

# Chamber of Commerce 2003 Tax Survey Results

January 6, 2004

In fall 2003, the Chamber surveyed members asking for feedback on taxation. Members listed taxation, at all levels, as a key concern in many Chamber surveys. As a result, we decided to delve more fully into this important issue. An on-line survey was circulated via e-mail to approximately 2200 Chamber members\*.

Respondents were asked how important a role taxation plays in a variety of business decisions. If they indicated taxation plays “no role at all” the response was omitted from the results presented.

Taxation plays an important to critically important role in:

Recruitment/retention of personnel	61%
Business expansion decisions	76%
Import decisions	66%
Export decisions	66%
Capital equipment expenditures	73%
Property acquisition decisions	72%
Market investment decisions	73%
Employee professional development	54%
Other decisions	63%

We also asked respondents if the current tax structure had prevented any business growth for them in the preceeding 12 months; 82% responded that it had not.

The top three areas respondents suggested that the Chamber should focus efforts on in terms of taxation were:

- Business occupancy tax
- Corporate income tax
- Sales tax

We also asked members to help us decide where emphasis should be placed, in terms of fiscal priority setting, at all levels of government.

Responses were divided at the municipal level – tax reduction, debt payment and fiscal restraint. At the provincial level, debt repayment had most responses and at the federal level tax reduction, closely followed by debt payment.

These results have helped to give us an indication of where our members want to see the Chamber place a priority in terms of advocating on their behalf when we talk to government about taxation. This information will be used, together with data from a variety of other sources, as we develop further policy in the coming months.

\* Due to a response rate of 7%, the results gathered from the tax survey are not statistically significant. However, the information provided by respondents is important as it gives Chamber staff members and volunteers a basis from which to begin more fully exploring the tax issue.

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***Your investment in the Chamber ensures we can continue to raise your concerns and offer input to government on issues that affect our community’s ability to retain and attract business. Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to the Chamber.***

***For more about the Chamber’s advocacy work, visit our web site: [www.halifaxchamber.com](http://www.halifaxchamber.com) & click on “Policy”.***

