CENTER FOR APPLIED RURAL INNOVATION

A Research Report*

Quality of Life in Rural Nebraska: Trends and Changes

2002 Nebraska Rural Poll Results

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*These reports have been peer reviewed by colleagues at the University of Nebraska. Any questions, suggestions, or concerns should be sent directly to the author(s).

All of the Center's research reports detailing Nebraska Rural Poll results are located on the Center's World Wide Web page at http://cari.unl.edu/ruralpoll.htm.

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Executive Summary

Nebraska's economy has experienced slowing growth rates this past year. However, it did not experience a downturn. How have these changes affected rural Nebraskans? How do rural Nebraskans perceive their quality of life? Do their perceptions differ by community size, the region in which they live, or their occupation?

This report details 2,841 responses to the 2002 Nebraska Rural Poll, the seventh annual effort to understand rural Nebraskans' perceptions. Respondents were asked a series of questions regarding their general well-being as well as their satisfaction with specific aspects of well-being. Trends for the well-being questions are examined by comparing data from the six previous polls to this year's results. For all questions, comparisons are made among different respondent subgroups, i.e., comparisons by age, occupation, region, etc. Based on these analyses, some key findings emerged:

- ***Rural Nebraskans are more positive about their current situation than they were last year.*** This year, 37 percent state they are better off than they were five years ago. Only 32 percent felt this way last year. Twenty-one percent of this year's respondents say they are worse off than five years ago, a slight increase from 19 percent last year. The percent responding that their situation remained the same decreased from 49 percent last year to 43 percent this year.

- ***When looking to the future, rural Nebraskans are slightly more positive compared to last year's results.*** The proportion believing they will be better off ten years from now increased from 34 percent in 2001 to 36 percent this year. Conversely, the proportion that believe they will be worse off decreased from 21 percent to 18 percent.

- ***Rural Nebraskans are less likely to feel powerless as compared to last year.*** This year, only 30 percent agree with the statement that people are powerless to control their own lives. This compares to 35 percent who felt this way last year.

- ***Farmers and ranchers are less optimistic about their current situation than persons with different occupations.*** Only 29 percent of the farmers and ranchers think they are better off compared to five years ago. In comparison, 58 percent of the persons with professional occupations say they are better off.

- ***Persons with lower educational levels are more likely to believe that people are powerless to control their own lives.*** Forty-five percent of the persons without a high school diploma agree that people are powerless to control their own lives. However, only 19 percent of the persons with a four-year college degree share this opinion.

- ***Respondents report being most satisfied with their family, their marriage, and greenery and open space. The items receiving the highest proportion of "very dissatisfied"***

responses include financial security during retirement, current income level and job opportunities.

- ***Manual laborers are more likely than persons with different occupations to express dissatisfaction with their job opportunities.*** Sixty percent of the manual laborers are dissatisfied with their job opportunities, compared to only 33 percent of the persons with professional occupations.

- ***Respondents living in the Panhandle are more likely than persons living in other regions of the state to be dissatisfied with their current income level.*** Forty-four percent of the Panhandle residents report being dissatisfied with their current income level, compared to 36 percent of the residents living in the Southeast region.

Introduction

Similar to other states across the nation, Nebraska's economy has been struggling this past year. The slowing growth of state revenue has prompted the state legislature to make significant cuts to the state budget as well as pass temporary tax increases. However, although Nebraska experienced a decrease in its economic growth rates, the state did not experience a downturn. Non-farm personal income grew 3.4 percent in 2001 and net farm income increased 21 percent.[1]

Given all these changes, how do rural Nebraskans believe they are doing and how do they view their future? Have these views changed over the past seven years? Do respondents' perceptions of their present and future situations differ by the size of their community or their region of the state? This paper addresses these questions.

The 2002 Nebraska Rural Poll is the seventh annual effort to understand rural Nebraskans' perceptions. Respondents were asked a series of questions about their general well-being and their satisfaction with specific items that may influence their well-being. Trends for the questions will be examined by comparing the data from the six previous polls to this year's results.

Methodology and Respondent Profile

This study is based on 2,841 responses from Nebraskans living in the 87 non-metropolitan counties in the state. A self-administered questionnaire was mailed in February and March to approximately 6,400 randomly selected households. Metropolitan counties not included in the sample were Cass, Dakota, Douglas, Lancaster, Sarpy and Washington. The 14-page questionnaire included questions pertaining to well-being, community, work, successful rural communities, and technology use. This paper reports only results from the well-being portion of the survey.

A 44% response rate was achieved using the total design method (Dillman, 1978). The sequence of steps used follow:

1. A pre-notification letter was sent requesting participation in the study.
2. The questionnaire was mailed with an informal letter signed by the project director approximately seven days later.
3. A reminder postcard was sent to the entire sample approximately seven days after the questionnaire had been sent.
4. Those who had not yet responded within approximately 14 days of the original mailing were sent a replacement questionnaire.

The average respondent is 55 years of age. Seventy-three percent are married (Appendix Table 1[2]) and sixty-eight percent live within the city limits of a town or village. On average, respondents have lived in Nebraska 48 years and have lived in their current community 42 years. Fifty-seven percent are living in or near towns or villages with

[1] Source: "Nebraska Responds to the National Economic Recovery," Business in Nebraska, June 2002, presented by the UNL Bureau of Business Research.

[2] Appendix Table 1 also includes demographic data from previous rural polls, as well as similar data based on the entire non-metropolitan population of Nebraska (using 1990 U.S. Census data).

populations less than 5,000.

Fifty-six percent of the respondents reported their approximate household income from all sources, before taxes, for 2001 was below $40,000. Thirty percent reported incomes over $50,000. Ninety-three percent have attained at least a high school diploma.

Seventy-two percent were employed in 2001 on a full-time, part-time, or seasonal basis. Twenty-four percent are retired. Thirty-four percent of those employed reported working in a professional, technical or administrative occupation. Seventeen percent indicated they were farmers or ranchers. The employed respondents reported having to drive an average of eight miles, one way, to their primary job.

Trends in Well-Being (1996 - 2002)

Comparisons are made between the well-being data collected this year to the six previous studies. These comparisons begin to show a clearer picture of the trends emerging in the well-being of rural Nebraskans. It is important to keep in mind when viewing these comparisons that these were independent samples (the same people were not surveyed each year).

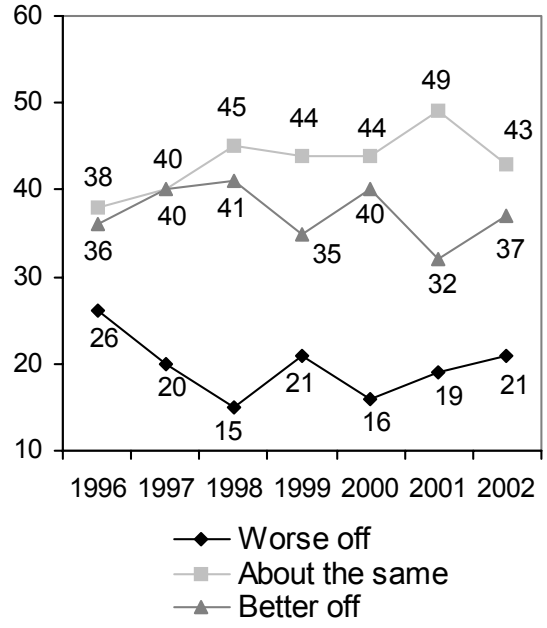
General Well-Being

To examine perceptions of general well-being, respondents were asked four questions.

1. "All things considered, do you think you are better or worse off than you were five years ago?" (Answer categories were worse off, about the same, or better off).
2. "All things considered, do you think you are better or worse off than your parents when they were your age?"
3. "All things considered, do you think you will be better or worse off ten years from now than you are today?"
4. "Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Life has changed so much in our modern world that most people are powerless to control their own lives."

Rural Nebraskans are more positive about their current situation than they were last year. This year, 37 percent believe they are better off than they were five years ago, compared to only 32 percent in 2001 (Figure 1). Also, fewer residents state they are about the same as they were five years ago. In 2001, 49 percent believed they were about the same as they were five years ago. This year, 43 percent feel they are doing about the same. The percent saying they are worse off than they were five years ago increased

Figure 1. *Well-Being Compared to Five Years Ago: 1996 - 2002*



slightly from 19 percent to 21 percent.

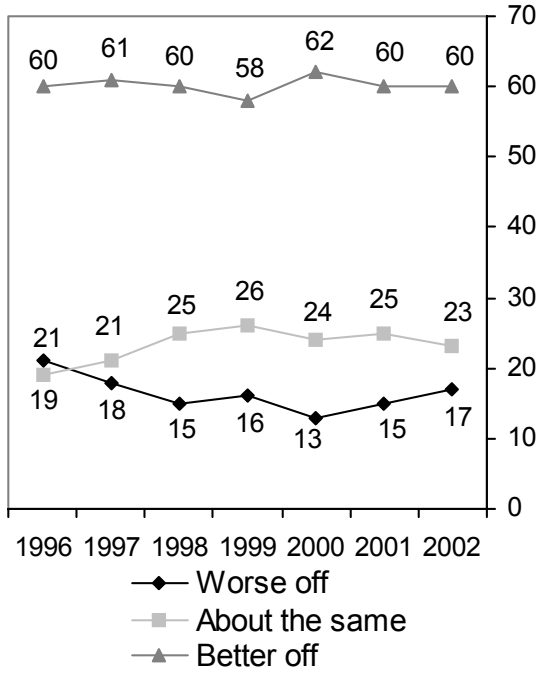
When examining the trends over the past seven years, rural Nebraskans have generally given positive reviews about their current situation. Approximately 40 percent each year have reported that they were better off than they were five years ago. A slight deviation from this general pattern occurred in 2001 when it dropped to 32 percent. The proportion stating they were worse off than five years ago decreased between 1996 and 1998 (from 26% to 15%), increased to 21 percent in 1999, decreasing to 16 percent in 2000 and has since steadily increased to 21 percent this year. The proportion believing they are about the same has generally remained fairly steady around 44 percent. It did increase to 49 percent, though, in 2001.

When asked to compare themselves to their parents when they were their age, the proportion stating they are better off has remained fairly constant over the seven year period (Figure 2). Similarly, the proportion feeling they are worse off than their parents has remained steady during this period.

When looking to the future, respondents were slightly more positive this year as compared to last year. The proportion believing they will be better off ten years from now increased from 34 percent to 36 percent (Figure 3). Conversely, the proportion that think they will be worse off decreased from 21 percent to 18 percent. The proportion stating they will be about the same increased from 45 percent to 46 percent.

When examining the responses over all seven years, the proportion stating they will

Figure 2. *Well-Being Compared to Parents: 1996 - 2002*



be better off ten years from now has generally remained about 35 percent. One exception to this general pattern occurred in 1998 when 42 percent of the respondents felt they would be better off in the future. The proportion of respondents stating they will be worse off ten years from now decreased from 31 percent in 1996 to 16 percent in 1998. It then increased to 22 percent in 1999, declined to 18 percent in 2000, increased to 21 percent in 2001 and then decreased again to 18 percent this year.

In addition to asking about general well-being, rural Nebraskans were also asked about the amount of control they feel they have over their lives. To measure this, respondents were asked the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with the following statement:

Figure 3. *Expected Well-Being Ten Years from Now: 1996 - 2002*

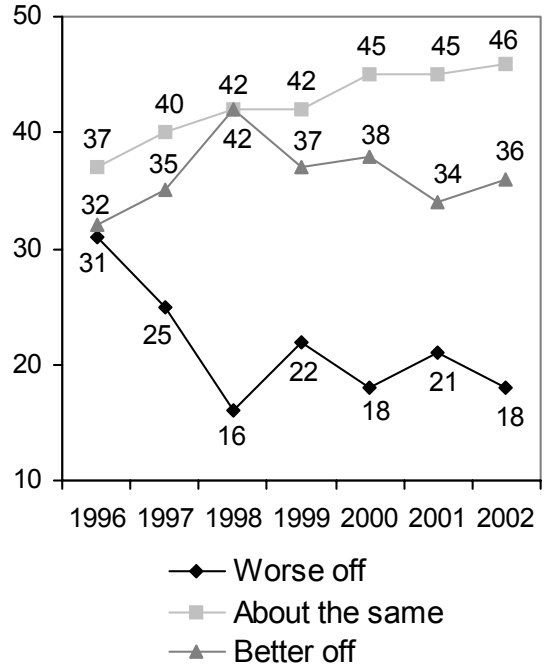
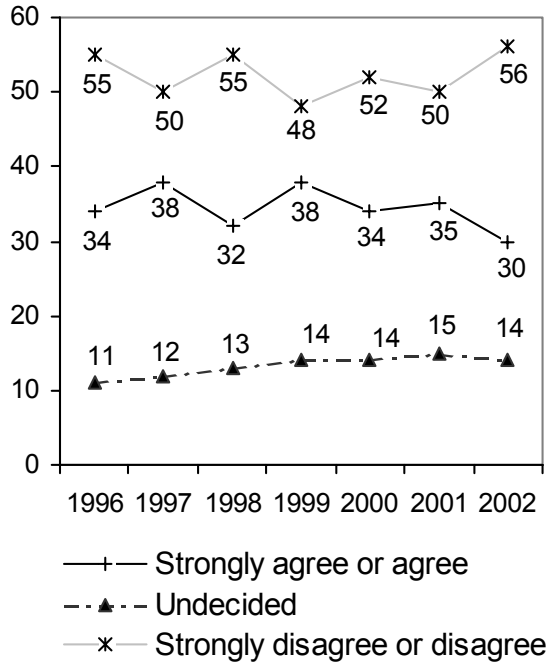


Figure 4. *"...People are Powerless to Control Their Lives": 1996 - 2002*



"Life has changed so much in our modern world that most people are powerless to control their own lives."

Respondents were generally less likely to feel powerless this year as compared to last year. This year, only 30 percent strongly agree or agree with the statement that people are powerless to control their lives (Figure 4). Last year, 35 percent agreed with the statement.

When viewing the responses over all seven years, there are no noticeable trends. The proportion of those who either strongly disagree or disagree with the statement decreased between 1996 and 1997, increased between 1997 and 1998, decreased between 1998 and 1999, increased between 1999 and 2000, decreased between 2000 and 2001 and then increased again between 2001 and 2002. The reverse of this pattern occurs when looking at the proportions that either strongly agree or agree with the statement each year. The proportion of those who were undecided each year has remained fairly constant.

Satisfaction with Specific Aspects of Life

Each year, respondents were also given a list of items that can affect their well-being and were asked to indicate how satisfied they were with each using a five-point scale (1 = very dissatisfied, 5 = very satisfied). They were also given the option of checking a box to denote "does not apply."

Table 1. *Proportions of Respondents "Very Satisfied" with Each Factor, 1996 - 2002.**

Item	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*
Your marriage	NA	NA	67	71	71	73	72
Your family	51	62	62	58	62	56	57
Greenery and open space	NA	NA	52	52	46	47	50
Your religion/spirituality	42	48	48	46	51	50	49
Your friends	37	47	47	46	48	46	47
Clean air	NA	NA	NA	NA	38	41	43
Clean water	NA	NA	NA	NA	34	38	40
Your housing	NA	34	35	39	38	38	39
Your spare time**	13	NA	29	30	32	31	32
Your education	24	27	28	28	28	28	31
Your job security	19	24	25	24	27	26	28
Your job satisfaction	22	25	24	25	24	24	28
Your health	26	34	29	29	28	27	27
Your community	17	20	16	19	17	20	17
Job opportunities for you	10	12	11	12	11	11	13
Your current income level	12	15	12	12	12	12	12
Financial security during retirement	10	14	10	11	10	10	10

Note: The list of items was not identical in each study. "NA" means that item was not asked that particular year.
* The proportions were calculated out of those answering the question. The respondents checking "does not apply" were not included in the calculations.
** Worded as "time to relax during the week" in 1996 study.

This same question was asked in the five previous polls, but the list of items was not identical each year. Table 1 shows the proportions "very satisfied" with each item for each study period.

The rank ordering of the items has remained relatively stable over the years. In addition, the proportion of respondents stating they were "very satisfied" with each item also has been fairly consistent over the years, particularly between 1997 and 2002. Family, spirituality, friends, and the outdoors continue to be items given high satisfaction ratings by respondents. On the other hand, respondents continue to be less satisfied with job opportunities, current income level, and financial security during retirement.

General Well-Being by Subgroups

In this section, 2002 data on the four general measures of well-being are analyzed and reported for the region in which the respondent lives, by the size of their community, and for various individual characteristics (Appendix Table 2).

Persons with the highest household incomes are more likely than persons with lower incomes to feel they are better off compared to five years ago, are better off compared to their parents when they were their age, and will be better off ten years from now. For example, sixty percent of the respondents with household incomes of $60,000 or more think they are better off than they were five

years ago. However, only 19 percent of the respondents with household incomes under $20,000 believe they are better off than they were five years ago.

Younger respondents are more likely than older respondents to state they are better off than they were five years ago, are better off compared to their parents when they were their age, and will be better off ten years from now. Seventy-eight percent of the persons between the ages of 19 and 29 think they will be better off ten years from now. Yet, only 10 percent of the respondents age 65 and older believe they will be better off ten years in the future.

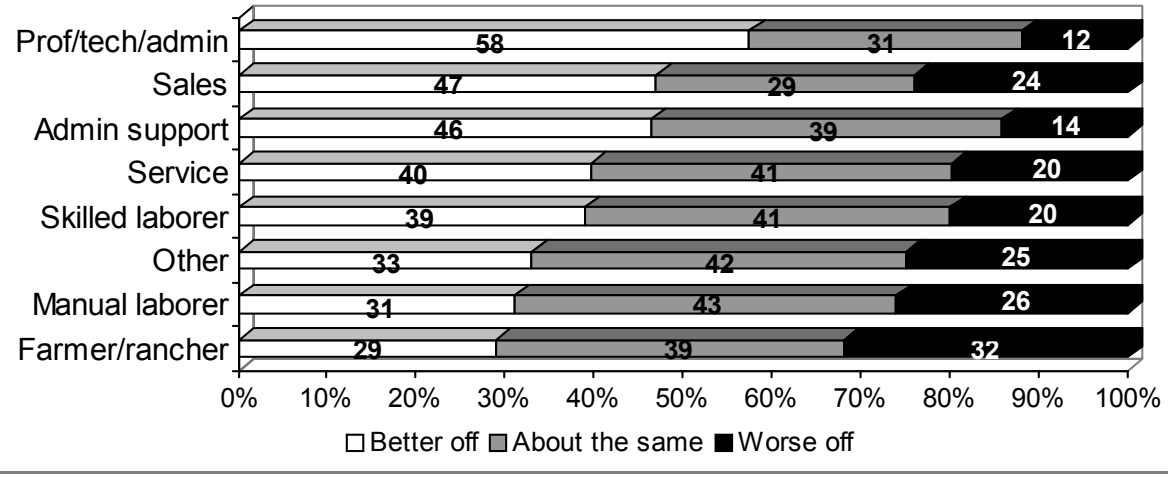
Persons with higher educational levels are more likely than the persons with less education to think they are better off compared to five years ago and will be better off ten years from now. Fifty-one percent of the respondents with at least a four-year college degree believe they are better off than they were five years ago. Only 17 percent of the persons without a high school diploma share this optimism.

When comparing the marital groups, the respondents who have never married are the group most likely to believe they are better off than five years ago and will be better off ten years from now. The widowed respondents are the most likely to believe they are better off compared to their parents when they were their age.

The respondents with professional or sales occupations are more likely than the persons with other types of occupations to believe they are better off compared to five years ago, are better off compared to their parents when they were their age, and will be better off ten years from now. Fifty-eight percent of the persons with professional occupations state they are better off than they were five years ago (Figure 5). Only 29 percent of the farmers and ranchers think they are better off compared to five years ago.

Persons living in or near the largest communities are more likely to believe they are better off compared to five years ago and better off compared to their parents when they were their age. And, males are more

Figure 5. *Well-Being Compared to Five Years Ago by Occupation*

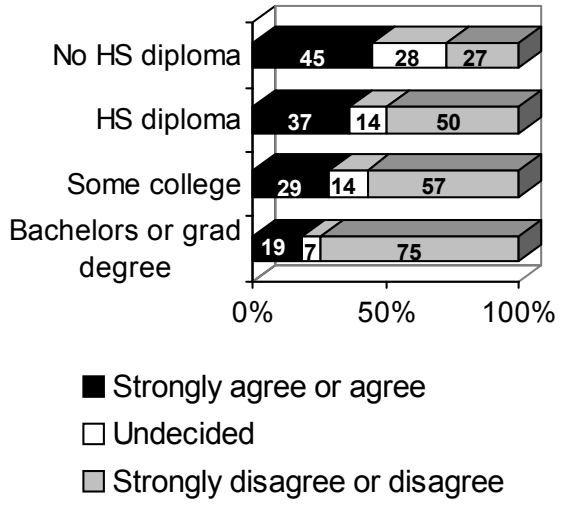


likely than females to state they are better off than they were five years ago and will be better off ten years from now.

The respondents were also asked if they believe people are powerless to control their own lives. Thirty percent either strongly agree or agree that people are powerless to control their own lives (see Figure 4). Fourteen percent are undecided and 56 percent either strongly disagree or disagree.

When analyzing the responses by region, community size, and various individual attributes, many differences emerge (Appendix Table 3). Persons with lower educational levels are more likely than persons with more education to believe that people are powerless to control their own lives. Forty-five percent of the persons without a high school diploma agree that people are powerless to control their own lives (Figure 6). However, only 19 percent of the persons with a four-year college degree share this opinion.

Figure 6. *"...People are Powerless to Control Their Own Lives" by Education*



The manual laborers are the occupation group most likely to think that people are powerless to control their own lives. Thirty-eight percent of the manual laborers agree or strongly agree with that statement. Only 16 percent of the persons with administrative support positions agree.

Persons with lower household incomes are more likely than the persons with higher incomes to agree with the statement. Thirty-nine percent of the persons with household incomes under $20,000 believe people are powerless to control their own lives, compared to 20 percent of the persons with household incomes of $60,000 or more.

Other groups most likely to believe people are powerless include: persons living in the Southeast region of the state (see Appendix Figure 1 for the counties included in each region), persons age 65 or older, males, and widowed respondents.

Specific Aspects of Well-Being by Subgroups

The respondents were given a list of items that may influence their well-being and were asked to rate their satisfaction with each. The complete ratings for each item are listed in Appendix Table 4. At least one-half of the respondents are very satisfied with their family (57%), their marriage (52%) and greenery and open space (50%). Items receiving the highest proportion of very dissatisfied responses include: financial security during retirement (19%), current income level (16%), and job opportunities for you (12%).

The top ten items people are dissatisfied with (determined by the largest proportions of "very dissatisfied" and "dissatisfied" responses) will now be examined in more detail by looking at how the different demographic subgroups view each item. These comparisons are shown in Appendix Table 5.

Respondents' satisfaction levels with both their financial security during retirement as well as their current income level differ by most of the characteristics examined. Persons with lower household incomes are more likely than persons with higher incomes to be dissatisfied with both of these items. Fifty-six percent of the persons with household incomes under $20,000 report being dissatisfied with their current income level, compared to only 18 percent of the persons with household incomes of $60,000 or more.

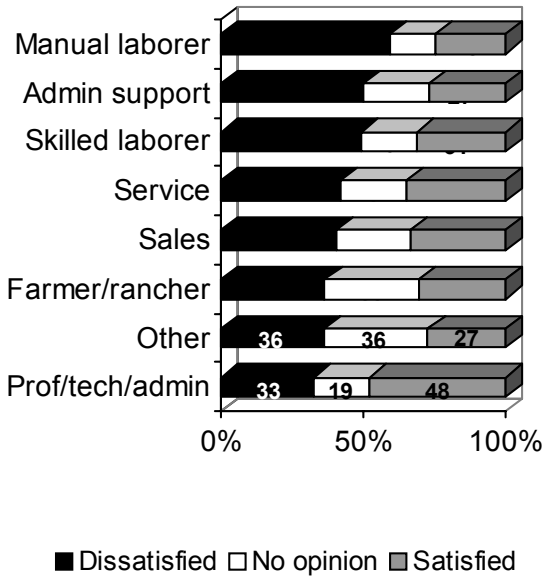
The respondents who are divorced or separated are the marital group most likely to be dissatisfied with both their financial security during retirement and their current income level. Fifty-eight percent of the divorced/separated respondents are dissatisfied with their financial security during retirement, compared to only 27 percent of the widowed respondents.

The manual laborers are more likely than persons with different occupations to be dissatisfied with both of these items. Fifty-seven percent of the manual laborers report being dissatisfied with their current income level, compared to only 31 percent of the persons with professional occupations.

Other groups most likely to be dissatisfied with both of these items include younger respondents and respondents with only a high school diploma or with some college education. Satisfaction levels with current income level also differed by community size and region. Persons living in or near the smallest communities and persons living in the Panhandle were the groups most likely to be dissatisfied with their current income level.

Manual laborers are more likely than respondents with different occupations to express dissatisfaction with their job opportunities. Sixty percent of the manual laborers are dissatisfied with their job opportunities (Figure 7). However, only 33 percent of the persons with professional occupations report dissatisfaction with their job opportunities.

Figure 7. *Satisfaction with Job Opportunities by Occupation*



Persons with lower household incomes are more likely than persons with higher incomes to be dissatisfied with job opportunities. Fifty percent of the persons with incomes under $40,000 are dissatisfied with their job opportunities, compared to 30 percent of the persons with incomes of $60,000 or more.

Other groups most likely to be dissatisfied with their job opportunities include: persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 1,000 to 4,999; persons between the ages of 30 and 49; females; and the respondents with some college education.

Manual laborers are the occupation group most likely to express dissatisfaction with their community. Twenty-eight percent of this group are dissatisfied with their community, compared to 13 percent of the persons with administrative support positions.

The divorced/separated respondents are the marital group most likely to be dissatisfied with their community. Twenty-six percent of these respondents are dissatisfied with their community, compared to only 10 percent of the widowed respondents.

Other groups most likely to be dissatisfied with their community include: persons living in or near the largest communities, persons living in the Panhandle, persons between the ages of 30 and 64, males, and persons with some college education.

Younger persons are more likely than older persons to express dissatisfaction with their spare time. Thirty percent of the persons between the ages of 30 and 49 report being dissatisfied with their spare time, compared to only five percent of the persons age 65 and older.

Other groups most likely to be dissatisfied with their spare time include: persons with higher household incomes, respondents with a four-year college degree, those who have never married and persons with sales occupations.

Satisfaction with their health differed by three characteristics: income, age, and education. The groups most likely to report being dissatisfied with their health were those with the lowest household incomes, the older respondents and persons without a high school diploma.

Satisfaction with their job security differed by income, age, education and occupation. The manual laborers are more likely than persons with different occupations to be dissatisfied with their job security. Thirty-seven percent of the persons with this type of occupation express dissatisfaction with their job security. Only 16 percent of the persons with professional occupations are dissatisfied with their job security.

Other groups most likely to be dissatisfied with their job security include: persons with lower educational levels, younger respondents and persons with the lowest household incomes.

Persons living in the Panhandle are more likely than persons living in the other regions of the state to express dissatisfaction with clean water. Twenty-four percent of the Panhandle residents are dissatisfied with clean water, compared to 12 percent of the persons living in the Southeast region of the

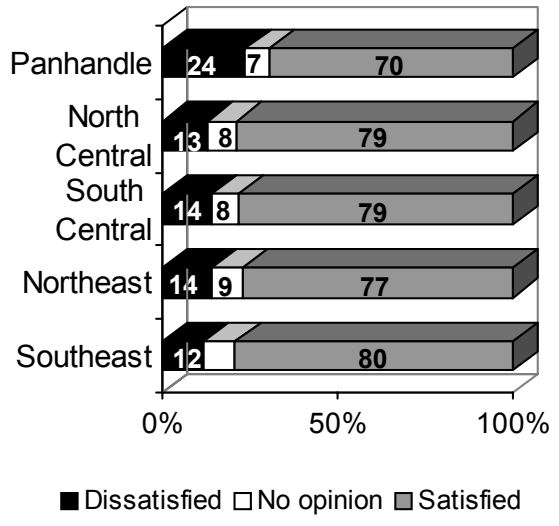
state (Figure 8).

Other groups most likely to express dissatisfaction with clean water include: persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 5,000 to 9,999; persons with lower household incomes; persons between the ages of 30 and 39; females; respondents with lower educational levels; the divorced/separated respondents and persons with occupations classified as "other."

The manual laborers are the occupation group most likely to express dissatisfaction with their job. Thirty-seven percent of the manual laborers are dissatisfied with their job, compared to only 12 percent of the persons with professional occupations.

Other groups most likely to report dissatisfaction with their job include: persons with the lowest household incomes, younger respondents and the persons with lower education levels.

Figure 8. *Satisfaction with Clean Water by Region*



The groups most likely to be dissatisfied with their education are: persons with household incomes ranging from $20,000 to $39,999; the younger respondents; persons with lower educational levels; the persons who have never married and the skilled laborers.

Conclusion

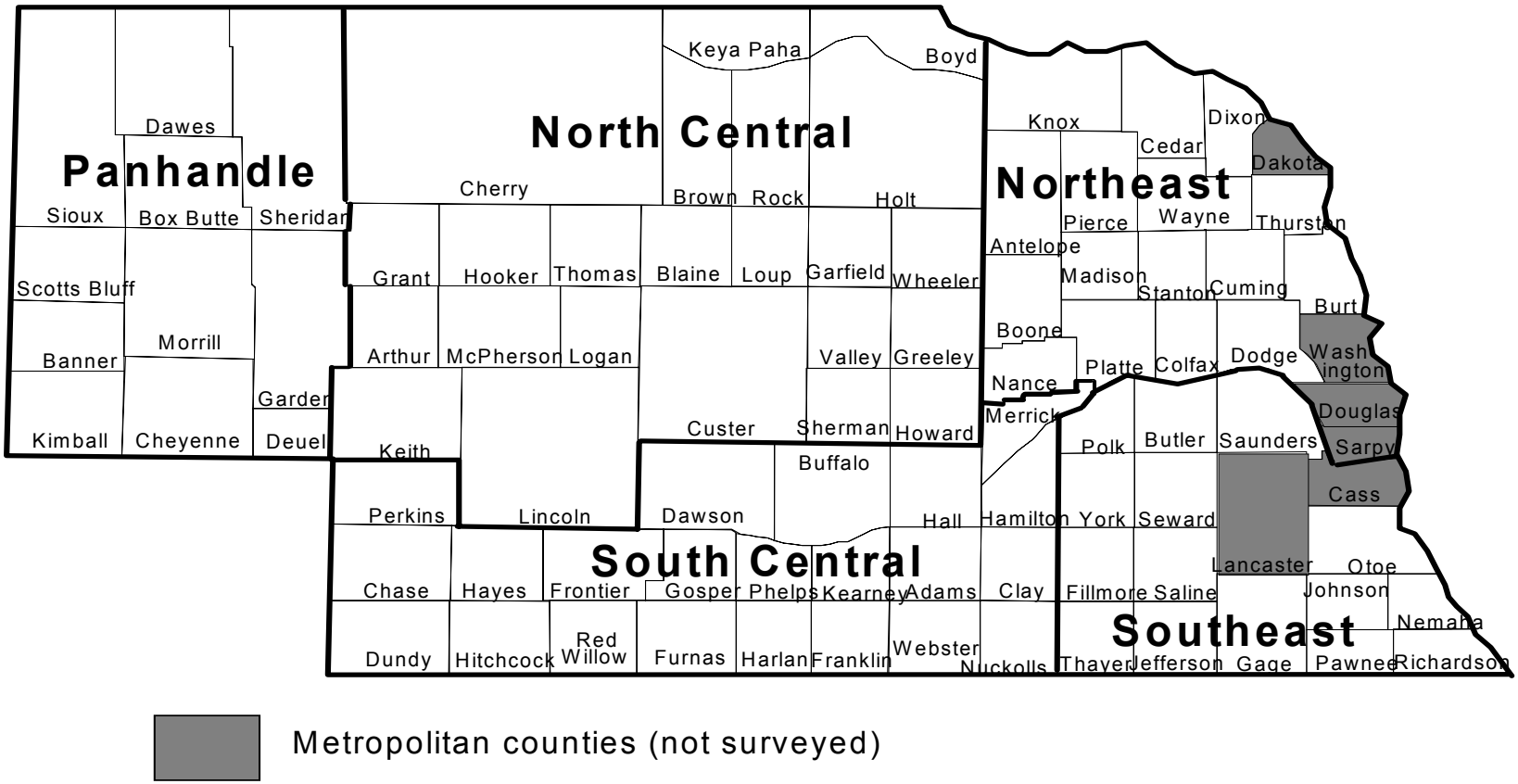
Rural Nebraskans are more positive about their current situation as well as their future than they were last year. The proportion stating that they are better off than they were five years ago increased from 32 percent in 2001 to 37 percent this year. Similarly, in 2001, 34 percent believed they would be better off ten years from now. This proportion increased to 36 percent this year.

This optimism was not shared by all rural Nebraskans, however. Persons with lower household incomes, older respondents, persons with lower educational levels and the farmers and ranchers are the groups most likely to be more pessimistic about the present and the future.

When asked if they believe people are powerless to control their own lives, rural Nebraskans are less likely to agree with that notion as compared to last year. Thirty percent of this year's respondents agreed that people are powerless, compared to 35 percent in 2001. The manual laborers, the widowed respondents, persons with lower educational levels, males, older respondents, persons with lower household incomes and persons living in the Southeast region of the state are the groups most likely to agree that people are powerless to control their own lives.

Rural Nebraskans continue to be most satisfied with family, spirituality, friends, and the outdoors. On the other hand, they continue to be less satisfied with job opportunities, current income level, and financial security during retirement.

Appendix Figure 1. Regions of Nebraska



Appendix Table 1. *Demographic Profile of Rural Poll Respondents Compared to 1990 Census*

	2002 Poll	***2001 Poll***	***2000 Poll***	***1999 Poll***	***1998 Poll***	***1990 Census***
Age : [3]						
20 - 39	16%	17%	20%	21%	25%	38%
40 - 64	51%	49%	54%	52%	55%	36%
65 and over	32%	33%	26%	28%	20%	26%
Gender: [4]						
Female	36%	37%	57%	31%	58%	49%
Male	64%	63%	43%	69%	42%	51%
Education: [5]						
Less than 9th grade	3%	4%	2%	3%	2%	10%
9th to 12th grade (no diploma)	4%	5%	4%	5%	3%	12%
High school diploma (or equivalent)	32%	35%	34%	36%	33%	38%
Some college, no degree	25%	26%	28%	25%	27%	21%
Associate degree	10%	8%	9%	9%	10%	7%
Bachelors degree	16%	13%	15%	15%	16%	9%
Graduate or professional degree	10%	8%	9%	8%	9%	3%
Household income: [6]						
Less than $10,000	8%	9%	3%	8%	3%	19%
$10,000 - $19,999	15%	16%	10%	15%	10%	25%
$20,000 - $29,999	17%	20%	15%	18%	17%	21%
$30,000 - $39,999	17%	16%	19%	18%	20%	15%
$40,000 - $49,999	14%	14%	17%	15%	18%	9%
$50,000 - $59,999	11%	9%	15%	9%	12%	5%
$60,000 - $74,999	9%	8%	11%	8%	10%	3%
$75,000 or more	10%	8%	11%	10%	10%	3%
Marital Status: [7]						
Married	73%	70%	95%	76%	95%	64%
Never married	6%	7%	0.2%	7%	0.4%	20%
Divorced/separated	9%	10%	2%	8%	1%	7%
Widowed/widower	12%	14%	4%	10%	3%	10%

[3] 1990 Census universe is non-metro population 20 years of age and over.

[4] 1990 Census universe is total non-metro population.

[5] 1990 Census universe is non-metro population 18 years of age and over.

[6] 1990 Census universe is all non-metro households.

[7] 1990 Census universe is non-metro population 15 years of age and over.

Appendix Table 2. *Measures of Individual Well-Being in Relation to Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes.*

	Compared to Five Years Ago				***Compared to Parents***				***Ten Years from Now***			
	Better Off	*Same*	*Worse Off*	*Significance*	*Better Off*	*Same*	*Worse Off*	*Significance*	*Better Off*	*Same*	*Worse Off*	*Significance*
						Percentages						
Community Size		(n = 2741)				(n = 2729)				(n = 2688)		
Less than 500	34	41	25		54	28	18		37	42	21	
500 - 999	37	46	17		61	20	18		35	48	17	
1,000 - 4,999	35	44	21		58	24	18		37	48	16	
5,000 - 9,999	35	41	24	$P^2 = 18.53$	60	25	15	$P^2 = 17.64$	35	45	20	$P^2 = 7.81$
10,000 and up	41	40	19	(.018)	64	20	15	(.024)	38	45	17	(.453)
Region		(n = 2761)				(n = 2749)				(n = 2707)		
Panhandle	34	41	25		61	19	20		37	44	19	
North Central	40	40	20		60	22	19		36	46	19	
South Central	36	42	22		59	23	18		36	46	18	
Northeast	37	43	20	$P^2 = 9.87$	60	24	16	$P^2 = 20.78$	38	47	15	$P^2 = 4.49$
Southeast	38	45	18	(.274)	60	28	12	(.008)	36	47	17	(.811)
Individual Attributes:												
Income Level		(n = 2516)				(n = 2507)				(n = 2477)		
Under $20,000	19	49	32		45	29	26		23	51	26	
$20,000 - $39,999	30	45	25		57	24	19		32	48	20	
$40,000 - $59,999	48	39	14	$P^2 = 256.69$	63	23	14	$P^2 = 118.51$	47	40	13	$P^2 = 144.83$
$60,000 and over	60	31	9	(.000)	76	16	8	(.000)	51	41	8	(.000)
Age		(n = 2783)				(n = 2771)				(n = 2729)		
19 - 29	71	22	7		72	18	10		78	18	4	
30 - 39	58	31	11		58	24	19		66	28	6	
40 - 49	43	36	22		53	25	22		51	39	11	
50 - 64	37	37	26	$P^2 = 302.64$	57	23	20	$P^2 = 53.13$	34	46	20	$P^2 = 542.40$
65 and older	19	60	21	(.000)	66	23	11	(.000)	10	63	27	(.000)
Gender		(n = 2742)				(n = 2730)				(n = 2691)		
Male	39	40	22	$P^2 = 12.46$	61	22	17	$P^2 = 4.18$	38	44	18	$P^2 = 6.69$
Female	34	47	20	(.002)	58	25	17	(.124)	34	49	18	(.035)

Appendix Table 2 Continued.

	Compared to Five Years Ago				***Compared to Parents***				***Ten Years from Now***			
	Better Off	*Same*	*Worse Off*	*Significance*	*Better Off*	*Same*	*Worse Off*	*Significance*	*Better Off*	*Same*	*Worse Off*	*Significance*
Education		(n = 2743)				(n = 2731)				(n = 2693)		
No H.S. diploma	17	57	25		61	26	13		14	59	28	
H. S. diploma	28	49	23		58	25	17		28	52	20	
Some college	39	39	22	$P^2 = 123.50$	57	22	21	$P^2 = 25.42$	41	41	18	$P^2 = 117.85$
Bachelors or graduate degree	51	34	15	(.000)	65	22	13	(.000)	47	41	12	(.000)
Marital Status		(n = 2742)				(n = 2731)				(n = 2692)		
Married	39	41	21		61	23	17		39	44	17	
Never married	50	37	13		59	22	19		48	42	9	
Divorced/separated	37	34	30	$P^2 = 90.86$	48	28	24	$P^2 = 31.22$	42	39	20	$P^2 = 101.42$
Widowed	19	63	19	(.000)	66	25	9	(.000)	12	64	24	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 1892)				(n = 1886)				(n = 1879)		
Sales	47	29	24		61	21	19		55	34	11	
Manual laborer	31	43	26		45	29	26		37	43	20	
Prof/tech/admin	58	31	12		67	20	13		53	37	10	
Service	40	41	20		56	22	21		35	46	20	
Farming/ranching	29	39	32		46	23	32		33	50	18	
Skilled laborer	39	41	20		55	27	18		50	34	17	
Admin. support	46	39	14	$P^2 = 119.34$	55	28	17	$P^2 = 74.82$	38	49	13	$P^2 = 76.17$
Other	33	42	25	(.000)	58	25	17	(.000)	25	42	33	(.000)

Appendix Table 3. *Life Has Changed So Much in Our Modern World that Most People Are Powerless to Control Their Own Lives.*

	Strongly Disagree	*Disagree*	*Undecided*	*Agree*	*Strongly Agree*	*Significance*
			Percentages			
Community Size			(n = 2739)			
Less than 500	15	35	13	26	11	
500 - 999	17	42	13	22	7	
1,000 - 4,999	15	42	14	23	7	
5,000 - 9,999	18	37	13	22	10	$P^2 = 24.54$
10,000 and up	18	42	13	19	7	(.078)
Region			(n = 2759)			
Panhandle	20	39	11	20	11	
North Central	16	45	14	16	9	
South Central	19	38	15	22	7	
Northeast	12	42	15	23	8	$P^2 = 41.20$
Southeast	15	39	12	26	8	(.001)
Individual Attributes:						
Income Level			(n = 2515)			
Under $20,000	12	30	21	26	13	
$20,000 - $39,999	15	39	13	24	9	
$40,000 - $59,999	19	47	10	18	6	$P^2 = 149.11$
$60,000 and over	26	46	8	17	3	(.000)
Age			(n = 2781)			
19 - 29	30	36	12	17	5	
30 - 39	23	39	13	21	5	
40 - 49	19	46	11	18	6	
50 - 64	17	41	12	21	10	$P^2 = 110.96$
65 and older	10	36	18	26	10	(.000)
Gender			(n = 2740)			
Male	18	39	12	22	9	$P^2 = 17.42$
Female	14	43	16	21	7	(.002)
Education			(n = 2741)			
No H.S. diploma	5	22	28	29	16	
H.S. diploma	12	38	14	26	11	
Some college	16	41	14	22	7	$P^2 = 220.07$
Bachelors or grad degree	27	48	7	15	4	(.000)

Appendix Table 3 Continued.

	Strongly Disagree	*Disagree*	*Undecided*	*Agree*	*Strongly Agree*	*Significance*
Marital Status			(n = 2740)			
Married	17	41	12	22	8	
Never married	20	37	15	20	7	
Divorced/separated	17	42	12	20	9	$P^2 = 48.28$
Widowed	9	33	23	26	10	(.000)
Occupation			(n = 1892)			
Sales	20	41	14	18	7	
Manual laborer	12	34	16	30	8	
Prof/technical/admin.	27	46	8	16	4	
Service	17	43	13	20	7	
Farming/ranching	16	42	8	24	10	
Skilled laborer	14	39	14	22	11	
Admin. support	17	52	15	14	2	$P^2 = 102.19$
Other	33	25	17	25	0	(.000)

Appendix Table 4. *Satisfaction with Items Affecting Well-Being, 2002.*

Item	*Does Not Apply*	*Very Dissatisfied*	*Dissatisfied*	*No Opinion*	*Satisfied*	*Very Satisfied*
Your family	0	1	3	7	32	57
Your marriage	27	1	1	3	15	52
Greenery and open space	0	2	4	7	38	50
Your religion/spirituality	1	2	3	15	30	49
Your friends	1	1	3	11	38	47
Clean air	0	3	6	9	40	43
Clean water	0	6	9	8	37	40
Your housing	0	3	7	10	42	39
Your spare time	2	5	13	12	37	32
Your education	0	2	9	14	44	31
Your health	0	6	11	12	45	27
Your job security	30	6	10	10	25	20
Your job satisfaction	30	4	8	8	30	20
Your community	0	5	15	16	47	17
Current income level	0	16	23	14	35	12
Financial security during retirement	5	19	24	15	28	10
Job opportunities for you	31	12	16	16	16	9

Appendix Table 5. *Satisfaction with Items By Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes.**

	Financial security during retirement				***Current income level***			
	Dissatisfied	*No opinion*	*Satisfied*	*Significance*	*Dissatisfied*	*No opinion*	*Satisfied*	*Significance*
				Percentages				
Community Size		(n = 2532)				(n = 2599)		
Less than 500	51	14	34		47	14	39	
500 - 999	43	13	44		36	17	47	
1,000 - 4,999	48	14	39		39	12	50	
5,000 - 9,999	42	17	41	$P^2 = 15.51$	36	14	50	$P^2 = 20.14$
10,000 and up	43	17	41	(.050)	38	13	49	(.010)
Region		(n = 2596)				(n = 2664)		
Panhandle	51	14	35		44	11	44	
North Central	46	11	43		38	12	50	
South Central	44	18	38		39	18	43	
Northeast	44	15	40	$P^2 = 14.21$	38	13	49	$P^2 = 25.52$
Southeast	42	16	42	(.076)	36	11	53	(.001)
Individual Attributes:								
Income Level		(n = 2377)				(n = 2446)		
Under $20,000	56	21	23		56	19	25	
$20,000 - $39,999	50	14	36		46	13	41	
$40,000 - $59,999	43	12	46	$P^2 = 142.52$	33	9	58	$P^2 = 279.62$
$60,000 and over	33	10	58	(.000)	18	9	74	(.000)
Age		(n = 2617)				(n = 2684)		
19 - 29	45	18	37		50	5	44	
30 - 39	54	12	35		40	10	51	
40 - 49	58	13	29		46	9	45	
50 - 64	51	13	36	$P^2 = 163.61$	42	11	47	$P^2 = 114.94$
65 and older	28	21	52	(.000)	28	23	49	(.000)
Gender		(n = 2580)				(n = 2649)		
Male	45	15	41	$P^2 = 3.14$	38	13	49	$P^2 = 4.57$
Female	46	16	37	(.209)	40	15	45	(.102)
Education		(n = 2584)				(n = 2652)		
No H.S. diploma	40	25	35		34	26	40	
High school diploma	48	18	34		41	19	40	
Some college	49	14	37	$P^2 = 75.91$	42	11	47	$P^2 = 113.63$
Bachelors or grad degree	38	10	52	(.000)	32	7	61	(.000)
Marital Status		(n = 2580)				(n = 2649)		
Married	47	13	40		38	12	50	
Never married	45	21	34		41	13	46	
Divorced/separated	58	16	26	$P^2 = 73.18$	52	10	38	$P^2 = 60.52$
Widowed	27	25	48	(.000)	28	26	46	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 1778)				(n = 1878)		
Sales	48	17	36		39	14	47	
Manual laborer	63	13	25		57	15	28	
Prof./technical/admin	45	11	44		31	7	62	
Service	54	14	32		46	11	44	
Farming/ranching	53	15	31		54	10	36	
Skilled laborer	60	12	28		42	12	46	
Admin. support	51	8	40	$P^2 = 43.82$	42	7	51	$P^2 = 105.94$
Other	50	17	33	(.000)	42	17	42	(.000)

* Only the ten items with the highest combined proportion of "very dissatisfied" and "dissatisfied" responses are included in this table.

Appendix Table 5 Continued.

	Job opportunities for you				*Your community*			
	Dissatisfied	*No opinion*	*Satisfied*	*Significance*	*Dissatisfied*	*No opinion*	*Satisfied*	*Significance*
				Percentages				
Community Size		(n = 1893)				(n = 2672)		
Less than 500	41	27	32		15	18	67	
500 - 999	35	24	41		16	15	68	
1,000 - 4,999	46	18	36		20	17	62	
5,000 - 9,999	38	25	37	$P^2 = 16.96$	21	14	65	$P^2 = 15.60$
10,000 and up	40	22	38	(.031)	22	17	61	(.048)
Region		(n = 1920)				(n = 2744)		
Panhandle	44	21	35		26	14	61	
North Central	40	22	38		24	15	61	
South Central	41	24	36		20	18	61	
Northeast	41	22	37	$P^2 = 2.20$	15	17	68	$P^2 = 26.29$
Southeast	41	24	36	(.974)	17	16	68	(.001)
Individual Attributes:								
Income Level		(n = 1815)				(n = 2515)		
Under $20,000	50	27	23		22	18	61	
$20,000 - $39,999	50	21	29		21	16	64	
$40,000 - $59,999	36	24	40	$P^2 = 80.44$	19	14	68	$P^2 = 7.94$
$60,000 and over	30	21	49	(.000)	22	14	64	(.243)
Age		(n = 1934)				(n = 2765)		
19 - 29	41	14	44		19	21	60	
30 - 39	44	21	35		25	14	61	
40 - 49	44	24	32		24	17	59	
50 - 64	39	23	38	$P^2 = 19.10$	24	16	59	$P^2 = 84.49$
65 and older	34	28	38	(.014)	10	16	74	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1919)				(n = 2726)		
Male	39	24	37	$P^2 = 9.20$	22	16	62	$P^2 = 10.48$
Female	45	19	36	(.010)	17	16	67	(.005)
Education		(n = 1922)				(n = 2730)		
No H.S. diploma	42	25	32		13	22	64	
High school diploma	44	25	31		20	18	63	
Some college	45	22	32	$P^2 = 51.12$	22	15	63	$P^2 = 18.50$
Bachelors or grad degree	32	20	48	(.000)	18	14	68	(.005)
Marital Status		(n = 1919)				(n = 2726)		
Married	40	23	37		20	15	64	
Never married	51	20	29		20	25	56	
Divorced/separated	44	20	36	$P^2 = 10.57$	26	16	57	$P^2 = 37.33$
Widowed	32	30	38	(.103)	10	17	73	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 1805)				(n = 1889)		
Sales	41	26	34		26	13	61	
Manual laborer	60	16	25		28	21	52	
Prof./technical/admin	33	19	48		22	16	62	
Service	42	23	35		23	12	65	
Farming/ranching	37	33	31		17	17	67	
Skilled laborer	49	20	31		26	18	56	
Admin. support	50	23	27	$P^2 = 89.59$	13	12	75	$P^2 = 30.15$
Other	36	36	27	(.000)	25	17	58	(.007)

* Only the ten items with the highest combined proportion of "very dissatisfied" and "dissatisfied" responses are included in this table.

Appendix Table 5 Continued.

	Your spare time				*Your health*			
	Dissatisfied	*No opinion*	*Satisfied*	*Significance*	*Dissatisfied*	*No opinion*	*Satisfied*	*Significance*
				Percentages				
Community Size		(n = 2647)				(n = 2675)		
Less than 500	21	12	67		16	13	71	
500 - 999	20	11	69		19	12	69	
1,000 - 4,999	18	11	72		17	9	74	
5,000 - 9,999	18	13	69	$P^2 = 4.89$	16	11	73	$P^2 = 6.53$
10,000 and up	19	13	69	(.769)	17	12	71	(.588)
Region		(n = 2712)				(n = 2743)		
Panhandle	18	13	69		18	12	71	
North Central	19	10	71		18	8	74	
South Central	19	12	69		18	11	71	
Northeast	19	11	70	$P^2 = 1.61$	15	13	72	$P^2 = 8.54$
Southeast	18	12	70	(.991)	17	12	71	(.382)
Individual Attributes:								
Income Level		(n = 2487)				(n = 2504)		
Under $20,000	15	17	68		26	13	61	
$20,000 - $39,999	19	10	71		18	13	70	
$40,000 - $59,999	20	12	68	$P^2 = 28.26$	13	8	79	$P^2 = 69.82$
$60,000 and over	24	8	69	(.000)	11	9	80	(.000)
Age		(n = 2734)				(n = 2764)		
19 - 29	26	13	61		5	7	89	
30 - 39	30	11	58		11	6	83	
40 - 49	30	12	58		13	11	76	
50 - 64	19	11	71	$P^2 = 192.65$	21	12	67	$P^2 = 67.25$
65 and older	5	12	83	(.000)	20	14	66	(.000)
Gender		(n = 2697)				(n = 2725)		
Male	20	12	68	$P^2 = 3.73$	16	12	72	$P^2 = 3.74$
Female	17	11	72	(.155)	19	11	71	(.154)
Education		(n = 2700)				(n = 2729)		
No H.S. diploma	10	15	76		27	19	55	
High school diploma	18	12	71		19	14	67	
Some college	19	13	68	$P^2 = 25.48$	15	10	75	$P^2 = 56.13$
Bachelors or grad degree	23	9	69	(.000)	14	8	78	(.000)
Marital Status		(n = 2699)				(n = 2726)		
Married	20	10	70		16	11	73	
Never married	31	19	50		17	13	70	
Divorced/separated	20	14	66	$P^2 = 63.89$	20	12	69	$P^2 = 11.02$
Widowed	6	15	79	(.000)	20	15	65	(.088)
Occupation		(n = 1876)				(n = 1887)		
Sales	30	11	59		15	12	74	
Manual laborer	18	17	66		16	13	71	
Prof./technical/admin	23	11	67		14	8	79	
Service	21	11	68		19	12	69	
Farming/ranching	28	12	60		12	11	76	
Skilled laborer	26	11	64		14	11	75	
Admin. support	17	11	73	$P^2 = 33.48$	12	9	79	$P^2 = 17.02$
Other	27	46	27	(.002)	17	25	58	(.255)

* Only the ten items with the highest combined proportion of "very dissatisfied" and "dissatisfied" responses are included in this table.

Appendix Table 5 Continued.

	Your job security				***Clean water***			
	Dissatisfied	*No opinion*	*Satisfied*	*Significance*	*Dissatisfied*	*No opinion*	*Satisfied*	*Significance*
				Percentages				
Community Size		(n = 1903)				(n = 2690)		
Less than 500	22	16	62		13	7	81	
500 - 999	18	15	67		14	5	81	
1,000 - 4,999	24	13	63		13	8	80	
5,000 - 9,999	21	14	65	$P^2 = 4.47$	24	10	67	$P^2 = 39.29$
10,000 and up	21	13	65	(.813)	14	9	78	(.000)
Region		(n = 1932)				(n = 2763)		
Panhandle	26	12	62		24	7	70	
North Central	21	11	68		13	8	79	
South Central	21	15	65		14	8	79	
Northeast	23	15	62	$P^2 = 7.35$	14	9	77	$P^2 = 28.14$
Southeast	20	16	64	(.499)	12	9	80	(.000)
Individual Attributes:								
Income Level		(n = 1827)				(n = 2527)		
Under $20,000	29	22	49		16	11	73	
$20,000 - $39,999	26	16	58		14	10	76	
$40,000 - $59,999	18	12	70	$P^2 = 68.29$	14	5	81	$P^2 = 28.76$
$60,000 and over	15	11	75	(.000)	13	5	82	(.000)
Age		(n = 1946)				(n = 2785)		
19 - 29	25	8	68		16	12	72	
30 - 39	20	14	66		20	10	70	
40 - 49	23	14	62		18	7	76	
50 - 64	21	13	66	$P^2 = 17.77$	15	7	78	$P^2 = 42.53$
65 and older	18	22	60	(.023)	9	8	82	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1931)				(n = 2744)		
Male	21	14	65	$P^2 = 1.47$	13	8	80	$P^2 = 19.15$
Female	23	14	63	(.481)	18	9	73	(.000)
Education		(n = 1934)				(n = 2748)		
No H.S. diploma	24	31	46		17	11	72	
High school diploma	23	18	60		15	9	76	
Some college	24	13	63	$P^2 = 42.16$	15	8	77	$P^2 = 17.80$
Bachelors or grad degree	17	10	73	(.000)	13	5	82	(.007)
Marital Status		(n = 1931)				(n = 2746)		
Married	21	14	66		14	7	79	
Never married	25	12	63		14	12	75	
Divorced/separated	25	17	59	$P^2 = 6.88$	22	10	68	$P^2 = 24.49$
Widowed	18	20	62	(.332)	11	10	80	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 1816)				(n = 1901)		
Sales	24	17	60		17	7	77	
Manual laborer	37	19	44		16	10	74	
Prof./technical/admin	16	10	74		16	6	78	
Service	21	16	63		17	9	74	
Farming/ranching	22	17	61		9	6	86	
Skilled laborer	25	15	60		18	10	72	
Admin. support	21	11	68	$P^2 = 63.72$	14	3	83	$P^2 = 30.16$
Other	27	18	55	(.000)	33	8	58	(.007)

* Only the ten items with the highest combined proportion of "very dissatisfied" and "dissatisfied" responses are included in this table.

	Your job				*Your education*			
	Dissatisfied	*No opinion*	*Satisfied*	*Significance*	*Dissatisfied*	*No opinion*	*Satisfied*	*Significance*
				Percentages				
Community Size		(n = 1917)				(n = 2636)		
Less than 500	17	14	69		11	15	74	
500 - 999	13	12	76		11	12	77	
1,000 - 4,999	17	11	73		11	15	74	
5,000 - 9,999	16	12	72	$P^2 = 11.19$	11	11	78	$P^2 = 5.38$
10,000 and up	21	11	68	(.191)	11	16	73	(.717)
Region		(n = 1950)				(n = 2705)		
Panhandle	22	8	69		12	14	74	
North Central	14	11	75		9	16	75	
South Central	18	15	67		11	12	77	
Northeast	18	12	70	$P^2 = 14.47$	11	15	74	$P^2 = 7.96$
Southeast	16	11	74	(.070)	12	16	72	(.438)
Individual Attributes:								
Income Level		(n = 1841)				(n = 2480)		
Under $20,000	23	17	60		10	21	69	
$20,000 - $39,999	20	13	67		13	15	72	
$40,000 - $59,999	17	11	72	$P^2 = 32.11$	11	10	79	$P^2 = 52.11$
$60,000 and over	12	9	79	(.000)	8	9	83	(.000)
Age		(n = 1963)				(n = 2726)		
19 - 29	24	10	66		14	12	73	
30 - 39	16	16	69		14	13	73	
40 - 49	20	12	68		14	14	72	
50 - 64	17	10	72	$P^2 = 21.47$	11	13	76	$P^2 = 29.90$
65 and older	10	14	76	(.006)	7	17	76	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1948)				(n = 2688)		
Male	17	12	71	$P^2 = 1.44$	11	15	75	$P^2 = 1.61$
Female	19	11	71	(.486)	12	14	74	(.447)
Education		(n = 1950)				(n = 2695)		
No H.S. diploma	20	19	61		21	29	51	
High school diploma	19	14	67		14	20	67	
Some college	18	12	70	$P^2 = 15.11$	14	15	72	$P^2 = 257.27$
Bachelors or grad degree	15	9	76	(.019)	1	3	95	(.000)
Marital Status		(n = 1948)				(n = 2689)		
Married	17	12	71		11	13	76	
Never married	24	12	64		13	18	68	
Divorced/separated	19	11	70	$P^2 = 6.66$	10	20	70	$P^2 = 17.15$
Widowed	12	13	74	(.354)	8	18	75	(.009)
Occupation		(n = 1829)				(n = 1890)		
Sales	17	16	68		11	14	75	
Manual laborer	37	14	49		20	22	59	
Prof./technical/admin	12	9	78		7	8	85	
Service	16	14	70		18	11	71	
Farming/ranching	15	13	73		8	12	80	
Skilled laborer	23	14	63		21	17	62	
Admin. support	16	7	78	$P^2 = 81.11$	15	11	74	$P^2 = 89.44$
Other	11	11	78	(.000)	9	18	73	(.000)

* Only the ten items with the highest combined proportion of "very dissatisfied" and "dissatisfied" responses are included in this table.

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