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BELARUS' WTO ACCESSION: IMPACT ON DOMESTIC BUSINESS

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Main points

Sample

Assessment by enterprises of the impact of Belarus's membership in the WTO on the economy of the country

Preparedness to operate under the WTO conditions

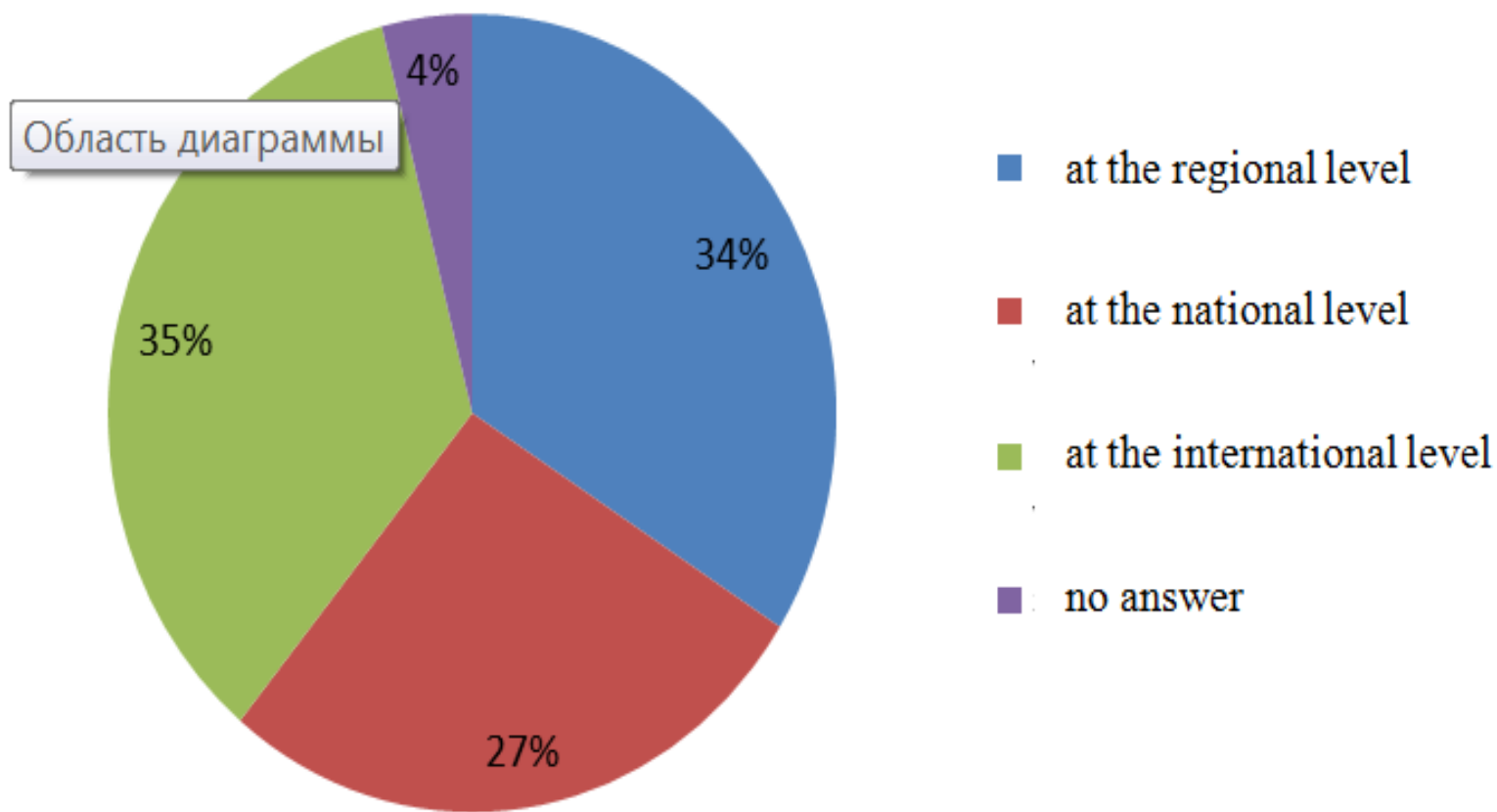
Possible effects of the membership of Belarus in the WTO for enterprises

Government support measures

Sample

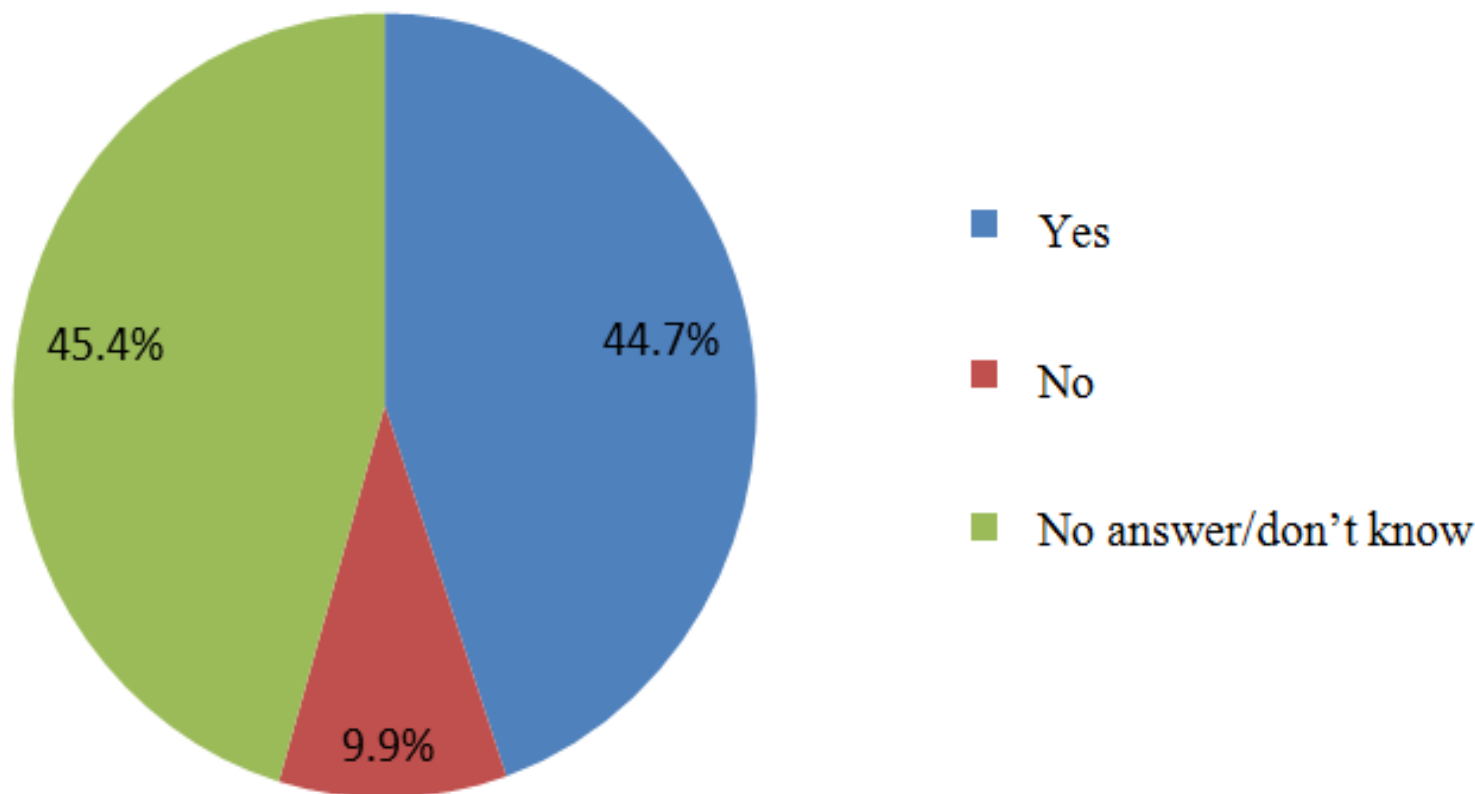
- The survey covered 403 enterprises from all regions of Belarus: 25% were located in Minsk, 12.4% – in the Gomel and Brest regions each, 12.7% – in the Vitebsk region, 12.9% – in the Mogilev region, 13.6% – in the Grodno region, and 11.2% – in the Minsk region
- 12.7% were large enterprises, including 5% of the enterprises with the number of employees exceeding 5,000, 79.7% – small businesses, and 11.7% – medium-sized businesses.
- 27% of the enterprises are state-owned and 73% – private enterprises, including 8.2% of enterprises with a foreign share in the authorized capital
- enterprises in manufacturing (36%), wholesale and retail trade (26.6%), and construction (7.4%). Other activities (28.8%) .

Sample (2)

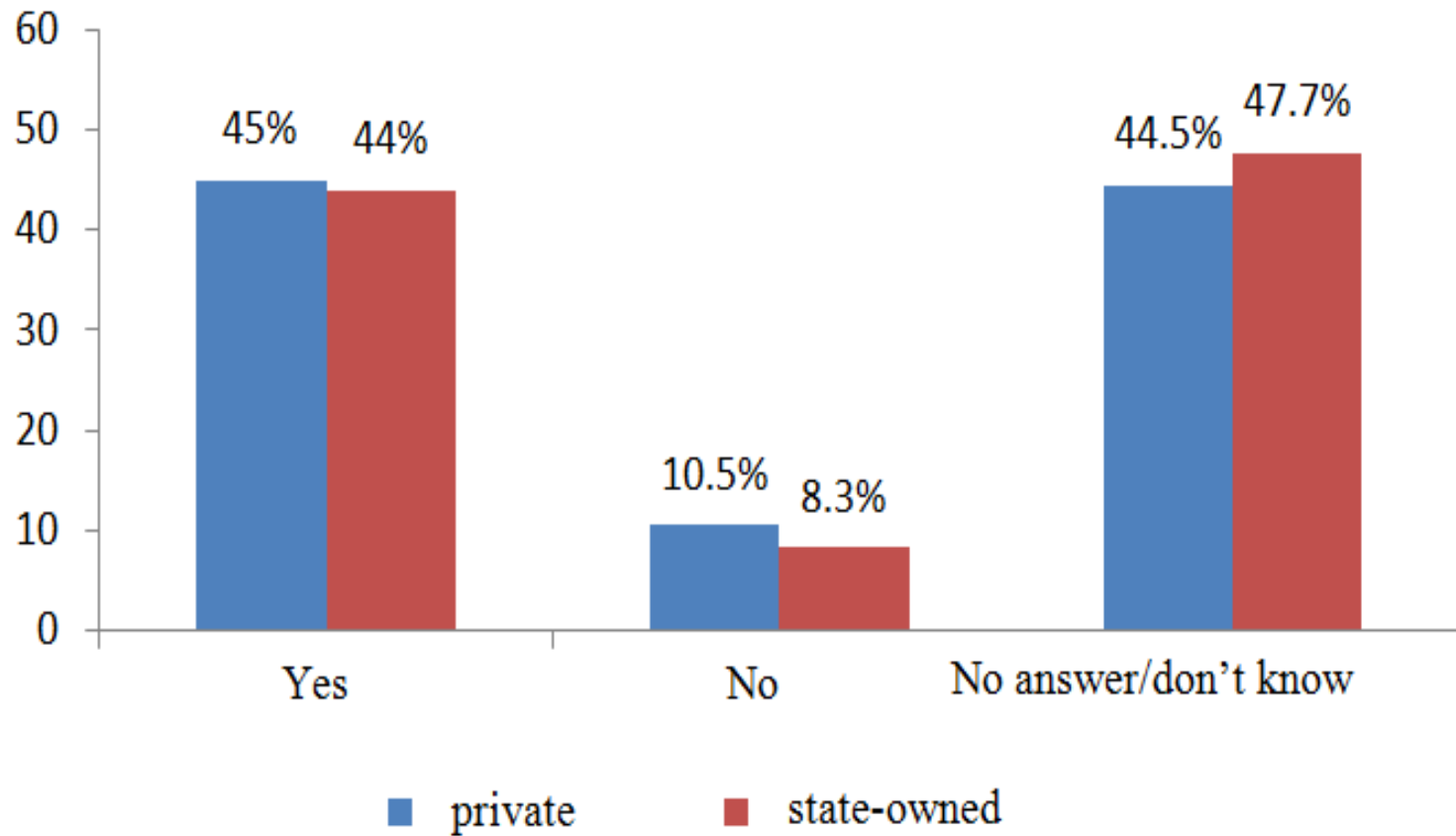


Impact of Belarus's Membership in the WTO on the Economy of the Country

Distribution of the responses to the question: “Should Belarus accede to the WTO in the near future?”



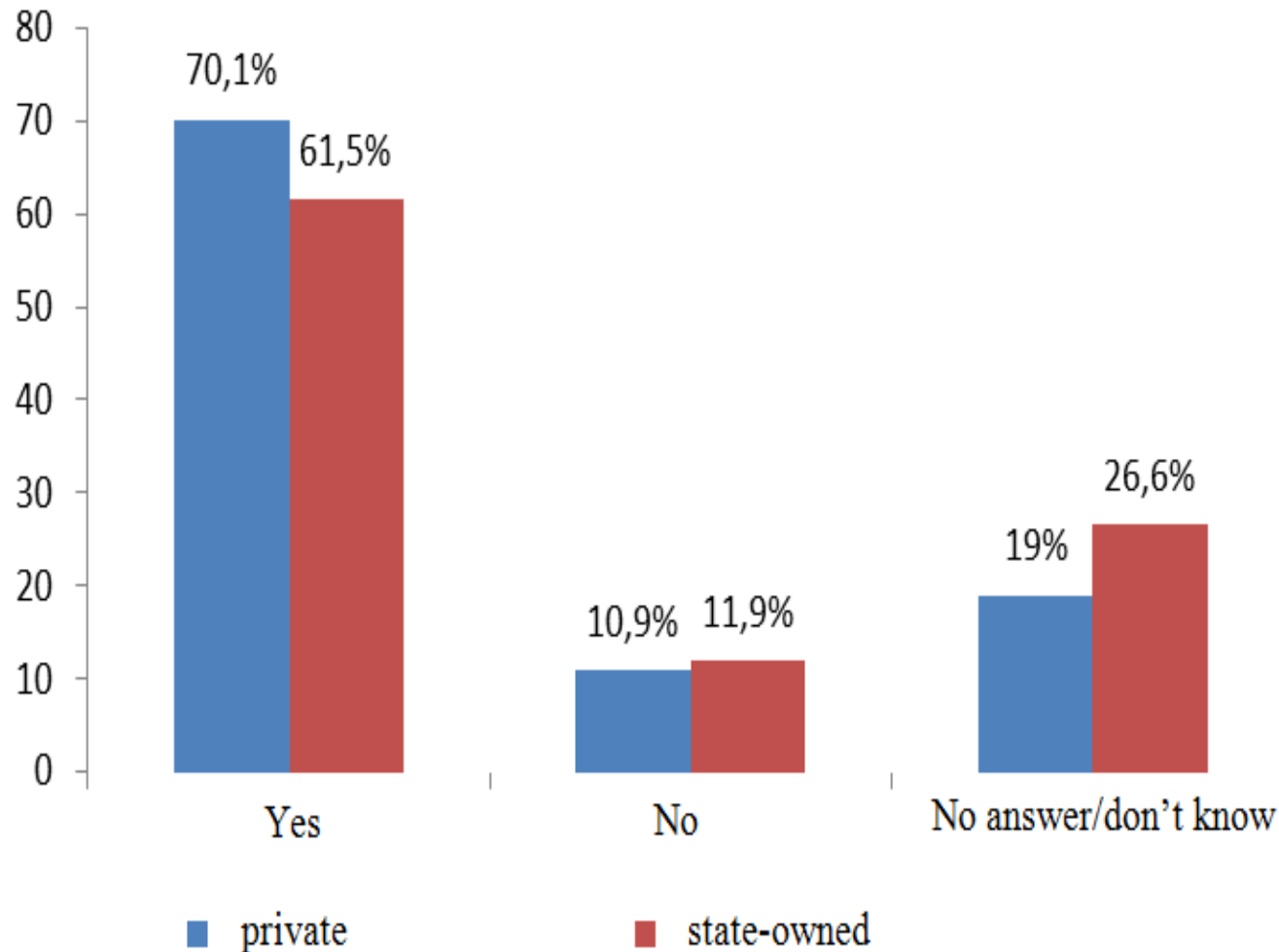
Distribution of the responses of state-owned and private enterprises to the question: "Should Belarus accede to the WTO in the near future?"



Distribution of the responses to the question on the impact of WTO accession on the economic development of Belarus (%)

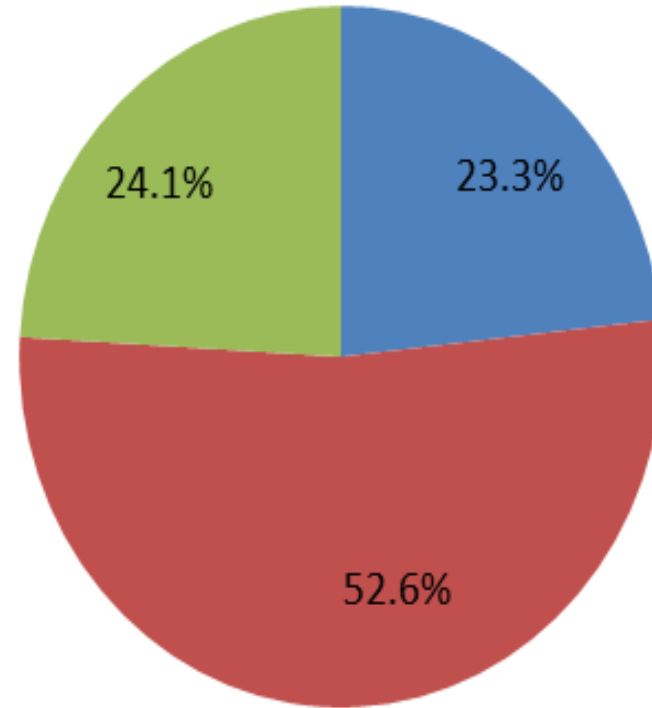
	Negative	Neutral	Positive	Don't know
Short-term				
Overall in Belarus	30.8	20.3	24.8	24.1
Private enterprises	33	18.7	25.5	22.8
State-owned enterprises	24.8	24.8	22.9	27.5
Long-term				
Overall in Belarus	8.4	16.4	49.6	25.6
Private enterprises	7.1	15.7	53	24.2
State-owned enterprises	11.9	18.3	40.4	29.4

Distribution of the responses to the question "Do you agree with the statement that after Belarus accession to the WTO, many enterprises and industries will not be able to compete against foreign goods and



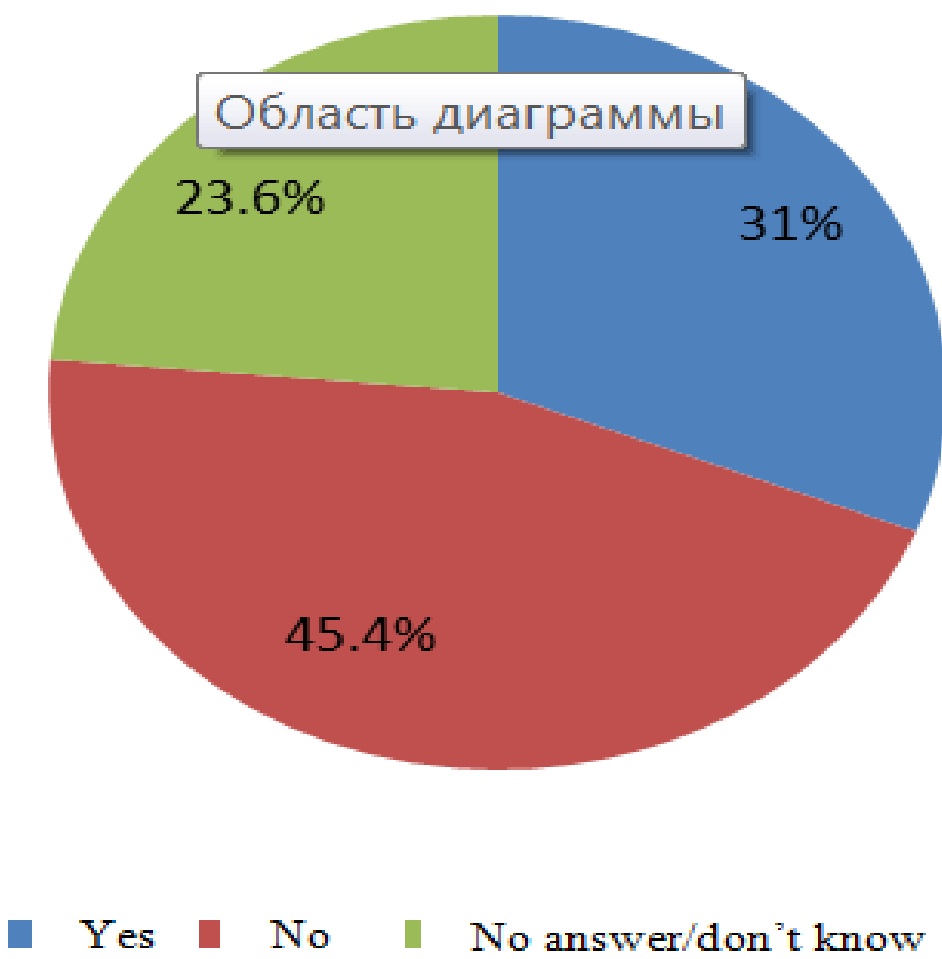
Preparedness to operate under the WTO conditions

Distribution of the responses to the question “Are the managers and employees of your enterprise aware of the main regulations and rules of the WTO?”



■ Yes ■ No ■ No answer/don't know

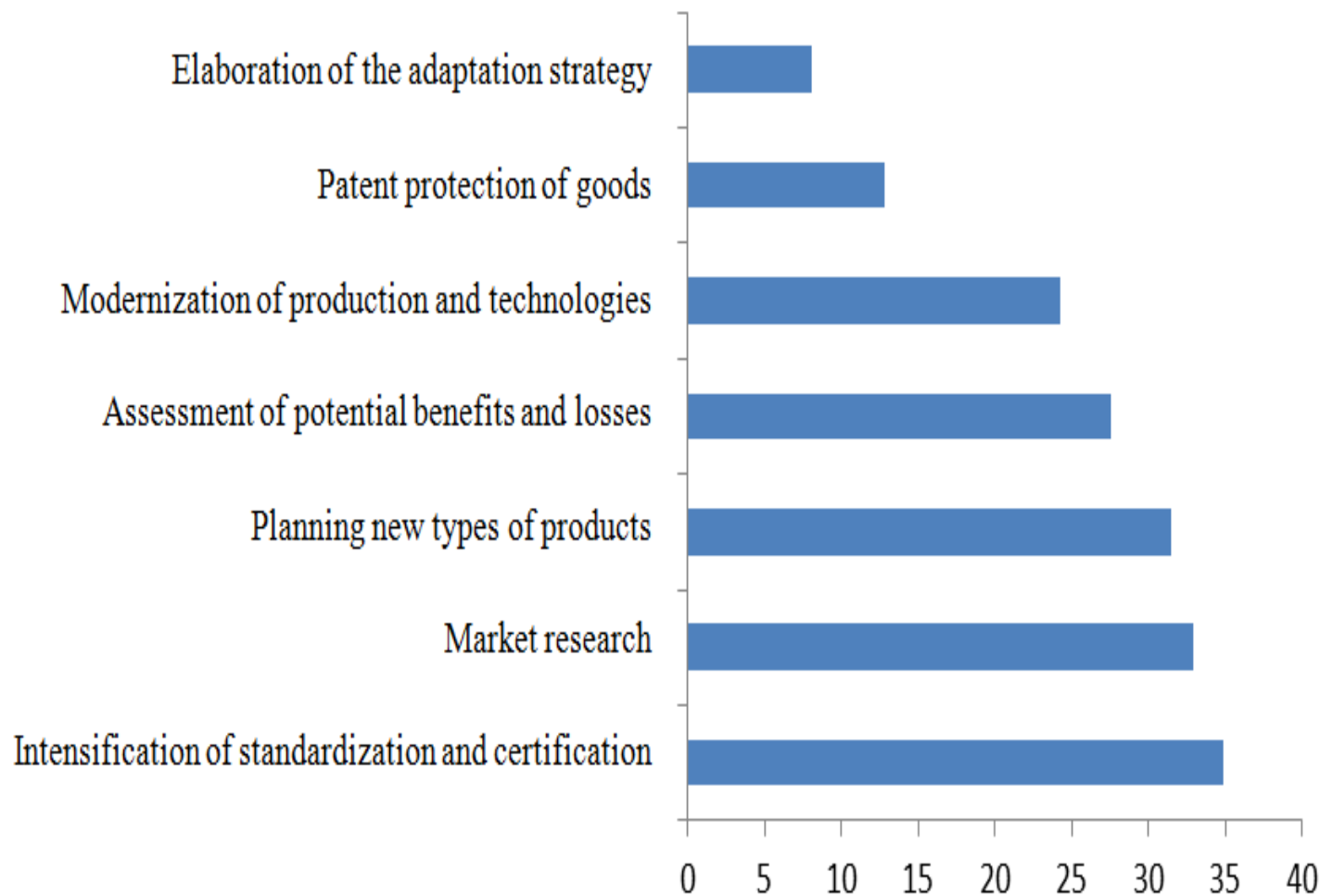
Distribution of the responses to the question "Are the managers of your enterprise aware of potential conditions for accession of Belarus to the WTO?"



Distribution of the responses to the question “Does your enterprise carry out any measures to adapt to the conditions of accession of Belarus to the WTO?”

	Yes	No	Don't know
Private enterprises	13.9	63.9	22.1
State-owned enterprises	13.8	56	30.3
Overall in Belarus	13.9	61.8	24.3

Distribution of the responses to the question “Which measures to adjust to the conditions of accession Belarus to the WTO does your enterprise carry out?”



Possible effects of the membership of Belarus in the WTO for enterprises

Distribution of the responses to the question “What are the strengths of the products of your enterprise compared to similar foreign goods?”

	Overall in Belarus	Private enterprises	State-owned enterprises
Lower prices	33.2	32.8	30.3
Better quality	10	10.2	9.2
Other advantages	5	5.5	3.7
No advantages	19.7	19.1	21.1
Don't know	33.3	32.4	35.8

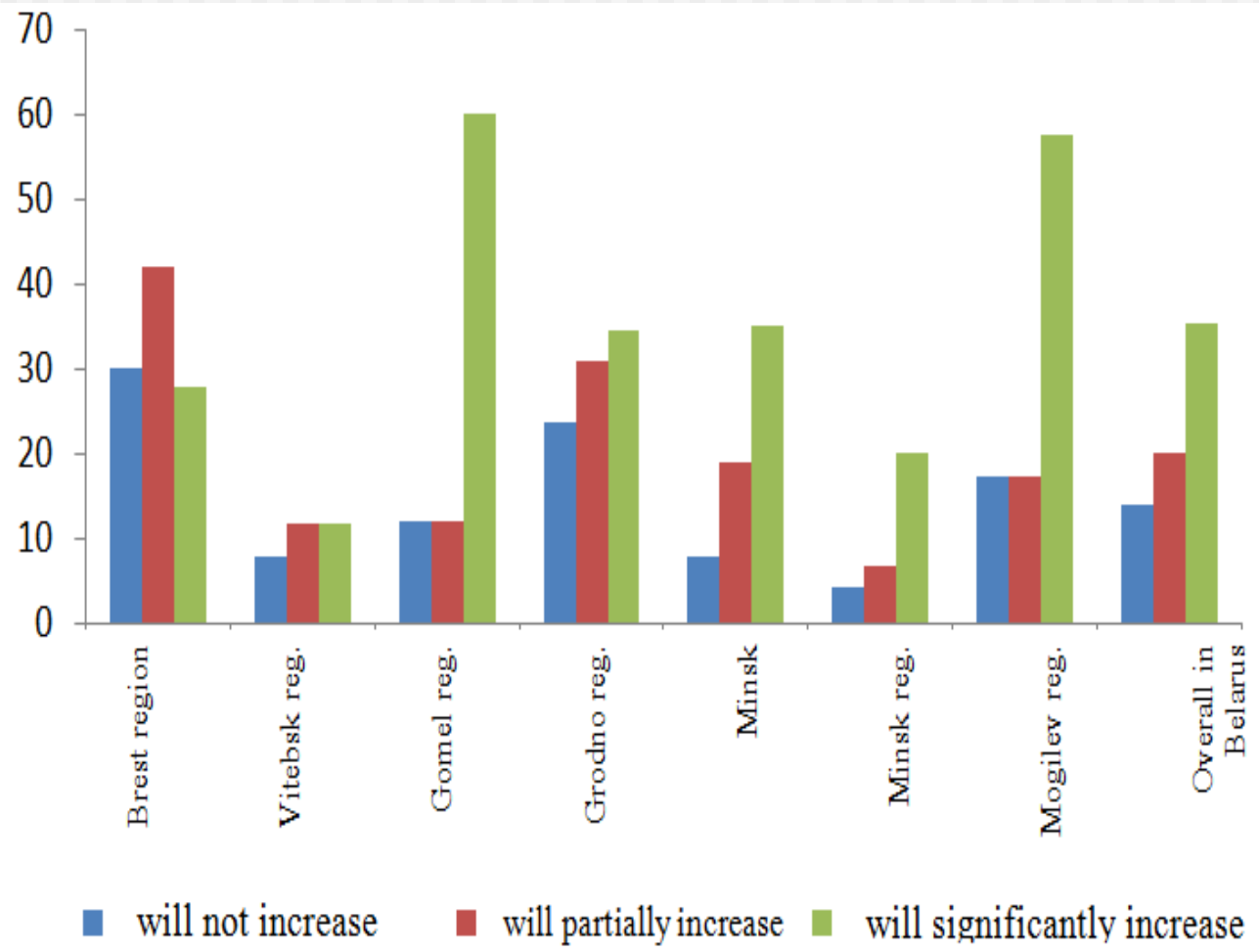
Distribution of the responses to the question “What are the strengths of the products of your enterprise compared to similar foreign goods?”

some respondents stated that they had other strengths not related to the price and quality, including: an ability to make unique selling proposals for narrow segments of consumers, a flexible range of products, a high level of innovation, logistics and market understanding, company's identity, use of environmentally friendly materials, research intensity, market experience, creation and production of new products, a high level of after-sales service. However, the proportion of enterprises that have the above-mentioned advantages totaled only **5.5% in the private sector and 3.7% – among the public sector.**

Distribution of the responses to the question “What will be the impact of the WTO accession on the operations of your enterprise?”

	Negative	Neutral	Positive	Don't know
Overall in Belarus	9.7	31.5	29.8	29
Private enterprises	10.1	31.6	31.6	26.7
State-owned enterprises	8.2	31.2	24.8	35.8

Distribution of the responses to the question "Will the attractiveness of the sector or industry where your enterprise operates increase for foreign direct investments after Belarus accession to the WTO?"



Government support measures

Distribution of the responses of state-owned and private enterprises to the question on the required government support measures.

