

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 5TH ANNUAL 495/METROWEST EMPLOYER SURVEY & FORECAST

2017 Results Indicate More Optimism	
<p>Business conditions in the 495/MetroWest region - better or worse than they were a year ago?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 54% say Better (up 2.5% from 2016) • 41% say the Same as last year • 4.7% say worse than last year (down from 7.5% in 2016) 	<p>A pie chart illustrating the responses to business conditions. The largest slice is green, representing 'Better' at 54%. A blue slice represents 'About the same' at 41%. A small yellow slice represents 'Worse' at 4.7%.</p>
<p>Over the course of the coming year how will the economy in the 495/MetroWest region do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve significantly- almost doubled from last year (to 12%) & more than doubled from 2015 • Less than 5% say Decline slightly • Zero responses for Decline significantly 	<p>A pie chart showing the outlook for the economy. The largest slice is blue, representing 'Improve slightly' at 48%. A yellow slice represents 'Improve significantly' at 12%. A light blue slice represents 'Decline slightly' at 5%. A large green slice represents 'Remain the same' at 30%.</p>
<p>Over the course of the coming year do you expect to hire additional staff in the 495/MetroWest region?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes- 48% • Up from 41% in 2016 • Up from 32% in 2014 • Up from 29% in 2013 	<p>A pie chart showing hiring expectations. The largest slice is green, representing 'Yes' at 48%. A yellow slice represents 'No' at 20%. A blue slice represents 'Not sure. It is too soon to tell.' at 22%. A small purple slice represents 'No. We plan to reduce staff.' at 8%.</p>
<p>Compared to the previous year what are your expectations for your organization's revenue performance this year?</p> <p>Slightly higher expectations compared to 2016</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 74% expect revenue increases • 13% expect increases of 20% or more • 17% expect increases of 11%-19% • 44% expect increases of 1%-10% • 8% expect revenues to decrease 	<p>A pie chart showing revenue expectations. The largest slice is yellow, representing 'Increase 1% to 10%' at 44%. A blue slice represents 'Increase 11% to 19%' at 17%. A green slice represents 'Increase 20% or more' at 13%. A light blue slice represents 'Same as last year' at 10%. A small orange slice represents 'Decrease 1% to 10%' at 8%. Two very small slices represent 'Decrease 11% to 19%' and 'Decrease 20% or more', each at 1%.</p>

More background on the 495/MetroWest Employer Survey & Forecast is at www.495partnership.org



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<p>How do you plan on expanding your facilities in the 495/MetroWest region? <i>Results similar to 2016</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15% of Employers plan to expand (14% in 2016) • Office space cited most frequently • Service space second • Followed by R&D & Manufacturing
<p>How important is each of following for attracting employees for your 495/MetroWest office(s)? <i>New Question in 2017</i></p>	<p>Highlighting the organization's</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefits package • Socially responsible programs
<p>What best describes the reason for locating your business in the 495/MetroWest region? <i>Top 3 same as 2016</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proximity to clients • Labor quality • Affordability of real estate
<h3>Challenges facing the Region</h3>	
<p>What is the single most important challenge in the 495/MetroWest region facing your business today? <i>Healthcare moved from 3rd in 2016 to 1st Government regulation dropped from 2nd the past several years to 5th in 2017</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthcare costs • Labor quality • Transportation
<p>Rank the following 495/MetroWest area transportation needs in order of importance <i>Results similar to 2016</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relieving Highway congestion • Access to highway infrastructure • Access to Commuter Rail
<p>In order for your organization to expand in the 495/MetroWest Region you need: <i>New Question for 2017 (146 responses)</i></p>	<p>Land Skilled Workforce Affordable Housing Office Space Access Larger Improve Economic Growth Plans Public Workers Transportation Market Business Real Estate Employees Development Local Exposure Traffic Entry Level Staff Transit Options Funding Regulation Support Municipalities</p>

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