



**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**

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2017/SOM3/DIA/015

## **Continued Work for APEC**

Submitted by: PECC



**Dialogue on Regional Trade Agreements and Free  
Trade Agreements  
Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam  
27 August 2017**

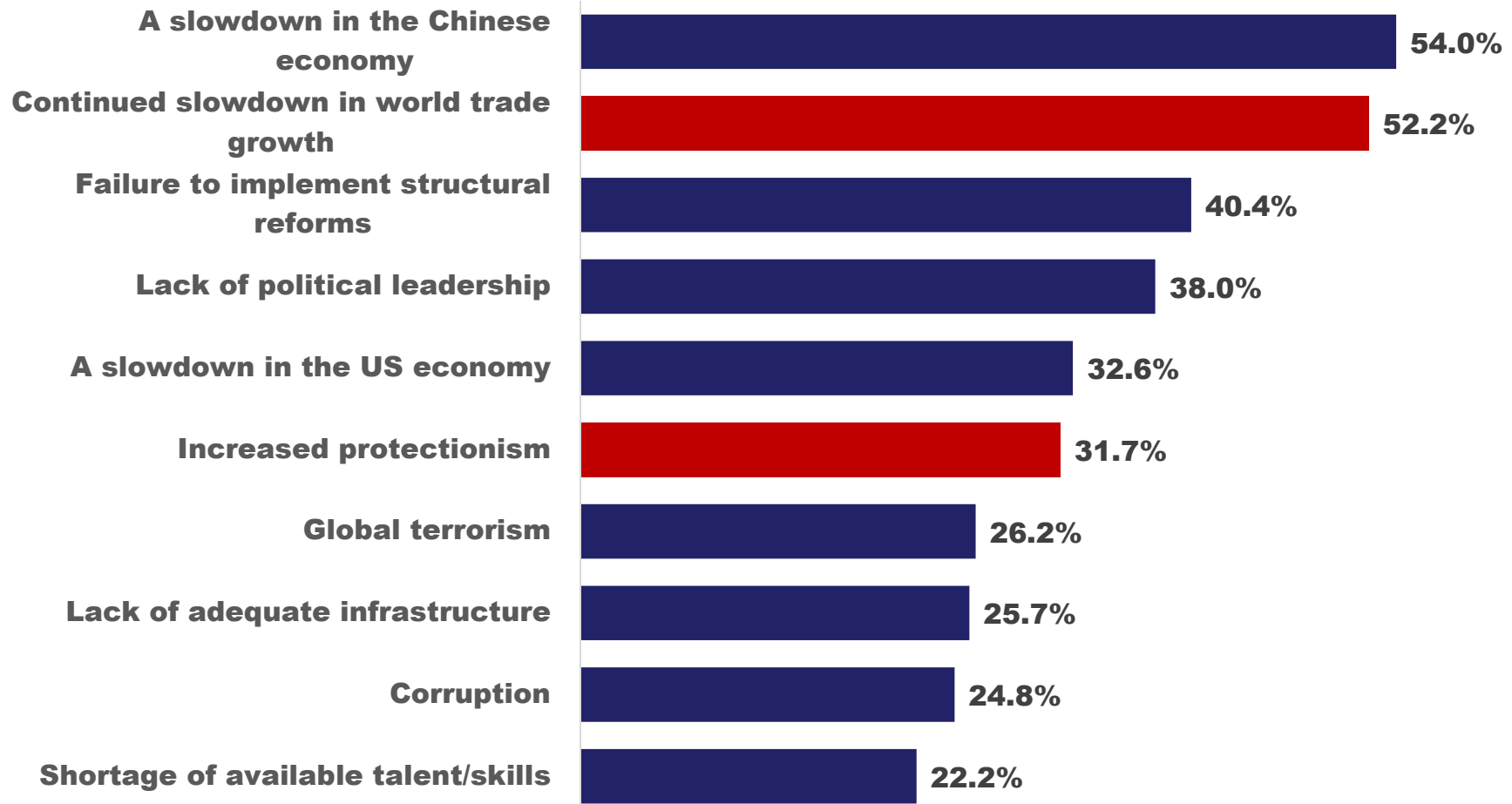
# **APEC SOM Dialogue on RTAs/FTAs Session 5: Continued Work for APEC**

***27 August 2017  
Sheraton Sai Gon***

**Eduardo Pedrosa  
Secretary General  
Pacific Economic Cooperation Council**

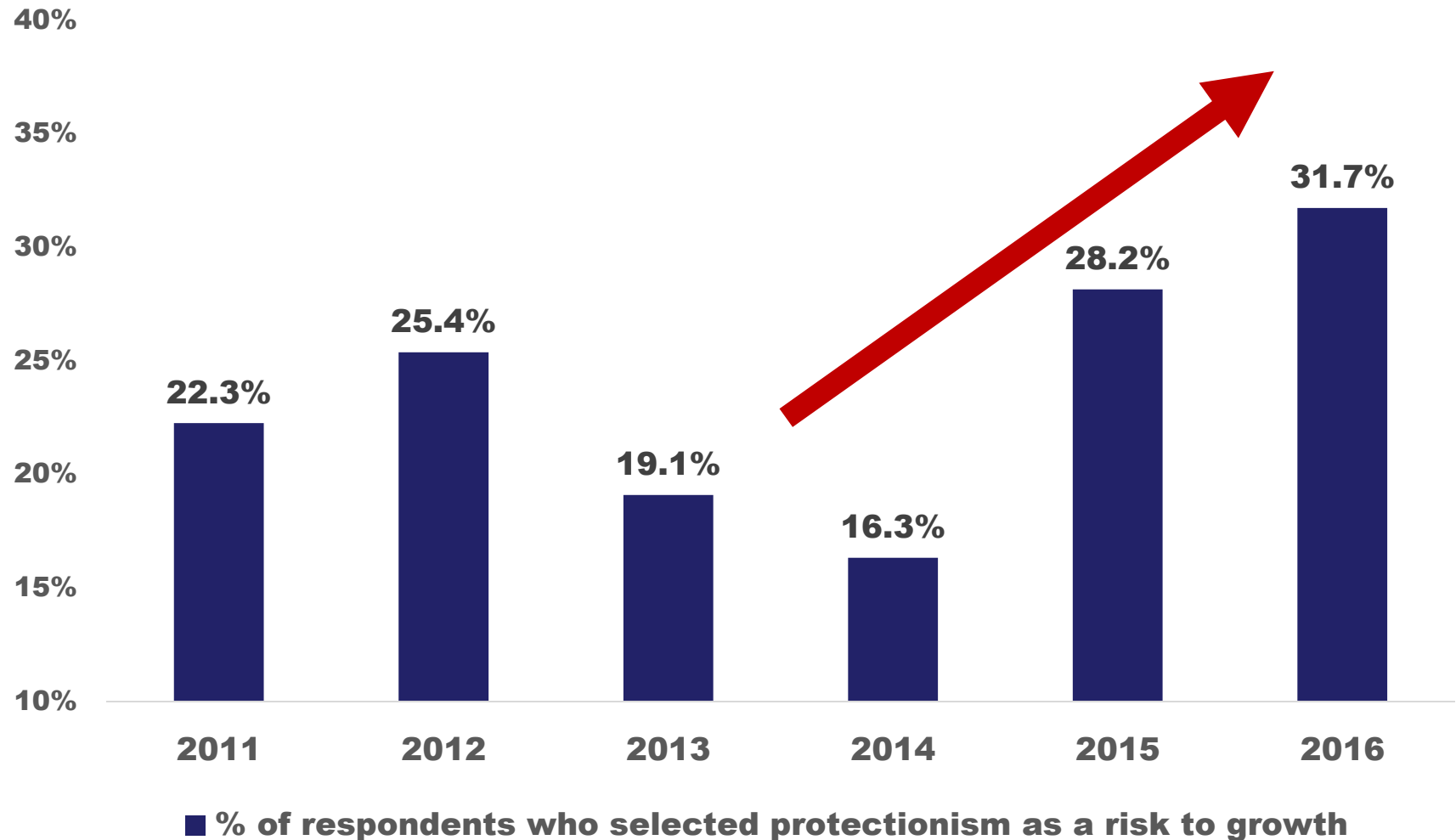
*The views expressed here are his own and do not necessarily reflect those of the PECC nor its members.*

# Top Risks to Growth

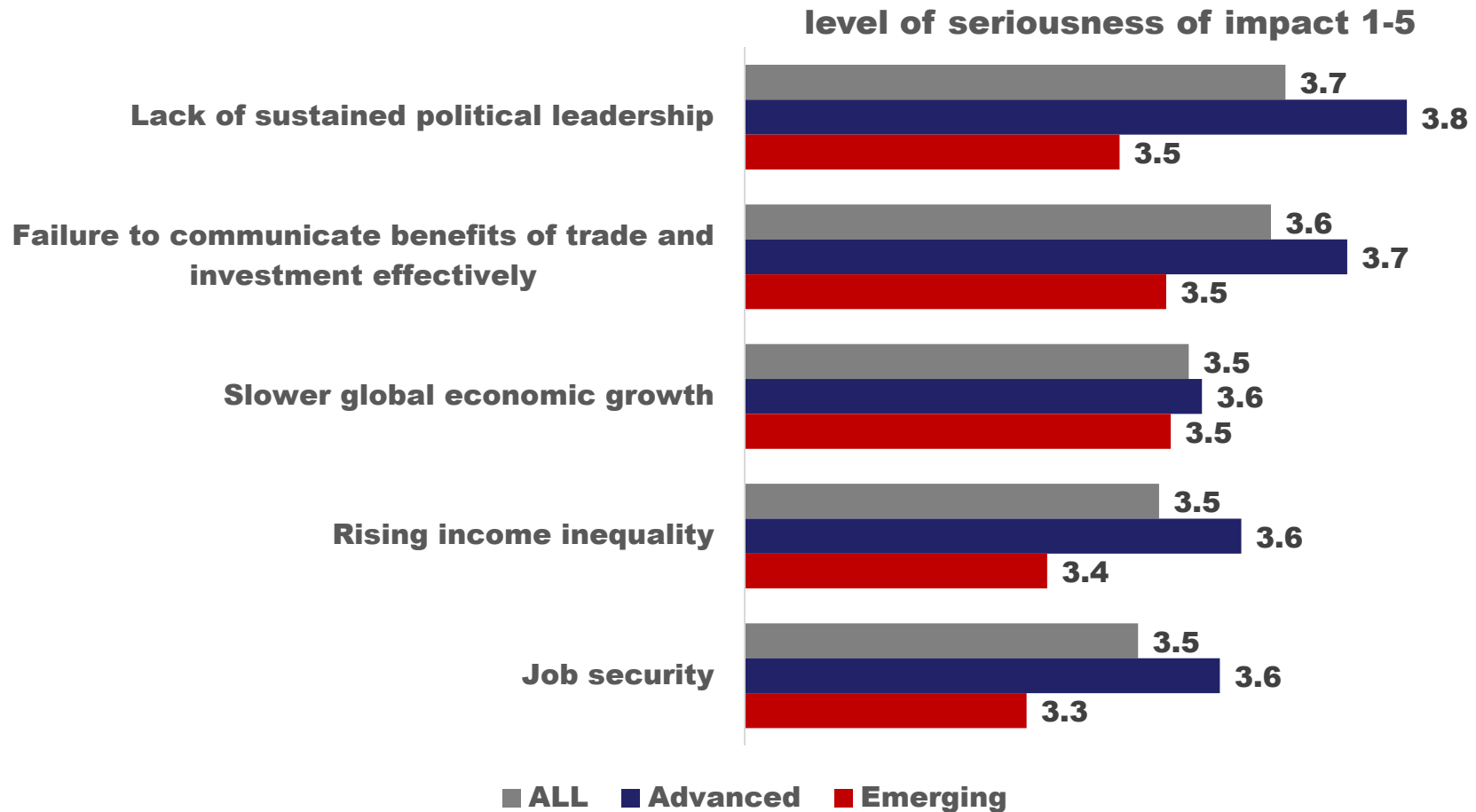


*Question: Please select the top five risks to growth for your economy over the next 2-3 years.*

# Risk of Protectionism on an Upward Trend

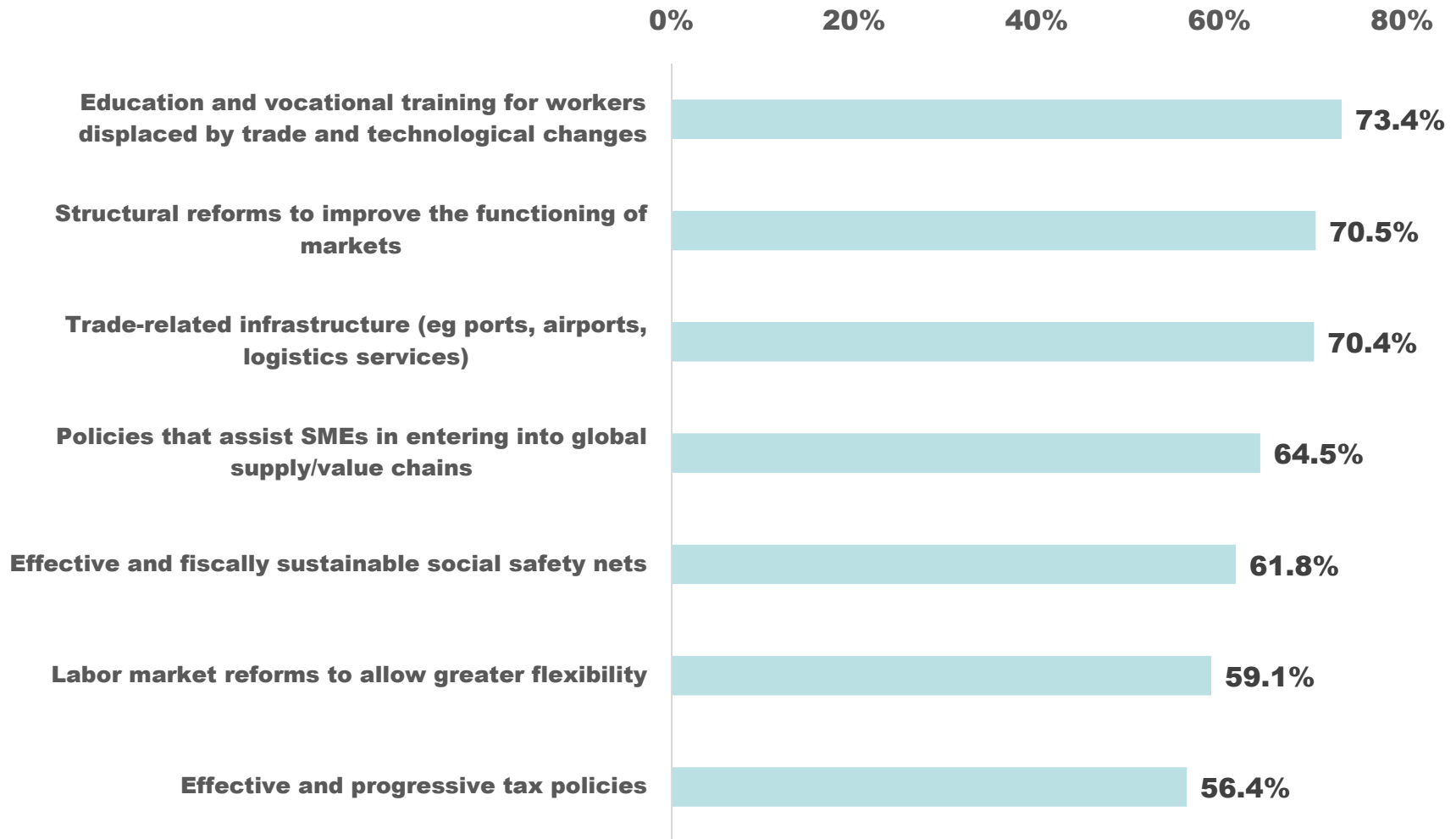


# What impacts attitudes towards trade and investment?

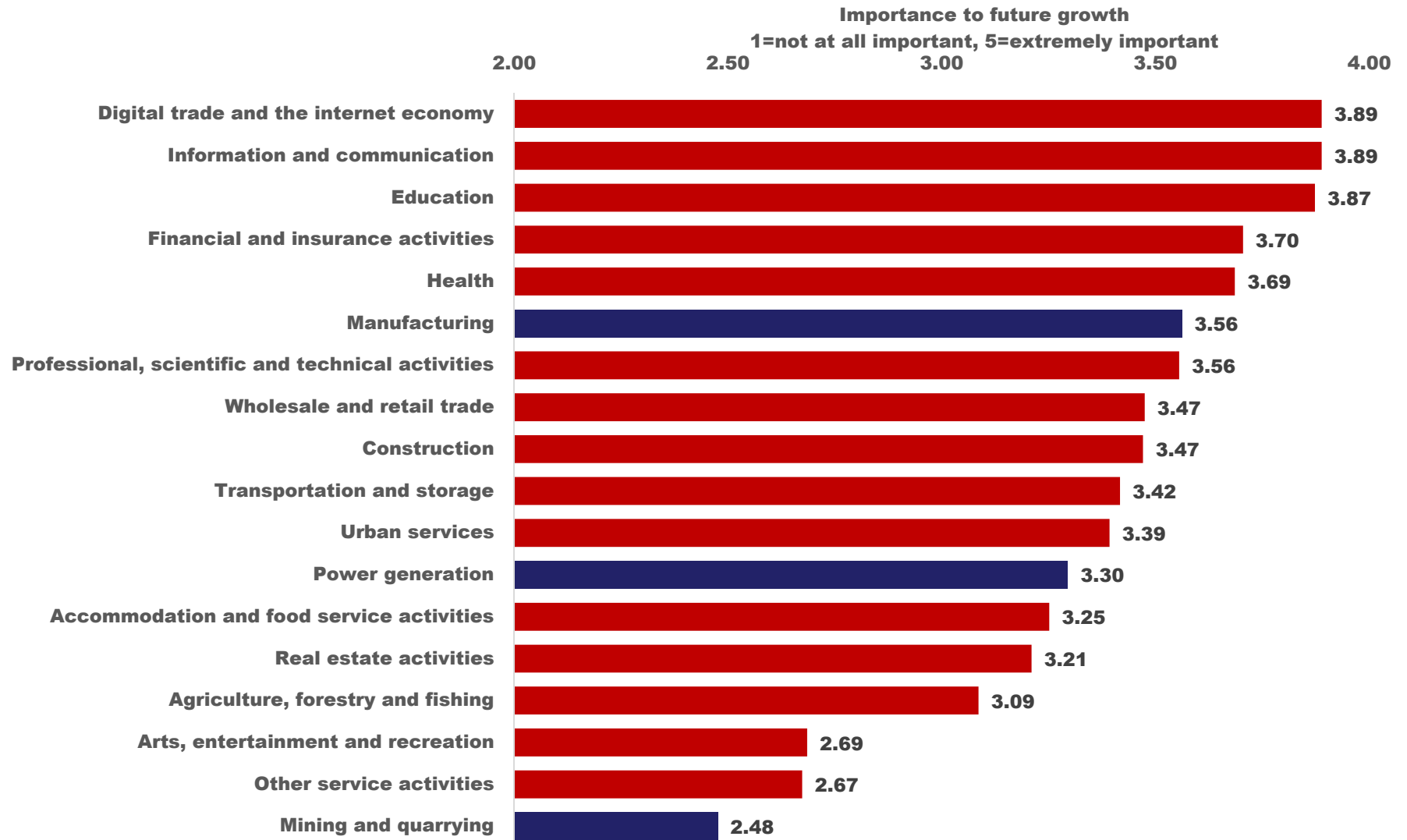


*Question: Please rate each of the following from 1 to 5 on the impact they have on attitudes towards freer trade and investment in your economy.*

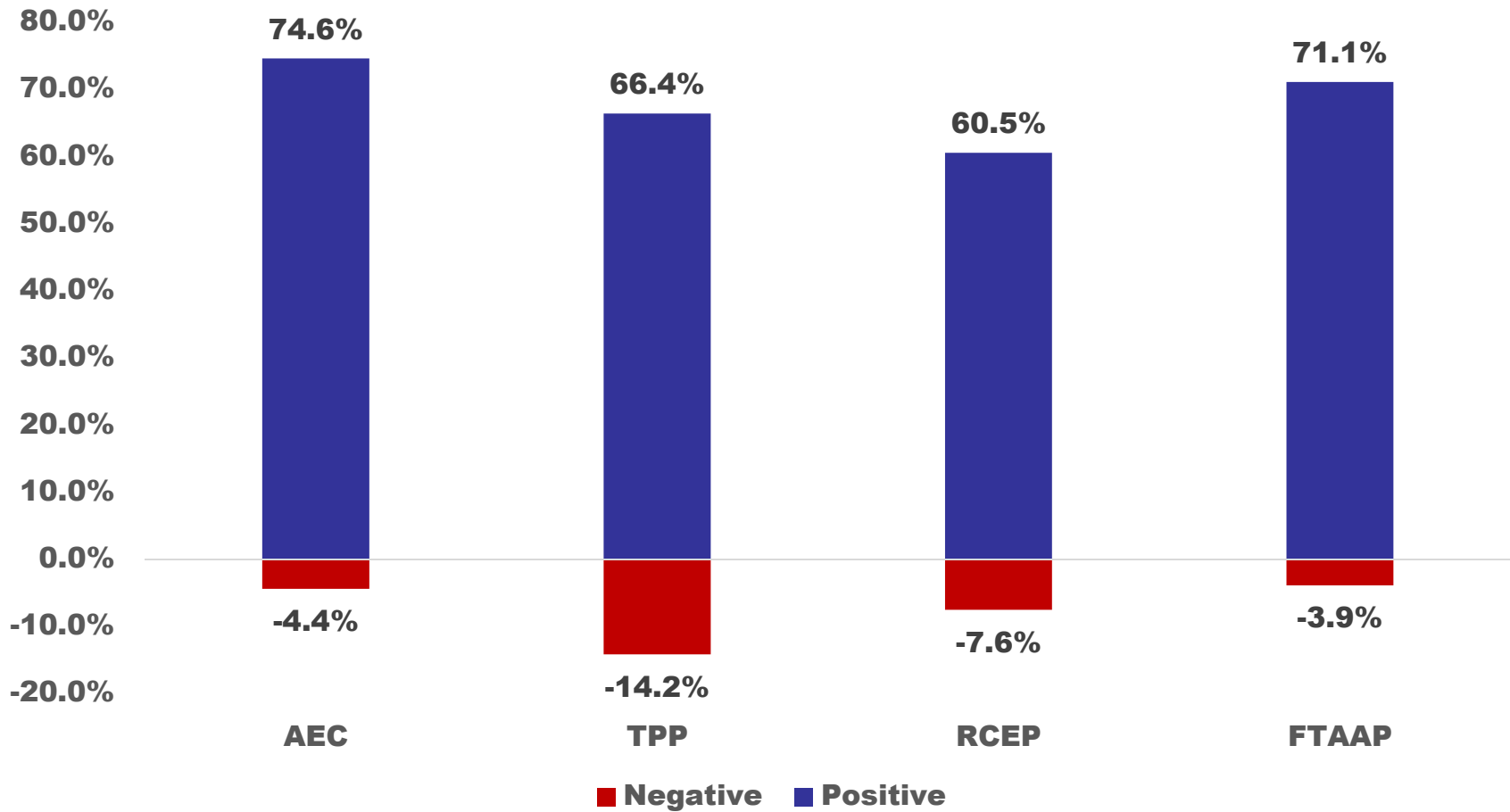
# Priority Issues for promoting inclusive growth



# New Economy Will Drive Future Growth



# Perceptions of Impact of RTAs Overwhelmingly Positive

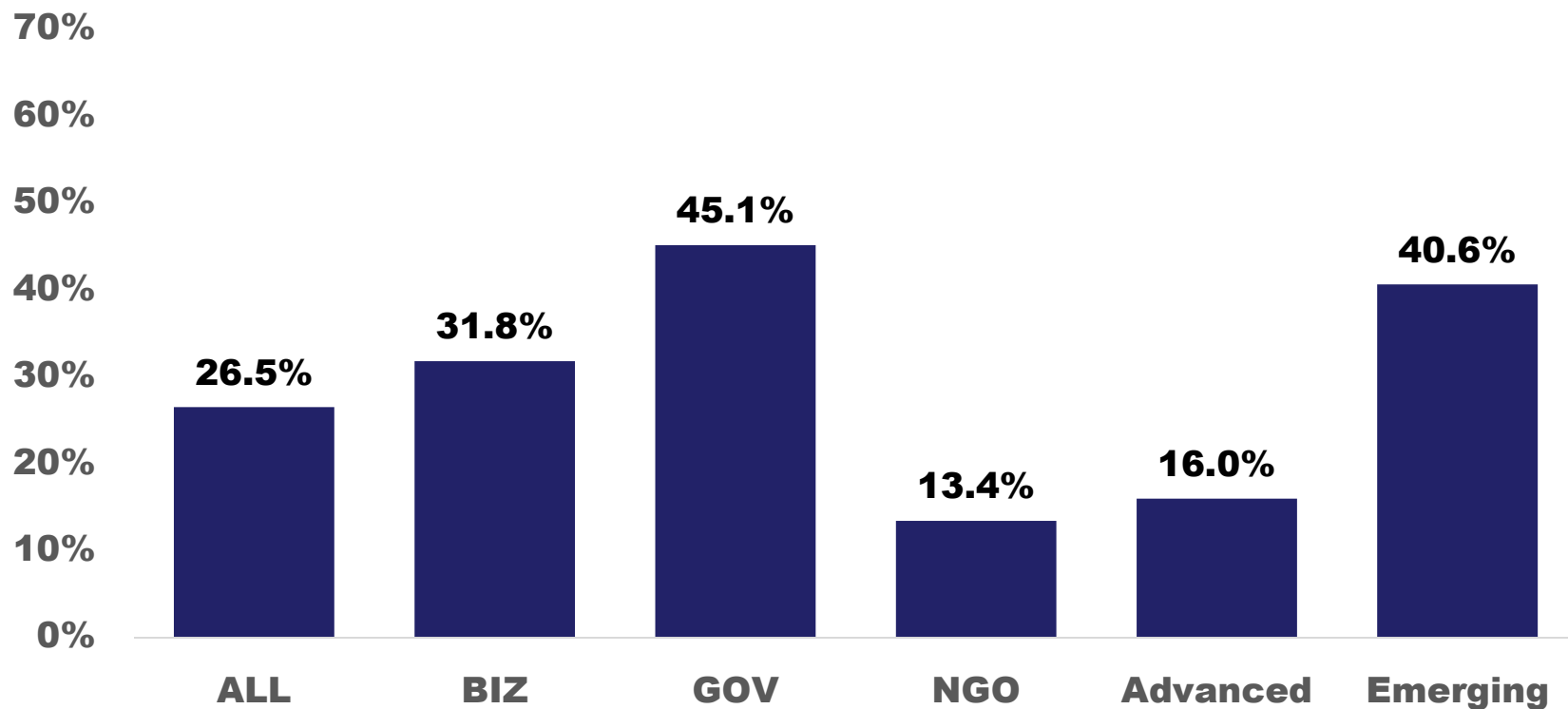


**Question: How do you think each of the following initiatives, if they are achieved, will impact your economy?**



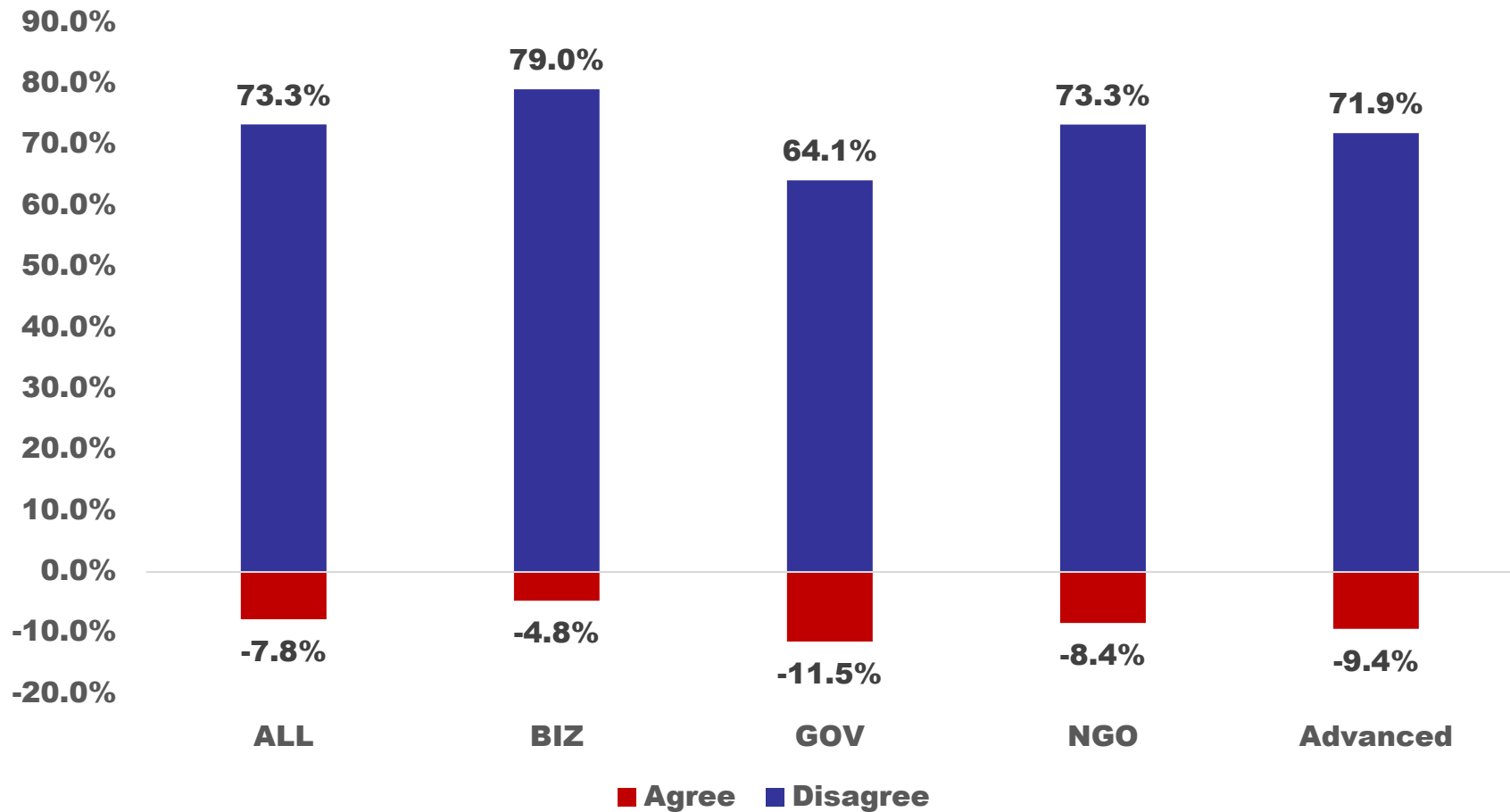
# Assessment of Political Environment for Freer Trade in the Region

## ■ Net assessment

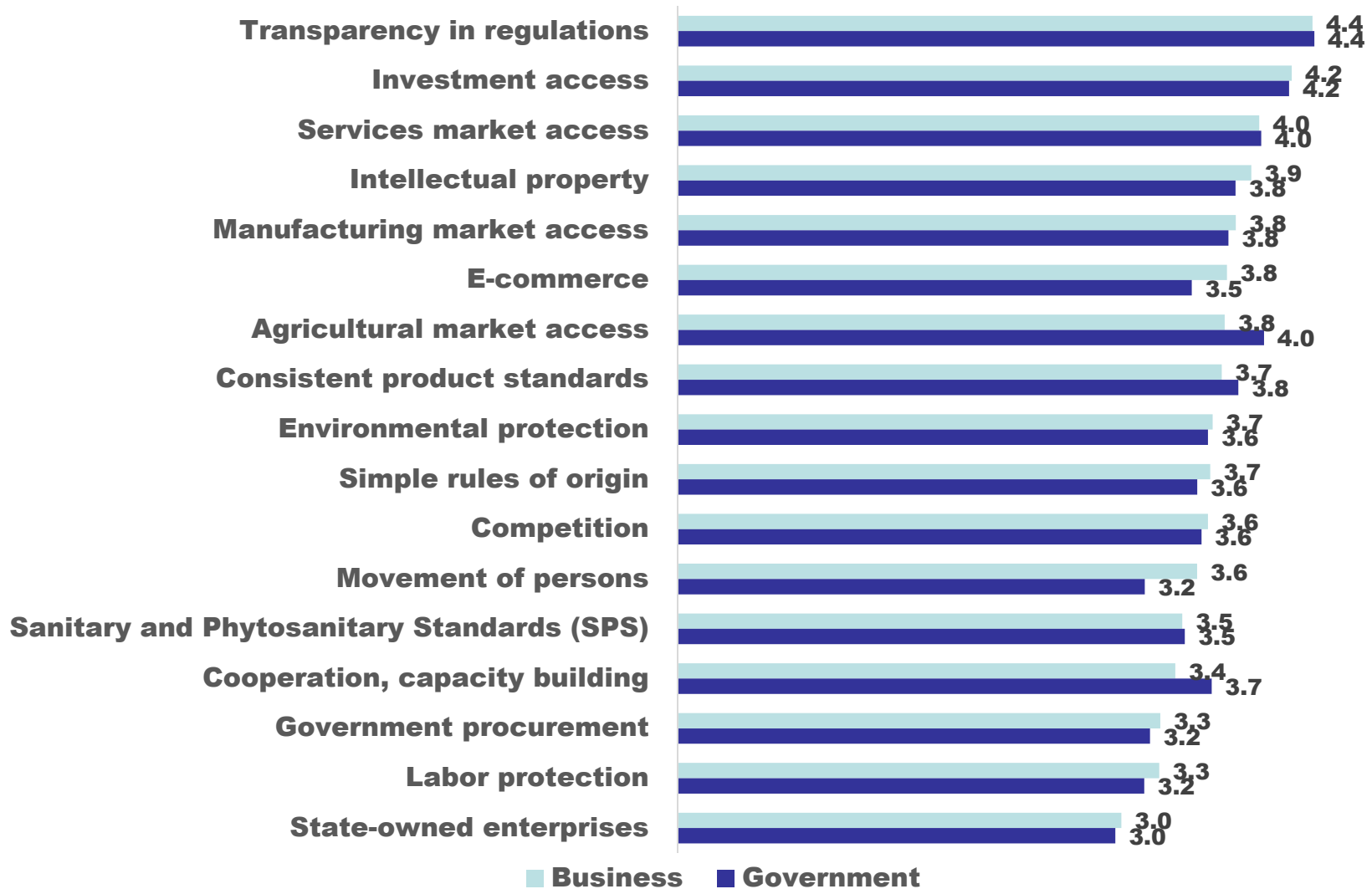


*Question: How do you assess the political environment for Asia-Pacific freer trade and investment in the coming five years?*

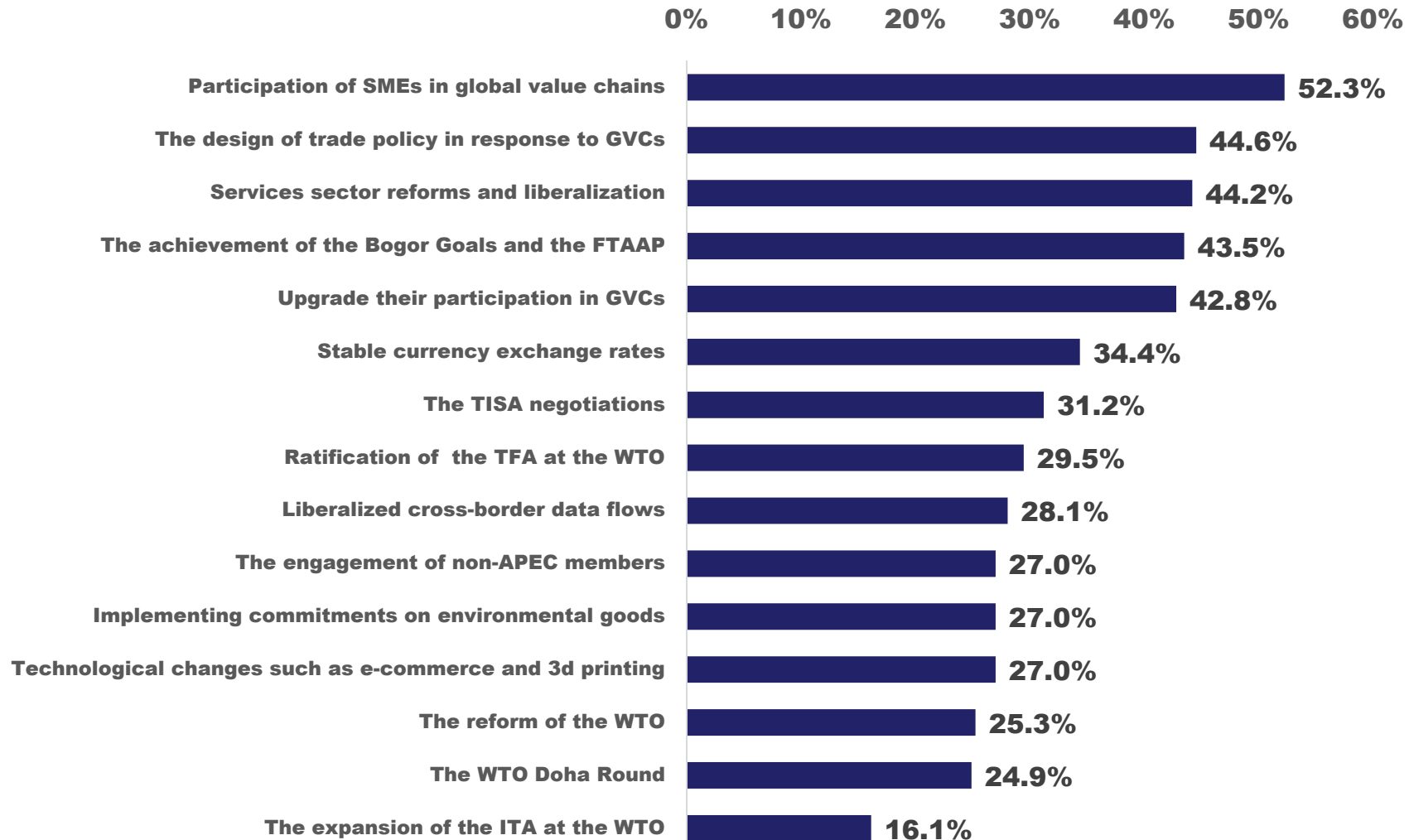
# APEC should focus its work on trade policy to achieving a Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP)



# What issues should Asia-Pacific Trade Agreements Address?



# ...but top trade issues...



# Conclusions

- Rising protectionism and slower trade growth seen as top risks to growth
- Factors influencing attitudes towards trade differ
  - higher income economies stress jobs and inequality more
  - emerging economies more on communicating benefits
- Services sector especially internet/digital economy growth driver
- Economic benefits of RTAs seen as positive but political economy challenging
- FTAAP as a concept should be central focus for APEC work BUT business community puts higher priority on other issues
  - How to move forward
    - Keep momentum going in the pathways
  - Multiyear work programs – next generation issues especially promoting more inclusive trade
  - More focus on ‘cooperation’ – what are we doing domestically – next generation issues?
    - ‘organ donors’?