

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**SURVEY OF MAINE CITIZENS
FOR THE
MAINE ECONOMIC GROWTH COUNCIL**

SEPTEMBER, 1995

Prepared by:

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Maine Economic Growth Council Citizen Survey Results

	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>				<u>Strongly Agree</u>		
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Mean</u>
(1) Businesses in my community take an interest in and get involved in school and civic events.	6%	10%	28%	31%	22%	4%	3.5
(2) My community is generally a better place to live in than it was ten years ago.	12%	12%	29%	19%	18%	11%	3.2
(3) I feel that my community would appreciate my participation in local efforts and events.	7%	7%	22%	28%	35%	1%	3.8
(4) Many people in my community take an interest in and involve themselves in school and civic efforts.	5%	10%	31%	31%	20%	4%	3.5
(5) I live in a community that really cares about the future of its children.	4%	7%	22%	31%	36%	1%	3.9
(6) I try to make time each year to involve myself in a project that benefits my community.	17%	22%	20%	18%	22%	1%	3.1
(7) If something bad happened to me or to someone in my family, people from my community would offer their help and support.	5%	7%	21%	25%	42%	1%	3.9

(8) Overall, would you say that the economy of your community is...

Thriving:	7%
Doing okay:	42%
Getting by:	39%
Really suffering:	12%
Don't know/ Refused:	*%

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	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>					<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Mean</u>
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>			
(9) Maine's public schools, that's kindergarten through grade 12, are doing a good job of preparing students for the future.	7%	14%	34%	30%	13%	2%	3.3	
(10) College students do not need to leave the state of Maine in order to obtain an excellent education in their chosen field.	7%	9%	24%	28%	29%	3%	3.6	
(11) The University of Maine System offers a quality education for Maine students who choose to pursue a four year college education.	2%	3%	17%	39%	34%	5%	4.1	
(12) Maine's Technical Colleges offer a quality education for Maine students who choose to learn job-related skills in preparation for their careers.	1%	3%	18%	39%	31%	9%	4.0	
(13) There are adequate public and private programs available to Maine people who want to train for new jobs or acquire new skills.	7%	15%	37%	24%	10%	8%	3.2	
(14) The cost of attending the University of Maine is affordable for the students who want to attend.	9%	17%	34%	22%	9%	10%	3.1	
(15) The cost of attending one of Maine's Technical Colleges is affordable for the students who want to attend.	7%	9%	29%	26%	15%	14%	3.4	

(16a) If you wanted to further your education, would you be able to attend courses that would be affordable and of interest to you within your community?

YES 59%

NO 37%

DON'T KNOW/ REFUSED 4%

(16b) If you wanted to further your education, would you be able to attend courses that would be affordable and of interest to you within a one-hour drive, one way?

YES 79%

NO 19%

DON'T KNOW/ REFUSED 2%

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(17) In the past 12 months, have you personally attended an educational seminar, program or course...

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
(a) through a community sponsored program?	19%	81%	-
(b) through a private or public training program?	31%	69%	*%
(c) through your place of work?	35%	65%	-
(d) at one of Maine's Technical Colleges?	7%	93%	-
(e) at a branch of the University of Maine?	15%	85%	*%
(f) at a private Maine college?	6%	94%	*%
(g) at a college or university outside the state of Maine?	6%	94%	*%

(18) Are computers integrated into the curriculum of your public schools?

YES	83%
NO	4%
DON'T KNOW/ REFUSED	13%

(19) What is your current employment status? Are you currently:

1. employed full-time (35 hours/week)	56%
2. employed part-time (<35 hours/week)	12%
3. not employed/looking for full-time	3%
4. not employed/looking for part-time	2%
5. not actively looking for employment	9%
6. retired, or	3%
7. disabled?	16%
9. REFUSED	-

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(20) Is it your choice to be working part-time, or would you prefer to be working a full-time job?
 (Base: Part-time workers)

CHOICE TO WORK PART-TIME	77%
PREFER TO WORK FULL-TIME	22%
DON'T KNOW/ REFUSED	1%

(21) In total, how many hours do you typically spend each week doing work relative to your employment, including any hours for which you are not paid?
 (INCLUDE ALL JOBS WORKED)
 (Base: All employed respondents)

Less than 10 hours	2%
10 to 19 hours	3%
20 to 29 hours	8%
30 to 39 hours	10%
40 to 44 hours	25%
45 to 49 hours	14%
50 to 59 hours	24%
60 hours or more	16%
Mean	44.72 hours

	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>				<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Don't know</u>	<u>Mean</u>
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>		
(22) Overall, I am satisfied with the type of work I do.	4%	4%	14%	28%	50%	-	4.2
(23) Overall, I am satisfied with my salary.	10%	15%	22%	29%	23%	*%	3.4
(24) Overall, I am satisfied with the fringe benefits I receive.	18%	8%	20%	21%	31%	1%	3.4
(25) Overall, I feel secure about the future of my job.	11%	10%	21%	23%	34%	-	3.6
(26) My job is a good match for someone with my skills and background.	4%	5%	13%	26%	52%	*%	4.2
(27) In order to get ahead in my job over the next few years I will need to upgrade my skills and knowledge.	12%	7%	17%	23%	39%	2%	3.7

(28) Are you self-employed?

YES	21%
NO	79%
DON'T KNOW/ REFUSED	1%

(29) Does your employer have a program in place which provides for the following:

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>DK</u>
a. Pays all or part of the cost for any professional development that directly impacts your work	65%	30%	5%
b. Pays all or part of the cost for courses that may lead to a certificate, college or graduate degree	51%	43%	6%
c. Allows time off from work, either paid or un-paid, to attend such courses	51%	42%	7%

	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>				<u>Strongly Agree</u>		<u>Don't know</u>	<u>Mean</u>
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>			
(30) Employees at my place of work are encouraged to participate in additional training or take courses to continue their education.	14%	13%	20%	21%	32%	1%		3.4
(31) My employer maintains an equal opportunity environment where traits such as a person's gender, race, and ethnicity, have no impact on a person's ability to grow and succeed.	-	3%	12%	20%	64%	*%		4.4
(32) If I offered ideas on how to improve things at my work, I know my ideas would receive attention and might get implemented.	7%	10%	22%	29%	31%	*%		3.7
(33) My company is technologically up-to-date with its equipment and methods.	7%	9%	25%	31%	28%	-		3.7
(34) Employees at my place of work are encouraged to involve themselves in efforts that help the community.	8%	14%	24%	23%	29%	1%		3.5

(35) What about the performance of the state in general. Do you believe that things in Maine are getting better, getting worse, or are they staying about the same?

- 1. GETTING BETTER 25%
- 2. GETTING WORSE 20%
- 3. ABOUT THE SAME 53%
- 4. DON'T KNOW 2%

(36) How would you rate the value of state services that you get for the taxes you pay to the state? Would you rate the value as...

- 1. Excellent 2%
- 2. Good 30%
- 3. Fair 52%
- 4. Poor 10%
- 5. Terrible 5%
- Don't know/Refused 1%

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There are many ways that the State can focus its efforts. In your own opinion, do you think each of the following goals is critical, very important, somewhat important, or not at all important.

	<u>Critical</u>	<u>Very Important</u>	<u>Somewhat Important</u>	<u>Not at all Important</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
(37) Protecting our natural resources.	28%	54%	17%	1%	-
(38) Helping Maine businesses to grow and prosper.	27%	58%	14%	*%	*%
(39) Ensuring that our highways, seaports, airports and other transportation systems are adequate.	18%	56%	25%	1%	*%
(40) Ensuring that our telecommunications systems throughout the State are up-to-date for residents and businesses (for example, phone lines for voice, computers and fax machines.)	12%	49%	34%	4%	1%
(41) Helping individuals and families who are in need.	20%	56%	23%	1%	1%
(42) Improving the quality of education in our public schools.	38%	55%	7%	*%	*%
(43) Helping our communities to thrive.	22%	59%	18%	*%	*%
(44) Streamlining government for greater efficiency.	26%	51%	19%	2%	2%
(45) Helping Maine workers to acquire the skills they will need to succeed in their jobs.	26%	57%	15%	2%	*%

Now, I'd like to ask you some questions about the performance of the state on these same issues. On a 1 to 5 scale where 5 means you think that the state is doing an exceptional job, and 1 means you think the state is doing a very poor job, how well do you think the state is doing at...

	Very Poor <u>Job</u>				Exceptional <u>Job</u>		Don't <u>know</u>	<u>Mean</u>
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>			
(46) Protecting our natural resources.	4%	11%	34%	37%	13%	2%	3.4	
(47) Helping Maine businesses to grow and prosper.	6%	22%	40%	23%	6%	3%	3.0	
(48) Ensuring that our highways, seaports, airports and other transportation systems are adequate.	5%	11%	40%	31%	11%	2%	3.3	
(49) Ensuring that our telecommunications systems throughout the State are up-to-date for residents and businesses (for example, phone lines for voice, computers and fax machines.)	4%	9%	41%	30%	7%	9%	3.3	
(50) Helping individuals and families who are in need.	6%	15%	41%	26%	9%	3%	3.2	
(51) Improving the quality of education in our public schools.	8%	20%	40%	21%	8%	2%	3.0	
(52) Helping our communities to thrive.	5%	19%	51%	18%	5%	2%	3.0	
(53) Streamlining government for greater efficiency.	12%	22%	38%	18%	6%	4%	2.8	
(54) Helping Maine workers to acquire the skills they will need to succeed in their jobs.	5%	20%	45%	18%	7%	5%	3.0	

(55) Which of the following best describes your household's financial situation?

Your financial situation allows you to buy all the things your household needs, plus you are able to afford many things you want, but don't really need	17%
You are able to buy the things your household needs, but need to carefully plan the purchase of items that are not necessary	56%
Your household's income is adequate only for covering your regular household expenses	21%
Your household's income is inadequate, and does not cover your regular household expenses	6%
Don't know/ Refused	1%

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(56) How would you describe your situation as far as the time you have to relax and pursue the things you enjoy? Let's put it on a one to five scale, where 5 means you feel you have sufficient time for relaxation and pursuing activities you enjoy, and 1 means you have no time for relaxation and pursuing the things you enjoy.

1	NO TIME	8%
2		16%
3		32%
4		23%
5	SUFFICIENT TIME	20%
	DON'T KNOW/ REFUSED	*%
	MEAN	3.3

(57) In the past 12 months have you devoted time outside of your regular family and work schedule to any of the following types of activities...

	<u>Total</u>	<u><5 hours/ month</u>	<u>5 - 9 hours/ month</u>	<u>10 - 15 hours/m onth</u>	<u>15 hours+/ month</u>	<u>Mean/ month</u>
(57a) Helping out in the public schools with academic or other school related activities?						
YES	23%	38%	21%	24%	19%	11.5 hrs
NO	77%					
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	*%					

In the past 12 months have you devoted time outside of your regular family and work schedule to any of the following types of activities...

	Total	5 hrs or less/week	6-10 hrs/month	11-15 hrs/month	16-20 hrs/month	21-30 hrs/month	31 hrs or more/month	Mean/ month
(57b) Community organizations which help young people such as Little League, Big Brothers or Sisters, and Scouting?								
YES	30%	45%	24%	11%	8%	3%	9%	12.7 hrs
NO	70%							
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	*%							
(57c) Organizations which assist the elderly, home-bound, and people in poor health such as meals on wheels, home health volunteers, and hospital volunteers?								
YES	16%	43%	29%	4%	9%	4%	12%	14.9 hrs
NO	84%							
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	*%							
(57d) Organizations which assist the needy or under-privileged?								
YES	21%	62%	19%	4%	7%	3%	4%	8.5 hrs
NO	79%							
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	*%							

(58) In the past 12 months have you personally attended a town council meeting, planning board meeting, annual town meeting, or any other regularly scheduled event to discuss the business of your community?

YES	39%
NO	61%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	*%

(59) In the past 12 months have you voted in a municipal election?

- YES 76%
- NO 23%
- DON'T KNOW/REFUSED 2%

(60) In the past 12 months have you attended a school board meeting?

- YES 20%
- NO 80%
- DON'T KNOW/REFUSED -

(61) In the past 12 months have you donated money to a cause from which people and/or institutions in your own community will benefit? This could include your church or school.

- YES 79%
- NO 21%
- DON'T KNOW/REFUSED *%

(62) This survey was conducted for the Maine Economic Growth Council. Prior to this survey, had you heard about the Maine Economic Growth Council?

- YES 33%
- NO 65%
- DON'T KNOW/REFUSED 2%

(63) Do you own or rent your home?

- OWN 79%
- RENT 18%
- OTHER 3%
- REFUSED -

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(64) How many people, including yourself and any children, live in your household?

ONE	14%
TWO	35%
THREE	20%
FOUR	20%
FIVE	8%
SIX	3%
SEVEN	*%
EIGHT OR MORE	*%
REFUSED	-
MEAN	2.8 people/household

(64a) How many are children under the age of 18? (Based upon those with two or more household members.)

NONE	48%
ONE	20%
TWO	20%
THREE	8%
FOUR	3%
FIVE OR MORE	*%
REFUSED	-
MEAN	1.0 child/household

(66) Would you describe the area in which you live as urban, suburban, small town, or rural?

SMALL TOWN	45%
RURAL	30%
SUBURBAN	12%
URBAN	12%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	*%

(67) How many salary or wage earners, including yourself, contribute to your total household income?

NONE	13%
ONE	35%
TWO	49%
THREE	2%
FOUR	1%
FIVE OR MORE	-
REFUSED	*%
MEAN	1.4 wage earners/household

(68) What is/was your occupation?

SKILLED/SEMI-SKILLED TRADE	22%
PROFESSIONAL	17%
ADMINISTRATIVE/MANAGERIAL/SUPERVISORY	13%
SERVICE	11%
MANUAL LABOR	8%

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(68 continued) What is/was your occupation?

EDUCATOR/TEACHER	8%
CLERICAL	7%
SALES	6%
TECHNICAL	2%
DISABLED	1%
HOMEMAKER	1%
SELF-EMPLOYED	1%
NEVER BEEN EMPLOYED FOR PAY	3%
REFUSED	1%

(69) What is your marital status?

MARRIED	65%
SINGLE/NEVER MARRIED	16%
DIVORCED	10%
WIDOWED	7%
SEPARATED	2%
REFUSED	*%

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(70) What is the highest level of education you have completed?

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (GRADES 1 - 8)	1%
SOME HIGH SCHOOL	8%
GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL	39%
COMMUNITY/TECHNICAL COLLEGE	10%
SOME COLLEGE	18%
GRADUATED COLLEGE	19%
COMPLETED GRADUATE SCHOOL	5%
REFUSED	*%

(71) Did you attend elementary or secondary schools in Maine?

YES	73%
NO	27%
REFUSED	*%

(72) IF ATTENDED COLLEGE: Did you attend college in Maine?

YES	64%
NO	36%
REFUSED	-

(73) For how many years have you lived in Maine?

10 or fewer	13%
11 to 20	13%
21 to 30	19%
31 to 40	22%
41 to 50	13%
More than 50	20%
Refused	-
MEAN	34.6 years

(74) What is your racial or ethnic heritage?

WHITE/CAUCASIAN	82%
FRENCH/FRANCO AMERICAN	17%
NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN	1%
ORIENTAL/ASIAN AMERICAN	*%
BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN	*%
HISPANIC/LATIN AMERICAN	-
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	*%

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(75) In what year were you born? (Age of Respondent)

18 to 24 years	10%
25 to 34 years	21%
35 to 44 years	25%
45 to 54 years	17%
55 to 64 years	11%
65 to 74 years	10%
75 years and older	7%
Refused	-
MEAN (year of birth)	1950

(76) Total household income for 1994:

Below \$15,000	11%
\$15,000 - \$24,999	17%
\$25,000 - \$34,999	23%
\$35,000 - \$49,999	21%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	15%
\$75,000 or more	6%
DON'T KNOW	2%
REFUSED	6%

(79) Gender of Respondent:

MALE	48%
FEMALE	52%

(80) County respondent resides in:

CUMBERLAND	17%	SOMERSET	4%
YORK	13%	OXFORD	4%
PENOBSCOT	12%	HANCOCK	3%
KENNEBEC	10%	SAGADAHOC	3%
ANDROSCOGGIN	8%	WASHINGTON	3%
AROOSTOOK	8%	FRANKLIN	2%
KNOX	5%	LINCOLN	2%
WALDO	4%	PISCATAQUIS	2%

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