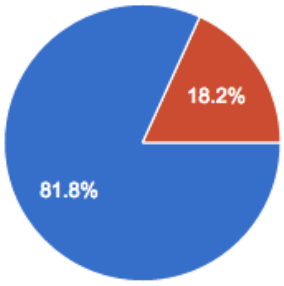
softEcon 2015: Course Evaluation

11 responses

Summary

How would you rate the course overall?

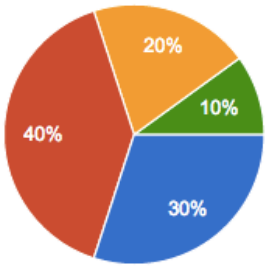


Excellent	9	81.8%
Very Good	2	18.2%
Good	0	0%
Fair	0	0%
Poor	0	0%

How the course helped with your PhD research?

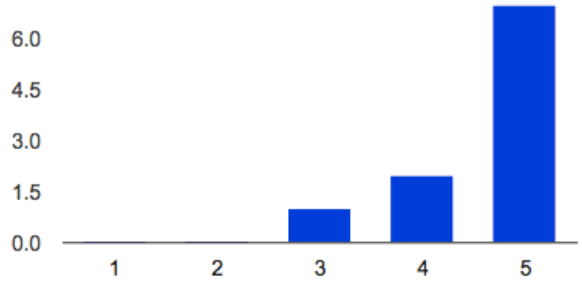
Improve my code, make it scalable and transparent. Better understanding of the different optimization routines. Better productivity.
I think this course is very helpful overall. It helps to get familiar with how to use python to implement economic models. Besides, I also learned a lot about how to organize my project well. This will help me to save a lot of time.
exposure to useful technical tools
I had been thinking of doing some projects that require generalized Roy models. Seeing how to implement these models in a proficient way has definitely helped in two ways: first, the likelihood that I will do so has increased, and in terms of my own productivity while doing any computation intensive project since I learned quite a few useful tricks from Phillip..
Introduced tools and habits that will save an enormous amount of time from having to be spent on routine/practical/logistical tasks, time which can instead be spent on work more directly meaningful to development of high quality research
The course was extremely helpful in furthering computational abilities needed for exploring my project, and providing a clear implementation of a well known model computationally
I learned how to use a very good and free software that is python. It containes lots of packages i'm interested in such as the network analysis. I also leaned how to use Github to share data with my coauthors and save previous versions as backup.
It helps us understand some basic software engineering skills. Make me more interested in doing some computation-intensive economic research in the future.
It was essential for coding
Taught me skills and tools to improve the quality of empirical work

Which part of the university are you from?



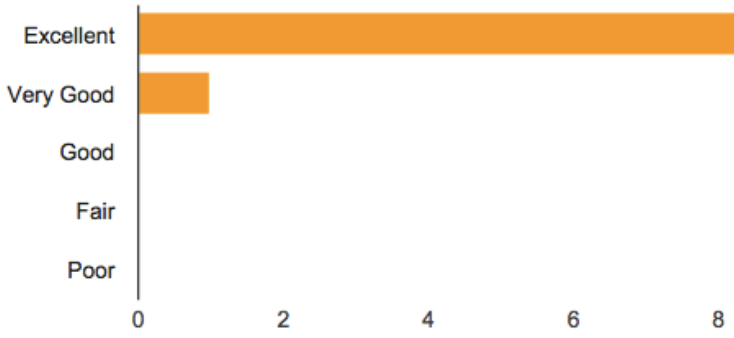
Department of Economics	**3**	30%
Harris School of Public Policy	**4**	40%
Booth School of Business	**2**	20%
Other	**1**	10%

Relative to your other classes, how useful was this course?



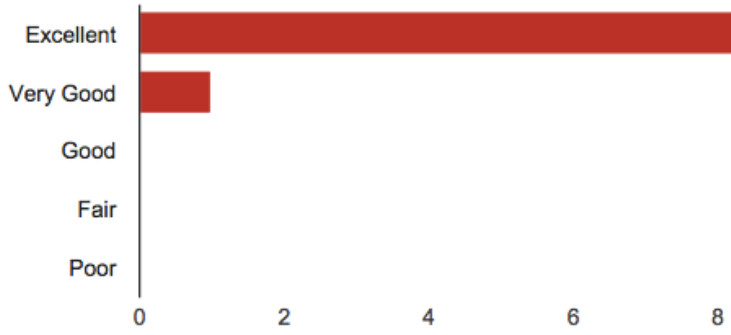
Not Useful At All: 1	**0**	0%
2	**0**	0%
3	**1**	10%
4	**2**	20%
Very Useful: 5	**7**	70%

to clearly explain the objectives of the course? [How well did Philipp meet his goal...]



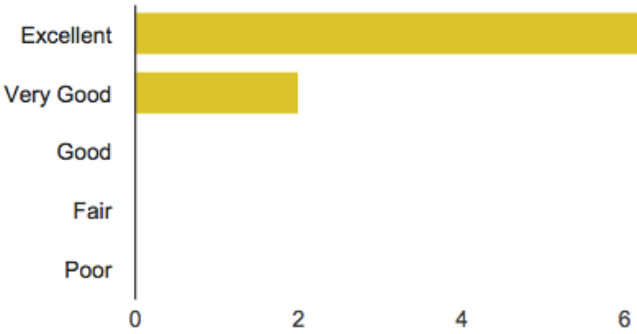
Excellent	**9**	90%
Very Good	**1**	10%
Good	**0**	0%
Fair	**0**	0%
Poor	**0**	0%

to be well organized? [How well did Philipp meet his goal...]



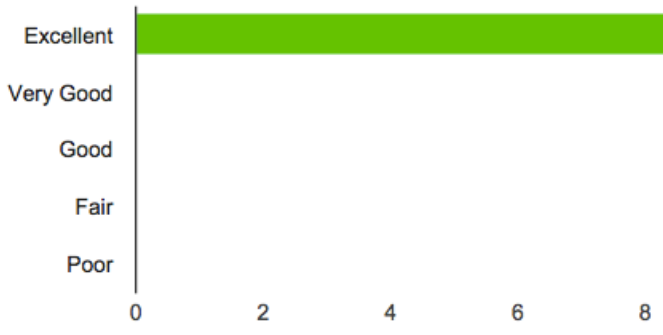
Excellent	9	90%
Very Good	1	10%
Good	0	0%
Fair	0	0%
Poor	0	0%

to present the material at the right speed? [How well did Philipp meet his goal...]



Excellent	8	80%
Very Good	2	20%
Good	0	0%
Fair	0	0%
Poor	0	0%

to present the material clearly and understandable? [How well did Philipp meet his goal...]



Excellent	10	100%
Very Good	0	0%
Good	0	0%
Fair	0	0%
Poor	0	0%

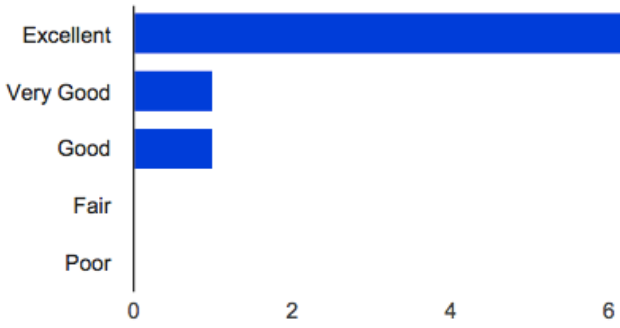
to be accessible outside of class? [How well did Philipp meet his goal...]

Excellent	9	90%
Very Good	1	10%
Good	0	0%
Fair	0	0%
Poor	0	0%

Do you have any additional recommendations for Philipp?

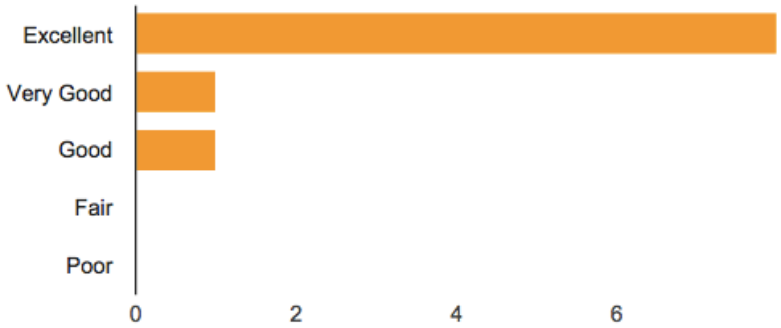
no. he is amazing and very helpful and always available

to be well organized? [How well did Yike meet her goal ...]



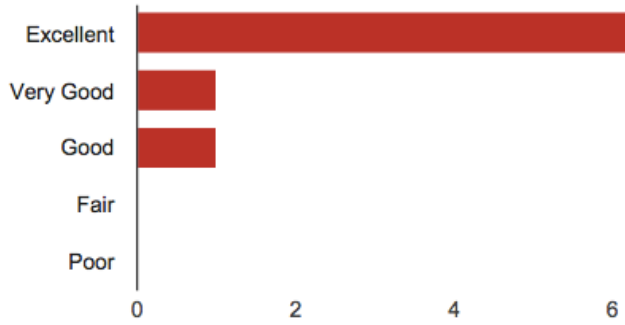
Excellent	8	80%
Very Good	1	10%
Good	1	10%
Fair	0	0%
Poor	0	0%

to present the material at the right speed? [How well did Yike meet her goal ...]



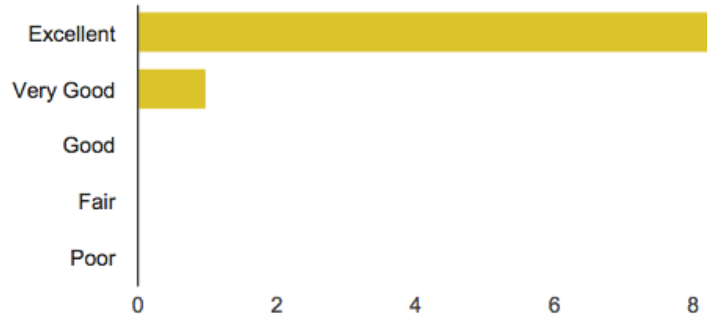
Excellent	8	80%
Very Good	1	10%
Good	1	10%
Fair	0	0%
Poor	0	0%

to present the material clearly and understandable? [How well did Yike meet her goal ...]



Excellent	8	80%
Very Good	1	10%
Good	1	10%
Fair	0	0%
Poor	0	0%

to be accessible outside of class? [How well did Yike meet her goal ...]



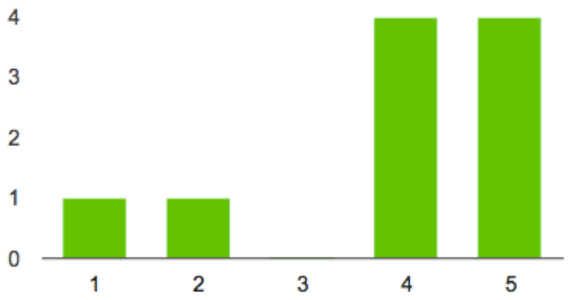
Excellent	9	90%
Very Good	1	10%
Good	0	0%
Fair	0	0%
Poor	0	0%

Do you have any additional recommendations for Yike?

Didnt attend TA sessions. So cannot comment on Yike's performance. Only thing I can say is she was very accessible outside and within the class for troubleshooting help.
very helpful and always available

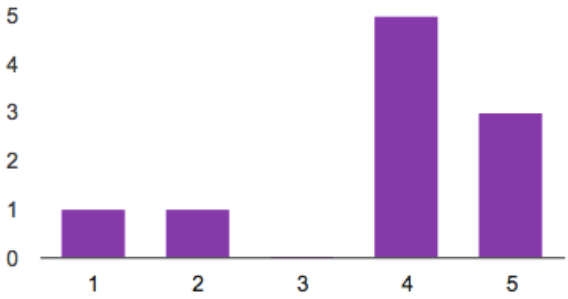
Guest Lectures

How useful was the guest lecture from the Social Science Computer Services (SSCS)?



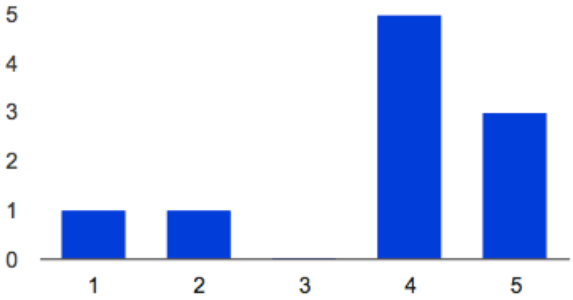
Not Useful At All: 1	**1**	10%
2	**1**	10%
3	**0**	0%
4	**4**	40%
Very Useful: 5	**4**	40%

How useful was the guest lecture from the Research Computer Center (RCC)?



Not Useful At All: 1	**1**	10%
2	**1**	10%
3	**0**	0%
4	**5**	50%
Very Useful: 5	**3**	30%

How useful was the guest lecture from Computation Institute (CI)?



Not Useful At All: 1	**1**	10%
2	**1**	10%
3	**0**	0%
4	**5**	50%
Very Useful: 5	**3**	30%

Final Thoughts

What aspects of the course should be changed?

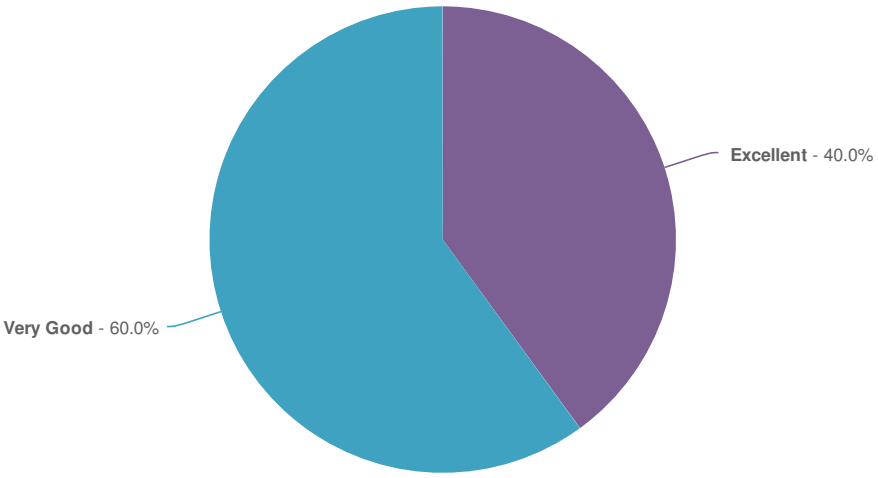
The source was changed all the time. First the policylab-website, then github, etc. That was suboptimal. Also, more programming principles would be nice, and maybe less cloud computing.
Everything looks good. I might continue to audit the next year's class.
Should be taught in the Autumn to provide max benefit to second year students (learn the skills before they start their research). Perhaps introduce (optional) homework where a problem is posted and then students can submit their solutions for how they would tackle the problem. Then discuss in class the various pros and cons of the different methods
None; this was a really great course.
I do believe that git setup should be at the beginning and very carefully set up.
Maybe more GUI. Vangrant made my computer slow but I understand how useful it was. Maybe each students should work on their own project.

What aspects of the course should be retained?

The wide range of topics covered.
All.
Using real examples like the grm is really good!

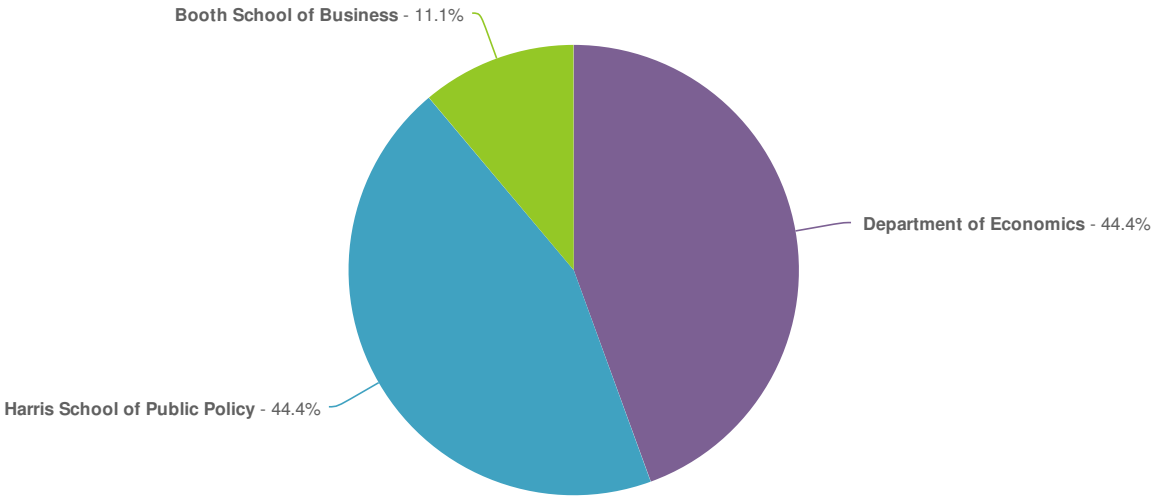
New Summary Report - 30 March 2015

1. How would you rate the Bootcamp overall?



Excellent	40.0%		4
Very Good	60.0%		6
Good	0.0%		0
Fair	0.0%		0
Poor	0.0%		0
		Total	10

2. Which part of the university are you from?



Department of Economics	44.4%		4
Harris School of Public Policy	44.4%		4
Booth School of Business	11.1%		1
Other	0.0%		0
		Total	9

3. Where exactly?

Count	Response

4. How well did Philipp meet his goal ...

	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Responses
... to clearly explain the objectives of the Bootcamp?	7 70.0%	3 30.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	10
... to be well organized?	10 100.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	10
... to present the material at the right speed?	6 60.0%	4 40.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	10
... to present the material clearly and understandable?	7 70.0%	3 30.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	10
... to be accessible outside of class?	10 100.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	10

5. Do you have any additional recommendations for Philipp?

Count	Response
1	This is a general comment on teaching any course that is program-based. It helps students tremendously to understand big-picture objectives and applications of the commands we are learning. For example, what are some examples of when you used this command? To that end, the in-class exercises we did with Yike were very helpful and useful in providing an application example and cementing the commands we learned in class.
1	Showing the ultimate goal (your project's webpage) was really cool, this way we clearly see what is the goal.
1	Go a little slower in the first day, especially letting us know what commands to use in Terminal. Not everyone knows how to use it.

6. How well did Yike meet her goal ...

	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Responses
... to be well organized?	8 80.0%	2 20.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	10

	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Responses
... to present the material at the right speed?	6 60.0%	2 20.0%	2 20.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	10
... to present the material clearly and understandable?	6 60.0%	3 30.0%	1 10.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	10
... to be accessible outside of class?	9 90.0%	1 10.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	10

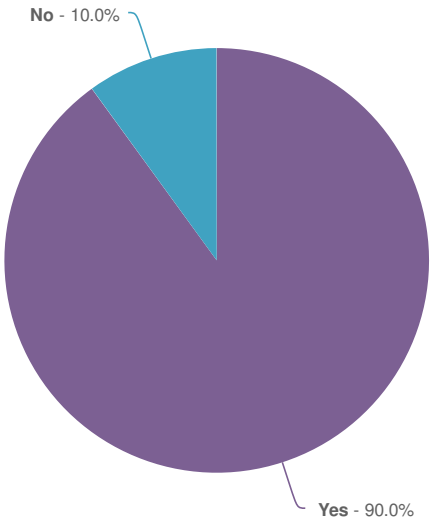
7. Do you have any additional recommendations for Yike?

Count	Response
1	I love that her pace is a bit fast. That's a good thing.
1	Yike obviously knows her stuff, but she went too quickly. It may be because the students didn't provide much feedback but that's because we were trying to process everything that was being said. Plus, we didn't know what the commands did until after we executed the code and actually saw the output. It would be nice to know beforehand what the command is supposed to do. (Philipp was better at explaining, but both can improve in this area.) It would also be incredibly helpful if the instructors explained each part of the code. For example, "the square brackets in an array define each row, the parentheses define the overall matrix." It is much easier to pick up on a programming language if we understand the logic and structure of the code.

8. What aspects of the Bootcamp should be changed? Is there anything that we should add or remove from the program?

Count	Response
1	Are there IDEs outside of iPython? If so, they should be discussed.
1	Thank you for the Bootcamp!
1	record the class (screen)
1	The pace was grea,t and all the materials covered were relevant. One improvement could be made in going over the code with the class together. Oftentimes, we would execute incorrect code as a learning experience. But then the instructor would correct the wrong code and execute that, meaning we would have no record of the incorrect code. It would be much better if the instructors could leave up the incorrect code and type the correct code in a separate command box (or whatever it's called) so that the students can have a side-by-side comparison. This way, I will have a record of what went wrong the first time and what the correct methods should be.

9. Do you intent to sign up for the class as well?

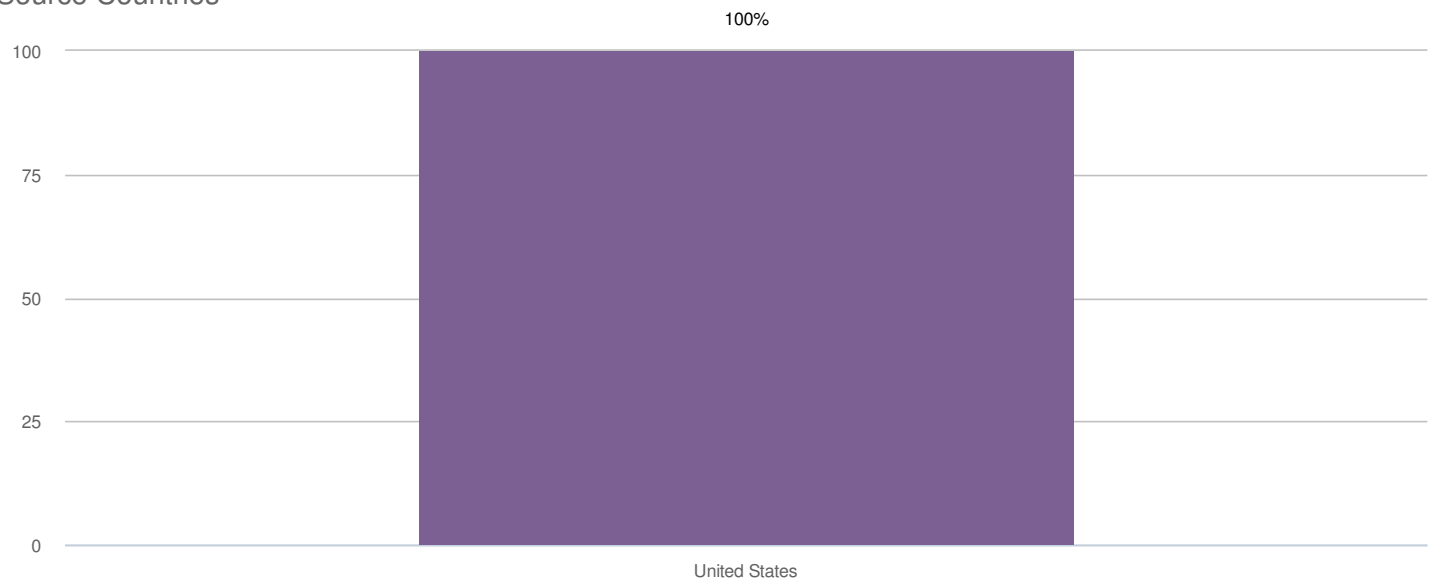


Yes	90.0%		9
No	10.0%		1
		Total	10

10. Why not?

Count	Response
1	Busy this spring, but hope to do it next Spring (2016).

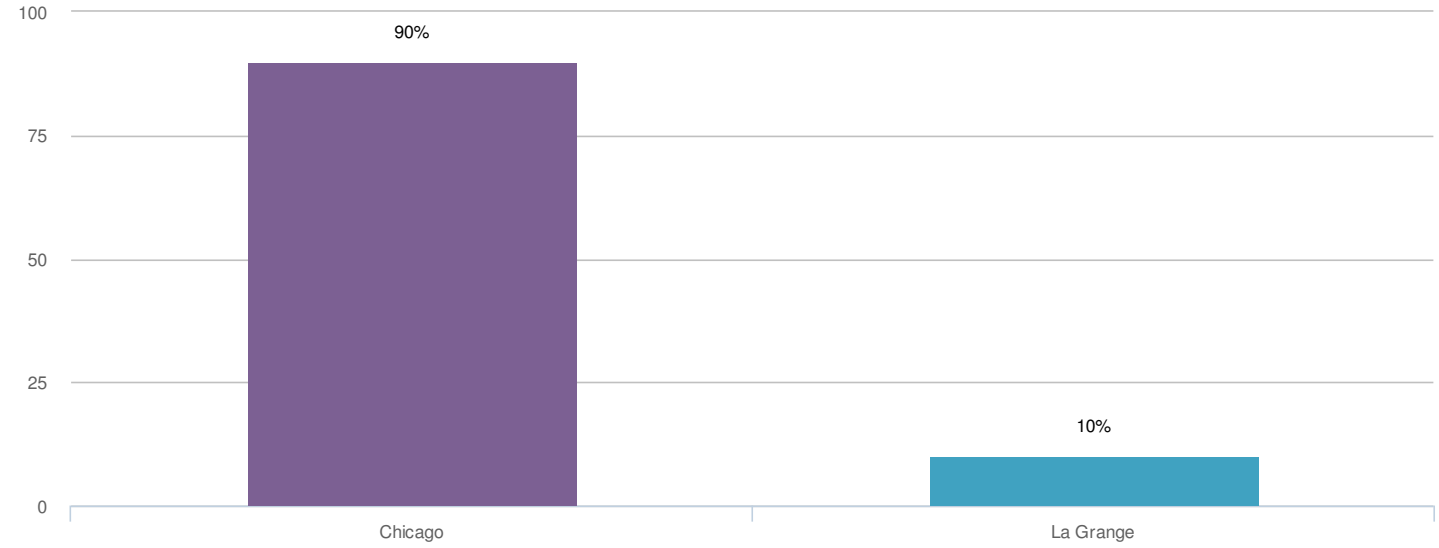
Source Countries



	Total	10

United States	100.0%		10
		Total	10

Source Cities



Chicago	90.0%		9
La Grange	10.0%		1
		Total	10