



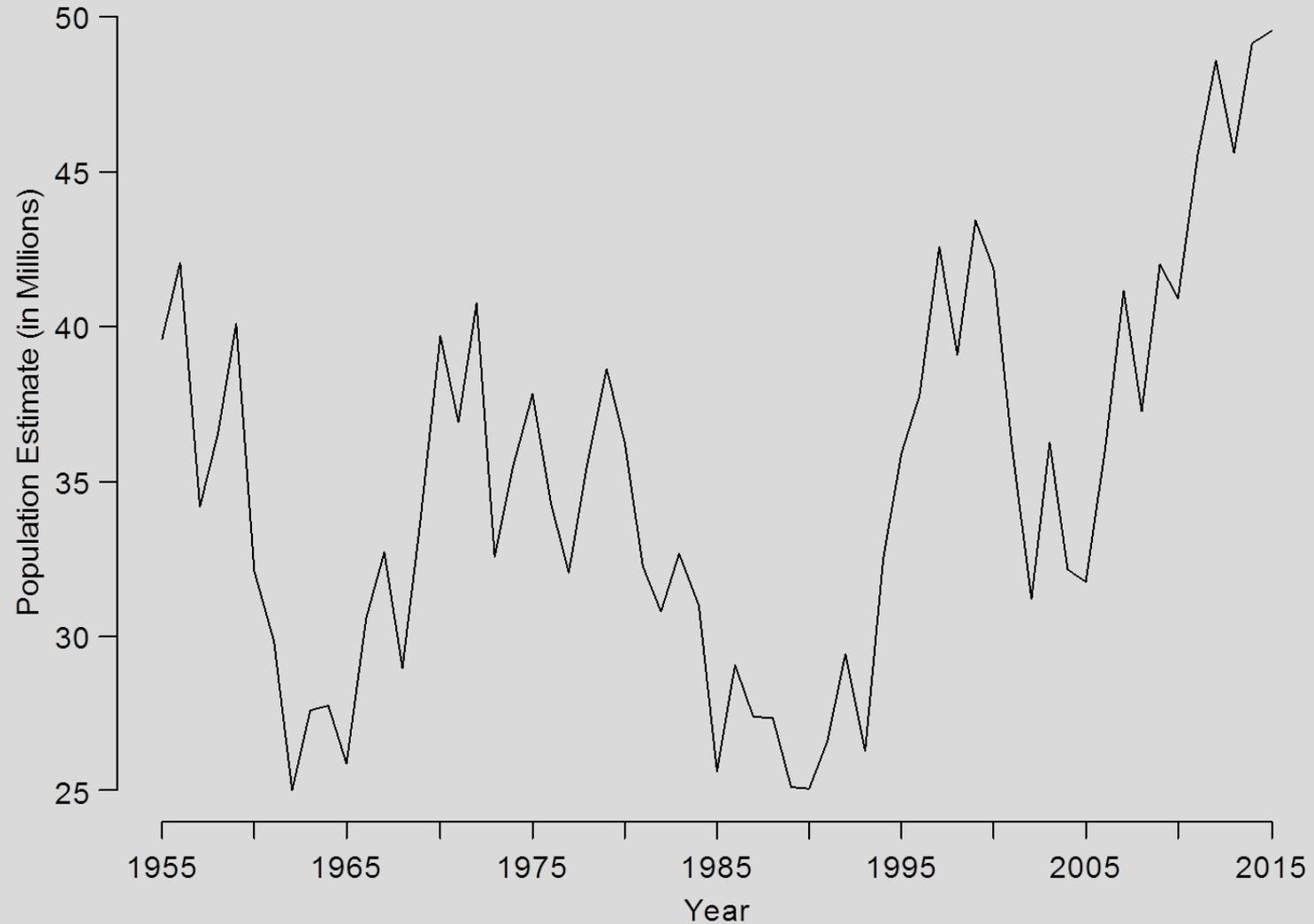
# A summary of information on waterfowl hunting zones and season dates

Orrin Jones  
Waterfowl Research Biologist  
February 2016



# Continental Populations of Waterfowl

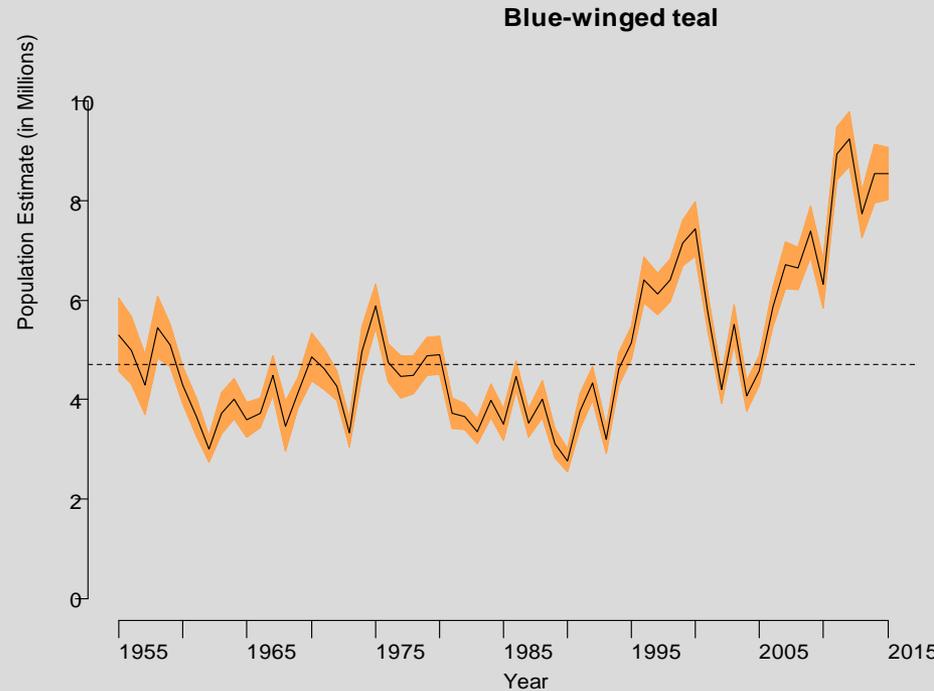
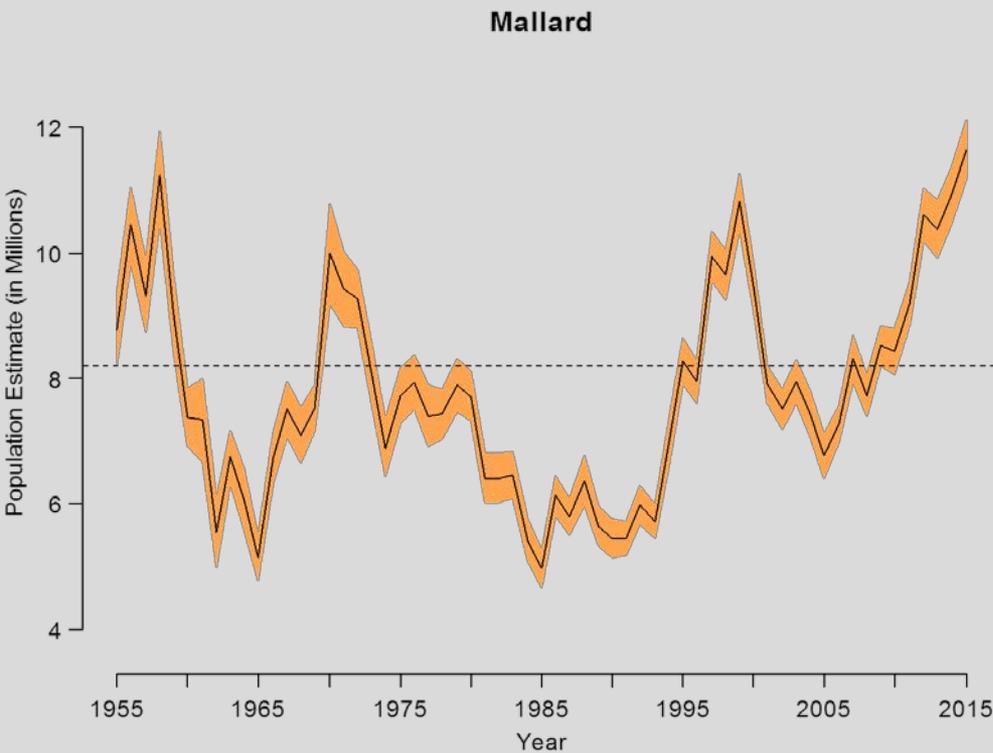
**Total ducks**



Source: USFWS



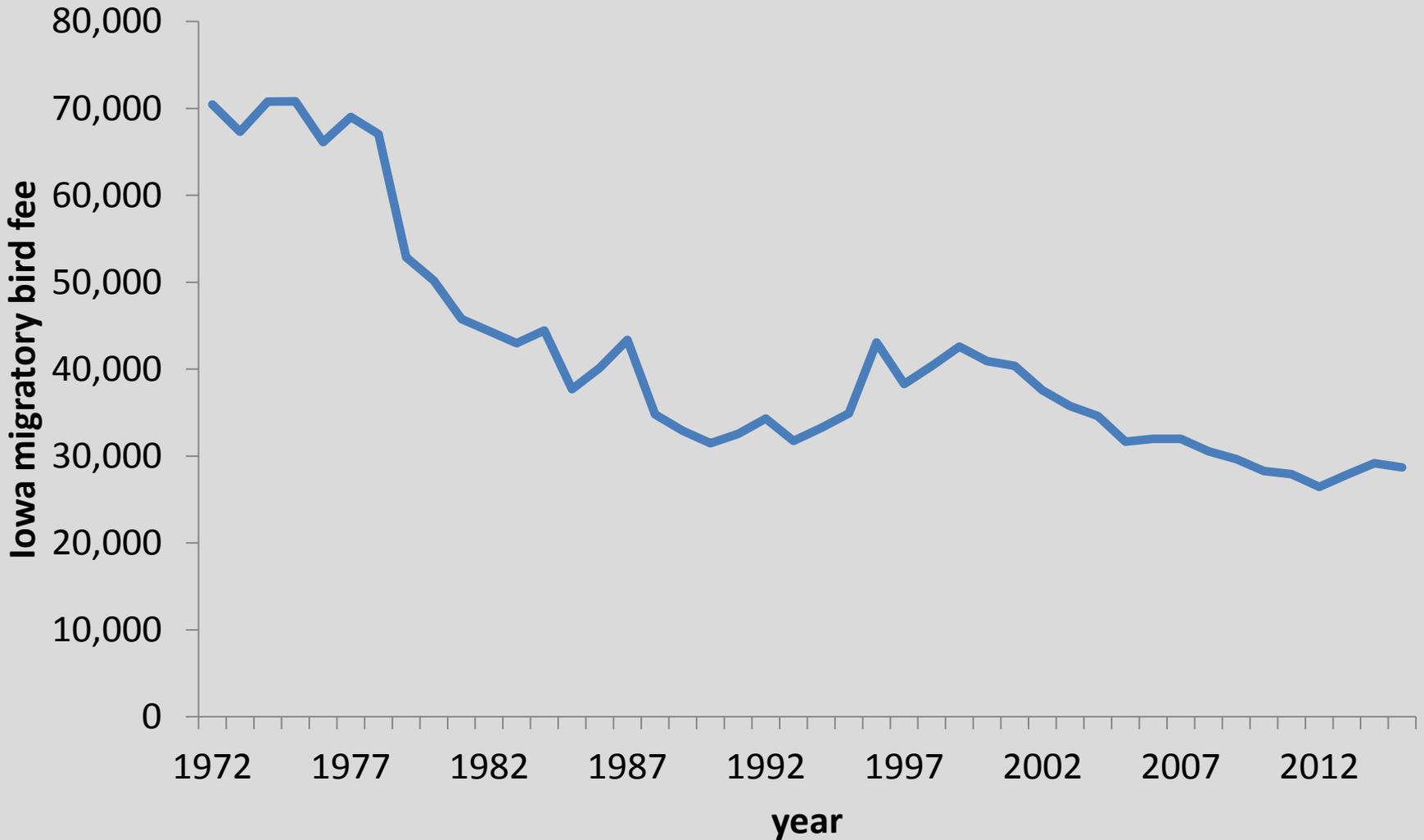
# Duck Species Important to Iowa



Top 3 duck species in IA harvest:  
mallard (37%)  
blue-winged teal (22%)  
wood duck (18%)



# Iowa Waterfowl Hunters



Source: Iowa DNR license sales



# Duck Hunting Harvest Packages

- Liberal: 60 days, 6 birds, 4 mallards, 2 hens
- Moderate: 45 days, 6 birds, 4 mallards, 1 hen
- Restrictive: 30 days, 3 birds, 2 mallards, 1 hen
- Closed

# USFWS Zone options

- 1) No more than 4 zones with no splits
  - Illinois, Wisconsin, and Nebraska
  
- 2) No zones with up to 3 segments (2 splits) in the season.
  - Arkansas and Mississippi
  
- 3) No more than 3 zones with the option for a split.
  - Minnesota, Missouri

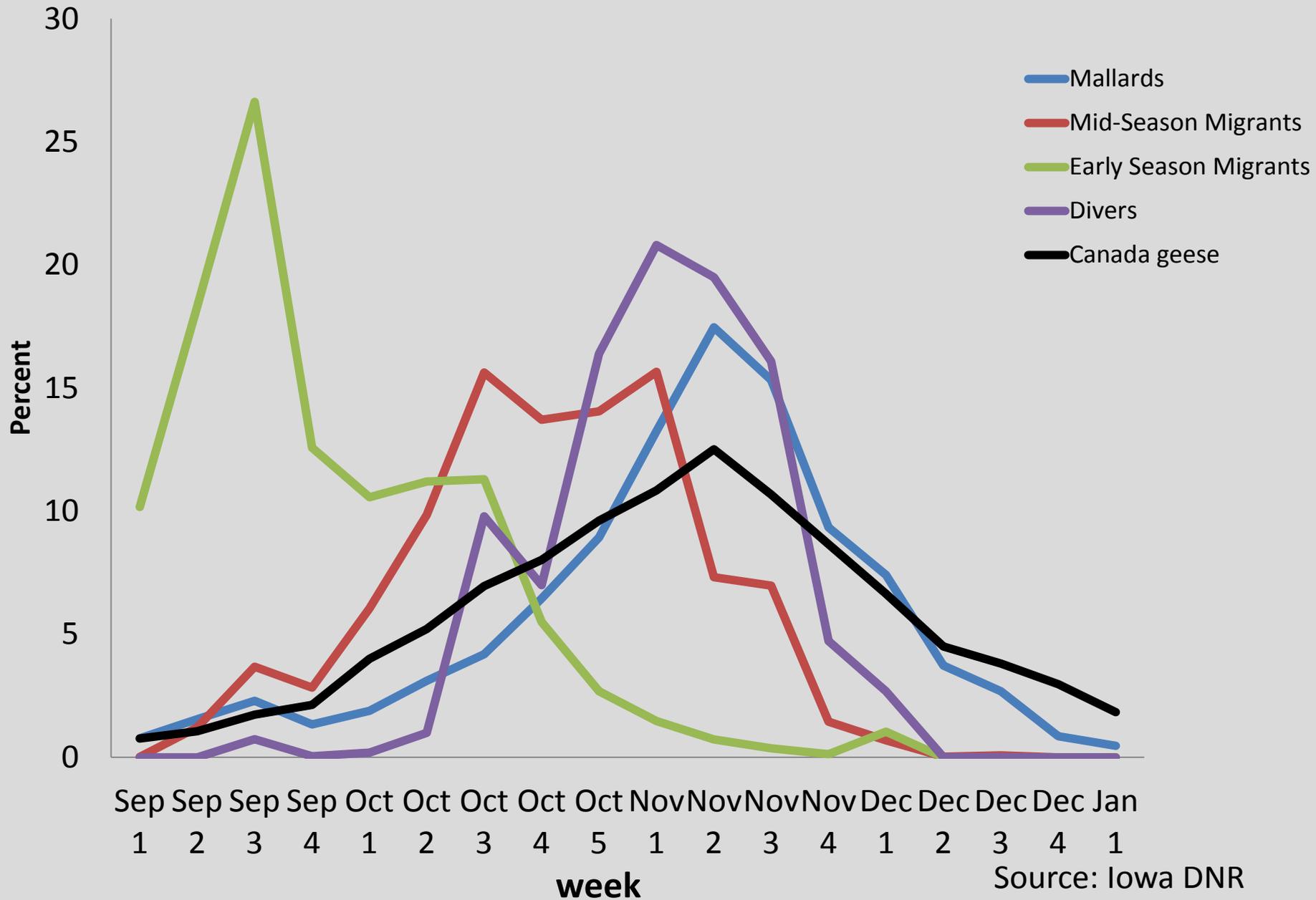


# Iowa waterfowl migration survey





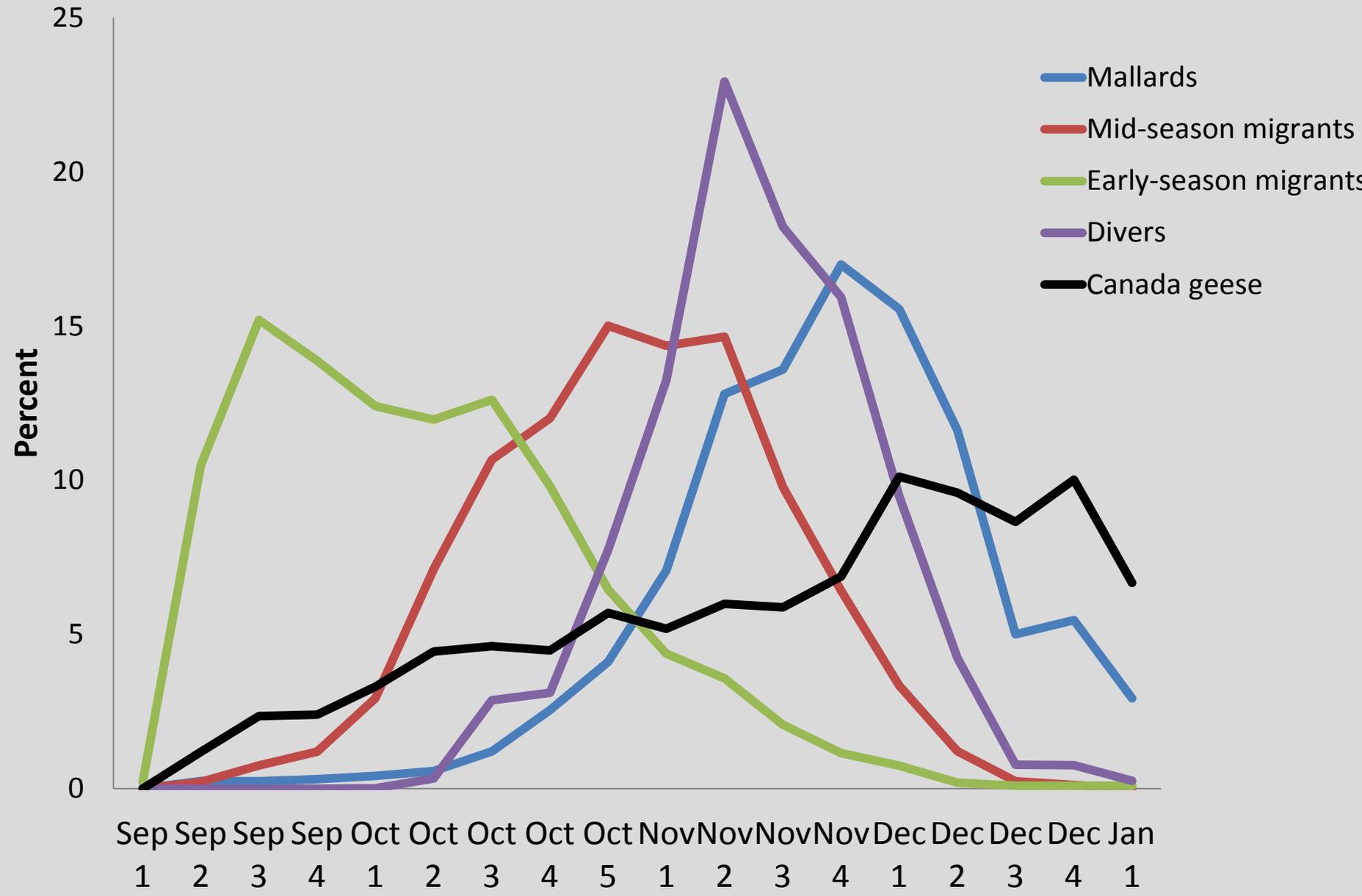
# North Zone Migration Chronology: 2006-2013



Source: Iowa DNR



# South Zone Migration Chronology: 2006-2013



Source: Iowa DNR

# Federal participation and harvest information

**Waterfowl Hunting Record**

 1. IF YOU DID NOT HUNT DUCKS, GEESE, OR BRANT THIS SEASON, please check the box to the right and mail this form.  2 2

2. Please record your personal hunting activity for each day you hunted ducks, geese, or brant in the State specified in the attached letter. Record the number of birds you personally bagged; DO NOT include birds shot by other people. Please include ALL of your hunts for the birds listed; if you did not bag any birds during a hunt, record zero (0) for the birds you hunted that day.

3. IF YOU HUNTED DUCKS, GEESE, OR BRANT BUT DO NOT HAVE DETAILED RECORDS, check the box to the right and go to question number 8 to record your Season Totals.

4. Please include additional comments on a SEPARATE SHEET of paper.

Please print all characters in **BLACK** ink using **CAPITAL LETTERS ONLY** as shown below.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMN OPQRSTUVWXYZ 0123456789

**Number of Birds Killed and Retrieved**

Date of Hunt	County of Hunt	State of Hunt	Number of Birds Killed and Retrieved			
			Ducks	Sea Ducks	Geese	Brant
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						

5. IF YOU RUN OUT OF SPACE ON THIS FORM, please call 1-800-419-2965 from 7:30 am to 5:00 pm EST to receive an additional form. We will ask you for the serial number located at the bottom of this form.

6. SEASON TOTALS:

	Days Hunted	Birds Killed and Retrieved	Birds Downed but Lost
Ducks			
Sea Ducks			
Geese			
Brant			

Please call 1-800-327-BAND to report banded birds.

**WATERFOWL HUNTERS**

Form 3-165 (Revised February 2005) OMB No. 1018-0015 Approval Expires Feb. 29, 2008

**DUCKS, BRANT & COOT**

- Cut the least damaged wing close to the body without including any flesh.
- Make certain any **blood has drained and dried**.
- Use one envelope (with inner envelope) for each wing.
- Do not wrap wings in plastic because this speeds decay.

**FOR GEESE ONLY**

- Cut the outer 3 primary feathers of the wing about 6 inches from the tip and **send the wing tips**.
- Pull out all the tail feathers. **Do not cut the rump off the goose.**
- Use one envelope (with inner envelope) for each set of wing and tail feathers.

**PULL THESE**

We only need the feathers that you cut from the wing and the feathers that you pull from the tail. This will ensure that the feathers do not contain flesh or oil glands and remain dry and odor free in the mail.

The wing should not contain any excess flesh or blood and therefore will remain dry and odor free in the mail.

- MAIL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (no postage required).
- Mail the **blue postcard** to us if you need more envelopes. Do not put the postcard in this envelope.
- Continue sending for the **entire season**.

**PLEASE COMPLETE**

Where Shot: State \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ Town \_\_\_\_\_

When Shot: Date MONTH DAY YEAR

Time \_\_\_\_\_ A.M.  \_\_\_\_\_ P.M.

If the bird was banded, please write the band number below, AND report the band to the BIRD BANDING Laboratory by calling 1-800-327-BAND(2263).

Band Number \_\_\_\_\_

Hunter's Name \_\_\_\_\_

ENVELOPE CONTENTS: Duck, Brant, or Coot Wing  Goose Tail and Wing Tip

**Please do not write in this block.**

C O D E

A	AM	IM	UM
G	7	8	9
E	AF	IF	UF
&	4	5	6
S	AU	IU	UU
E	1	2	3
X			

M E A S

TERTIAL COVERT

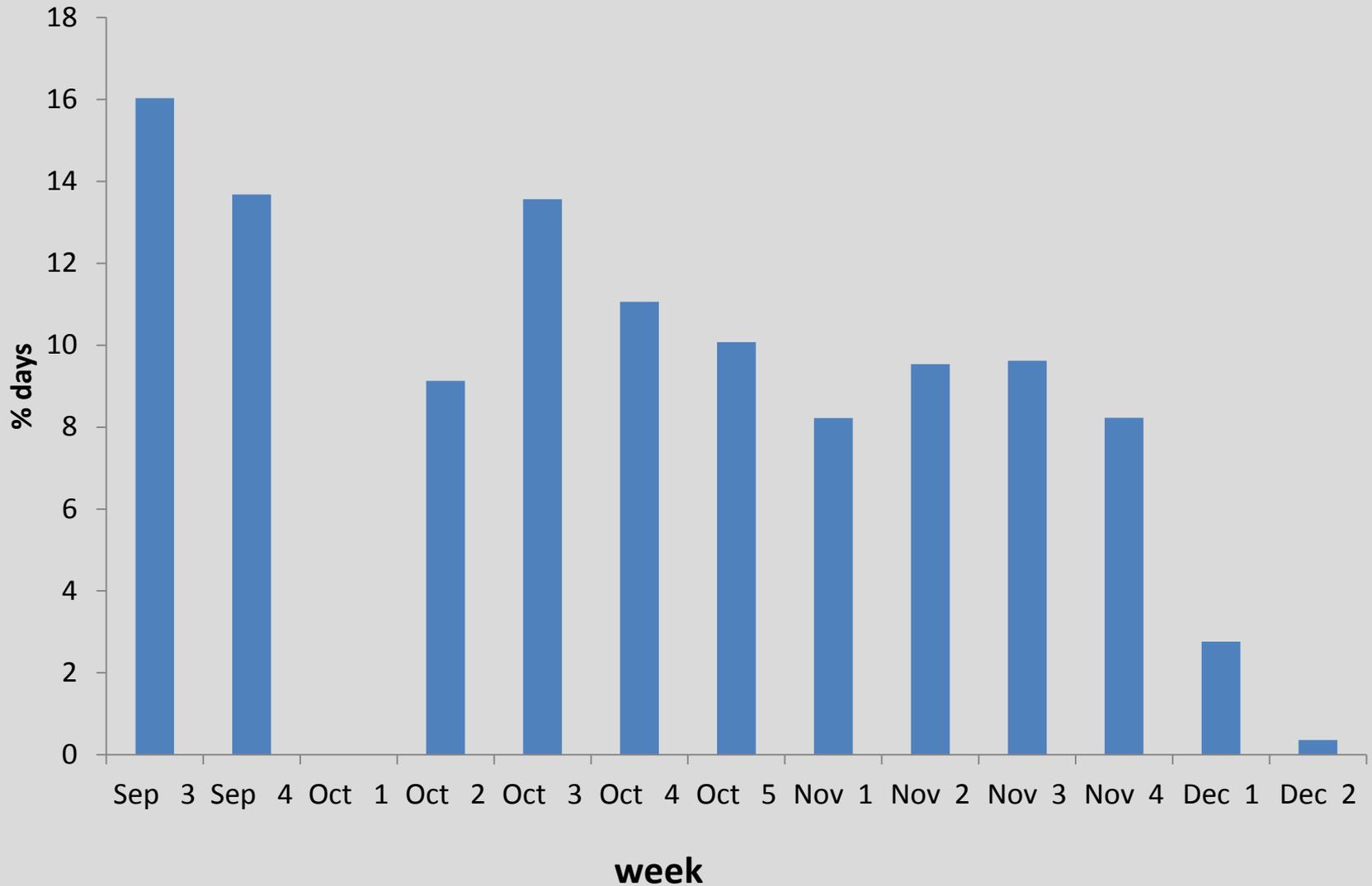
A-1	1-2	A&1-3	AA	AA	AA1
			5	6	7

S P

 A612770



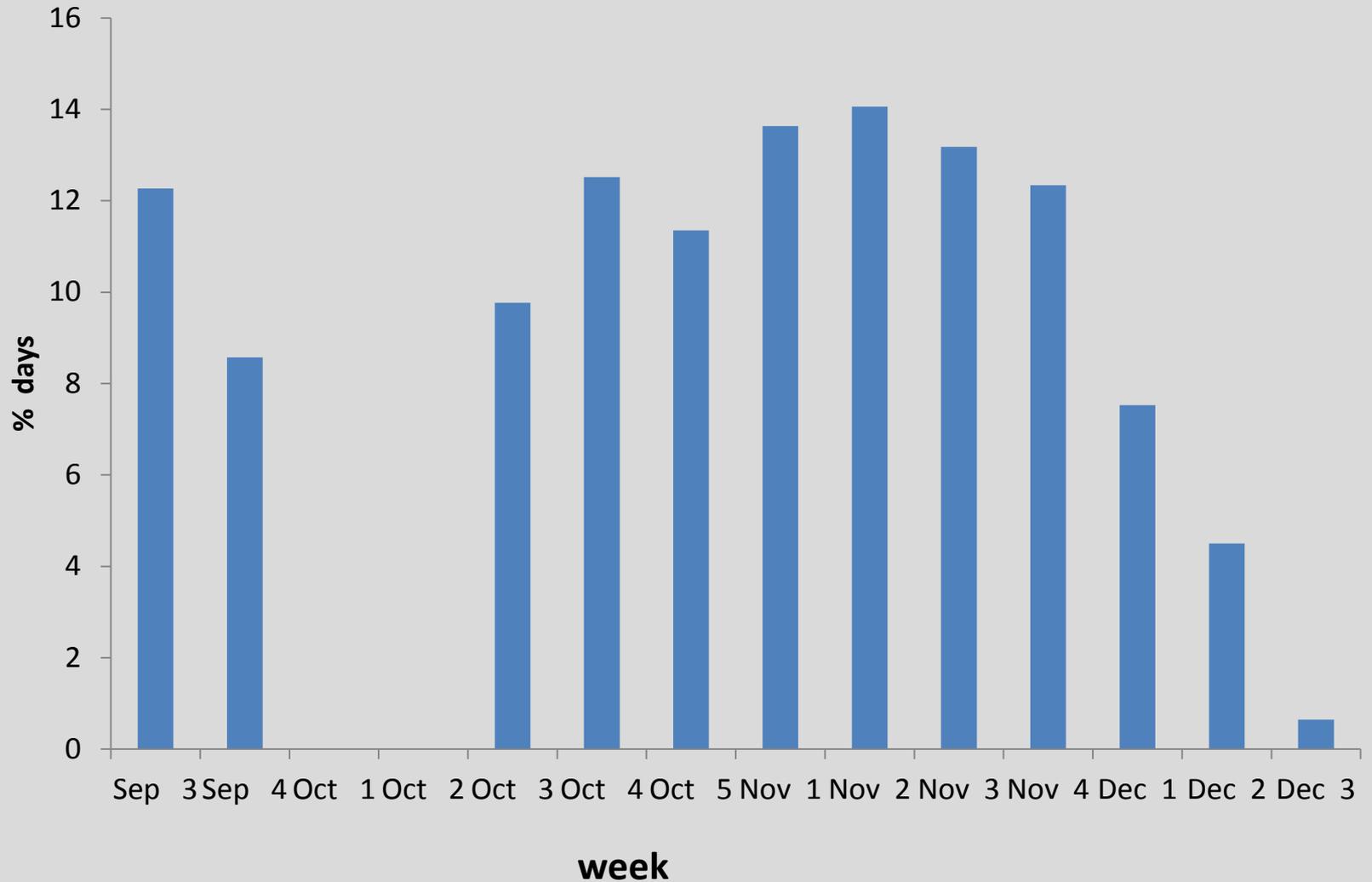
# North Zone Duck Hunting Effort 2006-2013



Source: USFWS harvest surveys



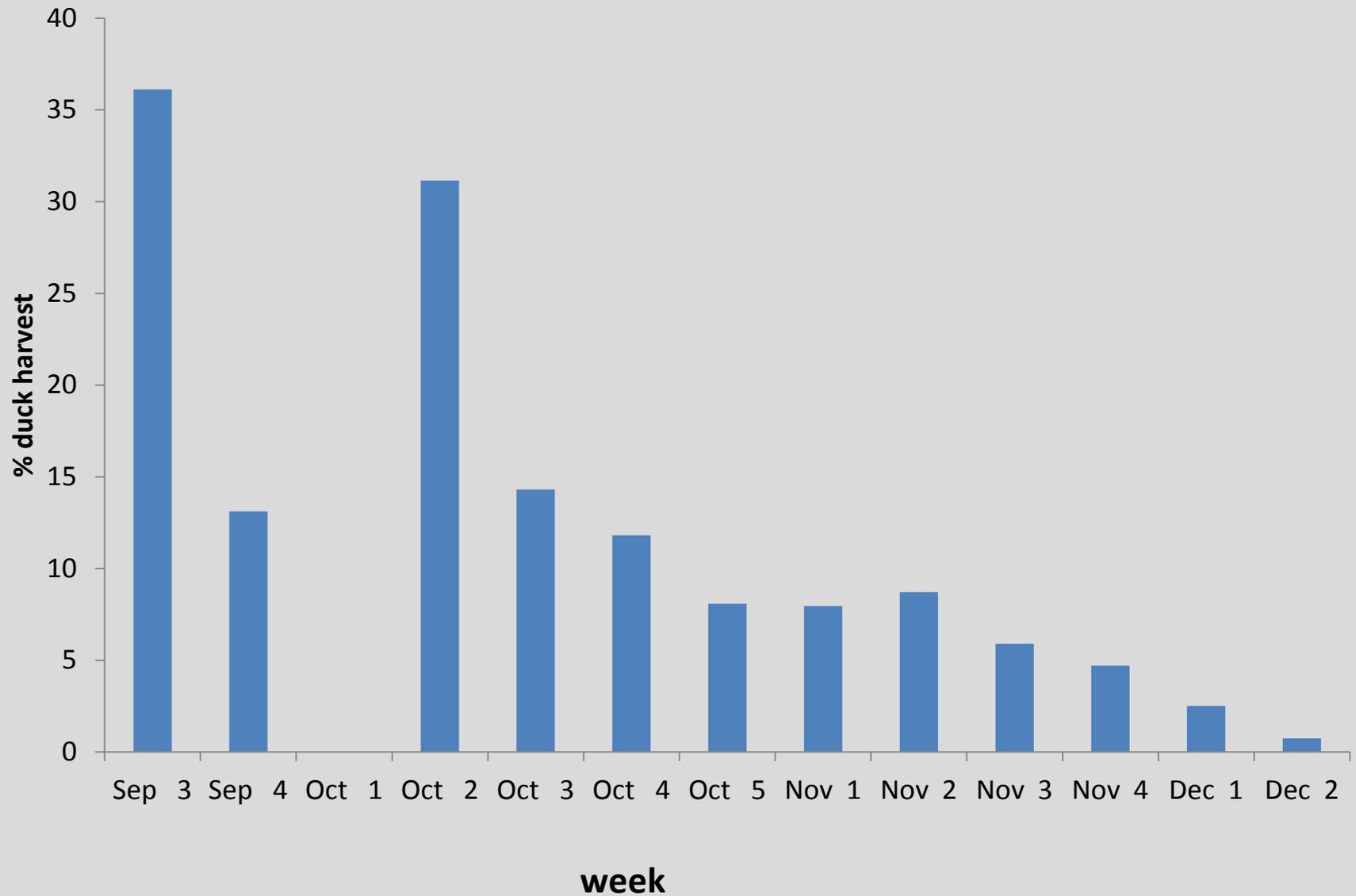
# South Zone Duck Hunting Effort 2006-2013



Source: USFWS harvest surveys



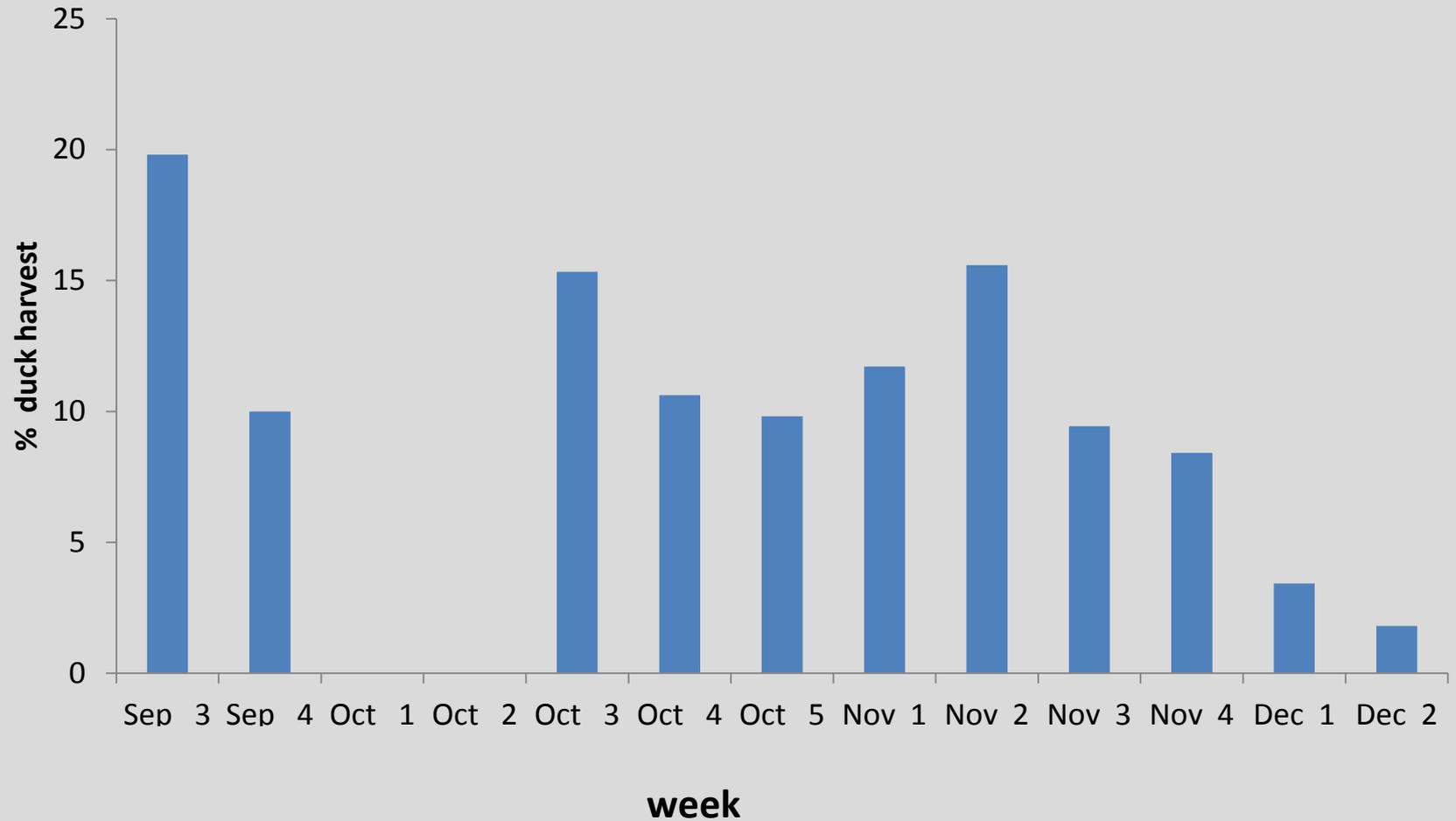
# North Zone Duck Harvest 2007-2012



Source: USFWS harvest surveys



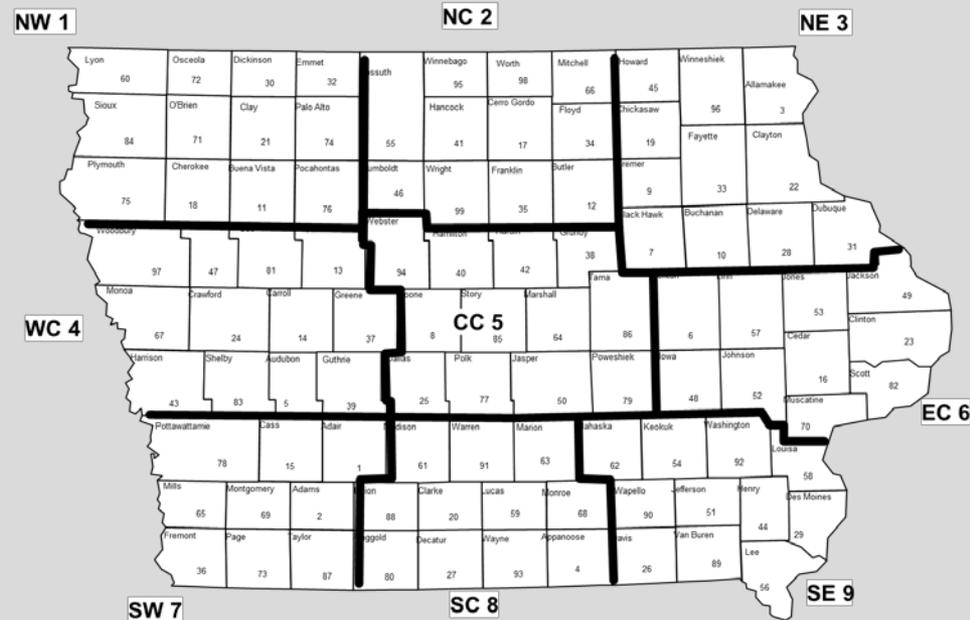
# South Zone Duck Harvest 2007-2012



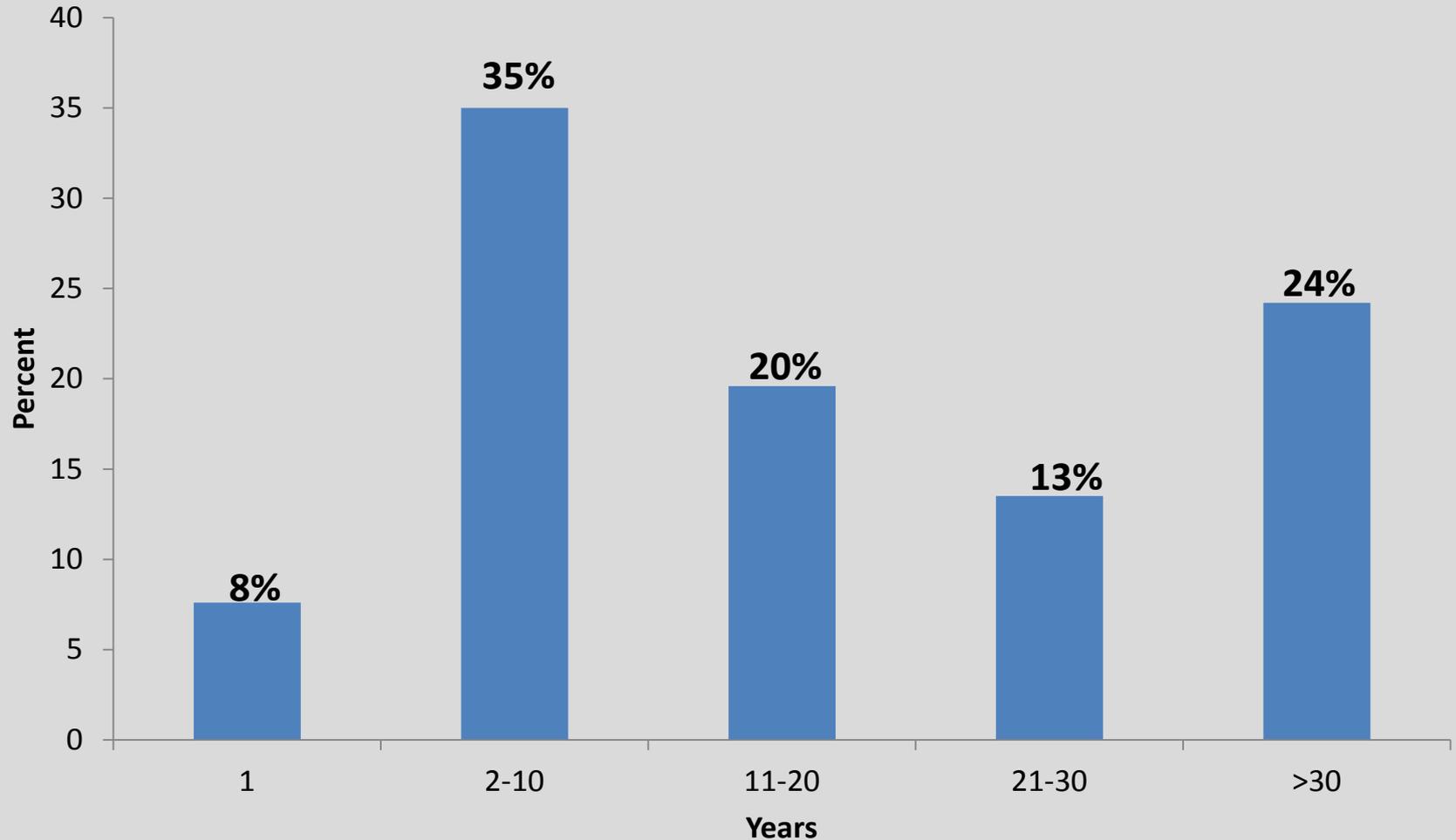
Source: USFWS harvest surveys

# 2015 Iowa Waterfowl Hunter Survey

- Stratified random sample to ensure representation from all regions.
- Response rate of 34%.



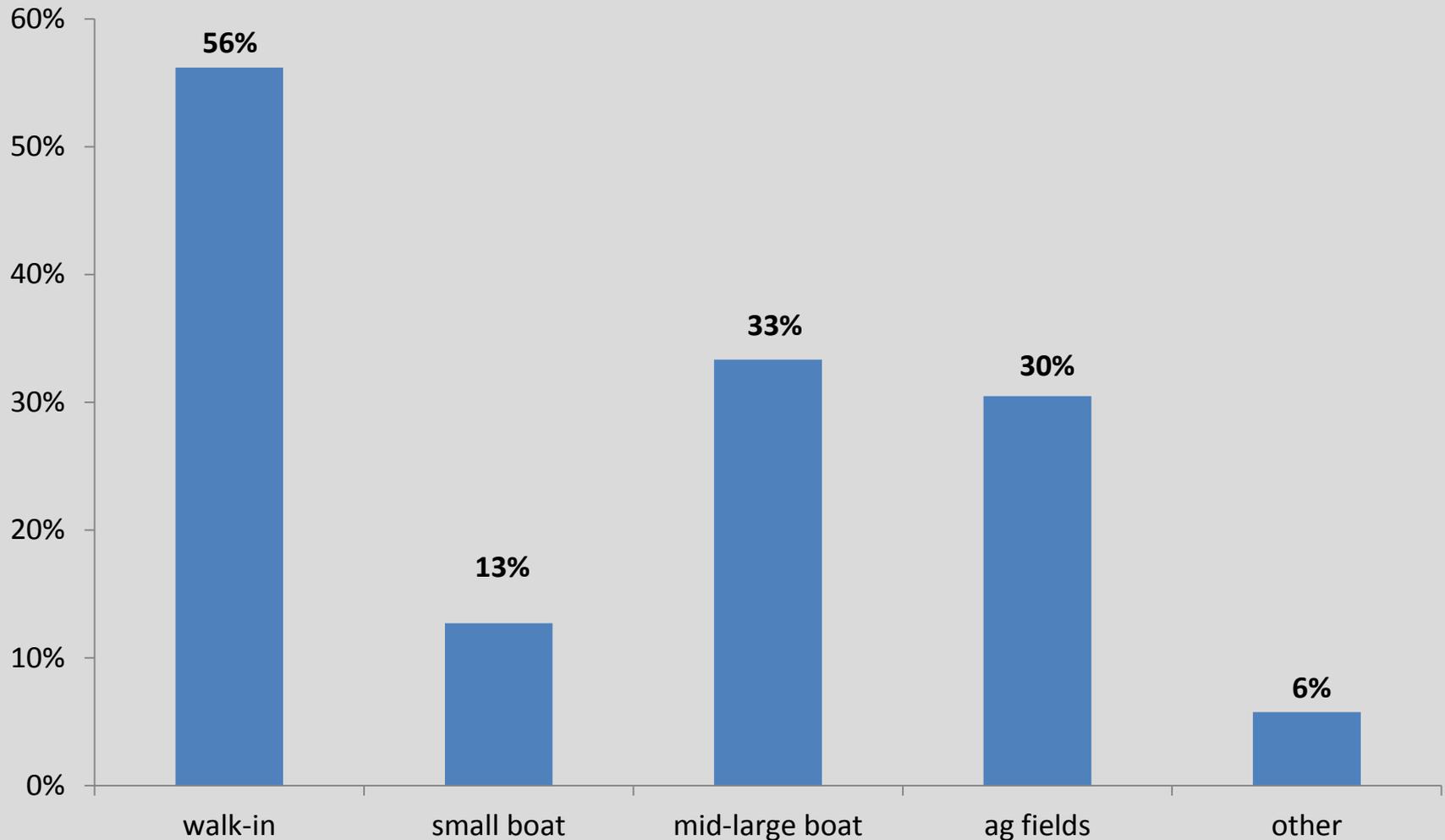
# Duck hunting experience in Iowa



Source: IA DNR mail survey

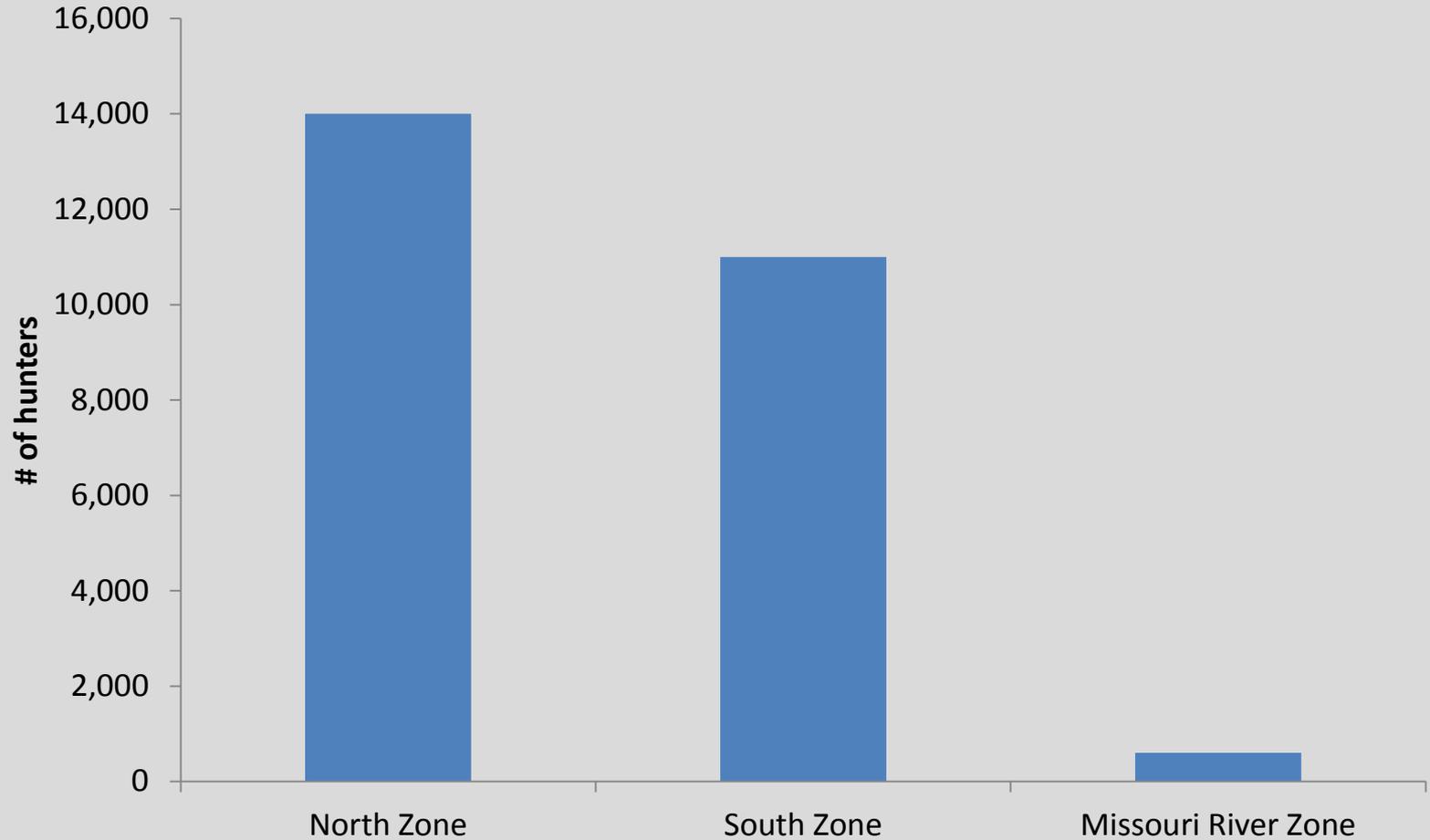


# How did you hunt ducks in 2014?



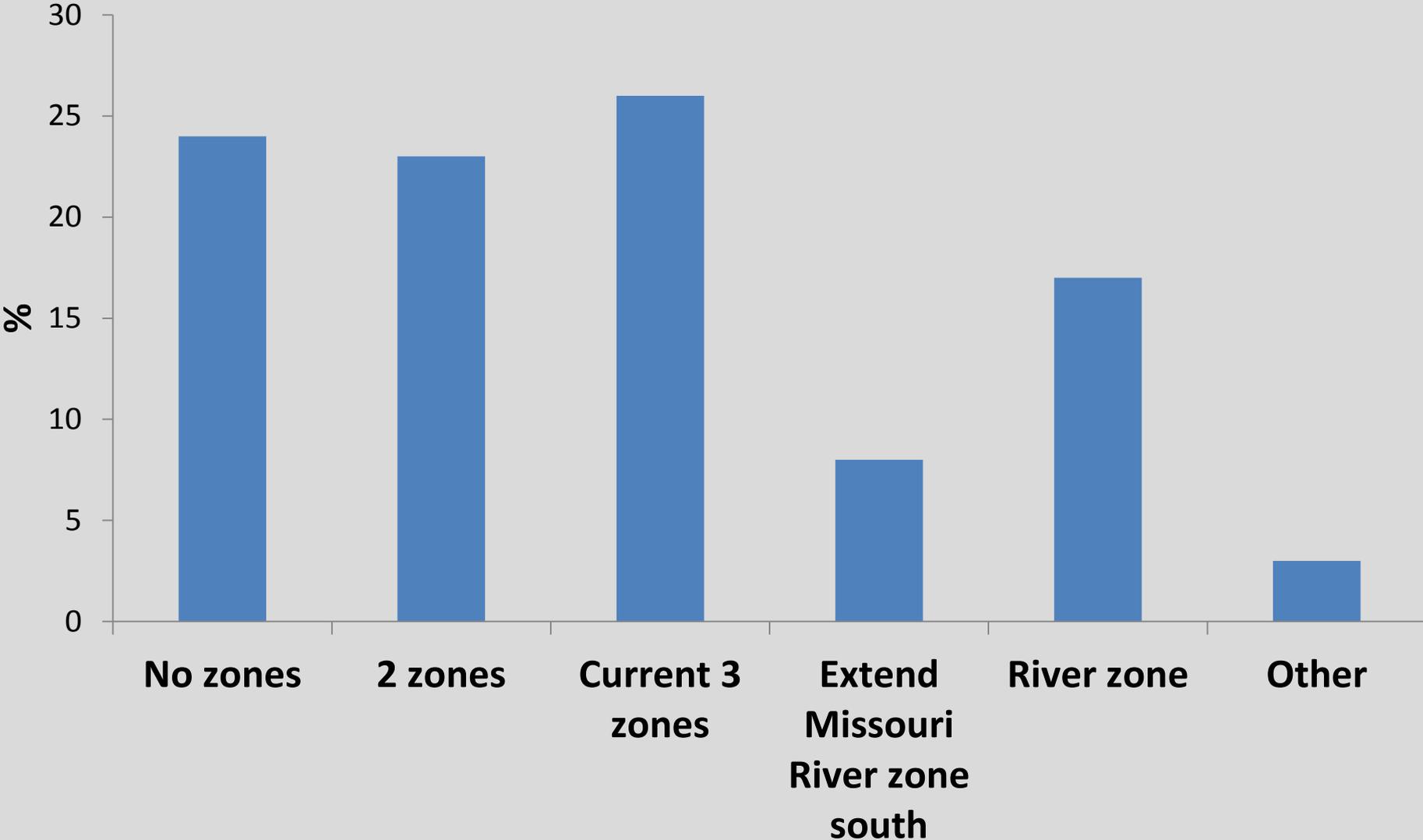
Source: IA DNR mail survey

# Estimated number of waterfowl hunters by zone

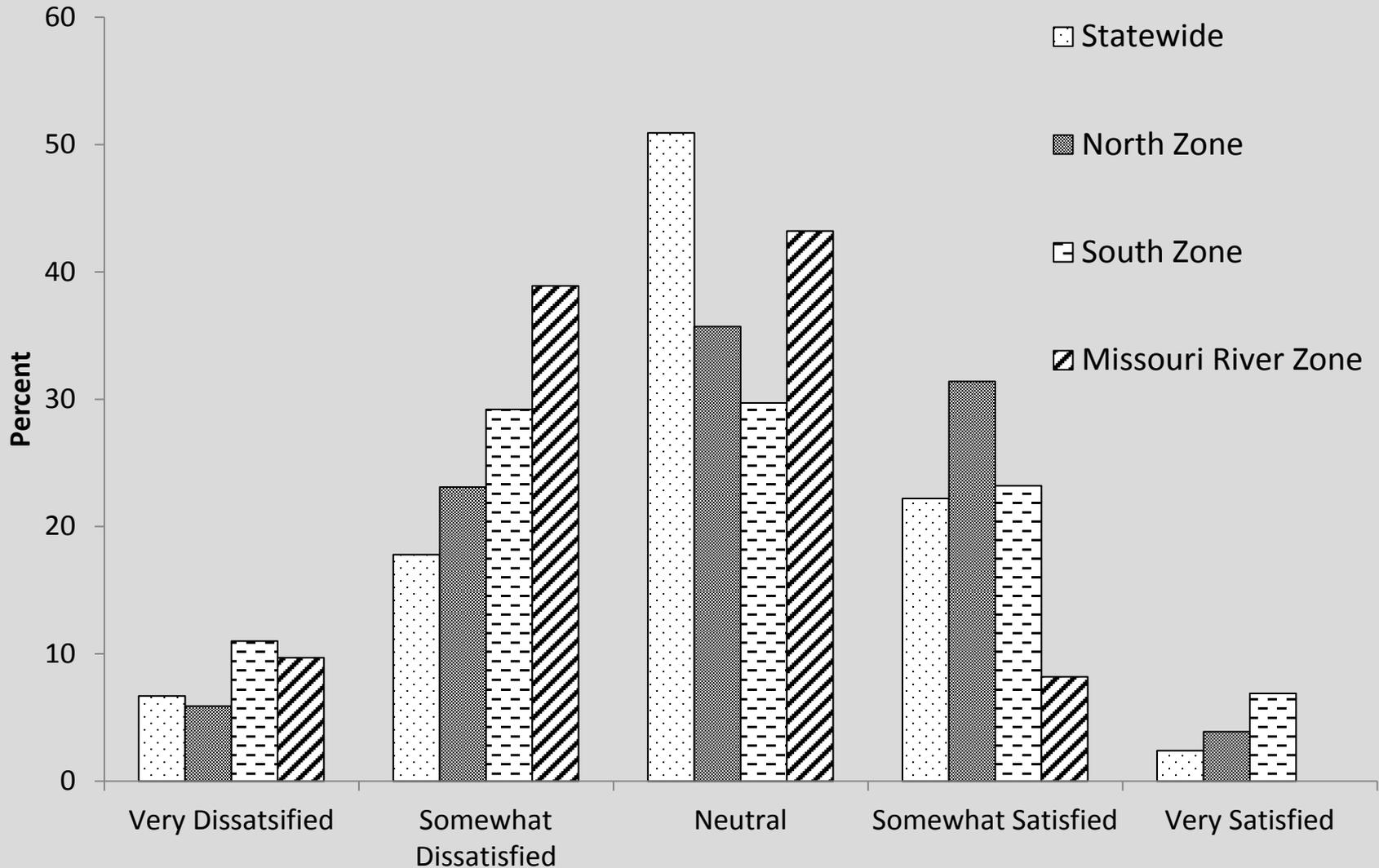


Source: IA DNR mail survey

# Preferred zone

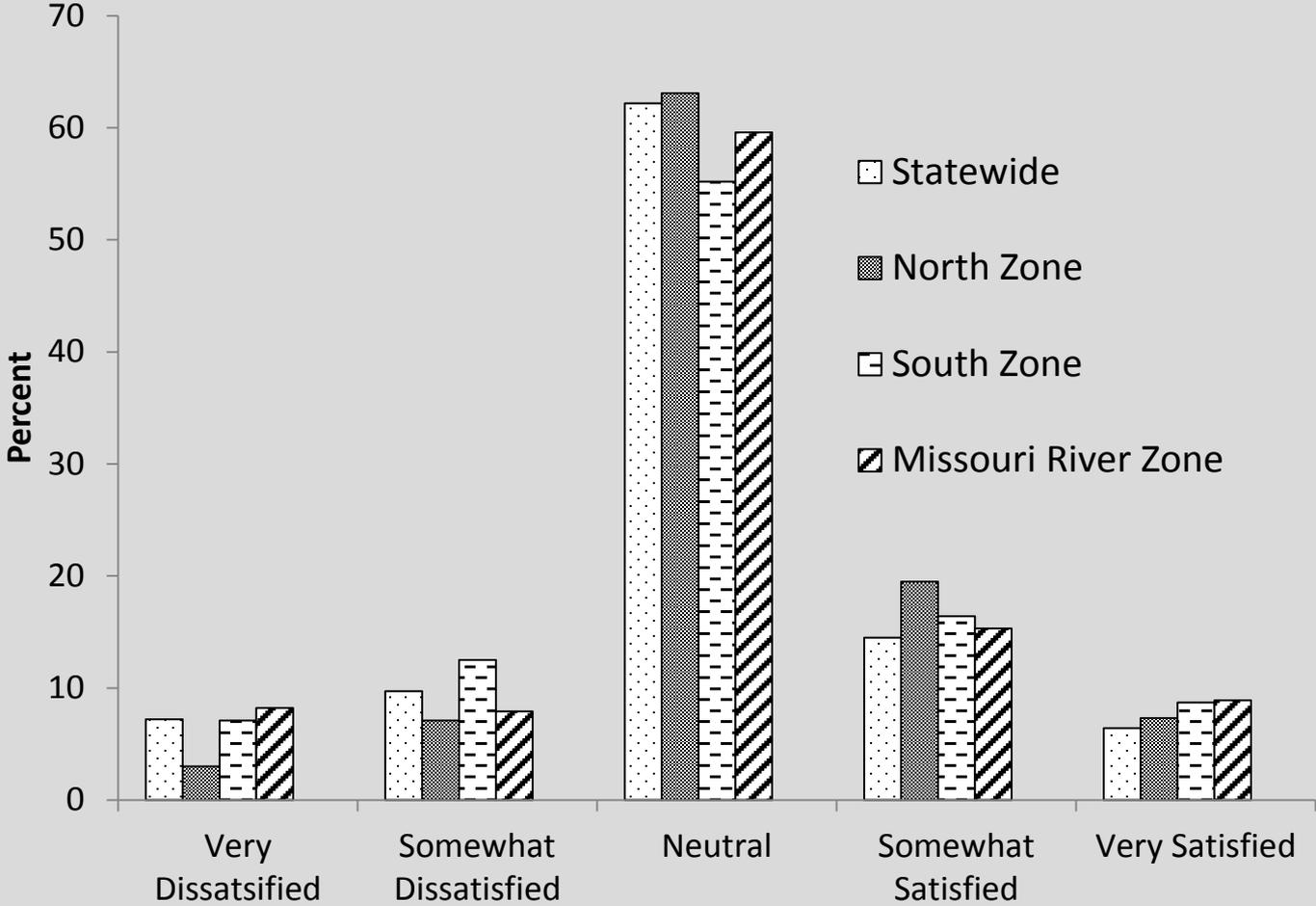


# Satisfaction with timing of the duck season



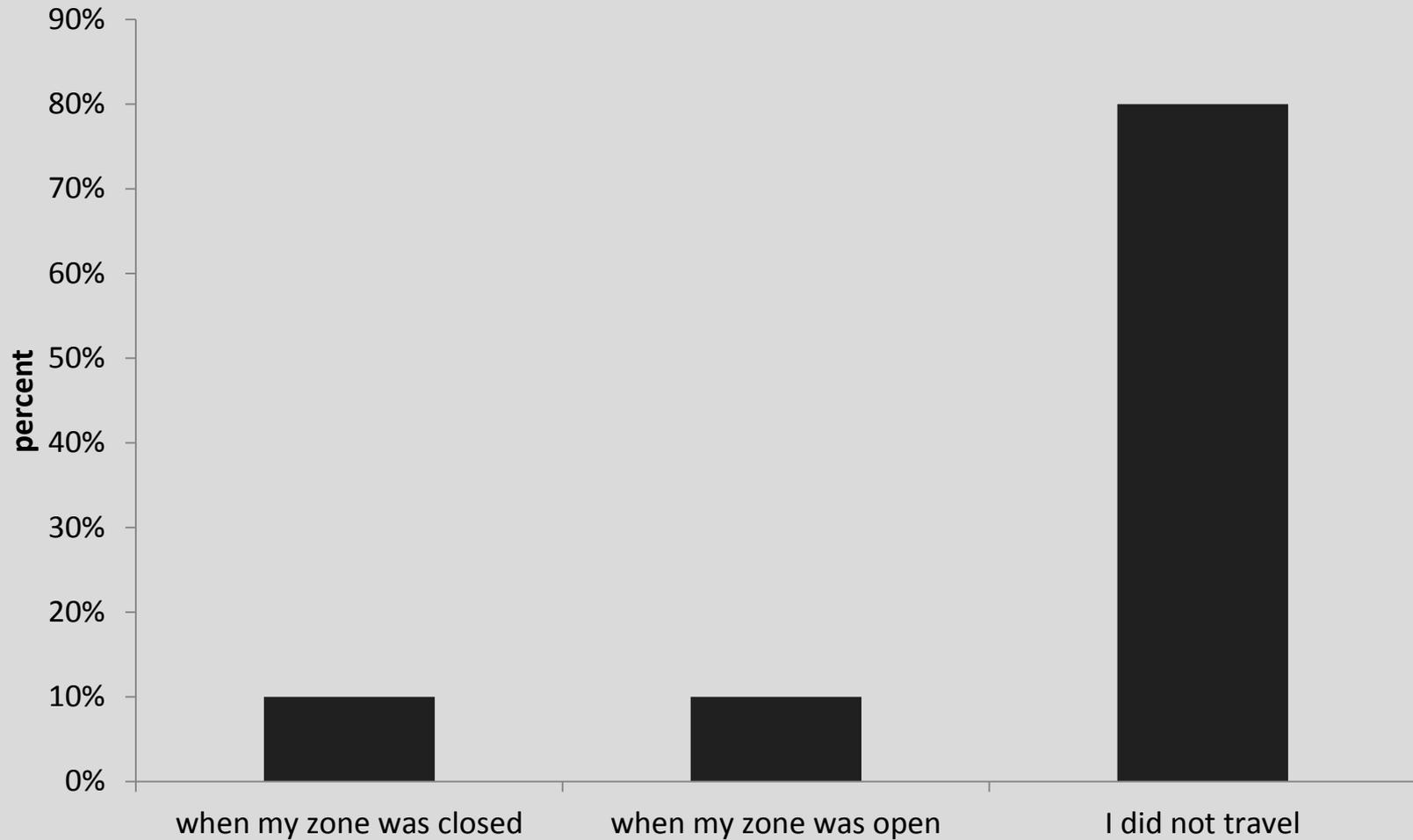
Source: IA DNR mail survey

# Satisfaction with the boundaries of waterfowl hunting zones



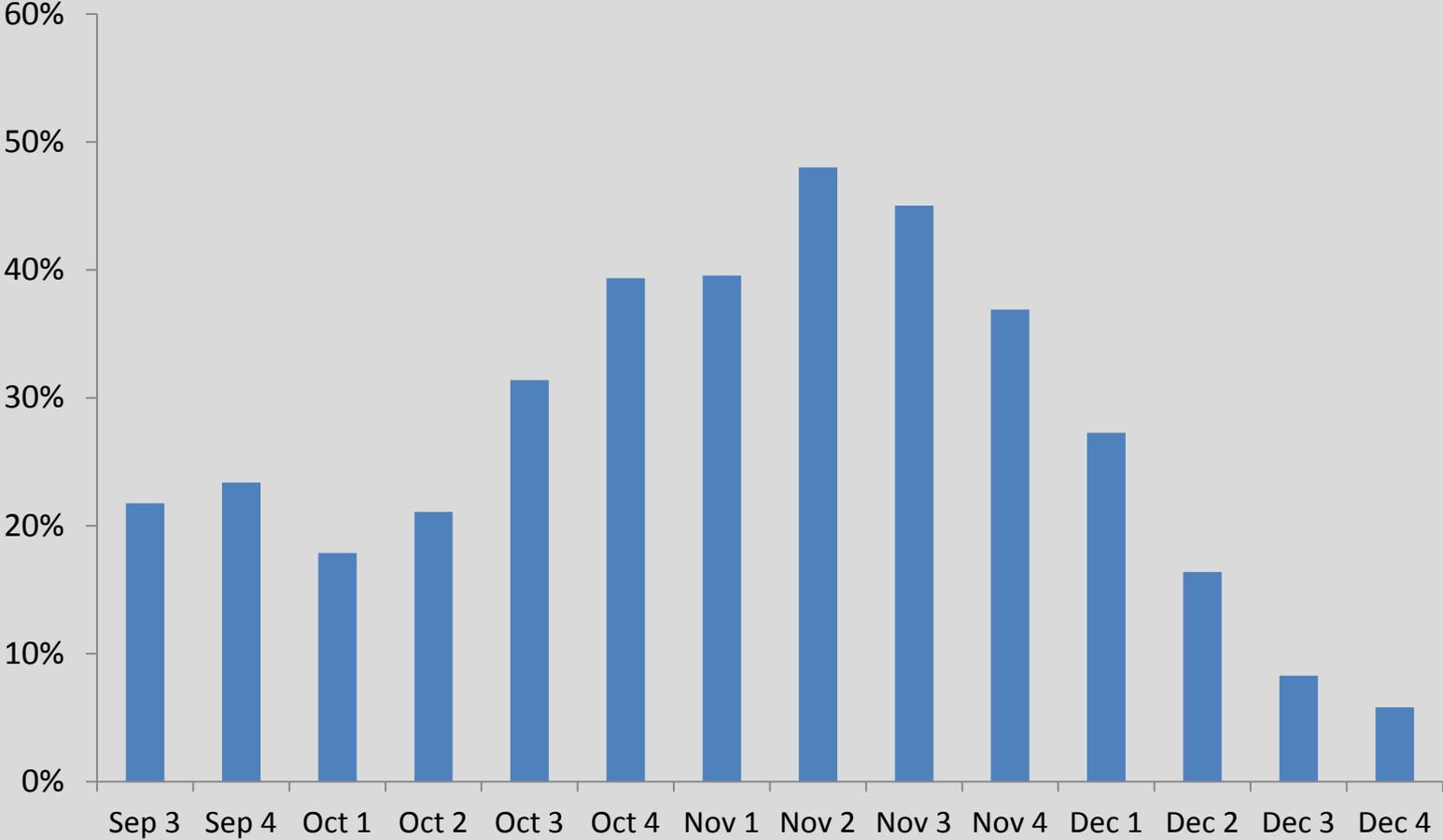
Source: IA DNR mail survey

# Did you travel outside your primary hunting zone?



Source: IA DNR mail survey

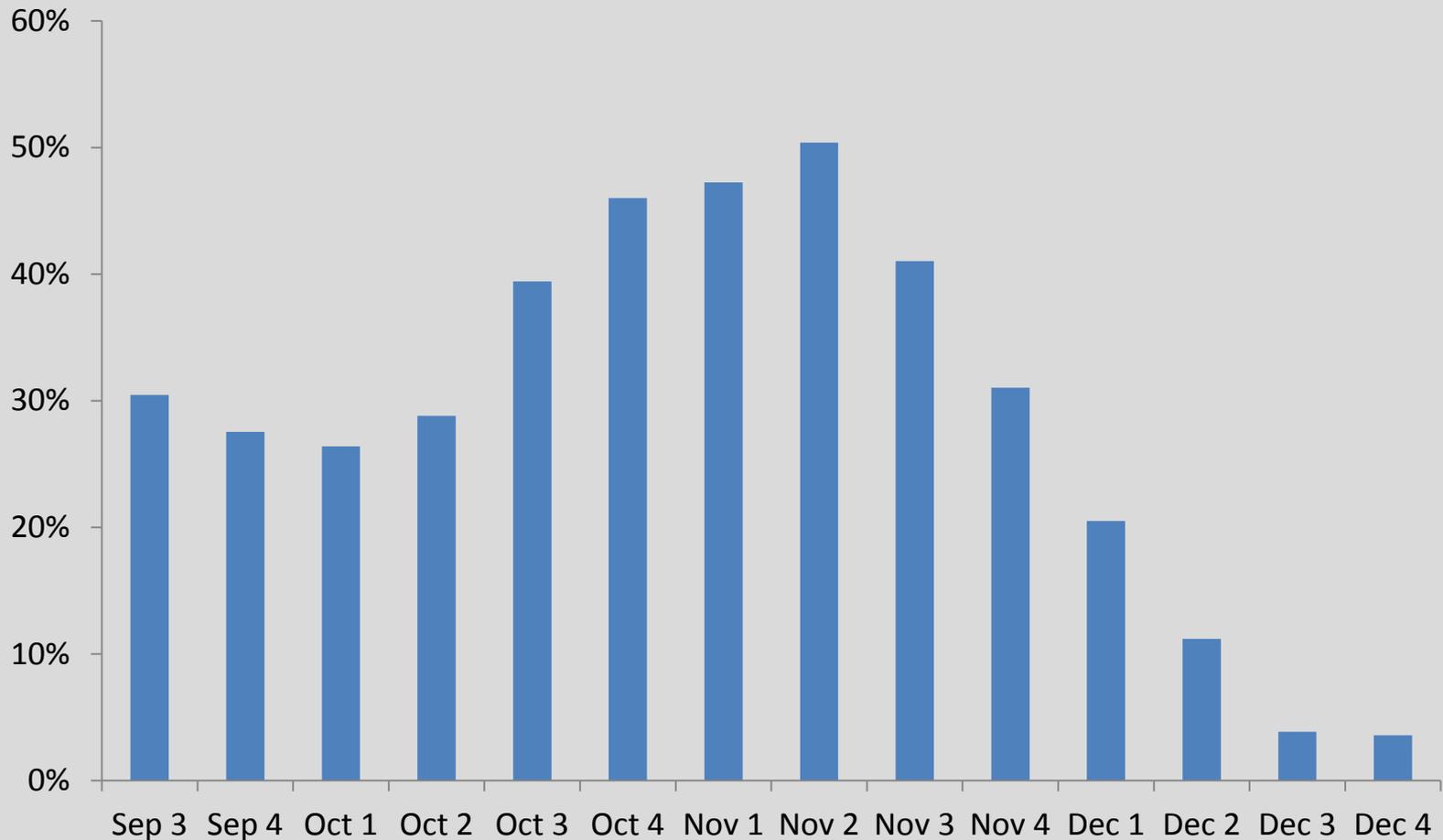
# Statewide: most important weeks for duck hunting



Source: IA DNR mail survey



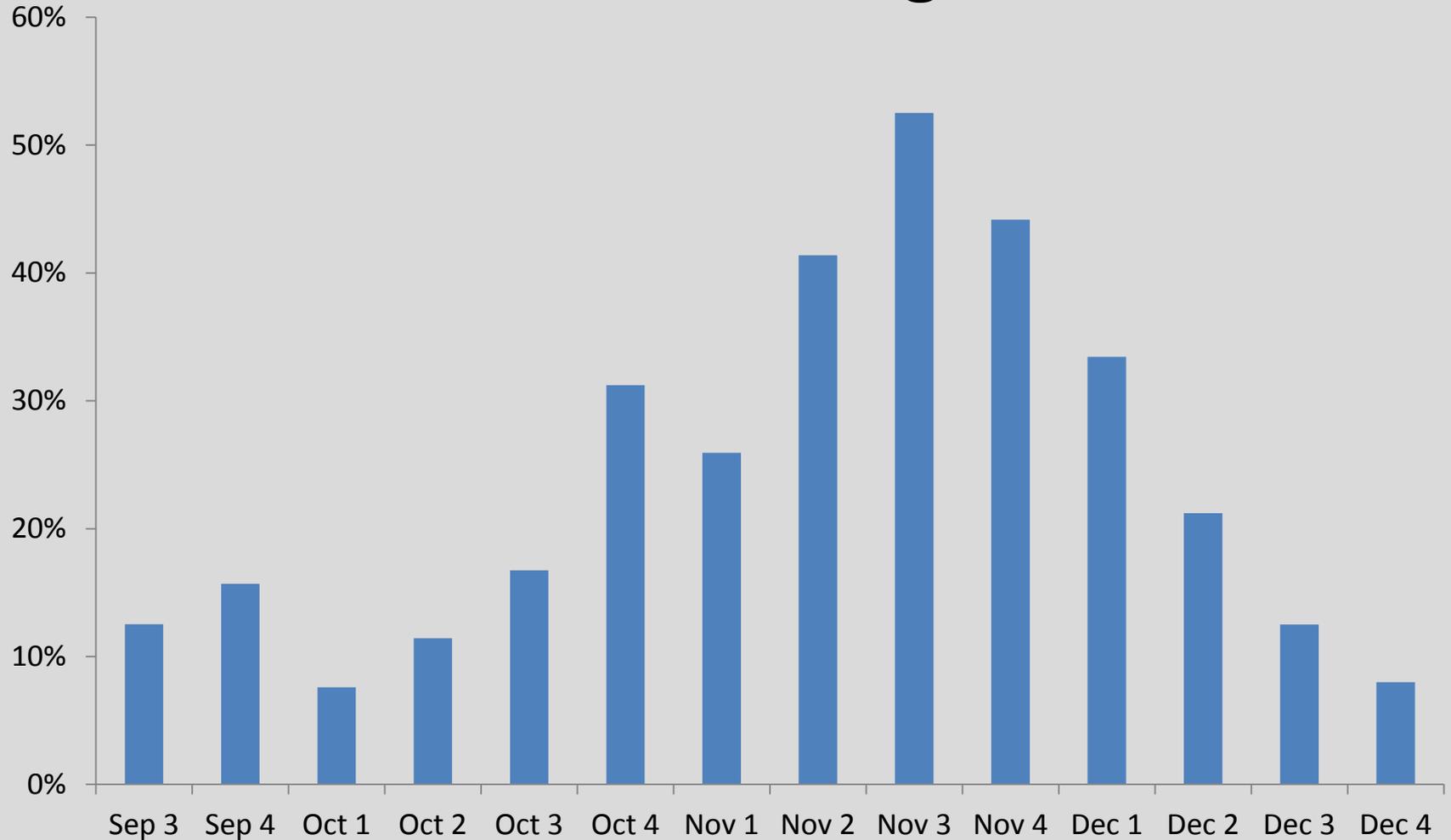
# North zone: most important weeks for duck hunting



Source: IA DNR mail survey



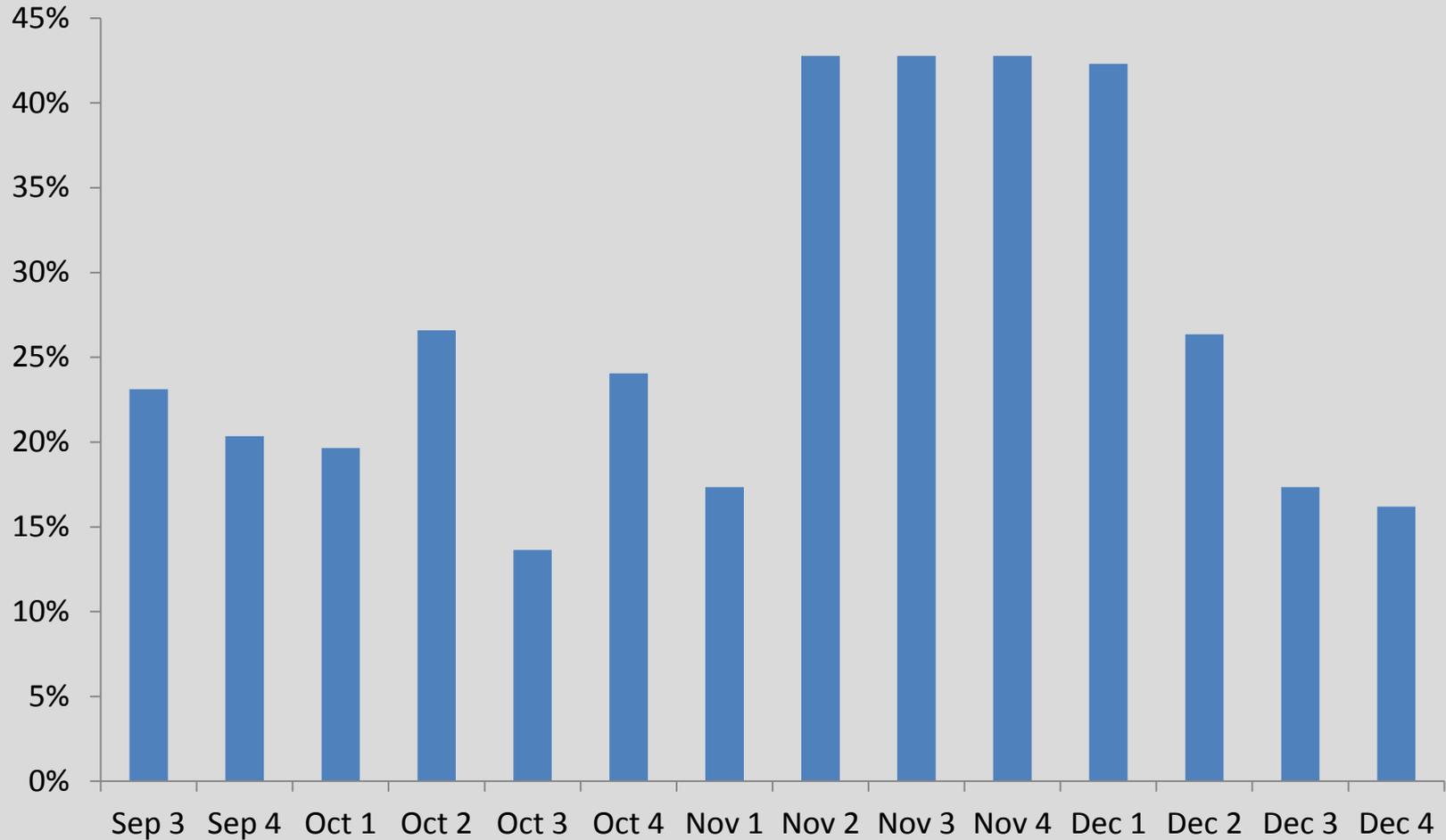
# South zone: most important weeks for duck hunting



Source: IA DNR mail survey

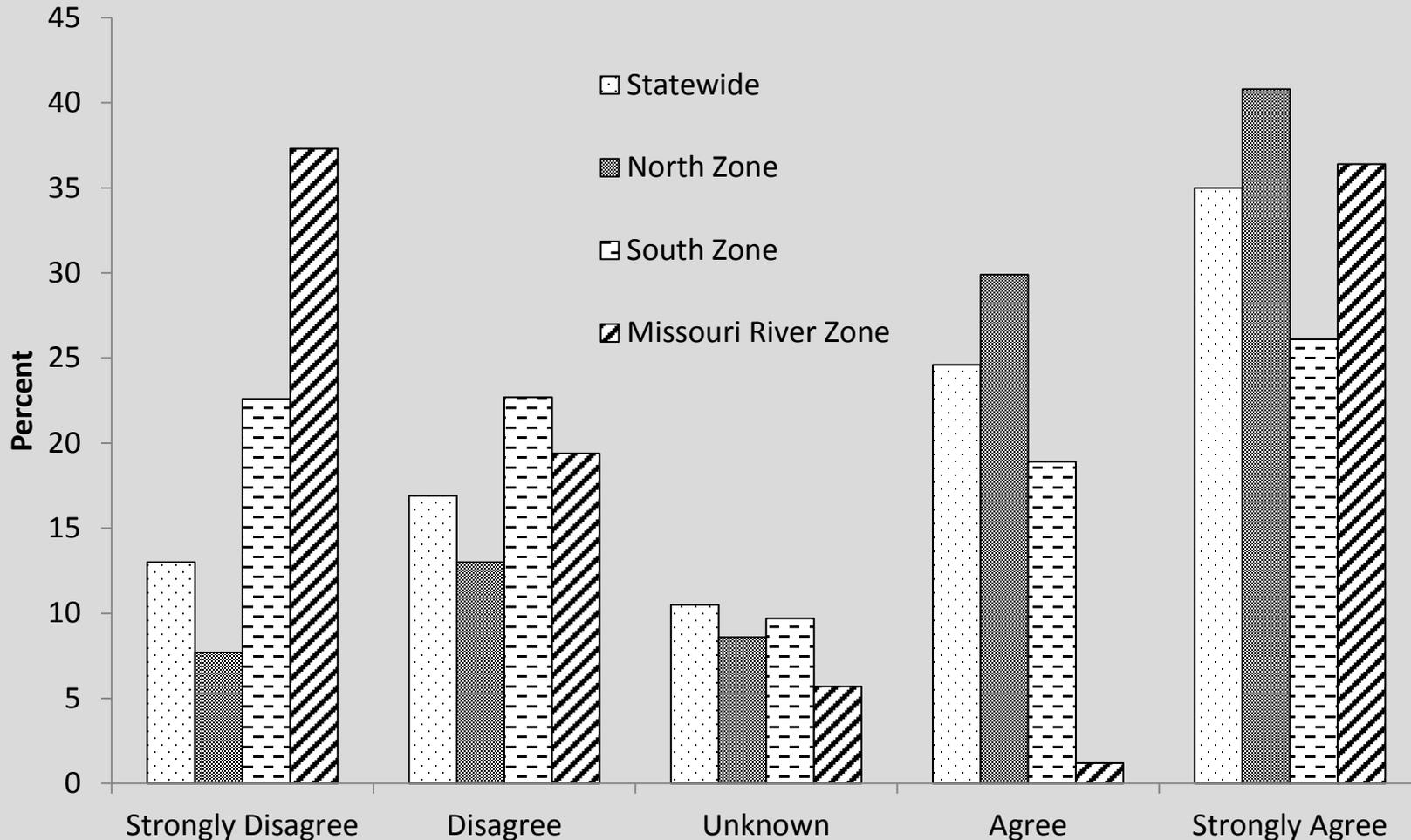


# Missouri River zone: most important weeks for duck hunting



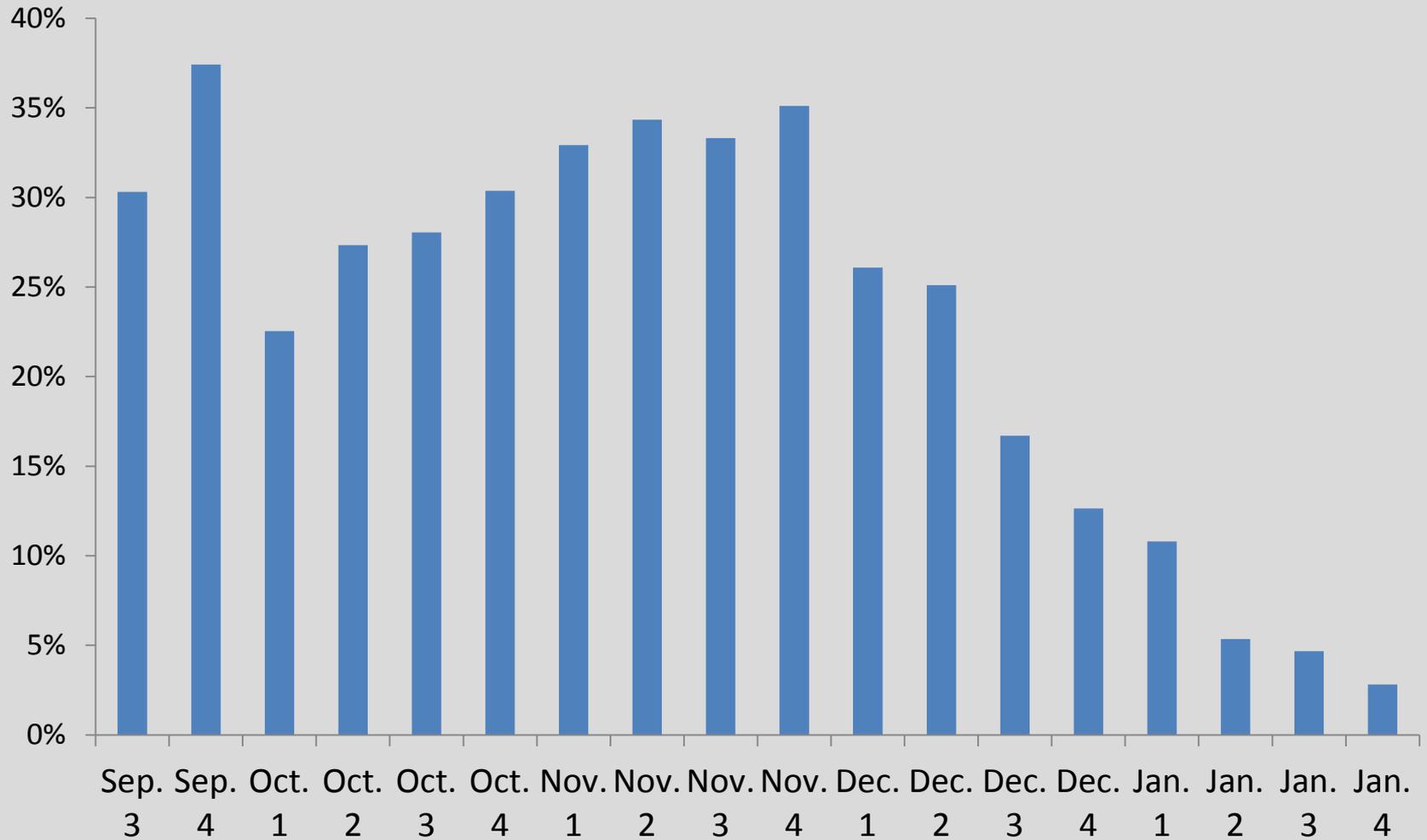
Source: IA DNR mail survey

# The duck season should be open more days in October than in December



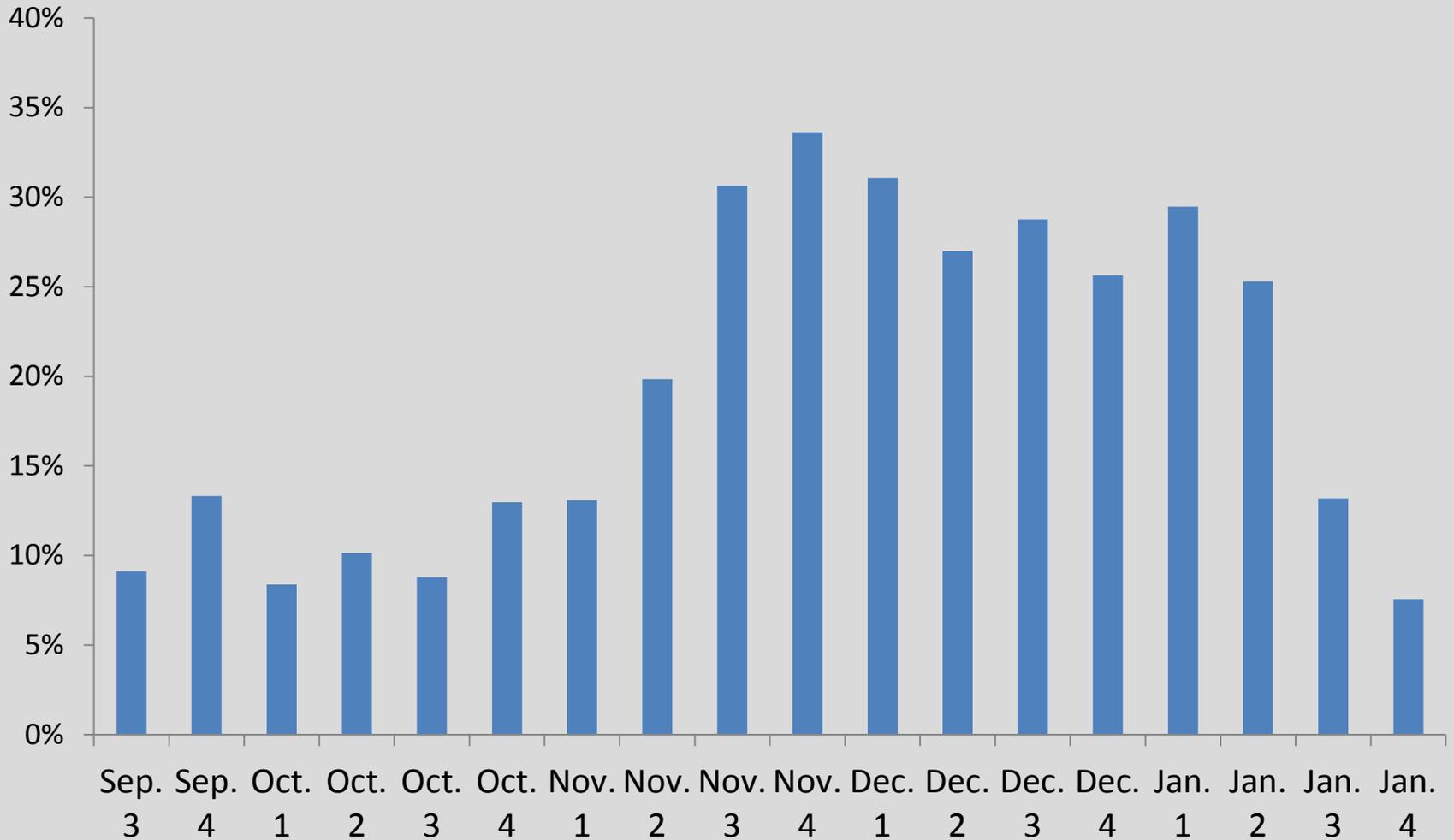
Source: IA DNR mail survey

# North zone: most important weeks for Canada goose hunting



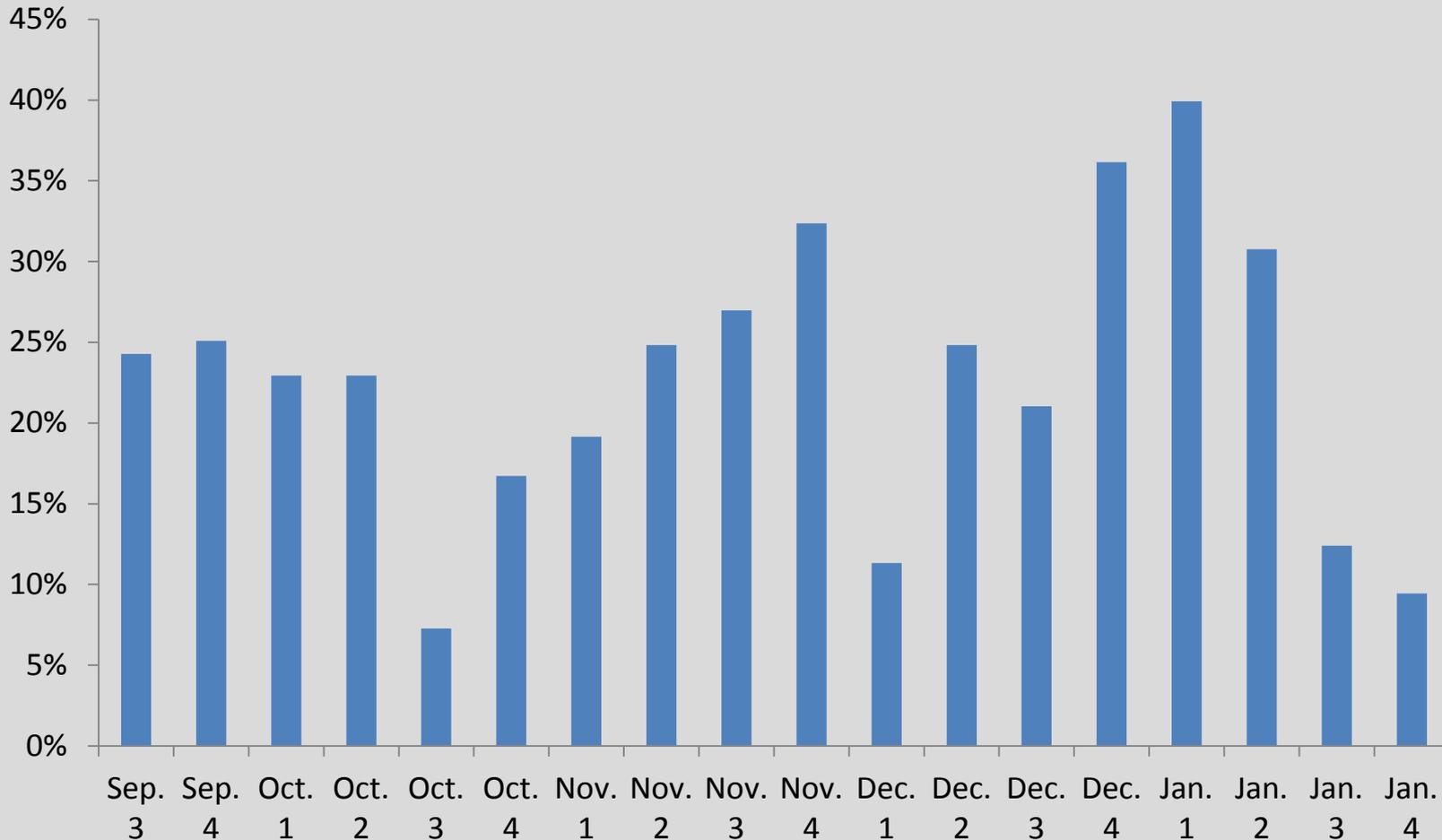
Source: Iowa DNR mail survey

# South zone: most important weeks for Canada goose hunting



Source: Iowa DNR mail survey

# Missouri River zone: most important weeks for Canada goose hunting



Source: Iowa DNR mail survey