

Scale Ireland

State of Startups

Survey 2023

Scale Ireland



Scale Ireland, supported by Microsoft Ireland, Ireland Strategic Investment Fund, Atlantic Bridge, PorterShed, Science Foundation Ireland and Spark Crowdfunding, will host their second annual Regional Summit on 25th February 2023.

To coincide with the Summit, Scale Ireland launched a 'State of Start-ups' Survey to gauge the sentiment of founders around the country under the headings of economy, employment, taxation, state assistance, gender and climate. 248 start-up founders and CEOs completed the survey, which comprised of over 20 questions. Interestingly, one of our key findings was around sustainability, where 66.9% say do not have a sustainability plan, down from 70.4% in 2021.

1 More than half of the CEOs and founders surveyed (51.6%) considered funding to be their biggest challenge in the last year, (up from 47% in 2021) while 80% of respondents felt it was difficult or very difficult to attract capital.

2 Staff: 35% of start-ups have found it more difficult to recruit or retain staff in 2022, down from 45.7% in 2021. And while 40% of start-ups have lost staff in the last year, 22% of start-ups have let staff go.

3 State supports: uptake of state supports remains unattractive with 83.1% of respondents not availing of the KEEP share options scheme (up from 77.8% in 2021), and 66.1% not availing of the R&D Tax credit (similar to 2021).

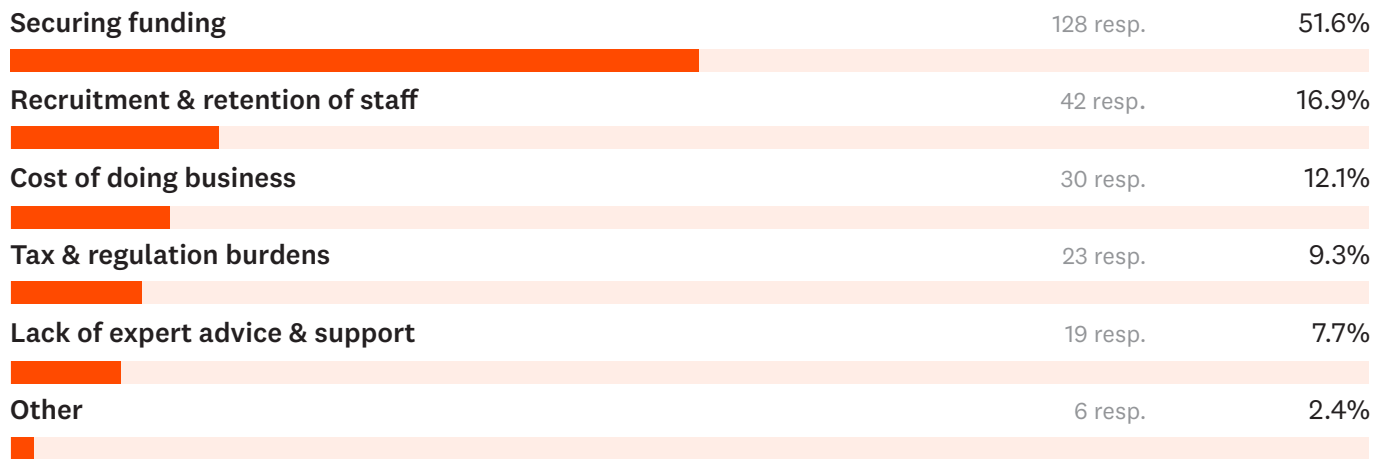
4 Complexity of supports: While 73% of those who availed or looked at availing of the Employment Investment Incentive Scheme (EIS) found the process difficult or not easy. 49% of respondents found the R&D Tax Credit scheme complicated.

5 New PreSeed Fund: Almost two thirds (62.5%) found Enterprise Ireland's new PreSeed funding will improve the environment for start-ups.

6 Cost of Living: 12% identified the cost of doing business as the biggest issue facing start-ups. 65.7% said inflation or cost of living issues had impacted their business.

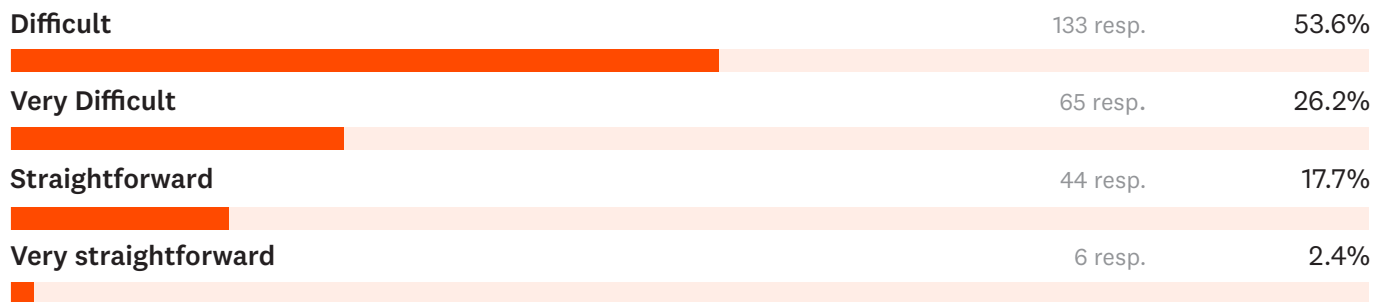
1. What do you think is the biggest challenge facing Irish start-ups

248 out of 248 answered



2. How difficult is it to attract private capital?

248 out of 248 answered



3. Has inflation or issues related to the cost of living impacted your business?

248 out of 248 answered



4. Which issue do you believe is the most challenging relating to cost of living?

248 out of 248 answered



5. Do you think Enterprise Ireland's revised terms and conditions for PreSeed funding will improve the environment for indigenous start-ups?

248 out of 248 answered



6. Have you found it more difficult to recruit or retain staff in the last year

248 out of 248 answered



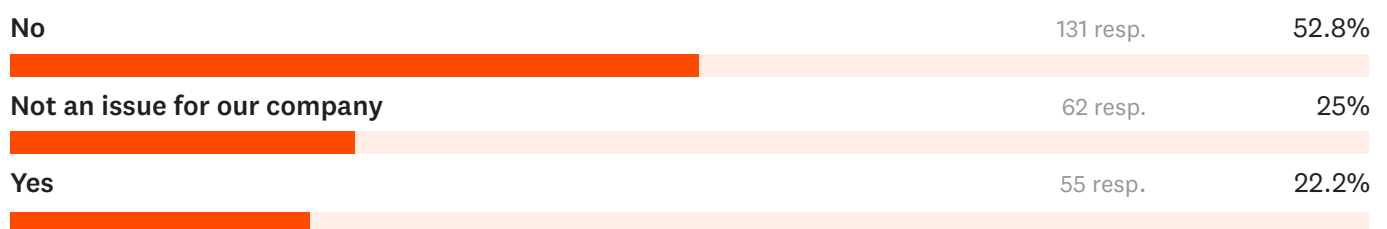
7. Have you lost staff in the last year?

248 out of 248 answered



8. Have you let go of staff in the last year?

248 out of 248 answered



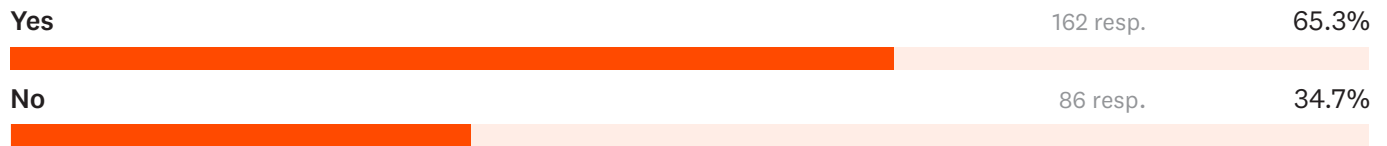
9. Have you used the Key Employee Programme scheme/KEEP share options as a means of attracting/retaining staff?

248 out of 248 answered



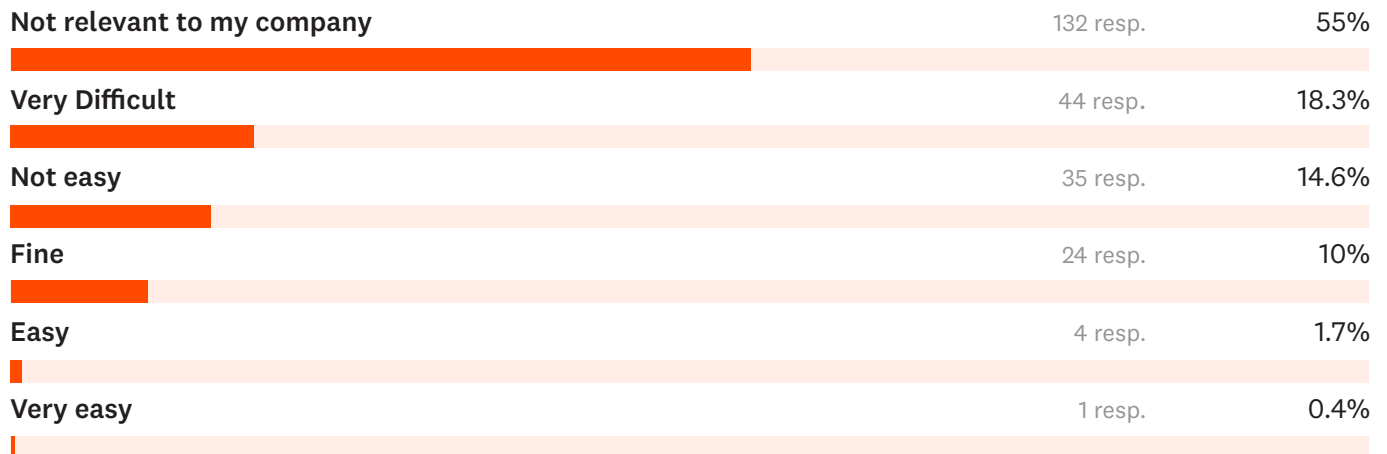
10. Are you aware of the Employment Incentive Investment Scheme (EIIS)?

248 out of 248 answered



11. If you have availed of it or have thought of availing it, how easy or difficult did you find the process?

240 out of 248 answered



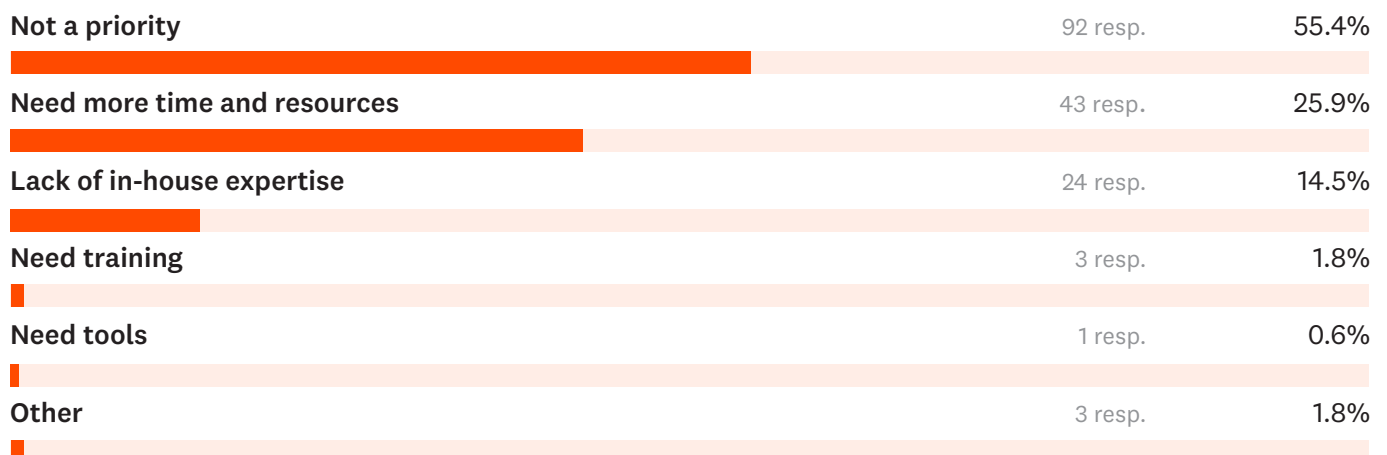
12. Does your company have a Sustainability/Climate Action plan?

248 out of 248 answered



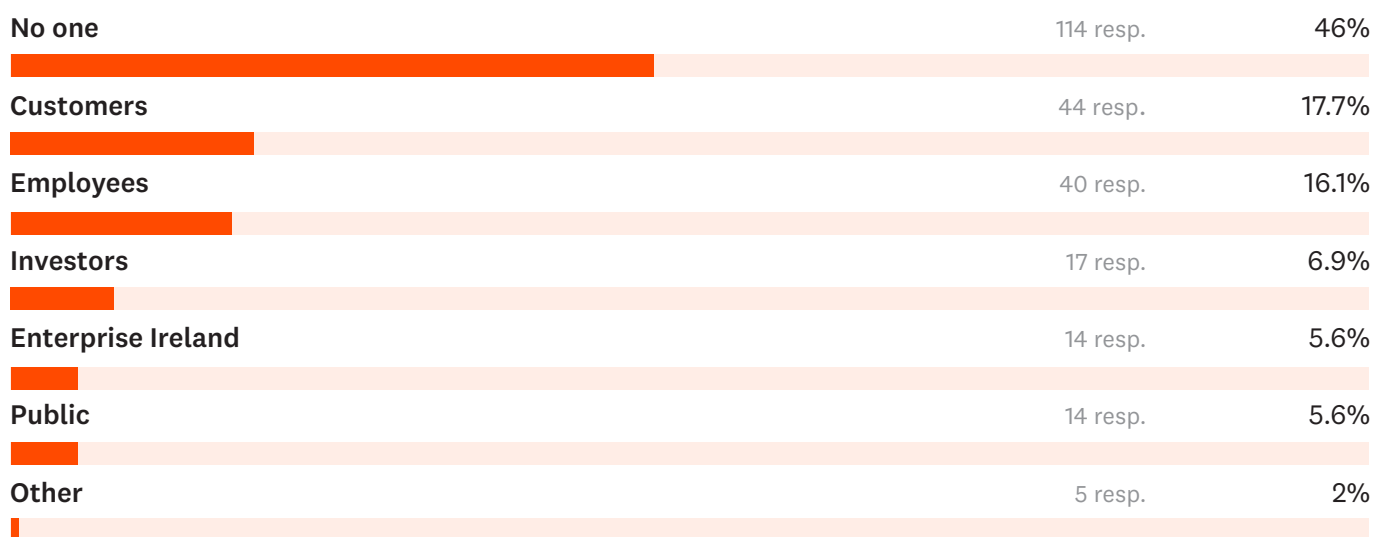
13. What are the key challenges for your organisation to introduce a Sustainability or Climate Action plan?

166 out of 248 answered



14. Which of your stakeholders are most encouraging/supportive of your organisation having a sustainability plan?

248 out of 248 answered



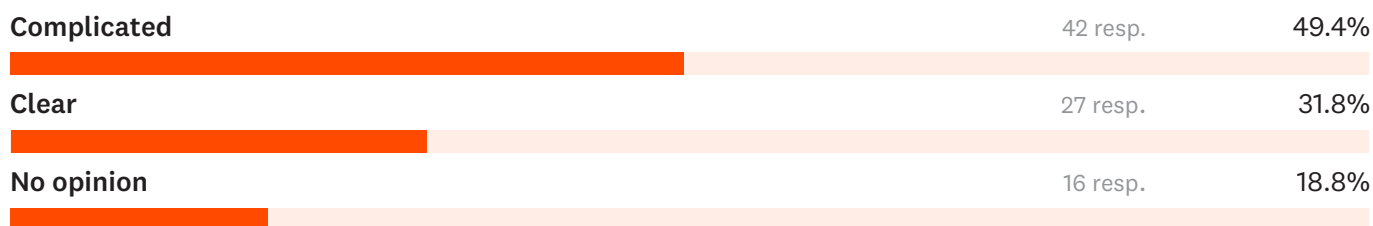
15. Has your company sought to avail of the R&D Tax Credit?

248 out of 248 answered



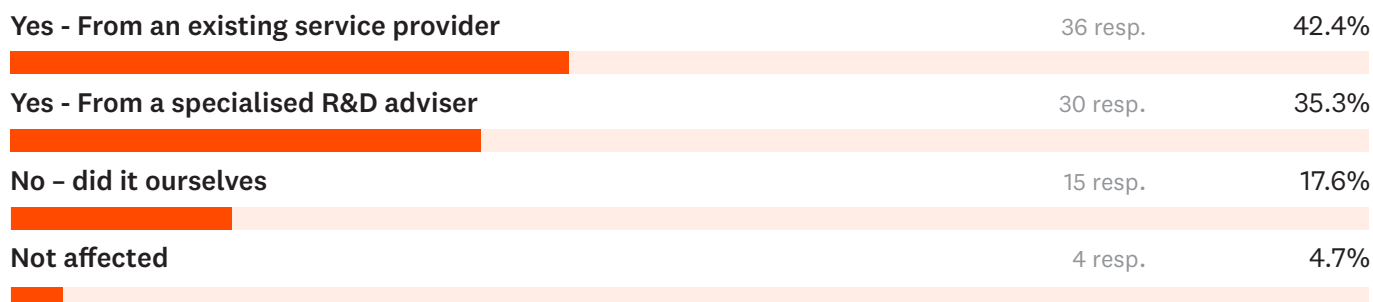
16. How have you found the application process?

85 out of 248 answered



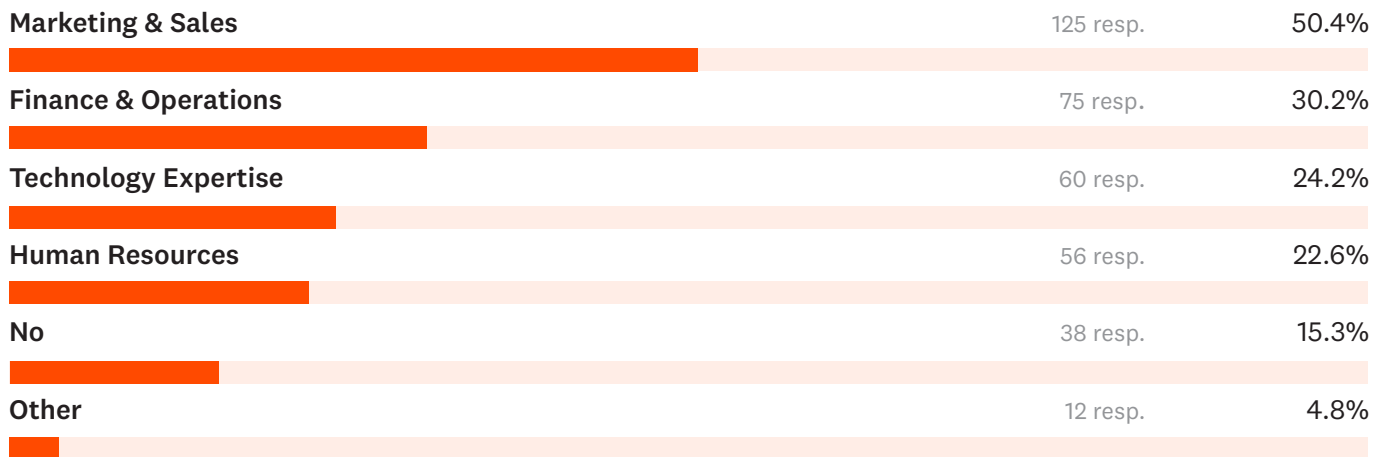
17. Did you use external advice?

85 out of 248 answered



18. Does your company lack certain skill sets or experience?*

248 out of 248 answered



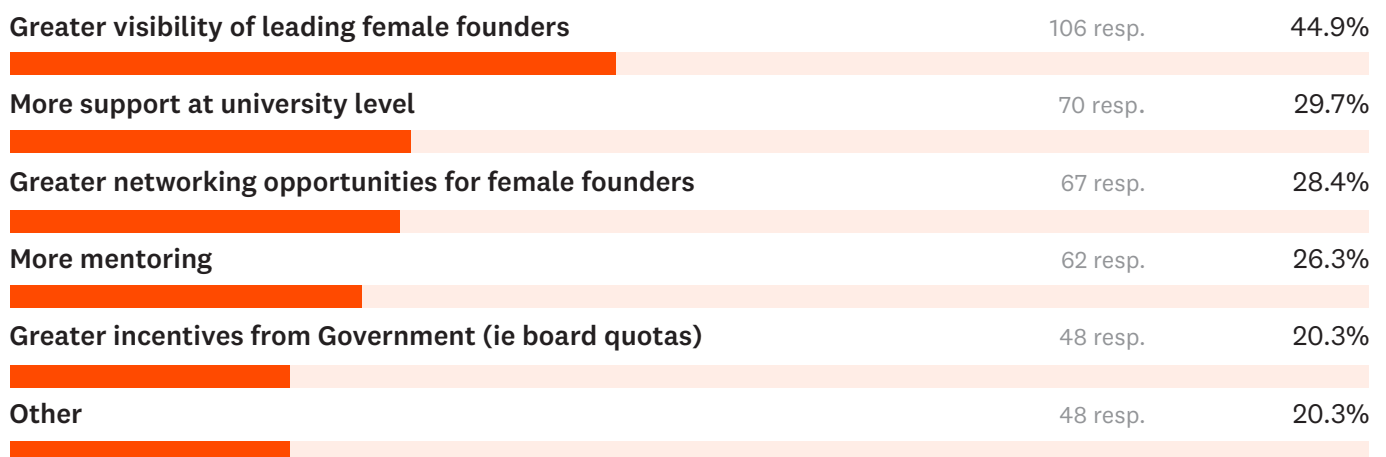
19. Does your company have a female founder or senior staff that are female? (i.e. CTO, CFO)*

248 out of 248 answered



20. What do you think would help increase the number of female founders in Ireland?*

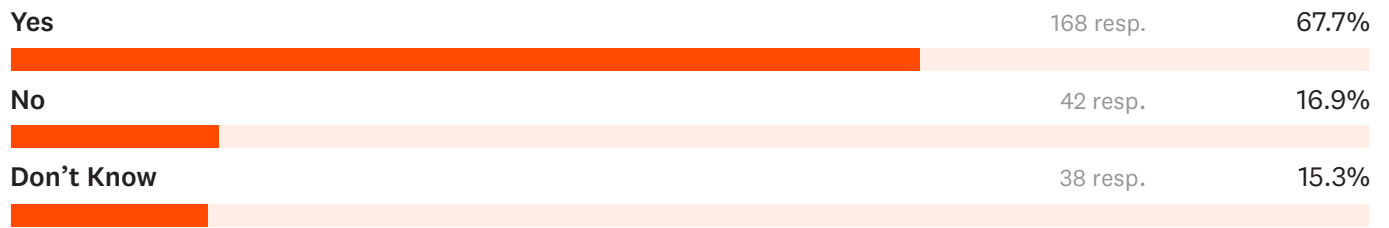
236 out of 248 answered



*respondents could choose multiple choices for this answer, therefore leading to totals beyond 100%

21. Will your organisation allow staff the option to work from home indefinitely?

248 out of 248 answered



22. Do you engage or have access to students or graduates for internship or graduate programmes?

248 out of 248 answered

