

QUESTION OF THE WEEK, WEEK 39–40 (24.9–5.10.2025)

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS: 360

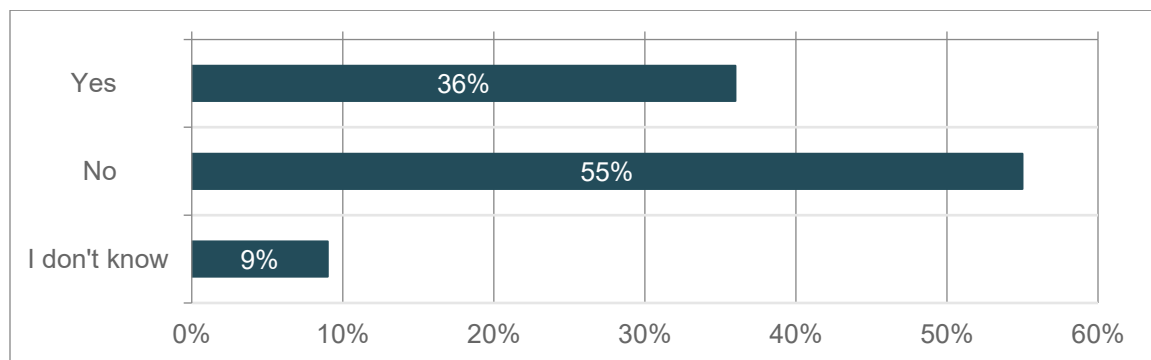
The margin of error is 5 % and thereby the answers are considered to reflect the opinions of the population in Jakobstad.

THE ECONOMY OF THE TOWN

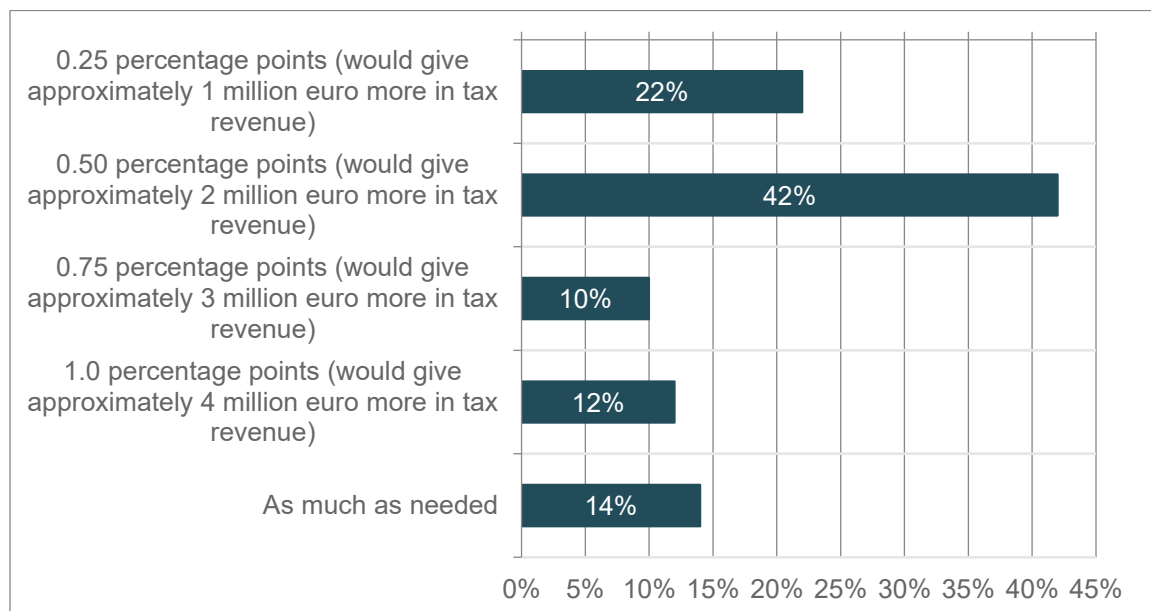
In the Question of the Week the residents were asked: *“The financial framework of the town of Jakobstad for 2026 shows a negative result of approximately 5 million euro. It is not sustainable to make a negative budget, so the town is forced to either increase revenue or reduce costs, or both.”*

Municipal tax rates in Finland already vary widely: from 4.7 per cent in Kauniainen to 10.9 per cent in Pomarkku. The tax rate of the town of Jakobstad is 9 per cent.

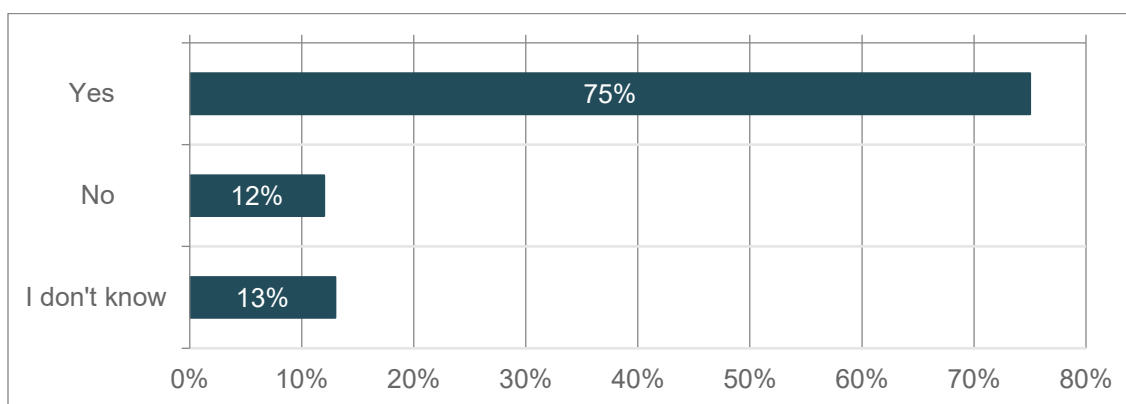
Do you think that Jakobstad should increase its tax rate to balance the economy?”



Those who answered, “Yes” were asked the follow-up question: *“How much would you be prepared to raise the tax rate?”*



“Do you think that Jakobstad should reduce its costs?”



Those who answered, “Yes” to the former question were asked: ***“How could the town reduce its costs? (Prioritise costs that, according to your assessment, exceed 50 000 euros)”***

194 people responded to this voluntary question. Many suggest that the town should reduce administration and the number of officials, as well as streamline the organization and leadership. Unnecessary investments and large projects, such as parking garages, arenas, and support for certain associations, should be avoided or reduced, and the town should instead focus on core activities such as education and infrastructure. Several mention that the town could sell or better utilize properties, collaborate more with neighboring municipalities, and digitize processes to save money. Finally, the importance of long-term planning, better procurement, and avoiding short-term or prestige-driven initiatives that do not benefit the majority of residents is emphasized.

“How could the town increase its income in addition to raising the tax rate?”

197 people responded to this voluntary question. Many suggest that the town should attract more residents and businesses to increase the tax base, for example by offering attractive plots, simplifying building permits, and investing in marketing and events. It is also proposed that the town could sell or rent unused properties and land, as well as raise fees for certain services, parking, and rental of premises. More efficient use of the town's resources, better cooperation with neighboring municipalities, and charging higher rents or fees from external users are also mentioned as possible measures. Finally, the importance of creating an attractive and inclusive urban environment that appeals to new residents, businesses, and tourists is emphasized.

NEXT STEP

The responses and suggestions will be taken into account as far as possible in the preparation of the 2026 budget and the financial plan for 2026–2028.

More information:

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