

PSRC EXECUTIVE BOARD

June 29, 2006



**Puget Sound Regional Council
Sea-Tac Airport
Community Impact Survey
Summary of Survey Results**



Prepared by:

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EMC 06-3379

Methodology

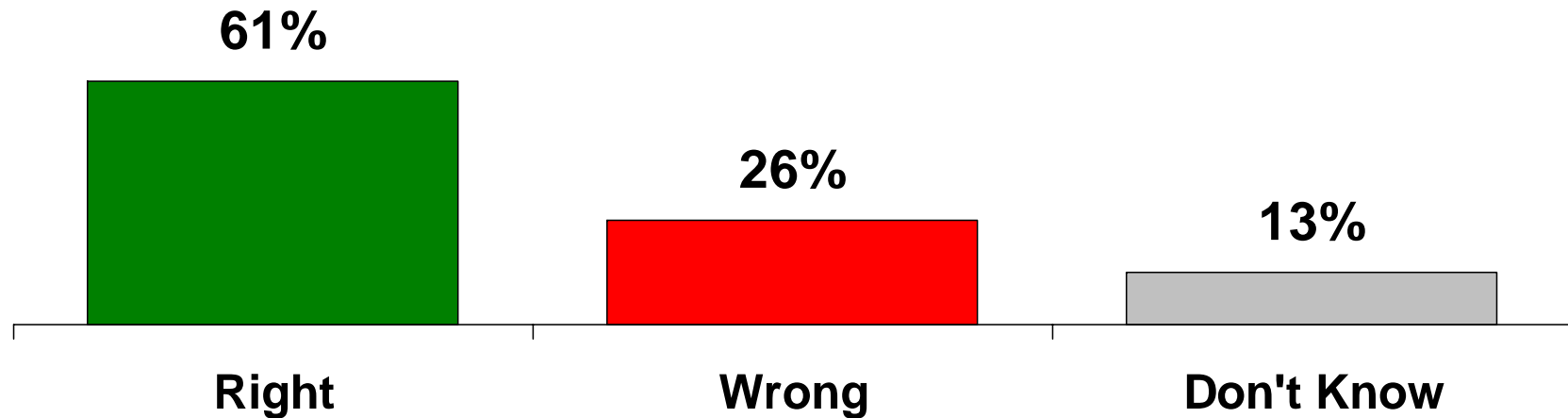
- The purpose of the survey was to investigate the opinion and perception of residents living near Sea-Tac of the effects of third runway construction, as required in PSRC Resolution A-96-02.
- To accomplish this, a geographically and demographically representative sampling of households in the Census Block Groups within Sea-Tac Airport's 1998 noise contour with listed phone numbers was selected.
- Households from this list were selected at random to be interviewed. Trained, professional telephone interviewers calling from a central, monitored location conducted five hundred (500) interviews during the evening and weekend hours of April 23 – 26.
- The overall margin of error for these results is ± 4.4 percentage points at the 95% confidence interval. This confidence interval means that if the survey were conducted 100 times, it would produce results within ± 4.4 percentage points of the shown results 95 times out of 100.

Key Findings

1. Third Runway construction and its impacts are not top of mind for residents of the area.
 - A majority (64%) of residents are aware of construction at Sea-Tac Airport, and half of them (58%) say this construction is the Third Runway. This means that 37% of all residents are aware of Third Runway construction.
 - Problems caused by Airport construction are low on the list of priorities for local residents.
 - While reducing traffic congestion on roads is a priority, two-thirds (66%) of residents say Third Runway construction has had no impact on them.
 - Though a majority of residents say traffic from Third Runway construction makes things worse on local roads, the vast majority of these people say it's only "a little worse" (40%); just as many say the Third Runway has no impact on traffic (40%).
2. Three-quarters (75%) of residents either say they have not heard or do not know if anything is being done to minimize impacts of Third Runway construction on the local area.
 - The positive reaction of residents to mitigation measures suggests a public relations opportunity.
3. A plurality of residents (43%) think the Third Runway will have a positive impact on their local area. Another third (31%) think it will have no impact.
 - The remaining quarter (26%) who say it will have a negative impact are primarily concerned with increased noise (43%) and air traffic (19%).
4. Half (56%) of residents say they "notice airplane noise occasionally, but it doesn't bother me."
 - A third (31%) of residents say they "notice airplane noise, and it bothers me". The remaining 12% say they do not notice airplane noise.
 - The majority of residents say noise is likely to get worse with the new Third runway, though most residents think things will get only "a little worse" (40%).
5. Of those residents in the area who are employed (64%) 14% have a job that depends on the continued success of Sea-Tac Airport.

Right Direction / Wrong Track

Right Direction / Wrong Track



A strong majority of people surveyed feel the area is moving in the right direction (61%).

Most Important Problem in the Area

What do you think is the most important problem facing your local area?

Crime / Drugs	19 %
Nothing Really	17 %
Traffic / Traffic Congestion / Transportation	16 %
Increasing Gas Prices	9 %
Education / Declining standards	5 %
Presence of an Airport	2 %
Pollution	2 %
Bad Roads	1 %
Construction	1 %
Sidewalks / Gutters	1 %
All Other Mentions	27 %

In an open-ended question about the most important problem in the area, only a few mentions are directly connected to the Airport or could be connected to Airport construction.

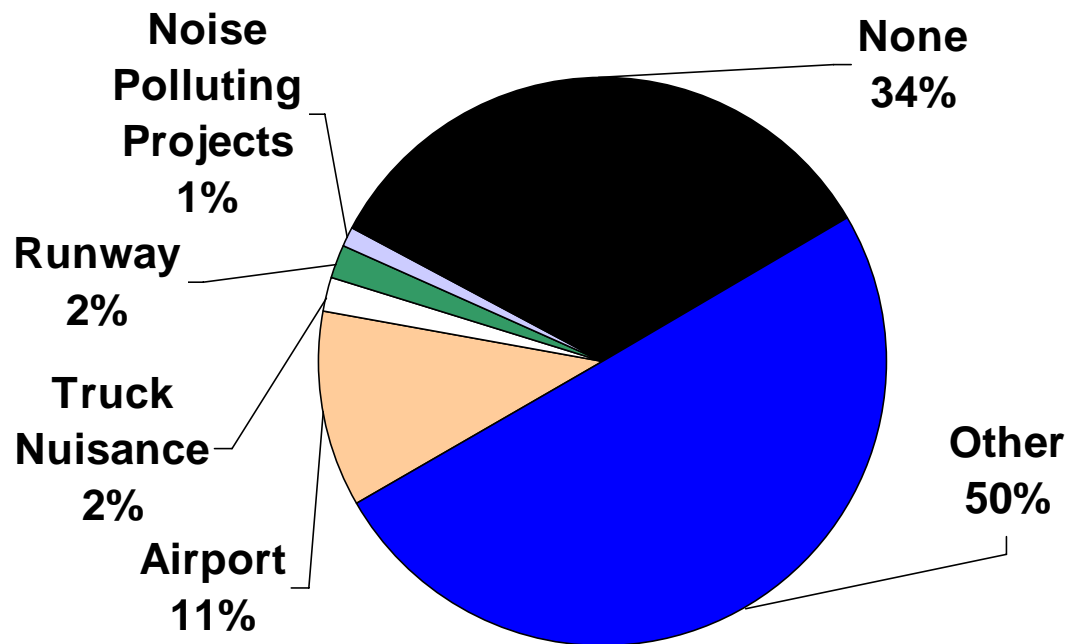
Top Priorities for Residents

Rank	Item	Mean
1.	Providing a quality education for schoolchildren	5.99
2.	Reducing crime in your neighborhood	5.62
3.	Protecting and improving the environment and water quality in your neighborhood	5.35
4.	Reducing traffic congestion on major roads like SR-518 and SR-509	5.05
5.	Reducing traffic congestion on local area streets, that is, not on I-5	4.66
6.	Reducing airplane noise	4.50
7.	Developing the local economy and shopping options	4.49
8.	Fixing the pavement and potholes in your neighborhood	4.41
9.	Preventing rocks and pebbles on the road that chip windshields and damage vehicles	4.31
10.	Reducing the number of large trucks carrying dirt, gravel, or construction equipment	3.98

Residents are asked to rate the importance of a series of items on a scale of 1 to 7, where 1 is the lowest priority, and 7 the highest. Items directly connected to the Airport rank at the middle of the list or lower.

Construction Project with Biggest Negative Impact

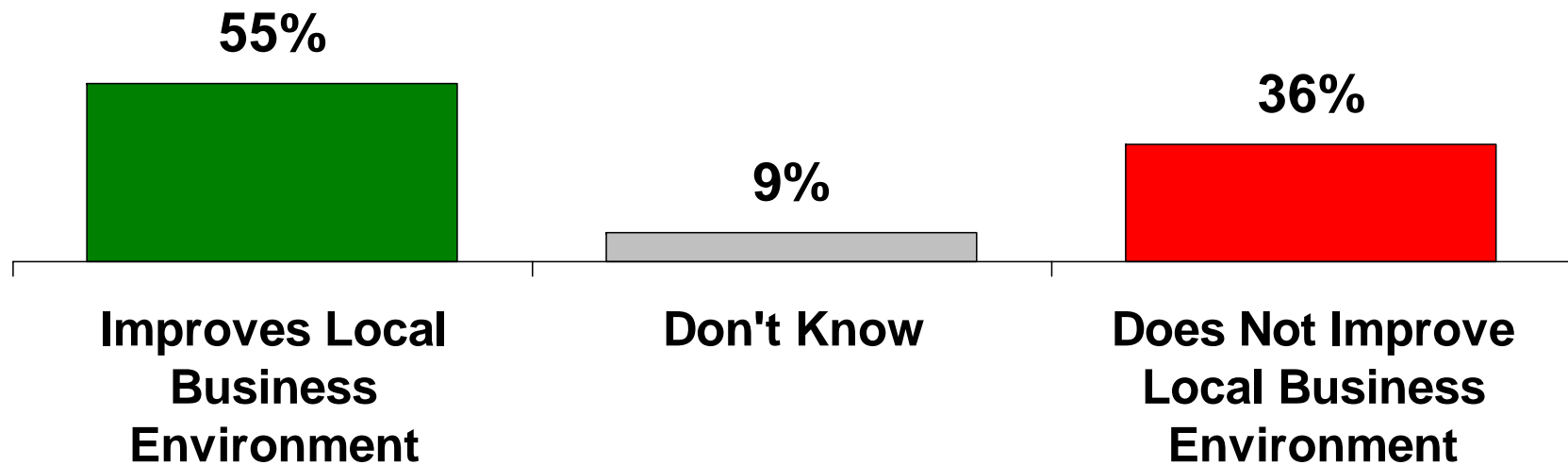
Q19. And again, over the same time period and area, what construction project or projects have had the biggest impact on your daily life in a negative way?



In an open-ended question, 16% of people mention something that could be connected with the Airport as a project that has had the biggest negative impact on their daily life. A third (34%) answer “none”.

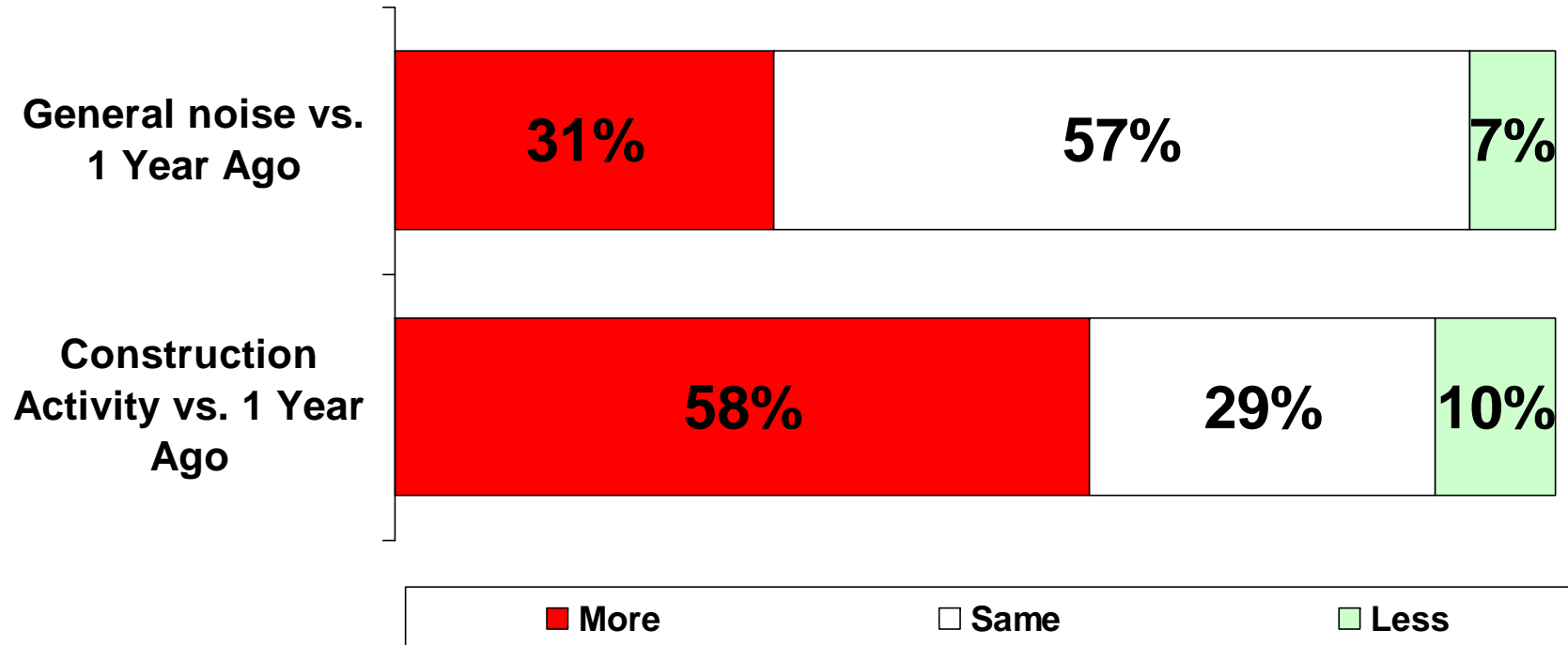
Effects of Sea-Tac Improvements on Local Business Environment

Q15. Do you think improvements to Sea-Tac Airport generally improve the business environment in the local area, or does it not improve the local business environment?



A majority of residents (55%) think that improvements at Sea-Tac Airport improve the local business environment. Roughly a third (36%) do not think Sea-Tac Airport improvements improve the local business environment.

Noise and Construction

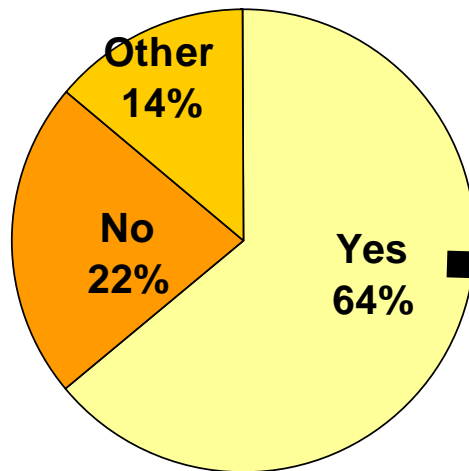


Residents were asked to think about general noise and construction activity in their area now versus one year ago. A majority (58%) say there is more construction activity now than there was a year ago. However, a majority (57%) say general noise is roughly the same as it was a year ago.

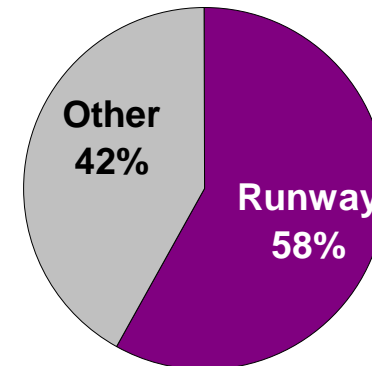
These figures are statistically the same when viewed by geography.

Awareness of Runway Construction

Q22 Is there any construction going on at Sea-Tac Airport?



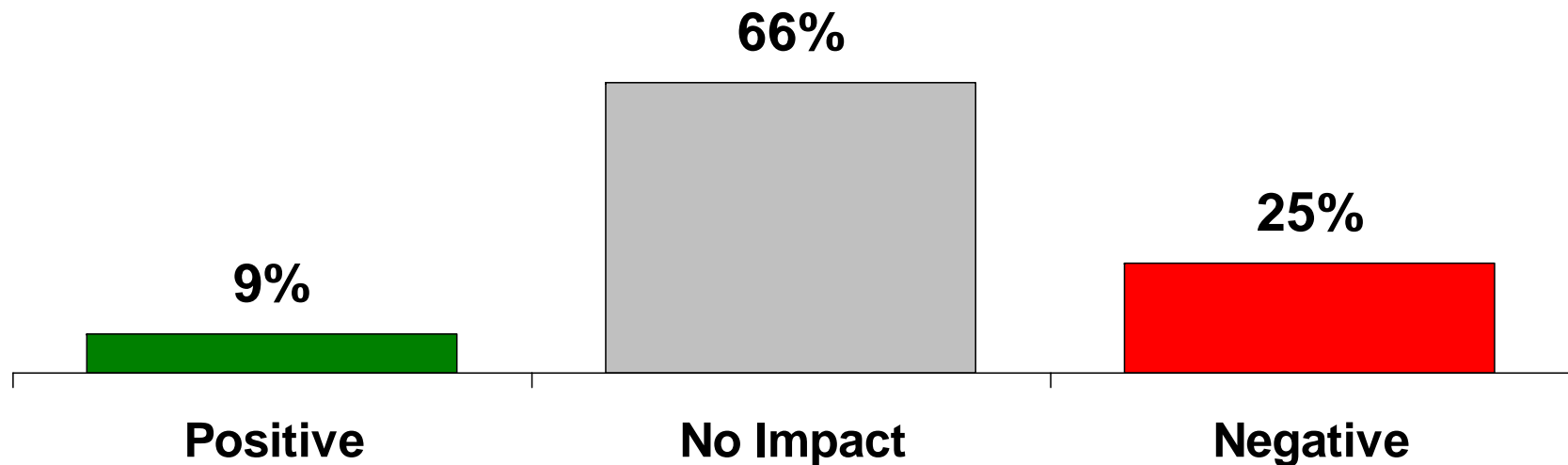
Q23 What kinds?



A majority (64%) of local residents are aware that there is construction right now at the Airport. Of these, more than half (58%) are able to specifically name the Third Runway. This means that 37% of all residents are aware of Third Runway construction at Sea-Tac Airport.

Impacts of Third Runway Construction

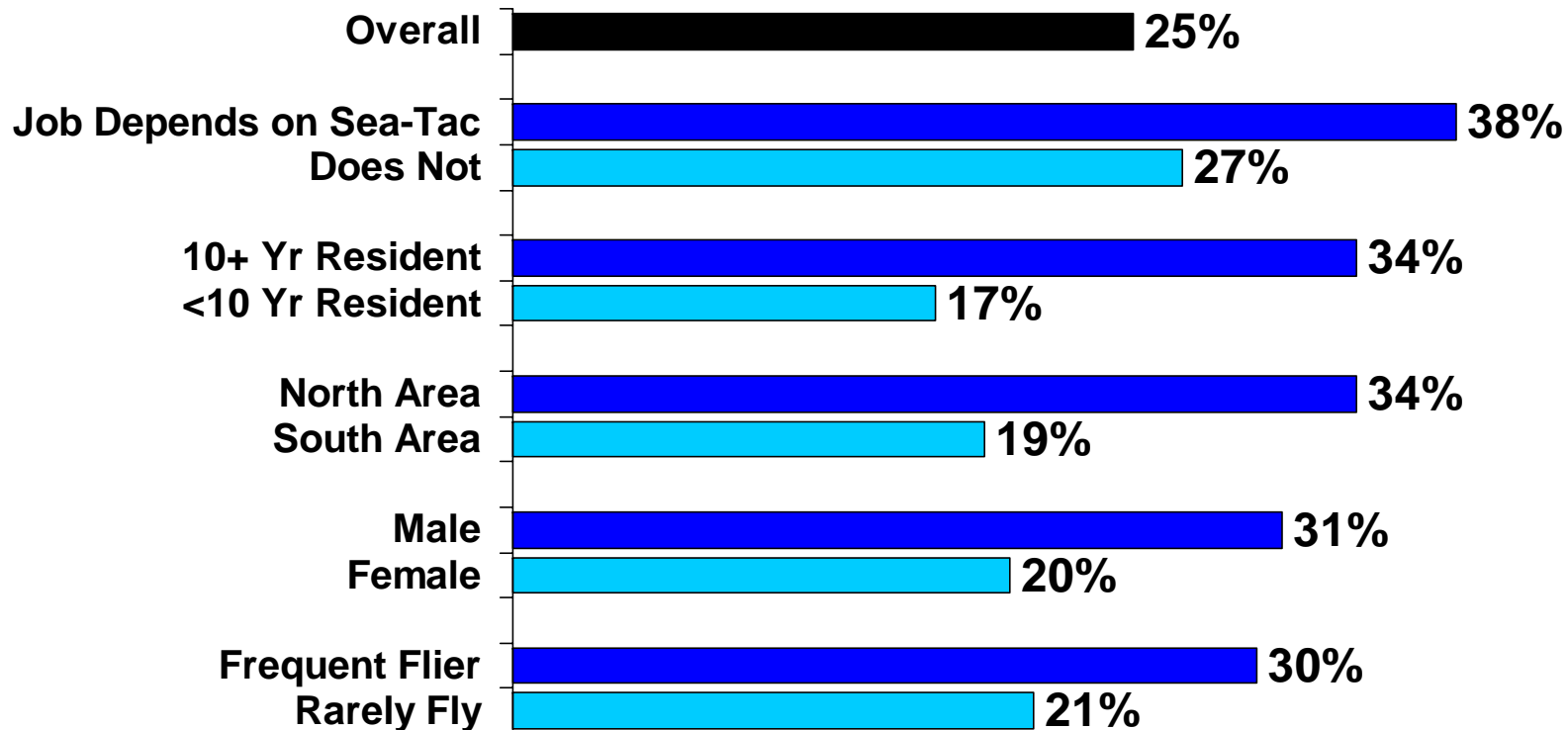
Q24. As you might know, construction is currently underway on the new third runway at Sea-Tac Airport. In general, would you say the impacts of this construction on you personally have been positive, negative, or has it had no impact on you?



Two-thirds (66%) of residents say Third Runway construction has had no impact on them, while a quarter (25%) say it has had a negative impact on them

Who is Third Runway Construction Impacting?

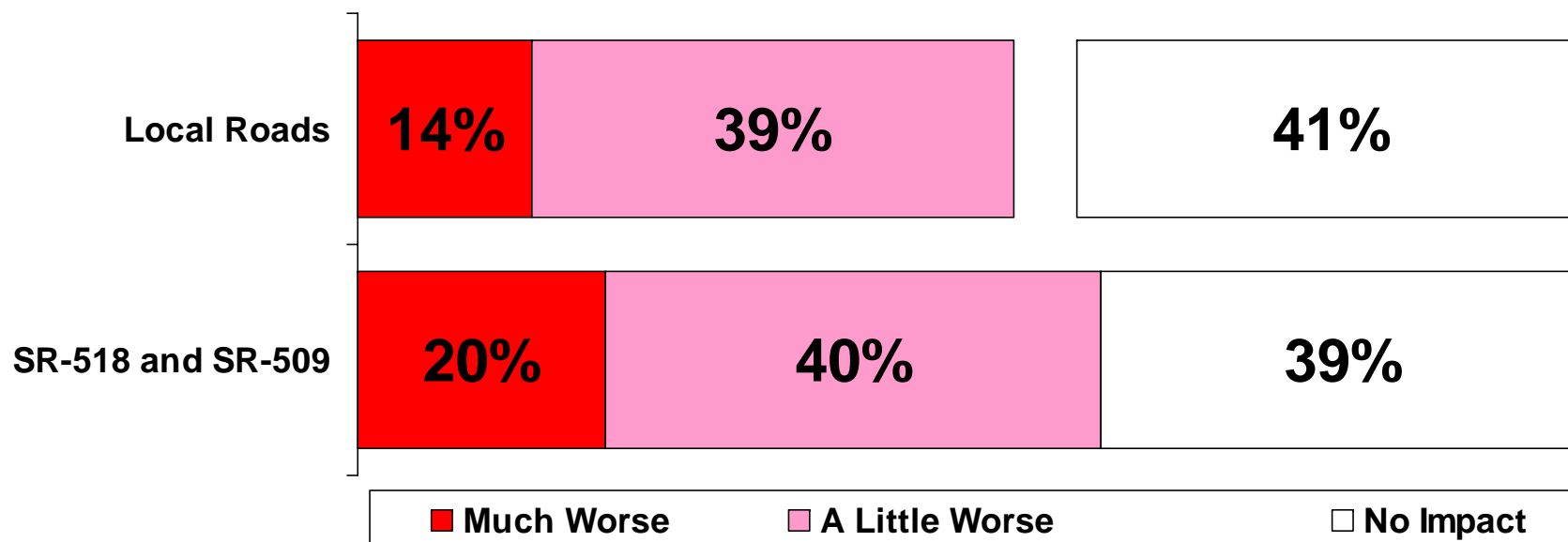
% Answering Negative by Subgroup



The chart above shows the most significant subgroup differences on this question 24, and the subgroups most negatively impacted by Third Runway construction.

Impacts of Third Runway, con't: Traffic

Q27. Does traffic from Third Runway construction make traffic on _____ much worse, a little worse, or does it have no impact?

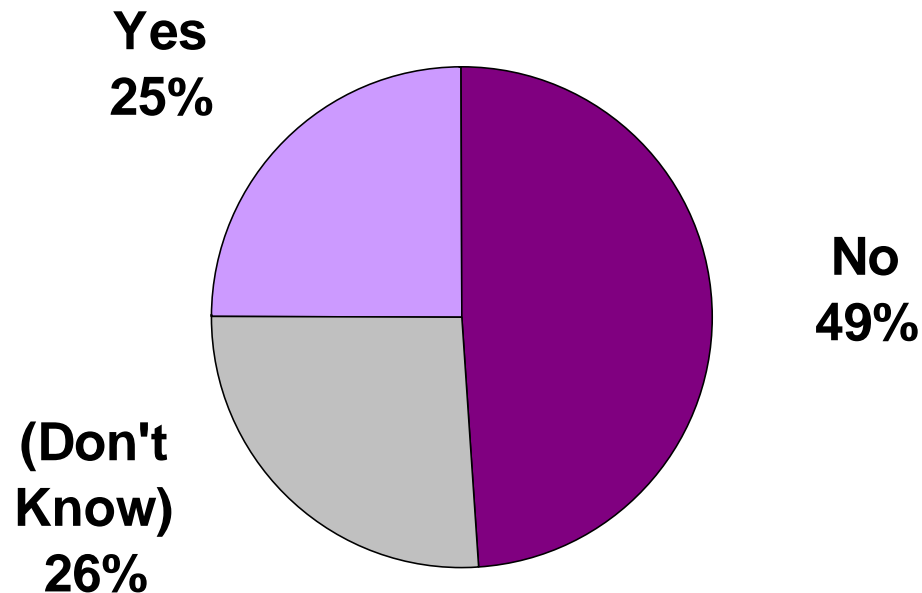


A majority of residents say traffic from Third Runway construction makes things worse on local roads and on SR-518 and SR-509.

However, the vast majority of this is concentrated on “a little worse”, an indication that construction traffic is only a mild contributor to local traffic. Just as many people say Third Runway construction traffic has “no impact” as say “a little worse”.

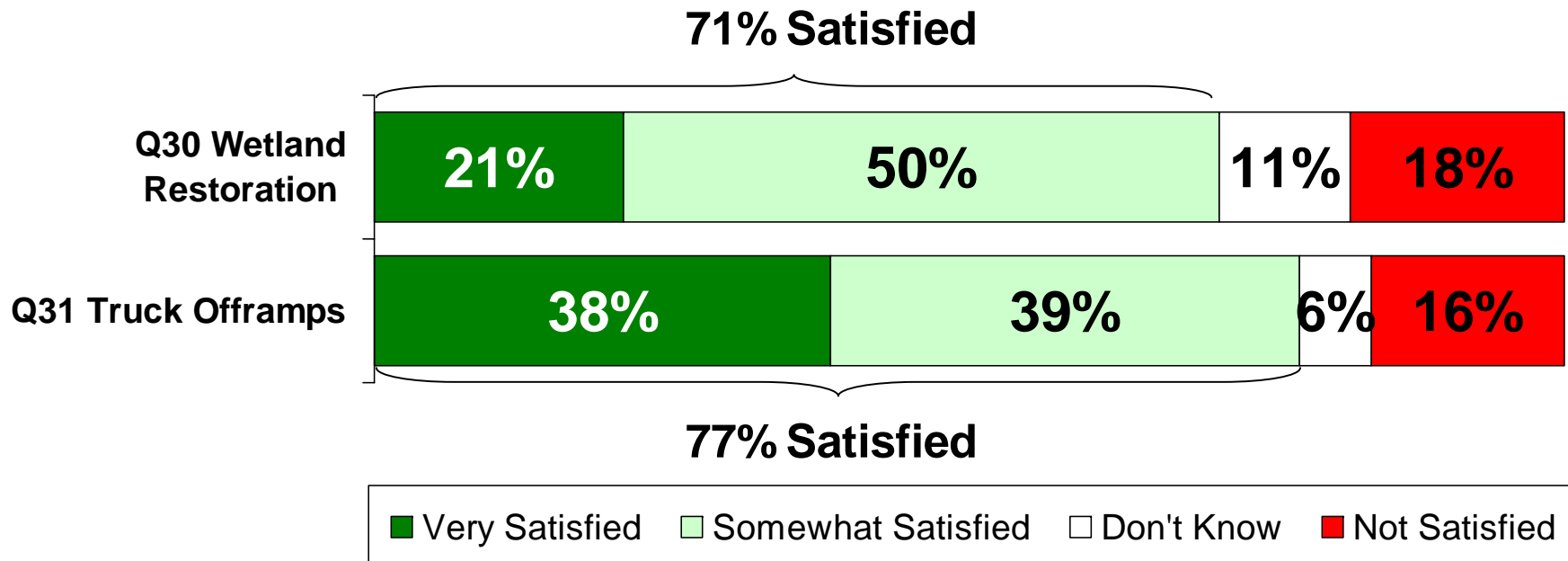
Are people aware of mitigation?

Q29. From what you know, has anything been done to minimize the impacts to the local area from third runway construction, or not?



Half (49%) of residents do not think anything has been done to minimize Third Runway construction impacts on the local area. An additional quarter (26%) are not sure if anything has been done, while the remaining quarter (25%) are aware.

Mitigation Measures Popular

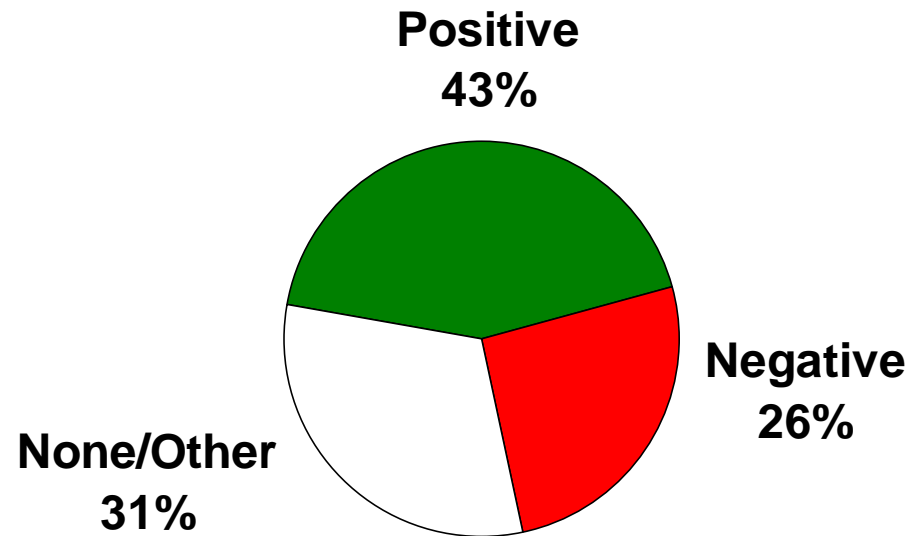


After asking if people are aware if anything has been done, two mitigation measures were described. Residents are told about mitigation measures for wetland restoration/expansion (Q30) and truck traffic offramps (Q31) that are underway. A strong majority of residents say they are satisfied with these measures.

The high level of satisfaction with these measures combined with low awareness that any mitigation steps are being taken presents a public relations opportunity for the project.

Completed Third Runway: Impact on Local Area

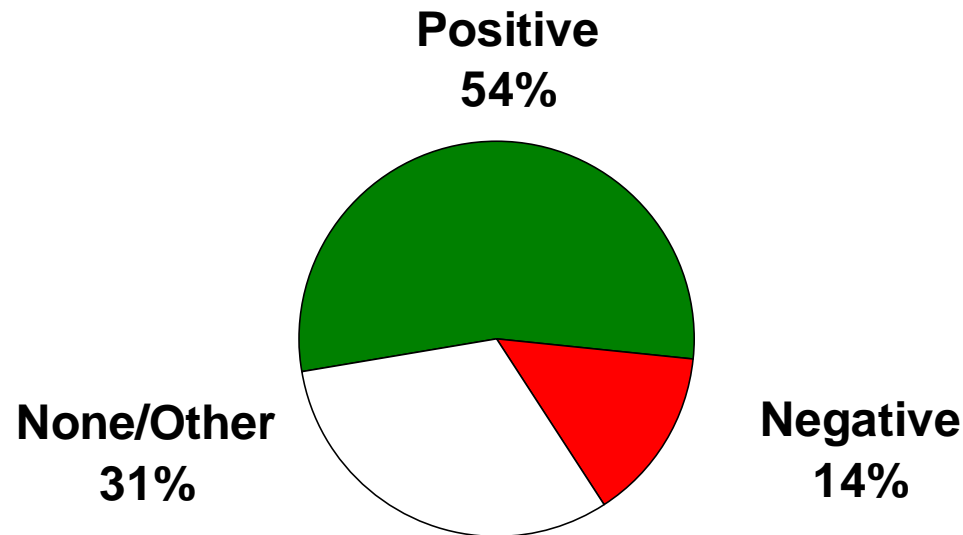
Q32. When the Third Runway is completed, do you think it will have a positive or a negative impact on your local area, or will it have no impact on your area?



Though three quarters (75%) of residents are not aware of mitigation measures to reduce Third Runway impacts, a plurality (43%) say it will have a positive impact on the local area, and an additional third (31%) say it will have no impact. A quarter (26%) say it will have a negative impact. Those who say it will have a negative impact are asked a follow-up question about their specific concerns. These people are primarily concerned about increased noise (43%), air traffic (19%), and road traffic (12%).

Completed Third Runway Impact on Region

Q35. And what about for the Puget Sound area as a whole? Will the addition of the Third Runway on the Puget Sound region be positive, negative, or will it have no impact?



A majority (54%) of residents say the Third Runway will have a positive effect on the Puget Sound region, while only one in seven (14%) say the impact will be negative.

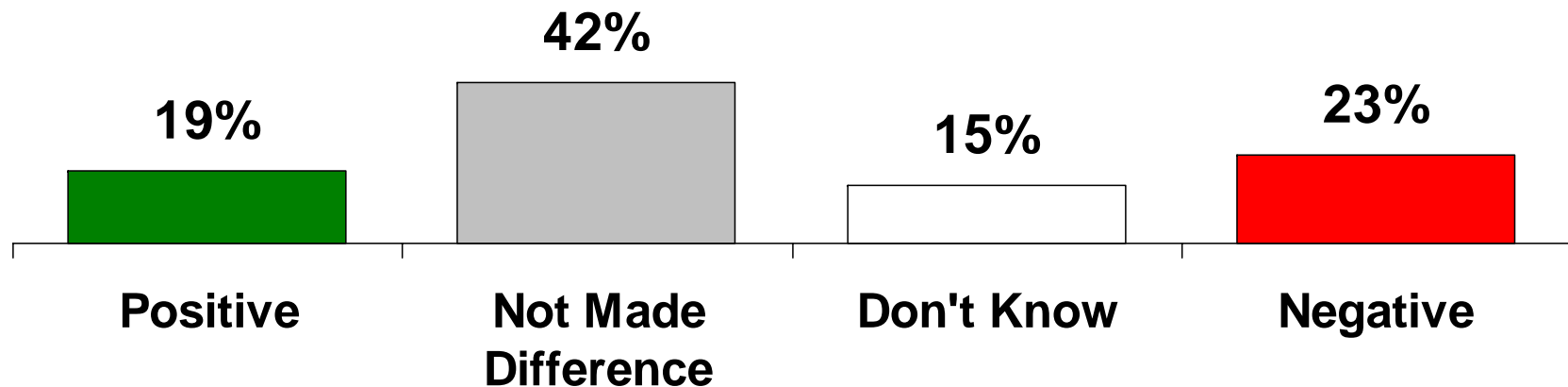
Those who said “positive” and “negative” were asked a follow-up question about their reasoning.

Those who said “positive” mentioned improvements to the economy (31%) and increased capacity for flying (25%) are their top reasons.

Those who said “negative” were most likely to mention pollution (50%) and increased traffic (15%).

Land Use

Q38. Do you think Airport or Third Runway construction has had a positive or negative effect on land use and development patterns in your community, or do you think it has not made a difference?

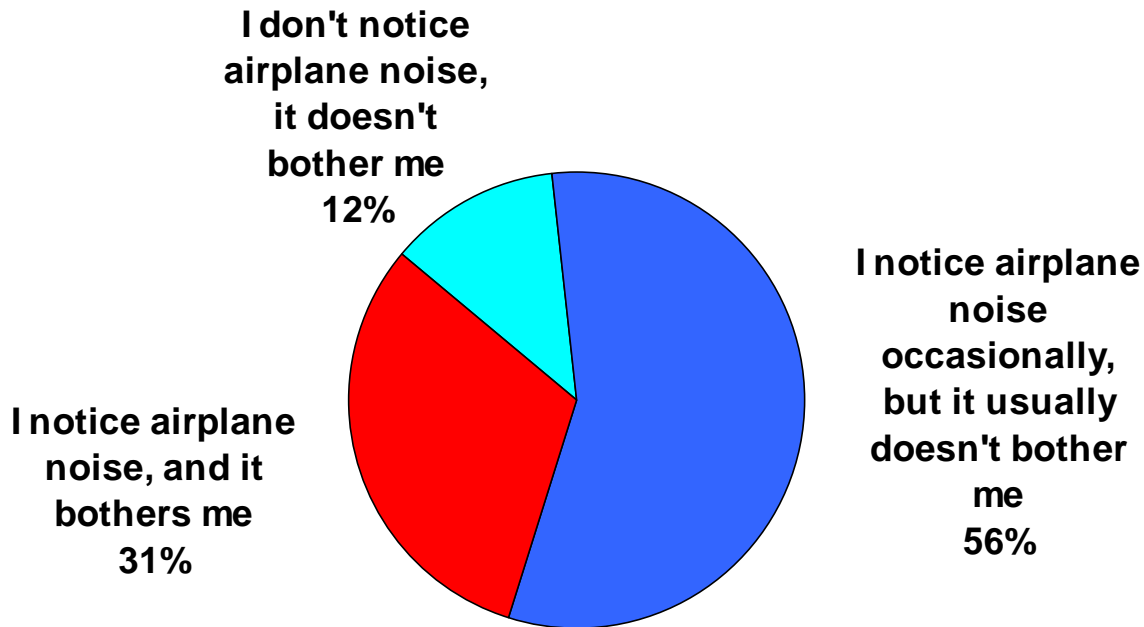


Most residents (42%) say the Airport and Third Runway construction have not made a difference on land use patterns. An additional 15% say they do not know.

Almost as many say the effect has been positive (19%) as negative (23%).

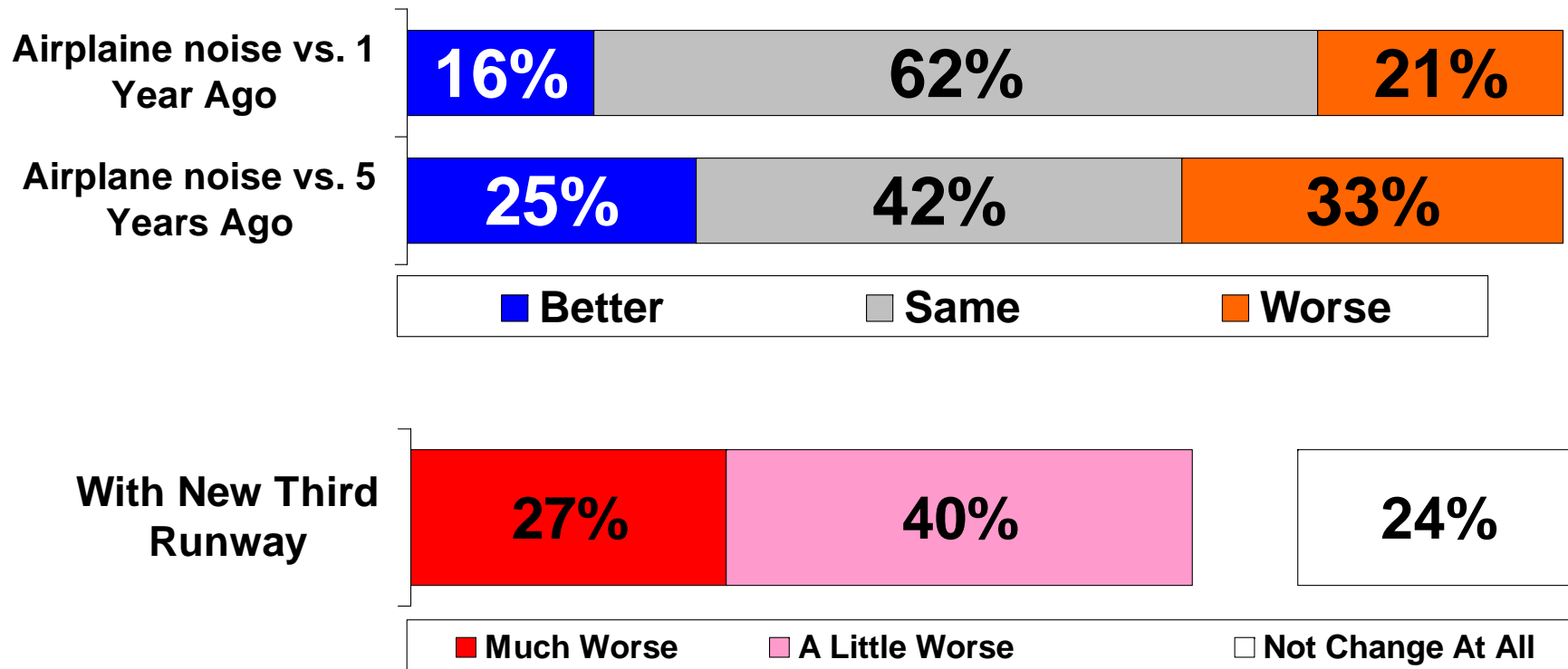
Airplane Noise

Q41. Moving on, I'd like to ask you some more about airplane noise in your area. I'm going to read you three statements, and I'd like you to tell me which one comes closer to your opinion.



Most residents notice airplane noise (87%). A third (31%) of residents notice airplane noise and are bothered by it. The remaining residents either are not bothered (12%), and about half (56%) notice airplane noise but it usually doesn't bother them.

Airplane Noise, con't

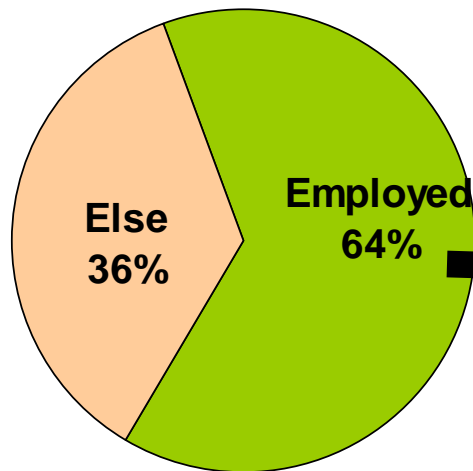


For both time periods, at least a plurality of residents say airplane noise is the same. But a third (33%) of residents say airplane noise is worse than it was five years ago (2001).

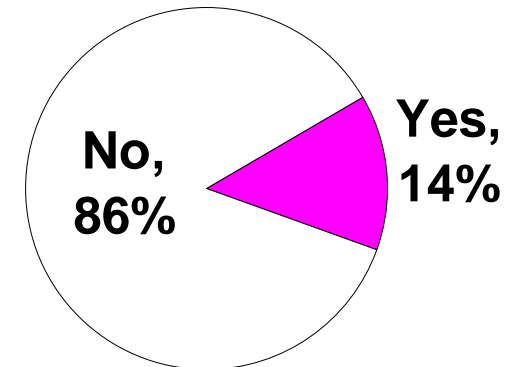
As for the future, residents are more likely to say noise will get worse with the new third runway, though most residents think things will get only a little worse (40%).

Employment and Sea-Tac Airport

Employment Status



Is your job connected or supported by Sea-Tac Airport?



Nearly two-thirds (64%) of residents are employed in the area. Of those who are employed, 14% have a job that depends on the continued success of Sea-Tac Airport. In other words, 9% of residents in the survey area have a job that is directly tied to Sea-Tac Airport.