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# Survey of Enterprising and Informal Work Activities (EIWA)

Presentation at  
The Self-Employed Entrepreneurs: The New Era Workforce A Symposium  
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*The analysis and conclusions set forth in this presentation are our own and do not indicate concurrence of the Federal Reserve Board, the Federal Reserve Banks, or their staff.*

# Survey Background

- **Exploratory Survey**
- **Designed with three primary motivations**
  - 1. Help monitor trends** in work opportunities and employment creation especially for low-to-moderate income households and communities
  - 2. Explore the incidence** and prevalence of the enterprising and informal work activities ecosystem: online and offline
  - 3. Identify data gaps** related to changing job and paid work opportunities online and offline



# Overview of the Informal Online and Offline Economy



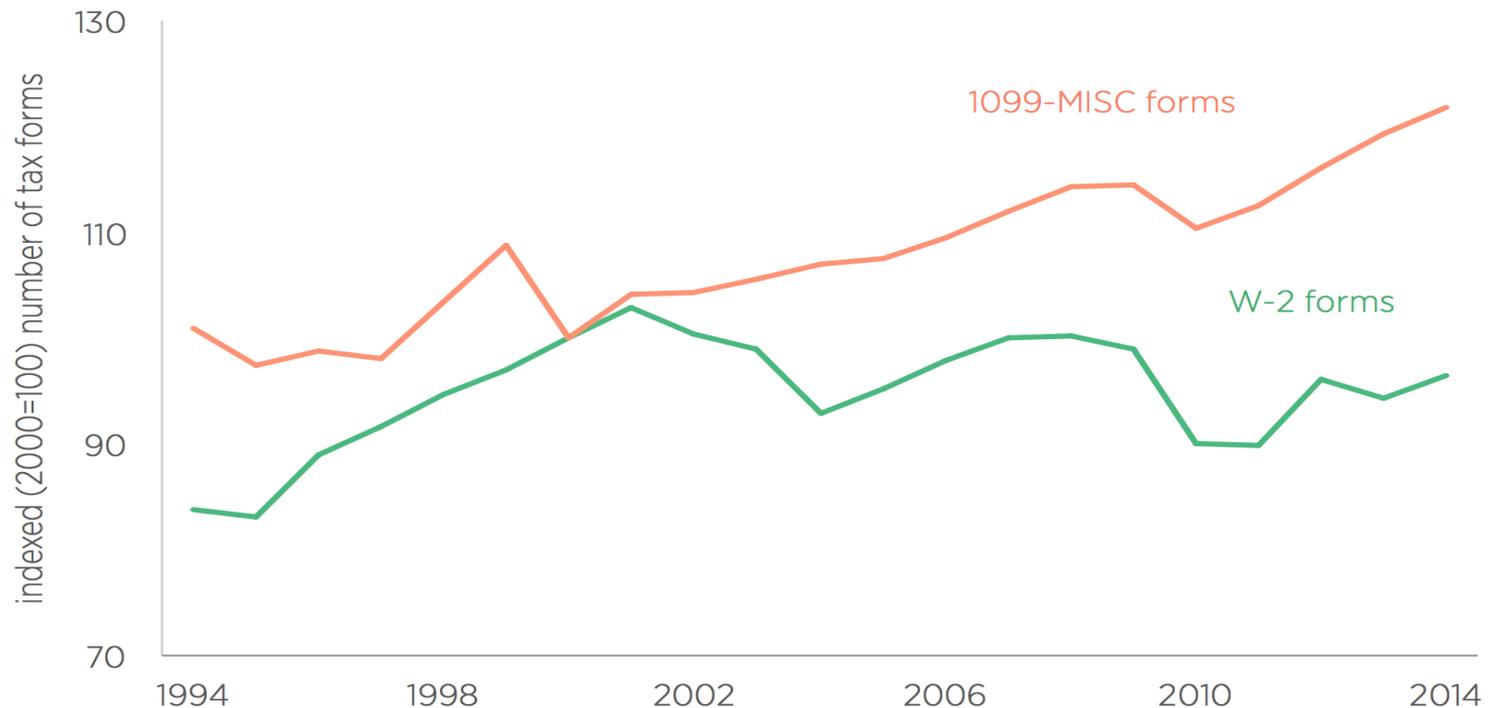


# Issues in the Changing Work Ecosystem

- Who are the workers in the paid “informal on-line and off-line” economy?
- Where do they live?
- How often do they engage in paid “gig” or “on-demand” work?
- What kinds of paid on-line and off-line work are households taking on?
- Why do they engage in paid “side” work?
- CPS surveys indicate that multiple job holding and the self-employed are declining (Katz & Krueger, 2016)
- BLS part-time jobs since the great recession are holding steady (highest in record keeping of part-time jobs)
- IRS data indicates a rise in Schedule C (sole proprietor) as well as 1099Misc and 1099K (credit-card payments for services or goods and third-party payment network transactions)

# A Snapshot of the Changing Work Ecosystem

FIGURE 3. INDEXED NUMBER OF TAX FORMS, 1994-2014



Note: The vertical axis does not begin at zero.  
Source: Authors' calculations of IRS data.

Source: Dourado and Koopman, "Evaluating the Growth of the 1099 Workforce," Mercatus Center, George Mason University, December 2015

# Enterprising & Informal Work Activities



## TOP TAKEAWAYS

**19%**

of total E&I respondents engaged in three or more on-line and/or off-line informal paid work activities.

**31%**

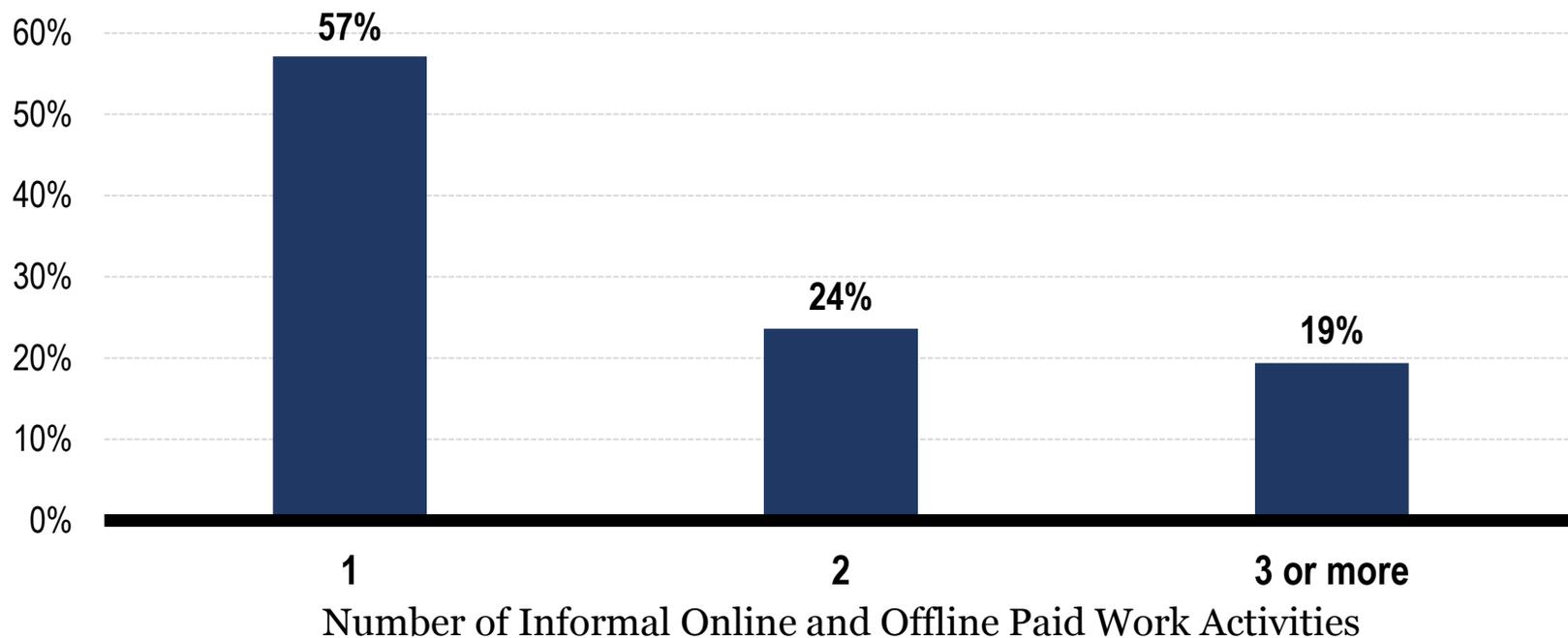
of total E&I respondents engaged in on-line selling of new/used goods.

**27%**

of total E&I respondents engaged in house cleaning, painting, yardwork or other household maintenance activity for pay.

# Majority of E&I Respondents Participate In One Informal Work Activity

Percent of E&I Respondents Engaged in One or More Informal Paid Work Activity

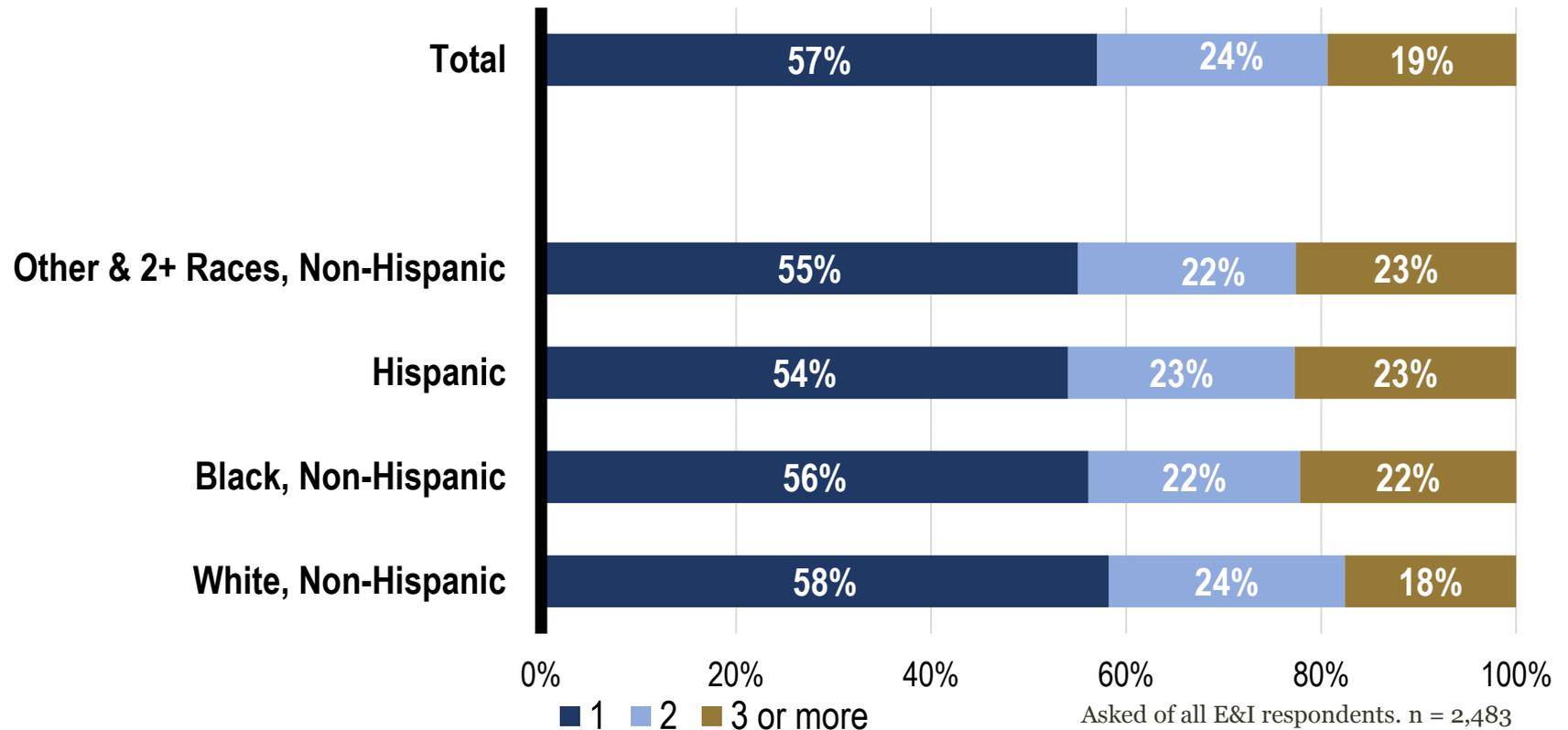


Asked of all E&I respondents n=2,483



# Number of E&I Work Activities Varies by Race and Ethnicity

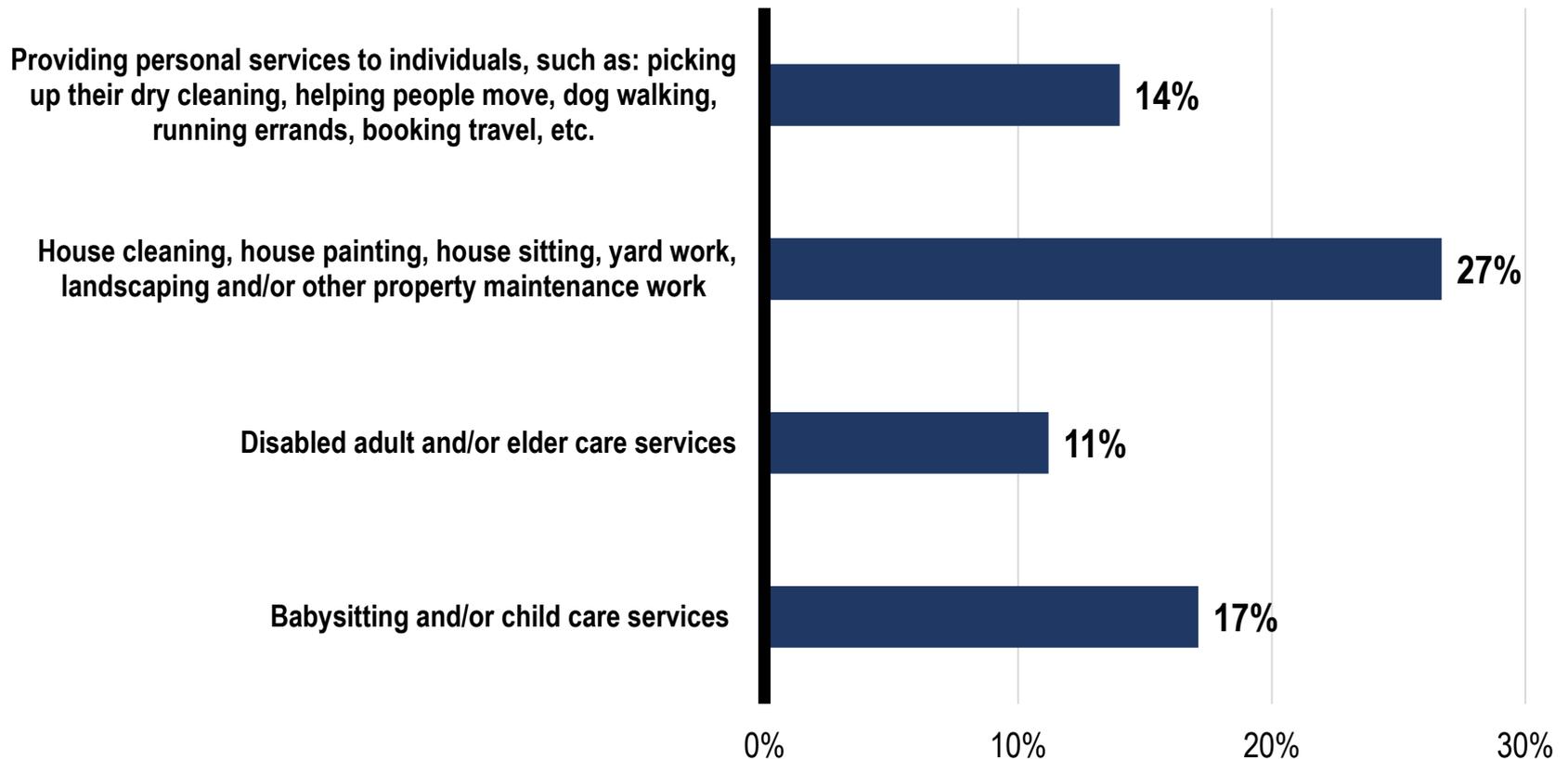
Percent of E&I Respondents Engaged in One or More Enterprising & Informal Work Activity by Race & Ethnicity





# House/Property Maintenance is the Most Common Labor Service Activity

In the **last 6 months**, have you been paid for the following?

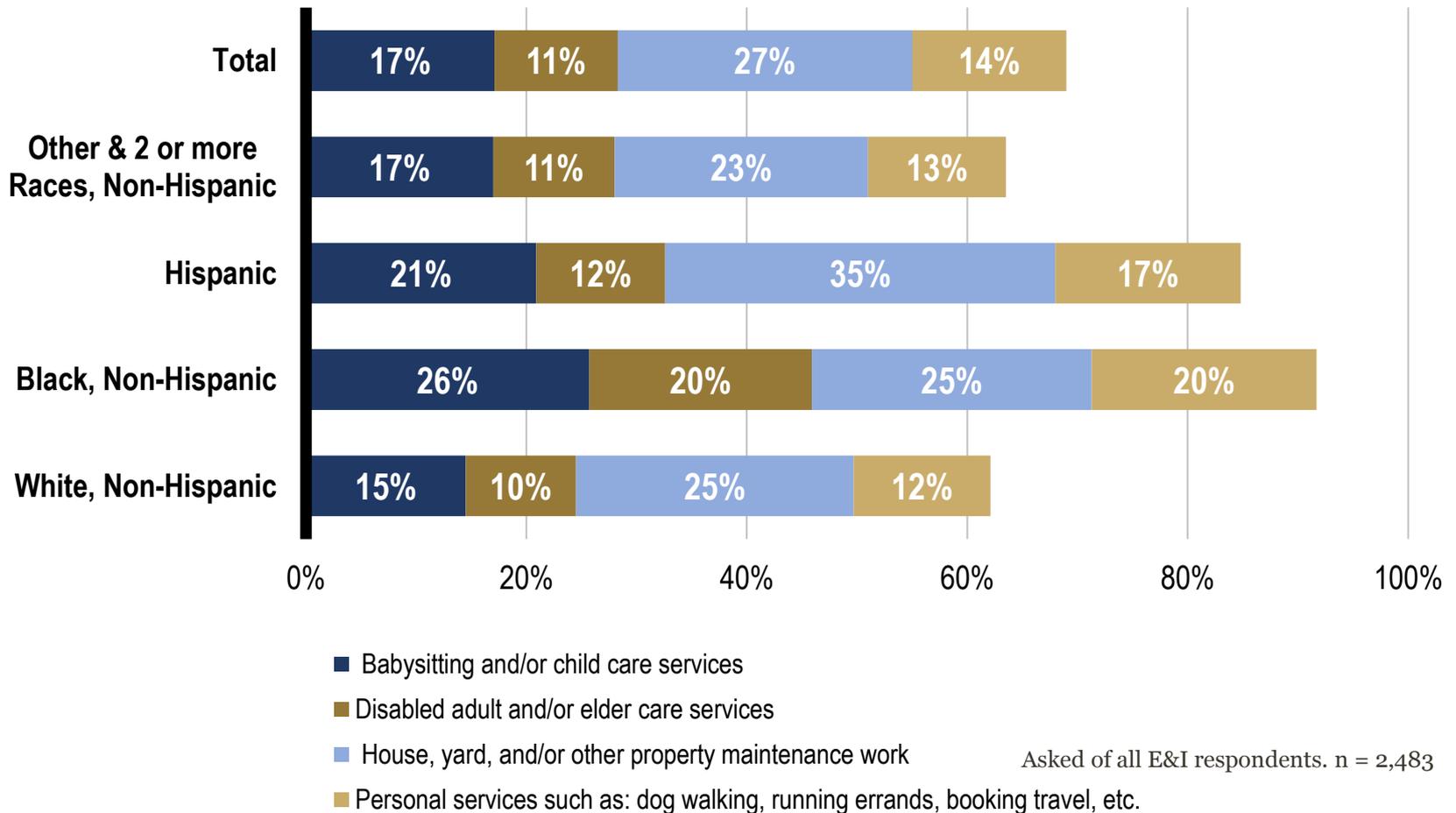


Asked of all E&I respondents. n = 2,483



# Type of Informal Labor Services Varies by Race/Ethnicity

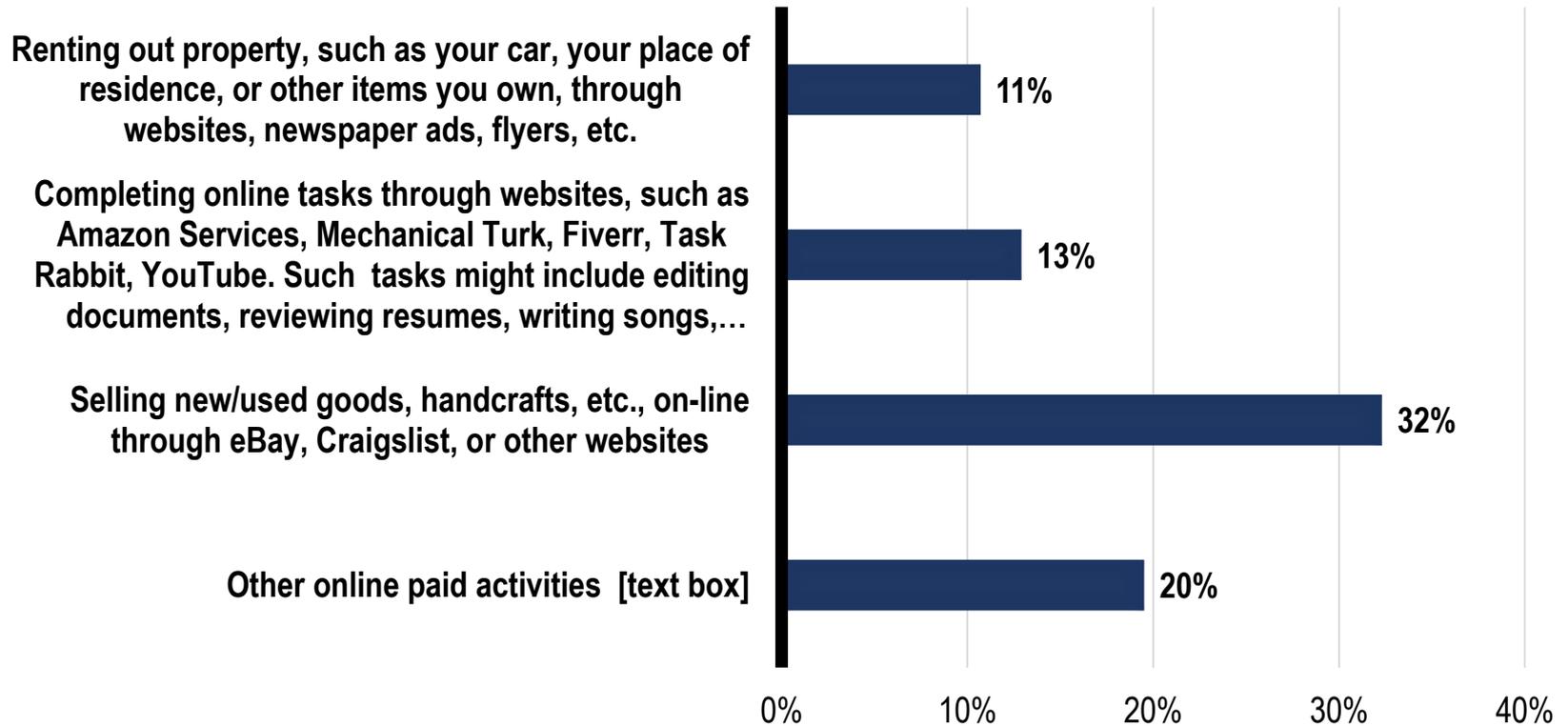
Percent of E&I Respondents by Race & Ethnicity





# Selling New/Used Goods is the Most Common Online E&I Work Activity

In the **last 6 months**, have you been paid for the following?

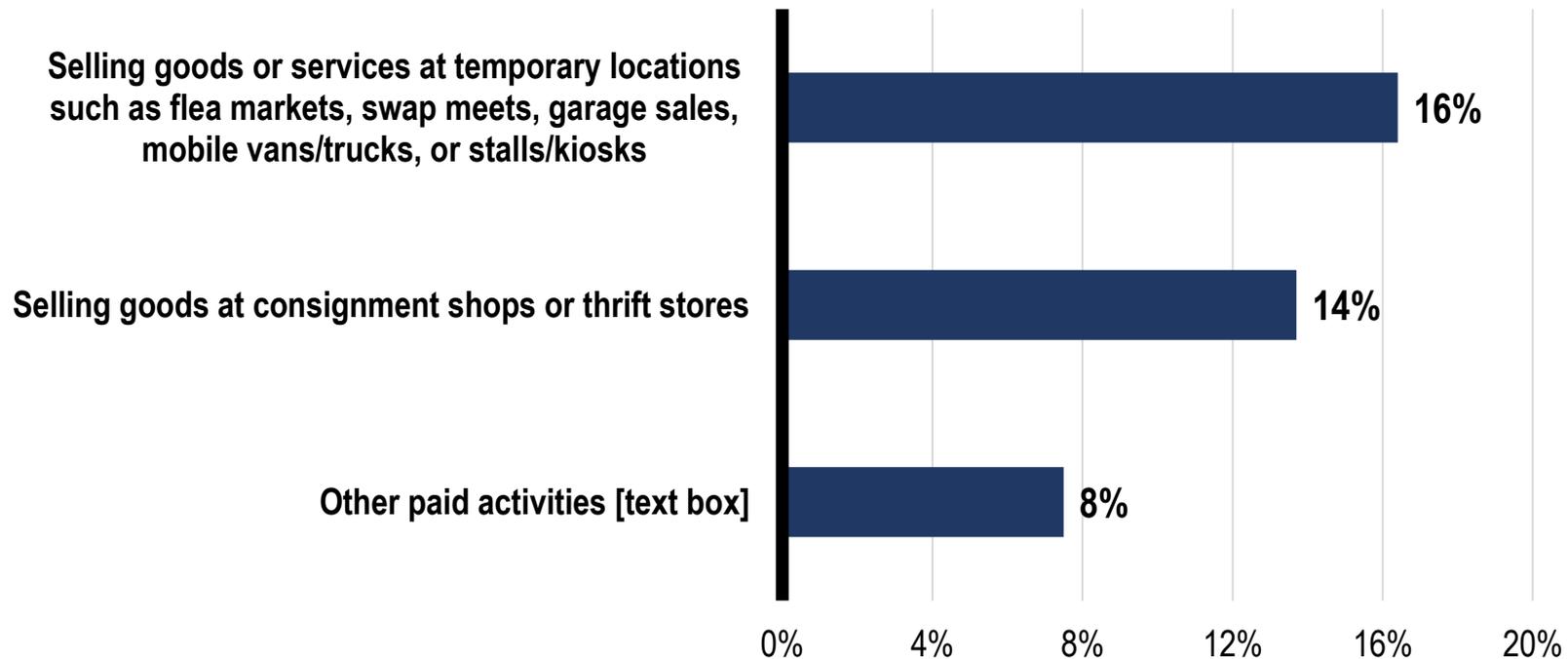


Asked of all E&I respondents. n = 2,483



# Temporary Locations Such as Flea Markets are the Most Common Offline E&I Work Venues

In the **last 6 months**, have you been paid for the following?



Asked of all E&I respondents. n = 2,483



# Employment, Self-Employment, and Small Business



## TOP TAKEAWAYS

**20%**

of E&I workers have another full-time or part-time job, in addition to their main job.

**56%**

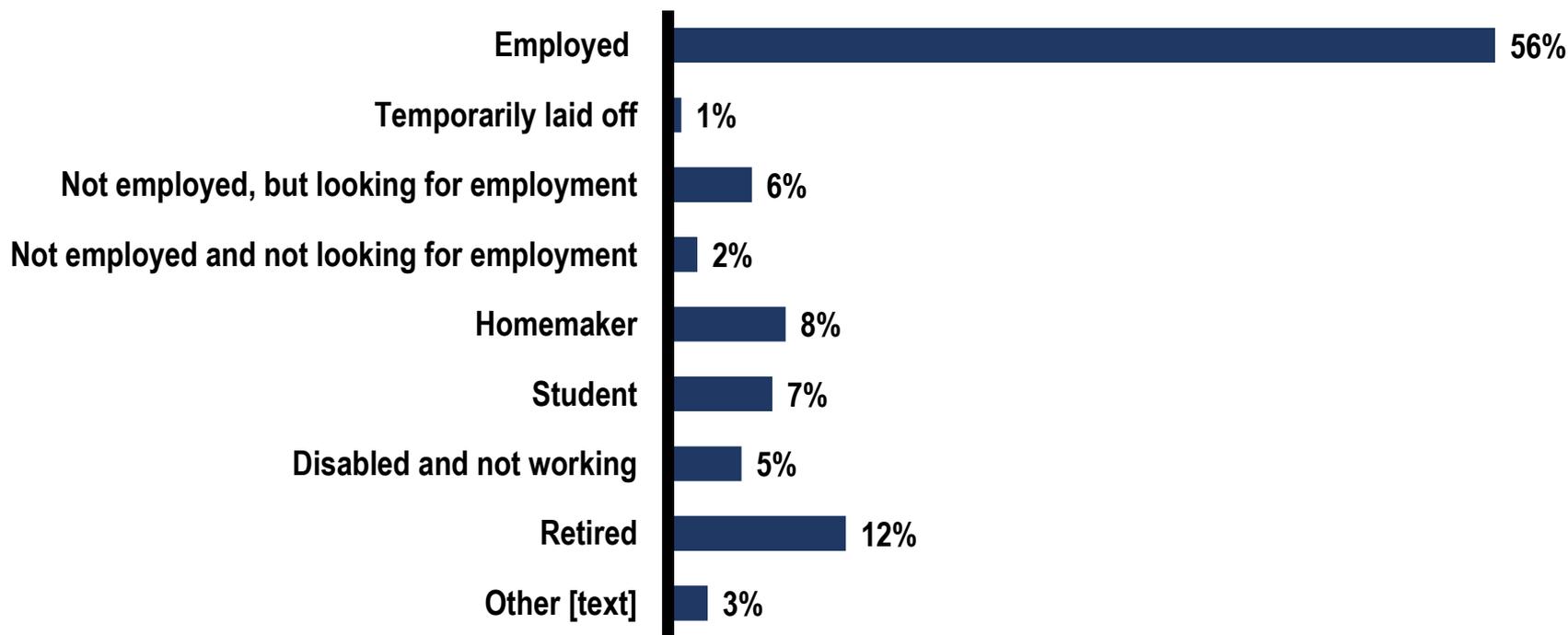
of E&I respondents reported being employed in the past 6 months.

**9%**

of E&I respondents were self-employed or owned their own business.

# 56% of E&I Respondents report being Employed

In the **last 6 months**, which one of the following BEST describes your current employment situation?

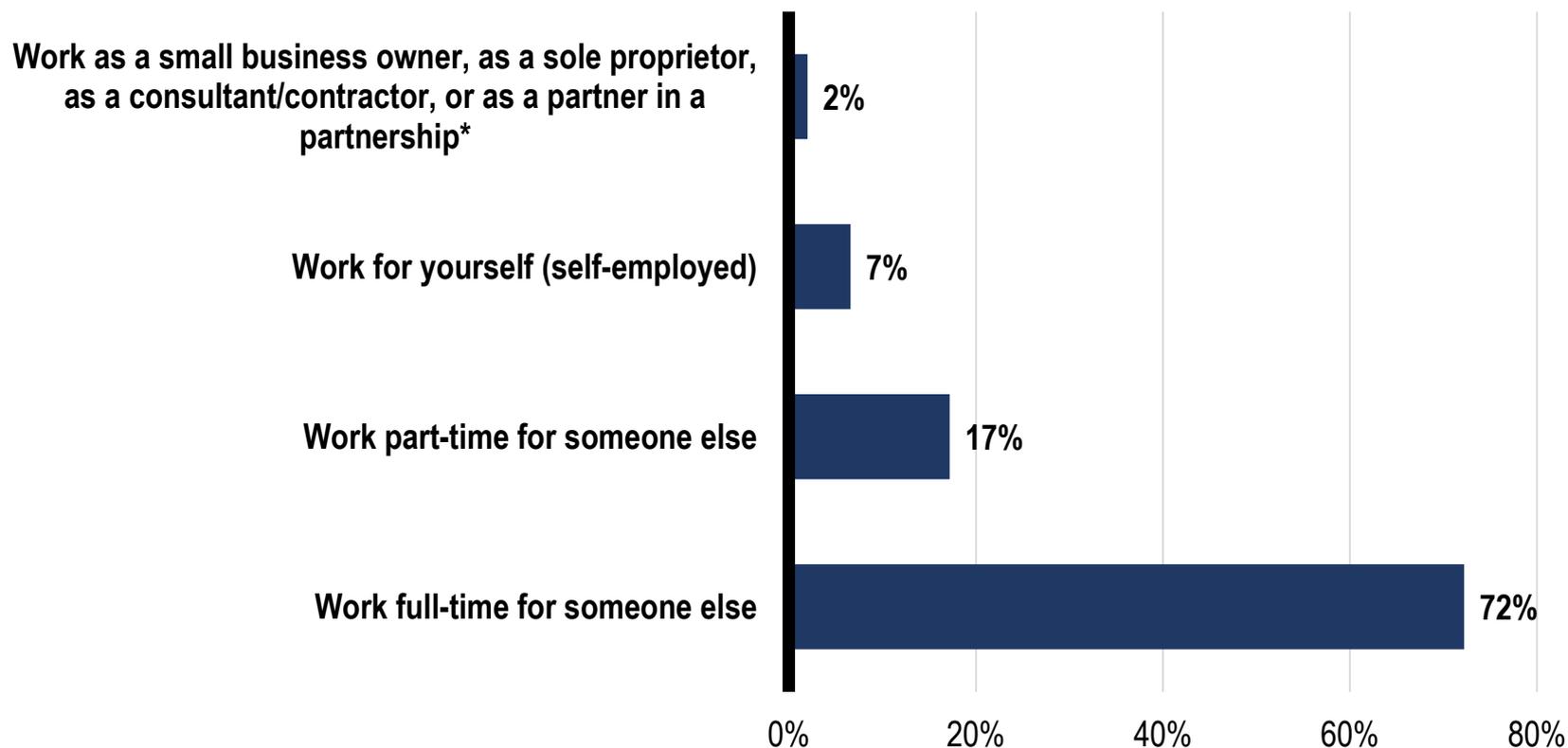


Asked of all E&I respondents. n = 2,483



# Of Employed E&I Respondents, 72% Work Full-Time for Someone Else

Thinking of your main employment, in the **last 6 months** did you...

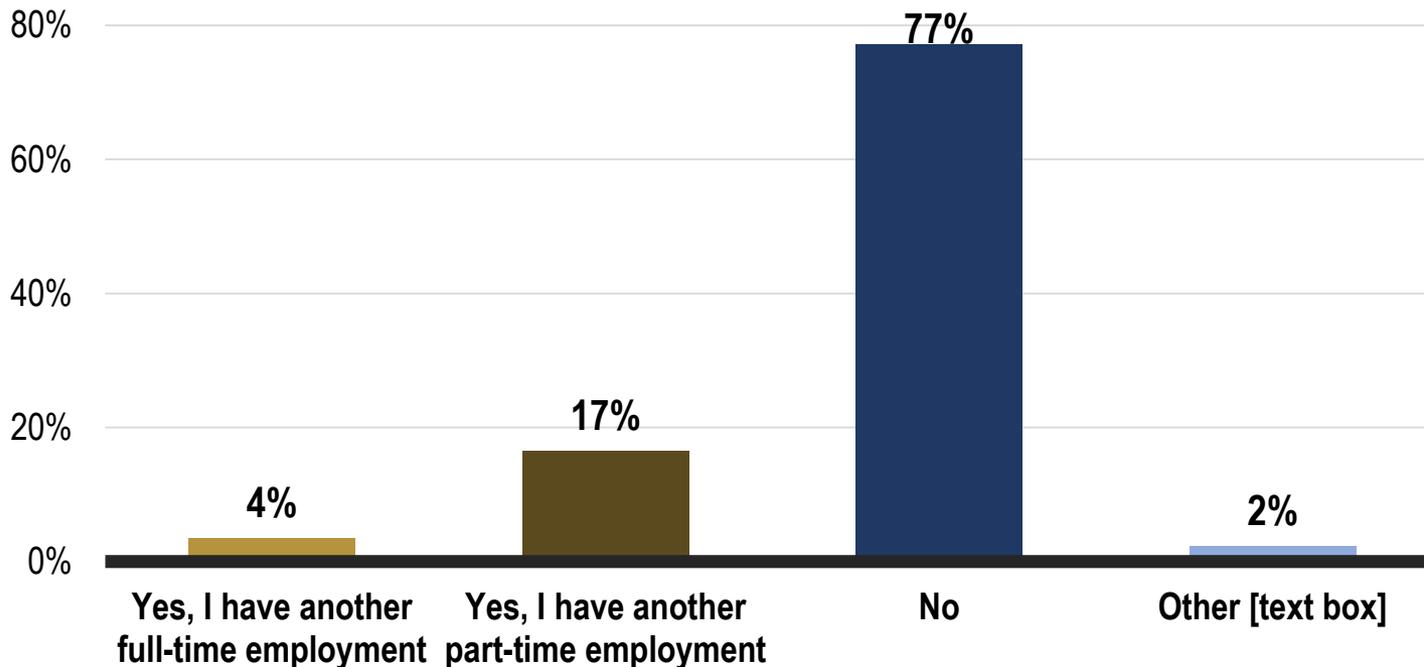


\*Combined from 4 separate questions

Asked of all employed E&I respondents. n = 1,275

# Of Employed E&I Respondents, 77% Only Have One Job

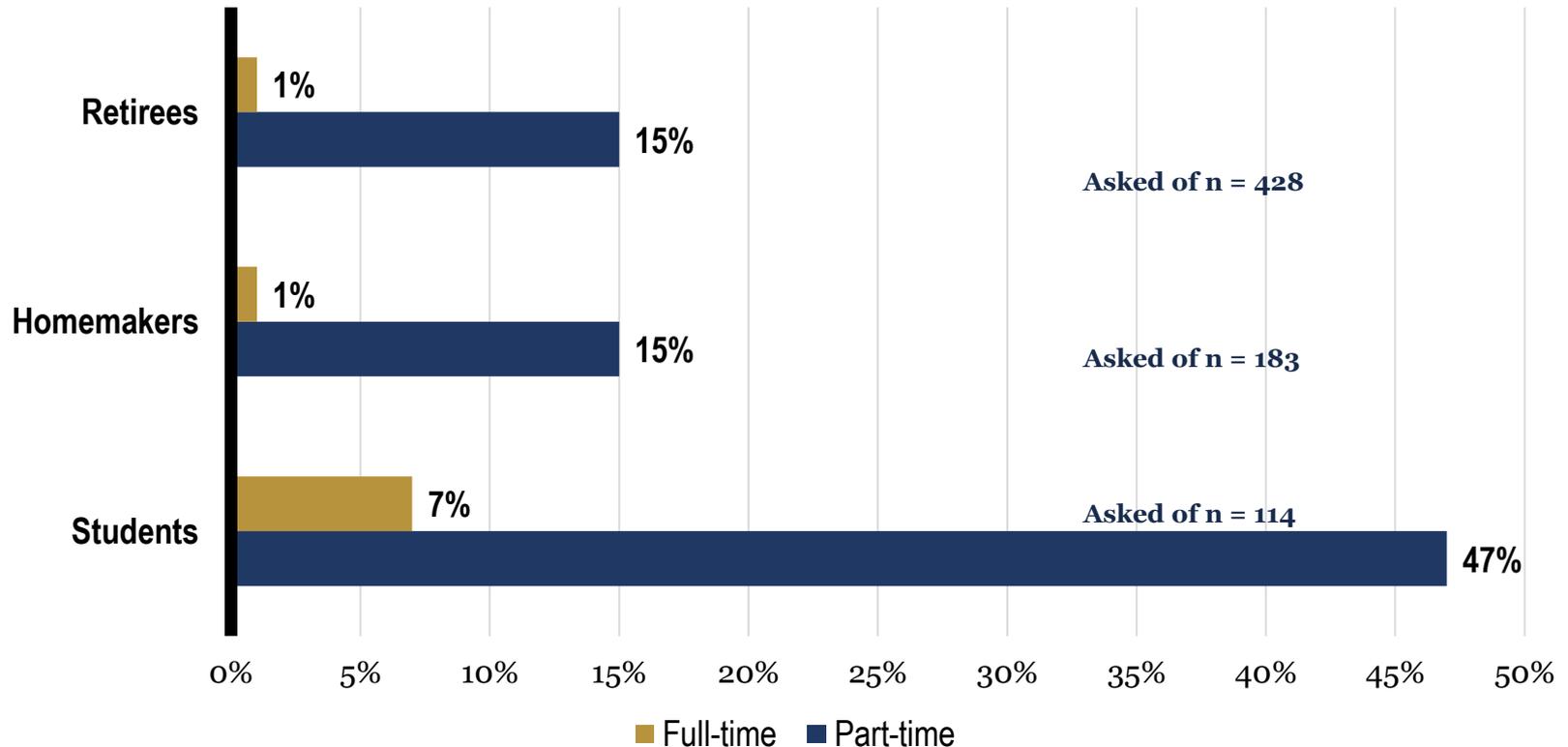
In addition to your main job, in the **last 6 months** did you also have other paid employment?



Asked of all employed E&I respondents. n = 1,275

# E&I Students Have More Paid Jobs than E&I Homemakers or Retirees

Besides being a student/homemaker/retiree, in the **last 6 months** did you also have a paid job?







# Side, “Gig” & Informal Work Activities



## TOP TAKEAWAYS

**65%**

of E&I respondents that engage in informal paid work activities, do so to earn extra money.

**50%**

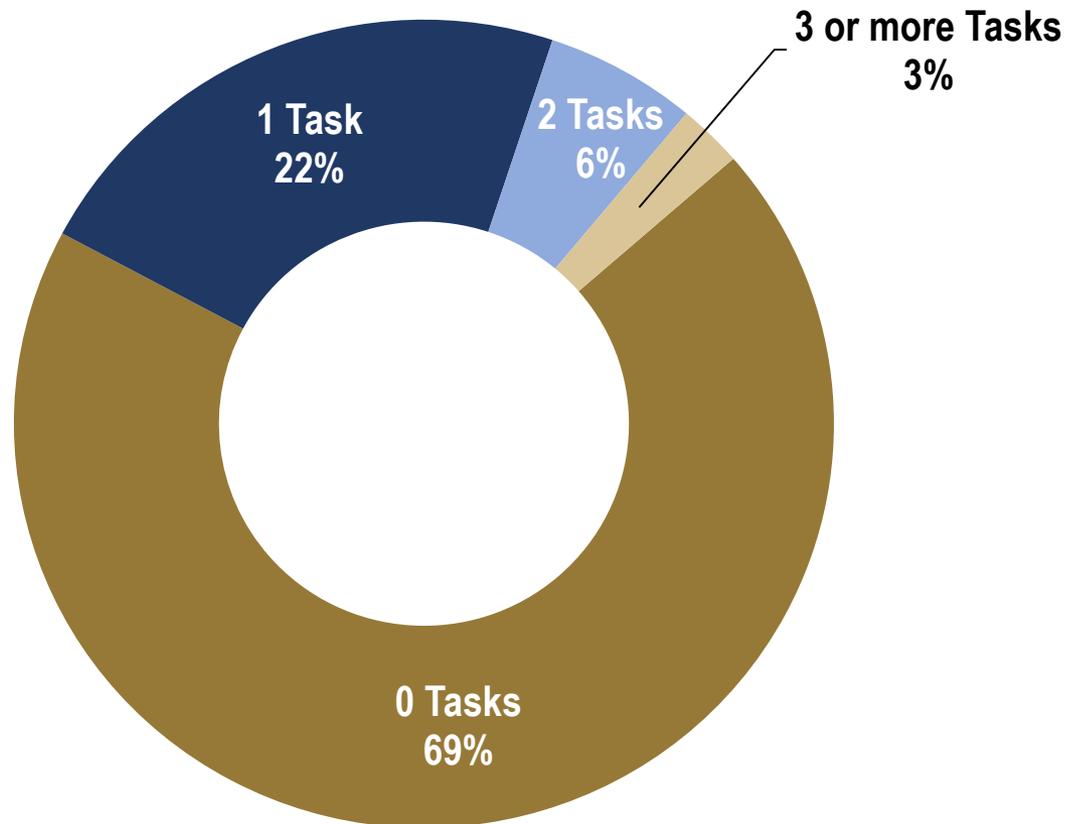
of E&I respondents spend 1-20 hours a month engaged in side or “gig” work activities.

**25%**

of E&I respondents indicate that informal work activities have been “very much” and “somewhat” a regular source of monthly income.

# 31% of E&I Respondents Participate in Online Tasks

Number of Online Tasks...

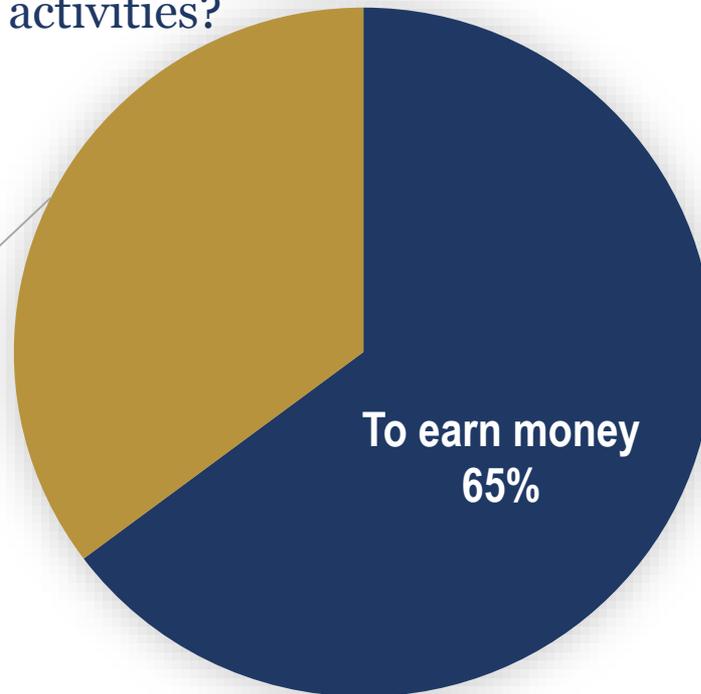


Asked of all E&I respondents. n = 2,483

# 65% of E&I Respondents List Earning Money as their Main Reason for Engaging in Informal Work

In the **last 6 months**, what is the main reason why you have engaged in these paid or side work activities?

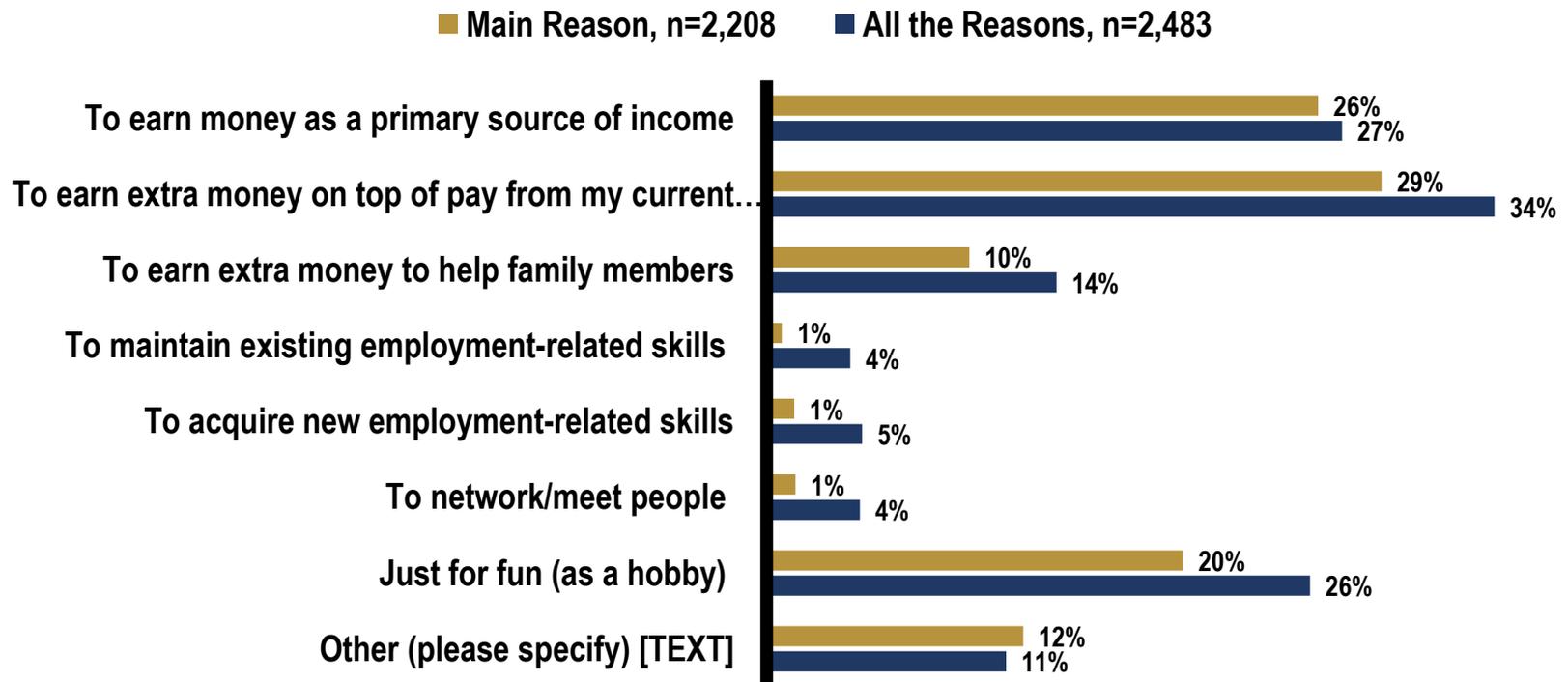
**Other Reasons:  
Hobby, network,  
acquire new  
skills, maintain  
skills, other  
35%**



Asked of E&I respondents. n = 2,208

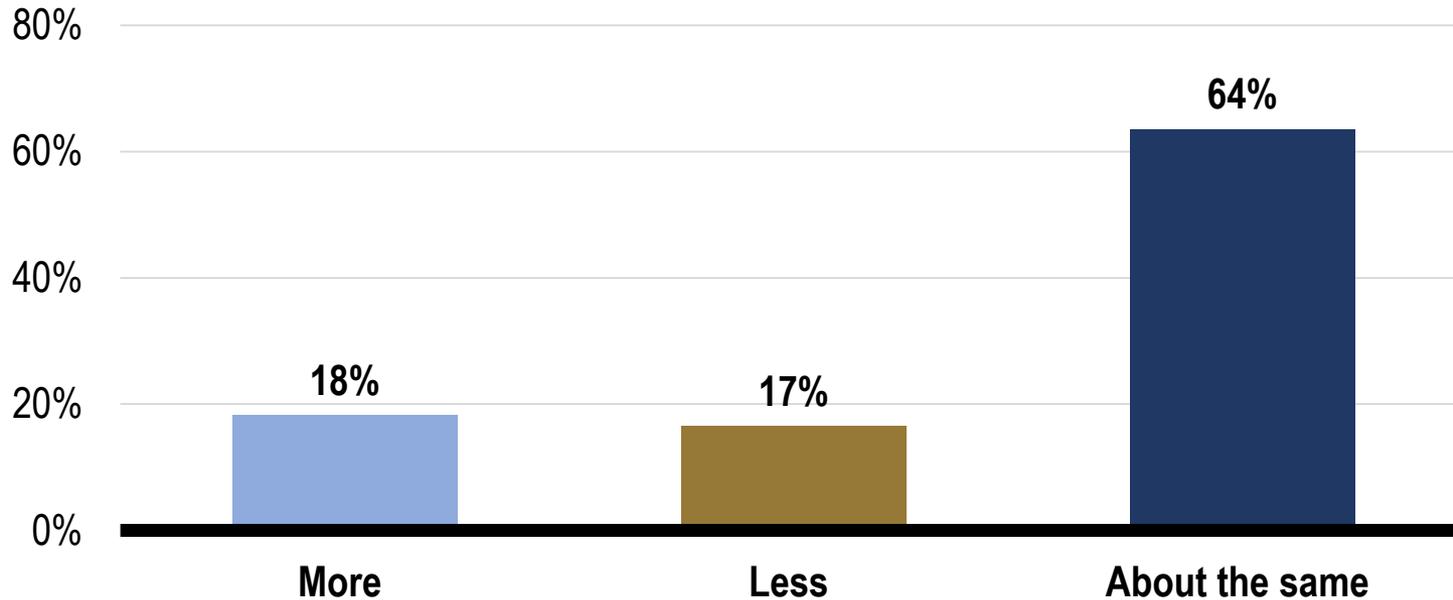
# E&I Respondents List Reasons for Engaging in Informal Work

In the **last 6 months**, what are main reasons versus all the reasons why you have engaged in these paid or side work activities?



# 64% of E&I Respondents Expect to Devote the Same Amount of Time to Informal Work in Six Months Time

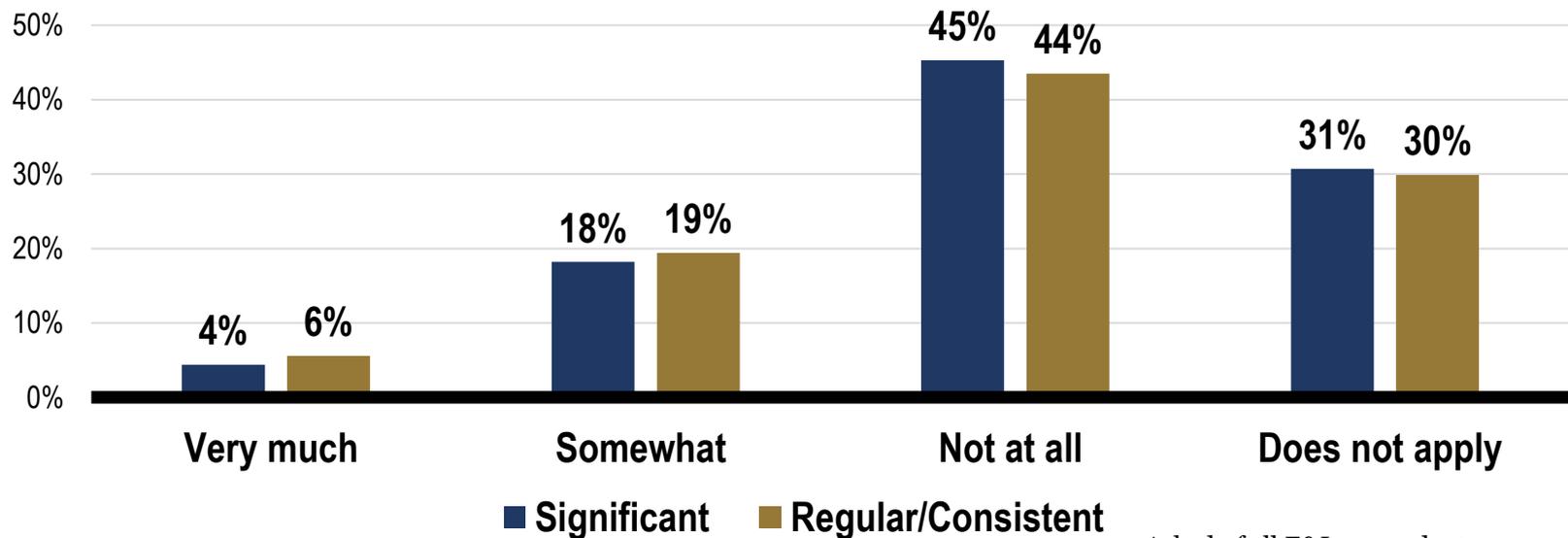
Six months from now, do you expect to devote more, the same, or less time to paid or side work activities other than your primary employment compared to today?



Asked of all E&I respondents. n = 2,483

# Informal Income Considered “Very Much and Somewhat” a “Significant” and “Regular/Consistent” Source of HH Income by 1 out of 4 E&I Respondents

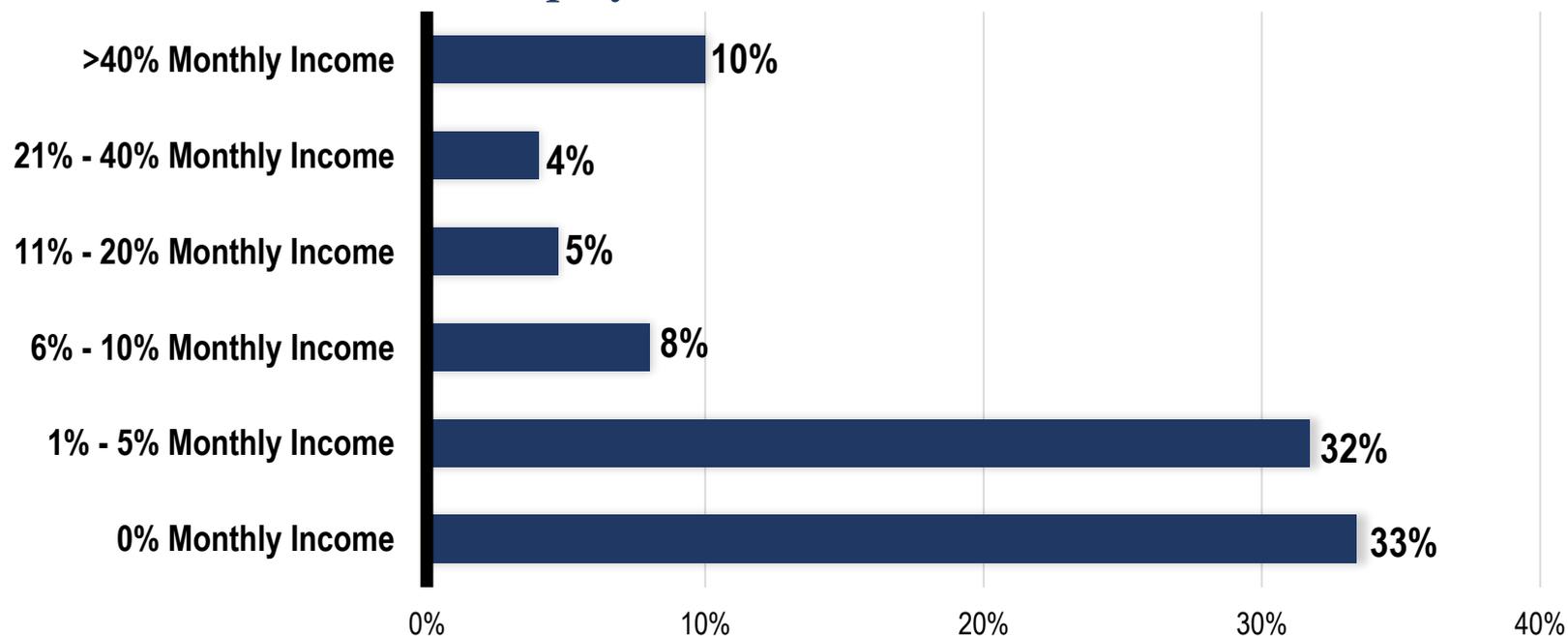
In the **last 6 months**, to what extent has the money earned from paid or side work activities been a **significant** versus **regular/consistent** source of household income?



Asked of all E&I respondents. n = 2,483

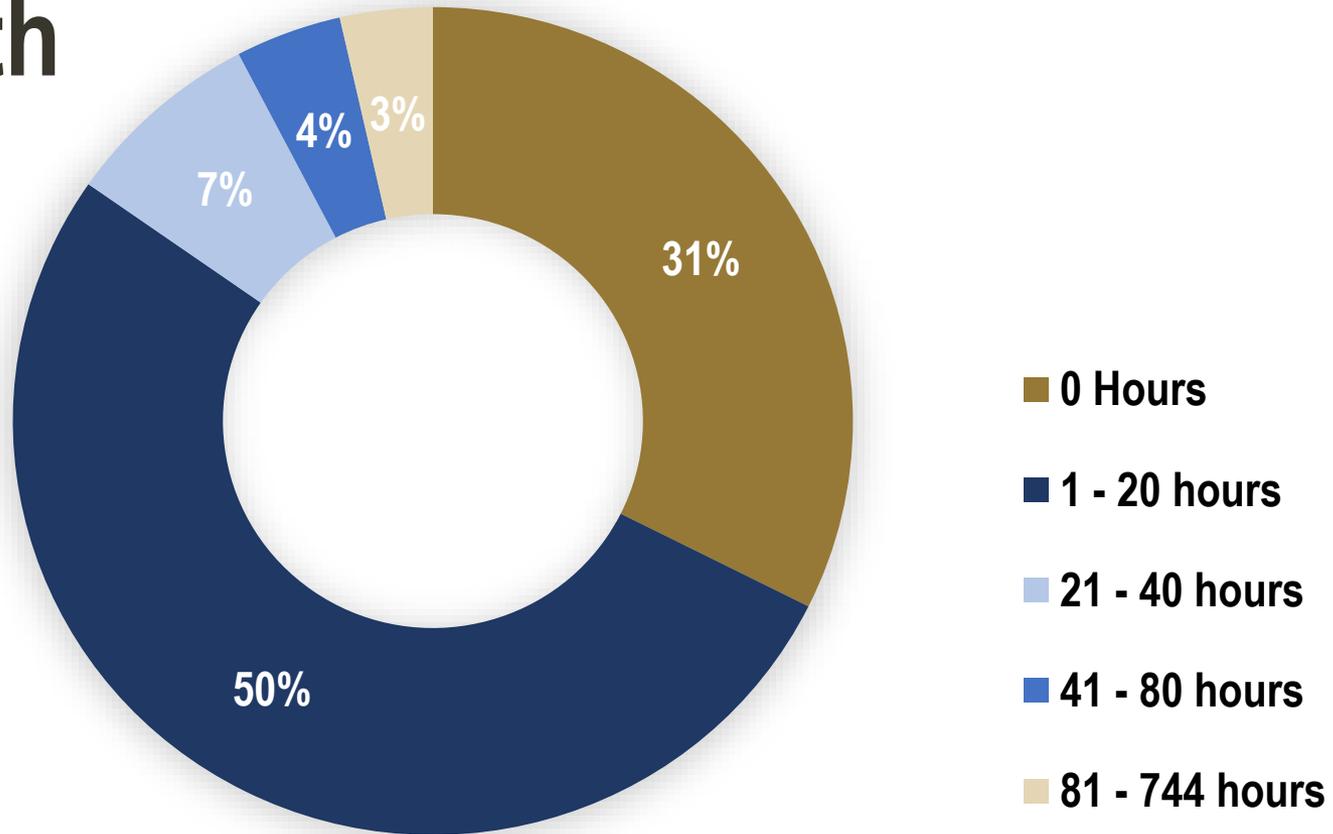
# Respondents Receive Monthly Income from Participation in Informal Work Activities

How much of your household monthly income do you usually get from paid work activities or side employment?



Asked of all E&I respondents. n = 2,483

# 50% of Respondents Spend One to 20 Hours on Informal Work Activities Each Month



Asked of all E&I respondents. n = 2,483



# Geographies, Regions and Sectors



## TOP TAKEAWAYS

**36%**

of respondents were from the south.

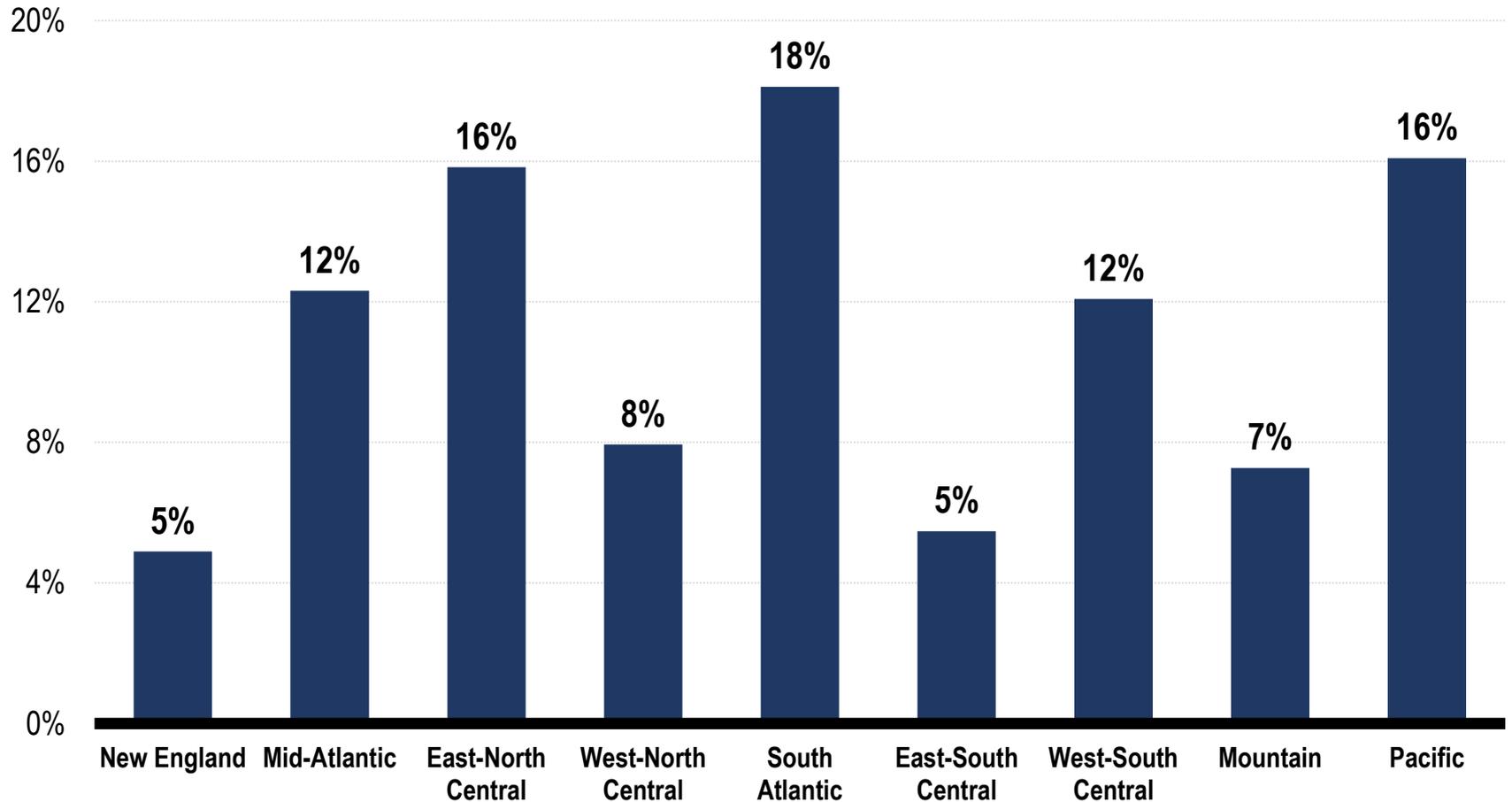
**69%**

of respondents are home owners.

**86%**

of respondents live in a metro area.

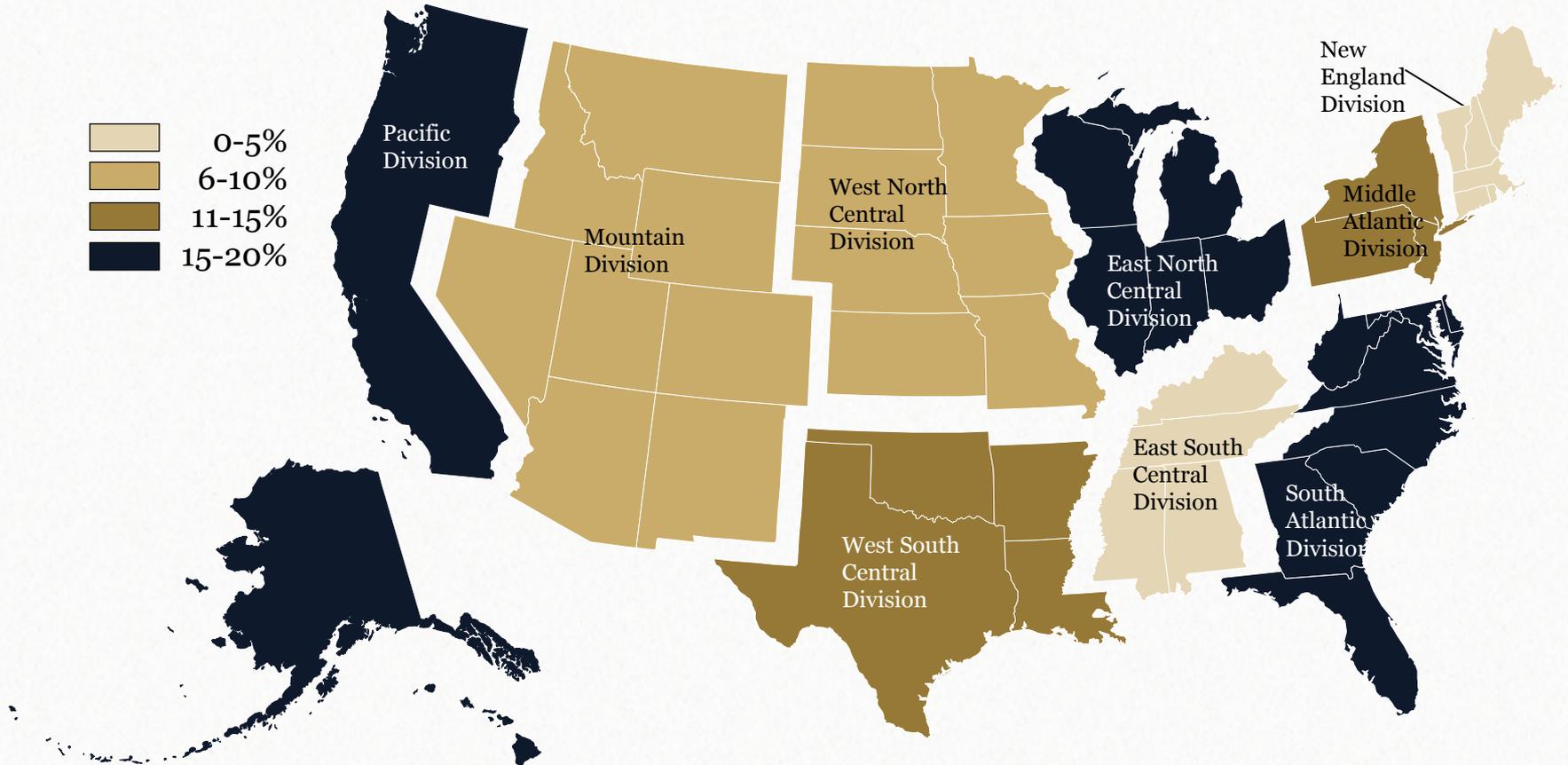
# Where Do E&I Respondents Live?



Asked of all E&I respondents. n = 2,483

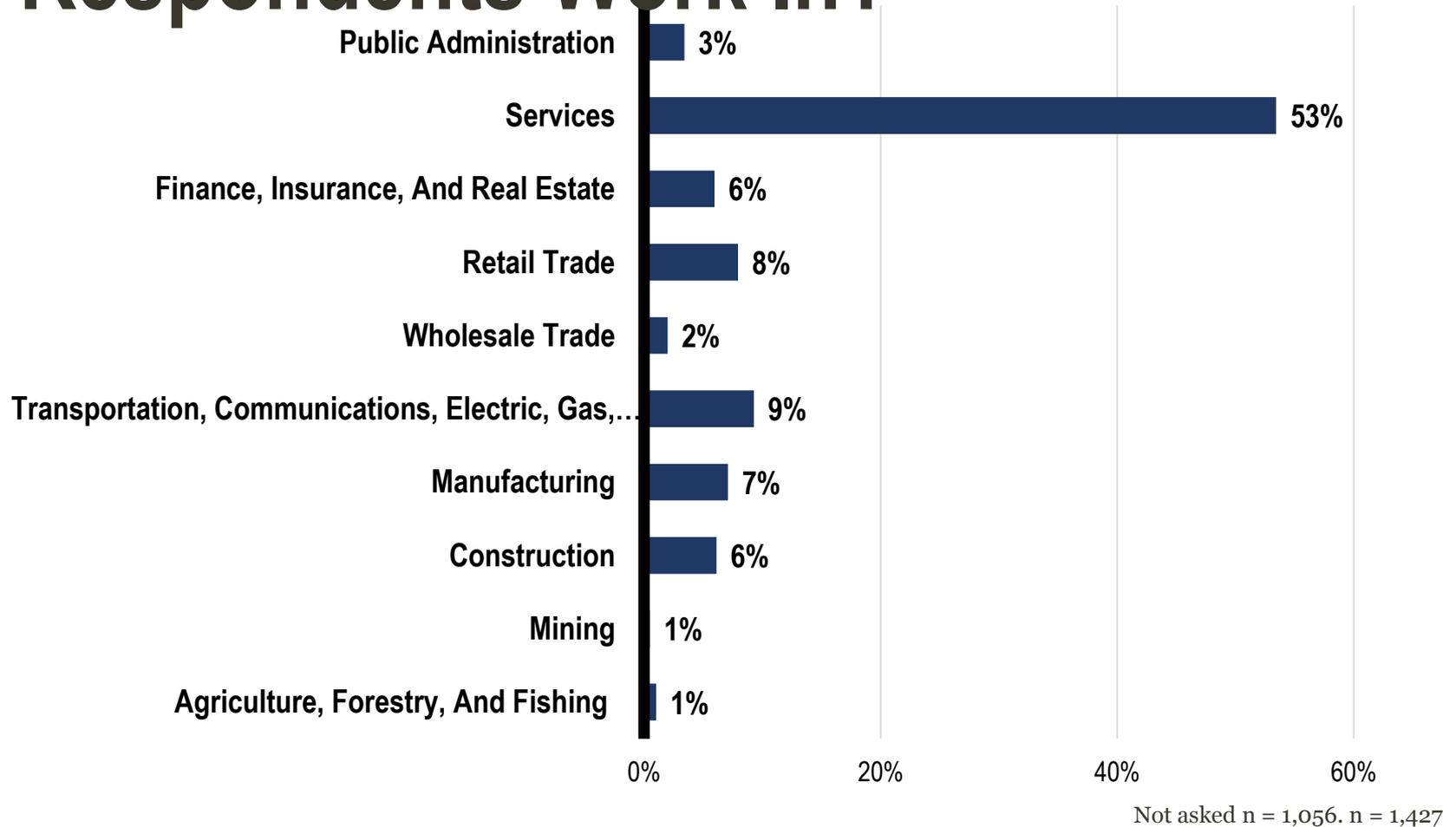


# Where Do E&I Respondents Live?

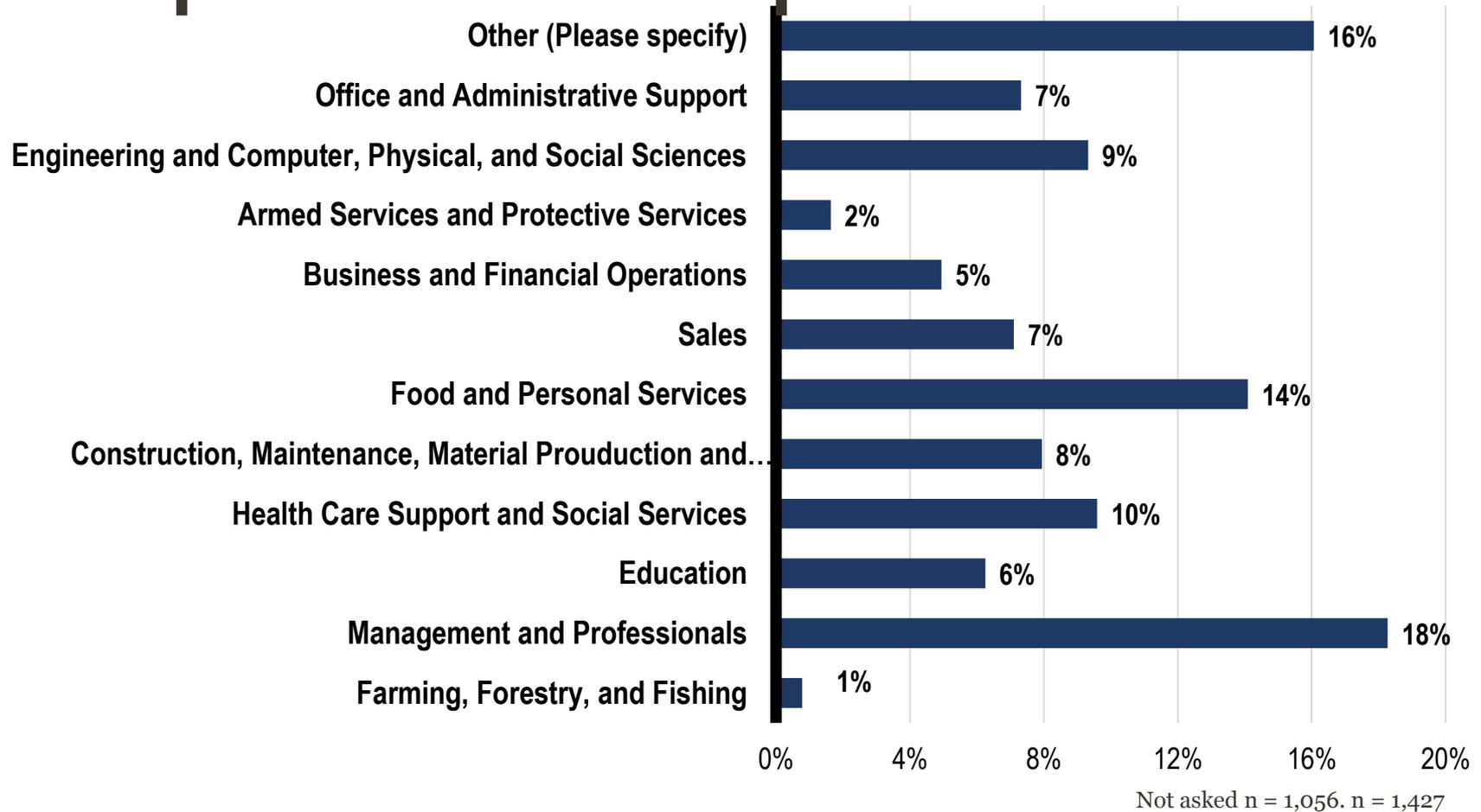


Asked of all E&I respondents. n = 2,483

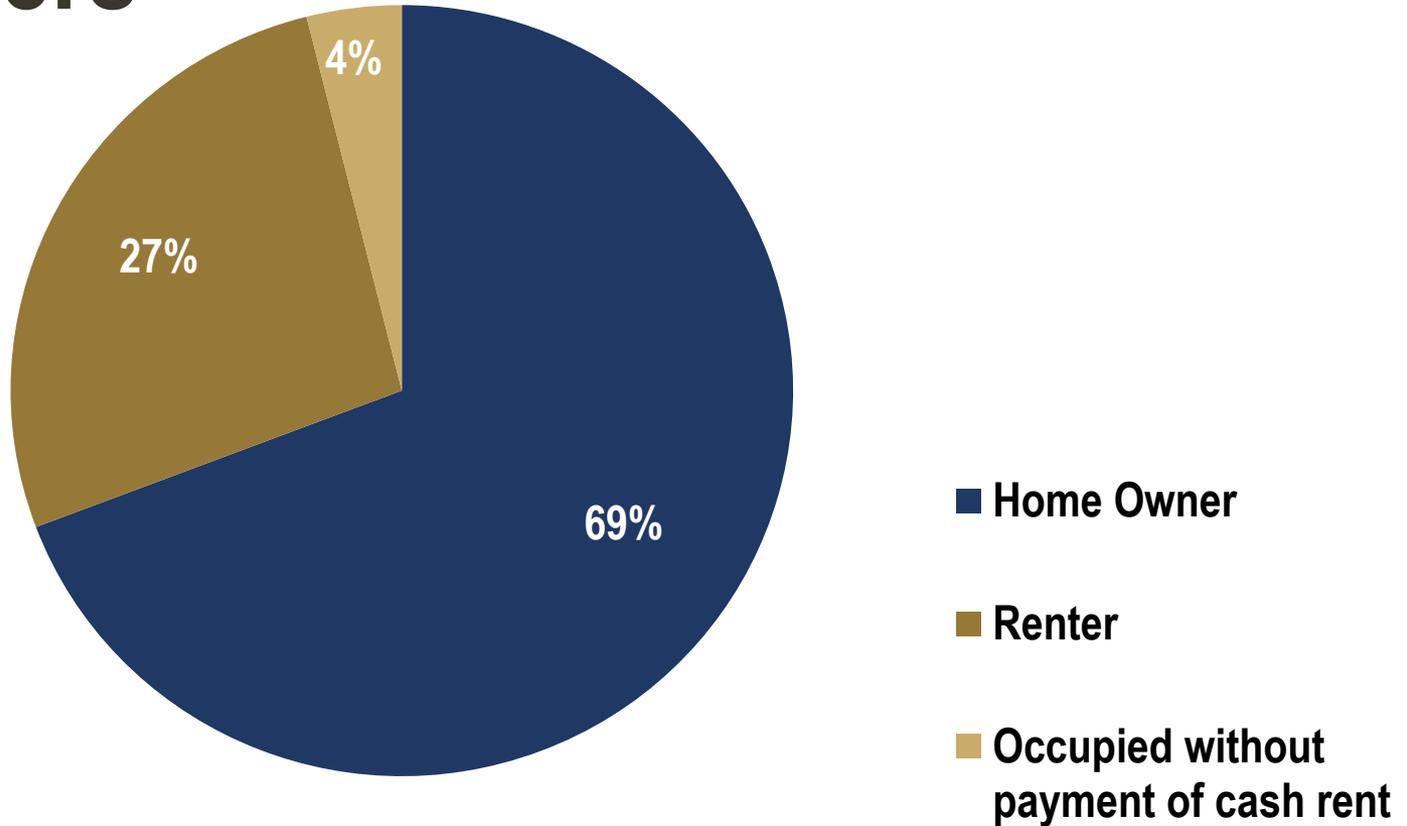
# What Sectors Do Employed E&I Respondents Work In?



# What Are Employed E&I Respondents' Occupations?

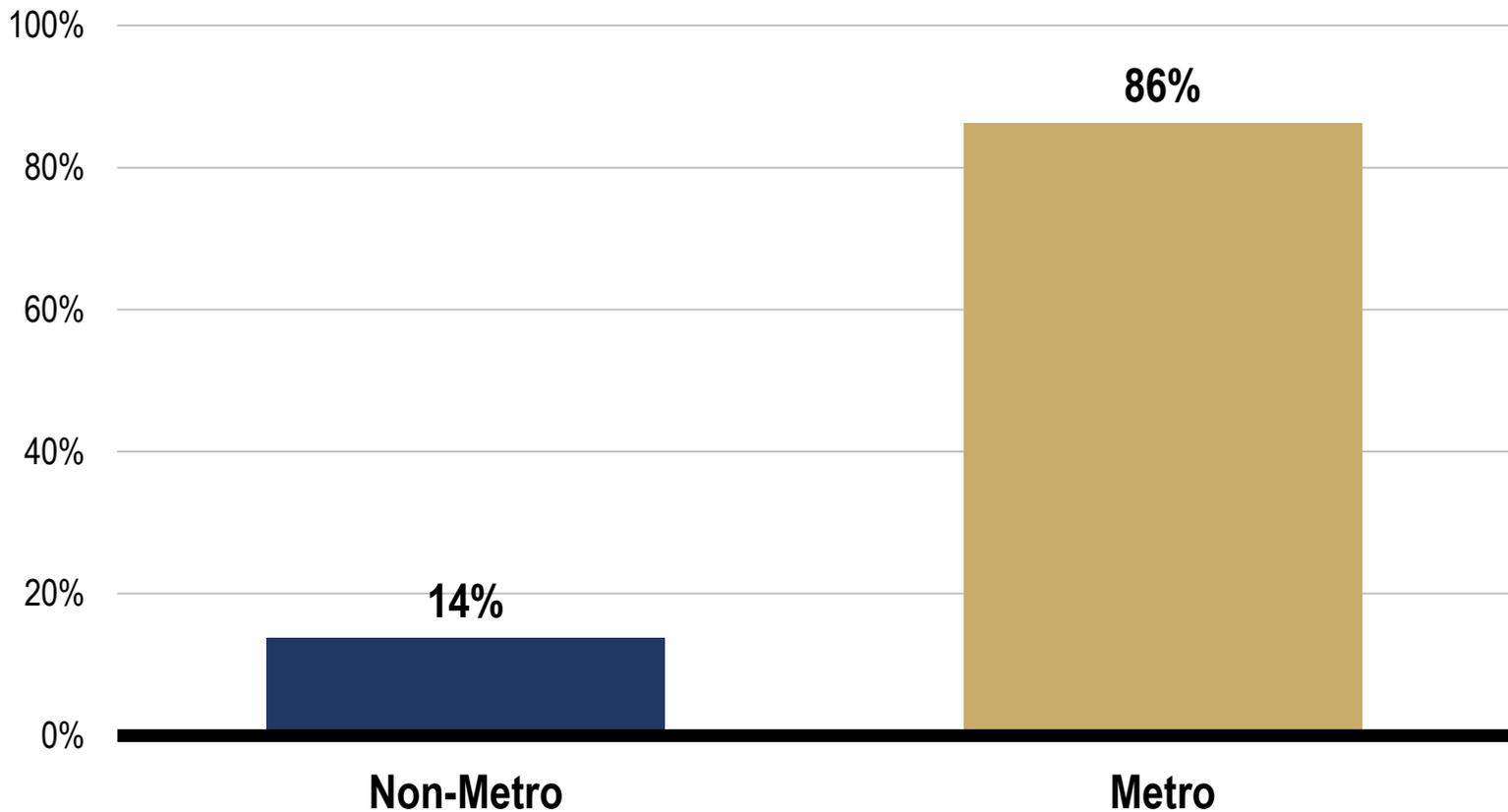


# 69% of E&I Respondents Are Home Owners



Asked of all E&I respondents, n=2,483

# 86% of E&I Respondents Live in a Metropolitan Area



Asked of all E&I respondents, n=2,483

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# Demographics



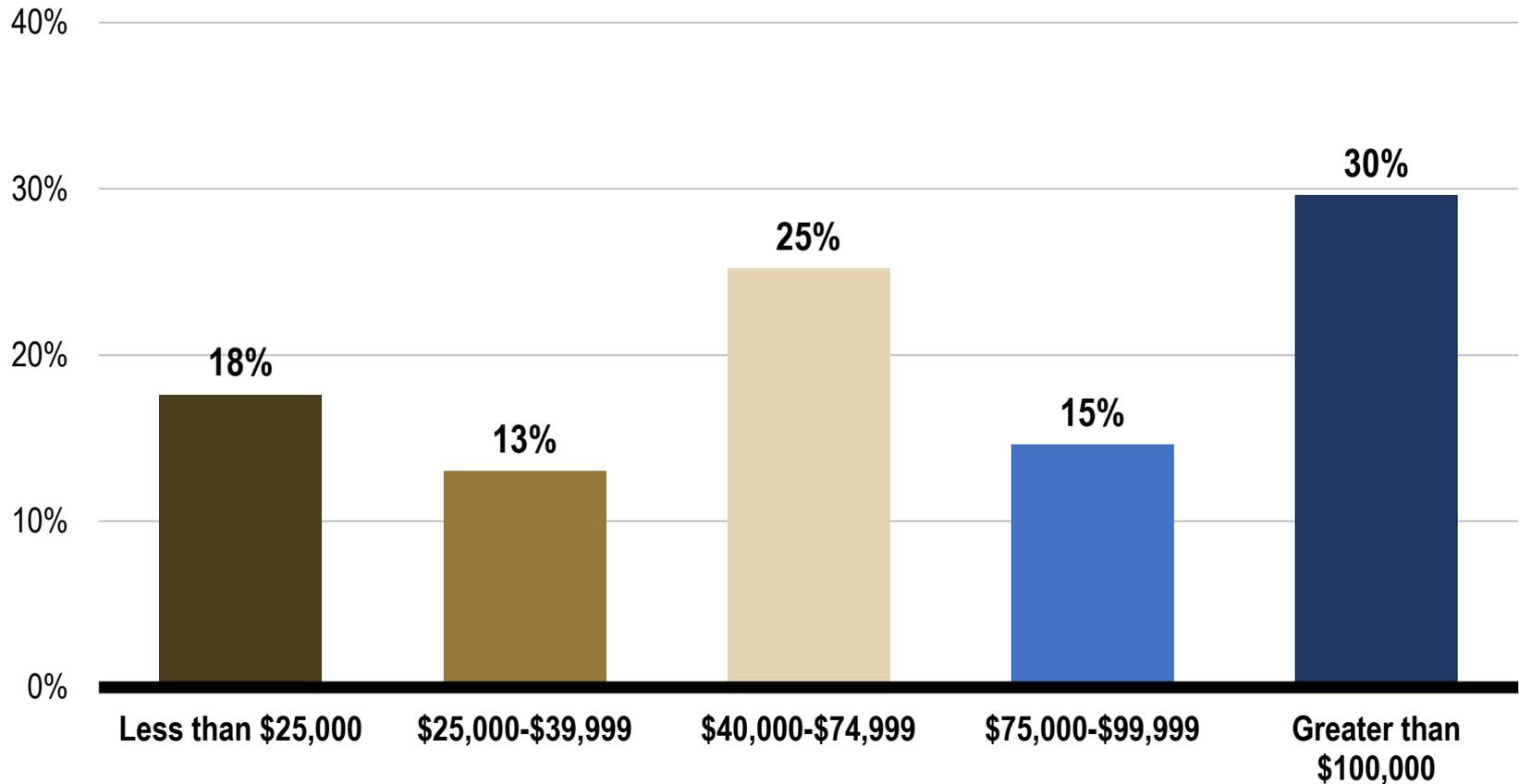
**TOP TAKEAWAYS**

**31%**  
of total qualified  
respondents report income  
less than \$40,000.

**56%**  
of respondents were  
women.

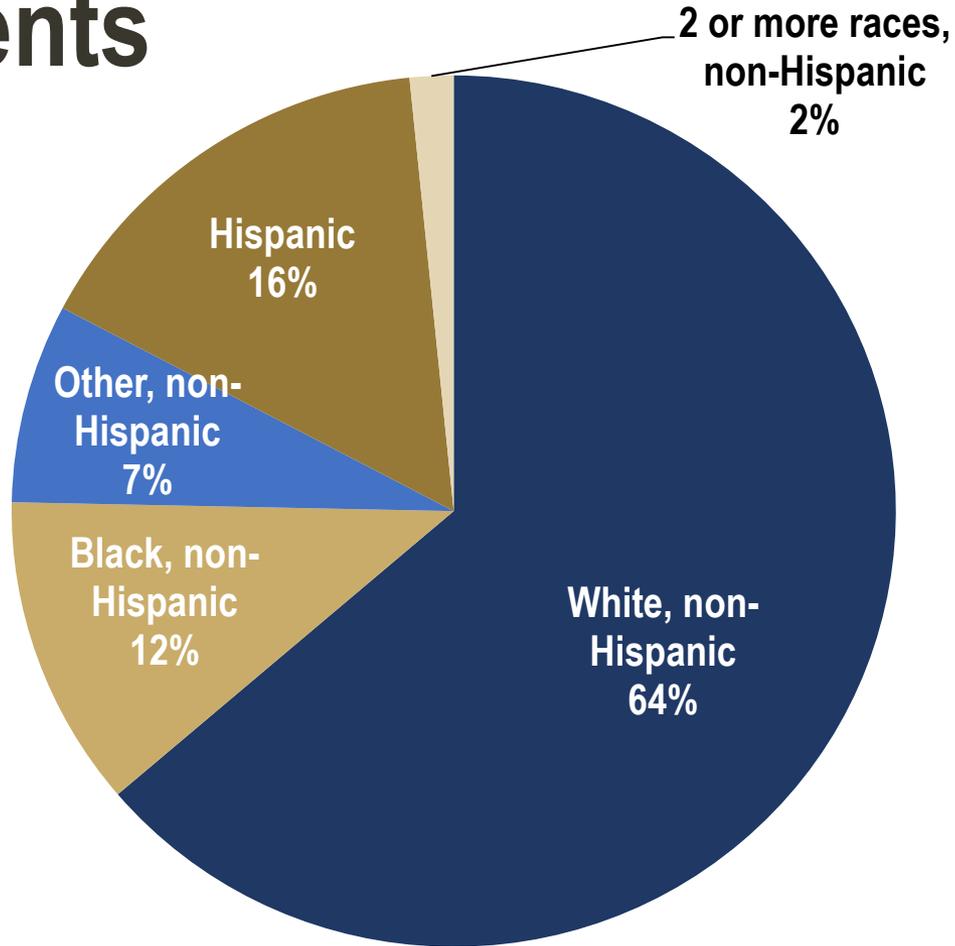
**19%**  
of respondents were  
60 years old and  
over.

# Distribution of E&I Respondents' Household Incomes



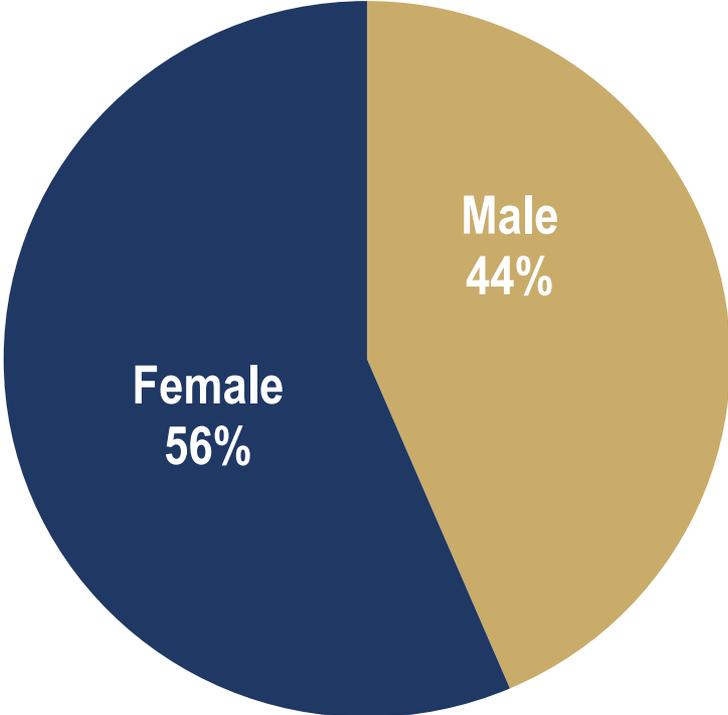
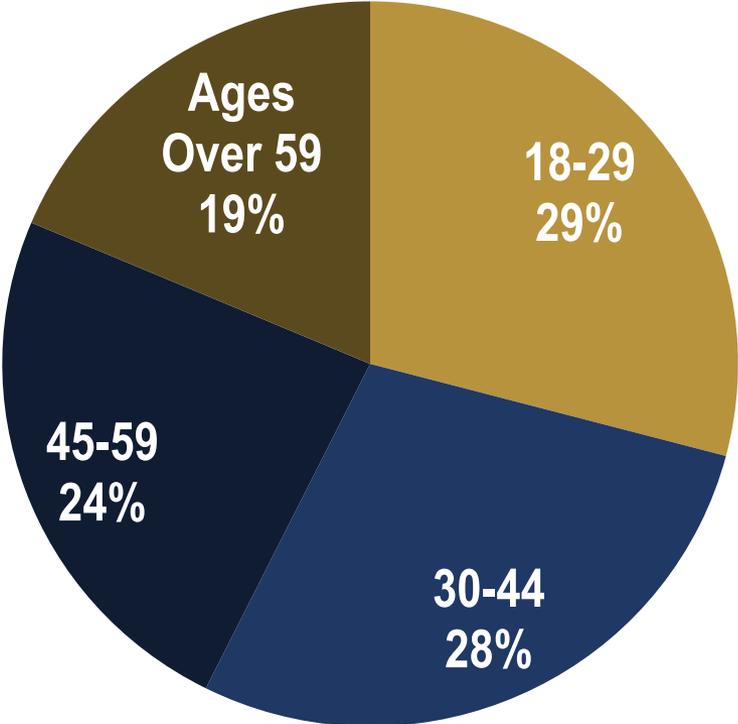
Asked of all E&I respondents. n=2,483

# Racial/Ethnic Distribution of E&I Respondents



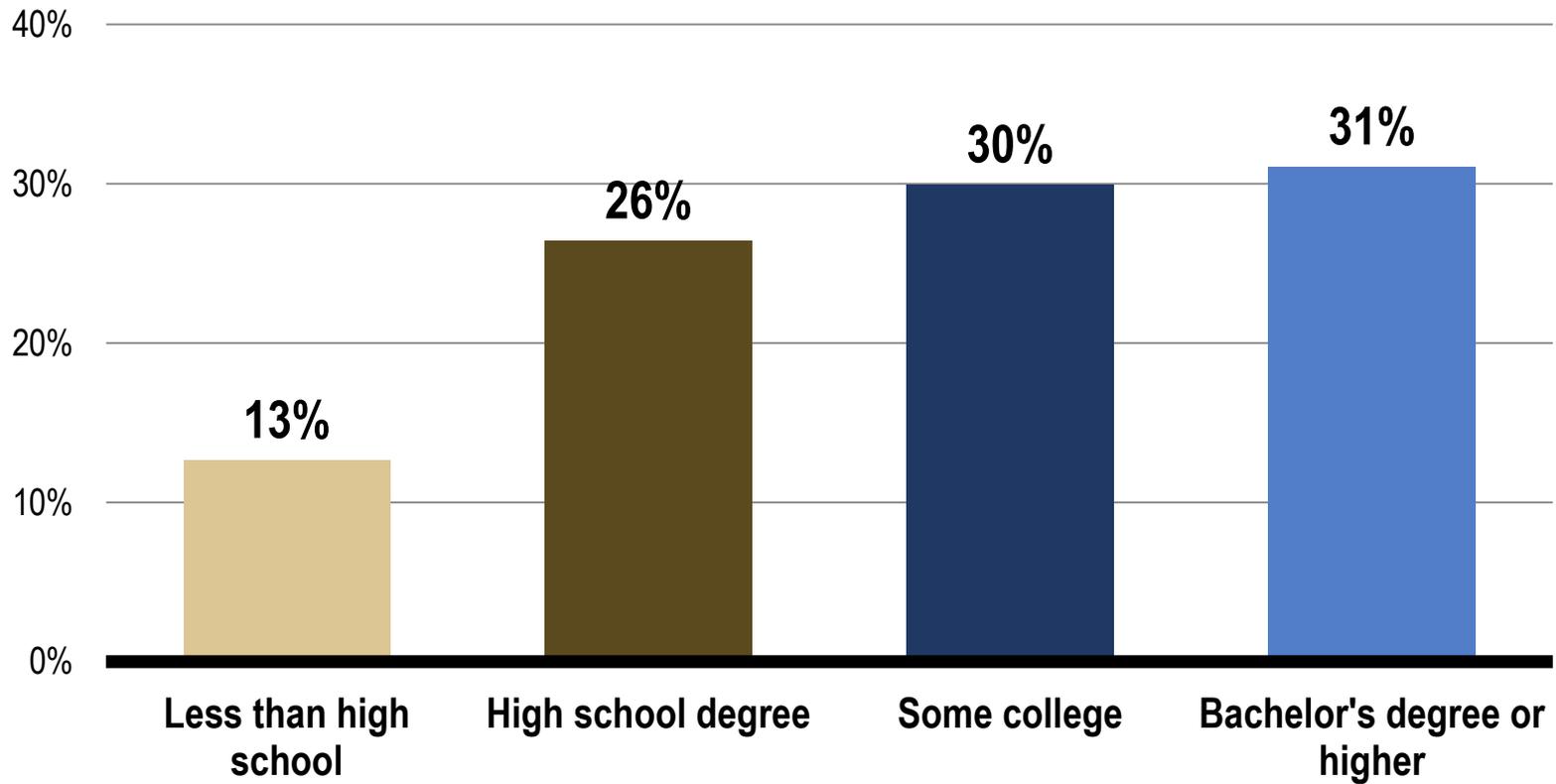
Asked of all E&I respondents. n=2,483

# Age and Gender Distribution of E&I Respondents



Asked of all E&I respondents. n=2,483

# Educational Attainment of E&I Respondents



Asked of all E&I respondents. n=2,483



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# Thank you



Division of Consumer and Community Affairs  
Federal Reserve Board

