



Business Attitudes Towards Political and Economic Reconstruction in Iraq

Center for International Private Enterprise

February 29, 2008

CIPE in Iraq: Building a Political Framework Based on Free Market Principles

- Building the capacity of business associations
- Developing the information infrastructure for policy debates
 - Business Talk TV and radio
 - Arabic publications
 - Policy papers and roundtables
- Reducing the size of the informal sector
- Fostering an entrepreneurial culture
- Economic journalism training
- Engaging political parties in economic policymaking



The survey was conducted November 2- December 19, 2007 among 1,630 Iraqi business owners. The sample was selected randomly from the registers of various Iraqi chambers of commerce and the Iraqi Businessmen Union.

<u>Region</u>	<u>Interviews</u>
Baghdad:	818
Basra:	121
Hilla:	70
Kirkuk:	42
Sulaymaniyah:	510
Arbil:	69

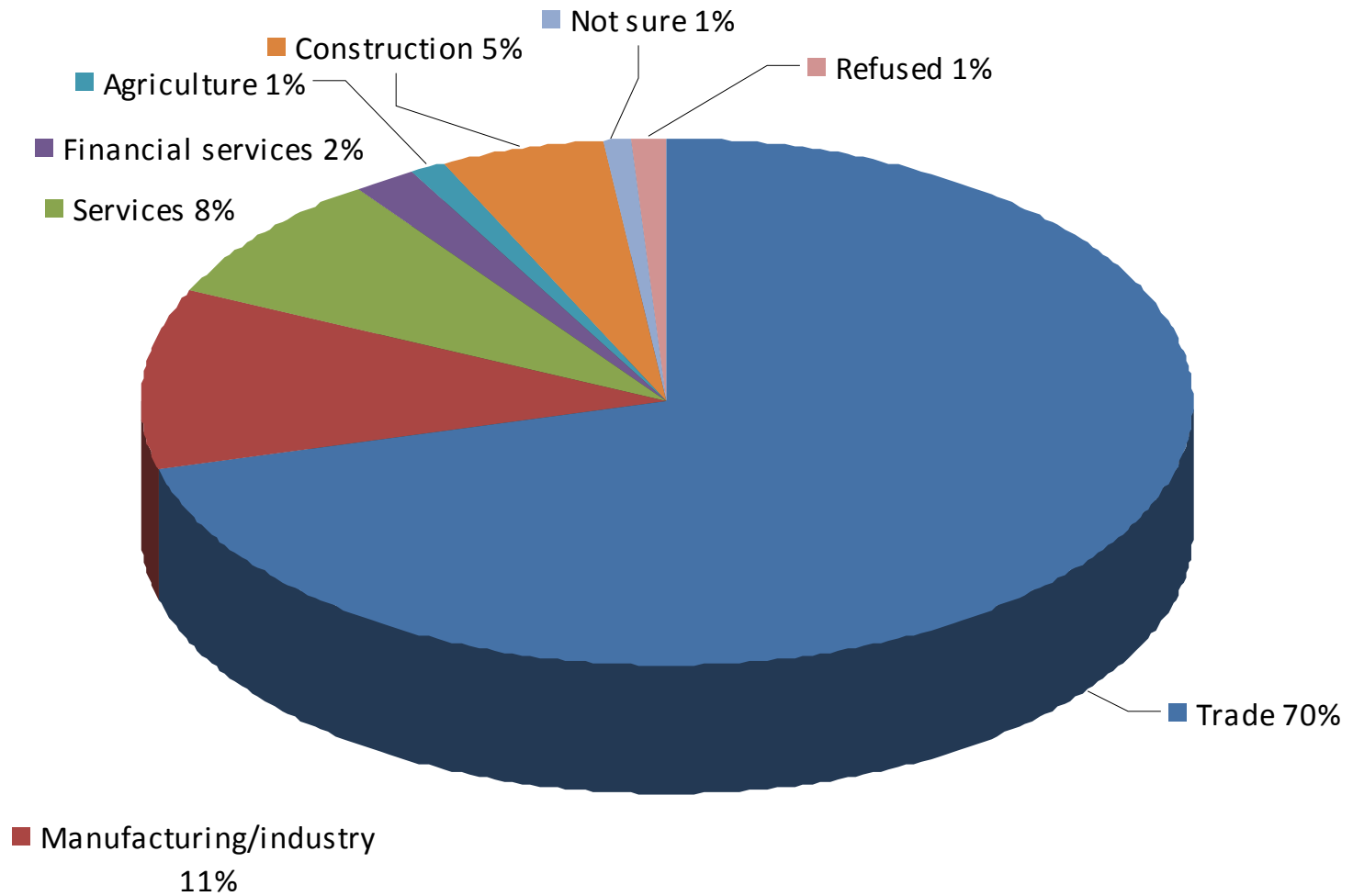
Major Findings

- A significant majority of those polled believe that opening the country's borders to international business will improve their businesses.
- Apart from security, the most commonly perceived obstacle to economic growth is Iraq's lack of legal and regulatory enforcement
- Iraqis are optimistic about the future. More than three-fourths of the business owners anticipate growth in the national economy over the next two years.
- Almost half of the respondents say the business environment is better now than last year.

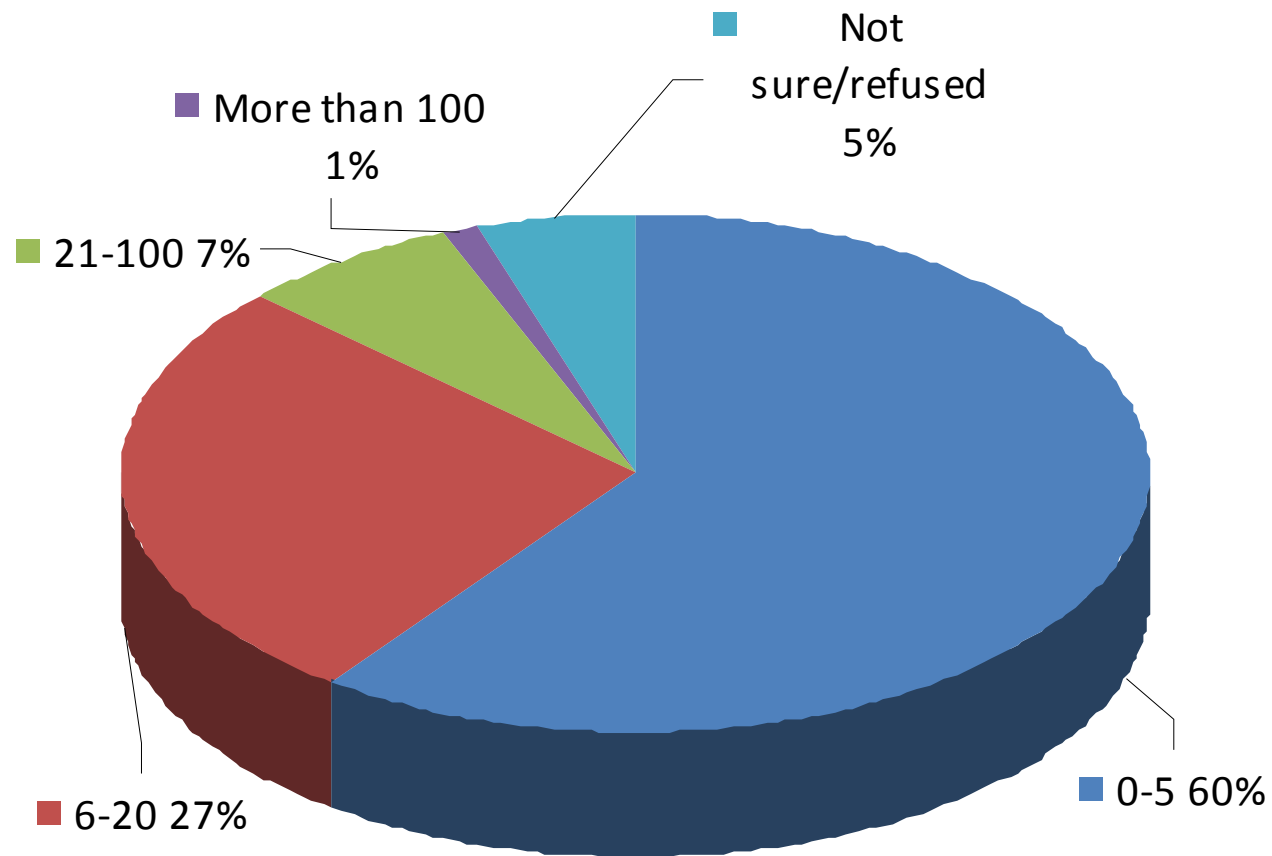
Major Findings (continued)

- Four in ten Iraqi business leaders (39%) want to see more laws and regulations for business.
- The number of Iraqi firms that employ women has significantly decreased in the last two years. In Fall 2005, 63% said they employed women; now, the number is 26%.
- An overwhelming majority of all business leaders (84%) feel security is better now than the previous year.
- The number one need of Iraq's workforce is computer training (27%), followed by job opportunities (22%) and development of a better education system (12%).

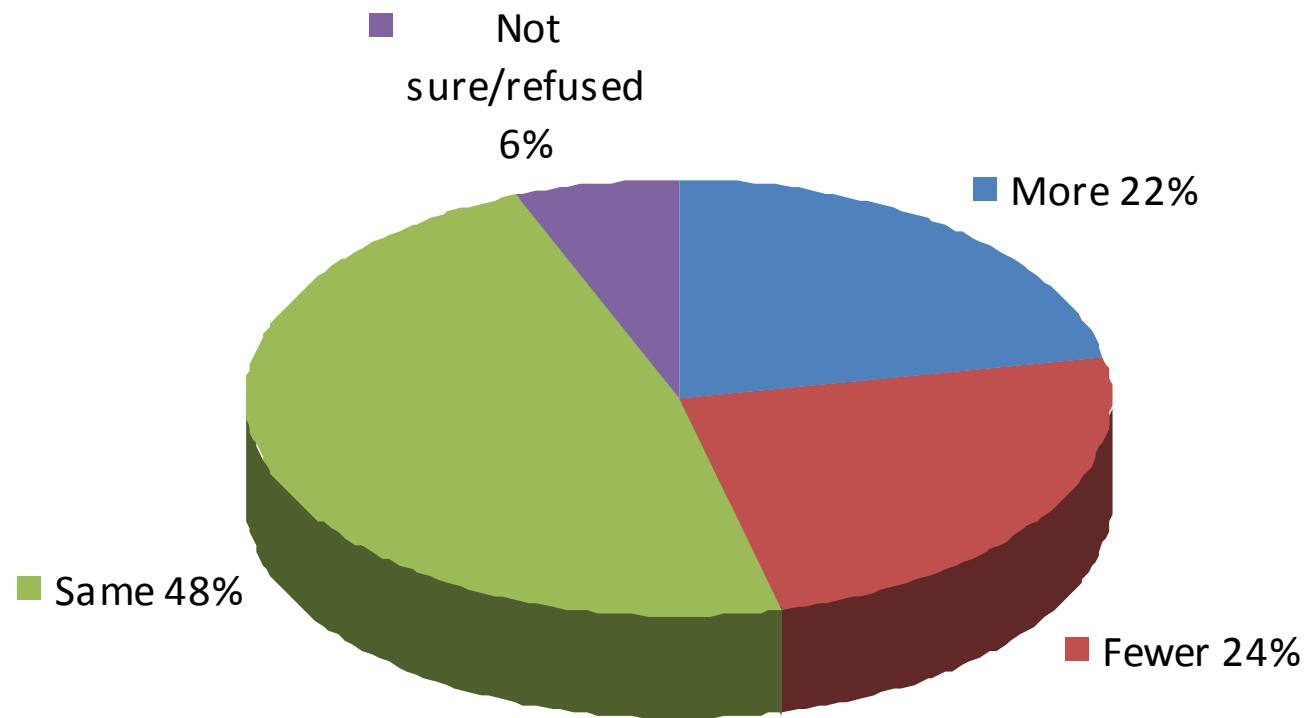
Type of Business



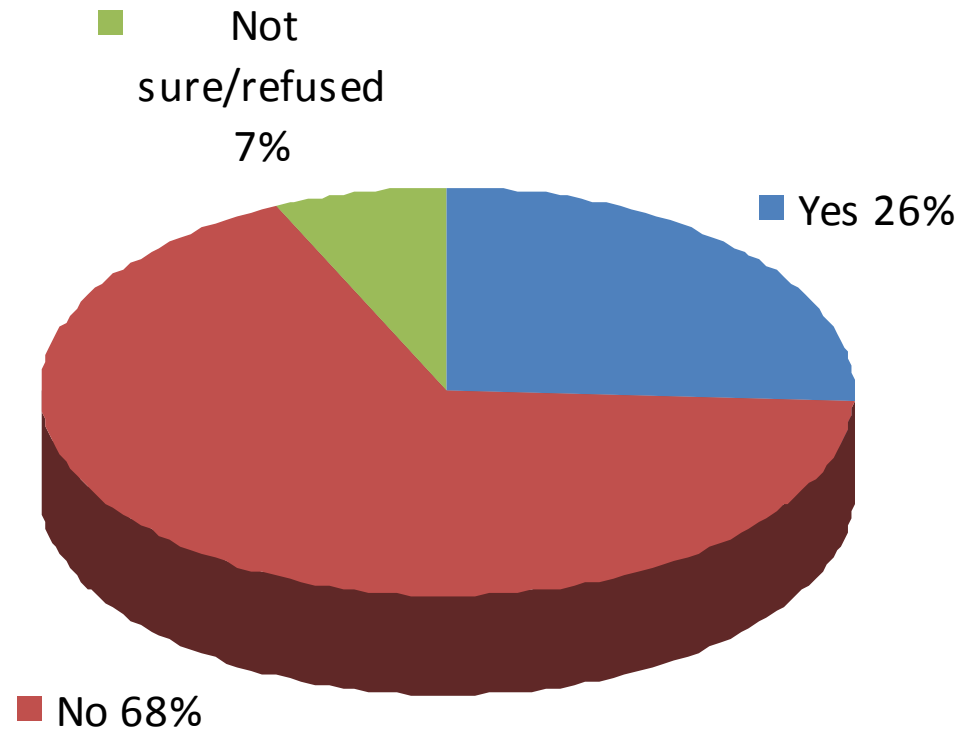
Number of Employees



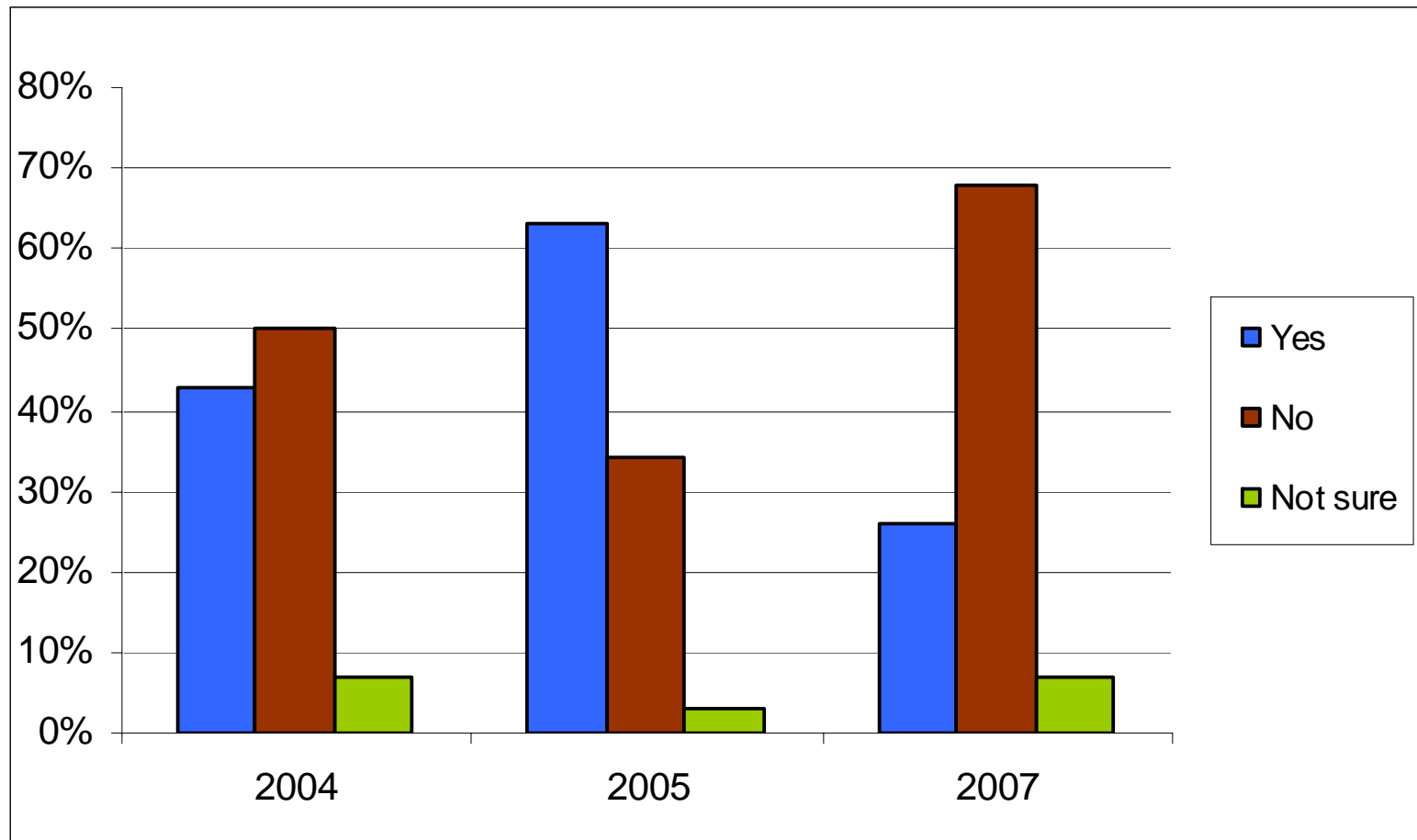
Number of Employees Compared to Last Year



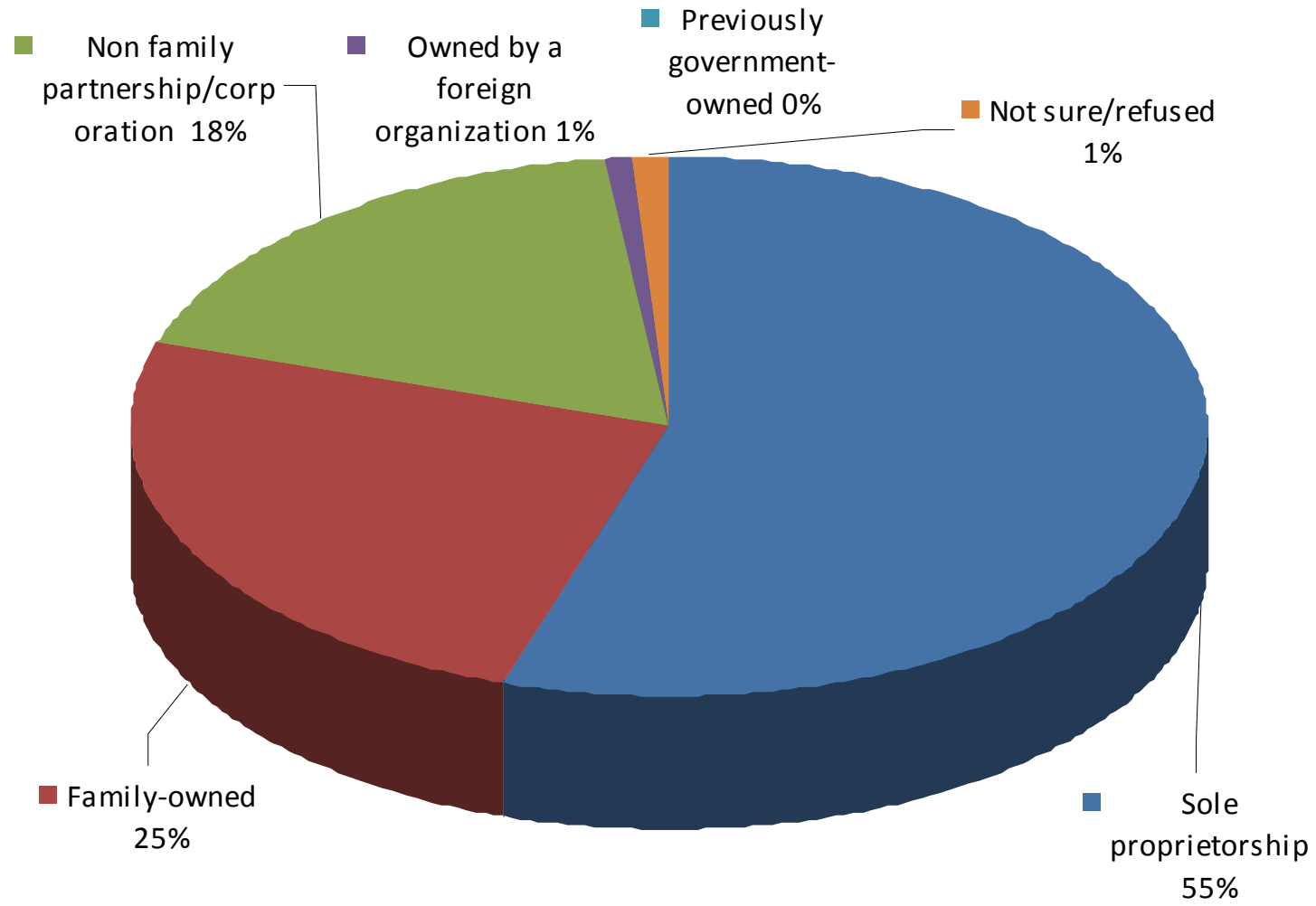
Do You Employ Females?



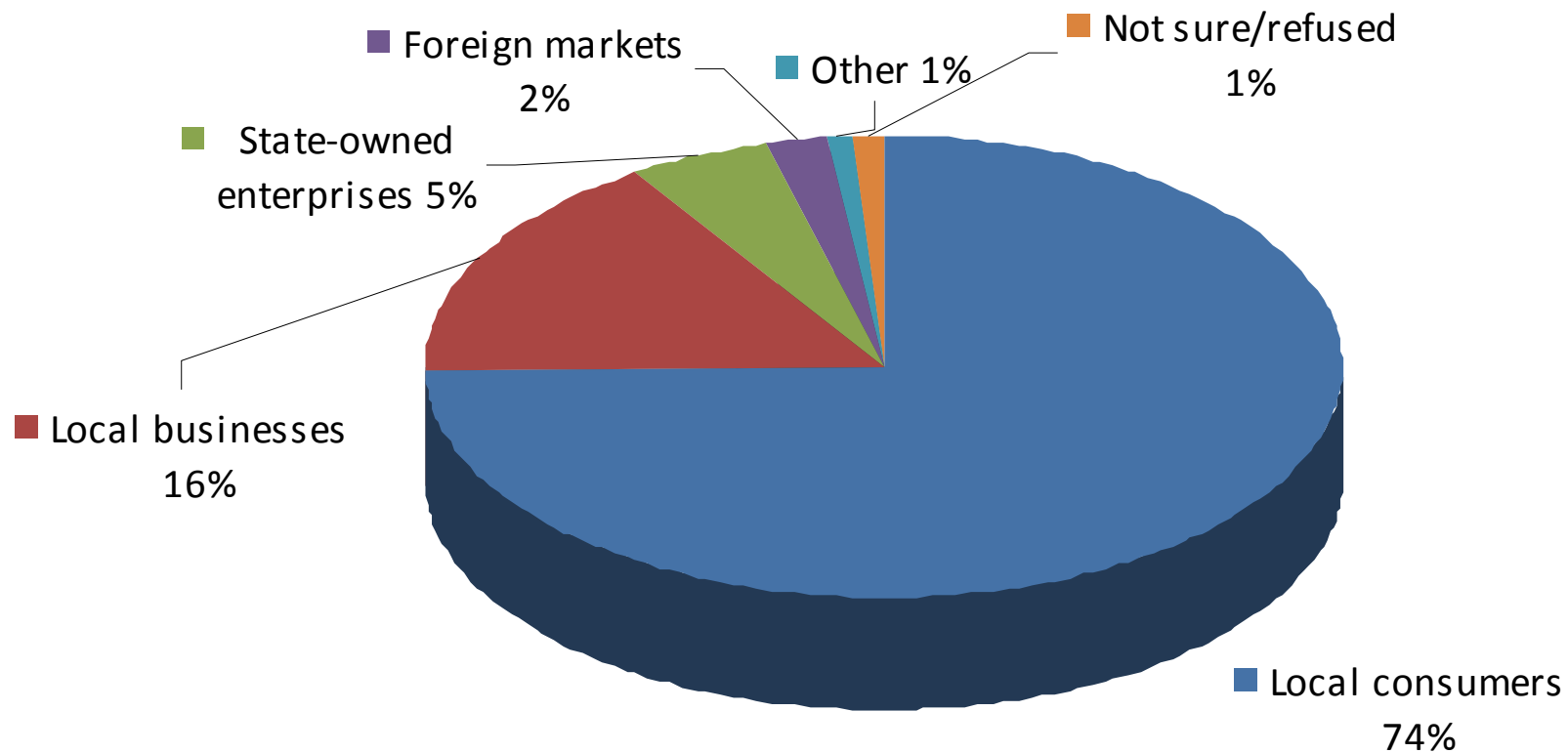
Do You Employ Females?



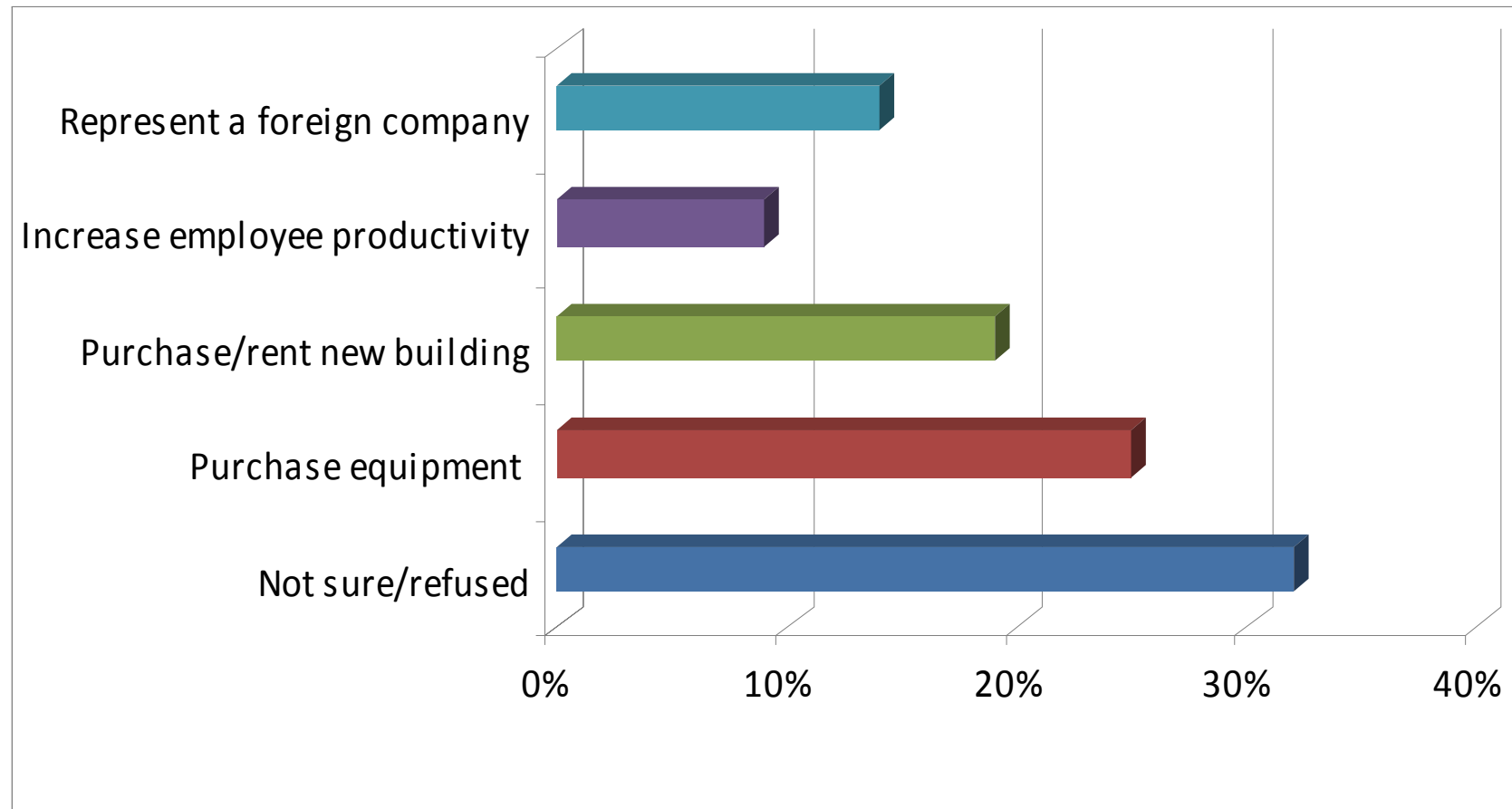
Type of Business



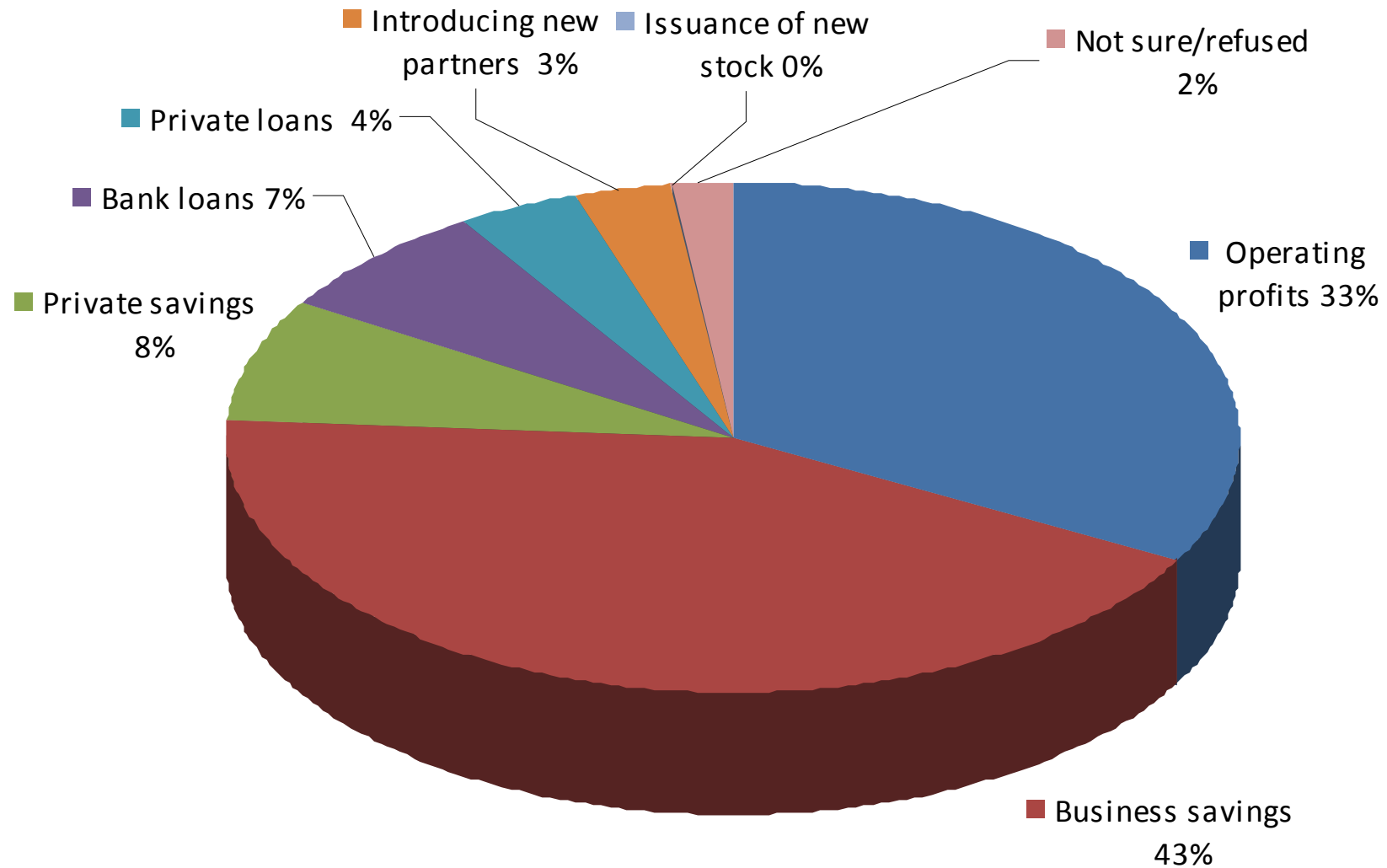
Whom Do You Primarily Serve?



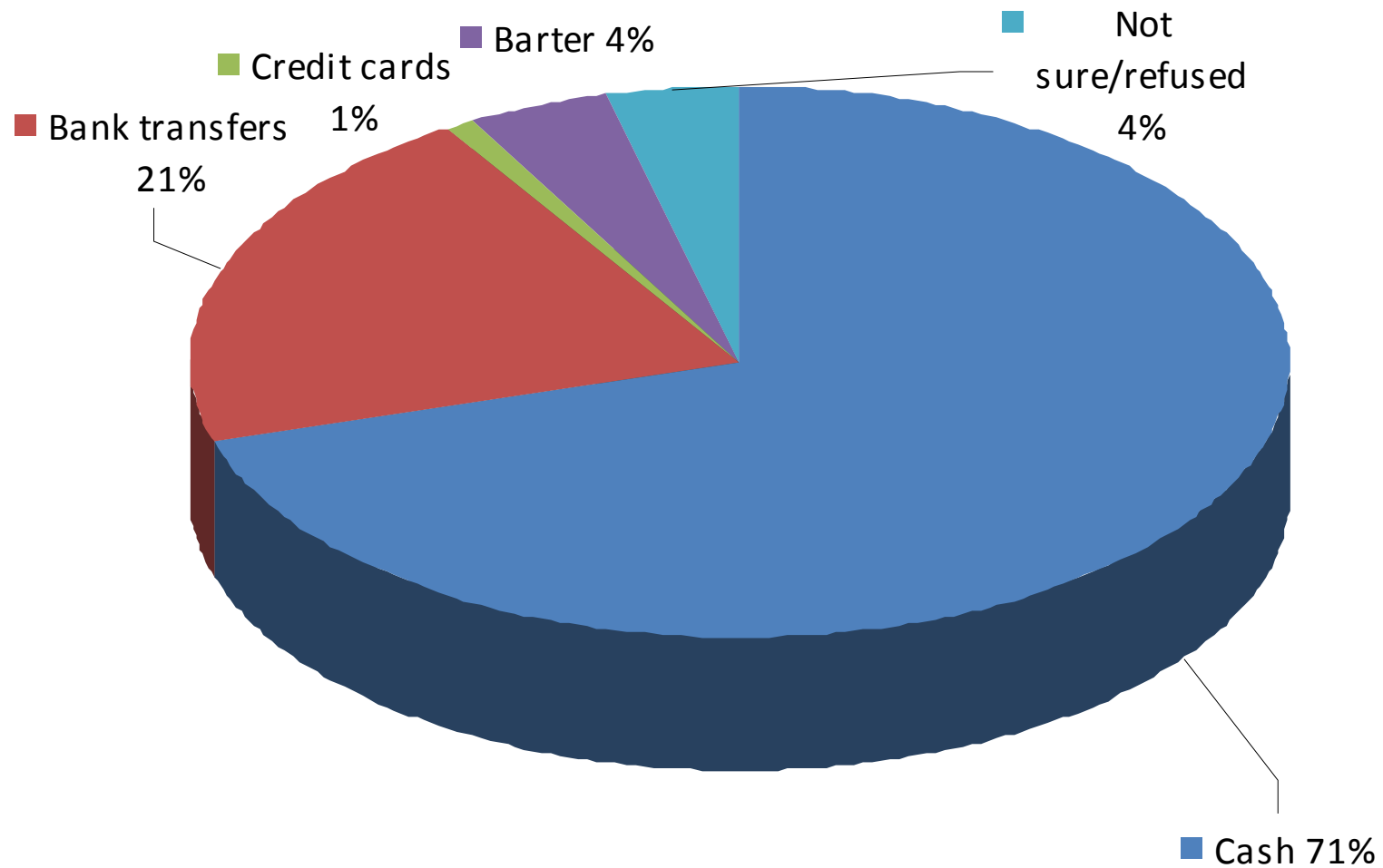
In the Next 6 Months Do You Plan to...



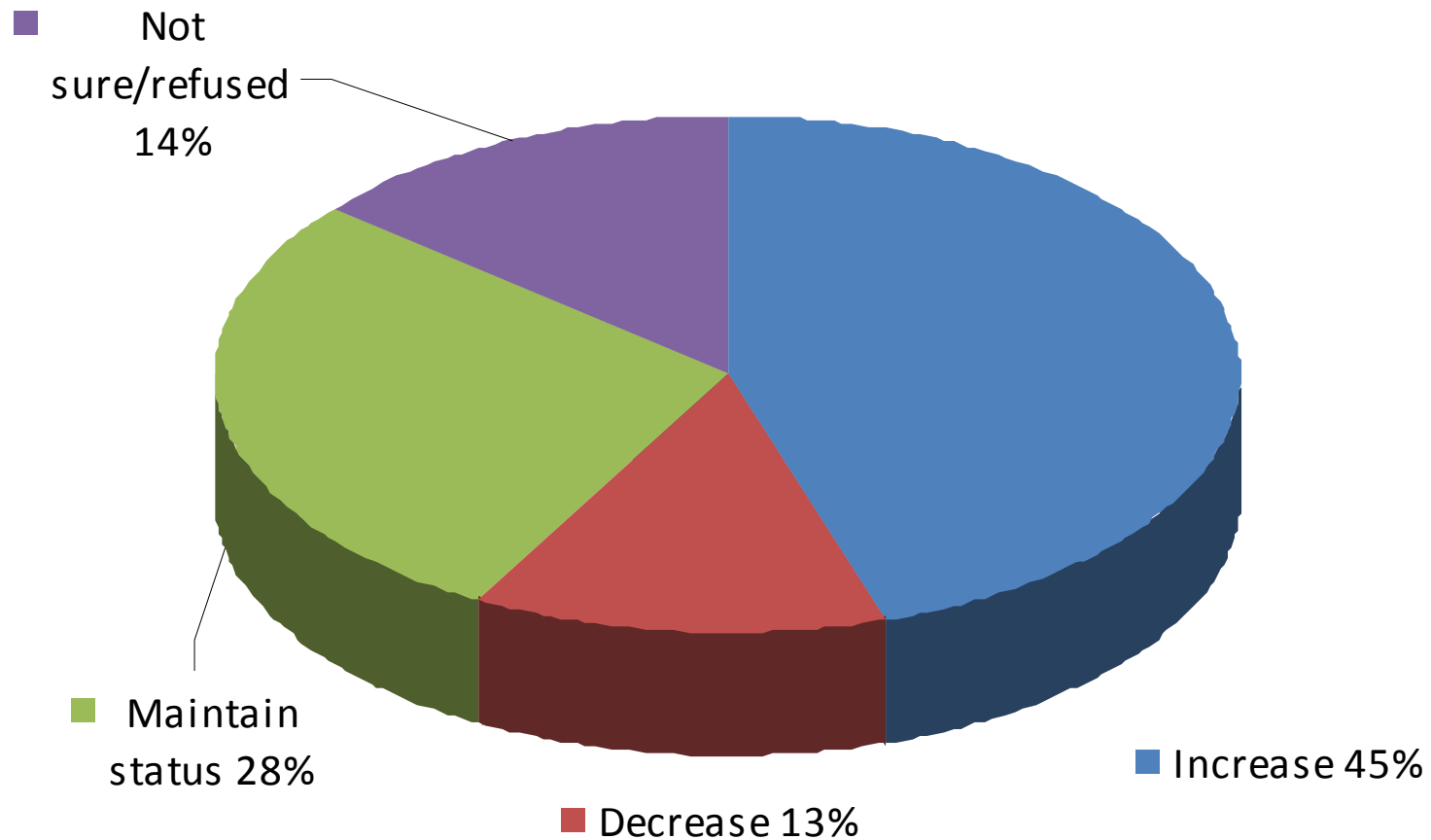
Major Financing Resources for Your Business



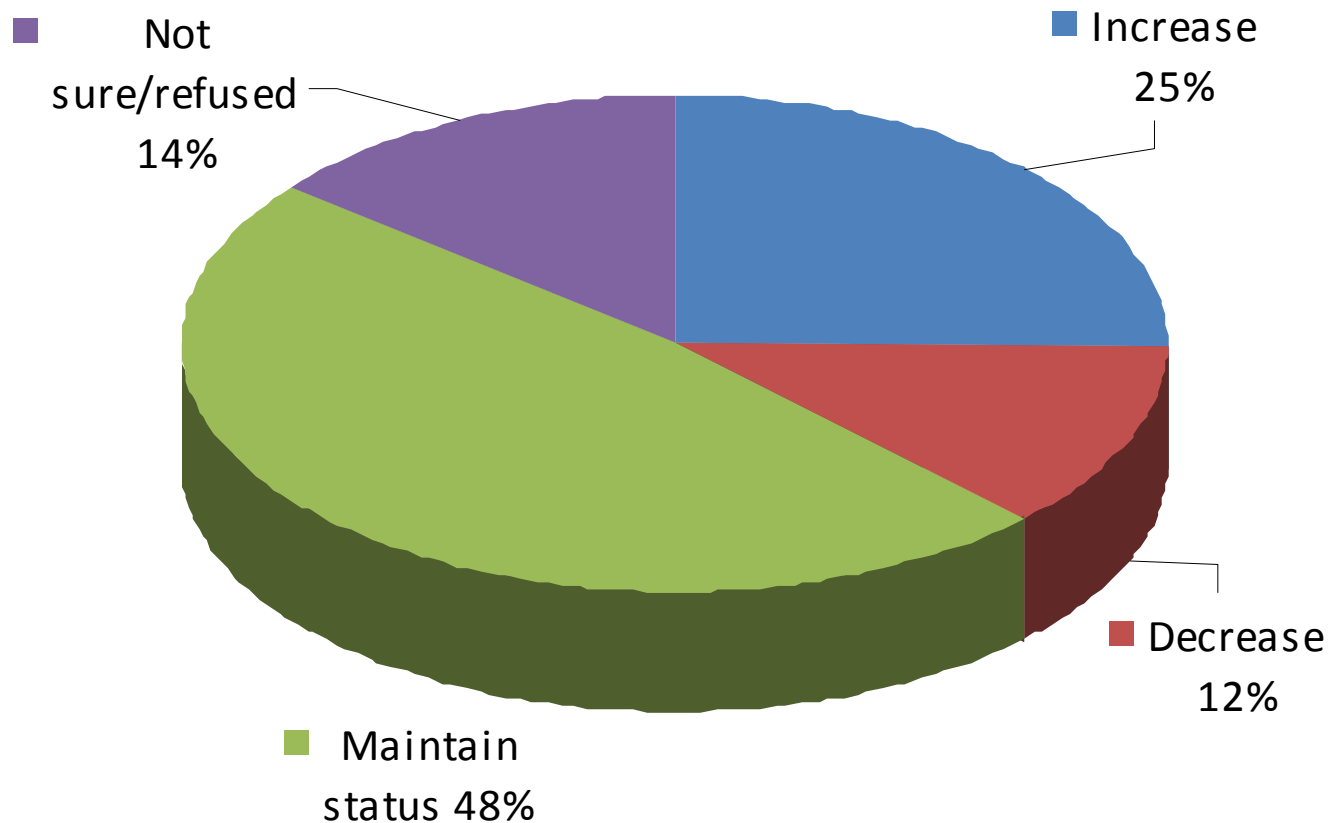
How Do You Pay for Goods/Services?



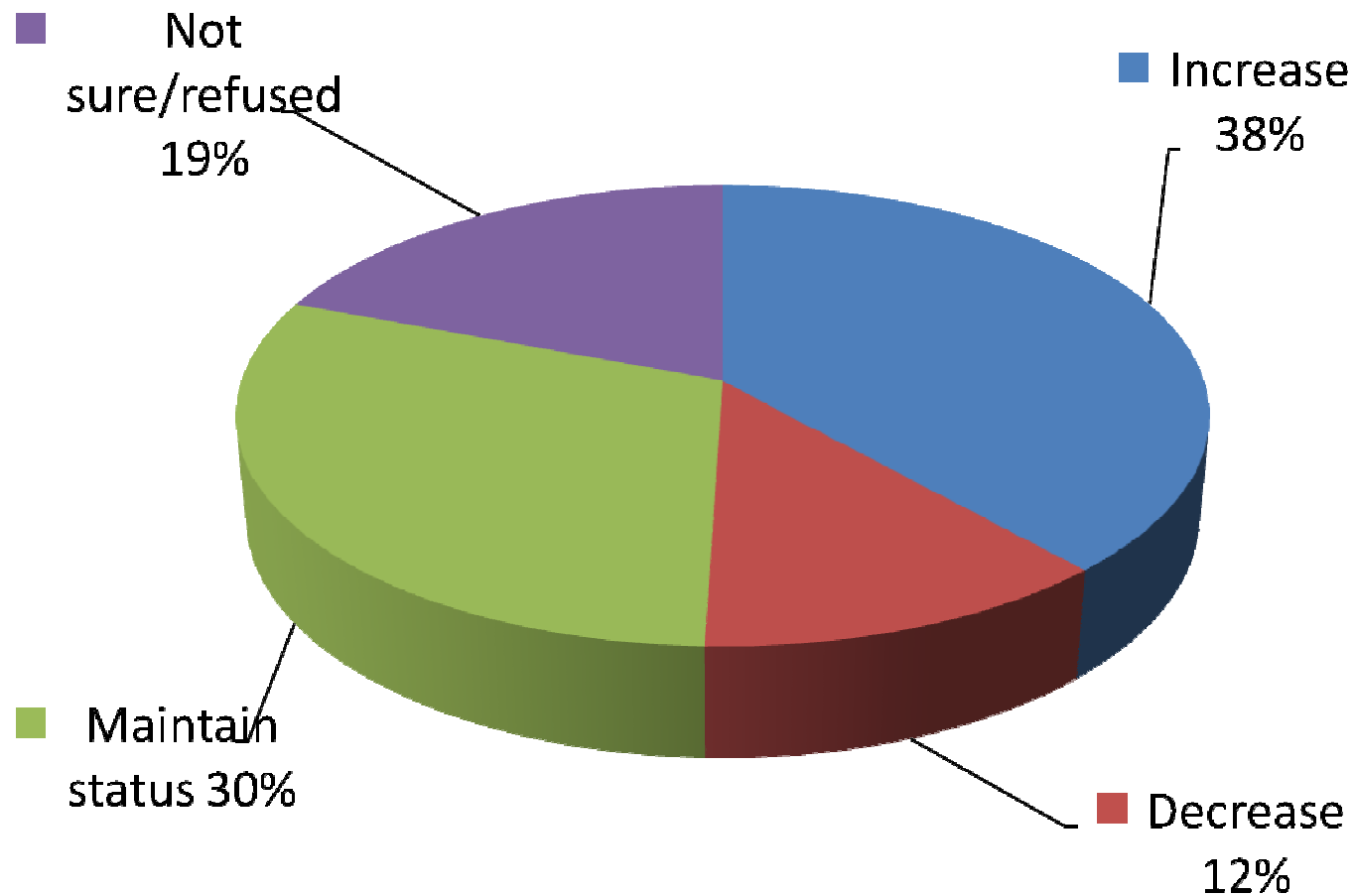
During the Next 6 Months You Expect Sales to ...



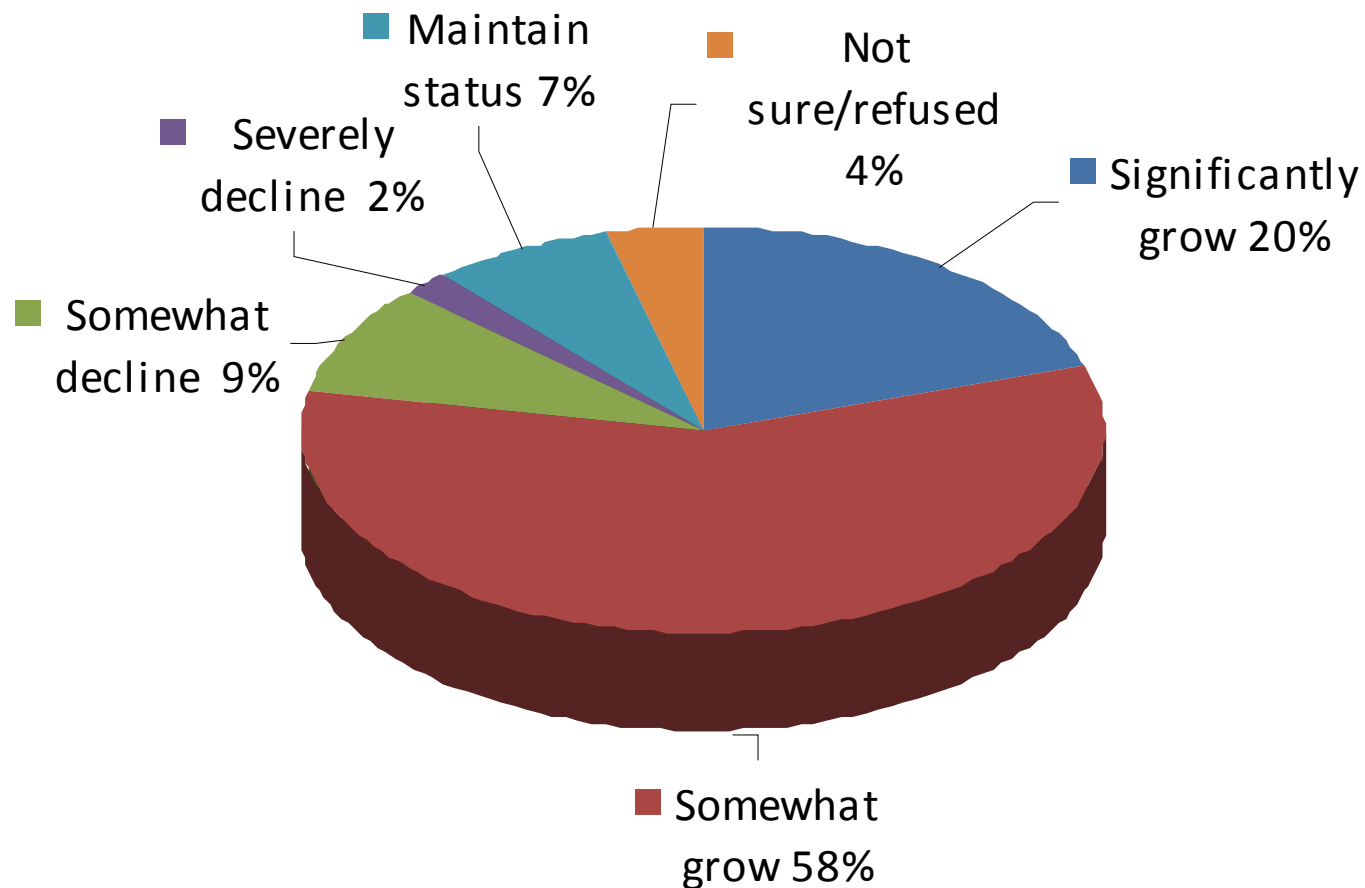
During the Next 6 Months You Expect the Number of Your Employees to ...



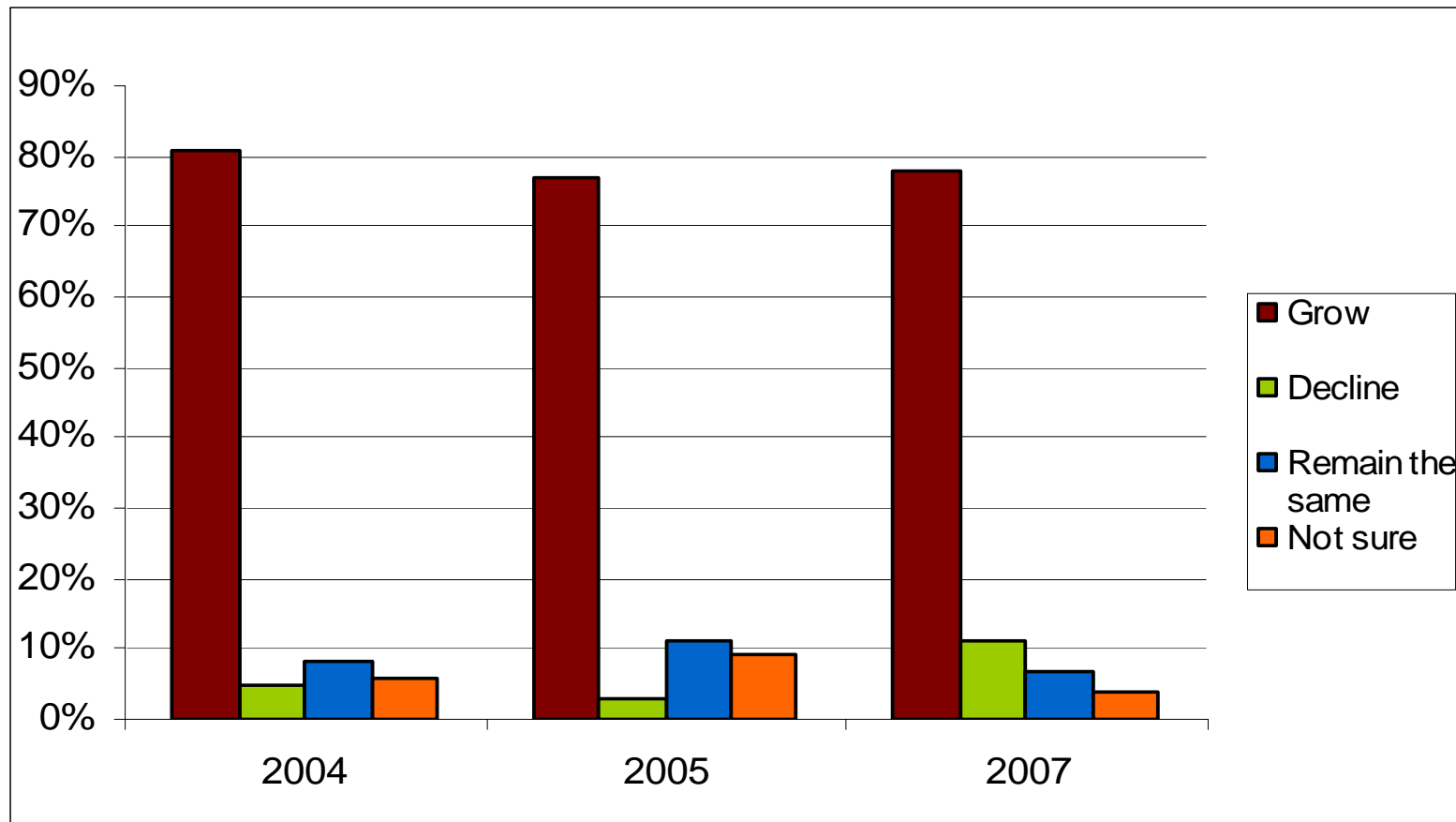
During the Next 6 Months Do You Expect Net Profit to ...



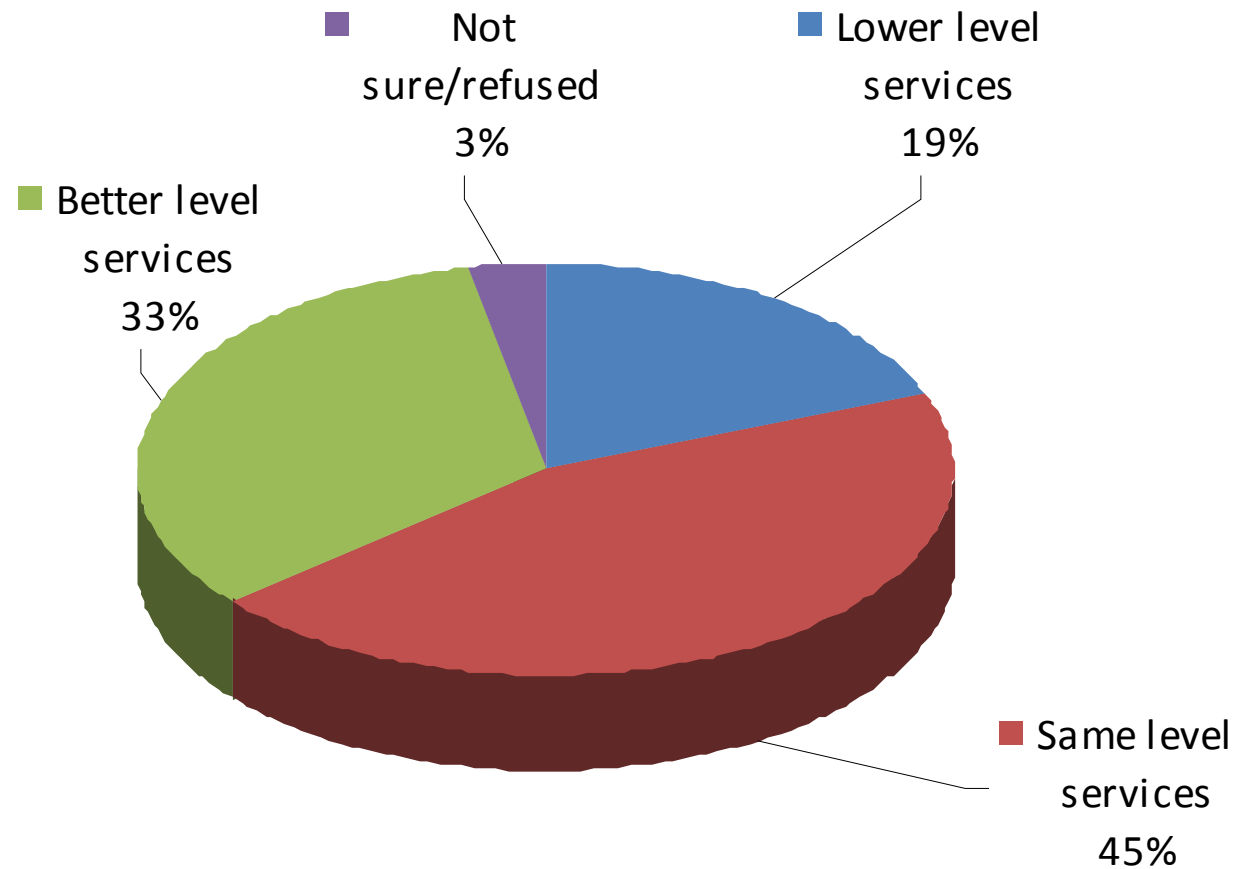
Over the Next Two Years You Expect the Economy to...



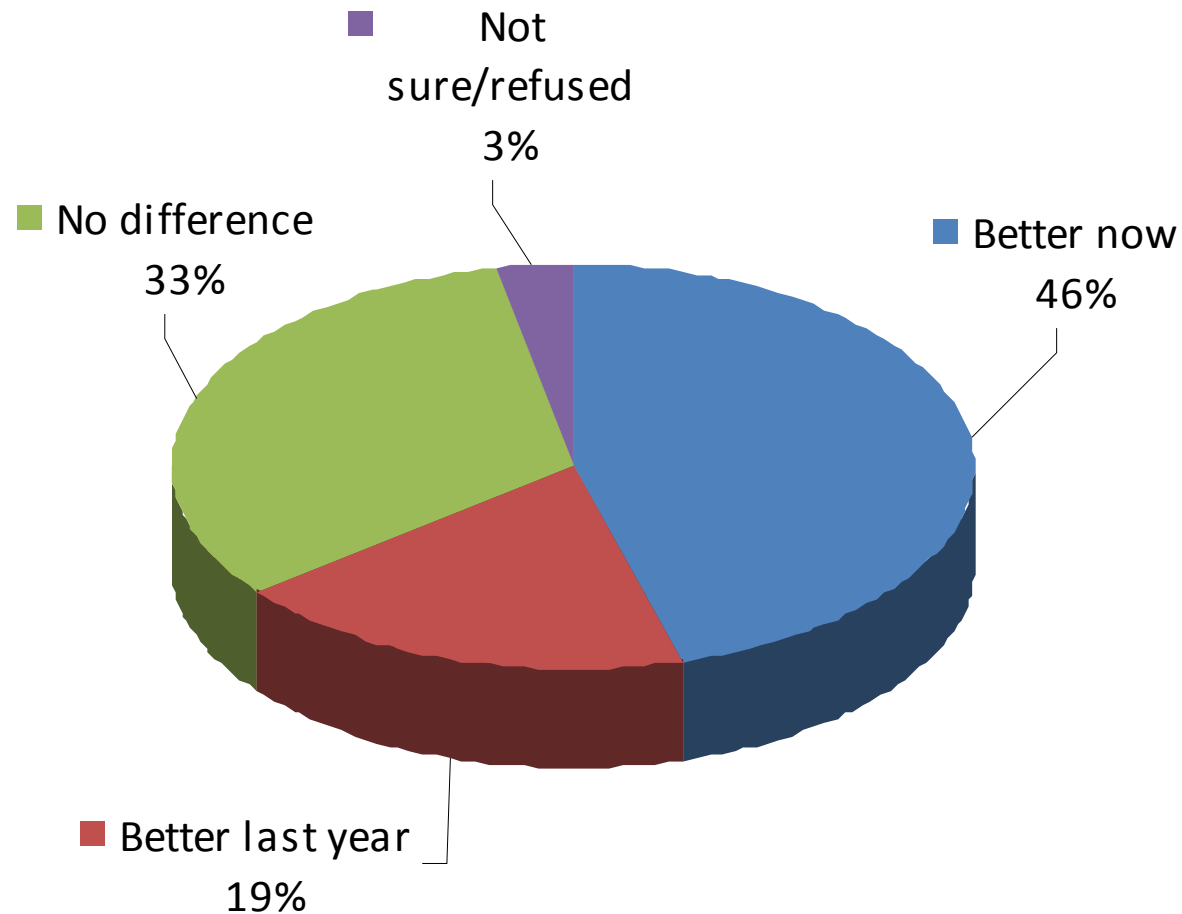
Over the Next Two Years You Expect the Economy to...



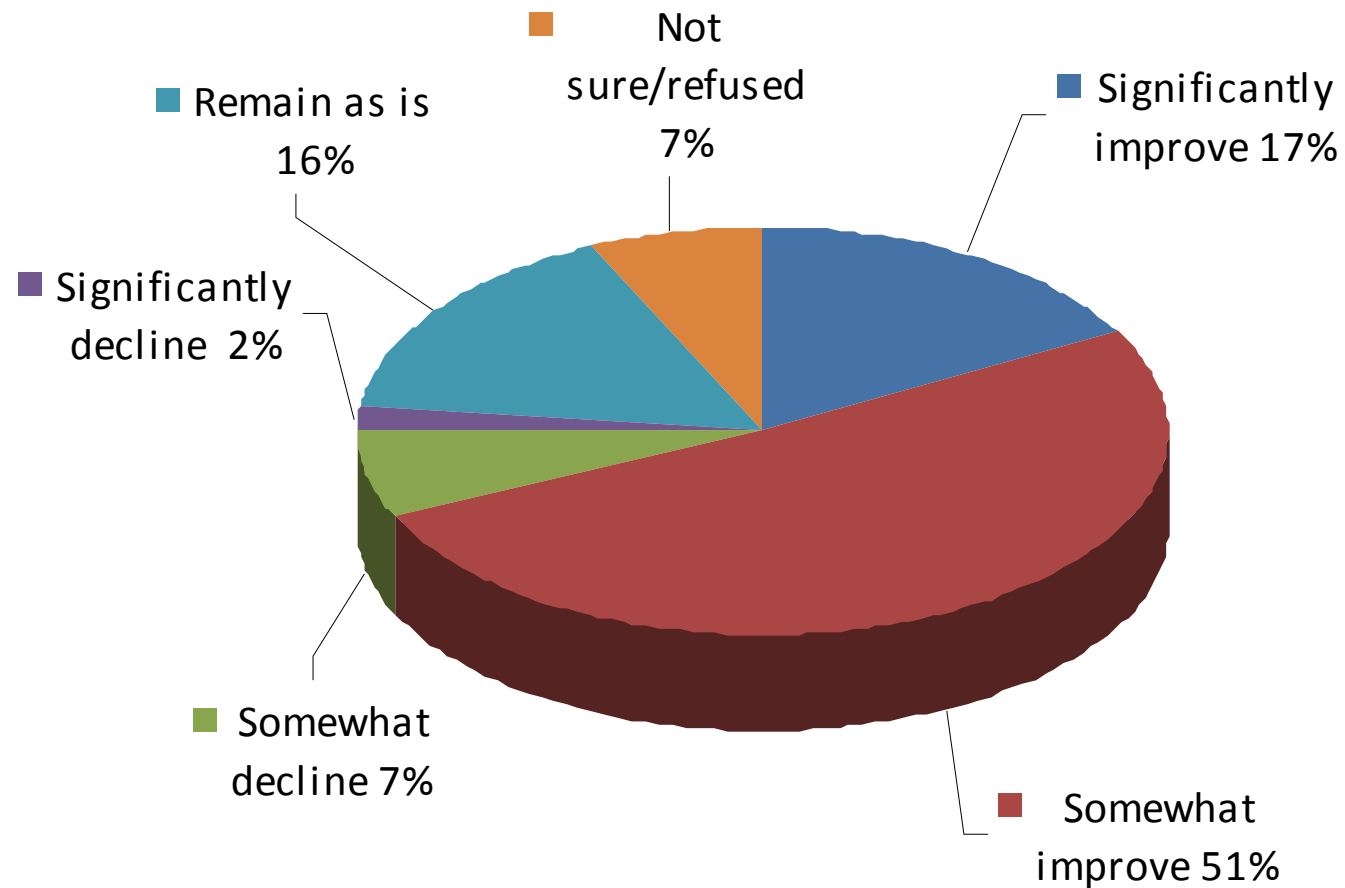
Level of Public Services/Utilities Compared to Last Year



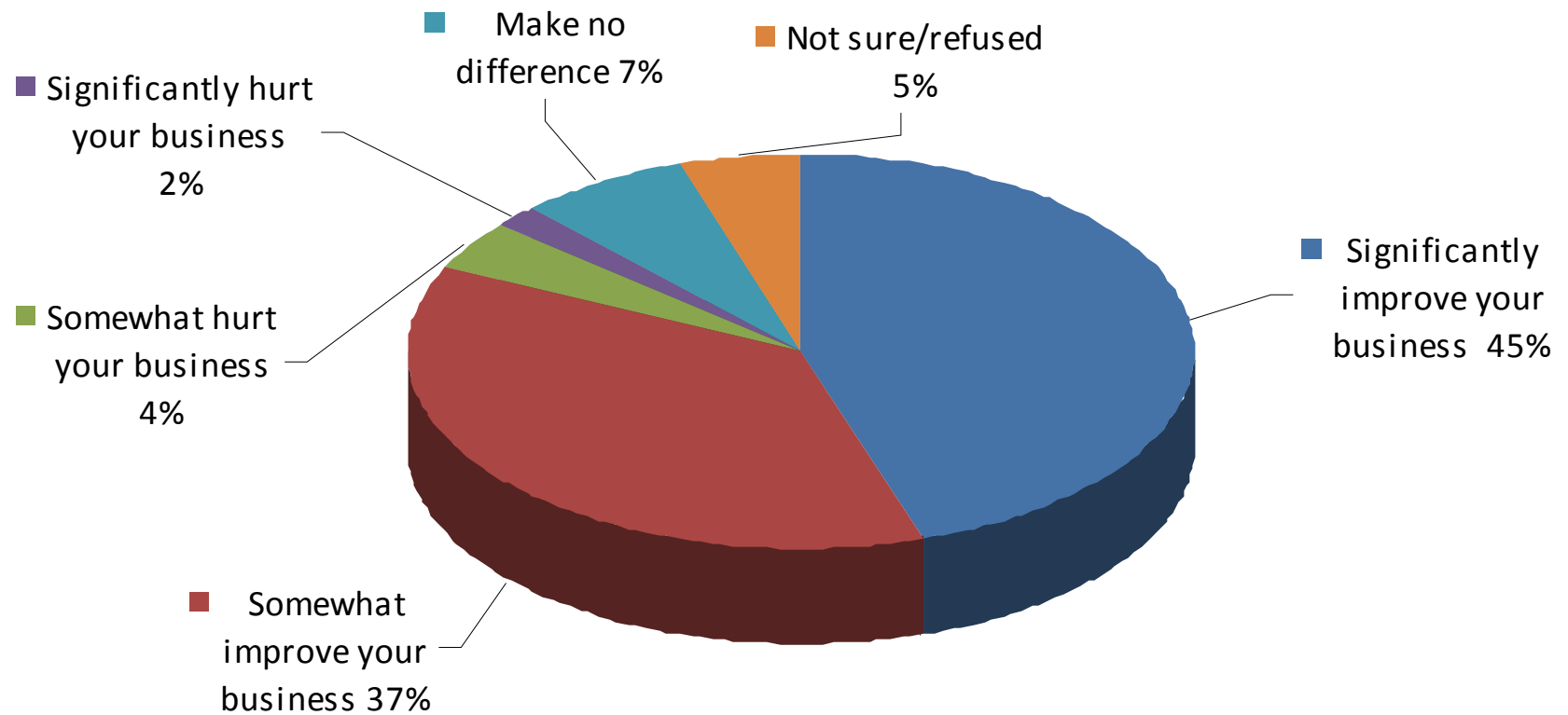
Business Environment Compared to Last Year



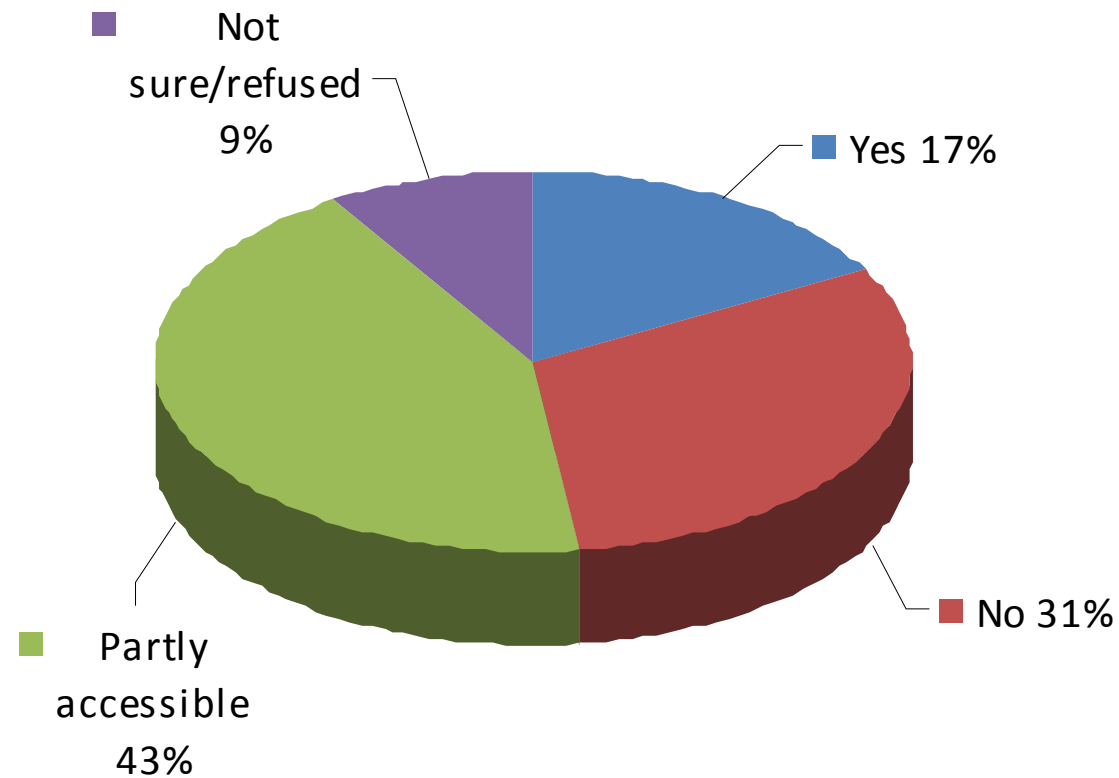
Will Government Policy in Regards to the Private Sector...



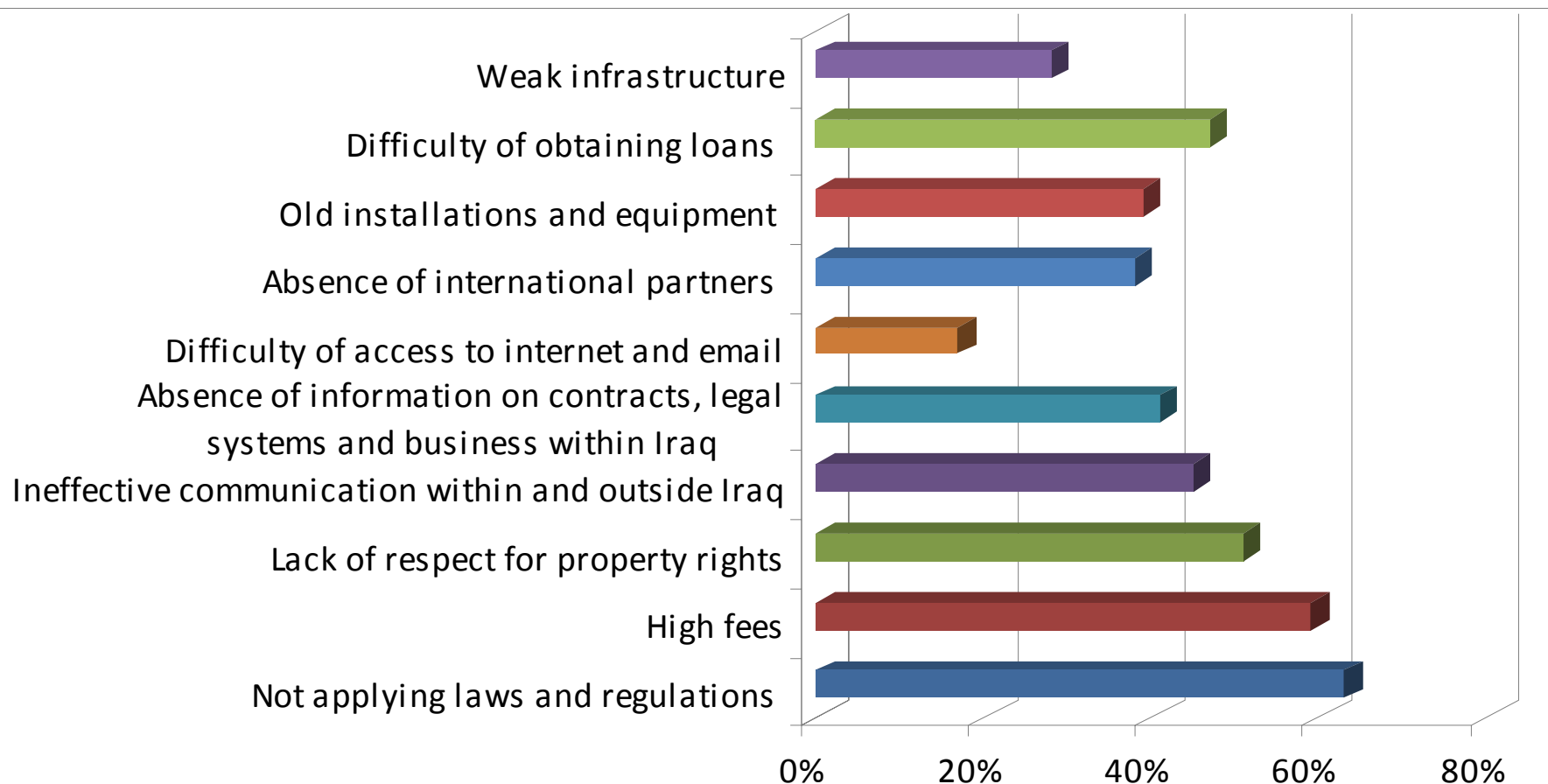
Openness to the International Community Will.....Your Business



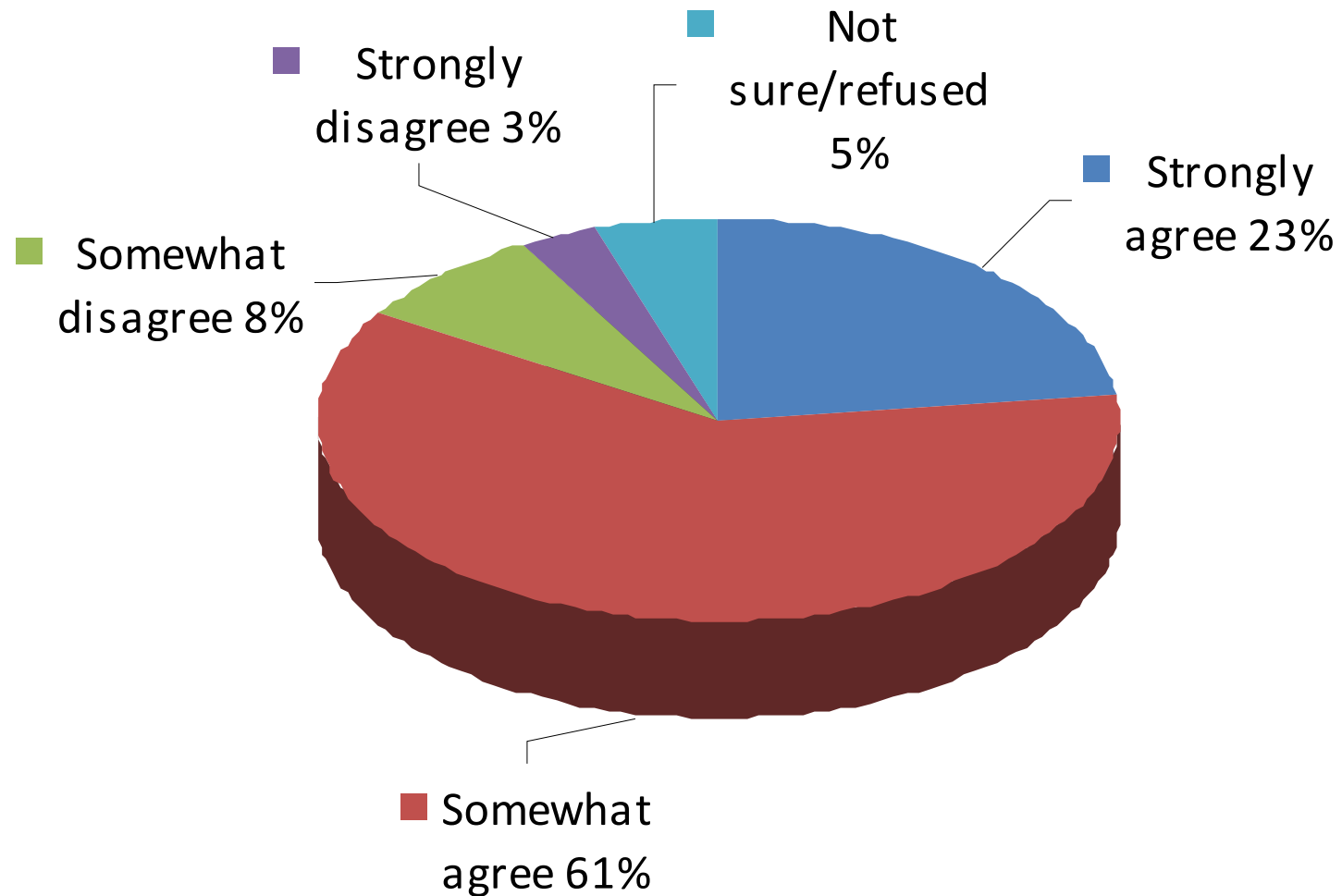
Are Iraqi Trade Laws Easily Available and Understandable?



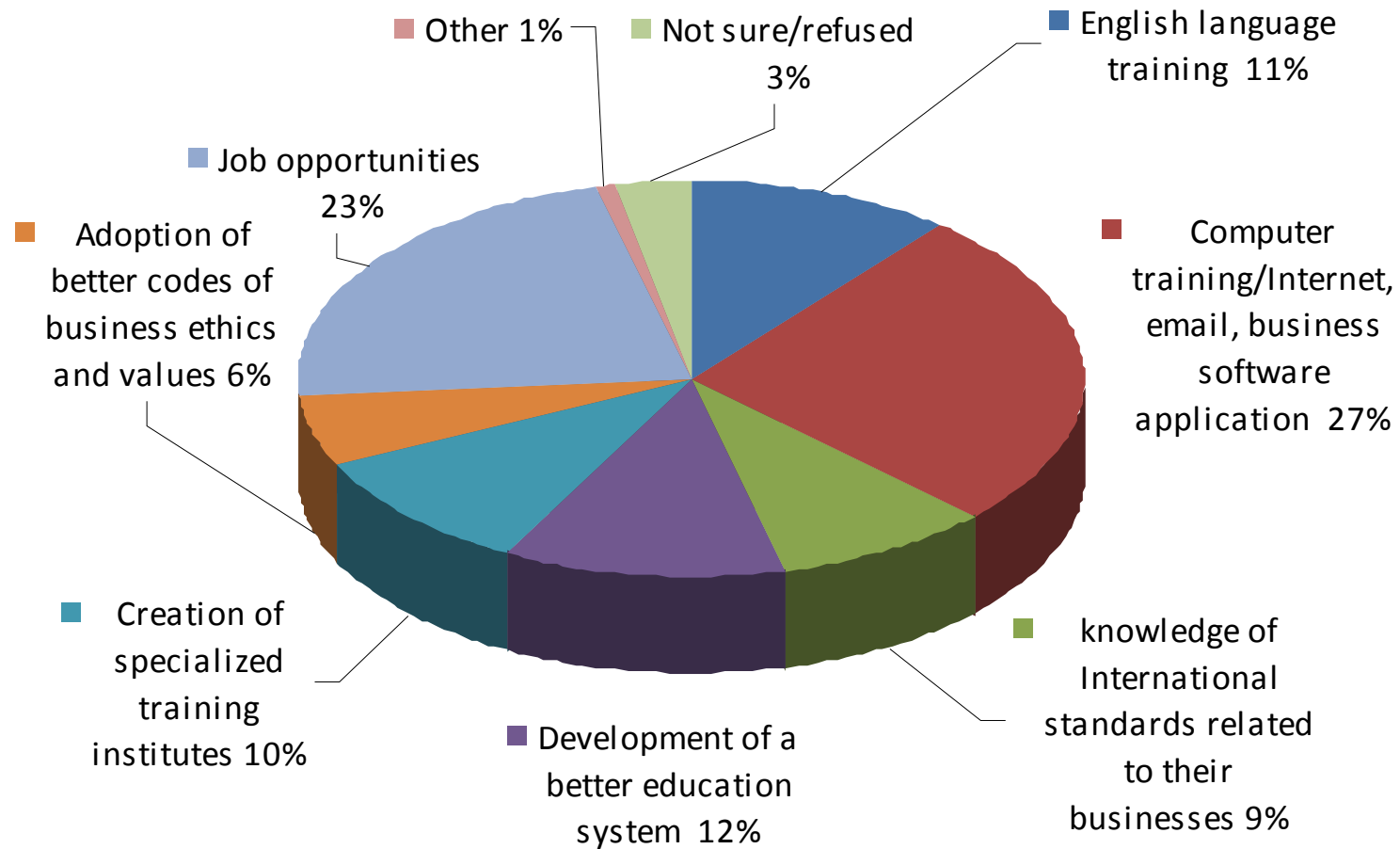
Apart from Security, Which are the Five Most Important Factors That Negatively Affect Growth of Companies?



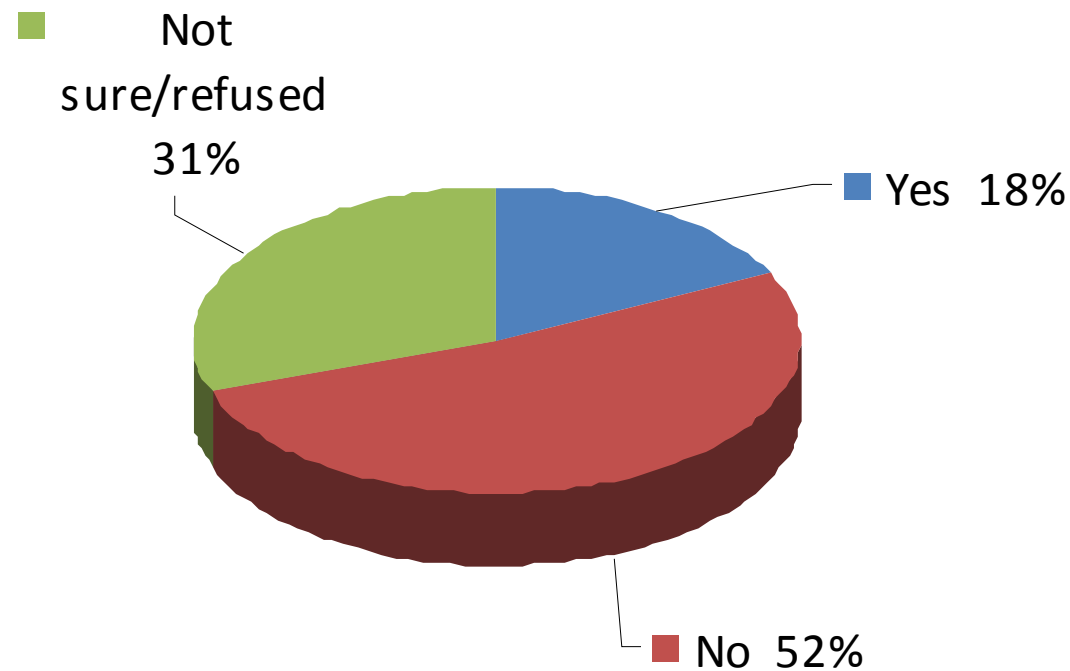
Security is Better Now Than Last Year



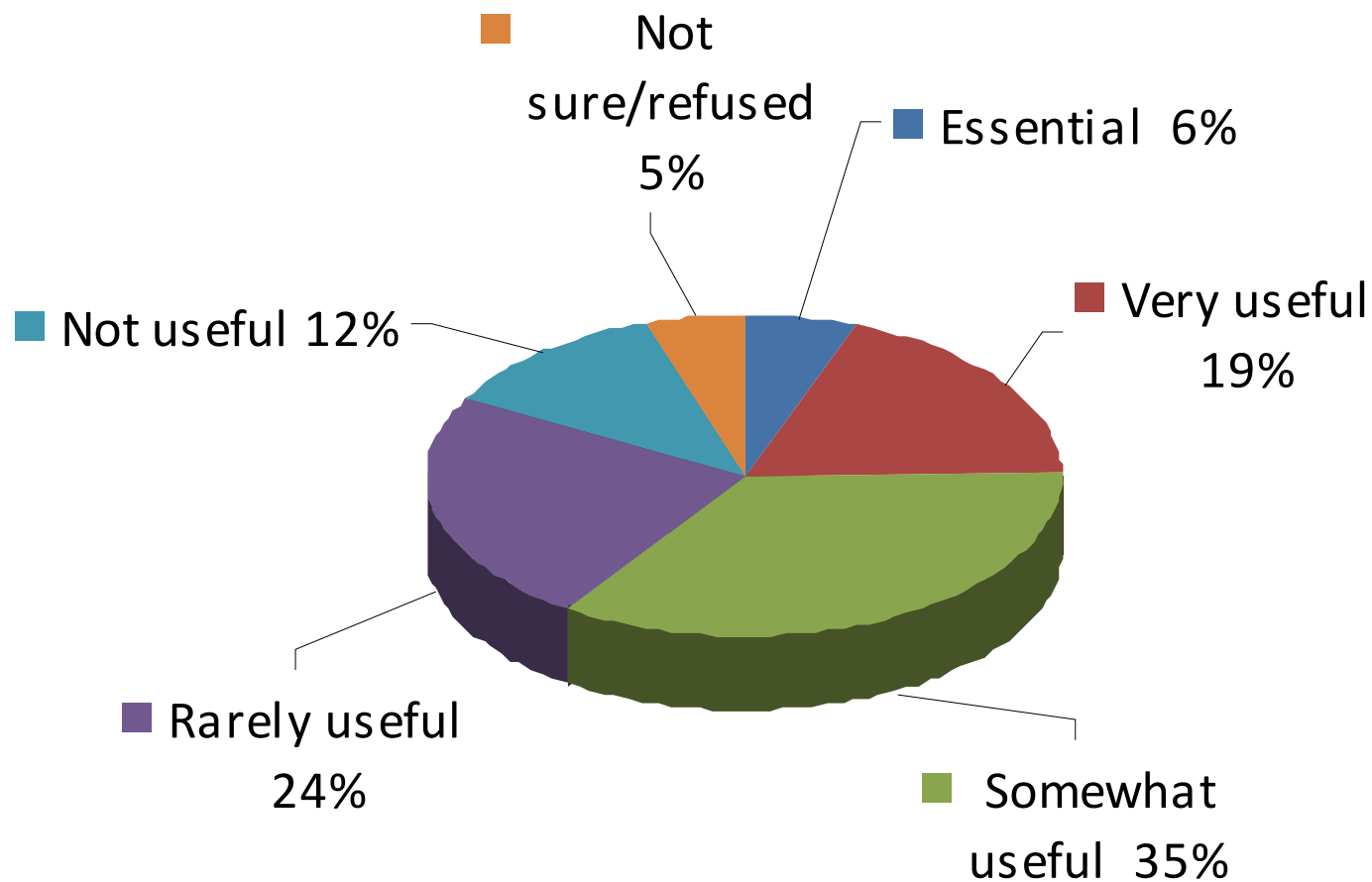
Needs of the Iraqi Workforce



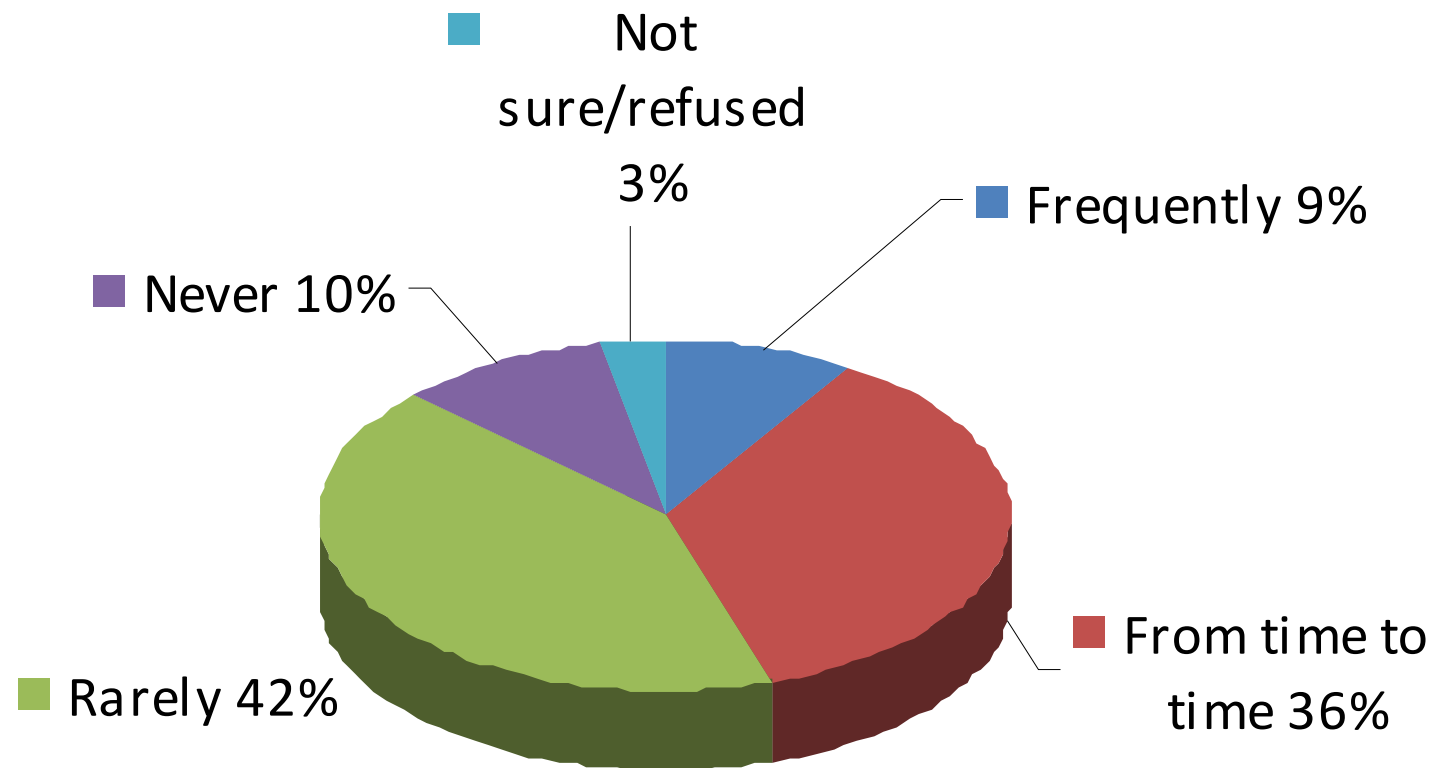
Is the Government Transparent in Awarding Contracts?



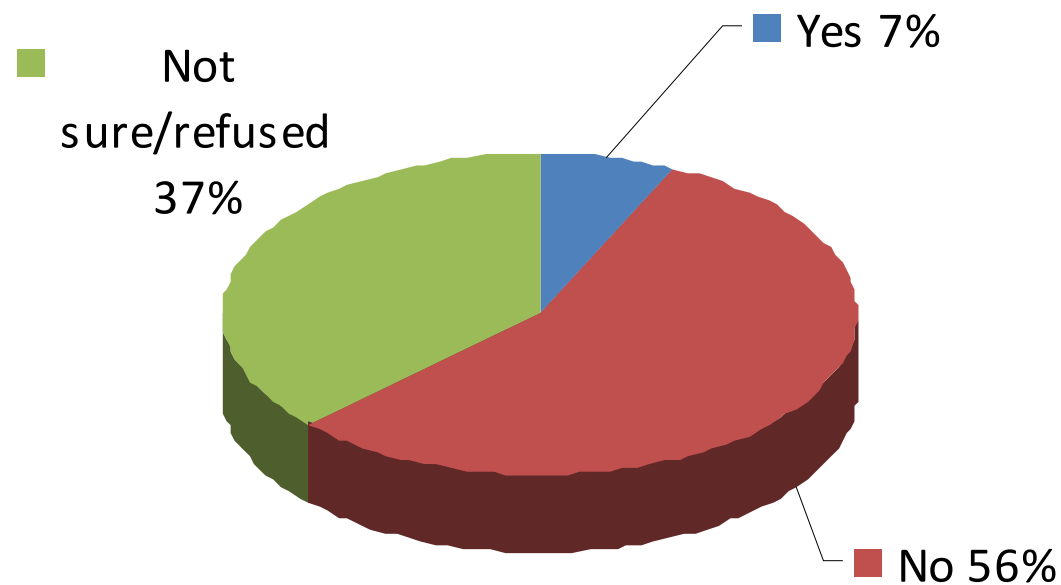
How do You Perceive the Role of Chambers of Commerce and Business Associations?



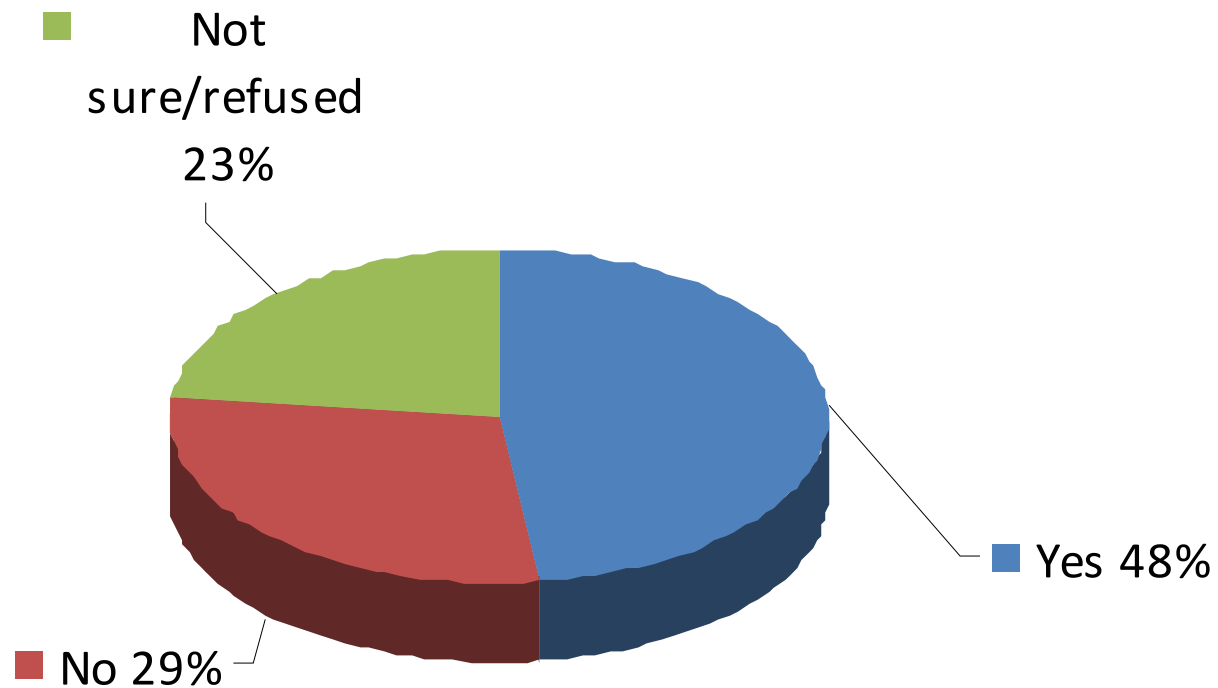
Do You Visit Your Local Chamber of Commerce?



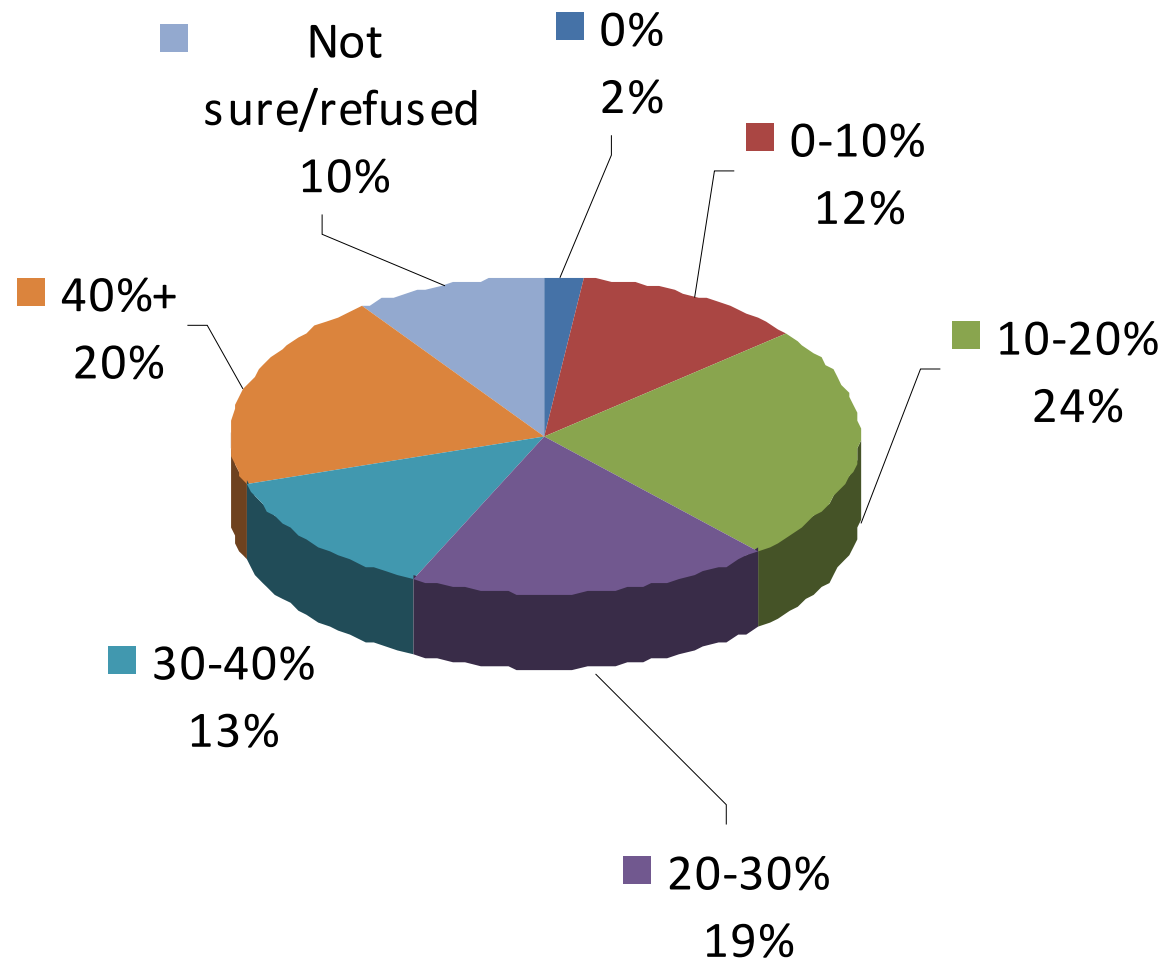
Are There Business Associations That Successfully Communicate the Needs of the Business Community to the Government?



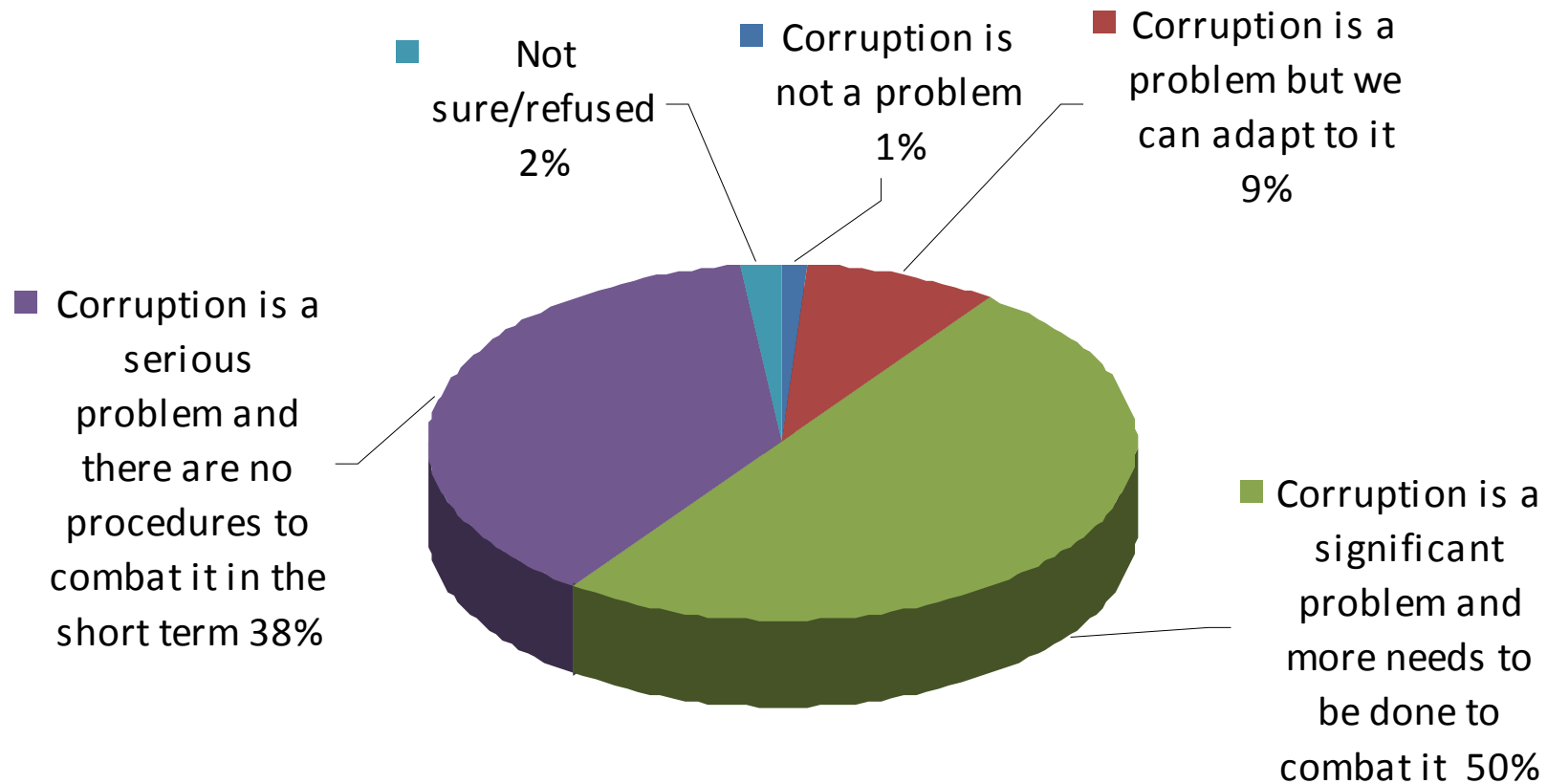
Can the Business Community Influence Policy?



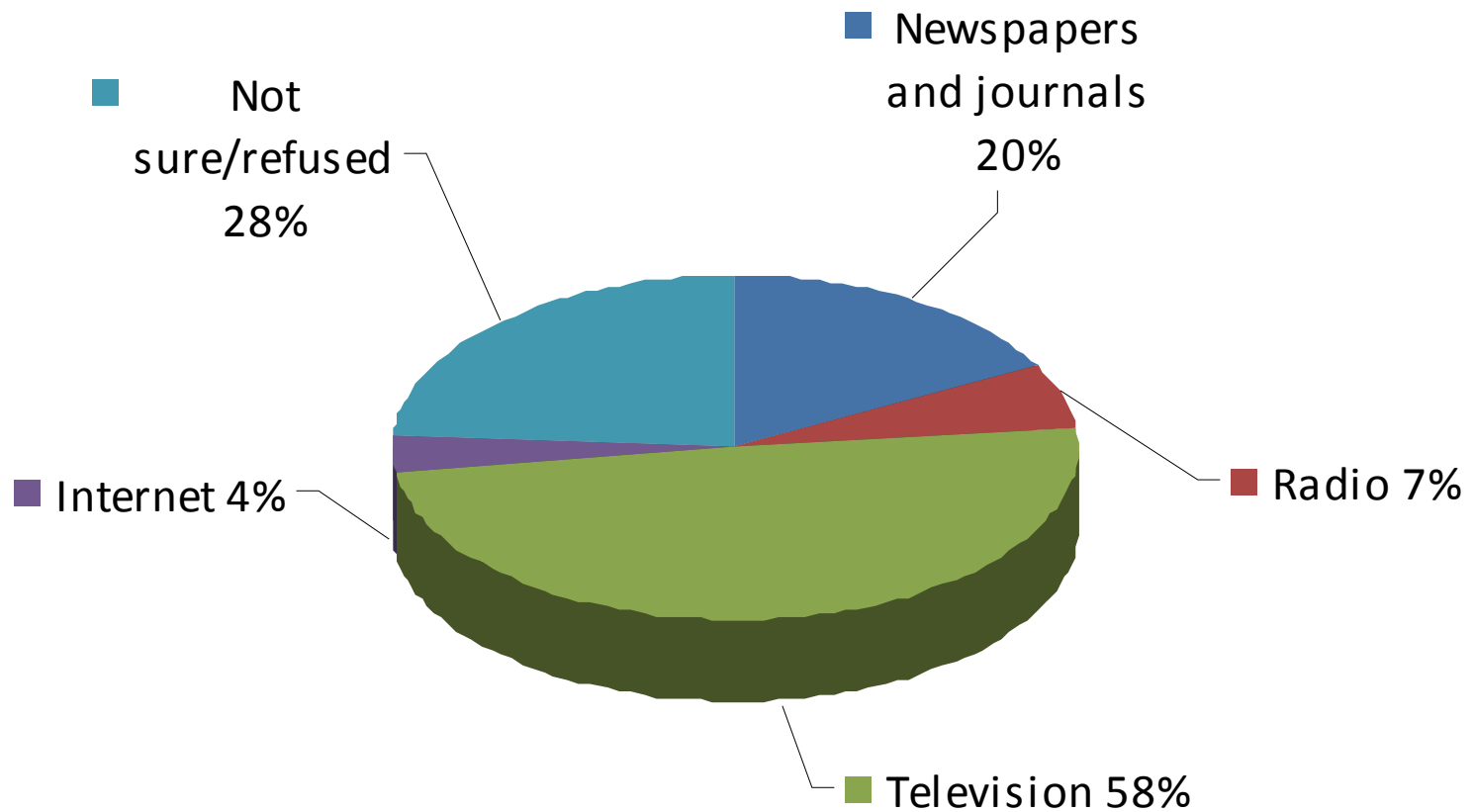
How Much Does Corruption Add to the Cost of Business?



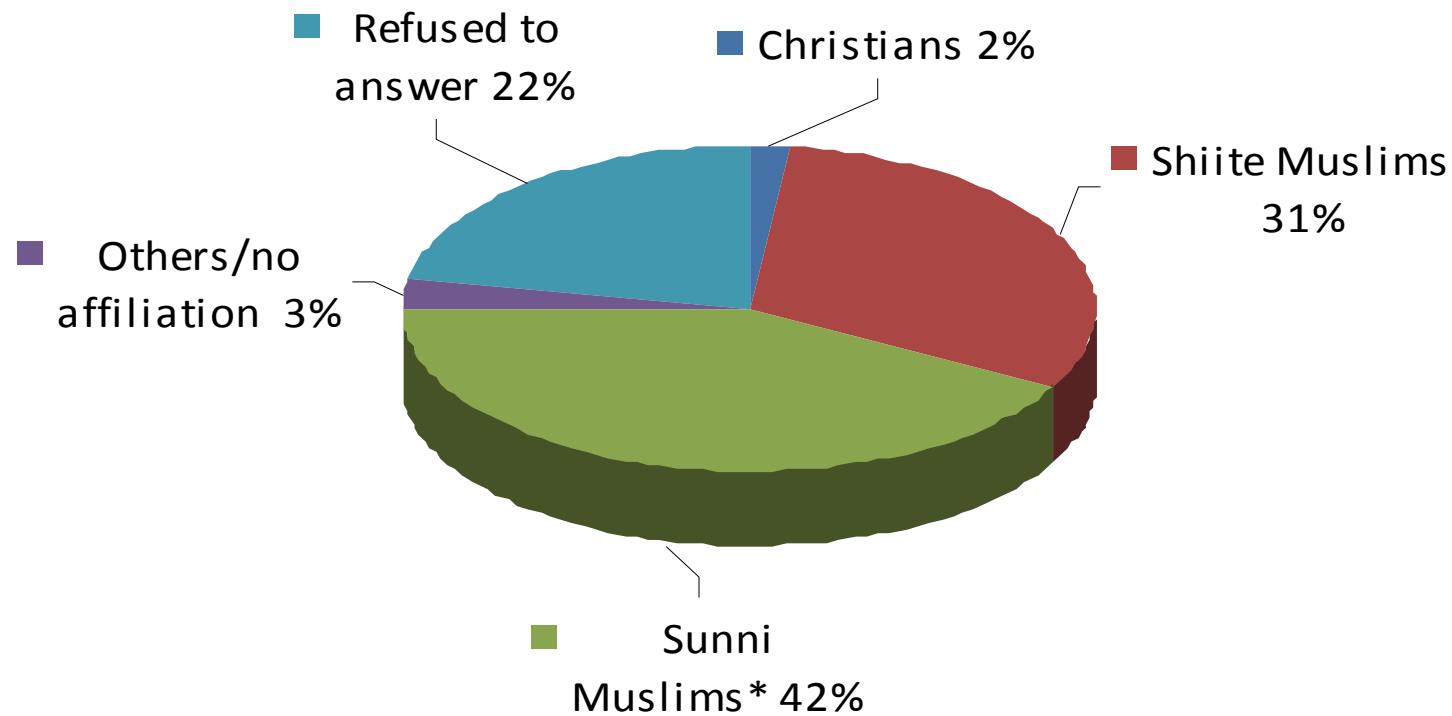
Attitude Towards Corruption



Where Do You Get Economic/Business Information?



Religious Affiliation



* Sunni Muslims figure is divided into 31% Kurds and 11% Arabs

Ethnicity

