

# Priorities, Capacities, and Expansion Potential for Rural Development Topics and Issues

Northeast Region Results of a  
National Stakeholder Survey by the RRDCS

*Adapted from a discussion guide prepared for the  
NERCRD Annual Meeting, Virtual, November 4-5, 2021*



**PennState**  
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Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food and  
Agriculture



# Background

Participation Numbers (i.e. Observations)	Northeast	National
Priority rankings	86	641
Capacity ratings for issues in 4 highest priority topics	34 to 44	167 to 318
Programming value	57 to 58	456 to 459

## States represented:

CT, DE, ME, MD, NH,  
NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT, WV.

Selected Demographics	Northeast	National
Higher Ed	68.5%	61.9%
Government	13.0%	13.4%
NGOs	7.6%	6.1%
Private Firms	9.8%	17.4%
Administrators	12.0%	8.0%
Faculty – no Ext. appt.	13.0%	6.6%
Faculty w/ Ext. appt.	10.9%	11.9%
Ext. Professional	26.1%	27.0%
Live in rural area or small town	86.2%	77.1%
Under 40 y.o.	13.8%	19.5%
41 to 65 y.o.	56.9%	61.1%
65 + y.o.	29.3%	19.5%
Racial or ethnic minority	10.9%	14.4%
Woman	48.2%	53.2%



# Highest-Priority Topic Areas

## Physical infrastructure and public services

- Energy, including renewable production and reliable access*
- Broadband/high-speed internet access, affordability, and reliability*
- Housing access and affordability*
- Transportation infrastructure renewal*

## Economic development

- Rural innovation, entrepreneurship, and small business creation and retention*
- Tourism, recreation, travel, and hospitality*
- Exports and international trade*
- Sustainable growth (including "closed-loop" and "circular" economies)*

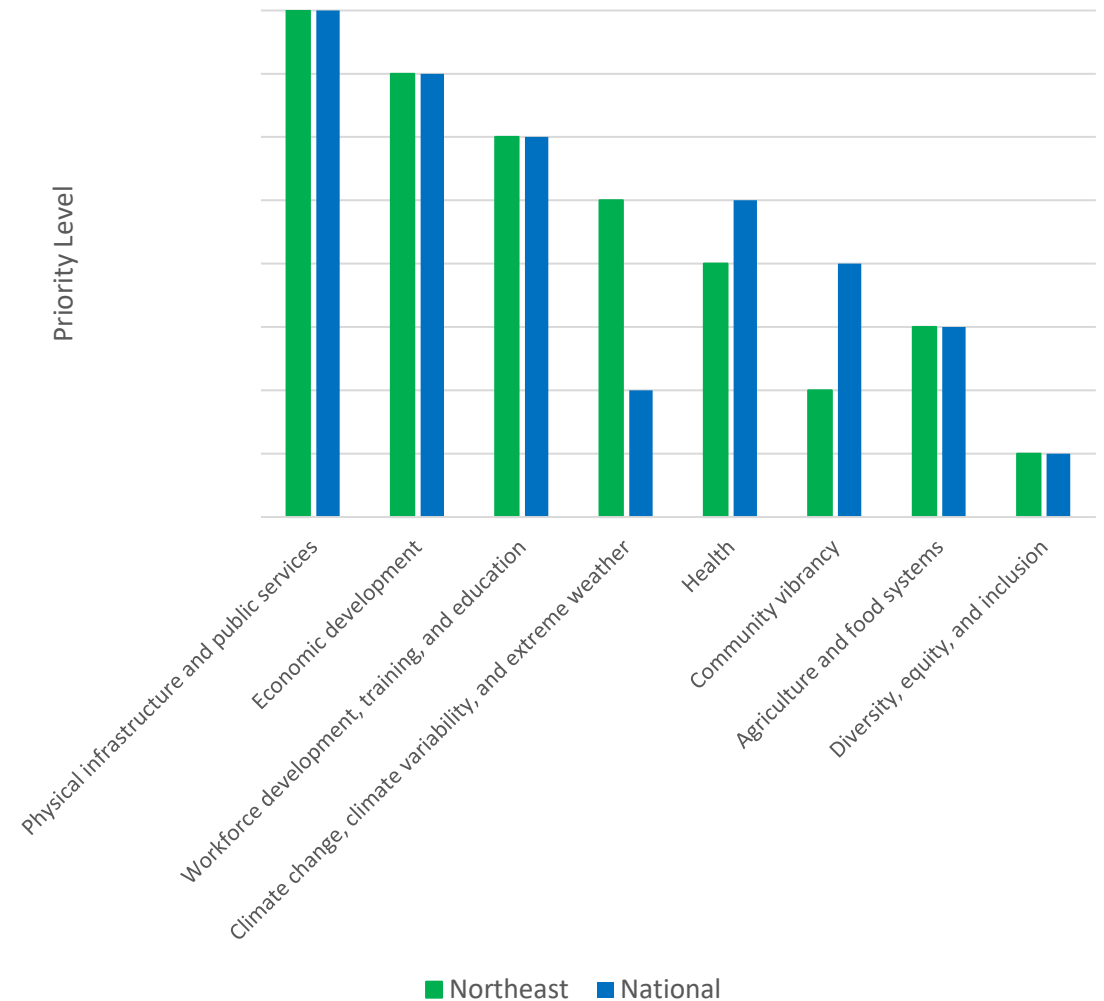
## Workforce development, training, and education

- Certificates and other professional training*
- Apprenticeships and internships*
- Skills gaps and strategic planning for workforce development*
- Educational programs for jobs of the future*
- Retraining and transition assistance*

## Climate change, climate variability, and extreme weather

- Disaster preparation, mitigation, and management*
- Natural and environmental resources management*
- Community and economic resiliency planning*
- Mitigation and adaptation strategies*

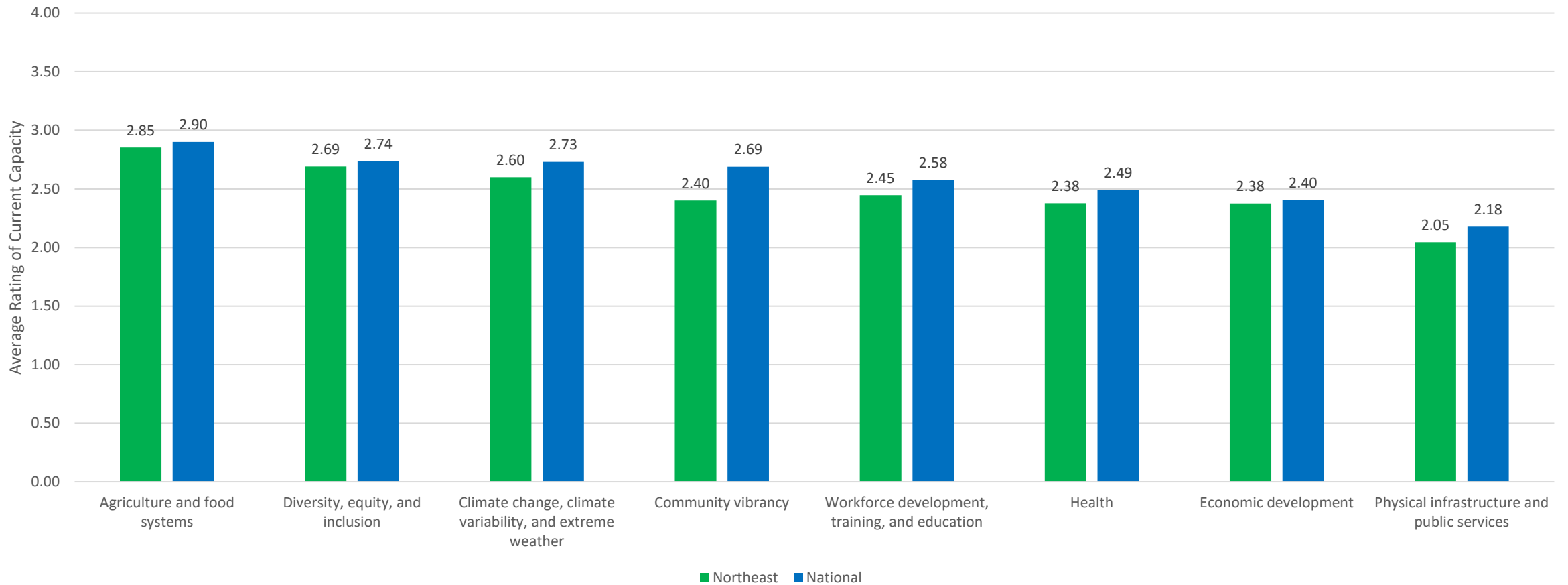
Priority of Topics  
Northeast versus National





# Capacity by Topic

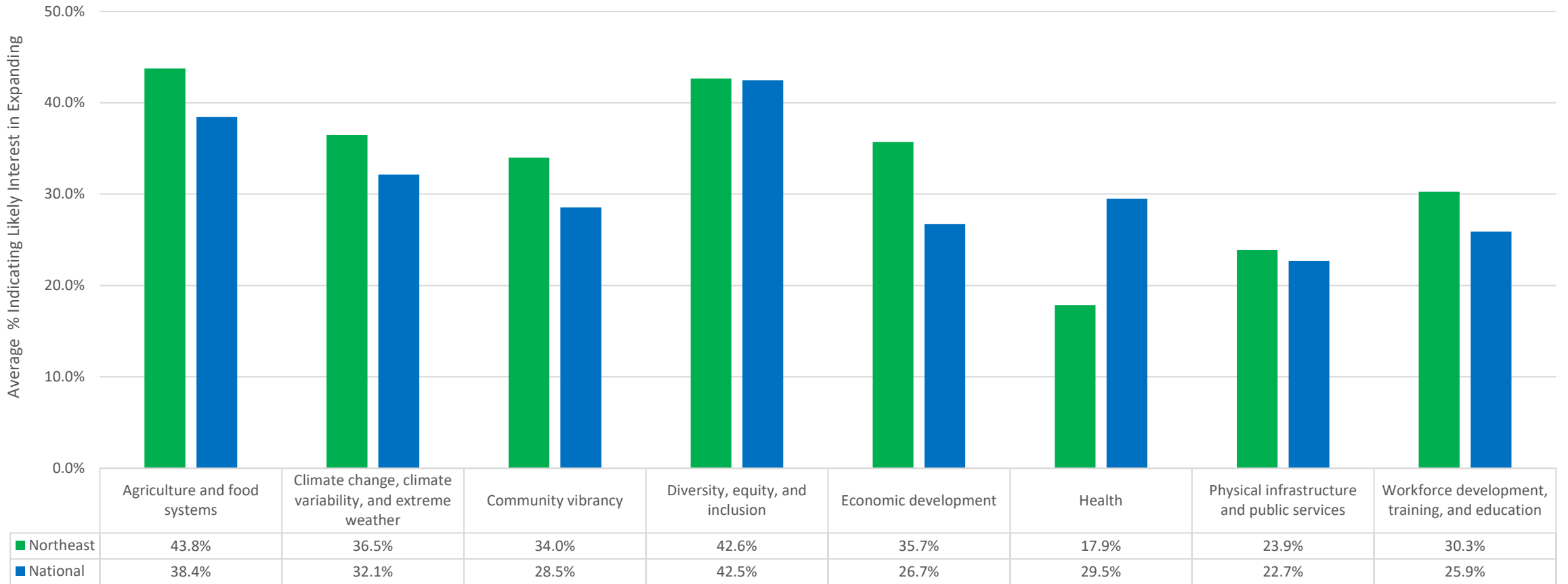
Current Capacity Ratings by Topic  
Northeast Region versus National Data  
*(average across constituent issues)*





# Likely Interest in Expansion by Topic

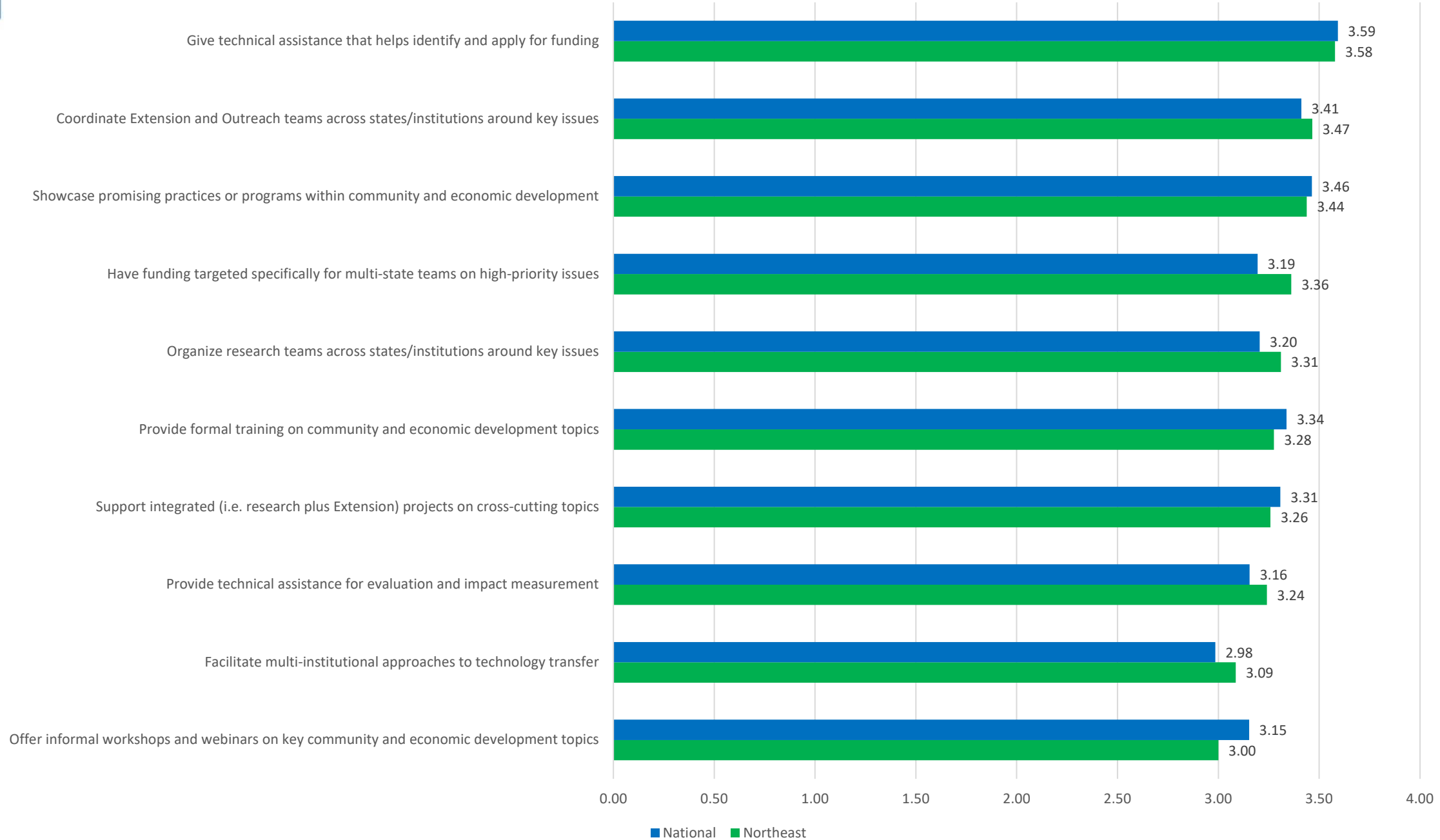
Average Percent Indicating Expansion Potential  
 Northeast Region versus National Data  
*(average across constituent issues)*





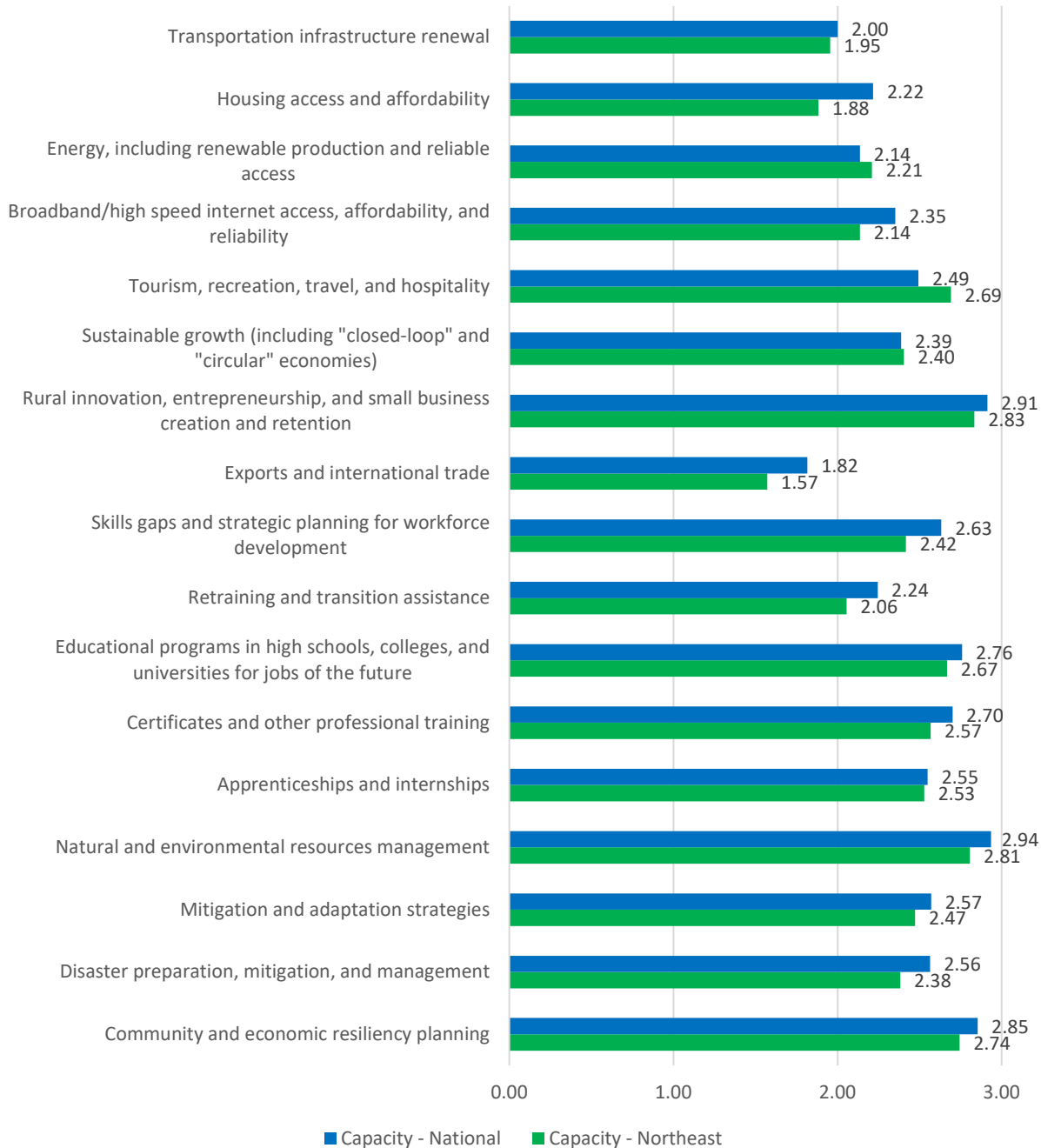
# Value of Activities

## Average Rating of Value From Programming Activities

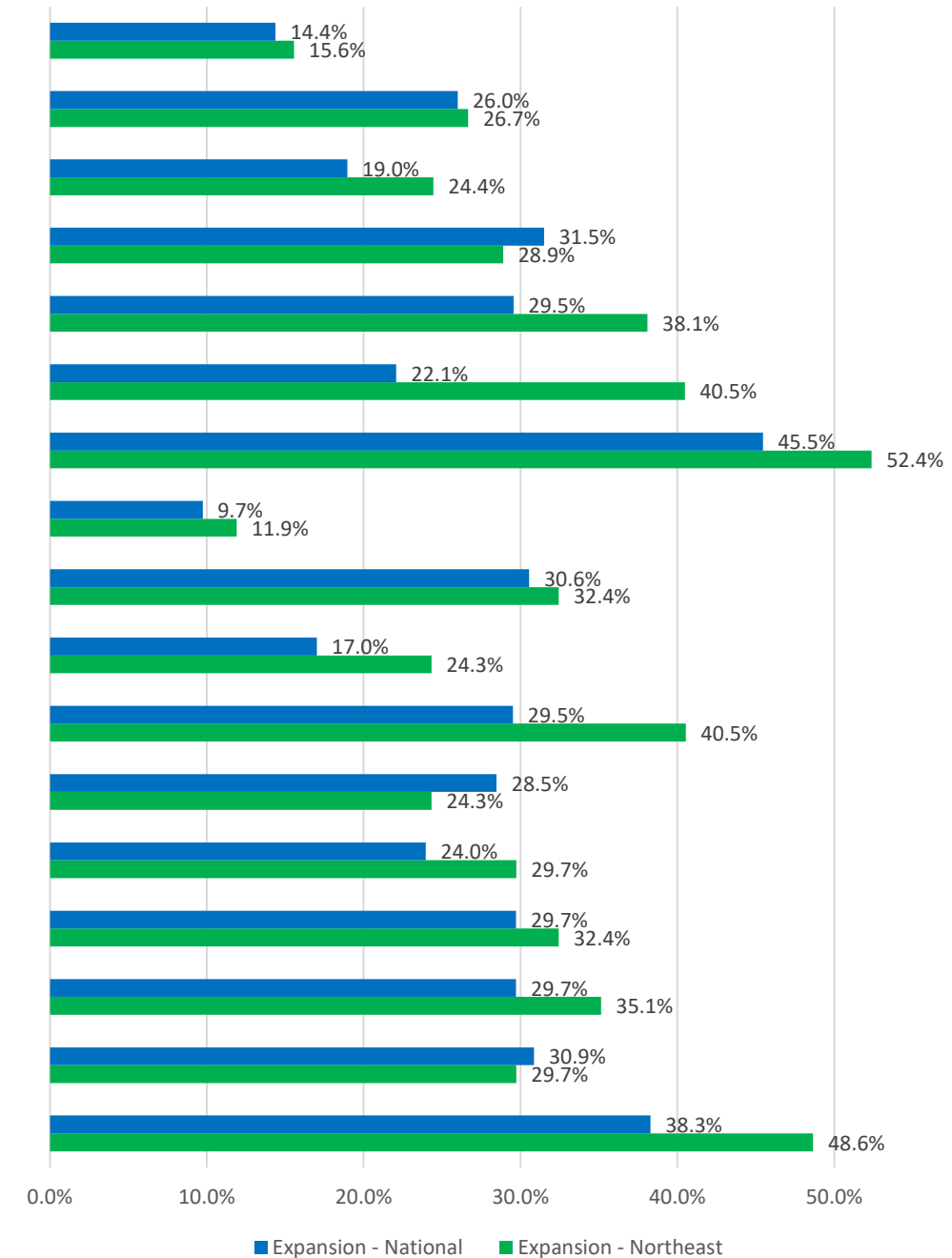




## Capacity Ratings for Issues in High Priority Topics



## Expansion Potential for Issues in High Priority Topics



# Comparison of Top Issues