

Survey Says . . .

We polled superintendents on myriad issues, from job security to job challenges.

Here are the results

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From some of the chitchat you hear, you might think few superintendents get along with their golf courses' pros and management. But according to our recent superintendent survey, most superintendents say they have positive relationships with both parties.

In September, *Golfdom* blasted into cyberspace to poll superintendents on a plethora of issues, ranging from job security to job challenges. More than 110 superintendents

from throughout the country responded to our survey.

Fifty-six percent of those superintendents say they get along "very well" with their pros, and another 29 percent say they get along "OK" with them. Only 2 percent say they have "poor" relationships with pros.

The numbers are even higher for getting along with management. Sixty-four percent of superintendents say they get along "very well" with management, and another 35 percent say their relationships with management are "OK."

Our survey also revealed that 58 percent of superintendents said they are adequately paid for what they do. Interestingly, though, 58 percent of those surveyed said the industry does not offer them adequate benefits, such as 401k and health insurance.

Most superintendents surveyed said they are secure in their jobs, and 35 percent said they feel "very secure." But we think John Gurke, certified superintendent of Aurora (Ill.) CC, sums up how a lot of superintendents may feel about job security. "Even after a good year," Gurke says, "I always feel I can be replaced."

On the nonpercentage side of the survey, *Golfdom* asked superintendents to list their main management and job challenges. Here's what some of them say:

"Finding enough good people to work for you. The competition with the building trades is fierce. If you go to work for a carpenter, electrician or a plumber, you're

Survey Demographics

112

SUPERINTENDENTS throughout the United States responded to the survey, which was conducted online in late September and early October.

51%

OF RESPONDENTS were from private courses, and 48 percent were from public tracks.

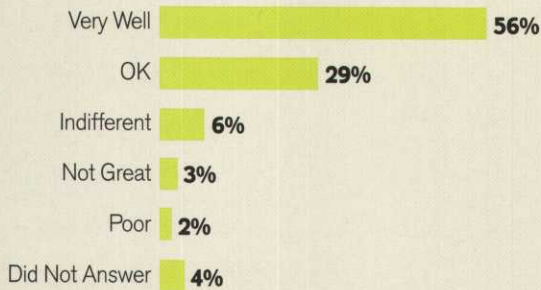
43%

OF RESPONDENTS were between 40 and 50 years old. Twenty percent were ages 50 to 55, and 13 percent were ages 30 to 35. Four percent were 55 and older, and 2 percent were 25 and younger.

33%

OF RESPONDENTS have worked in their current jobs for five to 10 years, and 23 percent have been at the same courses for 10 to 20 years. Thirteen percent have more than 20 years at the same facilities, and 5 percent have been at their current jobs for less than one year.

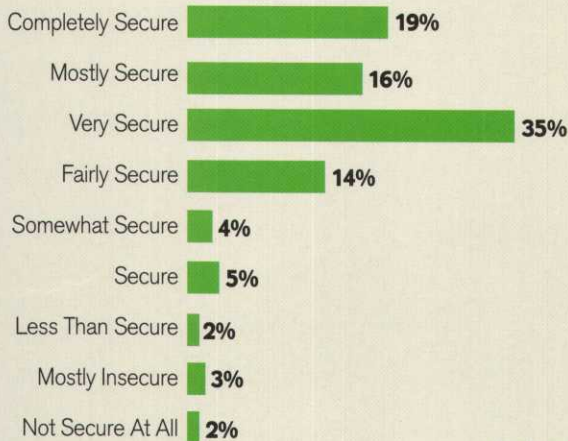
How Well Do You Get Along With Your Golf Professional?



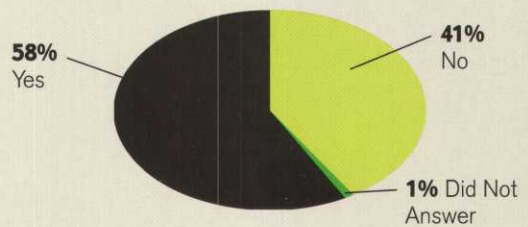
How Well Do You Get Along With Your Management?



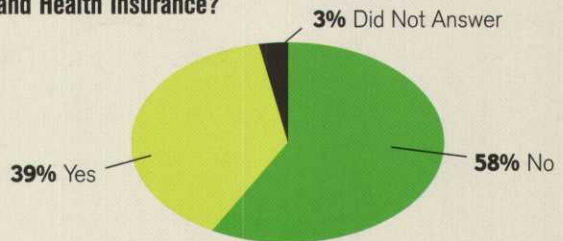
How Would You Rate Your Job Security In Your Current Position?



Do You Feel You're Adequately Paid For What You Do?



In General, Do You Feel The Industry Offers Adequate Benefits For Superintendents, Such As 401k Plans and Health Insurance?



Golfdom

learning a trade with some potential for the future. If you go to work on a golf course, the outlook for the future is limited.” — MIKE REWINSKI, superintendent of Westhampton CC, West Hampton Beach, N.Y.

“Getting cultivation (topdressing, verticutting and aeration) work done without interrupting golfers.” — DAVID BRANDENBURG, certified superintendent of Rolling Meadows GC, Theresa, Wis.

“Trying to maintain turf without the budget for pesticide treatment of tees and fairways.” — ARTHUR CASTO, superintendent of Kanawha County Parks and Recreation, Culloden, W.Va.

“Providing superior playing conditions on a daily basis while balancing

fiscal responsibility.” — BRUCE WILLIAMS, certified superintendent of the Los Angeles CC

“Eight general managers in 10 years.” — ROBERT TAEGER, certified superintendent of Village CC, Lompoc, Calif.

“Maintaining the course around the amount of play and the type of people who play here. It’s a municipal course that gets a lot of new players who have no knowledge or respect for the rules of golf or golf course etiquette.” — JOHN FINK, Sligo Creek GC, Frederick, Md.

“Getting the entire staff (pro shop, clubhouse and grounds staff) working together as a team.” — MICHELLE FRAZIER, certified superintendent of Boston Hills CC, Hudson, Ohio

“Moss, moss, moss.” — STEVE HAMMON, superintendent of Traverse City (Mich.) Golf & CC

“Keeping a very fickle membership happy.” — CHARLIE MILLER, superintendent of the Springhaven Club, Wallingford, Pa.

“Weed management on a 75-year-old course.” — KELLY CRAGIN, superintendent of Granada GC, Miami

“Maintaining an above-average golf course using the least amount of synthetic pesticides.” — PATRICK BLUM, superintendent of Colonial Acres GC, Glenmont, N.Y.

“Educating my ‘bosses’ about what I do and the golf industry.” — ANONYMOUS