



2024 Q2

# CFI Business Climate Survey

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Regional Economic Research Institute  
Florida Gulf Coast University

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## About the Regional Economic Research Institute

The Regional Economic Research Institute studies, analyzes and reports on the regional economy encompassing Collier, Lee, Charlotte, Hendry and Glades counties. Established in 2005, it serves as a public service and economic development unit of the Lutgert College of Business' Dean's Office and strives to connect Southwest Florida to the resources of Florida Gulf Coast University.

In its many regular and occasional publications, and custom economic research, the RERI focuses on areas such as economic development and forecasting, economic impact analysis, secondary data analysis and surveys. The RERI often partner with different economic development organizations and chambers of commerce in our region, and works closely with the Lucas Institute for Real Estate Development and Finance, the Small Business Development Center and the Southwest Florida Leadership Institute, all of which are housed in the Lutgert College of Business at FGCU, as well as the Institute for Entrepreneurship.

### Project Information

This report was created by Florida Gulf Coast University's Regional Economic Research Institute for the Charitable Foundation of the Islands and the SanCap Chamber of Commerce. This work would not have been possible without the RERI's undergraduate research assistants.



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# Executive Summary

The CFI Business Climate Survey was distributed to 255 email addresses provided by the Charitable Foundation of the Islands (CFI) and the SanCap Chamber of Commerce on May 15th, 2024. The survey remained open until June 21st, 2024, during which three reminder emails were sent out. Both the CFI and SanCap Chamber provided support in reaching out to members to encourage participation. The survey received 50 full and partial responses, giving the survey a response rate of 19.6 percent.

In an effort to determine the percentage of businesses currently open on the islands, results from the CFI Business Climate Survey were compared to data collected by the SanCap Chamber of Commerce in July 2023 and September 2023. Eighty-four percent of total respondents indicated that they were currently open for business, up 5.4 percentage points from the 2024 Q1 measure and 6.1 points above the SanCap Chamber's September 2023 measure.

Eleven of 50 respondents (22 percent) indicated their business primarily operated in the accommodations industry, while the other 39 of 50 respondents (78 percent) were non-accommodations. Below are some additional findings from both the accommodation and non-accommodation portions of the survey.<sup>1</sup>

## Accommodations

- 4 of 11 respondents (36 percent) said their business had more than 100 units prior to Hurricane Ian. Comparisons of pre-Ian and today found that 18 percent of respondents indicated their total number of units decreased, while 82 percent remained unchanged.
- Majority of accommodation respondents (8 of 11) said that less than 40 percent of total units were currently available for occupancy.
- 56 percent of accommodation respondents attributed at least a 50 percent chance of being fully available in the next 6 months.
- 78 percent of accommodation respondents gave at least a 50 percent chance of being fully available in the next 12 months.
- Expected weighted probabilities of being fully available for accommodations in 2024 Q2 continue to improve from the previous quarters. Furthermore, the 12- and 18-month weighted probabilities from 2023 Q4 line up with 6- and 12-month outlooks in the current quarter, as accommodation establishments remained consistent in their expectations for opening over the next year.
- The major obstacles consistently cited to becoming fully operational were issues with insurance claims, construction related, and condo association related.
- 6 of 11 respondents (55 percent) said employment levels at their business were less than 40 percent compared to before Hurricane Ian.

## Non-Accommodations

- 87 percent of non-accommodation respondents indicated they were currently open for business on the island, while 5 percent said they were currently closed but planned to reopen on island.
- 50 percent of non-accommodation respondents that were currently open said their business was fully operational compared to pre-Hurricane Ian.
- Of the non-accommodation respondents not operating at full capacity, 19 percent attributed at least a 50 percent chance operating at full capacity in the next 6 months.
- Of the non-accommodation respondents not operating at full capacity, 43 percent gave at least a 50 percent chance operating at full capacity in the next 12 months.

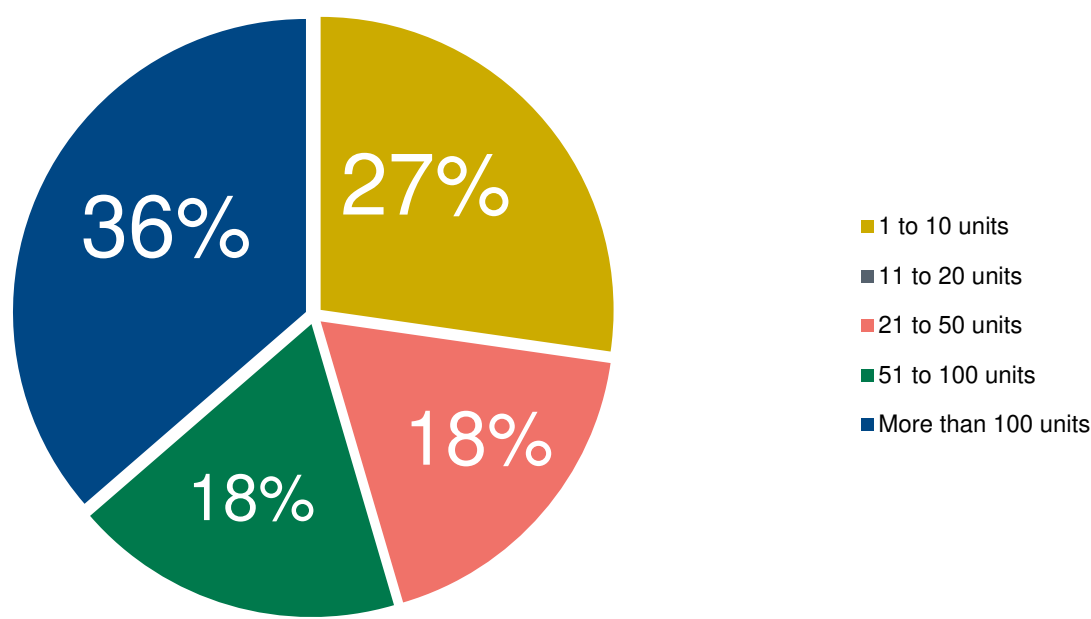
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<sup>1</sup>Some respondents did not provide answers to every question. In these situations, percentages are only calculated based on total number of responses toward the question.

- The major obstacles most often cited by non-accommodation respondents to being fully open included lack of accommodations (64 percent of all respondents), access to labor (38 percent) and issues with insurance claims (29 percent).
- 13 of 56 respondents (33 percent) indicated that employment levels at their business were between 81 and 100 percent compared to before Hurricane Ian. Furthermore, 15 percent said employment levels were more than 100 percent.

About 80 percent of respondents identified themselves as holding an executive position such as executive director, vice president, president or owner. This meant 20 percent of responses were provided by individuals with managerial or operational roles within the business they were responding on behalf of. It's important to acknowledge this as a limitation of the survey, as those in operational or managerial positions may have limited knowledge regarding business decisions and expectations.

**Chart 1.** Prior to Hurricane Ian, how many total units did your business have available for rent? (N = 11)  
2024 Q2



Prepared by the Regional Economic Research Institute  
Source: RERI analysis of data obtained from the CFI Business Climate Survey, conducted from May 15th, 2024 to June 21st, 2024

## Accommodations Survey

### Prior to Hurricane Ian, how many total units did your business have available for rent?

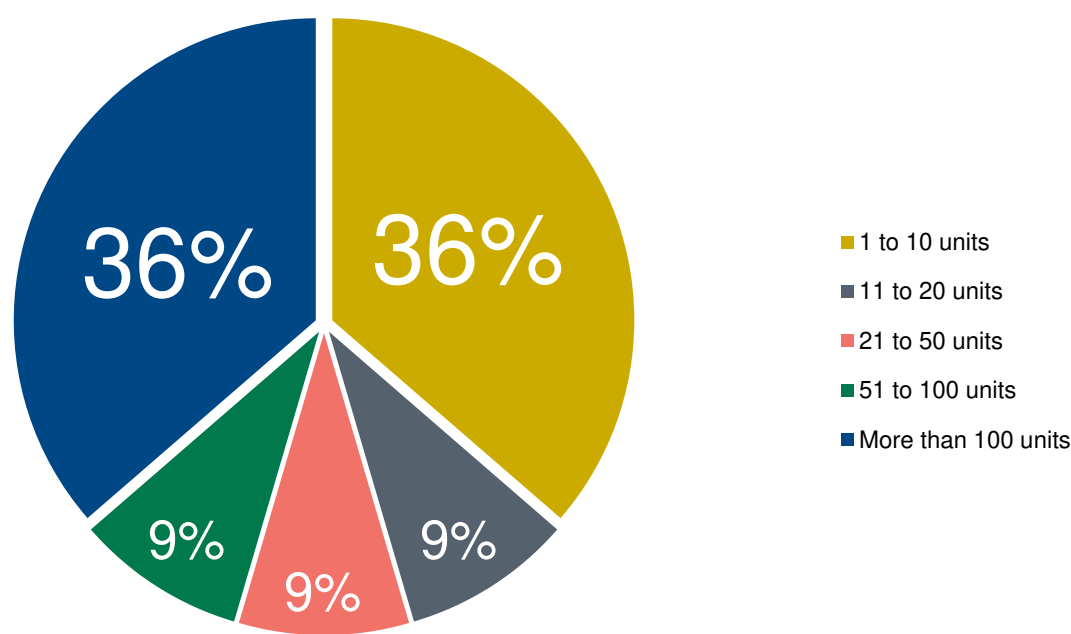
Table 1 reports the number of total units that a business had available for rent prior to Hurricane Ian. Out of the 11 responses in 2024 Q2, 36.4 percent of respondents reported having more than 100 units available for rent prior to Hurricane Ian. Furthermore, 18.2 percent of respondents each said they had 51 to 100 units and 21 to 50 units available for rent before the hurricane, while 27.3 percent said they had 1 to 10 units. There were no responses with 11 to 20 units.

**Table 1.** Prior to Hurricane Ian, how many total units did your business have available for rent?

Response	2024 Q2		2024 Q1		2023 Q4	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
1 to 10 units	3	27.3%	2	15.4%	5	23.8%
11 to 20 units	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
21 to 50 units	2	18.2%	2	15.4%	3	14.3%
51 to 100 units	2	18.2%	3	23.1%	3	14.3%
More than 100 units	4	36.4%	6	46.2%	10	47.6%
Overall	11	100.0%	13	100.0%	21	100.0%

Source: RERI analysis of data obtained from the CFI Business Climate Survey, conducted from May 15th, 2024 to June 21st, 2024

**Chart 2.** How many total units does your business currently have? (N = 11)  
2024 Q2



Prepared by the Regional Economic Research Institute  
Source: RERI analysis of data obtained from the CFI Business Climate Survey, conducted from May 15th, 2024 to June 21st, 2024

How many total units does your business currently have?

Table 2 represents the number of total units businesses have currently. Out of 11 total responses, 4 businesses (36.4 percent) each indicated they currently have more than 100 units and 1 to 10 units. Moreover, only one respondent each said that they have 11 to 20 units, 21 to 50 units, and 51 to 100 units currently available.

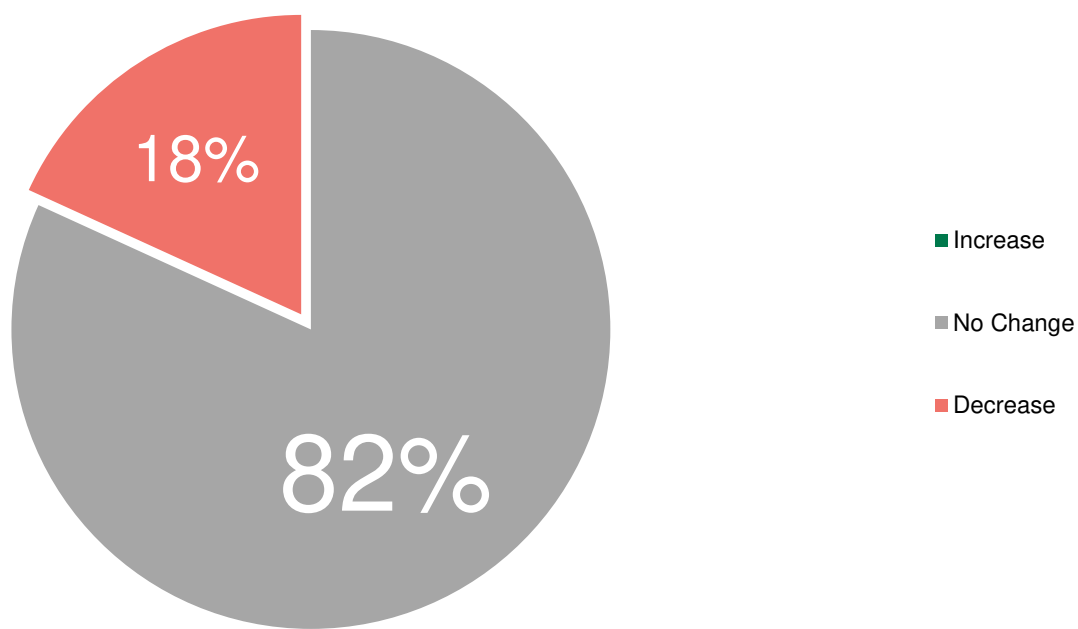
**Table 2.** How many total units does your business currently have?

Response	2024 Q2		2024 Q1		2023 Q4	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
1 to 10 units	4	36.4%	3	23.1%	6	30.0%
11 to 20 units	1	9.1%	2	15.4%	2	10.0%
21 to 50 units	1	9.1%	2	15.4%	4	20.0%
51 to 100 units	1	9.1%	3	23.1%	2	10.0%
More than 100 units	4	36.4%	3	23.1%	6	30.0%
Overall	11	100.0%	13	100.0%	20	100.0%

Source: RERI analysis of data obtained from the CFI Business Climate Survey, conducted from May 15th, 2024 to June 21st, 2024



**Chart 3.** Change in total number of units, per-Hurricane Ian to today (N = 11)  
2024 Q2



*Prepared by the Regional Economic Research Institute*  
*Source: RERI analysis of data obtained from the CFI Business Climate Survey, conducted from May 15th, 2024 to June 21st, 2024*

Change in Number of Units, Pre-Hurricane Ian to Today

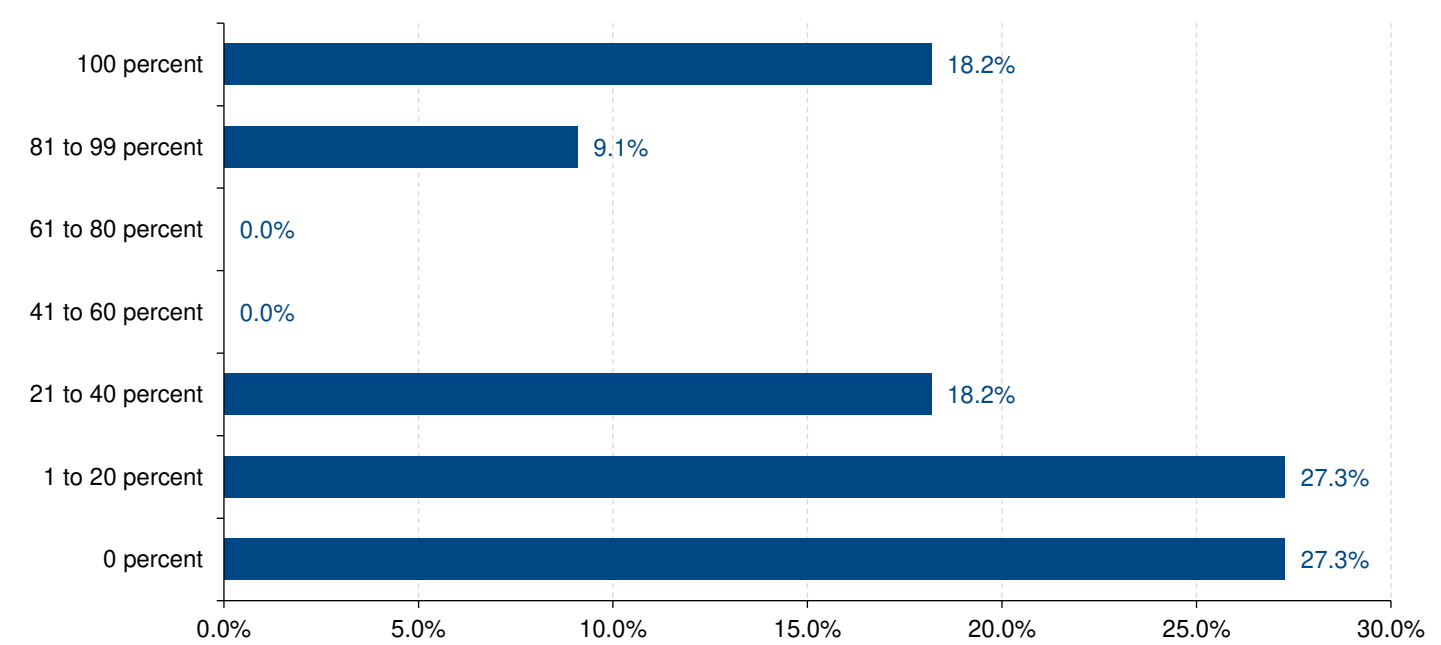
Results were compared to determine how businesses have adjusted the total number of units available at their accommodations, pre-Hurricane Ian to today. The total number of units represents all the units at the establishment, regardless of whether or not it is currently available for rent. The total number of units is defined to have increased if the range of units available currently is greater than the range of units available prior to Hurricane Ian, whereas total number of units is defined to have decreased if the range of units available currently is less than the range of units available prior to Hurricane Ian. If the same range was provided for both questions, then it is determined that no change in total number of units was made.

Table 3 reports the change in total number of units available for rent from before Hurricane Ian to today. Of the 11 responding businesses, 81.8 percent reported no change in the total number of units. The remaining 18.2 percent of businesses reported a decrease. There were no businesses with an increase in the total number of units for rent.

Table 3. Change in total number of units available for rent						
Response	2024 Q2		2024 Q1		2023 Q4	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Increase	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
No Change	9	81.8%	8	61.5%	15	75.0%
Decrease	2	18.2%	5	38.5%	5	25.0%
Overall	11	100.0%	13	100.0%	20	100.0%

*Source: RERI analysis of data obtained from the CFI Business Climate Survey, conducted from May 15th, 2024 to June 21st, 2024*

**Chart 4.** What percentage of your total units are currently available for occupancy? (N = 11)  
2024 Q2



Prepared by the Regional Economic Research Institute  
Source: RERI analysis of data obtained from the CFI Business Climate Survey, conducted from May 15th, 2024 to June 21st, 2024

What percentage of your total units are currently available for occupancy?

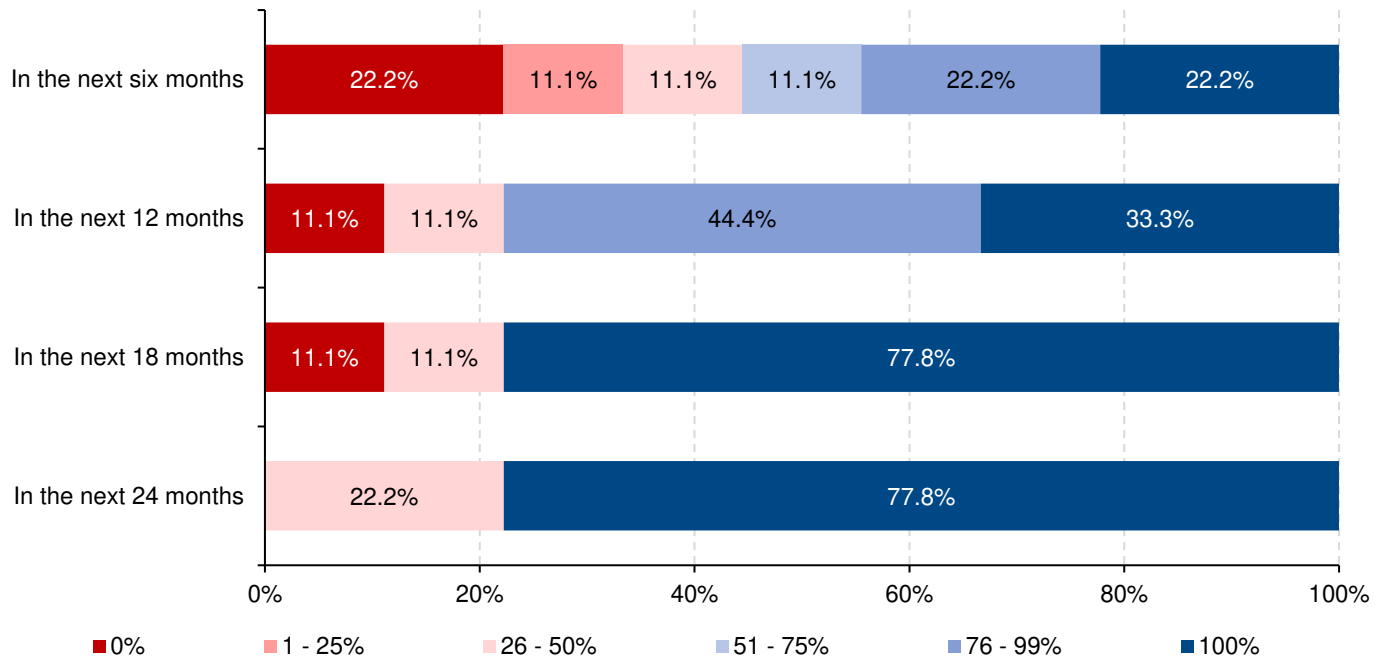
Table 4 reports the percentage of total units currently available for occupancy. In 2024 Q2, only two businesses (18.2 percent) reported that they have 100 percent of their total units currently available. Furthermore, one business (9.1 percent) reported that they have 81 to 99 percent of their total units currently available. The remaining eight responses (72.8 percent) all fell within the range of 0 to 40 percent, with 27.3 percent indicating they have no units available for occupancy.

**Table 4.** What percentage of your total units are currently available for occupancy?

Response	2024 Q2		2024 Q1		2023 Q4	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
0 percent	3	27.3%	5	38.5%	8	38.1%
1 to 20 percent	3	27.3%	4	30.8%	3	14.3%
21 to 40 percent	2	18.2%	2	15.4%	5	23.8%
41 to 60 percent	0	0.0%	1	7.7%	3	14.3%
61 to 80 percent	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
81 to 99 percent	1	9.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
100 percent	2	18.2%	1	7.7%	2	9.5%
Overall	11	100.0%	13	100.0%	21	100.0%

Source: RERI analysis of data obtained from the CFI Business Climate Survey, conducted from May 15th, 2024 to June 21st, 2024

**Chart 5.** What is the probability of your accommodations being 100 percent available for occupancy in the following time periods? (N = 9)  
2024 Q2



Prepared by the Regional Economic Research Institute

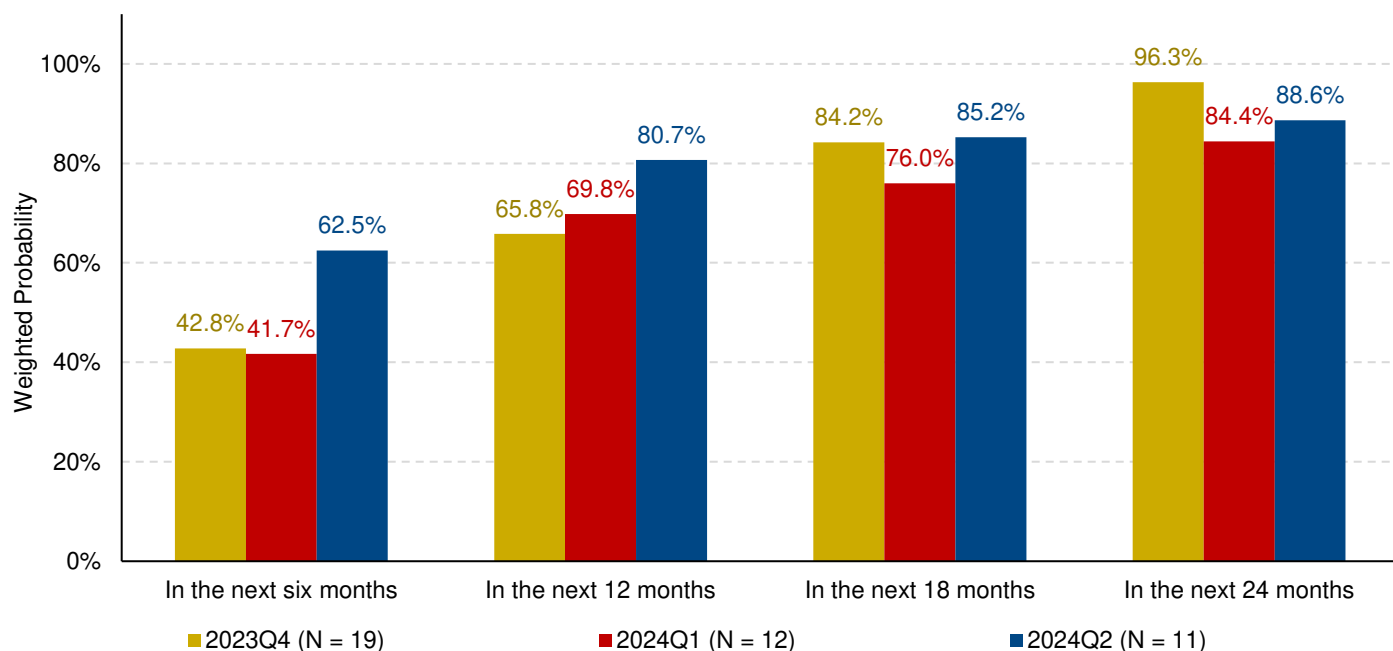
Source: RERI analysis of data obtained from the CFI Business Climate Survey, conducted from May 15th, 2024 to June 21st, 2024

## What is the probability of your accommodations being 100 percent available for occupancy in the following time periods?

Respondents that did not state 100 percent of their units were currently available for occupancy were asked to assess the probability that they would be fully available over the next 6, 12, 18 and 24 months.<sup>2</sup> Of the nine total businesses who responded to the question, 22.2 percent of businesses attributed 100 percent chance that they will be at full occupancy within the next six months. Within the next 12 months, the percentage of businesses who attribute a 100 percent chance at being fully available grows 11.1 percentage points to 33.3 percent. Within the next 18 months, this percentage continues to grow to 77.8 percent. In the largest time frame of within the next 24 months, the percent of businesses that believe that they will be 100 percent available in occupancy remains at 77.8 percent. Moreover, two of 9 of businesses believe there is only a 1 to 25 percent chance of being fully available in the next 24 months.

<sup>2</sup> There were some instances in which a respondent answered 100 percent for a specific time period and then left larger time periods blank (i.e. the respondent assigned 100 percent probability to being fully open within the next 12 months, then left the 18 month and 24 month question blank). In these cases, we assume that a respondent will expect to remain fully available in later periods and impute these values as 100 percent probability as well.

**Chart 6.** Expected weighted probability of being 100 percent available over the next six, 12, 18 and 24 months for accommodations



Prepared by the Regional Economic Research Institute

Source: RERI analysis of data obtained from the CFI Business Climate Survey, conducted from May 15th, 2024 to June 21st, 2024

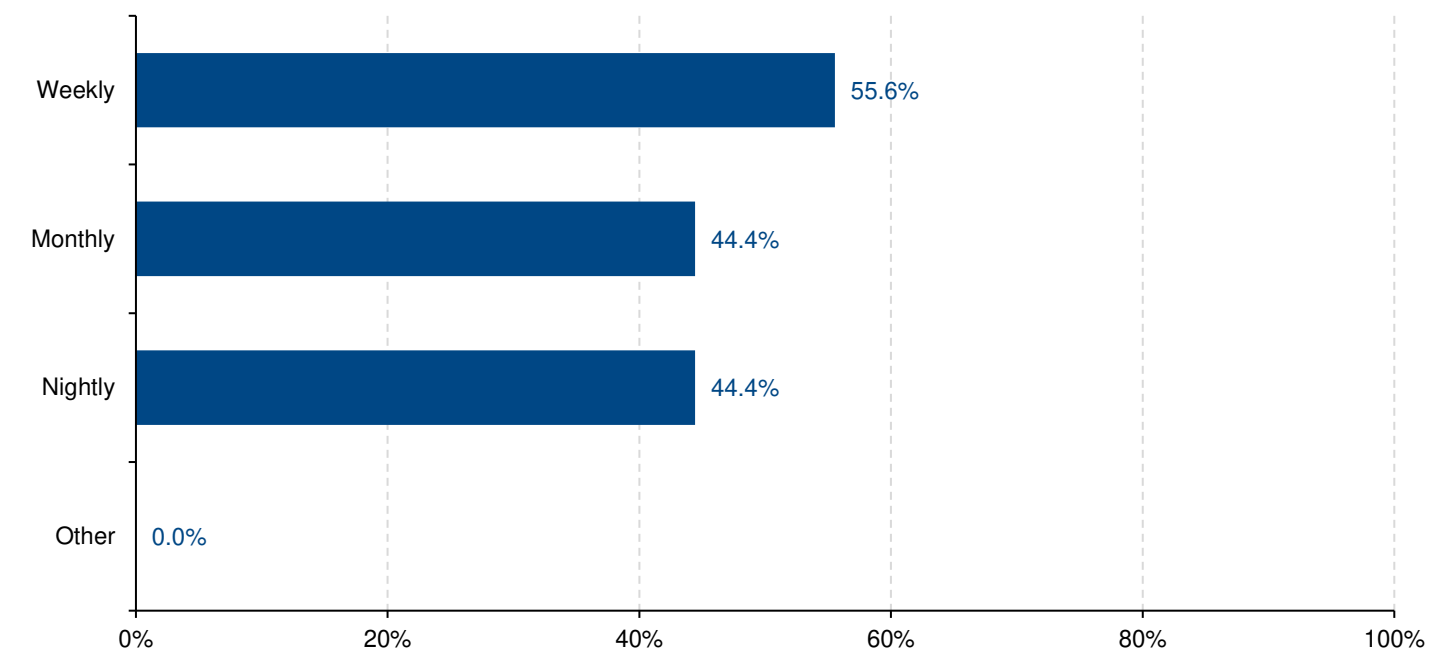
Using data from Table 4 and Chart 5, we calculate the expected weighted probability of all responding accommodation businesses being at full occupancy over the next six, 12, 18 and 24 months in Chart 6. These probabilities are calculated by multiplying the share of each probability range to the midpoint of each range in Chart 5.<sup>3</sup> Furthermore, businesses that indicated that they are already operating at 100 percent capacity were factored in and are assumed to operate at 100 percent capacity over each of the time periods. Together, these values represent the overall probability of Sanibel and Captiva accommodations being fully open over the listed time periods.

Probabilities of opening at full capacity in the next six and 12 months improved from the previous quarter, measured at 62.5 percent and 80.7 percent, respectively. Similarly, the probability of being fully open over the next 18 months increased and measured at 85.2 percent. The probability of opening at full capacity in the next 24 months measured at 88.6 percent, an increase from 2024 Q1, but remains lower than 2023 Q4.

These results indicate that expected weighted probabilities of being fully available for accommodations in 2024 Q2 continue to improve from the previous quarters. Furthermore, the 12- and 18-month weighted probabilities from 2023 Q4 line up with 6- and 12-month outlooks in the current quarter, as accommodation establishments remained consistent in their expectations for opening over the next year. It is worth noting that the low sample sizes in all three quarters can play a role in the variability seen in these results.

<sup>3</sup> For instance, if 36.4 percent of respondents said that there is a 26 to 50 percent chance of being open in the next six months, then we multiply 36.4 percent by 37.5 percent (the midpoint of 26 and 50 percent).

**Chart 7.** When your business is back to being fully operational, how will your units be rented? (N = 9)  
2024 Q2



Prepared by the Regional Economic Research Institute  
Source: RERI analysis of data obtained from the CFI Business Climate Survey, conducted from May 15th, 2024 to June 21st, 2024

When your business is back to being fully operational, how will your units be rented?

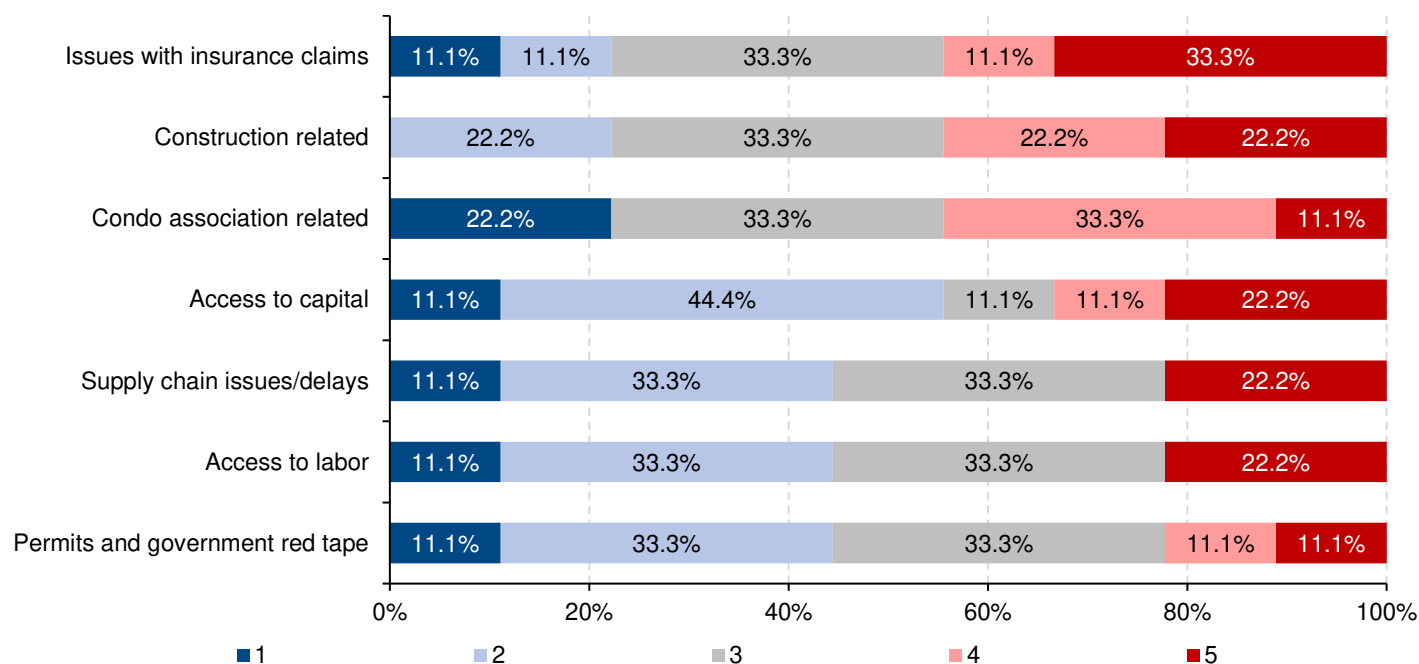
Respondents who indicated that less than 100 percent of their total units are currently available for occupancy were asked how they would rent their units once they became fully operational, and were allowed to select multiple responses. Table 5 reports how units will be rented whenever the business is back to fully operational. In 2024 Q2, five of the nine businesses (55.6 percent) responded that their units would have the option to be rented weekly. There were 4 businesses who will have the option of renting units nightly, and four available to rent monthly (44.4 percent).

**Table 5.** When your business is back to being fully operational, how will your units be rented?

Response	2024 Q2		2024 Q1		2023 Q4	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Weekly	5	55.6%	8	66.7%	12	63.2%
Monthly	4	44.4%	5	41.7%	12	63.2%
Nightly	4	44.4%	5	41.7%	7	36.8%
Other	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Overall	9	100.0%	12	100.0%	19	100.0%

Source: RERI analysis of data obtained from the CFI Business Climate Survey, conducted from May 15th, 2024 to June 21st, 2024

**Chart 8.** On a scale of 1 to 5, with one being not an obstacle at all and five being a major obstacle, how big of an obstacle are the following in becoming fully operational? (N = 9)  
2024 Q2



*Prepared by the Regional Economic Research Institute*

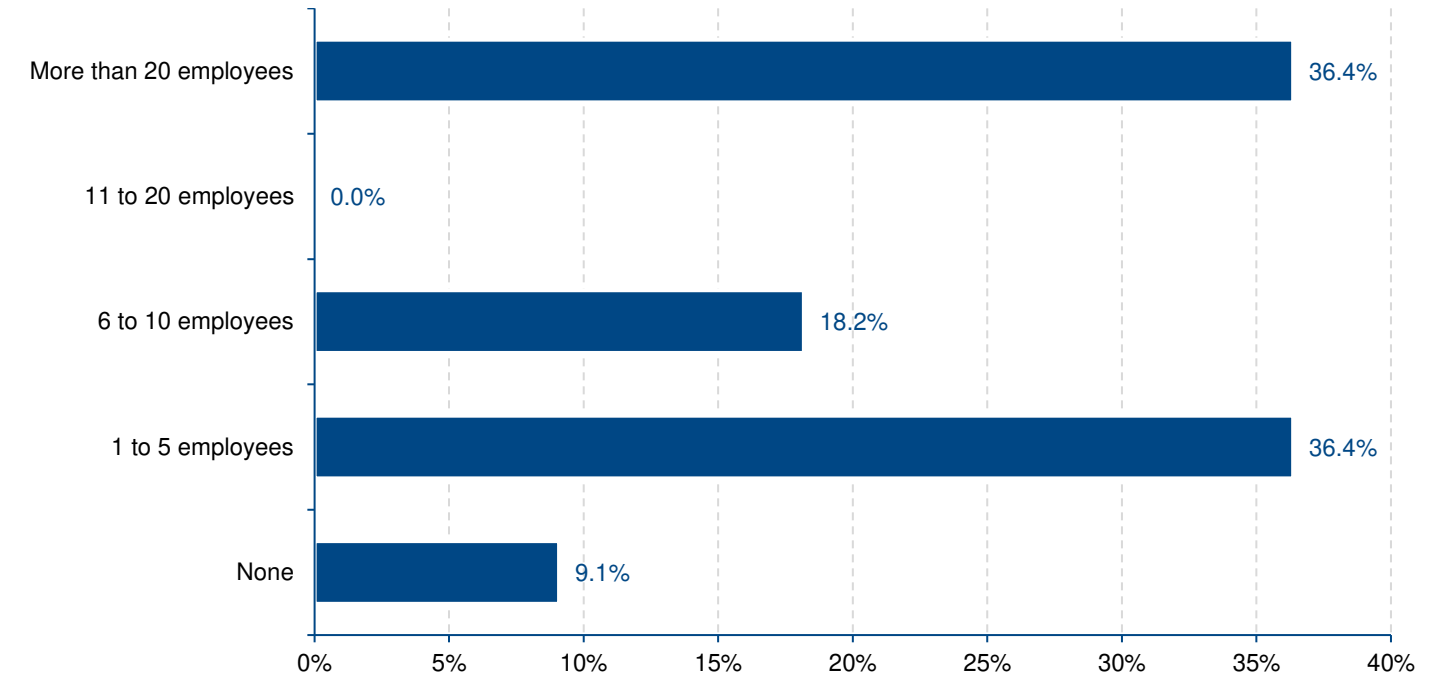
*Source: RERI analysis of data obtained from the CFI Business Climate Survey, conducted from May 15th, 2024 to June 21st, 2024*

## How big of an obstacle are the following in becoming fully operational?

Respondents who indicated that less than 100 percent of their total units are currently available for occupancy were asked to rate various potential obstacles on a scale, with one meaning not an obstacle at all and five being a major obstacle. For the purposes of analyzing this question, we define an obstacle as significant if it was rated at least a 4 on the scale.

Issues with insurance claims, construction related, and condo association related issues were the most often cited obstacles for responding businesses, each with 44.4 percent of respondents identifying them as obstacles to becoming fully operational. Access to capital was cited as a significant obstacle by 33.3 percent of respondents. Supply chain issues/delays, access to labor, and permits and government red tape were each cited as a significant obstacle by 22.2 percent of respondents.

**Chart 9.** How many employees did you employ on the island prior to Hurricane Ian? (N = 11)  
2024 Q2



Prepared by the Regional Economic Research Institute  
Source: RERI analysis of data obtained from the CFI Business Climate Survey, conducted from May 15th, 2024 to June 21st, 2024

How many employees did you employ on the island prior to Hurricane Ian?

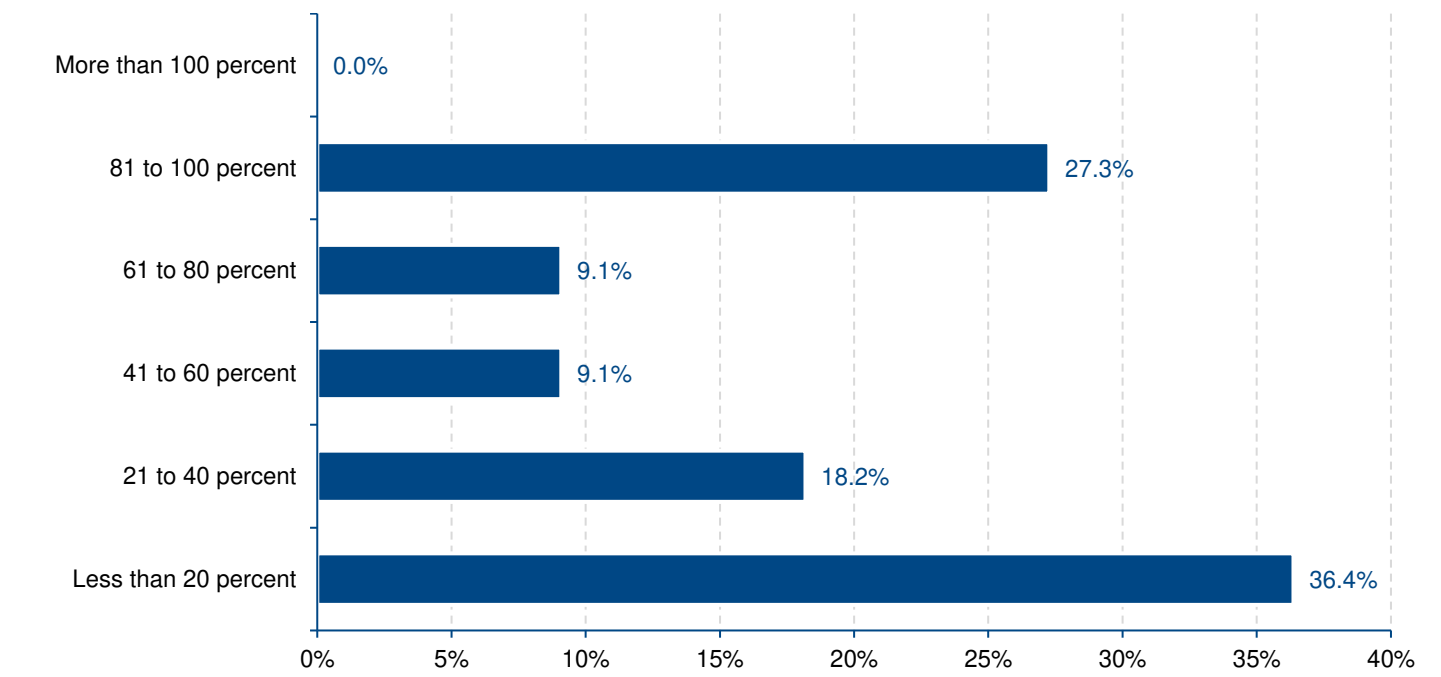
Table 6 reports the number of employees who were employed on the island prior to Hurricane Ian. Out of the 11 businesses who responded in 2024 Q2, four respondents (36.4 percent) reported that they had more than 20 employees, while 18.2 percent indicated they had 6 to 10 employees before Hurricane Ian. Furthermore, 36.4 percent of respondents said they had 1 to 5 employees prior to Hurricane Ian. One business (9.1 percent) reported having zero employees prior to Hurricane Ian, and no businesses reported having 11 to 20 employees.

**Table 6.** How many employees did you employ on the island prior to Hurricane Ian?

Response	2024 Q2		2024 Q1		2023 Q4	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
None	1	9.1%	0	0.0%	2	9.5%
1 to 5 employees	4	36.4%	4	36.4%	4	19.0%
6 to 10 employees	2	18.2%	2	18.2%	3	14.3%
11 to 20 employees	0	0.0%	1	9.1%	3	14.3%
More than 20 employees	4	36.4%	4	36.4%	9	42.9%
Overall	11	100.0%	11	100.0%	21	100.0%

Source: RERI analysis of data obtained from the CFI Business Climate Survey, conducted from May 15th, 2024 to June 21st, 2024

**Chart 10.** How many employees are currently working for your business compared to before Hurricane Ian, as a percentage? (N = 11)  
2024 Q2



Prepared by the Regional Economic Research Institute  
Source: RERI analysis of data obtained from the CFI Business Climate Survey, conducted from May 15th, 2024 to June 21st, 2024

How many employees are currently working for your business compared to before Hurricane Ian, as a percentage?

Table 7 reports the number of employees that businesses currently have working for them compared to the number of employees before Hurricane Ian. Out of the 11 businesses who responded in 2024 Q2, four respondents (36.4 percent) reported having less than 20 percent of their employees compared to before Hurricane Ian, and 18.2 percent reported having between 21 and 40 percent. Moreover, 9.1 percent of respondents reported having 61 to 80 percent of employees compared to pre-Hurricane Ian, and 27.3 percent said they had 81 to 100 percent of employees compared to before Hurricane Ian.

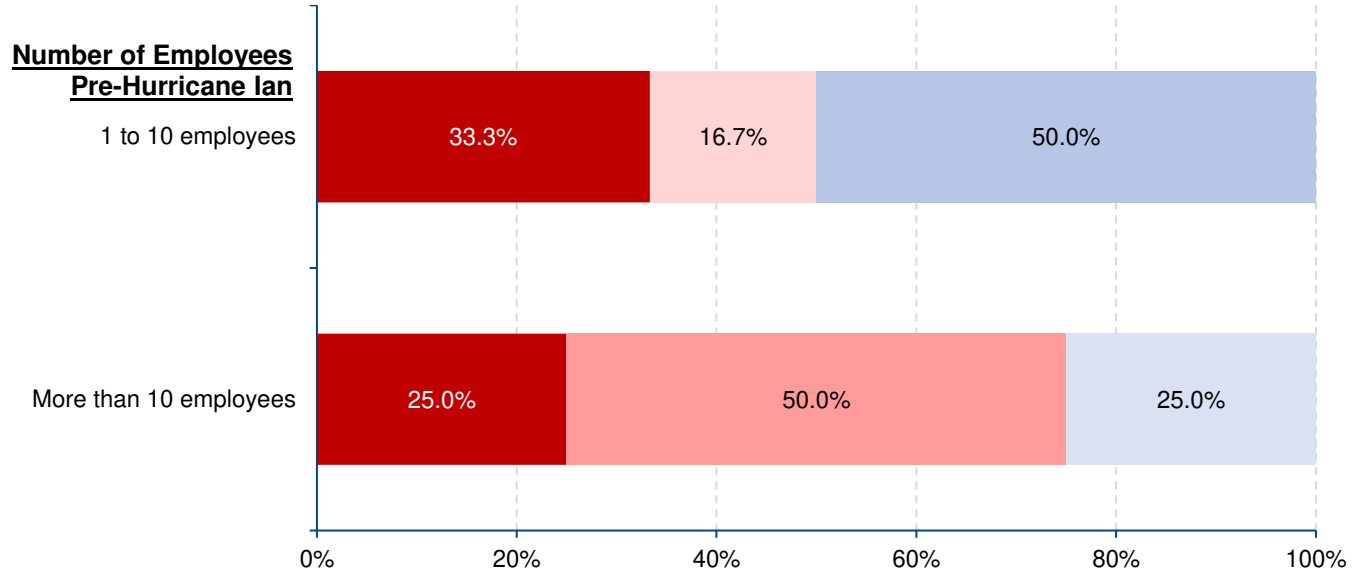
**Table 7.** How many employees are currently working for your business compared to before Hurricane Ian, as a percentage?

Response	2024 Q2		2024 Q1		2023 Q4	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Less than 20 percent	4	36.4%	6	54.5%	9	45.0%
21 to 40 percent	2	18.2%	2	18.2%	4	20.0%
41 to 60 percent	1	9.1%	0	0.0%	3	15.0%
61 to 80 percent	1	9.1%	1	9.1%	2	10.0%
81 to 100 percent	3	27.3%	2	18.2%	1	5.0%
More than 100 percent	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	5.0%
Overall	11	100.0%	11	100.0%	20	100.0%

Source: RERI analysis of data obtained from the CFI Business Climate Survey, conducted from May 15th, 2024 to June 21st, 2024



**Chart 11.** Employment prior to Hurricane Ian to nor for accommodation businesses (N = 11)  
2024 Q2



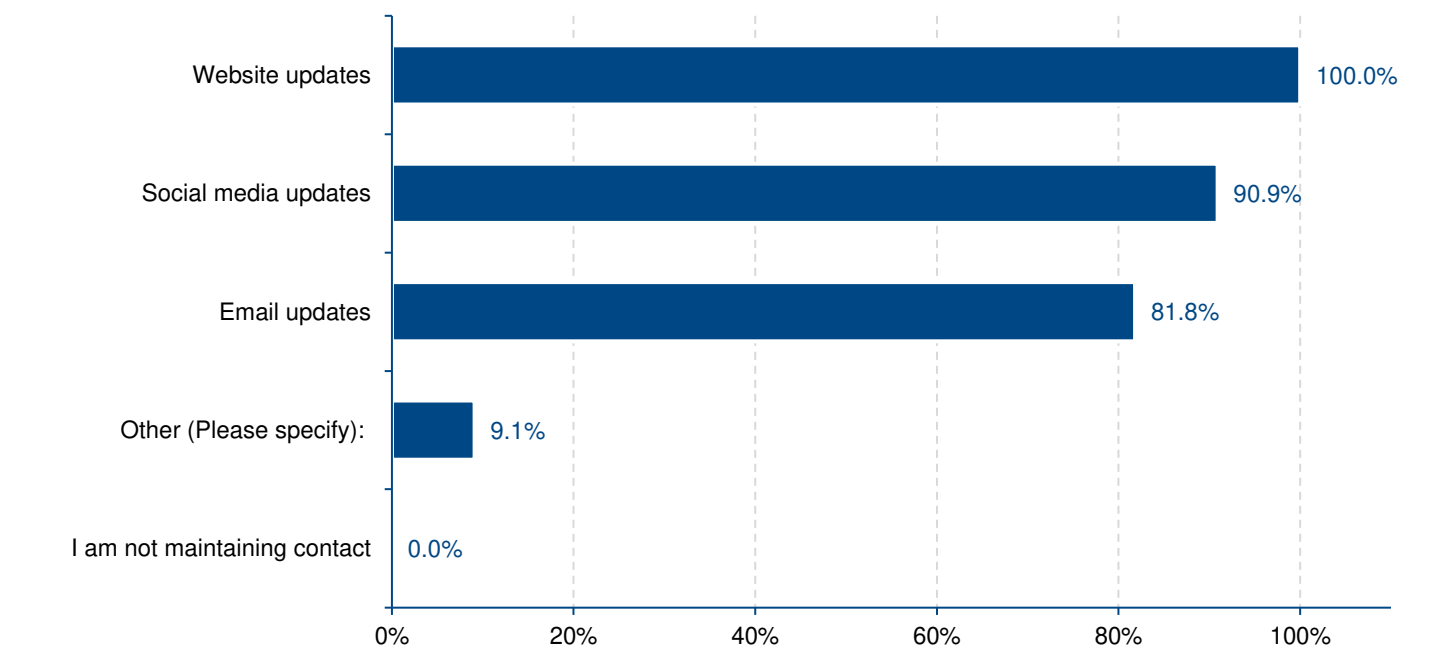
Prepared by the Regional Economic Research Institute

Source: RERI analysis of data obtained from the CFI Business Climate Survey, conducted from May 15th, 2024 to June 21st, 2024

## Change in Number of Employees from Pre-Hurricane Ian to Today

Results were compared to determine how the share of employees today relative to before Hurricane Ian changed depending on the size of the firm. Chart 11 illustrates this by number of employees the business had prior to Hurricane Ian. For businesses that had between 1 and 10 employees before Hurricane Ian, one-third (33.3 percent) of respondents said they currently had an employment level that was less than 20 percent compared to before the hurricane. Furthermore, 16.7 percent of businesses that had between 1 and 10 employees before Hurricane Ian said they currently have 41 to 60 percent of employees, while the remaining 50 percent reported having 81 to 100 percent of employees. Only one business had more than 10 employees before the hurricane and reported that they now have less than 20 percent of employees compared to before the hurricane. Additionally, 50 percent of businesses that had more than 10 employees before the hurricane declared having 21 to 40 percent of employees, and the remaining 25 percent reported having 81 to 100 percent of employees.

**Chart 12.** How are you maintaining contact with your customers? (N = 11)  
2024 Q2



Prepared by the Regional Economic Research Institute  
Source: RERI analysis of data obtained from the CFI Business Climate Survey, conducted from May 15th, 2024 to June 21st, 2024

How are you maintaining contact with your customers?

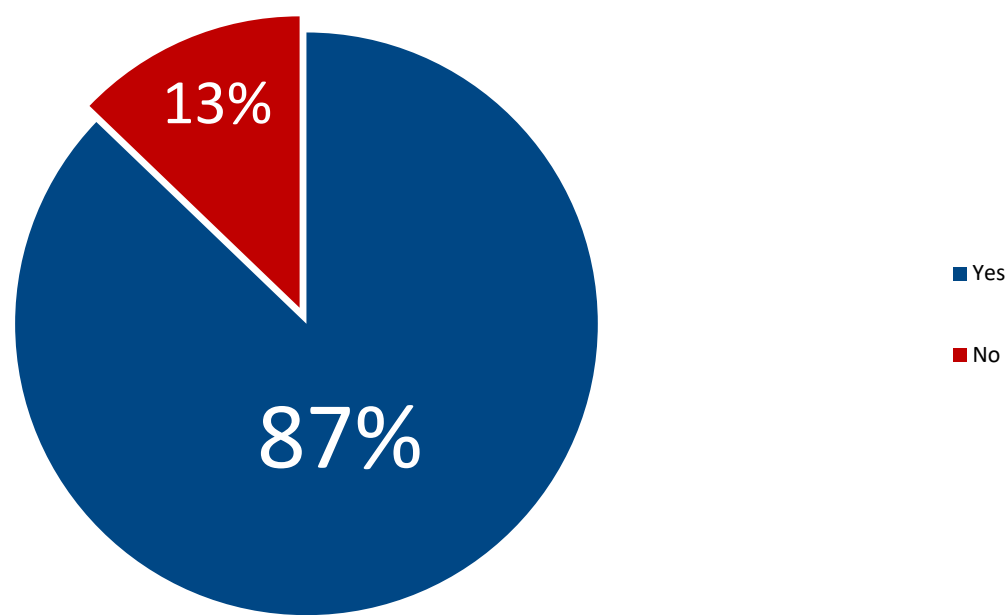
Table 8 reports the different ways that businesses are currently maintaining contact with their customers. Respondents were able to select multiple responses. In 2024 Q2, all respondents indicated they provided website updates, followed by social media updates (10 responses, 90.9 percent), and email updates (9 responses, 81.8 percent). One business reported that they are maintaining contact in other ways.

**Table 8.** How are you maintaining contact with your customers?

Response	2024 Q2		2024 Q1		2023 Q4	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Website updates	11	100.0%	9	81.8%	18	85.7%
Social media updates	10	90.9%	11	100.0%	18	85.7%
Email updates	9	81.8%	10	90.9%	18	85.7%
Other (Please specify):	1	9.1%	1	9.1%	3	14.3%
I am not maintaining contact	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	4.8%
Overall	11	100.0%	11	100.0%	21	100.0%

Source: RERI analysis of data obtained from the CFI Business Climate Survey, conducted from May 15th, 2024 to June 21st, 2024

**Chart 13.** Are you currently open for business on Sanibel and Captiva Islands? (N = 39)  
2024 Q2



Prepared by the Regional Economic Research Institute  
Source: RERI analysis of data obtained from the CFI Business Climate Survey, conducted from May 15th, 2024 to June 21st, 2024

## Non-Accommodations Survey

### Are you currently open for business on Sanibel and Captiva Islands?

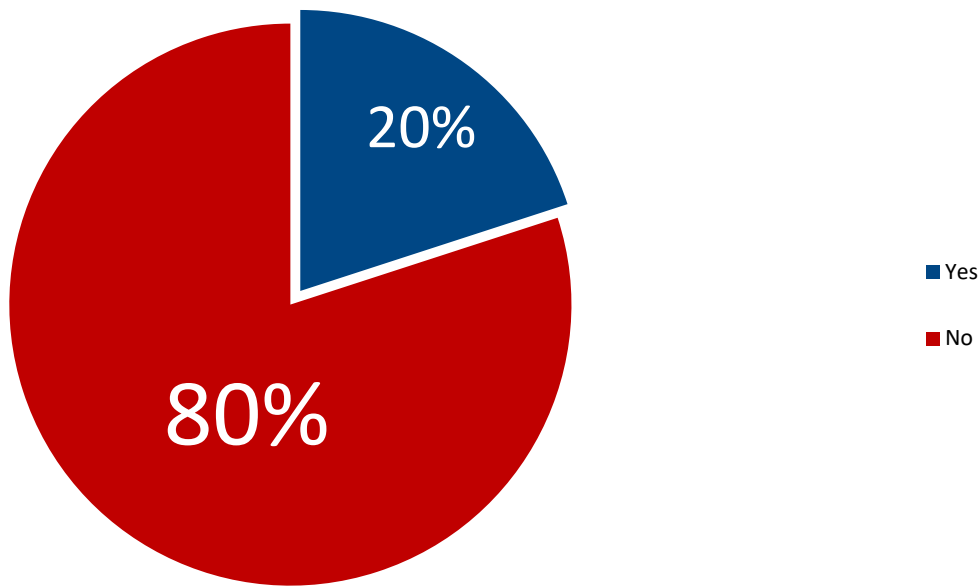
Table 9 displays the breakdown of the number of non-accommodation businesses currently open on Sanibel and Captiva Islands. The majority of the 39 respondents are currently open for business (87.2 percent) in 2024 Q2. This was up from 2024 Q1 when 82.5 percent of businesses said they were currently open. The remaining 5 businesses who responded are not currently open (12.8 percent).

**Table 9.** Are you currently open for business on the Sanibel and Captiva Islands?

Response	2024 Q2		2024 Q1		2023 Q4	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Yes	34	87.2%	47	82.5%	55	78.6%
No	5	12.8%	10	17.5%	15	21.4%
Overall	39	100.0%	57	100.0%	70	100.0%

Source: RERI analysis of data obtained from the CFI Business Climate Survey, conducted from May 15th, 2024 to June 21st, 2024

**Chart 14.** Have you relocated your business off island? (N = 5)  
2024 Q2



Prepared by the Regional Economic Research Institute  
Source: RERI analysis of data obtained from the CFI Business Climate Survey, conducted from May 15th, 2024 to June 21st, 2024

Have you relocated your business off island?

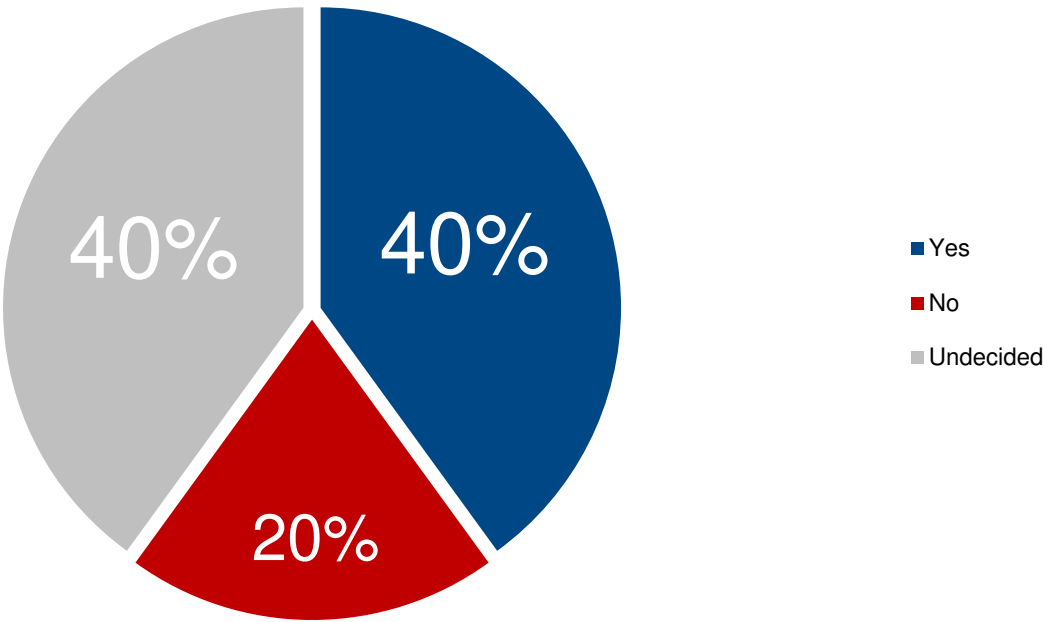
Respondents who indicated that they were not currently open for business on Sanibel and Captiva Islands were asked if they relocated off the island. The majority of the businesses that are not open did not relocate their business off of the island (80.0 percent). However, one remaining business did relocate (20.0 percent).

**Table 10.** Have you relocated your business off island?

Response	2024 Q2		2024 Q1		2023 Q4	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Yes	1	20.0%	7	70.0%	3	23.1%
No	4	80.0%	3	30.0%	10	76.9%
Overall	5	100.0%	10	100.0%	13	100.0%

Source: RERI analysis of data obtained from the CFI Business Climate Survey, conducted from May 15th, 2024 to June 21st, 2024

**Chart 15.** Do you plan on reopening your business on the islands? (N = 5)  
2024 Q2



Prepared by the Regional Economic Research Institute  
Source: RERI analysis of data obtained from the CFI Business Climate Survey, conducted from May 15th, 2024 to June 21st, 2024

Do you plan on reopening your business on the islands?

Respondents who indicated that they were not currently open for business on Sanibel and Captiva Islands were asked if they planned on reopening their business back on the islands. In 2024 Q2, two of the businesses (40.0 percent) responded that they are planning on reopening their business back on the island, a decrease from the 60.0 percent reported in 2024 Q1. One business decided that they are not planning to reopen on the island (20.0 percent) and the remaining 2 businesses are undecided (40.0 percent).

**Table 11.** Do you plan on reopening your business on the islands?

Response	2024 Q2		2024 Q1		2023 Q4	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Yes	2	40.0%	6	60.0%	8	61.5%
No	1	20.0%	2	20.0%	2	15.4%
Undecided	2	40.0%	2	20.0%	3	23.1%
Overall	5	100.0%	10	100.0%	13	100.0%

Source: RERI analysis of data obtained from the CFI Business Climate Survey, conducted from May 15th, 2024 to June 21st, 2024

## Current Status of Non-Accommodations

Table 12 reports the current status of non-accommodation businesses. In 2024 Q2, thirty-four of the 39 businesses that responded are open for business on the island (87.2 percent of total). One businesses has relocated off of the island and is undecided on whether to reopen on the island. Four businesses are not open for business, two plan to reopen on the island, one business has no plan to reopen on the island, and one business is undecided on whether to reopen on the island.

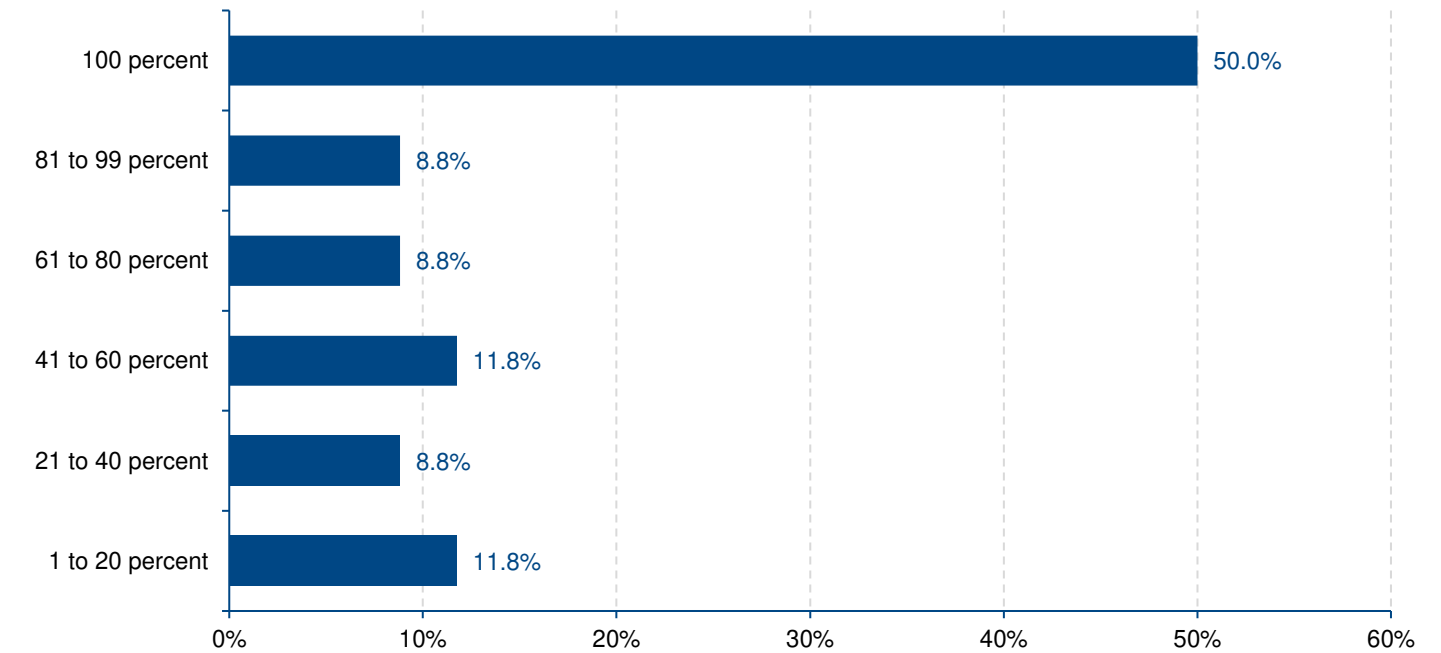
Overall, 36 of the 39 respondents (92.3 percent) from the 2024 Q2 survey are either currently open for business on the island or plan to reopen on the island at some point. This is consistent with the 2024 Q1 and 2023 Q4 surveys when 93.0 percent and 92.7 percent, respectively, indicated they were either open or planned to reopen on the island.

**Table 12.** Current status of non-accommodation businesses

Response	2024 Q2		2024 Q1		2023 Q4	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Open for business on island	34	87.2%	47	82.5%	55	80.9%
Relocated off Island, plan to reopen on island	0	0.0%	5	8.8%	1	1.5%
Relocated off island, no plan to reopen on island	0	0.0%	1	1.8%	0	0.0%
Relocated off island, undecided on whether to reopen on island	1	2.6%	1	1.8%	2	2.9%
Not open for business, plan to reopen on island	2	5.1%	1	1.8%	7	10.3%
Not open for business, no plan to reopen on island	1	2.6%	1	1.8%	2	2.9%
Not open for business, undecided on whether to reopen on island	1	2.6%	1	1.8%	1	1.5%
<b>Overall</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

*Source: RERI analysis of data obtained from the CFI Business Climate Survey, conducted from May 15th, 2024 to June 21st, 2024*

**Chart 16.** At what volume is your business operating compared to before Hurricane Ian? (N = 34)  
2024 Q2



Prepared by the Regional Economic Research Institute  
Source: RERI analysis of data obtained from the CFI Business Climate Survey, conducted from May 15th, 2024 to June 21st, 2024

At what volume is your business operating compared to before Hurricane Ian?

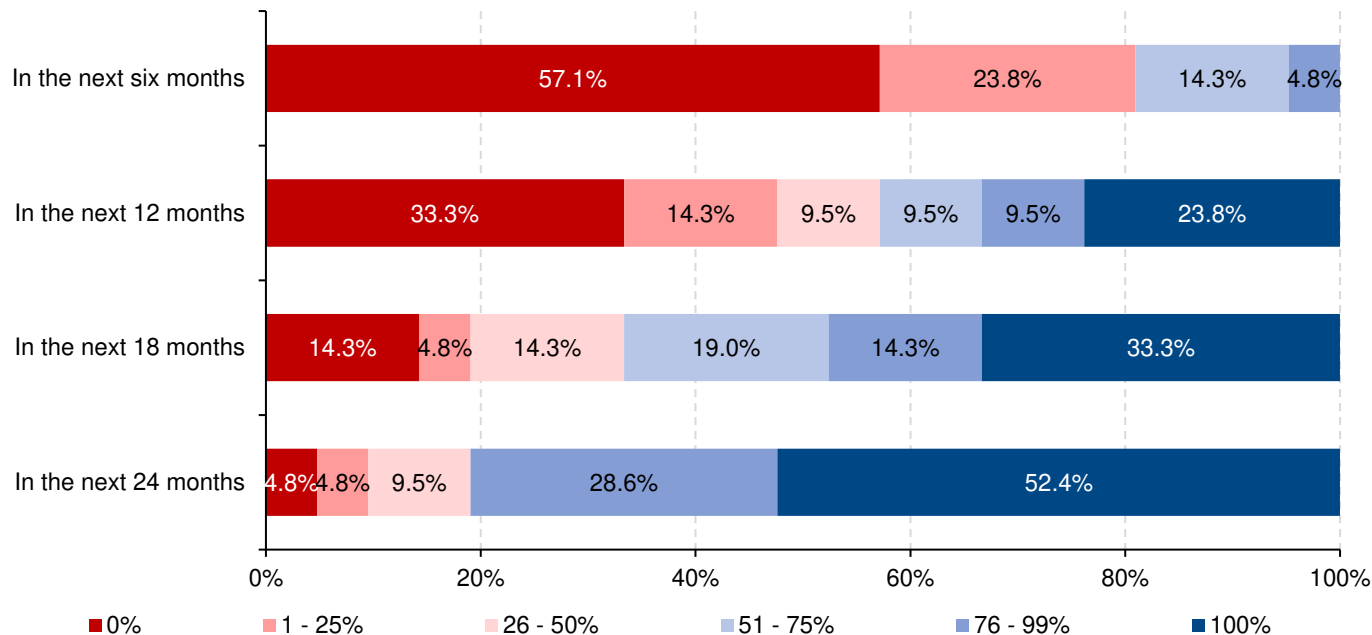
Respondents that said they are currently open for business on the islands were asked about the current volume their business operations compared to before Hurricane Ian. In 2024 Q2, half (50.0 percent) of the responding businesses reported that their business is operating at 100 percent when compared to before Hurricane Ian. Furthermore, 17.6 percent of respondents indicated that their business is operating at 61 to 99 percent compared to before Hurricane Ian and 32.4 percent said they are operating at less than 60 percent.

**Table 13.** At what volume is your business operating compared to before Hurricane Ian?

Response	2024 Q2		2024 Q1		2023 Q4	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
1 to 20 percent	4	11.8%	4	8.7%	11	20.0%
21 to 40 percent	3	8.8%	9	19.6%	9	16.4%
41 to 60 percent	4	11.8%	6	13.0%	7	12.7%
61 to 80 percent	3	8.8%	5	10.9%	2	3.6%
81 to 99 percent	3	8.8%	3	6.5%	2	3.6%
100 percent	17	50.0%	19	41.3%	24	43.6%
Overall	34	100.0%	46	100.0%	55	100.0%

Source: RERI analysis of data obtained from the CFI Business Climate Survey, conducted from May 15th, 2024 to June 21st, 2024

**Chart 17.** What is the probability of your business operating at 100 percent capacity over the following time periods? (N = 21)  
2024 Q2



Prepared by the Regional Economic Research Institute

Source: RERI analysis of data obtained from the CFI Business Climate Survey, conducted from May 15th, 2024 to June 21st, 2024

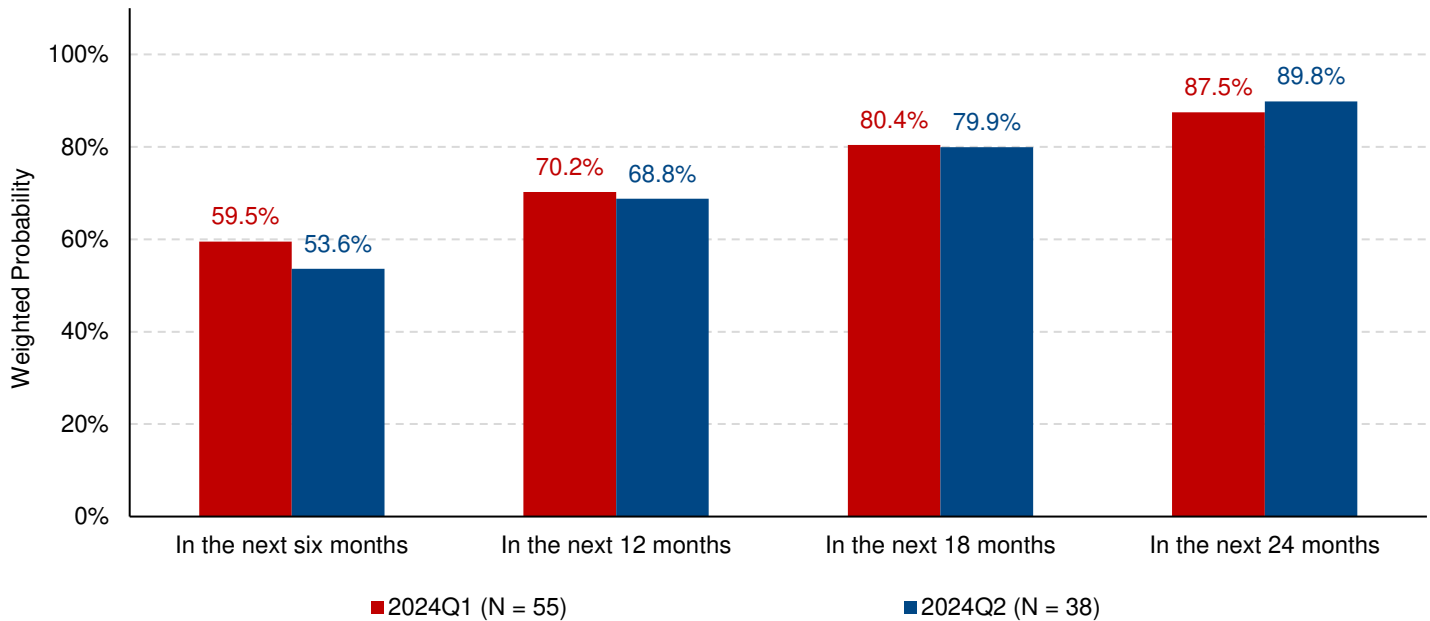
## What is the probability of your business operating at 100 percent capacity over the following time periods?

Respondents were asked to assess the probability that their business would be able to operate at 100 percent capacity over the next 6, 12, 18 and 24 months.<sup>4</sup> Chart 17 indicates that of the 21 total businesses who responded in 2024 Q2, none of the businesses attribute a 100 percent chance to operating at full capacity within the next six months. When expanding the time frame to within the next 12 months, the percentage of businesses who attribute a 100 percent chance to operating at full capacity grows to 23.8 percent. Within the next 18 months, this share continues to grow by 9.5 percentage points to 33.3 percent. In the largest time frame of the next 24 months, the percent of businesses that attribute a 100 percent chance to operating at full capacity rises again to 52.4 percent.

<sup>4</sup> There were some instances in which a respondent answered 100 percent for a specific time period and then left larger time periods blank (i.e. the respondent assigned 100 percent probability to being fully open within the next 12 months, then left the 18 month and 24 month question blank). In these cases, we assume that a respondent will expect to remain fully available in later periods and impute these values as 100 percent probability as well.



**Chart 18.** Expected weighted probability of being 100 percent available over the next six, 12, 18 and 24 months for non-accommodations



Prepared by the Regional Economic Research Institute

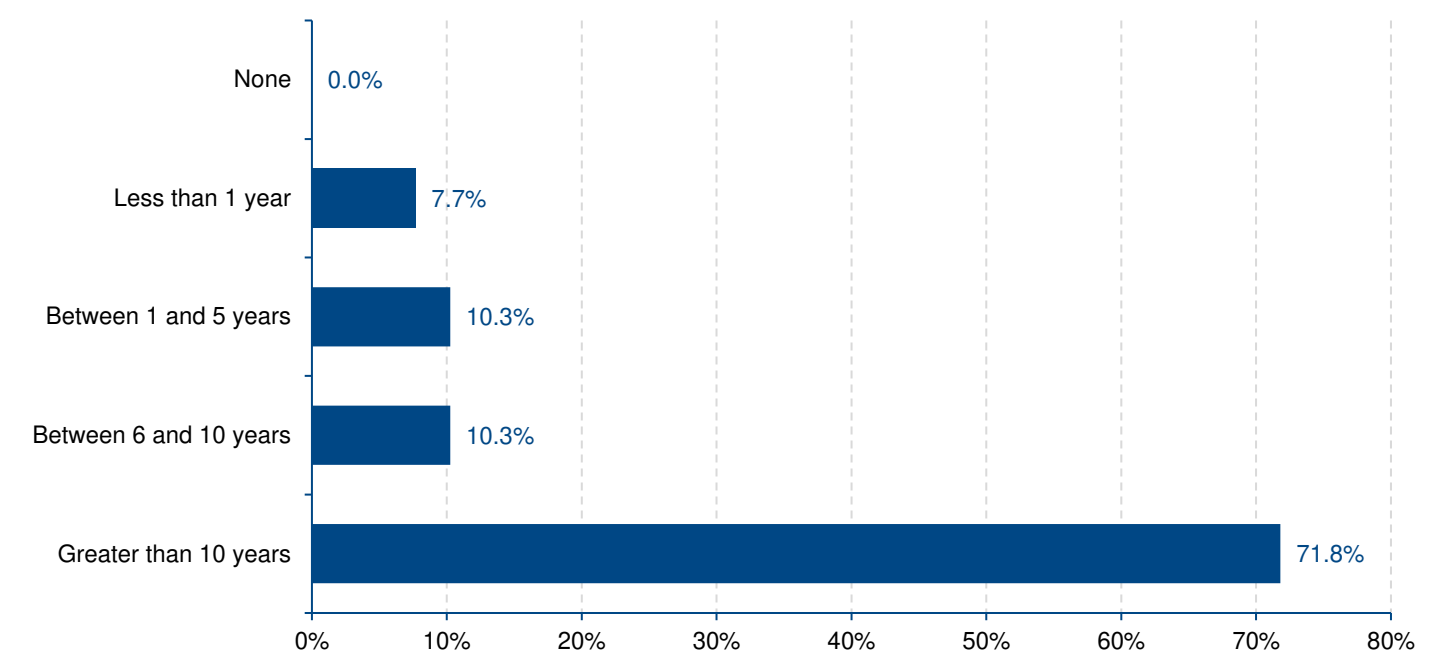
Source: RERI analysis of data obtained from the CFI Business Climate Survey, conducted from May 15th, 2024 to June 21st, 2024

Using data from Table 13 and Chart 17, we calculate the expected weighted probability of all responding non-accommodations businesses operating at full capacity over the next six, 12, 18 and 24 months in Chart 18. Probabilities are calculated by multiplying the share of each probability range to the midpoint of each range in Chart 17.<sup>5</sup> Furthermore, businesses that indicated that they are already operating at 100 percent capacity were factored in and are assumed to operate at 100 percent capacity over each of the time periods. Together, these values represent the overall expected probability of Sanibel and Captiva non-accommodations being fully open over the listed time periods.

In 2024 Q2, the expected weighted probability of being fully open in the next six months was 53.6 percent for non-accommodations, and increases to 68.8 percent when expanded to 12 months. These probabilities further increase to 79.9 percent and 89.8 percent for 18 and 24 month intervals respectively. Moreover, in 2024 Q1, the probability of being fully open in the next 6 months was 59.5 percent (5.9 percentage points higher than 2024 Q2), 70.2 percent in the next 12 months (1.4 percentage points higher than 2024 Q2), and 80.4 percent in the next 18 months (0.5 percentage points higher than 2024 Q2). In contrast, the probability of being fully open in the next 24 months in 2024 Q1 was 2.3 percentage points less than the probability from 2024 Q2, at 87.5 percent. Overall, the probabilities of non-accommodations businesses being fully open has decreased from 2024 Q1 to 2024 Q2, with the exception of the next 24 months.

<sup>5</sup> For instance, if 36.4 percent of respondents said that there is a 26 to 50 percent chance of being open in the next six months, then we multiply 36.4 percent by 37.5 percent (the midpoint of 26 and 50 percent).

**Chart 19.** How many years had your business been operating on the Islands prior to Hurricane Ian? (N = 21)  
2024 Q2



*Prepared by the Regional Economic Research Institute*  
*Source: RERI analysis of data obtained from the CFI Business Climate Survey, conducted from May 15th, 2024 to June 21st, 2024*

How many years had your business been operating on the Islands prior to Hurricane Ian?

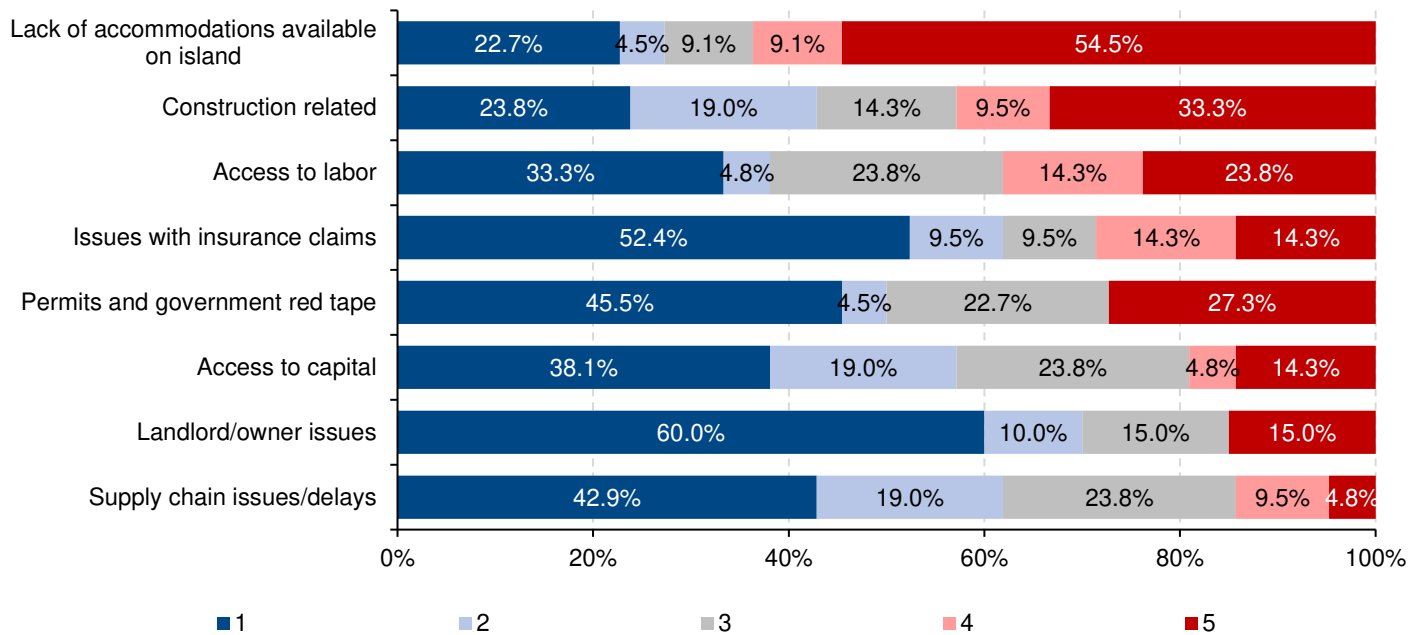
Table 14 reports the number of years a business had been operating on the islands prior to Hurrican Ian. The majority of respondents in the 2024 Q2 survey had been on the island for greater than 10 years (71.8 percent). There were 4 businesses who were on the Islands for between 6 and 10 years (10.3 percent), 4 businesses who were there for between 1 and 5 years (10.3 percent), and 3 businesses that were on the Islands for less than a year (7.7 percent).

**Table 14.** How many years had your business been operating on the Islands prior to Hurricane Ian?

Response	2024 Q2		2024 Q1		2023 Q4	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
None	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Less than 1 year	3	7.7%	3	5.4%	2	3.0%
Between 1 and 5 years	4	10.3%	6	10.7%	4	6.0%
Between 6 and 10 years	4	10.3%	4	7.1%	5	7.5%
Greater than 10 years	28	71.8%	43	76.8%	56	83.6%
Overall	39	100.0%	56	100.0%	67	100.0%

*Source: RERI analysis of data obtained from the CFI Business Climate Survey, conducted from May 15th, 2024 to June 21st, 2024*

**Chart 20.** On a scale of 1 to 5, with one being not an obstacle at all and five being a major obstacle, how big of an obstacle are the following in becoming fully operational? (N = 22)  
2024 Q2



*Prepared by the Regional Economic Research Institute*

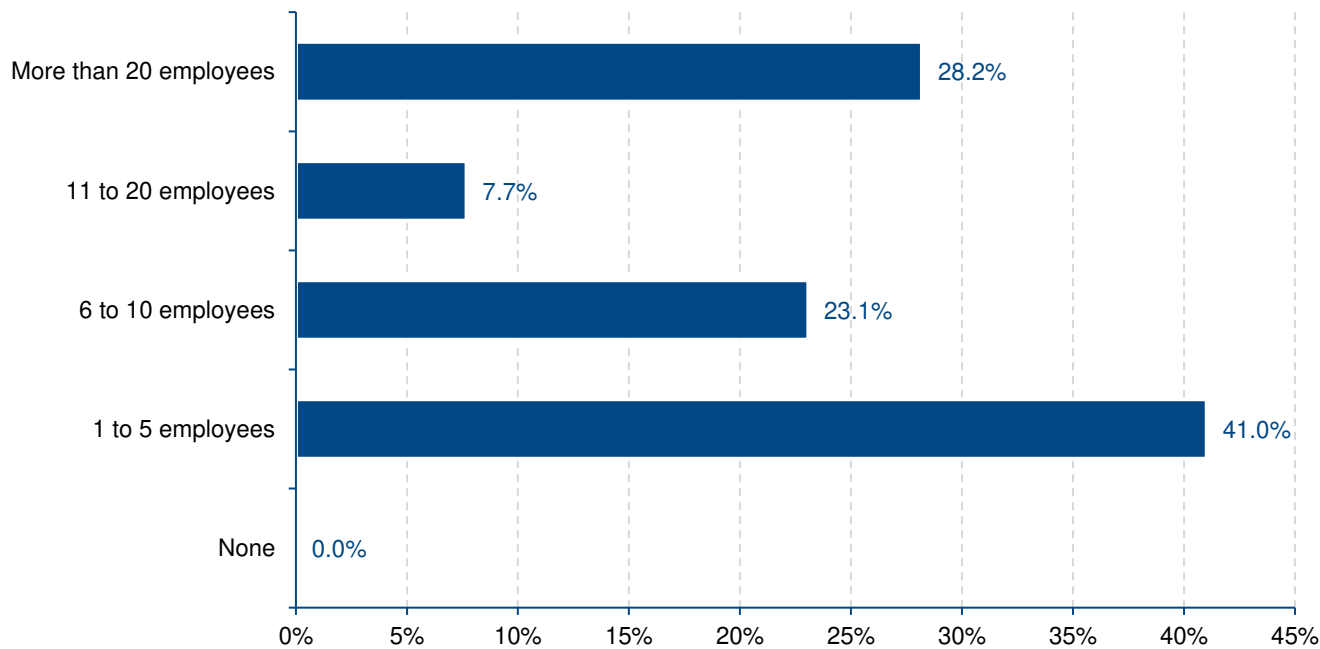
*Source: RERI analysis of data obtained from the CFI Business Climate Survey, conducted from May 15th, 2024 to June 21st, 2024*

## How big of an obstacle are the following in becoming fully operational?

Respondents who indicated that their business was not fully operational were asked to rate various potential obstacles on a scale, with one meaning not an obstacle at all and five being a major obstacle. For the purposes of analyzing this question, we define an obstacle as significant if it was rated at least a 4 on the scale.

Lack of accommodations was identified as the most significant obstacle to becoming fully operational in the 2024 Q2 survey, with 63.6 percent of respondents stating it as significant obstacle. Construction related issues was the next most significant obstacle indicated by non-accommodation respondents (42.8 percent), followed by access to labor issues (38.1 percent), issues with insurance claims (28.6 percent), and permits and government red tape (27.3 percent). Furthermore, access to capital was cited as a significant obstacle by 19.1 percent of respondents, followed by landlord/owner issues (15.0 percent), and supply chain issues/delays (14.3 percent).

**Chart 21.** How many employees did you employ on the island prior to Hurricane Ian? (N = 39)  
2024 Q2



Prepared by the Regional Economic Research Institute  
Source: RERI analysis of data obtained from the CFI Business Climate Survey, conducted from May 15th, 2024 to June 21st, 2024

How many employees did you employ on the island prior to Hurricane Ian?

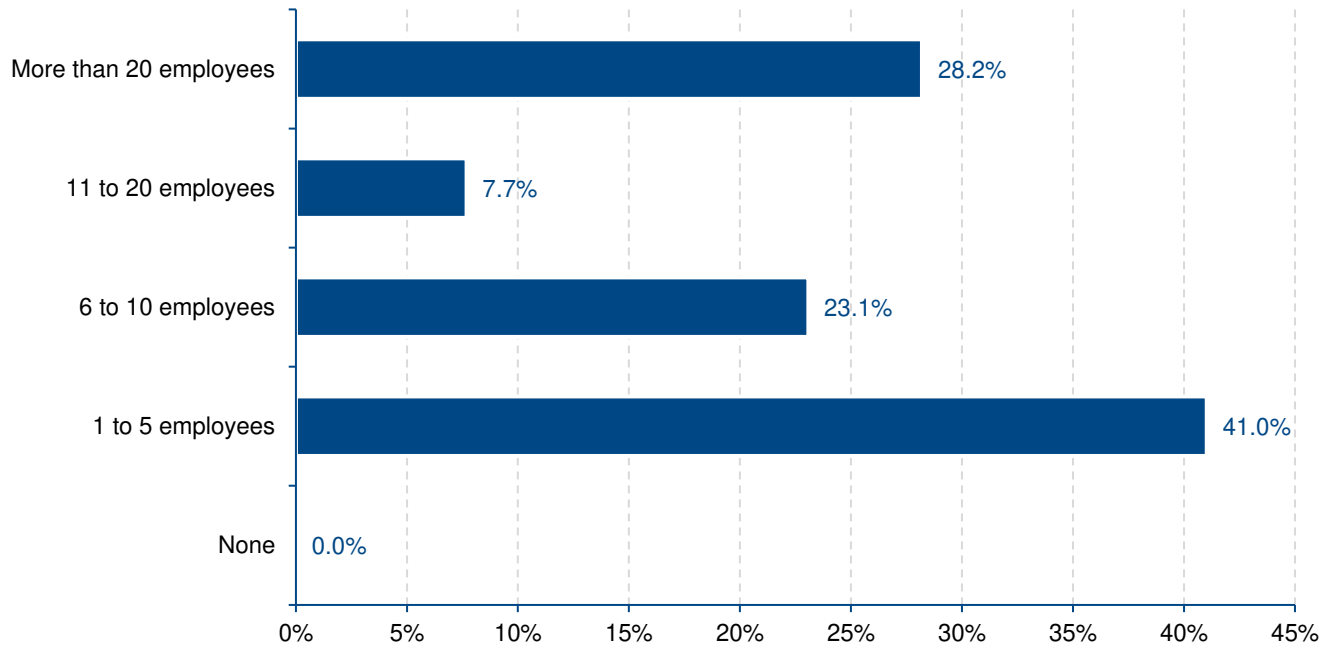
Table 15 reports the number of employees who were employed on the island prior to Hurricane Ian. Out of the 39 businesses who responded in 2024 Q2, 11 respondents (28.2 percent) reported that they had more than 20 employees prior to Hurricane Ian. Furthermore, 7.7 percent said they had 11 to 20 employees, 23.1 percent said they had 6 to 10 employees and 41.0 percent of respondents indicated they had 1 to 5 employees prior to Hurricane Ian. No businesses reported that they did not have any employees prior to Hurricane Ian.

**Table 15.** How many employees did you employ on the island prior to Hurricane Ian?

Response	2024 Q2		2024 Q1		2023 Q4	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
None	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	1.6%
1 to 5 employees	16	41.0%	28	50.0%	27	42.2%
6 to 10 employees	9	23.1%	9	16.1%	14	21.9%
11 to 20 employees	3	7.7%	10	17.9%	10	15.6%
More than 20 employees	11	28.2%	9	16.1%	12	18.8%
Overall	39	100.0%	56	100.0%	64	100.0%

Source: RERI analysis of data obtained from the CFI Business Climate Survey, conducted from May 15th, 2024 to June 21st, 2024

**Chart 22.** How many employees are currently working for your business compared to before Hurricane Ian, as a percentage? (N = 39)  
2024 Q2



Prepared by the Regional Economic Research Institute

Source: RERI analysis of data obtained from the CFI Business Climate Survey, conducted from May 15th, 2024 to June 21st, 2024

## How many employees are currently working for your business compared to before Hurricane Ian, as a percentage?

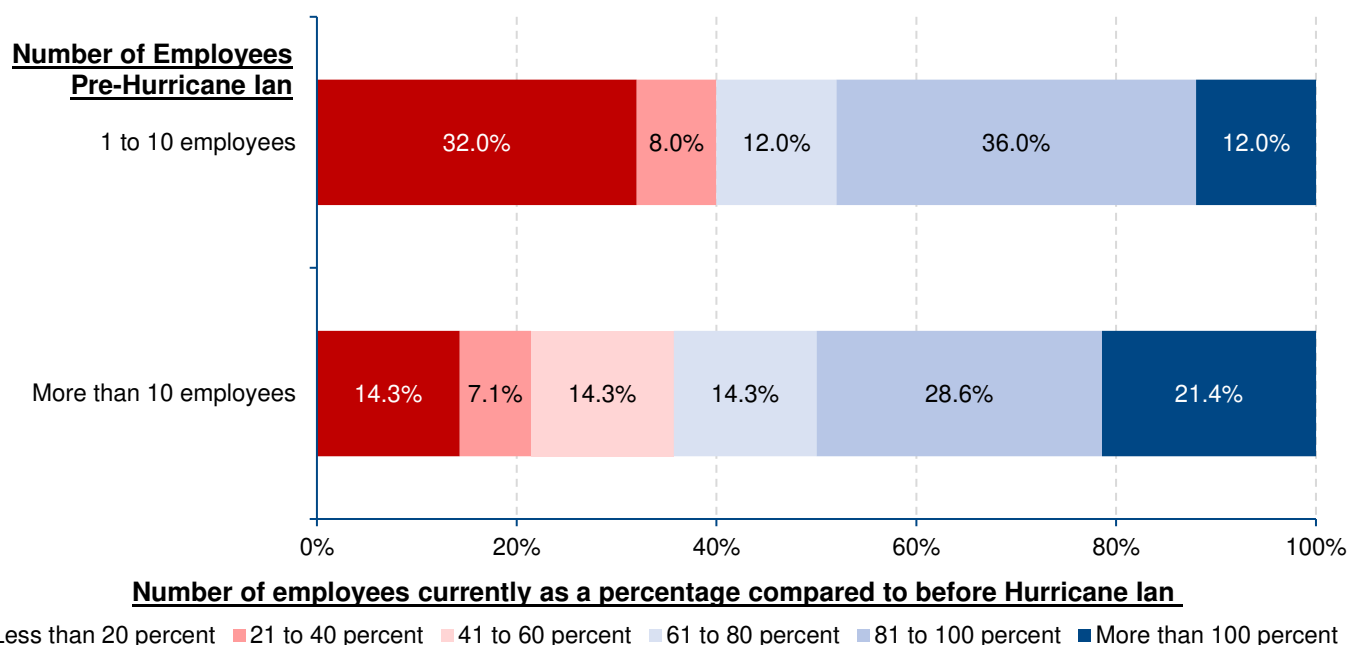
Table 16 reports the number of employees that businesses currently have working for them compared to the number of employees before Hurricane Ian. The largest response group was businesses who indicated that they have between 81 and 100 percent of their employees compared to before Hurricane Ian (13 businesses, 33.3 percent). Furthermore, 15.4 percent of businesses reported that their employee base is more than 100 percent of their employees compared to before Hurricane Ian. Ten businesses (25.6 percent) reported having between 21 and 80 percent of their employees compared to before Hurricane Ian. Similarly, ten businesses (25.6 percent) reported having less than 20 percent of their employee base compared to before the hurricane.

**Table 16.** How many employees are currently working for your business compared to before Hurricane Ian, as a percentage?

Response	2024 Q2		2024 Q1		2023 Q4	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Less than 20 percent	10	25.6%	8	14.3%	12	18.5%
21 to 40 percent	3	7.7%	8	14.3%	9	13.8%
41 to 60 percent	2	5.1%	8	14.3%	7	10.8%
61 to 80 percent	5	12.8%	8	14.3%	4	6.2%
81 to 100 percent	13	33.3%	18	32.1%	24	36.9%
More than 100 percent	6	15.4%	6	10.7%	9	13.8%
<b>Overall</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: RERI analysis of data obtained from the CFI Business Climate Survey, conducted from May 15th, 2024 to June 21st, 2024

**Chart 23.** Employment prior to Hurricane Ian to now for non-accommodation businesses (N = 39)  
2024 Q2



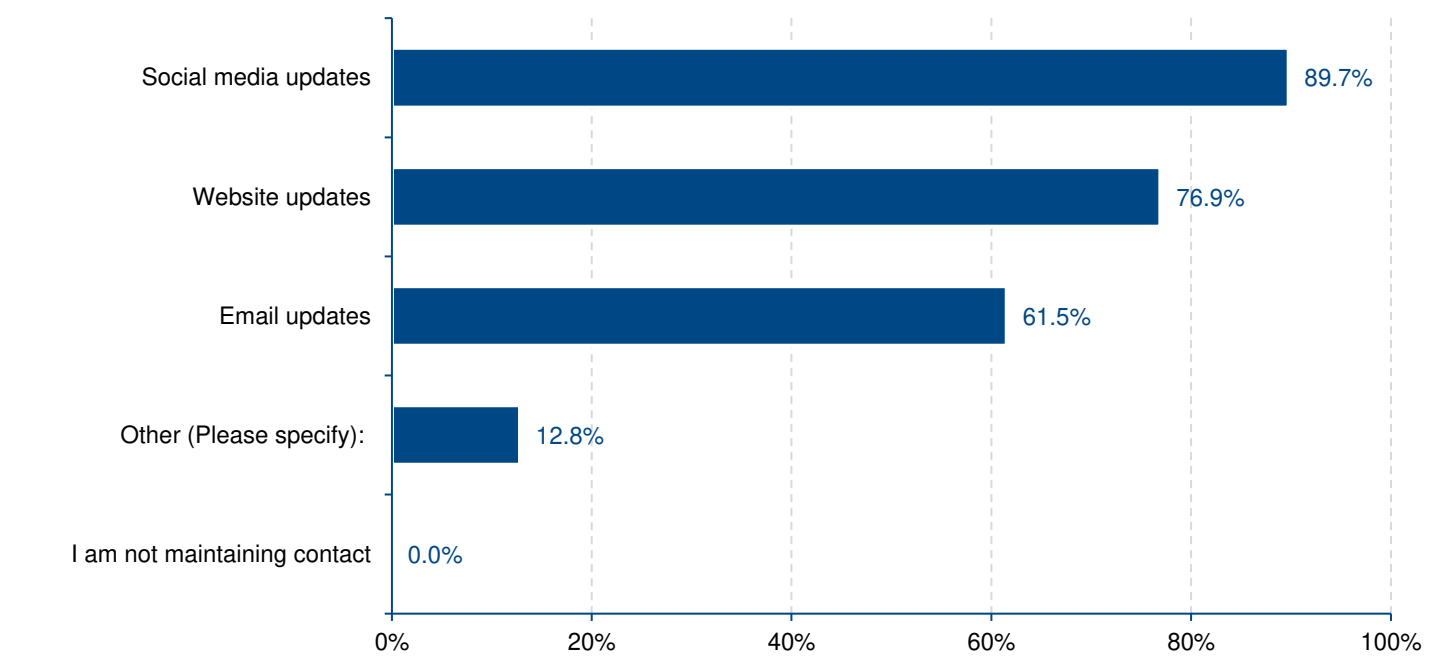
Prepared by the Regional Economic Research Institute

Source: RERI analysis of data obtained from the CFI Business Climate Survey, conducted from May 15th, 2024 to June 21st, 2024

## Change in Number of Employees from Pre-Hurricane Ian to Today

Results were compared to determine how the share of employees today relative to before Hurricane Ian changed depending on the size of the firm. Chart 23 illustrates this by number of employees the business had prior to Hurricane Ian. For businesses that had between 1 and 10 employees before Hurricane Ian, 32.0 percent of respondents said their business currently has an employment level that is less than 20 percent compared to before the hurricane. This percentage is slightly lower for businesses that had more than 10 employees before the hurricane (14.3 percent). Furthermore, 12.0 percent of businesses with 1 to 10 employees before the hurricane have more than 100 percent of their employment base. This percentage increases to 21.4 percent for businesses with more than 10 employees before Hurricane Ian.

**Chart 24.** How are you maintaining contact with your customers? (N = 39)  
2024 Q2



Prepared by the Regional Economic Research Institute  
Source: RERI analysis of data obtained from the CFI Business Climate Survey, conducted from May 15th, 2024 to June 21st, 2024

How are you maintaining contact with your customers?

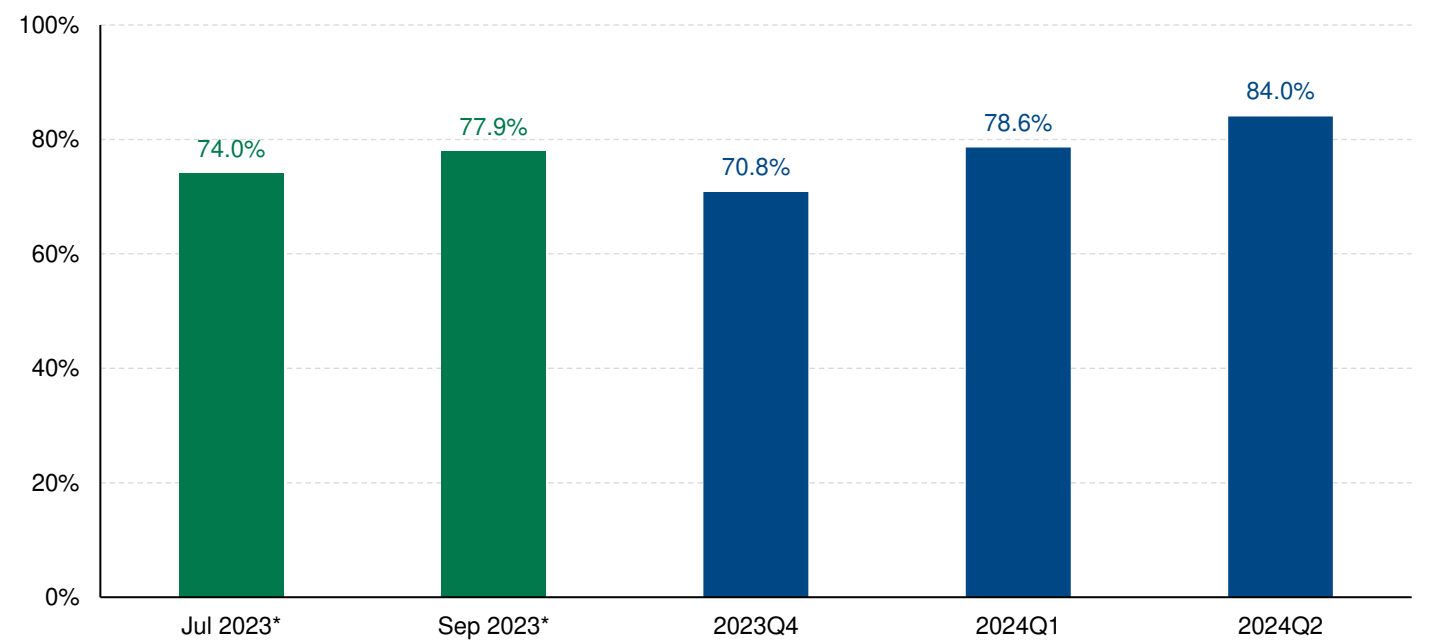
Table 17 reports the break down of how businesses are remaining in contact with their customers. Respondents were able to select multiple responses. In 2024 Q2, thirty-five businesses reported that they are maintaining contact through social media (89.7 percent). Furthermore, thirty businesses reported using website updates (76.9 percent) and 24 businesses are using email updates (61.5 percent). There were five businesses who reported that they are using other methods of communication (12.8 percent).

**Table 17.** How are you maintaining contact with your customers?

Response	2024 Q2		2024 Q1		2023 Q4	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Social media updates	35	89.7%	50	84.7%	55	78.6%
Website updates	30	76.9%	44	74.6%	46	65.7%
Email updates	24	61.5%	38	64.4%	43	61.4%
Other (Please specify):	5	12.8%	7	11.9%	10	14.3%
I am not maintaining contact	0	0.0%	1	1.7%	0	0.0%
Overall	39	100.0%	59	100.0%	70	100.0%

Source: RERI analysis of data obtained from the CFI Business Climate Survey, conducted from May 15th, 2024 to June 21st, 2024

**Chart 25. Current Business Conditions**  
Percent of total businesses open in Sanibel and Captiva



*Prepared by the Regional Economic Research Institute*  
*Note: Data denoted with an asterisk (\*) provided by the SanCap Chamber of Commerce*  
*Source: RERI analysis of data obtained from the SanCap Chamber of Commerce and CFI Business Climate Survey*

## Current Business Conditions

Chart 25 illustrates current business conditions in Sanibel and Captiva. Data for July 2023 and September 2023 was provided by the SanCap Chamber of Commerce, while data from 2023 Q4, 2024 Q1, and 2024 Q2 comes from the CFI Business Climate Survey. Comparison of the two different data sources helps establish a baseline for the index.

Approximately 84.0 percent of businesses surveyed in the 2024 Q2 CFI Business Climate Survey are currently open for business, up 5.4 percentage points from the 2024 Q1 survey and up 13.2 percentage points from the 2023 Q4 survey. This is also 6.1 percentage points higher than the September 2023 value. Despite the improvements, note that variability could exist due to different sampling designs used for each survey. We will continue to track this indicator in subsequent surveys.



## Focus Group

A subset of respondents were identified to answer some longer form questions relating to the strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities that the Sanibel and Captiva Islands for businesses to reopen in the aftermath of Hurricane Ian. The focus group received a total of nine responses for these questions – two from accommodations and four from non-accommodations. Below we highlight the overarching theme from the responses received from these questions. A complete list of responses (de-identified to maintain respondent confidentiality) can be found in Appendix A.

### Please describe the strengths in Sanibel/Captiva Islands for businesses to reopen.

When asked to describe the strengths of the Sanibel/Captiva Islands for businesses to reopen, “community support” was a commonality amongst most of the respondents, and was consistent between both accommodations and non-accommodations. Some respondents also acknowledged the SanCap Chamber of Commerce as a strength for reopening, along with local beaches.

### Please describe the weaknesses (impediments) in Sanibel/Captiva Islands for businesses to reopen.

When asked to describe weaknesses and impediments of the Sanibel/Captiva Islands for businesses to reopen, a number of different responses were offered. Traffic remained the number one issue for the third consecutive quarter, cited by majority of respondents from both accommodations and non-accommodations. Traffic congestion was also related to another stated weakness – labor shortages. As one respondent mentions:

*“Finding employees is one of the biggest obstacles we face. It is easier and less expensive for employees to go to Fort Myers Beach for work than pay a toll and sit in traffic to come to Sanibel.”*

### Please describe the challenges (threats) in Sanibel/Captiva Islands for businesses to reopen.

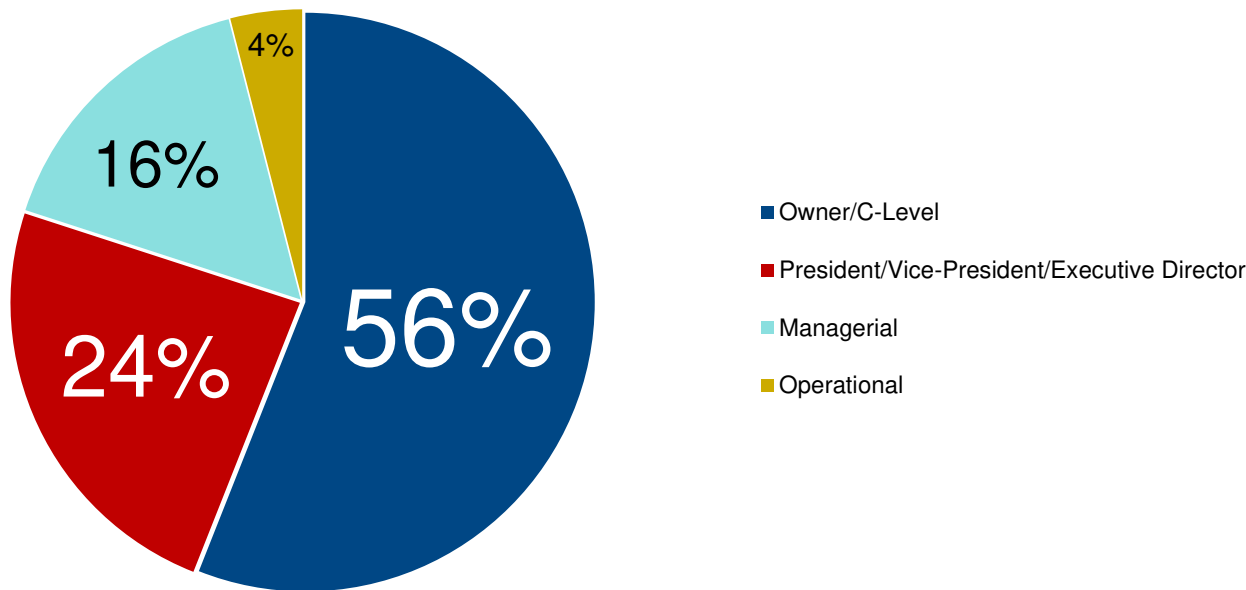
When asked to describe threats and challenges of the Sanibel/Captiva Islands for businesses to reopen, respondents offered various responses. Insurance was one answer offered by multiple respondents, citing both the expense of insurance as well as responses from the insurance industry. Lack of city support was also noted by a couple of respondents.

### Please describe the opportunities (lessons learned) in Sanibel/Captiva Islands for businesses to reopen.

When asked to describe opportunities and lessons learned of the Sanibel/Captiva Islands for businesses to reopen, preparation and resiliency were the primary themes. Having plans in place for a natural disaster such as a hurricane, as well as the supplies needed early, were lessons cited by some respondents. Furthermore, some respondents also noted the importance of remaining resilient and determined after a natural disaster. As one respondent puts it:

*“While catastrophe can happen, our community is mentally resilient and working towards physically resilient in some ways. We could be doing this more.”*

**Chart 26.** What best describes your role in your business? (N = 50)  
2024 Q2



Prepared by the Regional Economic Research Institute  
Source: RERI analysis of data obtained from the CFI Business Climate Survey, conducted from May 15th, 2024 to June 21st, 2024

## Demographics

### What best describes your role in your business?

Table 18 reports the role that the repondent has in their business. Twenty-eight of the 50 respondents (56.0 percent) describe themselves as the owner/C-level, 12 respondents describe themselves as the president/vice-president/executive director (24.0 percent), 8 respondents describe themselves as managerial (16.0 percent), and the remaining two respondents describe themselves in the operational role (4.0 percent).

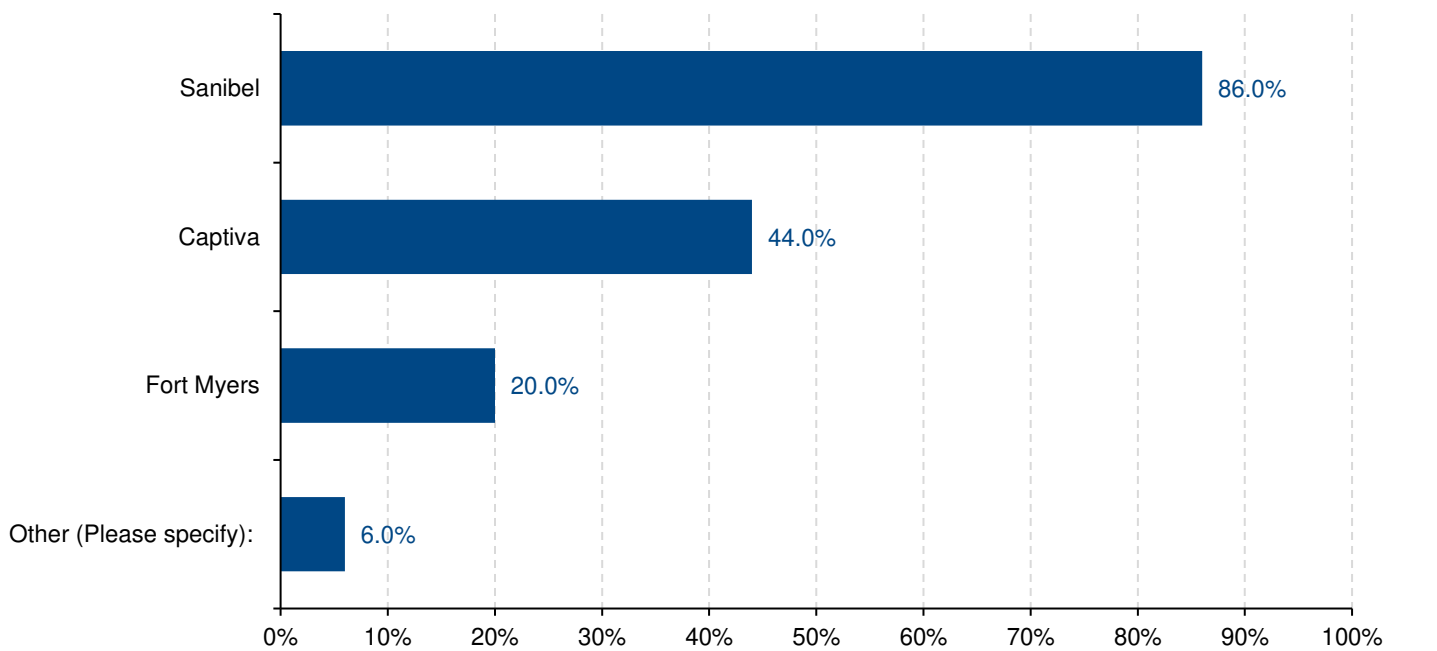
This means 20 percent of total responses were provided by individuals with managerial or operational roles within the business they were responding on behalf of. It is important to acknowledge this as a limitation of the survey, as those in operational or managerial positions may have limited knowledge regarding business decisions and expectations.

**Table 18.** What best describes your role in your business?

Response	2024 Q2		2024 Q1		2023 Q4	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Owner/C-Level	28	56.0%	40	56.3%	49	53.8%
President/Vice-President/Executive Director	12	24.0%	15	21.1%	18	19.8%
Managerial	8	16.0%	12	16.9%	20	22.0%
Operational	2	4.0%	4	5.6%	4	4.4%
Overall	50	100.0%	71	100.0%	91	100.0%

Source: RERI analysis of data obtained from the CFI Business Climate Survey, conducted from May 15th, 2024 to June 21st, 2024

**Chart 27.** Where in Lee County does your business primarily operate? (N = 50)  
2024 Q2



Prepared by the Regional Economic Research Institute  
Source: RERI analysis of data obtained from the CFI Business Climate Survey, conducted from May 15th, 2024 to June 21st, 2024

Where in Lee County does your business primarily operate?

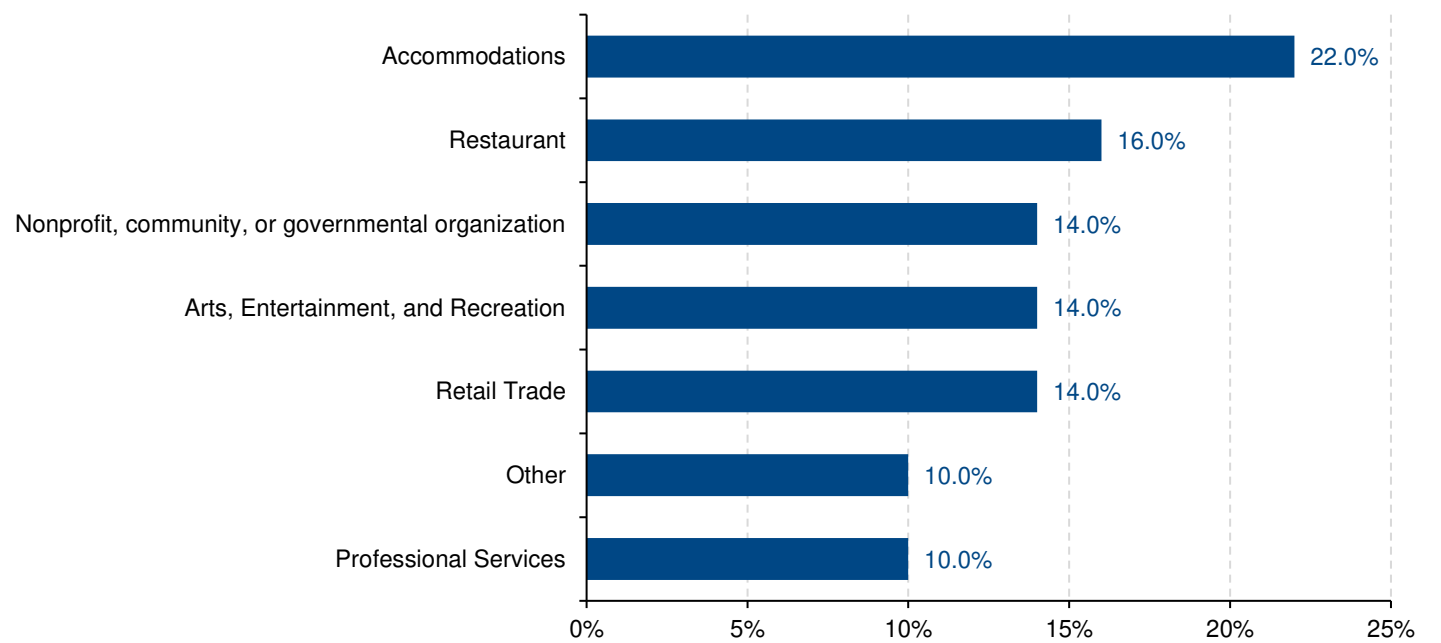
Table 19 reports where in Lee County a business primarily operates. Respondents were allowed to select multiple responses. Forty-three businesses responding to the 2024 Q2 survey reported that they operate primarily on Sanibel Island (86.0 percent), 22 businesses primarily operate on Captiva Island (44.0 percent), and 10 businesses primarily operate in Fort Myers (20.0 percent).

**Table 19.** Where in Lee County does your business primarily operate?

Response	2024 Q2		2024 Q1		2023 Q4	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Sanibel	43	86.0%	61	85.9%	77	84.6%
Captiva	22	44.0%	21	29.6%	31	34.1%
Fort Myers	10	20.0%	21	29.6%	22	24.2%
Other (Please specify):	3	6.0%	4	5.6%	9	9.9%
Overall	50	100.0%	71	100.0%	91	100.0%

Source: RERI analysis of data obtained from the CFI Business Climate Survey, conducted from May 15th, 2024 to June 21st, 2024

**Chart 28.** What industry does your business primarily operate in? (N = 50)  
2024 Q2



Prepared by the Regional Economic Research Institute  
Source: RERI analysis of data obtained from the CFI Business Climate Survey, conducted from May 15th, 2024 to June 21st, 2024

What industry does your business primarily operate in?

Table 20 reports what industry the businesses primarily operate in. In the 2024 Q2 survey, 11 of the 50 businesses (22.0 percent) reported that they primarily operate in accomodations. Furthermore, eight respondents (16.0 percent) reported that they primarily operate in the restaurant industry. There were 7 respopndents (14.0 percent) primarily operating in nonprofit, community, or governmental organization. Also, there were 7 respondents (14.0 percent) each operating in arts entertainment and recreation, or retail trade (14.0 percent). Finally, five respondents (10.0 percent) reported primarily operating in proffessional services.

**Table 20.** What industry does your business primarily operate in?

Response	2024 Q2		2024 Q1		2023 Q4	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Accommodations	11	22.0%	13	18.6%	21	23.1%
Restaurant	8	16.0%	5	7.1%	5	5.5%
Nonprofit, community, or governmental organization	7	14.0%	10	14.3%	14	15.4%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	7	14.0%	9	12.9%	11	12.1%
Retail Trade	7	14.0%	11	15.7%	11	12.1%
Other	5	10.0%	10	14.3%	14	15.4%
Professional Services	5	10.0%	12	17.1%	15	16.5%
Overall	50	100.0%	70	100.0%	91	100.0%

Source: RERI analysis of data obtained from the CFI Business Climate Survey, conducted from May 15th, 2024 to June 21st, 2024

## Appendix A. Focus Group Responses

The following lists include specific responses for each of the open-ended questions asked of focus group respondents. Some respondents did not answer all the focus group questions and left the questions blank.

### Please describe the strengths in Sanibel/Captiva Islands for businesses to reopen.

1. The beaches are still as beautiful as ever. The people who live here are amazing and want each business to succeed. Sanibel/Captiva is a great community.
2. Strong supportive community; Strong Chamber of Commerce; Eagerness to get back to normal; Restaurants re-opening regularly; Accommodations slower in re-opening, but positive outlook; Police force out there making sure all is well.
3. Visitor and resident support.
4. The chamber has been a big support system for our reopening and much appreciated.
5. People have not given up on returning to Sanibel.

People want to support businesses.

The things that we are most famous for have not changed: fabulous white sandy beaches, sunrises and sunsets, wildlife, 26 miles of shared use paths, fishing, birding and wildlife refuges/parks. They are still here and are unchanged.

6. City Administration; Utilities fully functioning; Chamber support; Financial Services support; Beach and Sunshine still equals paradise

Please describe the weaknesses (impediments) in Sanibel/Captiva Islands for businesses to reopen.

1. The lack of employees willing to cross the bridge and pay a toll. Plus the traffic. Finding employees is one of the biggest obstacles we face. It is easier and less expensive for employees to go to Fort Myers Beach for work than pay a toll and sit in traffic to come to Sanibel.
2. Accommodations slower opening than anticipated; City permitting slow; City permitting at times unreasonable; Construction traffic very bad at key times, AM and PM.
3. City of Sanibel planning and permitting, planning commission approvals
4. Insurance, Permitting and supply shortages
5. We cannot compete with illegal and unlicensed weekly rental activity that is ongoing at homes that are zoned for 28 night minimum stays. The City is not enforcing the ordinance. Our monthly rental properties remain vacant because we cannot rent weekly - we would be stripped of our business licenses immediately.

We do not have enough accommodations open to support ancillary businesses.

Everyone is hosting events to increase awareness of and support restaurants and shops, and not one event has been held - or a spotlight on a business that is a vacation rental agency.

Vacation rentals drive the economy, and we are being overlooked in terms of financial support.

6. Construction traffic, which is to be expected; Workforce; Beds; Off-season for tourist

Please describe the challenges (threats) in Sanibel/Captiva Islands for businesses to reopen.

1. Employees coming from mainland difficult; Maintaining schedules with fewer customers; Maintaining levels of inventory without over-purchasing; Maintaining activity schedules with fewer customers; Permitting by City
2. Continued climate change, impending storms, lack of support at city staff level (not exec staff)
3. The expense of insurance
4. Fort Myers Beach will be relaunched as all-new, and high-end. They are mostly zoned for weekly rentals. Sanibel and Captiva will be competing with new, shiny inventory, and while most of our interiors will be new, just as many will not be, and the buildings and amenities will not be new.
5. Lack of response from Insurance industry as to claims, renewals, new policies, etc.

## Please describe the opportunities (lessons learned) in Sanibel/Captiva Islands for businesses to reopen.

1. Persistence; Determination; Goal of getting back to normal; Cautious yet solid.
2. While catastrophe can happen, our community is mentally resilient and working towards physically resilient in some ways. We could be doing this more.
3. Get assessed and order supplies needed early.
4. If you owned your own building, it was easier to reopen. If you leased your space, you are at the mercy of your landlord as to when you can reopen, and at what cost per square foot.

Internet is a must. Starlink was and continues to be the only reliable internet source.

Having a network of resources and having good relationships with people from all professions and walks of life is invaluable.

Everyone should have a hurricane evacuation plan, as well as a Recovery plan and a business recovery kit. No excuses.



Please describe any additional details or comments regarding the challenges faced in Sanibel/Captiva for businesses to reopen.

1. Many folks are trying to get back to the status quo. a most obvious example is rebuilding ground level. what they should be doing is reinventing their future instead. missed opportunities, but it's hard to build up when it is exceptionally expensive.
2. Permitting continues to be a nightmare. The island has changed during the recovery process. Speeding, theft, illegal parking and illegal rentals - the quality of life on the island has deteriorated.



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