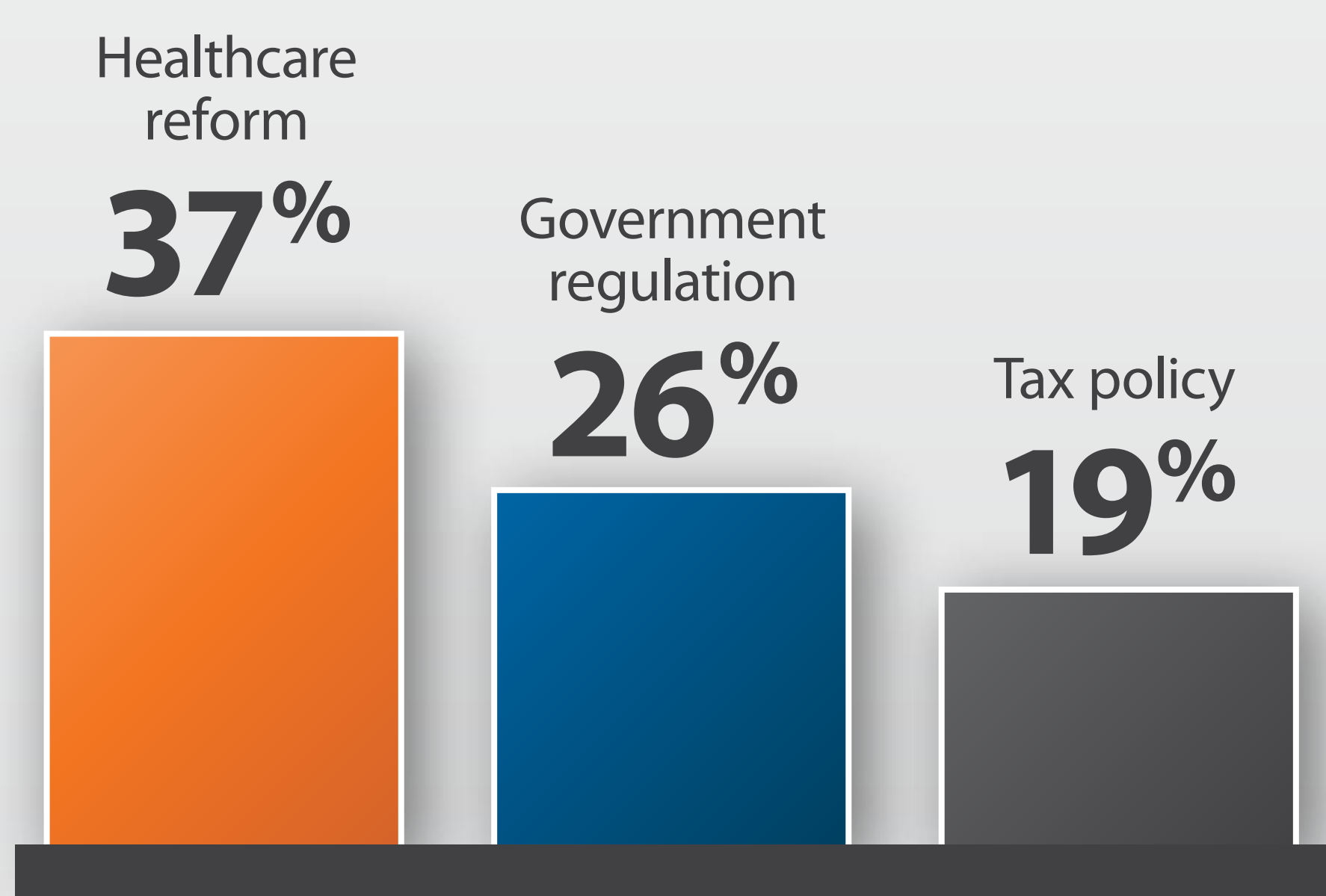


ECONOMY



52% of all CEOs reported an improving economy in the 3rd quarter 2014 survey, up from 50% one quarter ago and 46% one year ago. On balance, this was the best assessment of the economy since the 1st quarter of 2012.

The most pressing issues currently impacting businesses are:



40% of CEOs think local government is affecting the business climate.

HIRING

58%

of CEOs planned to increase their workforce this year,

while just 4% planned reductions.

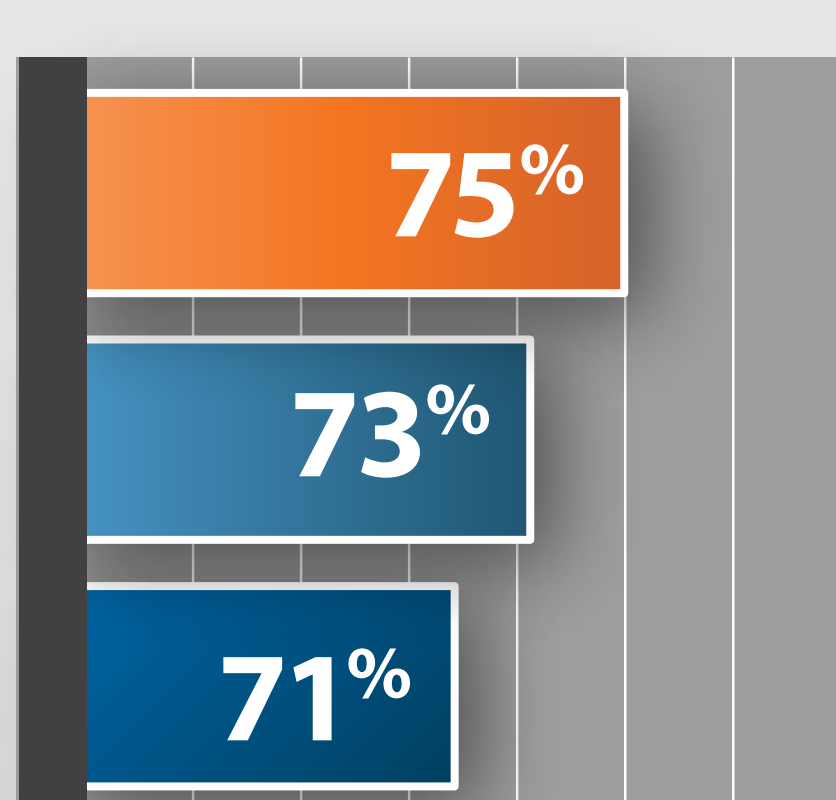
One-in-three firms (35%) said that finding, hiring, training, and retaining talent was the most significant issue that they now faced.



REVENUES

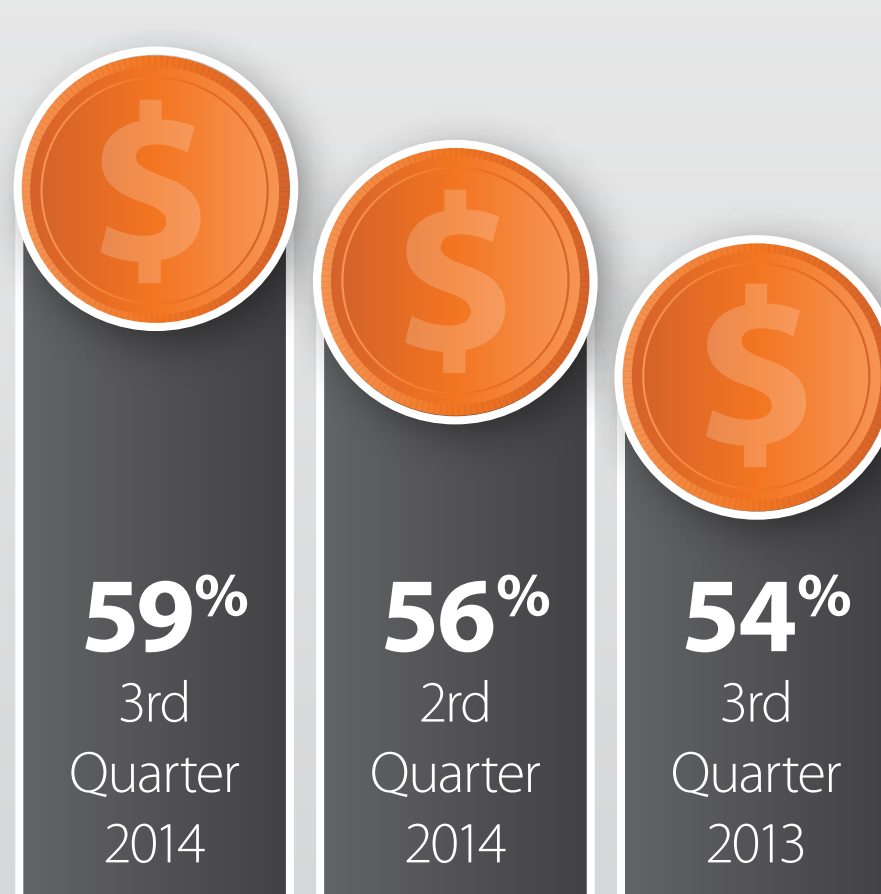
75%

of all CEOs expected increased revenues in the next year, slightly ahead of last quarter's 73% and last year's 71%. **Only 4% anticipated declines in their revenues**, the lowest ever recorded.



59%

of CEOs anticipated increased profits in the 3rd quarter 2014 survey, **just above last quarter's 56%** and above last year's 54%.



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