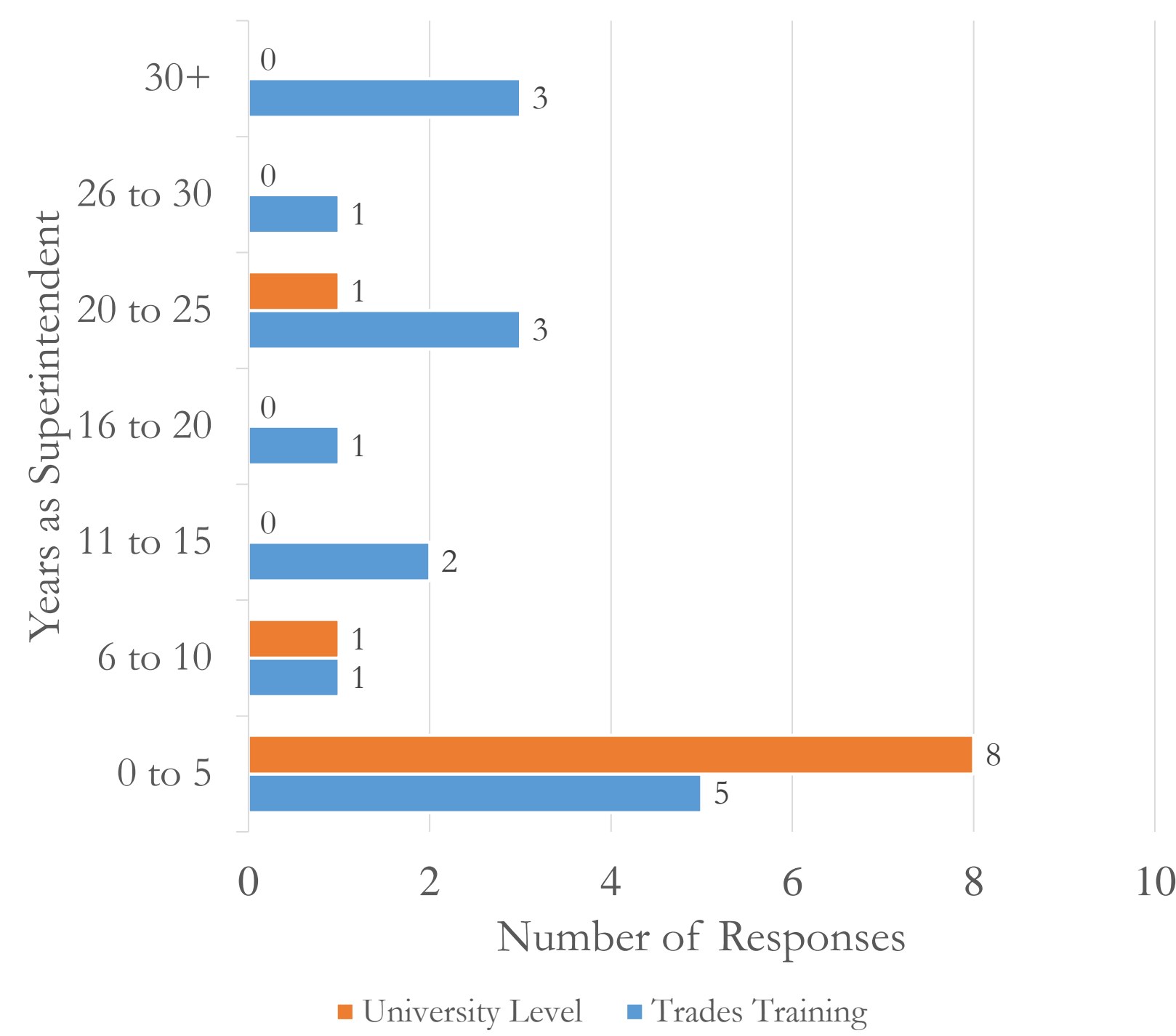


# Confidence Analysis of Superintendents: Trades vs. School

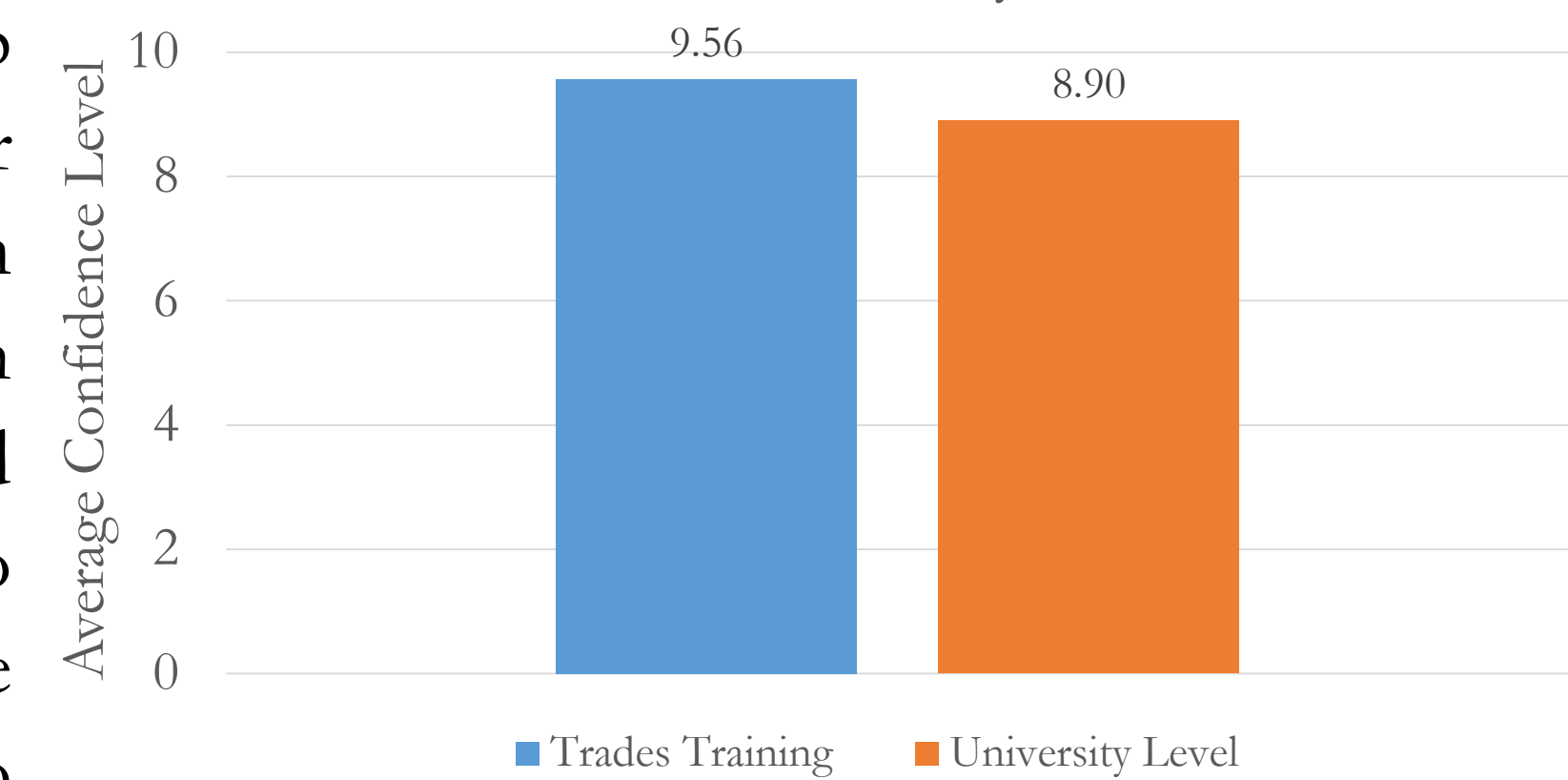
Years Spent as Superintendent Compared



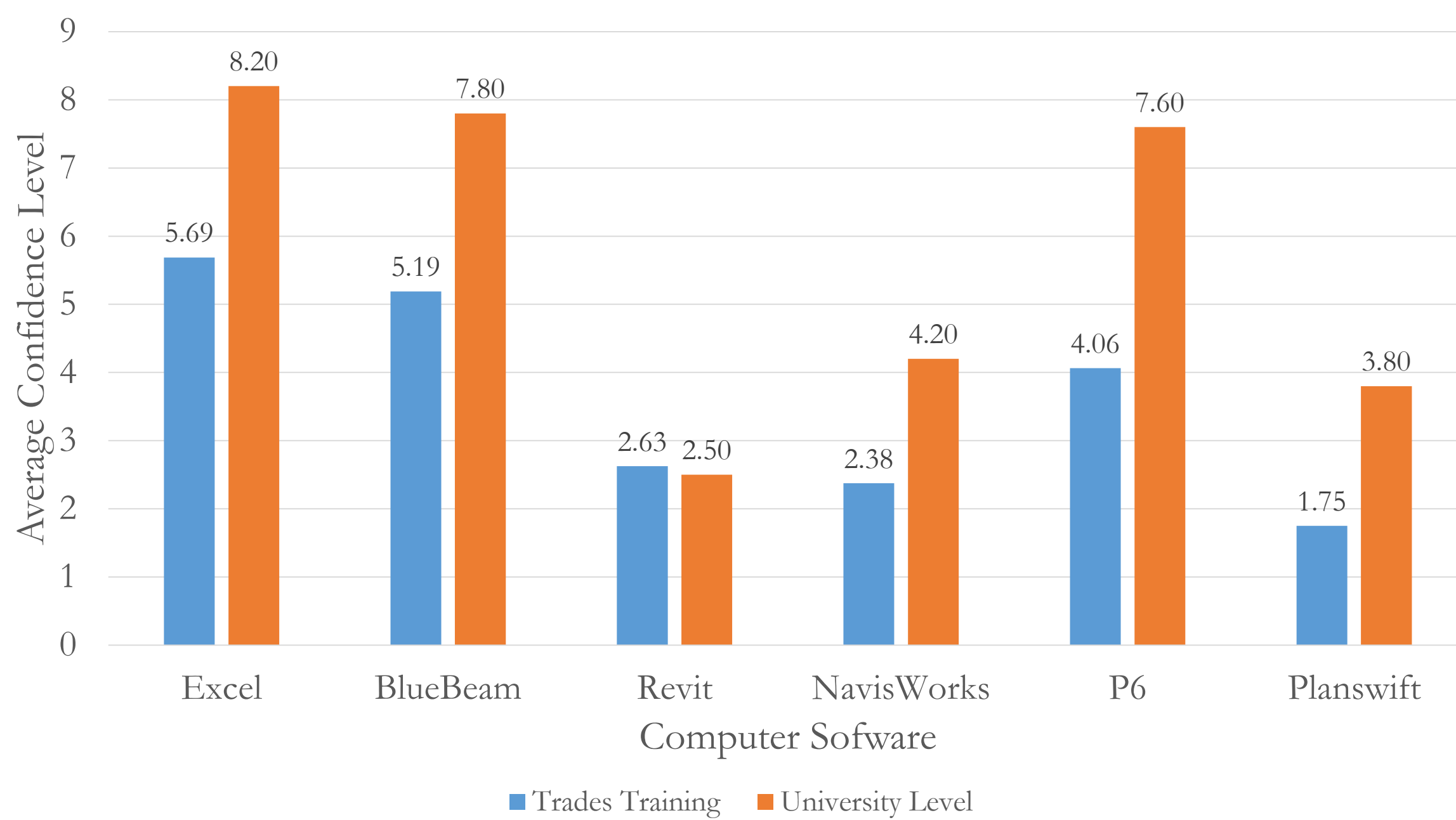
Today, knowledgeable and reliable superintendents are in high demand throughout the construction industry. However, it seems to be becoming more and more uncommon for a superintendent to come up through the more traditional route via the trades. It appears that it is becoming more common for superintendents to attend a university and attain a degree relating to construction. This begs the question though, does this new generation have what it takes to match their counterparts that come up through the trades? With this new direction being taken, it makes us wonder if universities are helping set a solid foundation for these superintendents. This research focuses on several main skills that were believed to be commonplace in the superintendent's everyday work. It aims to do this by gauging their confidence levels and also sets about to determine if these new university superintendents have what it takes to become lasting superintendents.

**Key Words:** Construction, Superintendent, Trade, Carpenter, Foreman, College, School, University

Average Confidence Subcontractors Take Them Seriously



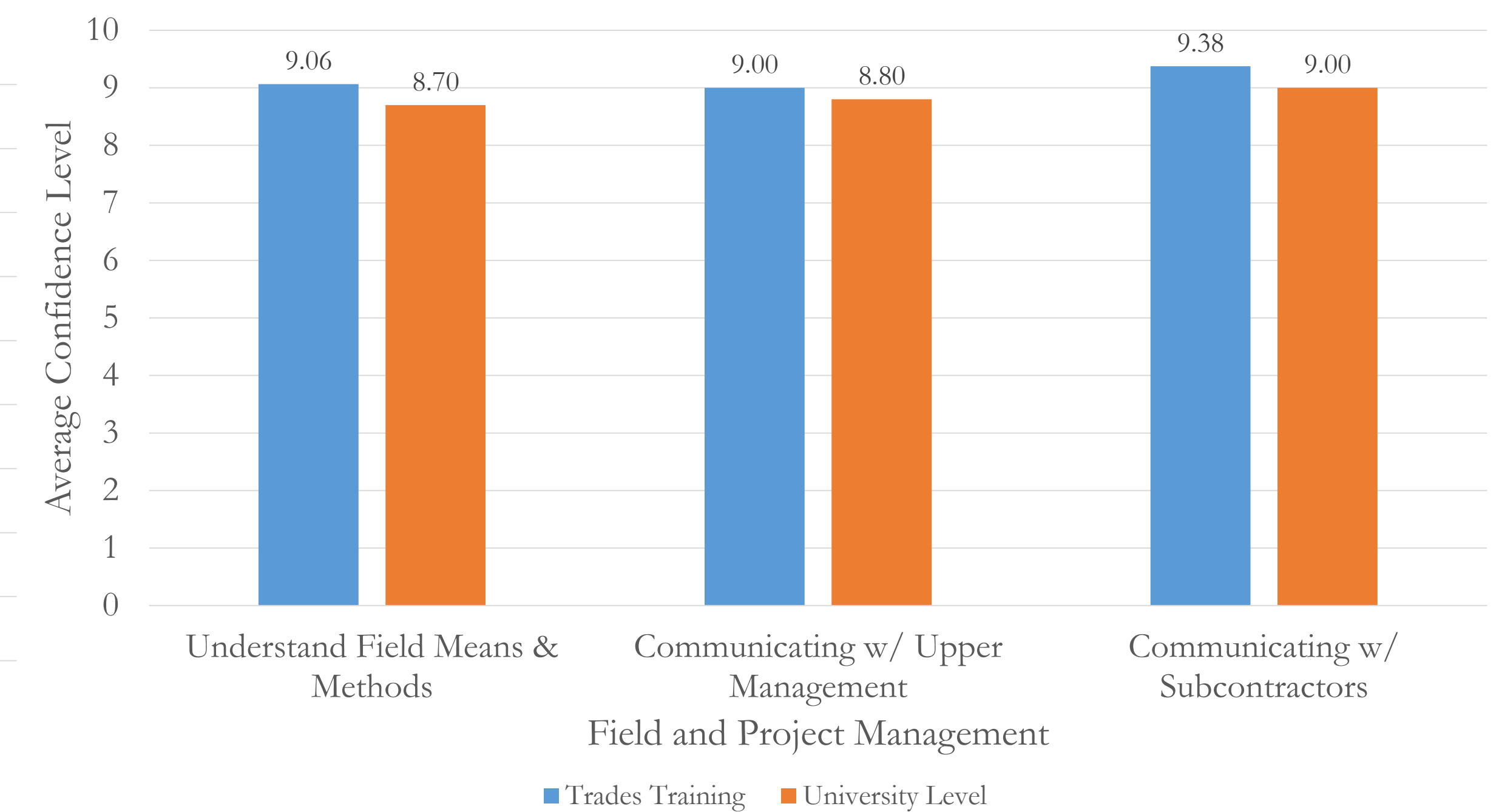
Average Confidence Using Computer Technology



Average Confidence Using Modern Surveying Equipment



Average Confidence in Site Management



## Project Goals/ Purpose

The first goal was to determine if there was now an increase in the number of superintendents coming from a university background (i.e. Degree in Construction, Engineering, Design, or Management Major) vs. the traditional method of coming up through the trades (i.e.. Apprenticeship/Journeyman, Union, Business Management, etc.). Next, this project aimed to determine how superintendents confidence level differed between those two groups. Finally, with this new knowledge, it aimed determine if there is any area of learning where there could be more time spent preparing current students.

## Methodology

To determine these superintendents' confidence levels, a survey consisting of 14 questions that could be filled out in 5-10 minutes. These questions ranged from confidence using computer programs, modern surveying equipment, and site management and communication. These questions were evaluated on a scale of 1-10 with 1 being not confident and 10 being extremely confident. The average of the responses is shown above.

## New Knowledge

After reviewing the results, the following conclusions were made:

- There are more young superintendents coming up through university than in the previous generations.
- Superintendents that came up through a university are usually more confident in their abilities in using computer programs than those that came from the trades.
- Both groups are equally confident their abilities to manage a project and communicate with invested parties.