

Students at work

Belong report December 2024



Survey information

The data here is derived from student polling undertaken during November 2024 by Wonkhe and Cibyl as part of Belong.

The survey was distributed via WonkheSUs subscriber students' unions that have opted to take part in Belong, comprising students from 75 HE providers across the UK.

2,853 students gave responses to this wave, of which 1,461 were in work, and it is the responses of students in work reported here. The results are weighted to account for gender and level of study.

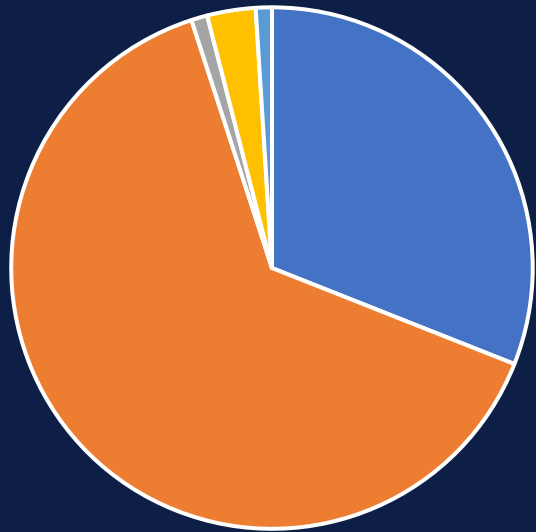
66 per cent of respondents were undergraduate and 34 per cent were postgraduate taught or research.

66 per cent of respondents were home-domiciled students and 34 per cent were international, including EU-domiciled.



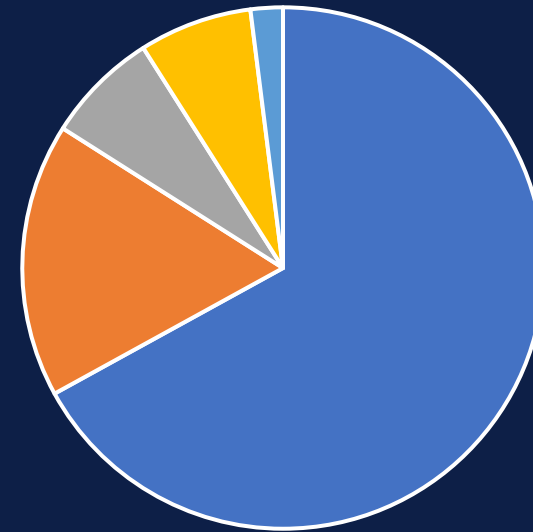
By Cibyl & Wonkhe

Demographics: gender and age



Men Women Other term Non-binary PNTS

Gender



18 to 24 25 to 34 35 to 44 45+ PNTS

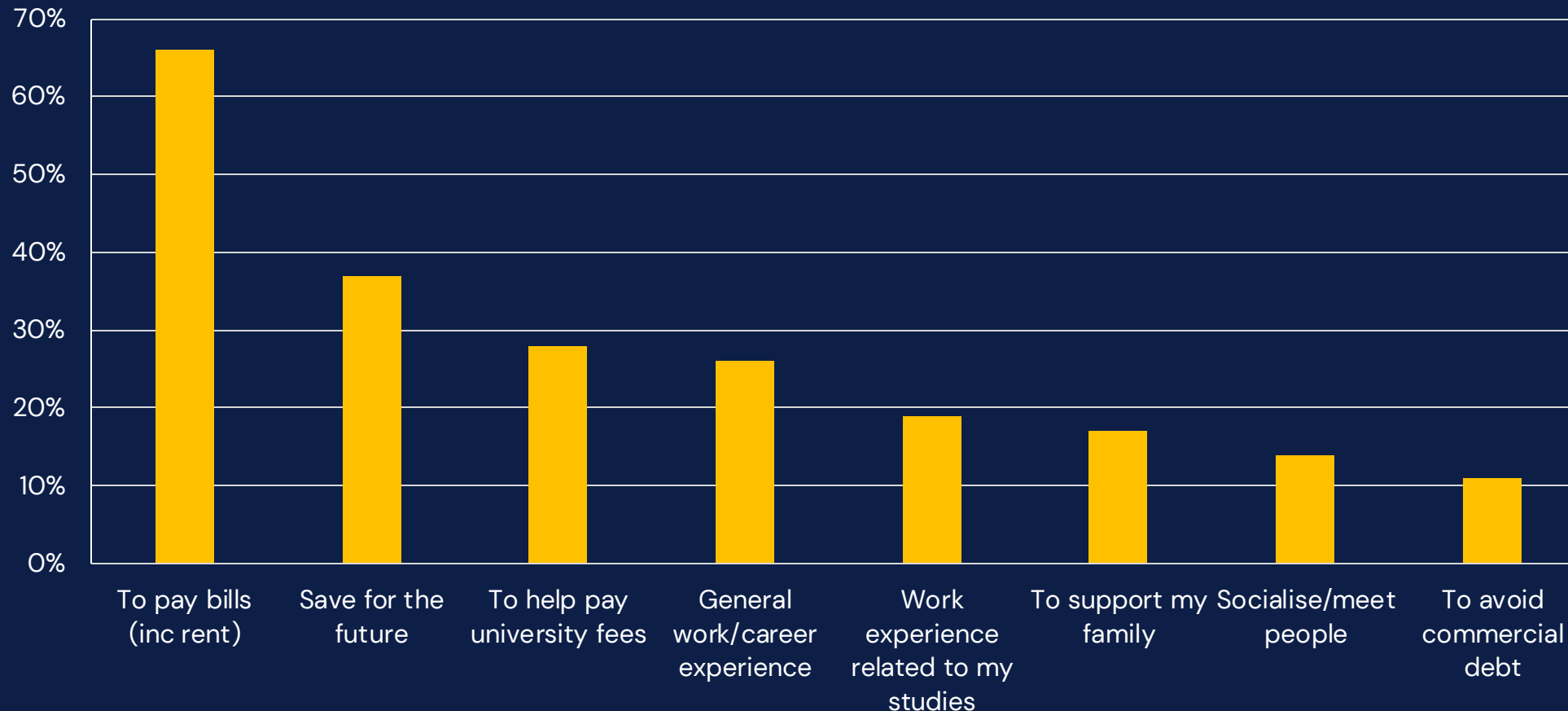
Age



By Cibyl & Wonkhe

The majority of students who are working are doing so to cover costs

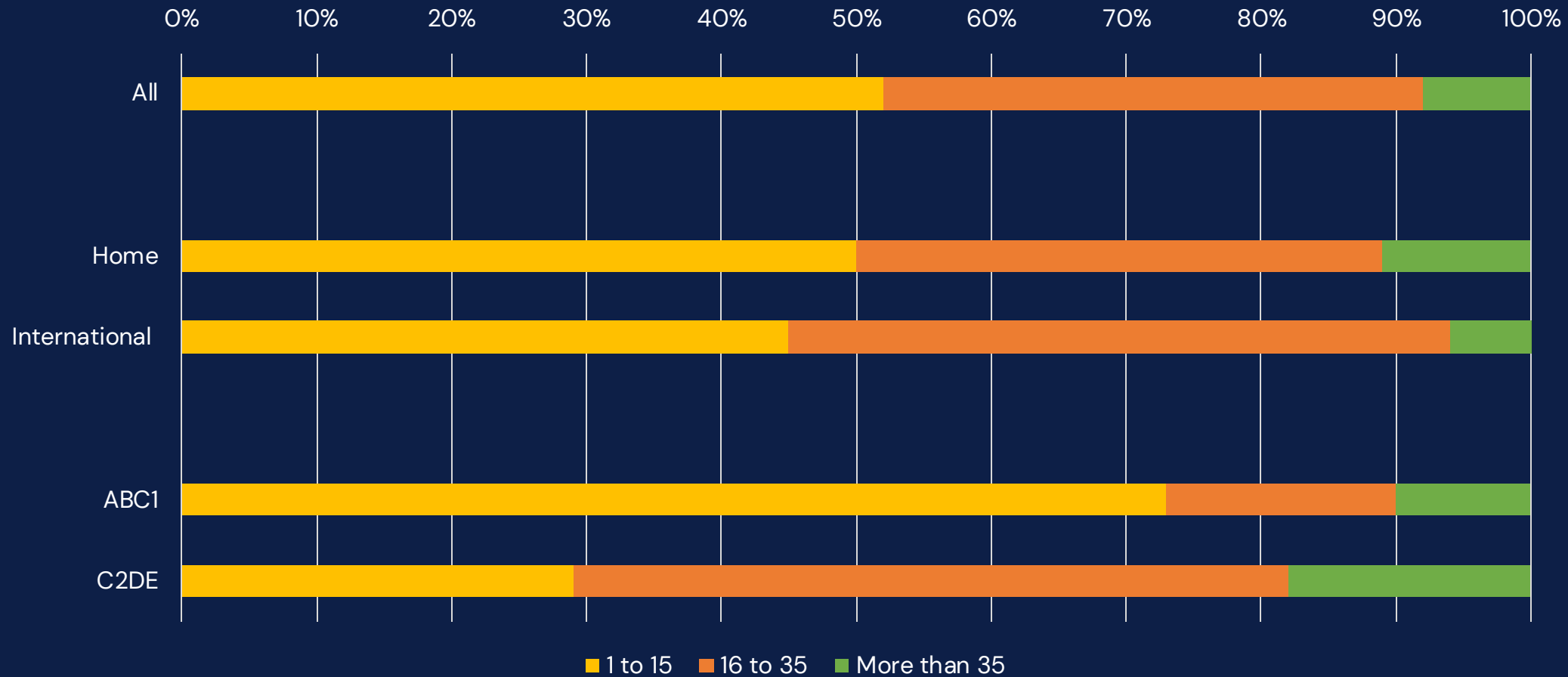
Why did you get a job?



By Cibyl & Wonkhe

Half are working more than 15 hours per week

How many hours a week do you work during term time?



By Cibyl & Wonkhe

Students may live and work some distance from campus

What is your average travel to work time?

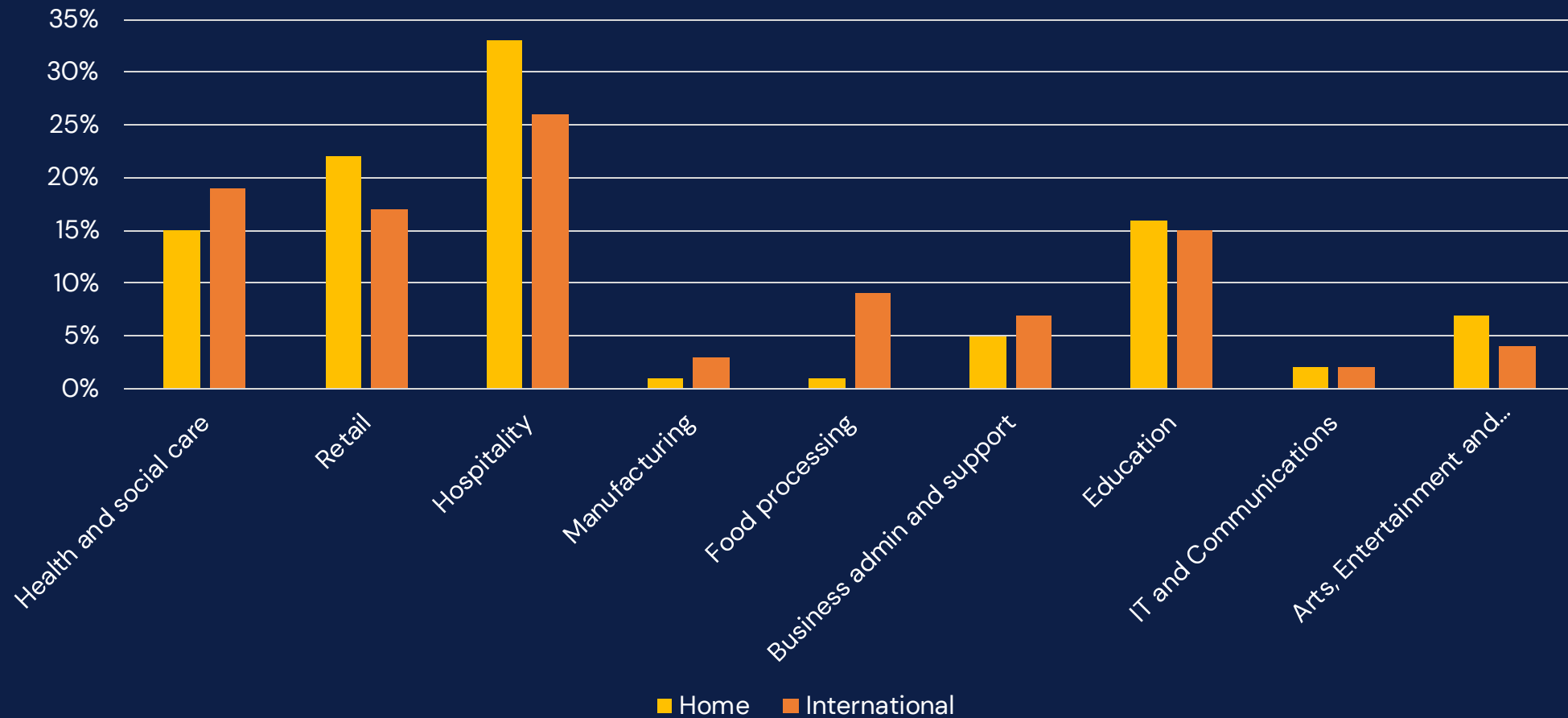
	From home		From campus	
	Home	Intl	Home	Intl
0 minutes (work there)	8%	7%	16%	11%
1-30 mins	59%	43%	35%	41%
31-60 mins	25%	33%	28%	21%
61-90 mins	6%	11%	12%	15%
91+ mins	2%	6%	9%	12%



By Cibyl & Wonkhe

Areas of work vary by nationality

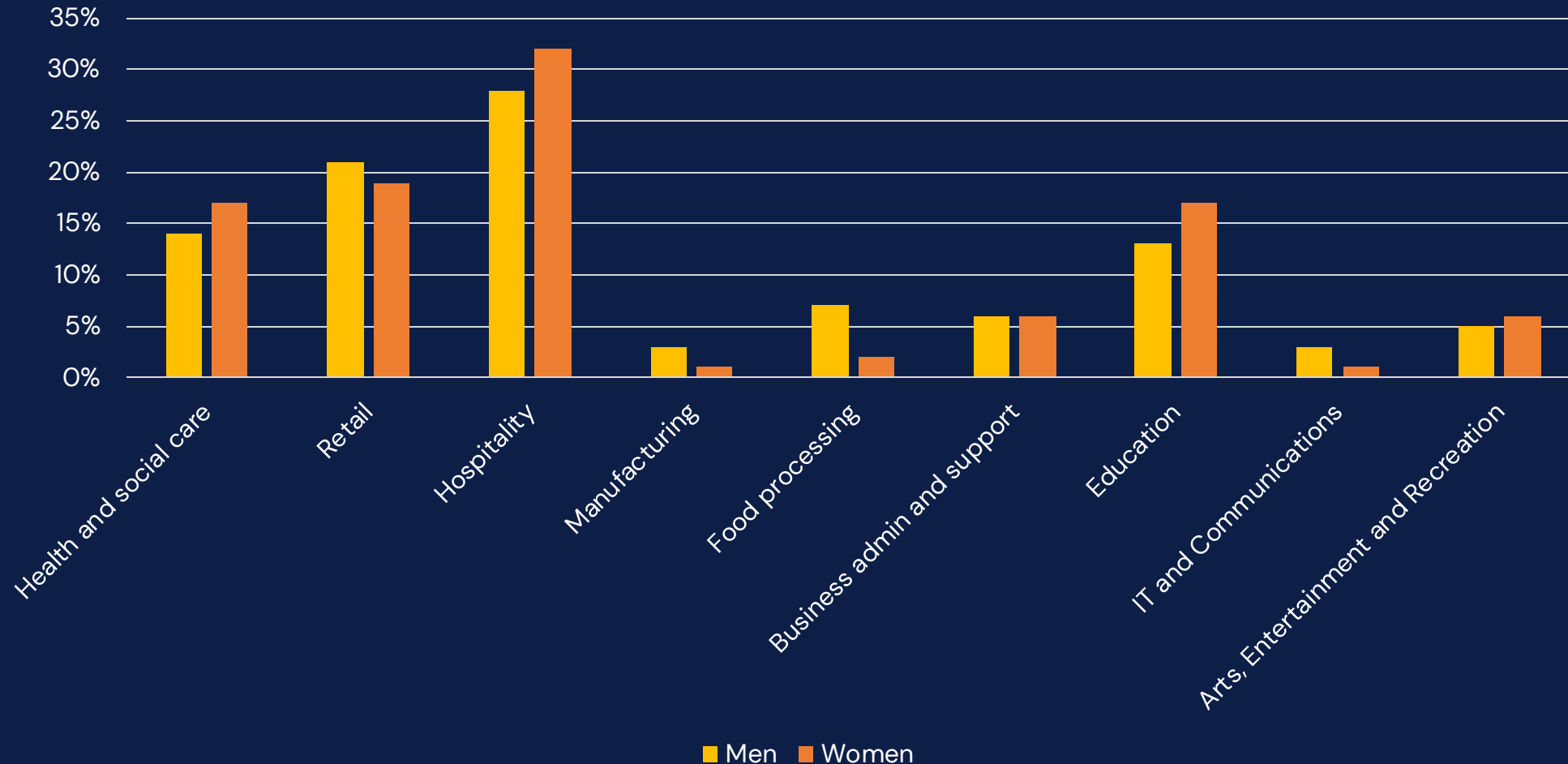
In what sector is your main/primary job?



By Cibyl & Wonkhe

Areas of work vary by gender

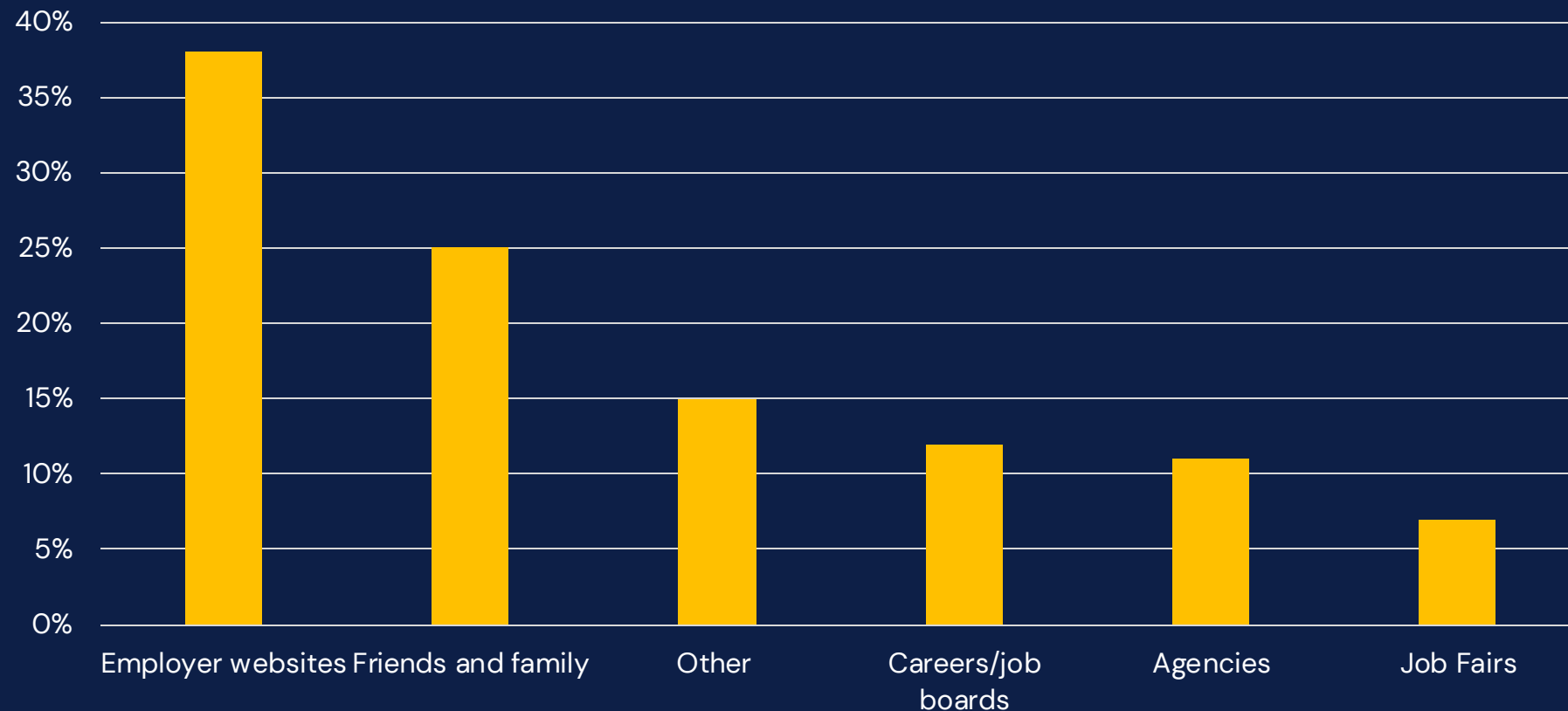
In what sector is your main/primary job?



By Cibyl & Wonkhe

Students are mainly finding work directly from employers

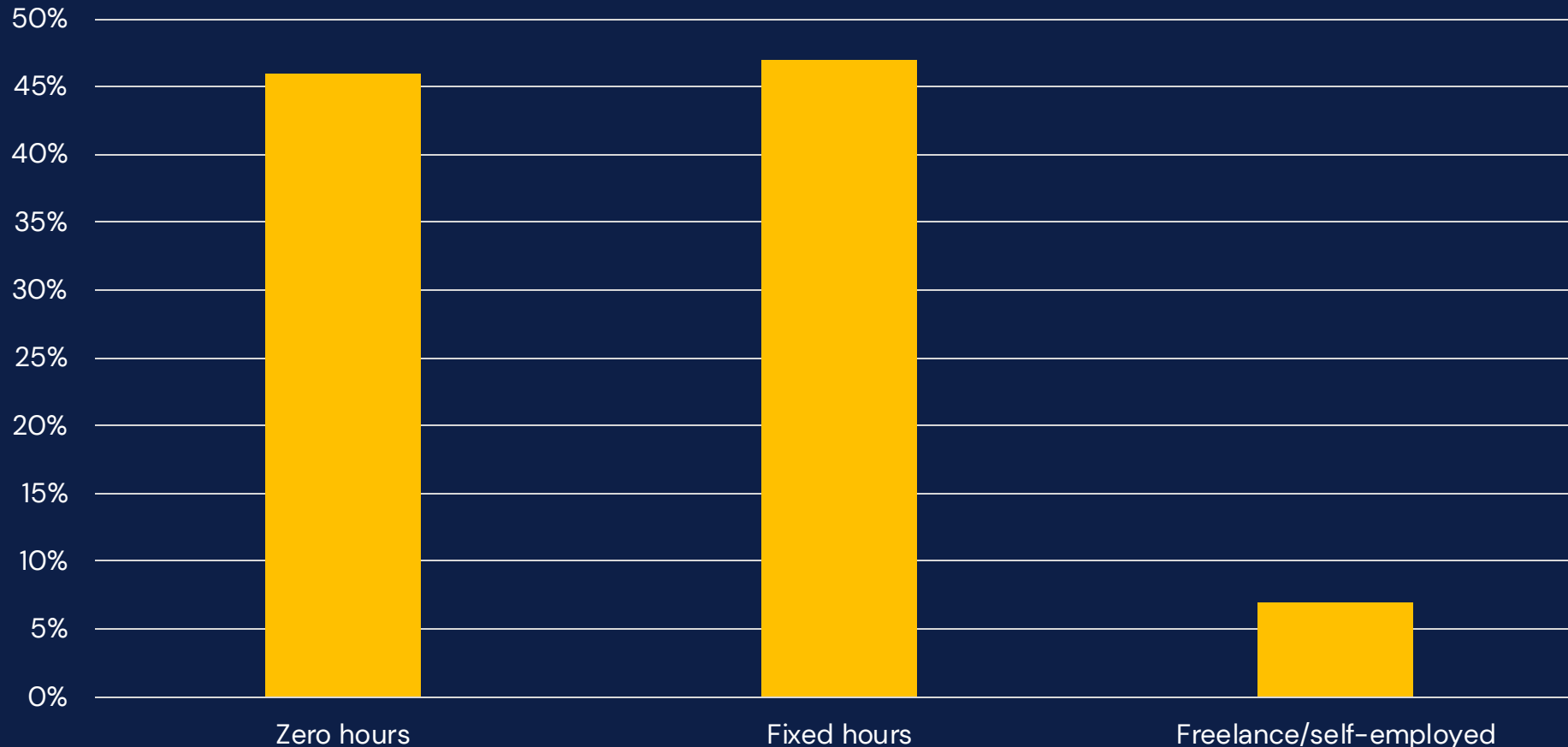
How did you find the job?



By Cibyl & Wonkhe

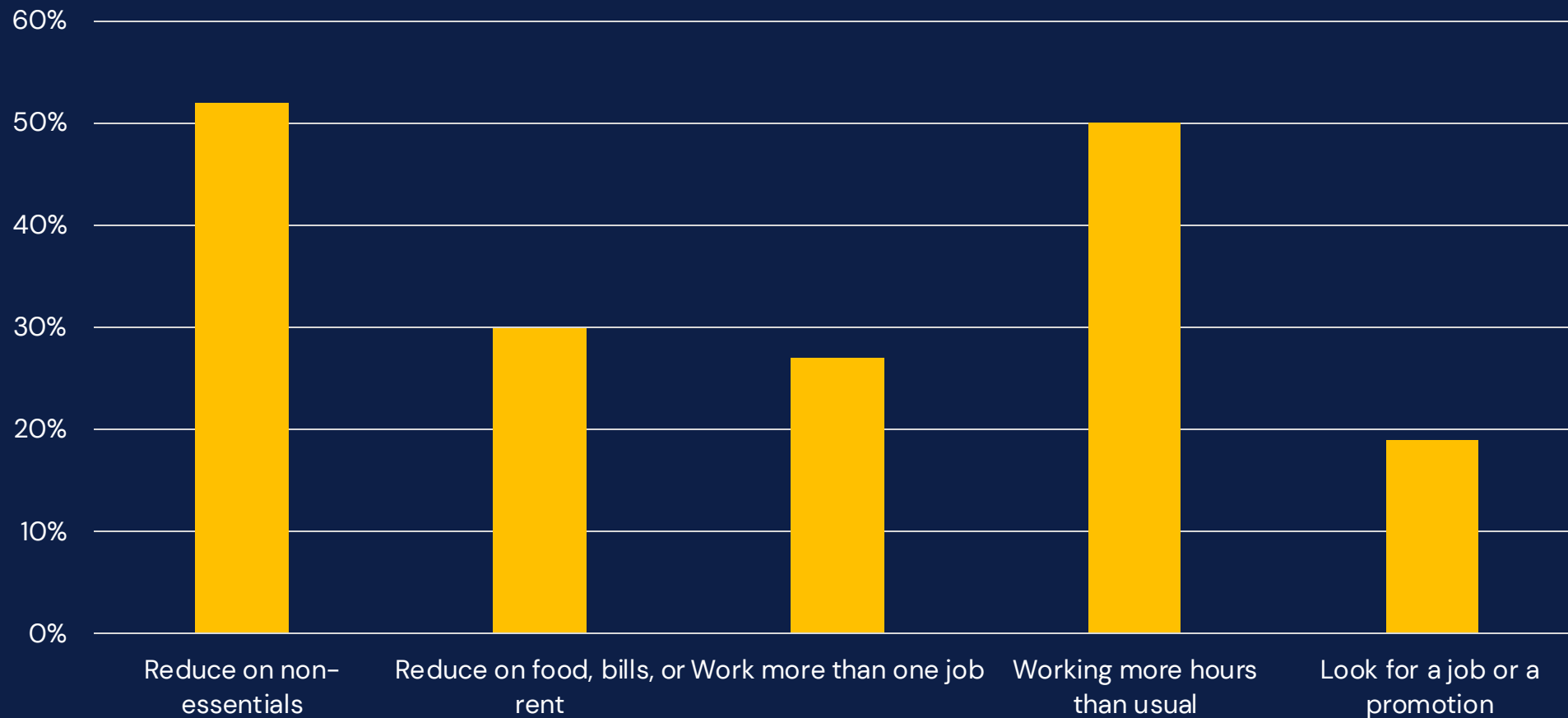
Nearly half are on zero-hours contracts

What type of contract do you have?



The response to increased costs is to work more

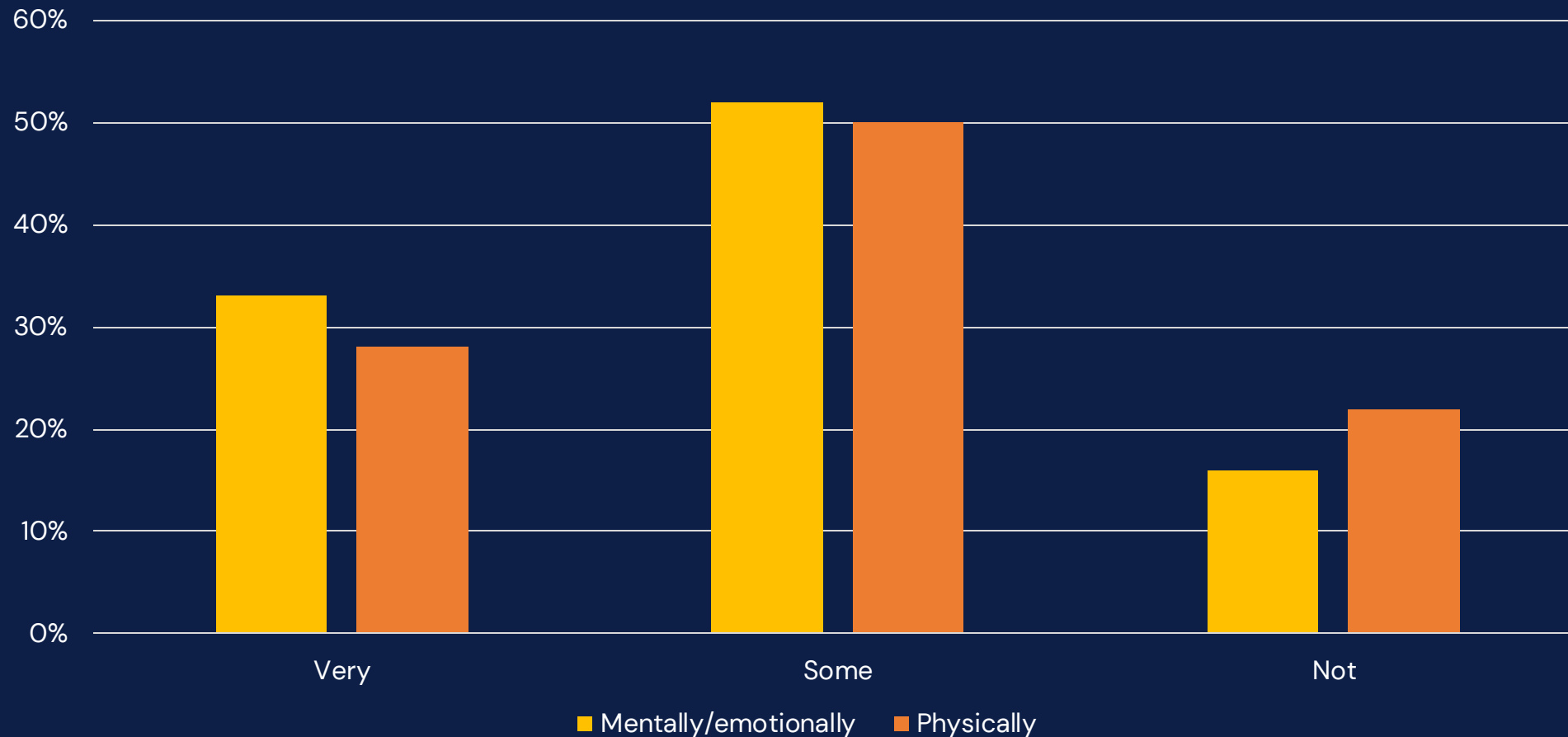
How have you/would respond when costs increase?



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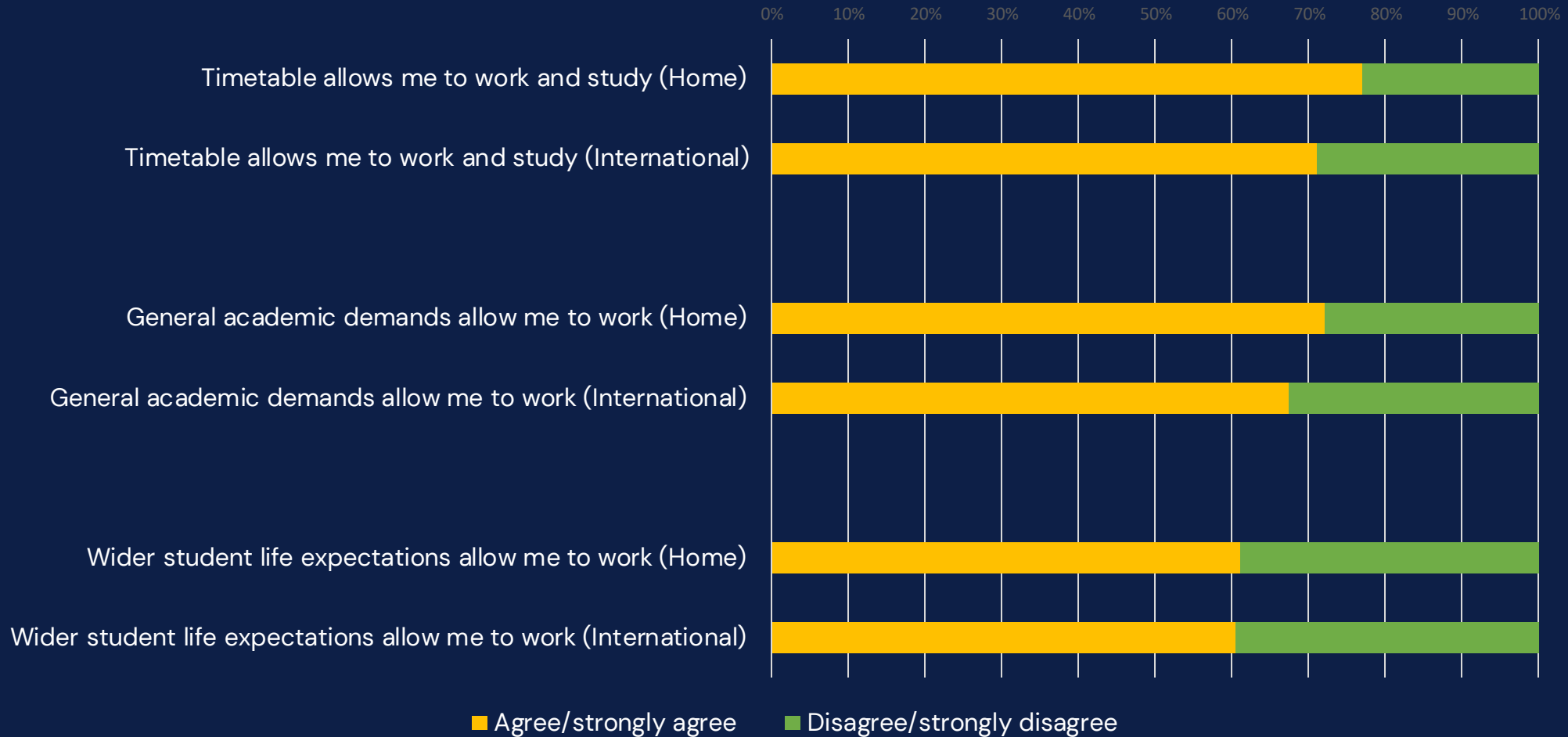
Work can be physically and mentally draining

How tiring would you say your job is?



By Cibyl & Wonkhe

Around a third struggle to balance work and study



By Cibyl & Wonkhe

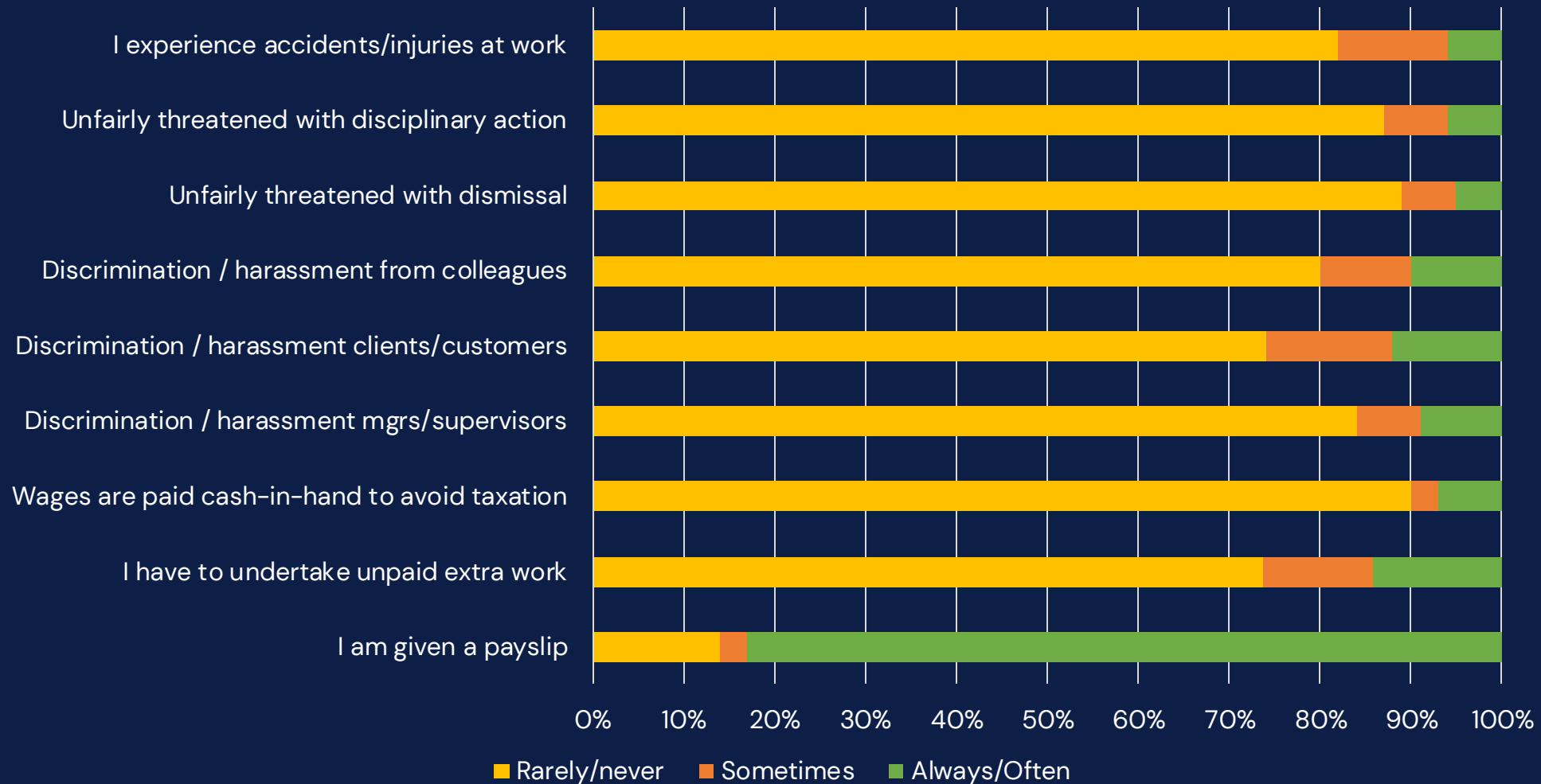
Most – but not all – are treated well at work

How well would you say you are treated at work?				
	Home		International	
	Well	Badly	Well	Badly
By my employer	92%	8%	90%	10%
By my colleagues	96%	4%	86%	14%
By customers/clients	82%	18%	88%	12%



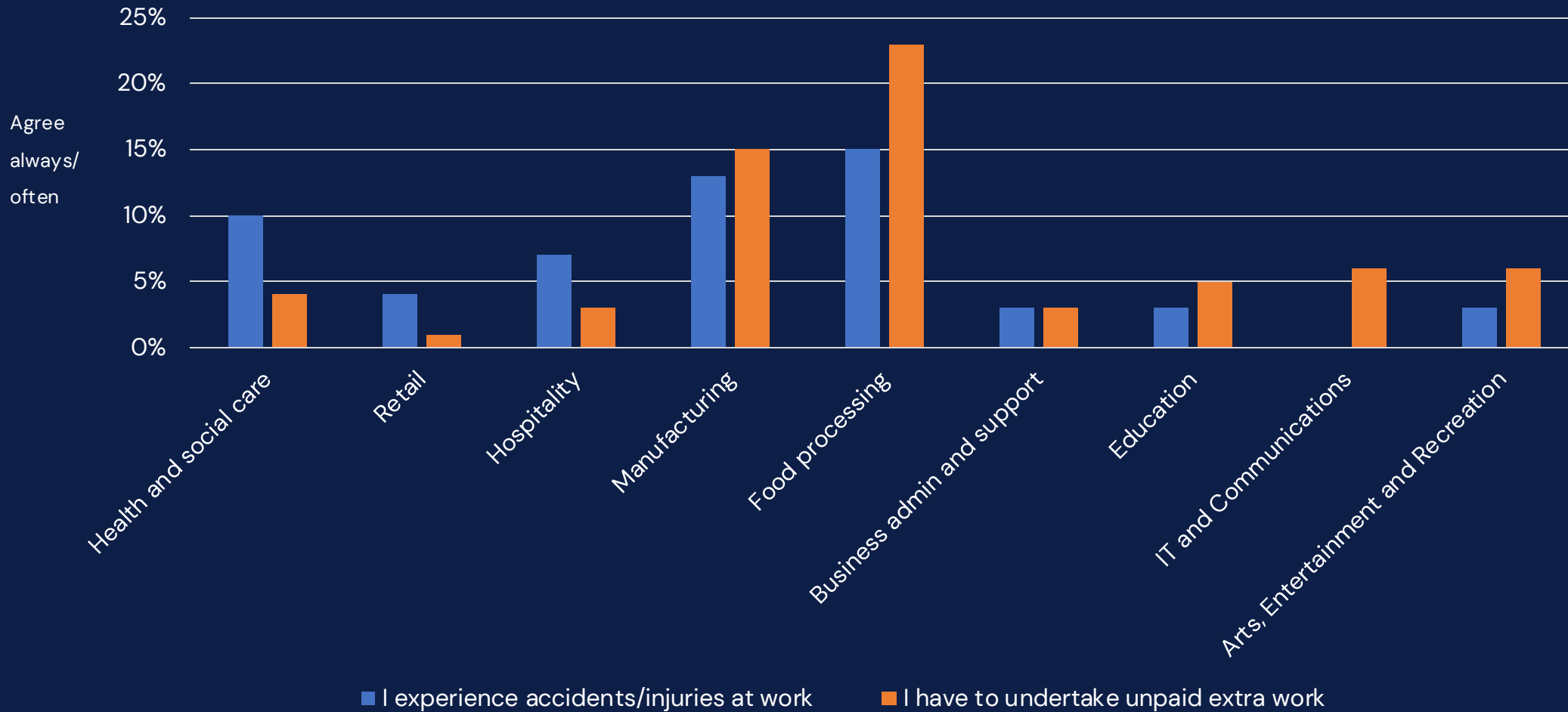
By Cibyl & Wonkhe

Access to basic rights is not universal



By Cibyl & Wonkhe

Some sectors are worse offenders than others



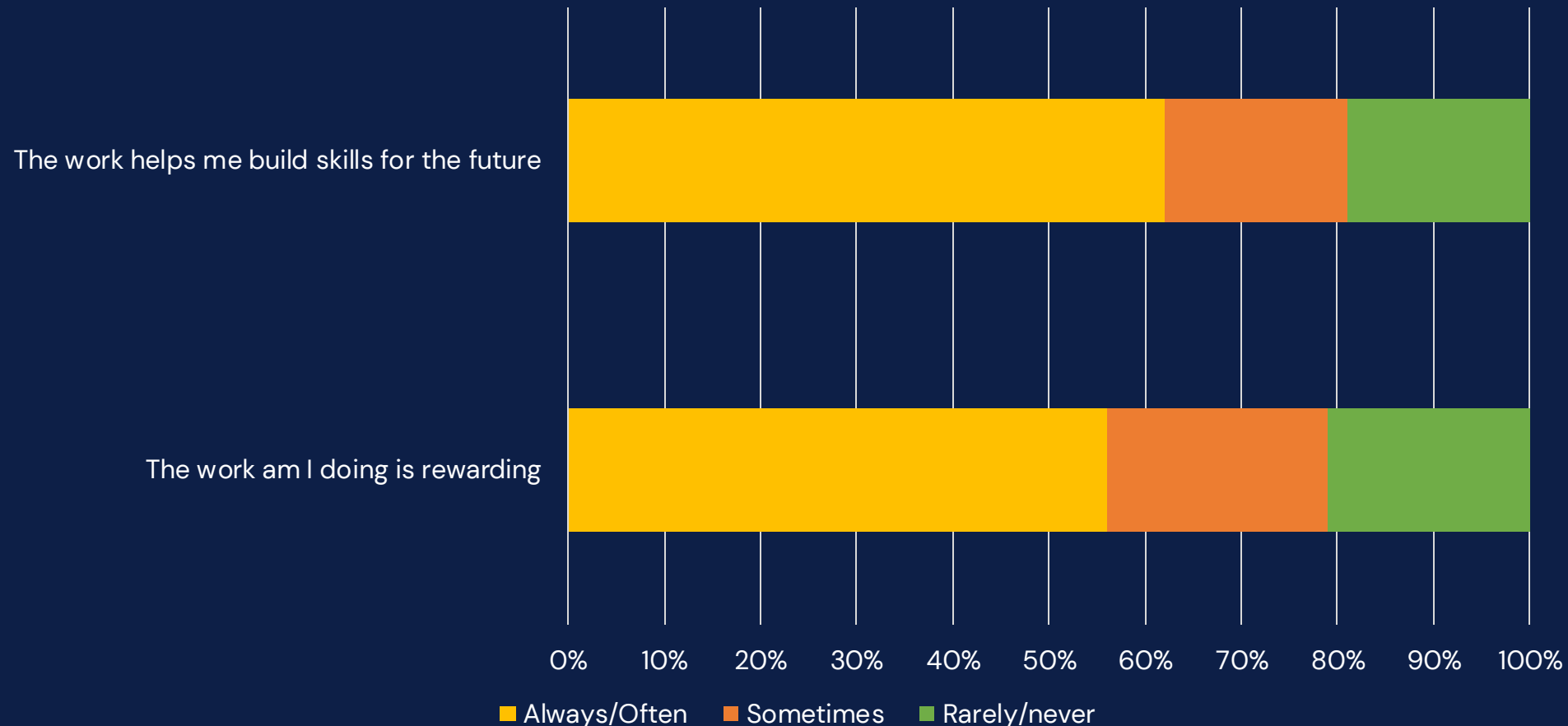
■ I experience accidents/injuries at work

■ I have to undertake unpaid extra work



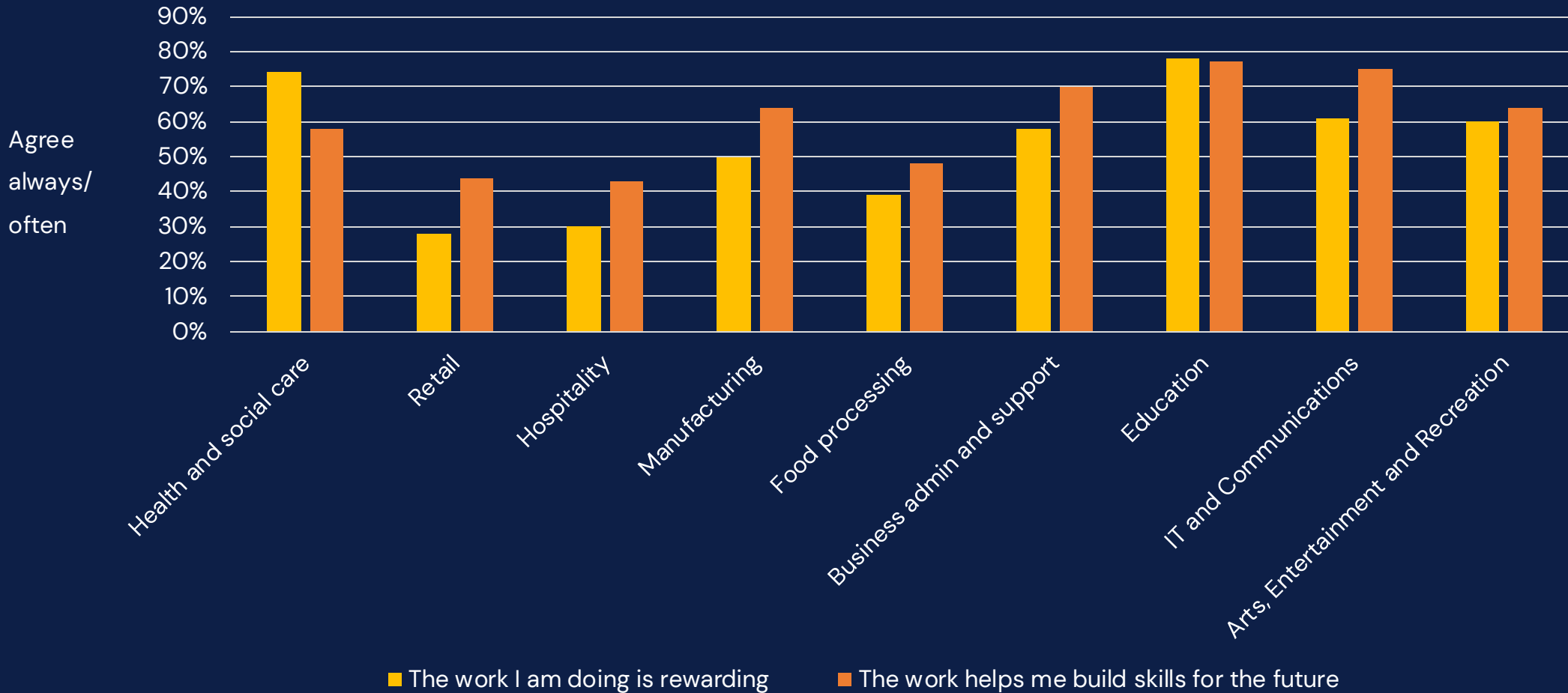
By Cibyl & Wonkhe

One in five disagree their work is rewarding or helps their future



By Cibyl & Wonkhe

Some sectors are more rewarding than others



By Cibyl & Wonkhe

What would help?

- More jobs on campus
- Flexibility in timetabling
- Reduction of on-campus costs
- Help and guidance on managing the juggle
- Making time on campus valuable
- Empathy and recognition for the struggle

[Read the full analysis of findings on Wonkhe](#)



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Work with us

The Belong project

- For SUs
- Partnership model
- Invite students to survey, receive insights

The Cibyl Mental Health Study

- For any HEI team working to improve students' mental health
- Surveying, reporting, and insight on your students

The UK Graduate Study

- Partnership model with careers services
- Careers services distribute surveys, receive insights from Cibyl

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By Cibyl & Wonkhe

