

Procurement and supply chain pros' top pain points

Fast Radius' new report shows the need for improved digital infrastructure to streamline supply chains in 2022

Sourcing custom parts presents serious challenges to procurement teams. Fast Radius surveyed 250 custom manufacturing customers to better understand their pain points — and how digitizing and streamlining processes with [cloud manufacturing](#) can alleviate them.

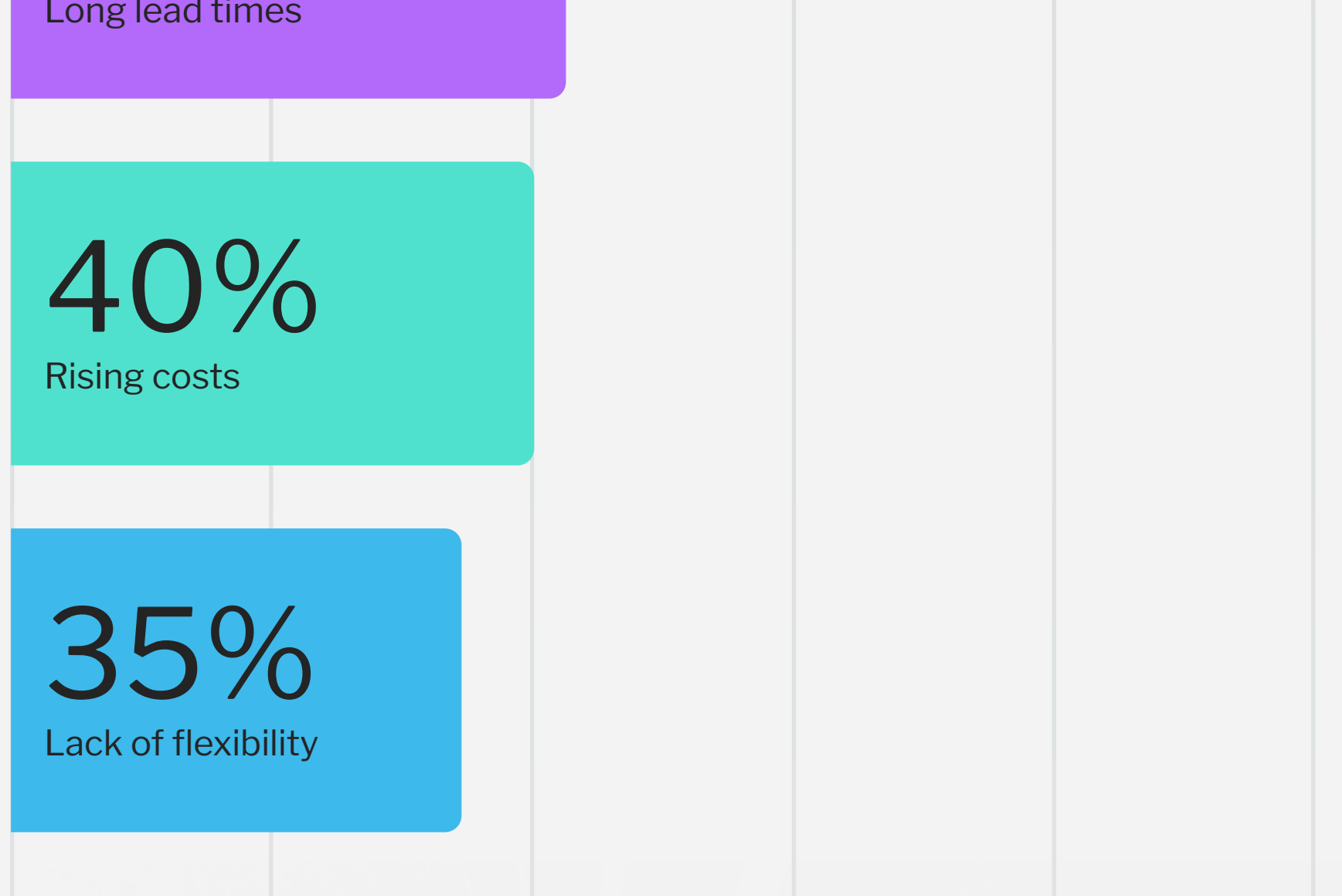
Just-in-time isn't fast or flexible enough

Pros and cons of just-in-time (JIT)

Following JIT manufacturing principles keeps costs low and inventory minimal, but long lead times and fragile supply chains leave procurement teams vulnerable to disruption.

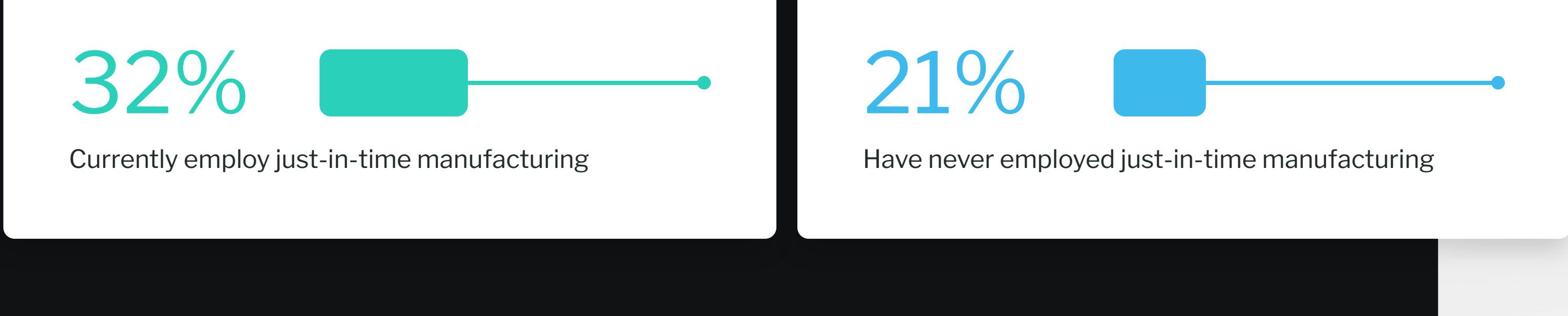
Long lead times and high costs are top supply chain pain points

When asked about supply chain pain points, these were the top three answers



Nearly half of respondents have moved away from the JIT model

Level of JIT adoption at surveyed companies



Quoting inaccuracies and inefficient communication impede projects

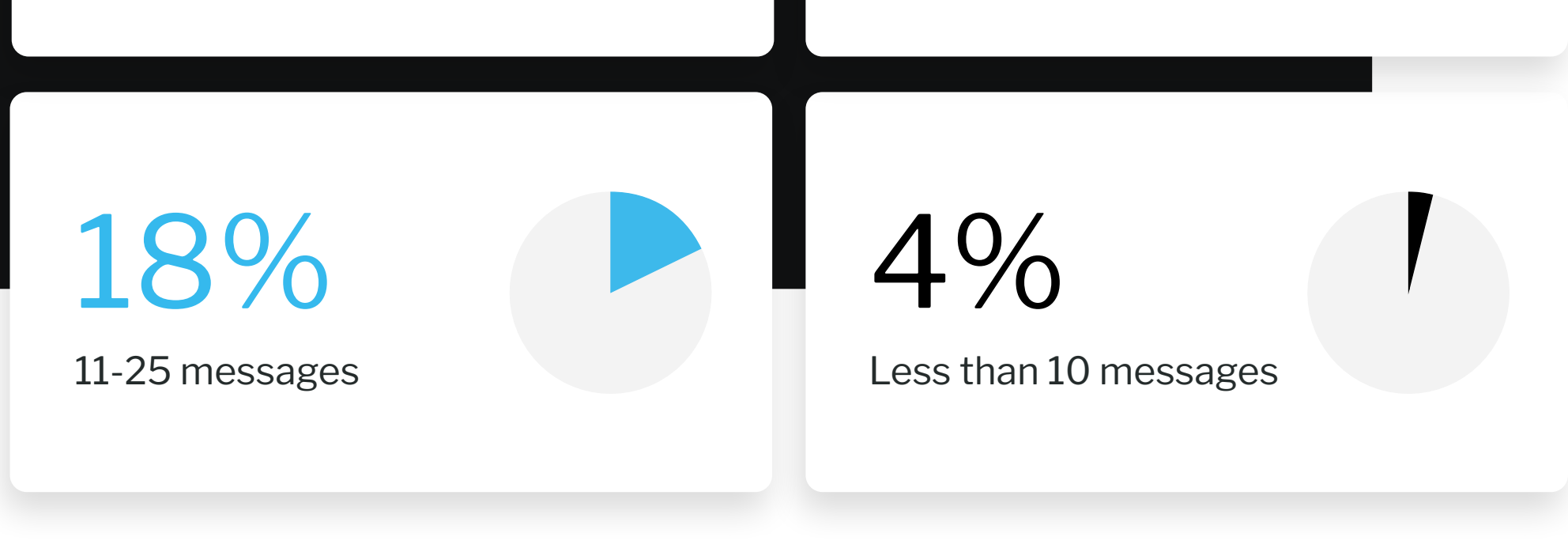
Inefficient communication is the number one quoting pain point

Top pain points during the quoting process

ONE	Communicating with manufacturers takes up too much of my time	28%
TWO	The quotes I receive from manufacturers are inaccurate	20%
TWO	Manufacturers' minimum order quantities (MoQs) are too high for my needs	20%
THREE	It takes too long to get a quote from a manufacturer	17%
FOUR	Manufacturers have trouble understanding my project requirements	15%

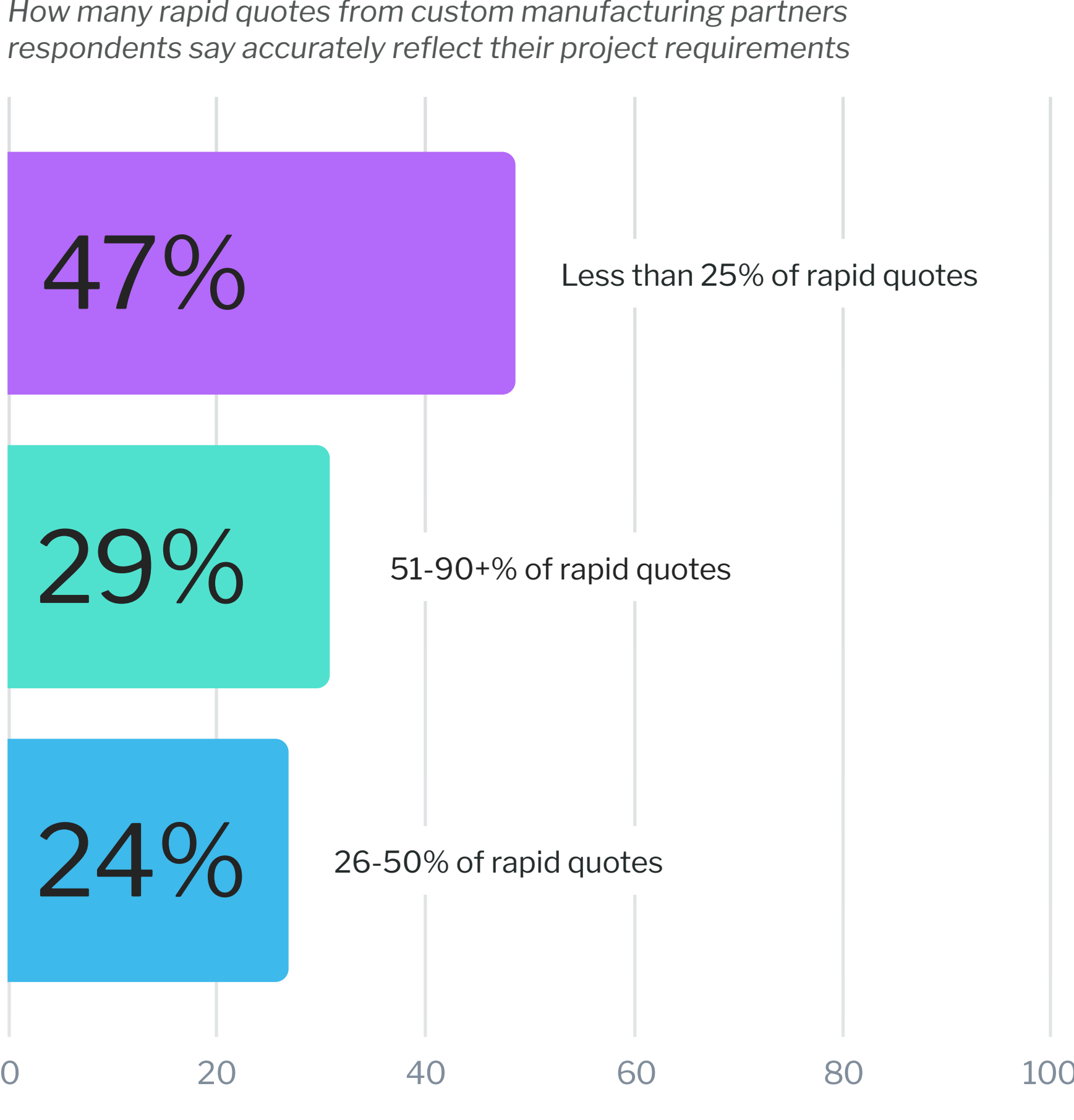
There's too much back-and-forth with custom manufacturers

Number of messages exchanged over the course of the manufacturing process



For procurement professionals, many rapid quotes do not accurately reflect project requirements

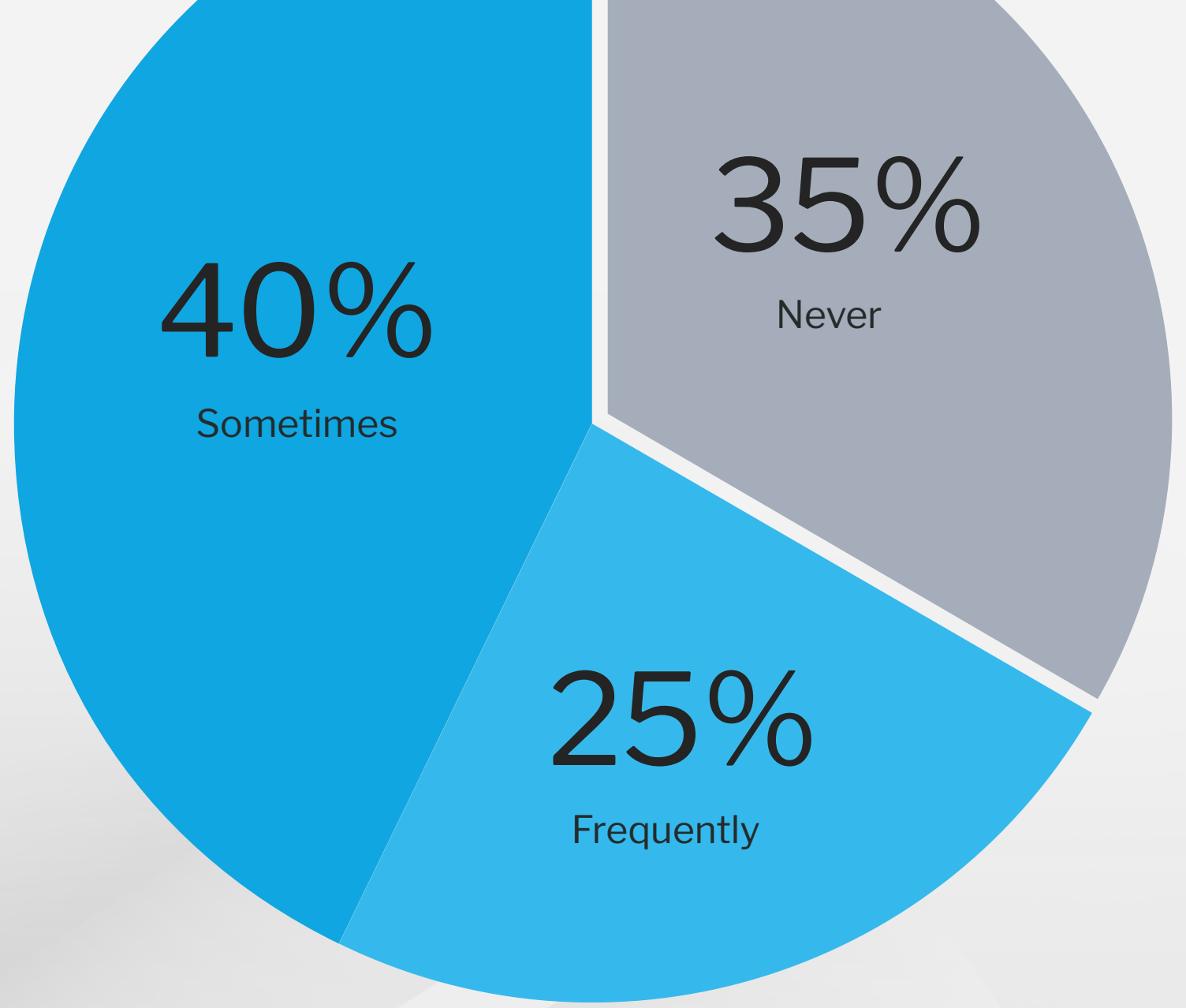
How many rapid quotes from custom manufacturing partners respondents say accurately reflect their project requirements



Poor quality and transparency troubles hurt bottom lines

Quality issues with custom manufacturers are common

How often respondents say custom manufacturing partners deliver parts made inconsistently or not up to spec



52% have found out about delays or errors in production after it was too late to hit their shipping deadlines.

73% said these delays and errors caused budget overages.

Custom manufacturing customers want real-time quality control results

Top 4 types of information respondents wish they could receive in real time

ONE	Quality control results	28%
TWO	Overall order status	27%
THREE	Updates on progress of specific manufacturing steps	24%
FOUR	Shipping updates	20%

Cloud manufacturing streamlines procurement processes

[Cloud manufacturing](#) unites all stages of the manufacturing lifecycle within a common digital infrastructure, creating a flexible platform with the potential for global scale. This system solves for key custom manufacturing pain points by providing:

- A faster, more flexible JIT alternative without the need to carry excess inventory
- More streamlined communication within a centralized digital infrastructure
- In-depth manufacturability feedback that heads off quality issues before they start
- No more surprise delays thanks to granular real-time updates on quality, shipping, and more

Sourcing custom parts doesn't have to be as time-consuming and resource-intensive as it is today. By working with an expert cloud manufacturing partner, procurement teams can streamline communication, boost transparency and quality, and alleviate supply chain woes.