



Putting the economy back on track: Skills and Training

Business School
University of Cambridge



Federation of Small Businesses
The UK's Leading Business Organisation

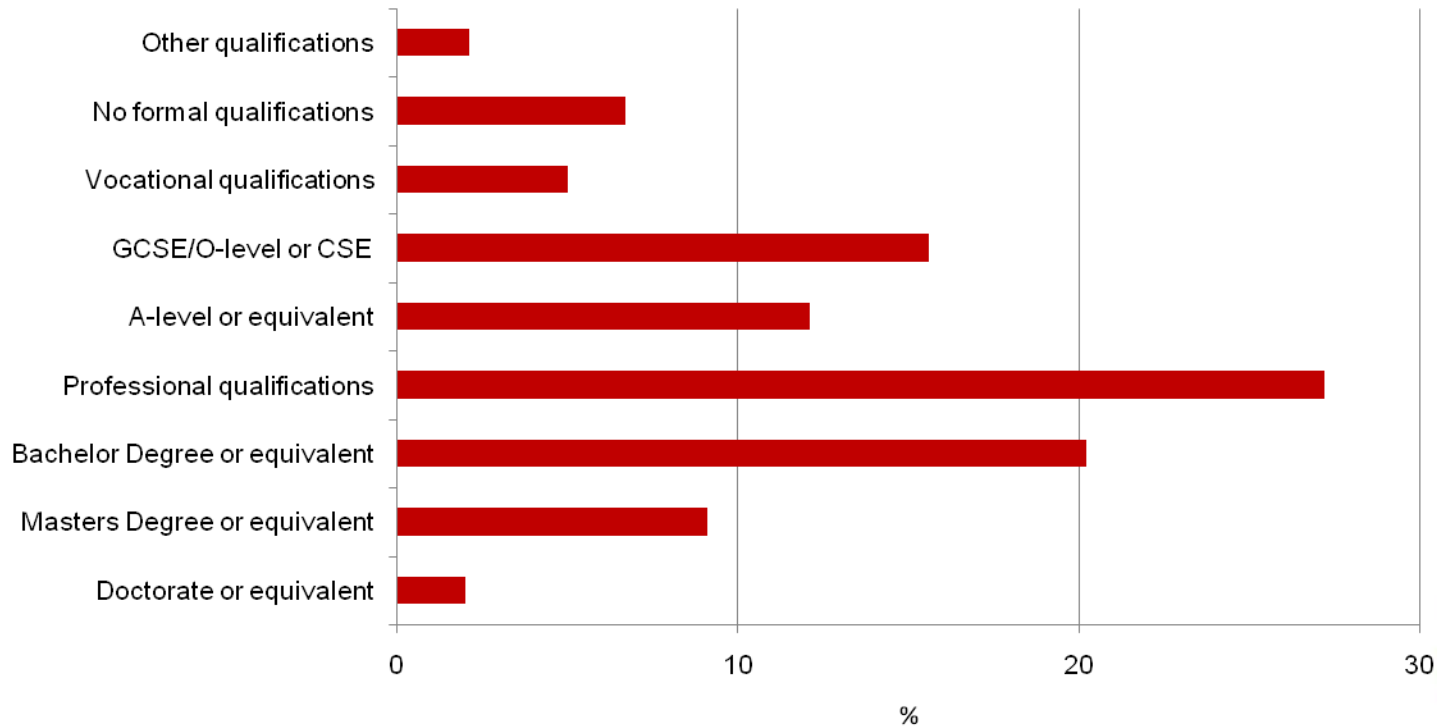
Lifting the Barriers to Growth in UK Small Businesses 2008

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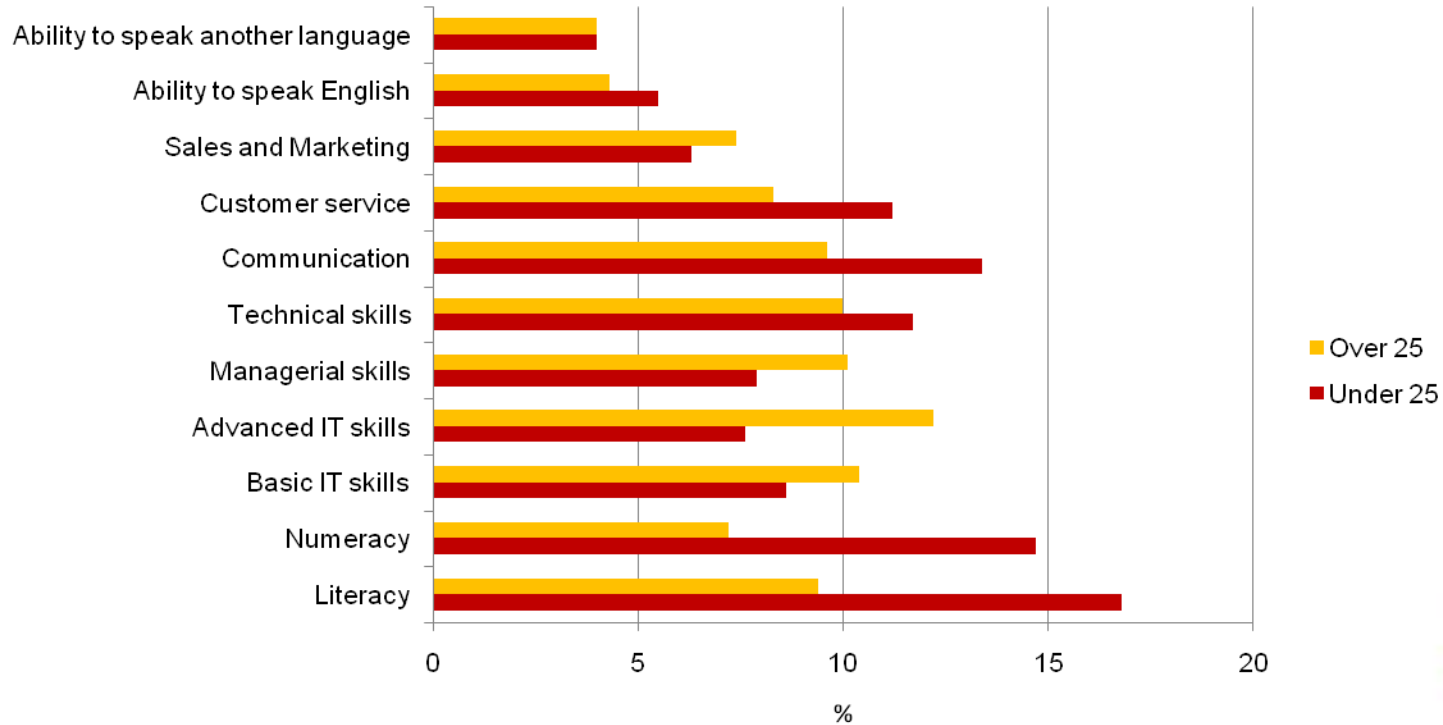
Industry Sector *	%	Industry Sector	%
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	2.7	Financial services	5.1
Manufacturing	9.0	Real estate activities	3.0
Construction	13.2	Computer and related activities	4.5
Sale & maintenance of motor vehicles	2.1	Business services	14.4
Wholesale trade	3.8	Education	3.0
Retailing	14.2	Health and social work	3.7
Hotels, restaurants and catering	4.9	Personal services	5.5
Transport	5.2	Other	2.9



Highest level of educational qualification attained so far

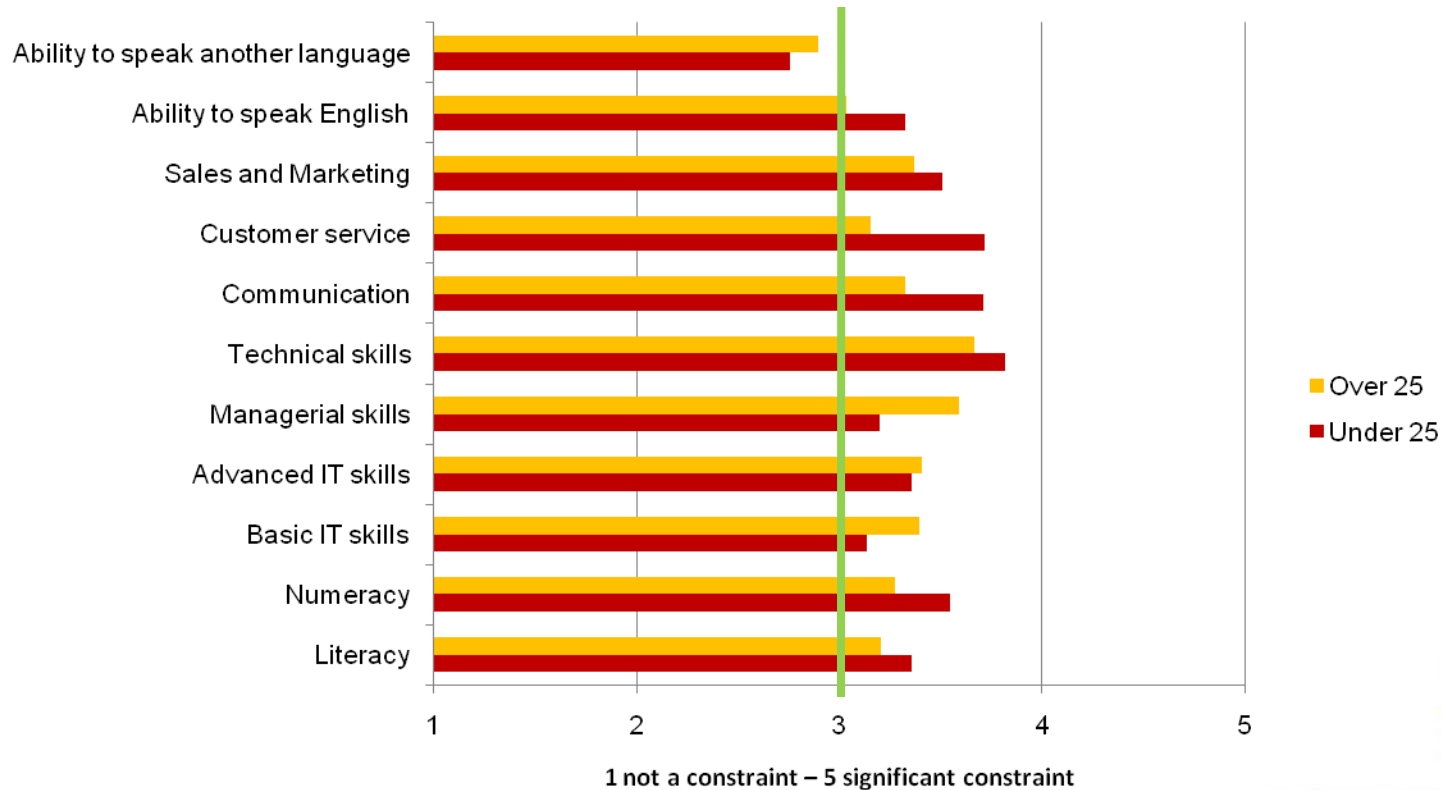


Skills shortages



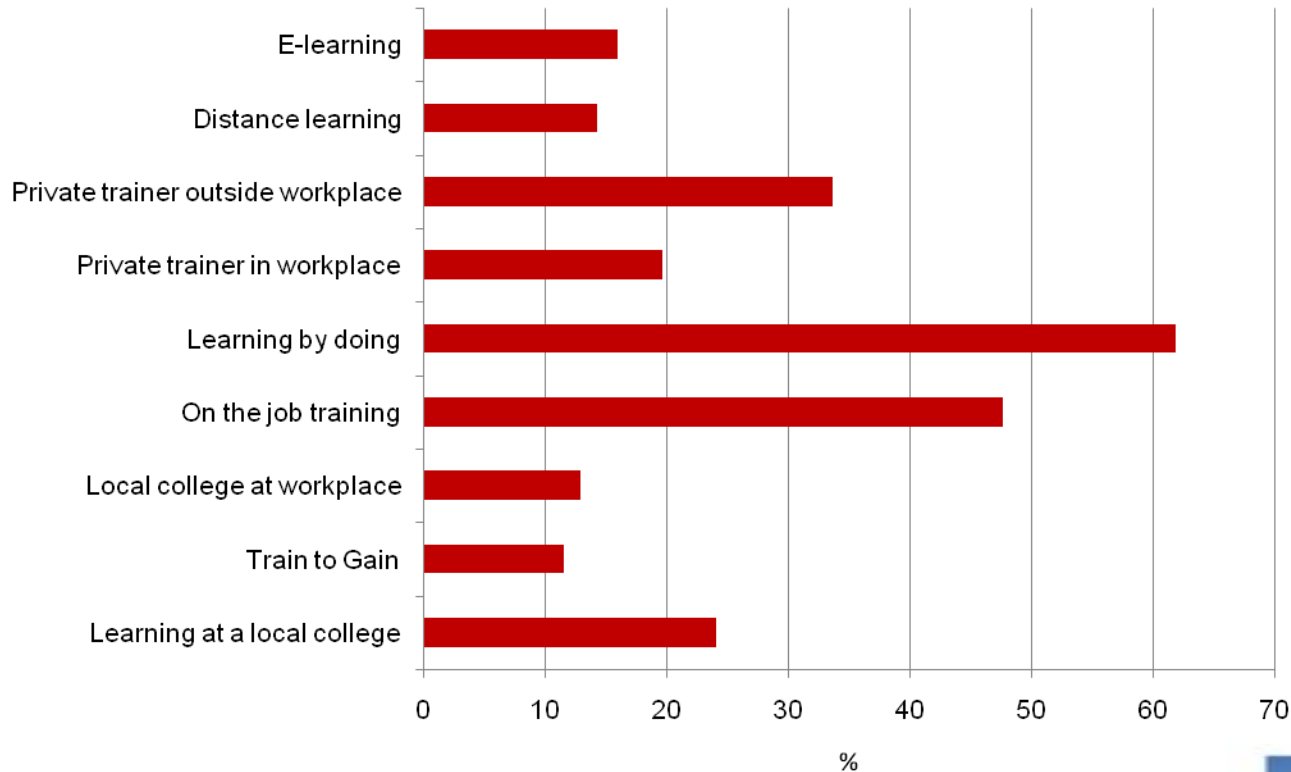
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Skills shortages impact on business performance



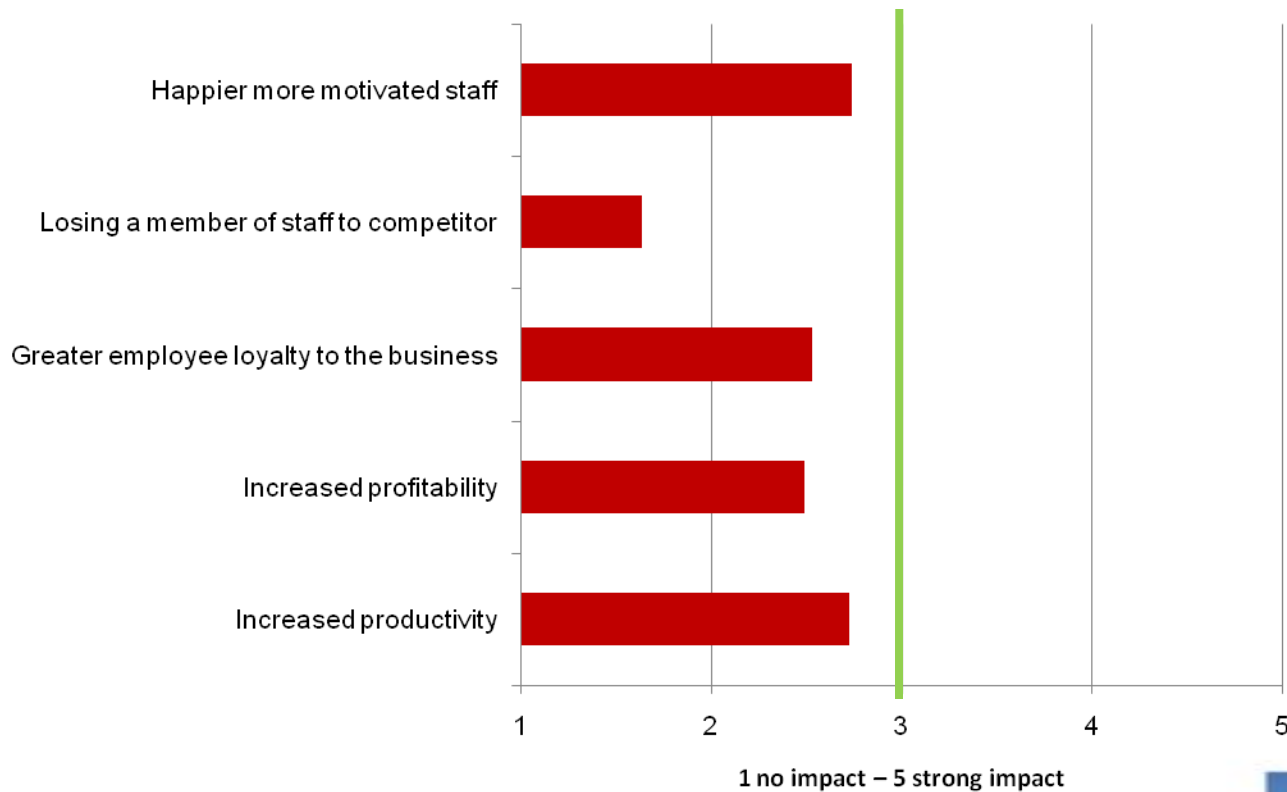
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Use of various sources of training



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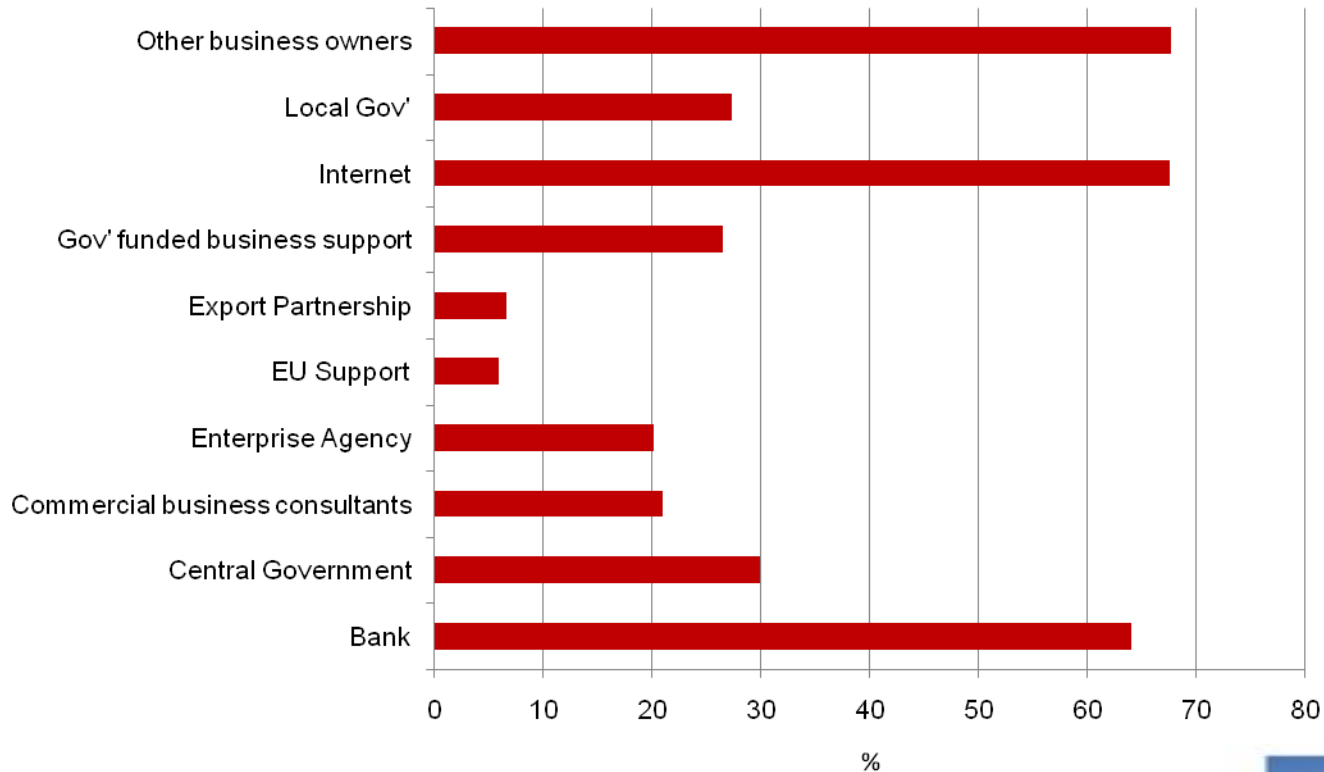
Average outcomes of training



Importance of qualifications within business

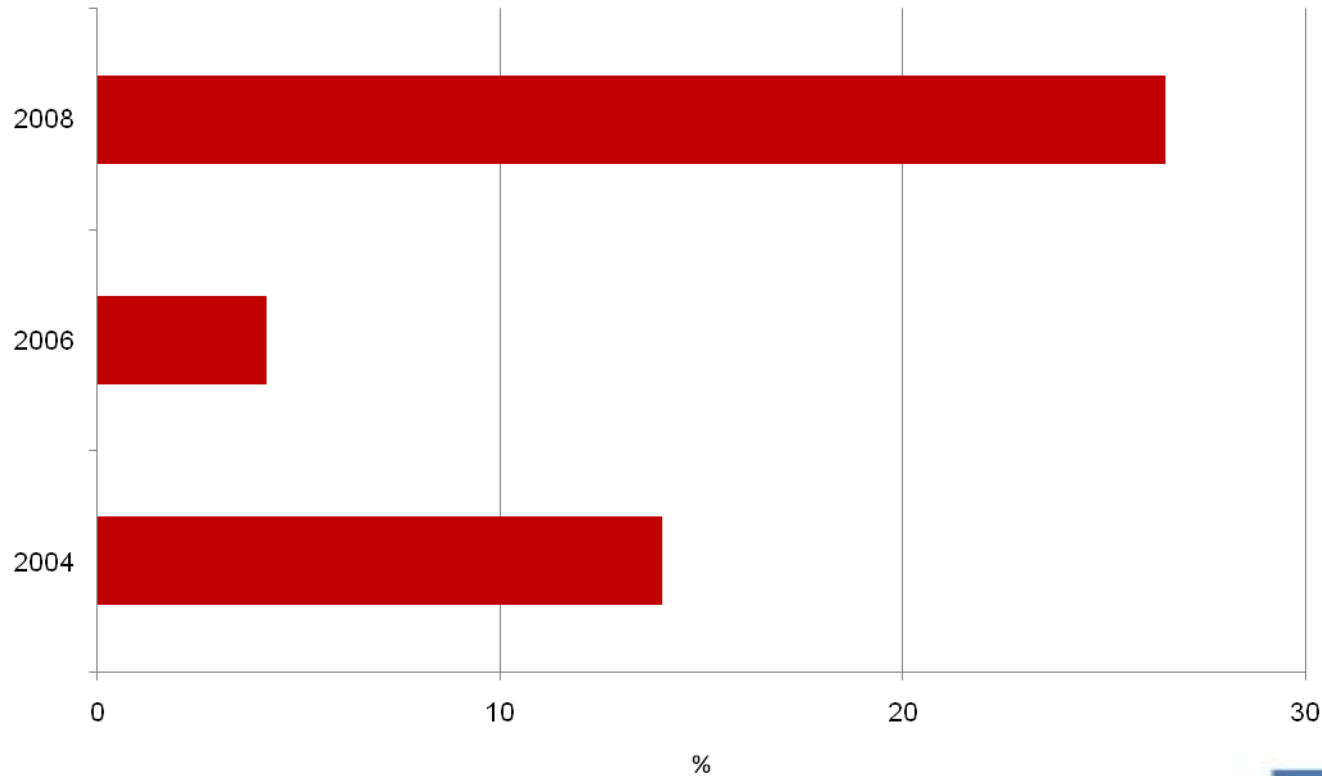


Sources of business advice used



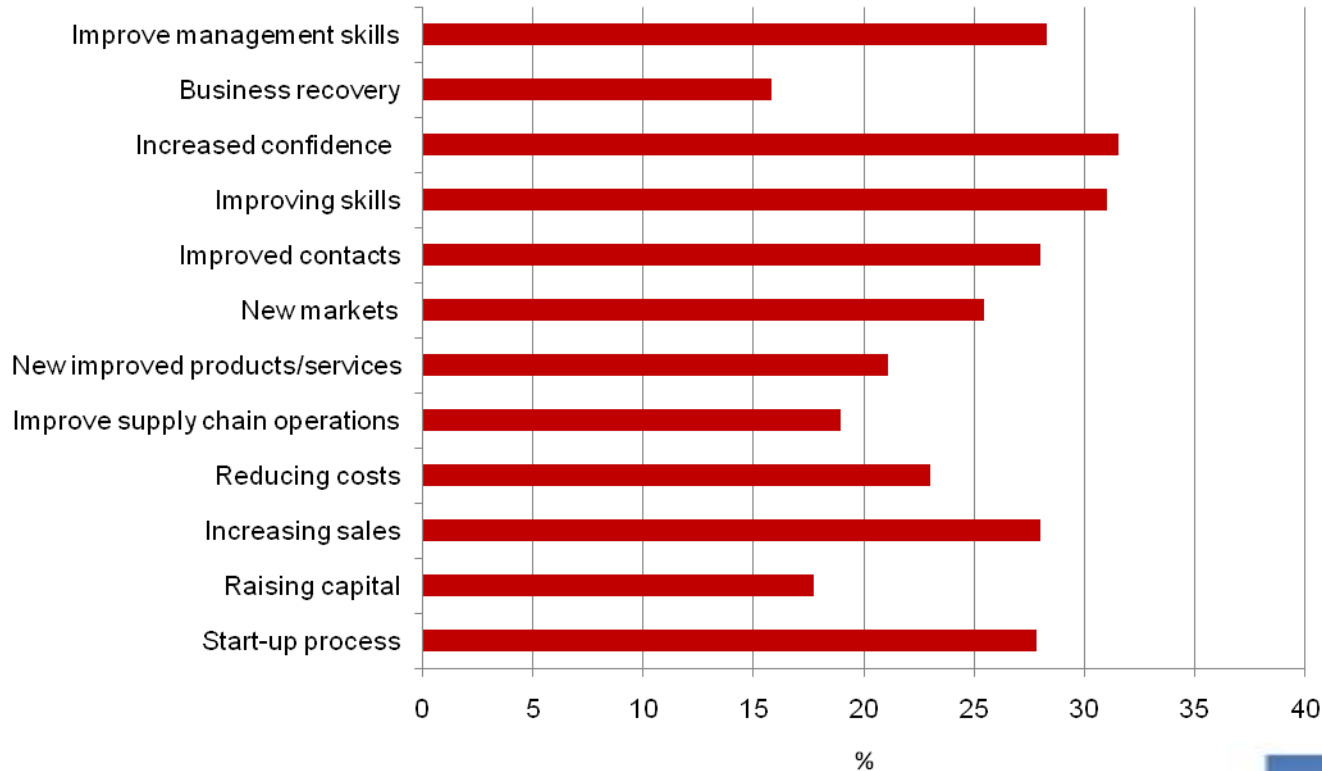
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Percentage of business owners using Gov't funded business support



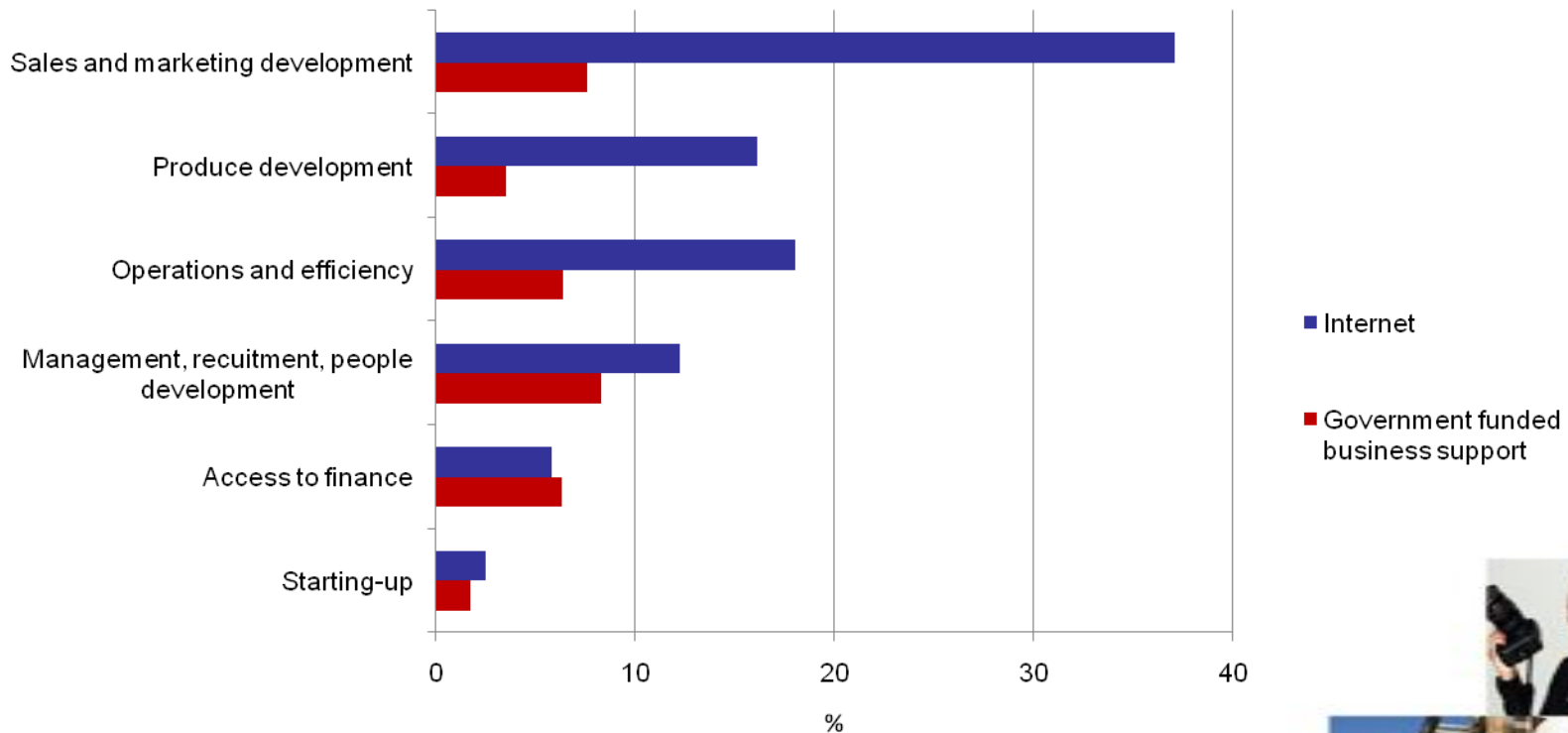
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Use of government funded business support



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How sources of business support are expected to be useful in providing advice in the next 2 years



Summary

- Problems with the numeracy and literacy skills in the under 25s
- Skills shortages in customer service, communication and technical skills were identified as a constraint by business owners
- Businesses do not see the linkages between training and outcomes
- Most commonly used sources of advice were other business owners, internet and banks
- Significant increase in the use of Gov't funded business support services over the last two years

