



2017
**State of Project
Management
in Manufacturing**



In manufacturing, time is money.

—

Every delay, machinery breakdown, and defective product adds up and, ultimately, hurts the bottom line. But following structured project management methods can help companies reduce delays, stay on budget, and deliver quality products.

We were curious: how do manufacturers practice project management across their organizations? Do they find it valuable? And how do they envision project management playing a role in their business strategy in 2017?

These questions led us to surveying 106 executives, engineers and project managers from manufacturing companies in the US—representing a range of industries, functional areas and company sizes.

Read on to learn more about the state of project management in the manufacturing industry.



Contents

- 6 Survey Demographics
- 14 Current State of Manufacturing Project Management
- 18 2017 Priorities
- 24 Measuring Success
- 26 Project Management Challenges

KEY TAKEAWAYS

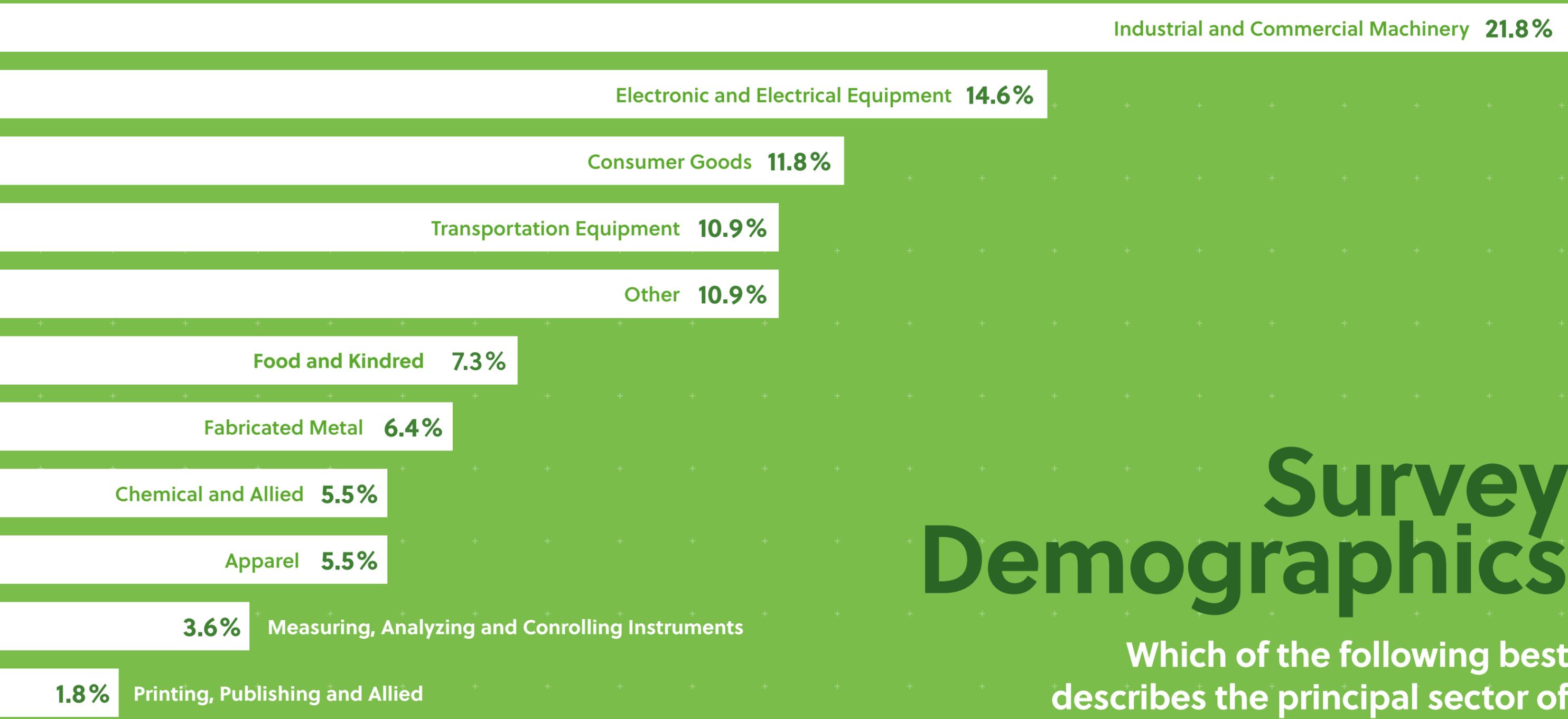
One key theme that emerged from this research is that manufacturers are actively looking for ways to accomplish more without increasing costs.

68% of manufacturers say they are focusing on both revenue growth and cost reductions in 2017.

To accomplish this, they are focusing on improving employee productivity and inventory turnover.

56% of manufacturers use a combination of project management methodologies.

Managing project costs (50%) and **making deadlines (46%)** will be the biggest challenges for manufacturers over the next 12 months.

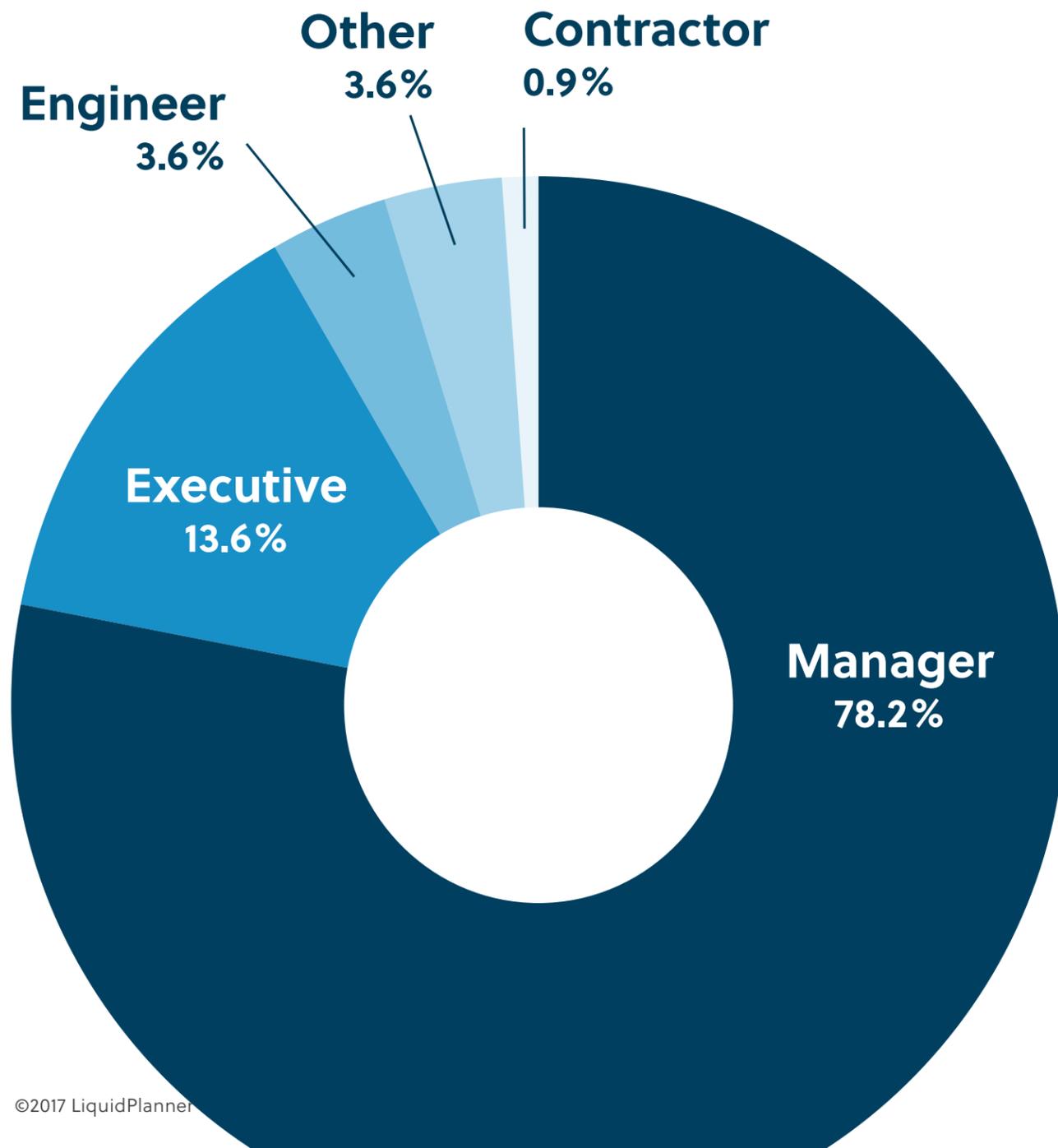


Survey Demographics

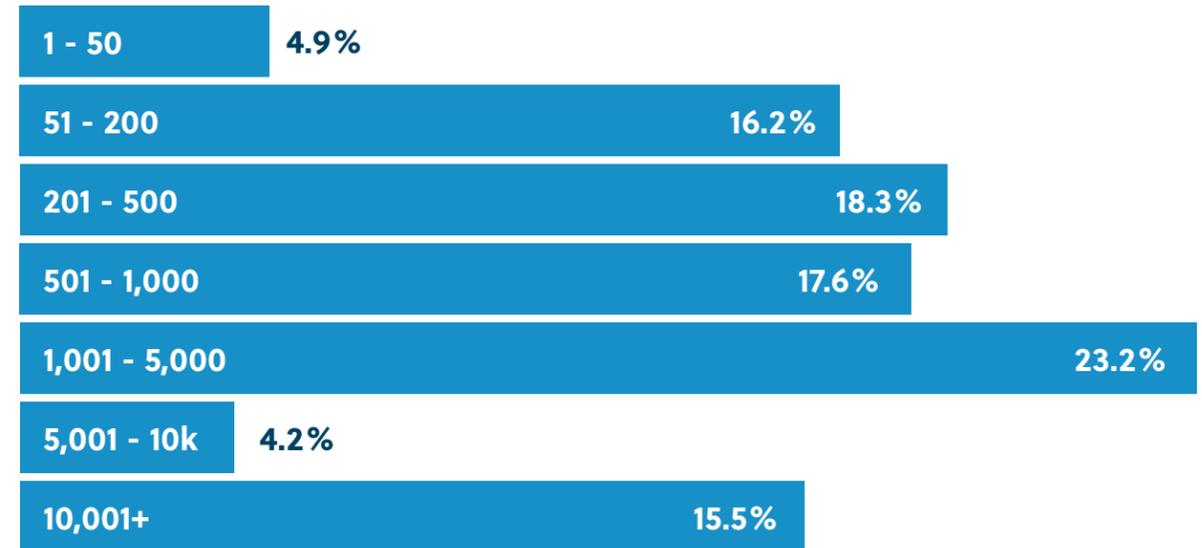
Which of the following best describes the principal sector of your organization?



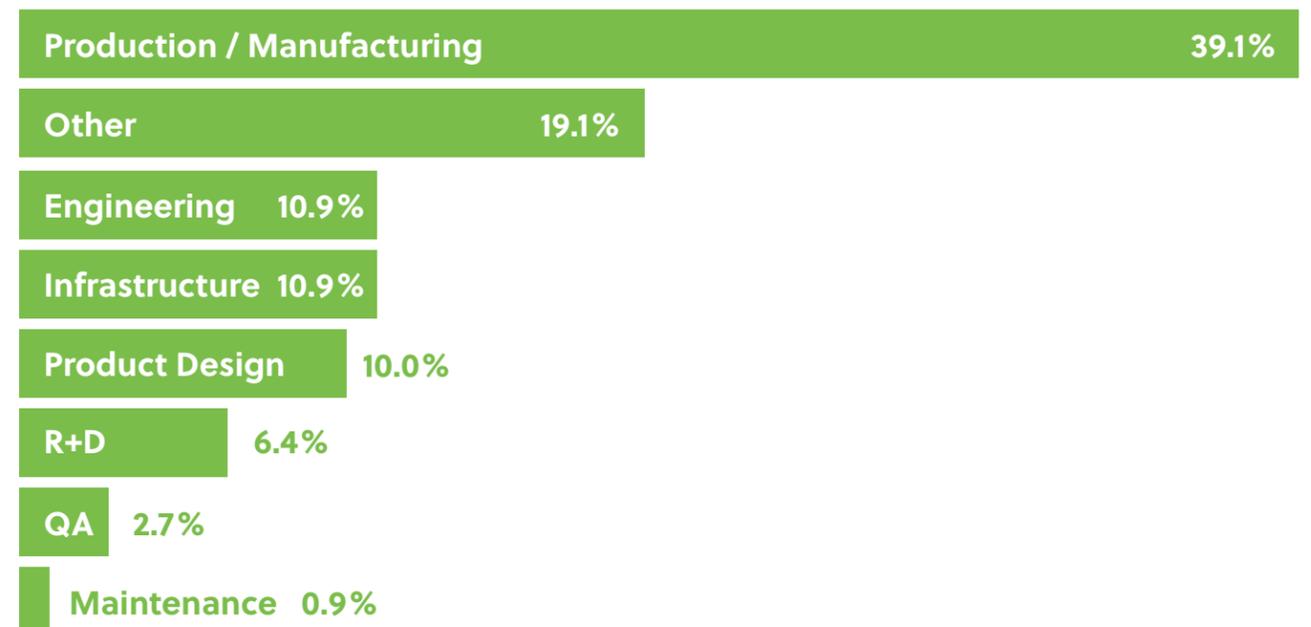
What is your primary role at the company?



How many employees does your company have?

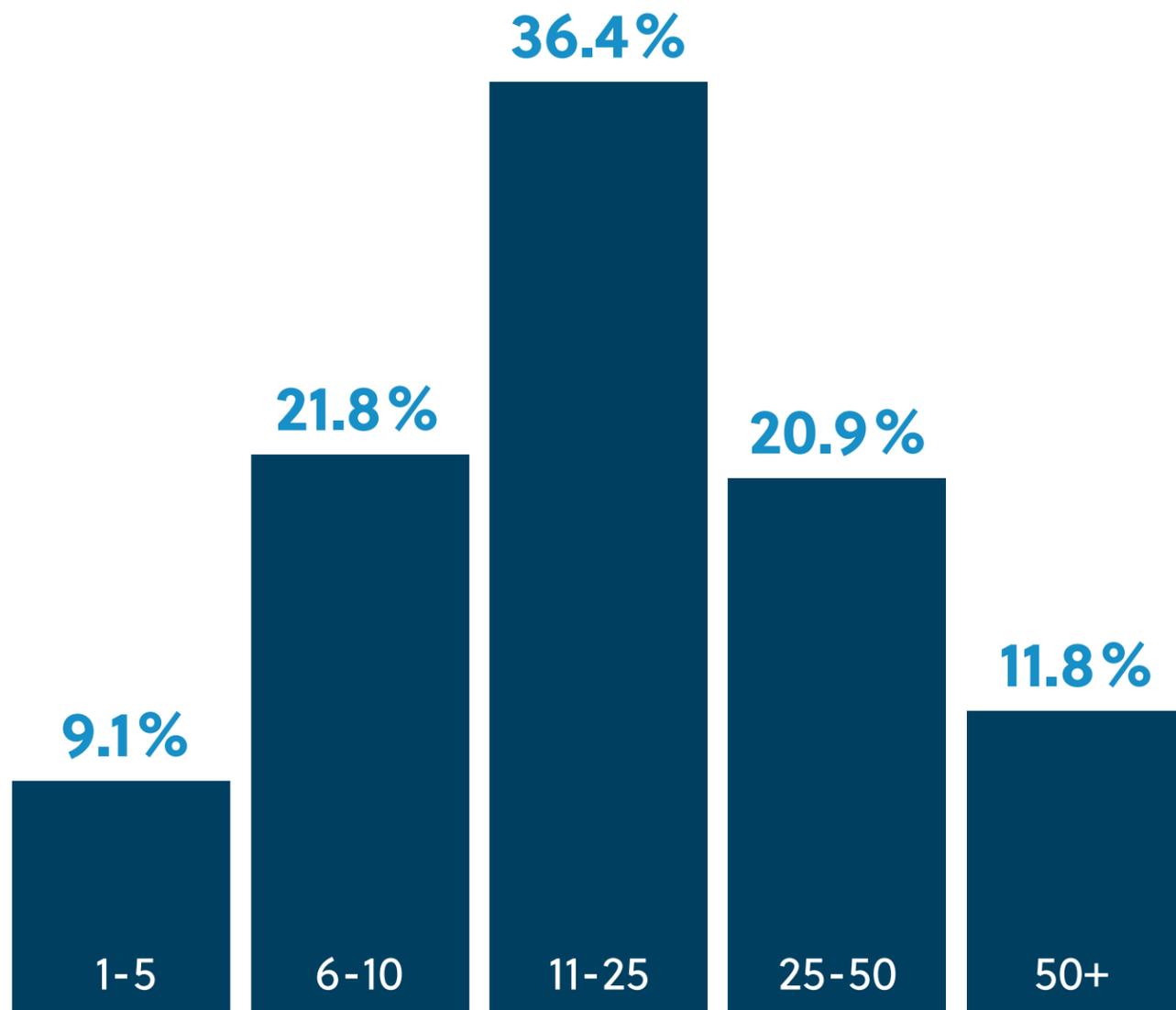


What department do you work in?

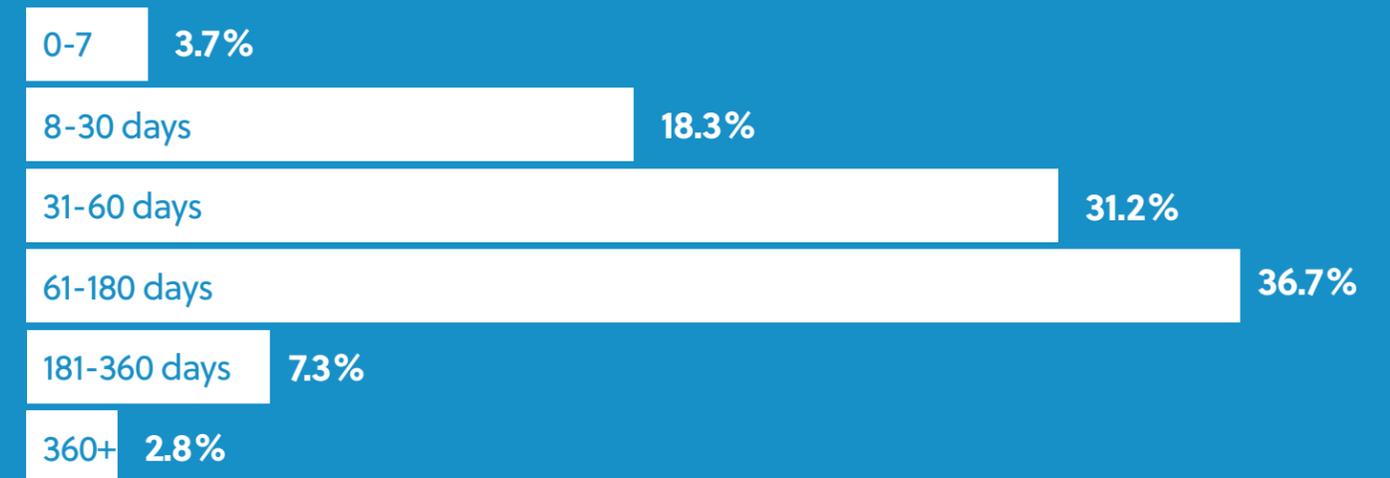




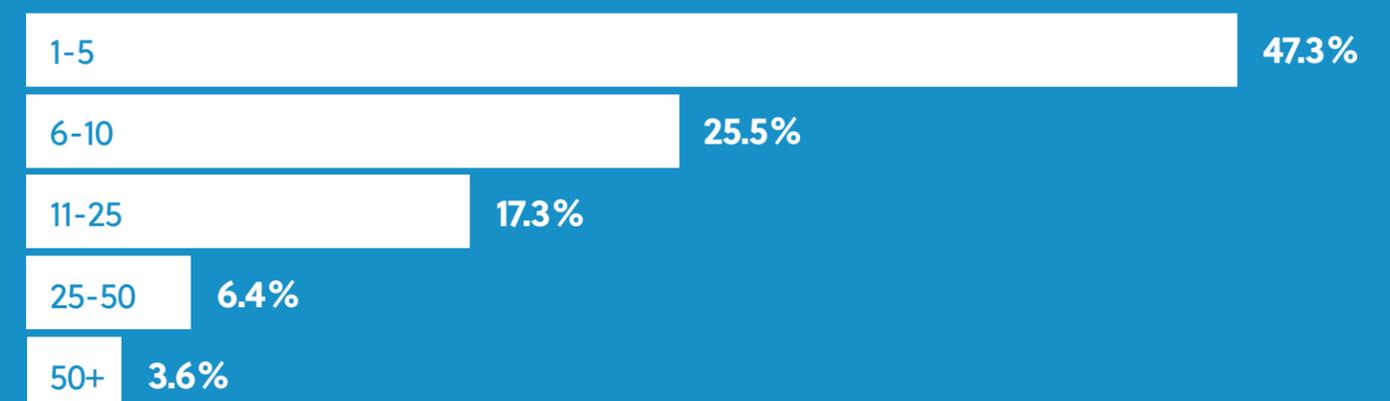
How many total projects does your team complete in a year?



How long does a typical project take from idea/design to completion?

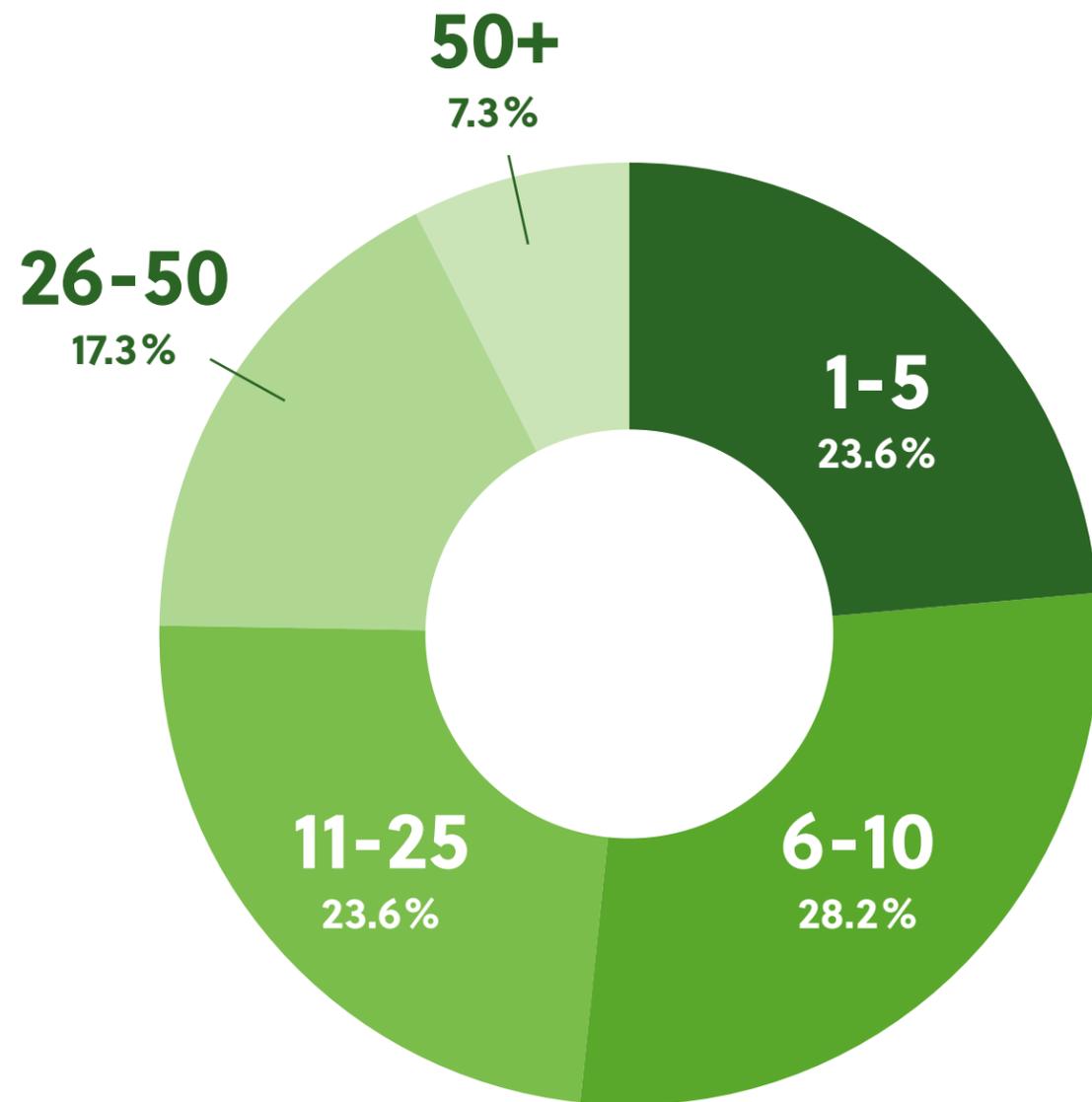


How many total projects do you run at a time?

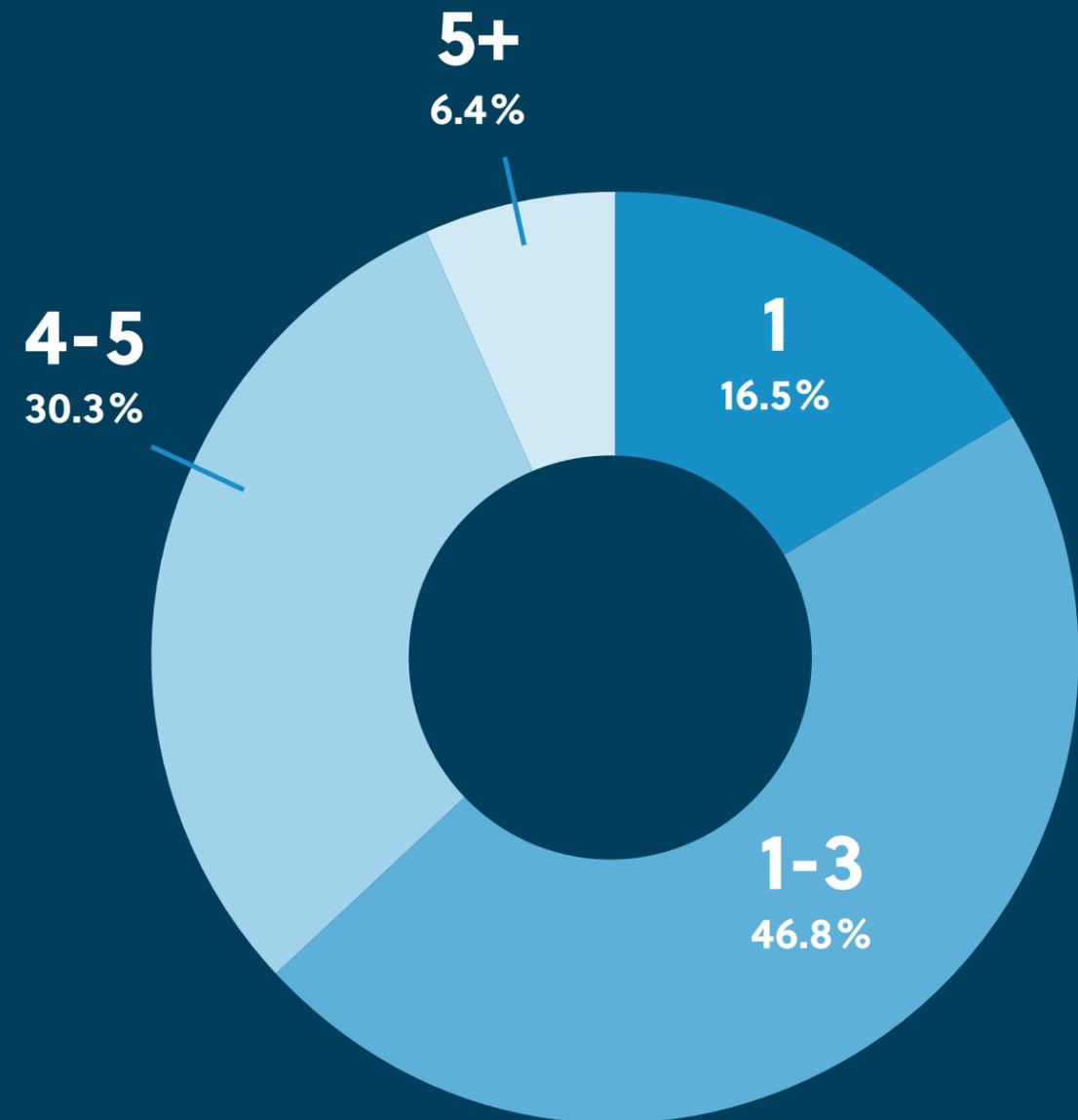




What is the typical size of your project team for an individual project?



How many departments are involved in a typical project?

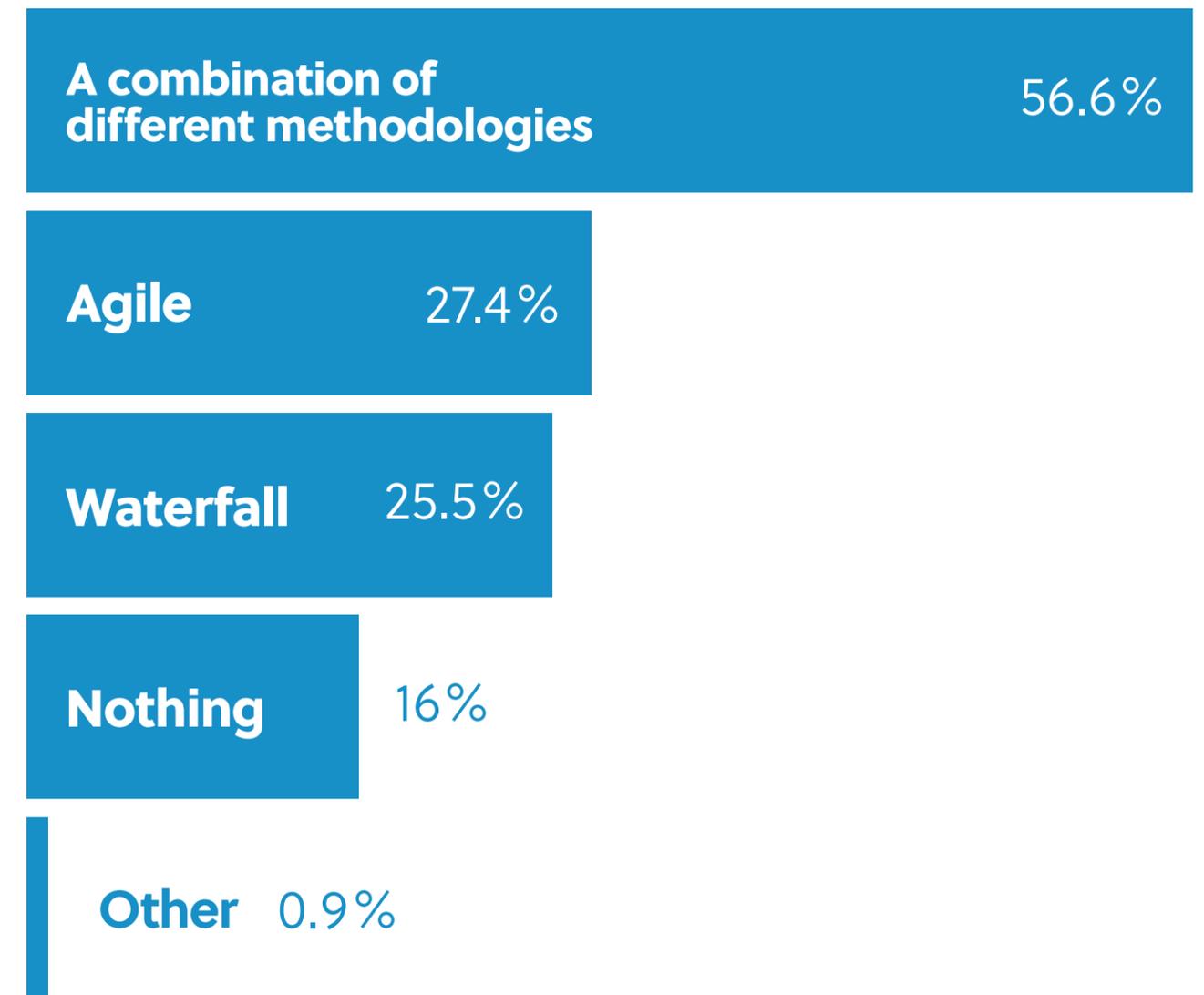




The Current State of Manufacturing Project Management

When it comes to project management methodologies, manufacturers like to mix it up. Over half of respondents said they use a combination of methodologies. And, generally, they're happy with the arrangement.

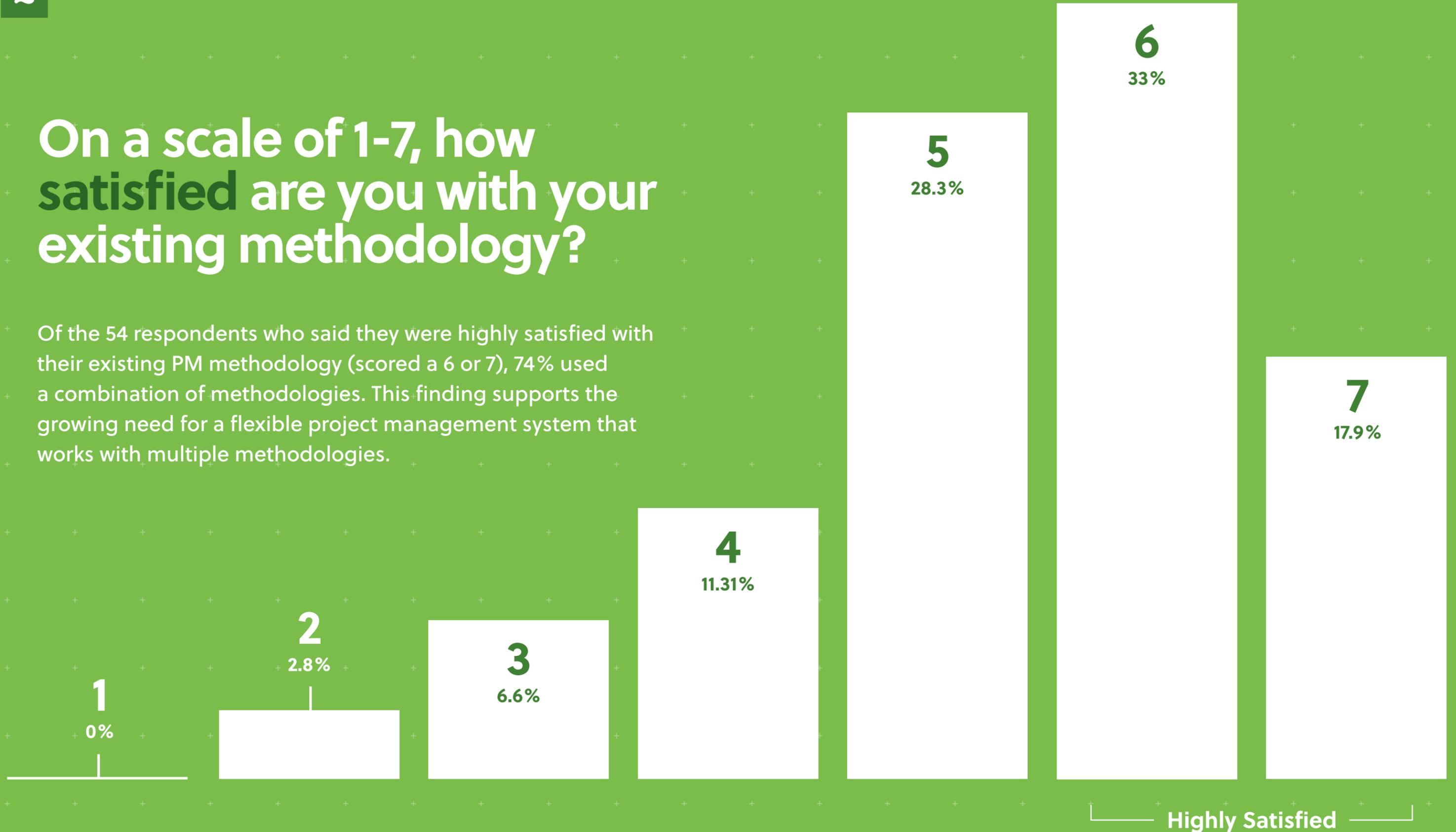
What project management methodology do you currently use?





On a scale of 1-7, how satisfied are you with your existing methodology?

Of the 54 respondents who said they were highly satisfied with their existing PM methodology (scored a 6 or 7), 74% used a combination of methodologies. This finding supports the growing need for a flexible project management system that works with multiple methodologies.



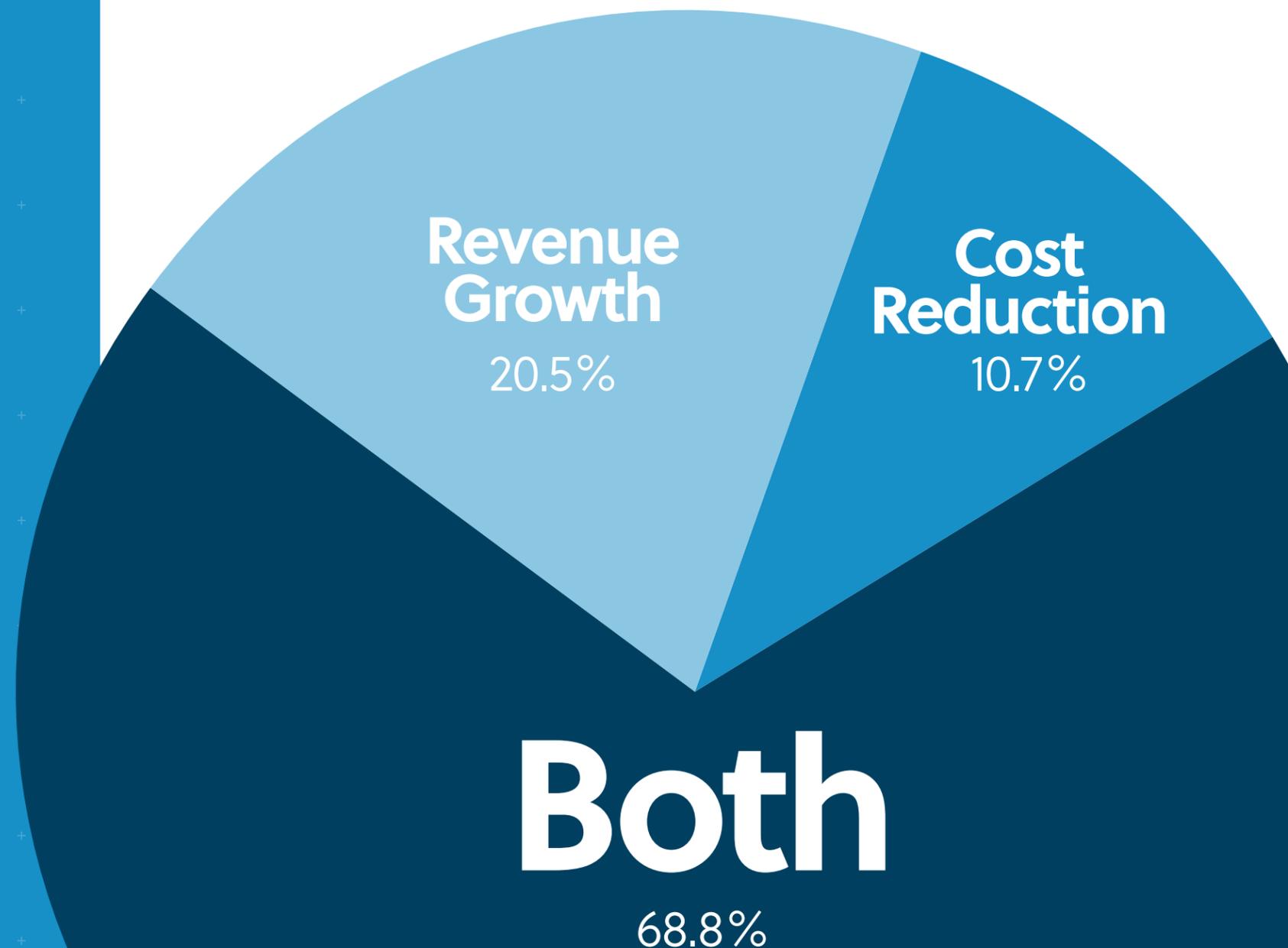


2017 Priorities:

Work Smarter, Not Harder

Doing more with less continues to be a common theme within the manufacturing industry. A majority of respondents are focused on increasing revenue while reducing costs in 2017.

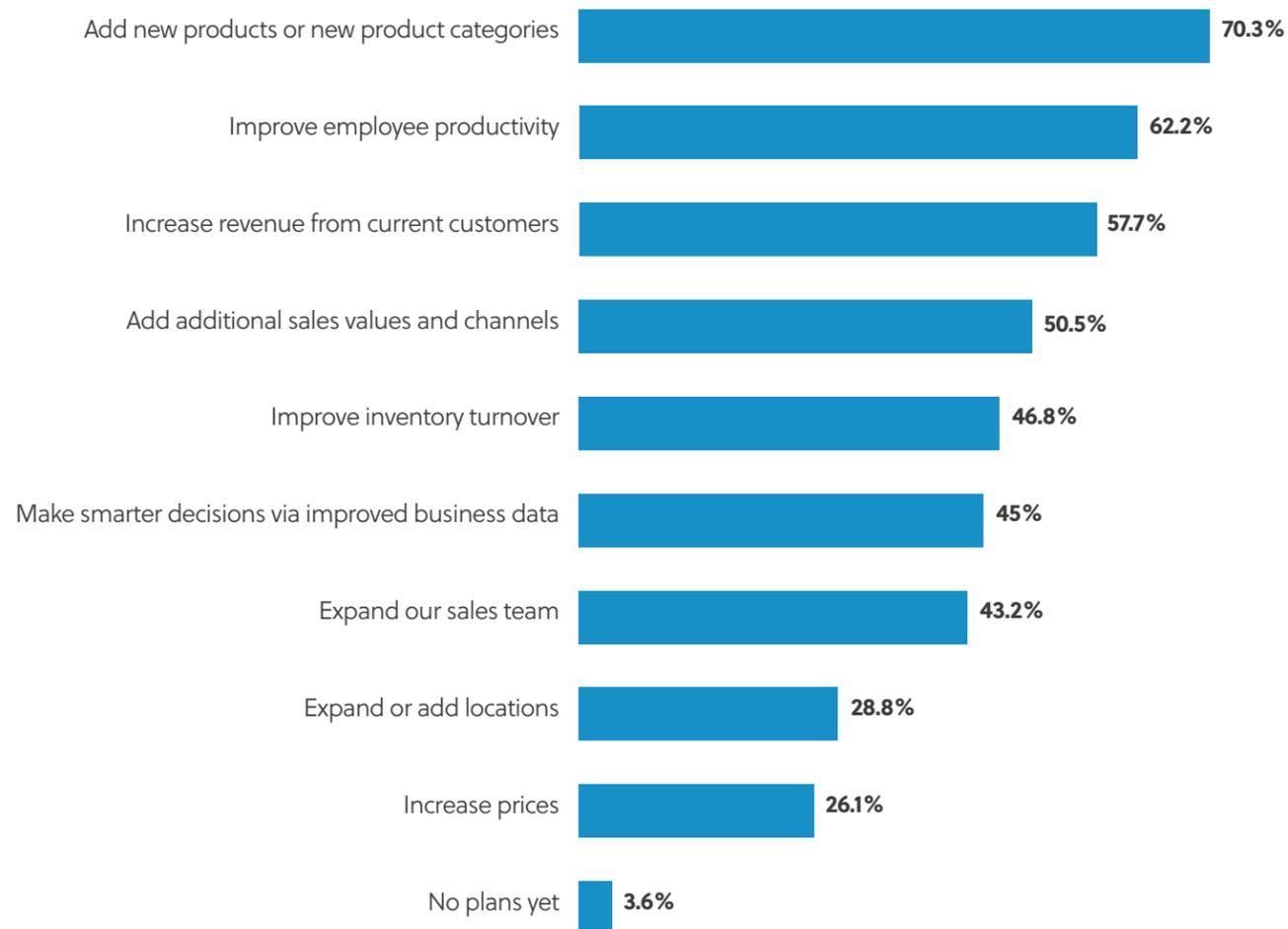
What's more important to your company over the next 12 months: reducing costs or increasing revenue?





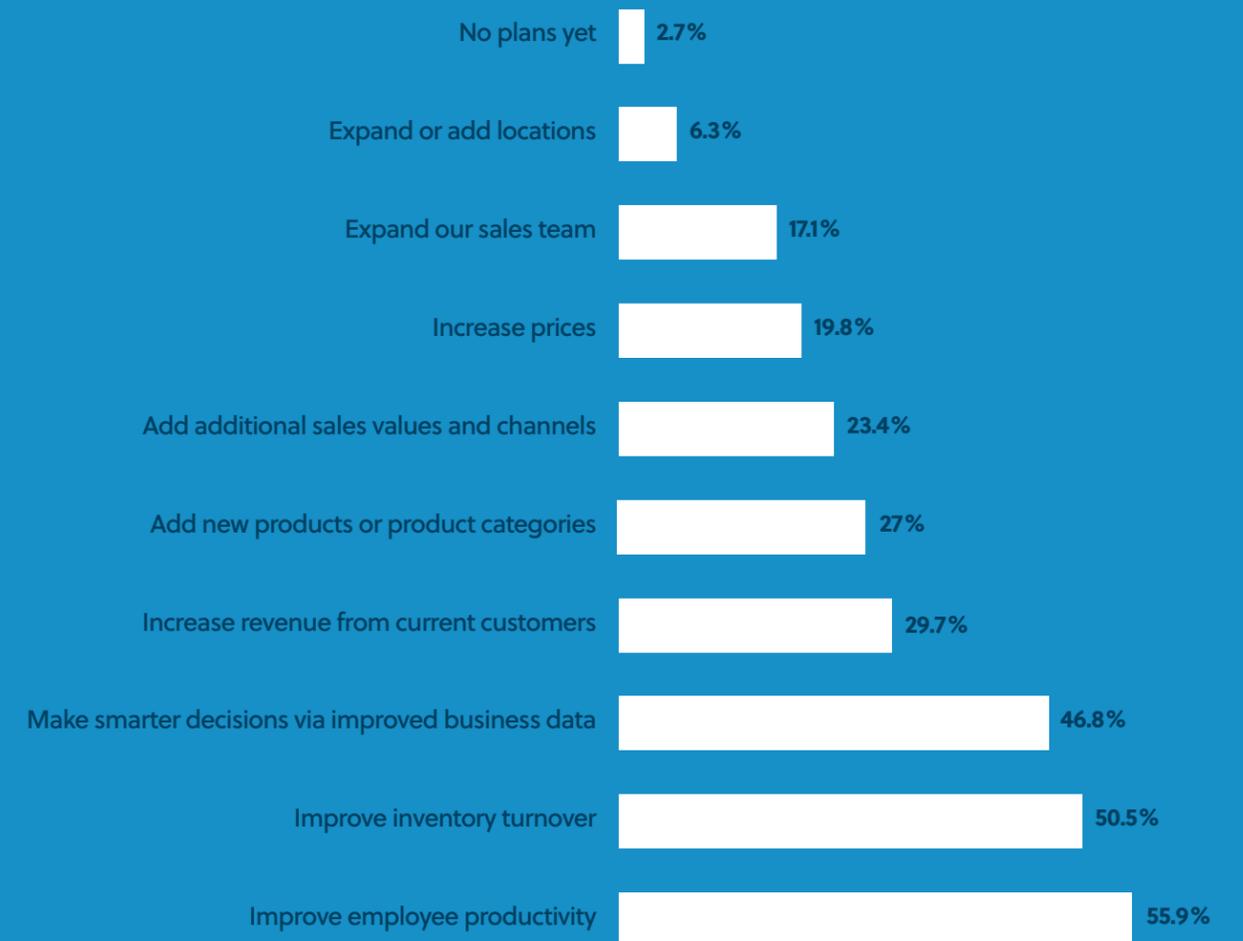
What are your company's plans for **building revenue** for the next year?

To grow revenue, manufacturers today plan on adding new products or categories. Next is increasing revenue from current customers, followed by improving employee productivity.



What are your company's plans for **cutting costs** for the next year?

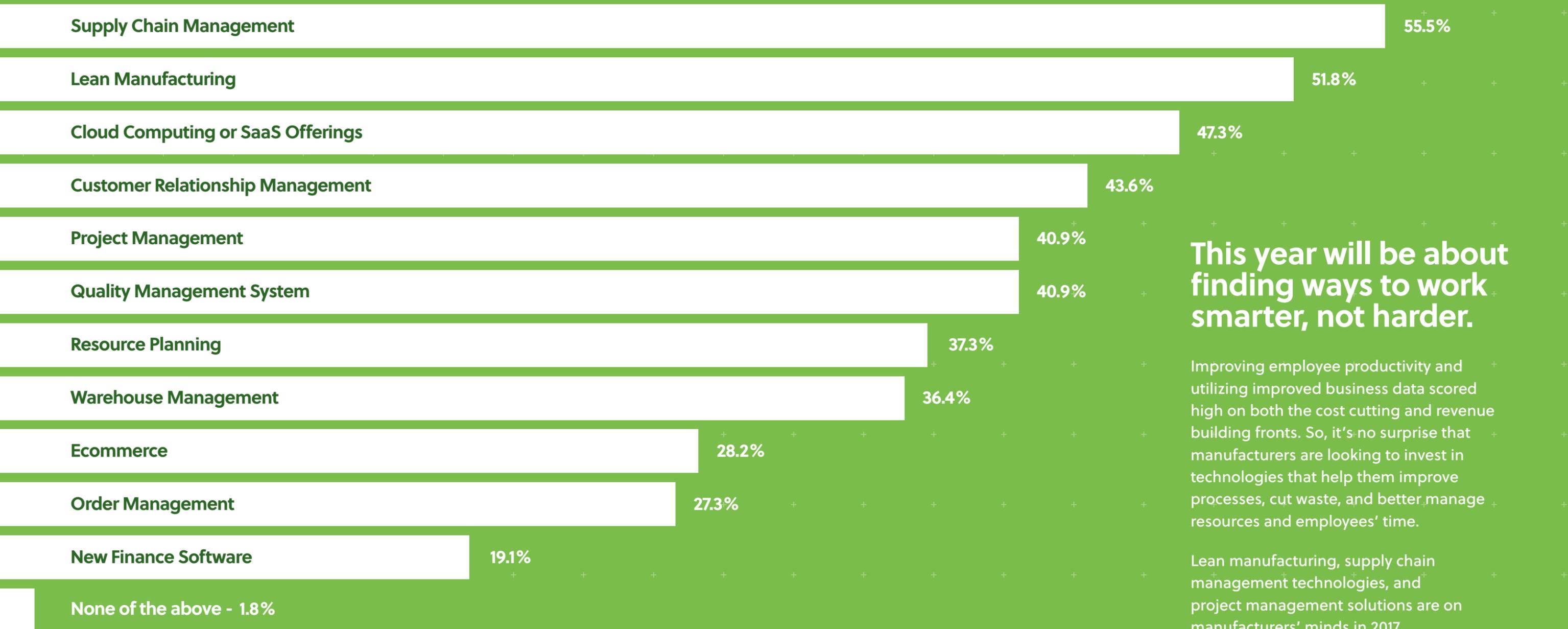
Manufacturers are looking internally to reduce costs, with 56% focusing on improving employee productivity in 2017. Data utilization and smart supply chain management will also be key drivers in 2017.





Which technologies

do you anticipate exploring this year to make your business more productive or efficient?



This year will be about finding ways to work smarter, not harder.

Improving employee productivity and utilizing improved business data scored high on both the cost cutting and revenue building fronts. So, it's no surprise that manufacturers are looking to invest in technologies that help them improve processes, cut waste, and better manage resources and employees' time.

Lean manufacturing, supply chain management technologies, and project management solutions are on manufacturers' minds in 2017.

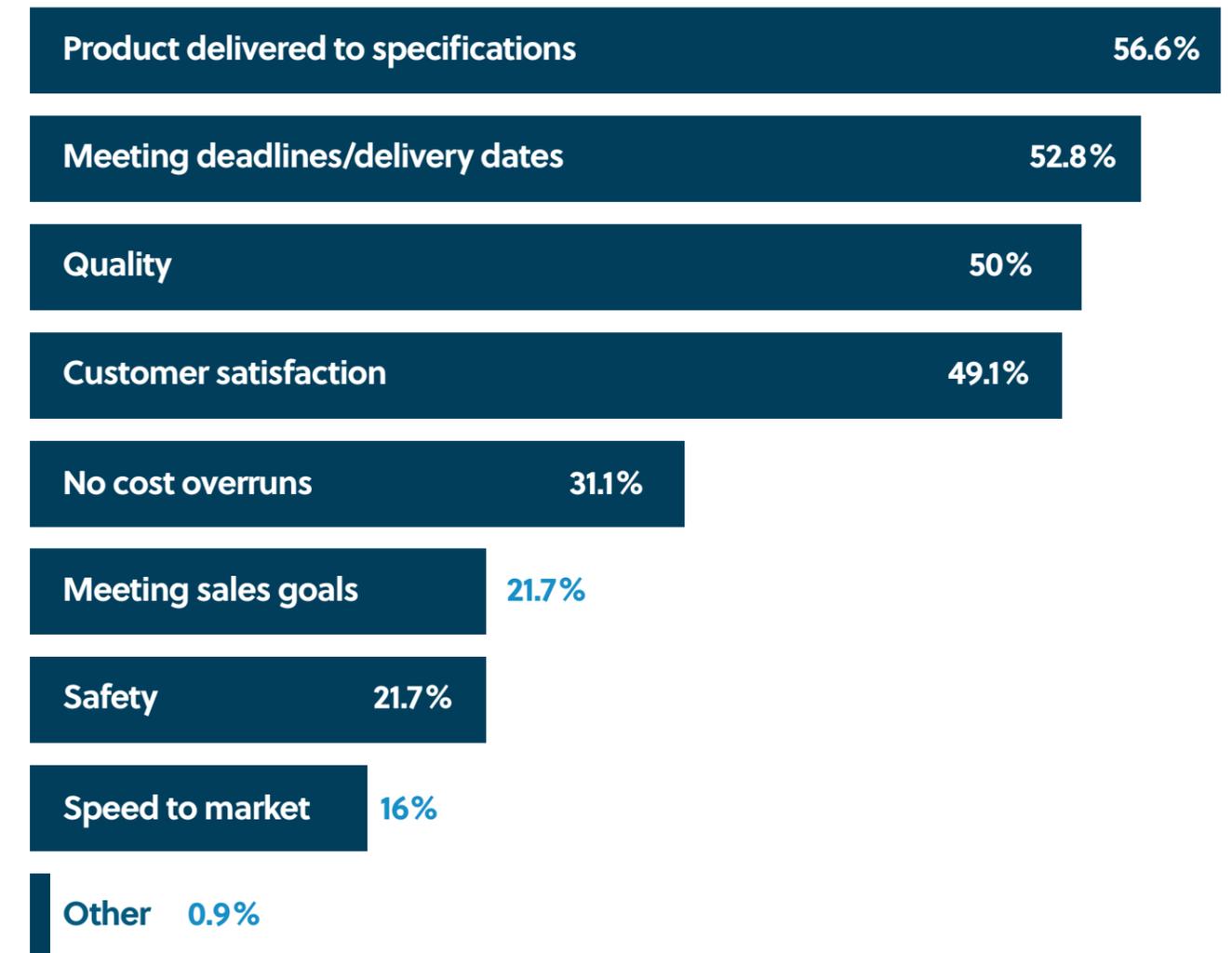


Measuring Success: If They're Happy, We're Happy

You know what makes manufacturers happy? Making their customers happy.

Delivering a quality product on-time and meeting customers' specifications are key performance metrics for manufacturers.

Which 3 of the following **project success metrics** are most important to you?



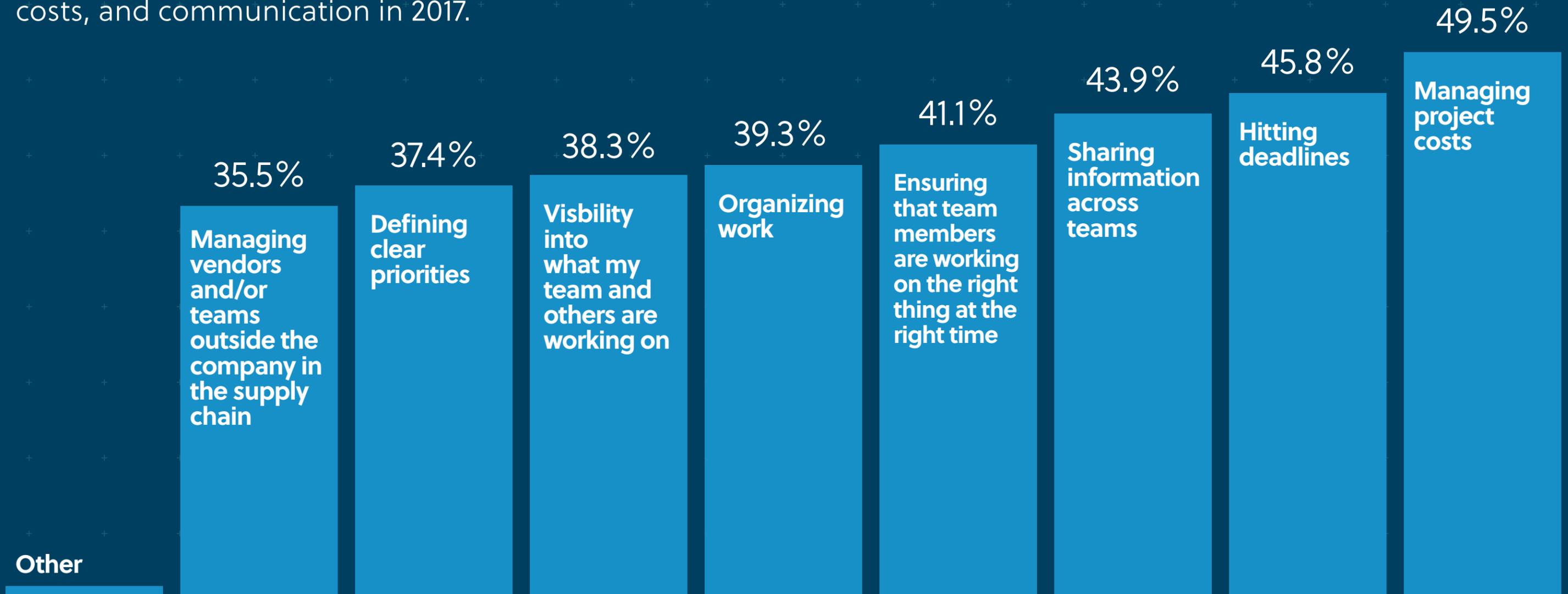


Today's Project Management Challenges

Manufacturers are focused on deadlines, costs, and communication in 2017.

What are the biggest challenges you face in managing projects?

Manufacturers are not only concerned about quality, costs, and deadlines. Sharing information across teams (44%) and ensuring team members are working on the right thing at the right time (41%) are also leading challenges.



Is your current project management tool costing you?

What you need is a system to better organize work, manage resources and risks, and collaborate with stakeholders so you can deliver high-quality products on time and on budget.

Ready to see how LiquidPlanner can benefit your team?

[Request a Demo](#)

