



2023 Brewer Retail Consumer Survey



2023

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Acknowledgments

Special thanks to the merchants who provided gift prizes for respondents who took the survey. These merchants are The Collins Center for the Arts, Waterfront Concerts, Hollywood Casino, and Hops House 99 Restaurant.

In addition, we extend appreciation to the business professionals and City of Brewer staff who reviewed the survey drafts and made important design and content suggestions.

Lastly, thank you to the citizens and shoppers of Brewer who completed the survey and provided the necessary information to guide the ongoing economic development initiative in Brewer.

Purpose

General Purpose

The City of Brewer's Economic Development Department conducted this survey in order to learn more about the shopping patterns, expectations and opinions of Brewer's retail consumers. The survey is part of Brewer's business retention, development and attraction initiative. The study characterizes Brewer's retail sector and provides valuable details for Brewer's decision-makers and for businesses interested in growing their business or locating in Brewer. Business attraction requires up-to-date market analysis, proof of attractiveness and estimations of potential, and this survey provides that.

Information Sought

The survey determines the preferences of shoppers who frequent Brewer. It details the percentages and dollar amounts spent in Brewer for selected merchandise categories. It identifies some of the changes that must take place to make Brewer's downtown, Main Street, and waterfront an attractive destination for shopping, dining and entertainment. The survey contrasts Brewer with other locations and examines where shoppers go when they do not shop in Brewer. It explores perceptions about the current image of the Brewer waterfront and asks for suggestions for image improvement. This survey builds upon an earlier, similar survey that was completed in 2008, providing the

opportunity for longitudinal market research. The survey does not measure the impact or preferences of visitors or tourists coming to Brewer.

Target Audience

The survey targets anyone who spends part of their daily life in Brewer, which includes people who live, shop regularly, work, or commute to/from Brewer. Because of the inescapable impact of the internet, the survey also targets internet-connected consumers. This demographic has increased significantly since the 2008 survey; consequently, online purchases have increased tremendously, as well.

Target Area

The survey's primary focus is on the retail merchandising along *Penobscot Landing*, a historic waterfront corridor that parallels the Penobscot River and extends from North Main Street to the Brewer city limit at the end of South Main Street. Penobscot Landing includes businesses, residences, historic sites, parks and trails. Currently, the area has mixed uses and zoning. The condition of the buildings and properties also vary greatly in age, condition and maintenance. Regardless of the current conditions, this corridor has significant potential for retail, office and residential development. This potential is especially dramatic given the development of the Riverwalk that has increased foot traffic significantly and the addition of numerous successful businesses over the last decade.

Executive Summary & Highlights

The 2023 Brewer Retail Consumer Survey provides valuable insights into the shopping patterns, expectations, and opinions of retail consumers in Brewer. The survey characterizes Brewer's retail sector and provides valuable details for Brewer's decision-makers and for businesses interested in growing their businesses or locating in Brewer. The survey found that Brewer's downtown, Main Street, and waterfront areas would benefit from improvements by both the City of Brewer and businesses in order to become a more attractive destination for shopping, dining, and entertainment. The survey results will guide ongoing economic development initiatives in Brewer by providing up-to-date market analysis, proof of attractiveness, and estimations of potential. The survey builds upon an earlier, similar survey completed in 2008, providing the opportunity for longitudinal market research. Overall, the 2023 Brewer Retail Consumer Survey highlights the potential for retail, office, and residential development in Brewer, especially given the development of the Riverwalk that has increased foot

traffic significantly and the addition of numerous successful businesses over the last decade.

- The key findings of the 2023 Brewer Retail Consumer Survey are as follows:
- Respondents reported that Brewer is their most preferred place to shop, with more than 43% of the total responses. Bangor (35%) and online stores (11%) are Brewer's major retail competitors. When we look at only those respondents who live or work in Brewer, 48% reported a preference for shopping in Brewer, with 28% opting for Bangor and nearly 12% preferring to shop online.
- When asked what types of restaurants they'd like to see more of in Brewer, all categories of dining were selected often, showing strong support for new restaurants of all types. Locally-owned, family-friendly restaurants were the most desired dining option, while fast food establishments were the least desired.
- More dining options and a wider variety of shopping options, along with more live entertainment options and cultural or seasonal events topped the list of desired improvements to Brewer's downtown and waterfront area.
- Slightly more than 83% of survey respondents reported shopping in Brewer at least once each week, and over half reported shopping in Brewer a few times per week.
- Nearly 80% of respondents reported that they do at least 50% of their total shopping in Brewer, with more than 42% reporting that more than 75% of their shopping is done in Brewer.
- When we look at only those respondents who either live or work in Brewer, more than 54% report that they do 75% or more of their shopping in Brewer, and nearly 90% of these respondents reported that they do at least 50% of their total shopping in Brewer. This shows that although the much larger City of Bangor has a vastly larger number of retail stores, most respondents prefer to do their shopping in Brewer, whenever possible.
- About 58% of total respondents reported that at least half of their restaurant dining was in Brewer. When looking at only those who reported living or working in Brewer, that number rose to just over 66%. The same effect was seen with those shopping in Brewer, demonstrating that the more familiar someone is with Brewer, or the more often they visit Brewer, the more likely Brewer will be their top choice for shopping and dining.
- Social media, online reviews, and recommendations from friends, family, or websites are the main drivers for choosing where to make retail purchases. Vendors should be strongly aware of this and closely monitoring their online presence, including online reviews and both negative and positive posts from customers.
- The survey found that the most desirable shopping areas are located in a convenient location with a variety of products and services available from

a variety of both stores and restaurants and offer their wares at competitive prices. While parking, customer service, quality, convenient hours, and other factors also matter, they are of less importance than the convenient hub offering lots of variety for both shopping and dining at affordable prices.

- Brewer's downtown, Main Street, and waterfront areas need improvements to become more attractive as a destination for shopping, dining, and entertainment. Survey respondents overwhelmingly offered up suggestions to increase parking, increase the variety of stores and restaurants, and clean up/rehabilitate tired and ugly buildings as their primary advice for increasing commerce in these areas. Additionally, they strongly desire an increase in outdoor activities and outdoor spaces in the downtown, Main Street and waterfront areas. In particular, they desire a splashpad, food trucks on the waterfront, public market/outdoor market, farmer's market on the waterfront, family-friendly waterfront activities, and more picnic tables.

Methodology

General Methods

Between February 8, 2023 and April 14, 2023, Brewer's Economic Development Office conducted an Online Consumer Survey of Brewer residents, commuters and shoppers. The survey, conducted after the holiday shopping season, took advantage of consumers' fresh memory of purchasing patterns and avoided the distractions associated with the end-of-the-year holidays.

The Economic Development department publicized the survey in local media and directed people to a link to the survey on the [Brewermaine.gov](https://www.brewermaine.gov) website. The link was also shared via social media and through a direct email from the Brewer E-List. At the end of the survey, respondents were asked to provide their email address in order to be entered into a drawing to win one of three prizes. Respondents were assured that all information would remain confidential and used only for survey-related communication. The goal was to get at least 450 (approximately 5% of Brewer population) responses to the survey.

Local business professionals and City of Brewer staff pre-tested and commented on the survey before it was released. Certain survey pre-testers were then interviewed to provide a more detailed analysis of the questions. The final online version met the requirement of taking about 10 minutes to complete.

The Survey Instrument – Online Delivery & Collection

This exploratory market research targeted people who have access to the internet and live in or frequent Brewer often. The shopping characteristics and capabilities of the target audience also influenced the design of the questionnaire. Questions were tailored to the internet-connected audience for two reasons. First, the internet is a dominant alternative for shoppers. And second, it simplified the collection, analysis and design of the survey, reducing time to complete a survey and increasing availability of the survey to respondents.

All purchase-pattern questions covered a year, asking questions with the phrase “for the last 12 months” to remove seasonal and holiday influences. The multiple-choice answers simplified questions providing frequency, volume or amount selections. The intention was to understand levels or trends more than actual dollar amounts. This also provided uniform responses for interpretation and analysis. Some questions were open-ended to enable expression of general attributes and explore respondent's perspectives and perceptions. This type of question was limited to very interpretive topics such as image, preference and attitude. These explored ideas and opinions that vary with individuals and experience. Lastly, some respondents did not provide responses to every question. Therefore, the total number of surveys and the number of responses for each question may vary according to whether each respondent completed every question. Each question was analyzed for its distribution of responses even though some questions received fewer responses than the total number of surveys taken on line. Surveys were included even when the respondent failed to complete every question in the survey but eliminating those who did not answer the required questions or did not complete the majority of each of the three sections.

Lastly, not all percentages add up to 100% due to rounding errors.

Survey Question and Response Summary

The total number of surveys started: 731

Total number of fully completed surveys: 731 (100%) (Not all respondents answered all questions)

Section 1: Demographic Information

Q1.

In what ZIP code is your home located? (Enter 5-digit ZIP code; for example, 04412 or 04401)

<u>Local ZIP Code & City</u>	<u>Home City</u>
04412 Brewer	42.3%
04402 & 04401 Bangor*	17.4%

04429 Holden & Dedham	6.3%
04428 Eddington & Clifton	4.4%
04444 Hampden	4.4%
04474 Orrington	4.1%
<u>All other zip codes**</u>	<u>21.1%</u>

(Total responses 731)

With this question, we wanted to determine where Brewer shoppers lived. The results are in line with the expectations of a survey focusing on people who are in Brewer routinely or daily. Slightly over 42% of the respondents report that they reside in Brewer. Brewer shoppers residing at Bangor ZIP codes accounted for more than 17% of the responses. The immediately surrounding towns of Holden, Dedham, Eddington, and Orrington account for nearly 15% of the total.

*Includes: Glenburn, Veazie and Hermon

** Includes: Albion, Augusta, Baileyville, Belfast, Blue Hill, Bradford, Bradley, Brooksville, Brownville Junction, Burlington, Calais, Cambridge, Caribou, Carmel, Charleston, Columbia Falls, Corinth, Deer Isle, East Millinocket, Ellsworth, Etna, Exeter, Fairfield, Frankfort, Frenchville, Hartland, Houlton, Hudson, Jonesport, Kenduskeag, Levant, Machias, Milford, Monroe, Newport, Orono, Penobscot, Pittsfield, Plymouth, Portland, Prospect Harbor, Saint Albans, Saint Francis, Skowhegan, South Thomaston, Springfield, Stockton Springs, Topsham, Troy, Waterville, and Winterport

Q2.

In what ZIP code do you primarily work? (Please enter your home's ZIP code if you work primarily from home. If your job is done at various locations or over the road, please enter the ZIP code for your business's local office. If you are retired, please enter Retired. If you do not work, please enter I do not work.)

<u>Local ZIP Code & City</u>	<u>Work City</u>
04401 & 04402 Bangor *	38.0%
04412 Brewer	24.8%
04473 Orono	3.6%
04429 Holden& Dedham	2.2%
04444 Hampden	1.8%
04605 Ellsworth	1.4%
04468 Old Town	1.2%
04428 Eddington & Clifton	1.1%
All other zip codes **	11.0%
<u>Retired/Does Not Work</u>	<u>14.9%</u>

(Total responses 731)

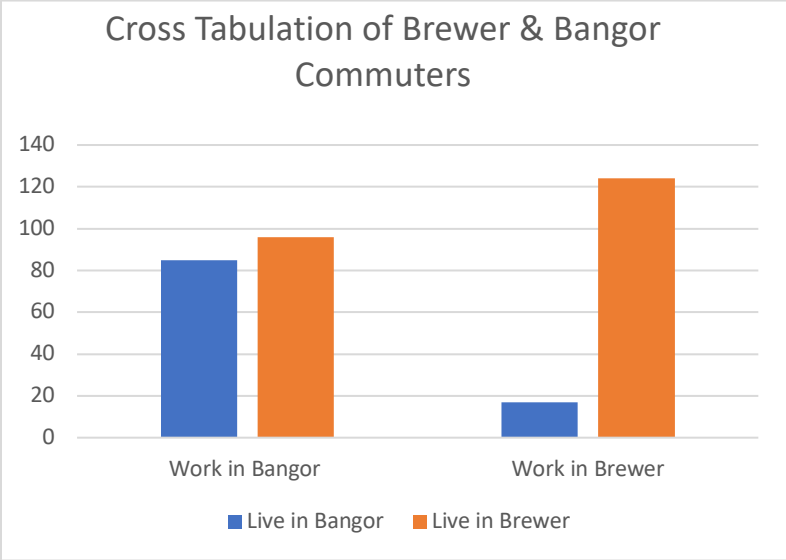


Fig. 1
Cross tabulation of Brewer and Bangor commuters.

With this question, we determined that more Brewer residents who completed this survey work in Brewer than in Bangor. Of the 309 Brewer residents, more work in Brewer, 40%, than work in Bangor, 31%. Only 13.5% of the Bangor residents work in Brewer, whereas, 67.5% live and work in Bangor.

It is reasonable to suggest that commuters make purchases near where they work or along their commuting route due to the convenience and easy access to retail merchants. The daily travel between Brewer and Bangor presents opportunities for businesses along the route to attract these commuters. The commuting routes to and from Bangor require residents to travel over one of the three bridges. Two of these bridges connect to North Main Street and the adjacent business district.

*Includes: Glenburn, Veazie and Hermon

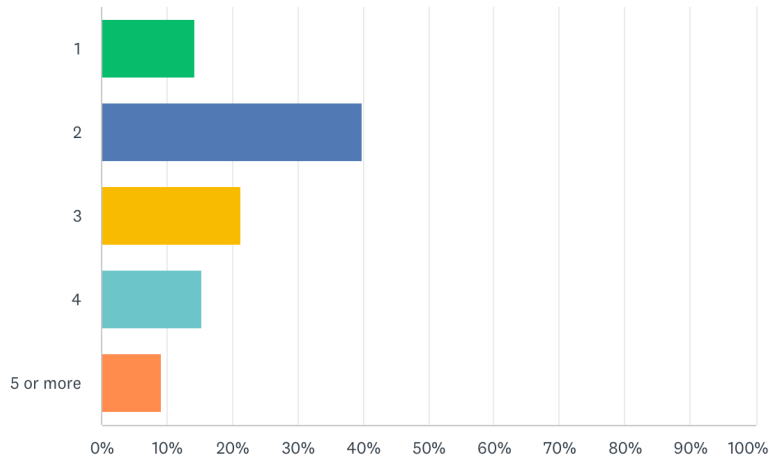
** Includes: Augusta, Baileyville, Belfast, Blue Hill, Bradford, Bradley, Brooksville, Brownville Junction, Burlington, Calais, Cambridge, Caribou, Carmel, Charleston, Columbia Falls, Corinth, Deer Isle, East Millinocket, Ellsworth, Etna, Exeter, Fairfield, Frankfort, Frenchville, Hartland, Houlton, Hudson, Jonesport, Kenduskeag, Levant, Machias, Milford, Monroe, Newport, Orono, Penobscot,

Pittsfield, Plymouth, Portland, Prospect Harbor, Saint Albans, Saint Francis, Skowhegan, South Thomaston, Springfield, Stetson, Stockton Springs, Topsham, Troy, Waterville, and Winterport

Q3.

The total number of people who lived full-time in your household during the past year?

Answered: 731 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ 1 (1)	14.36% 105
▼ 2 (2)	39.81% 291
▼ 3 (3)	21.34% 156
▼ 4 (4)	15.32% 112
▼ 5 or more (5)	9.17% 67
TOTAL	731

Fig. 2

Household size distribution for Brewer residents, commuters, and consumers

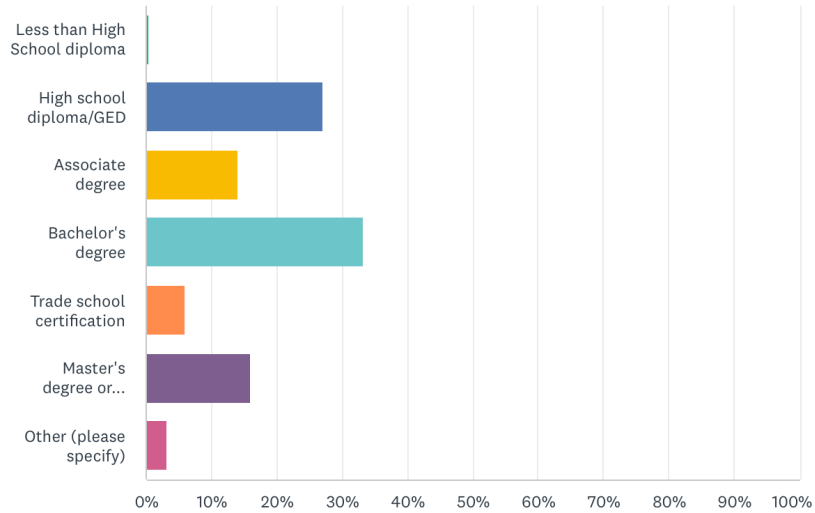
Over 50% of the households that shopped in Brewer reported having only 1-2 people (likely no children in the household). There is an average is 2.75 people per household, only slightly higher than the national average of 2.6 people per household as identified in the 2017-2021 US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. This is not a significant departure from the census and suggests that the surveyed population is only very slightly different from the general population in Brewer.

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US/HCN010217>

Q4.

What is the highest level of education you have completed?

Answered: 731 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Less than High School diploma (1)	0.41% 3
▼ High school diploma/GED (2)	27.09% 198
▼ Associate degree (3)	14.09% 103
▼ Bachelor's degree (4)	33.24% 243
▼ Trade school certification (5)	5.88% 43
▼ Master's degree or higher education (6)	16.01% 117
▼ Other (please specify) (7)	Responses 3.28% 24
TOTAL	731

Fig. 3
Educational attainment of survey respondents

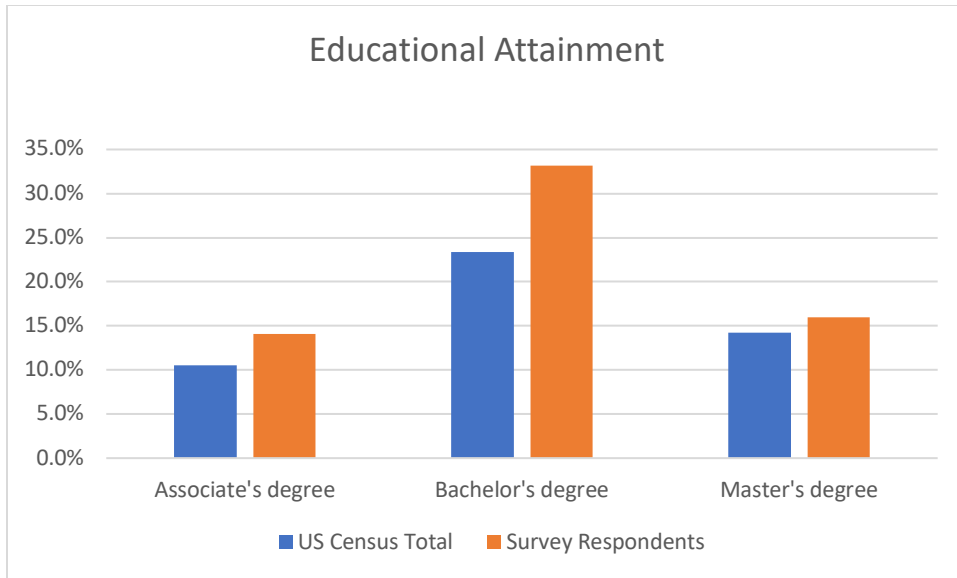


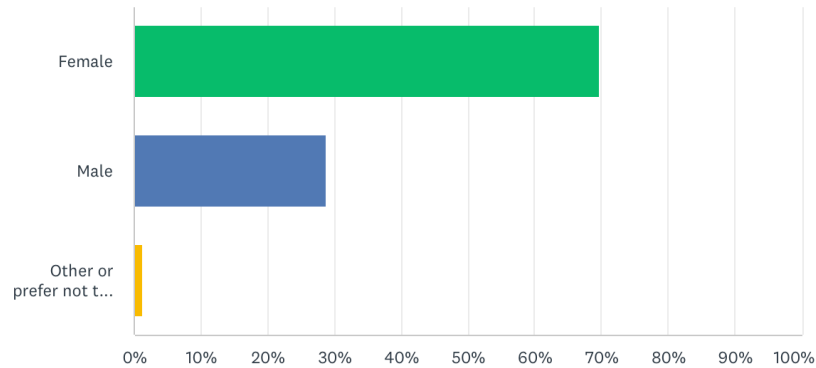
Fig. 4
Education attainment for Associate, Bachelor and graduate degrees comparing respondents and 2022 US Census

A higher percent of the respondents are college-educated than the general US population. The level of education is often a strong predictor of income, disposable income, consumer behavior and products and services sought. This population correlates positively with higher incomes and smaller household sizes. (<https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2022/demo/educational-attainment/cps-detailed-tables.html>)

Q5.

What is your gender?

Answered: 731 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Female (1)	69.77% 510
Male (2)	28.86% 211
Other or prefer not to answer (3)	1.37% 10
TOTAL	731

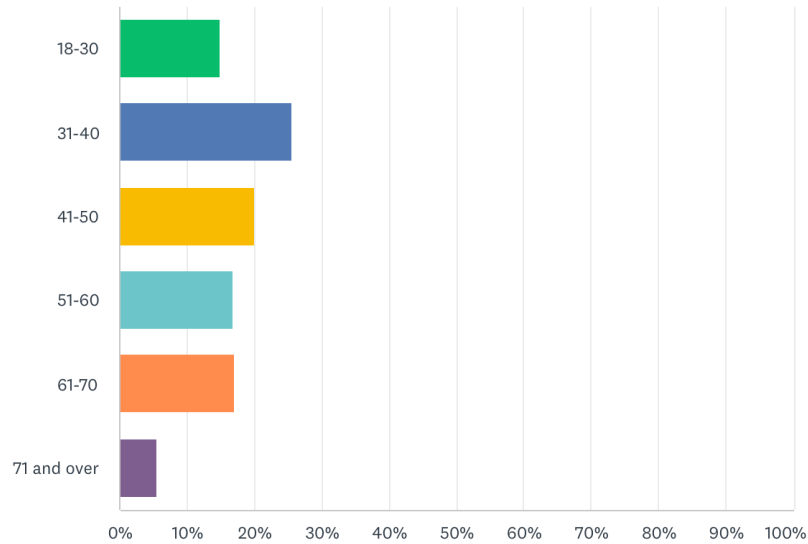
Fig. 5
Survey respondent gender distribution

Females accounted for 70% of those surveyed. The distribution of respondents differed from the census, with females exceeding the census average by nearly 20 percent. The US Census gender composition for Brewer was quite similar, with females representing 53.3% in Brewer and 50.5% in the US estimate. As significantly more women took this survey than would be predicted by the census numbers, it appears that gender factors influenced the response rate. (U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program (PEP). Updated annually. [Population and Housing Unit Estimates](#))

Q6.

To what age group do you belong?

Answered: 731 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ 18-30 (1)	14.91% 109
▼ 31-40 (2)	25.58% 187
▼ 41-50 (3)	20.11% 147
▼ 51-60 (4)	16.83% 123
▼ 61-70 (5)	16.96% 124
▼ 71 and over (6)	5.61% 41
TOTAL	731

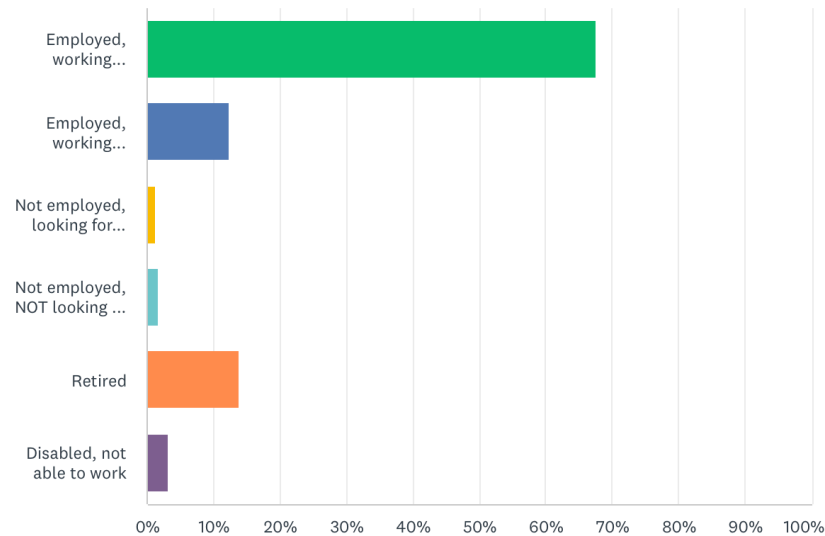
Fig. 6
Survey respondent age distribution

The age distribution of respondents is fairly evenly spread across all categories. Age distribution has marketing implications for products and services sought, attitude toward shopping and characteristics (quality vs. fashion) of the products.

Q7.

Which of the following categories best describes your employment status?

Answered: 731 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Employed, working full-time (1)	67.58% 494
Employed, working part-time (2)	12.31% 90
Not employed, looking for work (3)	1.37% 10
Not employed, NOT looking for work (4)	1.64% 12
Retired (5)	13.95% 102
Disabled, not able to work (6)	3.15% 23
TOTAL	731

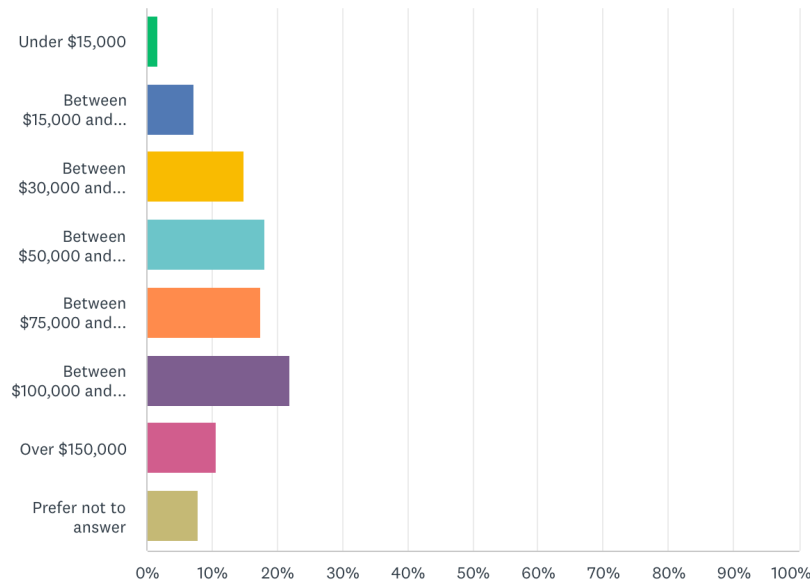
Fig. 7
Survey respondent employment status

The vast majority (94%) of respondents were either working or retired. Only 6% were either not employed (both looking for work and not looking for work) or disabled and unable to work.

Q8.

What is your total household income for the last year? (Total includes ALL wage earners in the household)

Answered: 731 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Under \$15,000	1.78% 13
Between \$15,000 and \$29,999	7.25% 53
Between \$30,000 and \$49,999	14.91% 109
Between \$50,000 and \$74,999	18.06% 132
Between \$75,000 and \$99,999	17.51% 128
Between \$100,000 and \$150,000	22.02% 161
Over \$150,000	10.67% 78
Prefer not to answer	7.80% 57
TOTAL	731

Fig. 8
Survey respondent household income distribution

Slightly more than 68% of survey respondents reported household incomes above \$50,000, with nearly 33% reporting household incomes over \$100,000. Median household for Brewer is \$50,614, significantly less than the US median of \$69,021. As household income levels reported by survey respondents are significantly higher than would be predicted by the census numbers, it appears that income factors influenced the response rate.

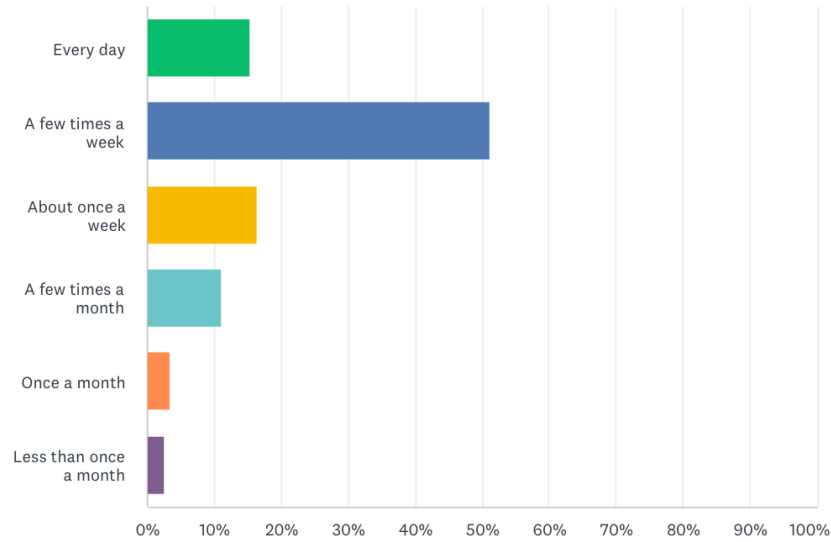
(<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US/PST045222>)

Section 2: Shopping Habits

Q9.

How often do you shop in Brewer?

Answered: 731 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Every day	15.46% 113
▼ A few times a week	51.16% 374
▼ About once a week	16.42% 120
▼ A few times a month	11.08% 81
▼ Once a month	3.42% 25
▼ Less than once a month	2.46% 18
TOTAL	731

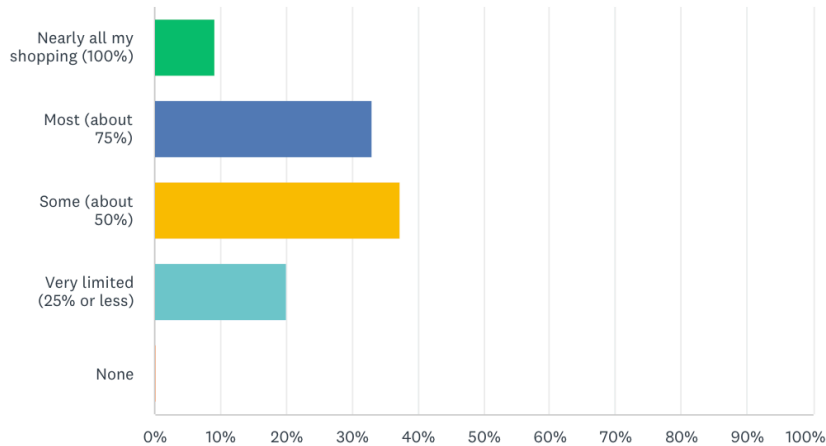
Fig. 9
Distribution of frequency of shopping in Brewer

A closer look at the shopping frequency in Brewer shows that slightly more than 83% of survey respondents reported shopping in Brewer at least once each week, and over half reported shopping in Brewer a few times per week.

Q10.

How much of your retail shopping did you and your household do in Brewer during the last 12 months?

Answered: 731 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Nearly all my shopping (100%)	9.17% 67
▼ Most (about 75%)	33.11% 242
▼ Some (about 50%)	37.35% 273
▼ Very limited (25% or less)	20.11% 147
▼ None	0.27% 2
TOTAL	731

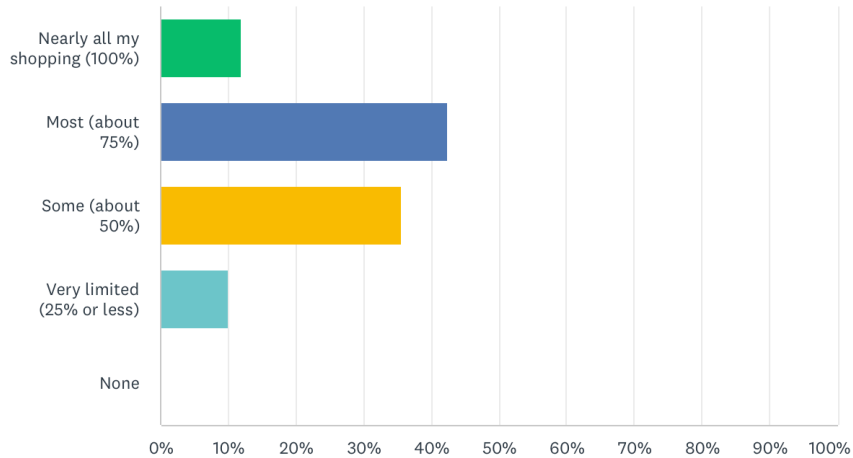
Fig. 10

Distribution of percentage of total shopping done in Brewer

Nearly 80% of respondents reported that they do at least 50% of their total shopping in Brewer, with more than 42% reporting that more than 75% of their shopping is done in Brewer.

RESIDE OR WORK IN BREWER ONLY: How much of your retail shopping did you and your household do in Brewer during the last 12 months?

Answered: 366 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Nearly all my shopping (100%)	12.02% 44
▼ Most (about 75%)	42.35% 155
▼ Some (about 50%)	35.52% 130
▼ Very limited (25% or less)	10.11% 37
▼ None	0.00% 0
TOTAL	366

Fig. 11

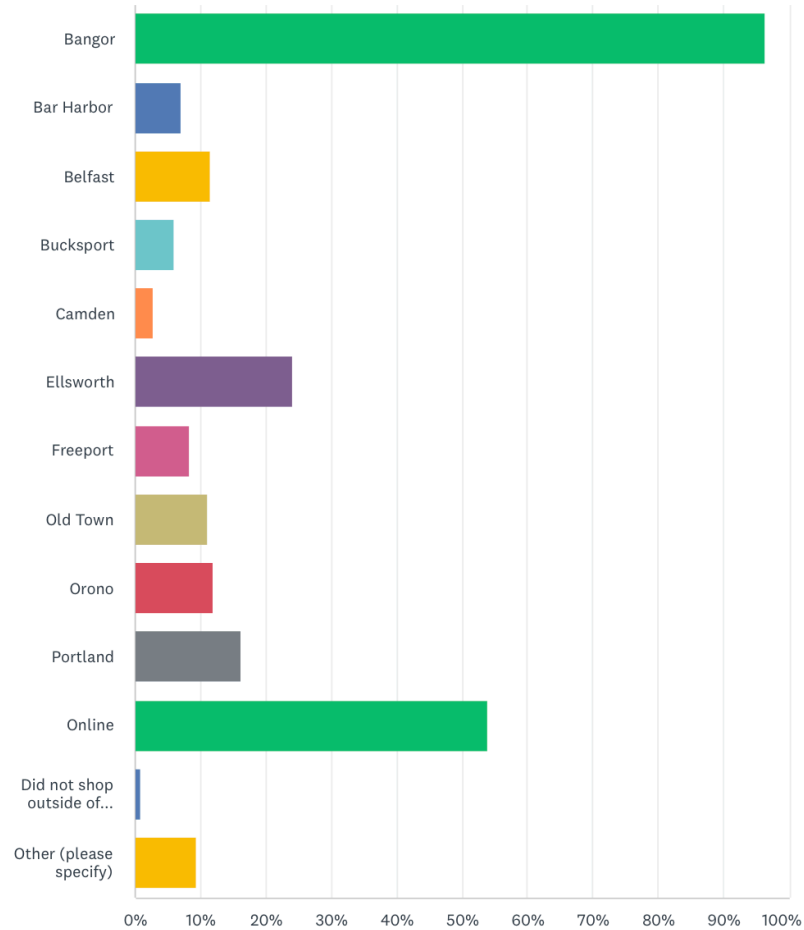
Distribution of percentage of total shopping done in Brewer by respondents who also reported living or working in Brewer

When we look at only those respondents who either live or work in Brewer, more than 54% report that they do 75% or more of their shopping in Brewer, and nearly 90% of respondents reported that they do at least 50% of their total shopping in Brewer. This shows that although the much larger City of Bangor has a vastly larger number of retail stores, most respondents prefer to do their shopping in Brewer, whenever possible.

Q11.

If you did some or all of your retail shopping outside of Brewer, where else did you and your household do their retail shopping? CHECK EVERY BOX for the locations in which you shopped during the last 12 months.

Answered: 731 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Bangor	96.31%	704
▼ Bar Harbor	6.98%	51
▼ Belfast	11.49%	84
▼ Bucksport	6.02%	44
▼ Camden	2.87%	21
▼ Ellsworth	24.08%	176
▼ Freeport	8.34%	61
▼ Old Town	11.08%	81
▼ Orono	12.04%	88
▼ Portland	16.28%	119
▼ Online	54.04%	395
▼ Did not shop outside of Brewer	0.96%	7
▼ Other (please specify)	Responses 9.30%	68
Total Respondents: 731		

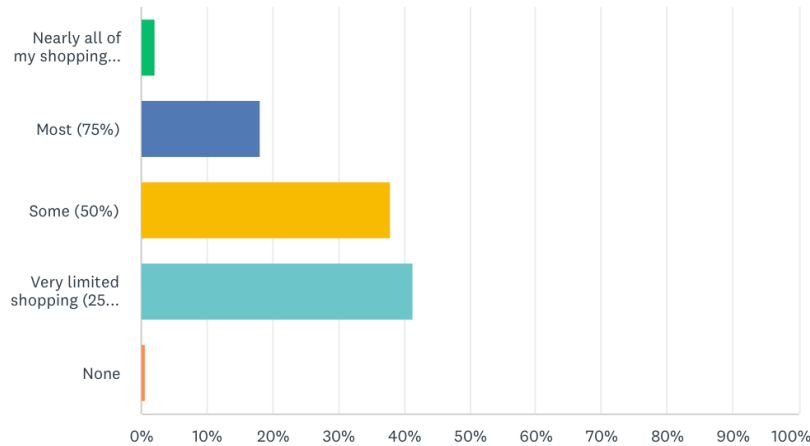
Fig. 12
Distribution of shopping locations outside of Brewer

As expected, the larger metropolitan cities (Bangor and Portland) and online stores are the major competitors for Brewer retailers, with Ellsworth also pulling in a large share of consumers.

Q12.

If you shopped in Bangor in the last 12 months, how much of your retail shopping did you and your household do in Bangor during the last 12 months?

Answered: 731 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Nearly all of my shopping (100%)	2.19% 16
▼ Most (75%)	18.06% 132
▼ Some (50%)	37.89% 277
▼ Very limited shopping (25% or less)	41.31% 302
▼ None	0.55% 4
TOTAL	731

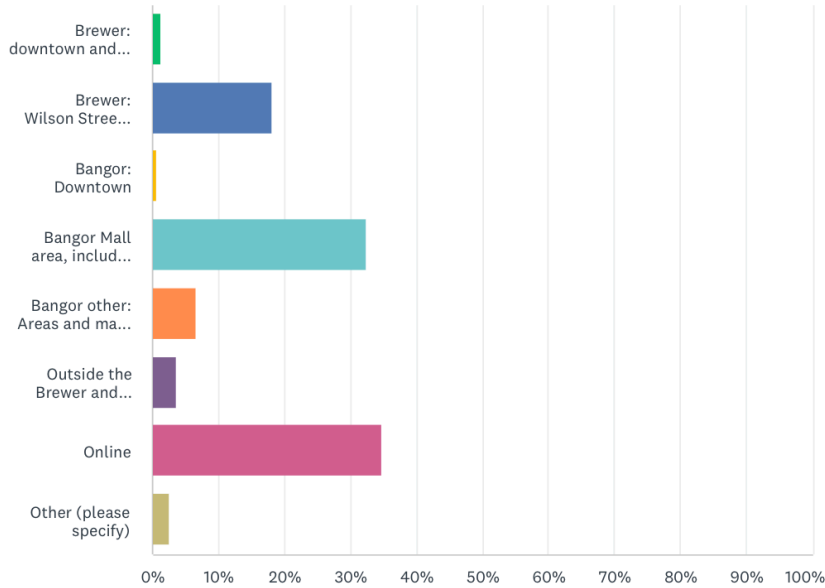
Fig. 13
Percentage of shopping done in Bangor

Although Question 11 shows that most respondents do shop in Bangor, more than 41% of respondents reported that only a very limited amount of their shopping was done there. 79% of respondents reported doing only half or less of their total shopping in Bangor.

Q13.

Where did you do the majority of your shopping for clothing and footwear in the last 12 months?

Answered: 731 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Brewer: downtown and waterfront areas (non-Wilson Street shops)	1.23% 9
▼ Brewer: Wilson Street corridor	18.19% 133
▼ Bangor: Downtown	0.68% 5
▼ Bangor Mall area, including surrounding areas such as Hogan Road and Stillwater Avenue	32.42% 237
▼ Bangor other: Areas and malls in Bangor that are not included in downtown or the Bangor Mall area	6.57% 48
▼ Outside the Brewer and Bangor area	3.69% 27
▼ Online	34.75% 254
▼ Other (please specify)	Responses 2.46% 18
TOTAL	731

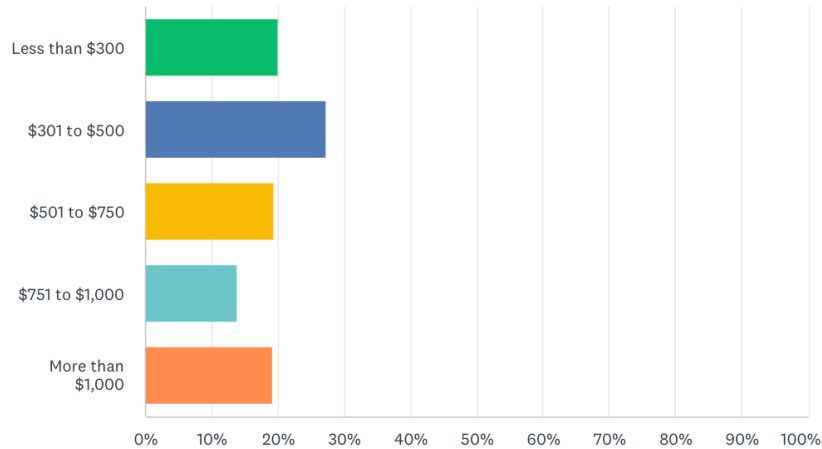
Fig. 14
Shopping destinations for clothing and footwear

Respondents reported doing most of their clothing and footwear shopping online or in the Bangor Mall area, with Brewer's Wilson Street corridor coming in third with a little over 18% of people reporting that as their preferred location. Obviously, online retailers provide the broadest selection since there are nearly limitless options. Brewer currently has considerably fewer clothing and footwear retail options compared to the Bangor Mall area, and this likely plays a factor in these findings.

Q14.

How much did you spend in the last 12 months on clothing and footwear, regardless of location?

Answered: 731 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Less than \$300	20.11% 147
\$301 to \$500	27.36% 200
\$501 to \$750	19.43% 142
\$751 to \$1,000	13.95% 102
More than \$1,000	19.15% 140
TOTAL	731

Fig. 15
Clothing and footwear expenditures

According to research, American women and girls spend an average of \$545 per year on clothing, while American men and boys spend just \$326. Footwear costs the average household \$314, while clothes for children under two comes in at \$68. (<https://www.fool.com/the-ascent/personal-finance/articles/the-average-american-spends-this-much-on-clothes-every-year/>)

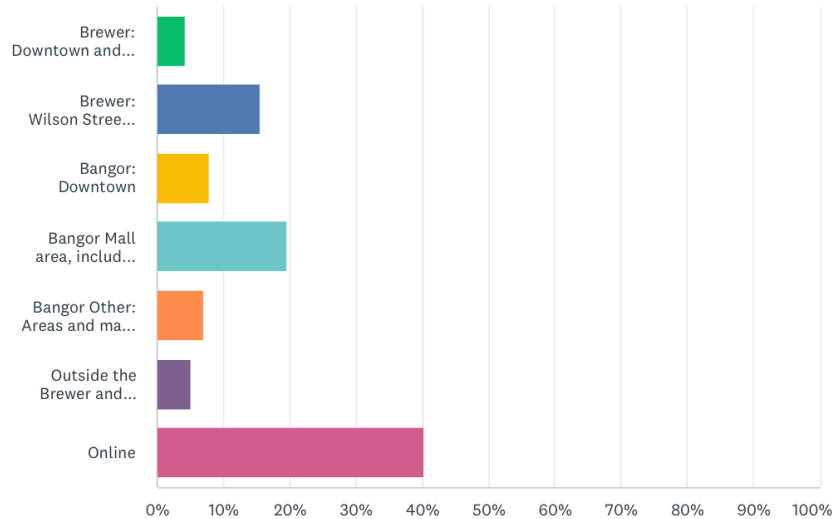
Spending on clothing was one of the categories most heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. It fell 23.8% in 2020 compared with 2019. While spending on apparel and services increased in 2021 to 22.3%, spending had not yet returned to 2019 levels. [Consumer Expenditure Survey from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)

Survey respondents reported a wide and fairly uniform range of incomes; this data appears to correlate with that, with the largest group (27.36%) reporting spending between \$301 and \$500 per year.

Q15.

Where did you do the majority of your shopping for special occasion gifts?

Answered: 731 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Brewer: Downtown and waterfront areas (non-Wilson Street shops)	4.24% 31
▼ Brewer: Wilson Street corridor	15.60% 114
▼ Bangor: Downtown	7.93% 58
▼ Bangor Mall area, including surrounding areas such as Hogan Road and Stillwater Avenue	19.56% 143
▼ Bangor Other: Areas and malls in Bangor that are not in downtown or in the Bangor Mall area	7.11% 52
▼ Outside the Brewer and Bangor area	5.20% 38
▼ Online	40.36% 295
TOTAL	731

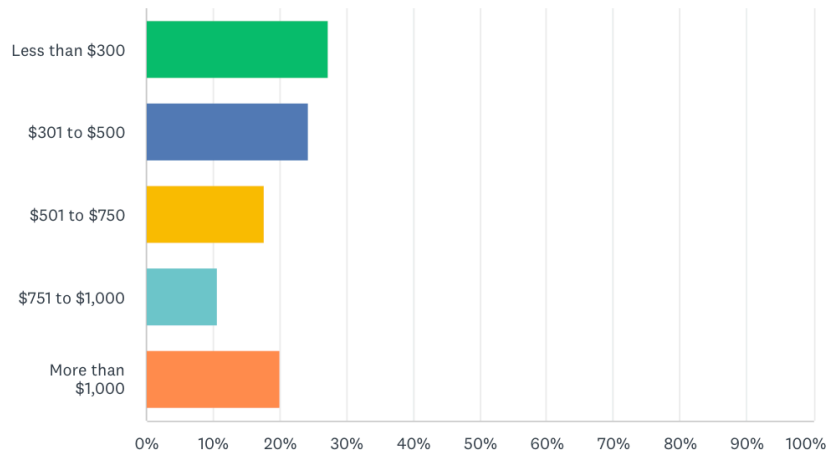
Fig. 16
Shopping destinations for special occasion gifts

Once again, online retail appears to be the preferred choice for a large number of our survey respondents. This likely correlates with the wide variety of choices available through online merchants, coupled with the ease of online shopping. For local special occasion gift shopping, The Bangor Mall area and the Brewer Wilson Street shopping district are the locations of choice.

Q16.

How much did you spend in the last 12 months on special occasion gifts, regardless of location?

Answered: 731 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Less than \$300	27.22% 199
▼ \$301 to \$500	24.35% 178
▼ \$501 to \$750	17.65% 129
▼ \$751 to \$1,000	10.67% 78
▼ More than \$1,000	20.11% 147
TOTAL	731

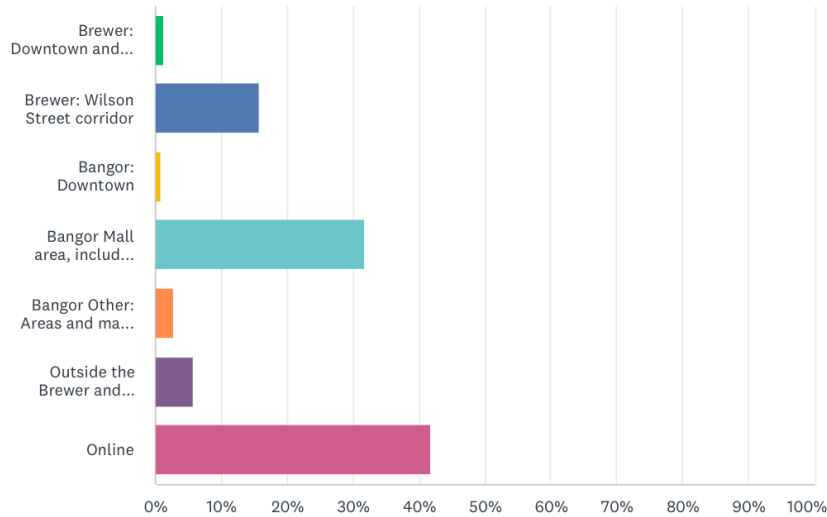
Fig. 17
Special occasion gift expenditures

As with the clothing and footwear category, respondents reported a wide range of spending on Special occasion gifts, which aligns well with the wide and fairly uniform range of reported incomes.

Q17.

Where did you do the majority of shopping for sports, outdoor, and fitness products?

Answered: 731 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Brewer: Downtown and waterfront areas (non-Wilson Street shops)	1.37% 10
▼ Brewer: Wilson Street corridor	15.73% 115
▼ Bangor: Downtown	0.82% 6
▼ Bangor Mall area, including surrounding areas such as Hogan Road and Stillwater Avenue	31.74% 232
▼ Bangor Other: Areas and malls in Bangor that are not in downtown or in the Bangor Mall area	2.87% 21
▼ Outside the Brewer and Bangor area	5.75% 42
▼ Online	41.72% 305
TOTAL	731

Fig. 18

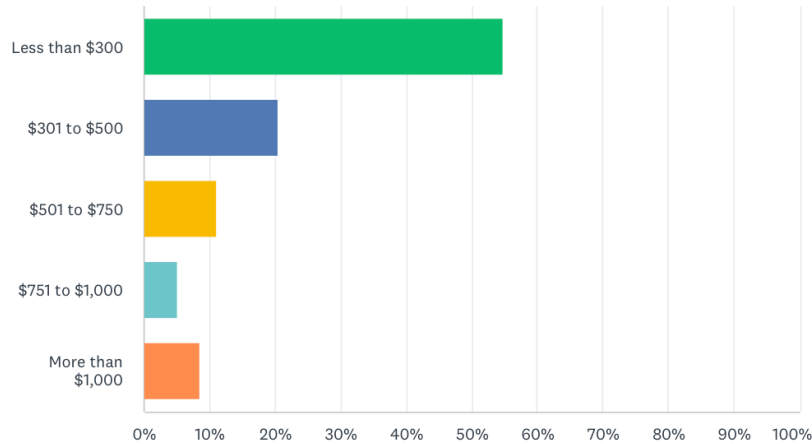
Shopping destinations for sports, outdoor, and fitness products

More than 40% of sports, outdoor, and fitness purchases were made online, with the Bangor Mall area accounting for nearly 32%, and the Brewer Wilson Street corridor accounting for nearly 16%.

Q18.

How much did you spend in the last 12 months on sports, outdoor, and fitness products, regardless of location?

Answered: 731 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Less than \$300	54.86% 401
\$301 to \$500	20.38% 149
\$501 to \$750	11.08% 81
\$751 to \$1,000	5.06% 37
More than \$1,000	8.62% 63
TOTAL	731

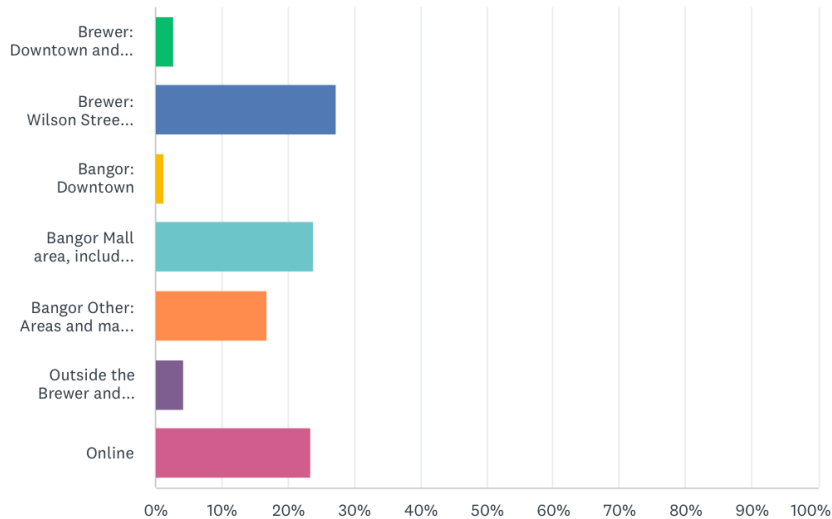
Fig. 19
Sports, outdoor, and fitness product expenditures

Slightly more than 75% of respondents reported spending less than \$500 per year on sports, outdoor, and fitness projects. Respondents who are age 30 or under overwhelmingly (86%) reported spending under \$500 per year in this category, as did 88% of those over age 71. The bulk of those reporting spending more than \$500 per year in this category were between the ages of 31 and 60.

Q19.

Where did you do the majority of your shopping for home decorating and housewares (excluding furniture and appliances)?

Answered: 731 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Brewer: Downtown and waterfront areas (non-Wilson Street shops)	2.87% 21
▼ Brewer: Wilson Street corridor	27.36% 200
▼ Bangor: Downtown	1.23% 9
▼ Bangor Mall area, including surrounding areas such as Hogan Road and Stillwater Avenue	23.94% 175
▼ Bangor Other: Areas and malls in Bangor that are not in downtown or in the Bangor Mall area	16.83% 123
▼ Outside the Brewer and Bangor area	4.24% 31
▼ Online	23.53% 172
TOTAL	731

Fig. 20

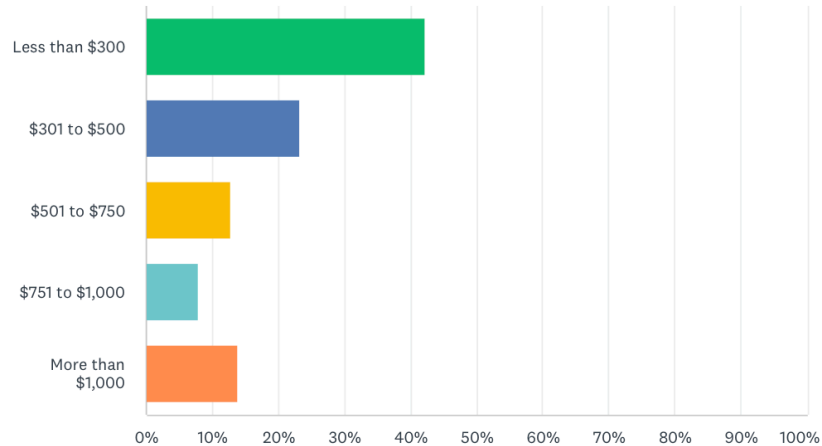
Shopping destinations for home decorating and housewares (excluding furniture and appliances)

The Brewer Wilson Street corridor received slightly more than 27% of reported home decorating and housewares purchases, with the Bangor Mall area and online shopping each accounting for roughly 24%. While online shopping ranked higher than any local areas for purchases of clothing and footwear, special occasion gifts, and sports, outdoor and fitness products, it was not the highest for this category. It appears likely that the pervasiveness of online purchases is strongly tied to a lack of the desired brands or variety in the local market, and not due purely to a preference for online shopping.

Q20.

How much did you spend in the last 12 months on home decorating and housewares (excluding furniture and appliances)?

Answered: 731 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Less than \$300	42.13% 308
\$301 to \$500	23.26% 170
\$501 to \$750	12.86% 94
\$751 to \$1,000	7.80% 57
More than \$1,000	13.95% 102
TOTAL	731

Fig. 21

Home decorating and housewares (excluding furniture and appliances) expenditures

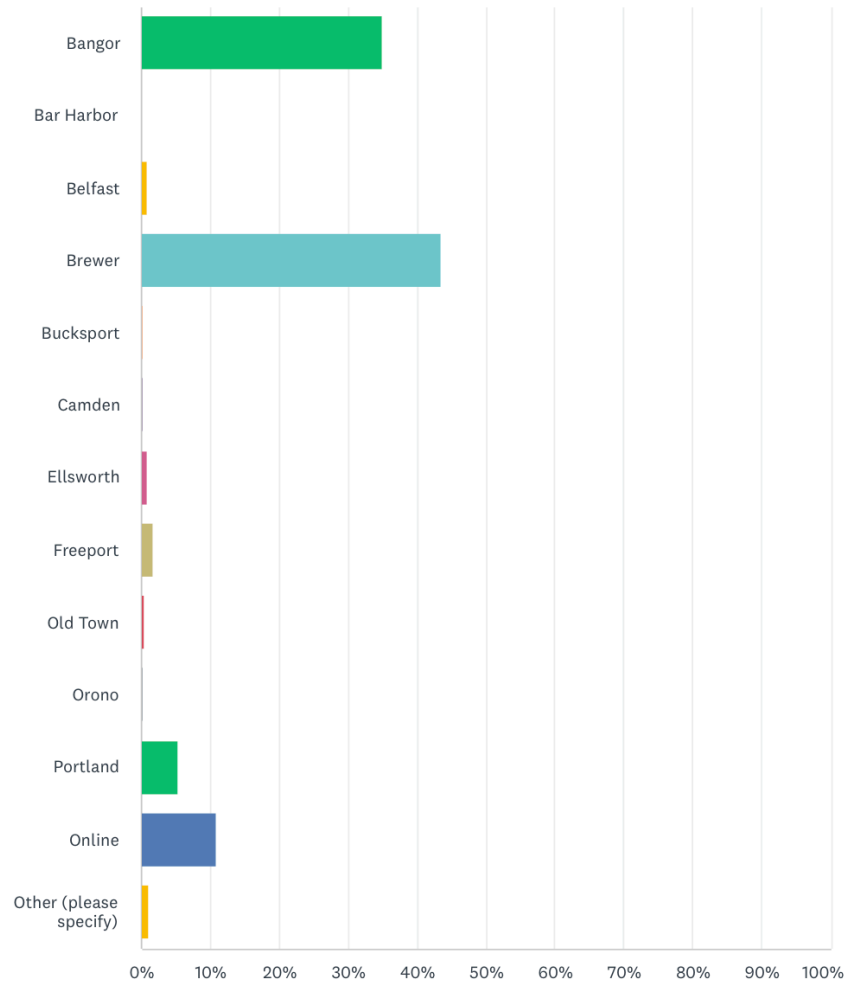
65% of respondents reported spending less than \$500 per year on home decorating and housewares while about 14% reported spending more than \$1,000.

Section 3: Shopping Preferences

Q21.

Your preferred place (city or shopping district) for retail shopping is?

Answered: 731 Skipped: 0



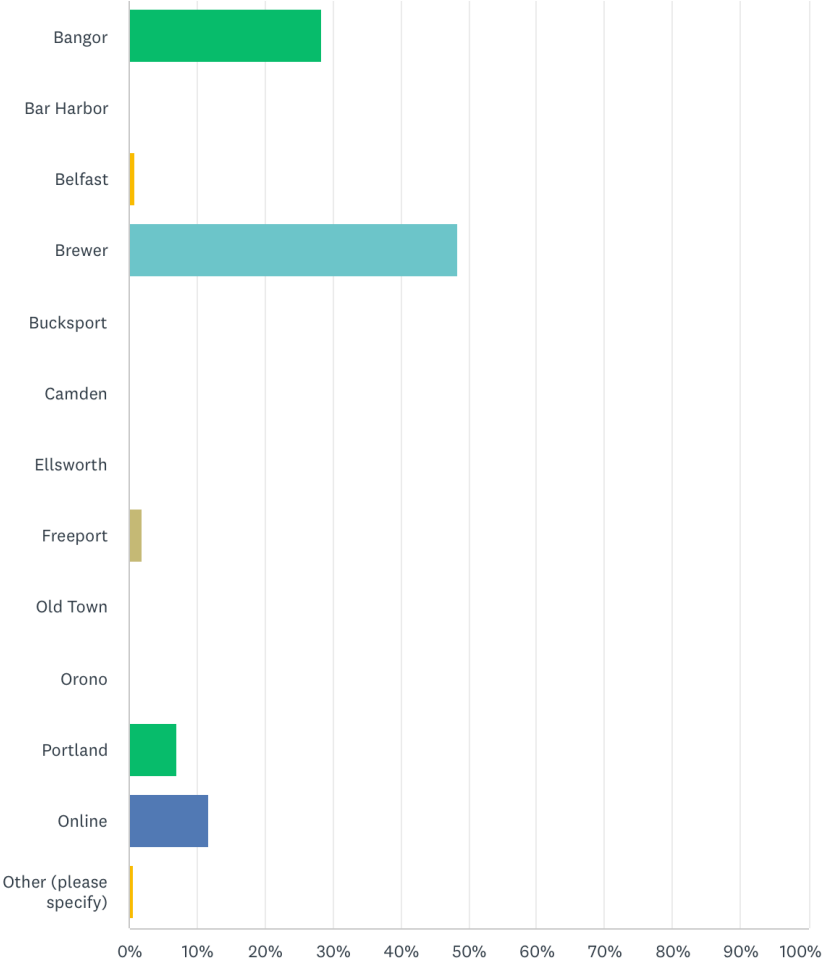
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Bangor	34.88%	255
▼ Bar Harbor	0.00%	0
▼ Belfast	0.82%	6
▼ Brewer	43.50%	318
▼ Bucksport	0.14%	1
▼ Camden	0.14%	1
▼ Ellsworth	0.96%	7
▼ Freeport	1.78%	13
▼ Old Town	0.41%	3
▼ Orono	0.14%	1
▼ Portland	5.34%	39
▼ Online	10.81%	79
▼ Other (please specify)	Responses 1.09%	8
TOTAL		731

Fig. 22
Preferred locations for retail shopping

Respondents reported that Brewer is their most preferred place to shop, with 43.5% of the total responses. Bangor (34.88%) and online stores (10.81%) are Brewer's major retail competitors.

RESIDE OR WORK IN BREWER ONLY: Your preferred place (city or shopping district) for retail shopping is?

Answered: 366 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
▼ Bangor		28.42%	104
▼ Bar Harbor		0.00%	0
▼ Belfast		0.82%	3
▼ Brewer		48.36%	177
▼ Bucksport		0.00%	0
▼ Camden		0.27%	1
▼ Ellsworth		0.27%	1
▼ Freeport		1.91%	7
▼ Old Town		0.27%	1
▼ Orono		0.27%	1
▼ Portland		7.10%	26
▼ Online		11.75%	43
▼ Other (please specify)	Responses	0.55%	2
TOTAL			366

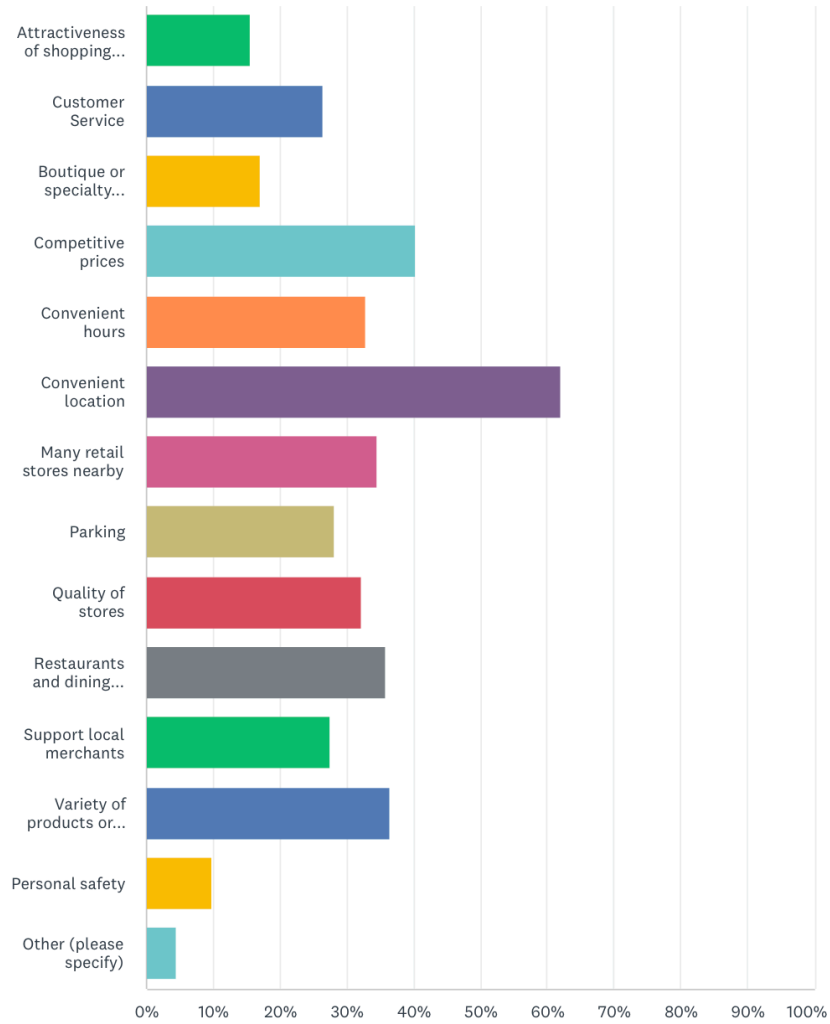
Fig. 23
Preferred locations for retail shopping by respondents residing or working in Brewer

When we remove all respondents who do not either live or work in Brewer, more than 48% of remaining respondents report a preference for shopping in Brewer. Once again, Bangor (28.42%) and Online (11.75%) are Brewer's major competitor for retail expenditures.

Q22.

Please select the top 5 factors that influenced your decision about where to do your retail shopping.

Answered: 731 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Attractiveness of shopping district	15.60%	114
▼ Customer Service	26.40%	193
▼ Boutique or specialty stores availability	17.10%	125
▼ Competitive prices	40.36%	295
▼ Convenient hours	32.83%	240
▼ Convenient location	61.97%	453
▼ Many retail stores nearby	34.61%	253
▼ Parking	28.04%	205
▼ Quality of stores	32.15%	235
▼ Restaurants and dining nearby	35.84%	262
▼ Support local merchants	27.50%	201
▼ Variety of products or services	36.53%	267
▼ Personal safety	9.85%	72
▼ Other (please specify)	Responses 4.38%	32
Total Respondents: 731		

Fig. 24
Factors influencing decision about where to shop

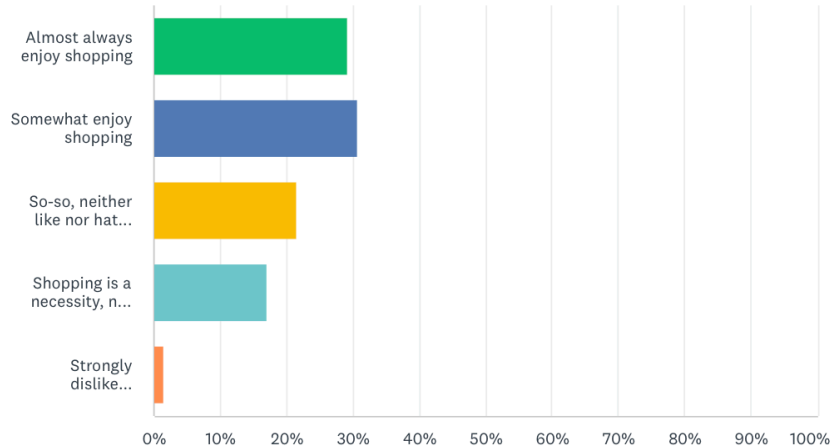
The most desirable shopping areas are located in a convenient location with a variety of products and services available from variety of both stores and restaurants and offer their wares at competitive prices. While parking, customer service, quality, convenient hours and other factors also matter, they are less important than the convenient hub offering lots of variety for both shopping and dining at affordable prices.

For a complete list of all responses given in the “Other” category, please see Appendix 1.

Q23.

How do you feel about shopping?

Answered: 731 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Almost always enjoy shopping	29.14% 213
▼ Somewhat enjoy shopping	30.78% 225
▼ So-so, neither like nor hate shopping	21.61% 158
▼ Shopping is a necessity, not a pleasure	16.96% 124
▼ Strongly dislike shopping	1.50% 11
TOTAL	731

Fig. 25

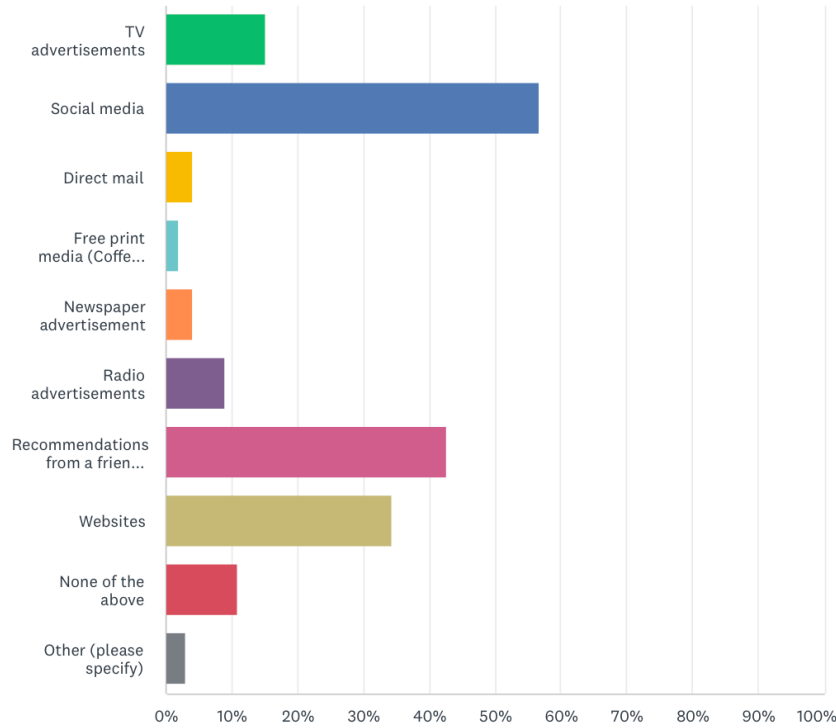
Enjoyment from shopping experience

For more a majority of respondents (60%), shopping can be a pleasant, enjoyable activity. Retailers can effectively draw in these shoppers by making their store's atmosphere as pleasant and appealing as possible, paying close attention to not only the variety and mix of their wares, but also to the visual optics of both the exterior and interior of the space, and even the sounds and smells present inside the space.

Q24.

Please select the TOP 2 media you relied on in the past 12 months to help you choose a local retail merchant.

Answered: 731 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
TV advertisements	15.18% 111
Social media	56.77% 415
Direct mail	3.97% 29
Free print media (Coffee News, placemats, etc.)	1.92% 14
Newspaper advertisement	4.10% 30
Radio advertisements	9.03% 66
Recommendations from a friend or relative	42.54% 311
Websites	34.34% 251
None of the above	10.94% 80
Other (please specify)	Responses 3.01% 22
Total Respondents: 731	

Fig. 26

Media used to choose local retail merchant

Social media, online reviews and recommendations from friends, family, or websites are the main drivers for choosing where to make retail purchases.

Vendors should be strongly aware of this and closely monitoring their online presence, including online reviews and both negative and positive posts from customers.

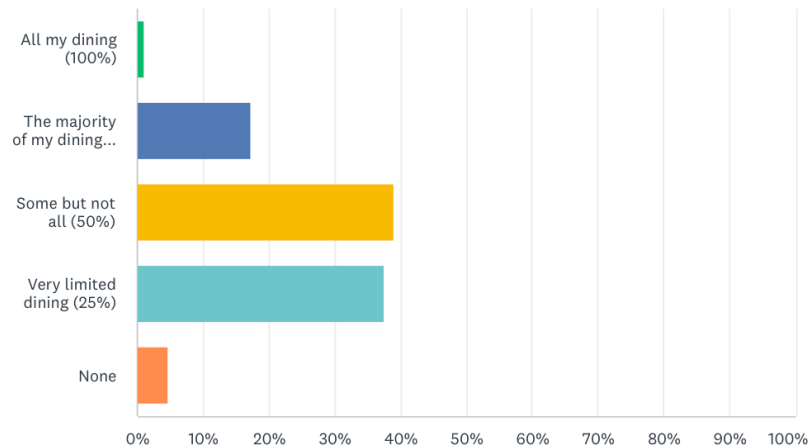
Please see Appendix 2 for a complete listing of all responses provided in the “Other” category.

Section 4: Dining Habits

Q25.

How much of your restaurant dining did you and your household do in Brewer during the last 12 months?

Answered: 731 Skipped: 0

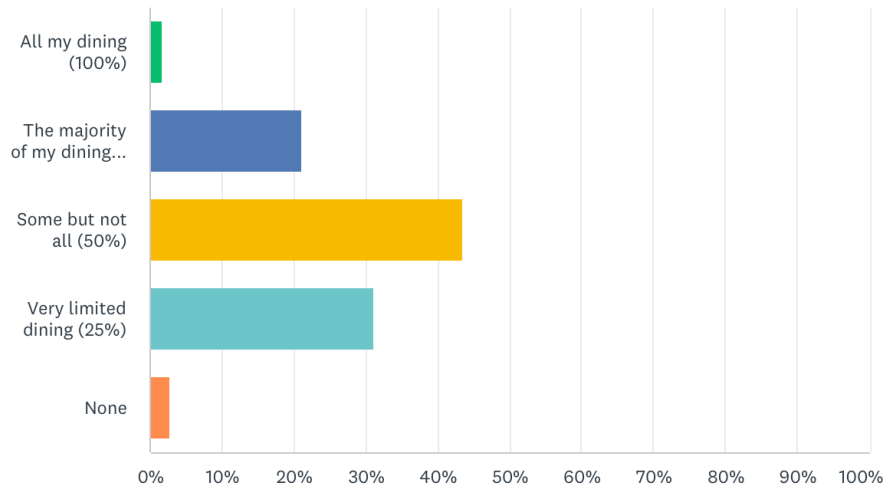


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ All my dining (100%)	1.09% 8
▼ The majority of my dining (75%)	17.37% 127
▼ Some but not all (50%)	39.12% 286
▼ Very limited dining (25%)	37.62% 275
▼ None	4.79% 35
TOTAL	731

Fig. 27
Percentage of total restaurant dining done specifically in Brewer

RESIDE OR WORK IN BREWER ONLY: How much of your restaurant dining did you and your household do in Brewer during the last 12 months?

Answered: 366 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ All my dining (100%)	1.64% 6
▼ The majority of my dining (75%)	21.04% 77
▼ Some but not all (50%)	43.44% 159
▼ Very limited dining (25%)	31.15% 114
▼ None	2.73% 10
TOTAL	366

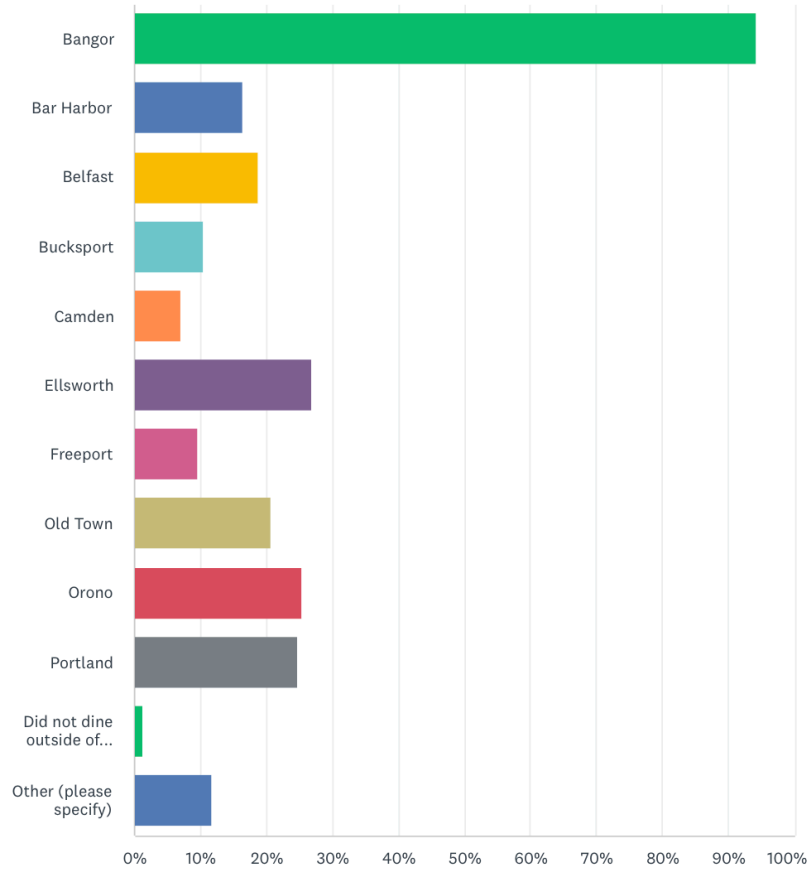
Fig. 28
Dining by residents and workers in Brewer

About 58% of total respondents reported that at least 50% of their restaurant dining was in Brewer. Looking at only those who reported living or working in Brewer, that number rose to just over 66%. The same effect was seen with those shopping in Brewer (**Q21**). This demonstrates that the more familiar someone is with Brewer, or the more often they visit Brewer, the more likely Brewer will be their top choice for shopping and dining.

Q26.

If you did some or all of your dining outside of Brewer, where else did you and your household dine during the last 12 months? Check every location you dined in over the last 12 months.

Answered: 731 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Bangor	94.25%	689
▼ Bar Harbor	16.42%	120
▼ Belfast	18.74%	137
▼ Bucksport	10.53%	77
▼ Camden	7.11%	52
▼ Ellsworth	26.81%	196
▼ Freeport	9.58%	70
▼ Old Town	20.66%	151
▼ Orono	25.44%	186
▼ Portland	24.76%	181
▼ Did not dine outside of Brewer	1.23%	9
▼ Other (please specify)	Responses 11.76%	86
Total Respondents: 731		

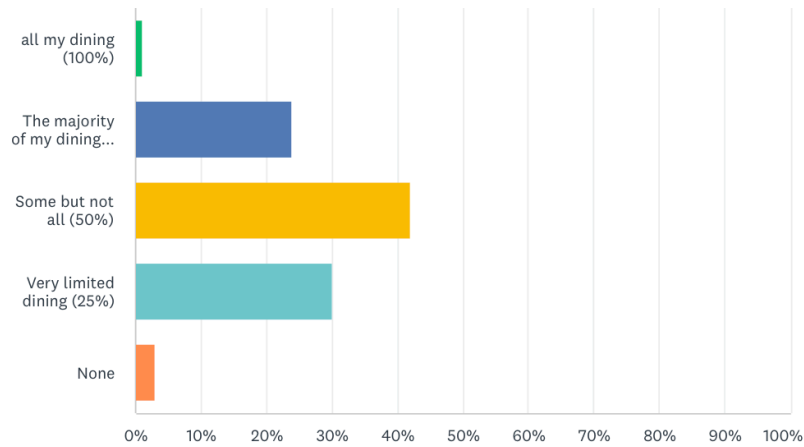
Fig. 29
Dining locations outside Brewer

As expected, respondents show a clear preference for dining in the larger City of Bangor when they choose to dine outside Brewer.

Q27.

If you dined in Bangor, how much of your dining did you and your household do in Bangor during the last 12 months?

Answered: 726 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
all my dining (100%)	1.10% 8
The majority of my dining (75%)	23.83% 173
Some but not all (50%)	42.01% 305
Very limited dining (25%)	30.03% 218
None	3.03% 22
TOTAL	726

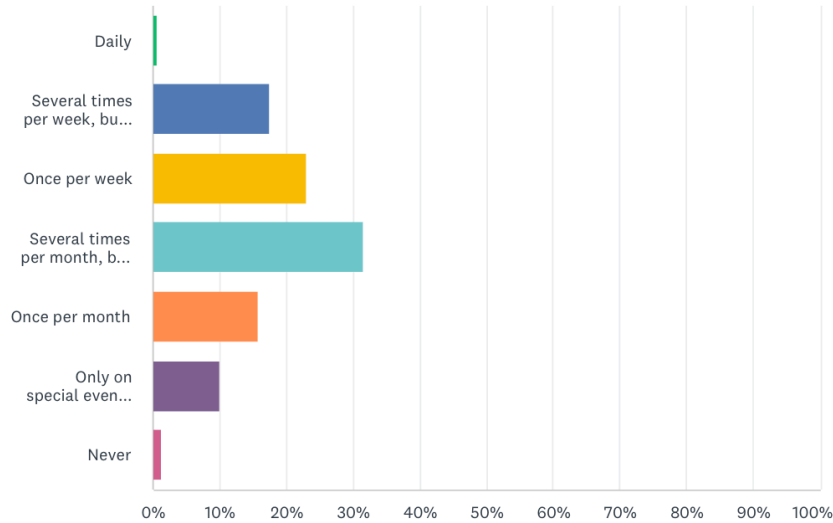
Fig. 30
Percentage of dining done in Bangor

About 25% of total respondents reported that the majority of their restaurant dining was in Bangor. Excluding those who neither live or work in Brewer, that number fell to 18.5%. Once again, this data demonstrates that the more familiar someone is with Brewer, or the more often they visit Brewer, the more likely Brewer will be their top choice for shopping and dining.

Q28.

How often did you or the members of your household dine at a restaurant?

Answered: 731 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Daily	0.68% 5
▼ Several times per week, but not daily	17.51% 128
▼ Once per week	23.12% 169
▼ Several times per month, but not every week	31.60% 231
▼ Once per month	15.73% 115
▼ Only on special events (birthdays, anniversaries, etc.)	10.12% 74
▼ Never	1.23% 9
TOTAL	731

Fig. 31

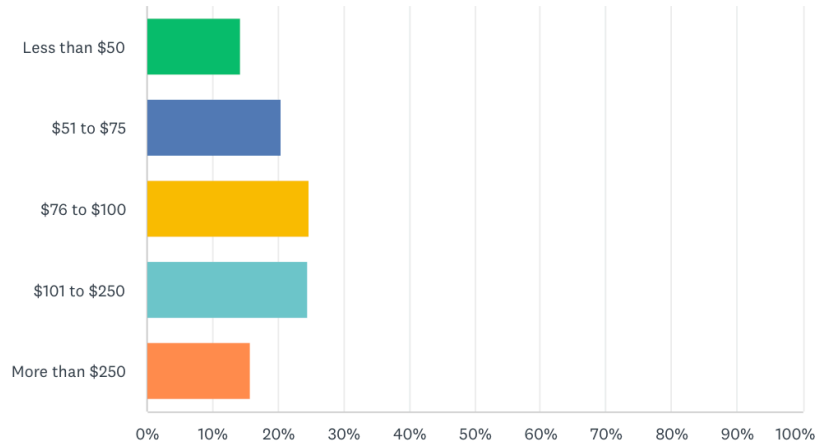
Frequency of dining at a restaurant

More than 41% of respondents reported eating out at least once per week, and about 73% report eating out at least several times per month.

Q29.

What is the amount you typically spend at restaurants for yourself and your household per month?

Answered: 731 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Less than \$50	14.36% 105
\$51 to \$75	20.52% 150
\$76 to \$100	24.76% 181
\$101 to \$250	24.62% 180
More than \$250	15.73% 115
TOTAL	731

Fig. 32
Dining expenditures per month

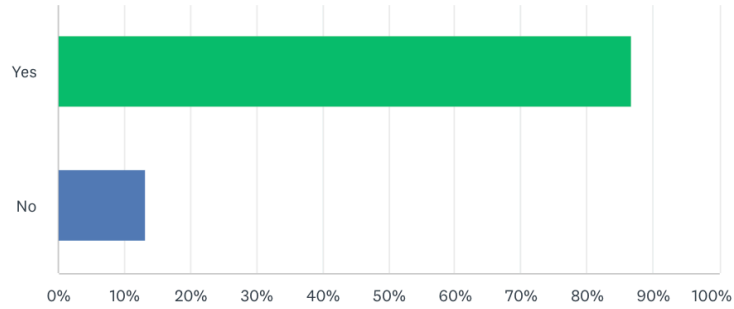
Unsurprisingly, 31 to 50 year old respondents report spending the most money on dining out, while those over age 60 spend the least.

Section 5: Dining Preferences

Q30.

Does Brewer need more restaurants?

Answered: 731 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Yes	86.73%	634
▼ No	13.27%	97
TOTAL		731

Fig. 33

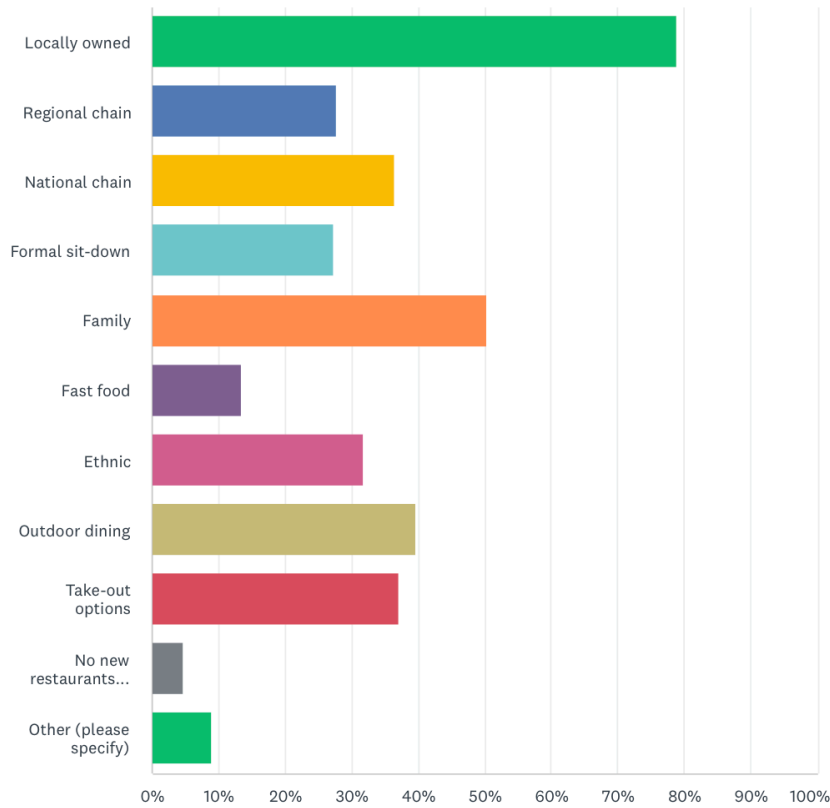
Demand for additional restaurants in Brewer

Overwhelmingly, respondents would like to see more restaurants in Brewer.

Q31.

What types of new restaurants would you like to see in Brewer? Select both type (independent, local, regional, or national) and/or style (fast food, family casual, formal, etc.). Select as many as you'd like.

Answered: 731 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Locally owned	78.93% 577
Regional chain	27.63% 202
National chain	36.53% 267
Formal sit-down	27.36% 200
Family	50.34% 368
Fast food	13.41% 98
Ethnic	31.87% 233
Outdoor dining	39.67% 290
Take-out options	37.07% 271
No new restaurants needed	4.65% 34
Other (please specify)	9.03% 66
Total Respondents: 731	

Fig. 34
Desired types of additional restaurants in Brewer

All categories of dining were selected often, showing strong support for new restaurants of all types. Locally-owned, family-friendly restaurants were most desired while more fast food establishments were desired least.

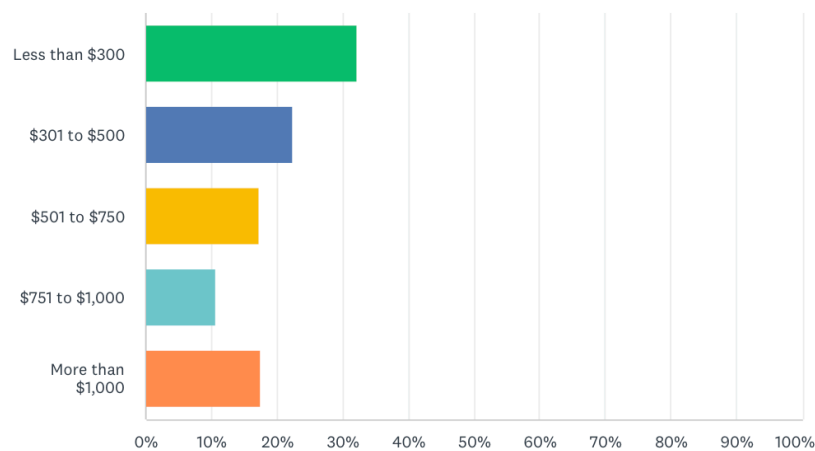
Please see Appendix 3 for a complete listing of all responses provided in the “Other” category.

Section 6: Entertainment Habits

Q32.

How much did you and your household spend on entertainment in the last 12 months, excluding travel costs?

Answered: 731 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Less than \$300	32.28% 236
\$301 to \$500	22.30% 163
\$501 to \$750	17.24% 126
\$751 to \$1,000	10.67% 78
More than \$1,000	17.51% 128
TOTAL	731

Fig. 35
Entertainment expenditures

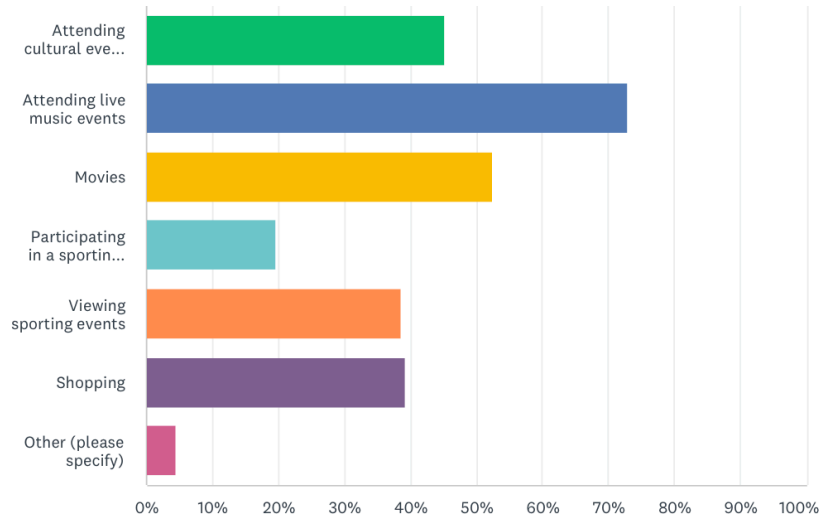
Respondents between the ages of 31 and 50 made up the bulk of those reporting spending more than \$751 on entertainment in the last year. People over the age of 61 spent the least, on average, on entertainment.

Section 7: Entertainment Preferences

Q33.

What types of entertainment do you prefer? Select every box that applies.

Answered: 731 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Attending cultural events (ie. theatre, art, museums)	45.28% 331
Attending live music events	72.91% 533
Movies	52.39% 383
Participating in a sporting event for physical activity	19.56% 143
Viewing sporting events	38.58% 282
Shopping	39.26% 287
Other (please specify)	Responses 4.38% 32
Total Respondents: 731	

Fig. 36
Preferred entertainment activities

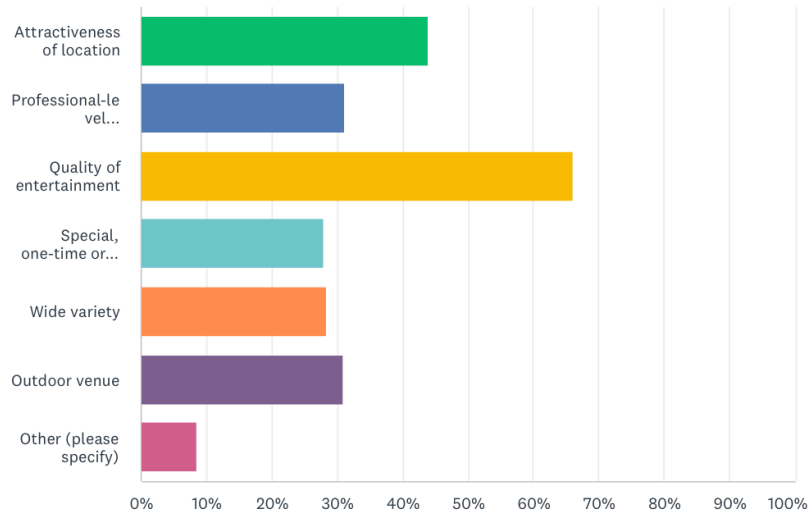
Respondents on average selected nearly 3 items each, showing a fairly substantial interest in a variety of types of entertainment.

Please see Appendix 4 for a complete list of responses given in the “Other” category.

Q34.

In the last 12 months, what did you look for in an entertainment destination that offers live entertainment such as sports, music, or theatre? Check every box that applies.

Answered: 731 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Attractiveness of location	43.91%	321
▼ Professional-level entertainment	31.05%	227
▼ Quality of entertainment	66.07%	483
▼ Special, one-time or seasonal events	27.91%	204
▼ Wide variety	28.45%	208
▼ Outdoor venue	30.92%	226
▼ Other (please specify)	8.48%	62
Total Respondents: 731		

Fig. 37
Factors affecting entertainment destination selection

Quality of entertainment, selected by 66% of respondents, was significantly higher than any of the other factors used for entertainment selection. Attractiveness of location was also a very significant factor, with nearly 44% selecting it as an important factor in their decision.

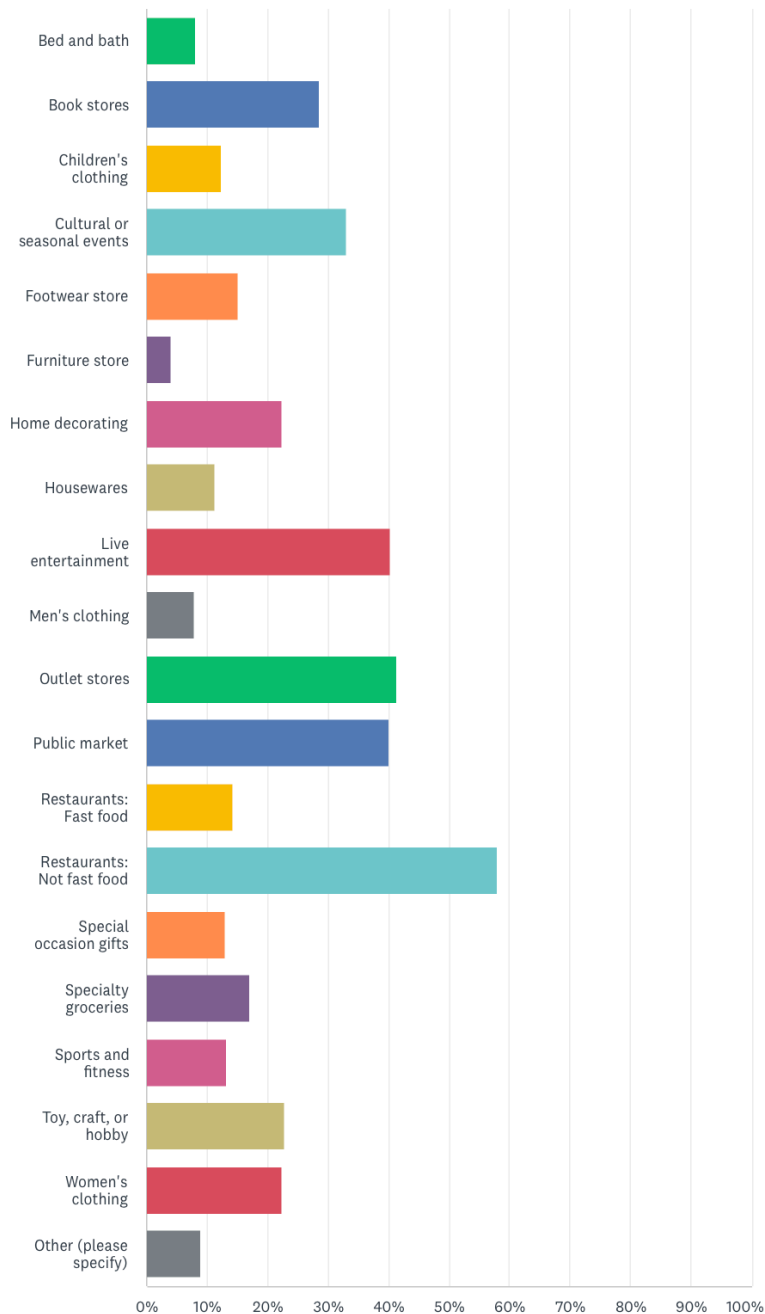
Please see Appendix 4 for a complete list of responses given in the “Other” category.

Section 8: General Preferences and Suggestions

Q35.

The City of Brewer wants to improve the shopping, entertainment, and dining experiences in the downtown and waterfront area. What can Brewer change to attract more of your business to the downtown district? I would definitely visit and shop in the Brewer downtown and waterfront area if Brewer added or improved the following businesses or services. (Please select up to 5 choices from the selection below.)

Answered: 731 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
▼ Bed and bath		8.21%	60
▼ Book stores		28.59%	209
▼ Children's clothing		12.45%	91
▼ Cultural or seasonal events		33.11%	242
▼ Footwear store		15.18%	111
▼ Furniture store		4.10%	30
▼ Home decorating		22.44%	164
▼ Housewares		11.22%	82
▼ Live entertainment		40.22%	294
▼ Men's clothing		7.80%	57
▼ Outlet stores		41.45%	303
▼ Public market		40.08%	293
▼ Restaurants: Fast food		14.36%	105
▼ Restaurants: Not fast food		58.00%	424
▼ Special occasion gifts		13.00%	95
▼ Specialty groceries		16.96%	124
▼ Sports and fitness		13.13%	96
▼ Toy, craft, or hobby		22.71%	166
▼ Women's clothing		22.44%	164
▼ Other (please specify)	Responses	9.03%	66
Total Respondents: 731			

Fig. 38

Desired additions or improvements to Brewer downtown and waterfront

More dining options and a wider variety of shopping options, along with more live entertainment options and cultural or seasonal events topped the list of desired improvements to Brewer's downtown and waterfront area.

Please see Appendix 6 for a complete list of all responses provided in the "Other" category.

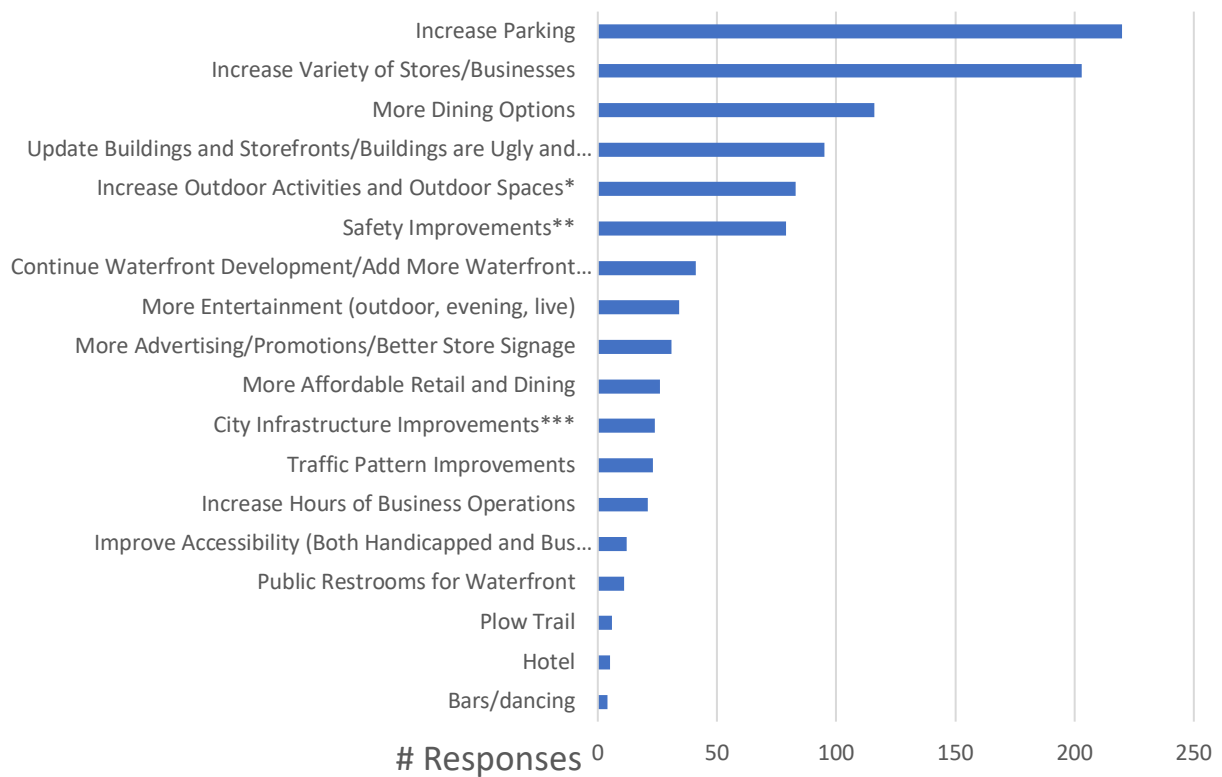
Q36.

What additional changes are necessary to downtown Brewer and the waterfront area or by the merchants in that area to make it certain that you would shop there? (Please provide at least 1 suggestion.)

Answered: 625 Skipped: 106

ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
The most important change is	Responses	99.52%	622
Another change is	Responses	57.44%	359
Another change is	Responses	33.60%	210

Survey respondents provided a total of 1,191 responses to this question. Responses given five or more times were grouped into the following categories:



*Includes splashpad, food trucks on waterfront, public market/outdoor market, farmer's market on waterfront, family-friendly waterfront activities, more picnic tables

**Includes lighting, drugs/homeless issues, needles

***Includes paving roads, painting lines, sidewalks, crosswalks landscaping, and pedestrian improvements

Fig. 39

Suggestions for additions or improvements to Brewer downtown and waterfront area

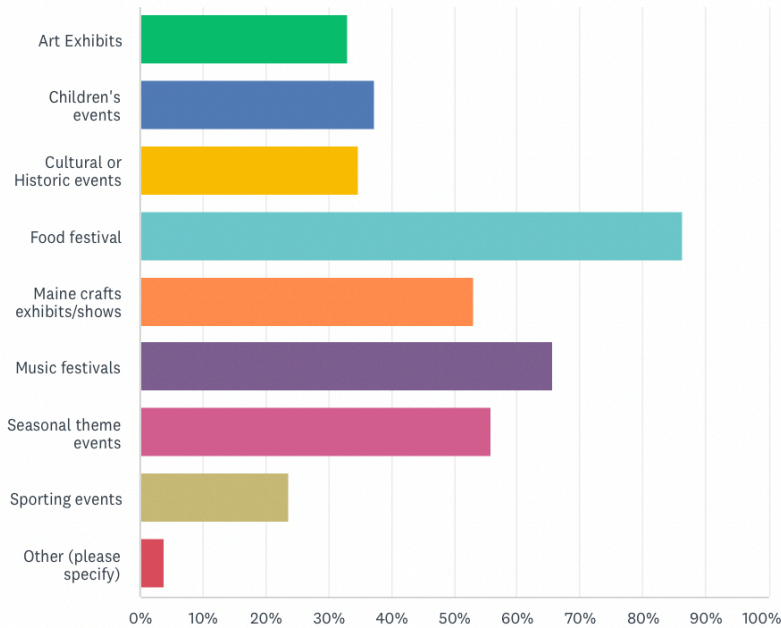
Survey respondents overwhelmingly offered up suggestions to increase parking, increase the variety of stores and restaurants, and clean up/rehabilitate tired and ugly buildings as their primary advice for increasing commerce in the downtown and waterfront areas.

All answers to the above question can be found in Appendix 7.

Q37.

What type of special events would you like added to Brewer's downtown and waterfront area? Select as many as you'd like.

Answered: 731 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Art Exhibits	32.97% 241
▼ Children's events	37.21% 272
▼ Cultural or Historic events	34.75% 254
▼ Food festival	86.32% 631
▼ Maine crafts exhibits/shows	53.08% 388
▼ Music festivals	65.66% 480
▼ Seasonal theme events	55.81% 408
▼ Sporting events	23.67% 173
▼ Other (please specify)	Responses 3.83% 28
Total Respondents: 731	

Fig. 40
Special events desired for Brewer downtown and waterfront

Very strong support was shown for food festivals, music festivals, seasonal themed events, and Maine crafts exhibits/show, but all of the event categories given received significant support. There is clearly a strong demand for events of all types along the waterfront and in the downtown area.

Please see Appendix 8 for a complete listing of all responses given in the “Other” category.

Q38.

How would you describe the current shopping experience in Brewer's downtown and waterfront area?

Answered: 731 Skipped: 0

Overall, the vast majority of responses regarded a lack of variety of shopping options, lack of parking, and rundown or unsightly businesses and buildings.

Please see Appendix 9 for a complete listing of responses.

Appendices

Appendix 1

“Other” responses to Q22: Please select the top 5 factors that influenced your decision about where to do your retail shopping.

Near where I work
Closer to home
Close to work
Within walking distance
save on gas
availability of products I wanted to buy
Brewer has mardens!
Out of the way, less people
vegetarian/vegan
I live in Bangor
More options
Variety and quality of products. Wish Brewer had Renys.
Do they have good carts to haul my two babies around
We need more big stores besides just walmart
Walking in winter
Bulk stores like Sam's
very little tweakers
Availability of desired products
Less populated stores than Bangor & generally better atmosphere
Grocery, shaws mobile app
Around activities that child participated in
Less busy than bangor
Proximity to my home
Specific stores only in Bangor like target and bjs

Target
Less Traffic and people
Accommodations for disabled children such as Caroline carts
Target & Sam's Club
I love Target...
Clothing and shoe stores
Family nearby

Appendix 2

“Other” responses to Q24: Please select the TOP 2 media you relied on in the past 12 months to help you choose a local retail merchant.

Word of mouth
online reviews
don't rely on media
Word of mouth
Previous shopping experiences
Familiarity and availability of product choices
Just habit
Website product locators
Promotional offers/ discounts
Driving around
Mobile app
Local businesses
Targeted ads on social media
I like to visit new shops, explore, and support small business
Old Habits
go to where i've always gone
Creature of habit, same store most of the time
Knowledge of local area
Groupon
Email
Location
Already familiar with all local options

Appendix 3

“Other” responses to Q31: What types of new restaurants would you like to see in Brewer? Select both type (independent, local, regional, or national) and/or style (fast food, family casual, formal, etc.). Select as many as you'd like.

(Non-substantive responses such as “I”, “.”, and “NA” have been removed from the list.)

Vegan friendly
Pancake house, waffles, etc

We do not need any more burgers, pizza or Chinese. Literally anything else.
Allergy friendly
Ethnic, again
All would be welcome
Healthy options with vegetarian offerings. Delicious breakfast specific.
A buffet like millers used to be
Sit-down breakfast/lunch, bakery/coffee shop
pizza/subs
Another brewer besides Masons
Restaurants with more vegetarian options
Arby's, Wendy's Hooters
Popeyes and a Five Below store
IHOP!!
Vegan
Buffet
Sustainably sourced local food
Vegetarian or Vegan!
Hot pot
Starbucks
Healthy lunch options, something like Sweetgreen
Harvest Moon/Deli & Chick Fil-A
Themed, speciality (I.e 50s, arcade etc.)
Red Robin
Would like restaurants with healthy options
Good affordable Seafood
Sports pub
Vegan/vegetarian
Starbucks or aroma joes
Outback Restaurant
food truck
Places like Sonic and DEFINITELY a White Castle
vegan/vegetarian
Places that are open for takeout after 8PM that aren't pizza or fast food, places that offer takeout that consistently take orders
anything available late night(1-5am)
Family entertainment and dining
Bar for younger crowd
Places with gluten free menus
Healthy options for food allergies
Sonic, Johnny Rockets
Buffets
Something that is not in the area. Like a chain that is not in Maine or something unique
But I'd love to have Panera Bread here.
Panera, Red Robin, Locally owned restaurants
I'd like to see more variety, it's half Chinese food and half American food. Thai would be great, also a really good breakfast place
Golden corral
Cracker barrel

Panera Bread!
Sonic
Popeyes
Bbq
Organic, vegetarian, vegan - healthier options
Family friendly, sensory friendly for children with disabilities
Bangor gets a lot of traffic due to Starbucks
Breakfast
Sonic
Wendy's
Olive Garden!
Dog friendly
Steak house and seafood
Vegetarian
Organized food truck area by the waterfront, entertainment could also be included

Appendix 4

“Other” responses to Q33: What types of entertainment do you prefer? Select every box that applies.

Combo - brunch & yoga
Festivals
Golf
participant dance
none of the above
hiking
Hiking
Religious
Hiking
Outdoors
Drive-in movies
Hobbyist, Trading card games
Fishing
Family oriented
none
Hands on entertainment like classes
Cornhole
none
Gardening
Zoos
Doing art/pottery classes et. For beginners
Festivals and markets (farmers markets)
N/A
No interest

Varies
TV
We don't attend entertainment venues
Comedy
Farmer's market, food truck festivals
Comedy
Beach

Appendix 5

“Other” responses to Q34: In the last 12 months, what did you look for in an entertainment destination that offers live entertainment such as sports, music, or theatre? Check every box that applies.

(Non-substantive responses such as “I”, “.”, and “NA” have been removed from the list.)

Can't afford entertainment
Ease of parking
Security
Not really my thing
Hate crowds, avoid gatherings.
None
don't go to this type of event often except occasionally music, or if there's a participatory dance event (ballroom, swing, etc.)
none
very little entertainment...walking
None
VERY MUCH DISLIKE THE BANGOR WATERFRONT "MUSIC" space
i didn't look
Religious
Personal Safety
Cleanliness - This survey does not take into consideration many still don't eat out or shop post COVID-19
Cost
Price
Parking, walk ability, food vendors
Kid Friendly
ADA accessibility
Price
Ease of access for traffic to and from
Special needs accessible
Price
Water slide park/pool
Family oriented
cost
Don't go to.
affordability

convenient business hours
Comedy
Live local bands or singers
Do not attend this type of event
Price
Can't afford pleasures.
Good food
Reasonable cost
go to my usual places
For kids
Competitive pricing
Did not look
N/A hate crowds
We don't attend entertainment venues
Parking
Price
Easy handicap parkong
Affordability
Cleanliness

Appendix 6

“Other” responses to Q35: The City of Brewer wants to improve the shopping, entertainment, and dining experiences in the downtown and waterfront area. What can Brewer change to attract more of your business to the downtown district? I would definitely visit and shop in the Brewer downtown and waterfront area if Brewer added or improved the following businesses or services. (Please select up to 5 choices from the selection below.

Healthy foods
Grocery stores, for the love of god.
REI would be amazing, Trader Joe's also
I would love to see a Bass Pro Shop in the area
all are welcome...
wouldn't matter due to lack of parking options
More second-hand, thrift, discount - earth friendly
Footbridge Bangor to Brewer Waterfronts.
Bakery, grocery store (specifically Market Basket)
Trader Joe's
Cheese shop
Trader Joes or Whole Foods
Kitchen- i.e. Rooster Brothers w/coffee shop, Cabela's
Pet care
Ethnic market
Outdoor sporting goods
New brand grocery store or Trader Joe's. So many people want a Trader Joe's

Hobby lobby and Target
Trader Joe's
Quilt shop!
Medical Marijuana Dispensary
Coffee shops with sit down area and wifi
Breweries
Medical Cannabis
TRADER JOES
Plus size women's clothing
Movie theater
Starbucks
If stores carried what I wanted. I order online to save gas looking for what I want and/ or my size
Trader Joes
Coffee shop with parking that isn't Dunkin
Places for adult education!!!
Trader Joe's and Whole Foods and Total Wine
Late night options (1-5am)
Trader Joe's
Big and tall shop.
Quality thrift or consignment
pet store
Costco, Trader Joe's
Food trucks
Discount/bargain store - think Costco
We need a rock climbing gym in this area!
Dispensaries
Trader Joe's
Thrift store
more dollar stores, there are many types of them
Bar/Drinking Establishment
Trader Joe's, Restaurant options
Spiritual living
More variety in stores would be amazing, but affordability as well! All the specialty shops charge quite a bit for clothing, it would be nice to see something with a price point between wal mart and boutique if that makes sense
No interest
Parking
Plus size stores! Family entertainment like a Dave & busters
Reiterate special geoceries - Trader Joes
Things for children and families to do
Store with sensory products for sensory play and children with autism
Bars
Fine antiques and antique jewelry, FINE DINING, Expensive lounges where the intelligent and wealthy gather to exchange ideas and grab a martini and escargot.
Trader Joe's!!!
Food Trucks
Trader Joe's

Gluten free food
Used, upcycled thrift
antique/vintage/thrift stores
Cafe on the gorgeous waterfront
Plus size clothing for men and woman

Appendix 7

Responses to Q36: What additional changes are necessary to downtown Brewer and the waterfront area or by the merchants in that area to make it certain that you would shop there? (Please provide at least 1 suggestion.)

Years ago the City changed the traffic pattern in the vicinity that leads to OMLAND and the Brewer Waterfront. One way streets and raised curbs preventing a more direct route in that area
Unique stores and boutiques
More specialty shops
Get rid of some of the older, dilapidated building.
Increase of variety
To make the establishment for everyone, something that catches their eye, something that will keep me and other patrons coming back.
update buildings exteriors
Attracting a Trader Joe's or something we don't have in our region
Parking
Craft stores
More choices
More attractive downtown. The buildings aren't that attractive.
Variety
Better hours
Parking
Trendy gift shops
growth
something to do, and also more food options.
Providing more parking space downtown
Better sidewalks
non applicable for me, can't go anywhere
Add shops
Marketing plan to show what you offer
Parking
Additional venues with adequate parking
Fix road surface
Parking
Plenty of parking
More upscale shops
Adding a Roller Rink

To get more merchants to Brewer
Parking
Decrease Traffic - it's dangerous and noisy.
Parking
Food, cafe, restaurants
More variety
Update your store
More Stores
More variety
renovate the old brick buildings, turn them into housing or museums
Continue working on the waterfront
Traffic on Wilson St
Better parking options
Pedestrian friendly
Paved roads and sidewalks with more flashing lights at crosswalks.
Better parking
Variety
Parking
enough parking nearby
easy parking
Make things available
Convenient parking
More retail options
Early notification of events for planning ahead
Safety
Options
competitive pricing
Parking
Building on to success of Riverwalk with MORE promotion of Riverwalk Festival with
additional food vendors
Bring back Macys
Parking
Longer walk way along river
Fishing and outdoor gear
Move Dead River and restore older buildings to spruce up south main st.
Diversity in the shops
Affordability
Parking
Specialty store that you don't get at walmart
Attractive store fronts
Contiguous shops that are nice, not vape
Renovate Getchell Ice Derelict Property
More variety, closer together
Public restrooms
Advertise services and location
More parking for seniors
Increased parking downtown
Attractive building locations

Outlet stores on waterfront
venues near waterfront
Safety
We need a nice hotel on the riverfront.
Advertising stores or events in that area.
Plow the walkway
Development
Affordable entertainment. Concerts at waterfront too expensive for me
Open market on the waterfront area
Better quality shops and restaurants
Variety
more parking
Parking
Thrift, second hand, earth friendly
Public market with variety
Clothing store both men and women's
Clean up down town
More restaurants
More places to eat
More choices
Parking
more walkability
Improved Handicapped access for the elderly and disabled
Parking
Competitive prices
Improved parking
Restrooms at Waterfront
The river walk is gorgeous. Make more of the downtown area nicer like the river walk.
Something to balance out limited hour sandwich shops and antique shops.
Better parking
More businesses
Ease of parking
Make the lower end of Center Street more accessible. Brewer screwed those businesses
by changing the traffic pattern.
parking
scrap downtown and remake the waterfront
Safety
Parking
Offering a variety of shops and stores
High end real estate
An day or two open until 7 for the full time work crew
Public restrooms by waterfront
more dog friendly restaurants
Everything is so run down and pretty sketchy now
Define Brewer's Downtown
Safety - well-lit parking
Bring a Golden Corral restuarant
More restaurant choices that aren't fast food

Sales

Adequate parking
parking

I am not exactly sure what you are calling brewer downtown water front. Across the river from Bangor where the muddy rudder is

More stores

Make downtown more interesting, make me want to go there

Since I'm somewhat unaware of what downtown has to offer, more ads by the chamber of commerce featuring downtown/waterfront businesses.

Stay small

Streetlights on sidewalks to provide ample lighting to/from parking

Plenty of parking

More parking

Place for kids to play

I would love to see a book store or a store similar to Bull Moose in Bangor.

More accessible parking

Restaurants

Music Venu

More shopping and resteraunts

More lighting

Walkable from the waterfront

Real hotel(waterfront)

Ethical business practices

More parking

Looks

Have employees to work

Downtown Brewer is too spread out to be a desirable walking retail/dining space. A critical density of retail, dining, and entertainment space needs to be accomplished in tandem with higher density housing to create a sense of space.

More variety

More parking on Waterfront

More residential housing

Outdoor restaurants

Personal safety, well lit areas/parking lots, emergency buttons

Get a Trader Joe's

Outdoor shopping like arts and crafts , food vendors

More marketing! Being new to the area I'm unaware of what is in brewer

Parking

a coffee shop in

More restaurants

Frequent sales - brings in rotating customers depending on what's on sale!

Modernize

More restaurants

variety

More parking

Food trucks by the waterfront

More variety of restaurants

Building improvements

Crumble cookie
Easy/quick lunch with drive through option
There's nothing interesting there to see or do. The walk looks nice, but it feels desolate.
More food options
Adding Clothing Store
More parking
Road upkeep
Better variety of stores
Make it more attractive, add color
Na
Parking availability
Visual. Fix up buildings to entry to brewer
Decorate the waterfront for holidays
More parking
Traffic pattern is terrible by the Joshua Chamberlain bridge.
Actually have a downtown shopping district like Bangor
Continue to improve River Walk. History of river signage?
Pedestrian friendly shopping hubs
Having something unique to that area- something you can get elsewhere
Adding a comic store
Parking
Information of what is happening
Parking
Parking
Variety of options for experiences/food trucks
Parking
Dining options
An indoor playground would be amazing
Having more stores and restaurants in that area. Currently, I have no reason to be downtown or near the waterfront.
Variety of businesses
Women's clothing boutique
More business needs to open
Add a Whole Foods.
Remodel/newer looking stores or revive the old looks (bricks etc)
Restroom available on walkway, no need of people using bushes if you had them.
More variety of types of shops
Hannaford parking lot
Cannabis store!
The road
Brewer could a grocery store besides Hannaford
Parking
More special events
Update the appearance
Convenient hours
Adding more places to find cheaper products for the same quality as new
Variety of stores
Make it walkable unlike Bangor. If it is planned like Belfast, it would be great

More local shops
Safe walkability between diverse shopping locations
Parking
Easier access and better parking.
Clearly marked public Parking
Adding a lighted fountain area. Like Cascade park in Bangor but with flowers and some historical value of Brewer's history.
The roads need fixing, people tend to avoid areas that are harsh to drive through
More businesses
Have well-known restaurants there (not fast food related) such as Cheesecake Factory, Junior's, Fuddrucker's, Giordano's, Margaritaville, Crumbl Cookies.
more options
Maintained sidewalks
Better parking
Welcoming signage
Not shopping but stop church groups from being stationed all along the RiverWalk. I love this path and go once or twice a day when it's warmer and sometimes in the winter, but when I'm being approached 3x each way by groups of people while I'm running with headphones in not making eye contact to ask if they can tell me about Jesus - it makes me not want to go, but I do. I'm not exaggerating when I say most days in the summer especially Mormons and Jehovah's witnesses will have stations with a poster, chairs, and brochures and books and there will be 3 groups of 2 people all along the path and they will walk up to and start trying to make you feel like a bad person. A very sales icky vibe.
Adding more variety
Family entertainment
More clear signage
More vegan/vegetarian options
Accessibility
Better customer service
inviting store fronts
Get an active night life scene in Brewer
affordable pricing
More entertainment spots
Keeping the area safe
Improved lighting
Enough parking
Affordable
Safety
More parking
Prettying up the buildings. They look dated.
Parking
Local businesses
More places of business so I can one stop shop in Brewer without having to go to Bangor to finish my shopping needs
Parking
Make it safer lighting night
Ensuring safety

Clearly marked parking areas
More events like food festivals, craft shows, local business spotlights, etc.
Location
Add Restaurants
More businesses to visit
Parking
Making sure there is parking.
More lighting for safety
safe parking
Variety
Adding something different than chain stores. More open markets with variety of products
Plan for homelessness
Better selection of businesses
Parking
More variety
parking
Safety (which the PD is working diligently on!)
Entice food trucks to park near downtown
Better parking
shop local walking events between the shops, restaurants, and bars with coupons
More parking
Safety
Have a better selection and sizes. So people can find what they want, size and where.
quality wares
more parking
Convenient hours, out side of the 9-6
Trader Joe
Adding more variety
Renovating old buildings / eye sores
Traffic
More local business
Better selection of restaurants
Tying the brewer waterfront in with the bangor waterfront through bars, restaurants, etc.
Adding more businesses
Local, easy to access and to pop in to, affordable. Multiple spots, right now it just feels like there is that between friends spot and no other little shopping locations. But I do love that antique shop!
Accessibility and parking
Variety
Staying open later hours
Hours of operation
Needing more options!
More outdoor dining/events
Stores not already in Bangor
Extended hours - not all of us have eaten dinner and gone to bed by 7PM
A diverse collection of shops, other than antiques
More variety of shops

Make a park or outdoor activity so people can get out and enjoy. brewer more
Golden Corral
Better parking and layout of roads
A wider variety of restaurants, family friendly activities
better parking
Accessibility easy access
More options
It looks dirty and unsafe
late night options
Multiple stores or places in one area
More attractiveness
Something everyone needs/not specialty
More live entertainment
Variety of food choices
Options
Security
Keep up development of waterfront area
More family friendly or young people bars- don't let rude old men take it over
make it an attractive area
Variety of options
More variety
Parking
Brewer needs more restaurants. Very limited options.
Easier parking options
A nice hotel or restaurant on the waterfront
Sidewalks cleared of ice and snow
More parking
Clean safe area
Specialty store
Where is downtown?
Parking
Variety of shops and food
Keeping the area safe and free from drug paraphernalia
convenience, parking
More variety of shopping options
Parking.
Keep it safe.
More options
Parking
Better parking
More parking availability. Everywhere.
Food truck
Outdoor spaces along Wilson Street ie a park or trails
It would be nice to have some more selection of stores
Better parking
Having more things to do, roller skating, rock climbing etc
Cleanliness
Adding some footwear stores

A steakhouse
Improved parking
More inclusive stores
Pet store, it its a huge reason why I mostly shop in Bangor.
Healthy options
Parking
Storefronts could look more appealing
Outdoor seating
Cute coffee/ tea shops - like wicked brew
Family dinners without a bunch of alcohol
Possible parking garage on the Brewer side somewhere
adding more variety of stores
More choices for shopping
Variety of retail at different hours
Would be great to have some vendors in warm months along the waterfront path.
Offer something unique to the area
Ensure parking ease
Attractiveness
Better parking
Improve roads/parking
More variety
Better parking
More shops
Parking
Filling the empty store fronts.
Telling about the stores online ..Facebook!!! More on social media...I get my news online and steam most my show so I don't see print ads or local tv ads... So we know what you have!!for example someone posted on fb there is a walking path on the waterfront but don't know where it is. Nor do I know where to find the information but its something I would like to do and there may be stores I would go to if I knew about them. A map would be good too so we know where the places are!
Hours of operation
Food trucks
A decent store. Maine doesn't have a Ross?
Parking for waterfront
Add parking
Larger variety of stores
Cost
Needed parking
Get options that don't exist in this area- Trader Joe's, Costco, IKEA, ethnic grocery stores (we need to go to Portland for an Asian market), ethnic restaurants (like Korean Dad did if Veazie- they've had Korean, Peruvian, Cajun, and now Nigerian options). If I'm driving 2+ hours to find it, I'll definitely go to Brewer for it!
Available parking
Parking
Clean it up, updating
Parking
Utilizing the old getchell bros location

More restaurants
Easy access/parking
Keep improving the waterfront path for access to while doing shopping and the cleanliness.
Parking lot specific to shopping- NO PAYMENT
More variety
More Shop variety
More to do
More diversity in restaurant choices
Parking
Have a place that sells ice cream or light lunches or dinners. Nothing fancy.
Atmospheric face-lift by embracing the waterfront and opportunities it has to offer
Improve roads and traffic patterns
Clean up buildings on road way
More options
Accessibility between shops and restaurants
Walkability
biggest advantage you have is doing nothing to attract homeless. It is awful in Bangor.
Elegant fine dining
More variety
Higher quality food
More parking
Better customer service
A critical mass of stores
Have meal trucks show up on the waterfront in the spring summer and fall so people can enjoy the waterfront and have snacks to eat
Lower taxes to make doing business in Brewer more affordable
Retail or Chain store that is almost guaranteed to stay open (won't fizzle out and close)
Steakhouse restaurant
More variety
more variety
Do SOMETHING with the large building next to the IGA. SO much potential!
Parking
Variety of stores
More businesses
Parking
too congested no parking
Assortment of products
More selection
Food trucks
Bring more stores in
Parking Garage
Bring more music to the area that is affordable
More food options by the waterfront. Food carts
Easy parking
Variety!
Accessibility/parking
No changes needed really, just need folks to move in that I want to shop at

Open Air Shopping and Restaurants

N/A

More community shops

Serving families with children (which Bangor lacks)

Parking

Expanding the area

Accessibility and parking

Parking

More stores. Brewer is desolate.

Food trucks by waterfront

Just a verity of different markets

Clothing and shoe stores

Utilizing that water front to our biggest advantage by offering cultural events every single weekend or month

Parking

More shopping experiences and relative stores. Close to Brewer's waterfront is hair salons and antique stores. Adding unique shopping experiences would positively impact the shopping experience.

Clean it up

A feeling of safety

longer hours

more outdoor activities

advertising.

Parking

Deals

Parking

Bigger variety of shops and food options that are affordable

Locally owned

Accessibility

Parking

Providing more variety of shops

Better parking

Public safety

Adding a public market

More availability of businesses

Something I can bring baby-toddler aged kids to and then I would be more likely to dine and shop in the same area too.

More variety

Adding more restaurants that will stay open late

Safety

Traffic is crazy there!

Letting people know they are there

Something new and exciting

Restaurants

More options

improve Brewer's traffic flow by syncing traffic lights- it's a nightmare to get anywhere in Brewer

Vegetarian food options

Weekly Deals
Variety of shops
Parking
Keeping it safe and clean to walk/ enjoy
parking
More parking
Wide variety
Cleanliness
More sit down restaurants
More outside activities offered. Last year they had a waterfront activity thing in June
and it was wonderful!
Food truck
Clean up the area - make it feel cleaner, brighter, less industrial
Fix up the existing buildings
Parking
more shopping choices
Adequate parking (it's fine now, but more shops would require more parking)
Inclusivity
Boat launch/dock system
More variety for food
Safety for families- NO homeless people, panhandle or drug use
Parking
Parking
Addition of indoor public bathrooms
Cleanup of surroundings of buildings
improved parking to access downtown Brewer.
Parking
Updated stores
Prices being competitive
Attractiveness
New types of shopping
More parking
More things to do
Places to eat breakfast and lunch
Increased variety
Use and renovation of idle property
High quality men's clothing
Unique merchants not found elsewhere in the region
Live music.
Better parking
More options fowntown and along waterfront
Adding more variety for shopping options
Variety of stores/entertainment
More variety of goods offered
Good parking
Add more stores downtown. Like a bookstore, or a used sporting goods store, or a thrift
store, or A unique store
More food places

More businesses to stop at along the river walk
Clean up the waterfront on south main street
Adding a boutique hotel
parking
Adding more restaurants
Economical prices
More restaurants
an aggressive use of the waterfront area
parking
No more low class dining, fast food
Good parking.
Ice cream
Bring Wendy's to Wilson st
More variety
Parking
Boat docking
Updated stores and appeal of downtown brewer street
Close off traffic to downtown. Provide parking and make it walkable.
Add places to eat(not fast food) and have a good time
Walkable
New shopping choices
Variety of shops
Ability to walk/bike around easily and without fear of traffic
Prices
Easy walking access between shops
Easy parking
More outdoor dining
Have a sonic
Food
Parking
Parking
variety
Parking
waterfront area additional parking
Would love more specialty shops
Parking to shop
Restrooms
Parking
More shops
Plenty of seating
Something unique
more storefronts
Ice cream truck
More food choices
Variety
Plit the area is to have more options,parking would be important
Updated stores
Parking

Better parking
Having an "epicenter" base location for parking and can venture to other shops from there.
Better parking
More advertising so people know there is even a downtown/waterfront area to shop at!
Outdoor activities in summer and indoor activities in the winter!
More stores/restaurants along the waterfront trail
More parking along waterfront
additional parking.
Promoting the Brewer downtown area like Bangor does their downtown area on social media
spruce up the buildings
Better shopping and dining options
Parking
Options
Expand variety.
parking
Helping the economy without ruining landscape
Convenient
Better parking
another outdoor bar
Parking
Adding more variety
Increased variety of dining
Parking
Parking
Additional parking
More options for stores/restaurants
Additional landscaping to create a more charming & welcoming appearance
better stores
Parking
Letting people know what is downtown
Traffic pattern
More parking
More food options
more parking
Variety
easy and ample Parking
Good clothing store
Variety of stores
fix the roads
Support local businessd
Critical mass in one area so you can park and visit a few locations
An incentive, deal or reason to come by in the non-summer season.
Food
Food trucks
Entertainment
Parking (in some areas)

Parking
More parking
More food options
Weave some boutique retail into the waterfront.
Accessible parking
More options of services
Convenient parking
Making Brewer even more charming
Healthy dining including ppl with allergies like gluten and dairy
Attractiveness of location
better signage
Signage
Good sidewalk
A hotel in the downtown area.
Lower Prices
Better/more parking
Trendy Women's Clothing Shops
maybe a teen center or community center.
interesting stores that are near each other.
Clean out the Church, Union, Summer Street drug areas.
Fix traffic pattern
Paint lines on roads
A covered space to sit if raining or have small parties like child's birthday etc
Getting a Chic Filet
Need more store fronts
Invest in infrastructure - the roads and sidewalks are a mess
Accessibility (shuttle bus?)
Grocery
Filling vacate storefronts with more variety of shops, especially women's clothing
parking
Parking
Cleanliness
pave roads and paint lines
Live music
More attractive road to waterfront
Food trucks in river park
Parking
Options
affordable prices
Competitive pricing
More restaurants/food options
Cleanliness
Use of properties already there
Diversity
On line presence: Brewer merchants Facebook page
The area beyond Mason's Brewery and toward where the bottle redemption was
needs more work to beautify and make useful
bilingual signage, French and English...to attract NB/Qc customers passing through

Brick building next to Toziers could be a fantastic mini mall with local vendors
Family oriented
Variety
Ease of access
Put the farmers market downtown closer to the shops and close off Center Street
Connect waterfront walk to Indian Trail Park
Cleaner area, more put together, landscaped etc
More parking
Boat access
Update/fix up old Button Factory
Clean and affordable
More restaurants
parking
Parking
Extend walkway, connect to longer path
Affordability
More police presence on the waterfront. Lots of homeless and drug seekers
Ethnic restaurants
Lighting/ parking lot lighting is sparse
Do something like "First Fridays" when merchants stay open later, have music/activities
Outdoor, locally owned
Is there really a down town?
More activities to park
Well lit
Get rid of abandoned buildings
Security
Parking
Add on to riverwalk with festivals
More walkway
Parking
Increase parking
More parking
Do we need anymore Banks?
More dog friendly areas (although brewer does well already)
More places like mardens
Having a Best Buy in brewer
Unique events
Adequate lighting
Events to draw people in
Bring something in that northern Maine doesn't have. A history museum, a sonic, a red
Robin a Cabela's
Destination restaurant
Quality merchandise
Park for people to rejuvenate
Locally owned restaurants or bars
More benches
Direct access from the waterfront
Outdoor market(waterfront)

Local sustainable sourced food and other items
More restaurants
More food options
Addition of an outdoor entertainment space for local arts/performances along the waterfront would be beneficial. Either at the southern or northern terminuses of the waterfront walkway.
Ethnic markets - Micucci's (Italian) Sun Oriental - Asian market
Convenience and competitive pricing
Opening hours - merchants open past 5:00 PM
Market basket, panara, ethnic food
Weekend market on closed street
More variety of music/ entertainment
Renovate run down buildings.
Pet friendly places
low prices
Old building demolition
Remove big shops/grocery store from waterfront, add smaller shops
The commercial buildings downtown look like warehouses with plastic banners like it's all temporary. I never even want to see what's there.
Adding Footwear Store
Advanced safety procedures
Better advertisement
Better promotions for business already there
Na
Add decorations to waterfront for seasons holidays
Add coffee or vendors on waterfront
Have things within walking distance since parking is limited
Signage or book-walk with river wildlife and plants.
Something for people in their early twenties, i.e dance club
Not enough empty buildings near the waterfront to open new businesses
Expand the downtown area to be more convenient shopping
Affordable options
Parking
Additional parking
More open Rec times in winter
Updating the building facades of the old block to make it more visually appealing
More Parking
Trader Joe's
Maybe a food or drink or ice cream vendor on or near the river walk
Parking beside Tosiers Market w restrooms
Shops that have "outdoor activity " items
Get five below
Brewer could use a proper Chinese restaurant
Something besides another brewery
Provide more parking
Parking
A park might be nice near the waterfront
Shops, restaurants that are close together. Obviously, parking might become an issue

Another restaurant on waterfront
More options for shopping
Facelifts on the sketchy looking buildings, I'm not even sure they are occupied.
Sidewalks and stores friendly for wheelchairs
A water taxi between Hampden's marina and Brewer's waterfront restaurants.
Only 1 Dunkin is needed on Wilson, the one by Walmart. The other one should go on North main st
More restaurants
Social minded law/traffic enforcement
Motivation and draw to go - we normally just go with one spot in mind not a place to explore
Safety
More things to do
easy parking
More parking
Specialty stores
Charm
More handicap accessible
More dine in restaurants
Accessibility
Coffee shop
Brewer Restaurant Week?
Parking
Add More Stores
More things to do
Picnic table area
Wider walkways along river
Rare places not around the area
Family activities
Less Thrifty style shops
more variety
More attractive scenery (as in flowers and such outside)
Keeping undesirables away
interesting businesses (art supply store)
Curb appeal. Decorative Street lights, new trees/scrubs
Variety
Parking
More womens clothing
getting rid of odd business that don't belong with the above change
That "cafe", isn't a cafe... its a chain promoted by some mlm marketing scheme. The stuff mostly, isn't healthy or even real. I got a smoothie but it had like nothing in it but powder. They have a couple options that actually have ingredients but mostly this is just junk and they sell it at the counter like Mary Kay. I wish there was a cafe again with real food and drinks, small and convenient!
Variety
Customer service
Variety of products
Parking.

Reduction in traffic volume/speed to make walking around area feel more safe and relaxing.

More parking

Outdoor activities

better advertisement

Curbside pick up

Easily accessible/convenient location/parking

early morning options

Public restrooms on waterfront walk

More relevant shops for the community

Restaurants

Variety

Keep it CLEAN!

More places to eat

More convenient hours for 9-5 workers

The city of Brewer seems to be behind when it comes to bringing new businesses to the city. It would be amazing to actually shop where I live and work.

A Trader Joe's or aldis

Fix the walk light at the corner of Washington and state

Landscape

Stop calling it downtown.

Parking added

variety

More non-fast food dining

Make everything clean.

Parking

Entertainment

Family friendly

More family activity places for all ages.

Ice cream cart

Bring in something Bangor didn't have.

More food choice's for dining (especially for food allergies)

More stores

Lower costs

A discount store like Sams club so maybe Costco would be great to add to brewer

Non parallel parking

More great food

More high end restaurants

More than pizza

more places to eat

Parking

Advertise in Bangor daily news

Appeal

Traffic control, impossible to turn on Wilson street most of time

Modernization/rejuvenation

Parking

Security

A good grocery store such as Aldi's or Market Basket.

Parking
Plow the river walk
more parking
Picnic tables
Attractive amusement different than what Bangor has to offer
Shops that stay
More variety
More restaurants
More business in general
Food trucks
Better parking
The buildings are in need of a face-lift as well, they appear unwelcoming.
Attract quality businesses
More stores to shop
Affordable
More locally owned areas
Upscale/comfort women's clothing
Better experiences
Varied menu, seasonal changes
Parking close to the stores
Make it fun for families
Quality products (not resale shops or overpriced "specialty items")
Specialty gift store
Extend the Riverwalk north of the State Street bridge (if possible).
Large public market
Ease of parking
Variety of stores
Make the riverfront entrances more inviting.
More business venues (i.e. properties for lease)
Ice cream option during the summer
not applicable
Traffic
N/A
Promotions for local businesses
Walkable, less vehicle access (which Bangor lacks)
Good advertising
Traffic lights to control easy access into stores
More outdoor events
Different restaurants
Clean up the remaining eye-sore buildings on the water front
Take a vantage of the Bangor Brewer bridge. Bring an art installation that will drive foot and car traffic to the area.
Affordability
A fitness studio (yoga, Pilates, etc) that overlooks the waterfront
Less drug paraphernalia laying around
Parking
Parking
More local products

Lights change to quickly
Seeing locally owned stores and a mix of other stores as well
Sales specials
Better care of sidewalks in Winter months
Affordability
More attractiveness
The conditions of the road.
Take better care of the roads
Attractive exterior
Clothing outlets
More parking
additional parking for waterfront
Outside shopping
More locals shops and merchants so you could browse from shop to shop. Downtown Brewer doesn't have much shopping opportunities.
Parking
Toys
More family friendly dining
More variety/combo of small business and chain stores.
More entertainment
More options of things to do
More businesses backed up and access to the waterfront area
Attractiveness
SMALL BUSINESSES
maybe a restaurant/cafe to attract more people to downtown Brewer.
Choices
Parking
Love your waterfront!
Restaurant choices
More restaurants, beyond breweries
A cluster of places to go - the Penobscot/Center Street area has a lot of promise, but the shops there now are mostly ones I'm not interested in.
More advertisement of existing businesses
later and more flexible hours
More food options
Parking
Better parking options
Shops along waterfront
Adding splash pad/children's play ground area
Making sure there is ample parking
Inviting atmosphere
More retail
Higher class shops, more expensive restaurants, CULTURE
Easy walking access.
Coffee
Reduce the number of traffic lights.
Accessibility
Add a trader joes

Signage- what is your business? What do you sell?
Easy parking
Parking options/better public transportation
Bathrooms
More parking
More specialty stores, rather than a hodgepodge of items
Walkability
convenience
Better shops
Music venue of some kind
Quiet not seafood oriented restaurant
More variety
Availability of retail space
Outdoor dining
more events
Gluten free food
Consistency
For event, outside things I'd love to see a playground. The "children's garden in the waterfront is beautiful, but there's nothing for kids to play with
More restaurants
Convenient Hours
Better variety of stores
Let's have some more outdoor events, markets, farmers markets, art walks etc,
Parking
Better road maintenance
additional picnic tables for takeout.
more signage
More restaurants
Affordable
Affordable
Inclusive places
nothing
Cleanliness
Variety of items, discount but quality items
connectivity to waterfront trail
Downtown - more parking
Later hours
Parking
Parking convenience
marketing of venues, events, etc.
More awareness of restaurants/highlight the regularly
Available parking
Movies
Events
Everything being walkable
Local artisan pop up shops
Food trucks?
Landscape grooming and appearance

Entertainment centers and not just for kids
marketing
Collaboration among small business owners
Variety of easy access shops
Better parking
Variety of services
A really good bakery that offers artisanal donuts & breads
better later hours.
Plow the waterfront trail in the winter
Needs a real downtown
No homeless
Continued high police presence. Necessary with high drug use and criminal activity
Having our own Mall for School shopping etc
To make an actual "downtown" area. Where is downtown?
Decrease neighborhood blight/increase building attractiveness
Hardware store
Small venue live entertainment
nearby, walking distance restaurant(s)
Beauty
better street lighting
Parking availability
Outlet mall/Starbucks location
Friendliness
ADVERTISE
Restaurants
Upgrade space for outdoor theater productions to draw visitors.
Flea market style locations
Offer something other than 2nd hand shops
Live band concerts on Center Street
Make Old Redemption Quonset hut property a destination park for all ages with more
parking
Need to feel safe
The eye sore " the old box company " on S. Main St.
Welcoming to the eye environment
Safety
Continue enhancements to the Riverwalk. I love it!
Skateboard/bmx/action sports park
Econ development seems to only care about industrial parks. Not small business. My
business in Bangor for that reason
More advertising so we know what's available
Safety
Buy land and buildings on riverside to expand opportunities for waterfront
Cultural events
More restaurants
More variety of stores
More special events/activities
Less car washes
Accessible buildings

One yearly event brewer can be known for
Fix the roads to accommodate possible new traffic flow
Kids activity place like urban air alike
Sports venue
More plants
Outdoor entertainment (waterfront)
Walking friendly commercial property
Outdoor entertainment
More stores by the waterfront area
Opening the waterfront parking lots to food truck access might be an additional way to draw foot traffic
Family focused
Cultural and seasonal events
Trader Joe's
Variety of the merchants
Different culture stuff
More Parking
gives back to community
Appropriate zoning
Adding home decorating store
More family friendly events
Na
Tree Lighting Festival & committee to plan & execute.
Fluidity of traffic
Vendors close together
Retail stores
Plow the brewer waterfront walkway
More kid friendly restaurants
Make the area prettier / more flattering
More river frontage stores that flow on the river walk for folks to check out while enjoying the walk
The cleaning of the streets
TRADER JOE'S!
More retail stores besides Walmart
Add more stores
Make walking in the area and waterfront safe and accessible Year round.
Special events
Letting the area know about the shopping area/stores available
Better advertising - we always want to eat in Brewer but we can never think of what there is for restaurants outside of Wilson Street.
Observation Center overlooking the Penobscot River.
Get rid of some of those sleazy hotels, they are bringing the wrong crowds
Downtown merchant guide
More events than just the River walk festival - we loved that!
Variety
Outlet shopping
Walkable
More lighting at dark

More places for kids
Variety
Food trucks
Attractiveness
Add More Parking
Picnic areas for sitting
Playground
Put in an outdoor bathroom with changing tables
Location
Variety
cleaner public areas
Cleanliness
Transients/homeless population
Unique
Public restrooms for the kiddos
Better parking lots/easier to navigate
Maybe bring the food trucks down to the waterfront area on a more scheduled basis.
Its great to have the market! But no where to sit and its just a big concrete parking lot,
not nice on dog paws and not much of a view.
Beautification
Inclusiveness
Attractiveness of the area
Entertainment
Attractive for people outside Brewer would want to shop
Hours
Staff appropriately. Nothing worse than shit service.
Brewer needs to focus on the city as a whole, not just the waterfront.
Lowering prices
Add native trees and shrubs to improve visual impact. Avoid non native trees and
shrubs.
Better parking
Tear down that monstrosity next to Toziers.
With developments keep improving lighting and access
Make everything well staffed.
Safety
No skateboarding at waterfront
More grocery options. Aldis would be awesome
Ample parking
Wider variety of stuff in the stores
A restaurant would be great that is family appropriate and unique or a private owned
coffee shop open passed 3 pm or a bookstore with a coffee shop because the only
coffee place open pass 7 pm is Main street Dunkin. Perhaps put in a college in Brewer
to be attractive like Amherst in MA. The have a cookie/sweet shop open 24 hrs.
Customer Service
Clean buildings
A cute Main Street like Camden and Belfast have
live music shows
More signs for businesses, better advertising

Better traffic flow.
Variety
better lighting
Public facilities with continued green spaces
A music venue
Utilizing buildings that are no longer in use
Bar
Improve waterfront. EG: the brick building between Toziers and Brookings Smith. UTILIZE IT!
Convenient
More respect shown to visitors
Something that won't block traffic with long lines or insufficient parking
Need a Trader Joe's
Provide funds for face lifts on downtown buildings, some are shabby.
Safety
Splash pad
not applicable
N/A
All day family fun and experiences (splash pad, bathrooms, playground)
Safety, for example the south main st crosswalk to masons has been broken for ages
Continue on with the waterfront trail going all the way to the Indian trail environment
build large wharfs out into Penobscot river that allow people to sit like in Boston harbor
Variety
A coffee shop on the waterfront
Better police presence
attractiveness
Parking
Having more restaurants!
Community events
Business friendly environment
Easy access
Less traffic congestion
Easy to find and enough parking
Easier to navigate
Food Trucks
Food opportunities as one is spending time downtown like a dairy bar, coffee shop, sandwich shop, etc.
Security
Better safety barriers at waterfront near the water
Remove dilapidated buildings (Next to toziers)
Making it easily accessible
VARIETY
Our waterfront is amazing, I love that it is being expanded and kept well-maintained.
Restaurants
Movies
More options
more live music/musical events.
Food trucks at the waterfront

Coffee shop
Better weekday hours for working parents.
Making sure it is open year round
Great selection
Make it fun. Kid-friendly will always draw traffic=sales.
Outdoor concerts on the waterfront
More diverse options!
Safety is a concern
Chain stores
Food
More parking
more places you can bring animals
Fairs/special events
Moderately priced
Attractiveness of downtown area
Calendar of events, restaurant specials, store specials all in one place
Live entertainment
Competitive Pricing
Community events!!
advertise
Convenient
More restaurants (take out)
Starbucks coffee shop
Pedestrian friendly
Local vendors, farm to table
uptick seasonal events, vendors, etc. along waterfront
Have a Taste of Brewer event maybe at Brewer Auditorium with samples for sale
Special Events
New fitness
Music on the waterfront? (Smaller, acoustic)

Appendix 8

“Other” responses given for Q37: What type of special events would you like added to Brewer’s downtown and waterfront area? Select as many as you’d like.

Educational and art programs similar to Waterville Creates
Speciality markets
beer festival
Brewer should not be afraid to branch out with its offerings of events - think outside the box, think multicultural
None
Trader Joe's would be a coup to get up here
all or any...
action sports, brewery, locally owned and operated, earth friendly
Bring back Brewer days and sell our high school sports programs better

Vendors
Flea markets
We love the riverwalk
Weekly concerts in the park. Local groups, bands, etc. Just something fun for families to go listen to on perhaps Wed. nights?
Events along the River walk
none
Outdoor movie night for kids in the park! Ice skating rink. Sledding party with local vendors and free hot cocoa. Make it accessible and fun
Food festival sounds very interesting!
Place for teenagers can find entertainment and dining
Kids playground near children's garden
Fall foliage festival or lobster fest
Amusement activities. Road or obstacle races
beer festival
Spiritual/ community building activities
Simple gatherings with food and music just to let people get to know one another and Brewer.
Classy events that would draw intelligent, well-dressed people to the area. I have a 151 IQ and this area has nothing to offer me or my friends and colleagues. We are never coming back.
Do not use this area.
Duelling pianos

Appendix 9

Responses to Q38: How would you describe the current shopping experience in Brewer's downtown and waterfront area?

Could be better but given that Brewer is a much smaller population wise than Bangor, I think City is limited in how it can attract more stores
I don't shop there. I shop at Hannaford, Mardens and Walmart.
Good but could be better
I don't think there are enough places to shop to consider it a shopping destination.
Very weak
It is, to be honest, bland, and empty feeling. It needs...more. I love the new Brewer Nutrition, and thrift shop, but there has to be more. Right? :)
I enjoy what is there, but a lot of people think that the downtown area is shut down because lack of marketing.
Good, could use a few more options. Restaurants and bars are covered but we need more shops in the walkable area (off path)
Flat
Decent
Poor
adequit
It's really not very nice. Food vendors could help.

Challenging

Cramped, hard to find parking. Limited offerings

Very poor

Very minimal or non-existent

poor, non existent

bland, doesnt scream come spend money have fun.

It is difficult to shop downtown. You need to move your vehicle between stops to get to where you want to shop, etc.

Pleasant.

Meh

Sorry, as a caregiver to my Mom I am not able to leave her to truly experience anything. Not qualified to give an honest answer to this question.

Nonexistent

It's ok. Not enough variety or marketing to say what there is to offer. My free time is limited and I don't want to spend time driving around to figure out what is offered in the area.

Convenient since I live here

Limited selections to shop at.

Need more places to chose from.

Minimal

There are a few antique stores, a few thrift stores and a grocery store. Nothing very exciting, but I do go into all of them often.

Rough.

Spread out. Too much walking. Variety of interests.

I go to tiller and rye, that's all I've used near the waLaterfront for shops the rest don't appeal to me or I don't know of anything I need in any of the other shops I don't even know what's there

"Great grocery shopping(Hannaford)

Good restaurant options

Not enough retail stores"

Limited

There are some great stores & restaurants (Tiller & Rye, Masons, etc). Shopping there is easy to get around. Best of all is having the Police presence on the Waterfront. I think this is a necessity to keep the waterfront area safe. Having had uncomfortable interactions with disrespectful individuals have made me question if it was even safe to walk alone on the waterfront. The police presence has made a huge difference. Hope they continue to keep our waterfront safe.

Okay

I live a block from downtown on Center St between Main st and Summer.

With the exception of the beautiful riverwalk, downtown is unattractive and noisy.

Basically, the entirety of Main Street between Chapman and I-395 is blighted, crowded with cars, and the infrastructure is in disrepair. There is little to do, and it is unattractive to look at.

Also, the junk collector near the Oak Hill Cemetery is a serious blight on the area and needs to be dealt with. "

Limited

What shopping experience? There's almost nothing there.

Few options other than food. Love Winterport Boots, Emerys Maine Bedworks, and Northern Lights satellite, but I cannot find women's clothes, except at Walmart. Limited. Would like to see more options on the river walk. More locally owned restaurants. We need a craft brewer or two
Don't do much due to lack of places to go.

Not much there

I don't really know what there is there, I usually go to Wilson St and the Hannaford plaza for shopping. But it seems difficult to get to with not much parking.

Limited unless you vape

Adequate

Satisfactory

Do not shop there

Limited

Not many options for clothing shopping or housewares but the waterfront walk is great and restaurants have an ok variety.

Na

Not the greatest

Have not explored brewer waterfront or downtown

Weak

eh

There's shopping on the waterfront?

Not very good.

Limited

Very limited, inconsistent hours and lack of world class customer care.

Adequate

Okay. River walk is very enjoyable and that's about all I do down there

Bismal there isn't one. There are no stores.

nonexistent

Dreary and boring

Accessible but few retail options.

Ok

Limited

Good

It's good for the size of the area, we aren't a huge town but we have a good amount of stores in the area

slim

Pleasant

River walk is wonderful but shopping is non-existent in my mind. High Tide and Mason's for restaurants are good. Tyler and Rye is fine but an expensive specialty store. Tozier's grocery store is nothing special and can't compete with Hannaford so Shaw's. Toziers is over priced

I think that the riverwalk has attracted many people, per conversations I've heard, to the waterfront. Downtown needs to be made more prominent somehow.

Very few shops in the downtown area. Need more diverse locally owned businesses.

Improving, but parking makes it difficult

Nice

Needs better parking, more variety of shops.

Don't shop there so can't explain the unknown

Bleak. Brewer nutrition is a nice atmosphere. Other businesses don't offer retail experiences, or are complicated or confusing to access. Most shopping locations in the area are more destination locations, which don't seem to support other businesses because of their large sprawling model of operation. I would love to see more speciality shops that make up a downtown shopping district while promoting a sense of community.

ugh

Limited, disjointed, low-draw, cut up.

I don't really even know what's there, and it feels run down

Limited.

Antiquated

Lacking. I've only lived here since 2018, but can only think of one time I've gone into a store in downtown Brewer. What I consider "downtown" only consists of a few blocks.

Anything right on Main St is hard for me to envision as downtown.

Limited.

Getting better! The Riverwalk has made a positive impact on Brewer but still limited options for food and specialty shopping.

The Main Street area of Brewer from where the redemption centre was all the way to City Hall has to be gutted and rebuilt to give Brewer a community centre or drawing point. At the present Brewer is old, dirty and tired looking. Main street is not appealing. What used to be a downtown area looks pretty dreary. The old brick industrial building bordering on to the river front and the lot where Tozier's is located need to be repurposed into an attractive shopping and dining venue. Located along the river front this entire area could be redesigned to make Brewer more attractive and a place where people would enjoy coming to Brewer for shopping and dining. I suggest the new buildings along the river should be built in the old industrial look similar to that existing defunct building I mentioned earlier. And it would be best being built in brick since Brewer has the brick factory heritage. It has its modern retail commercial area on Wilson Street which is necessary to retain for retail in a greater dimension but a cute drawing point on Main Street is imperative for Brewer to really show some identity and attract people. Like I said, the river front is already a plus. The area in front needs to be redeveloped.

Very limited shopping venues.

very limited

Outdated

Fair

Haven't shopped in that area. (forgot about stores there)

There isn't much to shop.

Very disappointing, not very many shops to choose from and only 2 restaurants

Not great. Some good restaurants but not safe to walk around currently

very limited shopping

Not great

Good

Improving

I admit I haven't even 'wandered the street' of the downtown district in the 6 years I've been back. Now that I'm retired, it's on my To Do list

Scattered and severe lack of options.

Goodwill, Mardens, second-hand, antique, brewery are all draws in my book.

Didn't know it existed
So, so
Horrible except for 2 restaurants
Dismal, not a lot of active/enticing business in the Center Street area
Fine
Not much to offer. But it's a nice area.
I seldom shop downtown or waterfront.
Limited selection of stores
Excellent, but need something for the non-drinkers
There's not a lot of variety
Sparse
Severely limited
More needed
It's limited and much of it seems trashy. I will add that I really enjoy the river walk, Masons, and Tiller & Rye. You could add more things like that.
I enjoy the waterfront, Mason's, and Tiller and Rye but otherwise find myself having no business at the other shops
It's very limited and the buildings are old.
Very limited
Ok
Don't know enough what is available and where
Almost non-existent.
Only adequate
mediocre
Good, but limited
Down town is not pedestrian friendly. Waterfront needs expanding.
Slim
Poor outside of food
I don't really shop there because there aren't many options. I would like to keep things local but Bangor has more options right now
I dont currently shop in that area.
What shopping ? Groceries in all corners of the city but no gift shops to speak of
It is okay, however there is not enough variety of stores to shop at and not enough variety of restaurants also sometimes not enough parking by the waterfront
adequate
Not great. I stick to Wilson Street.
Needs help, and not necessarily high end stores.
I don't know many of the shops there. Perhaps they need better advertising.
I only go there for Walmart and mardens. Bring more shopping places around mardens.
Limited
A lot of thru traffic. I think the I-395 completion will definitely help
Lacking in the shopping area, the restaurant options are great as are the outdoor walking spaces on the waterfront.
there isnt alot of options for shoppoin or food
Non existent
Good. But can always improve
Boring. It lacks anything that interests me. Waterfront riverwalk is awesome though
Unknown

It's been a work in progress, but ready for something new and exciting!

Good

I can only think of the couple of businesses that you can see from Penobscot/Betton St, and none interest me.

Mason's is great! Other than that it's dismal.

Not appealing in the downtown area.

Not enough variety

Very good!!

Shops are nice- just need more of them :)

I love going to Brewer; I do not know where the waterfront is. I shop and dine on the road same as Mardens and Walmart. I would say signs to "Downtown and riverfront" would be a good idea.

Other than dining at Mason's and Mad Kat nothing else really.

Good for the choices that are available

The food is good need more shops

Too much requires a car

Spotty

Lacking a safe place to walk and get to other shops. Specialty food ie: cheese shop, wine shop, bakery, etc.

Very limited parking. There are not many good options.

Good, there is many stores, I would just like to see more of a variety

Limited

Not viable. There is not enough retail to draw me to the waterfront. The trail itself is beautiful and beats Bangor's in every regard, but other than Masons or High Tide, lacks a retail or entertainment draw.

Not interested in what we have there

Lackluster

There is very limited clothing options other than Walmart & Mardens.

Small - more and more businesses seem to be moving away from Brewer. We need a better balance between professional services and consumer options offered on this side of the bridge.

Not exciting

Needs more variety and accessible parking areas. When I go to the waterfront/downtown area, it can be difficult to find parking and also how to access buildings. I wish the layout was more intuitive, with more signs.

There is a downtown? The buildings are so disparate and lacking of any character.... It's very ugly. Having a parking lot where buildings should be is exactly what a downtown is NOT.... Whoever approved tearing down buildings over the past decades should never be allowed to make decisions of authority. It no longer looks or feels like a pleasant place to walk. No one looks at a parking area and says I want to walk there.

Ok

They are not alot of stores . Need stores like a book store, hobby and crafts.

I haven't done much shopping in Brewer but from what I've seen I would give it an 8/10

So so

I don't normally shop in Brewer except for Walmart

Very limited

Its very nice and well set up everything is where you can get to it

Choppy. Things don't feel connected, and the unmaintained roads don't help.

Lacking variety.
Bleak
Dismal, shabby
Lacking
Difficult to find parking. Limited number of shops.
Limited
Relatively non-existent outside of restaurants
Minimal/ nothing but food?
What experience?
Is there anything to experience? I don't think there's any shopping there.
Lacking. Businesses do not seem to last
I would say definitely some quality but find myself needing to go elsewhere for lots of things. Or big box stores/online. Limited
Slim pickings!
Limited parking and options
I feel as though the current shopping area is small and doesn't have a wide variety of places to shop, receive services, etc. for the amount of people living in the area
Limited
"I don't go there for much of anything, add more pizzazz give it some oomph
Add a park!"
Limited
The waterfront itself and the Riverwalk is kept nice and clean, unlike Bangor, so I do prefer that. However, I think Brewer could benefit from a designated area with multiple food trucks, as well as some events to draw people businesses in the area. The current outlet malls could use more variety for shopping.
Nothing on waterfront for shopping. Not much in downtown for shopping either
Typical. Nothing special
Mostly restaurants, need more shops
Minimal, there's almost nothing over there of note. High tide and Mason's are the only unique high traffic businesses along the river.
Boring
Unremarkable.
Low key and not crazy with people.
Limited
Great
It's so/so. Nothing special and difficult to find parking.
It's where I get my vape stuff and where I got my guitar. Pretty sick area
Minimal, not much down there really
Less than impressive
Sad. Not much is there.
Nonexistent
Unable to accurately answer. Advertising doesn't really reach me for the local businesses other than Mason's
Limited parking
Boring, very few options
I don't check it out much as Bangor has more options
Not a lot of options

I would say that for me, the experience is mostly non-existent. The only place I shop in this area is Tiller & Rye. I love the old fashioned, small town vibe of the old downtown blocks, but there are no stores, restaurants, or services there that I currently frequent.

Good experience

Very limited in options. Inconvenient if you need more than one category of item.

Limited

It's ok, it needs more variety

Underwhelming.

A beginning. So far it's a great start!

Limited shops that carry the same type of items. Clothing and nick nax items

Lacking

Don't go often, because I haven't found much to be attracted to that way. Restaurants are great but eating out is very expensive nowadays.

Not bad if you have money

Not bad, could be better. Have to go to Bangor for Chinese since all there is for that type of restaurant is Four Seasons and we've gotten tired of just Four Season's. So many people would love to see a Trader Joe's here instead of traveling 2.5 hours to get to one. Years of hoping one will come to the area. A new market or grocery would be awesome.

I honestly never go to the area you call downtown

Spread out and not many options

A great place to walk with limited dining and shopping

It's decent. But not much to draw you in.

Out dated

Very slim/not many choices

It is kinda slim choices

Limited shopping in that area :(

There isn't much right now, but Brewer is definitely improving!

Limited

Limited

I'm not sure what area is included. I go to Pepino's frequently, Mason's is okay, my dentist is above High Tide, I have attended a few things at Next Gen Theater (good space, horrible parking). The overall traffic pattern in the area is off putting. Love the waterfront trail. Listening to concerts from across the river is a favorite all summer.

I honestly don't even know what stores are there. Although I do know the music store and ice cream.

I moved back to Brewer over a year ago. I have only gone downtown 3 times. Two of those times were to go to City Hall. I have gone to the waterfront twice. The waterfront is great.

Lacking in the "wow" factor...people need to travel to Brewer to see something special..

Plain

Boring

It seems like at the moment there isn't really a lot there for shopping experiences. I believe if there were more non-fast food restaurants, the shopping experience would improve greatly.

limited and repetitive

Haven't shopped much downtown. Looks a bit run down.

Limited

Spotty, inconsistent

We love the restaurants we frequent, and have a few local stores we visit regularly, and visit the big chains when needed but not much beyond that and I had to think hard on if those businesses were in Brewer

Not much of a variety

Right now not exciting. Need to have more family business and working water front.

Also have other ideas too

Mostly high price restaurants

I didn't know there was shopping on the wsterfront

Up-and-coming

Blah

Next to nothing

needing help to make store front look welcoming. Less hot top, more green, live plants Boring. There's only a few noteworthy places, and it seems like Brewer is slowly dying off instead of reinvesting in it's future.

"average"

Not alot of stores/variety

Never have shopped there

I enjoy Tiller and Rye but miss their cafe. I do all my grocery shopping in Brewer between Hannaford, Walmart or Tiller and Rye

Improved but definitely could be better. Not a lot of options

Okay, I can find what I need but would like to see more outlet shopping stores

Nice

"Not walkable - can't park and walk safely

To many options. Not cute & trendy "

Pleasant.

cute, fun, especially in the summer

Slim

It's fairly decent.

Good for necessities

Abysmal

I don't currently do much there. Other than Tiller & Rye, I don't see an attraction.

Sparse

Limited

Ok

There isn't one at this time. Hopefully we can change that!

Waterfront has so much potential to be a hub for shopping and restaurants. The improvements have been great so far, but there's a lot of untapped potential

I don't go downtown much

I enjoy Brewer's downtown and waterfront areas as they are now, but would love to see more events like food festivals, craft exhibits/shows, etc.

Their really isn't anything

Limited Options.

I haven't personally do much shopping down town. There's a music store and a vape shop and I don't know what else I could go look at.

Restaurant

Boring. Lackluster.

Very minimal. Not much to do in the area compared to Bangor unfortunately. Need more local shops and vendors

Where is the shopping?

There is quite a number of places, but it feels like a replica of Bangor. Same food and shopping options pretty much. We need something completely different

Non-existent

Spread out

The restaurant scene is burgeoning but the retail shopping scene leaves much to be desired

It needs more advertising, I really have no idea what's down there.

Pretty much stopped going to Marden's and Walmart is a decent place for tires. I am in Bangor most every day but see very little reason to cross the river

Where do you consider downtown? I'd like some clothing stores - reasonably priced but not like Mardens or like that.

not enough to draw me there for shopping

Not all conveniently located due to things being pretty spaced out but it's growing for sure!

Limited shopping opportunities

Limited but exciting sometimes. Hard to spend a day shopping due to the need to drive to different locations.

Lacking

Could be better

somewhat disconnected and more driving oriented

There is some great thrift stores but I wish there were more gift stores that had a wide range of Maine or locally made gifts.

Limited

Not much to attract people and make them want to go there

Need parking

limited, stale

I rarely shop downtown in Brewer because the stores do not interest me.

Love the area, wish there was an expanded shopping option

None-existent. The waterfront is excellent for walking and even dining, but not shopping.

It's okay. Needs a Trader Joe's in the area and casco

Lack luster

Meh

Excellent!!

Its very busy, and confusing to navigate

Boring

Good

Decent. I don't shop downtown, but it seems to be growing in recent years.

Potential is there but limited by space and accessibility. Neighborhoods or housing near the Main Street area is not attractive and gives an uneasy vibe.

Minimal. Not much going on, but what is there is really special. I love between friends and tiller and rye. Also the two antique stores on North main!

Nothing that would not be able to get in Bangor or somewhere else

Non-existent

Average

Minimal, the Riverwalk is just Mason's to Hightide and then walk to parking. Would be nice if the area toward Main St from the North End of the River walk had additional parking and a couple spots for food trucks to have permanent power and water. The trucks would pay a fee for the season and for the utilities. This would be an easy draw to that end of the River walk and hopefully bring Business to downtown.

Would like to see more!

I don't really do much shopping downtown. Is there any shopping at the waterfront area?

Brewer's downtown area looks historic, but not in a good way. I think some visual updates would go a long way in making the area more welcoming.

Lacking, there's not much there

Functional, generally errand based vs. shopping/browsing

I don't go down there often so I'm not really sure.

Needs to grow, offering more shops and be advertised more. The riverwalk and upgrades there are very attractive and welcoming

Laggy most of the stores have ran there business with no passion. That's why we should have more sit down restaurant orrr places to learn education!!

Sad

Adequate

Not bad but not great

Disappointing and limited

Minimal

Pricey and poorly advertised.

More events are needed to let the public know what is available. I don't think about shopping downtown/waterfront

Limited, not well known.

I honestly wasn't sure what you meant by brewers downtown until you said downtown and waterfront area. I don't think people know it exists really.

Sparse

Lacking, I rarely go.

Inconvenient throughout Brewer. As an overnight shift worker I find businesses close too early or open too late.

Disregard my answer to #20, there is no ""none"" option"

Adequate, could use more seasonal events

Non-existent

Lacking for variety and not my style of shops. Would like to see more for younger demographic.

Fair

Average

Necessary

A little scary from all the homeless and drugged out individuals on the waterfront.

So-so. A little of everything, cleaner than Bangor!

poor

It's okay but more options would be great

Awful there really isn't sny

So-so

More parking is needed.

It's growing but there's not much variety for shopping. The 2 main restaurants on the waterfront are great. There's not really any stores to retail shop in. I also think we could use a nice hotel in the run down brick building that's been for sale forever on the waterfront.

Average

Never shop downtown/waterfront

I prefer Brewer to just about any other place I frequently shop due to cleanliness and feeling more safe, but it's less convenient to get around. The different shopping places are more spread out and often require more time to get to. I often don't have a lot of time to shop and get errands done, so I choose to shop where I need to drive as little as possible and can get through in a short amount of time. I choose to shop in Brewer when I have additional time and am not in a hurry as I prefer the experience.

Quaint

Spread out, not concentrated. No areas for parking, and no central strip of walkable stores.

Very limited and boring

Being handicap it is very limited as the lack of parking.

Poor

It's good

Downtown Brewer is a made up district. There is no traditional downtown in Brewer.

Not many places to shop.

Optimal

Scant

food only nothing else

Boring. Not many options.

Only really go to the waterfront area for Masons

Non existent

Good. Not exceptional but a solid good.

Bleak

Great

Non existent

Necessary but not particularly enjoyable.

Good. Needs more parking availability. Not finding good parking is why I keep driving most of the time instead of stopping.

Not a destination yet

Adequate but definitely could use more options

I like the overall shopping in downtown brewer, we stay there a lot in the summer time and it's nice that there are a variety of stores that we can shop at to get the things we need

Nonexistent.

Its okay. Definitely nothing to write home about and i rarely ever hear of anything going on and there isn't a lot of shopping besides hannafood & walmart.

Would like to see more dining options for after shopping, very limited in that category.

Also outlet stores would be a great addition.

It's awesome in my opinion

not many choices to shop.

Better than it was still has room for improvement.

Ehh it's okay mostly stores for old people

I don't ever shop in Brewer downtown, I'm originally from MA so I wasn't really aware they had a downtown for Brewer.

I know of only one grocery store along the water front. Would love to see a Costco or Trader Joe's come in. Since Nicki's in Bangor closed, we could definitely use a sonic drive-in restaurant.

I don't really visit Brewer's downtown/Waterfront area because the parking feels inconvenient and there are few shopping options that interest me.

Not so good

Ok, but not the greatest. I go down there for food, but shopping is lacking

We've owned our home in Newport for year and a half. I go to Bangor nearly everyday when we are in Maine (about 1/3 of the year). I didn't know Brewer has a downtown or waterfront. We eat at High Tide two or three times a month (but the food quality has gone down lately). I've gotten a massage from a spa in Brewer and we go to Lowe's there but everything else I like is in Bangor. I go to The Terratine a few times a month and wicker brew a few times a week. I love LL Bean and go to the outlet when I don't have time to go to Freeport. The thing we need the most in Brewer is a Whole Foods or Trader Joe's. For those of us that are new to the area- that's what we miss the most being in Central Maine. Also, I participated in the blueberry week and I wish there were more events in the area.

It's okay, same ol' stuff. Need different things.

Could be more modern and diverse.

enjoyable

Limited

Minimal

Not many shops downtown but so good restaurants

Not a lot

Similar to other Maine cities like Waterville and Bangor, but with less options available

Understated, pleasant to walk and eat, but I don't really shop

Love Brewer Mardens and the Brewer Walmart.

Non-existent

Minimal variety

Limited and not well advertised

Good

Not a lot to shop for

Great location

Pretty limited

Slow

Not many stores

Many empty store fronts. Not a whole lot of shopping variety. Really do enjoy Mardens, Dollar Tree and occasionally go to the Walmart. Most stores are "run-down" and certainly not eye appealing. Usually end up in Bangor shopping.

Great

I only shop here if I can't find it in Bangor because I know I can shop and eat there...

Good Chinese, Kobes..I do come to Brewer..mostly for Mardens..Lumber

Liquidators..bowling alley. ..Wal Mart(because they seem to have different stuff) I have also been to the grocery stores..Hannaford and I think Tiller and Rye?is the name of the other

Not much variety.

I know of gyms and bars but not much else for retail. And minimal parking.

It's ok.

Parking is hard on the waterfront. I feel if parking was better more people would shop there.

Almost nonexistent as downtown does not offer much in the way of retail. We do frequent masons and I believe if the abandoned brick building next to high tide was developed that would go a long way in improving the river walk experience

Limited

Needs changes

Limited and too specific. Doesn't attract a wide range of people or people from the outlying areas when other similar options are in Bangor.

I wasn't aware there is a downtown Brewer. Does it have shops? Is it walkable? I don't think of the waterfront as a shopping area, just walking and restaurants

I have not shopped downtown in decades. Primarily because of lack of parking.

Mardens is the best shopping in Brewer. Generations Boutique is a close second. There needs to be more shopping.

Little offered. I don't ever go.

Limited and parking is weird.

Non-existent

Poor. To be completely honest, I don't even particularly know what's in the area, despite living in Brewer and frequenting downtown and the waterfront.

Mid

It's not a place I think of to shop because there isn't a lot offered

Mediocre.

I avoid the area.

Bland

Limited

Good selection of Stores, but would like to see a dispensary from a local grower

It's pretty bland. I like tiller and rye and Brewer nutrition.

More stores are needed.

Stagnant

Limited

It can use some work.

It's familiar and people love familiar, I know what I want and where I need to go. Love, love Masons.

nice!

Needs improvement

I love the waterfront high Tide is the best. I would like to see the road in front of the cleaned up, the buildings look old and run down. Time for a face lift in this area.

Almost non-existent; overpriced if downtown

Minimal options

I never shop in downtown Brewer. I eat at Mason's often, and I love being able to walk there on the Riverwalk. I like to shop at Tiller and Rye because the goods are locally sourced

sparse

Nice! Be great to have that other old building on shore path turned into fine dining shopping complex

sparse

Not much. Stuff closes early

Too limited

Limited

Getting better.

It's just ok.

Lacking, there really aren't many places to shop or eat

What shopping experience? There is a grocery store, a bar/restaraunt/ and then an antiques place and a smoothie store. There is no "Shopping experience".

Not many places to shop

Very pleasant

Didn't know there was any shopping

limited

Don't visit downtown much. I'm usually on Wilson Street.

Limited.

Don't shop there much

Not large enough

Sparse

Good but spaced out a bit much. Would like to see more unique options for shopping and dining

Non existent

Need more options

It's fine.

It's ok

Uneventful

Spread out and old

Boring... major brand Outlet stores would be SWEET! And would attract A LOT of people.

Non existent

Dull

Normal

There isn't much of an experience

Extremely limited

Shopping in the Brewer area is limited. It would be nice to see more locally owned shops/restaurants as well as some other dining/grocery shopping options. Shout out to Stonington's Furniture who are truly a gem!

Authentic

Unexciting

The waterfront is lovely, and it is great to have a couple of local restaurants close by.

Shopping in the waterfront and downtown could be improved due to lack of destination worthy places and the placement of existing shopping (I walk the waterfront path, but don't really have a reason to go walk the downtown sidewalks).

limited options

Bleak - need more options.

N/A

Very limited to specialty shops or convenience stores

Slacking

The businesses currently aren't a huge pull for me. But, the biggest problem is the danger and absurdity of the amount of traffic in the area. You can have great businesses put in but still have the same big issue which is loud, stressful, dangerous

traffic. I'm not bringing my kids downtown shopping- in Brewer or Bangor- because of the stress of vehicles- fear for my kids' safety, headache of parking, the loud traffic. This is a huge South Main Street problem anyway. Close off some of downtown to thru traffic, designate a few parking areas, create a safe, calm walkable shopping experience, and it'll become a regional shopping destination that can surpass other local downtowns because of that aspect alone! The future is less vehicles, invest in it now!

Waterfront area is clean and has great views. The downtown area parking is difficult and not a lot of variety in businesses.

limited

Minimal options

Sparse

Not worth visiting

Abysmal

Limited to non- existent and not easy accessible.

Non-existent.

Limited

We need more thrift stores

Very limited. Second hand shops Mardens and Walmart. Shoe stores and actual clothing stores would be a great addition.

There's shopping in downtown Brewer?

There aren't a lot of shops in Brewer that attract my current needs. I have dietary restrictions and would love to see a grocer (Trader Joes/Whole Foods) that caters more to dietary needs while also keeping in a working families budget.

The downtown and waterfront area lack a shopping experiences. Brewer would benefit from shops like: The Rock and Art Shop (or similar), a clothing boutique for women between the ages of 18-30, a coffee shop that offers seating, and a unique experience. This area as a whole lacks "things to do" especially for younger generations. Moving some events from the Brewer auditorium to the Brewer waterfront would be great!

Boring

I don't shop there

I don't shop in that area, so I can't comment

the stores are all close together

limited

I would describe it as inviting, but also limited. I enjoy going to the shops on the Wilson St. corridor of Brewer, but the downtown and waterfront area do not have much to offer for me. There are mainly specialty stores that I don't see myself going to. I enjoy the Riverfront walk, so potentially more stores could be added near there (I believe there is a Vape shop right now).

Not much on choices. Would love an Arby's.

I think it has great variety of stores. There is something for everyone

"there is no ""Shopping Experience."

Very limited with little options

basic

Needs more

Very limited

The shopping experience so far is great! All the stores have a variety of things and great customer service!

I like to shop in Brewer. Could maybe update buildings and better signage.

Very limited

Limited, but has big potential to attract more businesses. Downtown Bangor is becoming more dangerous with drug and homelessness issues. Brewer can become a safer option with further business development.

Good, but could be better

Lacking in options

Great food, some specialty shopping would be great.

I like the waterfront trail but there is very limited parking it seems and not great signage to know where to go.

So so

It is very limited.

I guess I feel it's nonexistent besides tiller & rye or the grocery store - Toziers?

Almost nonexistent

It is becoming trendy there. I see a lot of improvement.

Honestly, I do not even know what there is for businesses in the downtown area. I drive through all the time, but I spend all my time watching for potholes, people and traffic that I could not tell you what is there for businesses.

Limited and unattractive.

Limited, not much for me

Minimal, more food options

Limited

Not much to offer

Not enough stores to attract someone

Difficult to reach both downtown and waterfront areas

Not much for shopping experience. There isn't much right now besides Mardens really.

We enjoy dining at the waterfront like Masons and High Tide. Places where we can enjoy a nice time while outdoors along the river. Maybe more things like the Rock and Gem shows outside or somehow something like that setup in the waterfront area.

Waterfront flea markets or something.

Somewhat non-existent as far as spending much time walking around, browsing through shops, getting a coffee, etc. And Brewer is such a more pleasant shopping experience than Bangor- . . . even the WalMart is better. But most of the shopping is further up where the 2 shopping centers are, Lowe's, WalMart, and the restaurants, but they all involve your vehicle. It would be nice to spend time in downtown Brewer where the River Walk is and be able to get a coffee and pastry or a sandwich for lunch, do some shopping within walking distance, etc. (like Bar Harbor, Freeport, Ellsworth, and Bucksport)

I feel like there are some nice shops but we could use more. The waterfront restaurants are wonderful.

I really only shop in Brewer at Walmart or Hannaford.

Waterfront is nice. Not a lot of retail shopping happening in Brewer as most retail stores are in Bangor

good, not great.

I haven't been shopping in downtown Brewer. Didn't realize there was any shopping other than the music place, vape store, and Brewer Nutrition.

Difficult to find parking, otherwise good experience.
Not existent
Best description i can think of is - up and coming. Not quite high level but it has potential. I love Brewer, but the variety is lacking and the parking such as at hannafor - is horrible.
There isn't much there for everyone
It's alright
I don't do a lot of shopping in downtown Brewer
Meh
Limited
It is alright
Very limited
There isn't really much there. It's a beautiful walk, but that's the only reason why I walk the waterfront area.
We prefer going to Brewer over Bangor for stores like Walmart & Lowes. But, Bangor has a lot more variety of other places to shop if we need to hit more than just Walmart for a shopping trip.
The waterfront is too dangerous for me to take my child with autism as he has no safety awareness and is an elopement risk, the only store I shop at now is charmed and occasionally paradis, I used to shop hannafor but the customers are very rude compared to the OT location
Options are limited
Limited
Always enjoy shopping Mardens, one stop shop. Everything is convenient and in close proximity to one another that makes it easy to get around.
Overall Brewer has a lot to offer but needs more clothing shops and restaurants
Restaurants only unless you count the grocery store and funeral home
good
Seldom go other than to walk the waterfront...the restaurants and brewery are expensive ..the brewery parking is horrid
It's not terrible, there just aren't many options and it looks kind of drab
Limited
Very limited
Very comforting
Beer or nothing
I do not shop there
Better than surrounding areas
Non existent
I don't shop in Brewer's downtown, none of the shops meet my needs.
The waterfront is very nice but not much in the way of shopping or restaurants
Only go to Masons. Nothing else for me downtown
I generally go to Wilson Street
Dull
Very limited. No variety in options. All stores and restaurants we have offer the same things.
Very convenient
Good, it is clean.
Love Brewer!! Always go there first for my needs, thank you for asking.

It's ok just need some other options

Lacking

Meh

Sparse, boring

Ok

I really like Tiller and Rye. That's the only place I regularly shop in this area. Otherwise, there's not much that interests me.

Spotty.

Dismal. Not many options and not well-kept.

sparse, too spread out.

We lack variety and options for shopping and eating in the downtown waterfront area of Brewer.

Lacking variety and parking

Getting there. Slow improvement is headed in the right direction

Dismal

Boring. It is all antique stores

It needs more

Sparse and disjointed

I haven't lived here all my life but I honestly have never made a purchase in downtown Brewer, nor do I know what stores are even there

I don't really shop along the waterfront, not much to do except eat not much there

It is very limited, but has so much potential. The waterfront is beautiful and would attract many people who might typically drive thru on the way to Acadia.

Being a lifelong resident of Brewer it feels nostalgic that the downtown Brewer area is reopening & revitalizing with shopping & shops giving it a feel of what it was like as a child visiting Ohmart & Hinckley, Landrys Appliance, Campbells Bakery & TruValue Hardware. Epstein was great in South Brewer too. It's great to see shops opening & the feel & opportunity coming back to Brewer. We need more of it. Thank you.

Not enough

little dry

The shops that are there are good, but more would improve foot traffic for all.

fair

The waterfront area needs help for shopping. The riverwalk is a gem! Though it requires better attention during the winter to include the walkway on Union st. bridge. Finding a contractor to revitalize/repurpose the brick factory (not tear it down) and using it for small shops would be ideal.

Dismal

We usually shop on Wilson st.

Sparse, but has potential.

Limited

So-so

I love the salons, and antique shop but we need more local retail.

Non existent

Low-key

Non existent

Limited

I dont shop downtown

Too spread out

Non existing

Improving!

Few and far between. I grew up in Brewer and have a business here and really want our home town succeed.

Expensive, sometimes pretentious, somewhat rundown, and not nice or easy to walk around.

Limited

Limited, not easy to go from one shop to another

Pleasant, easy walking, beautiful views

Very limited. Shopping options are second hand items or natural living. Specialty gift stores or clothing stores would be welcome, as would more restaurants.

Good

Scant

I would like to see better parking availability

Limited

non existent

Skimpy not much to do or go to

Okay. There's not a lot to do in general.

I occasionally shop in Brewer. I love the waterfront area.

I never shop downtown.

Limited variety

Limited

Limited choices

Limited

Spotty at best

Not much to check out

Improving

Don't do any

nonexistent

Could be better

Not knowing what is there

Not connected far and few , more walking distance

Limited

Limited

I don't feel there's a lot of "shopping" 2 grocery stores, and a antique place, and a spa... Those are not places I would say to friends " let's go shopping" downtown brewer

Nonexistent

Lackluster

Inconvenient and limited.

I love living in Brewer but I don't really think it has the same "downtown" as bigger cities.

That's not a negative thing, it just doesn't have the same feel. Honestly a lot of the businesses I barely even know about unless I happen to walk my dogs by them.

Limited

Limited

I don't hear about anything unfortunately. It's something I don't hear advertised much on the mediums I use. I don't see online ads and that's mainly all I have access to - I'm 25 so cable isn't affordable and tv ads don't reach me. I listen to Bluetooth music in my

car so radio ads don't reach me either. Because I don't hear anything, I don't think about that area very often. If I heard more, I'd be more apt to go and shop!
I would say the current shopping experience is limited and a bit repetitive. We need some new fresh places that offer more diversity!
There are a few stores but a lot of them are closed.
I think it has been improving and the waterfront trail has helped bring more people to the area
Fair
Parking is tough
Modest. The expansion to the river walk is nice!
Lack of diversity and stores.
it looks so run down. if the building were painted/stained/sided with coordinating colors and spruced up-it would look so much more inviting
Passable
Non existent
Perfect! Always very nice and personable
Very pleased.
It is very nice when we can get over there!
poor
It's lacking quite a bit. What is even considered downtown Brewer?
Sufficient
I don't shop often, only occasionally eat at restaurants such as Mason's.
love the waterfront and the restaurants down there. Would love to see better shopping.
Limited options
Crowded
Good
Okay but could use more stores and options
Minimal, there are very limited options, not walkable
Mediocre
Beautiful, high quality, enjoyable experience, but limited options due to space.
There are just not a lot of options, especially not close together.
Gradually becoming more attractive and interesting
Besides going for a massage and occasionally eating out at Masons, we do not frequent downtown.
Pleasant but parking is tough
Never shopped downtown Brewer
Non existent
I frequent Tiller and Rye but sad to see their cafe closed. We go to Mason's alot as they have Vegan options. There isn't much retail there.
It's OK
Choppy
limited
Need more
On a scale of 1-10....probably a 3. The addition of the waterfront walking path and extension was a super addition....don't stop....keep going! More eatery venues on the waterfront.
Ok needs to be more awareness of shopping options
Limited

I think we need more local shops and dining

Very limited

It's for specific needs and not general shopping.

There is not much there for shopping

I enjoyed riverfest, but it was the only time I was in the area to shop, really, because nothing else is ever put on there. More events with seasonal or local historical significance could help bring the community together more to celebrate.

Need more restaurants choices

Not much there

I'd love to see more shopping options and more parking

Ok

Limited

Growing, clean and safe

I don't go there much as there really isn't anything of interest

Not very walkable, it would be nice to have more of that

Honestly, the 3-4 places I frequent are groceries, Marden's and restaurants. If there were retail in proximity to the waterfront, I would be more inclined to park, walk the waterfront, shop and eat!

I don't shop in the downtown or waterfront area of Brewer for personal reasons that the city of Brewer can't fix.

The changes and improvements in Brewer have been amazing! All that is missing is a bit more options on dining, shopping, and events such as waterfront activities. Your economic and business office has done an AMAZING job over the last decade. Keep up the good work!

Semi-convenient as an on-the-way opportunity. Still some work to do on shopping appeal to compete as a destination with the 1000lb gorilla of Bangor.

Excellent