# **UFI Global Exhibition** Barometer





Report based on the results of a survey concluded in January 2021



Global



Japan



əfe

**□**AFEP

**AFIDA** 



Southern Africa



Macau



United Kingdom

















Peru













South America



































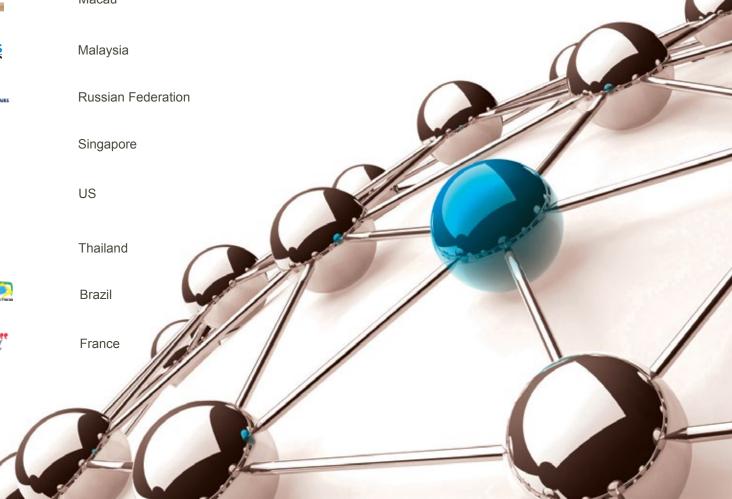








India



### **UFI Research: An Overview**



## Global Reports



Analysing the global exhibition industry with global comparisons.

**Global Barometer** – Bi-annual report on industry developments.

**World Map of Venues** — Report on trends in venue space and project developments globally.

**Economic Impact Study** – Report on the value of exhibitions globally and regionally.

**United Nations Sustainable Development Goals** – Report on the economic, social & environmental impacts of a number of exhibition industry projects.

## Regional Reports



Regular market overviews on UFI's chapter regions.

**Euro Fair Statistics** – Annual list of certified data for Europe by country.

The Trade Fair Industry in Asia – Annual analysis of market developments for Asia/Pacific by country.

**The Exhibition Industry in MEA** – Overview of the exhibition market in the MEA region.

The Exhibition Industry in Latin America – The first comprehensive overview by UFI of the exhibition industry Latin America.

# Topical Reports



Focused reports on challenges and developments within the exhibition industry.

**COVID Related Research** – Data, reports, and standards covering the exhibitions industry.

Global Visitor Insights & Global Exhibitor Insights – Data driven research reports on visitor feedback and exhibitor expectations.

**Best Practices Compendiums** – Case studies of successful industry developments.

**Special Industry Topics** – A wide ranging selection of bespoke reports into specific industry topics.

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UFI Research is available at www.ufi.org/research

## Contents



| Introduction                                                                                                                                                                                            | 04                         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Results globally                                                                                                                                                                                        |                            |
| Operations since 2020 – Reopening Exhibitions Turnover – Operating profits Public Financial Support – Workforce – Perspectives Most Important Business Issues Format of Exhibitions in the Coming Years | 05<br>09<br>11<br>13<br>16 |
| Regional and detailed results for selected countries                                                                                                                                                    |                            |
| North America – Mexico and US                                                                                                                                                                           | 19                         |
| Central and South America – Argentina, Brazil, Peru and Colombia                                                                                                                                        | 39                         |
| Europe – France, Germany, Italy, Russian Federation, Spain, Turkey and UK                                                                                                                               | 69                         |
| Middle East / Africa – South Africa et UAE Asia/Pacific – Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea and Thailand                                                      | 114<br>134                 |
| Conclusion                                                                                                                                                                                              | 189                        |
| Answers per country/region                                                                                                                                                                              | 190                        |

### Introduction



Welcome to the 26th edition of the "UFI Global Exhibition Barometer" survey. This study is based on a global survey, conducted in December 2020. It represents up-to-date information on the status and outlook of the global exhibition industry as well as on 29 specific markets, including France and Peru for the first time.

UFI launched the barometer on the back of a global crisis – the 2008 Financial Crisis - and this edition updates and adds to the previous one released in July 2020 to produce an assessment on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the exhibition industry in the full year 2020, as well as projections for the future.

With more than 450 participating companies for the second time in a row, the reach of this barometer is unprecedented. It enables us to share specific, vastly expanded insights into 24 markets and 6 regions. This is the result of global collaboration, and we wish to thank all the following associations who take part in the project. In addition to AFEP (Asociacion de Ferias del Peru), MACEOS (Malaysian Association of Convention and Exhibition Organisers and Suppliers) and UNIMEV (French Meeting Industry Council), who joined as from this latest survey, these are: AAXO (The Association of African Exhibition Organizers) and EXSA (Exhibition and Events Association of Southern Africa) in South Africa, AEO (Association of Event Organisers) in the UK, AFE (Spanish Trade Fairs Association) in Spain, AFIDA (Asociación Internacional de Ferias de América) in Central and South America, AKEI (The Association of Korean Exhibition Industry) in South Korea, AMPROFEC

(Asociación Mexicana de Profesionales de Ferias y Exposiciones y Convenciones) in Mexico, EEAA (The Exhibition and Event Association of Australasia) in Australasia, IECA (Indonesia Exhibition Companies Association) in Indonesia, IEIA (Indian Exhibition Industry Association) in India, JEXA (Japan Exhibition Association) in Japan, MFTA (Macau Fair Trade Association) in Macau, RUEF (Russian Union of Exhibitions and Fairs), SECB (Singapore Exhibition & Convention Bureau) in Singapore, SISO (Society of Independent Show Organizers) for the US, TEA (Thai Exhibition Association) in Thailand and UBRAFE (União Brasileira dos Promotores Feiras) in Brazil.

#### **Important remarks**

The number of replies to the current survey (457 from 64 countries and regions - see full list at the end of the document) provides representative results. However, the consolidated regional results may not reflect the situation of specific countries in that region. This is why the report also includes a set of detailed results for the 24 markets where a significant number of answers were obtained.

Due to decimal rounding, the percentage values indicated in some charts may not exactly sum up to 100%.

Questions related to this survey can be addressed to Christian Druart, UFI Research Manager, at research@ufi.org
This research is available online at www.ufi.org/research

## **Operations - Reopening Exhibitions**



The 26th Barometer surveyed participants' monthly operations, to qualify their level of activity as "normal", "reduced" or "no activity", from July 2020 and including their predictions for the first half of 2021. Companies were also asked when they believed exhibitions would open again in their city, and what element they considered most helpful towards the "bounce back" of exhibitions. The following chart presents the results, globally first, and then for each region with comparison to the World. The first series of charts include the level of activity for the first half of 2020, as declared in the 25th Barometer concluded in July.

#### Globally:

- between April and August 2020, more than half of companies had no activity.
- this situation changed as from September, where a majority of companies declared the return of some operations, reduced for most.
- for 2021, the proportion of companies expecting a "normal" level of activity grows from 10% for January to 37% for June.

Those results vary depending on the region, and they are primarily driven by the "reopening date" of exhibitions; in all regions, a majority of companies expect both "local" and "national"

exhibitions to open again by the end of June 2021 latest. But that is not expected until the second half of 2021 for international exhibitions. Company operations also include, for many companies and while face-to-face events are not possible, working into the development of digital solutions.

When looking at the period when a majority of companies declared "no activity" in 2020, it is limited to March-June for Asia/Pacific and April-June for North America, and April-September for Central & South America as well as the Middle East and Africa. For Europe, an initial period lasted from April to August, followed by an additional period from November to December.

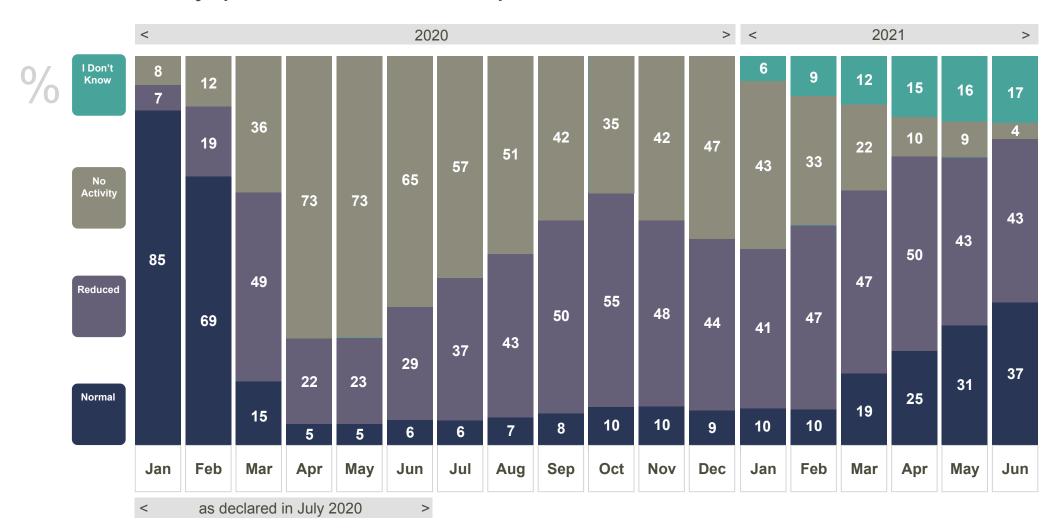
When asked what element would most help towards the "bounce back" of exhibitions, a majority of companies, rank "Readiness of exhibiting companies and visitors to participate again" (64% of answers globally), "Lift of current travel restrictions" (63%) and "Lift of current public policies that apply locally to exhibitions" (52%) first. These "top 3" elements apply to all regions, except North America, where "Relevant hygiene measures" ranks second (with 51% of answers), and Central and South America & the Middle East / Africa, where "Financial incentive packages leading to reduced costs for the exhibitors" ranks third (with 43% of answers for both regions).

# Operations - Reopening Exhibitions World





#### Situation of industry operations in 2020 and current predictions for the 1st half of 2021



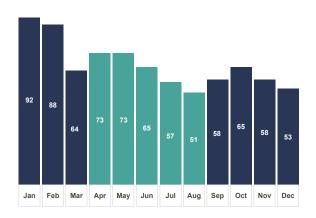
# Operations - Reopening Exhibitions World & Regions



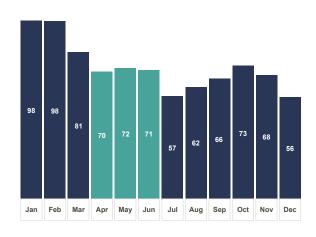


#### **Dominant Status of Operations in 2020**

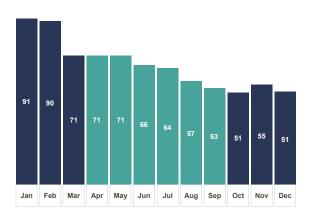
#### World



#### **North America**



**Central and South America** 

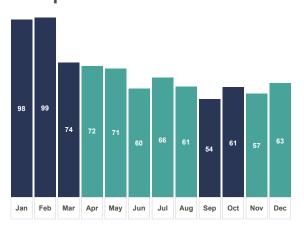


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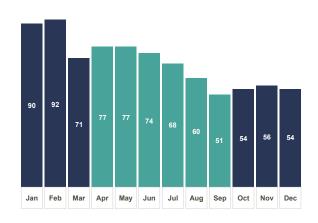


Reduced or Normal Activity

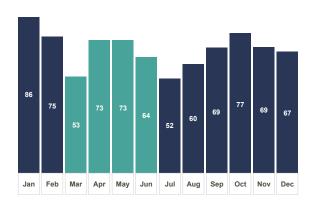
**Europe** 



Middle East - Africa



Asia/Pacific



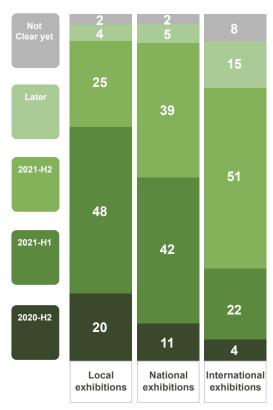
# **Operations - Reopening Exhibitions World**



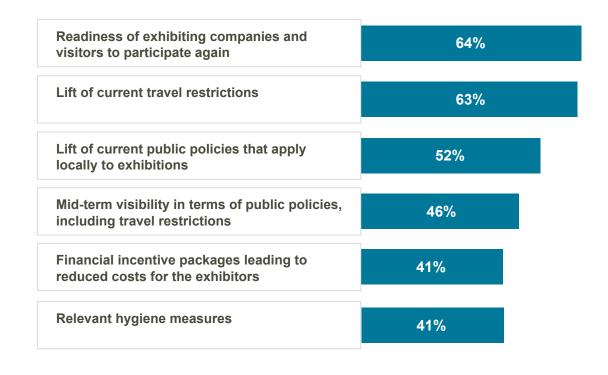


# When do you believe exhibitions will open again in your city?





## What do you believe would most help the "bounce back" of exhibitions?



### **Turnover - Operating profits**



The 26th Barometer surveyed the evolution of participants' gross turnover, when compared to 2019, for the full year 2020, as well as their expectations for the first half of 2021, and for all of 2021. The survey also questioned the evolution of operating profits for 2020 compared to the previous year.

#### The following charts present:

- the 2020, H1-2021 and 2021 revenues compared to 2019, on average for all companies, and also broken down per level of revenue realized (0% of last year, less than 25%, etc.).
- the evolution of operating profits for 2020 and also, taken from the previous Barometer, those for 2019.

On average globally, revenues for 2020 represented only 28% of the revenues produced for same period last year. Looking at 2021, it is currently expected that the revenues will represent 34% of those of 2019 for the first half of 2021, and 58% for all of 2021.

In terms of profits, 52% of companies faced a loss, and 30% a reduction of their profit by more than 50%.

#### Regional results indicate that:

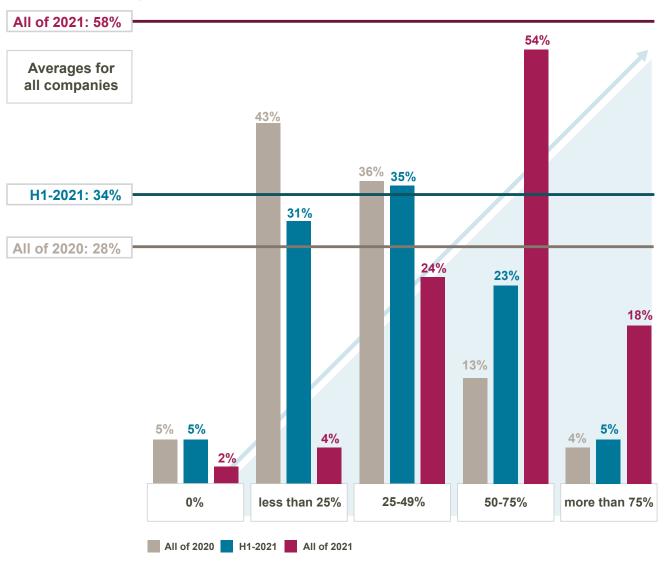
- The revenue drop for all of 2020 was highest in Central and South America and the Middle East & Africa (respectively only 23% and 24% of the 2019 revenue). Asia-Pacific (27%), Europe (32%) and North America (36%) are on or above the global average; for 2021, the perspectives are rather similar for all regions: between 32% and 37% of the 2019 revenue for H1-2021, and between 55% and 60% for all of 2021.
- In terms of profits, the percentage of companies who faced a loss for 2020 varies from 47% in the Asia-Pacific region and Europe, 50% in North America, 58% in the Middle East & Africa, and 64% in Central and South America.

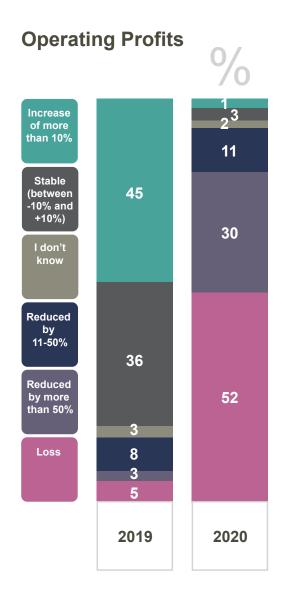
# **Turnover - Operating Profits World**





#### Revenue compared to 2019





### **Public Financial Support – Workforce – Perspectives**



The 26th Barometer surveyed the impact of the COVID-19 crisis regarding public financial support, workforce reduction, and also their perspectives in case of no business for the next 6 months.

Overall, 44% of companies benefitted from some level of public financial support, and for a majority of them it related to less than 10% of their 2019 overall costs.

This public support is stronger in Europe (54%) and Asia/Pacific (53%) than Central & South America (35%), North America (31%) or the Middle East / Africa (13%).

54% of companies had to reduce their workforce, half of them by more than 25%.

Reduction of workforce were stronger in the Middle East / Africa (73%), North America (61%) and Central & South America (56%) than in Europe (52%) or Asia/Pacific (49%).

10% of companies state they will have to close down if there is no business for the next 6 months (5% in North America, 6% in Asia/Pacific, 10% in Central & South America, 14% in Europe and 17% for the Middle East / Africa).

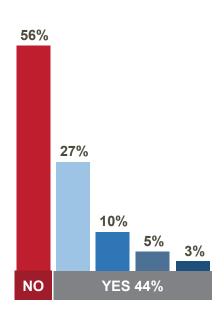
For 57% globally, "it will be hard, but we can keep our heads above water", while 33% of companies consider they will manage (this proportion varies from 26% in Europe to 40% in Asia/Pacific).

# Public Financial Support – Workforce – Perspectives WORLD

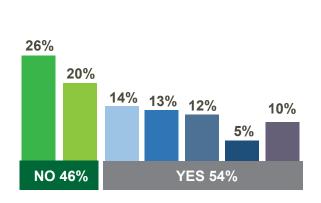




# Did your company benefit from public financial support?



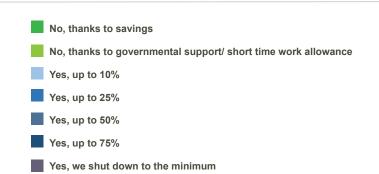
# Have you had to reduce your workforce?



#### If there is no business for the next 6 months, which best applies?









### **Most Important Business Issues**



Companies were asked to identify the **three most important issues** for their business in the coming year from a pre-defined list of eight issues, including the "Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the business". Multiple choices were proposed to get further insights for some answers.

"Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the business" is considered as the most important business issue (29% of combined answers, a 2% increase compared to 6 months ago). "Impact of digitalisation" (11% of answers) and "Competition with other media" (7%) are also increasing (by respectively +1% and +2%), while "State of the economy in home market" (19%) and "Global economic developments" (16%) decrease but remain among the top 3 concerns. "Internal challenges" (7%) and "Competition from within the industry" (4%), that always were in the top four most important business issues before the COVID-19 crisis, have been ranked below for the last 2 surveys. "Regulatory / Stakeholders issues" keeps a similar level to the last survey (5%).

The following pages show the consolidated results, for the world and by region. While "Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the business" is the top priority in all regions, "Global economic developments" are ranked higher in the Middle East / Africa (23%) than in other regions. It can also be noticed that the "Impact of digitisation" in ranked higher in North America (15%) and Europe (14%) than in the other regions.

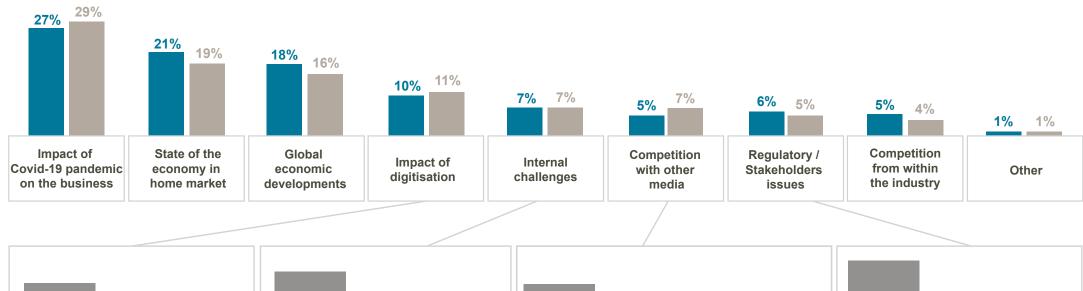
Further insight is also provided by type of activity (for 3 main segments: "Organiser", "Venue only" and "Service provider only"), and the main differences can be spotted as to the 4th issue for each category: "Impact of digitalisation" for Organisers (13% of answers), "Internal challenges" for venues only (10%) and "Regulatory / Stakeholders Issues" for Service providers (8%).



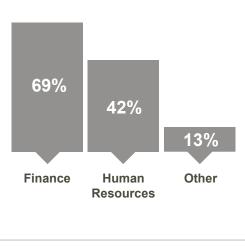


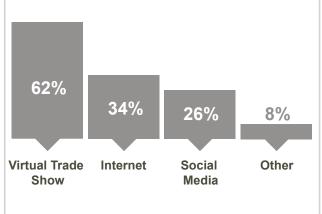
#### **Results from previous survey - June 2020**

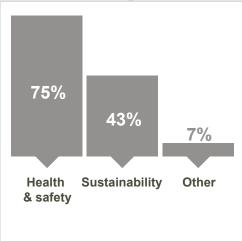
Results from current survey - Dec 2020







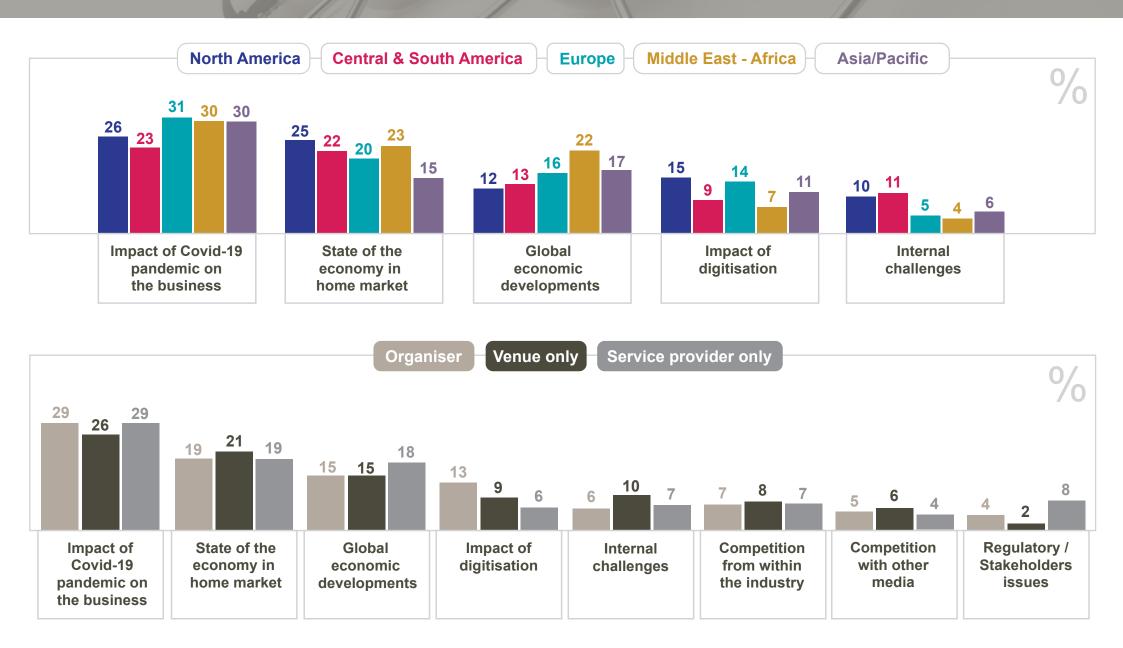




(multiple answers possible)

# Most important issues: detail by region and type of activity for the five top issues identified globally





## Format of Exhibitions in the Coming Years



The 26th Barometer surveyed on possible driving trends for the format of exhibitions in the coming years, by asking companies to assess four different statements. As the same question was asked 6 months ago, the comparisons allow to identify trends.

#### Global results indicate that:

- 64% compared to 57% 6 months ago are confident that "COVID-19 confirms the value of face- to-face events" anticipating that the sector will bounce back quickly (26% "Yes, for sure" and 38% "Most probably"), but 32% are "Not sure" (31% 6 months ago).
- 63% compared to 57% 6 months ago believe that there will be "Less international 'physical' exhibitions, and overall, less participants" (10% "Yes, for sure" and 53% "Most probably"), and 34% are "Not sure".
- 80% of companies close to the 82% from 6 months ago consider that there is "A push towards hybrid events, more digital elements at events" (32% "Yes, for sure" and 48% "Most probably").
- A minority of 14% close to the 17% from 6 months ago agrees with "Virtual events replacing physical events" (3% "Yes, for sure" and 11% "Most probably"), and 44% are "Not sure".

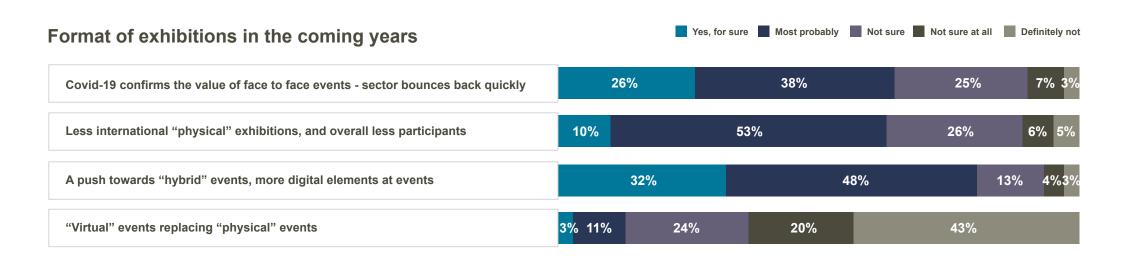
#### There are two significant regional differentiations:

- "COVID-19 confirms the value of face- to-face events", more widely agreed in the Middle East / Africa (70% of companies), Asia/Pacific (69%) and Europe (67%) than North America (55%) or Central and South America (53%)
- "Virtual events replacing physical events", with stronger and opposing views – from Europe, where 74% of companies disagree, and from North America, where "only" 57% do.

# Format of Exhibitions in the Coming Years World







# Part 2: Detailed results or 5 regions and 24 countries



| North America:             | Mexico<br>US                                                                  |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Central and South America: | Argentina<br>Brazil<br>Peru<br>Colombia                                       |
| Europe:                    | France Germany Italy Russian Federation Spain Turkey United Kingdom           |
| Middle East / Africa:      | South Africa<br>UAE                                                           |
| Asia/Pacific:              | Australia China Hong Kong India Japan Malaysia Singapore South Korea Thailand |



### **Operations - Reopening Exhibitions** North America





#### Situation of industry operations in 2020 and current predictions for the 1st half of 2021

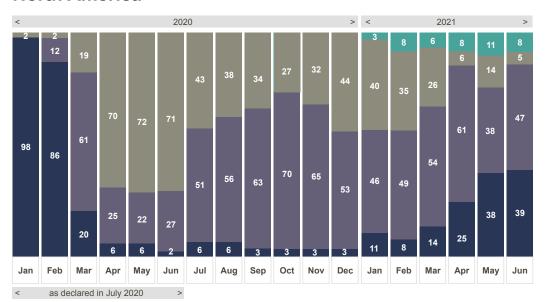








#### **North America**





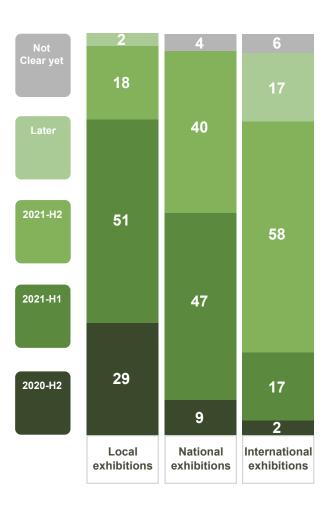
# Operations - Reopening Exhibitions North America

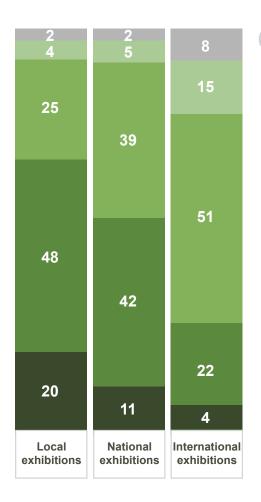




When do you believe exhibitions will open again in your city?

#### **North America**





# Operations - Reopening Exhibitions North America

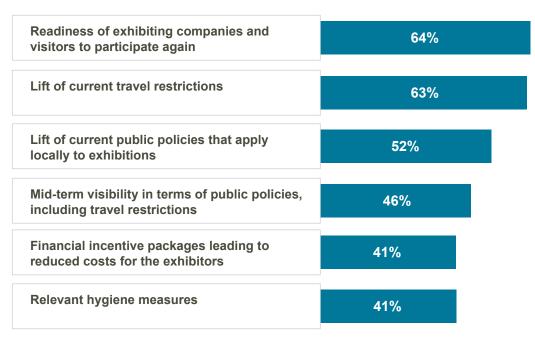




#### What do you believe would most help the "bounce back" of exhibitions?

#### **North America**

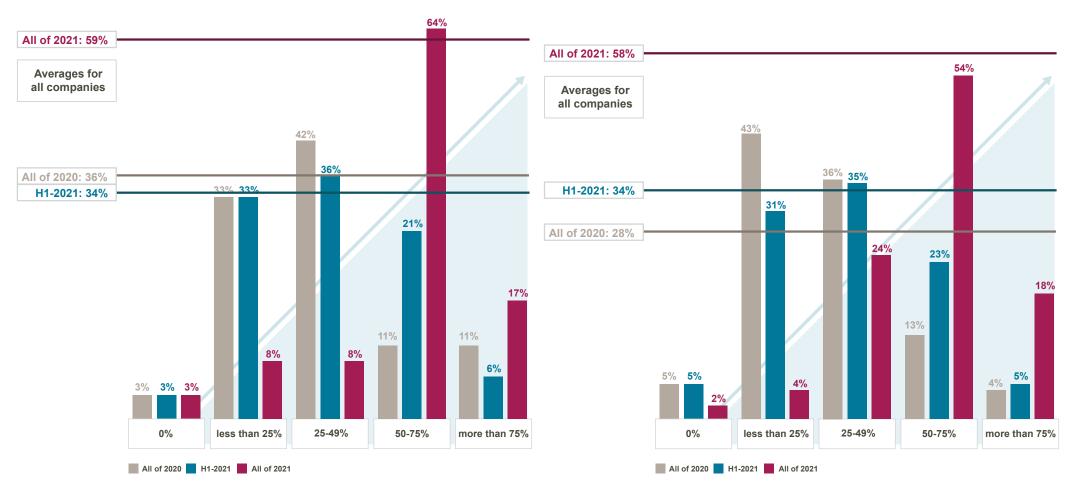
#### Readiness of exhibiting companies and 62% visitors to participate again Lift of current travel restrictions 36% Lift of current public policies that apply 31% locally to exhibitions Mid-term visibility in terms of public policies, 23% including travel restrictions Financial incentive packages leading to 21% reduced costs for the exhibitors Relevant hygiene measures 51%





#### Revenue compared to last year (2019)

North America World



# Operating Profits North America





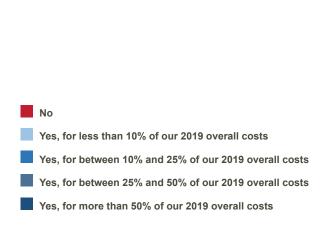
## Public Financial Support North America

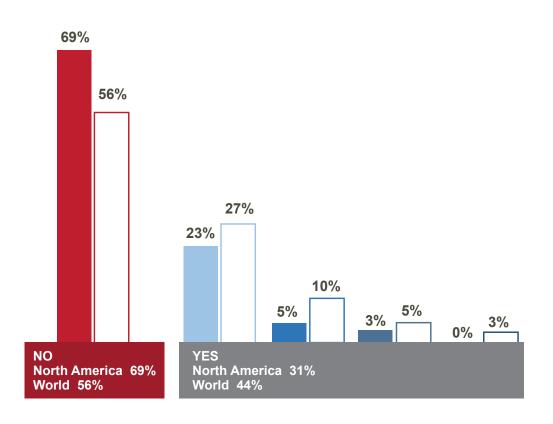




# Did your company benefit from public financial support?

North America

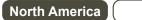


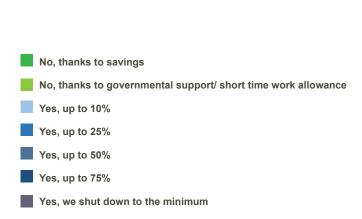


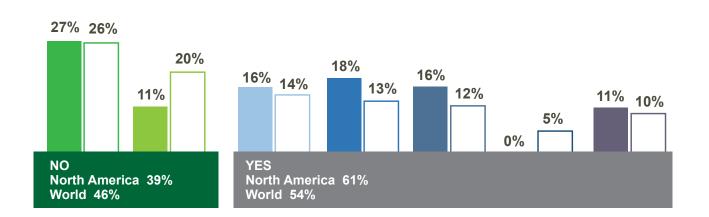
## Workforce North America



#### Have you had to reduce your workforce?







## Perspectives North America



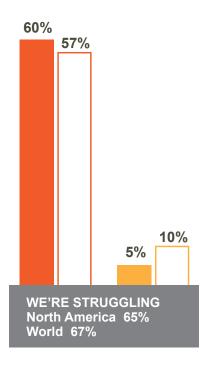


North America



- It's okay, we'll survive from our savings
- It will be hard, but we can keep our heads above water
- I'm afraid we'd have to close down

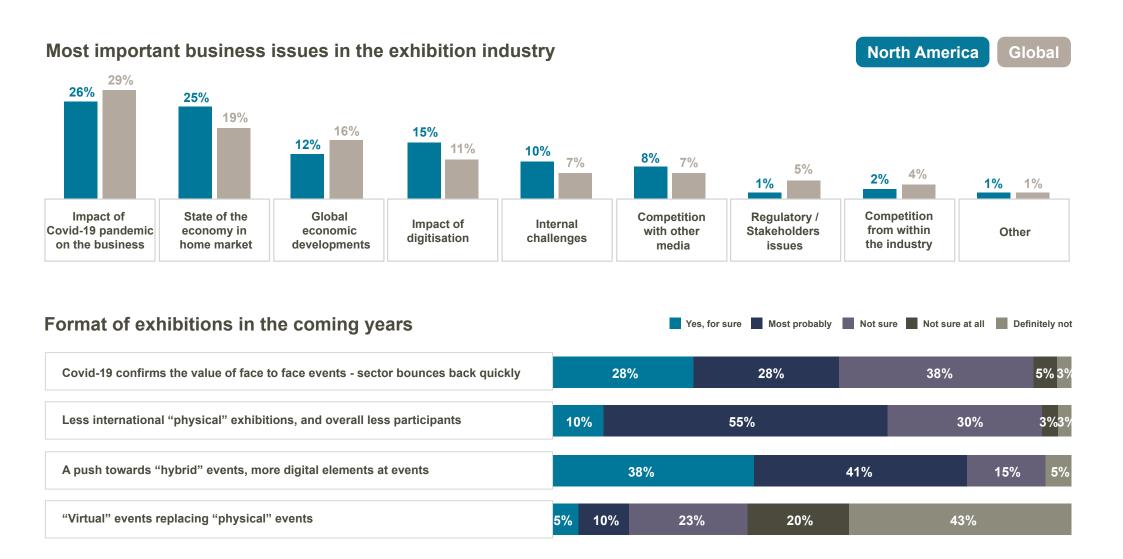




# Most Important Business Issues - Format of Exhibitions - North America



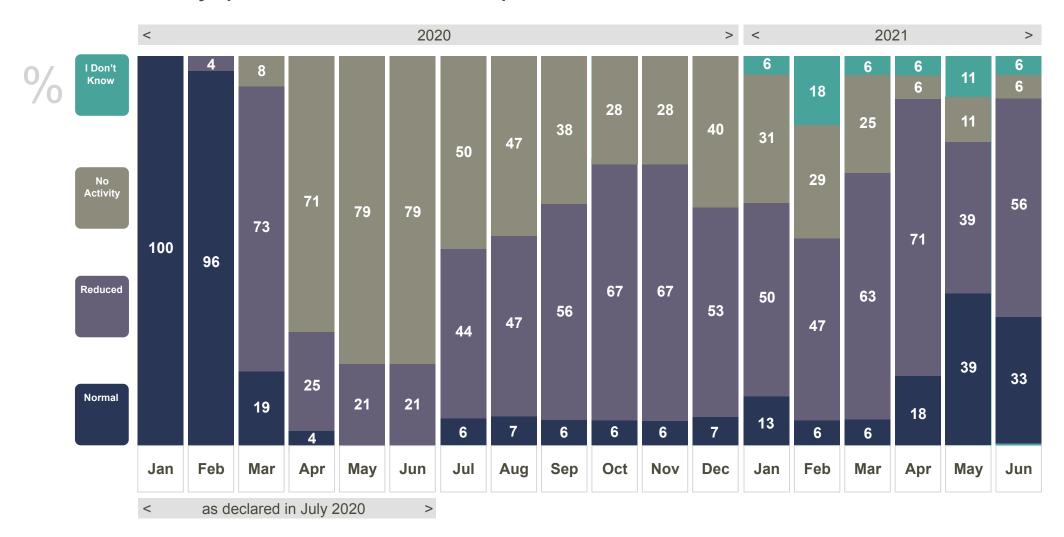








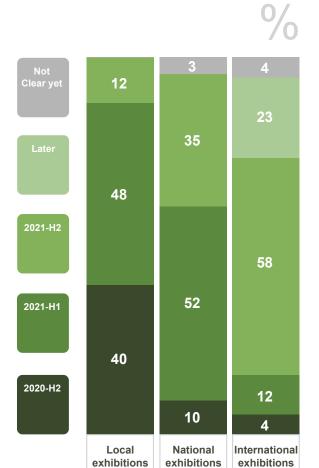
#### Situation of industry operations in 2020 and current predictions for the 1st half of 2021



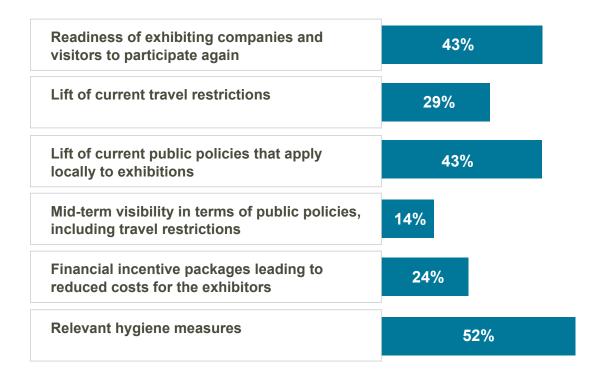




# When do you believe exhibitions will open again in your city?

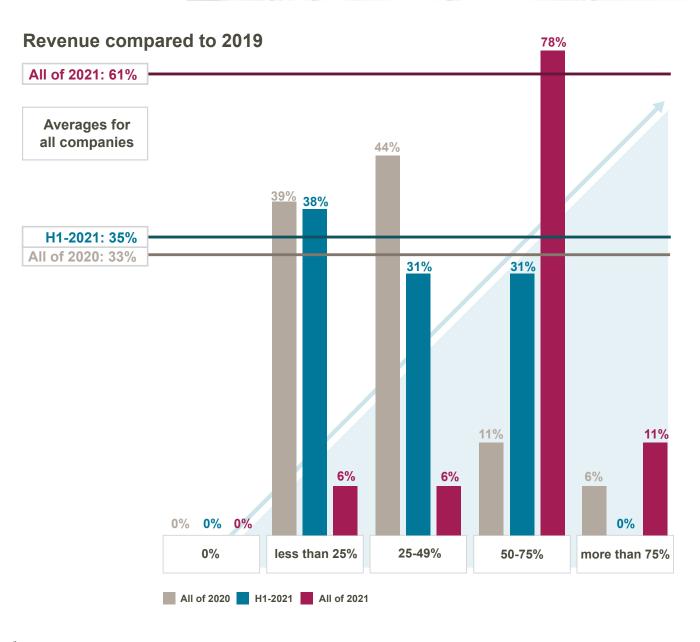


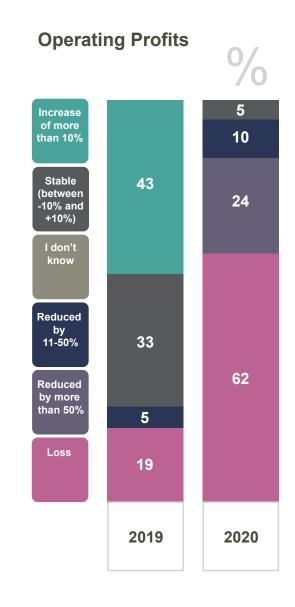
# What do you believe would most help the "bounce back" of exhibitions?







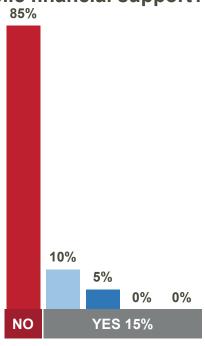




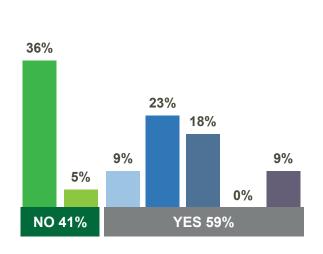




# Did your company benefit from public financial support?



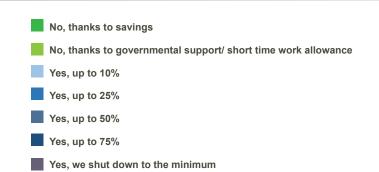
# Have you had to reduce your workforce?

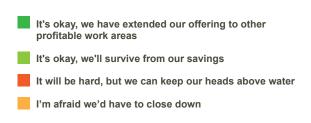


#### If there is no business for the next 6 months, which best applies?



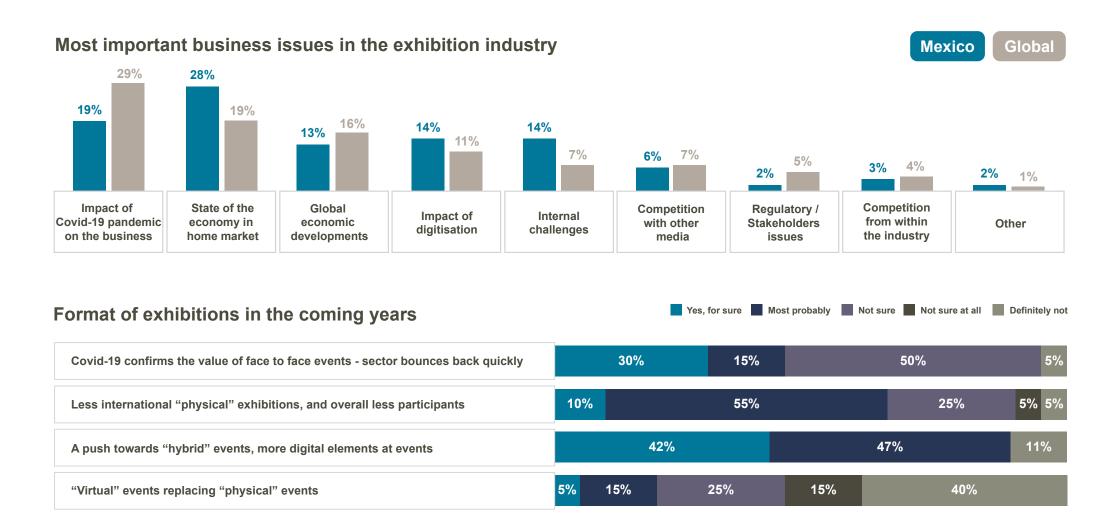










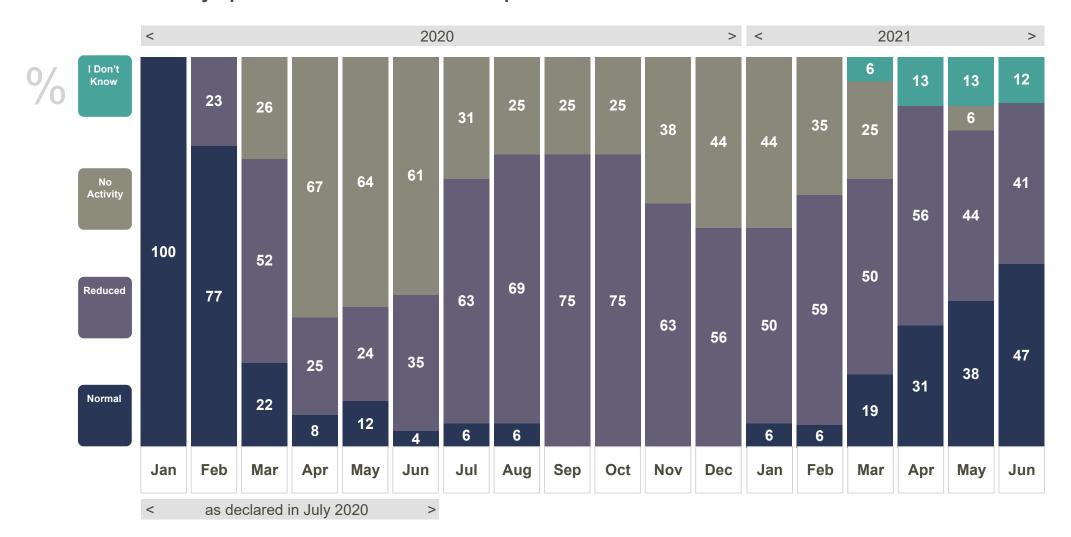


### **Detailed results for US**





#### Situation of industry operations in 2020 and current predictions for the 1st half of 2021

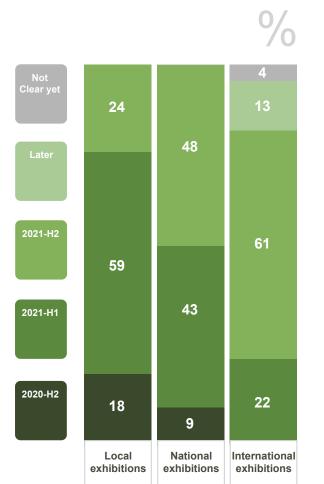


### **Detailed results for US**

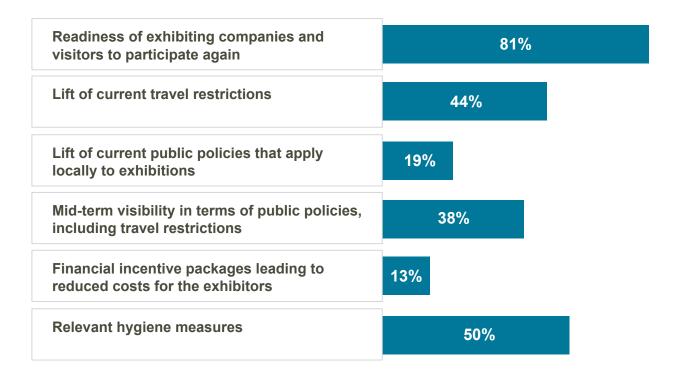




# When do you believe exhibitions will open again in your city?



# What do you believe would most help the "bounce back" of exhibitions?

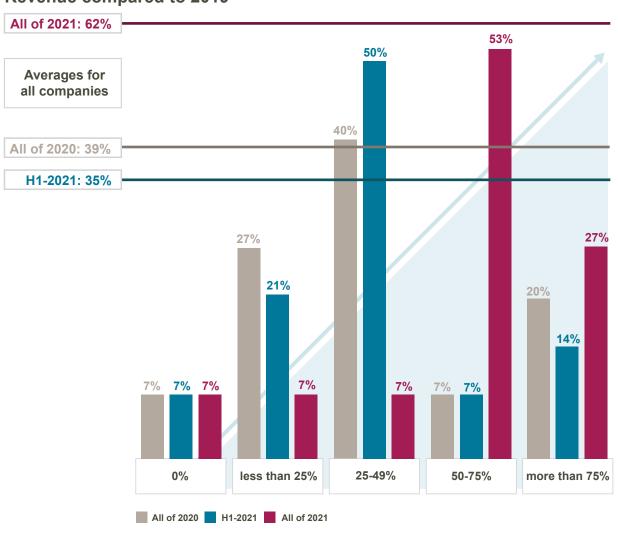


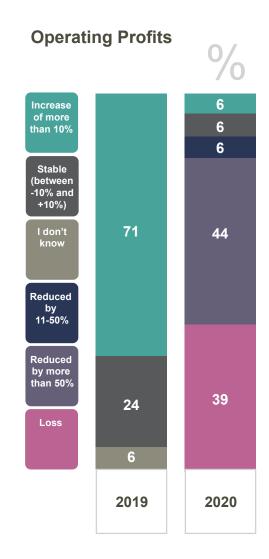
## **Detailed results for US**









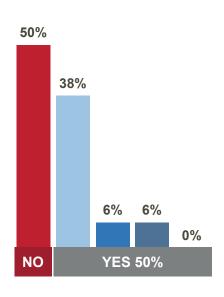


## **Detailed results for US**

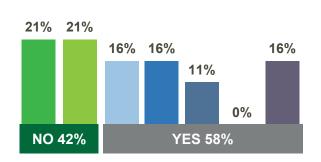




# Did your company benefit from public financial support?



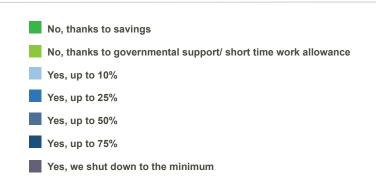
# Have you had to reduce your workforce?

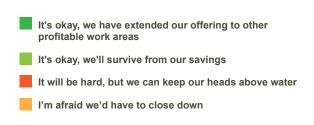








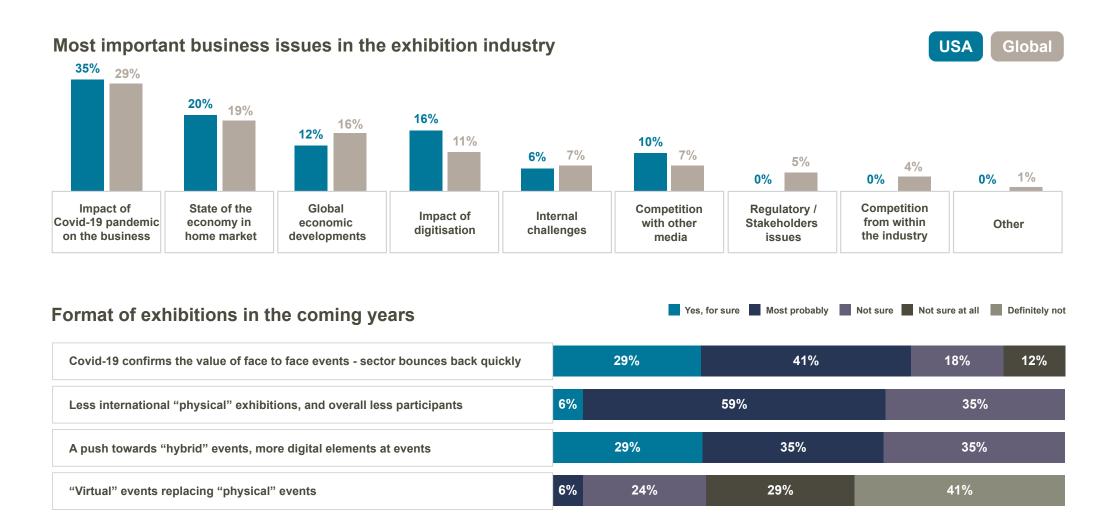




## **Detailed results for US**









# **Operations - Reopening Exhibitions Central and South America**





#### Situation of industry operations in 2020 and current predictions for the 1st half of 2021

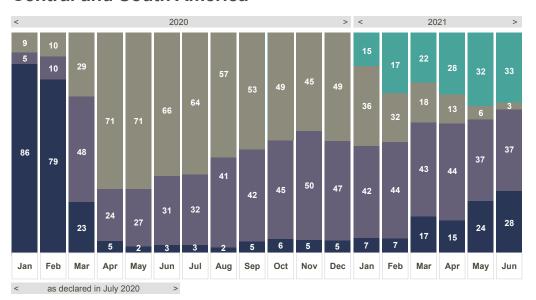


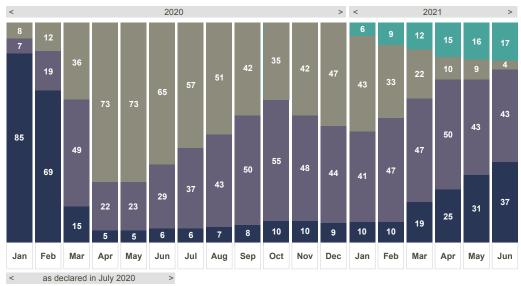






#### **Central and South America**





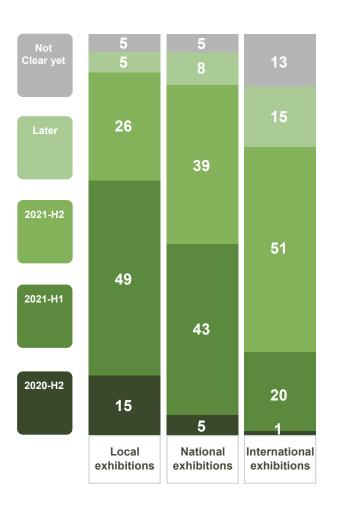
# Operations - Reopening Exhibitions Central and South America

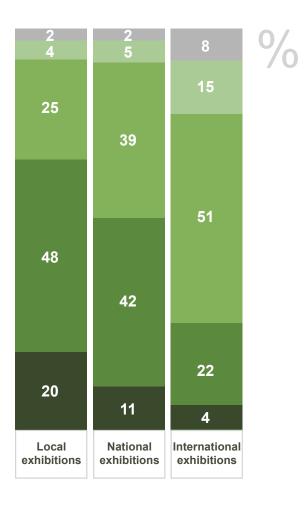




When do you believe exhibitions will open again in your city?

#### **Central and South America**





# Operations - Reopening Exhibitions Central and South America

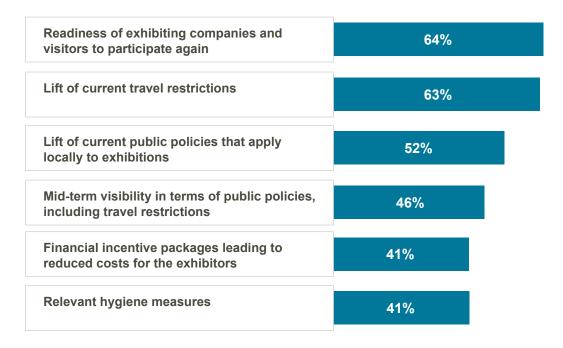




#### What do you believe would most help the "bounce back" of exhibitions?

#### **Central and South America**

| Readiness of exhibiting companies and visitors to participate again            | 49% |  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|--|
| Lift of current travel restrictions                                            | 42% |  |
| Lift of current public policies that apply locally to exhibitions              | 58% |  |
| Mid-term visibility in terms of public policies, including travel restrictions | 37% |  |
| Financial incentive packages leading to reduced costs for the exhibitors       | 43% |  |
| Relevant hygiene measures                                                      | 42% |  |

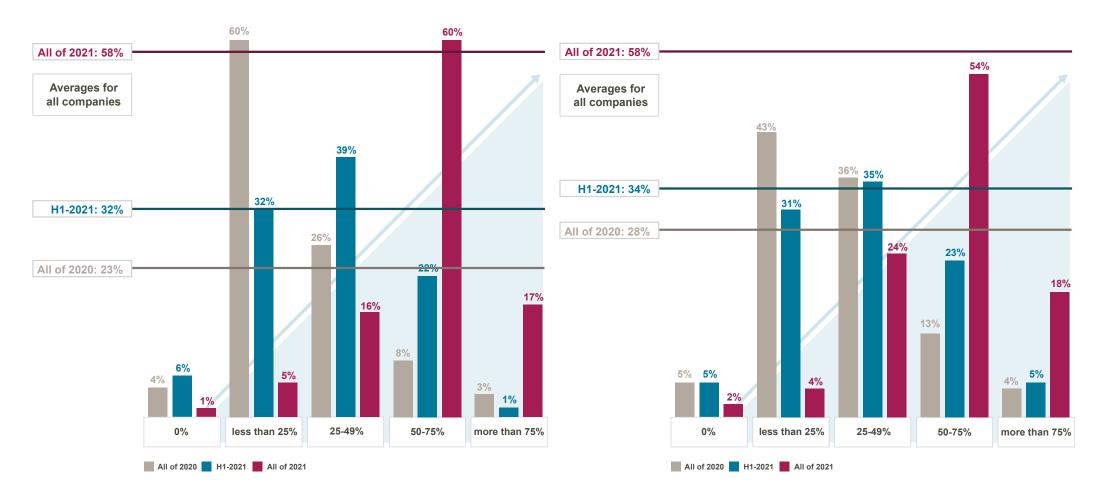


# Turnover Central and South America



#### Revenue compared to last year (2019)

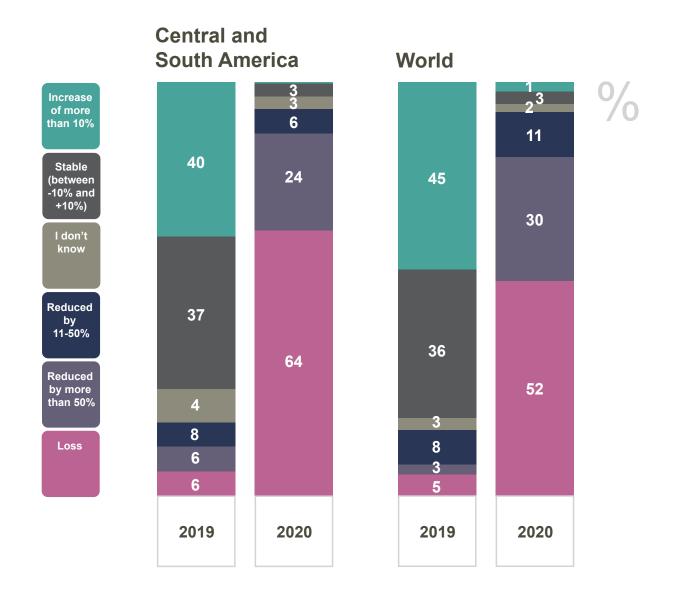
#### **Central and South America**



# Operating Profits Central and South America







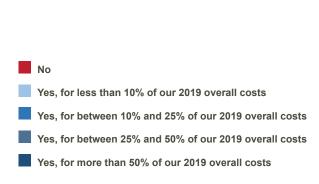
## Public Financial Support Central and South America

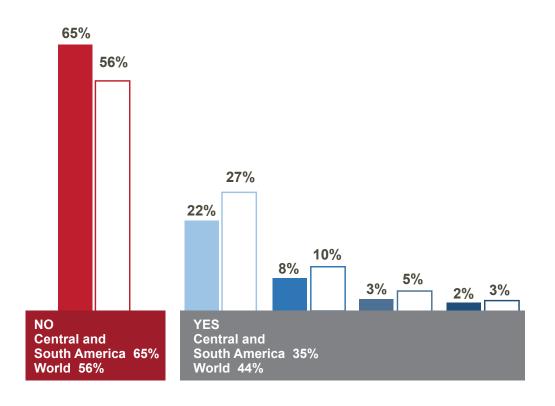




# Did your company benefit from public financial support?

Central and South America



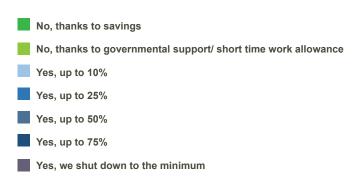


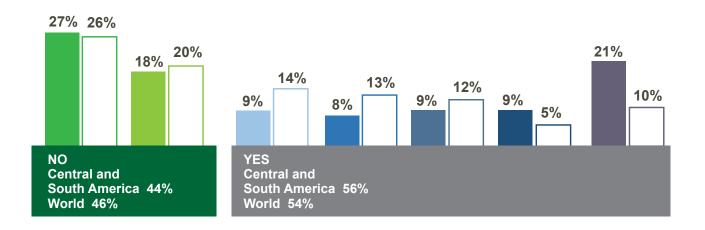
## Workforce Central and South America



#### Have you had to reduce your workforce?

**Central and South America** 





## Perspectives Central and South America



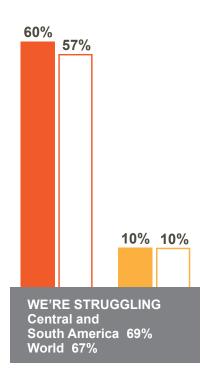




Central and South America

- It's okay, we have extended our offering to other profitable work areas
- It's okay, we'll survive from our savings
- It will be hard, but we can keep our heads above water
- I'm afraid we'd have to close down

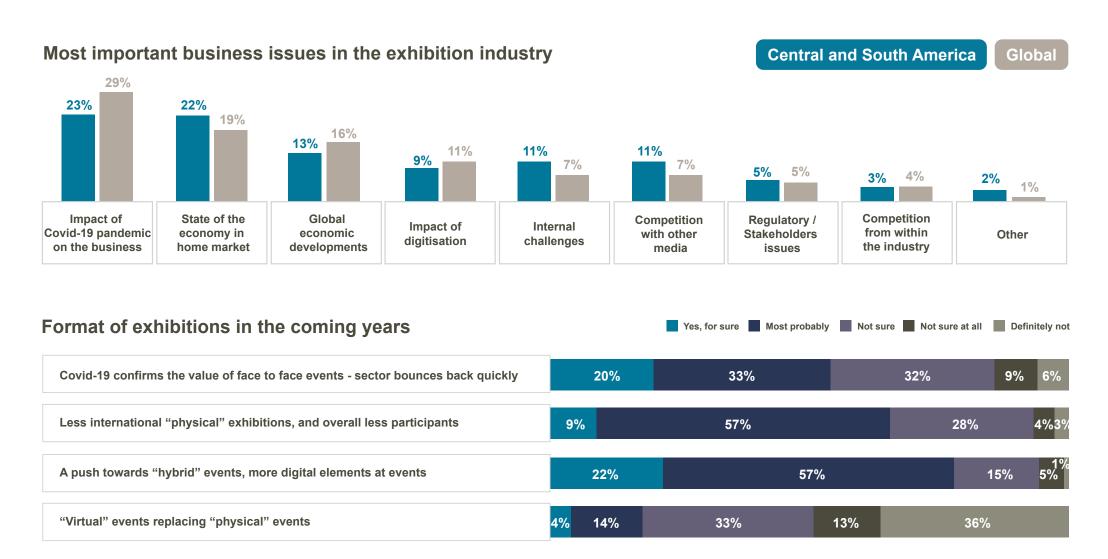




# **Most Important Business Issues - Format of Exhibitions - Central and South America**



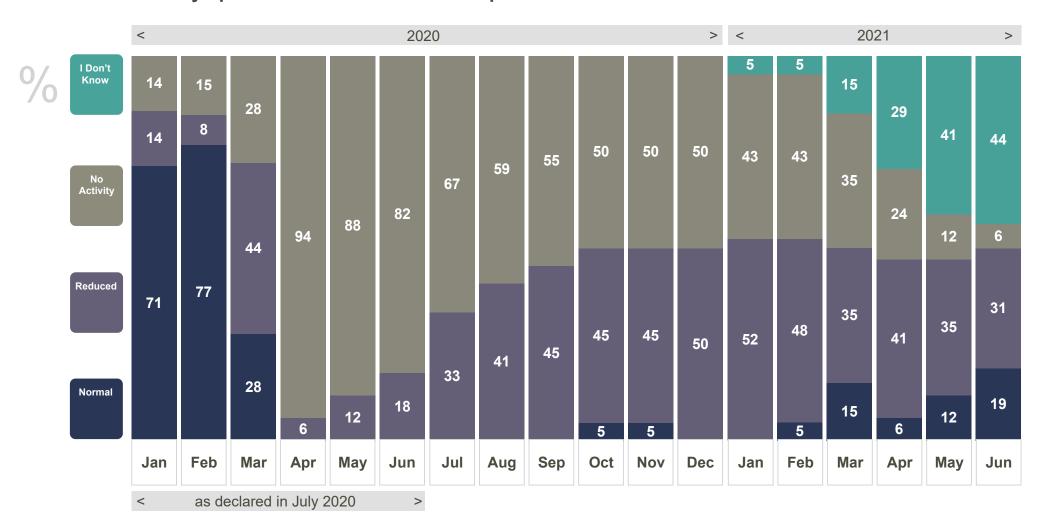








#### Situation of industry operations in 2020 and current predictions for the 1st half of 2021

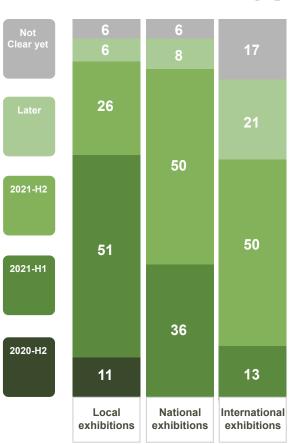




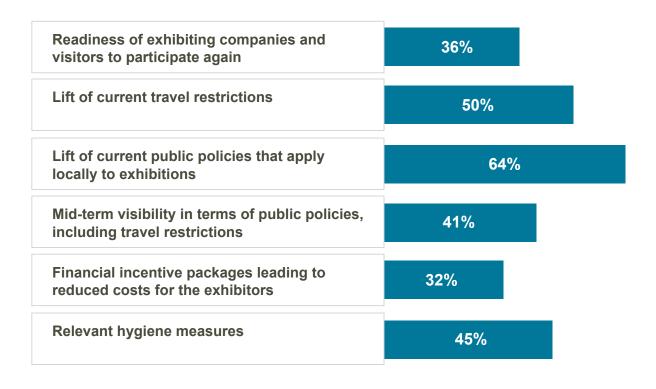


# When do you believe exhibitions will open again in your city?



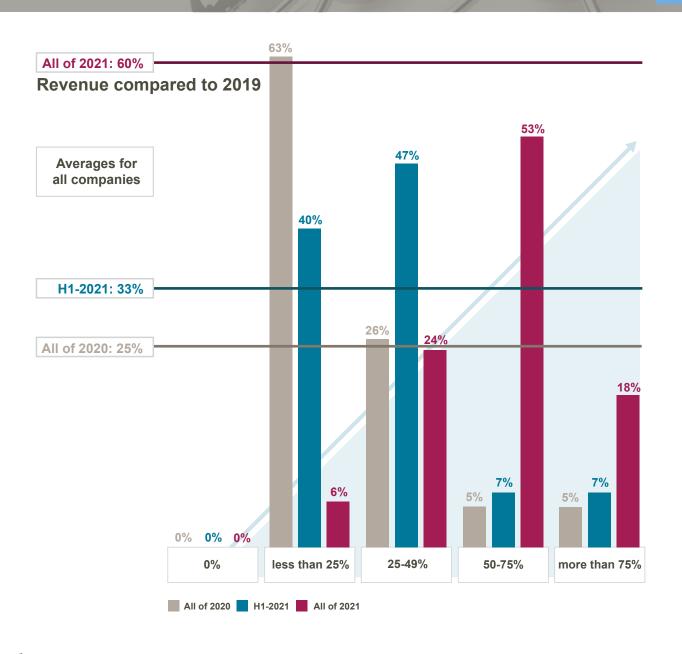


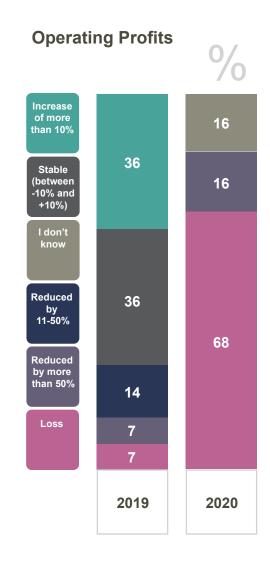
## What do you believe would most help the "bounce back" of exhibitions?







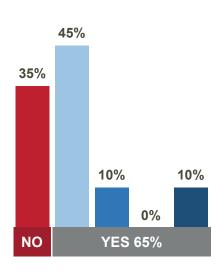




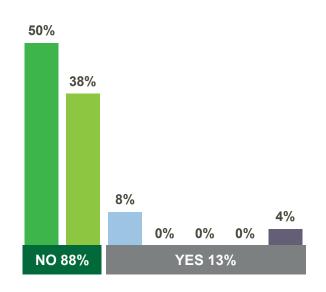




# Did your company benefit from public financial support?



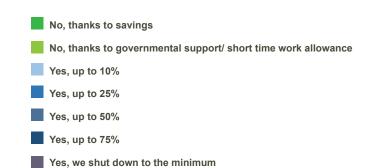
# Have you had to reduce your workforce?

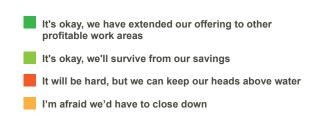






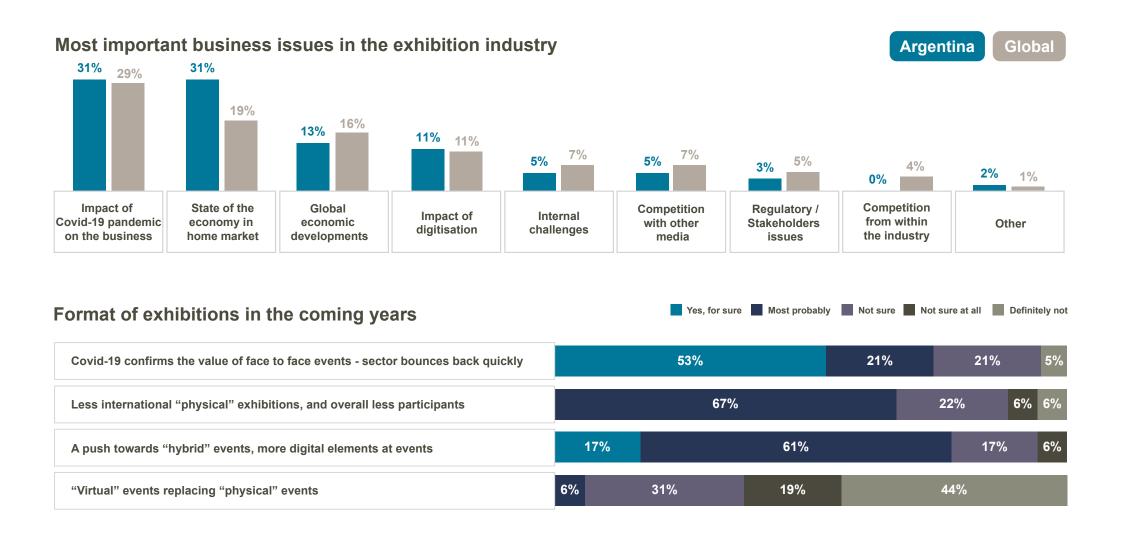








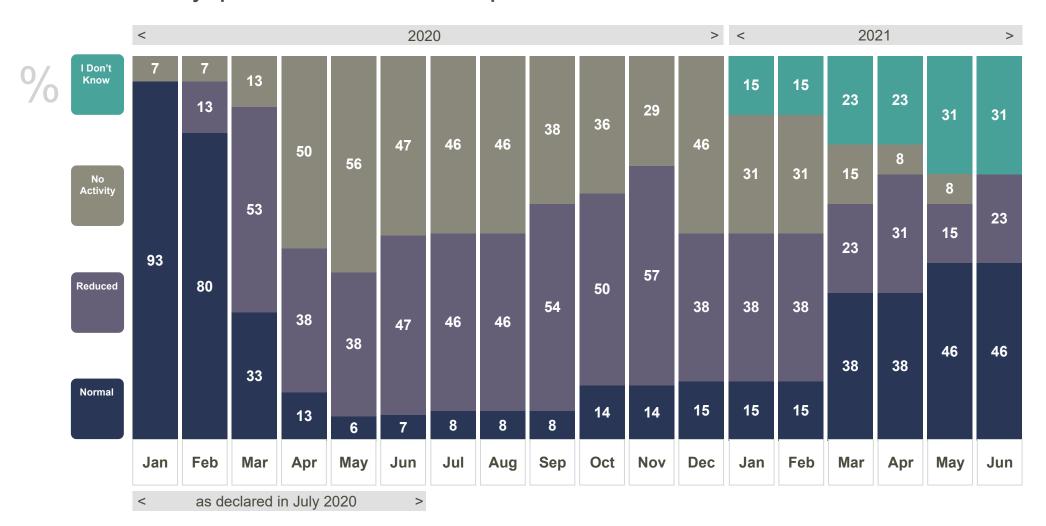








#### Situation of industry operations in 2020 and current predictions for the 1st half of 2021

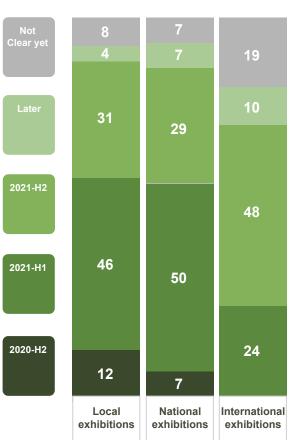




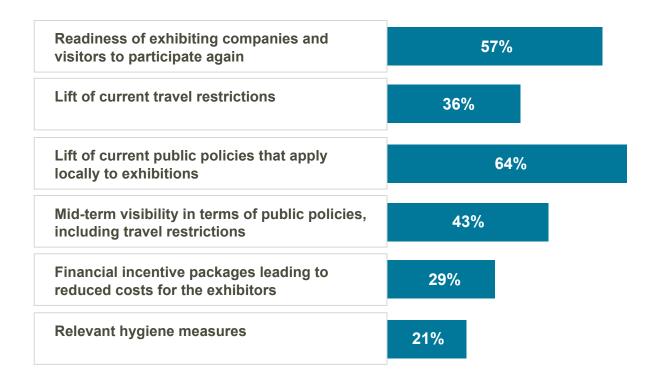


# When do you believe exhibitions will open again in your city?



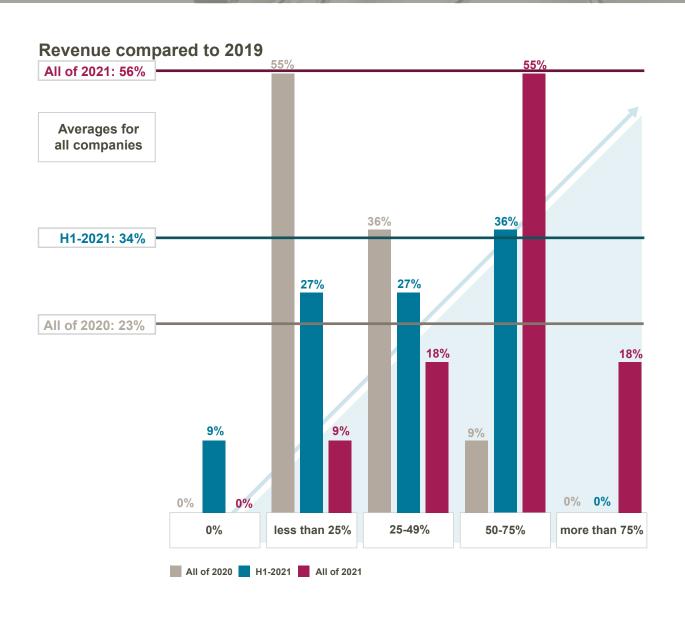


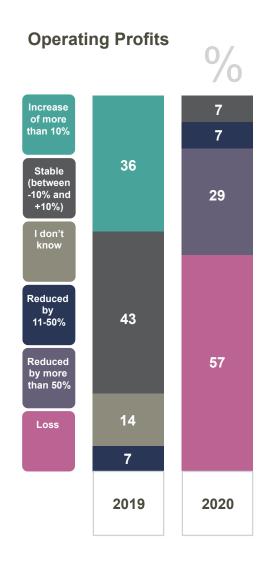
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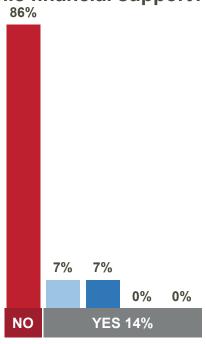




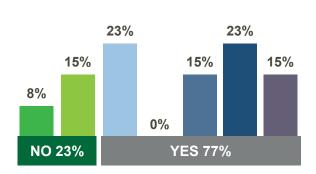




# Did your company benefit from public financial support?



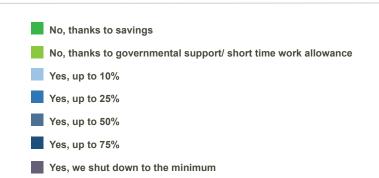
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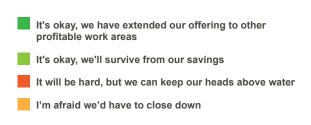


### If there is no business for the next 6 months, which best applies?



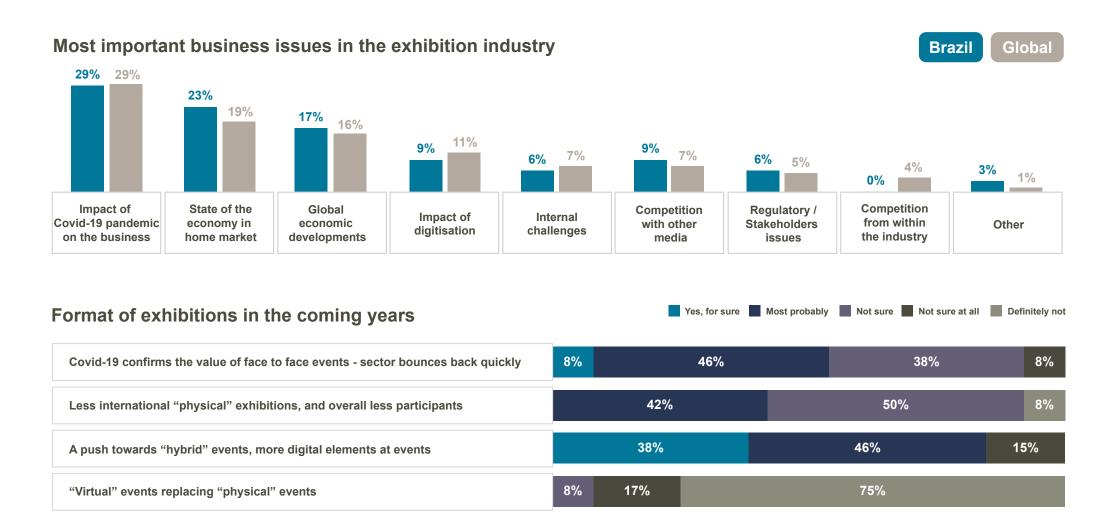






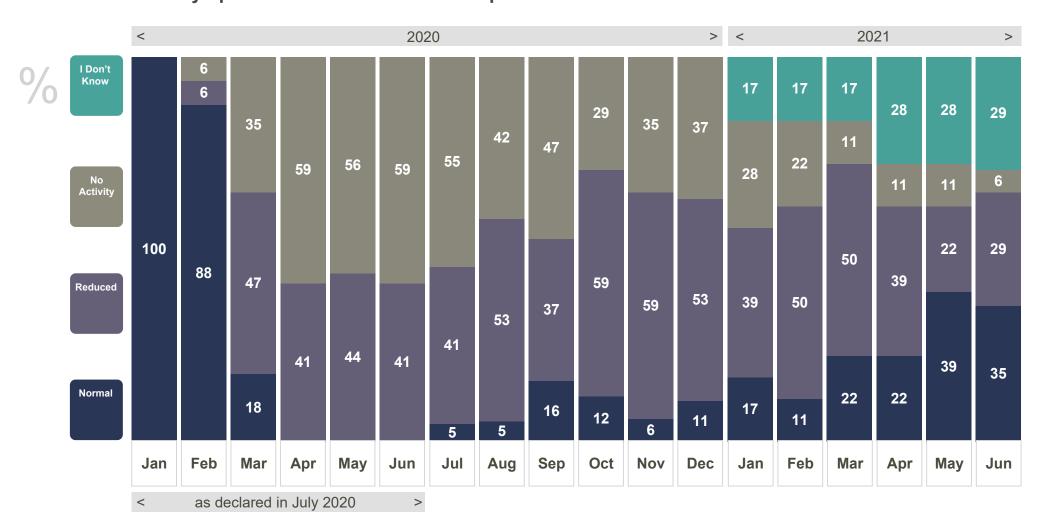






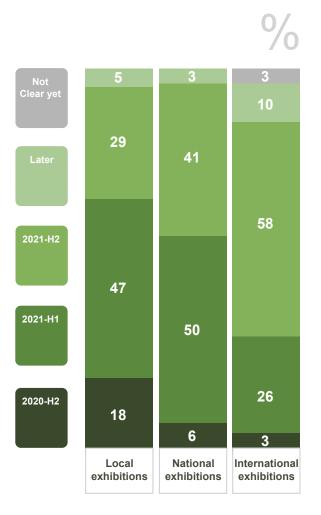


#### Situation of industry operations in 2020 and current predictions for the 1st half of 2021

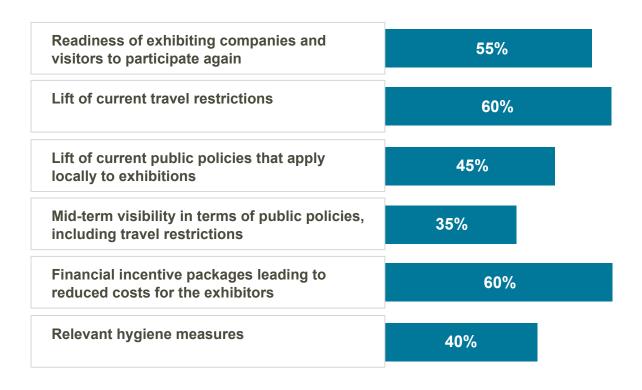




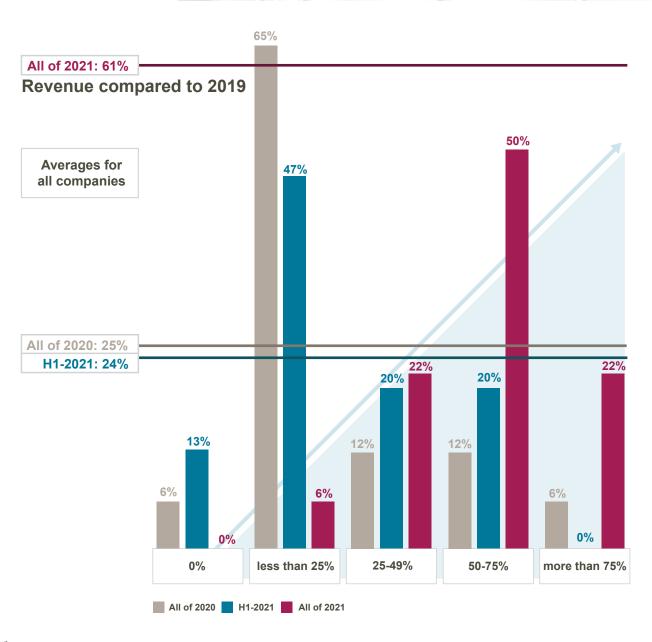
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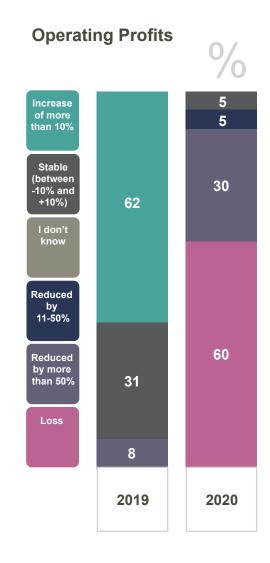


# What do you believe would most help the "bounce back" of exhibitions?



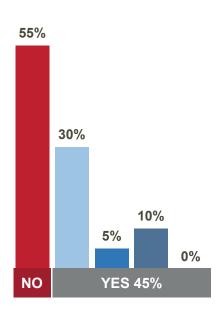




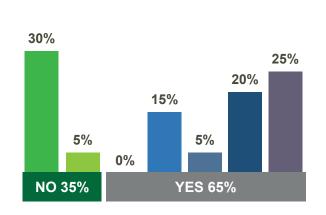




# Did your company benefit from public financial support?



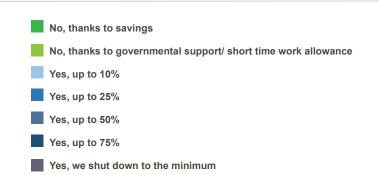
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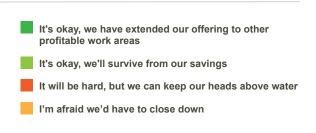


### If there is no business for the next 6 months, which best applies?

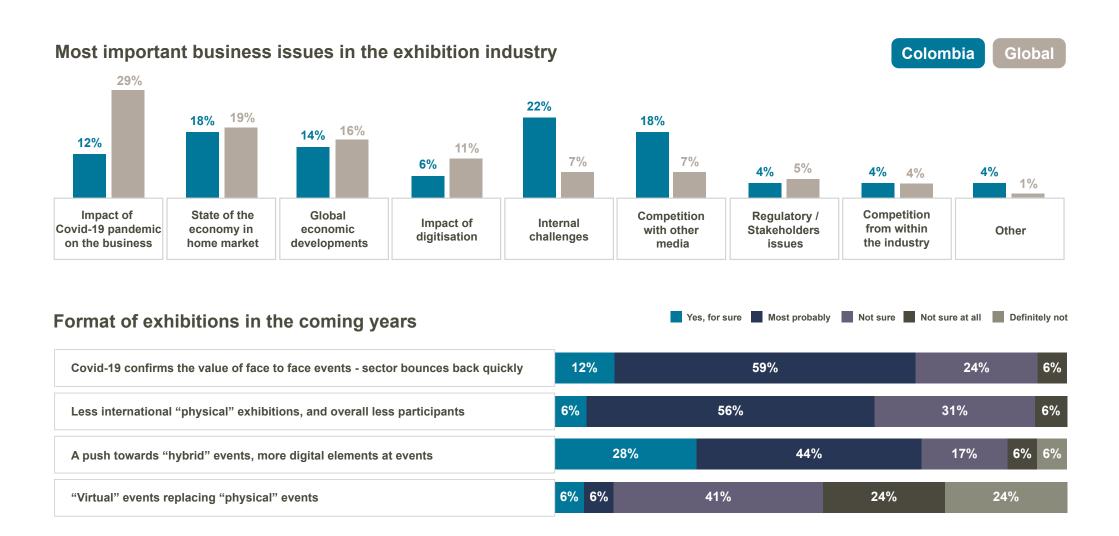








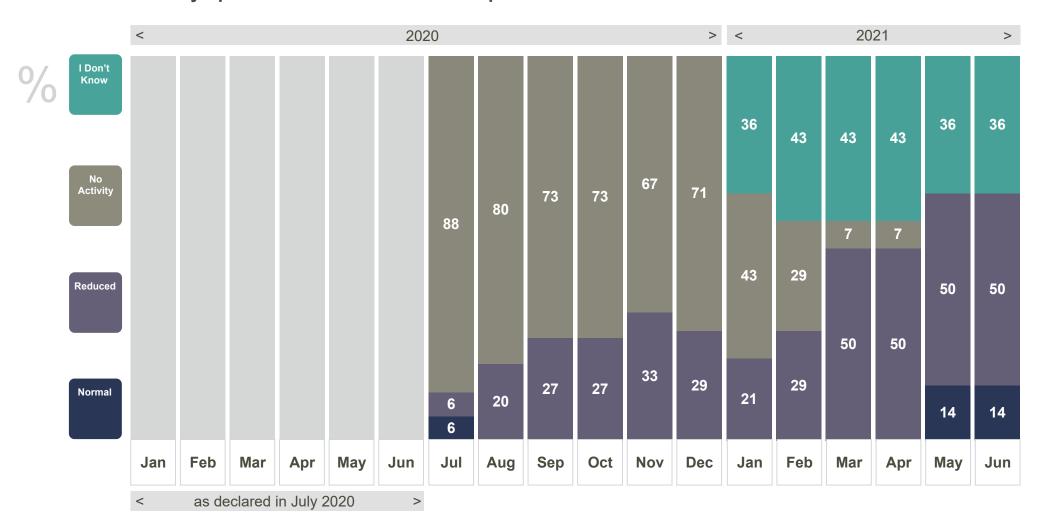








#### Situation of industry operations in 2020 and current predictions for the 1st half of 2021

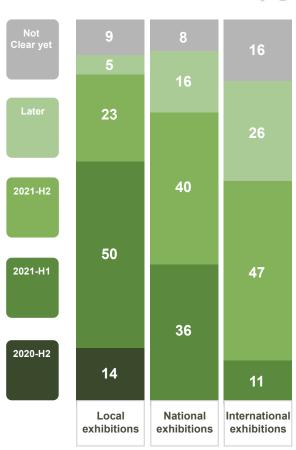




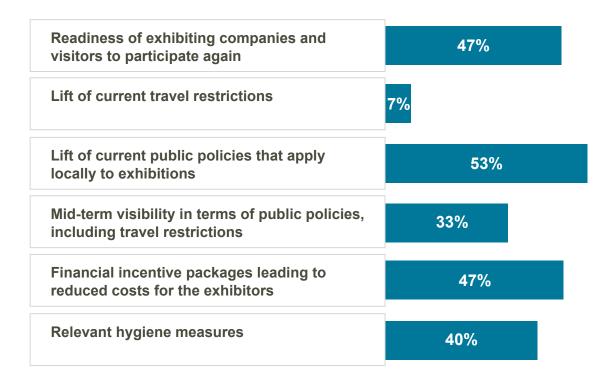


# When do you believe exhibitions will open again in your city?



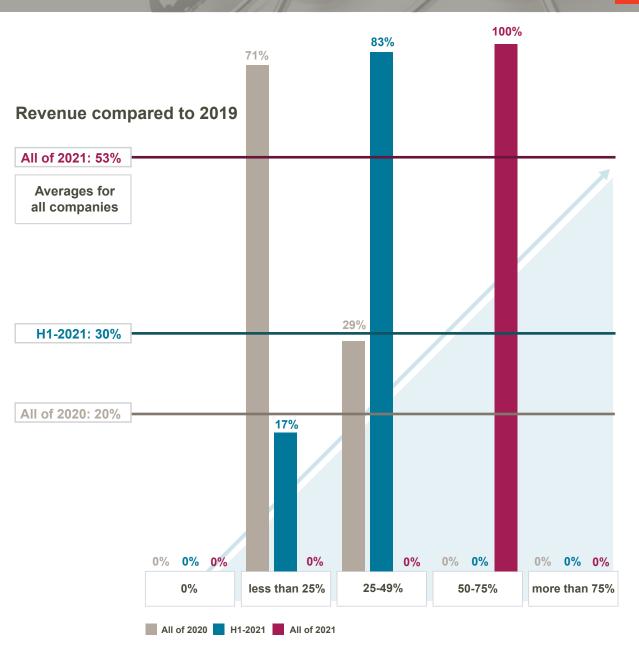


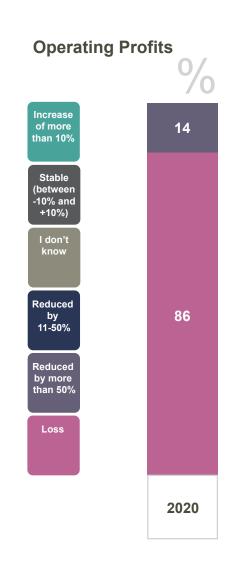
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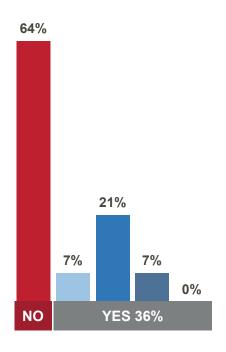




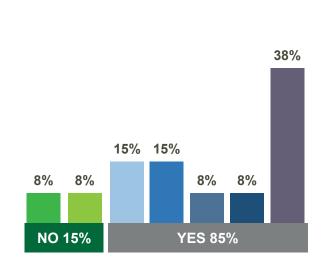




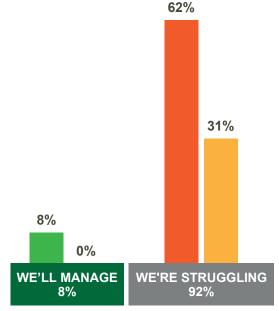
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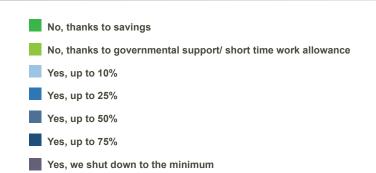
# Have you had to reduce your workforce?

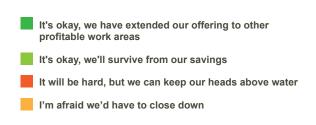






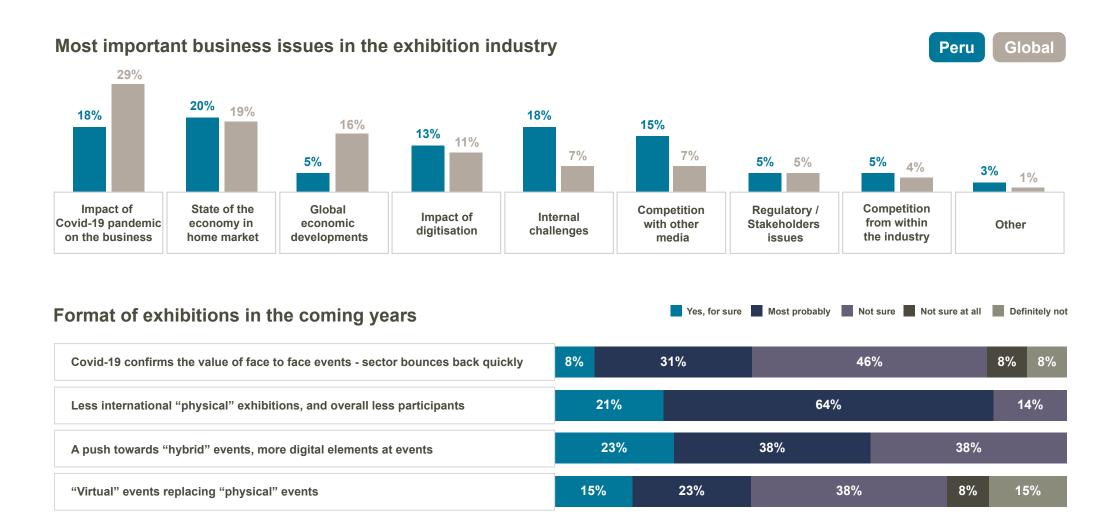














# Operations - Reopening Exhibitions Europe

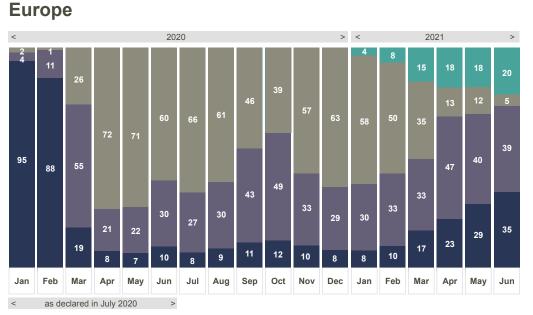




#### Situation of industry operations in 2020 and current predictions for the 1st half of 2021







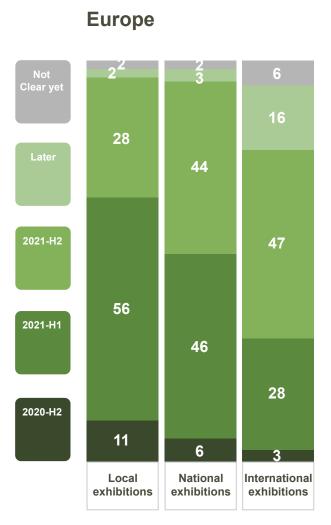


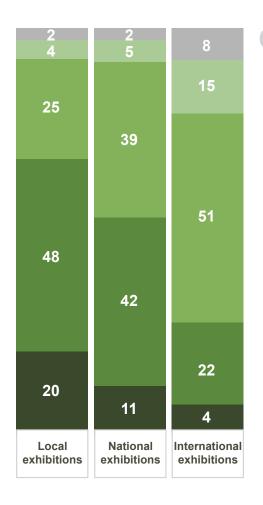
# **Operations - Reopening Exhibitions Europe**





When do you believe exhibitions will open again in your city?





# Operations - Reopening Exhibitions Europe





#### What do you believe would most help the "bounce back" of exhibitions?

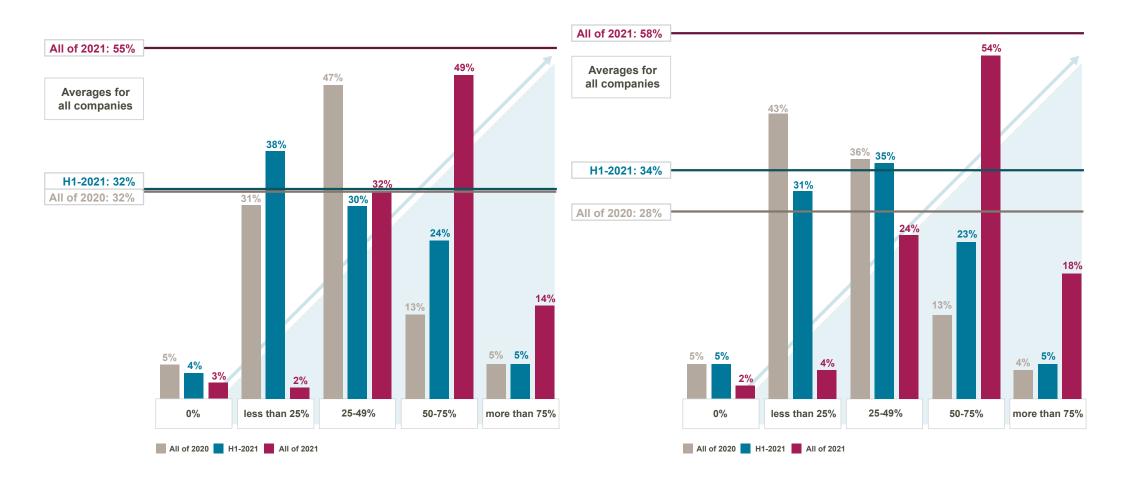
| Europe | World |
|--------|-------|
|        |       |

| Readiness of exhibiting companies and visitors to participate again            | 69% | Readiness of exhibiting companies and visitors to participate again            | 64% |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Lift of current travel restrictions                                            | 69% | Lift of current travel restrictions                                            | 63% |
| Lift of current public policies that apply locally to exhibitions              | 53% | Lift of current public policies that apply locally to exhibitions              | 52% |
| Mid-term visibility in terms of public policies, including travel restrictions | 51% | Mid-term visibility in terms of public policies, including travel restrictions | 46% |
| Financial incentive packages leading to reduced costs for the exhibitors       | 39% | Financial incentive packages leading to reduced costs for the exhibitors       | 41% |
| Relevant hygiene measures                                                      | 34% | Relevant hygiene measures                                                      | 41% |



#### Revenue compared to last year (2019)

Europe World



# Operating profits Europe







# Public Financial Support Europe

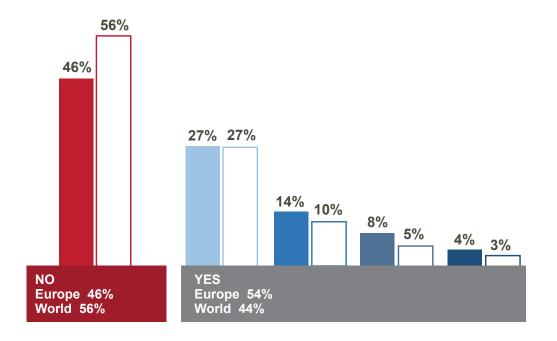


# Did your company benefit from public financial support?





Yes, for more than 50% of our 2019 overall costs

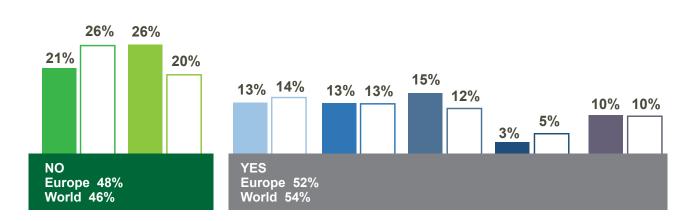


#### Workforce Europe



#### Have you had to reduce your workforce?





#### Perspectives Europe





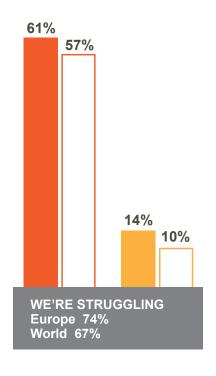
If there is no business for the next 6 months, which best applies?

Europe

World

- It's okay, we have extended our offering to other profitable work areas
- It's okay, we'll survive from our savings
- It will be hard, but we can keep our heads above water
- I'm afraid we'd have to close down

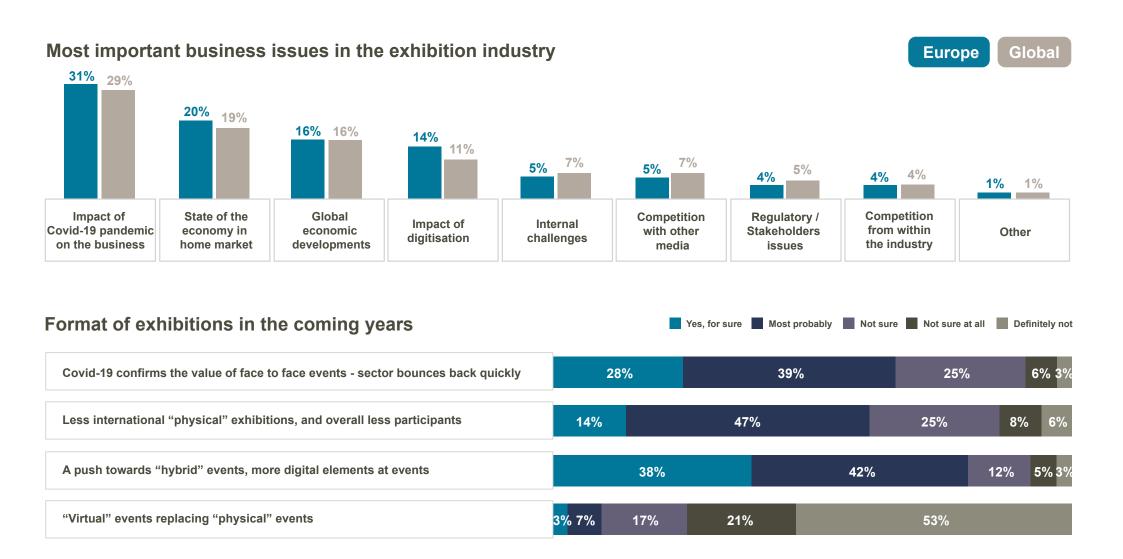




# Most Important Business Issues - Format of Exhibitions - Europe

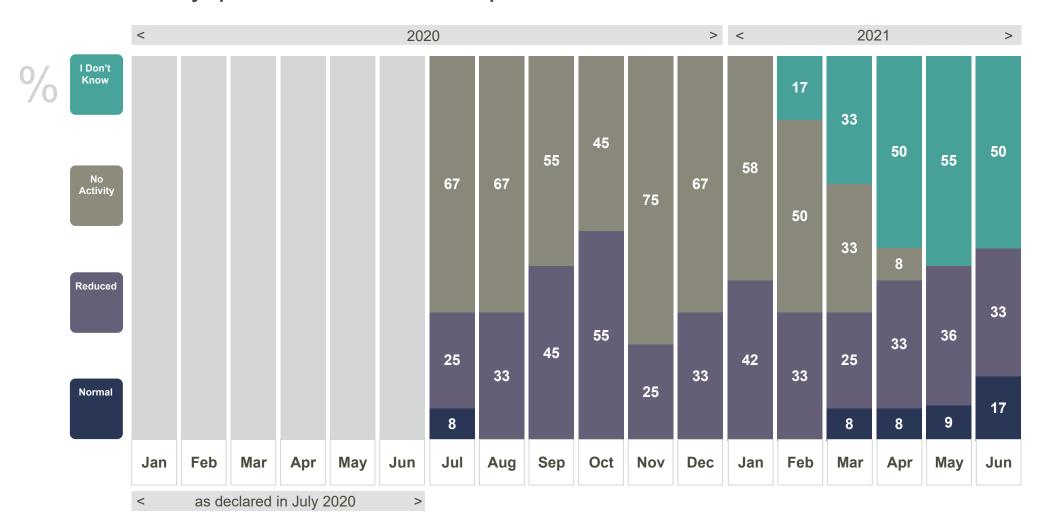








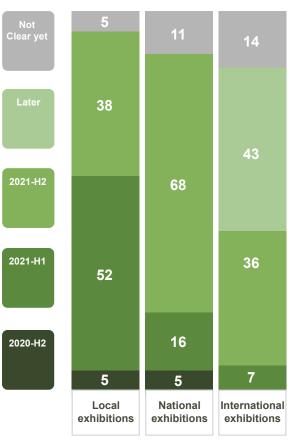
#### Situation of industry operations in 2020 and current predictions for the 1st half of 2021



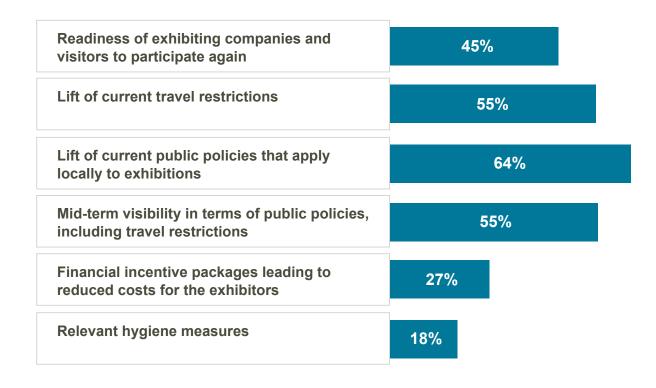


### When do you believe exhibitions will open again in your city?

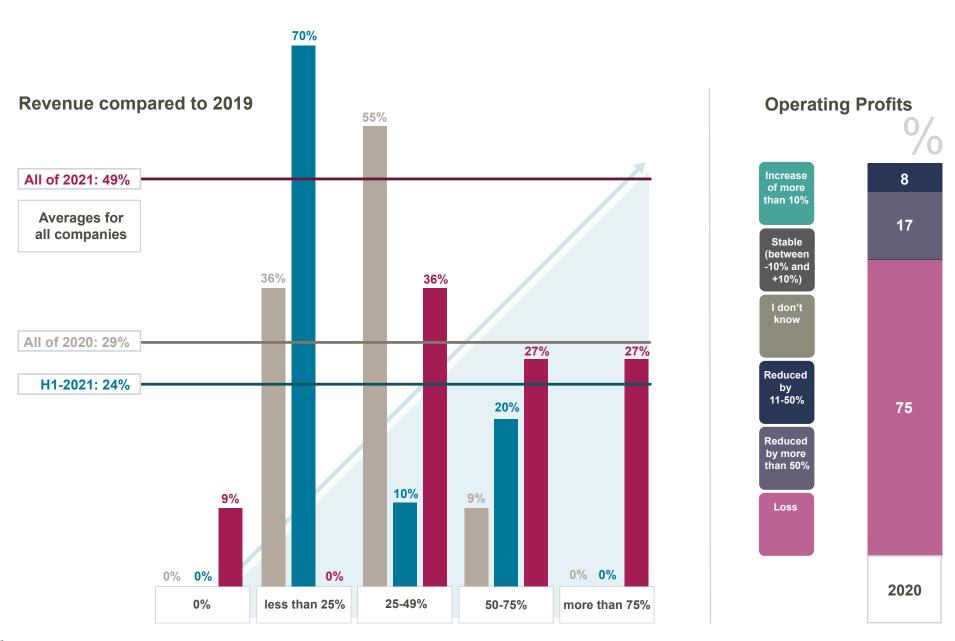




### What do you believe would most help the "bounce back" of exhibitions?

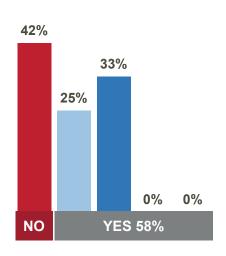




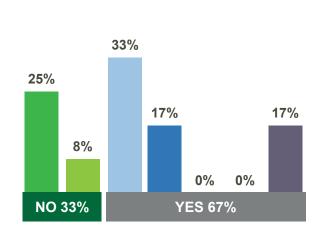




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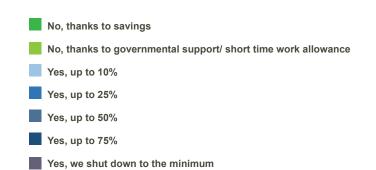
## Have you had to reduce your workforce?

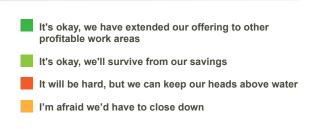


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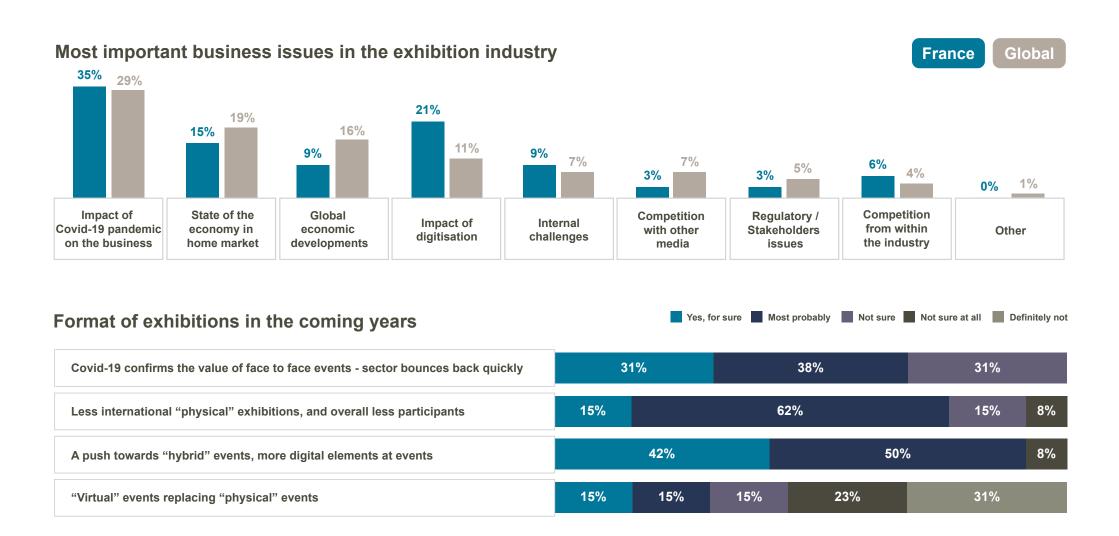






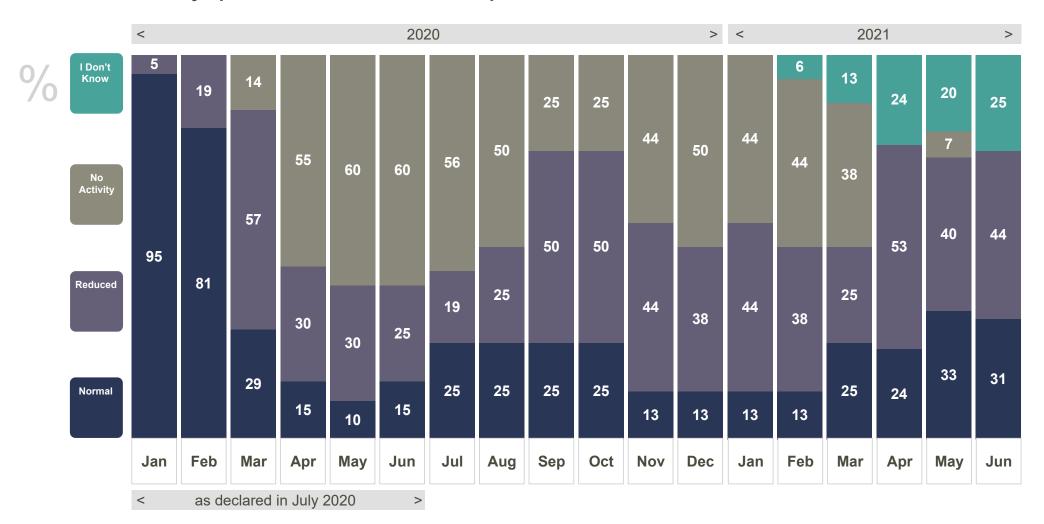






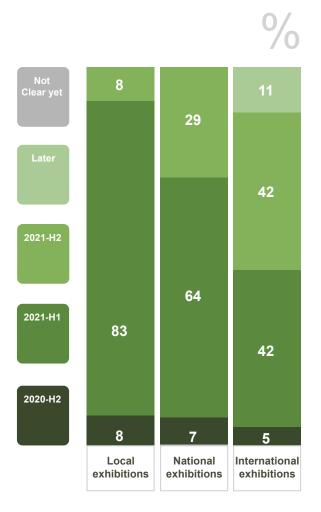


#### Situation of industry operations in 2020 and current predictions for the 1st half of 2021

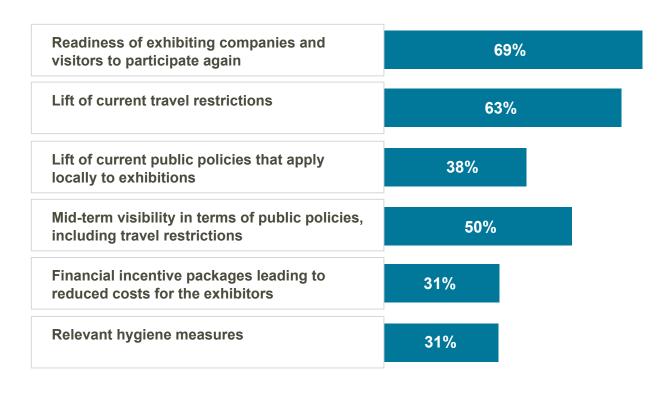




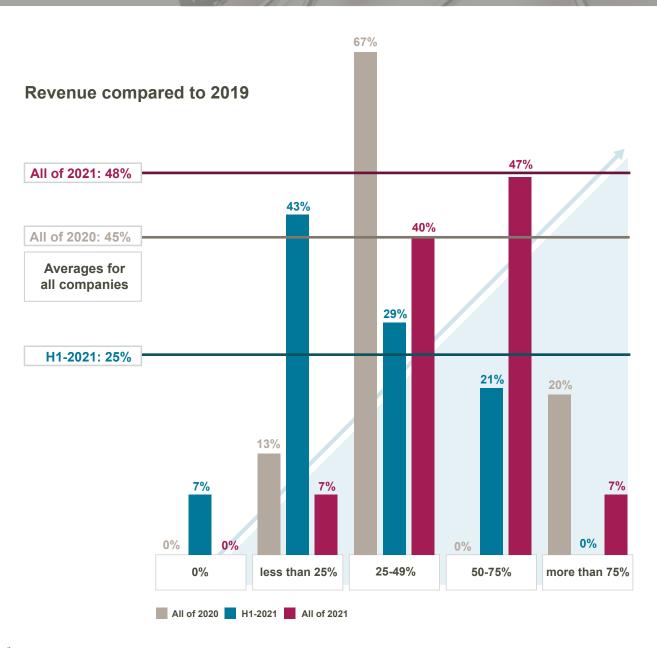
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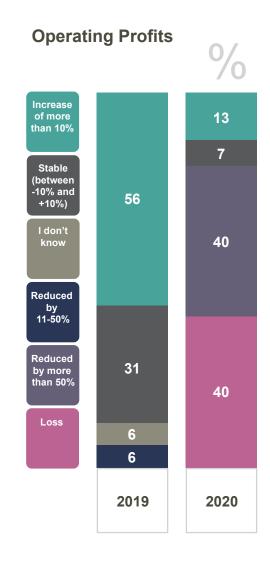


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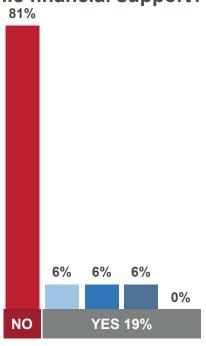




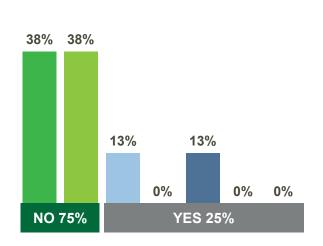




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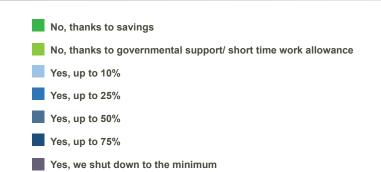
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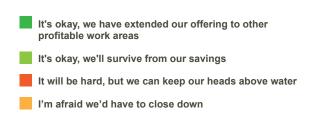




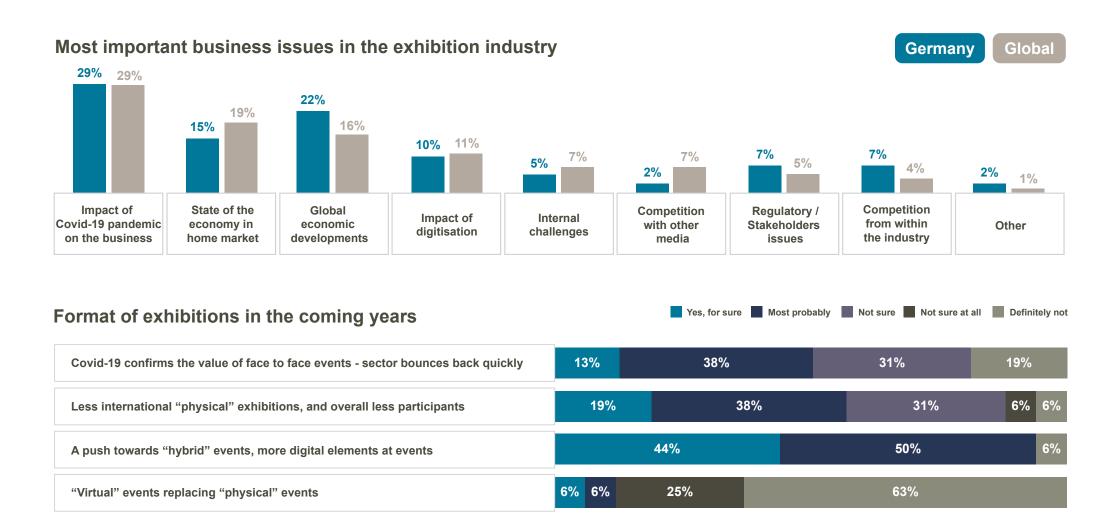






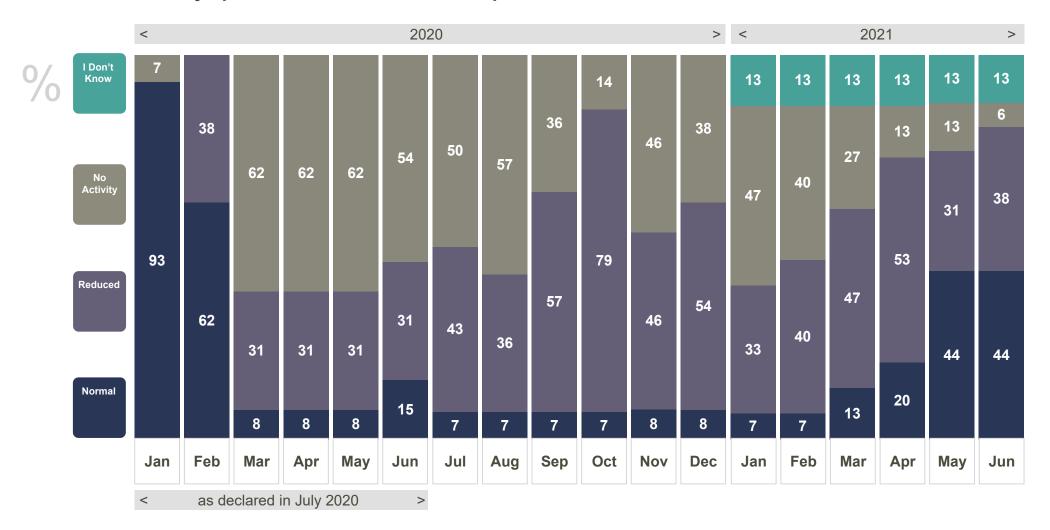








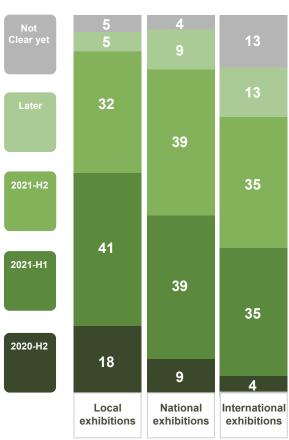
#### Situation of industry operations in 2020 and current predictions for the 1st half of 2021



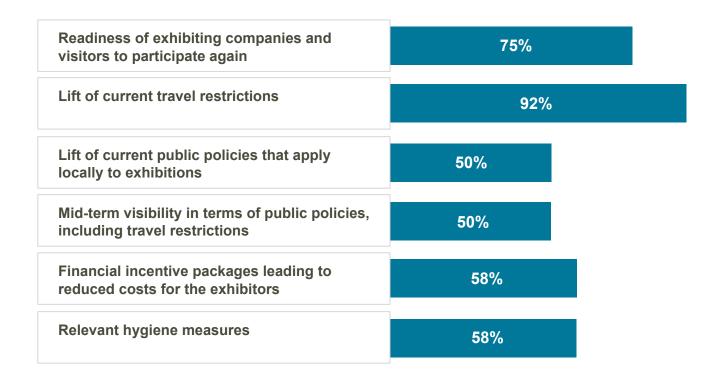


### When do you believe exhibitions will open again in your city?

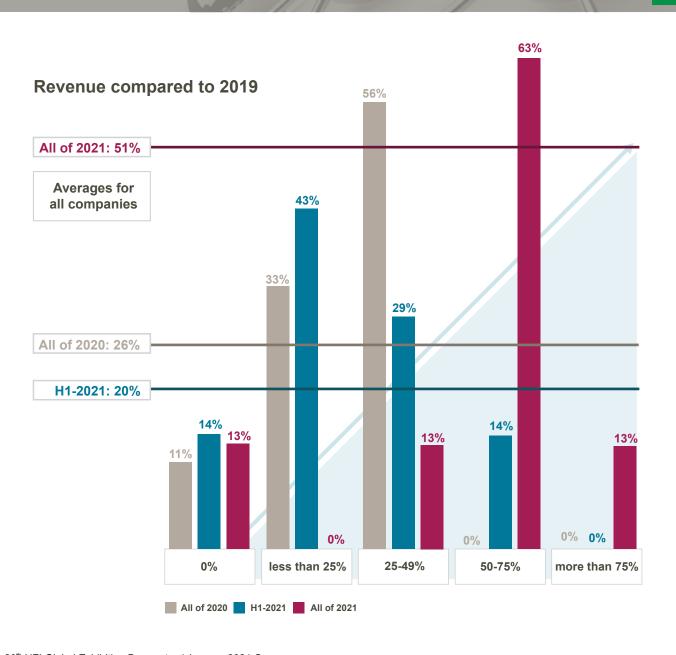


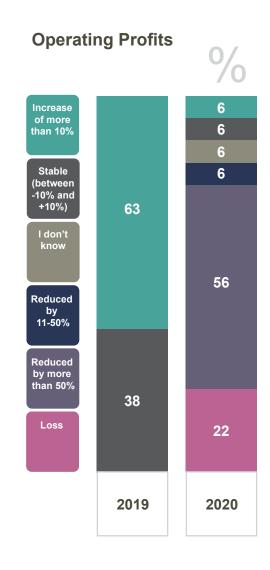


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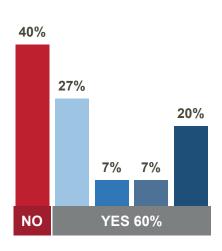




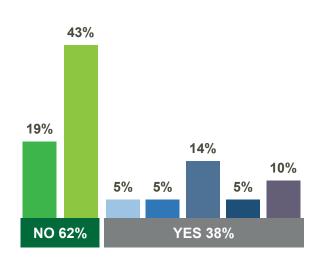




# Did your company benefit from public financial support?



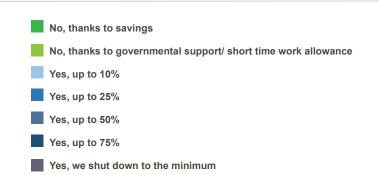
# Have you had to reduce your workforce?

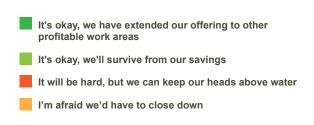


#### If there is no business for the next 6 months, which best applies?

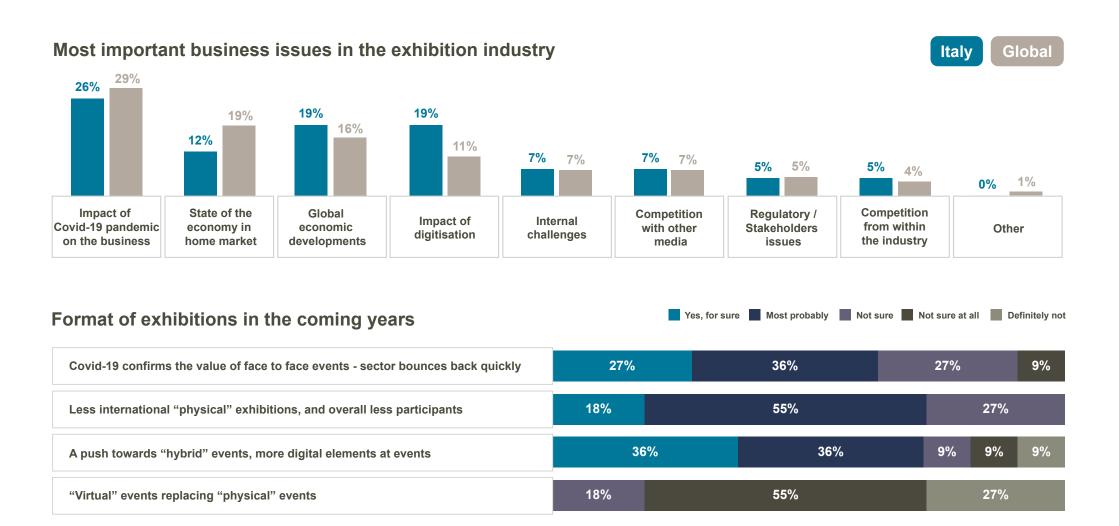






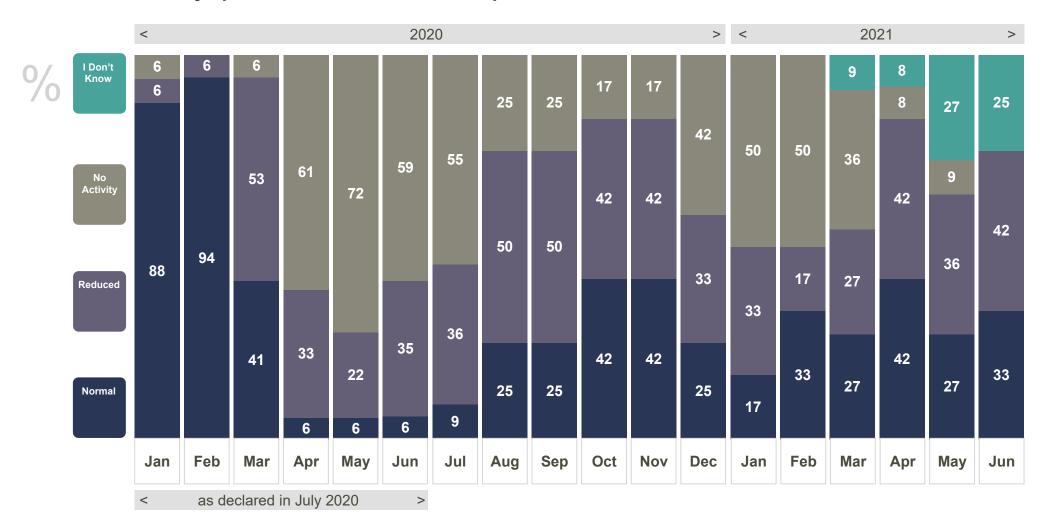








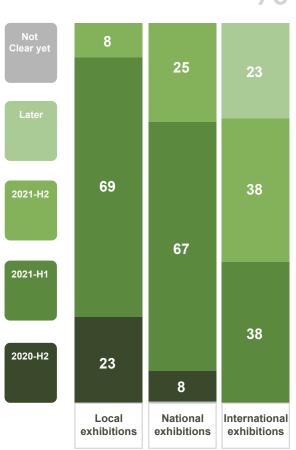
#### Situation of industry operations in 2020 and current predictions for the 1st half of 2021



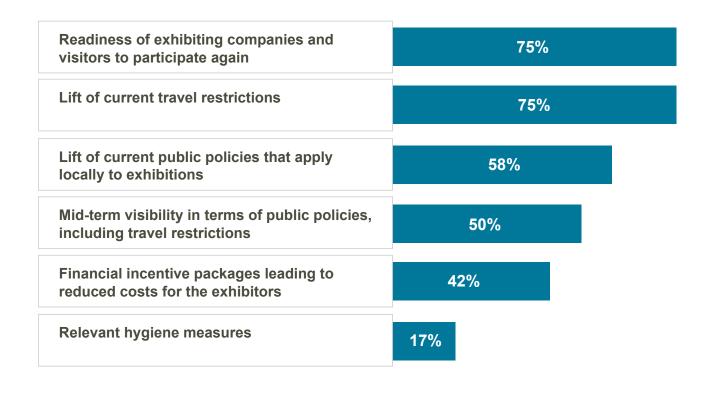


### When do you believe exhibitions will open again in your city?

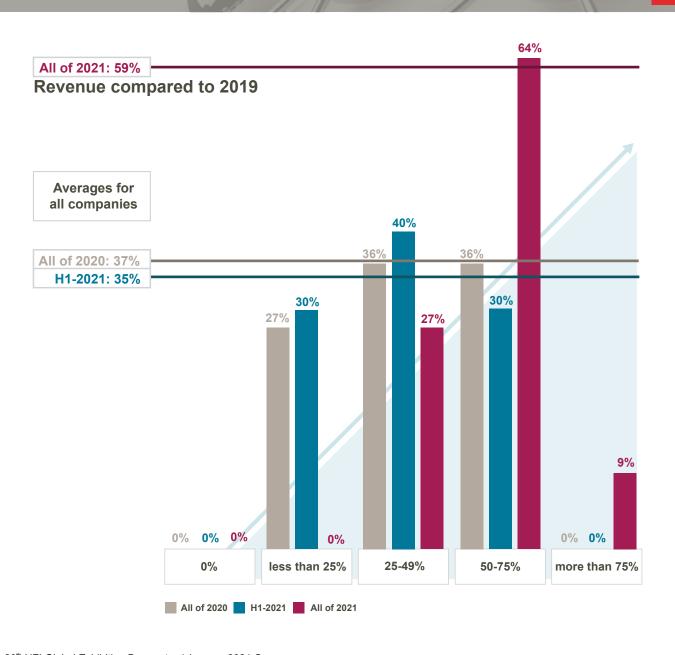


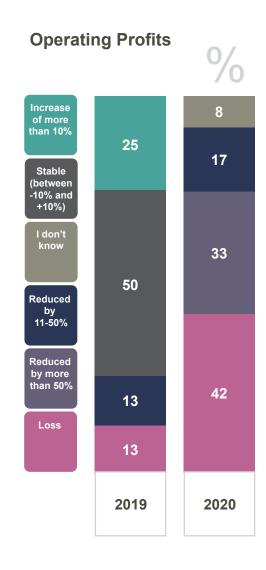


### What do you believe would most help the "bounce back" of exhibitions?



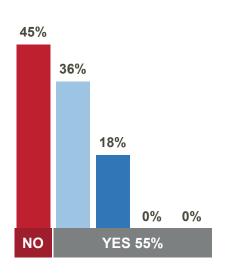




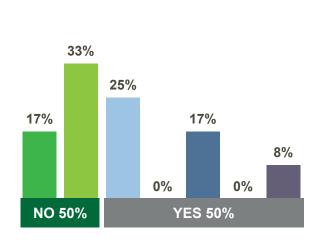




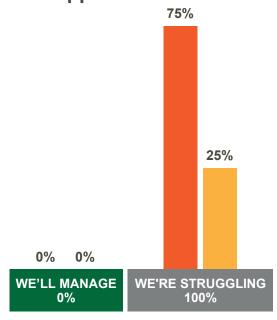
# Did your company benefit from public financial support?



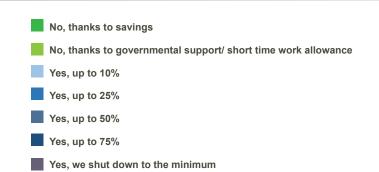
## Have you had to reduce your workforce?

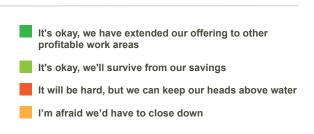


#### If there is no business for the next 6 months, which best applies?

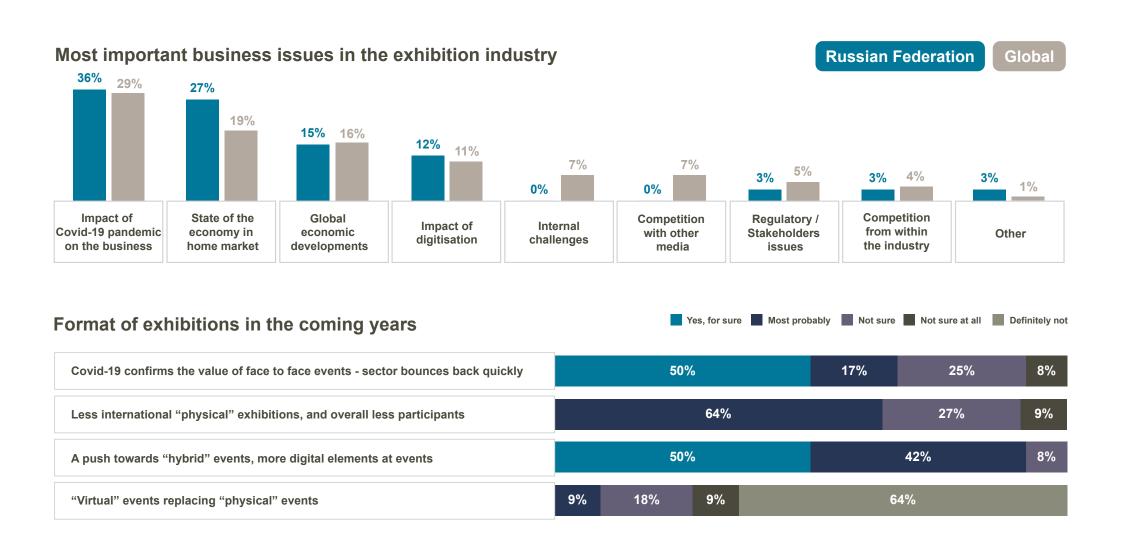








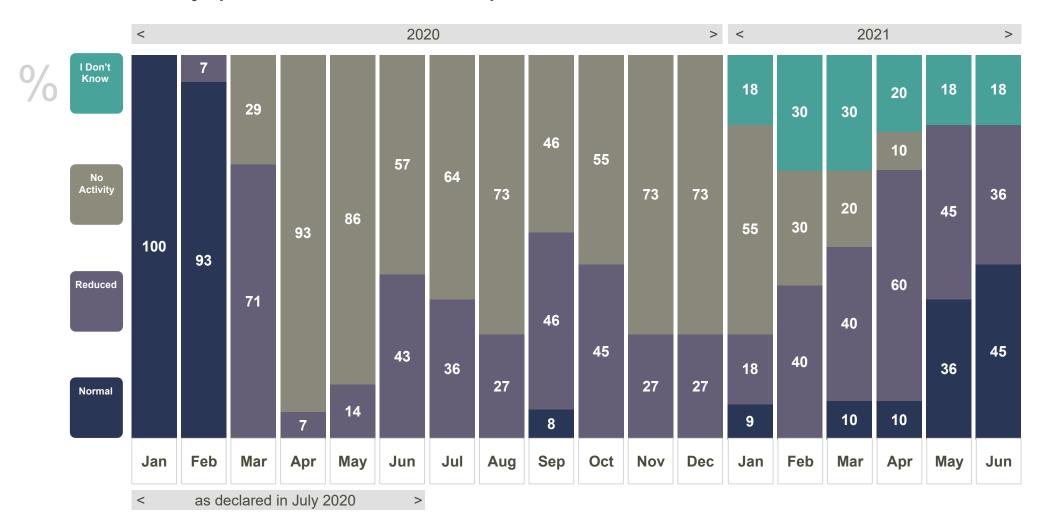








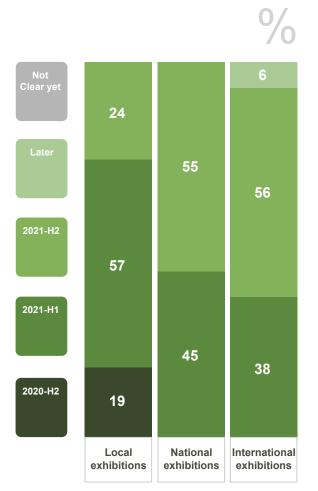
#### Situation of industry operations in 2020 and current predictions for the 1st half of 2021



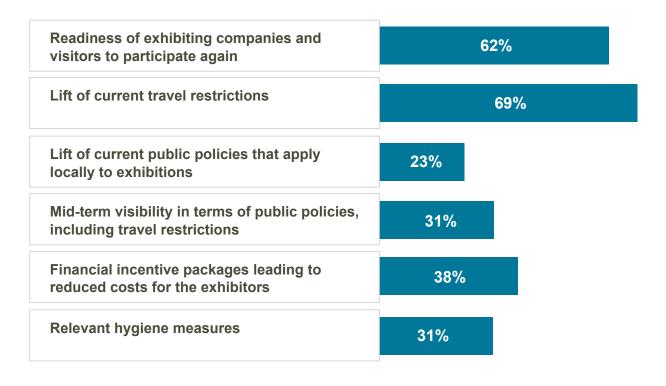




### When do you believe exhibitions will open again in your city?

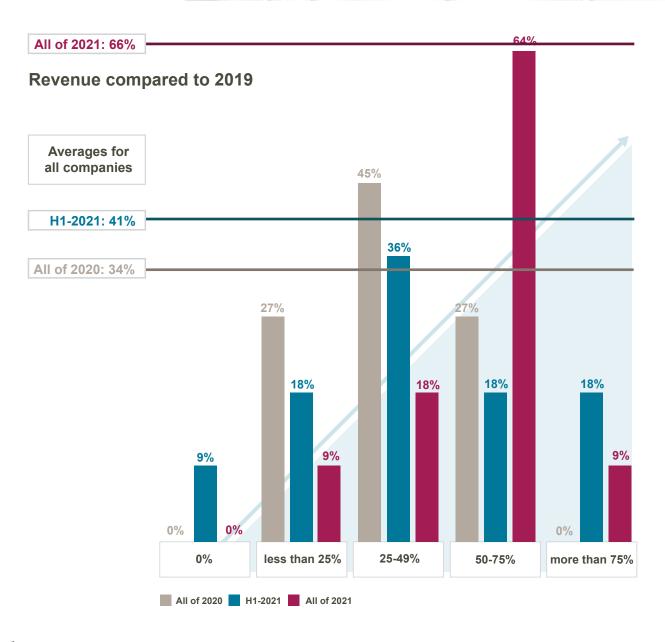


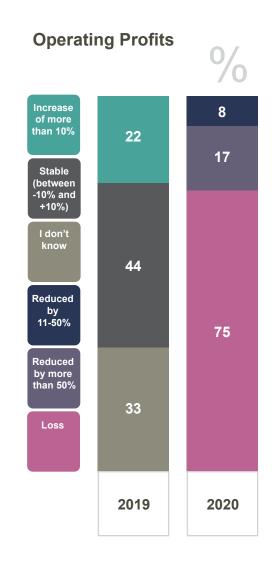
### What do you believe would most help the "bounce back" of exhibitions?







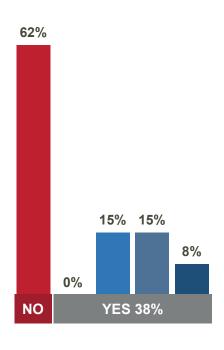




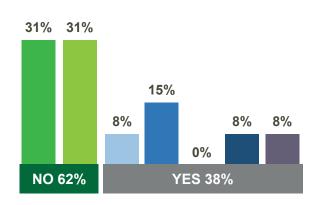




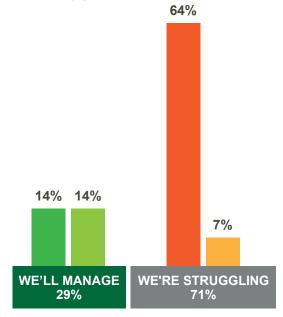
# Did your company benefit from public financial support?



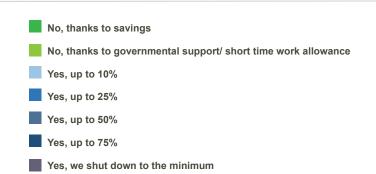
### Have you had to reduce your workforce?

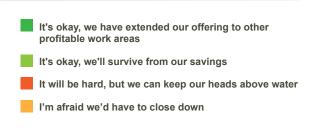


#### If there is no business for the next 6 months, which best applies?



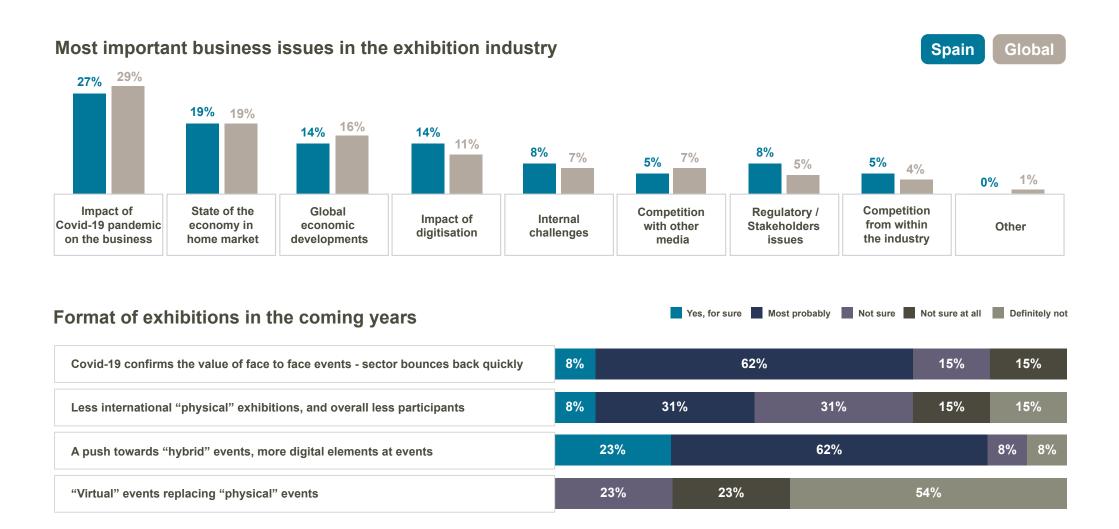








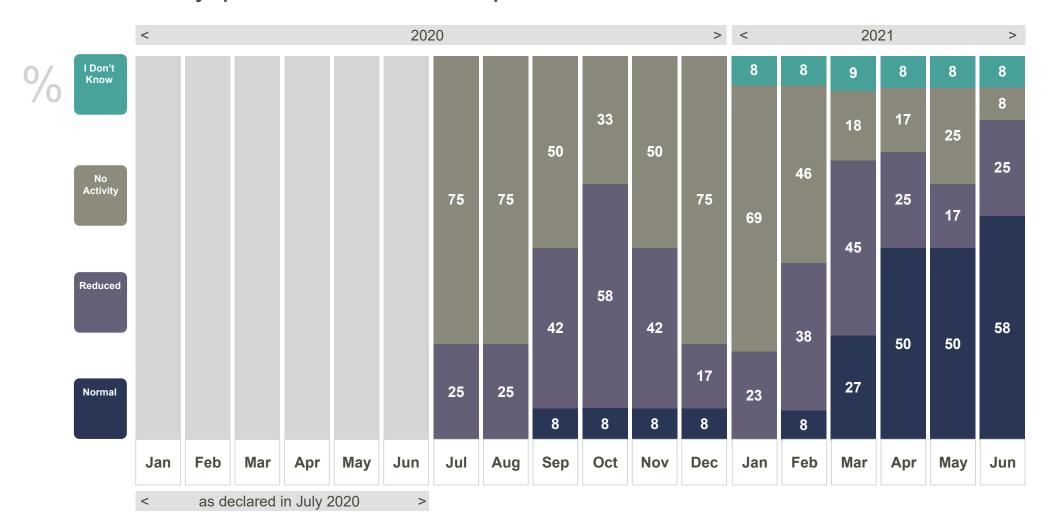








#### Situation of industry operations in 2020 and current predictions for the 1st half of 2021

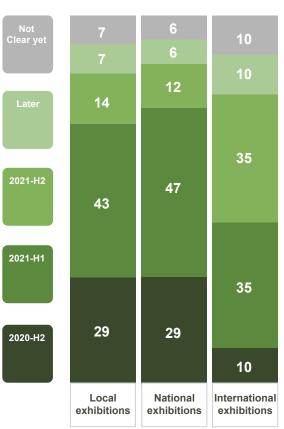




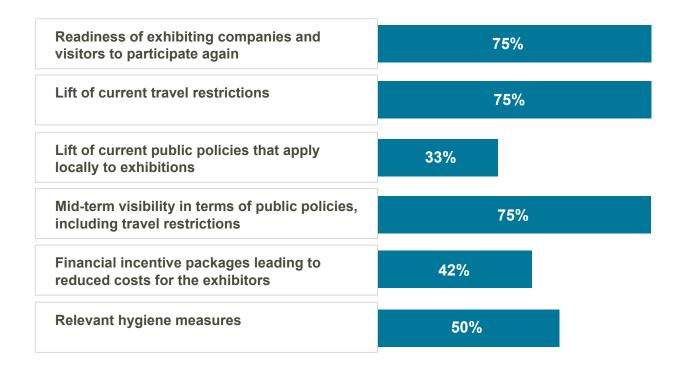


### When do you believe exhibitions will open again in your city?

%



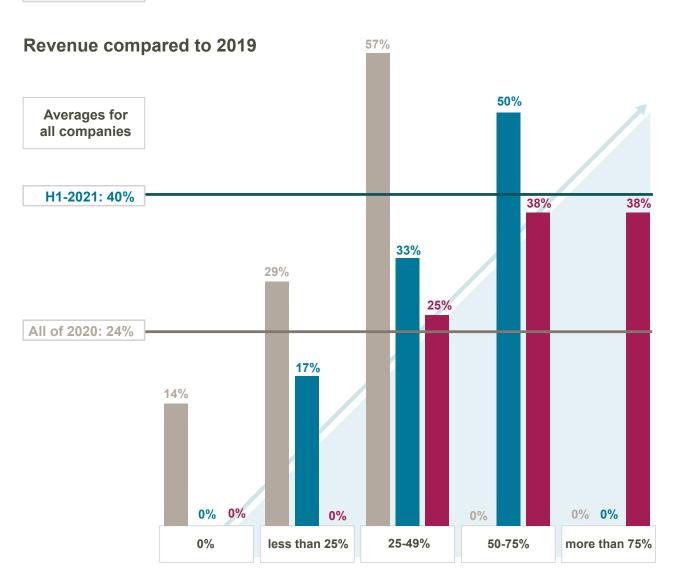
### What do you believe would most help the "bounce back" of exhibitions?

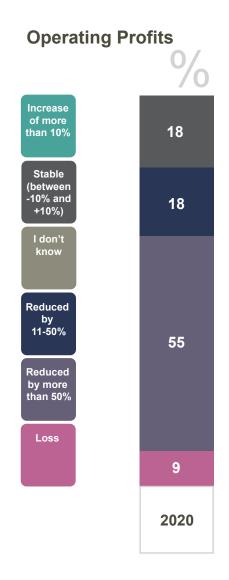








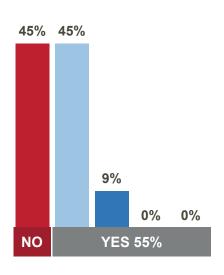




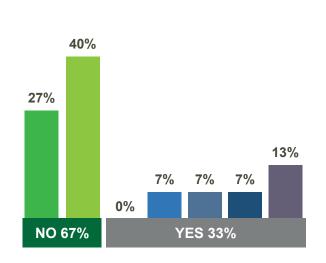




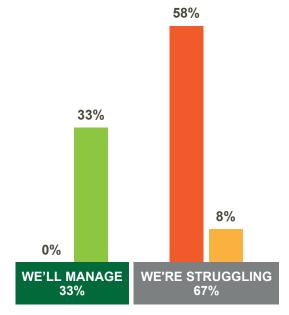
# Did your company benefit from public financial support?



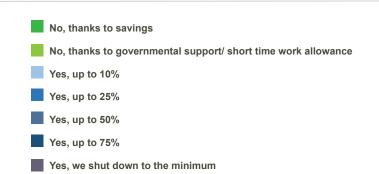
# Have you had to reduce your workforce?

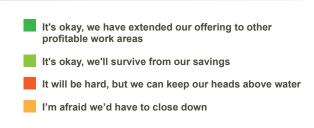






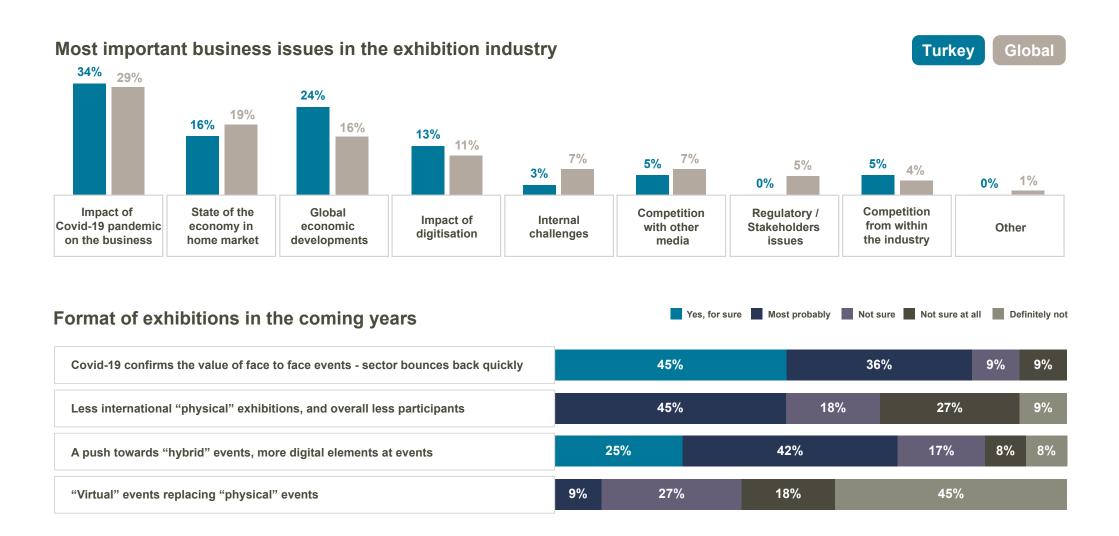








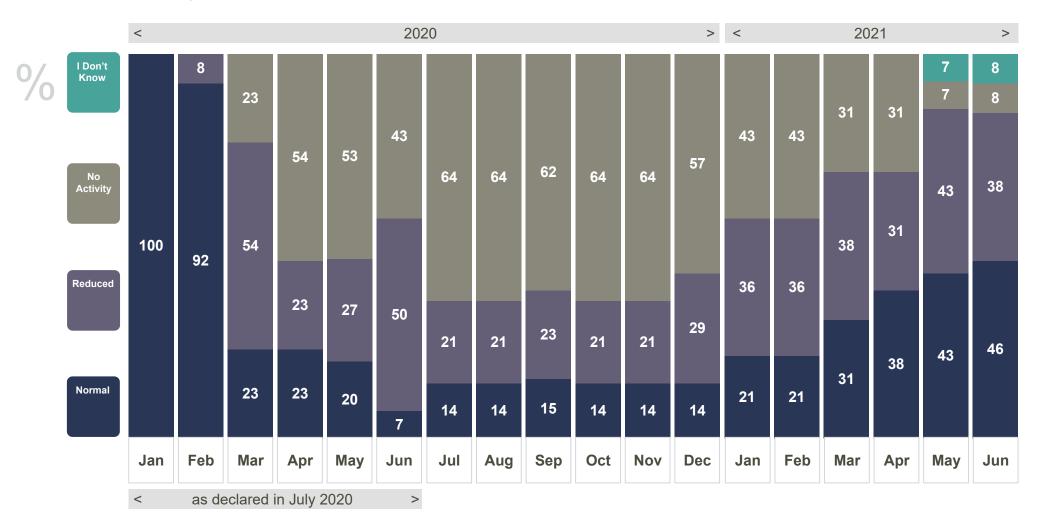








### Situation of industry operations in 2020 and current predictions for the 1<sup>st</sup> half of 2021

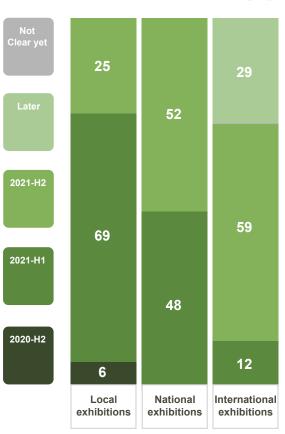




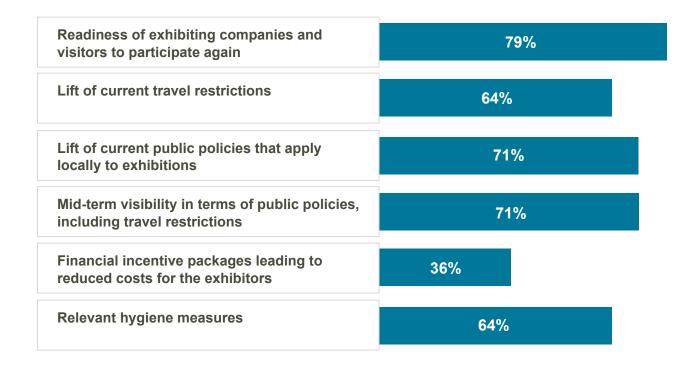


## When do you believe exhibitions will open again in your city?





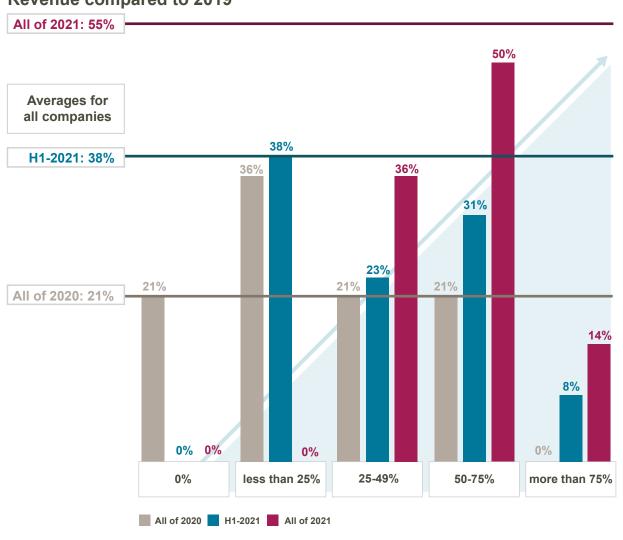
## What do you believe would most help the "bounce back" of exhibitions?

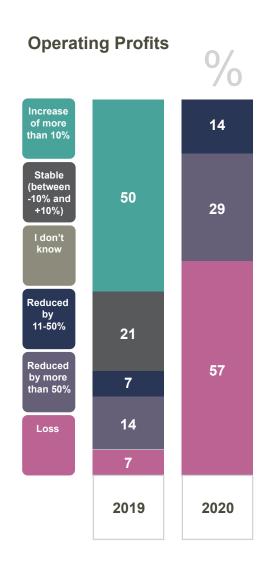








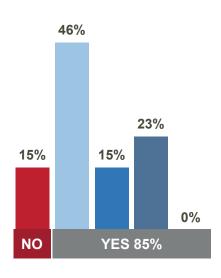




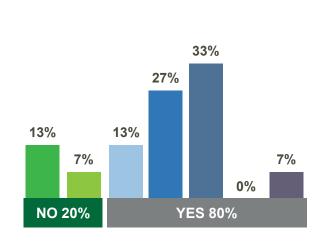




# Did your company benefit from public financial support?



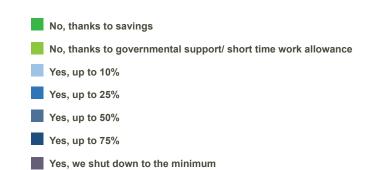
# Have you had to reduce your workforce?

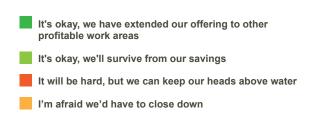


### If there is no business for the next 6 months, which best applies?



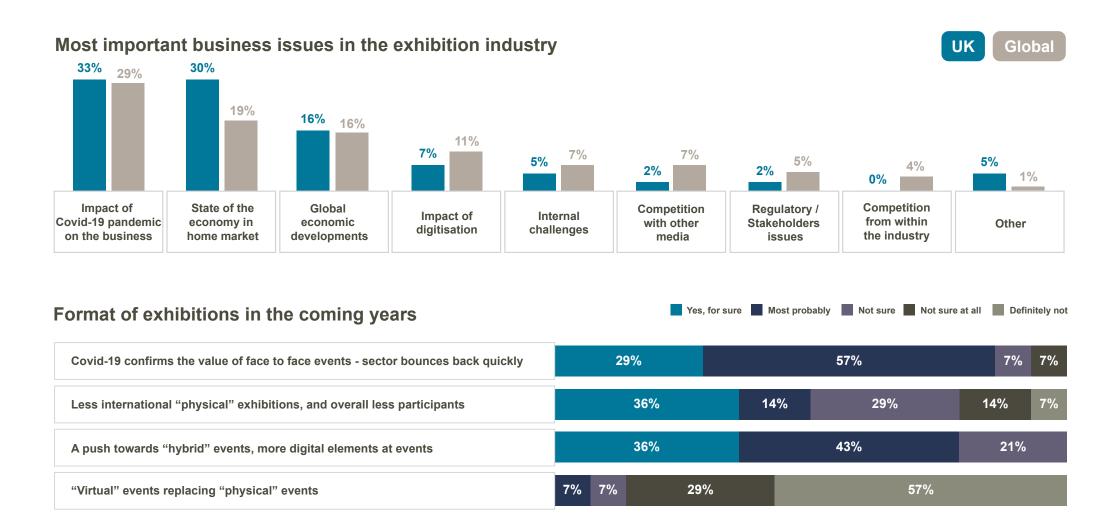














# **Operations - Reopening Exhibitions Middle East - Africa**





#### Situation of industry operations in 2020 and current predictions for the 1st half of 2021

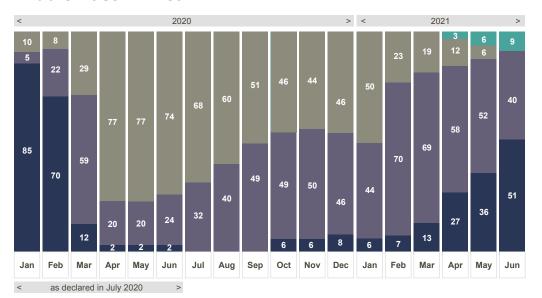








#### Middle East - Africa





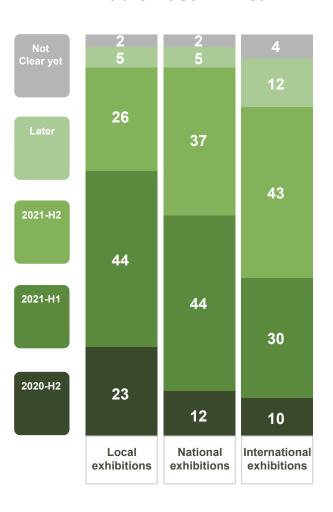
# Operations - Reopening Exhibitions Middle East - Africa

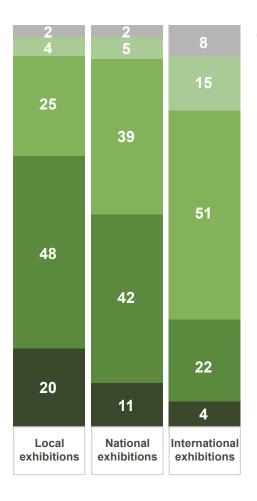




When do you believe exhibitions will open again in your city?

#### Middle East - Africa





# **Operations - Reopening Exhibitions Middle East - Africa**





### What do you believe would most help the "bounce back" of exhibitions?

#### Middle East - Africa

#### Readiness of exhibiting companies and 63% visitors to participate again Lift of current travel restrictions 68% Lift of current public policies that apply 40% locally to exhibitions Mid-term visibility in terms of public policies, 38% including travel restrictions Financial incentive packages leading to 43% reduced costs for the exhibitors Relevant hygiene measures 35%

| Readiness of exhibiting companies and visitors to participate again            | 64% |  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|--|
| Lift of current travel restrictions                                            | 63% |  |
| Lift of current public policies that apply locally to exhibitions              | 52% |  |
| Mid-term visibility in terms of public policies, including travel restrictions | 46% |  |
| Financial incentive packages leading to reduced costs for the exhibitors       | 41% |  |
| Relevant hygiene measures                                                      | 41% |  |

# **Turnover Middle East - Africa**





### Revenue compared to last year (2019)

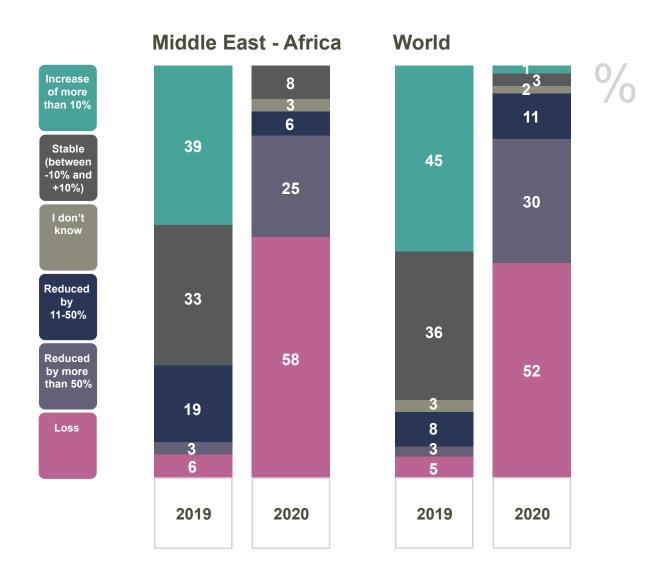
Middle East - Africa



# **Operating profits Middle East - Africa**







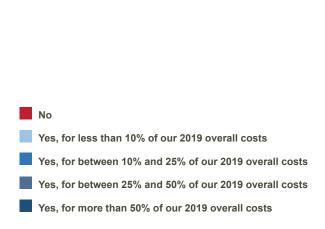
# **Public Financial Support Middle East - Africa**

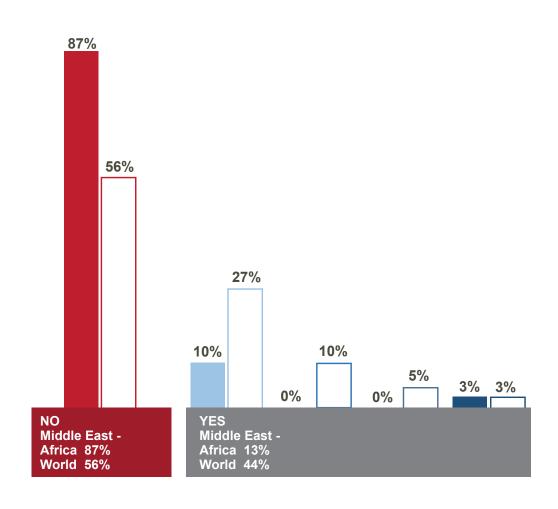






Middle East - Africa



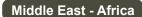


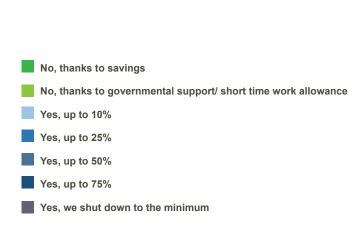
## Workforce Middle East - Africa

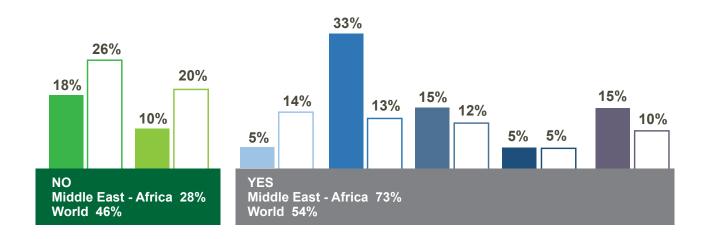




### Have you had to reduce your workforce?







## Perspectives Middle East - Africa



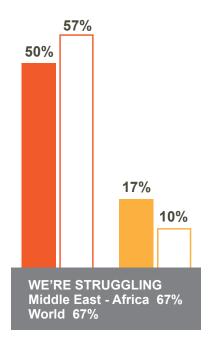




Middle East - Africa

- It's okay, we have extended our offering to other profitable work areas
- It's okay, we'll survive from our savings
- It will be hard, but we can keep our heads above water
- I'm afraid we'd have to close down

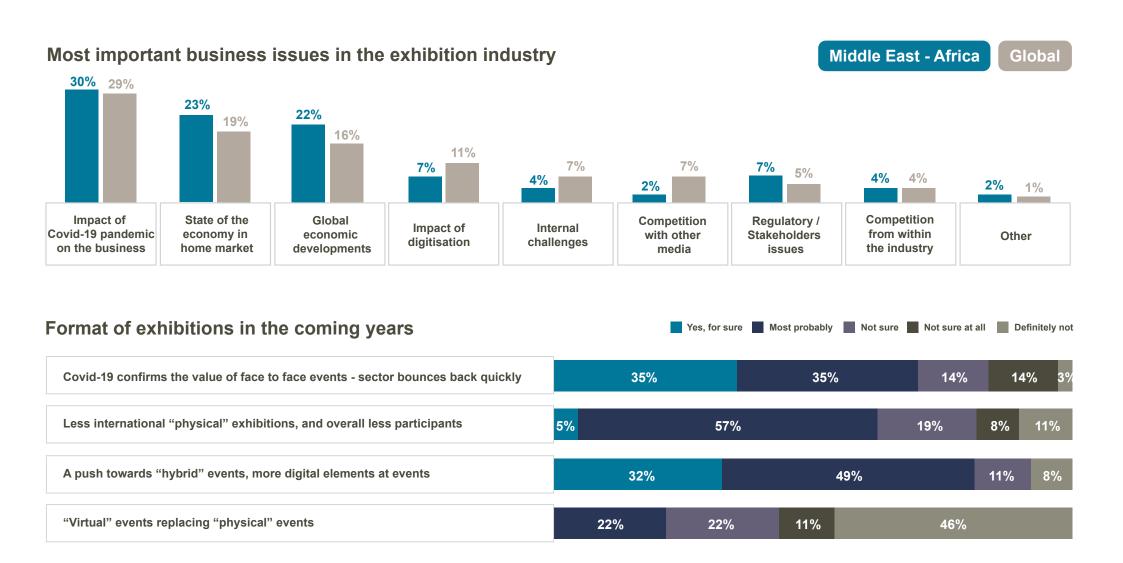




# Most Important Business Issues - Format of Exhibitions - Middle East - Africa



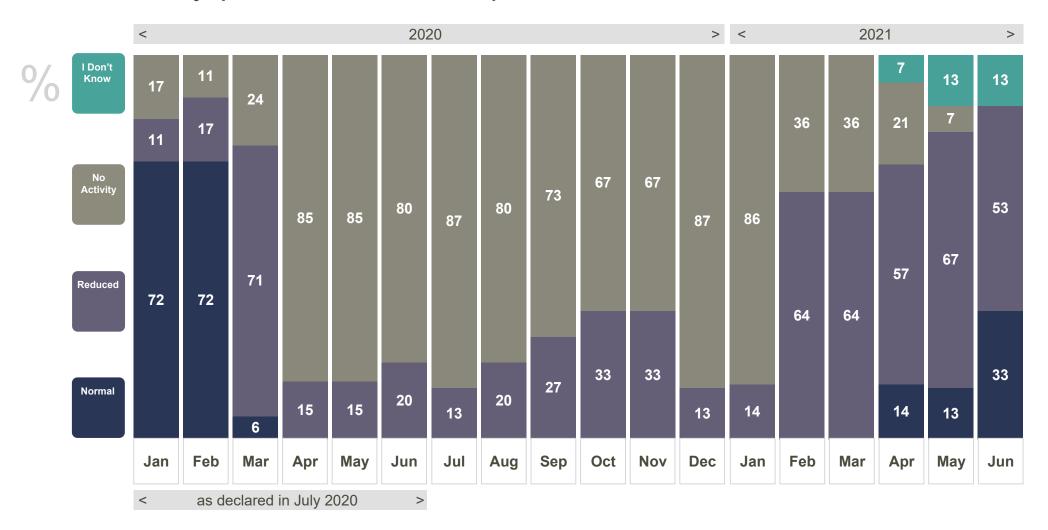








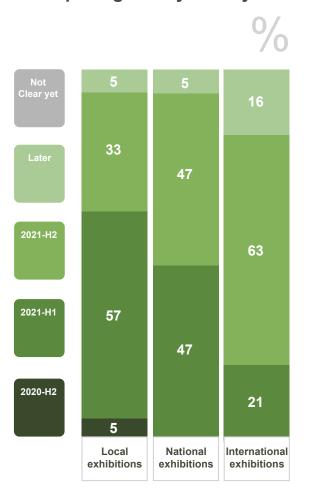
### Situation of industry operations in 2020 and current predictions for the 1st half of 2021



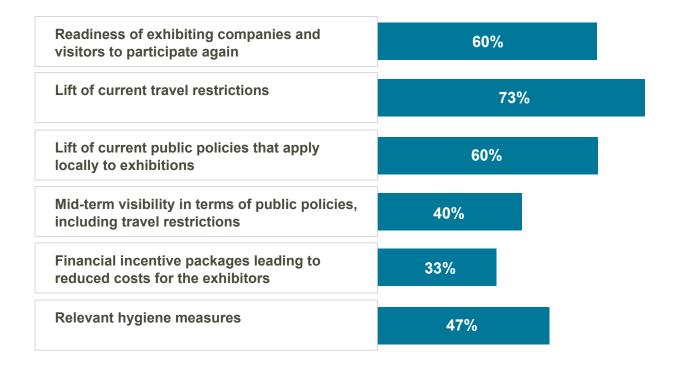




## When do you believe exhibitions will open again in your city?

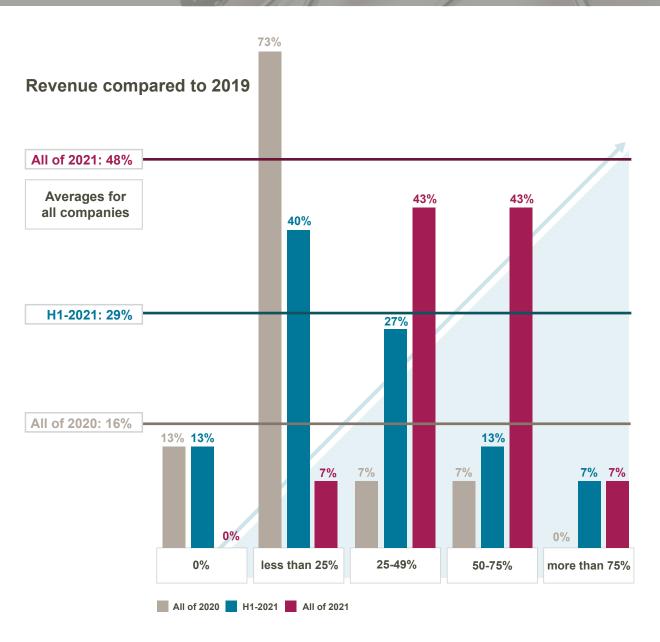


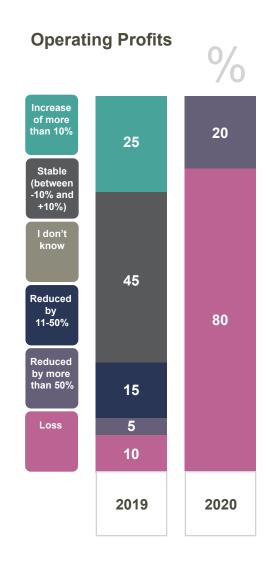
## What do you believe would most help the "bounce back" of exhibitions?







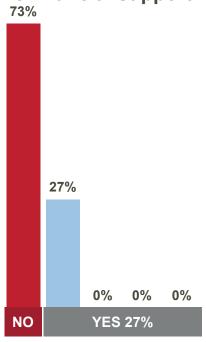




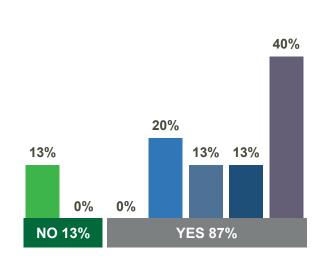




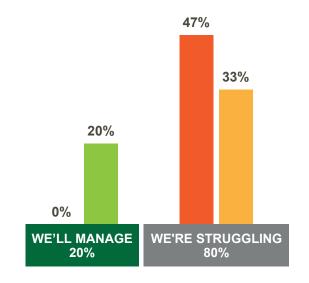
# Did your company benefit from public financial support?



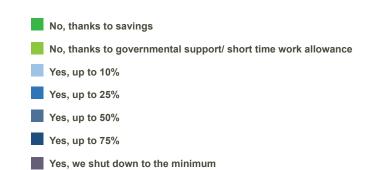
# Have you had to reduce your workforce?

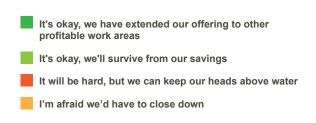


### If there is no business for the next 6 months, which best applies?



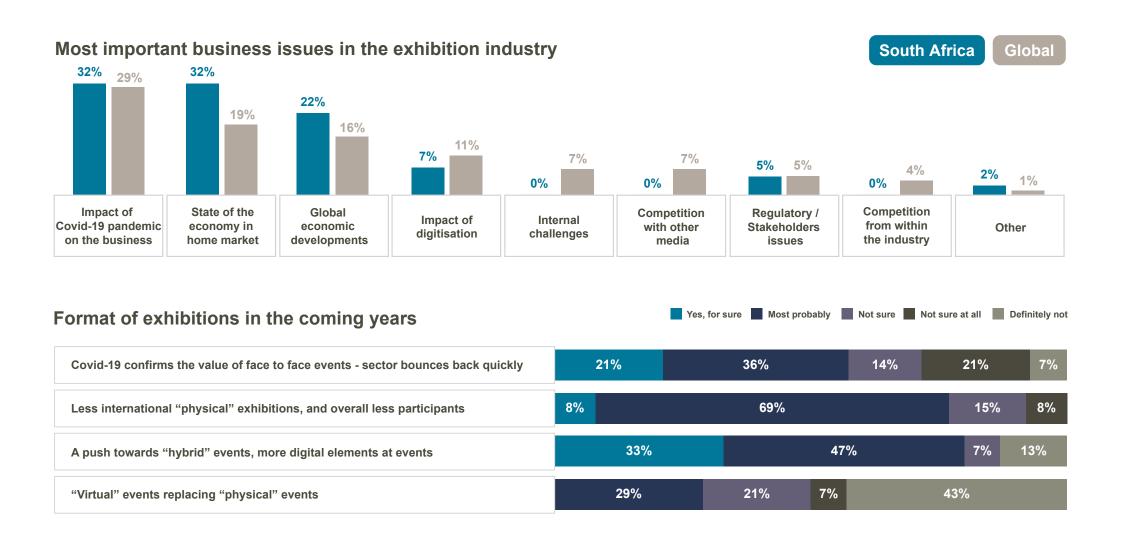






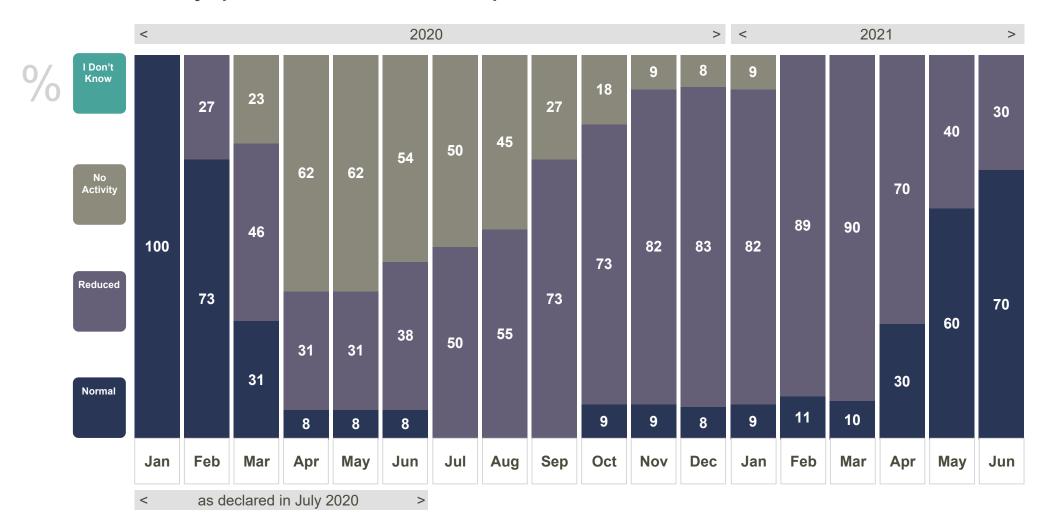






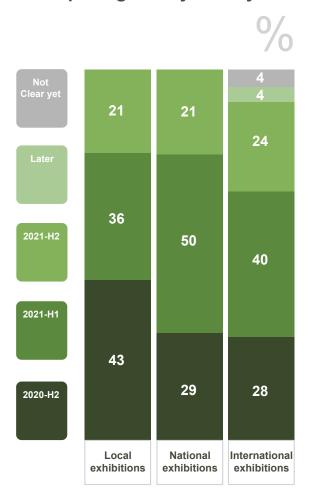


### Situation of industry operations in 2020 and current predictions for the 1st half of 2021

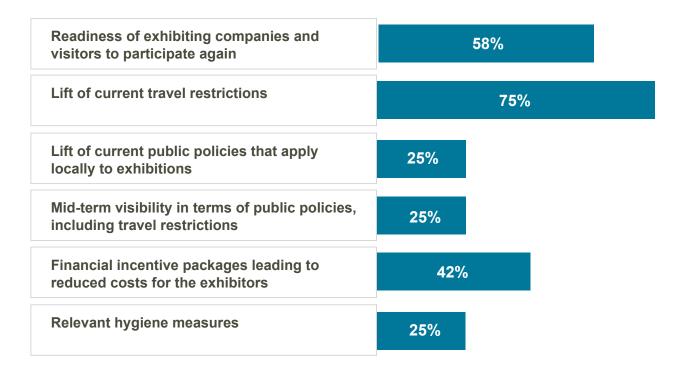




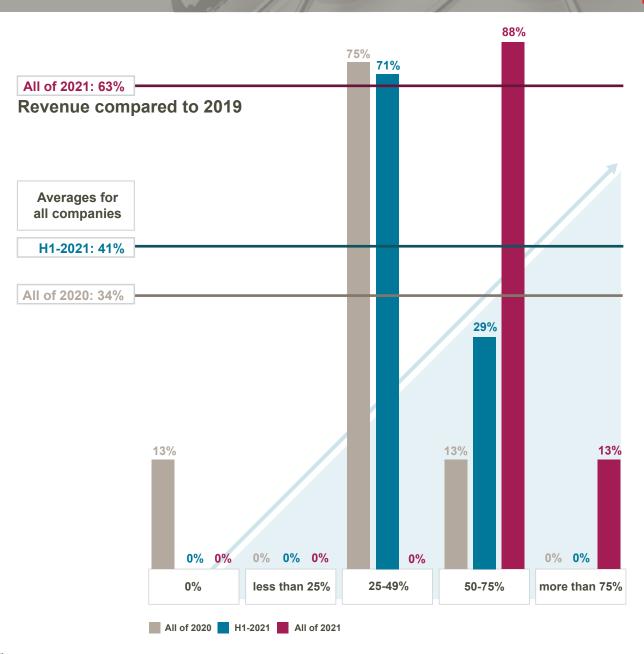
# When do you believe exhibitions will open again in your city?



## What do you believe would most help the "bounce back" of exhibitions?



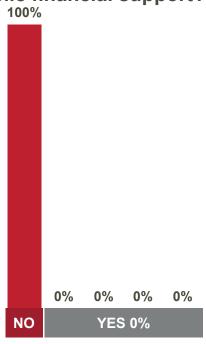




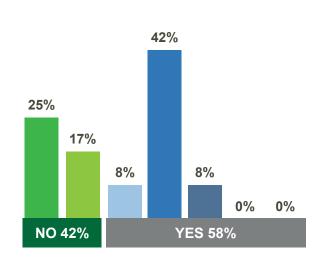




# Did your company benefit from public financial support?



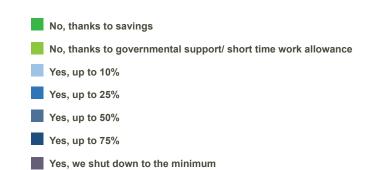
# Have you had to reduce your workforce?

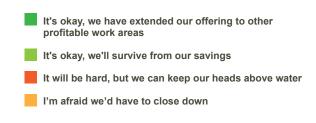


### If there is no business for the next 6 months, which best applies?

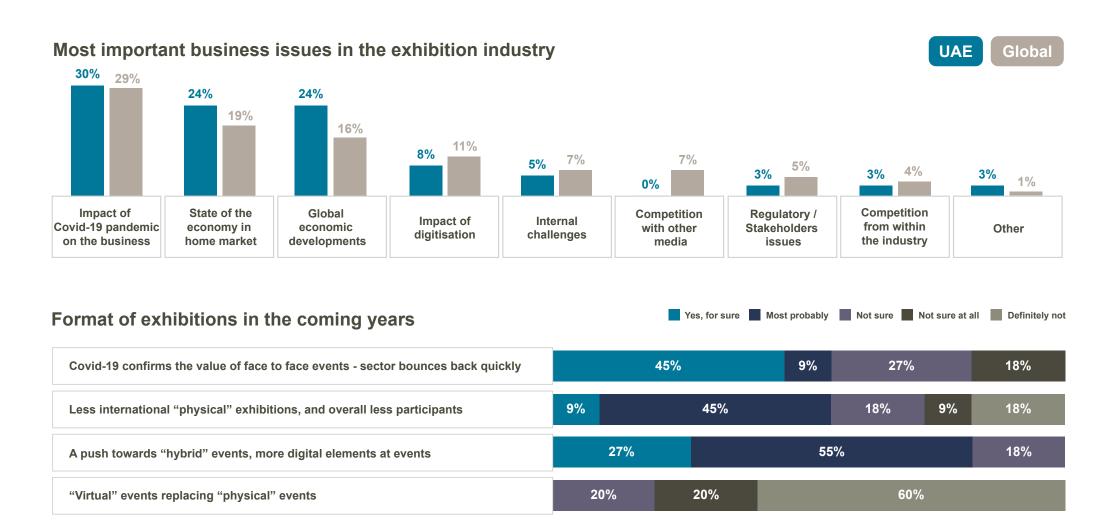














# **Operations - Reopening Exhibitions Asia/Pacific**





### Situation of industry operations in 2020 and current predictions for the 1st half of 2021



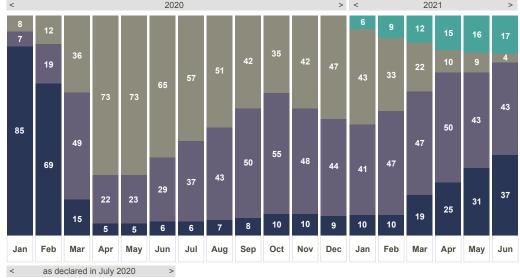






#### Asia/Pacific





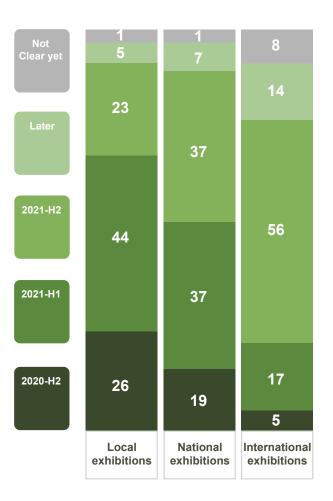
# **Operations - Reopening Exhibitions Asia/Pacific**

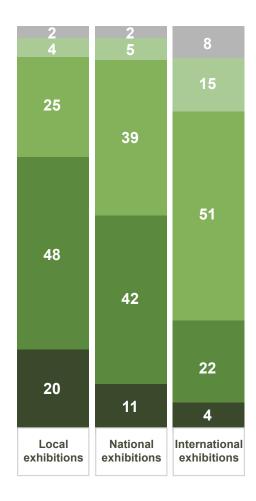




When do you believe exhibitions will open again in your city?

#### Asia/Pacific





# Operations - Reopening Exhibitions Asia/Pacific





### What do you believe would most help the "bounce back" of exhibitions?

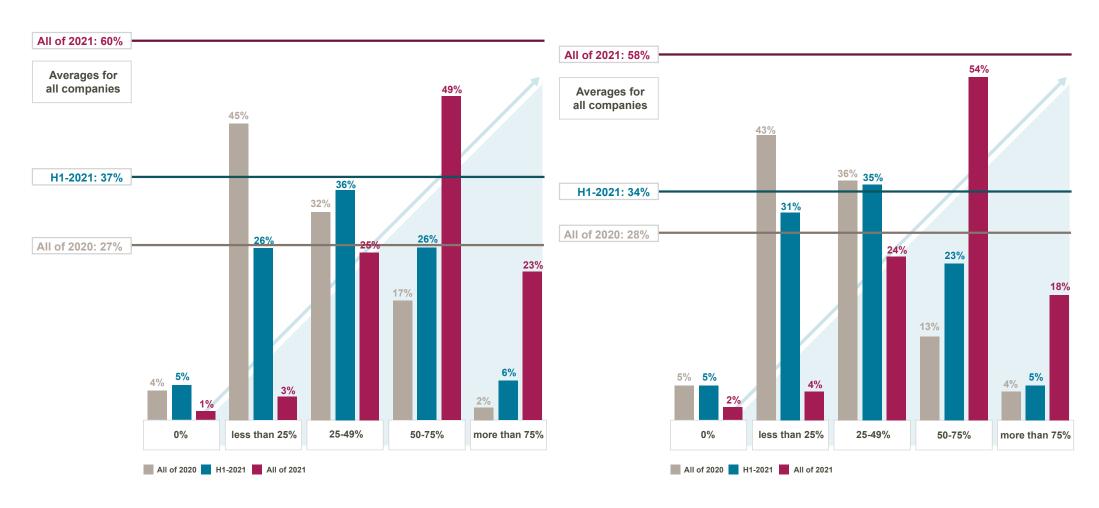
### Asia/Pacific World

| Readiness of exhibiting companies and visitors to participate again            | 68% | Readiness of exhibiting companies and visitors to participate again            | 64% |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Lift of current travel restrictions                                            | 75% | Lift of current travel restrictions                                            | 63% |
| Lift of current public policies that apply locally to exhibitions              | 57% | Lift of current public policies that apply locally to exhibitions              | 52% |
| Mid-term visibility in terms of public policies, including travel restrictions | 54% | Mid-term visibility in terms of public policies, including travel restrictions | 46% |
| Financial incentive packages leading to reduced costs for the exhibitors       | 47% | Financial incentive packages leading to reduced costs for the exhibitors       | 41% |
| Relevant hygiene measures                                                      | 44% | Relevant hygiene measures                                                      | 41% |



### Revenue compared to last year (2019)

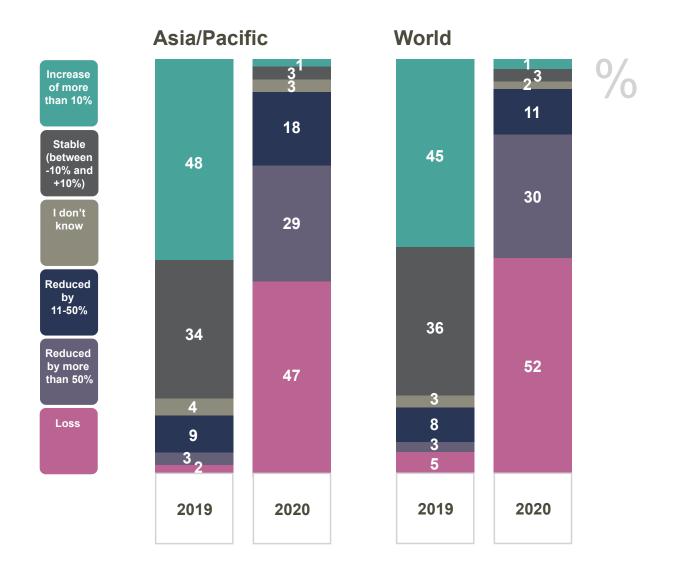
Asia/Pacific World



# Operating profits Asia/Pacific







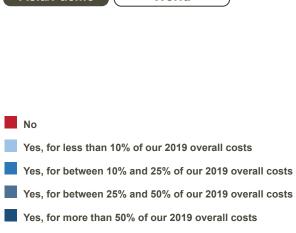
# Public Financial Support Asia/Pacific

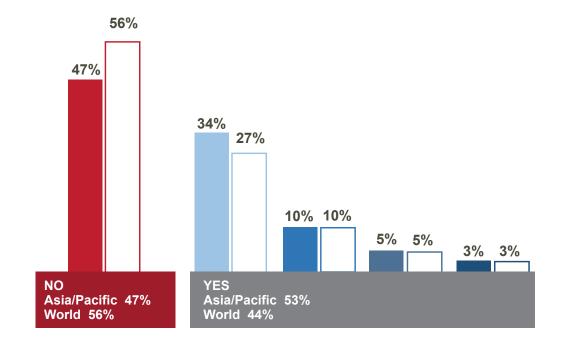




# Did your company benefit from public financial support?

Asia/Pacific

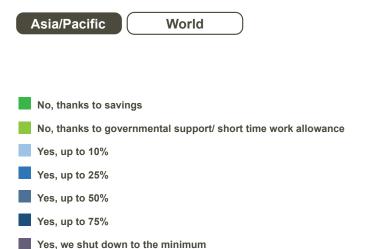


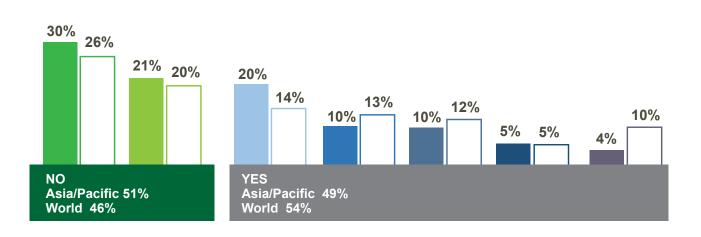






### Have you had to reduce your workforce?





## Perspectives Asia/Pacific

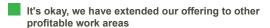






Asia/Pacific

World

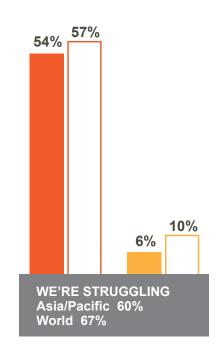


It's okay, we'll survive from our savings

It will be hard, but we can keep our heads above water

I'm afraid we'd have to close down

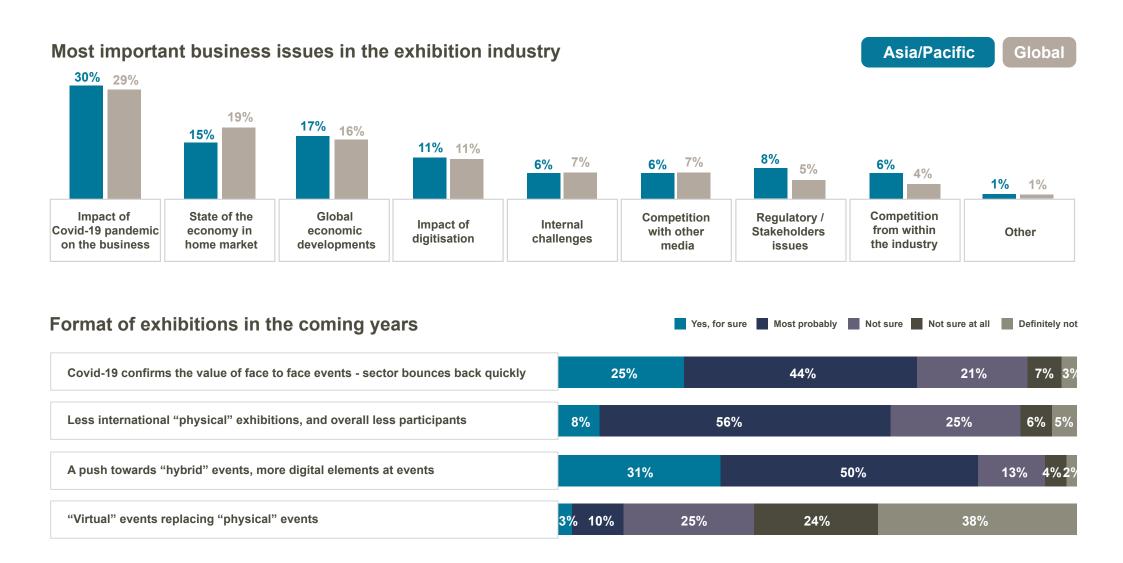




# **Most Important Business Issues -** Format of Exhibitions - Asia/Pacific





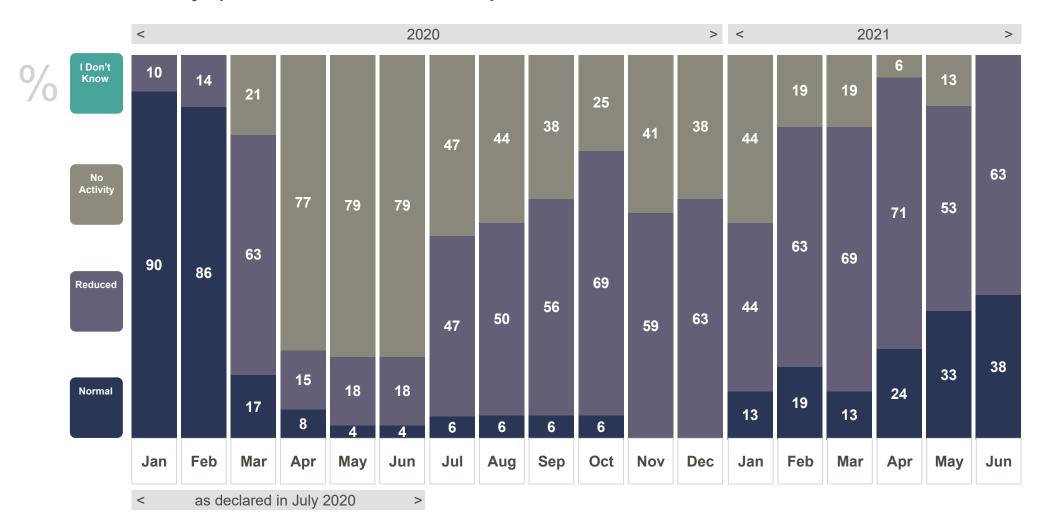


### **Detailed results for Australia**





### Situation of industry operations in 2020 and current predictions for the 1st half of 2021

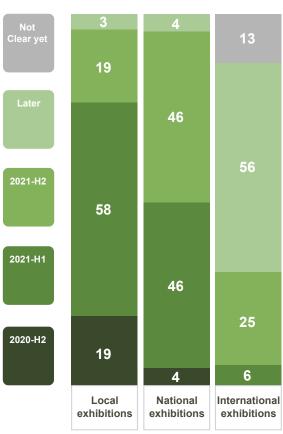




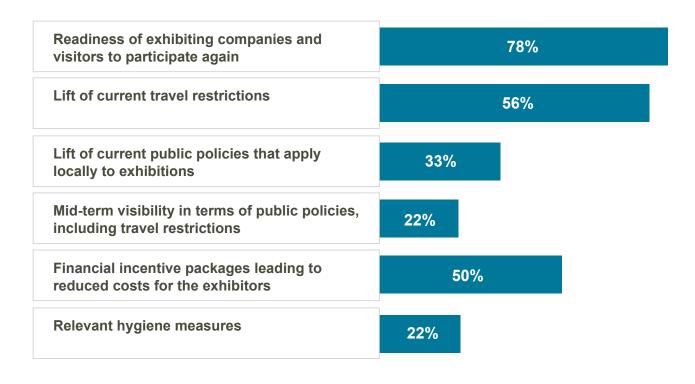


## When do you believe exhibitions will open again in your city?



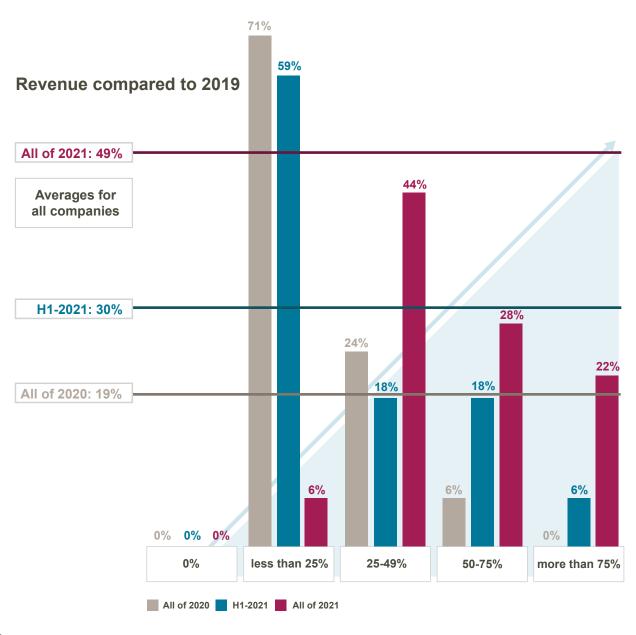


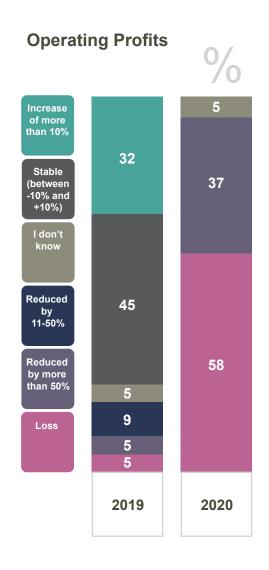
## What do you believe would most help the "bounce back" of exhibitions?







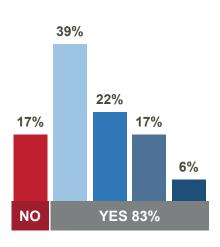




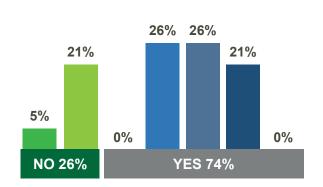




# Did your company benefit from public financial support?



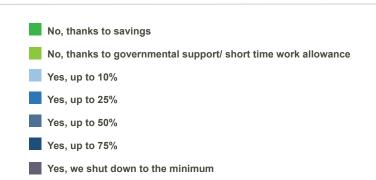
## Have you had to reduce your workforce?







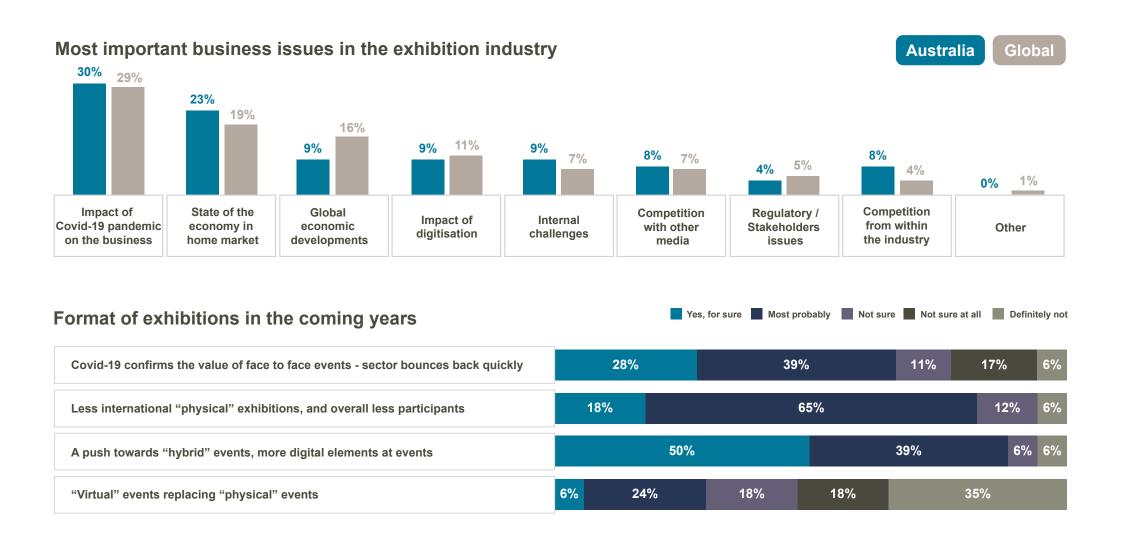








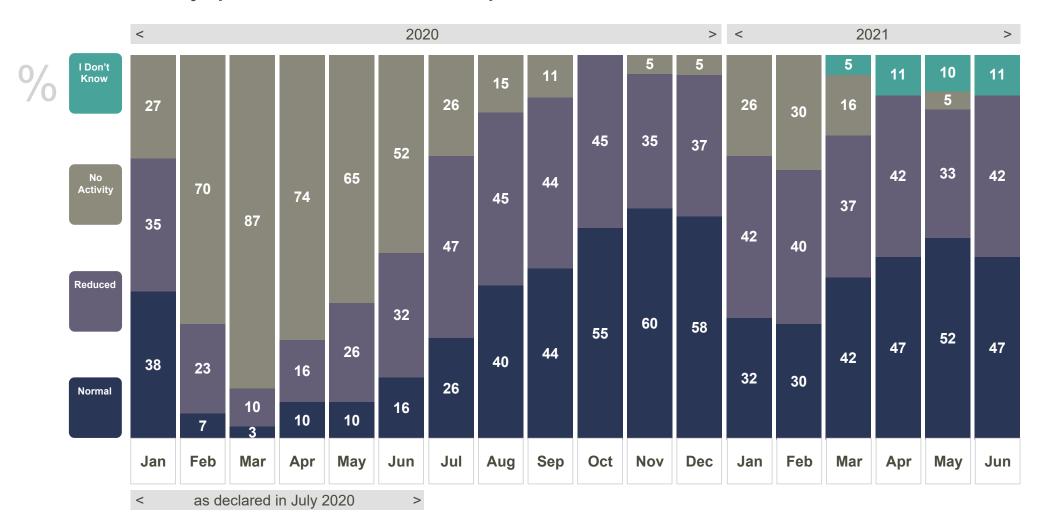








#### Situation of industry operations in 2020 and current predictions for the 1st half of 2021

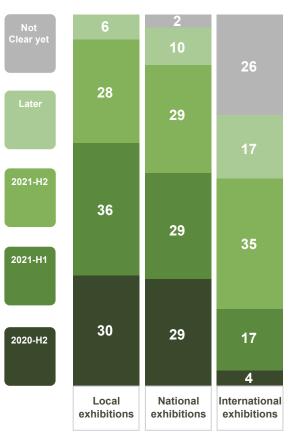




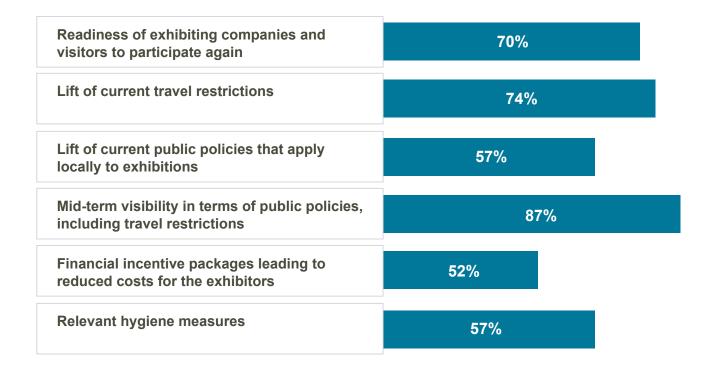


## When do you believe exhibitions will open again in your city?



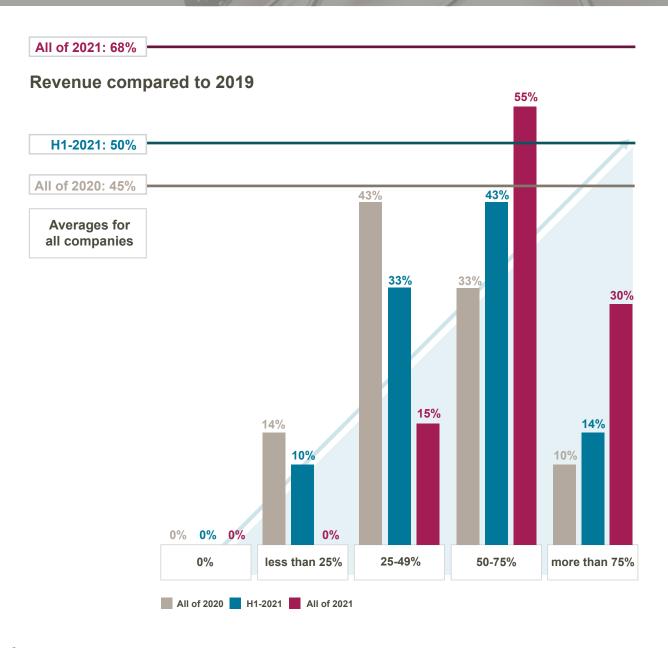


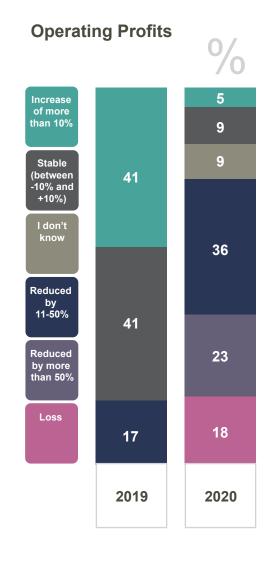
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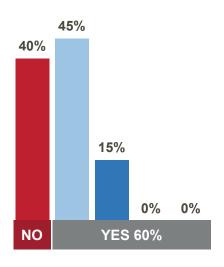




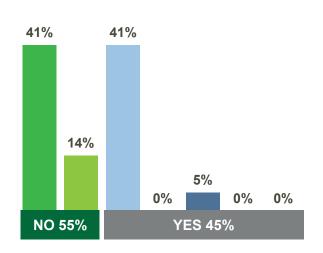




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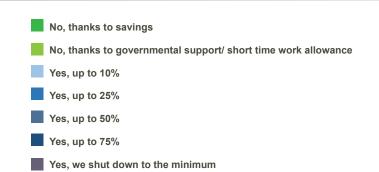
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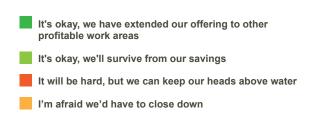






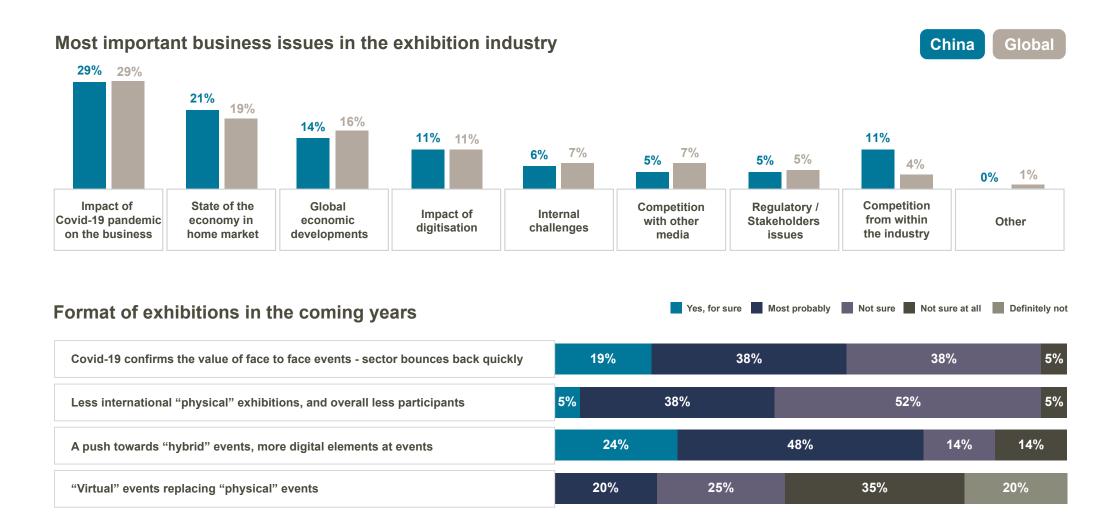








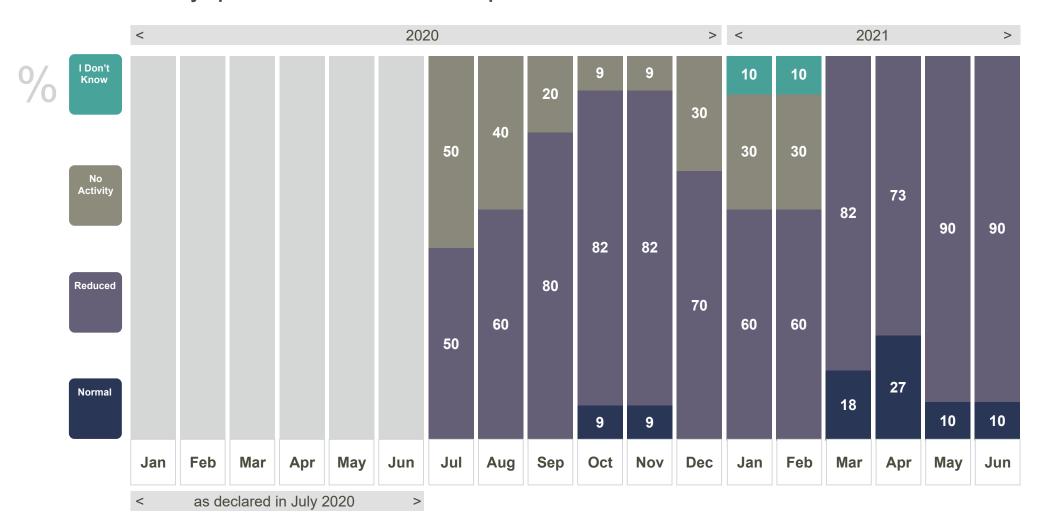








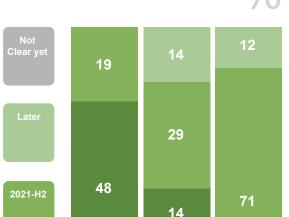
#### Situation of industry operations in 2020 and current predictions for the 1st half of 2021







## When do you believe exhibitions will open again in your city?



43

**National** 

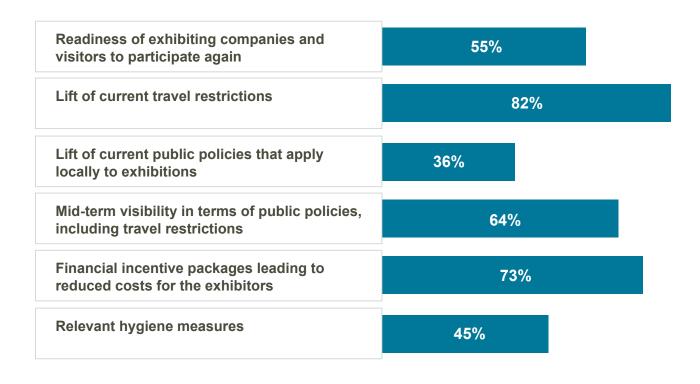
exhibitions

18

International

exhibitions

## What do you believe would most help the "bounce back" of exhibitions?



33

Local

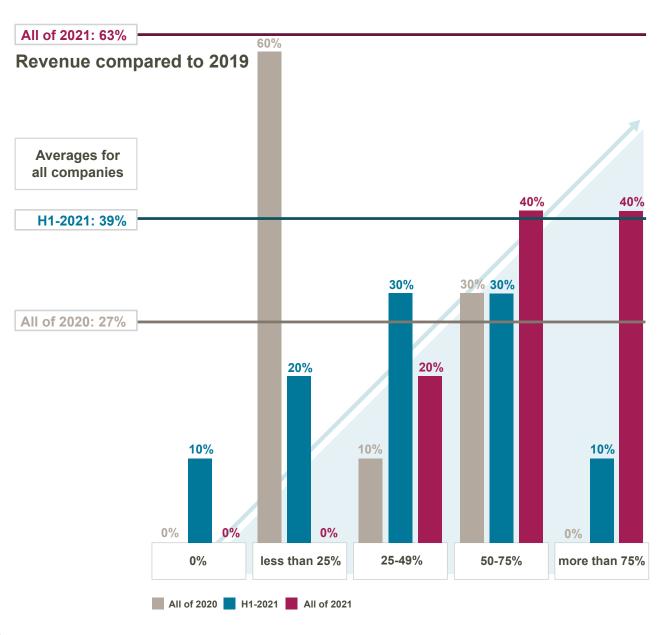
exhibitions

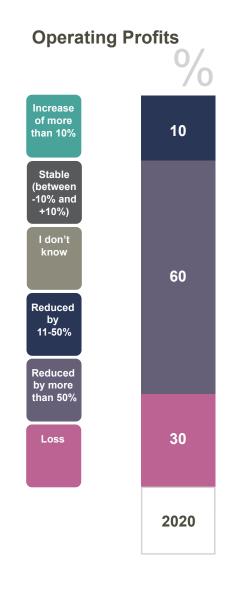
2021-H1

2020-H2





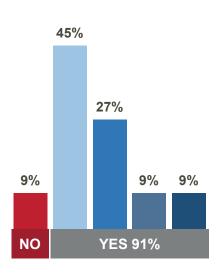




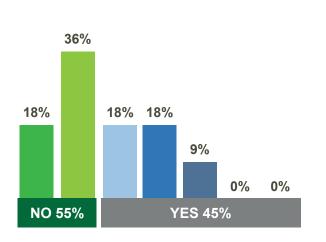




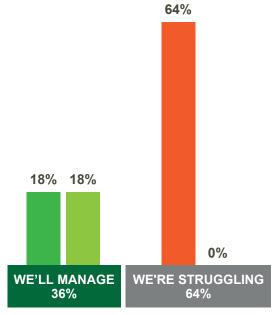
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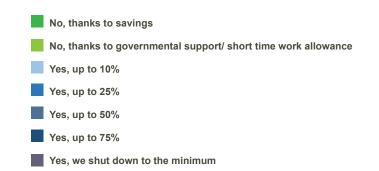
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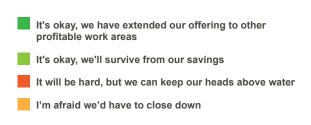






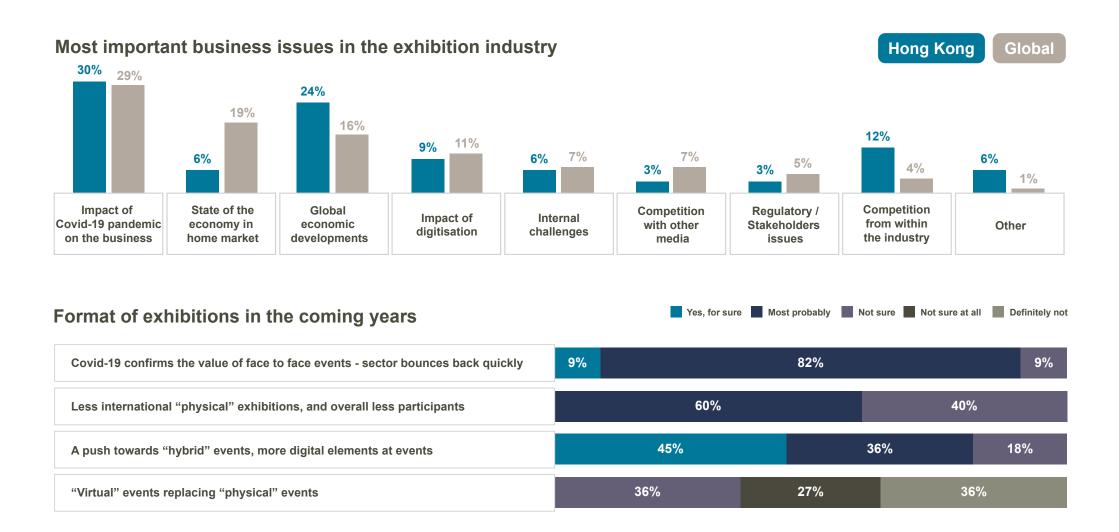








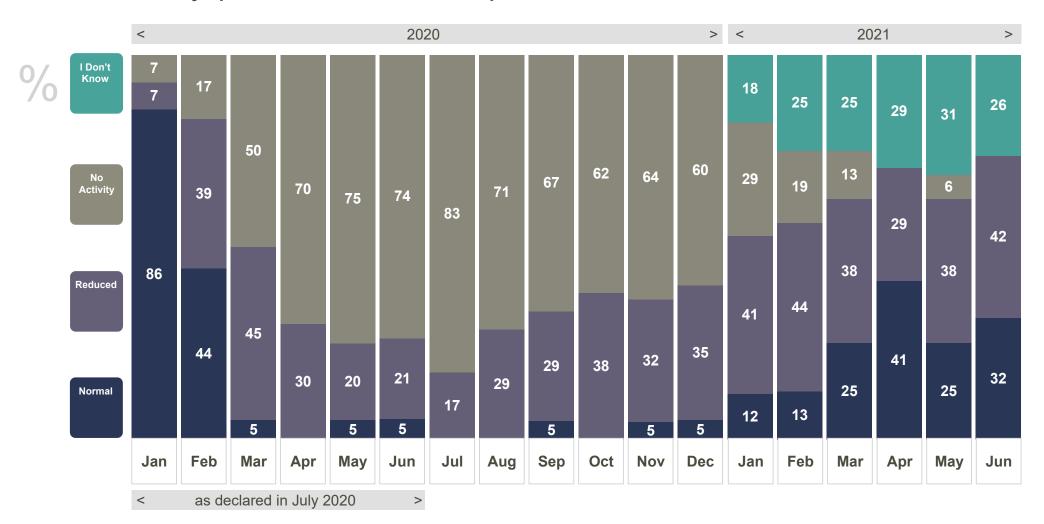








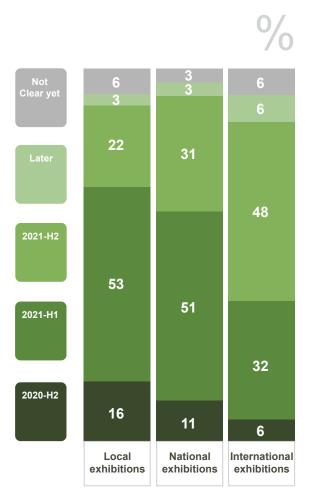
#### Situation of industry operations in 2020 and current predictions for the 1st half of 2021



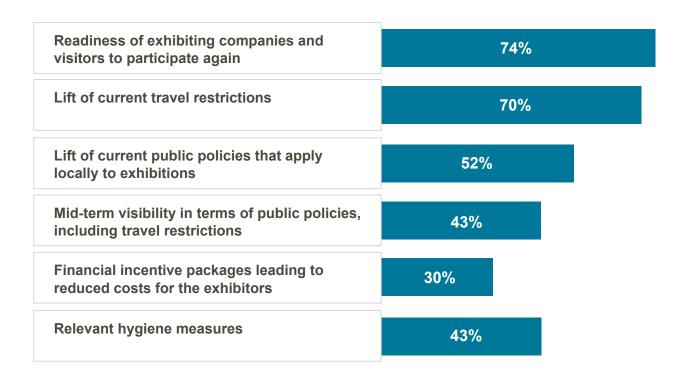




## When do you believe exhibitions will open again in your city?



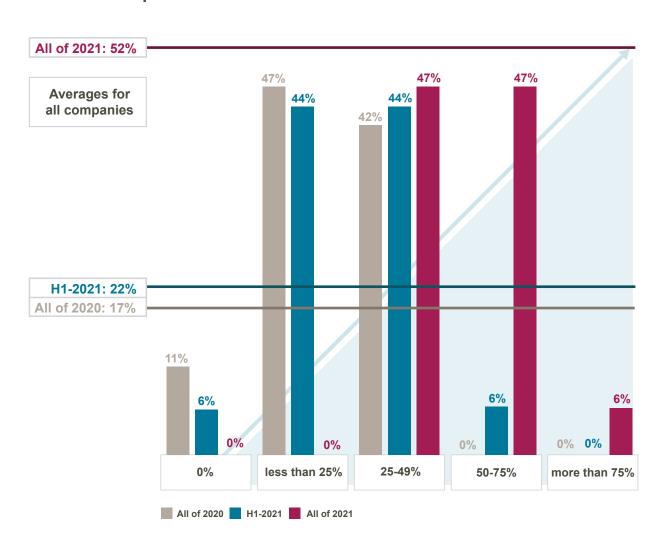
## What do you believe would most help the "bounce back" of exhibitions?

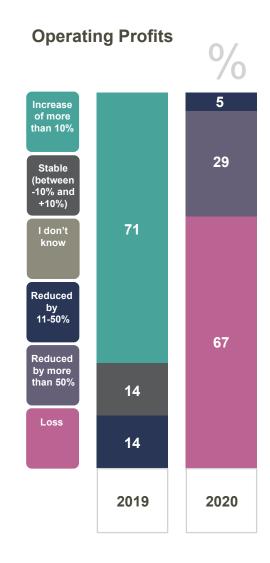






#### Revenue compared to 2019

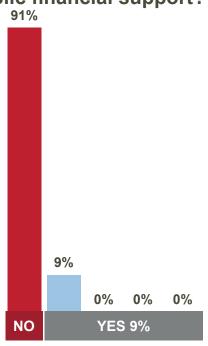




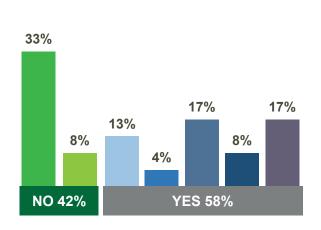




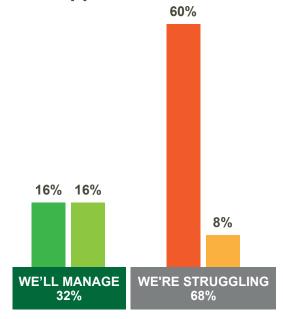
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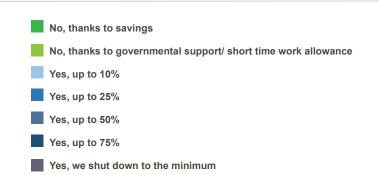
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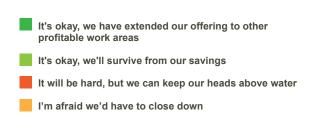


#### If there is no business for the next 6 months, which best applies?



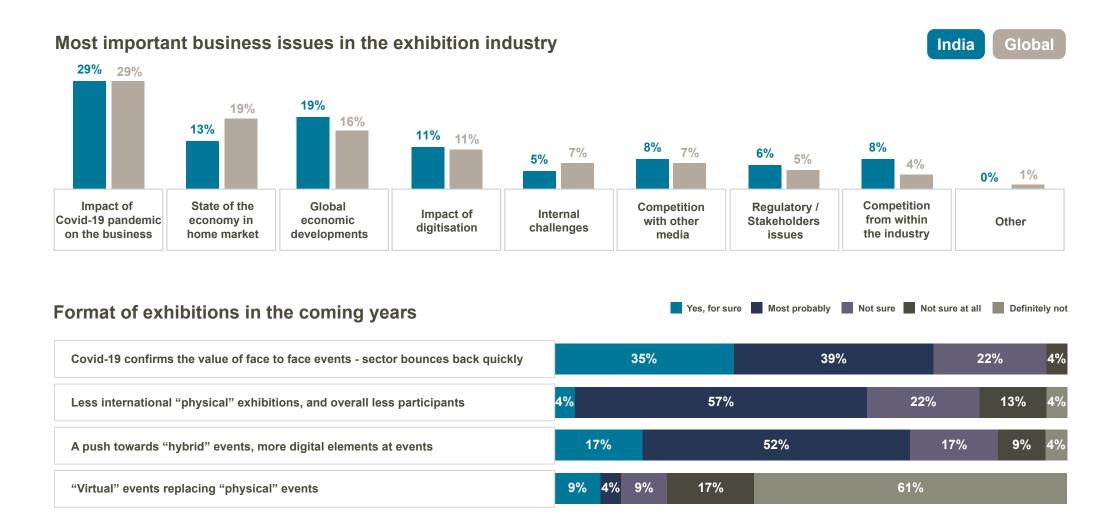








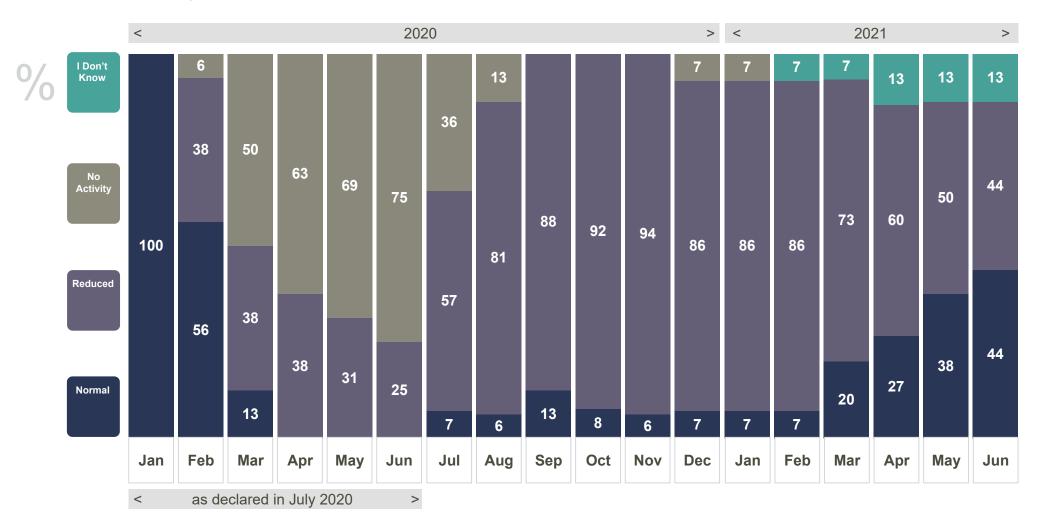








#### Situation of industry operations in 2020 and current predictions for the 1<sup>st</sup> half of 2021

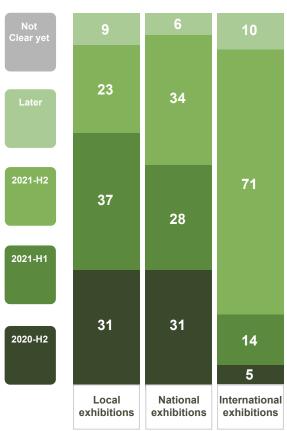




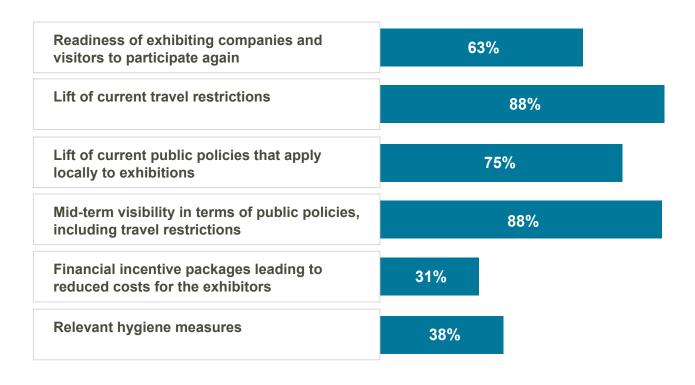


## When do you believe exhibitions will open again in your city?



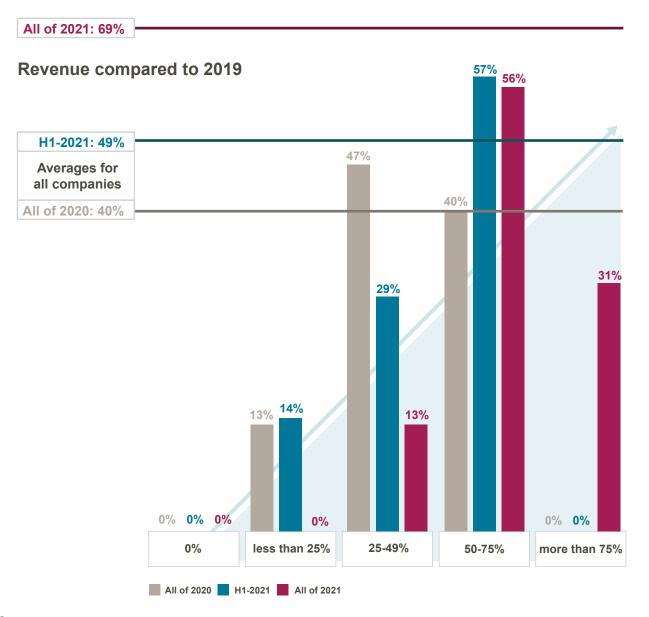


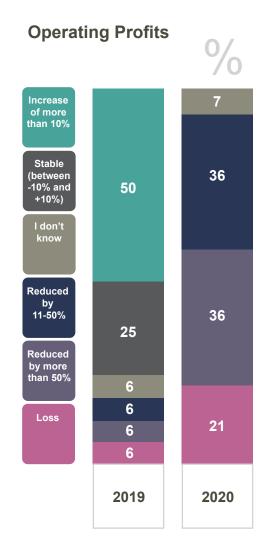
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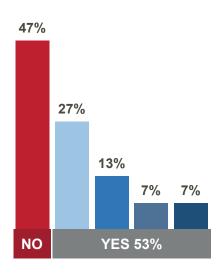




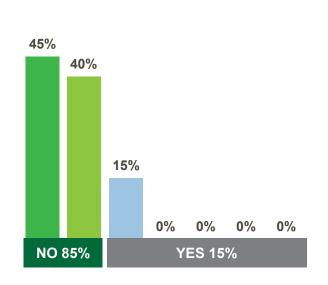




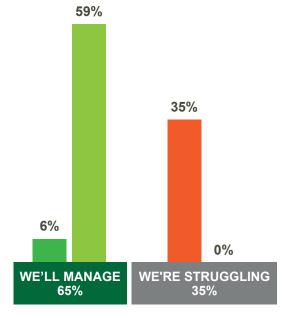
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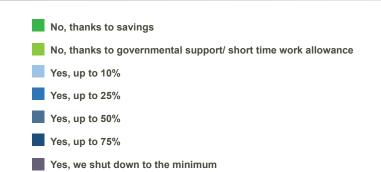
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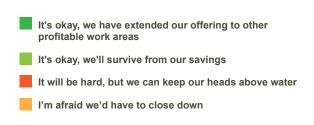






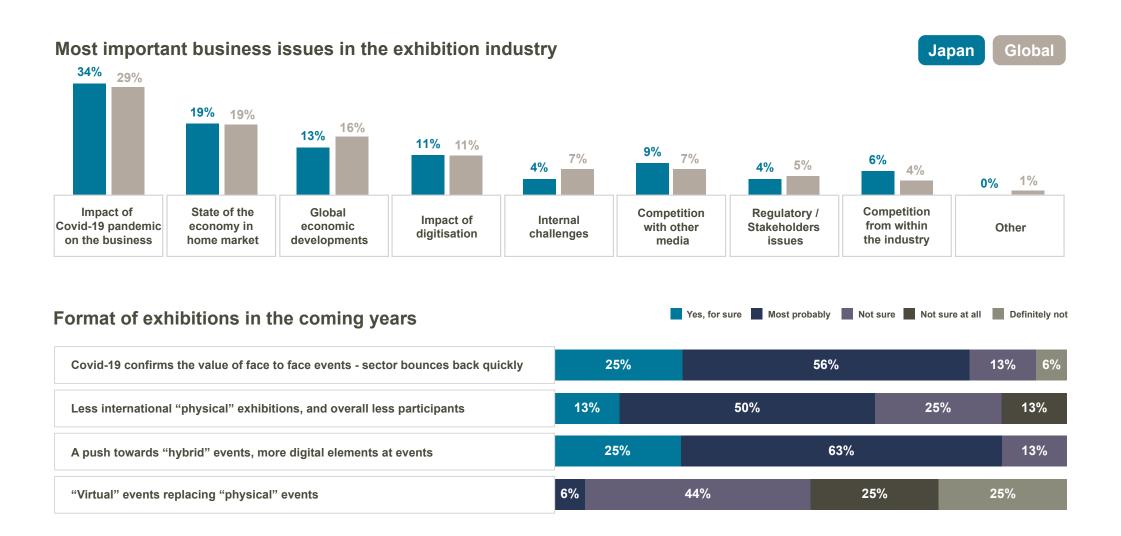








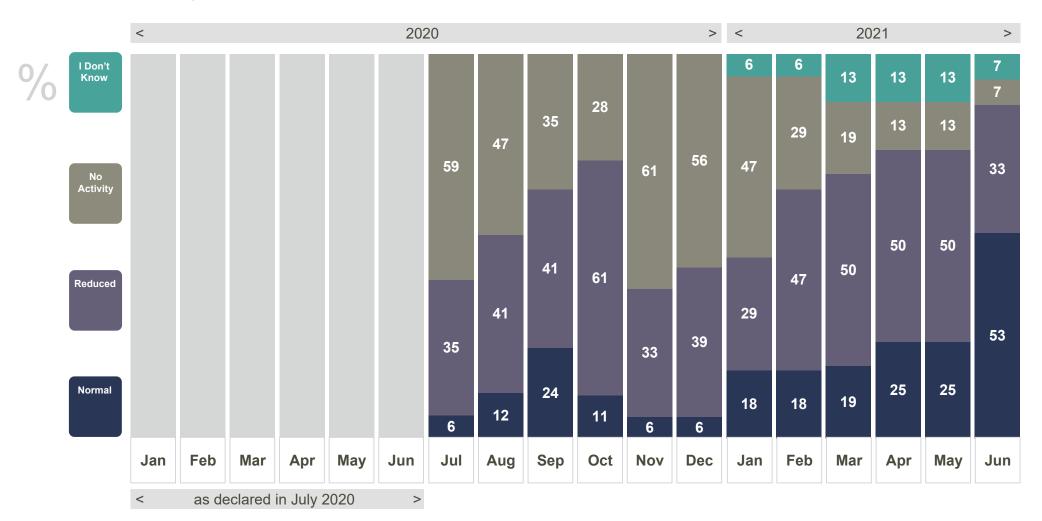








#### Situation of industry operations in 2020 and current predictions for the 1<sup>st</sup> half of 2021

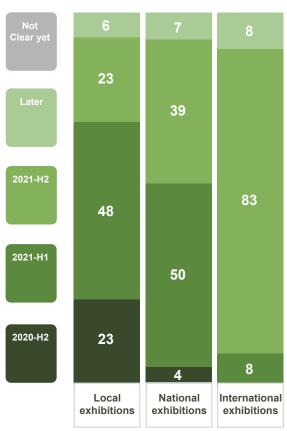




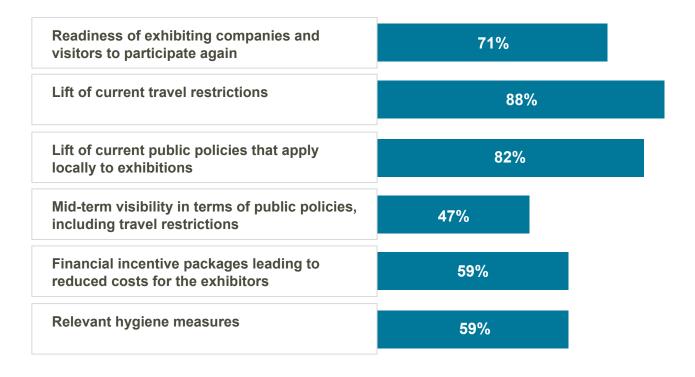


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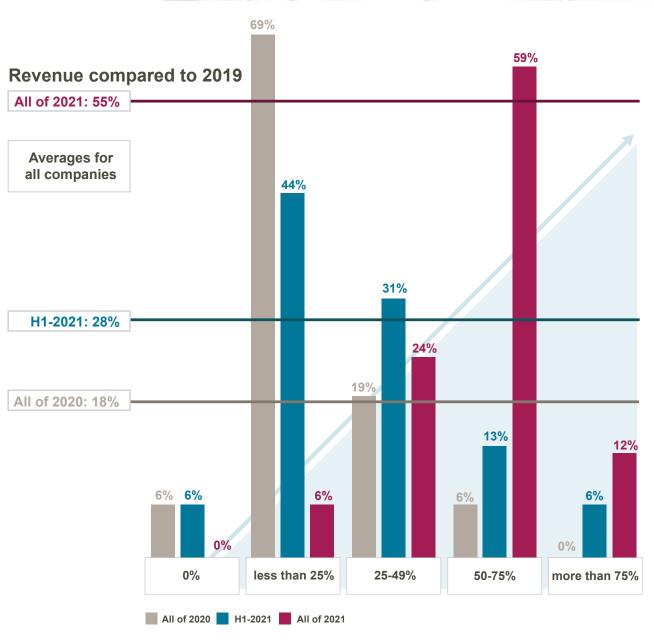


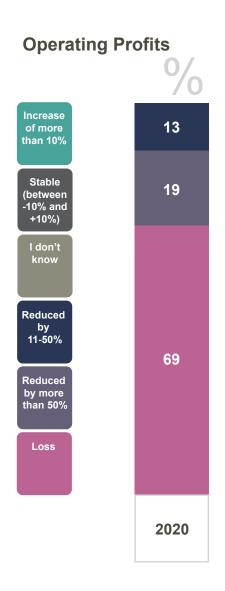
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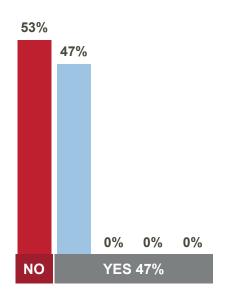




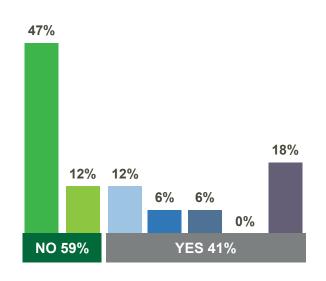




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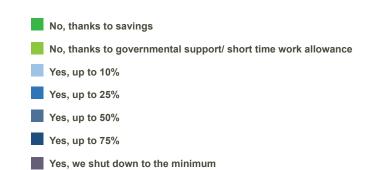
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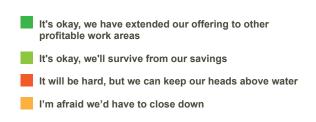


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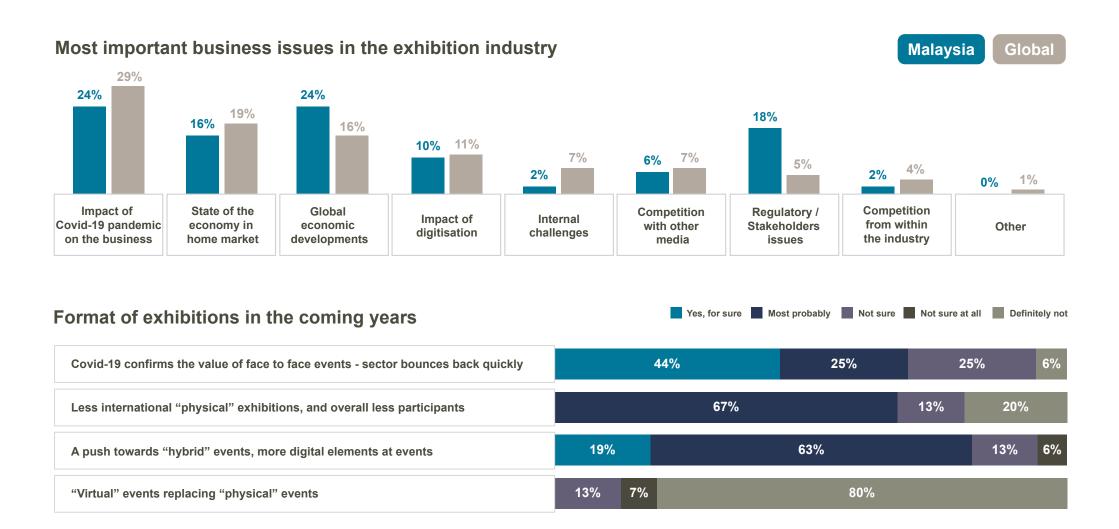








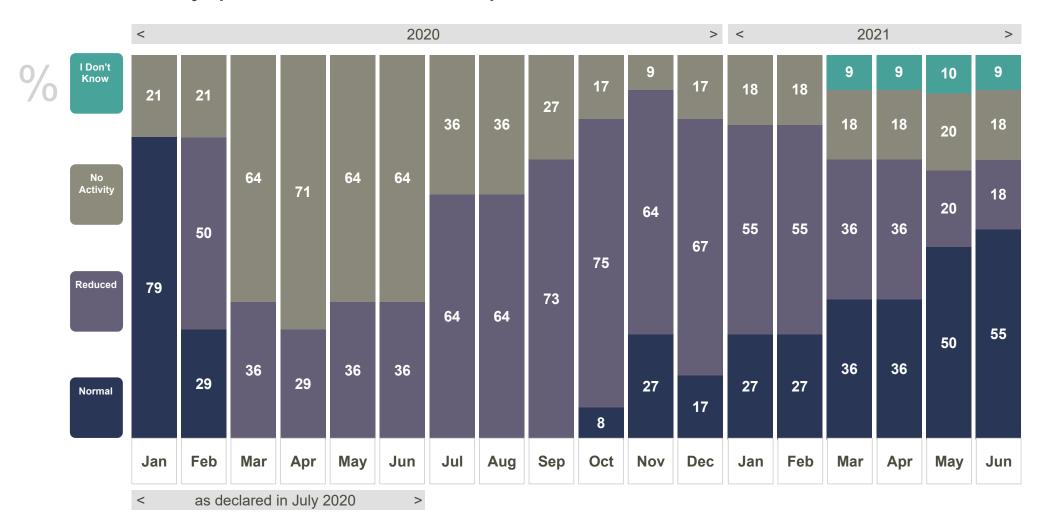








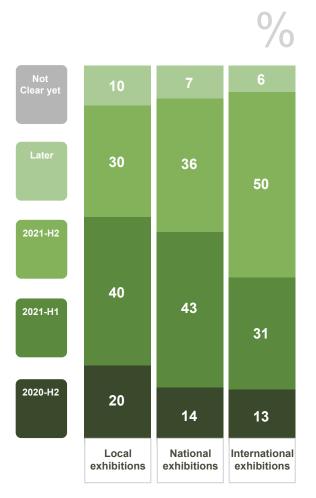
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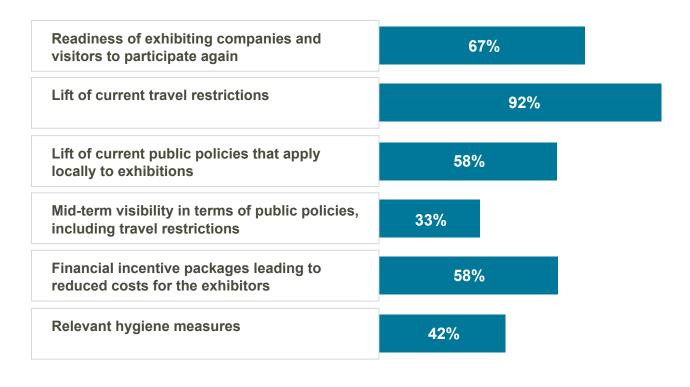




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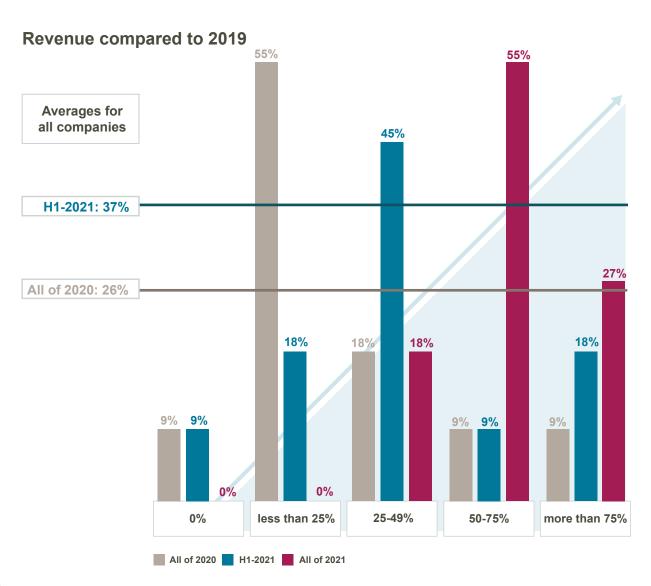
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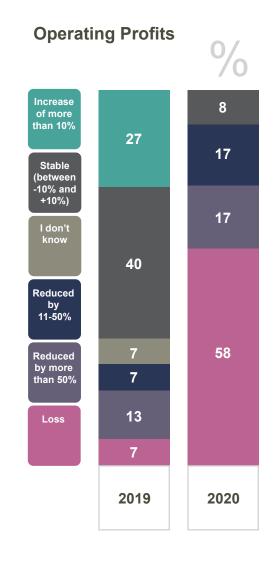






All of 2021: 70%

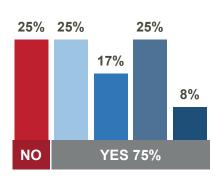




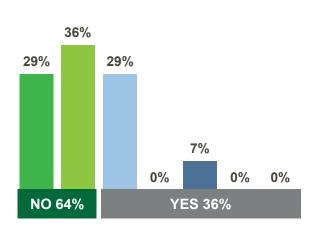




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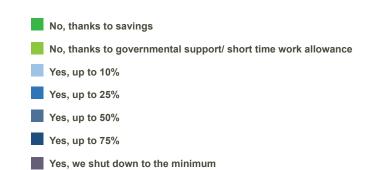
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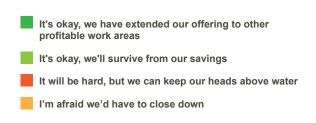






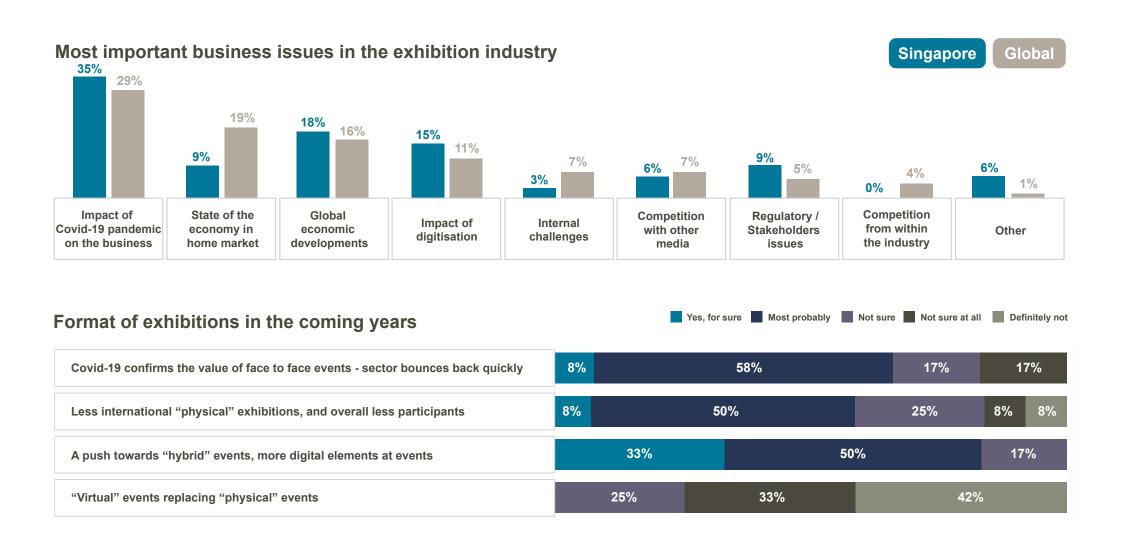








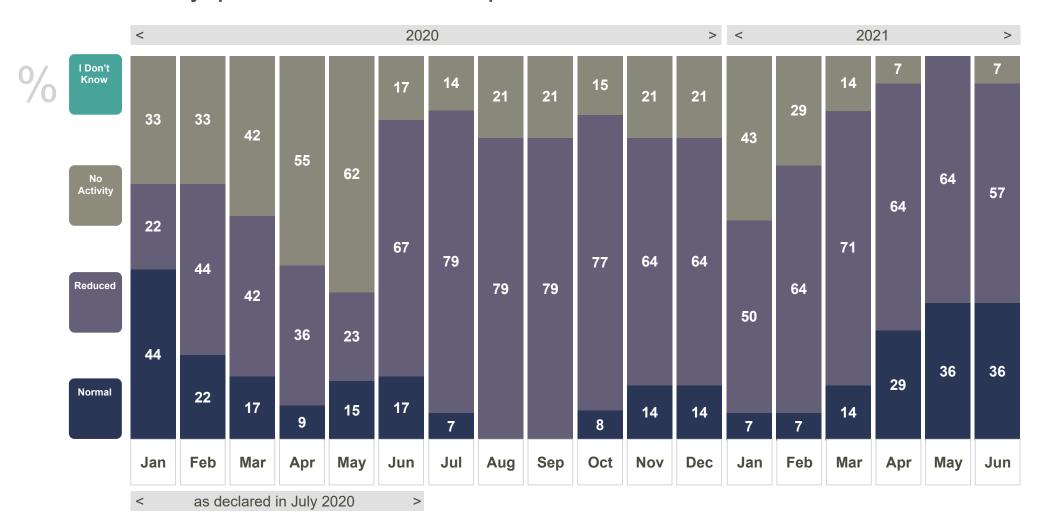








#### Situation of industry operations in 2020 and current predictions for the 1st half of 2021

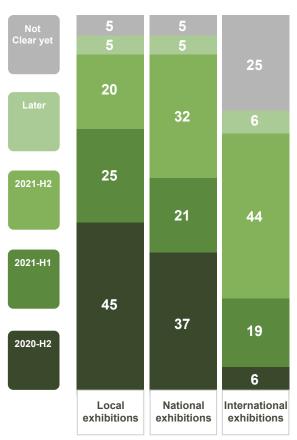




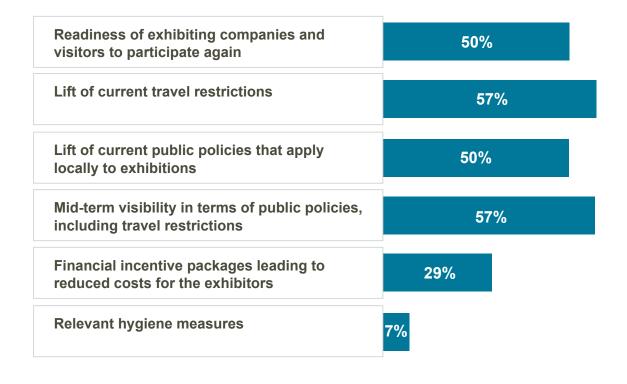


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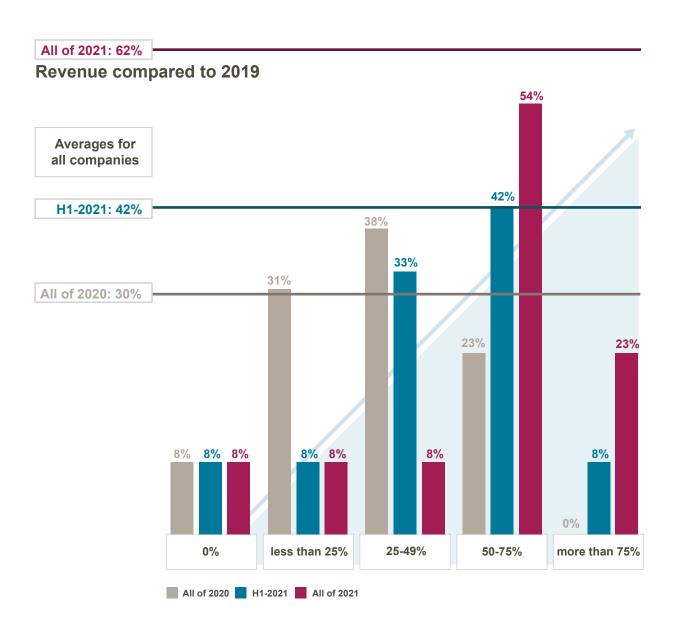


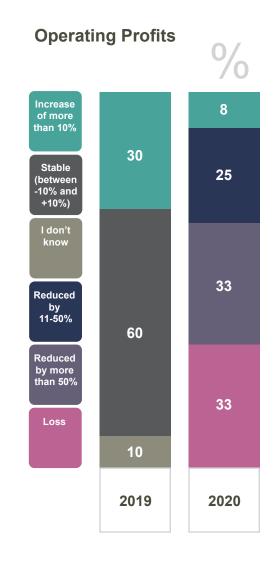
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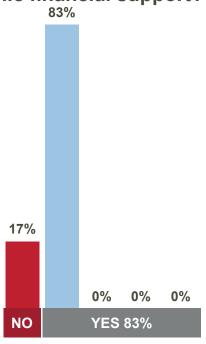




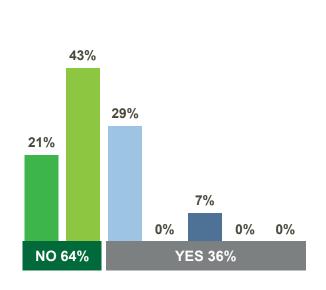




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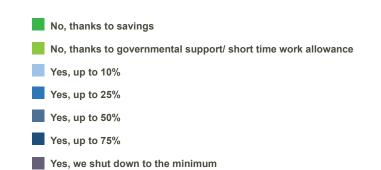
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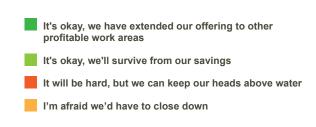


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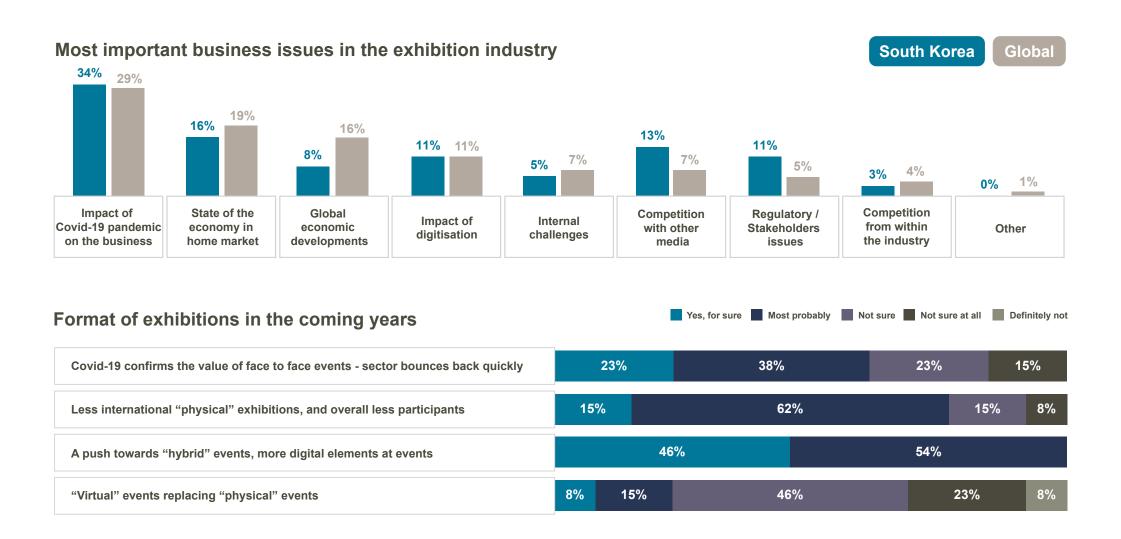






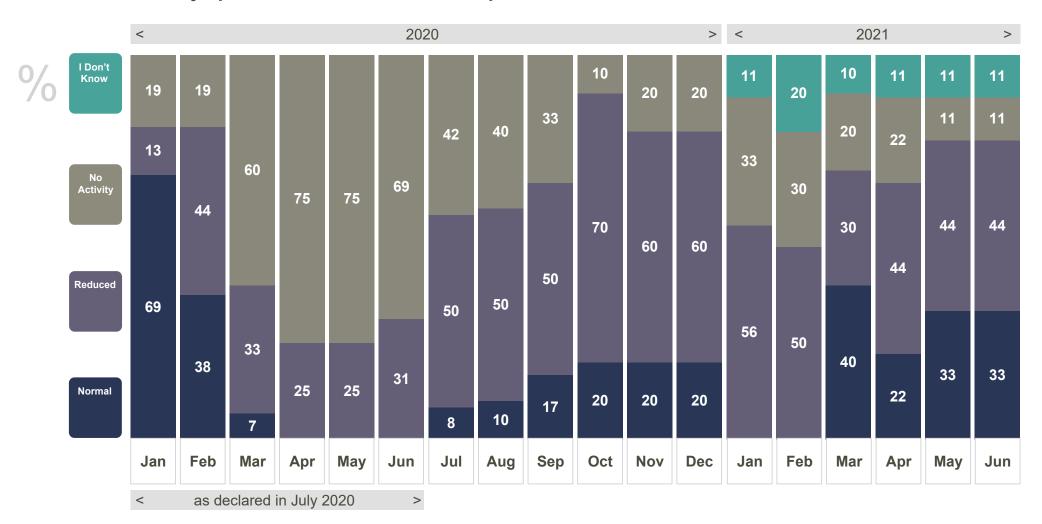








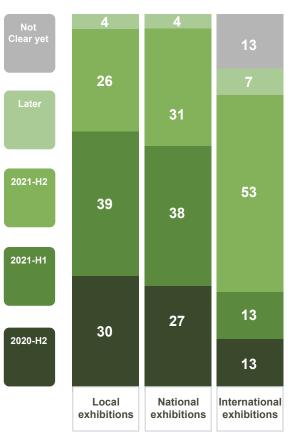
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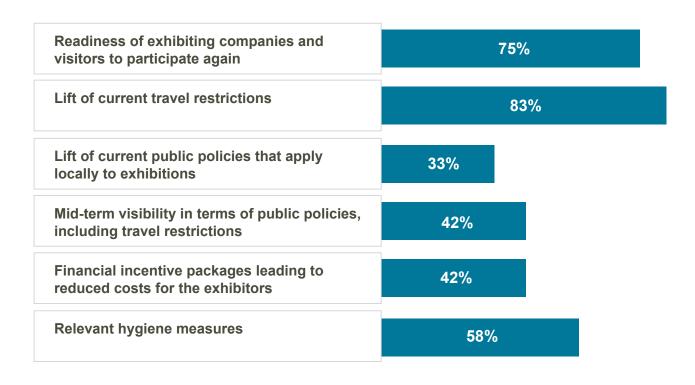


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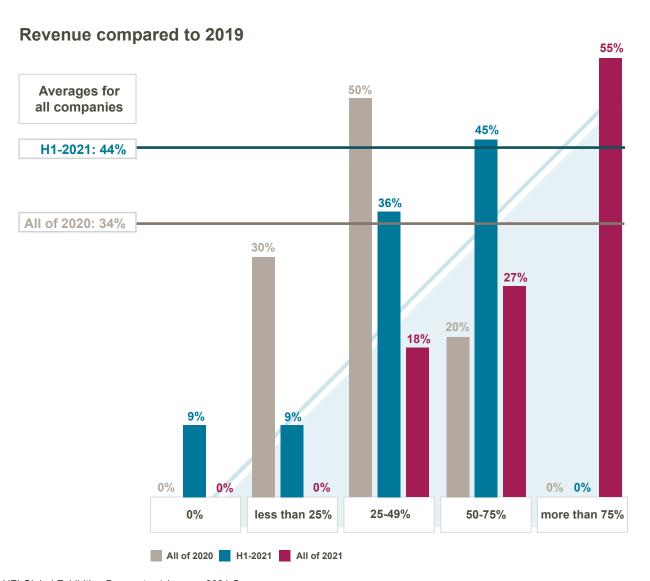


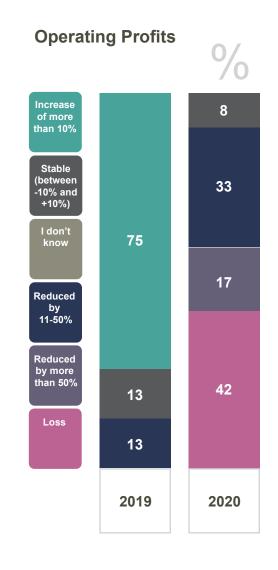
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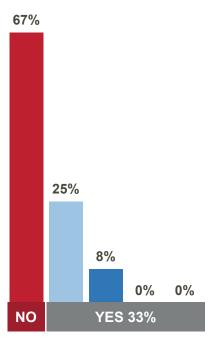
All of 2021: 77%



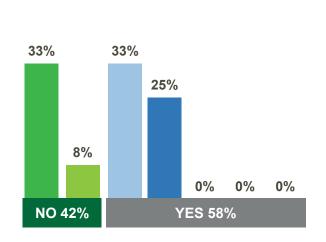




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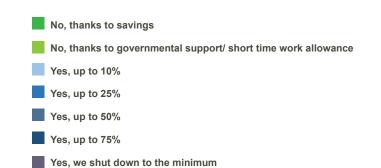
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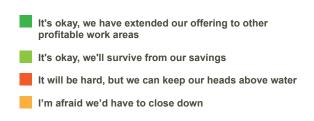


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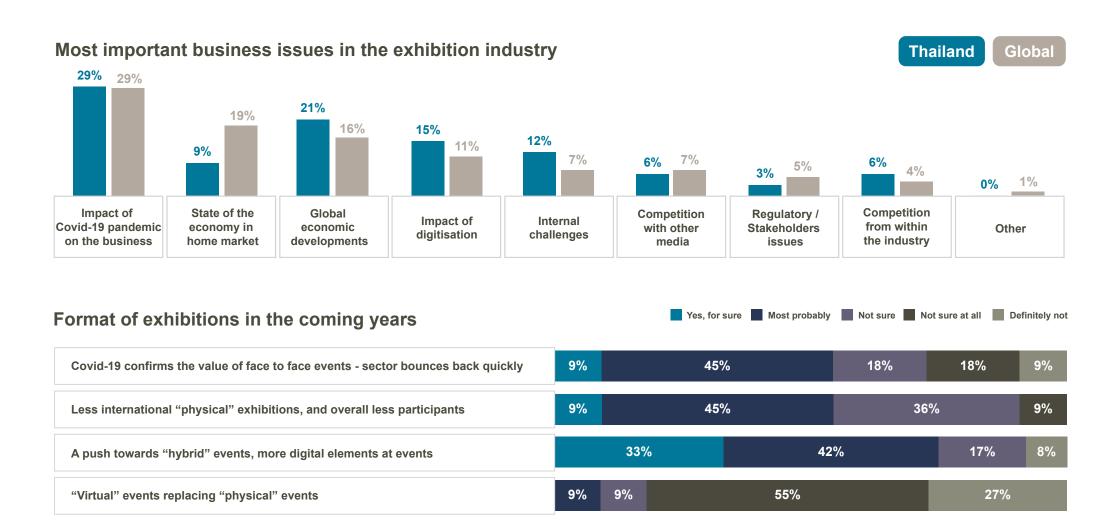












#### Conclusion



The Global Barometer survey has been measuring the pulse of the exhibition industry since 2008.

This 26th survey was concluded in December 2020 and includes data from 457 companies in 64 countries and regions. The report delivers outlooks and analysis for 24 countries and regions. In addition, it analyses five aggregated regional zones.

Results highlights the severe impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the exhibition industry worldwide in 2020. It also shows some positive signs as to the expected rebound of activity for 2021.

Globally, between April and August 2020, more than half of companies had no activity. This situation changed as from September, where a majority of companies declared the return of some operations, reduced for most.

In all regions, a majority of companies expect both "local" and "national" exhibitions to open again by the end of June 2021 latest. But that is not expected until the second half of 2021 for international exhibitions, and for 2021, the proportion of companies expecting a "normal" level of activity grows from 10% for January to 37% for June.

When asked what element would most help towards the "bounce back" of exhibitions, a majority of companies, rank "Readiness of exhibiting companies and visitors to participate again" (64% of answers globally), "Lift of current travel restrictions" (63%) and "Lift of current public policies that apply locally to exhibitions" (52%) first.

On average globally, revenues for 2020 represented only 28% of the revenues produced for same period last year, and looking at 2021, it is currently expected that the revenues will represent 34% of those of 2019 for the first half of 2021, and 58% for all of 2021. In terms of profits, 52% of companies faced a loss, and 30% a reduction of their profit by more than 50%.

#### Overall:

- 44% of companies benefitted from some level of public financial support, and for a majority of them it related to less than 10% of their 2019 overall costs.
- 54% of companies had to reduce their workforce, half of them by more than 25%.
- 10% of companies state they will have to close down if there is no business for the next 6 months.

As expected, "Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the business" is considered as the most important business issue (29% of combined answers, a 2% increase compared to 6 months ago). "Impact of digitalisation" (11% of answers) and "Competition with other media" (7%) are also increasing (by respectively +1% and +2%), while "State of the economy in home market" (19%) and "Global economic developments" (16%) decrease but remain among the top 3 concerns.

In terms of the evolution of the format of exhibitions in the coming years, global results indicate that:

- 64% compared to 57% 6 months ago are confident that "COVID-19 confirms the value of face- to-face events" anticipating that the sector will bounce back quickly (26% "Yes, for sure" and 38% "Most probably"), but 32% are "Not sure" (31% 6 months ago).
- 63% compared to 57% 6 months ago believe that there will be "Less international 'physical' exhibitions, and overall, less participants" (10% "Yes, for sure" and 53% "Most probably"), and 34% are "Not sure".
- 80% of companies close to the 82% from 6 months ago consider that there is "A push towards hybrid events, more digital elements at events" (32% "Yes, for sure" and 48% "Most probably").
- A minority of 14% close to the 17% from 6 months ago agrees with "Virtual events replacing physical events" (3% "Yes, for sure" and 11% "Most probably"), and 44% are "Not sure".

THANK YOU TO ALL SURVEY PARTICIPANTS FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION!

THE NEXT GLOBAL BAROMETER SURVEY WILL BE CONDUCTED IN JUNE 2021 – PLEASE PARTICIPATE!

# Appendix: Number of survey replies per country Total = 457 (in 64 countries/regions)



| North America           | 41 | Europe             | 123 | Middle East          |
|-------------------------|----|--------------------|-----|----------------------|
| Canada                  | 3  | Austria            | 1   | Bahrain              |
| Mexico                  | 21 | Azerbaijan         | 1   | Jordan               |
| USA                     | 17 | Belgium            | 1   | Lebanon              |
|                         |    | Croatia            | 1   | Oman                 |
|                         |    | Czech Republic     | 1   | Qatar                |
| Central & South America | 91 | Finland            | 1   | Saudi Arabia         |
| Argentina               | 22 | France             | 13  | United Arab Emirates |
| Bolivia                 | 4  | Georgia            | 1   |                      |
| Brazil                  | 14 | Germany            | 16  | Asia/Pacific         |
| Chile                   | 3  | Greece             | 3   | Australia            |
| Colombia                | 20 | Hungary            | 2   | China                |
| Costa Rica              | 1  | Ireland            | 1   | Hong Kong            |
| Cuba                    | 1  | Italy              | 12  | India                |
| Ecuador                 | 3  | Netherlands        | 3   | Indonesia            |
| Guatemala               | 2  | Poland             | 4   | Japan                |
| Panama                  | 3  | Portugal           | 3   | Malaysia             |
| Paraguay                | 1  | Romania            | 1   | Pakistan             |
| Peru                    | 15 | Russian Federation | 12  | Philippines          |
| Uruguay                 | 2  | Slovenia           | 1   | Singapore            |
|                         |    | Spain              | 13  | South Korea          |
| Africa                  | 19 | Sweden             | 3   | Thailand             |
| Kenya                   | 1  | Switzerland        | 1   |                      |
| Nigeria                 | 1  | Turkey             | 13  |                      |
| Rwanda                  | 2  | Ukraine            | 1   |                      |
| South Africa            | 15 | United Kingdom     | 14  |                      |



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