Food Security in Africa's Secondary Cities:
No. 2 Mzuzu, Malawi

The Food Retailing System in Mzuzu City, Malawi

Lovemore Itai Zuze
QES Scholar

QUEEN ELIZABETH Scholars

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada
Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada

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Food Retailing System in Mzuzu City, Malawi

- Vendor survey conducted in April 2019

- “Consuming Urban Poverty 2 (CUP2)” (Wilfrid Laurier University (WLU), African Food Security Urban Network (AFSUN) and The University of Livingstonia(UNILIA).

- Funding provided by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Insight Grants Programme

- Balsillie School of International Affairs & The Queen Elizabeth Scholarship

Consuming Urban Poverty 2 (CUP2)

A research project on urban food security and urban poverty in Africa's secondary cities:

- ✓Household Food Security Surverys (HFSS) conducted in 3 African countries
- ✓African Food Security Urban Network (AFSUN),(afsun.org)
- ✓Hungry Cities Partnership (HCP) cities in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean (hungrycities.net)

CUP2 Locations

CUP2 -Goals

- Contribute to scholarly body
- Encourage policy innovation

CUP2 -Goals

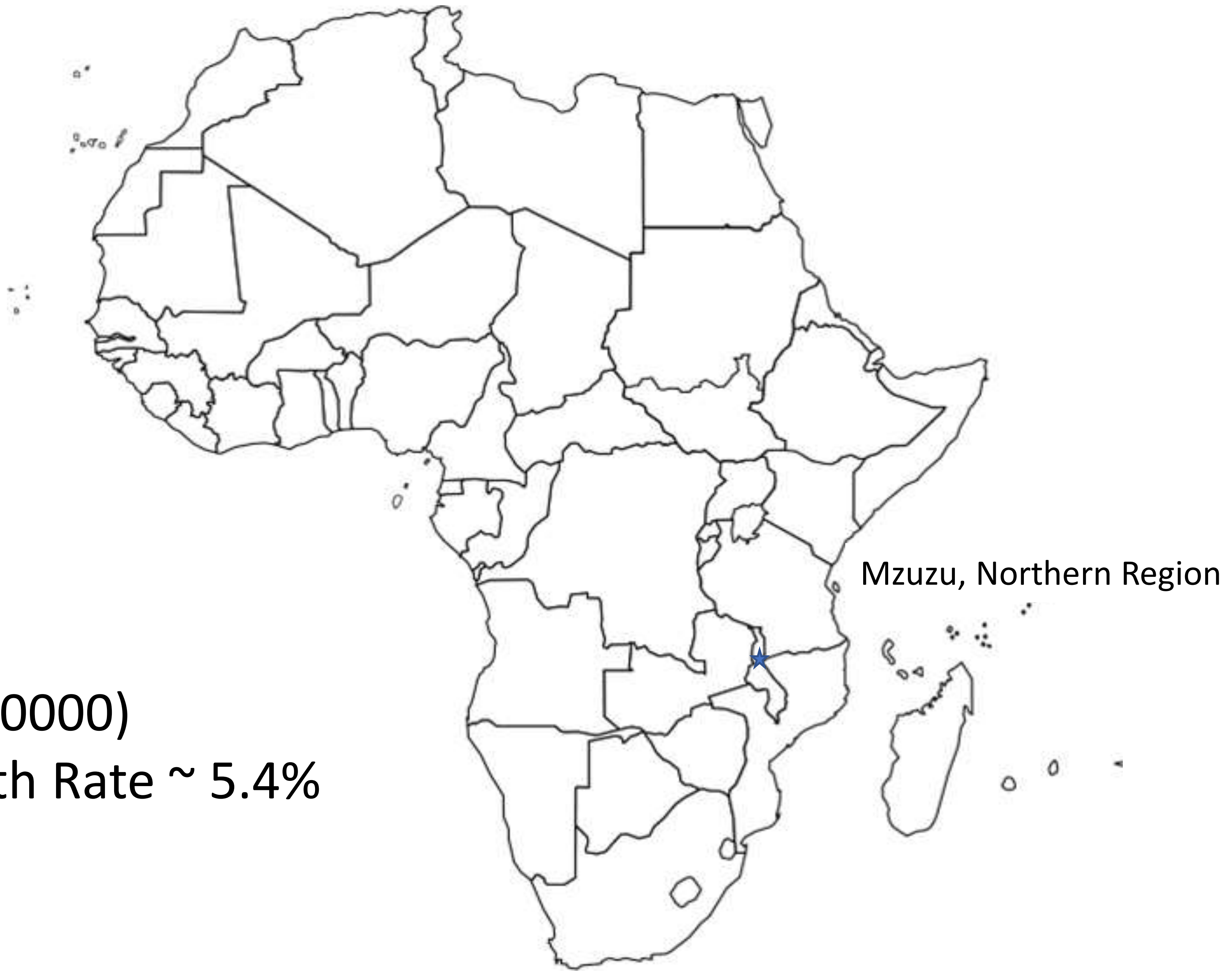
Contribute scholarly body to

- Urban geography theory from the "Global South"
- Urbanization in secondary cities
- Food systems in secondary cities

Encourage policy innovation

- Experiential and theoretical acumens to practical situations
- Case study comparisons across cities
- Harmonize governance processes across scales in a broader economy

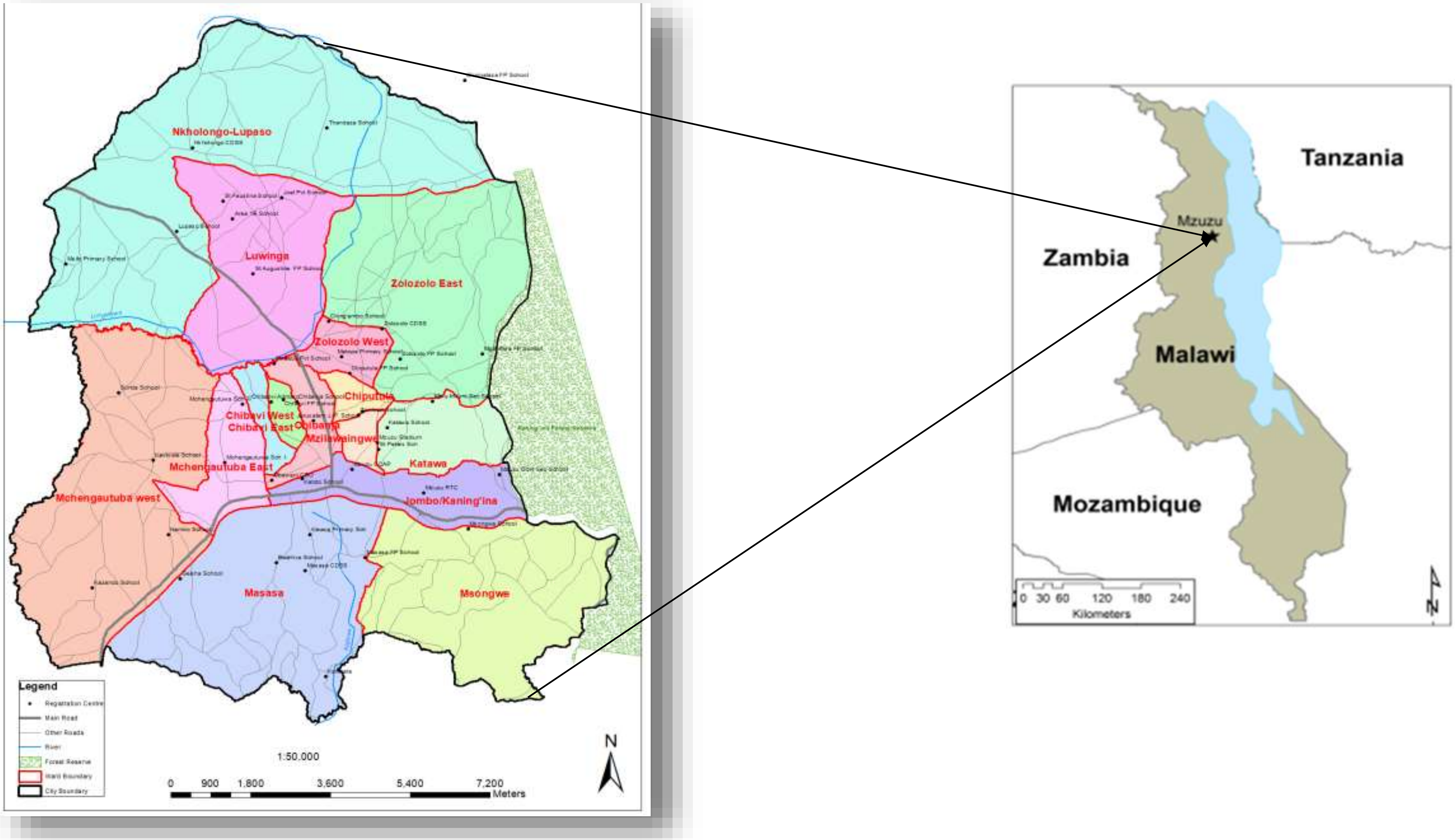
Malawi



Mzuzu City Profile

Population ~ 221000 (+10000)

Intercensal Annual Growth Rate ~ 5.4%



Source: http://mec.org.mw/maps/

Mzuzu Vendor Survey

Mzuzu City Vendor Survey

The study aims at

- Improving the understanding of the nature of the food retailing system in Mzuzu

- Developing and testing a city scale approach for sustainable assessment of food trade practices

- Comparing the different challenges facing informal and formal food retailers and exploring how the informal economy can be made to make maximum contribution to the local economy

Mzuzu Vendor Survey (1-12 April 2019)

The Survey Instrument

- ✓ Open Data Kit coded questionnaire adopted from the Hungry Cities Partnership (HCP) Cape Town Project.
- ✓ Open-ended questions and multiple-choice questions making up 431 variables
- ✓ Administered in English, ChiChewa and Chitumbuka

Mzuzu Vendor Survey

The Survey Instrument

Sections on:

- Demographic profile of enterprise owners,
- Food retail enterprise characteristics
- Food retailer business practices
- Food safety and sanitation
- Food production

Mzuzu Vendor Survey

Sampling Strategy

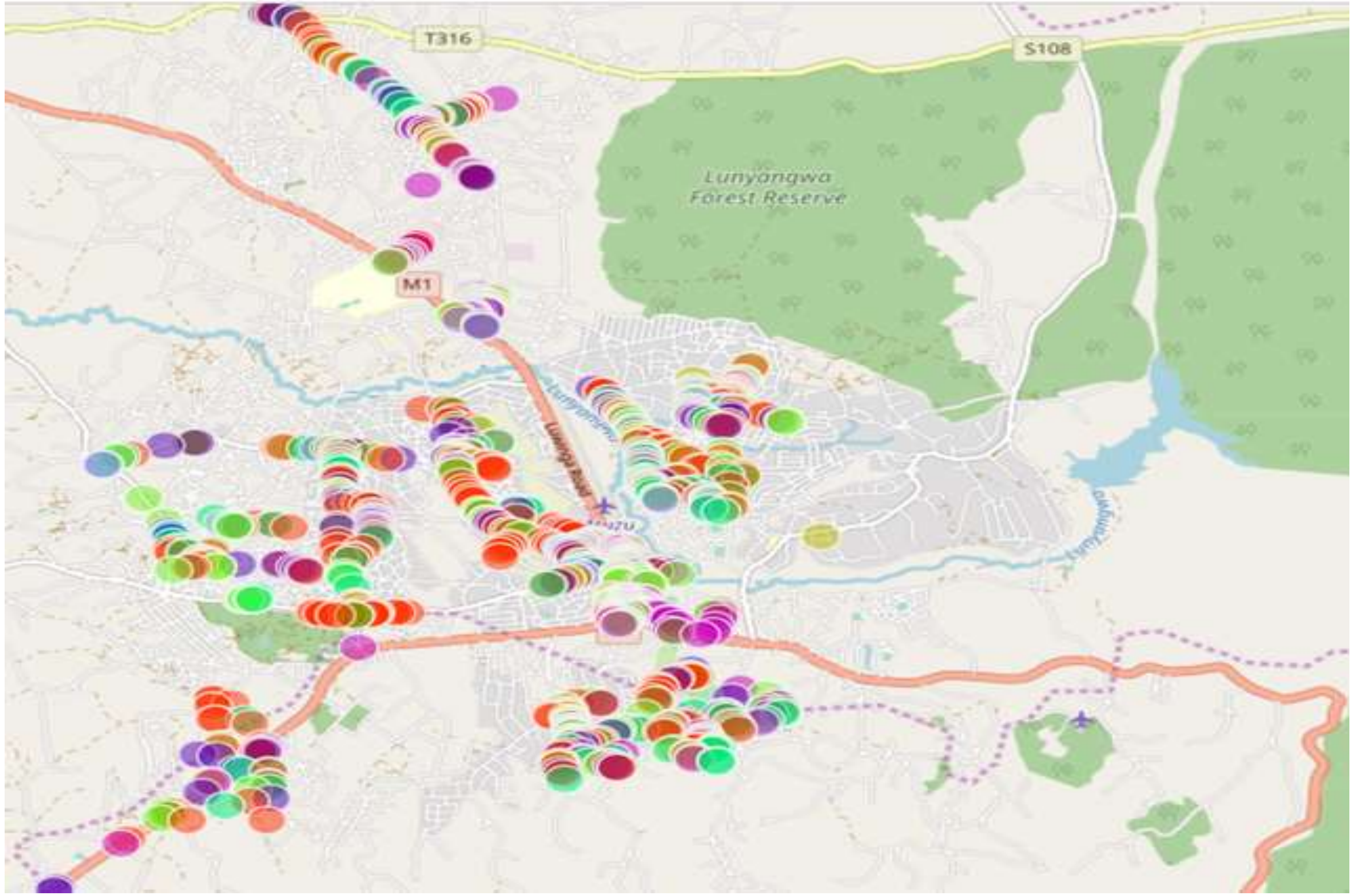
- ✓ Multiple-frame sampling method
- ✓ GPS to identify the location of vendors (area frame)
- ✓ The listing of vendors according to their type (listing frame).
- ✓ A sample frame of 1392 food retailers was generated

Mapping exercise

Vendor Type	Frequency	Percentage
Small shops, tuck shops, hawker	380	27.32
Temporary Roadside or Street vendor	317	22.79
Permanent Roadside or Street Vendor	201	14.45
Home based retailer	124	8.91
Mobile Vendors	112	8.05
Restaurant or Chiimilile	98	7.05
Hot cooked food vendor	68	4.89
Fish (fresh, dried) selling point	32	2.3
Market stall (not meat, fish or poultry)	31	2.23
Poultry (chicken, duck, etc) selling point	17	1.22
Meat (beef, pork, goat, etc) selling point	11	0.79
Total	1391	100

Mzuzu Survey

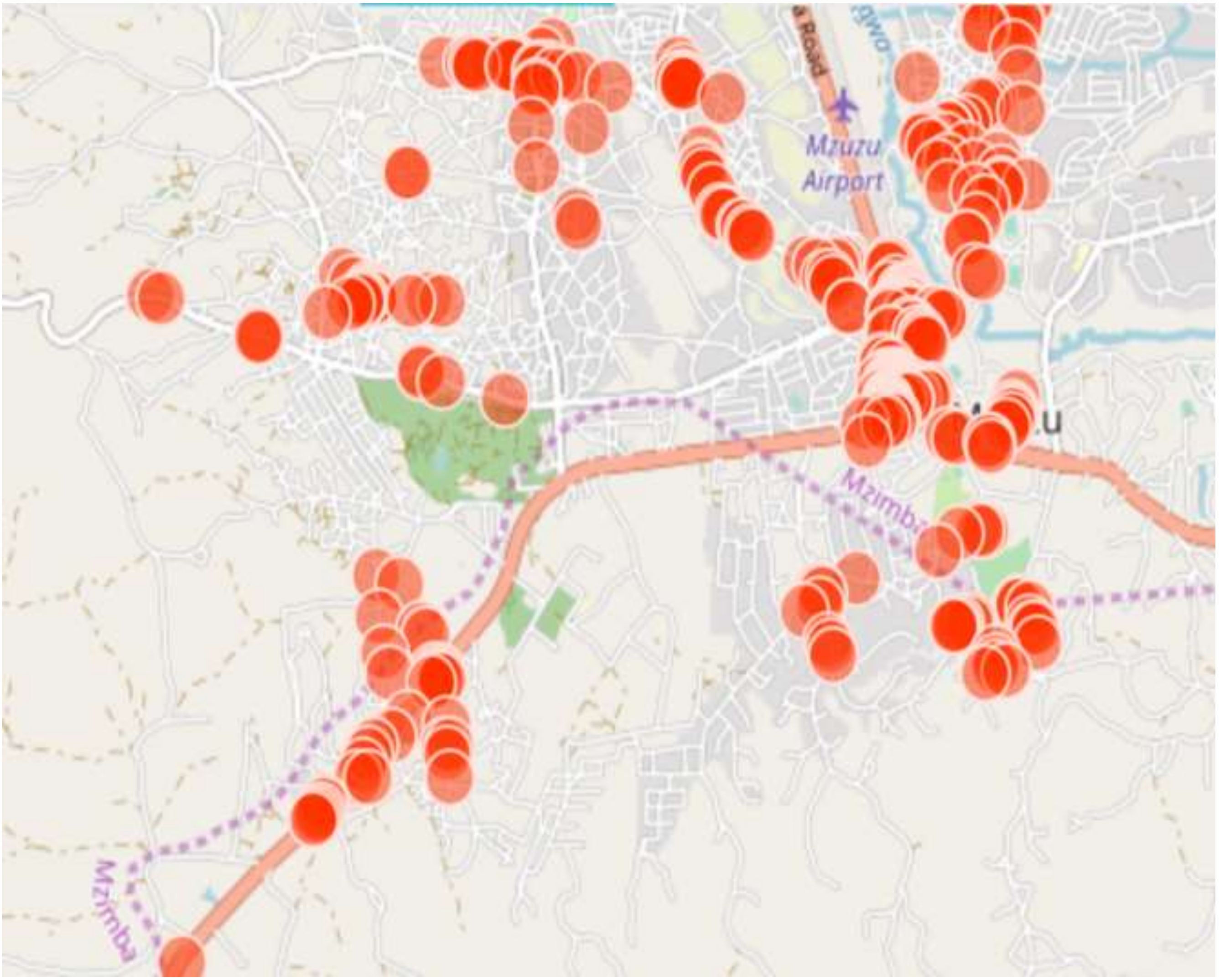
Spatial distribution of the Mapped Food Retailers across Mzuzu



Mzuzu Survey Map

Surveyed Food Retailers Spatial Distribution within Mzuzu City Administrative Wards(N=485)

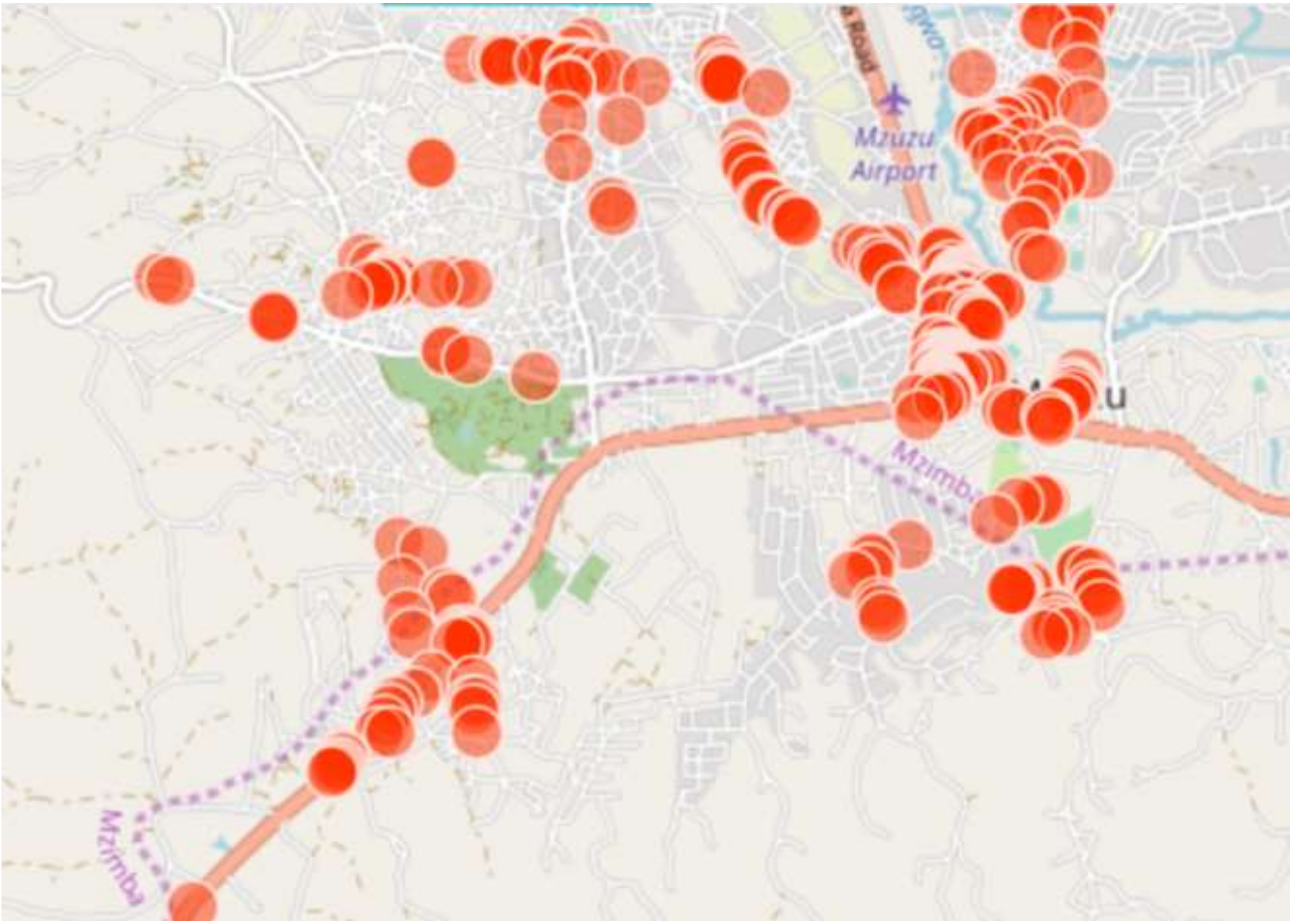
Ward	Freq	Percent
Chibabvi/Chibanja	30	6.2
Chiputula/Zolozolo	36	7.4
Geisha	34	7
Luwinga	50	10.3
Mzuzu Main market	140	28.9
Masasa	32	6.6
Mchengautuwa West	32	6.6
Mchengautuwa East	37	7.6
Mzirawaingwe	30	6.2
Old town	12	2.5
Zigwagwa market	52	10.7
Total	485	100



Mzuzu Survey Map

Food retailers spatial distribution across Mzuzu City. (N=485)

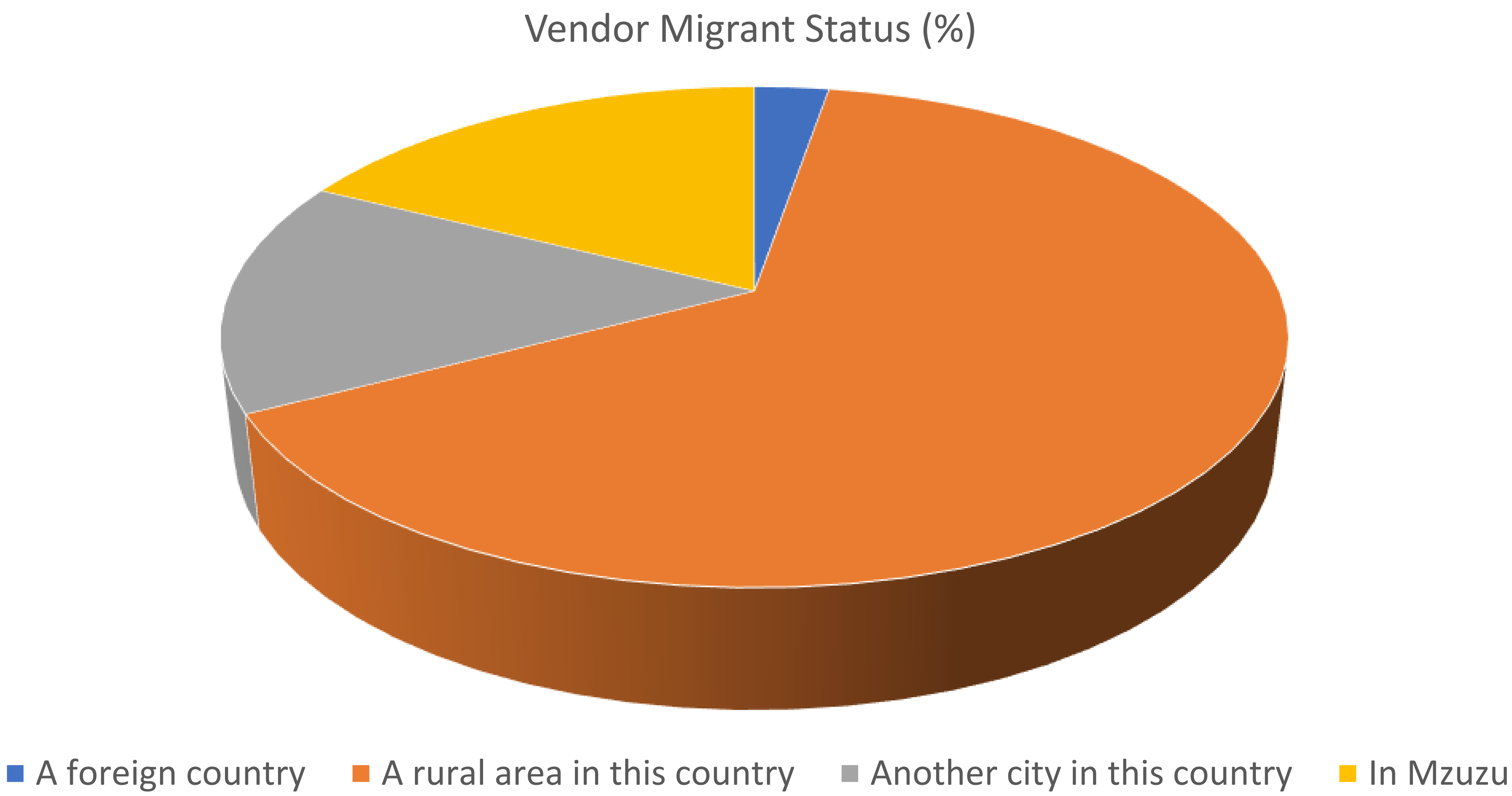
Vendor Types	Frequency
Temporary roadside vendor	189
small shops/tuckshop/hawker	101
Permanent roadside vendor	47
Market stall	47
Home-based retailer	32
Hot cooked vendor	25
Restaurant/Chimilile	27
Mobile vendor	17
	485



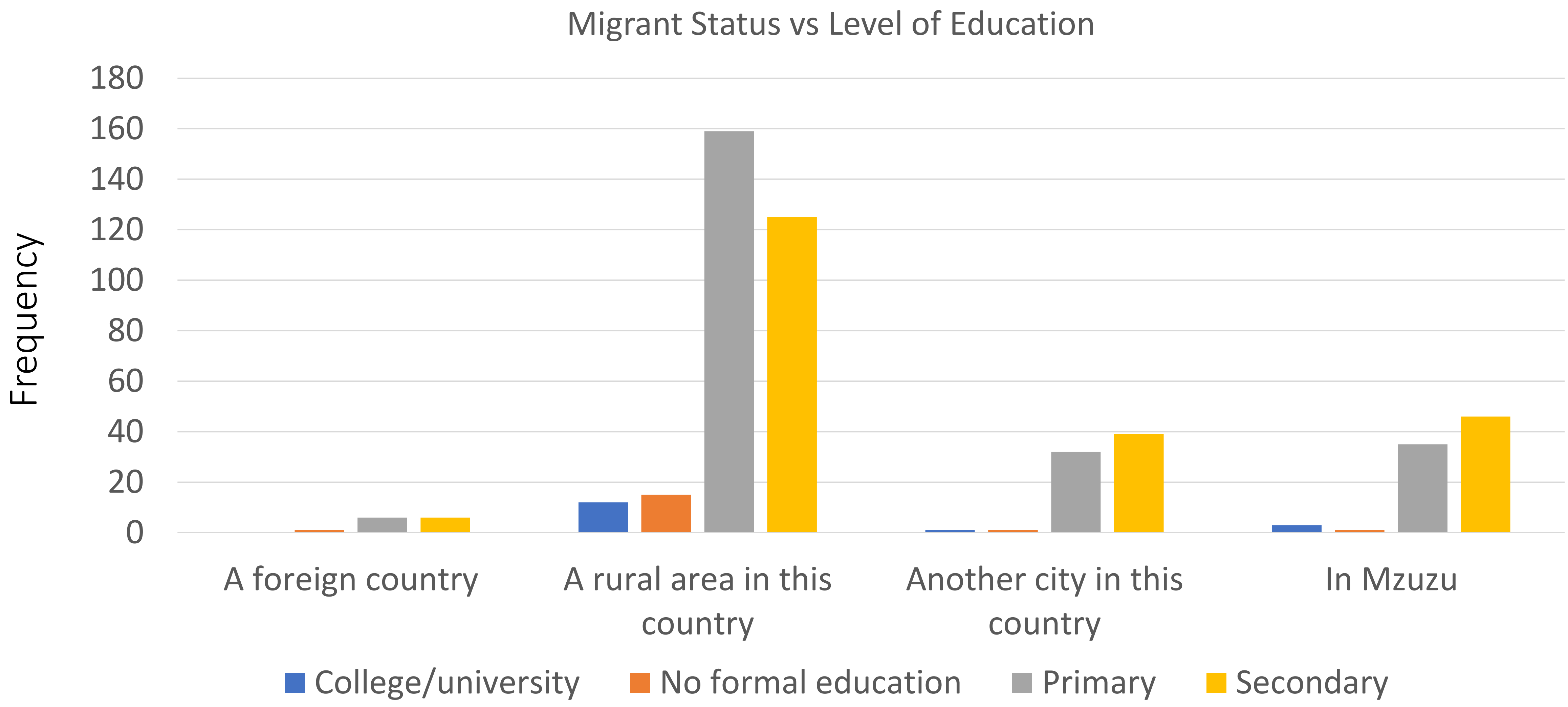
Enterprise Owner Demographic Characteristics

Characteristic		Frequency	Percent (%)
Sex	Male	159	32.8
	Female	326	67.2
Marital status	Married	376	77.5
	Single	103	21
Education level	No education	18	3.7
	Primary education	232	47.8
	Secondary education	216	44.5
	Tertiary education	16	3.3
Employment before food vending	Yes	194	40
	No	290	60
Alternative employment besides vending	Yes	57	12
	No	427	88

Enterprise Owner Characteristics



Enterprise Owner Characteristics



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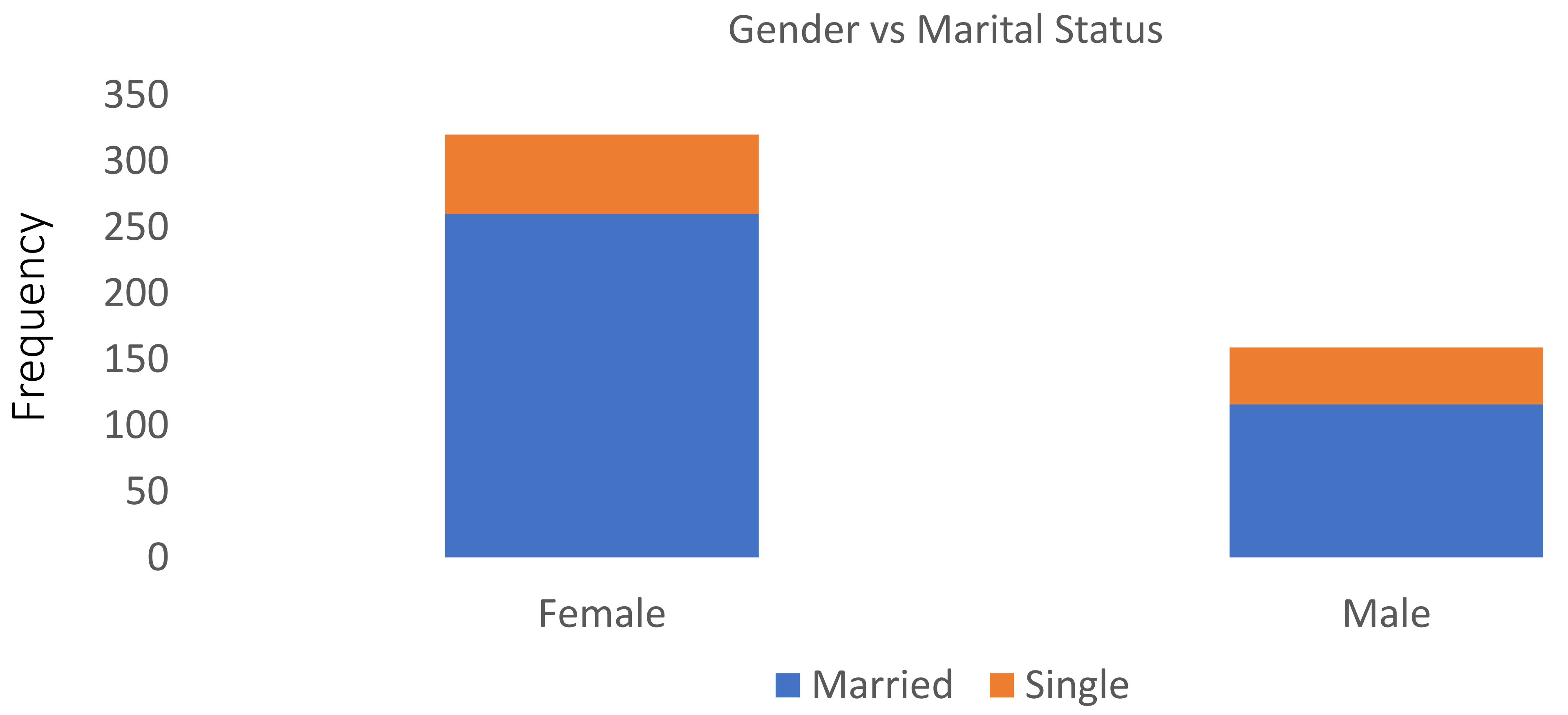

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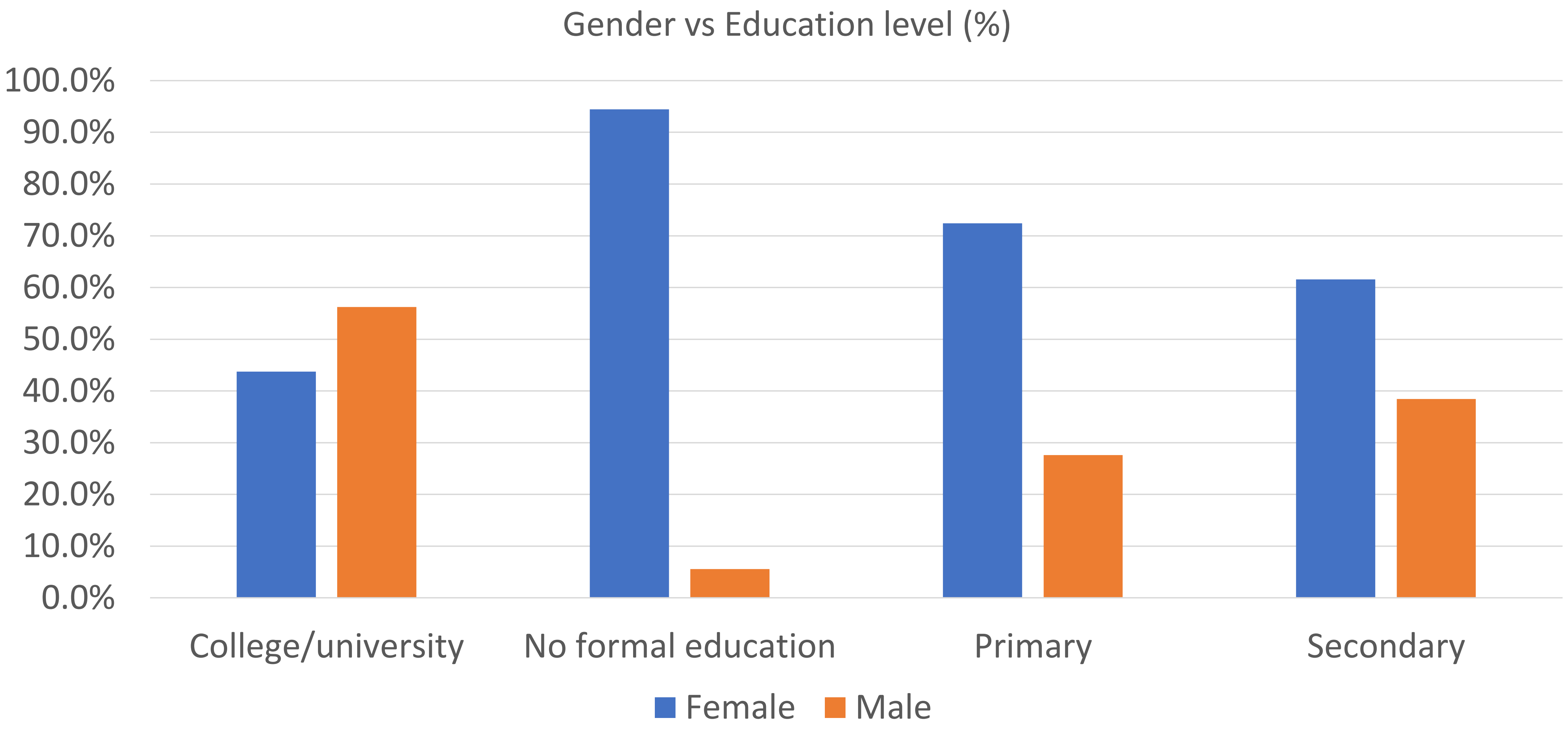
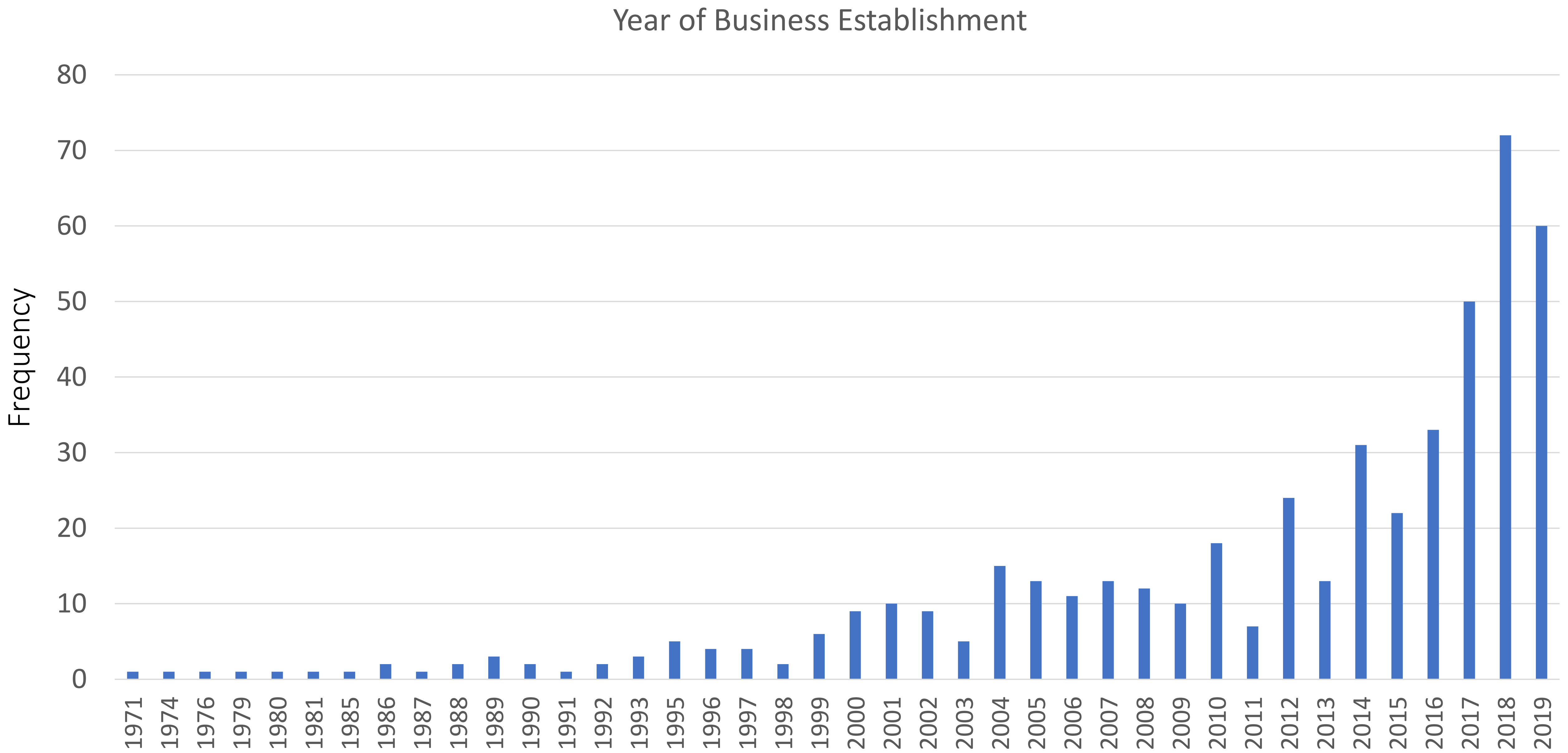


Key enterprise owner attributes (N = 485).

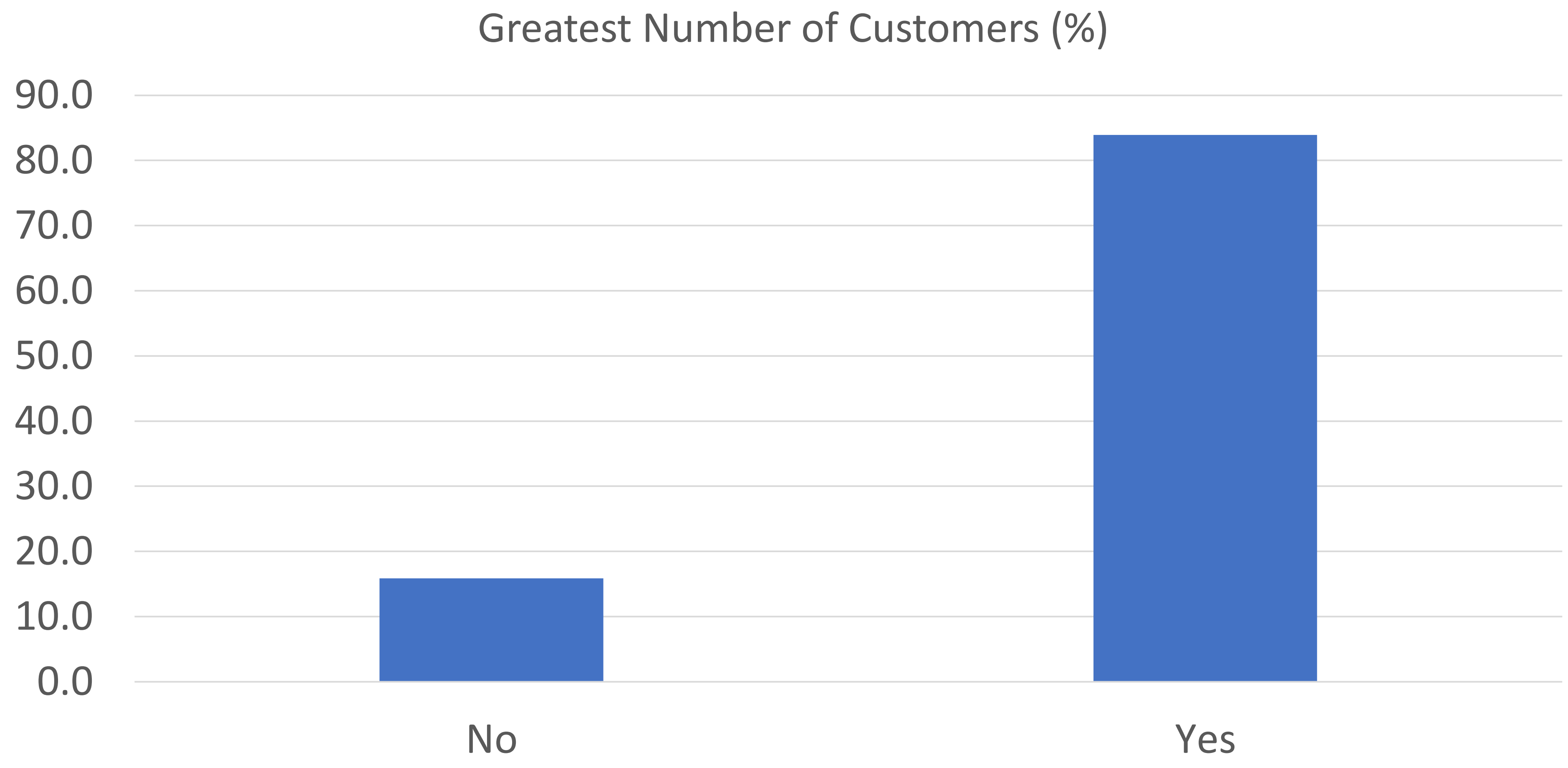
Household Socio–Economic Factors	Mean	Mode	Min Values	Max Values
Age of enterprise owner (year)	35.8	30,36	17	75
Amount of time stayed in the business (year)	8	1	0	48
Number of business owned	1.3	1	1	6
Number of business co-owned	0.3	0	0	5
Household members	4.75	4	0	14

Enterprise Owner Characteristics



Food Retail Enterprise Characteristics

Factors influencing location



Food Retail Enterprise Characteristics

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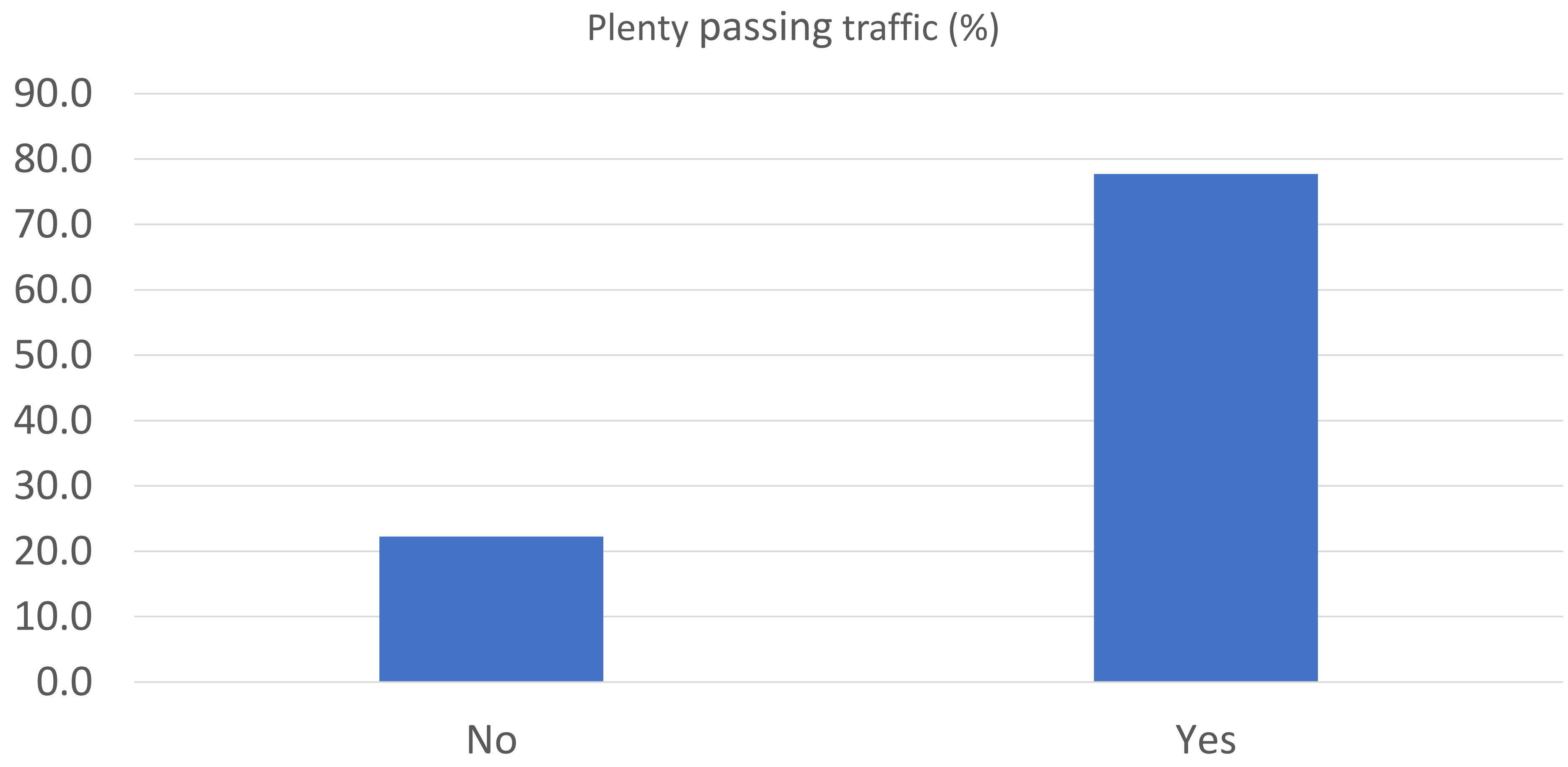
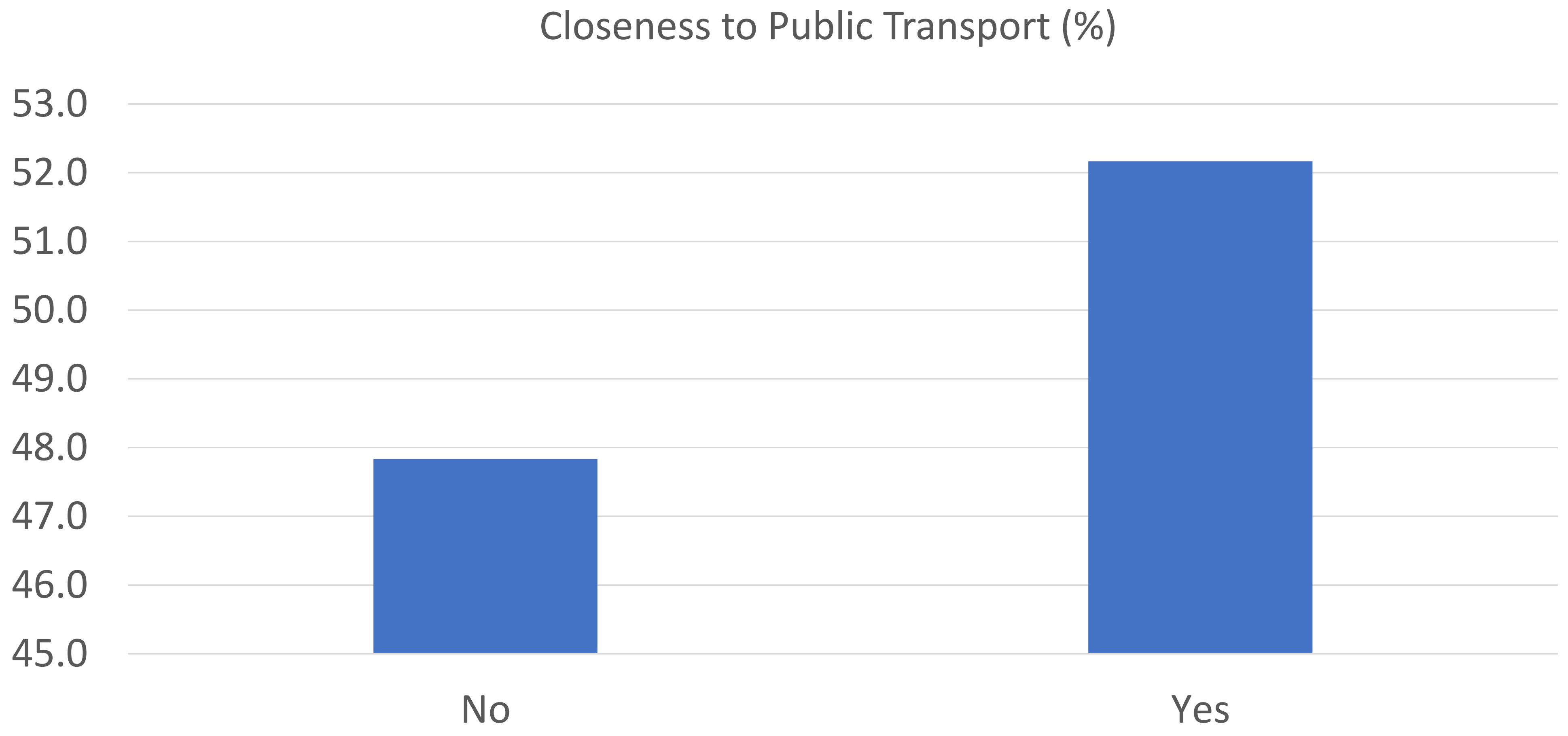


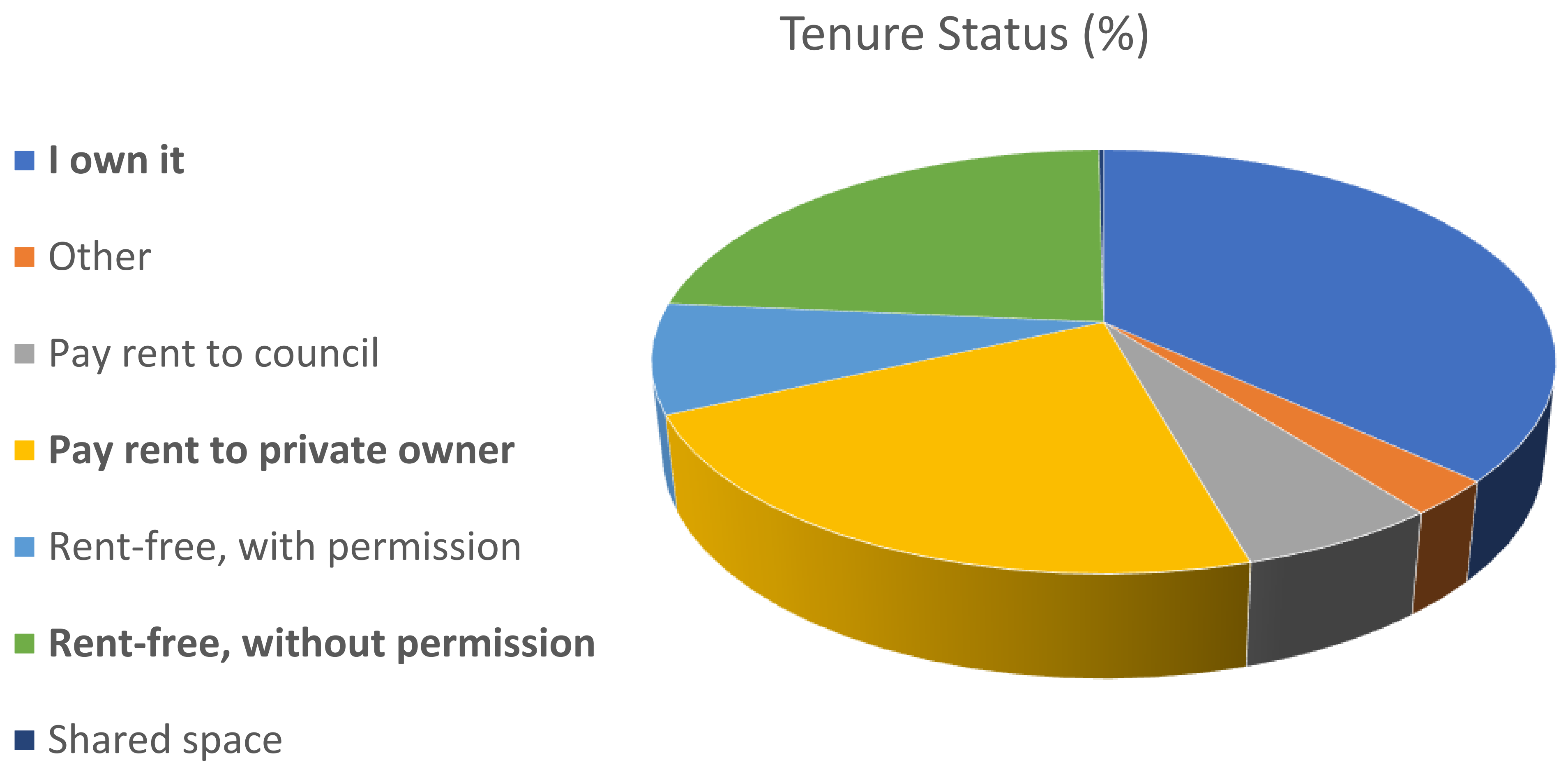
Food Retail Enterprise Characteristics

Factors influencing location



Food Retail Enterprise Characteristics

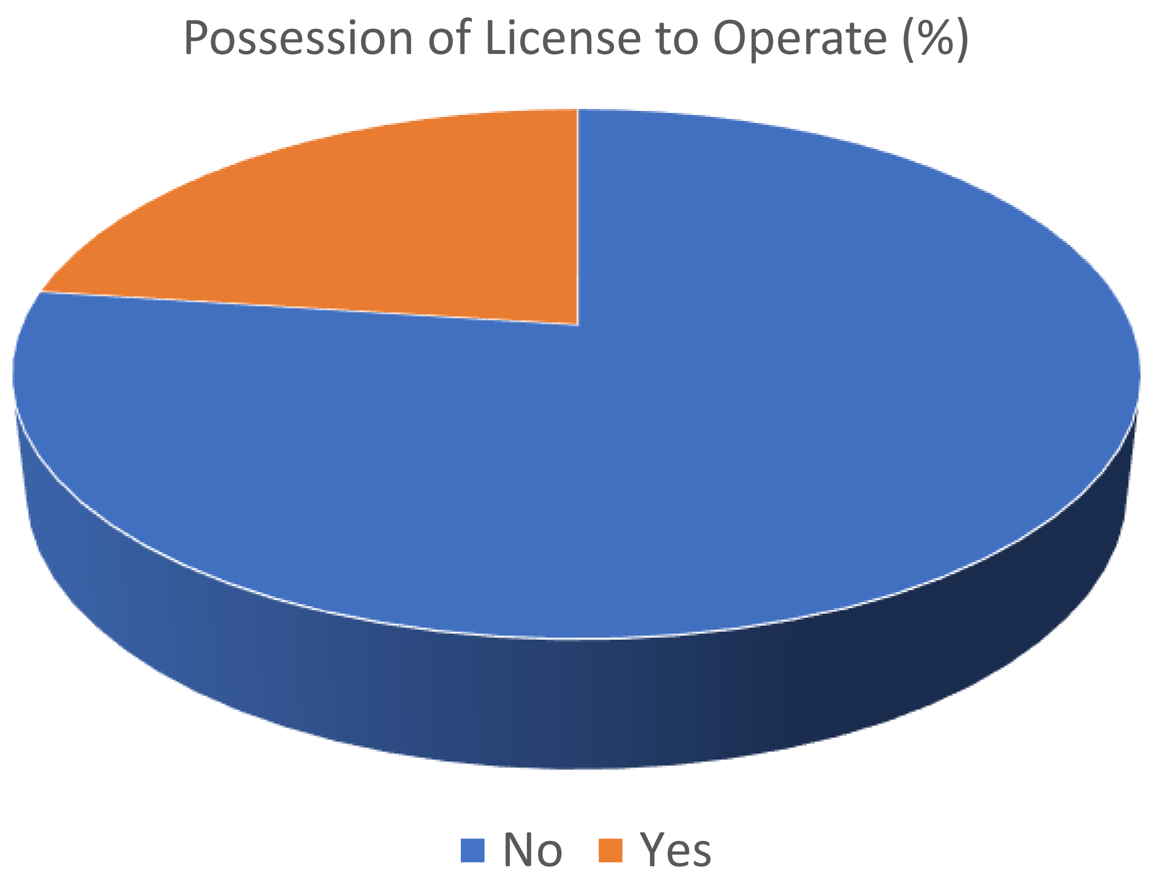
Tenure status of enterprise



Food Retail Enterprise Characteristics

Enterprise licensing

- ➢77% not licensed
- ✓City licencing fee (12%)
- ✓City daily operating fees (7%)
- ✓Vendor Association fee (3%)



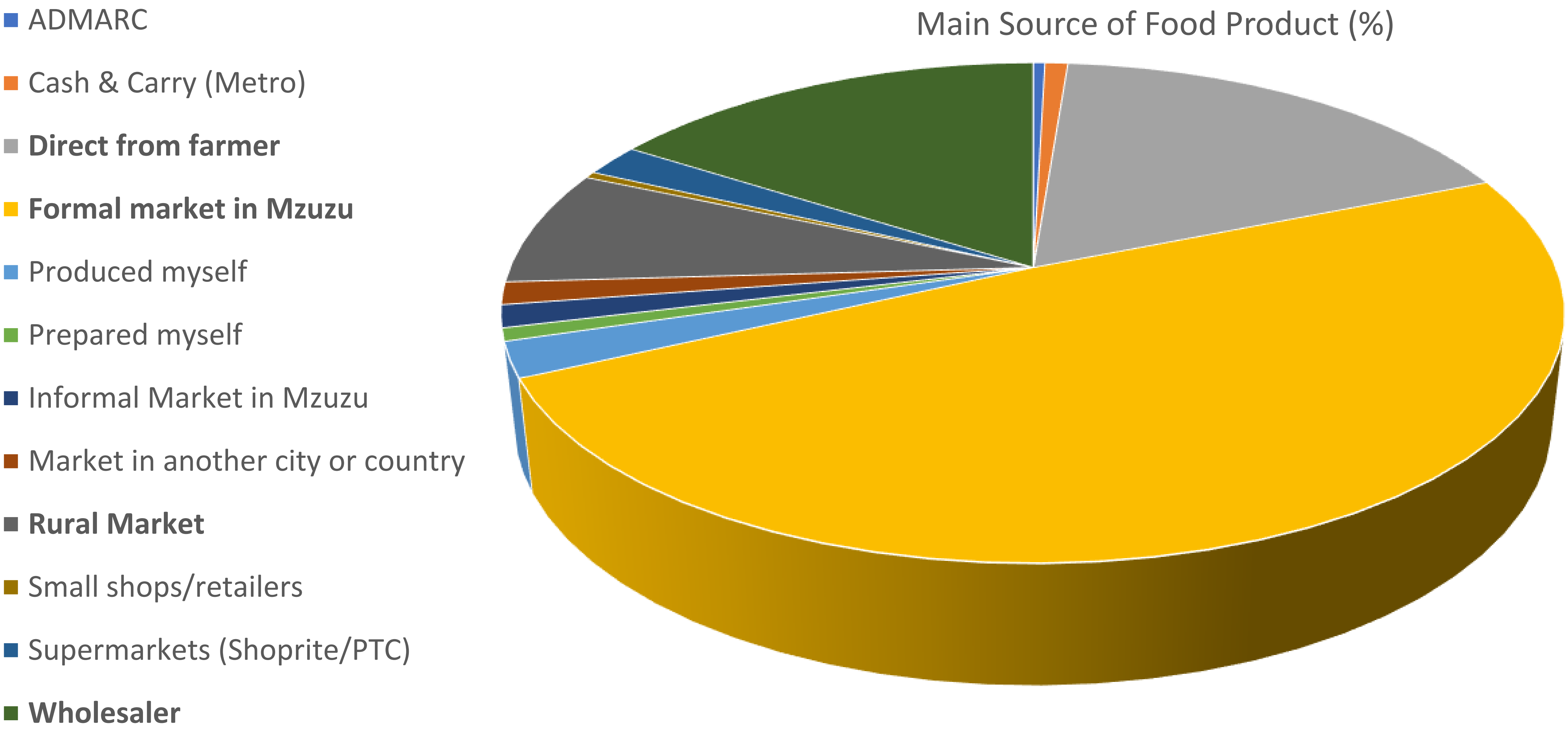
Food Retail Enterprise Characteristics

Main retailed food items

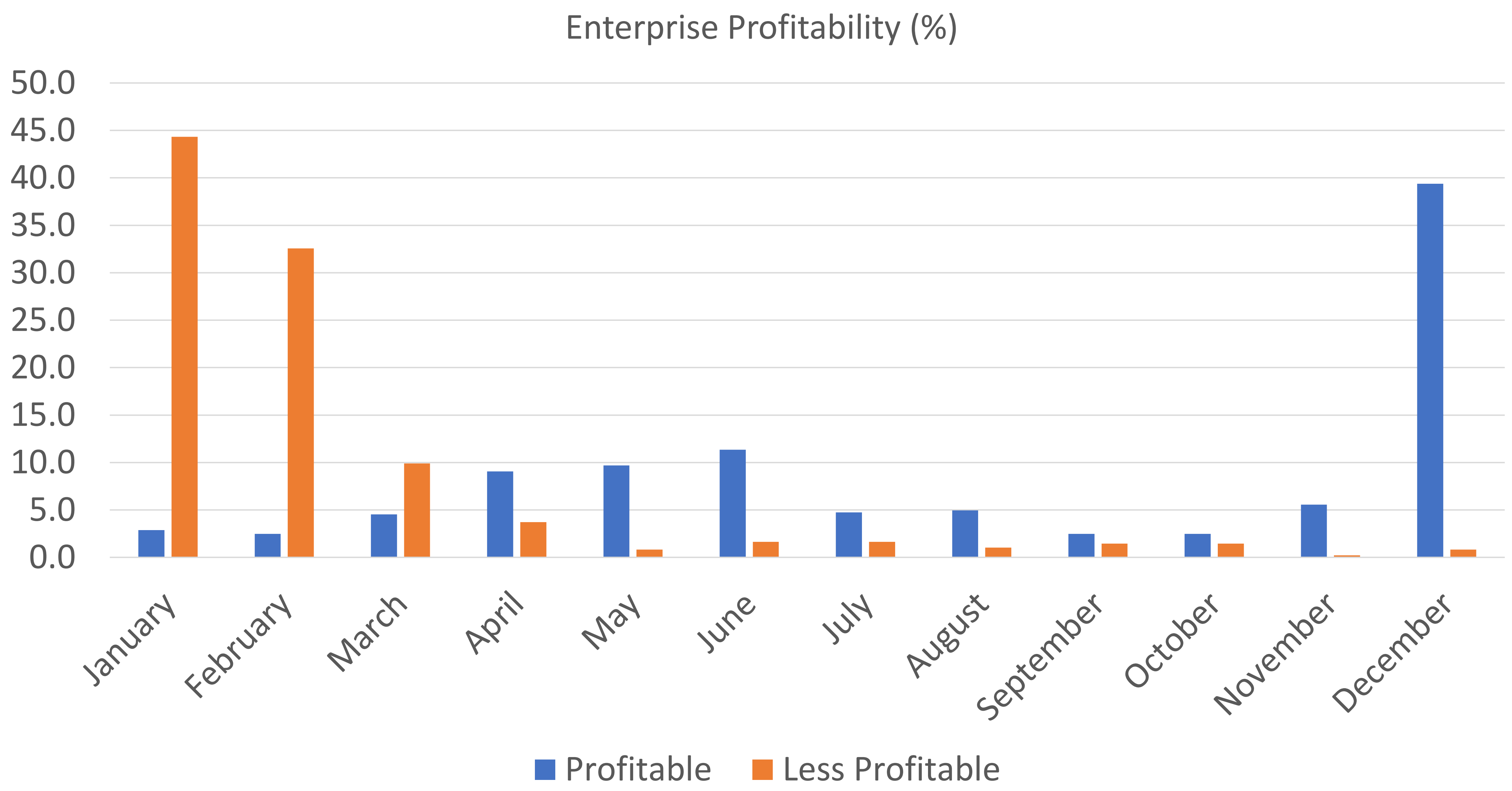
Food Product	Percentage of retailers
Fried cassava	2.1
Soft drinks	2.3
Cooking oil	2.5
Eggs	2.5
Sugar	2.5
Beans	2.7
Potato chips	2.9
Nsima	2.9
Pumpkins	2.9
Irish potatoes	3.3
Vegetables	3.7
Groundnuts	4.1
Bananas	4.3
Fresh fish	6.6
Rice	7.2
Bread	8.0
Tomatoes	10.7

Food Retail Enterprise Characteristics

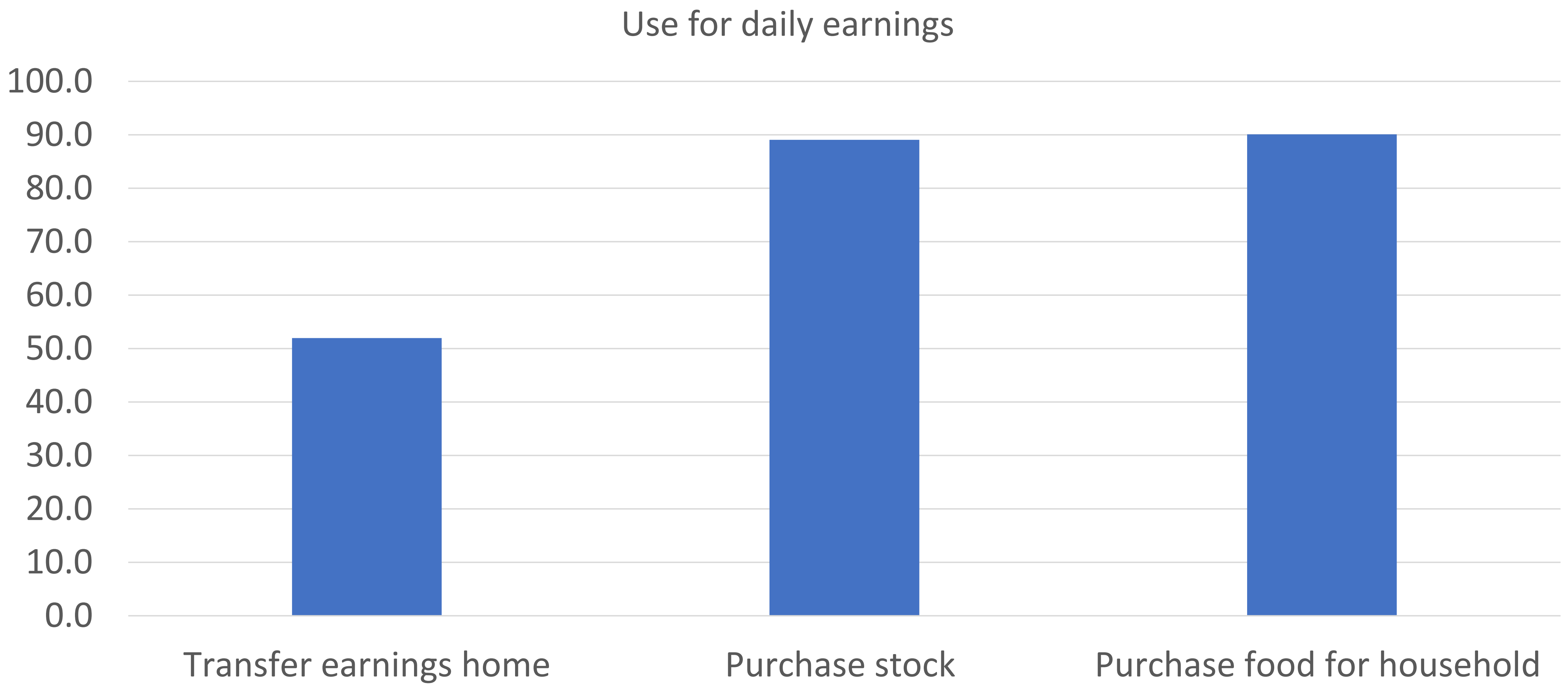
Source of products



Food Retail Enterprise Characteristics

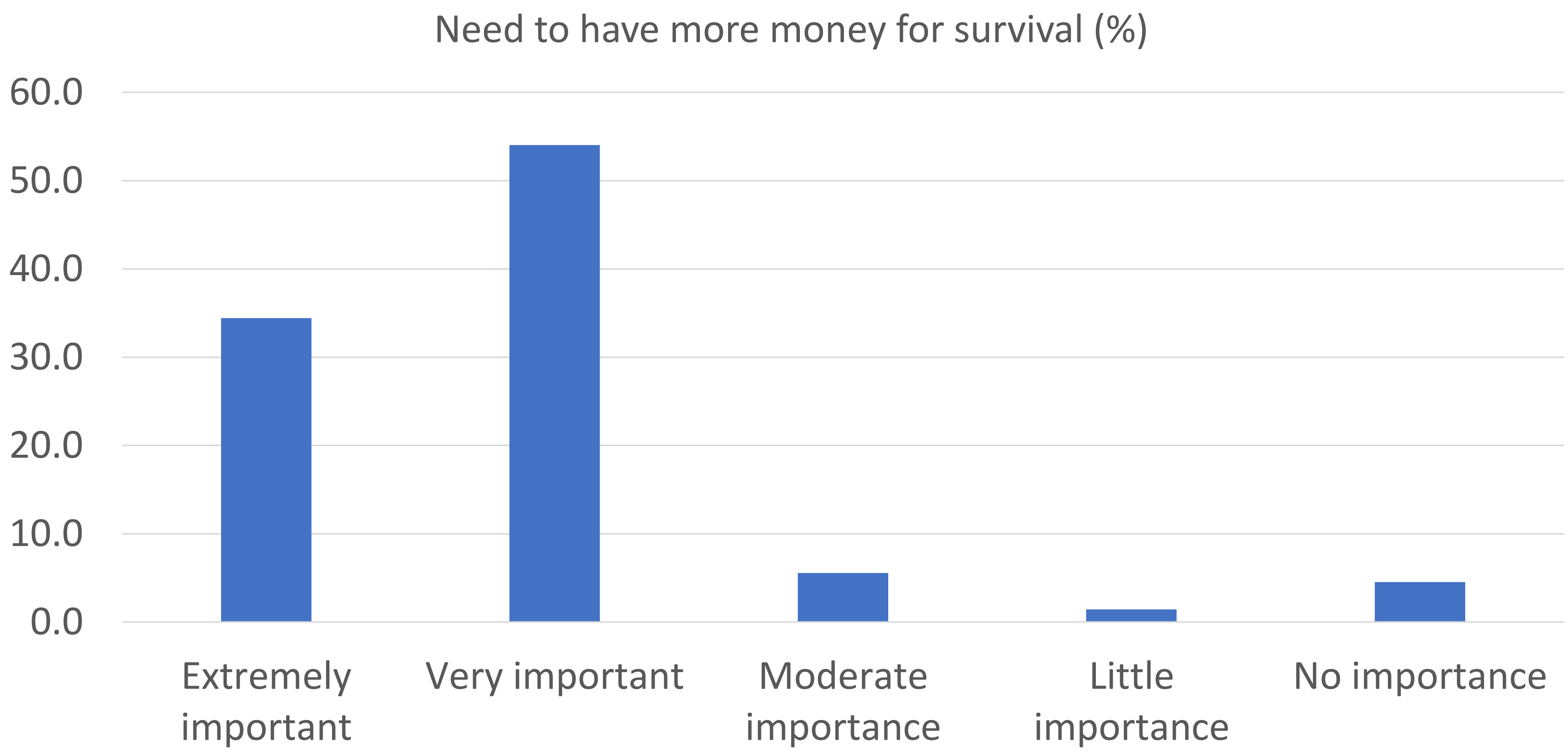


Food retailer business practices



Food retailer business practices

Motivation behind establishing an enterprise



Food retailer business practices

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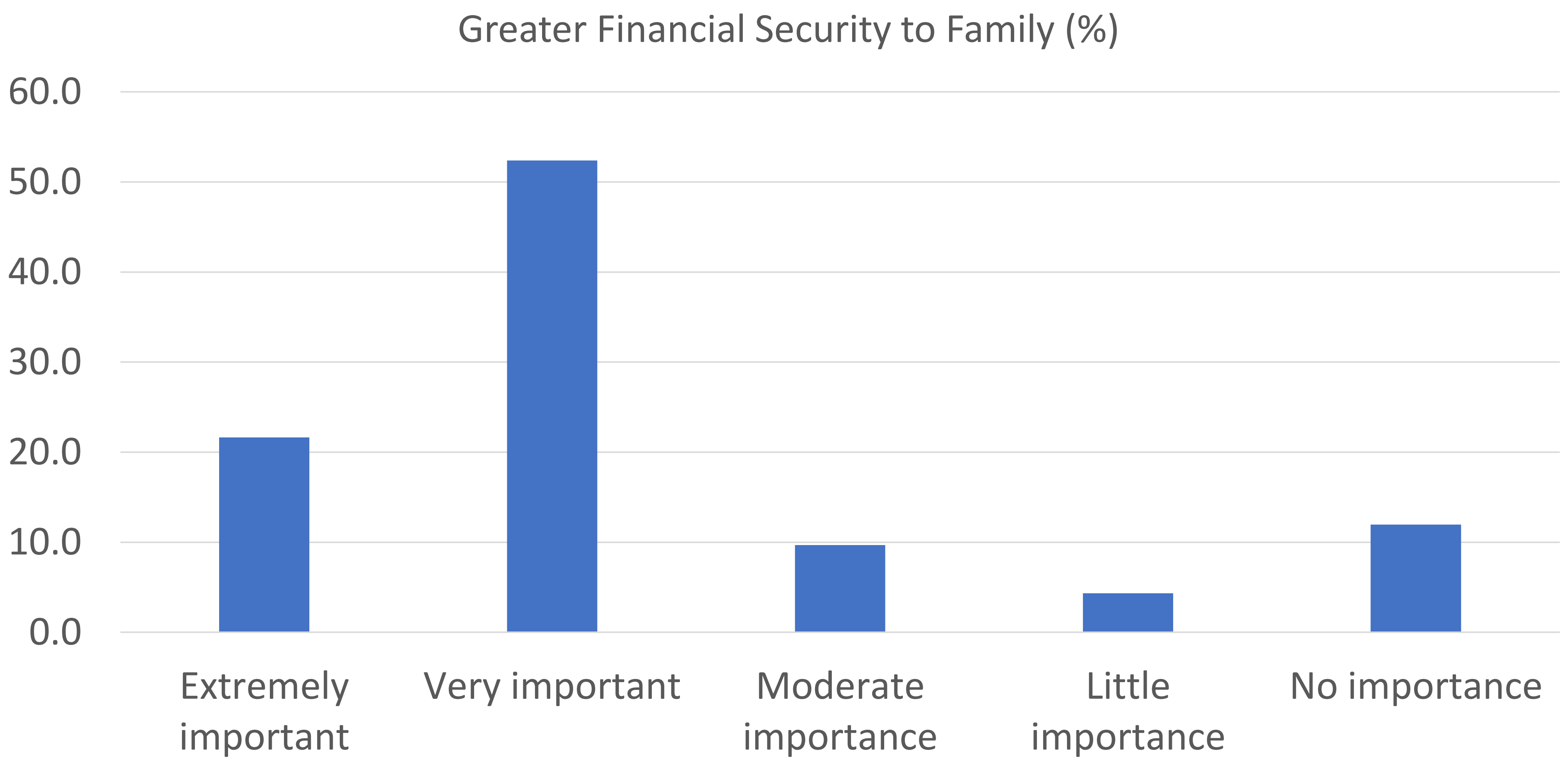


Food retailer business practices

Source of business start-up capital

Source of capital (MK)	Frequency	Percentage
Personal savings	258	53.2
Money gift from a relative	43	8.9
Loan from relatives within Malawi	33	6.8
Loan from a micro-finance institution	26	5.4

Level of business start-up capital

	Mean	Mode	Minimum	Maximum
Start up Capital (MK)	55063.36	5000	200	1500000

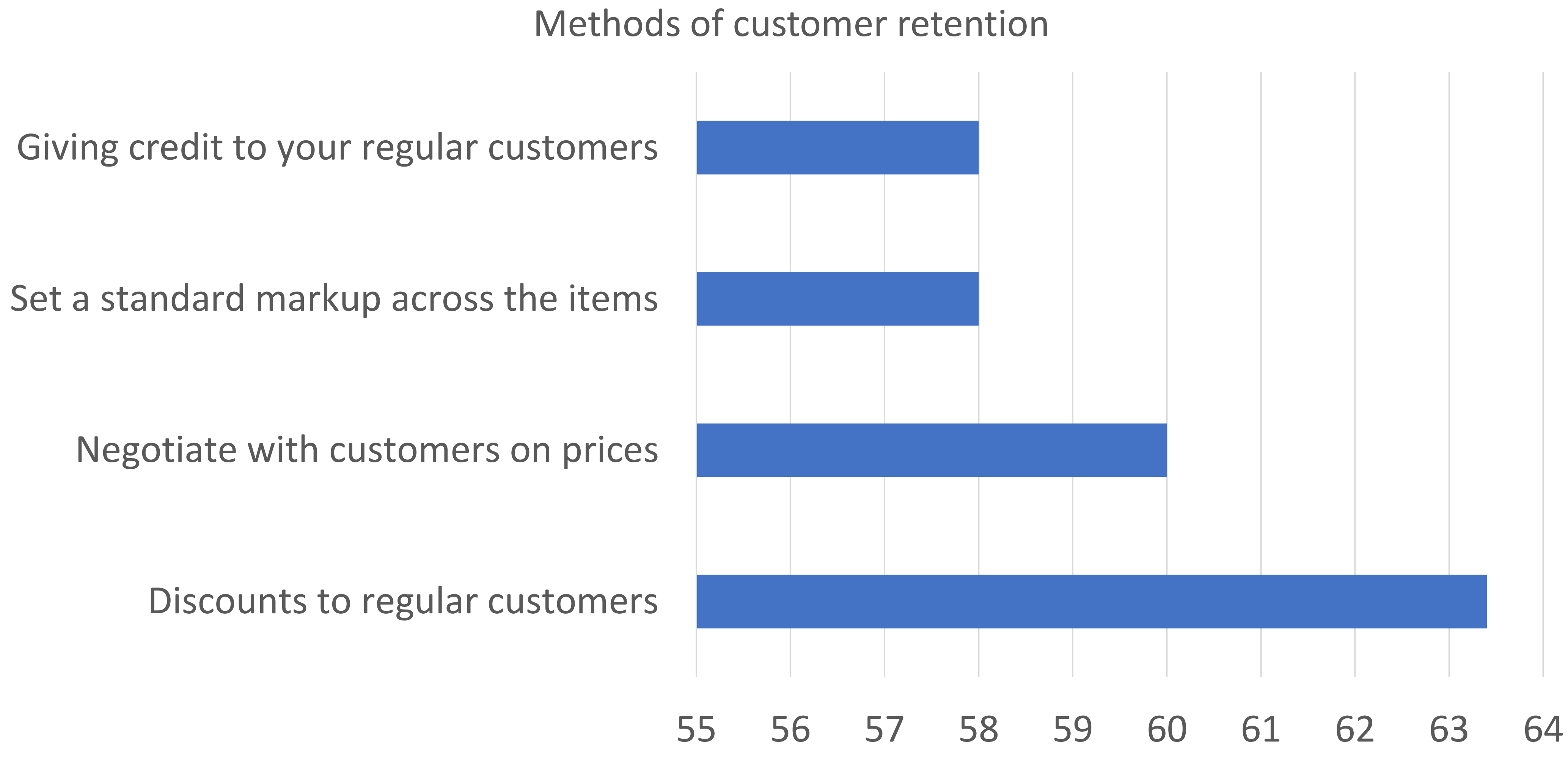
Food retailer business practices

Access to capital

- ➢The majority do not apply (454 respondents (93.2%))
- ➢31% perceived banks to be reluctant to lend money due to
  - ✓Nature of businesses (informal)
  - ✓Insufficient guarantees/collateral
  - ✓Insufficient initial capital
  - ✓Banks believe these enterprises are not viable
  - ✓Banks fear defaults

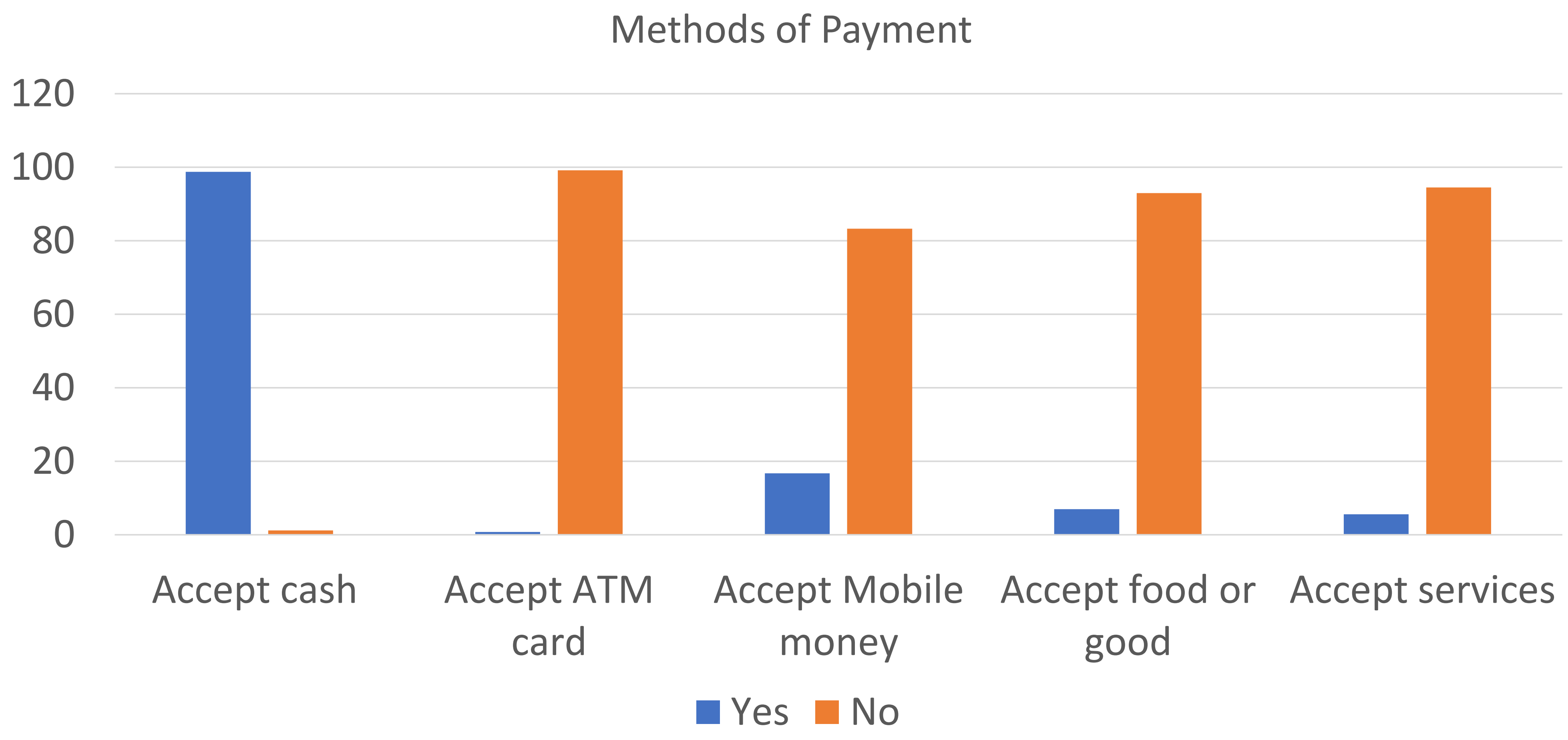
Food retailer business practices

Customer retention capacity



Food retailer business practices

Retailer Business Strategy



Food Retailer Business Environment

Conclusions

- The food retailing system is driven by migrants and only 17.5% are from within Mzuzu with the majority being rural-urban migrants
- Largely informal situated along roadsides with a high concentration around the main market
- Mainly start up enterprises of sole proprietorship (91%) which are fairly new having been established over the past decade (68%)
- Main product source is the formal market signifying a strong formal-informal bond within the food retailing system