

COMMUNITY SURVEY RESPONSES

COMMUNITY SURVEY OVERVIEW

Community engagement directly shapes the Comprehensive Plan’s vision and core principles, which lay the foundation for the document and guide all future policies and actions.

The public engagement process began with the release of the online community survey, followed by two in-person events where the survey was advertised and distributed. Feedback from these efforts was reviewed by the Steering Committee, and the open houses will offer further opportunities to refine and finalize the vision with the community.

A successful survey represents the collective voice of the community. This means ensuring that all segments of the community are provided with the opportunity to submit their thoughts and ideas. The Community Survey was open from **July 22 – September 5, 2025** and collected a total of **925 total responses, 868 of which were Elbert County residents.**

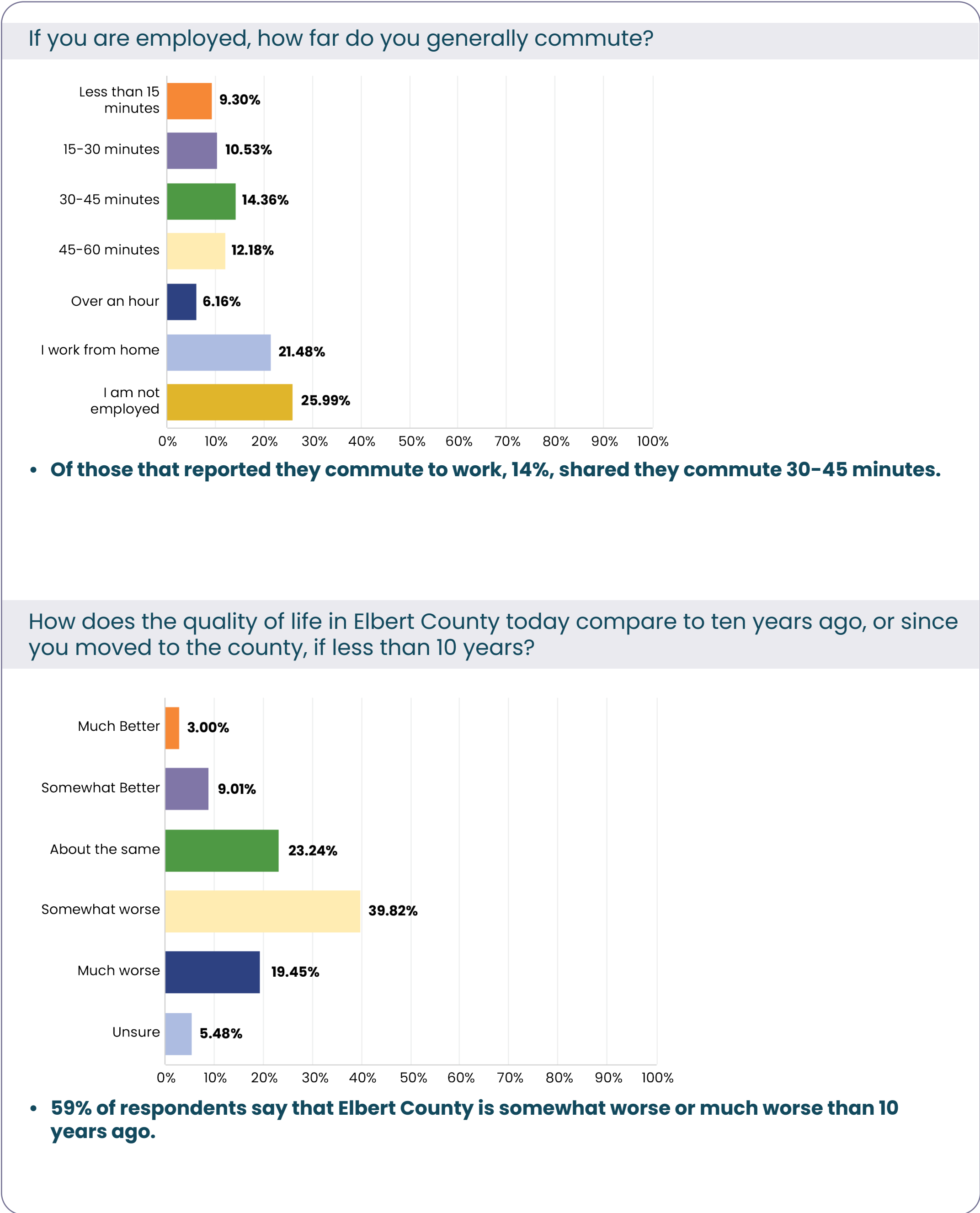
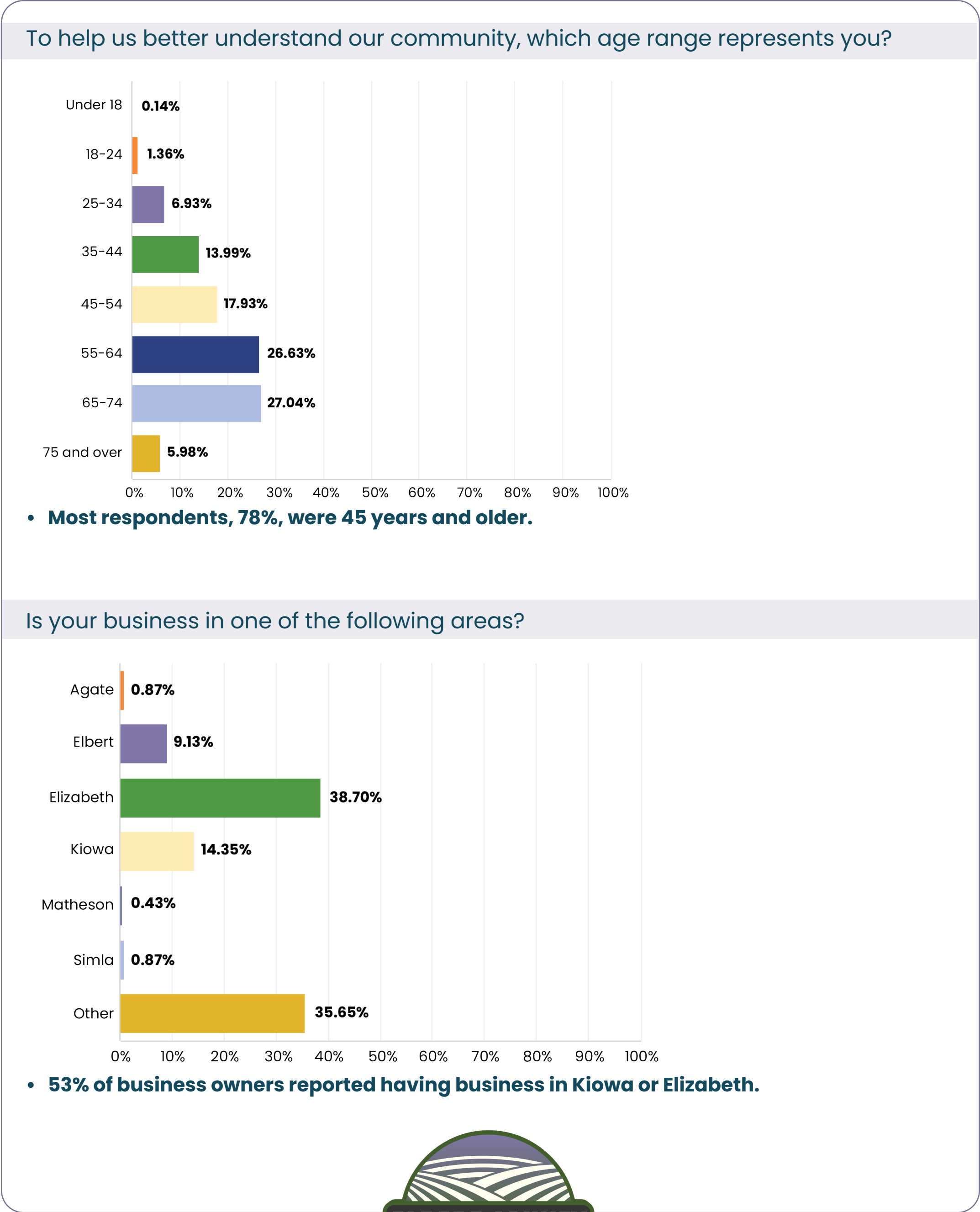
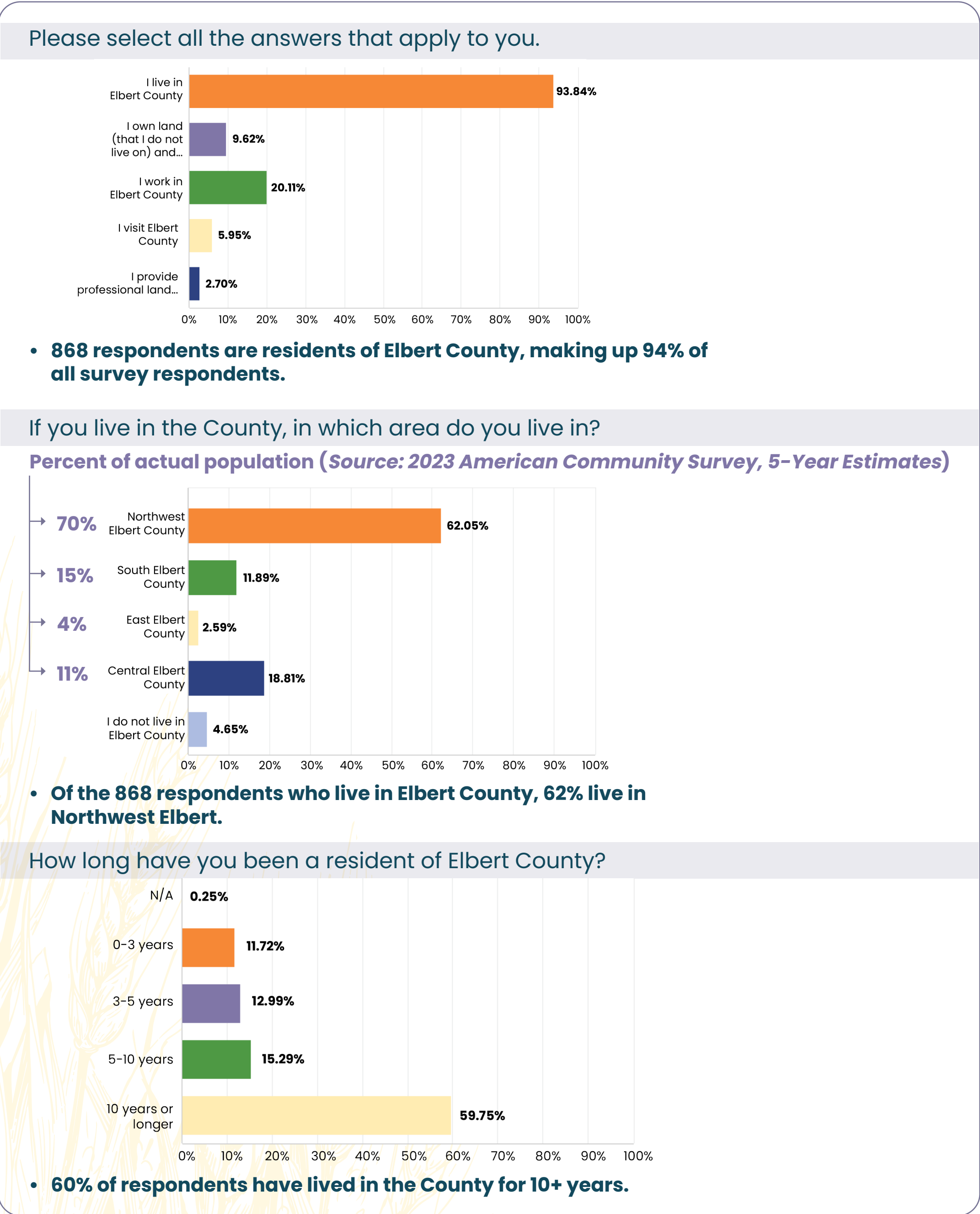
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN WEBSITE

The Comprehensive Plan website provides background information, as well as details on all engagement opportunities and events. So far, there have been **3,016 total page views**, and **1,008 in the last 30 days alone**. 53% of viewers are accessing the website on their laptop, 44% on their mobile device, and 3% on their tablet.

COMMUNITY CONSENSUS

This icon highlights questions that have a unified response and reflect community consensus. **The threshold for community consensus is 75% which is considered super majority.** For questions that use a response scale in table format, we combine the two most similar categories to show overall agreement. For example, if a statement is rated as **Accurate** or **Somewhat Accurate**, we add those percentages together to reflect general agreement.

WHO DID WE HEAR FROM?



COMMUNITY SURVEY RESPONSES

COMMUNITY STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

How accurate do you believe each of the following statements is about Elbert County?

	Very Accurate	Somewhat Accurate	Somewhat Inaccurate	Very Inaccurate	Unsure	Total Respondents
Elbert County is a good place to raise a family.	52.83%	37.10%	4.79%	1.84%	4.30%	814
Elbert County is a safe place.	58.74%	36.08%	3.82%	0.86%	1.11%	812
Elbert County is a friendly place.	49.02%	39.93%	7.86%	3.81%	0.49%	814
Elbert County has good job opportunities that allow me to support myself and my family.	8.06%	26.30%	24.69%	22.70%	18.86%	806
Elbert County is a good place to retire.	39.56%	35.75%	10.81%	5.77%	8.60%	814

Highest Percentage from Responses

Second Highest Percentage from Responses

- Over 90% of respondents said that Elbert County is a good place to raise a family and a safe place.

When considering Elbert County’s existing image and identity, categorize each of the following as a strength or a weakness for the community today.

	Greatest Weakness	Weakness	Strength	Greatest Strength	N/A	Total Respondents
Community Character	2.73%	16.28%	57.94%	20.83%	2.86%	768
Community friendliness	3.92%	12.79%	59.27%	22.19%	2.09%	766
Visual appeal (scenic views,natural beauty)	2.21%	6.64%	40.63%	49.74%	1.04%	768
Historic preservation and assets	2.99%	16.54%	51.30%	24.48%	5.60%	768
Community and neighborhood events	2.61%	15.67%	58.36%	16.71%	7.96%	766

Highest Percentage from Responses

Second Highest Percentage from Responses

- 79% of respondents considered community character to be a strength or greatest strength of Elbert County’s existing image and identity.

When considering existing conditions within Elbert County, identify if each of the following is a strength or weakness to operating a business in the County today.

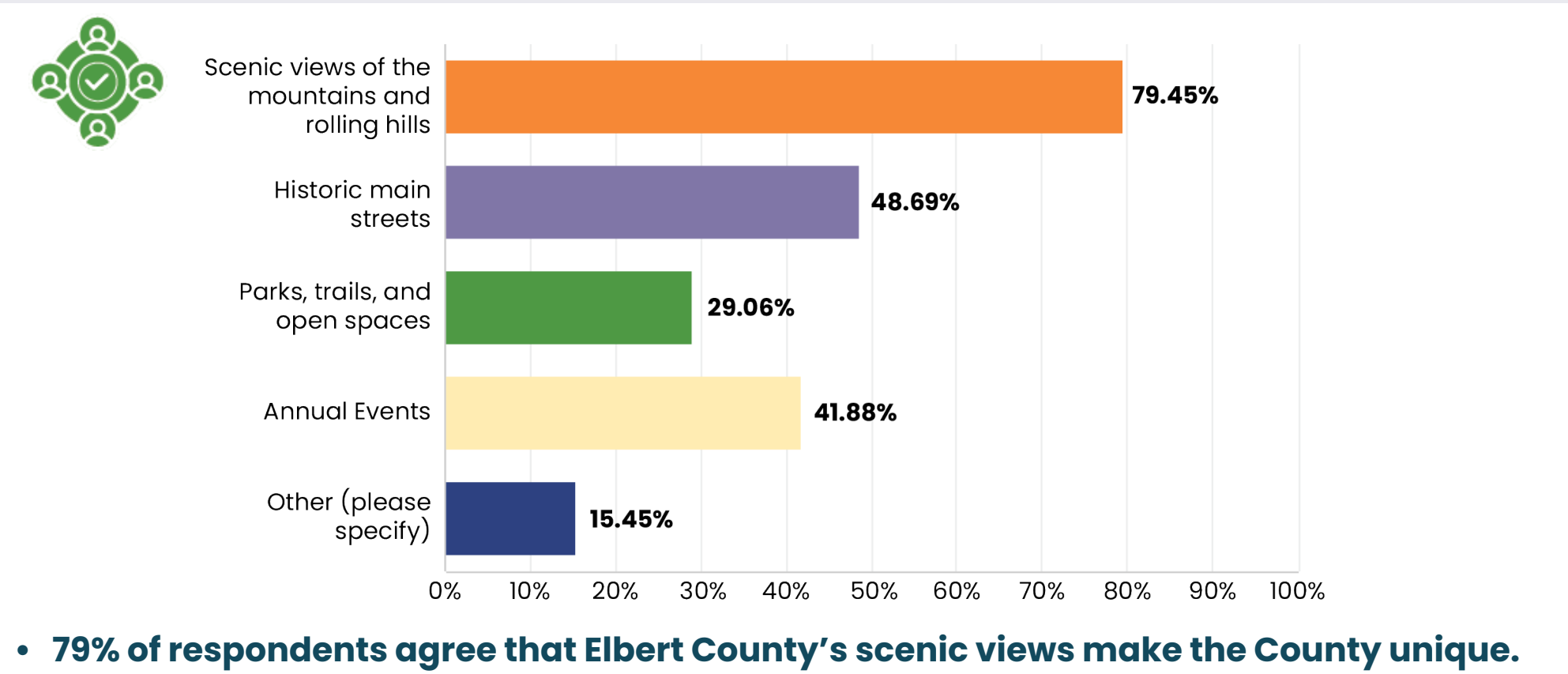
	Greatest Weakness	Weakness	Strength	Greatest Strength	N/A	Total Respondents
Visibility and access to customers	4.59%	31.45%	31.45%	3.18%	29.68%	283
Parking requirements	2.81%	25.61%	29.12%	2.11%	41.05%	285
Nearby competition	4.95%	18.02%	34.28%	5.30%	38.52%	283
Local regulations and permitting process	19.58%	27.62%	18.88%	3.15%	31.12%	286
Local workforce and talent pool	7.77%	31.45%	24.03%	2.12%	35.34%	283
Quality of commercial buildings and properties	7.42%	34.28%	19.08%	1.77%	37.81%	283
Quality of agricultural land	1.40%	9.79%	39.16%	28.67%	21.33%	286
Opportunities and potential for new development	6.79%	16.43%	31.43%	5.00%	40.71%	280
Incentives and funding mechanisms available to businesses	10.99%	30.50%	8.51%	1.77%	48.23%	282

Highest Percentage from Responses

Second Highest Percentage from Responses

- 69% of respondents consider the quality of agricultural land in the county to be a strength or greatest strength to operating a business.

What scenic places, public spaces, community assets, or experiences make Elbert County unique?



When considering Elbert County’s existing community facilities and services, identify if each of the following is currently a strength or weakness.

	Greatest Weakness	Weakness	Strength	Greatest Strength	N/A	Total Respondents
Public utilities (water, sewer, and electric)	6.58%	28.82%	34.74%	2.63%	27.50%	760
Broadband availability and reliability	8.02%	38.90%	40.34%	3.55%	9.72%	761
Health care and medical services	18.13%	54.93%	14.19%	1.58%	11.43%	761
Services for youth (such as after-school programs)	11.45%	28.16%	20.13%	2.76%	37.89%	760
Services for older adults	10.76%	42.26%	15.22%	1.71%	30.45%	762
Services for veterans	8.32%	33.03%	14.53%	1.19%	43.33%	757

Highest Percentage from Responses

Second Highest Percentage from Responses

- 73% of respondents rated healthcare and medical services as a weakness or great weakness for the County.

When considering Elbert County’s existing transportation network, identify if each of the following is currently a strength or weakness.

	Greatest Weakness	Weakness	Strength	Greatest Strength	N/A	Total Respondents
Condition of roadways	35.89%	44.89%	15.59%	1.34%	3.23%	744
Traffic flow and congestion	21.76%	40.14%	29.59%	4.59%	4.73%	740
Access to interstates and highways	7.98%	25.71%	47.50%	5.68%	13.53%	739
Sidewalks and trails	13.74%	40.38%	20.33%	1.79%	24.04%	728
Micro-transit (smaller vehicles like vans and shuttles providing on-demand rides)	15.35%	34.24%	5.03%	0.68%	45.38%	736

Highest Percentage from Responses

Second Highest Percentage from Responses

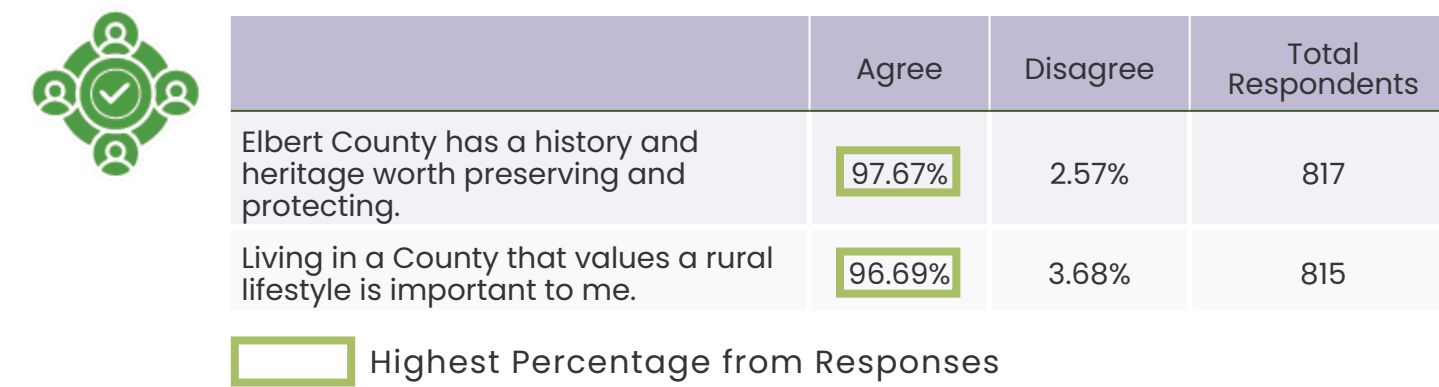
- 54% rated access to interstates and highways as a strength or great strength.
- 81% rated condition of roadways as a weakness or greatest weakness.



COMMUNITY SURVEY RESPONSES

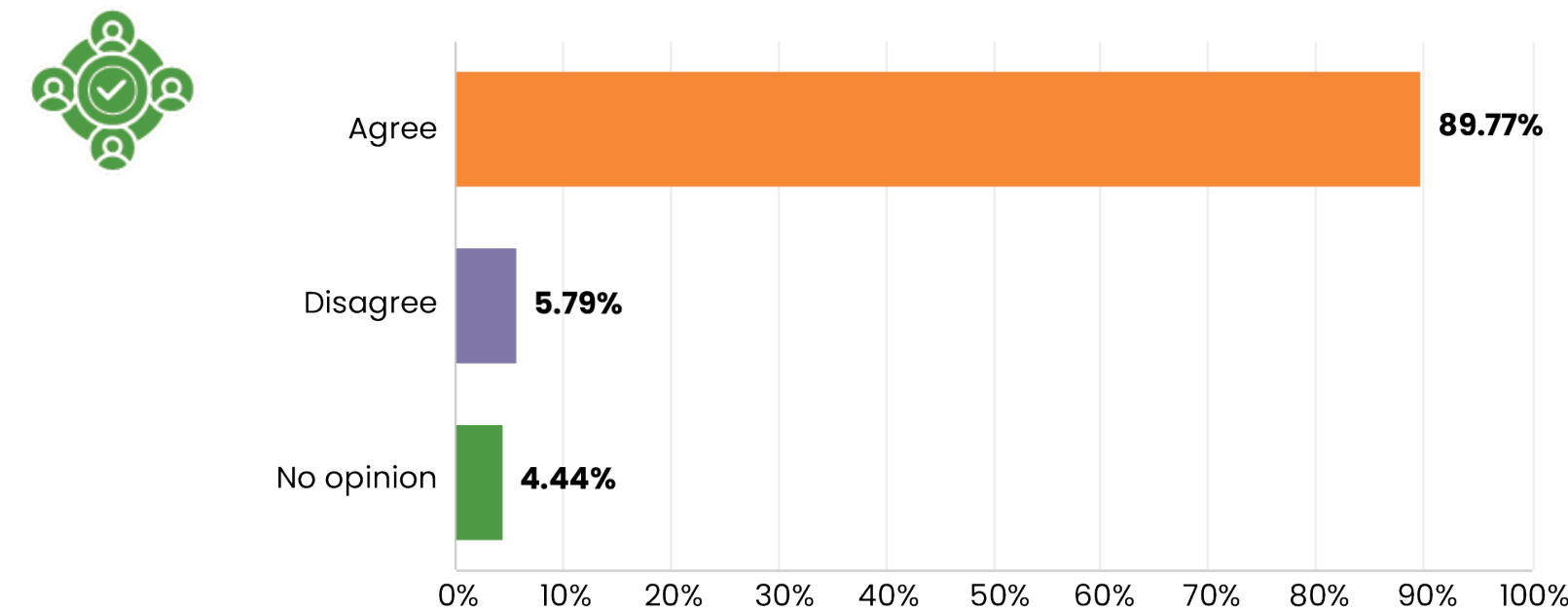
CORE VALUES AND VISION

Please answer the following questions.



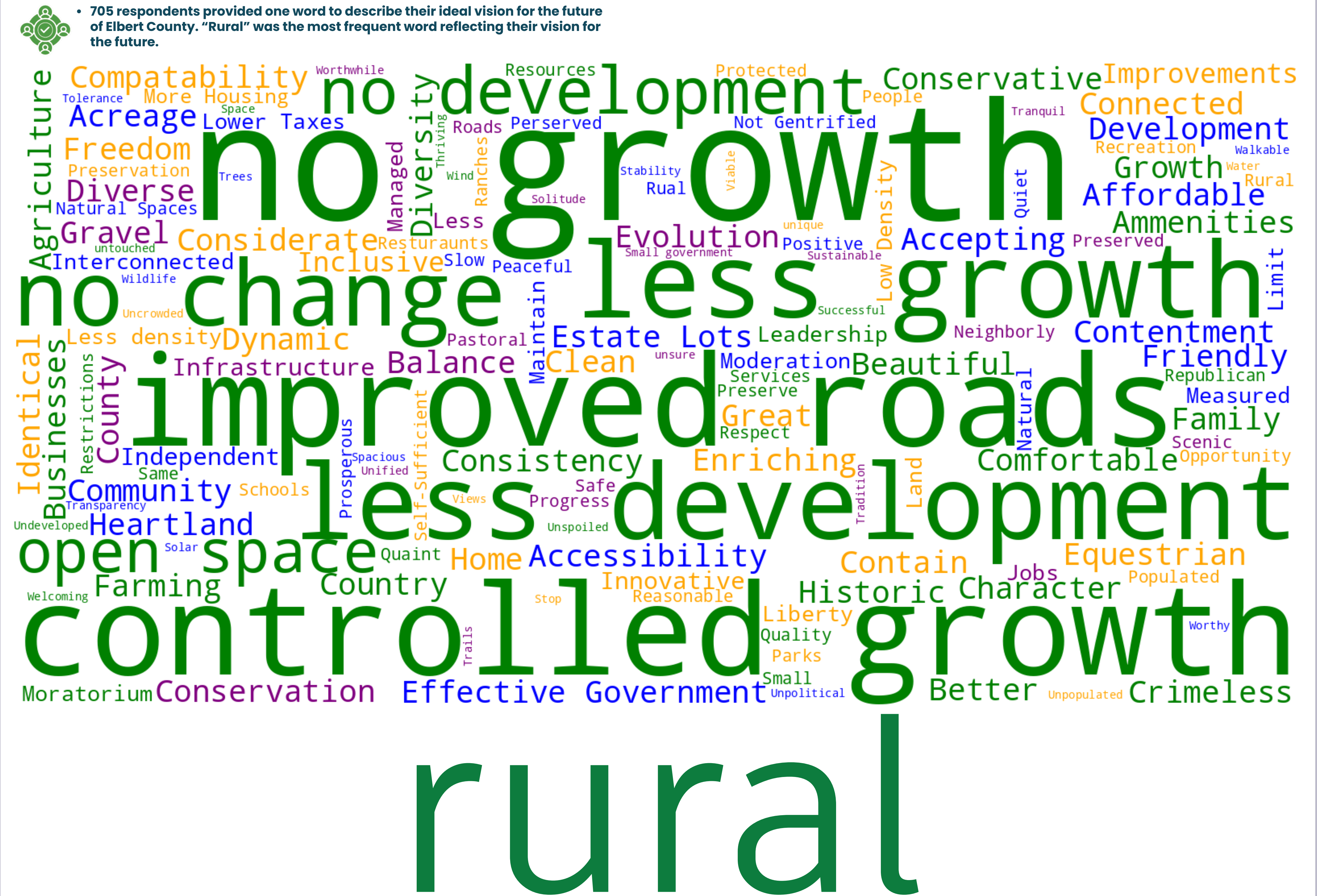
- **98% of respondents agree that Elbert County has a heritage worth preserving.**

Elbert County should consider the preservation of open space, natural areas, and creation of trails throughout the County for recreation.



- **90% of respondents support the preservation of open space, natural areas and creating trails for recreation.**

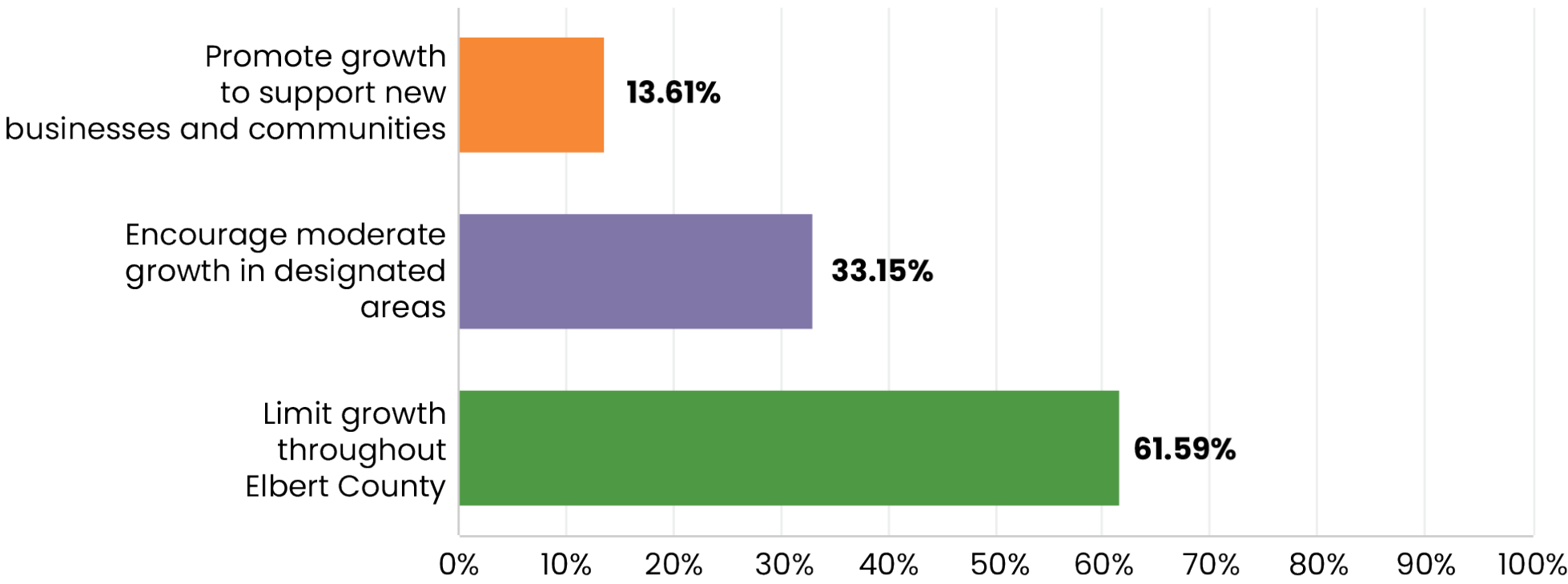
Using one word, describe your ideal vision for the future of Elbert County.



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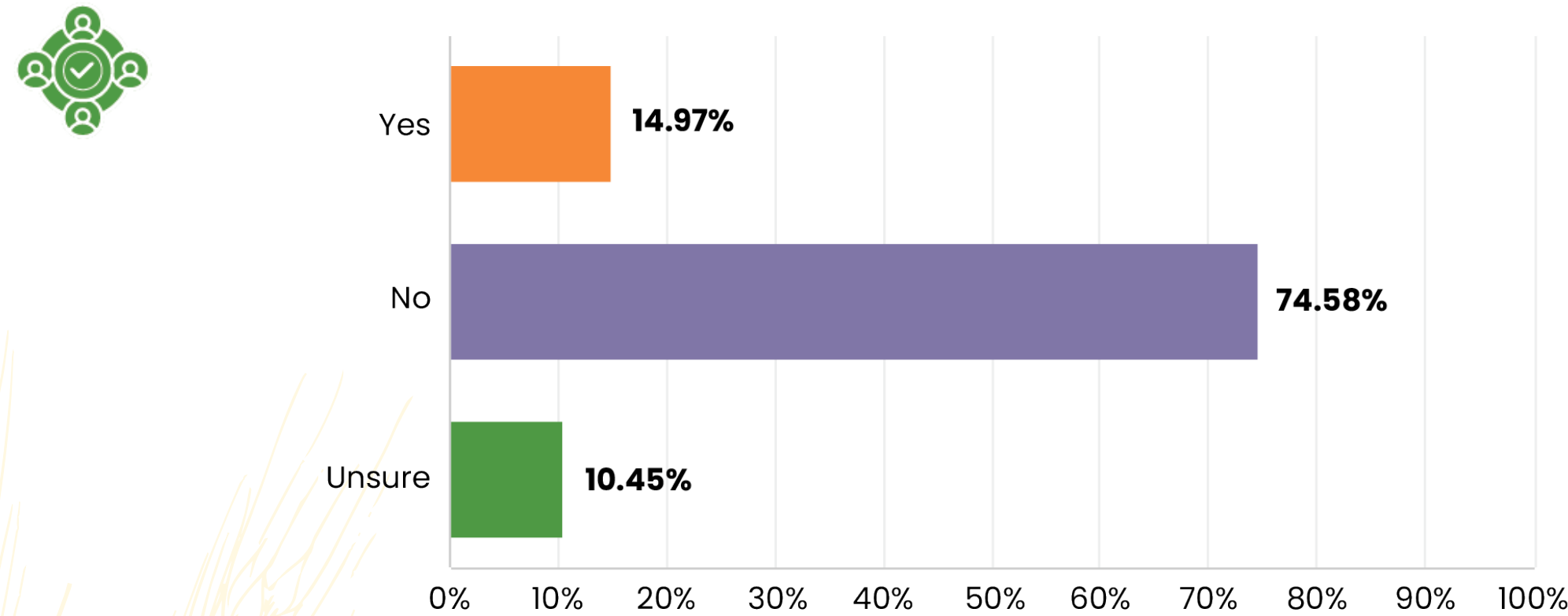
GROWTH AND HOUSING

The State Demographer’s Office projects that Elbert County’s population will increase by approximately 10% (from 29,382 to 32,689) by 2030. What options for this projected growth do you support?



- 62% of respondents are supportive of limiting growth throughout Elbert County. Only 14% of respondents expressed support for promoting growth to support new businesses and communities.

Are new, additional residential developments needed in Elbert County?



- 75%, or 578 respondents, say no new residential development is needed.
- Only 15%, or 116 respondents, say additional residential developments are needed.
- 10%, or 81 respondents said they were unsure if additional residential developments are needed.

When considering existing housing and residential areas, identify if each of the following is currently a strength or weakness.

	Greatest Weakness	Weakness	Strength	Greatest Strength	N/A	Total Respondents
Character of neighborhoods	6.07%	23.61%	53.43%	9.37%	8.05%	758
Housing options	7.16%	30.11%	47.75%	5.57%	9.55%	754
Starter homes for new families	14.00%	32.50%	29.72%	4.10%	19.95%	757
Cost of housing	20.42%	33.73%	33.47%	4.35%	8.30%	759

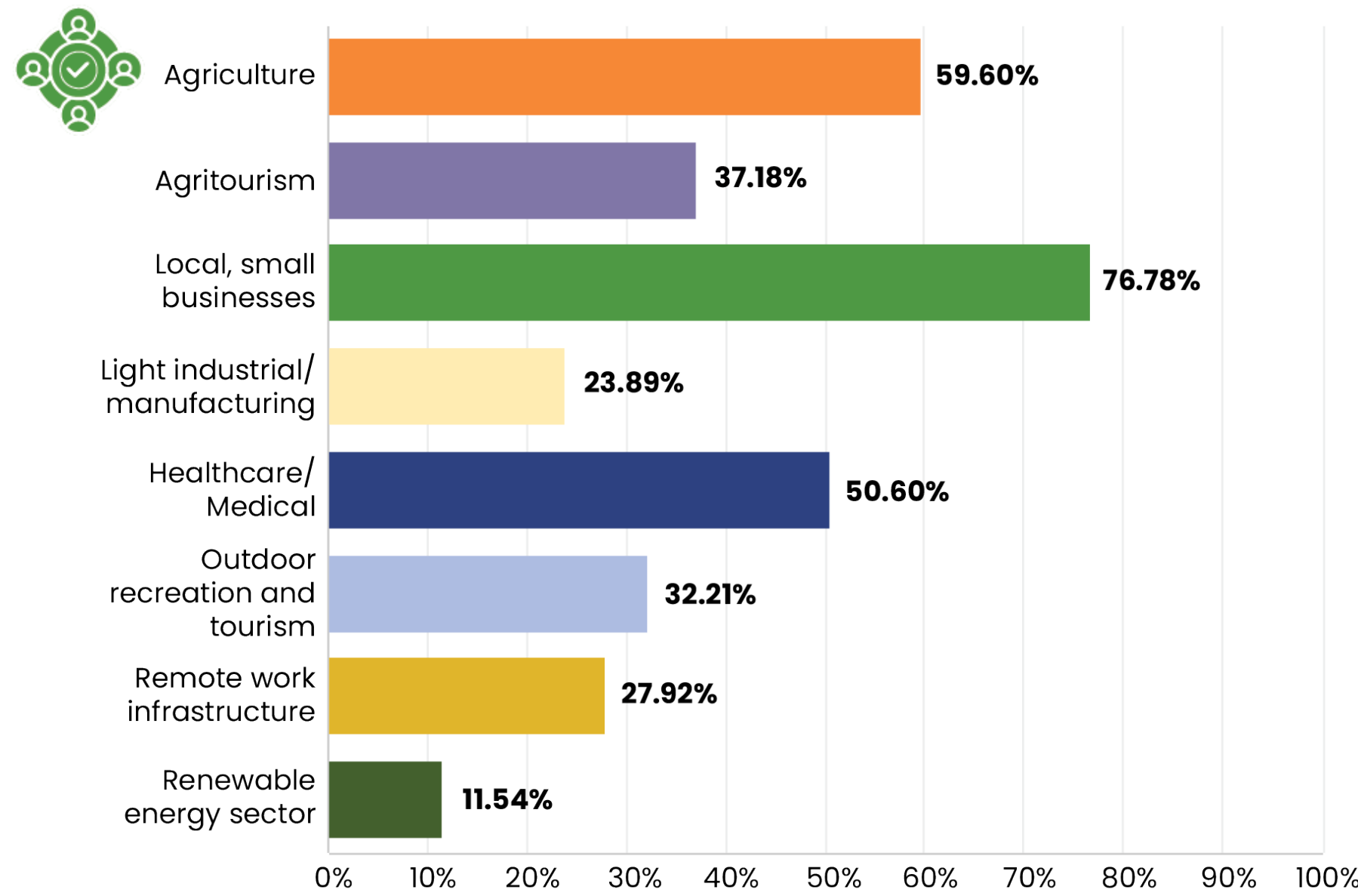
Highest Percentage from Responses

Second Highest Percentage from Responses

- 62% of respondents rated neighborhood character and 54% rated housing options as a strength or great strength.

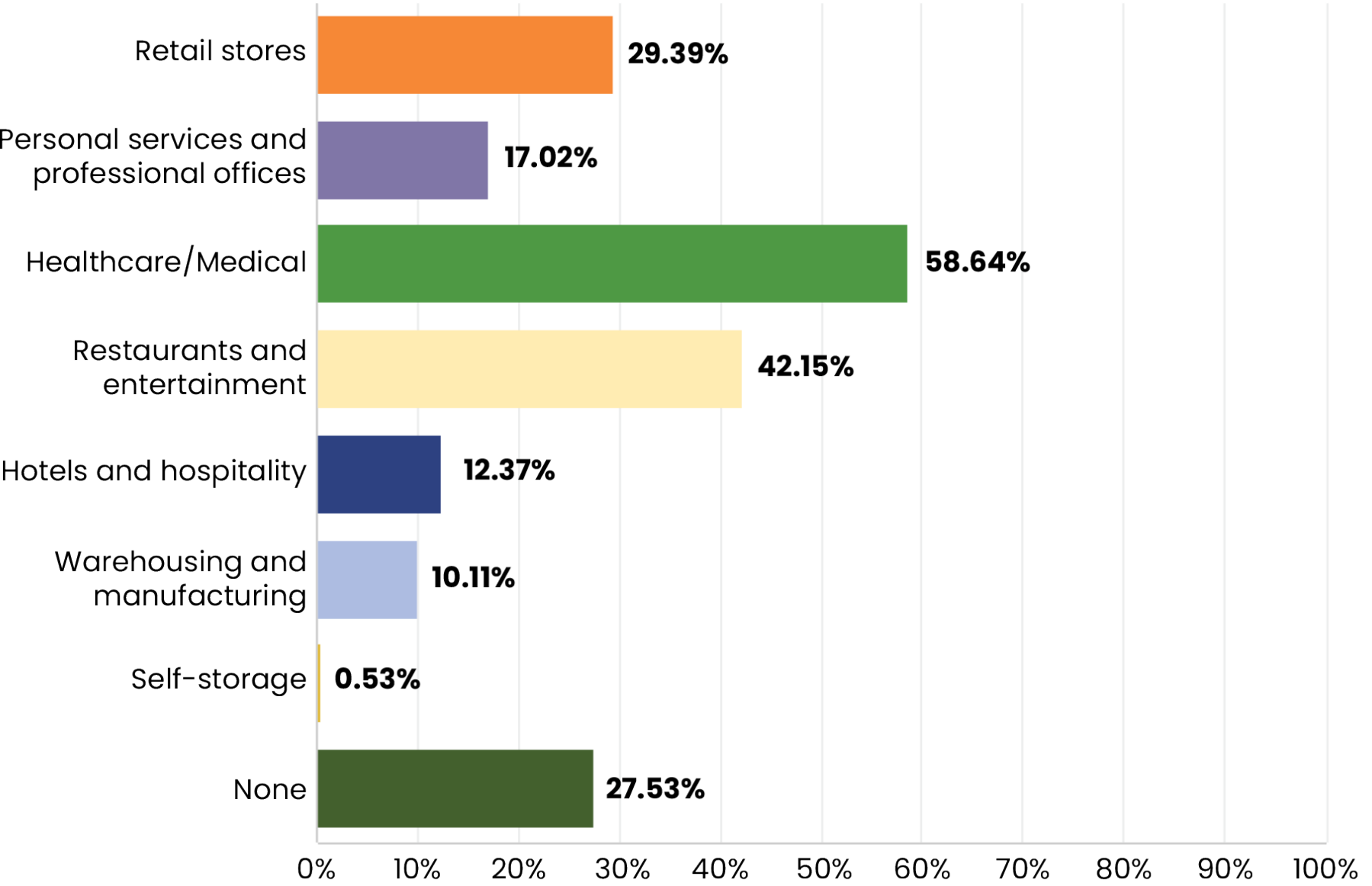
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

What economic development focus areas do you believe would be most beneficial for improving the economic well-being of Elbert County?



- 77% of respondents felt that local, small businesses would be the most beneficial. There was also strong support for agriculture and healthcare/medical.

What types of new commercial or industrial developments are needed in Elbert County?



- 59% of respondents expressed support for more healthcare/medical development and 42% of respondents expressed support for more restaurants and entertainment.
- The third most supported development type was retail stores.

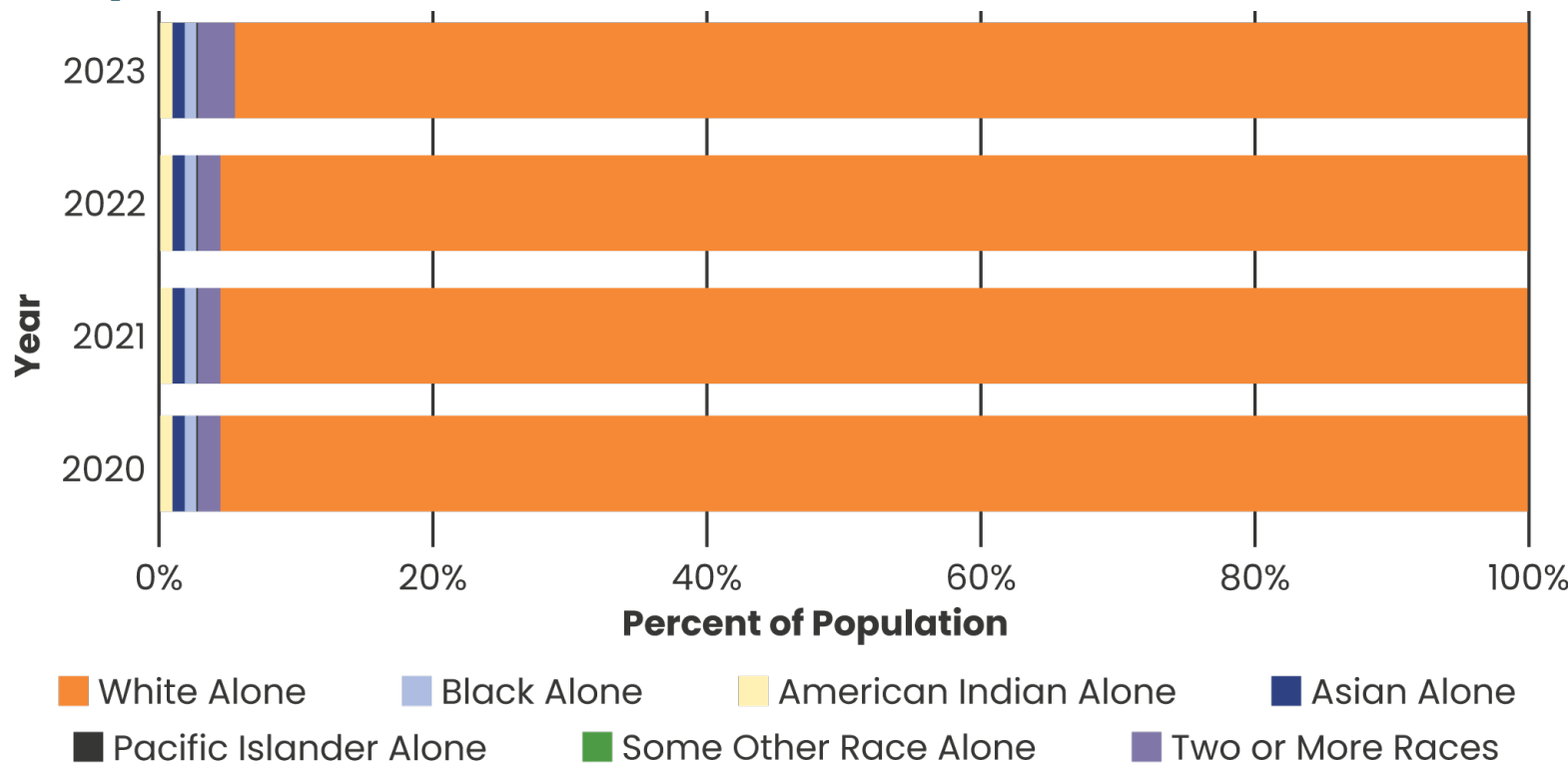


Demographics of Elbert County

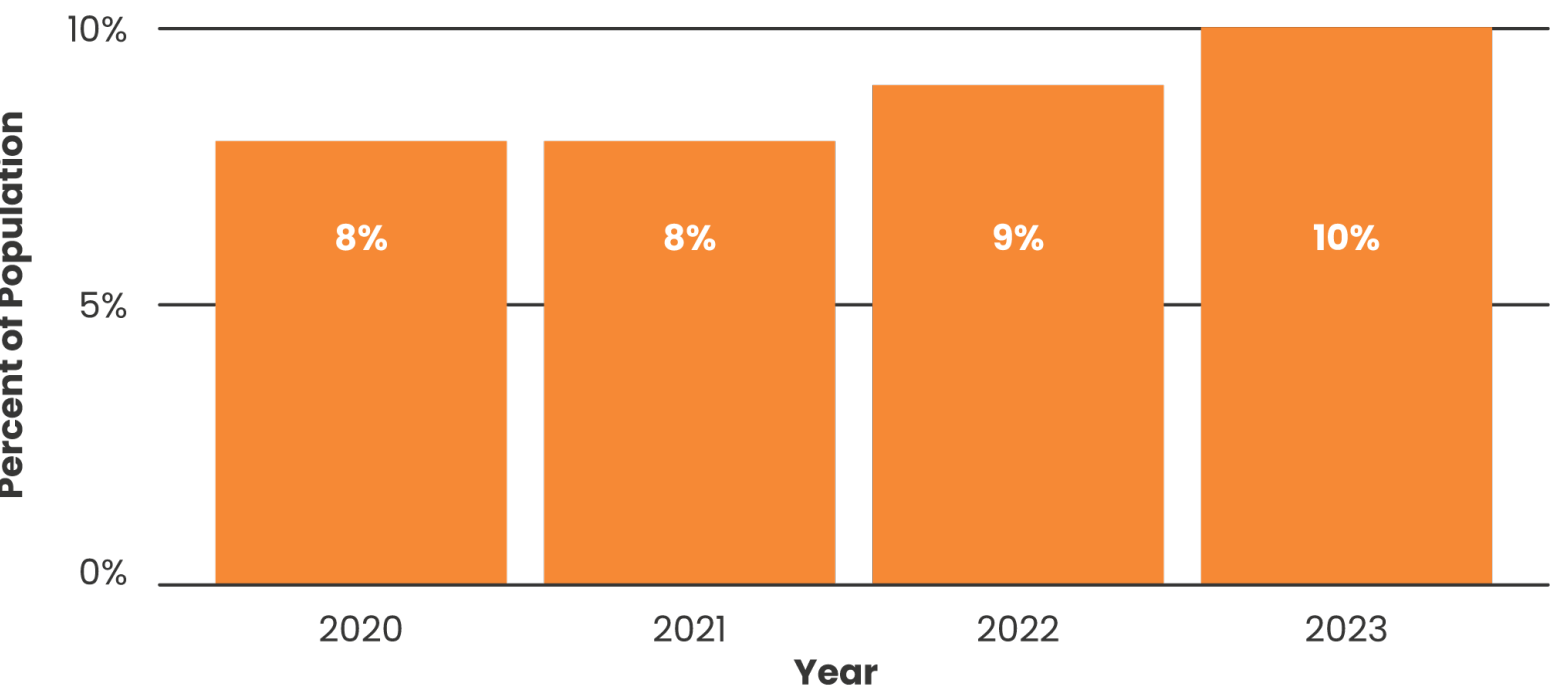
POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS AND EMPLOYMENT

Source: Colorado State Demography Office (SDO)

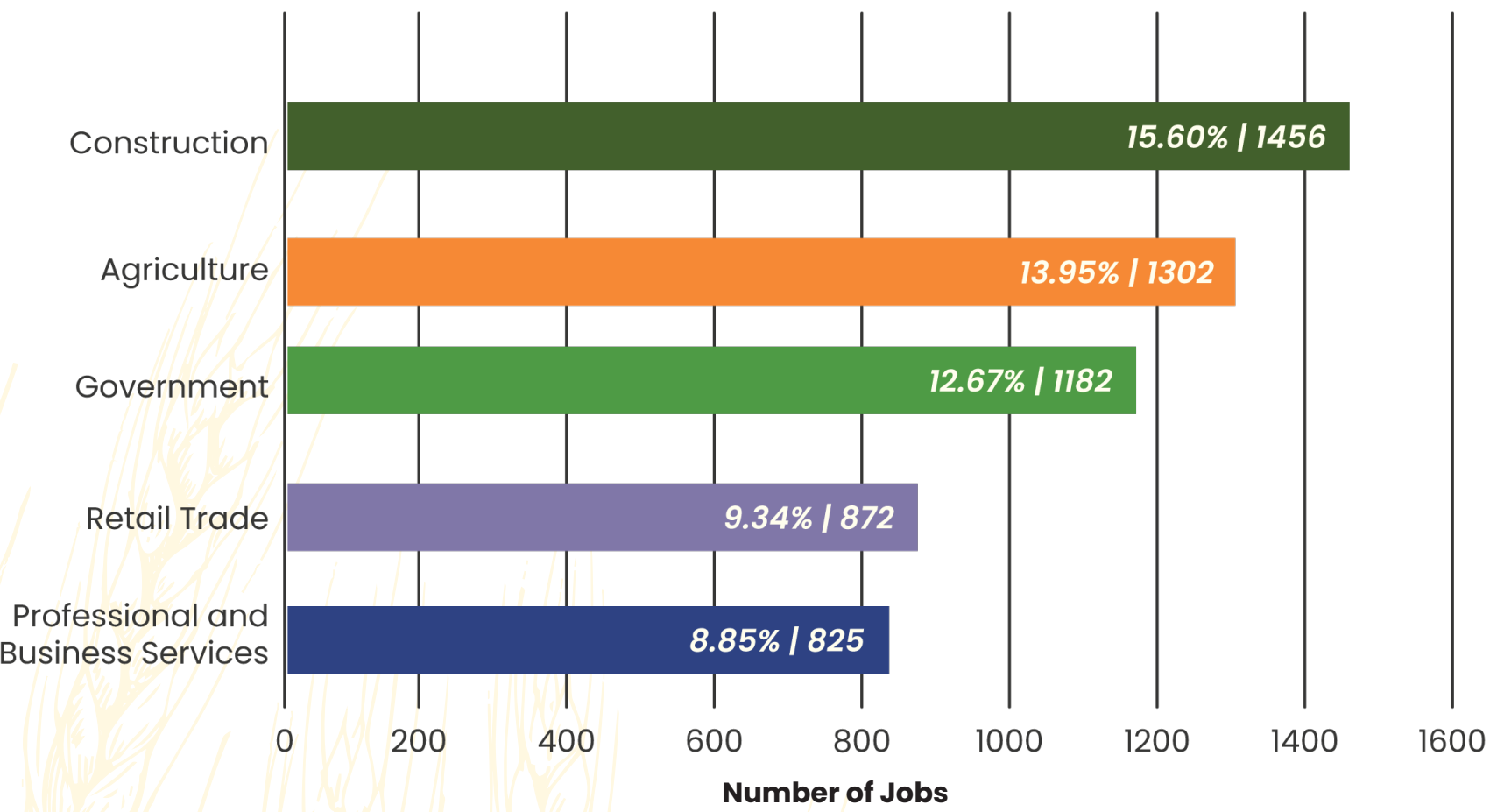
Elbert County Racial Breakdown



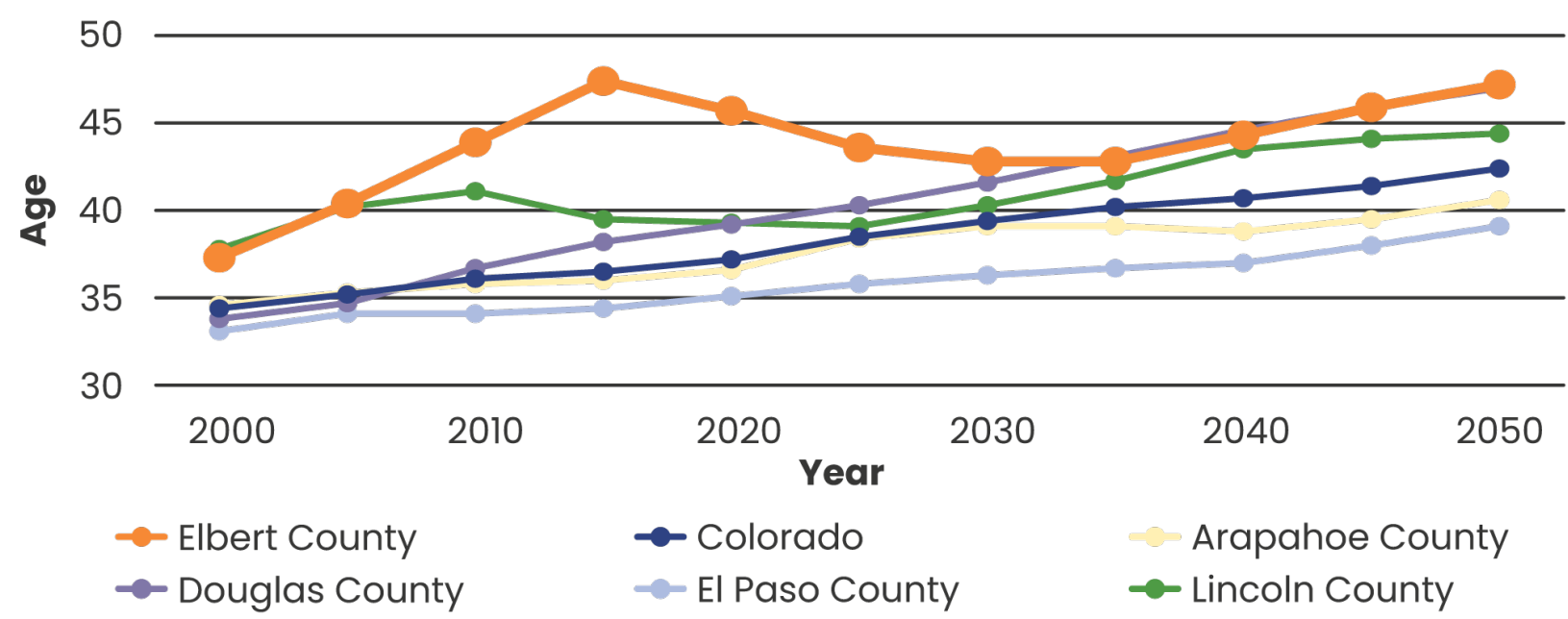
Elbert County Hispanic Origin



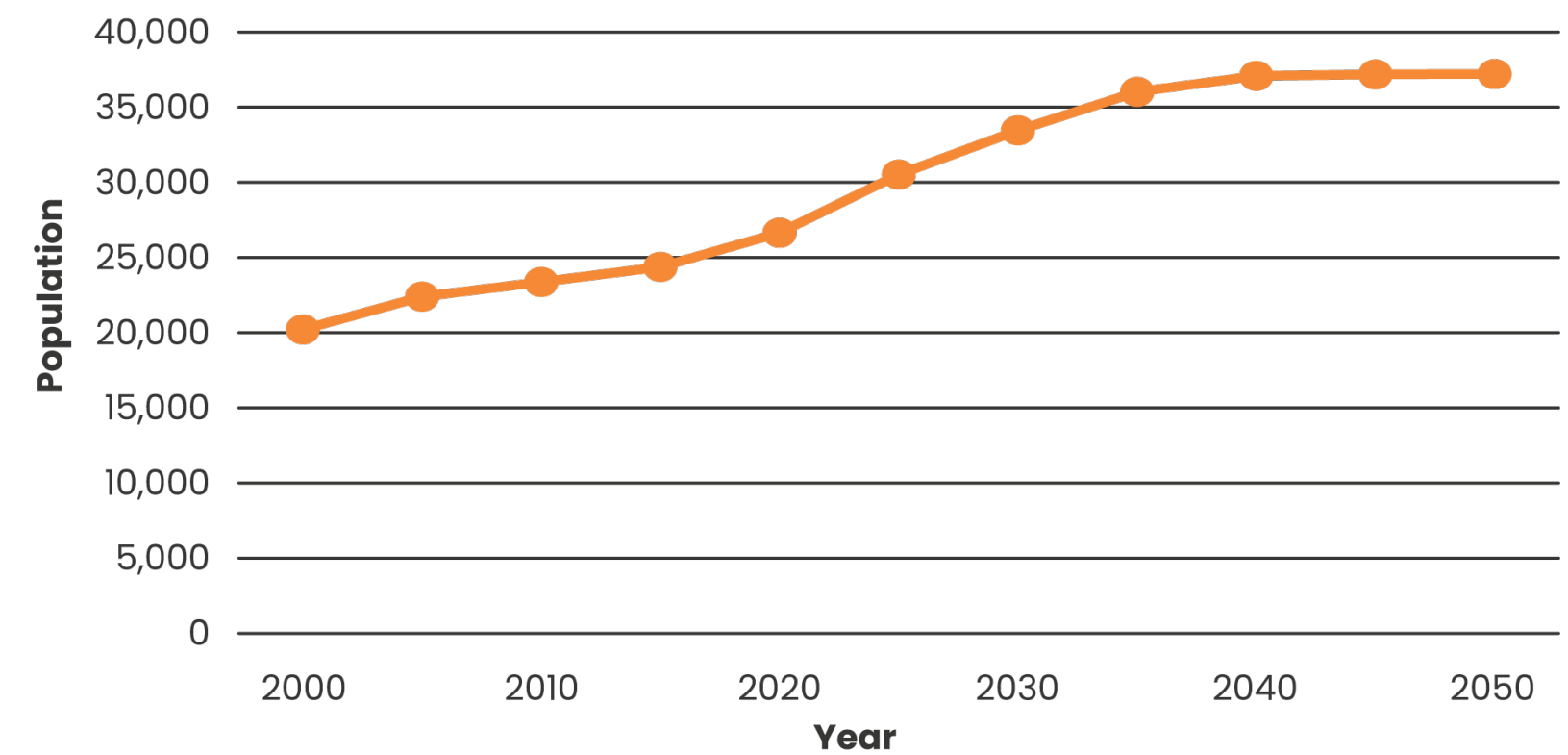
Elbert County Jobs by Sector, 2023



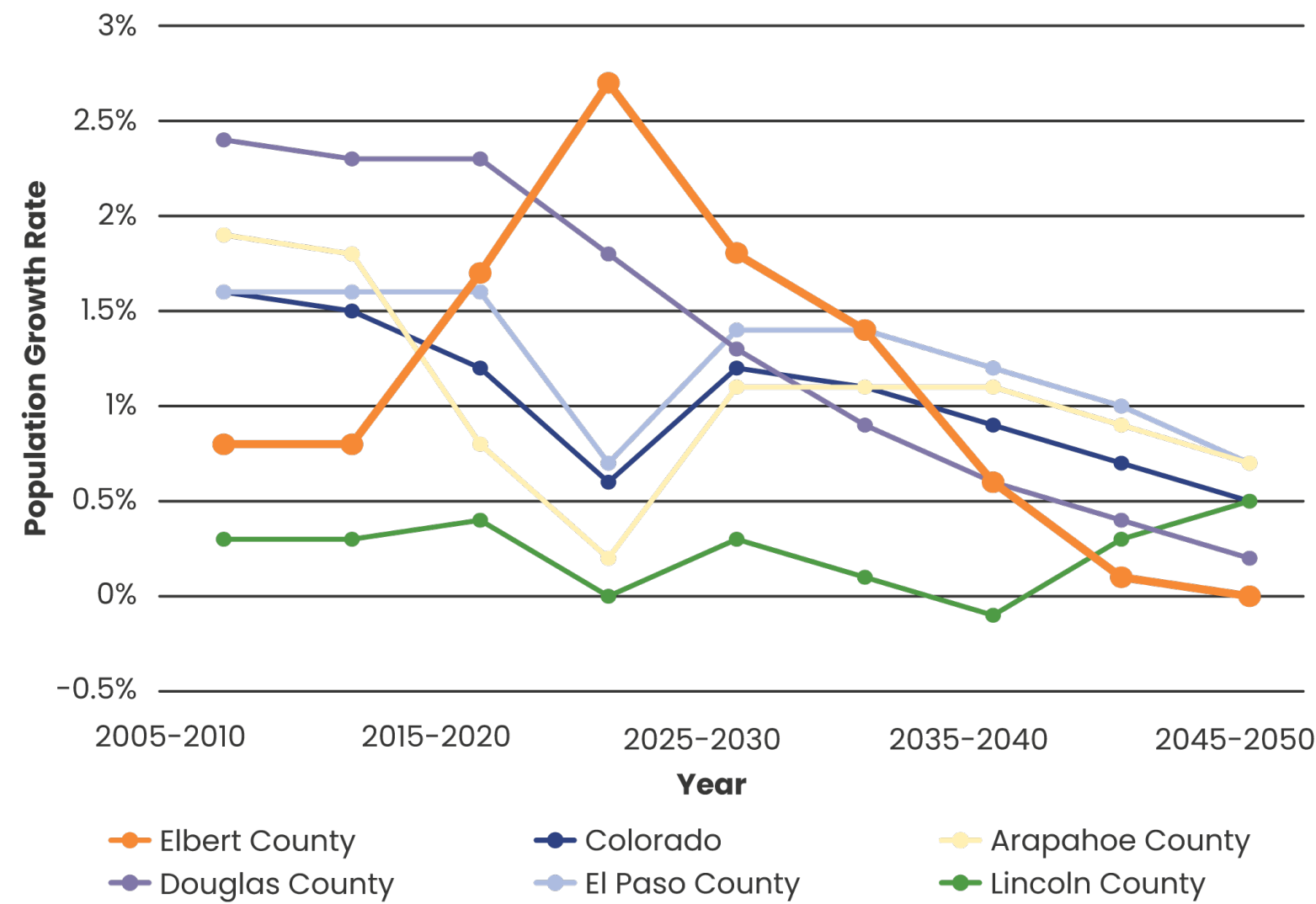
Elbert County Median Age by County



Elbert County Population Trends



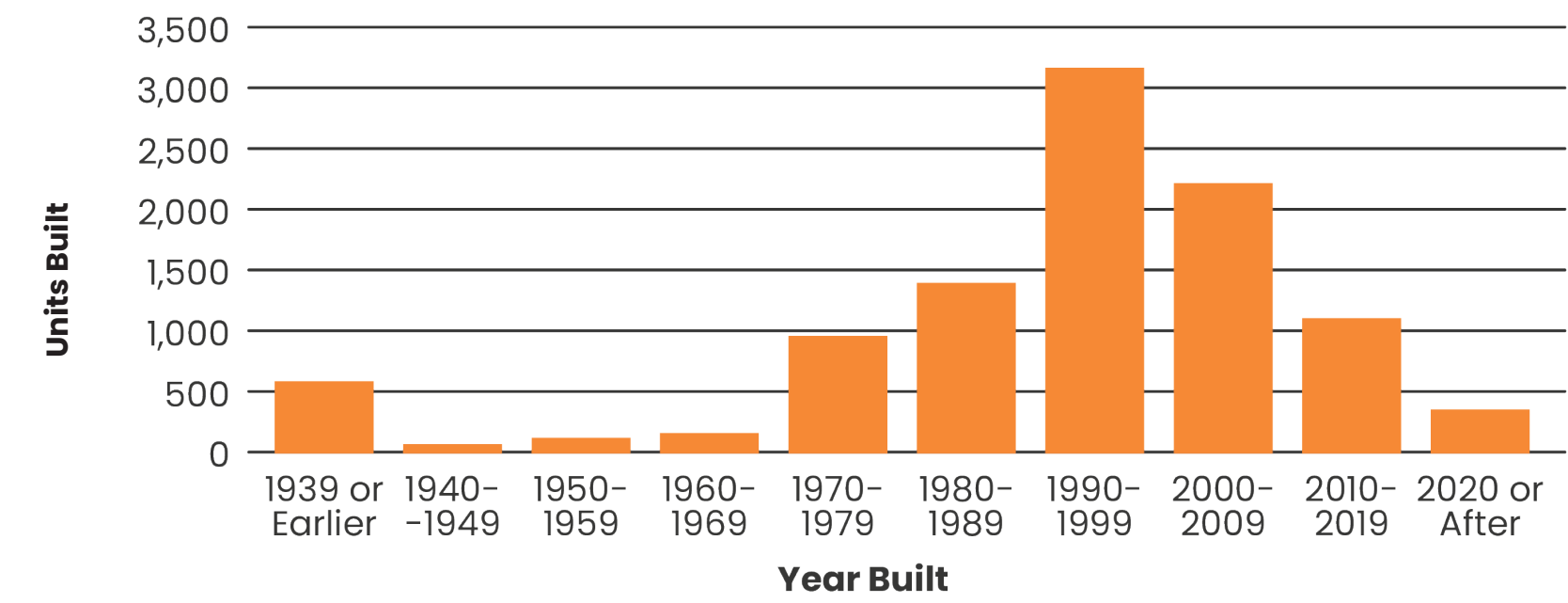
Average Annual Population Growth Rate 2000-2050



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS), 5-Year Estimates

Elbert County Housing Units Built by Year



Elbert County Total Housing Units by Year

