



# 4th Global Coronavirus (Covid) Survey

We surveyed on the topics of business, health, behavior, access and government response on four occasions in 2020 as the world struggled with the pandemic.

This is the results of the 4th survey and also reveals how attitudes and opinions have changed.

**Matt Barrie**

Chief Executive Officer

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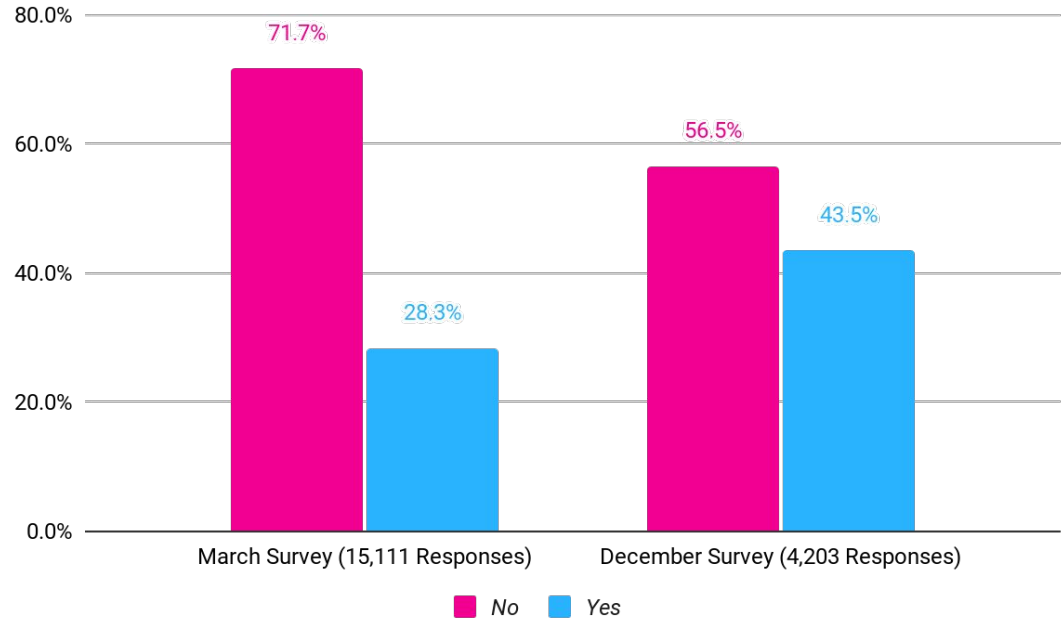
**Health**



# Are you currently in self-quarantine or confined to your home?

## How serious is covid-19 and when will it end?

When people answered the survey in March just 28% were in quarantine. That was before the first wave had taken hold, and the second or third waves had hit. As of December, when new lockdowns were ordered, 44% were in isolation when they answered the survey.

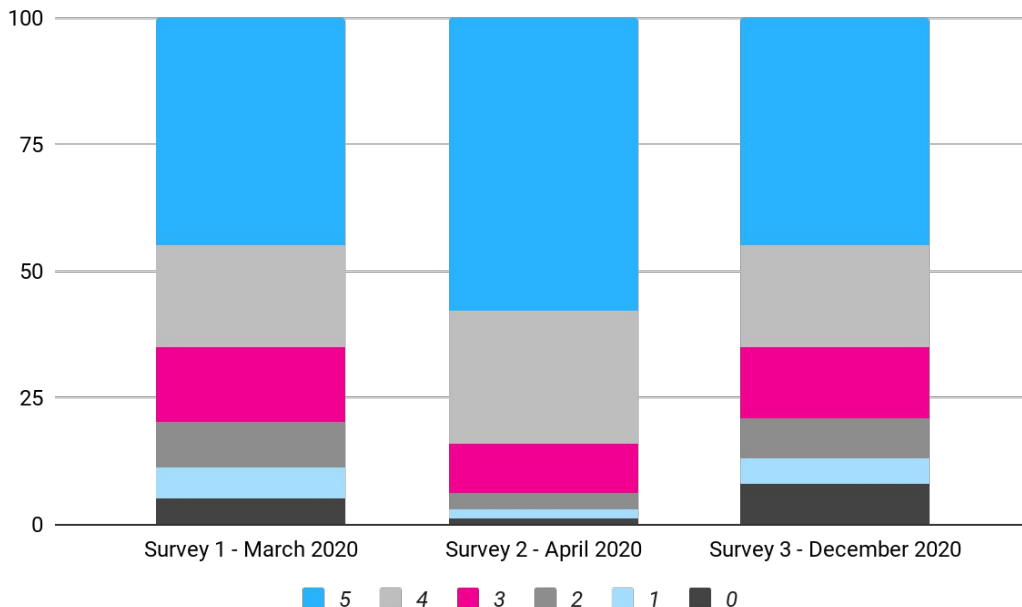




# How serious do you think the Coronavirus (nCov-19) threat is?

3 Surveys - 34,814 responses

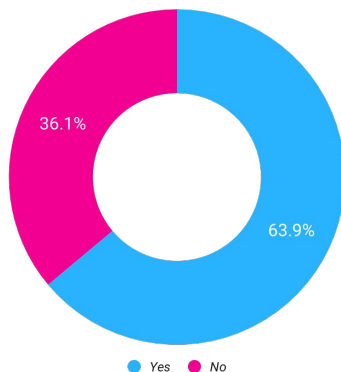
When asked to rate the seriousness of coronavirus on a scale of 0 to 5 at the beginning of the pandemic around 60% rated it 4 or 5 (very serious, extremely serious). As the virus spread and the impact of what was before us hit home that jumped to 85%. Despite a spiraling death toll and doubt about the efficacy of a vaccine in December that dropped back to 60%. Are we learning to live with covid-19?



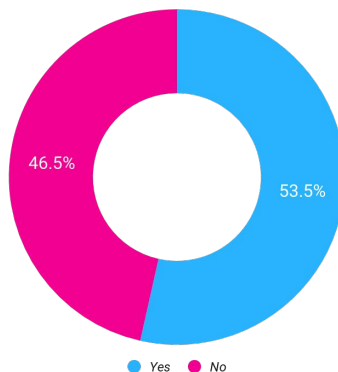
# Do you think that the threat globally is contained and the threat will soon be over?

Confidence that the threat is contained was originally high, but took a battering in April. Overall though people are optimistic, 58% believe we have it under control.

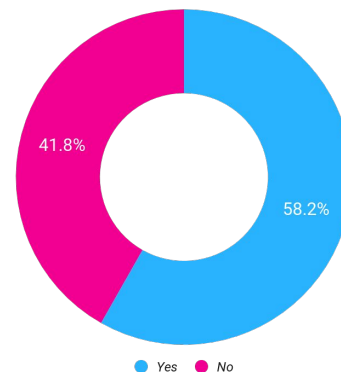
March Survey - 15,111 responses



April Survey - 15,500 responses



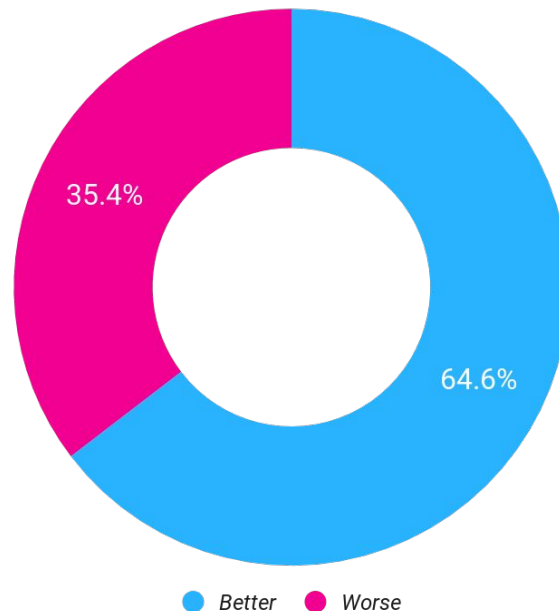
December Survey - 4,203 responses



# Despite vaccine optimism do you think the situation is getting better or worse?

4,203 responses

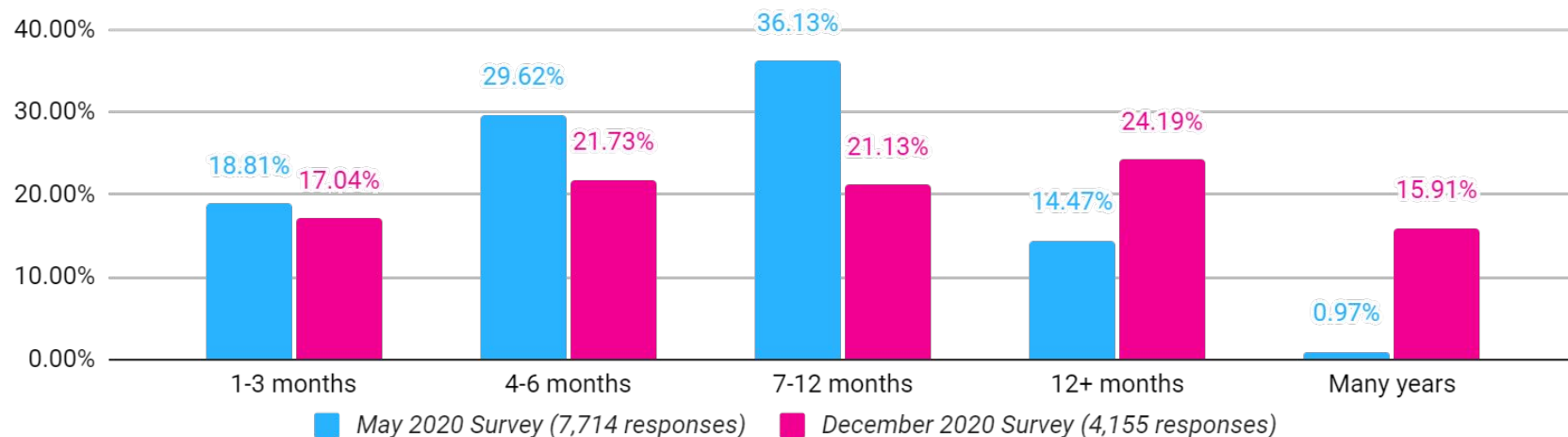
Which is also reflected with 65% believing the situation is getting better - even though deaths in the USA topped 30,000 in December and the UK went back into a hard lockdown to control the spread.





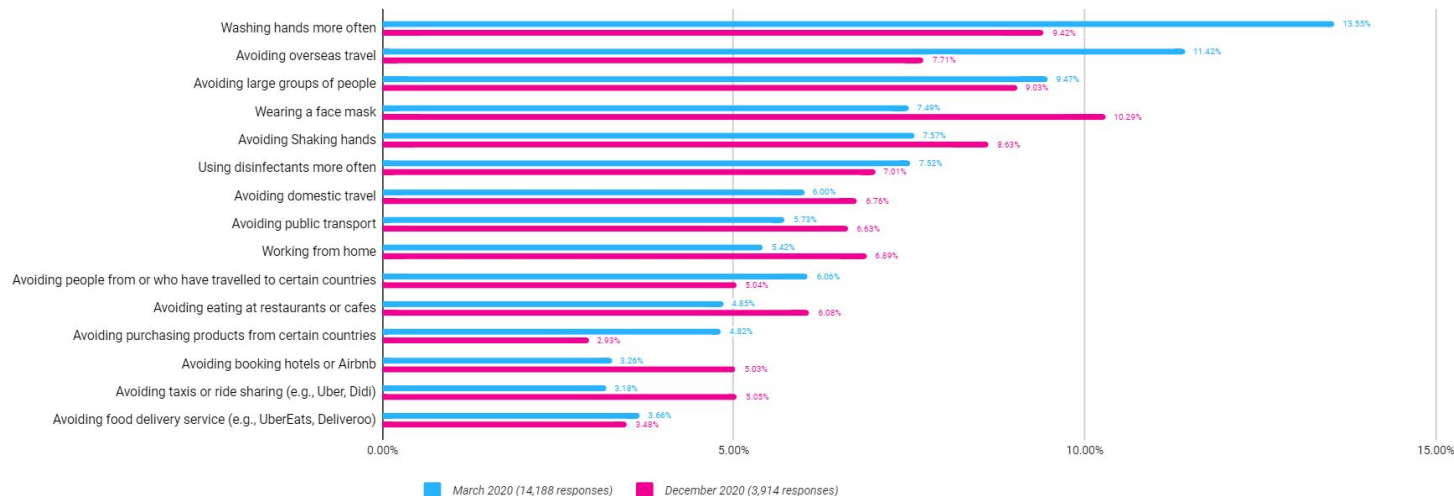
# How much longer do you think it will be necessary to have mandated precautions to stop the spread of Covid-19?

30% of respondents believed it will be in the second half of 2021 before mandatory precautions are lifted. Significantly more than half as many believed it will be 2022 before the masks come off.



# Have you changed your behaviour in any of these ways in response to the Coronavirus (nCov-19)? Please tick any

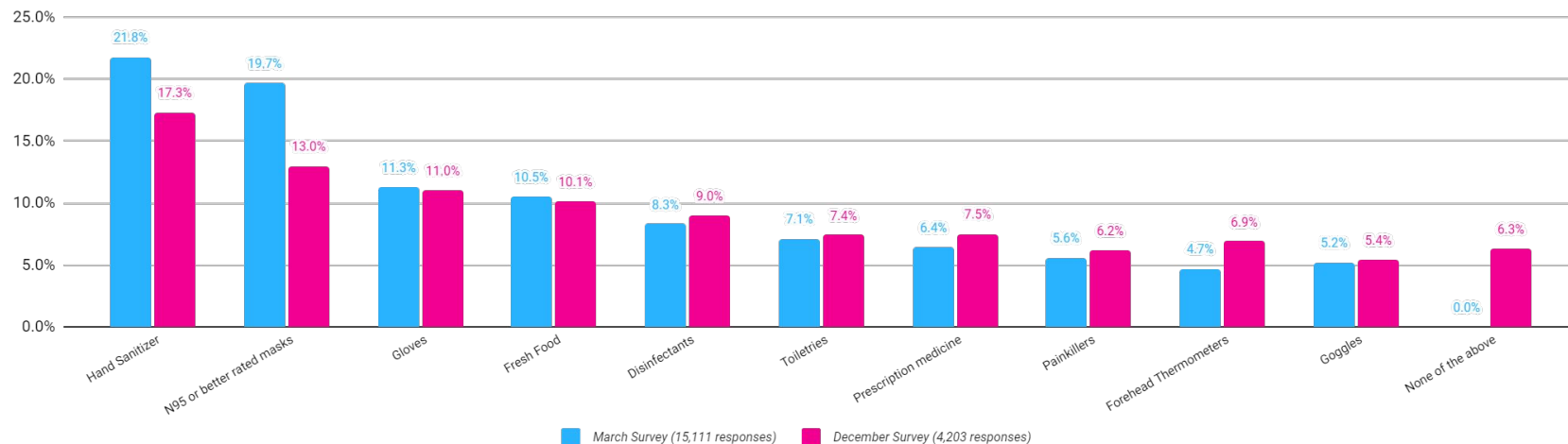
When it comes to personal precautions we have learned since the beginning of the pandemic that face masks are essential, shaking hands is definitely a no-no, and taxis and ride-sharing might be a risk.



# Have stores in your local area sold out of any of the following?

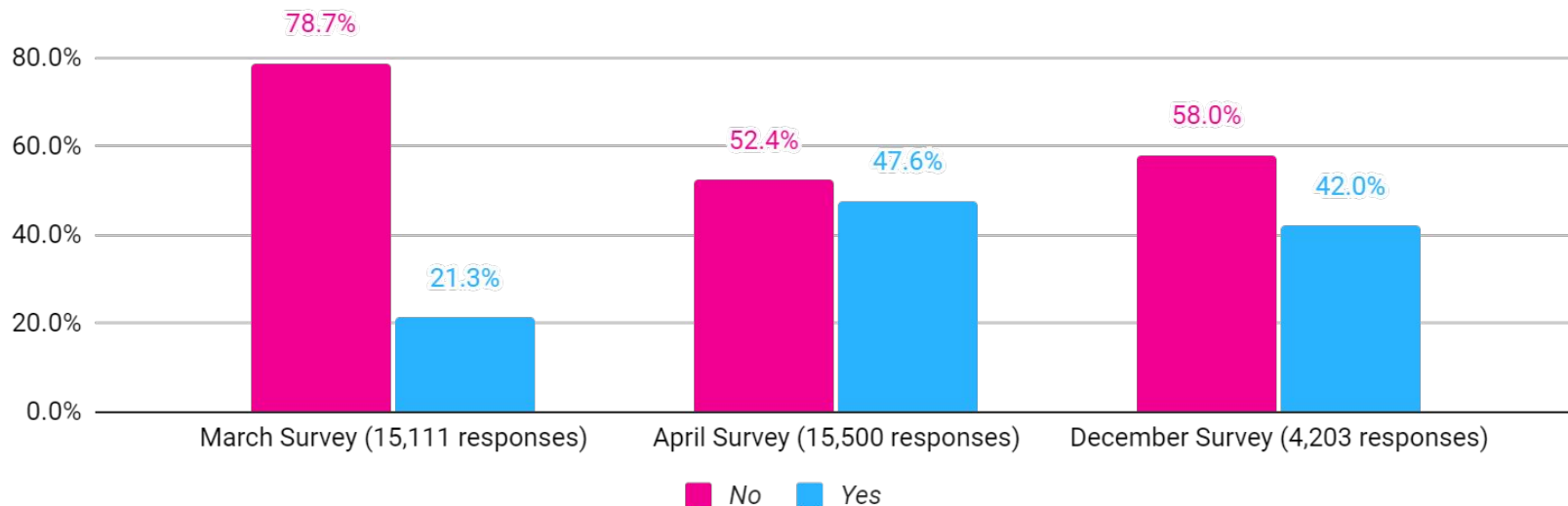
Please tick all that apply.

Hand sanitizer and PPE is still hard to come by, but easier than back in March. Although toiletries, medicines, and head thermometers are more troublesome to locate now.



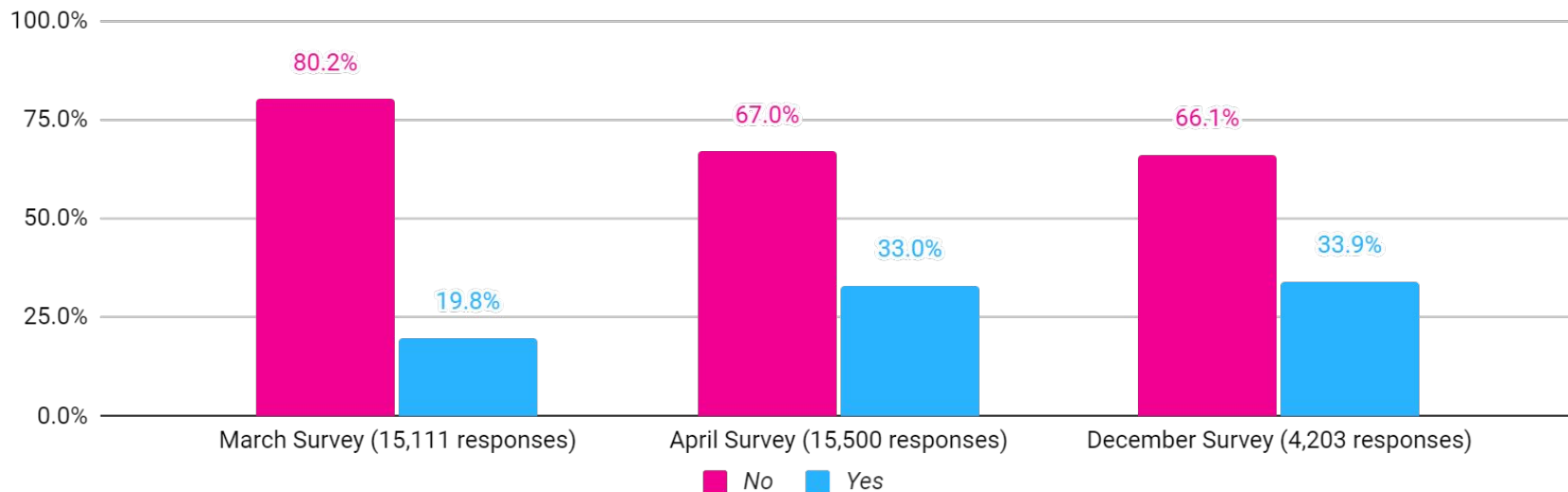
# Are there long queues (30min+ wait times) at your local supermarket?

Queues at supermarkets, pharmacies and hospitals don't seem to be going away.



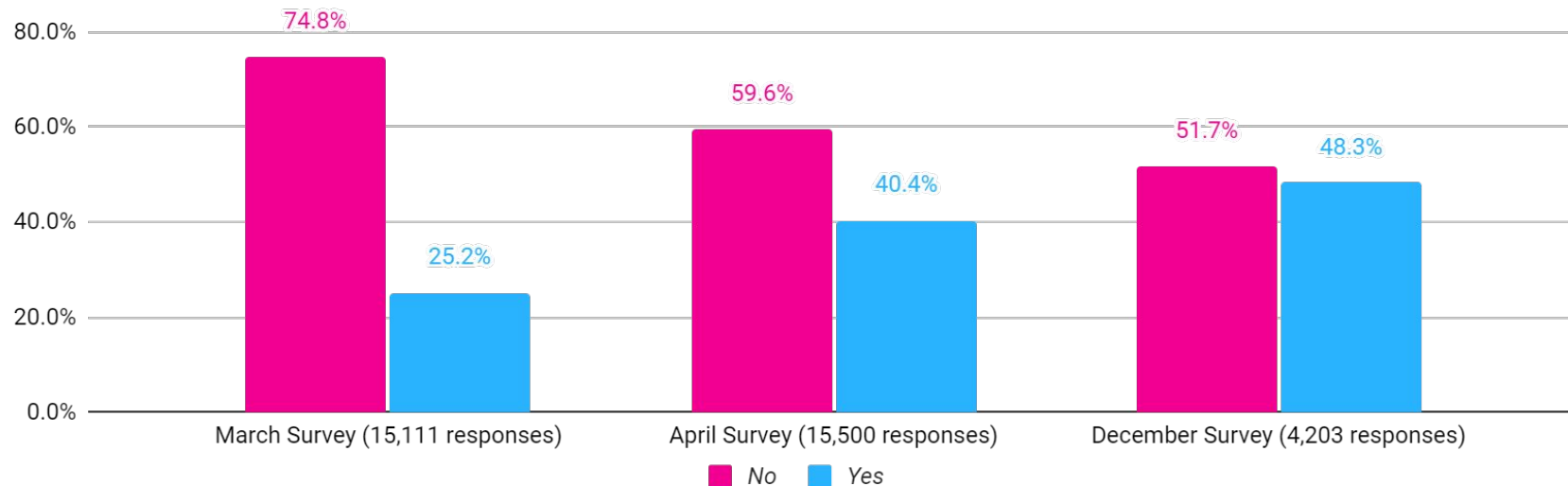
# Are there long queues (30min+ wait times) at your local pharmacist?

Queues at supermarkets, pharmacies and hospitals don't seem to be going away.



# Is there a long wait time (2 hours+) to access your local hospital?

Queues at supermarkets, pharmacies and hospitals don't seem to be going away.

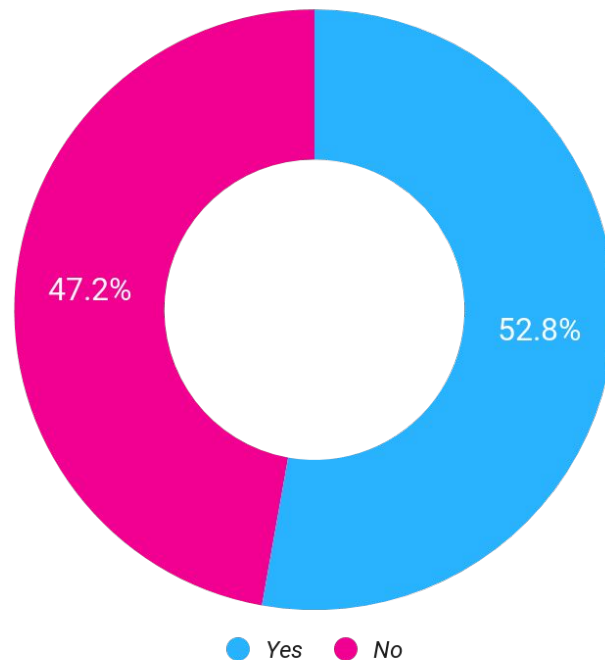




# Do you think one particular country is to blame for Covid-19?

3,843 responses

Just over half think one country is responsible.



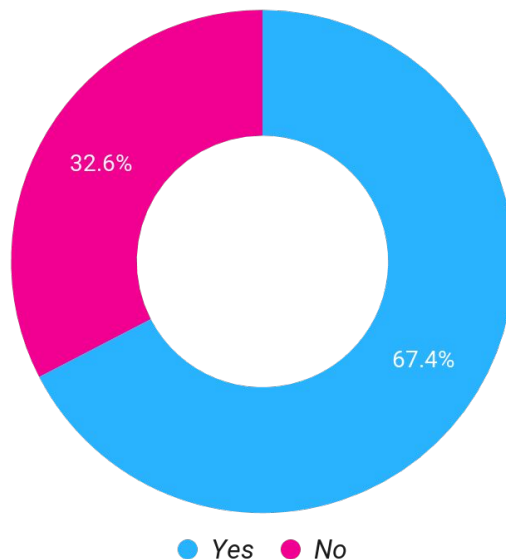
A night scene at a port or industrial area. In the foreground, a security booth with a red and white striped top and a black body stands on a concrete base. A black barrier arm is extended horizontally across the road in front of the booth. To the right of the booth, a single orange and white traffic cone is placed on the asphalt. In the background, a long, low industrial building with several lit windows and doors is visible. Further back, more industrial structures and lights are scattered across the dark night sky. The overall atmosphere is dark and industrial.

# Vaccines

# If the FDA (or your local health authority) said it had a vaccine that was effective, totally safe, painless, and freely available at no cost would you take it?

4,147 responses

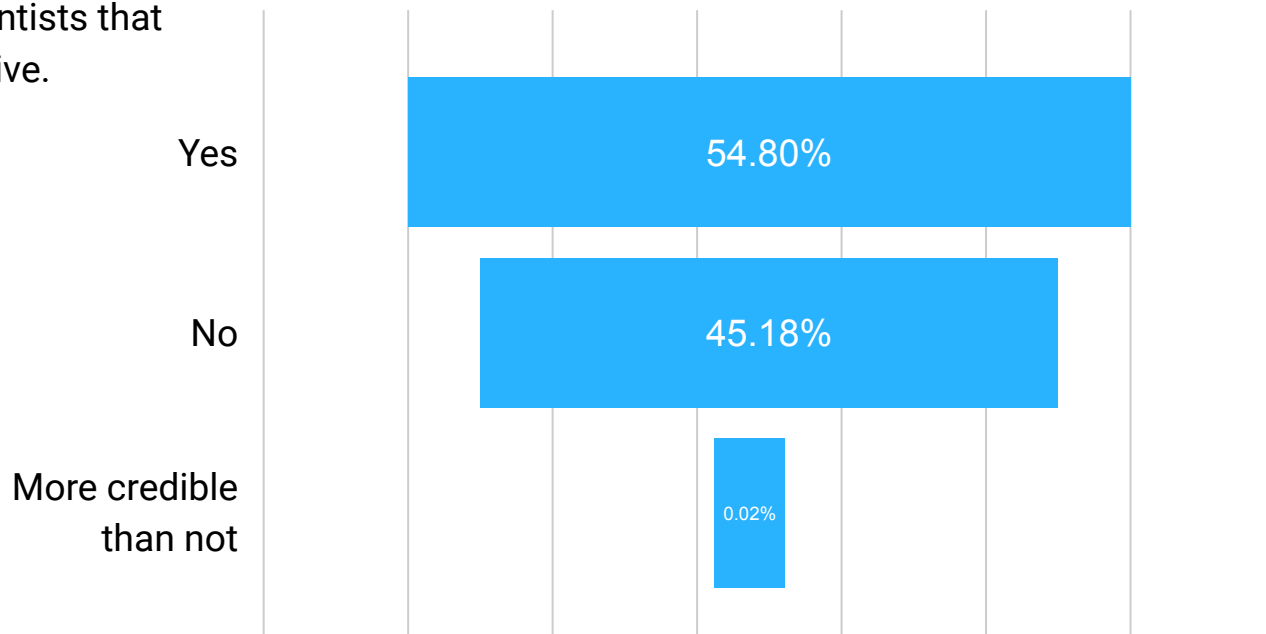
Encouragingly 66% of respondents said they would take a safe, painless and free vaccine if it were available.



# Do you find claims that a vaccine is over 90% effective credible?

4,104 responses

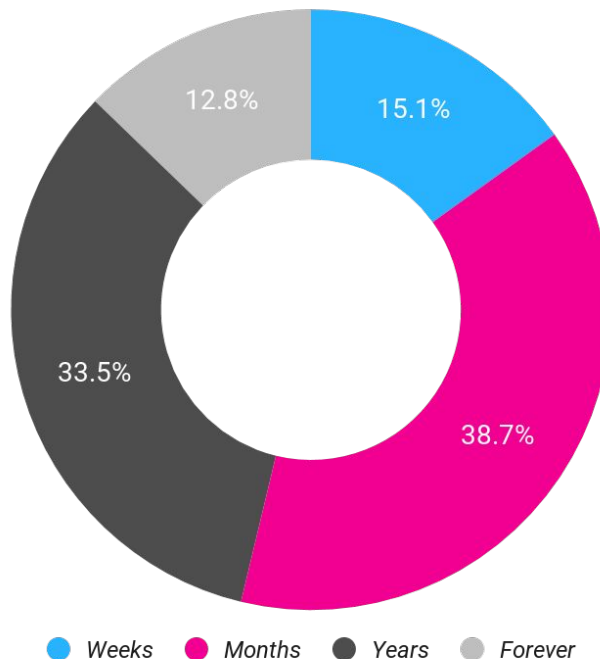
55% take the word of scientists that it is more than 90% effective.



# How long do you think a particular vaccine will be effective?

4,086 responses

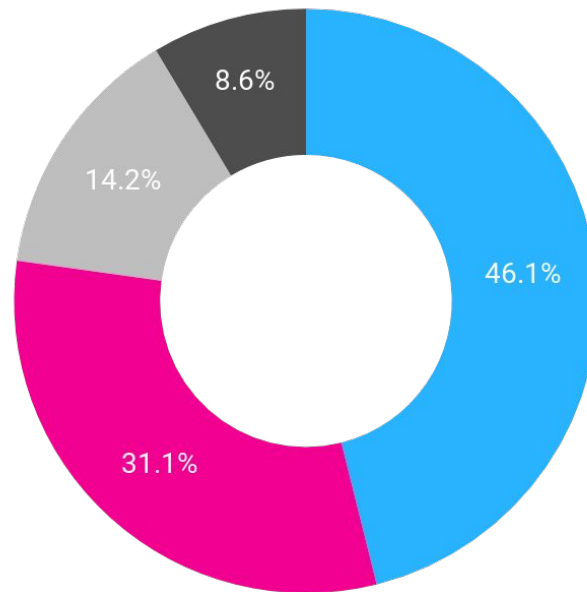
And believe it will be effective for months or even years.



# How soon after a vaccine is available would you get it?

4,084 responses

But it seems we're sceptical that it will be safe. Only a third said they'd get vaccinated immediately and almost 50% said they'd wait until others have had it and it's proven to be safe.



- *I'm not getting it until enough people have taken it and I think it's safe*
- *Immediately*
- *After a year*
- *Only if there's a new outbreak in my area*

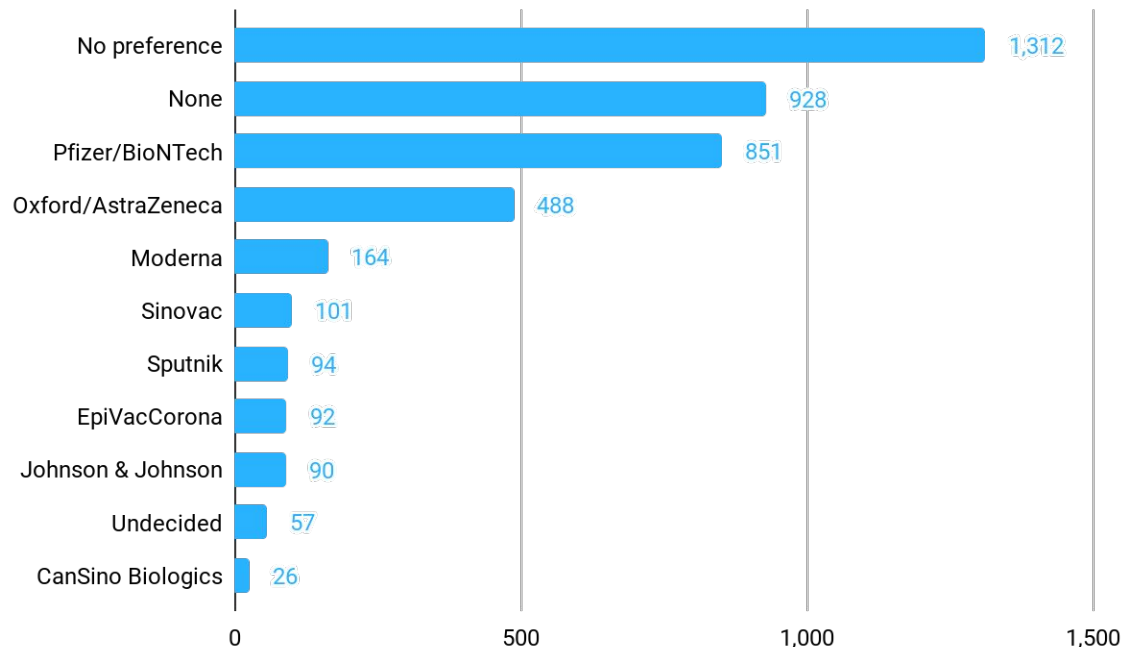


# Which vaccine would you prefer to take?

4,203 responses

So where does that leave us with competing vaccines - 30% had no preference and would accept any vaccine. 20% preferred the Pfizer/ BioNtech vaccine.

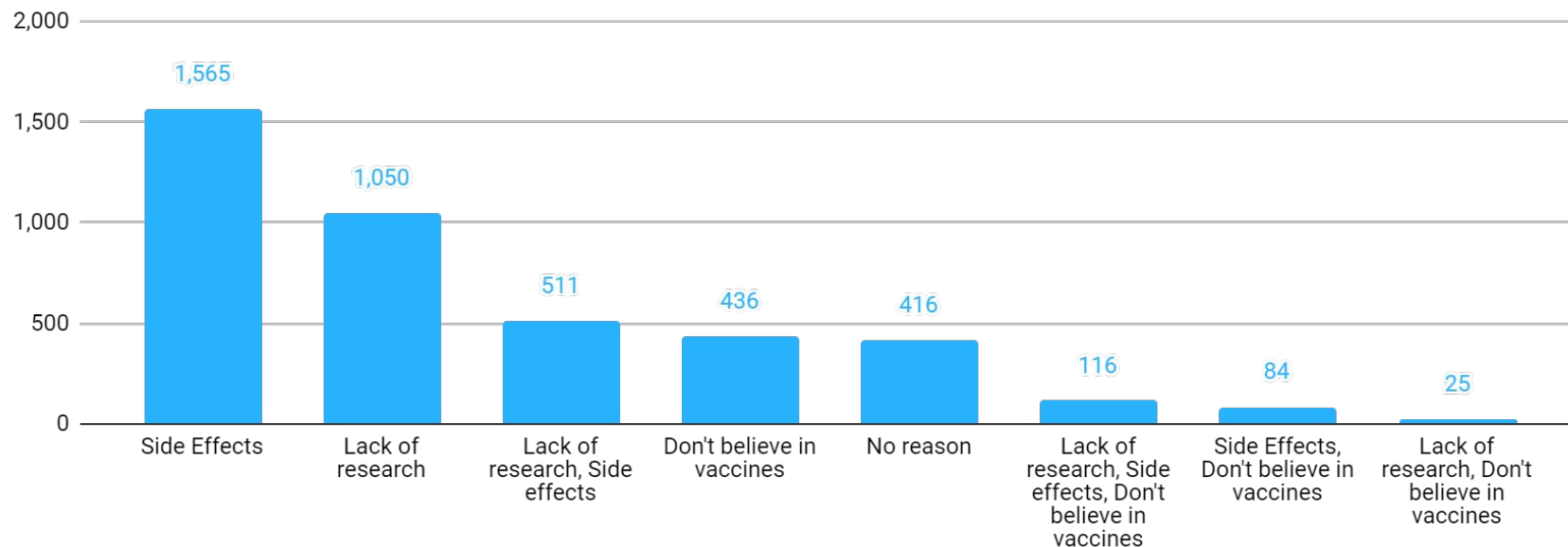
However there are 22% who will not take any vaccine...



# If you would not take the vaccine, what is your reason?

4,203 responses

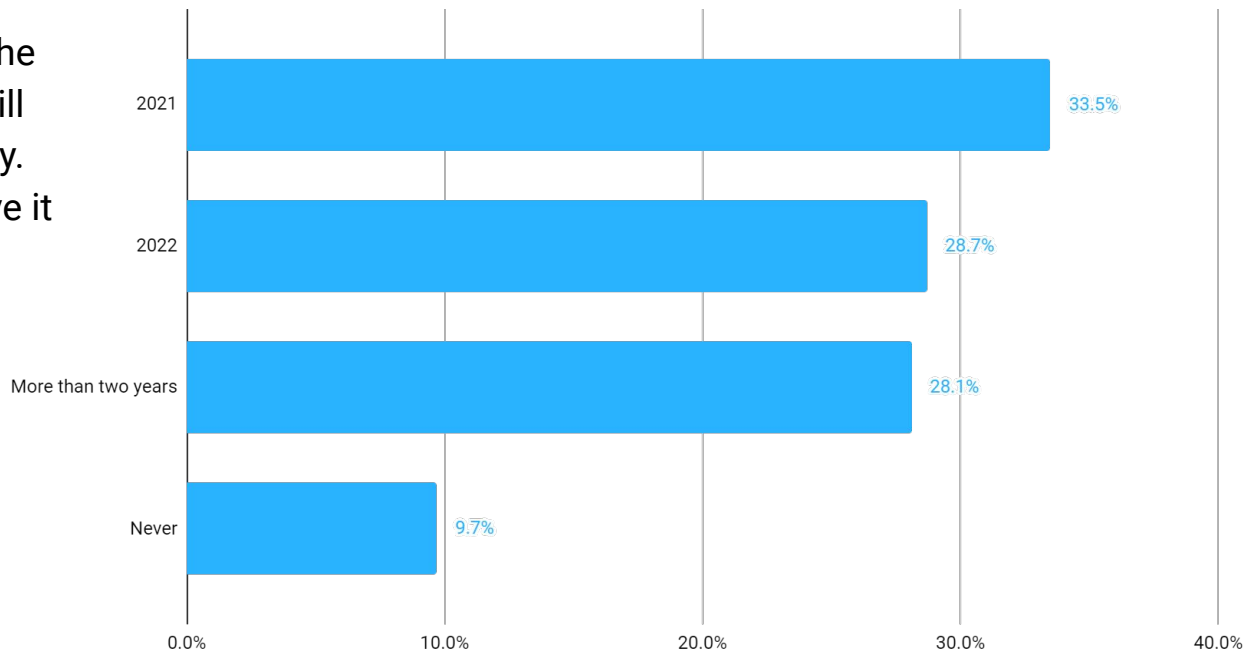
...citing side effects, lack of research or a combination of those reasons for refusing it.



# How soon do you think the world will attain “herd immunity”?

4,124 responses

One-third of people believe the vaccine programs in 2021 will achieve global herd immunity. That rises to 60% who believe it will be by the end of 2022.



**Business**

THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR THE PRESERVATION OF DEMOCRACY  
IS

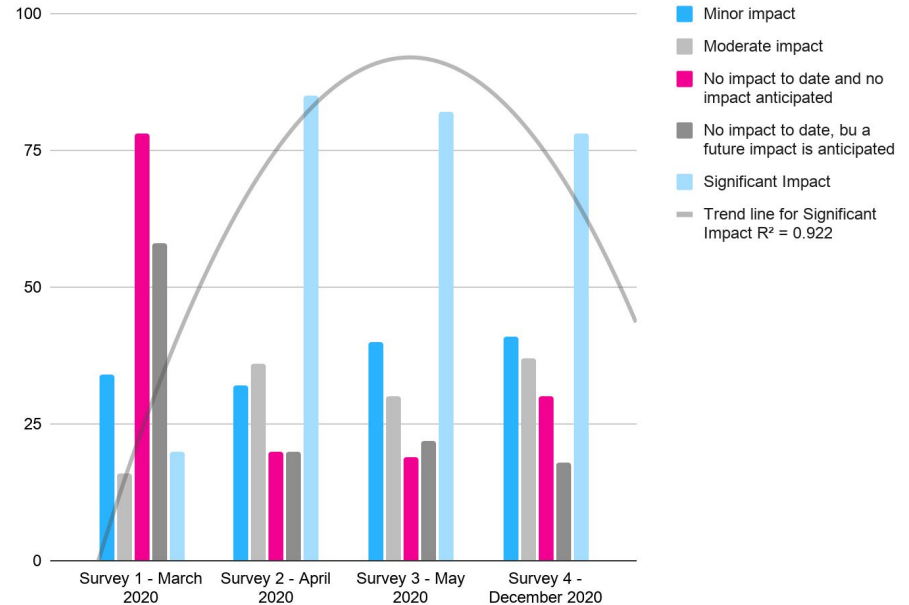
**CLOSED**

# Is your business experiencing any impact?

When asked about the impact of covid-19 on their business there's a familiar story. Perhaps it was optimism, or disbelief in March, but most businesses had felt no impact, and significantly, many expect no impact in future.

It was a different story as the crisis deepened and the world's freelancers and the companies which employ them suffered a downturn.

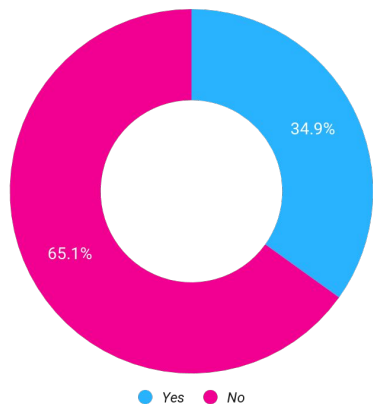
10 months later and some optimism has returned. The number of businesses reporting significant impact has fallen, Those rating the impact as minor or moderate have risen, and the green bar, businesses who survived with no impact are expecting it to stay that way in the future.



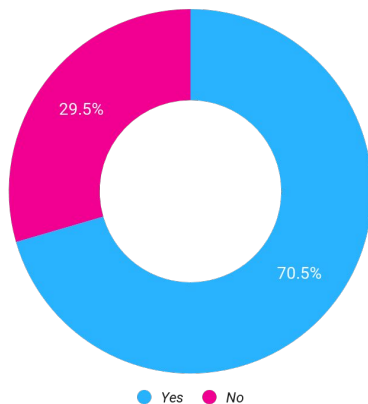
# Are you having trouble getting products from your suppliers?

In the middle of the pandemic as many as 75% of businesses said they were having trouble getting products from suppliers. It remains a problem for more than half of businesses at the end of 2020.

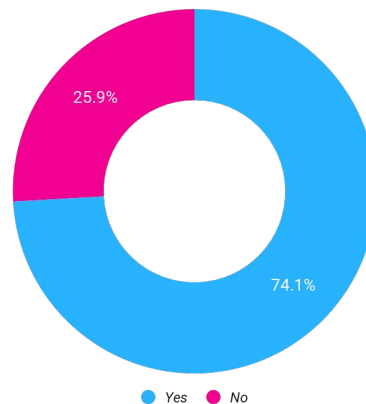
March 2020



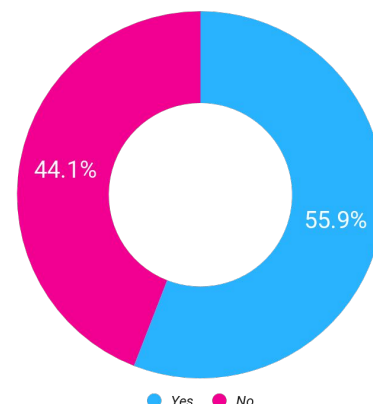
April 2020



May 2020



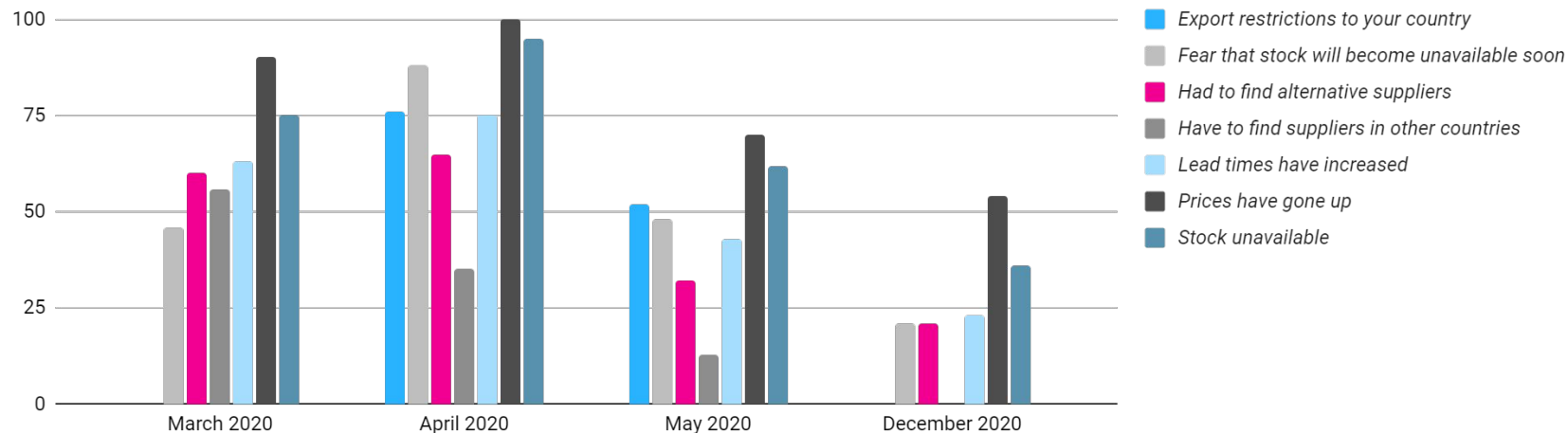
December 2020





# Please tick the boxes that apply in respect to issues in getting products from your suppliers

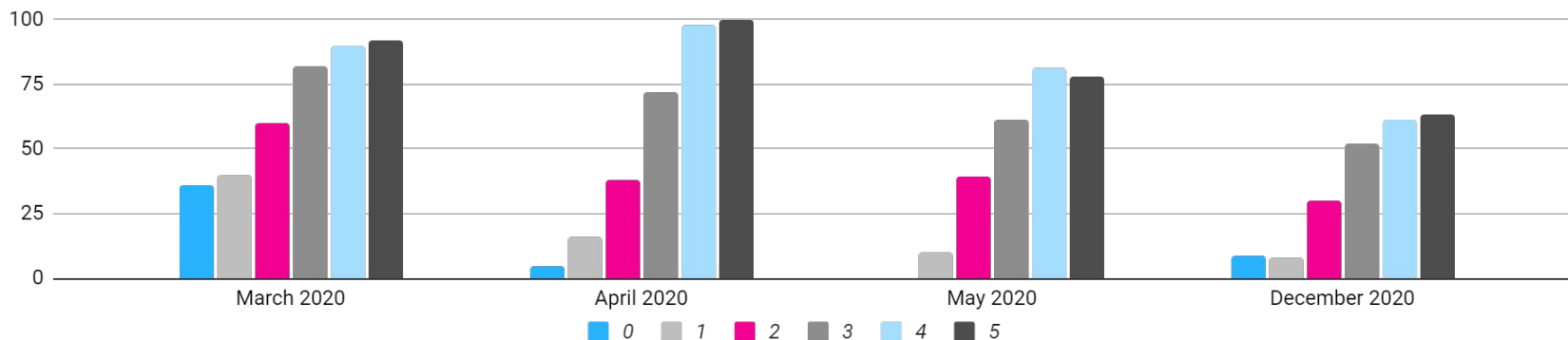
The main reason, the price of goods has skyrocketed, stocks are in short supply and lead times for delivery have grown.



# More generally, how seriously on a scale of 0 to 5 do you think the Covid-19 will affect the global supply chain?

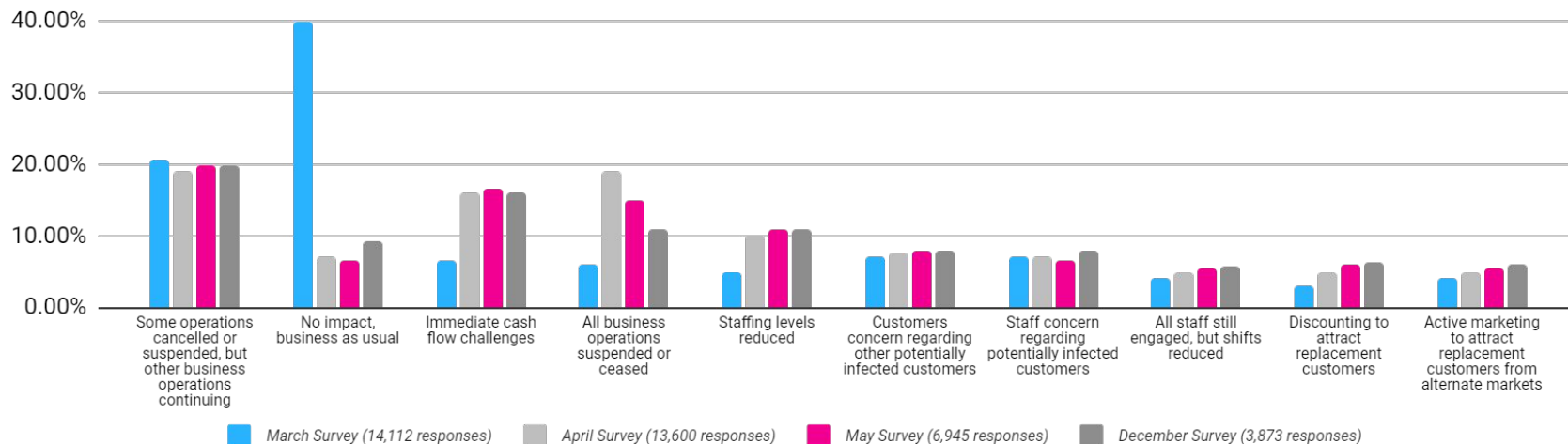
0=no impact, 5= extremely serious

While global supply chain problems are easing, most think the situation is very serious to extremely serious.



# What impact is Covid-19 having on your business?

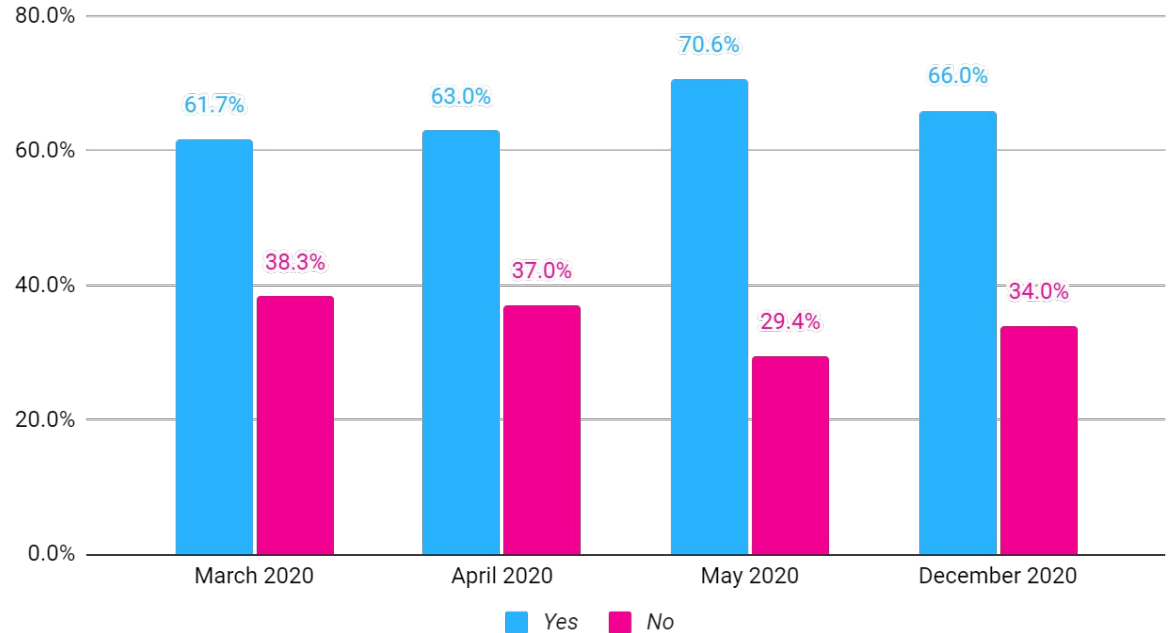
In this chart we see the impact covid-19 has had on regular jobs. Only 16% of businesses said it was BAU. 1 in 5 cancelled or suspended some operations but kept going. 13% simply shut down. 9% reduced staffing levels. 5% kept on all staff but reduced their hours (and wages).



# Will you be increasing your use of freelancers online instead of hiring full time staff?

4 Surveys - 42,528 responses

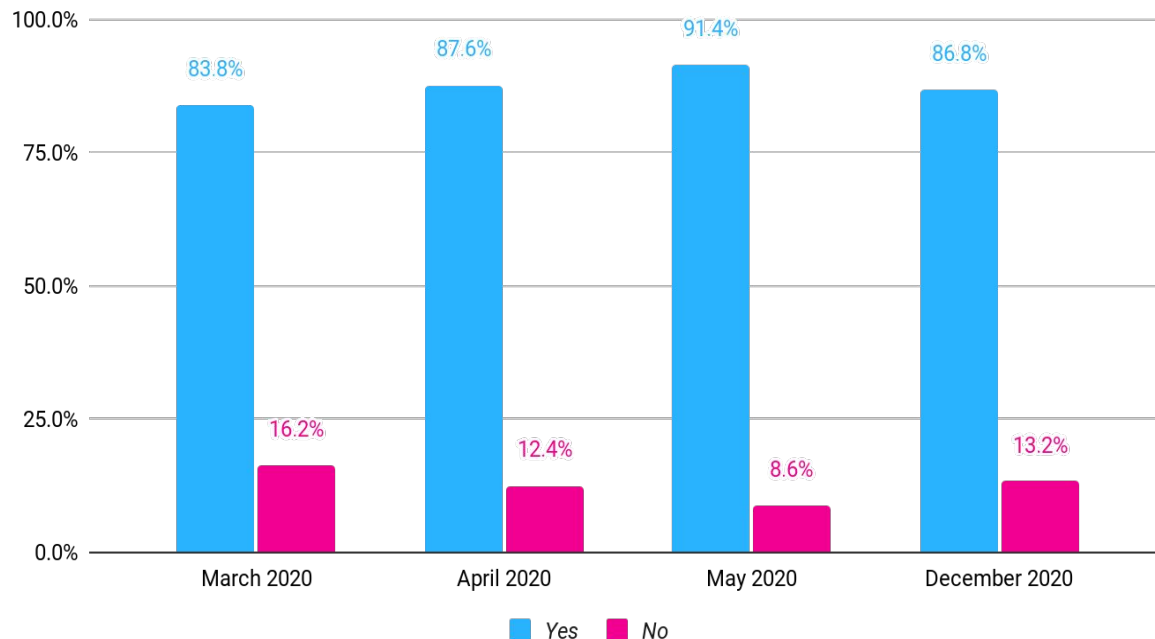
With money tight, but with jobs still to be done 64% of businesses said they'd hire freelancers rather than full-time staff.



# Will you be freelancing more online to increase your income?

4 Surveys - 42,528 responses

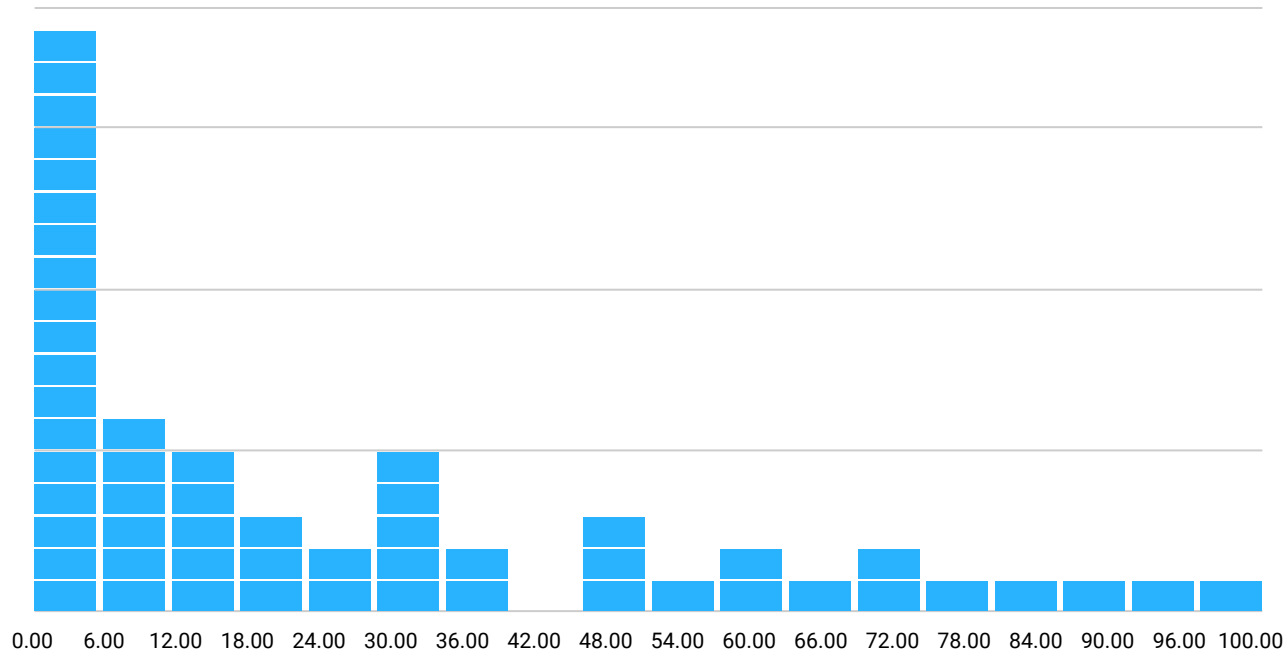
From the top levels of the executive suite to the mail room in the basement almost everyone felt the pinch in 2020, and the millions of freelancers around the world were no different. 87% said they would have to increase their freelancing hours to make up for lost income.



# How many months saving do you have at present?

Histogram based on December 2020 survey responses

And here's why, very few could survive on their savings for longer than 6 months.

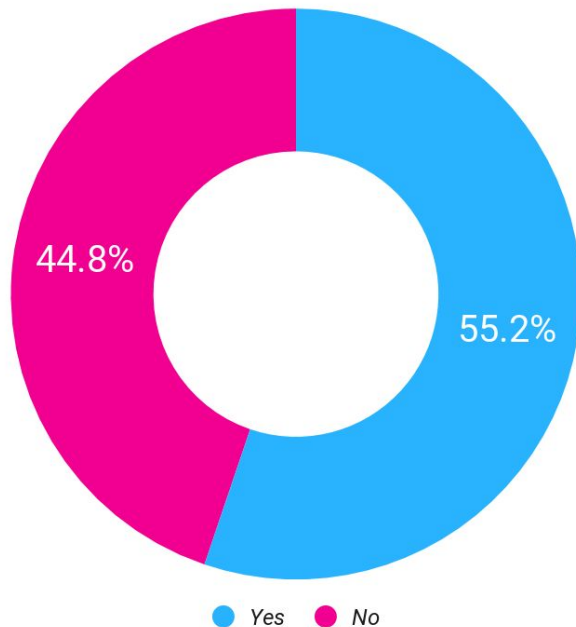




# Do you think it makes sense that the US stock market is hitting all-time highs right now?

3,753 responses

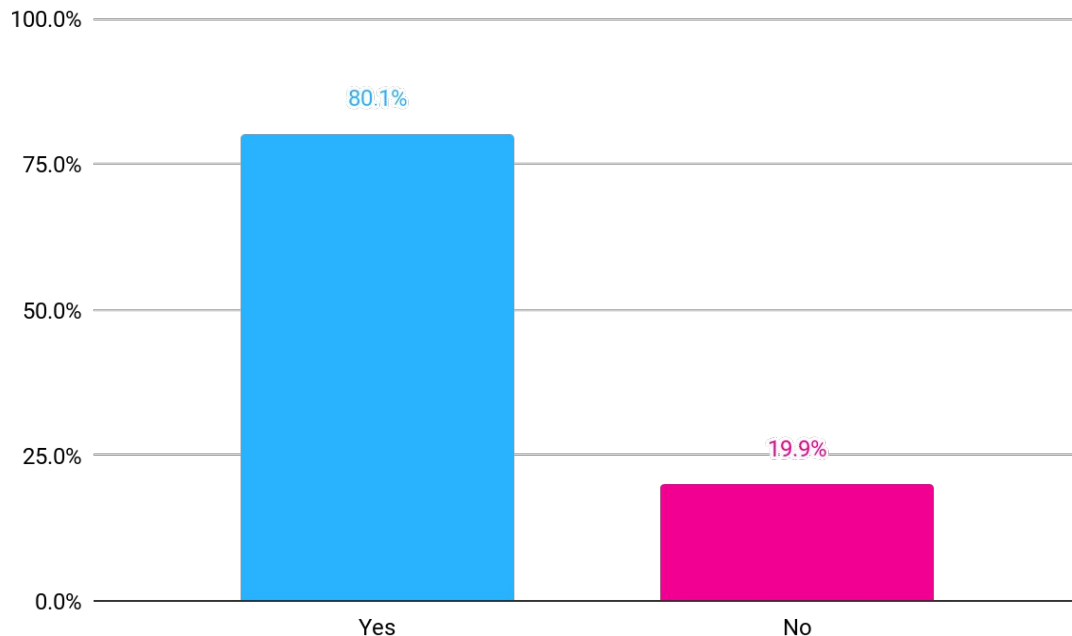
In the middle of the biggest financial crisis since the GFC, with thousands out of work, businesses muzzled, and travel - which used to contribute 10% of global GDP - going nowhere, the stock market in the US is booming. It doesn't make sense to many economists, but our respondents disagree.



# Do you think there should be more monetary stimulus from central banks?

3,778 responses

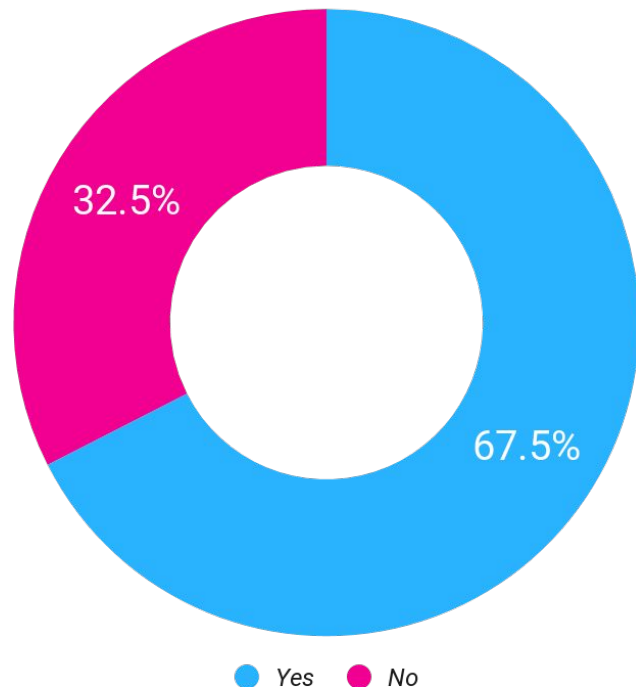
Maybe it's because of all the stimulus bonuses, financial support programs and recovery packages being splashed about. People seem to like it, and want more.



# Do you think the world will head into a great depression in the next year or two?

3,778 responses

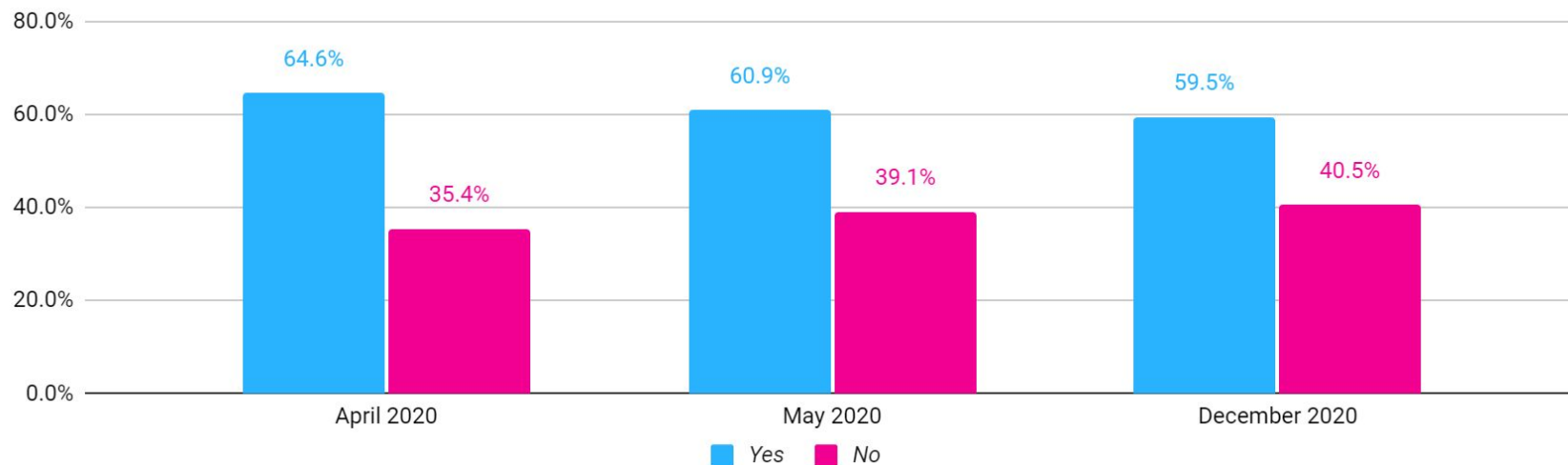
What goes up, and up, and up,  
must come down, or so say 67%  
of respondents.



# Would you prefer your local currency over gold?

3 surveys - 25,582 responses

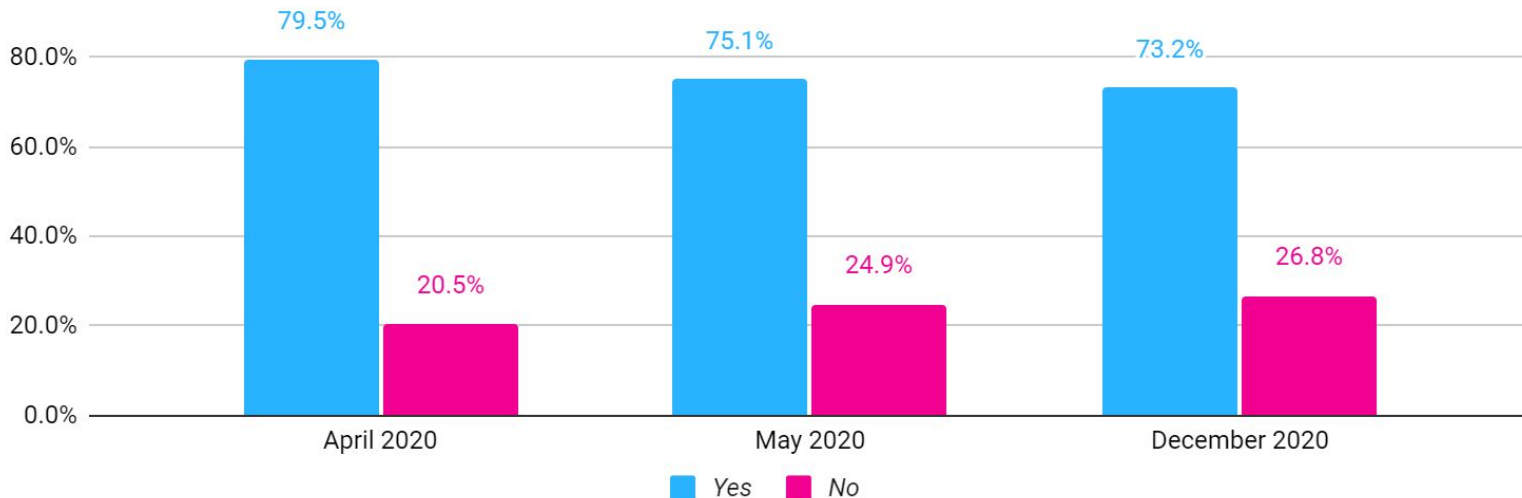
That fear has not translated into a flight away from vulnerable currency into safer commodities. The preference for gold has risen just 5% since mid-2020, and Bitcoin 6%.



# Would you prefer your local currency over Bitcoin?

3 surveys - 25,362 responses

That fear has not translated into a flight away from vulnerable currency into safer commodities. The preference for gold has risen just 5% since mid-2020, and Bitcoin 6%.

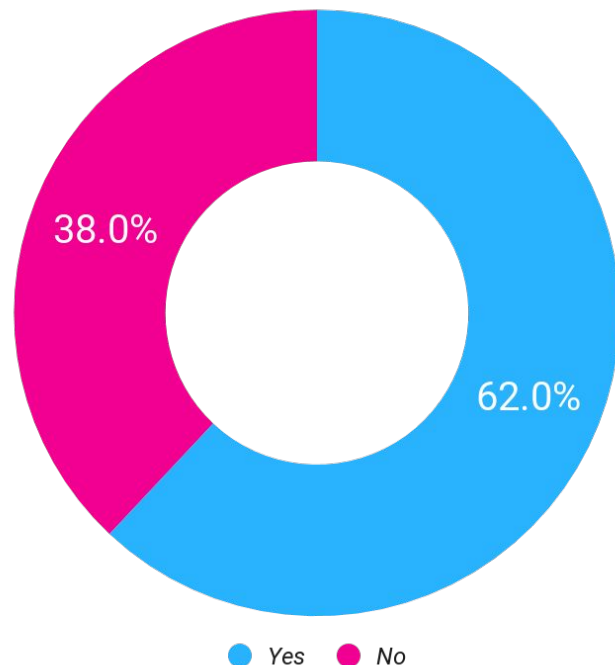


# Do you think Covid has been beneficial for the environment?

3,866 responses

Overwhelmingly our users would like to see the world economy work differently in future. A huge 82% agreed with the World Economic Forum proposal for “a Great Reset” where we refocus economically on mutual progress, and environmental initiatives.

Maybe the gameStop/WallStBets saga is just the start of a peoples’ revolution?



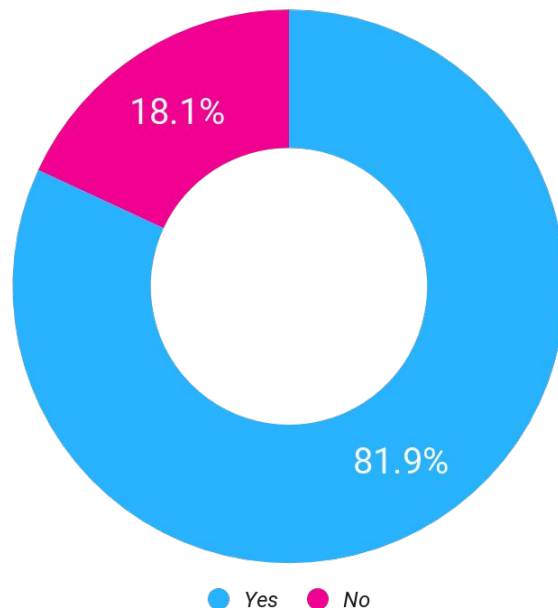
# Do you think a “Great Reset” is needed?

(The Great Reset is a proposal by the World Economic Forum to focus on sustainable economic development, mutual progress and environmental initiatives.)

3,798 responses

Overwhelmingly our users would like to see the world economy work differently in future. A huge 82% agreed with the World Economic Forum proposal for “a Great Reset” where we refocus economically on mutual progress, and environmental initiatives.

Maybe the gameStop/WallStBets saga is just the start of a peoples’ revolution?



# The future of work

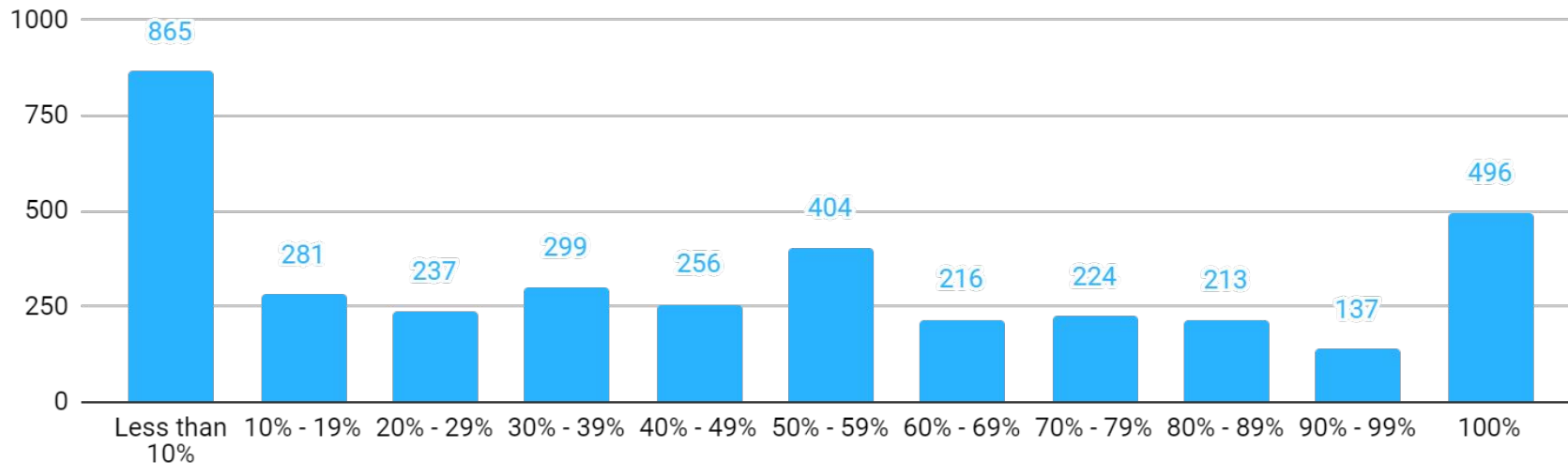




# What percentage of your workforce is back at work?

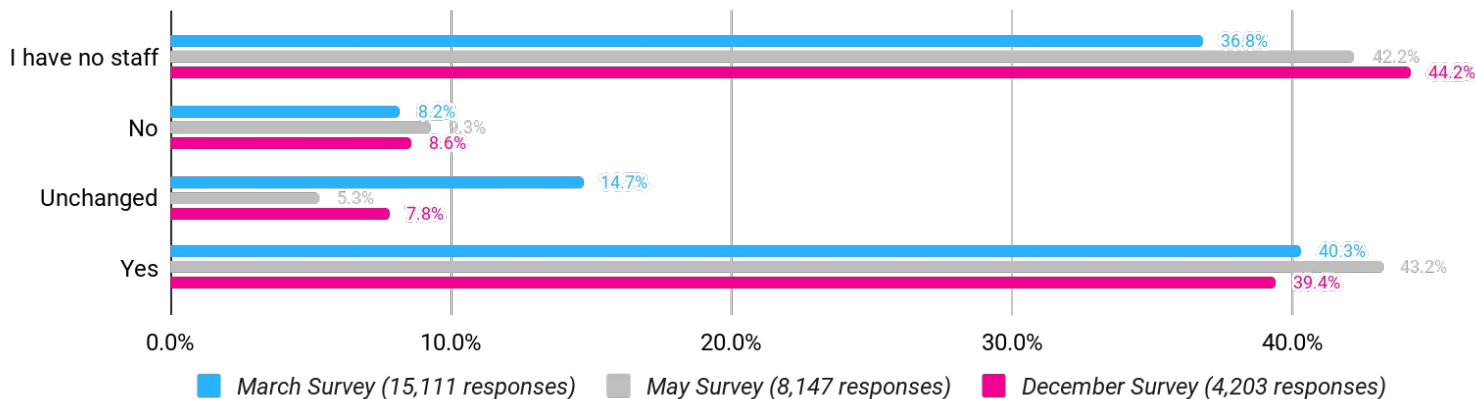
3,628 responses

2021 may be the year we slowly head back to the office, but as of December 2020 a quarter of businesses had less than 10% of staff back on premises.



# Will you let your staff work from home more as a result of Covid-19?

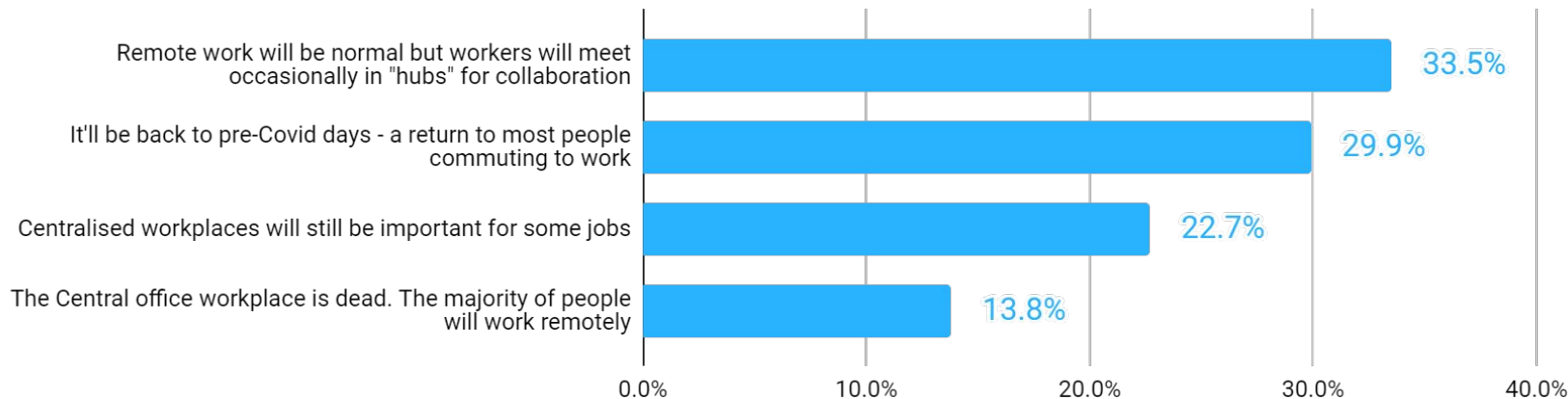
Of those respondents who have staff, 49% said they would continue to allow staff to work from home in future. That rises to 82% of businesses when including workplaces that already allow work-from-home.



# Thinking ahead a few years, what change in the workplace do you anticipate?

3,763 responses

We asked our users what they thought work would look like in the future. Nearly 30% thought we'd be back to the 9-to-5 commute when the pandemic is over. Slightly more thought there'd be more time at home and "hubs" for collaboration. A smaller proportion (13%) have declared the office is dead.



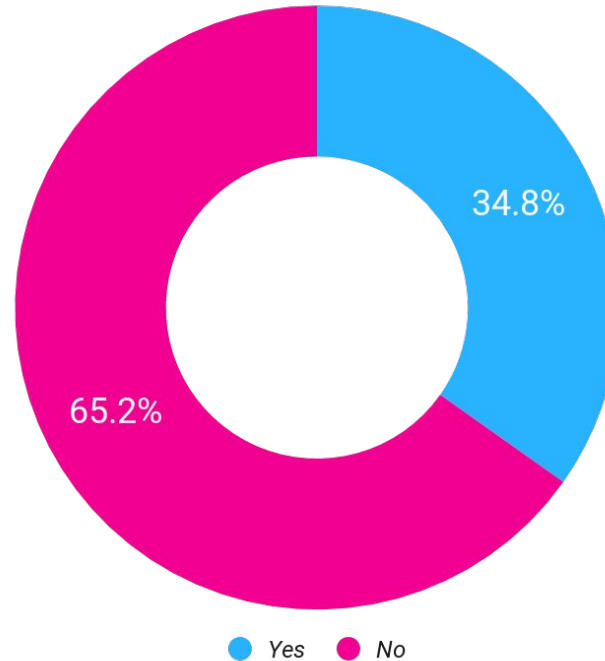
# US Election



# Do you think the US election was rigged?

3,774 responses

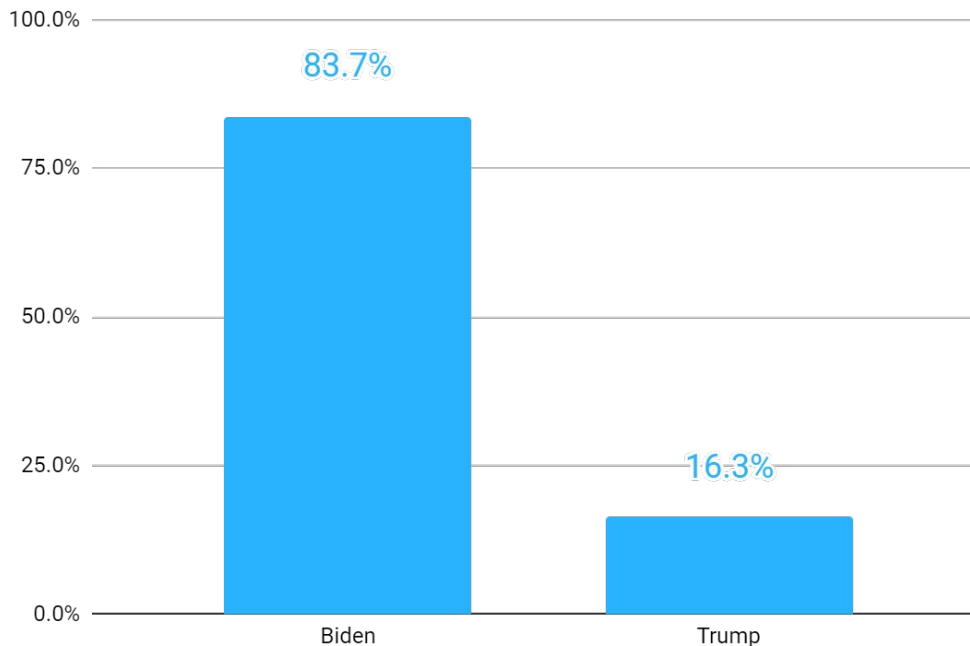
The survey was taken after the US election, but before the inauguration, and also before the Capitol riot, but maybe we should have seen it coming with 34% of people sure the election was rigged!



# Who do you think won the US selection?

3,833 responses

But interestingly half that number  
thought Trump was the true winner.  
Make of that what you will!





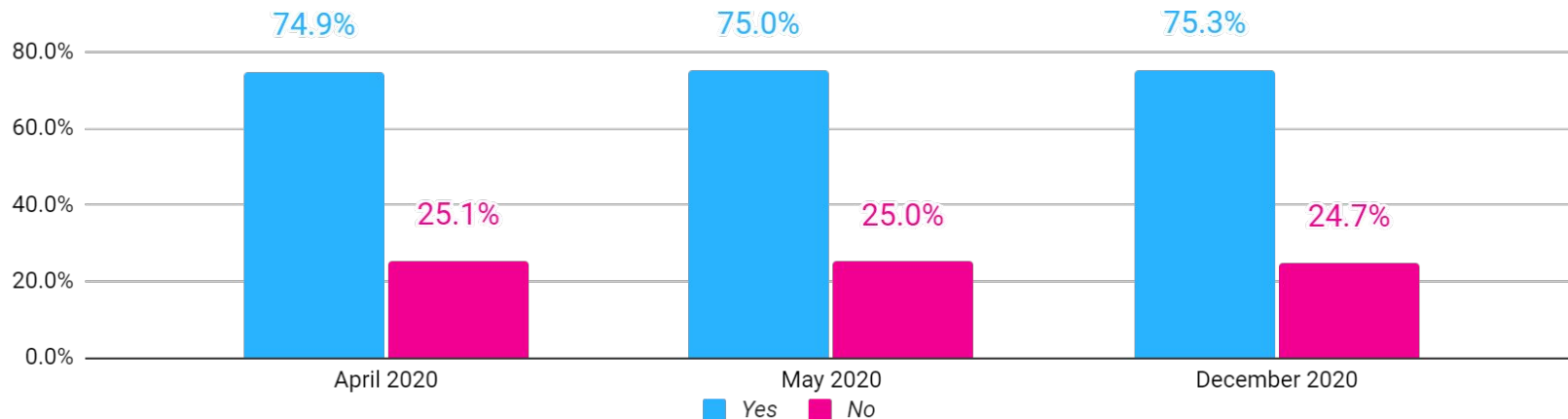
# Government, information & media



# Do you think that your local area is well informed about the Coronavirus (nCov-19)?

3 Surveys - 27,417 responses

There's hardly been anything else in the news throughout 2020, so 75% people feel they have been well informed all year.

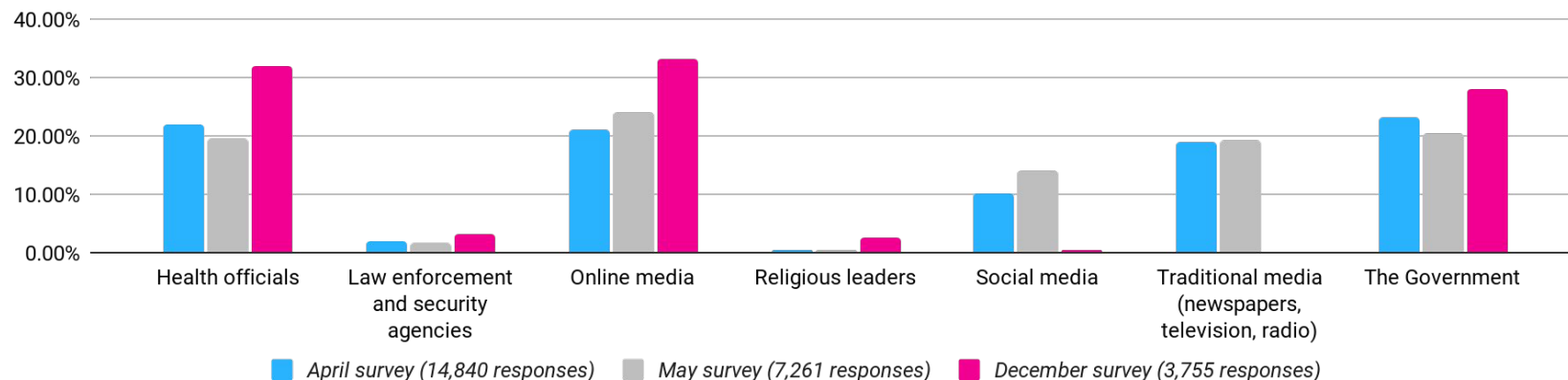




# Which is the most trusted source of information about Coronavirus (nCov-19) in your area?

3 Surveys - 27,417 responses

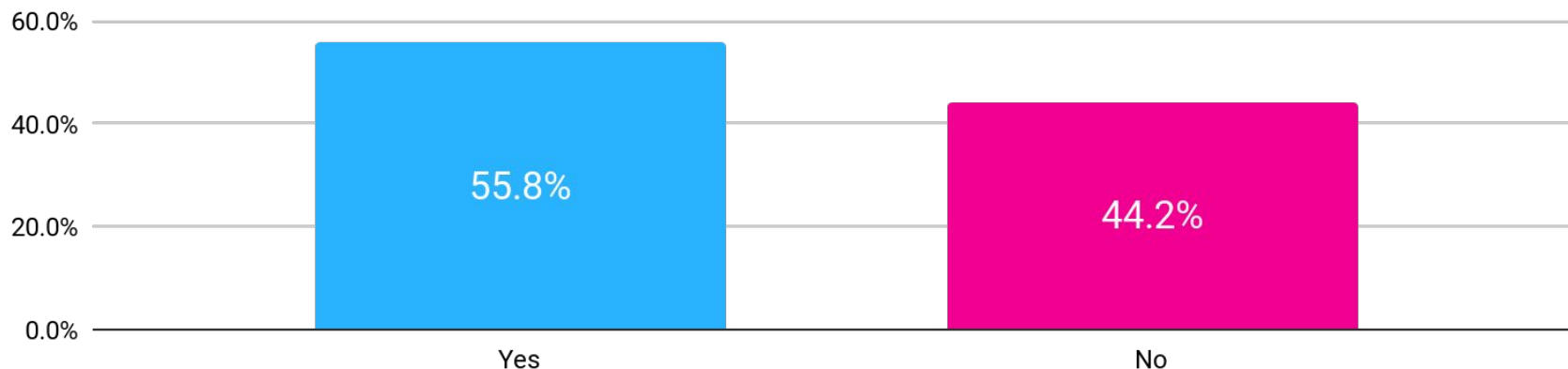
Trust in health officials, government and online media has remained strong throughout the crisis, but by the time we got to December it seems we no longer believe traditional media and social media.



# Are you satisfied with your government's response to the Coronavirus (nCov-19)?

3,954 responses

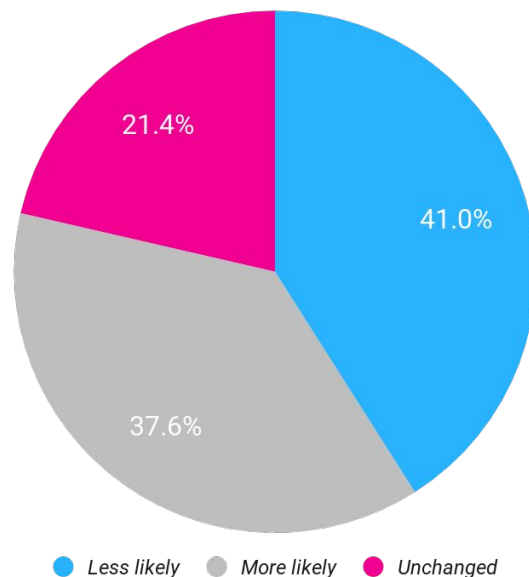
55% of respondents are satisfied with the way their government has handled the crisis. The 44% dissatisfied look certain to use their vote to make their displeasure known.



# Thinking about the way your government has handled the Covid-19 outbreak, has it made you more or less likely to vote for them?

3,916 responses

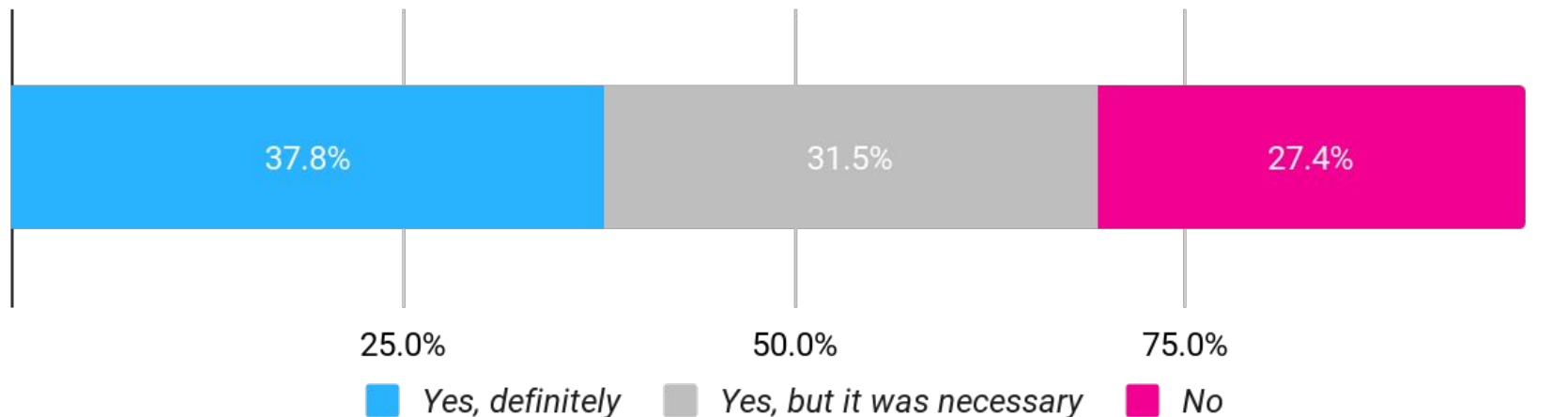
55% of respondents are satisfied with the way their government has handled the crisis. The 44% dissatisfied look certain to use their vote to make their displeasure known.



# Do you feel that your civil liberties and rights were infringed by measures taken to curb the outbreak?

3,789 responses

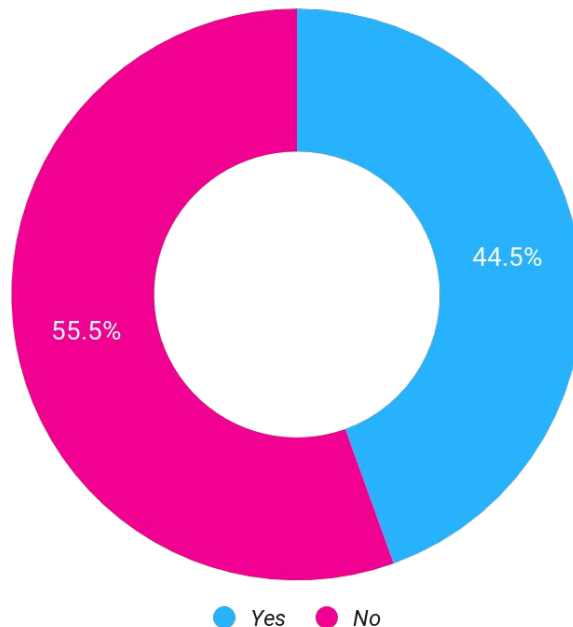
Almost 70% of respondents believe curbing covid-19 meant their civil liberties were curtailed, but half of them said it was “necessary”.



# Do you fear those rights will never be returned to you?

3,804 responses

And will those rights be returned? 55% think they're gone forever and will never be returned to us.

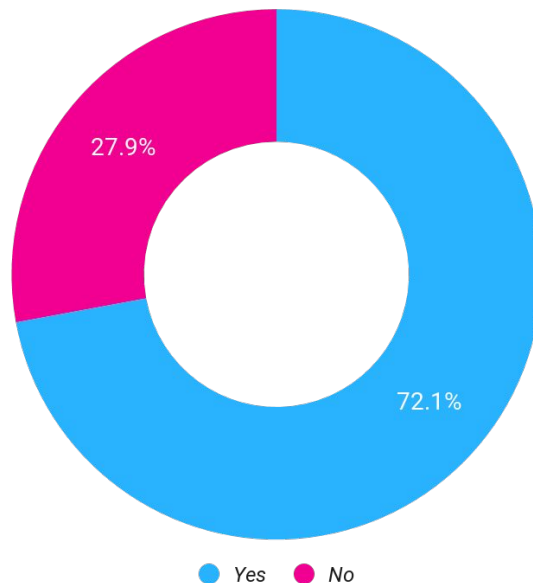


# Do you think that “Big Tech” have manipulated the information and news disseminated on their platforms during Covid?

3,726 responses

Our users overwhelmingly believe “big tech” manipulated the news around covid-19.

77% agreed with the proposition that big tech platforms are more than distributors of content, they are publishers and should be held to the same standard. Which includes paying media publishers for using their content.

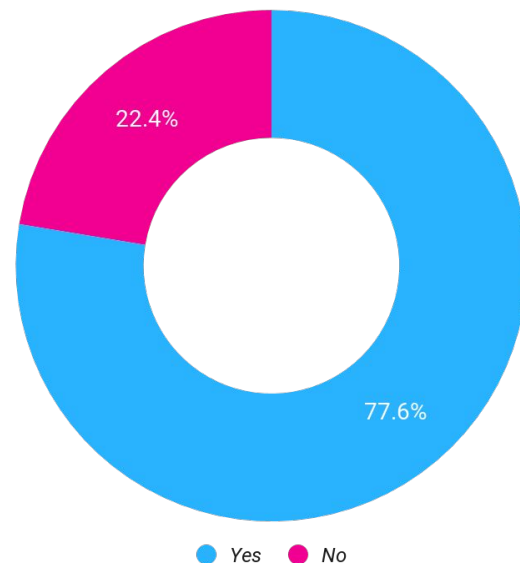


# Do you think that “Big Tech” should be reclassified as publishers and be legally liable for what is disseminated on their platforms?

3,681 responses

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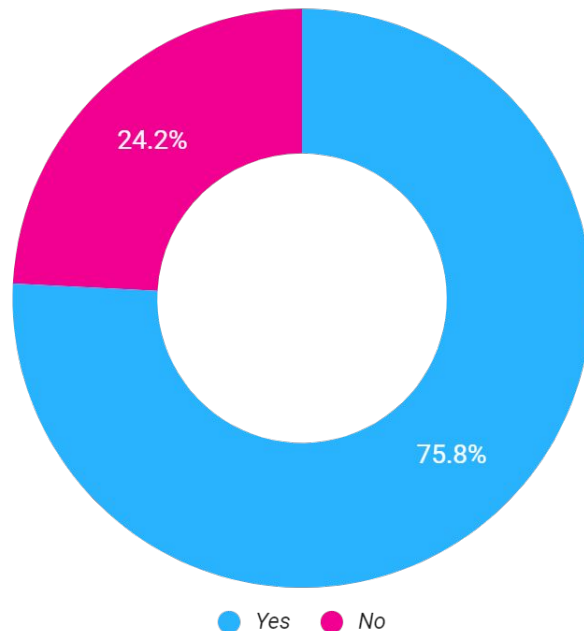


# Do you think “Big Tech” should pay news publishers for content?

3,691 responses

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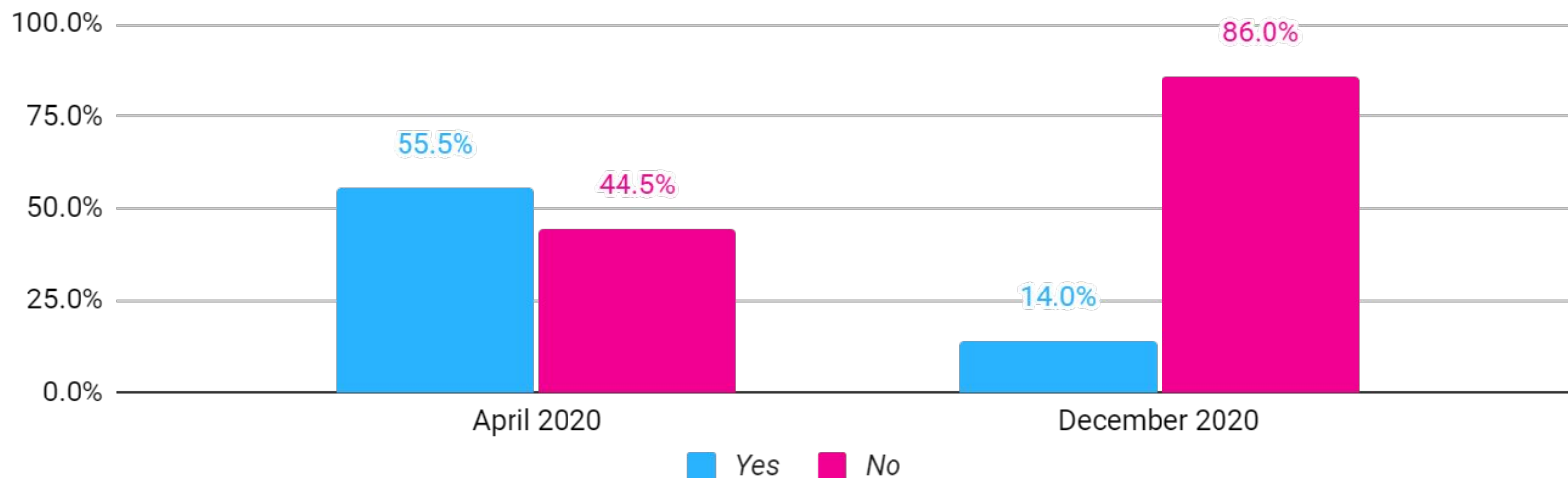




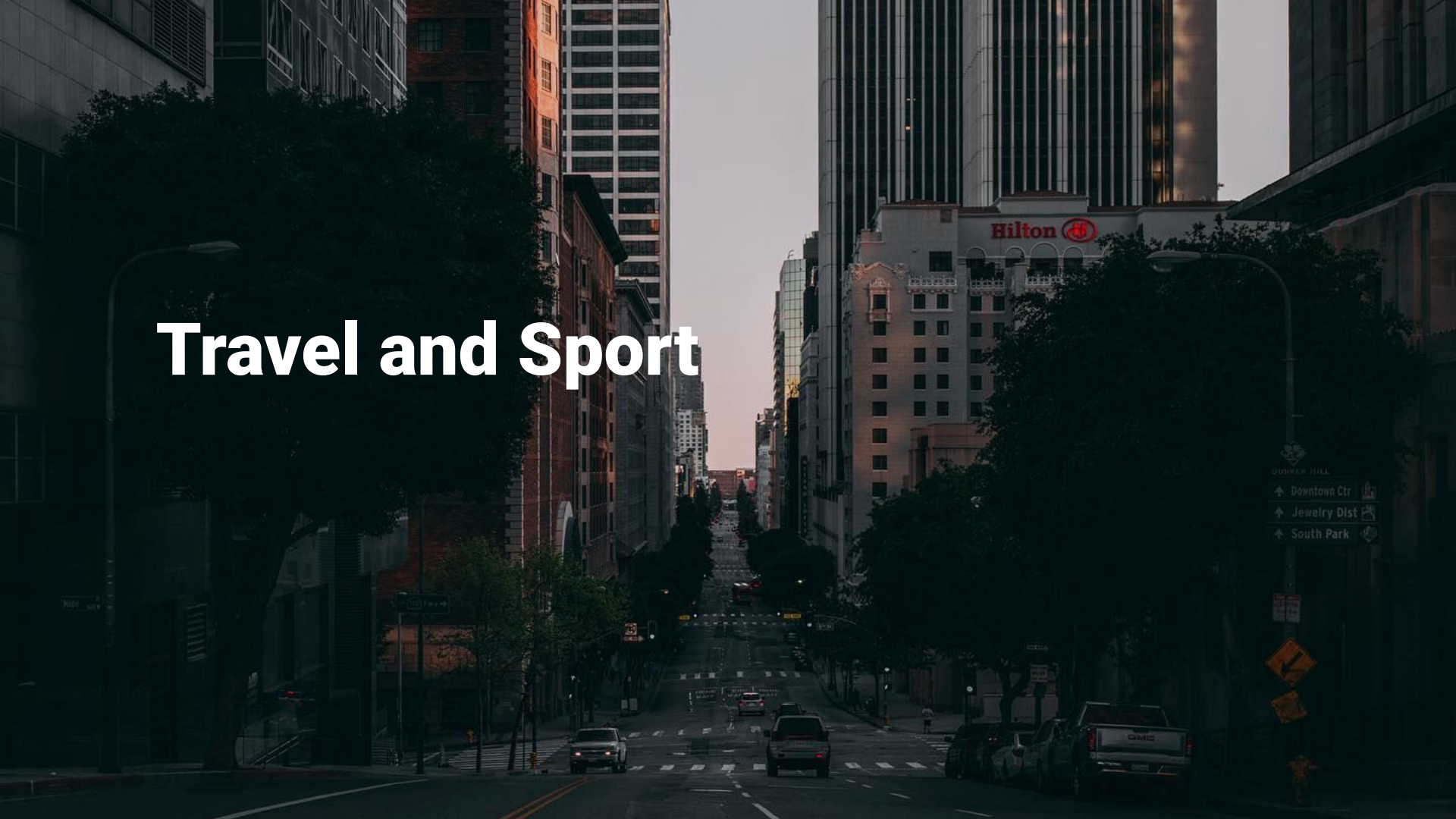
# Do you think Covid-19 is fake?

2 surveys - 19,261 responses

Not surprisingly given what we've all seen happen over the last 10 months, the proportion of people who think covid-19 is fake has plummeted from over 55% to under 15%.



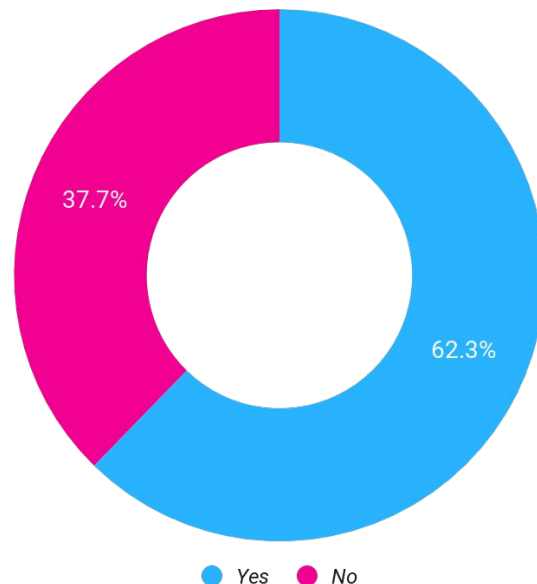
# Travel and Sport



# Do you think there should be a “vaccine passport” in order to travel?

3,809 responses

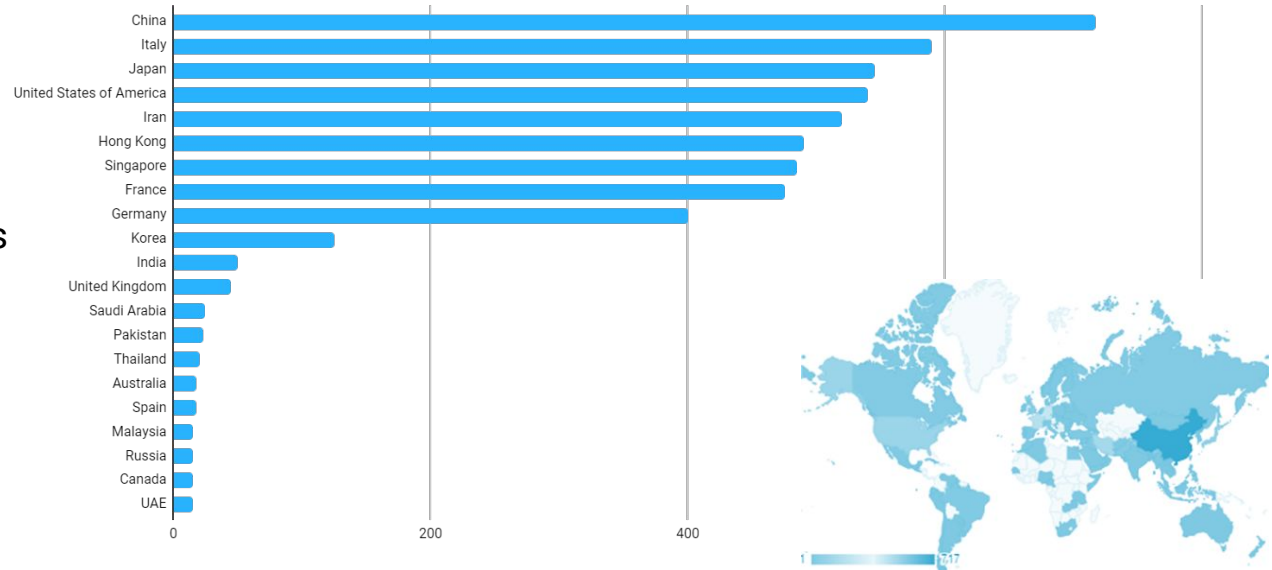
One day we'll all be allowed to travel freely especially if a “vaccine passport” is introduced, an idea that is being seriously considered by airlines and governments and has the support of 63% of those surveyed.



# Longer term which of the following countries (if any) would you be less likely to travel to?

Top 20 countries listed below, other countries are in the map

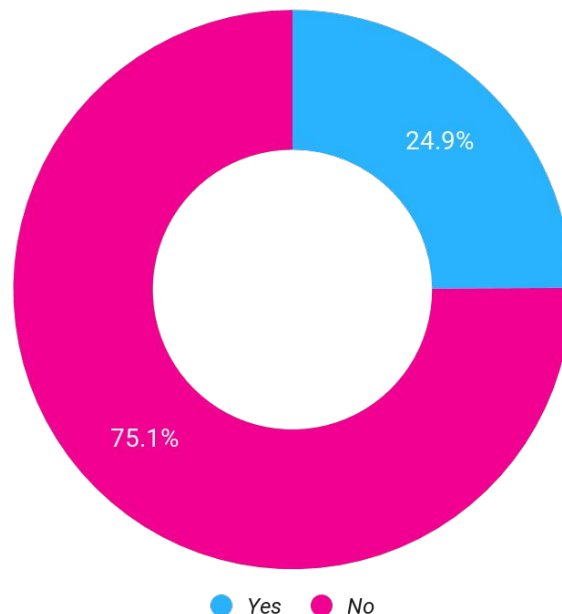
But some places have been struck off bucket lists, in particular China, the USA and those Western European nations which have suffered. Surprisingly the UK was not singled out despite their terrible record of deaths.



# Are you planning on moving to a different country because of Covid infections or the government response to the outbreak?

3,735 responses

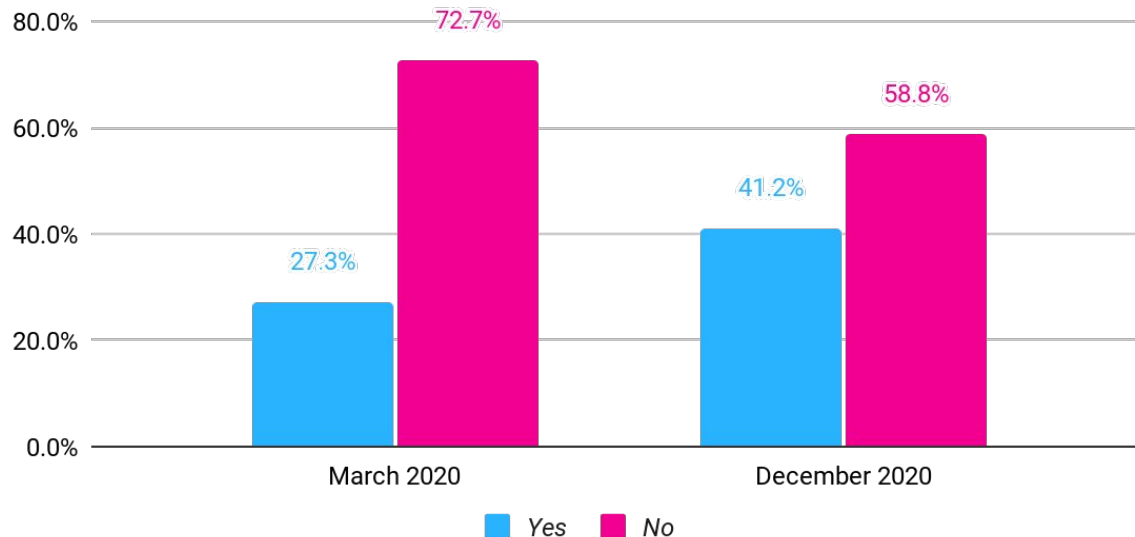
And there's no support for packing up and moving permanently because of covid-19. 75% said they're going to stick it out where they are.



# Would you consider booking a holiday on a cruise ship if an attractive discount was offered?

2 surveys - 19,314 responses

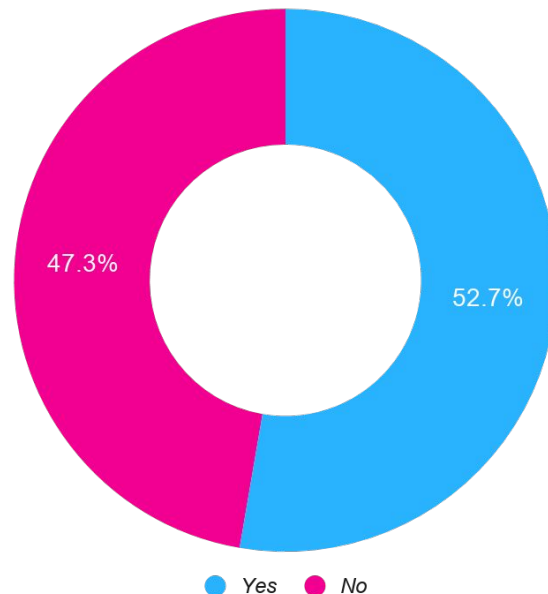
Cruise ships are still on the nose, but not as bad as they were at the beginning of the pandemic.



# Do you think the 2021 Tokyo Summer Olympics should be cancelled?

3,993 responses

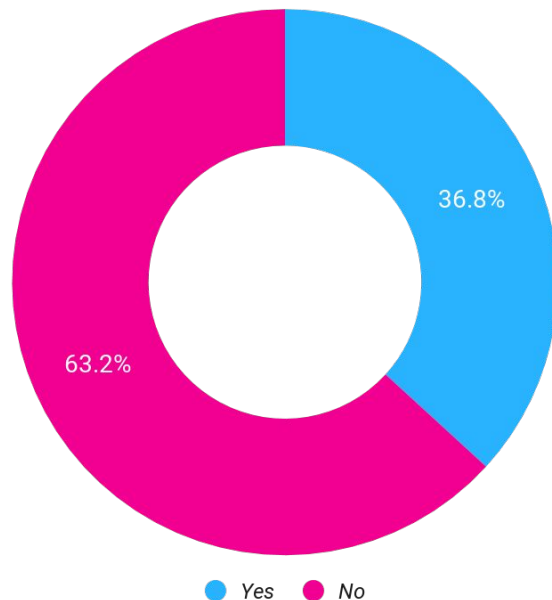
The summer Olympics in Tokyo - which organisers say will go ahead - may have trouble attracting spectators. More than half say it should be cancelled altogether, and if it goes ahead two-thirds will stay away.



# If the 2021 Tokyo summer Olympics go ahead, and you were able, would you attend?

3,993 responses

The summer Olympics in Tokyo - which organisers say will go ahead - may have trouble attracting spectators. More than half say it should be cancelled altogether, and if it goes ahead two-thirds will stay away.

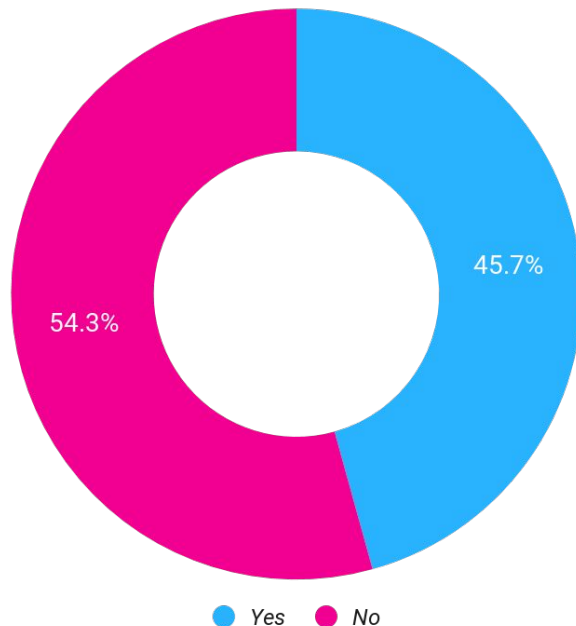




# If you were able, would you attend the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics?

3,945 responses

Beijing's Winter Olympics fare a little better but will still be shunned by 54% of people.

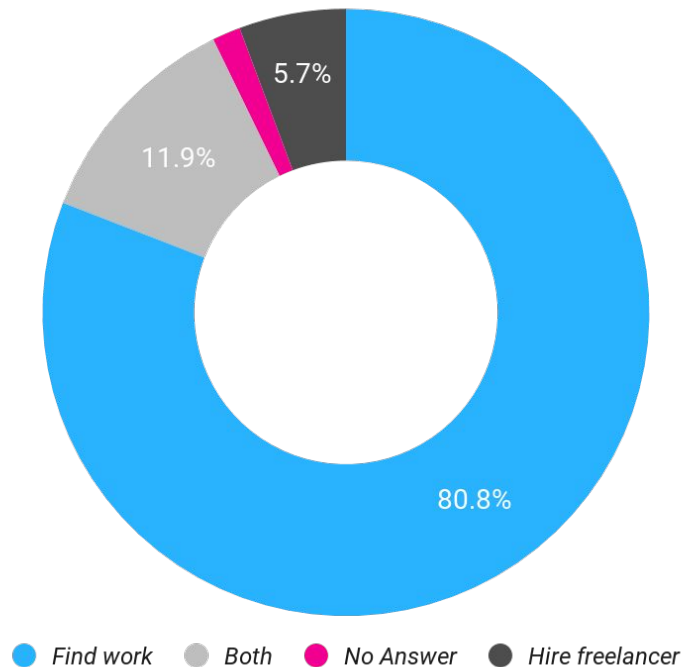




# Who answered survey 4?

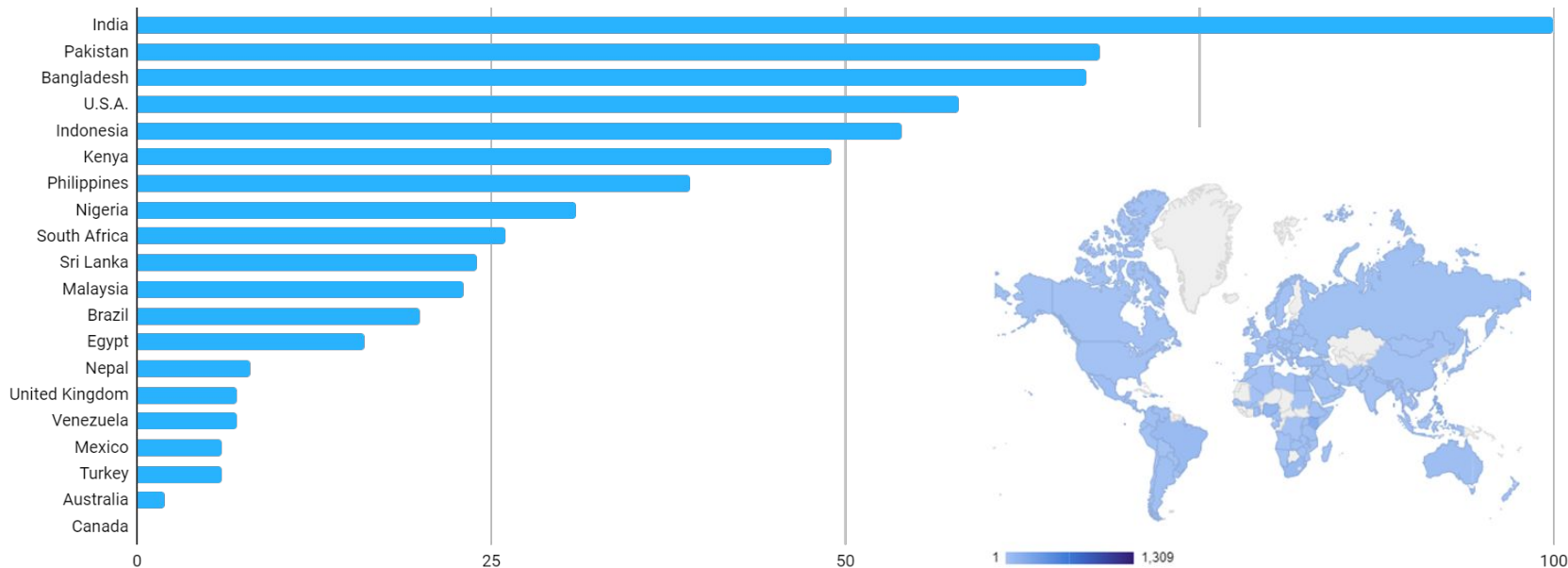
# Do you use Freelancer.com primarily to hire freelancers or find work?

4,203 responses



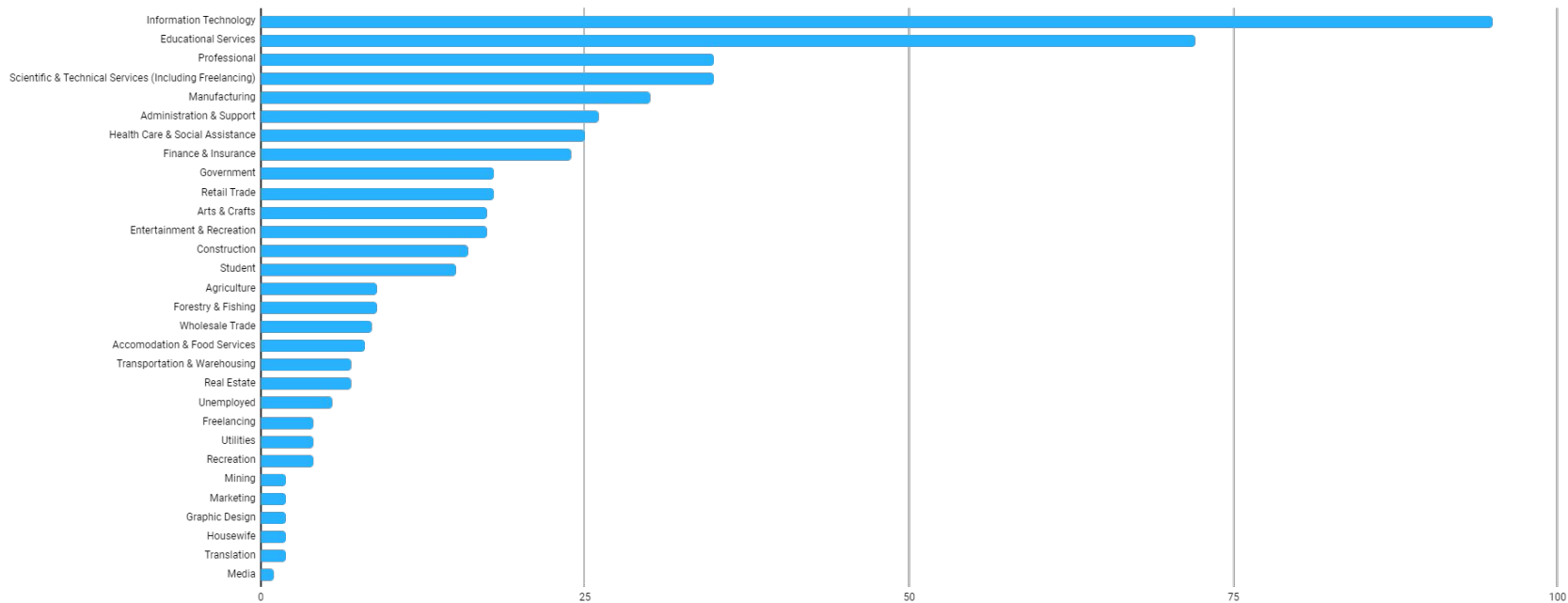
# What country are you located in?

4,203 responses



# What industries are you in?

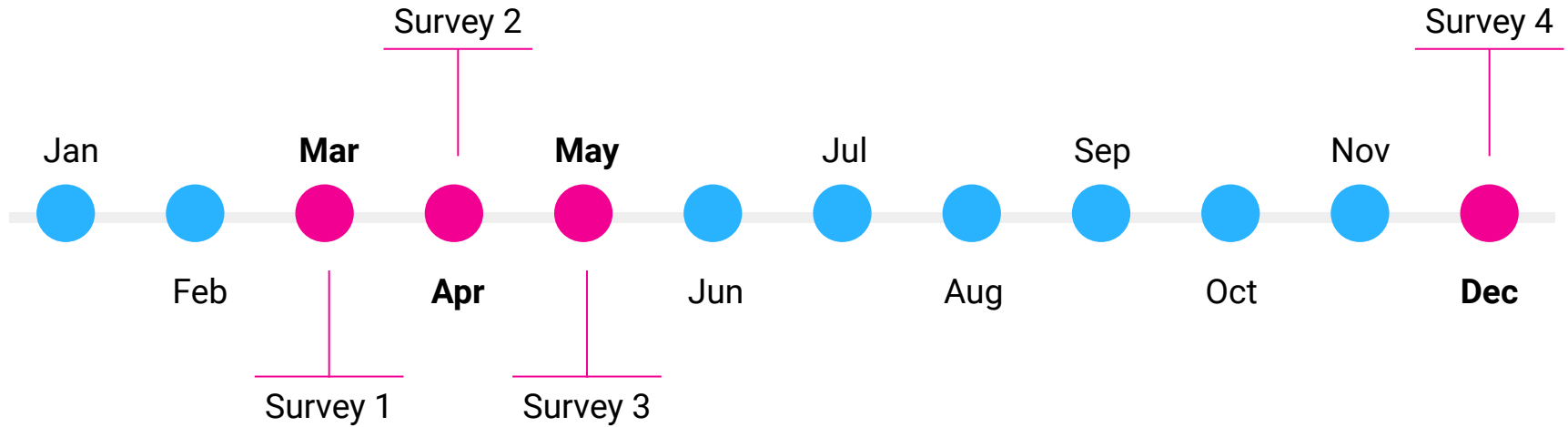
Respondents' Top 30 industries



A photograph of a hallway with a central glass door. The walls are covered in large, square tiles in shades of brown and tan. The floor is made of small, square tiles. Above the door is a green 'EXIT' sign. A red fire alarm pull station is mounted on the wall to the right of the door. A small sign on the door reads 'AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY'. The hallway is dimly lit, with light coming from the ceiling and the door area.

**When the surveys were held**

# When were the surveys held?







# About Freelancer

Photo Credit: Pamela Sisson [@pamelasisson](#)



Twelve-time Webby award-winning Freelancer.com is the world's largest freelancing and crowdsourcing marketplace by total number of users and projects posted. More than 50 million registered users have posted over 19 million projects and contests to date in over 1,800 areas as diverse as website development, logo design, marketing, copywriting, astrophysics, aerospace engineering and manufacturing.

Freelancer owns Escrow.com, the leading provider of secure online payments and online transaction management for consumers and businesses on the Internet with over US\$4.5 billion in transactions secured. Freelancer also owns Freightlancer, a global enterprise freight marketplace. Freelancer Limited is listed on the Australian Securities Exchange under the ticker ASX:FLN.