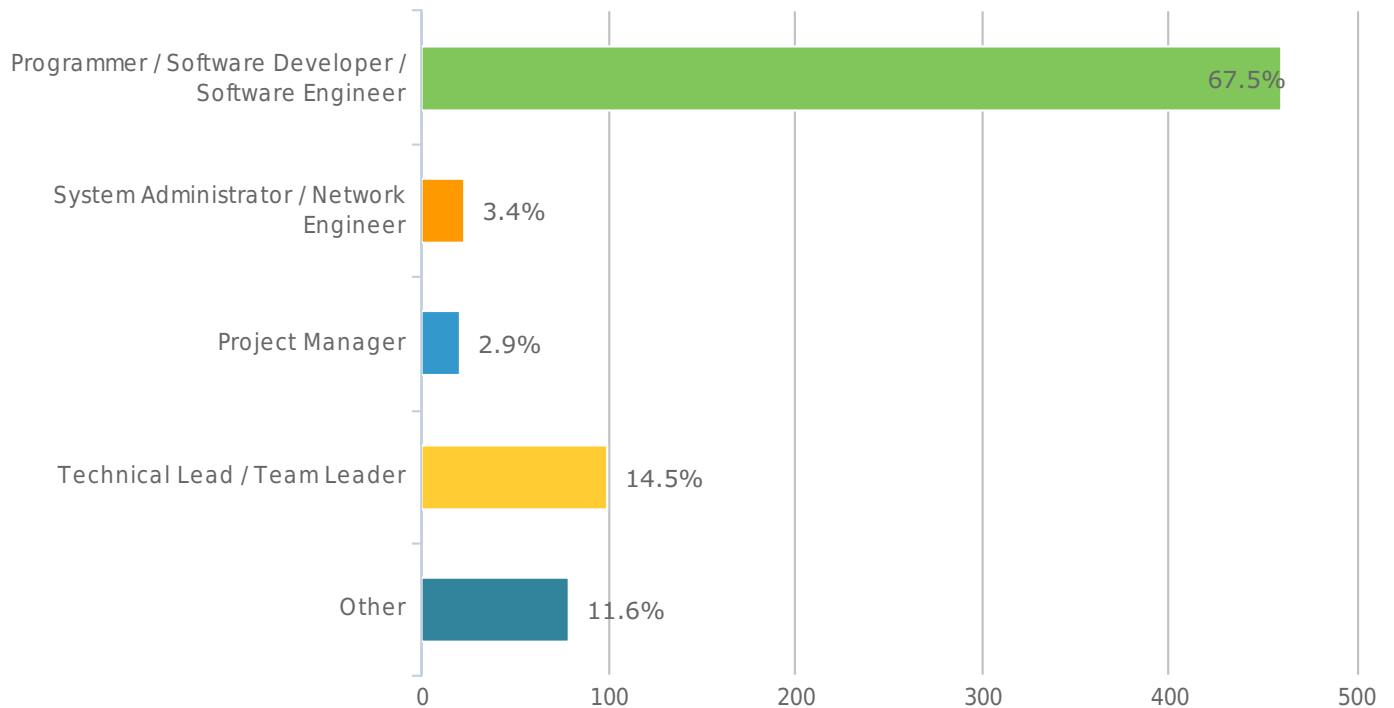


UBC Software Practices Lab - Software Licensing Survey

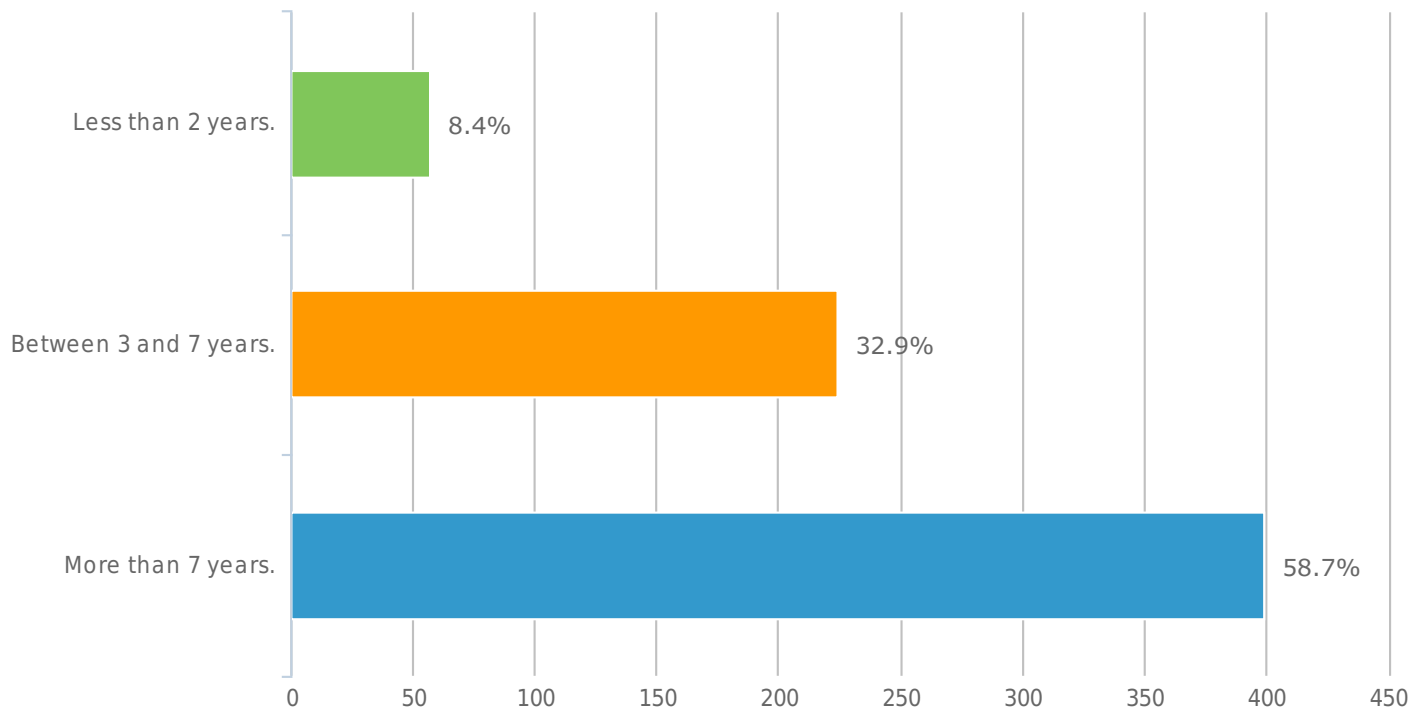
This document contains the survey's aggregate results. The participants' comments can be found in the csv file that accompanied this document as part of the data package.

Demographic Questions

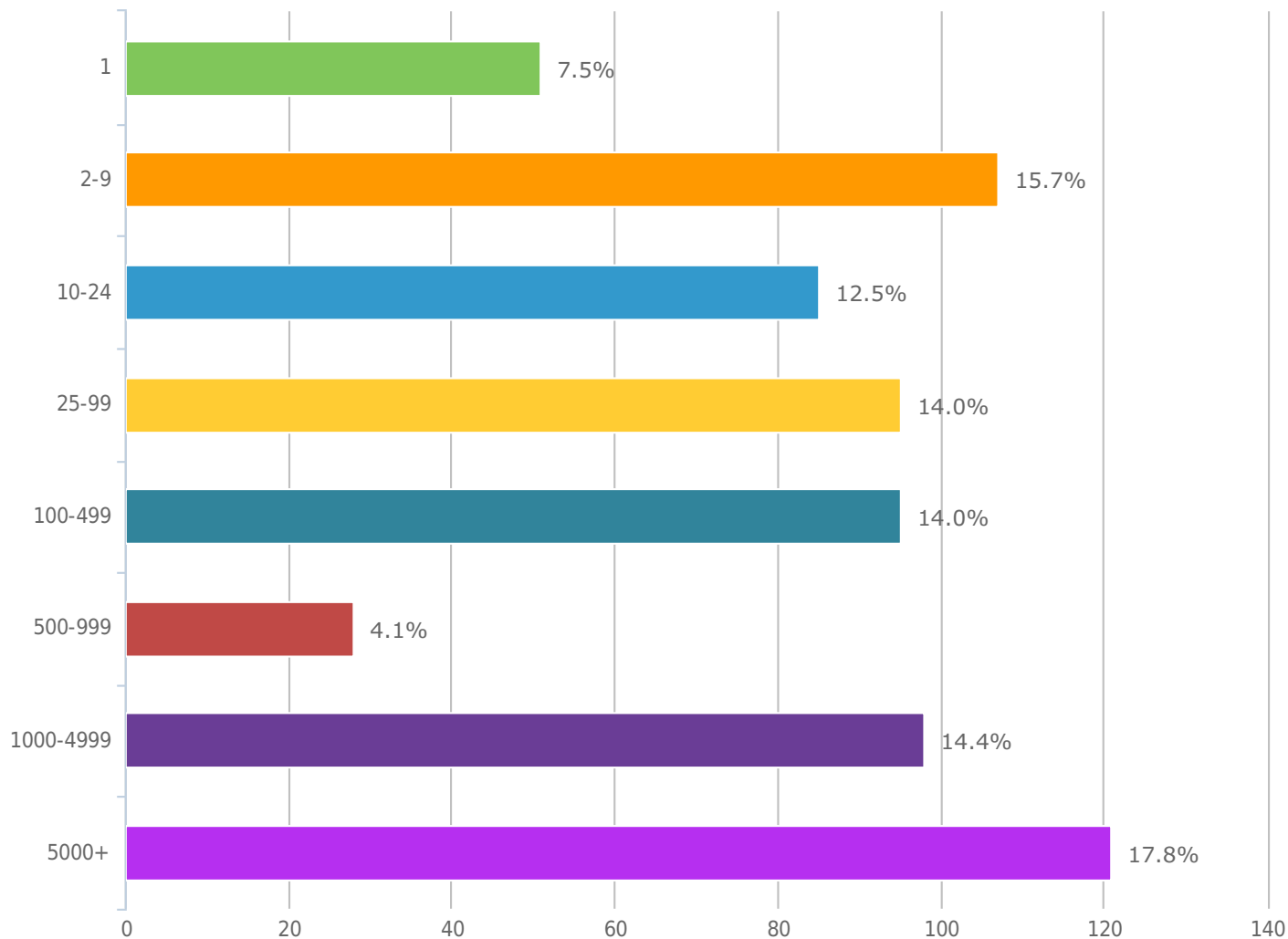
[demographics01] Which job title best represents your responsibilities?



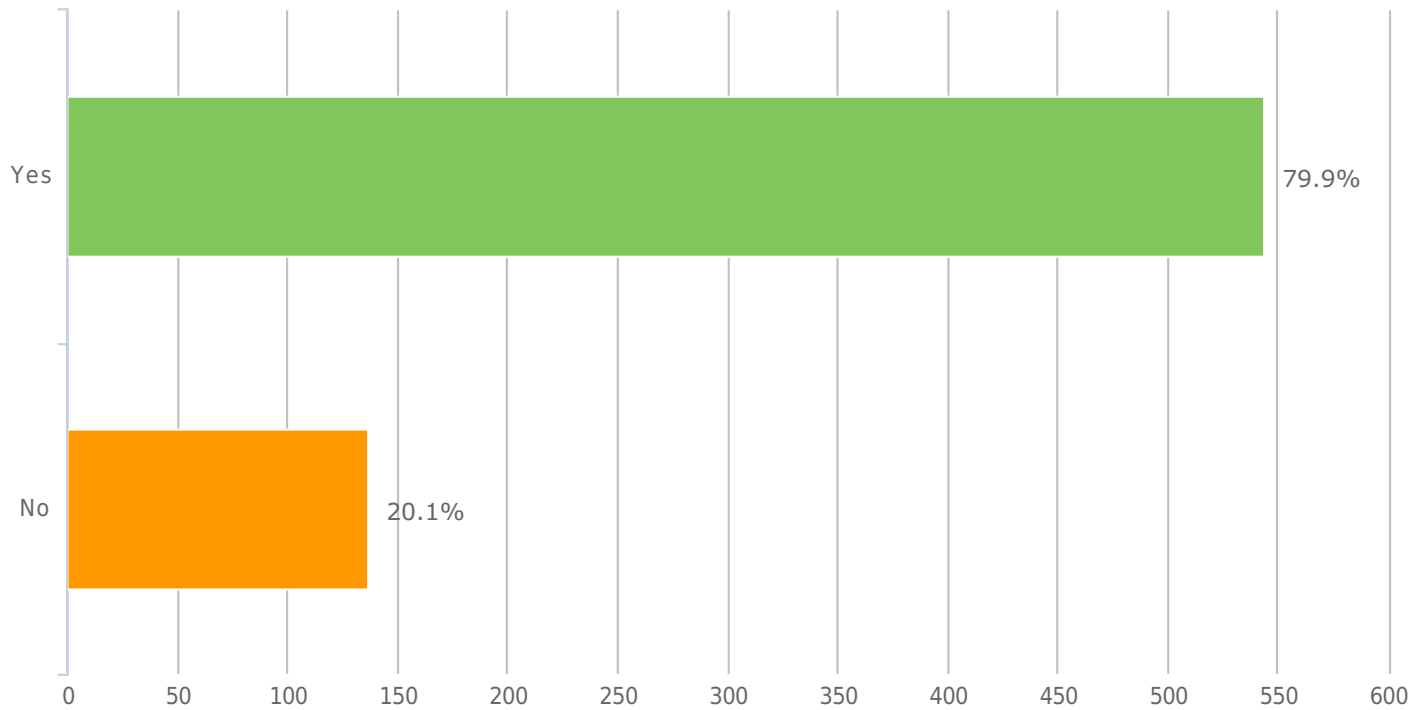
[demographics02] What is your experience level in software development?



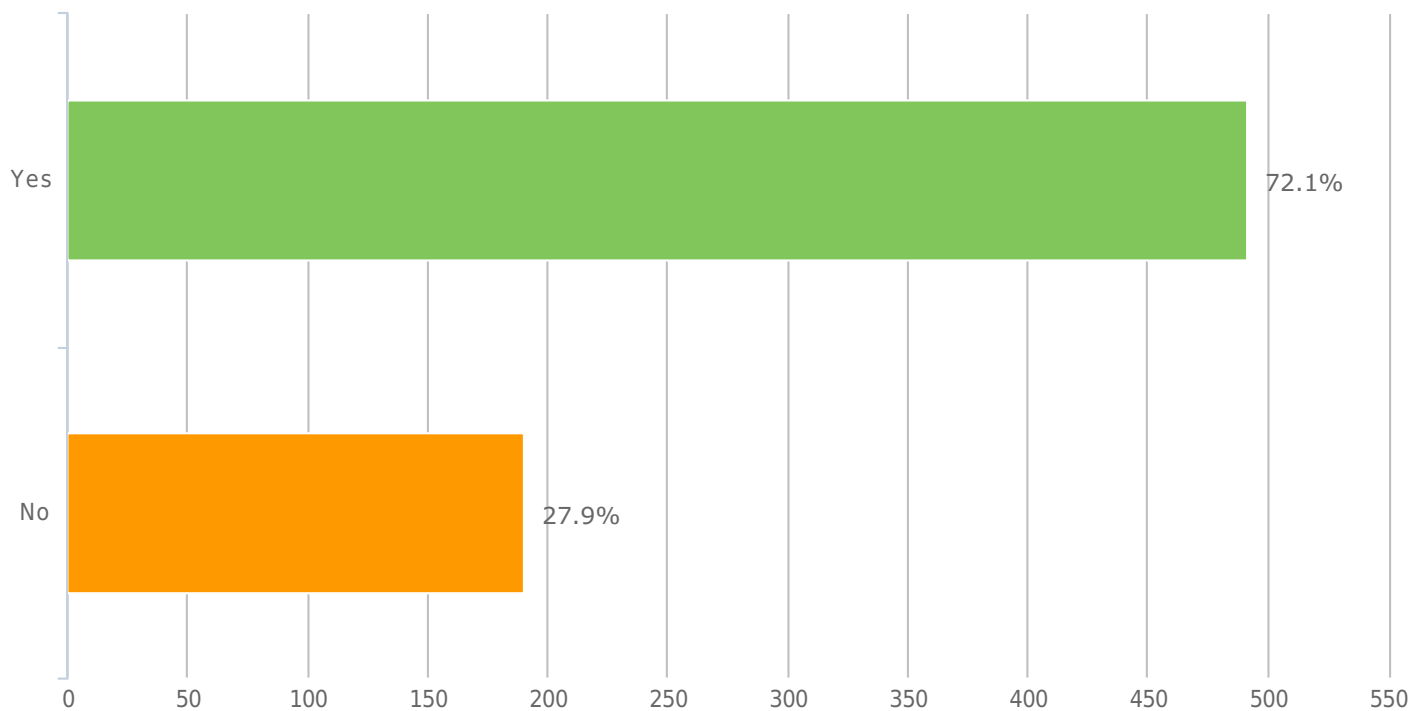
[demographics03] What is the total number of people working in the company you work for?



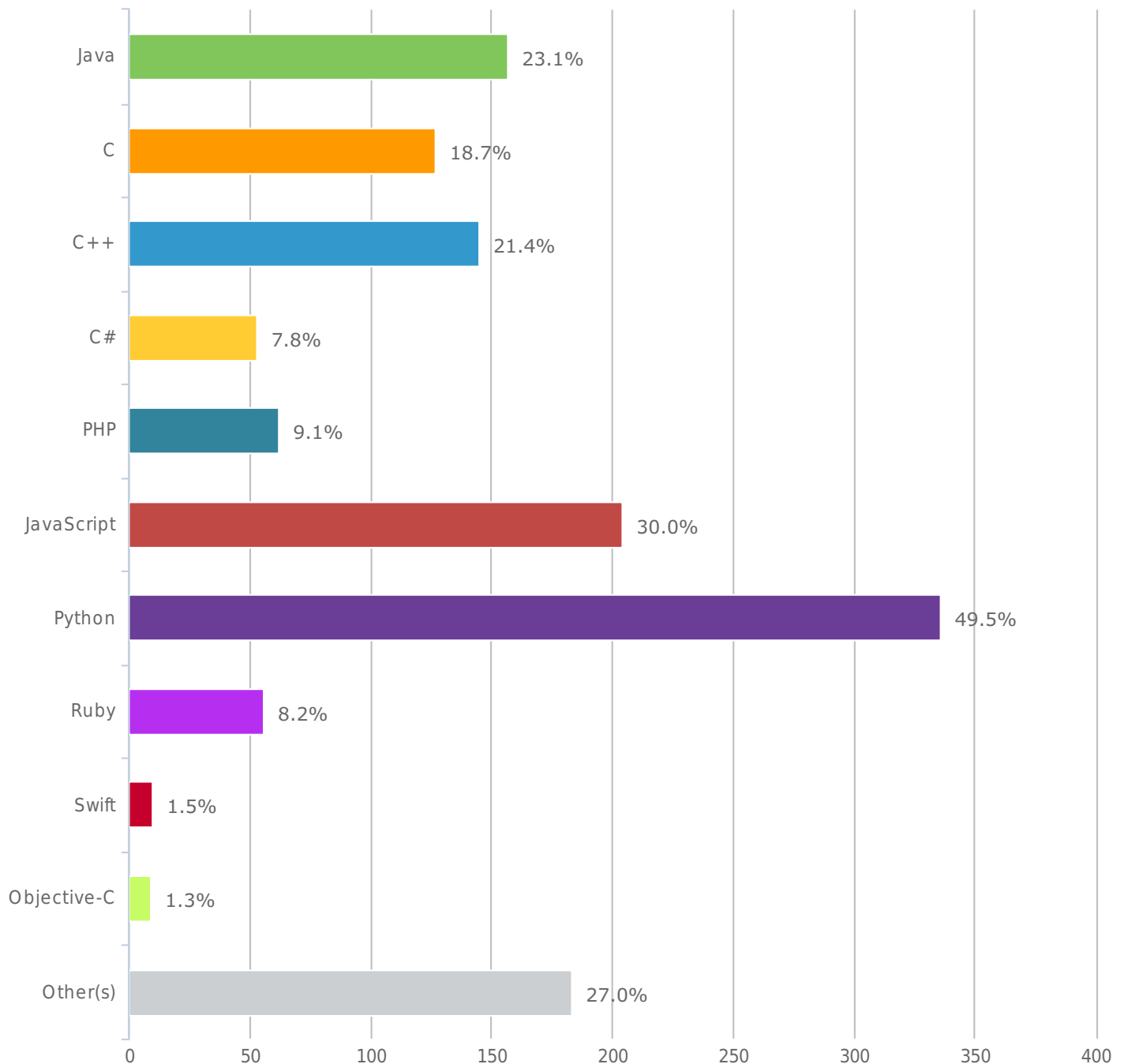
[demographics04] Have you ever had to choose a software project's license?



[demographics05] Do you often contribute to open source software projects (either as part of your job or on your own time)?



[demographics06] Which programming language do you use the most?

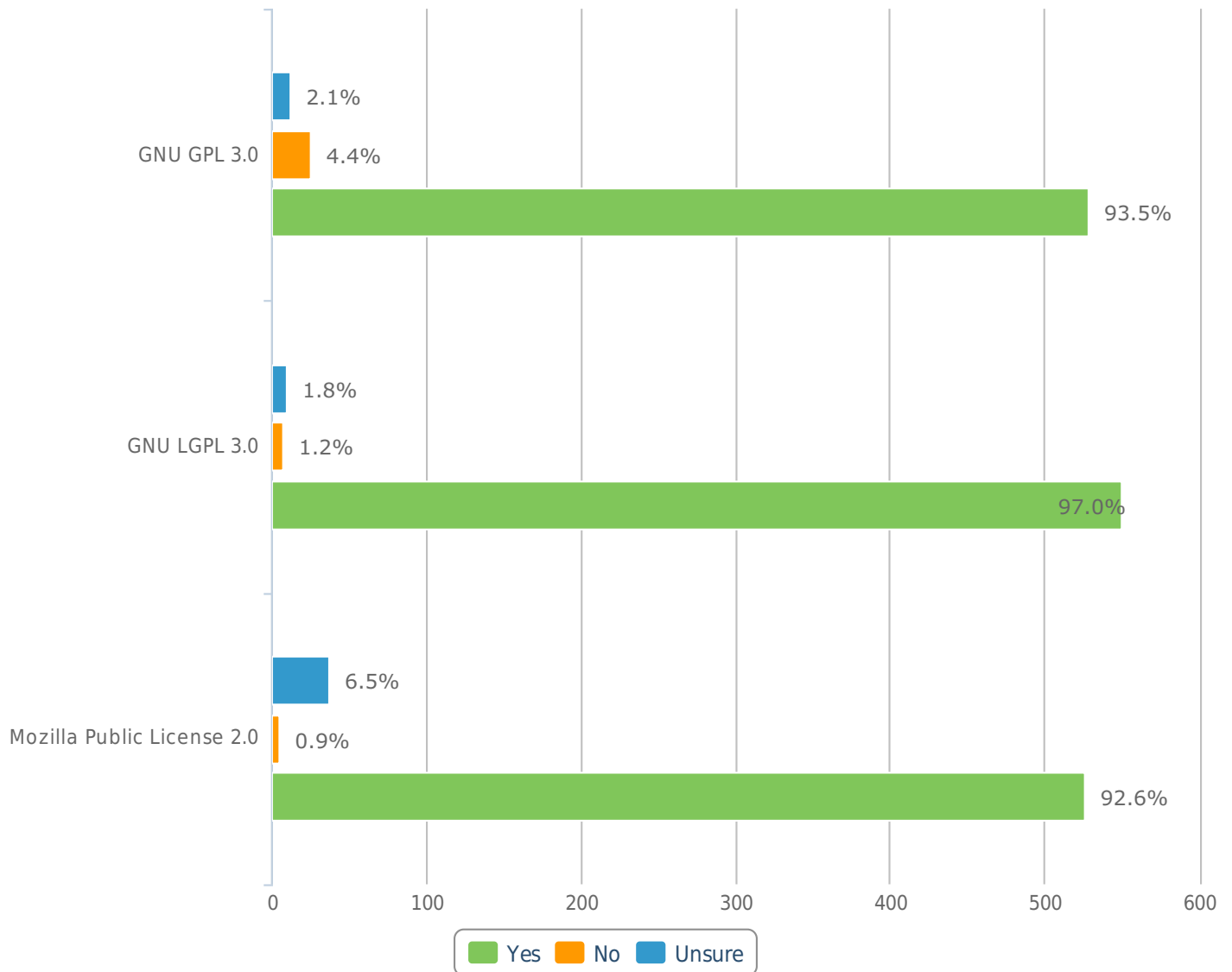


Software Licensing Scenarios

The following pages will present 7 hypothetical software development scenarios involving open source licenses. At the end of a scenario, you will have to answer Yes, No, or Unsure to a direct question for each of the following three licenses: GNU GPL 3.0, GNU LGPL 3.0, and Mozilla Public License 2.0. If you answer Unsure, an additional open question will appear, giving you the opportunity to elaborate on why you are not sure. You can find the licenses here: [Software Licenses](#). Once the survey is closed, the results and what we consider to be the best answers will be available here: [Results](#).

Scenario 1 John has been working on ToDoApp, his own personal task management application. ToDoApp is going to be a desktop-based application that will be used exclusively by John on his own computer. To make sure he does not lose any of his very special tasks, John is planning to use a lightweight library called LightDB to persist ToDoApp's data.

[scenario01] If LightDB is distributed under the following licenses, would John be allowed to use it as part of ToDoApp?



[scenario01_unsure_gpl3] Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for GNU GPL 3.0?

Response	Count
8 responses	

[scenario01_unsure_lgpl3] Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for GNU LGPL 3.0?

Response	Count
	6 responses

[scenario01_unsure_mpl] Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for Mozilla Public License 2.0?

Response	Count
	29 responses

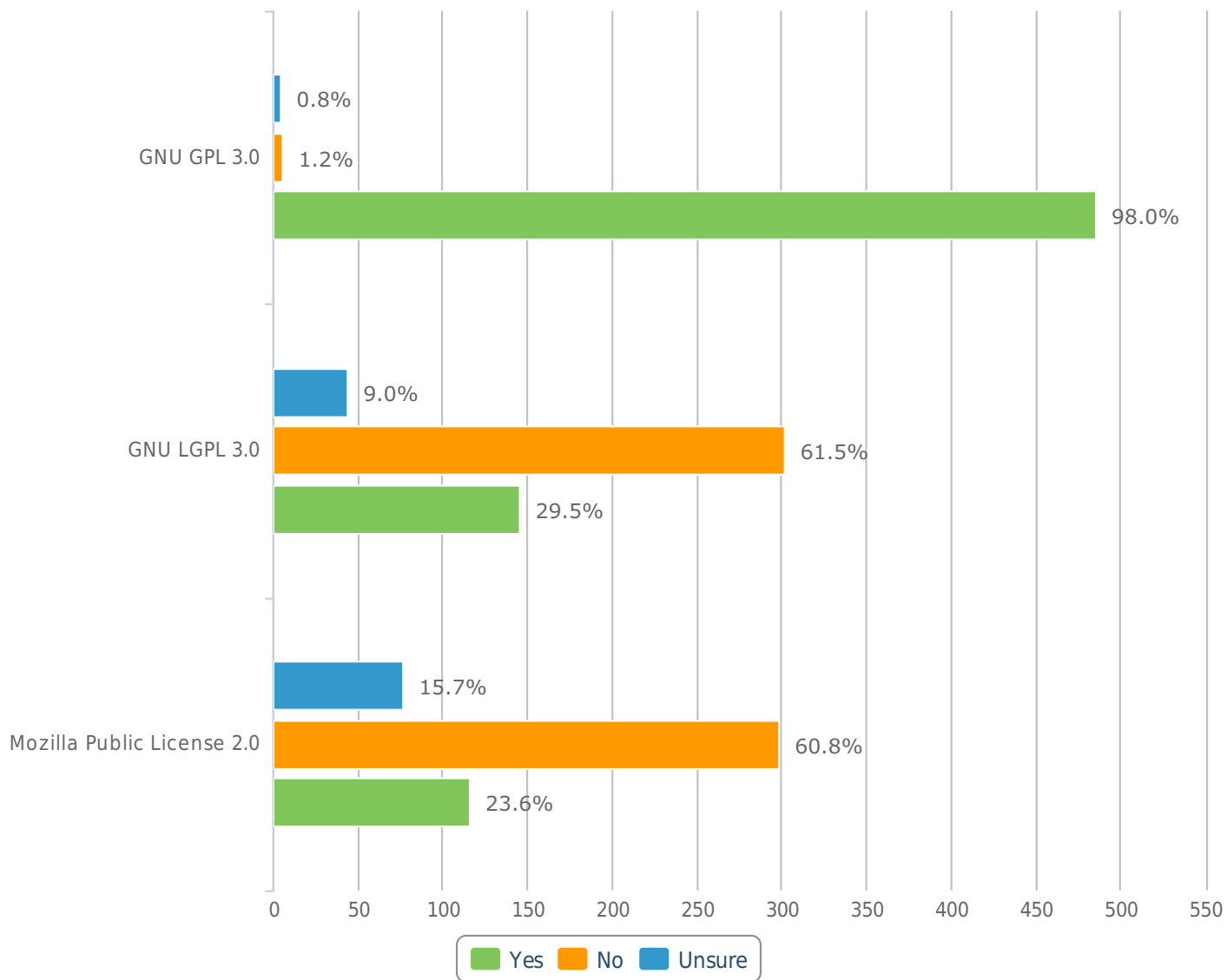
[scenario01_assumptions] Are there any assumptions you've made about this scenario? Is anything unclear or confusing to you?

Response	Count
	137 responses

Scenario 2

Having used ToDoApp for three months, John realized how much his productivity has improved. To help other people manage their tasks as efficiently as well, John has decided to make ToDoApp available as open source.

[scenario02_gpl3] If LightDB, the lightweight library used to persist ToDoApp's data, is distributed under GNU GPL 3.0, would John be allowed to make ToDoApp available under the following licenses ?



[scenario02_gpl3_unsure_gpl3] Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for GNU GPL 3.0?

Response	Count
4 responses	

[scenario02_gpl3_unsure_lgpl3] Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for GNU LGPL 3.0?

Response	Count
32 responses	

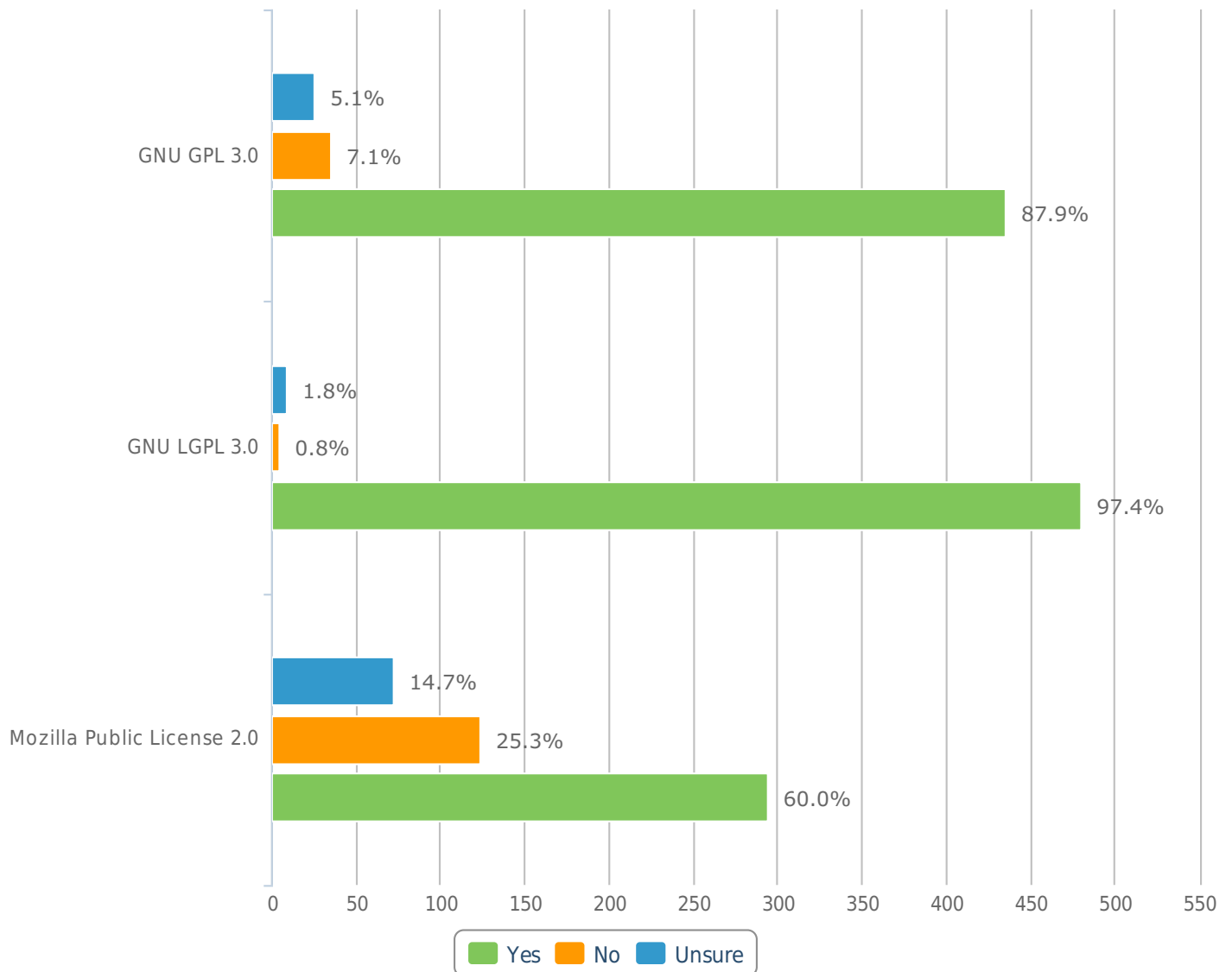
[scenario02_gpl3_unsure_mpl] Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for Mozilla Public License 2.0?

Response

Count

56 responses

[scenario02_lgpl3] If LightDB, the lightweight library used to persist ToDoApp's data, is distributed under GNU LGPL 3.0, would John be allowed to make ToDoApp available under the following licenses ?



[scenario02_lgpl3_unsure_gpl3] Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for GNU GPL 3.0?

Response

Count

11 responses

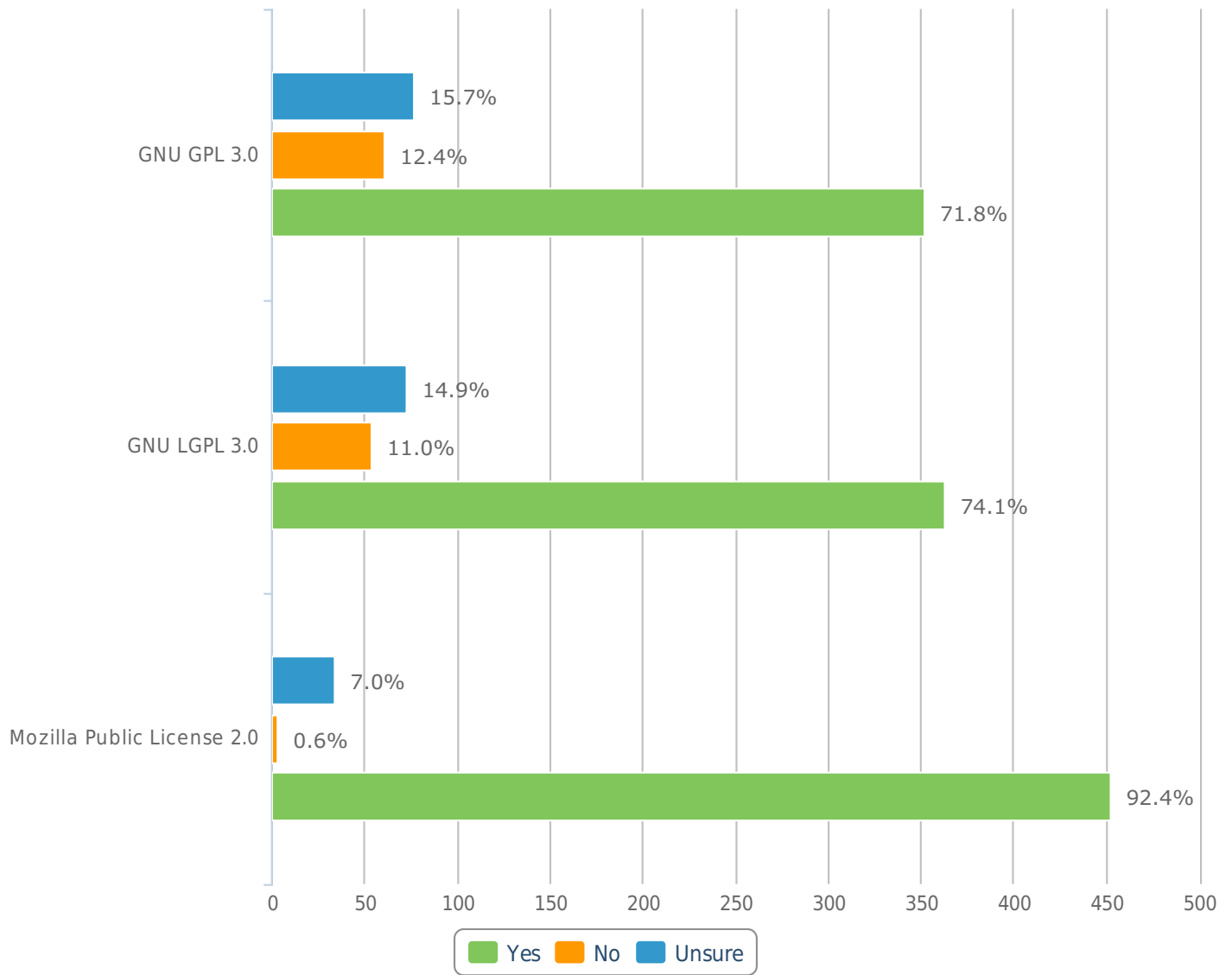
[scenario02_lgpl3_unsure_lgpl3] Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for GNU LGPL 3.0?

Response	Count
	7 responses

[scenario02_lgpl3_unsure_mpl] Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for Mozilla Public License 2.0?

Response	Count
	40 responses

[scenario02_mpl] If LightDB, the lightweight library used to persist ToDoApp's data, is distributed under Mozilla Public License 2.0, would John be allowed to make ToDoApp available under the following licenses ?



[scenario02_mpl_unsure_gpl3] Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for GNU GPL 3.0?

Response

Count

47 responses

[scenario02_mpl_unsure_lgpl3] Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for GNU LGPL 3.0?

Response

Count

43 responses

[scenario02_mpl_unsure_mpl] Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for Mozilla Public License 2.0?

Response	Count
	18 responses

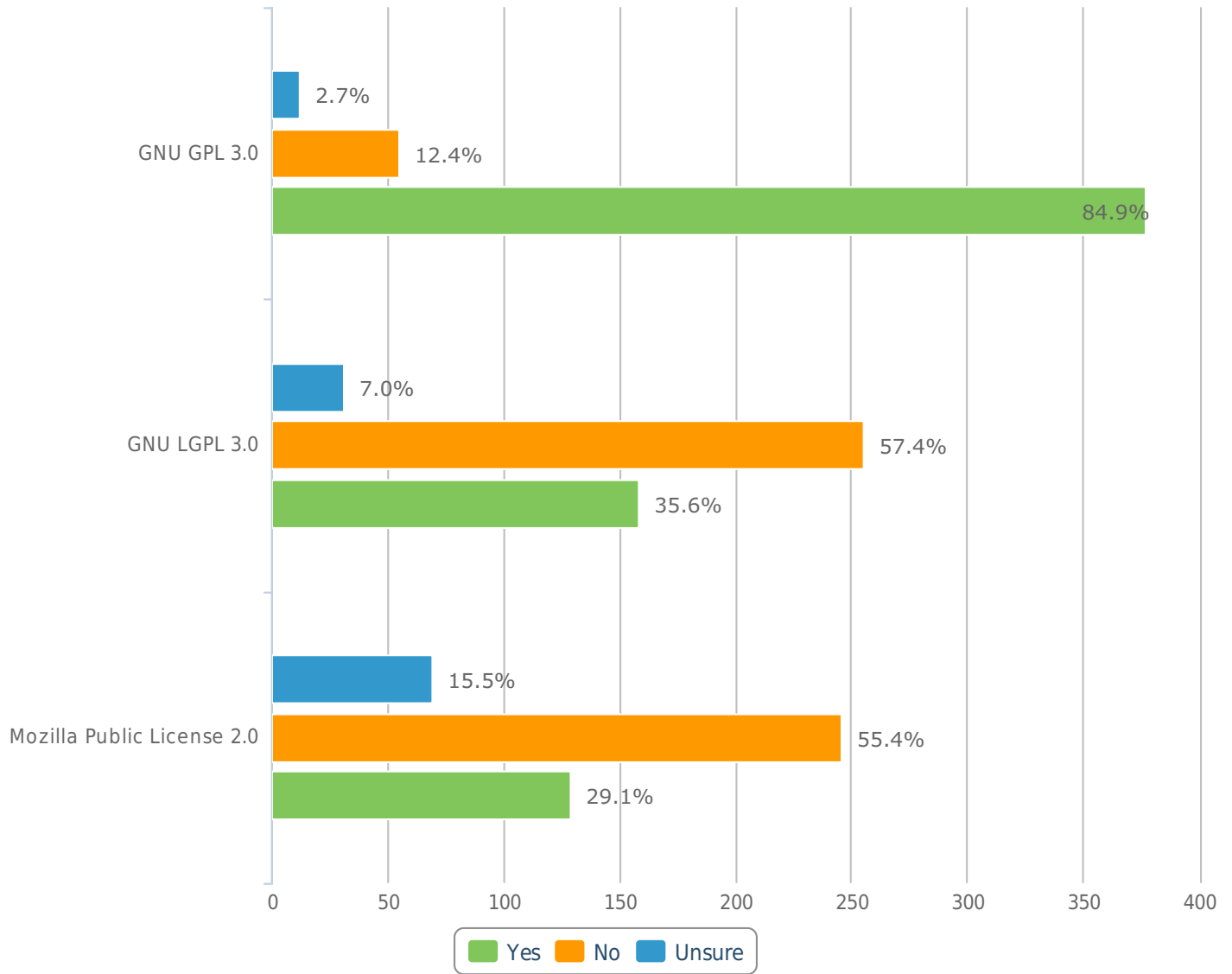
[scenario02_assumptions] Are there any assumptions you've made about this scenario? Is anything unclear or confusing to you?

Response	Count
	109 responses

Scenario 3

After the success of the open source version of ToDoApp, John has decided to create a brand new commercial task management application: TaskPro. TaskPro is going to be built from scratch and use LightDB as a lightweight library to persist data.

[scenario03_gpl3] If LightDB is distributed under GNU GPL 3.0, would John be allowed to make TaskPro commercially available under the following licenses ?



[scenario03_gpl3_unsure_gpl3] Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for GNU GPL 3.0?

Response	Count
	8 responses

[scenario03_gpl3_unsure_lgpl3] Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for GNU LGPL 3.0?

Response	Count
	18 responses

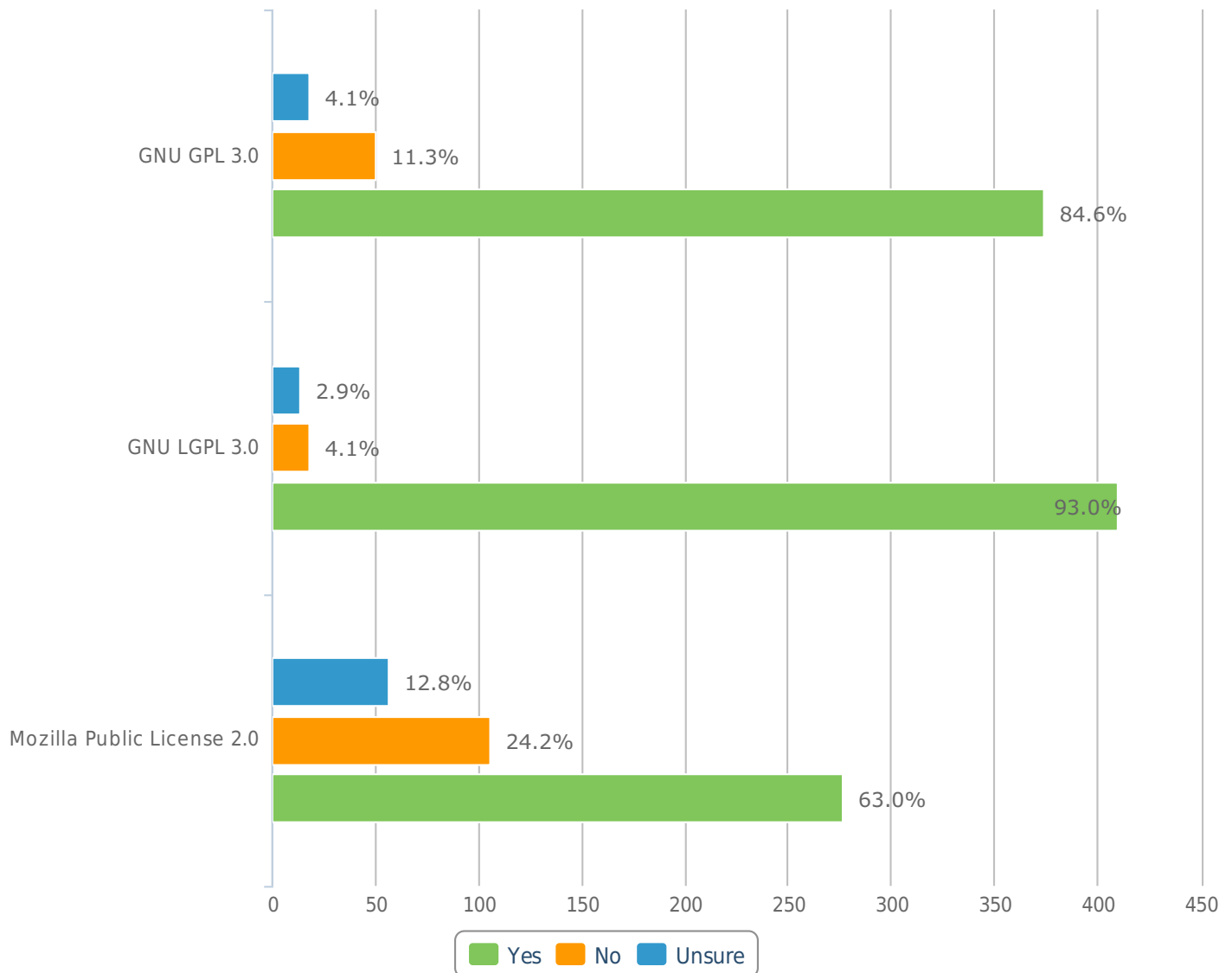
[scenario03_gpl3_unsure_mpl] Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for Mozilla Public License 2.0?

Response

Count

40 responses

[scenario03_lgpl3] If LightDB is distributed under GNU LGPL 3.0, would John be allowed to make TaskPro commercially available under the following licenses ?



[scenario03_lgpl3_unsure_gpl3] Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for GNU GPL 3.0?

Response

Count

8 responses

[scenario03_lgpl3_unsure_lgpl3] Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for GNU LGPL 3.0?

Response

Count

6 responses

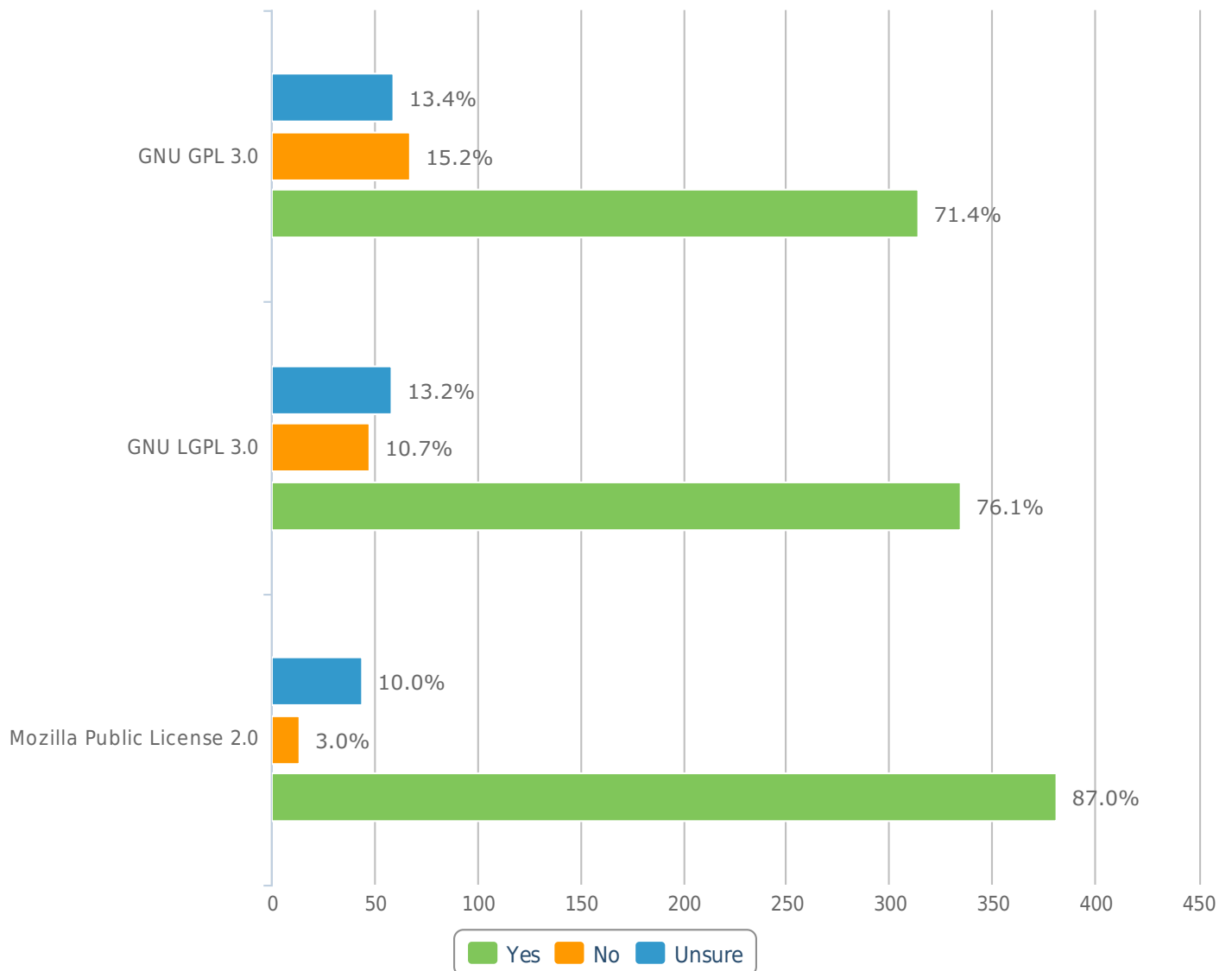
[scenario03_lgpl3_unsure_mpl] Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for Mozilla Public License 2.0?

Response

Count

28 responses

[scenario03_mpl] If LightDB is distributed under Mozilla Public License 2.0, would John be allowed to make TaskPro commercially available under the following licenses ?



[scenario03_mpl_unsure_gpl3] Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for GNU GPL 3.0?

Response	Count
	33 responses

[scenario03_mpl_unsure_lgpl3] Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for GNU LGPL 3.0?

Response	Count
	32 responses

[scenario03_mpl_unsure_mpl] Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for Mozilla Public License 2.0?

Response	Count
	25 responses

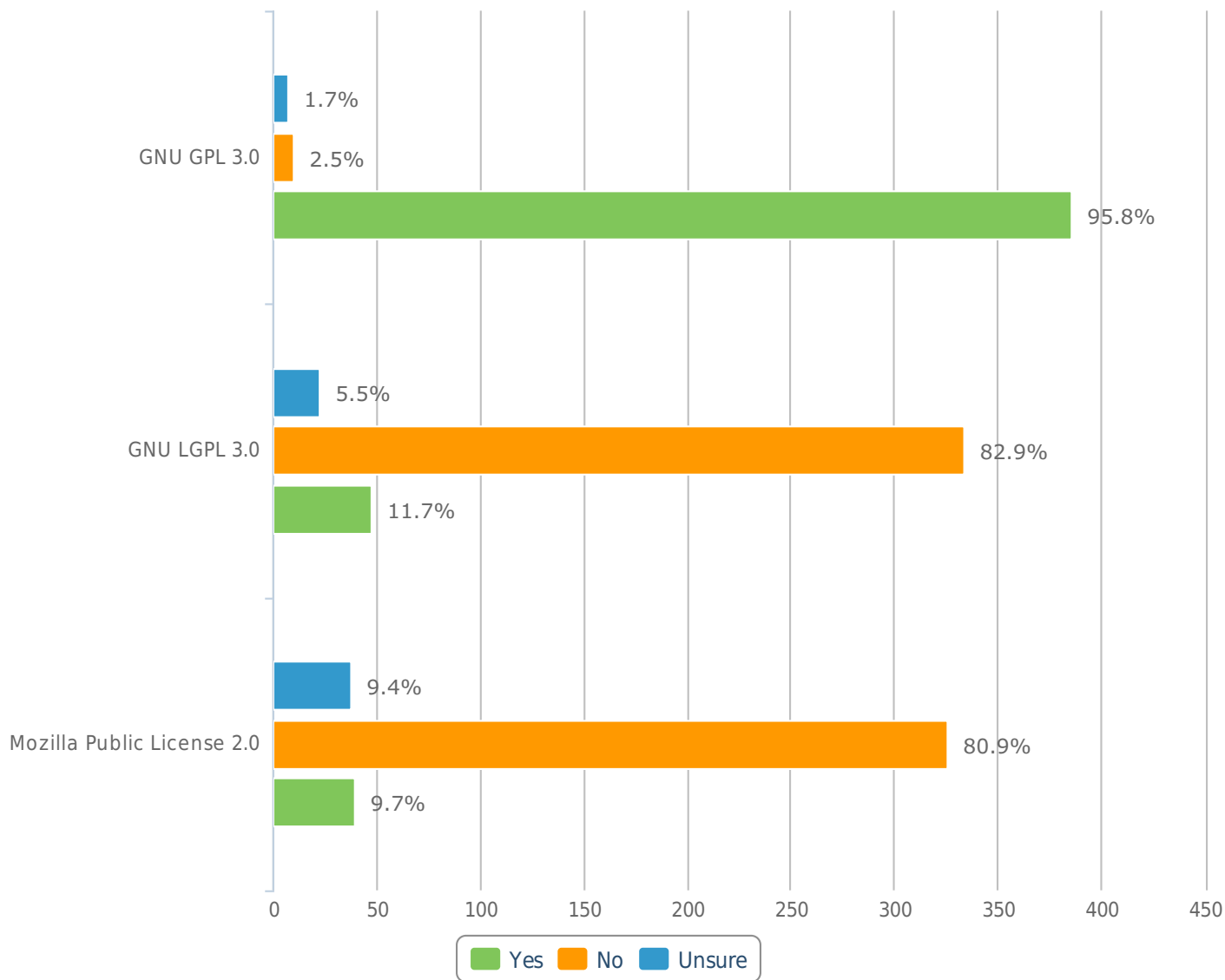
[scenario03_assumptions] Are there any assumptions you've made about this scenario? Is anything unclear or confusing to you?

Response	Count
	127 responses

Scenario 4

As the lead developer of a new product at GreatSoftware Inc., Laura decided to use an existing authentication library she found on the Web called SafeAuth. She realizes that SafeAuth could be improved by using a stronger cryptographic algorithm when storing users' information. The product is going to be released under a commercial software license, but Laura would like to release the improved version of SafeAuth as open source.

[scenario04_gpl3] If SafeAuth is distributed under GNU GPL 3.0, would Laura and her team be allowed to release the improved version of SafeAuth under the the following licenses ?



[scenario04_gpl3_unsure_gpl3] Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for GNU GPL 3.0?

Response	Count
	3 responses

[scenario04_gpl3_unsure_lgpl3] Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for GNU LGPL 3.0?

Response	Count
	12 responses

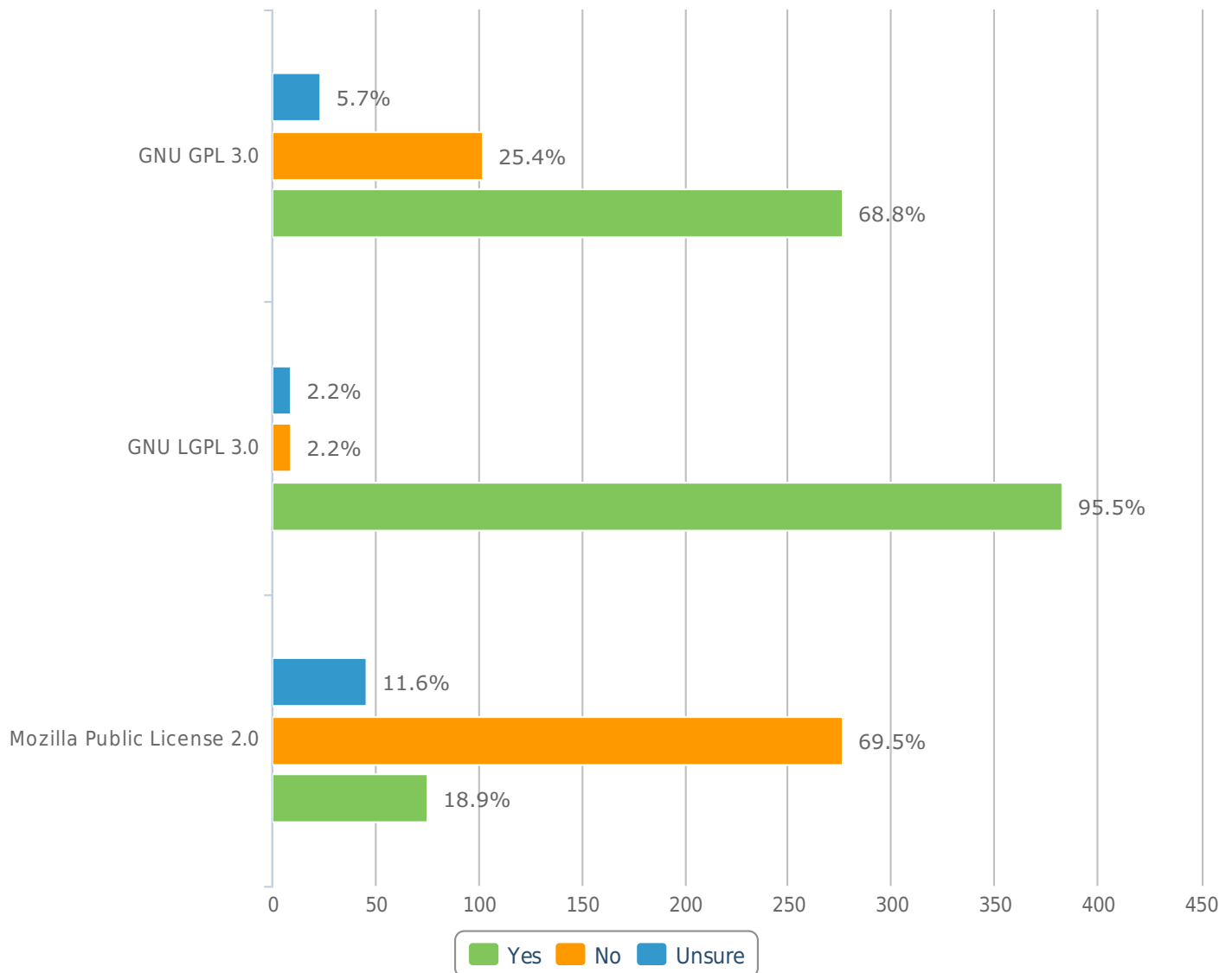
[scenario04_gpl3_unsure_mpl] Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for Mozilla Public License 2.0?

Response

Count

17 responses

[scenario04_lgpl3] If SafeAuth is distributed under GNU LGPL 3.0, would Laura and her team be allowed to release the improved version of SafeAuth under the following licenses ?



[scenario04_lgpl3_unsure_gpl3] Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for GNU GPL 3.0?

Response

Count

13 responses

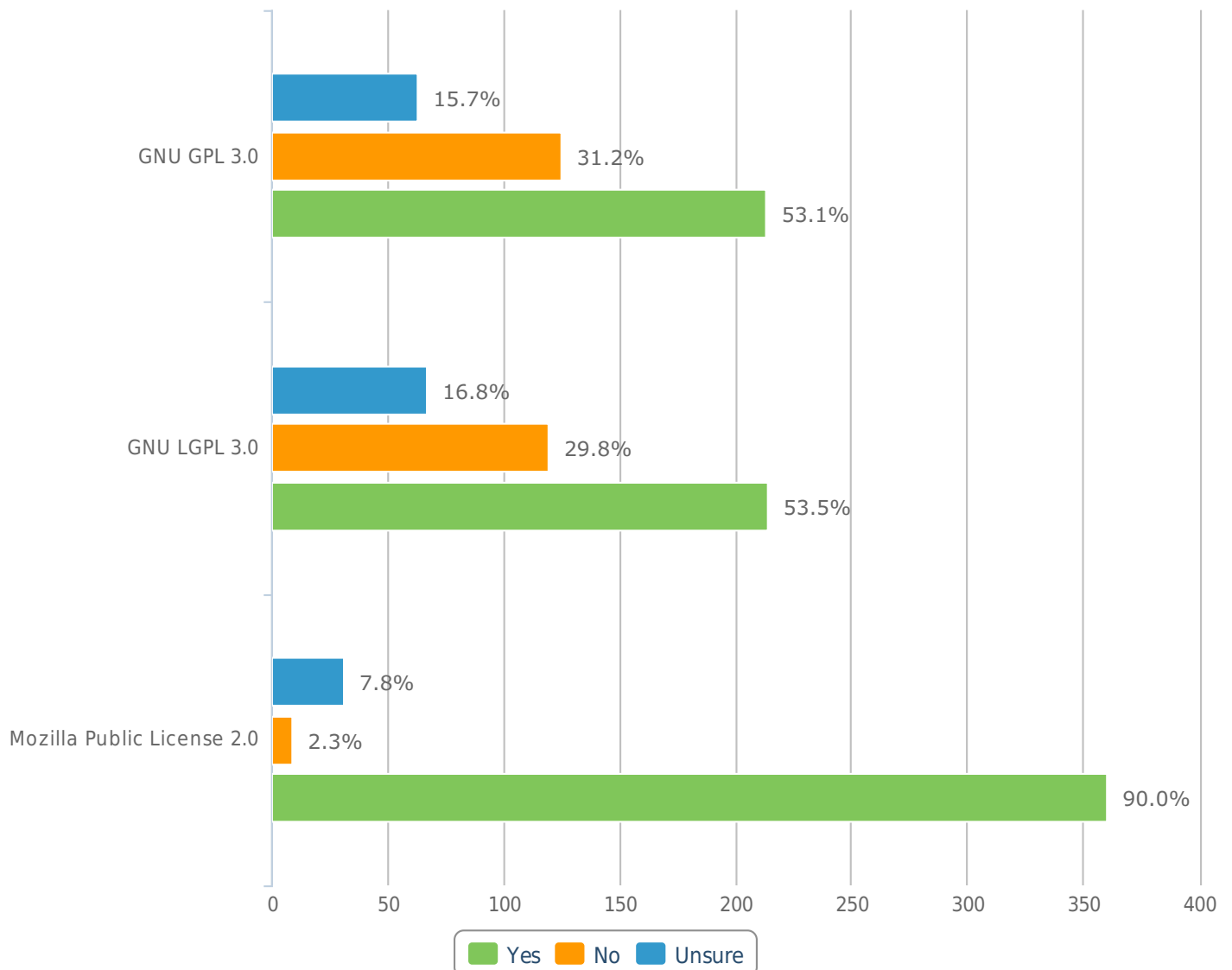
[scenario04_lgpl3_unsure_lgpl3] Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for GNU LGPL 3.0?

Response	Count
3 responses	

[scenario04_lgpl3_unsure_mpl] Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for Mozilla Public License 2.0?

Response	Count
20 responses	

[scenario04_mpl] If SafeAuth is distributed under Mozilla Public License 2.0, would Laura and her team be allowed to release the improved version of SafeAuth under the following licenses ?



[scenario04_mpl_unsure_gpl3] Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for GNU GPL 3.0?

Response	Count
	33 responses

[scenario04_mpl_unsure_lgpl3] Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for GNU LGPL 3.0?

Response	Count
	36 responses

[scenario04_mpl_unsure_mpl] Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for Mozilla Public License 2.0?

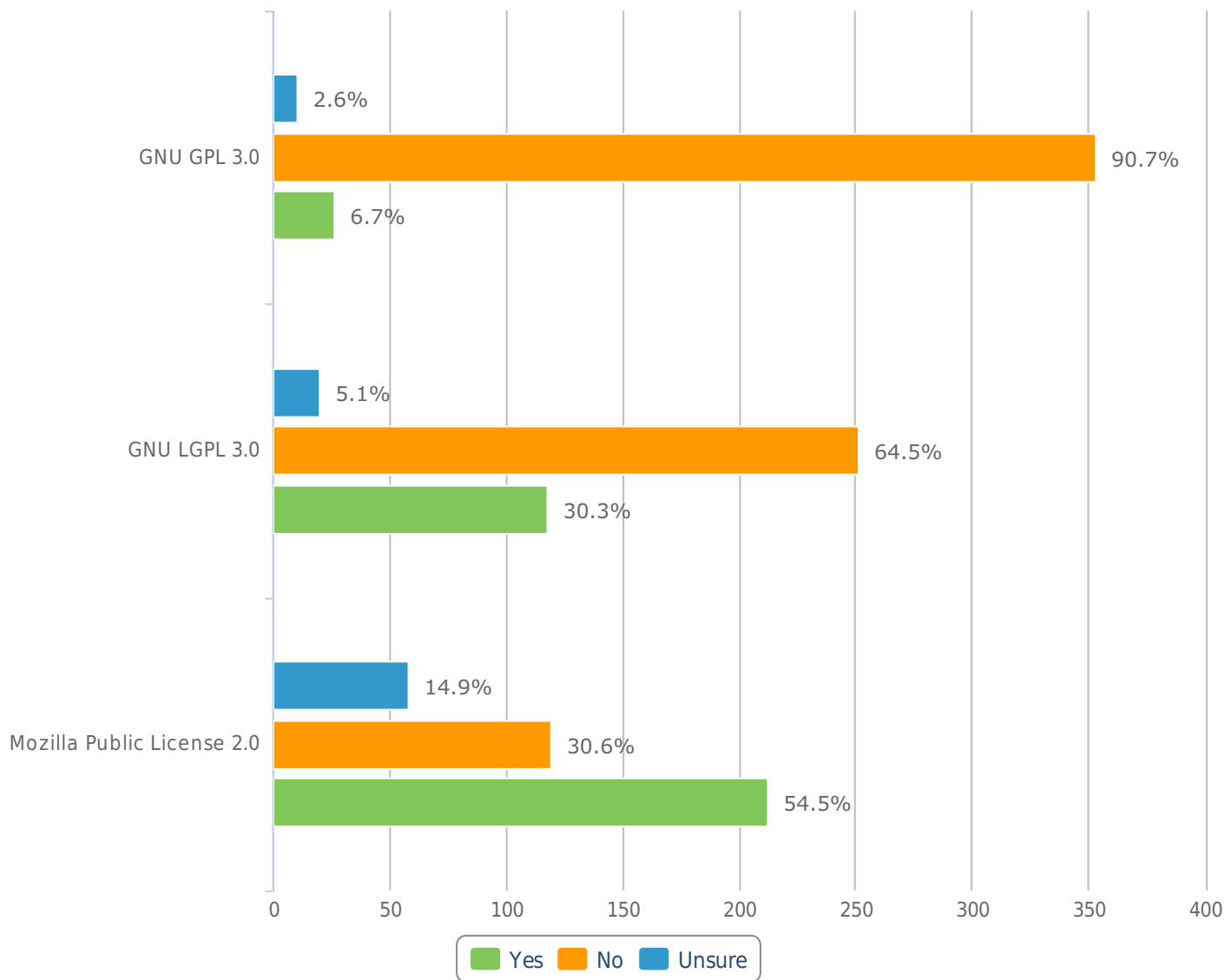
Response	Count
	15 responses

[scenario04_assumptions] Are there any assumptions you've made about this scenario? Is anything unclear or confusing to you?

Response	Count
	54 responses

Scenario 5

[scenario05] Laura, who works for GreatSoftware Inc., has changed the open source version of SafeAuth found on the Web and added a new, stronger cryptographic algorithm to it. Despite Laura's intentions to release the modified version of SafeAuth as open source, her manager sees a very strong competitive advantage for their products and decides not to release the modified version as open source. Considering that the new product is going to be distributed under a commercial software license, if SafeAuth is distributed under the following licenses, can Laura and her team use the modified version as part of their new product?



[scenario05_unsure_gpl3] Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for GNU GPL 3.0?

Response	Count
6 responses	

[scenario05_unsure_lgpl3] Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for GNU LGPL 3.0?

Response	Count
11 responses	

[scenario05_unsure_mpl] Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for Mozilla Public License 2.0?

Response	Count
	35 responses

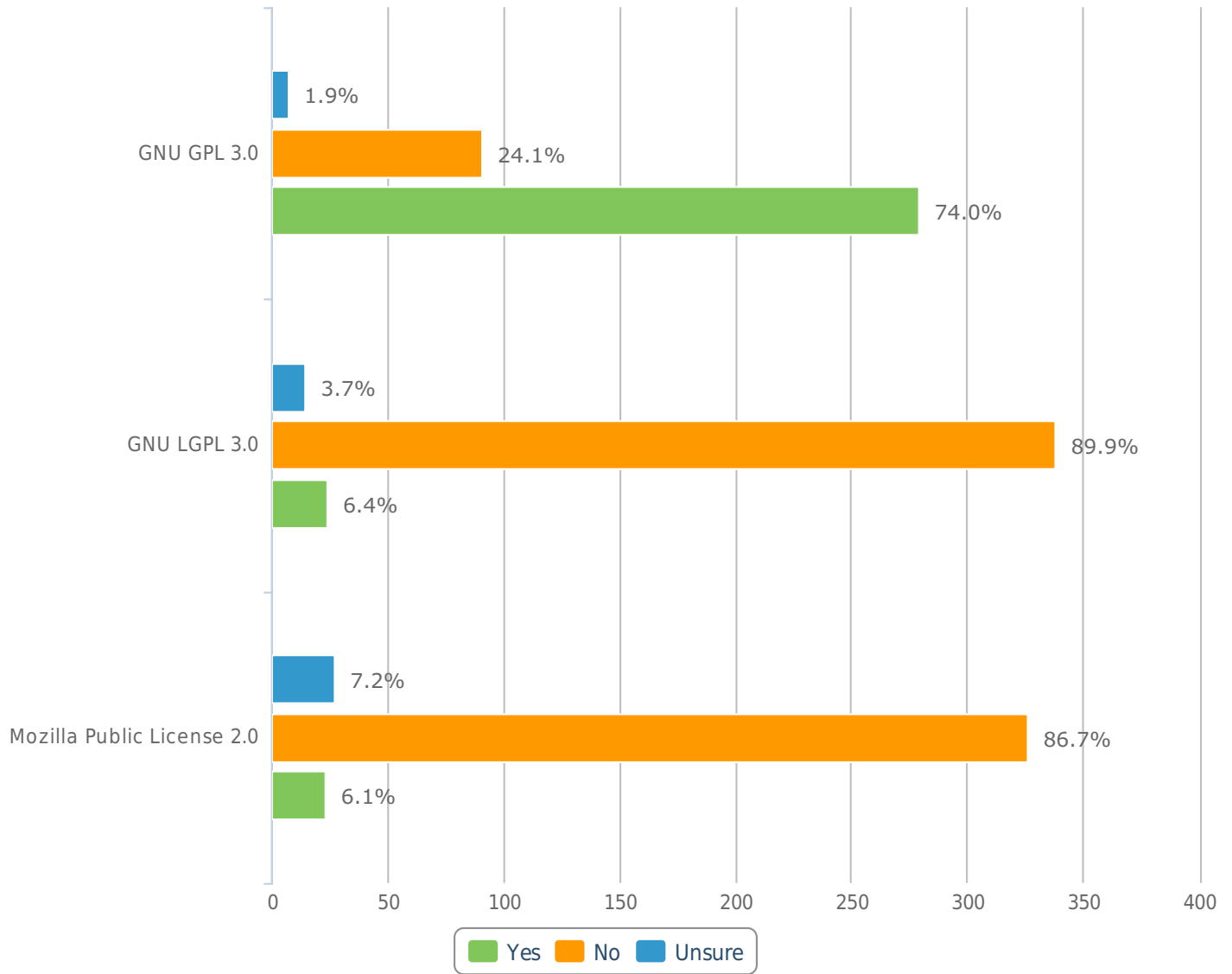
[scenario05_assumptions] Are there any assumptions you've made about this scenario? Is anything unclear or confusing to you?

Response	Count
	74 responses

Scenario 6

Shaoqing believes there are unhappy users out there willing to pay for a premium email client. To get to market faster, she decided to use an open source implementation of the Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP).

[scenario06_gpl3] If the SMTP implementation is released under the GNU GPL 3.0, would Shaoqing be allowed to fork the SMTP project and change the fork's license to the the following licenses in order to use it in her commercial e-mail client?



[scenario06_gpl3_unsure_gpl3] Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for GNU GPL 3.0?

Response	Count
5 responses	

[scenario06_gpl3_unsure_lgpl3] Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for GNU LGPL 3.0?

Response	Count
6 responses	

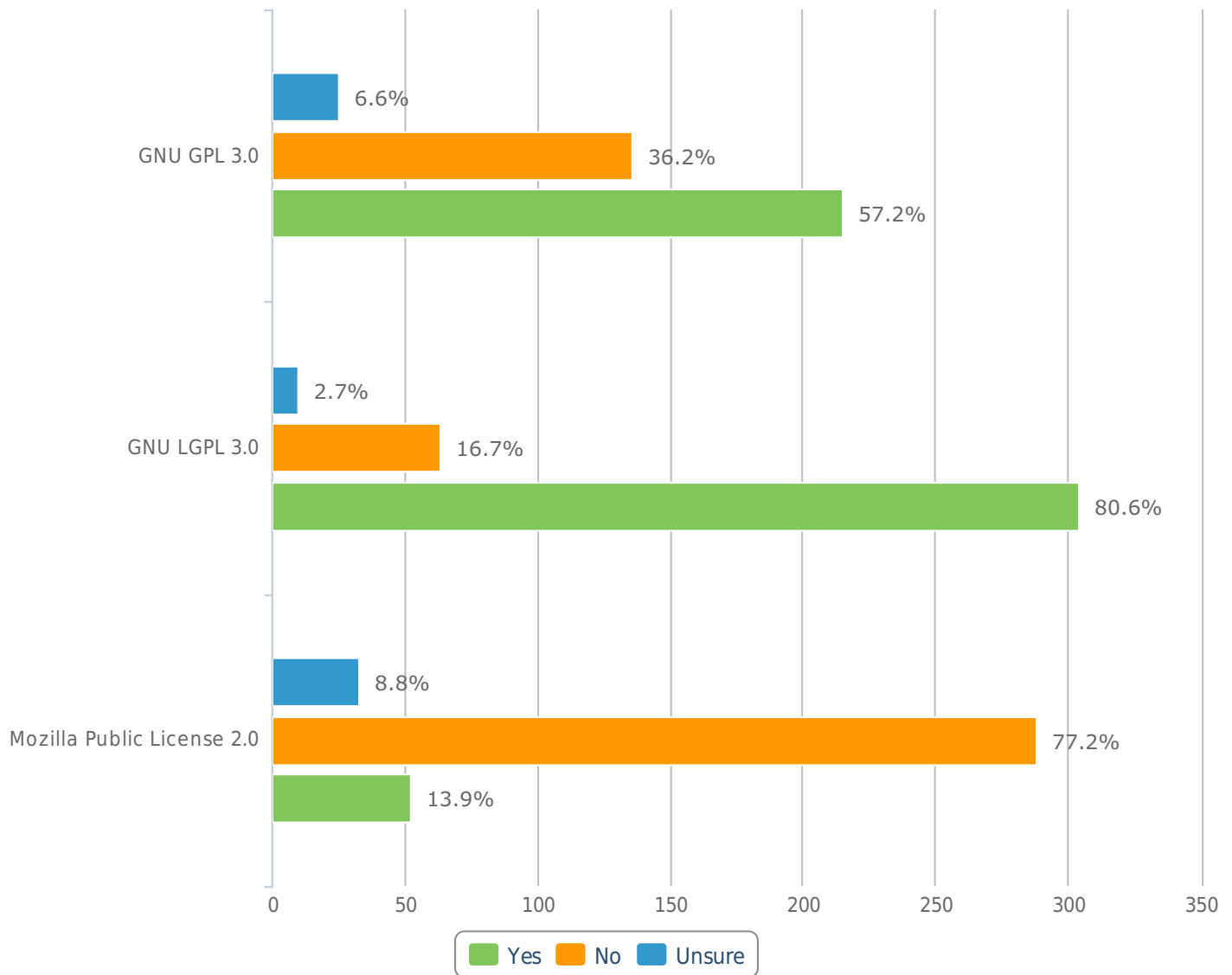
[scenario06_gpl3_unsure_mpl] Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for Mozilla Public License 2.0?

Response

Count

12 responses

[scenario06_lgpl3] If the SMTP implementation is released under the GNU LGPL 3.0, would Shaoqing be allowed to fork the SMTP project and change the fork's license to the the following licenses in order to use it in her commercial e-mail client?



[scenario06_lgpl3_unsure_gpl3] Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for GNU GPL 3.0?

Response	Count
	14 responses

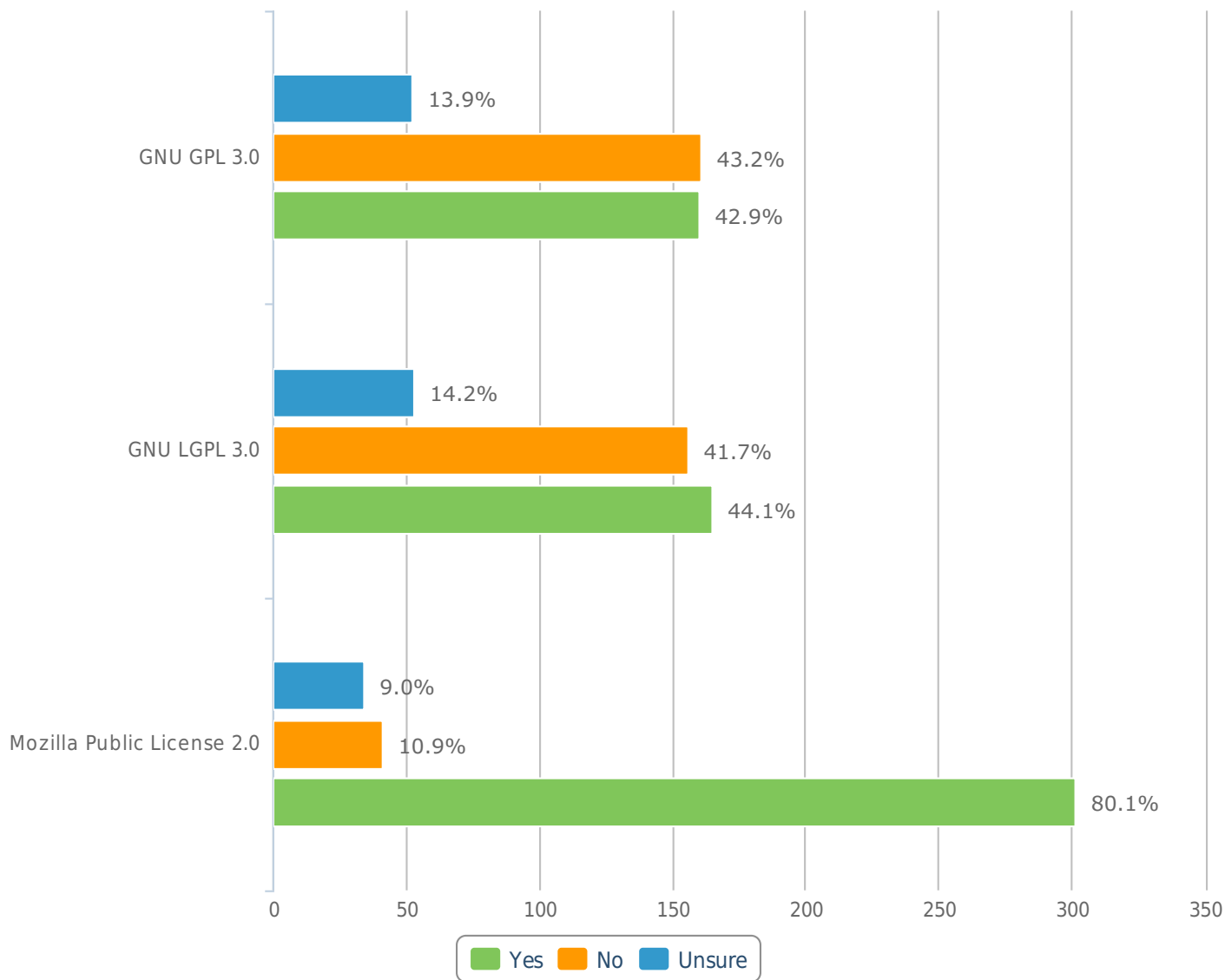
[scenario06_lgpl3_unsure_lgpl3] Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for GNU LGPL 3.0?

Response	Count
	5 responses

[scenario06_lgpl3_unsure_mpl] Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for Mozilla Public License 2.0?

Response	Count
	13 responses

[scenario06_mpl] If the SMTP implementation is released under the Mozilla Public License 2.0, would Shaoqing be allowed to fork the SMTP project and change the fork's license to the the following licenses in order to use it in her commercial e-mail client?



[scenario06_mpl_unsure_gpl3] Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for GNU GPL 3.0?

Response	Count
21 responses	

[scenario06_mpl_unsure_lgpl3] Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for GNU LGPL 3.0?

Response	Count
20 responses	

[scenario06_mpl_unsure_mpl] Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for Mozilla Public License 2.0?

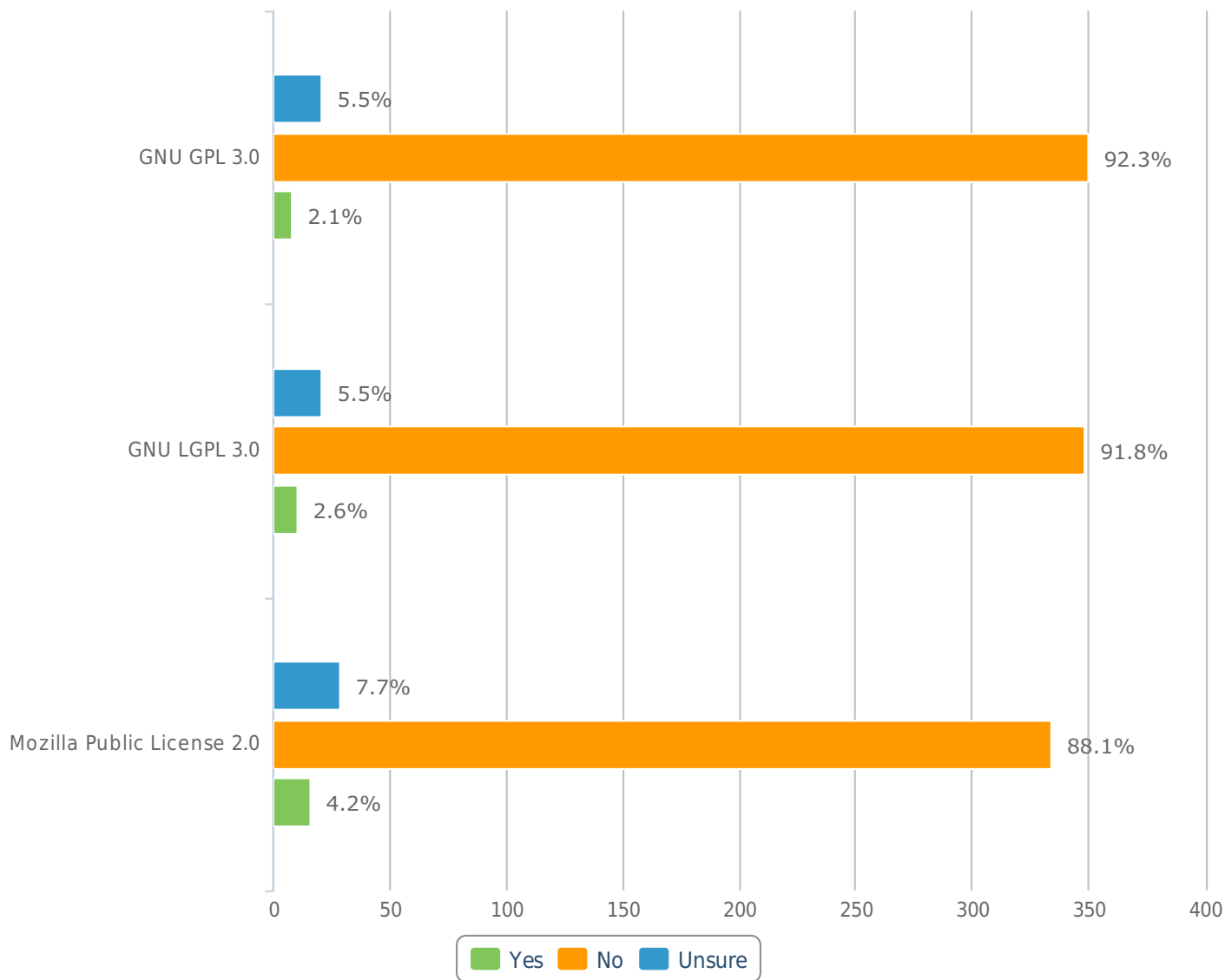
Response	Count
	17 responses

[scenario06_assumptions] Are there any assumptions you've made about this scenario? Is anything unclear or confusing to you?

Response	Count
	62 responses

Scenario 7

[scenario07] Shaoqing has been trying to optimize the way her email client handles old e-mails. Browsing on the Web, she found a fairly sophisticated implementation of a compression algorithm on a software developer's blog that could be used on archived emails. The algorithm implementation has hundreds of lines of code and does not include an explicit license, but there is a copyright notice on the blog that states "All Rights Reserved". If Shaoqing used the source code she found on the blog in her email client, would she be allowed distribute the email client commercially under the following licenses ?



[scenario07_unsure_gpl3] Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for GNU GPL 3.0?

Response	Count
	15 responses

[scenario07_unsure_lgpl3] Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for GNU LGPL 3.0?

Response	Count
	15 responses

[scenario07_unsure_mpl] Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for Mozilla Public License 2.0?

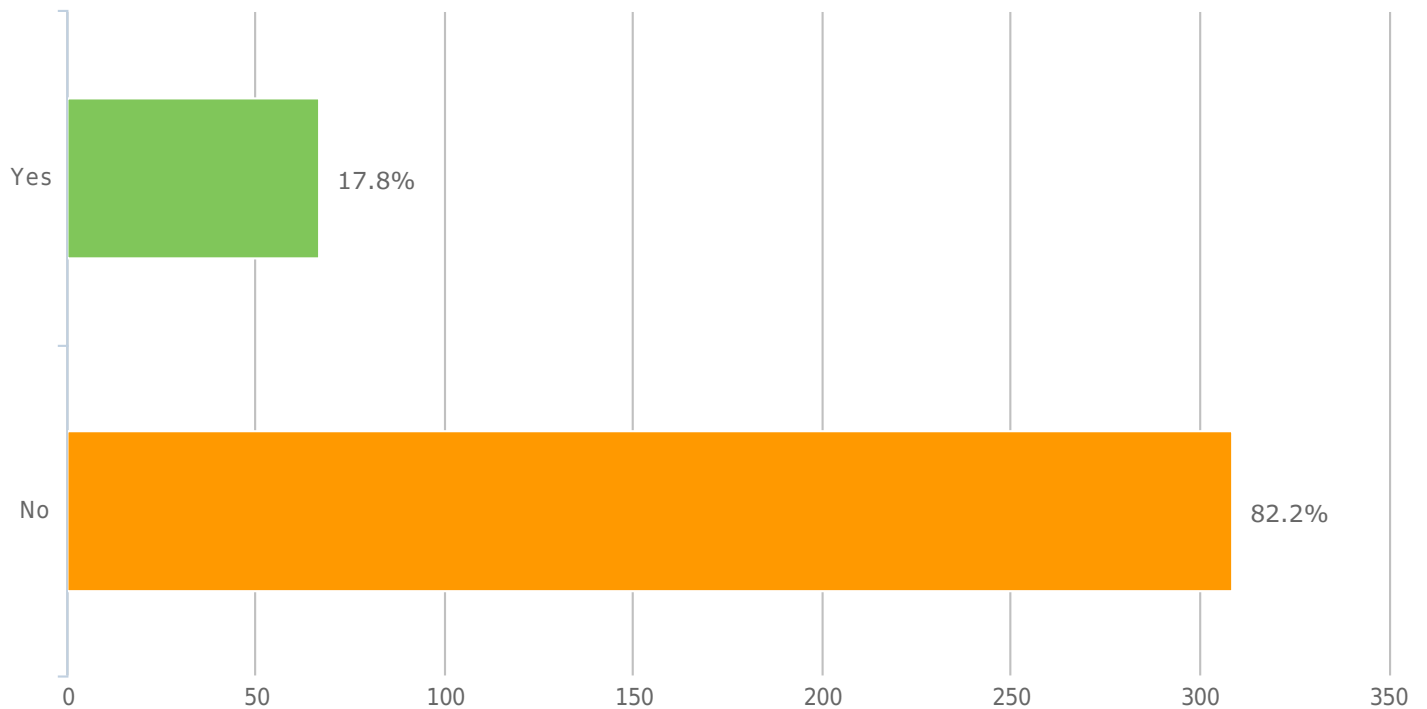
Response	Count
	19 responses

[scenario07_assumptions] Are there any assumptions you've made about this scenario? Is anything unclear or confusing to you?

Response	Count
	46 responses

Open Questions

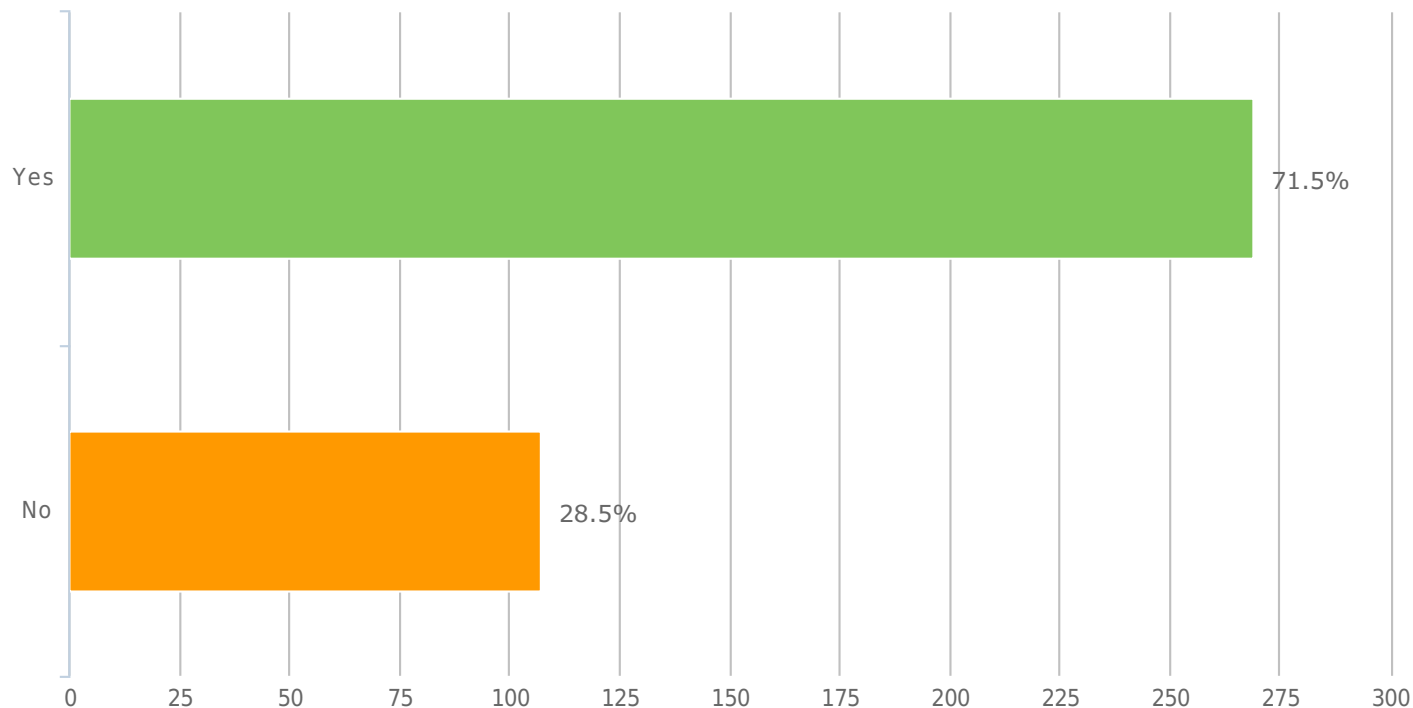
[open_question01] Has this survey changed how you view software licensing issues?



[open_question01_details] Could you elaborate on how your view has changed?

Response	Count
	50 responses

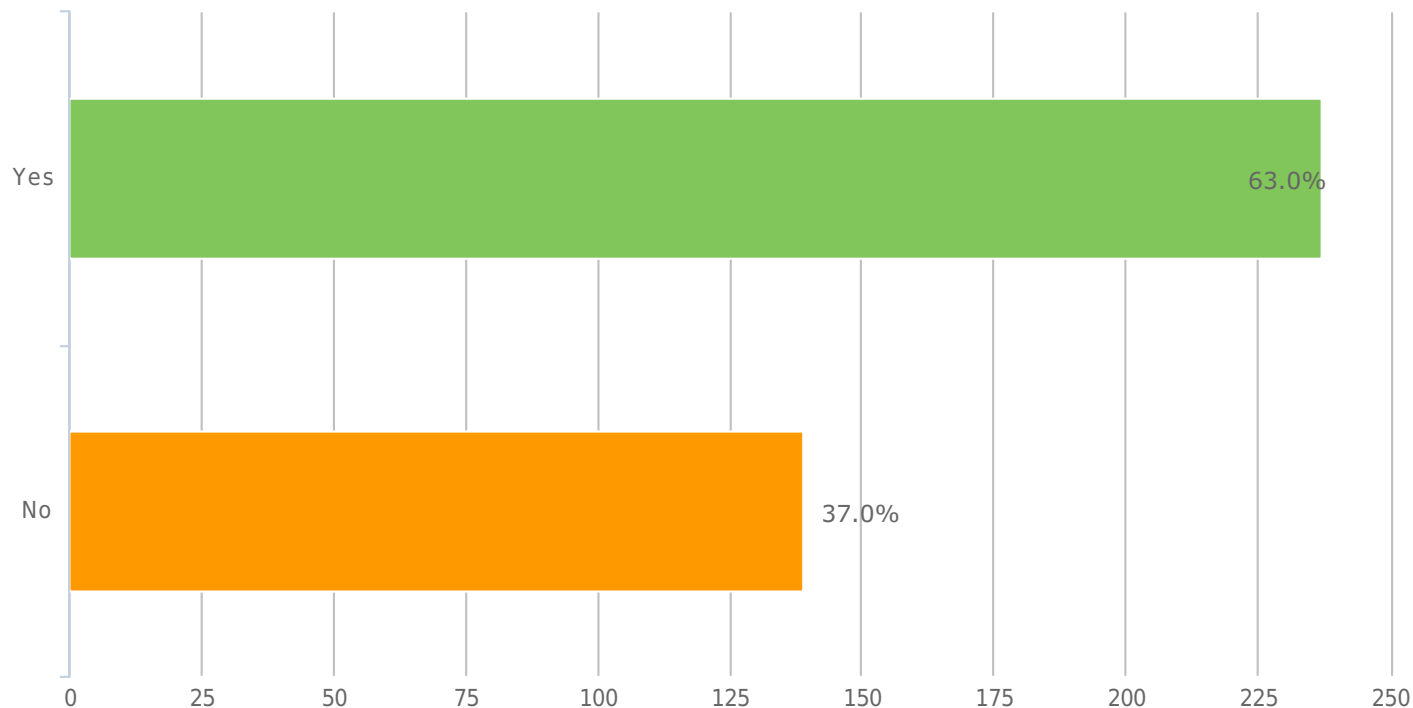
[open_question02] Have you avoided using a software package because of licensing issues?



[open_question02_details] Why?

Response	Count
206 responses	

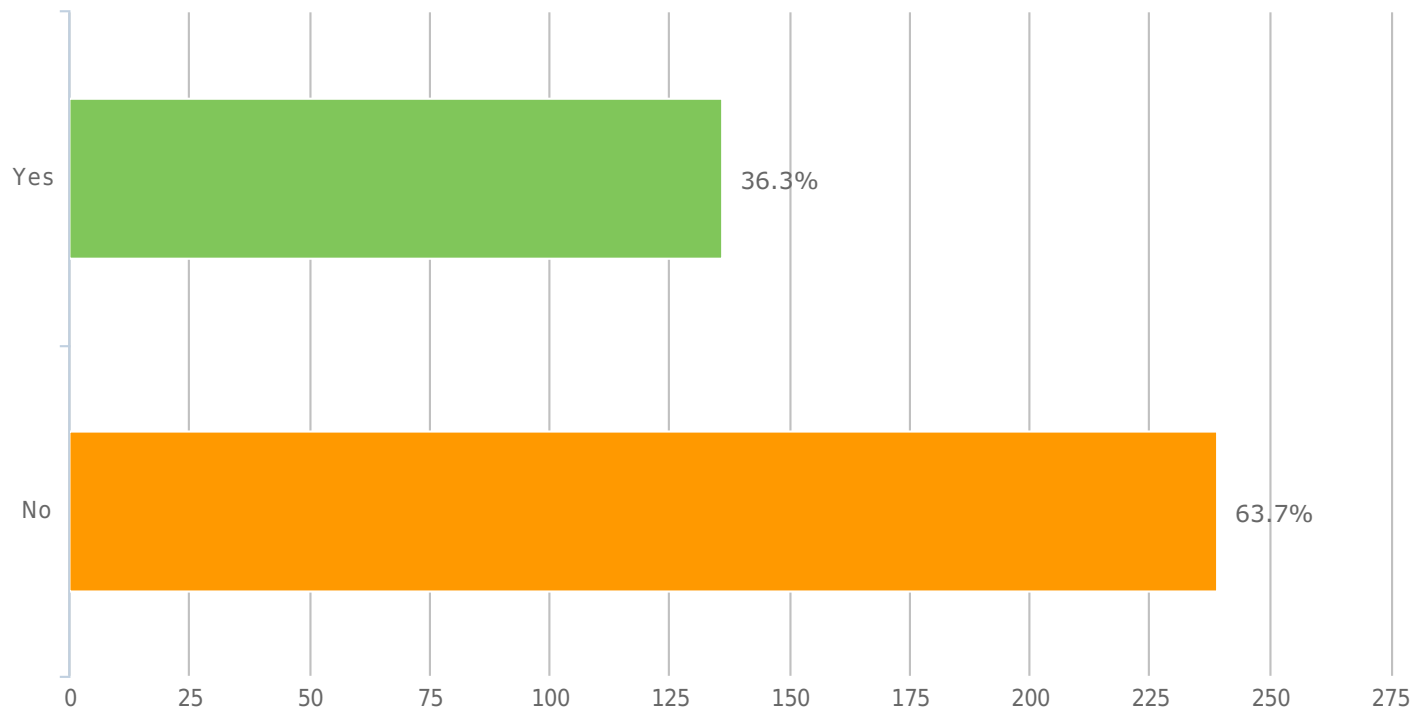
[open_question03] Are you responsible for making decisions regarding software licensing in your current position?



[open_question03_details] Who is?

Response	Count
89 responses	

[open_question04] Have you used any additional resources to help you understand the licenses and answer the questions?



[open_question04_details] Could you mention the resources you've used?

Response

Count

120 responses