

# SOX Compliance and the Promise of Technology and Automation

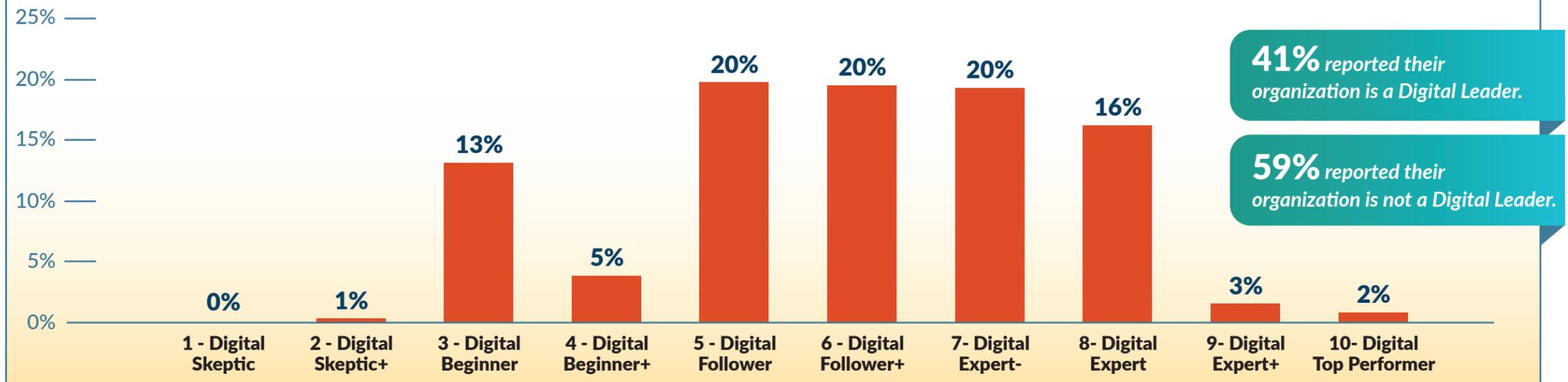
## Assessing the results of Protiviti's 2021 SOX Compliance Survey within the energy and utilities industries

It's been more than a year since a historic global pandemic changed the way companies operate in the near-term and very likely for the long-term future.

We can see the impact on numerous fronts – including the costs for Sarbanes-Oxley compliance activities. And for certain companies, the use of technology and automation rose to the forefront as a key advantage.

### Where organizations rank on the digital maturity scale

For the purpose of our analysis, we have categorized the group of "Digital Leaders" to include those organizations that rank themselves at "7" or higher.

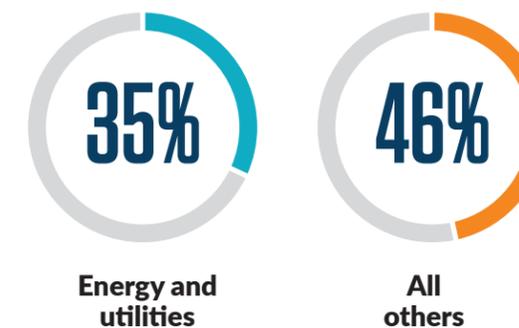


### Average annual SOX compliance internal costs

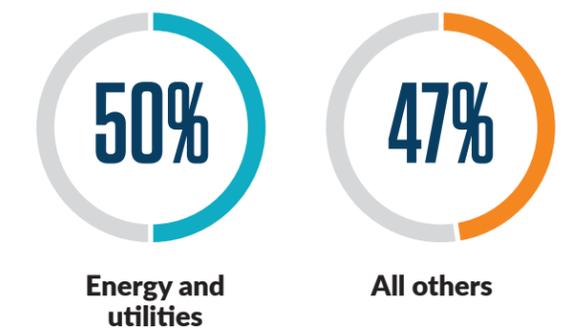
Excludes external audit-related fees.

Industry	2021	YOY trend
Energy and utilities	\$1,446,000	↑
All others	\$1,241,900	↑

### Has use of technology tools changed since prior fiscal year?



### Were technology tools used in testing of controls to comply with SOX Section 404?



Shown: Percentages of "Yes" responses

For more information, read *SOX Compliance and the Promise of Technology and Innovation*, available at [Protiviti.com/SOXSurvey](https://Protiviti.com/SOXSurvey).

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