



2026 Leadership Poll Series

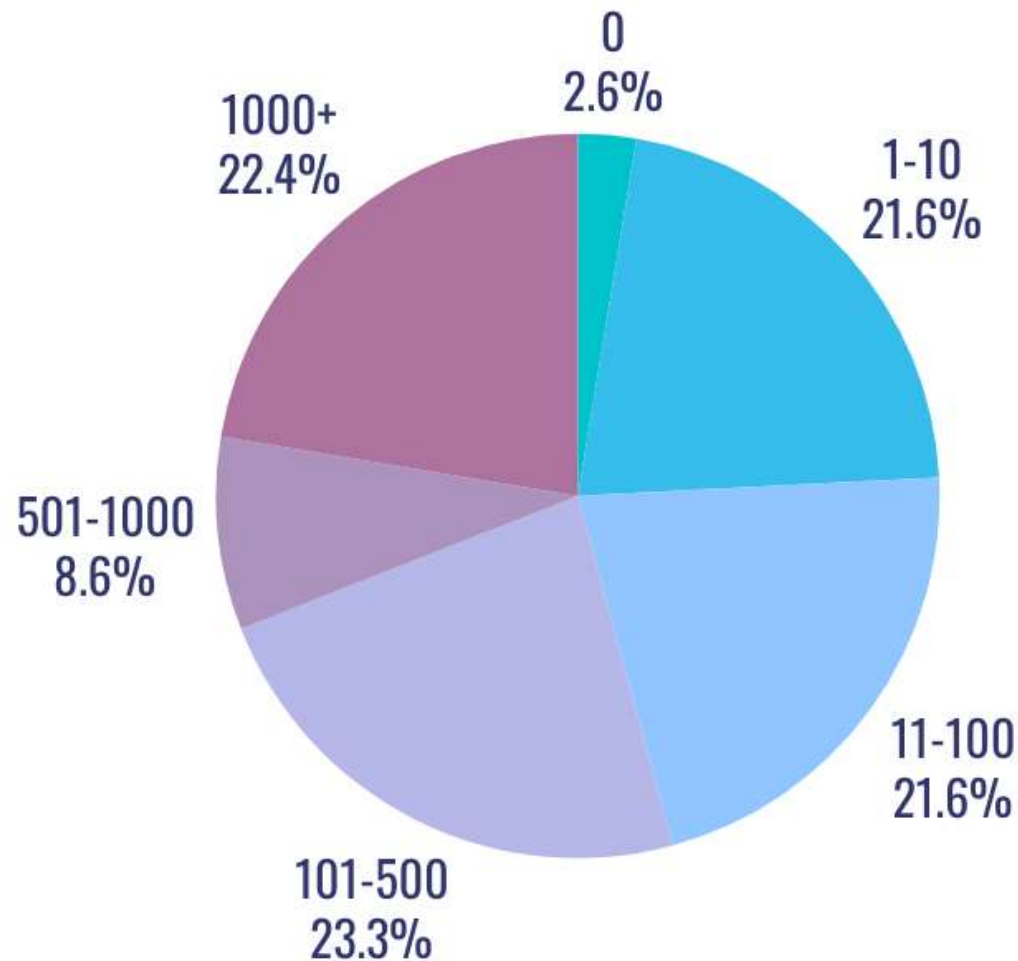
Q1 Results

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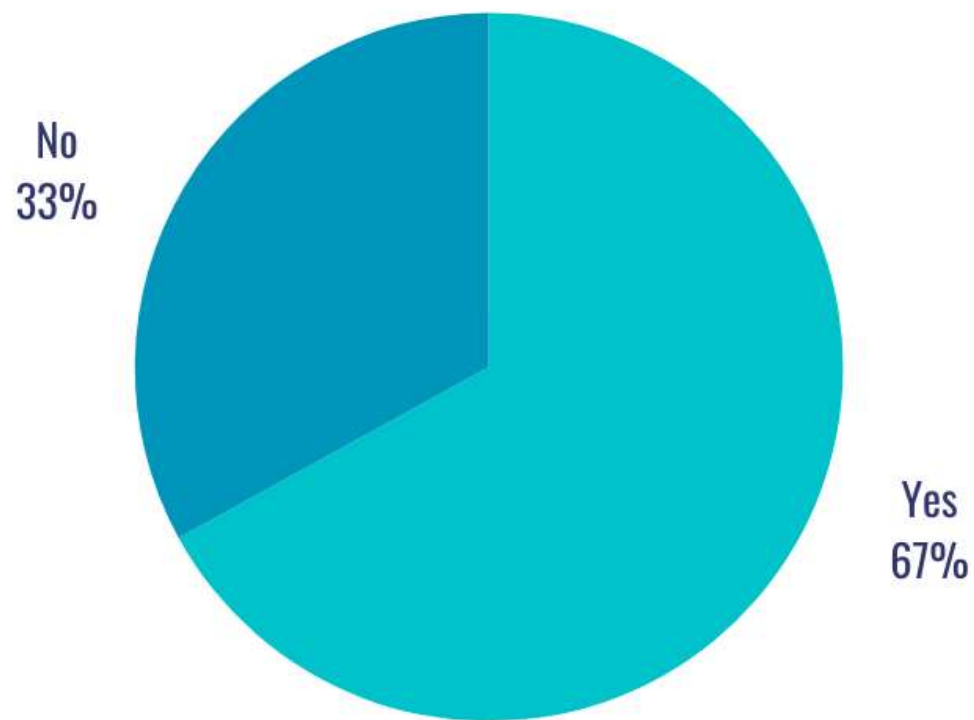


STEARNS
FINANCIAL GROUP

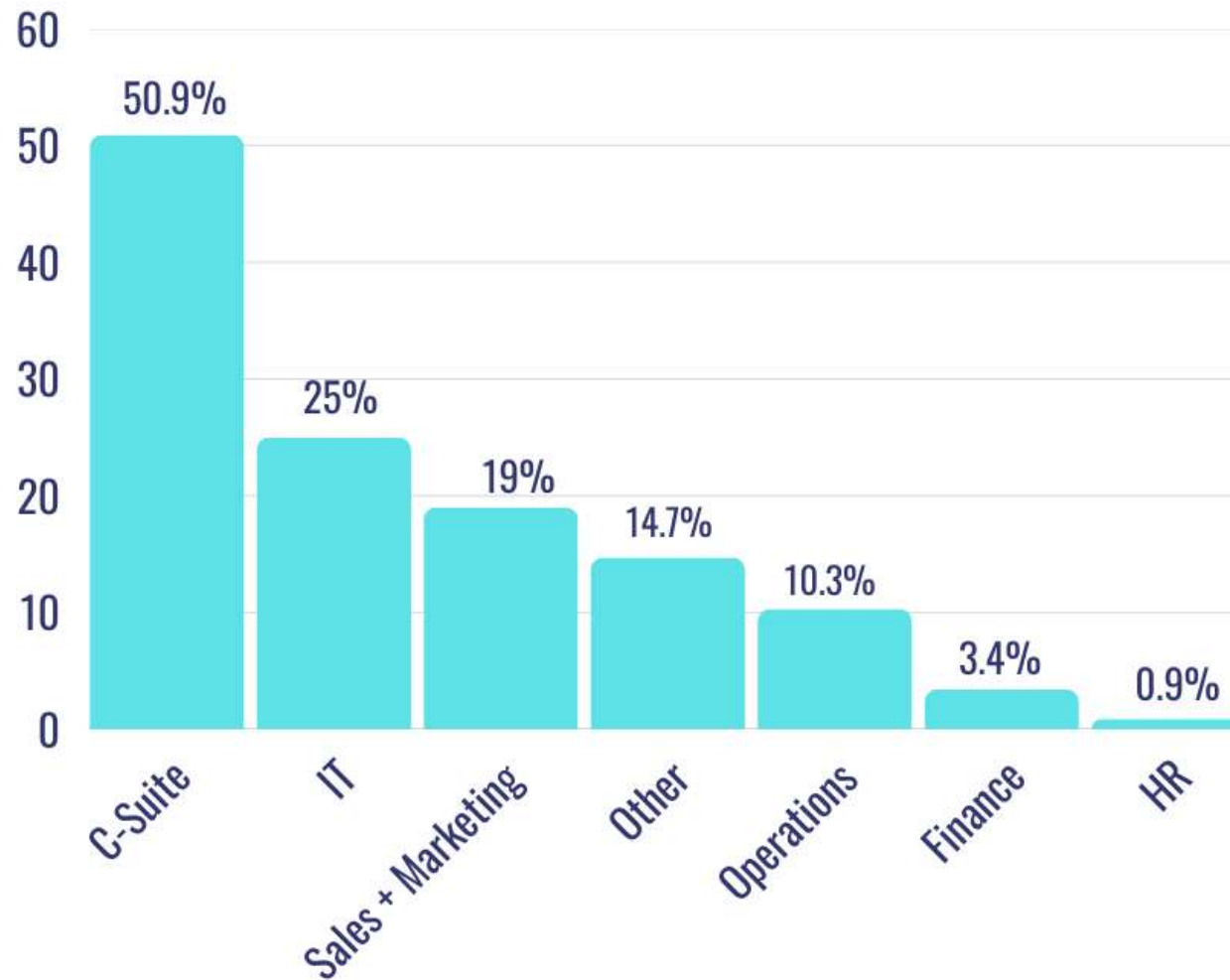
Which range best depicts the number of NC-based employees in your organization?



Is your company headquartered in NC?

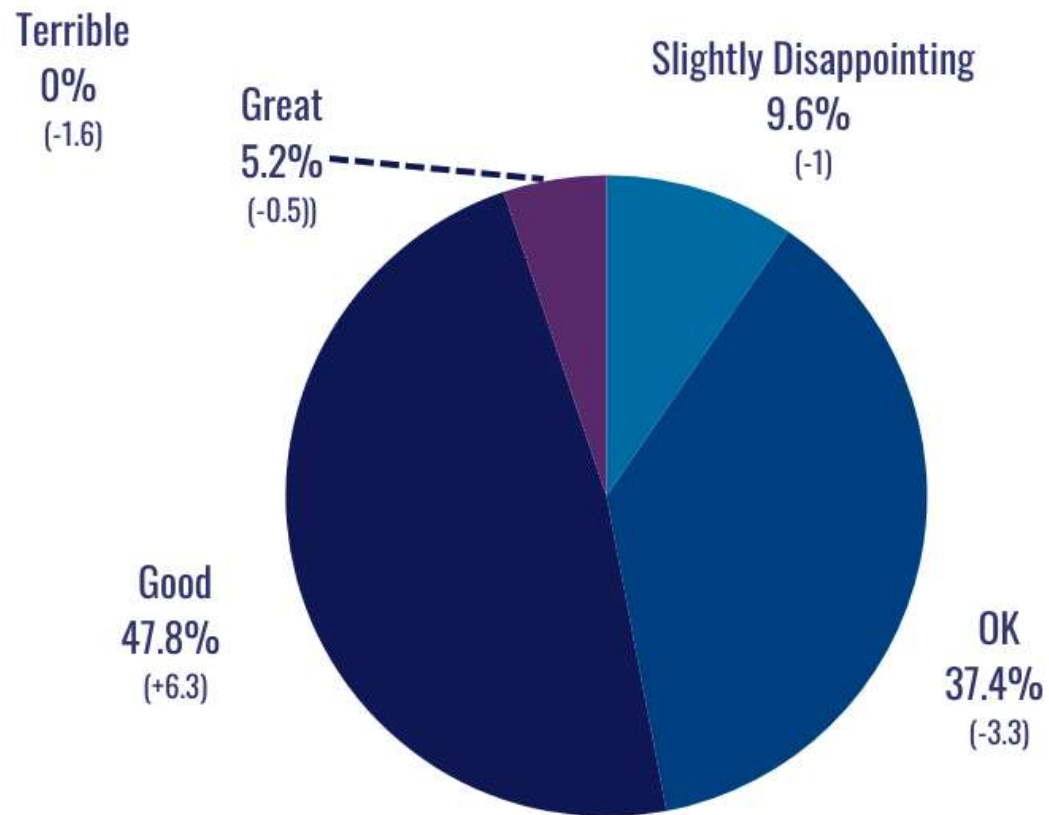


What is your role within your organization?

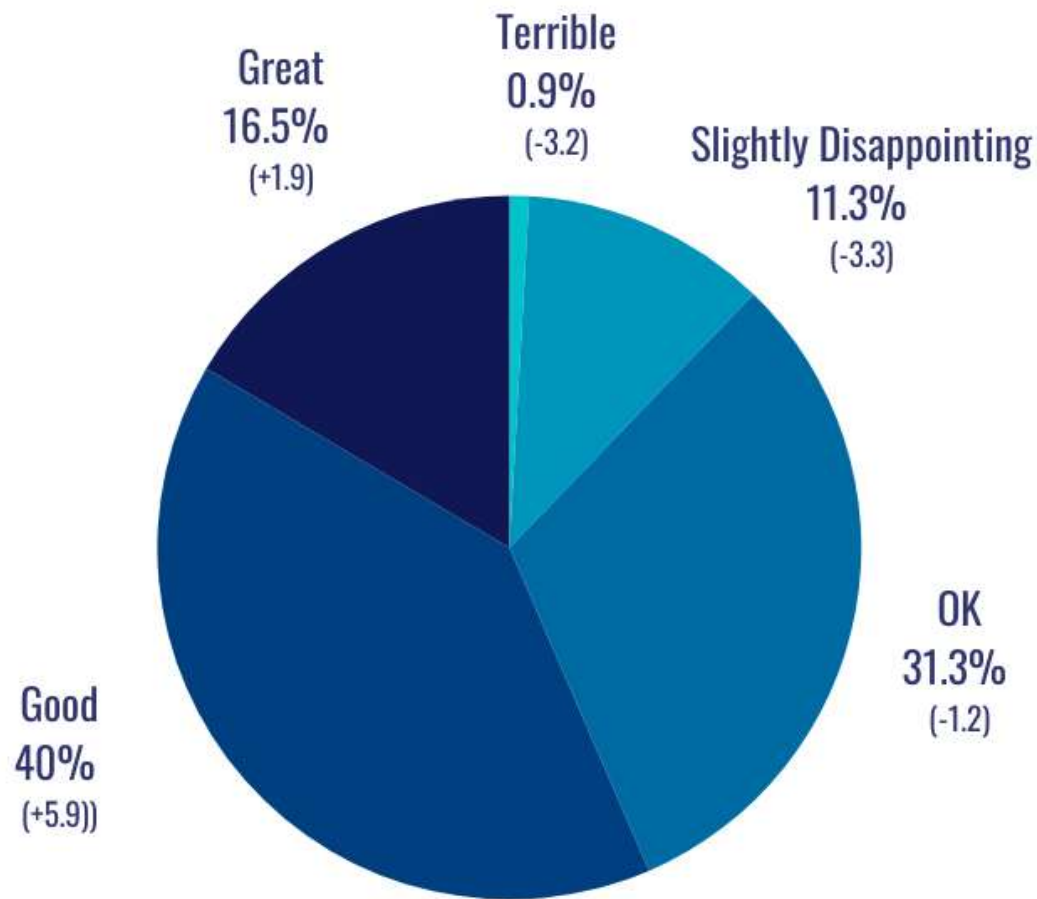


*****Respondents were given the option to mark all that apply***

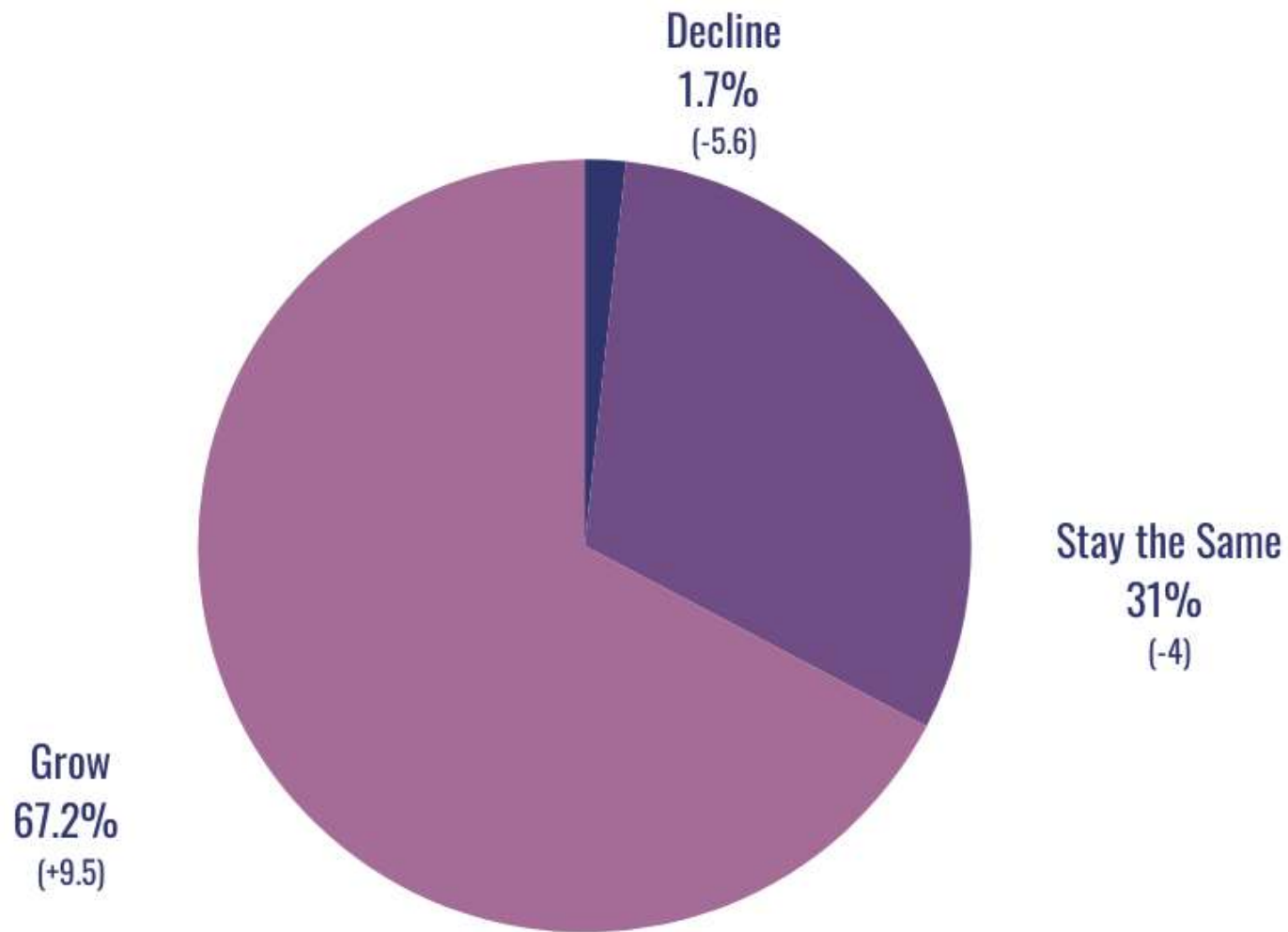
How do you perceive the past quarter has been for North Carolina's technology sector broadly?



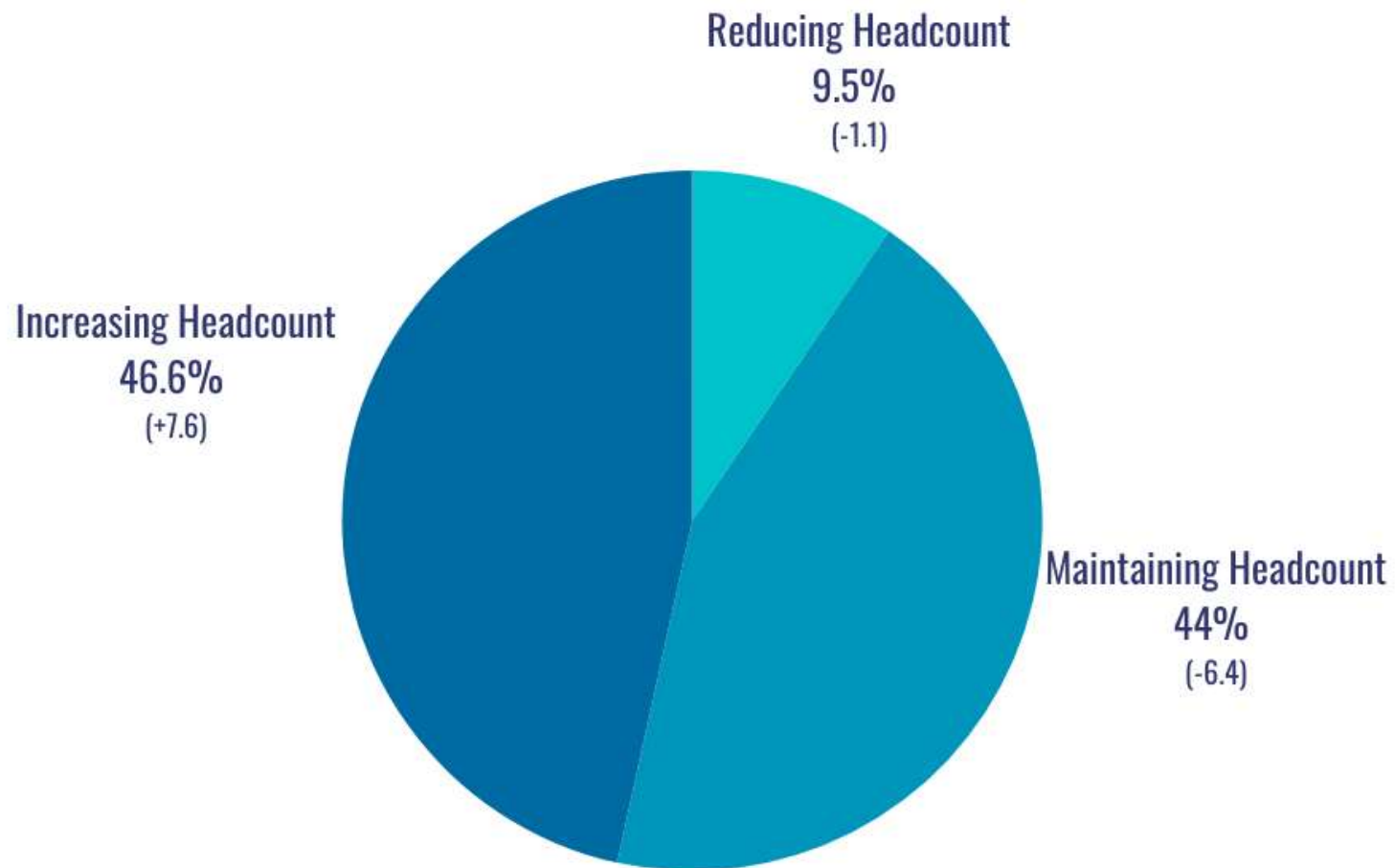
How has the past quarter been for your organization specifically?



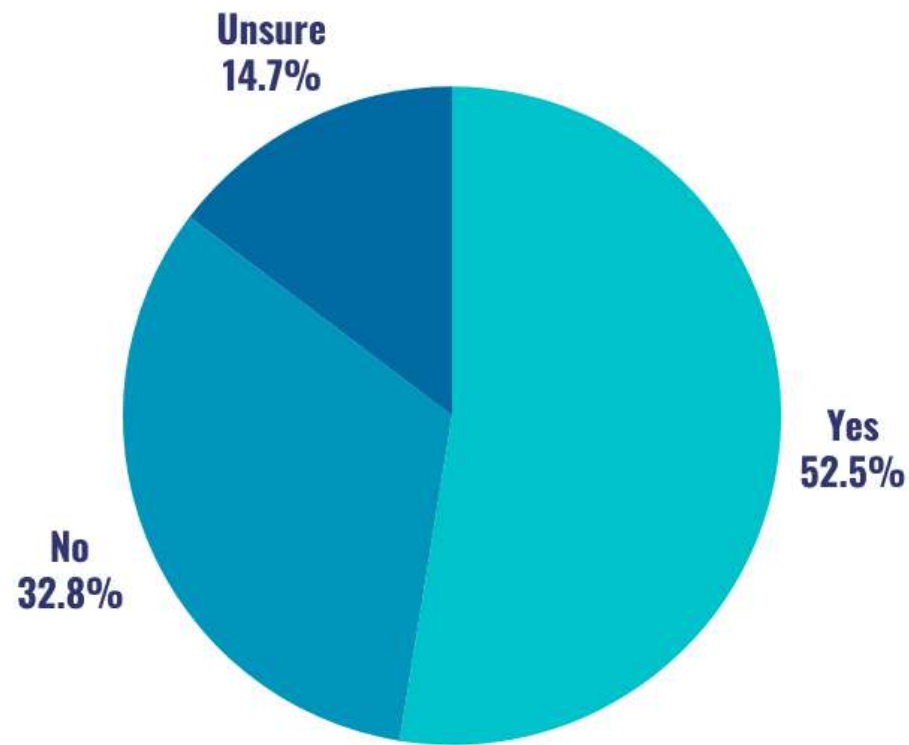
I expect that over the next quarter our business will:



Is your organization:



Are you concerned about a possible return of inflation in 2026 impacting your business costs?



What makes you optimistic about the next 12 months?

**Economic
Momentum**
AI Growth + **Recession
Resilience**
Innovation **Continued
Demand**
**Stabilizing
Interest Rates** **NC Growth +
Business Climate**

What concerns you, if anything, about the next 12 months?

Consumer +
Customer Spending

Tariffs + Trade Policy

Stagflation

Political Instability
+ Uncertainty

Supply Chain
Shortages

Geopolitical
Tensions

Inflation

AI Misuse



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