

Mercuri Urval (MU) and Swedish Chamber of Commerce

Survey-Human Resources China 2022





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Human capital is companies most valuable resources but managing and attracting that talent is becoming increasingly challenging. To support our member companies and their businesses in China; the Swedish Chamber of Commerce in China together with Mercuri Urval (MU) have conducted this nationwide survey of compensation and benefits packages for corporate members in China.

The survey has been answered by around 50 companies, representing the Swedish business community in China. We have highly appreciated your contribution and attendance, and are now pleased to invite you to this launch event for the nationwide salary survey report. We hope the survey outcomes will help managers set competitive salaries and benefits through an indication of the competitive landscape.



Introduction

The Human Resources China 2022 survey saw largely foreign-owned companies in the Machinery and Industrial Equipment sector take part.

It also saw participation from a variety of other sectors such as Telecommunication and IT, Retail, Autonomous Driving, Management Consultancy, and others, all of which ranged from having less than 50 employees to some having over 500.

The companies were largely located in Shanghai, Beijing and Tianjin, and saw both executives and human resources personnel take part in the survey.

Considering the comparatively small and relatively homogenous target group when issuing the survey to members of the Swedish Chamber only, we decided on a relatively small degree of differentiation between positions when indicating purely salary levels; the focus had shifted to include other impactful HR influencing factors, that are becoming increasingly important in China. Hence the change in title from 'Salary Survey' to 'Human Resources Survey'. (Besides, those detailed salary guides for blue/white collar workers have been published by other organisations with larger survey groups to base the results on).

Many thanks to all representatives of SwedCham Members for your participation!

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Executive Summary



Part 1 of 2

- Most companies saw labour costs rising for both white- and blue-collar employees in 2022, but also saw a less than 5% turnover, both voluntary and involuntary, amongst blue- and white-collar employees.
- Retention of white-collar employees was largely affected by salary adjustments, having a career development plan, a bonus system, and flexible working timings.
- For blue collar workers, retention was helped by overtime and compensation, along with a combination of other factors like COVID-19, the working environment and relationships, bonuses, and commissions.
- Online recruitment worked best for finding white-collar staff in 2022, while on-site job fairs were the least preferred.
- A third each of white-collar employees stayed for 3-5 years and 5-11 years, with nearly 20% staying for between 11-20 years.
- Around 40% of blue-collar employees stayed on for 3-5 years, while 6.7% employees stayed for more than 20 years, higher than the number of white-collar workers.
- From an HR perspective, the top three factors having a high impact on business operations were found to be the recruitment and retention of qualified employees, along with rising labour costs. Covid-related travel restrictions are considered to have relatively low impact.
- Major reasons for companies to be 'chosen' by applicants are viewed to be flexible working hours, work-life balance, employer branding and performance recognition.

Executive Summary



Part 2 of 2

- Most important factors to determine salary adjustments are company performance and the individual's contribution to it, seniority plays a relatively smaller (only 40% of participants).
- Recruitment difficulties are mostly experienced when hiring for administrational roles. Obstacles to filling vacancies often are the lack of experience within foreign companies or the company location.
- Recruitment channels for white-collar staff are mostly headhunting agencies, job advertisement, local recruitment platforms, social network and referral; blue-collar workers are mostly recruited by referral, social network, local platforms and employment agencies.
- Member companies employing foreigners are doing so either on local contract, on expat contract or having both models simultaneously within the company (relatively balanced between the 3 options).
- Localisation in management roles is perceived equally by respondents.
- Salary levels are predominantly in the region of 150-189k Euro annually for junior- to mid-level, 300-400k for senior and 1 Million + for senior management (please refer to the presentation below for more details).
- For both blue- and white collar employees a major part of respondents is expecting an increase between either 3-5% or 5-10% for next year.
- Although most companies have no retention policy in place, they do consider offering the following extraordinary benefits to retain key personnel: flexible working time, meal subsidies, housing fund, mobile phones, training/education, events/travel.

Content





Participating Companies

- 1. Company name
- 2. Your position
- 3. Company industry
- 4. Number of employees (at current location)
- 5. Company location (city where you are currently located)
- 6. What is your company's legal structure

Review 2022-Key Learnings

- 7. How would you generally describe your company's development in 2022?
- 8. How would you describe your company's recruitment demand in 2022? Has it been:
- 9. What are your company's labour costs in 2022?
- 10. Overall turnover rate of white-collar employees in 2022?
- 11. Overall turnover rate of blue-collar employees in 2022?
- 12. What have affected the retention rate of your white-collar employees in 2022?
- 13. What have affected the retention rate of your blue-collar employees in 2022?
- 14. What were your primary channels for acquiring white collar staff in 2022?

HR-Overview and Insights

- 15. Removed for confidentiality
- 16. Removed for confidentialit
- 17. How many years do your employees stay with the company on average?
- 18. What are the factors that affect the business operations of your company from HR perspective?
- 19. Is your company considering strategic changes due to rising labour costs in China?
- 20. Is your company considering strategic changes due to rising labour costs in China? Internal recommended
- 21. What is the importance of the following items for staff in choosing your company?
- 22. How difficult do you find it to recruit qualified staff in China for the following positions?
- 23. What are the main reasons wh vacancies cannot be filled?
- 24. Do you have foreign nationals working at your company?

 Locally hired foreigners or expats?
- 25. Did you have any personnel who required a PU letter to return/come to China?
- 26. Does your company experience localisation in management position?
- 27. Does your company have regional (APAC) roles based in China?

Recruitment, Selection, Retention

- 28. How long is your recruiting procedure in general (from search to contract)?
 White vs blue collar
- 29. Which recruitment channels do you mainly use in China? (white vs blue collar)
- 30. What are the top 3 reasons for your employees to leave your company?
- 40. * Do you also have special retention strategies for key personnel?
- 41. * Please explain what individual retention strategies your company is using

(* category moved)

HR- Remuneration, Employee Benefits and Incentives

- 31. What is the average salary (CNY) range of your junior and mid-level employees?
- 32. What is the average salary (CNY) range of your senior employees?
- 33. What is the average salary (CNY) range of key roles?
- 34. What is the ratio between fix and variable (bonus) for white-collar employee in average?
- 35. What was the salary increase of your company for 2021 on average?
- 36. What salary increase does your company expect for 2022/23 on average?
- 37. Has your company considering postponing a salary increase?
- 38. Standard benefit plans offered
- 39. Does your company offer extraordinary benefits to retain key personnel?

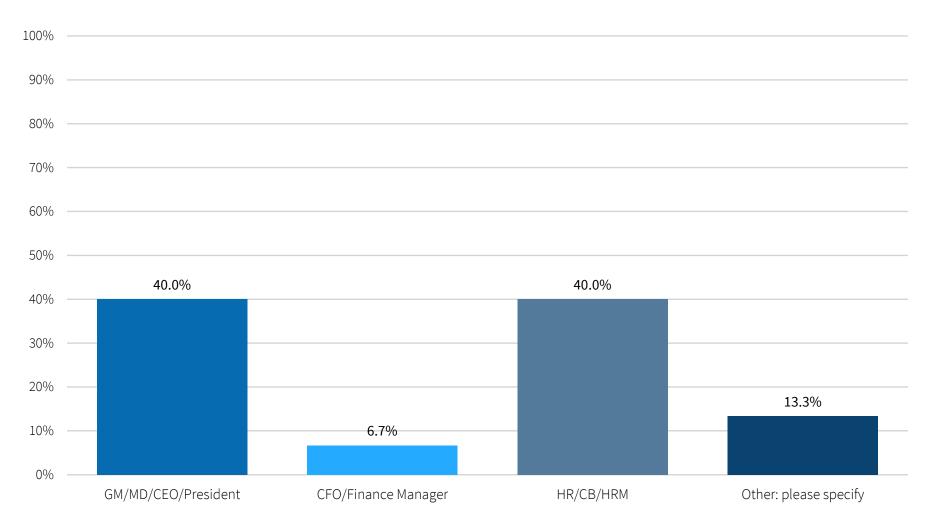


2. Roles of those participating in the Human Resources China 2022 survey









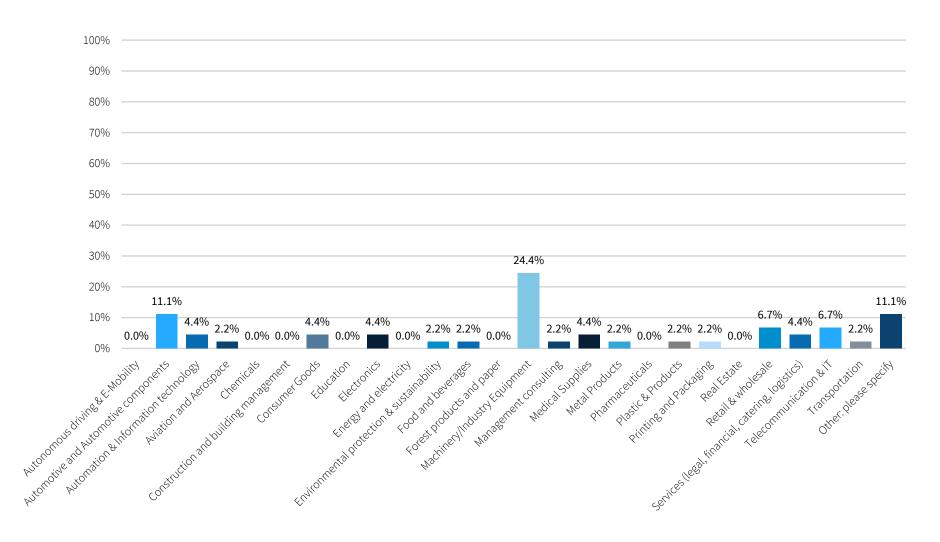
Highest number of participants in the survey were Executives (such as General Managers and Chief Executive Officers) and those in human resources (such as Human Resources Managers), both at 40% each.

Other participants included Chief Finance Officers, Technical Directors, and Country Managers.

3. Industries of companies taking part in the Human Resources China 2022 survey



Participating Companies



Largely, companies from the Machinery and Industrial Equipment industry took part in the survey, making up 24.4% of the total.

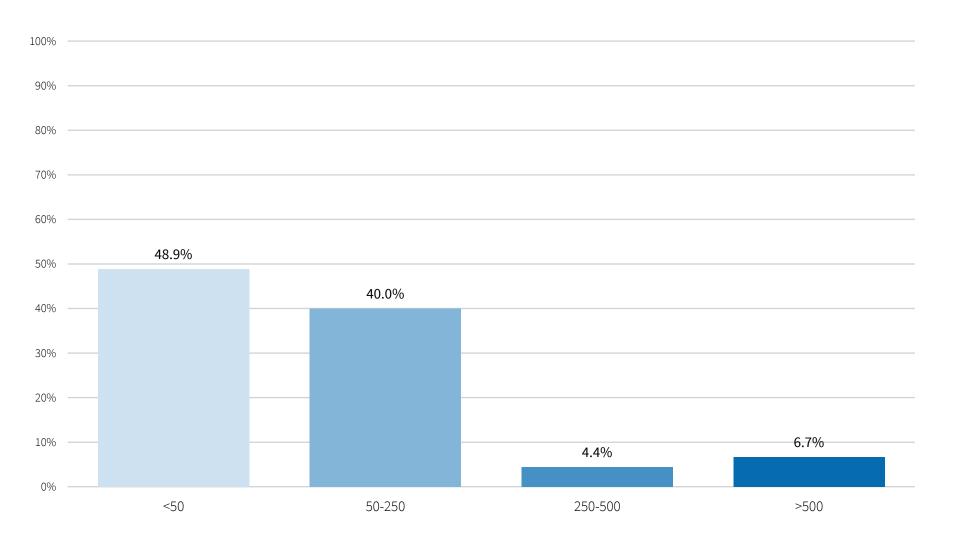
The second highest was the Automotive and Automotive components industry, at 11.1%, followed by the Telecommunication and Retails industries, at 6.7% each.

4. Number of employees at the participating companies' premises





Participating Companies



Most (48.9%) of the companies participating in the survey had less than 50 employees, while 40% had up to 250.

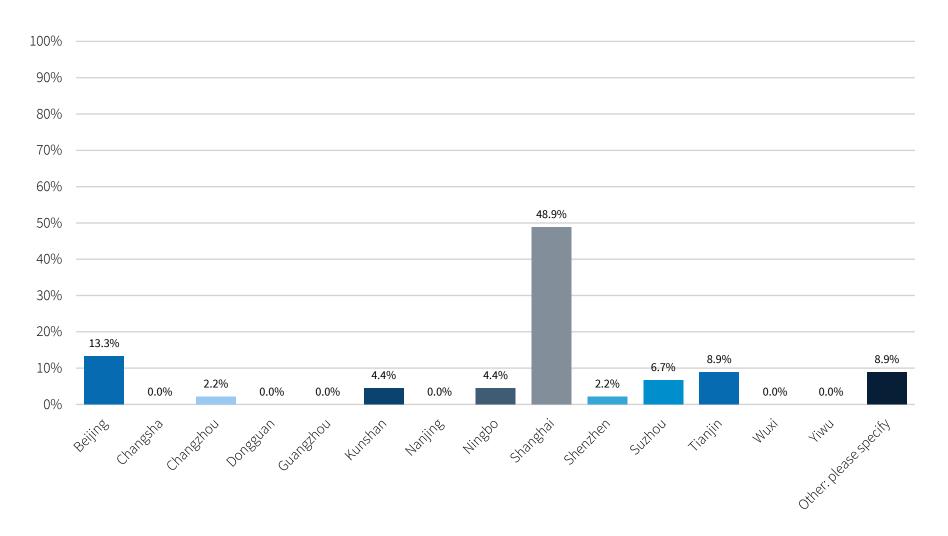
Only 6.7% had more than 500 employees.

5. Cities in which participating companies are located





Participating Companies



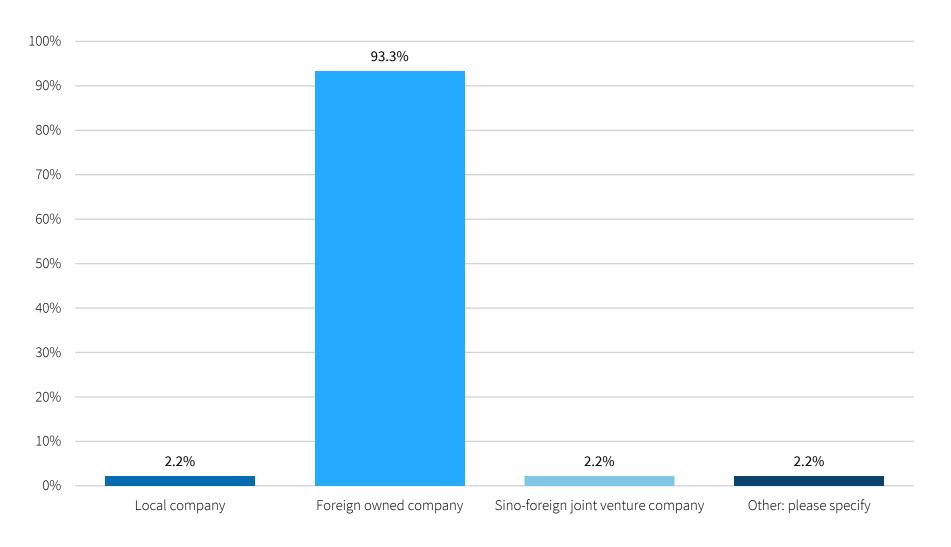
Nearly half (48.9%) of the companies were located in **Shanghai**, followed by 13.3% in **Beijing** and 8.9% in **Tianjin**.

6. Legal structure of participating companies









The majority of companies (93.3%) were foreignowned, while the rest were either local companies, or Sino-international joint venture companies, or had head offices in China.

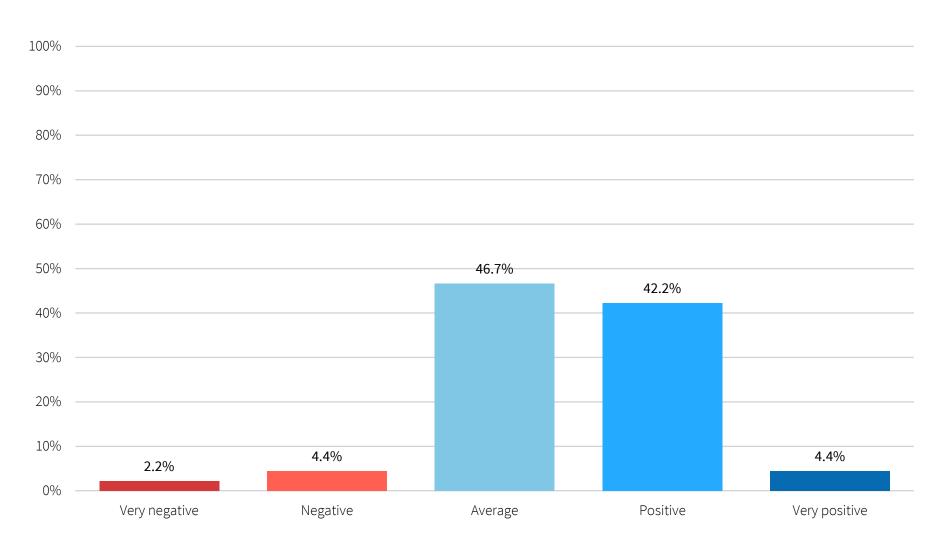




7. Estimate of company's (business) development in 2022



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Companies were split between average and positive in describing their development in 2022, with most (46.7%) leaning towards average and 42.2% calling it positive.

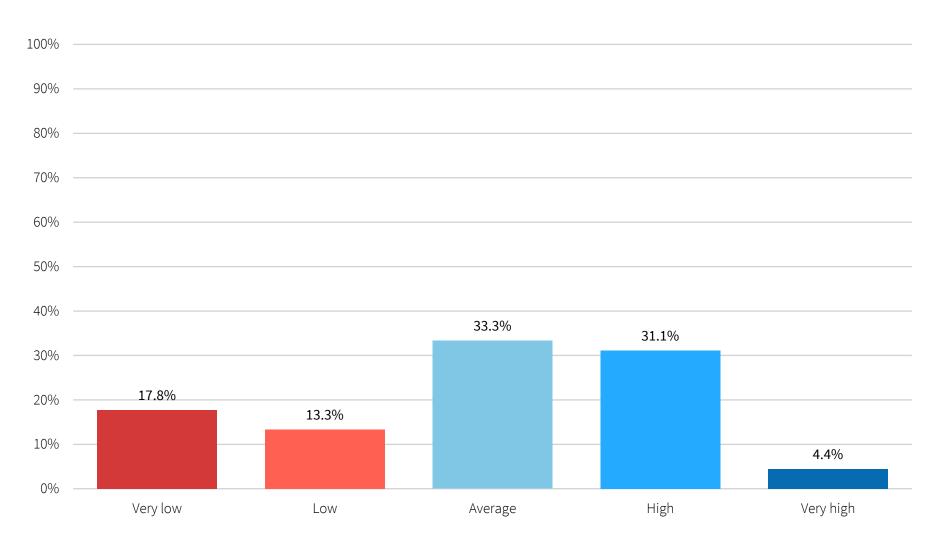
Only 2.2% called it very negative.

8. Estimate of company's recruitment demand in 2022





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33.3% described recruitment demand at their company as average, while 31.1% described it as high for 2022.

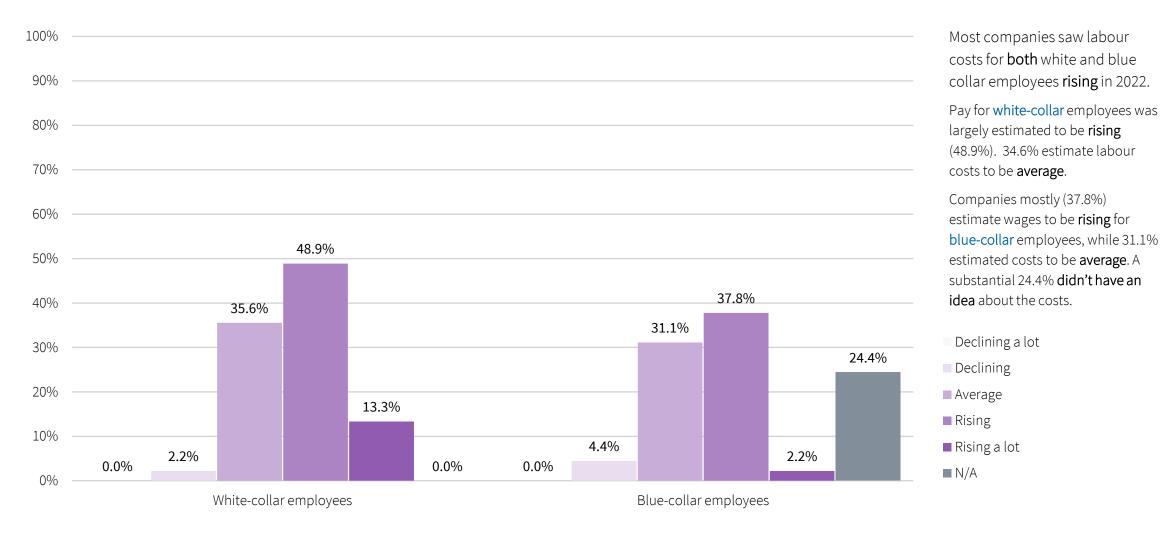
Less than 20% described it as very low, while only 4.4% described it as very high.

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9. Estimate of company's labour costs in 2022 for white and blue collar employees

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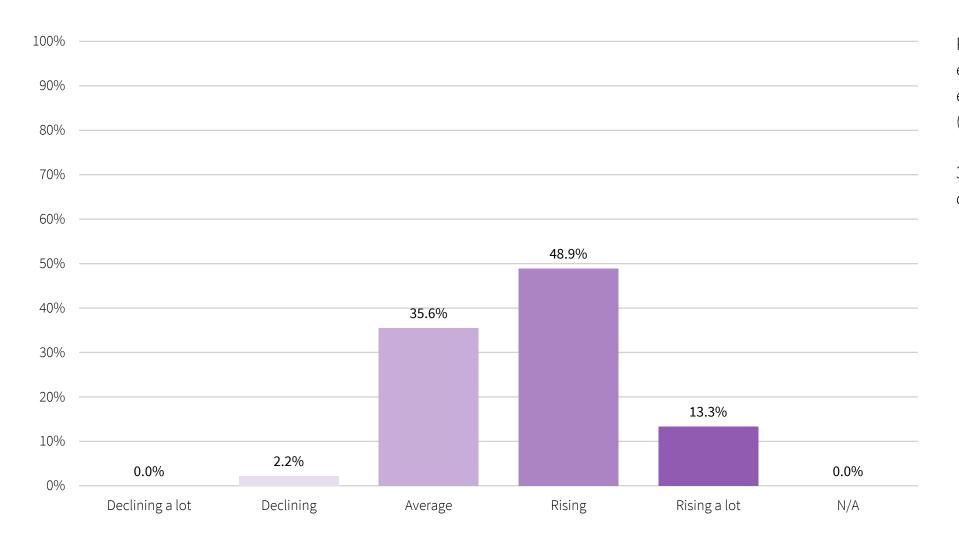


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9.1. Estimate of company's labour costs in 2022 for white collar employees



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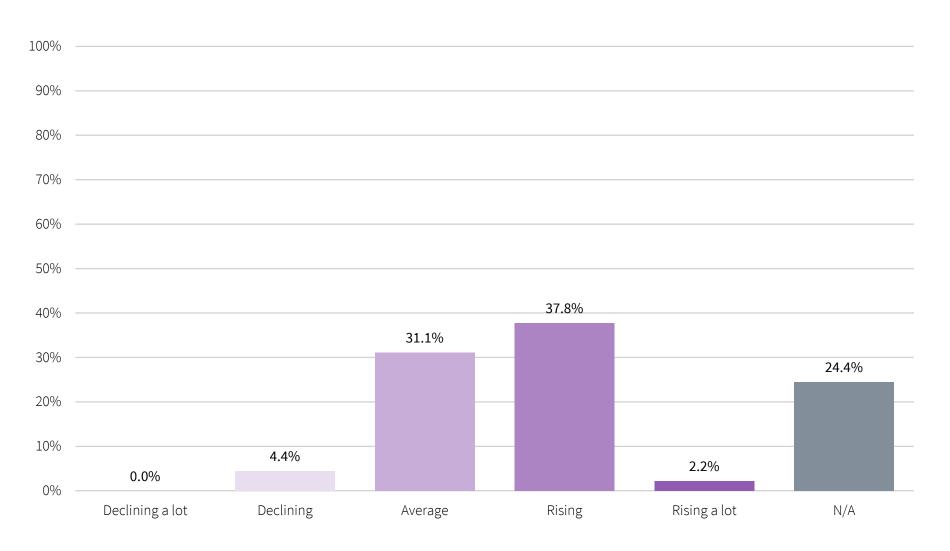
Pay for white-collar employees was largely estimated to be **rising** (48.9%).

34.6% estimate labour costs to be **average**.

9.2. Company's labour costs in 2022 for blue collar employees



Review 2022 - Key Learnings



Companies mostly (37.8% of respondents) estimate wages to be **rising** for bluecollar employees, while 31.1% estimated costs to mostly remain.

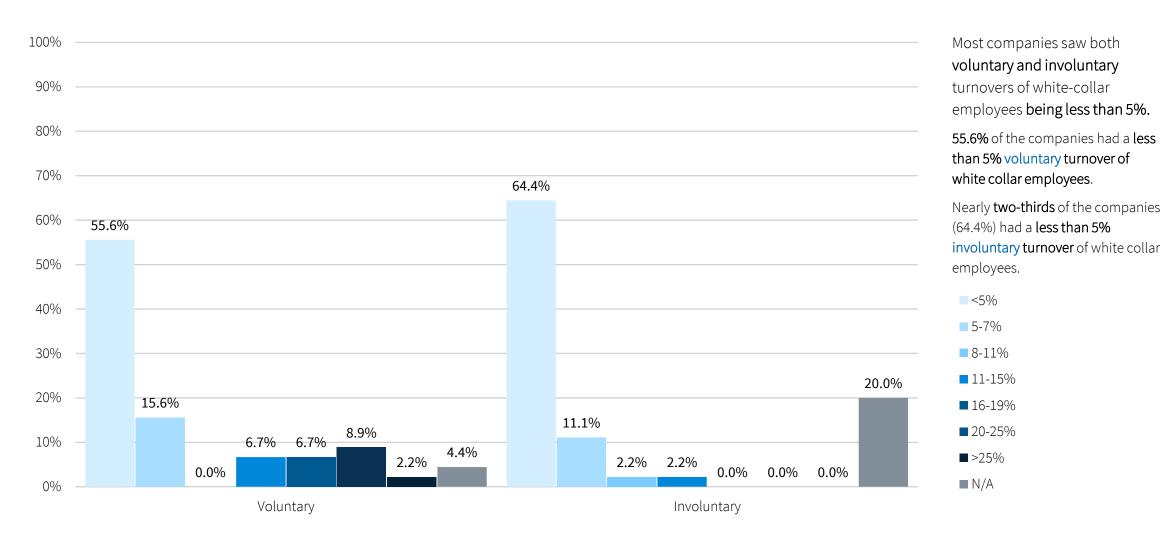
A substantial 24.4% do not employ blue collar workers or don't have a clear idea on costs development.

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10. Turnover rate for white-collar employees in 2022, both voluntary and involuntary

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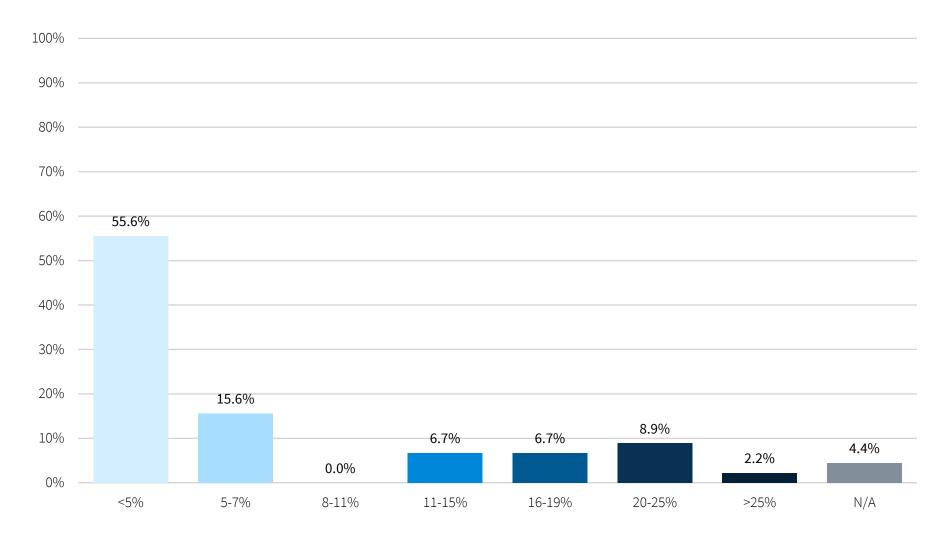


10.1. Voluntary turnover rate for white-collar employees

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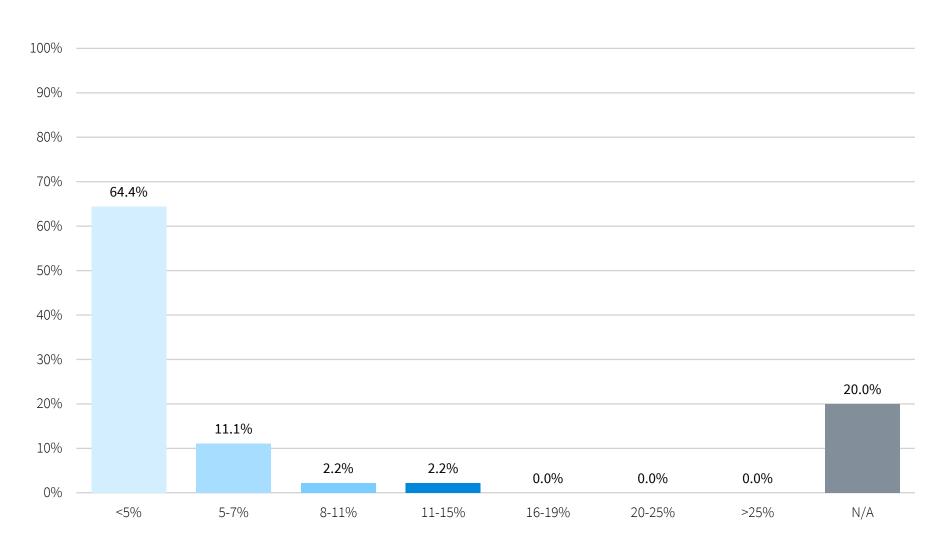
55.6% of the companies had a less than 5% voluntary turnover of white collar employees.

15.6% of the companies saw a voluntary turnover rate between 5-7%, and 8.9% had a voluntary turnover between 20 to 25%.

10.2. Involuntary turnover rate for white-collar employees



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Nearly two-thirds of the companies (64.4%) had a less than 5% involuntary turnover of white collar employees.

11.1% had an involuntary turnover of 5-7%.

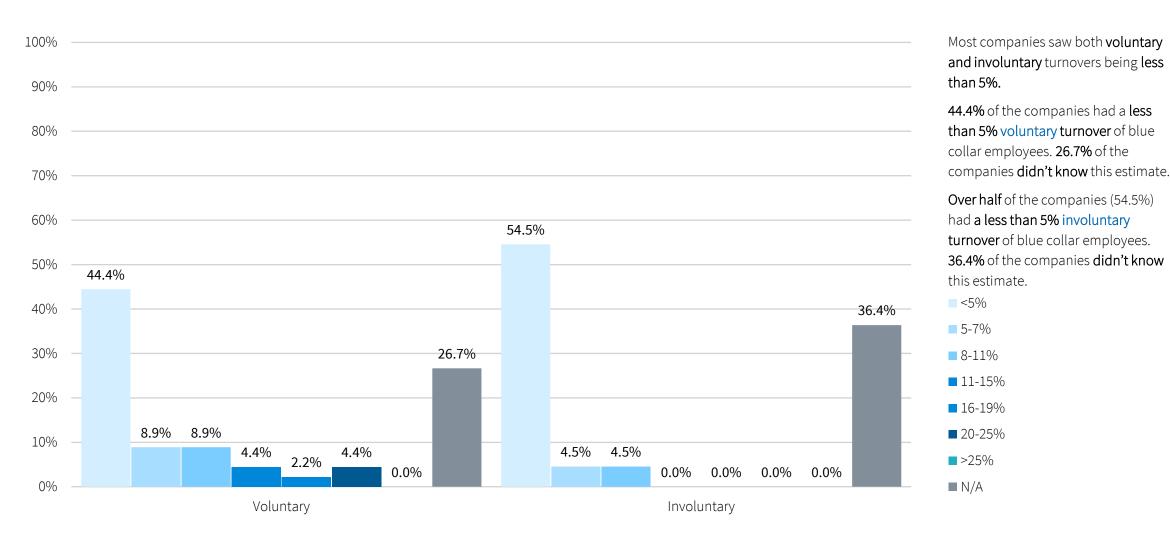
20% of the companies didn't know this estimate.

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11. Turnover rate for blue-collar employees in 2022, both voluntary and involuntary

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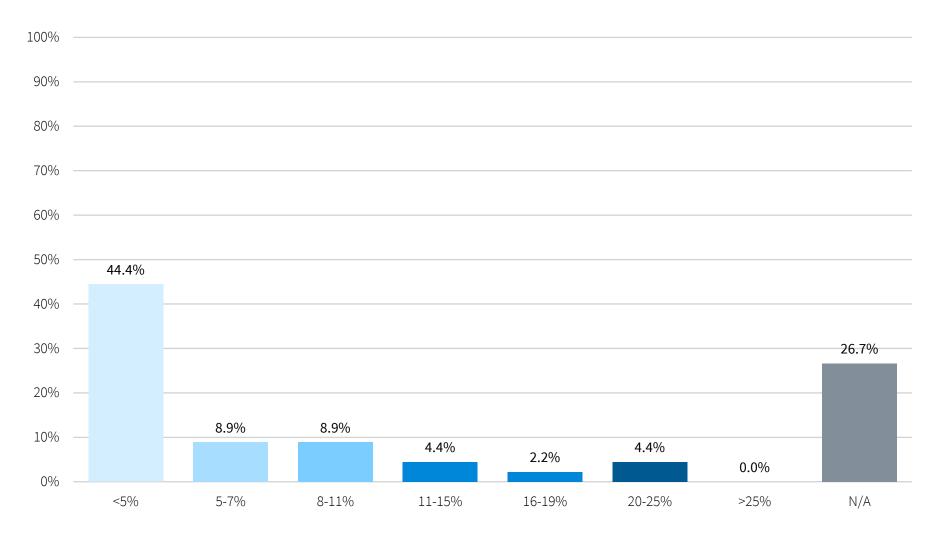


11.1. Voluntary turnover rate for blue-collar employees

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44.4% of the companies had a less than 5% voluntary turnover of blue collar employees.

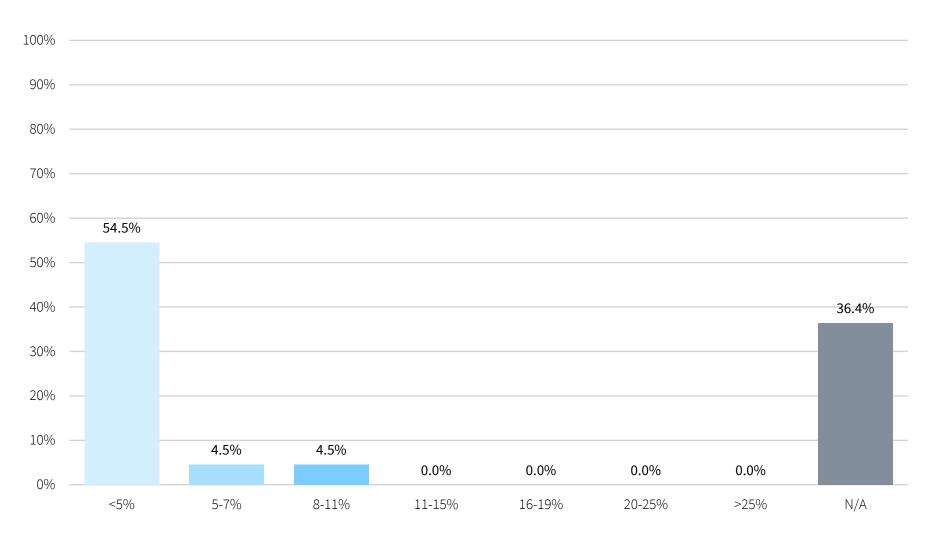
8.9% companies saw a voluntary turnover rate between 5-7% and 8-11% each.

26.7% of the companies didn't know this estimate.

11.2. Involuntary turnover rate for blue-collar employees



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Over half of the companies (54.5%) had a less than 5% involuntary turnover of blue collar employees

4.5% companies saw an involuntary turnover rate between 5-7% and 8-11% each.

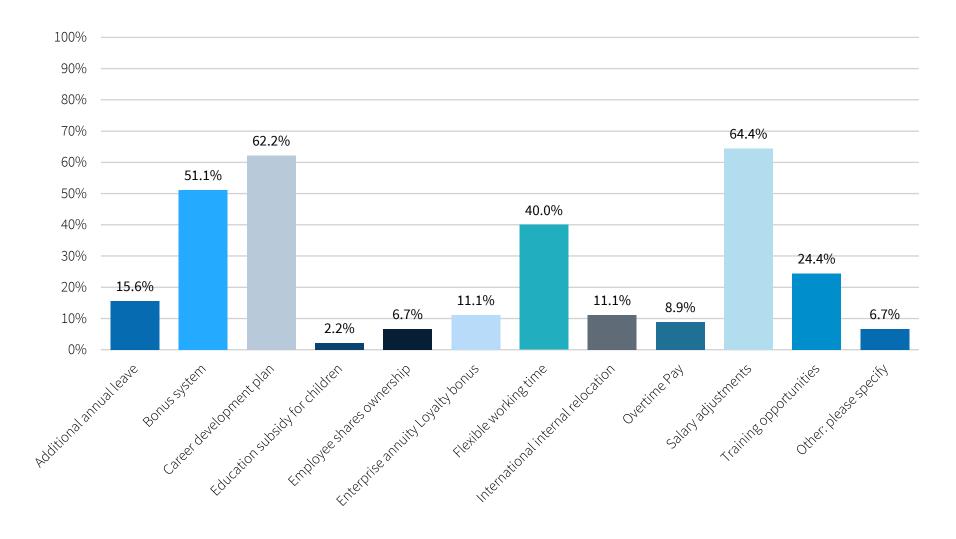
36.4% of the companies didn't know this estimate.

12. Aspects affecting retention of white-collar employees



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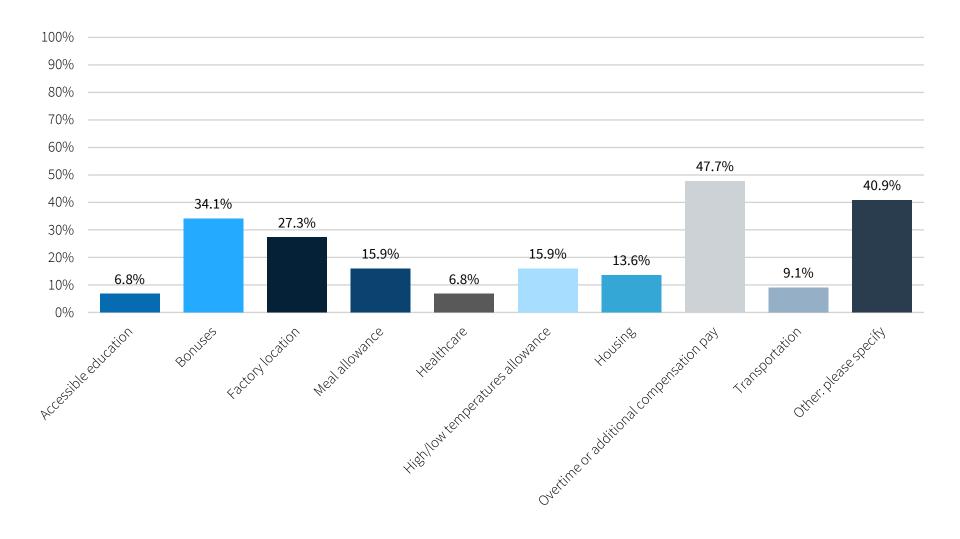
Largely salary adjustments affected retention rate among white-collar employees, followed closely by a career development plan.

A bonus system (51.1%) along with flexible working timings (40%) also affected retention.

13. Aspects affecting retention of blue-collar employees



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Less than half of the time, overtime and compensation affected retention rates among blue-collar workers. A combination of other factors like COVID-19, the working environment and relationships, commissions, etc. altered retention rates.

Bonuses also helped 34.1% of the time.

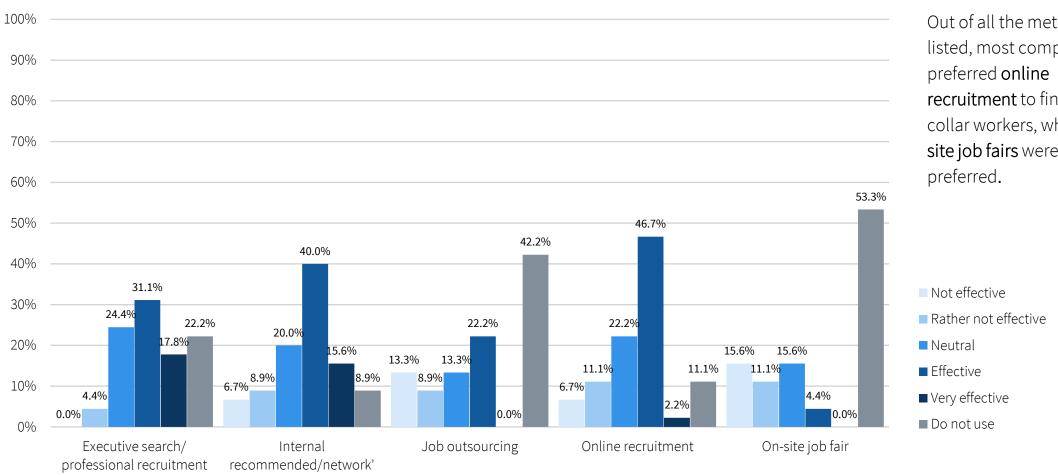


14. Effectiveness of primary channels for recruiting white-collar staff in 2022

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company



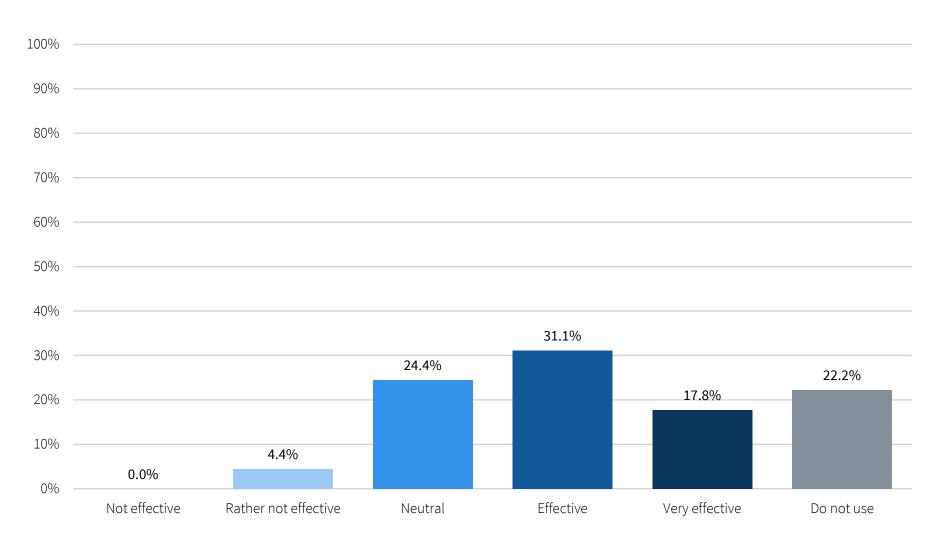
Out of all the methods listed, most companies recruitment to find whitecollar workers, while onsite job fairs were the least



14.1. Effectiveness of executive search or professional recruitment company to recruit white-collar staff



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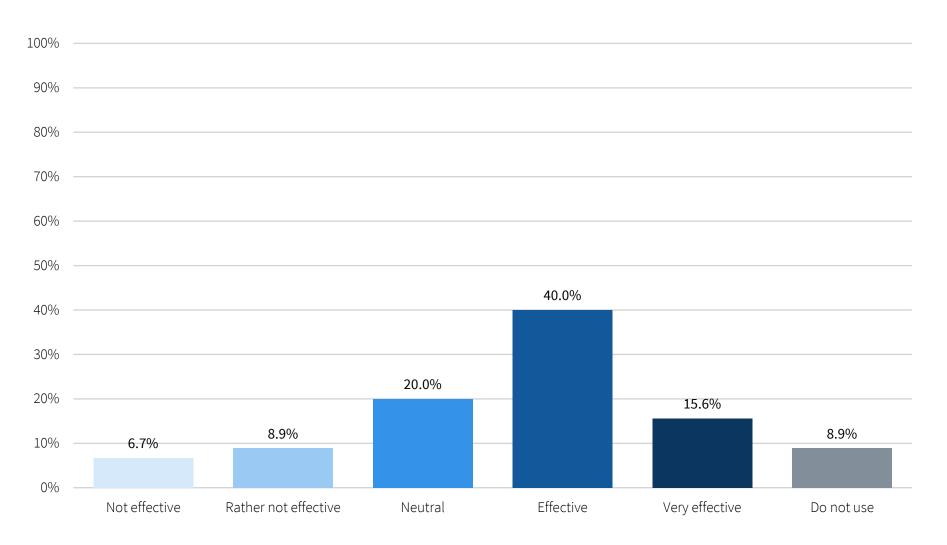
31.1% of companies found an executive search or recruitment agency helpful in recruiting white-collar workers. 17.8% found the method very effective, while 22.2% did not recruit through these means



14.2. Effectiveness of executive search or professional recruitment company to recruit white-collar staff



Review 2022 - Key Learnings



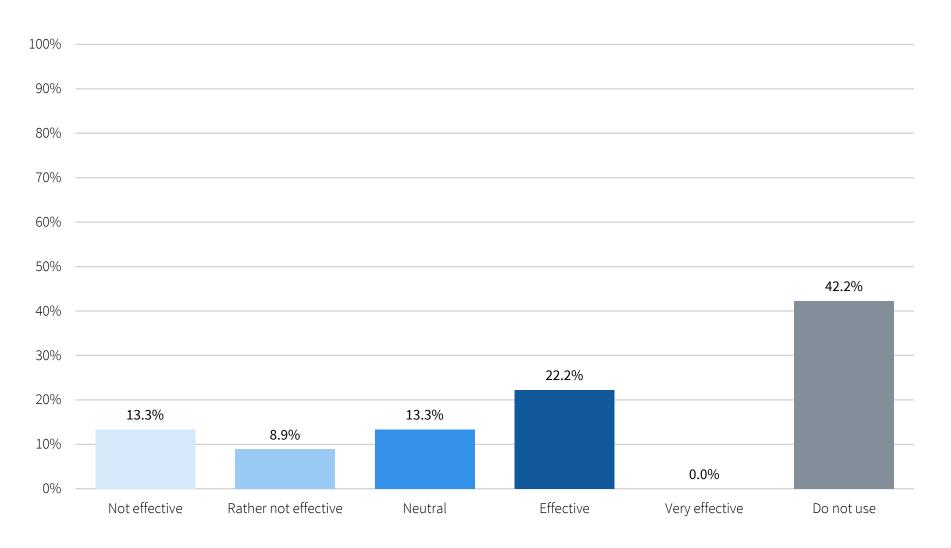
40% of companies found their recommended and internal network helpful in recruiting white-collar workers, with 15.6% finding it very effective. 20% were indifferent to this method.

14.3. Effectiveness of job outsourcing to recruit white-collar staff



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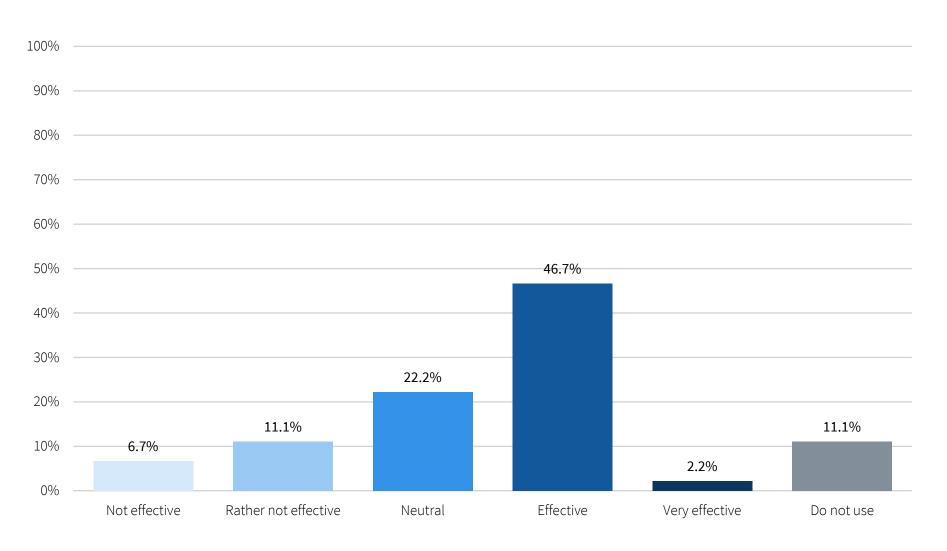


42.2% of companies did not use this method, however 22.2% found outsourcing of the job helpful in recruiting white-collar workers.

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14.4. Effectiveness of online recruitment to recruit white-collar staff

Review 2022 - Key Learnings



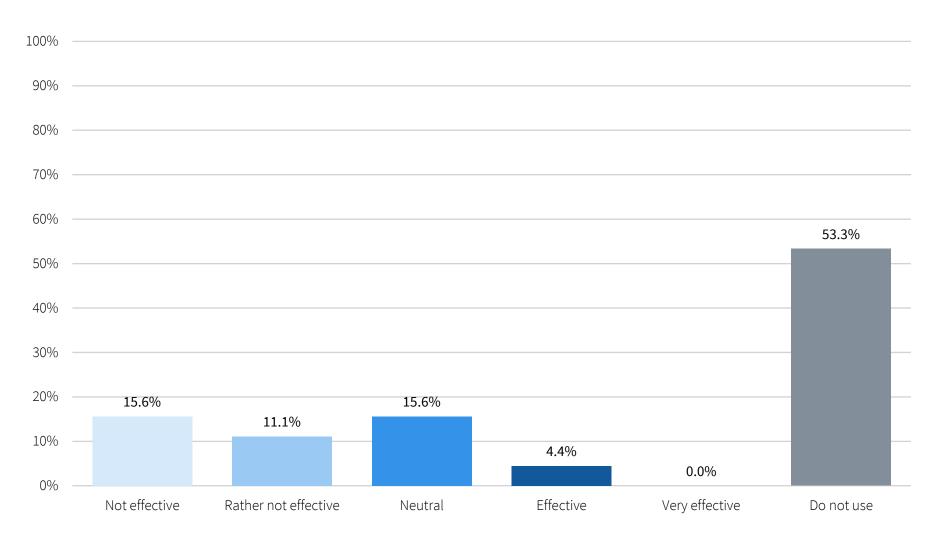
46.7% of companies found recruiting people online helpful in finding white-collar workers.

11.1% of companies found it not as effective, while another 11.1% didn't use this method.

14.5. Effectiveness of on-site job fair to recruit white-collar staff



Review 2022 - Key Learnings



Over half of the companies (53.3%) did not use job fairs to recruit white-collar workers, while 15.6% found it not effective, and another 15.6% were indifferent.

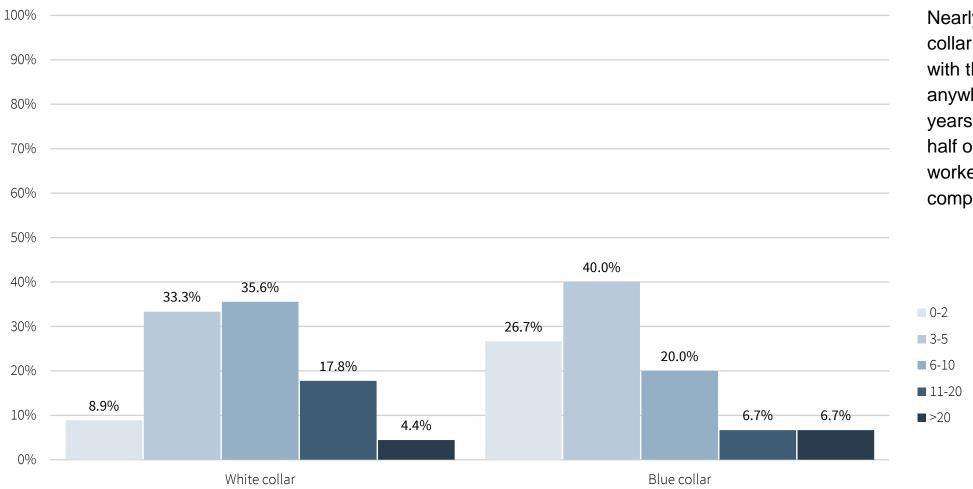


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17. How many years do your employees stay with the company on average?



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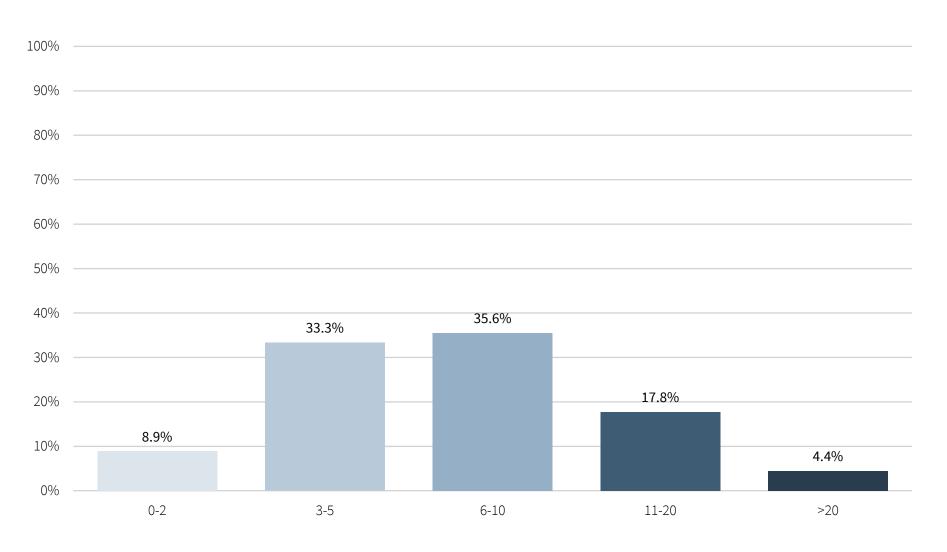


Nearly 70% of white-collar employees stayed with the company anywhere between 3-10 years, while less than half of blue collar workers stayed with the company for 3-5 years.

17.1. White collar

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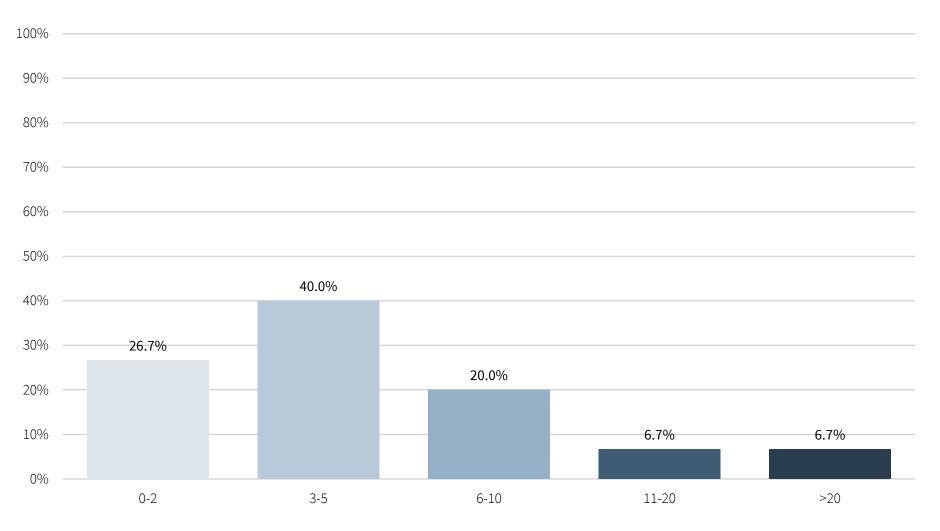
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A third each of the employees stayed for 3-5 years and 5-11 years. Notably, nearly 20% of white-collar employees stayed for between 11-20 years.

17.2. Blue collar

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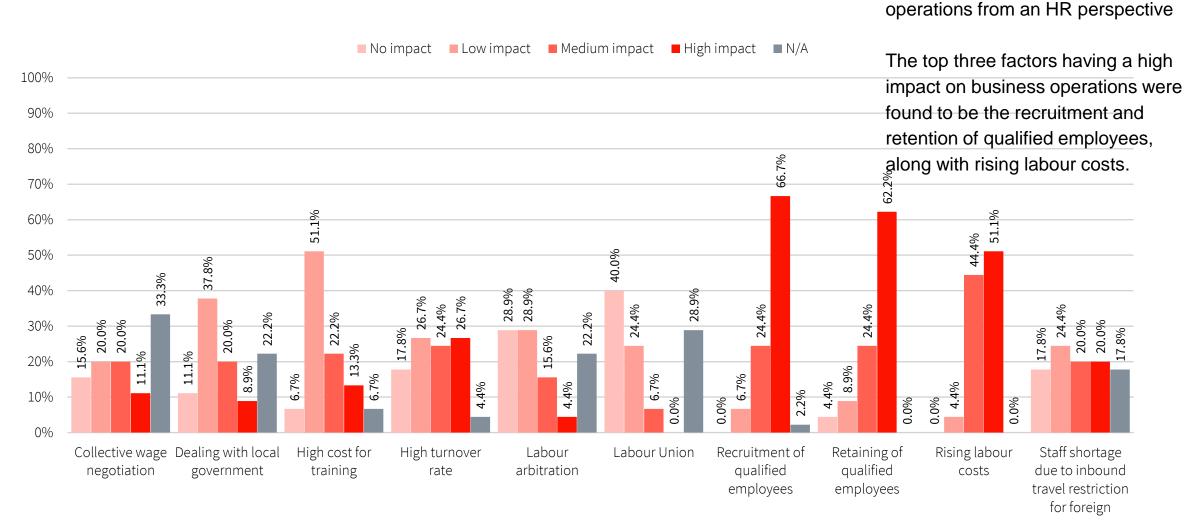
40% of employees stayed on for 3-5 years, while 6.7% employees stayed for more than 20 years, higher than the number of white-collar workers.



18. What are the factors that affect the business operations of your company from HR perspective?



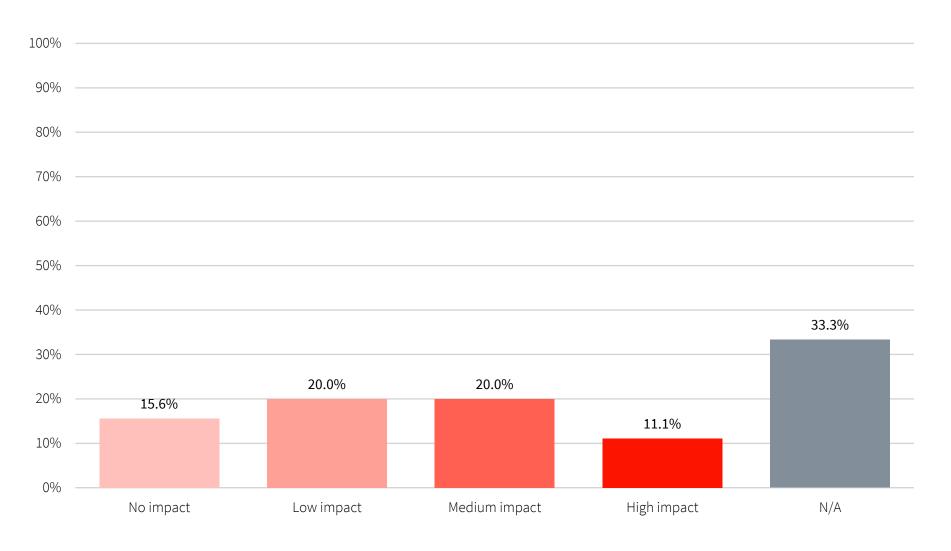
Factors affecting business



18.1. Collective wage negotiation



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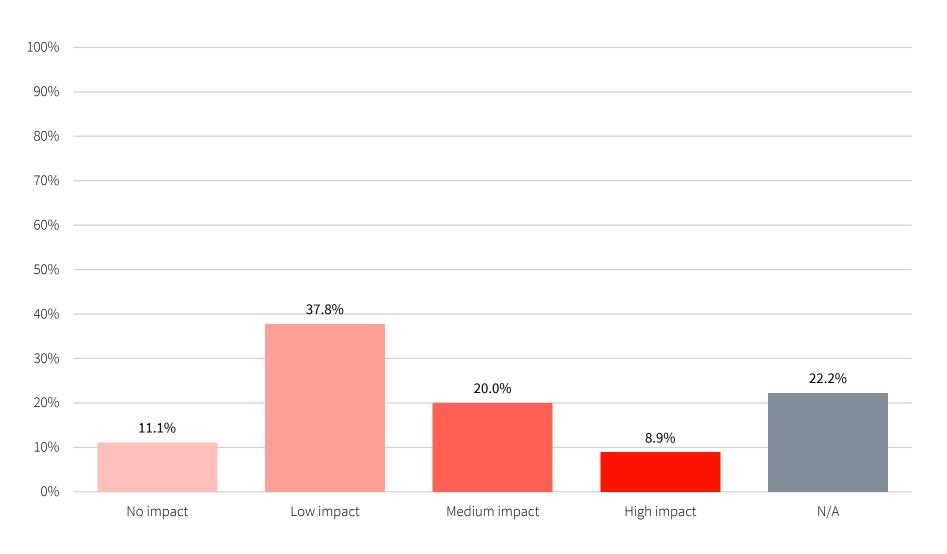
Effect of collective wage negotiation on business operations

Collective wage negotiation had a high impact in 11.1% of companies, yet 33.3% did not measure this impact.

18.2. Dealing with local government



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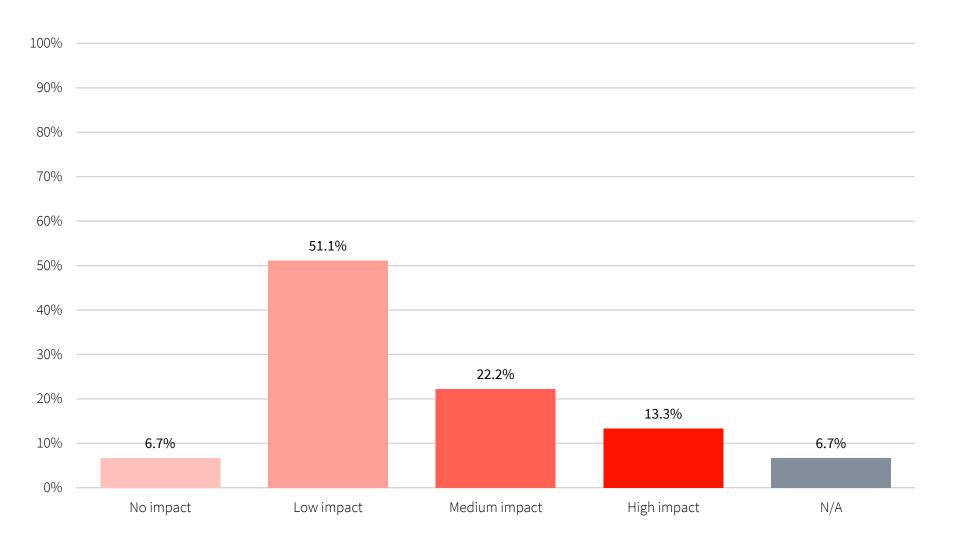
Effect of dealing with local government on business operations

Roughly a tenth of the companies saw a high impact from dealing with the local government, while nearly 40% saw a low impact.

18.3. High cost for training

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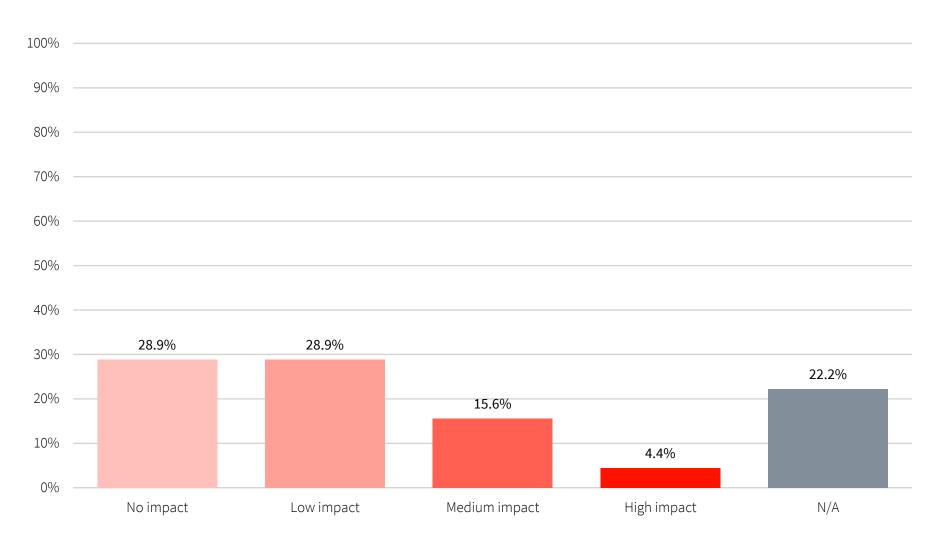
Effect of high cost for training on business operations

High costs of training didn't seem to have a significant impact on over half of the companies, while 13.3% saw a high impact on their business operations.

18.5. Labour arbitration

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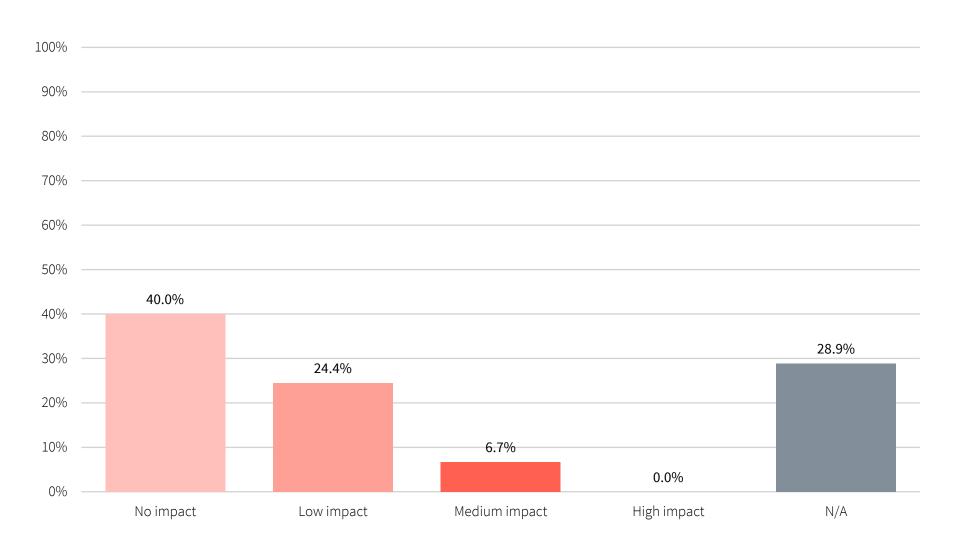
Effect of labour arbitration on business operations

More than half the companies saw anywhere from no impact to a low impact from labour arbitration, while 4.4% saw a high impact.

18.6. Labour Union

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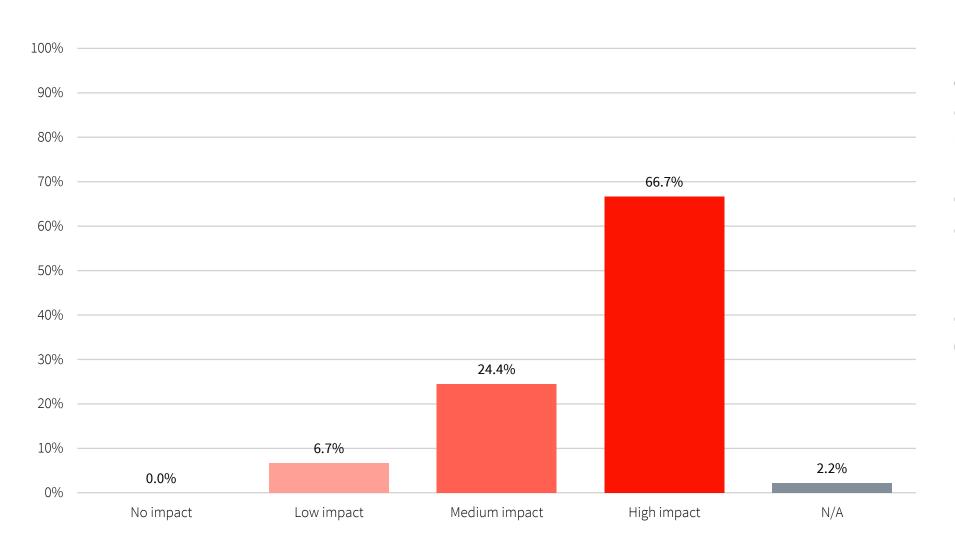
Effect of labour unions on business operations

Nearly half of the companies saw no impact from labour unions business operations, while 6.7% saw a medium impact.

18.7. Recruitment of qualified employees



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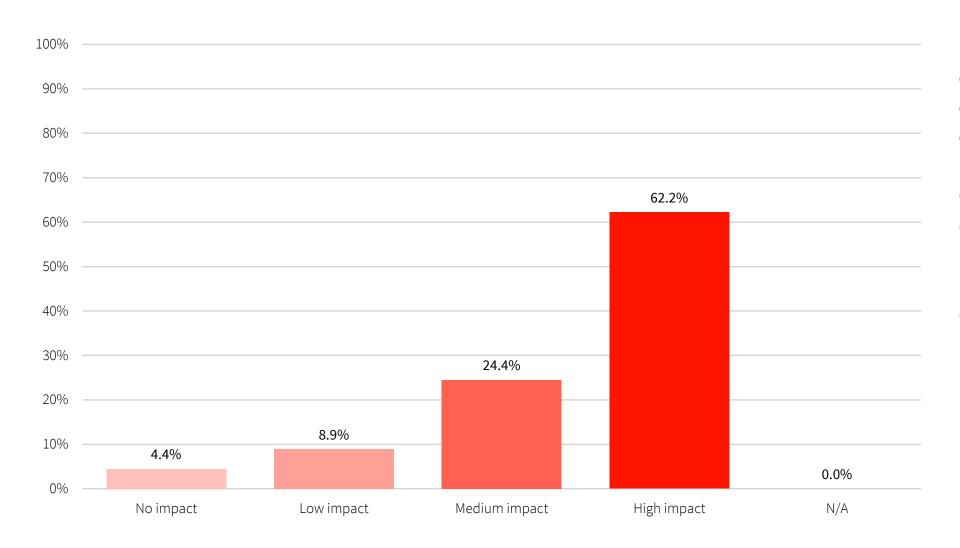
Effect of recruitment of qualified employees on business operations

Over a third of companies saw a high impact from recruiting qualified employees while 6.7% saw a low impact.

18.8. Retaining of qualified employees



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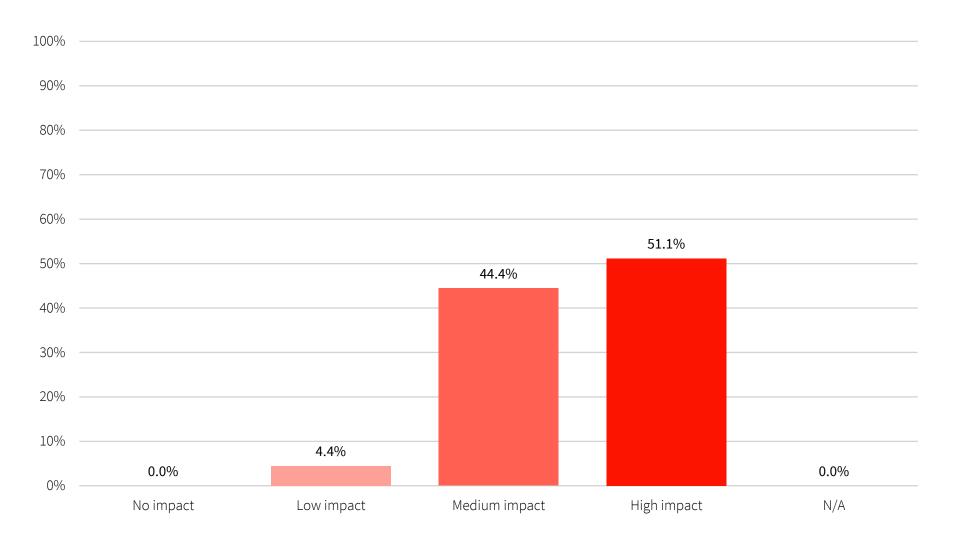
Effect of retaining of qualified employees on business operations

Over a third of companies saw a high impact from retaining qualified employees while a little over 10% saw little to no impact.

18.9. Rising labour costs

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Effect of rising labour costs on hiring and retention of employees

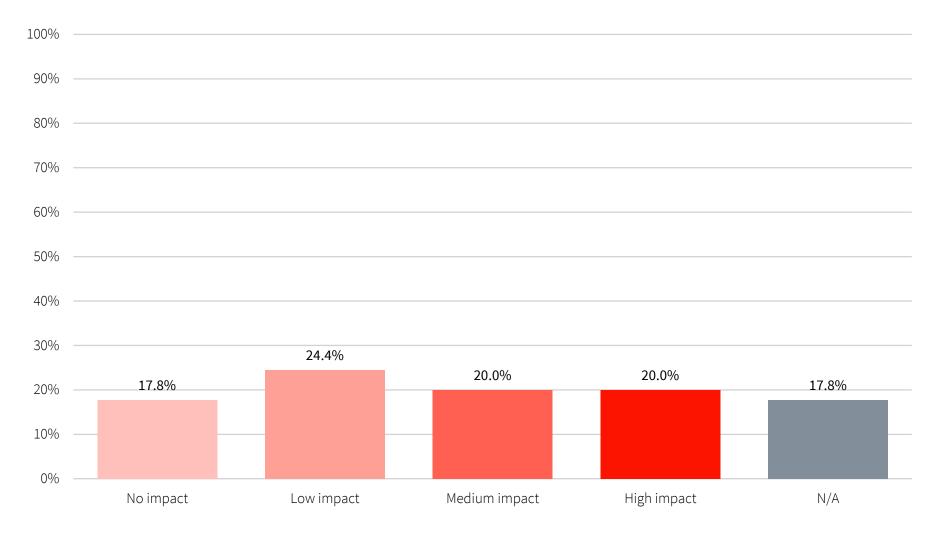
One out of two companies saw rising costs having a high impact on the hiring and retention process, while 44.4% saw them having a medium impact.

18.10. Staff shortage due to inbound travel restriction for foreign

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Staff shortages due to inbound traveling restrictions

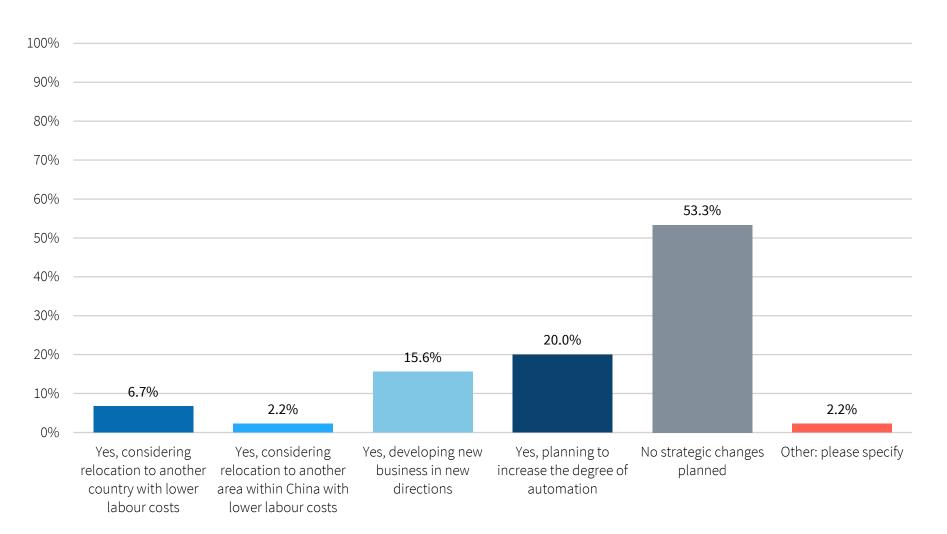
Nearly 40% of companies saw inbound travelling restrictions affecting hiring and retention, while 24.4% saw a low impact.

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19. Is your company considering strategic changes due to rising labour costs in China?

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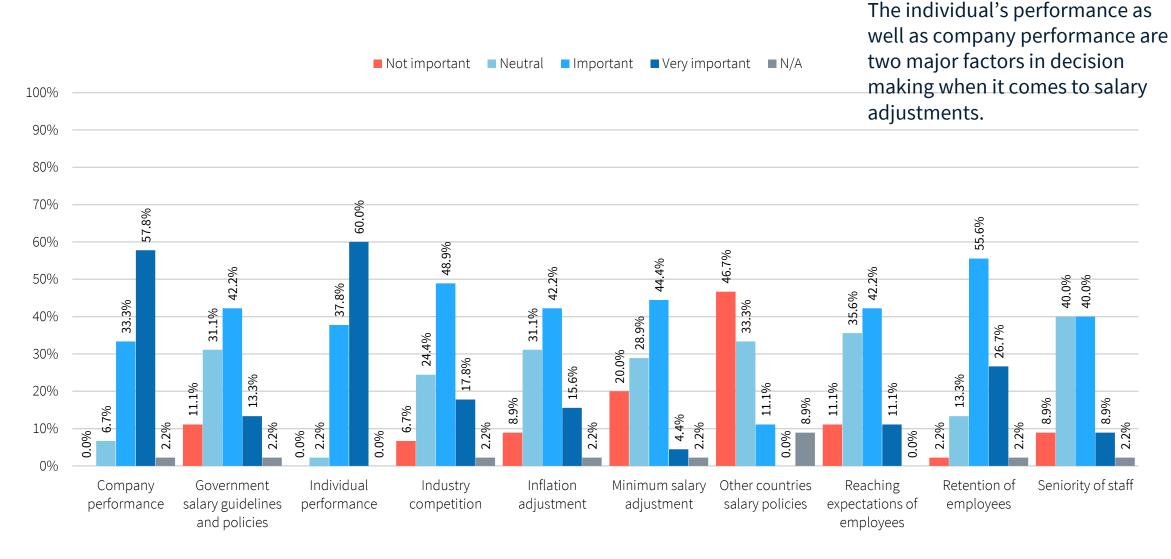


The majority of respondents are not considering strategic changes due to the rising labour costs in China. A third of the participants are considering automation or changes in direction of business development as a consequence.



20. What is the importance of the following items for your decision on salary adjustments?

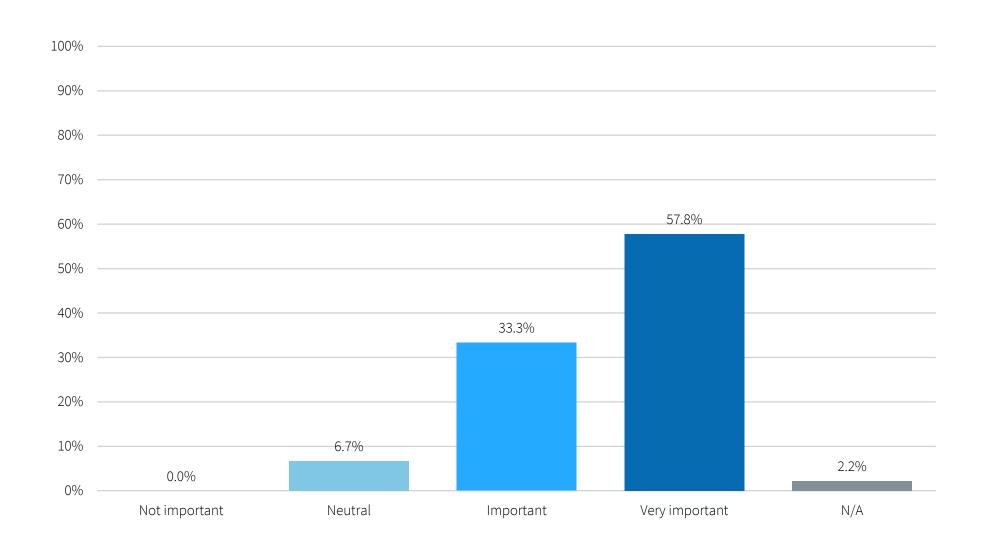




20.1. Company performance



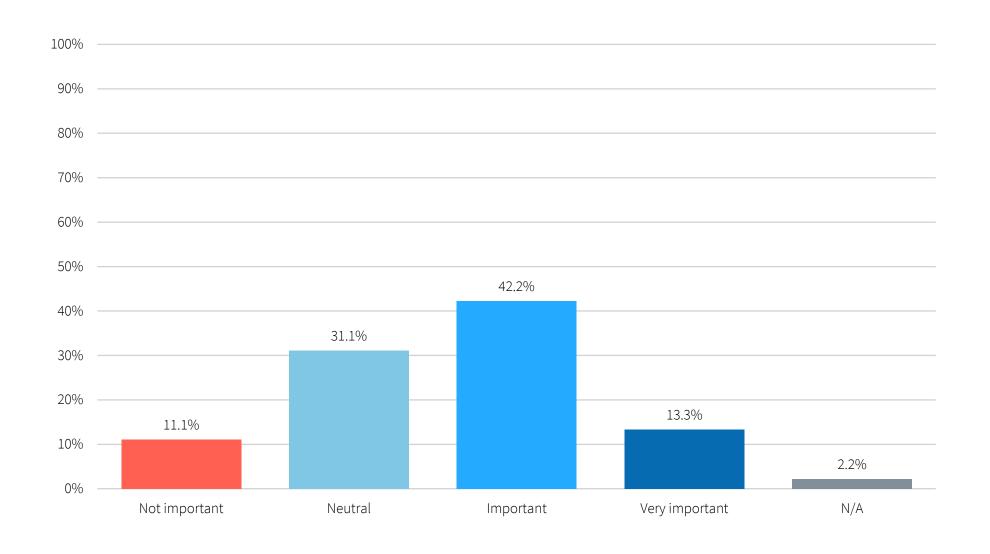




20.2. Government salary guidelines and policies

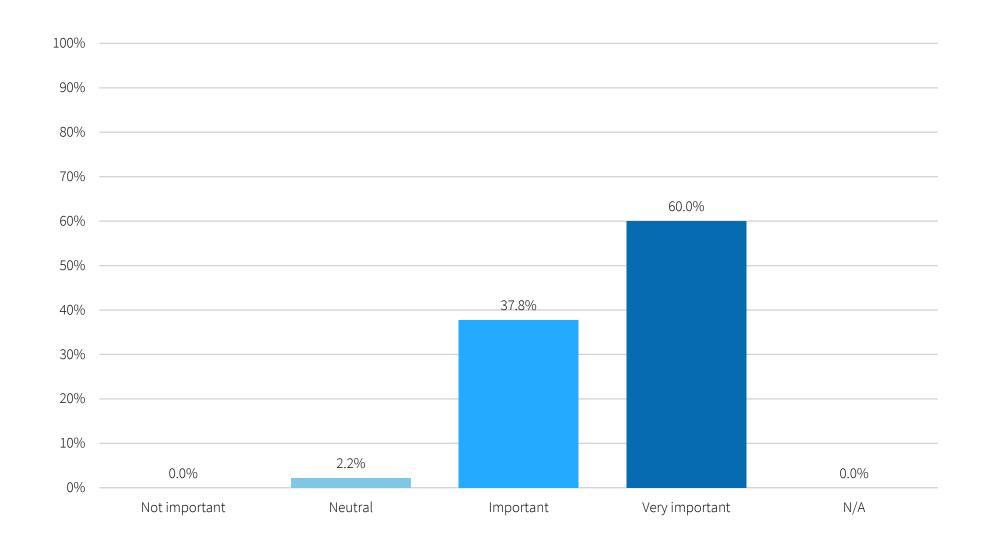






20.3. Individual performance

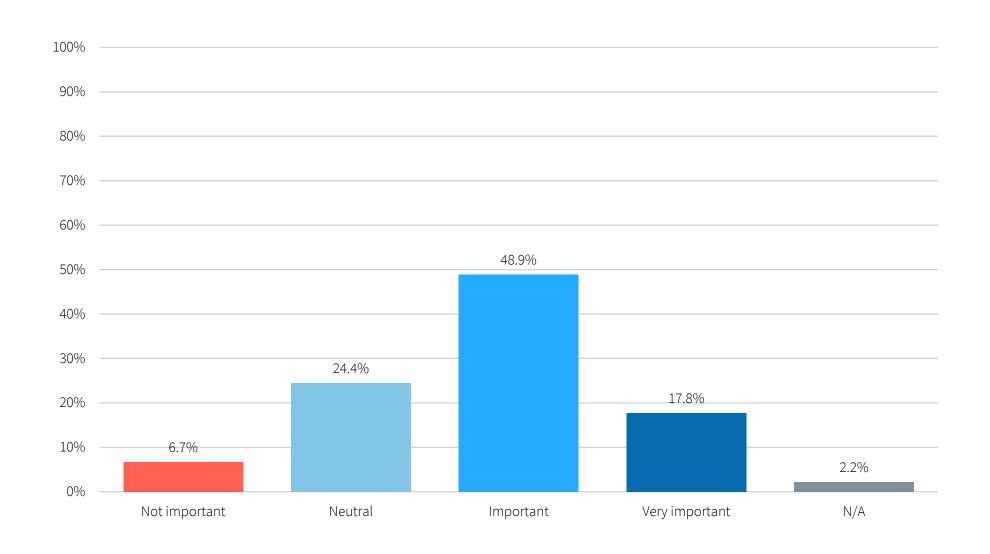




20.4. Industry competition



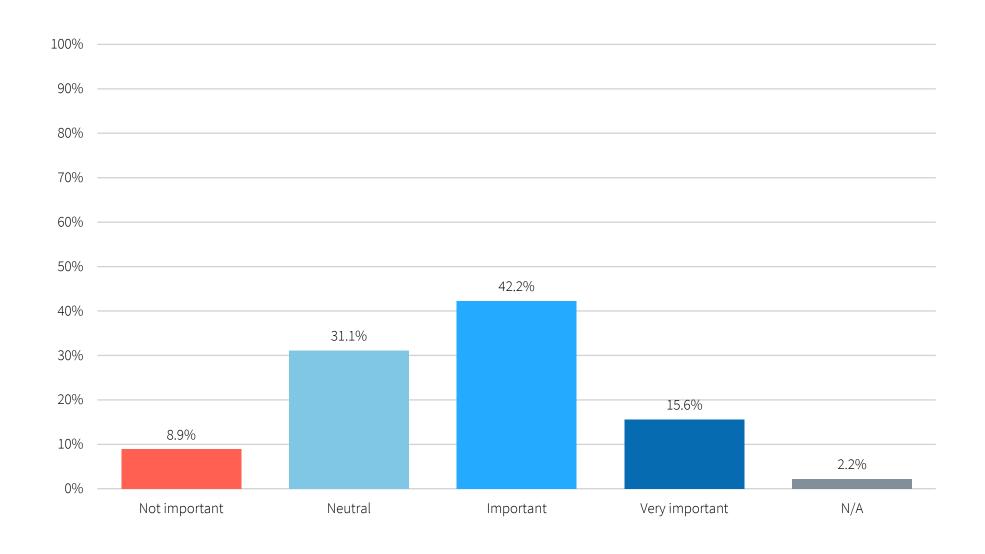




20.5. Inflation adjustment



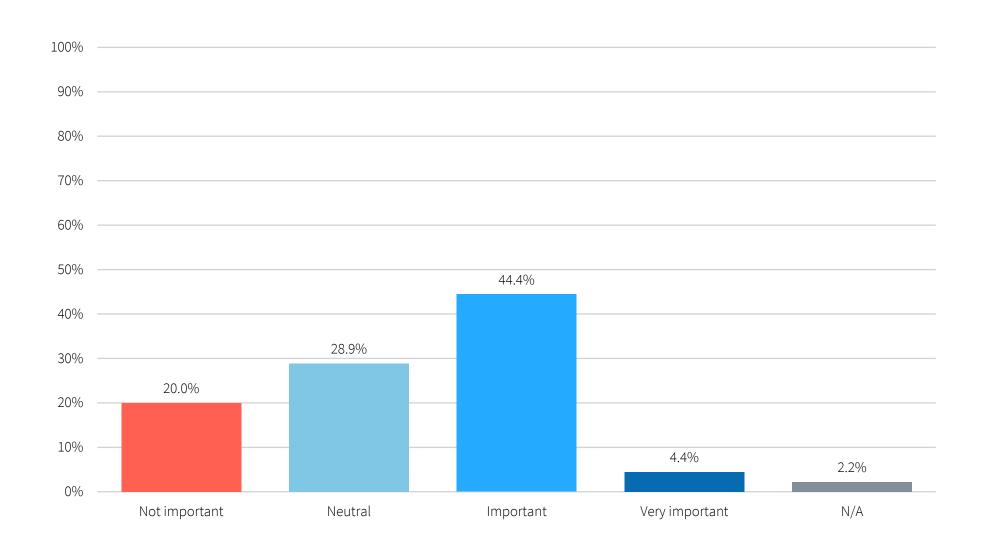




20.6. Minimum salary adjustment



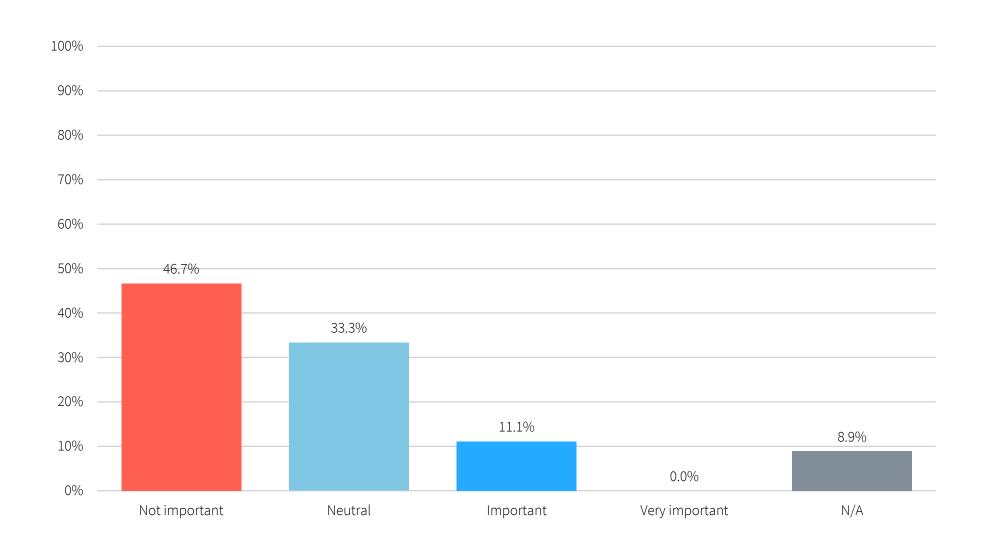




20.7. Other countries salary policies

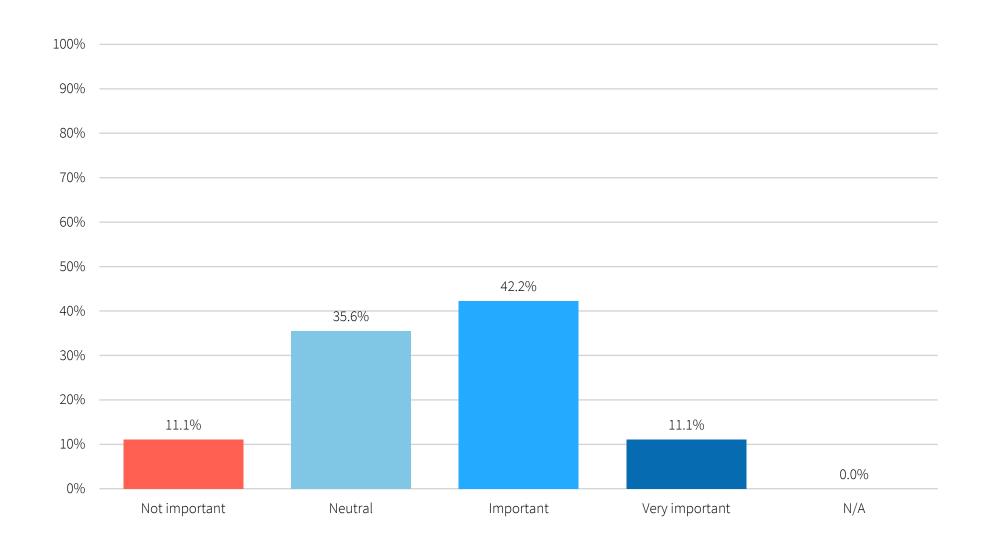






20.8. Reaching expectations of employees

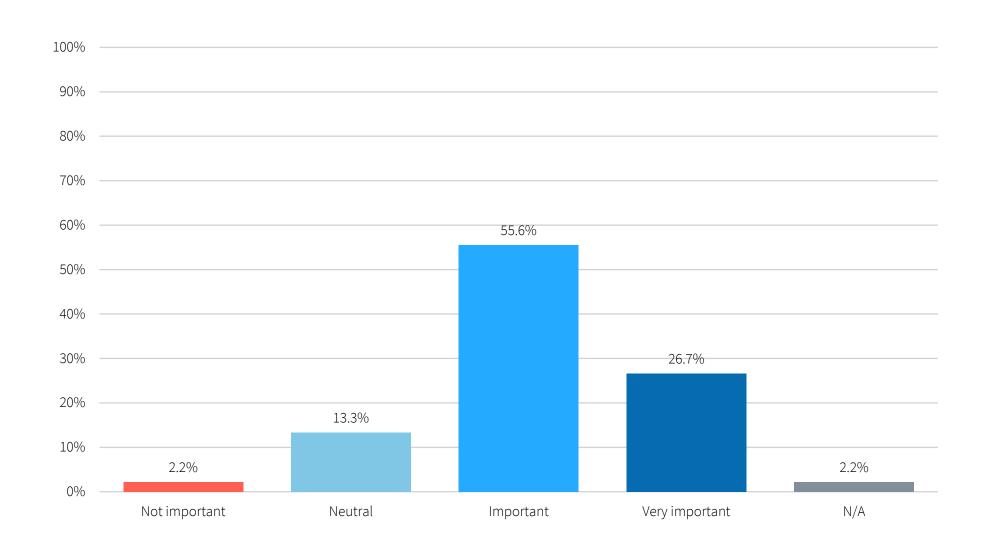




20.9. Retention of employees



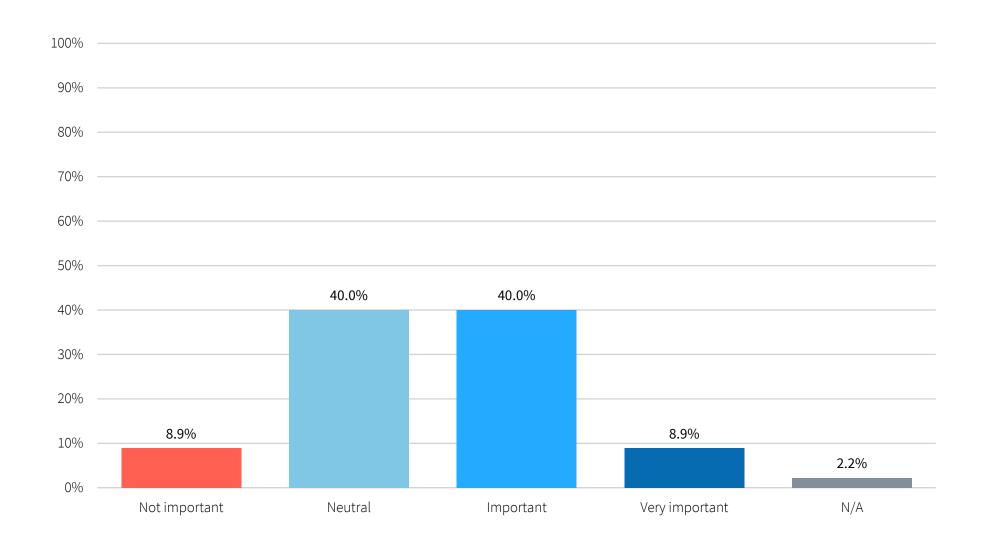




20.10. Seniority of staff



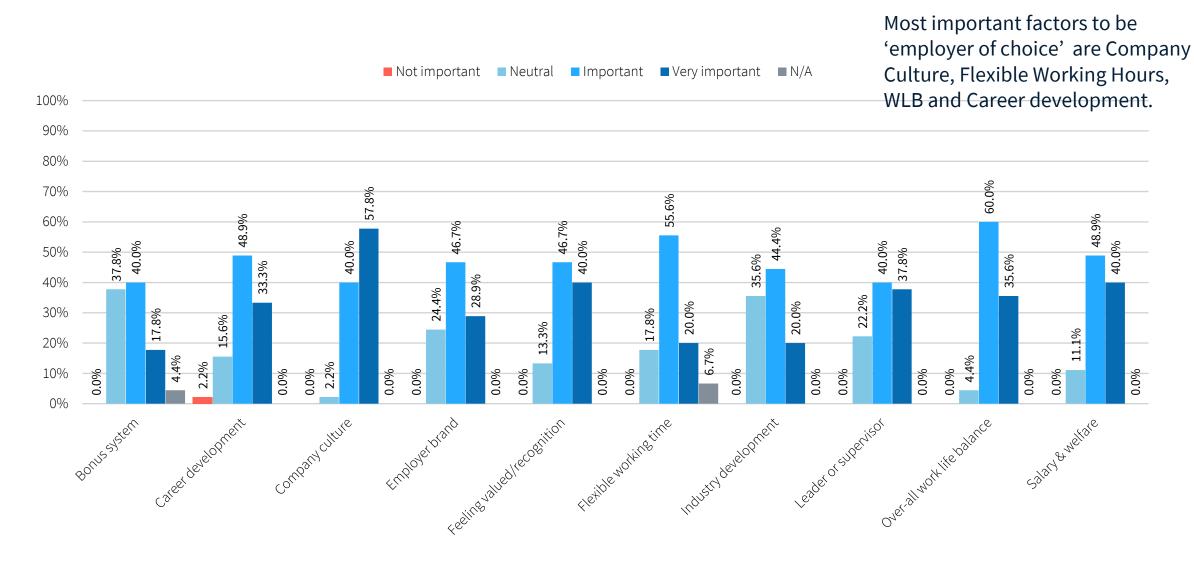






21. What is the importance of the following items for staff in choosing your company?

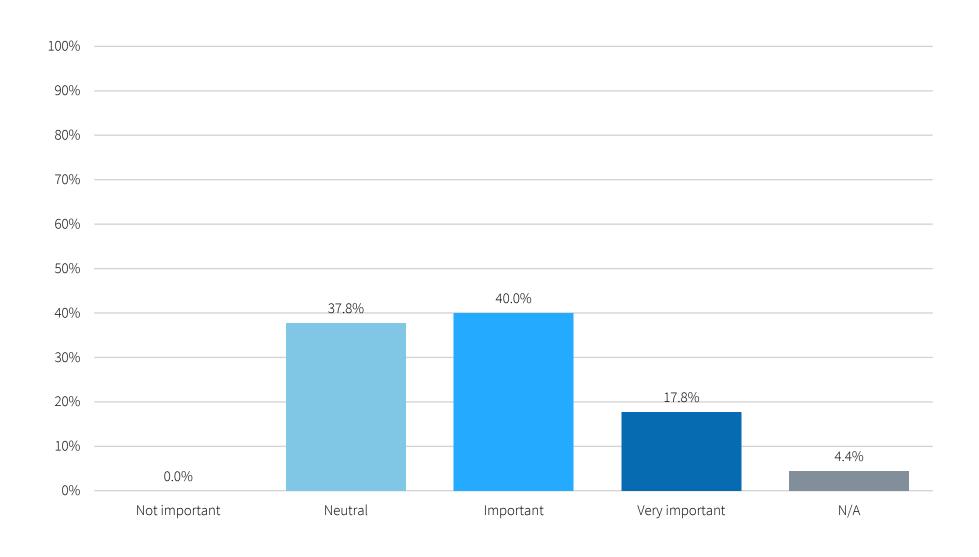
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21.1. Bonus system



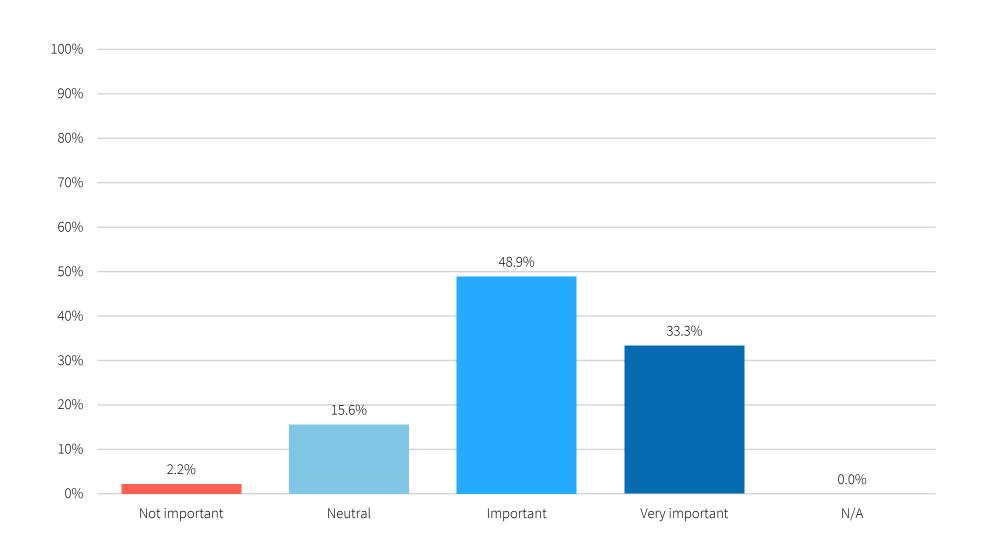




21.2. Career development



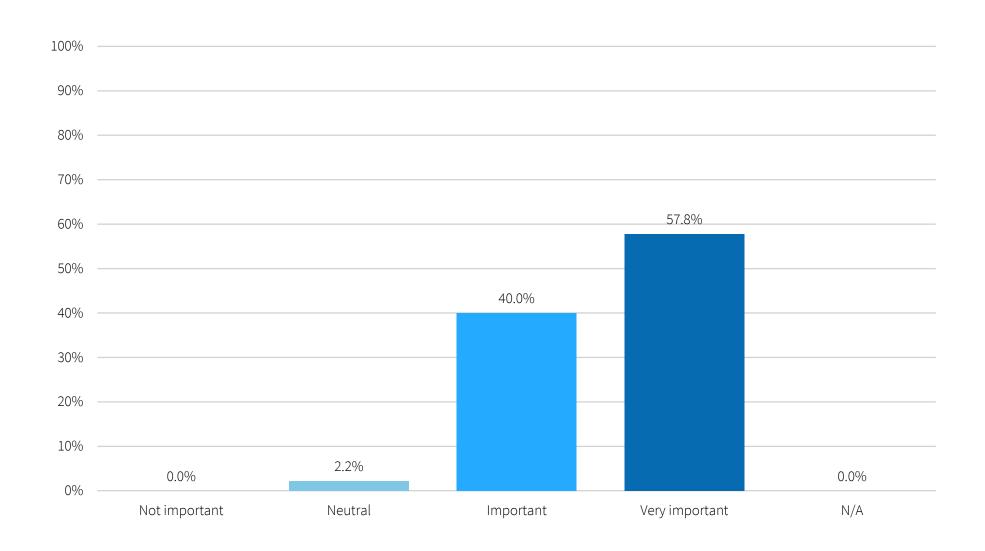




21.3. Company culture



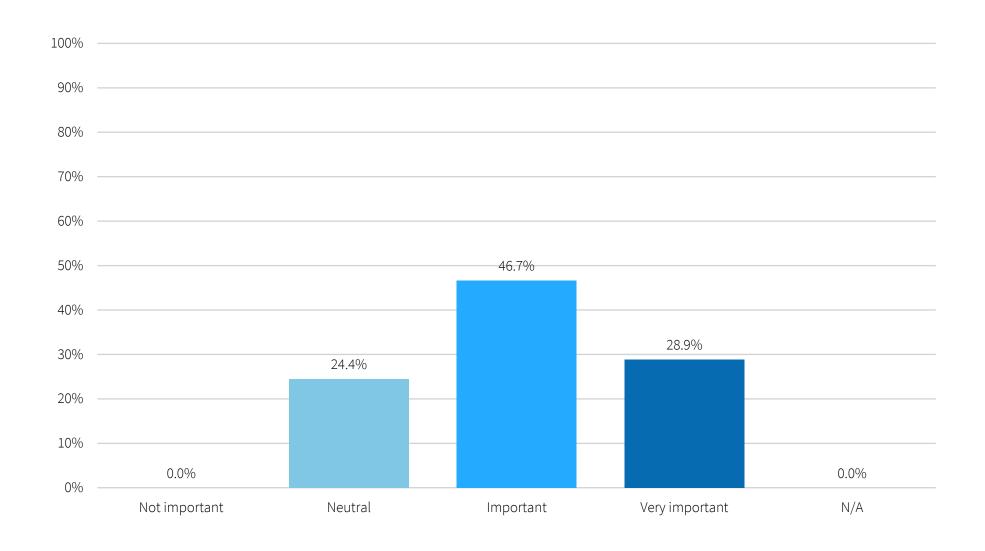




21.4. Employer brand

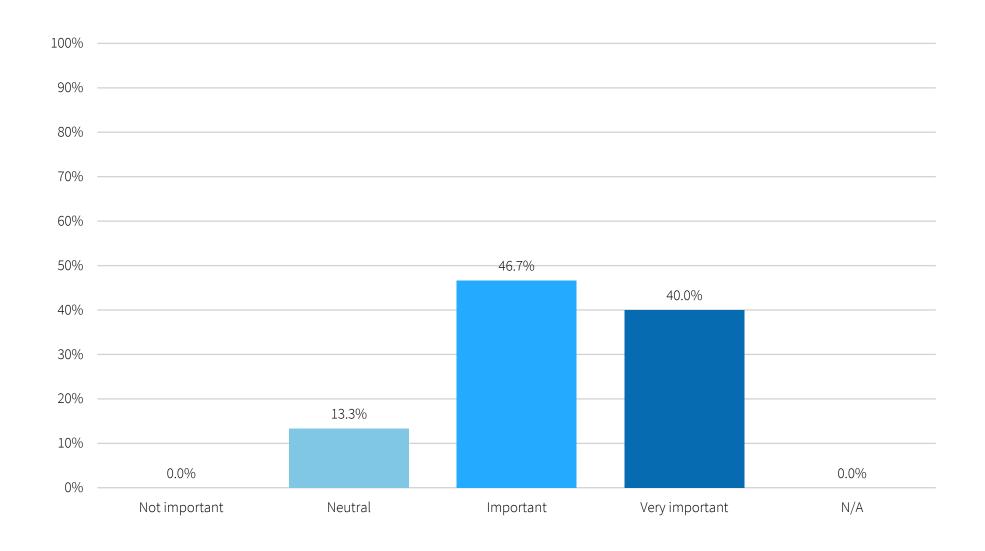






21.5. Feeling valued/recognition

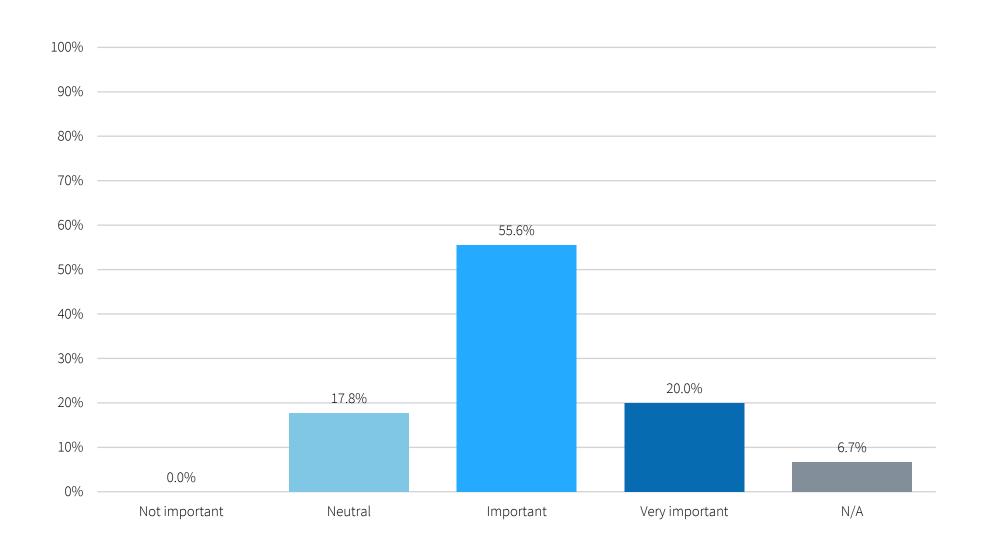




21.6. Flexible working time

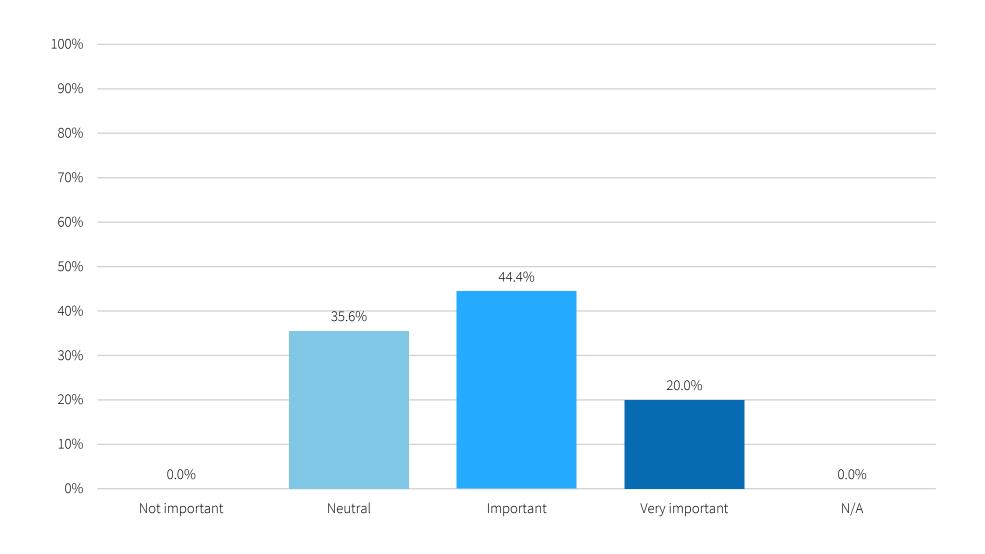






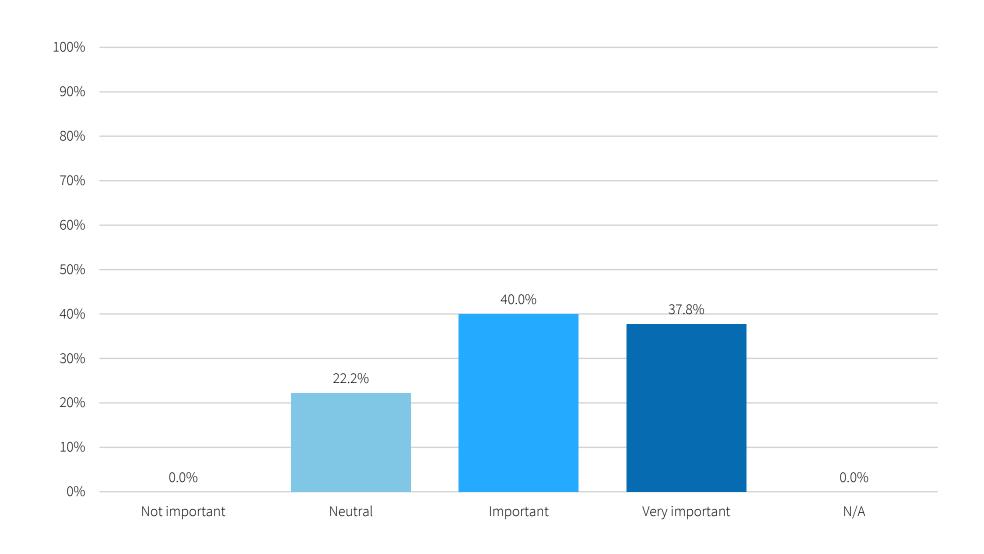
21.7. Industry development





21.8. Leader or supervisor

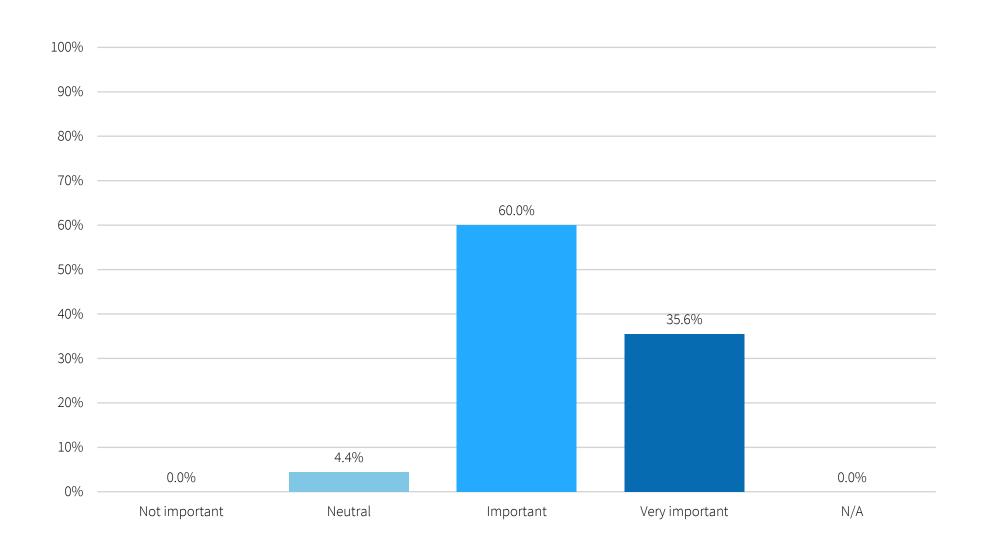




21.9. Over-all work life balance



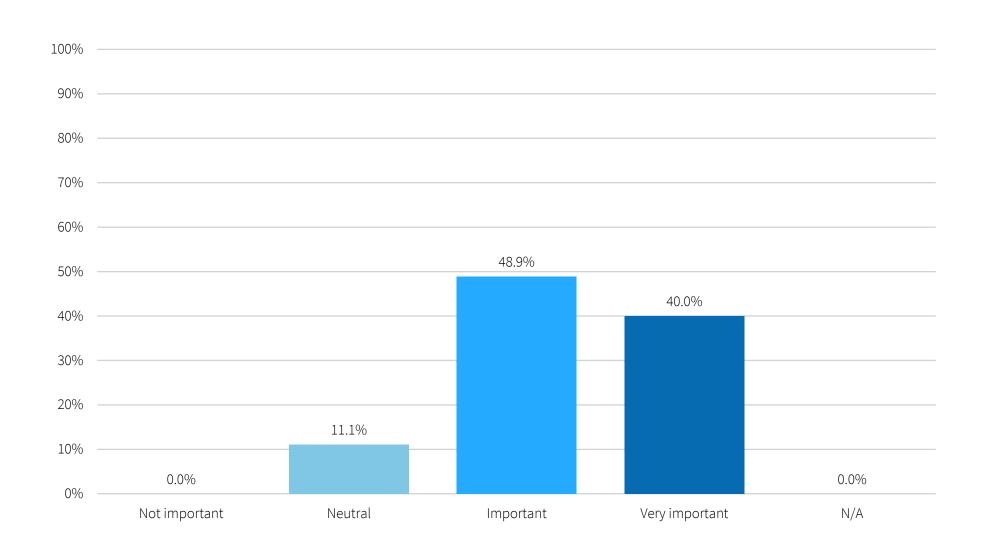




21.₁₀. Salary & Welfare



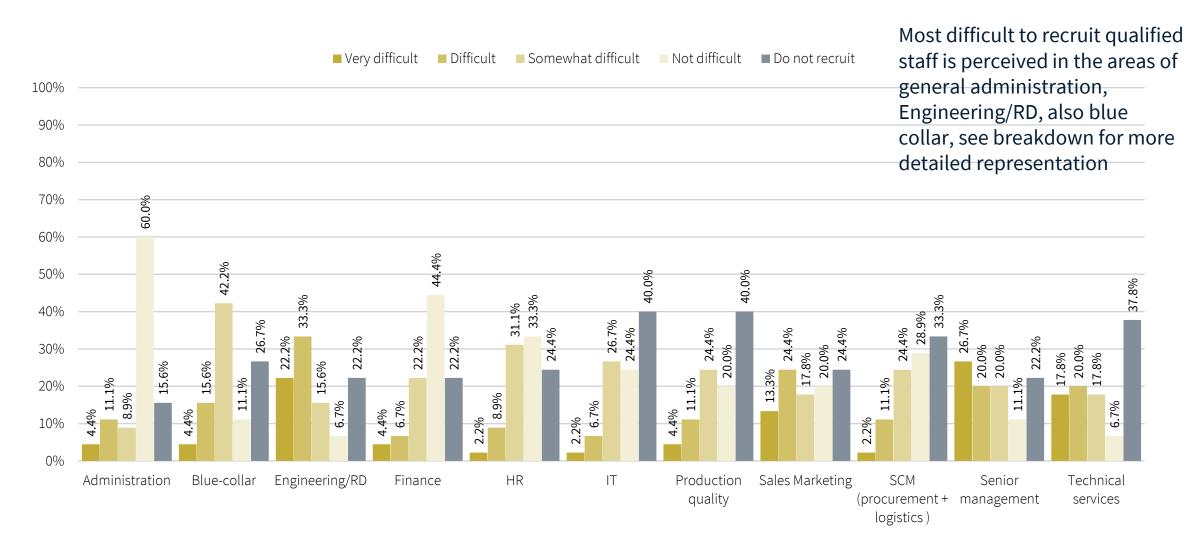






22. How difficult do you find it to recruit qualified staff in China for the following positions?

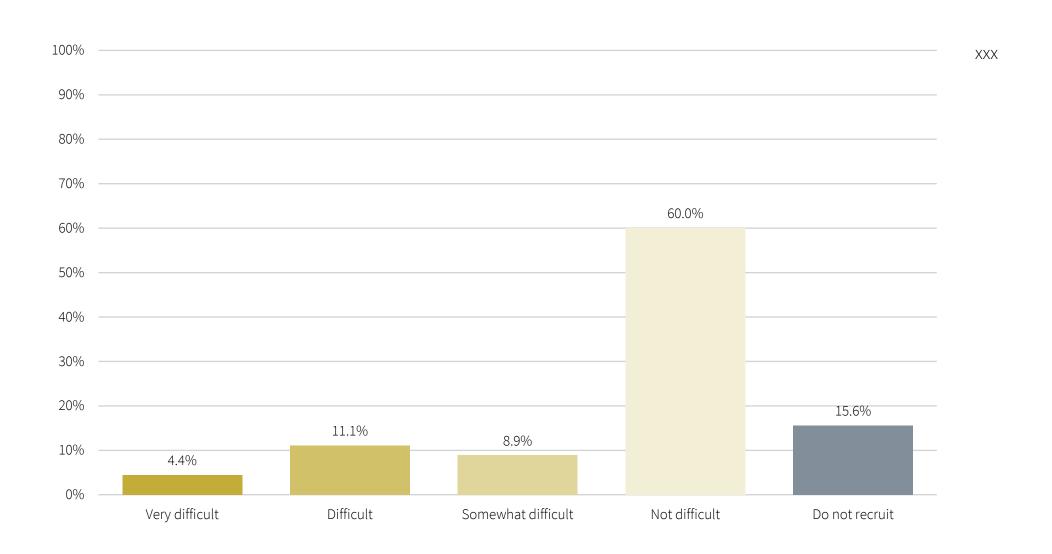
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22.1. Administration



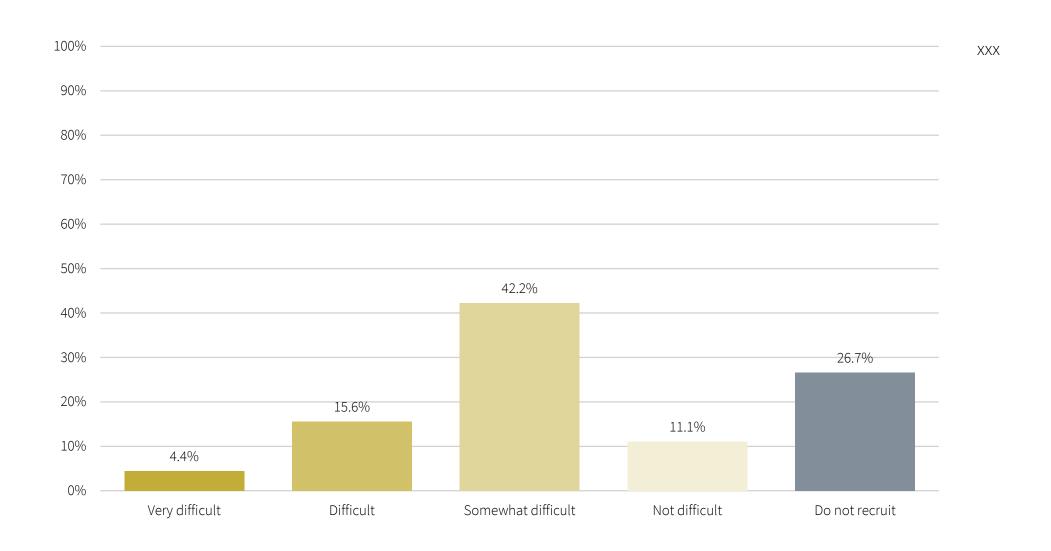




22.2. Blue-collar



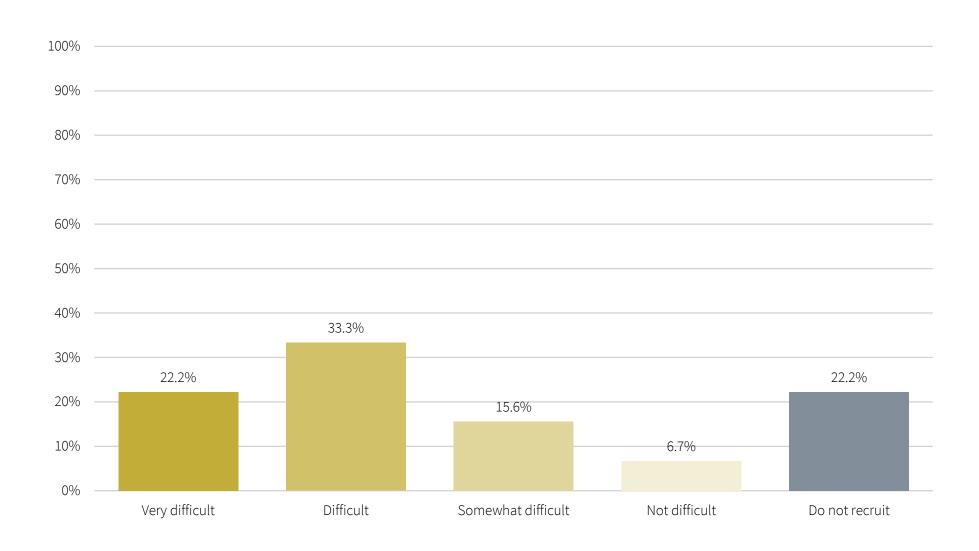




22.3. Engineering/RD



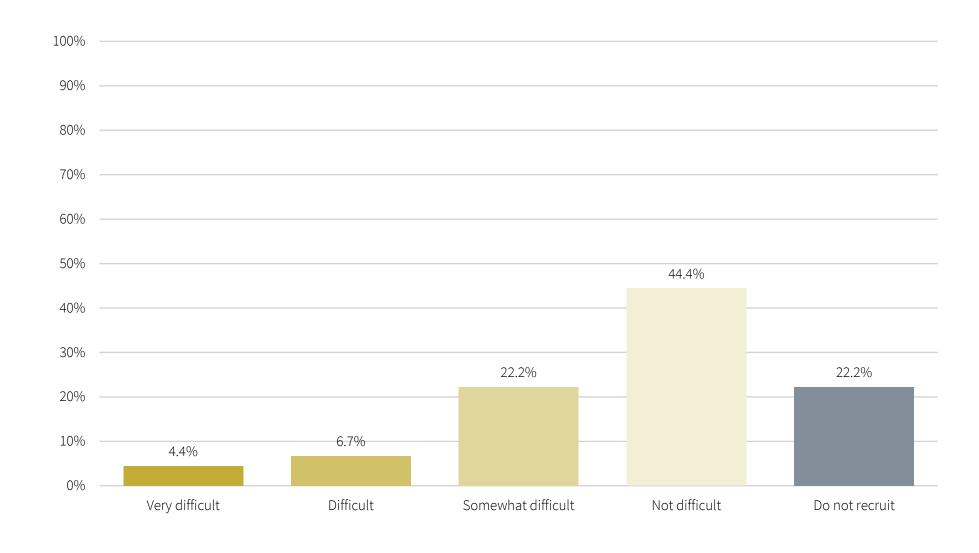




22.4. Finance

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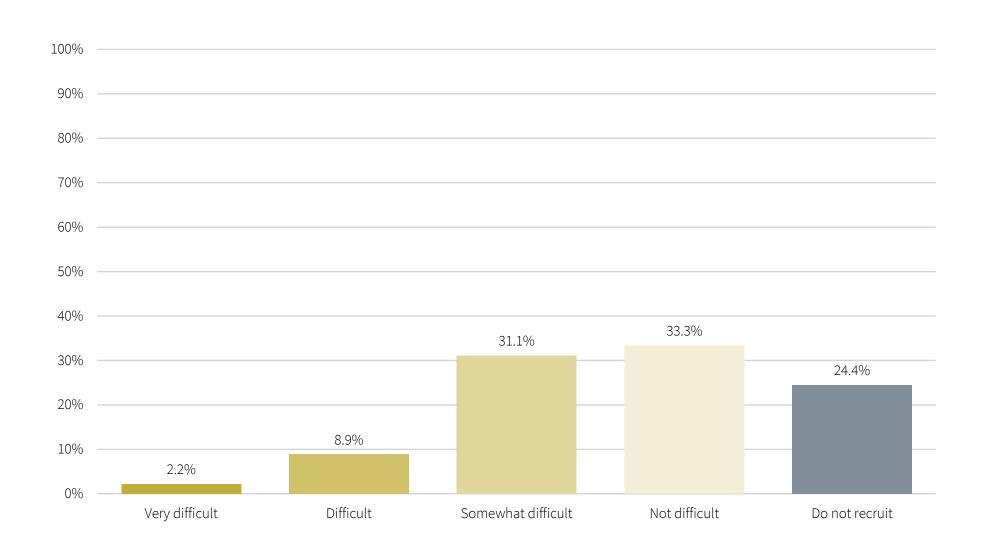
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22.5. Human Resources



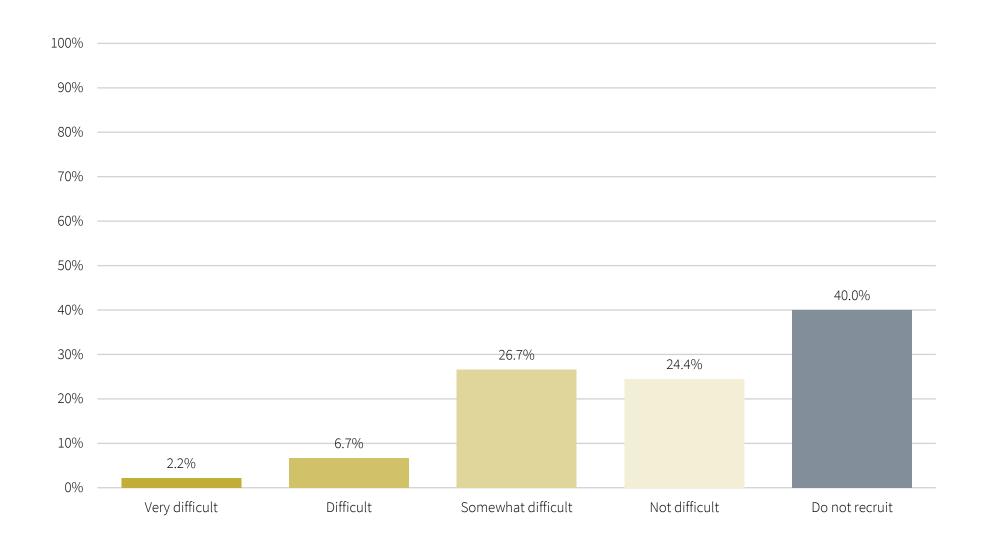




22.6. IT

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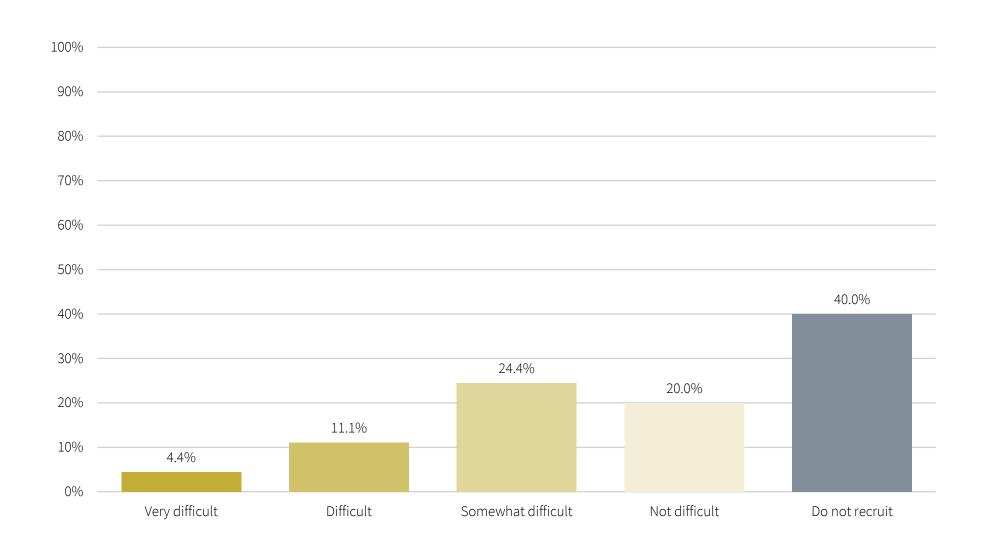




22.7. Production quality



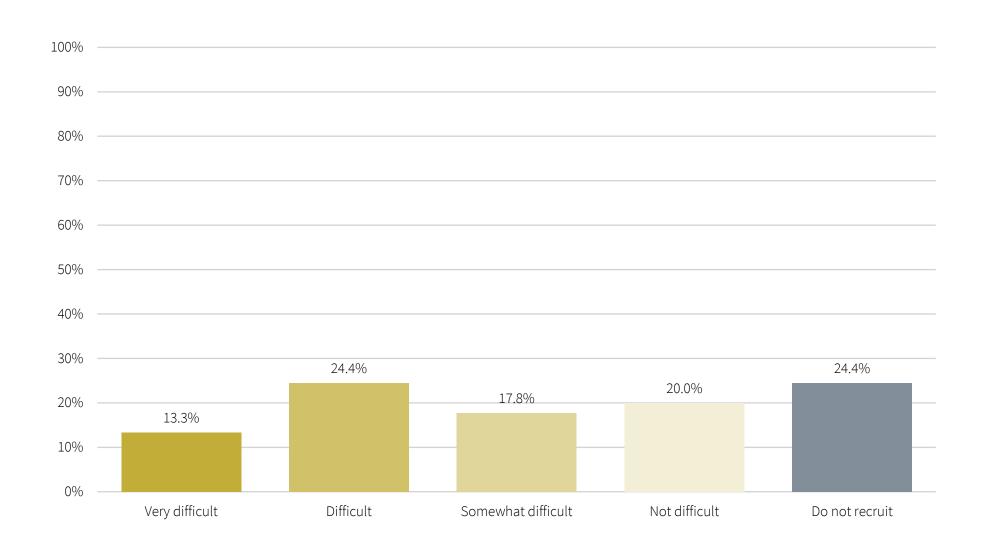




22.8. Sales Marketing



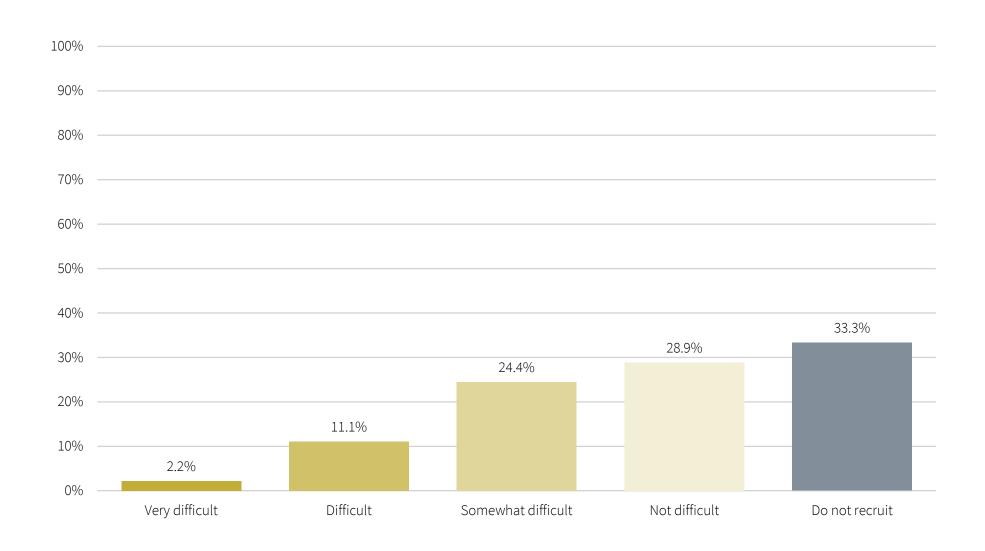




22.9. SCM (procurement + logistics)



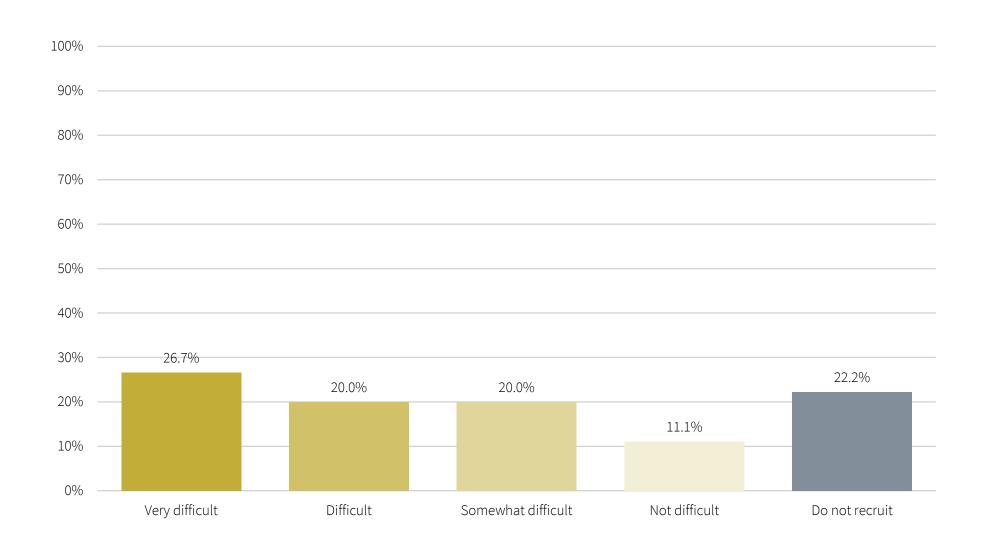




22.10. Senior management



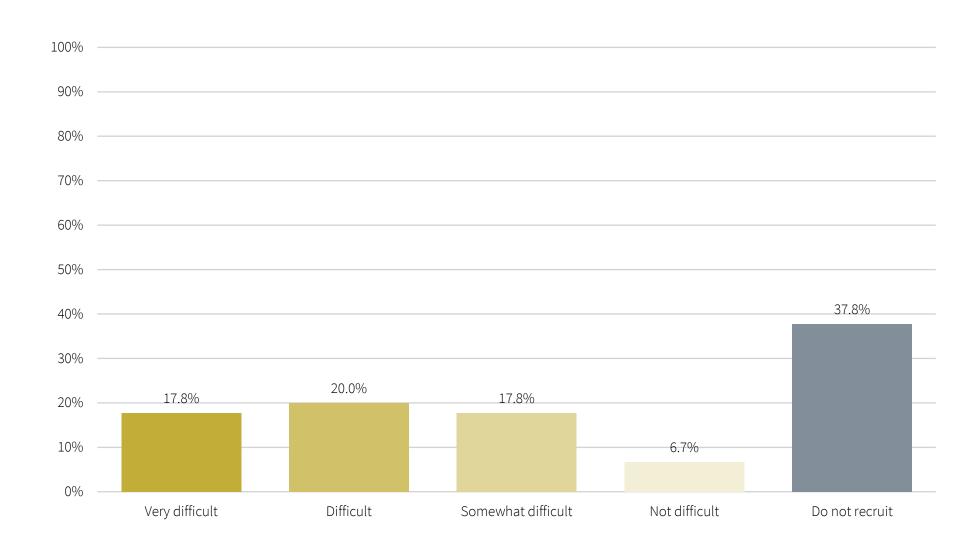




22.11. Technical services





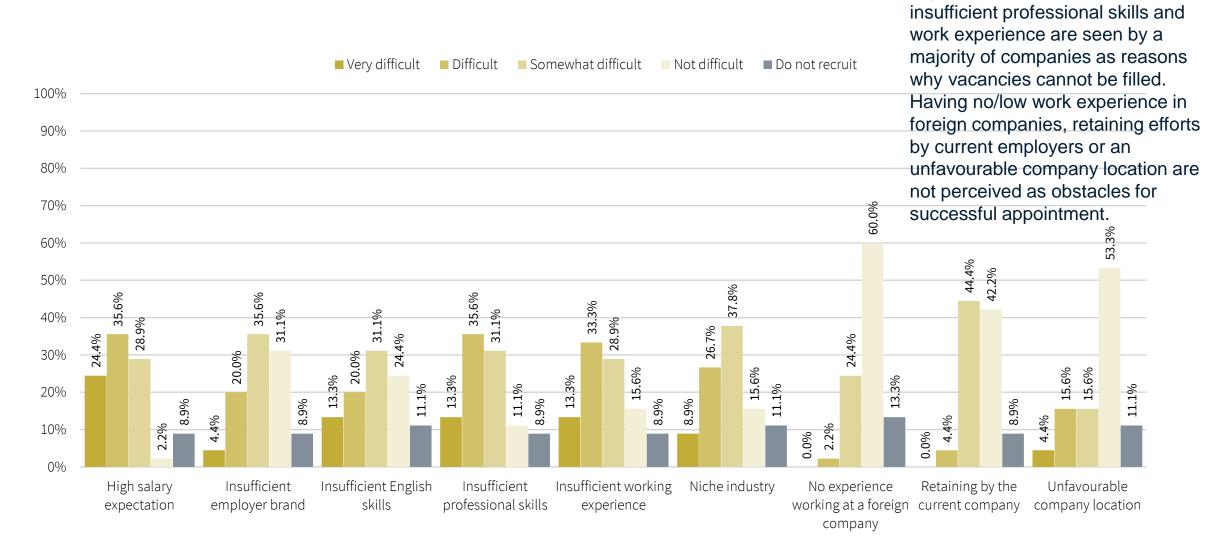




23. What are the main reasons why vacancies cannot be filled?

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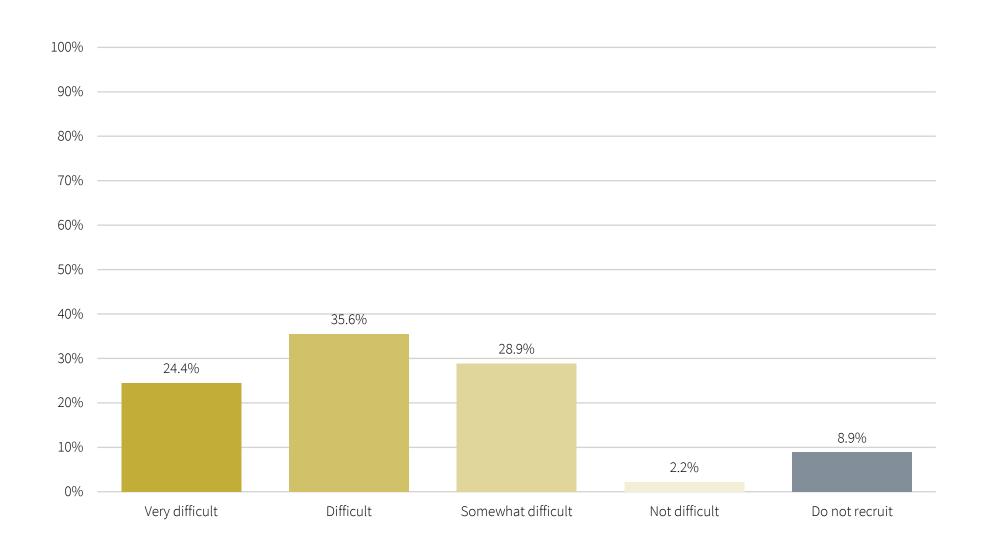
High salary expectations,



23.1. High salary expectation



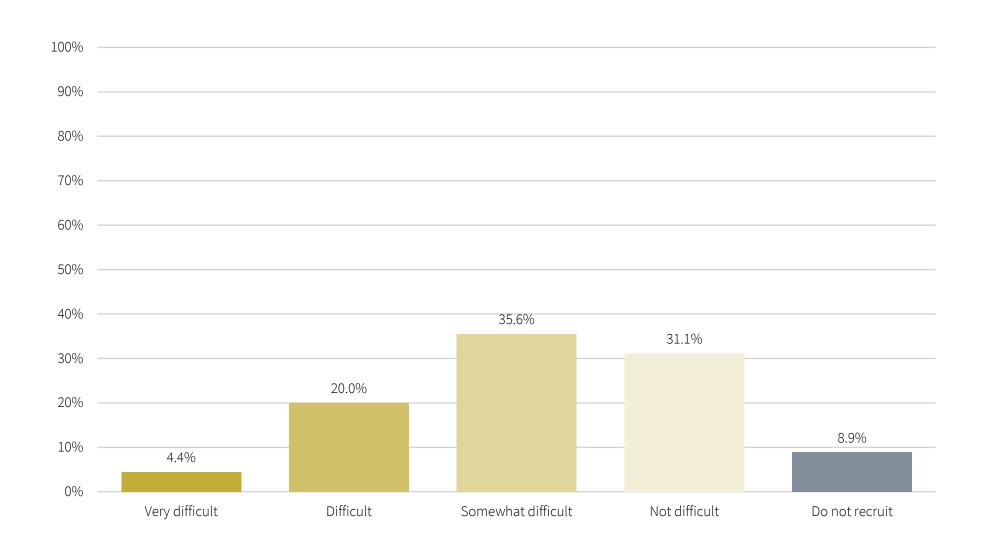




23.2. Insufficient employer brand



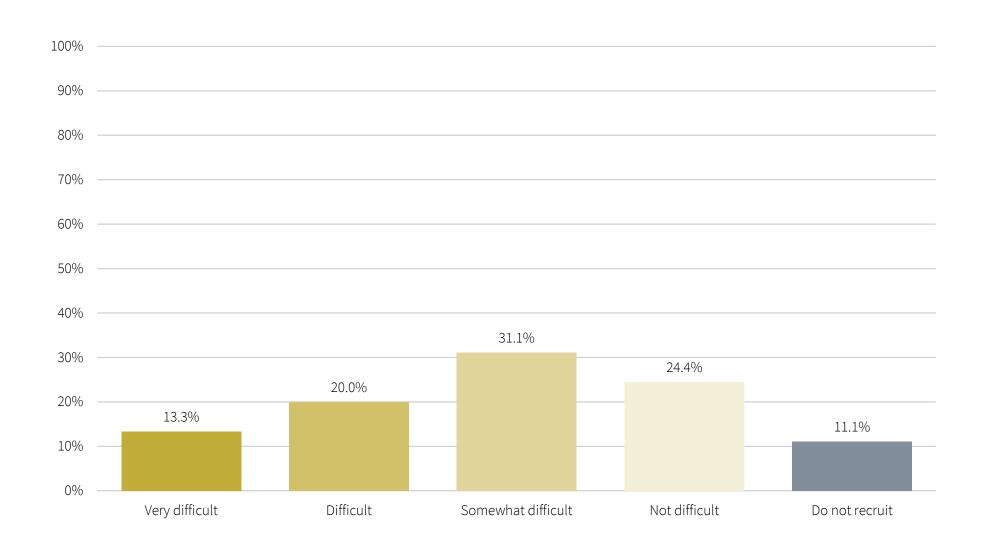




23.3. Insufficient English skills



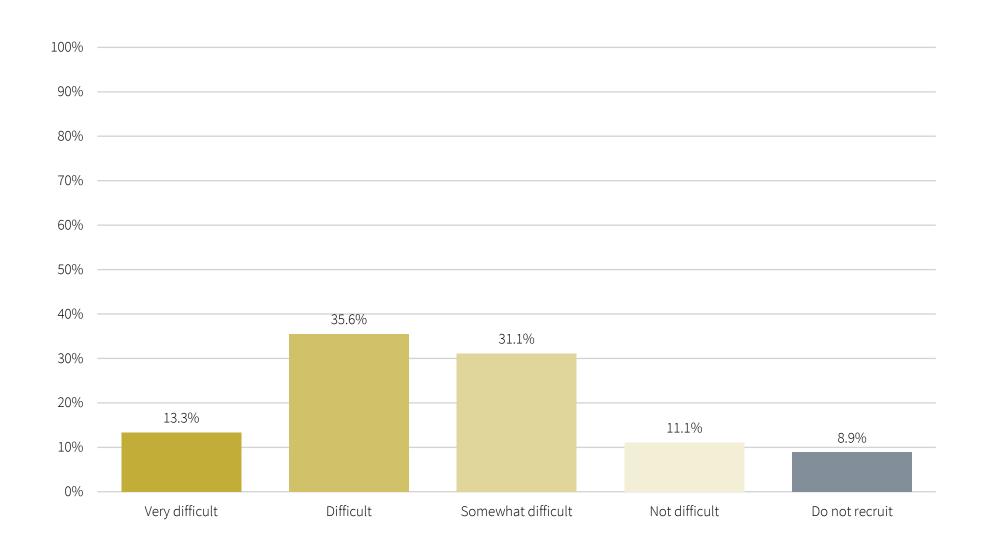




23.4. Insufficient professional skills



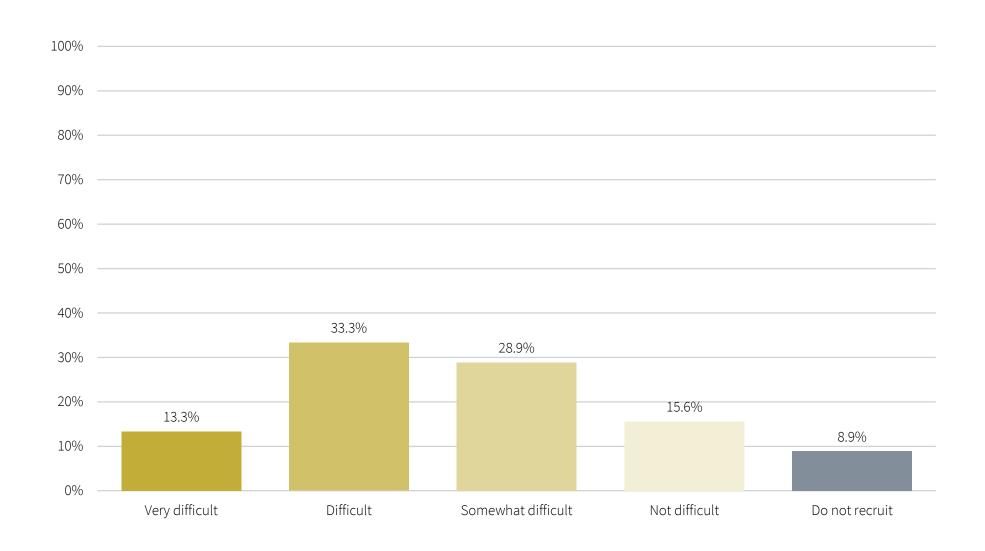




23.5. Insufficient working experience



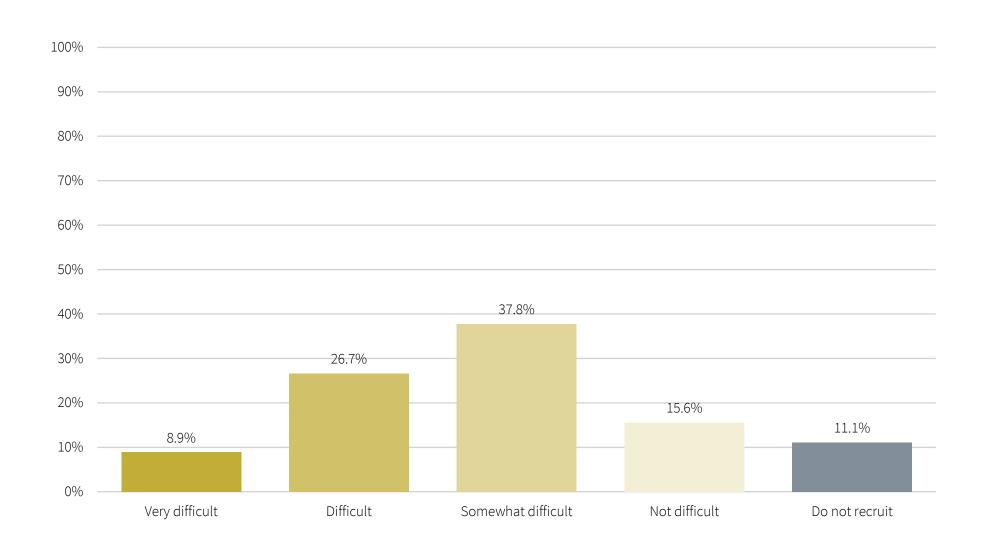




23.6. Niche industry



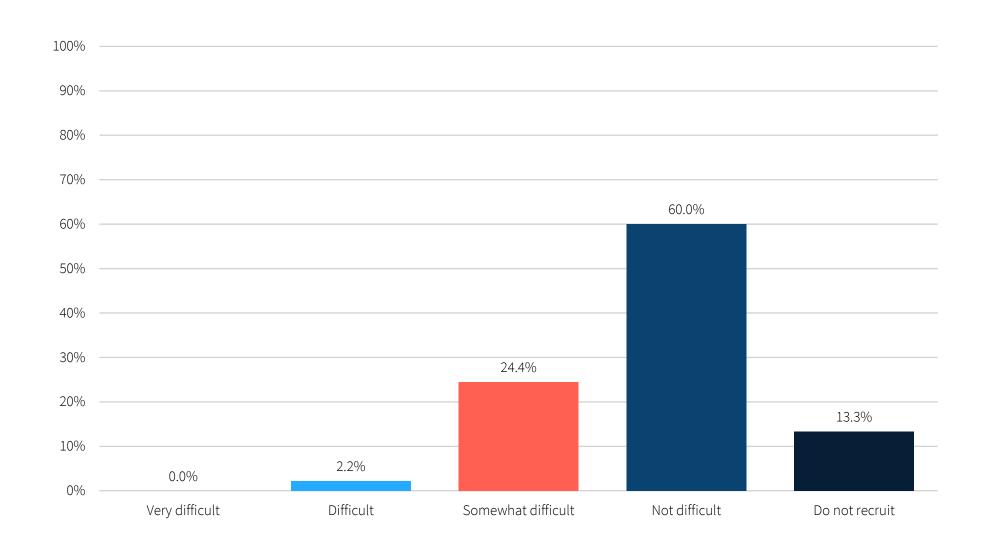




23.7. No experience working at a foreign company



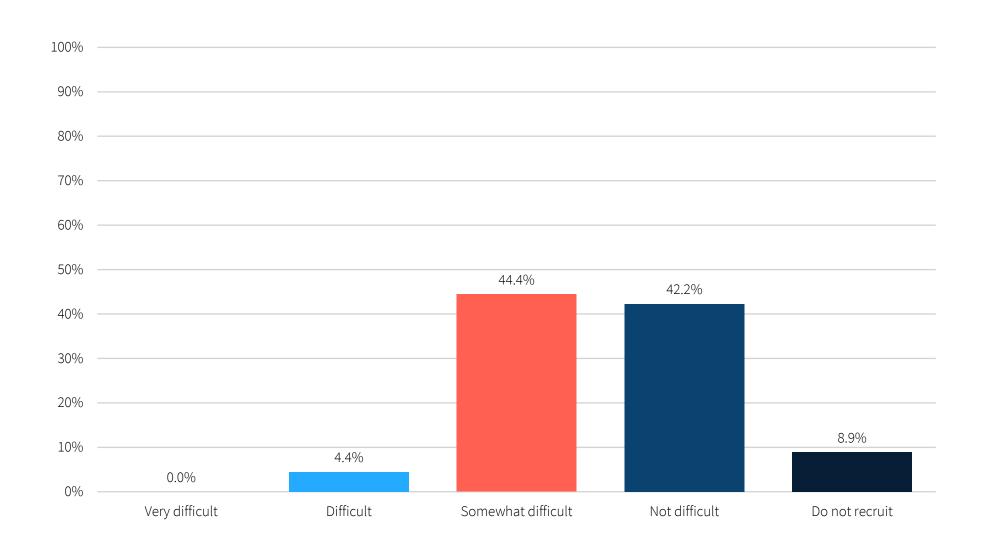




23.8. Retaining by the current company

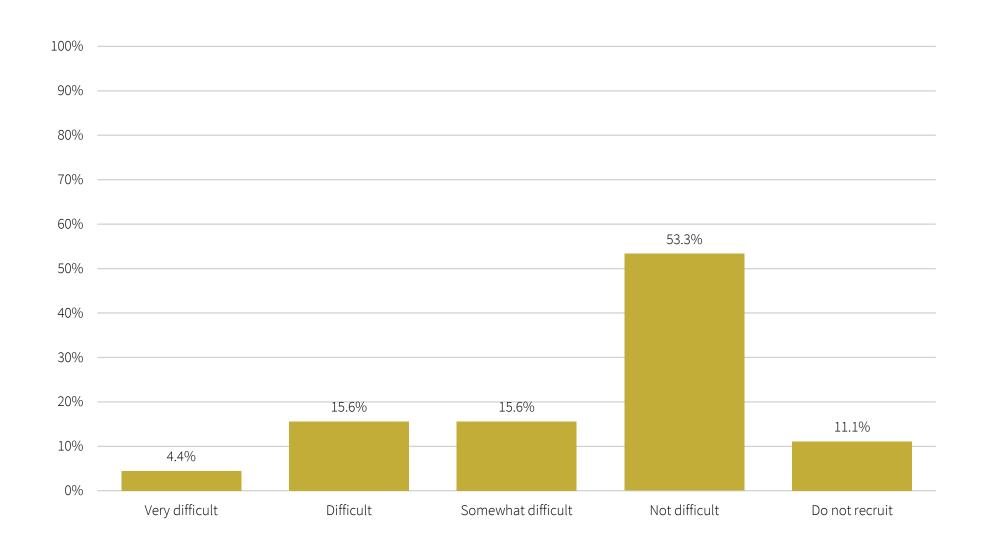






23.9. Unfavourable company location

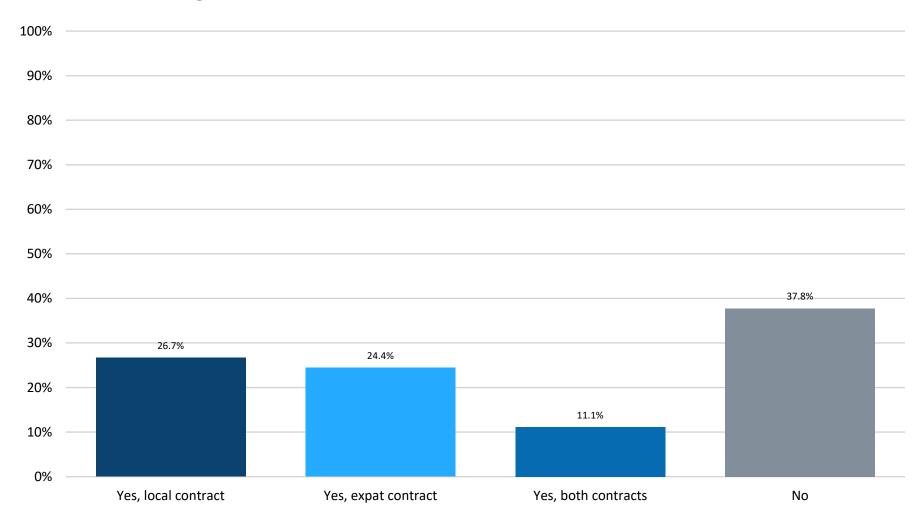






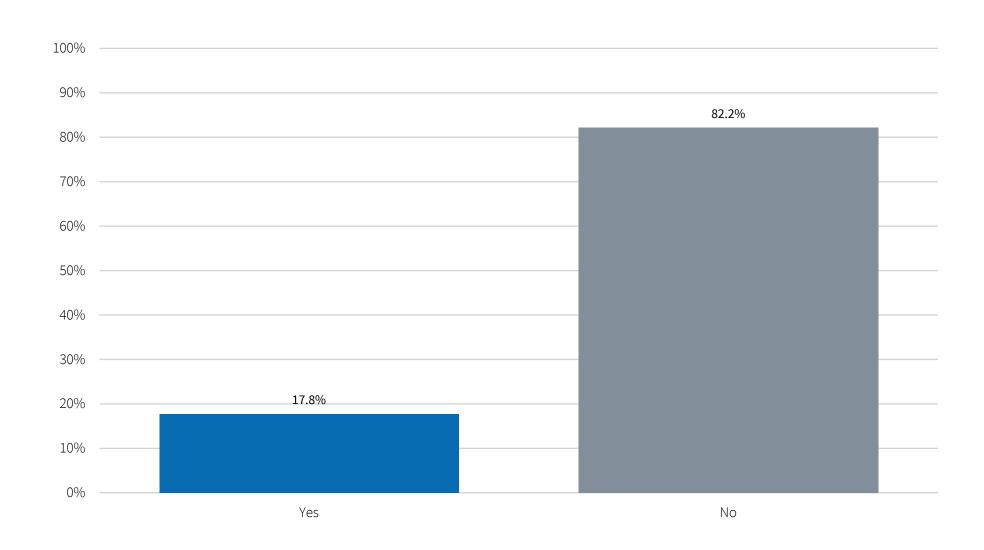
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24. Do you have foreign nationals working at your company? Locally hired foreigners or expats?





25. Did you have any personnel who required a PU letter to return/come to China?

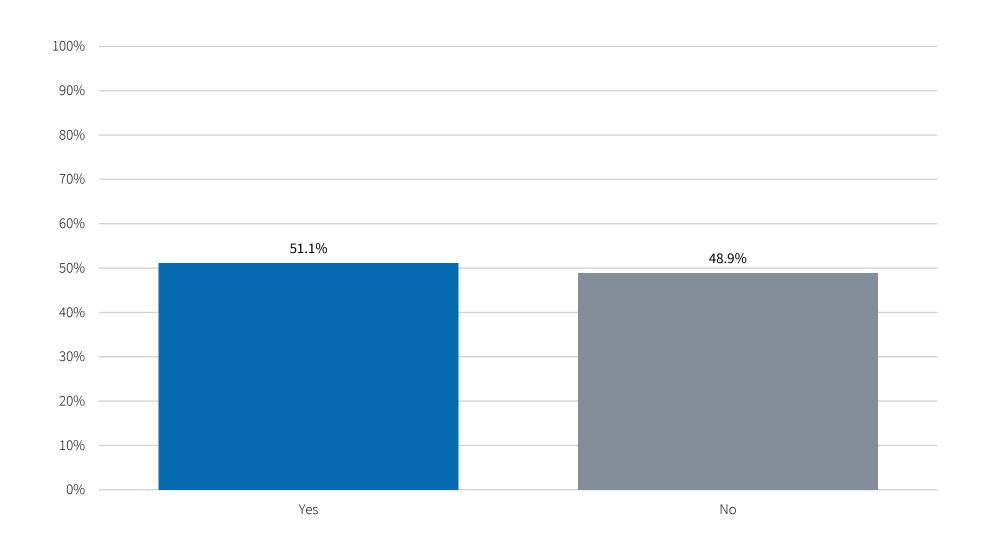




26. Does your company experience localisation in management position?

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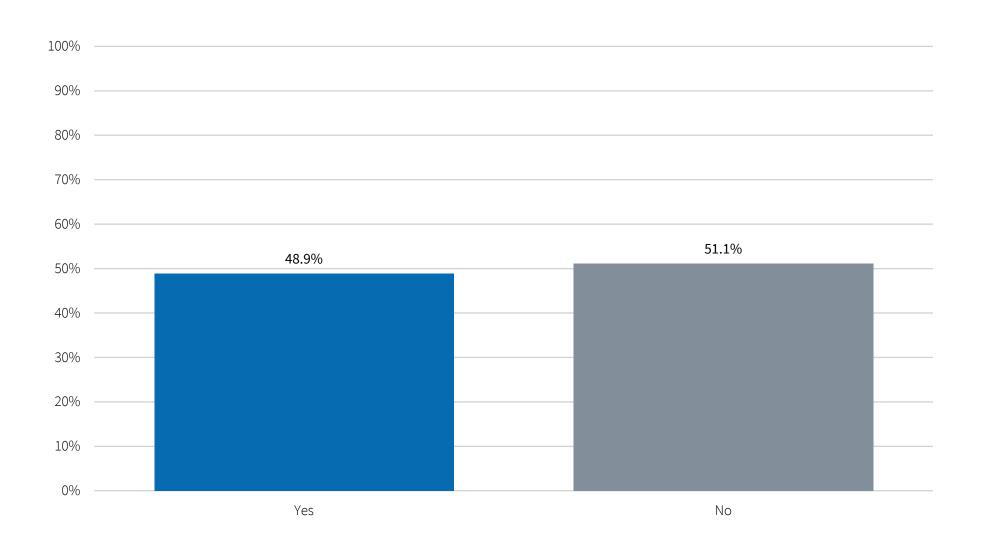






27. Does your company have regional (APAC) roles based in China?



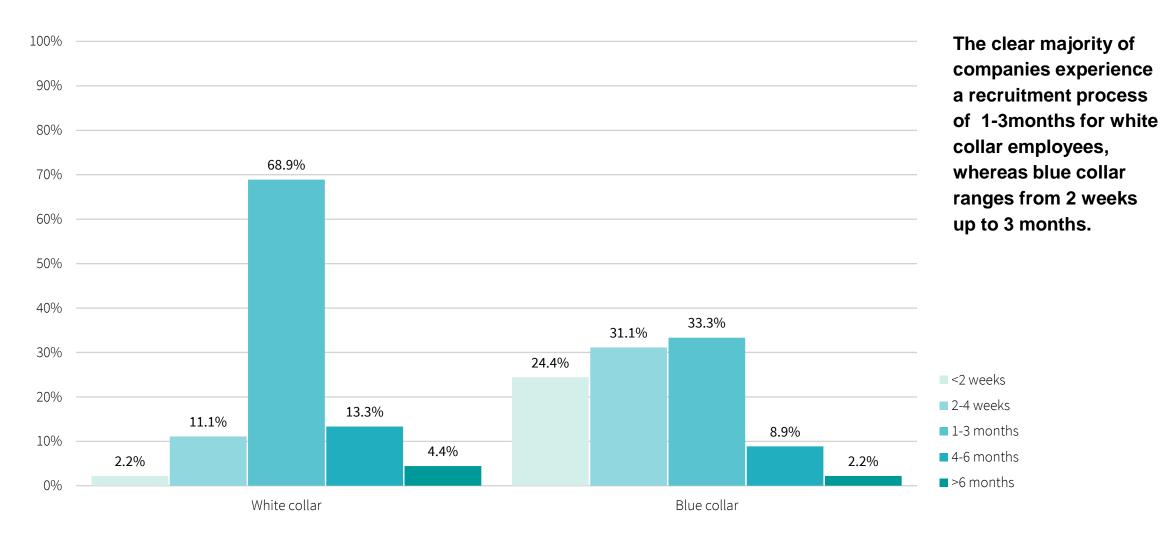






28. How long is your recruiting procedure in general (from search to contract)?

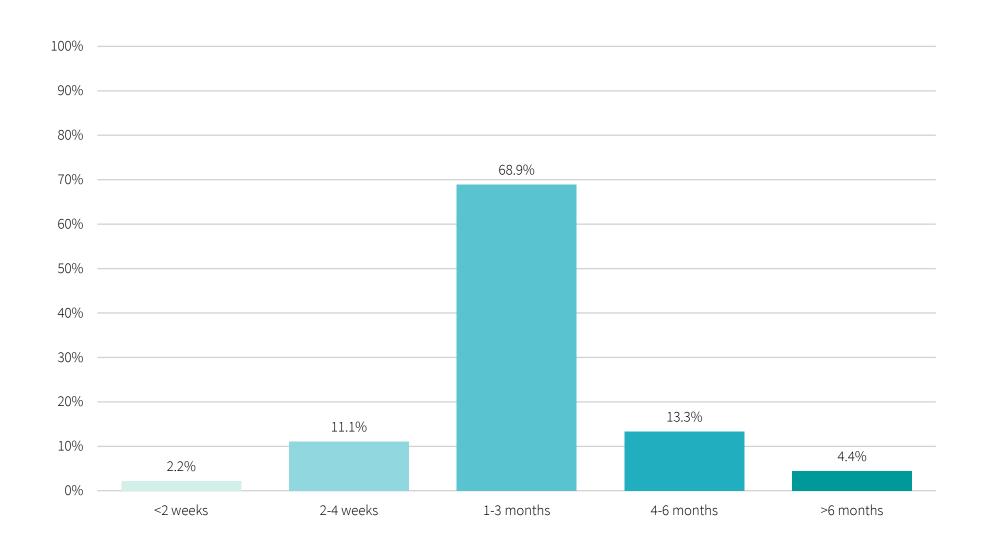
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28.1. White collar



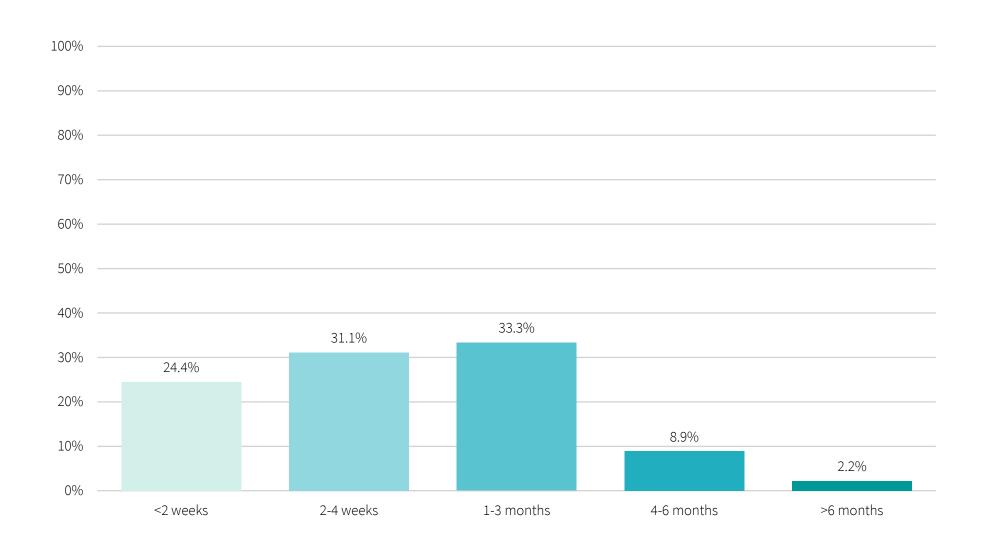




28.2. Blue collar



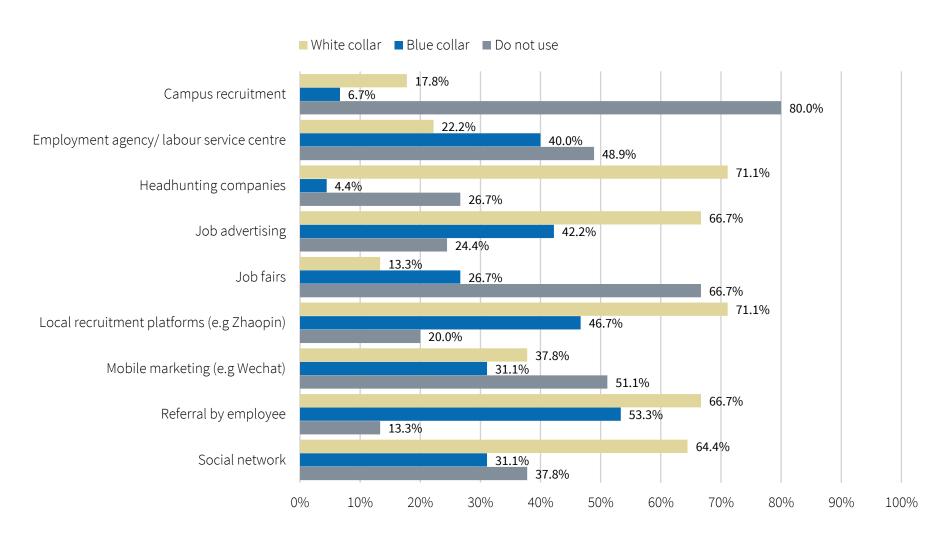




29. Which recruitment channels do you mainly use in China?



Recruitment, Selection, Retention

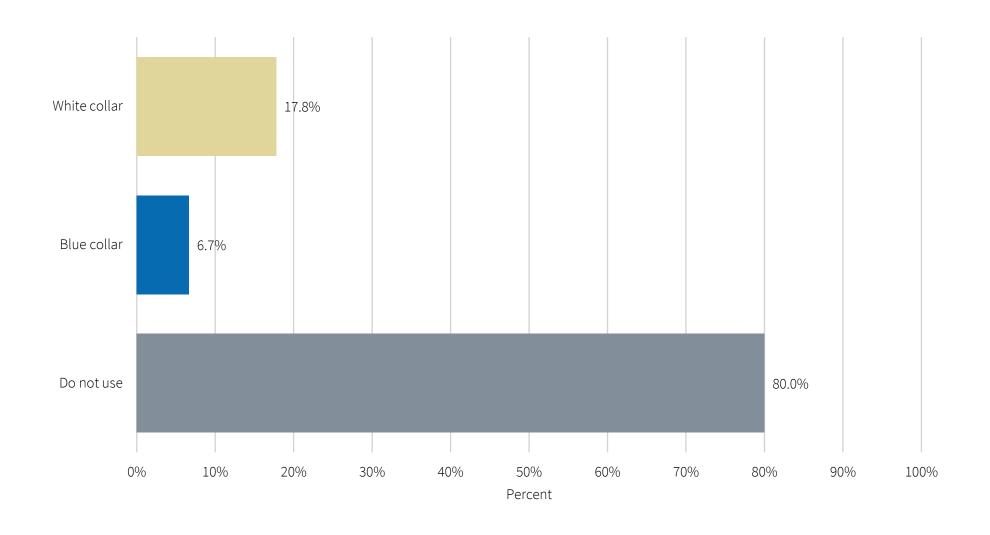


For white collar recruitment, widely used channels are headhunting companies, job advertising, local recruitment platforms and referral, social network; blue collar workers are mostly recruited through labour service centre agencies, job advertising and referrals.

29.1. Campus recruitment



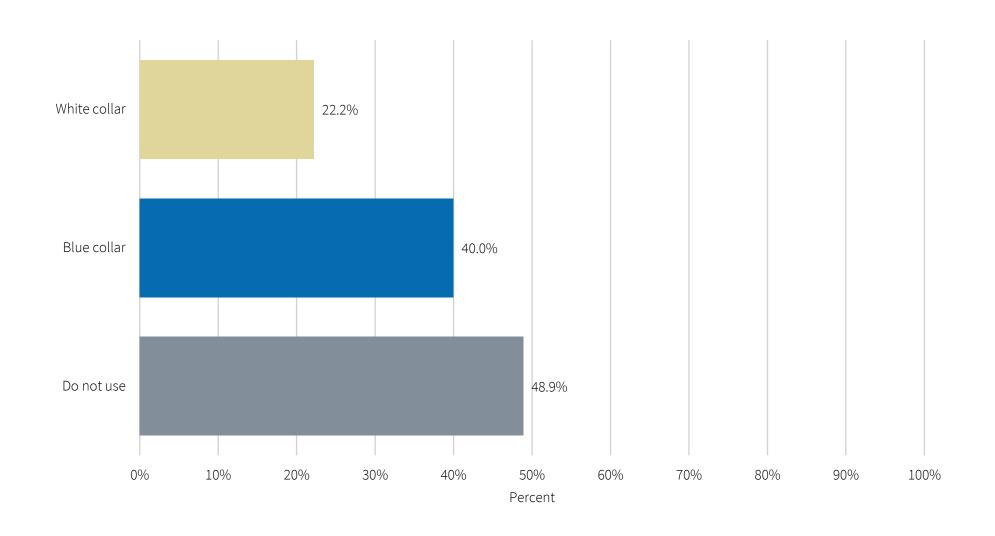




29.2. Employment agency/ labour service centre

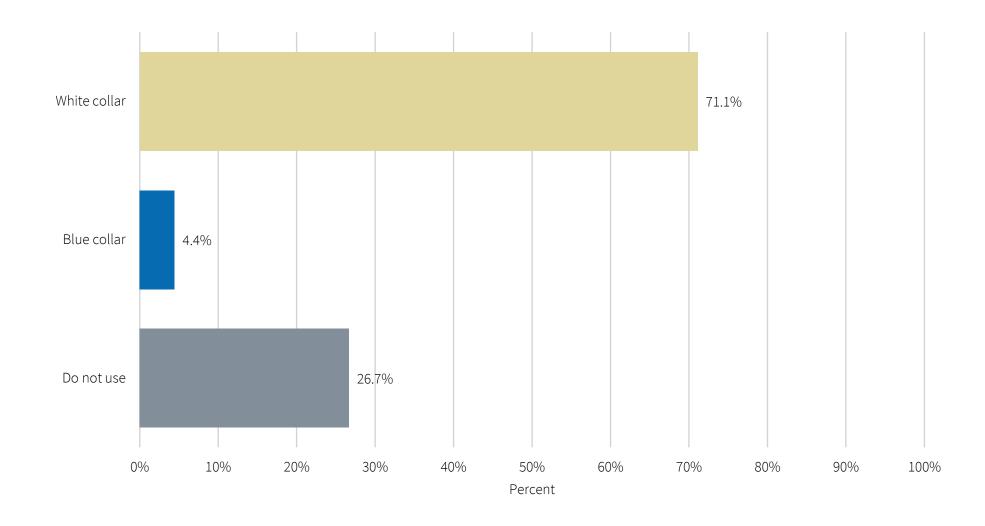






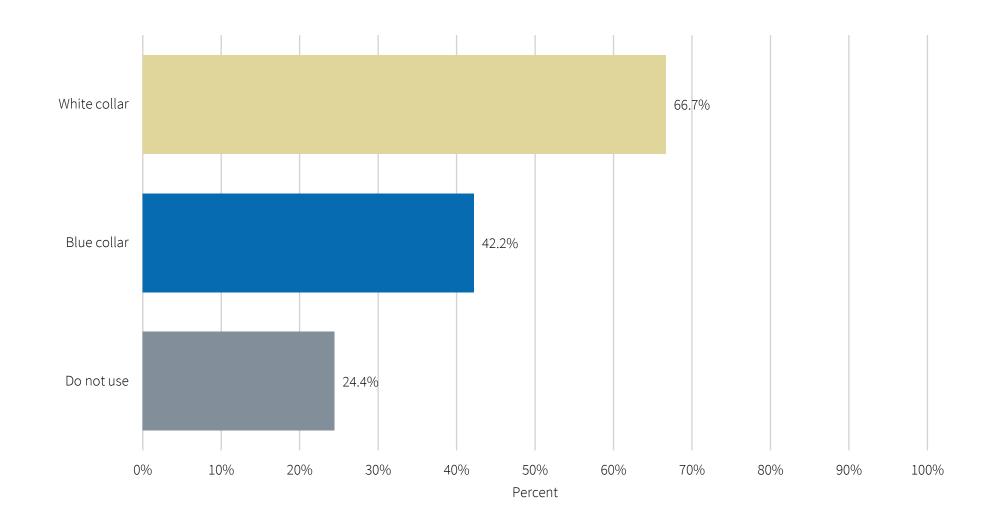
29.3. Headhunting companies





29.4. Job advertising

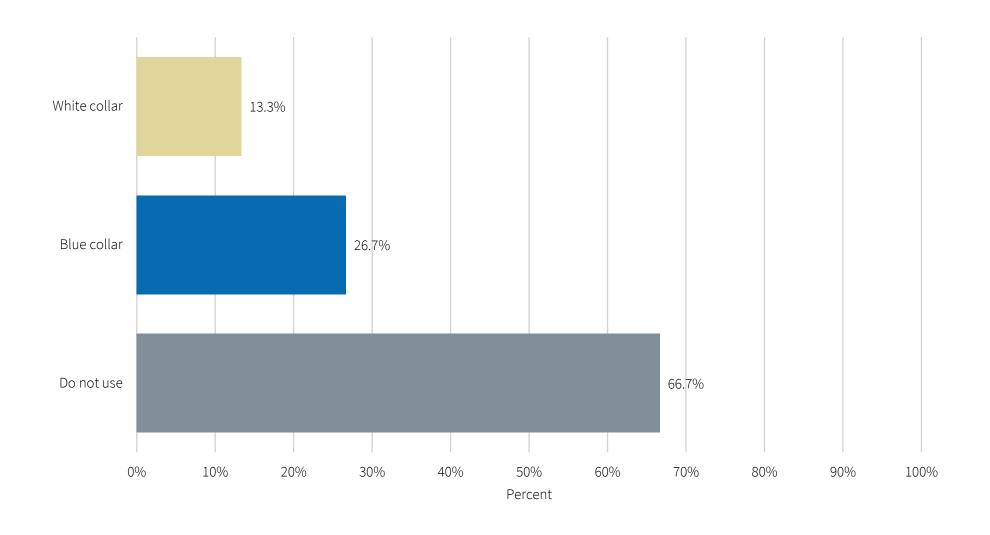




29.5. **Job fairs**



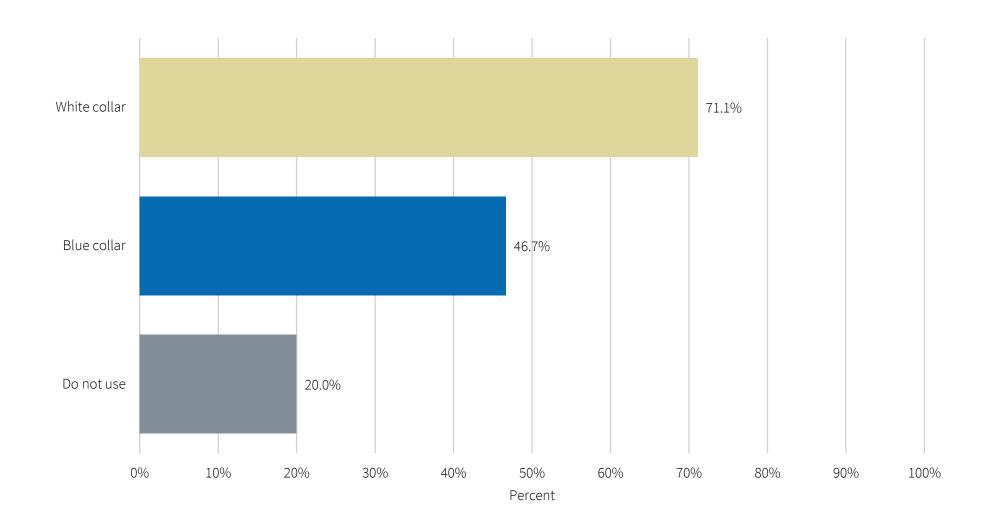




29.6. Local recruitment platforms (e.g Zhaopin)



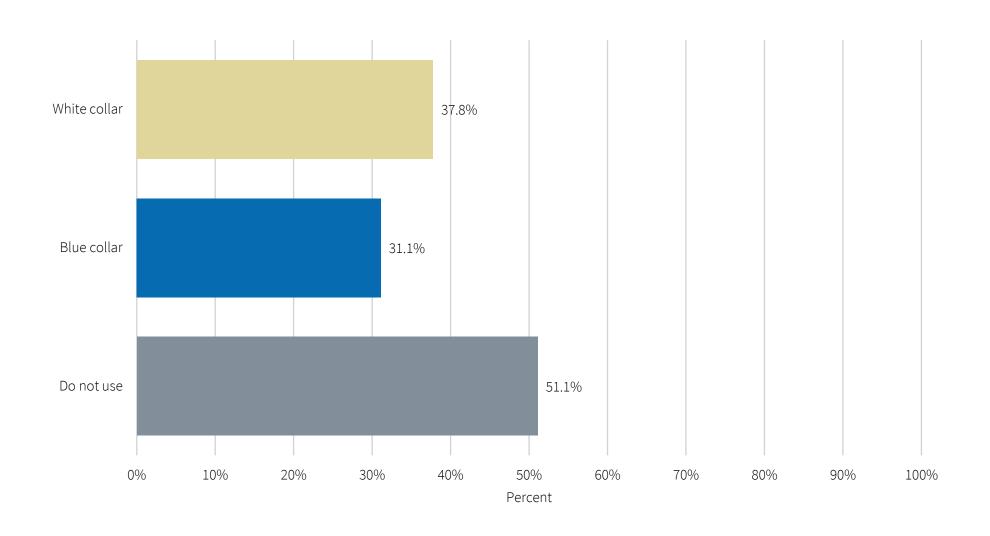




29.7. Mobile marketing (e.g Wechat)



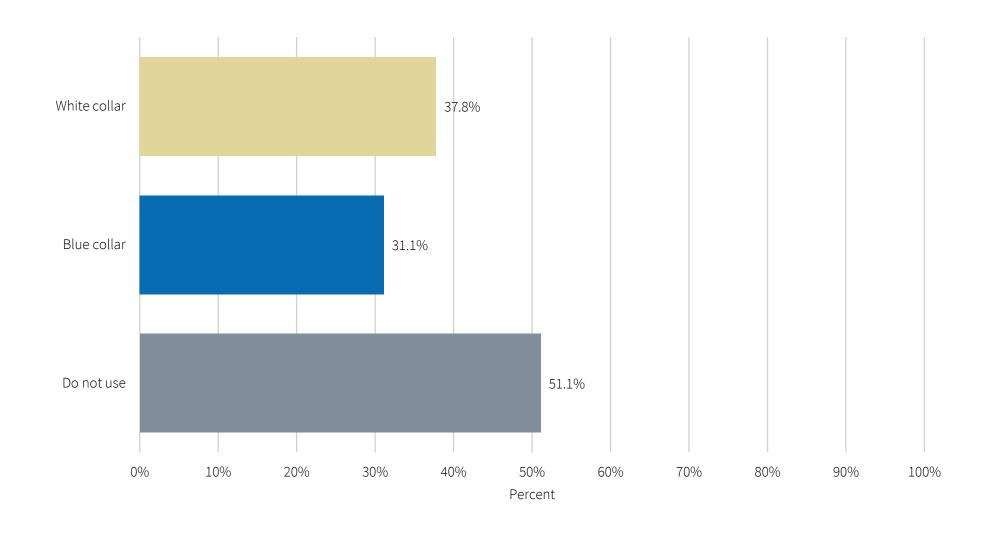




29.7. Mobile marketing (e.g Wechat)



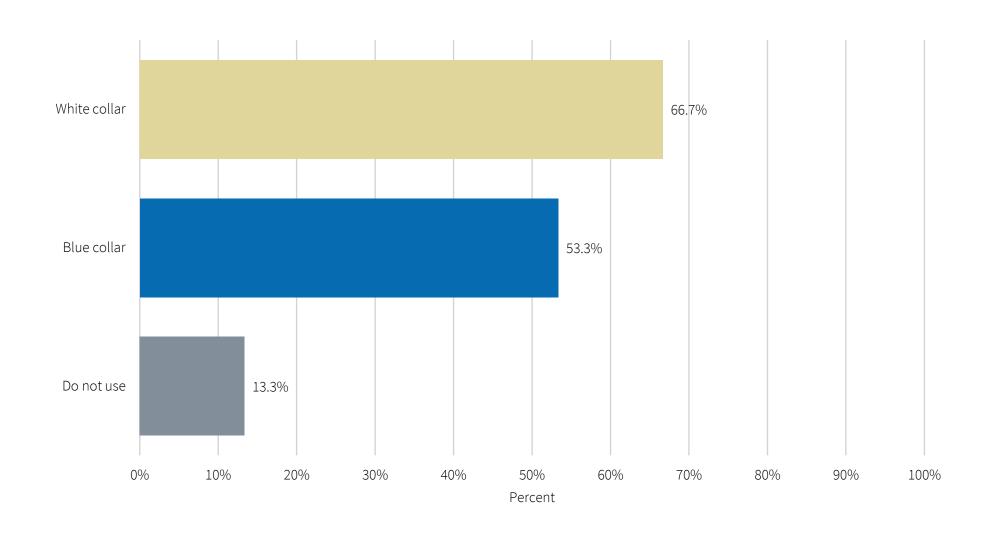




29.8. Referral by employee



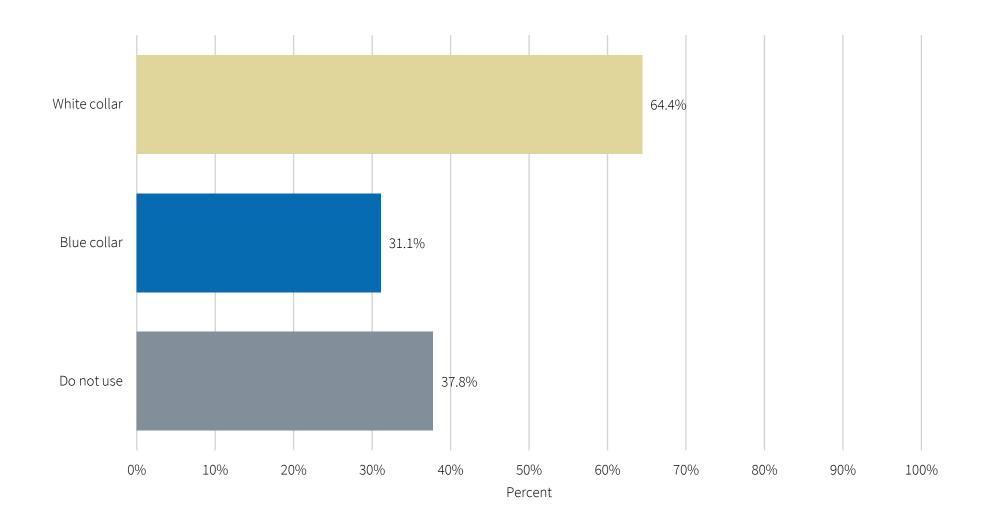




29.9. Social network





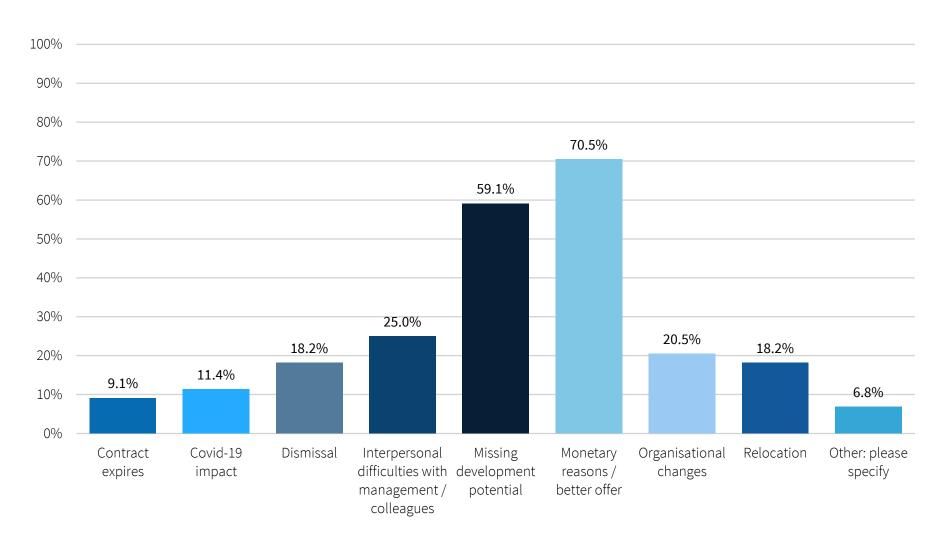




30. What are the top 3 reasons for your employees to leave your company?

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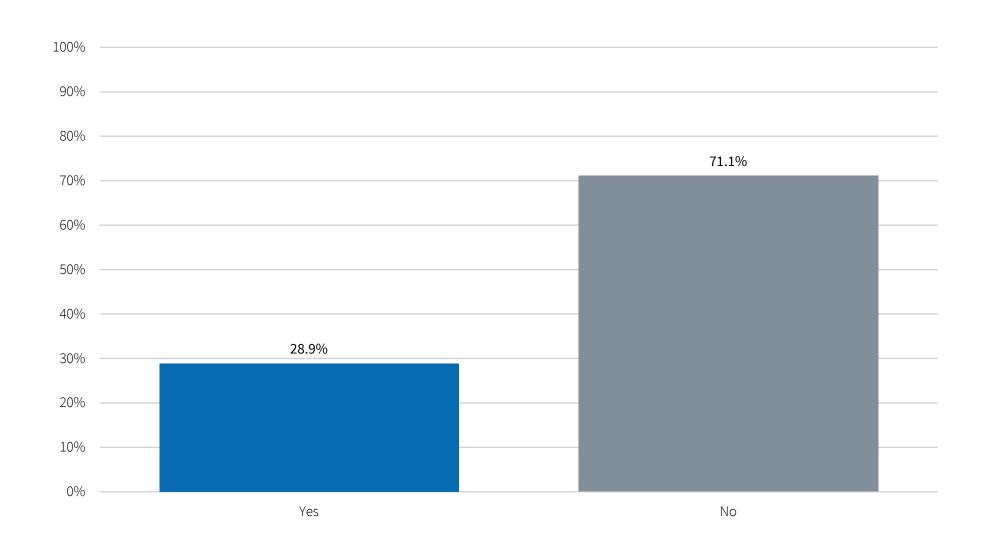
Recruitment, Selection, Retention



Employees leaving the companies are stating to having received a better monetary offer or missing development potential as reasons, organisational changes and interpersonal difficulties are also mentioned regularly as influencing factors. (In contrast with the perceived reasons why employees chose the employer at the first place, see 21,)



40. Do you also have special retention strategies for key personnel? 🎾 swedcham.CHINA





41. Please explain what individual retention strategies your company is using (open ended question)



- Extra bonus depends on the yearly performance.
- Only strategy is fair pay and we provide exceptional good balance work life and private.
- internal academy for fast track and specialisation, geographical- and position mobility, career planning, open-door, incentives
- Currently do not have any individual retention plan, but will consider in the future for some programs, like abroad training in head office in Europe; extra medical insurance, good health check program, team building activity, family day, etc.
- No
- Back up plans
- Retention bonus plan

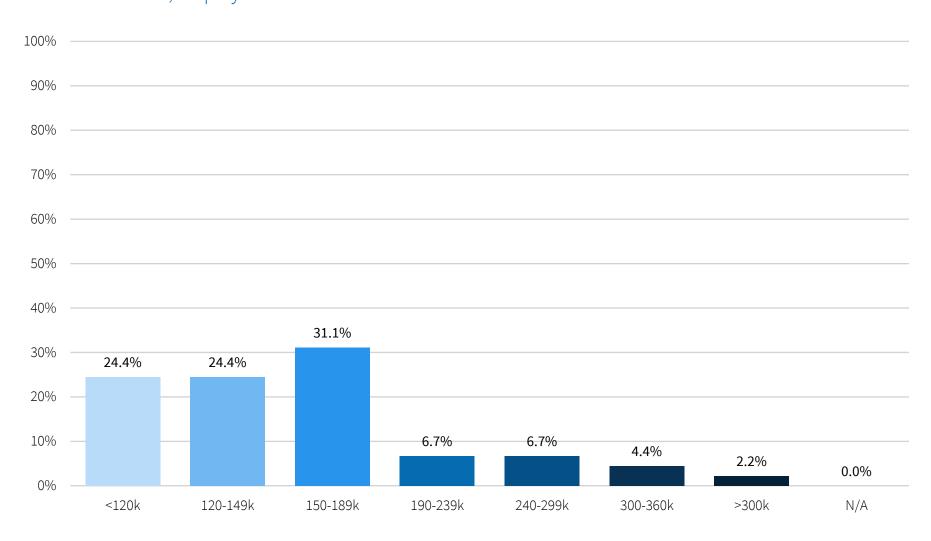
- We don't have special strategies here, but to keep close attention on the key personnel.
- In Covid period, flexible work time is used to make employees feel better.
- Different depending on need from employees and company
- Potential shares in Prorector AB
- Long service award and loyalty bonus
- Retention funds
- Enterprise annuity and LTI program(stock incentive plan) for key personnel.





31. What is the average salary (CNY) range of your junior and mid-level employees? (e.g. clerk, engineer, supervisor, assistant manager annually in RMB)

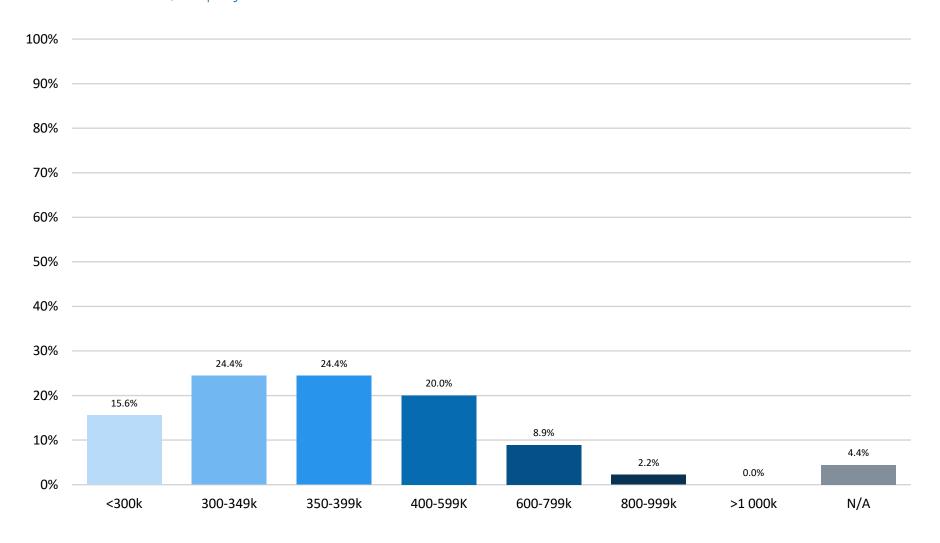
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32. What is the average salary (CNY) range of your senior employees? (e.g. senior professional, senior manager or above) Note: Definition of salary: (Yearly fixed salary + bonus or commission + welfare subsidy)

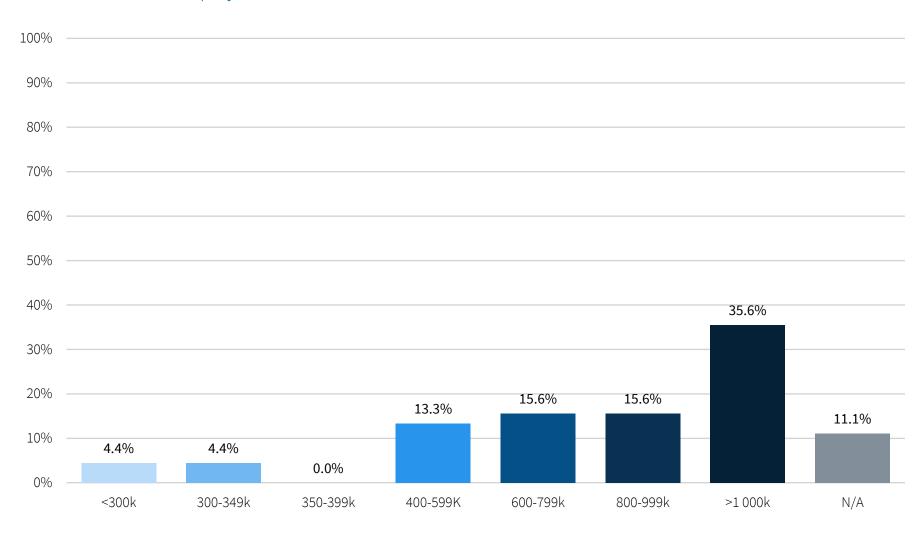
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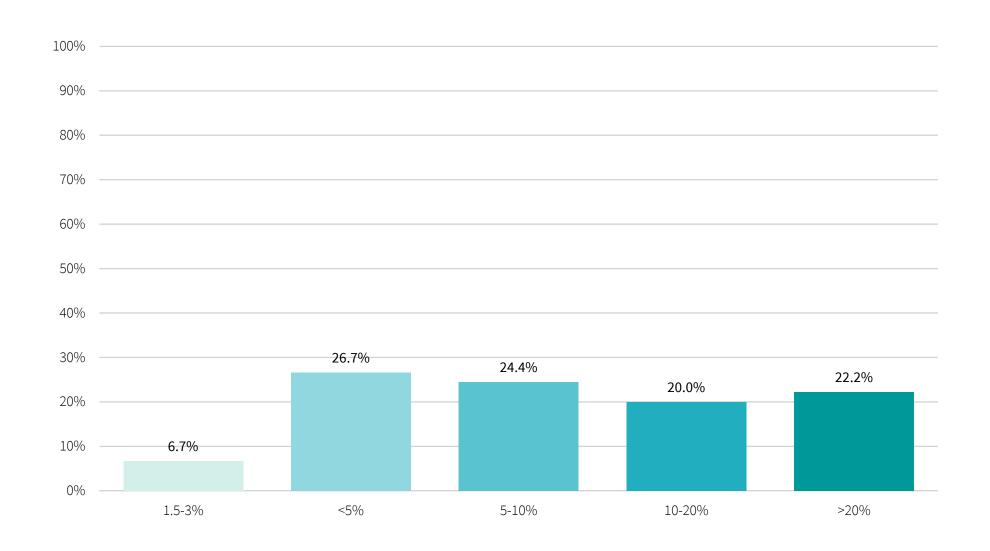
33. What is the average salary (CNY) range of key roles also, CxO, General Manager, Managing Director, APAC Senior Executives





34. What is the ratio between fix and variable (bonus) for white-collar employee in average?

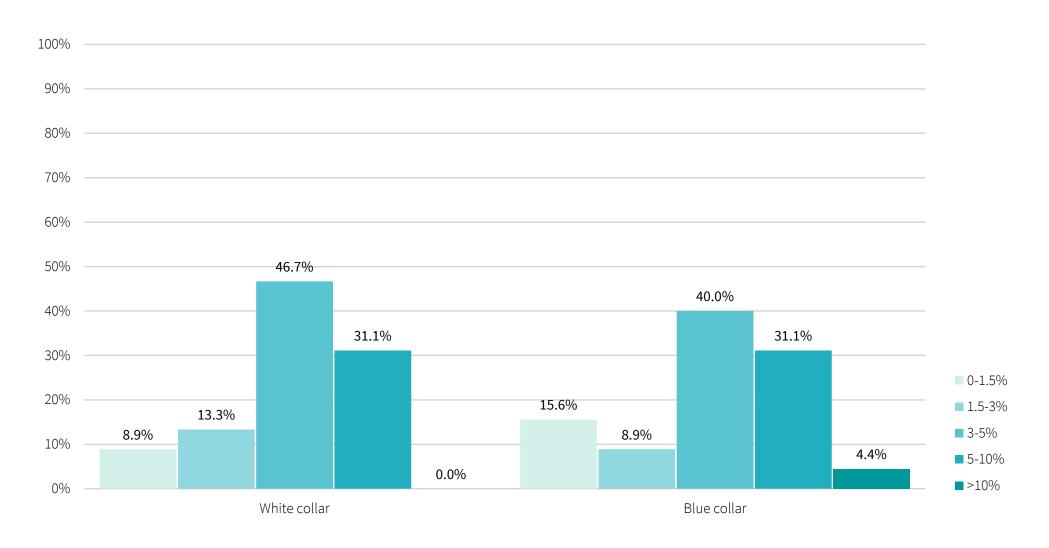
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36. What salary increase does your company expect for 2022/23 on average?

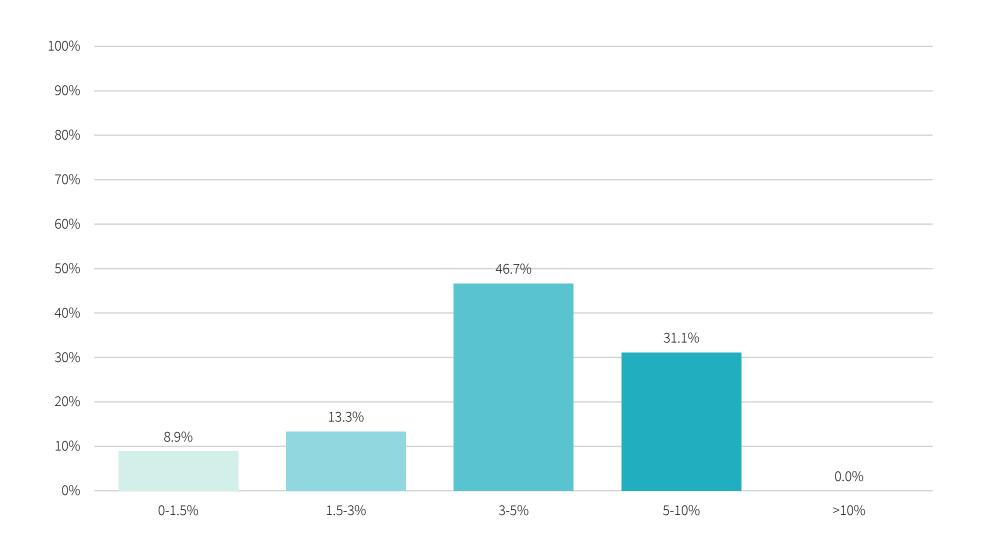
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36.1. White collar

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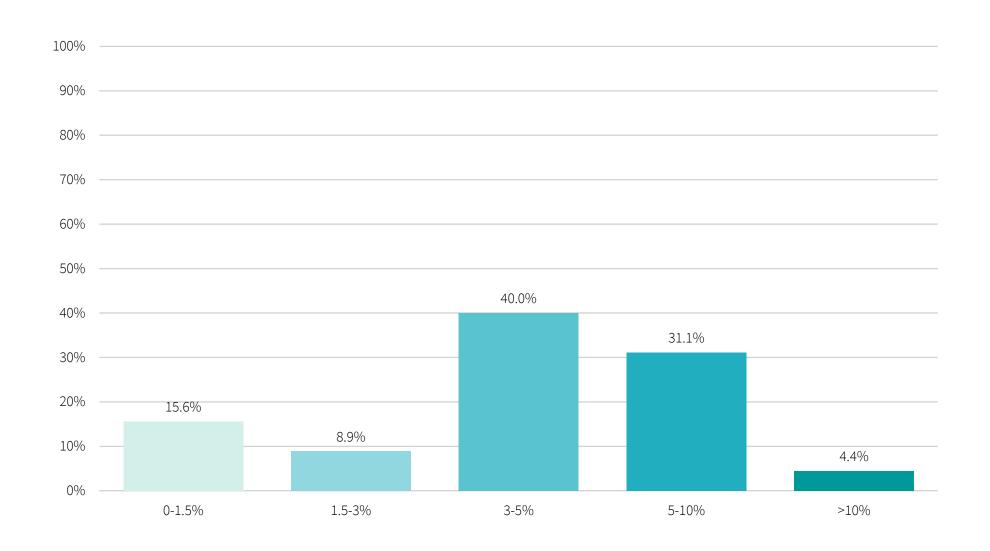




36.2. Blue collar

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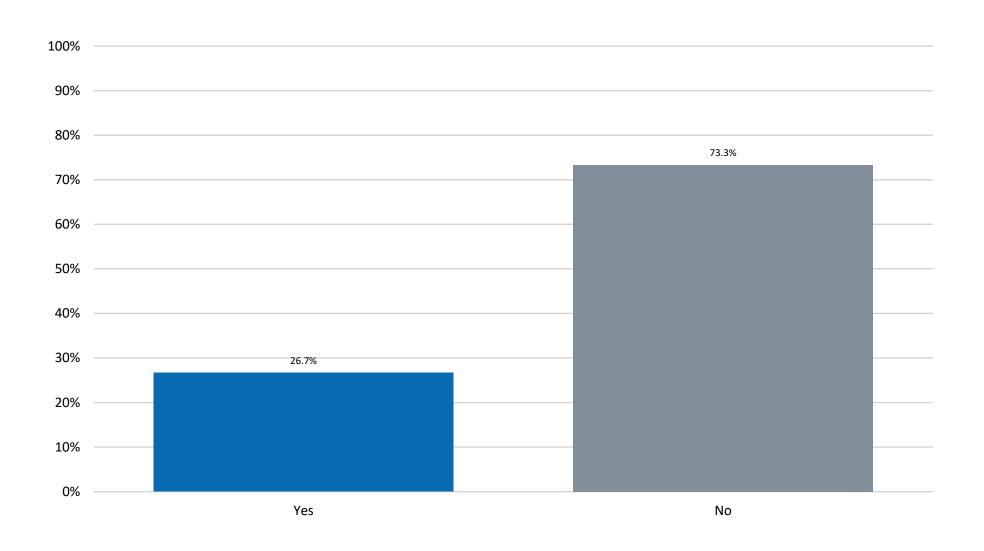
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37. Has your company considering postponing a salary increase for 2022/23?

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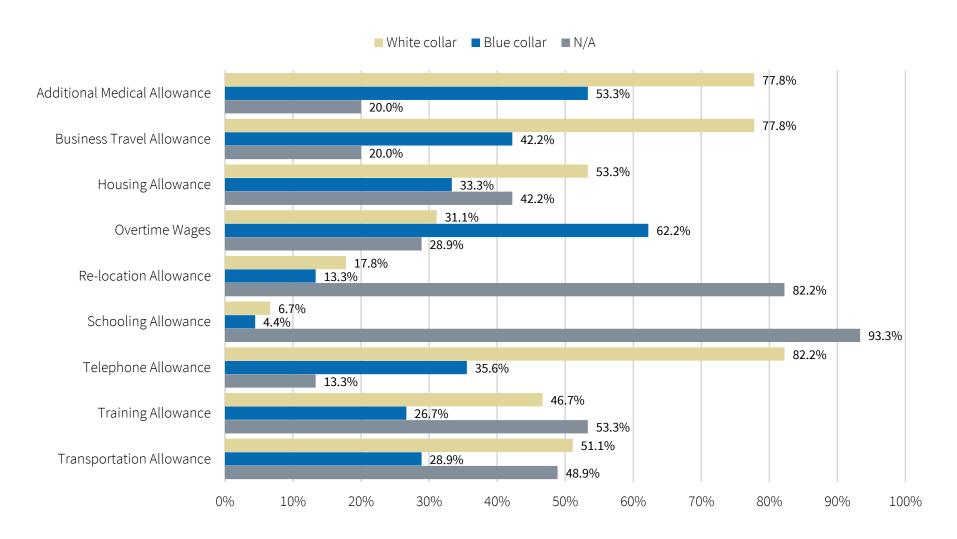


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38. Please mark the standard benefit plans offered to your employees

HR- Remuneration, Employee Benefits and Incentives

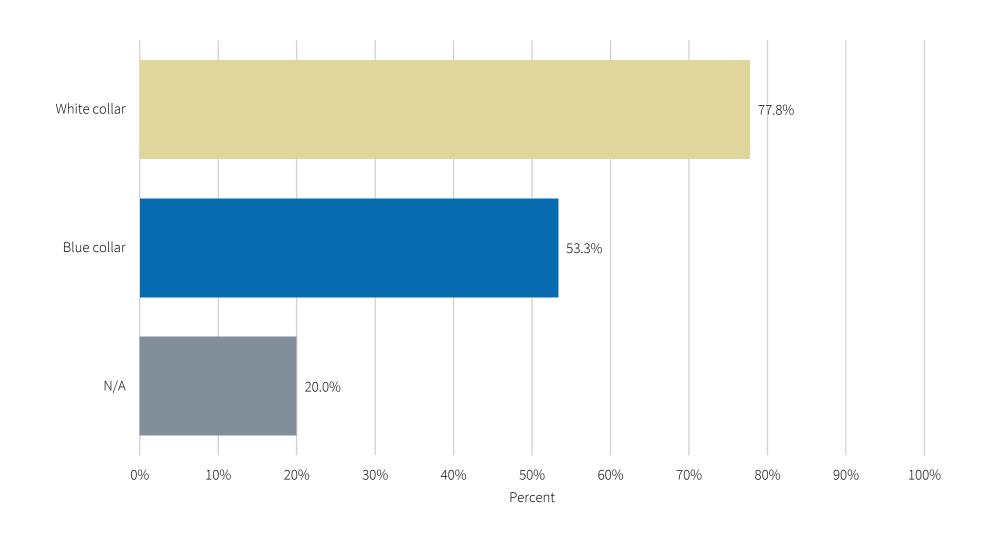


Widely offered benefits to white collar employees are medical insurance, business travel allowances, housing allowance, mobile phone; blue collar workers are benefitted mostly by additional medical, overtime pay, telephone allowances, transportation.

38.1. Additional Medical Allowance



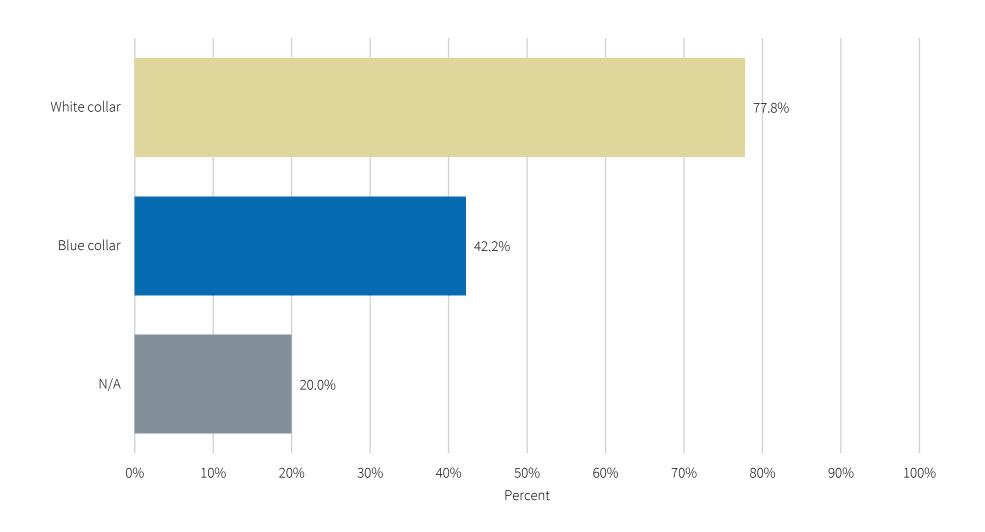




38.2. Business Travel Allowance



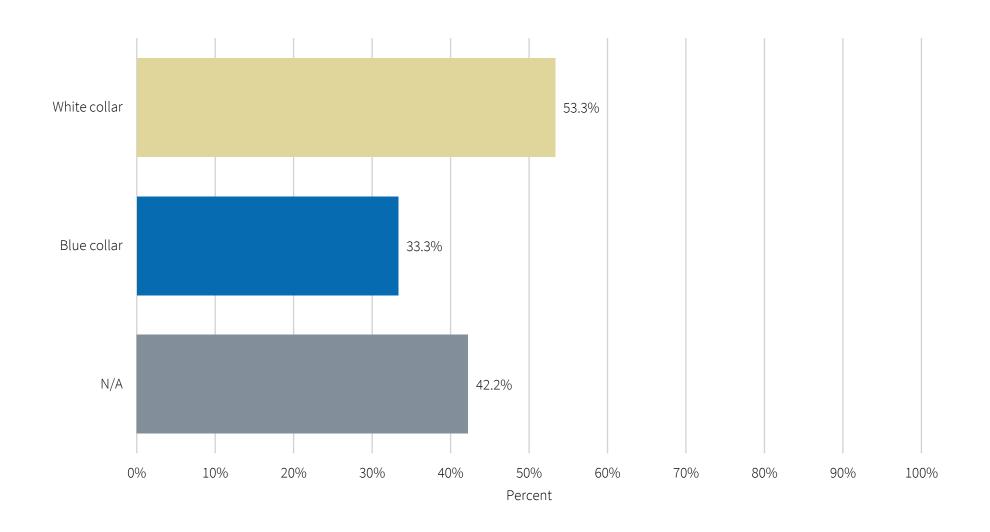
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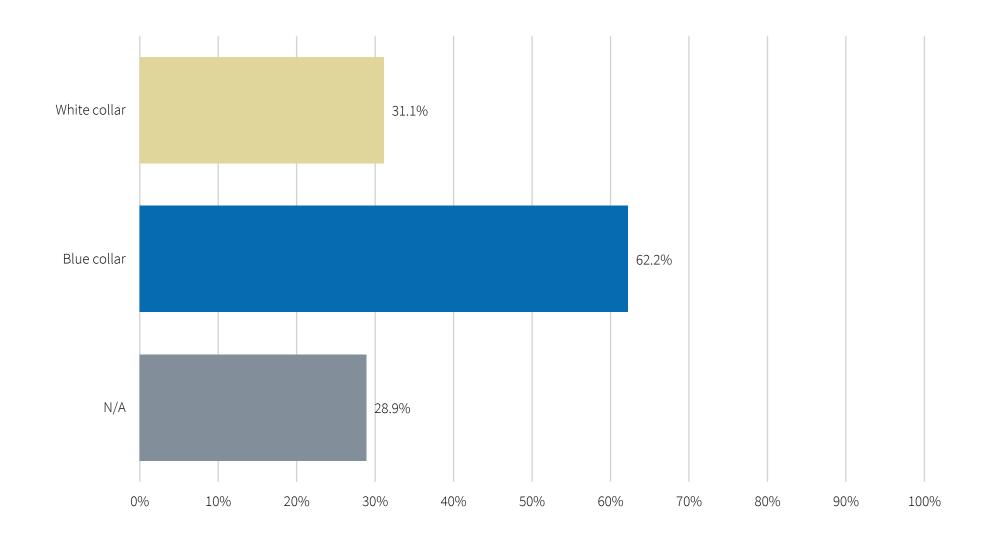
38.3. Housing Allowance





38.4. Overtime Wages

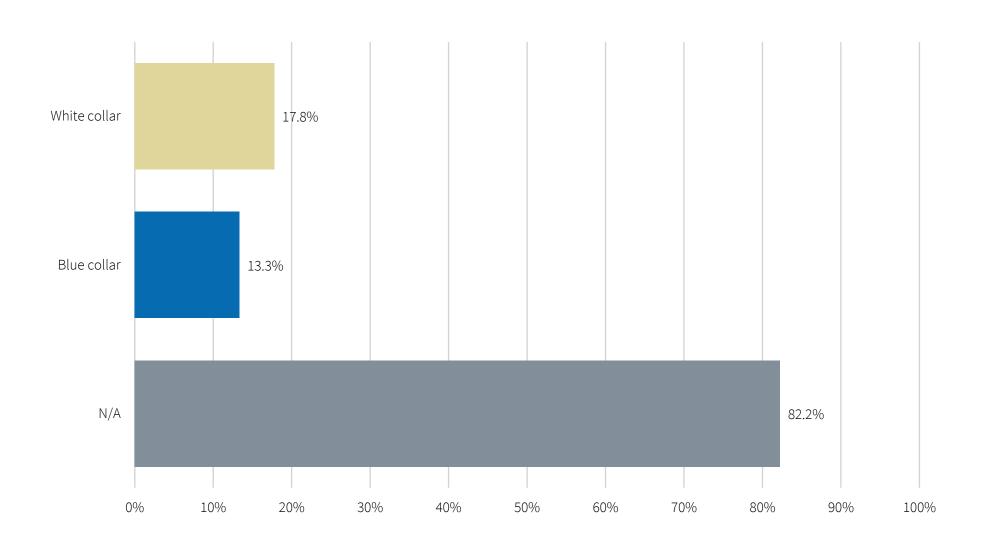




38.5. Re-location Allowance



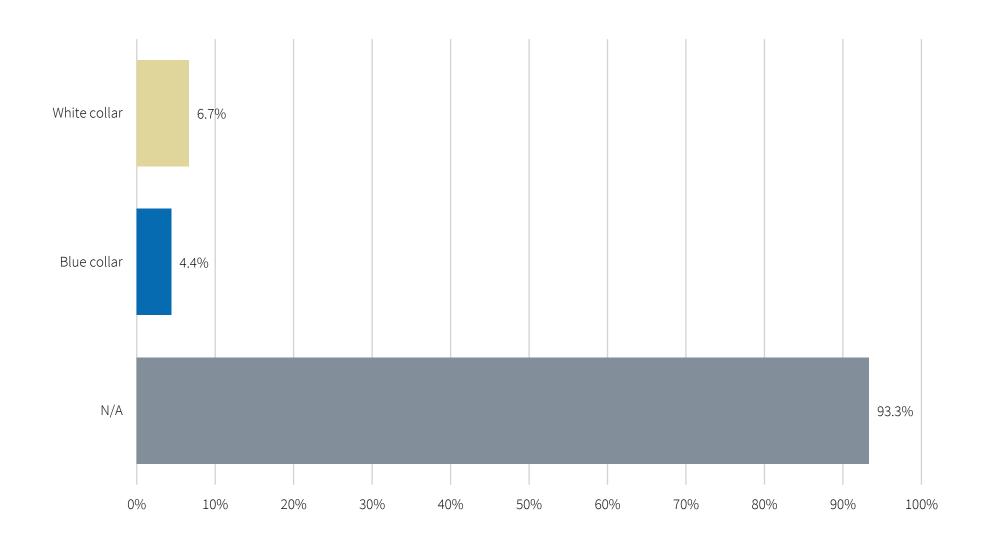








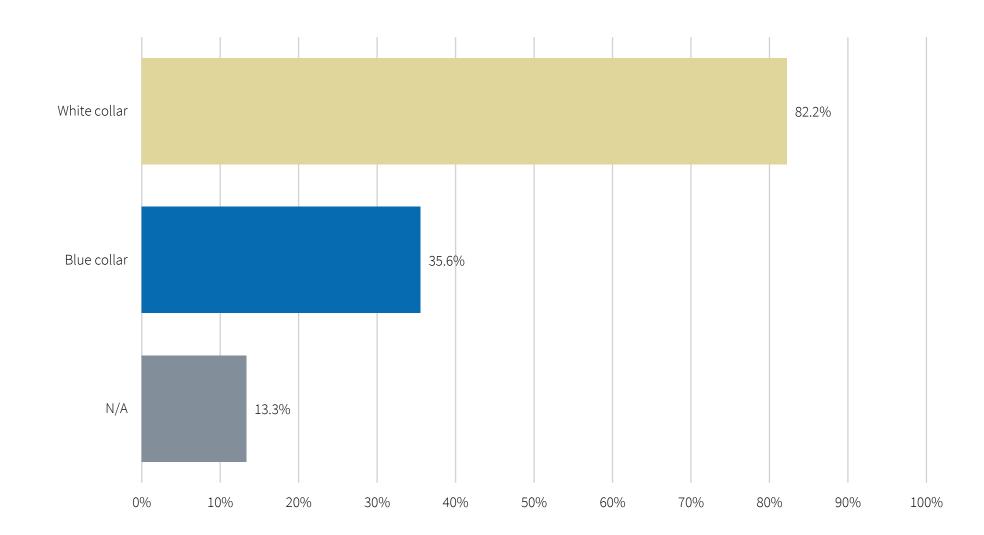
38.6. Schooling Allowance







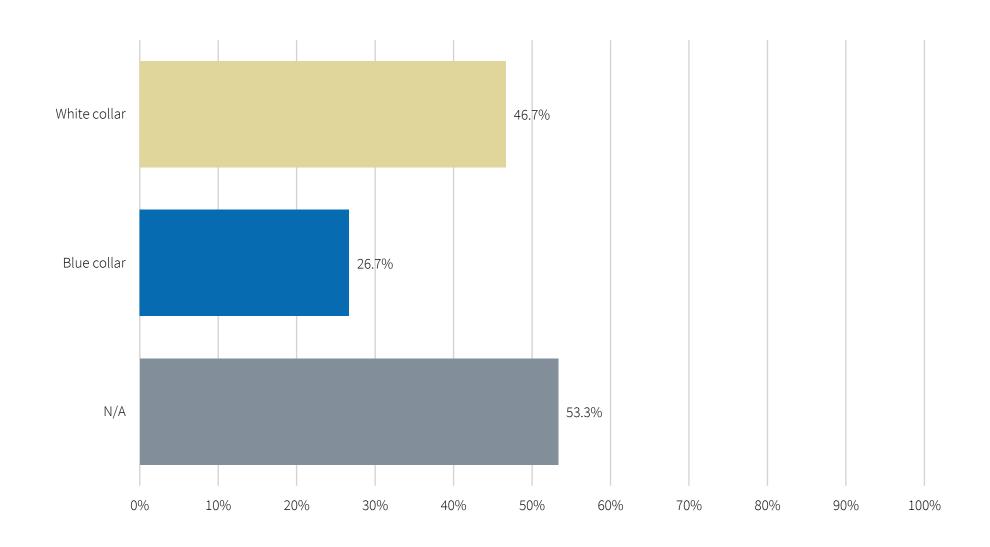
38.7. Telephone Allowance







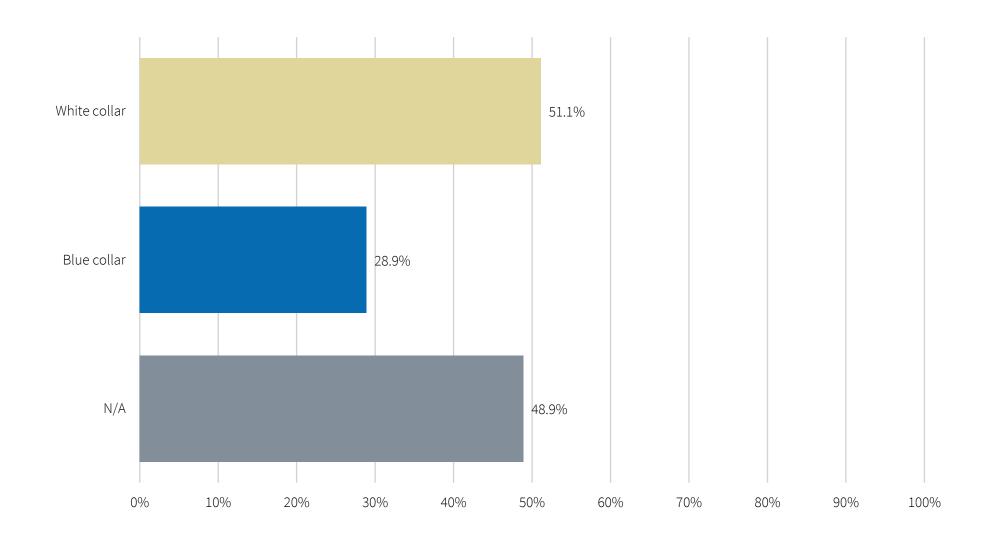
38.8. Training Allowance





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38.9. Transportation Allowance

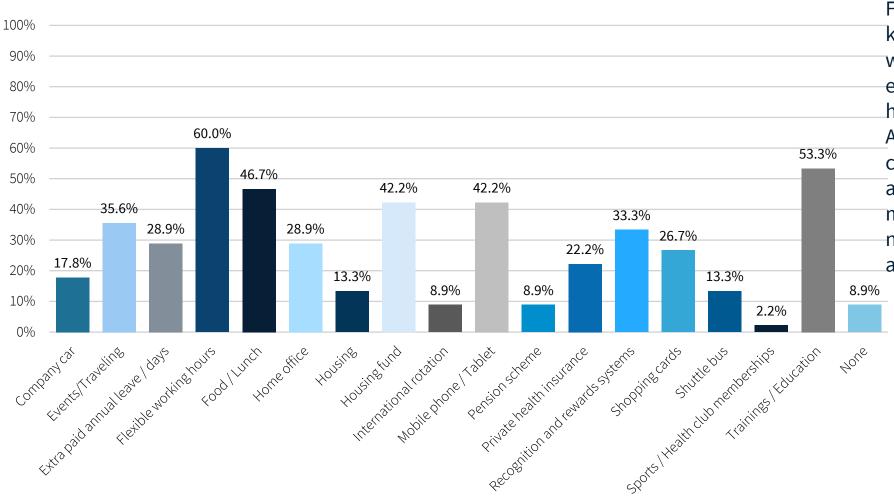




39. Does your company offer extraordinary benefits to retain key personnel? If so, please select all that apply.



HR- Remuneration, Employee Benefits and Incentives



Frequently offered benefits to key personnel are flexible working hours, training and education, meals in factories, housing fund contributions etc. A relatively small number of companies offer benefits such as job rotation, health club memberships, pension scheme; nearly 9% offer no such additional benefits.



Thank you for your attention!