

# What Businesses Say About Doing Business in Kitsap County

## Weaknesses Comments

NOTE: In addition to asking for input on community weaknesses as a place to do business, companies were also asked if there were any perceived barriers to growth or reasons why the community may not be considered for future expansion. These comments are included in this section.

| <b>2003</b>  | <b>2005-2006</b>  |
|--|---|
| <b>Transportation</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>34%</b></span>  | <b>Transportation</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>24%</b></span>   |
| "public transportation needs improving"  | "Not close to airport"  |
| "traffic on and off Bainbridge Island a problem"   | "commuting issues" (more than once)   |
| "transportation conditions – lack of a bridge from Kitsap to King County"  | "ferry system" Note: also listed as a perceived barrier – "ferry can be seen as a barrier to clients in Seattle and Bellevue" |
| "transportation in all its elements including infrequent ferries, cost of ferries, anticipated delays at Tacoma Narrows Bridge" (noted as a barrier to growth) | "Parking is horrible" (Bremerton)   |
| "limited ferry service and geographical distance from the urban center" (noted as a barrier to growth)   | "cost of parking downtown" (Bremerton)  |
| "ferry system"   | "remote location, off major transportation routes"  |
|  | "ferry traffic"(more than once)   |
|  | "poor road maintenance" (more than once)  |
|  | "lack of mass transit" (perceived barrier)  |
|  | "transportation infrastructure"   |
|  | "buses don't come to business parks" (more than once)   |
| <b>Infrastructure</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>22%</b></span>  | <b>Business Climate Negative</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>19%</b></span>  |
| "telecom deficiencies" (more than once); Note: also listed as a perceived barrier to growth  | "(Bainbridge Island) not kind to manufacturers"   |
| "not enough parking in downtown Bremerton"   | "zoning ordinances" (listed as a perceived barrier to growth)   |
| "infrastructure not like Tacoma"   | "regulatory process long and drawn out" (listed as perceived barrier to growth)   |
| "cell phone issues; can't get cable"   | "too much business goes outside county from public agencies" (listed more than once)  |
| "long distance phone issues"   | "not growth friendly"   |
|  | "county government, permit process" (listed several times and also listed as a perceived barrier to growth)                   |
|  | "unpredictability (of permitting)" (listed several times and also listed as a perceived barrier to growth)                    |
|  | "state and local government don't support local business; they don't give them any breaks"                                    |
|  | "lack of local recognition for firms who supply services"   |

| <b>Labor – Professional not available</b>   | <b>16%</b> | <b>Labor – Professional not available</b>   | <b>9%</b> |
|---|------------|---|-----------|
| “not enough professionals live in West Sound “  |            | “recruitment can be difficult because people don’t think to look here”  |           |
| “...are scarce. Young don’t come because not enough activity, senior ones don’t move because they have roots elsewhere” |            | “lack of skilled employees – those with electronic engineering degrees” (also noted as a perceived barrier to growth) |           |
| “need employees with math and geometry skills”  |            | “lack of high-tech workforce” (also noted as a perceived barrier to growth)   |           |
| “can’t find marketing skills” (listed as a perceived barrier to growth)   |            | “hard to get upper management to stay unless they want the quality of life intangibles the community offers”          |           |
|   |            | “preconceived notions about Kitsap County – difficult to hire a software engineer to move to Kitsap”                  |           |
|   |            | <b>Business Services Inadequate</b>   | <b>9%</b> |
|   |            | “lack of nearby restaurants”  |           |
|   |            | “lack of scientific library or university”  |           |
|   |            | “lack of waterfront work facility”  |           |

### Industries Represented

| <b>Industry</b>                                  | <b>2003</b> | <b>2006</b> |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Advanced manufacturing                           | 9%          | 11%         |
| Aeronautics and defense                          | 28%         | 7%          |
| Building and construction                        | 3%          | 3%          |
| Communications                                   | 3%          | 8%          |
| Consumer services producer                       | 6%          | 3%          |
| Convention and tourism                           | 0%          | 1%          |
| Durable goods producer                           | 22%         | 11%         |
| Energy and energy utilities                      | 0 %         | 1%          |
| Finance, insurance and real estate               | 0%          | 1%          |
| Government                                       | 0%          | 1%          |
| Healthcare and pharmaceuticals                   | 0%          | 3%          |
| High end business services                       | 6%          | 11%         |
| Industrial goods                                 | 0%          | 1%          |
| Other  | 0%          | 7%          |
| Retail related operations (includes back office) | 3%          | 15%         |
| Technology/information                           | 19%         | 9%          |
| Telecommunications                               | 0%          | 0%          |
| Transportation                                   | 0%          | 1%          |