



the gandalf group

C-Suite Survey On Federal Budget and Productivity

May, 2006

Sponsored By:

Published and Broadcast by:

THE GLOBE AND MAIL
CANADA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER • FOUNDED 1844
**REPORT
ON BUSINESS
REPORT ON
BUSINESS**
TELEVISION



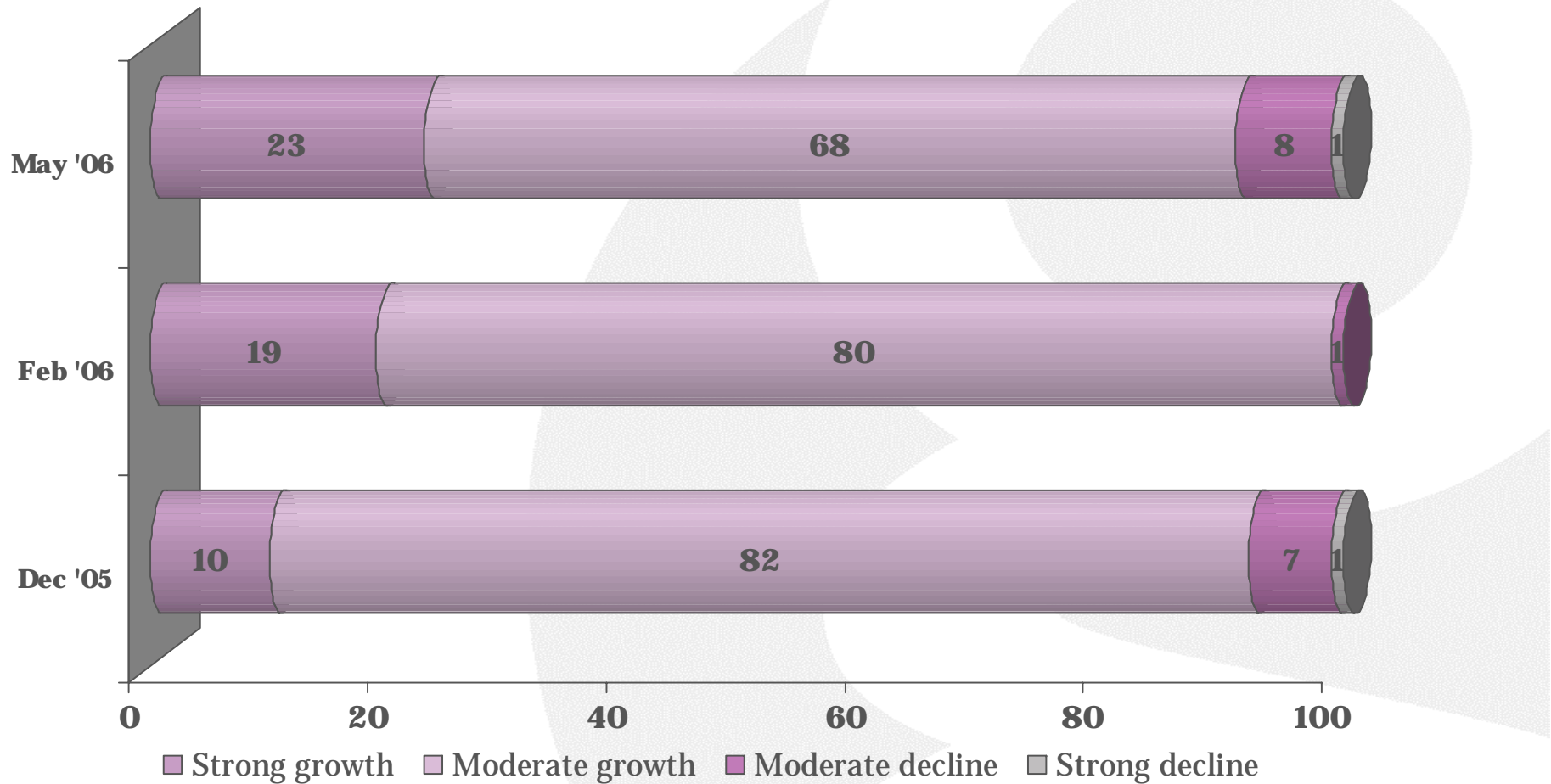
DAVIES
WARD
PHILLIPS &
VINEBERG LLP





Expectations: Canadian Economy

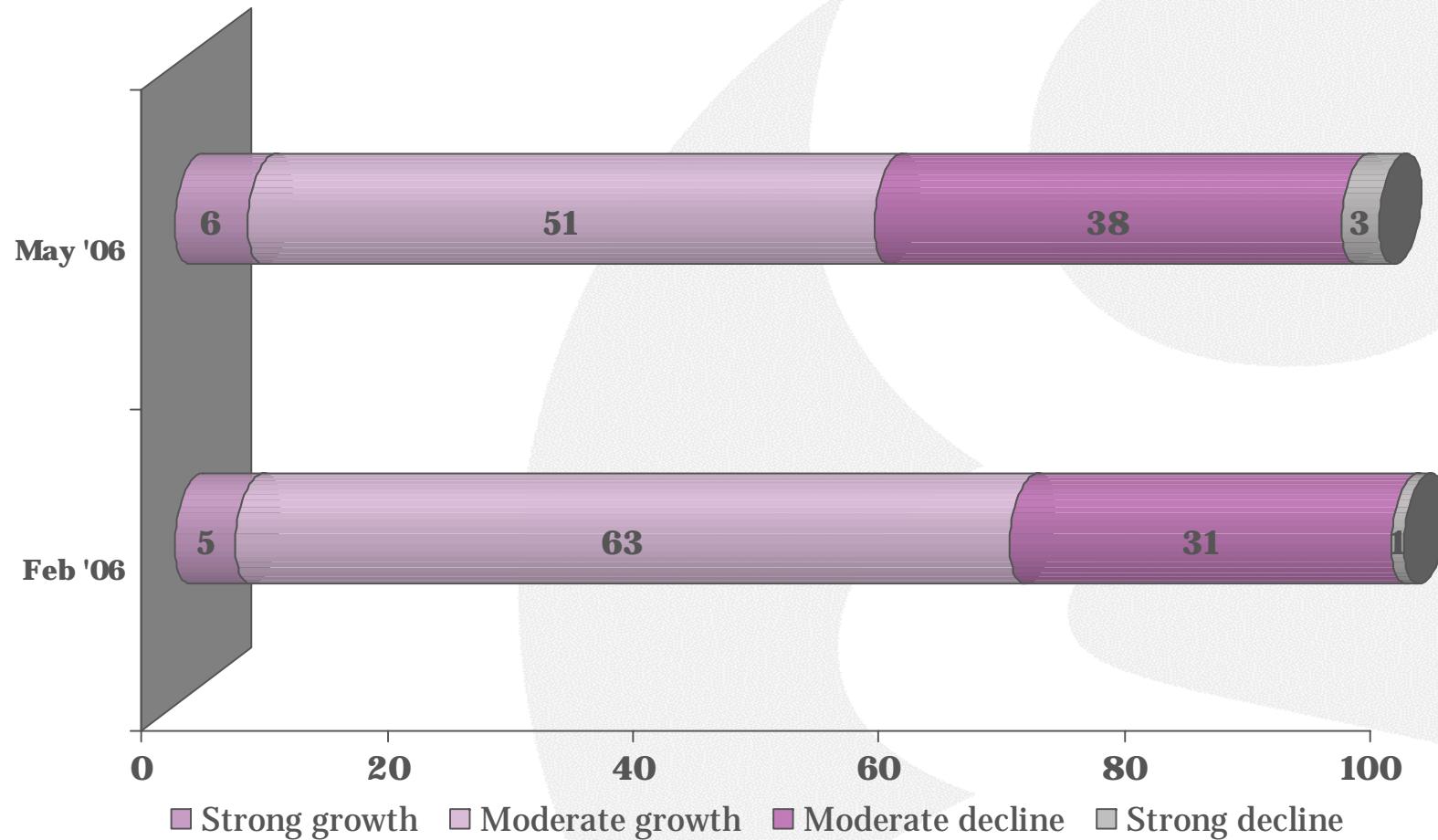
What are your expectations for the Canadian economy over the next 12 months, strong growth, moderate growth, moderate decline, strong decline?





Expectations: U.S. Economy

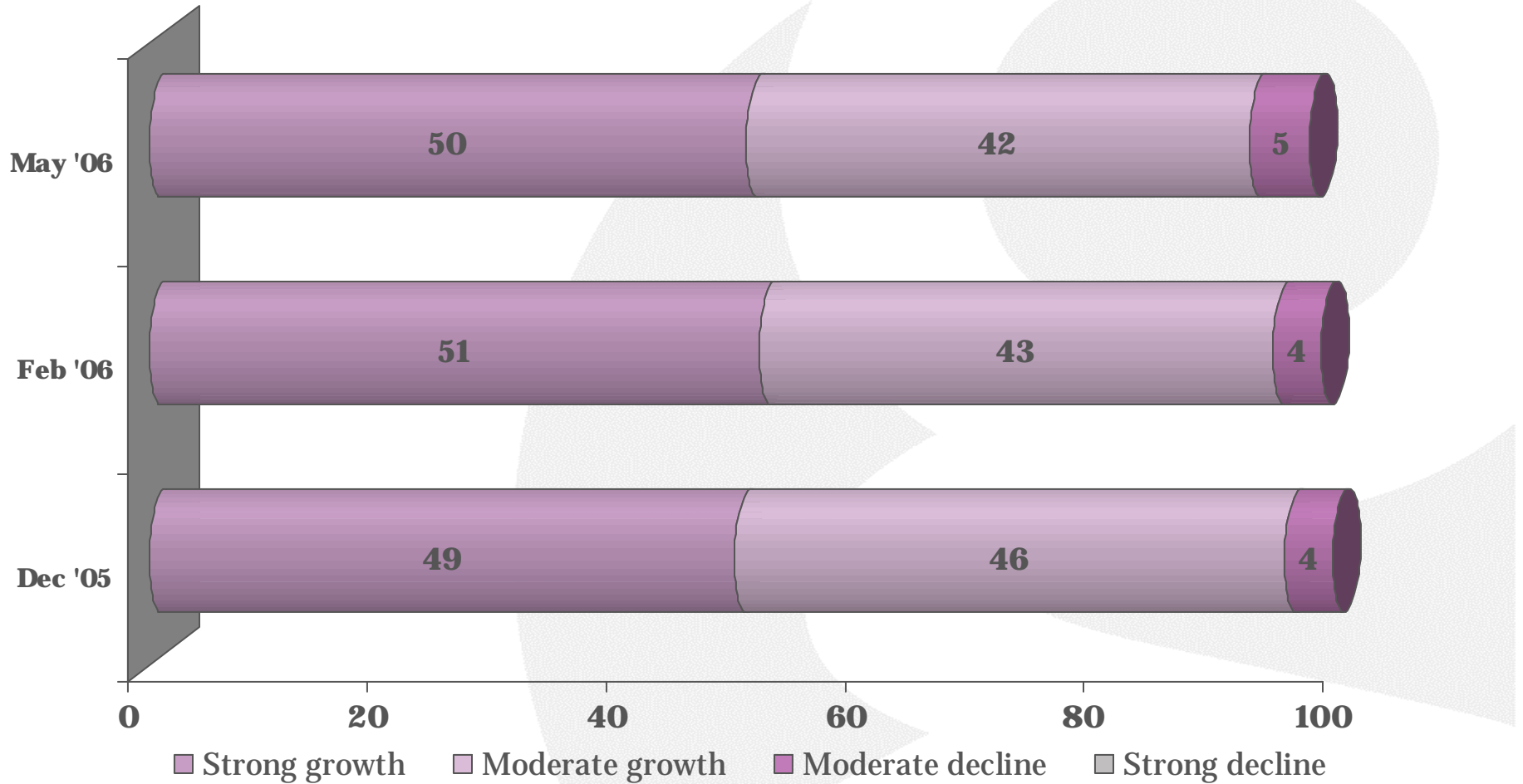
What are your expectations for the U.S. over the next 12 months, strong growth, moderate growth, moderate decline, strong decline?





Expectations: Company

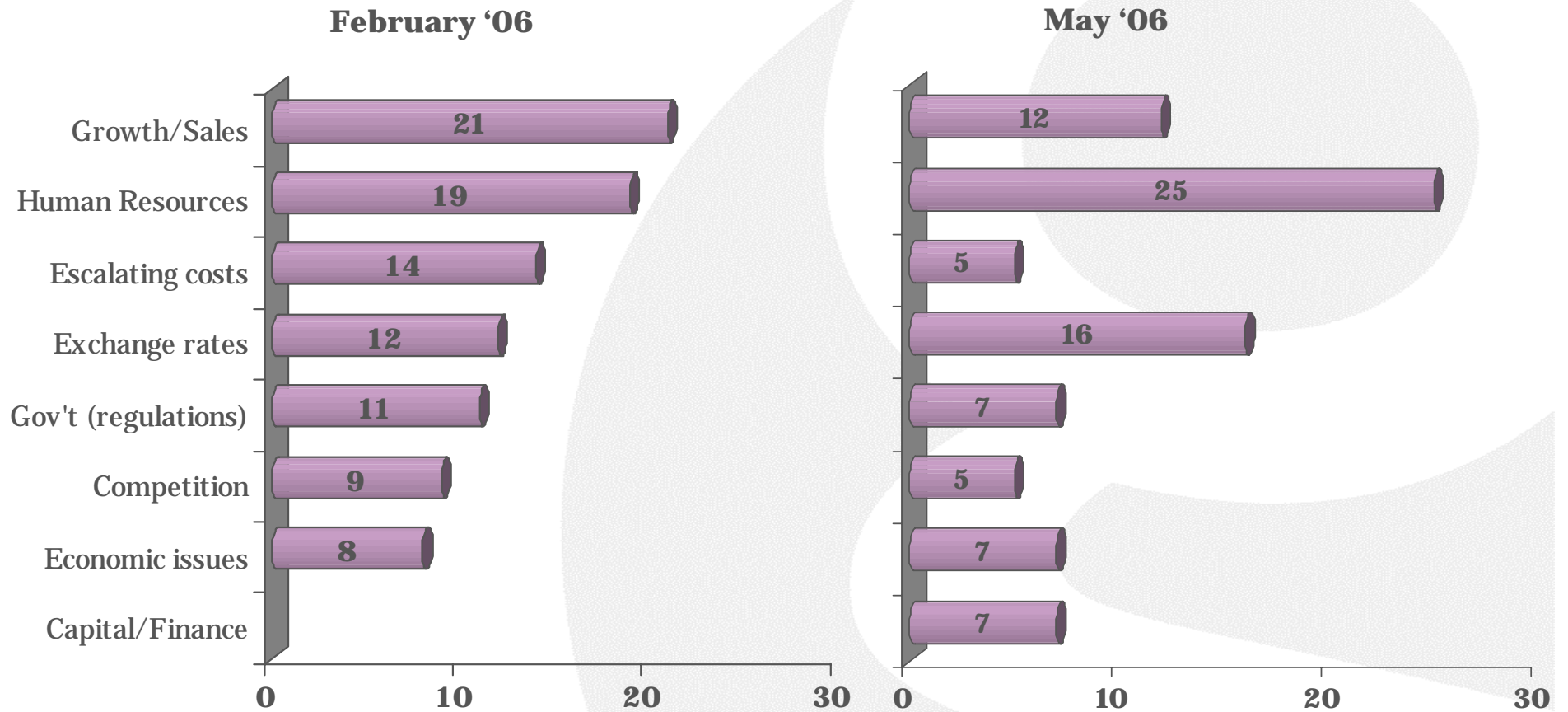
What are your expectations for your company over the next 12 months, strong growth, moderate growth, moderate decline, strong decline?





Challenges facing Company

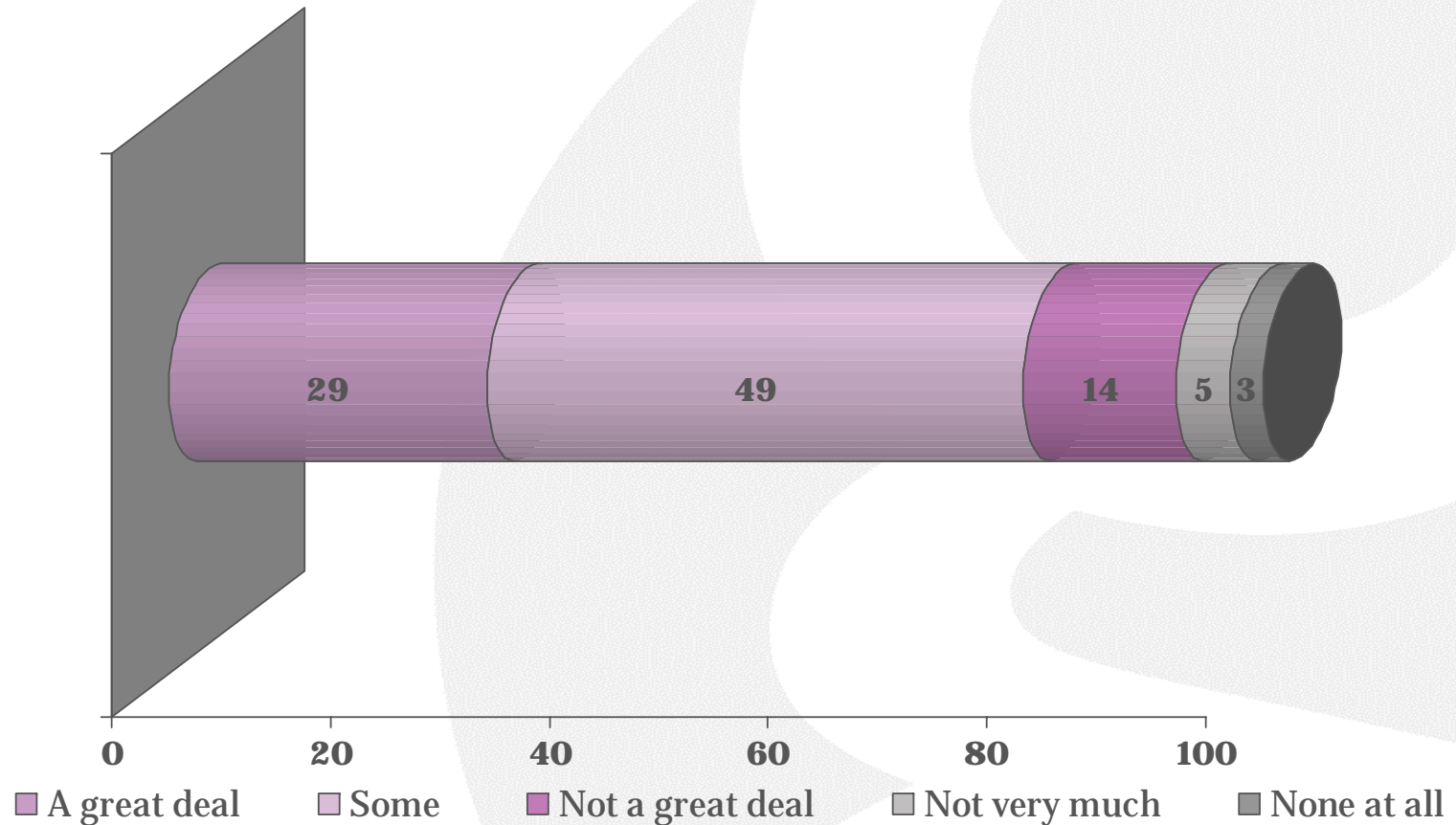
What is the biggest challenge facing your company right now? (open end)





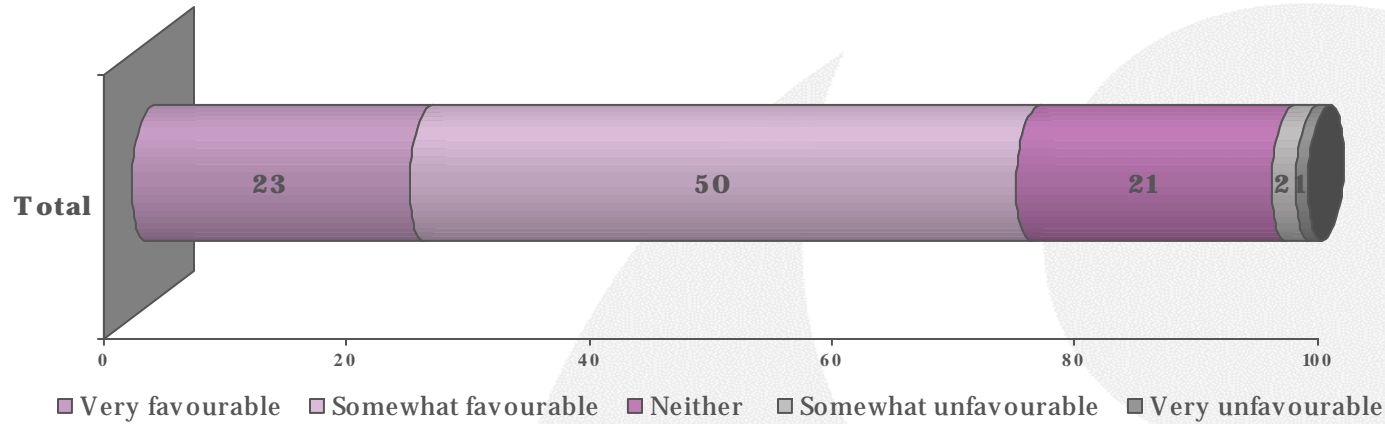
Attention to New Budget

Now we would like to get your opinions about the new federal budget that was brought down on May 2, 2006. First we'd like to know, how much attention did you pay to that? Would that be a great deal of attention; some attention, but not a great deal; not very much; or no attention at all.

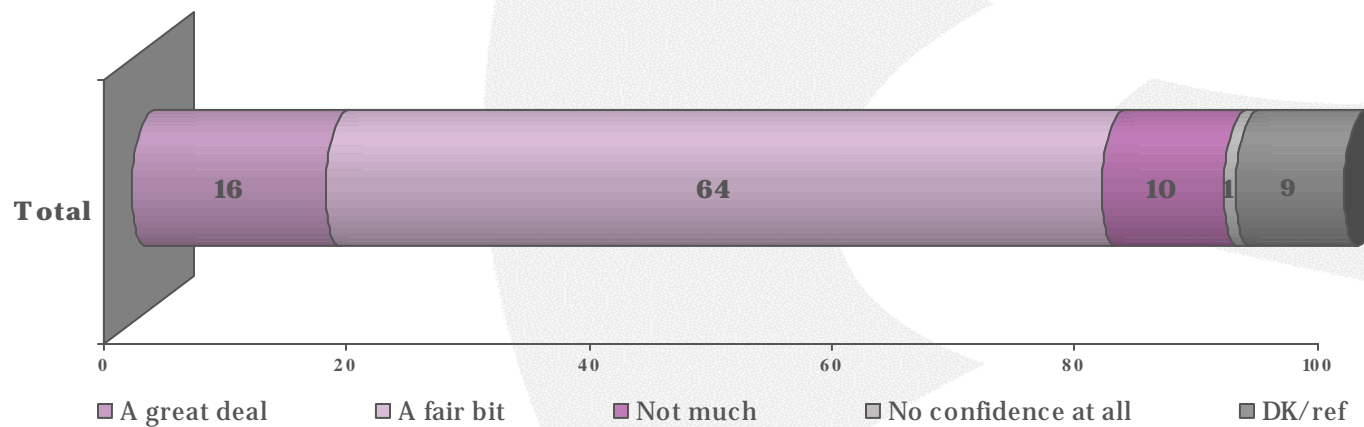




How favourable or unfavourable is your impression of Jim Flaherty in his role as Minister of Finance?

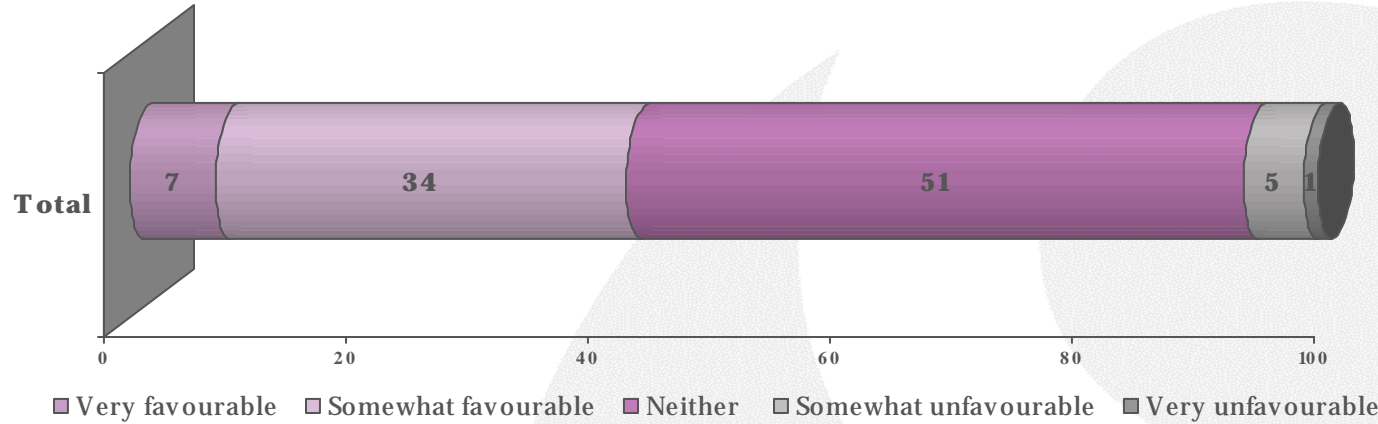


How much confidence do you have in Finance Minister Flaherty's management of the economy?

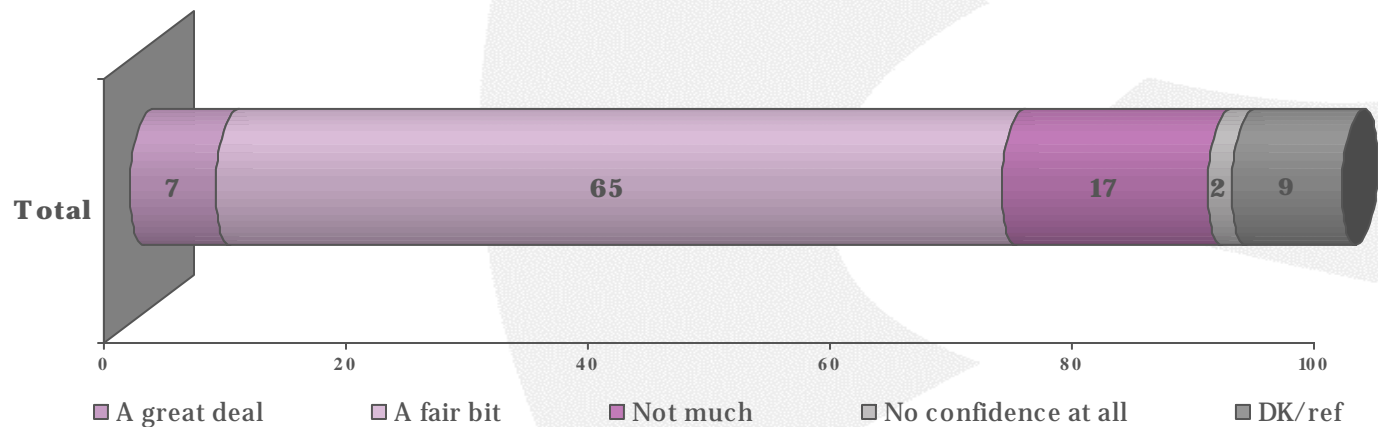




How favourable or unfavourable is your impression of Jim Flaherty in his role as Minister of Finance?



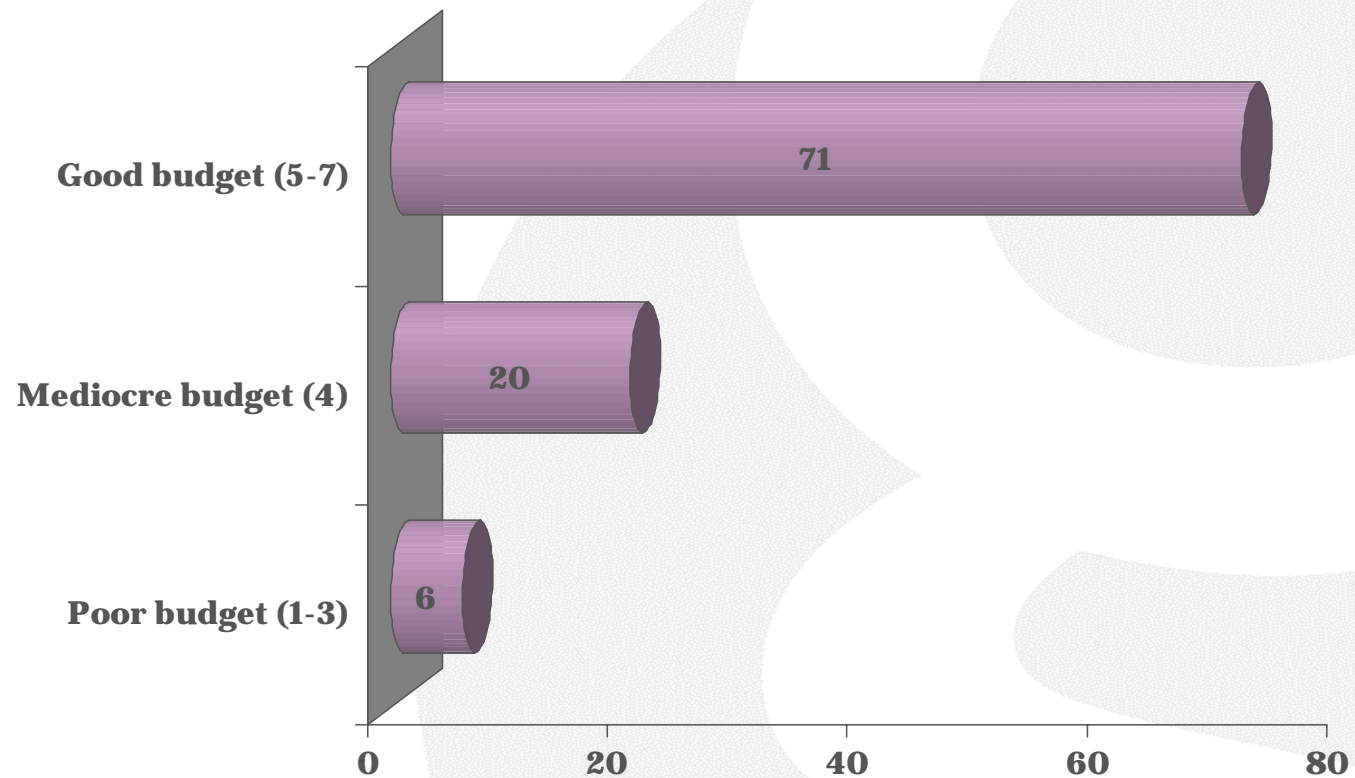
How much confidence do you have in Finance Minister Flaherty's management of the economy?





Rating the Budget

Based on what you know, please rate the budget on a 1 to 7 scale, where 7 means it was an excellent budget, 1 means it was a very poor budget and 4 means it was a mediocre budget.

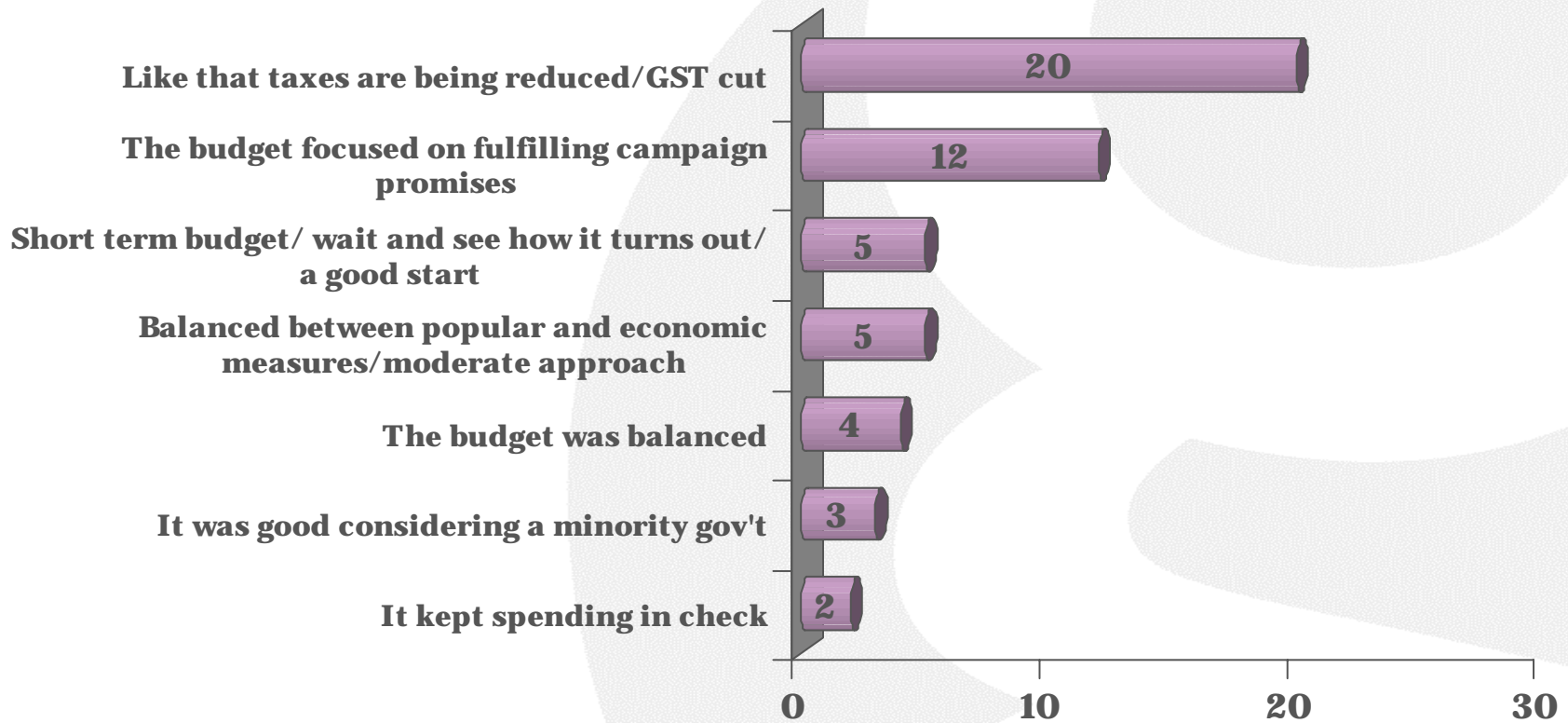




Reasons for Budget Ratings: Positive

Why do you say that? (open end)

Positive Responses

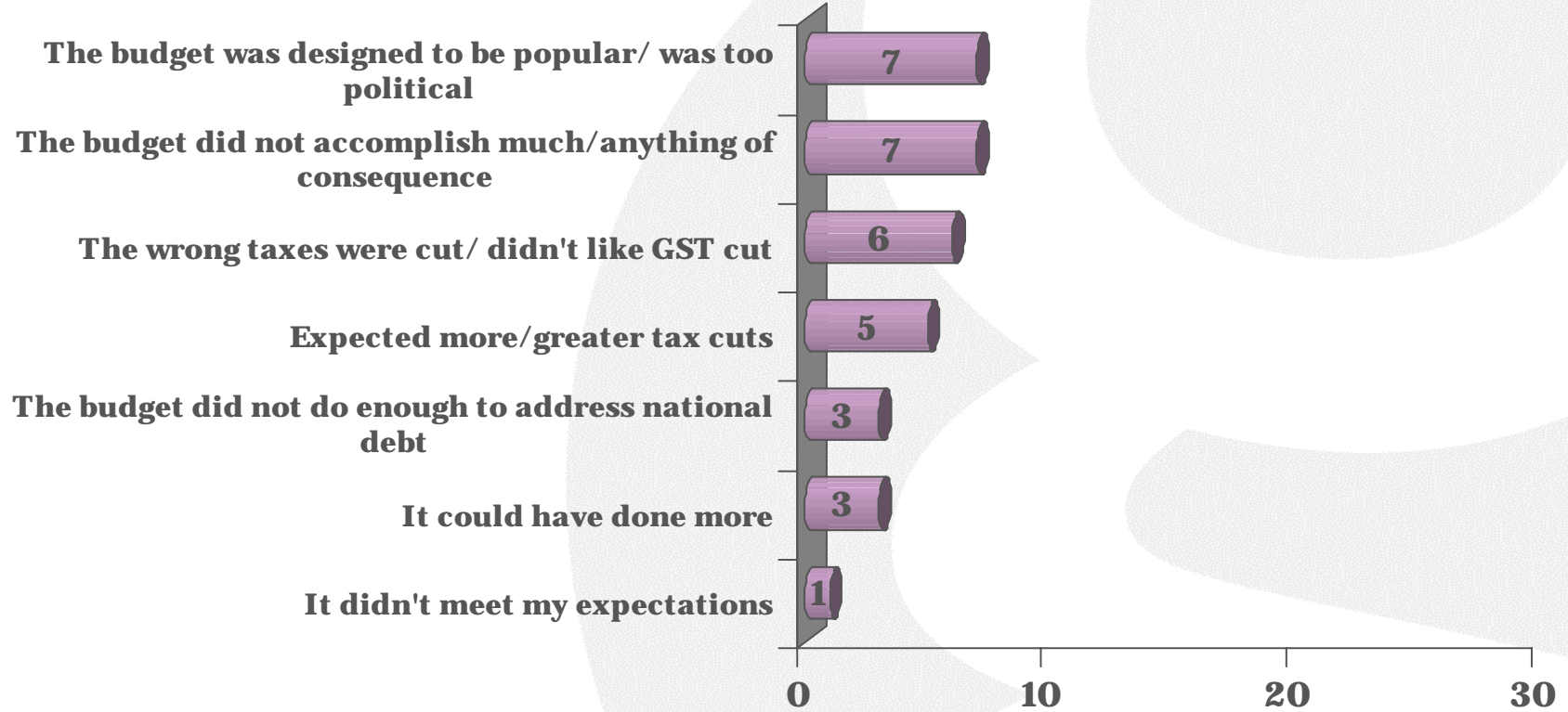




Reasons for Budget Ratings: Negative

Why do you say that? (open end)

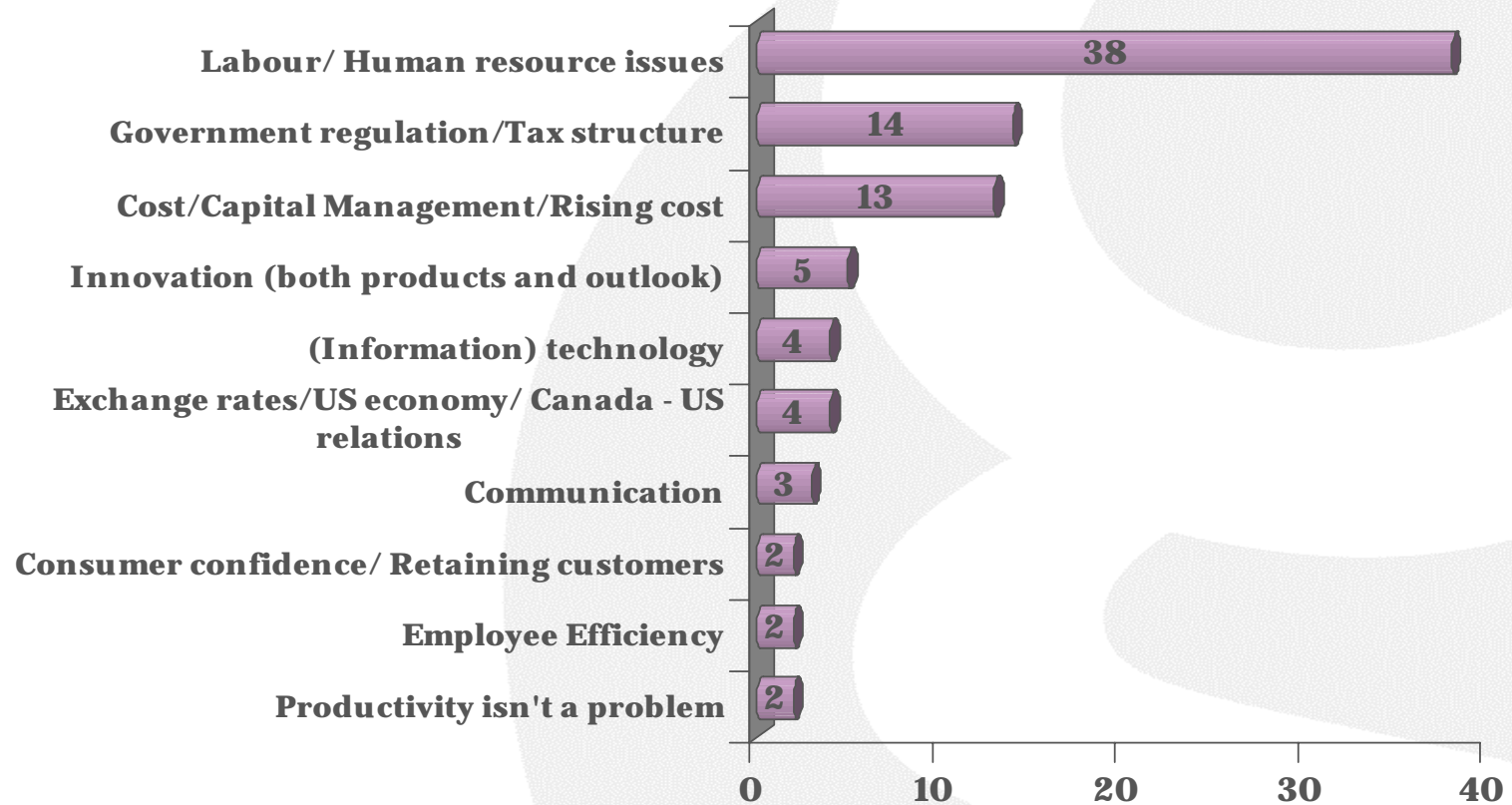
Negative Responses





Challenges in Improving Economic Productivity

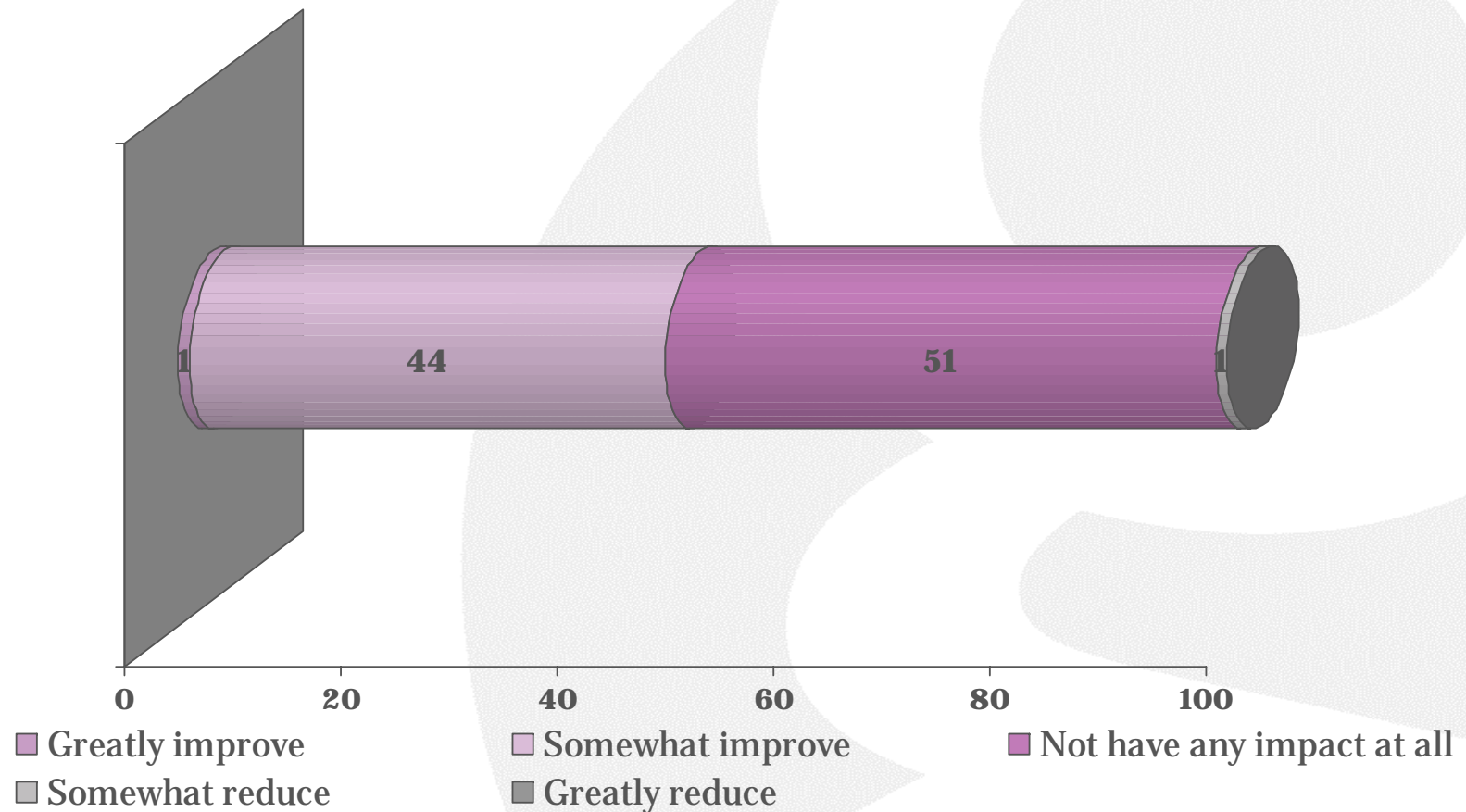
When thinking about how to improve economic productivity, what would you say is your greatest challenge when trying to improve your company's productivity? (open end)





Will Budget Improve Productivity?

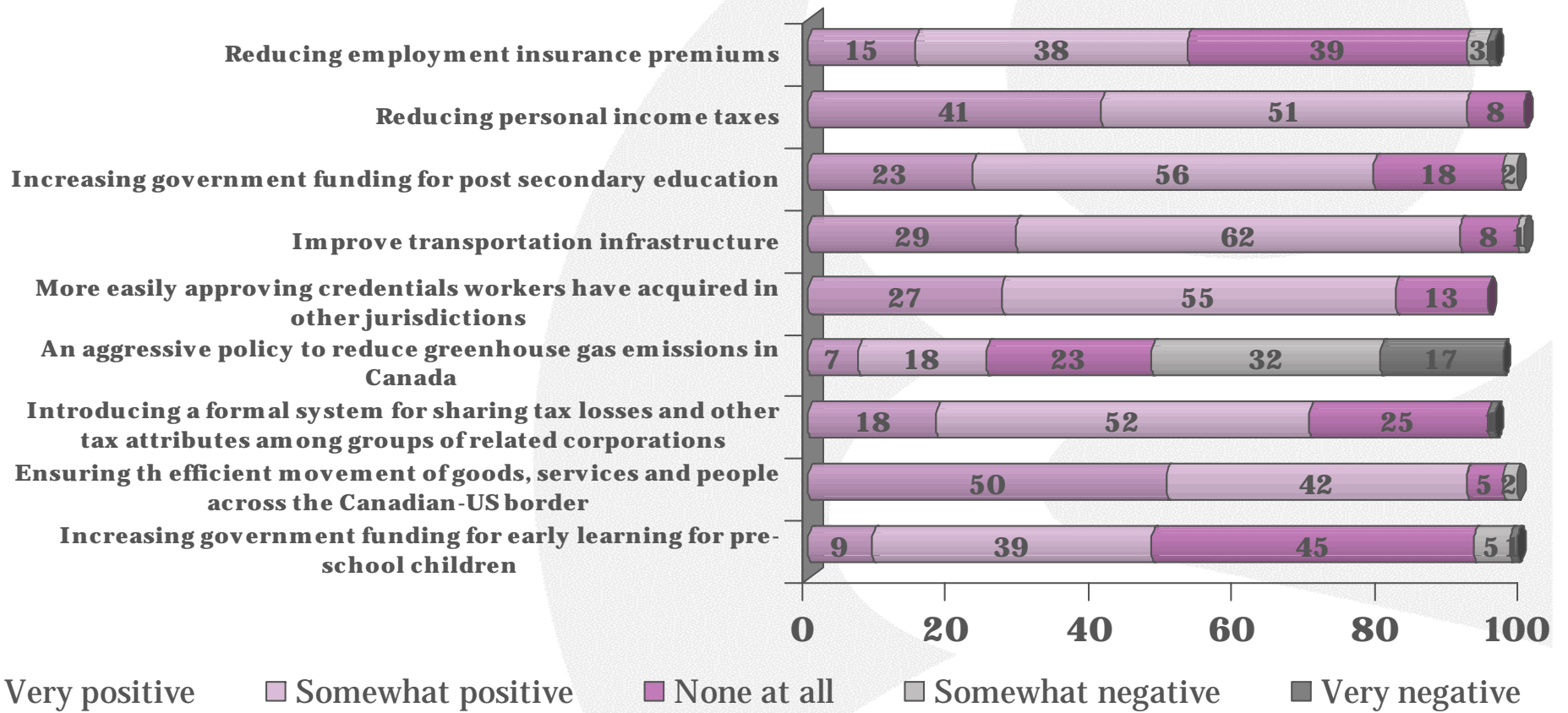
And in general, do you think that recent federal budget will greatly improve productivity in the Canadian economy, somewhat improve productivity, not have any impact at all, somewhat reduce productivity or greatly reduce productivity of Canadian businesses?





Impact on Productivity

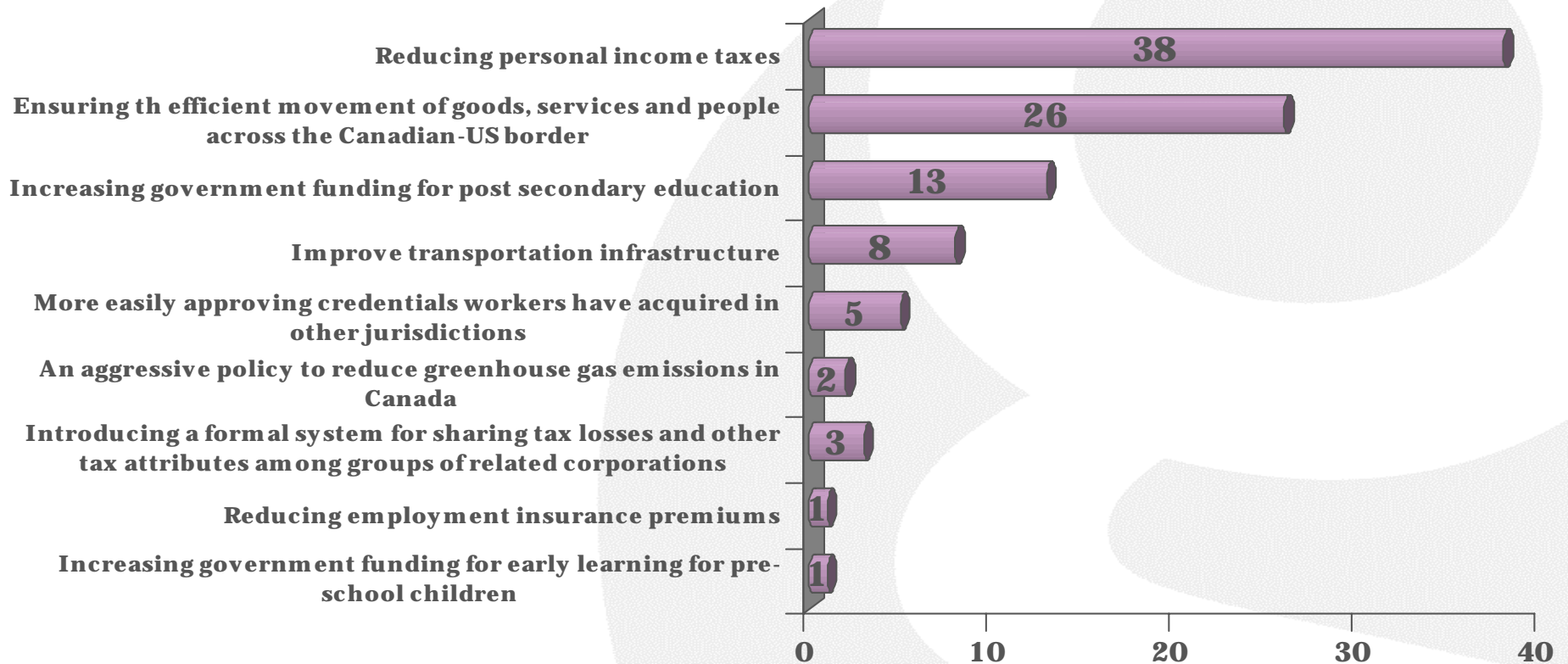
Now, for each of the following policies, please tell me whether you think it will have a very positive impact on productivity, a somewhat positive impact on productivity, no impact at all on economic productivity in Canada, a somewhat negative impact on productivity or a very negative impact on productivity? How about...





Most Important Policy Goal

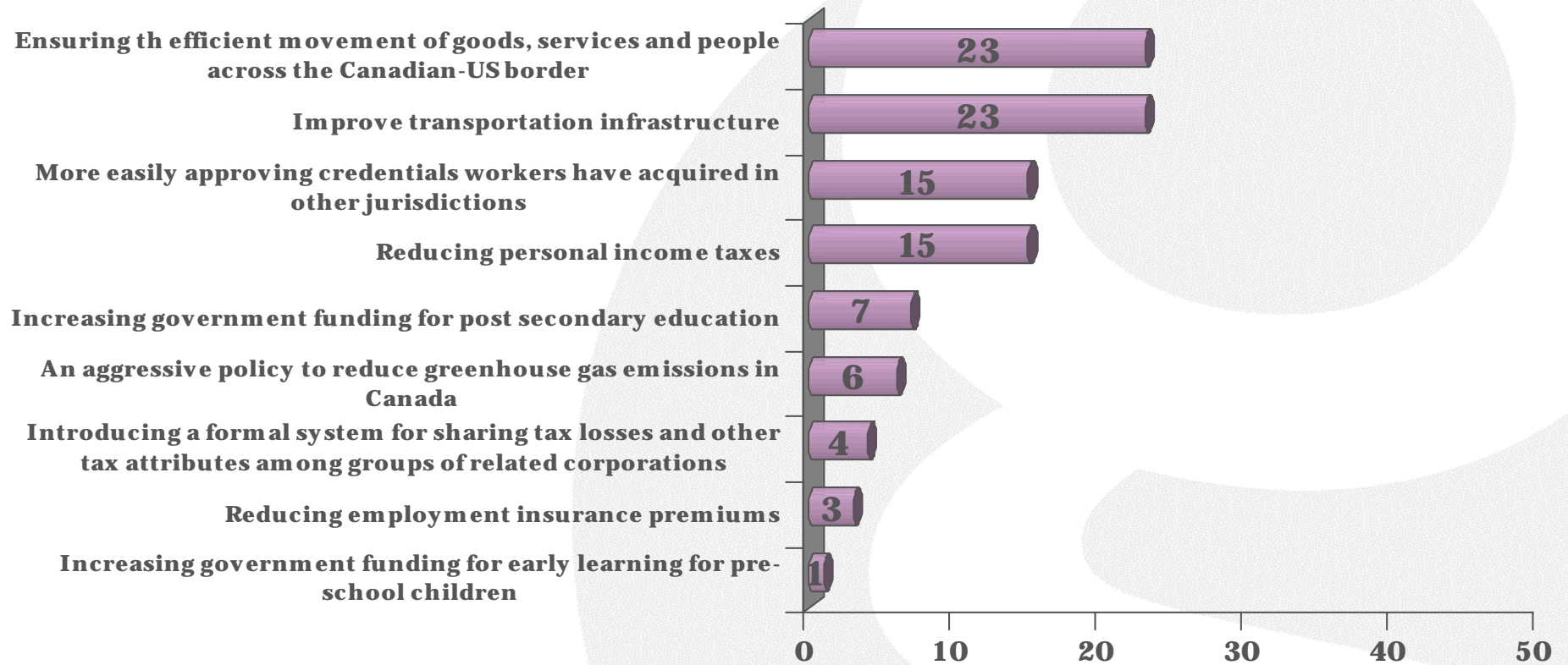
Which one of these policy goals is most important for the new government to accomplish? Would that be...?





Second Most Important Policy Goal

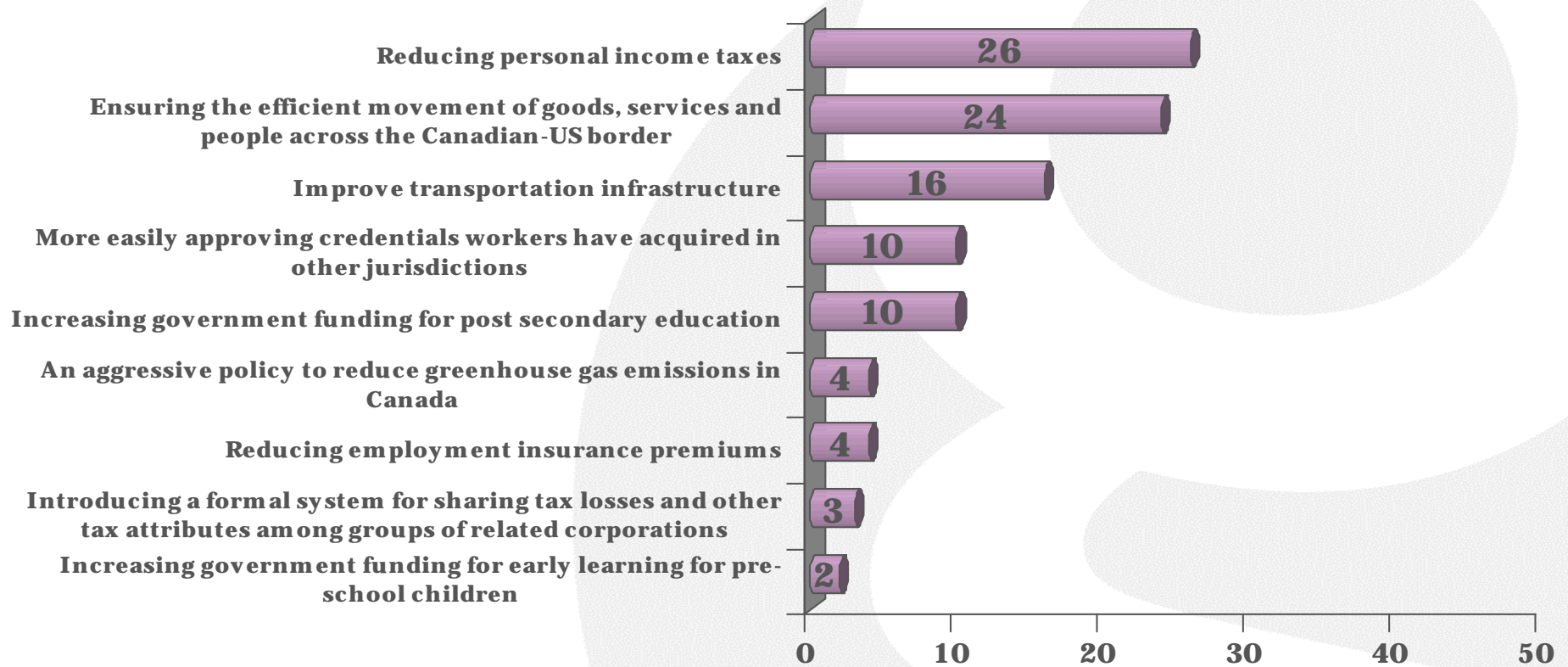
Which one of these policy goals is most important for the new government to accomplish? Would that be...?





Most Important Policy Goal (Combined)

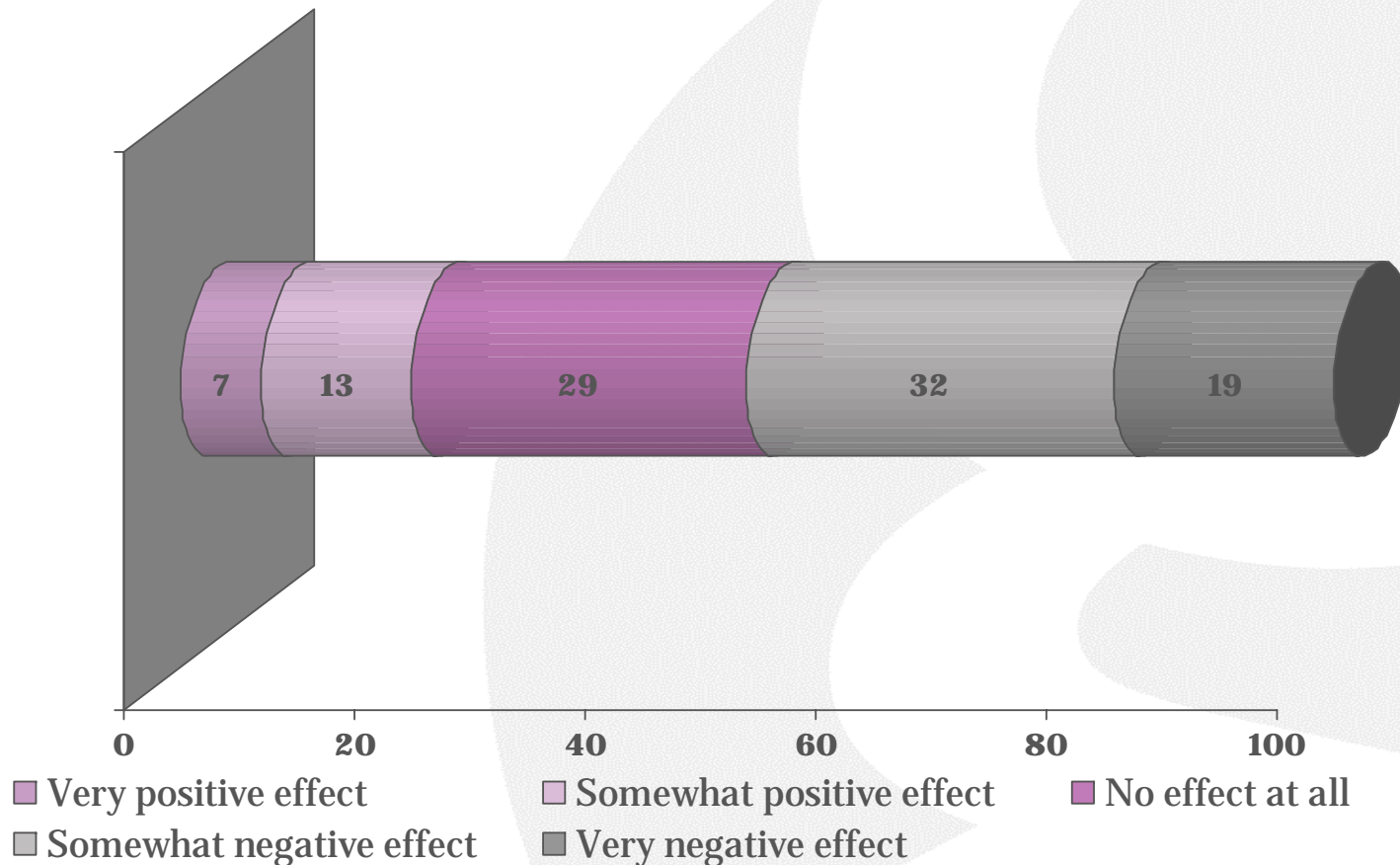
Which one of these policy goals is most important for the new government to accomplish? Would that be...?





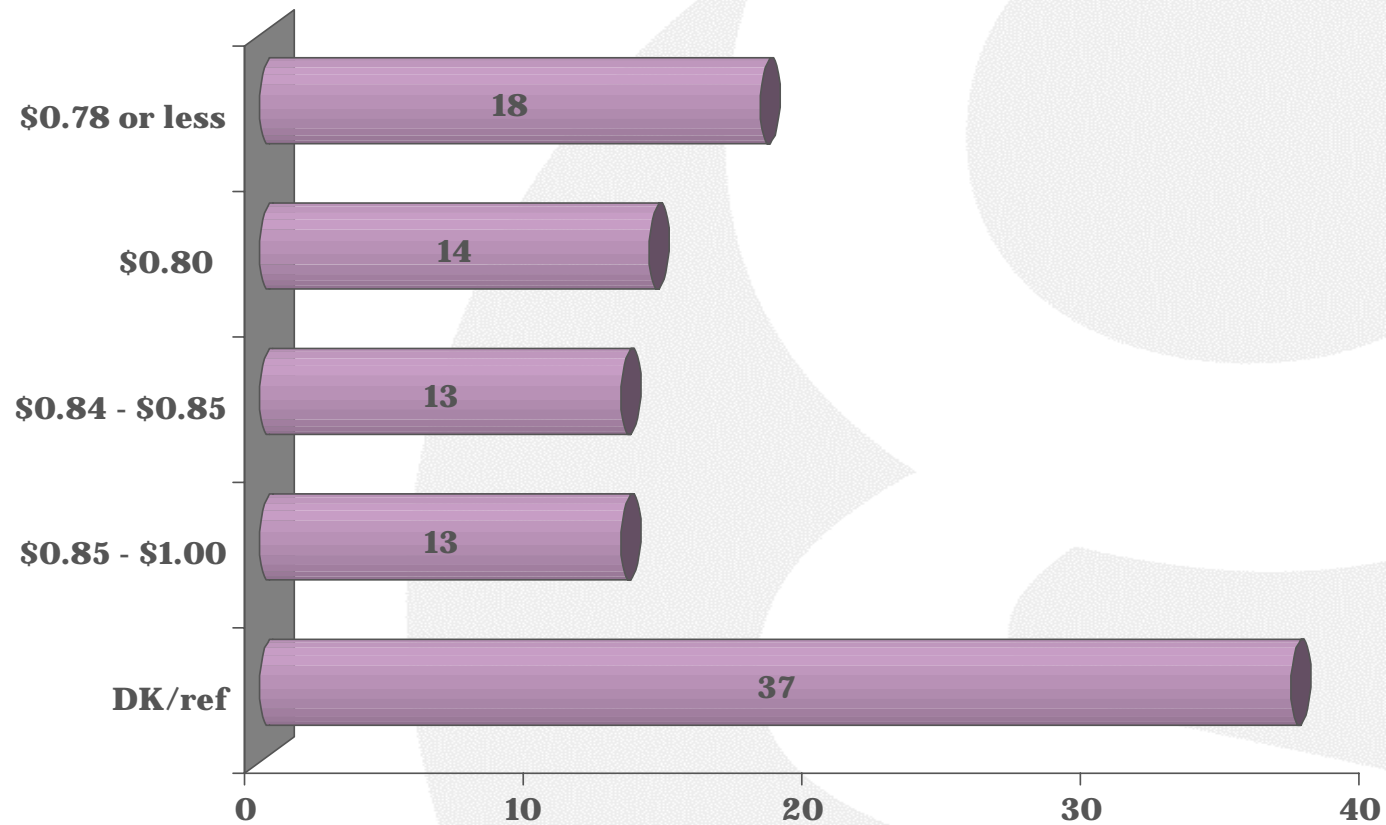
The Canadian Dollar

Now I'd like to ask you a bit about the Canadian dollar and the affect of a higher dollar on your business. Does a higher Canadian dollar vis a vis the US dollar have a very positive effect, a somewhat positive effect, no effect at all, a somewhat negative effect or a very negative effect on your business?





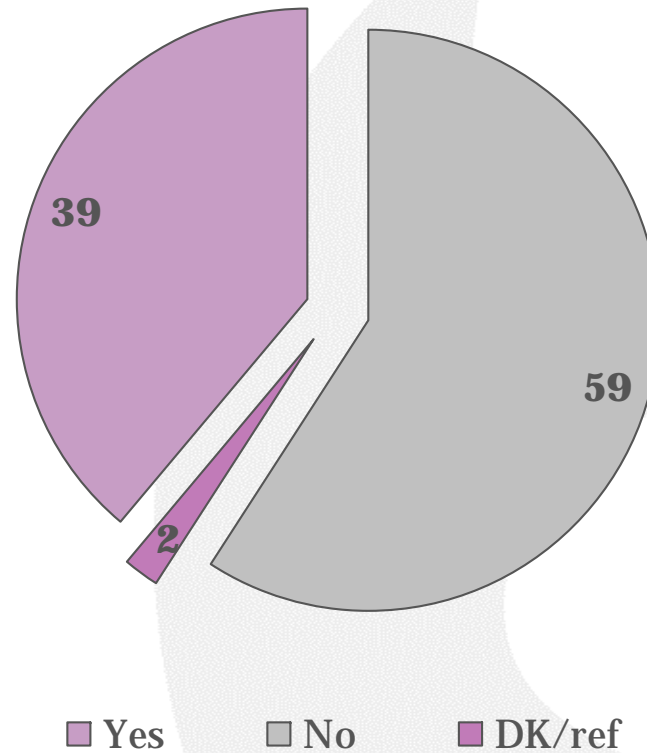
And thinking of the exchange rate, how many cents to the U.S. dollar would the Canadian dollar be for your business to achieve optimal advantage from the exchange rate?





Hedging Canadian Funds

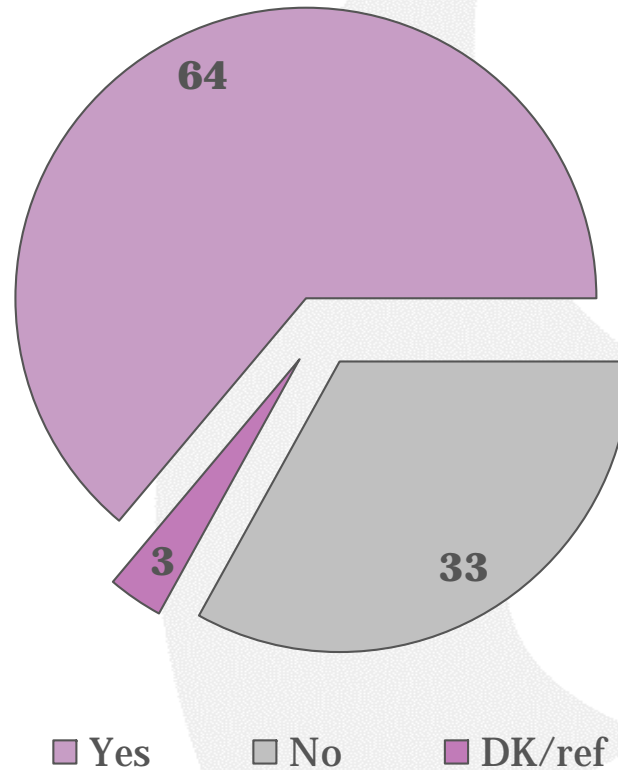
Has your company undertaken any action to hedge your Canadian funds?





Child Care: Economic Productivity

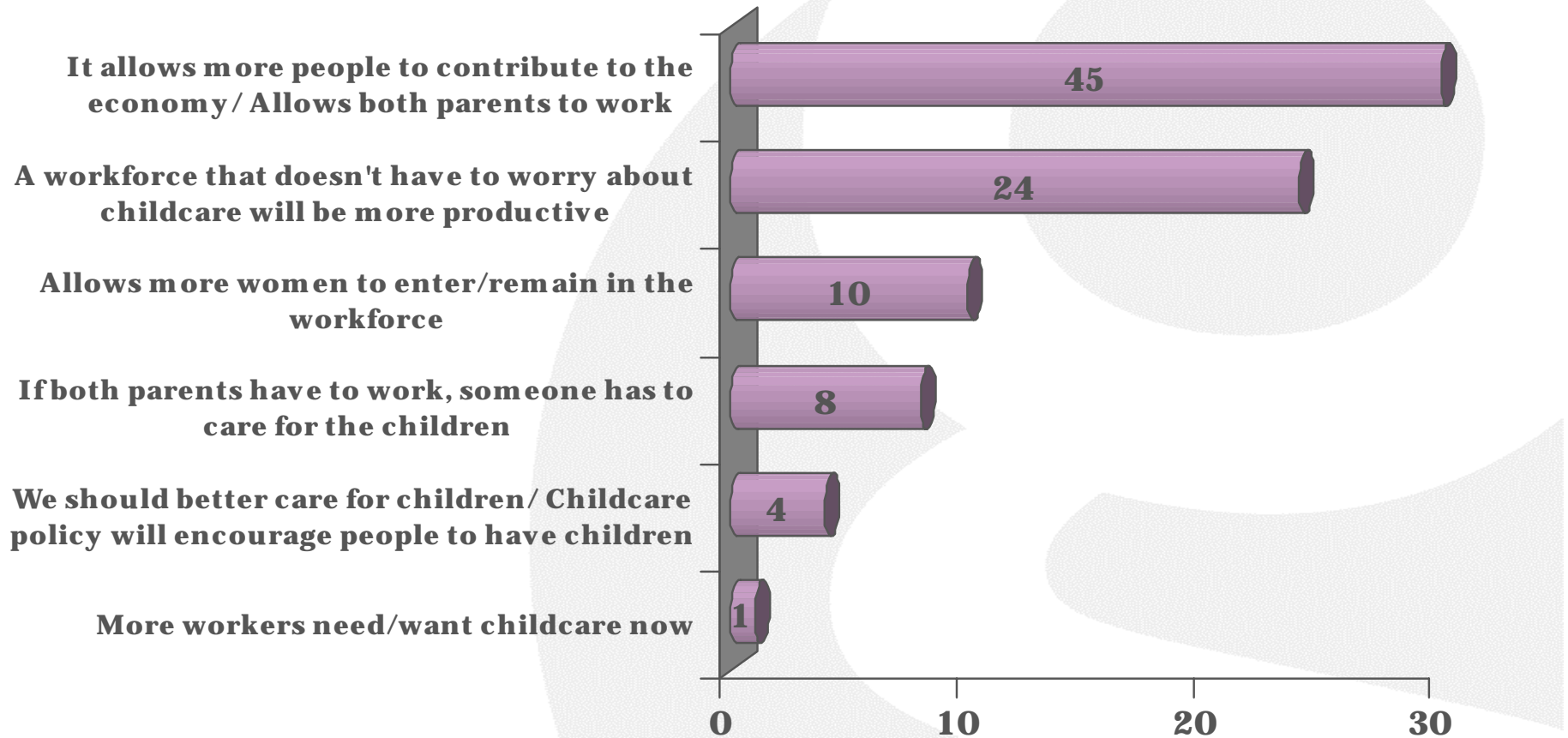
Now we'd like to ask you about child care policy and its relationship to economic productivity. Do you think child care policy is a factor in economic productivity?





Child Care Policy a Factor? Why?

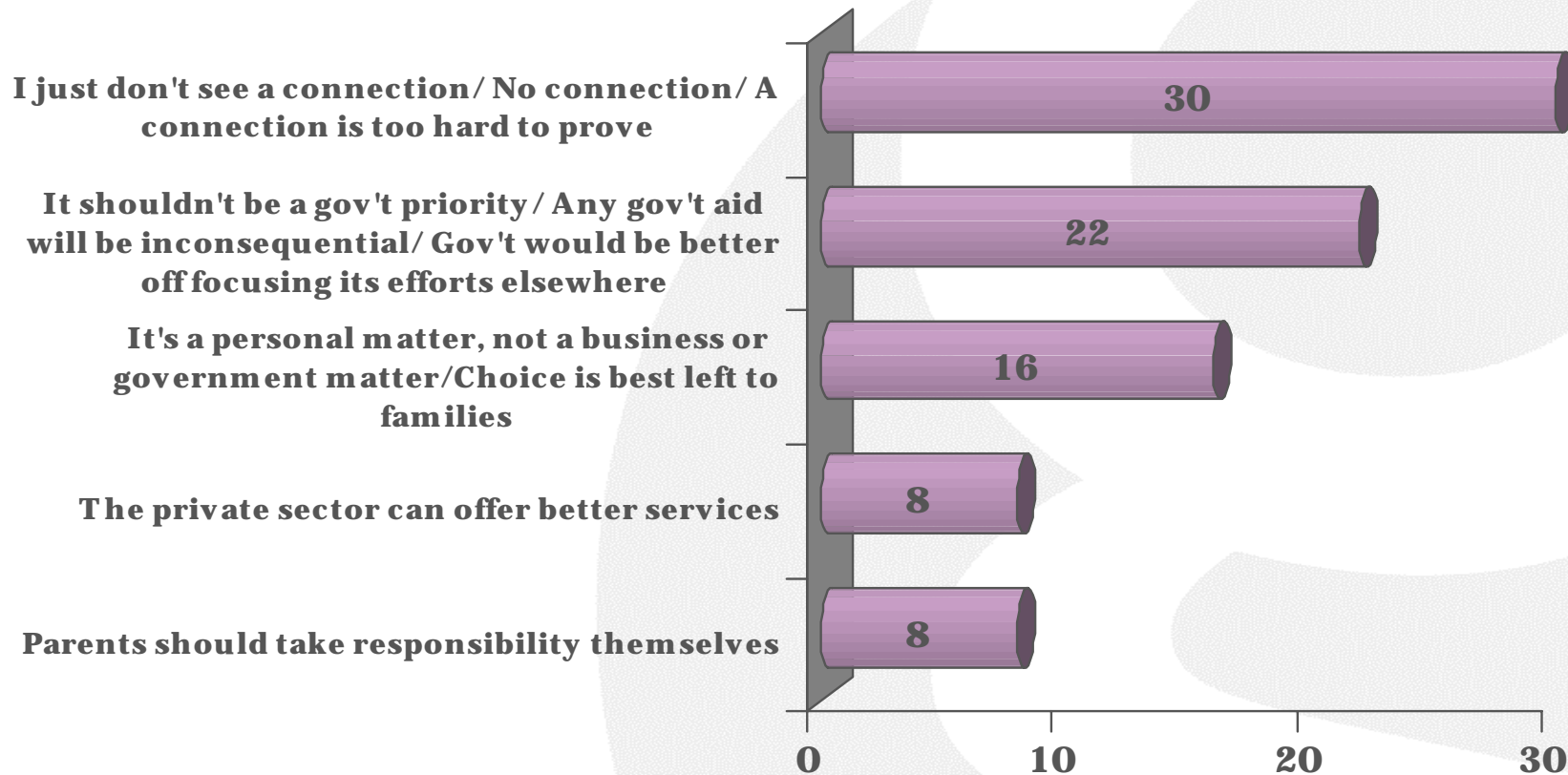
Why?





Child Care Policy a Factor? Why Not?

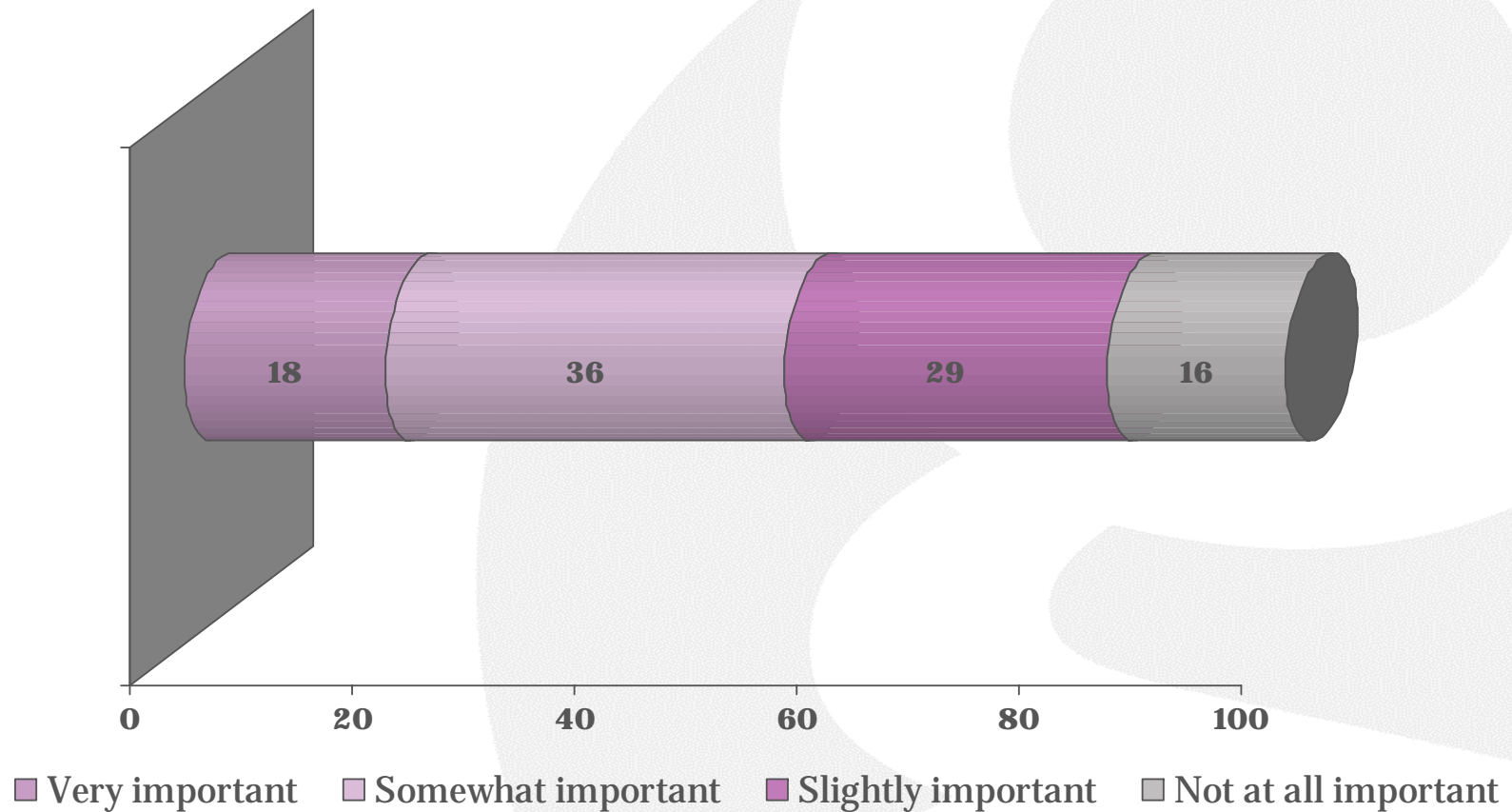
Why not?





Access to Quality Childcare

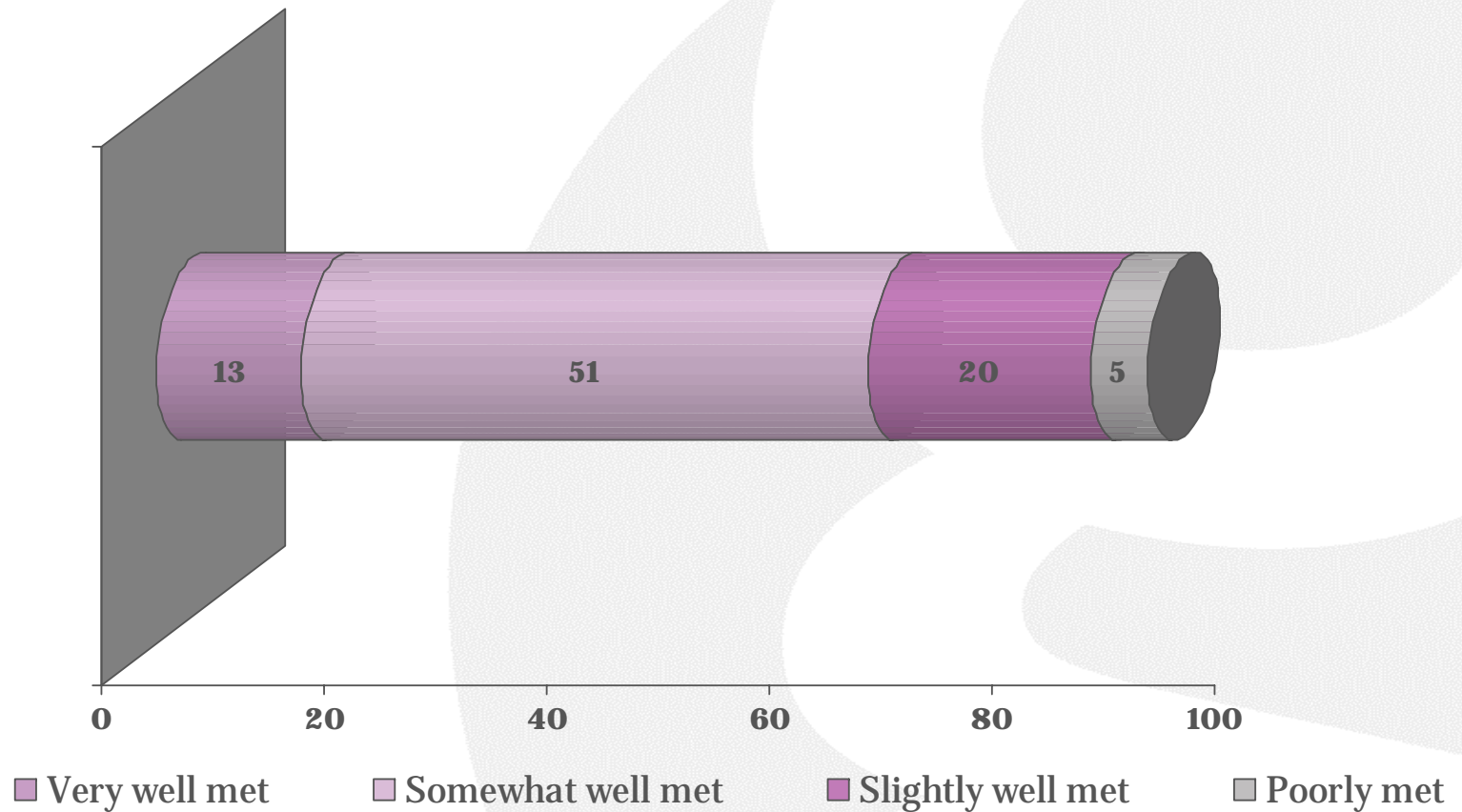
How important is easy access to quality childcare in terms of hiring and retaining employees? Would you say it is very important, somewhat important, slightly important or not at all important?





Childcare Needs of Employees

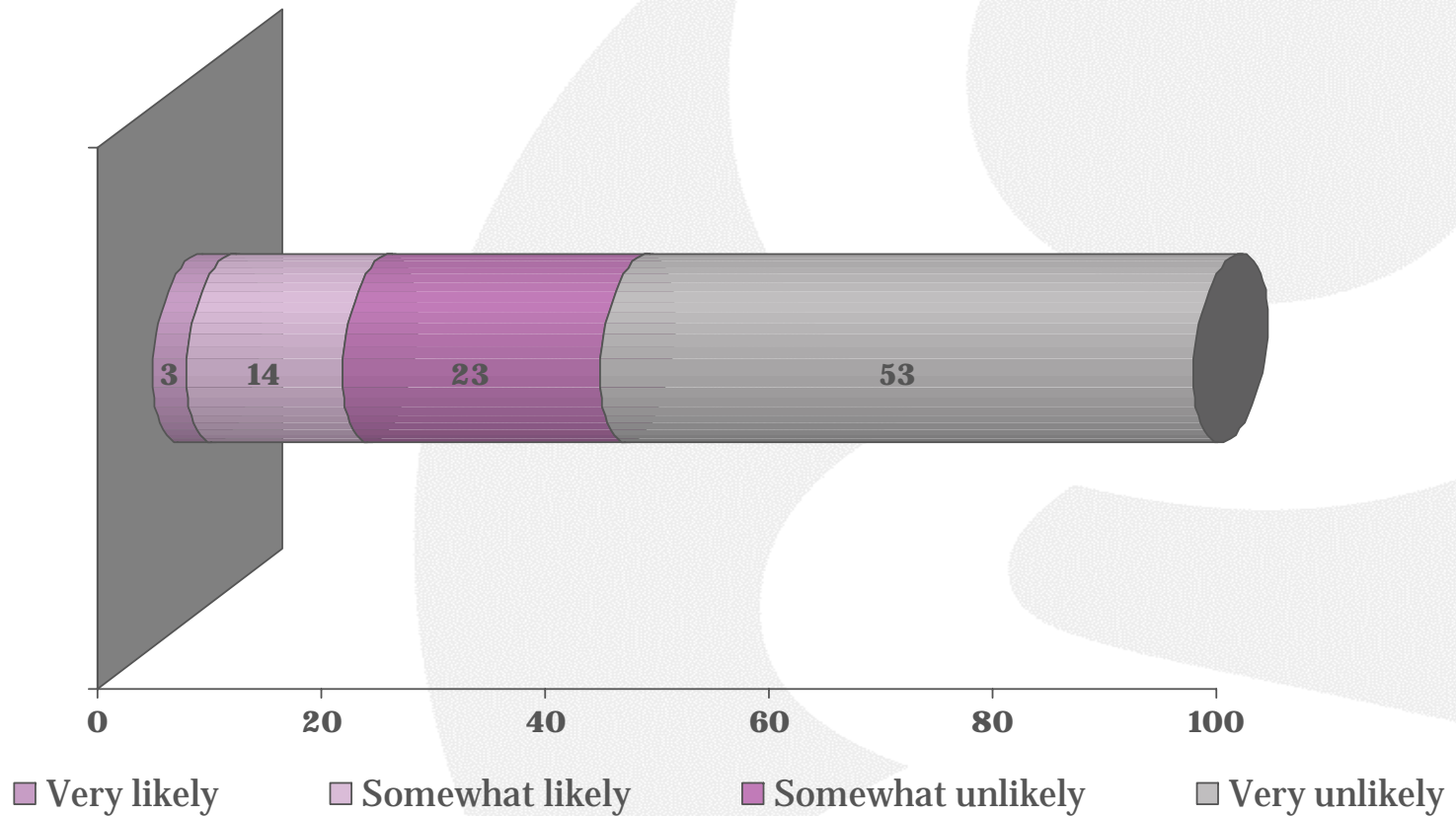
As of today, would you say the childcare needs of your employees are very well met, somewhat well met, slightly well met, or poorly met?





Tax Credit for Employers

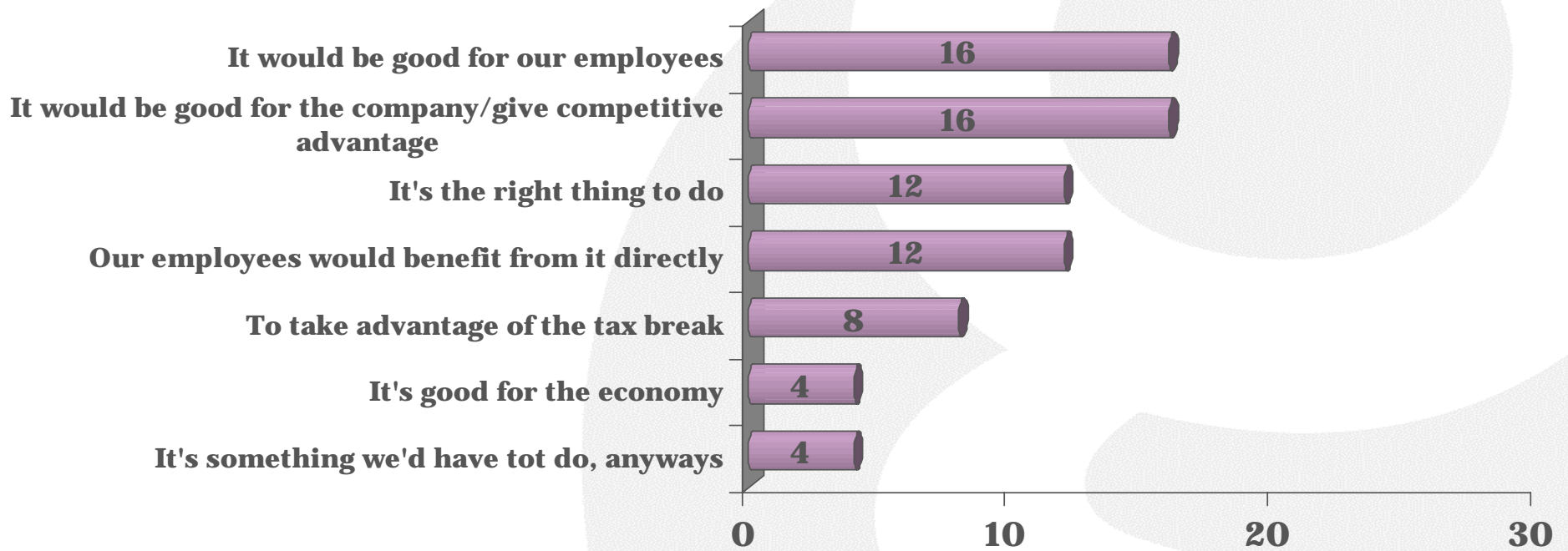
The recent federal budget announced the introduction of a tax credit for employers of up to \$10,000 for each new child care space created for their employees or for their wider community in collaboration with NGOs. Would you say that your company is very likely, somewhat likely, somewhat unlikely or very unlikely to create child care spaces under this arrangement?





Use Tax Credit for Employers? Why?

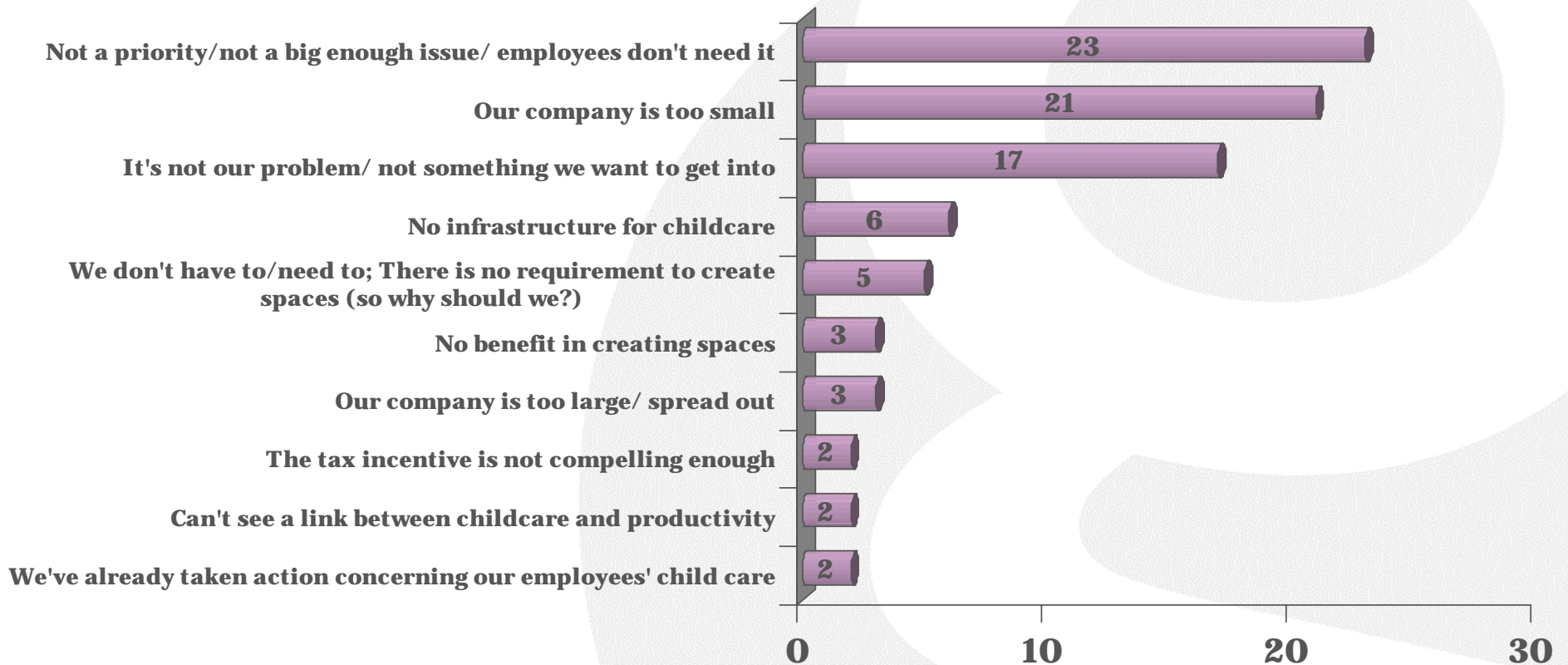
Why?





Use Tax Credit for Employers? Why Not?

Why not?





Government Funding

In order to create child care options for parents, what percentage of federal government funding do you think should be put into tax incentives for businesses that create spaces, what percentage into direct funding of child care spaces, and what percentage to direct payments to parents?

