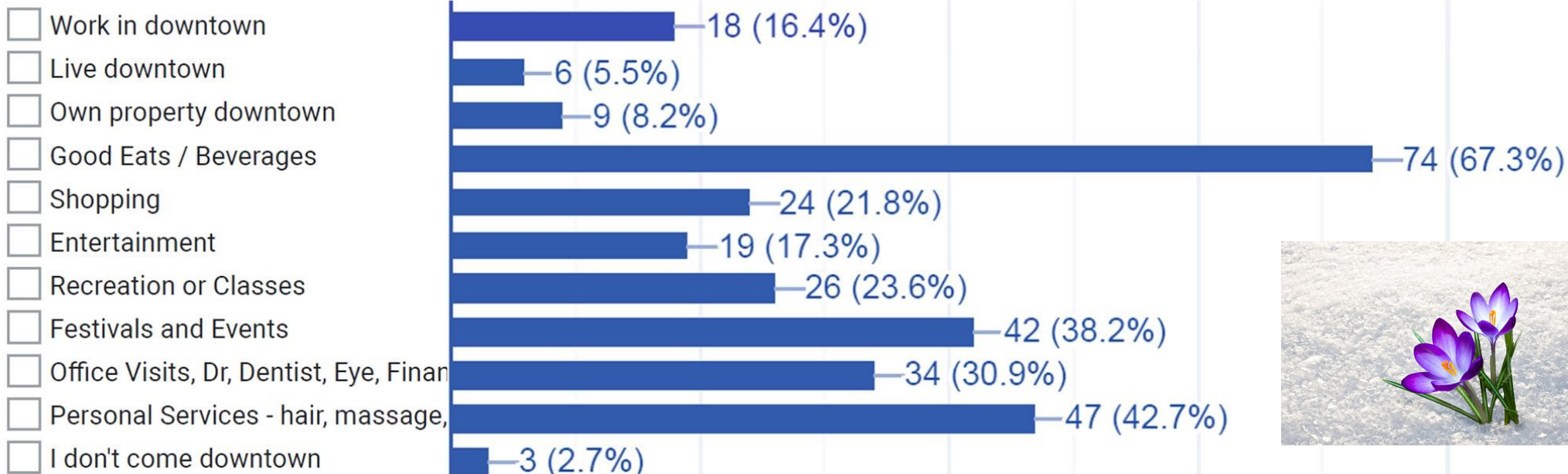


2023 QUICK POLL RESULTS



☐ Other:

- Miss the escape room ,... —1 (0.9%)
- Splash pad —1 (0.9%)
- River Trail —1 (0.9%)
- Theater —1 (0.9%)
- Library, parks, walks —1 (0.9%)
- library —1 (0.9%)
- when visiting relatives... —1 (0.9%)
- Daycare —1 (0.9%)
- Paying bills —1 (0.9%)
- Church —1 (0.9%)
- Library, Walkable City —1 (0.9%)
- The funeral home unfo... —1 (0.9%)
- Confluxcity Brewery :-) —1 (0.9%)

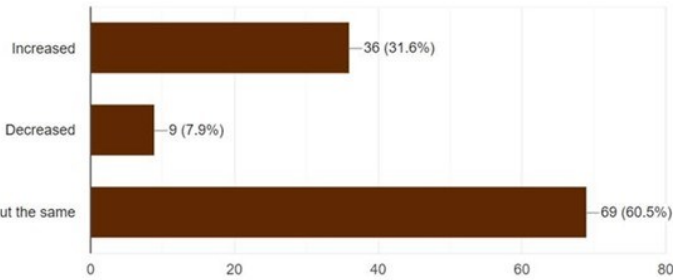


Over the last year, THE FREQUENCY OF YOUR DOWNTOWN VISITS HAVE...



thinking about all the reasons you come downtown - live, work, shop, dine, services, markets, events, splash pad, etc

114 responses



If you answered 'increased' or 'decreased' to either of the above, could you please briefly share w

43 responses

New business RiversEdge

Food and bar plus shops

With the expansion of OM's Garden my work hours downtown have increased and as a result I spend more money at the coffee shop downtown. I also will occasionally shop at B's Bargains and The Busy Bee when I can catch them open.

No more 2 rivers Cafe,

Persistent negative feelings about business owners' response to Covid.

Splash pad

I can't afford to eat out as often as past due to economy increased

I really liked the clothing boutique for gifts and for myself but now that's gone.

For Christmas gifts we bought from local businesses

Monday Fundays, events at The Port, coffee at Corageous Coffee

Cost of eating out is increased.

Retired. No reason to spend money downtown

Trying to better support local businesses

We are eating out at Rivers Edge and shopping Busy B more often.

Visit downtown more often, economy has me watching spending closer

We have dined out more in 2022.

Downtown needs an uplift which Tim Fuller is trying to do however just seems local government does not fully support the downtown businesses based on what owners say. Portland could use a City Chamber.

Lots of activities at The Port

Many meals at Rivers Edge, clothes and great finds at Busy B and events at The Port.

I enjoy going to the port & conflux & spend money when I go there. I have also recently brought my children to Grand barber lounge when our usual stylist was unavailable.

courageous coffee and fabricated customs

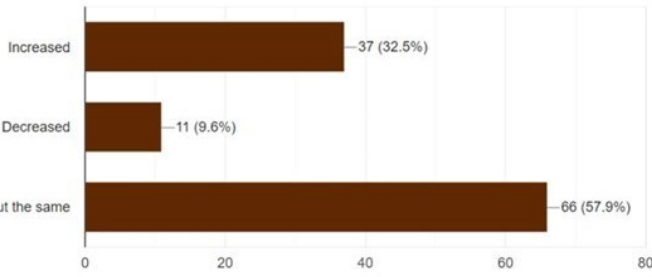
Have had health issues that prevented it.

Over the last year, THE MONEY YOU'VE SPENT DOWNTOWN HAS...



thinking about shopping, dining, services, etc

114 responses



Rivers Edge ❤️

Activities I now take part in, better social opportunities

Covid being a part of our lives and not a point of as much fear helps. The festivals and events of course help, the splash pad and fire pit are AMAZING, and we never miss a chance to hit music at the band shell. Howe ever, we live close enough to just walk downtown. It's just part of our routine.

Addicted to Courageous Coffee!

I live downtown! It's necessary to come downtown, I do dine out some as well!

Riversedge Restaurant has moved downtown, and I frequent it a few times each month. Beautician and dentist both downtown as well.

2 children enrolled in dance at Opera Block, splash pad & park visits, courageous coffee.

Trying to be more intentional about supporting our local small businesses.

Downtown is starting to be a quaint little secret it won't be too long before it rivals the nicest historically feeling downtown areas.

The splash pad and park are a great place to have an evening picnic or get some ice cream.

No longer go to hair stylist downtown

Enjoy shopping local

Gave out gifts cards for DDA co for Christmas to my customers.

Hard to find parking

Courageous Coffee

I bought art at one of the shops

The Port has become a place I frequent as they always have new events. They keep me coming back as I never run out of new things to do there! I have done candle making, painting, puzzle competitions, and so many things I look to try in the future! The staff is also excellent which makes every visit more enjoyable.

I enjoy visiting the businesses in the downtown area.

The Port has put on many events that I have attended including puzzle competitions, candle making, painting parties, and we hosted my sisters gender reveal party there. I have also frequented Hot Shots since it has reopened.

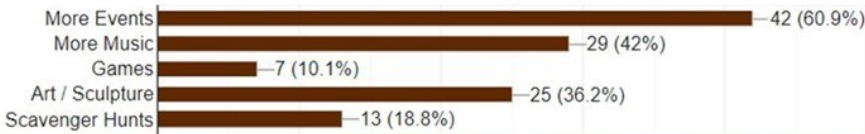
The Port has brought me to town more frequently for events that they host. We also go to a lot of library events and we love to visit Portland Party Store!

1. Easing of pandemic concerns (regarding being in public).
2. Events at The Port that bring me downtown more often.
3. Working from home is keeping me in Portland more than working in-person (East Lansing).
4. My kids are getting into sports and activities resulting in us dining or doing takeout at local restaurants more frequently than in the past.

WHAT DO YOU THINK... What activities/events would you like to see added to downtown portland

*(select up to 2) as evidenced by your support in the form of volunteering for and/or contributing financially to

69 responses



Please tell us about any other ideas you have for activities that you would volunteer and/or finance to support.

18 responses

I love the idea of more events and festivals similar to Beerfest on the Bridge.

Octoberfest with an Oompa band.

Would love a downtown family "block party". I know we do the farmers market, and the community day at the red mill. BUT I think if we blocked downtown and had inflatables and carnival type food trucks there, it would draw people to check out and be aware of the downtown businesses.

Shopping events, downtown day, etc

a large playscape for kids to use

Something for the kids in the community to do- maybe a community center. We don't have enough things for older kids to do

The Portland Cruiser Car Show held in August. Like to see it held downtown to support the local businesses.

Adult dance events.. partner dancing. You get a dj to play dance music. You need a decent sized space for this. I don't know if the dance studio is big enough. But its a thought. I'd help with it and attend.

The band shell music nights are nice but you have to park so far away. Probably leaves a lot of older people not able to attend.

More history based games, facts about our town, live bands with beer tent or beer on the field.

One city we visit closes 1-2 blocks of their Main Street once a week. Merchants and restaurants move some of their business outside. Like a sidewalk sale or demos for retail and outside seating and cooking for restaurants.

scavenger hunts to get more people walking through our space would be fun way to get traffic

New Year eve celebration...ball drop

A splash pad was built for the toddlers...what about 3rd through 12th graders?! Or even adults?! We need a year-round community hall/sports complex. Basketball, volleyball, cornhole, batting cages, pickleball, music bingo, crafting, dancing....etc. The schools only have enough room for basketball teams to practice ONE time a week! It could also hold 'parent's night out' on weekends. Friday or Saturday parents can pay to drop kids off and kids can have dance parties, play sports, play board games, face paunting, nail painting, escape rooms ...etc...

Line Dancing, Two Rivers Festival

Is there a sidewalk sales days? Something where the shop owners cohesively plan something so all of downtown is open at once?

For scavenger hunts, could it be a virtual one. I saw a Hallmark Christmas movie where they were designing a scavenger hunt app. I finally got a vacation in and realized there are multiple scavenger hunt apps for major cities. We tried one for chicago and it was themed..it took you to different locations. It would be fun for Portland to have one that visitors could when convenient for them and give them a reason to see and explore Portland. I know nothing about coding, a high school project?

The festival approach is okay but not sustainable. I'd support quality and consistency of businesses.

Is there an event that you believe would gain the interest of residents and bring people to Portland to attend (that is not already happening in a neighboring small community)

14 responses

?

Monthly artists market on Kent

An art fair featuring local artist.

Art or Craft show downtown with food trucks

Downtown Block Party with another Car Show

Some type of kayak/canoe trip type

Improve summer music choices

We're an active community. Additional 5k/10k run/walk events would likely be successful and could drive patrons downtown it done right.

Hot Air Balloon Glow

Something with the river and or river walk. Kayak race, river walk race, walking or biking.

Bring the fireworks to downtown Portland. Put a 1000 people in the downtown area, this would bring a major amount of money to the downtown merchants.

Summer Festival

New Years ball drop celebration

More downtown events in which the street is closed. Wine about Winter, Taste of Portland progressive event, line dancing in the streets, maybe a duck race like Boyne city does, something like Red Flannel Days in Rockford, or Blueberry Festival in Grandville.maybe a RiverFest in Portland. At least one per season.



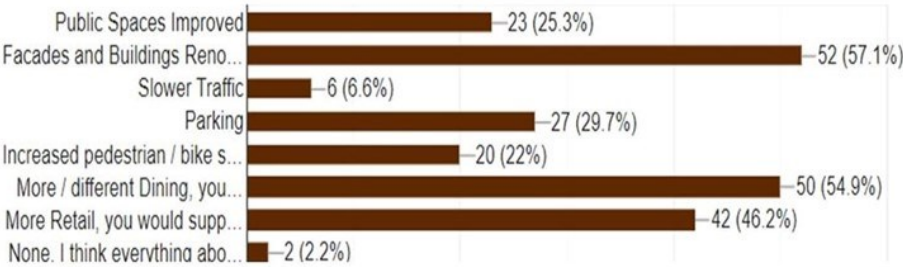


WHAT DO YOU THINK COULD MAKE DOWNTOWN PORTLAND BETTER?



*(select up to 4) only list dining or retail if you would support more by spending more.
only select more activities if you would be willing to volunteer for such

91 responses



If you selected retail, dining, improvement to public spaces - or you have a different idea or comment, please tell us more! :)

34 responses

- Up to date fashions , priced reasonably (adult and children)
- I would love a Mexican restaurant
- Mexican food restaurant & boutique shop
- A small grocery store, like the bodegas found on almost every block in New York. They carry fruit and vegetables along with other common items.
- Antique store, Mexican restaurant
- Why a heart on the old fabianos door?!?! That area was NOT improved. The old writing on there looked better! Why not a vote on that before making it look worse? Know that part down and make it pretty!!
- Consider making Kent St. a one way with diagonal parking on both sides to add parking. Weeknight parking is very crowded. When/if other businesses start opening in the current underutilized buildings, additional parking space would be welcome.
- Some of the options have limited hours. I understand some have staffing. Hours niche..ie courageous coffee is an am destination where as fabianos is evening dining. But there isn't a "cohesive" structure to downtown. You are going there for one thing and can't browse other stores.
- Restaurants open on Mondays. Light lunch options like Cheeky Monkey used to be. Unique shops like Om's.
- More Modern Retail/Amusement (Stores the younger generations to come will enjoy) + Leisure
- Snap fitness, consistent movie theater, concerts, healthy food: SweetGreens, Mediterranean etc.
- Gift shop, book store/social media/coffee, gathering area for volunteer or social group meetings with wifi/printer
- Put cigarette barrel near Hot Shots so their patrons aren't always littering their butts on the sidewalk. Have them enforce the requirement that patrons move away from the door

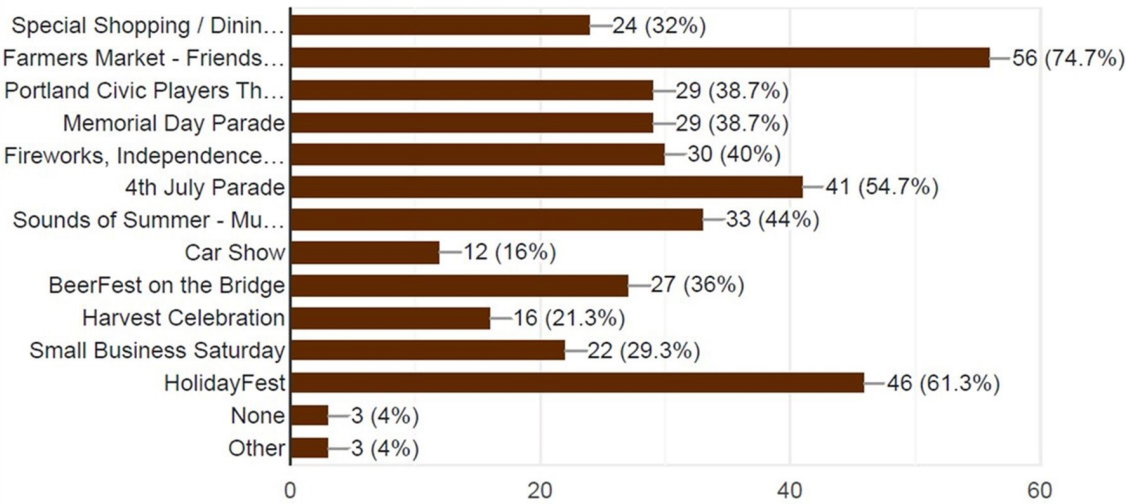
If you selected retail, dining, improvement to public spaces - or you have a different idea or comment, please tell us more! :)

34 responses

- Need a targeted strategy and focus -- getting enough of a critical mass to bring benefits to everyone, not just so one new business can replace one as it burns out.
- It would be nice to have more shopping so that visitors can walk around the downtown and shop. Too many non-shopping businesses taking up possible store fronts for attracting visitors.
- Would love a Mom and Pop diner type restaurant with blue plate specials.
- Women's fashionable clothing, interior design store like we used to have.
- Would love a Mexican restaurant
- Clothing, upcycled furniture, consignment store
- Farm to table fare. A real steak or 3, local lamb, depending on the season hothouse or outdoor veggies. Breakfast/lunch diner like we had. Family Mexican food with a real equipped kitchen that can keep up with orders.
- Shoes, pet store/supplies, barkery
- Parking lots not convenient to get to
- A restaurant that would take advantage of the riverview
- Good Mexican.
- Steak House or Gilmore Collection would be great
- would like more diversity in dining options (ie fine dining with options for riverfront dining) and a variety of retail options. The City of Howell has a wonderful downtown with several shopping and dining options.
- More spaces for gathering- Food options that are open on Mondays- Hours for downtown businesses can be difficult to navigate.
- Adult partner dancing like the TGIF event in Lansing. You need a pretty big space for that. I'd help with it and attend. Just an idea.
- More options - like a used bookstore or antiques store would be nice. Even an old school pharmacy or bakery. I see Lake Odessa's downtown is thriving. I only go downtown because of Opera Block dance academy.
- Graphic novel and Comic book store!
A statue of Chief Okemos with map to his grave site just south of town!
- Downtown Portland may have good bones, but it's not really cute like some cities are. I feel like we need more color, more plants, more public art, more fun.
- Need a family sit down restaurant open evening's downtown
- Go with the first plan for the street Reno. Parallel parking makes more sense. People will adapt and it will be beautiful. Don't allow personal planters of any kind on Main Street. They always look trashy.
- I like to shop local but really don't like 2nd hand stuff very much. I love MO's we need more stores like that. I also think the food options downtown are pretty low quality and a lot of the same. I can make much better food for much less.

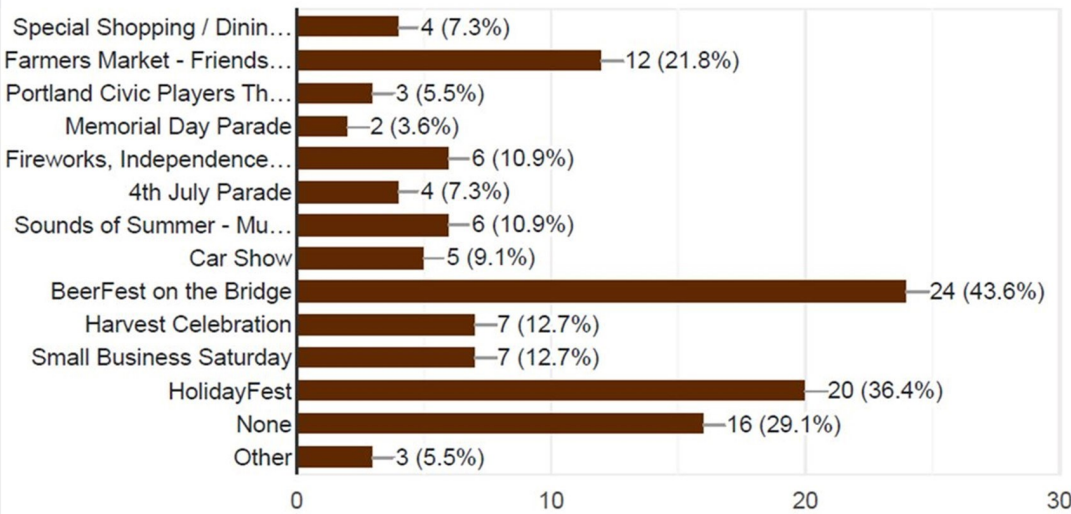
(Select all that Apply) WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING DOWNTOWN FESTIVALS AND EVENTS DID YOU ATTEND OR PARTICIPATE IN DURING THE PAST YEAR?

75 responses



Which, if any, of the events you selected would you be willing to volunteer 2-4 hours for to ensure it continued.

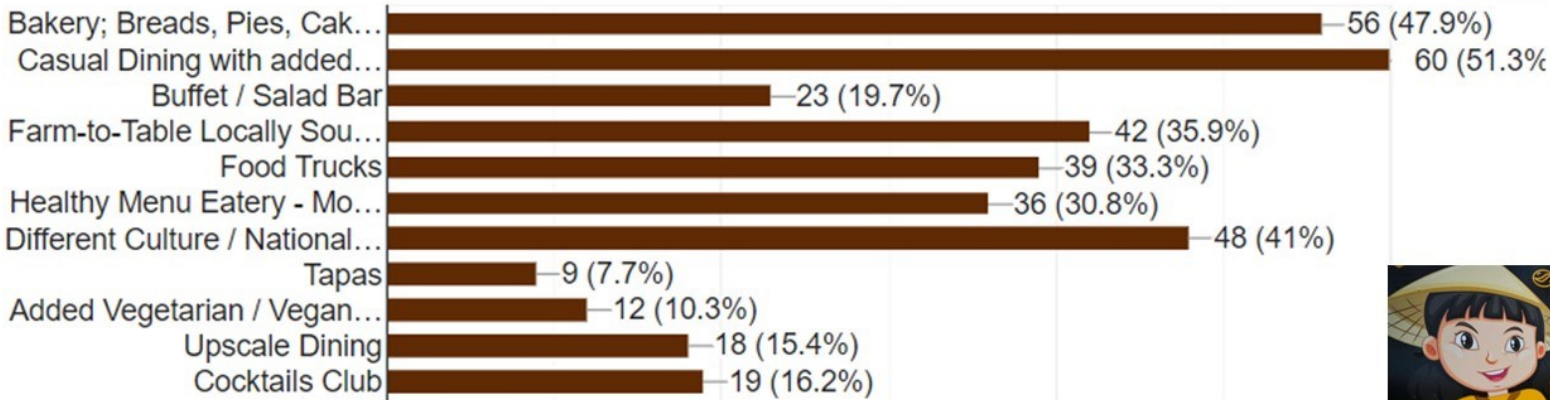
55 responses



PROSPECTS FOR EATING AND DRINKING PLACES

(select up to 4) Which of the following types of new or expanded eating and drinking options would you support by visiting more frequently?

117 responses



I'd rather you keep the bars out of our beautiful town. Bars pull in crowds we don't want, and just take away from our beauty of our town. I grew up in a town where we had bars on every corner. The school system from k-12 only had 1200 students total, so it was a very small town. We had 4 bars. Most of those people still live there, and are still found every night drinking. The amount of accidents that small town had and the drug problems... I don't want to see Portland turn into that. We moved here because of how peaceful, holsome and quiet the town is.

I would love to see a cocktail bar and more upscale restaurants!

Parking is so limited at Fabiano's and most downtown establishments. If a person doesn't have the time or patience to walk or wait, they just go to the Wagon Wheel.

We are excited about the Mexican restaurant opening up in Portland . Hope it is successful. Hope Tim Fuller is able to open up a nice restaurant in the Opera Block.

Bistro or steakhouse would be ideal.

I wish more places were open on Monday.

Healthy options would be nice.

It would be great if you could recruit Gillmore or a similar successful company to open a restaurant. We frequently go to Flat River in Lowell and always see Portland residents there.

A cafe would be great with breakfast options and some good home cooking!

Think downtown Lansing. Serve the lunch crowd. No need to staff up 24/7.



We also could really use something like a Qdoba or Chipotle. Something "in-between" fast food and a sit down restaurant. Also I just really really love Qdoba and Chipotle :)

My wife keeeps telling me how much she would love to see an 'indoor' restaraunt that overlooks the river!

Our go-to for dining in Portland is Confluxcity Brewing. We enjoy their creative food and drinks. A bakery is just empty calories that are too easy to consume quickly! I prefer to make it more of a challenge to get obese. :-O Food trucks are typically very overpriced for what you get and they are weather-dependent (I do not want to stand in the rain to order/pick-up my food). Thank you for asking.

We've stopped frequenting at least one local restaurant due to regular poor service. Our kids, although not terribly picky, struggle with decent and appropriate kid menu options. We don't need more restaurants, we need those that are here, to simply do better.

No more "Sports Bars"

It would be great, if our current restaurants would add/change up items to their menu to incorporate unique options, locally sourced foods, and healthier prepared meals

I think the places we have could attract more people more frequently if they would tweak their offerings. Everyplace has burgers, pizza, salads, mac & cheese, & fries and standard breakfast fare. How can you make yours stand out? Use more products from local farms, make items more healthy, there are almost no healthy vegetarian options. How about healthy bowls (poke) variety that incorporates all the above -add a protein for extra cost.

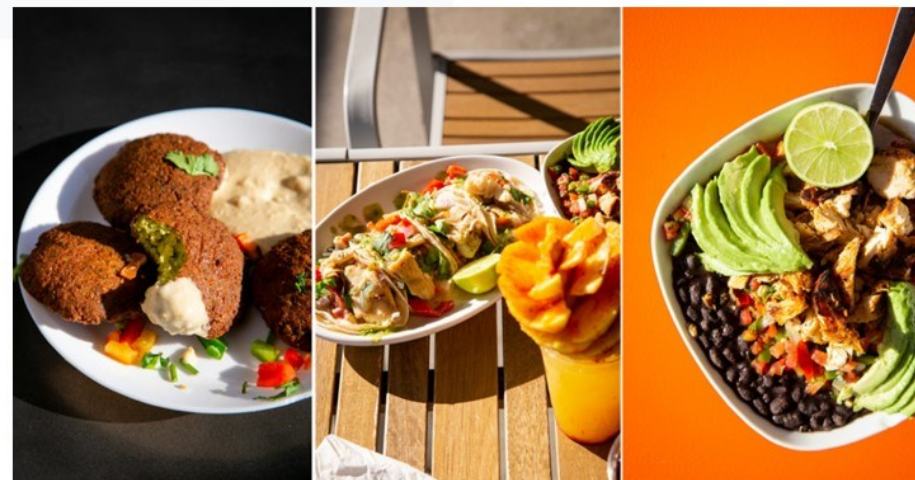
As seniors, pricing matters

Food Trucks are a MUST; Can Incorporate food truck services near Portland Truck Stop area next to highway and DownTown Portland

check out Grand Rapids, Lansing and suburban Detroit areas for restaurants and what's popular

We have plenty of "bar" type & pizza & fast food places. It would be nice to add a more variety- a true Mexican food experience or pasty takeout shop.

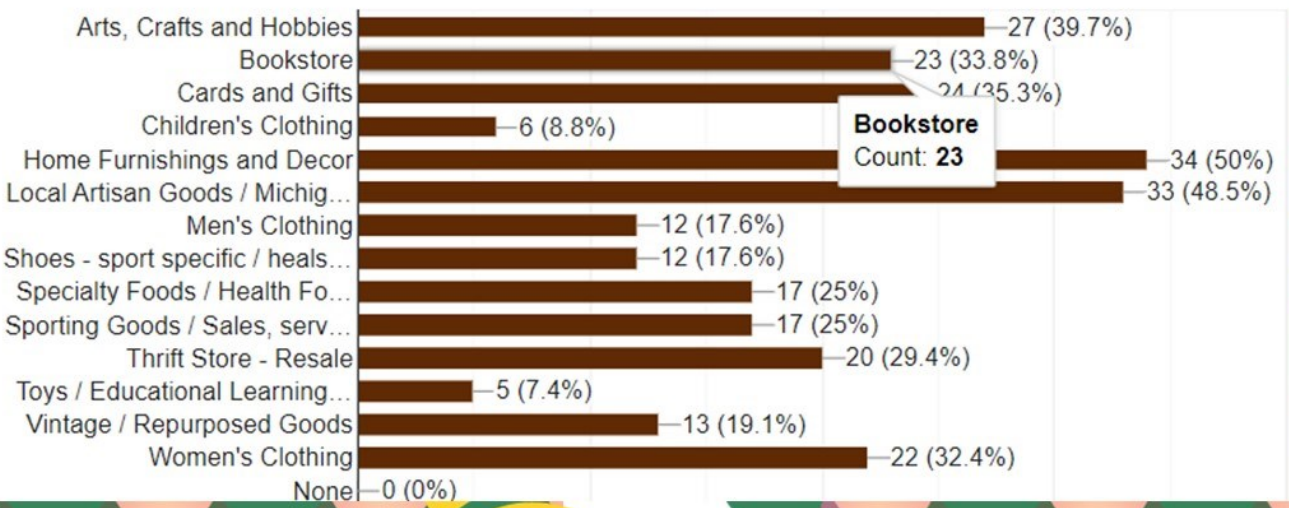
Amazing Michigan Farm-To-Table Experiences





*(select up to 5) Which of the following types of new or expanded retail establishments would make you visit and spend in Downtown Portland more often?

68 responses



The empty/run down/abandoned storefronts are part of the problem. Downtown DeWitt or Mason are more attractive to me because it just seems more filled out/lively. Lots of options - retail, restaurants, coffee shops. We're getting there! Maybe more unique restaurants would help vs shopping.

There are so many Facebook pages for events and businesses and rummage sale I feel like things need to be consolidated down and regularly updated for businesses sales and downtown events

Evening or weekend hours would help otherwise the stores are open only when I am working too.

Like other seniors with ageing vision and driving restrictions , I rely more and more on on-line shopping. Could a coalition of merchants find a way to jointly offer their wares and services?

There seems to be no space available for a shop.

Unique gifts and decor and food items would be great!!

Retail here is tough but I respect the effort to find what there may be a demand for. I'd hate to see the town become a bunch of glorified Goodwill stores.

You need a store that serves a large cross population (likes Browns pharmacy, Mrs. Brown's card shop.) And not a bunch of small shops that aren't attractive to so many.

Antiques have been popular. I've been downtown since 1996. What goes is Religious Articles in my store. CRAFTS, and also Health Items. I Will be offering samples in trial packs too.

Finish the opera house block and reopen!!!

This seems to be a no-brainer

If there's something you think a current shop could change or do to make shopping there more attractive to you, what might that be (you don't have to name the business, but please describe the type)

15 responses

More availability and consistency with open hours.

Advertise effectively. Most people have no idea what — if any — shopping options exist downtown. Businesses are exceptionally ineffective in letting people know they are here.

Only shop at Tom's, QFH, Pool and Spa, Auto Parts, gas stations, party stores x2, and restaurants. Go to Ionia or Lansing for other needs.

Finishing the old buildings that make the downtown like awful and unwelcoming get businesses going bring business

Less cluttered - limit items and change them up every couple months. More days, evenings when all businesses open at same time.

If everyone could just have regular hours that reflect the needs of the community (ie either early in the day or later in the evening)

Current 'shift' in business models, I am assuming?

Unique, quality items and services worth the elevated price of doing business in the downtown. (Lower taxes on those old buildings when they have a beneficial business in them, incentivize.) Shoes, clothing, toys, quality health foods, et al. Uniform hours of business.

Quality, value, service - so the proprietor can afford to stay in business, not items that can be purchase online or big box.

Brown's Shoes franchise is a good example.

Start a revolving loan program to assist in the upkeep of the historic two blocks of downtown.

Remove the over-grown trees and grating around them, making the sidewalks more walkable. We all love trees, but trees were not necessarily common in the Italianate 19th-century phase of downtown design. Add charm with unique signage, motifs, window coverings...

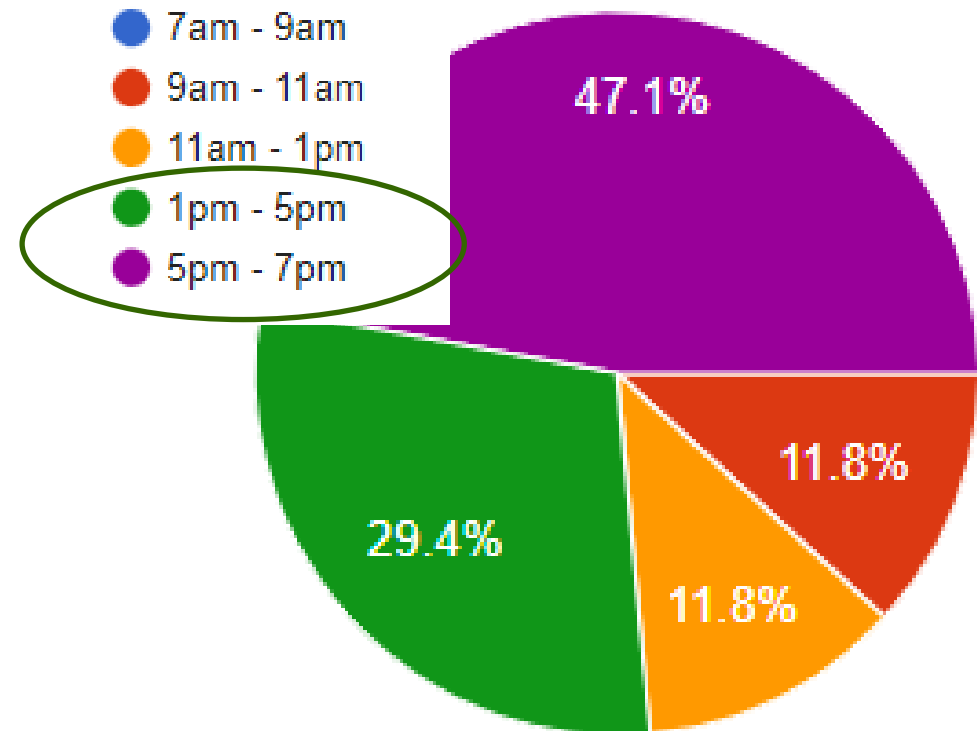
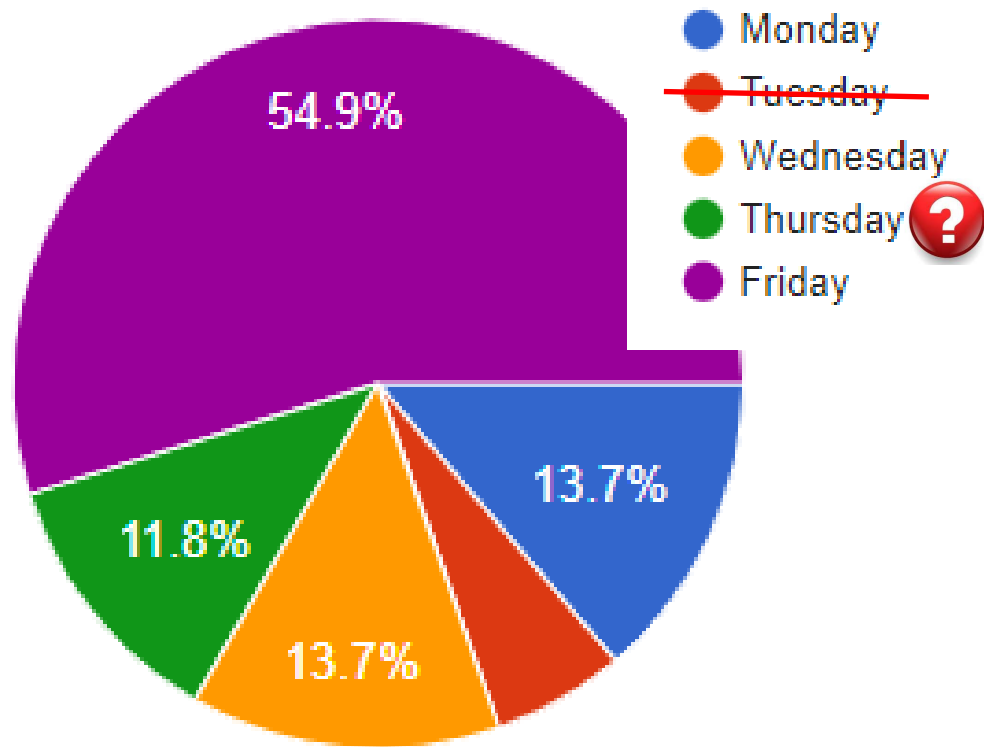
Online appointments for salons

Oms Garden hS done awesome. We need more retail stores Downtown.

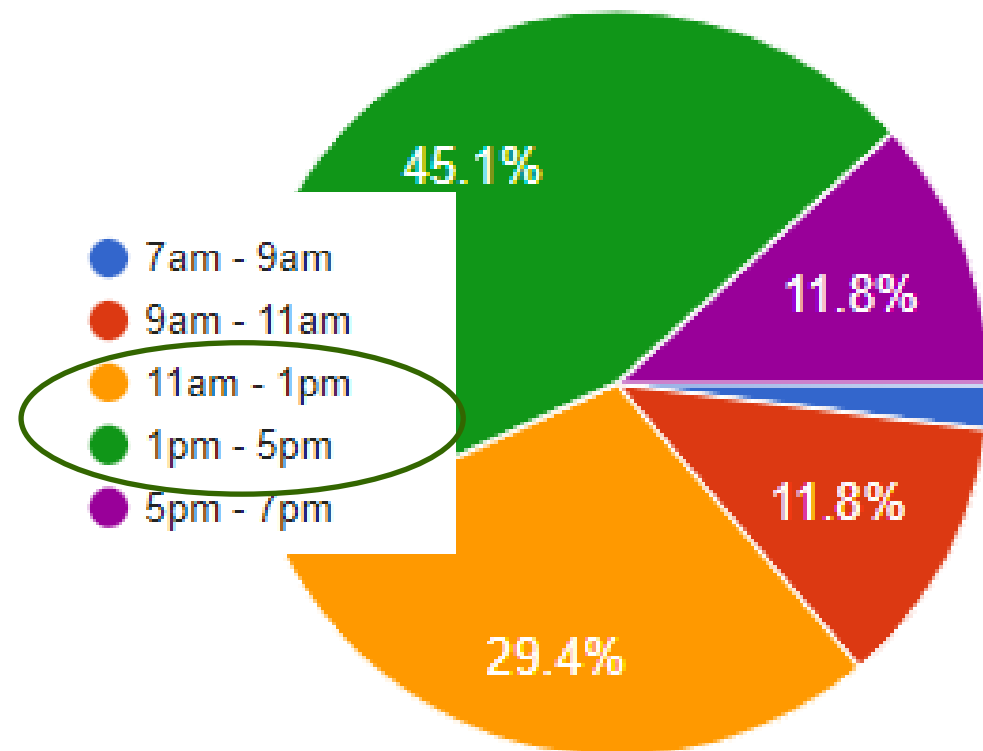
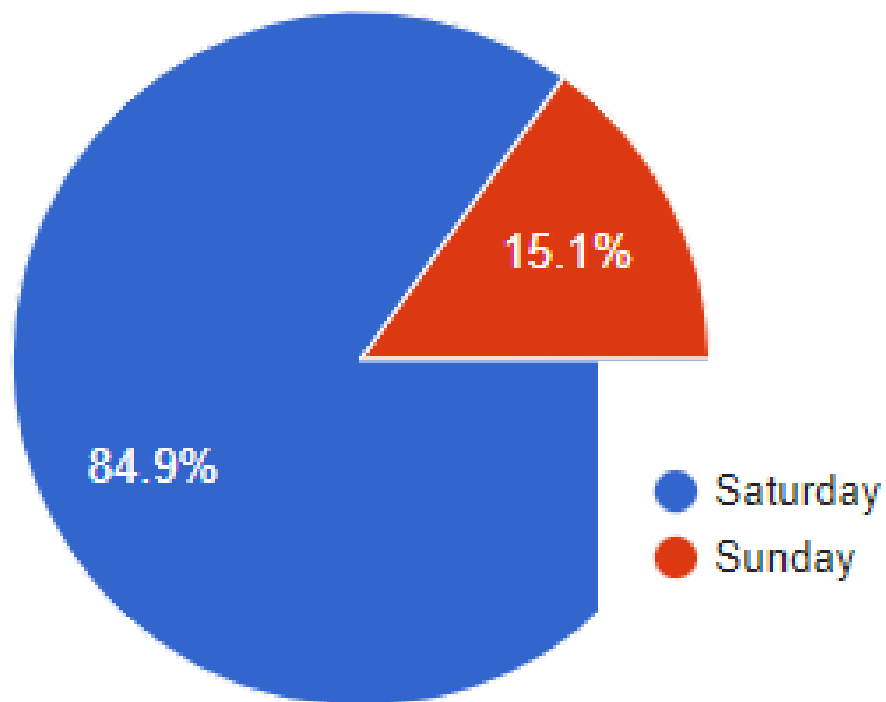
Lower prices

Appreciate all the small businesses we have

Weekday Shopping

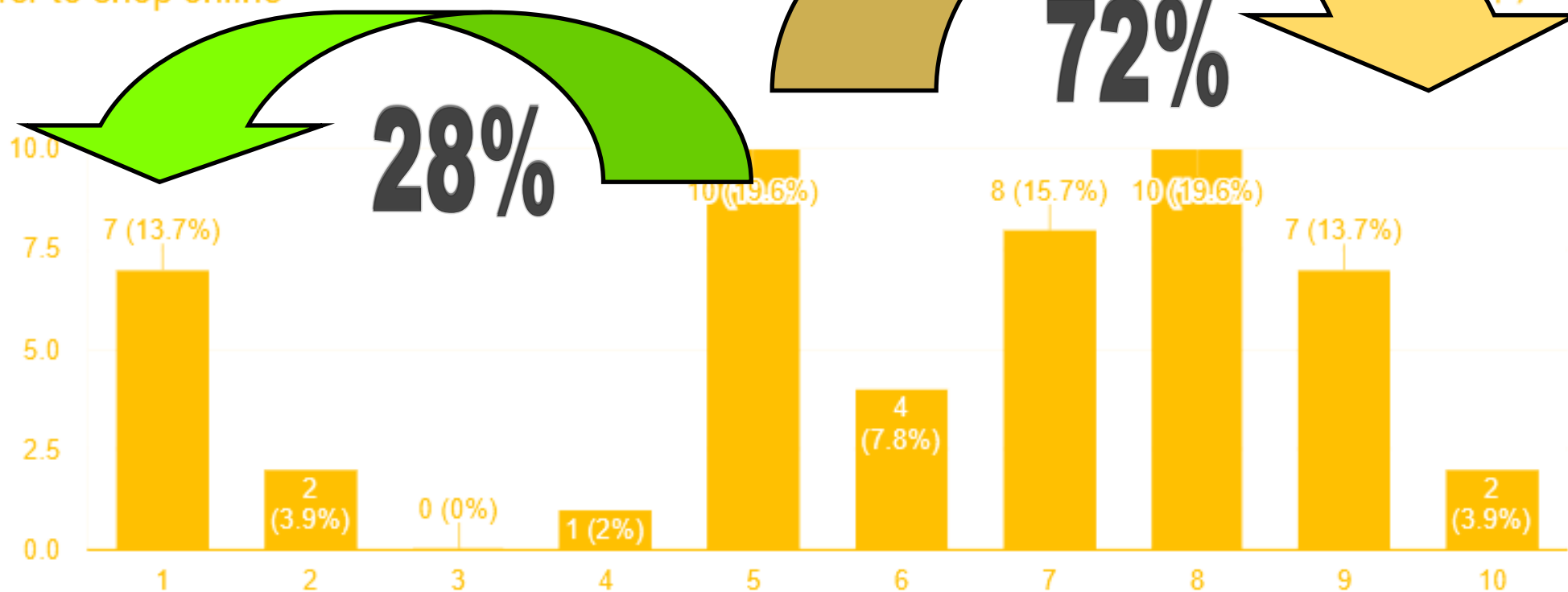


WeekEND Shopping



Online Shopping

I prefer to shop online



Would you utilize a central website that made each retailers online products available to purchase and pick up or have delivered?

 Copy

