



National Survey of Business Competitiveness

The Social & Economic Sciences Research Center at Washington State University is collecting data on behalf of the Department of Agriculture to examine the challenges firms are facing in today's economy. We are interested in the successes and difficulties companies in the United States have in introducing new products or services, finding skilled labor, financing, and other factors needed to remain competitive in national and global markets.

The results from this study will be used by the Department of Agriculture to enhance its programs aimed at making U.S. businesses more resilient. The results will also be shared with Congress and other Federal and State agencies that assist businesses.

We hope you will take the time to complete the questionnaire. Gaining a full understanding of the challenges U.S. firms are facing in the global economy depends upon you and others like yourself. Your responses will be kept strictly confidential and your name will not be connected to your answers in any way.

If you have any questions about this effort, or would prefer to participate by telephone, please feel free to contact me by phone at 1-800-833-0867 or by email at sesrcweb7@wsu.edu.

Thank you in advance for your help. We appreciate it very much.

Sincerely,

Danna L. Moore, Ph.D.
Principal Investigator

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Question 1 of 52

What is your job title or role?

job title or role

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Question 2 of 52

Approximately what year did this business at this location begin operating?

year

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Question 3 of 52

What is the main product or service at this business location?

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Question 4 of 52

Does this business have only one location or more than one location?

- Only one location
- More than one location

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Question 4a of 52

Is this location this business's headquarters or is it a branch location?

- Headquarters
- Branch location

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Question 5 of 52

How important is each of these factors for locating this business in this community? (Check the appropriate level of importance for each factor.)

| Factor | Not important | Somewhat important | Very important | Not applicable | Don't know |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Owner-ties to area | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Availability of low-cost labor | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Available skilled labor pool | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Access to transportation | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Access to broadband or high speed internet | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Access to material inputs | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Access to customers | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Government incentives | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Low taxes | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Strong or growing local economy | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

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Question 5a of 52

How important is each of these factors for making this community an attractive place to work? (Check the appropriate level of importance for each factor.)

| Factor | Not important | Somewhat important | Very important | Not applicable | Don't know |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Opportunities for outdoor recreation | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Scenic beauty (e.g., natural or architectural) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Climate | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Access to arts and entertainment | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Quality of local schools | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Access to health care | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

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In 2012, at this location, what was the average number of workers who were in each category? *(Please include all workers in these two categories.)*

Worker category

Number of workers

Full-time and part-time employees on your payroll

Independent contractors or temporary workers NOT ON YOUR PAYROLL

Total =

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In 2012, at this location, what was the average number of workers who were in each category? *(Please include all workers in these two categories.)*

Worker category

Number of workers

Full-time and part-time employees on your payroll

Independent contractors or temporary workers NOT ON YOUR PAYROLL

Total =

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In the past 12 months, did this business . . .

| | Yes | No |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Offer a health insurance option for any workers | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Offer a retirement plan | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Pay for worker education, professional development, or training | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Offer paid maternity, paternity, or family leave | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Have an employee-ownership plan | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Offer paid time off for workers to volunteer | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

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Question 8a of 52

How many workers are managers at this location? *(Managers are workers who direct or oversee operations.)*

number of managers

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Question 8b of 52

How many workers are professionals? (*Professionals are workers such as engineers or accountants.*)

number of professionals

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Question 9 of 52

In 2012, what is your best estimate of the average hourly wage for non-salaried workers at this location?

Check here if you do not have any non-salaried workers.

average hourly wage

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In 2012, at this location, what percent of workers were in the following occupational categories? *(Please include all workers in these categories. Total should equal 100%.)*

Check here and click the next button if you prefer to answer in numbers instead of percents.

Occupational category

Percent of workers

Management and professional %

Services %

Sales and office support %

Natural resources, construction, and maintenance %

Production, transportation, and material moving %

Total = % *(should equal 100%)*

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In 2012, at this location, what percent of workers were in the following occupational categories? (Please include all workers in these categories. Total should equal 100%.)

Check here and click the next button if you prefer to answer in numbers instead of percents.

| Occupational category | Percent of workers |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Management and professional | 20 <input type="text"/> % |
| Services | 20 <input type="text"/> % |
| Sales and office support | 20 <input type="text"/> % |
| Natural resources, construction, and maintenance | 20 <input type="text"/> % |
| Production, transportation, and material moving | 19 <input type="text"/> % |
| Total = | 99 <input type="text"/> % (should equal 100%) |

|



In 2012, at this location, what percent of workers were in the following occupational categories? (Please include all workers in these categories. Total should equal 100%.)

Check here and click the next button if you prefer to answer in numbers instead of percents.

| Occupational category | Percent of workers |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Management and professional | 20 <input type="text"/> % |
| Services | 20 <input type="text"/> % |
| Sales and office support | 20 <input type="text"/> % |
| Natural resources, construction, and maintenance | 20 <input type="text"/> % |
| Production, transportation, and material moving | 20 <input type="text"/> % |
| Total = | 100 <input type="text"/> % (should equal 100%) |

|



In 2012, at this location, what percent of workers were in the following occupational categories? (Please include all workers in these categories. Total should equal 100%.)

Check here and click the next button if you prefer to answer in numbers instead of percents.

| Occupational category | Percent of workers | |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Management and professional | 20 | % |
| Services | 20 | % |
| Sales and office support | 20 | % |
| Natural resources, construction, and maintenance | 20 | % |
| Production, transportation, and material moving | 21 | % |
| Total = | 101 | % (should equal 100%) |

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In 2012, at this location, how many workers were in the following occupational categories? (Please include all workers in these categories.)

| Occupational category | Number of workers | |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| Management and professional | <input type="text"/> | # |
| Services | <input type="text"/> | # |
| Sales and office support | <input type="text"/> | # |
| Natural resources, construction, and maintenance | <input type="text"/> | # |
| Production, transportation, and material moving | <input type="text"/> | # |
| Total = | <input type="text"/> | # |

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Question 10n of 52

In 2012, at this location, how many workers were in the following occupational categories? (Please include all workers in these categories.)

| Occupational category | Number of workers | |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------|---|
| Management and professional Services | 1 <input type="text"/> | # |
| Services | 1 <input type="text"/> | # |
| Sales and office support | 1 <input type="text"/> | # |
| Natural resources, construction, and maintenance | 1 <input type="text"/> | # |
| Production, transportation, and material moving | 1 <input type="text"/> | # |
| Total = | 5 <input type="text"/> | # |

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For each occupational category, what was the minimum educational level needed in 2012? (Check the appropriate level of education for each occupational category.)

| Occupational category | Less than high school or no specific education | At least HS diploma or GED | At least Assoc degree/vocational certification | At least four-year college degree | More than four-year college degree |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Management and professional Services | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Services | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Sales and office support | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Natural resources, construction, and maintenance | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Production, transportation, and material moving | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

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Is any part of the workforce unionized or covered by a collective bargaining agreement?

- Yes
- No

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Question 12 of 52

In the past 3 years, how difficult has it been to find qualified applicants for your workforce, not including managers and professionals?

- Very difficult
- Somewhat difficult
- Not difficult

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Question 12a of 52

Why has it been difficult to find qualified applicants for your workforce?

| | Yes | No |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Quality of the labor pool | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Increases in required skills and knowledge | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Insufficient number of workers available locally | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Limited interest among job seekers for openings at this business | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

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Question 13 of 52

Does this business have written position descriptions?

- Yes
- No

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Are training requirements documented in those position descriptions?

- Yes
- No

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Question 13b of 52

Does this business track whether workers complete or if they have already completed these training requirements?

- Yes
- No

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Question 14a of 52

Does this business currently use personal computers or laptops, not including smartphones?

- Yes
- No

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Question 14b of 52

Are the following technologies currently used at this business?

| | Yes | No |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Broadband or high speed internet | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Sale of products or services over the Internet (e-commerce) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Supplies purchased over the Internet (e-procurement) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Web advertising | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Direct e-mail marketing | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Social media (e.g., LinkedIn or Facebook) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Business issued smartphones to workers | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| RFID readers, barcode, or optical scanners (e.g., Radio Frequency Identification) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Computer software specifically designed for your business or industry | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| An integrated enterprise resource planning system (e.g., SAP or Microsoft Dynamics, or Oracle Applications that include accounting, logistics, human resources, sales management, along with other functions) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Stand-alone supply chain or logistics management software | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Stand-alone customer relationship management software | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

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Question 15 of 52

What percent of the sale of products or services comes over the Internet?

Check here if you do not sell any products or services over the Internet.

percent of sales over the Internet

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Question 15 of 52

What percent of the sale of products or services comes over the Internet?

- Check here if you do not sell any products or services over the Internet.

percent of sales over the Internet

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Question 16 of 52

What percent of your workforce, not including managers and professionals, uses computers on a daily basis?

percent of the workforce who uses computers

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Question 16 of 52

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Have the following factors limited this business's use of information and communications technology?

| | Yes | No |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| The cost of equipment and software | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| The cost of information and communications services | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Lack of access to adequate broadband or high speed internet | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Lack of knowledge | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Difficulty integrating new technologies into the current way you do business | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

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Question 18 of 52

Businesses obtain information about new opportunities or new ways of doing things from many sources. Which sources have been most valuable for this firm?

| Sources of new information | Not at all valuable | Somewhat valuable | Very valuable |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Suppliers | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Customers | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Other business people in your industry | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Other business people NOT in your industry | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Business or trade association conferences or publications | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Your own workers | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Media (e.g., newspapers, television, internet) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Private consultants | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| University extension, community colleges, or business schools | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

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Question 19 of 52

Of the sources identified as very valuable, where are they located?

| | In your community | Outside community within a reasonable drive | Beyond a reasonable drive | Not Applicable |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Suppliers providing valuable information | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Customers providing valuable information | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Other business people in your industry providing valuable information | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Other business people NOT in your industry providing valuable information | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

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Question 19 of 52

Of the sources identified as *very valuable*, where are they located?

| | In your community | Outside community within a reasonable drive | Beyond a reasonable drive | Not Applicable |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Customers providing valuable information | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

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Question 18 of 52

Businesses obtain information about new opportunities or new ways of doing things from many sources. Which sources have been most valuable for this firm?

| Sources of new information | Not at all valuable | Somewhat valuable | Very valuable |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Suppliers | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| Customers | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Other business people in your industry | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Other business people NOT in your industry | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| Business or trade association conferences or publications | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Your own workers | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Media (e.g., newspapers, television, internet) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Private consultants | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| University extension, community colleges, or business schools | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

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Question 19 of 52

Of the sources identified as *very valuable*, where are they located?

| | In your community | Outside community within a reasonable drive | Beyond a reasonable drive | Not Applicable |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Suppliers providing valuable information | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Other business people NOT in your industry providing valuable information | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

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Approximately what percent of 2012 final shipments or billed services went to customers . . . (Total should equal 100%.)

Check here if you did not have any sales in 2012.

Locally, within a reasonable drive %

Beyond a reasonable drive in the United States %

Internationally %

Total = % (should equal 100%)

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Was this location in business in 2007?

- Yes
- No

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What is your best guess of the percent of 2007 final shipments or billed services that went to customers . . . (Total should equal 100%.)

Check here if you did not have any sales in 2007.

| | | |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Locally, within a reasonable drive | <input type="text"/> | % |
| Beyond a reasonable drive in the United States | <input type="text"/> | % |
| Internationally | <input type="text"/> | % |
| Total = | <input type="text"/> | % (should equal 100%) |

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In 2012, what percent of goods and services sold by this business were sold to . . .
(Total should equal 100%.)

Check here if you did not have any sales in 2012.

Other businesses %

Government %

Individuals %

Total = % (should equal 100%)

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Is the current market for your products or services . . .

- Growing
- Stable
- Declining
- Mixed (e.g., some are declining, others growing)
- Uncertain

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Question 24 of 52

Does this business require workers to document good work practices and lessons learned?

- Yes
- No

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Question 25 of 52

How often does this business monitor customer satisfaction through analysis of complaints, customer satisfaction surveys, focus groups, or other methods?

- Never
- Occasionally
- Regularly

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Question 26 of 52

How often are processes changed to fix problems identified through customer complaints?

- Never
- Occasionally
- Regularly

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Question 27 of 52

In the past 3 years, did this business . . .

| | Yes | No | Not applicable |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Produce any new or significantly improved goods | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Provide any new or significantly improved services | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Introduce new or significantly improved methods of manufacturing or producing goods or services | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Introduce new or significantly improved logistics, delivery, or distribution methods for your inputs, goods, or services | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Introduce new or significantly improved support activities for your processes | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Introduce new or significant improvements in your marketing methods | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

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Question 28 of 52

In the past 3 years, did this business have any improvement or innovation activities that were . . .

| | Yes | No |
|------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Abandoned | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Incomplete | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

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Please tell us why improvement or innovation activities have not been necessary or possible.

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Question 30 of 52

In 2012, did this business sell any new or significantly improved goods or services with the following improvements?

| | Yes | No |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Improved performance | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| More user-friendly | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Reduced costs | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| New features | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| New service capabilities | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

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Question 31 of 52

In the past 3 years, did this business start selling any new or significantly improved goods or services before your competitors in at least one of your markets? *(Include a product even if it was available in another market.)*

- Yes
- No
- Uncertain

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Question 32 of 52

In 2012, what percent of this business's sales came from new or significantly improved goods or services? (If none, enter 0 (zero).)

percent of sales

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Question 33 of 52

In the last 3 years, did this business engage in any of the following innovation-related activities?

Yes No

| | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| In-house research and development (R&D) to increase knowledge or devise innovations | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Purchase research and development (R&D) from research organizations or other branches of this business | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Conduct in-house design activities to improve aesthetics of product or packaging | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Purchase design services | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Purchase machinery, equipment, computers, or software to implement innovations | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Purchase or license patents or inventions to implement innovations | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Purchase knowledge or expertise to implement innovations | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Plan, engineer, design, or conduct other development work to implement innovations | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Train staff to develop or introduce innovations | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Market research, advertising, or other marketing activities linked to implementing innovations | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

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Question 34 of 52

In the current environment, if excess cash were available, how likely is it that these funds would be used to . . .

| | Not at all likely | Probably | Most definitely |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Provide additional training of workers | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Repay debt | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Provide a reserve or cushion | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Fund additional innovation projects | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Fund additional investment projects, such as replacing old equipment or for expansion | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

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Question 35 of 52

Does this business produce products or provide services in any of the five green sectors?

| | Yes | No |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Produce renewable energy | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Increase energy efficiency | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Conserve natural resources | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Prevent, reduce, or clean up pollution | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Produce clean transportation fuels | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

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Question 36 of 52

In the past 3 years, did this business participate in any patent applications?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

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Question 36a of 52

In the past 3 years, how many patent applications did this business participate in?

number of patent applications

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Question 36b of 52

In the past 3 years, how many patents were awarded?

number of patents awarded

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Question 37 of 52

In the past 3 years, did this business . . .

Yes No

- | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Register an industrial design | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Register a trademark | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Produce materials eligible for copyright | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Use trade secret protections (e.g., non-disclosure agreements, non-compete clauses, or sought remedies for misappropriation) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

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Question 38 of 52

During the economic recession period (2008-2009), to what extent did this business commit resources to innovate?

- Increased resources for innovation activities
- There was no change in innovation resources
- Delayed or decreased resources for innovation
- Not applicable, e.g., not in business at that time

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Question 39 of 52

Compared to 2012, in this current year (2013) would you say resources for innovation at this business have been . . .

- Increased
- Kept the same
- Decreased

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Question 40 of 52

In the past 3 years, has this business . . .

| | Yes | No |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Increased the variety of goods or services offered | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Increased market share or entered new markets | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Begun exporting goods or services | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Reduced time to respond to customer needs | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Improved flexibility of production or service provision | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Increased capacity of production or service provision | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Reduced labor costs per unit output | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Reduced materials and energy required per unit output | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Improved worker satisfaction or reduced worker turnover | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

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The following is a list of factors related to this business’s location. For each one, please tell us how much of a problem it is for this business’s ability to compete.

| Factor | Not a problem | A minor problem | A major problem |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Zoning or development regulations | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Vitality of the local economy | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Access to financial, legal, and other business services | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Access to equipment and software suppliers | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Access to training courses | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Access to transportation or freight forwarding facilities and services | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Availability of broadband or high speed internet | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Local availability of mobile or cellular service | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Local roads and bridges | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Cost of facilities and land | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Attractiveness of the area to managers and professionals | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Quality of primary and secondary schools | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Environmental regulations | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| State and local tax rates | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

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Question 42 of 52

How involved in promoting business are the following institutions in your community?

| | Not at all active or Not present | Somewhat active | Very active | Don't know |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Local government development effort at village, town, or city | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Local government development effort at county | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Local government development effort at regional or multi-county | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Business association (e.g., Chamber of Commerce) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| College, university, or extension support for local business | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Community foundations or nonprofit organizations | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Local investors | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Banks | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

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Question 42a of 52

How much civic leadership does THIS business provide in your community?

- None
- Some
- A lot

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Question 43 of 52

Do you have a good understanding of the decisions that led to the founding of this business?

- Yes
- No

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Question 43a of 52

Was this business originally founded around a new or customized product or service that was created by one of the founders of this business?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

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Question 43b of 52

Thinking about this new or customized product or service, why was it originally developed?

- One of the founders created it for personal use
- One of the founders created it for use at a previous job or business
- One of the founders identified a business opportunity

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Question 44 of 52

The final section of the survey is to assess which types of government or government-sponsored programs are the most helpful to businesses. If used, please rate how important each program has been for this business in the past 3 years.

| Program | Used? | | If Used, how important was this program? | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | Yes | No | Not important | Somewhat important | Very important |
| Direct loans from a government agency (e.g., USDA B&I Direct Loan) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Government insurance or guarantee for loans (e.g., SBA 7(a) Loan Program) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Revolving loan funds run by a nonprofit or government organization | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Tax incentives by state or local government, including enterprise zones, urban revitalization areas, Tax Increment Financing districts | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Government-assisted industrial parks or business incubators | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Government-funded technology assistance programs | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Government-assisted worker-training programs | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| National Innovation Marketplace | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

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Question 45 of 52

Did this business try to borrow money for any purpose in the past 3 years?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

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Question 45a of 52

Please indicate the sources you tried to borrow from in the past 3 years. If you did try to borrow money from a source, how much of the funding did you receive?

| | Tried to borrow money? | | If Yes, amount received? | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | Yes | No | All | Some | None |
| Commercial bank | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Savings & Loan or credit union | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Finance or leasing company | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Insurance or mortgage company | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Family or friends | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Federal, state, or local government | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Credit or advance from a customer | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Angel capital funding | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Venture capital funding | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Personal sources of funds (other than credit cards) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Personal home equity loan | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Other personal loan | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Personal credit card | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

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Question 46 of 52

How were the funds that this business borrowed or wanted to borrow to be used?

| | Yes | No |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Cash flow or operating costs | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Real estate or structures | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Replacement of old industrial plant location, equipment, or vehicles | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Investment in additional plant, equipment, or vehicles | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Repayment of debt | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Reserve or cushion | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Inventory | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Fund innovation projects | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Investment in intangible assets, such as branding, training, or design | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

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Question 47 of 52

In the past 3 years, were business profits (retained earnings) used to finance this business?

- Yes
- No

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Question 47a of 52

Compared with borrowed funds, how important were business profits for funding investment?

- More important
- Less important
- Equally important
- Not applicable
- Don't know

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Question 48 of 52

Which of the following best describes your current position?

- Mid level manager
- Senior manager
- Executive or owner
- Other, please describe:

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Question 49 of 52

Which statement best describes your familiarity with how innovation is carried out in this business?

- Not familiar
- Slightly familiar
- Moderately familiar
- Strongly familiar
- Completely familiar

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What is your gender?

- Male
- Female

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Question 51 of 52

How long have you worked at this business?

number of years worked

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Economic Research Service: United States Department of Agriculture

National Survey of Business Competitiveness

Thank you so much for your time today.

We are only surveying businesses with 5 or more workers.

If you feel you reached this page in error, click on the "Review your answers" button below to return to the beginning of the survey.

Please click the "Next" button to leave the survey.

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If you have any additional comments about this survey or innovation in general, please write them in the box below.

|



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To review your answers starting from the beginning, click the "Review your answers" button.



Your completed questionnaire has been received.

Thank You!