jordan Solomon
President & CEO, Ecostrat
Chairman, BDO Zone Initiative





A **BDO Zone rating** is a standards-based assessment of biomass feedstock and infrastructure attributes of a region with respect to development potential of new biofuel, renewable chemical, biogas or bioproduct manufacturing plants.

The **BDO Zone Initiative** enables regions to leverage local biomass assets to attract new bio-based manufacturing plants-- and create jobs.



www.bdozone.org

BDO Zone Ratings Due Diligence

- BDO Zones undergo rigorous and extensive due diligence using a standardized framework of over 100 transparent and validated risk indicators.

The 3 Pillars of BDO Zone Designations



- “A” and “AA” BDO Zone Ratings identify optimal zones for new biobased development.

Recognized, Credible, Transparent, Standards-based Ratings Framework



- BDO Zone Ratings are issued within the framework of the *US Standards for Biomass Supply Chain Risk*.
- 6 years development by US Department of Energy (USDOE)/ Idaho National Labs, Ecostrat, and a 65 member, \$60B capital market ratings review committee.
- >\$6MM funded by USDOE's Bioenergy Technologies Office (BETO).

Download at
www.ecostrat.com/standards

Bon Wier, TX 'AA' BDO Zone Rating supports capital raise

Date of issue: October 2022



Bon Wier, TX Rated AA for 2Mgt/y of woody biomass

The 'AA' BDO Zone Rating for Bon Wier, TX supports the siting decision and \$1B capital raise for USA BioEnergy's development of an advanced biorefinery.



"Citi and USA BioEnergy have worked closely together for more than two years to develop an efficient, achievable plan and we look forward to delivering on this vision."

David Livingstone, Managing Director, Citigroup, BDO Zone Press Release Oct 19 2022



"USA BioEnergy is committed to delivering over 100M gallons of sustainable aviation fuel into LAX annually. Airlines using our sustainable aviation fuel will eliminate over 50M metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions over a 20-year period."

Nick Andrews, CEO, USA BioEnergy, BDO Zone Press Release Oct 19 2022

BDO Ratings supercharge bio-based economic development:

BDO ZoneCONNECT connects BDO Zones with >1000 project developers and investors worldwide

'Bio-Business Development' Webinars

Viewed by >1000 bio-project developers and investors worldwide

Access to TheDigest's >5 million unique online bioeconomy sector readers, 140,000 streaming viewers bio-industry stakeholders and 45,000 daily newsletter subscriptions.

'Rapid Accelerator' Meetings

Private, hosted discussion groups

Private zoom meetings with 50-100 pre-qualified bio-project developers, investors and strategic partner companies actively looking to build new bio-based plants in BDO Zones.

[Click here](#) to view **BDO ZoneCONNECT** for Barnwell County, SC

DIGESTCONNECT

Tuesday April 5, 12-1PM ET

BDOZONECONNECT **SILOAM SPRINGS, ARKANSAS** **MELVILLE, SASKATCHEWAN**

- SUSTAINABLE SURPLUSES OF BIOMASS FEEDSTOCK, SUPPORTIVE OF BIOBASED DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT NEW MANUFACTURING
- PART OF OUR SERIES EXPLORING BIOECONOMY DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY ZONES
- NETWORKING THROUGHOUT THE HOUR
- POST-PRESENTATION DISCUSSION



RON MCCULLOUGH
CITY ADMINISTRATOR
MELVILLE,
SASKATCHEWAN



PHILLIP PATTERSON,
CITY ADMINISTRATOR
SILOAM SPRINGS,
ARKANSAS



JORDAN SOLOMON,
CEO, ECOSTRAT,
CO-FOUNDER,
BDO ZONES

BDO Zone Investment Coalition

April 22, 2021: **\$1 Billion announced** for deployment into bio-based investment in BDO Zones



The **BDO Zone Investment Coalition** is a group of leading capital markets¹ with a collective **goal of investing \$1 billion in BDO Zones** to build new biofuel, renewable chemical, biogas manufacturing plants.

BSCR Risk Ratings Review Committee Members



See all BDO Zone Investment Coalition members: www.bdozone.org/us/support
See all 65 BSCR RC members: ecostrat.com/standards/participants

¹ Made up 16 members of the BSCR Review Committee

The BDO Zone Summit

PROGRAM AGENDA

1:00 OPENING REMARKS

How BDO Zones help communities leverage biomass assets to create jobs. Why BDO Zone Designations drive and unlock bio-investment and get new plants built faster.



Jordan Solomon
President & CEO
Ecostrat
Chairman of the BDO Zone Initiative



Mark Riedy
General Counsel & Co-Founder
Alternative Fuels & Chemicals
Coalition (AFCC)



Wes Jurey
CEO & Founder
Agricultural Technology Innovation
Partnership (ATIP) Foundation

1:10 COMMUNITY PANEL

Real communities speak about opportunities and barriers to attracting biobased investment and deal-flow. Grassroots support for BDO Zone Designations from local communities and EDAs. Moderated by Wes Jurey, ATIP Foundation.



Donna Gambrell
President & CEO
Appalachian Community
Capital



Sumesh Arora
Director of Energy &
Natural Resources Division
Mississippi Development Authority



Greg Norton
President
Golden State National
Resources Corporation



Mike McArthur
Executive Director
Community Renewable
Energy Association



John Lester
General Manager
Clarksville Connected
Utilities

1:40 CAPITAL MARKETS PANEL

Barriers to investing in rural and distressed communities. Why are BDO Zone designations meaningful for capital markets? How much capital is "investment ready" to stand up biobased plants across the country? Moderated by Jordan Solomon, Ecostrat.



Justin Goldstein
Vice President, Investment
Banking Division
Goldman Sachs



David Livingstone
Managing Director
Citigroup



Max Vernier
Head of Bioenergy
Live Oak Bank



Scott Chabina
CEO & Founder
Chabina Energy Partners

2:00 PROJECT PANEL

Why BDO Zone Designations help create efficiencies for project developers. Why they help projects succeed. How they make developers develop more biobased projects faster. Moderated by Mark Riedy, AFCC.



Nick Andrews
CEO & Founder
USA Bioenergy



Chris Whitworth
Project General Manager
Northwest Advanced Biofuels



Seth Ginther
Executive Director
US Industrial Pellet
Association



Patrick Serfass
Executive Director
American Biogas Council

2:20 USDA REMARKS



Dr. Karama Neal
Administrator, Rural Business-
Cooperative Service
USDA Rural Development

View the BDO Zone Summit here:

<https://bdozone.org/the-bdo-zone-summit-2021/>

In a nutshell, BDO Zone Ratings...

- ✓ **Pre-vet, and quantify** key regional biomass feedstock and infrastructure “success” characteristics.
- ✓ **Connect BDO Zones** with bio-based project developers and investors around the world
- ✓ **Link BDO Zones with \$1B** of private capital to get new plants built.
- ✓ **Drive new biobased manufacturing to rural communities– and create jobs!**





www.bdozone.org
info@bdozone.org

BD
OZ
INITIATIVE

Want to know more?

Contact:

Aryn Garswood, Head BDO Zone Initiative, aryn@ecostrat.com

Jordan Solomon, Chairman BDO Zone Initiative, jordan.solomon@ecostrat.com

AGENDA ITEM #X.B

BDO Zone Briefing Document

Overview

A BDO Zone Rating is a powerful economic development tool that de-risks project finance and helps get clean energy plants built in areas where they are most likely to succeed.

The BDO Zone Initiative (www.bdozone.org) is a certification and regional risk rating program that identifies and scores prime areas for biobased project development; accelerating the clean energy transition and creating jobs.

The Problem

Many communities across the country have substantial biomass assets – agricultural residues, wood fiber, food and farm waste. These are the essential feedstocks required by new manufacturing facilities to produce ground/aviation biofuel, renewable chemicals, biogas, and bioproducts.

The problem is that they do not have the **budget**, the **platform**, or the **credibility** to communicate this to biobased investors and developers around the world. As a result, these communities can miss out on the new wave of biofuel, renewable chemical and biogas economic development valued at over \$200 billion¹.

BDO Zone Ratings solve the problem by enabling communities to powerfully leverage local biomass assets to serve as anchors for clean energy economic development.

BDO Zone Ratings

- ***BDO Zone Ratings accelerate deal-flow to BDO Zones*** by applying advanced risk scoring protocols to rate biomass availability, supply chain resilience, infrastructure, and community interest for new plant development in their region.
- BDO Zone Ratings enable communities to effectively and credibly signal and promote key “success” characteristics valued by biobased developers and investors around the world.
- ‘AA’ or ‘A’ BDO Zone Ratings are widely recognized in the industry as the best places for new bio-based plant development. BDO Zone Ratings are credible because they are issued within the framework of the *Standards for Biomass Supply Chain Risk* - the state-of-the-science for investor assessment of feedstock risk².
- The BDO Zone Initiative drives deal flow by enabling BDO Zone Communities to connect directly with hundreds of bio-project development companies worldwide looking to build new plants in places with BDO Zone “success” characteristics.



Governance

The BDO Zone Initiative is a collaborative project between the non-profit Alternative Fuels and Chemicals Coalition ([AFCC](#)), the Agricultural Technology and Innovation Partnership Foundation ([ATIP](#)) and Ecostrat.

The BDO Zone Initiative Chairman is Jordan Solomon, President of [Ecostrat](#).

¹ <https://thefutureeconomy.ca/op-eds/jeff-pasmore/>

² The [BSCR Standards](#) were developed under direction of US Department of Energy (BETO) by Idaho National Labs, Ecostrat, a 150-member industry stakeholder group, and 65 member, \$60B capital market ratings review committee.

Powerful economic impact and GHG reduction

A BDO Zone rating is a powerful economic development tool: BDO Zone rated communities have seen new “deal flow” increase by up to 1000% in less than one year.

BDO Zone ratings for Arlington, OR, Barnwell County, SC, Siloam Springs, AR, and the City of Melville, SK, were issued in 2021. All issued ratings are available for download [here](#).

The economic impact of a new bio-based plant can be transformative for a distressed community: every new sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) plant can provide, on average, 321 jobs and \$29M per year to the local economy, as well as reduce CO₂ emissions by 300,000 metric tons per year (Commercial Aviation Alternative Fuels Initiative (CAAFI)).

National economic impact potential in the US is estimated at **160,500 direct, indirect and induced jobs and over \$16B annually in direct and indirect economic benefits**. Total annual greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction impact potential of the BDO Zone Initiative is estimated at **2.59% of overall net emissions. This is the equivalent of removing 32,608,695 cars from the road, 11.8% of all passenger cars in the US.**

The **“1000 BDO Zones in 4 Years Plan”** will catalyze biobased investment and infrastructure development, strengthen energy independence, create jobs, and contribute to long term prosperity.

Recent Press

In April 2021, the [BDO Zone Investment Coalition](#) announced the mobilization of \$1BB of capital for deployment to biobased infrastructure and manufacturing plants located in Bioeconomy Development Opportunity Zones.

On April 5th, 2022, the first [BDO ZoneCONNECT Webinar](#) was launched and featured presentations from BDO Zone community representatives in Melville, SK and Siloam Springs, AR.

See more press [here](#).

Quotes

Jordan Solomon, Chairman of the BDO Zone Initiative and CEO of Ecostrat says: “BDO Zone Ratings help attract new energy infrastructure and biobased manufacturing plants to the areas where they are most likely to succeed and where they will have the greatest social impact.”

Rina Singh, Executive VP of Alternative Fuels & Chemicals Coalition (AFCC) says: “BDO Zones are hotbeds for alternative fuel and renewable chemical manufacturing facilities: sustainable feedstock surpluses, strong supply chain capability, community appetite for biobased development, and powerful tax incentives to derisk investment make BDO Zones some of the optimal places in the world for biobased economic development.”

Mark Riedy of Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton says: “\$1 billion is only the beginning. We expect the BDO Zone Initiative to supercharge the biobased job creation ability of the New Market Tax Credit Program, the Opportunity Zone program and other federal and state tax incentives like them in the U.S. to unlock billions to help ensure that the federal government’s commitment to clean energy, job creation and social justice are served.”

For more information, please contact aryn@bdozone.org or go to www.bdozone.org.

AGENDA #X.C.

Checklist

Required Forms

- [Form SF-424](#), "Application for Federal Assistance"
- [Form SF-424A](#), "Budget Information - Non-Construction Programs"
- [Form RD 400-4](#), "Assurance Agreement"
- [RD Instruction 1940-Q, Exhibit A-1](#), "Certification for Contracts, Grants & Loans"
- [Form AD-3030](#), "Representations Regarding Felony Conviction and Tax Delinquency Status for Corporate Applicants" (only required for non-profit corporations)

Non-Profits: Included in Appendix A:

- Articles of Incorporation (including any amendments)
- Bylaws (including any amendments)
- Current (within 12 months) Certificate of Good Standing issued by the appropriate Secretary of State
- Board Resolution authorizing entity to apply and administer the RBEG/RBOG including the name and title of the person authorized to sign grant documents.

Public Bodies: Included in Appendix A:

- Documentation of organization (date established if other than city, county, or state government).
- Resolution passed by the governing board authorizing entity to apply and administer the RBDG/RBOG, including the name and title of the person authorized to sign grant documents.

From Applicant

- UEI and SAM Registration Cage Code with Expiration Date
- Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN)
- In-kind / Cash Match Funds Detail and Supporting Letter
- Key Personnel Resumes
- 3 Years Financial Data
- Letters of Support from 5 local businesses