



Survey Shows

Superintendents Satisfied With Career *Would you do it over again?*

BY DAVID FRABOTTA, SENIOR EDITOR

More than four in five superintendents would become superintendents again, according to a recent in-depth survey by *Golfdom*. On the flip side, 18 percent would choose a different career if they could.

While that might appear to suggest a disgruntled profession, it's on par with many others.

A 2004 study by Arizona State University Career Services found about 75 percent of respondents in the overall workforce across all occupations are satisfied with their career choices.

More than 90 percent of medical doctors and veterinarians say they would choose their career again; 87 percent of librarians say the same, and 75 percent of research engineers would do it all over again, according to respective professional magazines.

Long hours, job stress, compensation, unreal-

istic golfer expectations and access to affordable healthcare all rank as reasons superintendents might become disenfranchised with their jobs.

One respondent of the *Golfdom* survey said, "I feel sorry for many of the young people getting into this profession. Another said, "The 'Would you become a superintendent again?' question took me by surprise. My answer even more so." He answered "no."

But for the most part, superintendents report liking their jobs. "I think most of the stress that superintendents feel is self-inflicted," one respondent wrote. "If you want to be a martyr, that's what you'll be. Get away from the course some time. It'll be there tomorrow."

For the second-consecutive year, superintendents say finding and retaining employees is their biggest professional concern (35 percent) followed by unrealistic golfer expectations (20 percent).

A new question this year focused on personal concerns: 36 percent report that their ability to re-

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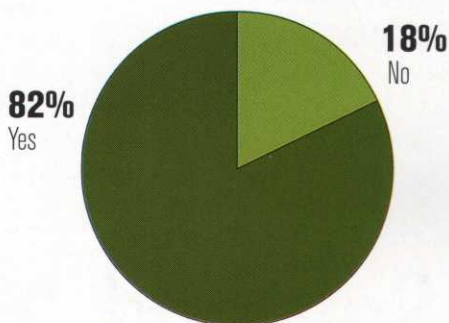
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tire troubles them most, while 29 percent said not enough free time. About half of respondents say they either have a little free time or no free time; the other half said they're busy, but they have a life outside of work.

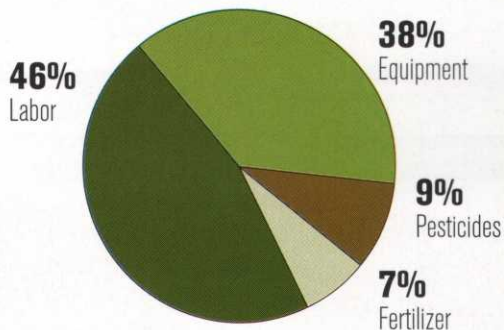
About half of superintendents say they should be the highest paid employee at a club, and just 20 percent say they make great money. ■

Would you become a superintendent again?

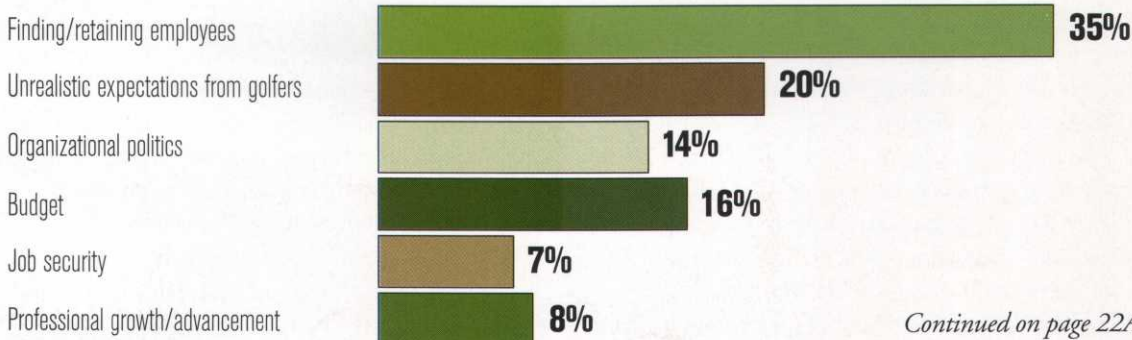
(598 responses)



What is the area of your budget you're most likely to cut if asked to do so? (614 responses)



What is your biggest professional concern? (619 responses)



About the Survey

Every year, *Golfdom* conducts its survey on the state of the profession to gauge superintendents' sentiments about their jobs and the golf industry.

The survey was conducted online in December, and a drawing to win either an iPod or home theater system was established to encourage participation. A small number of other golf employees, including general managers, also participated in the survey.

A total of 625 responses were recorded during a 28-day period, which produced a 5.4 percent response rate. Respondents are 98 percent men and 2 percent women. The majority of respondents (71 percent) work for either a public 18-hole course or a private 18-hole course (See chart below).

Just 14 percent of respondents have held their current position for more than 20 years; 23 percent have 10-20 years tenure; 24 percent have worked in their position for 5-10 years; 23 percent have 3-5 years tenure, and 16 percent have less than 2 years in their current position.

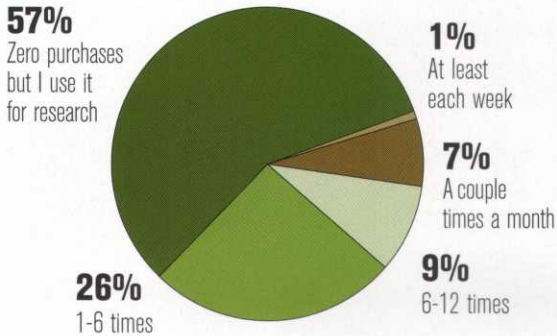
Not all questions were answered by all respondents; the number of respondents is indicated for each question. The margin of error is plus or minus 3.81. ■

Facility Type (625 responses)

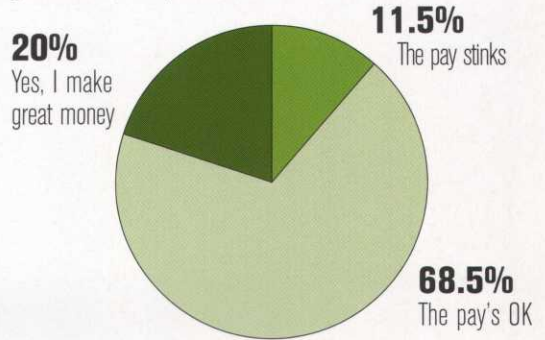
Public 9	5%
Private 9	1%
Public 18	38%
Private 18	33%
Private 36	4%
Other	19%

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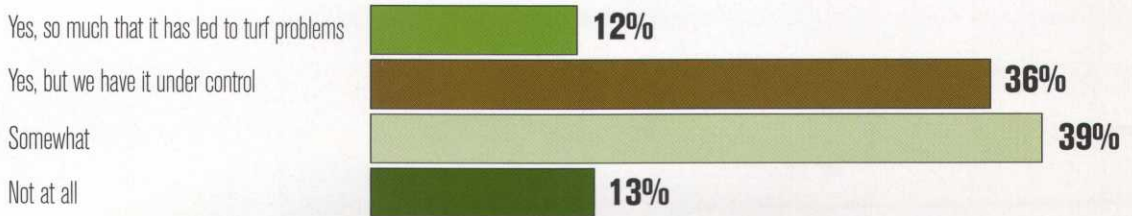
How many times did you use the Internet to buy golf course supplies in 2006? (614 responses)



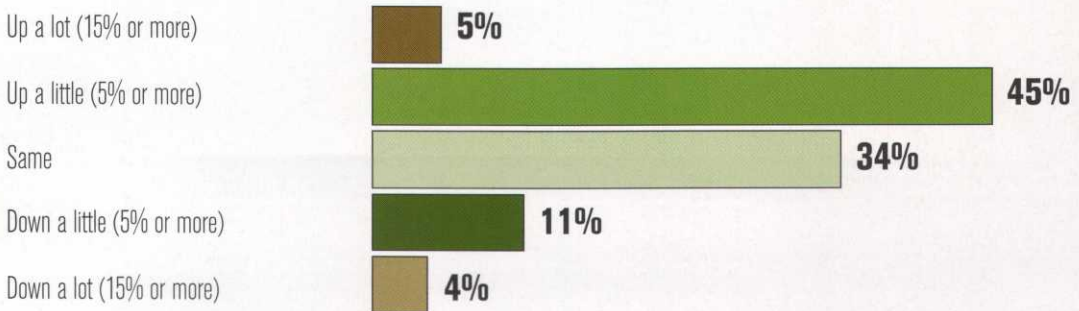
Do you think you are adequately paid for what you do? (617 responses)



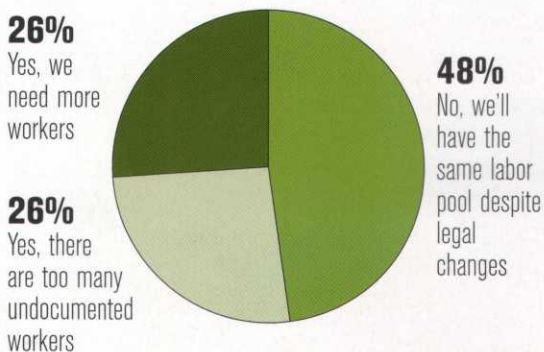
Is green speed an issue at your course? (613 responses)



Is your 2007 maintenance budget ... ? (614 responses)



Are you concerned about federal immigration reform? (616 responses)



What is your biggest personal concern? (614 responses)

