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Local Policy and Resilience:
Results from a Survey of Local Leaders in Coastal Ohio

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The Ohio Sea Grant and The Center for Urban and Regional Analysis

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Resilience and Local Economic Development Policy Implementation

How has the resilience concept been translated to local economic development?

Resilience Builder

- Skilled labor force (Chapple & Lester, 2007)
- Systemic flexibility (Ficenec, 2010)
- Industrial Diversity (Kort, 1981; Simon, 1988)
- Pre-shock levels of resource (Rozario, 2005)
- Quality of infrastructure (Bruneau et al., 2003)
- Sufficient planning (Sheffi, 2005)
- Good governance(Berke &Campanella,2006)

Economic Development Approaches

- Recruitment-focus : Promote a particular industry
- Retention- focus : local business development
- Reactive-focus: passive engagement
- Diversification- focus: attempting to attract different types of business
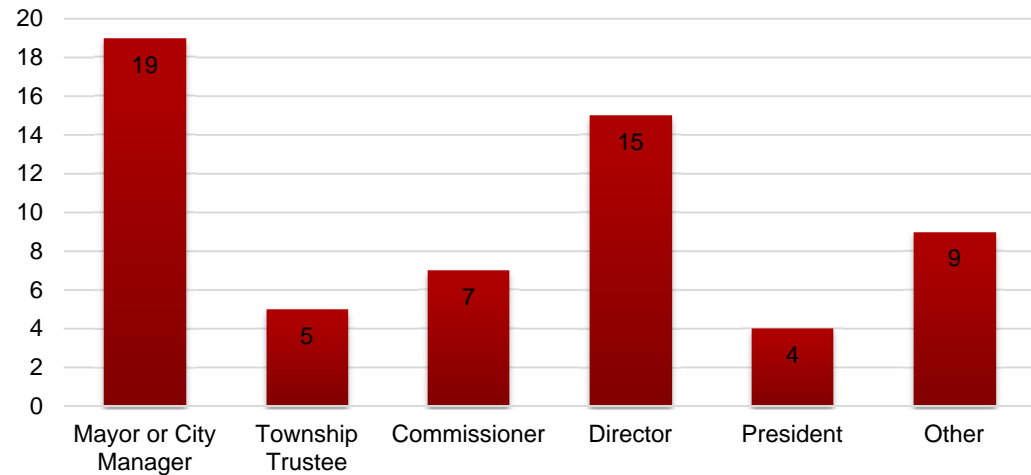
Findings

- Regional level of organization influences perception of threats
- Strategy of region influences actions and strategies
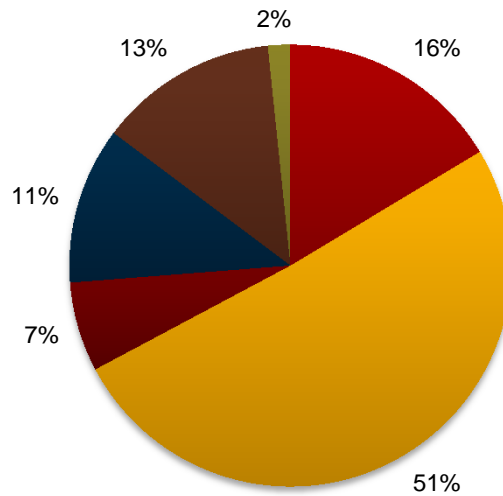- Strategy of region influenced by industries present

The Survey Respondents

Emailed to 449 correct addresses, 98 surveys were started, and 64 surveys were completed. **61 were coastal (14%)**

Job Titles of Respondents

Job Title	Count
Mayor or City Manager	19
Township Trustee	5
Commissioner	7
Director	15
President	4
Other	9

Areas Represented By Respondents

- County government: 16%
- Municipal government: 51%
- Regional government: 7%
- Private sector: 11%
- Not-for-profit sector: 13%
- Unknown: 2%

Threats

to economic growth

-

100%					
90%	4	9	1	1	3
80%	1	10	4	2	3
70%	2			5	5
60%	1	17	1		
50%			1		4
40%	10	9		1	
30%		14	3	5	5
County	**Municipal**	**Regional**	**Private**	**Not-for-profit and Unknown**	

■ Endogenous economic variables   ■ Exogenous economic variables
■ Government Barriers   ■ Environment
■ Others
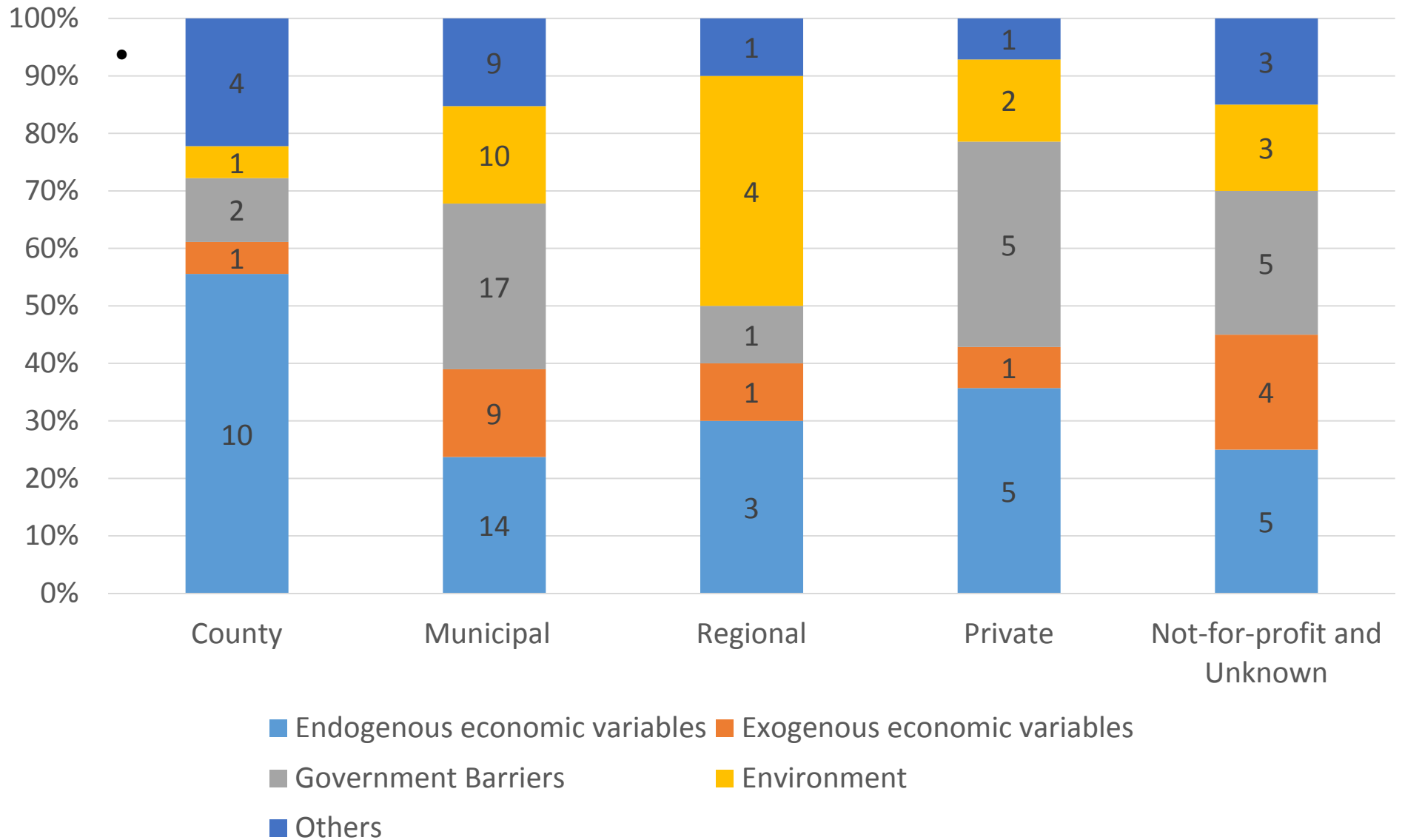
Addressing Threats

to economic growth

Approach	Frequency	Percent
Business Programs and Incentives	12	19.67
Marketing	9	14.75
Increase Gov. Revenues	7	11.48
Partnerships and Collaboration	7	11.48
Nothing	7	11.48
New Planning Projects	5	8.2
Infrastructure	4	6.56
Workforce Development	4	6.56
Fix Environmental Systems	3	4.92
Other	2	3.28
Missing	1	1.64
Total	61	100

Actions in Context

of location's strategy

| | Reactive | Retention | Deepen | Diversification |
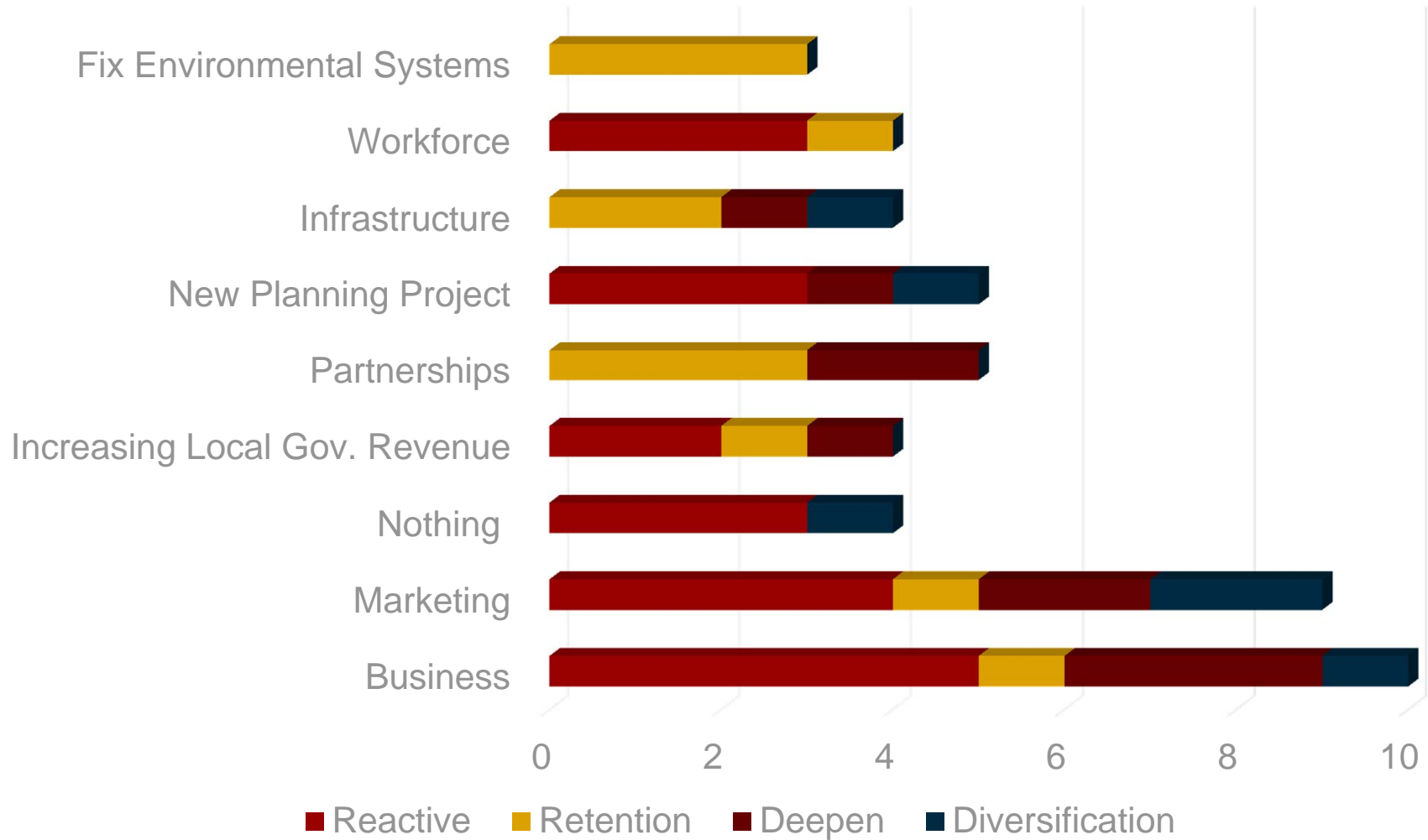
Actions in Context

of category of organization
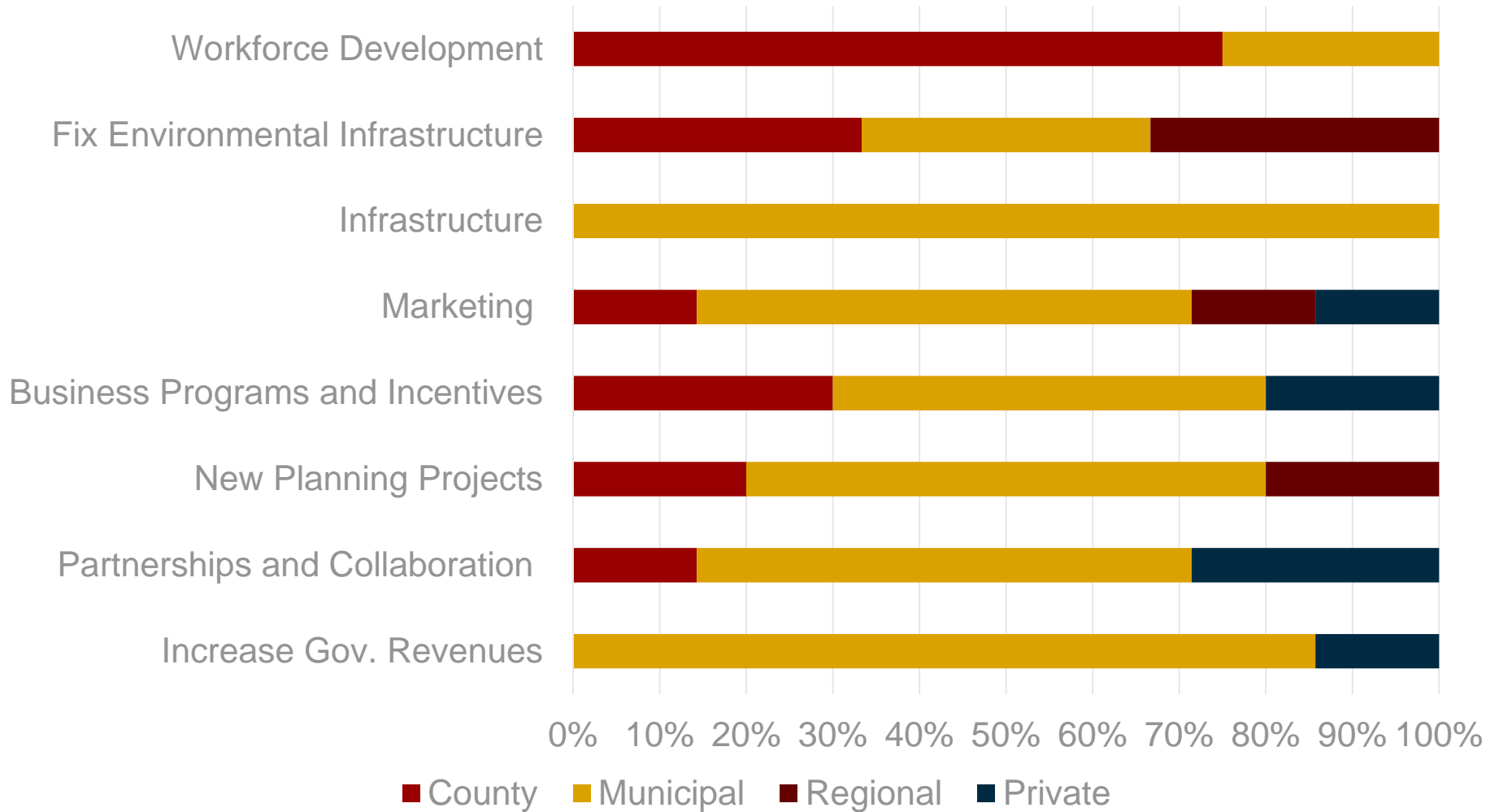
Strategy in Context

of Industry

Legend:
- Reactive-focused
- Retention-focused
- Deepen-focused
- Diversification-focus
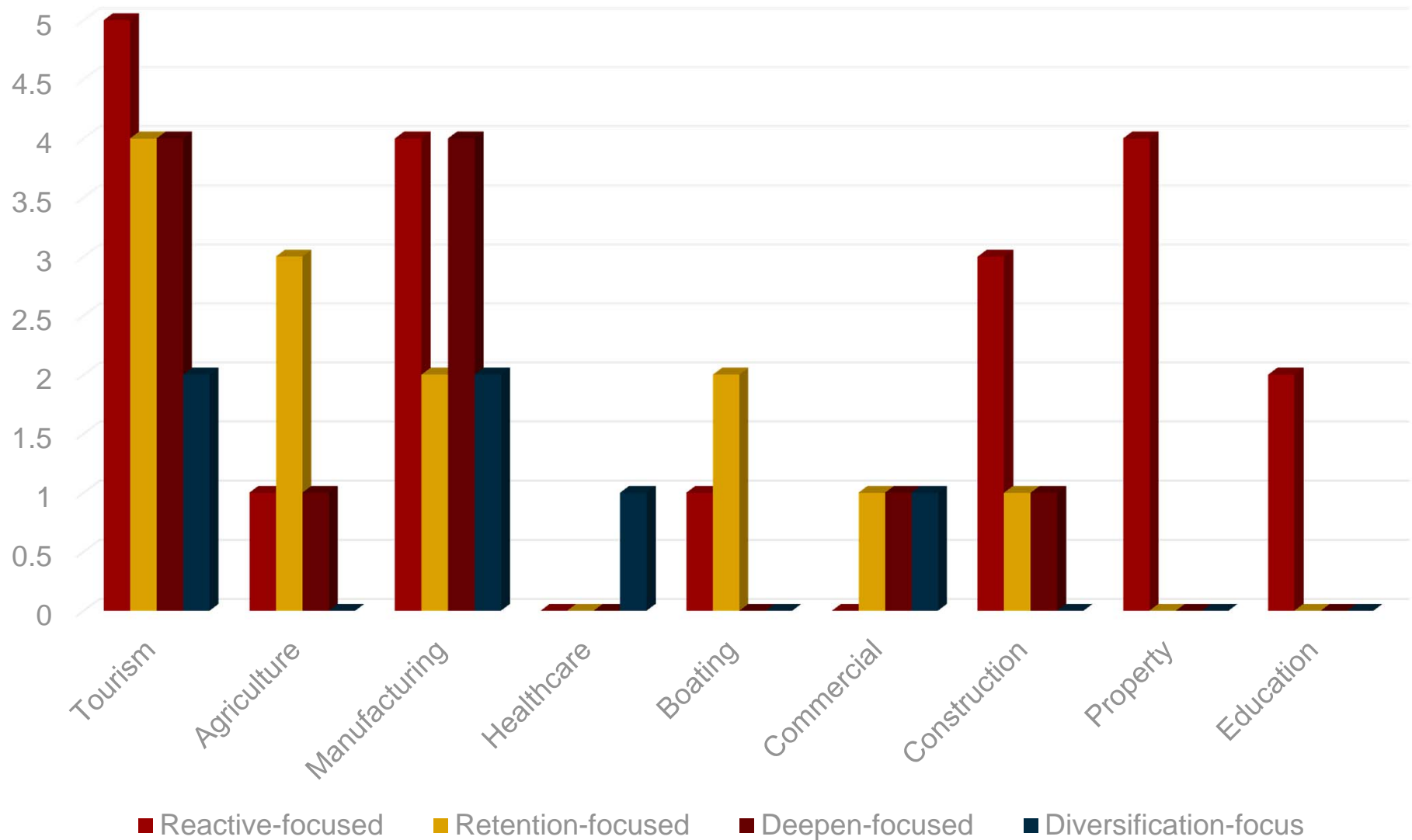
Strategy in Context

of aggregated data

	Mean Industry Diversity	Mean Unemployment Rate
Reactive-focused	2.32 (0.18)	6.93 (0.95)
Retention-focused	2.28 (0.16)	7.01 (0.89)
Deepen-focused	2.32 (0.19)	6.91 (0.84)
Diversification-focused	2.38 (0.11)	7.42 (1.16)

Diversity Index

$$DIV_i = \sum_{s=1}^{S} \left(\frac{e_{is}}{e_i}\right) \ln\left(\frac{1}{e_{is}/e_i}\right)$$

*Standard Deviations in Brackets

Tentative Conclusions

- Regional level of organization influences perception of threats
- Strategy of region influences actions and strategies
- Strategy of region influenced by industries present

Future

- Multivariate analysis
- Investigation of tail-end (places that are very resilient or not resilient at all)