



# AHK World Business Outlook Qatar

Spring 2026



German Emirati Joint Council  
for Industry and Commerce  
المجلس الألماني الإماراتي  
المشترك للصناعة و التجارة

## Summary

Recent regional developments have significantly weakened **business sentiment**, with the share of companies rating their situation as good falling from 62% to 30%. 35% still consider the status satisfactory.

Looking ahead, **business expectations** for the next 12 months are more cautious. Only 35% of companies foresee growth in their Qatari operations, while another 35% anticipate a decline. Confidence in the wider economic outlook has also weakened, with 47% of companies expecting the **Qatar's economy** to worsen.

**Investment** intentions have followed a similar downward trend. Almost half of companies (47%) predict lower or no investments in the next 12 months. The proportion of companies planning higher investments has decreased sharply from 38% to 12%.

Prospects for local **employment** have weakened further. 41% of companies expect workforce levels to remain stable, while an equal share intend to reduce headcount.

In terms of **risks**, companies identify supply chain disruptions and economic policy conditions as the most significant challenges (59% each). Rising costs for energy and raw materials are increasingly seen as a concern, while demand remains a persistent issue, cited by 47% of respondents.

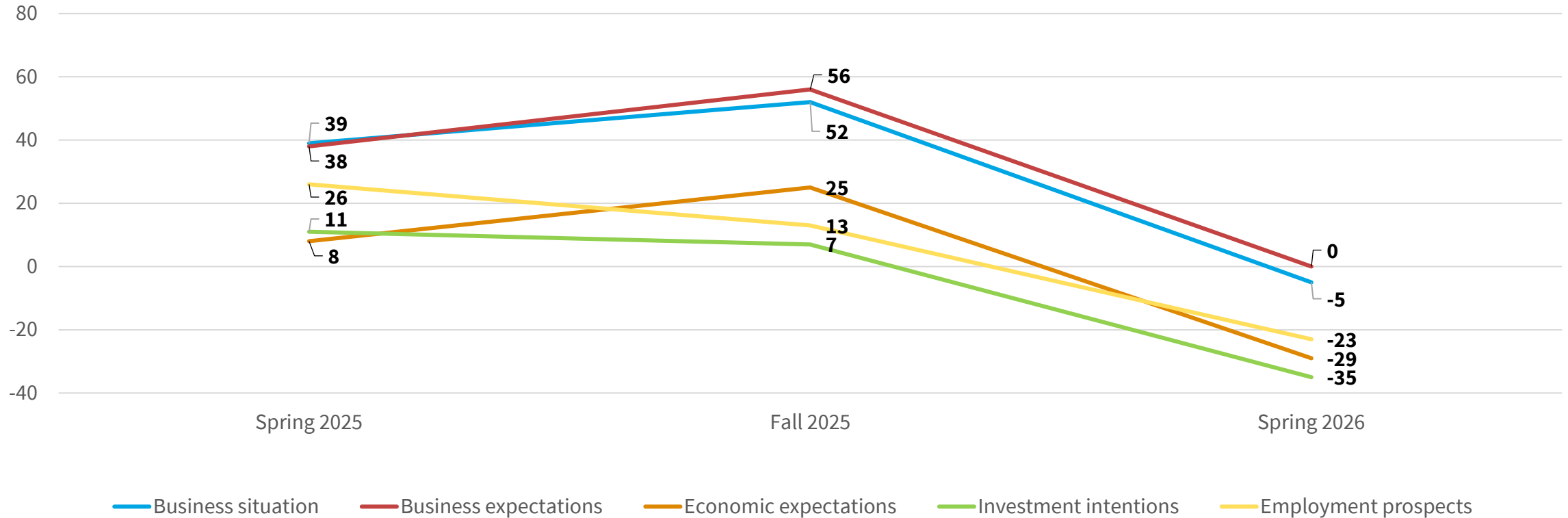
The current business environment is shaped by geopolitical tensions. The **escalation in the Middle East** is leading to supply chain disruptions for 82% of companies, while 71% report challenges in deploying employees abroad.

In response, companies plan to broaden their **supplier networks** and enter **new sales markets**. However, most companies (79%) avoid **increases in inventory**.

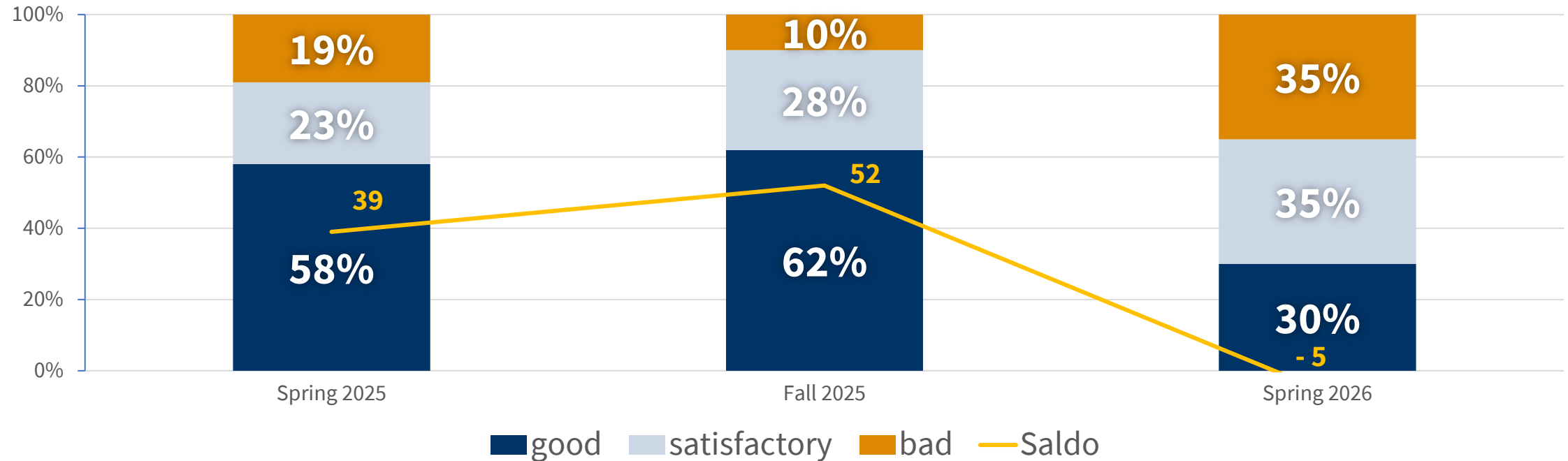
Despite these challenges, confidence in the Qatari market remains strong, with 71% of companies having no plans to relocate.

# Summary: Situation and forecast - German companies in Qatar

## Saldo in points

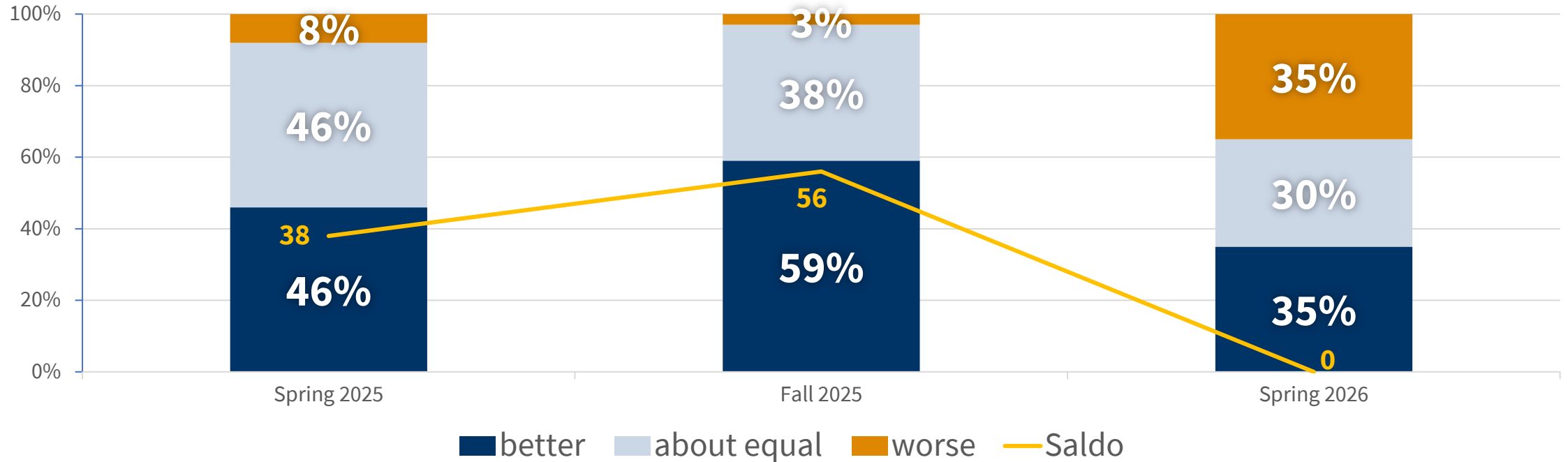


# 1. How do you assess the current business situation of your company?



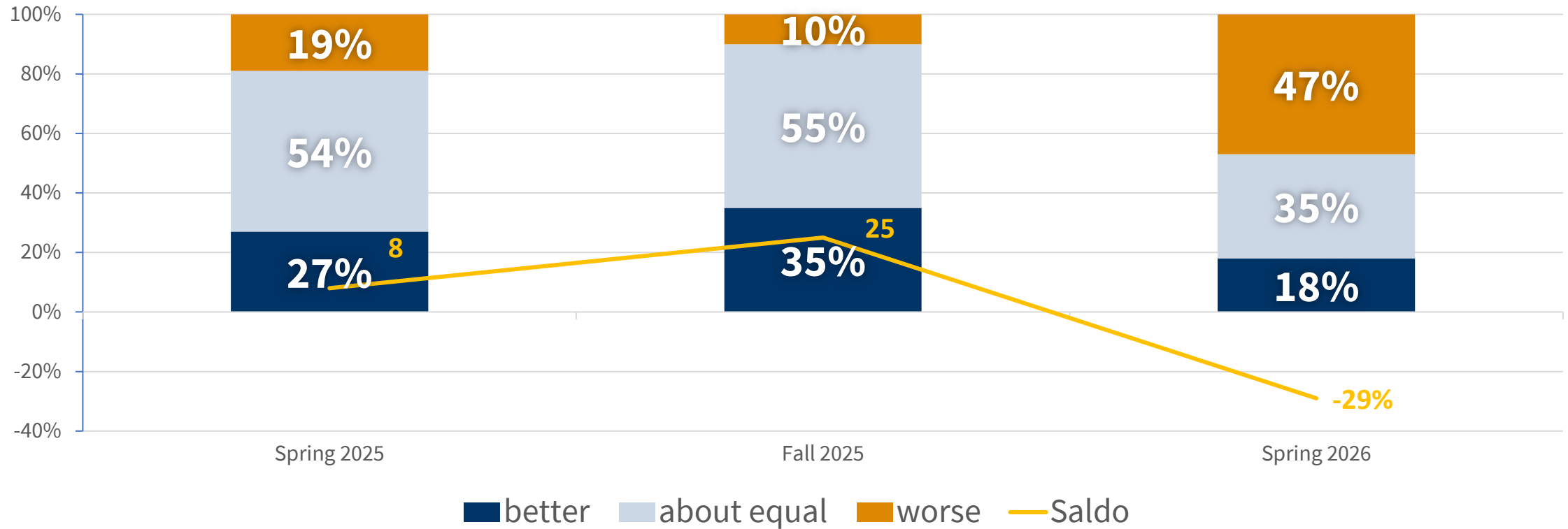
Due to the recent developments in the region, the number of companies assessing their own current business situation as good decreased from 62% to 30%. 35% consider their business situation to be bad, while an equally large share report being satisfied. The saldo (positive answers minus the negative answers) decreased to -5 points.

## 2. Which business development does your company expect for the next 12 months?



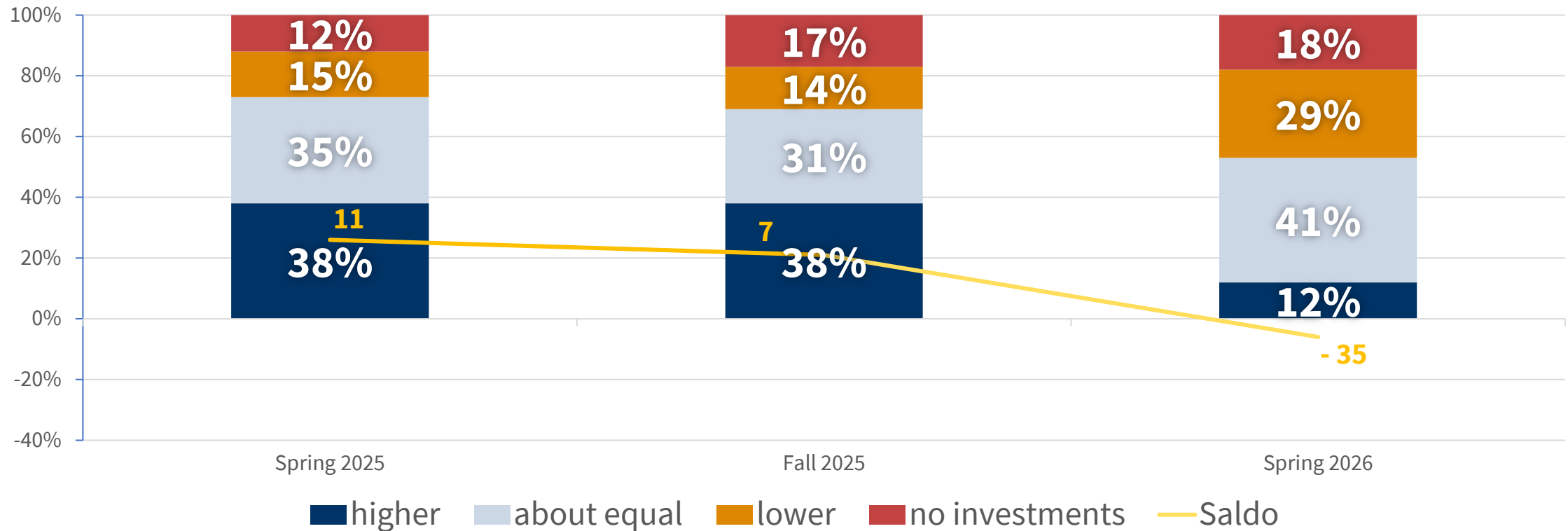
Companies anticipate a more significant impact on business development in the coming year. Only 35% of companies expect growth in their Qatari operations over the next 12 months, as many as those expecting a decline. 30% expect a stable situation.

### 3. How do you judge the local economic development in the next 12 months?



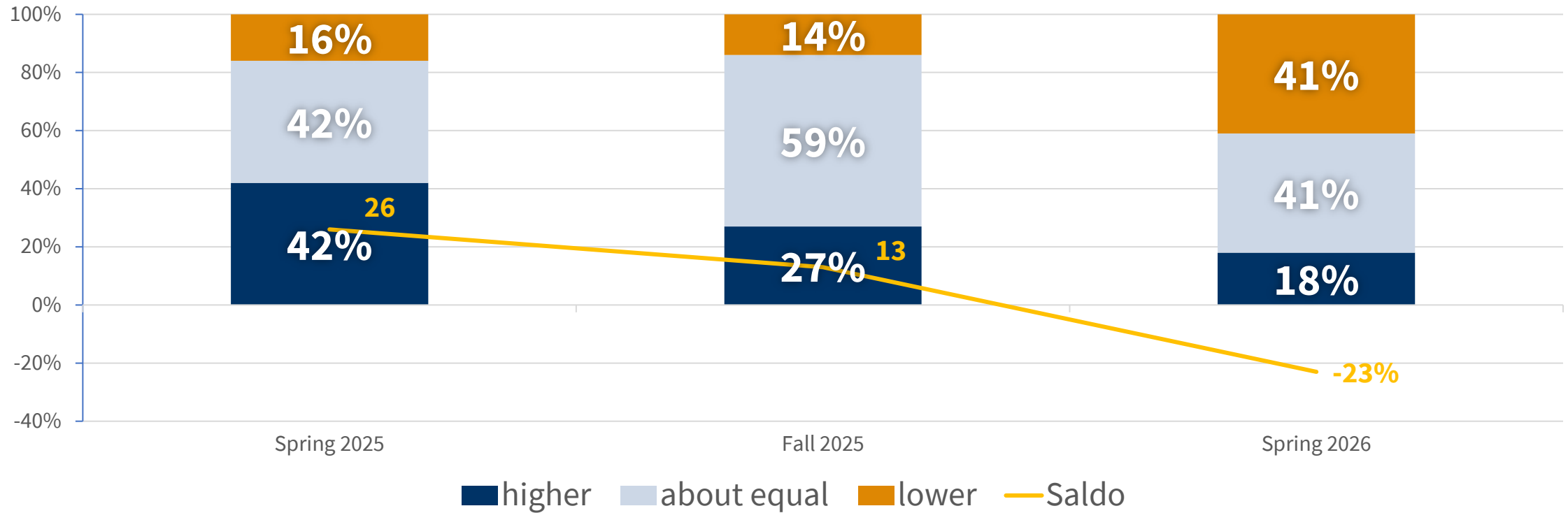
Expectations for Qatar’s economic development are even more pessimistic, with a rising share of 47% of companies anticipating worsening conditions.

## 4. How do you think local investments of your company are likely to develop in the next 12 months?



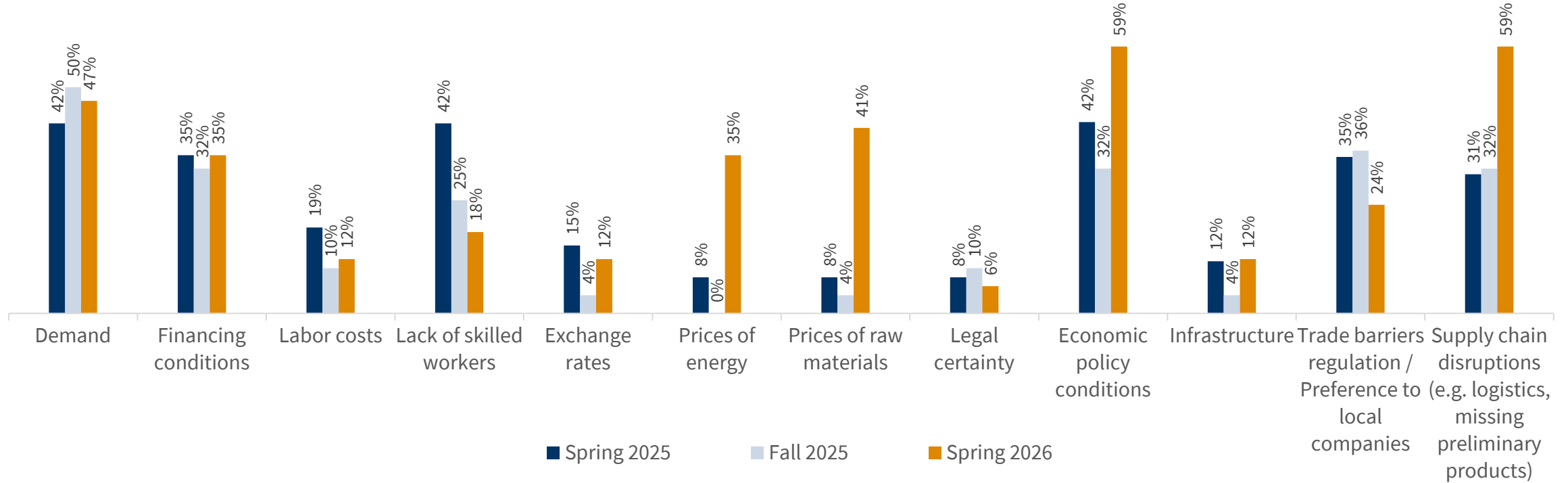
In terms of future investments, the percentage of companies projecting higher investments drastically decreased from 38% to 12%. Almost half of the companies (47%) predict lower or no investments in the next 12 months.

## 5. How do you think local employment of your company is likely to develop in the next 12 months?



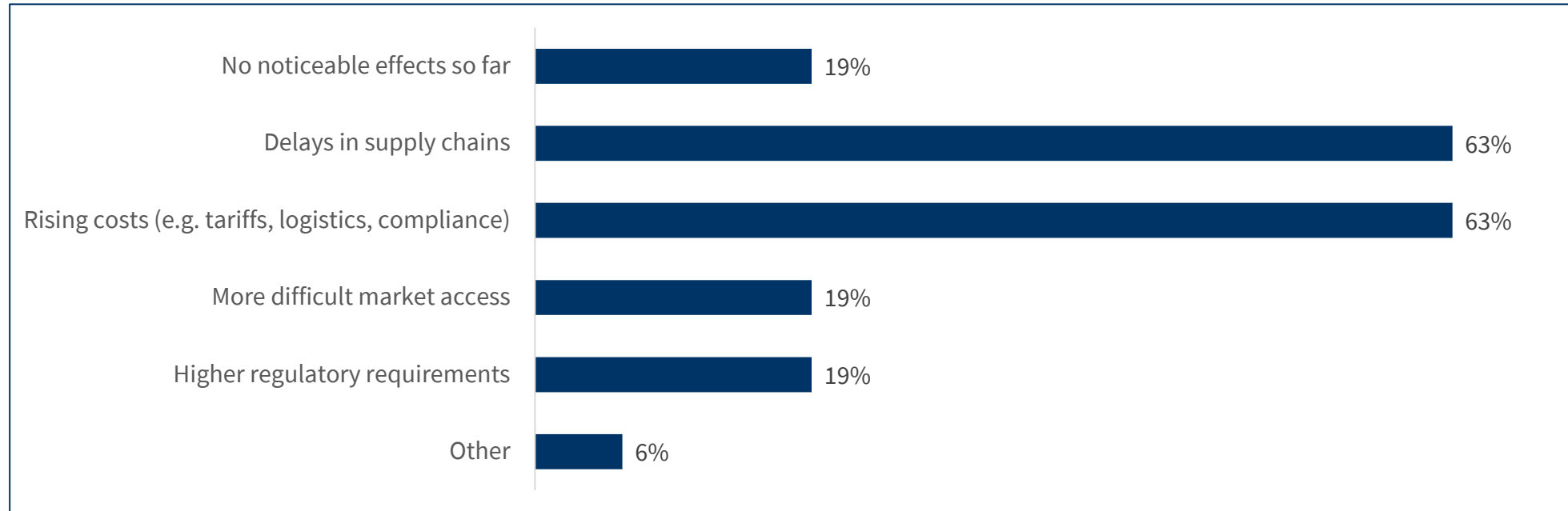
In the coming year, prospects for local employment have declined further. 41% of companies expect workforce levels to remain stable, while an equal share intend to reduce headcount.

## 6. What are the biggest risks for your company's economic development in the next twelve months?



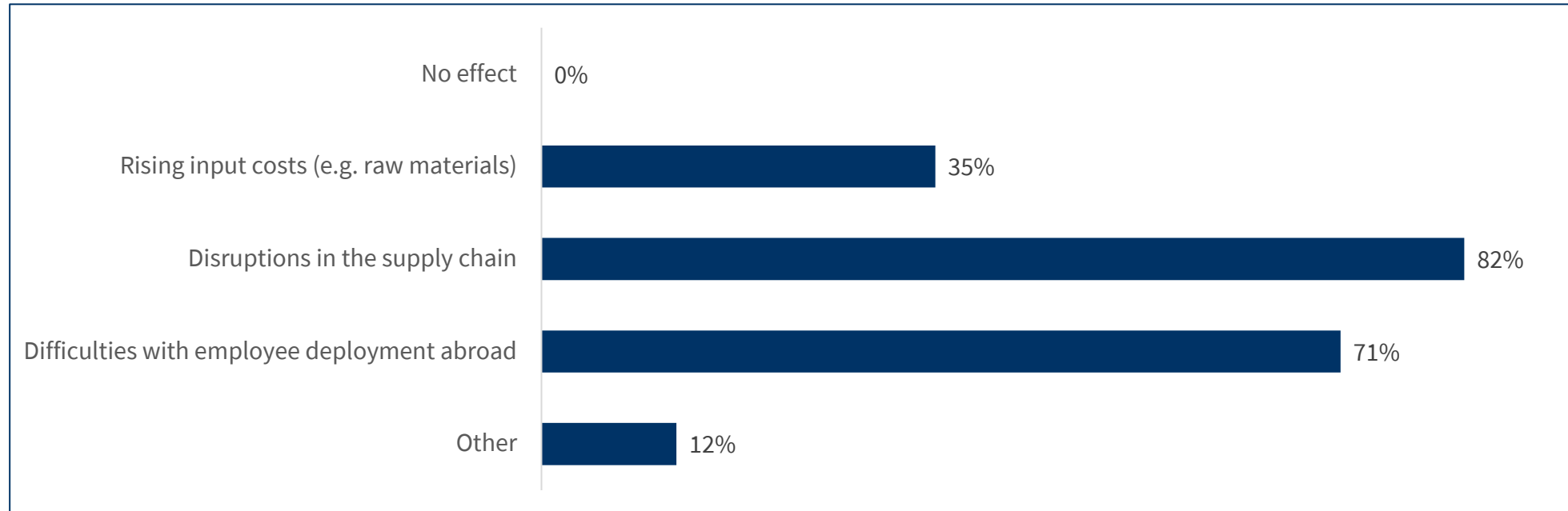
Supply chain disruptions and economic policy conditions are currently perceived as the greatest risks by companies (both with 59%). Demand remains a significant issue, cited by 47% of respondents. Additionally, there is a significant increase in the number of companies indicating rising raw material prices (41%) and energy prices (35%) as a growing challenges.

## 7. What specific effects are current trade policy developments having on your company's business?



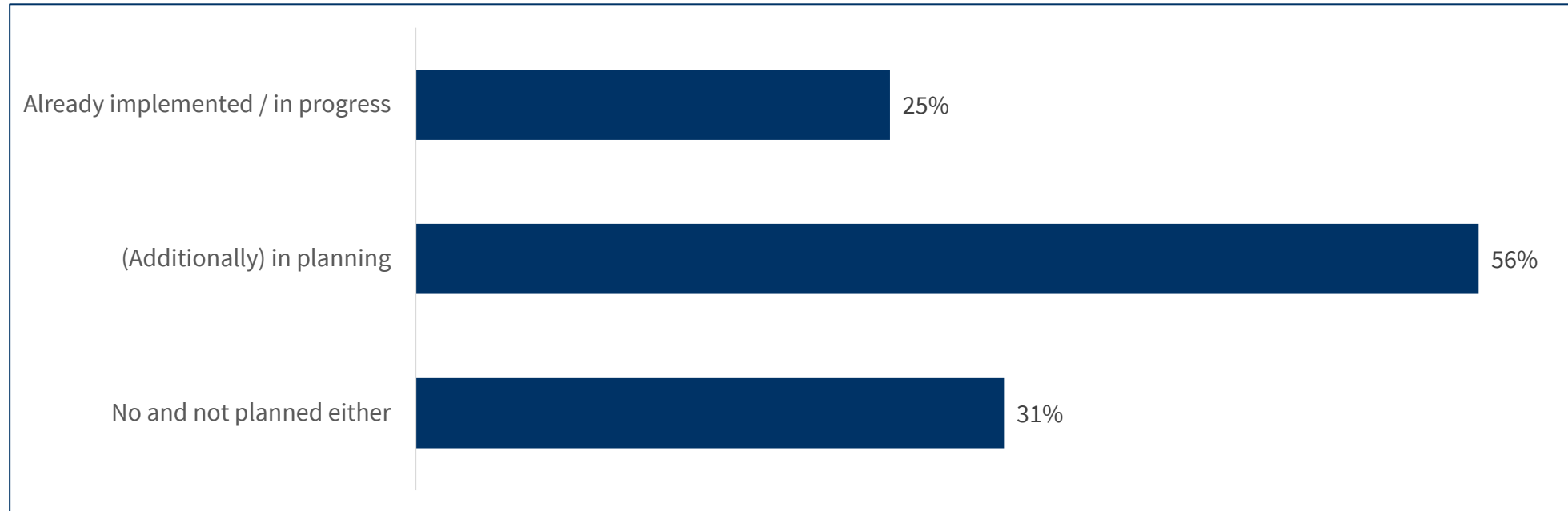
Current trade policy developments are contributing to rising costs, for example through logistics and tariffs. Furthermore, 63% of the companies experience supply chain delays.

## 8. What effects of the escalation in the Middle East conflict do you fear or already experience in your company's business?



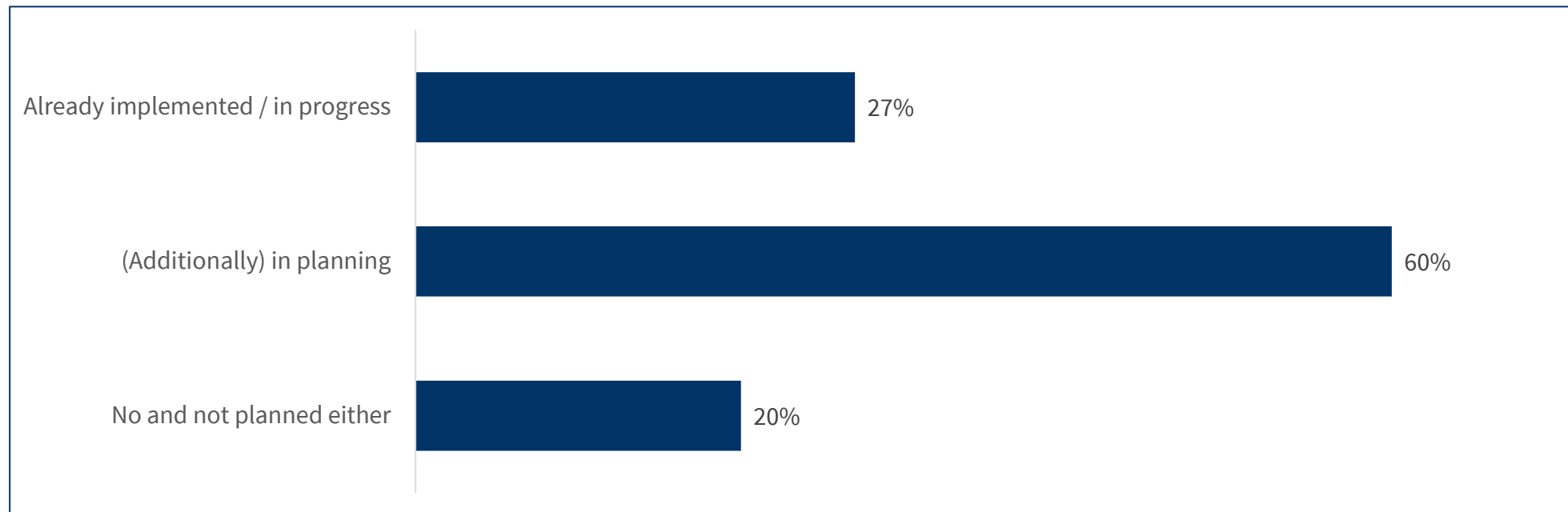
The escalation in the Middle East is leading to severe supply chain disruptions, cited by 82% of companies. 71% also expect challenges in deploying employees abroad. Rising input costs, such as for raw materials, are an additional strong concern.

## 9. Do you plan an expansion of supplier network?



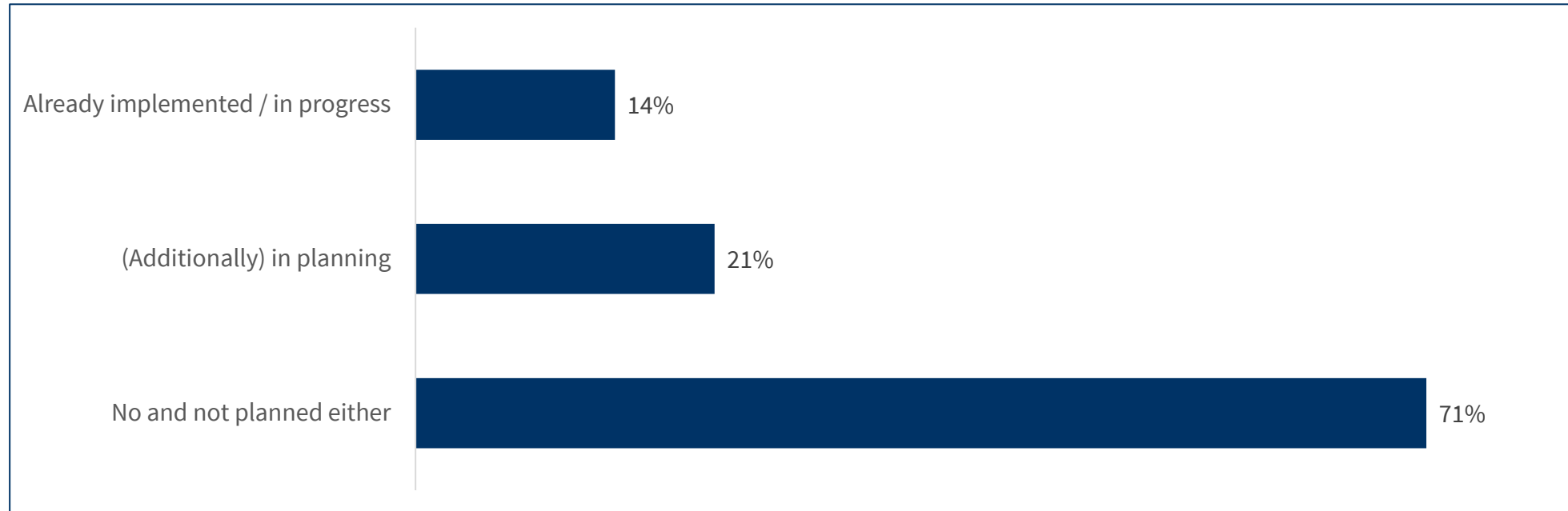
56% of companies plan to expand their supplier network, while 25% have already implemented or are currently implementing such measures.

## 10. Do you explore new sales markets?



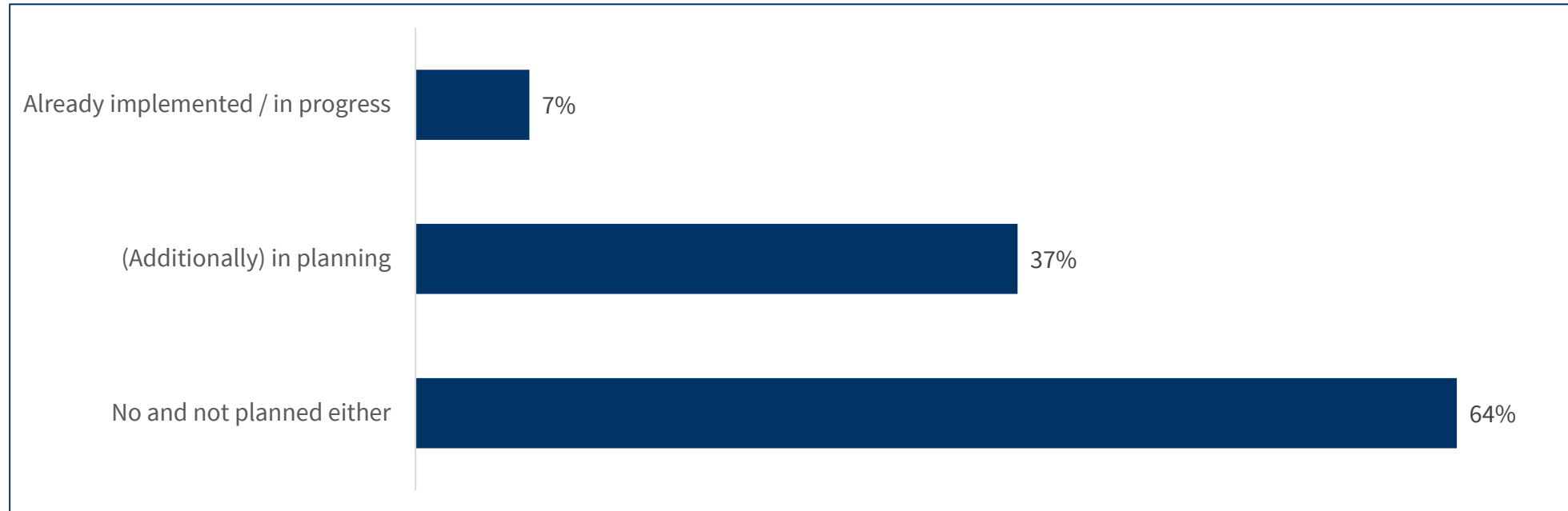
27% of companies are already exploring or have implemented new sales markets, while 60% plan to expand into additional markets.

## 11. Do you consider a relocation of production/facilities to new location?



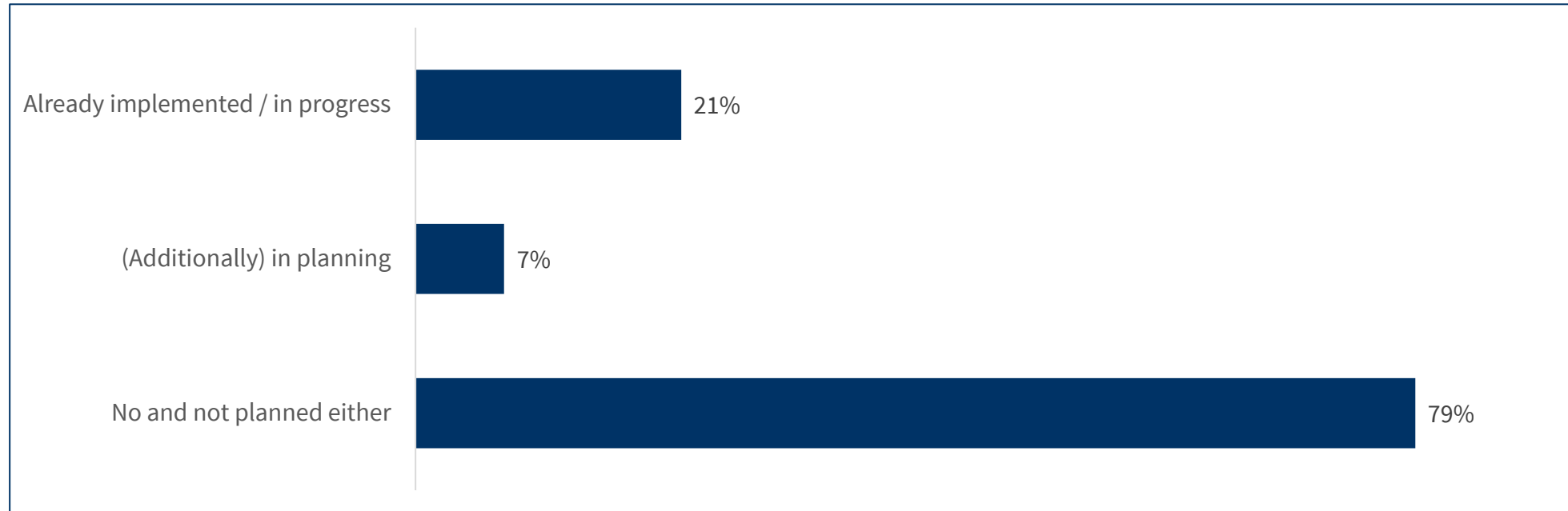
Confidence in Qatar as business location remains solid, with 71% of the companies indicating no intention to relocate their local operations.

## 12. Do you consider an increase in investments at local site?



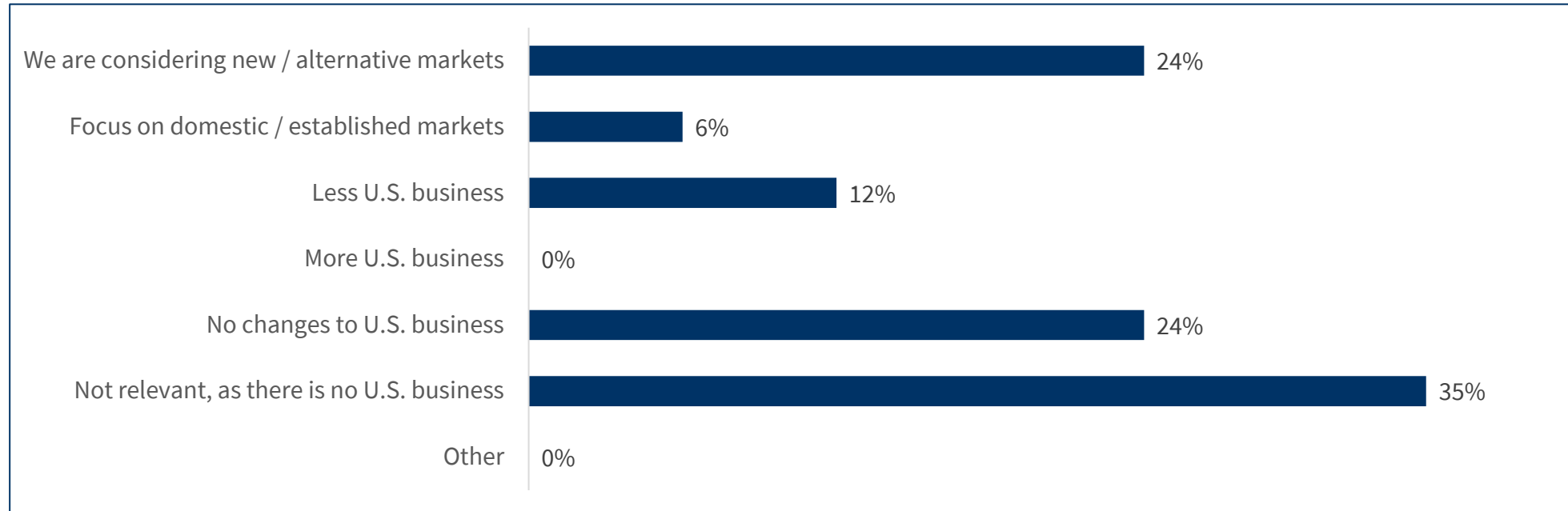
Investment sentiment remains cautious, with 64% of companies not planning to increase investments at their local sites. However, 7% are already in the process of further investing locally.

### 13. Do you consider an increase in inventory?



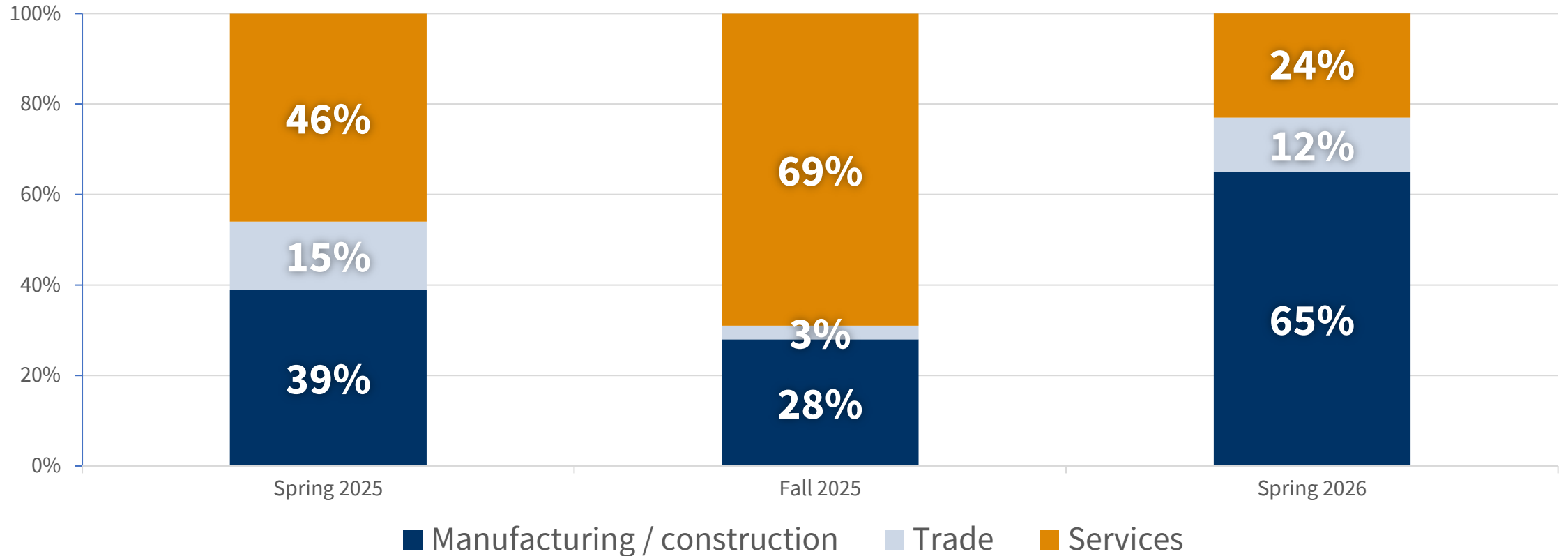
The majority of companies are neither considering nor planning any increase in inventory, while 21% have already increased or are currently increasing their stock levels.

## 14. Which consequences is your company drawing in response to U.S. trade policy?

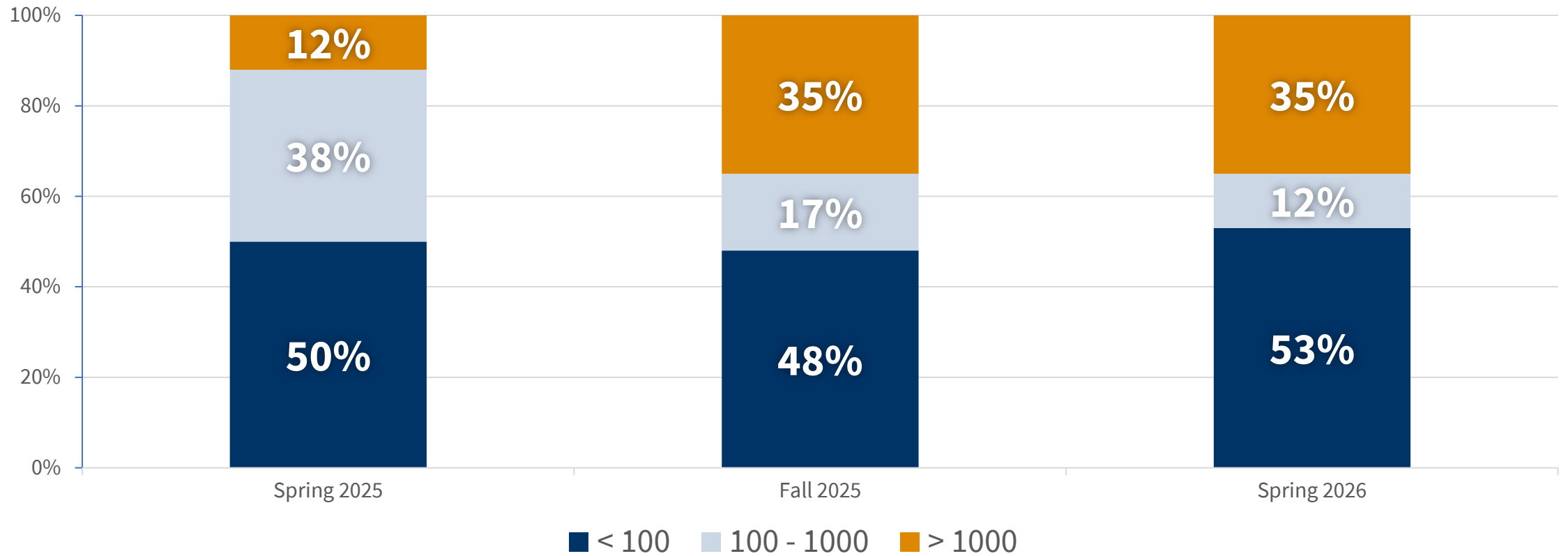


The impact of U.S. trade policy is mixed, with 24% of companies reporting no changes to their U.S. business. An equal number is considering to enter new markets instead. For a further 35%, it is not applicable, as they have no business activities in the United States.

## 15. Participating companies per sector



## 16. Participating companies per number of employees worldwide



**The AHK World Business Outlook is based on a regular DIHK survey of member companies of the German Chambers of Commerce Abroad, Delegations and Representative Offices (AHKs).**

This survey collected feedback from more than 4,500 German companies, branches and subsidiaries worldwide as well as companies with close ties to Germany. This includes a relevant sample size of participants from Qatar whose replies are documented in this country specific evaluation.

The survey was conducted from 16 March till 10 April 2026.

The global results are also available on the AHK UAE website ([www.ahkuae.com](http://www.ahkuae.com)).

**For inquiries, please contact: [info@ahkuae.com](mailto:info@ahkuae.com)**