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ARMENIA ECONOMIC REPORT 2016

ECONOMIC INTEGRATION OF SYRIAN REFUGEES IN ARMENIA

SECTION 3.

ECONOMIC INTEGRATION OF SYRIAN REFUGEES IN ARMENIA

Karine HARUTYUNYAN (EDRC)

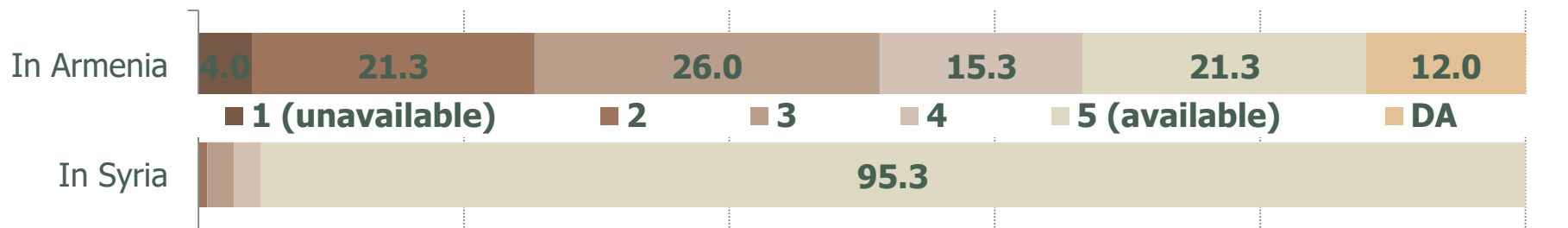
ECONOMIC INTEGRATION OF SYRIAN REFUGEES IN ARMENIA

- **Social Services and Integration**
- **Needs and Provided Support**
- **Economic Activities and Problems with Integration**
- **General Satisfaction and Future Plans**
- **Main Conclusions and Recommendations**

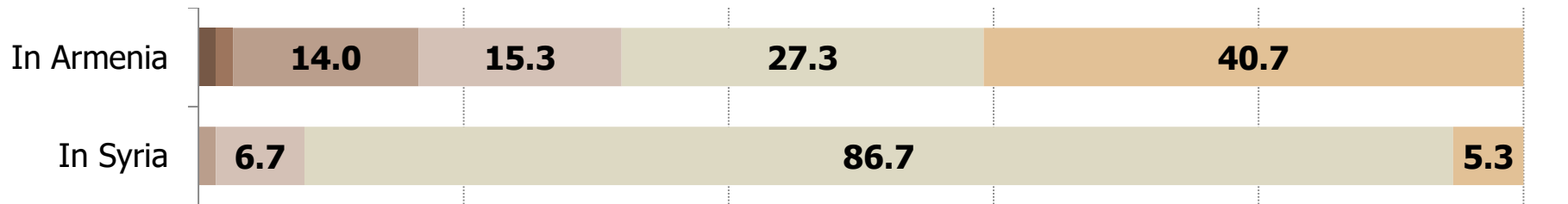
Comparative assessments for the availability of social services

Social services were fully available to them in Syria.

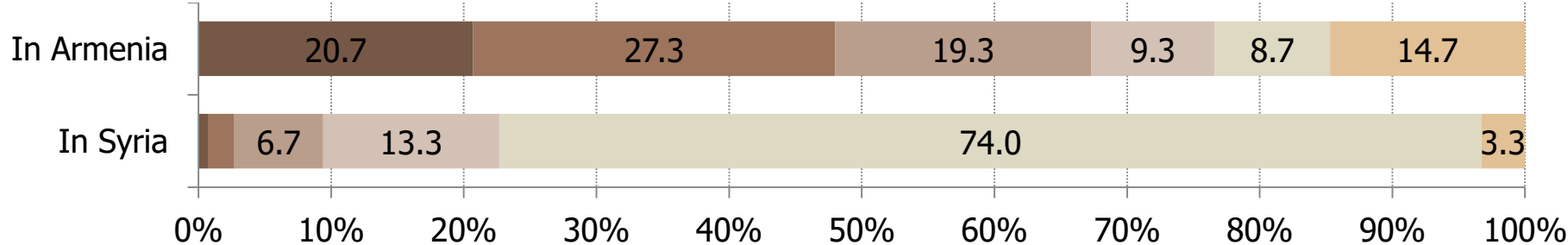
Health care



Educational



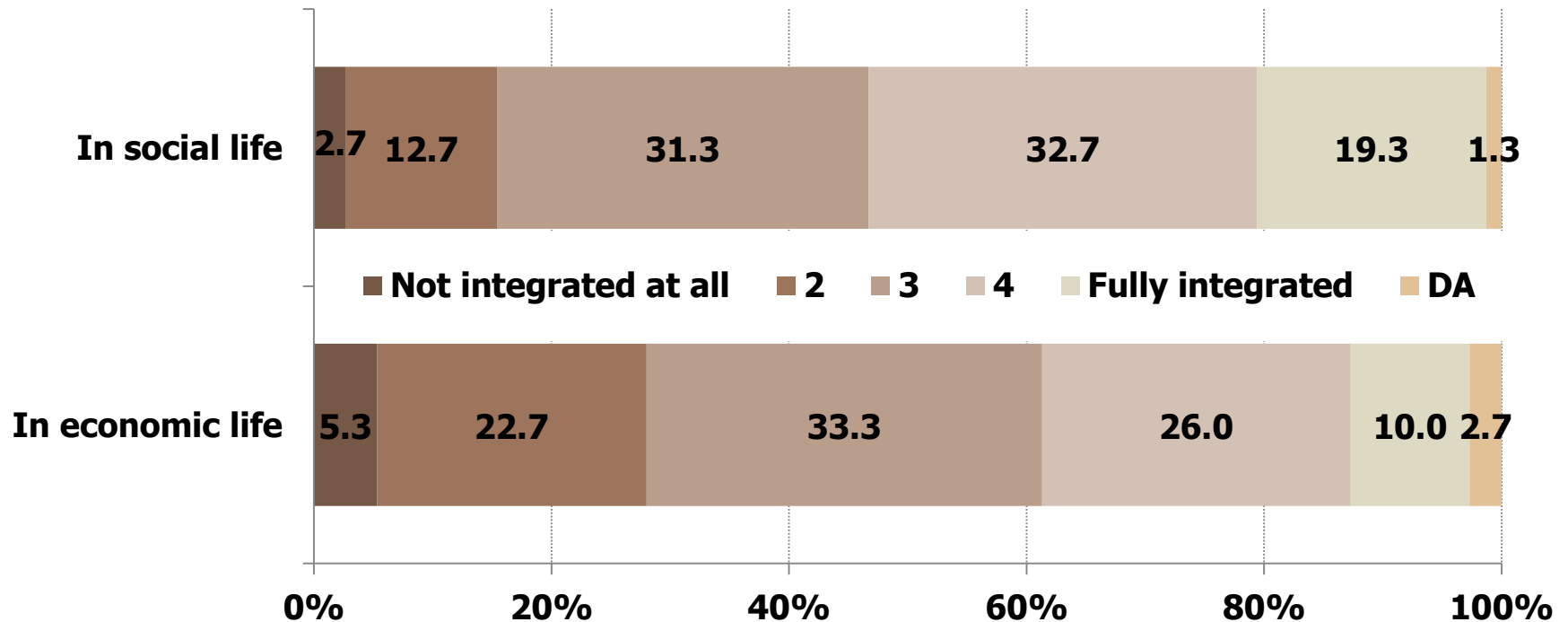
Cultural



Source: EDRC, SSAF 2016

Self-assessments for the level of social and economic integration

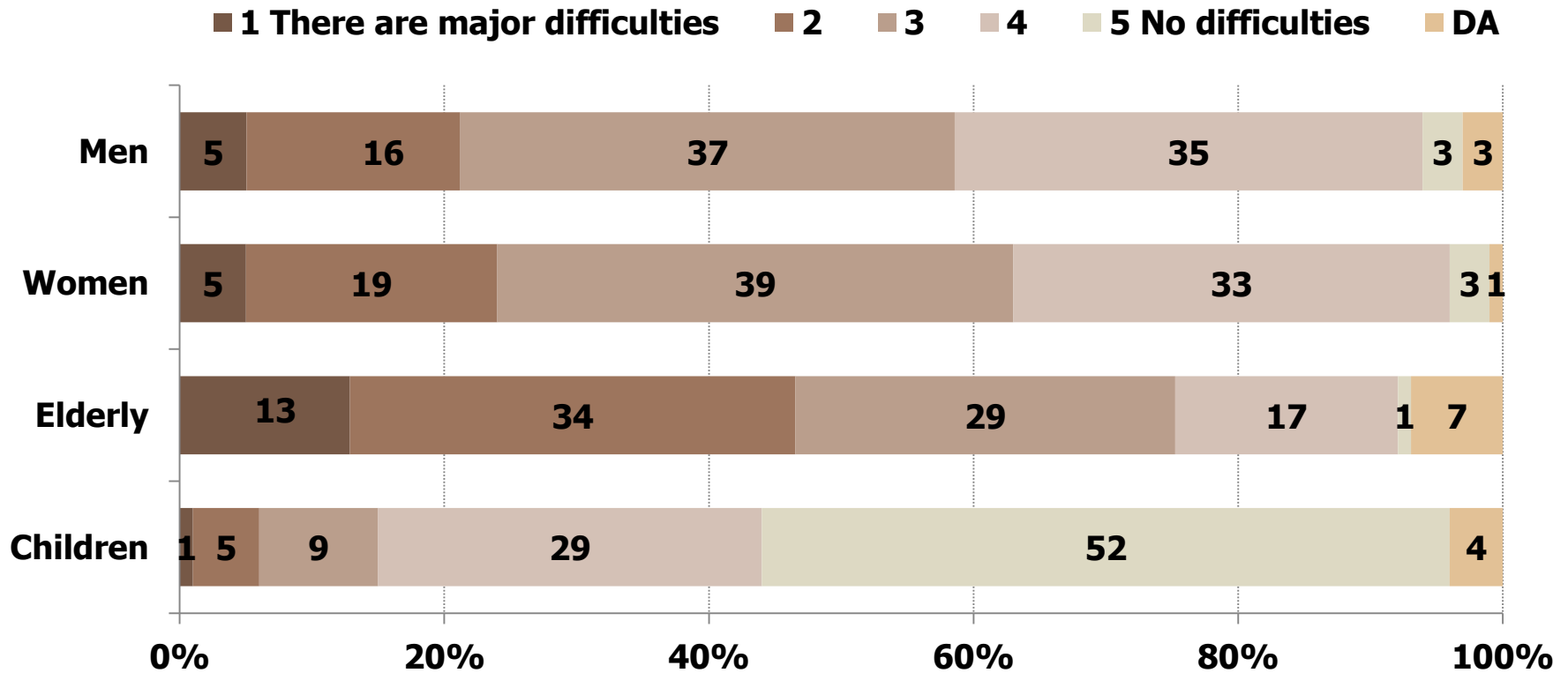
The level of social integration is much higher than that of economic integration.



Source: EDRC, SSAF 2016

Comparative assessments about difficulties of integration

*The difficulties of integration are especially great for the elderly.
There are slightly more difficulties with integration for women than men.*



Source: EDRC, SSAF 2016

Need for support and assessments on its importance

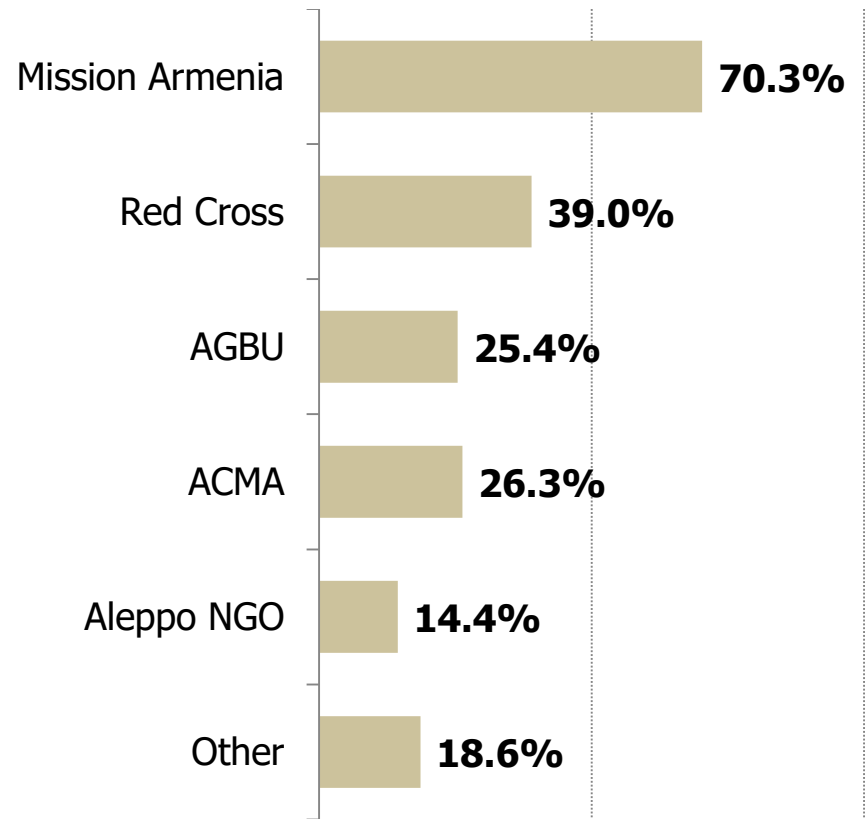
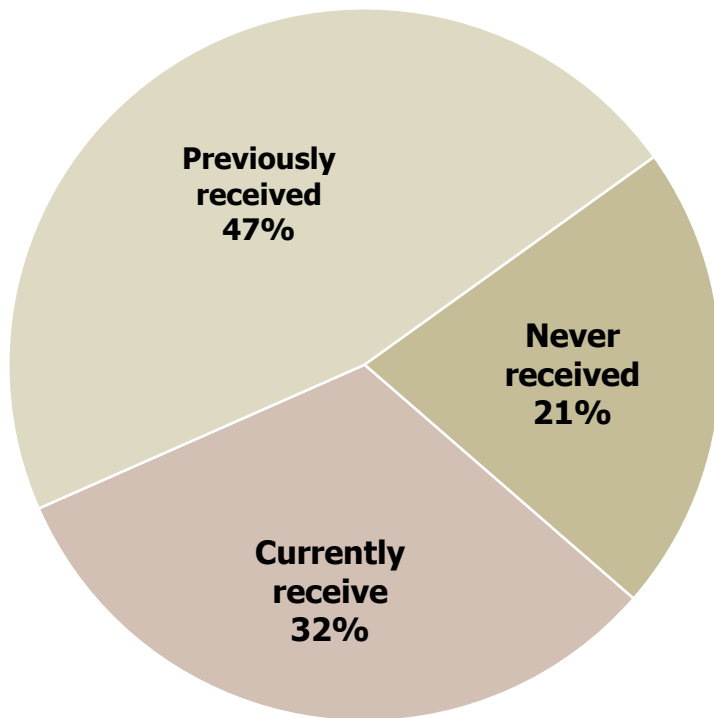
The issue of dwellings is considered one of the primary needs.

Types of support	Those with the needs	Importance assessment		
		Very important	Important	Not so important
Social and psychological support	4.7	71.4	0.0	28.6
Providing a dwelling	82.7	96.0	4.0	0.0
Helping to find employment	46.7	88.6	11.4	0.0
Healthcare assistance	56.7	88.2	11.8	0.0
Educational programs and training	29.3	47.7	50.0	2.3
Legal counselling	5.3	25.0	62.5	12.5
Training on taxation, customs procedures and business etiquette	14.0	9.5	81.0	9.5
Market analyses and marketing assistance	6.0	11.1	77.8	11.1
Development of partnerships, establishing connections	12.7	15.8	78.9	5.3
Armenian language courses	9.3	21.4	71.4	7.1
Russian language courses	32.7	42.9	57.1	0.0
Other foreign language courses	28.7	41.9	58.1	0.0

Source: EDRC, SSAF 2016

The distribution of received support

32% of the Syrian-Armenians currently receive and 47% used to receive support.



Source: EDRC, SSAF 2016

Support received and level of satisfaction

The level of satisfaction with the support provided is quite high.

Type of support	Recipient HHs	Satisfaction			
		Dissatisfied	Average	Satisfied	Very satisfied
Food	46.7	4.3	25.7	54.3	15.7
Clothing	8.7	0.0	46.2	53.8	0.0
Medication	7.3	18.2	36.4	36.4	9.1
Personal hygiene and household goods	26.7	0.0	42.5	45.0	12.5
Working tools, appliances	8.7	7.7	15.4	53.8	23.1
Rent	55.3	6.0	24.1	49.4	20.5
Other financial assistance	6.7	20.0	0.0	40.0	40.0

Source: EDRC, SSAF 2016

Training courses and level of satisfaction therewith

There is a low level of satisfaction with regard to the "Finances and banking" and "Business administration" trainings.

Training	Participant HHs	Satisfaction			
		Dissatisfied	Average	Satisfied	Very satisfied
English Language	3.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Russian Language	8.0	0.0	0.0	58.3	41.7
Financial and Banking Sector	3.3	20.0	20.0	40.0	20.0
Business Administration	9.3	7.1	28.6	50.0	14.3
Culinary	5.3	0.0	0.0	62.5	37.5
Makeup and hairdressing	4.7	0.0	0.0	28.6	71.4
Embroidery, Jewellery making, Blacksmithing, etc.	2.7	0.0	0.0	25.0	75.0
Total	37.3	3.6	8.9	42.9	44.6

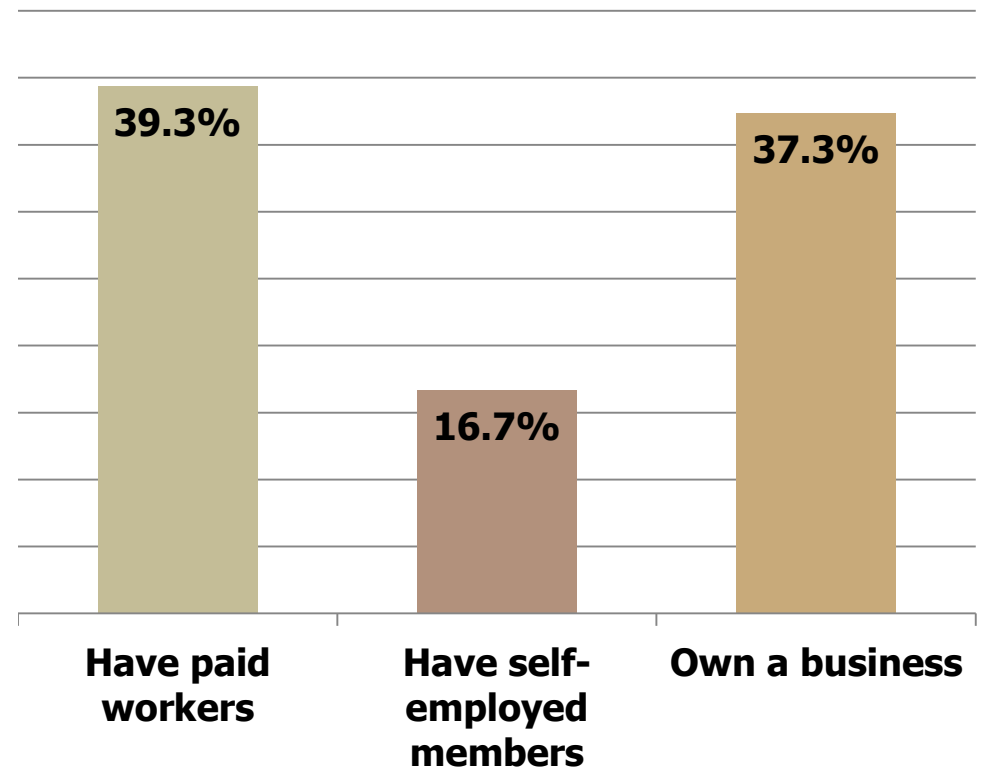
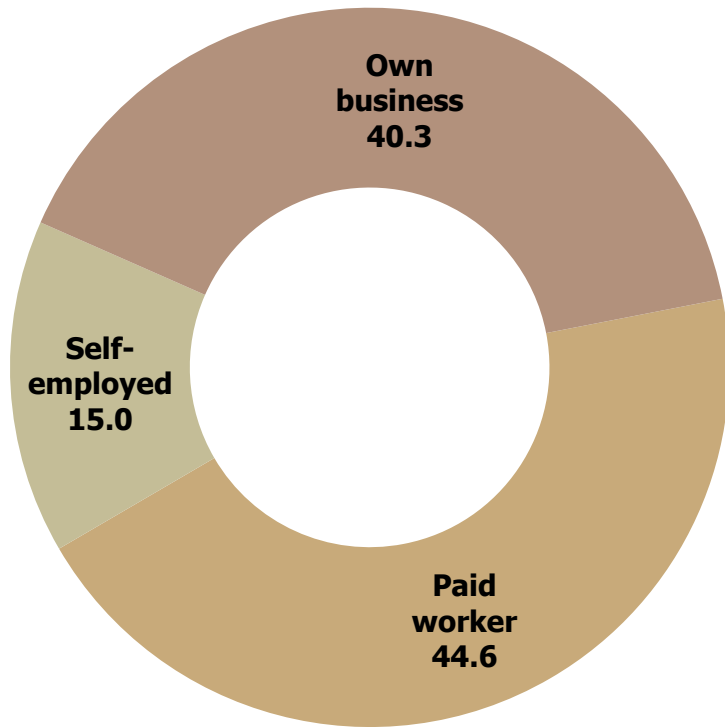
Source: EDRC, SSAF 2016

ECONOMIC INTEGRATION OF SYRIAN REFUGEES IN ARMENIA

- **Economic Activities and Problems with Integration**

Structure of those engaged in economic activities

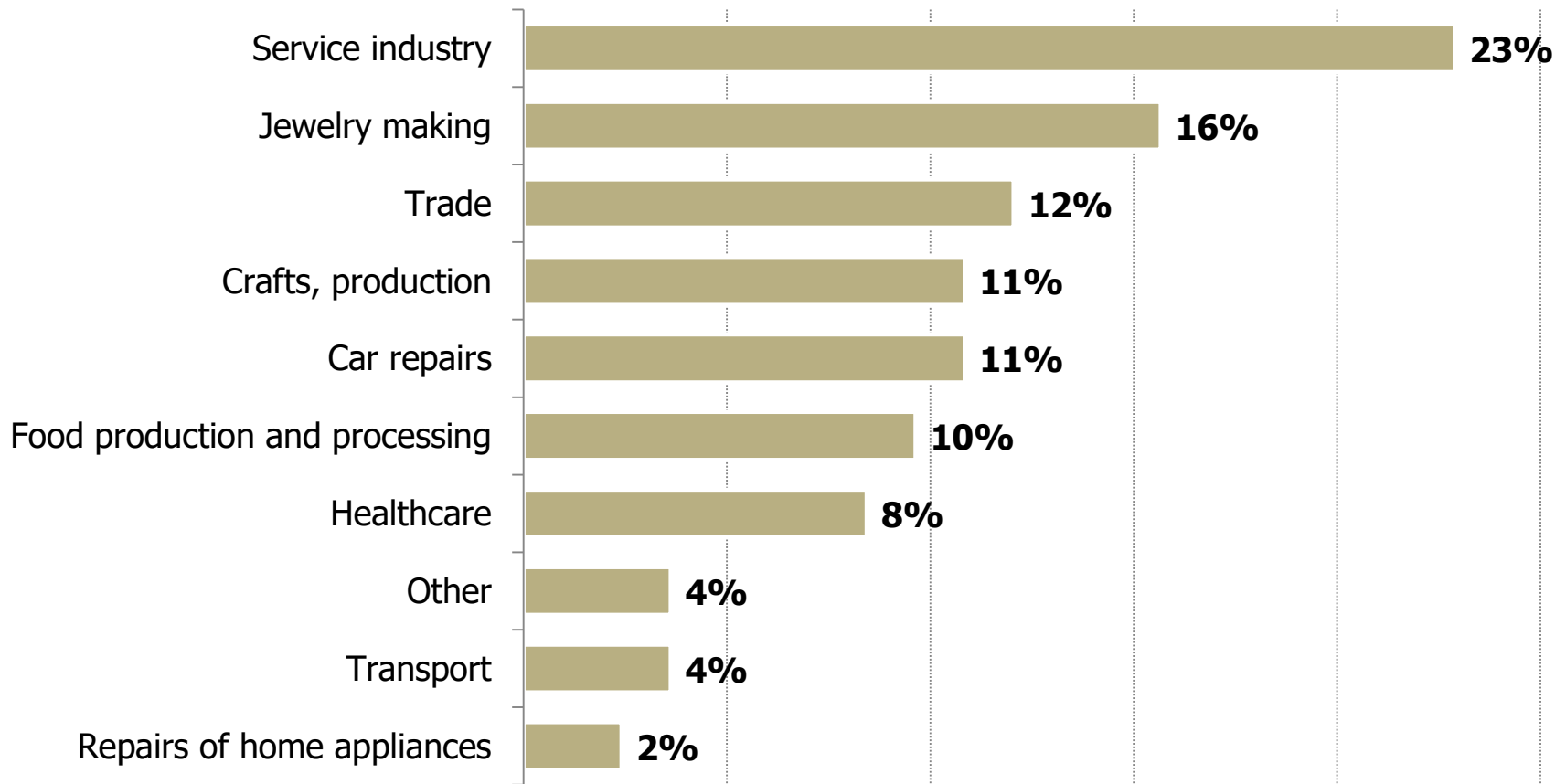
In about 83% of the Syrian-Armenian families residing in Armenia at least one family member is engaged in economic activities.



Source: EDRC, SSAF 2016

Main areas of employment for paid workers

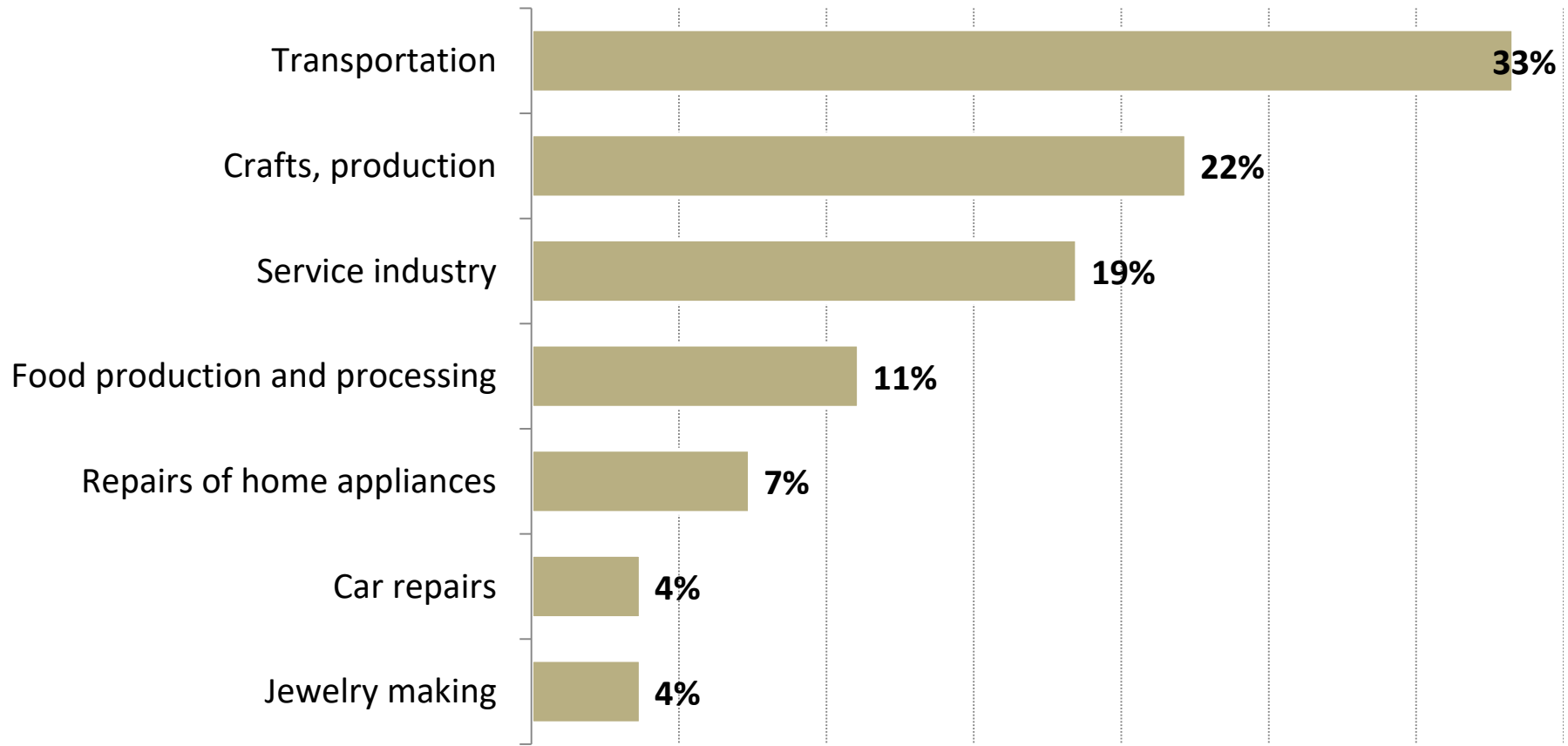
Most of the paid workers are in the service sector (23%).



Source: EDRC, SSAF 2016

Main areas of self-employment

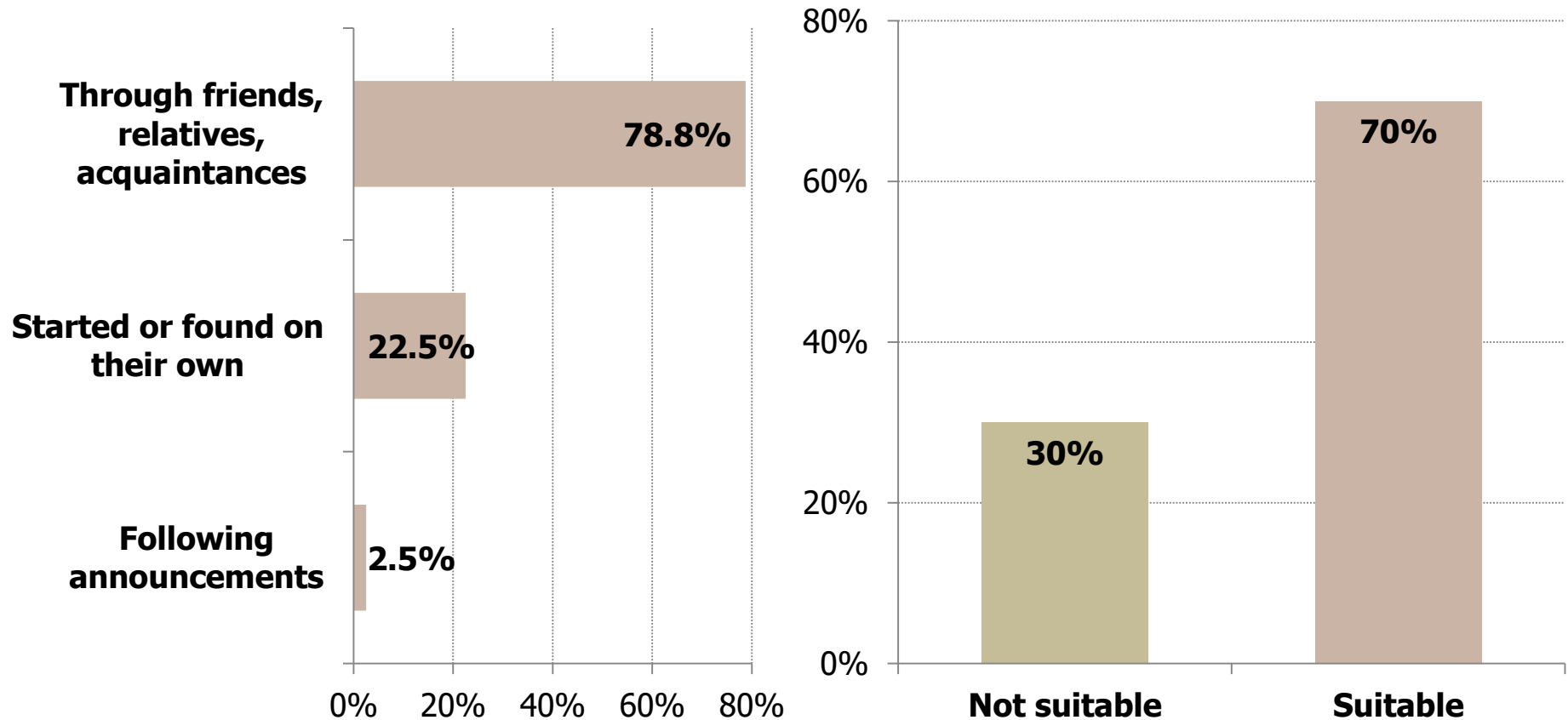
Main areas of self-employment are transportation, crafts and service industry .



Source: EDRC, SSAF 2016

Method of finding current employment and self-assessment about the suitability of current employment

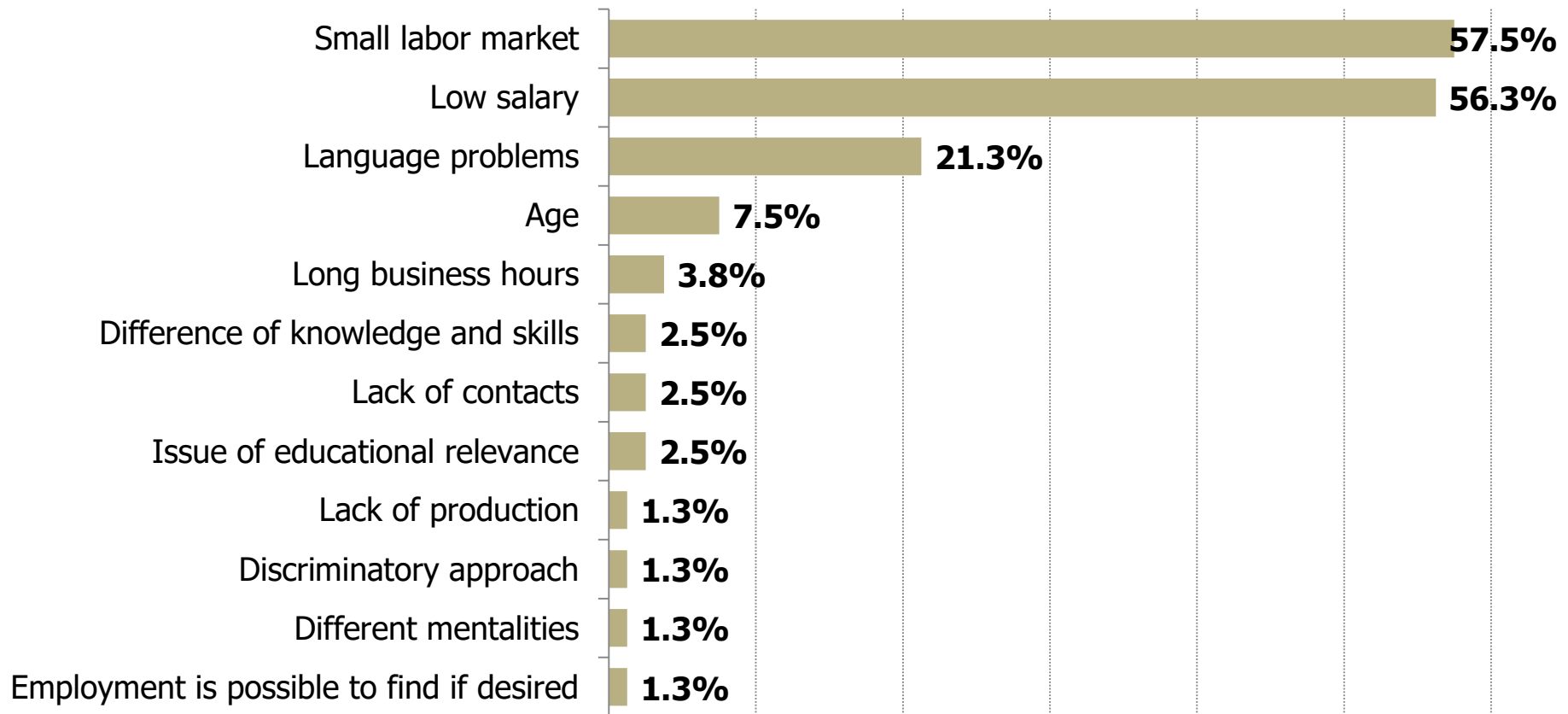
The role of different relief organizations and agencies is very low or non-existent .



Source: EDRC, SSAF 2016

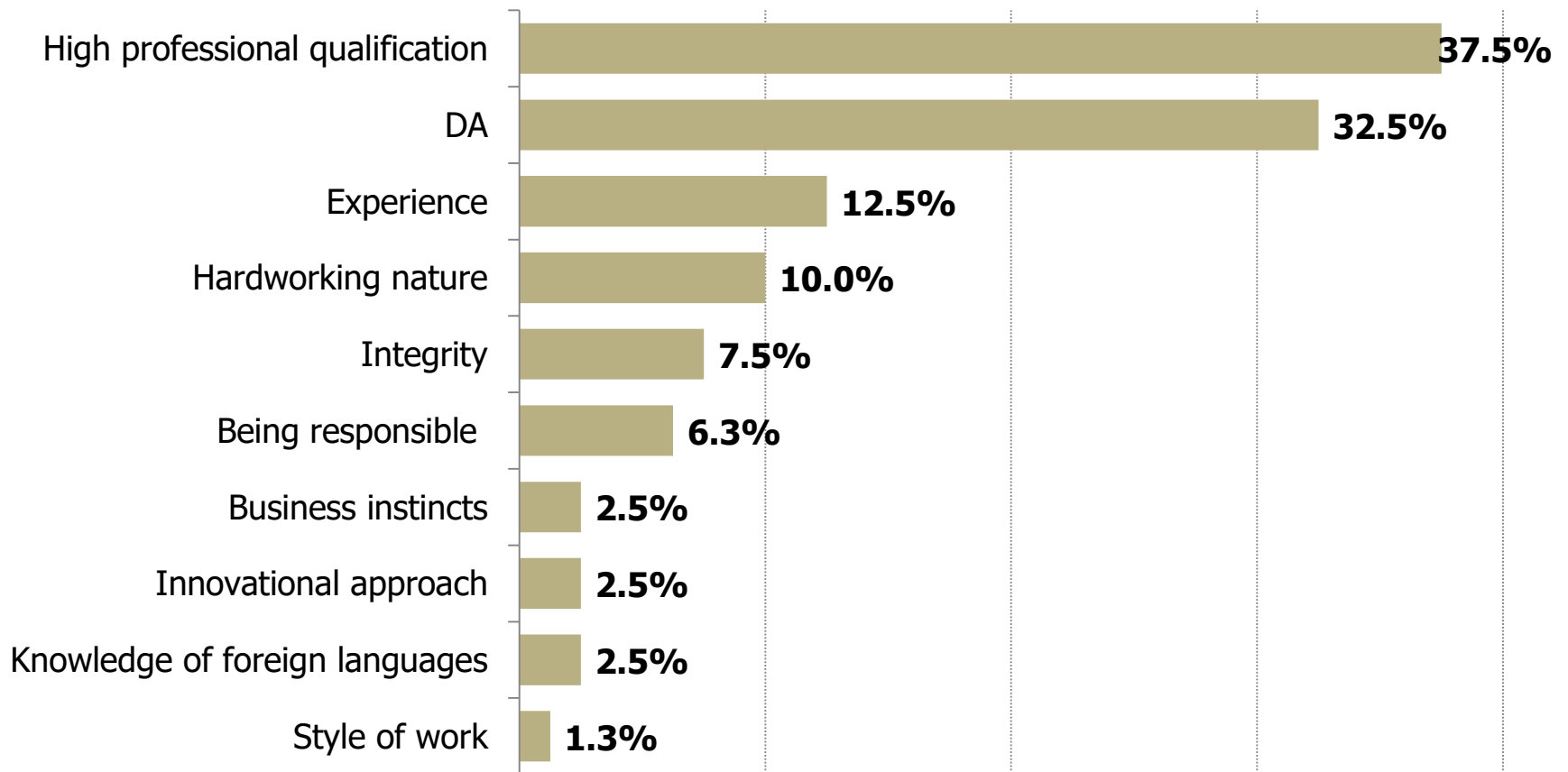
Main difficulties and obstacles in relation to finding employment

The majority of the respondents consider the main obstacle to finding employment in Armenia to be the small market and low wages.



Main advantages as an employee based on self-assessments

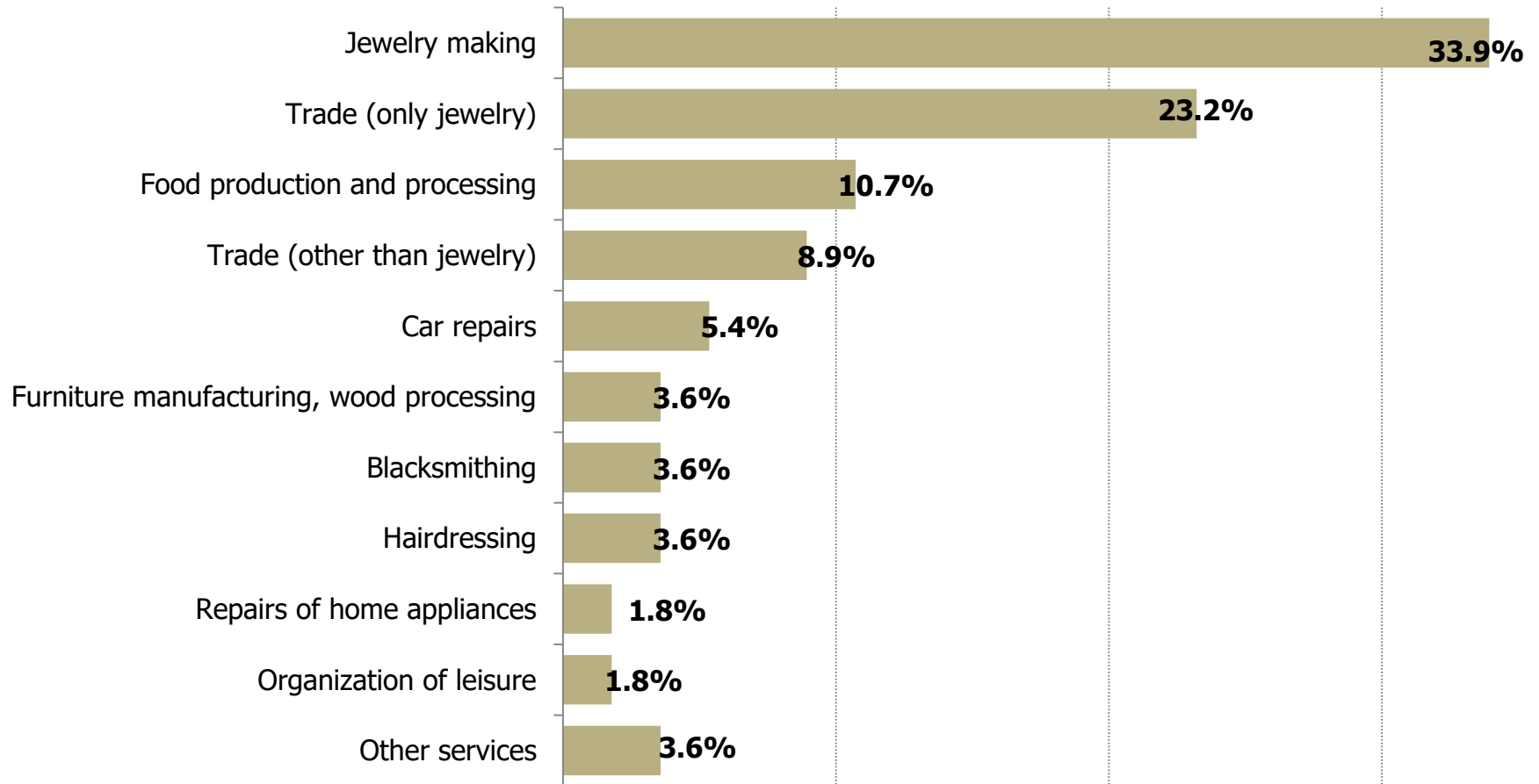
Their main advantage as an employee is being a highly qualified workforce.



Source: EDRC, SSAF 2016

Main business areas for Syrian-Armenians

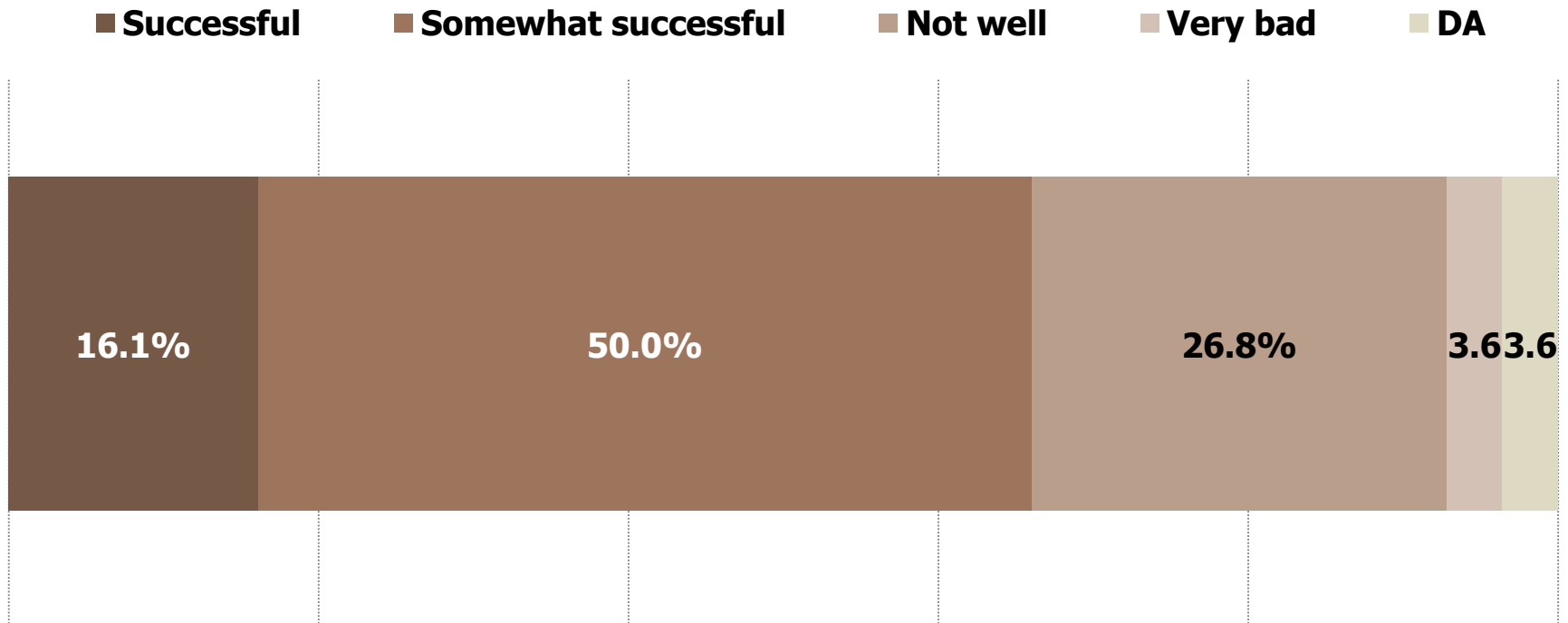
37% of the Syrian-Armenian families have either small or big businesses.



Source: EDRC, SSAF 2016

Self-assessment about the level of development and success of businesses

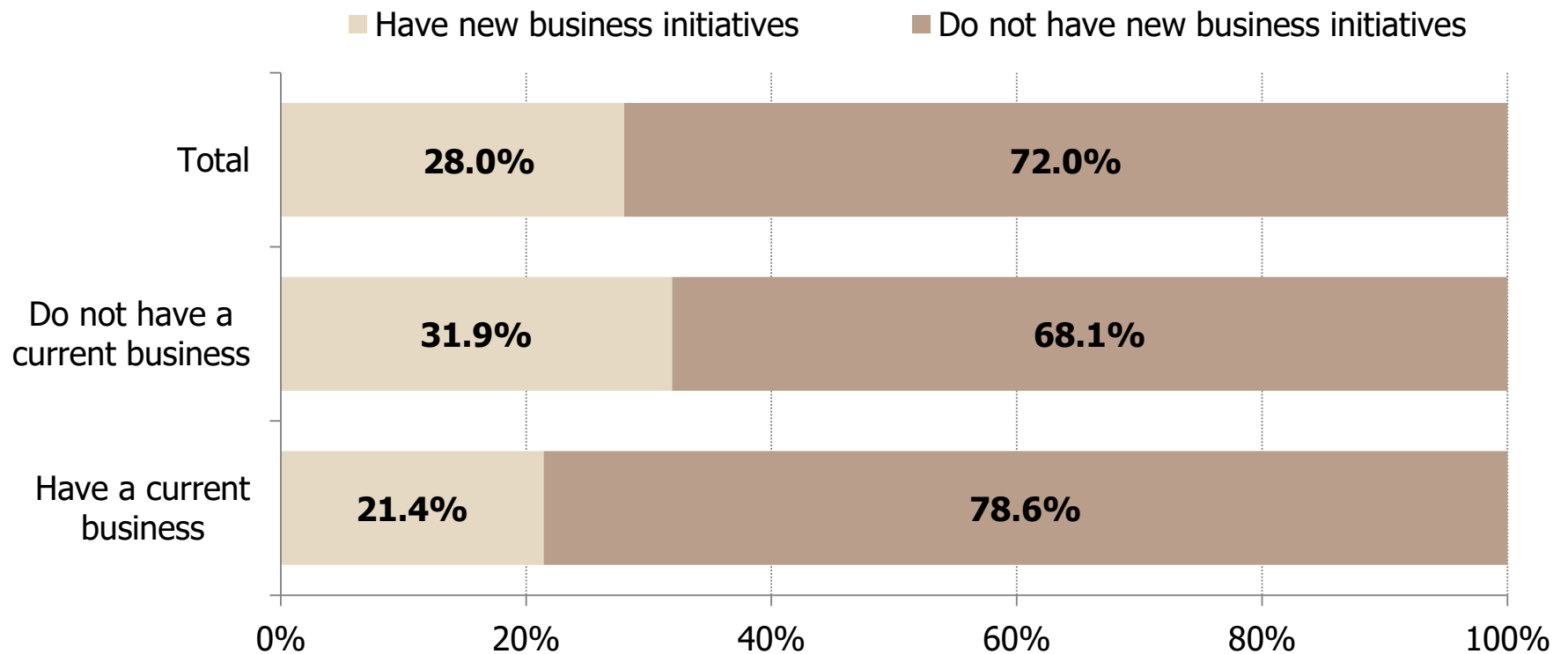
Half of the Syrian-Armenians doing business in Armenia consider their business "somewhat successful" and 16% consider it "successful".



Source: EDRC, SSAF 2016

Structure of current business according to the new business initiative idea

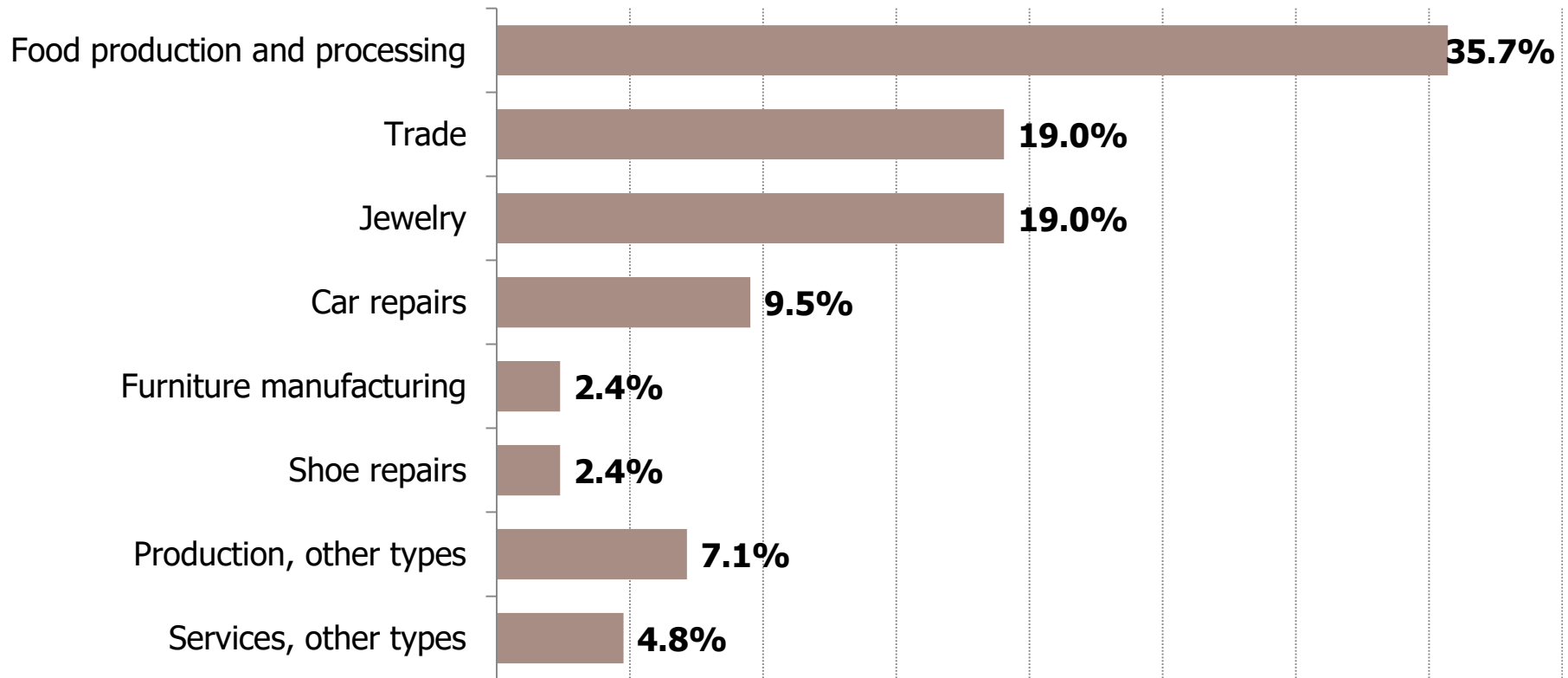
28% of the Syrian-Armenians has some new business initiative.



Source: EDRC, SSAF 2016

Main areas of new business initiatives

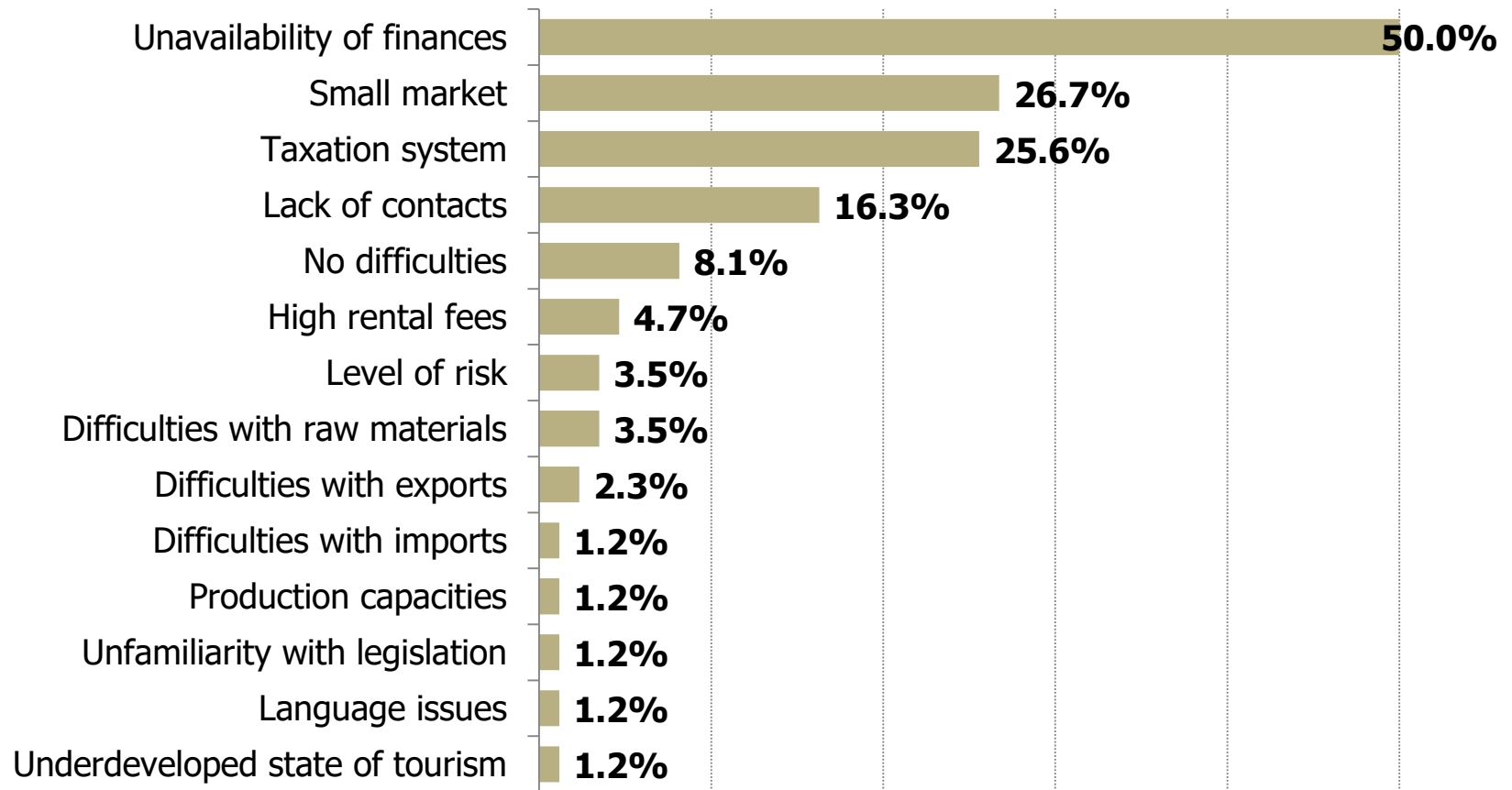
New business initiatives again have to do with the primary areas and directions of business of the Syrian-Armenians.



Source: EDRC, SSAF 2016

Main difficulties and obstacles with respect to doing business in Armenia

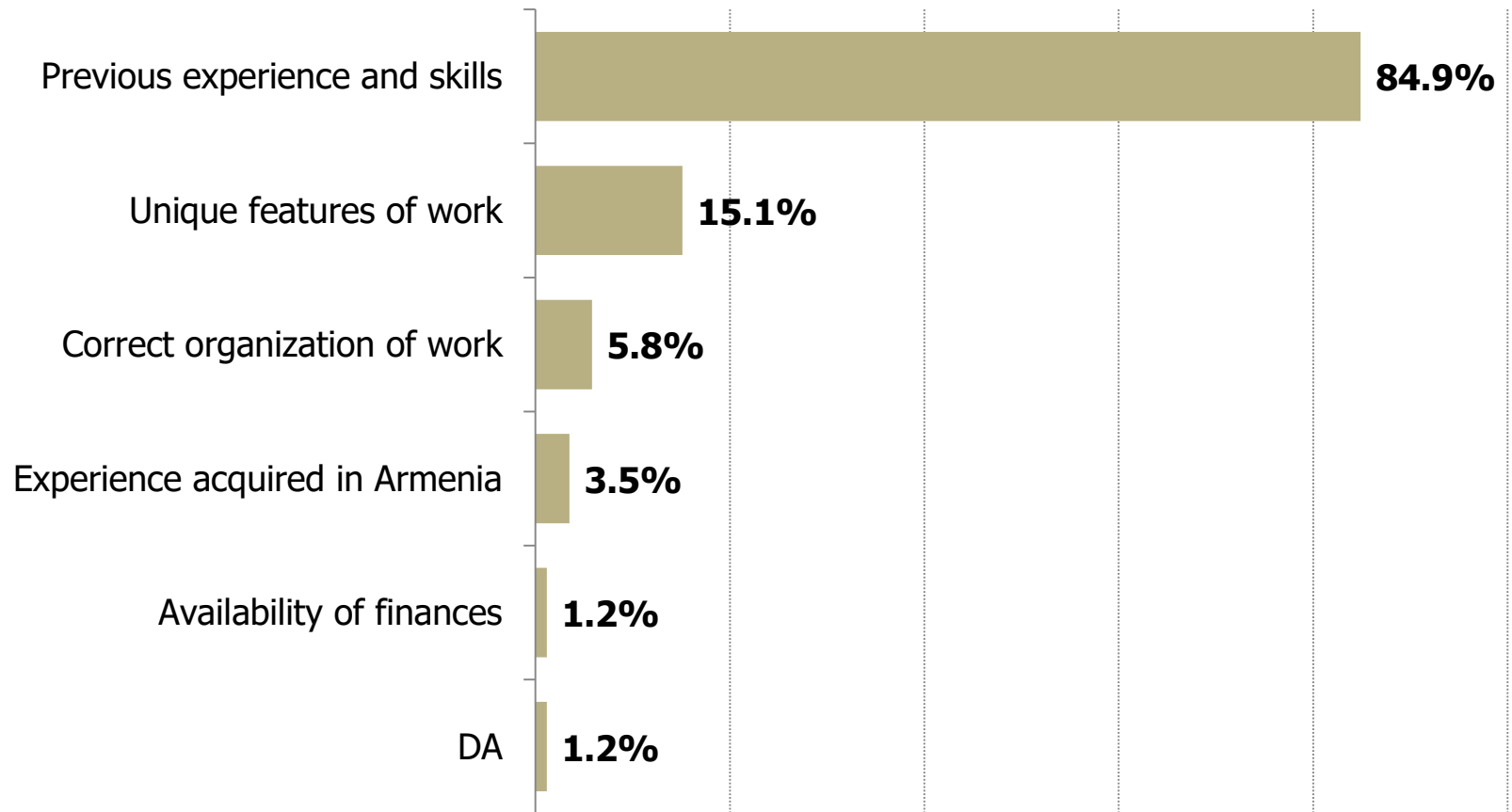
The main obstacle to the business administration in Armenia is the unavailability of finances.



Source: EDRC, SSAF 2016

Subjective assessments about comparative advantages

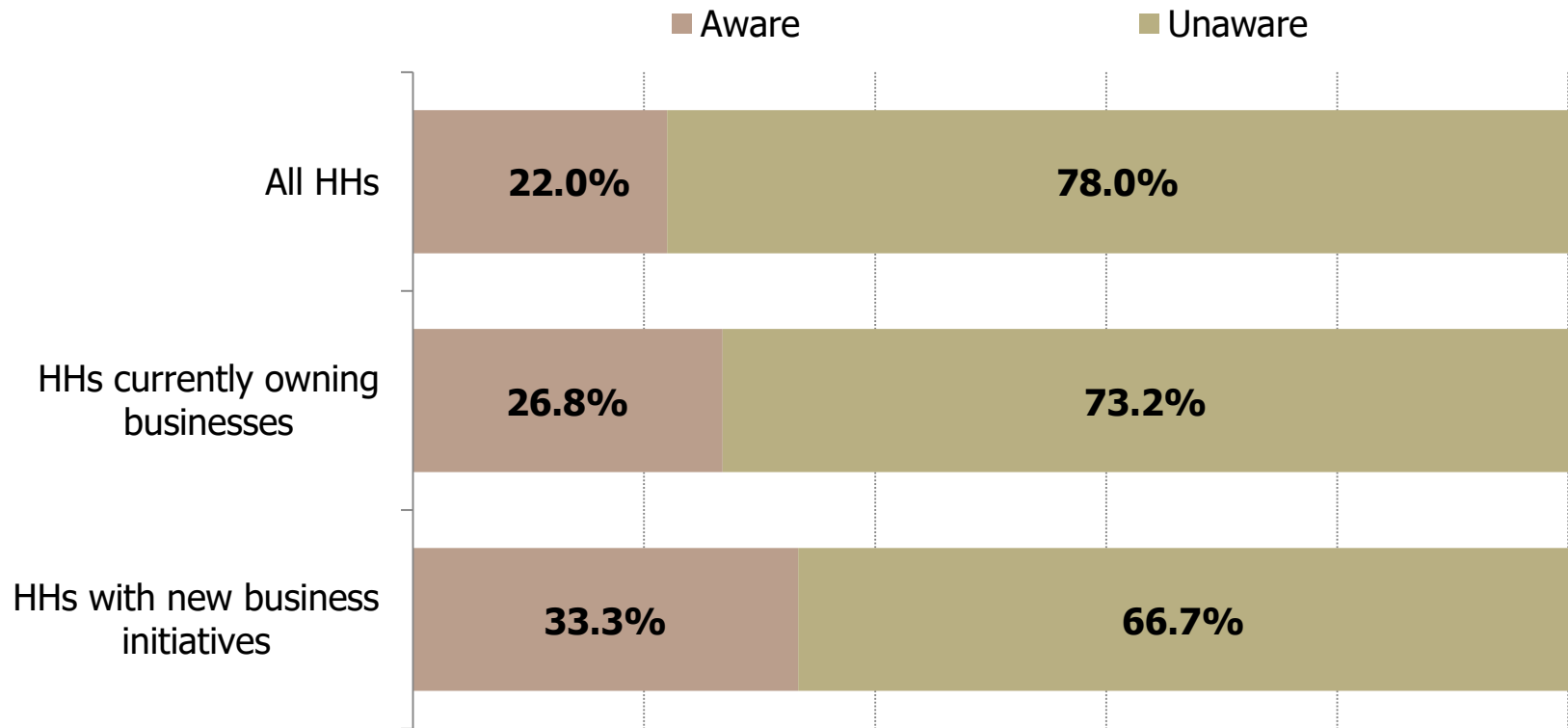
Main advantages are previous experience and skills.



Source: EDRC, SSAF 2016

Level of awareness about support programs for business activities or employment

The level of awareness about the programmes supporting business activities or employment is not high.



Source: EDRC, SSAF 2016

FGD results:

Restrictions of economic integration

- **Small internal market.**
- **Limited opportunities for exports.** Due to the small volumes of exports Lack of the transport opportunities.
- **language barriers.** The main market of exports is Russia.
- **Lack of industrial mentality.**
- **Non-competitive** local production. They see a need for protection of the local market.
- **Complicated taxation system.** there are no privileges for small and medium businesses.
- **Passive labour market.** Finding employment is problematic especially for women.
- **Lack of advertisement and visibility.** They have problems with advertising their business, spreading information and there is an issue of visibilit.
- **Lack of trust.** There is a lack of mutual respect, trust and friendliness.

FGD results:

Opportunities of economic integration

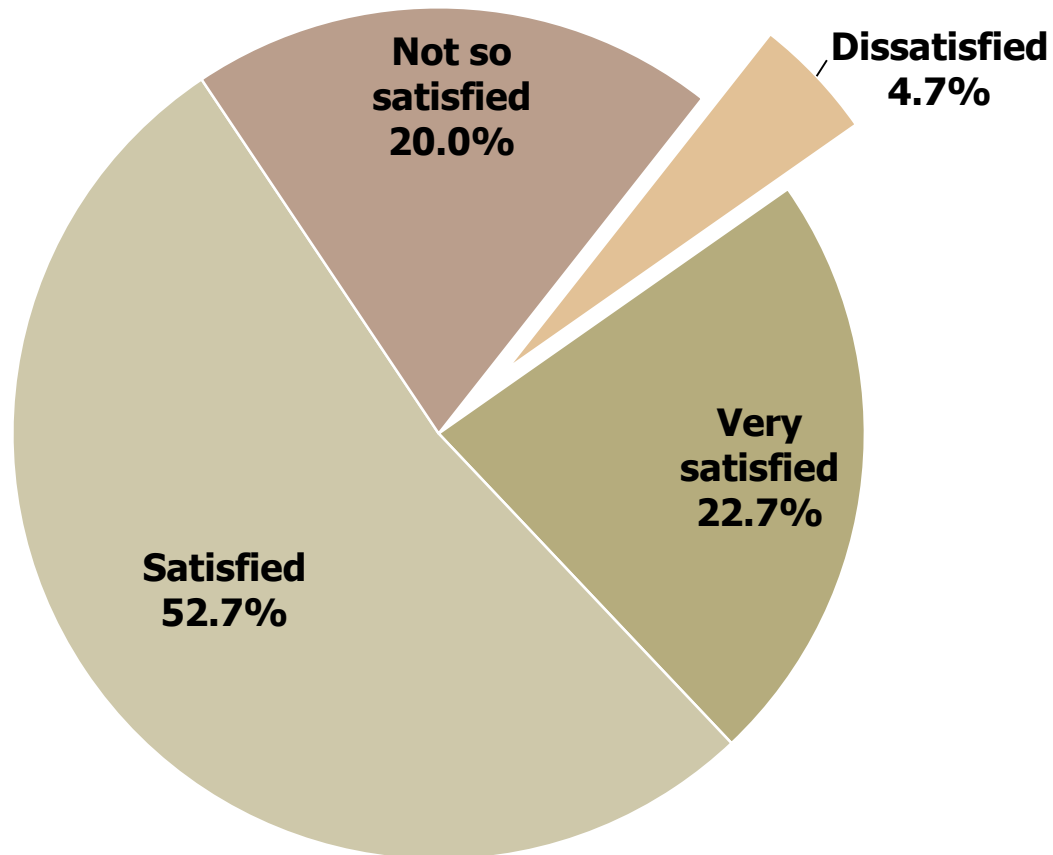
- **There are the experience, skills and connections** that they used for the development of their businesses.
- The main area of economic activities is the industrial sector where **the opportunities are not utilized.**
- There is a **cheap labour** in Armenia although the efficiency of the labour force is rather low.
- There is a change of thinking in recent years: people seem **to value the “Made in Armenia” label more.**
- **The electronic system and online trade** is quite developed in Armenia.
- There are areas where Syrian-Armenians **do not see competition** for themselves and are looking for some ways to create brands.

ECONOMIC INTEGRATION OF SYRIAN REFUGEES IN ARMENIA

- **General Satisfaction and Future Plans**

Satisfaction with the public attitude

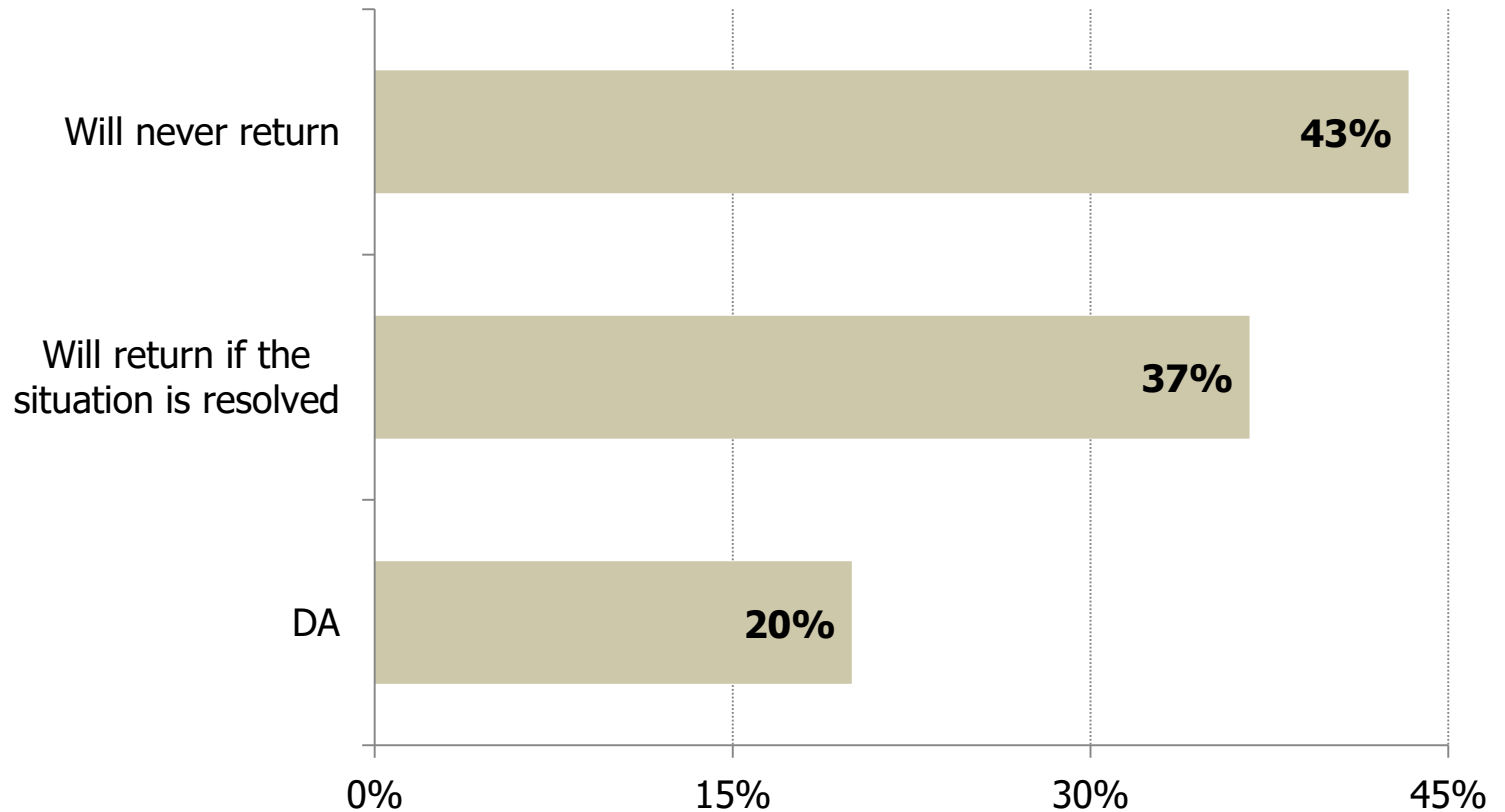
General contentment of the Syrian-Armenians with the attitude of the Armenian public is high.



Source: EDRC, SSAF 2016

Intentions to return to Syria

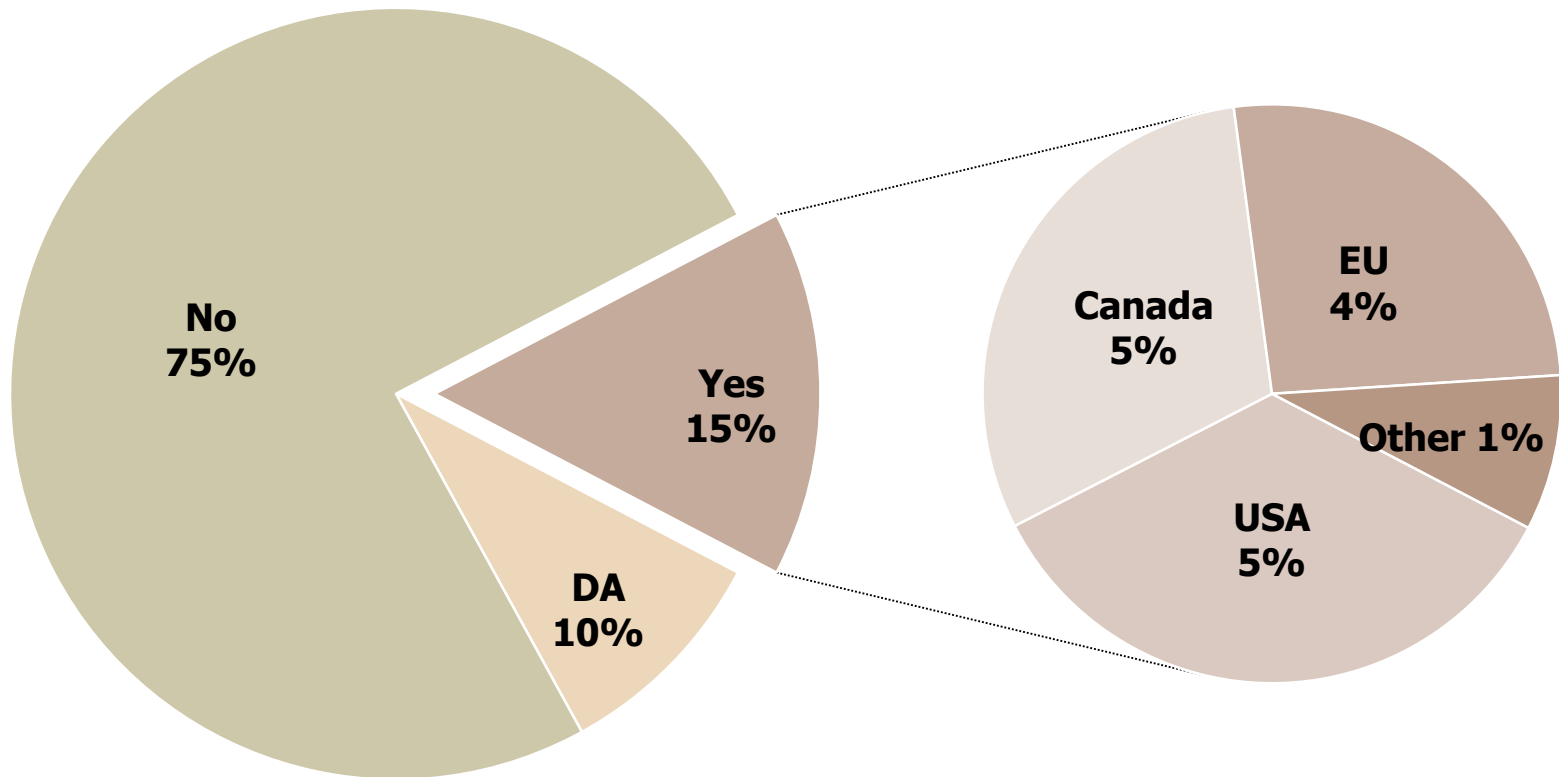
37% of the Syrian-Armenians said they would prefer to return upon resolution of the conflict in Syria.



Source: EDRC, SSAF 2016

Intentions on moving to another country in the near future

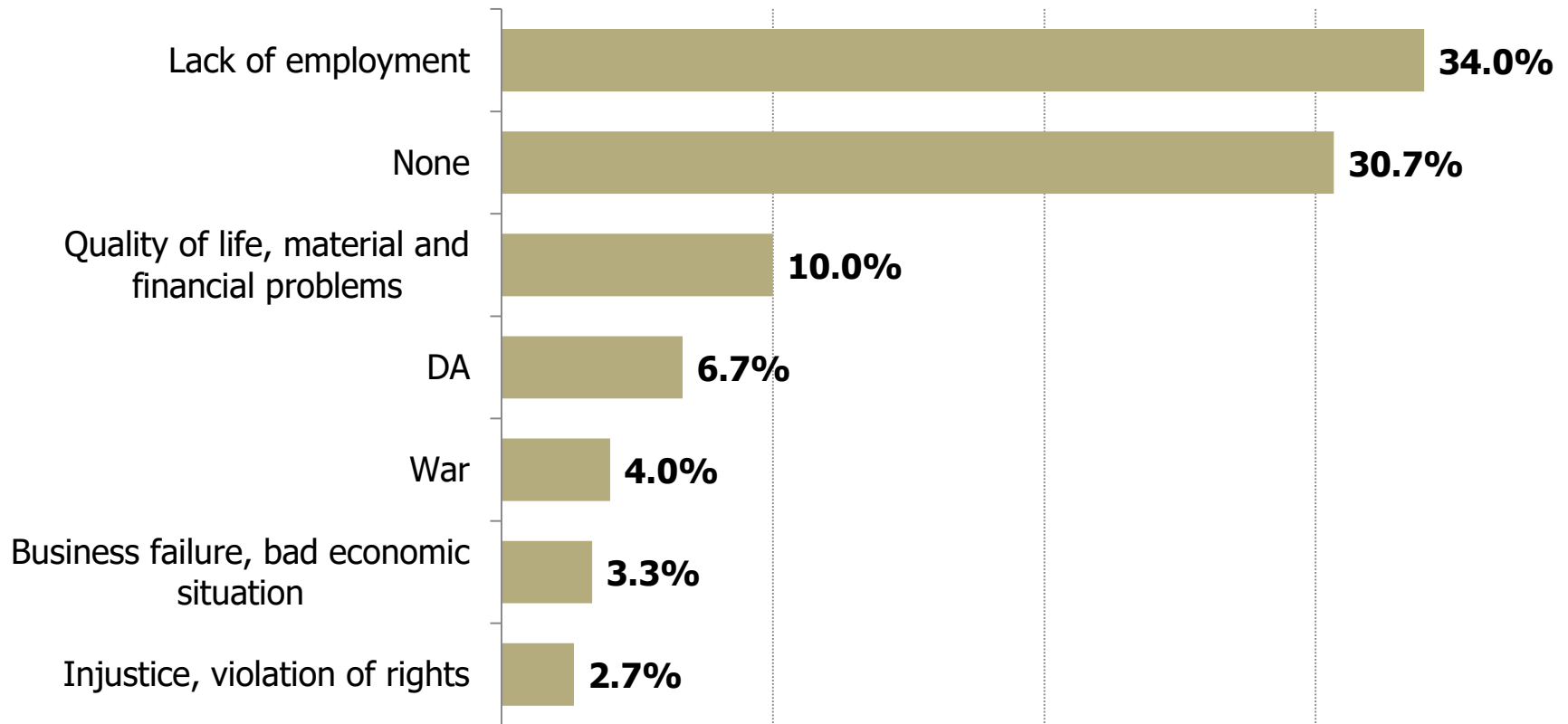
15% of the Syrian-Armenian families said they intended to leave Armenia soon.



Source: EDRC, SSAF 2016

Main reasons for leaving Armenia

About 31% said there was none and could not be such a reason for leaving Armenia.



Source: EDRC, SSAF 2016

Main conclusions and recommendations

- The majority of the Syrian-Armenians are engaged in economic activities of their own initiative.
- The relative number of the self-employed and especially entrepreneurs is very high.
- The number of those with new business initiatives and ideas is quite high.
- The economic potential of Syrian-Armenian households is high; however the economic integration level is not high.
- In addition to the common known obstacles and difficulties, the Syrian-Armenians also have distinctive problems. They do need to be kept in the spotlight.
- The lack of employment opportunities, incompatibility or inefficiency thereof, is the reason to urge the Syrian-Armenians to leave Armenia.
- A rather big number of the Syrian-Armenians do not ever want to leave Armenia. However, they need some support.
- Currently, the support programs and measures mostly have humanitarian nature.
- Economic activities and measures promoting integration are not many within the scope of the support that is provided.

Main conclusions and recommendations

- The Syrian-Armenians have already had their visible positive impact in the Armenian business culture, especially, in the service sector. Expansion and roll-out of these preliminary results can bring in significant positive impacts and benefits .
- Full participation of the Syrian- Armenians in the Armenian society and the opportunities to self-realization shall become the subject to a larger discussion.
- For the coordination, harmonization and complementation of various programs and efforts to support the Syrian-Armenians, as well as exchange of information and achievement of other program impacts mechanisms were put in place which are of crucial importance and shall operate continuously.
- The effective integration of the Syrian-Armenians in Armenia can involve various policy aspects and directions.
- The implementation of **effective repatriation and immigration policies** in Armenia has become imperative. These have to be considered from the perspective of demographics promotion, economic development as well as development of human capital.
- Regardless of current constraints, it is necessary to set strategic goals and embark on their step-by-step realizations.

THANK YOU



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