

Alumni Outcomes

We often receive updated profile information from Earlham alumni. Recently a concerted effort was made to update our Alumni Directory. 52% of alumni (8,650) responded to our query. Since that time, many other alumni have logged on to our web site in order to update their personal information. Both the survey and the web site ask them (1) to place themselves in one of 24 broad occupational categories we might call "learned professions," and we asked them questions to give a broad characterization of their work. (2) Is your work more oriented to social change or to maintaining the status quo? (3) Are you a leader or a follower in your current job? (3) Is your work currently domestic or international? (4) What is the character of your work organization: for-profit, not-for-profit or governmental?

President Doug Bennett provided summary charts of responses as of March 25, 2010. These are shown on the tables below.

Table 1 – Distribution of alumni in each decade-cohort across the learned professions.

Table 2 – Involvement in social change

Table 3 – Leader or follower

Table 4 – Domestic or international work

Table 5 – Character of work organization

Doug provided the following comments on each of the tables:

The first table shows the distribution of alumni in each decade-cohort across the learned professions. I am especially struck at the consistency across time, and also at the high percentages who are in education. (Is this a college that loves learning, or what?) Our alums from the '00s are more likely than others to be in social services/counseling or other not-for-profits: that may be a phenomenon of first jobs, or of the current economy. Time will tell. Without comparative data it's hard to tell but we probably have fewer alumni in business than other colleges. Medicine/public health is another significant category. The rising percentages in science-basic research also could be a trend or it could be maturational.

The table on social change/status quo (table 2) shows little change over time, but we can certainly anticipate that the percentages of those involved in social change are higher than elsewhere.

The table on leader/follower (table 3) shows rising percentages of our alumni in leadership positions as our alumni are farther from graduation. 57% of our alumni from the '60s say leadership is all or most of their job! This could be generational, but I suspect that steady movement into leadership positions is a regular feature of an Earlham education, one perhaps unanticipated by our students at the point of graduation. This may be the most interesting finding.

The table on domestic/international (table 4) shows little change across the decade-cohorts, and that was a surprise for me. Of course not that many jobs have international content. The levels of international may be higher for EC alums than for alums of other colleges; we just can't tell.

And the table on character of work organization (table 5) mostly shows more recent alumni being more likely than less-recent alumni to be working in not-for-profit settings. Again, it would be nice to have comparison data for other colleges, and it will be interesting to see whether this is a shift in the character of work for our alums, or whether some of these younger alums will move to for-profit organizations.

Table 1

Occupational Choices of Earlham Alumni by Decade of Graduation

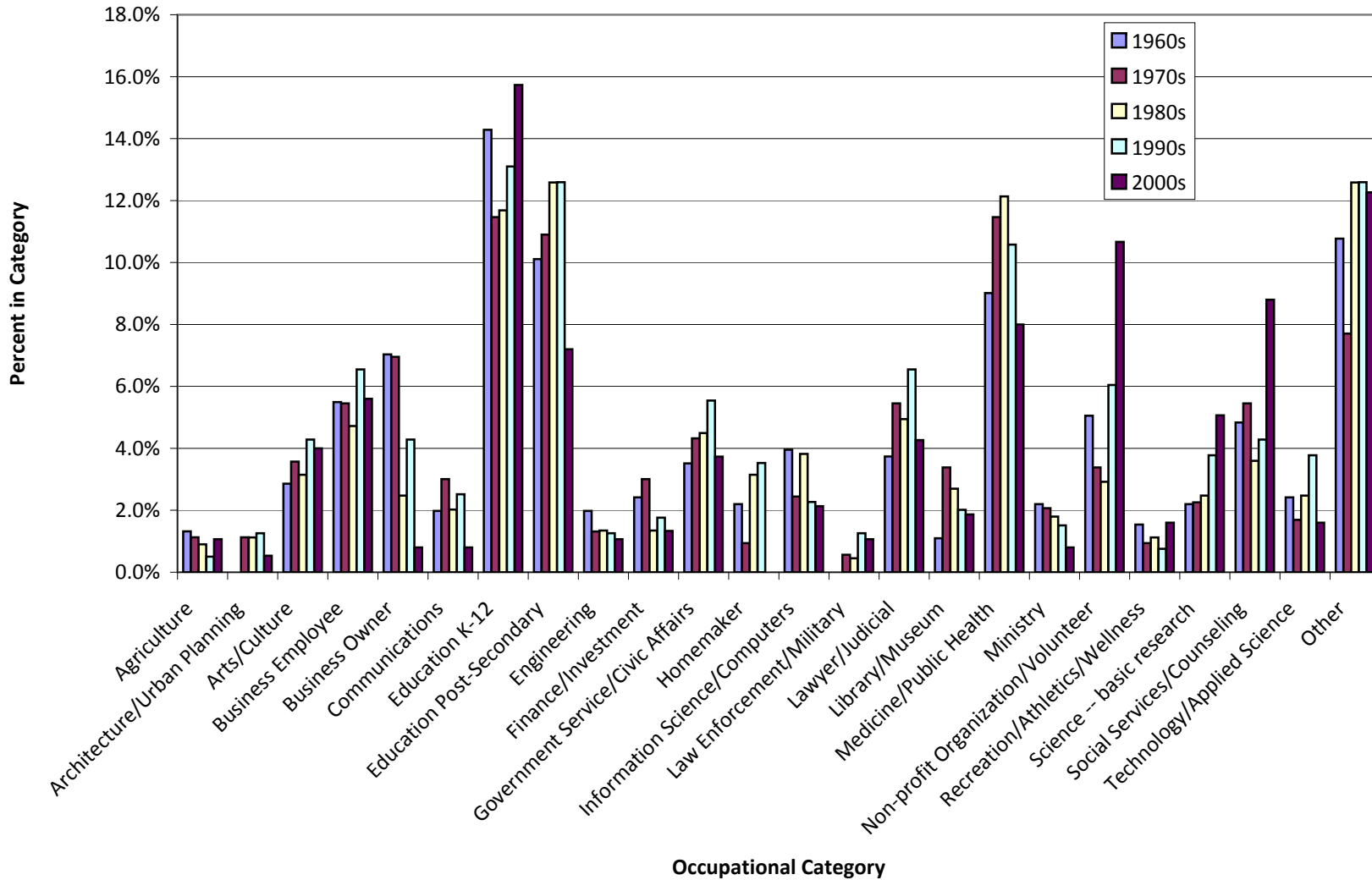


Table 2

Is your work more oriented to social change or to maintaining the status quo?

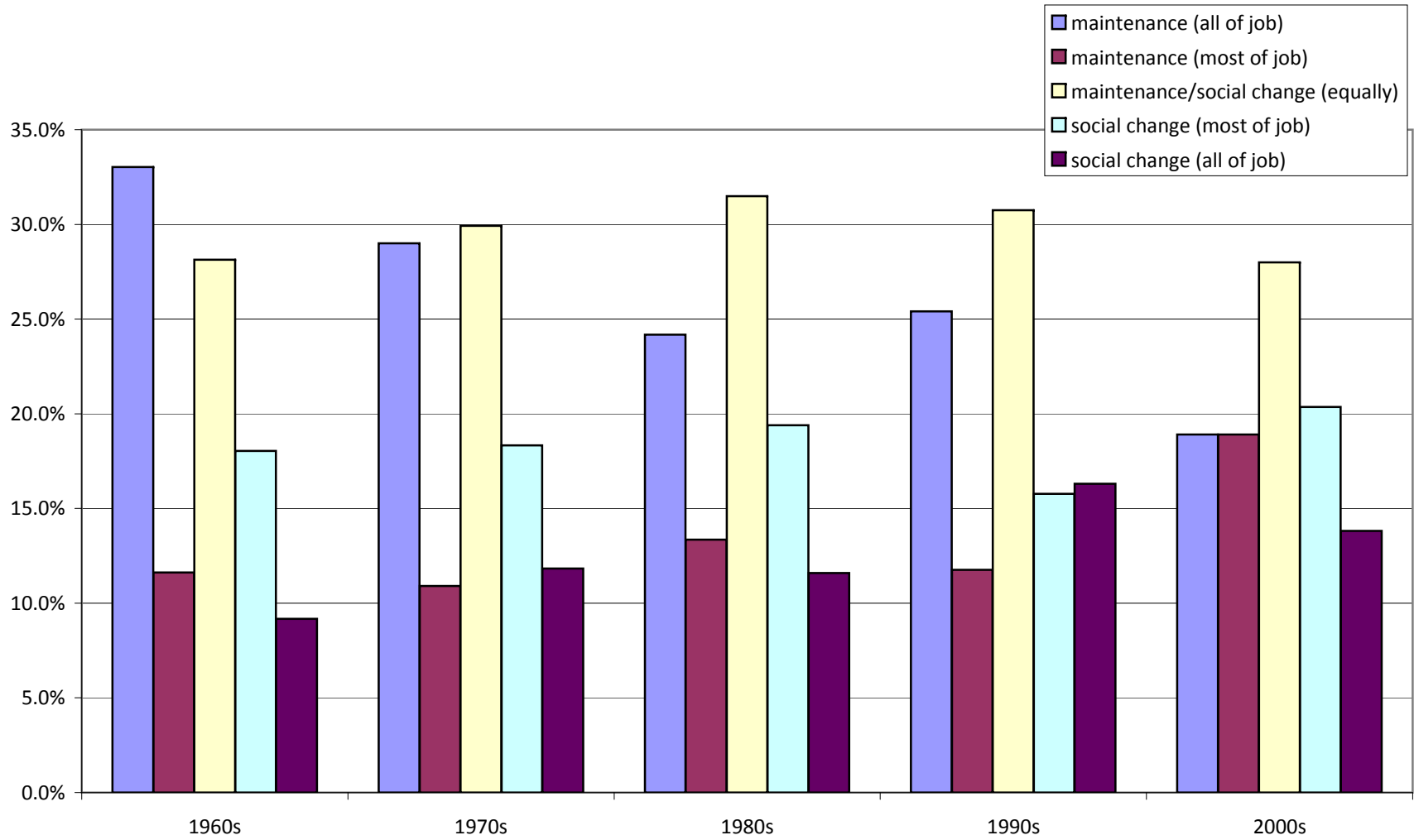


Table 3

Are you a leader or a follower in your current job?

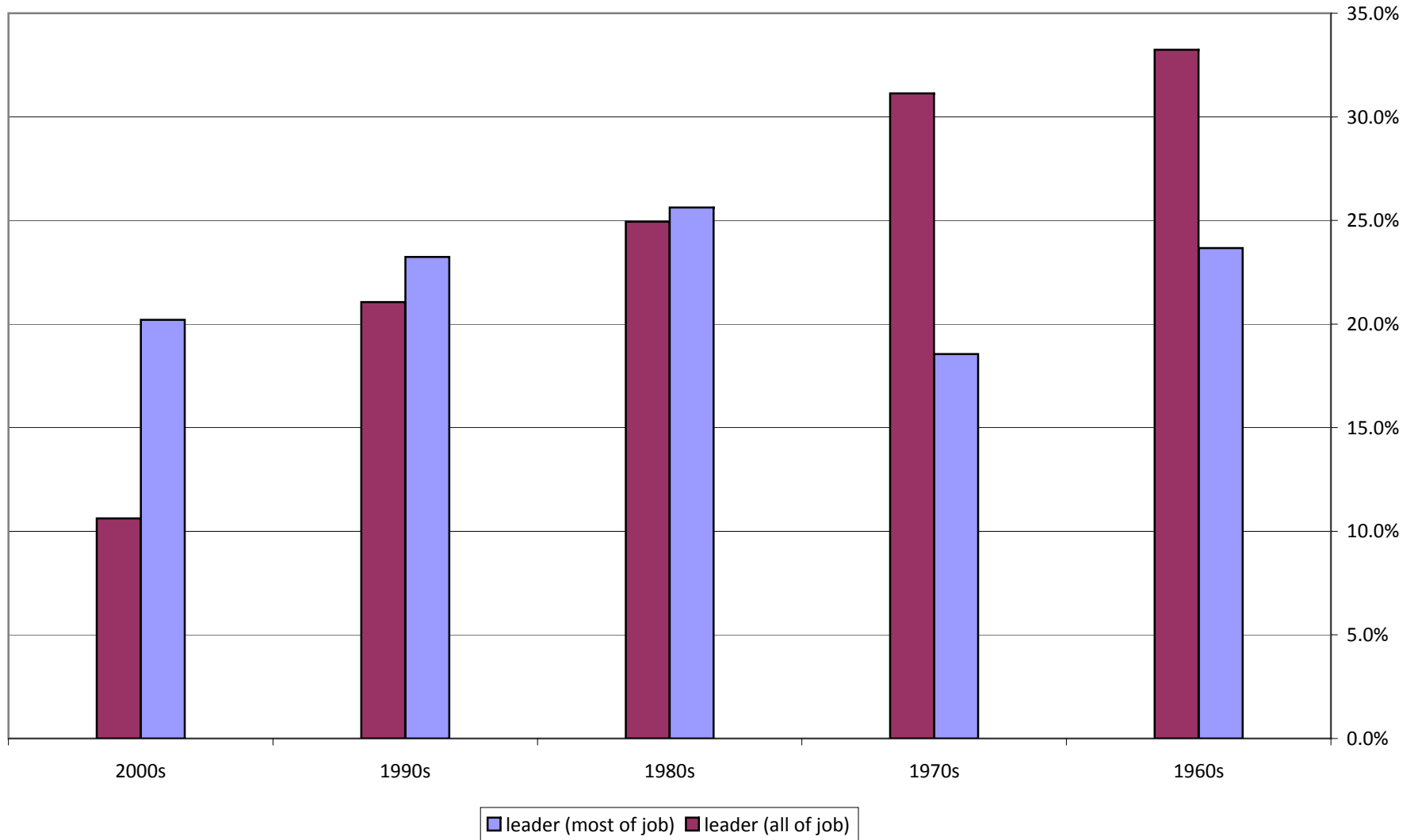


Table 4

Is your work currently domestic or international?

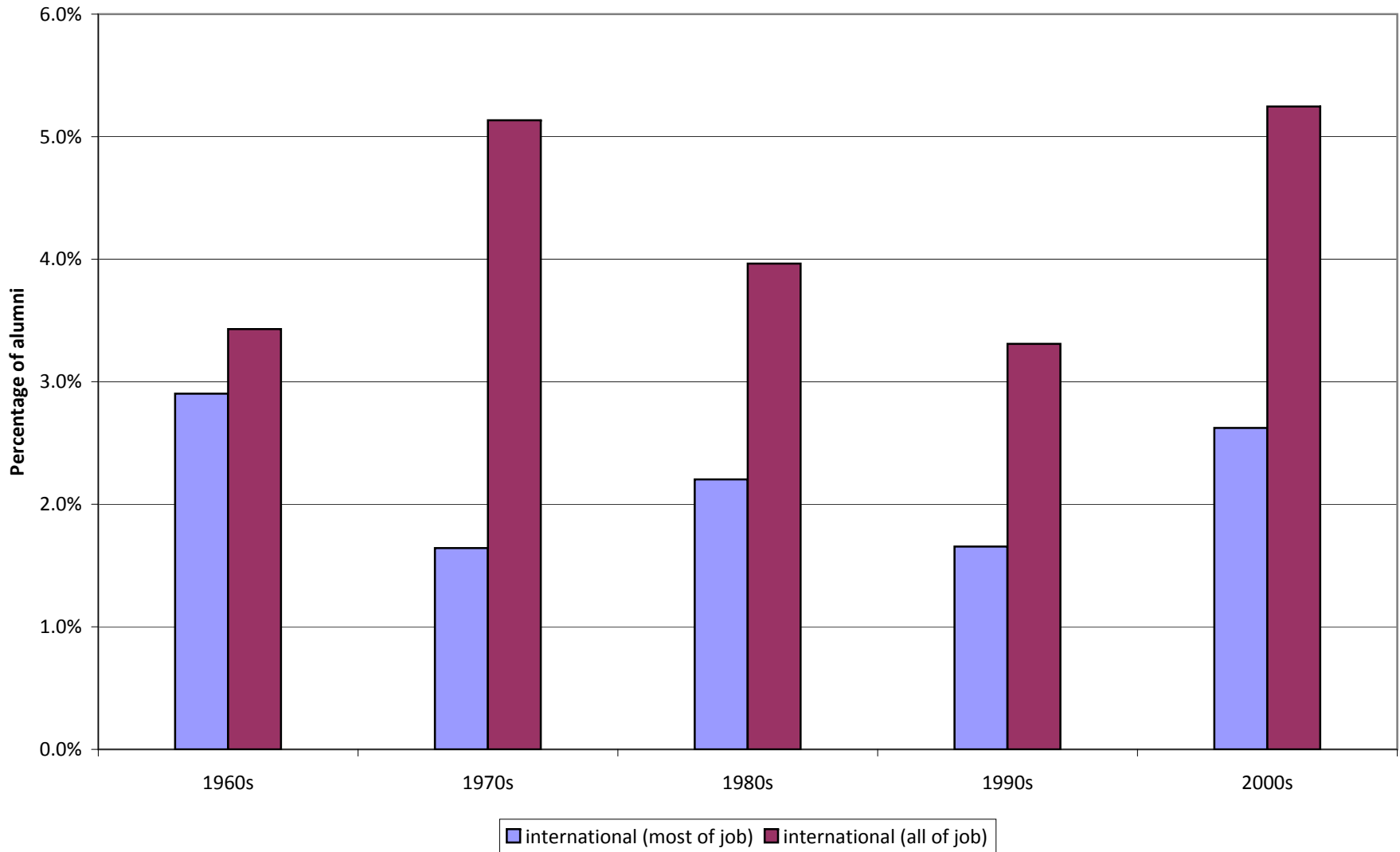


Table 5

What is the character of your work organization: for-profit, not-for-profit or governmental?

