



**CONSTRUCTION  
INDUSTRY  
FEDERATION**

# **CIF Construction Outlook Survey**

**Review Q3 & Outlook Q4 2024**

# Background & Objectives

To provide the CIF with an ongoing tracker of members' sentiment towards the current and future performance of the construction sector

The survey measures the performance of the sector in the previous quarter (Q3: July - September 2024) and the likely future performance of the sector in the next 3-month period (Q4: October - December 2024)

Key sectoral issues benchmarked per quarter include:

- Business turnover
- Revenue generated by new orders
- Employment levels
- Cost of labour
- Cost of raw materials
- Pricing charged for goods and services
- Key challenges facing employers
- Public works projects

*In addition, the survey examined members attitudes towards several issues impacting the sector*

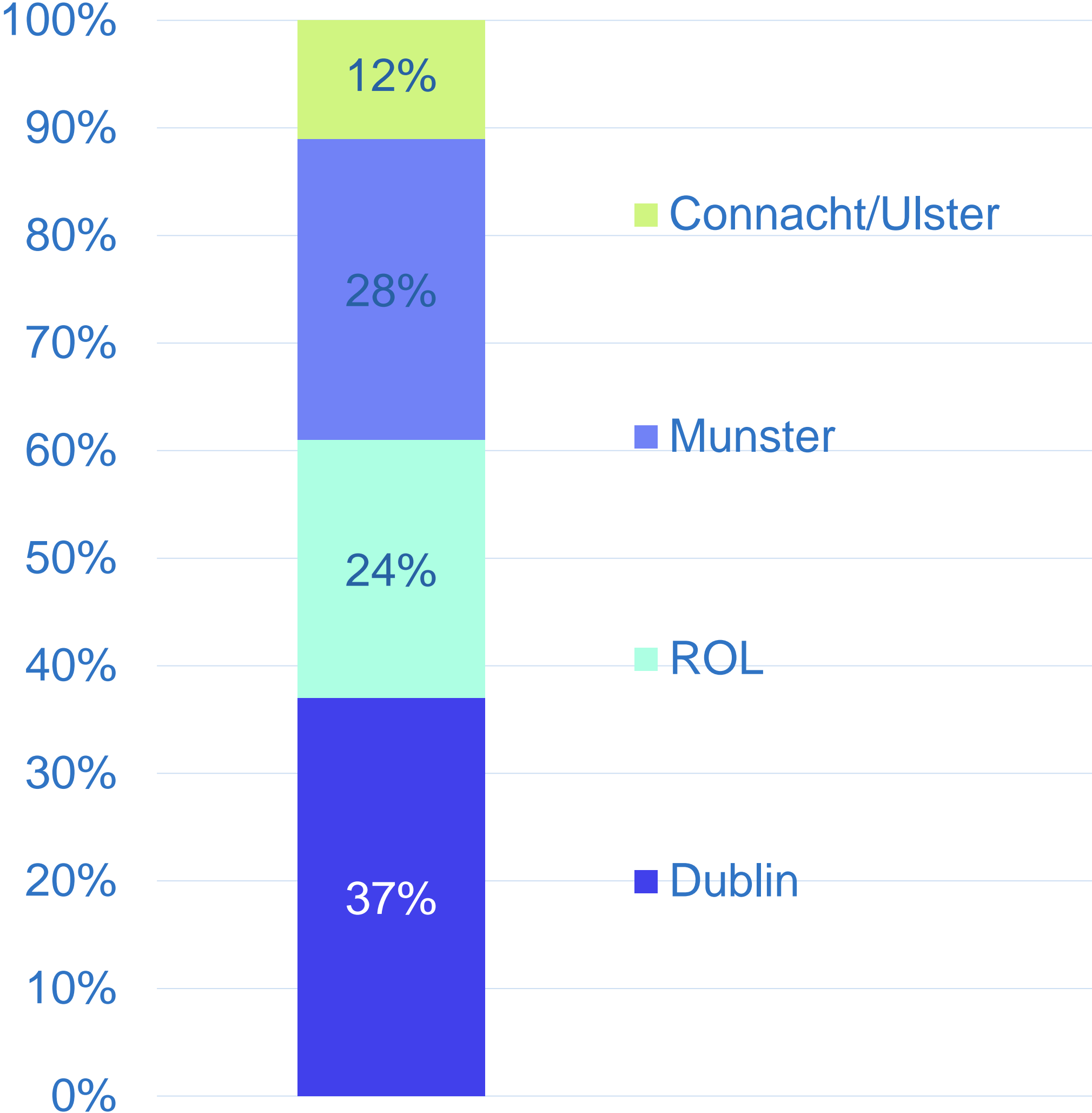
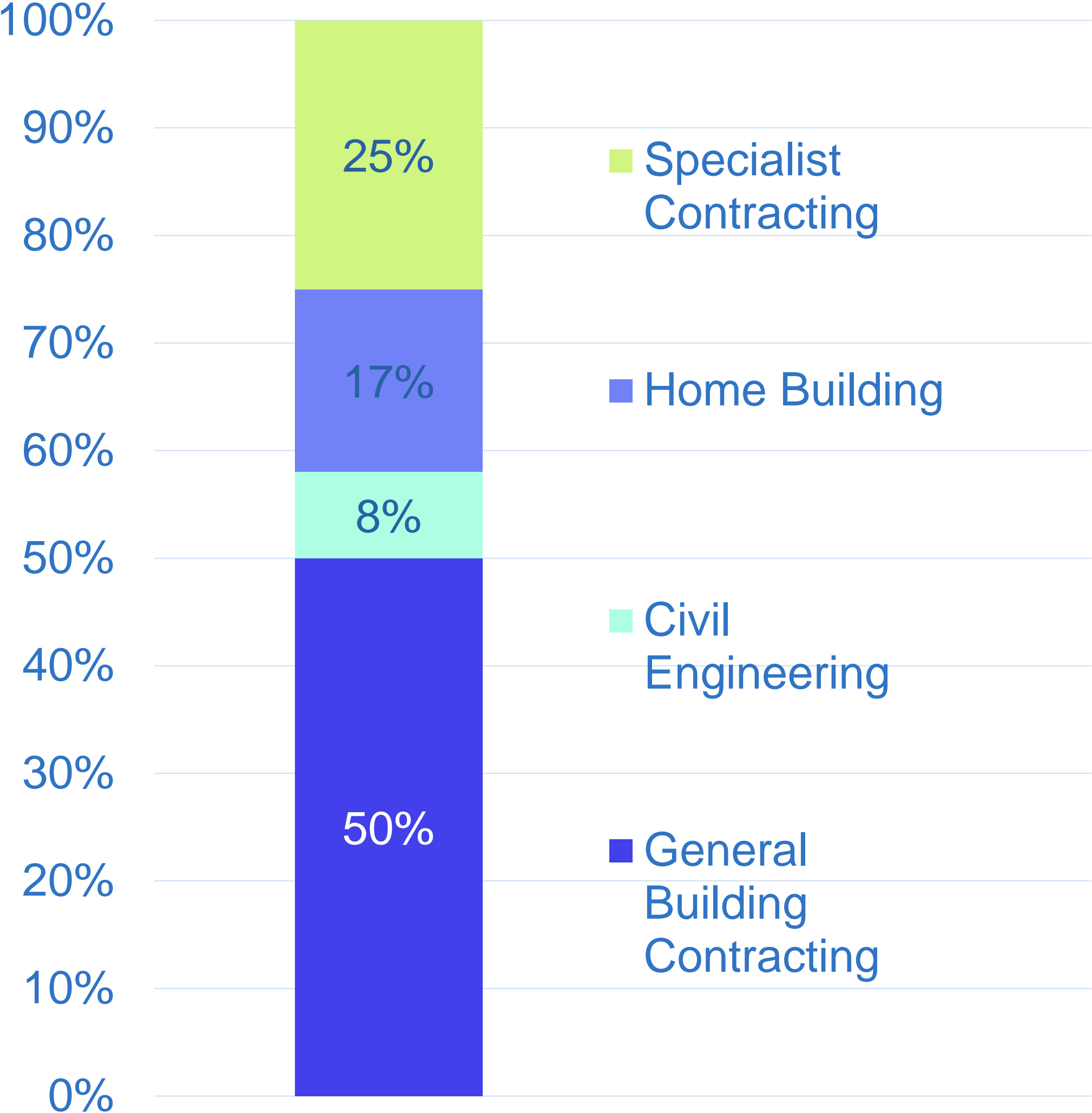
# Methodology

- **Research was conducted via an online survey with CIF members**
- **A sample of 242 companies was achieved which delivers a margin of error of approximately (+ or – 6.5%)**
- **All surveys were conducted between 2<sup>nd</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

# Key Findings

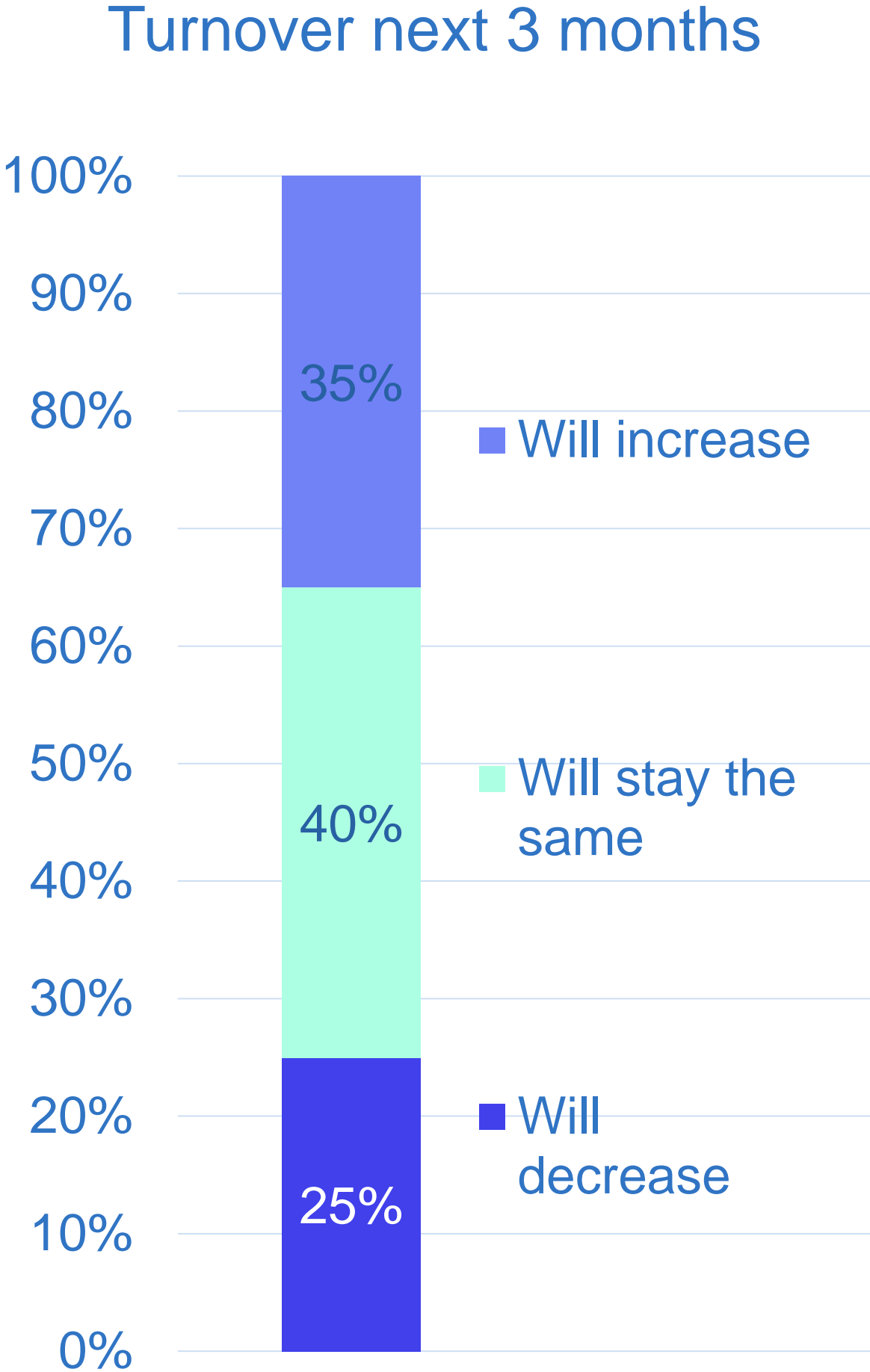
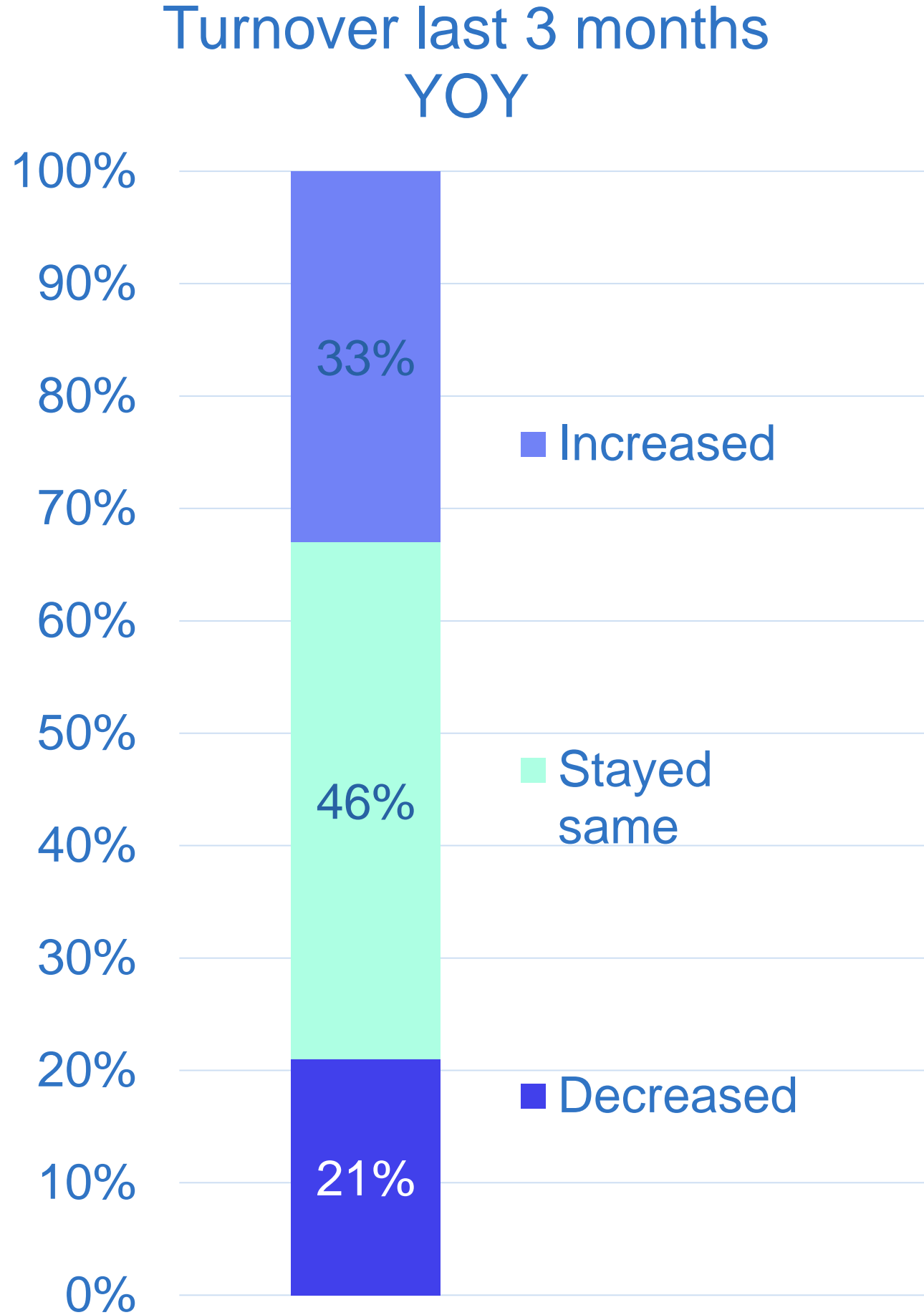
The background features a solid blue area on the left side. On the right side, there are several overlapping, semi-transparent geometric shapes in various shades of green and teal, creating a layered, abstract effect.

# Sample Breakdown by Company Category



(Base: All respondents = 242)

# Business Turnover Last 3 Months v Next 3 Months



32%

of companies report a YOY increase in turnover in Q3 2024

35%

of companies anticipate turnover continuing to increase in Q4 2024

Q3 YOY turnover was positive for all companies save those operating within the €1.2m - €4.5m turnover category.

Looking ahead to Q4, companies with a turnover of €9m+ are most positive regarding growth.

(Base: All respondents = 242)

Q3. In the last 3 months (July - Sept 2024) has the total business turnover for your company increased, decreased or stayed the same compared with the same period in 2023?

Q4. Thinking now about the next 3-month period (Oct - Dec 2024), do you expect total business turnover for your company to increase, decrease or stay the same compared with the last 3 months?



# New Orders Last 3 Months v Next 3 Months

32%

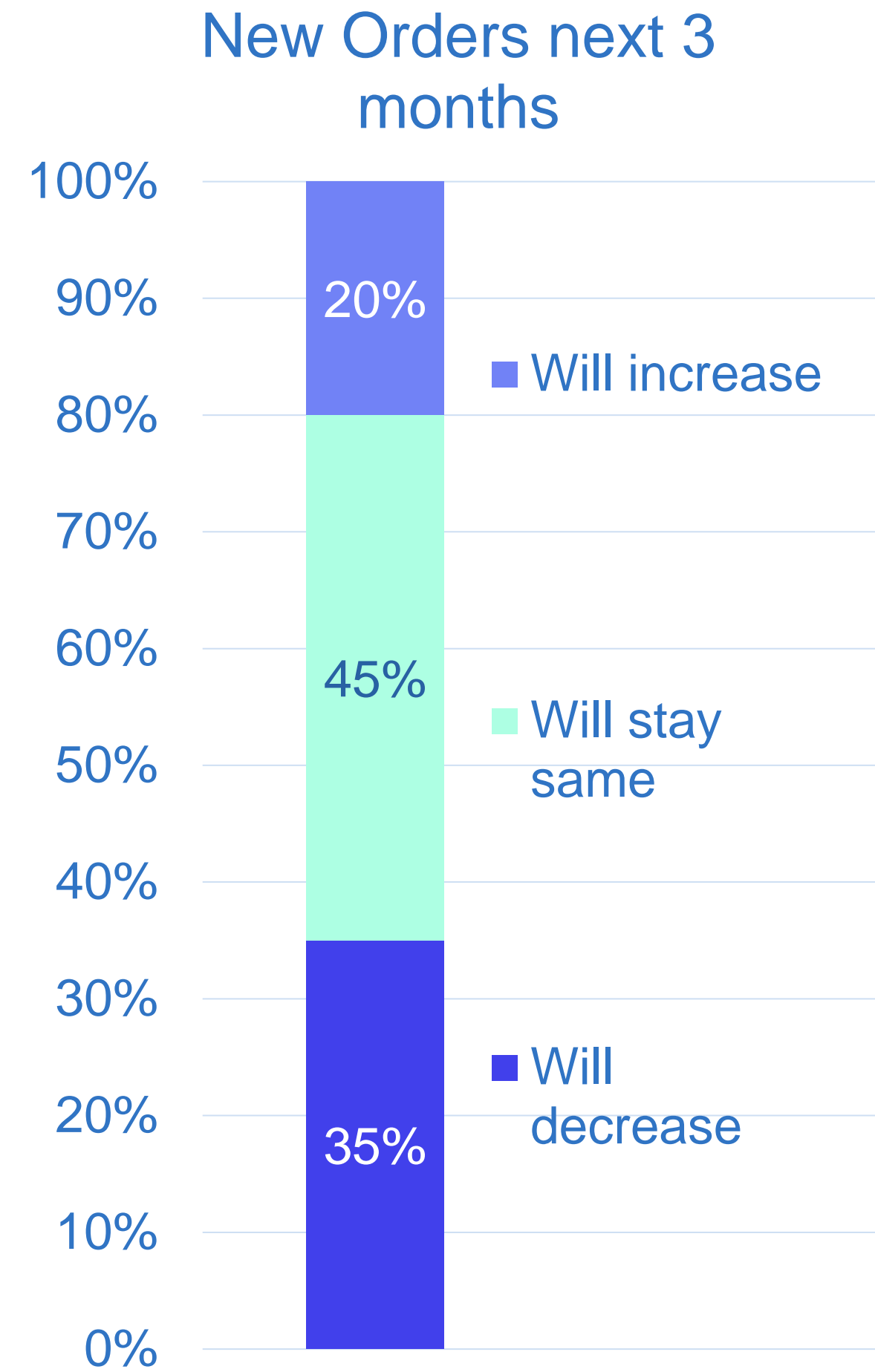
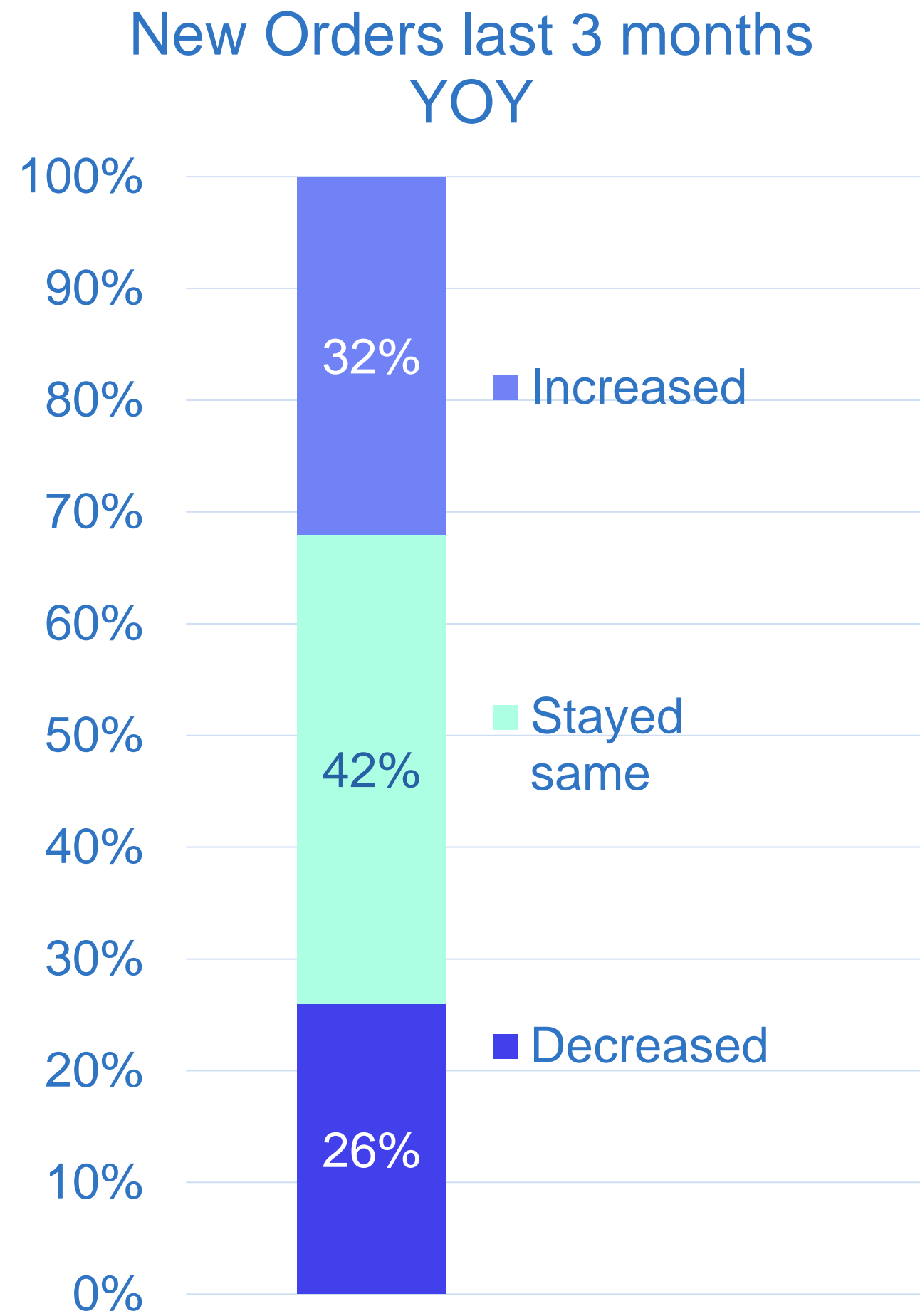
of companies report a YOY revenue increase from new orders in Q3 2024

35%

of companies expect revenue from new orders to continue to increase in Q4 2024

There was a YOY increase in revenue from new orders across General Contracting, Home Building and Specialist Contracting, but a decrease was evident in Civil Engineering with smaller companies with turnover of <€1.2m most positive.

All sectors expect an uplift in Q4 except for Civil Engineering.

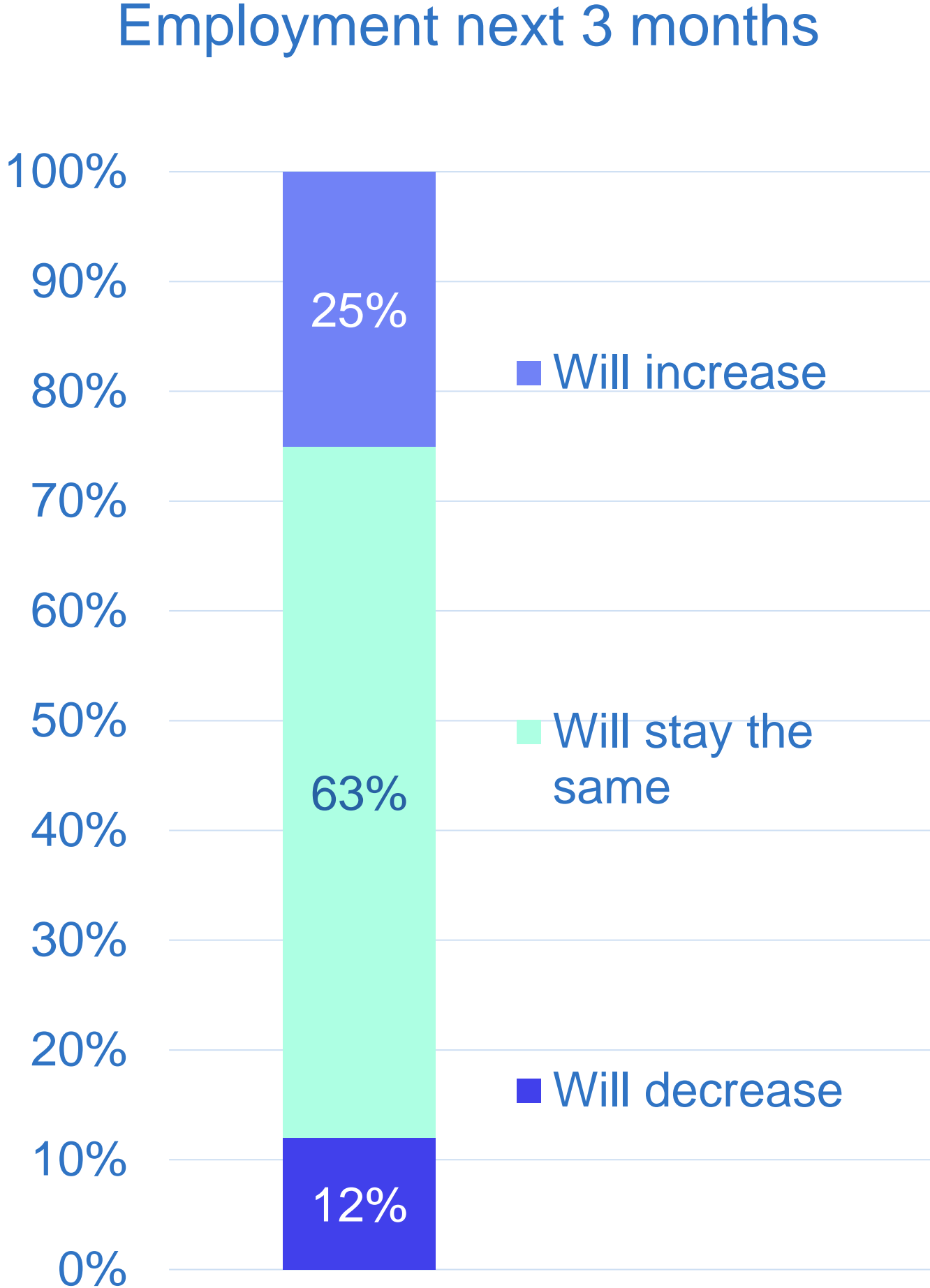
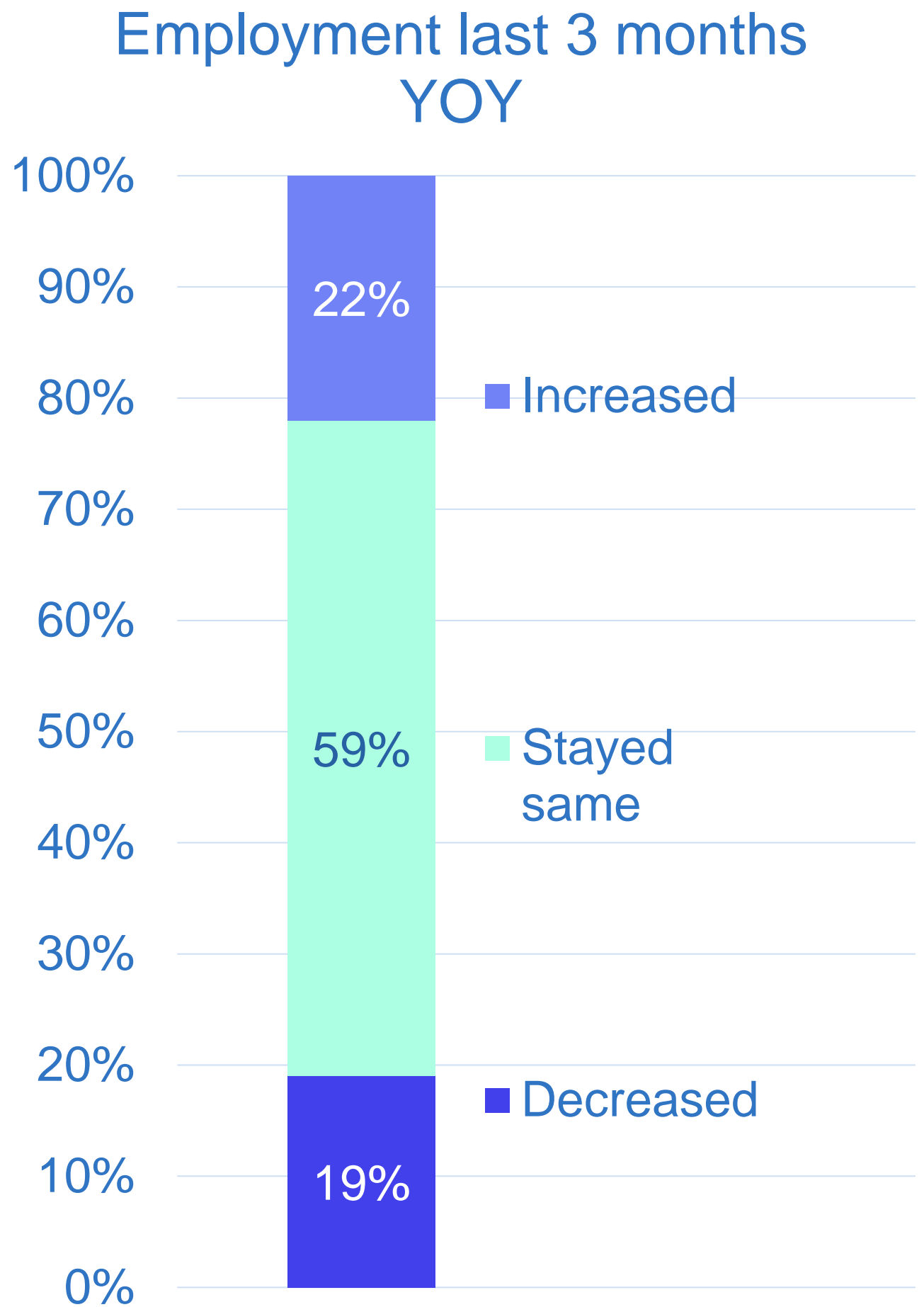


(Base: All respondents = 242)

Q5. In the last 3 months has the total revenue generated by new orders for your company for the period increased, decreased or stayed the same compared with the same period in 2023?

Q6. In the next 3-month period (Oct - Dec 2024), do you expect the total revenue generated by new orders for your company to increase, decrease or stay the same compared with the last 3 months?

# Employment Last 3 Months v Next 3 Months



22%

of companies report a YOY increase in the total number of people they employed

25%

of companies expect to employ more staff in the coming months

Employment levels have grown YOY in Home Building but have stabilised in General Building Contracting and Specialist Contracting. Civil Engineering employment levels have reduced slightly.

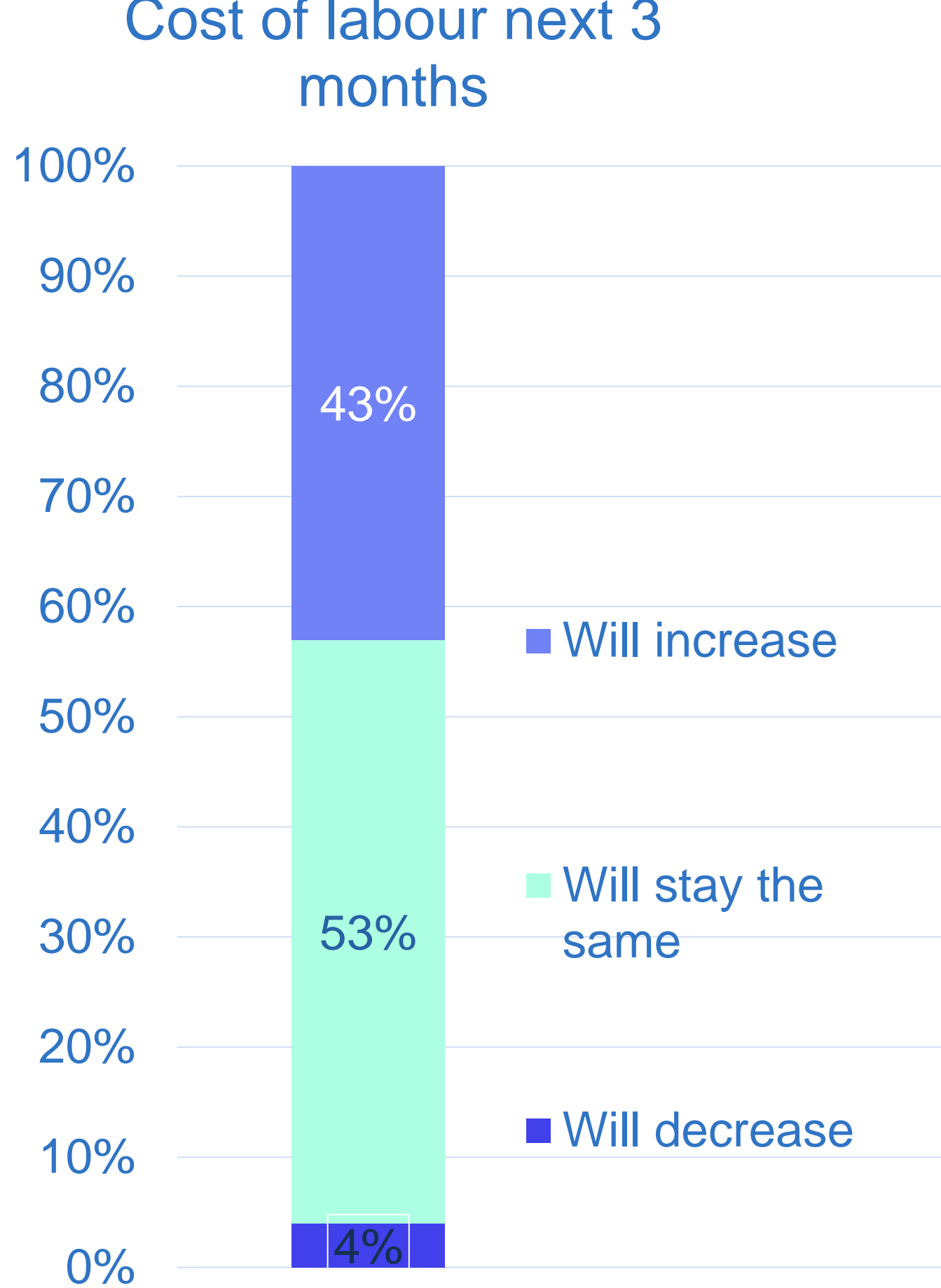
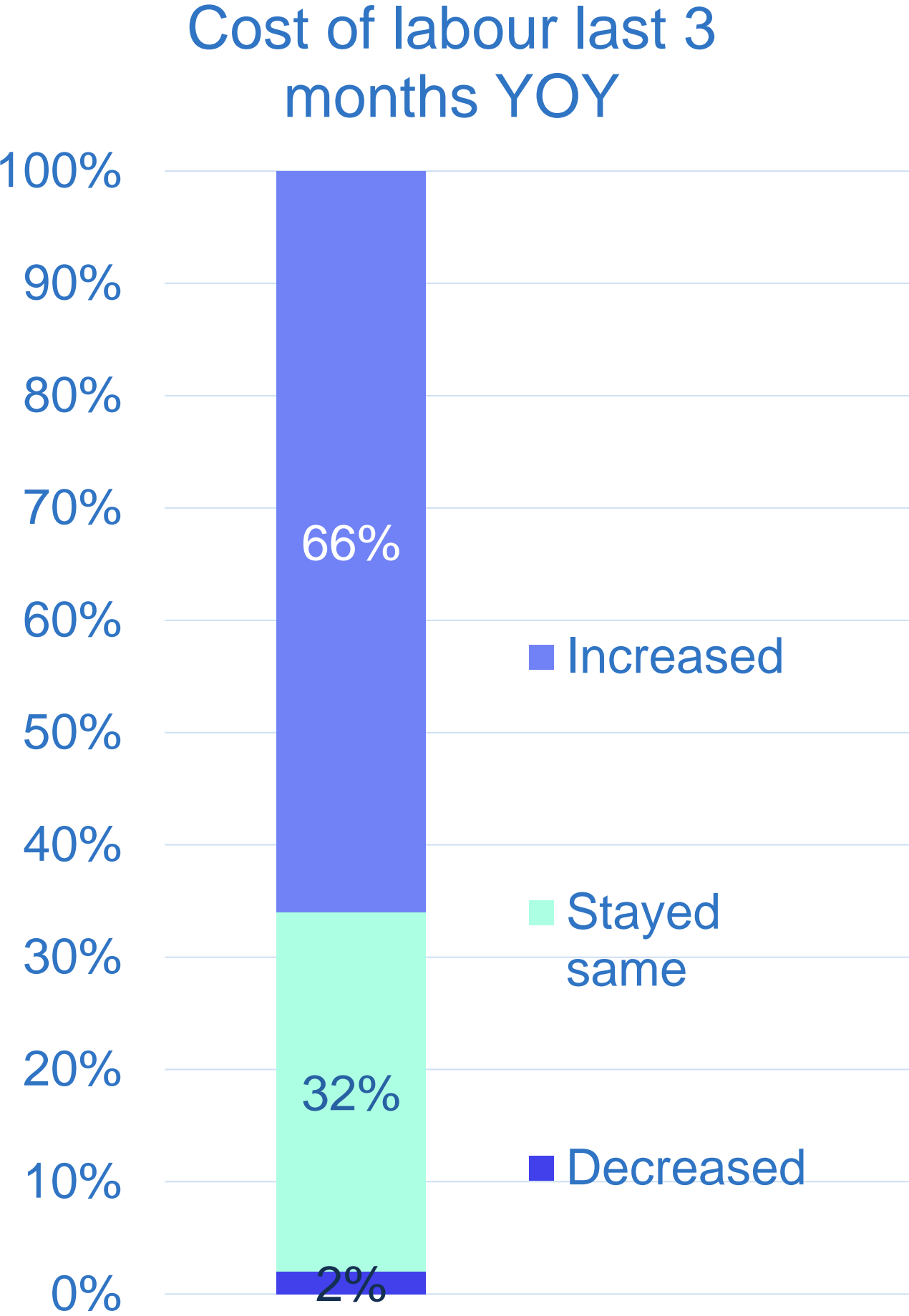
(Base: All respondents = 242)

Q7. In the past 3 months (Jul - Sept 2024) has the total number of people you employ (directly or indirectly) increased, decreased or stayed the same compared with the same period in 2023?

Q8. In the next 3-month period (Oct - Dec 2024), do you expect the total number of people you employ (directly or indirectly) in your company to increase, decrease or stay the same compared with the last 3 months?



# Cost of Labour Last 3 Months v Next 3 Months



66%

of companies acknowledge an increase in the cost of labour YOY in Q3 2024

43%

of companies expect the cost of labour to increase in Q4 2024

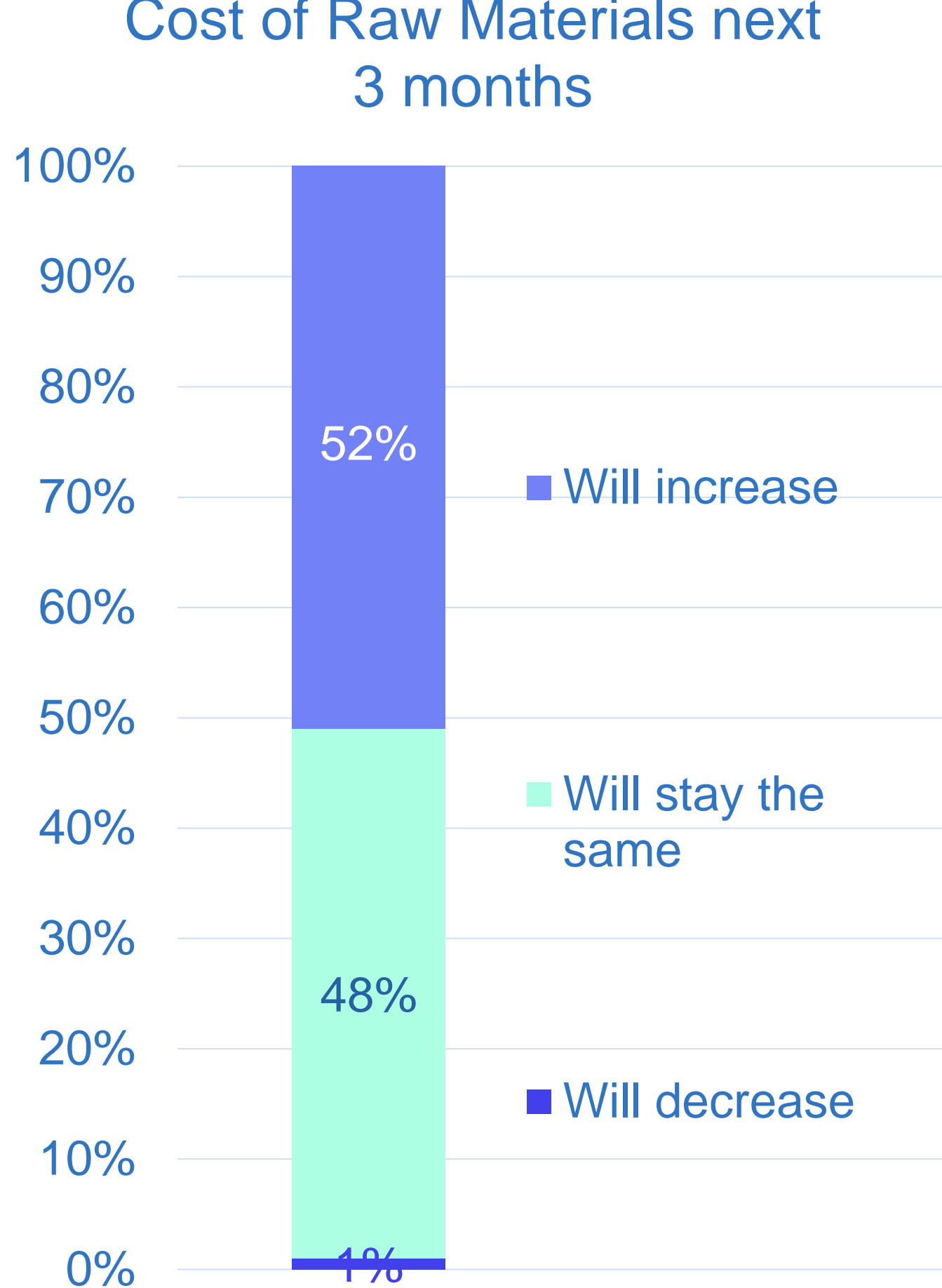
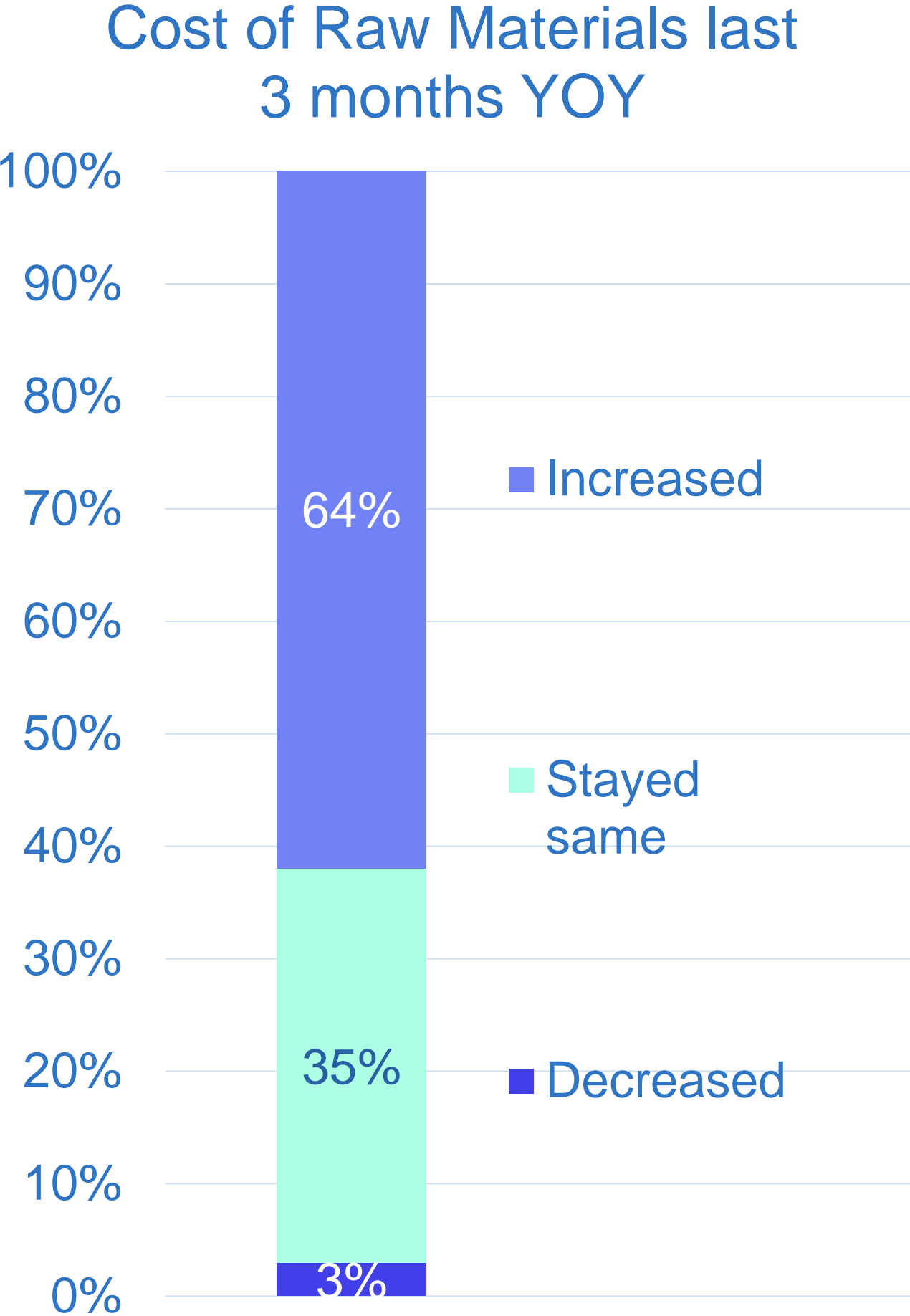
The cost of labour is expected to continue to increase in Q4 most notably in General Building Contracting and Specialist Contracting. The cost of labour has increased YOY for most companies regardless of size.

(Base: All respondents = 242)

Q9. In the past 3 months has the cost of labour in your company increased, decreased or stayed the same compared with the same period in 2023?

Q10. In the next 3-month period (Oct - Dec 2024), do you expect the cost of labour to increase, decrease or stay the same compared with the last 3 months?

# Cost of Raw Materials Last 3 Months v Next 3 Months



62%

of companies report a YOY increase in the cost of raw materials in Q3 2024

50%

expect the cost of raw materials to increase to continue to increase in Q4 2024

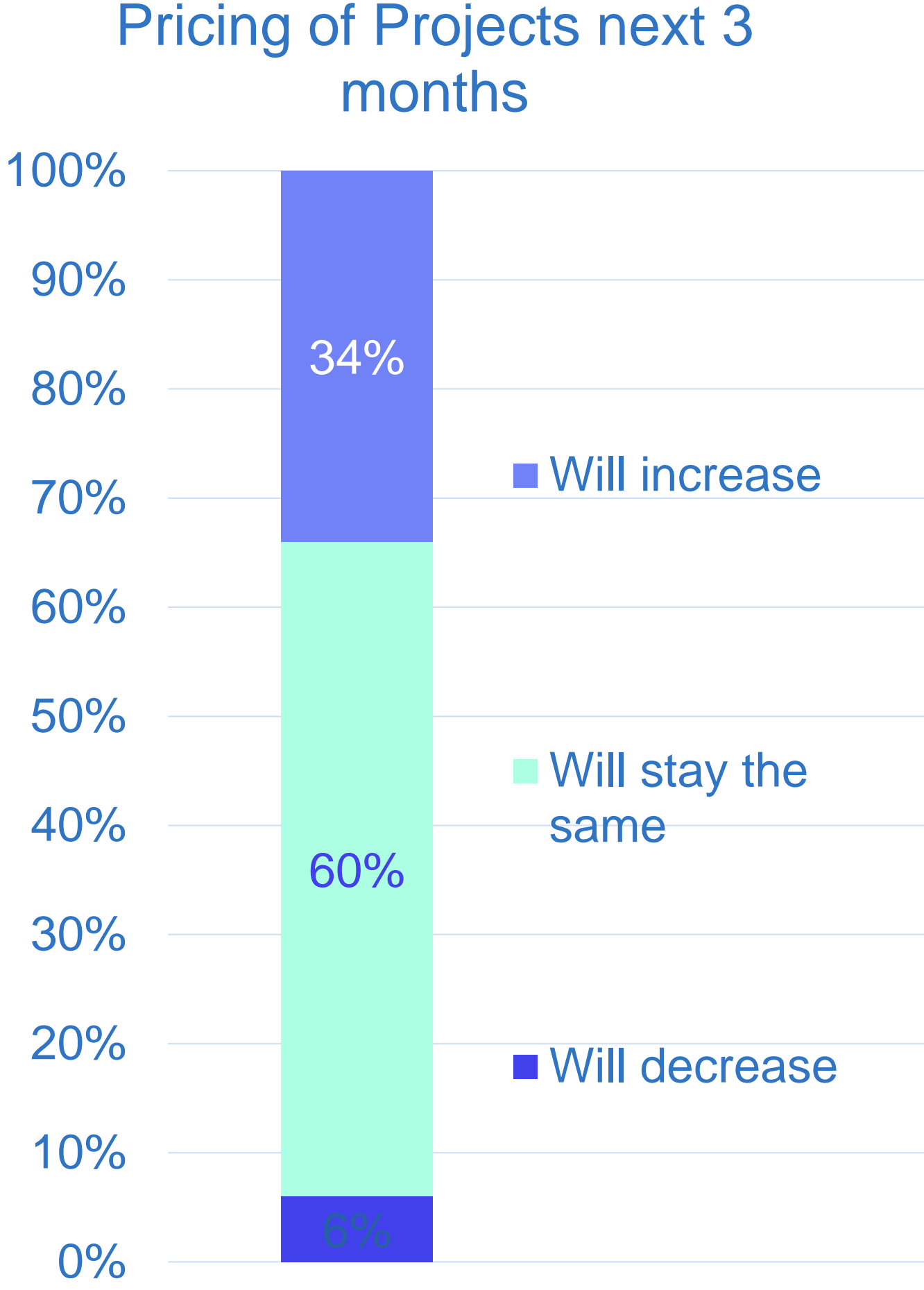
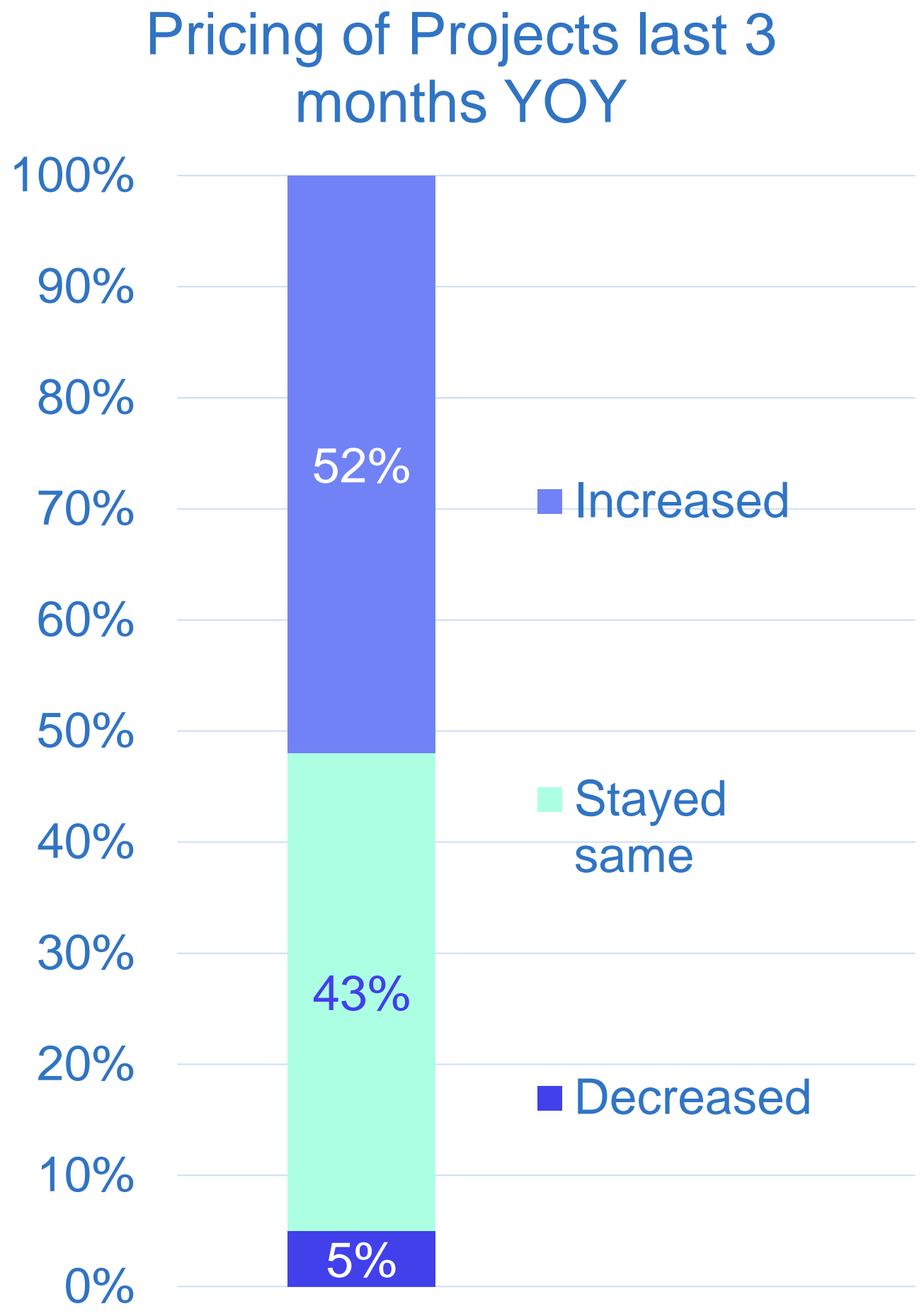
The YOY increase in the cost of raw materials was reported across all sectors and all company sizes.

(Base: All respondents = 242)

Q11. In the past 3 months has the cost of raw materials for your company increased, decreased or stayed the same compared with the same period in 2023?

Q12. In the next 3-month period (Oct - Dec 2024), do you expect the cost of raw materials to increase, decrease or stay the same compared with the last 3 months?

# Pricing of Projects Last 3 Months v Next 3 Months



52%

acknowledge an increase in the pricing of projects compared with the same period in 2023

34%

expect the prices charged to increase in Q4 2024

A YOY increase in the pricing of projects features across all sectors, but less so in Specialist Contracting. The increase in pricing appears likely to continue in Q4 but at a reduced rate.

(Base: All respondents = 242)

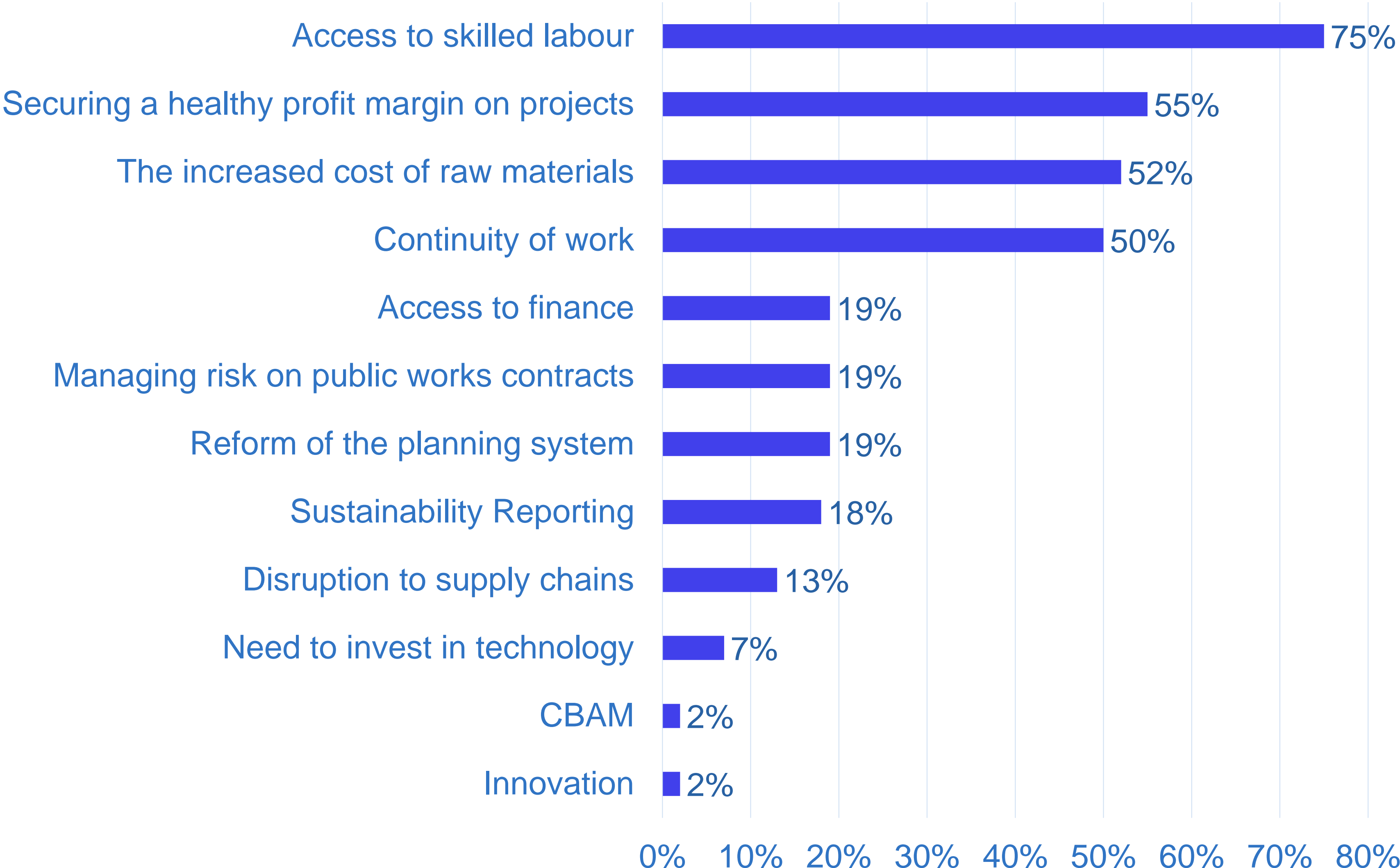
Q13. In the past 3 months has the price you charge for goods and services for the period increased, decreased or stayed the same compared with the same period in 2023?

Q14. In the next 3-month period (Oct - Dec 2024), do you expect the price you charge for goods and services for your company to increase, decrease or stay the same compared with the last 3 months?

# Key Challenges

The background features a series of overlapping, semi-transparent geometric shapes, primarily triangles and polygons, in various shades of blue and teal. The shapes are layered, creating a sense of depth and movement. The colors range from a light, airy teal to a deep, dark navy blue. The overall composition is modern and minimalist, with sharp lines and clean edges.

# Key Challenges

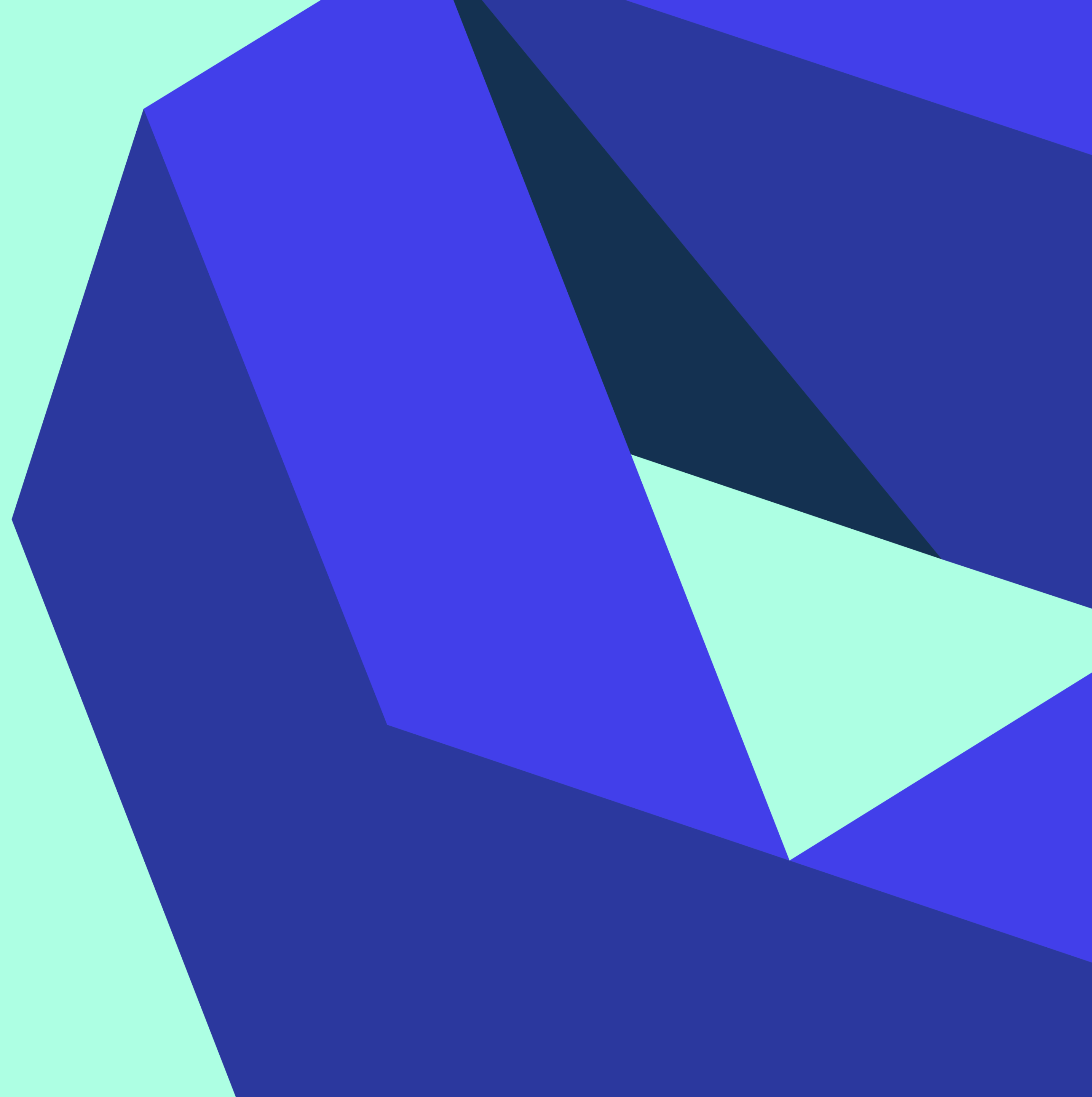


**Access to skilled labour, securing a healthy profit margin on projects and the increased cost of raw materials remain the 3 most significant challenges.**

**Almost 1 in 5 report sustainability reporting being a key challenge.**

Q15. What if any, are the key challenges facing your business over the next 3-6 months? (Base: All respondents = 242)

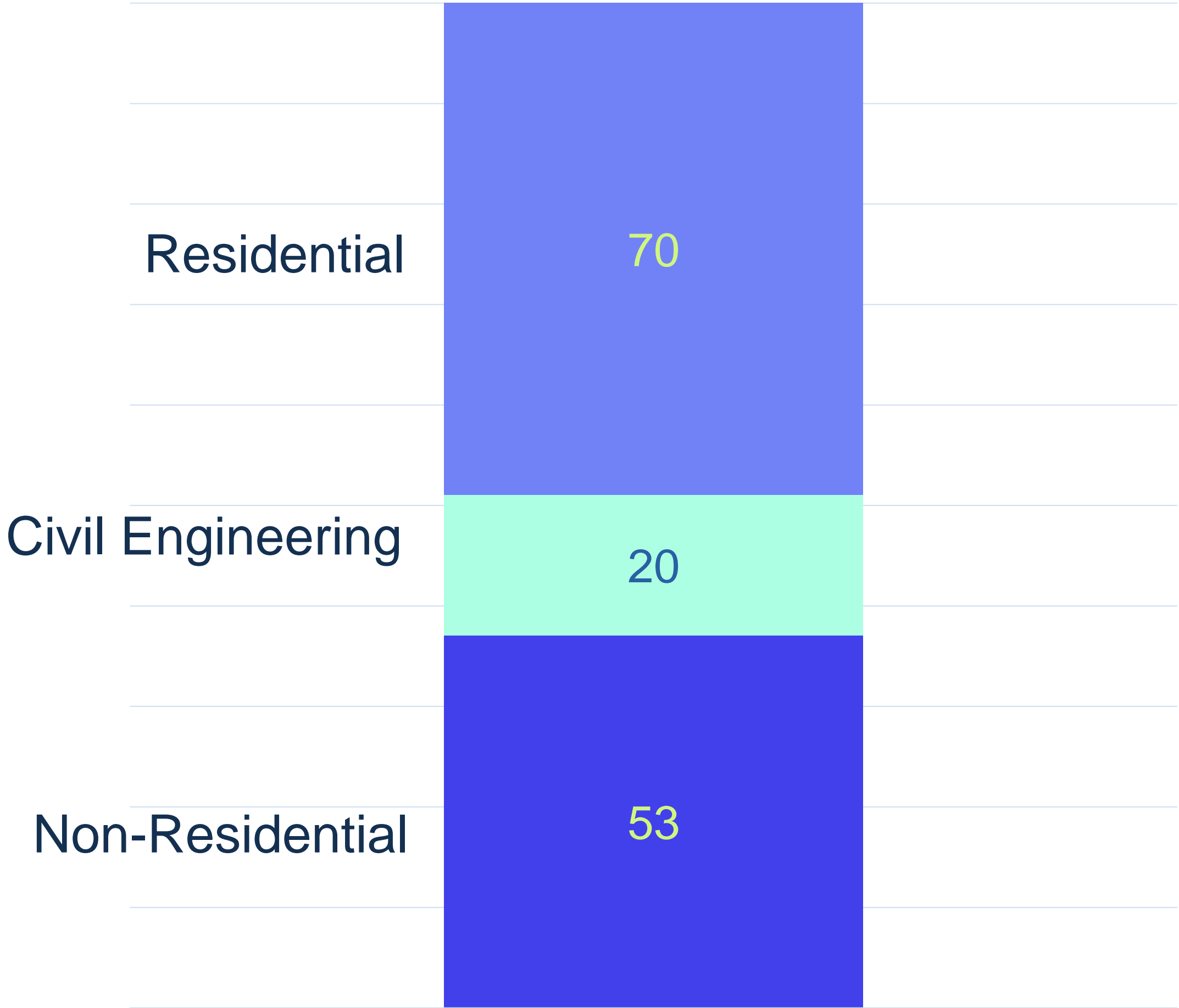
# Sectoral Activity





# Which sectors do companies currently work in? (Percentage)

## What sectors do construction companies export to?



There continues to be a notable overlap between companies working across the different sectors.

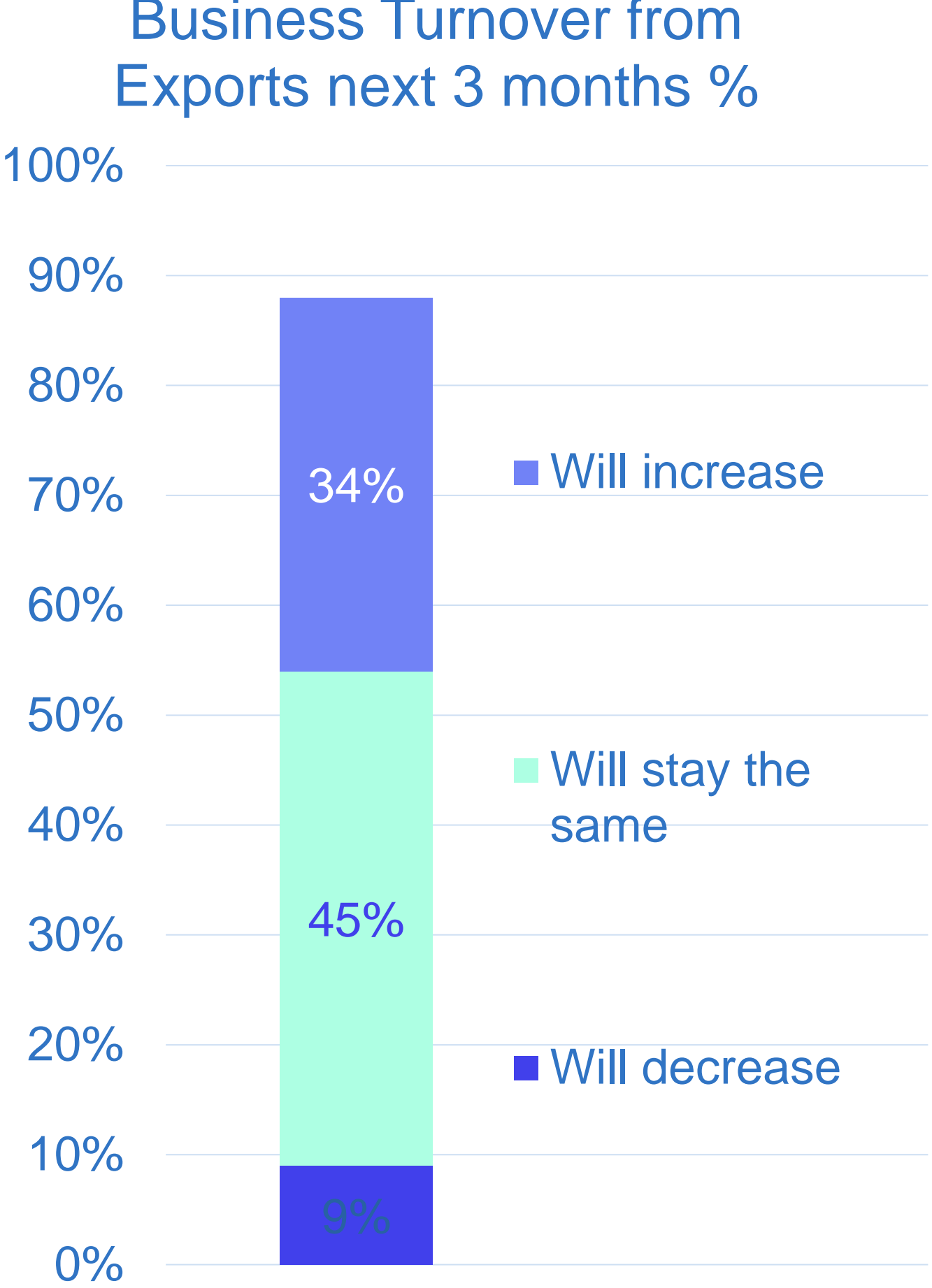
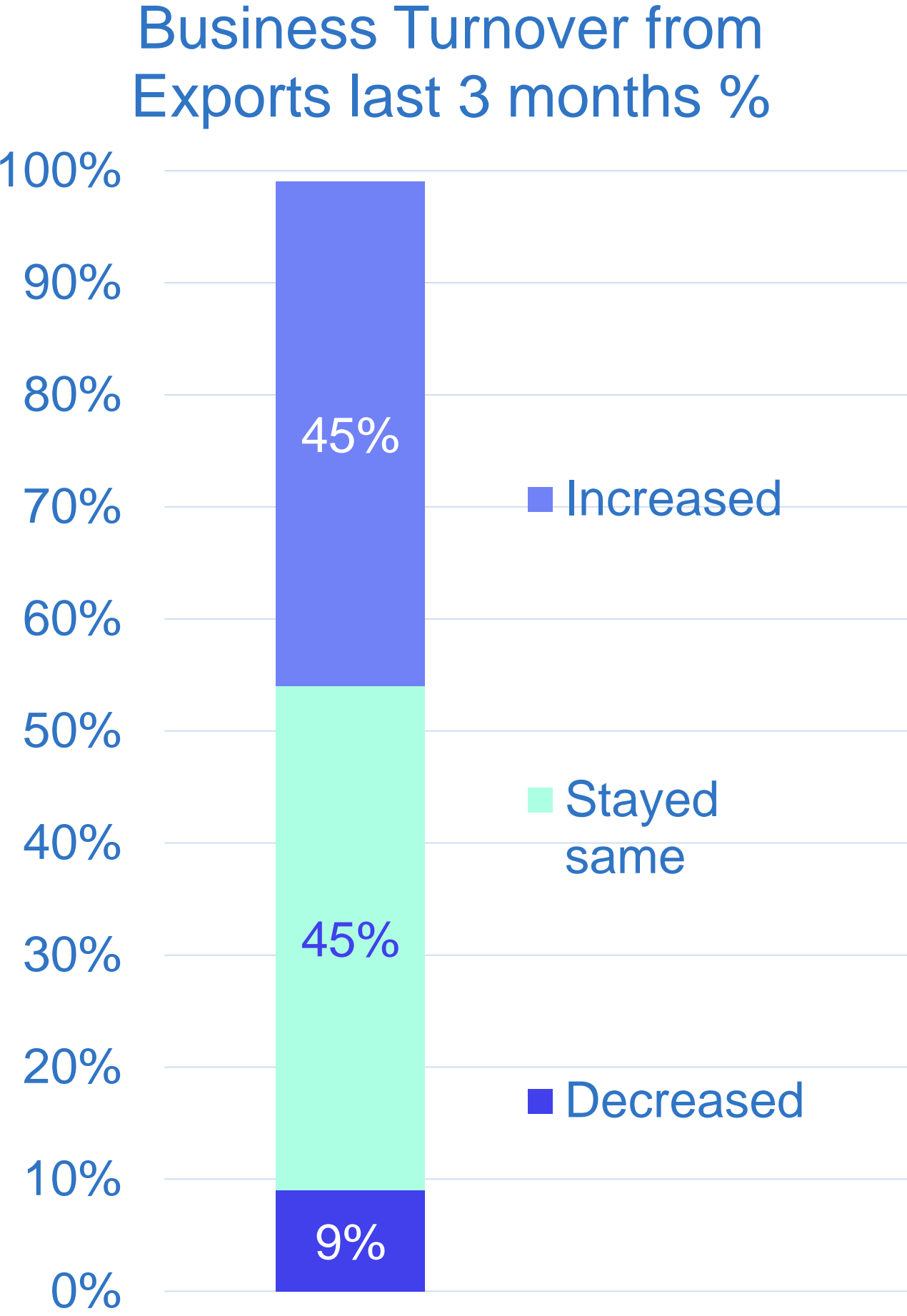
5% of companies surveyed are currently exporting services.

1 in 5 of companies with a turnover of €9m+ are exporting.

(Base: All respondents = 242)

Q16. Which of the following sectors does your company work in? Note: tick all that apply.  
Q17. Does your company export any of your construction services internationally?

# Total Business Turnover generated from Exports



**45%**

Report a YOY increase in business turnover from exports

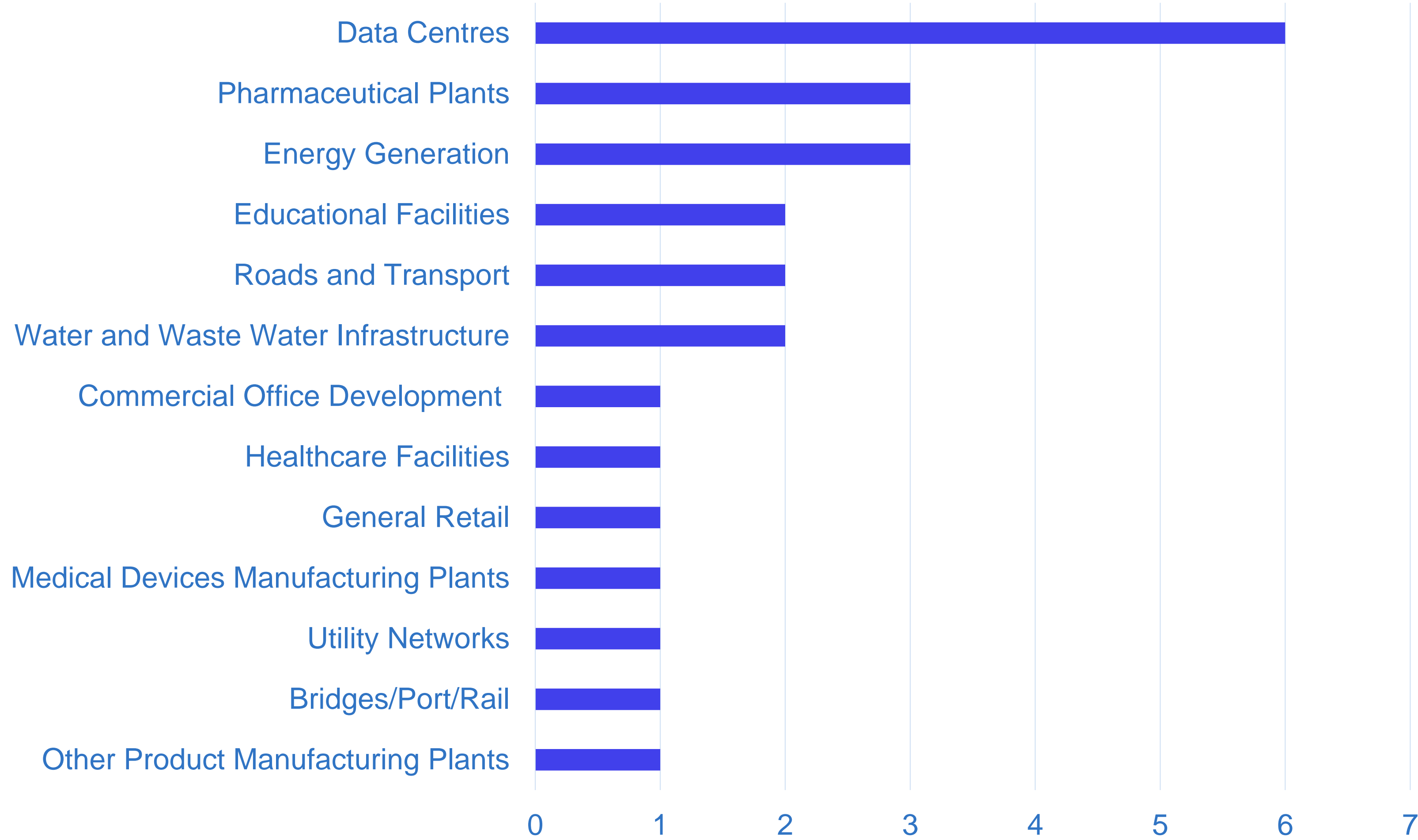
**45%**

Also expect this trend to continue in Q4

Q18. In the past 3 months has the total business turnover for your company generated from exports increased, decreased or stayed the same compared with the same period in 2023?

Q19. In the next 3-month period (Oct - Dec 2024), do you expect the total business turnover for your company generated from exports to increase, decrease or stay the same compared with the last 3 months?

# Types of Construction Projects delivered internationally last 12 Months (raw numbers)



**Data centres, pharma plants and energy generation were the most common projects delivered internationally in the last 12 months**

# Conclusions

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# Conclusions

32%

report increased turnover YOY for Q3 2024 with 35% expecting turnover to increase in Q4

22%

report an increase in the total number of people they employ in Q3, with 24% expecting the trend to continue over the next 3 months

66%

experienced a YOY increase in the cost of labour with 43% expecting the trend to continue in Q4

# Conclusions

The cost of raw materials continues to be an issue with

**62%**

reporting a YOY increase, while 50% anticipate raw material costs to continue to increase in Q4

Increasing costs continue to impact on the pricing of projects with

**52%**

acknowledging a YOY increase and 34% expecting continued increases in Q4



# Conclusions

Access to skilled labour (75%), securing a healthy profit margin on projects (55%) and the increased cost of raw materials (52%) remain the 3 most significant challenges facing the construction industry.

Almost 1 in 5 companies acknowledge sustainability reporting as a key challenge.

In terms of exports, only 5% of companies surveyed on this occasion exported construction services in the last 12 months but 11% of Civil Engineering/Infrastructure and 10% of Specialist Contracting companies report doing so.

Notably, 22% of larger companies (€9m+) exported construction services in the last 12 months. Data centres, pharma plants and energy generation were the most common projects delivered internationally in the last 12 months.

# Thank You

Get in Touch

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