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 sesrcweb/@wsu.edu.

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

Sincerely,

Danna L. Moore, Ph.D. Principal Investigator

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it has a valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. The valid OMB number for this information collection is 0536-0071. The time required to complete this information is estimated to average 30 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information of information.

YOUR RESPONSE IS VOLUNTARY. YOUR ANSWERS TO ALL QUESTIONS ARE CONFIDENTIAL. All information that is provided by participants to the National Survey of Business Competitiveness will only be used for statistical research purposes and reported in summary form. Your name and that of the business you represent will not be connected to your answers in any way. In accordance with the Confidential Information Protection provisions of Iffle V, Subtille A, Public Law 107-347 and other applicable Federal laws, individual responsess will be confidential and will not be disclosed in Intentifiable form to anyone outside of the research team. By law, every ERS and SESRC worker is subject to a jail term of up to 5 years, a fine of up to \$250,000 or both if he/she discloses any identifiable information about research participants.



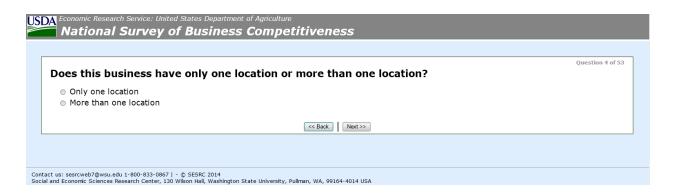
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How important is each of these factors for locating this business in this community? (Check the appropriate level of importance for each factor.)

Factor	Not important	Somewhat important	Very important	Not applicable	Don't know
Owner-ties to area	0	0	0	0	0
Availability of low-cost labor			0	0	0
Available skilled labor pool	0	0	0	0	0
Access to transportation			0		0
Access to broadband or high speed internet					
Access to material inputs					
Access to customers				0	
Government incentives					
Low taxes	0	0	0	0	0
Strong or growing local economy			0	0	
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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	0	0	0		
Scenic beauty (e.g., natural or architectural)		0	0		
Climate	0	0	0	0	0
Access to arts and entertainment	0		0	0	
Quality of local schools	0	0	0	0	
Access to health care	0		0		
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In 2013, at this location, what was the average number of workers who were in each category? (Please include all workers in these two categories.)

Number of Worker category workers Full-time and part-time employees on your payroll Independent contractors or temporary workers NOT ON YOUR PAYROLL Total =

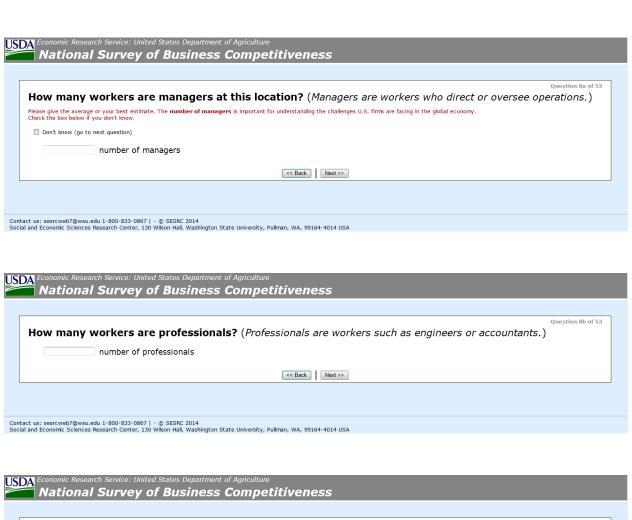
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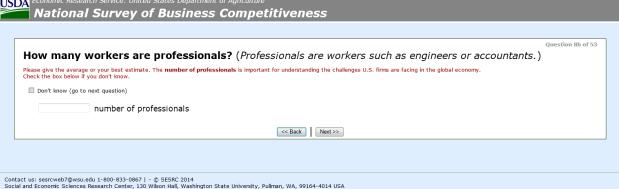
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USD	A Economic Research Service: United States Department of Agriculture National Survey of Business Competitiveness	
	In 2013, at this location, what was the average number of workers who were in each category? (Please include all workers in these two categories.)	
	Worker category Number of workers	
	Full-time and part-time employees on your payroll Please give the average or your best estimate. The number of workers in the category Full-time and part-time employees on your payroll is important for understanding the challenges U.S. firms are facing in the global economy. Enter O (cero) if there are no workers in category.	
	Independent contractors or temporary workers NOT ON YOUR PAYROLL Please give the average or your best estimate. The number of workers in the category Independent contractors or temporary workers NOT ON YOUR PAYROLL is important for understanding the challenges U.S. firms are facing in the global economy. Enter O (zero) if there are no workers in category.	
	Total =	
	Please adjust your answers or check the "This business had less than 5 workers" checkbox below. ☐ This business had less than 5 workers	
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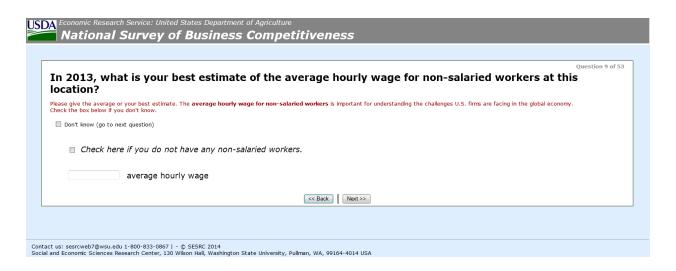


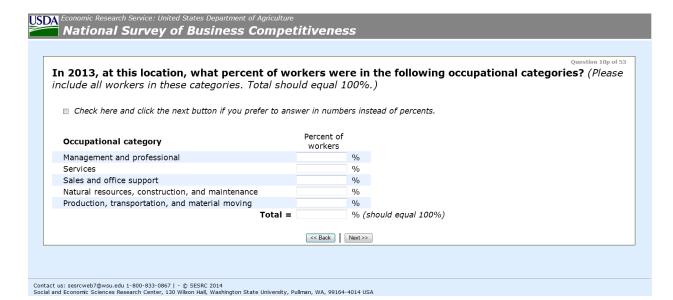






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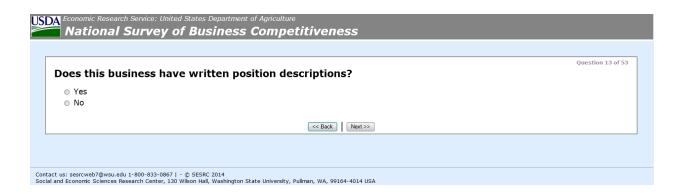


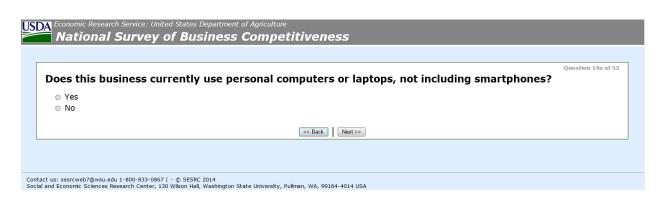
						Question 10a
or each occupational category, what opropriate level of education for each occ			lucational le	evel nee	ded in 20	13? (Check the
occupational category	Less than high school or no specific education	At least HS diploma or GED	At least Assoc degree/ vocational certification	At least four-year college degree	More than four-year college degree	
anagement and professional	0	0	0	0	0	
ervices	0	0	0	0	0	
ales and office support	0	0	0	0	0	
atural resources, construction, and maintenance	0	0	0	0	0	
roduction, transportation, and material moving	0	0	0	0	0	
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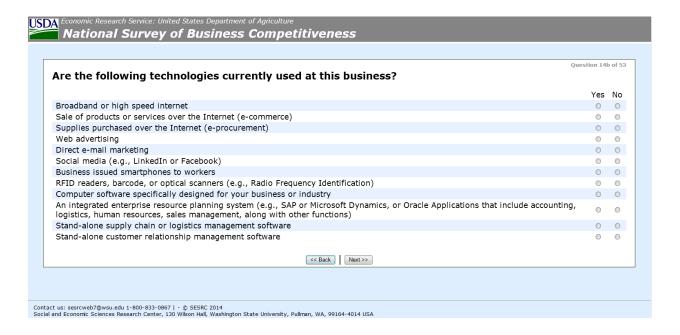
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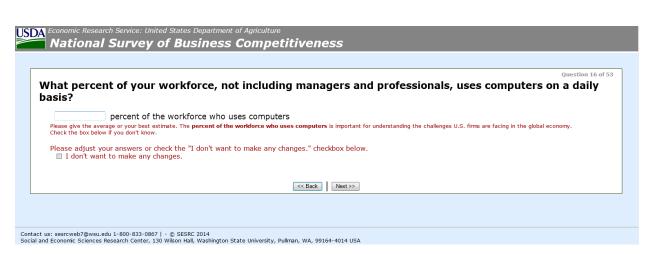


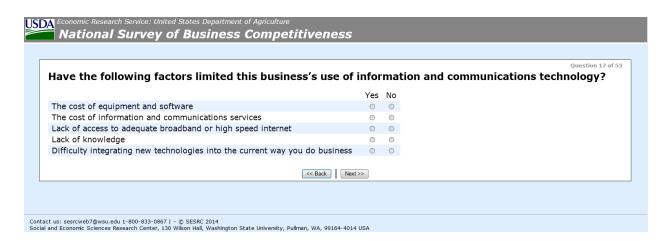








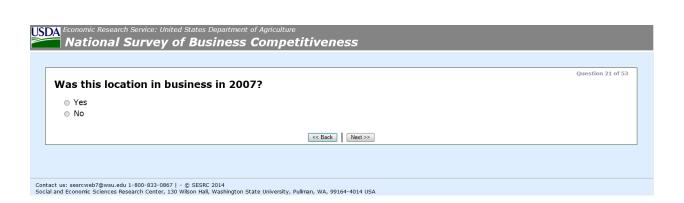




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of the sources identified as very valuable, where are the	ey located	i?		Question 1
	In your community	Outside community within a reasonable drive	Beyond a reasonable drive	Not Applicable
Suppliers providing valuable information	0	0	0	0
Customers providing valuable information	0	0	0	0
Other business people in your industry providing valuable information	0	0	0	0
Other business people NOT in your industry providing valuable information	0	0	0	0
<< Back	t >>			

National Survey of Business Col	mpetitiveness Question 20 of 53
Approximately what percent of 2013 fin should equal 100%.)	nal shipments or billed services went to customers (Total
☐ Check here if you did not have any sales in 2013.	
Locally, within a reasonable drive	%
Beyond a reasonable drive in the United States	%
Internationally	%
Total =	% (should equal 100%)
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Economic Research Service: United States Department of Agriculture
National Survey of Business Competitiveness

In 2013, 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 2013.

Other businesses
Government
Individuals
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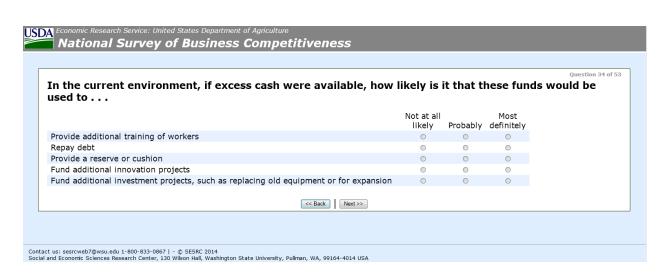


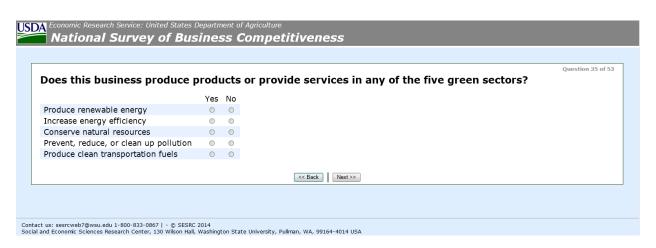






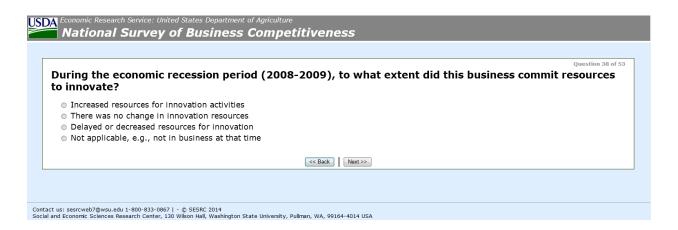
n the last 3 years, did this business engage in any of the following innovation	ı-rel	Question 33 c ated activities?
	Yes	No
n-house research and development (R&D) to increase knowledge or devise innovations	0	
urchase research and development (R&D) from research organizations or other branches of this business		0
onduct in-house design activities to improve aesthetics of product or packaging	0	0
urchase design services		0
urchase machinery, equipment, computers, or software to implement innovations		
urchase or license patents or inventions to implement innovations	0	0
urchase knowledge or expertise to implement innovations	0	
an, engineer, design, or conduct other development work to implement innovations	0	0
ain staff to develop or introduce innovations	0	0
arket research, advertising, or other marketing activities linked to implementing innovations	0	0
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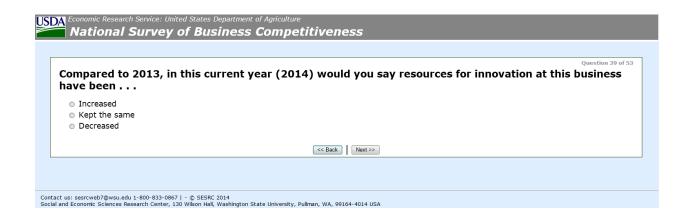














The following is a list of factors related to this business's location. For each one, please tell us how much of a problem it is for this business's ability to compete.

Factor	Not a problem	A minor problem	A major problem
Zoning or development regulations	0	0	0
Vitality of the local economy	0	0	0
Access to financial, legal, and other business services	0	0	0
Access to equipment and software suppliers	0	0	0
Access to training courses	0	0	0
Access to transportation or freight forwarding facilities and services			0
Availability of broadband or high speed internet	0		0
Local availability of mobile or cellular service			
Local roads and bridges	0		0
Cost of facilities and land	0		
Attractiveness of the area to managers and professionals	0	0	0
Quality of primary and secondary schools	0	0	0
Environmental regulations	0	0	0
State and local tax rates	0	0	0
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Local government development effort at village, town, or city 0 0 Local government development effort at county Local government development effort at regional or multi-county 0 0 0 0 Business association (e.g., Chamber of Commerce) 0 0 0 0 College, university, or extension support for local business 0 0 0 0 Community foundations or nonprofit organizations 0 0 0 0 Local investors 0 \circ \circ 0 Banks 0 0 0 0 << Back Next >>

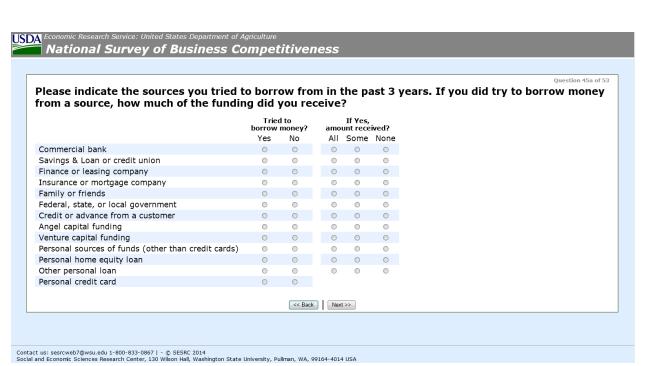
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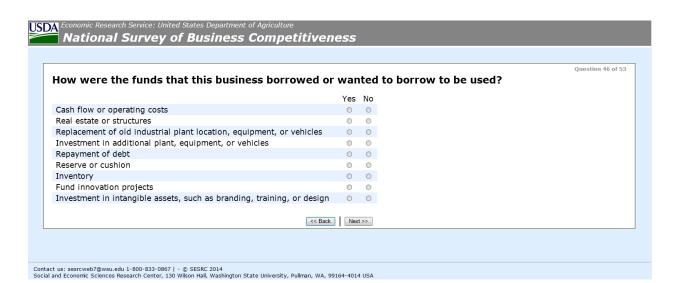




National Survey of Business Competitiveness The final section of the survey is to assess which types of government or government-sponsored programs are the most helpful to businesses. If used, please rate how important each program has been for this business in the past 3 years. If Used, how important was this Used? Not Somewhat Verv Program Yes No important important important Direct loans from a government agency (e.g., USDA B&I Direct Loan) 0 0 0 Government insurance or guarantee for loans (e.g., SBA 7(a) Loan Program) 0 0 0 0 0 Revolving loan funds run by a nonprofit or government organization 0 0 0 Tax incentives by state or local government, including enterprise zones, urban $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) \left(1\right) \left($ 0 0 0 0 revitalization areas, Tax Increment Financing districts Government-assisted industrial parks or business incubators 0 0 0 0 0 Government-funded technology assistance programs 0 0 0 0 0 Government-assisted worker-training programs 0 0 0 0 0 National Innovation Marketplace 0 << Back Next >> Contact us: sesrcweb7@wsu.edu 1-800-833-0867 | - © SESRC 2014 Social and Economic Sciences Research Center, 130 Wilson Hall, Washington State University, Pullman, WA, 99164-4014 USA





















SDA Economic Research Service: United States Department of Agriculture National Survey of Business Competitiveness	
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