WESTERN CT ECONOMIC STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

Survey Results
1/11/17
In which of these Western Connecticut communities does your business have facilities?

- Danbury 20.99
- Norwalk: 18.52
- Stamford: 18.52

How long have you had one or more facilities in any of the 18 Western CT communities?

- 10 or more years: 66.67%
- 3 – 9 years: 19.33%
- Less than 3 years: 7.14%

What is your current employee count in the 18 Western CT communities?

- Zero (self-employed): 25.93%
- Less than 5: 22.22%
- 10 – 24: 19.75%
Average Respondent

■ What sector is your business in?
  - Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services 18.52%
  - Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation 17.28%
  - Real Estate and Rental and Leasing: 11.11%
  - Other: 18.52

■ Market
  - Local: 31.93%
  - Regional: 28.57%
  - National: 7.14%
Notable Responses: Weaknesses

- Availability of financing for construction or business operations
  - Arithmetic mean 2.74 Standard deviation 1.23
- Costs of improving or constructing space for business:
  - Arithmetic mean 2.53 Standard deviation 1.17
- Costs of space for business occupancy:
  - Arithmetic mean 2.39 Standard deviation 1.15
- Availability of business assistance and incentives
  - Arithmetic mean 2.17 Standard deviation 1.02
- Costs sites for business construction
  - Arithmetic mean 1.91 Standard deviation 0.89
- Ease of the state permit and approval process for construction or business operations
  - Arithmetic mean 1.85 Standard deviation 0.99
Notable Responses: Strengths

- Availability of unskilled labor:
  - Arithmetic mean 3.75  Standard deviation 1.3

- Quality of K-12 Educational System:
  - Arithmetic mean 3.61  Standard deviation 1.03

- How well would you say your business is doing?
  - Arithmetic mean 3.52  Standard deviation 0.98

- Quality of Post-High School Educational System:
  - Arithmetic mean 3.47  Standard deviation 1.02

- Cost of Vocational Training Programs compared to the skills of the students being produced:
  - Arithmetic mean 3.41  Standard deviation 1.26

- How well is your business is doing?
  - Arithmetic mean 3.41  Standard deviation 0.94

- Cost of semi-skilled labor compared to the value provided by that labor:
  - Arithmetic mean 3.36  Standard deviation 1.15
How can your community make regulation and license compliance less of a burden for business owners like you?

- Improve education and communication efforts for business
- Inter-agency/intra-agency coordination
- Application speed
- Online one stop shop
What other things can your community do to help your business?

- Municipalities buying local, encourage other organizations to support local business. Promote through use, promote the benefits of shopping local.
- Need for business involvement and comment on tax reform.
- Open up signs/window signage rules
- Tax credits for training
- Support chambers of commerce. Need chambers to be more active/worth dues.
Top Negative Attributes of the Region

- accessibility
- inflation
- healthcare
- government
- overhead
- cost
- internet
- taxes
- training
- politics
- competition
- P&Z
- license
- capital
- millennials
- insurance
- infrastructure
Top Positive Attributes of the Region

- people
- quality
- lifestyle
- safety
- proximity
- education
- markets
- beauty
- travel
- downtowns
- MetroNorth
- talent
- NYC
- urban
- culture
- Boston
- suburban
- I-95
- I-84