

2010 DCG Survey Results Software Project Estimation

The following represents the findings from our recent survey on software project estimation. The intent of the survey was to gain a greater understanding about how organizations are estimating, what they are estimating, and how dependent they are on the results. We are very pleased with the number of responses and we view this as a positive indication that strategically and tactically project estimation is a priority to many organizations.

The common characteristics among all the respondents found that:

- 57% have a formal estimating process
- planning, budgeting and managing projects are the key reasons for estimating
- duration and level of effort lead the way in terms of what is being estimated
- new development and enhancement projects are tops among the types of projects being estimated
- estimates are based on prior experience
- there is limited use of commercial software tools
- IFPUG FPs lead the way as a sizing measure.

Additionally there were some interesting insights in regard to organizational barriers to successful estimating and what people's vision of a successful estimating practice includes.

There are two sections in this report. The first section presents a summary of general information about the respondents including their size, location, and industry profile. The second section presents the graphical displays of the survey results. Each graph is preceded by the original survey question. In some cases, additional comments or notes are added based on input received from the survey.

We have attempted to provide you with useful and meaningful information and as always we invite you, the participants, to feel free to comment with your own observations.

General Information

We received 76 responses to our survey. This represents about a 2% response rate.

Industry Profile

We asked how you would best describe your business.

- 50%** Corporate IT
- 24% Software Vendor
- 21% Outsource Provider
- 5% Other

Geographical Location

The majority of the responses indicated that their primary company location was North America.

69% North America

Additional countries represented included: South America, Europe and Asia.

Organizational Size

The survey asked for the number of resources in all of software development

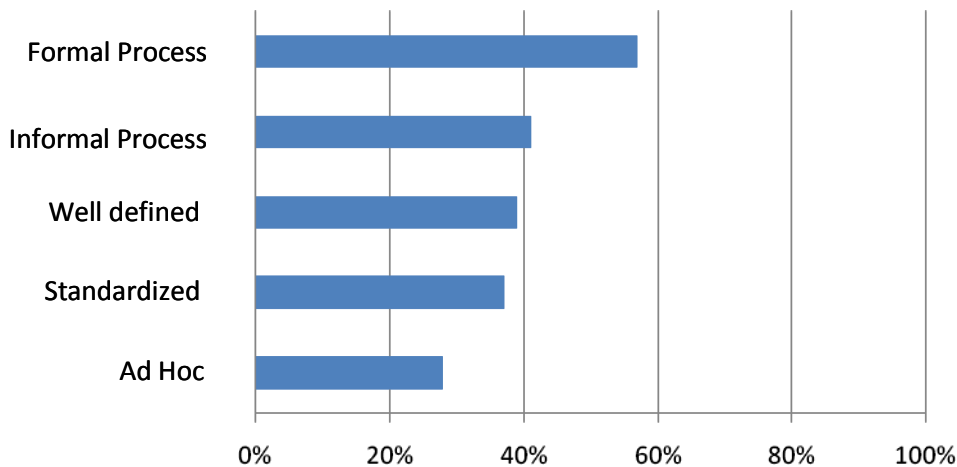
- 18% > 1000
- 31% 201 - 1000
- 31% 50 - 200
- 17% < 50
- 3% no response

Methodology

We asked about your software development methodology. Of the choices provided in the survey **77% indicated waterfall** and **62% indicated agile**. RUP and Spiral methods accounted for 32% and 23% respectively.

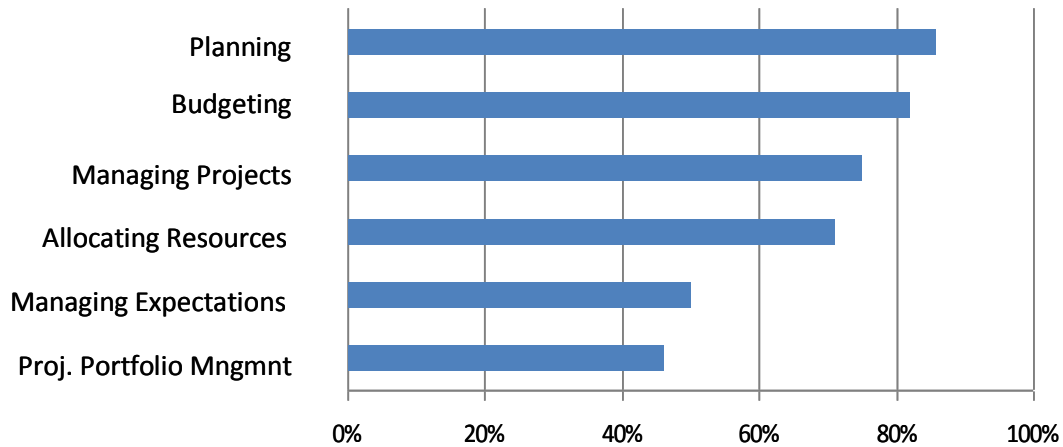
Project Estimation Results

Describe your estimating practice. (Select all that apply)



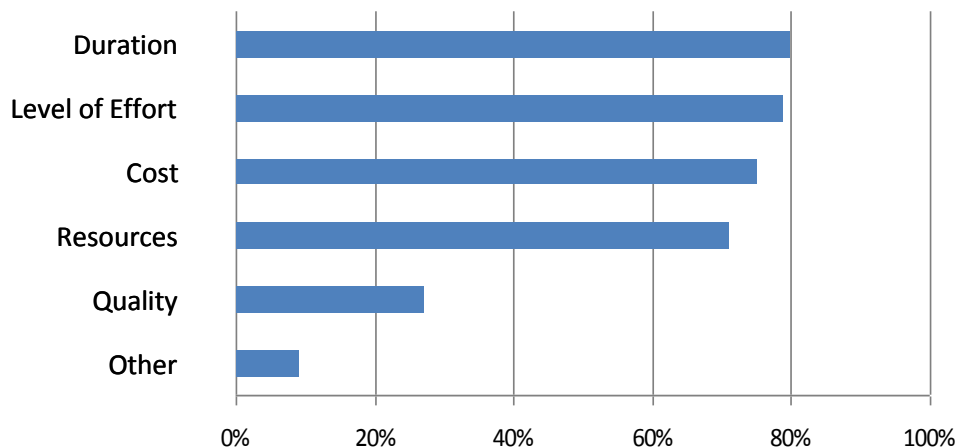
47% of the respondents that indicated they had a formal estimating process, also stated that it was well defined and standardized.

Estimating is a key factor in: (Select all that apply)



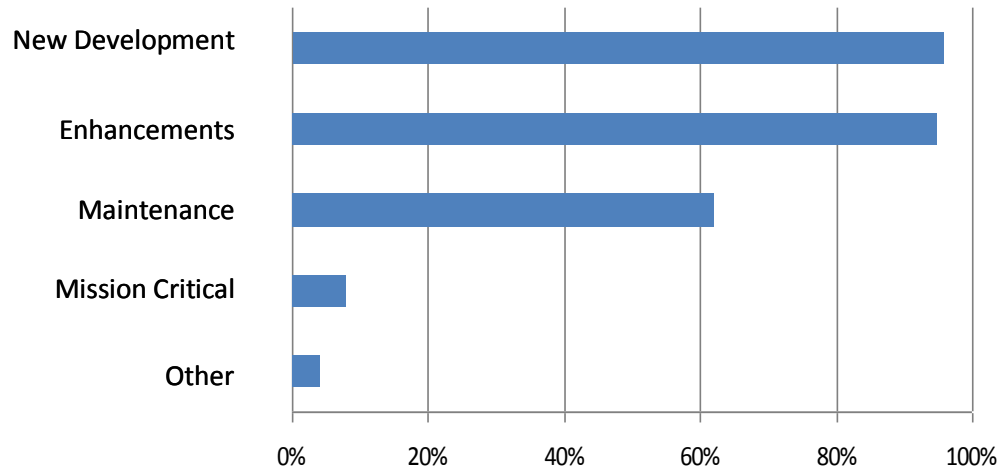
27% of respondents indicated that estimating is a key factor in all of the categories listed.

We are most interested in estimating the following: (Select all that apply)



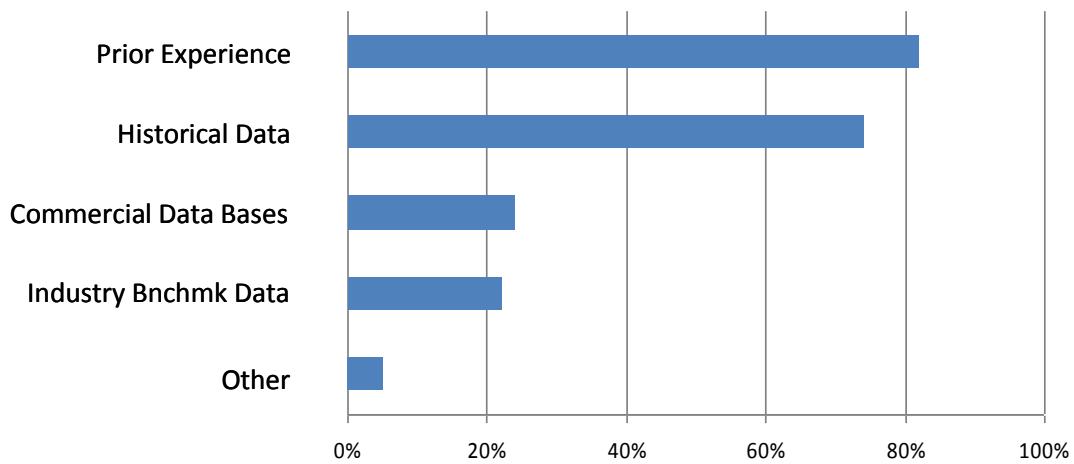
Responses in the 'Other' category included:
Risk, Life Cycle, Functional Size, velocity and phase duration

We estimate the following types of projects: (Select all that apply)



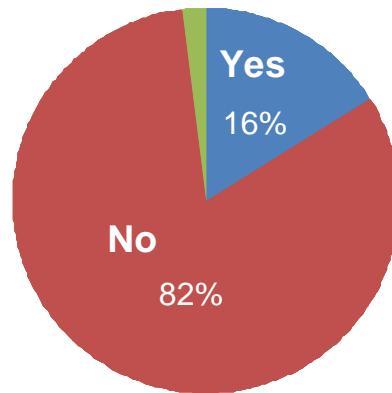
Responses in the 'Other' category included:
 Platform technology and SAAS
 Full SDLC including Priority 1/2 fixes

Our estimates are based on: (Select all that apply)



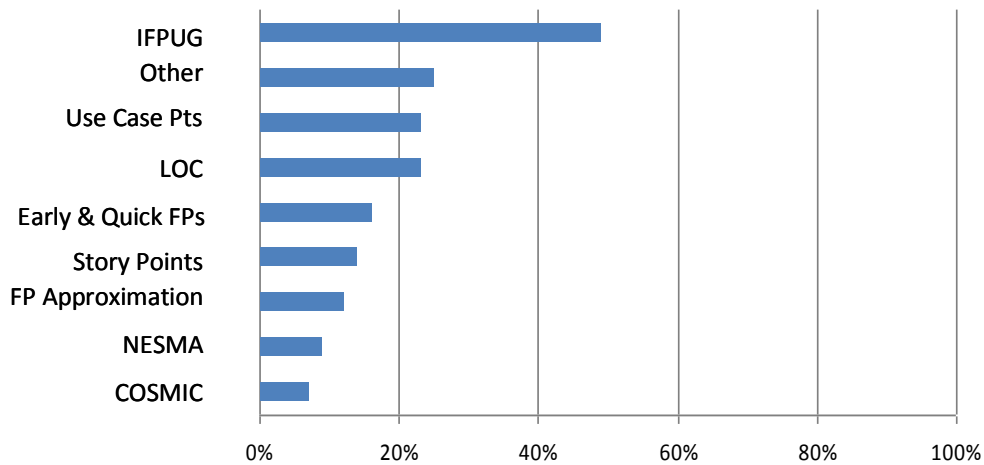
Responses in the 'Other' category include:
 Function points, use case points, story points and internal benchmarks

We use a commercial software estimating tool.



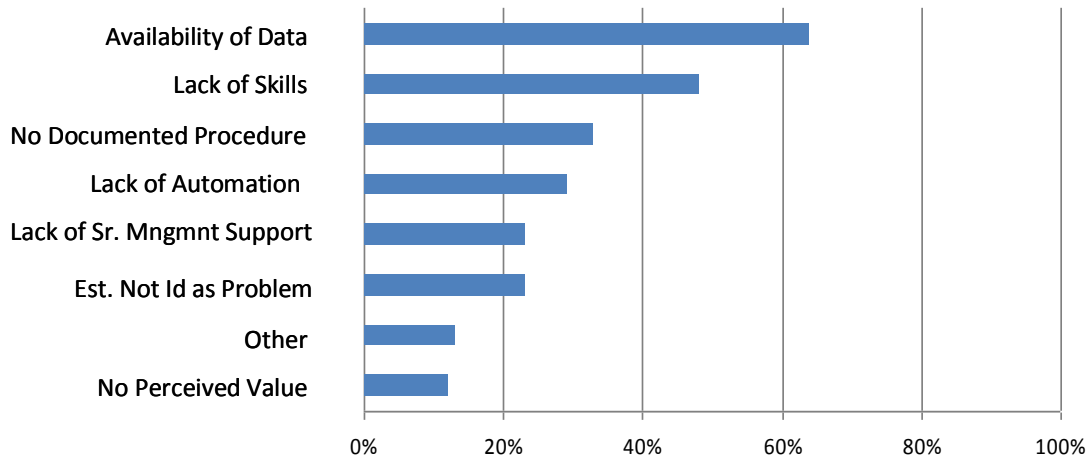
Typical tools listed included – SLIM and SEER SEM. Also listed were True Planning, COSTAR, COCOMO and On the Mark Estimating

If software sizing is part of your estimating process, which sizing technique is mainly used?

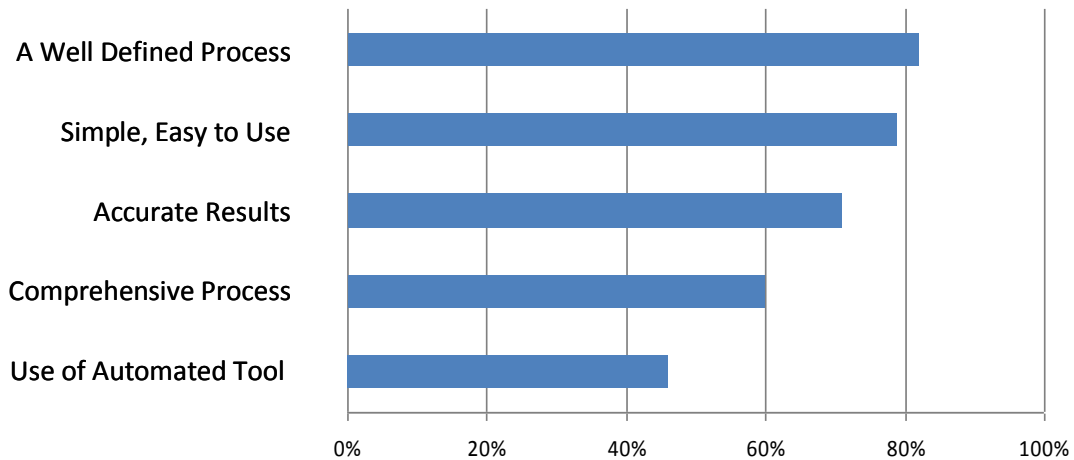


35% of the respondents did not indicate any sizing method being used. 'Other responses' included: Web Pages and Controls, ROM, Complexity based Point Formalized WBS, similar application/ objects/ functions, etc., ad hoc Complexity based estimation on excel sheets, Organizational specific sizing and Programming Units.

Barriers to successful estimation in our organization include: (Select all that apply)



Our vision of a successful estimating practice includes: (Select all that apply)



40% of the respondents believed that successful estimating practices involved four or more of the categories presented.