



**CANADIAN FEDERATION  
OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS**

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# **The Importance of Higher Education to the Small-and-medium sized Enterprise (SME) Economy**

**Presentation to the Federation of Indian Chambers of  
Commerce and Industry**

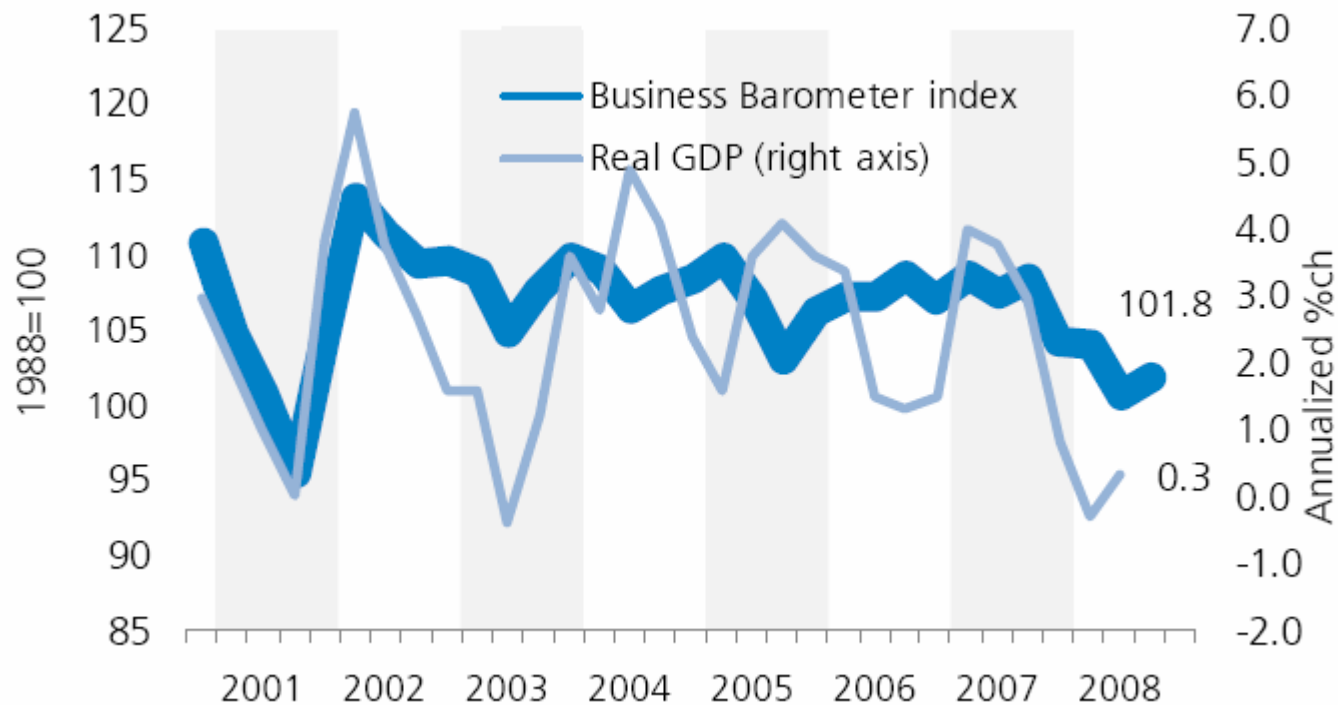
**Higher Education Summit 2008**

**Garth Whyte, Executive Vice President**

New Delhi, India

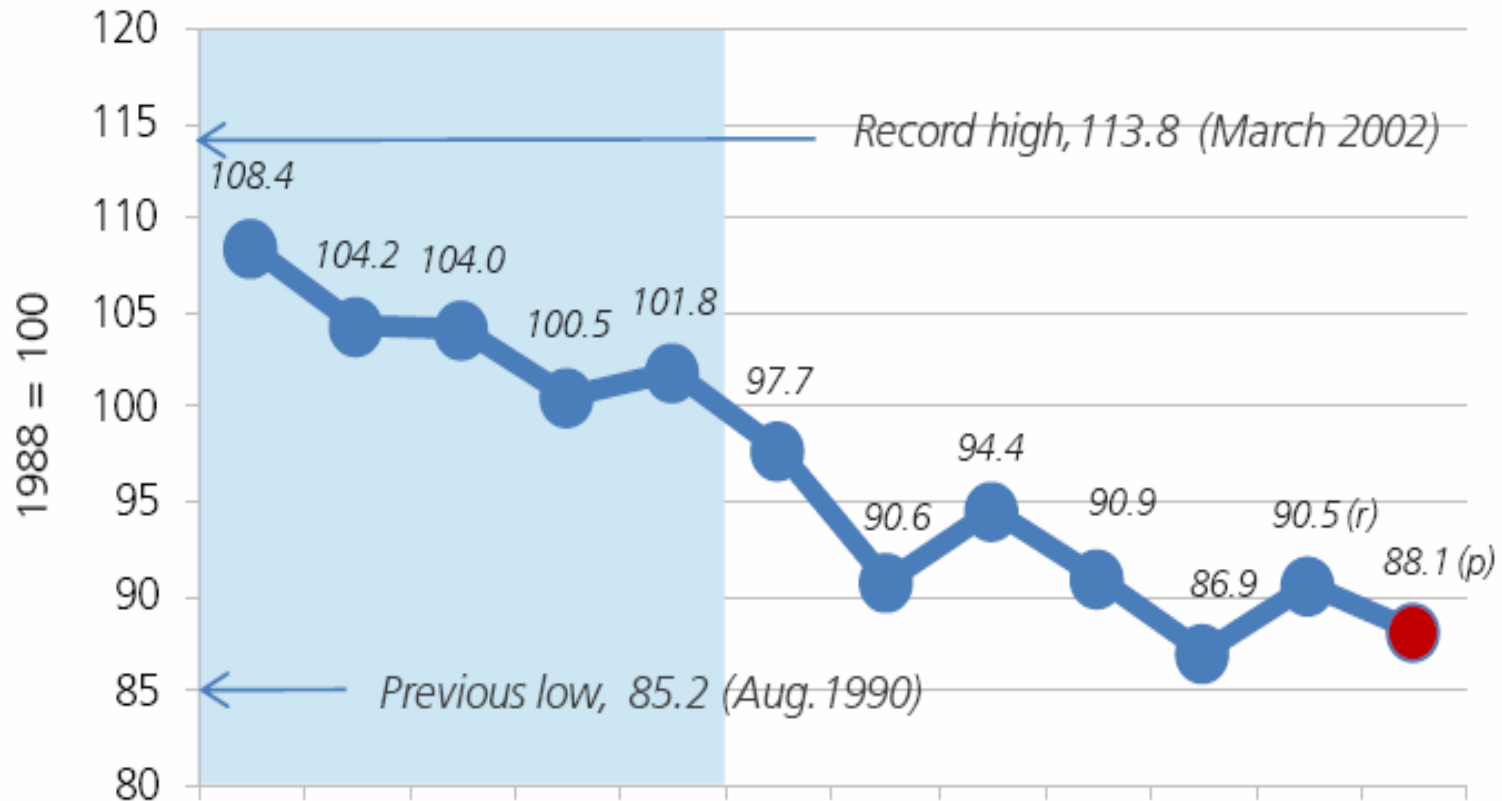
November 25, 2008

# CFIB Business Barometer Index and GDP



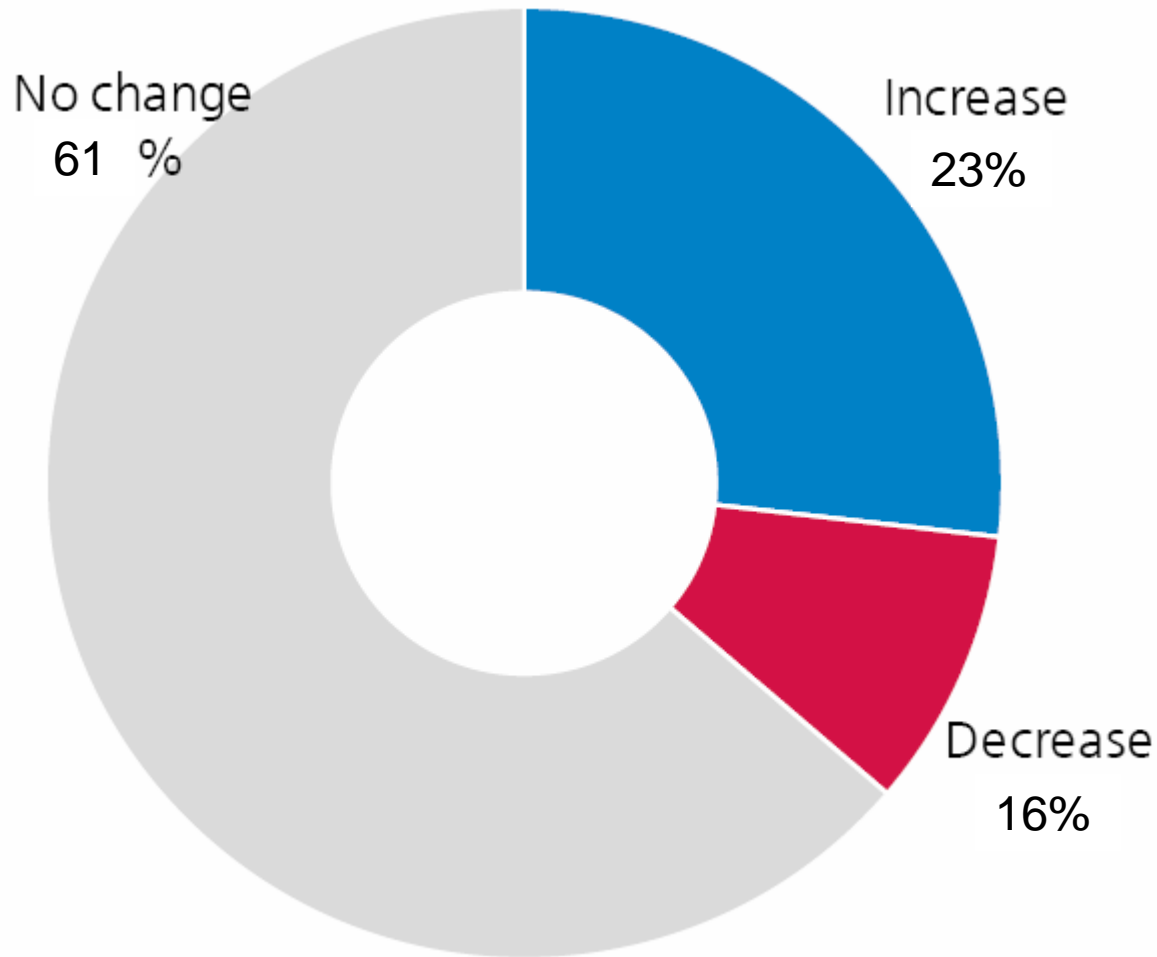
Source: CFIB, *Quarterly Business Barometer*, September 2008

# Business Barometer index

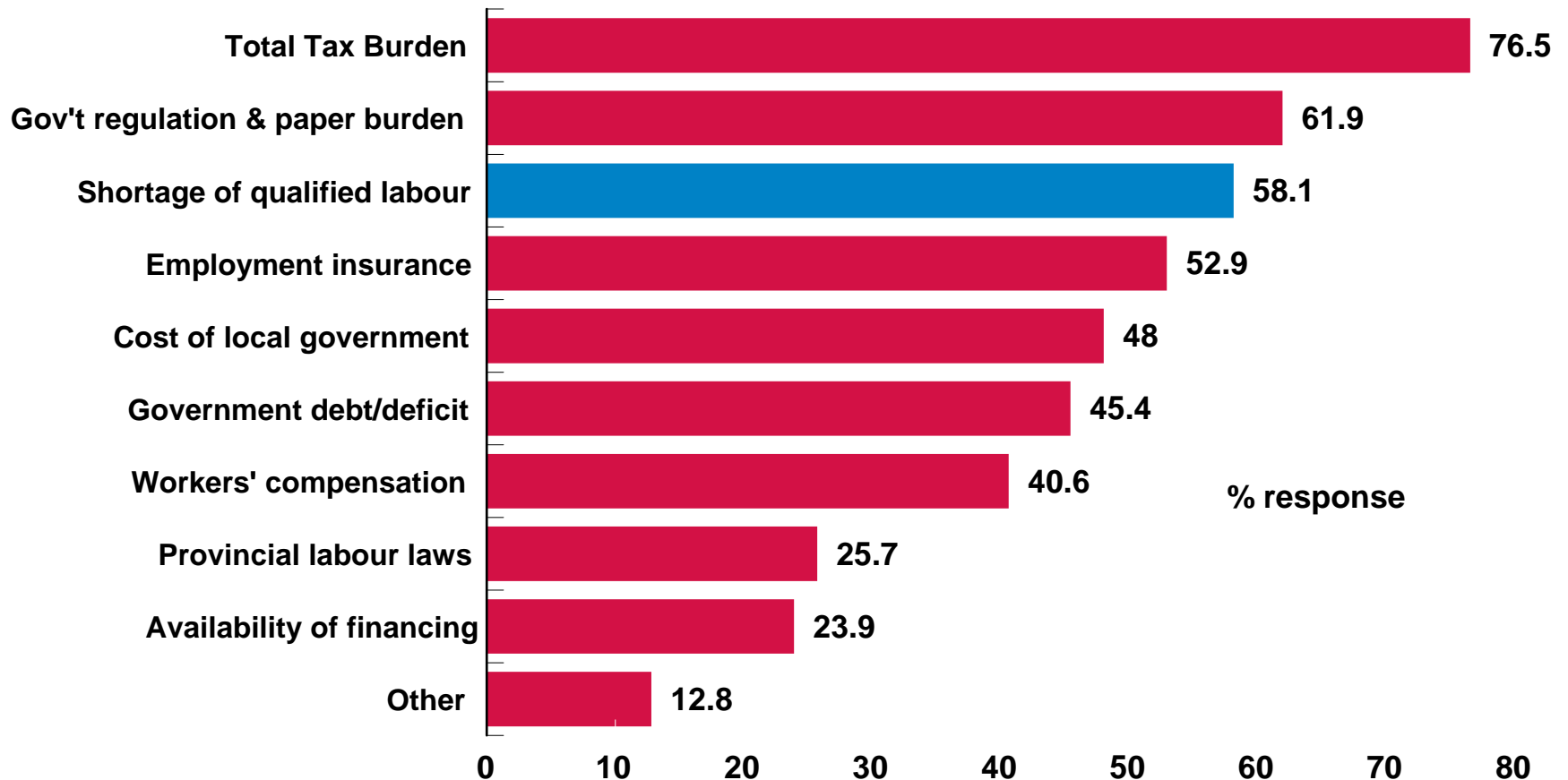


Source: CFIB, Weekly Business Barometer #6, November 2008

## Full-time employment plans, next 12 months

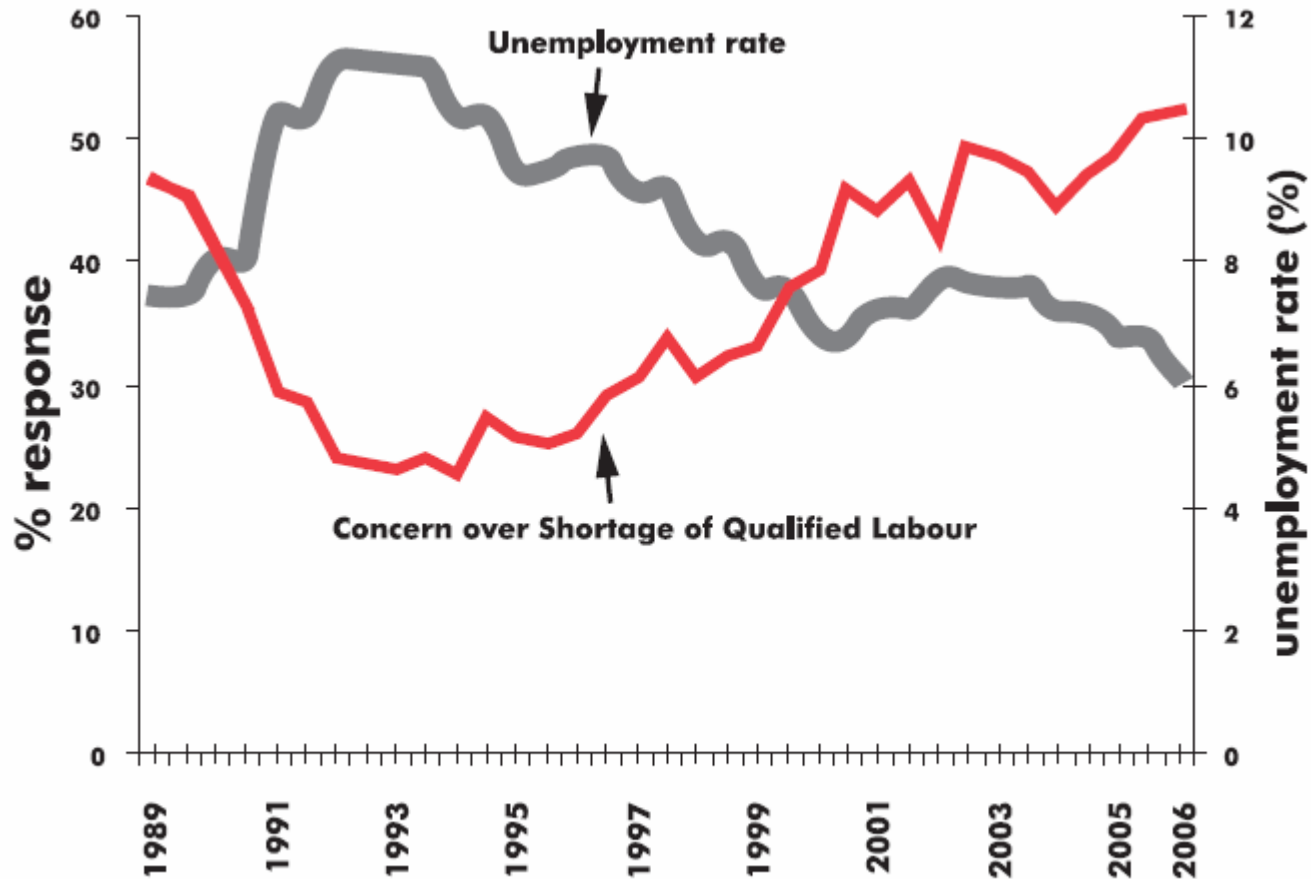


# SMEs High Priority Issues



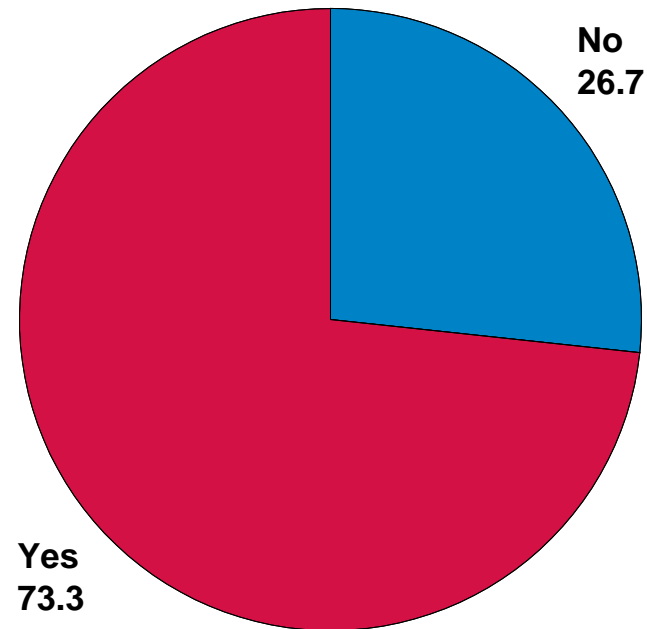
Source: CFIB, *Our Members Opinion #62*, January to June 2008, Based on 21,394 responses

# Concern over Shortage of Qualified Labour Increasing



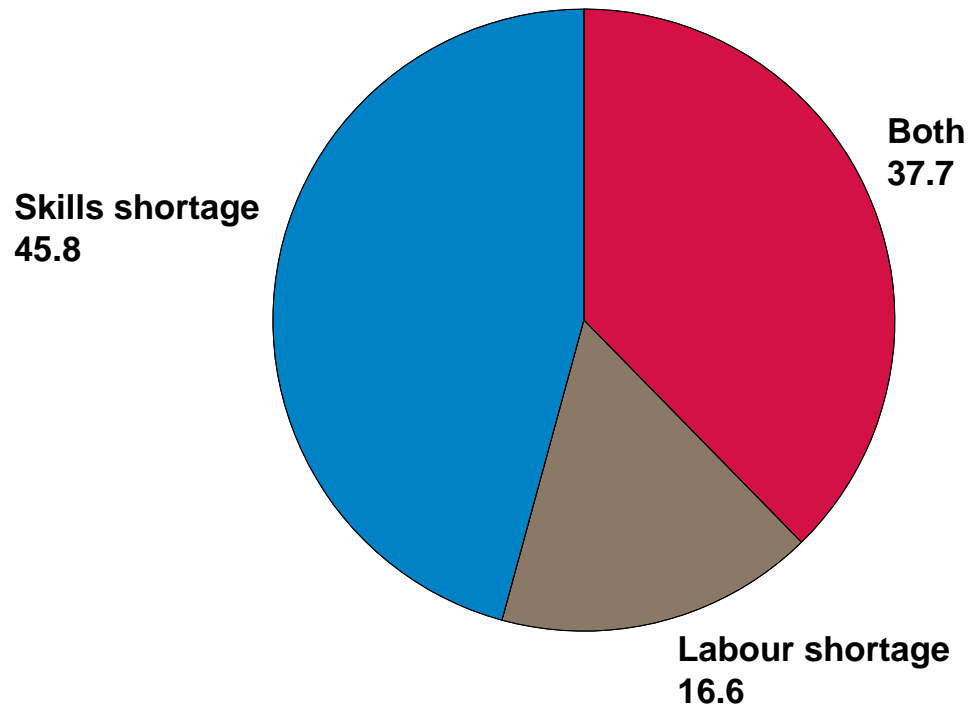
Source: CFIB, *Our Members' Opinions Surveys* #24-58, 1989-2006; and Statistics Canada

# Difficulty finding qualified staff in the past three years?



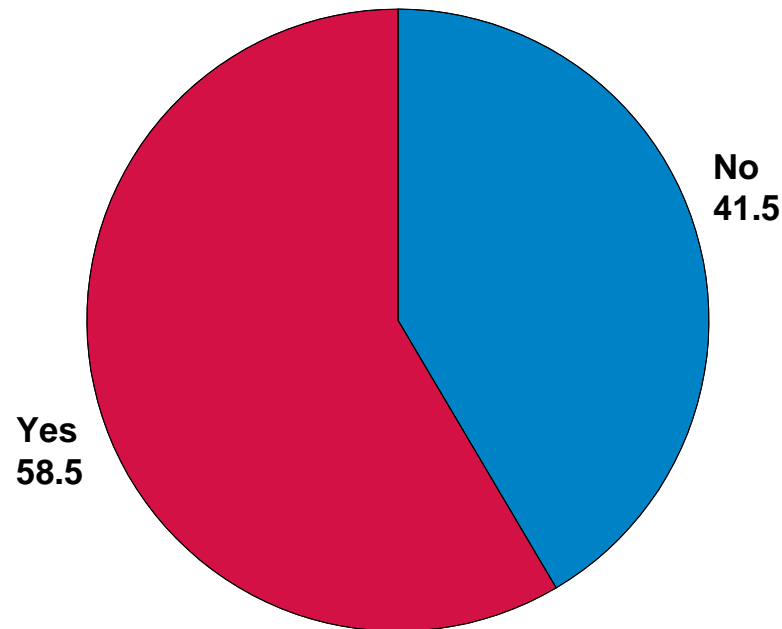
Source: CFIB, *Training in your business survey*, November 2008 , based on 8,077 responses

# Skills or labour shortage?



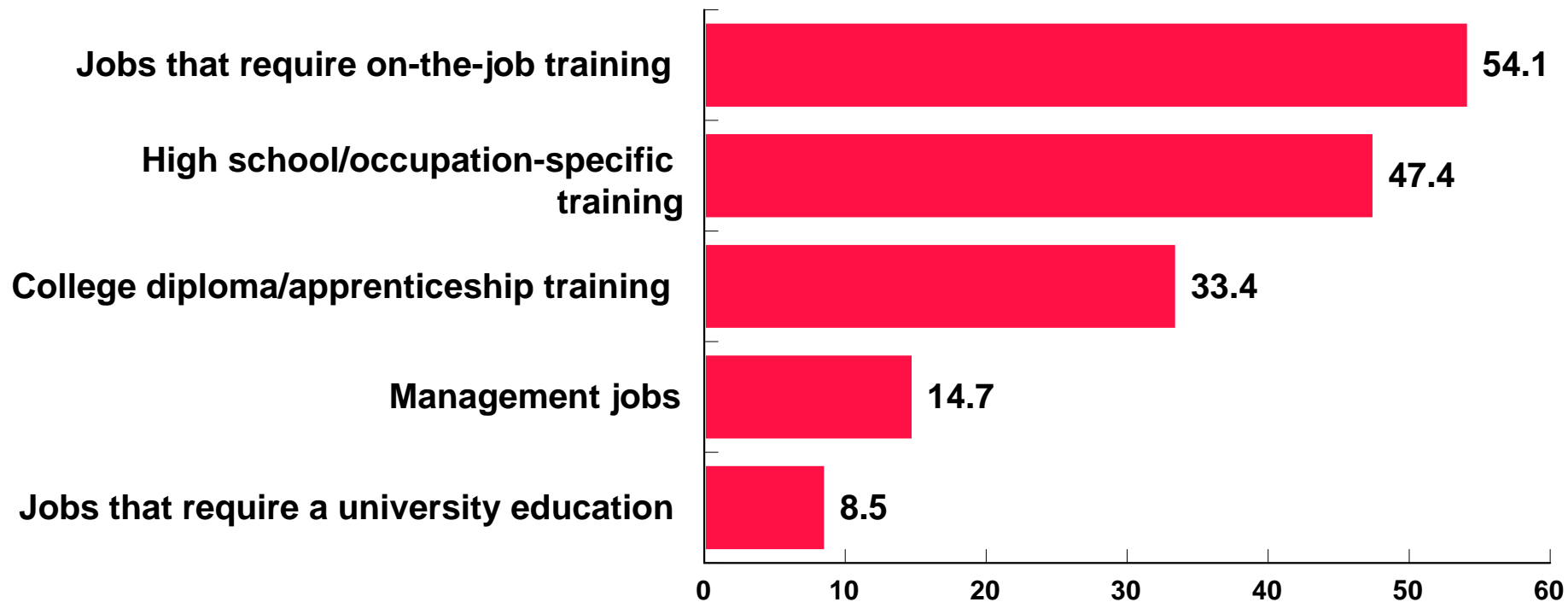
Source: CFIB, *Training in your business survey*, November 2008 , based on 8,077 responses

# Ignored business opportunities because of labour shortages



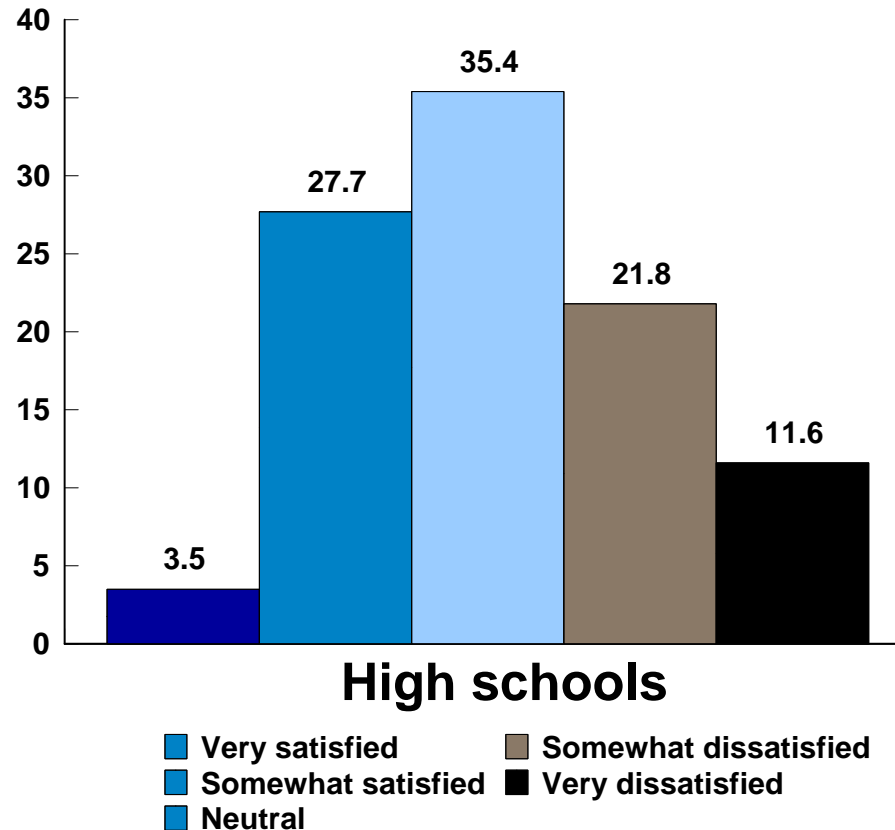
Source: CFIB, *Training in your business survey*, November 2008 , based on 8,077 responses

# Job positions needed



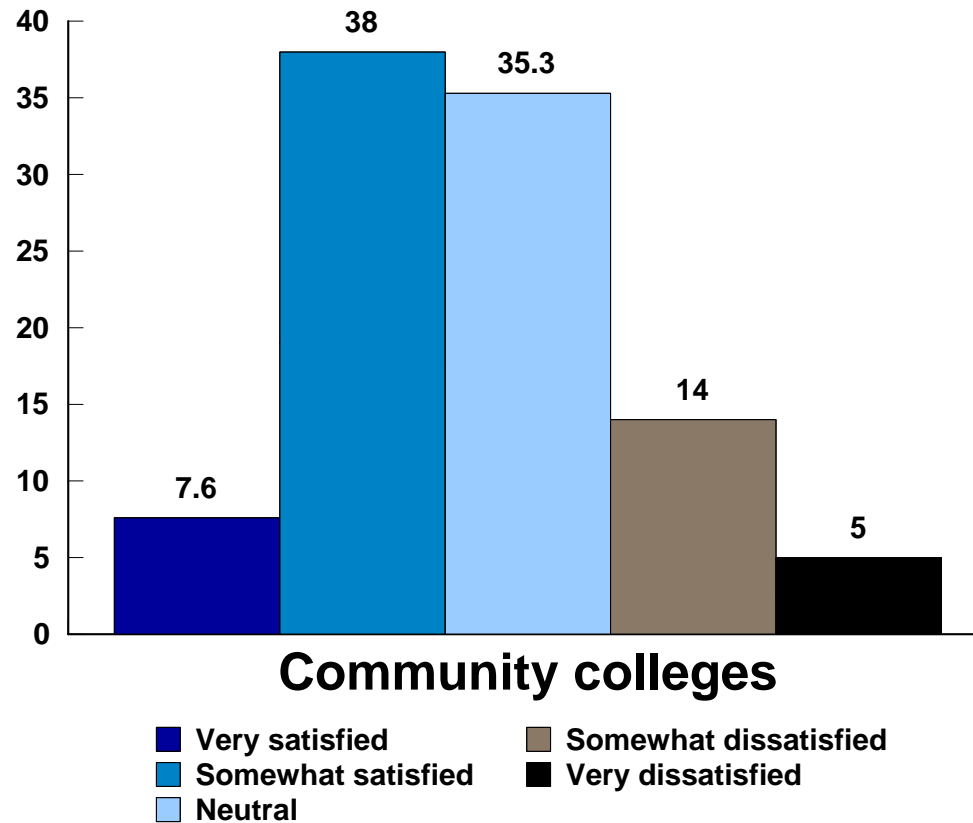
Source: CFIB, *Training in your business survey*, November 2008 , based on 8,077 responses

# Satisfaction with High Schools



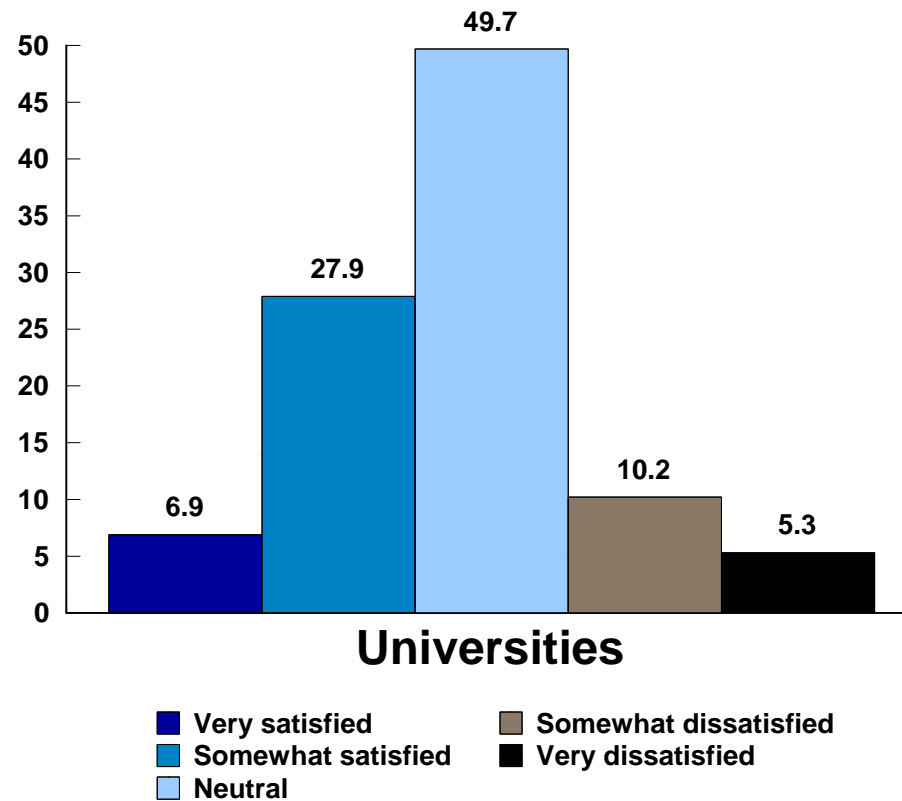
Source: CFIB, *Training in your business survey*, November 2008 , based on 8,077 responses

# Satisfaction with Community Colleges



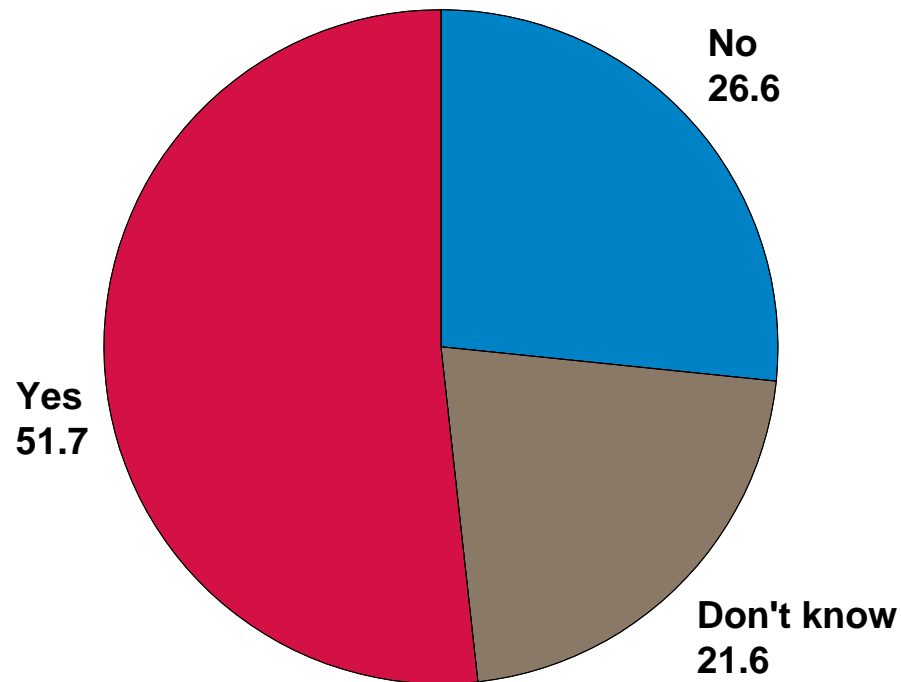
Source: CFIB, *Training in your business survey*, November 2008 , based on 8,077 responses

# Satisfaction with Universities



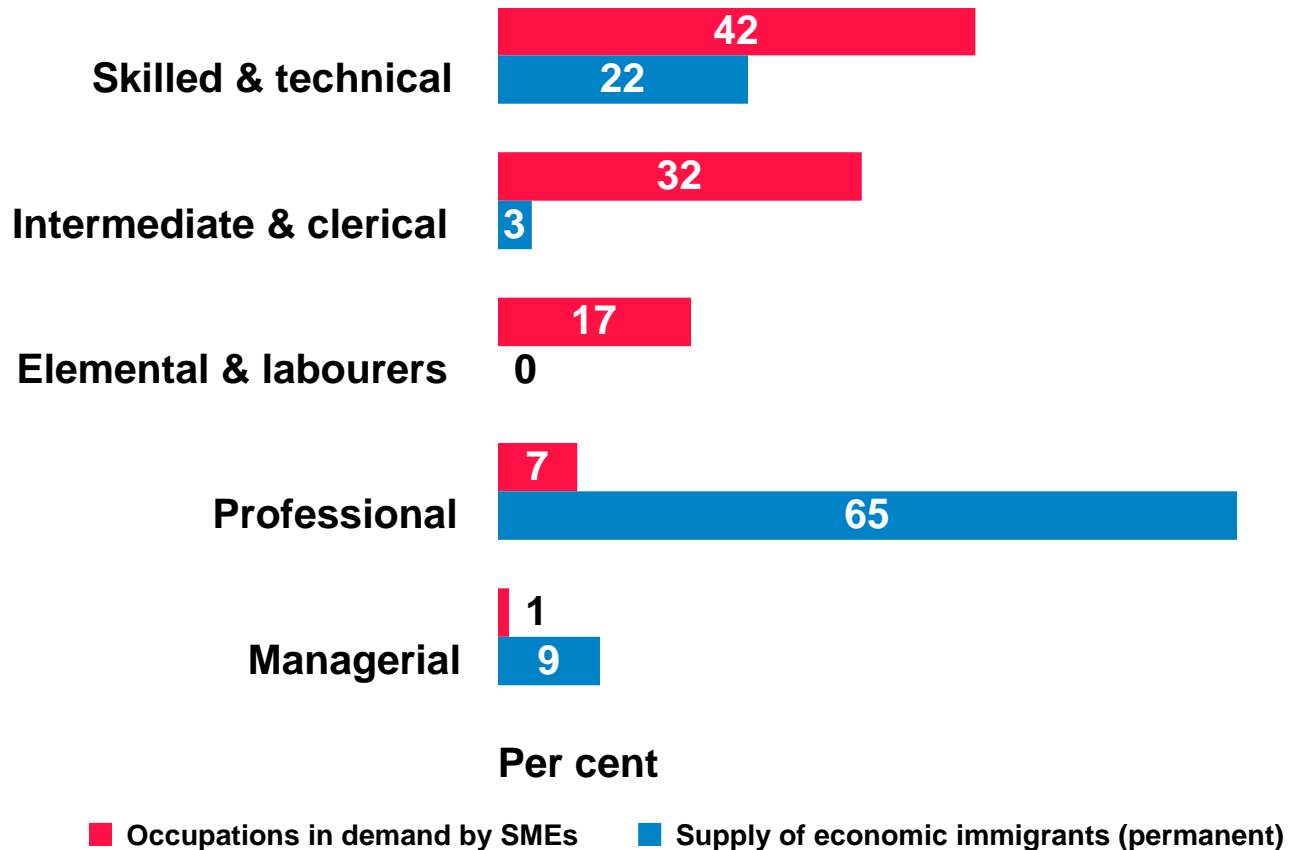
Source: CFIB, *Training in your business survey*, November 2008 , based on 8,077 responses

# Increasing formal and informal training



Source: CFIB, *Training in your business survey*, November 2008 , based on 8,077 responses

# SME Labour Shortages and Economic Immigrants



# Lessons Learned

- ▶ SME's are critical to job creation and economic growth
- ▶ Government & education policies should match business needs
- ▶ Don't forget technical/skills trades education

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