



European mechanical installation monitor Q1 2023

Sustainability

May 2023

A product by **USP** Marketing Consultancy

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About European Mechanical Installation Monitor

THE GOAL

To check and track the behaviour and trends in the European Mechanical installation market. This is done 4 times per year, by means of around 650 phone interviews (per quarter) with registered HVAC installation companies and plumbers, divided over 6 major European markets.

THE RESEARCH TOPICS

Fixed part: Economic developments of the installation companies in Europe (order book and turnover development)

Quarterly theme topics in 2023:

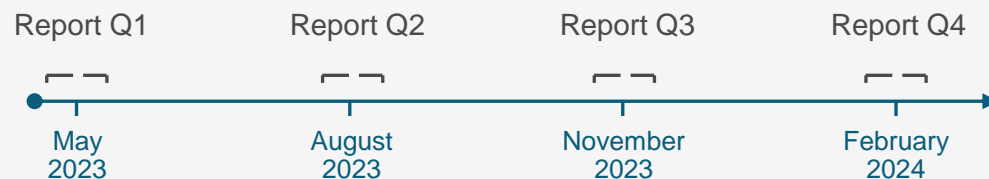
Q1: Sustainability

Q2: Services in the installation market

Q3: Purchase channels

Q4: Training needs

THE TIMELINE



COUNTRY SCOPE

Background characteristics of the interviewed respondents can be found in the [appendix](#)

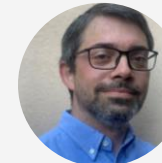


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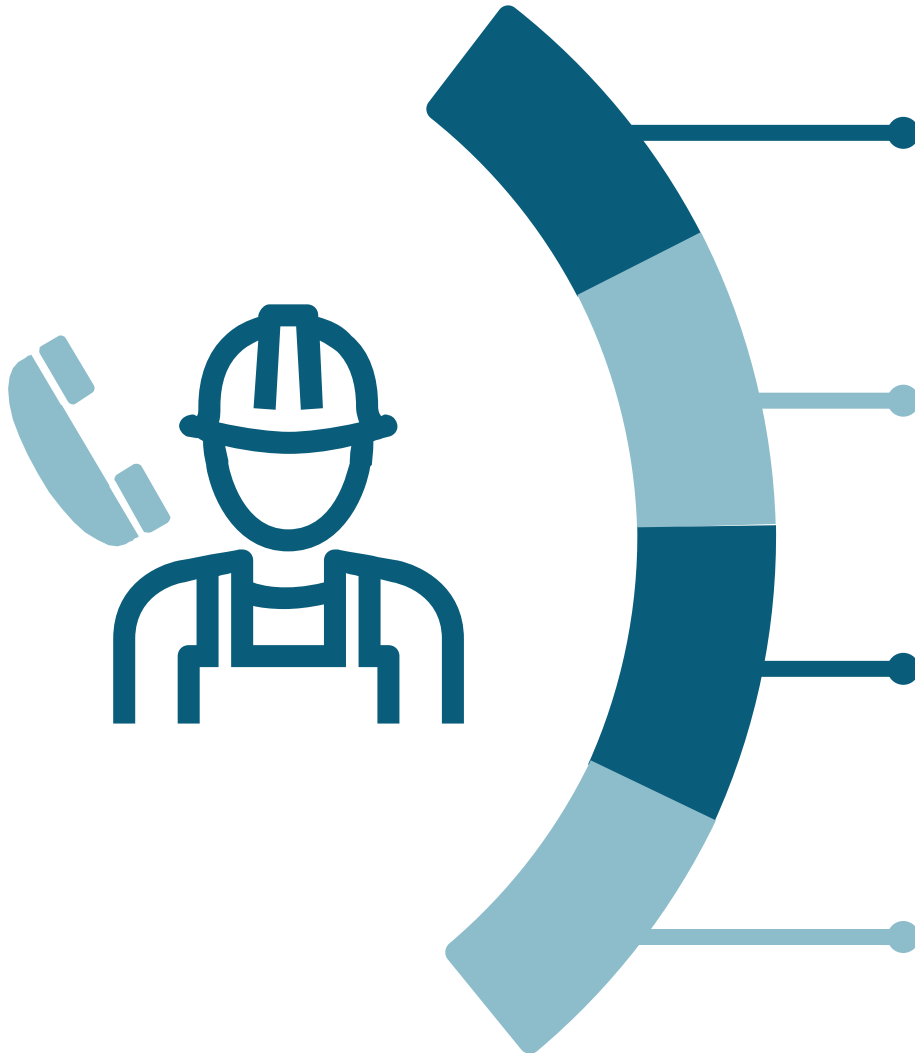
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About target group & methodology



Surveying HVAC installation companies...

Interviewed companies need to provide HVAC installation services, but they may also do other activities in addition (Electrical installation etc.). Most interviews are conducted with owners/ directors or purchasers of these companies.

... selected from a country-representative database

USP possesses an international database of HVAC installation companies, which is constantly updated. Respondents are thus not part of a fixed panel; the sample varies from wave to wave.

... through phone interviews, by native-speaking agents

Phone surveys are the best approach for obtaining a sufficient number of interviews, in order to provide insights which can be relied on. These phone interviews are conducted by fixed fieldwork partners, located in the respective countries.

... weighting the results based on company size groups

Country results are weighted so that all three company size groups* have an equal influence on the total. As typically most interviews are conducted with small companies, we believe it is important to correct in order for large companies to have an equal impact on the 'total' results. This way the results are not heavily influenced by many smaller companies.

* **Group 1:** 1-4 FTE; **Group 2:** 5-14 FTE; **Group 3:** 15+ FTE

About the Q1 theme topic



Surveying the Sustainability topic...

The construction sector is one of the most resource-consuming sectors. In the last decade, several initiatives have been made to encourage the construction industry to support the agenda of sustainable development. However, the pace of change in each country differs.

Installation systems can contribute enormously to constructing sustainable buildings and reducing CO2 emissions.

...allows for better understanding of installers' role and attitude towards sustainable solutions

This report aims to help manufacturers of plumbing and HVAC installation products understand installers' attitudes towards a sustainable construction and installation industry. This is essential for their designing of products and solutions, as well as to target the right stakeholders and encourage them to deliver a more sustainable building environment.

To provide the necessary insights, we covered the following topics:

- Sustainability concept:
 - Installers' perception of sustainability/ sustainable solutions;
 - Contribution of various products/ solutions to creating sustainable buildings;
- Current status of sustainable projects;
- Motivations & barriers;
- Heat pumps.

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Key takeaways

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Business Development

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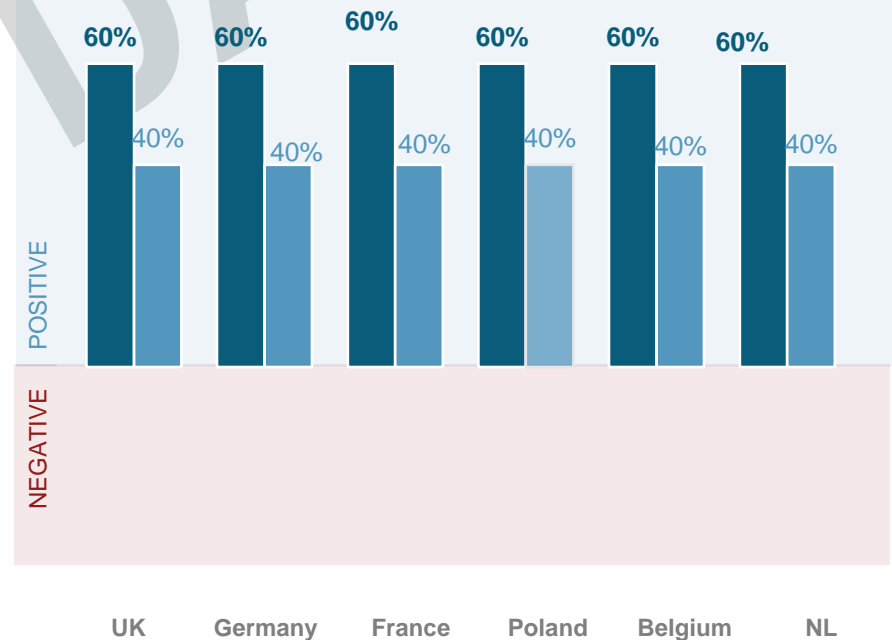
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Turnover balance of installers Q1 2023 and Q2 2023

Balance of companies that **see/expect** an increase minus decrease in turnover in **Q1 2023/Q2 2023** in comparison to the turnover for **Q1 2022/Q2 2023**



Key takeaways

2

Theme: Sustainability

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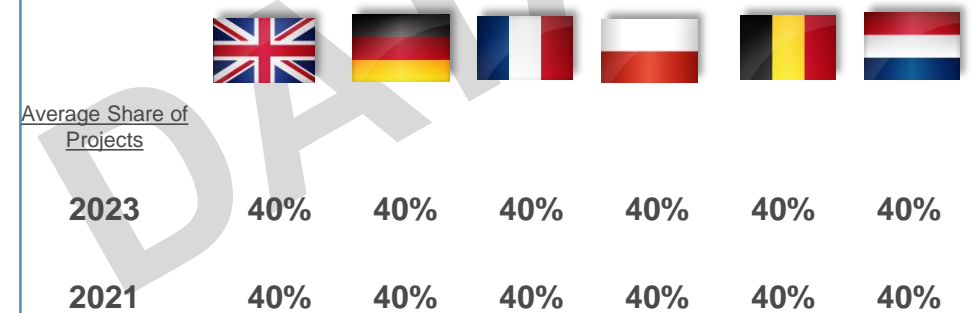
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Share of projects where sustainability is taken into account (all projects)



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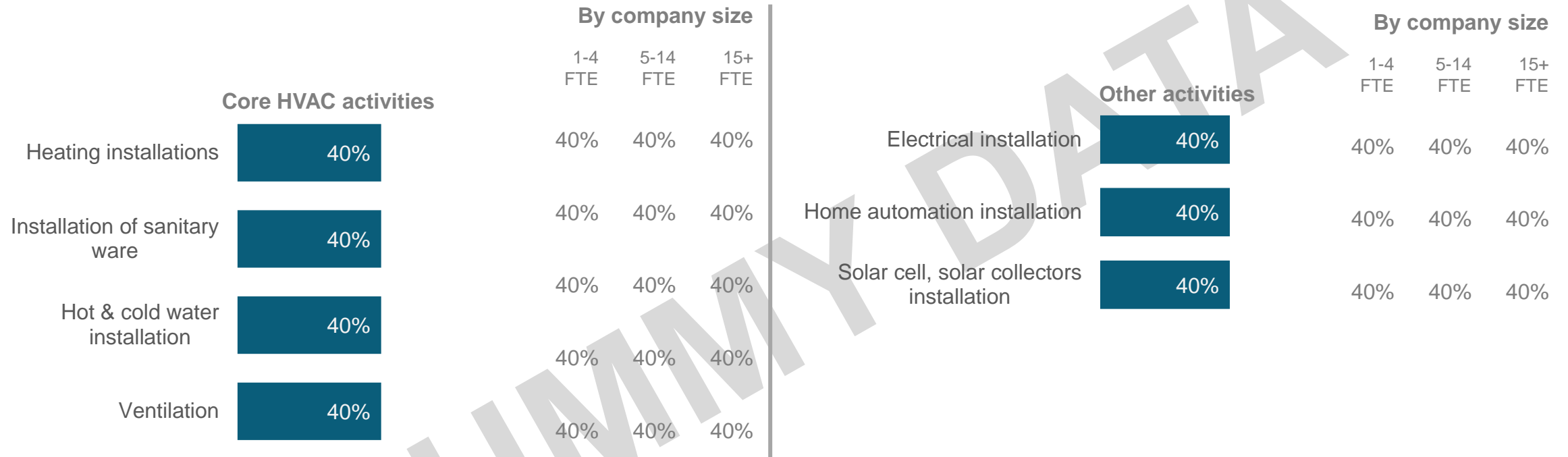
Core HVAC activities

Which of the following installation activities does your company perform?

	UK	Germany	France	Poland	Belgium	Netherlands
<i>Sample size</i>	100	100	100	102	95	100
Heating installations	40%	40%	40%	40%	40%	40%
Hot & cold water installation	40%	40%	40%	40%	40%	40%
Installation of sanitary ware	40%	40%	40%	40%	40%	40%
Ventilation	40%	40%	40%	40%	40%	40%
Air conditioning and cooling	40%	40%	40%	40%	40%	40%
Heat pumps	40%	40%	40%	40%	40%	40%

Other installation activities

	UK	Germany	France	Poland	Belgium	Netherlands
<i>Sample size</i>	100	100	100	102	95	100
Solar cells, solar collectors	40%	40%	40%	40%	40%	40%
Electrical installation	40%	40%	40%	40%	40%	40%
Home automation installation	40%	40%	40%	40%	40%	40%



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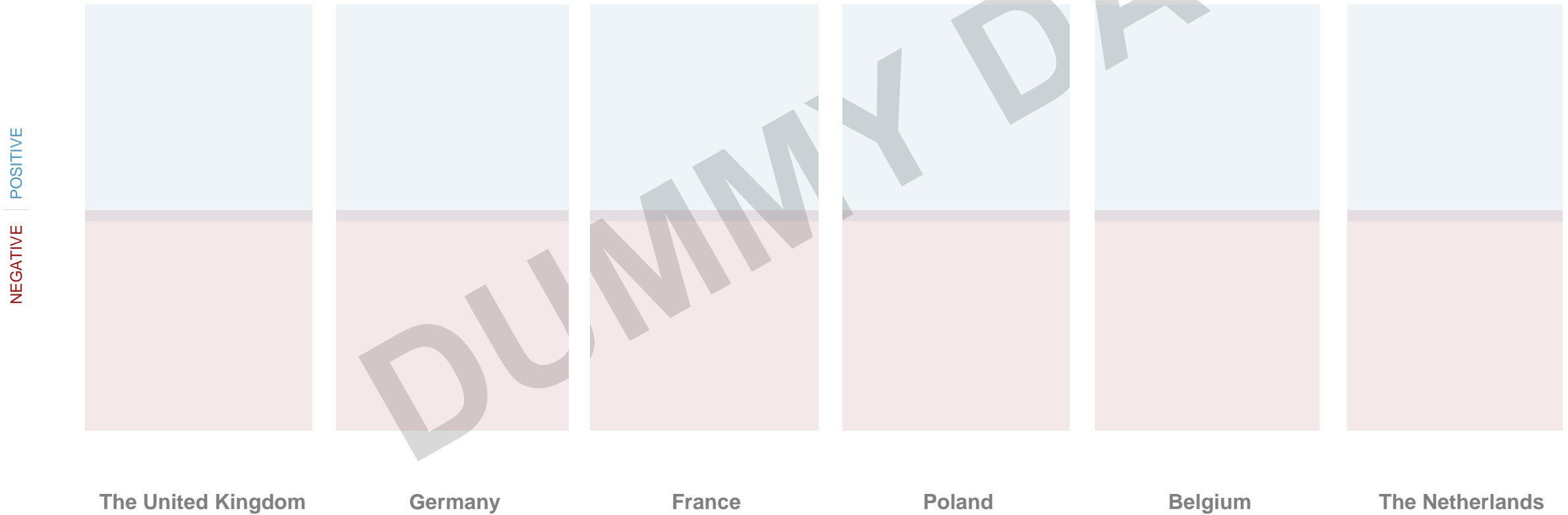
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Turnover outlook last quarters and expectations for Q1 2023

TURNOVER BALANCE

(% INCREASE minus % DECREASE)

— COMPARISON SAME QUARTER LAST YEAR

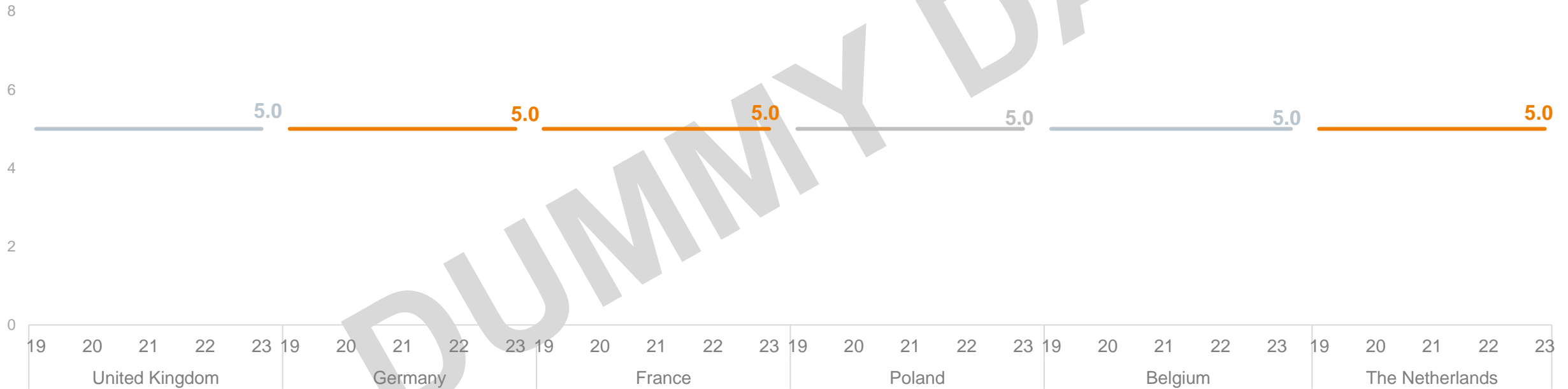


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Order book portfolio

Question: How big is your current order book portfolio? For how many months will you be able to keep your current staff working?

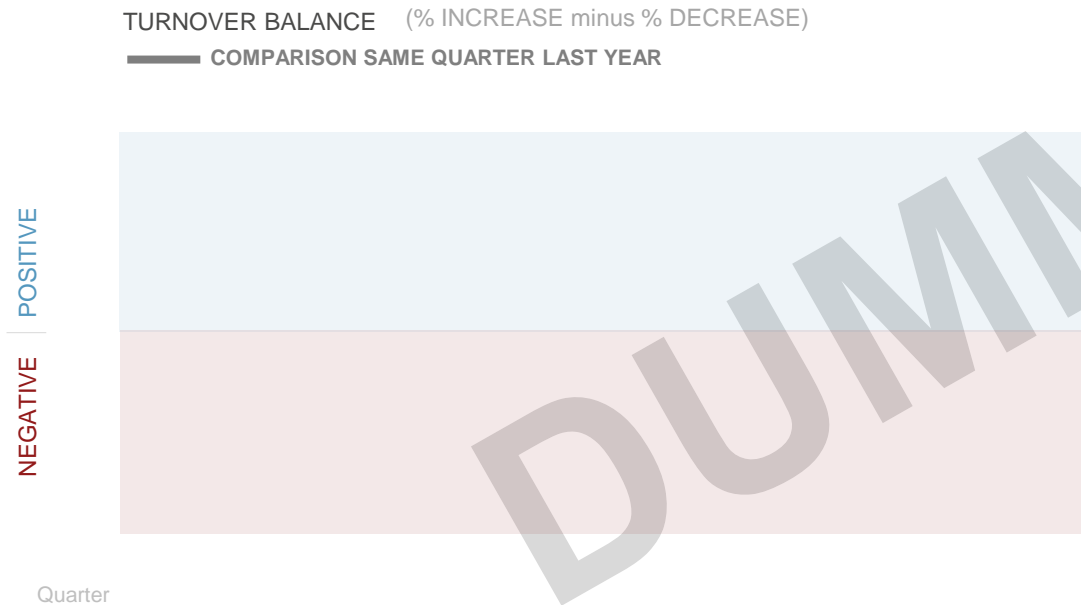
(MONTHS)



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Turnover outlook

*If you compare your turnover of Q1-23 to Q1-22, how did your turnover develop?
What are your expectations for the development in Q2-23?*



Order book portfolio

How big is your current order book portfolio?

ORDER BOOK (MONTHS)
EU | THE UNITED KINGDOM

DUMMY DATA

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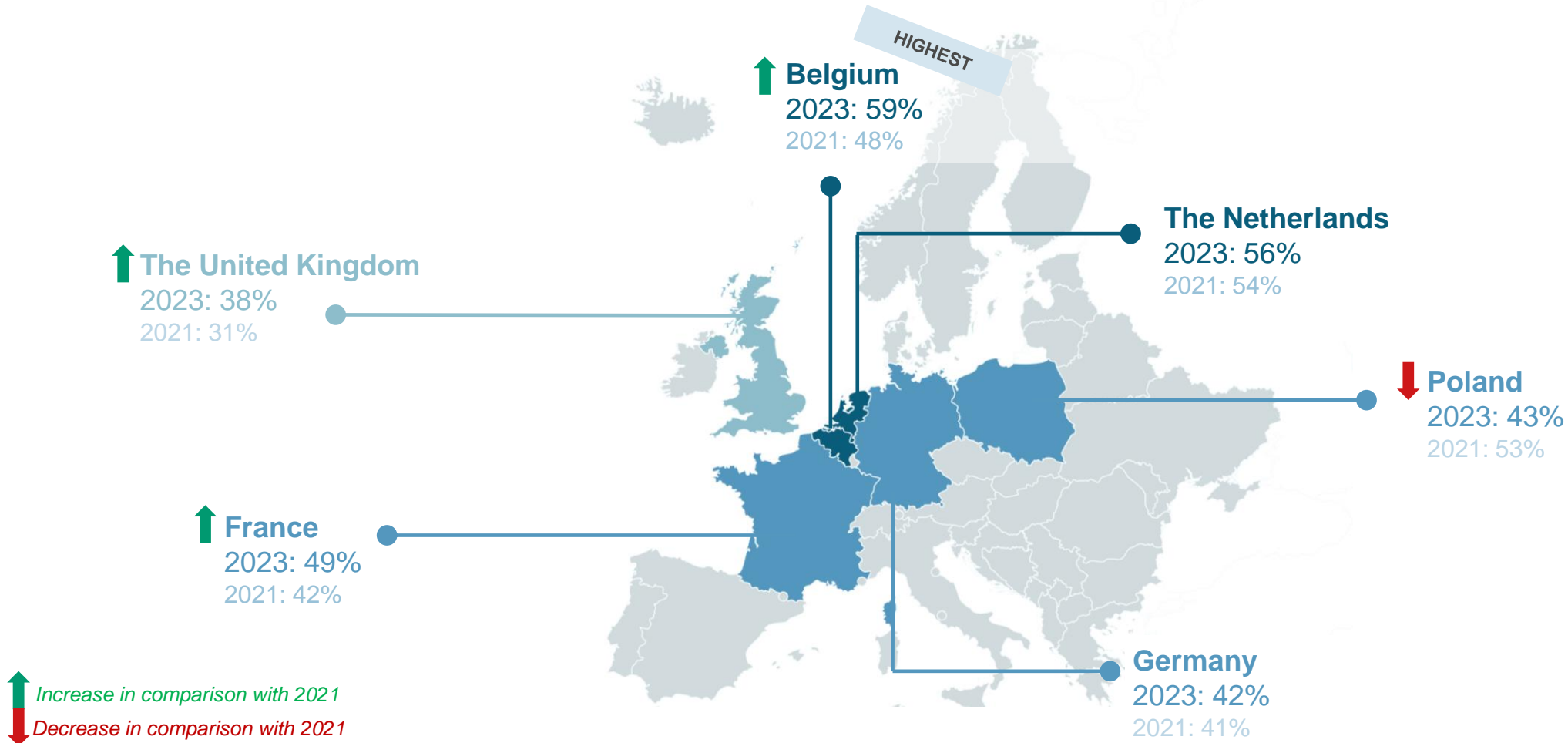
Appendix



Compared to 2021, Belgium experienced the highest increase in installation projects incorporating sustainability. In contrast, Poland experienced a decline of projects with such installations

Average % of projects where sustainability is considered

(What would be approximately the share of projects where sustainability is taken into account in your projects?)

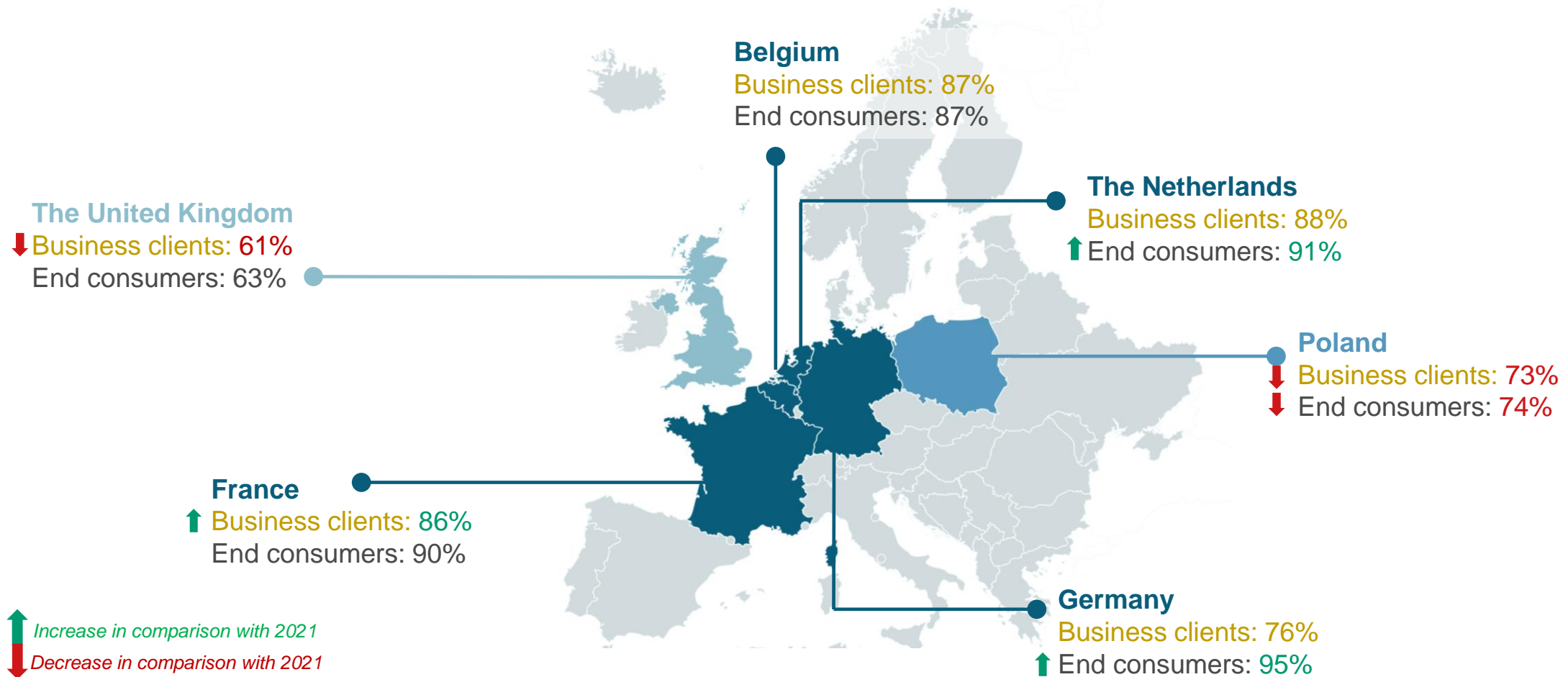


The greatest interest in sustainable solutions is observed among German and Dutch end consumers. Customers in the UK have the least interest in sustainable solutions. In Poland, there has been a decline in the demand for sustainable solutions among both business clients and end consumers when compared to 2021

Customer interest/ demand for sustainable installation solutions

% of business clients asking (both willing or not willing to pay) for sustainable solutions

% of end consumers (both willing or not willing to pay) asking for sustainable solutions

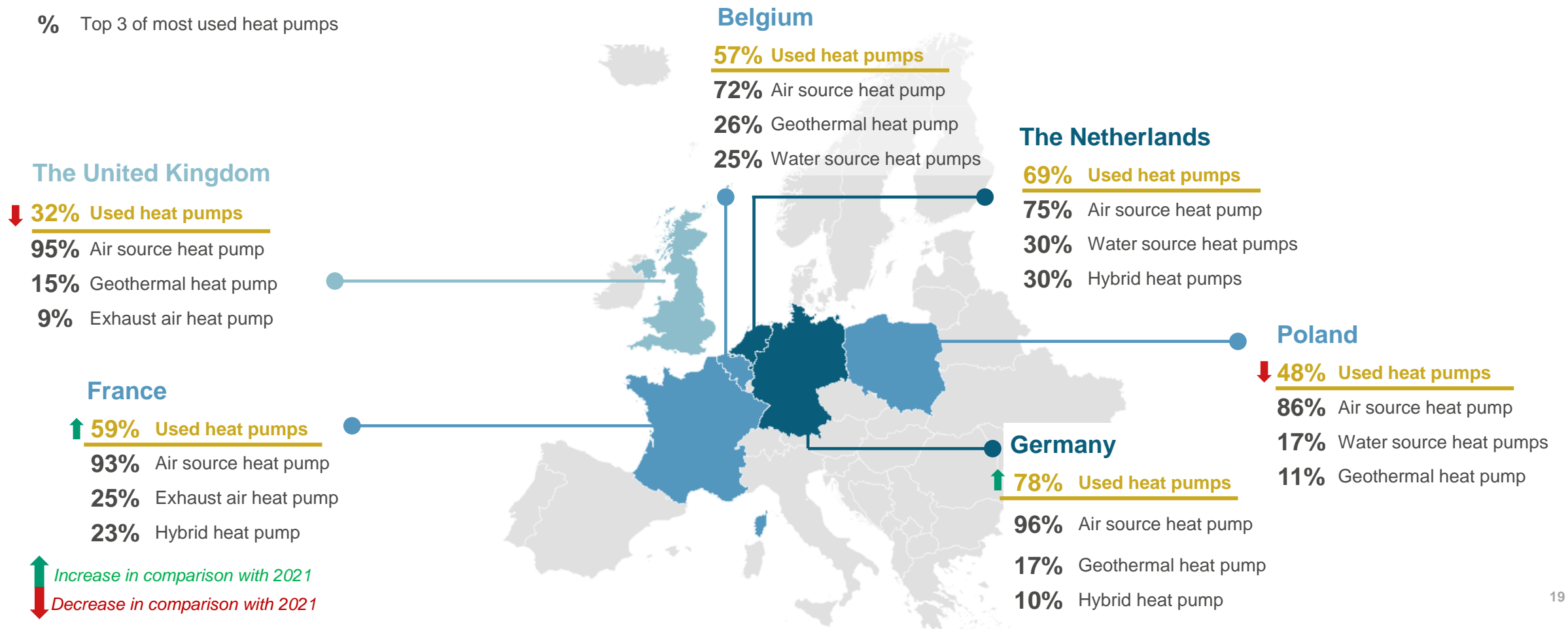


Heat pumps are the most used product in every country, with air source heat pumps being installed most often.

Which installation products are mainly being used in your projects when sustainable solutions are requested?

% Used **heat pumps** in projects when sustainable solution are requested

% Top 3 of most used heat pumps

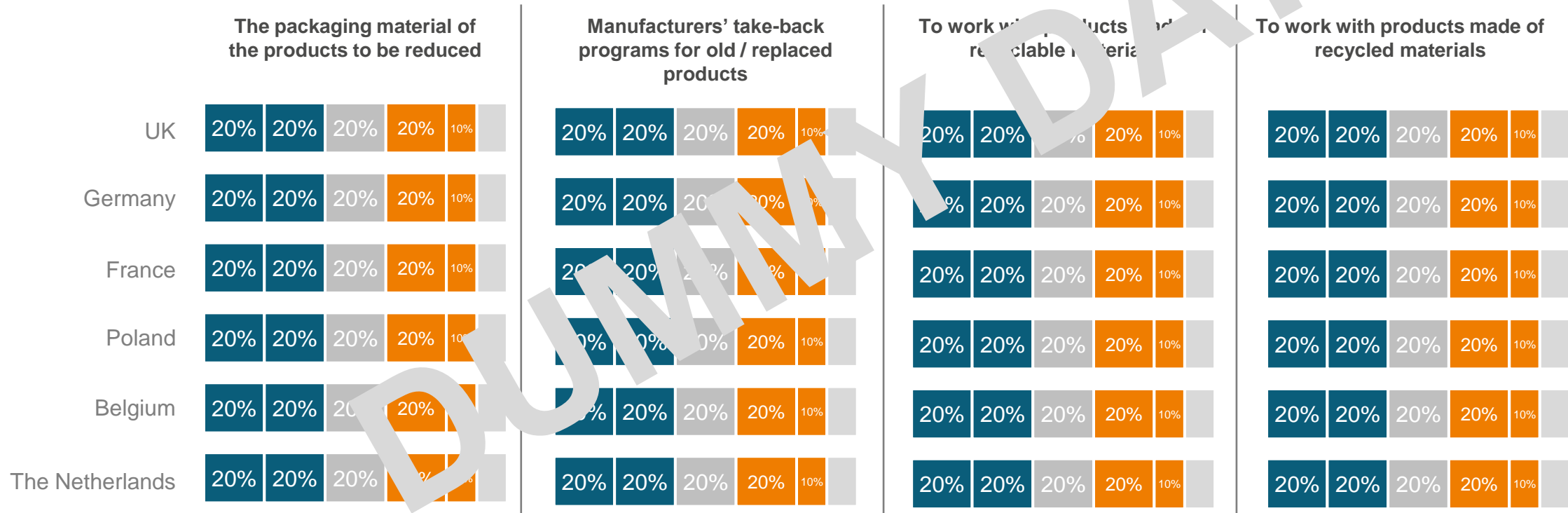


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Importance of sustainability-related practices

(To what extent is each of the following things important to you?)

(Very+rather) important | Neutral | Rather unimportant+ Not important at all | Don't know

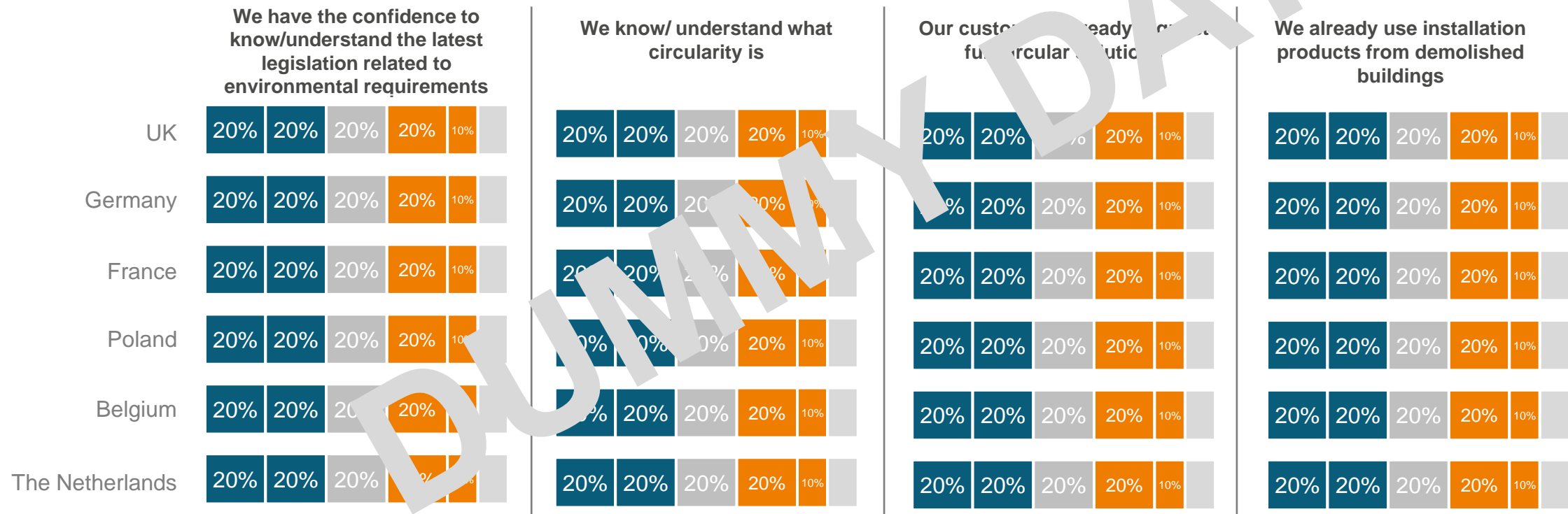


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Environmental expertise and circular solutions practices

(To what extent do you agree with the following statements?)

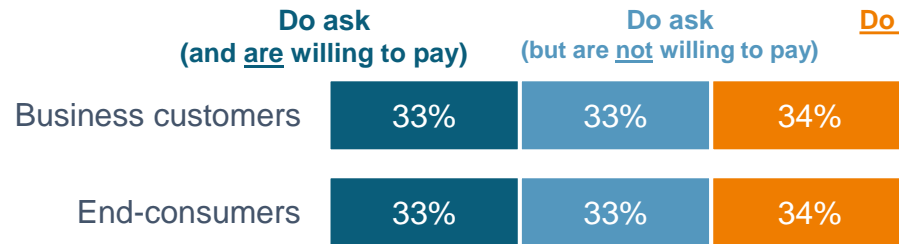
(Completely+rather) agree | Neutral | (Completely+rather) disagree | Don't know



Key European insights (average of all countries)

About **30% of the European installation projects** take sustainability into account

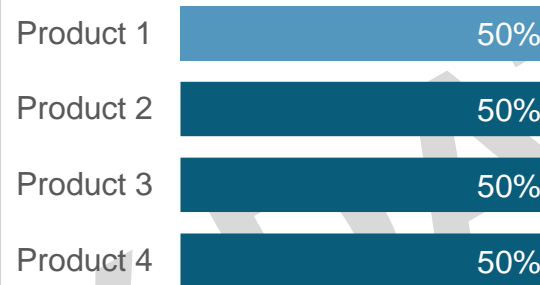
Customer interest/ demand for sustainable installation solutions



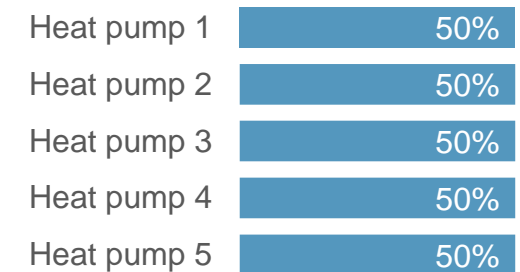
Top 2 Most asked-for sustainable products and solutions by business customers and end-consumers (combined results)



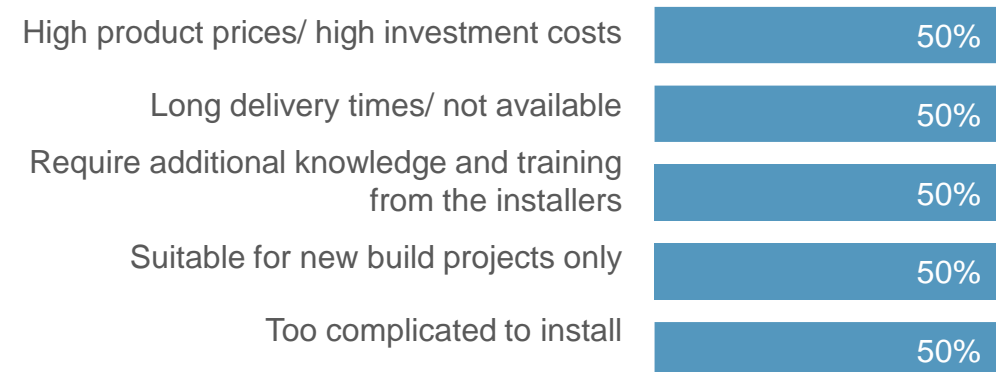
Most used installation products in sustainable solutions



Most used heat pumps



Challenges in offering/ working with heat pumps



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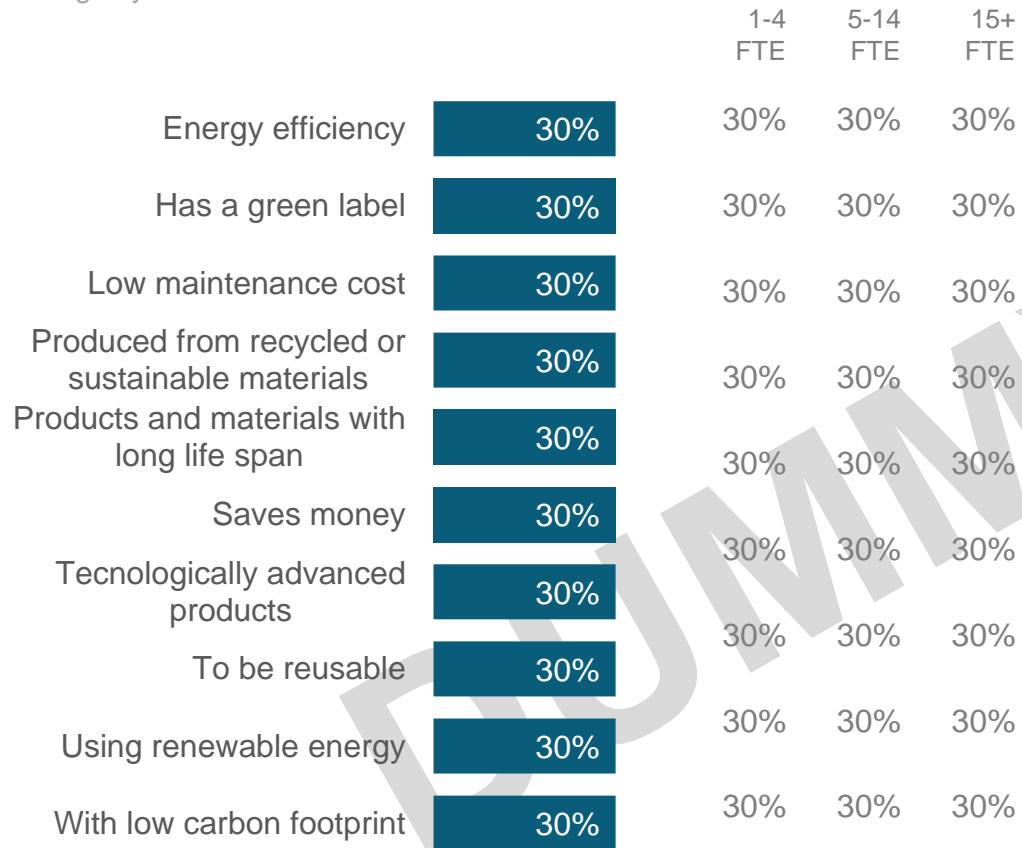
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Main characteristics of a sustainable solution – Top 10

What are according to you the main characteristics of a sustainable solution?

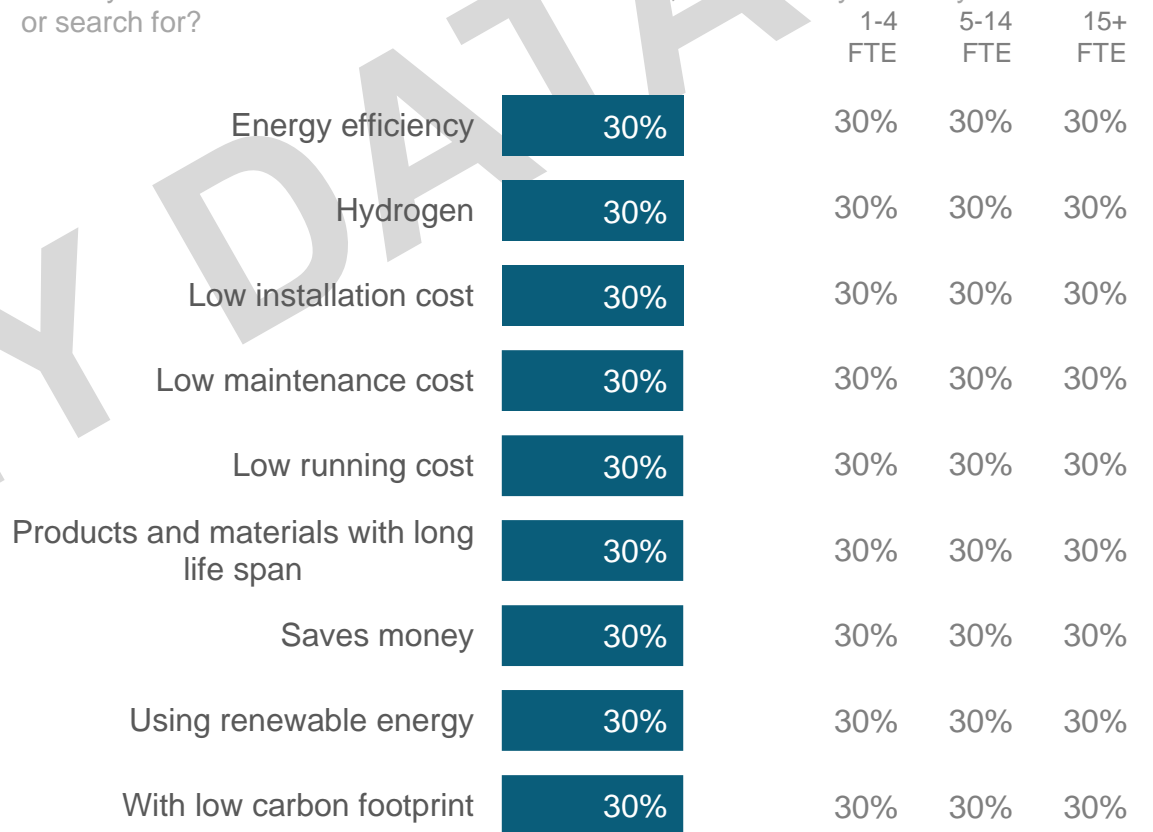


30% of the interviewed installers do not know what would be the main characteristics of a sustainable solution

Base: n=100, all installers

Clients' consideration of a sustainable solution – Top 9

When your clients talk about sustainable solutions, what do they normally mean or search for?



30% of the interviewed installers state their clients are not asking for sustainable solution(s), and an additional 14% do not know/have no opinion on sustainable solutions their clients normally search for

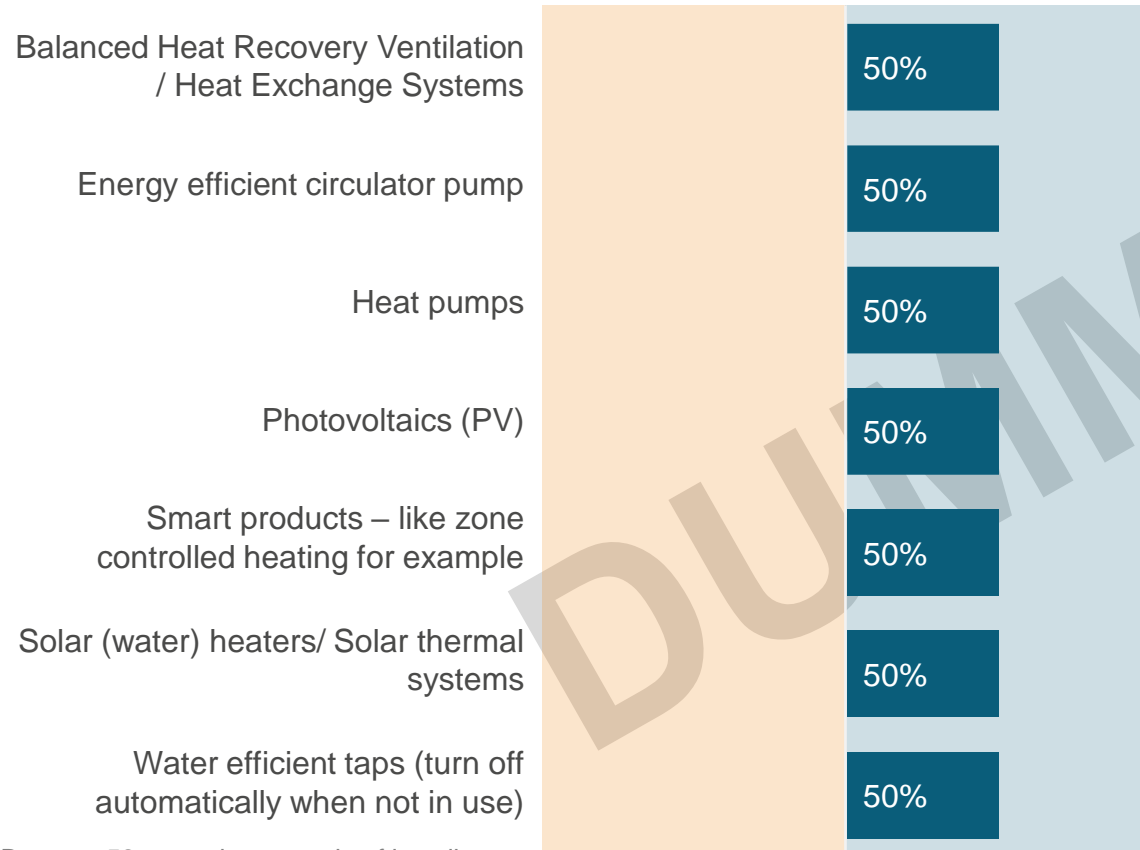
Base: n=100, all installers

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Installation products for sustainable buildings

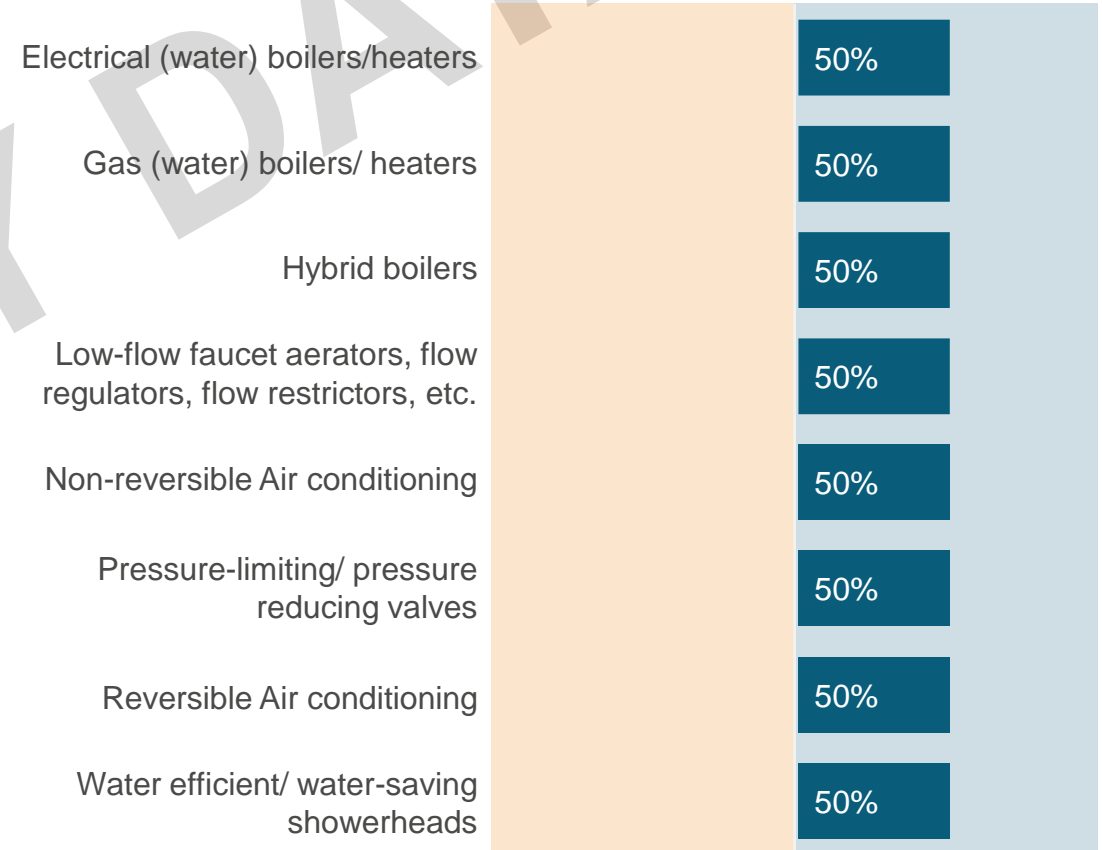
To what extent do you agree that the following installation products can be used for creating sustainable buildings?

Balance: % (Strongly) Agree minus % (Strongly) Disagree
 More 'disagree' More 'agree'



Base: n=50, a random sample of installers

Balance: % (Strongly) Agree minus % (Strongly) Disagree
 More 'disagree' More 'agree'



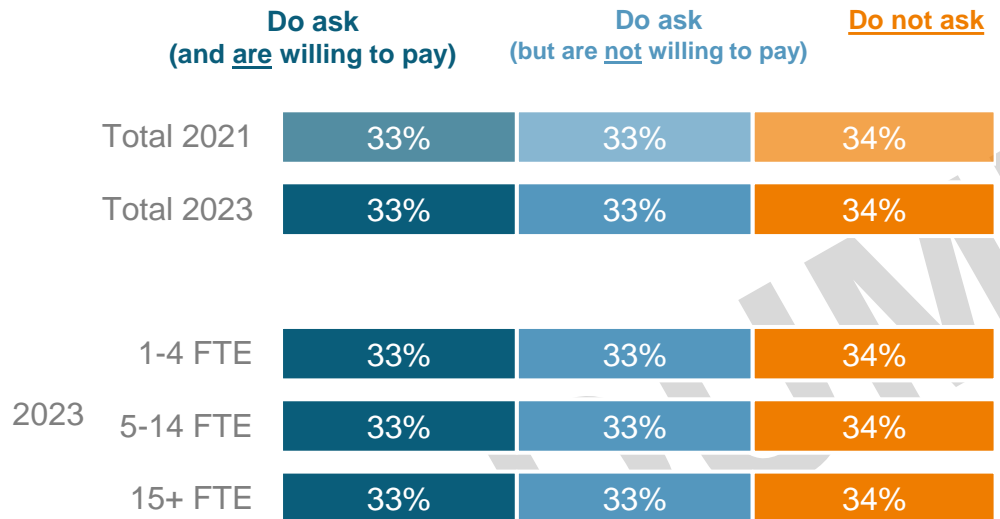
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Customer interest/ demand for sustainable installation solutions

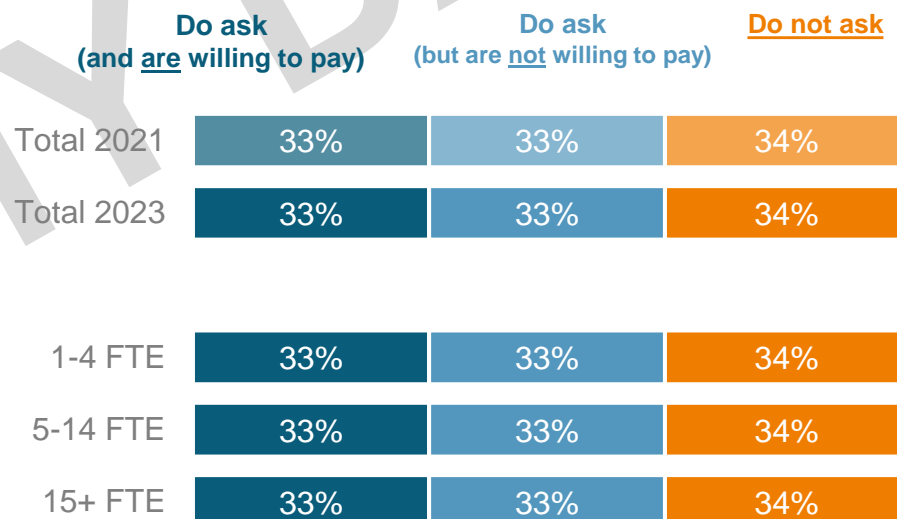
If we divide your clients in two main types: business clients and end consumers. To what extent do those two types of customers ask for sustainable installation solutions?

Business customers

(contractors, architects, office/ commercial building owners etc)



End consumers/ homeowners

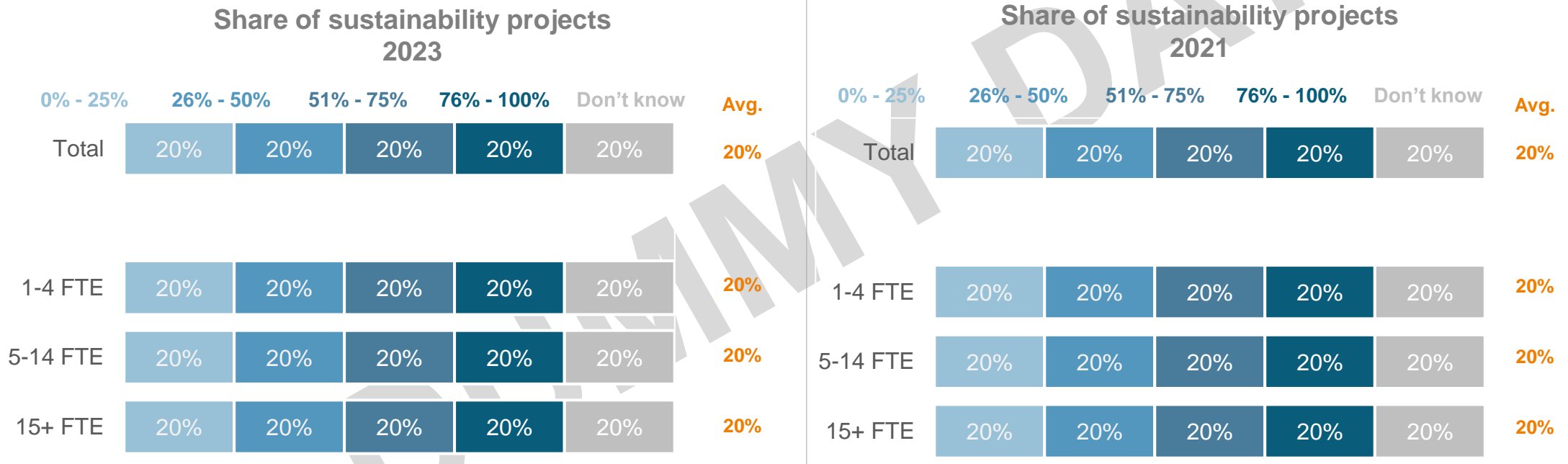


Base: n=92, all installers (valid sample, "Don't know" excluded from the analysis)

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Sustainability Projects

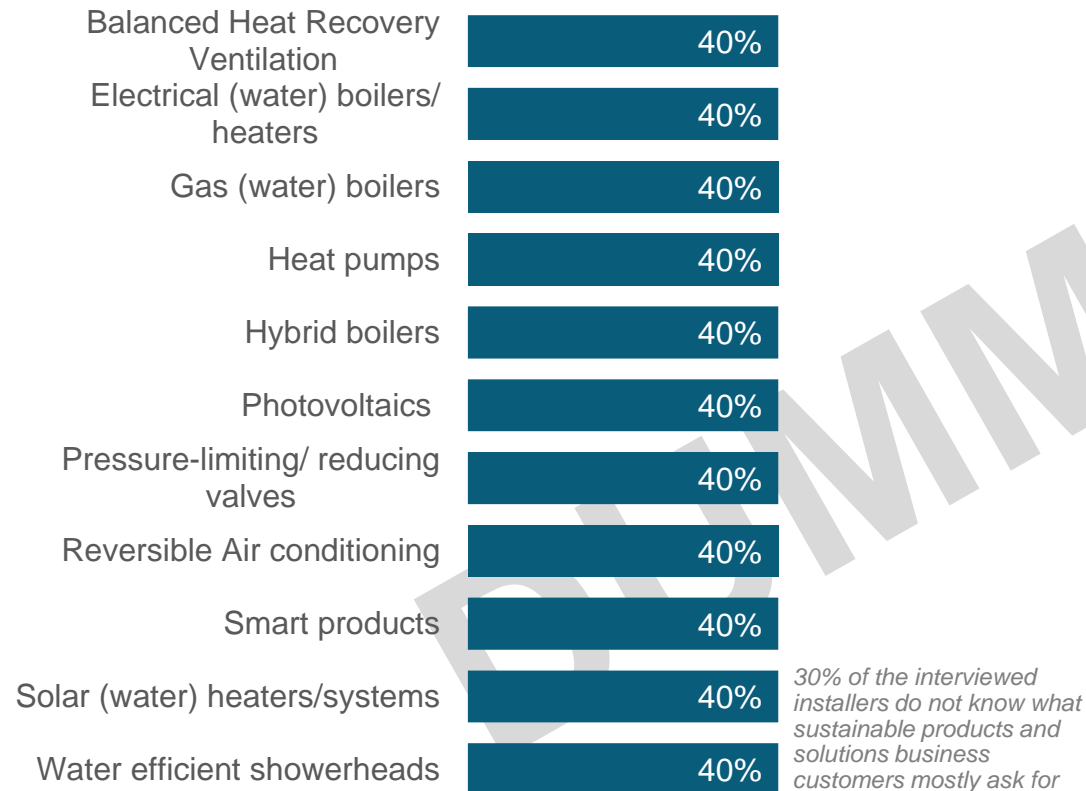
What would be approximately the share of your projects where sustainability is taken into account or asked for?



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Most asked-for sustainable products and solutions by business customers – Top 10

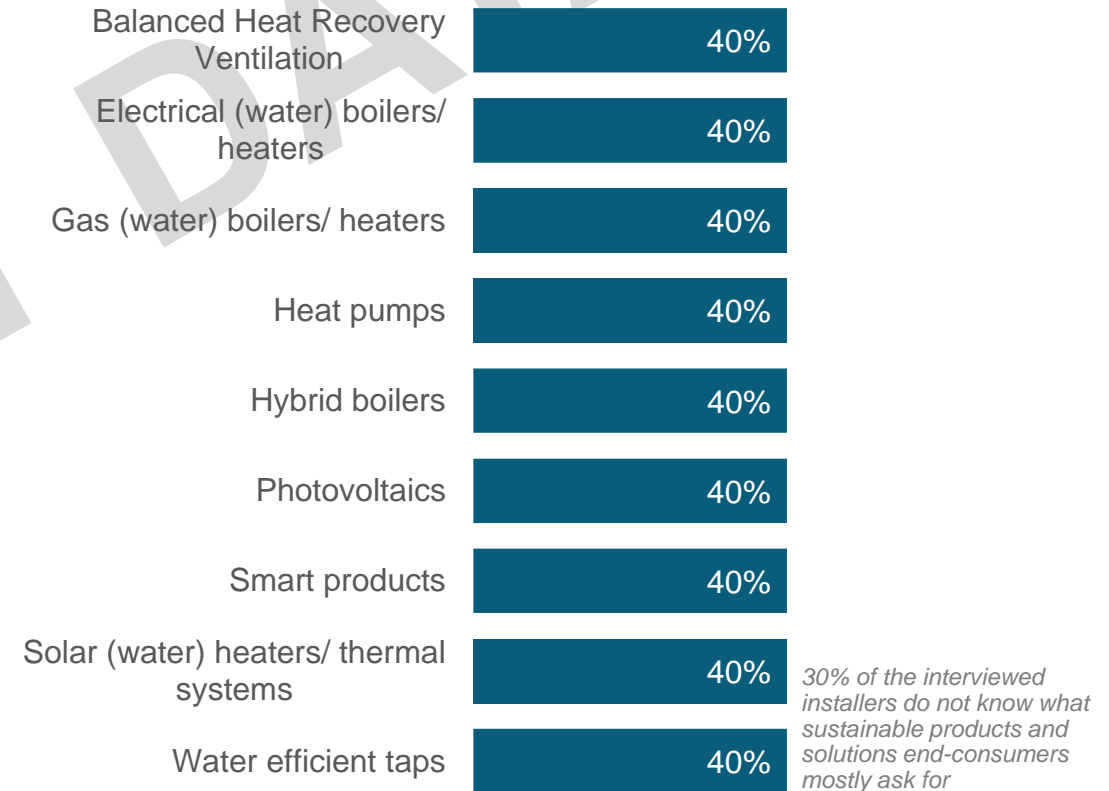
What sustainable products and solutions are business customers mostly asking for?



Base: n=60, installers asked by business customers for sustainable solutions

Most asked-for sustainable products and solutions by end – consumers – Top 9

What sustainable products and solutions are end-consumers mostly asking for?



Base: n=70, installers asked by end-consumers for sustainable solutions

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Most used installation products in sustainable solutions – Top 10

Which installation products are mainly being used/chosen in your projects when sustainable solutions are requested?

		1-4 FTE	5-14 FTE	15+ FTE
Electrical (water) boilers/heaters	30%	30%	30%	30%
Gas (water) boilers/ heaters	30%	30%	30%	30%
Heat pumps	30%	30%	30%	30%
Heat Recovery Ventilation	30%	30%	30%	30%
Hybrid boilers	30%	30%	30%	30%
Low-flow faucet aerators, regulators, etc.	30%	30%	30%	30%
Photovoltaics	30%	30%	30%	30%
Reversible Air conditioning	30%	30%	30%	30%
Smart products	30%	30%	30%	30%
Solar (water) heaters/ thermal systems	30%	30%	30%	30%

Base: n=100, all installers

30% of the interviewed installers do not know which installation products are being mainly chosen for their sustainable solutions' projects

Most used heat pumps*

Which type of heat pumps is the most used one? (up to 2 answers)

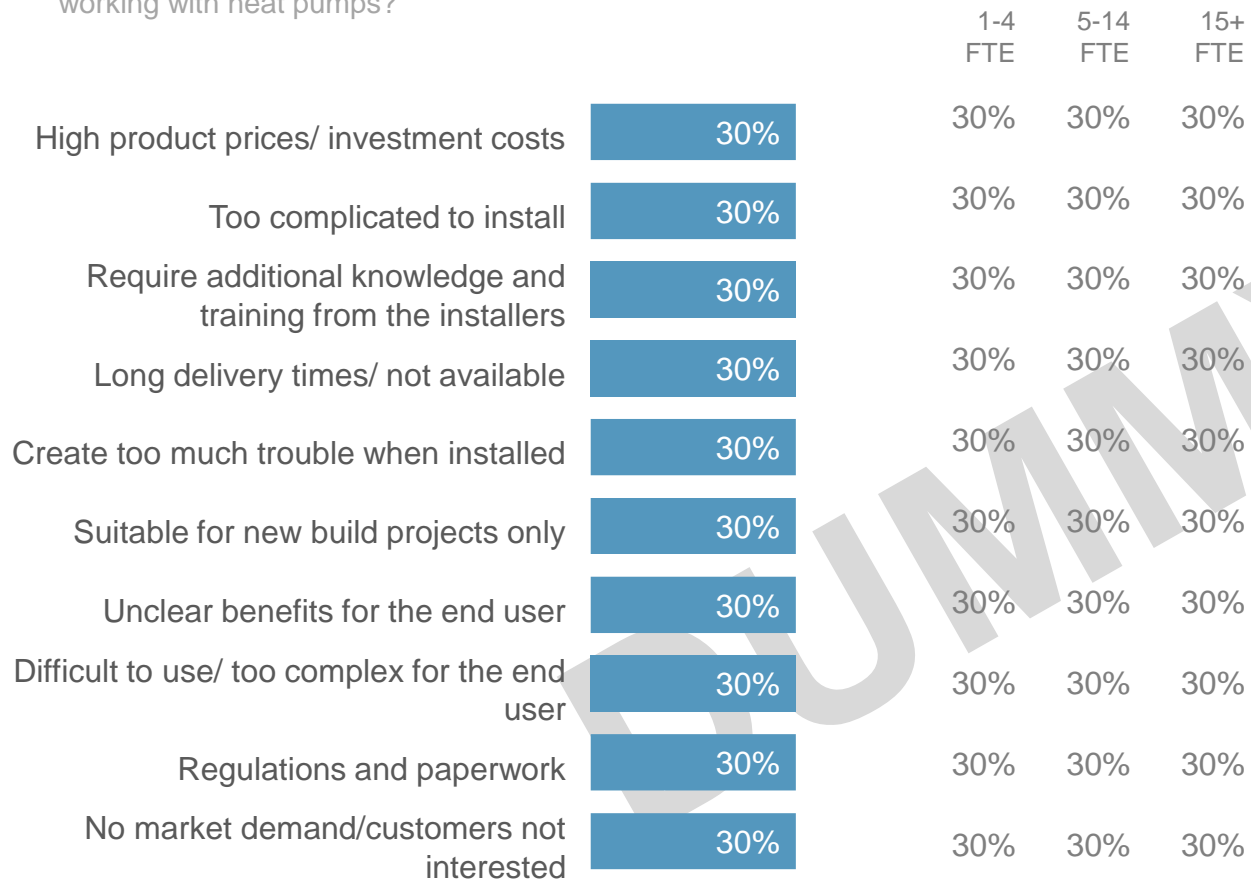
Air source heat pump	30%
Exhaust air heat pump	30%
Geothermal heat pump	30%
Hybrid (or twin source) heat pumps	30%
Water source heat pumps	30%

Base: n=25, installers installing heat pumps; * Results are indicative due to low number of observations (n<30)

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Challenges in offering/ working with heat pumps – Top 10

What are the main challenges/ barriers for you as an installer with regard to offering and working with heat pumps?

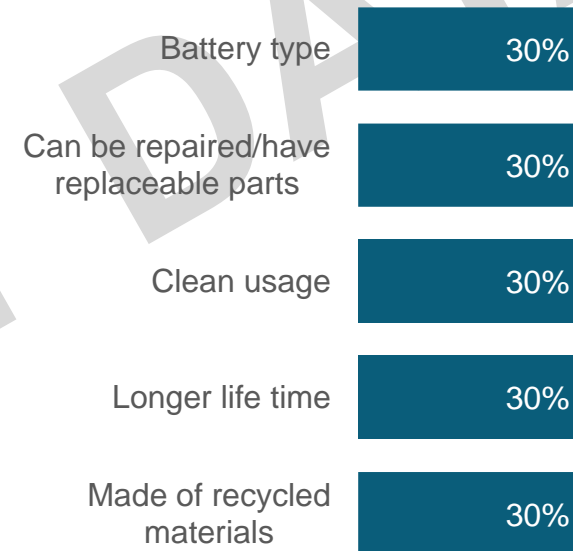


Base: n=100, all installers

30% of the interviewed installers do not know/have no opinion on barriers regarding the offering and working with heat pumps

Sought sustainability features in tools the installers use – Top 5

Do you look for certain features in the tools you use that are related to sustainability?

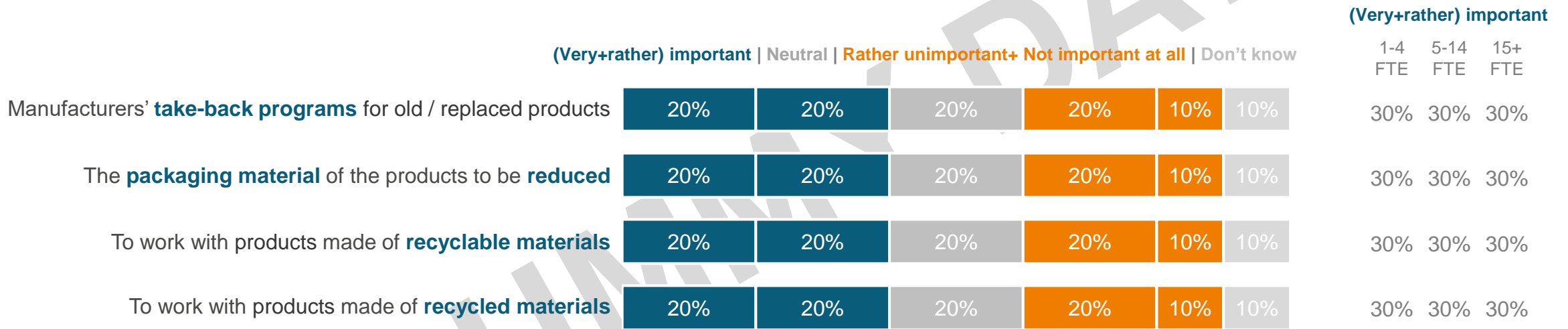


30% do not know (38%) or do not look (31%) for sustainability-related features in the tools they use

Base: n=100, all installers

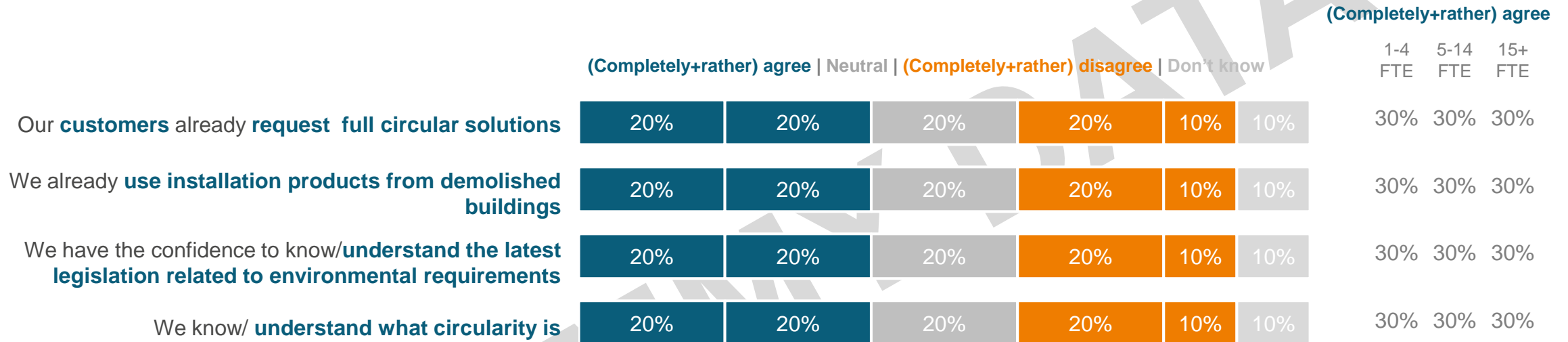
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Importance of sustainability-related practices
To what extent is each of the following things important to you?



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Environmental expertise and circular solutions practices
To what extent do you agree with the following statements?



Considering using products coming from demolished buildings
Would you consider using installation products coming from demolished buildings, if price & quality is similar to the new products? (certainly yes + rather yes)

30% Would **consider** installation **products** coming **from demolished buildings** if price & quality is similar to new products

Base: n=100, all installers

Respondents' background characteristics

Job title of the interviewed respondents and the company size

Q: What is your position within the company?

Q: Yourself included, how many fulltime employees does your company have in total, in all branches?

	UK	Germany	France	Poland	Belgium	Netherlands
Owner / Director/ Manager	94%	52%	72%	91%	73%	70%
Plumber/ installer		19%	4%	4%	4%	5%
Buyer/purchaser	2%	11%	1%	1%	1%	4%
Senior buyer/ purchaser	1%	5%	1%		3%	0%
Engineer/designer		4%	3%	3%	2%	2%
Calculator	1%	2%	5%		2%	2%
Project manager	2%	7%	14%		9%	
Other				1%	5%	7%
1 - 4 FTE	51%	31%	50%	32%	55%	39%
5 - 14 FTE	29%	42%	37%	40%	20%	33%
15+ FTE	20%	27%	13%	27%	25%	28%

About USP

USP Marketing Consultancy



Head office



Subsidiaries



Rotterdam



Düsseldorf Zagreb



Market specialist
installation, construction, home improvement and real estate

Dedicated and multi-client research

Active in the market for 29 years

250+ dedicated market research projects annually

Revenue distribution



Research in **31** countries in 2022



43 focus groups



1,778 in-depth interviews



63,758 B2B CATI interviews



54,850 B2C online interviews



Single client research

Examples



Segmentation



**Customer
journey**



Branding



**Concept/
product
research**



**Customer
satisfaction**



Trends



**Distribution
research**



**Market
exploration**



Pricing



**Market
size**



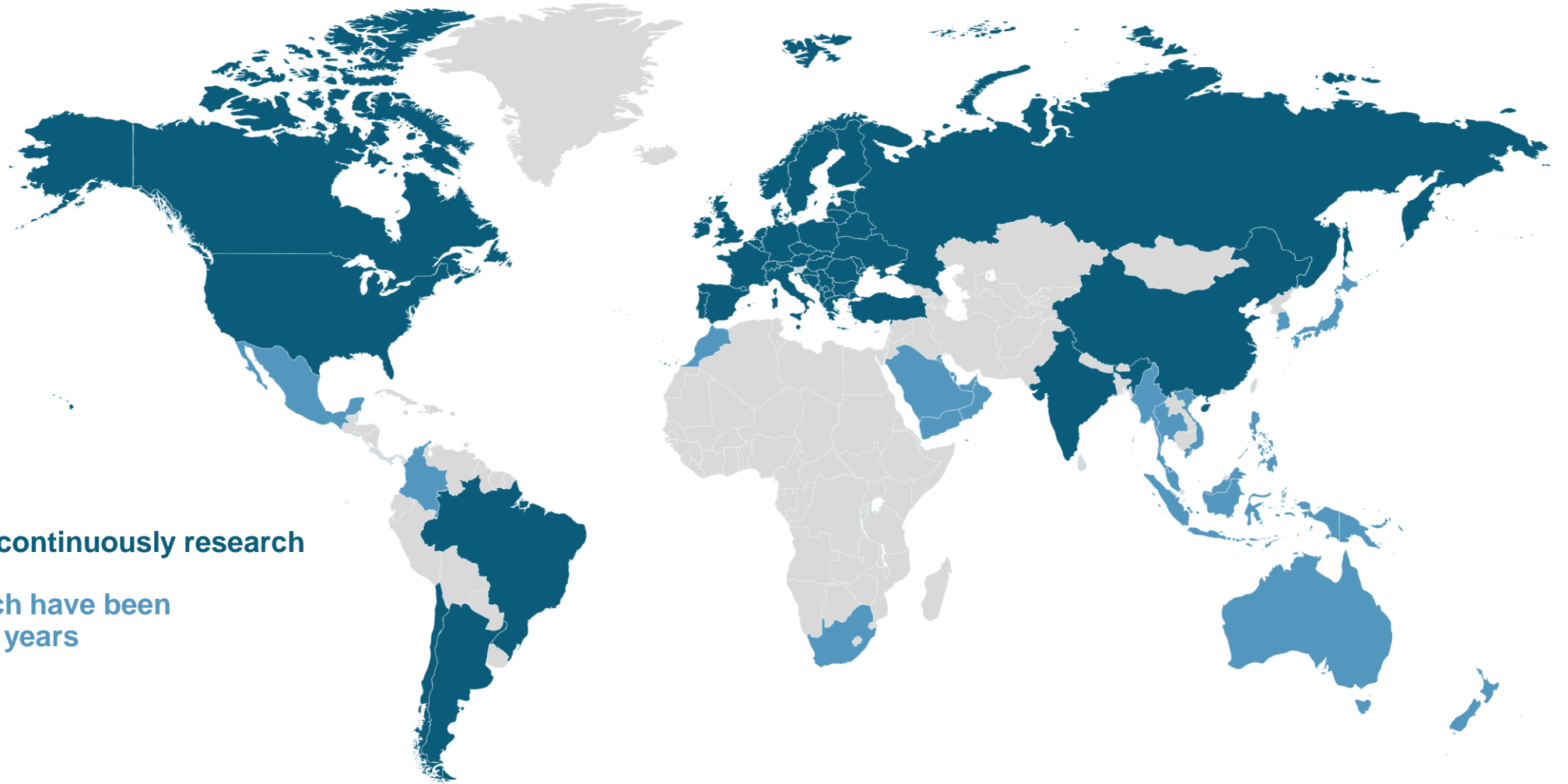
Dedicated market research

- Tailor made
- Driven by your information needs
- Advice & consultancy based on facts and over 25 years of experience in the industry
- Worldwide coverage
- B2B, B2C, qualitative and quantitative research or a combination of both
- Within our market specialism, all types of researches can be conducted
- Targeting the right audience, with the right questions at the right time.

multi-client research

	European Architectural Barometer	European Contractor Monitor	European Mechanical Installation Monitor	European Electrical Installation Monitor	European Painter Insight Monitor	European Home Improvement Monitor	European Handyman Monitor
Target group	Architects	Building contractors	HVAC installers	Electrical installers	Professional painters	Consumers	Handyman
Methodology							
Annual sample size	3,400 interviews	2,050 interviews	2,600 interviews	3,000 interviews	2,300 interviews	26,400 interviews	3,400 interviews
Country scope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Germany • United Kingdom • France • Netherlands • Belgium • Poland • Spain • Italy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Germany • United Kingdom • France • Netherlands • Belgium • Poland • Spain • Italy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Germany • United Kingdom • France • Netherlands • Belgium • Poland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Germany • United Kingdom • France • Netherlands • Belgium • Poland • Spain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Germany • United Kingdom • France • Netherlands • Belgium • Poland • Spain • Italy • Denmark • Sweden 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Germany • United Kingdom • France • Netherlands • Belgium • Poland • Spain • Italy 	
Way of reporting	Quarterly	Bi-annually	Quarterly	Quarterly	Annually	Quarterly	Annually
2023 Theme topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q1: Media orientation • Q2: BIM • Q3: Prefab • Q4: Sustainability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H1: Purchase channels • H2: Sustainability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q1: Sustainability • Q2: Services • Q3: Purchase channels • Q4: Training needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q1: Media orientation • Q2: Training needs • Q3: BIM • Q4: Purchase channels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trend tracking • Brand funnels • Purchase channels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q1: Orientation; sustainability • Q2: Purchase Channels; online performance of DIY stores • Q3: Branding; private labels • Q4: DIY vs DIFM; plans for 2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Segmentation • Orientation and media usage

Country coverage



Countries which we continuously research

Other countries which have been researched in past 2 years

Selection of customers

Construction				DIY		Installation	
							
							
							
							
							
							
							

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