

CURRENT STATE: CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT IN THE SUPPLY CHAIN

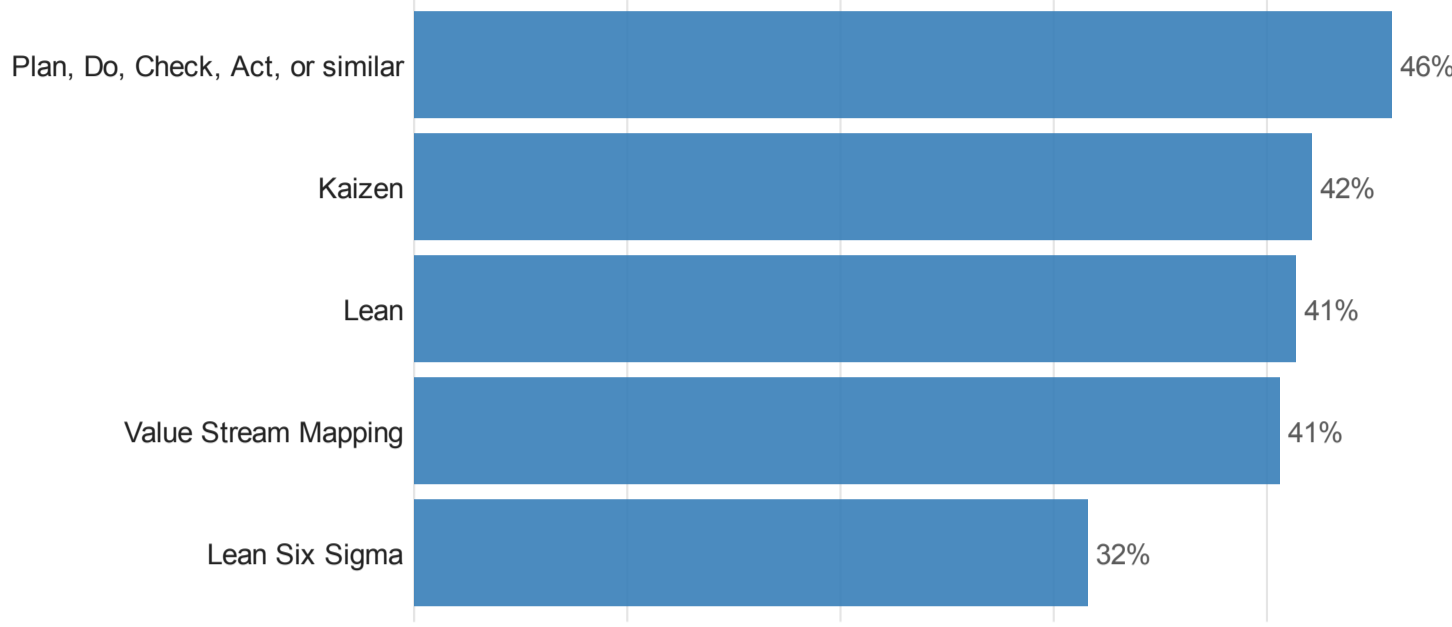
APQC and [Supply Chain Management Review](#) asked supply chain professionals to answer seven questions about Continuous Improvement in September 2018.

Continuous Improvement refers to the ongoing improvement of business processes in terms of outcomes such as quality, cost, and/or cycle time. Some examples of **continuous improvement** methods are Lean, Six Sigma, Total Quality Management, Value Stream Mapping, Plan Do Check Act (PDCA), and many more.

METHODS USED

IN CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Participants indicated their organizations use a wide range of continuous improvement methodologies. PDCA, Kaizen, and Lean are the most used. It is important to make sure you pick the right tool, for the job.



DEPTH

OF CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

28%

of respondents indicated that their organization has full-time, dedicated continuous improvement experts, but...

31%

only have an informal program, and another 10% have no continuous improvement at all.

BREADTH

OF CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT



Over 1/3 of participants say continuous improvement is used across their entire supply chain, and

27%

say their organization uses continuous improvement specifically when needed (ad-hoc).

EFFECTIVENESS

OF CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

38%

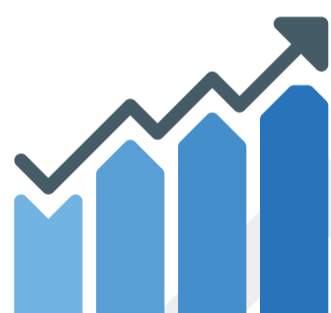
of participants said their continuous improvement programs were very, or extremely effective at achieving its goals.



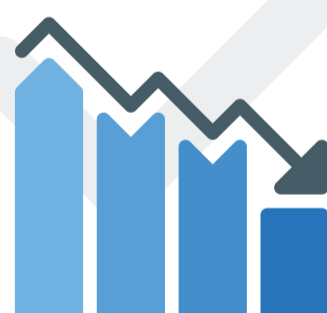
7%

said that their programs were not effective at all.

LOOKING AHEAD



An impressive 70% of participants said they expect to have an increase in continuous improvement resources in the next 2 years

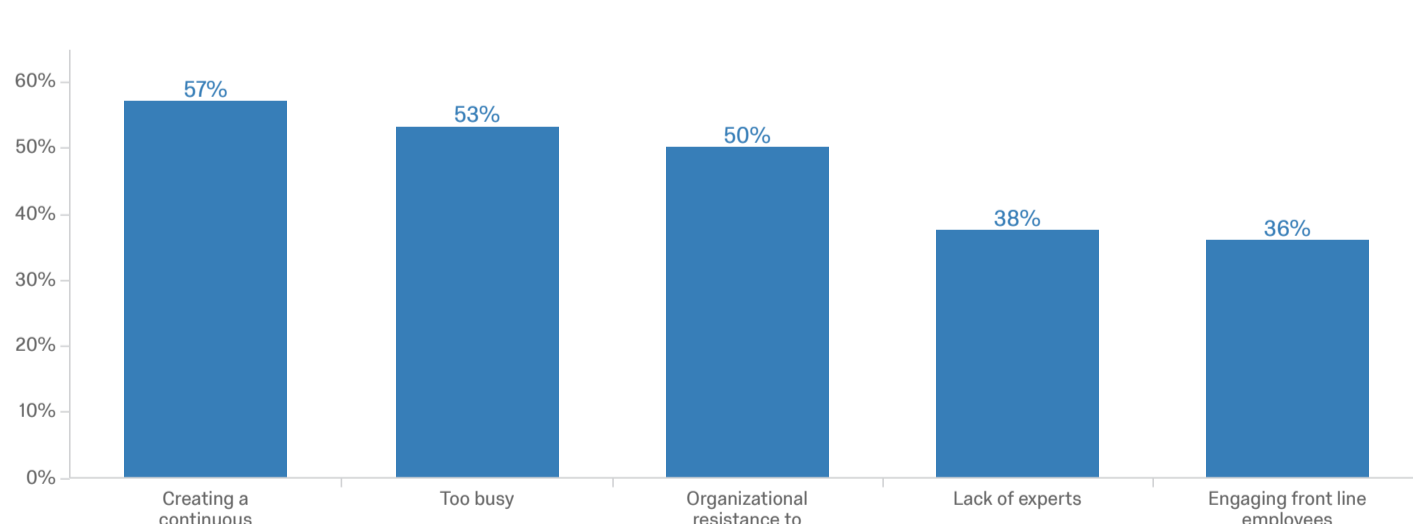


and only 4% of participants said they expect a decrease in resources.

HURDLES

TO CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The biggest hurdles to continuous improvement are creating a continuous improvement culture, having enough time for continuous improvement, and overcoming organizational resistance to change.



BENEFITS

OF CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The biggest benefit of continuous improvement is lowered cost, followed by improved quality.

