

**Government of
Saskatchewan**

**Management Survey
Series
Project #2, Summer 2005**

Report of Results

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Background

This report displays data gathered in a telephone survey conducted as part of an omnibus poll organized by Sigma Analytics. The fieldwork was done in mid July 2005.

Methodology

Interviews were conducted with a randomly selected sample of Saskatchewan residents aged 18 or over. The sample was stratified geographically to provide representative coverage of the province.

A total of 806 interviews were completed. This sample size yields a precision level for estimates of population proportions of plus or minus 3.5% at the 95% confidence level. Data were analyzed using SPSS and Excel software applications.

Survey Results

SECTION A: Saskatchewan Learning

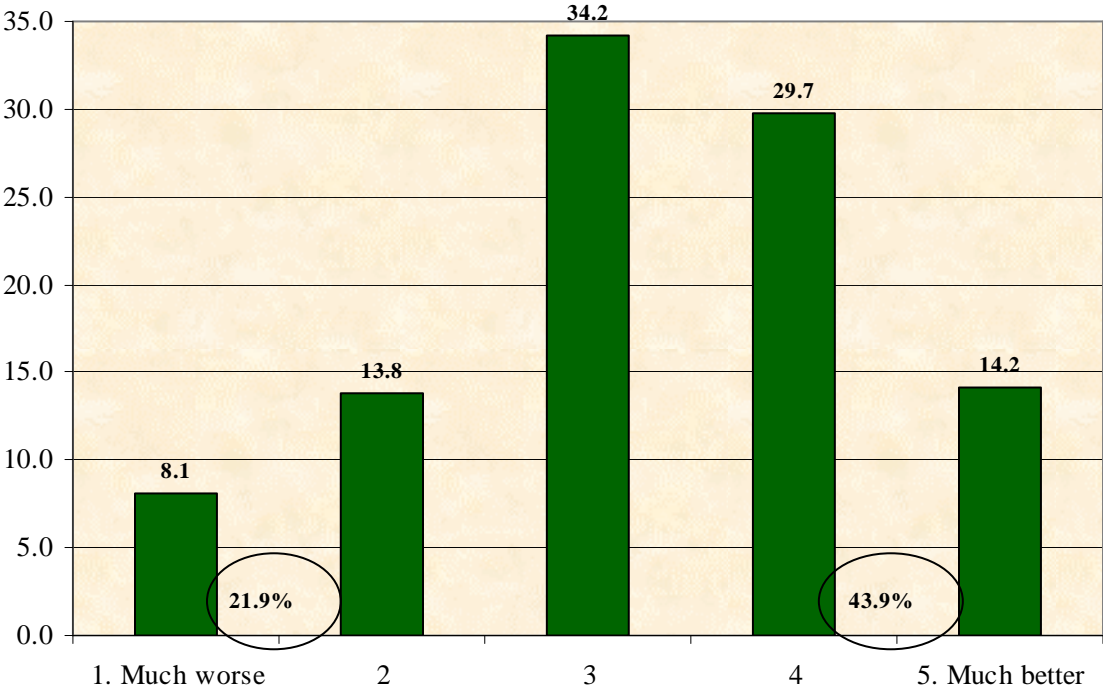
A1. On a 1 to 5 scale where 1 is "Much worse" and 5 is "Much better", do you think the education students receive today is better or worse than the education you received?

Generally, Saskatchewan residents have a fairly positive view of today's education system compared to their own education.

- There are twice as many respondents (44%) on the positive side of the scale as on the negative side (22%).
- The mean response level of 3.28 is well above the neutral midpoint.

A1. On a 1 to 5 scale where 1 is "Much worse" and 5 is "Much better", do you think the education students receive today is better or worse than the education you received?

Mean Response Level = 3.28

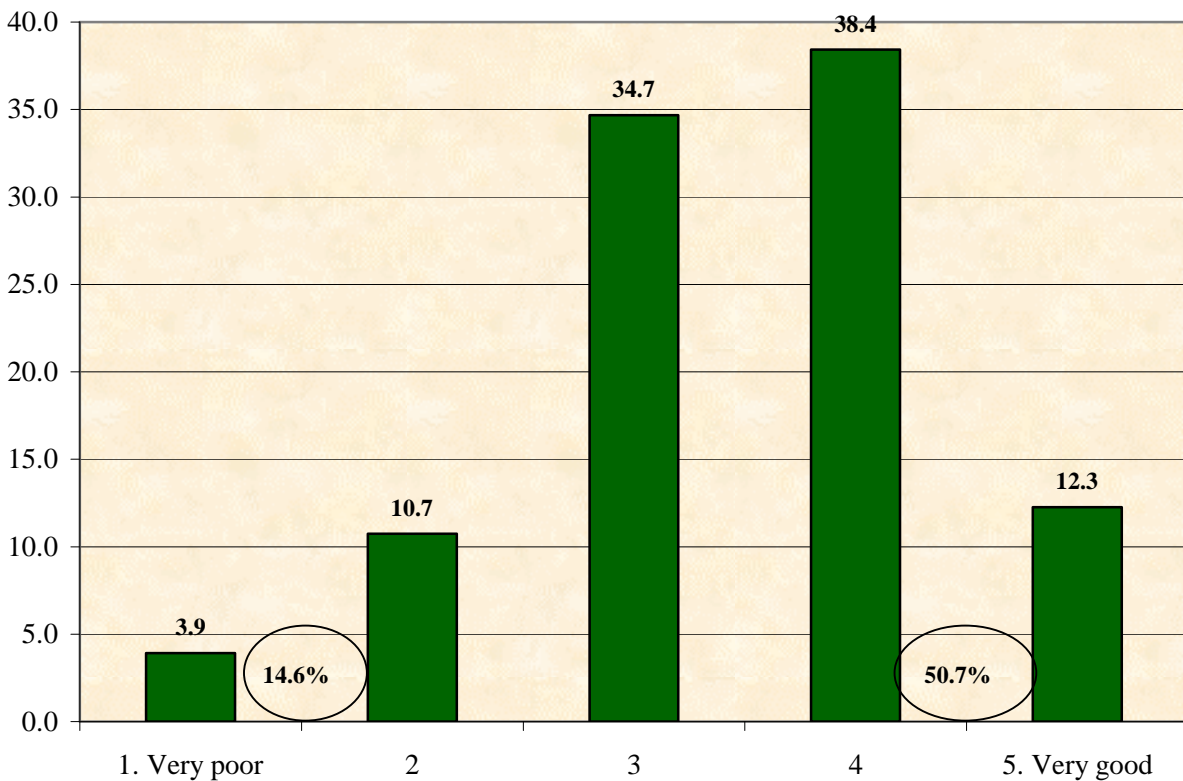


A2. Please rate the quality of the Kindergarten to Grade 12 education system in Saskatchewan on a 1 to 5 scale where 1 is "Very poor" and 5 is "Very good".

Saskatchewan residents have a broadly positive view of the K-to-12 education system in the province.

- Those on the positive side of the scale (51%) far outnumber those on the negative side (15%).
- The mean response level of 3.44 is quite high.

A2. Please rate the quality of the Kindergarten to Grade 12 education system in Saskatchewan on a 1 to 5 scale where 1 is "Very poor" and 5 is "Very good".
Mean Response Level = 3.44

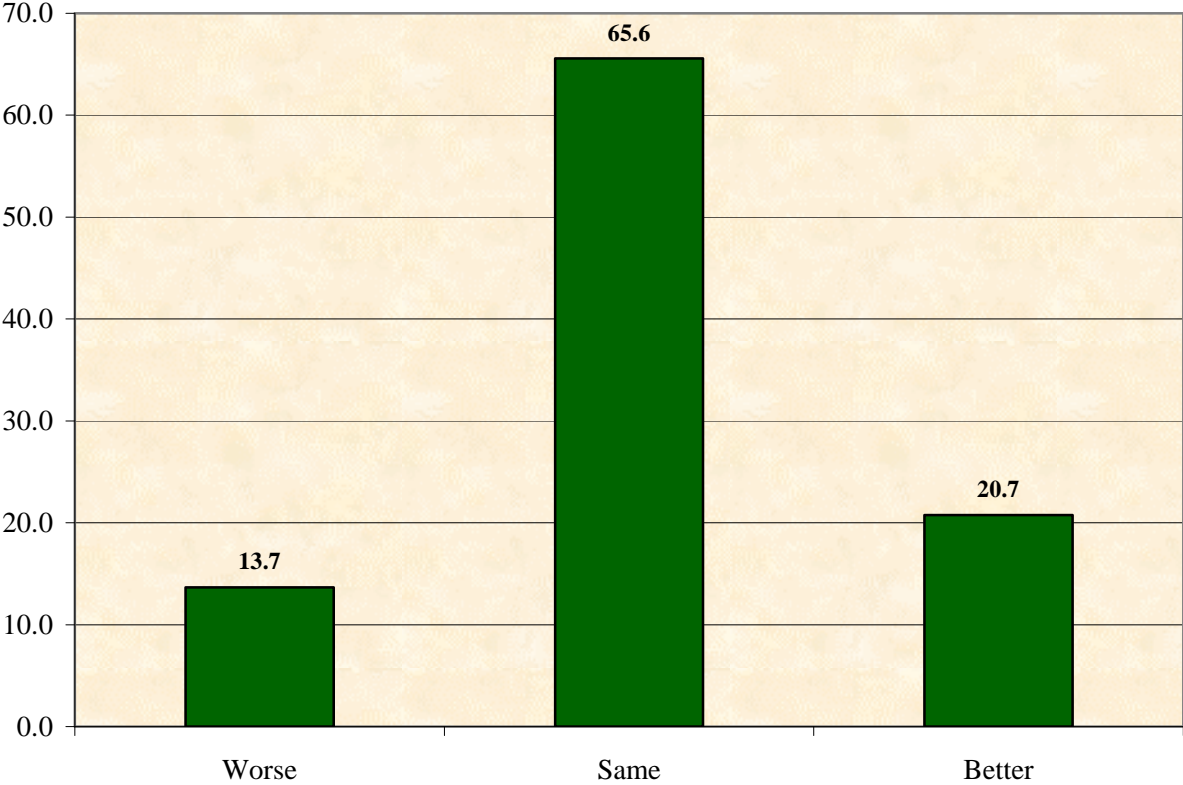


A3. Compared to the rest of Canada, do you think the quality of the Kindergarten to Grade 12 education system in Saskatchewan is worse, better, or about the same?

Saskatchewan people see K-to-12 education in the province as comparable to the education offered in other systems in Canada.

- Two-thirds (65.6%) of residents say it is about the same quality as other jurisdictions.
- Those who feel the Saskatchewan system is better (20.7%) outnumber those who feel it is worse (13.7%) by 3:2.

A3. Compared to the rest of Canada, do you think the quality of the Kindergarten to Grade 12 education system in Saskatchewan is worse, better, or about the same?



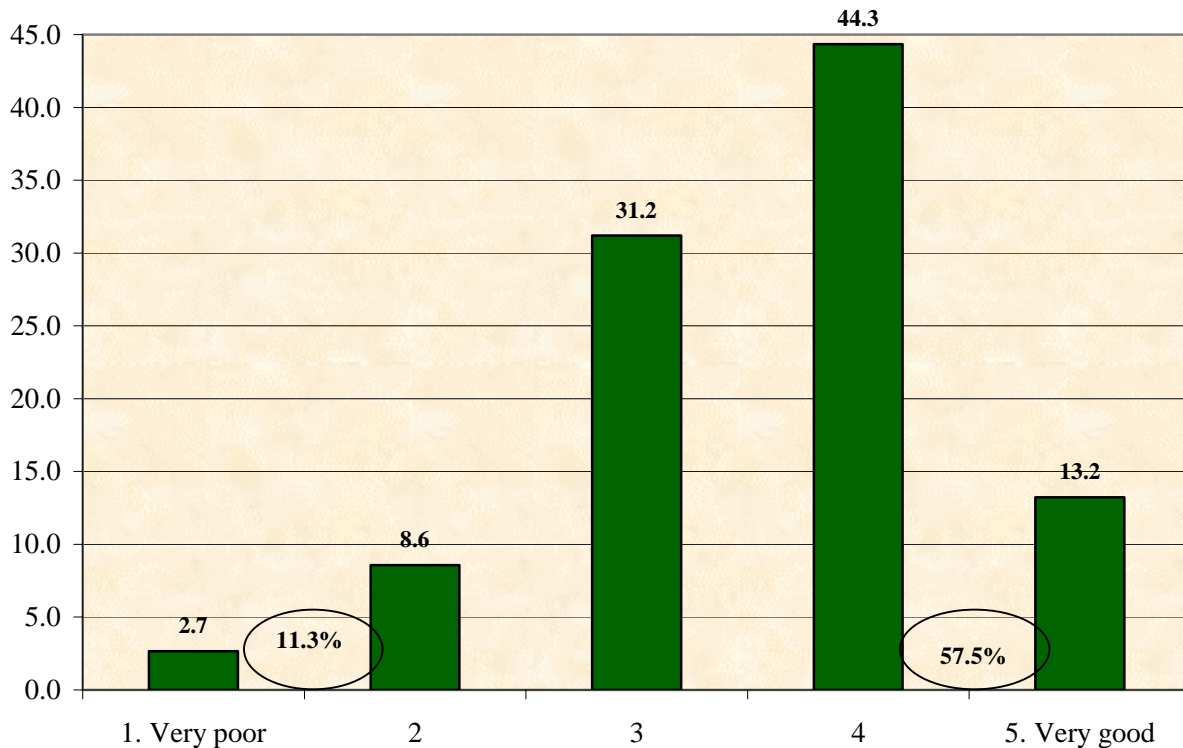
A4. How would you rate the quality of POST-SECONDARY education and training in Saskatchewan?

A large majority of Saskatchewan residents hold positive views of post-secondary education and training in Saskatchewan.

- Well over half (58%) of respondents fall on the positive side of the scale, compared to relatively few (11%) on the negative side.
- The mean response level of 3.57 is high.

A4. How would you rate the quality of POST-SECONDARY education and training in Saskatchewan?

Mean Response Level = 3.57

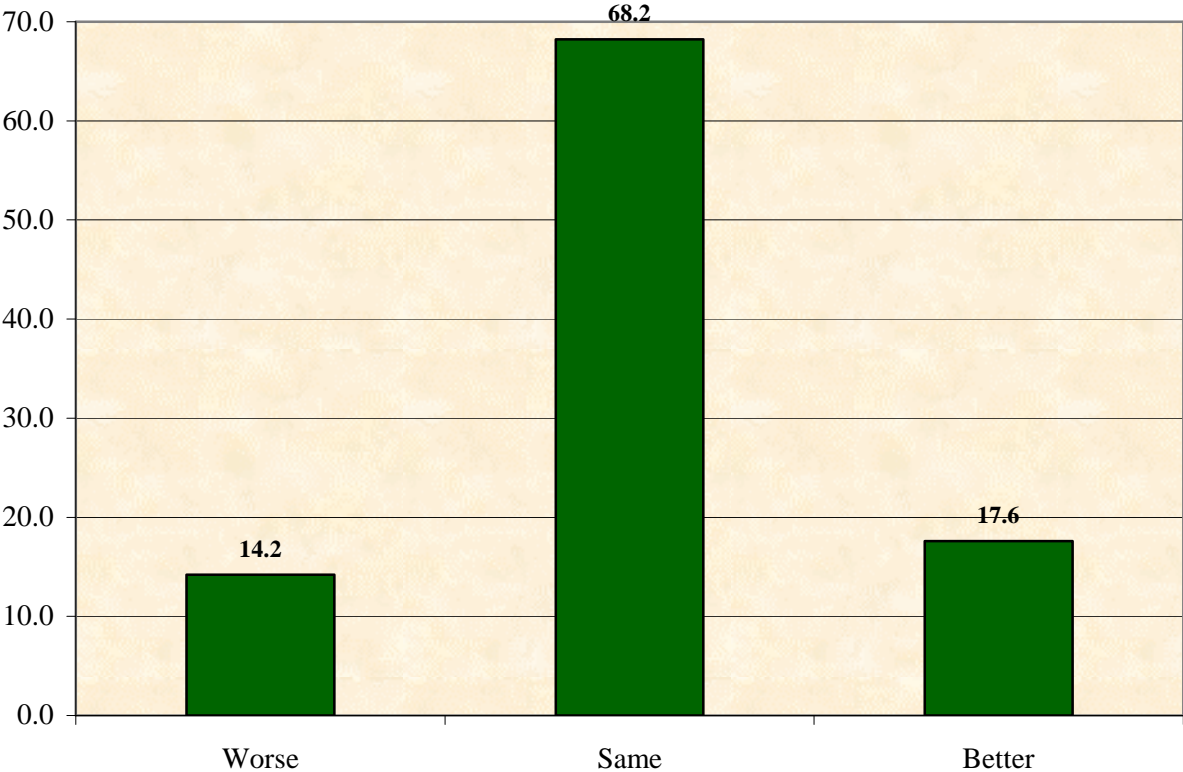


A5. Compared to the rest of Canada, is POST-SECONDARY education and training in Saskatchewan better, worse, or about the same?

Saskatchewan people see post-secondary education and training in the province as comparable to the rest of Canada. The numbers roughly parallel those for the K-12 system (see A3).

- Two-thirds (68%) of respondents consider the post-secondary system to be about the same.
- Those who consider it better (18%) outnumber those who see it as worse (14%).

A5. Compared to the rest of Canada, is POST-SECONDARY education and training in Saskatchewan better, worse, or about the same?



A6. Have you used a public library in Saskatchewan within the last year?

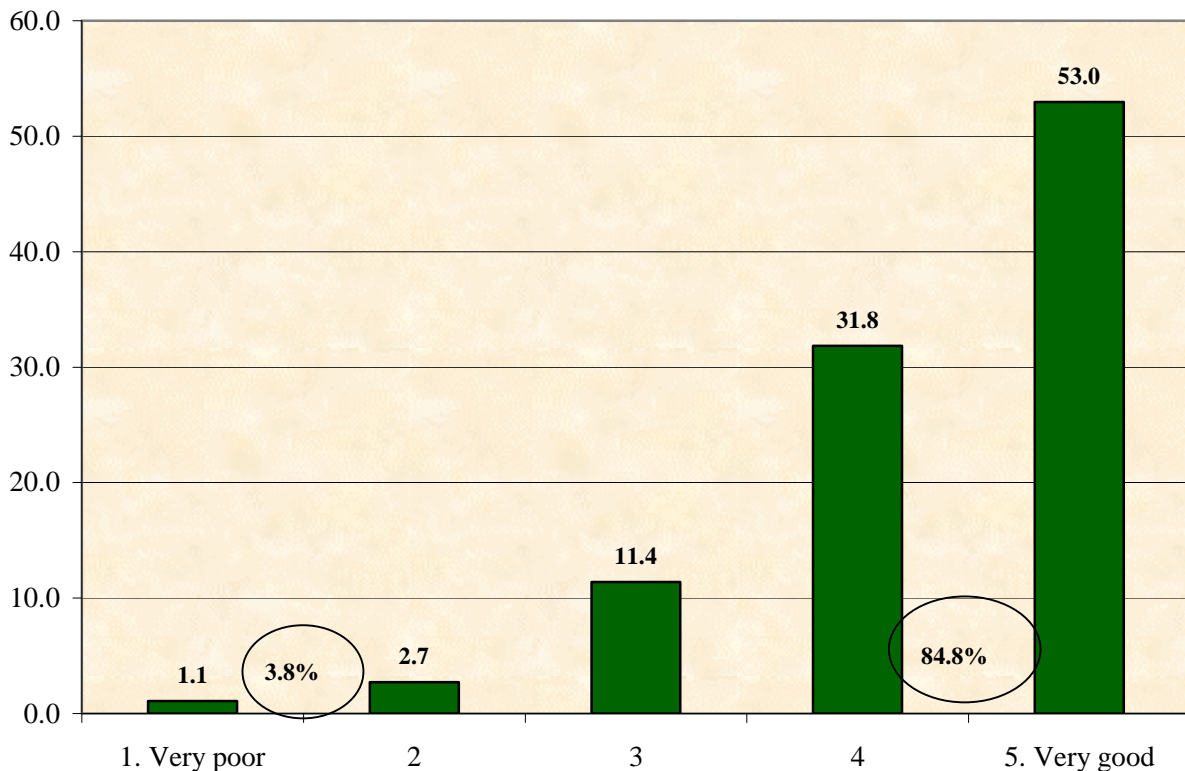
More than half (54.6%) of respondents reported using a public library within the last year.

A6a. How would you rate the quality of service from the public library system?

The public library system receives an extraordinarily strong endorsement from library users in the province.

- An overwhelming proportion (85%) is on the positive side of the scale, while only a very few respondents (4%) are on the negative side.
- The mean response level of 4.33 is extraordinarily high.

A6a. How would you rate the quality of service from the public library system?
Mean Response Level = 4.33



SECTION B: Finance

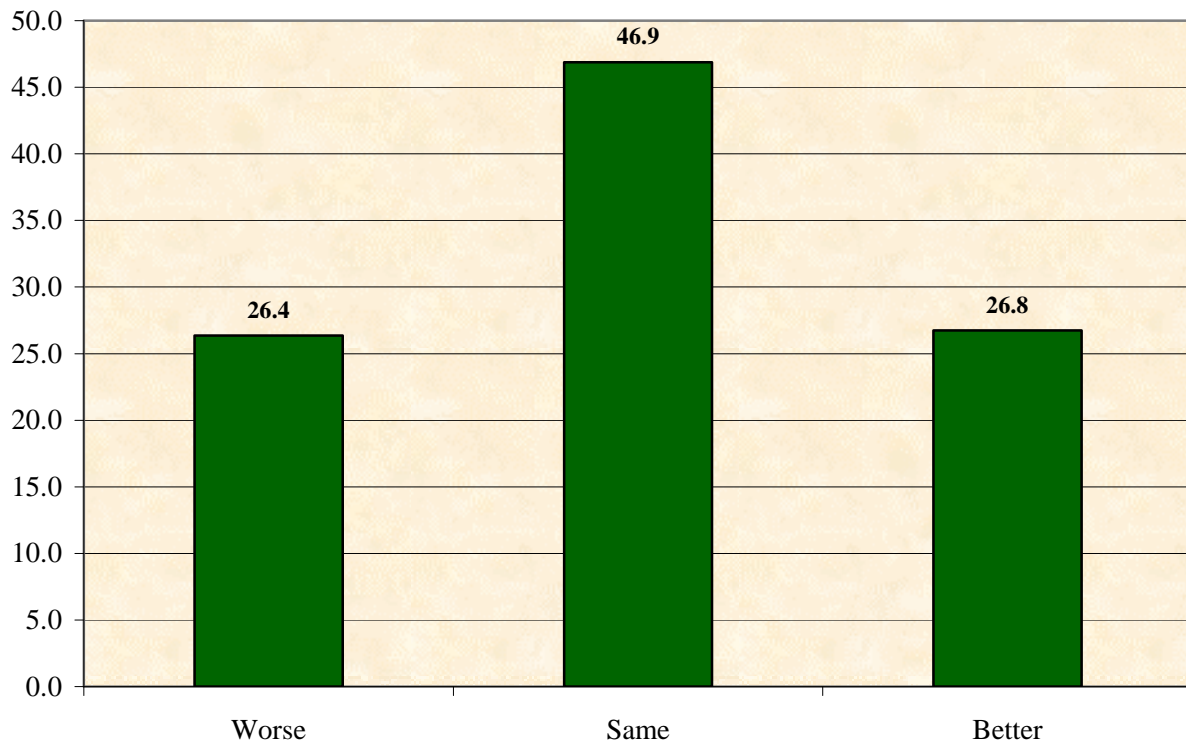
B1. Thinking of your own personal financial situation TODAY, would you say you are better off, worse off, or about the same as one year ago?

Saskatchewan residents, on an overall basis, do not view their financial status as having changed substantially over the past year.

- Nearly half (47%) of residents say it is the same.
- Equal proportions say it is worse (26%) as say it is better (27%).

B1. Thinking of your own personal financial situation TODAY, would you say you are better off, worse off, or about the same as one year ago?

(1= "Worse"; 2 = "Same"; 3 = "Better"; Mean = 2.00)

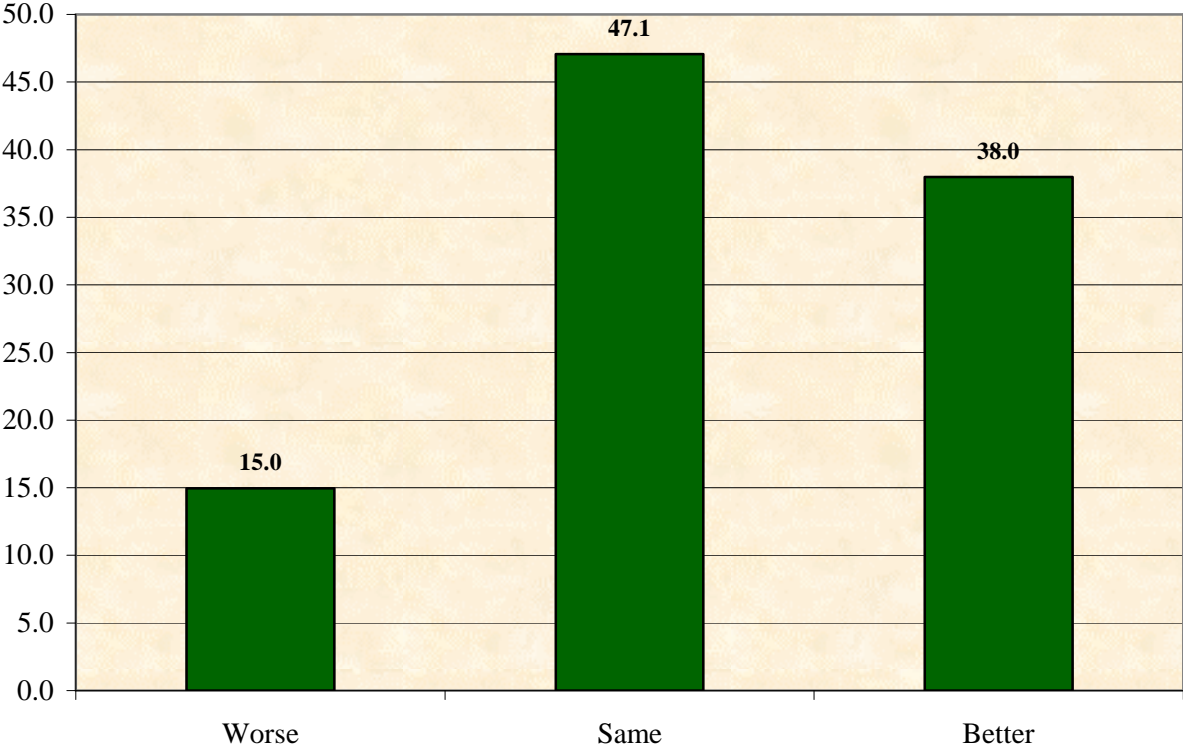


B2. Thinking of your personal financial situation A YEAR FROM NOW, do you expect to be better off, worse off, or about the same as today?

Compared to their experience over the previous year, Saskatchewan people are more positive about their financial situation over the next year.

- While the same proportion (47%) expects to maintain their financial situation, the balance shifts toward those who expect their financial situation to improve (38%), compared to 15% that expect it to get worse.

B2. Thinking of your personal financial situation A YEAR FROM NOW, do you expect to be better off, worse off, or about the same as today?

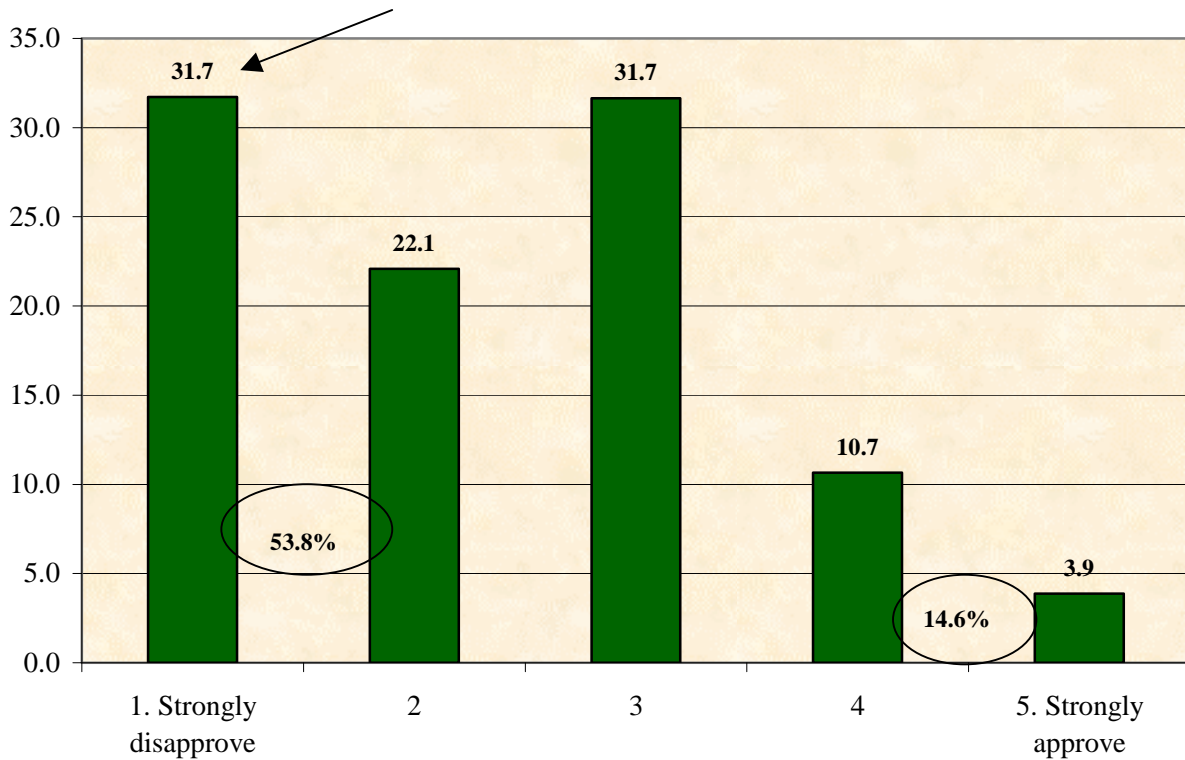


B3. On balance, would you say that you approve or disapprove of the way the Saskatchewan Government is handling public finances in the province?

Saskatchewan residents generally disapprove of the way the government is handling public finances.

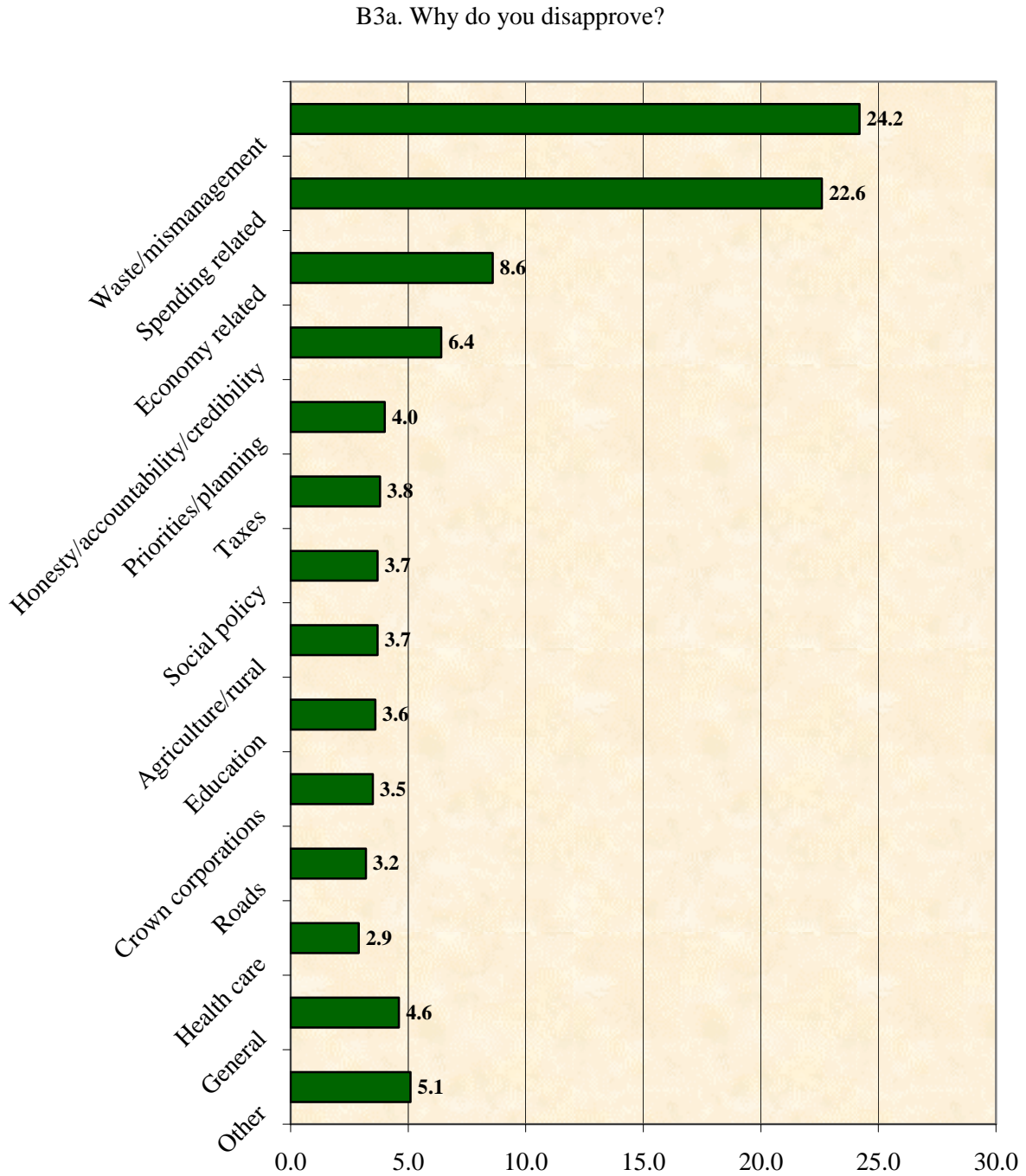
- Those (54%) on the negative side of the scale strongly outnumber those (15%) on the positive side.
- The mean response level of 2.33 is very low.
- Note the large proportion (32%) of respondents that strongly disapproves.

B3. On balance, would you say that you approve or disapprove of the way the Saskatchewan Government is handling public finances in the province?
Mean Response Level = 2.33



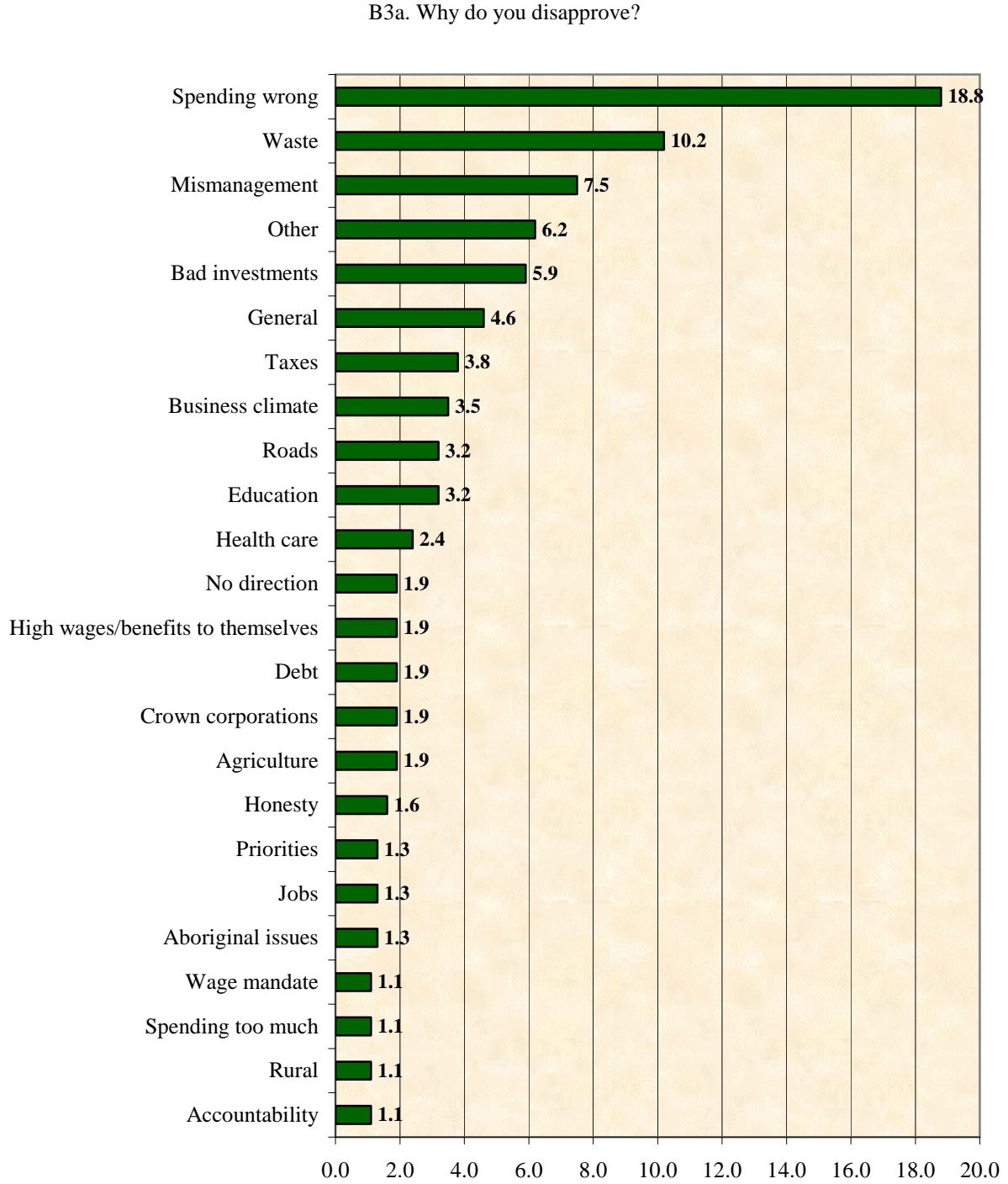
B3a. Why do you disapprove?

The chart below summarizes responses on the disapproval side of question B3.



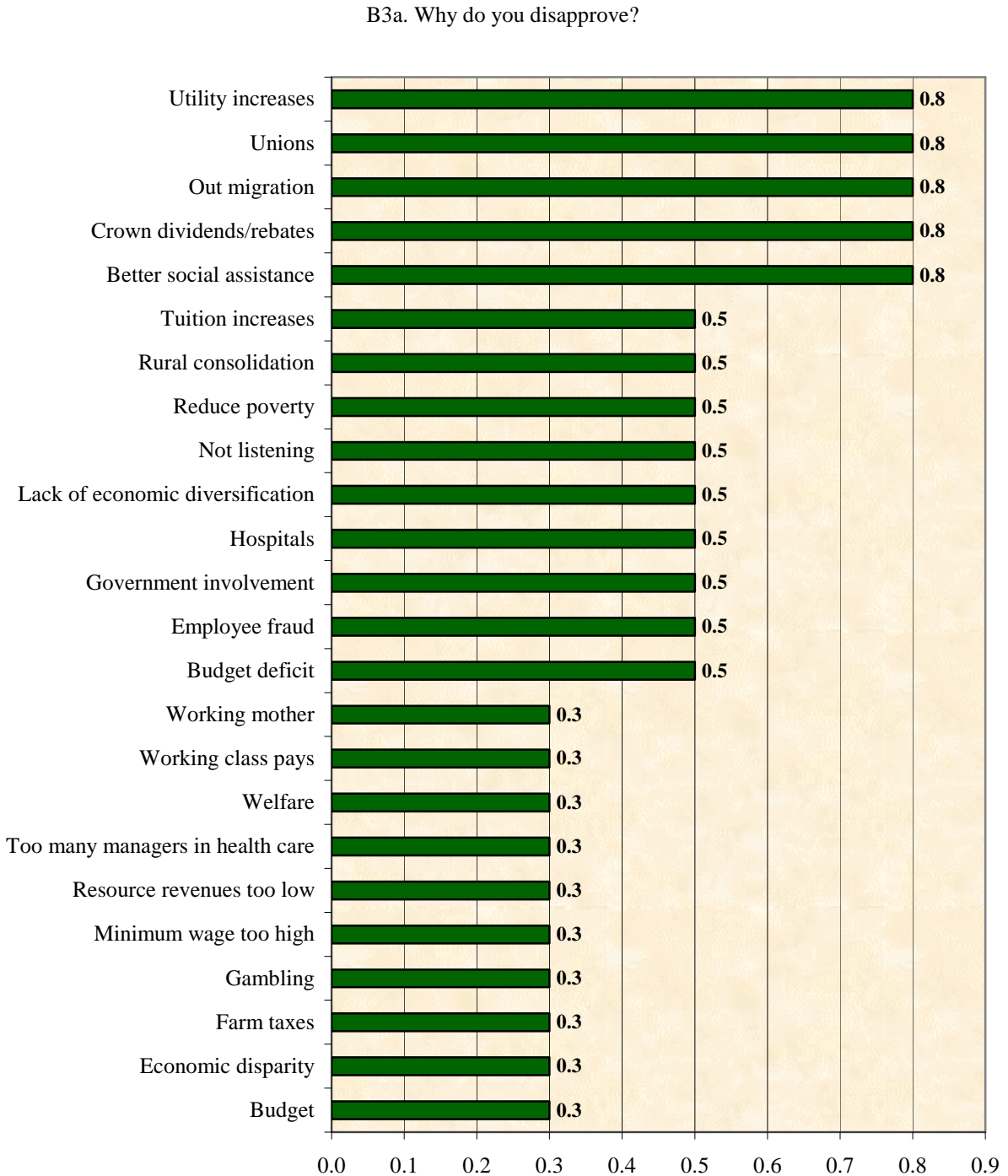
B3a. Why do you disapprove? – Detailed Responses > 1%

The chart below provides more detail for disapproval responses ('1's and '2's) to question B3.



B3a. Why do you disapprove? – Detailed Responses < 1%

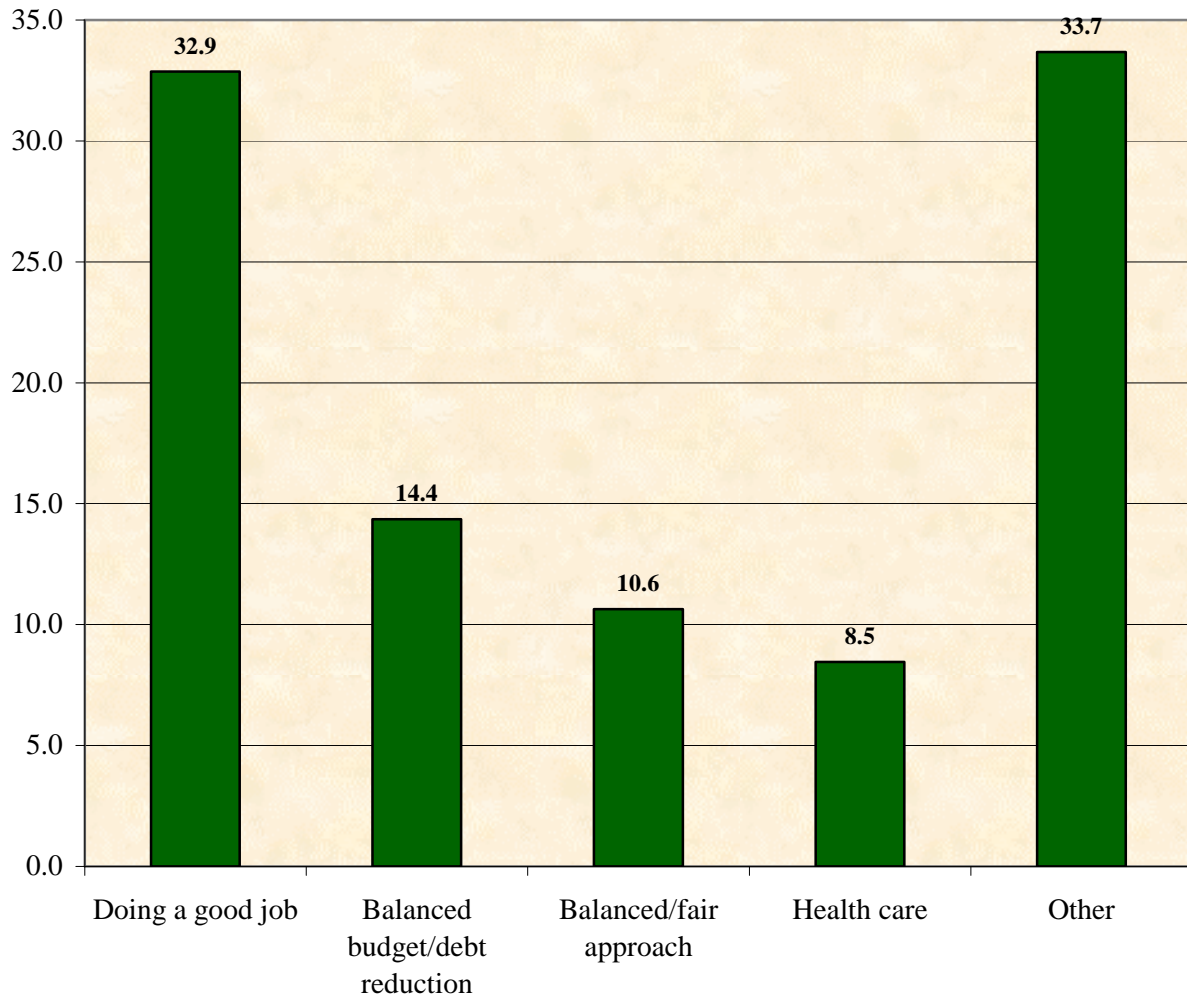
The chart below provides more detail for disapproval responses ('1's and '2's) to question B3.



B3b. Why do you approve?

The chart below summarizes approval ('4' and '5') responses to question B3.

B3b. Why do you approve?

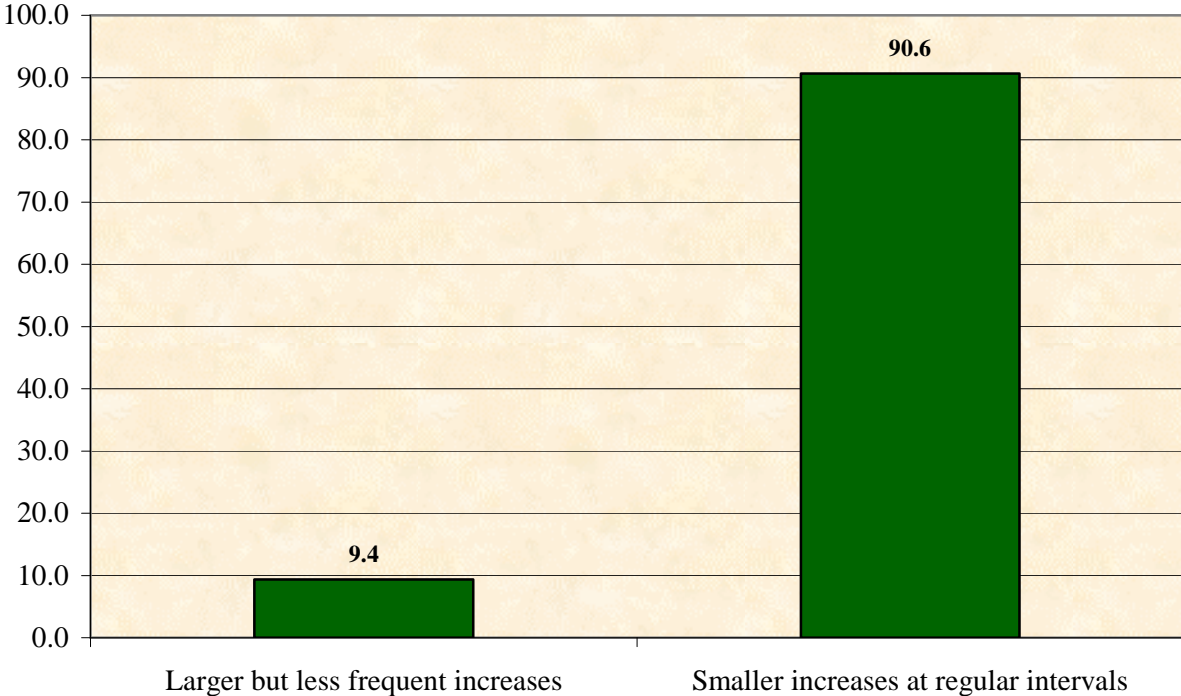


SECTION C: Crown Investment Corporation

C1. Thinking of the Saskatchewan Crown utility corporations, if rate increases are necessary, which of the following approaches to rate increases would you prefer?

An exceptionally high proportion (91%) of Saskatchewan residents would strongly favour regular rate increases of smaller size.

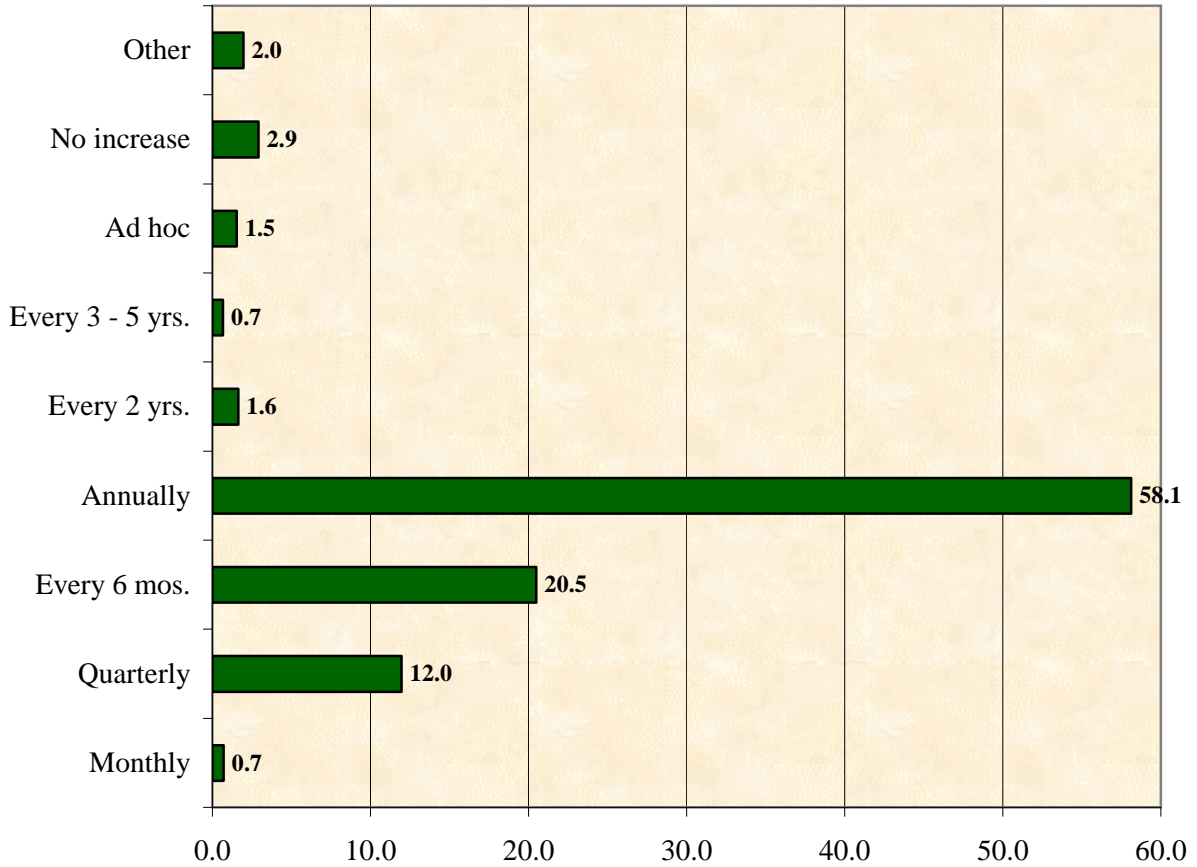
C1. Thinking of the Saskatchewan Crown utility corporations, if rate increases are necessary, which of the following approaches to rate increases would you prefer?



C2. If the Crown utility corporations were to have smaller, regular rate increases, which of the following rate increase schedules would you prefer?

Almost all residents would prefer rate increases that were annual (58%) or more frequent.

C2. If the Crown utility corporations were to have smaller, regular rate increases, which of the following rate increase schedules would you prefer?



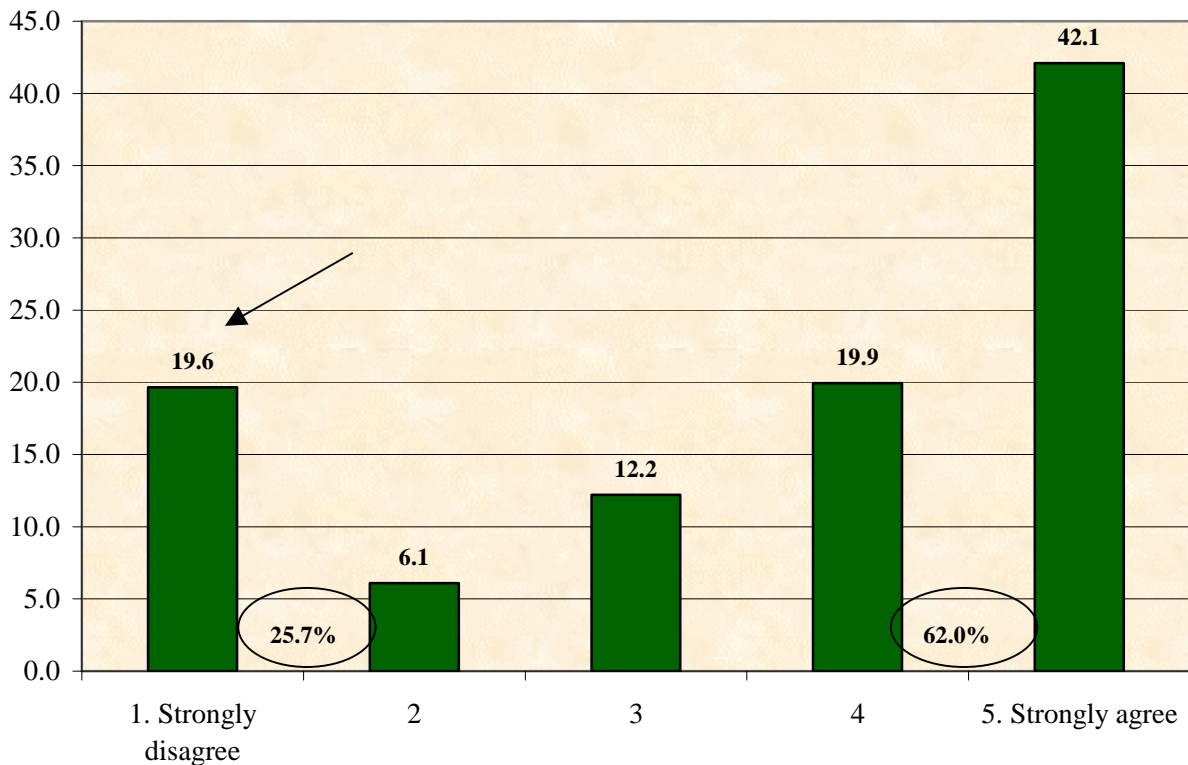
C3. Do you agree or disagree that revenue produced from utility rate increases should contribute to services like health care, education, and agriculture?

Saskatchewan residents generally support the idea that utility rate increases should contribute to services in areas like health care, education, and agriculture.

- A much larger proportion (62%) is on the positive side of the scale, compared to the negative side (26%).
- Opinion on this issue tends to polarize. A substantial proportion (20%) strongly agrees with the idea of utility revenues flowing to other functions.

C3. Do you agree or disagree that revenue produced from utility rate increases should contribute to services like health care, education, and agriculture?

Mean Response Level = 3.59

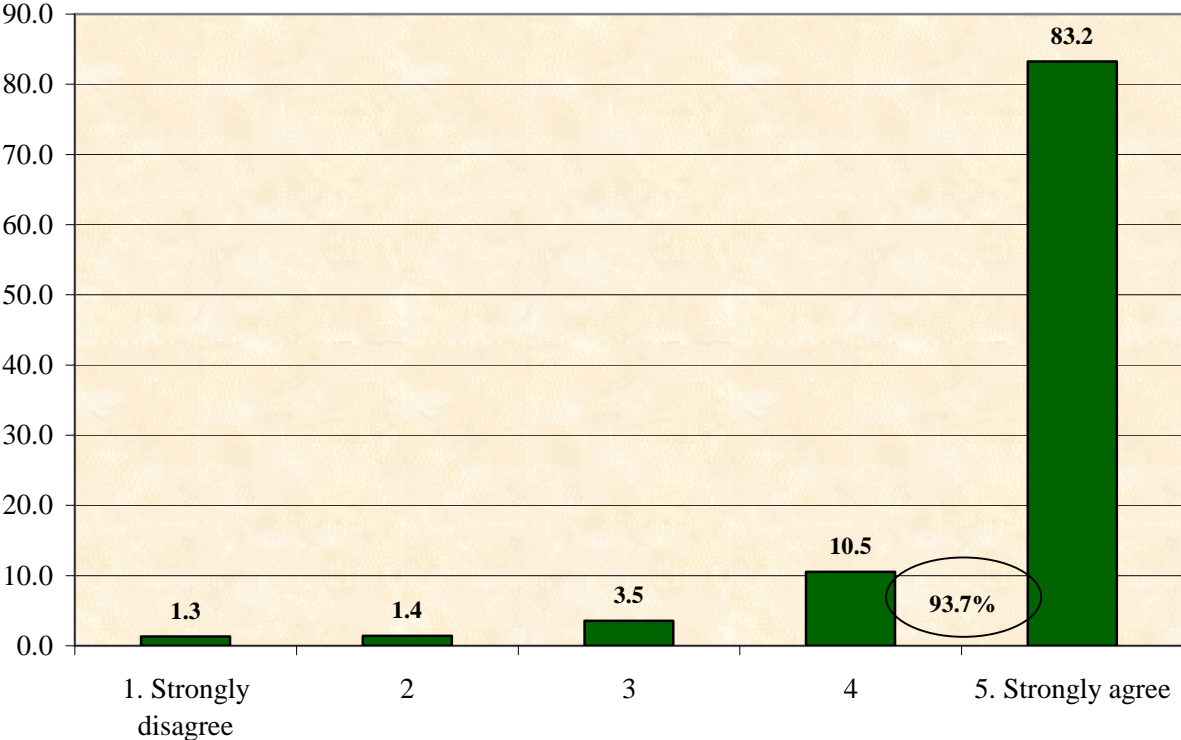


C4. On the same 1 to 5 scale, do you agree or disagree that Crown utilities should maintain their head offices and jobs in Saskatchewan?

Saskatchewan people overwhelmingly agree that Crown utilities should maintain head offices and jobs in Saskatchewan.

- Almost all respondents (94%) are on the positive side of the scale.
- Mean response levels as high as 4.73 are rare.

C4. On the same 1 to 5 scale, do you agree or disagree that Crown utilities should maintain their head offices and jobs in Saskatchewan?
Mean Response Level = 4.73

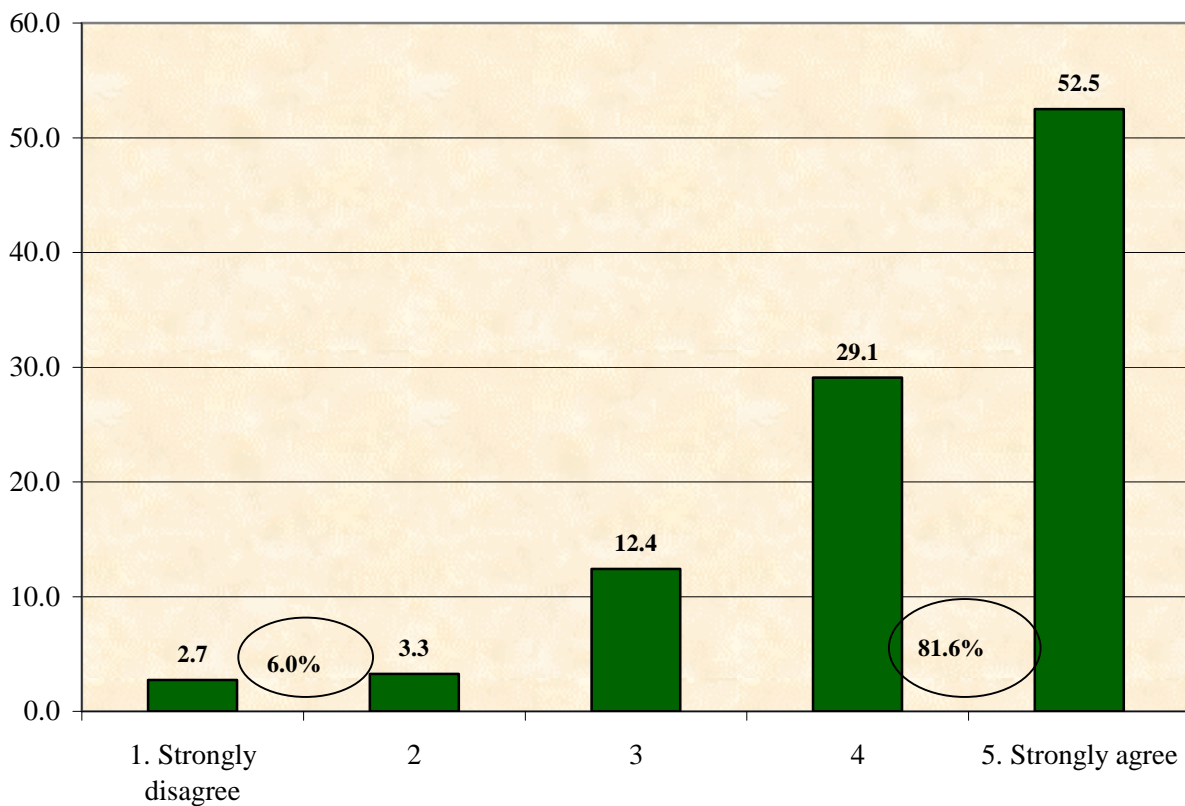


C5. On the same 1 to 5 scale, do you agree or disagree that revenue produced from utility rate increases should be used to replace aging facilities and equipment?

Saskatchewan residents strongly support the use of rate increases to replace aging facilities and equipment.

- More than four out of five respondents (82%) are on the positive side of the scale compared to only 6% on the negative side.
- The mean response level of 4.25 is extraordinarily high.

C5. On the same 1 to 5 scale, do you agree or disagree that revenue produced from utility rate increases should be used to replace aging facilities and equipment?
Mean Response Level = 4.25

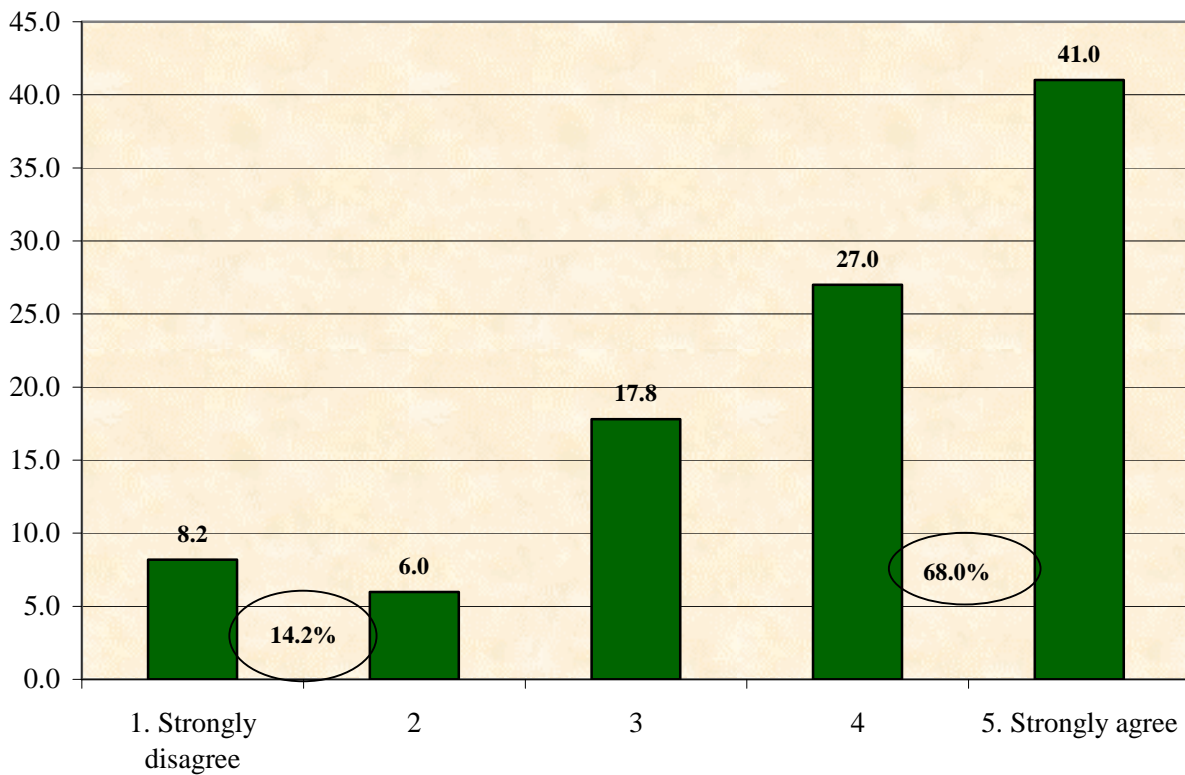


C6. On the same 1 to 5 scale, do you agree or disagree that revenue from utility rate increases should be used to raise money for new initiatives like wind power?

Saskatchewan people also strongly endorse the use of utility increases for new initiatives like wind power.

- Two-thirds (68%) of respondents are on the positive side of the scale, compared to only 14% on the negative side.
- The mean response level of 3.87 is high.

C6. On the same 1 to 5 scale, do you agree or disagree that revenue from utility rate increases should be used to raise money for new initiatives like wind power?
Mean Response Level = 3.87

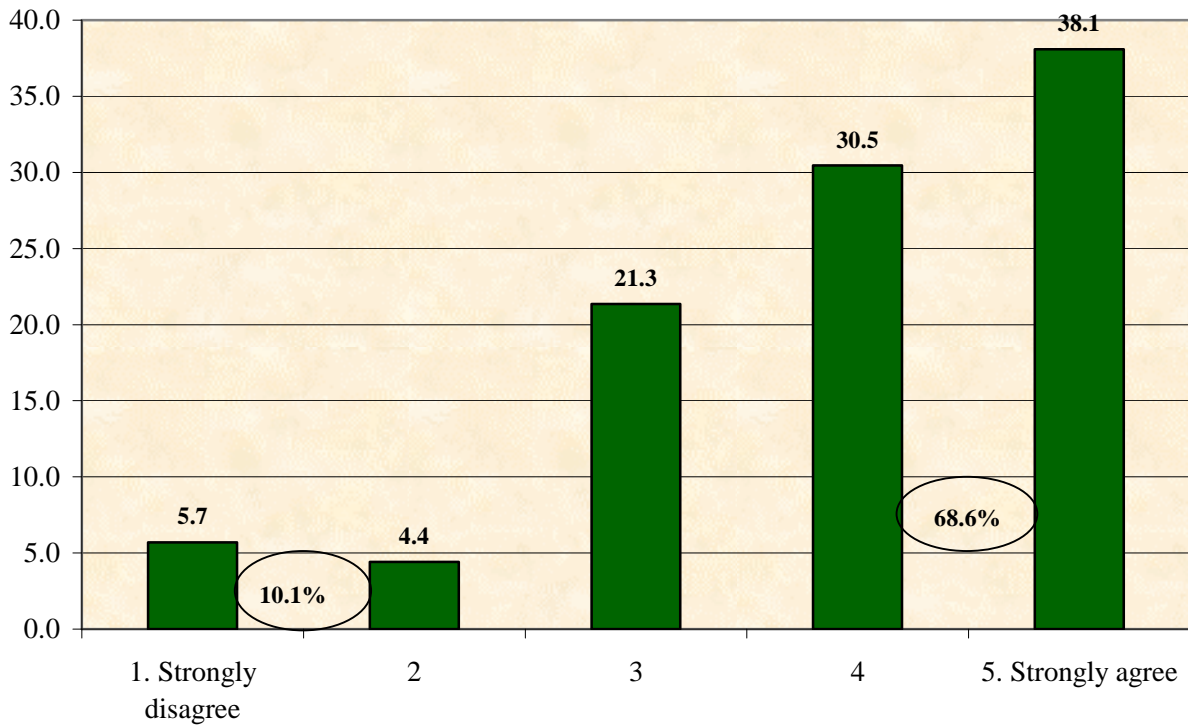


C7. On the same 1 to 5 scale, do you agree or disagree that revenue from utility rate increases should be used to keep up with rising costs?

The need to meet rising costs with utility rate increases is widely accepted.

- Two-thirds (68%) of respondents fall on the positive side of the scale compared to one in ten (10%) on the negative side.
- The mean response level of 3.91 is very high.

C7. On the same 1 to 5 scale, do you agree or disagree that revenue from utility rate increases should be used to keep up with rising costs?
Mean Response Level = 3.91



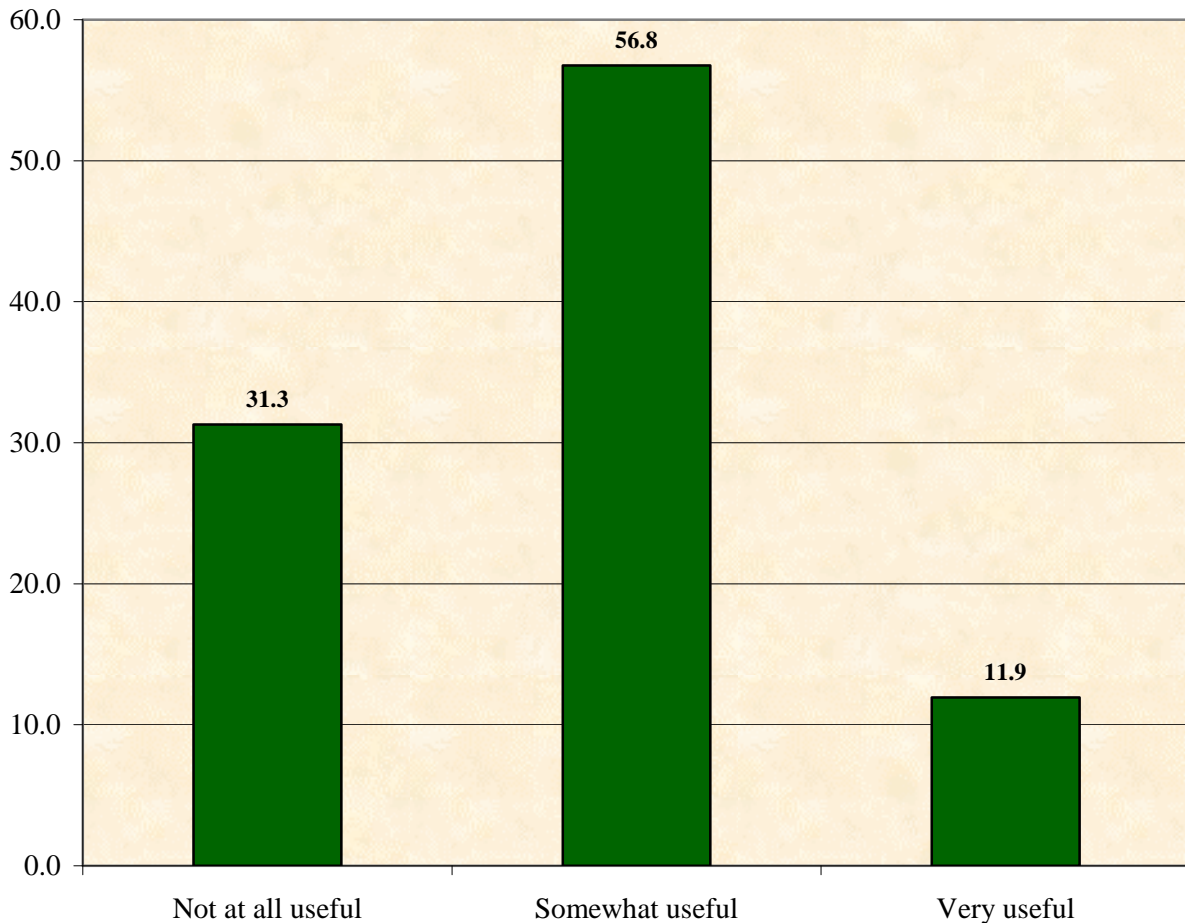
C8. Recently the 2004 Summary Report on the Crown Sector, including a report on the Utility Bundle costs, was mailed to Saskatchewan residents. Did you receive this brochure?

Less than half (43.4%) of respondents reported receiving the 2004 Summary Report on the Crown Sector.

C8a. How useful was the information in the brochure?

About six in 10 of those who said they received brochures found them to be useful. Those with strongly negative views, however, outnumber those who were strongly positive by about 2.5 to one.

C8a. How useful was the information in the brochure?



C9. The cost of printing and mailing the brochure totaled \$78,000, which works out to about 19 cents per copy. Do you think this is a reasonable cost for distributing this information about the Crown sector?

Opinion is mixed, but generally somewhat negative, about whether the cost of the brochure is reasonable.

- Those (43%) on the negative side of the scale modestly outnumber those on the positive side (38%).
- However, the largest proportion (28%) of respondents thinks the cost is very unreasonable, which is reflected in a mean response below neutral of 2.85.

C9. The cost of printing and mailing the brochure totaled \$78,000, which works out to about 19 cents per copy. Do you think this is a reasonable cost for distributing this information about the Crown sector? Mean Response Level = 2.85

