West Linn Business Survey



1. What is the nature of your business?			
	Response Percent	Response Count	
Retail	9.0%	17	
Restaurant	2.1%	4	
Construction	7.4%	14	
Personal Services (Ex: Hair Salon)	7.4%	14	
Professional Services (Ex: Attorney)	29.6%	56	
Public Administration	2.1%	4	
Transportation/Utilities	0.5%	1	
Financial Services/Insurance/Real Estate	5.3%	10	
Other (please specify)	36.5%	69	
	answered question	189	
	skipped question	0	

2. How long have you been operating this business in West Linn?		
	Response Percent	Response Count
< 1 year	6.3%	12
1-4 years	29.1%	55
5-9 years	22.8%	43
10 years or more	41.8%	79
	answered question	189
	skipped question	0

3. How would you characterize yo	our current business' activity level (i.e. last 24 months of operation)?	
	Response Percent	Response Count
Declining business activity (fewer clients, fewer sales, less income)	33.1%	46
Holding your own (same level of business, fairly steady)	36.7%	51
Business is moderately growing, increasing	25.9%	36
Business is rapidly expanding	4.3%	6
	Percentage (%) Change:	51
	answered question	139
	skipped question	50

4. In addition to a strong economy, what are the critical factors for the success and expansion of your business? (Check all that apply)

	Response Percent	Response Count
Qualified Labor	21.1%	24
Financing	29.8%	34
Current inventory	8.8%	10
Tourism	3.5%	4
Up-to-date equipment/inventory	15.8%	18
Public access	17.5%	20
Foot traffic	15.8%	18
Addition of complementary businesses/ Other? (please specify):	46.5%	53
	answered question	114
	skipped question	75

5. What are some of the major issues or obstacles facing your business today? (Please check the top five priority issues)

		ponse rcent	Response Count
Customer traffic (not enough/shrinking)		25.3%	22
Current economic conditions		77.0%	67
Property improvements (façade, etc.)		3.4%	3
Public safety/crime		0.0%	0
Cost of rent/property		14.9%	13
Parking		11.5%	10
Availability of telecom services		5.7%	5
Payroll costs		12.6%	11
Cash flow/working capital		24.1%	21
Competition		24.1%	21
General operating costs		33.3%	29
Insurance costs		21.8%	19
Cost of rent/property		8.0%	7
Availability of employees		3.4%	3
City/County/State codes or regulations		14.9%	13
Computer/technology issues		8.0%	7
Skill level/preparation of employees		8.0%	7
Outdated technology		2.3%	2
Other (please specify)		14.9%	13
	answered qu	estion	87

6. Please expand on any of your answers to the question above. If you checked "City/County/State code or regulations," please be specific about the issues or obstacles.

Response Count
21

answered question	21
skipped question	168

7. To keep your business healthy and competitive, which of the following types of information or assistance are important to your company's growth? (Please check all that apply)

	Response Percent	Response Count
Business expansion/relocation information	8.5%	7
Employee hiring/skills training	9.8%	8
Market identification	26.8%	22
Marketing/Advertising programs	63.4%	52
Business planning and cash flow	31.7%	26
Using the Internet for E-commerce	37.8%	31
Assistance with loan preparation	1.2%	1
Business management training	11.0%	9
Property and façade improvements	3.7%	3
Computer/technology assistance	18.3%	15
"Lean" business practices & efficiencies	19.5%	16
Other (please specify)	6.1%	5
	answered question	82
	skipped question	107

8. If you checked "Business Management Training" above, please indicate what "Type" of training you would prefer.

	Response Percent	Response Count
Topic Specific Workshops/Seminars	27.8%	5
One-on-One mentoring	22.2%	4
A set course with multiple topics	0.0%	0
Peer group mentoring	5.6%	1
Business Advice when needed	33.3%	6
Other (please specify)	11.1%	2
	answered question	18
	skipped question	171

9. If you checked "Topic Specific Workshops" above, please indicate what topics you would prefer.

	Response Percent	Response Count
Funding my business	6.7%	1
Employee hiring/skills training	6.7%	1
Financial Management/Cash Flow	26.7%	4
Marketing/Advertising	53.3%	8
"Lean" business practices & efficiencies	46.7%	7
Other (please specify)	6.7%	1
	answered question	15
	skipped question	174

10. Which description below best characterizes your plans to expand or reduce your operations in the next one-two years?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Plan to expand operations	26.1%	36
Plan to relocate	5.8%	8
Plan to reduce operations	2.9%	4
No changes planned	41.3%	57
Plan to sell	4.3%	6
Uncertain	18.1%	25
Other (please specify)	10.9%	15
	answered question	138
	skipped question	51

11. Please check any type of investment or improvement you have made in your business in the last two years:

	Response Percent	Response Count
Physical improvements (store design/layout,interior/exterior remodeling)	22.0%	24
New/expanded products, services, inventory	36.7%	40
New/expanded marketing/promotional activities	36.7%	40
New/additional employees	16.5%	18
Systems improvements	27.5%	30
None	26.6%	29
Other (please specify)	8.3%	9
	answered question	109
	skipped question	80

12. Please check any type of investment or improvement you plan on making in the next one-to-two years.

	Response Percent	Response Count
Physical improvements (store design/layout, interior or exterior remodeling)	11.3%	12
New/expanded products, services, inventory	27.4%	29
New/expanded marketing/promotional activities	37.7%	40
New/additional employees	17.9%	19
Systems improvements	18.9%	20
None	32.1%	34
Other (please specify)	7.5%	8
	answered question	106
	skipped question	83

13. Are you interested in participating in cooperative business marketing efforts to attract customers to West Linn or to encourage residents to shop locally?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	47.8%	32
No	52.2%	35
	answered question	67
	skipped question	122

14. What identity or image would you like to see West Linn develop for itself as a unique business area that is attractive to residents, employees and visitors?

Response	
Count	

36

36	answered question	
153	skipped question	

15. What types of businesses would you like to see West Linn attract or grow to improve its business mix?

	Response Percent	Response Count
1.	100.0%	37
2.	67.6%	25
3.	43.2%	16
	answered question	37
	skipped question	152

16. What could the West Linn businesses do to attract more local residents?

Response Count	Response Percent	
37	100.0%	1.
15	40.5%	2.
10	27.0%	3.
37	answered question	
152	skipped question	

17. What could the West Linn businesses do to attract more visitors and other shoppers who live out of the area?

	Response Percent	Response Count
1.	100.0%	31
2.	48.4%	15
3.	19.4%	6
	answered question	31
	skipped question	158

18. Name up to 3 advantages or strengths you associate with doing business in the West Linn?

	Response Percent	Response Count
1.	100.0%	92
2.	72.8%	67
3.	53.3%	49
	answered question	92
	skipped question	97

19. Please share any disadvantage	es (if any) to doing business in the West Linn.	
	Response Percent	Response Count
1.	100.0%	76
2.	64.5%	49
3.	46.1%	35
	answered question	76
	skipped question	113
20. Please share with us any other	r comments you may have:	
20. Please share with us any other	r comments you may have:	Count
20. Please share with us any other	r comments you may have: answered question	Response Count

21. Please provide us with the following information (Not Required): Response Response Percent Count Name: 87.5% 28 Company: 90.6% 29 Address: 81.3% 26 Address 2: 0.0% 0 City/Town: 87.5% 28 State: 81.3% 26 ZIP: 81.3% 26 Country: 56.3% 18 Email Address: 78.1% 25 Phone Number: 78.1% 25 answered question 32

skipped question

157