



Federation of Small Businesses

South East Policy Unit

Lifting the Barriers to Growth 2008

Thames Valley – Berks, Bucks, Oxon





Lifting the Barriers to Growth Survey

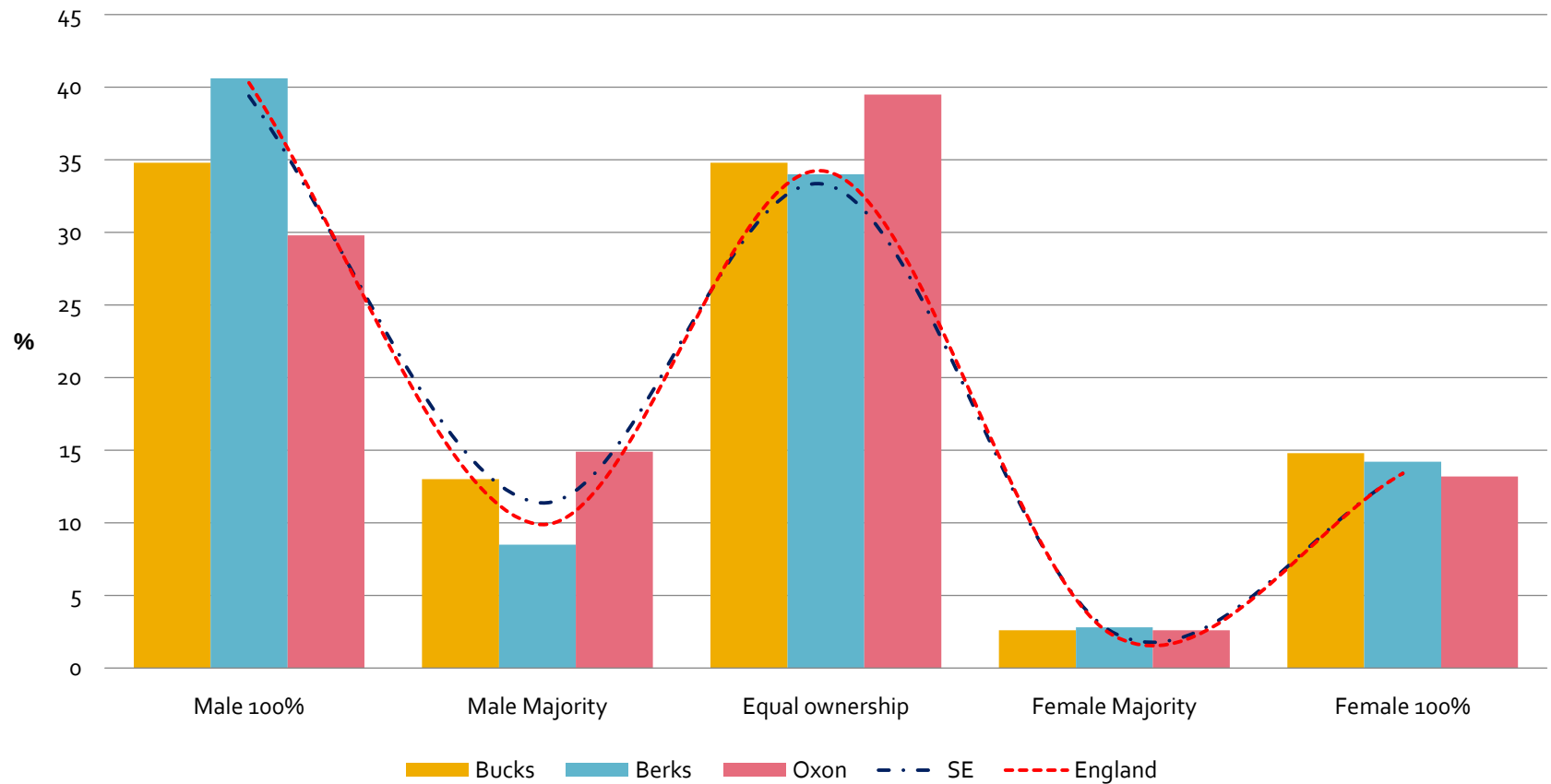
- Largest non-governmental survey of small businesses
- Carried out by Glamorgan University
- Questionnaire distributed to businesses across the UK in March
- 1497 businesses in the South East took part in the survey
- 338 businesses in Thames Valley completed questionnaires
 - Berkshire 106
 - Buckinghamshire 117
 - Oxfordshire 115





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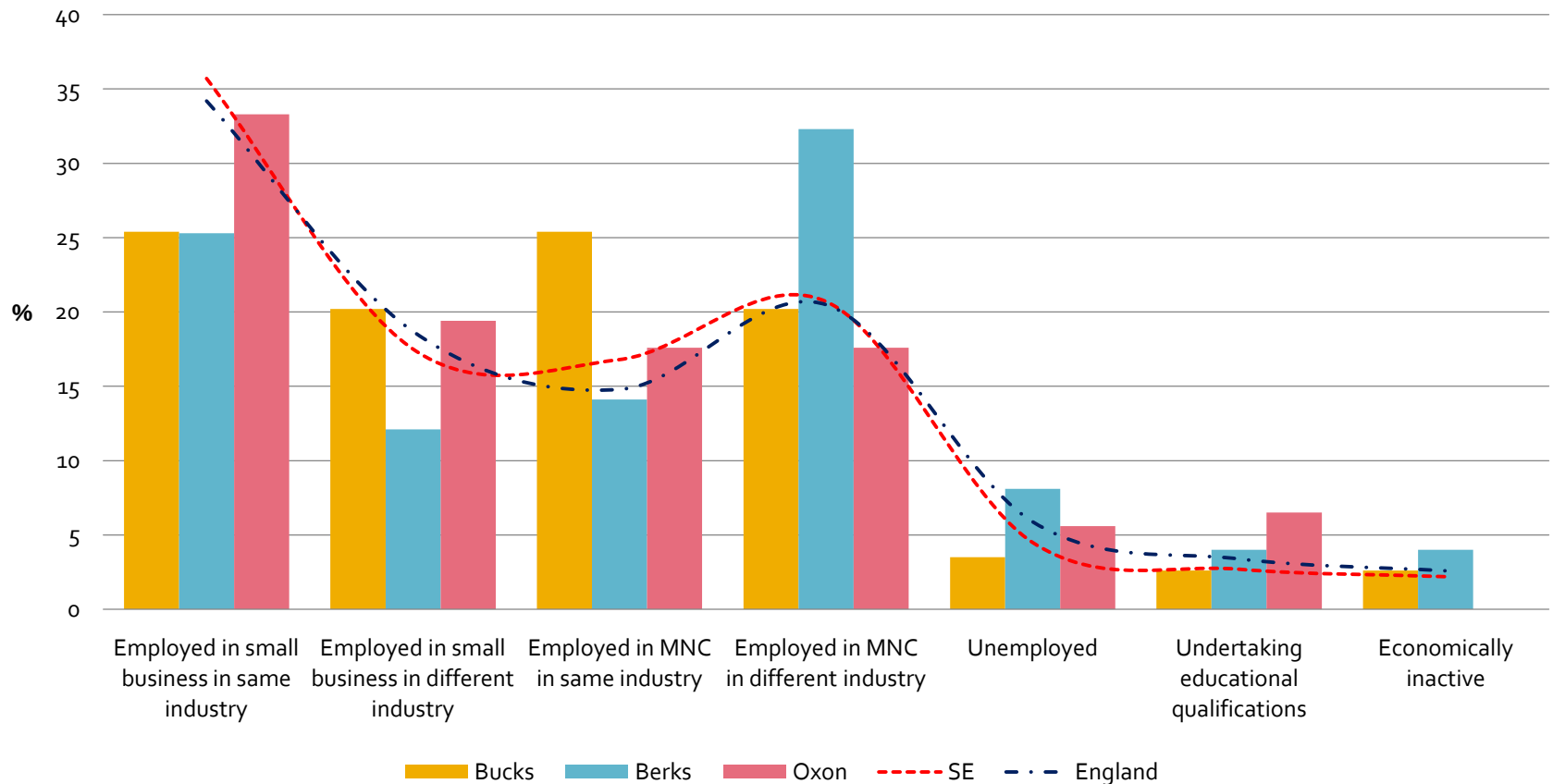
Business Ownership by gender





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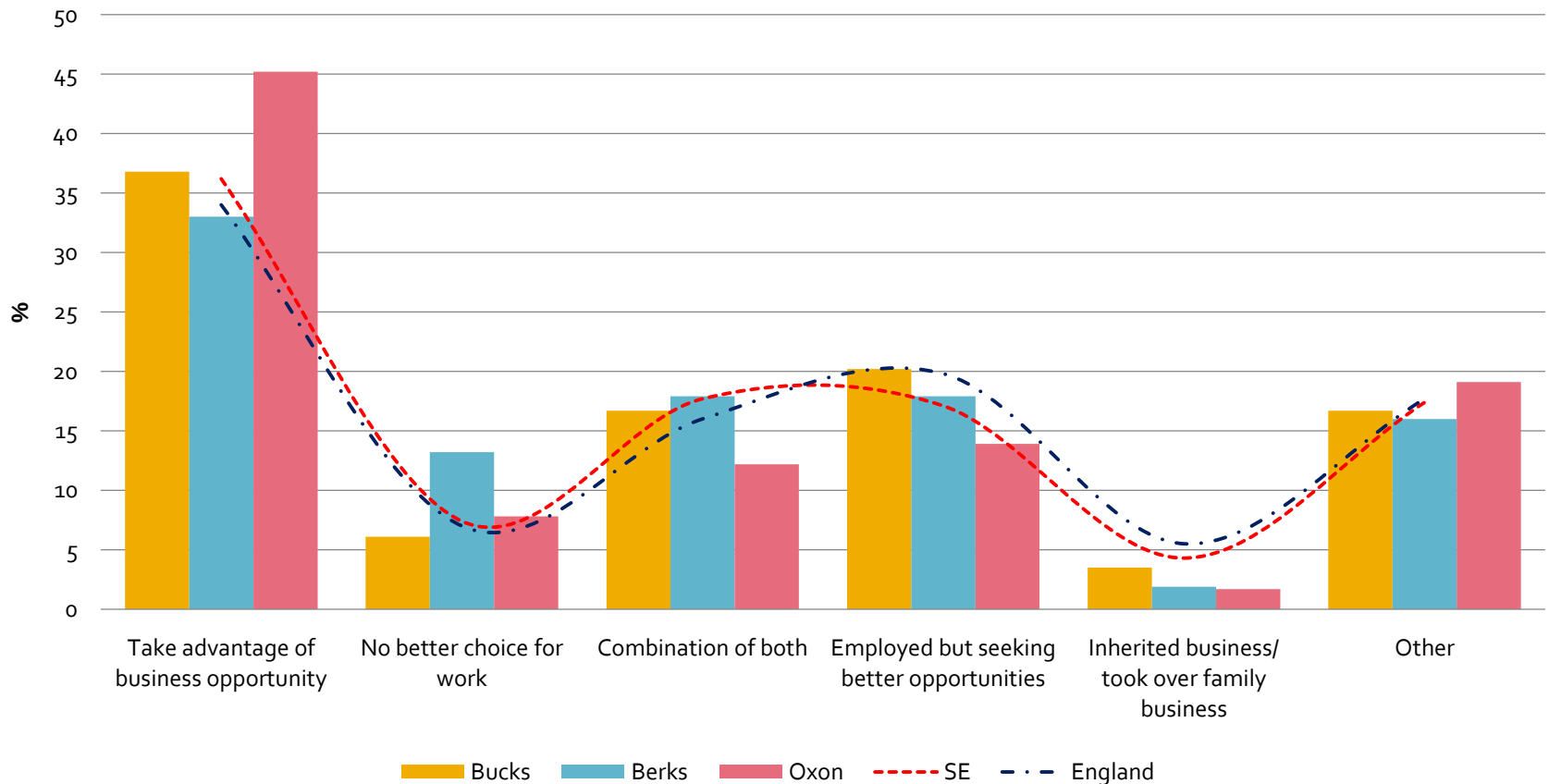
Employment status prior to ownership of current business





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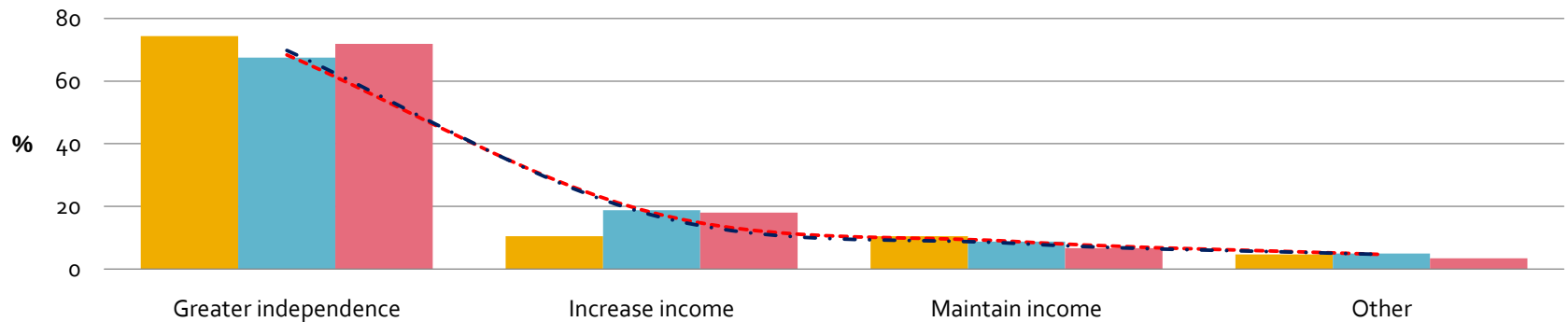
Motivation for starting current business



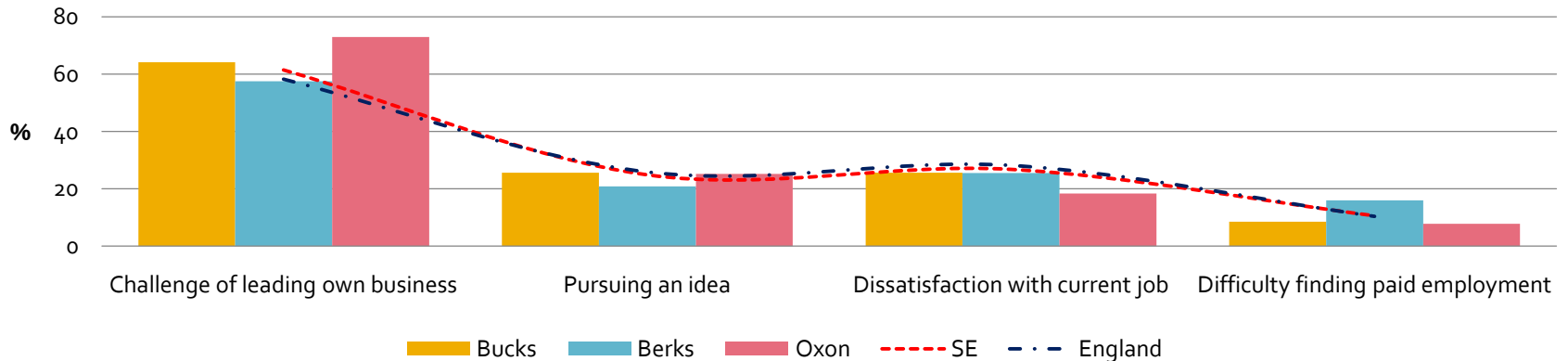


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Reasons for pursuing a business opportunity



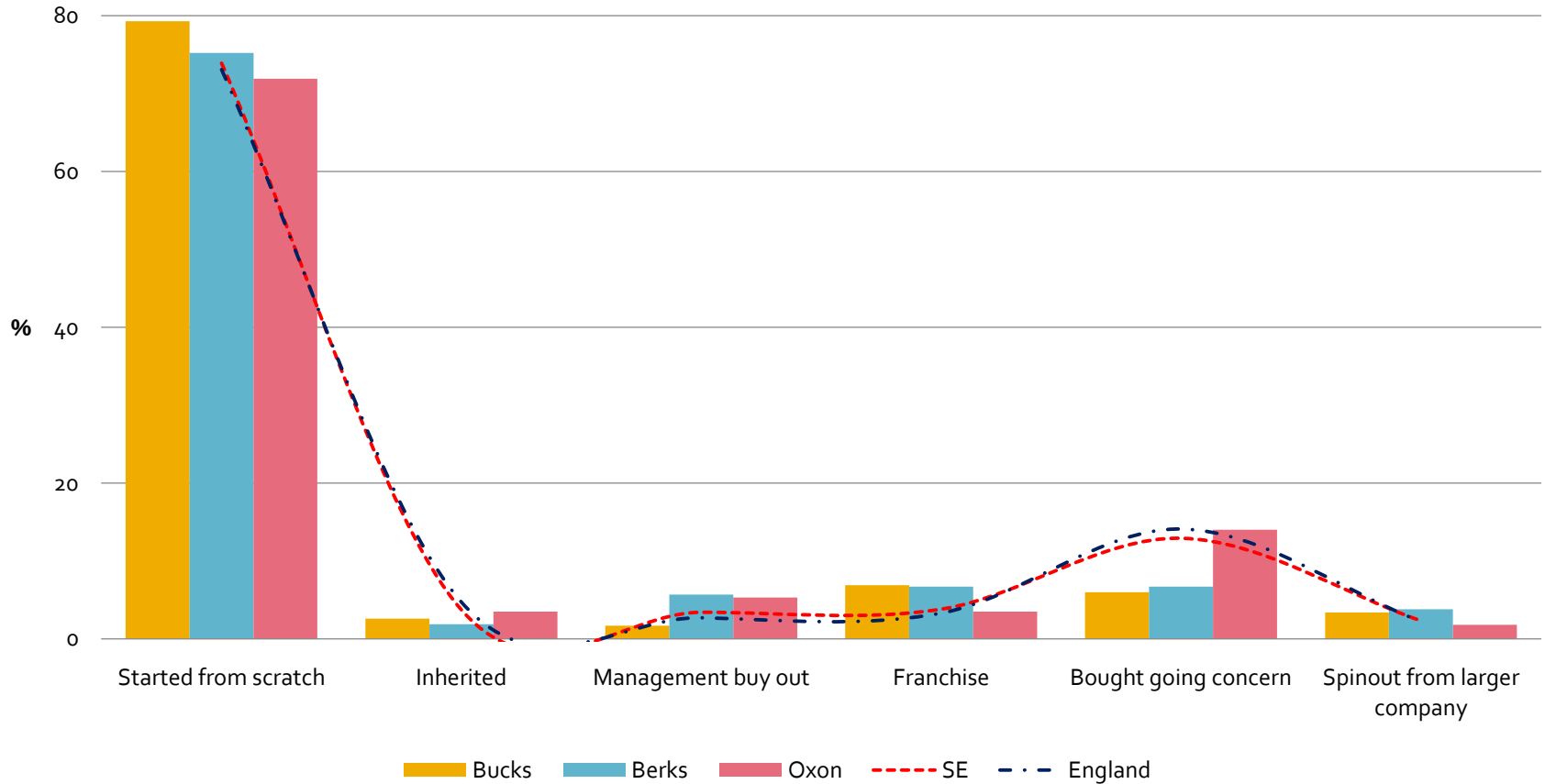
Other reasons for pursuing a business opportunity





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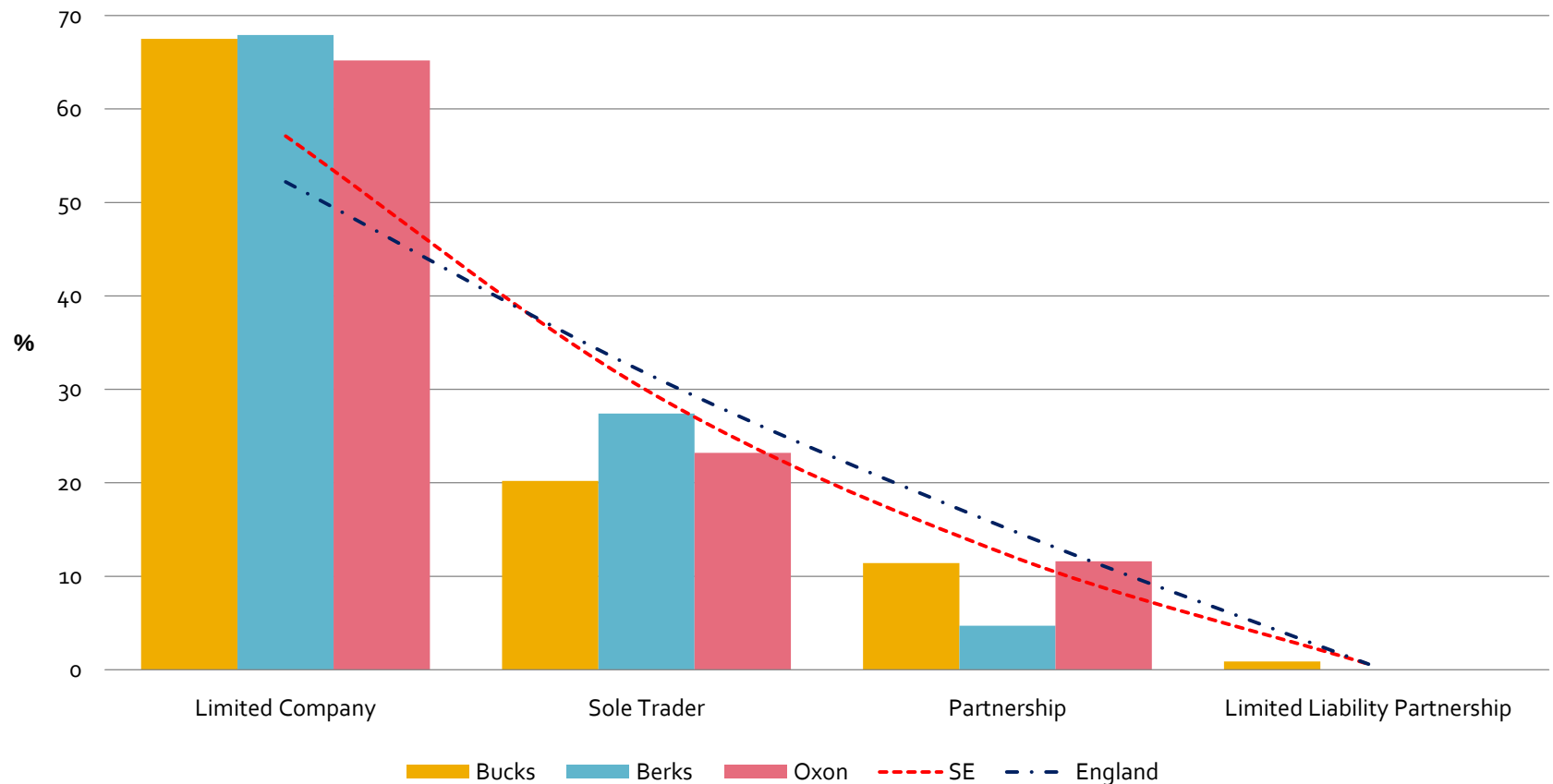
Method of coming into ownership of current business





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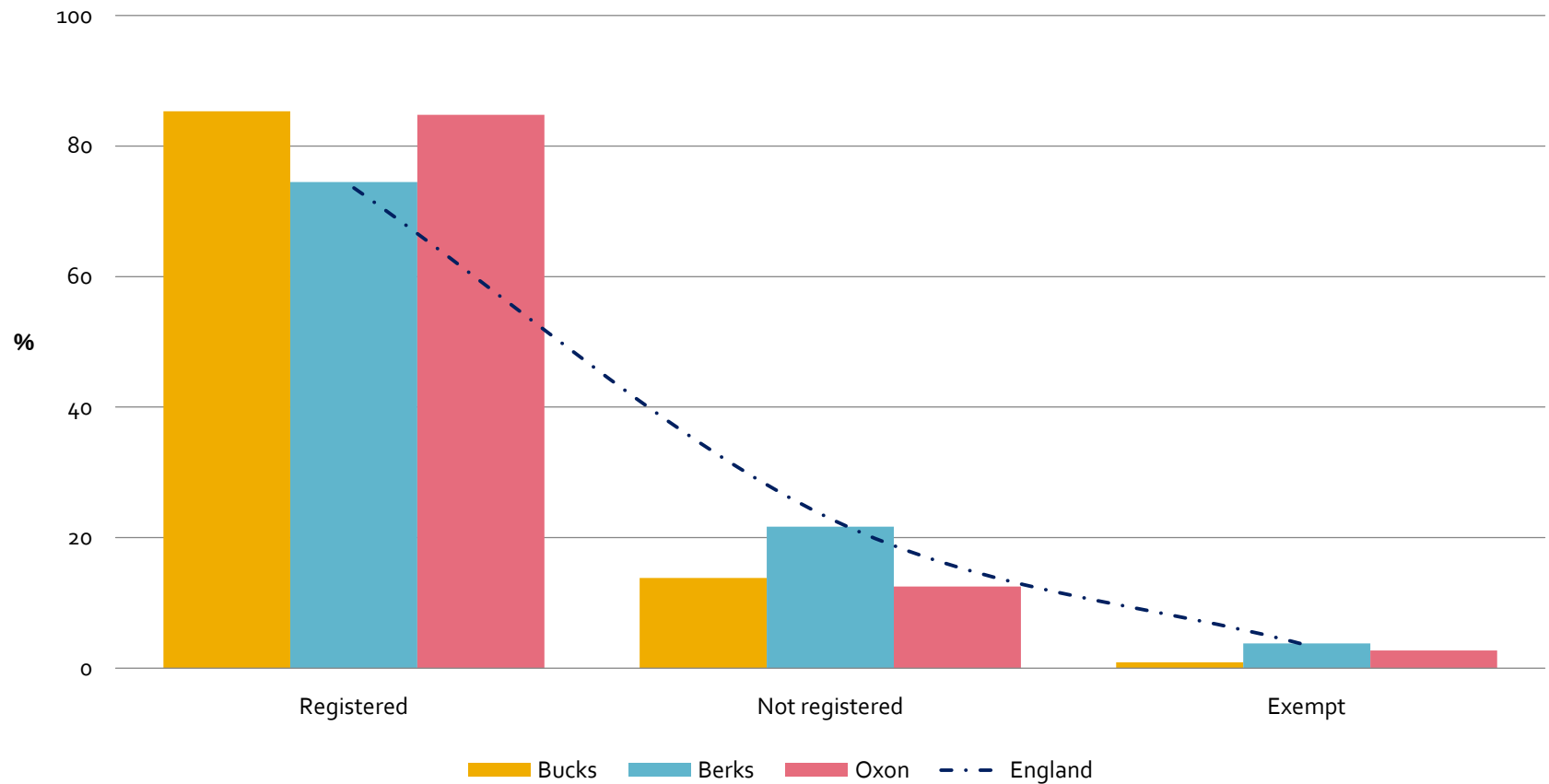
Form of main business





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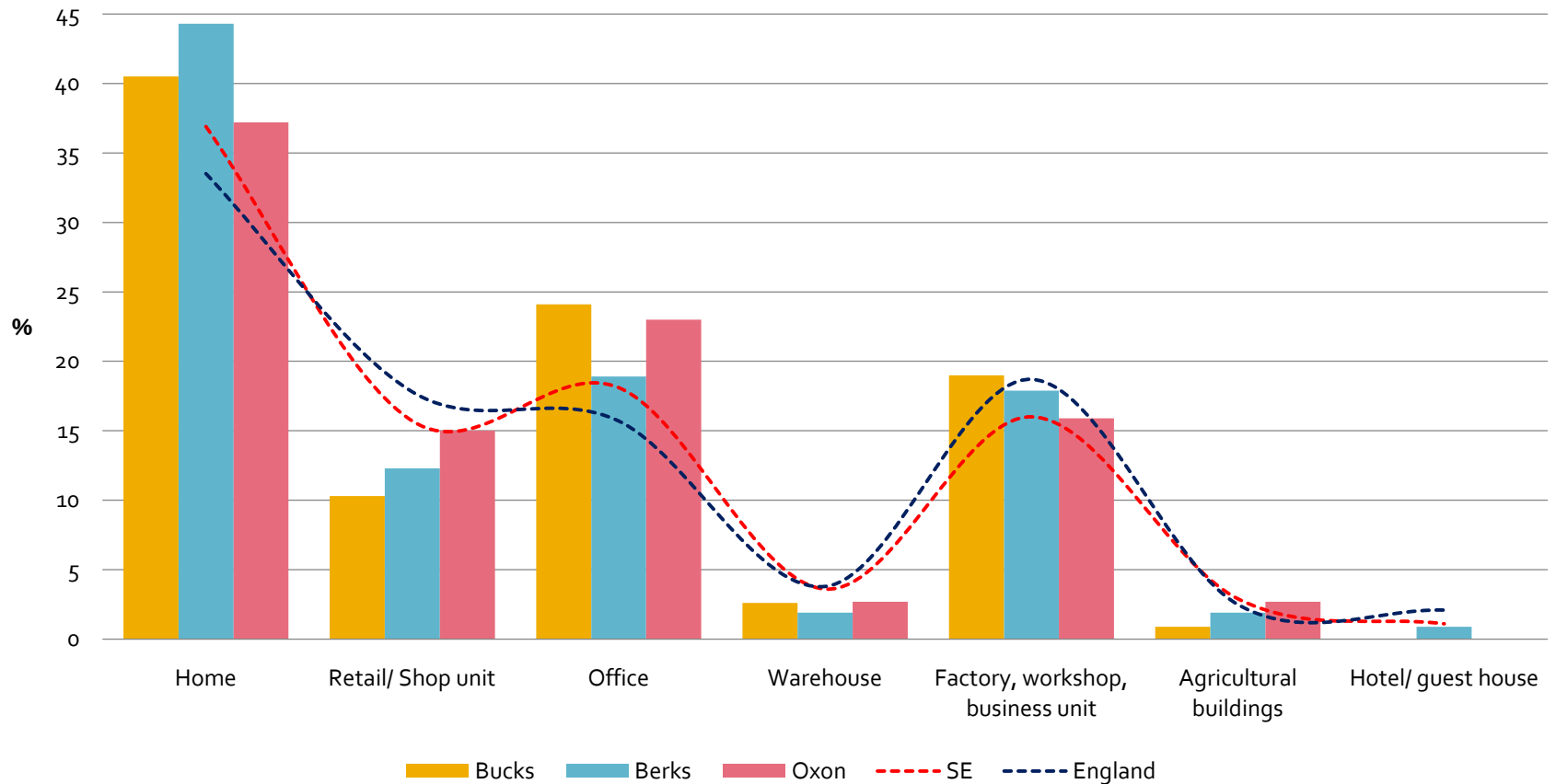
Is the business registered for VAT





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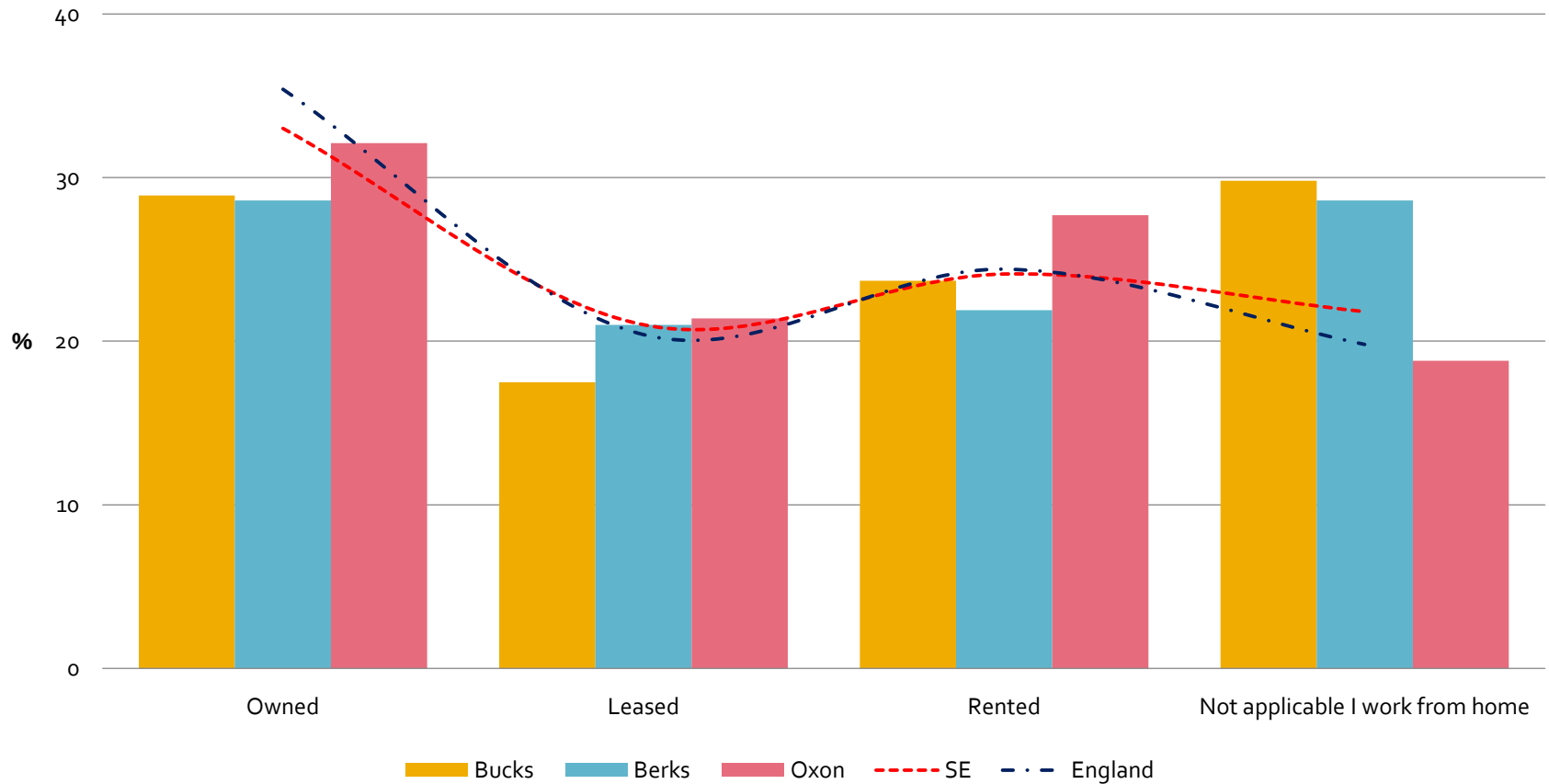
Type of premises the main business is run from





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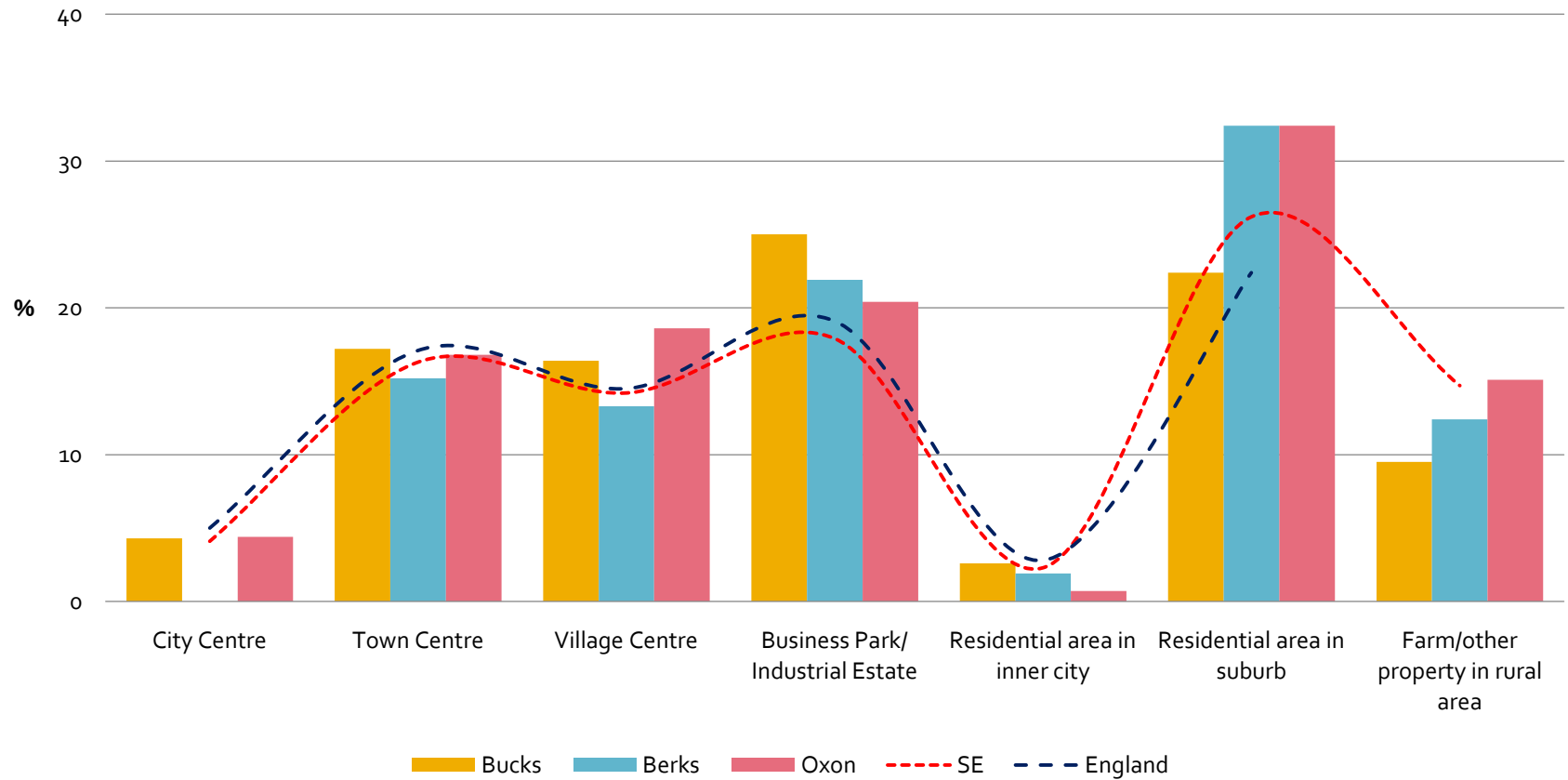
Are your premises owned, leased or rented?





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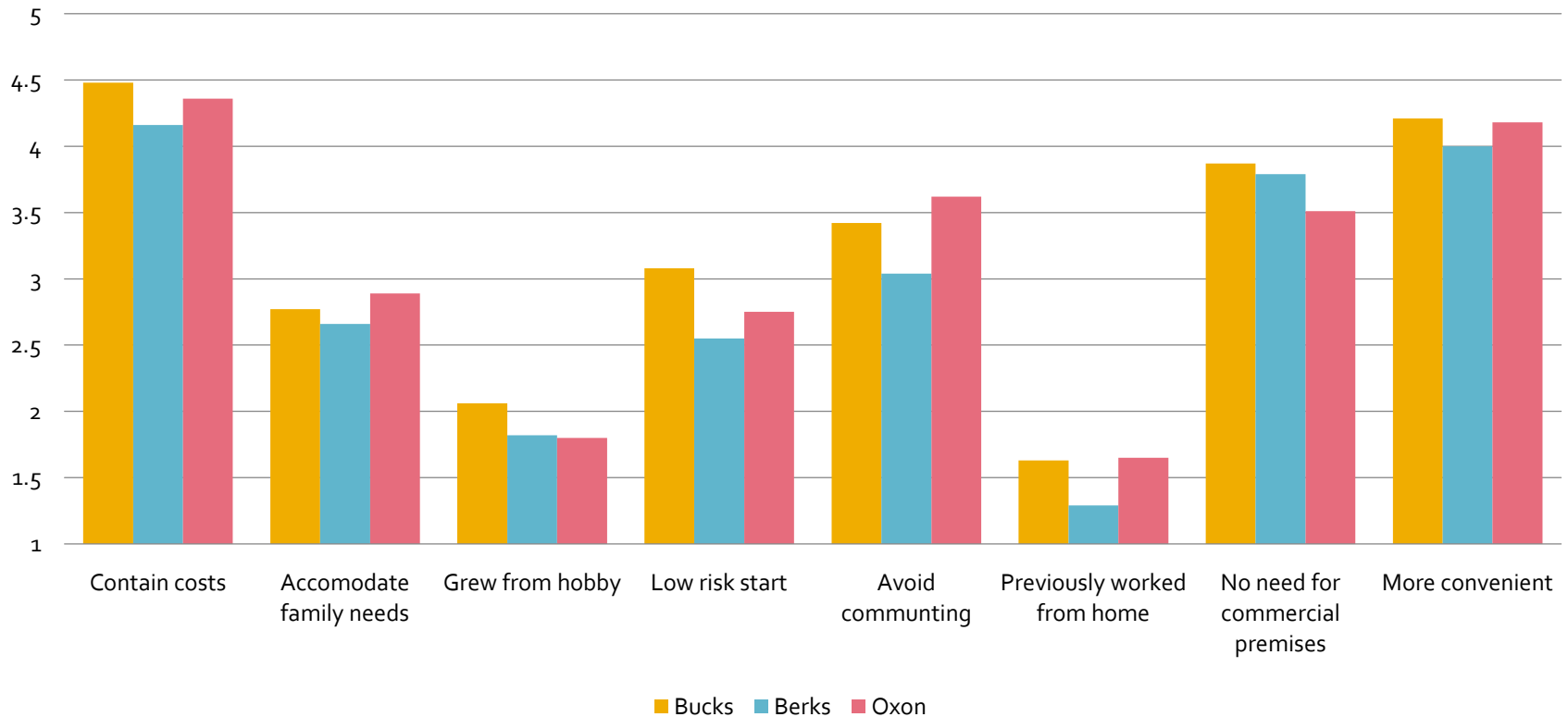
Type of area main business is based in





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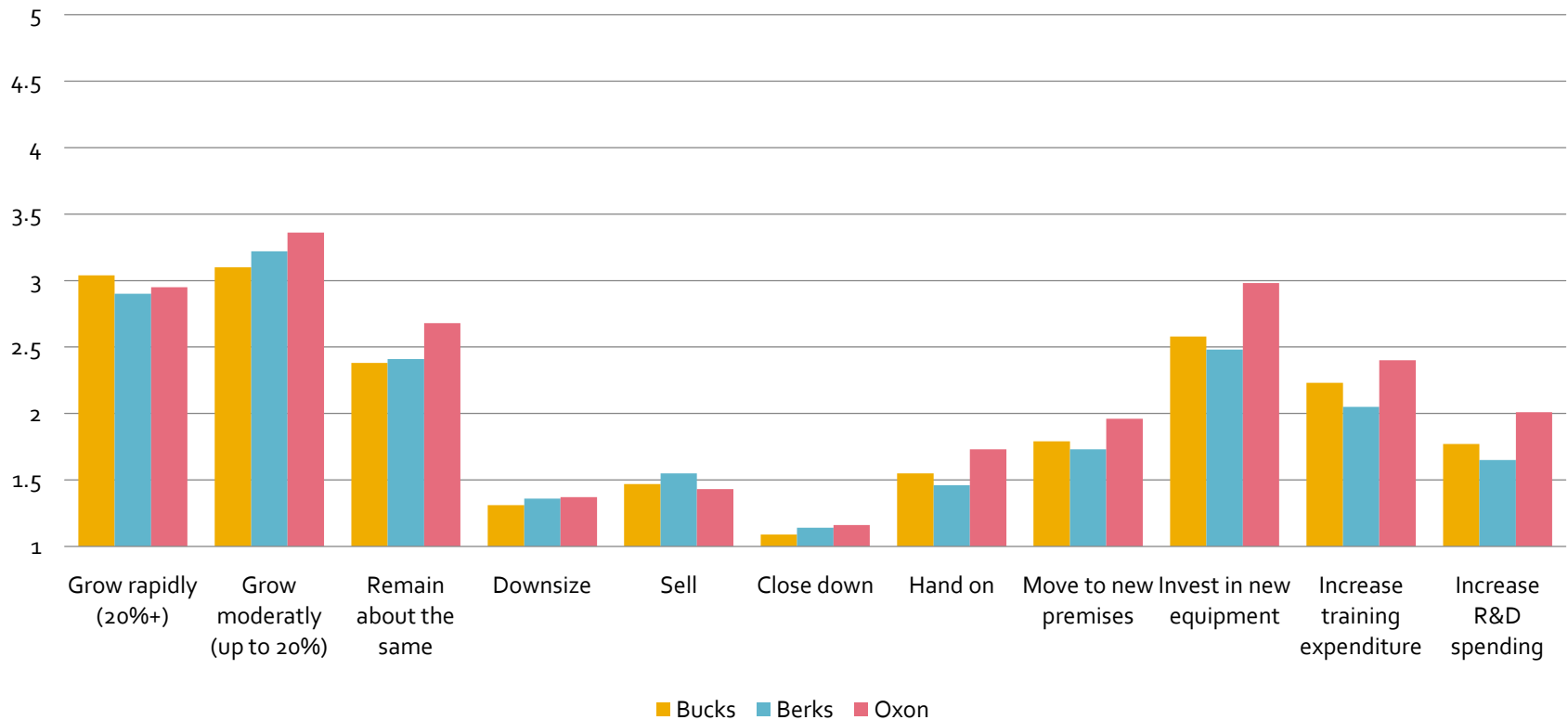
Importance of factors in motivating decision to operate business from home (1 not important – 5 very important)





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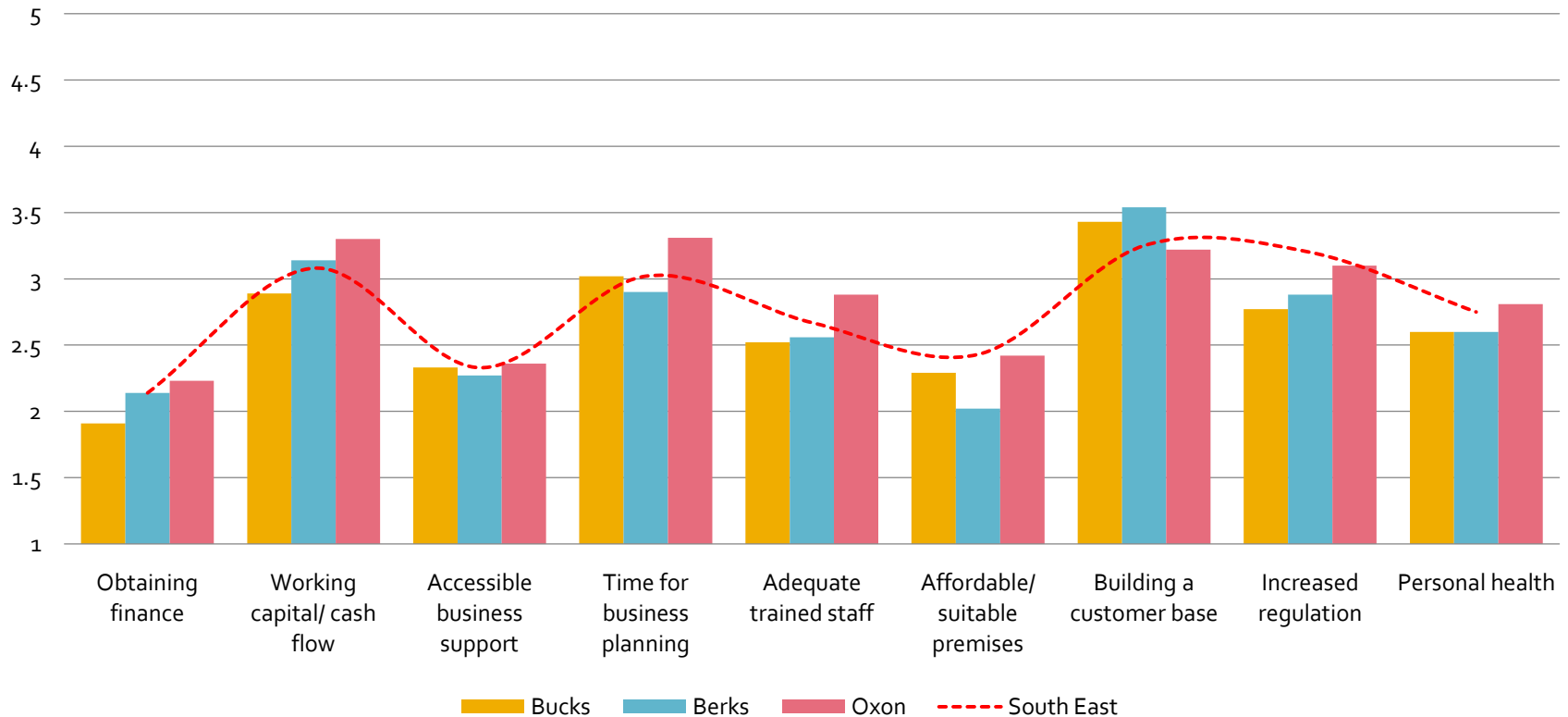
Importance of objectives to business over the last two years
(1 not important – 5 very important)





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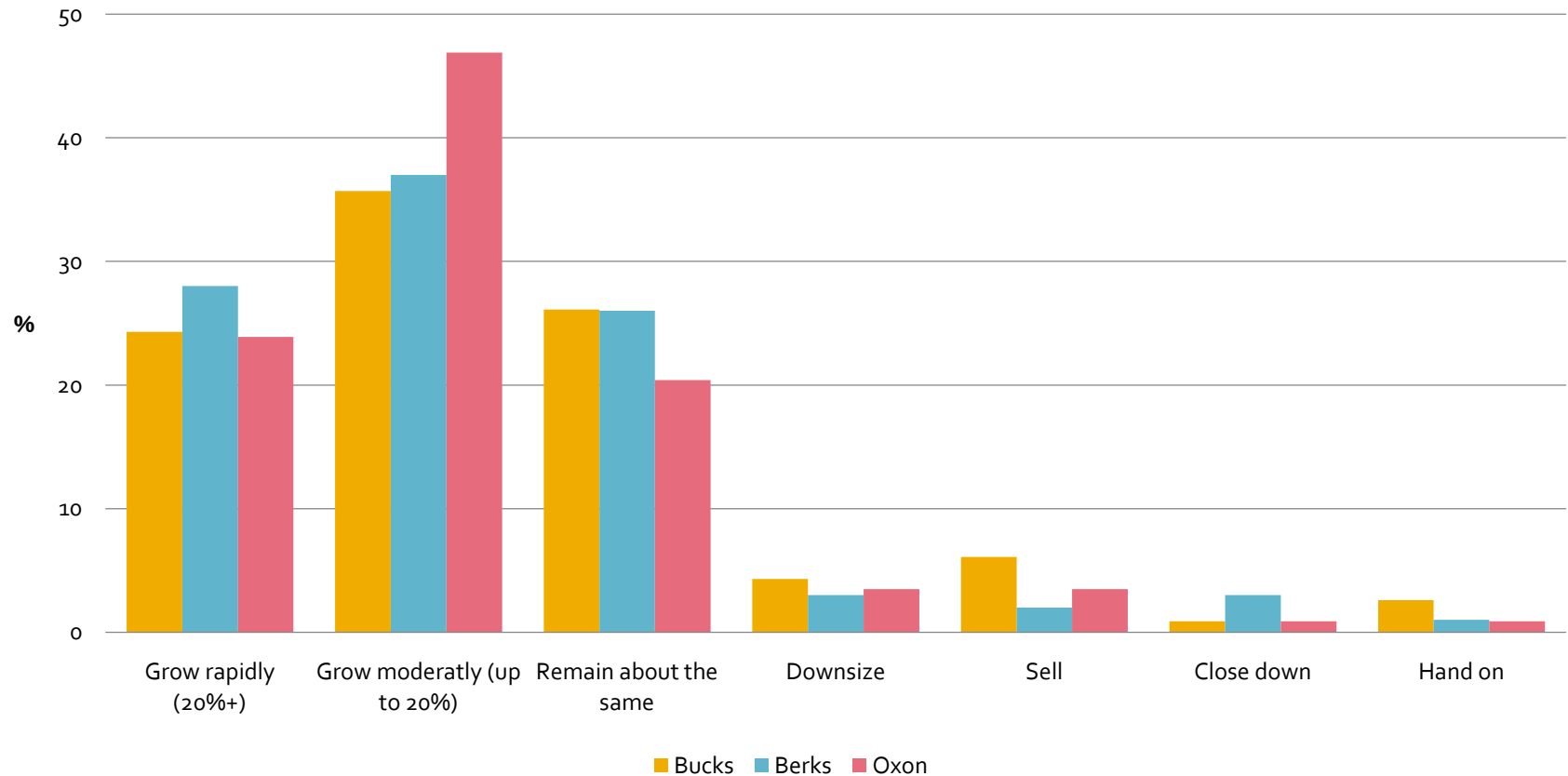
Importance of barriers to meeting business objectives
(1 not significant – 5 very significant)





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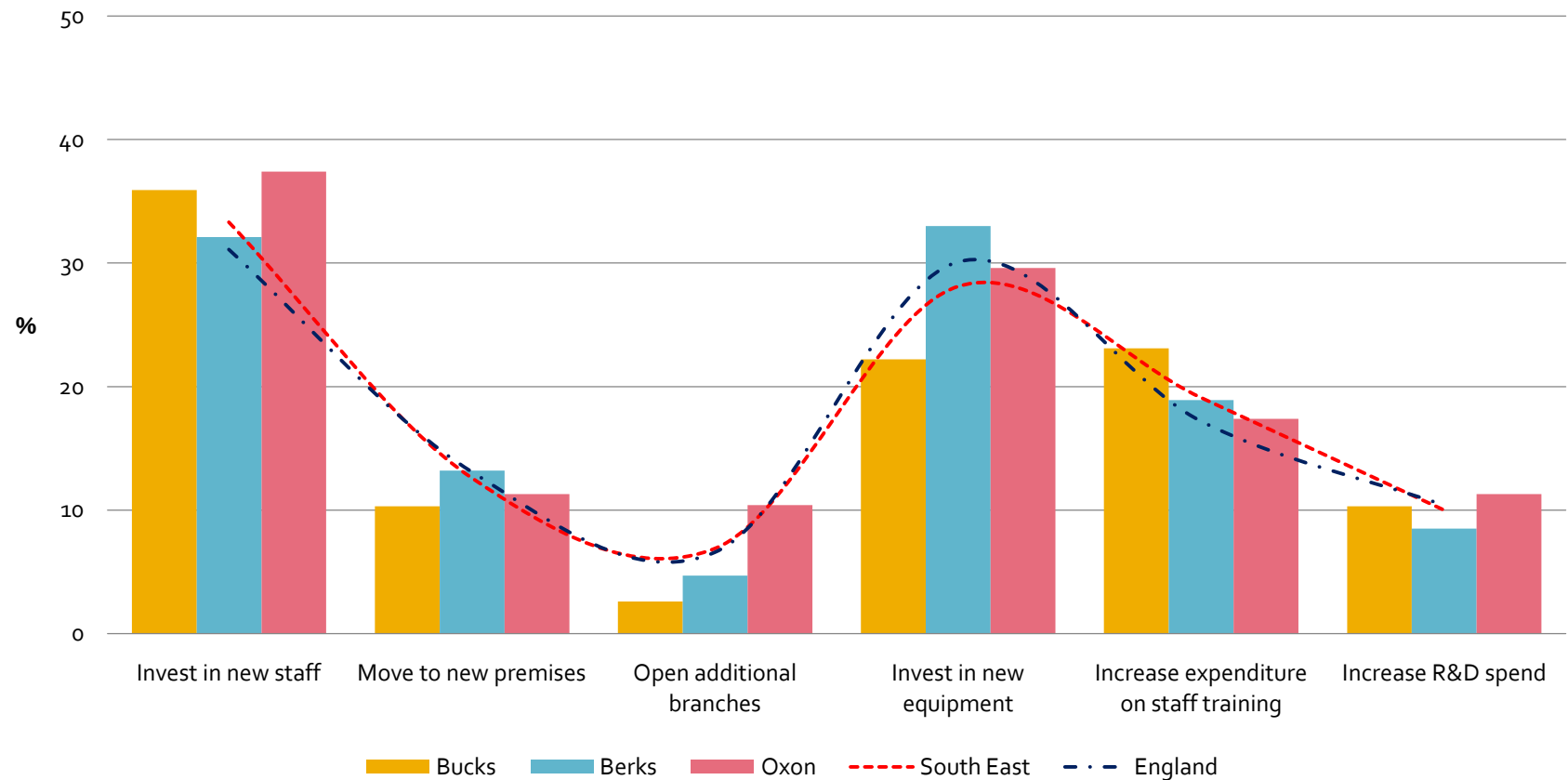
Main objectives for business in next two years





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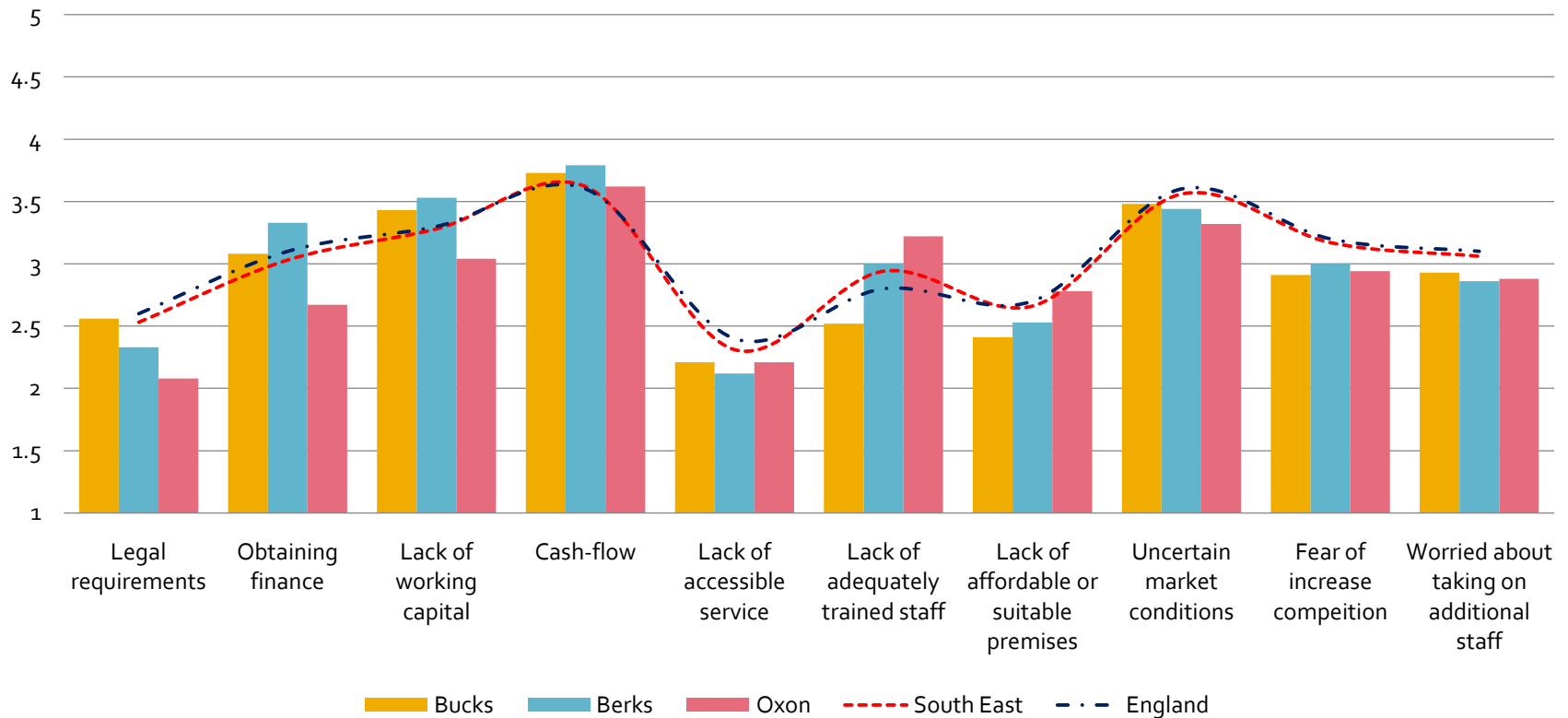
Actions to be taken to achieve objective





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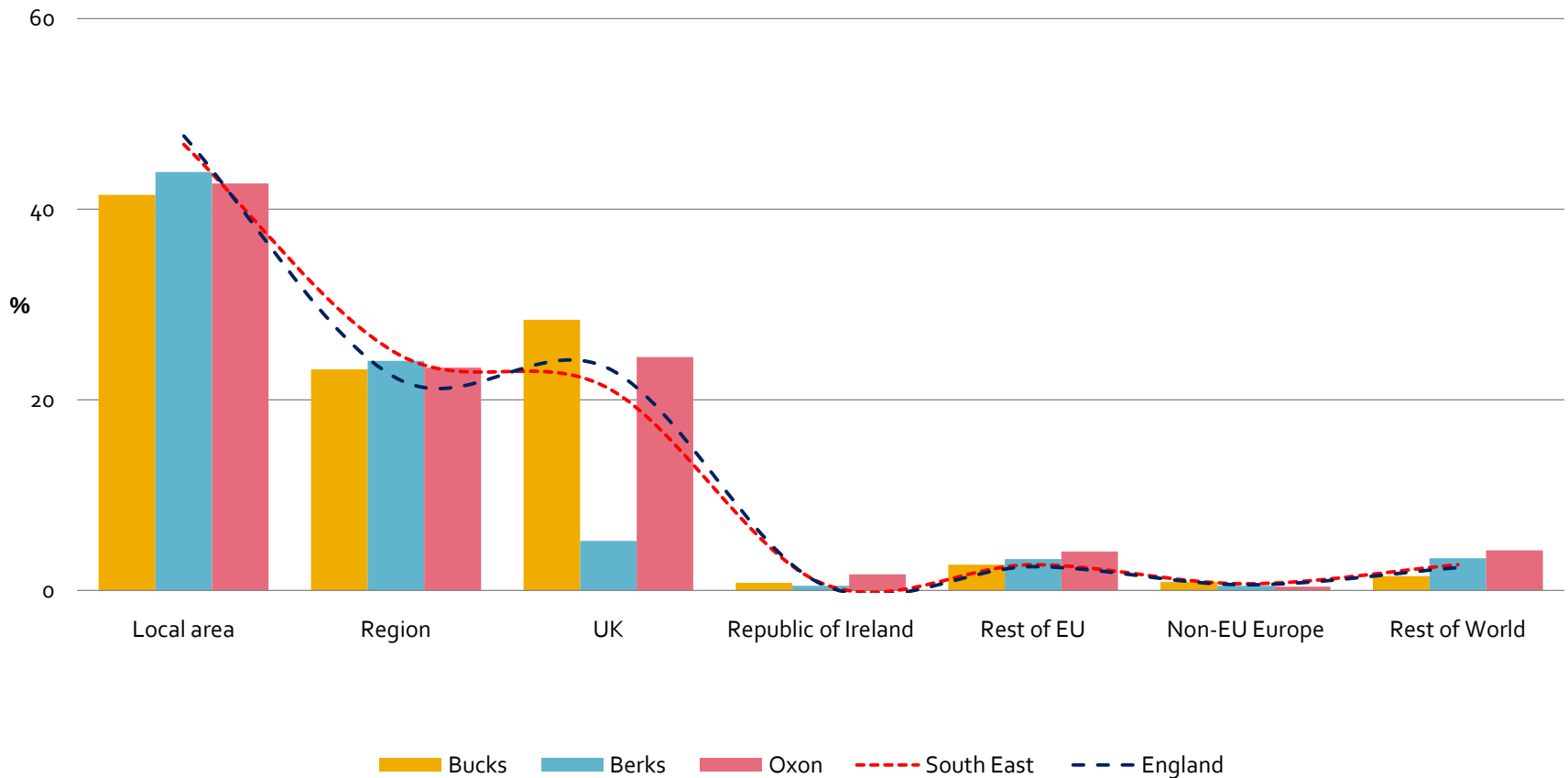
Average importance of factors in providing difficulties in achieving objectives(1 not significant – 5 very significant)





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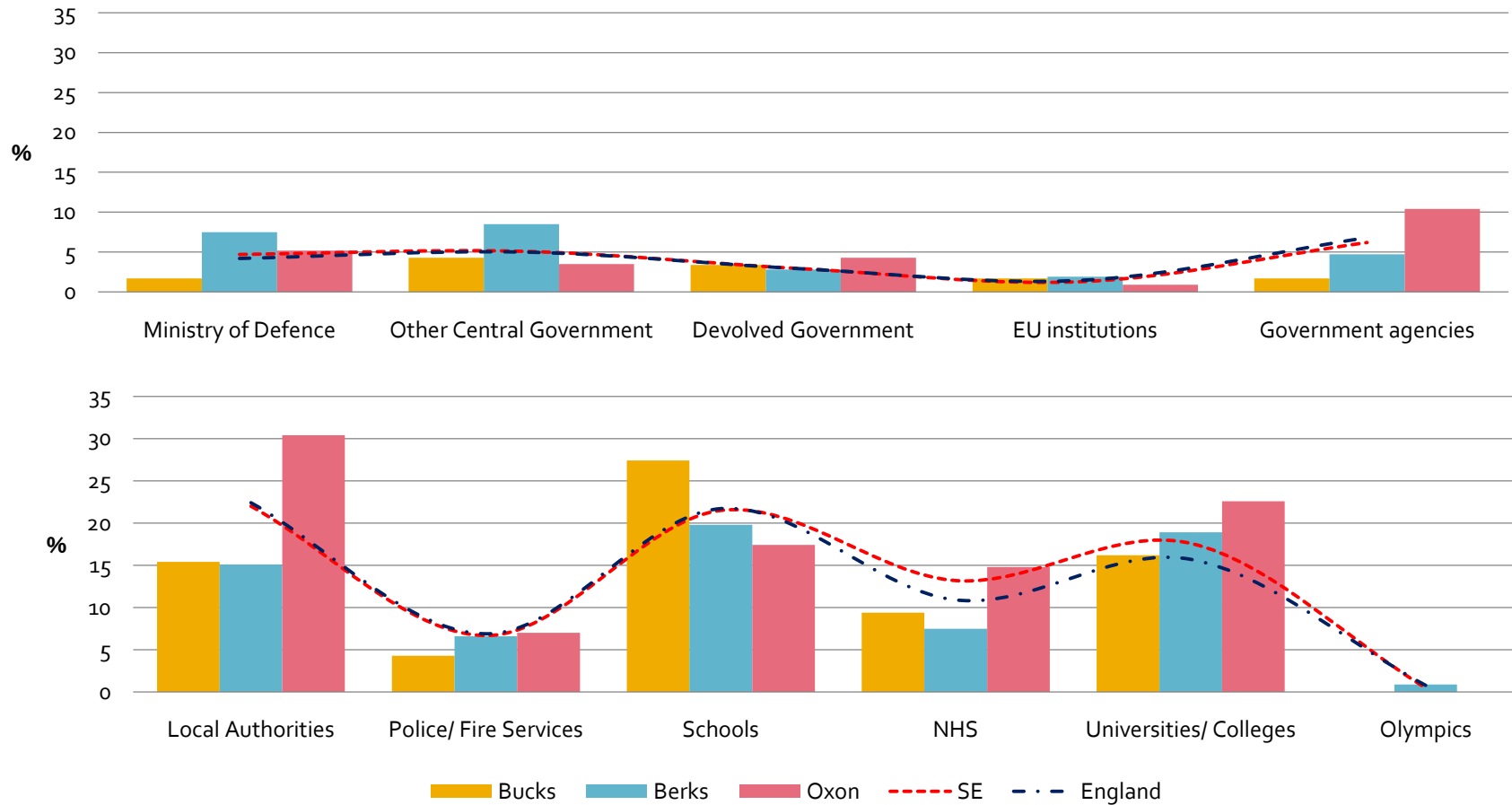
Distribution of trade as a percentage of sales attributable to customers in the following areas





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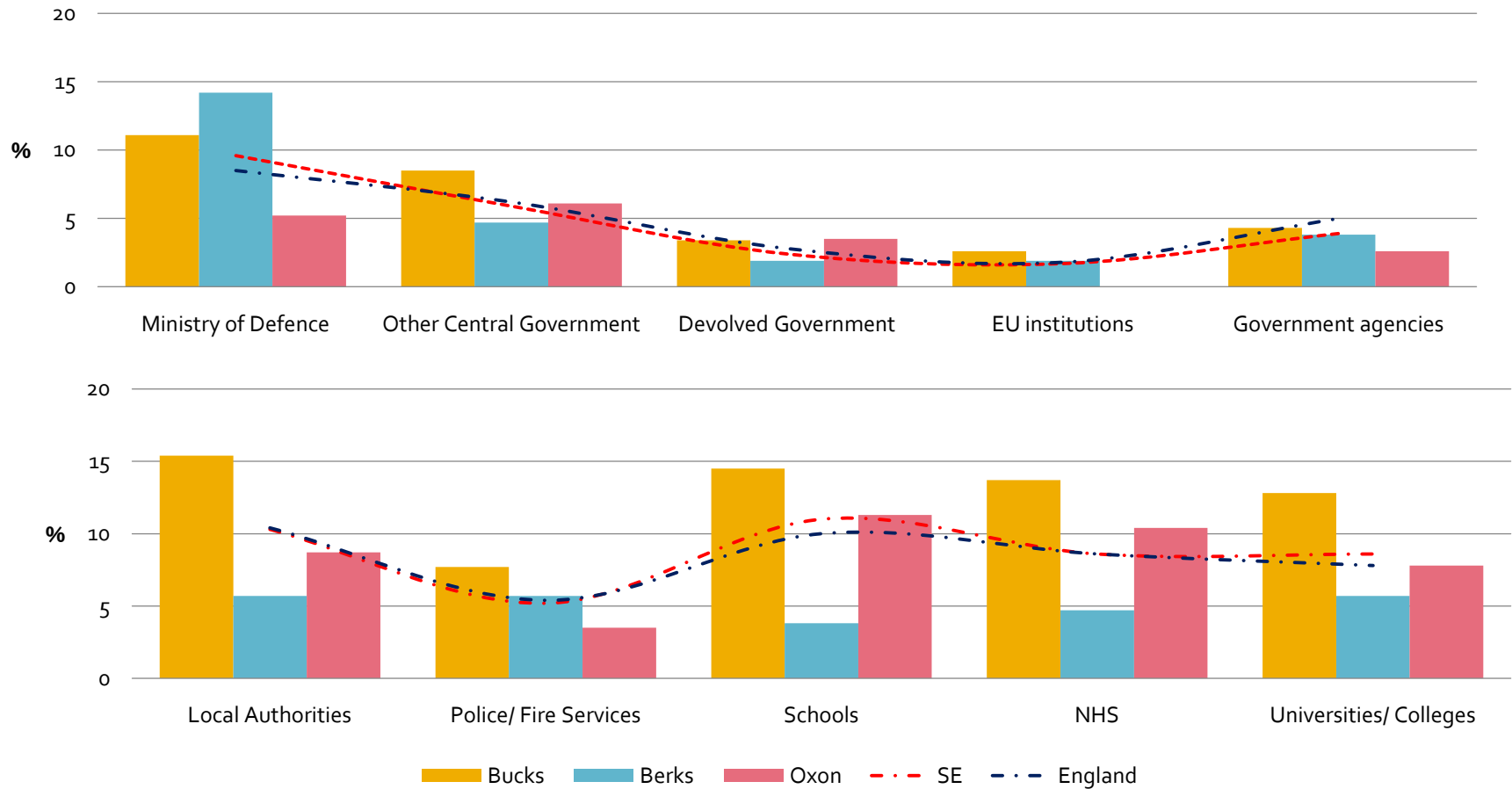
% of businesses directly supplying public sector bodies





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% indirectly supplying public sector bodies





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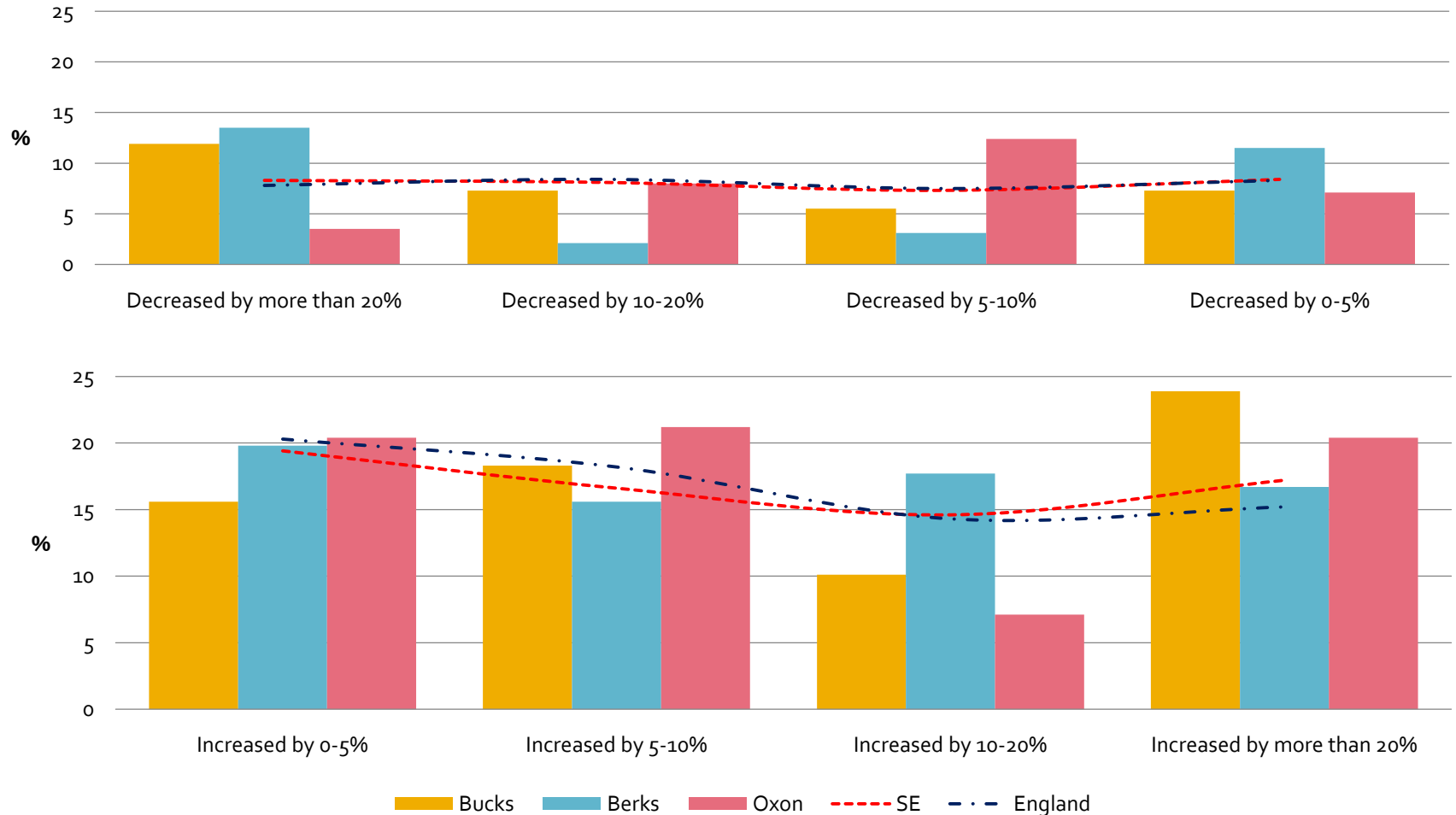
Level of turnover of business in last financial year





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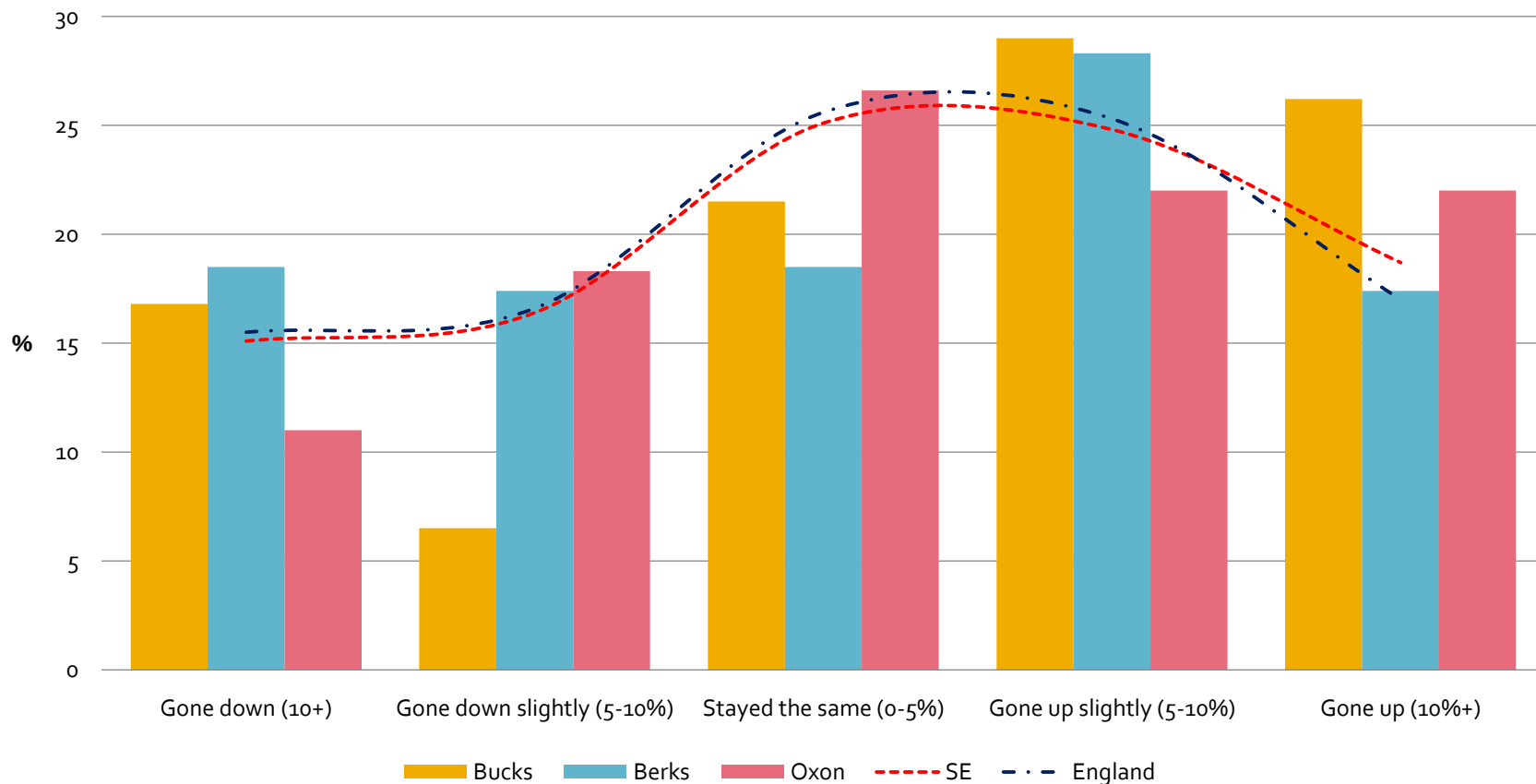
Changes in sales volume over last financial year





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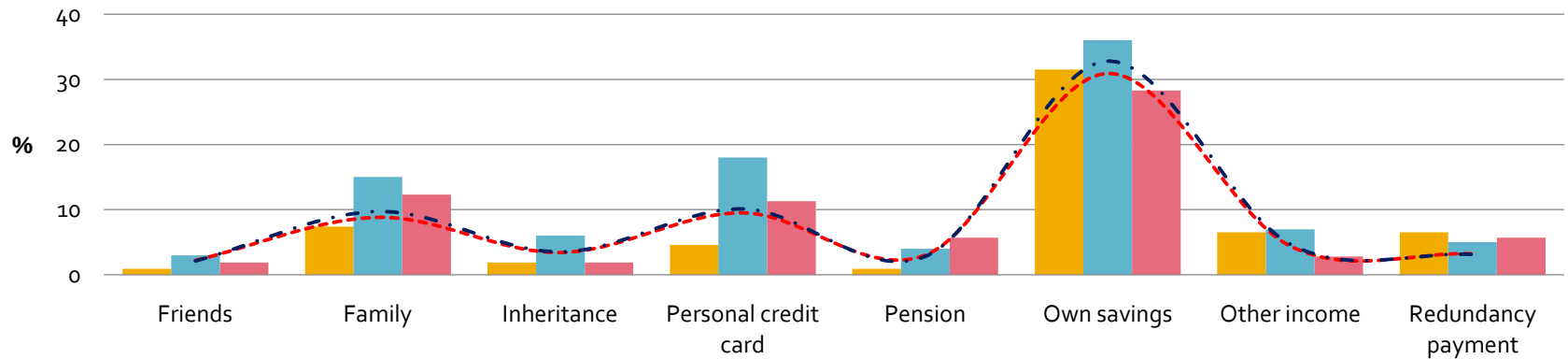
Change in profitability over the last financial year



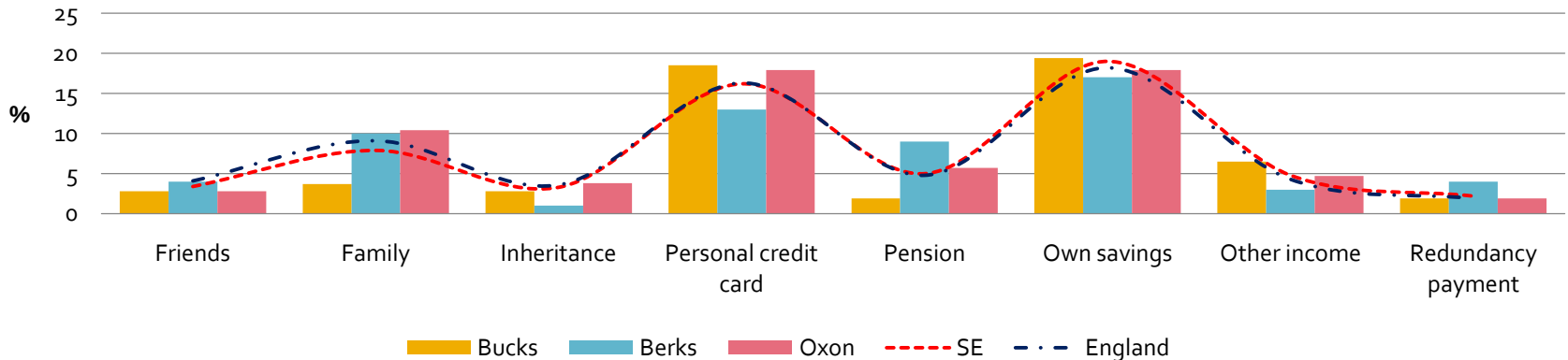


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Personal sources of finance used as a major source



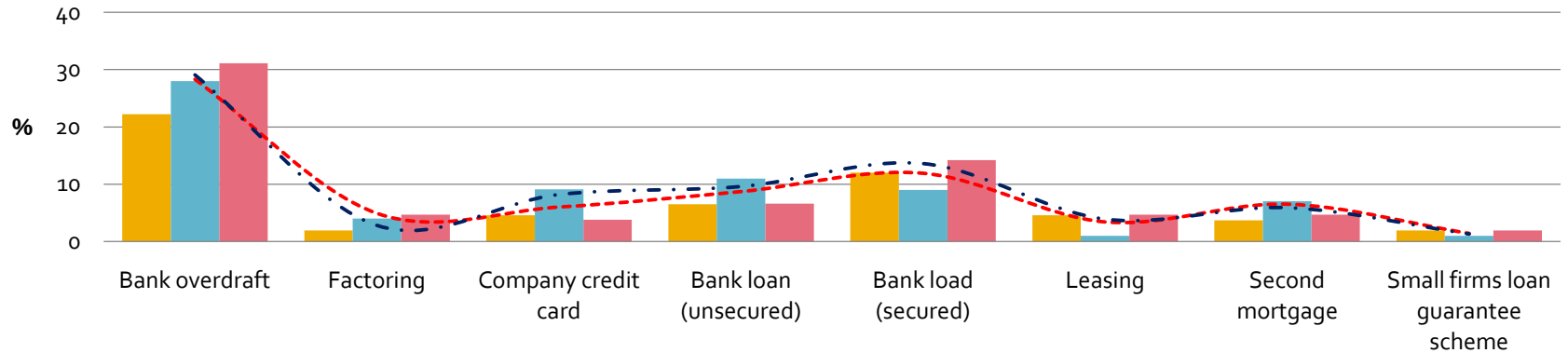
Personal sources of finance used as a minor source



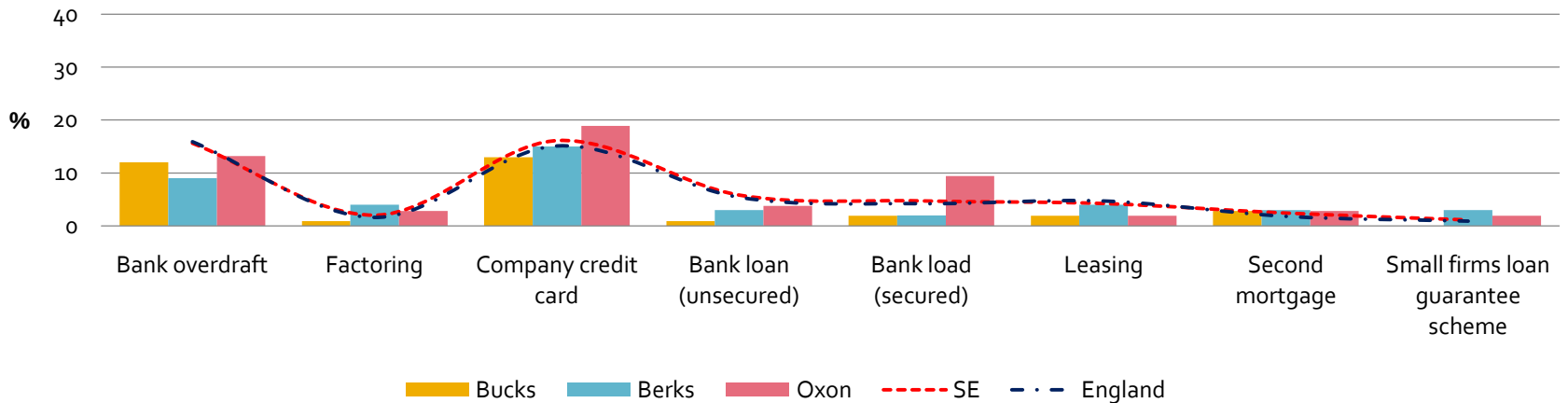


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Financial institutions as a major source of finance



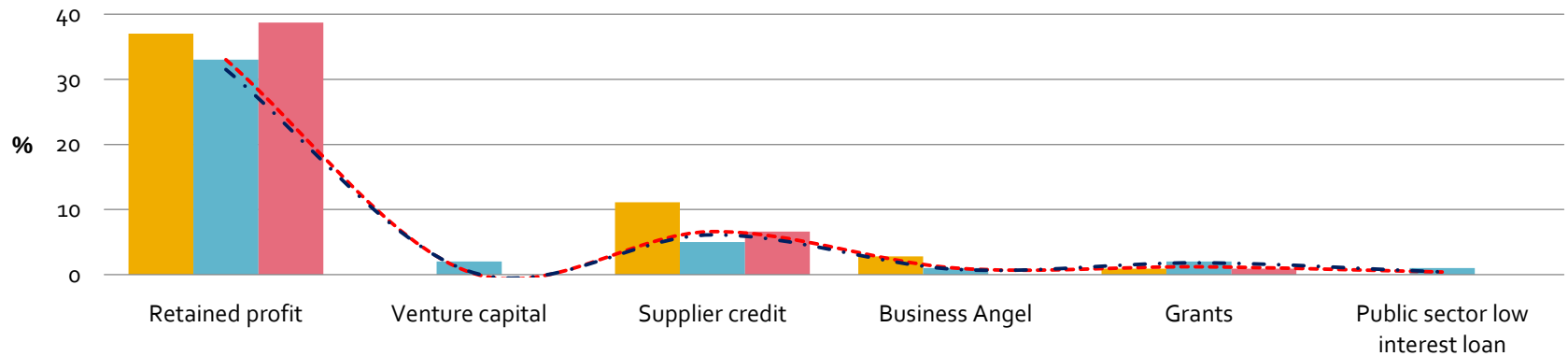
Financial institutions as a minor source of finance



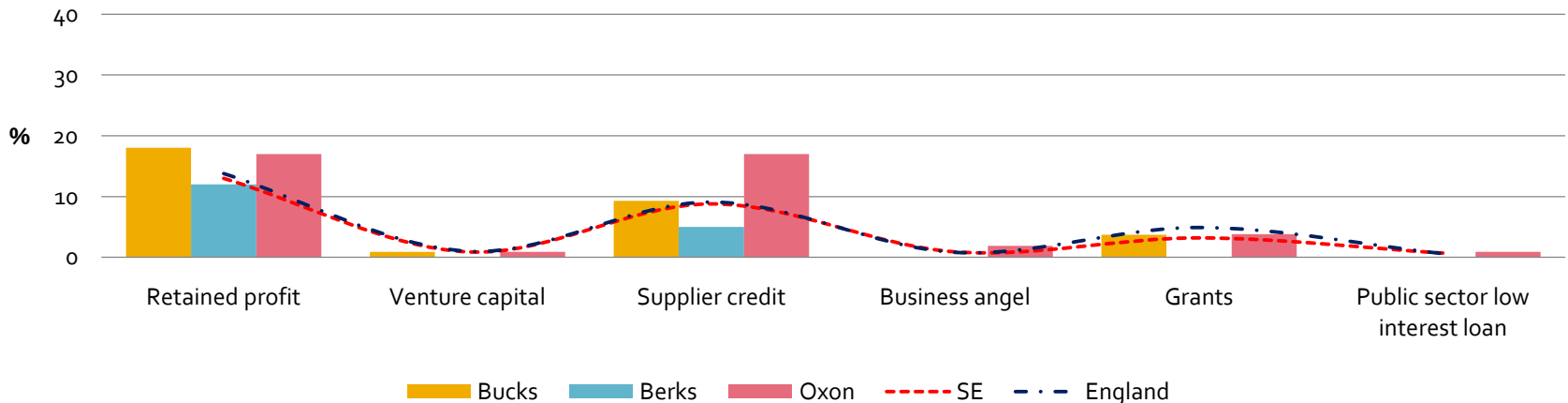


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Government and miscellaneous as major sources of finance



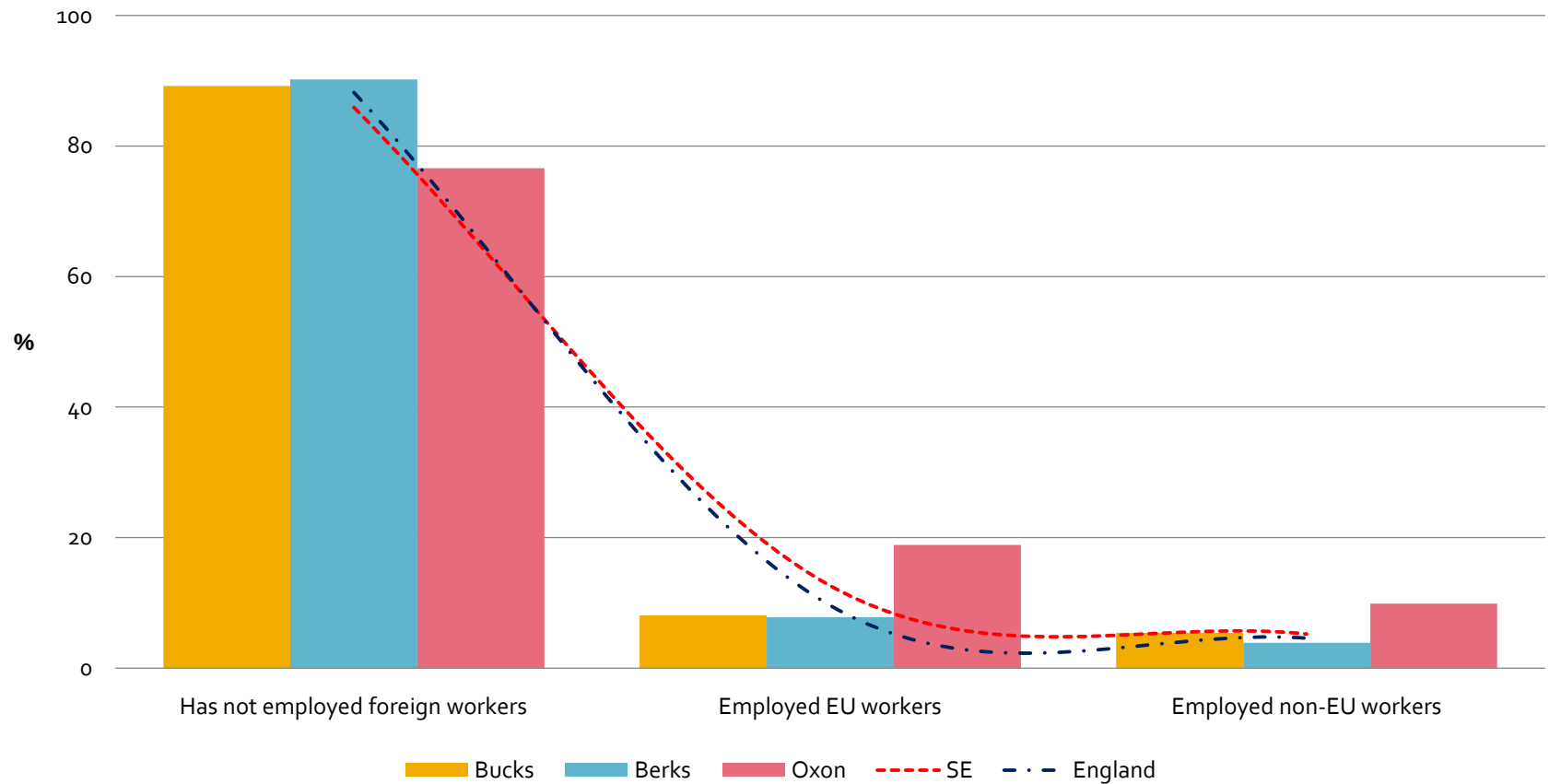
Government and miscellaneous as a minor source of finance





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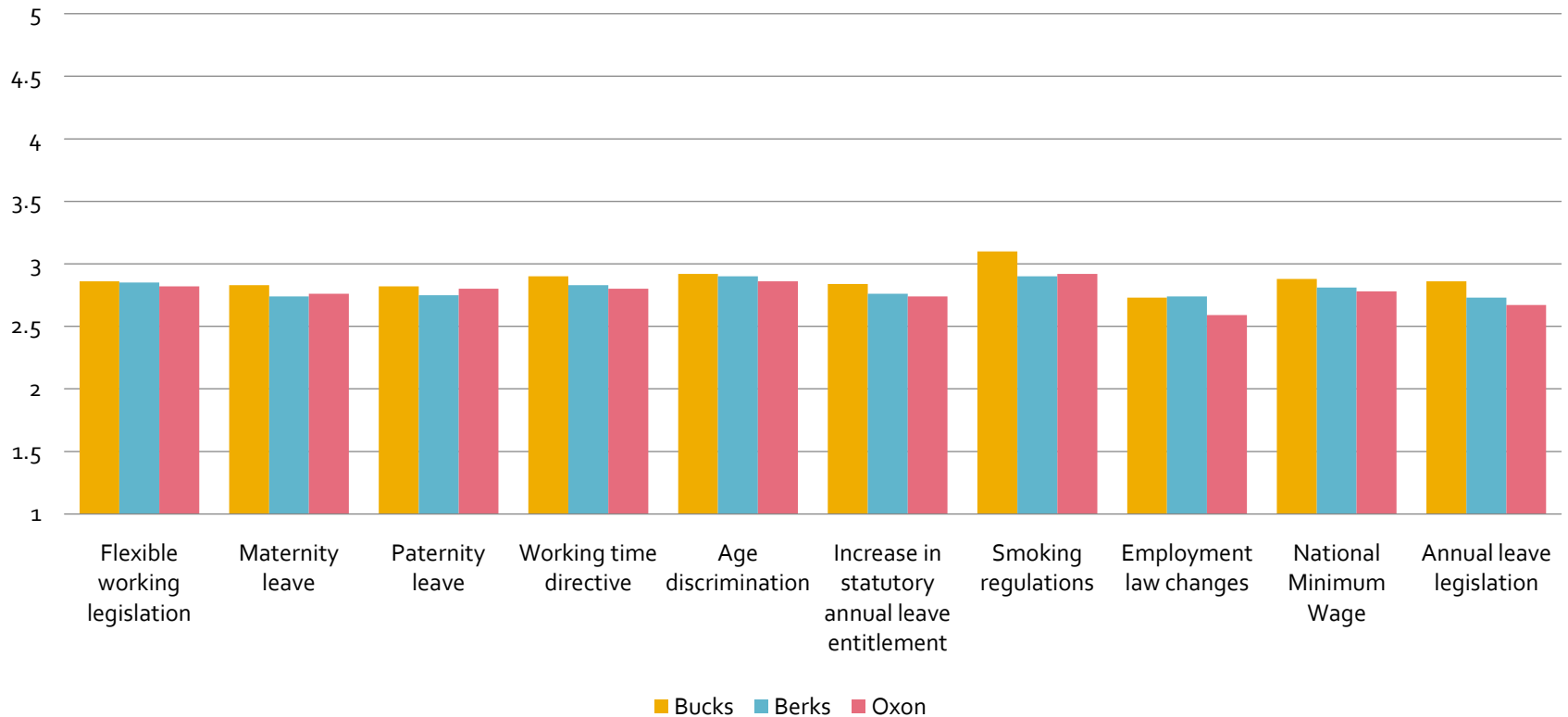
Employment of foreign workers in the last two years





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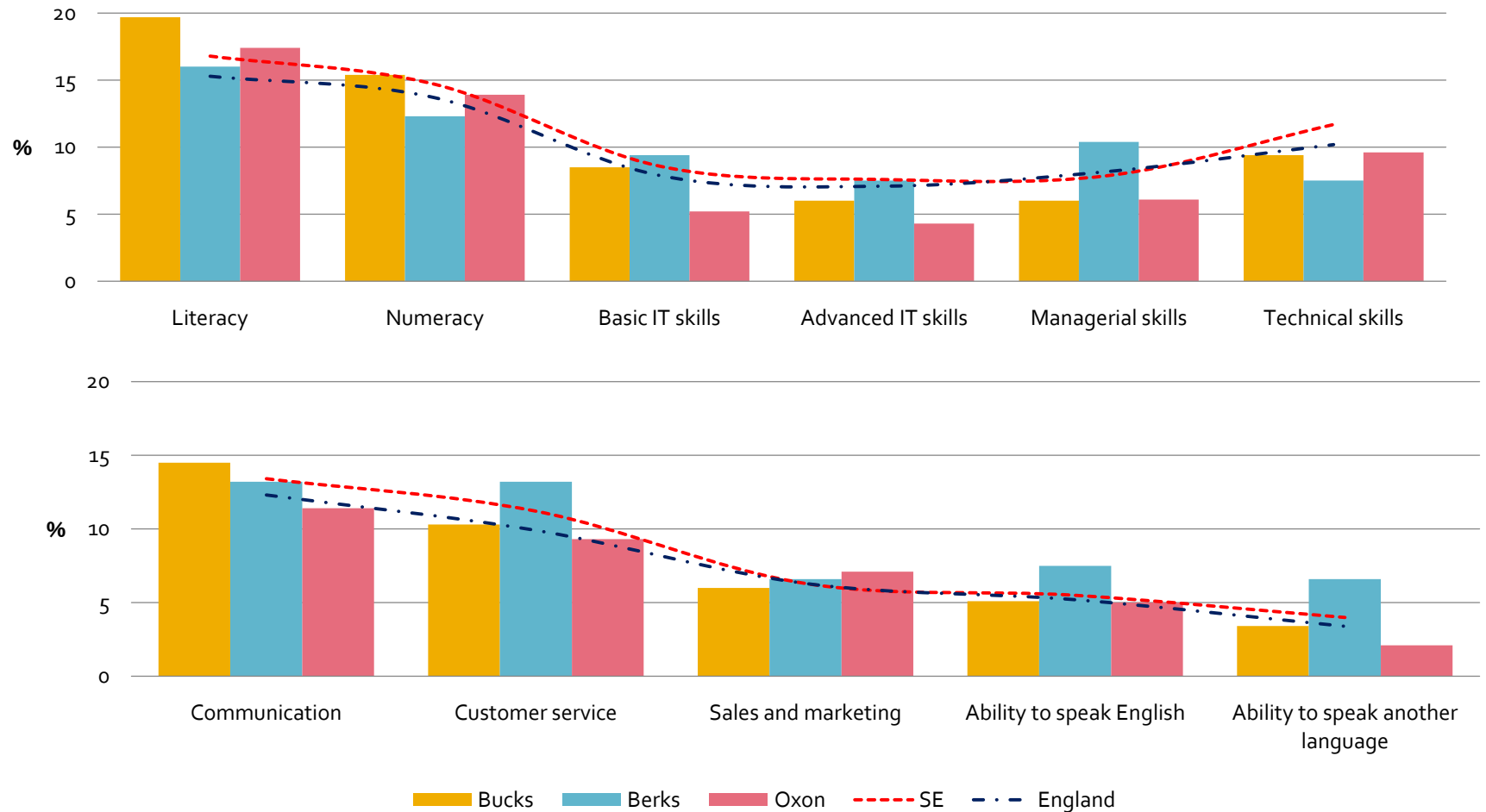
Impact of legislation (1 negatively, 2 quite negatively, 3 not at all, 4 positively, 5 very positively)





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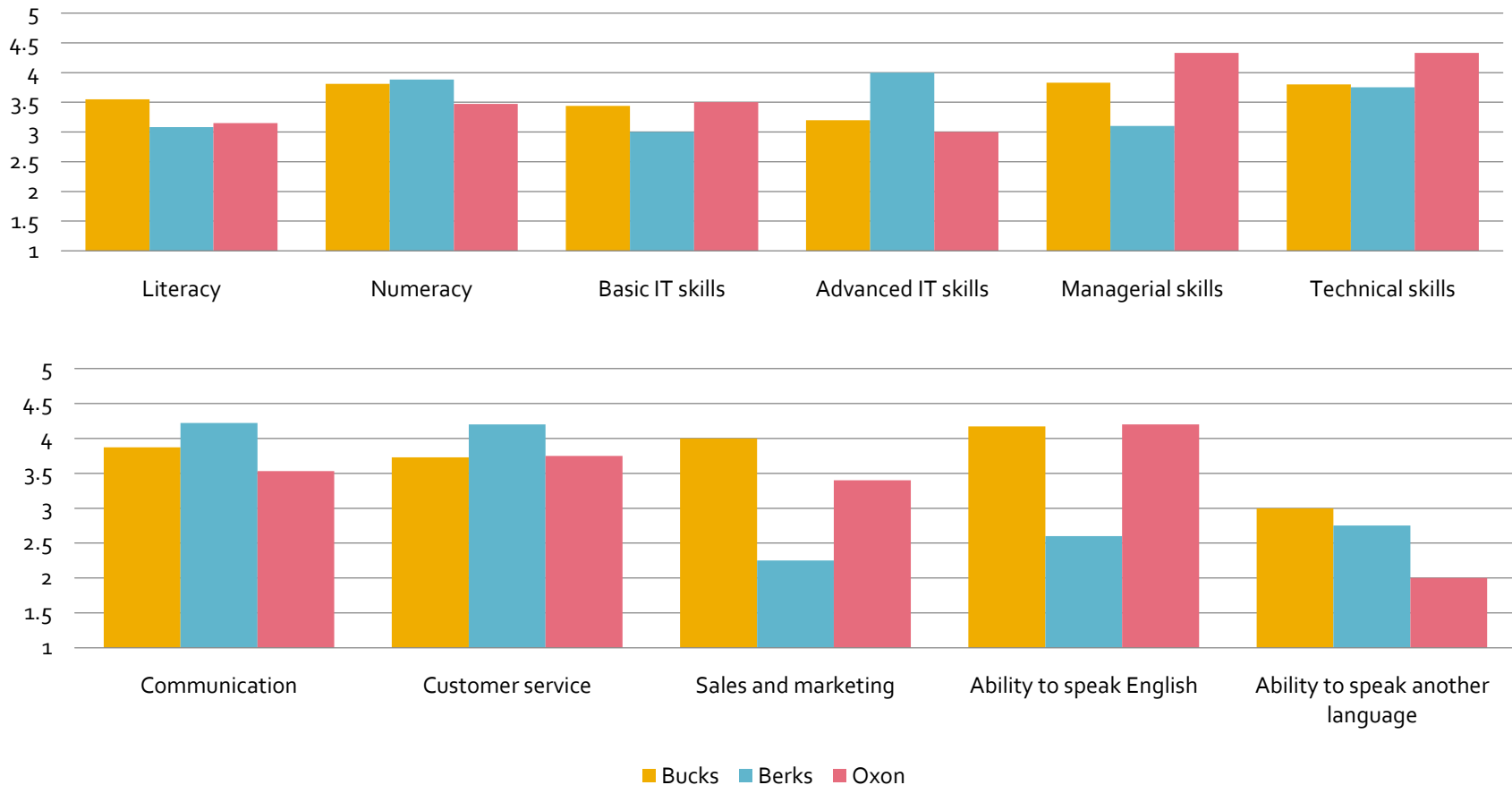
Shortage of skills encountered in employees aged under 25





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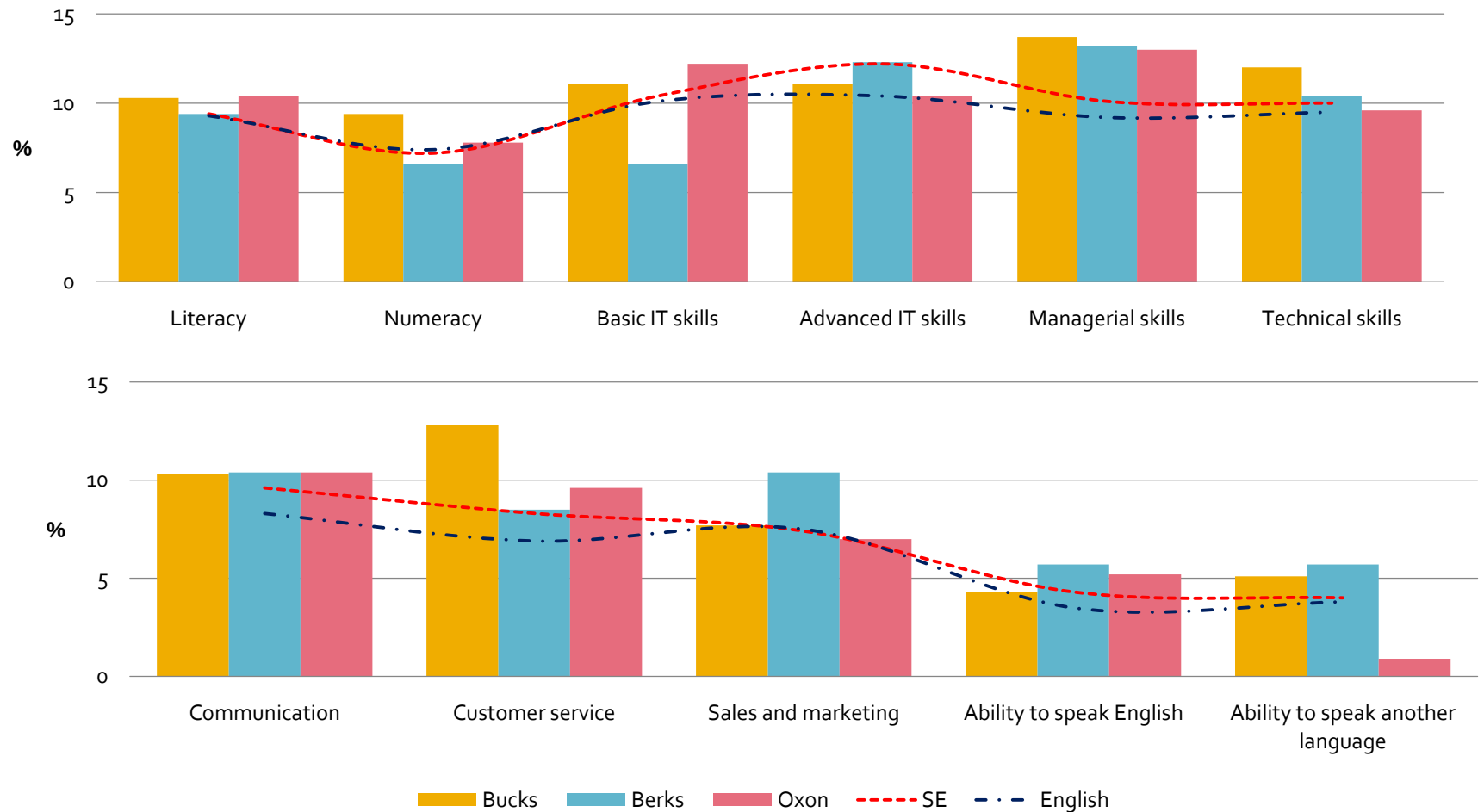
Average importance of skills shortages if encountered in employees aged under 25 (1 not a constraint – 5 significant constraint)





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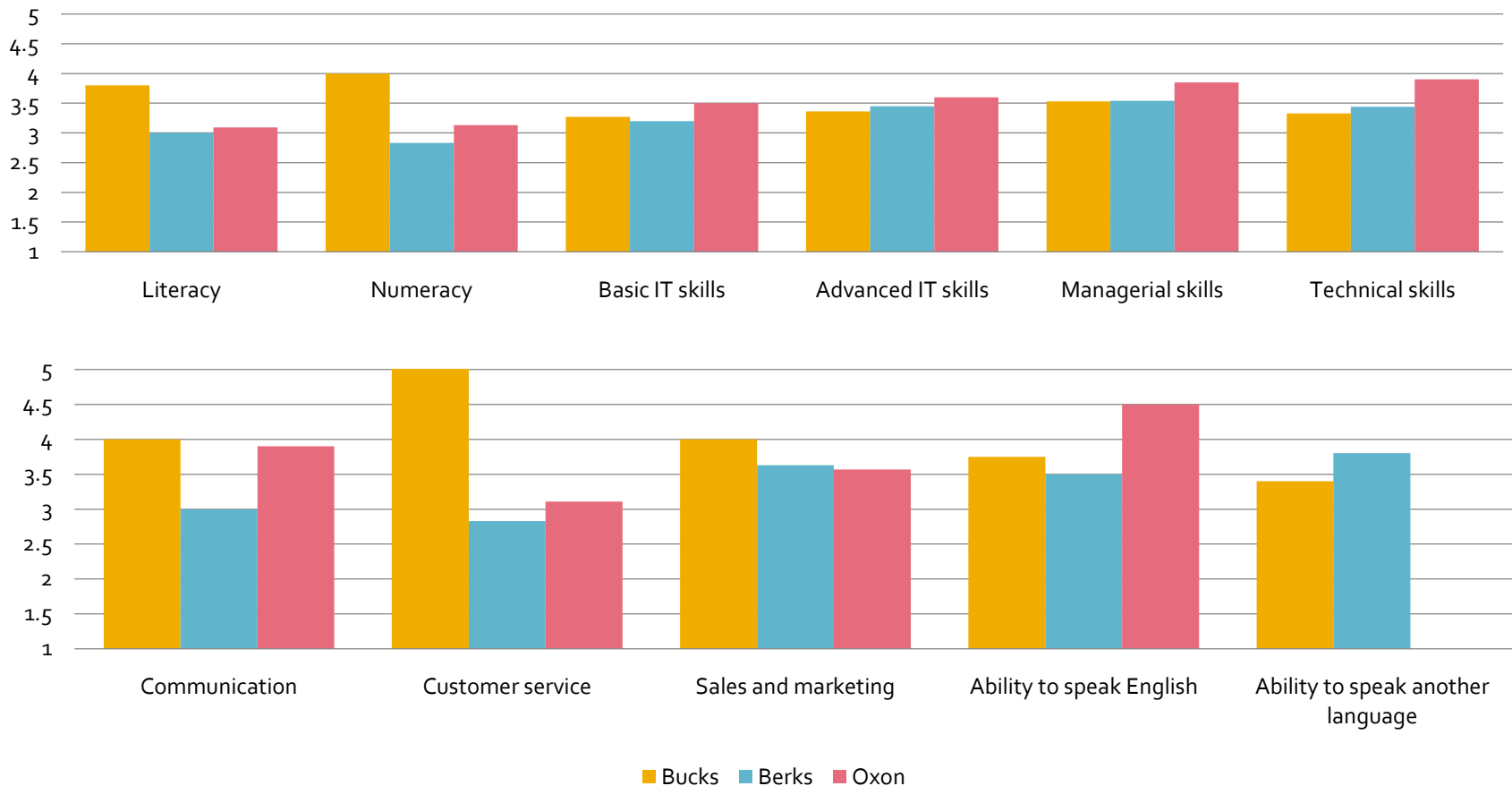
Shortage of skills encountered in employees aged over 25





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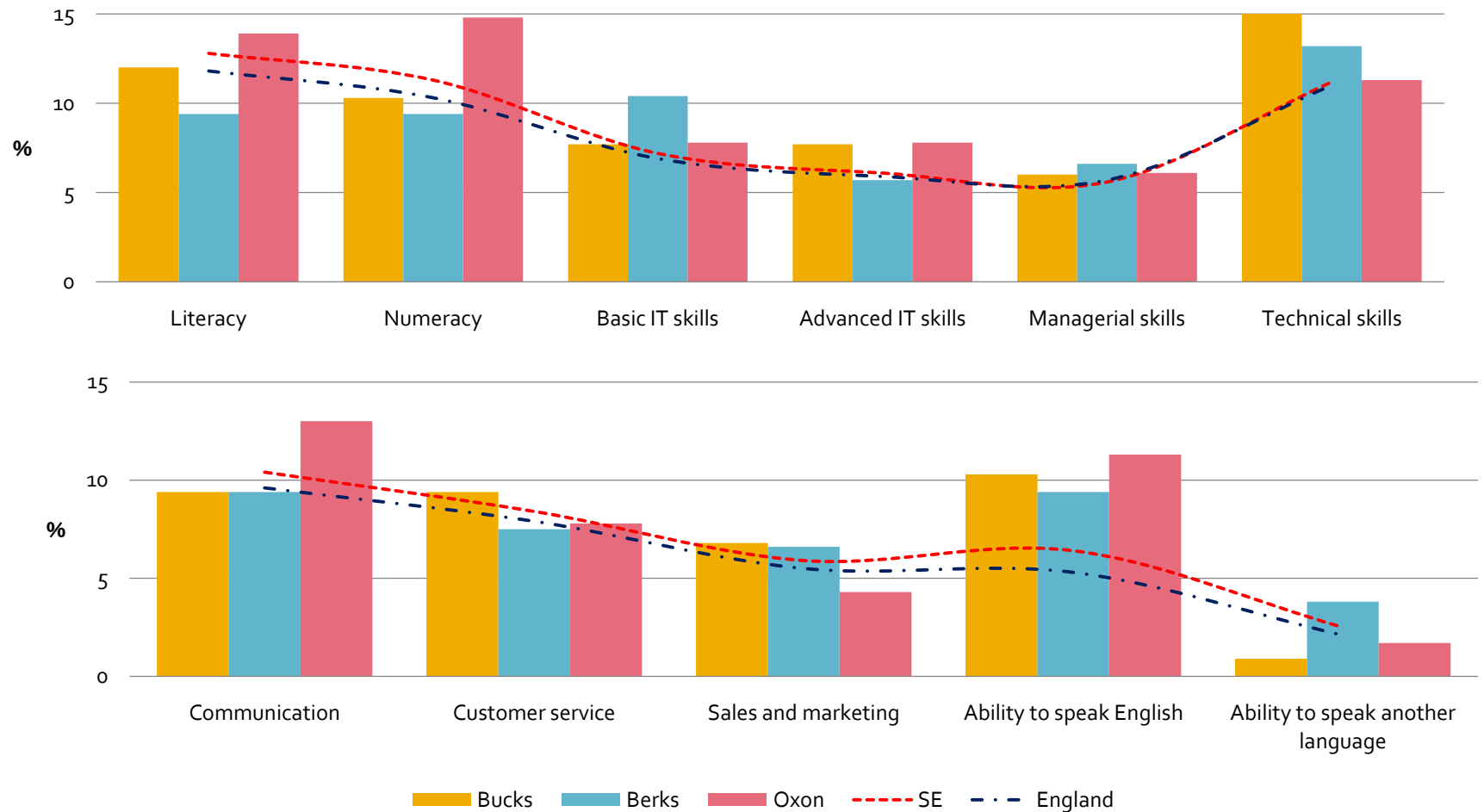
Average importance of skills shortages if encountered in employees aged over 25 (1 not a constraint – 5 significant constraint)





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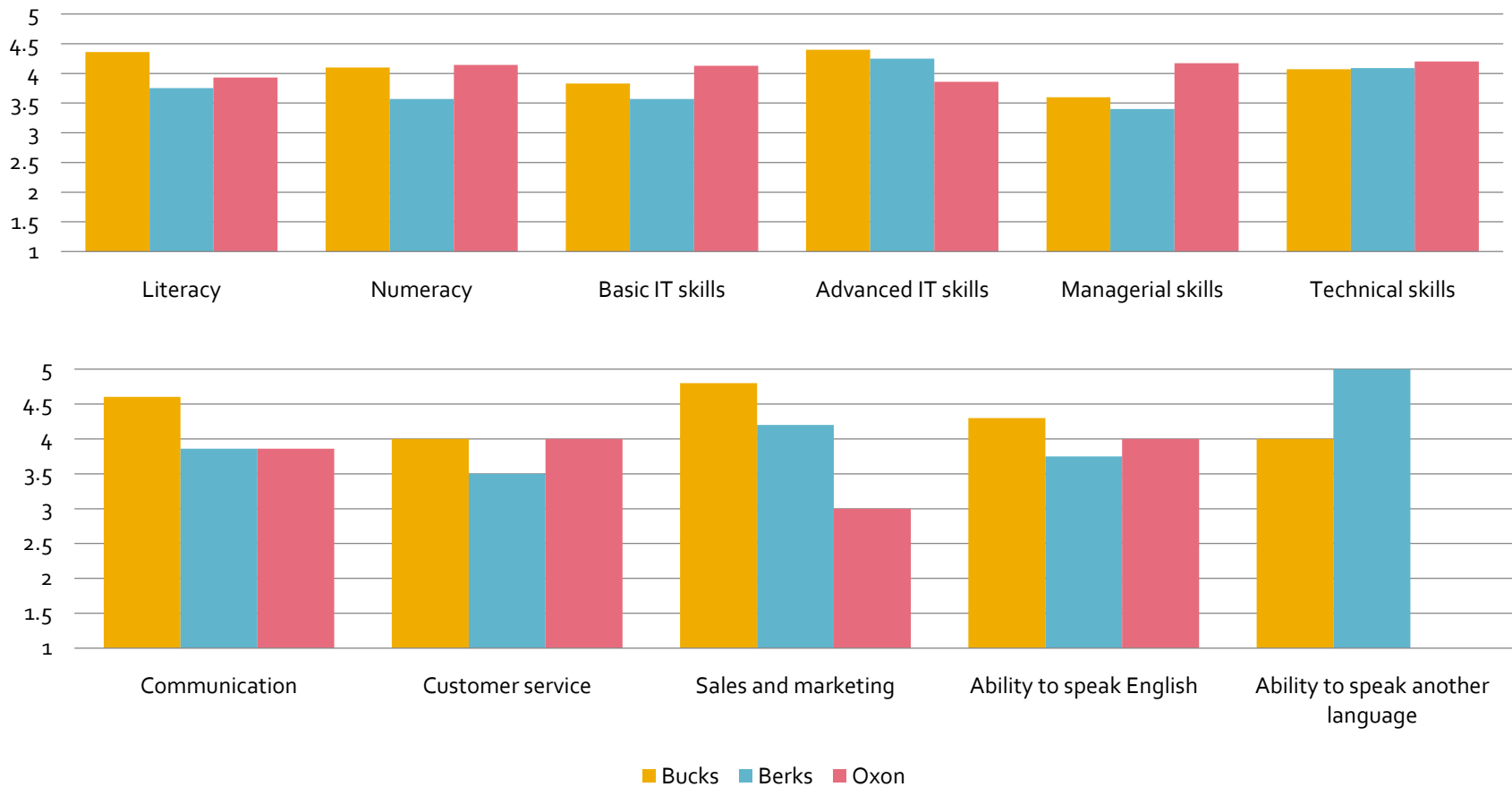
Shortage of skills encountered when attempting to recruit staff





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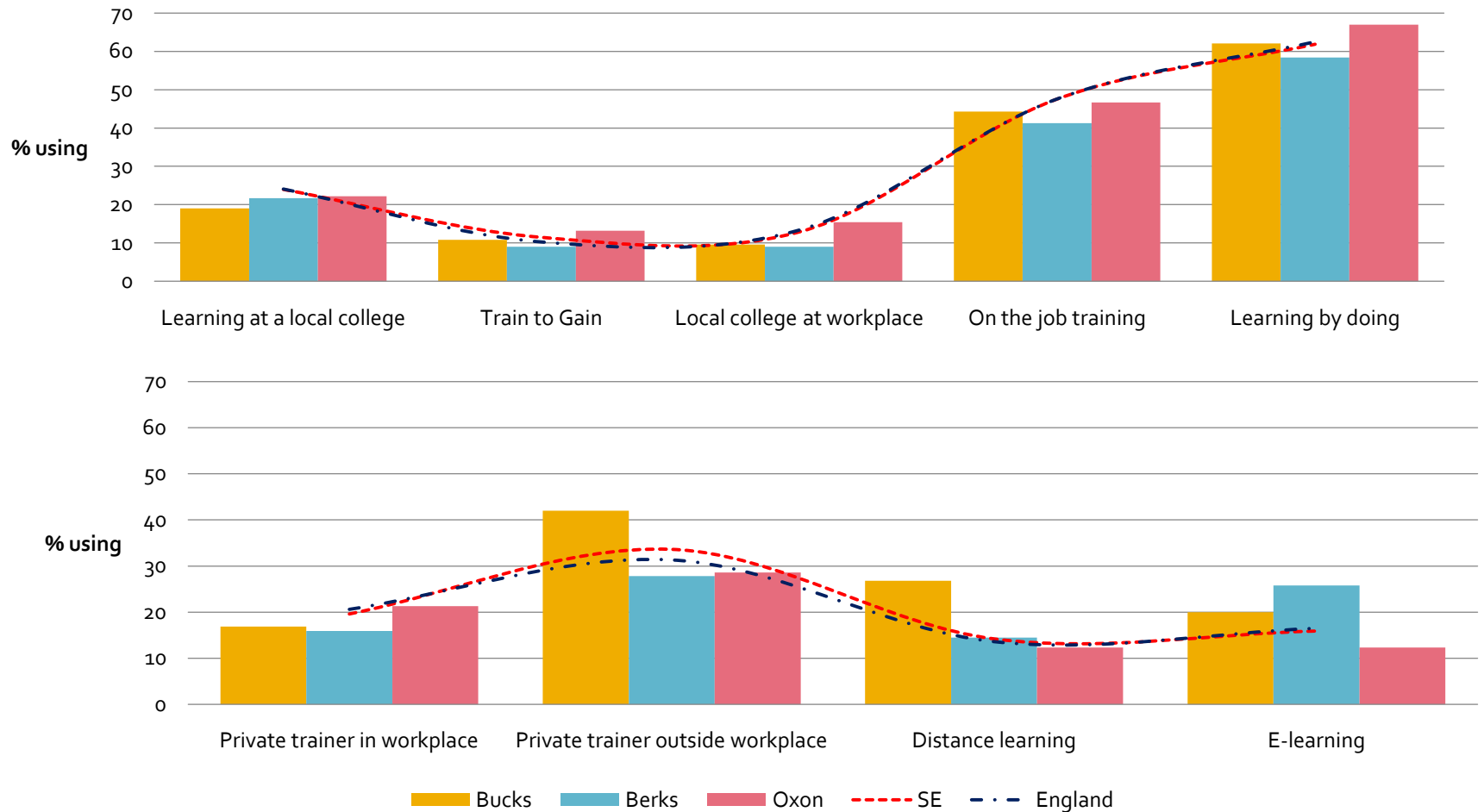
Average importance of skills shortages if encountered when attempting to recruit staff (1 not a constraint – 5 significant constraint)





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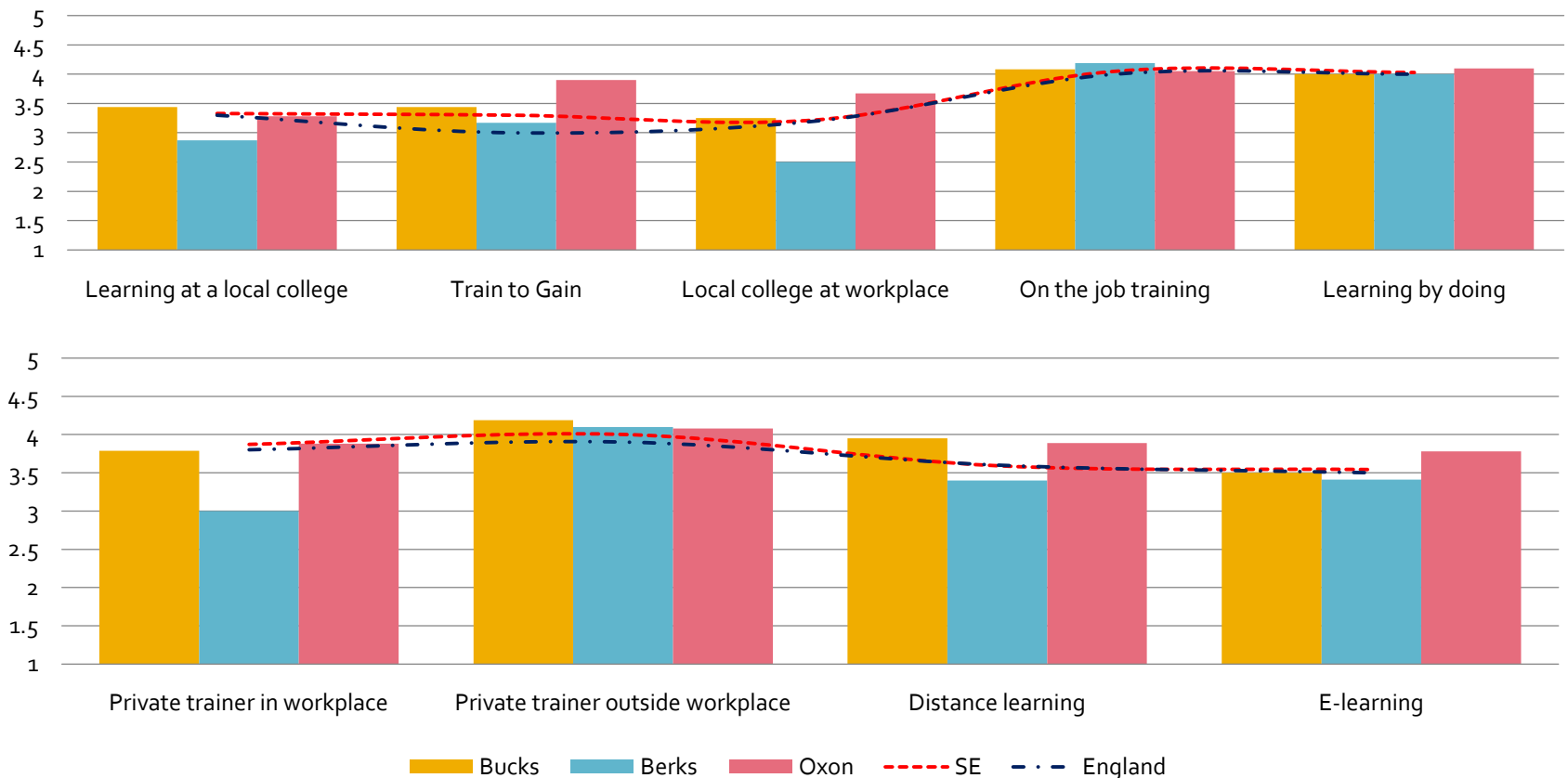
Use of various sources of training in the last two years





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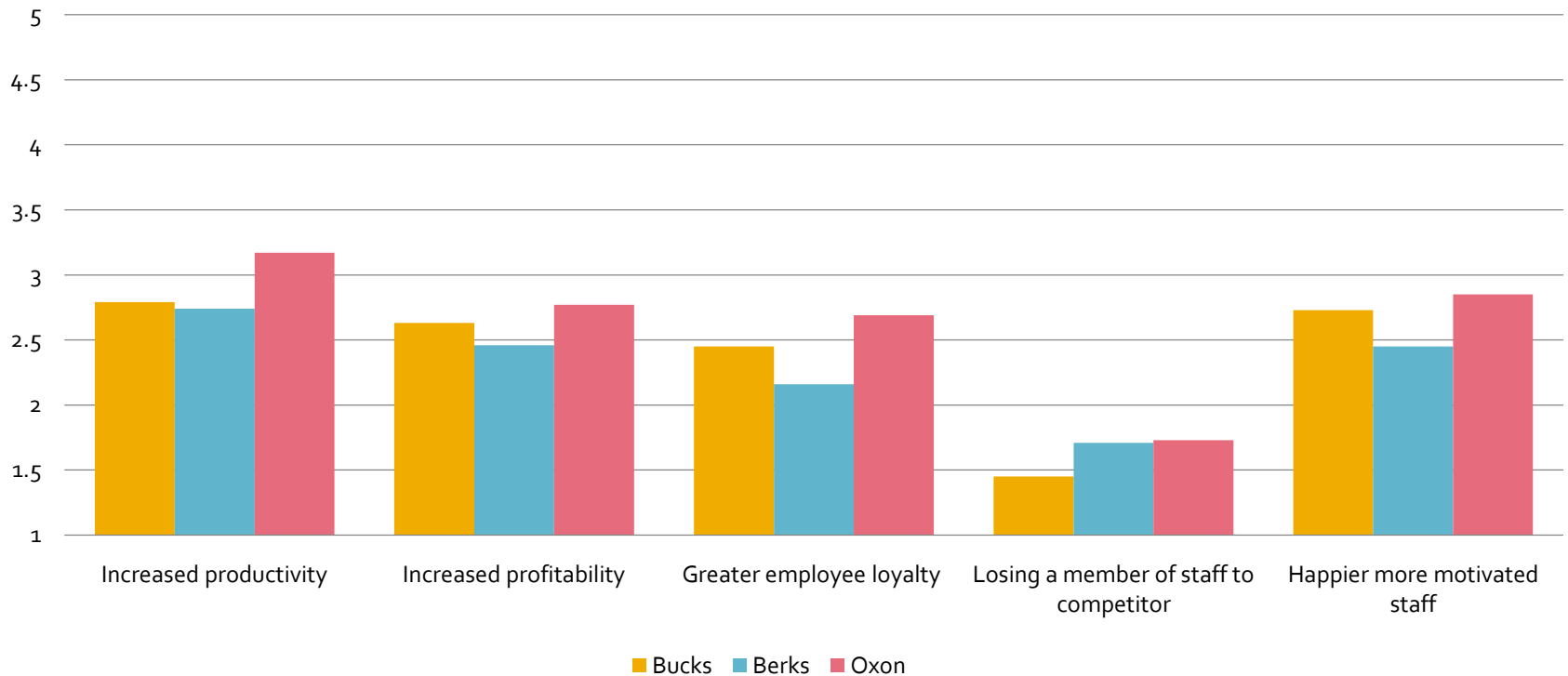
Level of satisfaction with training
(1 very dissatisfied – 5 very satisfied)





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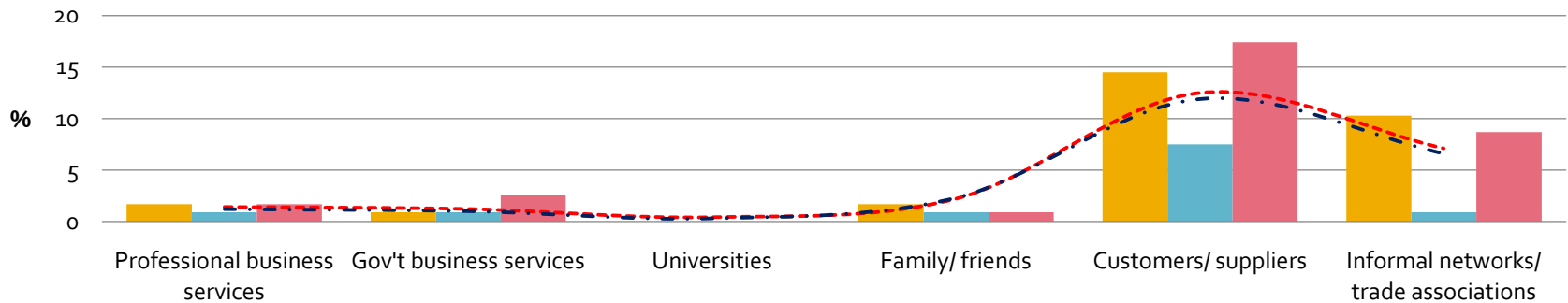
Average outcomes of training (1 no impact – 5 strong impact)



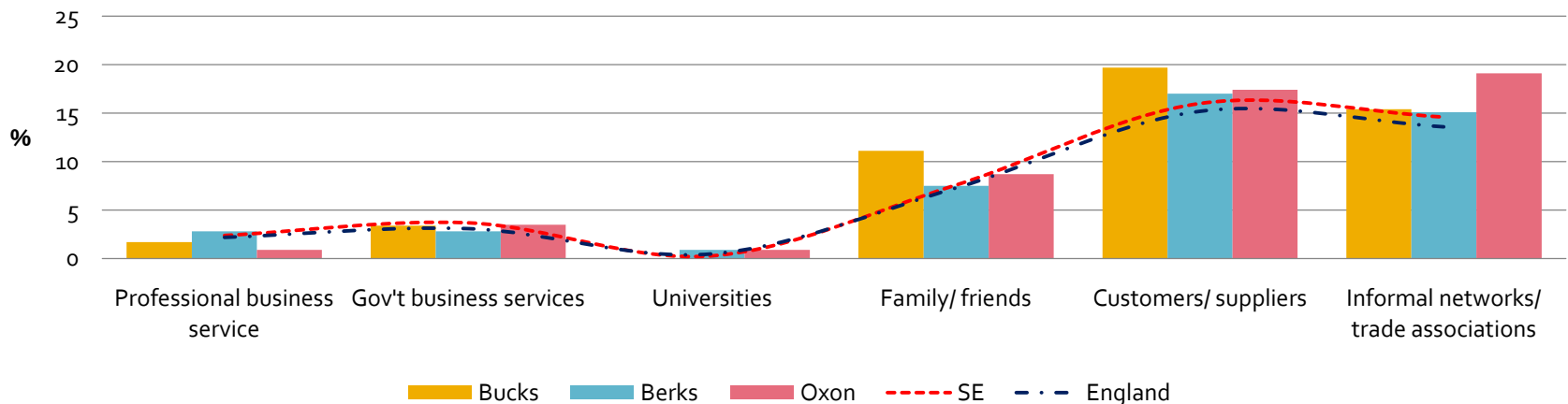


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% indicating sources of advice helped improve supply chain operations



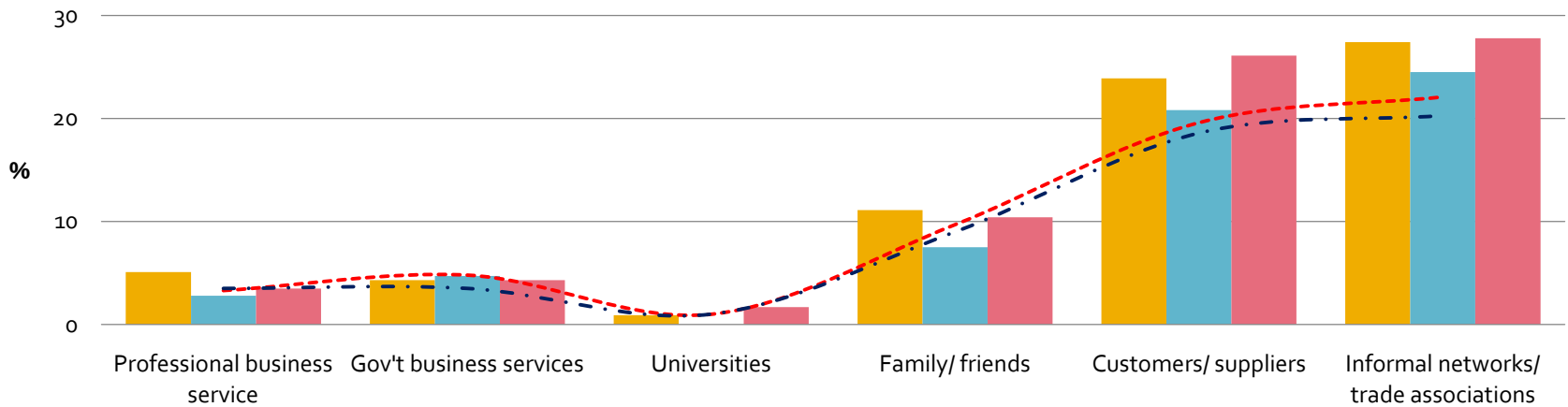
% indicating sources of advice helped with finding new markets



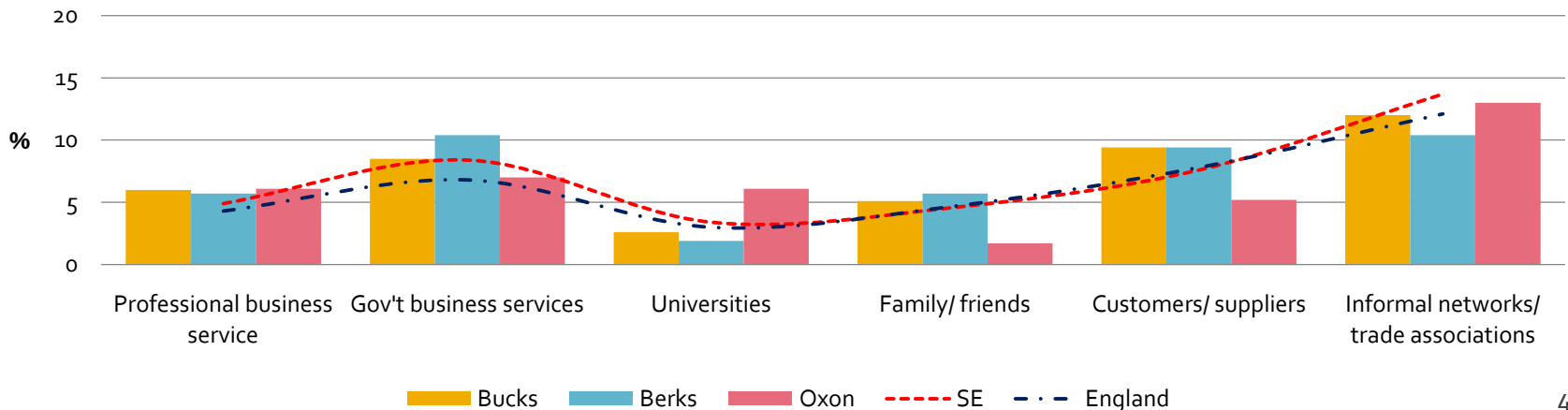


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% indicating sources of advice helped with improving contacts



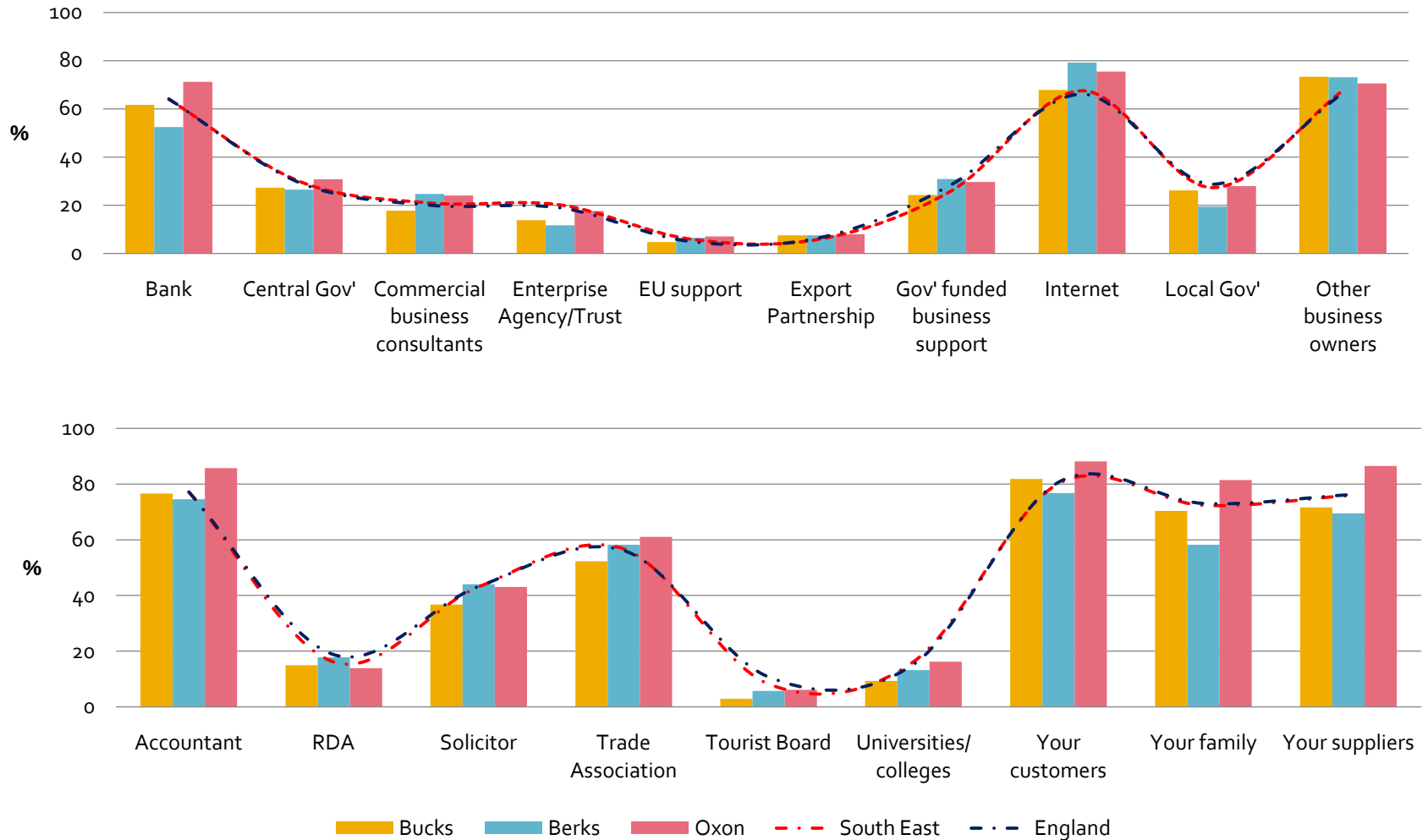
% indicating sources of advice helped with improving skills





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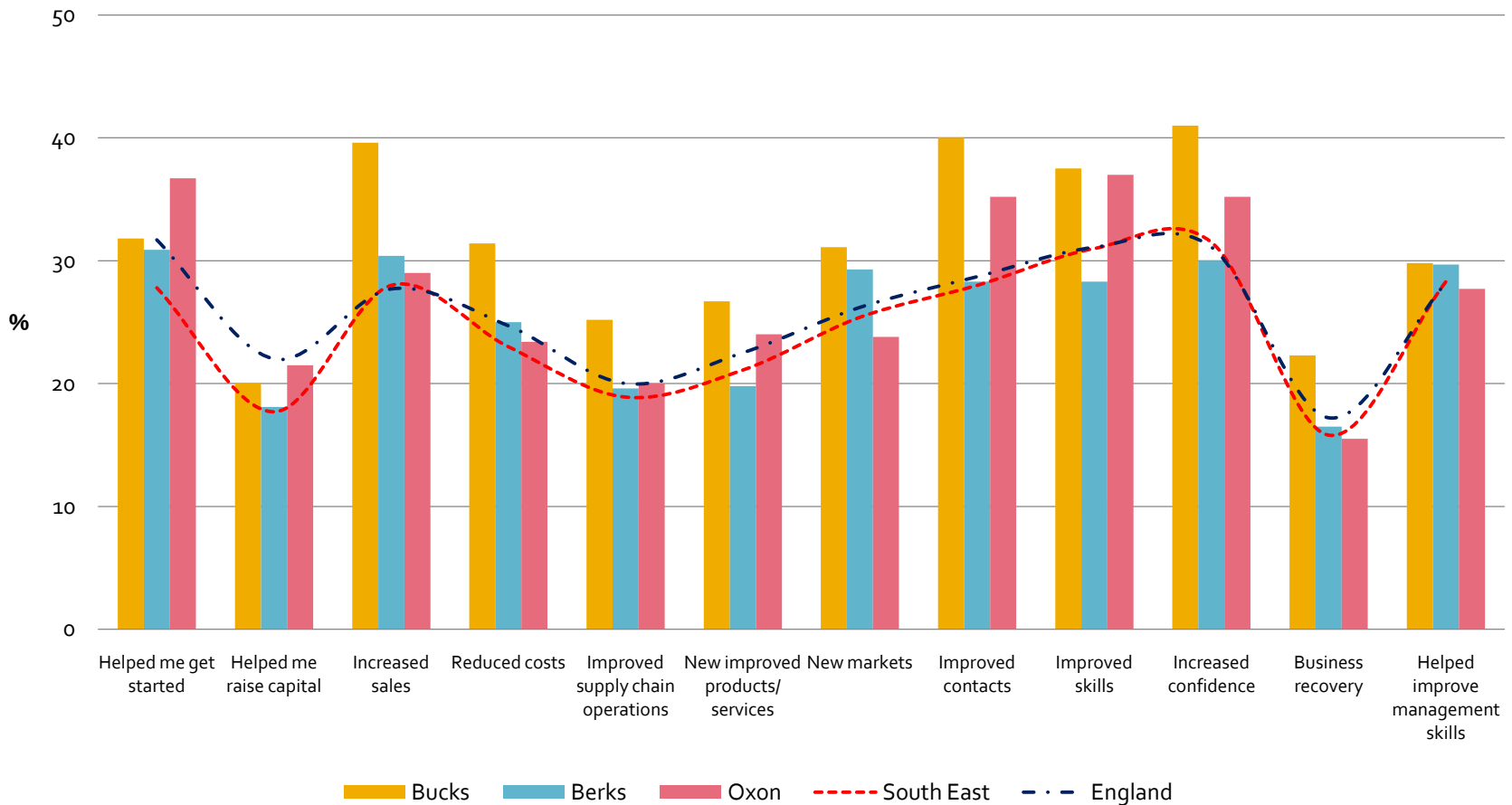
Percentage of business owners using each source of advice





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Use of government funded business support services





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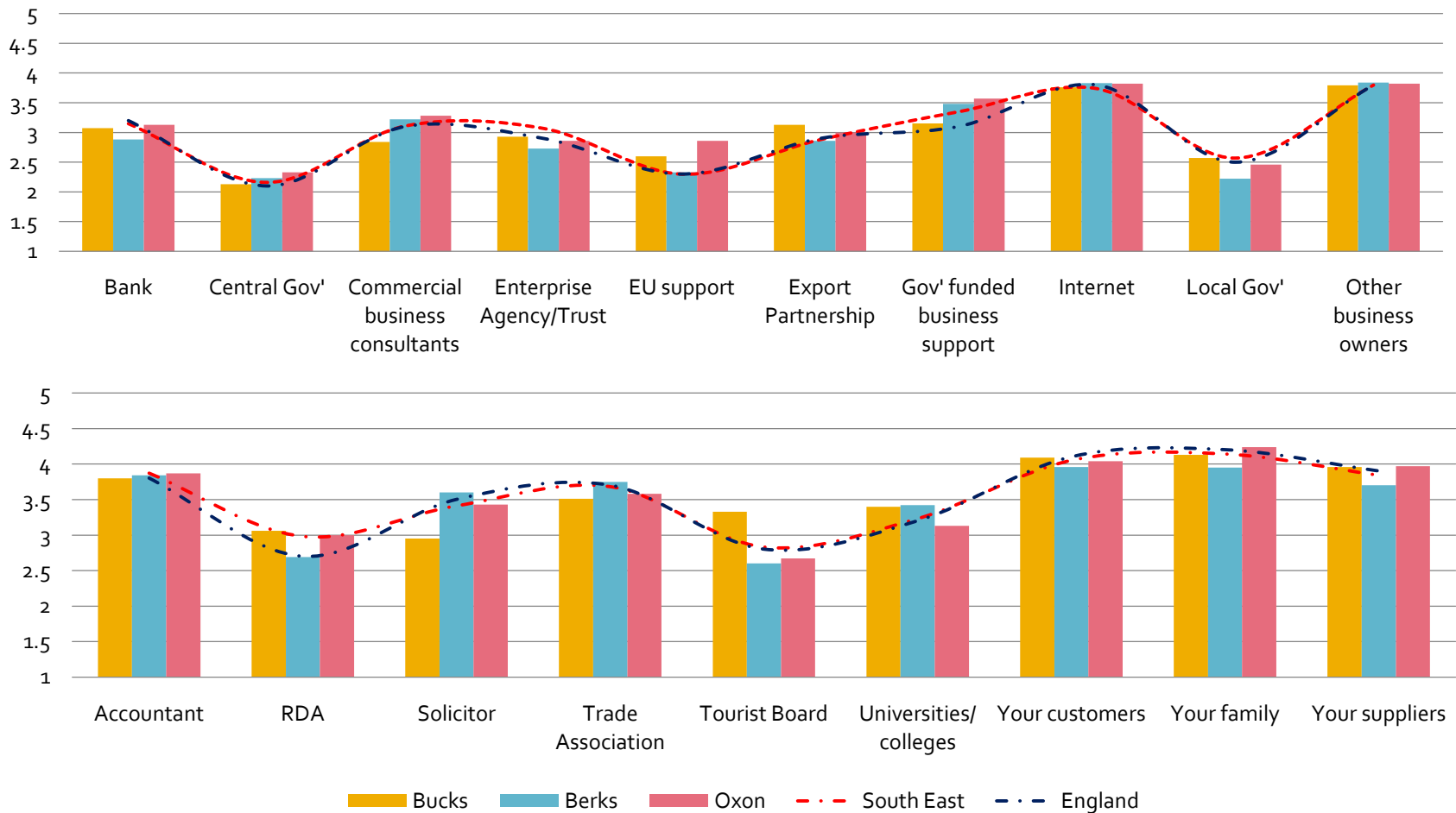
Use of non-government funded business support services





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Satisfaction with business support received
(1 very dissatisfied – 5 very satisfied)





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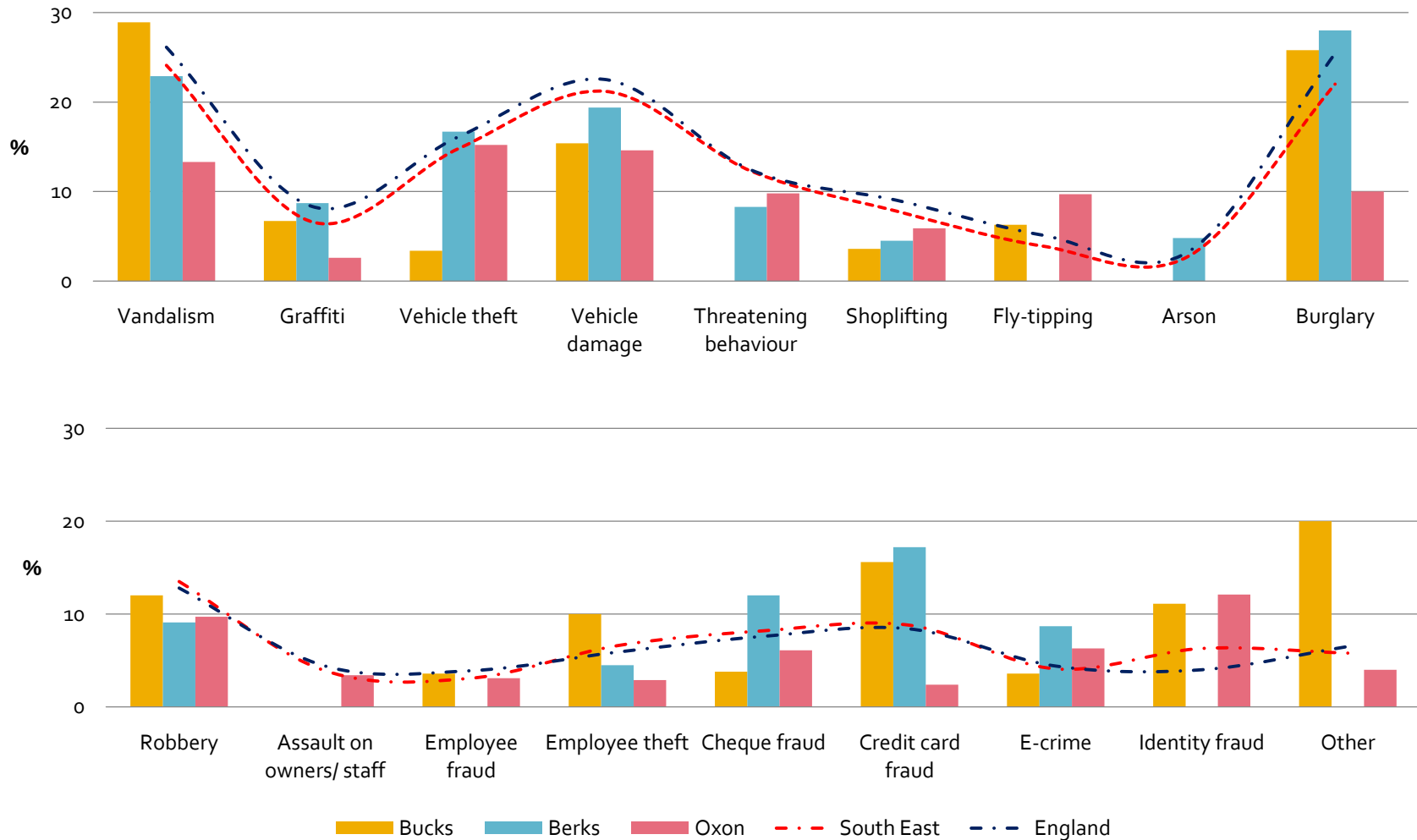
Percentage of members indicating experiencing a crime





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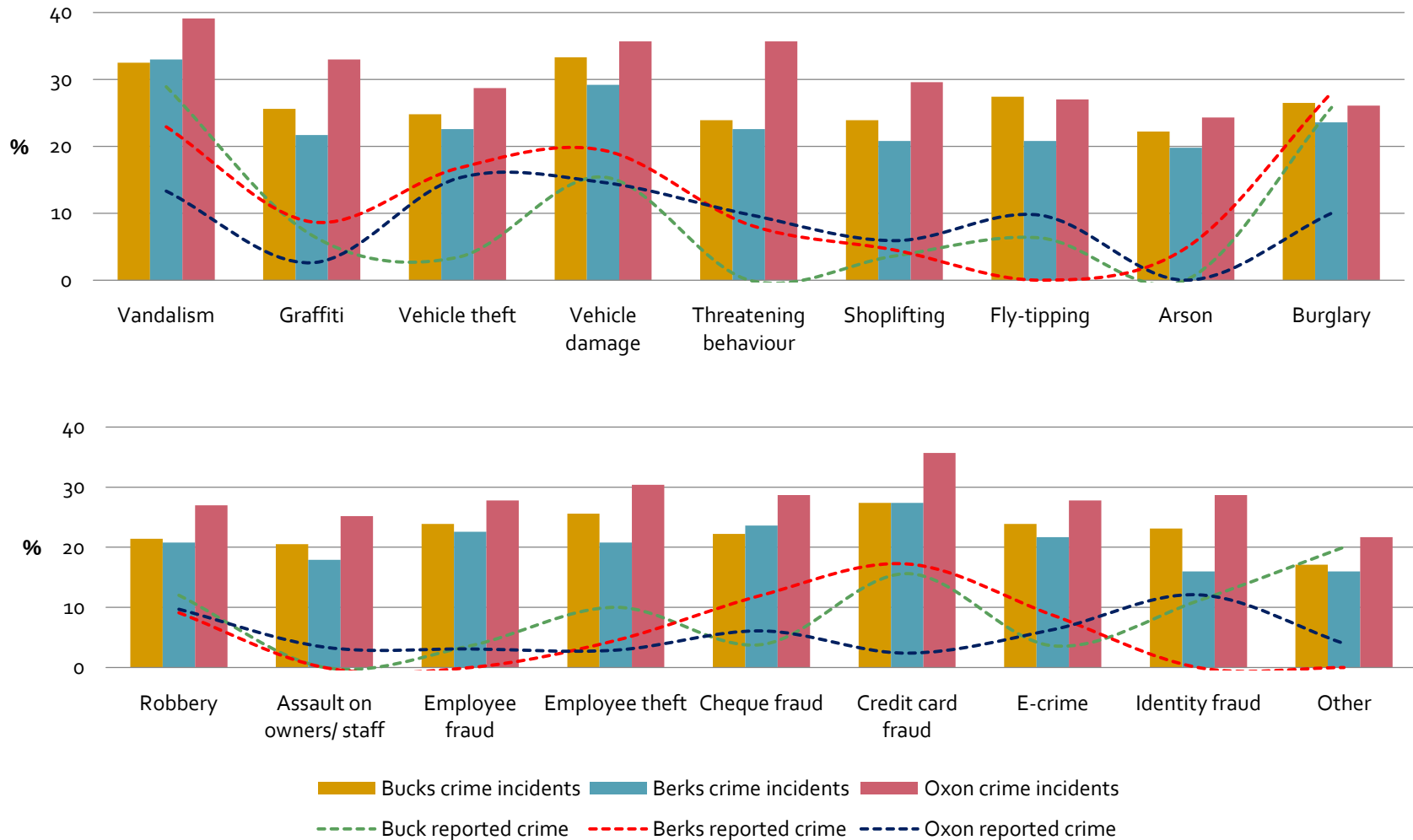
Percentage of respondents reporting crime to police





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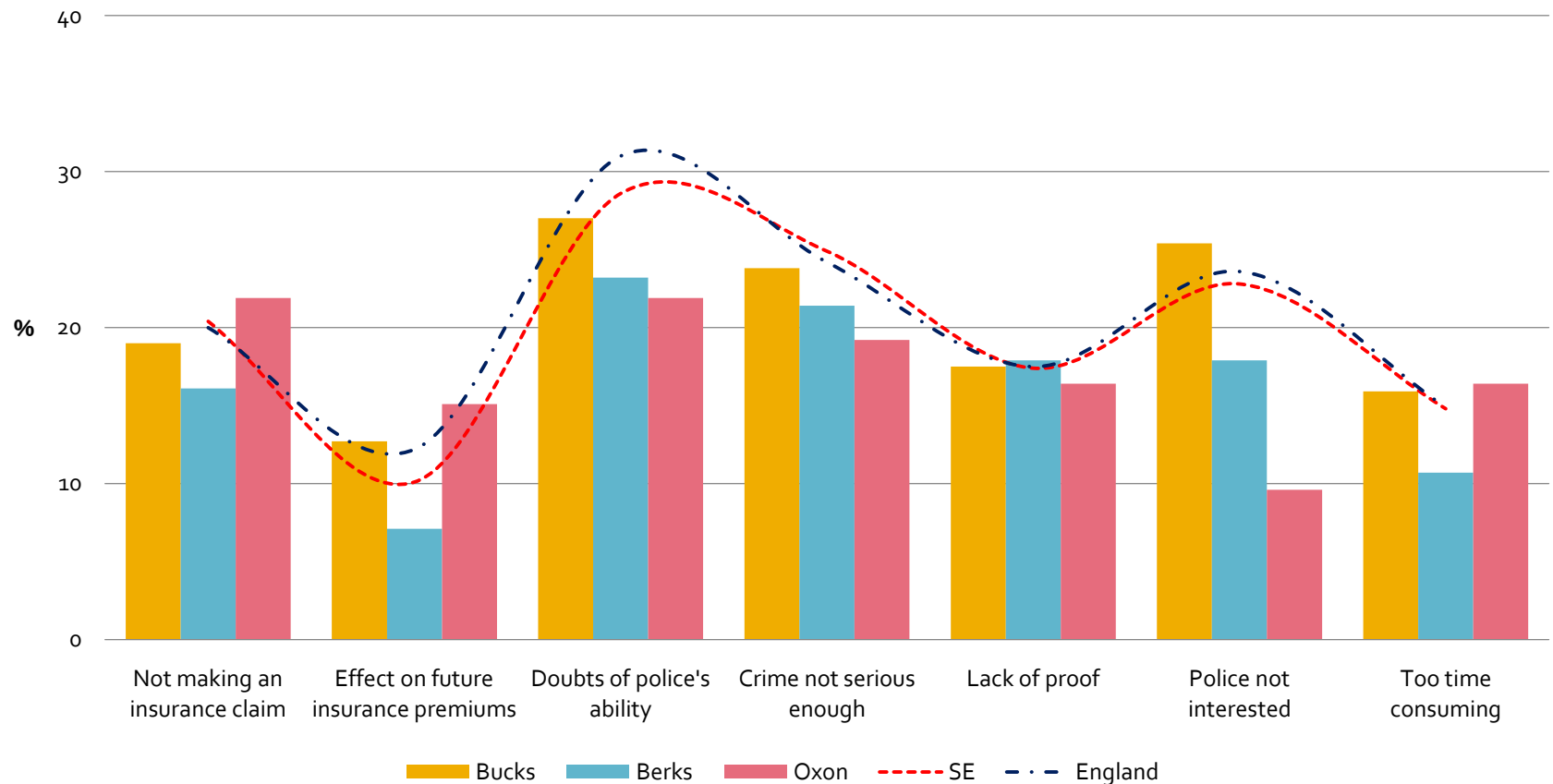
Experience of crime compared to reporting levels





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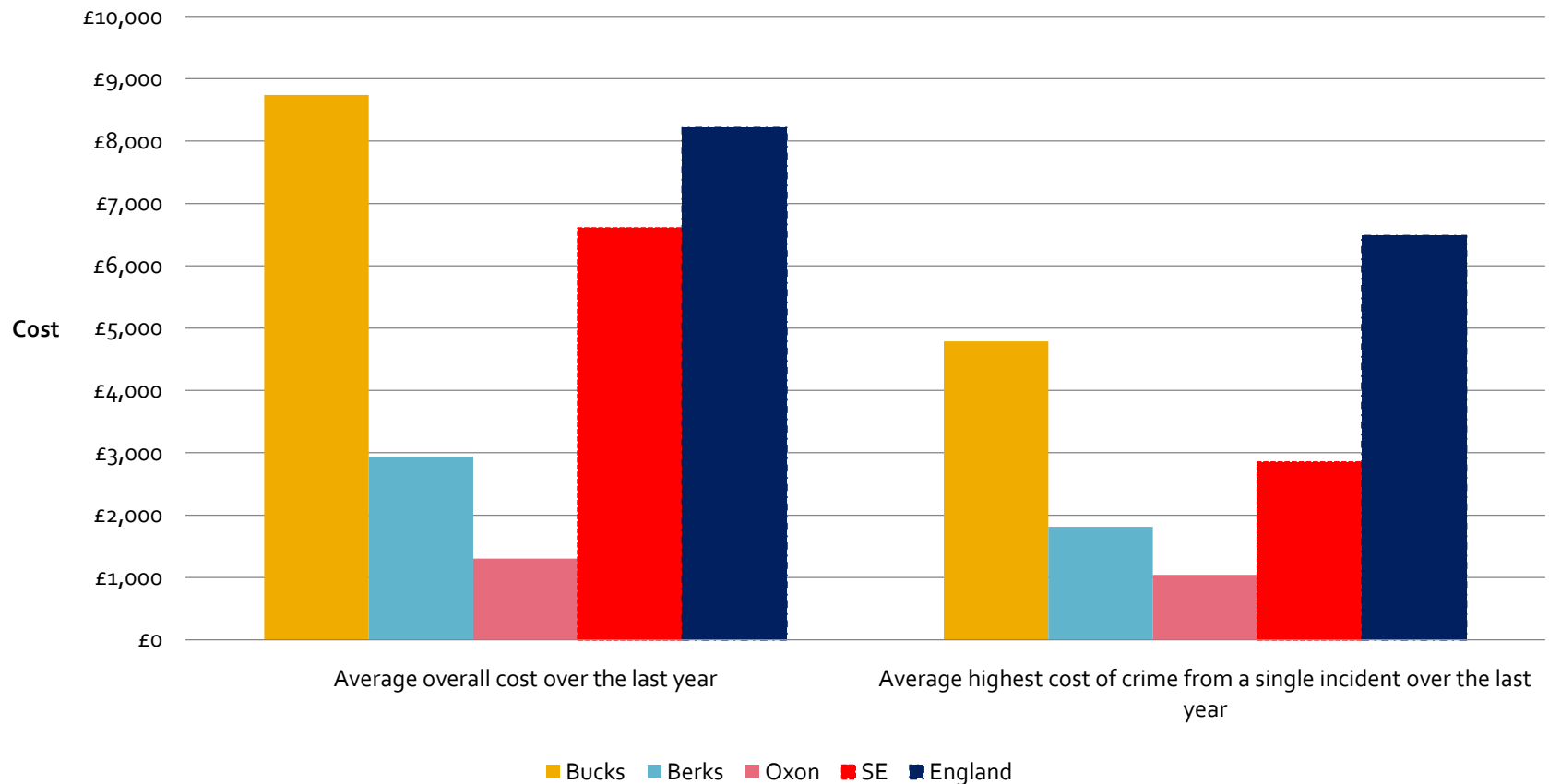
Reasons for not reporting crime to the police





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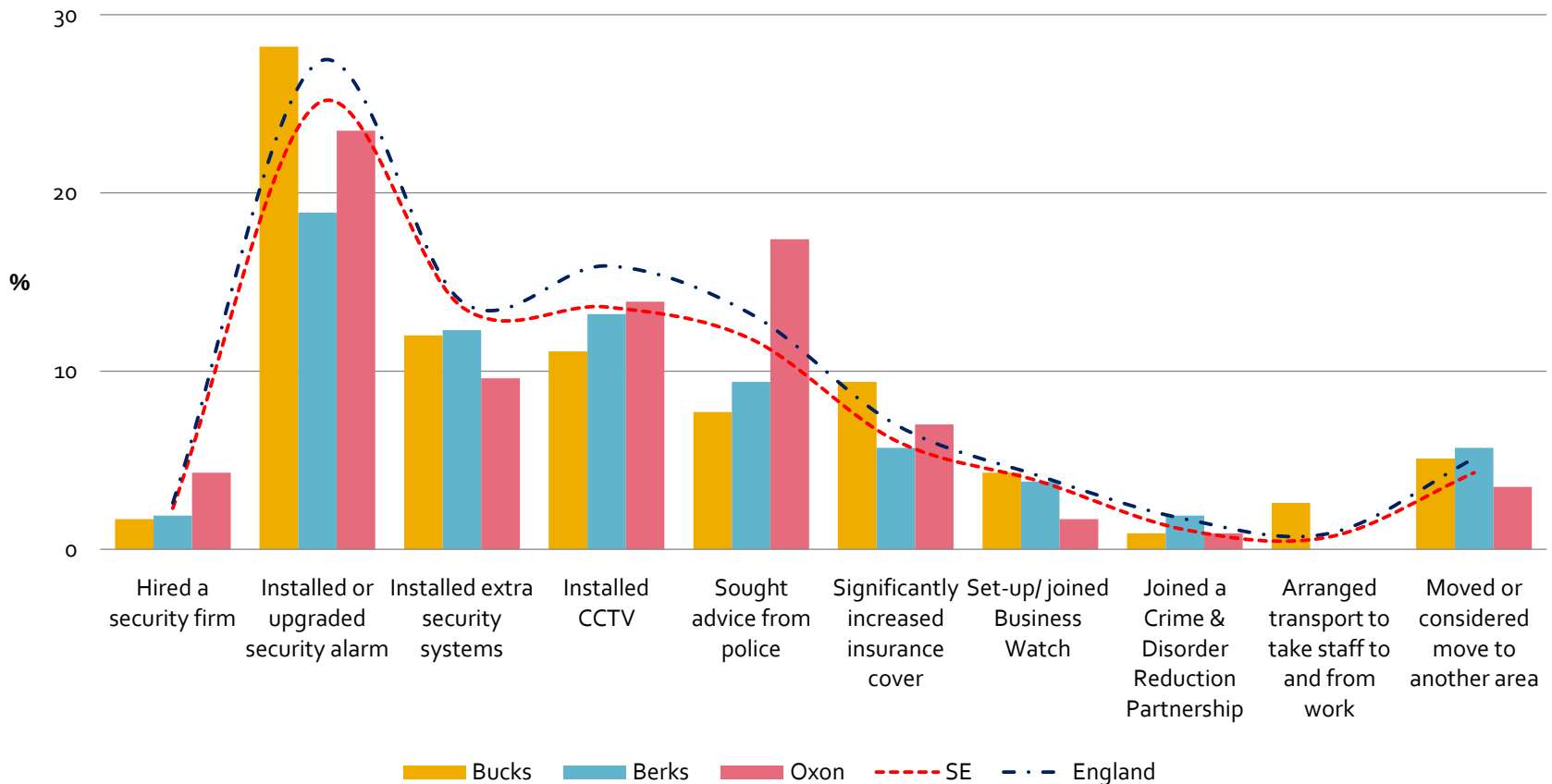
Cost of crime





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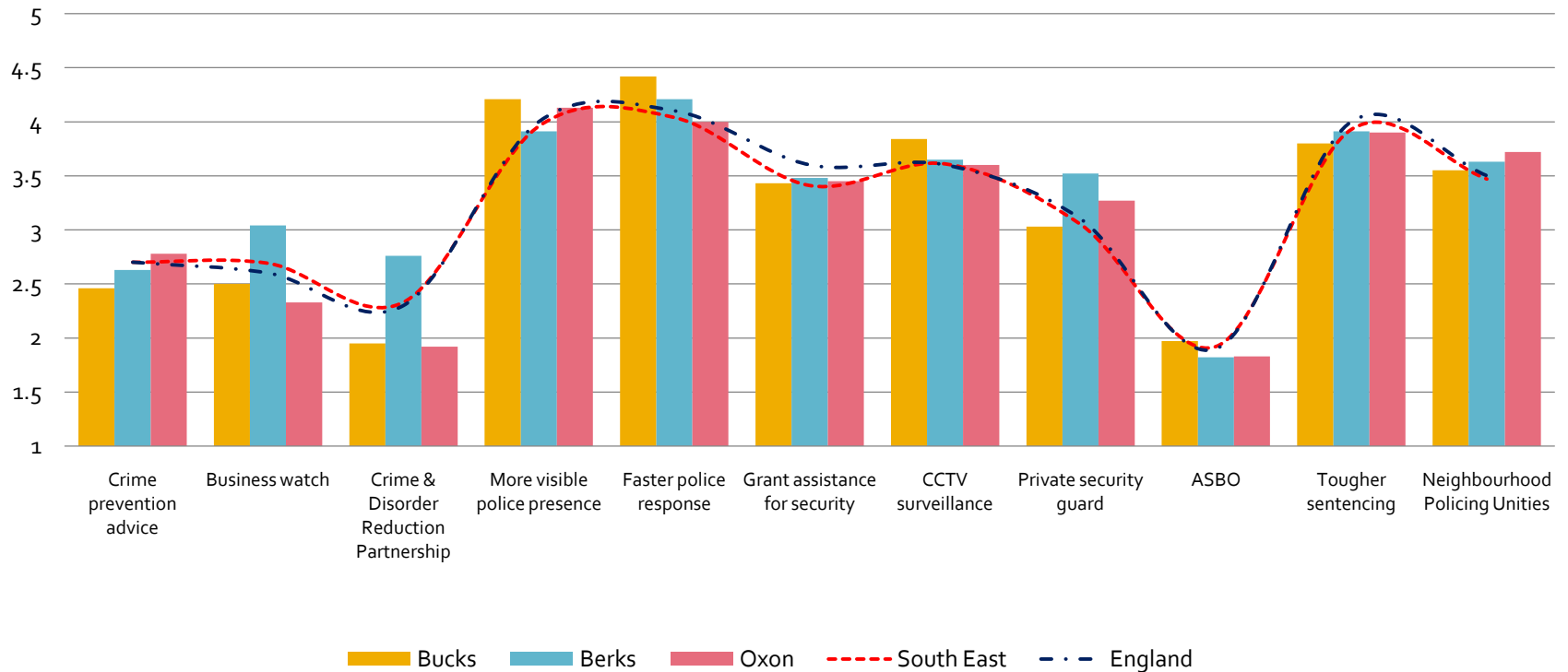
Crime prevention measures taken





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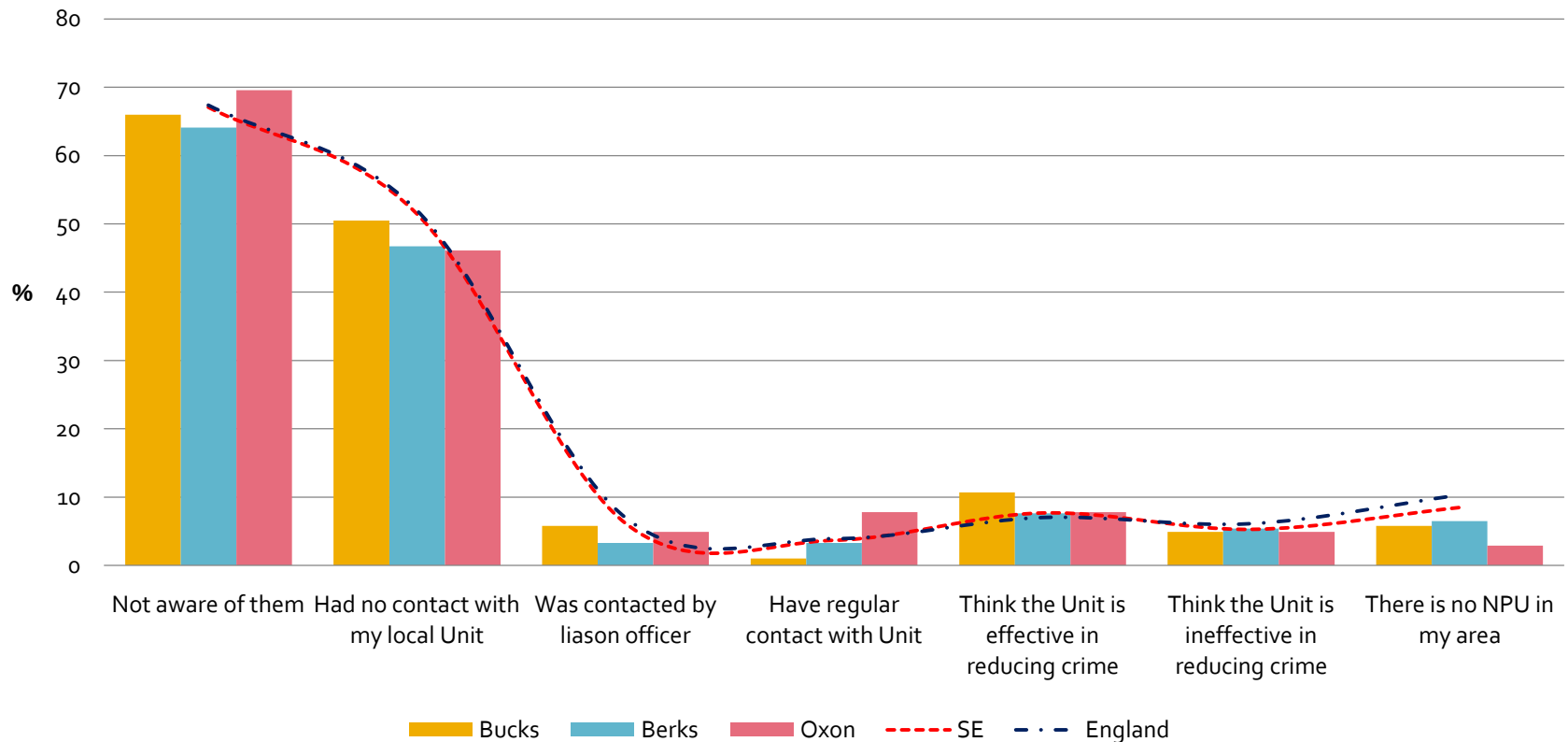
Effectiveness of crime reduction methods
(1 not effective – 5 very effective)





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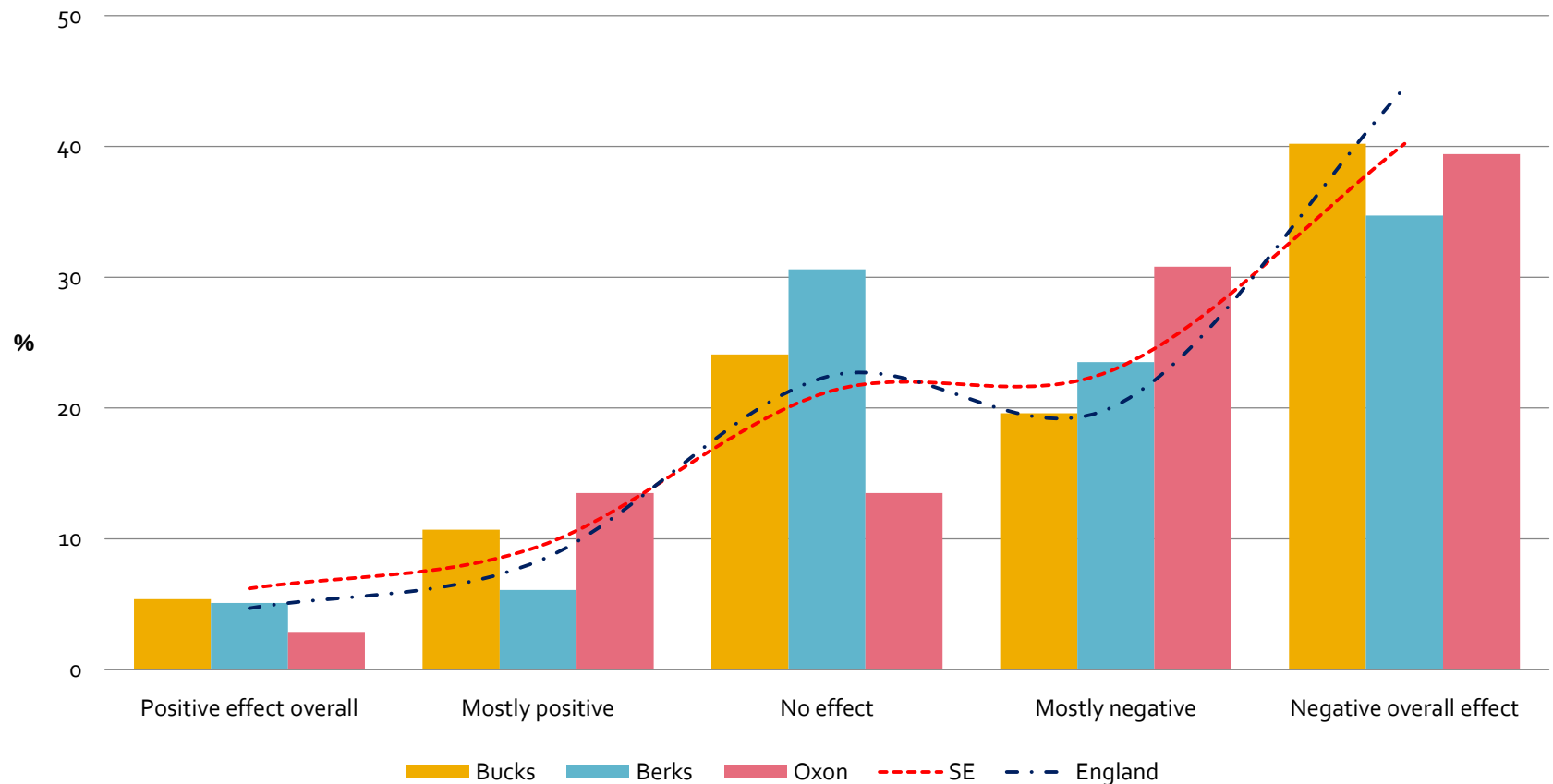
Understanding and knowledge of Neighbourhood Policing Units (NPU)





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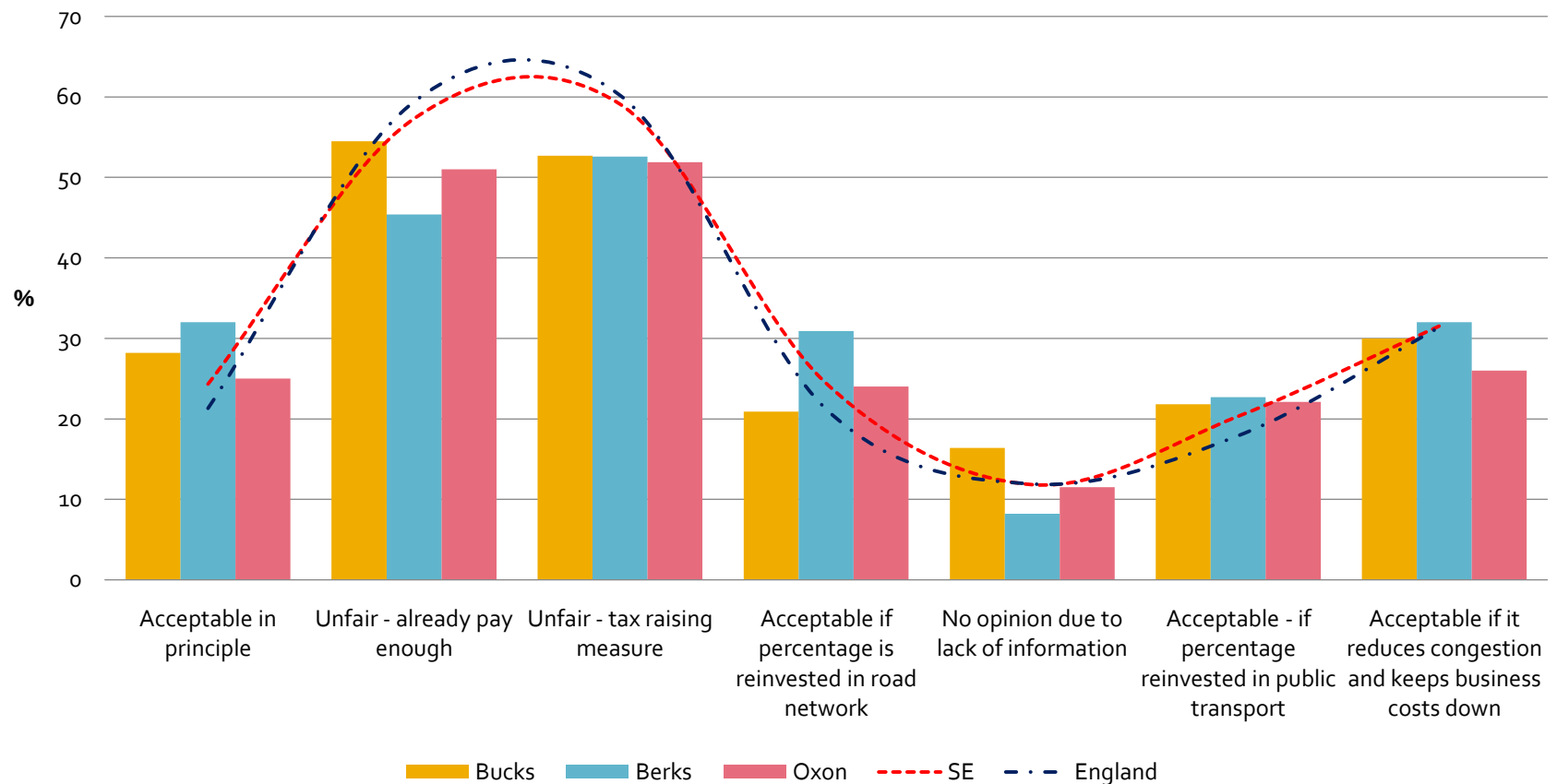
Perceived effect of road charging scheme on business





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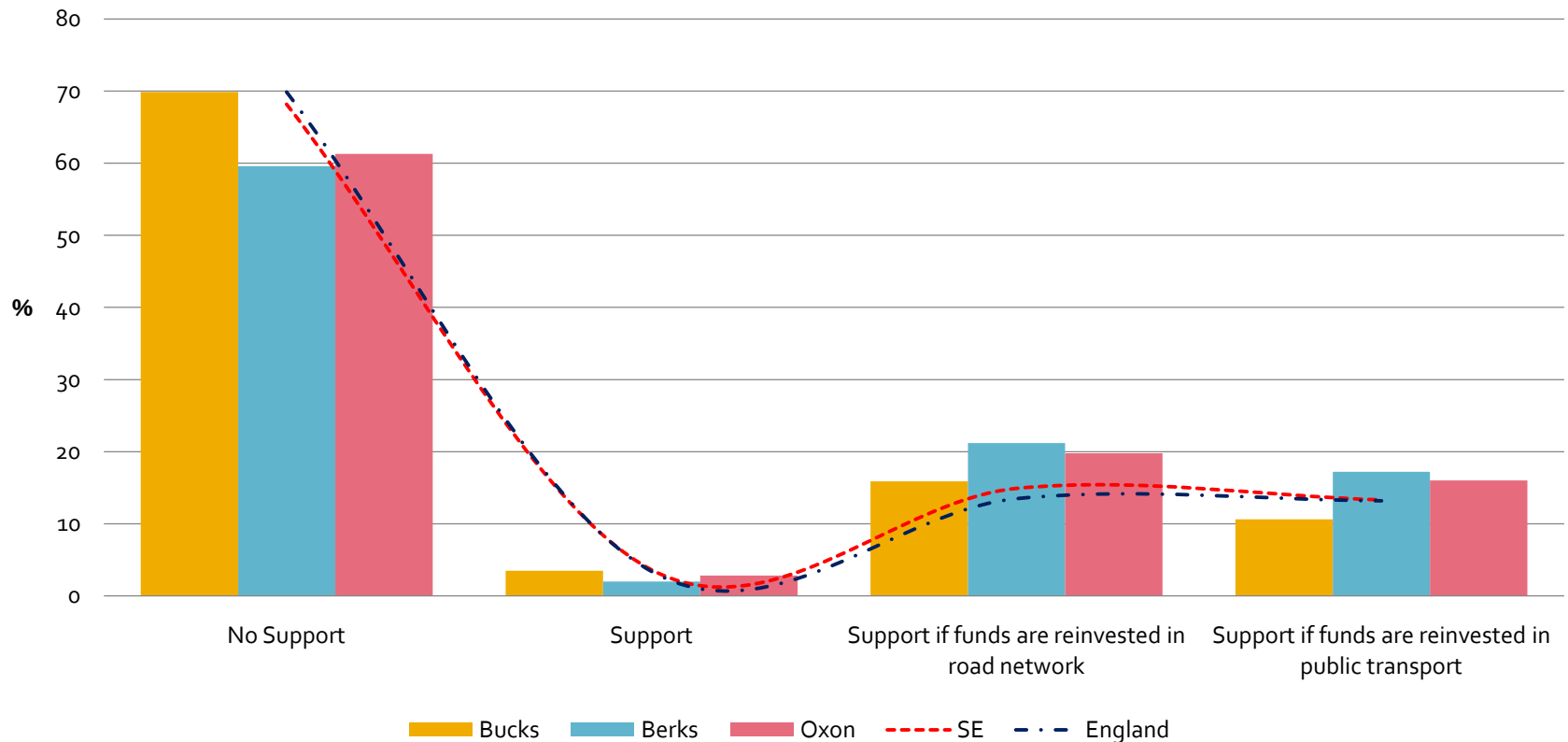
Opinions relating to road charging





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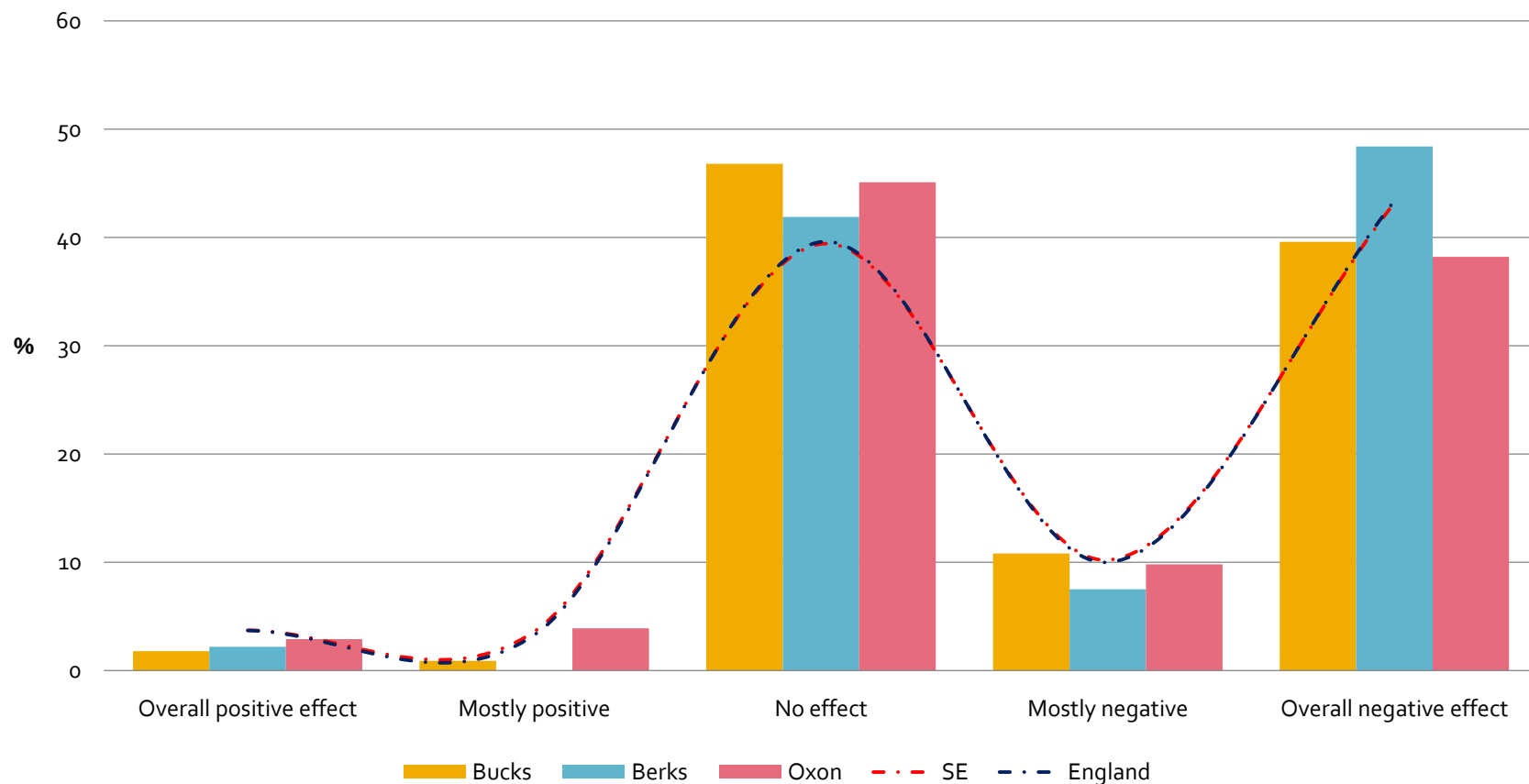
Opinion towards local authorities being given power to impose traffic charging to ease congestion





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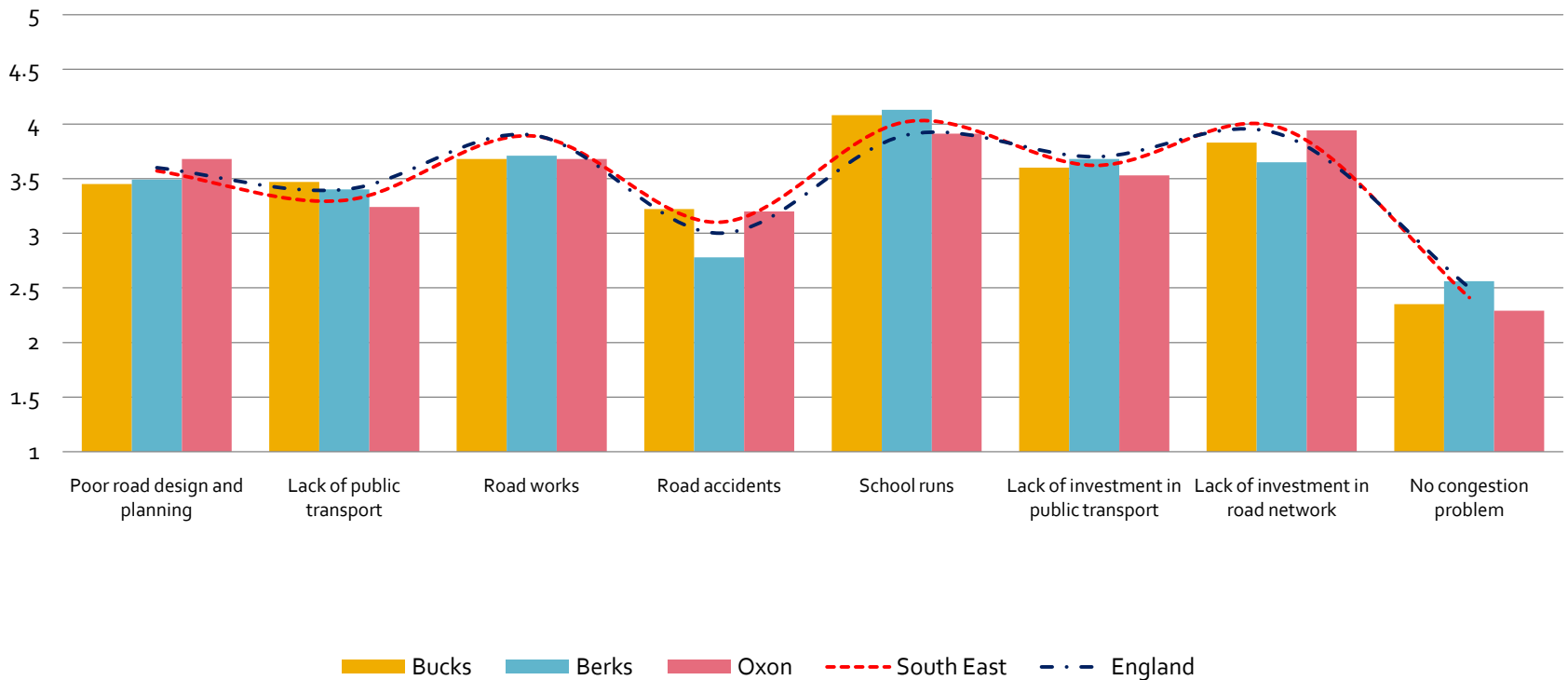
Effect on business of parking based levies





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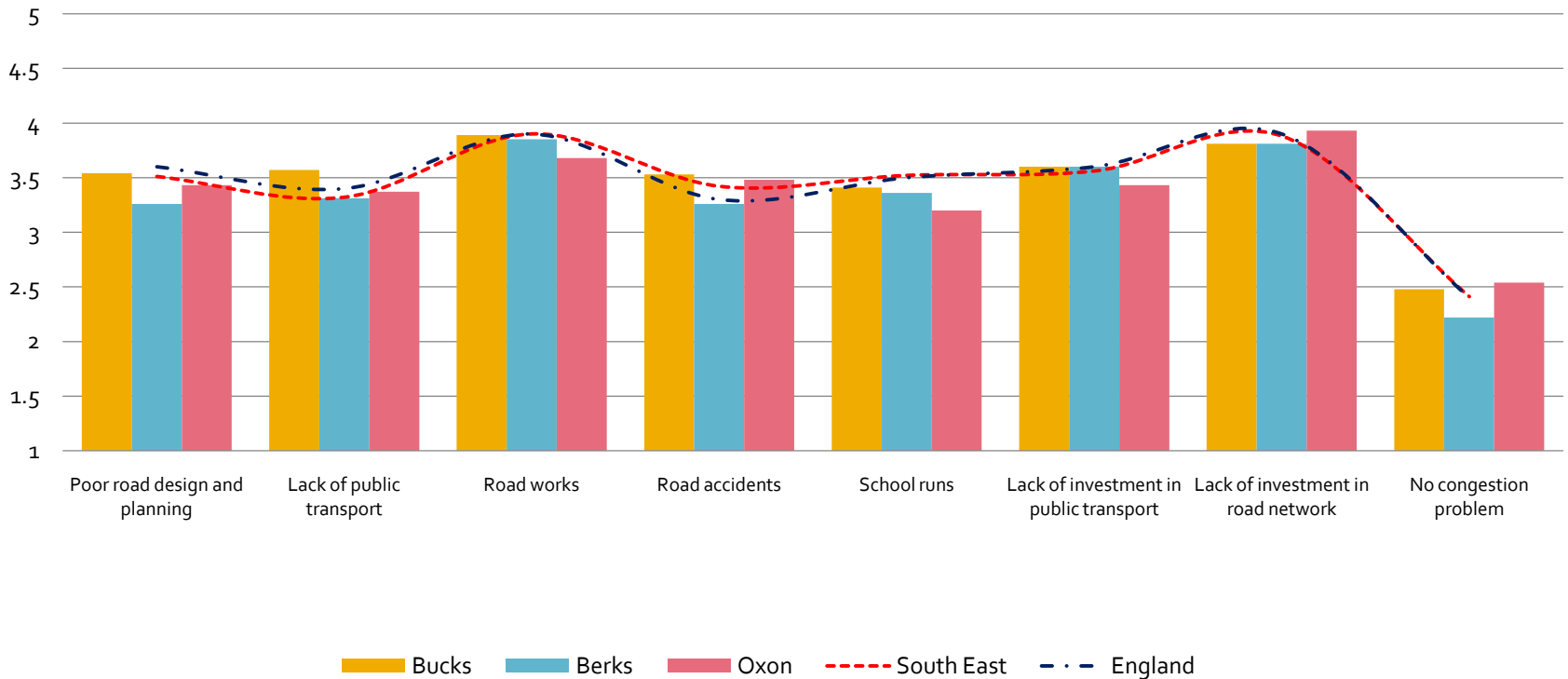
Average importance of factors as causes of congestion on local roads (1 not important – 5 very important)





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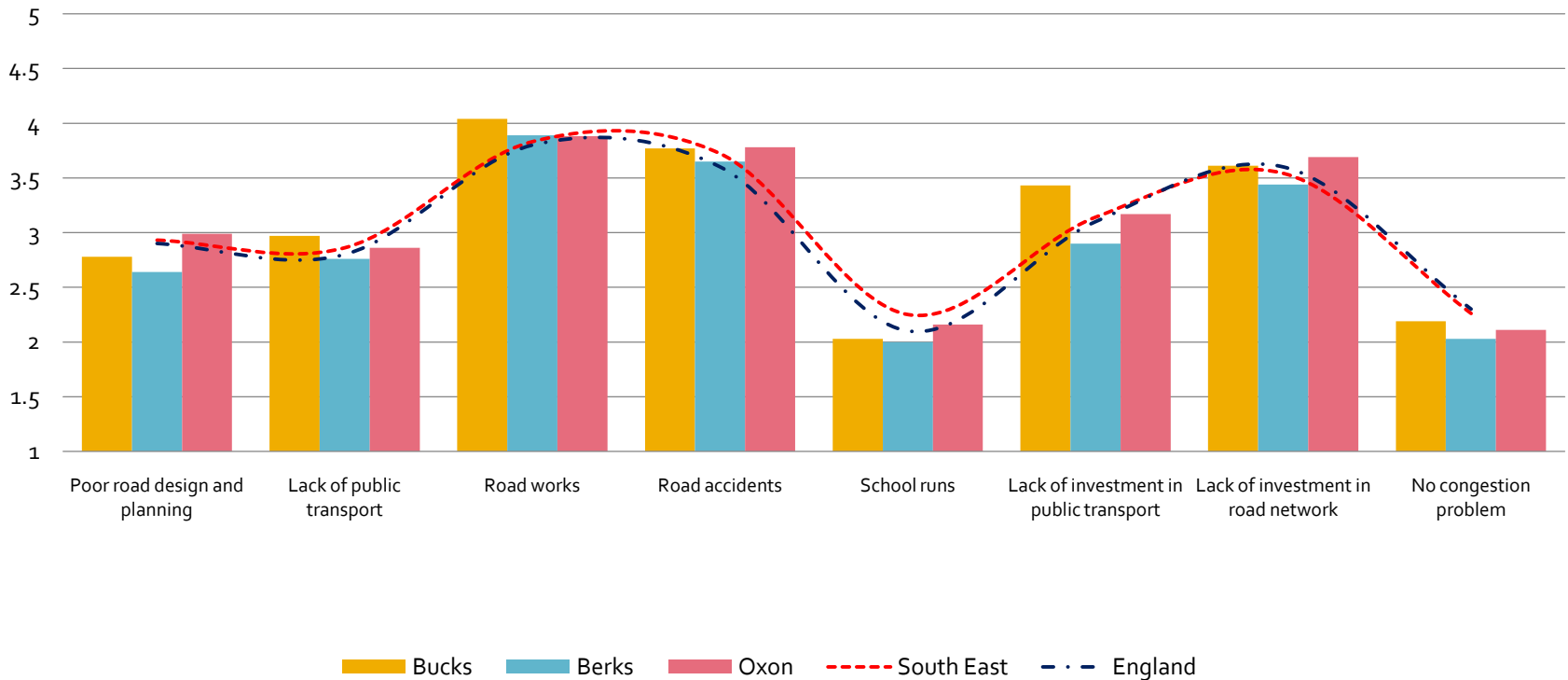
Average importance of factors as causes of congestion on A roads/trunk roads (1 not important – 5 very important)





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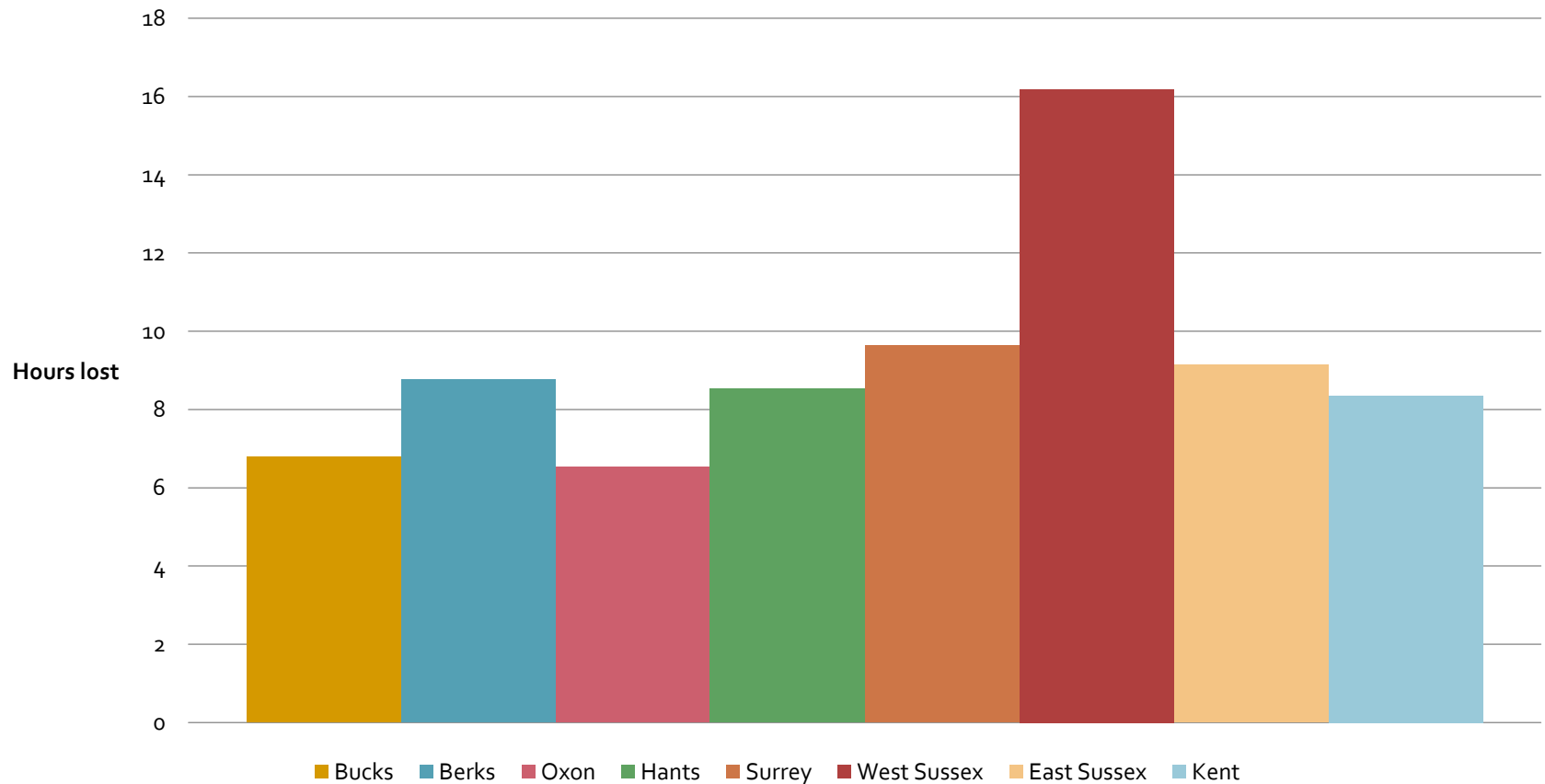
Average importance of factors as causes of congestion on motorways (1 not important – 5 very important)





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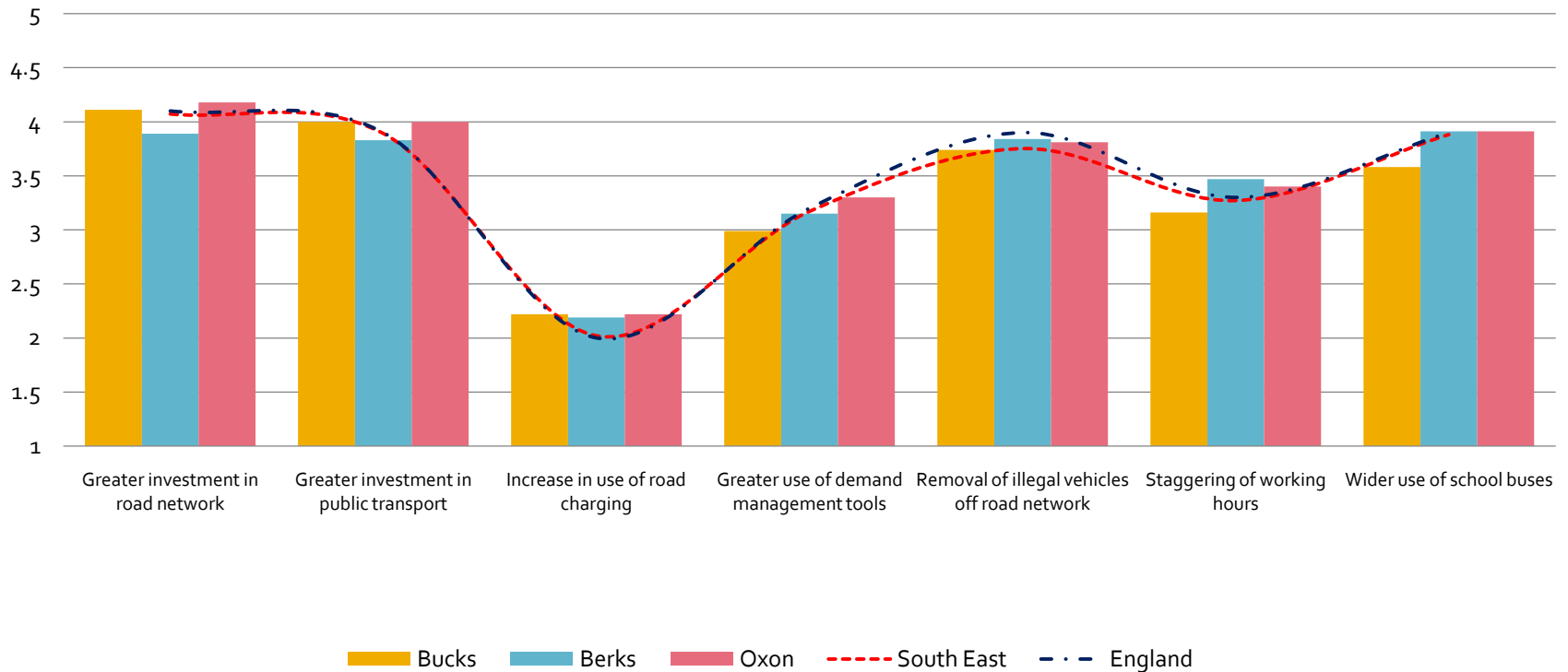
Average working hours lost a week due to congestion





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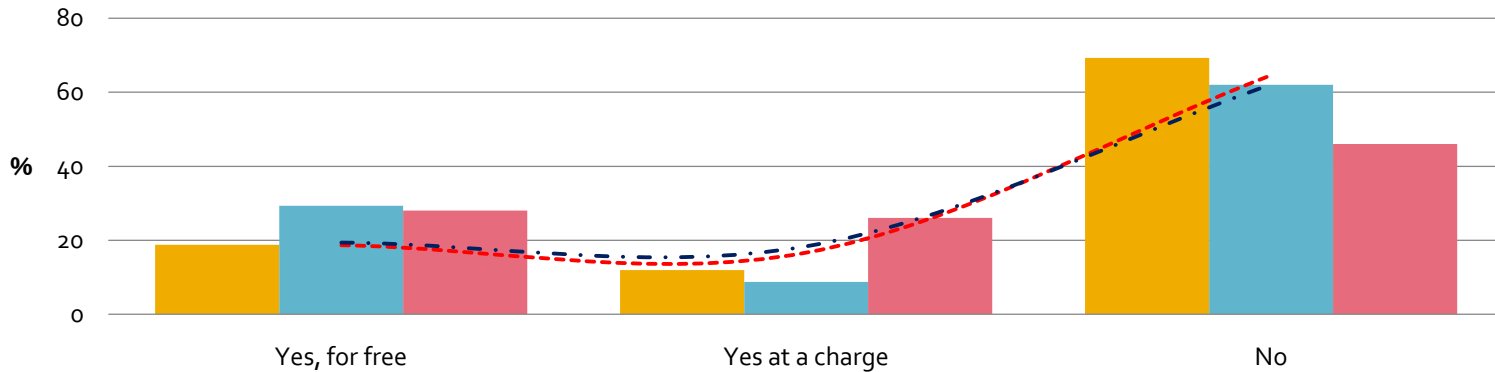
Importance of factors in acting as solutions to congestion (1 not important - 5 very important)



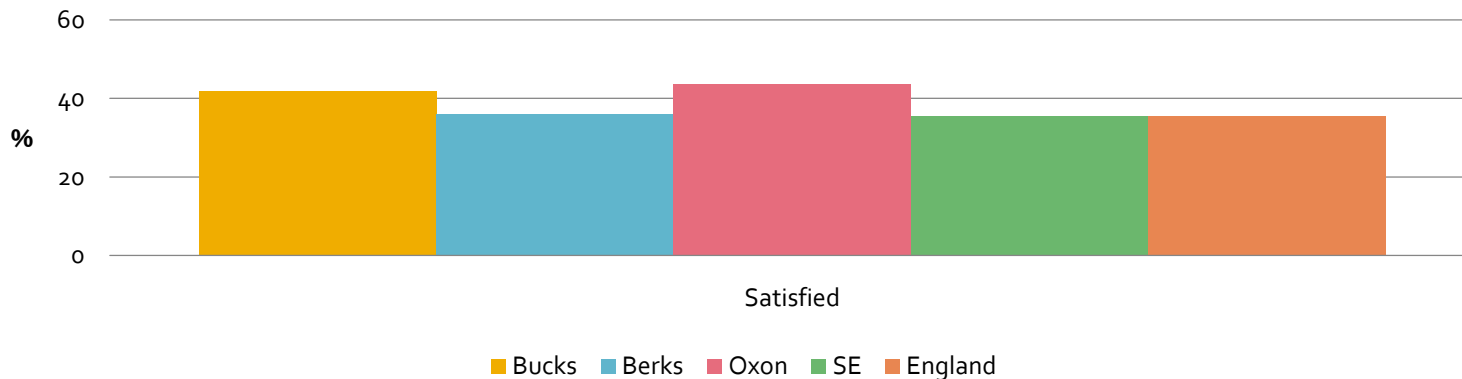


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Does your local authority offer business kerbside recycling?



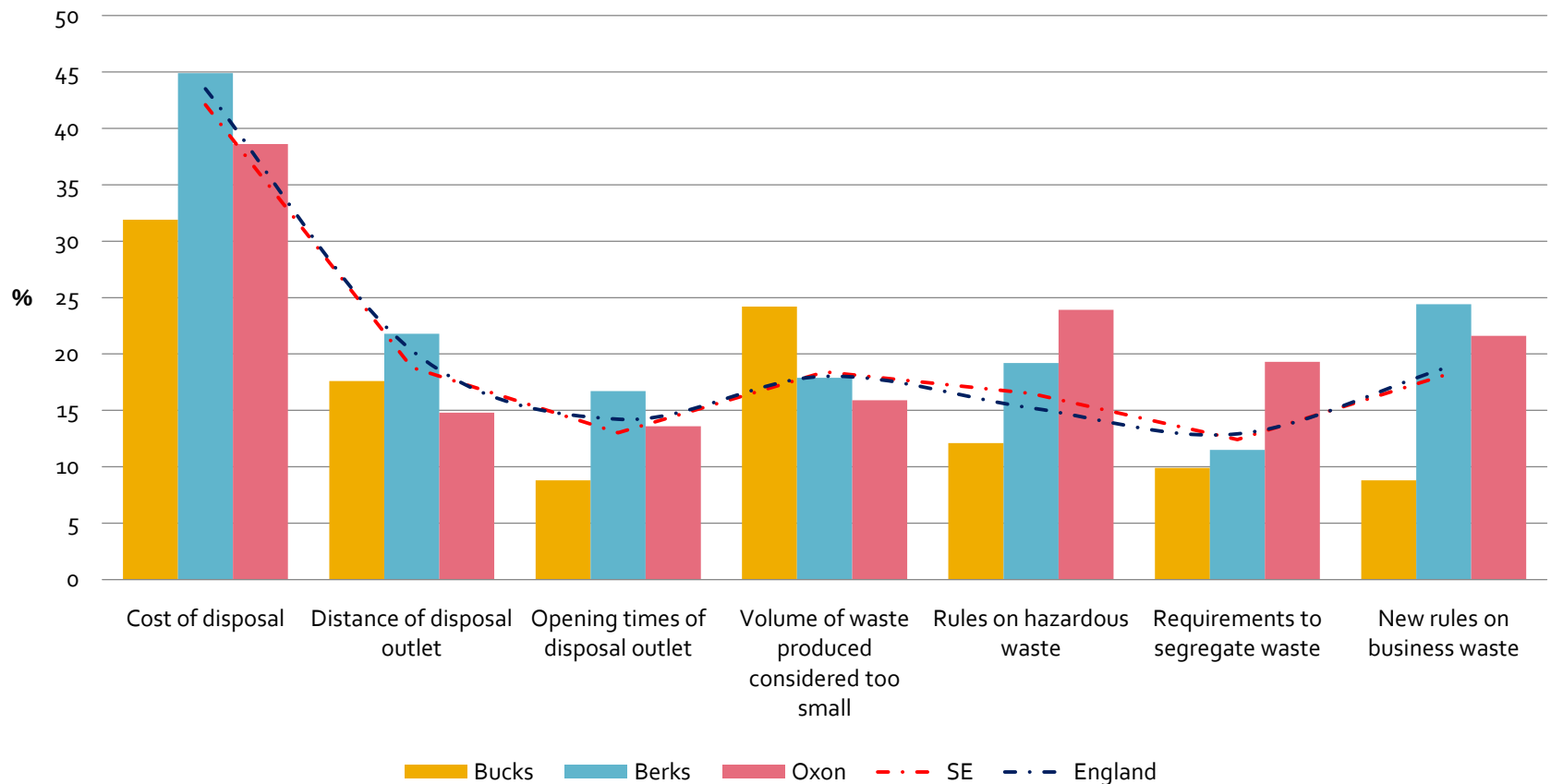
Are you satisfied with the level of recycling offered by your local authority?





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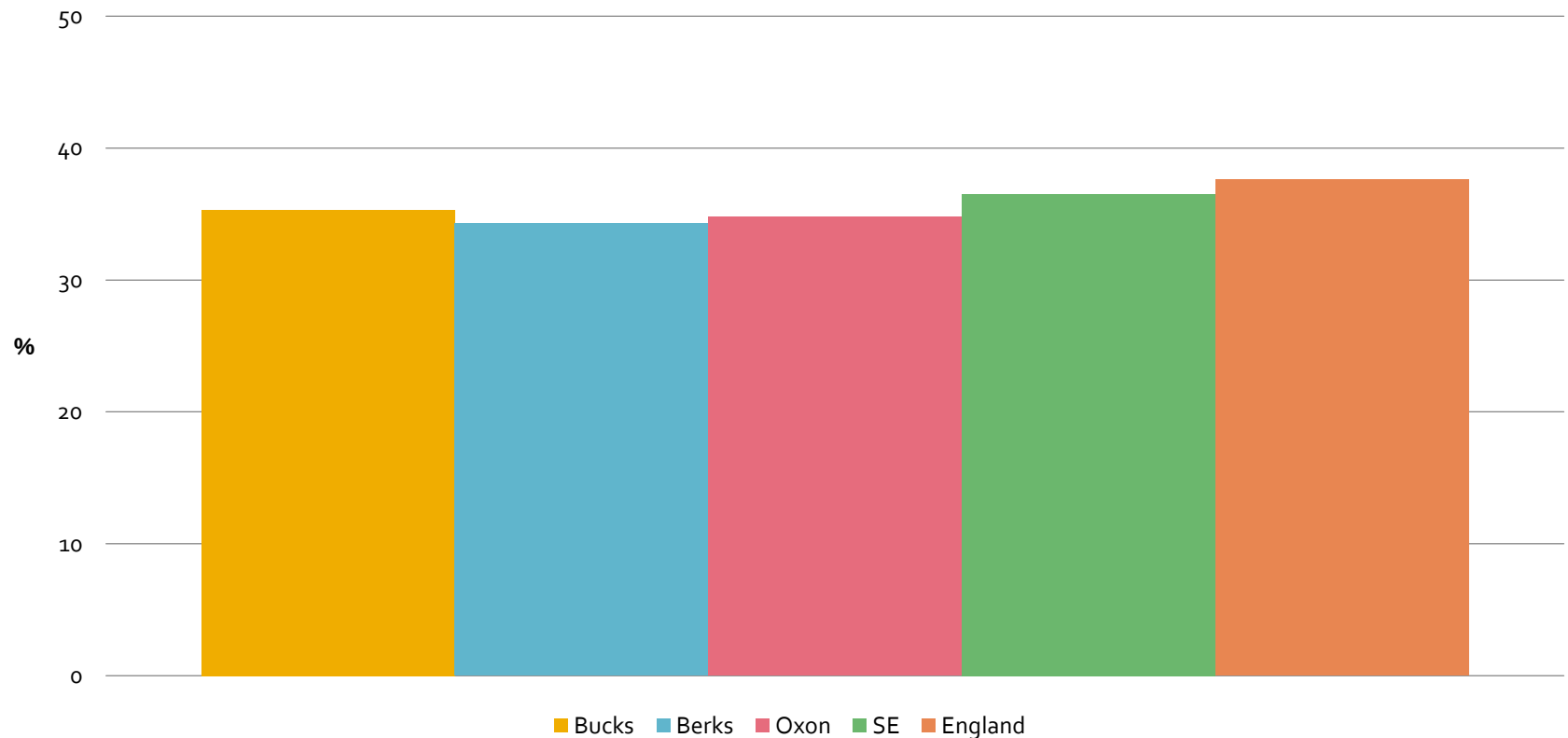
Difficulties faced in disposal of business waste





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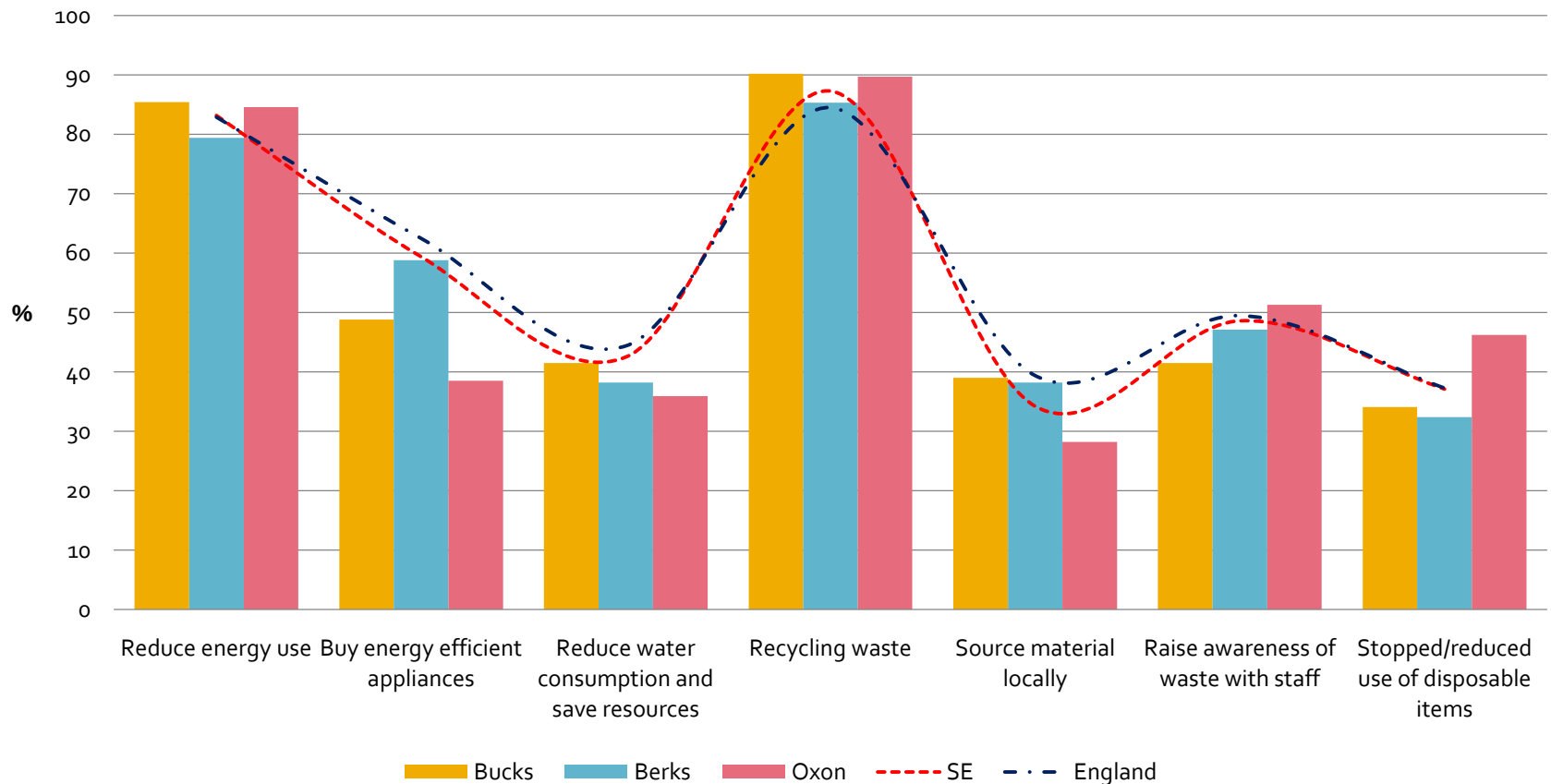
Has the way your business operates changed due to concerns relating to climate change?





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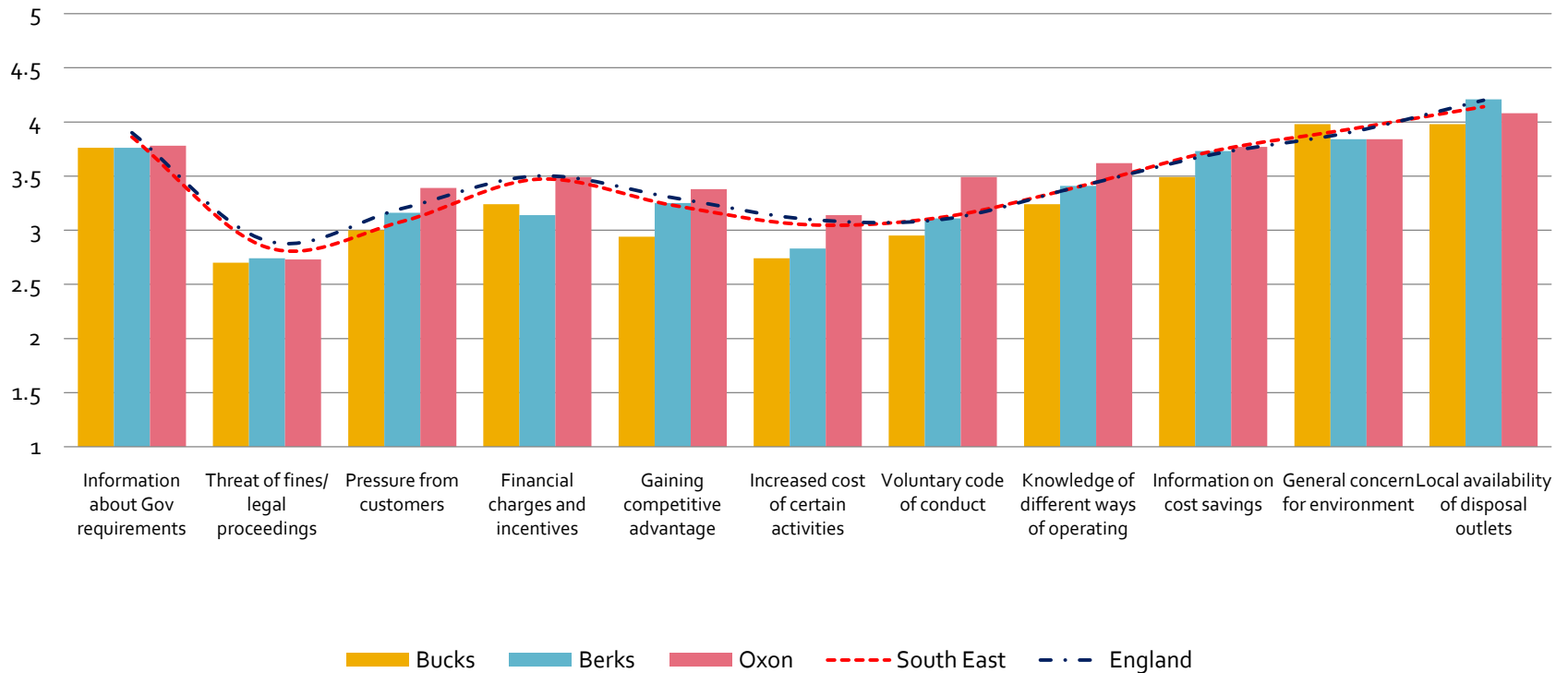
Changes made to business due to environmental concerns





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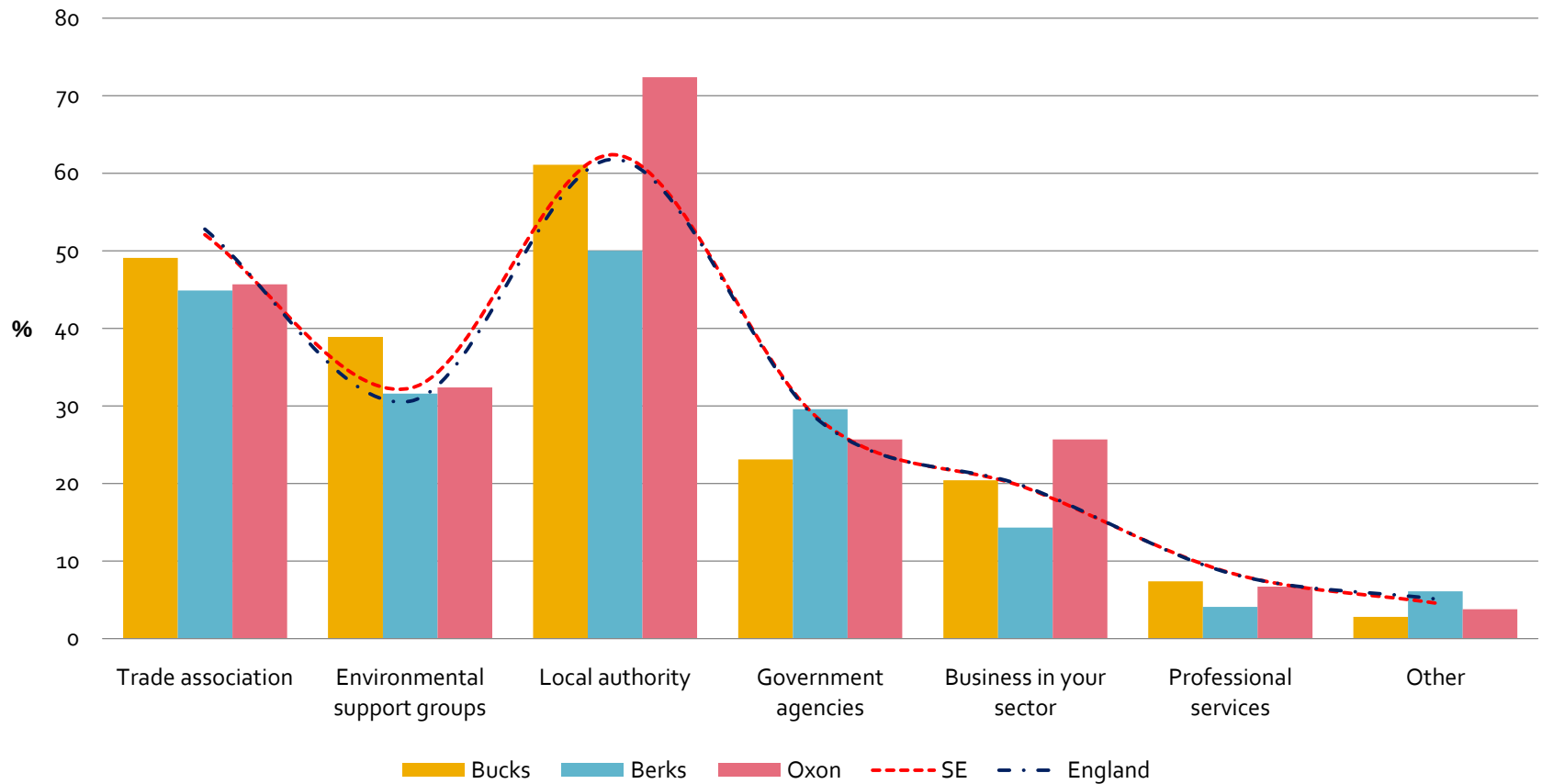
Average importance of factors in encouraging compliance with environmental legislation (1 not important – 5 very important)





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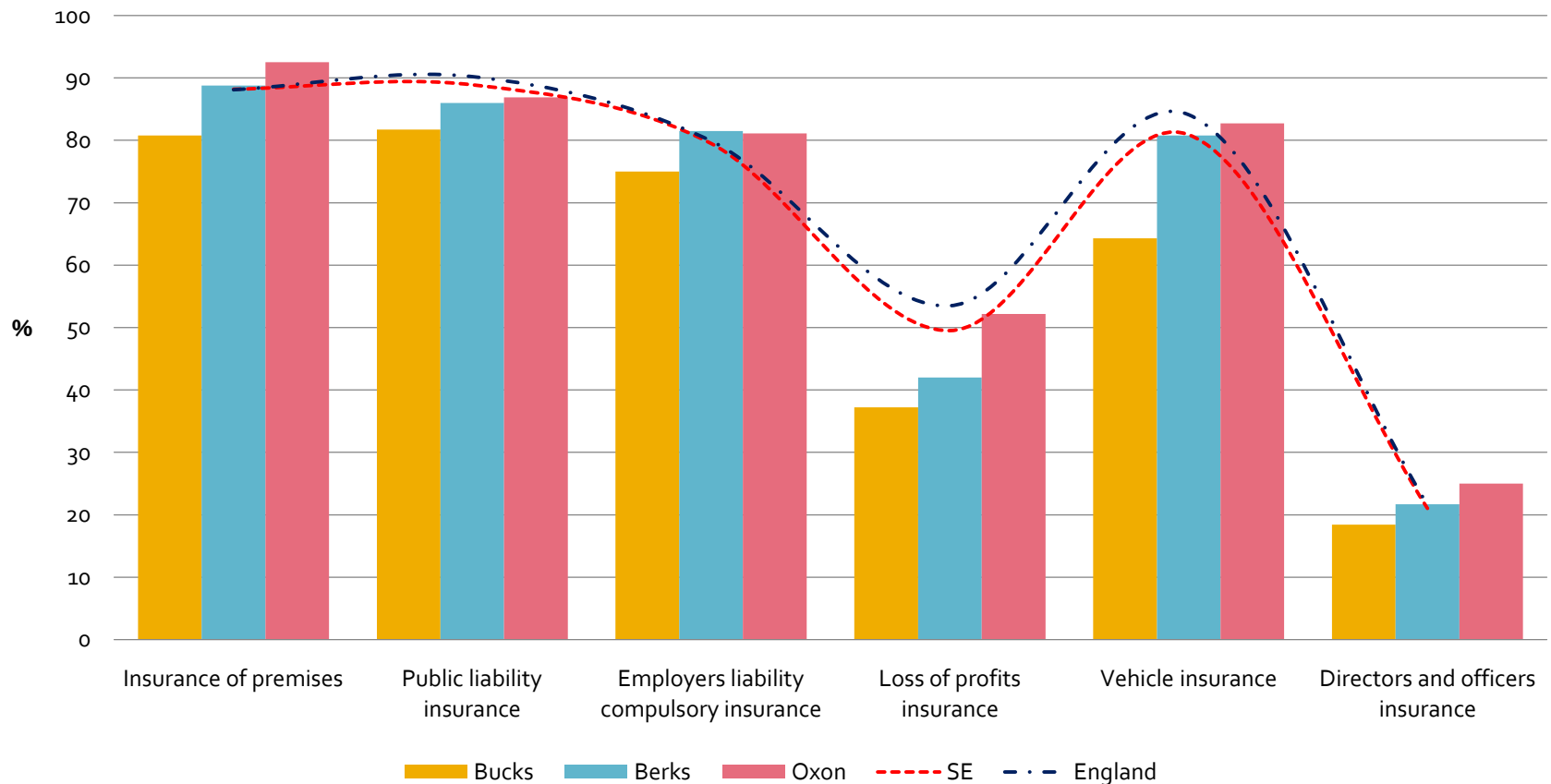
Sources of advice for environmental legislation





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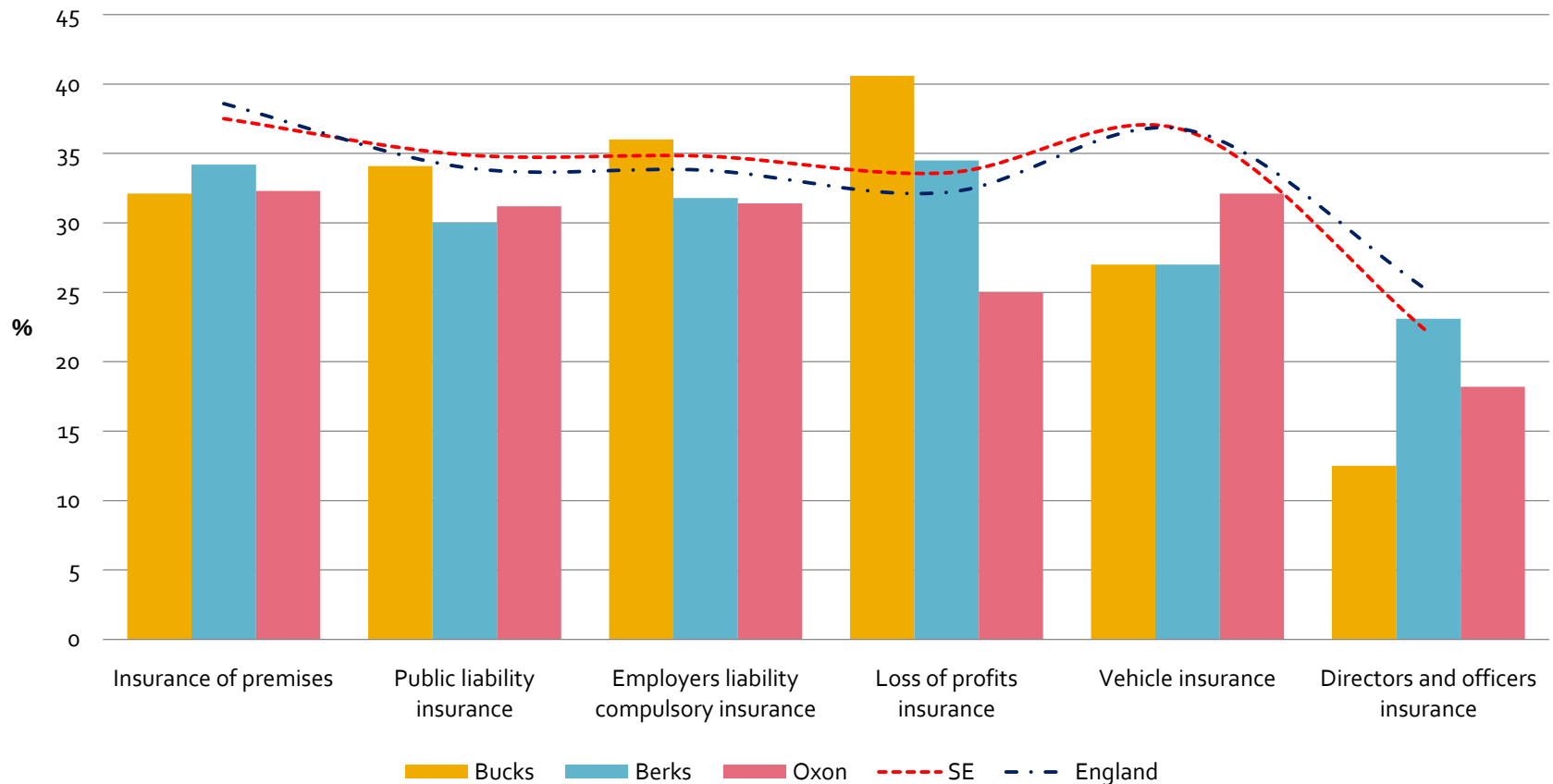
Types of insurance held





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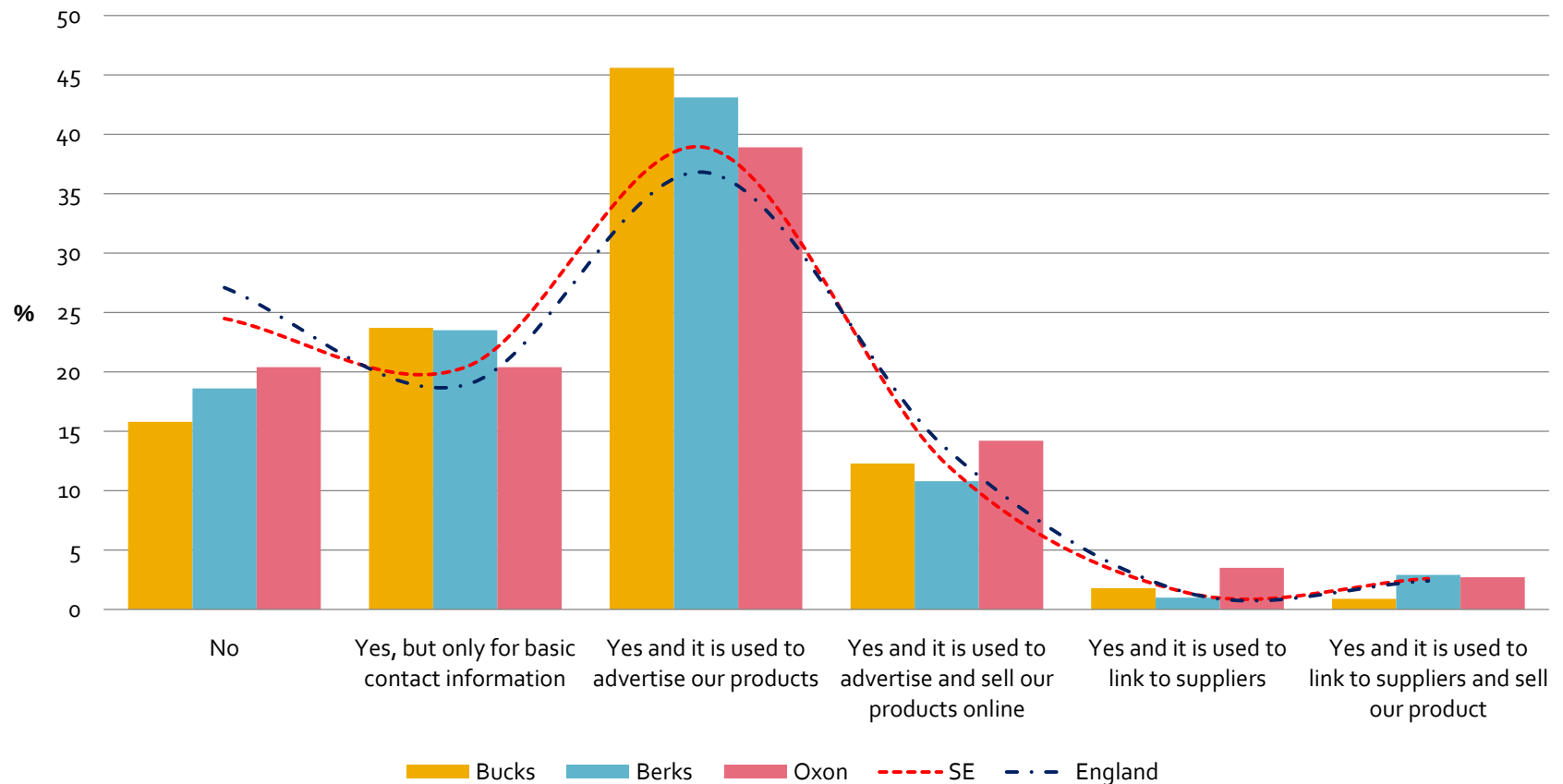
Insurance premium has increased





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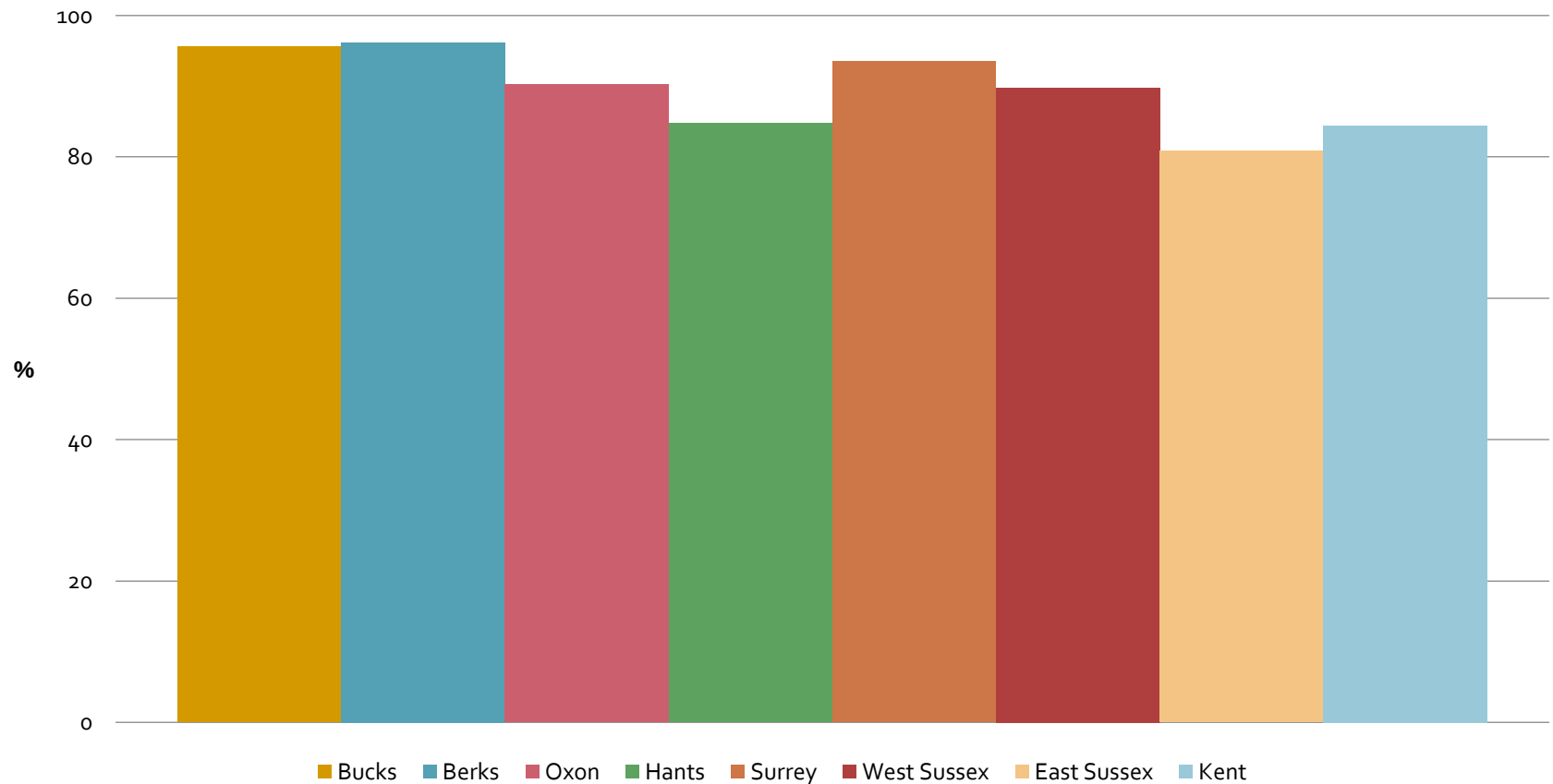
Presence of a business website and extent of functions





Lifting the Barriers to Growth 2008

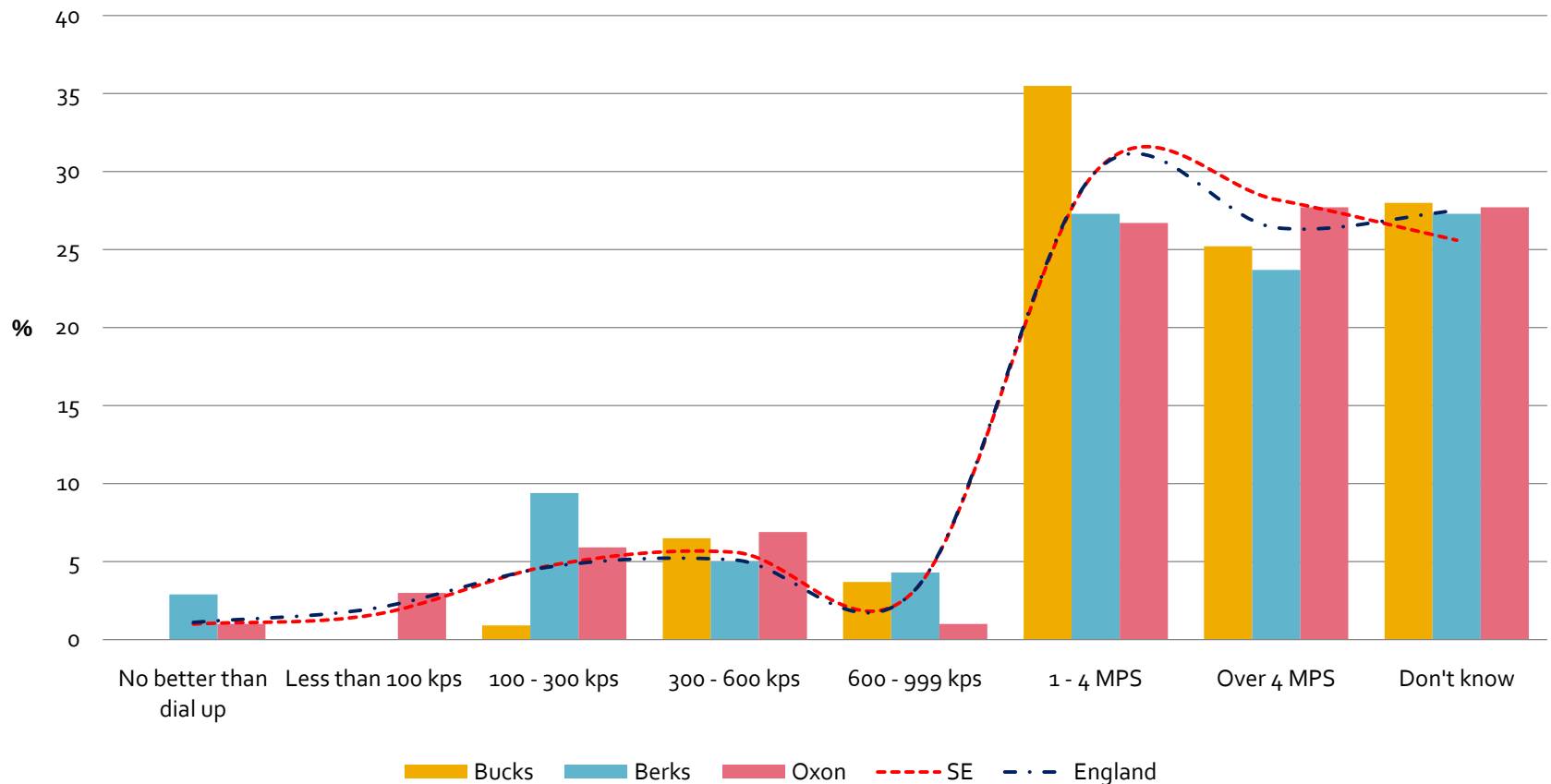
Access to broadband at business premises





Lifting the Barriers to Growth 2008

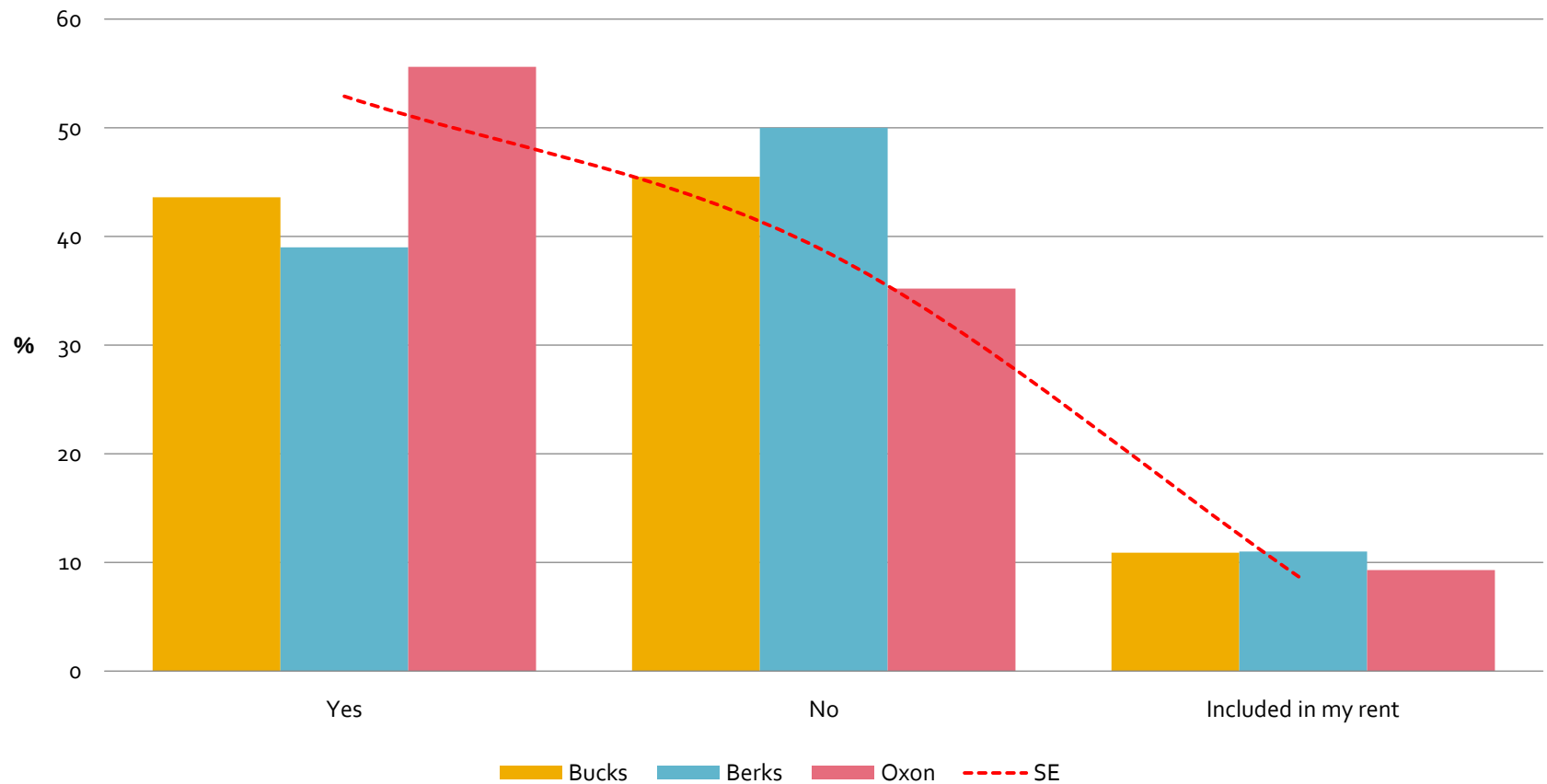
Broadband bandwidth available





Lifting the Barriers to Growth 2008

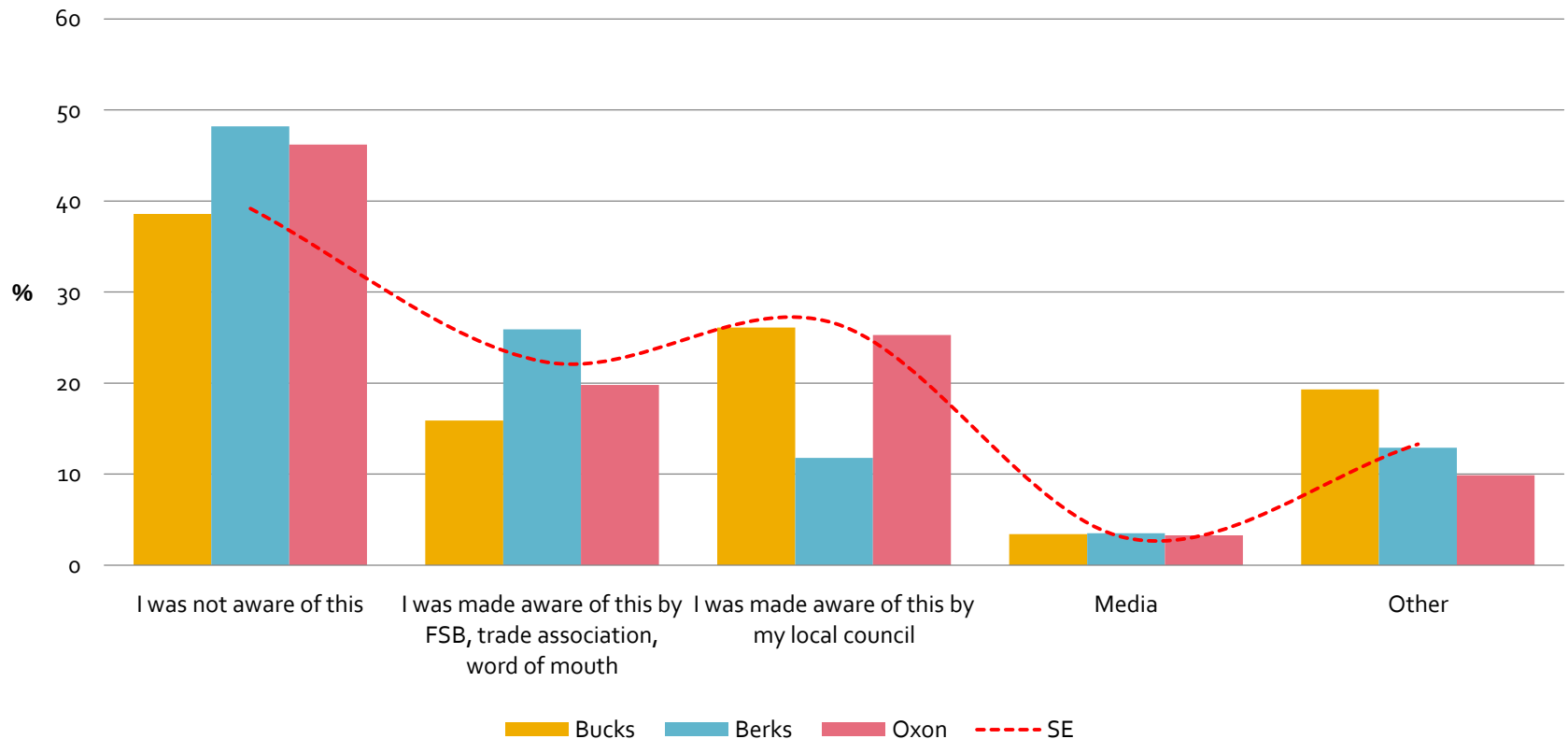
Payment of business rates





Lifting the Barriers to Growth 2008

Knowledge of reduction in business rates for those premises with rateable value of less than £10,000





Lifting the Barriers to Growth 2008

Applied for small business rate relief

