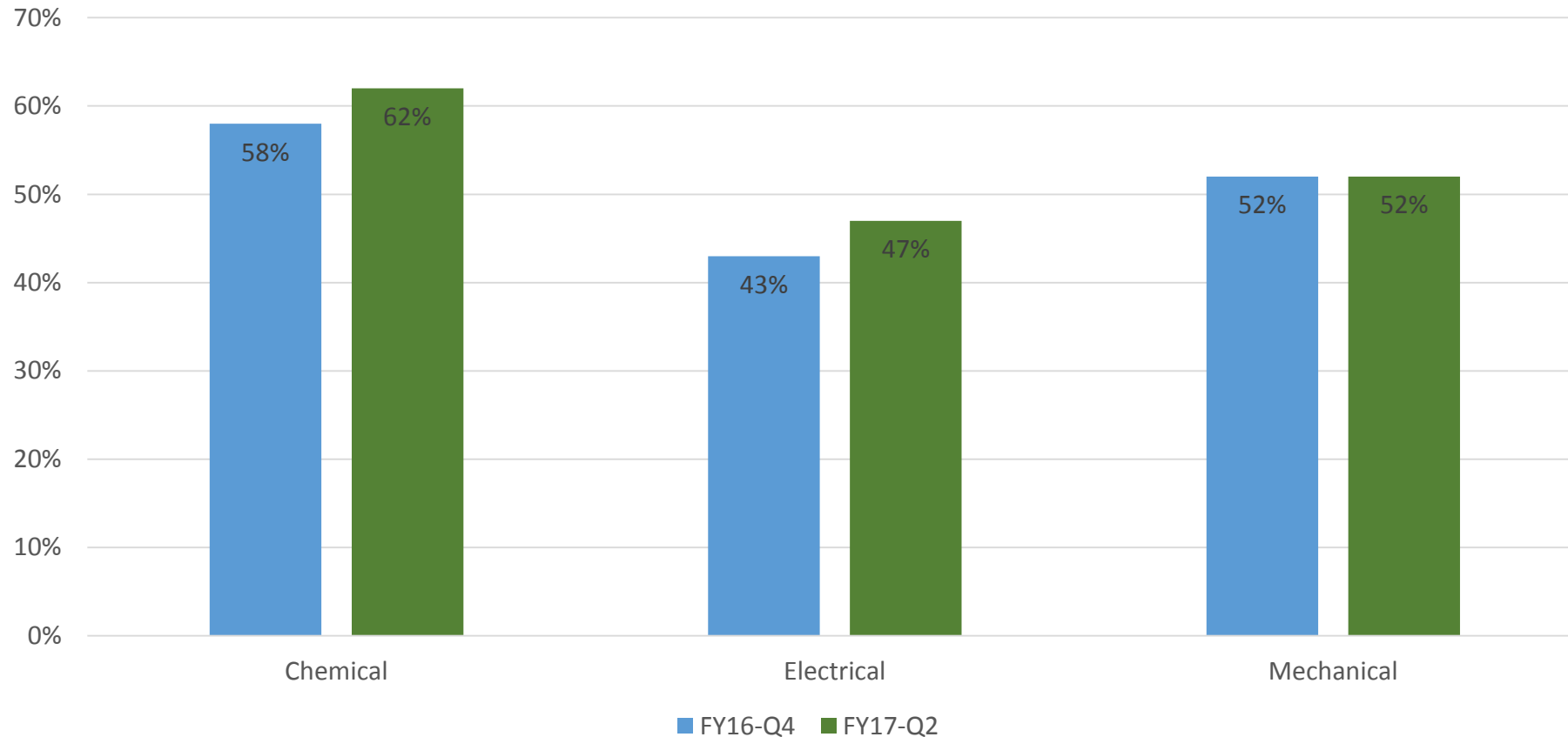


# Prior Art Search Quality

Respondents reporting on the quality of prior art searches performed by patent examiner as shown by technology field



**Prior Art Quality:** This chart shows how external customers have responded to the question “How would you rate the overall quality of the searches performed by patent examiners?” on a scale of 1 (Very poor), 2 (Poor), 3 (Fair), 4 (Good), and 5 (Excellent). The percent reporting “very poor” or “poor” is combined, and the percent reporting “good” or “excellent” is combined. Moreover, data is divided by discipline.

USPTO uses this type of information to compare trends in perception to trends in assessed search quality to assure alignment of our metrics with stakeholders’ perceptions.