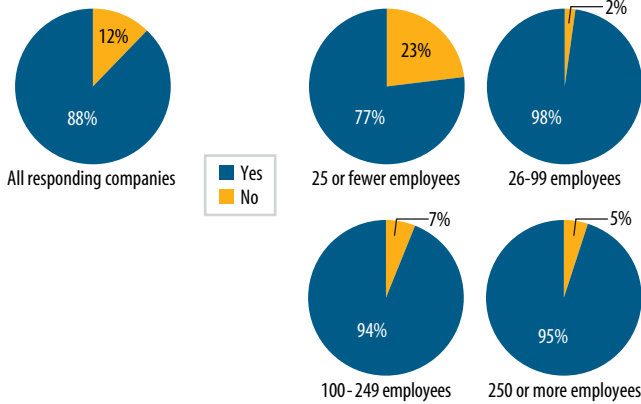


# Health care on crutches

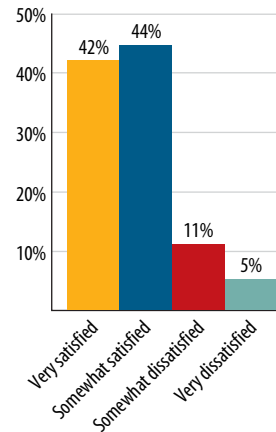
Medical premiums are going through the roof for employers and employees, with double-digit annual increases expected for the foreseeable future. A task force of the Oregon Business Council has been grappling with the problem at the statewide level

(see *Oregon Business*, December 2004). In response to our online survey, 732 subscribers weighed in on a range of health care issues — from satisfaction with local medical care to the prospect that employers will drop health care coverage altogether as costs rise.

## Does your company pay for health insurance for all full-time employees?

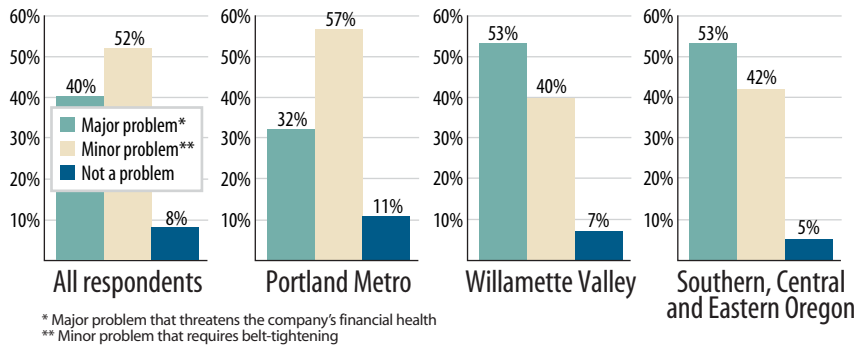


## How satisfied are you with health care in your area?

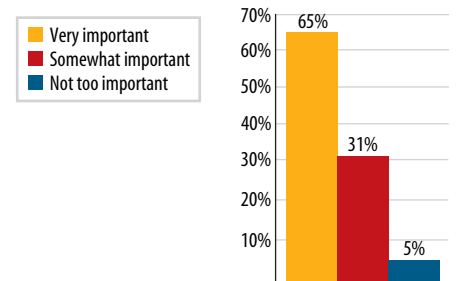


Overall, respondents have a high degree of satisfaction with the health care available to them. However, dig deeper and some ripples emerge. While 42% of respondents in Portland and the Willamette Valley say they're "very satisfied," only 33% outside the northern I-5 corridor are. Meanwhile, nearly 25% of respondents at small companies — with 25 or fewer employees — are dissatisfied with their health care. Only 10%-12% of people who work at bigger companies are dissatisfied with the health care they receive.

## Does the cost of health care pose a financial problem for your company?



## How important is health insurance in employee retention and recruitment?



## What has your company done in the past year in response to rising health care costs?

Action	Yes	No
Increased the share of health insurance premiums paid by employees	62%	38%
Changed health insurance carriers to get lower rates for employees	48%	52%
Reduced employee health insurance benefits to cut costs	46%	54%
Considered eliminating health insurance as an employee benefit	11%	89%

## If health care costs keep escalating, what do you think your company will do in the future?

A combination: increase the employee-paid share of insurance premiums and reduce health plan benefits	45%
Increase the employee-paid share of insurance premiums	25%
Reduce the benefits available on the company's health plan	9%
Make no or few changes to health insurance benefits	7%
Not sure	13%

Input was sponsored this quarter by Davis Wright Tremaine LLP. Research was conducted by Conkling Fiskum & McCormick.