

# Edgecomb, Maine Business Survey

## General Conclusions

August 2016

### Advantages

- Central Mid-coast Location
- Route 1 Access/Exposure
- Relatively Low Overhead/Affordable Real Estate

### Disadvantages

- Small Market Size
- Traffic—seasonal congestion, speed
- Poor Internet Service

### Other Broad Issues

- Tax Burden of Schools
- Lack of Town I.D.
- Lack of Awareness of Town and Town Boundaries
- Inconsistent Code Enforcement

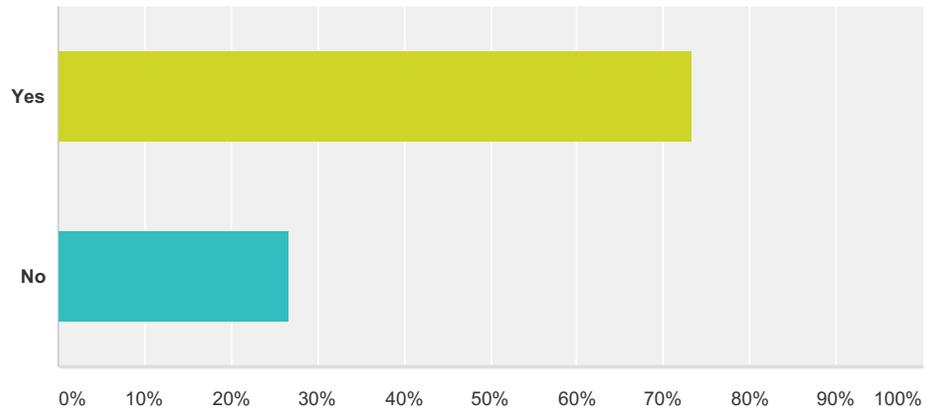
## Q1 How many years have you operated your business in Edgecomb?

Answered: 16 Skipped: 0

#	Responses	Date
1	12	6/22/2016 12:16 PM
2	32	6/22/2016 12:10 PM
3	2	6/22/2016 12:04 PM
4	13	6/22/2016 11:55 AM
5	100+	6/20/2016 3:17 PM
6	Four	6/15/2016 6:34 AM
7	28	6/14/2016 9:42 PM
8	28	6/8/2016 8:54 PM
9	5	6/6/2016 2:00 PM
10	5	6/1/2016 1:18 AM
11	3	5/31/2016 4:04 PM
12	4	5/28/2016 8:57 AM
13	17	5/27/2016 1:17 PM
14	Six years	5/25/2016 6:48 PM
15	20	5/24/2016 2:55 AM
16	21	5/23/2016 7:33 PM

## Q2 Are you a resident of Edgecomb?

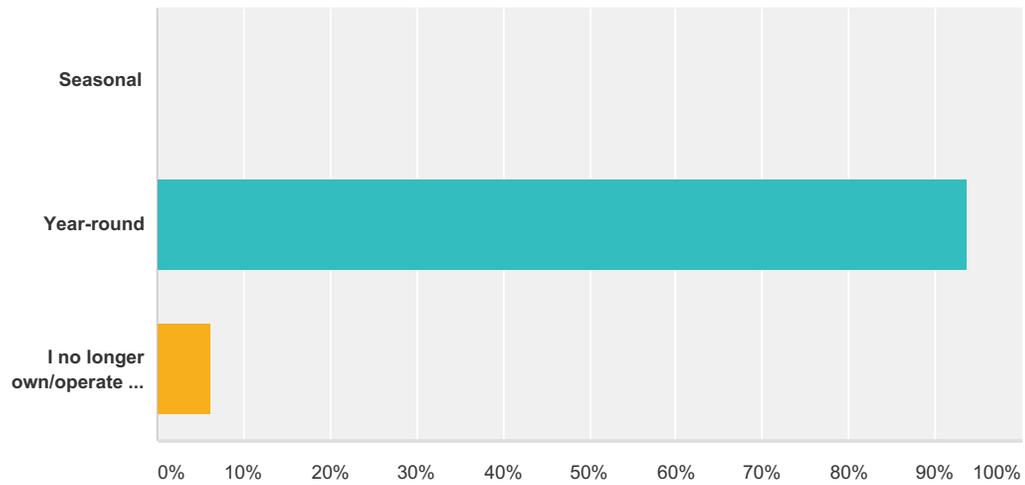
Answered: 15 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	73.33% 11
No	26.67% 4
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>

### Q3 My business is:

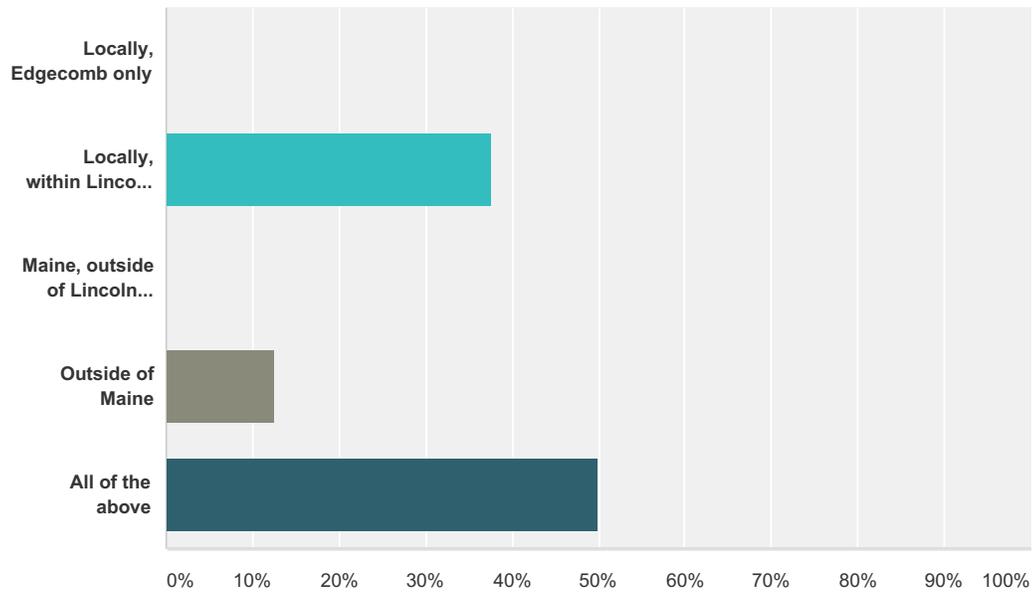
Answered: 16 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
Seasonal	0.00% 0
Year-round	93.75% 15
I no longer own/operate my business in Edgecomb	6.25% 1
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>

### Q4 Where do the majority of your customers come from?

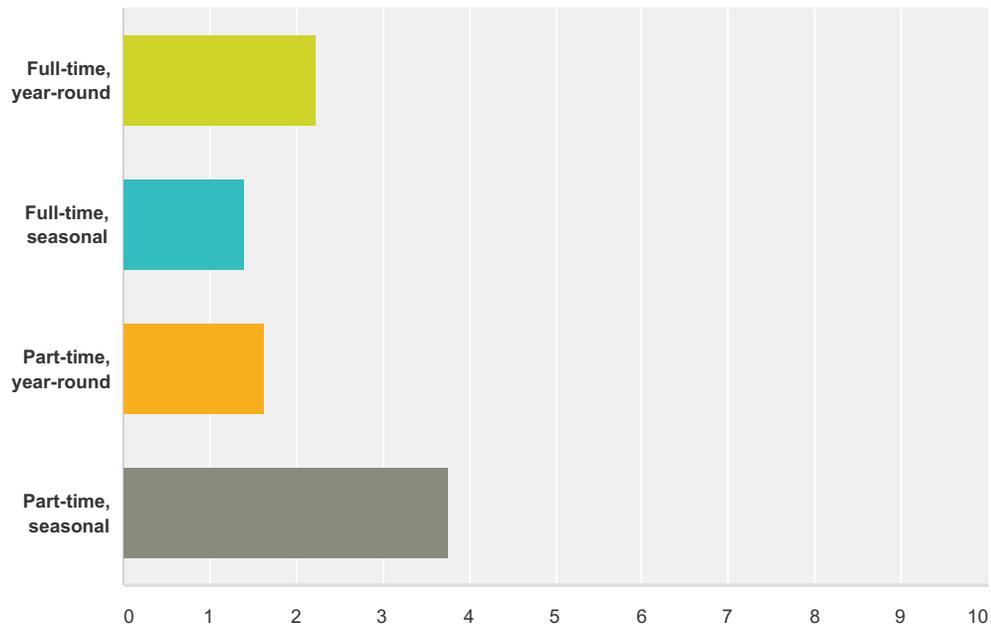
Answered: 16 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
Locally, Edgecomb only	0.00% 0
Locally, within Lincoln County	37.50% 6
Maine, outside of Lincoln County	0.00% 0
Outside of Maine	12.50% 2
All of the above	50.00% 8
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>

### Q5 How many people do you employ?

Answered: 16 Skipped: 0



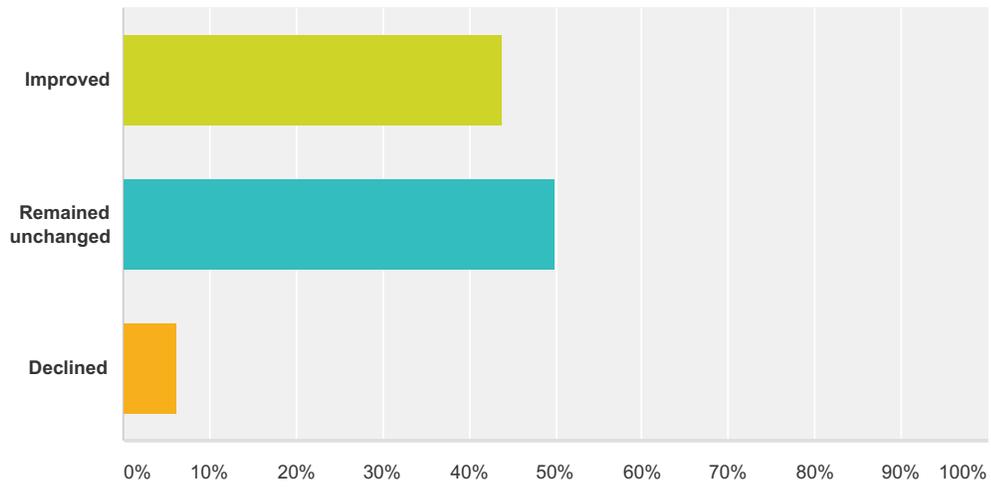
Answer Choices	Average Number	Total Number	Responses
Full-time, year-round	2	29	13
Full-time, seasonal	1	7	5
Part-time, year-round	2	13	8
Part-time, seasonal	4	15	4
<b>Total Respondents: 16</b>			

#	Full-time, year-round	Date
1	4	6/22/2016 12:16 PM
2	6	6/22/2016 12:10 PM
3	2	6/22/2016 12:04 PM
4	1	6/22/2016 11:55 AM
5	2	6/20/2016 3:17 PM
6	0	6/15/2016 6:34 AM
7	5	6/8/2016 8:54 PM
8	2	6/6/2016 2:00 PM
9	1	6/1/2016 1:18 AM
10	2	5/28/2016 8:57 AM
11	2	5/27/2016 1:17 PM
12	1	5/25/2016 6:48 PM
13	1	5/24/2016 2:55 AM

#	Full-time, seasonal	Date
1	0	6/22/2016 12:16 PM
2	0	6/15/2016 6:34 AM
3	1	6/8/2016 8:54 PM
4	1	5/31/2016 4:04 PM
5	5	5/23/2016 7:33 PM
#	Part-time, year-round	Date
1	2	6/22/2016 12:16 PM
2	2	6/20/2016 3:17 PM
3	0	6/15/2016 6:34 AM
4	2	6/14/2016 9:42 PM
5	2	6/8/2016 8:54 PM
6	3	6/6/2016 2:00 PM
7	1	6/1/2016 1:18 AM
8	1	5/24/2016 2:55 AM
#	Part-time, seasonal	Date
1	0	6/22/2016 12:16 PM
2	0	6/15/2016 6:34 AM
3	3	6/1/2016 1:18 AM
4	12	5/31/2016 4:04 PM

### Q6 Over the last 12-18 months, would you say your business has:

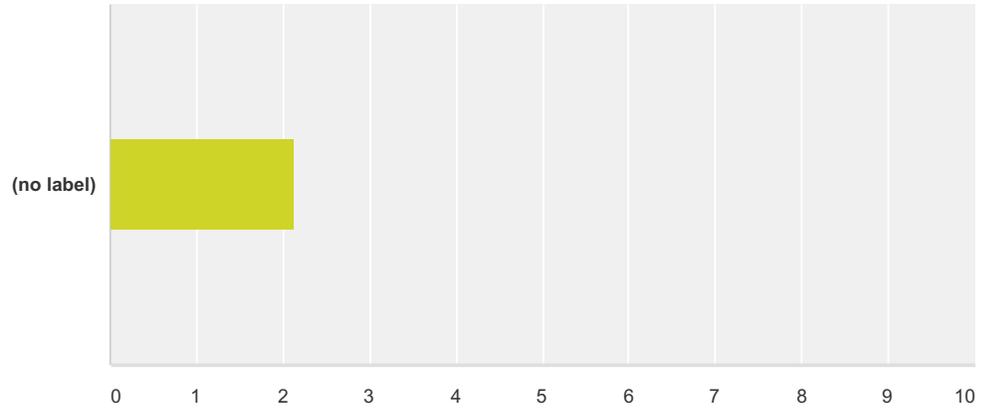
Answered: 16 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
Improved	43.75% 7
Remained unchanged	50.00% 8
Declined	6.25% 1
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>

**Q7 What is your long-term outlook for your particular business in Edgecomb? (5 = Excellent, 1 = Very Poor)**

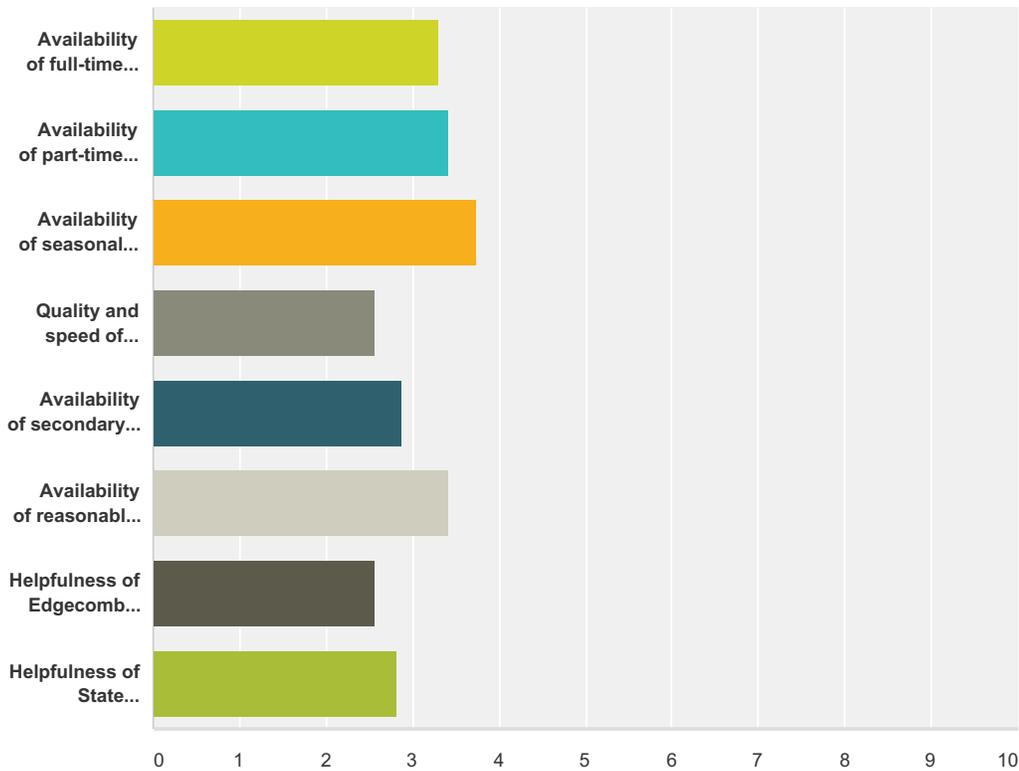
Answered: 16 Skipped: 0



	5	4	3	2	1	Total	Weighted Average
(no label)	18.75% 3	62.50% 10	12.50% 2	0.00% 0	6.25% 1	16	2.13

**Q8 Please rate the business climate in Edgecomb on the following criteria where 5 = Excellent, 1 = Very Poor.**

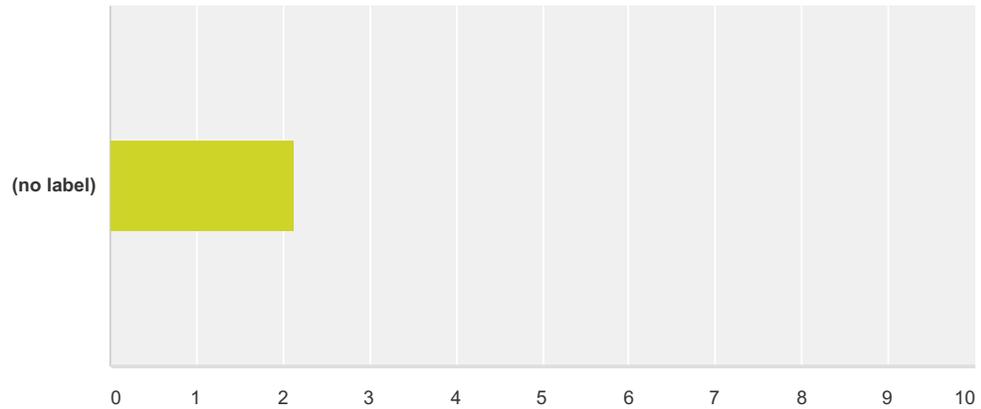
Answered: 16 Skipped: 0



	5	4	3	2	1	Total	Weighted Average
Availability of full-time employees	0.00% 0	21.43% 3	50.00% 7	7.14% 1	21.43% 3	14	3.29
Availability of part-time employees	0.00% 0	25.00% 3	33.33% 4	16.67% 2	25.00% 3	12	3.42
Availability of seasonal employees	0.00% 0	9.09% 1	36.36% 4	27.27% 3	27.27% 3	11	3.73
Quality and speed of available Internet access	12.50% 2	37.50% 6	37.50% 6	6.25% 1	6.25% 1	16	2.56
Availability of secondary services (accountants, marketing, professional trades, etc.)	6.25% 1	31.25% 5	37.50% 6	18.75% 3	6.25% 1	16	2.88
Availability of reasonably priced real estate suitable for business development	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	66.67% 8	25.00% 3	8.33% 1	12	3.42
Helpfulness of Edgecomb government staff and elected officials	12.50% 2	31.25% 5	50.00% 8	0.00% 0	6.25% 1	16	2.56
Helpfulness of State government staff and elected officials	6.25% 1	25.00% 4	56.25% 9	6.25% 1	6.25% 1	16	2.81

**Q9 Considering the various taxes and fees you incur as a business owner in Edgecomb, how would you rate the effect of the local tax burden on your business. (5 = Negligible, 1 = Extremely Burdensome)**

Answered: 16 Skipped: 0



	5	4	3	2	1	Total	Weighted Average
(no label)	37.50% 6	25.00% 4	25.00% 4	12.50% 2	0.00% 0	16	2.13

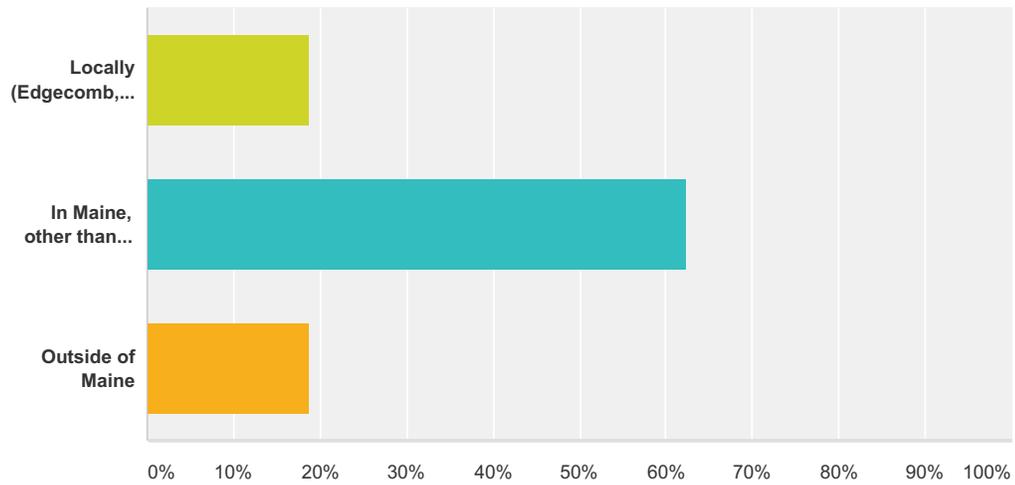
**Q10 Please briefly list what you feel are the two or three most distinct advantages of owning a business in Edgecomb.**

Answered: 14 Skipped: 2

#	Responses	Date
1	Quaint time. Convenience of being next to church + its amenities.	6/22/2016 12:16 PM
2	Central location to customers. Decent roads.	6/22/2016 12:10 PM
3	It's across from our home! Centered between 3 midcoast towns.	6/22/2016 12:04 PM
4	Affordable land to build shop + home for in-home business. Proximity to Route One + towns w/hardware stores, shipping, etc. Proximity to communities of potential clients.	6/22/2016 11:55 AM
5	Route #1 access The local people Midcoast socio-economic position	6/20/2016 3:17 PM
6	This is hard to say as I am an "in home" business with no employees	6/15/2016 6:34 AM
7	Low overhead. Convenience of having it on my residential property.	6/14/2016 9:42 PM
8	Location and community	6/8/2016 8:54 PM
9	Visibility and easy access to Rte 1. Close by to well-known Wiscasset and a passage to the Boothbay Region.	6/6/2016 2:00 PM
10	Rt 1 and main road access	6/1/2016 1:18 AM
11	Central location...between Damariscotta, Wiscasset, Boothbay Harbor Natural beauty. Route 1 Access	5/31/2016 4:04 PM
12	close to the seasonal tourists which supplement my national business	5/28/2016 8:57 AM
13	Working at home	5/25/2016 6:48 PM
14	Good for small business... Ability to donwhatyiu wantbto within reason Strong feeling of community	5/23/2016 7:33 PM

### Q11 Where do you source your computer IT work?

Answered: 16 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
Locally (Edgecomb, Damariscotta, Newcastle, Boothbay, Wiscasset)	18.75% 3
In Maine, other than Edgecomb, Damariscotta, Newcastle, Boothbay, Wiscasset.	62.50% 10
Outside of Maine	18.75% 3
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>

**Q12 Please briefly list what you feel are the two or three most distinct disadvantages of owning a business in Edgecomb.**

Answered: 13 Skipped: 3

#	Responses	Date
1	No services for elderly.	6/22/2016 12:16 PM
2	Small market size. Poor condition of River Road discourages customers in the winter.	6/22/2016 12:04 PM
3	Distance from some supplies. Lacks sizable population.	6/22/2016 11:55 AM
4	anachronistic town government lack of a convenience store(people drive through town without stopping) town hall hours	6/20/2016 3:17 PM
5	In home business could do it anywhere	6/15/2016 6:34 AM
6	Speed of traffic not conducive to browsers casually stopping in.	6/14/2016 9:42 PM
7	traffic pattern speed limit	6/8/2016 8:54 PM
8	The summer traffic on Rte. 1. Lack of open hours at the town hall.	6/6/2016 2:00 PM
9	Wiscasset traffic	6/1/2016 1:18 AM
10	Relatively small tax base...taxes could be lower with larger tax base. Also, burden of the school budget. Seasonality Difficulty finding and keeping motivated seasonal workers.	5/31/2016 4:04 PM
11	LePage as Gov. McKay Rd trash outside of homes that are on the way to my seasonal studio	5/28/2016 8:57 AM
12	I can't think of any	5/25/2016 6:48 PM
13	Bad internet!!!!!! Bad internet Bad internet	5/23/2016 7:33 PM

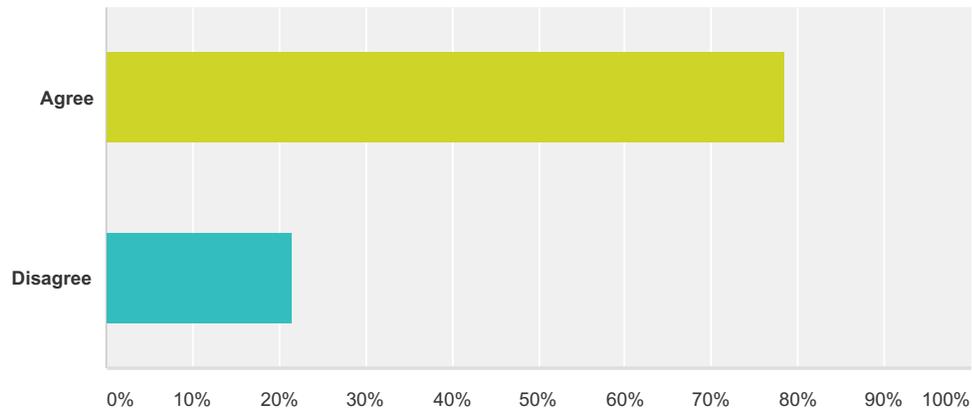
**Q13 Please list the types of local businesses and services that would enhance your daily operations as a business owner?**

Answered: 12 Skipped: 4

#	Responses	Date
1	Ice cream shop. Doctors' offices.	6/22/2016 12:16 PM
2	Hardware store. Technology-based businesses	6/22/2016 12:10 PM
3	Lodging and a restaurant to bring more tourists or people would have a place to stay when they come for classes or a abbatoir!	6/22/2016 12:04 PM
4	None	6/22/2016 11:55 AM
5	Convenience store/24 hour gas availability copy center Notary public	6/20/2016 3:17 PM
6	Some place to get a quick coffee and or lunch. Really miss the store	6/15/2016 6:34 AM
7	Office temp services, IT specialists for web design, IT specialists for setting up/trouble-shooting LAN and computer bugs.	6/14/2016 9:42 PM
8	decent dining	6/8/2016 8:54 PM
9	Walking distance to a coffee/sandwich shop.	6/6/2016 2:00 PM
10	N/a	6/1/2016 1:18 AM
11	Edgecomb-based bank branches Hardware stores Grocery stores	5/31/2016 4:04 PM
12	Better internet connections!	5/23/2016 7:33 PM

**Q14 In terms of developing business in Edgecomb, the town should aggressively promote Edgecomb to encourage expansion by ongoing businesses and start-ups, and to encourage existing businesses to relocate to the area.**

Answered: 14 Skipped: 2

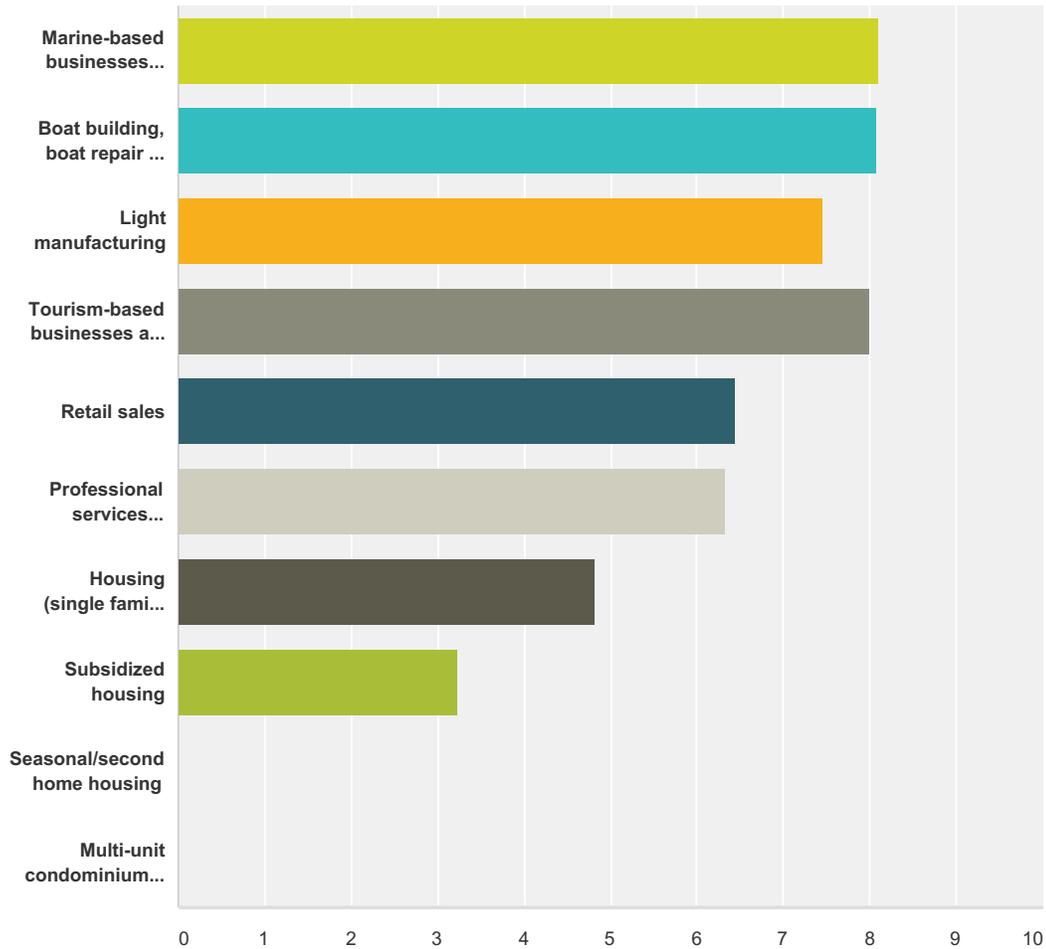


Answer Choices	Responses
Agree	78.57% 11
Disagree	21.43% 3
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>

#	Comment	Date
1	Not sure it makes any difference to us!	6/22/2016 12:04 PM
2	I'm a little uncomfortable with "aggressively." Until we have a good infrastructure (especially internet) and B2B communications (link to Wiscasset's Chamber of Commerce?), I'm not sure how effective the town can be at encouraging expansion. Tackle those questions first, then seek more businesses.	6/14/2016 9:42 PM
3	I would encourage businesses to relocate to the larger Lincoln County area. I don't think there is anything unique about Edgecomb that would draw new businesses just to this town.	6/6/2016 2:00 PM
4	I have a home occupation business now - we have been in business since 1972 in various locations but still with national accounts and seasonal selling my art to tourists. I would encourage home more home occupation business.	5/28/2016 8:57 AM

**Q15 What type of new businesses do you feel would be beneficial to Edgecomb's long-term economic health and vitality. (Number 1-10 in order of importance with 1 = most important and 10 = least important)**

Answered: 14 Skipped: 2



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total	Score
Marine-based businesses (commercial fishing, aquaculture, etc.)	36.36% 4	18.18% 2	0.00% 0	18.18% 2	18.18% 2	9.09% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	11	8.09
Boat building, boat repair & maintenance	8.33% 1	33.33% 4	33.33% 4	8.33% 1	16.67% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	12	8.08
Light manufacturing	23.08% 3	7.69% 1	7.69% 1	30.77% 4	15.38% 2	15.38% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	13	7.46
Tourism-based businesses and attractions (outdoor sports, hiking, recreation, attractions such as the Botanical Gardens)	23.08% 3	15.38% 2	30.77% 4	7.69% 1	15.38% 2	7.69% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	13	8.00

Retail sales	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>9.09%</b> 1	<b>18.18%</b> 2	<b>18.18%</b> 2	<b>27.27%</b> 3	<b>18.18%</b> 2	<b>9.09%</b> 1	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>0.00%</b> 0	11	6.45
Professional services (attorneys, financial advisors, banks, credit unions, medical services)	<b>25.00%</b> 3	<b>8.33%</b> 1	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>8.33%</b> 1	<b>8.33%</b> 1	<b>16.67%</b> 2	<b>16.67%</b> 2	<b>16.67%</b> 2	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>0.00%</b> 0	12	6.33
Housing (single family, condominiums, vacation)	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>9.09%</b> 1	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>9.09%</b> 1	<b>27.27%</b> 3	<b>45.45%</b> 5	<b>9.09%</b> 1	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>0.00%</b> 0	11	4.82
Subsidized housing	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>23.08%</b> 3	<b>76.92%</b> 10	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>0.00%</b> 0	13	3.23
Seasonal/second home housing	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>0.00%</b> 0	0	0.00
Multi-unit condominium developments	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>0.00%</b> 0	0	0.00

## Q16 What can the Town of Edgecomb do to help you grow your business, and in general, improve the business climate in Edgecomb?

Answered: 12 Skipped: 4

#	Responses	Date
1	More volunteers for our assisted living home.	6/22/2016 12:16 PM
2	Edgecomb cannot grow properly without effective code enforcement. Current "hands off" attitude of Edgecomb with code enforcement exists. "Anything goes" approach to construction in Edgecomb by area building contractors. Proper code enforcement with required inspections should be mandatory.	6/22/2016 12:10 PM
3	Access to the water. Boat ramp. Kayak launch.	6/22/2016 12:04 PM
4	Light manufacturing would be ok, provided it's environmentally gentle. Please no gun stores or fireworks stores. Promote our town as a place with many small creative businesses. Maybe start an Open Studio day to get locals to find all of the artists and craftspeople.	6/22/2016 11:55 AM
5	Anything that would keep people from passing through Edgecomb on the way to anywhere else.	6/20/2016 3:17 PM
6	This is a "pass through" town. We have no central area, everything is spread out. It would be nice to better utilize the school by having the town offices there. Get the ladies out of the dark, dank, cold basement. Perhaps a gazebo. On the school grounds for concerts. It would be nice to be centralized a bit. Maybe a business fair to attract business. A Christmas market during the botanical gardens light show. Sell booths, have it outdoors. This is Maine outdoors is fine! So many artisans in the area, who would have an opportunity to sell their wares in the off season.	6/15/2016 6:34 AM
7	Under professional services (above), consider broadening the categories to include 21st century changing needs for business -- IT is huge, and covers a broad range of services, from artistic to engineering, to data processing, to security. These are often entrepreneurial, home-based folks, who would easily fit in to the Edgecomb landscape. Think of a radiology specialist who consults via the internet, or web designers who work for accounts nationally. Another category to add, that is already represented and can expand, is crafts people and artists -- from woodworkers, metal workers, folks in the fiber arts, to decent journeyman plumbers, electricians, heating/cooling/ solar technicians.	6/14/2016 9:42 PM
8	Most people tell others that my business is in Wiscasset. Where Edgecomb starts and ends is largely unknown. That's OK but with that knowledge it seems to make sense that Edgecomb should work intensely with Wiscasset to promote the whole region. If Wiscasset is promoted then Edgecomb will benefit by default.	6/6/2016 2:00 PM
9	N/a	6/1/2016 1:18 AM
10	Strive to reduce tax burden. Bring sewer/water up Route 1 Work with business owners to reduce and/or eliminate unnecessary State bureaucracy Find long-term solution to school issues (tax burden) Pursue grants and subsidies to continue improving infrastructure, business development, area promotion Work on improving Edgecomb visibility...big welcome sign, for example Pressure State to find a viable solution to the Wiscasset traffic bottleneck. (bypass!)	5/31/2016 4:04 PM
11	Encourage residents to clean up their yards!!!!!! Put things not used daily behind buildings or fences.	5/28/2016 8:57 AM
12	Get better internet services throughout town!!!	5/23/2016 7:33 PM