

# The State of Flight Training

2024 Survey and Report

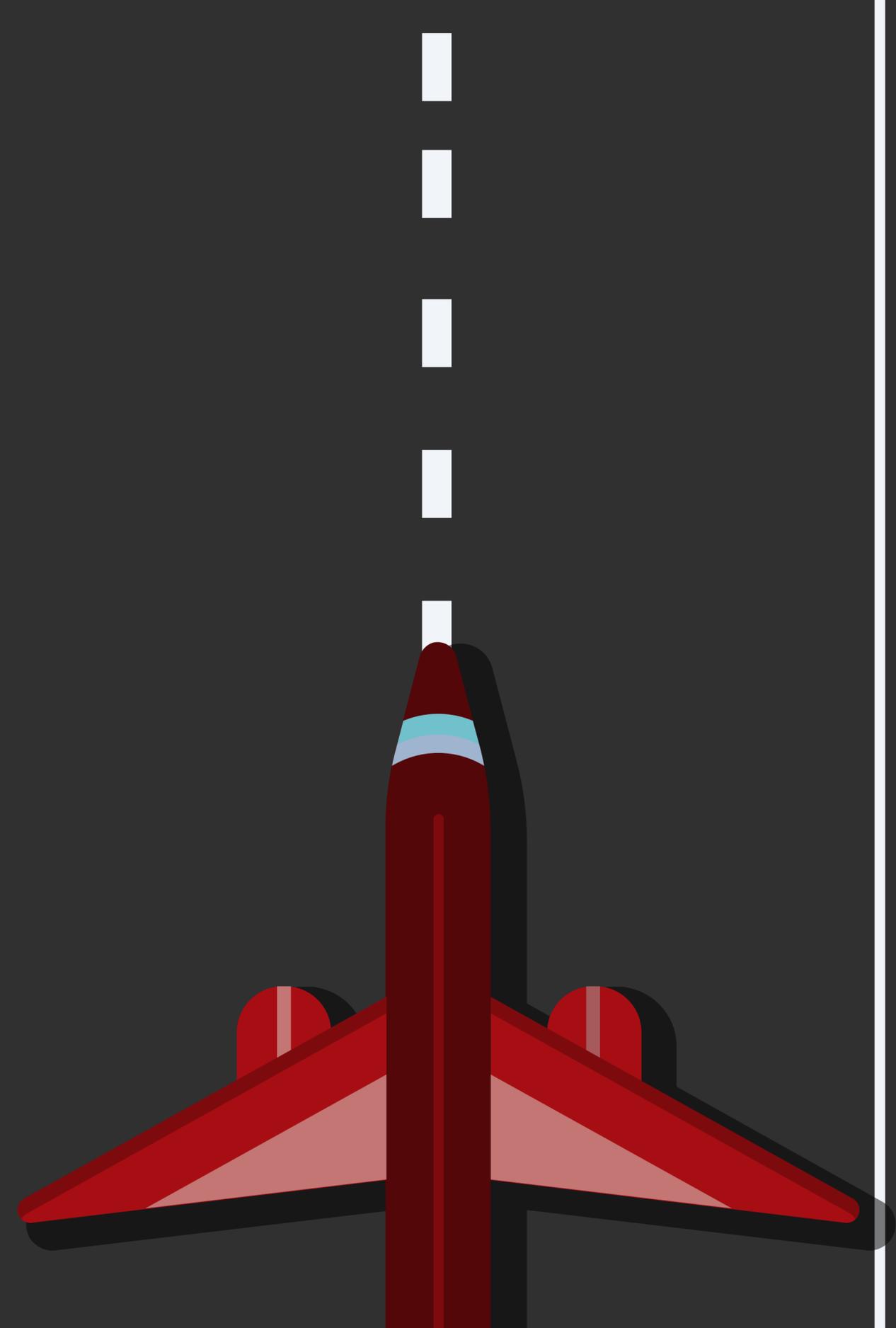


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# Terminology

1. Flight Training Organization (FTO): A flight school, aviation university program, academy, flying club, or training center that provides flight training of any kind. FTOs are subdivided by size:
  - Small FTO: Operates less than 10 training aircraft.
  - Medium FTO: Operates between 10 and 20 training aircraft.
  - Large FTO: Operates 20 or more training aircraft.
2. Independent Flight Instructor (Indy CFI): A Certified Flight Instructor who provides training under FAA Part 61 (or equivalent) outside of an FTO.
3. Active Student: A person who has received training for a new certificate or rating in the last three months. This person may already be a licensed pilot, but not a pilot training for proficiency only (for example, a flight review, IPC, or recurrent training).
4. Lapsed Student: A person who started flight training but hasn't received training in the last three months. This does not include licensed pilots.
5. Prospective Student: A person who is considering or planning on starting flight training, but hasn't started yet. This does not include licensed pilots who are planning on starting training for a new rating or certificate.
6. Active Pilot: A licensed pilot who has flown in the last 12 months but isn't receiving training towards a new certificate or rating.
7. Lapsed Pilot: A licensed pilot who has not flown in the last 12 months and isn't receiving training towards a new certificate or rating.
8. Designated Pilot Examiner (DPE): A senior pilot designated by the FAA to conduct oral and inflight examinations (practical test or checkride) with pilot applicants to determine their suitability to be issued a Pilot Certificate or additional rating on their Pilot Certificate.



# Survey Response

1,701 Total Responses from Industry Participants

57% Increase over 2023



Flight Training Organizations



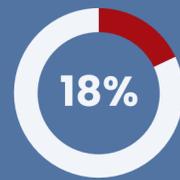
FTO Flight Instructors



Active Pilots



Lapsed Pilots



Active Students



Prospective Students



Designated Pilot Examiners



Independent Flight Instructors



United States



Canada

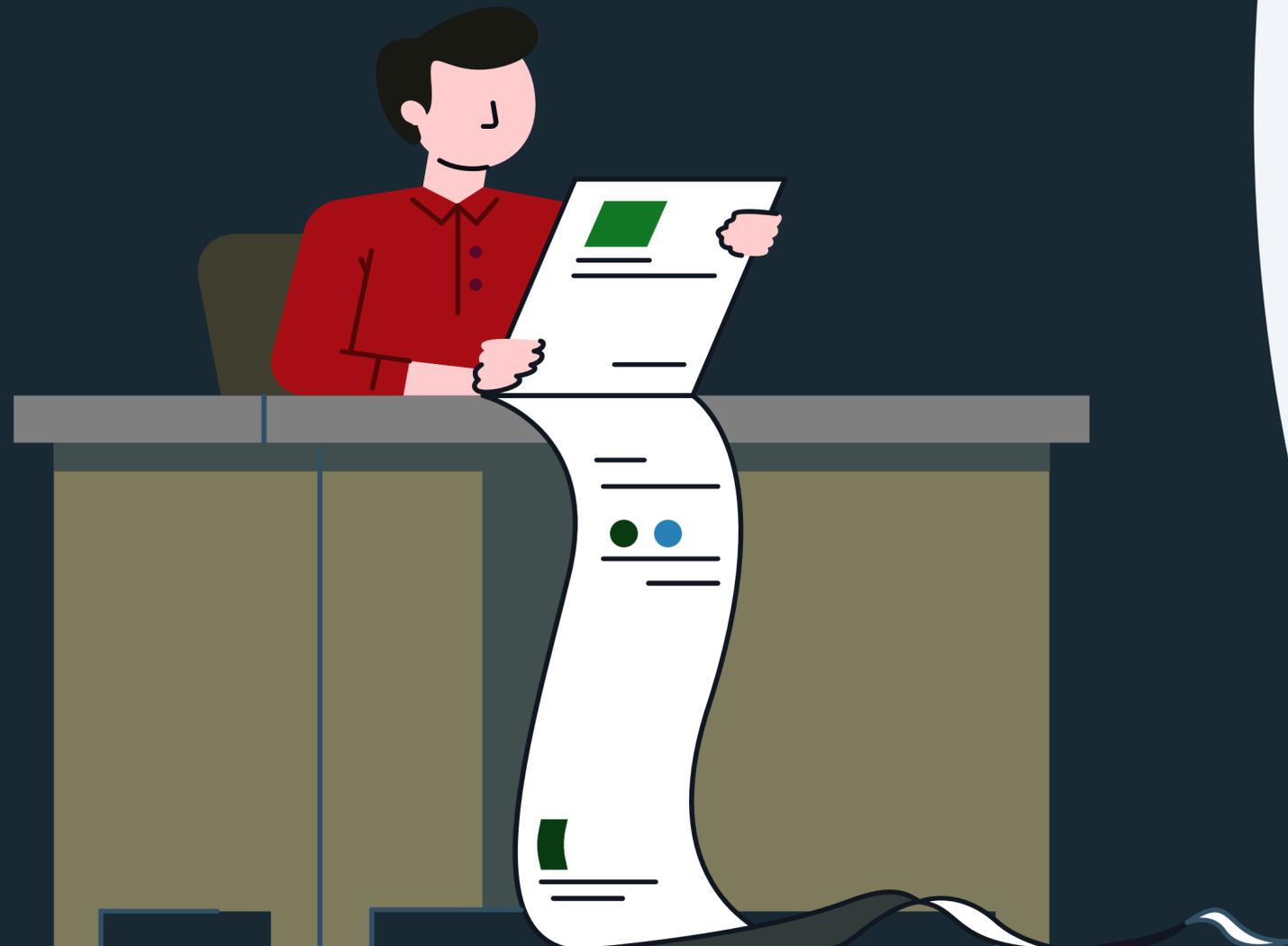


Other



# Key Highlights

State of Flight Training 2024



Page 6

**Flight Training Industry Review and Outlook**



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**Time and Cost to Complete Flight Training**

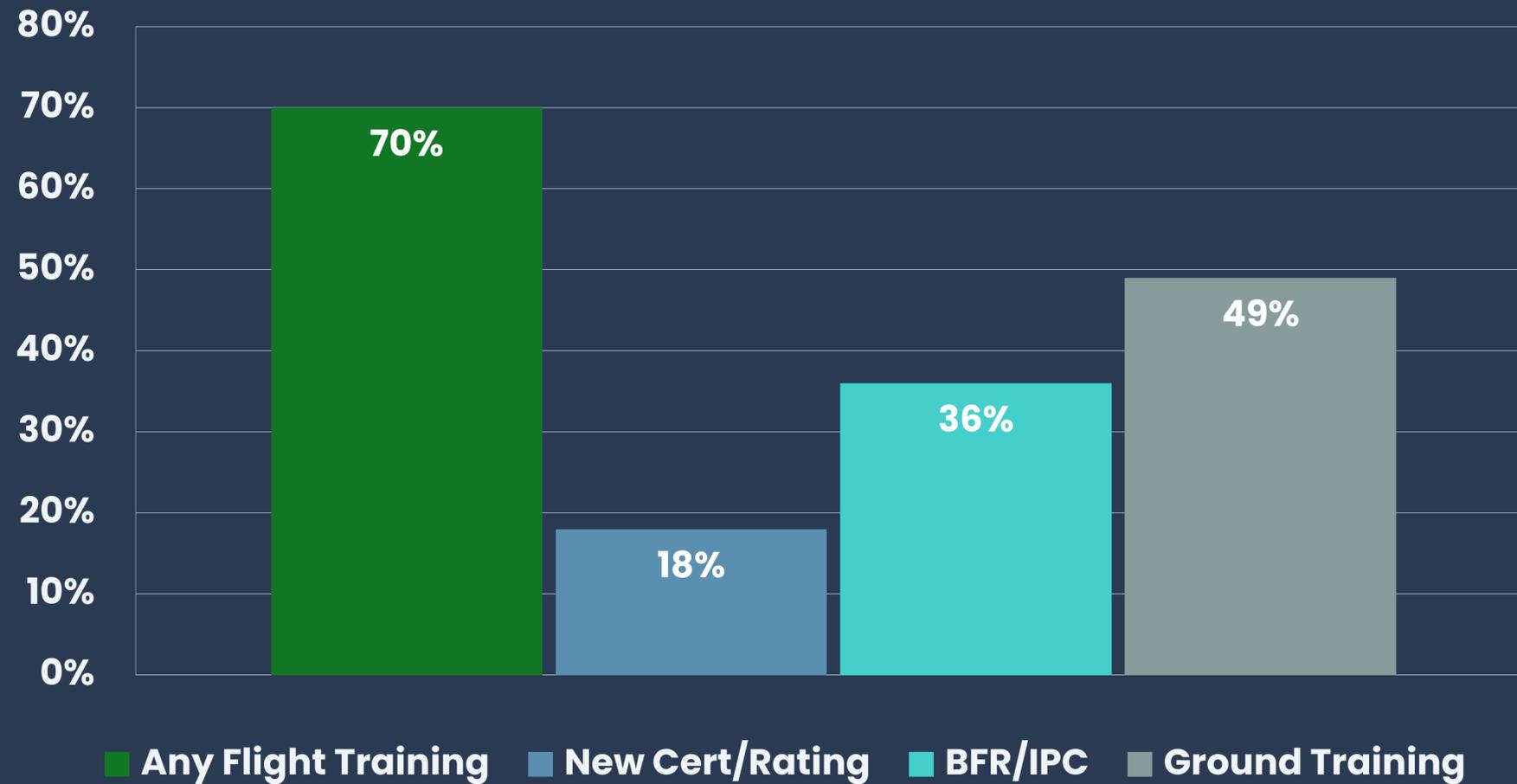


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**Success and Failure in Flight Training**

# Pilots and Students

## Flight Training Activities in 2023



## Rating for Training Received

4.1

**Overall Experience**

Out of 5

4.3

**Flight Instructors**

Out of 5

3.6

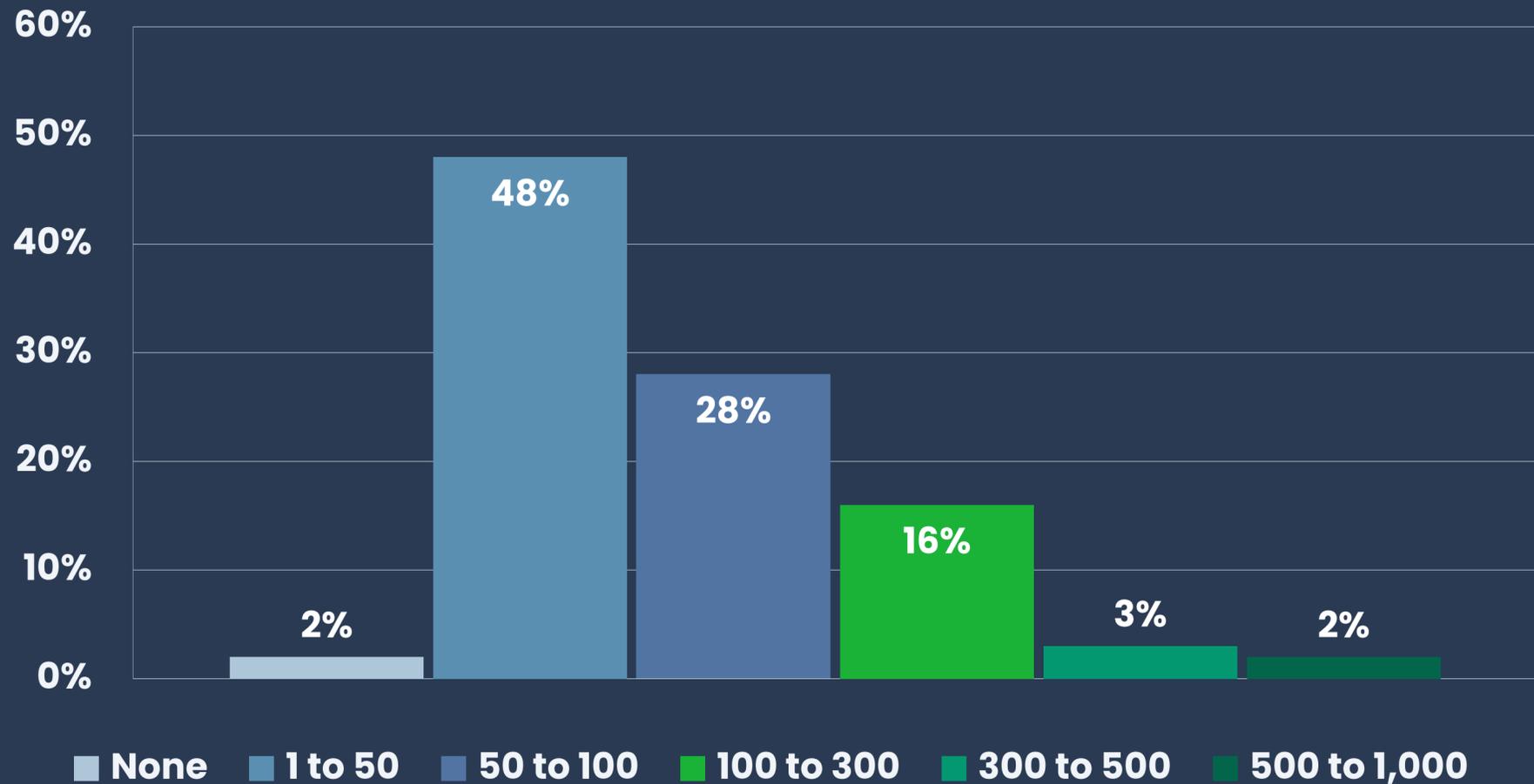
**Flight Schools**

Out of 5

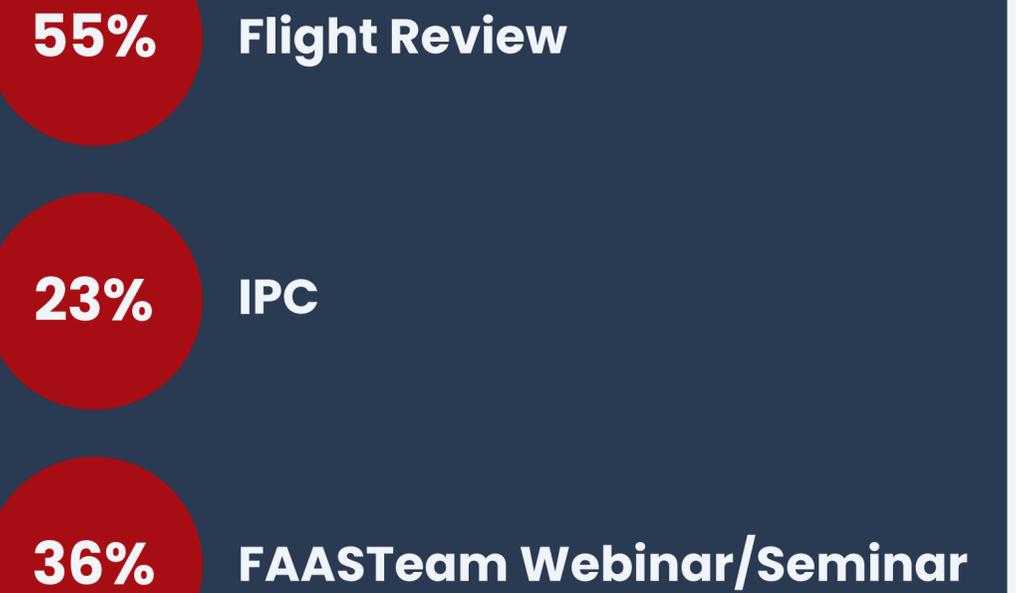


# Active Pilots

## Hours Flown in 2023

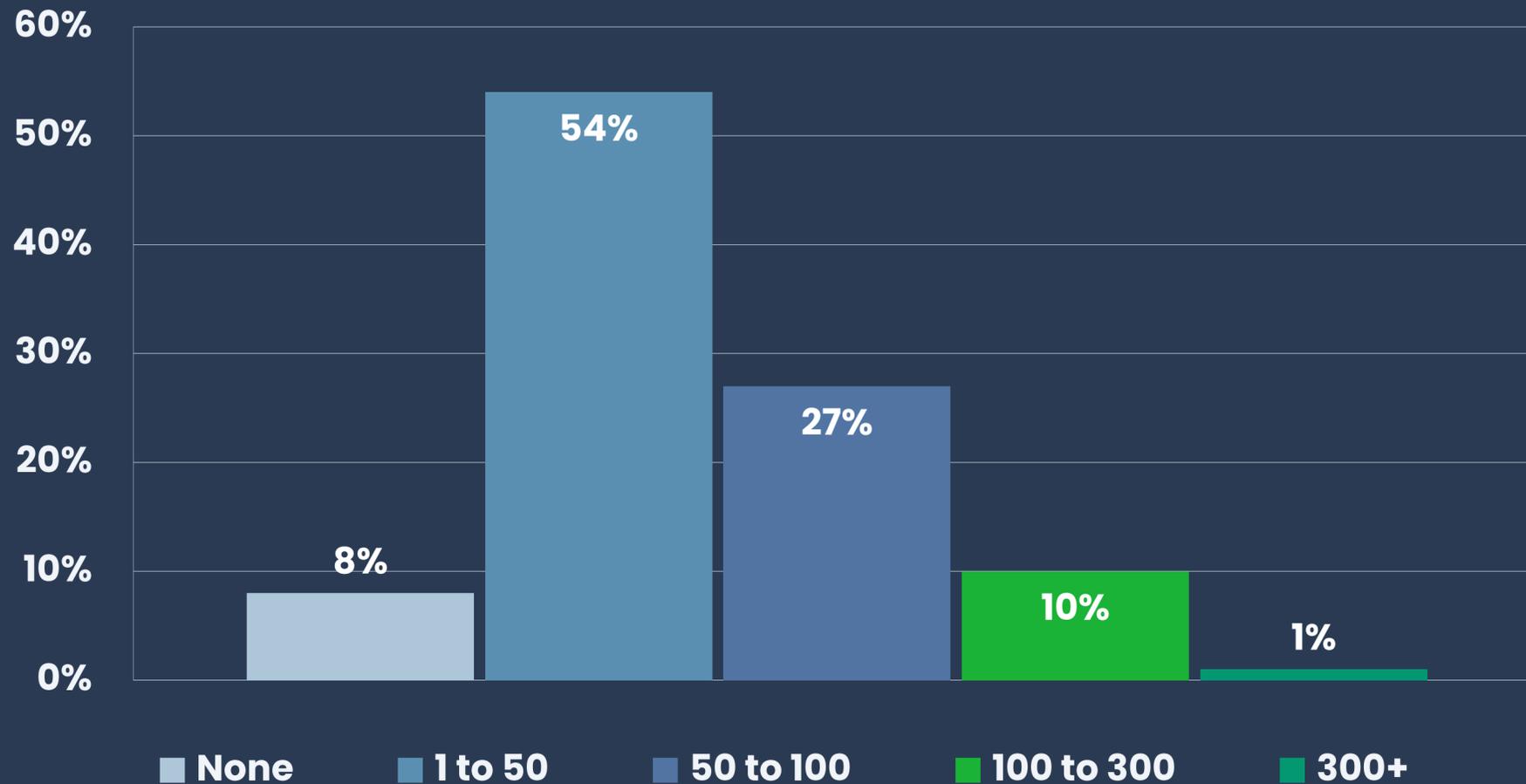


## Training Received



# Active Students

## Hours Flown in 2023



## Training Snapshot

83%

Trained at Only One FTO in 2023

66%

Had More Than One Primary CFI in 2023

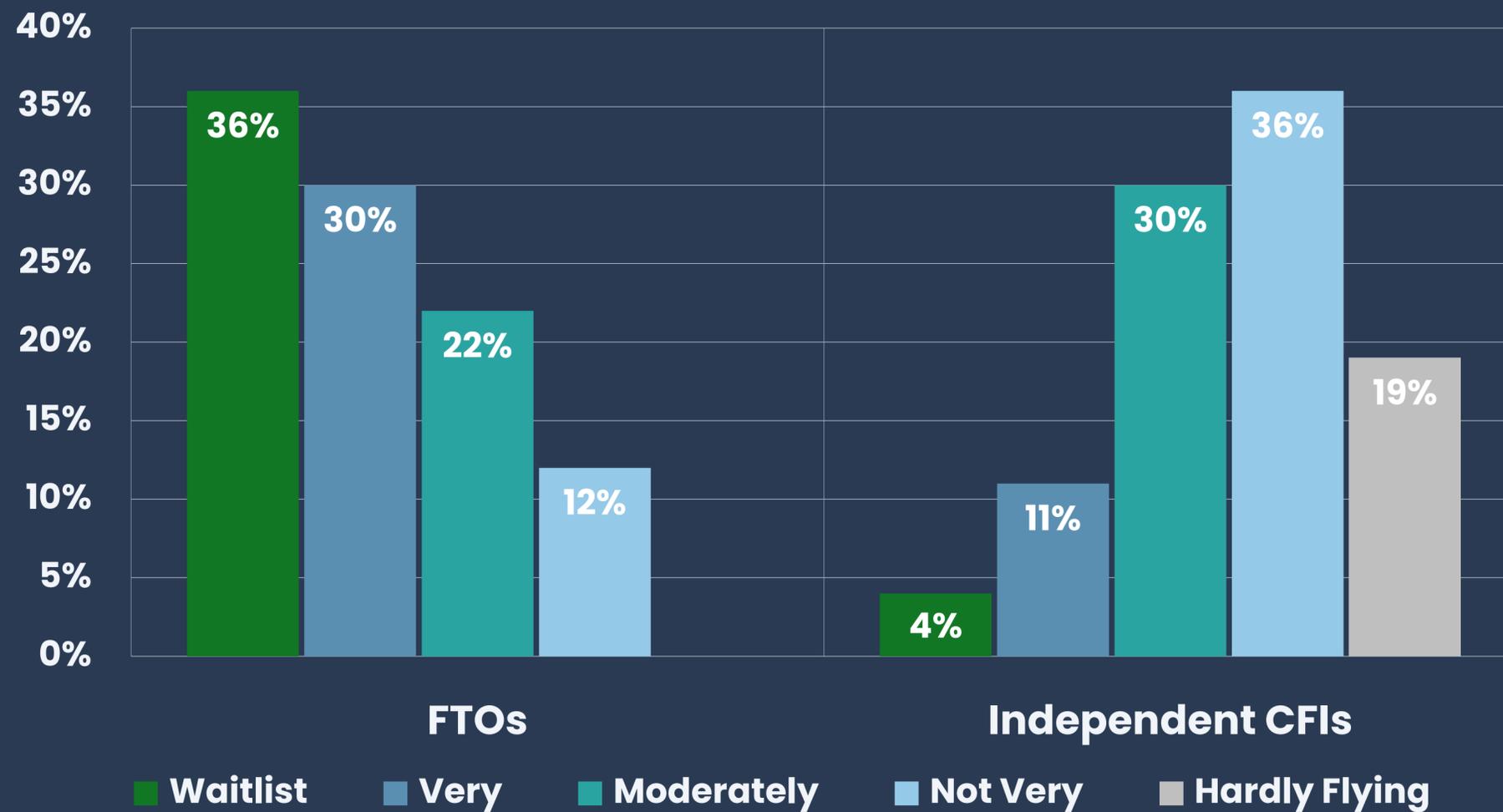
57%

Pro Pilot Track



# Flight Training Providers

## How Busy Was Your Business in 2023?



## Business Rating and Outlook

4.1

**FTO Rating for 2023**

Out of 5

3.1

**Indy CFI Rating for 2023**

Out of 5

4.2

**FTO Outlook for 2024**

Out of 5

3.2

**Indy CFI Outlook for 2024**

Out of 5

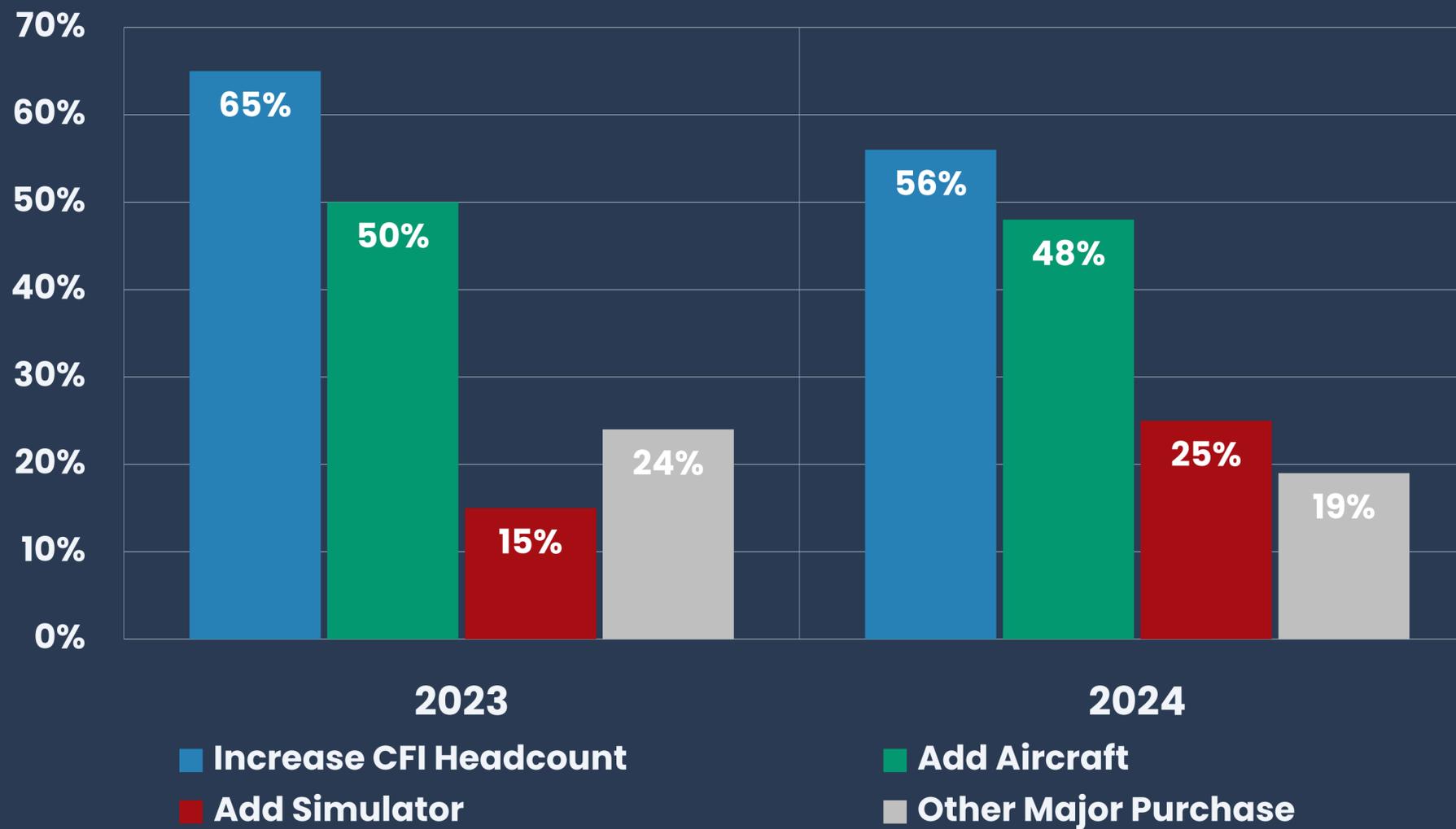


# Median FTO by Size



# FTO Activities and Plans

## Major Activities Accomplished and Planned



## Operational Snapshot

**70%** Only Charge Customers Per Hour

**43%** Offer Part 141 Training

**58%** FTO Managers Also Provide Instruction or Evaluation



# Challenges Facing Training Providers

## Flight Training Organizations

- 01 **Cost of Aircraft Insurance**
- 02 **Aircraft Maintenance**
- 03 **Pilot Examiner Issues**
- 04 **Finding & Hiring CFIs**
- 05 **Economic Uncertainty**

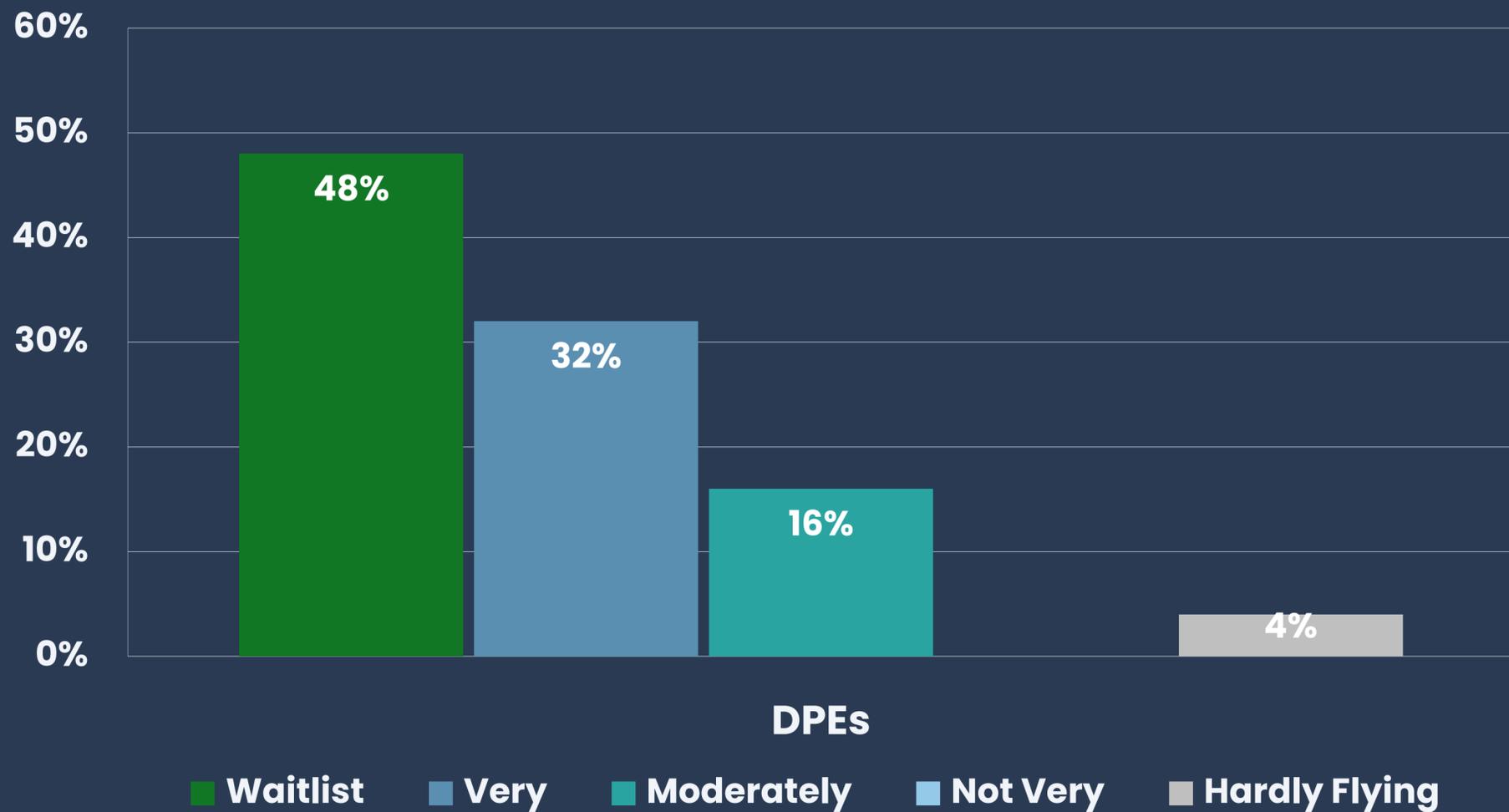
## Independent CFIs

- 01 **Pilot Examiner Issues**
- 02 **Cost of Aircraft Insurance**
- 03 **Access to Training Aircraft**
- 04 **Aircraft Maintenance**
- 05 **Economic Uncertainty**



# Designated Pilot Examiners

## How Busy Were You as a DPE in 2023?



## Median Applicants in 2023

**245** Full Time DPE

**130** Part Time DPE



# Hourly Rental & Instructor Rates

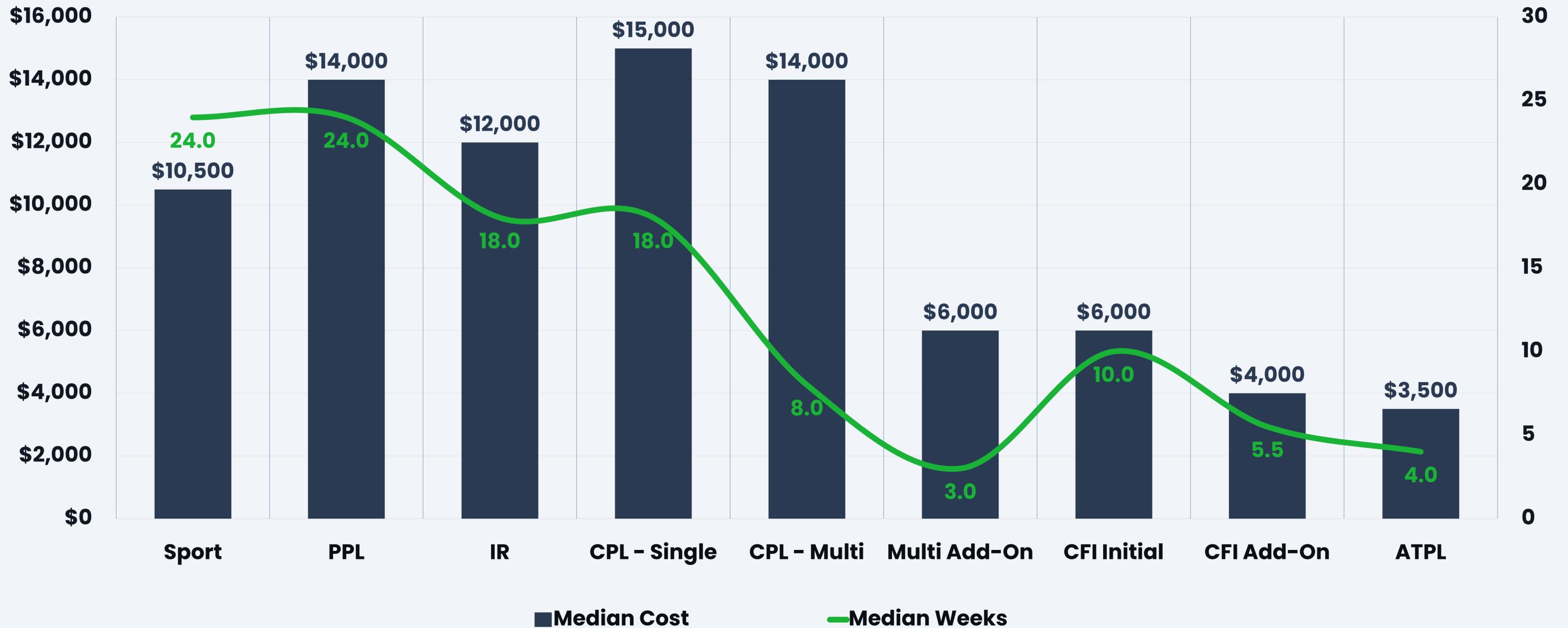


Median Per Hour Rate

■ Training Aircraft ■ Advanced Aircraft ■ Multi-Engine Aircraft ■ BATD ■ AATD ■ FTD ■ Check CFI ■ Line CFI



# Total Time & Cost to Complete



# Inflation Might be Sticky

## FTO Pricing Plans

**69%** of FTOs

**Have Raised Prices in Last 12 Months**

**45%** of FTOs

**Plan to Raise Prices in The Next 12 Months**

**27%** of FTOs

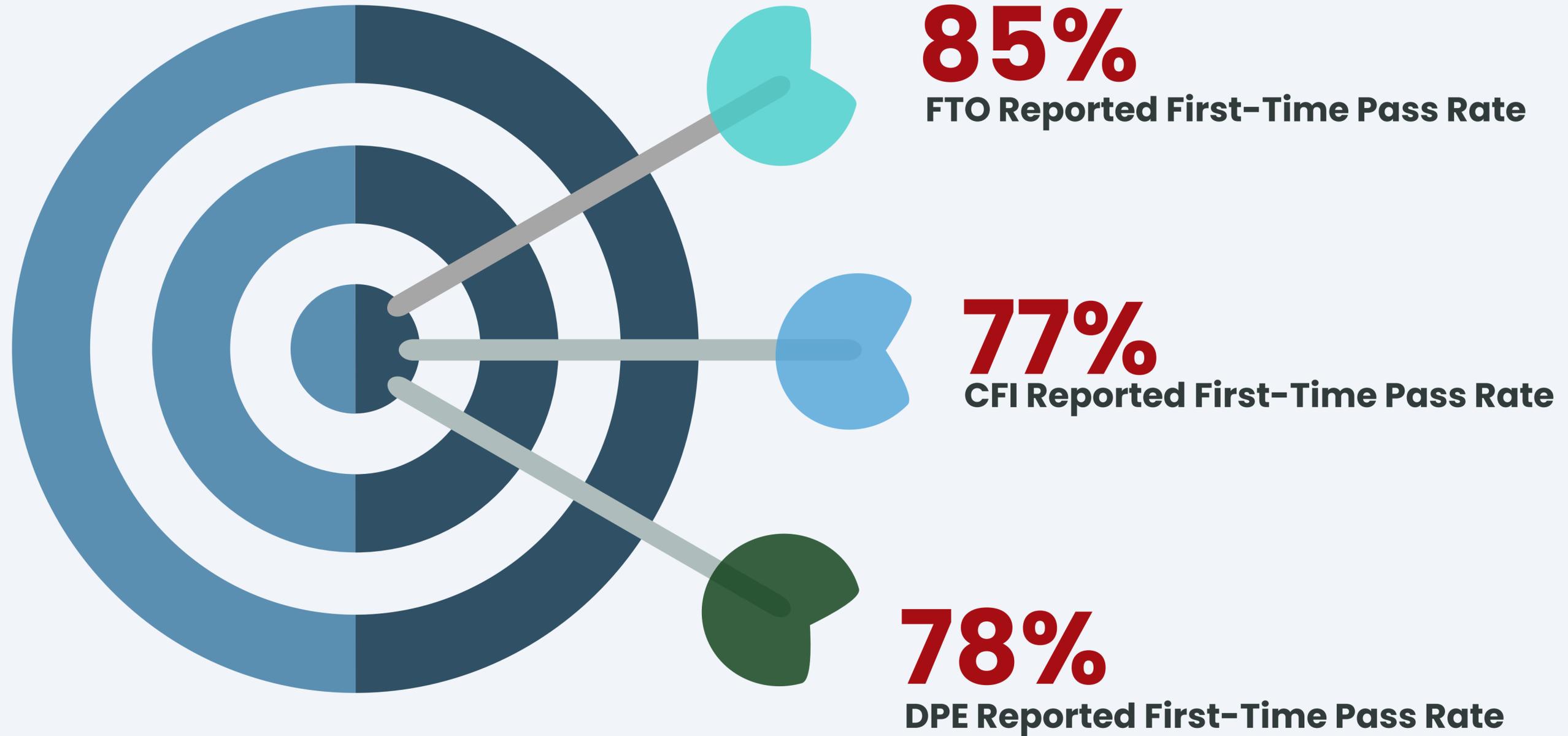
**Have Both Raised Prices And Plan to Again in the Next 12 Months**

**14%** of FTOs

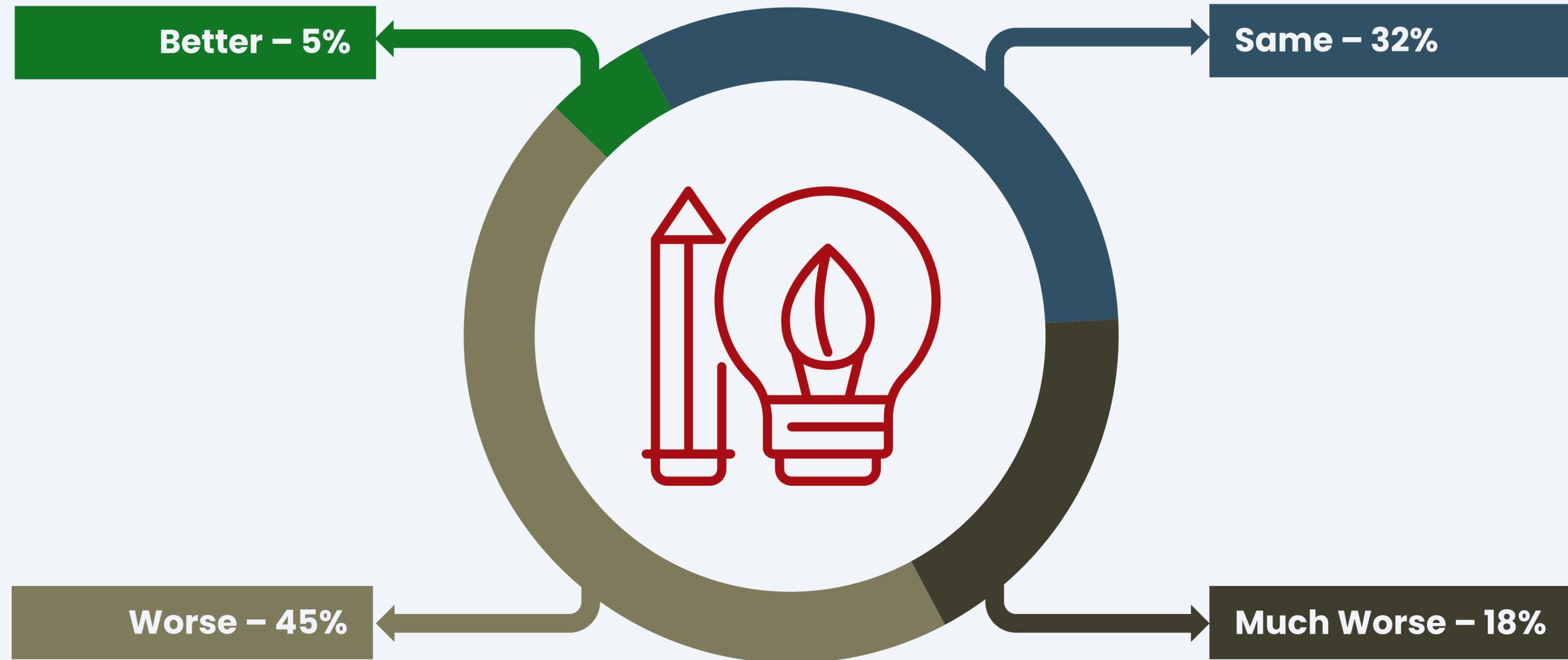
**Haven't Raised Prices And Don't Plan to in the Next 12 Months**



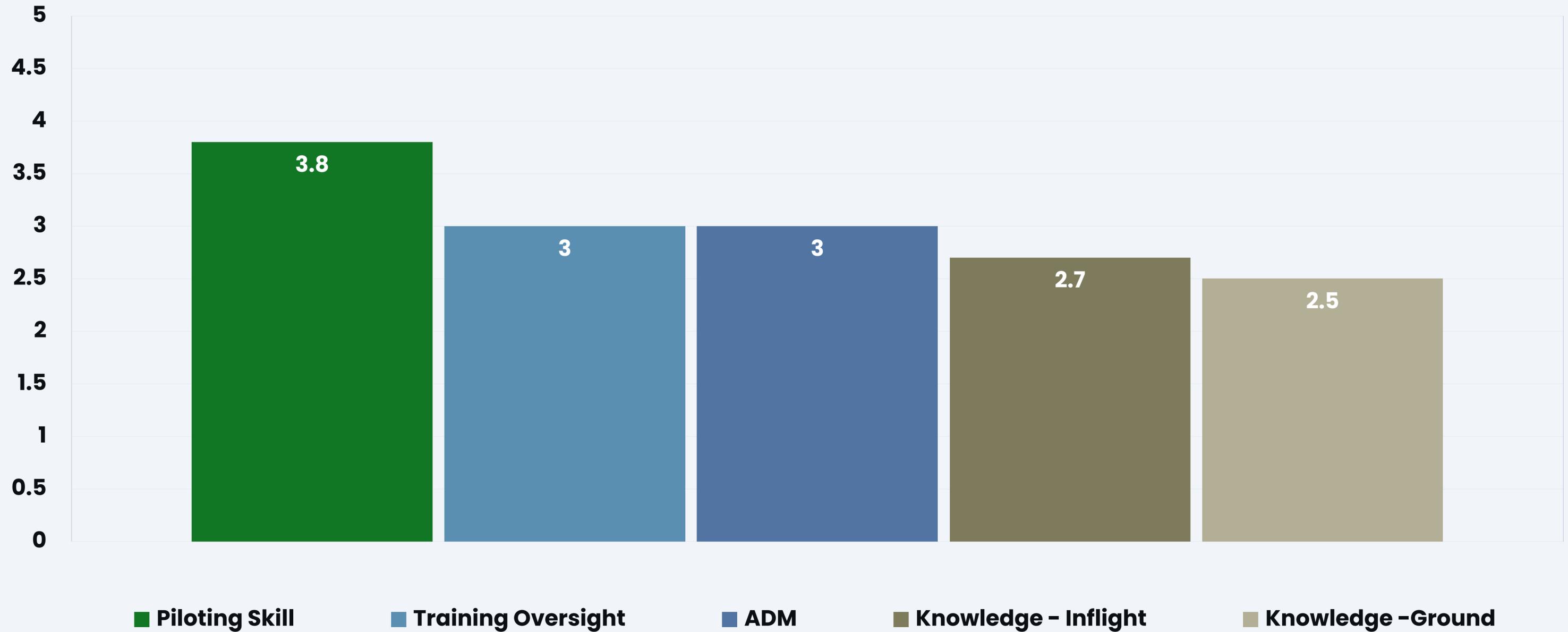
# First-Time Checkride Pass Rate



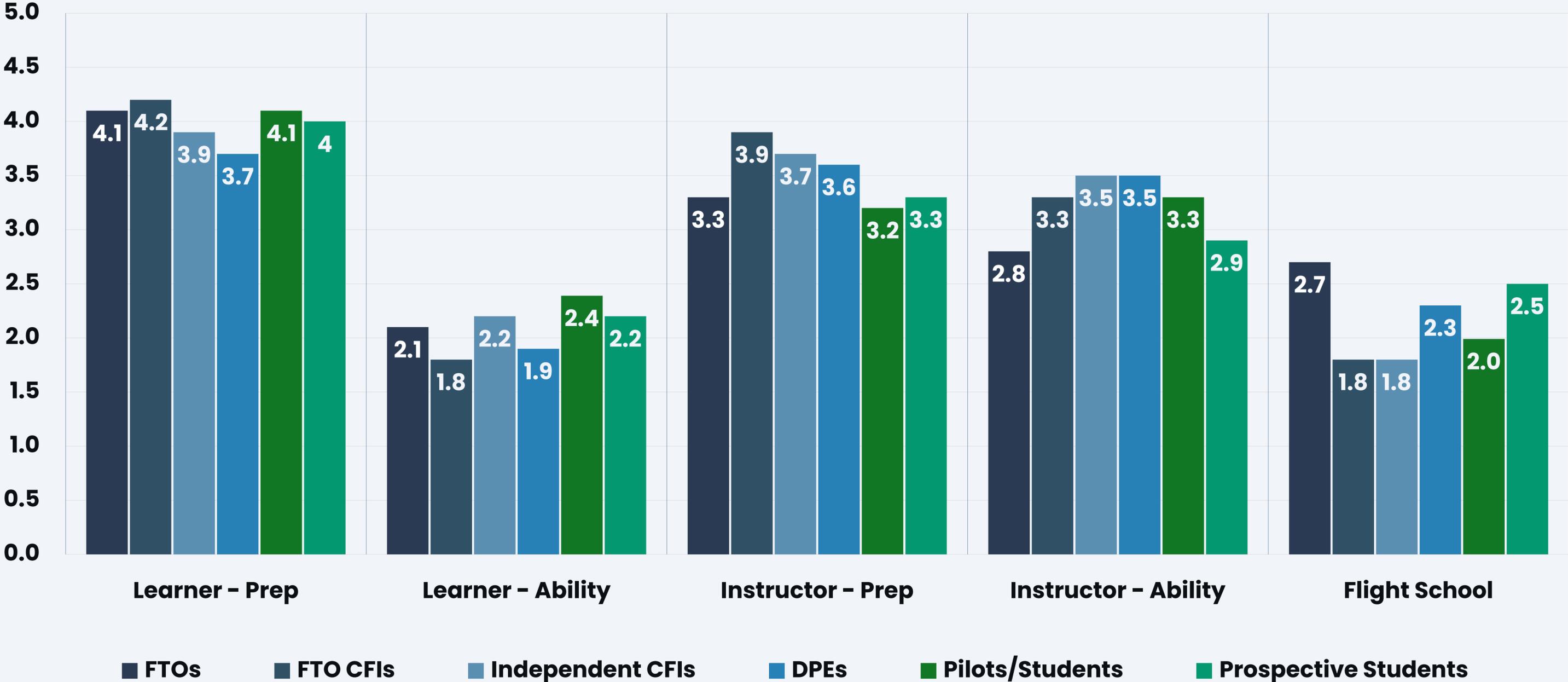
# DPEs Rating of Applicants vs 5 Years Ago



# Primary Reason for Checkride Failure



# Ranking of Primary Factors in Training Success



# Did Your CFI Use a Syllabus?



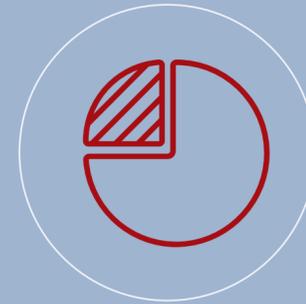
State of Flight Training 2024

# Notable Trends



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**Training Costs Up,  
Training Time Down?**



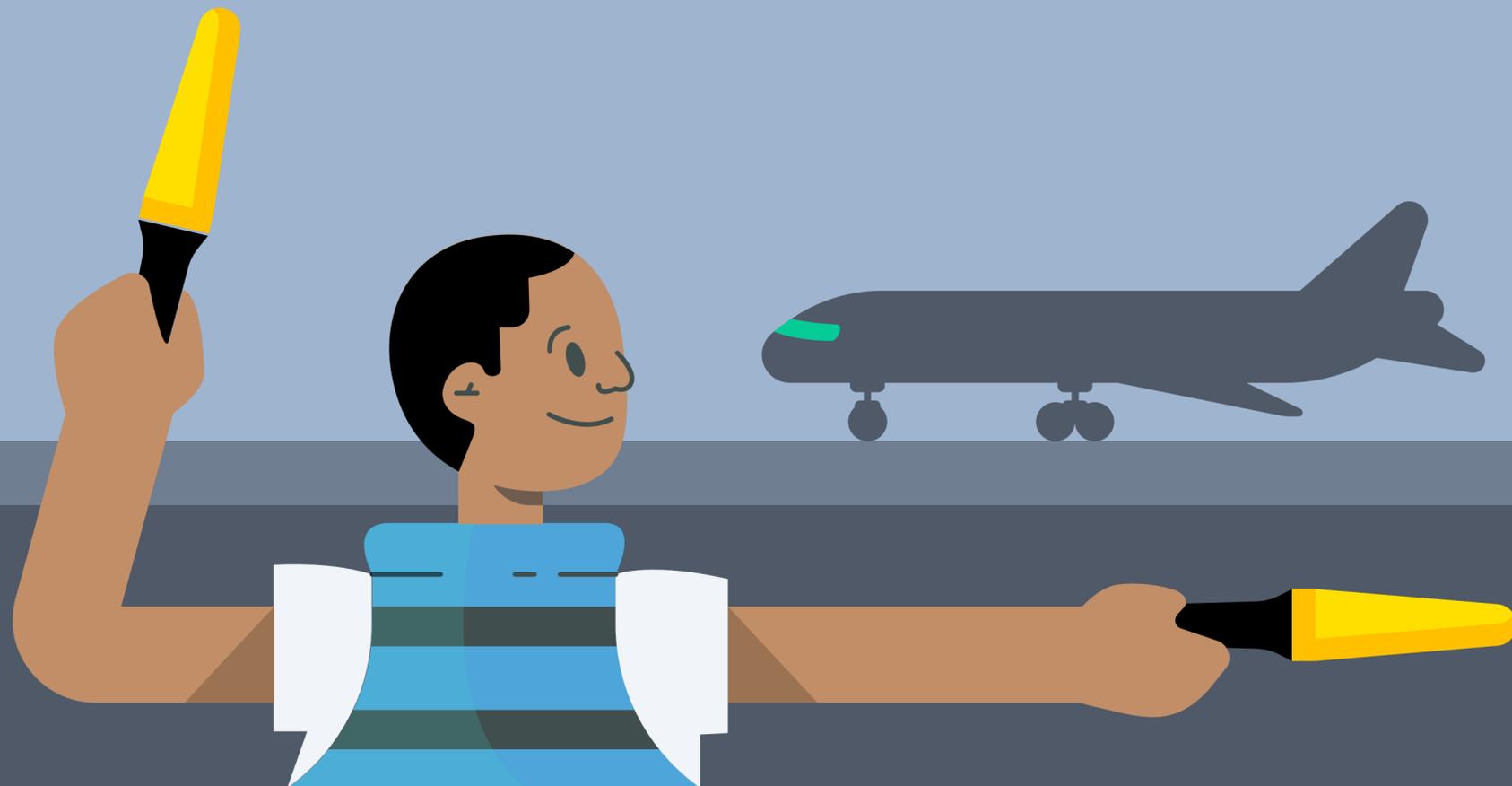
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**Bigger is Better for  
Training Providers**



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**Instructors vs Students:  
Simulator Edition**



# Training Costs Up

Median Cost to Complete Training by Year



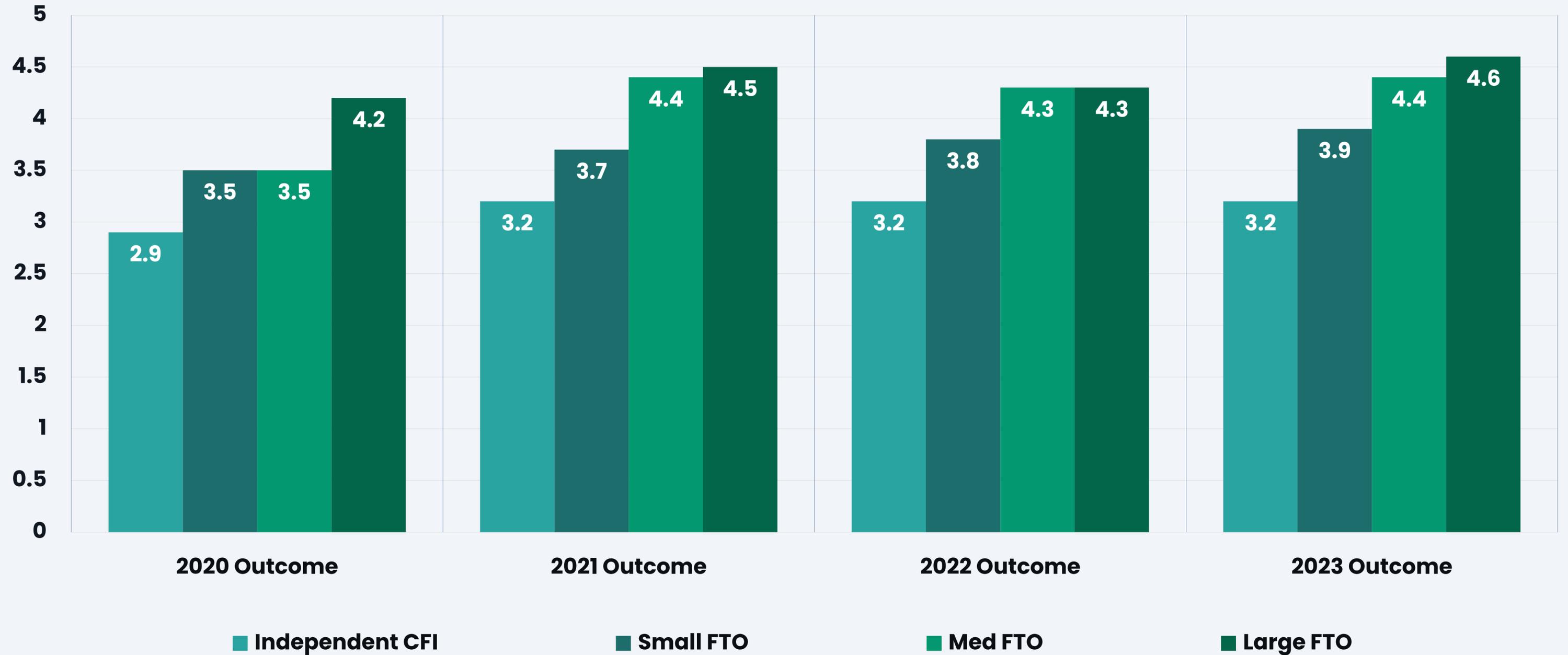
# Training Time Down?

Median Time to Complete by Year



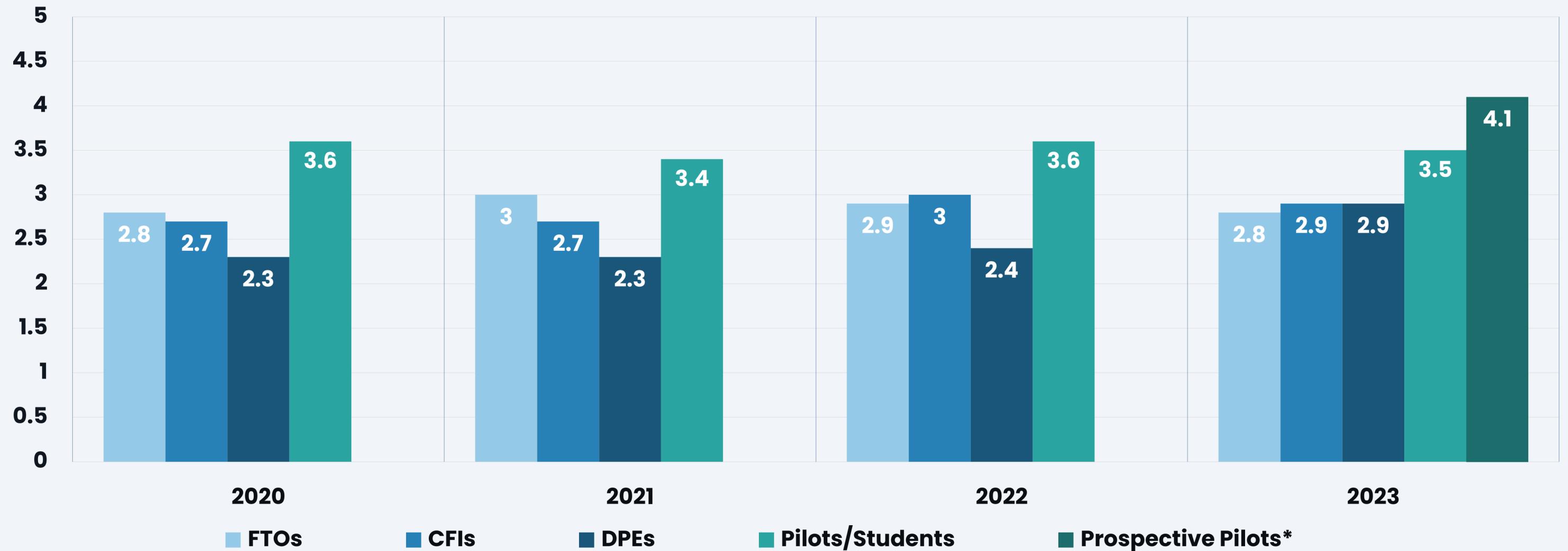
# Bigger is Better for Training Providers

Self Rating of Business Outcome by Year



# Instructors vs Students: Simulator Edition

Perceived Value of Simulation for PPL Training by Year



\*Data not collected for 2020 - 2022



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**For More Information**  
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