



SMALL BUSINESS FOR AMERICA'S FUTURE

Survey: Understanding Small Business Economic Perspectives & Policy Priorities

August 16, 2023

About Small Business for America's Future

- Small Business for America's Future is a national coalition of business owners and leaders working to provide small businesses a voice at every level of government.
- We're committed to ensuring policymakers prioritize Main Street by advancing a just and equitable economic framework that works for small business owners, their employees and their communities.





Key Findings

National Small Business Survey: Economic Optimism and Support for Inflation Reduction Act

Between Aug. 4-15, 2023, Small Business for America's Future conducted a national survey of **961** small business owners to gauge their sentiment around the economy and the Inflation Reduction Act on its one-year anniversary.

Key Insights

- Most Main Street entrepreneurs responding to the survey are optimistic about their business' future, and believe government initiatives and investments have contributed recent positive economic developments.
- Over half believe the Inflation Reduction Act has had a positive impact on small businesses
- Most believe measures in the Act to control inflation benefit small business
- Most believe the IRS needs to improve and support funds to do so
- Awareness of the Act's details remains somewhat limited

Economic Findings

- **57%** of respondents are optimistic about their business's future, while just 23% are pessimistic (most only moderately).
- A strong **63%** believe that government spending and investments, including the Inflation Reduction Act, have contributed to positive economic momentum.



National Small Business Survey: Economic Optimism and Support for Inflation Reduction Act

IRS Sentiments and the Inflation Reduction Act

- **62%** of small business owners responding believe the IRS should enhance its service and responsiveness to small businesses.
- **63%** support the Act's decade-long investments to improve and modernize the IRS.

A majority of respondents support the Inflation Reduction Act's provisions:

- **78%** back the Act's measures allowing Medicare to negotiate lower prescription drug prices
- **70%** favor extending these negotiated prices from Medicare to private insurance plans.
- **66%** feel that measures in the Act to control inflation benefit small businesses.
- **50%** believe that the Act's investment in the clean energy sector, including tax incentives, promotes business opportunities.
- Specifically, **58%** intend to invest in or adopt clean energy technologies soon.
- **65%** agree elevating the small business Research and Development Refundable Tax Credit will help entrepreneurs



An overhead, top-down view of a collaborative office workspace. Several people are seated around a large wooden table, working on various devices including desktop monitors, laptops, and tablets. The workspace is cluttered with office supplies such as keyboards, mice, notebooks, pens, a coffee cup, and a small potted plant. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The text "Survey Results" is centered in the middle of the image in a white, sans-serif font.

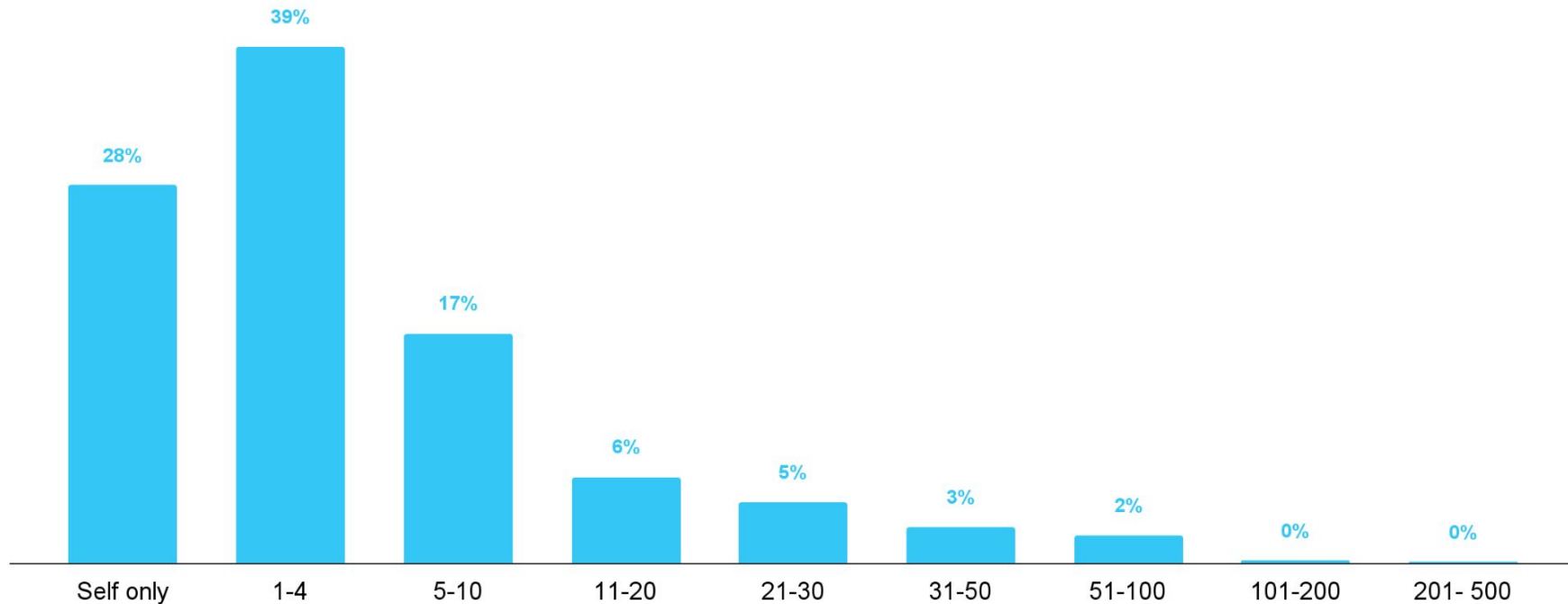
Survey Results

Q1: Are you a small business owner?

● Yes

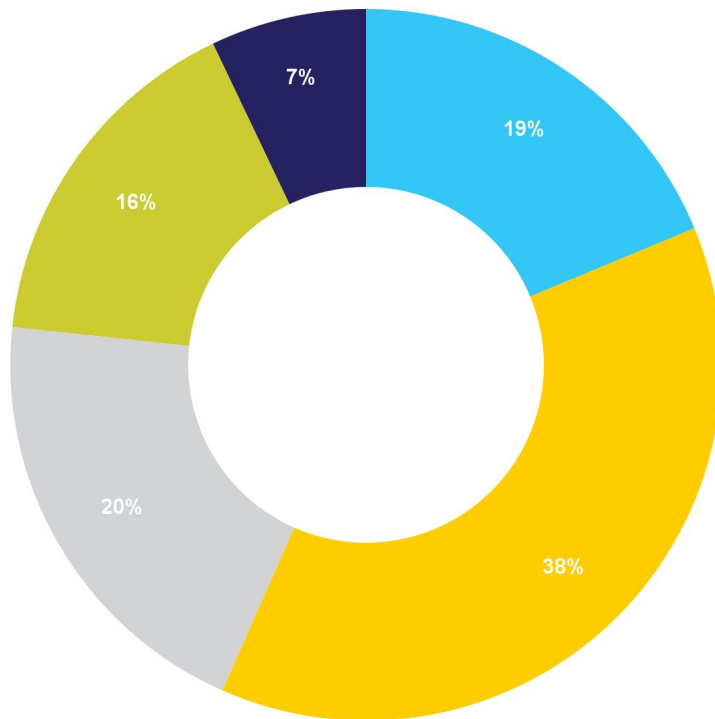


Q2: Not including yourself, how many employees do you have?



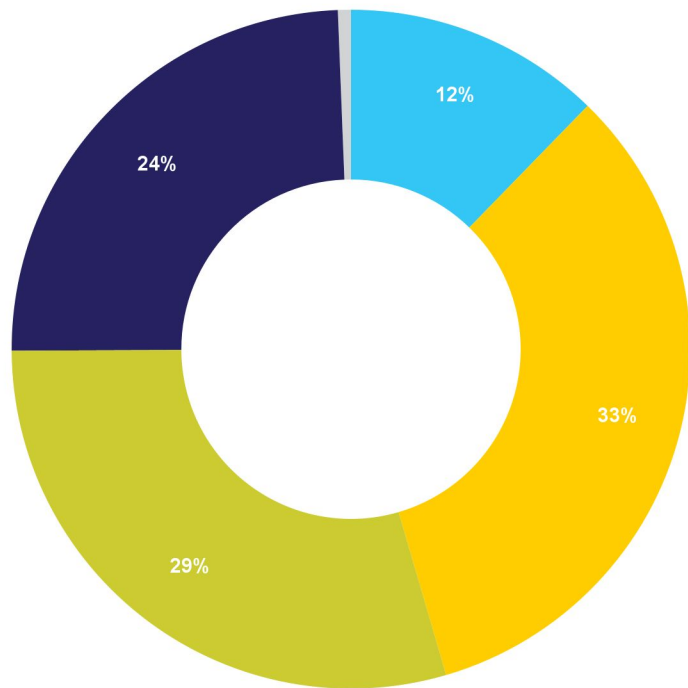
Q3: Given the current economic climate, what is your level of optimism for the future of your business?

● Extremely optimistic ● Moderately optimistic ● Neutral ● Moderately pessimistic ● Extremely pessimistic

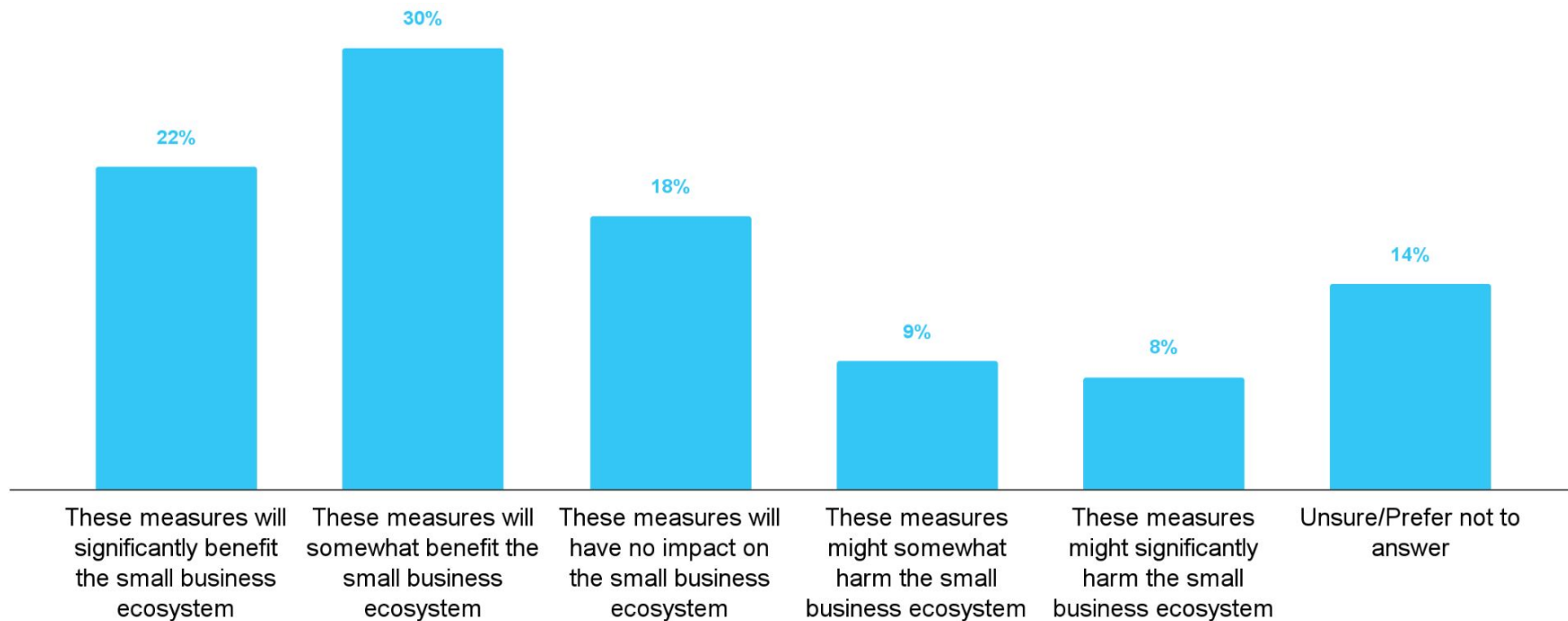


Q4: How familiar would you say you are with the details of the Inflation Reduction Act?

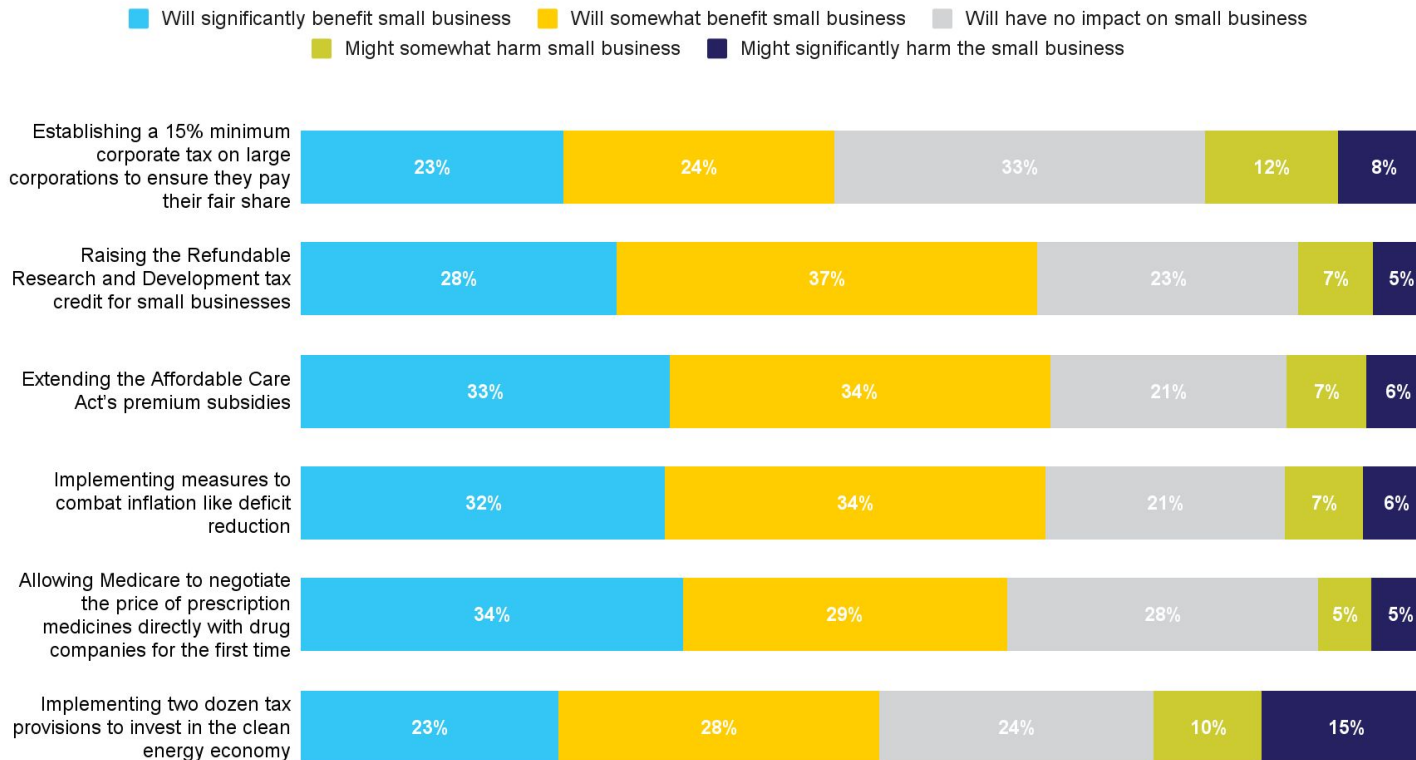
● Very familiar ● Somewhat familiar ● Not very familiar ● Not at all familiar ● Prefer not to answer



Q5: Given the provisions of the IRA, such as establishing a 15% minimum corporate tax on large corporations to ensure they pay their fair share, raising the Refundable Research and Development tax credit for small businesses, reducing healthcare costs through Medicare negotiation of drug prices and extension of the ACA's premium subsidies, and measures to combat inflation, to what extent do you believe these measures will benefit small business?

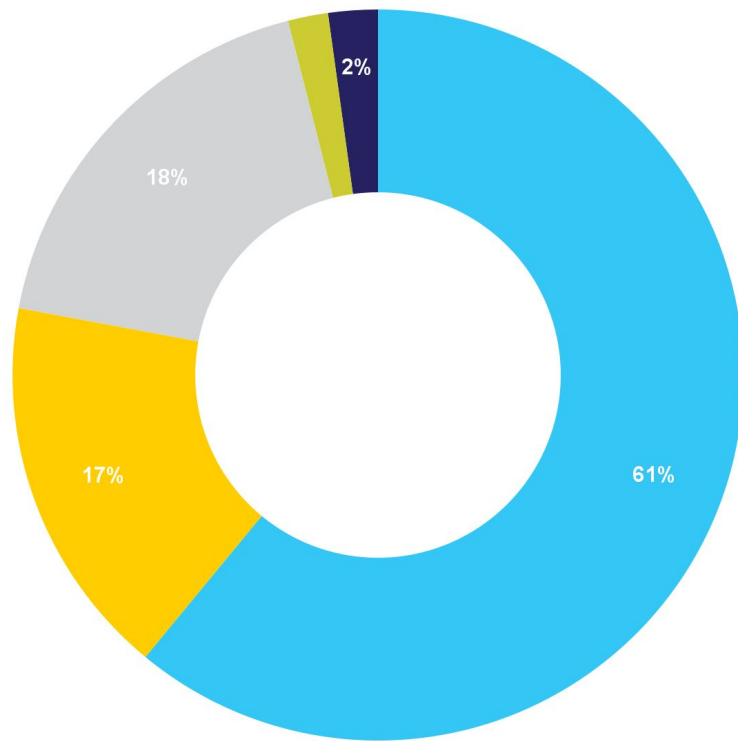


Q6: Please rate the potential impact each of the following Inflation Reduction Act provisions on small businesses

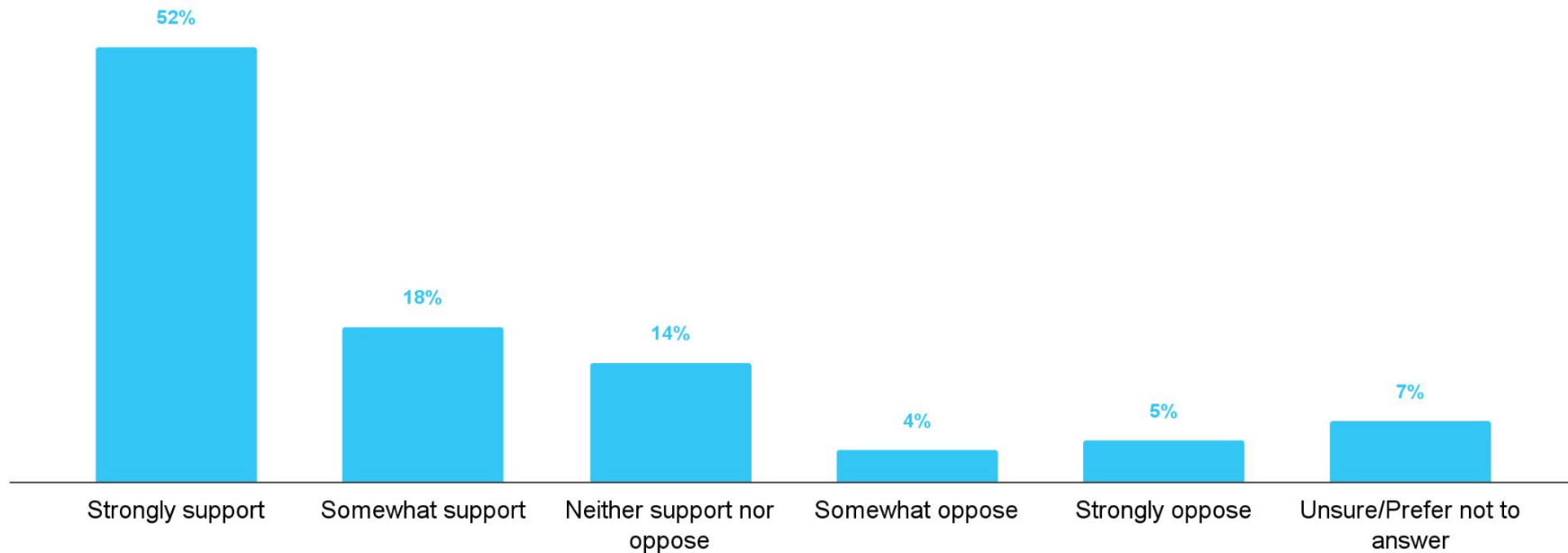


Q7: How supportive are you of the Inflation Reduction Act's measures to lower prescription drug prices?

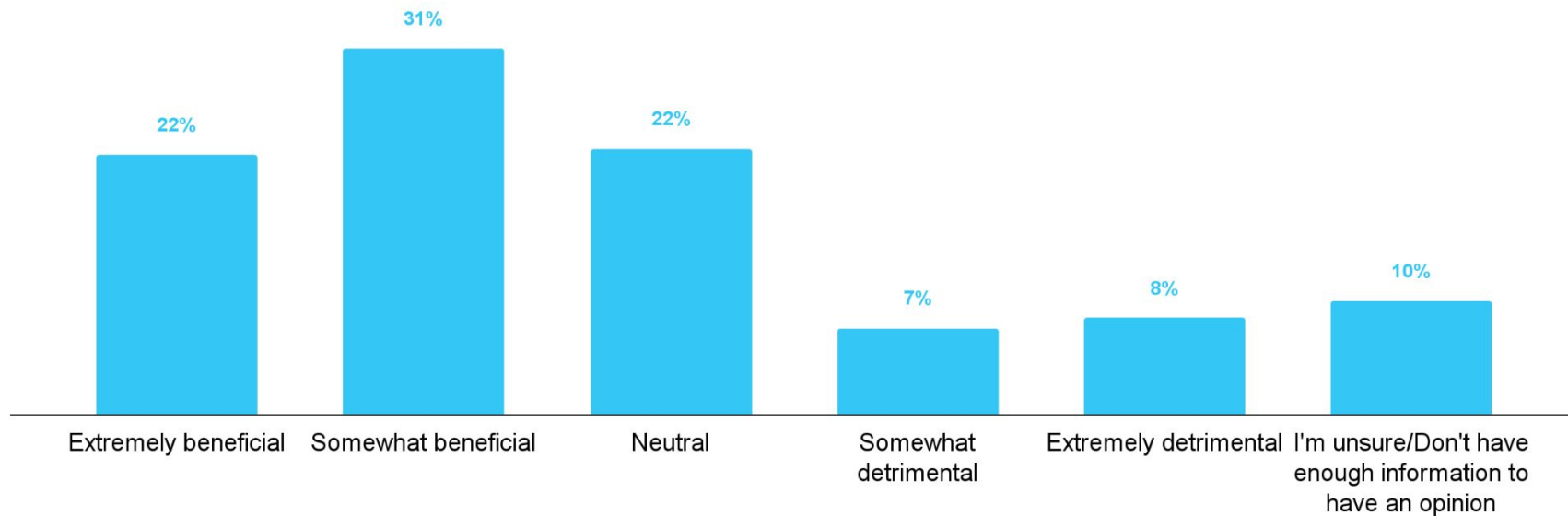
● Strongly support ● Somewhat support ● Neutral ● Somewhat oppose ● Strongly oppose



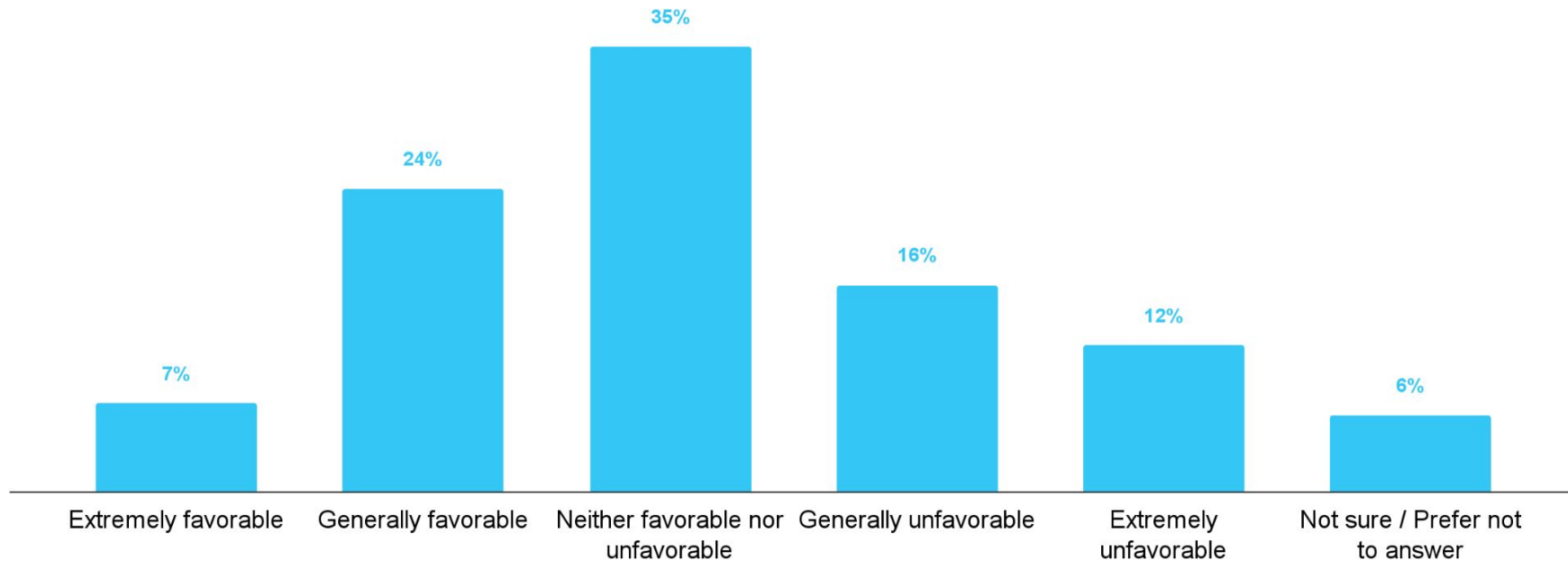
Q8: Would you support the government extending the negotiated drug prices from Medicare to private insurance plans?



Q9: How would you characterize your overall opinion of the Inflation Reduction Act?

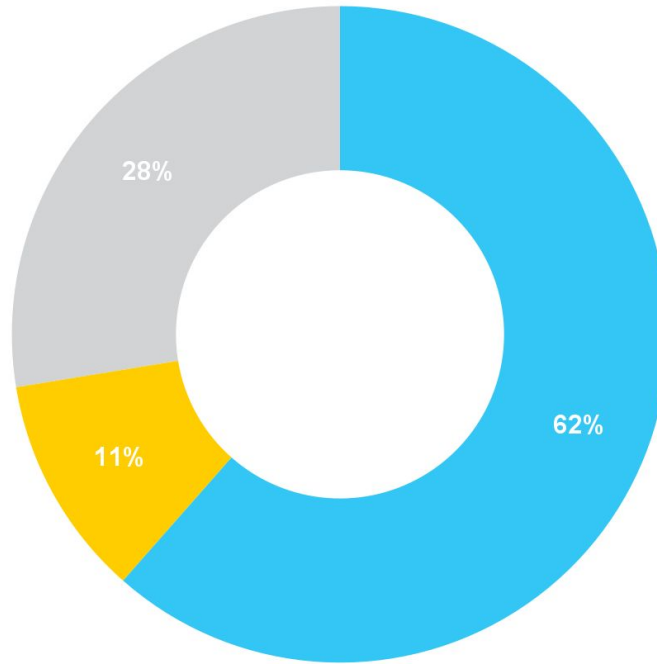


Q10: Now, drawing on your experience as a small business owner with the process of paying your taxes, how would you characterize your overall opinion of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS)?

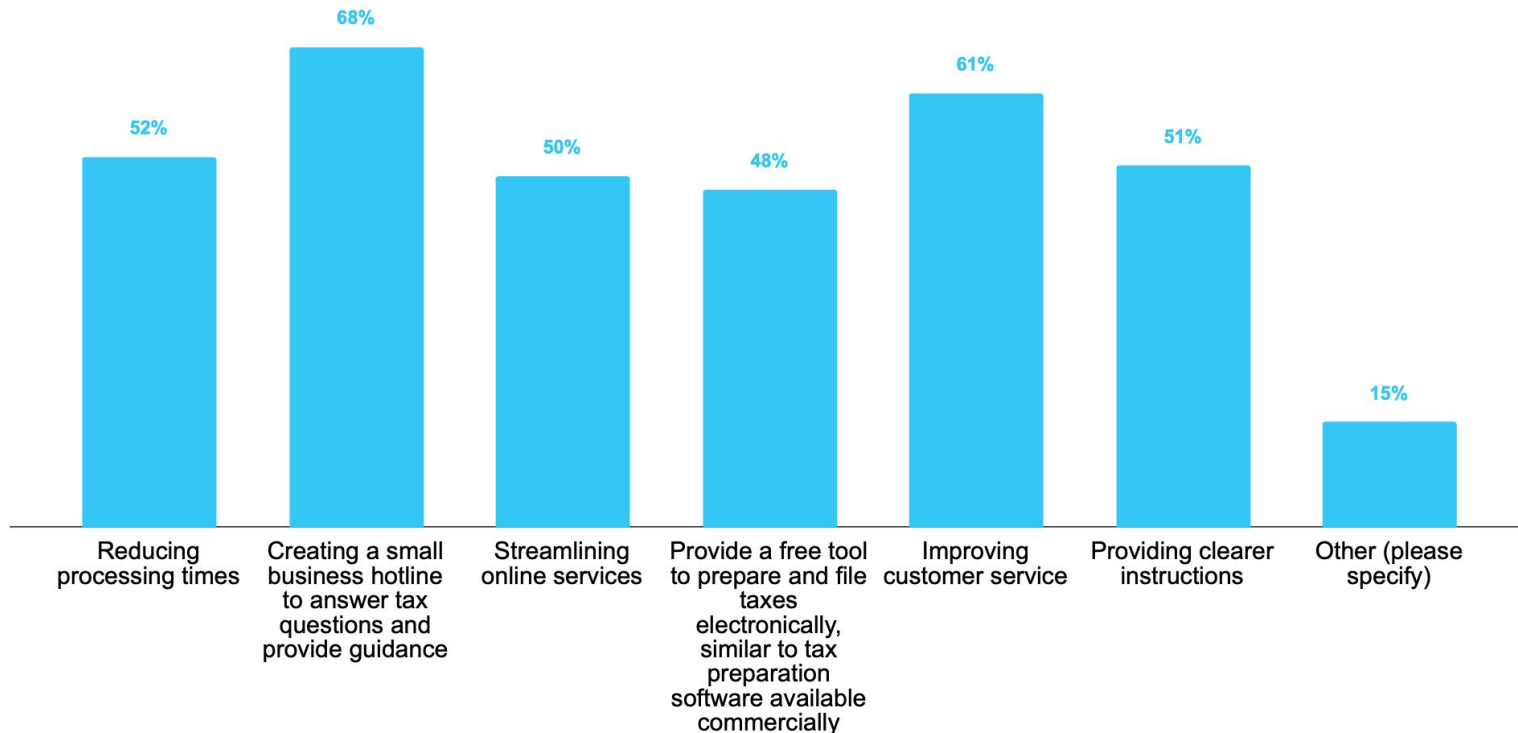


Q11: Reflecting on your interactions and experiences with the IRS as a small business owner, are there specific aspects where you believe the IRS should improve its service and responsiveness to the small business community?

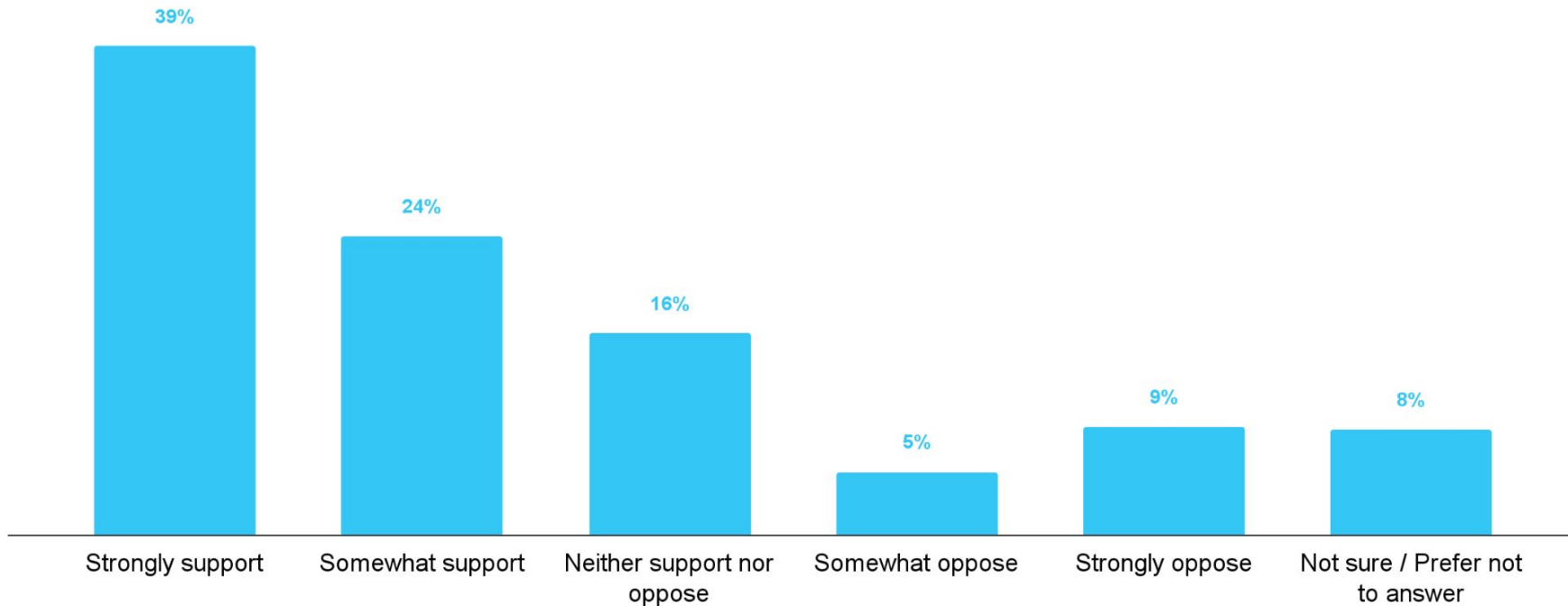
● Yes ● No ● Not sure / Prefer not to answer



Q12: In your view, and remembering that it is Congress—not the IRS—that creates tax policy and sets the level of taxation, which areas should the IRS focus on for improvement? (Please select all that apply)

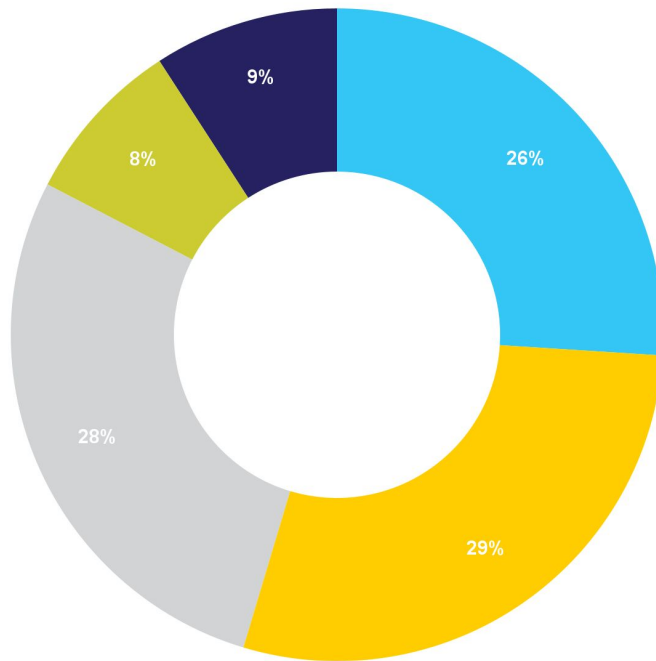


Q13: As you may know, the Inflation Reduction Act will invest over the next 10 years to modernize the IRS and improve its service delivery. The intent of this investment is not to increase audit scrutiny on small businesses or middle-income Americans. In fact, the Department of Treasury has directed that audit rates will not rise relative to recent years for households making under \$400,000. With this context, to what extent do you support or oppose this targeted investment to modernize and enhance the efficiency of the IRS?

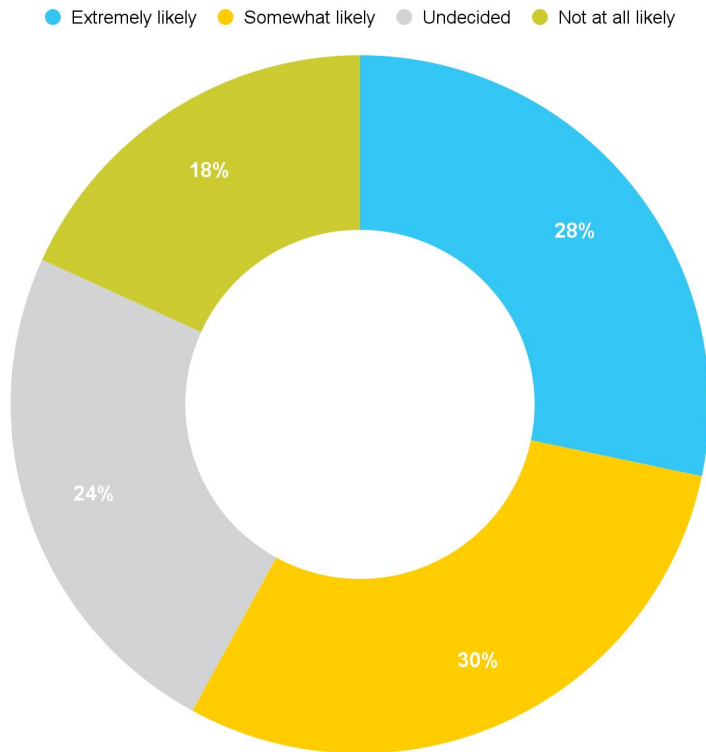


Q14: The Inflation Reduction Act includes a significant investment in the clean energy economy. There are more than two dozen tax incentives including a credit if you install qualified vehicle refueling and recharging property in your home or business as well as credits for the use of American-made equipment for clean energy production. To what extent do you believe these tax incentives will contribute to creating new opportunities for small businesses in the clean energy sector?

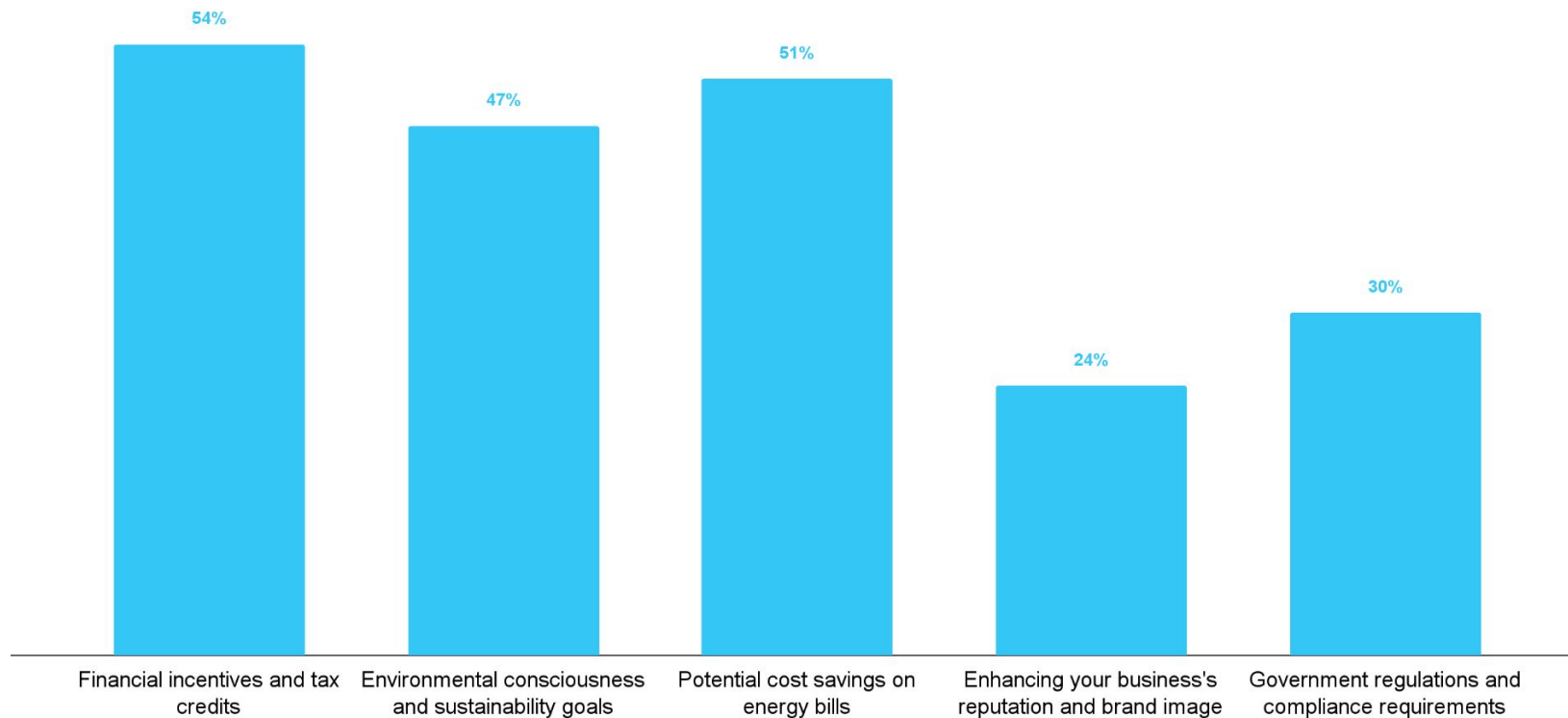
● Extremely beneficial ● Somewhat beneficial ● Neutral ● Somewhat detrimental ● Extremely detrimental



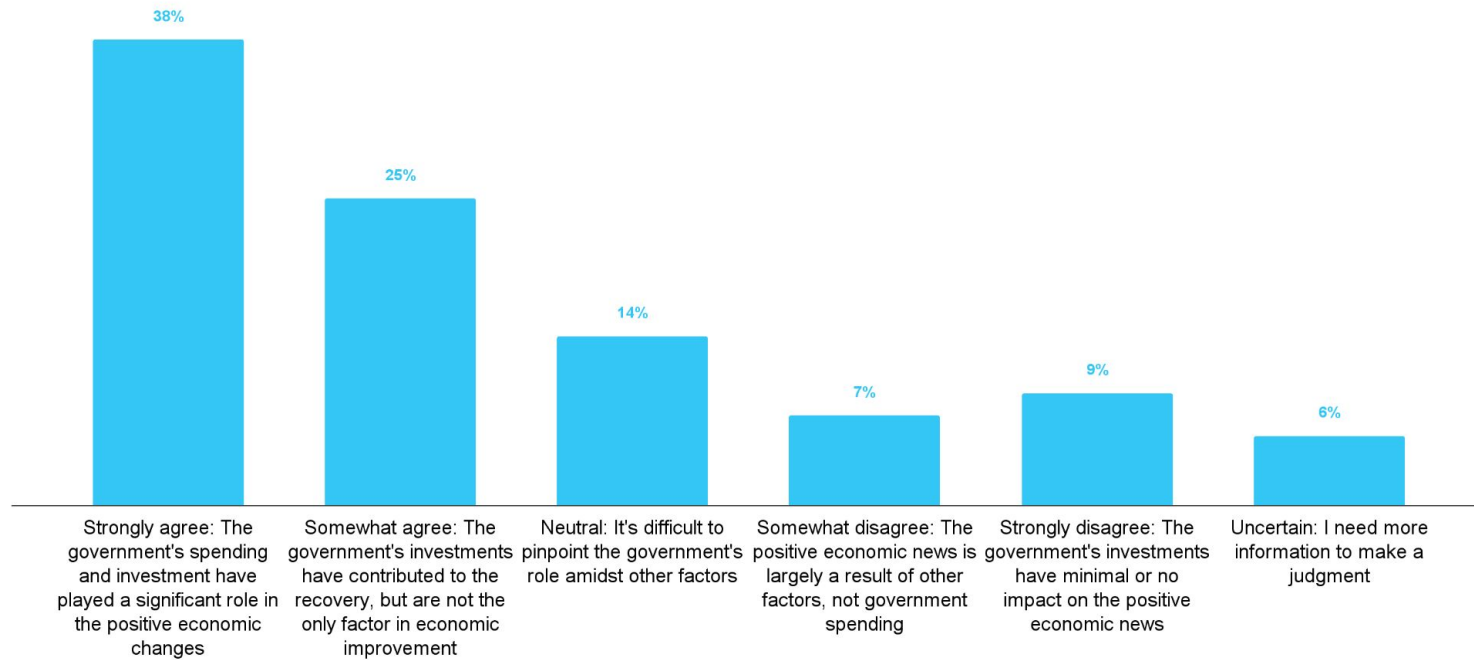
Q15: How likely are you to invest in or adopt clean energy technologies for your business in the near future?



Q16: What are the main factors influencing your decision to invest in or adopt clean energy technologies for your business? Please select all that apply:



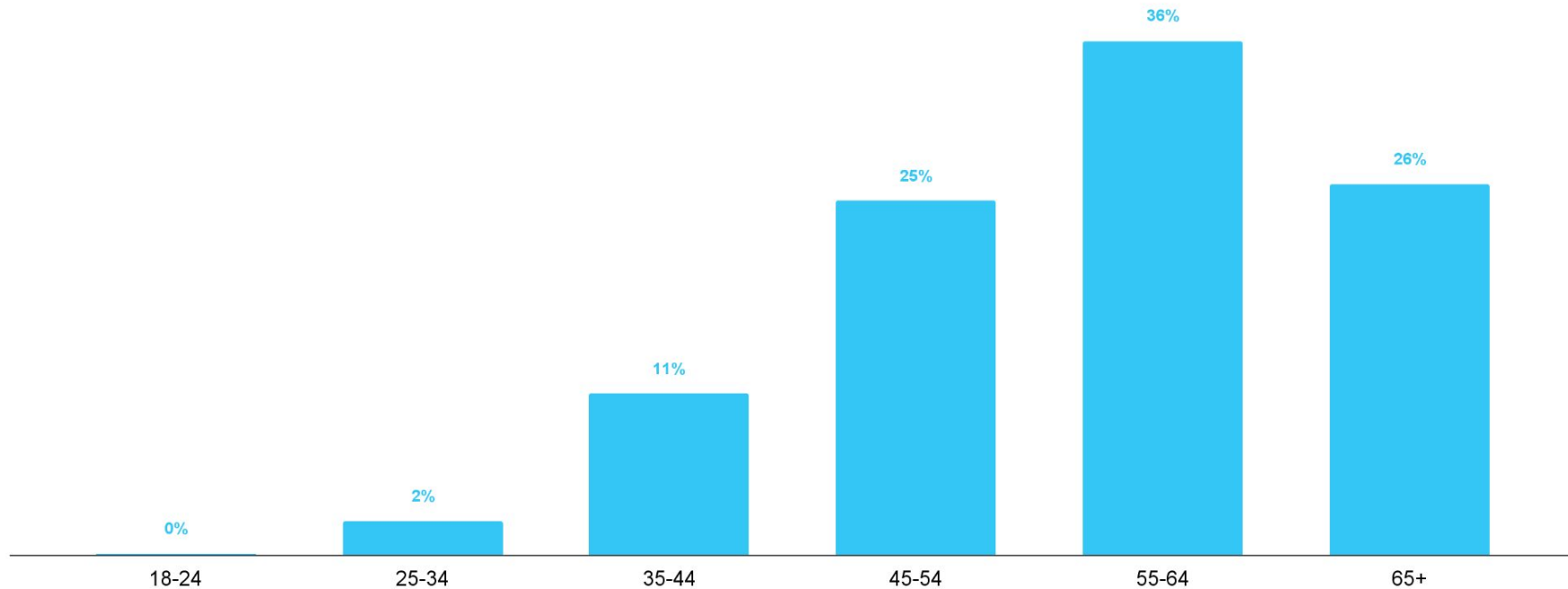
Q17: As we see signs of economic recovery from the global pandemic, to what extent do you agree or disagree that the government's investments in workers and the economy, including initiatives such as job creation programs, stimulus checks, small business loans, enhanced unemployment benefits and investments in manufacturing and infrastructure, have contributed to this positive momentum?



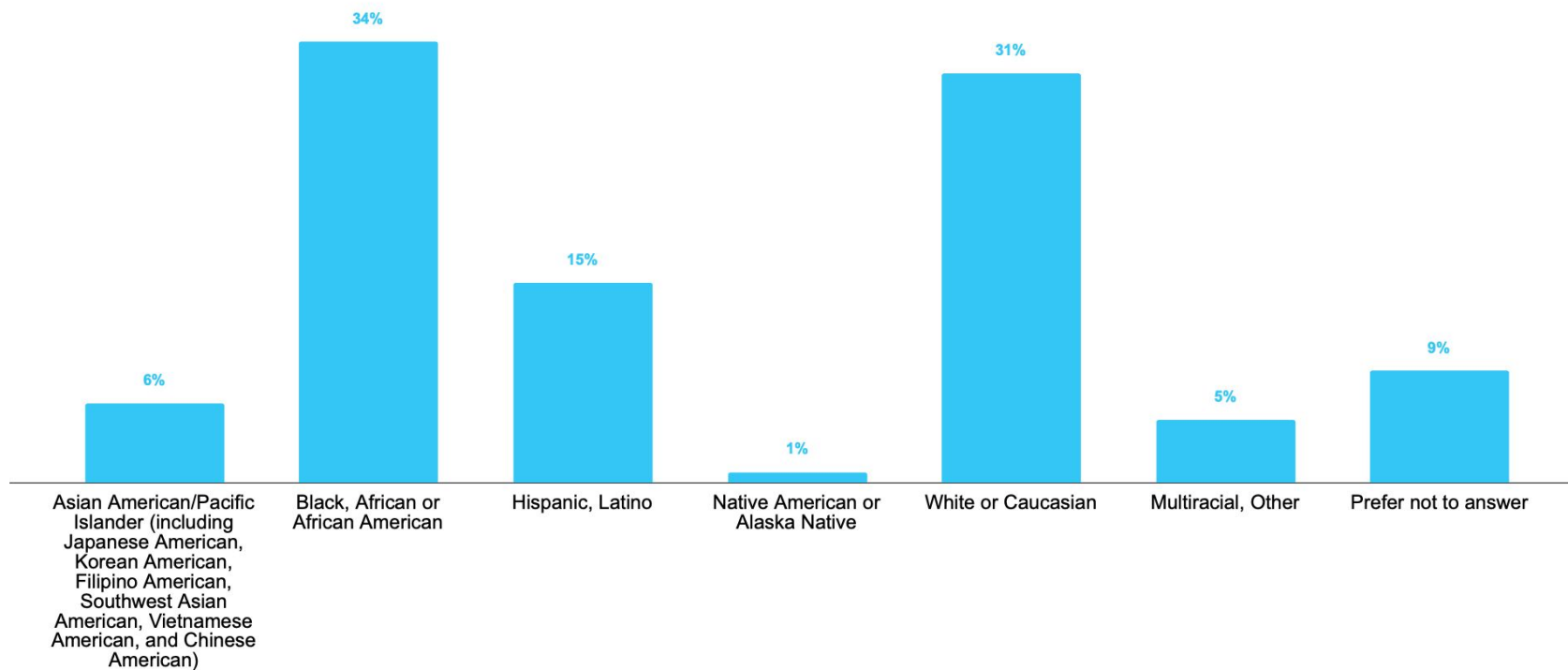
An aerial, high-angle photograph of a wide, paved pedestrian walkway. The ground is composed of large, light-colored rectangular tiles. Several people are walking across the frame in various directions. Some are walking in groups, while others are alone. The overall scene is captured with a blue color overlay, giving it a cool, modern feel. The text "Demographic Data" is centered in the middle of the image in a white, sans-serif font.

Demographic Data

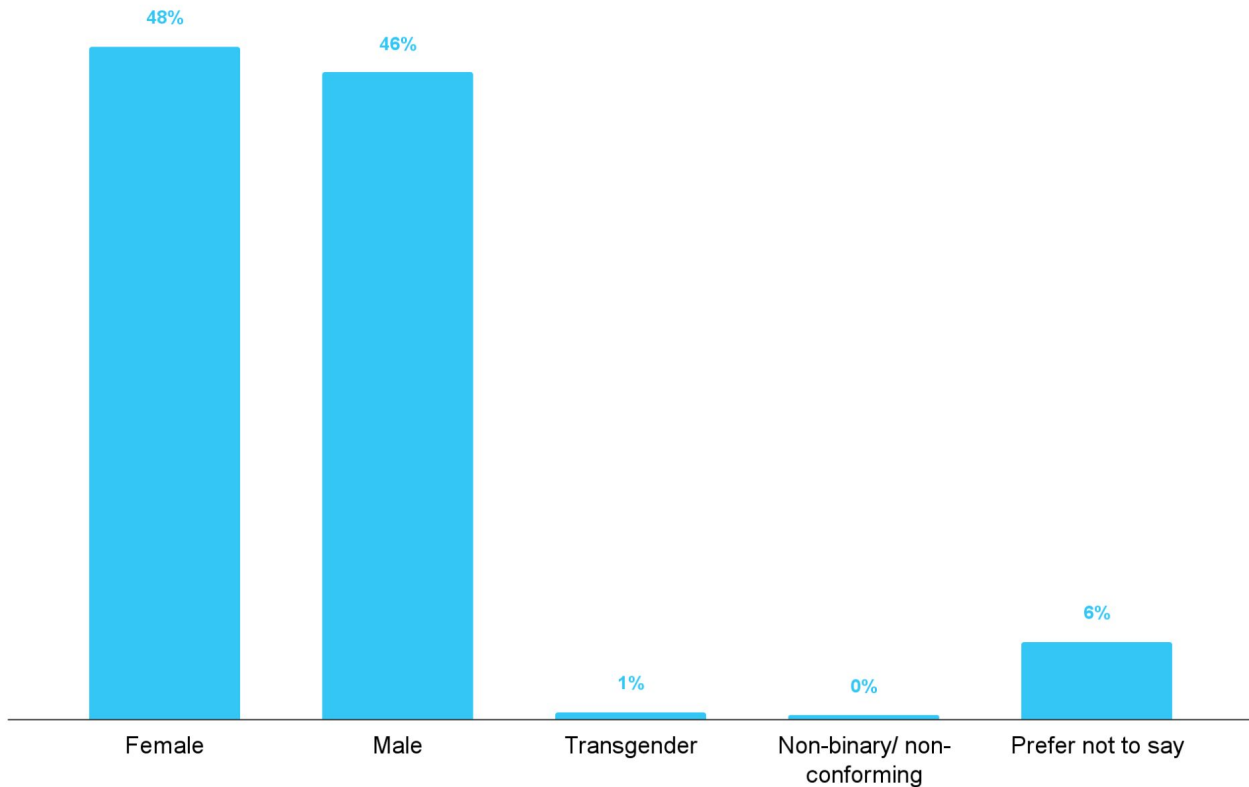
Q18: What is your age?

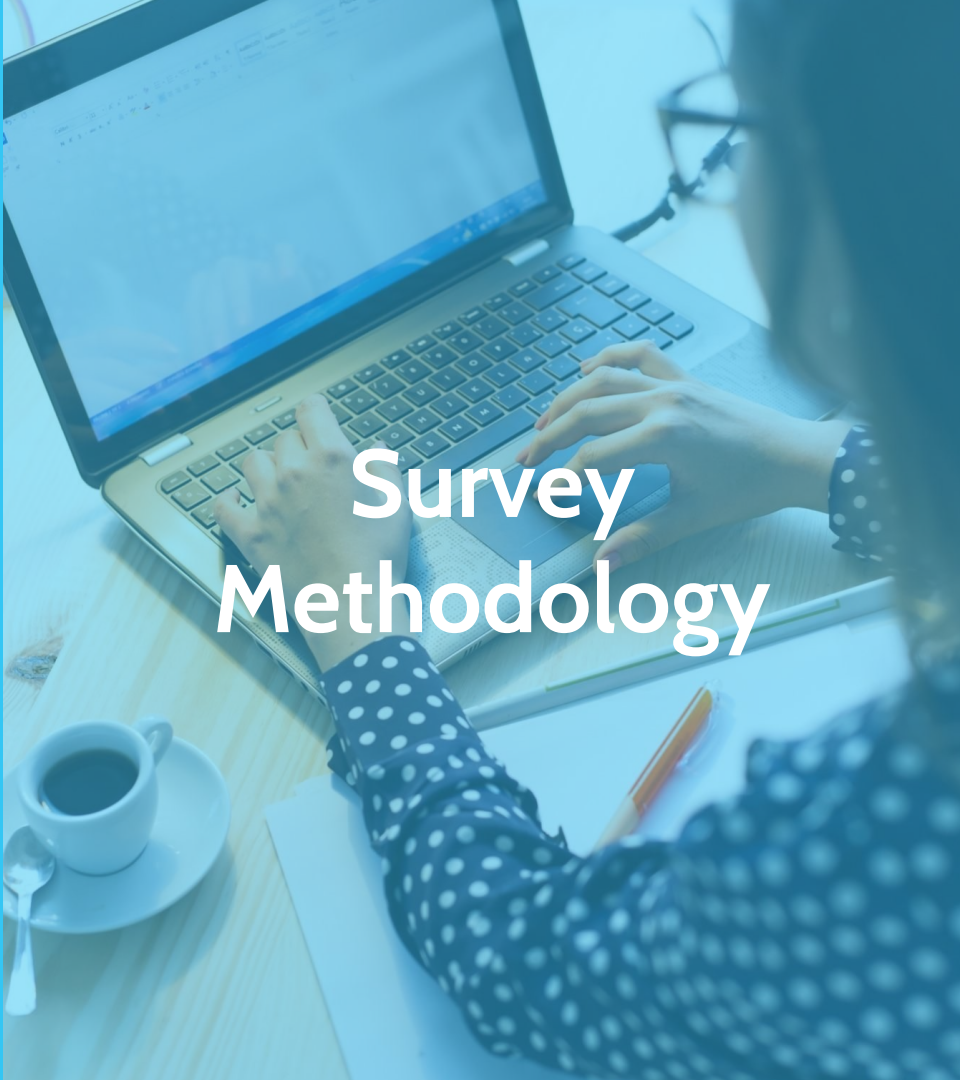


Q19: How do you identify yourself?



Q20: What is your gender identity?



A person is shown from the side, typing on a laptop. The image has a blue overlay. A cup of coffee is on the desk to the left.

Survey Methodology

961 Total Responses

Methodology:

Survey Monkey survey of Small Business for
America's Future small business network

Fielded August 4-15, 2023

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