Canadian Institute for Neutron Scattering

user engagement survey

CINS Science Council
cins.ca

June 13, 2017

The CINS User Engagement Survey

In May, 2017 an online survey invitation was sent to 362 active CINS members, to gather a snapshot of the community of researchers who use neutron beams as a tool for their research. This community is built from Canadian researchers, people who have used neutron beams at the Canadian Neutron Beam Centre (CNBC), and their collaborators and colleagues.

82 responses were received, a response rate of 23%, which is above average for a email survey.

The CINS User Engagement Survey

Profile of respondents:

CINS members represent Canada and the world

71% of respondents reside in Canada. Members in 10 other countries also responded.

Canadian scientists are active neutron beam users

79% of Canadian members have participated in an experiment in the last 5 years.
74% of Canadian members will participate in a neutron beam experiment in the next year.

CINS members prefer neutron sources in Canada

55% of trips planned by Canadian members are to the CNBC, 32% are to sources in the USA, and 13% are to facilities outside North America.
11% of foreign respondents will come to Canada in the next year.

CINS members are engaged with the broader user community in Canada

70% of survey respondents had visited the recently updated `cins.ca` in the last six months.

CINS represents academic and industrial researchers, at every stage of their careers

20% of respondents are HQP, and another 21% are from industry.

CINS represents many scientific fields

62% of respondents are Materials Science and Physics researchers. 38% are drawn from several other disciplines.

The CINS User Engagement Survey

Respondents identify their priorities and challenges:

Neutron scattering is an important tool for research

73% of respondents rate it “very important”.

Researchers value most the quality of science and expertise found at neutron facilities

Respondents identified

- → the best instrument for the experiment,
- → local collaborators,
- → and unique sample environments

as their top factors in deciding where to conduct an experiment. Travel costs and difficulties were less a concern.

Oversubscribed facilities limit research opportunities

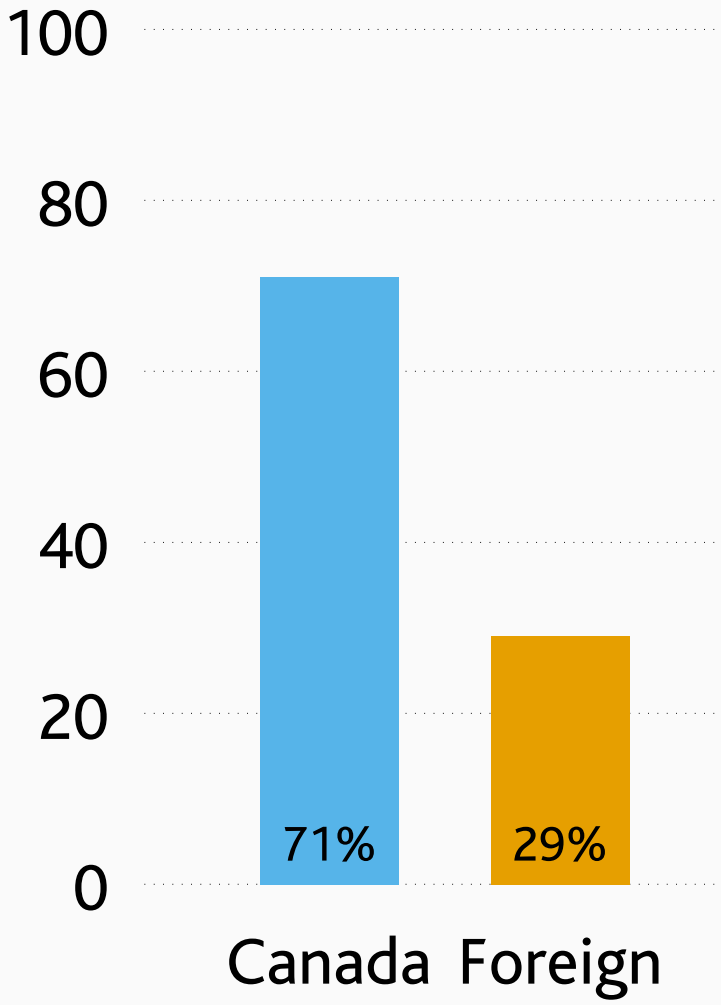
Over a quarter of experiments lacked sufficient beam time.

Neutron experiments are a significant investment in time and effort, and require more support

Respondents identified the time investment in experiment preparation and data analysis as challenges. Unreliable facilities and unexpected problems plague experiments, wasting time and money.
Lack of financial and expert support in these key areas was the easily biggest challenge facing researchers.

Survey responses

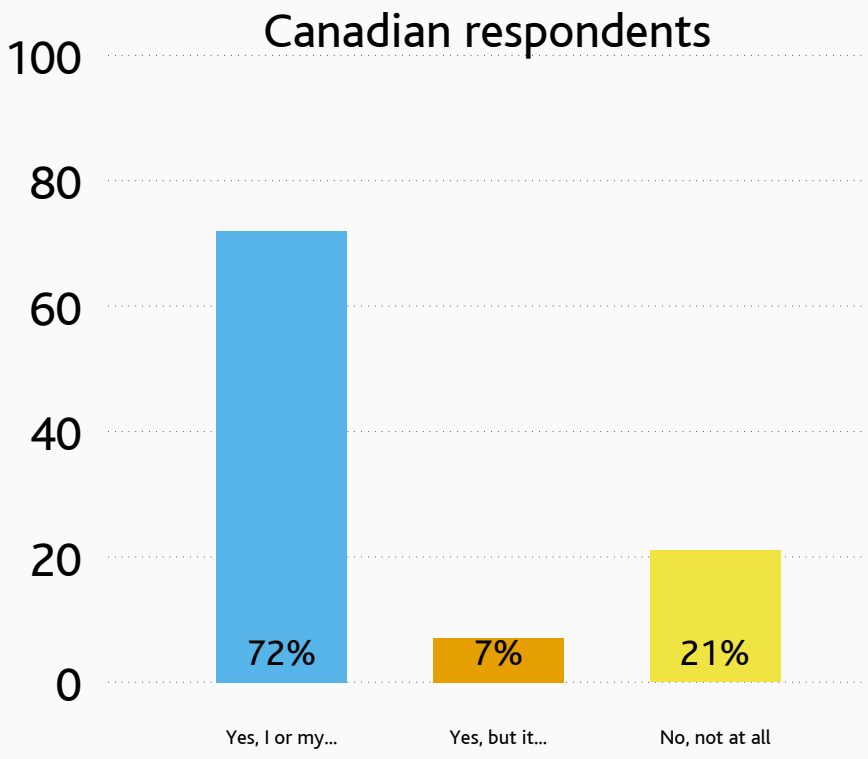
Q1: In what country do you currently reside?

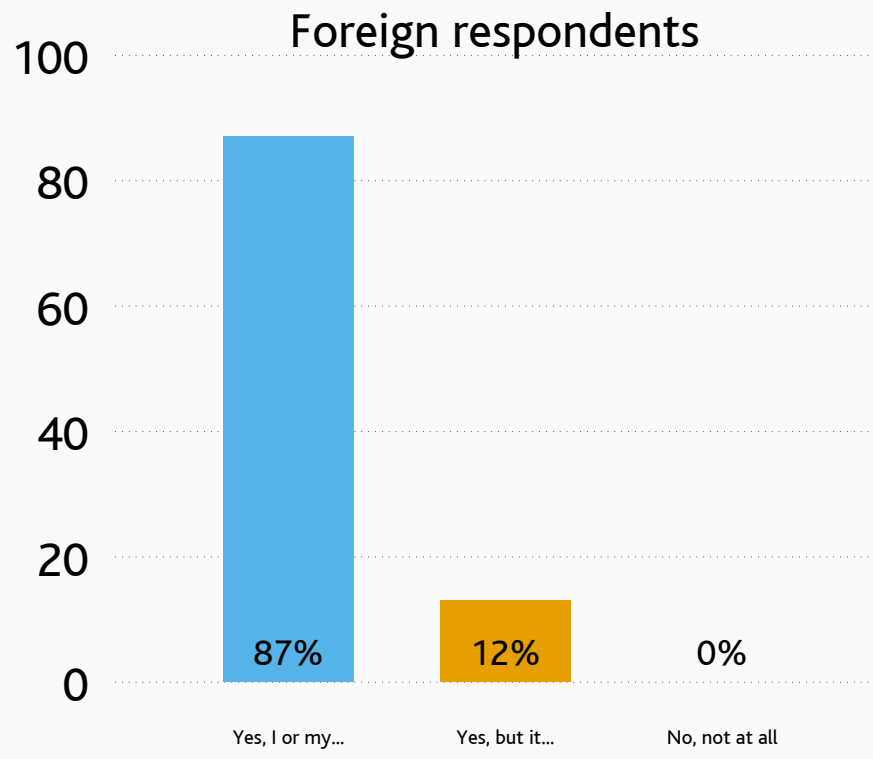


Number of respondents

Canada	58
USA	7
Austrailia	4
UK	3
Austria	2
China	2
Switzerland	2
Brazil	1
Germany	1
Italy	1
France	1
Foreign	24

Q2: Did you conduct an experiment that used neutron beams in the last 5 years?

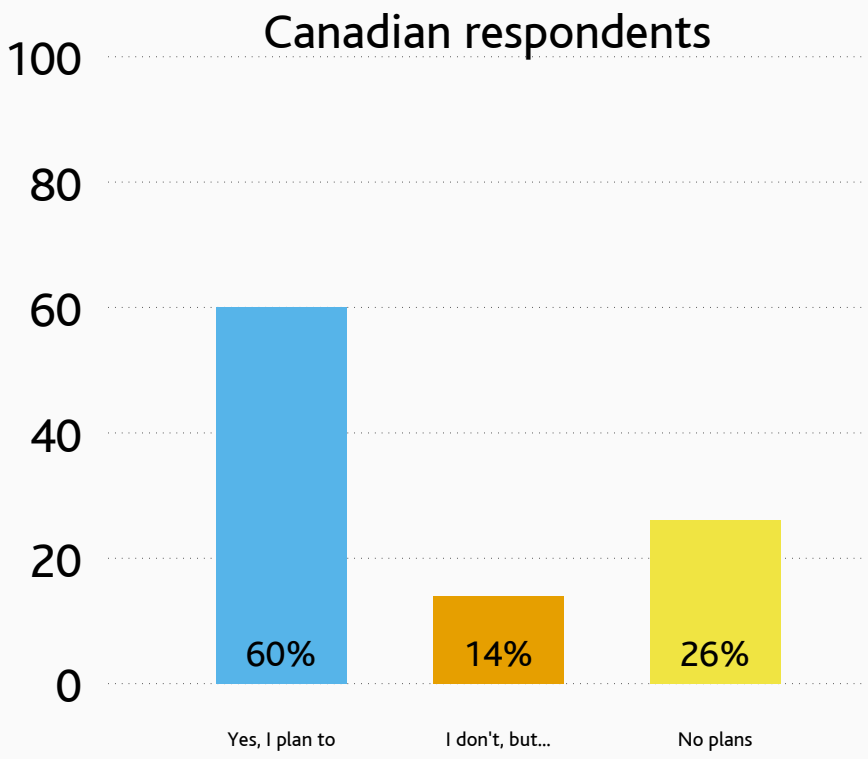


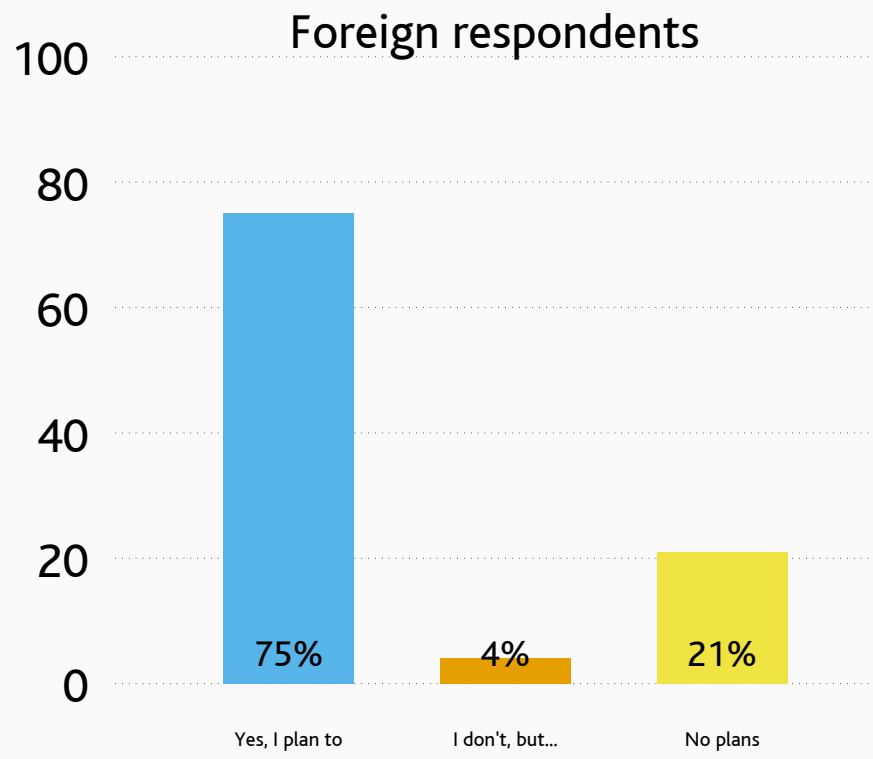


Possible answers:

- → Yes, I or my lab was involved in the experiment
- → Yes, but it was a collaboration. My contribution was in a different area
- → Not at all

Q3: Will you be conducting a neutron beam experiment in the next year?



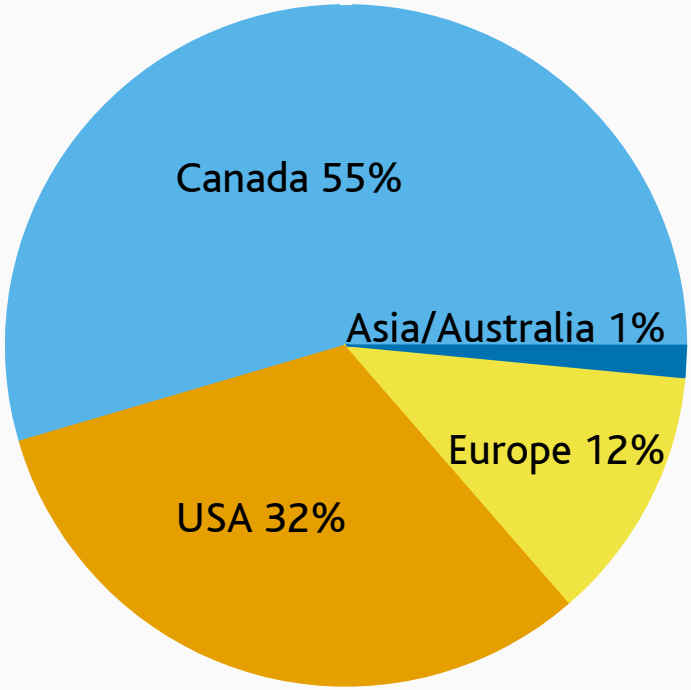


Possible answers:

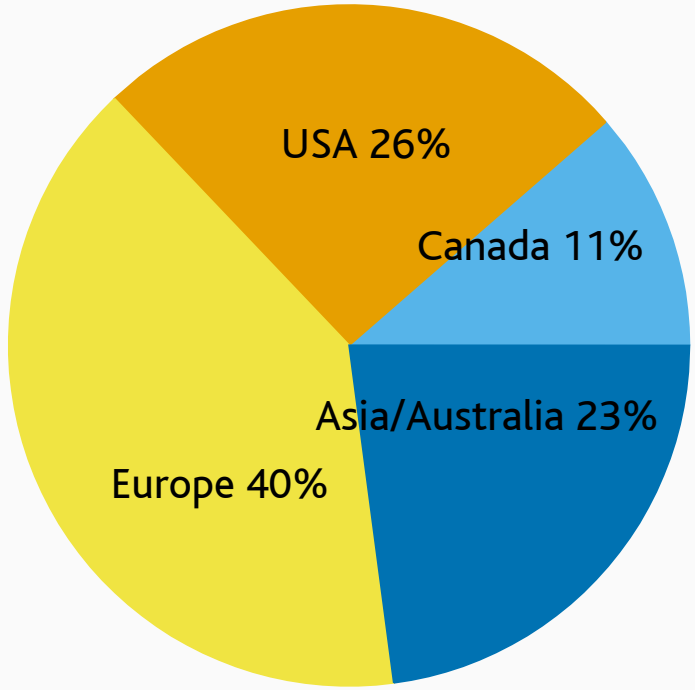
- → Yes, I plan to
- → I don’t, but my collaborators plan to.
- → Noplans

Q4: If yes, where will you be travelling to?

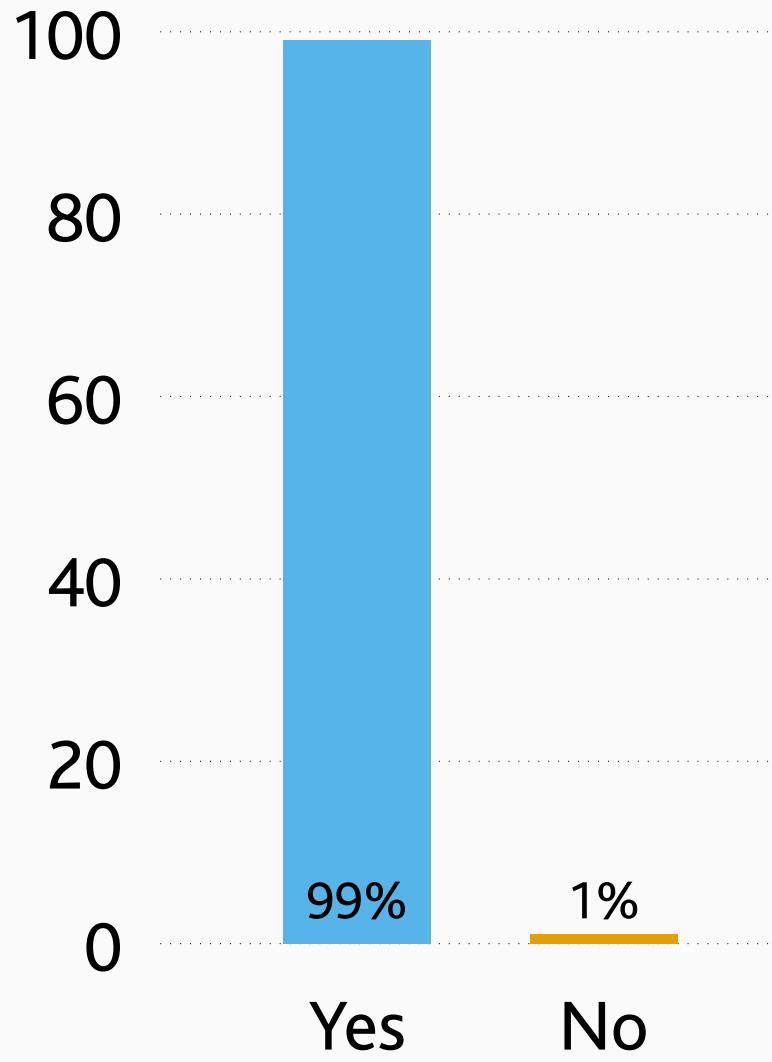
Canadian respondent destinations



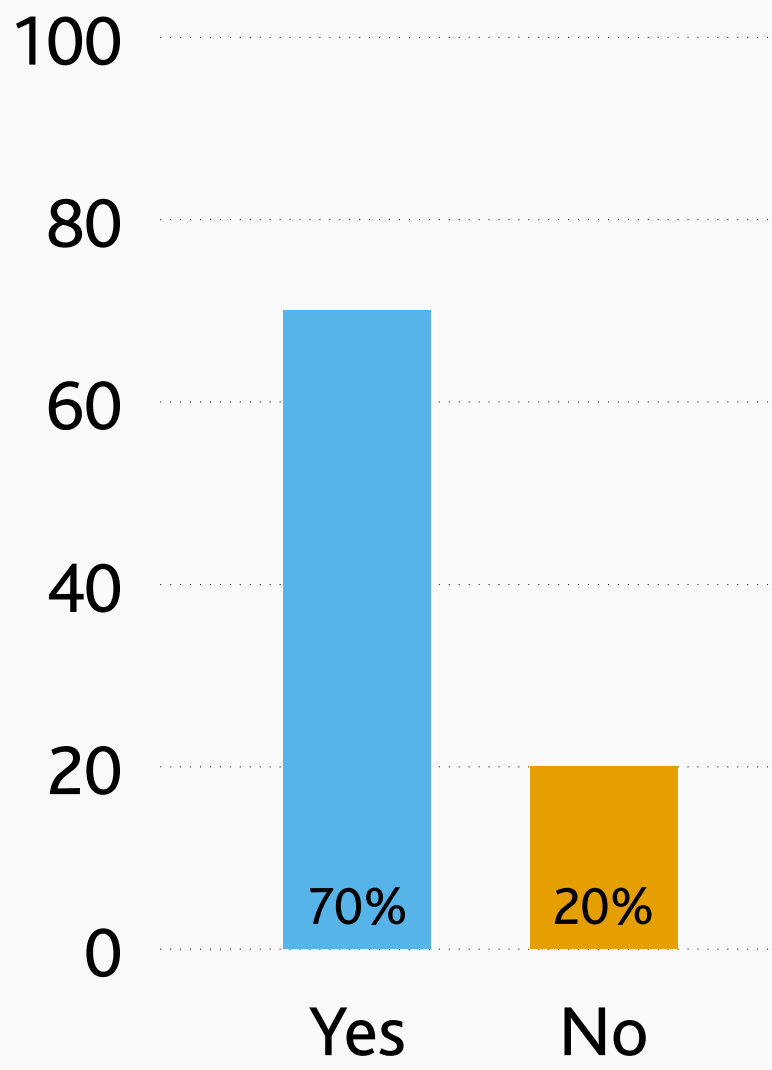
Foreign respondent destinations



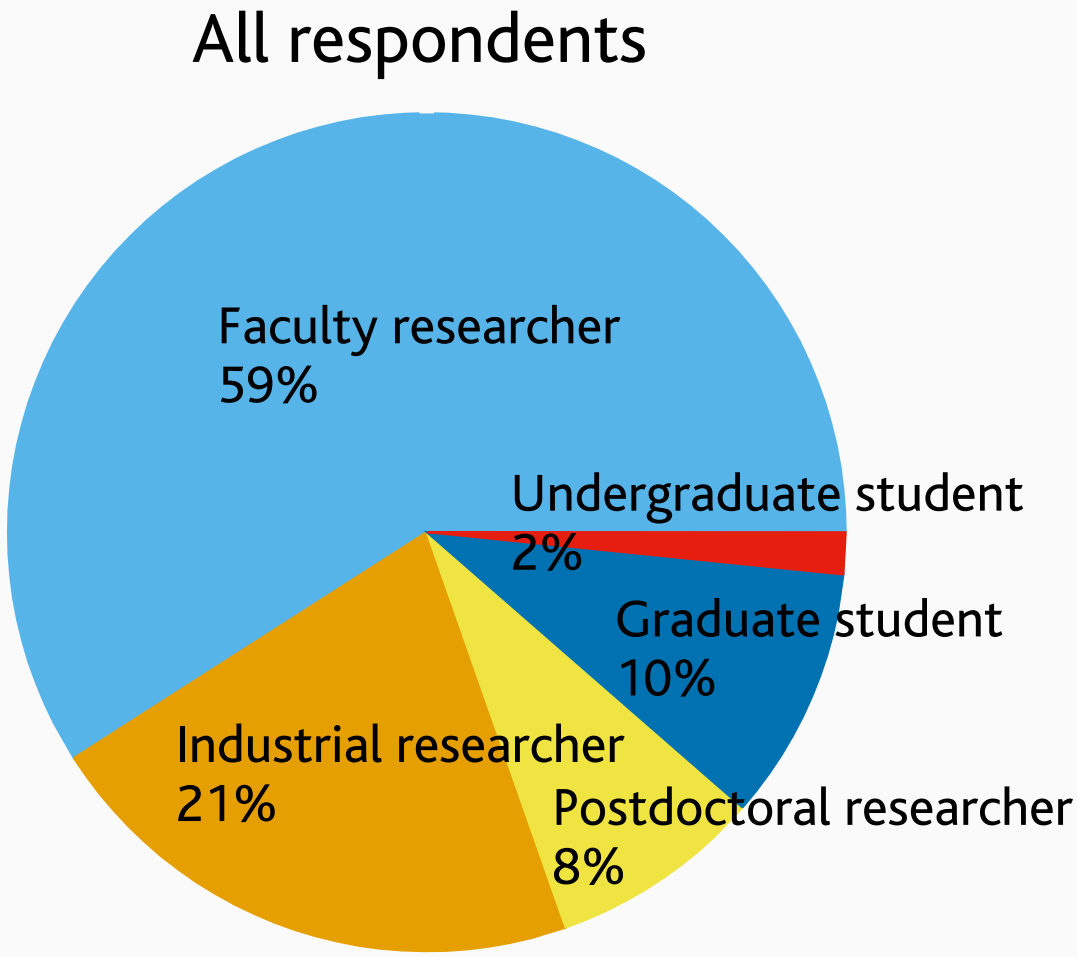
Q5: Were you aware of the Canadian Institute for Neutron Scattering?



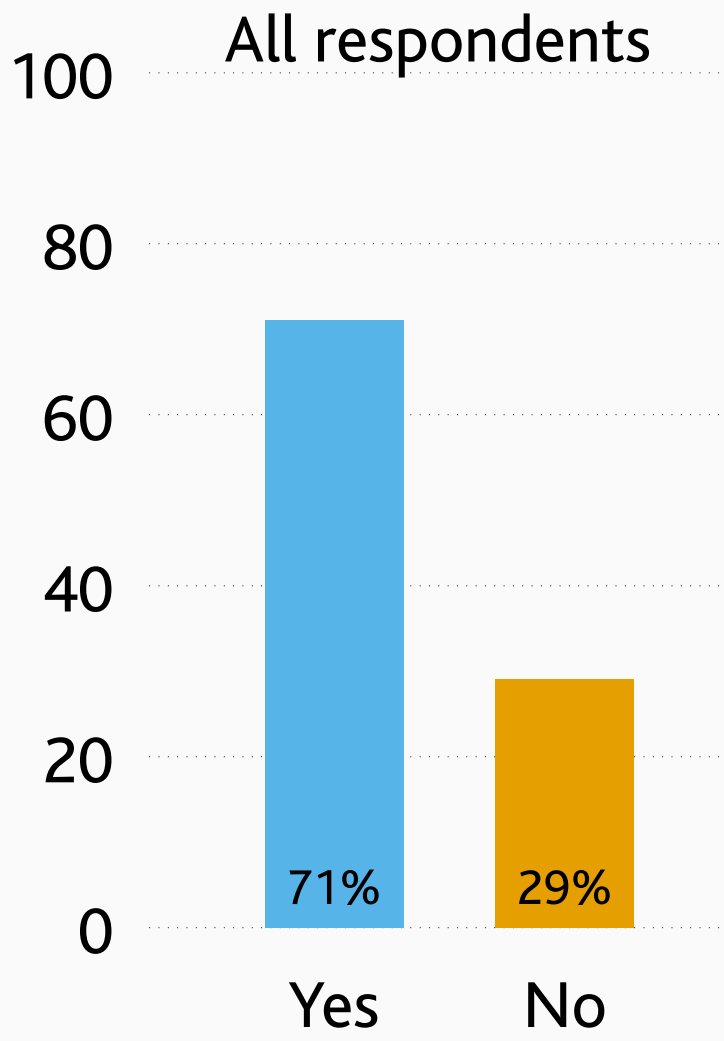
Q6: Have you visited the website `cins.ca` in the last 6 months?



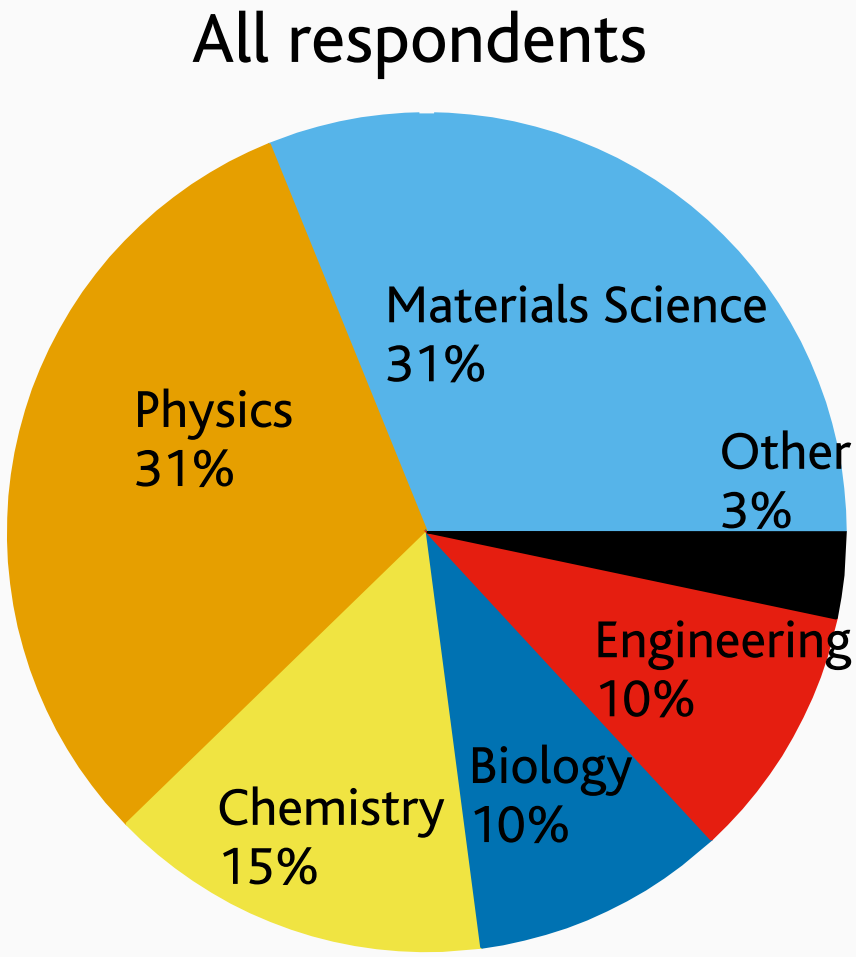
Q7: What best describes you?



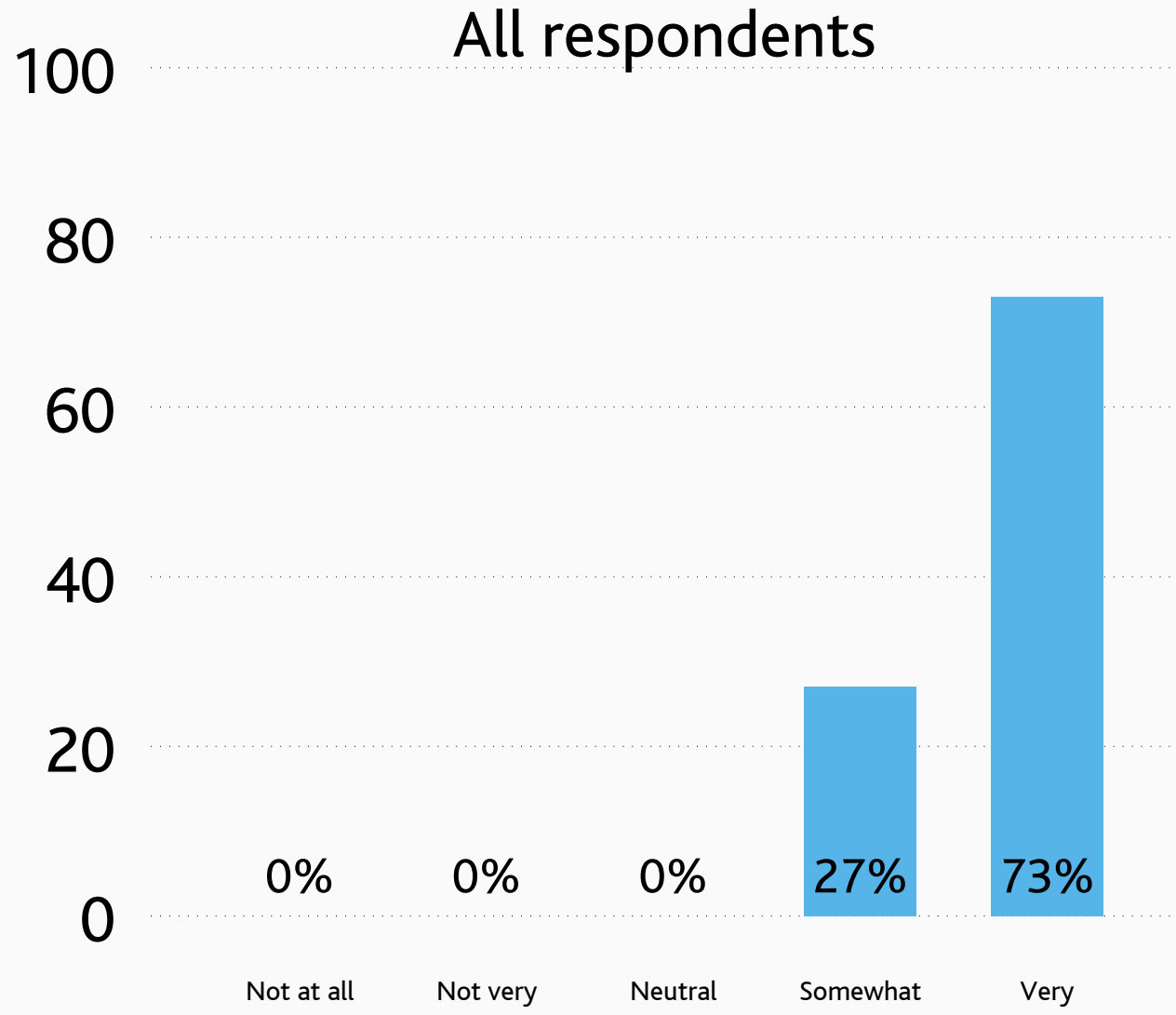
Q8: Are you affiliated with a Canadian based institution or business?



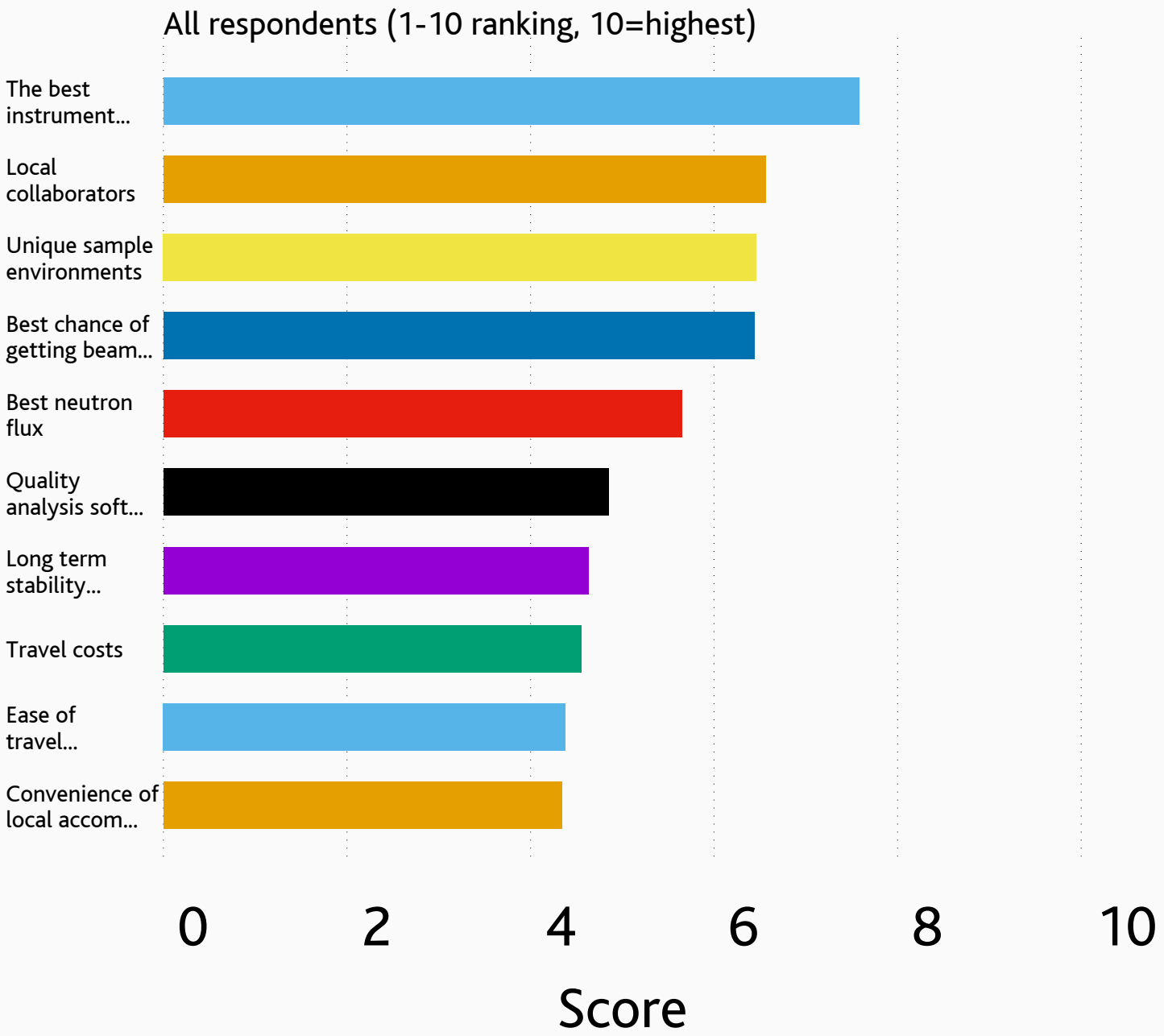
Q9: What is your general field of interest?



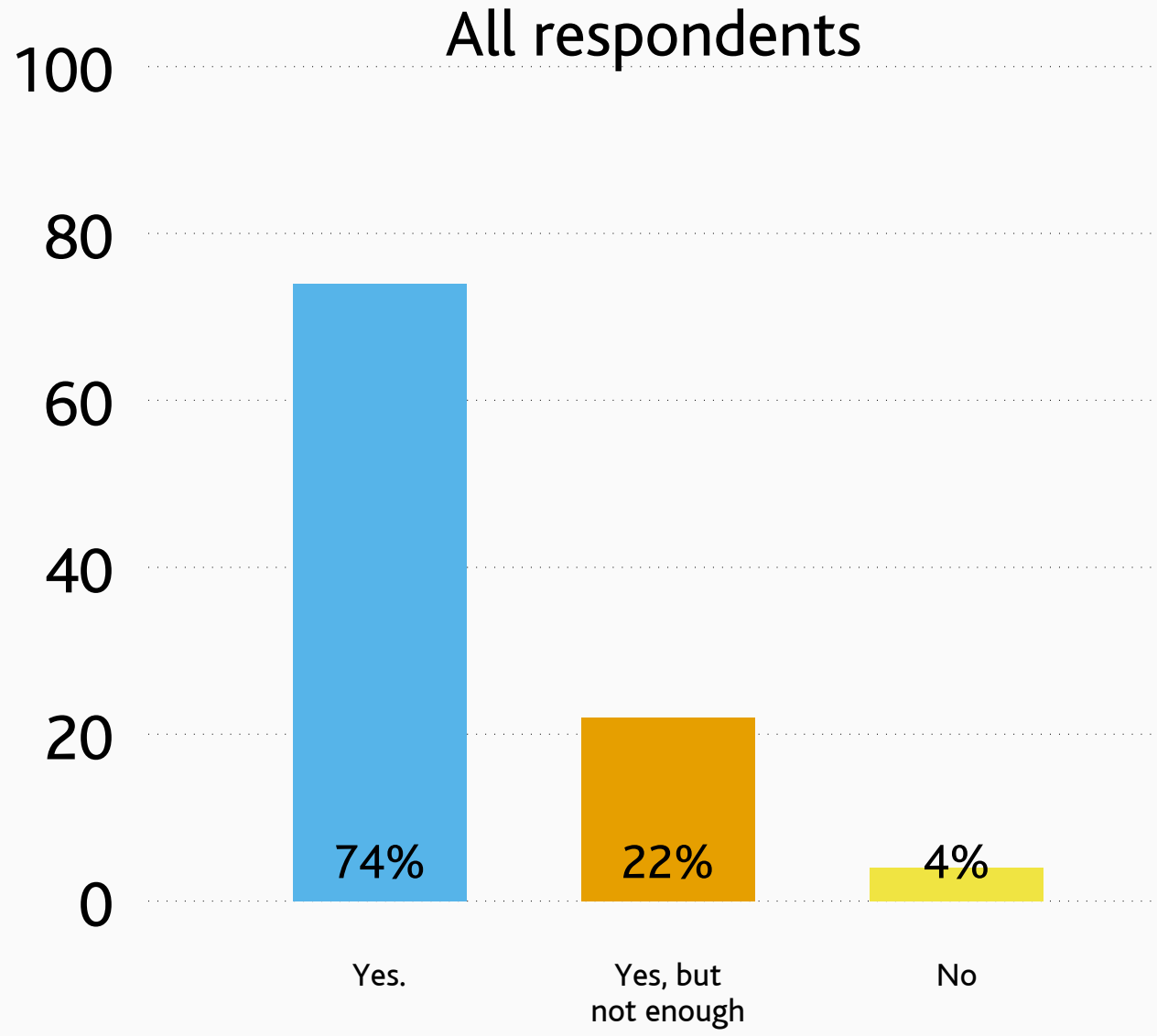
Q10: How important is neutron scattering to advancing your research?



Q11: What things are important in choosing the neutron beam facilities you use?



Q12: Over the last five years, were you normally able to get beam time at your preferred facility?



Q13: What challenges have you faced in seeing a neutron scattering experiment through to completion?