

American Business Leaders' Views On Publicly-funded Pre-Kindergarten and the Advantages to the Economy

Committee for Economic Development

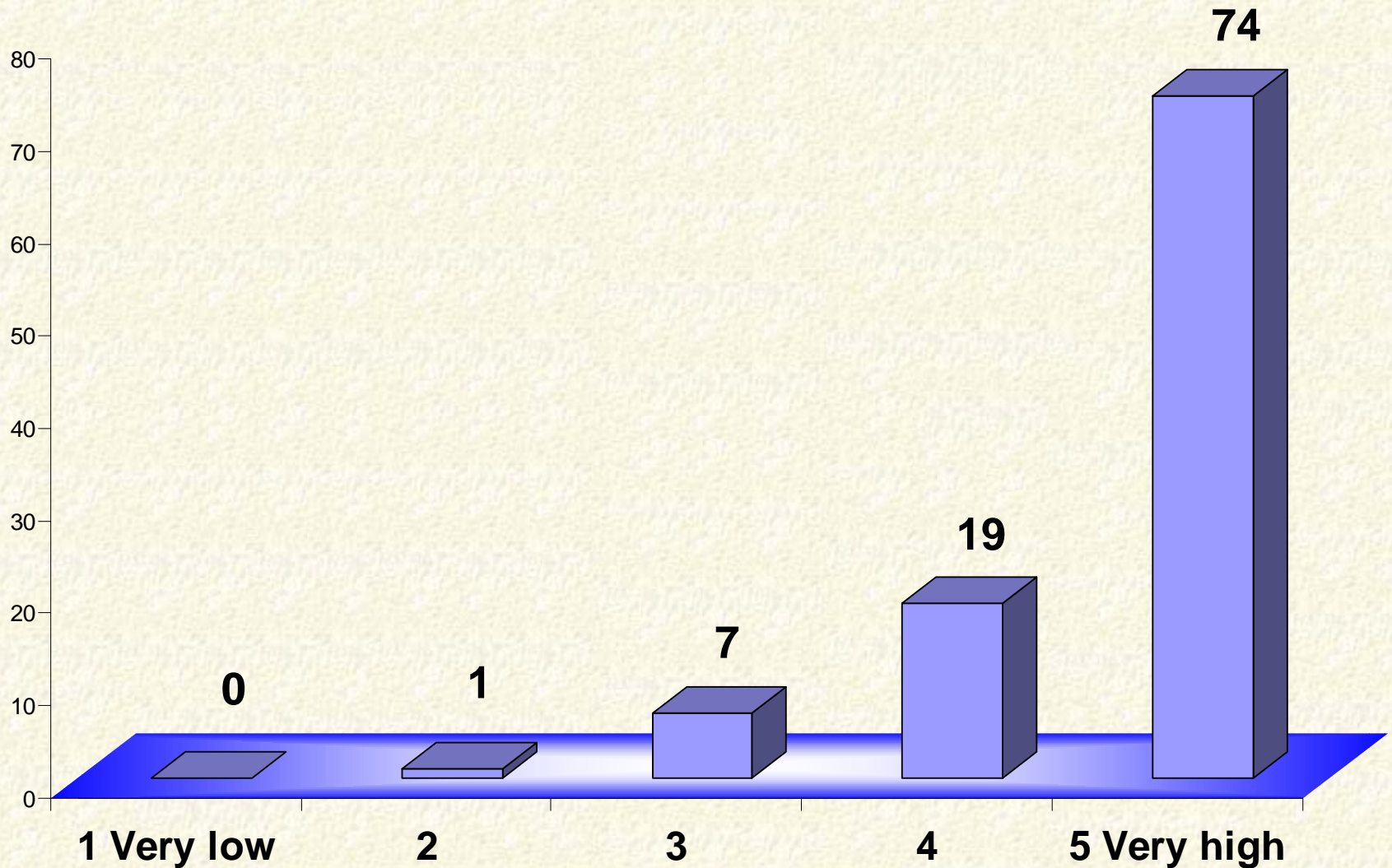
Zogby International

Methodology

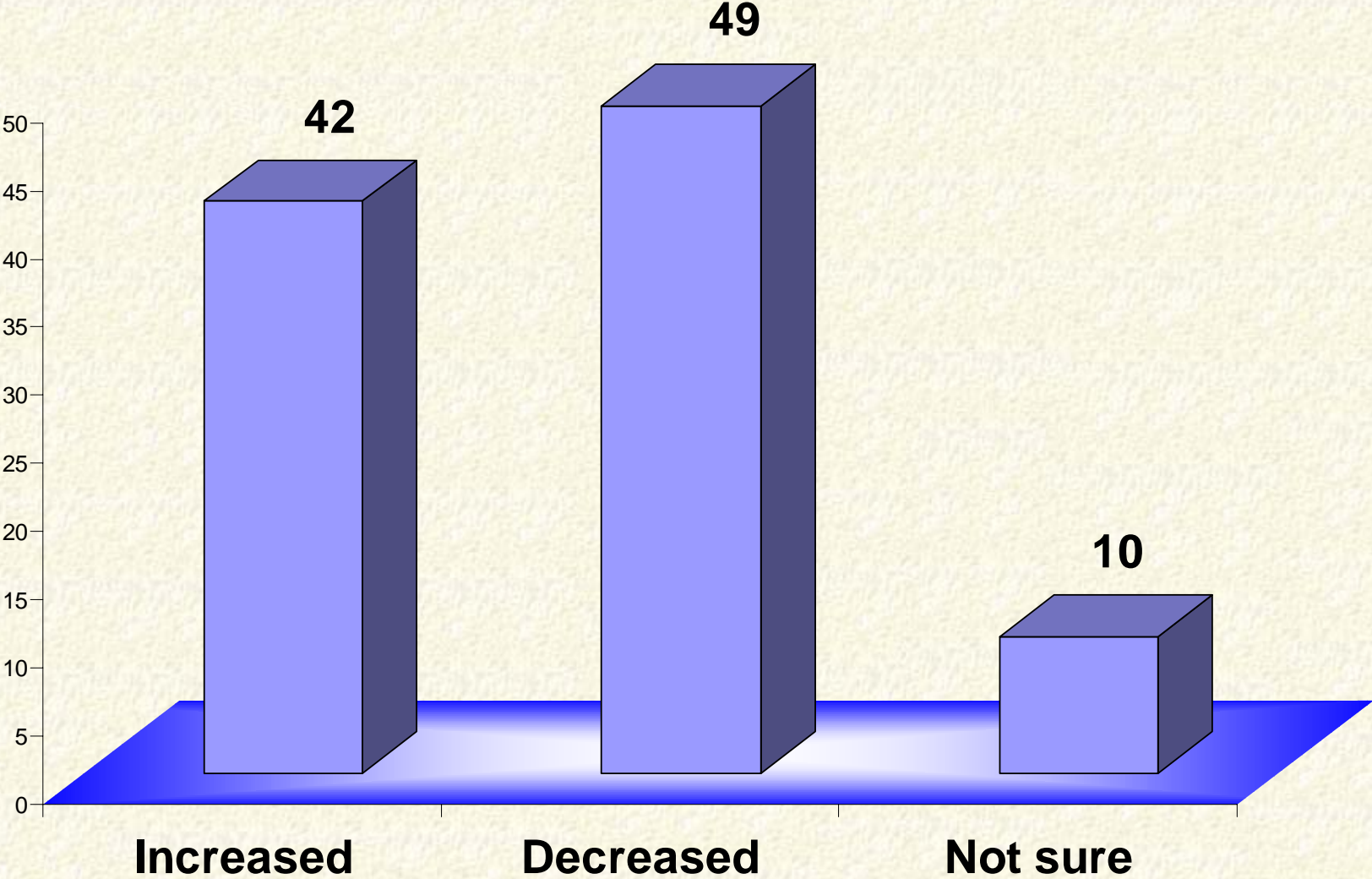
This is a telephone survey of business leaders conducted by Zogby International. The target sample is 205 interviews with approximately 29 questions asked of Fortune 1000 companies and other companies with at least 1,000 employees, chosen at random from a list of Zogby-compiled business contacts nationwide. Zogby International surveys employ sampling strategies in which selection probabilities are proportional to population size within area codes and exchanges within those area codes. As many as 20 calls are made to reach a sampled phone number. Cooperation rates are calculated using one of AAPOR's approved methodologies and are comparable to other professional public-opinion surveys conducted using similar sampling strategies. The margin of error is +/- 7.0 percentage points. Margins of error are higher in sub-groups.

Sample Characteristics	Frequency	Valid Percent
Sample size	205	100
Finance	28	14
Human resources	151	74
Management	14	7
Other title	12	6
Male	71	35

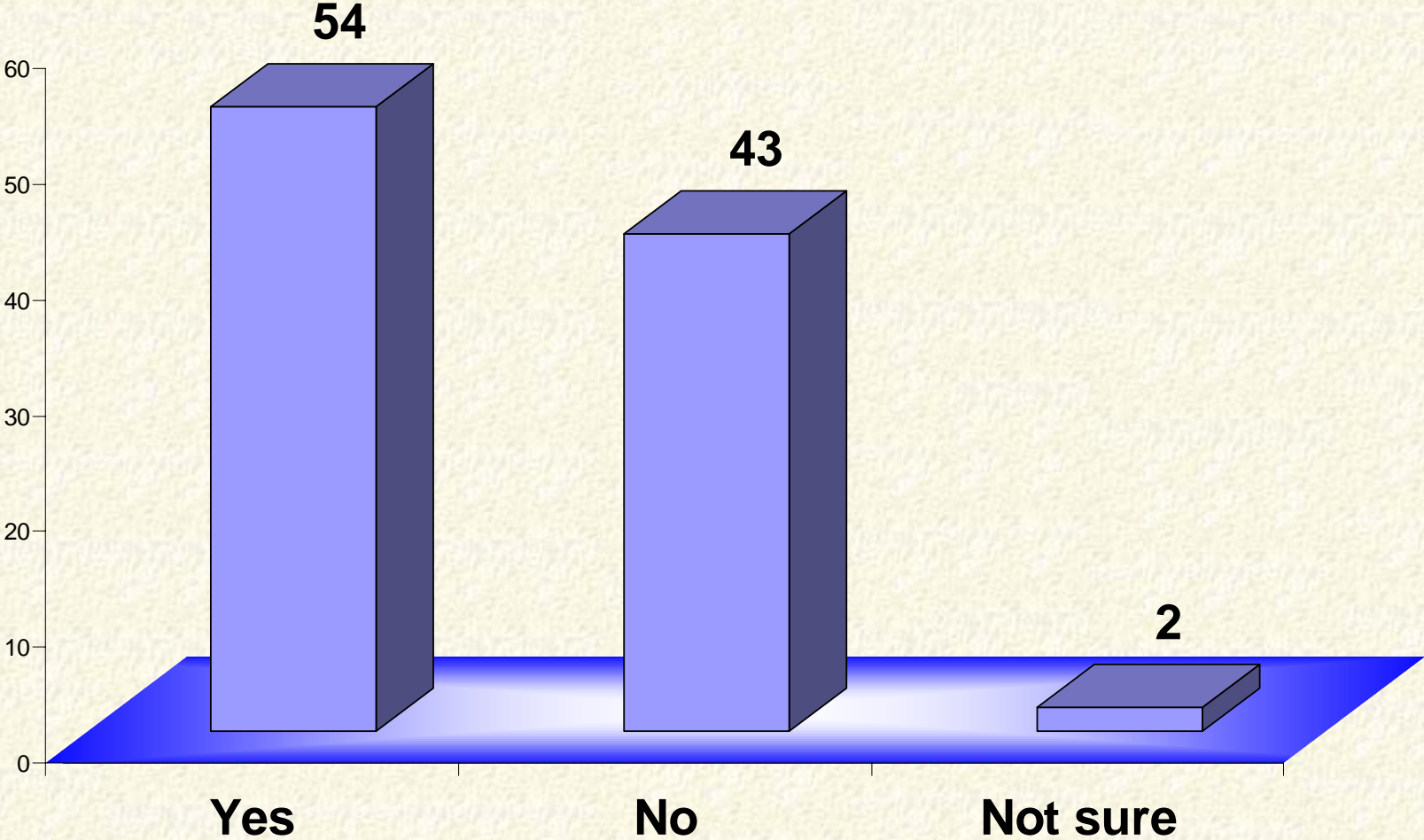
How high is the importance of a skilled workforce to the future success of your company?



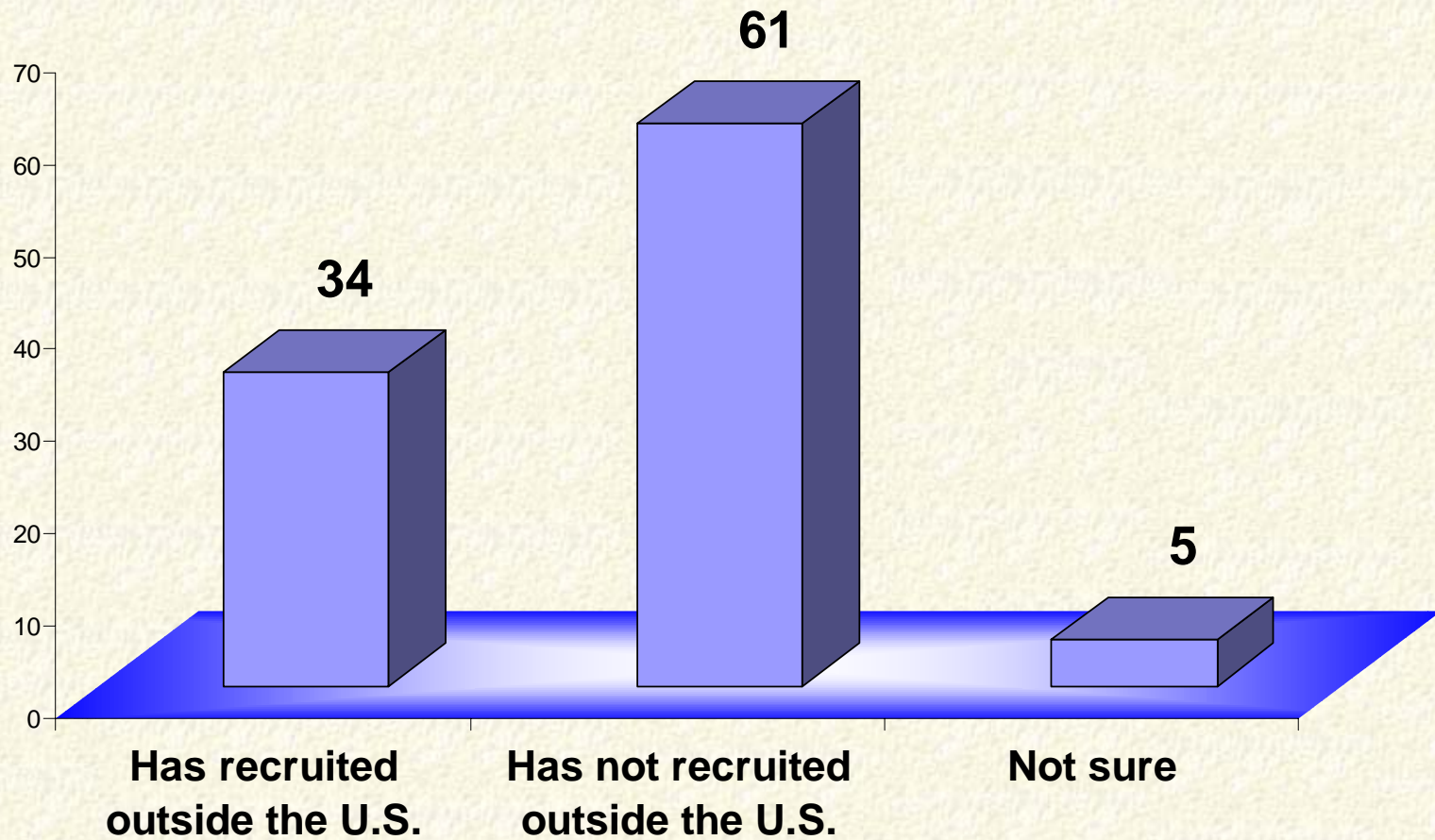
Do you think the level of quality workers has increased or decreased over the last ten years?



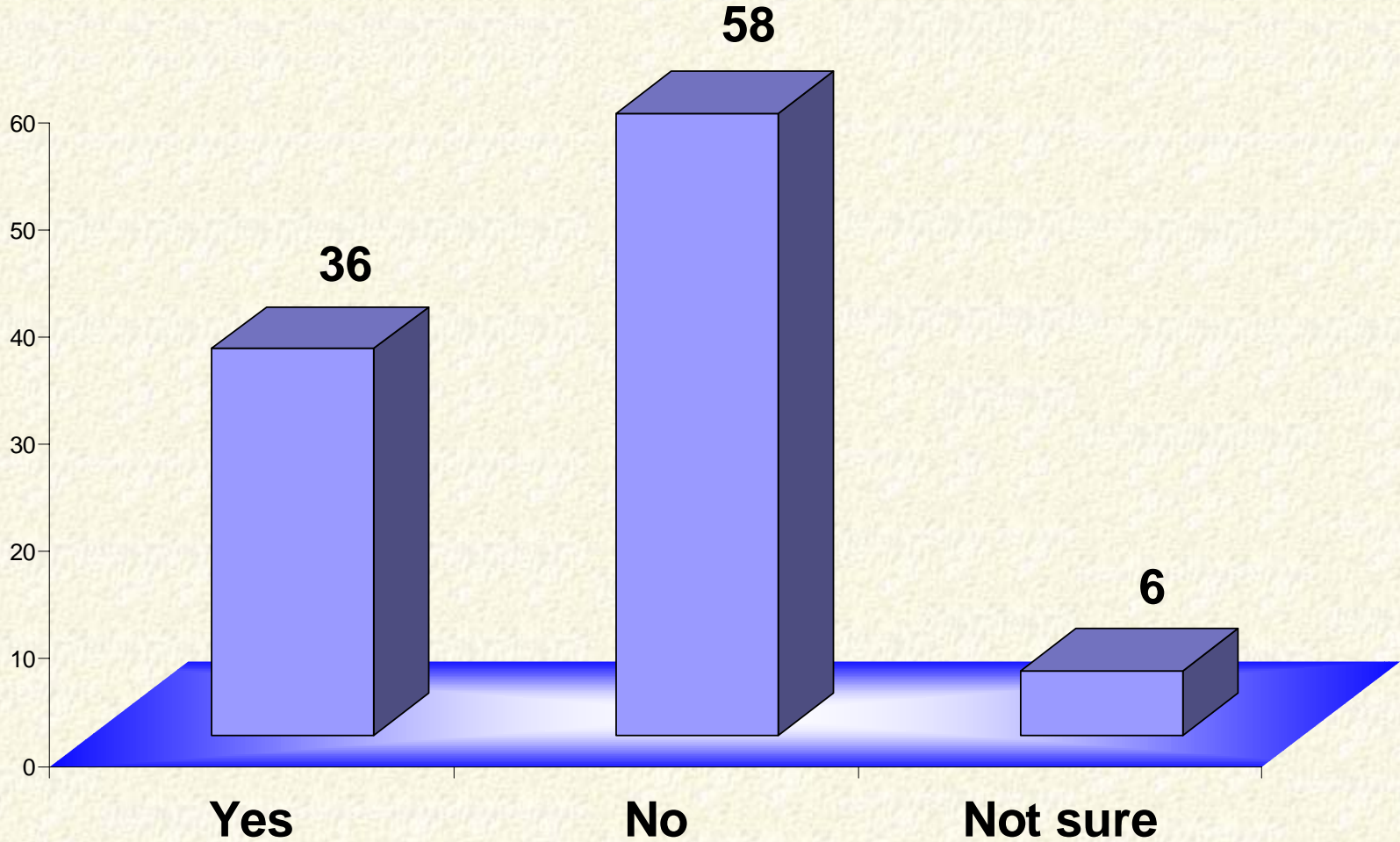
Do you expect your company will have difficulty finding educated and skilled workers to fill jobs in the future?



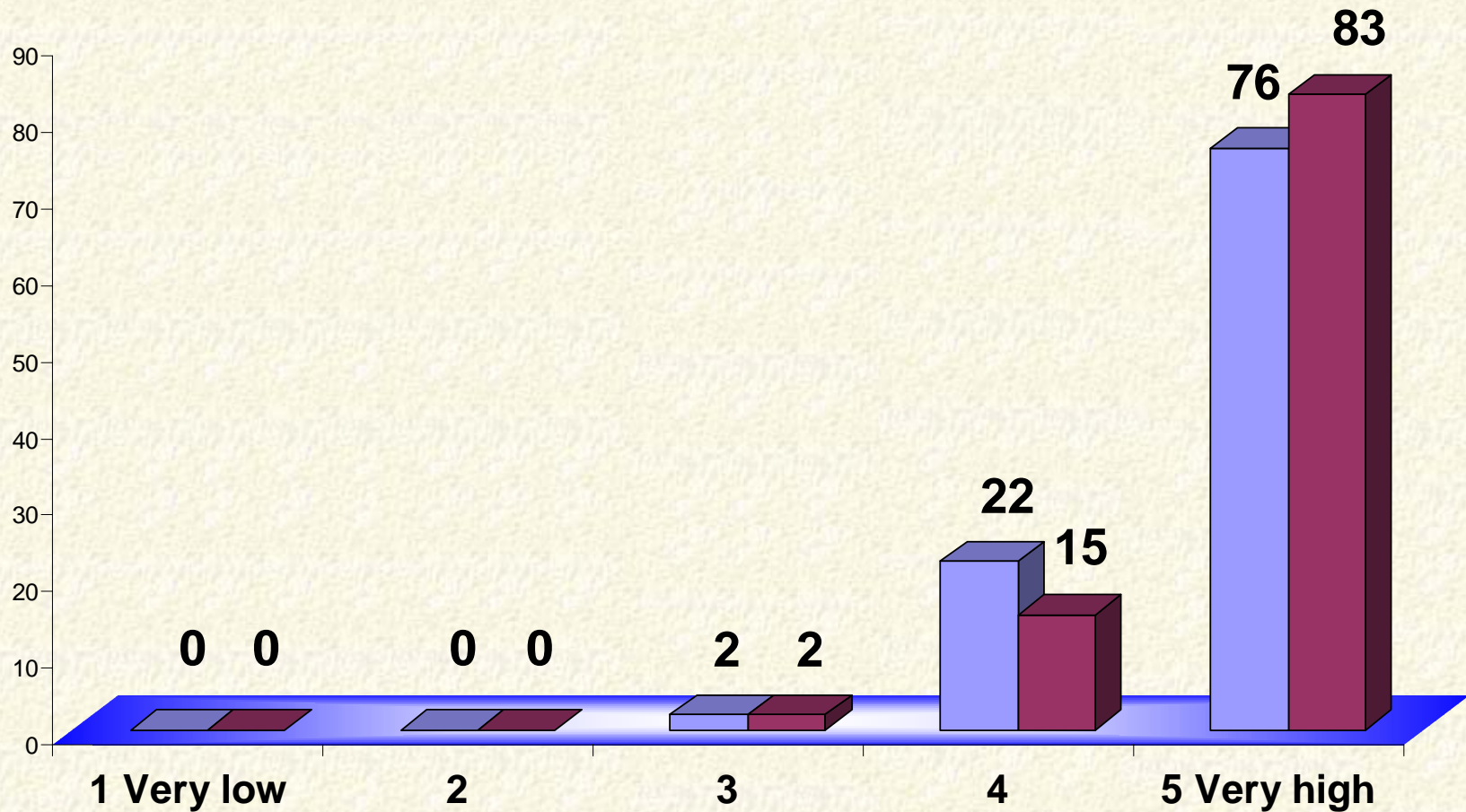
Under legally sanctioned programs, has your company ever recruited candidates from outside the United States to fill U.S. jobs requiring special skills or education?



Do you expect it will be necessary to fill vacancies for skilled or educated workers from outside the United States in the future?

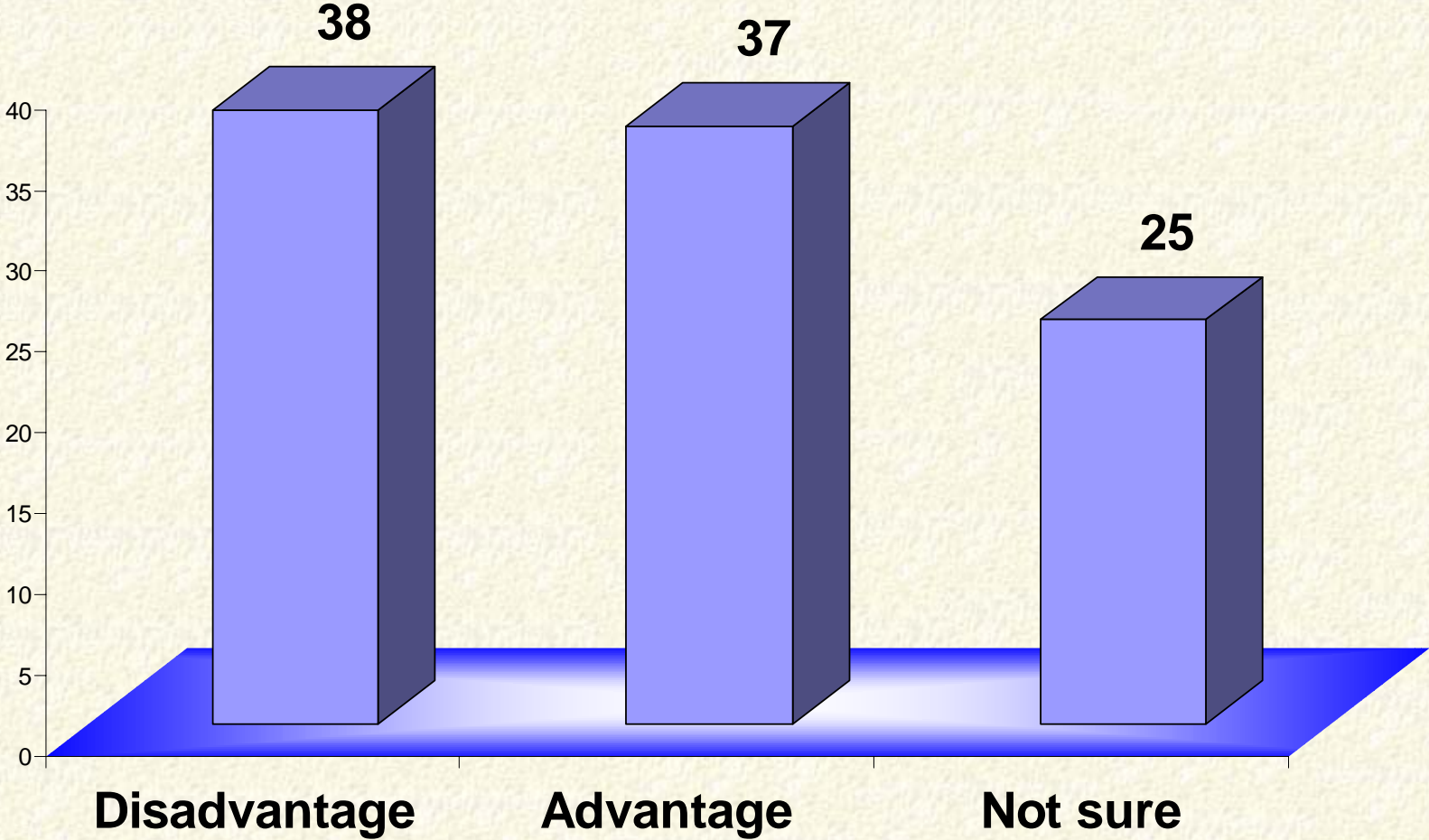


The Importance of a Skilled Workforce . . .



- To the future success of the American economy
- To remain globally competitive

Given the level of education of the American workforce, are American firms at a disadvantage or an advantage compared to foreign firms?

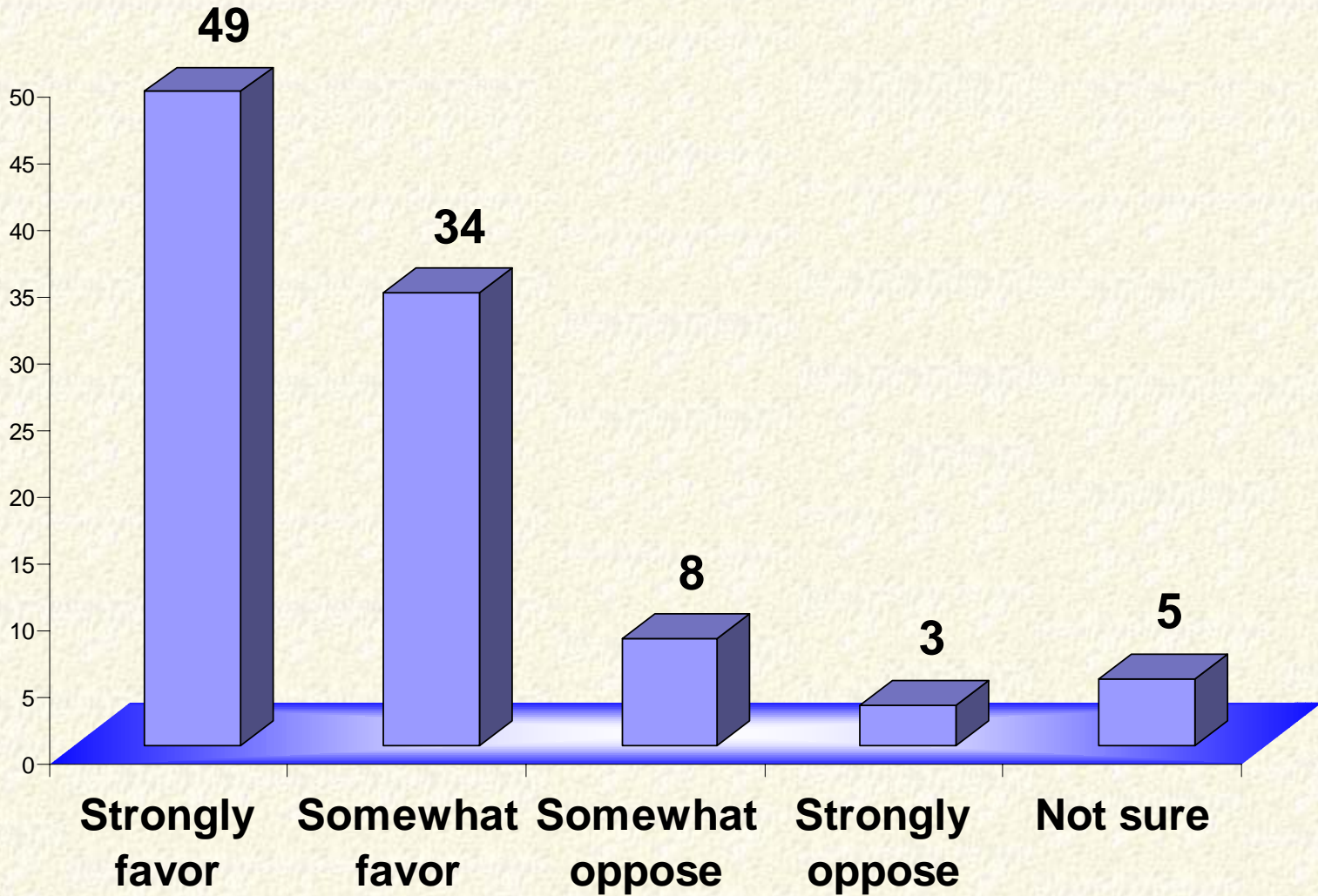


Views on Pre-School Education	Agree	Disagree	Not sure
Children who receive pre-kindergarten education are more likely to start school better prepared	94	4	2
Children who begin school better prepared are more likely to perform better throughout their educational experience	92	8	1
Investments in effective preschool programs for children are important to remain competitive in the global economy	83	14	3
Investments in effective preschool programs for children are important for the long-term success of the U.S. economy	80	17	3
Pre-kindergarten made available to all children would improve the workforce	75	19	7
Public funding that enabled all children to attend pre-K if their parents wanted it would improve America's workforce	75	20	6
More highly educated workers are better workers	68	30	2

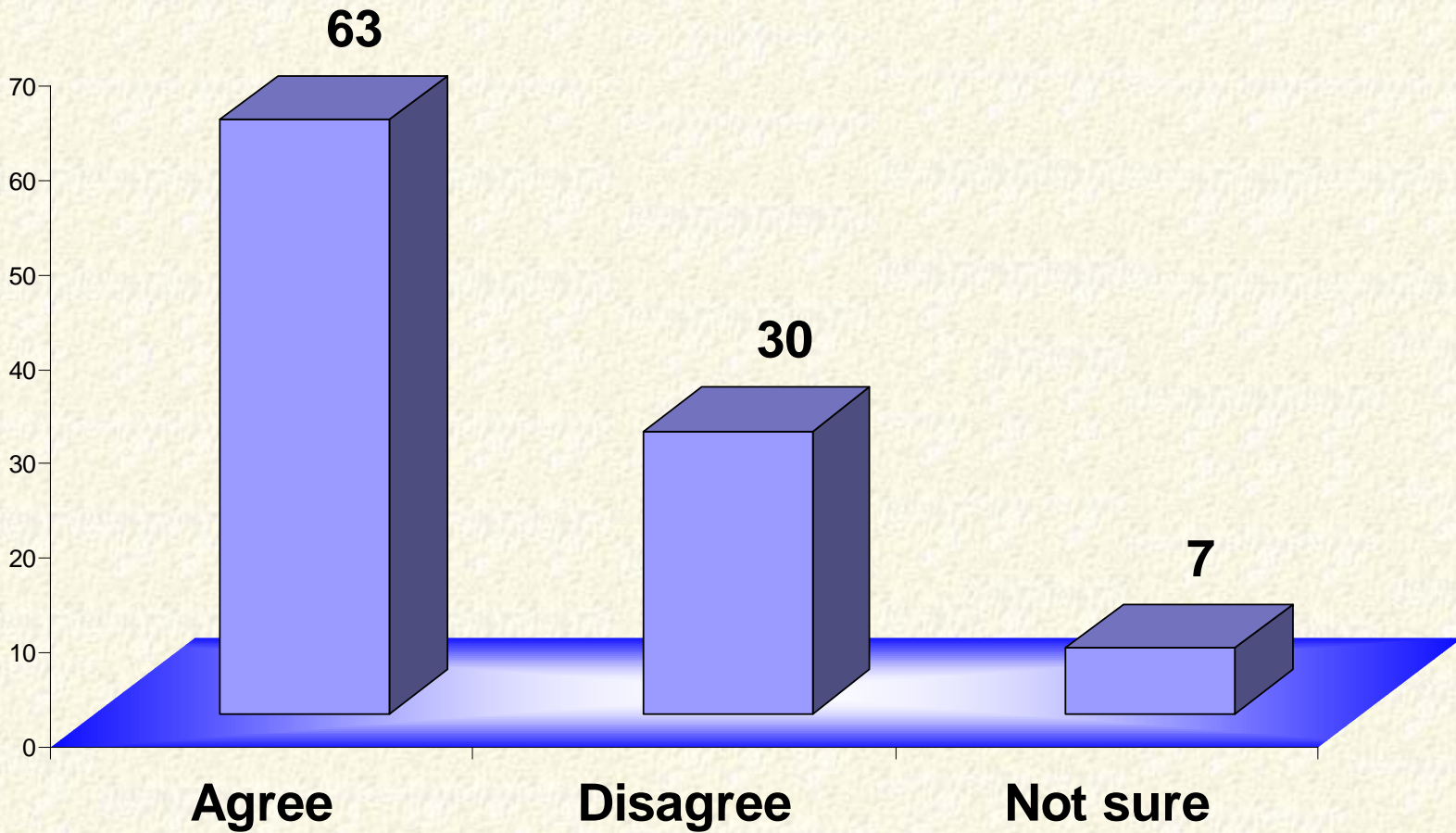
Effects of Studies on Pre-School Support	More likely	Less likely	No diff.	Not sure
Compared to similar disadvantaged children who did not attend, children who attended the pre-K program earned higher incomes and were better able to support themselves and their families as adults.	87	4	5	3
Comparing just the girls who attended the pre-K program and those left out, the girls who attended were more than twice as likely to graduate from high school, less likely to have had a child out of wedlock and half as likely to have received government assistance.	84	10	3	3
Preschool programs produce a public and private benefit-cost ratio of 7-to-1 with a 16% annual return on investment, adjusted for inflation.	79	10	5	7
Compared to children who attended the pre-K program, children left out were five times more likely to be chronic criminal offenders with four or more arrests by age 27.	76	16	4	4
In almost every state, the cost of private pre-K programs exceeds the cost of tuition at a state college, making high quality pre-K programs unaffordable for the low-income families whose children are most at risk.	76	17	3	4

Further Views on Pre-School Education	Agree	Disagree	Not sure
Investments in effective preschool programs for children are important if the U.S. is to remain competitive in the global economy.	88	10	2
Investments in effective preschool programs for children are important for the long-term success of the U.S. economy.	87	10	3
Voluntary pre-kindergarten for all children would improve the workforce.	86	11	3
Public funding of voluntary pre-K for all children would improve America's workforce.	81	16	3

Do you favor Pre-K programs where families get to choose the program that is right for them?



Agree or disagree: The business community should actively support pre-school for all children whose parents want it for them?



To Sum Up:

American business leaders “get it” when it comes to early childhood education

- They agree pre-K programs help kids succeed at school
- They agree successful students are the key to the future success of the American economy
- They are relatively reticent to go searching for workers overseas
- They support universal access to pre-k programs
- They respect the autonomy of the American family, allowing parents, not bureaucrats, to decide whether their children should attend