



# 2017

PRESENTED BY



GREATER BAKERSFIELD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



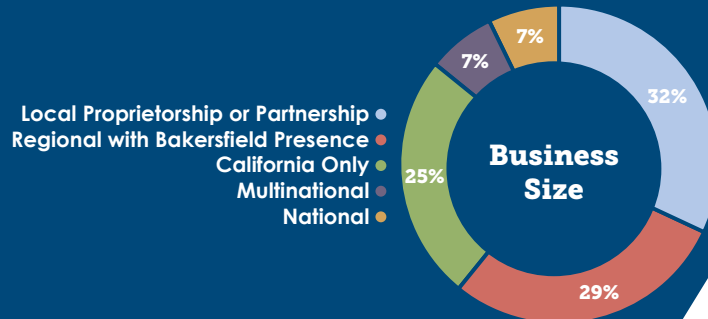
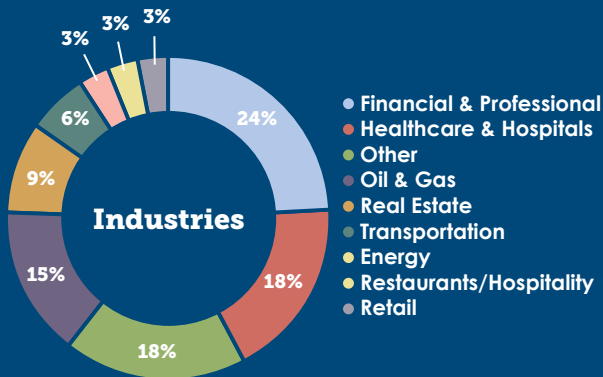
Photo by Gilbert Vega



# BZ CLIMATE

The Greater Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce is proud to release our first annual BizClimate Survey. This survey is envisioned as an annual effort to get feedback and insight from our members, as well as their perspectives on the local economy, the regulatory environments they face and what support they need to ensure they have a qualified and productive workforce.

We asked a select group of business owners, CEOs, key executives and nonprofit leaders to complete a 20-question survey. The composite results provide excellent insight into the issues our business and community leaders are juggling.



## WORKFORCE BREAKDOWN

**2016**

Added Jobs **57%** ↑  
1-20 81% | 21-100 19%

Subtracted Jobs **17%** ↓  
1-20 50% | 21-100 17% | 101-250 33%

Stayed the Same **24%**

**Are local workforce programs meeting needs?**

- No
- No, but programs are planned to narrow the gap
- Yes, but not enough
- Yes

**35**

**EMPLOYERS SURVEYED**

**2017 Expected**

46% ↑ Add Jobs  
1-20 92% | 21-100 8%

4% ↓ Subtract Jobs  
1-20 100%

50% Stay the Same

**How do you see job growth in your industry sector in 2017?**

43% Better	57% No Change	0% Worse
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**Challenges in Attracting & Retaining Skilled Employees**

68% Yes	32% No
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## Top 3 Requested Actions for Government

Level	Action 1	Action 2	Action 3
Local	Streamline permit approval process	Provide more community college training/work force development	Improve public safety
State	Streamline regulatory and permit approvals	Limit frivolous lawsuits	Further reduce public pension costs
Federal	Comprehensive tax reform	Repeal/Reform of Affordable Care Act of 2010	STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education to develop domestic talent

## Top 3 Benefits/Strengths of Doing Business in Kern County



Business climate/local government policies

25%



Proximity to customers and competitors

25%



Climate

14%

## Top 3 Challenges of Doing Business in Kern County



Employee recruitment/retention costs

26%



Business Regulations

18%



Healthcare Costs

13%

## Top 3 Challenges of Working in Kern County



Healthcare

24%



High Taxes

20%



Energy Costs

17%

## Confidence in Government Direction

Legislature



State Regulatory Agencies



Gov Brown



## ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT CLIMATE

- While 19 percent of respondents indicated they had subtracted jobs in 2016, only one respondent noted that they plan to subtract jobs in 2017.
- While the majority of respondents felt that state bureaucracies and the state legislature are on the wrong track, the local, pro-growth business climate was cited as one of the key reasons companies operate in Kern County.

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & RECRUITMENT CLIMATE

- The results confirmed that our workforce must be STEM-literate and highly skilled, with companies predicting nearly 300 openings for highly skilled workers in 2017-2018.
- Over a quarter of respondents indicated that one of the most pressing challenges their businesses face is the recruitment and retention of employees.
- Overall, increasing workforce development was an item that respondents felt was a priority for every level of government.

## QUALITY OF LIFE

- While business leaders in California's urban areas are prioritizing housing affordability, local employers were concerned about other "pocket book" issues with health care, taxes, and energy costs seen as the most concerning economic issues for the local workforce.
- Also, public safety was one of the top three issues respondents selected as an area that requires focus from local government.



Photo by The Wonderful Company

For more information visit  
[www.bakersfieldchamber.org](http://www.bakersfieldchamber.org)

## Top 3 Requested Actions for The Chamber

- Improve education and workforce development
- Improve the external image of Bakersfield and Kern County
- Transportation and/or public safety sales tax measures



# The Chamber would like to thank all of the survey respondents.

- Advance Beverage Company
- Adventist Health Bakersfield
- Aera Energy LLC
- Bank of the Sierra
- Barbich Hooper King Dill Hoffman, CPA's
- BARC
- Bolthouse Properties, LLC
- Brown Armstrong Accountancy Corporation
- California Resources Corporation
- Castle & Cooke
- Chevron
- Daniells Phillips Vaughan & Bock
- Dignity Health
- DoubleTree Hotel
- Golden Empire Transit District
- Hathaway LLC
- Hoffmann Hospice
- Jim Burke Ford
- Kaiser Permanente
- Kern Federal Credit Union
- Kern Health Systems
- Kern Schools Federal Credit Union
- Mid State Development Corporation
- Ordiz-Melby
- PG&E
- Robert Heely Construction
- Saba Agency
- State Farm
- Stinson's
- Stria
- Tejon Ranch
- TERRIO Physical Therapy & Fitness, Inc.
- Trans-West Security Services, Inc
- Valley Republic Bank
- Varner Bros., Inc.



Photo by Gilbert Vega

## Greater Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce

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