

Value of Exposing High School Students to Skilled Trades

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Abstract

The construction industry is facing dramatic challenges, specifically labor shortage. Due to a lack of skilled craftspeople working in the field, projects result in delays and increased project costs. Throughout the United States, construction companies are looking to find skilled workers to meet the projects workforce. In order to expose people to the construction industry, a presentation and survey was conducted amongst high school students. The concept consists of majority of high school students not being informed about the career opportunities in the construction industry. Consequently, by exposing students to the construction industry would benefit the industry itself and recent high school graduates. This research allowed us to build an understanding of the knowledge of potential apprentices. This paper presents data analysis and suggests how this information may be used in order to create a reliable workforce for the industry's demand.

Keywords: Skilled Trade, Central California, Carpenters Local Union, Labor Shortage, Career Paths

Methodology

The objectives of this research are as follows:

- Expose students to another optional career path.
- Consider what trade majority of students are interested in.
- Give suggestions to local unions to help expose students to the industry.

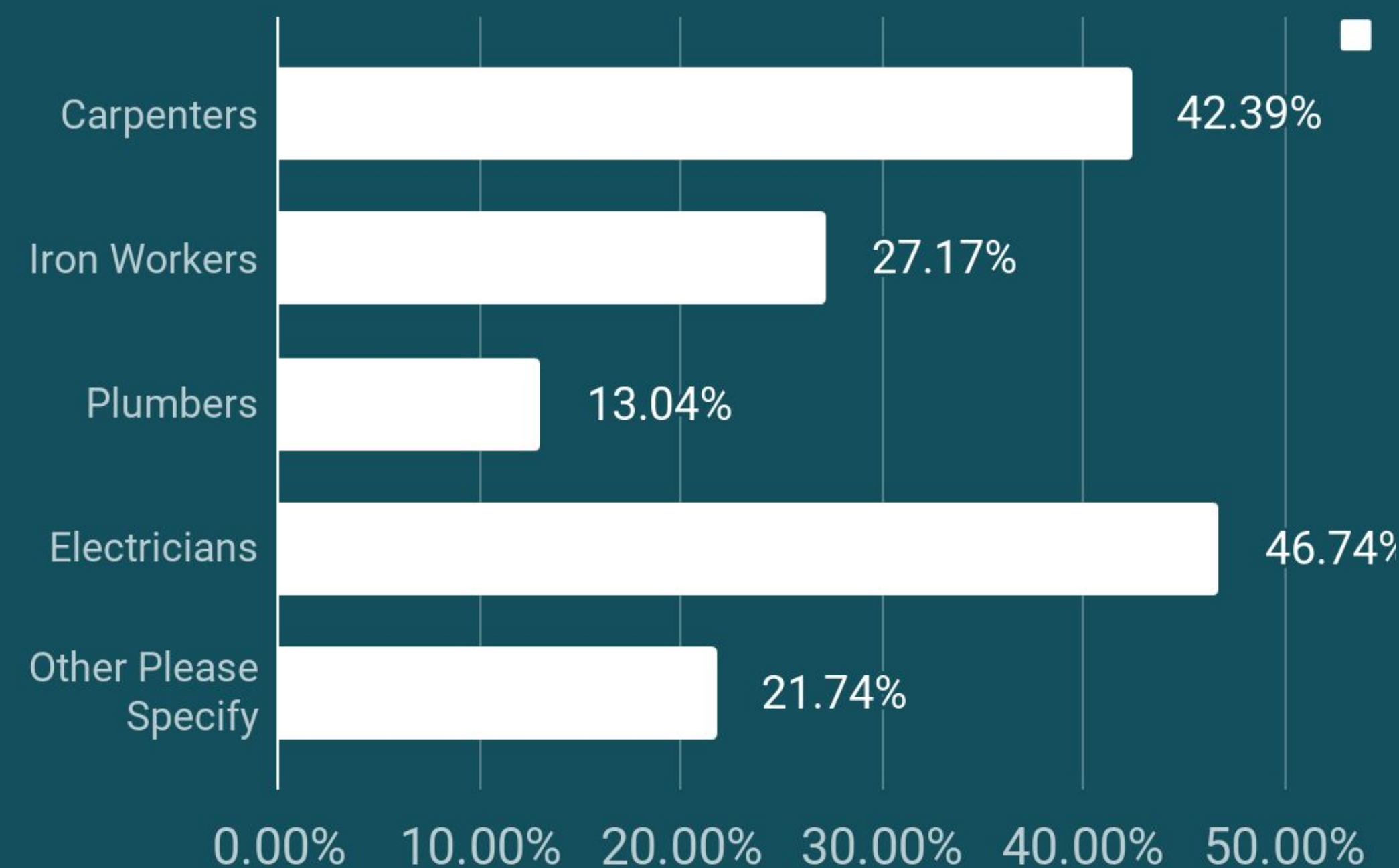


Figure 2: Student Interest in Skilled Trades

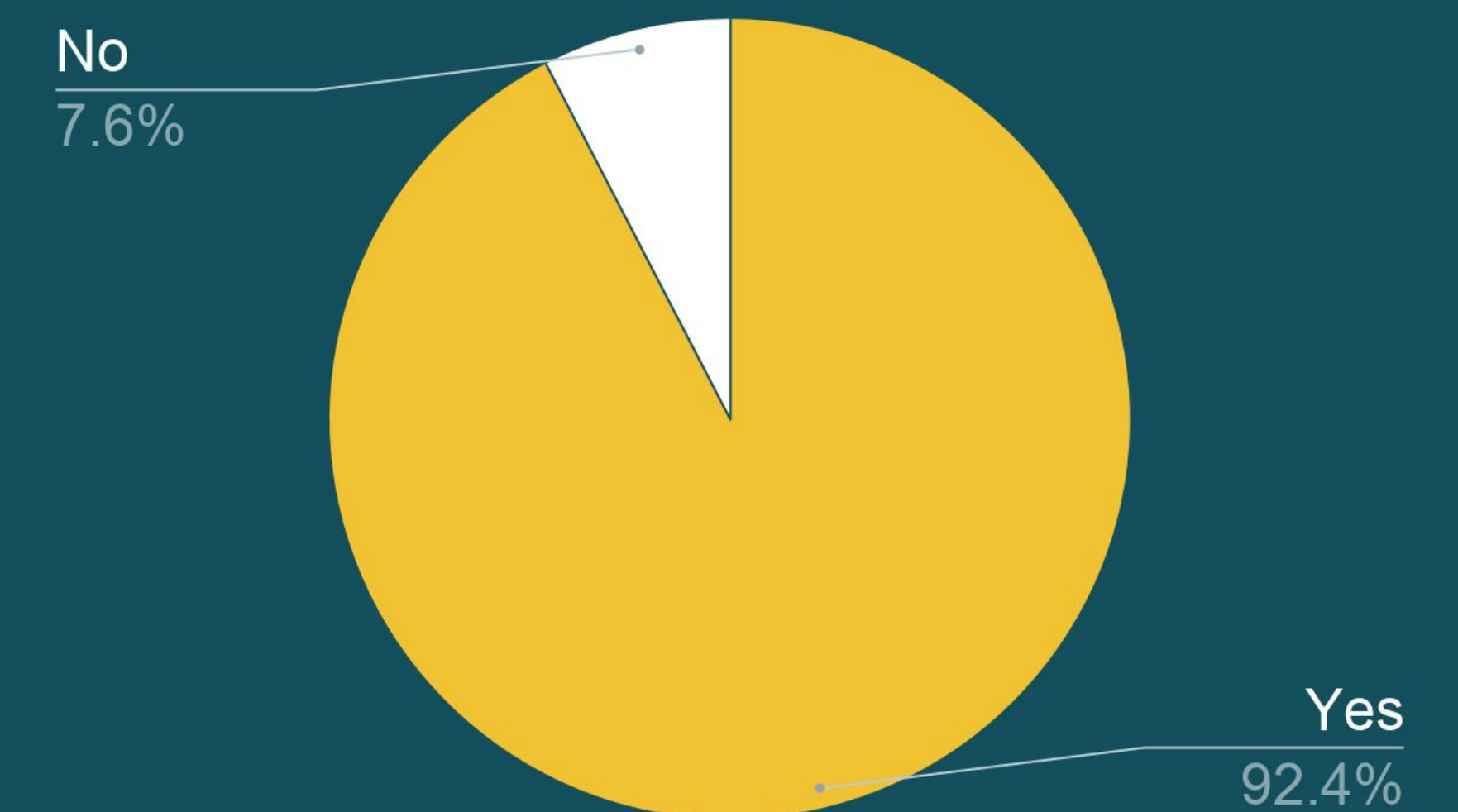


Figure 3: Presentation Helpfulness in Learning More About the Construction Trade Industry

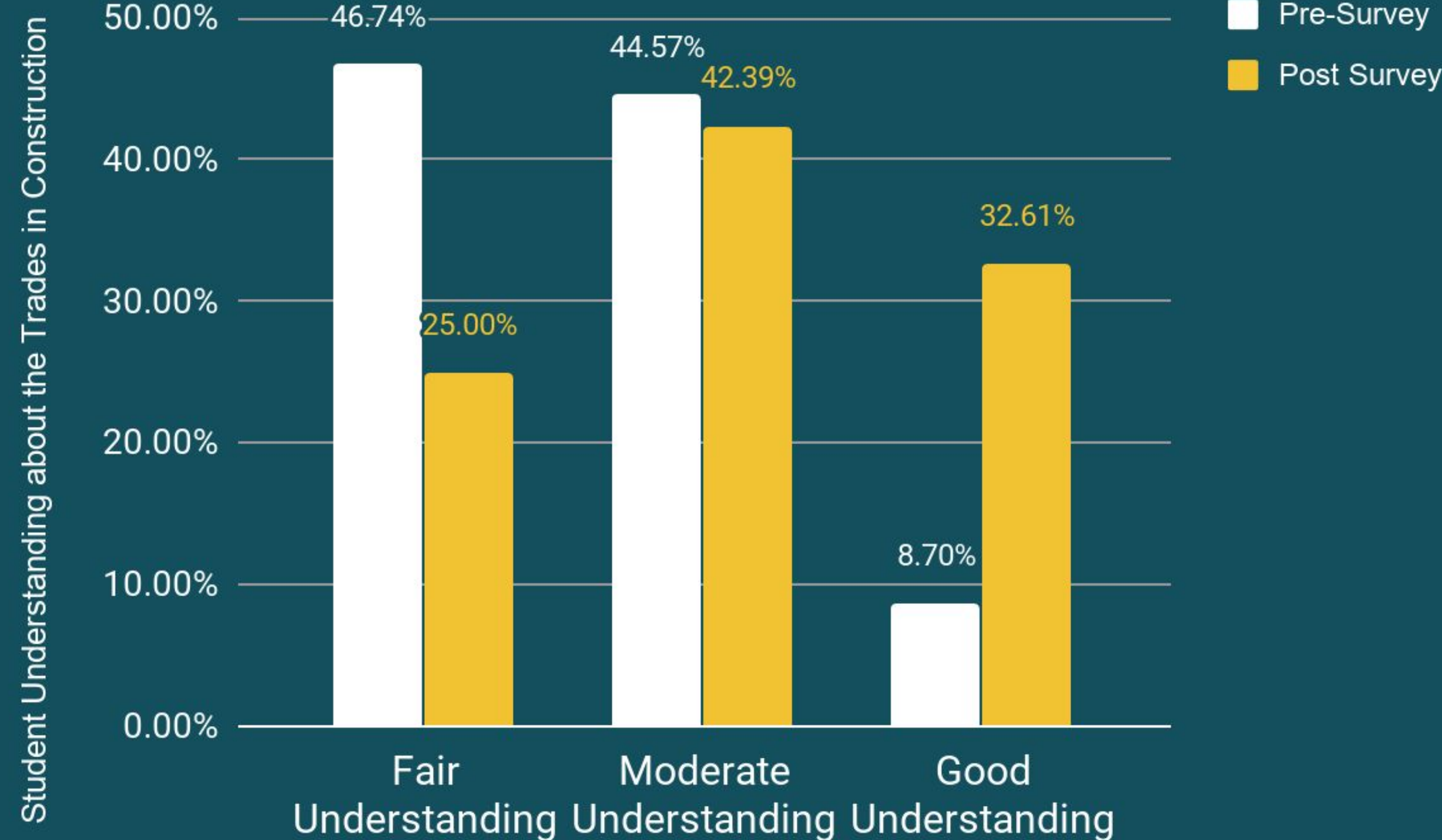


Figure 5: Students Understanding Before and After Appendix B

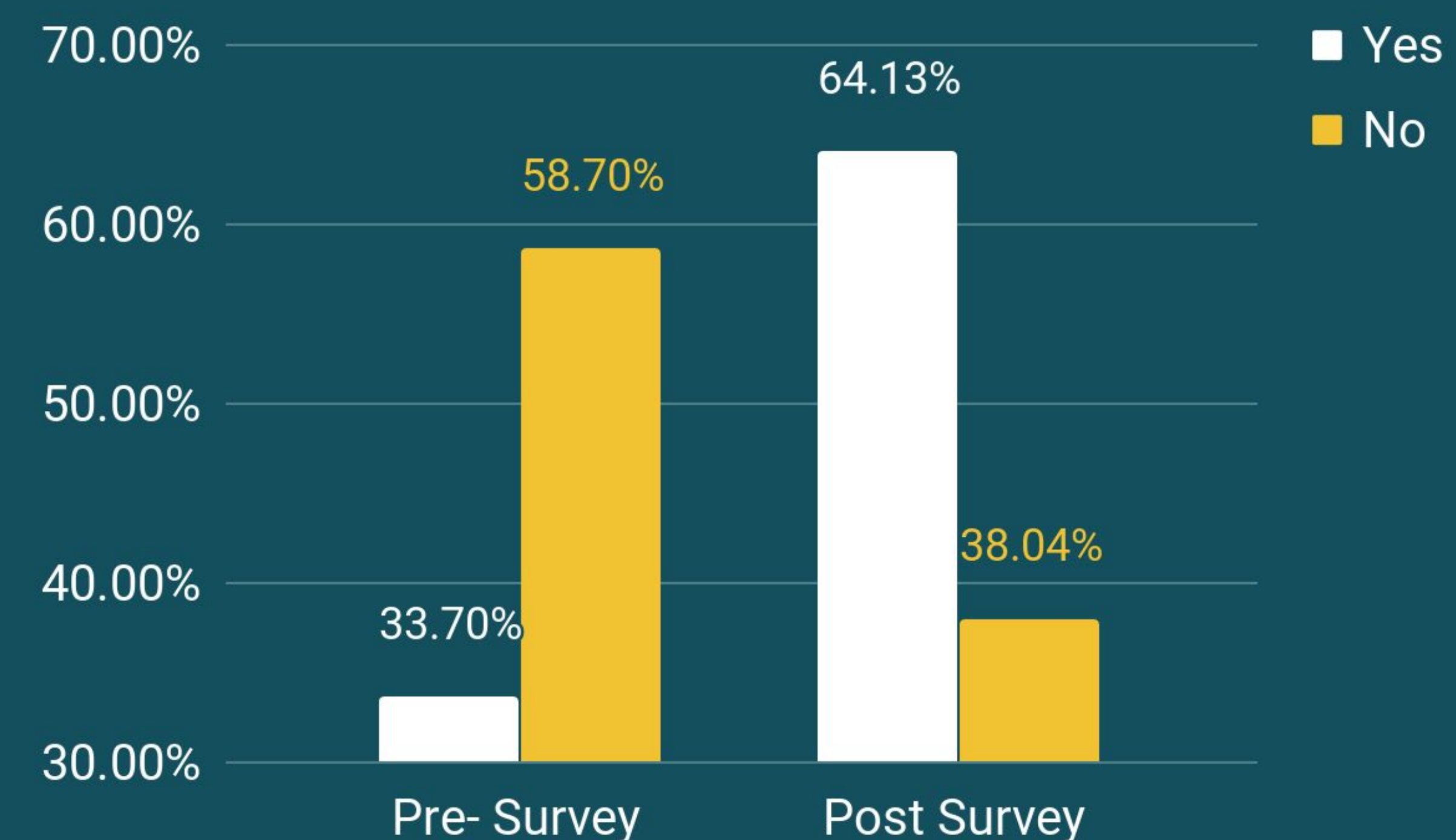


Figure 4: Students Pursuing a Career in Construction

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