

# The 'Economics' of Being a Tech Diving Instructor

Survey answers by instructors in teaching status  
at the time of the survey

Survey conducted in

**May & June 2021**

*Results updated with additional answers from July 2021*

by

[InDepth Magazine](#)

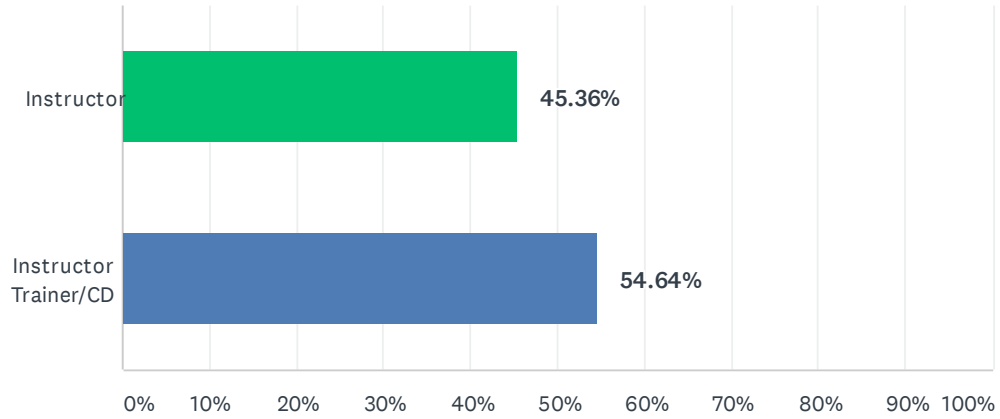
&

[Scubanomics.com](#)



## Q15 What maximum level of certification did you reach as a dive instructor?

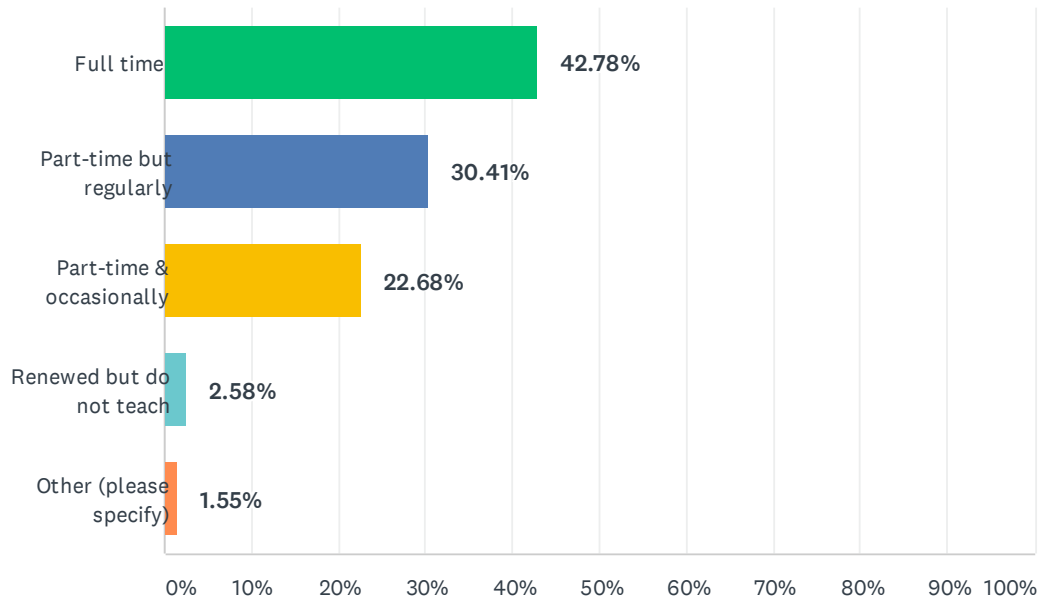
Answered: 194 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Instructor	45.36%	88
Instructor Trainer/CD	54.64%	106
TOTAL		194

## Q16 What is your current level of involvement in teaching diving?

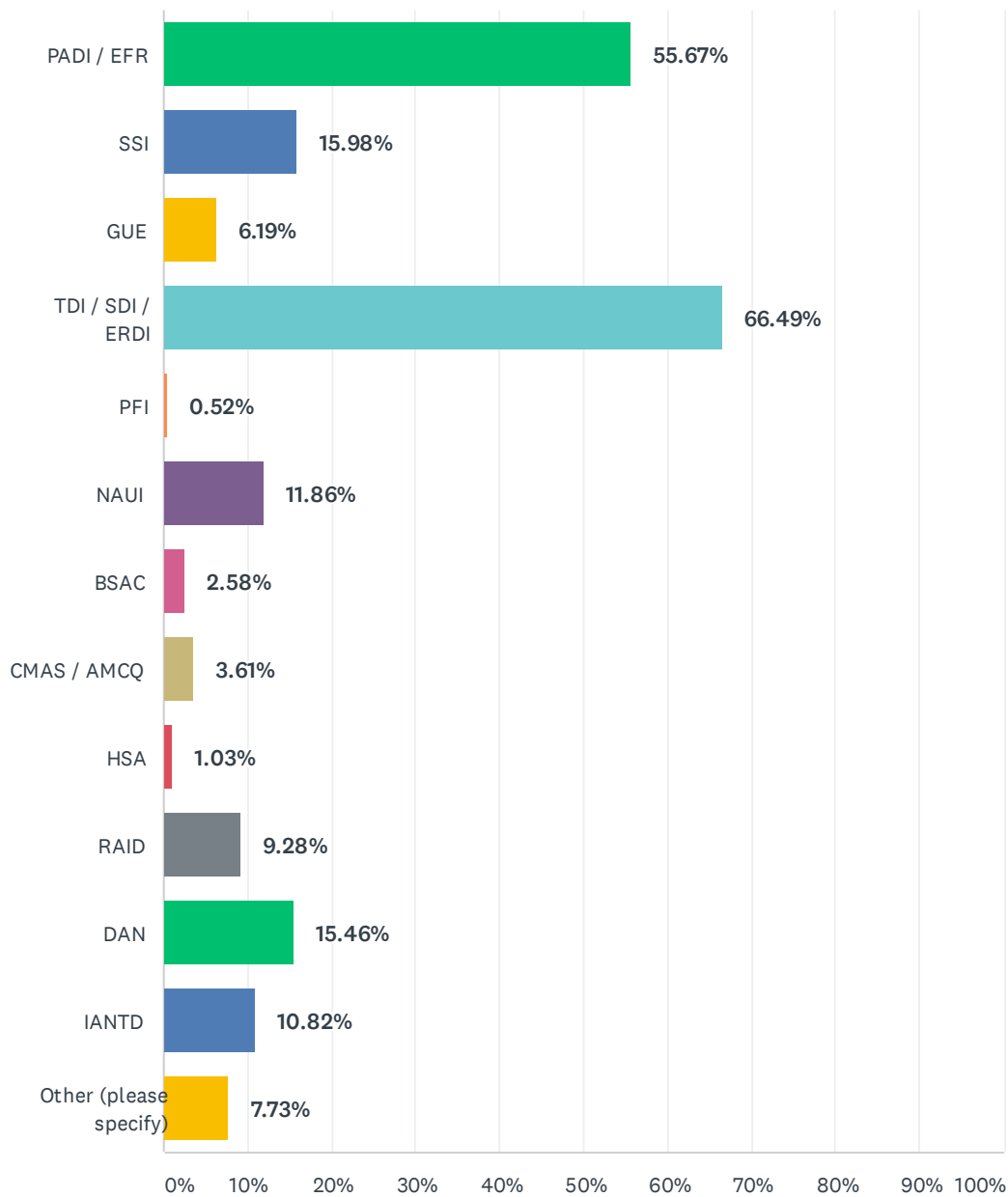
Answered: 194 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Full time	42.78%	83
Part-time but regularly	30.41%	59
Part-time & occasionally	22.68%	44
Renewed but do not teach	2.58%	5
Other (please specify)	1.55%	3
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>194</b>

## Q17 In which dive training agencies are you currently in teaching status? Please select all that apply.

Answered: 194 Skipped: 0

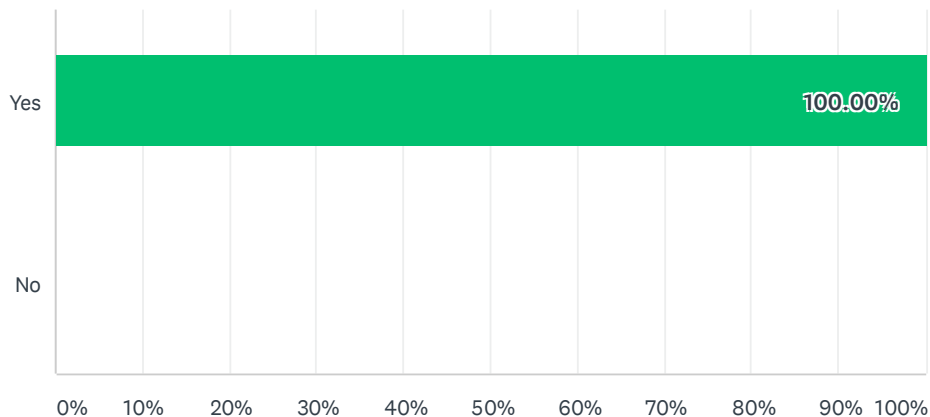


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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
PADI / EFR	55.67%	108
SSI	15.98%	31
GUE	6.19%	12
TDI / SDI / ERDI	66.49%	129
PFI	0.52%	1
NAUI	11.86%	23
BSAC	2.58%	5
CMAS / AMCQ	3.61%	7
HSA	1.03%	2
RAID	9.28%	18
DAN	15.46%	30
IANTD	10.82%	21
Other (please specify)	7.73%	15
Total Respondents: 194		

## Q18 Do you have tech diving instructor credentials (any kind) ?

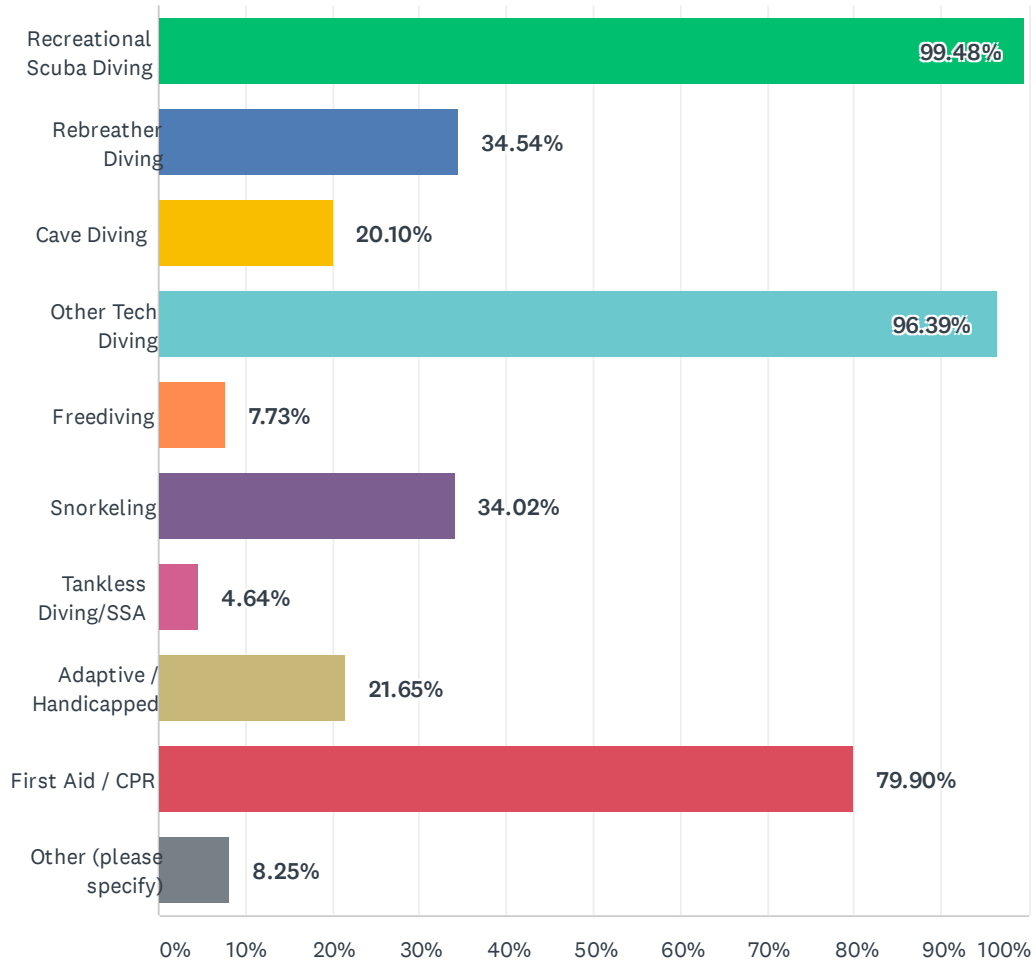
Answered: 192 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	100.00%	192
No	0.00%	0
TOTAL		192

## Q19 In what type of courses do you have teaching status? Please select all that apply.

Answered: 194 Skipped: 0

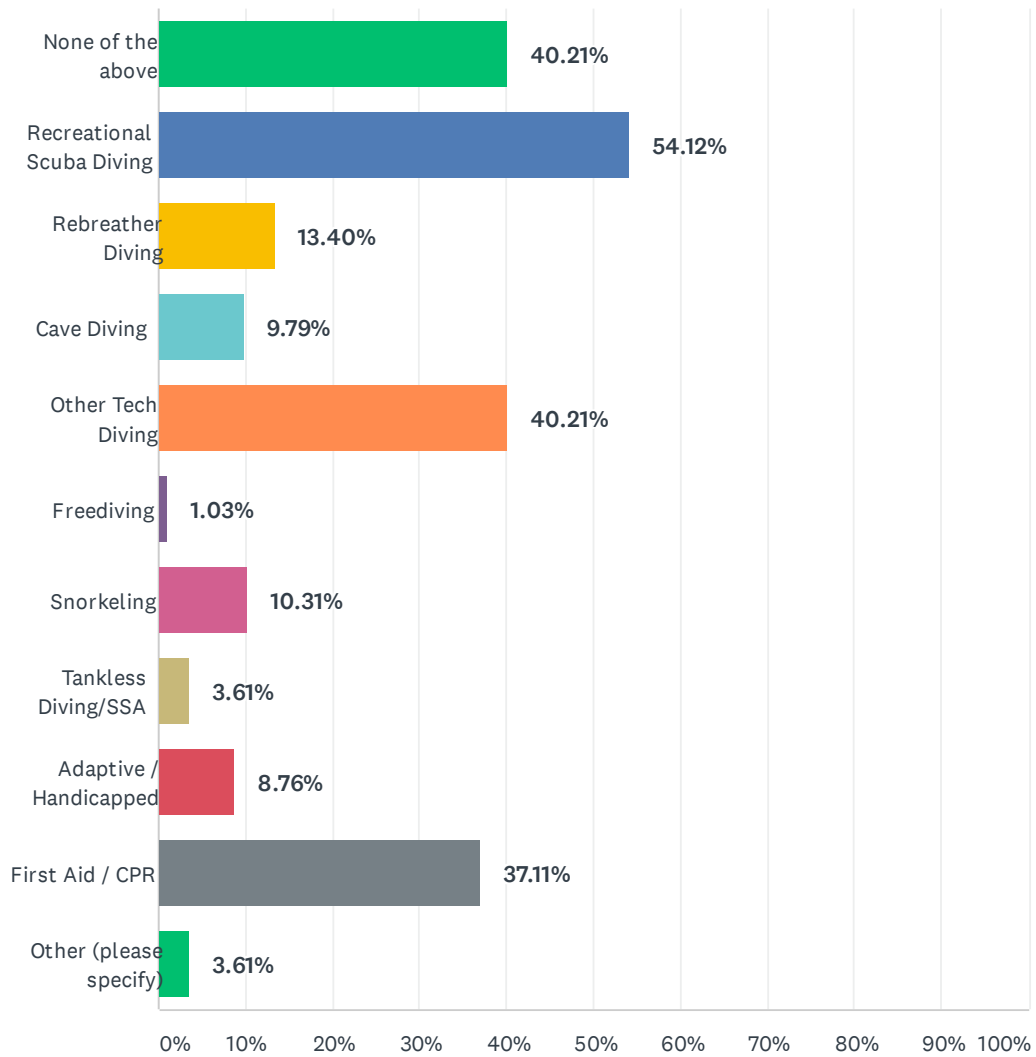


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Recreational Scuba Diving	99.48%	193
Rebreather Diving	34.54%	67
Cave Diving	20.10%	39
Other Tech Diving	96.39%	187
Freediving	7.73%	15
Snorkeling	34.02%	66
Tankless Diving/SSA	4.64%	9
Adaptive / Handicapped	21.65%	42
First Aid / CPR	79.90%	155
Other (please specify)	8.25%	16
Total Respondents: 194		



## Q20 For which category of courses are you an instructor trainer (course director) ? Please select all that apply.

Answered: 194 Skipped: 0

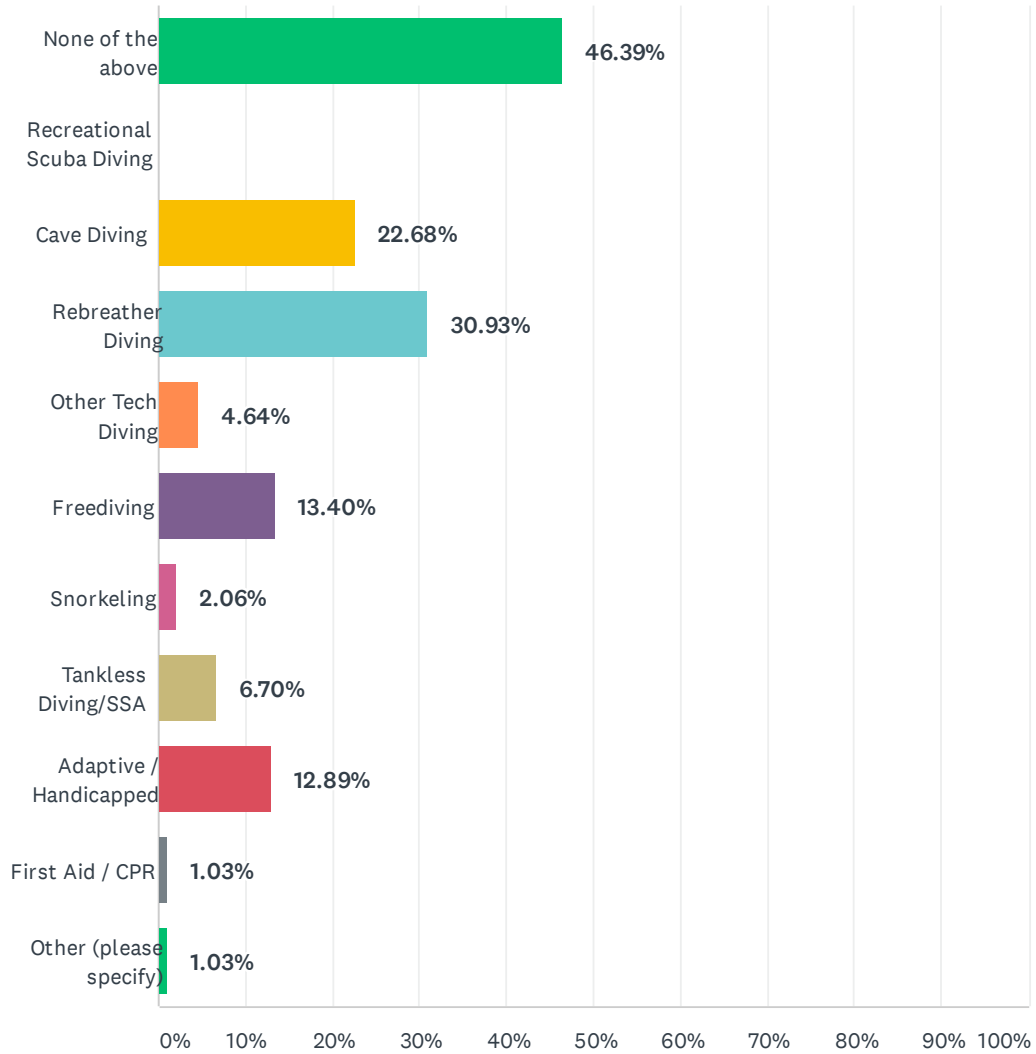


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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	40.21%	78
Recreational Scuba Diving	54.12%	105
Rebreather Diving	13.40%	26
Cave Diving	9.79%	19
Other Tech Diving	40.21%	78
Freediving	1.03%	2
Snorkeling	10.31%	20
Tankless Diving/SSA	3.61%	7
Adaptive / Handicapped	8.76%	17
First Aid / CPR	37.11%	72
Other (please specify)	3.61%	7
Total Respondents: 194		

## Q21 In which of the following activities have you NEVER taught courses, but INTEND on teaching in the future? Please select all that apply.

Answered: 194 Skipped: 0

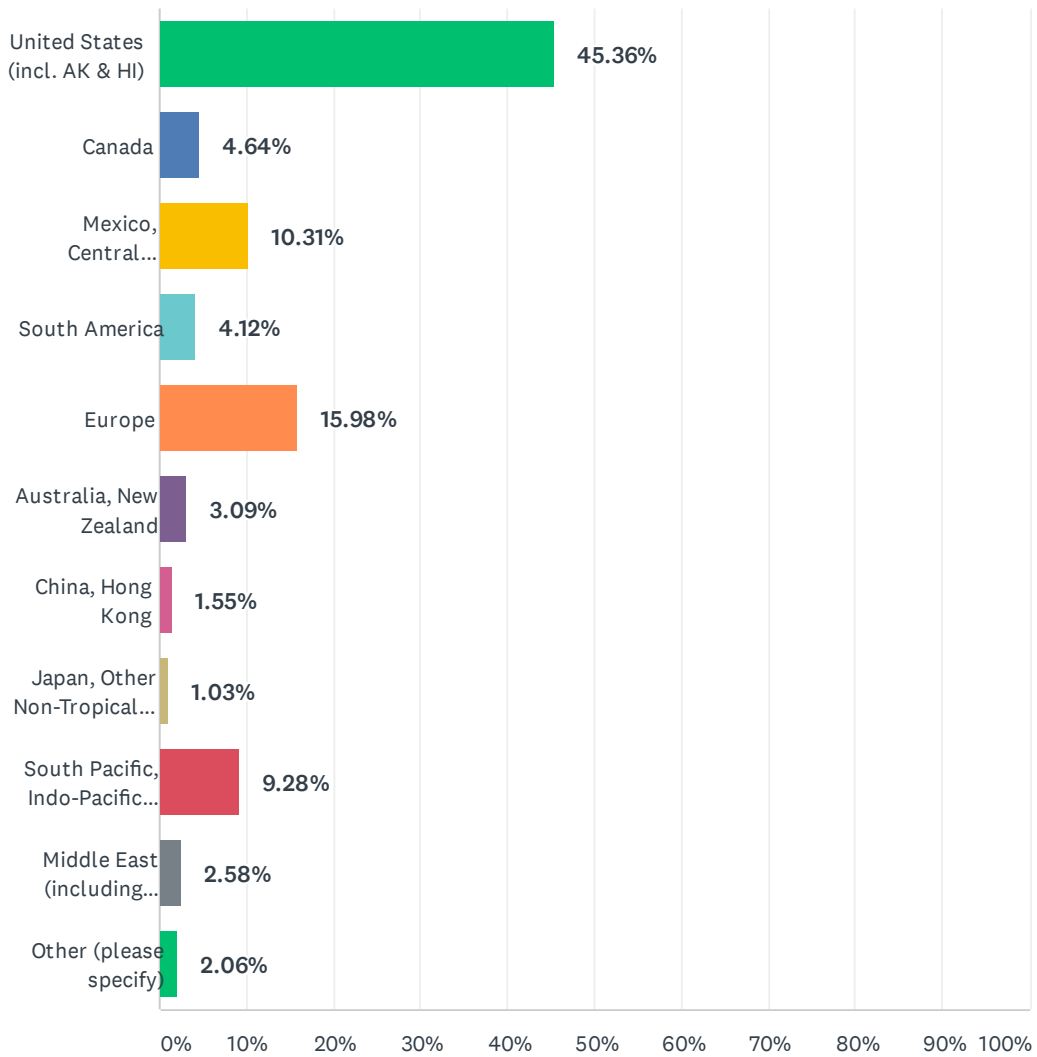


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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	46.39%	90
Recreational Scuba Diving	0.00%	0
Cave Diving	22.68%	44
Rebreather Diving	30.93%	60
Other Tech Diving	4.64%	9
Freediving	13.40%	26
Snorkeling	2.06%	4
Tankless Diving/SSA	6.70%	13
Adaptive / Handicapped	12.89%	25
First Aid / CPR	1.03%	2
Other (please specify)	1.03%	2
Total Respondents: 194		

## Q24 In which region do you currently or normally teach? If teaching in more than one region, pick the main one.

Answered: 194 Skipped: 0

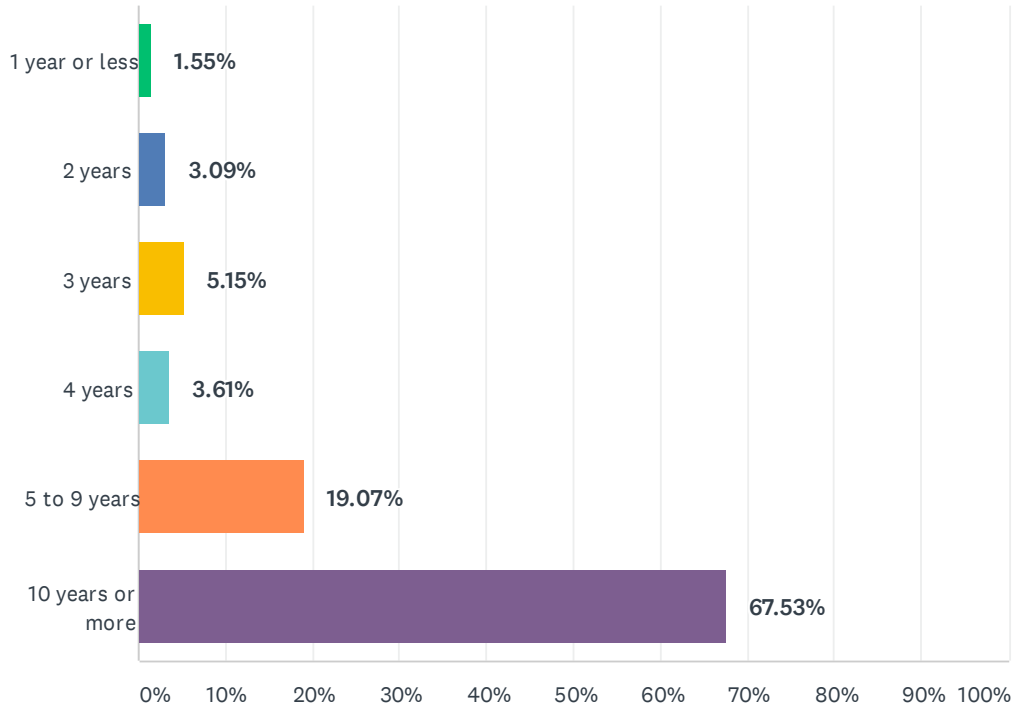


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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
United States (incl. AK & HI)	45.36%	88
Canada	4.64%	9
Mexico, Central America, Caribbean, Tropical Atlantic	10.31%	20
South America	4.12%	8
Europe	15.98%	31
Australia, New Zealand	3.09%	6
China, Hong Kong	1.55%	3
Japan, Other Non-Tropical Asian Region	1.03%	2
South Pacific, Indo-Pacific, Other Tropical Asian Region	9.28%	18
Middle East (including Egypt)	2.58%	5
Other (please specify)	2.06%	4
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>194</b>

## Q25 For how long have you been a dive instructor?

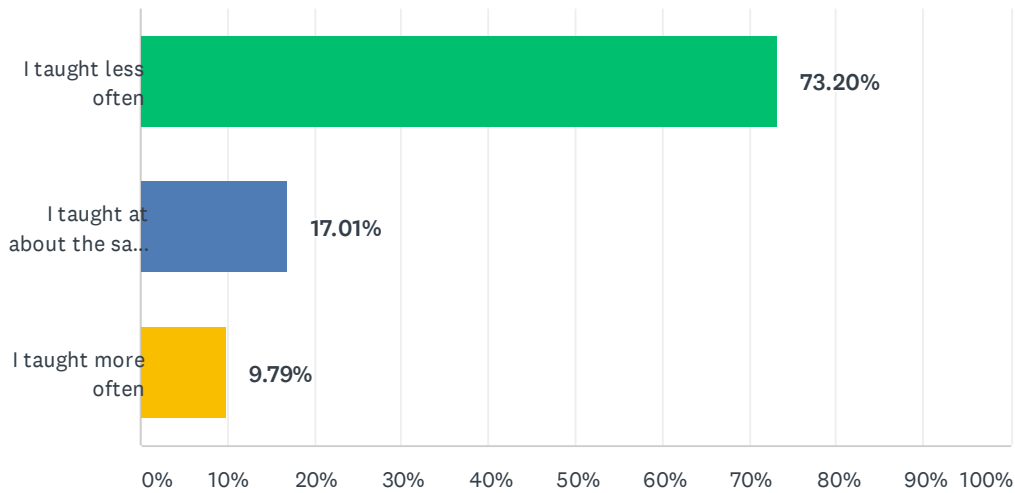
Answered: 194 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
1 year or less	1.55% 3
2 years	3.09% 6
3 years	5.15% 10
4 years	3.61% 7
5 to 9 years	19.07% 37
10 years or more	67.53% 131
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>194</b>

## Q26 What was the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the frequency of your dive teaching activities (after March 2020) ?

Answered: 194 Skipped: 0

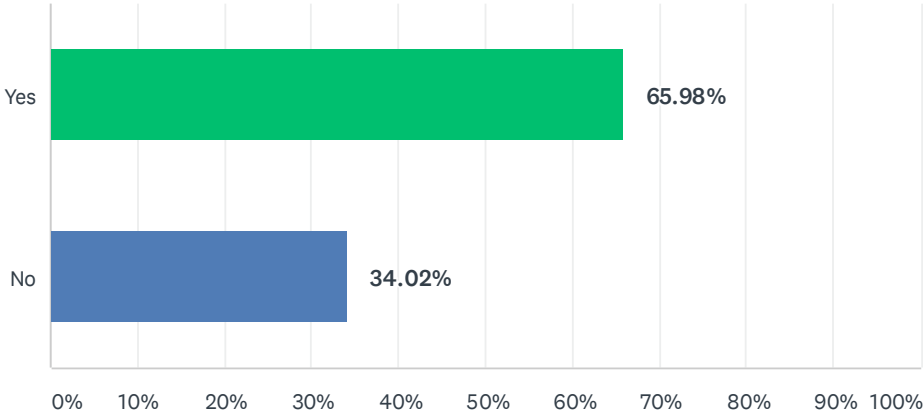


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I taught less often	73.20%	142
I taught at about the same frequency	17.01%	33
I taught more often	9.79%	19
TOTAL		194



### Q27 Did you, at any time, work full-time as a dive instructor?

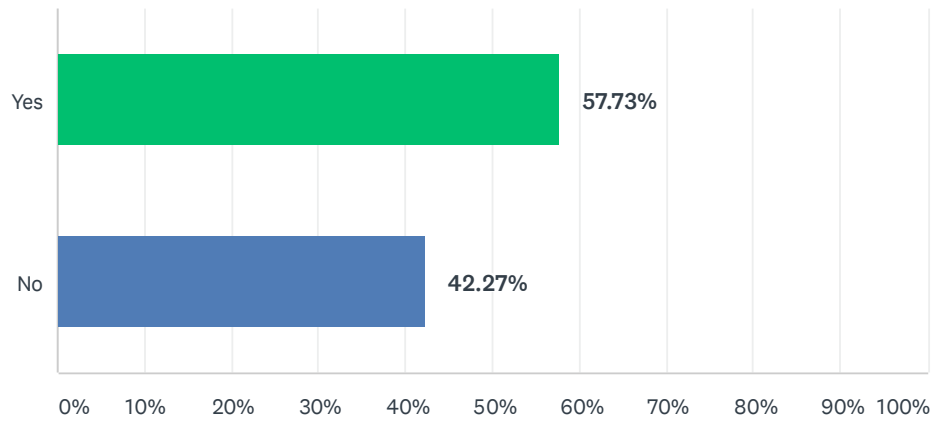
Answered: 194 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	65.98%	128
No	34.02%	66
TOTAL		194

## Q28 Did you, at any point in time, made a living of dive teaching (as a main source of income) ?

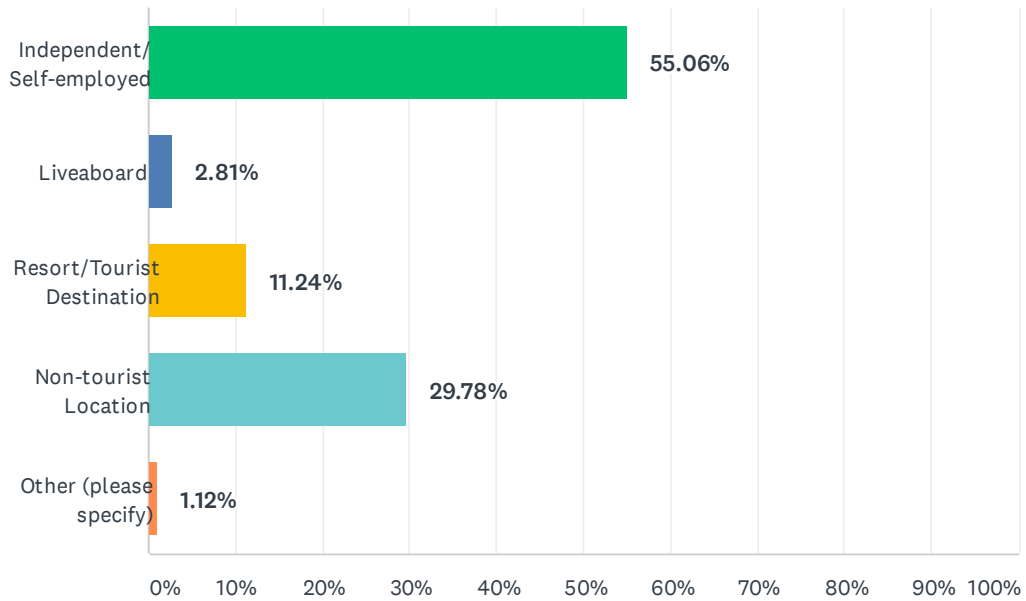
Answered: 194 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	57.73%	112
No	42.27%	82
TOTAL		194

## Q32 What was your "employer" the last time you taught diving?

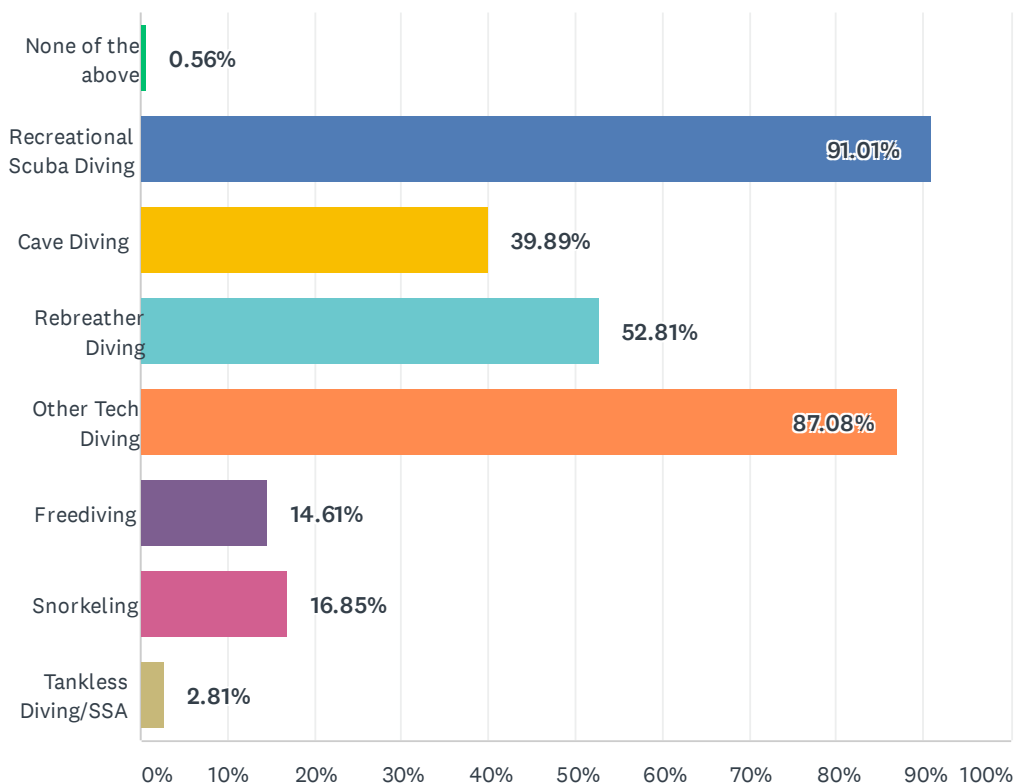
Answered: 178 Skipped: 16



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Independent/ Self-employed	55.06%	98
Liveaboard	2.81%	5
Resort/Tourist Destination	11.24%	20
Non-tourist Location	29.78%	53
Other (please specify)	1.12%	2
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>178</b>

### Q33 In which of the following activities are you an active PARTICIPANT (regardless of your status as an instructor in this activity) ? Please select all that apply.

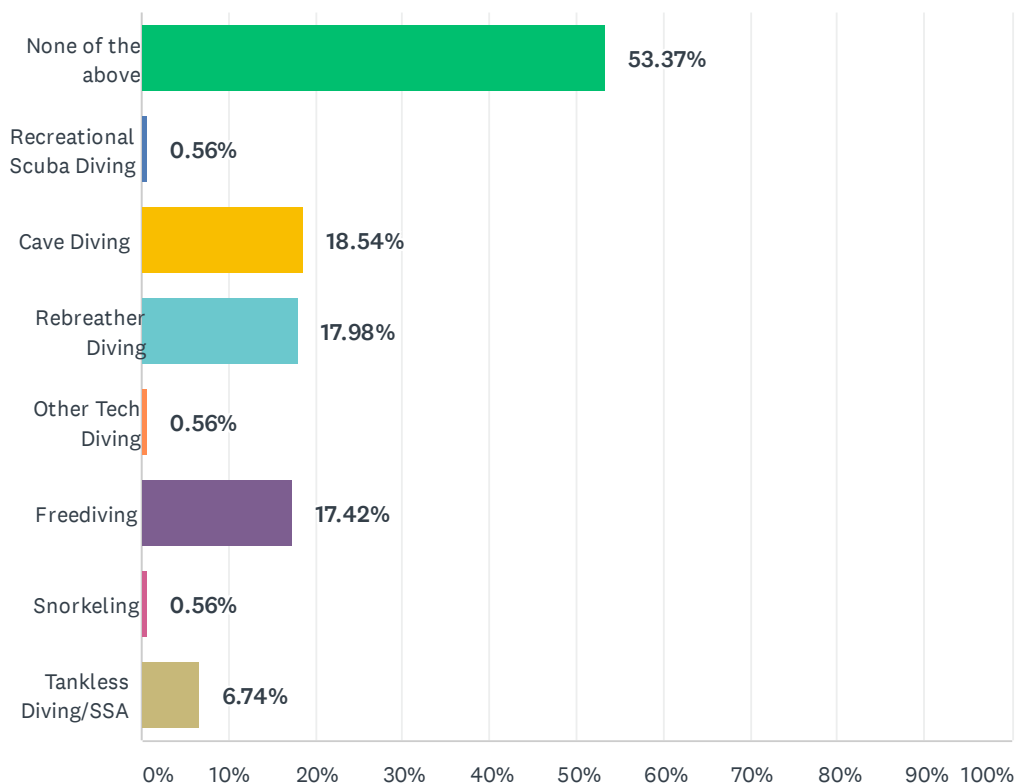
Answered: 178 Skipped: 16



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	0.56%	1
Recreational Scuba Diving	91.01%	162
Cave Diving	39.89%	71
Rebreather Diving	52.81%	94
Other Tech Diving	87.08%	155
Freediving	14.61%	26
Snorkeling	16.85%	30
Tankless Diving/SSA	2.81%	5
Total Respondents: 178		

### Q34 Which of the following activities have you NEVER tried before but INTEND to try in the future, as a PARTICIPANT? Please select all that apply.

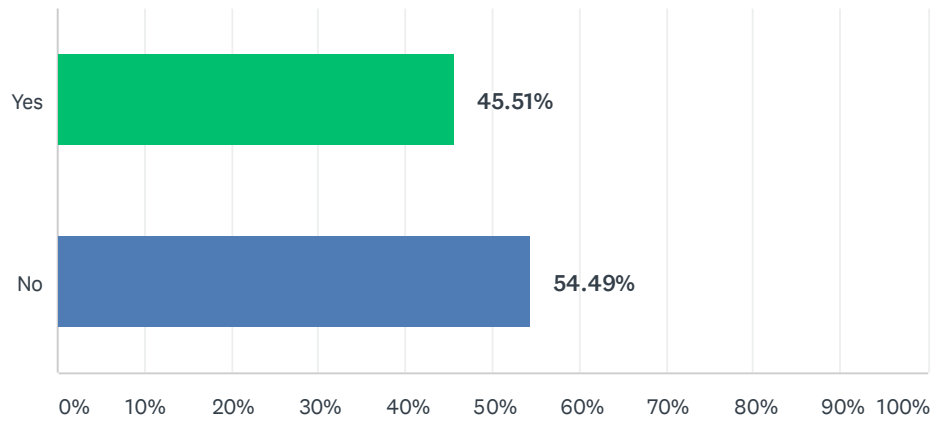
Answered: 178 Skipped: 16



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	53.37%	95
Recreational Scuba Diving	0.56%	1
Cave Diving	18.54%	33
Rebreather Diving	17.98%	32
Other Tech Diving	0.56%	1
Freediving	17.42%	31
Snorkeling	0.56%	1
Tankless Diving/SSA	6.74%	12
Total Respondents: 178		

## Q37 Do you believe dive teaching to be a valuable career path for young people?

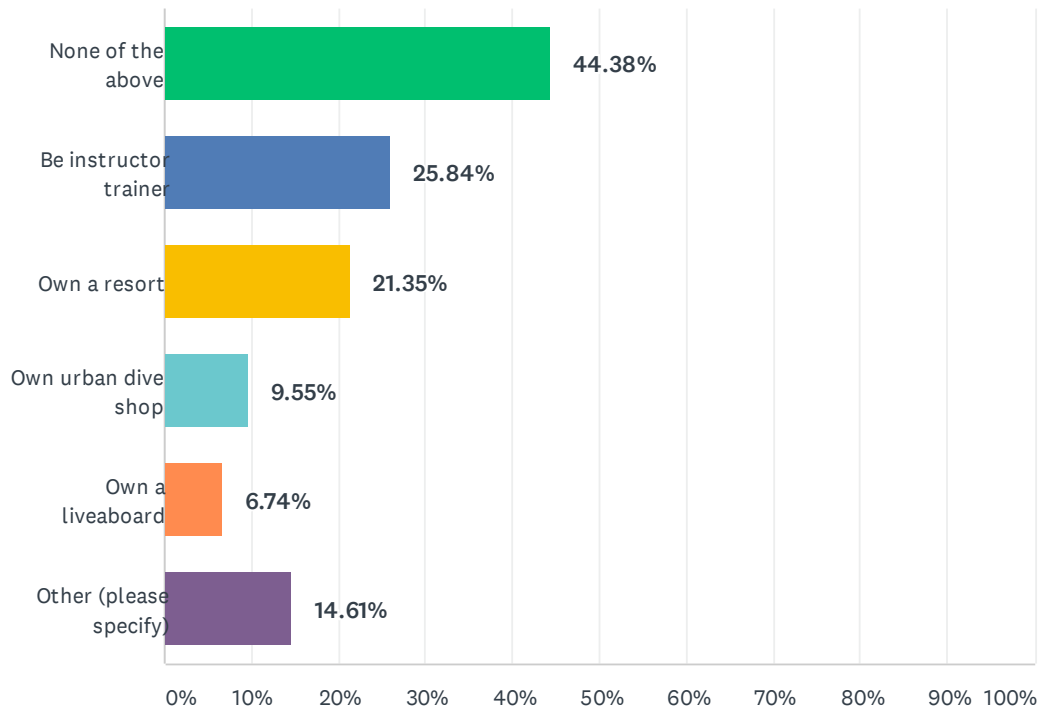
Answered: 178 Skipped: 16



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	45.51%	81
No	54.49%	97
TOTAL		178

## Q38 What additional professional goals do you have within the dive industry? Please select all that apply

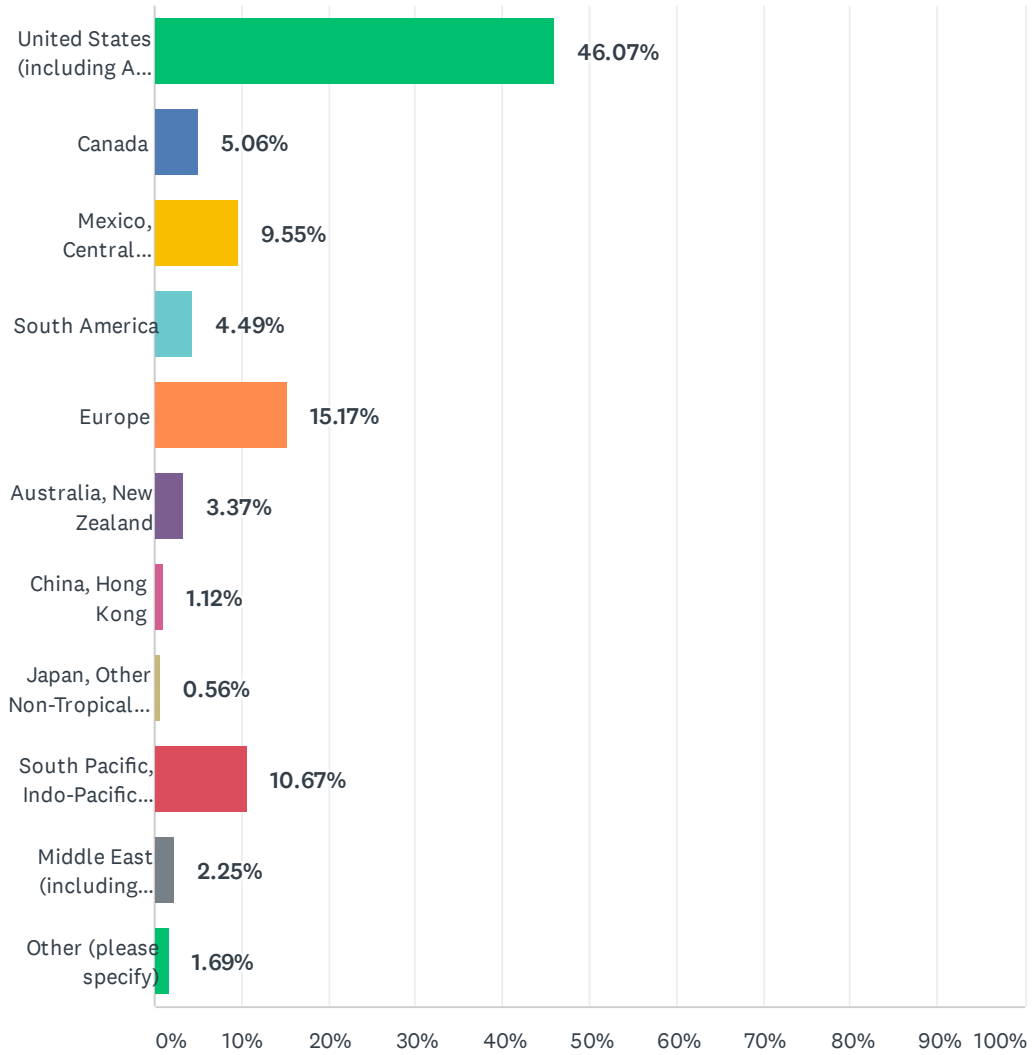
Answered: 178 Skipped: 16



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	44.38%	79
Be instructor trainer	25.84%	46
Own a resort	21.35%	38
Own urban dive shop	9.55%	17
Own a liveaboard	6.74%	12
Other (please specify)	14.61%	26
Total Respondents: 178		

## Q39 What is your current region of residence?

Answered: 178 Skipped: 16



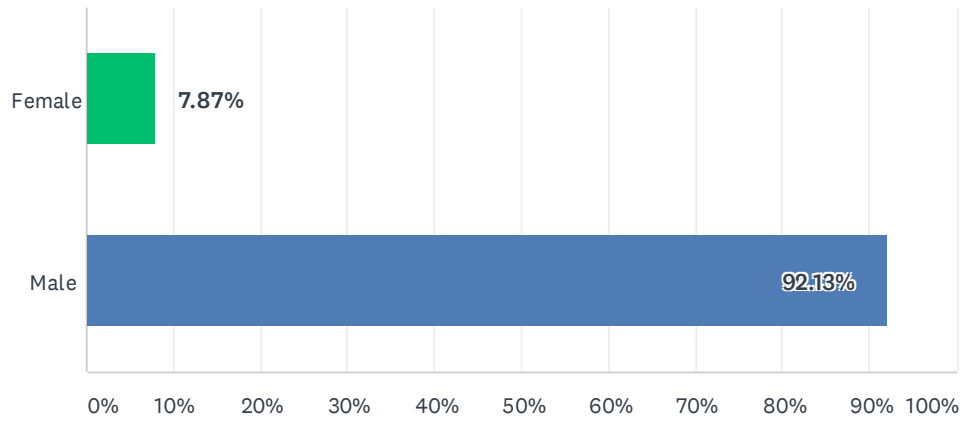


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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
United States (including AK & HI)	46.07%	82
Canada	5.06%	9
Mexico, Central America, Caribbean, Tropical Atlantic	9.55%	17
South America	4.49%	8
Europe	15.17%	27
Australia, New Zealand	3.37%	6
China, Hong Kong	1.12%	2
Japan, Other Non-Tropical Asian Region	0.56%	1
South Pacific, Indo-Pacific, Other Tropical Asian Region	10.67%	19
Middle East (including Egypt)	2.25%	4
Other (please specify)	1.69%	3
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>178</b>

## Q40 What is your gender?

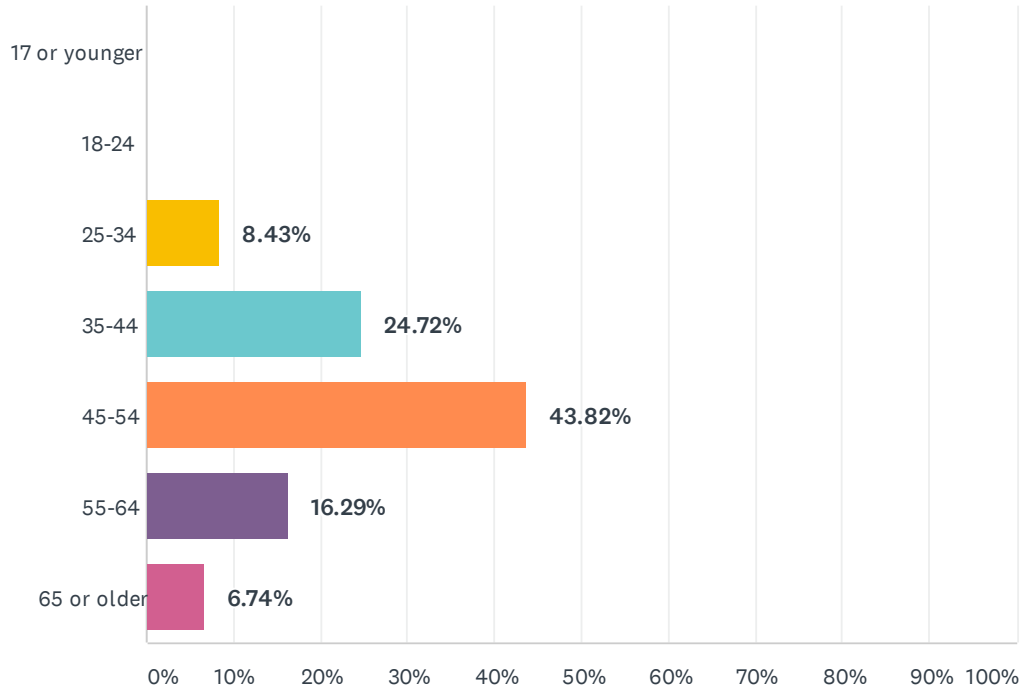
Answered: 178 Skipped: 16



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Female	7.87%	14
Male	92.13%	164
TOTAL		178

## Q41 Which category includes your age?

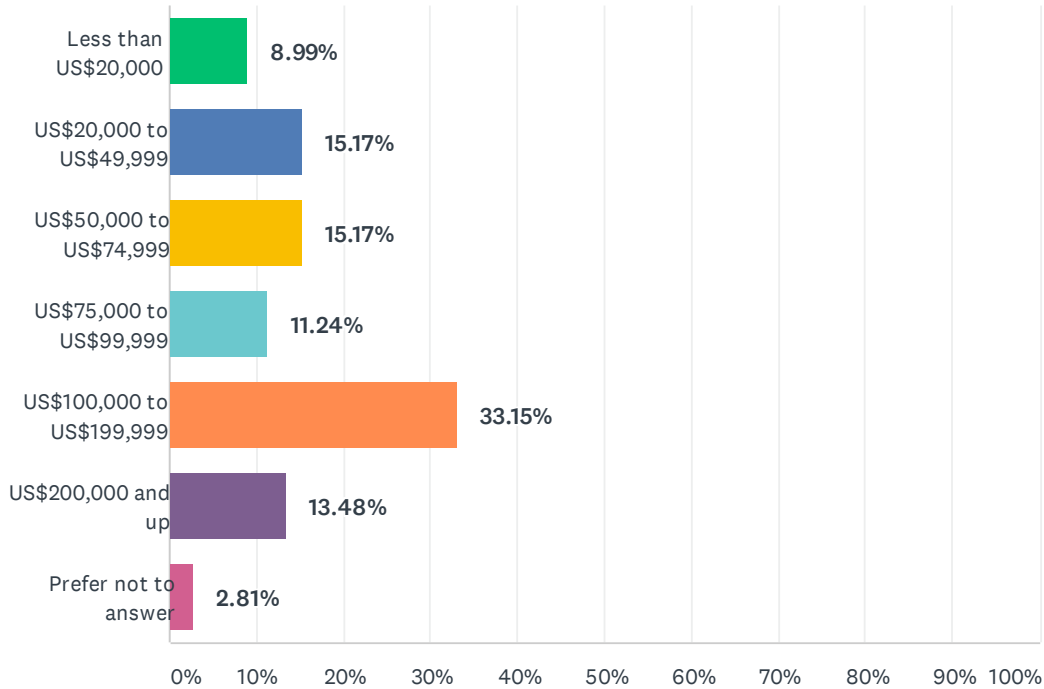
Answered: 178 Skipped: 16



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
17 or younger	0.00% 0
18-24	0.00% 0
25-34	8.43% 15
35-44	24.72% 44
45-54	43.82% 78
55-64	16.29% 29
65 or older	6.74% 12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>178</b>

## Q44 How much total combined money did all members of your HOUSEHOLD earn last year from ALL sources (not limited to income from being a dive instructor)? Please convert to US\$.

Answered: 178 Skipped: 16



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Less than US\$20,000	8.99%	16
US\$20,000 to US\$49,999	15.17%	27
US\$50,000 to US\$74,999	15.17%	27
US\$75,000 to US\$99,999	11.24%	20
US\$100,000 to US\$199,999	33.15%	59
US\$200,000 and up	13.48%	24
Prefer not to answer	2.81%	5
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>178</b>

# The 'Economics' of Being a Dive Instructor

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