

SME Barometer [®] Q2 2026

misco

Survey Details.



NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS

402



MARGIN OF ERROR

4.8%



TYPE

Online Survey with Unique Submissions



RESPONDENTS

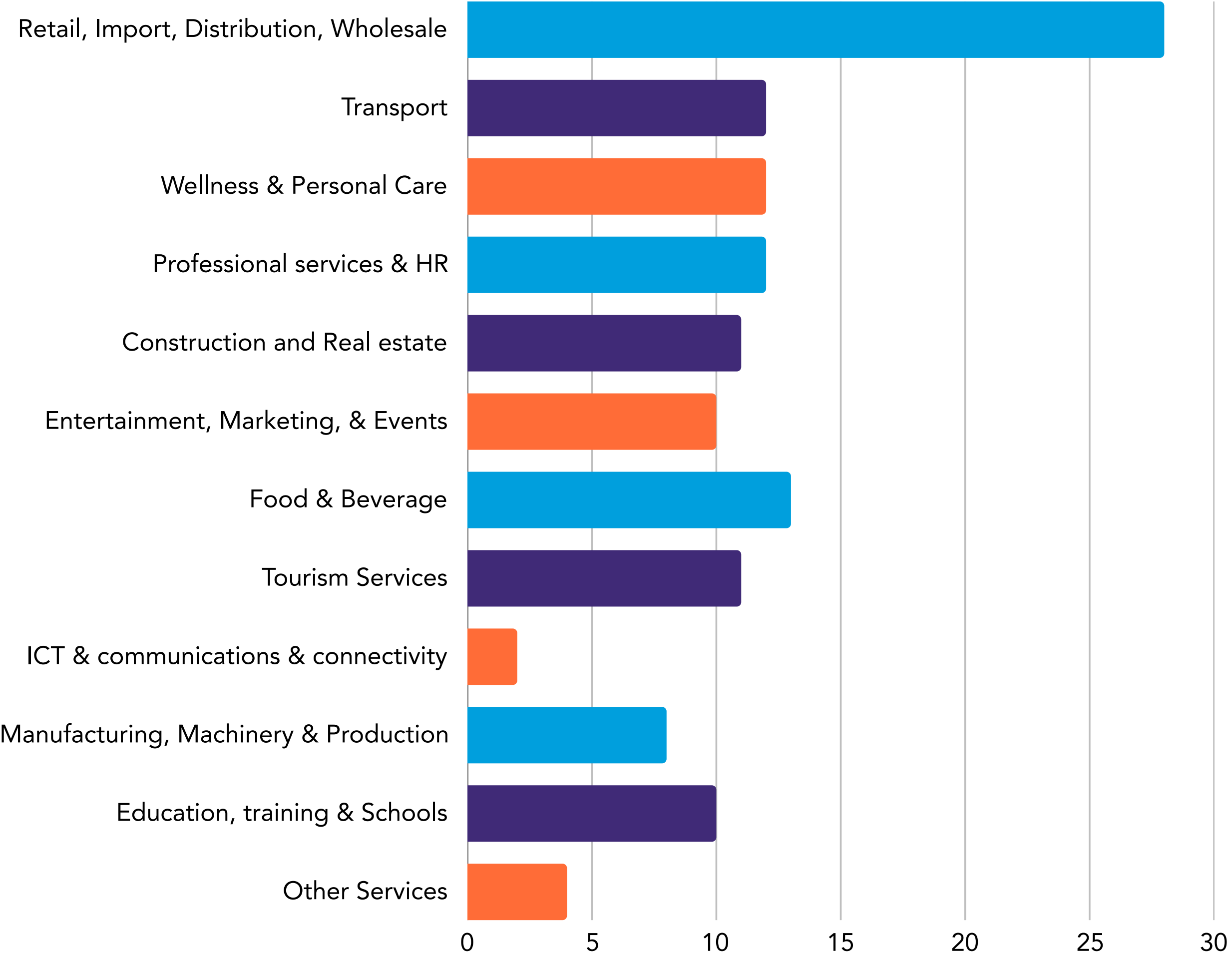
Businesses operating in Malta



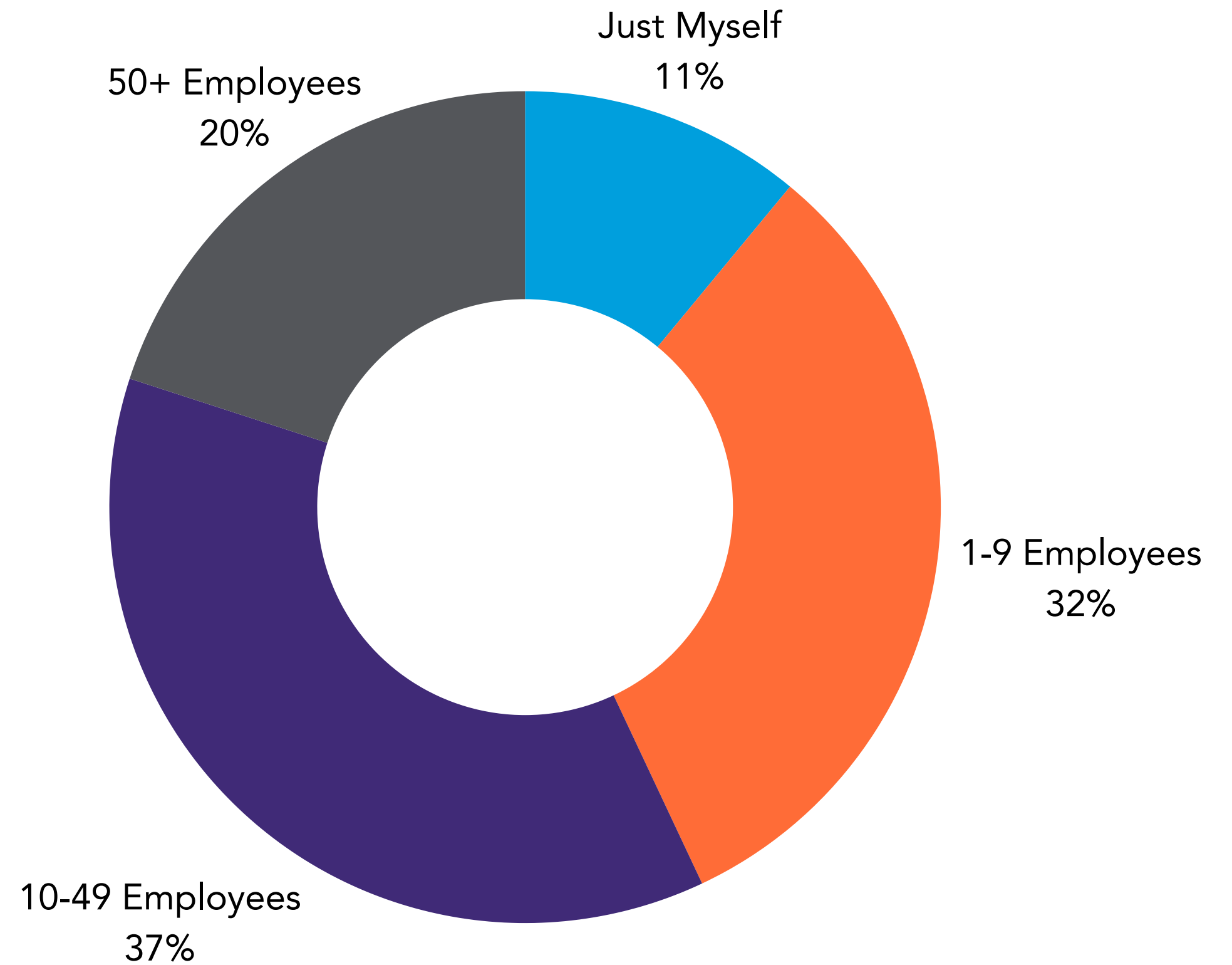
DATE

1st July - 22nd July 26'

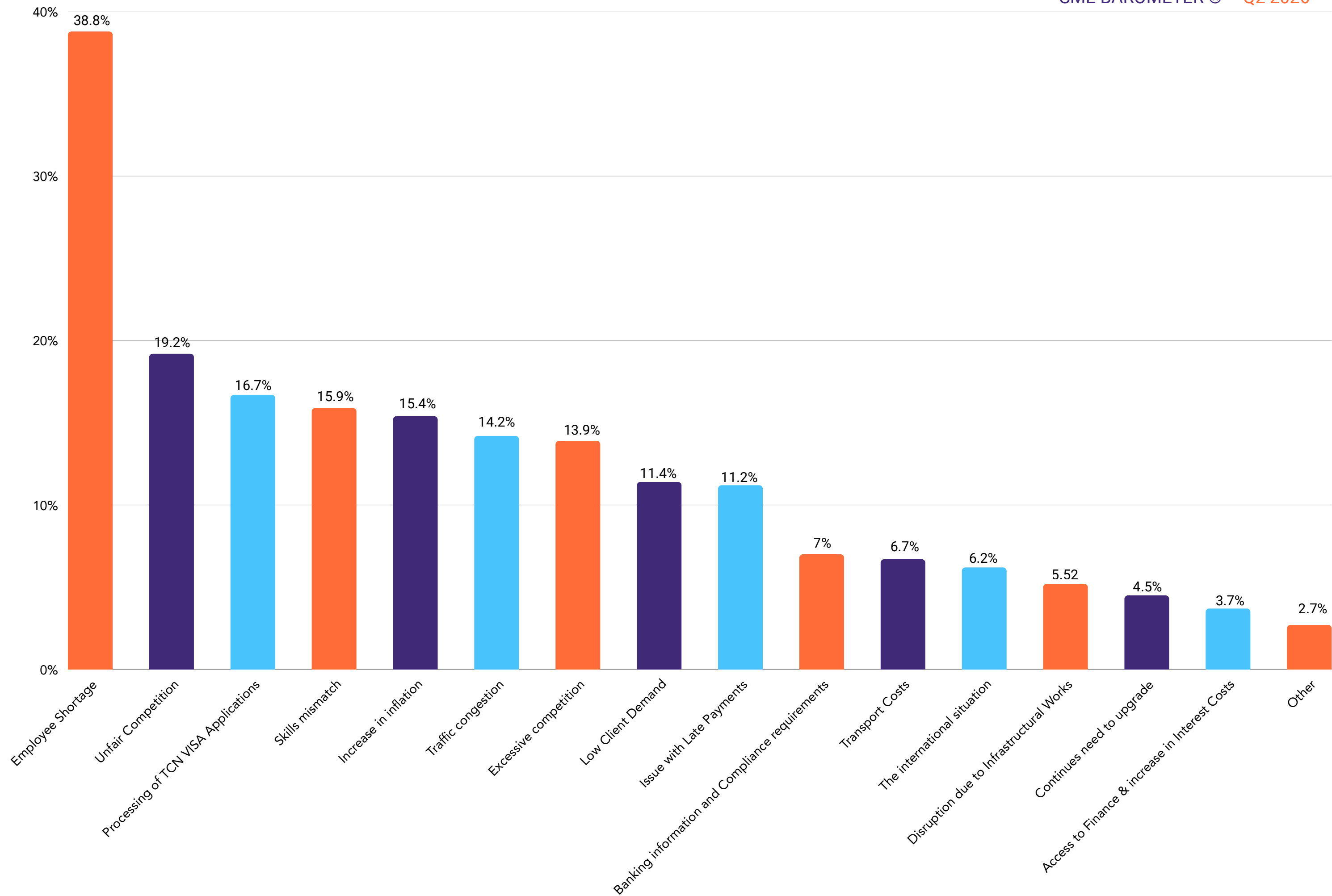
Line of
Business
(multiple
choice)



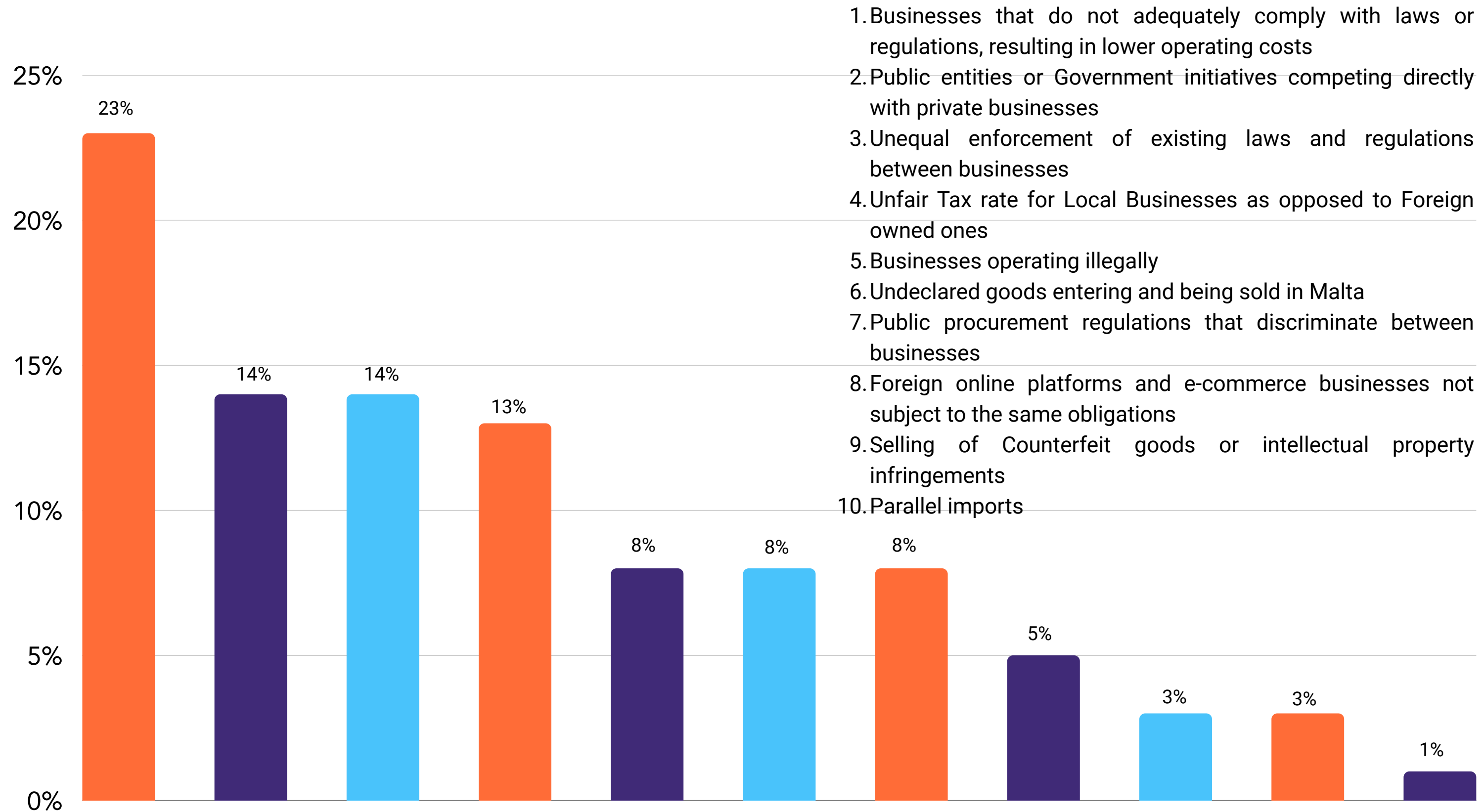
Size of business by head count



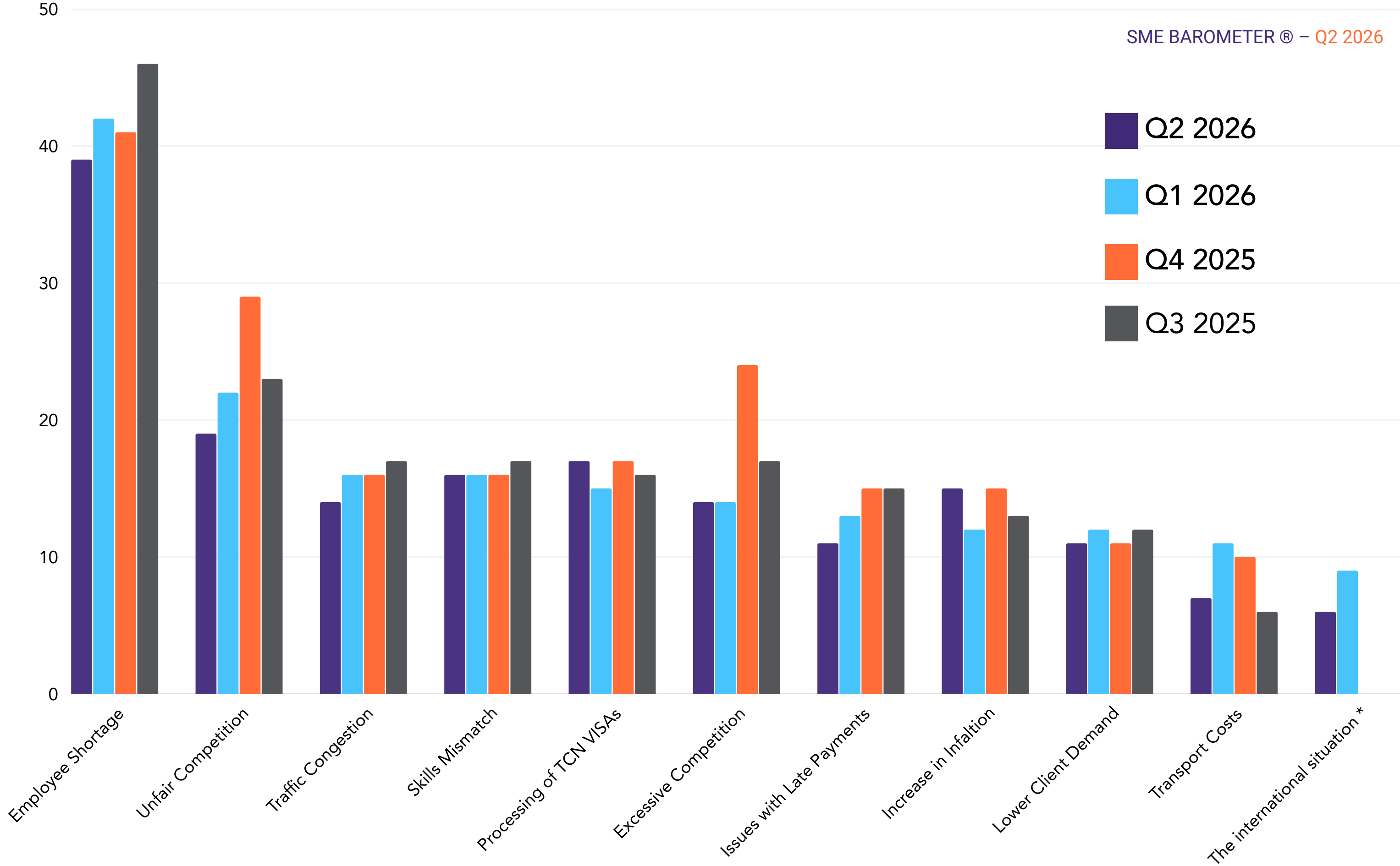
The 2 most
important
issues
your
business is
currently
facing?
Select only
Two



Where do
you think
your
business
experiences
the greatest
level of
unfair
competition?
Choose only
only



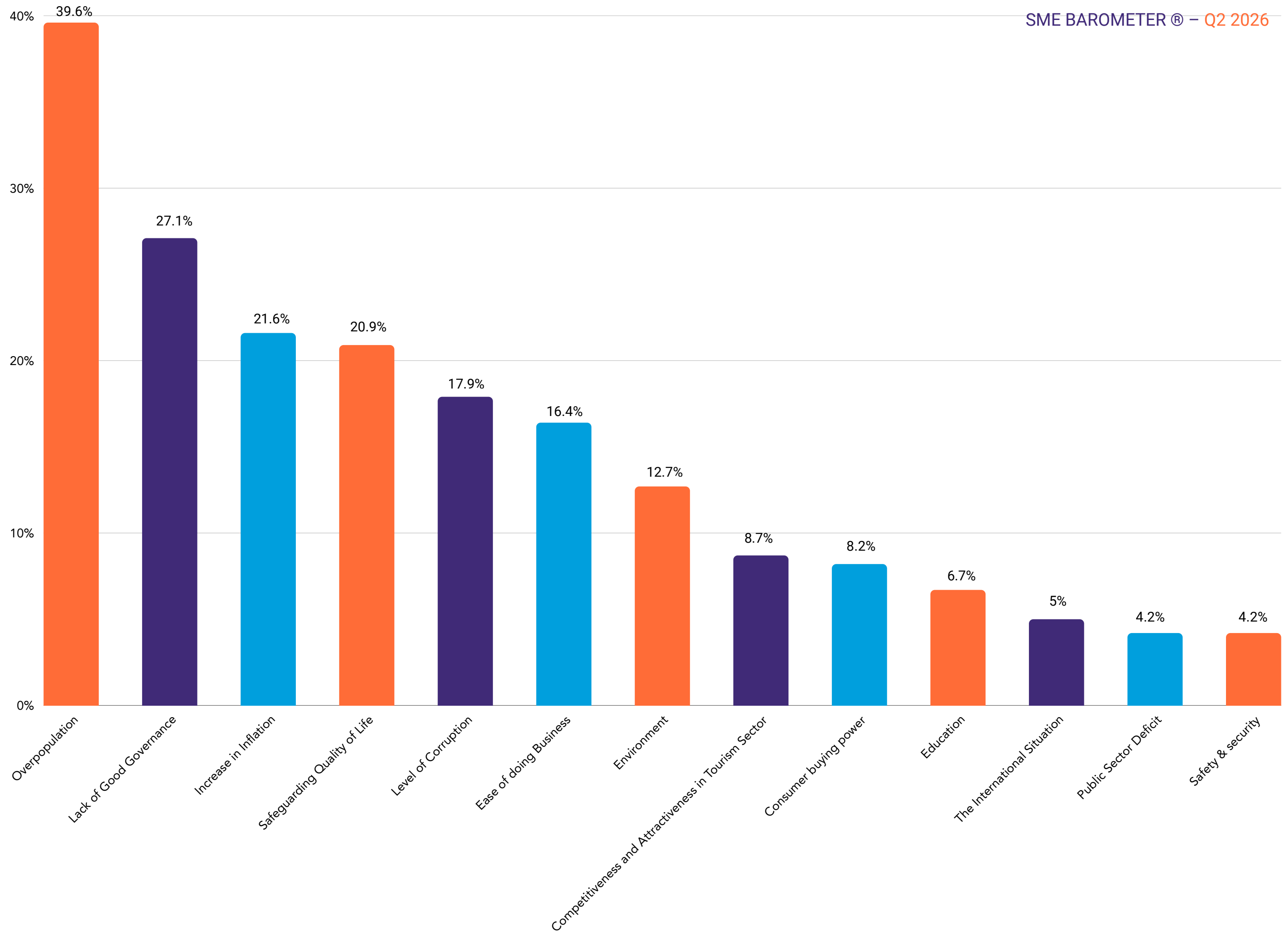
The 2 most important issues your business is currently facing? Select only Two



* Choice was not offered in previous quarters.

The 2 most important issues the country is facing and you would like the government to do something about

Select only Two

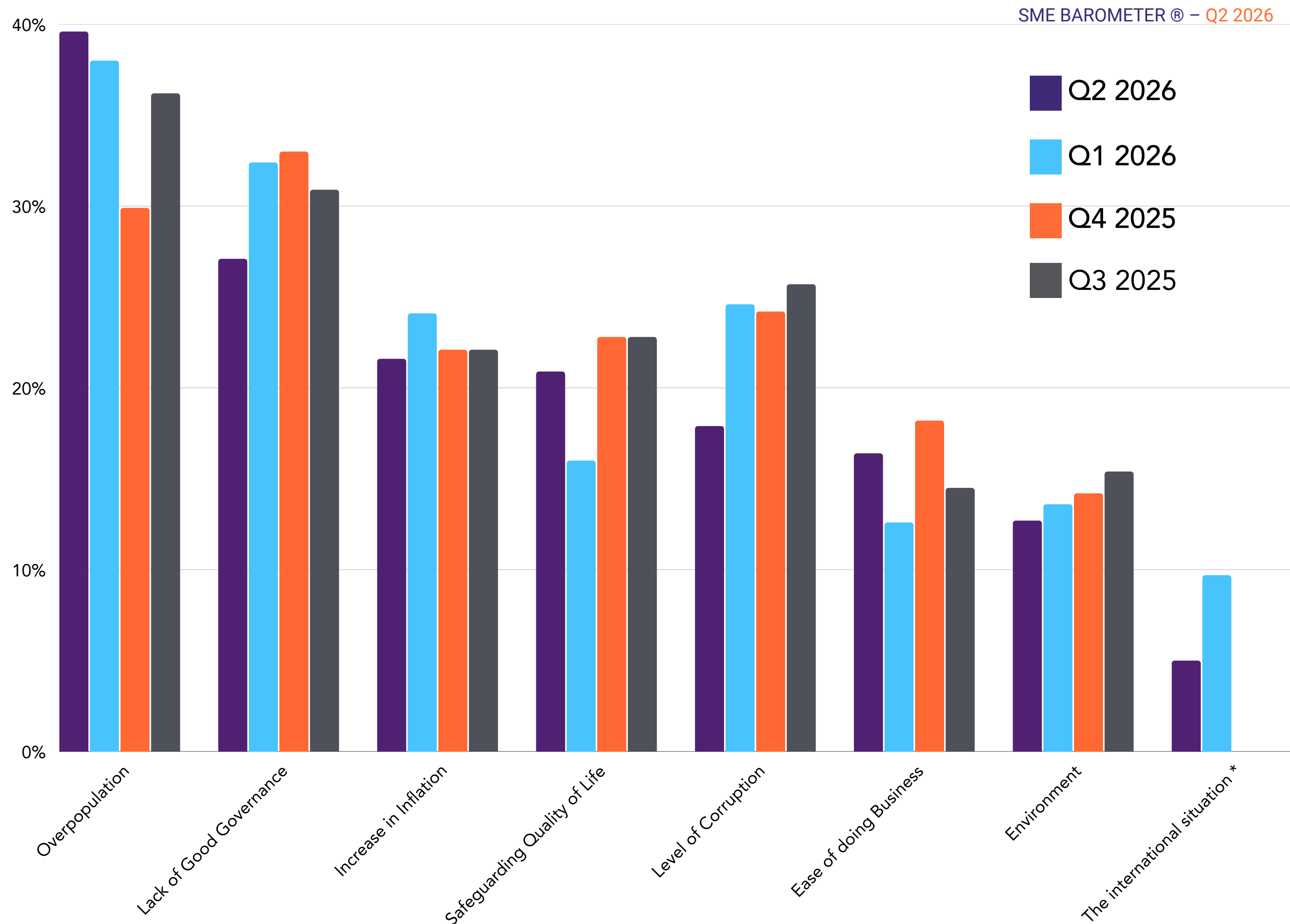


The 2 most important issues the country is facing and you would like the government to do something about

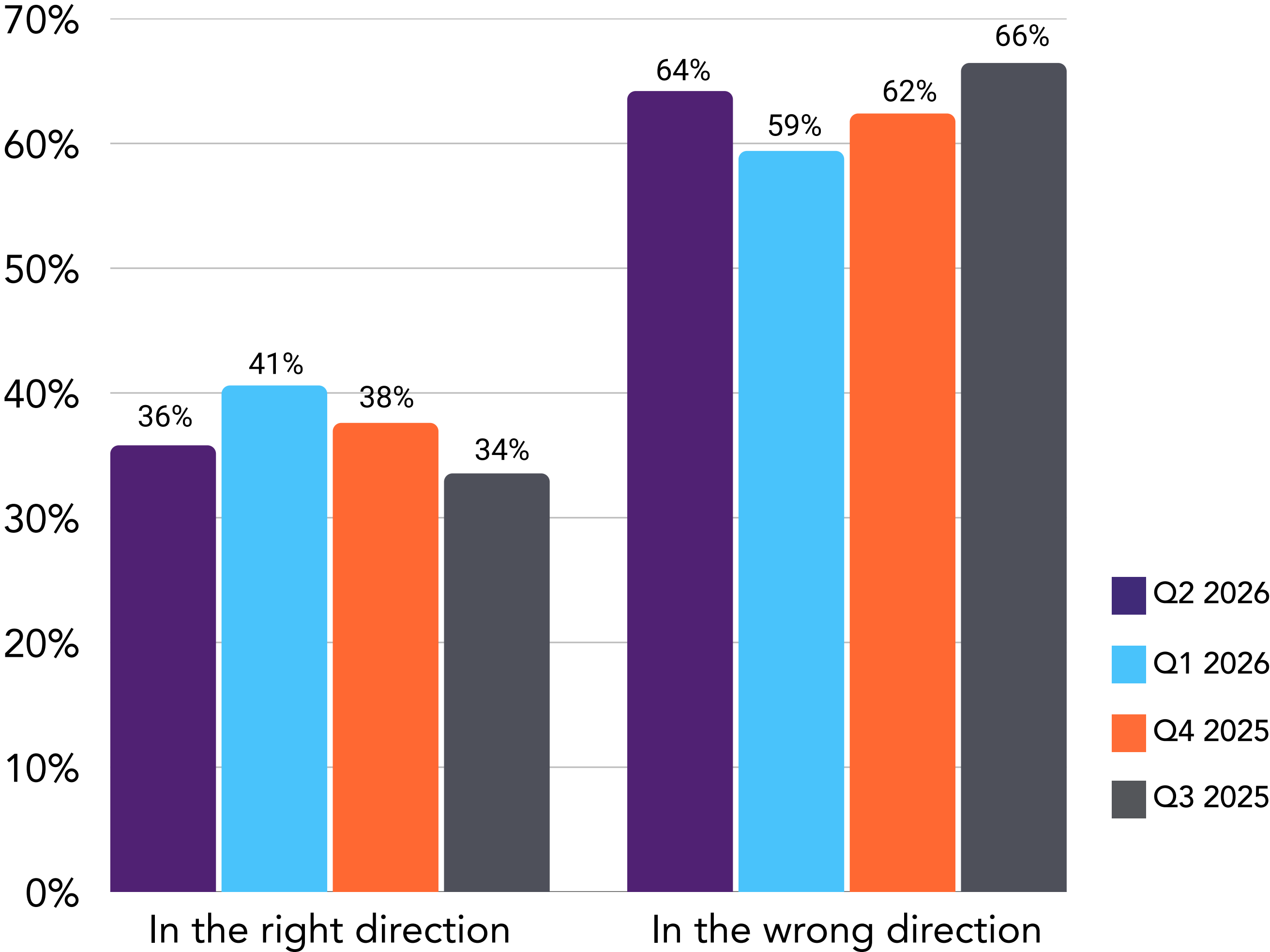
Select only Two



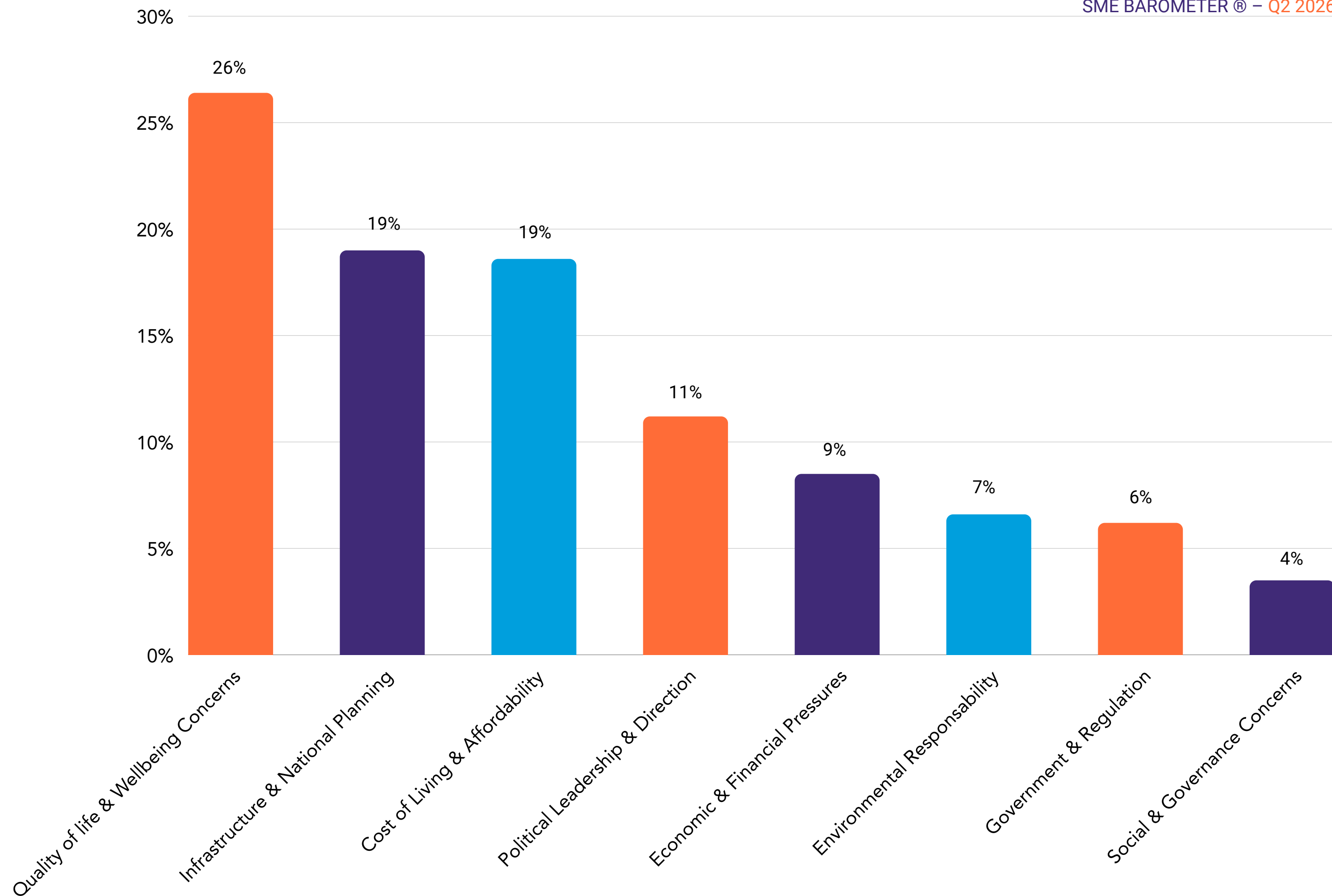
* Choice was not offered in previous quarters.



In your opinion, Malta is moving in the right direction or in the wrong direction?



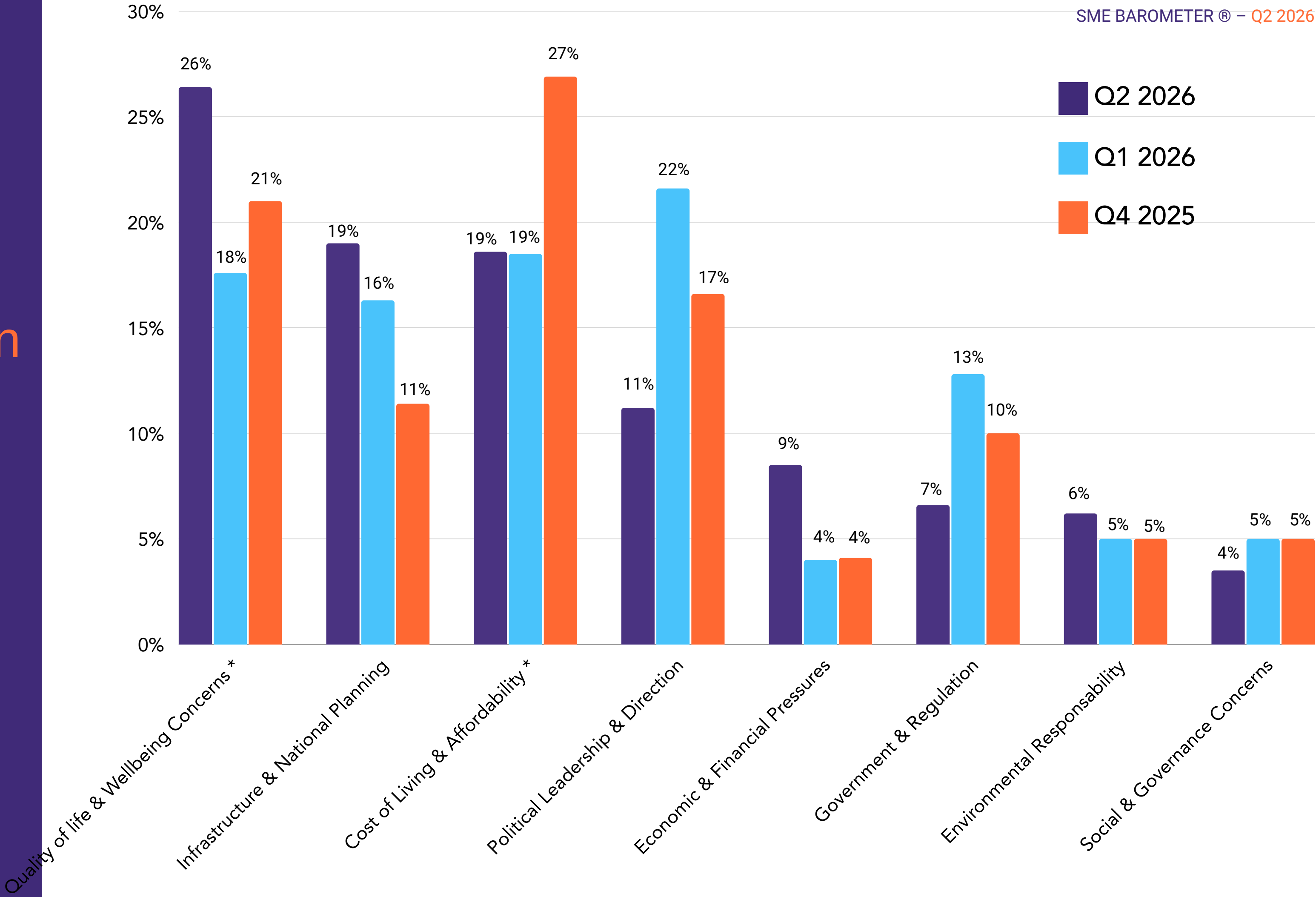
Why do you
feel Malta is
not moving in
the right
direction?



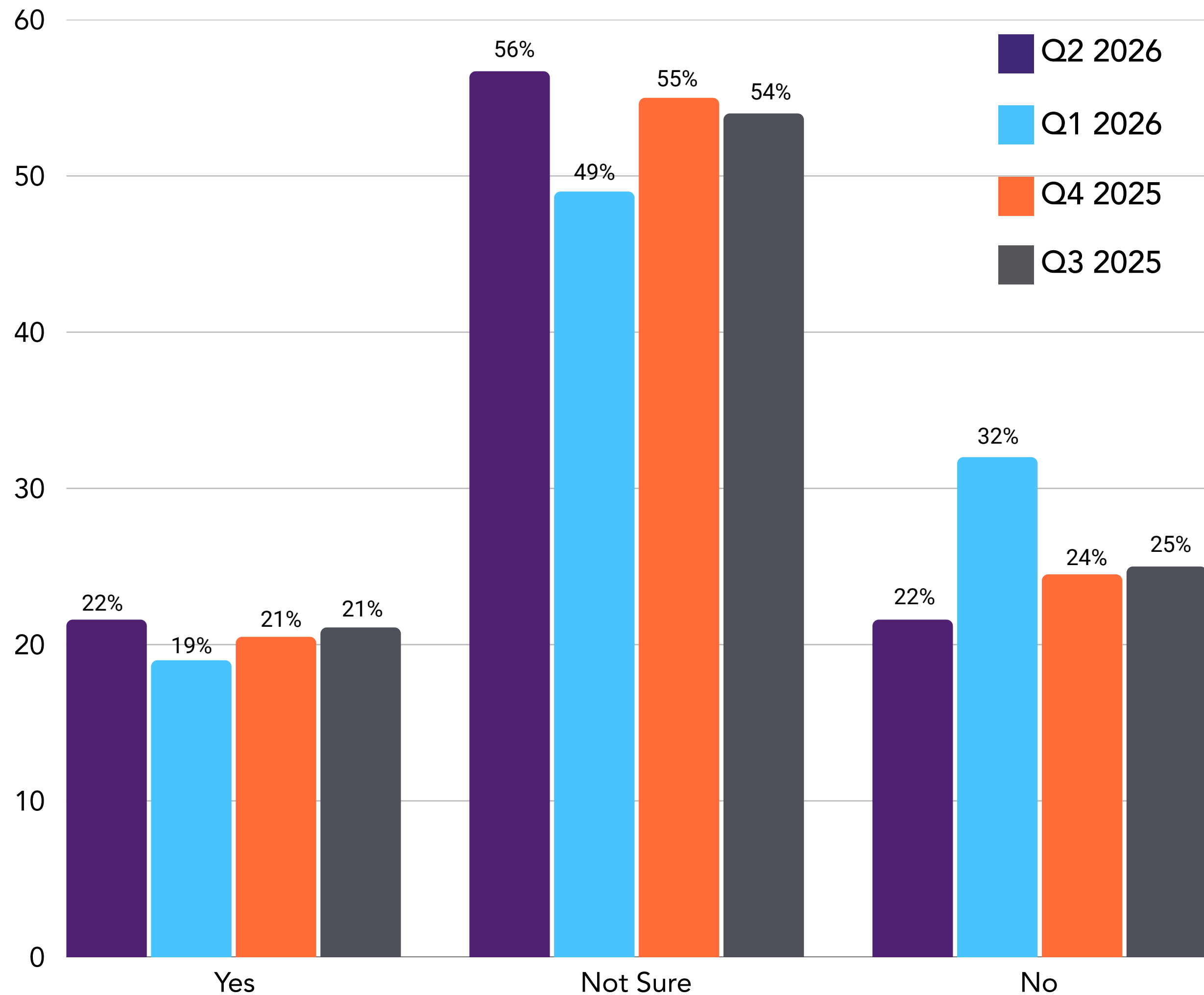
Why do you feel Malta is not moving in the right direction?



* Choice was not offered in previous quarters.



Do you think that
during the next 12
months, it will be a
good time to
invest?





Recommendations & Observations



Observations



- Employee shortages remains and is causing disruptions, especially in industries heavily reliant on skilled labour.
- Unfair competition highlights weak enforcement, direct competition with public sector and market distortion
- Processing of TCN Visa's and increase in inflation increased once again as an issue compared to previous quarter.

Observations



- Concerns on transport costs and the international situation decreased drastically in Q2 compared to Q1.
- Concerns about overpopulation continued to increase in Q2 2026, making it a more prominent issue for businesses compared to the previous quarter.
- Governance, increase in inflation and level of corruption declined as a concern relative to Q1 2026, indicating that fewer respondents identified it as a priority issue

Observations



- Safeguarding quality of life and improving the ease of doing business saw significant increases in importance, with more businesses identifying these as key issues they would like the government to address.
- Investment sentiment is weak; 56% say are not sure if it's good time to invest

Recommendations



- Bottleneck on TCN regulatory needs to be improved
- Ensure a level playing field, stronger enforcement against unfair competition
- Strengthen transparency and anti-corruption measures to increase trust in public institutions
- Address national pressures: tackle overpopulation , infrastructure and quality of life

Recommendations



- Reduce administrative burdens on SMEs by simplifying licensing, permitting and compliance processes, helping improve Malta's ease of doing business and encouraging investment
- Adopt a whole-of-government approach to quality of life, ensuring infrastructure, mobility, housing and public services keep pace with economic activity and population growth
- Strengthen business confidence through policy certainty, providing businesses with a stable regulatory and fiscal environment that encourages long-term investment decisions



THANK YOU

smechamber.mt
admin@smechamber.mt