

180402E

CONSTRUCTION EMPLOYMENT INCREASES IN 39 STATES AND D.C. FROM AUGUST 2018 TO AUGUST 2019, WHILE 29 STATES ADD CONSTRUCTION JOBS BETWEEN JULY AND AUGUST

September 20, 2019

Texas and North Dakota Have Biggest Number and Percent Annual Job Gains, While Louisiana and Vermont Lag; Florida and Nevada Experience Largest One-Month Gains as Tennessee and Wyoming Have Worst Declines

Thirty-nine states added construction jobs between August 2018 and August 2019, while construction employment increased in 29 states from July to August, according to an analysis by the Associated General Contractors of America of Labor Department data released today. Association officials said that construction workforce shortages identified in a survey the association released last month may have kept more states from adding construction jobs this past month.

* “Even more states probably would have posted gains in construction employment if firms could find enough people to hire,” said Ken Simonson, the association’s chief economist. “They are finding most craft positions hard to fill, even though average pay in construction pays is higher than the all-industry average in nearly every state.”

Texas added the most construction jobs over the year (43,900 jobs, 5.9 percent), followed by California (34,300 jobs, 4.0 percent), Florida (20,900 jobs, 3.8 percent), and Arizona (15,400 jobs, 9.7 percent). North Dakota added the highest percentage of construction jobs over 12 months (12.1 percent, 3,100 jobs), followed by Nevada (11.7 percent, 10,500 jobs), Arizona, and New Mexico (9.2 percent, 4,300 jobs). Construction employment reached a record high in Nebraska and Texas.

Ten states shed construction jobs over the latest 12 months, while employment was flat in Mississippi. Louisiana lost the largest number and percentage of construction jobs (-10,100 jobs, -6.6 percent). Other states with large job losses include Ohio (-3,600 jobs, -1.6 percent), Maryland (-1,600 jobs, -1 percent), Vermont (-1,000 jobs, -6.6 percent) and Connecticut (-1,000 jobs, -1.7 percent). Other states with a substantial percentage decline include Vermont, Montana (-2.1 percent, -600 jobs), Connecticut, and Ohio.

Florida added the most construction jobs between July and August (4,100 jobs, 0.7 percent), followed by New York (3,000 jobs, 0.7 percent), Nevada (2,400 jobs, 2.5 percent), Missouri (2,300 jobs, 1.9 percent), and Texas

(2,200 jobs, 0.3 percent). Nevada added the highest percentage of construction jobs for the month, followed by Missouri, South Carolina (1.8 percent, 1,800 jobs), New Hampshire (1.8 percent, 500 jobs), and Nebraska (1.7 percent, 900 jobs).

Construction employment decreased from July to August in 21 states and was flat in D.C. Tennessee lost the largest number of construction jobs for the month (-1,900 jobs, -1.5 percent), followed by California (-1,700 jobs, -0.2 percent), Oklahoma (-1,100 jobs, -1.3 percent), Mississippi (-900 jobs, -2 percent) and Michigan (-800 jobs, -0.5 percent). Wyoming had the largest percentage decline for the month (-3.1 percent, -700 jobs), followed by Mississippi, West Virginia (-1.7 percent, -800 jobs), Vermont (-1.4 percent, -200 jobs), and Oklahoma.

Association officials said contractors across the nation are taking steps to alleviate labor shortages, including hiking pay, expanding training programs and becoming more efficient. But they cautioned that many firms report labor shortages are affecting construction schedules and costs. They urged Congress to pass measures to boost career and technical education and provide a lawful way for more immigrants with construction skills to enter the country.

* “Few other jobs can match construction wages without requiring a costly college education,” said Stephen E. Sandherr, the association’s chief executive officer. “Construction firms are taking steps to cope with workforce shortages, but federal officials could help by increasing investments in career and technical education, passing the Jobs Act and enabling more people with construction experience to legally enter the U.S.”

View the state employment data by rank and state. View the state employment map.

Contractor Type: Utility Infrastructure Federal/Heavy Highway Building

Industry Priorities: Economics Workforce Development

State Construction Employment (seasonally adjusted), August 2018 to August 2019

	August	June	July	August	1-month gain or loss			12-month gain or loss		
	2018	2019	2019	2019	Number	%	% rank**	Number	%	% rank**
Alabama	90,200	95,000	94,600	93,900	-700	-0.7%	42	3,700	4.1%	18
Alaska	15,600	17,000	16,700	16,800	100	0.6%	14	1,200	7.7%	6
Arizona	159,500	175,300	175,200	174,900	-300	-0.2%	32	15,400	9.7%	3
Arkansas	50,400	53,200	53,000	52,800	-200	-0.4%	37	2,400	4.8%	14
California	866,200	901,500	902,200	900,500	-1,700	-0.2%	32	34,300	4.0%	20
Colorado	174,100	174,800	174,200	174,400	200	0.1%	26	300	0.2%	38
Connecticut	58,600	57,300	57,100	57,600	500	0.9%	11	-1,000	-1.7%	48
Delaware*	22,200	23,200	23,000	22,900	-100	-0.4%	37	700	3.2%	25
District of Columbia*	15,300	15,700	15,700	15,700	0	0.0%	28	400	2.6%	30
* Florida	546,800	565,200	563,600	567,700	4,100	0.7%	12	20,900	3.8%	21
Georgia	197,000	208,000	208,100	208,200	100	0.0%	28	11,200	5.7%	11
Hawaii*	36,100	36,800	36,900	37,000	100	0.3%	18	900	2.5%	31
Idaho	49,800	50,200	50,000	49,400	-600	-1.2%	45	-400	-0.8%	45
Illinois	226,000	226,900	226,800	226,400	-400	-0.2%	32	400	0.2%	38
Indiana	140,700	148,700	148,400	148,800	400	0.3%	18	8,100	5.8%	9
Iowa	77,900	78,500	79,200	80,200	1,000	1.3%	6	2,300	3.0%	27
Kansas	61,600	62,200	62,800	63,100	300	0.5%	17	1,500	2.4%	32
Kentucky	78,300	79,900	79,300	78,800	-500	-0.6%	41	500	0.6%	36
Louisiana	152,100	140,800	141,200	142,000	800	0.6%	14	-10,100	-6.6%	50
Maine	29,100	29,300	29,700	30,000	300	1.0%	9	900	3.1%	26
Maryland	163,300	161,000	161,300	161,700	400	0.2%	23	-1,600	-1.0%	46
Massachusetts	157,300	155,500	154,400	156,400	2,000	1.3%	6	-900	-0.6%	44
Michigan	171,000	172,800	172,200	171,400	-800	-0.5%	39	400	0.2%	38
Minnesota	123,400	129,500	130,500	130,600	100	0.1%	26	7,200	5.8%	9
Mississippi	43,700	44,100	44,600	43,700	-900	-2.0%	50	0	0.0%	41
Missouri	122,600	123,400	122,700	125,000	2,300	1.9%	2	2,400	2.0%	35
Montana	29,100	28,700	28,800	28,500	-300	-1.0%	43	-600	-2.1%	49
Nebraska	52,600	53,500	53,900	54,800	900	1.7%	5	2,200	4.2%	16
Nevada	89,700	97,100	97,800	100,200	2,400	2.5%	1	10,500	11.7%	2
New Hampshire	27,000	28,000	28,000	28,500	500	1.8%	3	1,500	5.6%	12
New Jersey	156,200	164,900	165,400	165,000	-400	-0.2%	32	8,800	5.6%	12
New Mexico	46,800	50,300	50,600	51,100	500	1.0%	9	4,300	9.2%	4
New York	398,300	405,900	405,900	408,900	3,000	0.7%	12	10,600	2.7%	29
North Carolina	221,300	220,800	220,600	221,200	600	0.3%	18	-100	-0.1%	42
North Dakota	25,600	28,500	28,600	28,700	100	0.3%	18	3,100	12.1%	1
Ohio	220,300	219,100	216,900	216,700	-200	-0.1%	31	-3,600	-1.6%	47
Oklahoma	80,400	85,200	85,100	84,000	-1,100	-1.3%	46	3,600	4.5%	15
Oregon	105,600	110,200	109,800	110,000	200	0.2%	23	4,400	4.2%	16
Pennsylvania	255,100	261,800	261,900	262,400	500	0.2%	23	7,300	2.9%	28
Rhode Island	19,100	19,900	20,000	19,800	-200	-1.0%	43	700	3.7%	22
South Carolina	101,400	101,600	99,900	101,700	1,800	1.8%	3	300	0.3%	37
South Dakota	23,000	23,700	23,500	23,800	300	1.3%	6	800	3.5%	24
Tennessee	125,300	128,400	127,000	125,100	-1,900	-1.5%	48	-200	-0.2%	43
Texas	743,500	780,200	785,200	787,400	2,200	0.3%	18	43,900	5.9%	8
Utah	104,600	106,600	109,400	108,900	-500	-0.5%	39	4,300	4.1%	18
Vermont	15,100	14,600	14,300	14,100	-200	-1.4%	47	-1,000	-6.6%	50
Virginia	198,100	200,200	202,400	202,500	100	0.0%	28	4,400	2.2%	34
Washington	214,500	221,900	223,000	222,300	-700	-0.3%	36	7,800	3.6%	23
West Virginia	43,800	48,600	47,800	47,000	-800	-1.7%	49	3,200	7.3%	7
Wisconsin	122,900	124,700	125,100	125,800	700	0.6%	14	2,900	2.4%	32
Wyoming	20,000	22,200	22,400	21,700	-700	-3.1%	51	1,700	8.5%	5

*BLS posts only combined construction, mining and logging data for these locations. **Rank is based on 50 states plus D.C.

Eighty Percent of Contractors Report Difficulty Finding Qualified Craft Workers to Hire

August 27, 2019

Percentage of firms having trouble finding craft workers



How firms expect craft labor market to change over next 12 months

National Midwest Northeast South West

Eighty percent of construction firms report they are having a hard time filling hourly craft positions that represent the bulk of the construction workforce, according to the results of an industry-wide survey released today by Autodesk and the Associated General Contractors of America. Association officials said the industry was taking a range of steps to address the situation but called on federal officials to take steps to assist those industry efforts.

“Workforce shortages remain one of the single most significant threats to the construction industry,” said Stephen E. Sandherr, AGC’s chief executive officer. “However, construction labor shortages are a challenge that can be fixed, and this association will continue to do everything in its power to make sure that happens.”

Download the recording of the call [here](#).

Materials:

- News release
- National survey results
- 2019 National Worker Shortage Survey Analysis
- AGC Workforce Development Plan 2.0

Regional Results:

- Midwest
- Northeast
- South
- West

State Results:

- Alabama
- Arizona
- California
- Colorado
- Georgia
- Idaho
- Illinois
- Iowa
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Missouri
- Nebraska
- New York
- North Carolina

- Ohio
- Oregon
- South Dakota
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Virginia
- Washington

Results by Union & Open:

- Union
- Open-Shop

Results by Firm Size:

- \$50 million or less
- \$50.1 million - \$500 million
- Over \$500 million

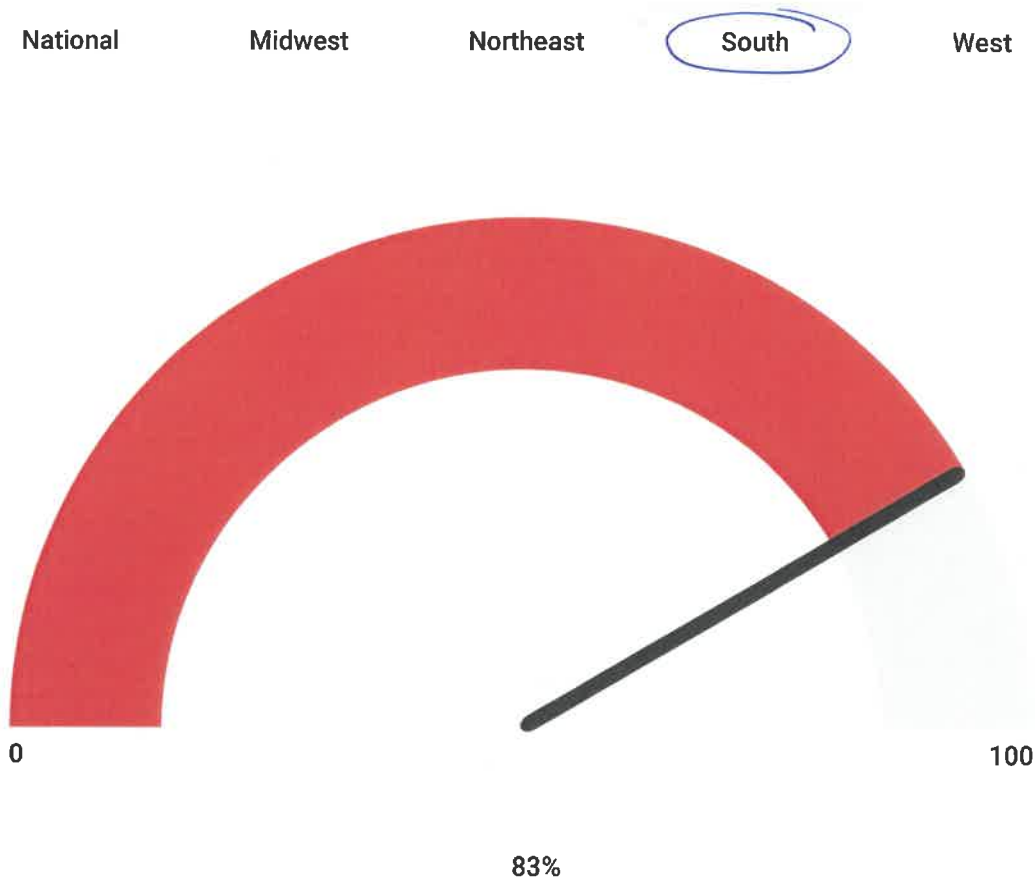
Contractor Type: Utility Infrastructure Federal/Heavy Highway Building

Industry Priorities: Labor & HR

Eighty Percent of Contractors Report Difficulty Finding Qualified Craft Workers to Hire

August 27, 2019

Percentage of firms having trouble finding craft workers



How firms expect craft labor market to change over next 12 months

National Midwest Northeast South West



AGC
THE CONSTRUCTION
ASSOCIATION

&

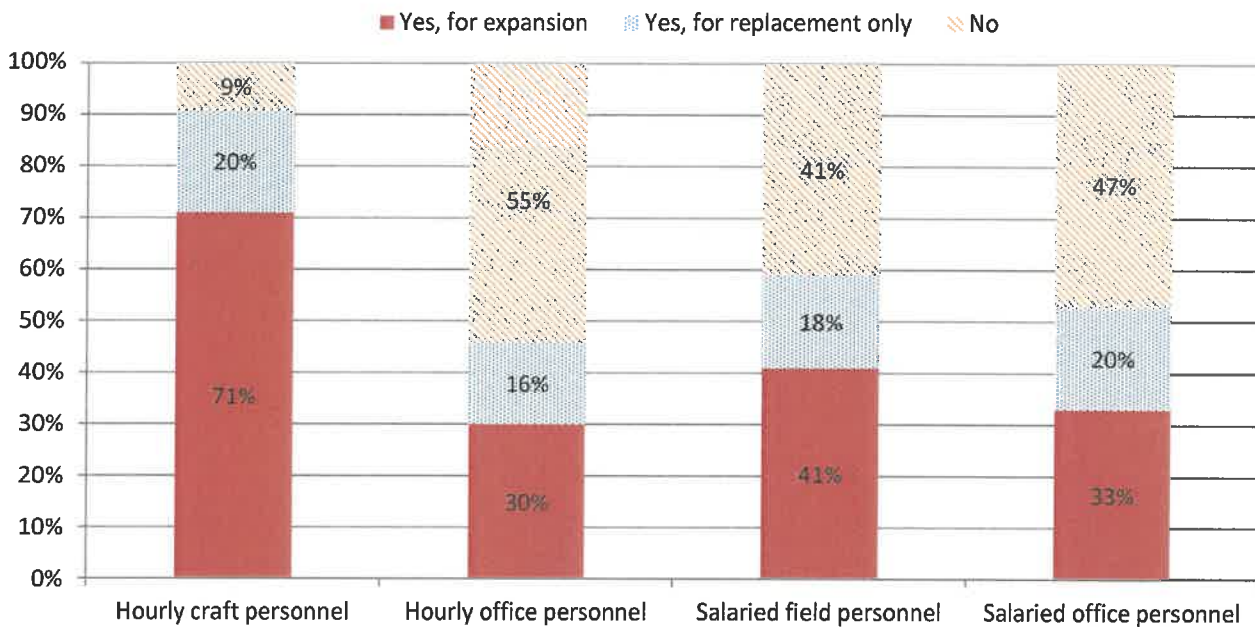
AUTODESK.
Make anything.

2019 Workforce Survey Results

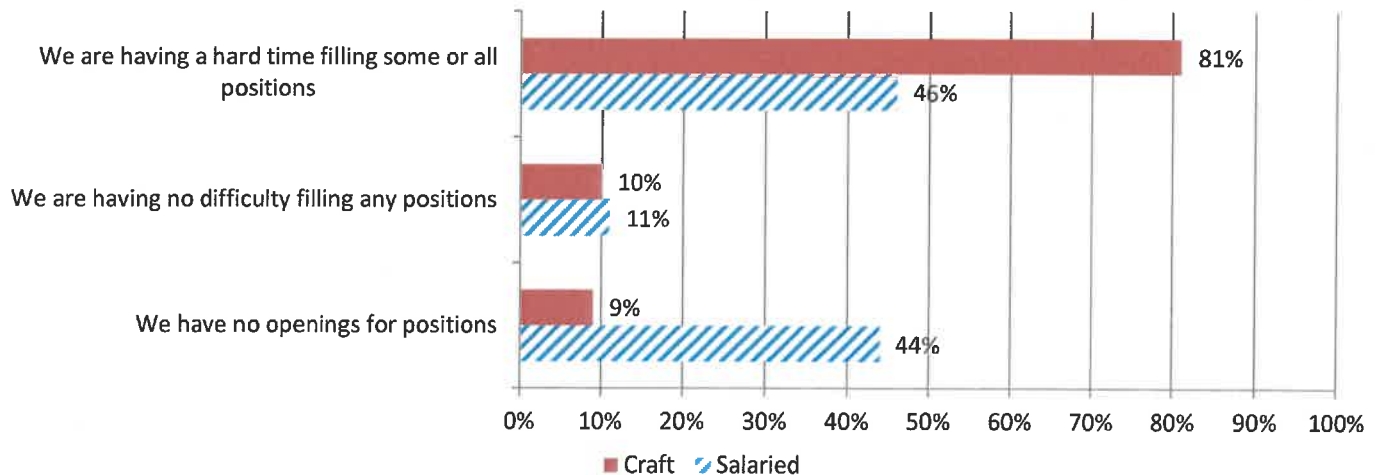
Firms Performing \$50 Million or Less in Work Results

Total responses: 964, but number varies by question. Percentages are based on responses other than "Don't know" for each question.

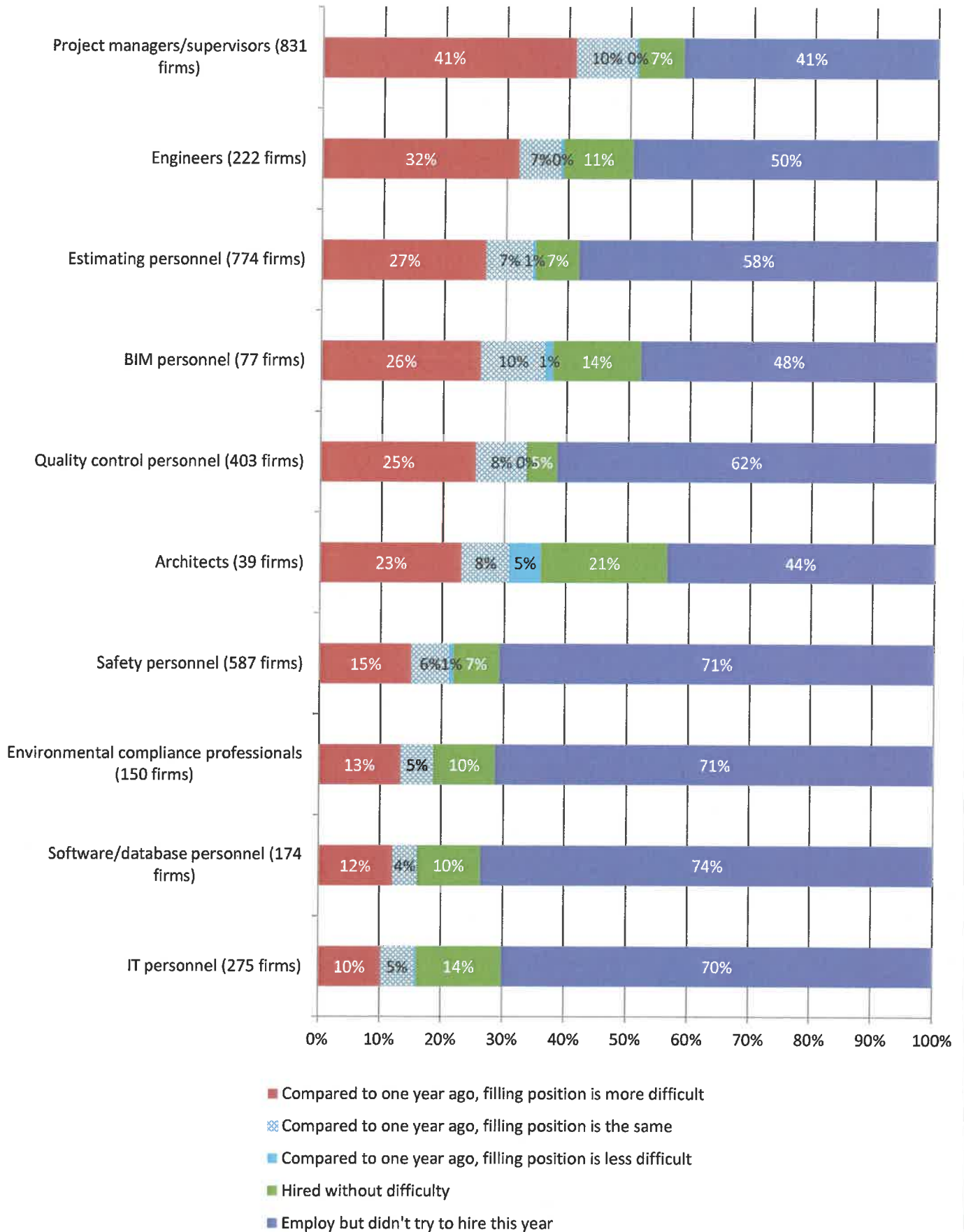
1. In the next 12 months, do you expect your firm will hire additional or replacement:



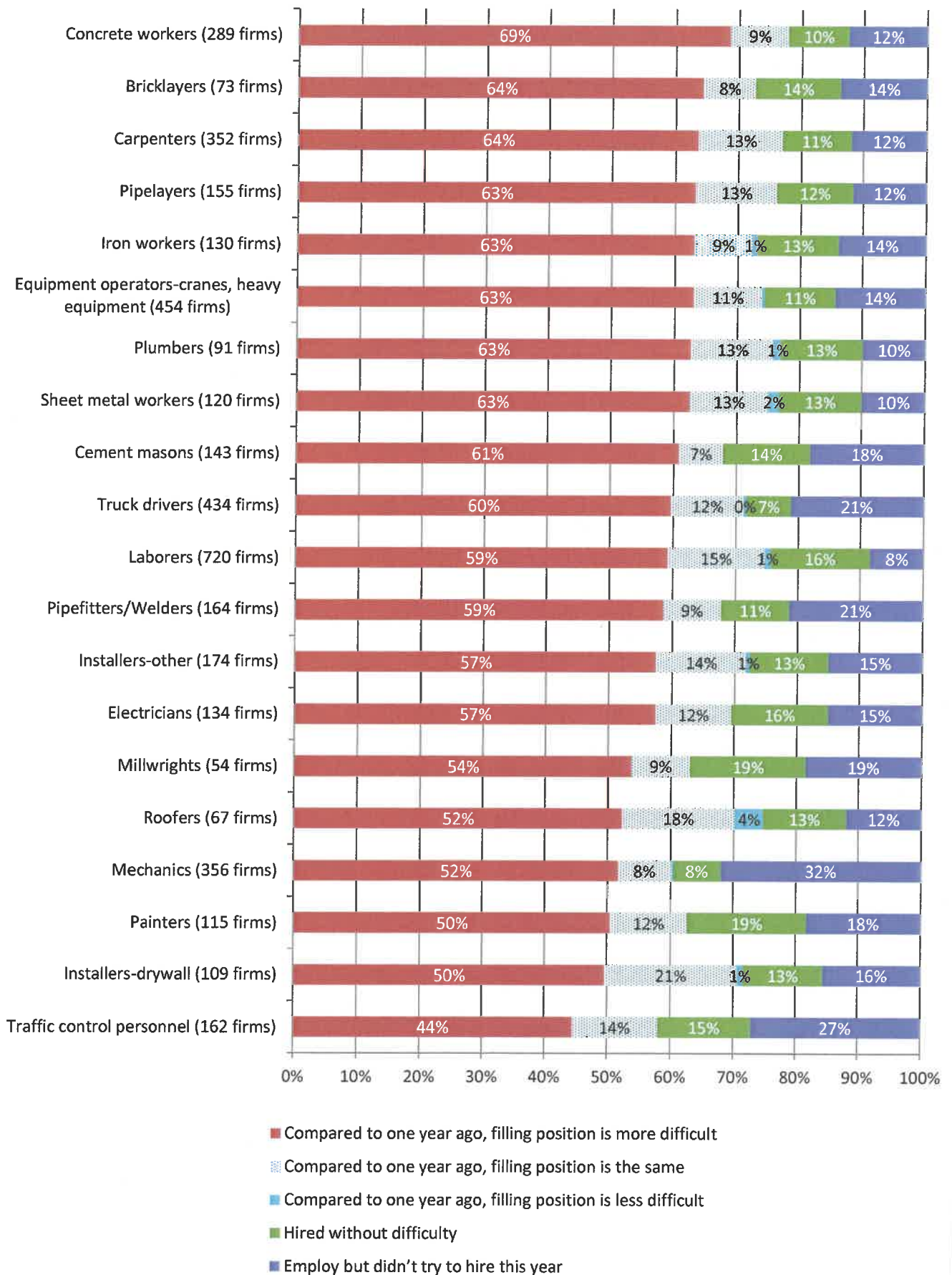
2. How would you describe your current situation in filling salaried and hourly craft positions?



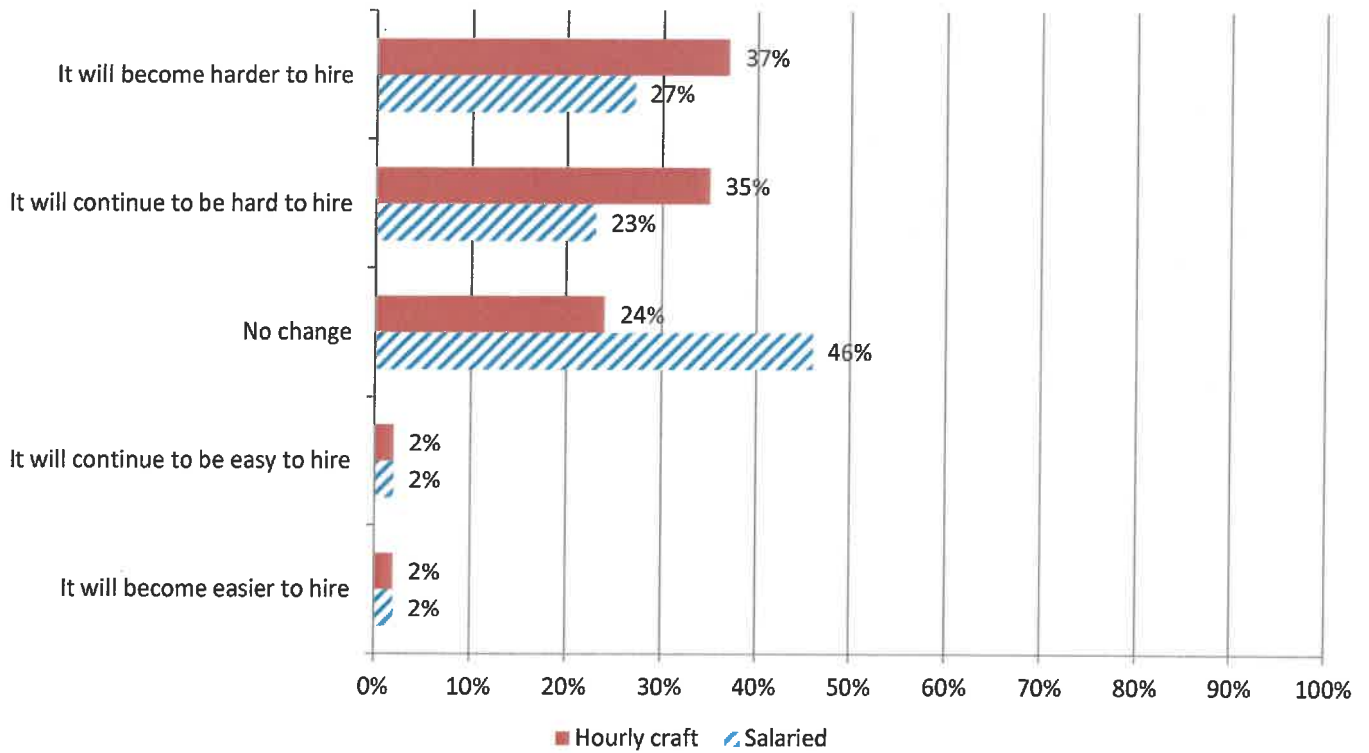
3. What has been your firm's experience this year in filling the following types of salaried positions?



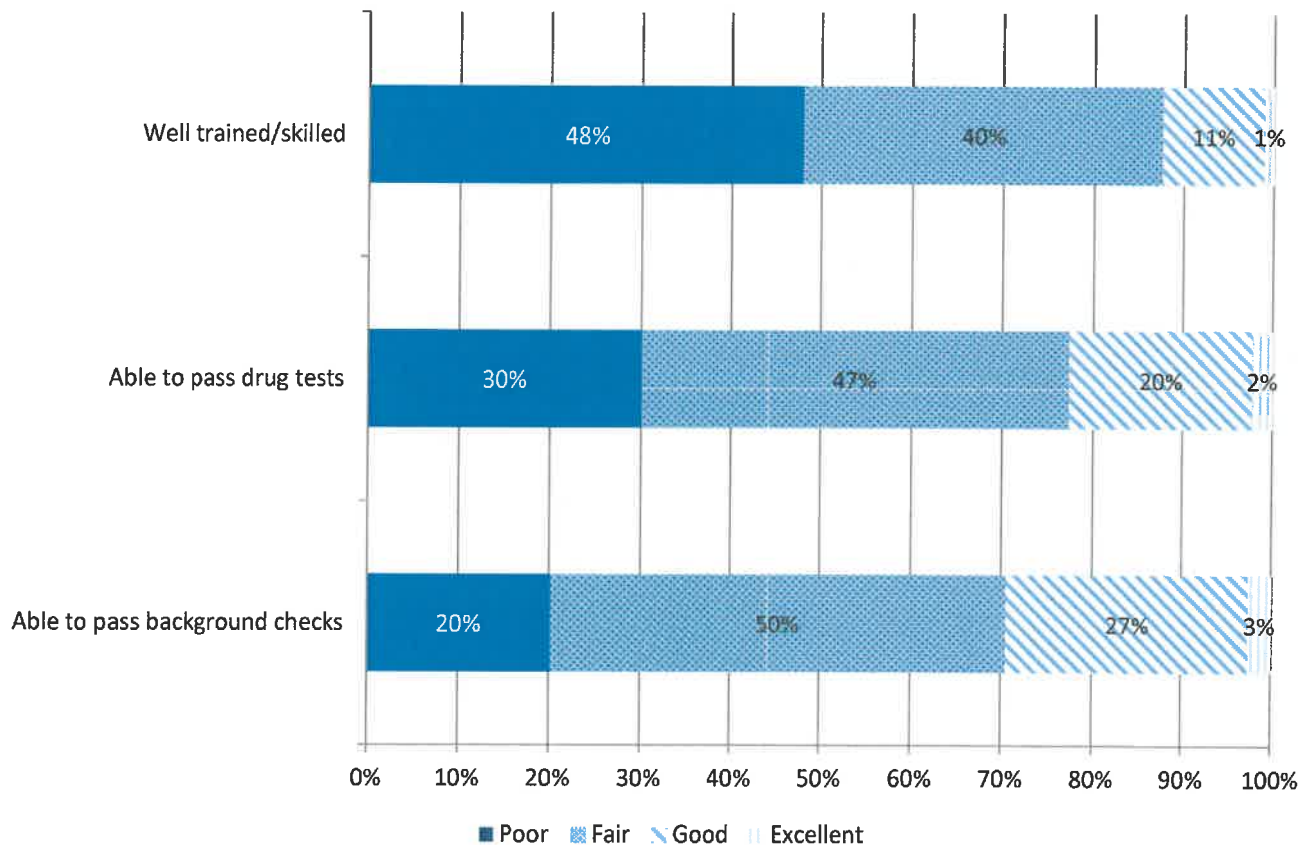
4. What has been your firm's experience this year in filling the following types of hourly craft positions?



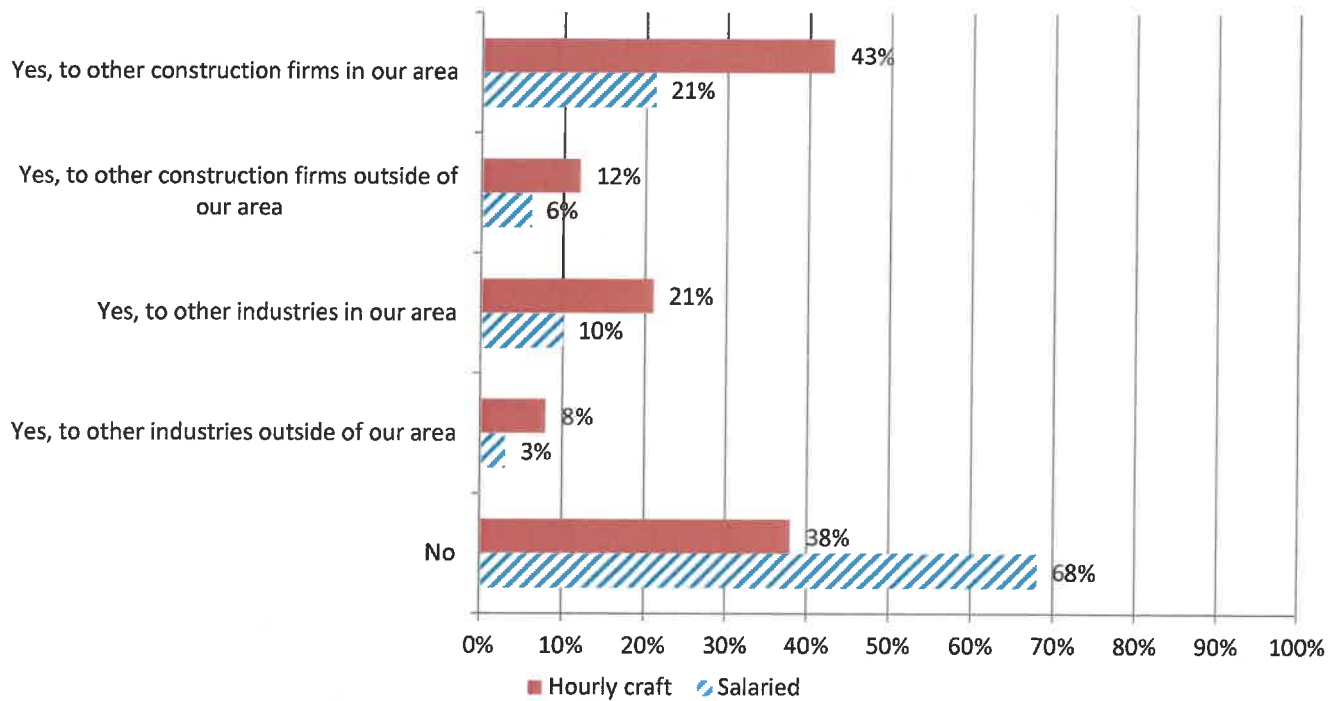
5. Do you expect any changes in the availability of hourly craft or salaried personnel over the coming 12 months?



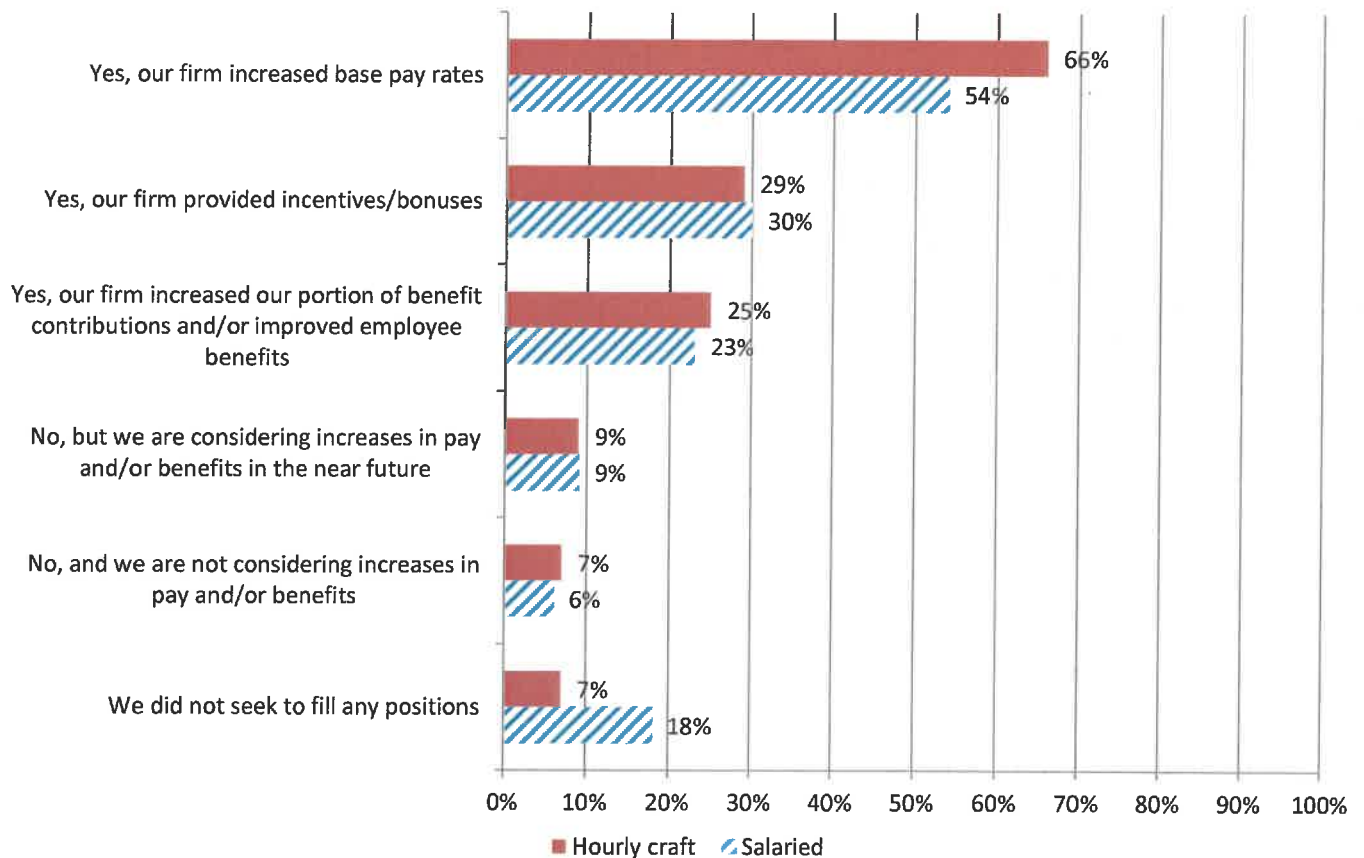
6. How would you rate the adequacy of the local pipeline for supplying craft personnel who are:



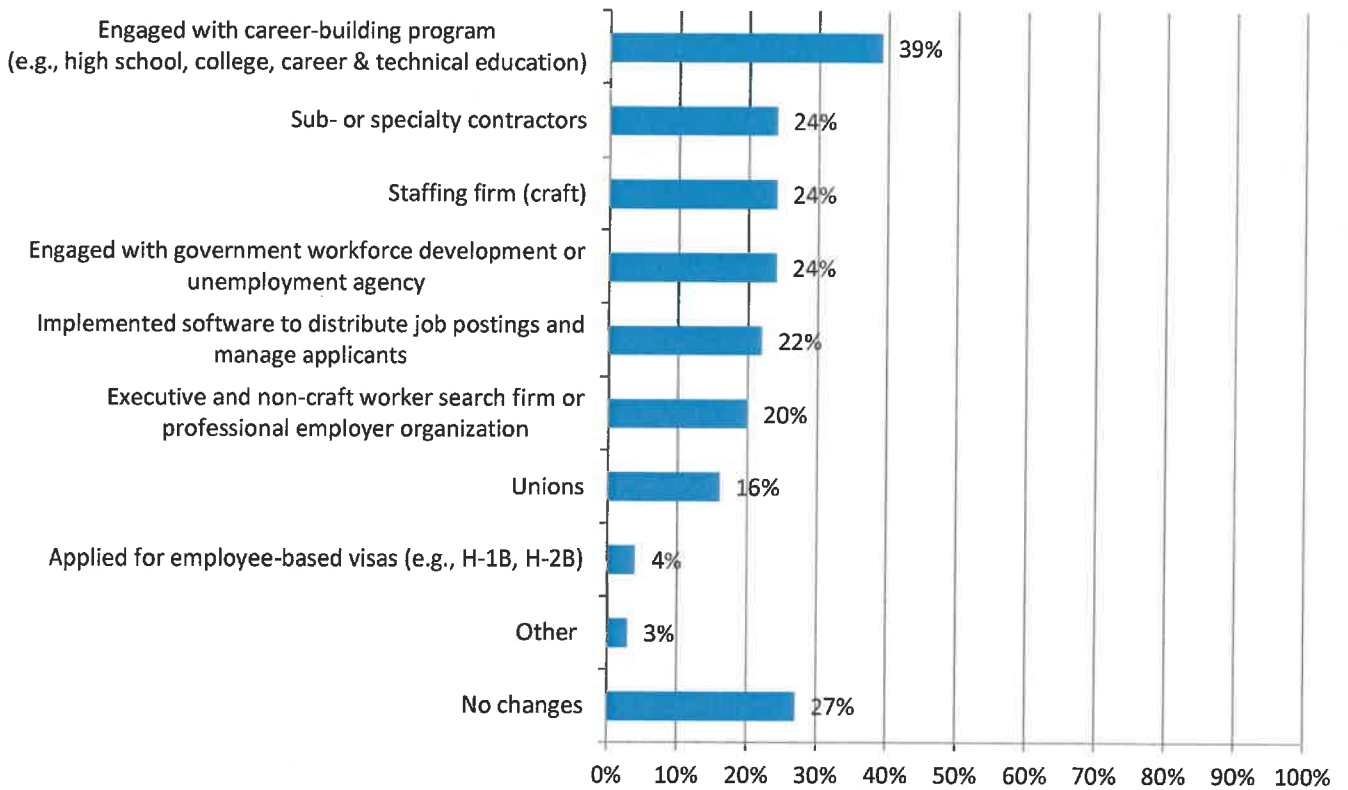
7. Is your firm losing hourly craft or salaried personnel to other employers? (Totals may add to more than 100%, as respondents could mark more than one answer.)



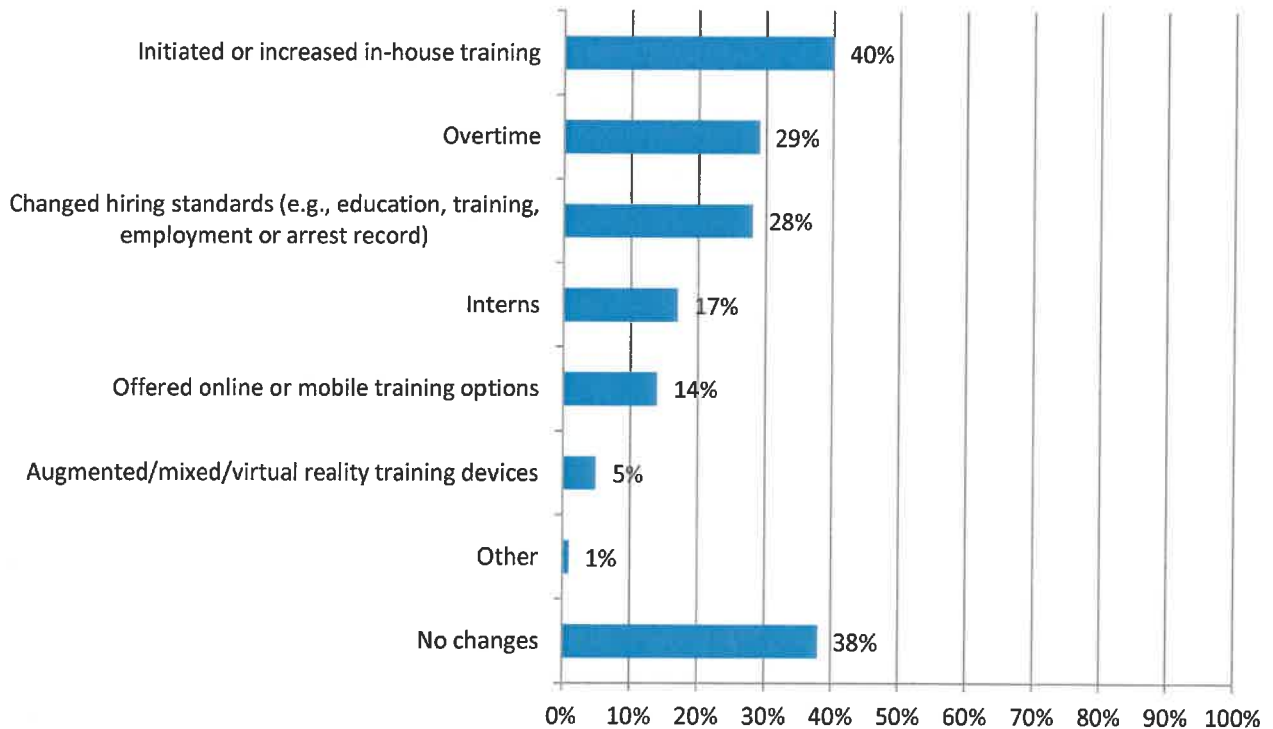
8. Has your firm increased pay and/or benefits for hourly craft or salaried personnel in the last year because of difficulty in filling positions? (Totals may add to more than 100%, as respondents could mark more than one answer.)



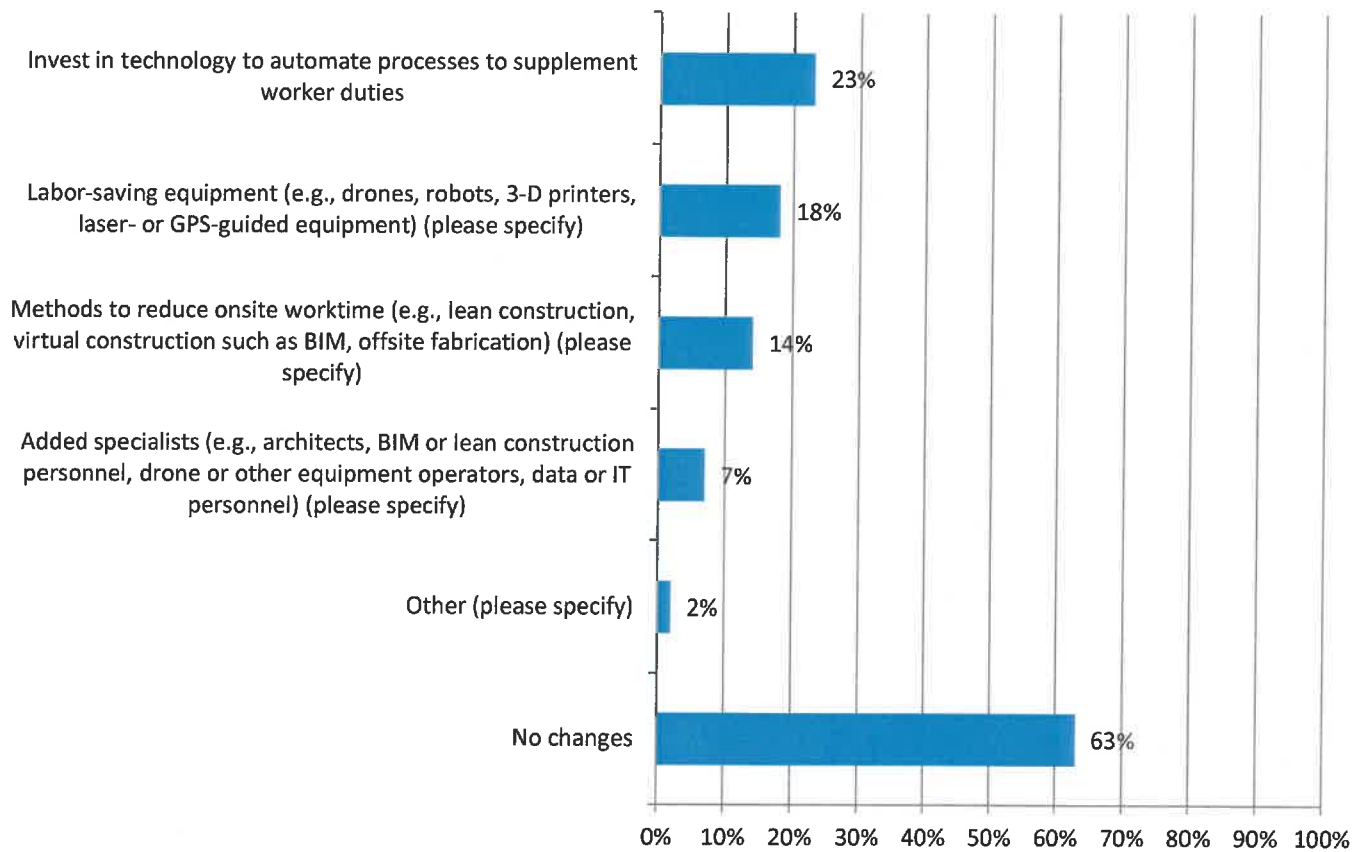
9. Has your firm added or increased use of the following to provide workers in the past year? (Totals may add to more than 100%, as respondents could mark more than one answer.)



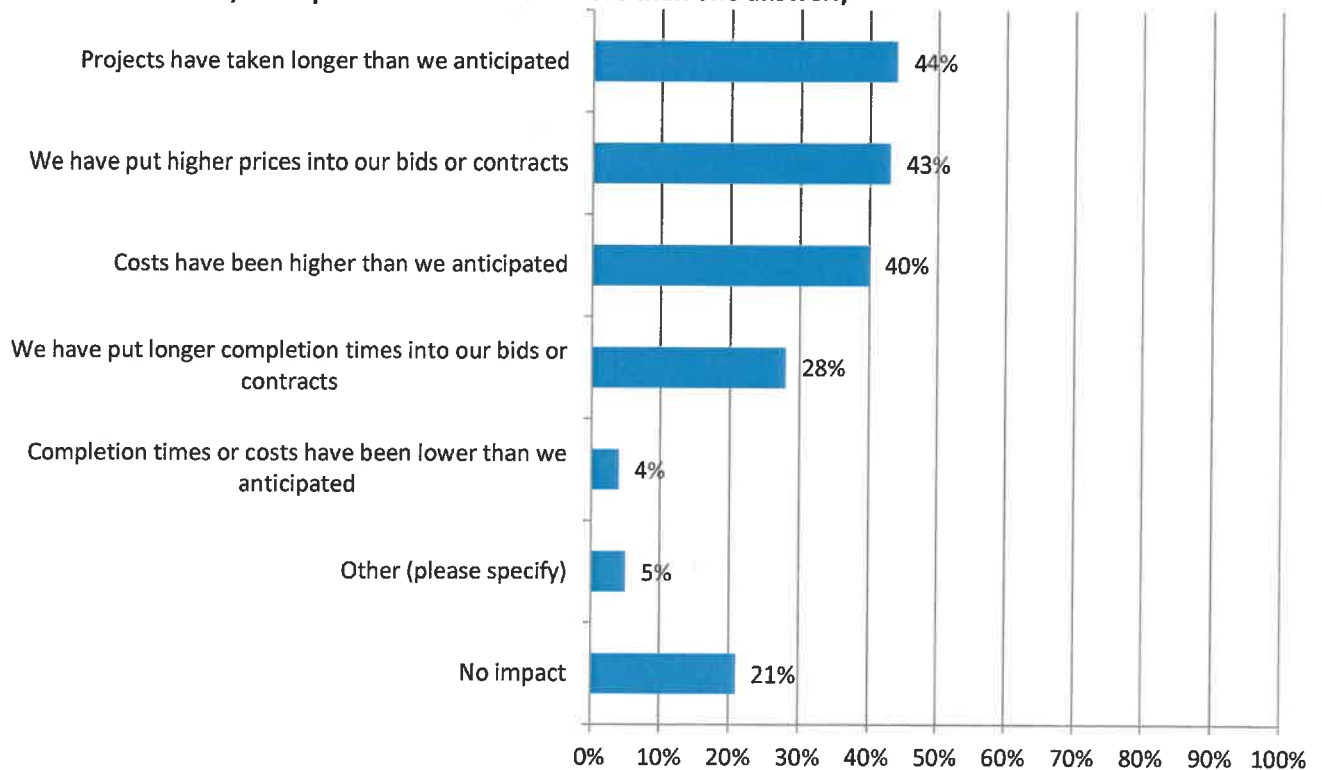
10. Has your firm made changes in hiring, training or scheduling to address worker or skill shortages in the past year? (Totals may add to more than 100%, as respondents could mark more than one answer.)



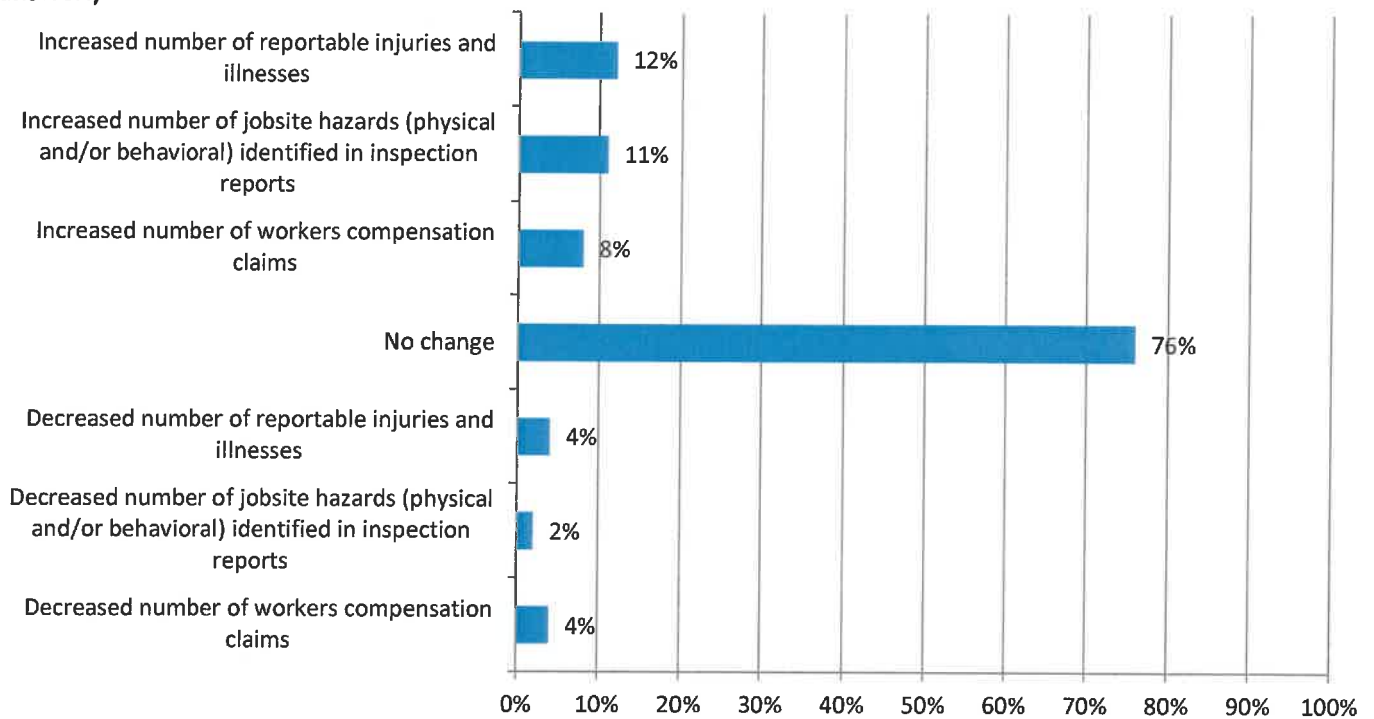
11. Has your firm adopted or increased use of the following to replace workers or skills? (Totals may add to more than 100%, as respondents could mark more than one answer.)



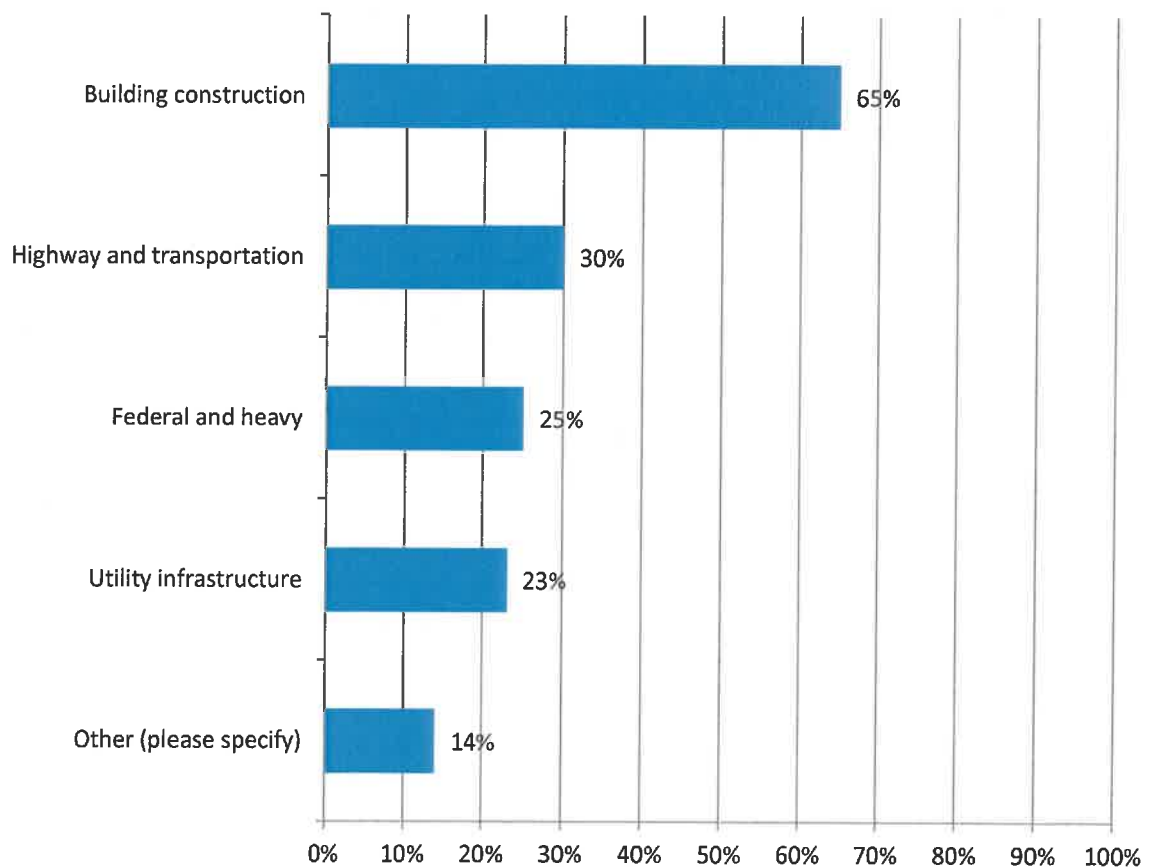
12. If your firm is experiencing staffing challenges, how would you describe the impact on your projects? (Totals may add to more than 100%, as respondents could mark more than one answer.)



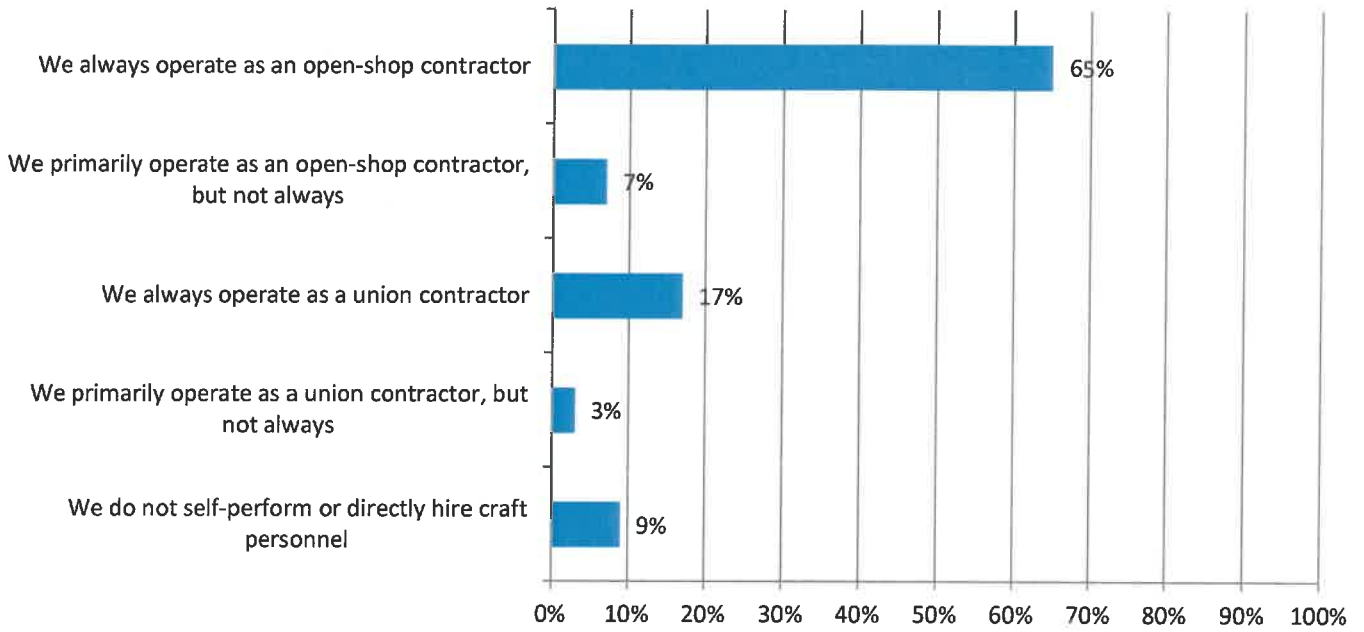
13. If your firm is experiencing staffing challenges, how would you describe the impact on your company's safety and health program or performance? (Totals may add to more than 100%, as respondents could mark more than one answer.)



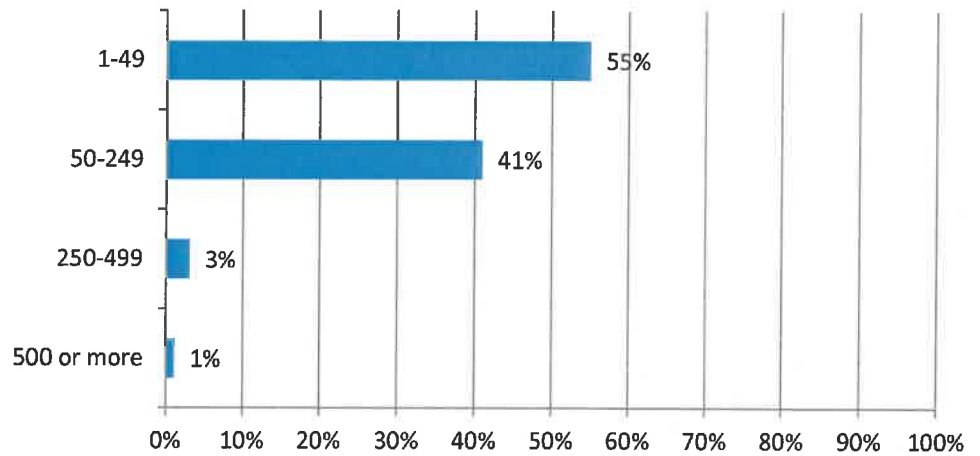
14. Please indicate which of the following types of construction projects your firm performs: (Totals may add to more than 100%, as respondents could mark more than one answer.)



15. When you self-perform construction work, do you operate as a union contractor or an open-shop contractor?



16. How many total employees does your firm employ at all of its locations?



17. Estimate the total dollar amount of work your firm performed during the past 12 months.

