

GROW

FARIBAULT

GROW Faribault Goals for 2010

- Thank Businesses for fueling the economy
- Assist businesses one on one
- Understand trends for business improvement overall
- Develop business agenda on local and state level
- Work cooperative with economic development partners on planning and responses to GROW visits

- **Identify firms to interview**
 - **Top taxpayers**
 - **Top employers**
 - **Those with distant ownership**
 - **Send survey with a request visit option**
 - **follow up in cluster groups**

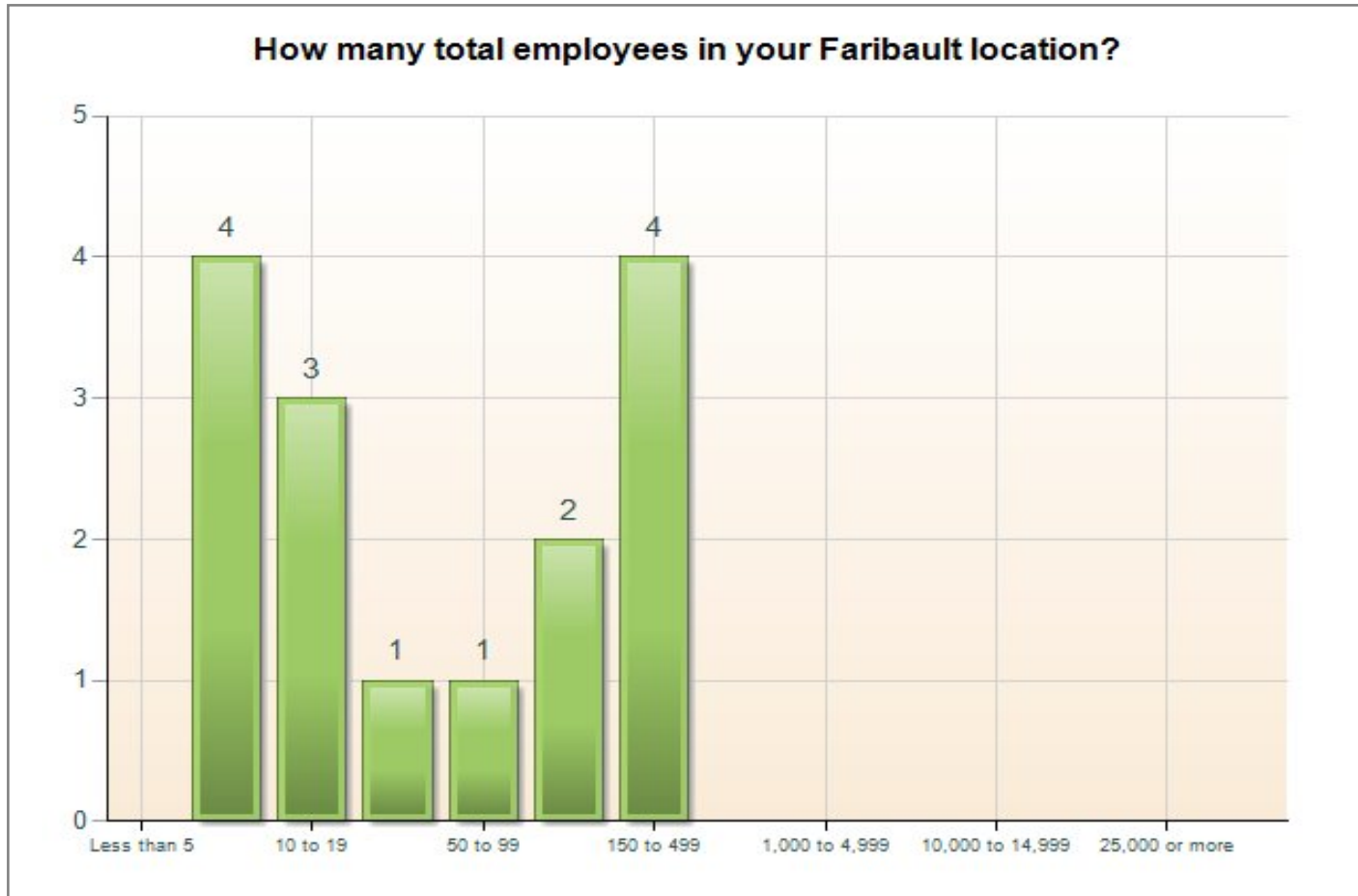
- **One member of the core committee should go on each visit**
 - Brent Peroutka Gary Kindseth
 - Todd Markman Mike Richie
 - John Jasinski Jay Valentyn
 - Steve Underdahl Peter Waldock
 - Kymn Anderson

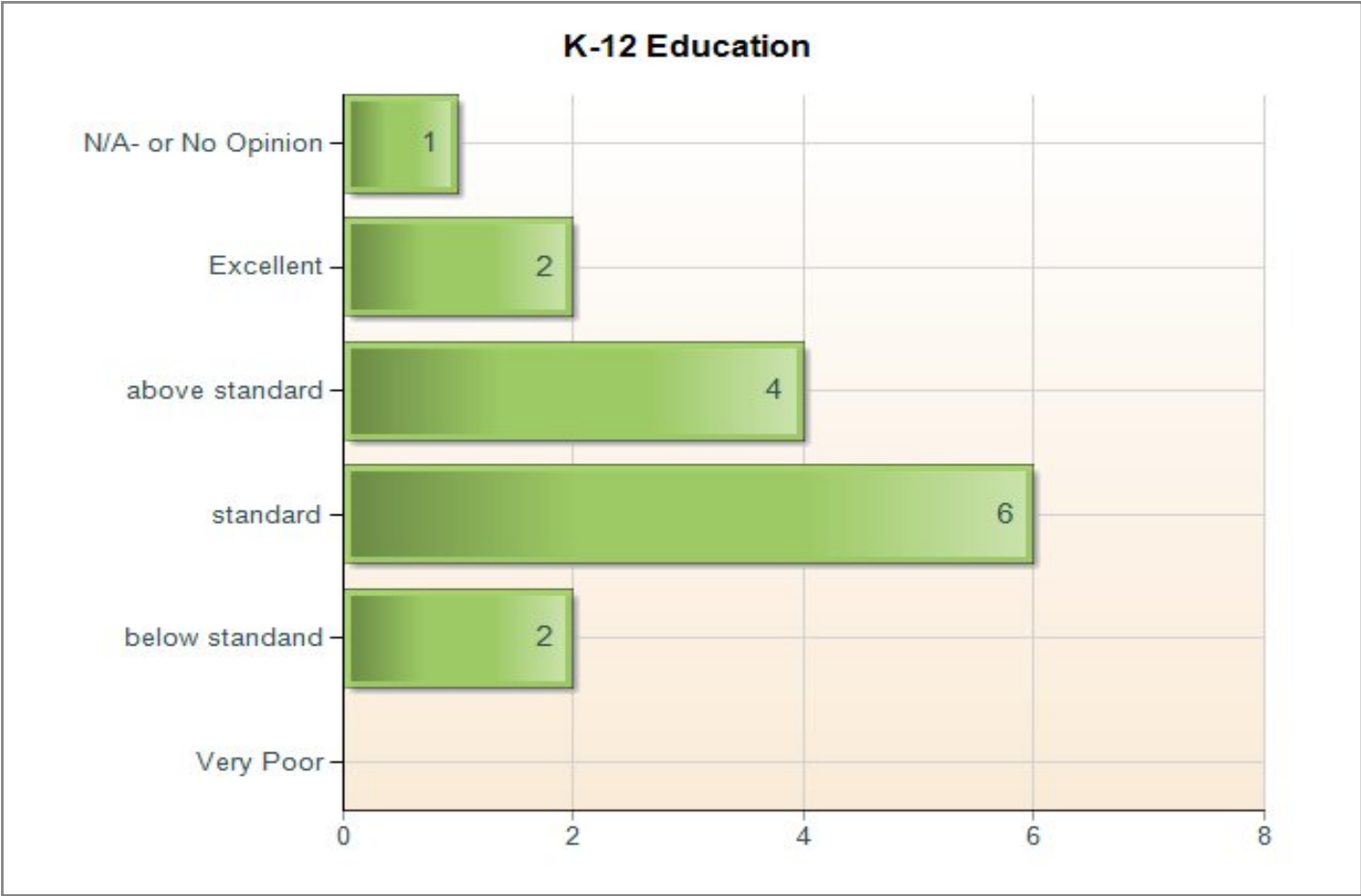
- **GROW – Faribault – 2010 Strategies**
- Work cooperatively with community partners on identifying firms to visit
- Encourage EDA members and City Council members to participate in the scheduled visits
- Follow up immediately on all requests for action or information with appropriate agencies and individuals
- Alert EDA Action Response Team as needed

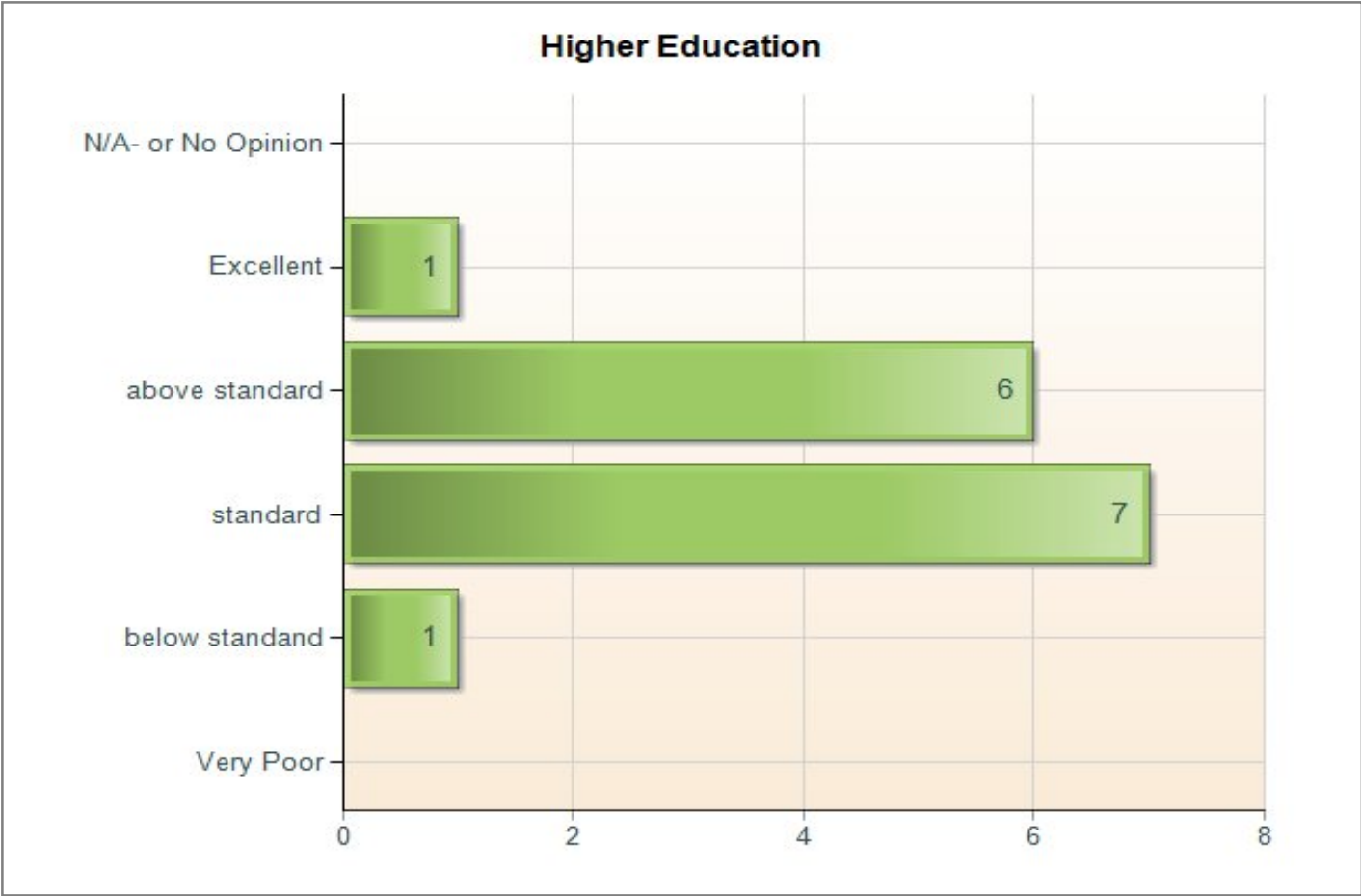
GROW Faribault Survey: How many total employees in your company (all locations)?

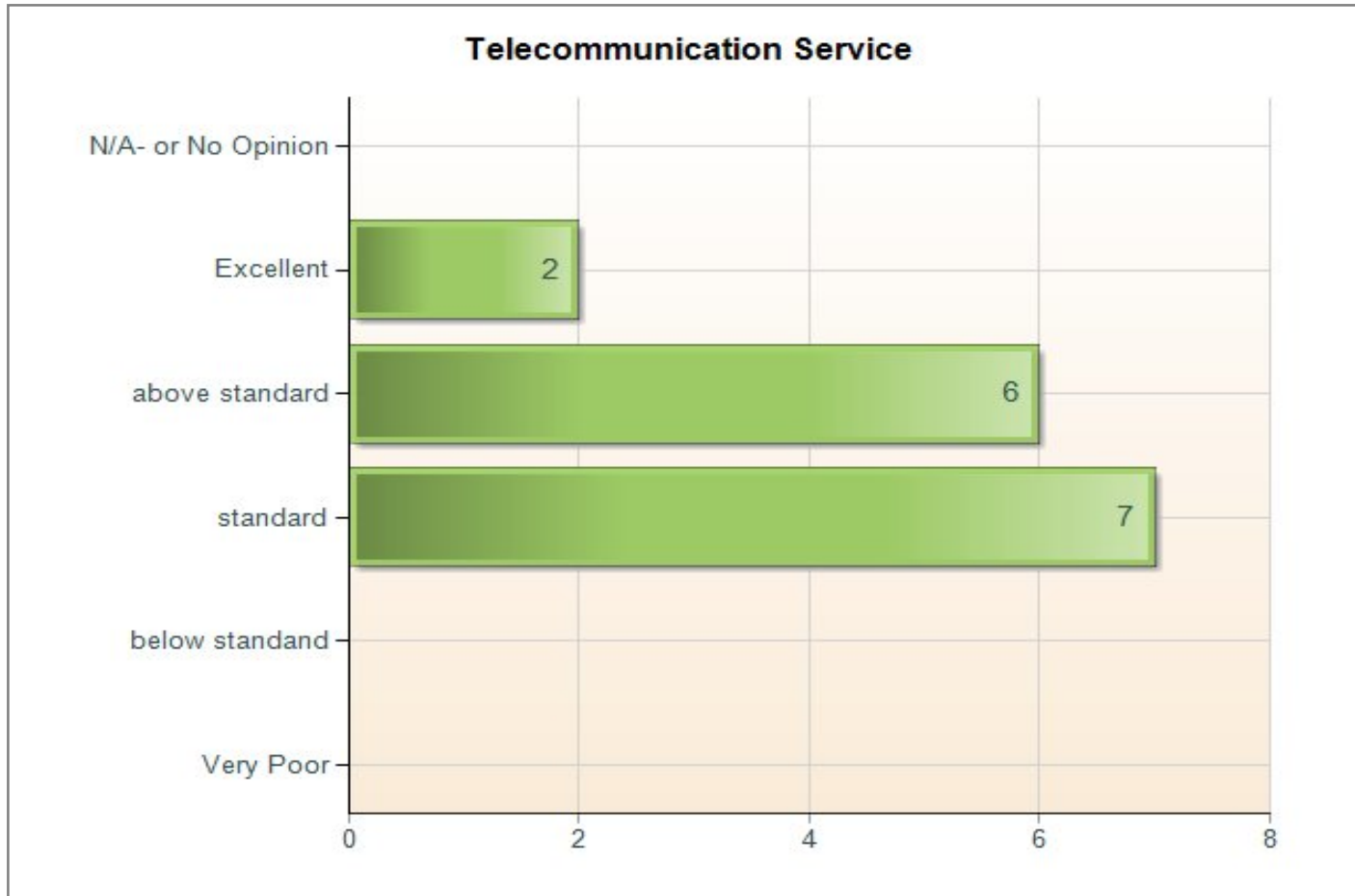


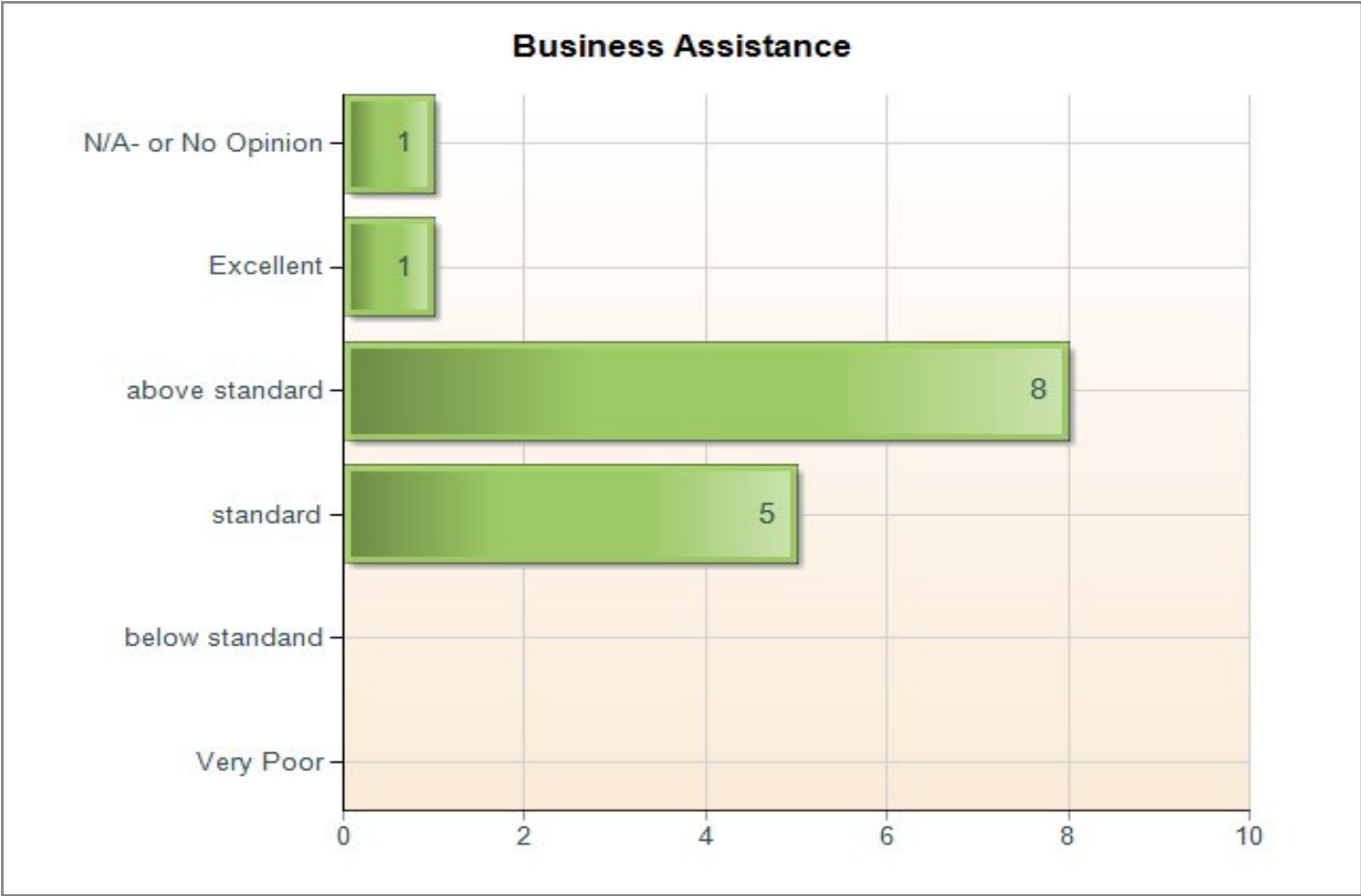
GROW Faribault Survey: How many total employees in your Faribault location?



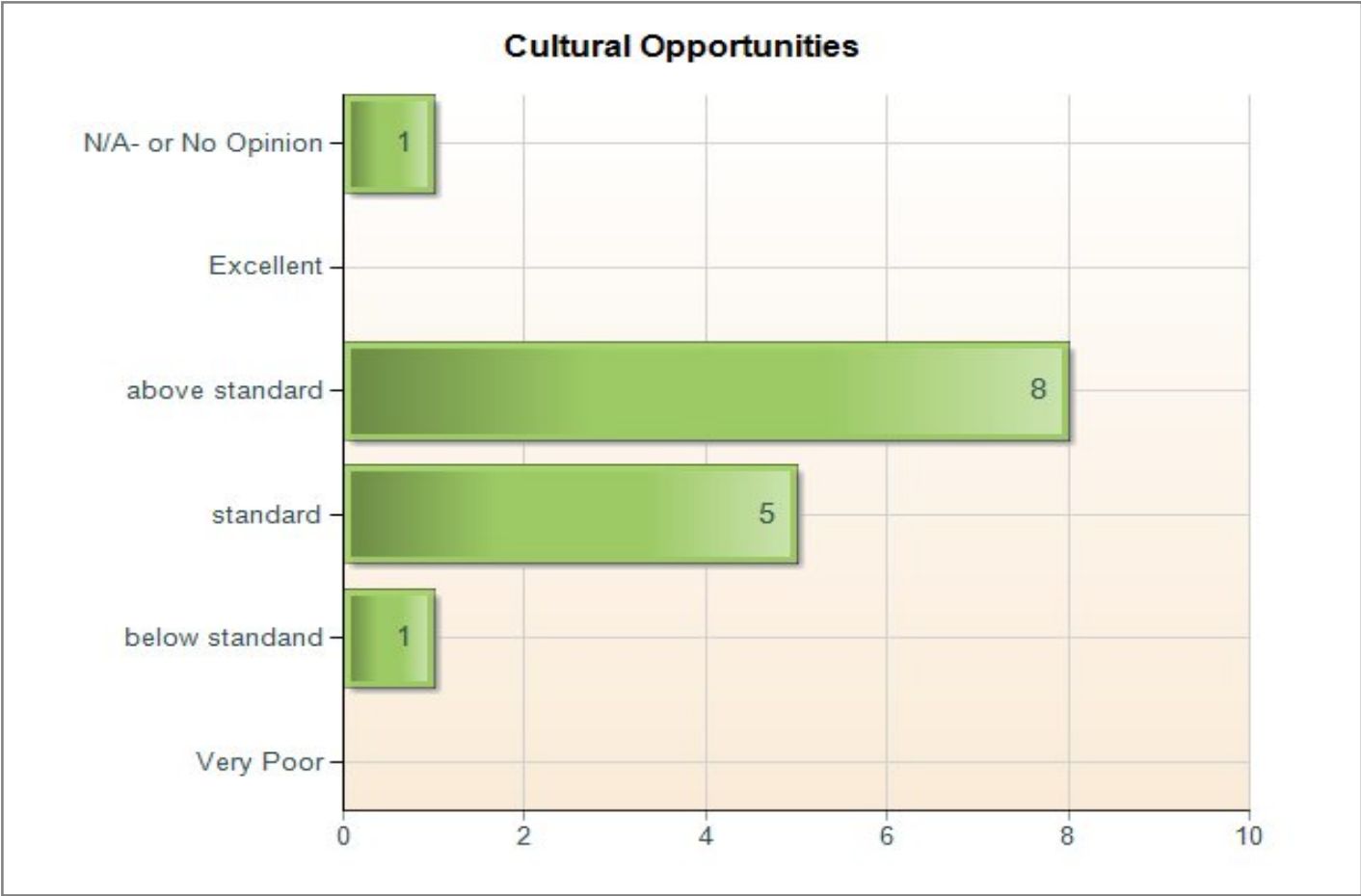


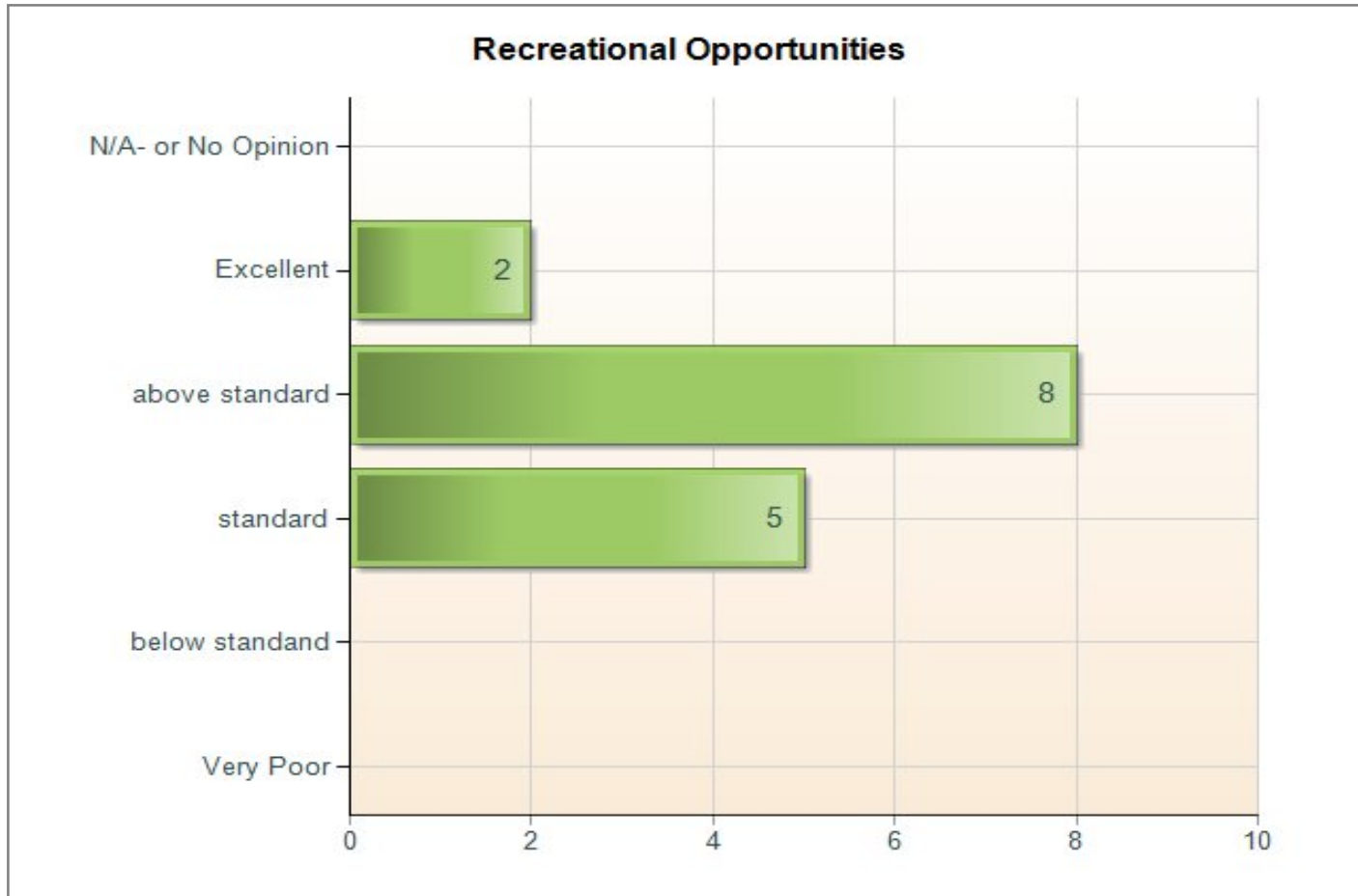


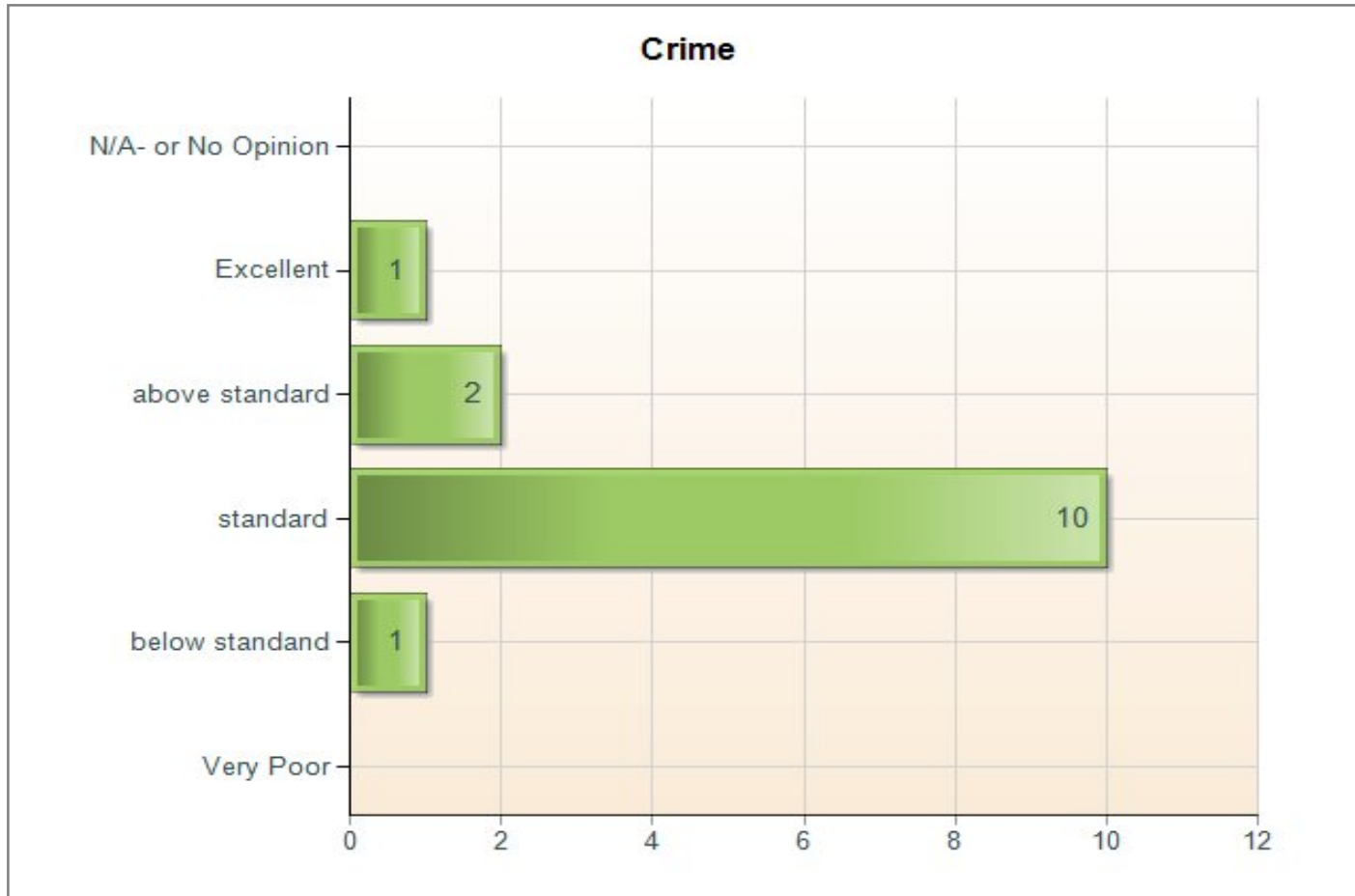


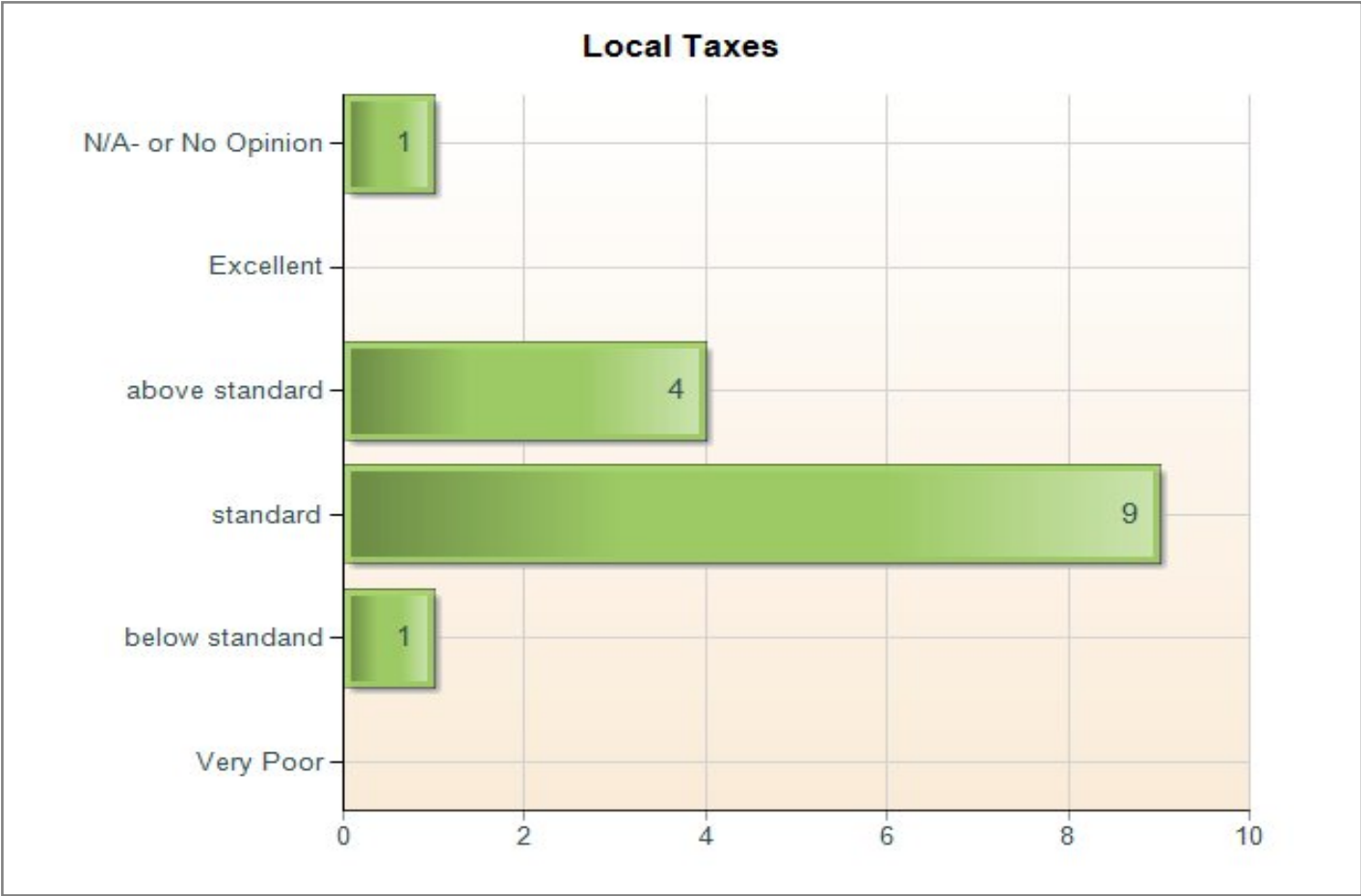




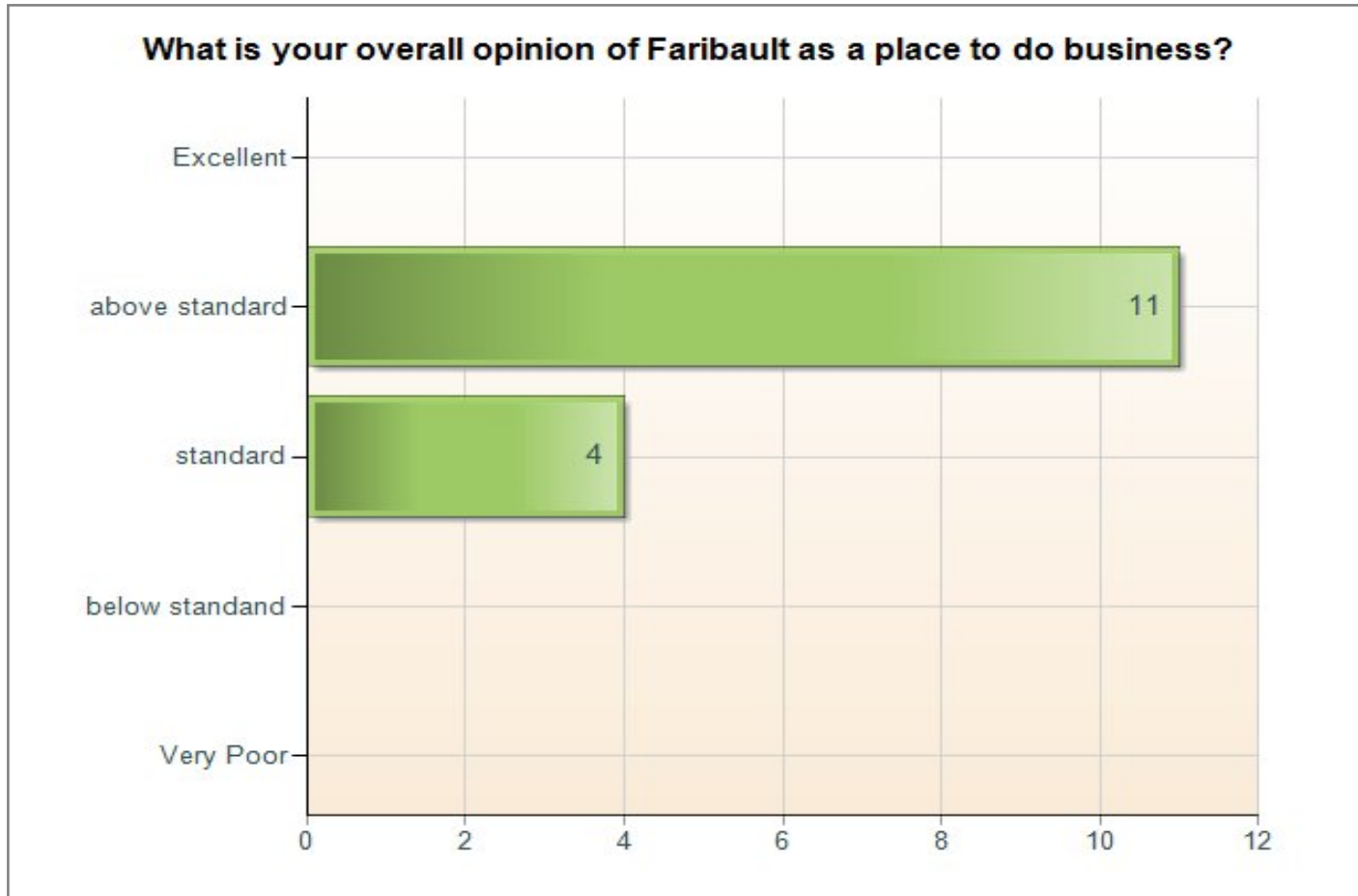








GROW Faribault Survey: What is your overall opinion of Faribault as a place to do business?



Comments

Location

Centrally located.

weakness - geographic distance from our customers and major sources of steel

Strong work force, ease of doing business

Strengths--I35, proximity to the metro, local community college, growing sector of high tech industry, BA, SSM, and FHS, strong medical community.

City is interested in growth and development.

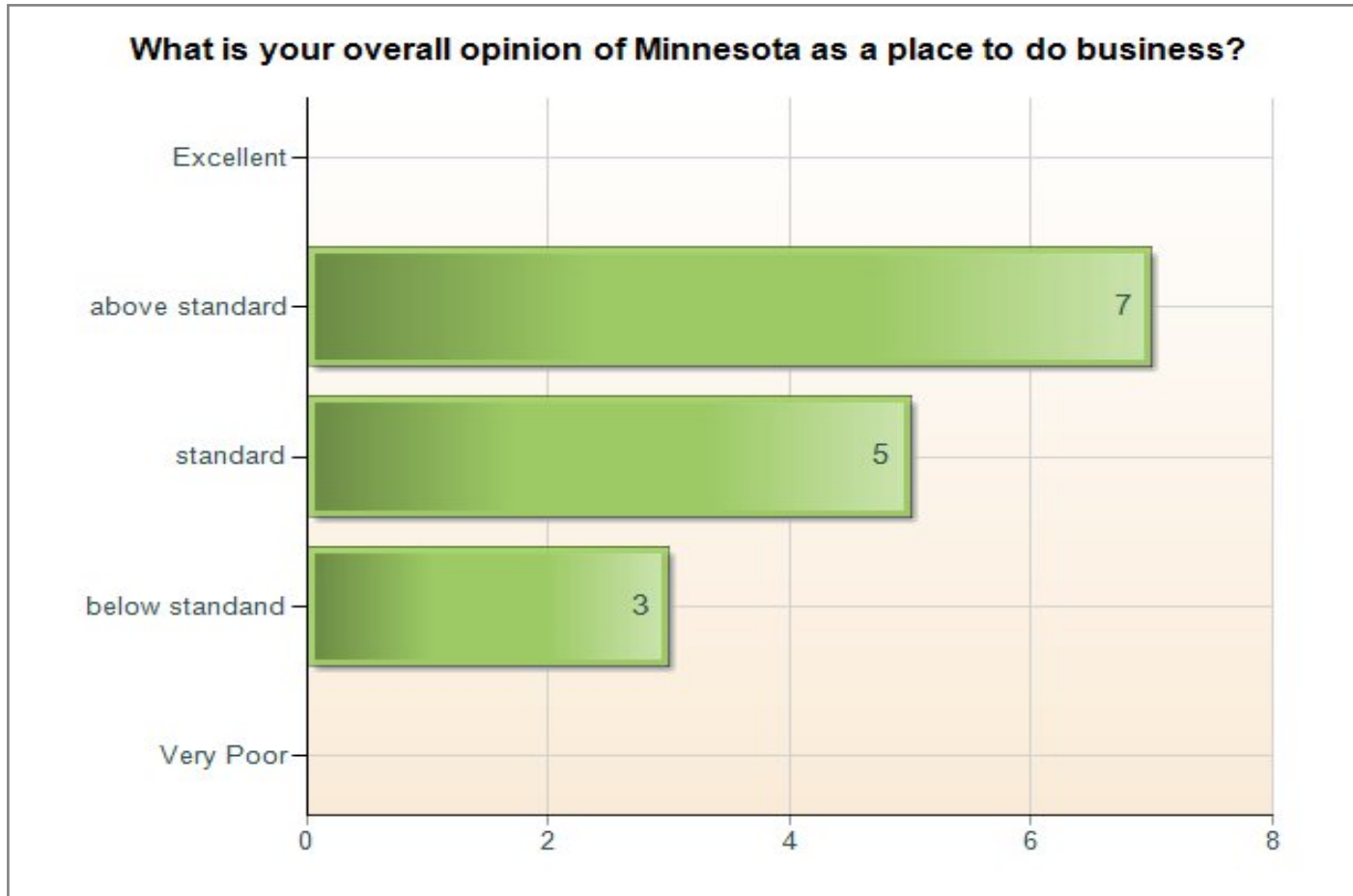
Strong chamber of commerce is helpful.

Hard working, skilled work force, Faribault is a great place to raise a family.

Faribault has struggled to entice new larger businesses to locate here largely driven by poor leadership at the city government level.

Taxes on buildings is high compared to their current market value

GROW Faribault Survey: What is your overall opinion of Minnesota as a place to do business?



Comments

Minnesota is doing it's best to make it difficult to continue to do business here.

It is unconscionable to think that the state can increase its already outrageous budget on the backs of small employers.

Too many rules, too high of taxes

Taxes are too high.

MN care Tax is burdensome to health care providers. Why aren't home builders taxed to provide housing or why not grocery stores to provide food to food shelves?

What is the most pressing concern for our local school board to address in the coming year?

- Need new businesses building here.
- Selecting new superintendent
- Stability and accountability
- Decide the best way to deal with the non-English speaking student to maximize their opportunity but not slowing down the gifted kids in the system.

- Must bring back basics of mechanical/technical skill sets[shop classes]

- Teacher pay scales are really low
- We spend a lot of money on education, however I feel we get a poor return on our investment
- Our education system is consumed with bargaining with the teachers union on benefits rather than developing top notch teachers to teach potentially top notch students
- Leadership. Start with the tone at the top and the buy in for a positive vision from the top down all the way to the parents

What is the most pressing concern for our city council to address in the coming year?

Bring in new retail/business.

Infrastructure for transportation, waste water, etc.

Taxes, fees (all types)

Balancing the budget while still encouraging business development, and changing the general perspective that city hall is anti-business. To do that, city hall needs to move some projects through and be a facilitator, thus convincing the business community that the change is for real.

Taxes are out of control and we must bring in new manufacturing to offset this

Balancing our budget and begin to deal with the long term legacy costs of the rich pension plans in city government.

Continue to do a good job on budget

Public services of water, roads and utilities and continued growth and development.

What is the most pressing concern for our county board to address in the coming year?

Quit being so picky of what is coming in and get the business here.
Example Dirt track that wanted to build.

Economic development

The county has done a nice job with the budget, but needs to create an air of cooperation with the city to facilitate development. Both the city and the county need to treat existing local businesses like they would woo new business.

Communication with citizens in a positive manner. Many poorly worded statements made during the Motokazie issue has reduced trust.

What is the most pressing concern for our State Legislature to address in the coming year?

Renewable energy

Keep tax lower.

K-12 education

State need to stop pending!!! Really needs to set priorities and stop taxing businesses out of business.

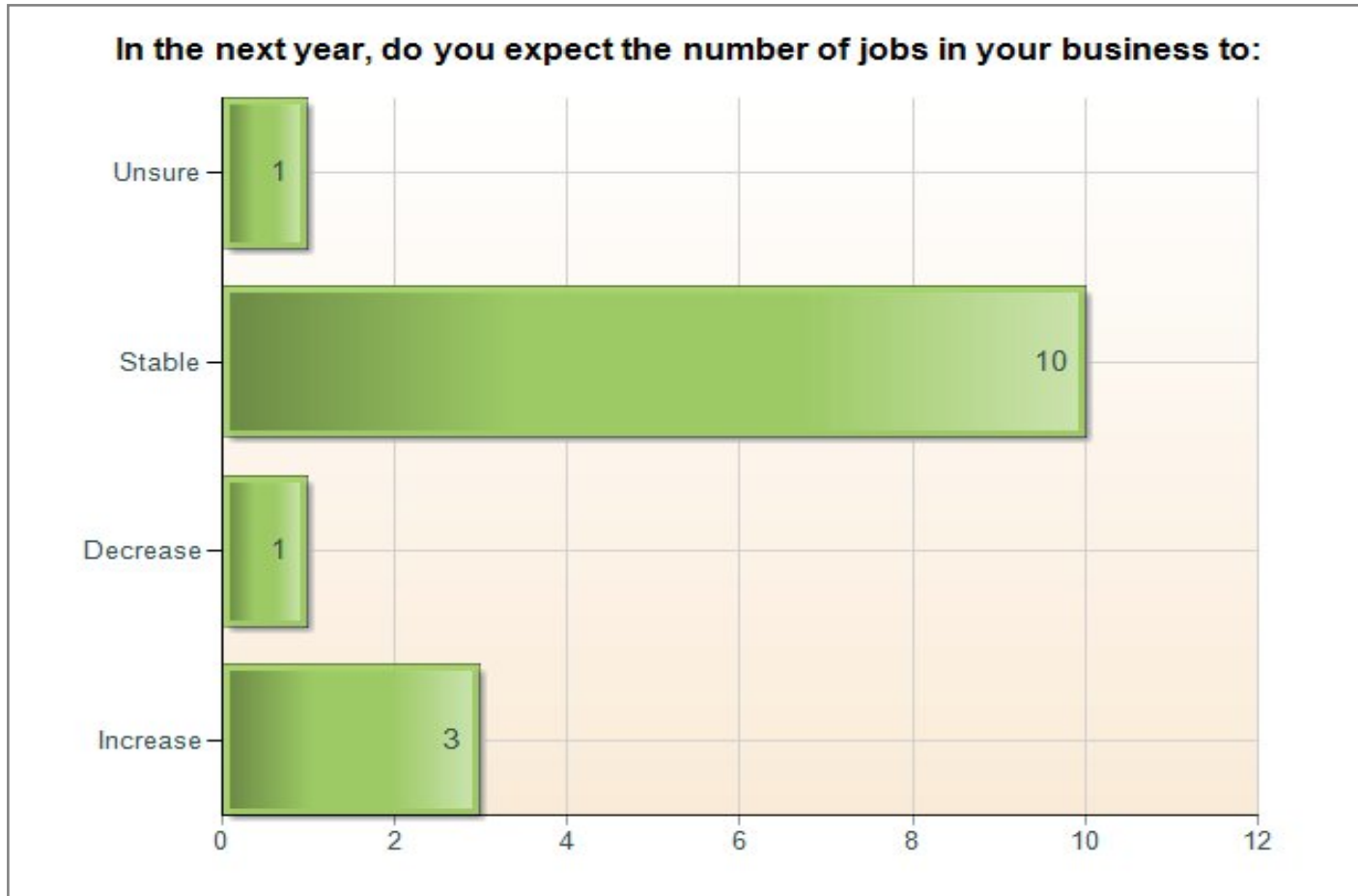
Asbestos litigation fraud

Creating a favorable business climate so industry can create jobs. We can't sustain a budget that includes more and more subsidies.

Taxes, budget deficit

Budget and tax issues

GROW Faribault Survey: In the next year, do you expect the number of jobs in your business to:



GROW Faribault Survey: In the next year, do you expect plan to expand your existing business or build new facilities?



Samples of Follow up issues

- Has space available for lease – help get the word out
- Help keep connected in Faribault after closing the branch
- Work with county to be more business friendly
- HR Peer
- speed signs/speed limit near turn for park
- Concerned about leadership changes in the community
- Wants blue highway sign and MN Dot directional sign
- Wants word out that they now take Medical assistance
- Wants to keep improving local image
- concerned about Card Check
- would like to see Downtown become more vibrant
- Need more exposure
- Would like to be more involved
- Working on new services – wants better communication between facilities in town
- Wants chamber to weigh in on City Administrator
- Wants billboard on Hwy 21
- Wants better connection to City of Fbo
- Refer to Paradise Center for the Arts for resident classes
- Need contact for Humane Society, Toys for Tots and Relay for Life
- How do we bring back kids after higher ed.
- Sign ordinance brochure
- Community Showcase information
- Demographics details
- City mission and goals (Population goal for 2020)
- Health Care Fact Sheet
- Faribault's Future Member list
- HR Peer Group
- Exec Dialogue
- Oppose card check
- Pedestrian cross walk request – often run over or broken
- DNR – wants to do project on Crocker's Creek
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