Departure Survey Report

For Fiscal Year 2011

IOWA EXECUTIVE BRANCH



State of Iowa January 2012

FY 2011 Exit Survey

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INTRODUCTION

Purpose

• This project was initiated by the Department of Personnel, now the Department of Administrative Services (DAS)— Human Resources Enterprise (HRE), to assist executive branch agencies in determining why employees leave their employ or state government as well as provide insight into past employee perceptions of their employer. As the workforce continues to age and at the same time the available workforce declines, employers must have data to manage their turnover effectively.

Objectives

- The specific objectives for this research are to:
 - Determine the most prevalent reasons employees separate from state employment.
 - Determine if departments are utilizing exit interviews.
 - Determine past employee perceptions about compensation and benefit issues.
 - Determine past employee perceptions about employee autonomy issues.
 - Determine past employee perceptions about coworkers/supervisors.
 - Determine past employee perceptions about diversity issues.
 - Determine past employee perceptions about communication issues.

This Report

 The report that follows contains the methodology and key findings for the State of Iowa as an employer after the eleventh year of data collection. <u>ALL TOTAL FIGURES</u> <u>INCLUDE 11 YEARS WORTH OF DATA.</u>

Sample

 The population for this year's survey consisted of all those executive branch employees who left state employment or made an interagency transfer over the course of fiscal year 2011. The population surveyed included 1,003 past and current employees comprised of 67 transfers, 74 retirees and early retirees, and 148 voluntary separations.

Sample Contact

- Packets were mailed throughout FY' 11 after an approximate lag period of 60 days from the date of separation. Electronic surveys are now also available, which was implemented in the last 3 months of FY' 11.
 Each packet included a survey and postage paid return envelope.
- As of September 30, 2011, the designated cut-off date, the total return was as follows:

EV 0044

	<u>FY 2010</u>	<u>FY 2011</u>	<u>i otal Project</u>
Number Mailed	2,052	1,003	12,644
Returned Undeliverable	25	26	232
Net Delivered	2,027	977	12,412
Responses (n)	606	289	4,219
Response Rate	29.9%	29.6%	34.0%

EV 0040

Data Analysis

- The data collected in this study was edited, coded, entered and verified.
- Results have been generated to provide a total for the past 11 fiscal years.
- In addition, appropriate demographics have been provided and cross tabulations have been produced.
- The tabulated data have been thoroughly analyzed based on the purpose and objectives defined at the outset of the project.
- Frequencies have been calculated for all the questions on the survey.

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Tatal Dualest

KEY FINDINGS – DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF TOTAL SAMPLE

Characteristics

	FY 2010	FY 2011	Total Project
Sub-samples			
Transfers	5.0%	23.2%	17.8%
Retirements	75.1%	25.6%	41.1%
Voluntary Separations	20.0%	51.2%	41.0%
<u>Gender</u>			
Male	47.6%	39.6%	41.6%
Female	52.4%	60.4%	58.4%
<u>Disability</u>			
Yes	5.1%	4.0%	5.4%
No	94.9%	96.0%	94.6%
Age Group			
18-29 years	3.3%	17.0%	11.2%
30-39 years	7.6%	19.8%	16.6%
40-49 years	4.5%	19.1%	16.4%
50-59 years	31.2%	29.2%	26.8%
60-69 years	50.8%	13.9%	27.5%
70+ years	2.5%	1.0%	1.6%
<u>Ethnicity</u>			
Caucasian	96.7%	95.5%	95.2%
African American	0.8%	0.7%	1.7%
Asian American	0.7%	1.4%	1.1%
Native American	0.5%	1.0%	0.6%
Latino	1.3%	1.4%	1.4%
<u>Supervisor</u>			
Yes	15.3%	12.5%	15.1%
No	84.7%	87.5%	84.9%

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KEY FINDINGS – DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF TOTAL SAMPLE

Characteristics

	FY 2010	FY 2011	Total Project
Length of Employment			
Less than 1 year	2.2%	13.2%	8.8%
1-5 years	12.9%	40.8%	27.9%
6-10 years	8.8%	8.0%	12.4%
11-15 years	7.8%	8.4%	8.6%
16-25 years	17.7%	13.2%	17.4%
25+ years	50.6%	16.4%	24.9%
<u>Location</u>			
Capitol Complex	15.1%	24.7%	23.3%
Regional	14.2%	16.7%	15.1%
Polk County	5.0%	5.2%	5.8%
DOT – Ames	7.5%	2.1%	3.4%
Institution	33.1%	28.1%	29.5%
Home Based	1.7%	2.8%	2.9%
Other	23.4%	20.5%	19.9%
Past Dept Employer			
Human Services	30.6%	31.3%	30.6%
Corrections	17.8%	15.3%	15.1%
Transportation*	15.4%	6.3%	7.0%
Workforce Development	4.3%	5.9%	5.0%
Education	2.3%	2.8%	4.0%
Natural Resources	3.7%	2.4%	3.9%
Public Safety	1.8%	3.8%	3.8%
Veteran's Home	5.0%	4.2%	3.8%
Public Health	2.7%	3.5%	3.4%
Administrative Services	1.5%	1.7%	2.6%
Inspections & Appeals	3.0%	1.7%	2.6%
Agriculture	1.8%	1.0%	2.3%
Public Defense	2.0%	5.2%	1.9%
Revenue	1.7%	1.0%	1.8%
Auditor	0.0%	3.1%	1.4%
All Others	6.5%	10.8%	10.9%

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Top 5 reasons for Separating from State Employment

<u>Reason</u>	Percent of respondents listing this reason in 2010	Percent of respondents listing this reason in 2011	Total percent of respondents listing this reason*
 Working Conditions 	18.5%	33.6%	28.8%
2. Quality of Supervision	16.5%	27.0%	24.4%
3. Career Advancement			
Opportunity	6.9%	27.3%	22.1%
4. Organization Culture	10.2%	24.2%	16.7%
Co-Worker Relations	9.9%	15.9%	13.9%

^{*}Respondent could select more than one. Omits those who left because of retirement.

Length of Job Search

	<u>FY 2010</u>	FY 2011	Total Percent
Started search within the last 90 days	35.5%	27.6%	34.4%
Started search within the last 6 months	25.0%	29.9%	27.9%
Started search within the last year	20.5%	23.1%	19.2%
Started search over a year ago	19.0%	19.5%	18.5%

Employing Agency asked employee to reconsider leaving.

Employing Agency encouraged employee to check other State employee career options.

Employee checked into other options that would have allowed him/her to stay.

Employing Agency conducted an Exit Interview.

- 17.0% of respondents said that their previous department encouraged them to reconsider leaving in 2010. This number increased in 2011 to 26.6%.
- In 2010, 3.0% of respondents said that their previous department encouraged them to explore alternative state career options prior to leaving. This number increased in 2011 to 9.7%.
- In 2010, 24.8% of respondents said they, in fact, did check into options that would have allowed them to stay with the State prior to leaving. This number increased in 2011 to 38.4%.
- 28.9% of respondents said that their previous department conducted an exit interview prior to leaving in 2010, which increased to 31.1% in 2011.

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Individual Survey Items

I would apply for another position with the State of Iowa if I were looking for work (35).

		disagreed to some degree			% agreed to s		
Total	10.7%	5.7%	8.2%	15.3%	22.7%	37.4%	
2011	13.4%	7.1%	6.7%	17.7%	18.4%	36.7%	
2010	9.8%	7.0%	6.1%	9.3%	27.1%	40.7%	

Compensation & Rewards

I was recognized when I did exceptional work (1).

	48.7% disagreed to some degree			51.3	% agreed to s	some degree
Total	16.2%	16.2%	16.4%	19.3%	17.6%	14.4%
2011	18.9%	15.8%	11.9%	20.7%	17.5%	15.1%
2010	13.7%	15.1%	13.2%	19.8%	18.9%	19.3%

The benefits I received met my expectations (2).

	15.5% disag	15.5% disagreed to some degree		84.5	% agreed to	some degree	
Total	2.8%	3.8%	9.0%	17.6%	35.0%	31.9%	
2011	2.8%	2.1%	8.0%	13.6%	31.1%	42.3%	
2010	2.3%	2.8%	4.2%	15.7%	38.4%	36.6%	

I was paid fairly for the work I did (3).

	30.8% disagn	30.8% disagreed to some degree		69.2	% agreed to	some degree
Total	7.8%	9.9%	13.1%	19.2%	29.4%	20.6%
2011	9.8%	10.8%	12.2%	18.5%	25.9%	22.7%
2010	4.2%	7.9%	7.9%	19.9%	31.5%	28.7%

My pay was similar to employees performing the same jobs in the private sector (4).

	49 4% disagr	49.4% disagreed to some degree			% agreed to	some degree
Total	15.2%	15.4%	18.9%	21.1%	18.5%	11.0%
2011	19.1%	11.7%	22.0%	20.9%	17.0%	9.2%
2010	11.1%	11.6%	19.8%	22.2%	19.3%	15.9%

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I was asked to do an appropriate amount of work for the amount I was paid (19).

	36.8% disagr	36.8% disagreed to some degree		63.2	% agreed to s	some degree
Total	11.1%	13.0%	12.6%	20.0%	26.8%	16.5%
2011	12.3%	14.0%	16.1%	17.5%	24.9%	15.1%
2010	7.0%	11.7%	9.8%	22.4%	25.2%	23.8%

Work Tools

My office environment helped me provide quality products and services (5).

2010	11.1%	13.0%	18.8%	26.4%	17.8%	13.0%	
2011	15.4%	14.7%	21.9%	21.5%	16.1%	10.4%	
Total	14.0%	15.5%	19.9%	22.5%	18.6%	9.5%	
	49.5% disagreed to some degree			50.5	% agreed to	some degree	

The training I received permitted me to update and expand my skills (6).

2010	9.3%	11.2%	19.2%	23.8%	22.9%	13.6%
2011	15.8%	12.7%	20.1%	16.2%	21.5%	13.7%
Total	12.9%	14.1%	16.3%	22.9%	22.6%	11.2%
	43.3% disagreed to some degree			56.7	% agreed to s	some degree

The technology I was provided was sufficient to accomplish my work (7).

	30.5% disagreed to some degree		69.5% agreed to some degree			
Total	6.4%	8.7%	15.3%	24.3%	31.2%	14.0%
2011	5.6%	11.3%	14.8%	20.8%	31.7%	15.8%
2010	4.2%	6.6%	11.7%	27.2%	32.9%	17.4%

I was provided the necessary orientation and training to successfully carry out my job duties (9).

	39.7% disagreed to some degree			60.3% agreed to some degree		
Total	10.1%	12.5%	17.2%	22.5%	24.8%	13.0%
2010 2011	6.0% 11.2%	8.8% 12.9%	13.5% 18.9%	27.4% 20.3%	27.4% 24.5%	16.7% 12.2%

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I was given complete and accurate information regarding my job duties prior to accepting the job I recently vacated (17).

	36.7% disagreed to some degree		63.3% agreed to some degree			
Total	9.9%	11.1%	15.7%	22.7%	25.1%	15.5%
2011	11.4%	11.7%	18.1%	19.2%	25.3%	14.2%
2010	7.3%	13.1%	9.7%	23.3%	25.7%	20.9%

Policies and procedures were clear and aided me in performing my job (24).

	40.3% disagreed to some degree			59.7	% agreed to s	some degree
Total	11.4%	11.9%	17.0%	21.7%	24.8%	13.2%
2011	12.3%	15.1%	16.5%	22.1%	22.5%	11.6%
2010	7.5%	12.3%	16.0%	25.0%	23.6%	15.6%

Communication

Communication was open and informative within my work unit (13).

2010	16.4%	14.0%	15.4%	15.4%	24.8%	14.0%
2011	19.9%	12.9%	19.2%	17.1%	19.6%	11.2%
Total	20.1%	15.5%	16.4%	16.8%	18.9%	12.3%
	52.0% disagreed to some degree			48.0	% agreed to s	some degree

My department's vision, mission, and goals were communicated to me (14).

Total 9.3% 8.9% 15.8% 21.6% 26.6% 17.8	2010 2011	% 30.7% 18.4% % 26.0% 17.2%	8.0% 9.4% 12.7% 8.8% 9.5% 16.8%	2%
33.9% disagreed to some degree 66.1% agreed to some degree	Total	% 26.6% 17.8% 66.1% agreed to some degree	9.3% 8.9% 15.8% 33.9% disagreed to some degree	

I had a clear understanding of how I contributed to the mission of my department (15).

	34.4% disagreed to some degree			65.6% agreed to some degree		
Total	8.8%	10.4%	15.2%	20.5%	27.1%	18.1%
2011	9.8%	10.8%	16.4%	18.5%	25.2%	19.2%
2010	6.5%	5.6%	13.6%	20.6%	32.7%	21.0%

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I received timely and effective feedback about my performance (16).

2010	12.1%	15.8%	15.8%	17.7%	23.7%	14.9%
2011	16.8%	17.2%	19.3%	17.5%	18.9%	10.2%
Total	16.5%	17.1%	18.2%	19.1%	17.7%	11.3%
. 5.0.		51.8% disagreed to some degree			% agreed to s	

Intrinsic Value & Autonomy

There were career advancement opportunities for me if I had chosen to stay (8).

	76.4% disagreed to some degree			23.6% agreed to some degree		
Total	40.3%	21.8%	14.3%	11.2%	7.6%	4.8%
2011	41.8%	16.8%	12.6%	12.3%	10.5%	6.0%
2010	33.8%	23.3%	17.6%	11.4%	7.6%	6.2%

The work I was required to do was meaningful (18).

	17.9% disagreed to some degree			82.1	% agreed to	some degree
Total	3.5%	5.0%	9.4%	17.3%	31.4%	33.4%
2011	4.6%	7.7%	10.2%	14.4%	30.5%	32.6%
2010	5.6%	3.3%	8.4%	13.0%	27.4%	42.3%

The work I was required to do was enjoyable (20).

	28.9% disagreed to some degree			71.1% agreed to some degree			
Total	6.3%	9.0%	13.6%	24.1%	27.7%	19.3%	
2011	9.5%	13.0%	13.7%	21.1%	26.8%	15.8%	
2010	4.7%	7.0%	13.1%	26.8%	25.8%	22.5%	

The work I performed was consistent with my career interests (21).

	27.0% disagr	reed to some	degree	73.0	% agreed to	some degree	
Total	5.7%	7.7%	13.6%	21.0%	30.8%	21.3%	
2010	4.7 % 8.2%	4.3 % 9.6%	9.0 % 15.6%	19.1%	28.7%	18.8%	
2010	4.7%	4.3%	9.0%	22.7%	33.2%	26.1%	

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My job gave me opportunities to serve the citizens of Iowa and "make a difference" (29).

2010 2011	3.8% 8.5%	5.6% 8.1%	6.6% 6.7%	11.3% 18.7%	36.2% 24.3%	36.6% 33.8%
Total	5.2%	5.5%	9.1%	17.7%	28.8%	33.8%
	19.7% disagreed to some degree		80.3	% agreed to s	some degree	

My job met my personal expectations and was in line with my personal goals (30).

	33.1% disagr	reed to some of	legree	66.9	% agreed to	some degree
Total	7.8%	10.2%	15.0%	22.3%	26.9%	17.7%
2011	10.2%	13.0%	14.7%	19.6%	24.9%	17.5%
2010	5.1%	4.7%	13.1%	21.0%	30.4%	25.7%

The work I performed was consistent with my skill level (32).

I was encouraged to develop to my maximum potential (33).

	42.3% disagreed to some degree			57.7	% agreed to s	some degree
Total	15.4%	12.3%	14.6%	19.1%	22.2%	16.4%
2011	18.7%	11.3%	9.9%	21.8%	24.3%	14.1%
2010	13.1%	9.3%	11.2%	20.1%	28.5%	17.8%

Organizational Culture

I was never harassed or treated poorly at work (10).

	44.3% disagr	eed to some d	legree	55.79	% agreed to	some degree
Total	21.0%	11.4%	11.8%	12.4%	20.5%	22.9%
2011	19.6%	11.9%	12.6%	14.0%	18.2%	23.8%
2010	21.7%	11.3%	12.3%	11.8%	20.3%	22.6%

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All employees in my department were treated fairly (11).

	56.4% disagr	reed to some of	legree	43.6	% agreed to s	some degree
Total	24.8%	16.7%	14.8%	15.7%	15.8%	12.1%
2011	22.8%	14.4%	16.8%	17.2%	15.8%	13.0%
2010	24.9%	16.0%	10.8%	16.9%	17.8%	13.6%

My department was accepting of diverse individuals and groups (12).

2010	7.0%	4.7%	14.1%	17.4%	32.4%	24.4%
2011	6.7%	8.4%	12.6%	17.2%	27.7%	27.4%
Total	9.8%	8.0%	13.4%	19.6%	28.6%	20.6%
	31.2% disagr	eed to some	degree	68.8	% agreed to	some degree

Teamwork and cooperation were encouraged in my work unit (27).

2010	10.0%	10.4%	10.0%	16.6%	29.9%	23.2%
2011	11.3%	9.2%	14.8%	15.8%	26.8%	22.2%
Total	12.0%	10.4%	11.6%	17.2%	26.5%	22.4%
	33.9% disagr	eed to some d	legree	66.1	% agreed to s	some degree

Employee complaints and problems were appropriately handled in a timely manner (28).

	55.7% disagr	eed to some d	legree	44.3	% agreed to s	some degree
Total	24.4%	15.6%	15.7%	18.4%	16.7%	9.2%
2011	27.2%	11.7%	17.0%	18.0%	16.6%	9.5%
2010	22.1%	13.1%	13.6%	13.1%	25.8%	12.2%

Taking initiative was encouraged in my work unit (31).

2010	10.7%	9.8%	9.3%	16.8%	31.8%	21.5%
2011	16.4%	11.4%	12.1%	14.9%	25.6%	19.6%
Total	13.1%	10.7%	11.9%	17.4%	26.1%	20.8%
	35.7% disagr	35.7% disagreed to some degree		64.3	% agreed to	some degree

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Supervisor Perceptions

I had a good working relationship with my immediate supervisor (22).

2010 2011	16.4% 15.5%	8.9% 8.1%	7.5% 11.7%	11.7% 16.3%	25.8% 22.6%	29.6% 25.8%
Total	14.4%	9.0%	9.5%	13.8%	23.6%	29.8%
	32.9% disagreed to some degree			67.1	% agreed to	some degree

The supervision provided to me was effective (23).

	42.8% disagreed to some degree			57.2	% agreed to s	some degree
Total	19.2%	11.7%	11.9%	15.8%	22.1%	19.3%
2011	21.0%	11.9%	11.2%	19.6%	18.5%	17.8%
2010	17.8%	11.3%	10.3%	17.4%	20.2%	23.0%

My supervisor let me know that he/she valued my contributions (25).

	40.3% disagreed to some degree			59.7	% agreed to	some degree
Total	18.3%	11.7%	10.4%	14.9%	21.5%	23.2%
2011	19.8%	12.0%	10.2%	17.3%	19.4%	21.2%
2010	16.4%	10.7%	7.9%	16.4%	21.0%	27.6%

Co-worker Perceptions

I had a good working relationship with my co-workers (26).

2010	5.1%	3.3%	8.4%	10.3%	33.6%	39.3%
2011	4.2%	5.6%	10.9%	9.1%	34.4%	35.8%
Total	4.0% 14.7% disagr	eed to some	6.8% degree	14.1%	34.5% % agreed to :	36.6% some degree

The State employees I knew were hard-working and took pride in the work they did (34).

	20.7% disagreed to some degree			70.3	% agreed to s	some degree	
Total	7.1%	9.3%	13.3%	21.9%	27.4%	21.0%	
2011	7.4%	12.3%	14.4%	20.7%	23.9%	21.4%	
2010	7.9%	5.1%	7.4%	24.1%	27.8%	27.8%	

29.170 disagreed to some degree 70.570 agreed to some degree

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Top 5 things past employees liked about their employment with the State

	Liked Most	Percent of respondents in 2010	Percent of respondents in 2011	Total percent of respondents *
1.	Made Multiple Choices*	10.8%	16.6%	32.6%
2.	Benefits	31.8%	31.1%	24.3%
3.	Retirement Benefits	22.7%	14.5%	14.2%
4.	Co-Worker Relations	10.4%	11.8%	12.5%
5.	Rate of Pay	8.4%	8.7%	8.5%

^{*}Respondent was only supposed to select one. Change in form reduced multiple choices for FY08.

Top 5 things attracting past employees to their current jobs

Attracting Feature	Percent of respondents in 2010	Percent of respondents in 2011	Total percent of respondents *
 Career Advancement 			
Opportunity	9.2%	32.9%	24.7%
2. Working Conditions	9.4%	36.3%	23.5%
3. Rate of Pay	8.4%	22.8%	18.3%
4. Organizational Culture	7.9%	26.3%	14.8%
5. Opportunity for Training	5.3%	22.5%	12.2%

^{*}Respondent could select more than one.

Top 5 things past employees liked least about their employment with the State

	Liked Least	Percent of respondents in 2010	Percent of respondents in 2011	Total percent of respondents *
1.	Made Multiple Choices*	7.3%	13.8%	23.7%
2.	Quality of Supervision	24.8%	17.6%	15.6%
3.	Career Advancement Opportunity	15.0%	16.6%	13.0%
4.	Organizational Culture	14.0%	15.2%	12.2%
5.	Working Conditions	12.0%	11.8%	11.4%

^{*}Respondent was only supposed to select one. Change in form reduced multiple choices for FY08.

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Revisit of Objectives

Determine the most prevalent reasons employees separate from state employment.

Based on the 11-year aggregate sample, respondents list the top reason for leaving to be, "Working Conditions" followed by "Quality of Supervision" and "Career Advancement Opportunity". These three reasons were also three of the top five things listed as aspects of state employment least liked by respondents. Further, perceptions of "Career Advancement Opportunity" and "Working Conditions" provided by other employers were the top two attracting features to the respondents.

Determine if departments are utilizing exit interviews.

Unfortunately, only a little more than 31% of respondents stated that their previous state employer conducted an exit interview. There has been an overall decrease since this survey was implemented in 2001. In 2001, 34.4% of respondents stated in the affirmative their previous State employer performed this important step. In 2011, this number has dropped to 31.1%. This is a window from which a department can ascertain and provide feedback about their particular operation.

Determine past employee perceptions about compensation and benefit issues.

Based on the 11-year aggregate sample, respondents perceived their benefits in a very positive light. Over 84% of respondents felt the benefits offered met their expectations (2), and it was the single most often cited aspect of working for the State that respondents liked. On the other hand, just under half of the respondents felt they earned less than people working the same jobs in the private sector (4). Interestingly, "Rate of Pay" was not a major reason listed for leaving but it was the third highest attracting feature perceived to be offered by other employers. Most employees felt they were paid fairly (3) and asked to do an appropriate amount of work for what they were paid (19).

Determine past employee perceptions about employee autonomy and intrinsic value.

Although most respondents believe the work they performed as a state employee was meaningful (18), enjoyable (20), consistent with their career interests (21) and perceived skill levels (32), and allowed them to serve lowa citizens and "make a difference" (29), over three-fourths of these same respondents did not believe that there were career opportunities if they had chosen to stay (8), over 76% answered negatively on item 8. This last perception is especially dangerous to the State due to the fact that perceived career advancement opportunities appear to be a major reason for leaving and a major attracting feature of other employers.

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Determine past employee perceptions about co-workers/supervisors.

Respondents as a group did not provide overly negative responses to any of the questions regarding supervision (22, 23, and 25). However, it was cited as the second highest reason for leaving and one of the top five factors cited as "liked least" about employment with the State.

Determine past employee perceptions about co-workers/supervisors.

The two items dealing with co-worker perceptions (26 & 34) were two of the most positive items responded to on the survey and perceptions about co-workers was listed as one of the top 5 things liked most about state employment.

Determine past employee perceptions about diversity issues.

Two-thirds of respondents felt their past department was accepting of diverse individuals (12). A majority of the respondents, however, did not feel that all employees in their past department were treated fairly (11).

Determine past employee perceptions about communication issues.

Over half of the respondents disagreed that communication was open and informative within their past work unit (13) and that feedback was timely and effective regarding performance (16).

Conclusion

Based on the 11-year aggregate sample, it appears that out of the 35 individual items on the survey, only 14 items could be said to have received very positive responses (over 2/3rds agreement with an item). This is not too surprising as this is an exit survey and respondents are likely to be somewhat more negative/honest in their responses. Regardless, there are many positives to be found. Only five items have over 50% of the respondents disagreeing with a specific item, so in most cases the majority of respondents are answering positively to the questions. More importantly 75.4% of the respondents agreed to some degree that they would likely apply for another position with the State if they were looking.

After reviewing this report the reader should realize that all the objectives for this project have been met to some degree. The nature of this type of survey is dependent on the population of interest and as such the usefulness will grow over time as more data becomes available.