

**“Texas will continue to lead the nation
in protecting **innocent life.**”**



Governor Abbott gathering with state leaders and pastors from across Texas for the signing of the Pastor Protection Act preserving religious liberty. Hosting a ceremonial signing of a pro-life reform of the Texas Advanced Directives Act. Expanding Texans' Second Amendment rights at the open carry bill signing.

Growing from the strength of our people

Texas is and has always been an exceptional state.

Like America's place in the world, Texas stands out among the states as a model for strength, individual liberty and economic opportunity.

The power of the Texas model comes not from the strength of our government, but from the strength of our people.

Here are some of the extraordinary everyday Texans we've been privileged to celebrate who make our state the envy of the nation.

■ **At 109 years old, Richard Overton is a Texas treasure.**

In 1942, Richard enlisted in the U.S. military and served honorably in the Pacific Theater, defending our nation at the height of World War II.

Richard is a lifelong Texan and resides in the same home he purchased in Austin after returning from the battlefield.

When asked about the key to his long life, he responded in true Texas form:

"You have to ask God about that. He brought me here and He's taking care of me, and nothing I can do about it. I can talk about what He's doing for me."

Today, Richard is the second-oldest living World War II veteran in the U.S.

■ **Archer Hadley represents the best of true Texas grit.**

Born with cerebral palsy, Archer has sought assistance opening doors his entire life. But as a senior at Austin High School, he

decided to open his own doors, raising over \$87,000 to install automatic door openers on campus.

With a big dream and the determination to achieve it, Archer rose above the challenges he faced and proved that Texans—despite all obstacles—can do anything they set their minds to.

"It just takes an idea and the guts to strive for it," he said at the unveiling of the new doors.

Archer is now a student at The University of Texas, and I proudly appointed him to the Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities in September.

■ **Ten-year-old Savannah Solis of Tyler made it her duty to give back**

to those who keep her and her family safe each and every day: our law enforcement community.

She made it her goal to speak for her generation, writing countless letters to law enforcement professionals across the country saying: We love and respect our police officers.

Savannah delivered a letter to me, and I shared her powerful message with the Texas Police Chiefs Association in March.

Amid national scrutiny and criticism of law enforcement, Savannah's message is an important reminder that we owe

eternal thanks to the men and women who put their lives on the line protecting our communities.

■ **Lewisville firefighter Andy Allison ran to the rescue**

of a homeowner and wound up needing to be rescued himself.

Battling a house fire, he was driven to his knees as water from his hose came in contact with a live wire. The electrocution trauma was brutal and will challenge Andy the rest of his life.

Through two long years of burn treatments, surgeries and physical therapy, Andy says it is his wife, Amanda, who is the real hero for him and their two young sons.

Andy was one of the 28 first responders honored at the 2015 Star of Texas Award ceremony. By their service and sacrifice, they have allowed Texas to continue to shine as the Lone Star of our great nation.

■ **Charmane Sellers is more than just a businesswoman**, she is a Texan with a unique vision and passion for helping those in need.

As president and CEO of Aleon Properties, Inc., Charmane provides construction services for disabled Texans.

Both the Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce and the Governor's Small Business Forum have honored Charmane for her innovative work in remodeling and construction projects that help businesses comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act in a cost-effective manner while also

providing individualized services for residential properties.

"We want to make sure we provide a quality product that will last long after we've gone," Charmane said.

A 100 percent veteran- and woman-owned firm, Aleon Properties is improving the lives of everyday Texans under Charmane's inspiring leadership.

TOURING TEXAS

Not all of the answers are found within the walls of the Texas Capitol. It is in our small towns and big cities where the secret to our state's success lives: the hardworking people of Texas.

My first visit as governor was to the Rio Grande Valley, a region poised for the greatest growth. And while I frequently attended events in our dynamic big cities, it was often in traveling to the small town downtowns, in talking to civic and business groups and in meeting with everyday Texans where I learned the most about the bright future for Texas.

■ **Small town stops included:** Bastrop, Bryan, College Station, Galveston, Grapevine, Kilgore, Killeen, Lake Jackson, Longview, Lubbock, McKinney, Mt. Pleasant, Palestine, Pflugerville, Schertz, Smithville, Weslaco, West, Wichita Falls and Wimberley.

■ **And I was honored to speak** with business chambers, students and teachers, law enforcement and military associations and many other groups across the state and throughout the year.

APPOINTMENTS

Because ours is a representative citizen government, my appointments team is constantly on the lookout for the most talented and qualified individuals to serve our state.

■ **Over 400 appointments were** made in 2015 to state boards, commissions, councils and other roles. The majority of these are volunteer positions, and I am grateful to those outstanding Texans for their service.

CONSTITUENT CONTACTS

Finally, I enjoyed the many conversations with you in my first year as governor. These included more than 150,000 calls, emails and letters, plus social media contacts online:

■ **Total social media impressions**
26,247,261 Facebook
5,845,506 Twitter
75,122 YouTube views

■ **Tweet you engaged with most** RT if you're excited [#BlueBellisBack](#) in #Texas.

■ **Post you "Liked" most** #Texas Governor's Mansion illuminated blue for [Law Enforcement Appreciation Day](#).

■ **Post you engaged with most** Today I sent a letter to President Obama informing him Texas will not accept any [Syrian refugees](#).

■ **Most viewed video** Governor Greg Abbott Unveils [Texas Plan](#)

“True strength of character is revealed when tested by adversity.”



“We’ve seen again and again the extraordinary resilience and strength of character of our Texas family.” Governor Abbott presenting a Star of Texas Award to Lewisville firefighter Andy Allison and his newborn son. Opening the National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Dallas. Celebrating WWII veteran Richard Overton’s 109th birthday in the Governor’s Mansion.

Making the future even brighter



**As First Lady,
I am so honored to
serve the people
of Texas.**

**► MORE FROM
THE FIRST LADY'S BLOG:**

[Visiting Van](#)

[Helping Our Fellow Texans](#)

[Growing In The Garden](#)

[Touring The Governor's Mansion](#)

As Texans, we are all family. I learned that from a very early age growing up the daughter of two teachers in San Antonio.

My family was my church, my neighborhood and my entire community. We looked after one another and tried to take care of those in need.

That's why I became a teacher and a principal.

Who could have guessed where that path would lead—by my husband's side as he serves as the 48th governor of Texas.

It is such a joy to travel across this great state to celebrate our many blessings. I invite you to read a few favorite posts from my blog about the Texans I've met who are making the future even brighter.

■ Honoring Volunteers

Greg and I hosted an awards ceremony at the Governor's Mansion celebrating the 2015 Governor's Volunteer Awards.

With the help of the OneStar Foundation, we honored nine awardees from across Texas for their significant contributions to their communities and their fellow Texans.

I believe we are each called to service, and these philanthropic Texans have enthusiastically

answered that call. We are appreciative of their service and thankful that they are sharing so much of themselves to help their fellow Texans succeed.

■ Exceeding Limits

In Houston I attended a Governor's Small Business Forum titled "Women Exceeding Limits." I was pleased to present the 2015 Governor's Small Business Awards and honor all of the recipients.

Texas is the best state for business, and women have been leaders of that success. Women-owned businesses are crucial to our economy and play a key role in the future of Texas.

Congratulations to the winners, and thank you for all that you do to make Texas the model for doing business.

■ Visiting Wimberley

Just weeks after the deadly flood along the Blanco River, Greg and I visited Wimberley. We were there to support the local economy and spread the word that while this town and its residents sustained heavy damage from the recent flood, Wimberley has bounced back and is open for business.

We had the opportunity to meet many locals who exhibited such strength and pride in their town. And I was so glad to have met

Texans from all across our state who were visiting Wimberley to shop and support the community as well as several Red Cross volunteers who were there to help with the ongoing recovery.

While there is still work to be done, there's no doubt this community is #WimberleyStrong.

■ **Defending Innocent Life**

The St. John Paul II Life Center in Austin awarded Greg and me their 2015 Dignity in Life Award, and we were truly honored. I attended the 5th Annual Benefit Dinner and accepted the award on our behalf.

With the steadfast commitment of partners like the St. John Paul II Life Center, we will continue to vigorously defend and protect innocent life in Texas.

■ **Celebrating Communities**

I had the privilege of visiting Ennis and Rosenberg for the Texas Historical Commission Texas Main Street Program's First Lady's Tour.



Governor Abbott and the First Lady welcoming Governor's Volunteer Award winners to a reception at the Governor's Mansion.

Since 1981, every Texas First Lady has participated in this special tour celebrating and welcoming the new communities designated as official Texas Main Street cities, and it was my pleasure to continue this grand tradition.

From our busy urban centers to our treasured small towns, it is in

our downtowns where the past, present and future meet and a sense of community grows.

Thank you to Ennis and Rosenberg—and cities and towns all across the Lone Star State—for helping to make Texas such an extraordinary place to call home.



The First Lady honoring the Governor's Small Business Award winners in Houston. Accepting the 2015 Dignity in Life award. With Governor Abbott and Pancake, the First Puppy and official greeter at the Governor's Mansion.

The Texas Plan: In defense of our liberties

As Americans, the U.S. Constitution provides us with the ultimate defense of our liberties.

Without the protection of the rule of law, all that we treasure can be taken away by mere whim.

► **VIDEO LINKS:**

[Governor Abbott Unveils Texas Plan](#)

The increasingly frequent departures from constitutional principles in our nation's capital are destroying the very foundation on which this country was built.

We are succumbing to the caprice of man that our founders fought to escape. The cure to these problems will not come from Washington, D.C. Instead, the states must lead the way.

To do that I am adding another item to the agenda for our next legislative session in Texas.

I want legislation authorizing Texas to call for a convention of states.

Dysfunction in Washington, D.C., stems largely from the federal government's refusal to follow the U.S. Constitution.

Congress routinely violates its enumerated powers while taxing and spending its way from one financial crisis to another.

The president exceeds his executive powers with heavy-handed regulations.

And the Supreme Court imposes its policy views under the guise of judicial interpretation.

To restore the rule of law in America, I offer these nine constitutional amendments:

1. Prohibit Congress from regulating activity that occurs wholly within one state.

2. Require Congress to balance its budget.

3. Prohibit administrative agencies—and the unelected bureaucrats that staff them—from creating federal law.

4. Prohibit administrative agencies—and the unelected bureaucrats that staff them—from pre-empting state law.

5. Allow a two-thirds majority of the states to override a U.S. Supreme Court decision.

6. Require a seven-justice super-majority vote for U.S. Supreme Court decisions that invalidate a democratically enacted law.

7. Restore the balance of power between the federal and state governments by limiting the former to the powers expressly delegated to it in the Constitution.

8. Give state officials the power to sue in federal court when federal officials overstep their bounds.

9. Allow a two-thirds majority of the states to override a federal law or regulation.

I invite you to read my full plan and share your ideas at gov.texas.gov. And I encourage you to contact your state legislators.

"We the People" must restore the rule of law to ensure greater opportunity for all.

**“For too long
Washington has tried
to remake America
in its image.**

In **Texas**,
we offer a **different** approach.
We don't put our trust in government.
We put our **trust in the people**.

And I will make sure
we keep it that way.”

Governor Abbott's Inaugural Address, January 2015

Because of you, Texas is No. 1 in the nation.

Advanced Placement District: Irving ISD is the National AP District of the Year for mid-sized districts, College Board

Agricultural: Texas is #1 in cattle, cotton, hay, sheep, goats, wool and mohair production.

Best City for STEM Grads: Houston is #1, Austin is No #4, Business Insider

Best City for Young Entrepreneurs: Austin is #1, Midland is #8, NerdWallet.com

Best City to Start a Career: Austin is #1, Houston is #6, Dallas is #10, Hubspot.com

Best State for Business: Texas is #1, Chief Executive, 11th year in a row

Best State to Make a Living In: Texas is #1, Forbes and MoneyRates.com

Business Climate: Texas is #1, Business Facilities

Capital Investments: Texas is #1, 6th year since 2004, Site Selection

Economic Climate: Texas is #1, Forbes

Economic Clout of Women Business Owners: San Antonio is #1, Houston is #3, Dallas is #9, American Express

Exports: Texas is #1, 14th year in a row

Farming/Ranching: Texas is #1 in the number of farms and ranches with 248,800 covering 130.2 million acres and more women- and minority-owned farm operations.

Fastest Growing Cities: Houston is #1, Austin is #2, Dallas is #3, Fort Worth is #8, San Antonio is #10, Forbes

Fastest Growing Economies, Overall: Odessa is #1, Frisco is #2, Midland is #3, Mission is #4, College Station is #5, Killeen is #6, Bryan is #8, Austin is #9, Round Rock is #10, WalletHub.com

Fastest Growing Economies of Large Cities: Austin is #1, Fort Worth is #3, Corpus Christi is #5, Houston is #10, WalletHub.com

Fastest Growing Economies of Mid-Size Cities: Odessa is #1, Frisco is #2, Midland is #3, College Station is #4, Killeen is #5, Round Rock is #7, McKinney is #8, WalletHub.com

Fastest Growing Economies of Small Cities: Mission is #1, Bryan is #2, Edinburg is #3, Pharr is #5, Allen is #6, WalletHub.com

Industrial Development: Texas is #1, NAIOP Research Foundation

Infrastructure: Texas is #1, Business Facilities

Investments, Foreign and Domestic: Texas is #1, IBM's 2015 Global Location Trends

Job Growth, Private-Sector: Texas is #1 over the last 10 years, BLS

Oil and Gas Production: Texas is #1

Population Growth: Texas is #1 for population growth, 2000-2014, U.S. Census

Small Business Friendliness: Texas is #1, Thumbtack.com

Tech Job Leaders: Austin is #1, Houston is #4, Business Facilities

Top Cities for Startups: Austin is #1, Houston is #8, San Antonio is #10, Business Facilities

Top High School in the U.S.: School for the Talented and Gifted in Dallas is #1, School of Science and Engineering Magnet in Dallas is #5, Carnegie Vanguard High School in Houston is #6, Lamar Academy in McAllen is #10, U.S. News

Wind and Natural Gas Growth: Texas is #1, FuelFix.com



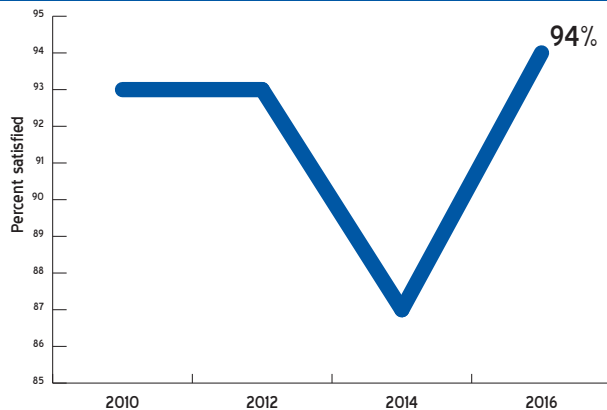
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TBAE Customer Service Survey, 2016

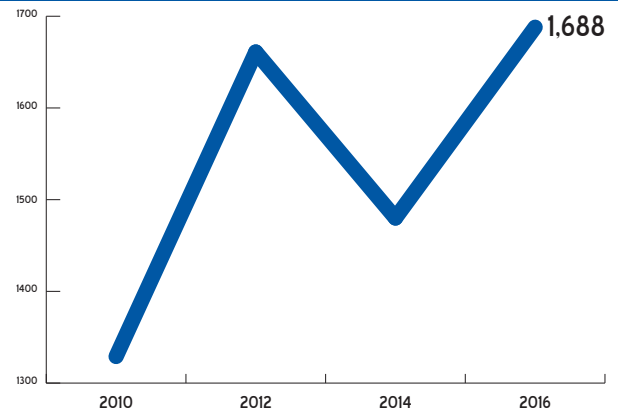
HIGHLIGHTS

- Highest-ever overall satisfaction rate
- Highest-ever response rate
- Continuing education info remains the most-referenced Web site topic

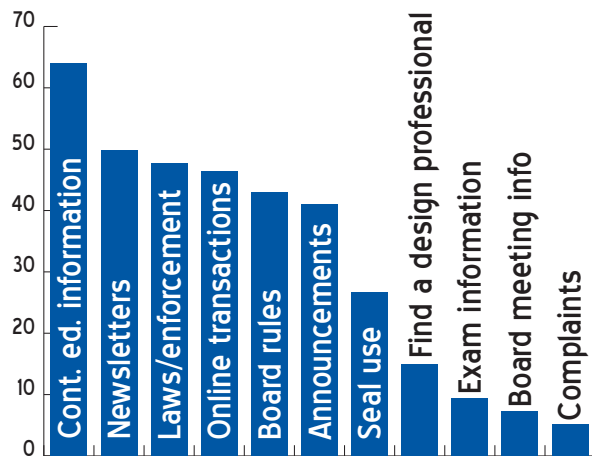
Overall customer satisfaction



Number of responses



Interest in Web content areas (%)



General notes

- Survey released November, 2015 to more than 22,000 recipients
- 11 opportunities for free-text responses
- 4,580 free-text answers or comments

HIGHLIGHTS

Kudos/praise (508 comments)

- Those surveyed singled out every functional unit within TBAE
- Most of the agency's main processes (customer service, registration, complaint investigation) were mentioned as well

Suggestions (417 comments)

- Want agency to advocate for profession
- Angry about fingerprinting/test-passing requirement
- Aesthetic complaints about newsletter/ Web site
- Continuing education-related issues

Continuing education ideas

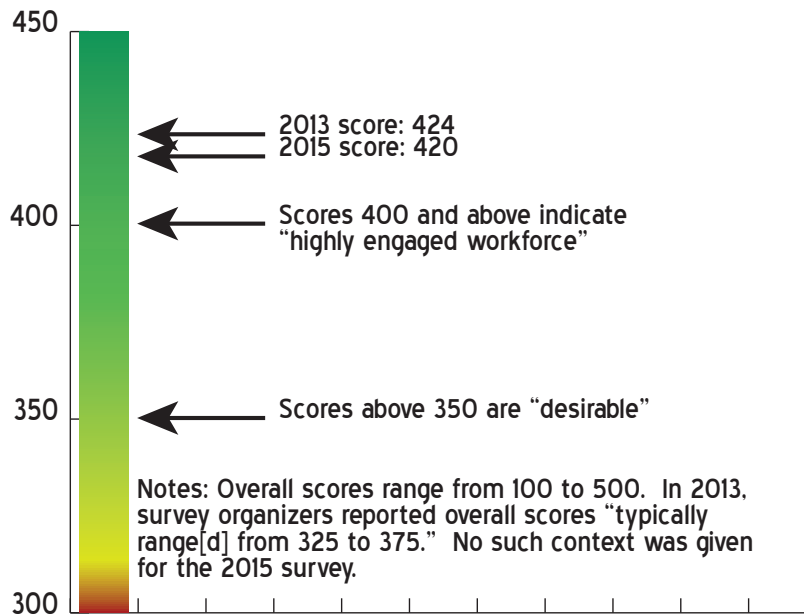
- Provide an online CE transcript service (like AIA transcript)
- Host a large-scale CE event for registrants
- Provide CE classes online

Other items mentioned

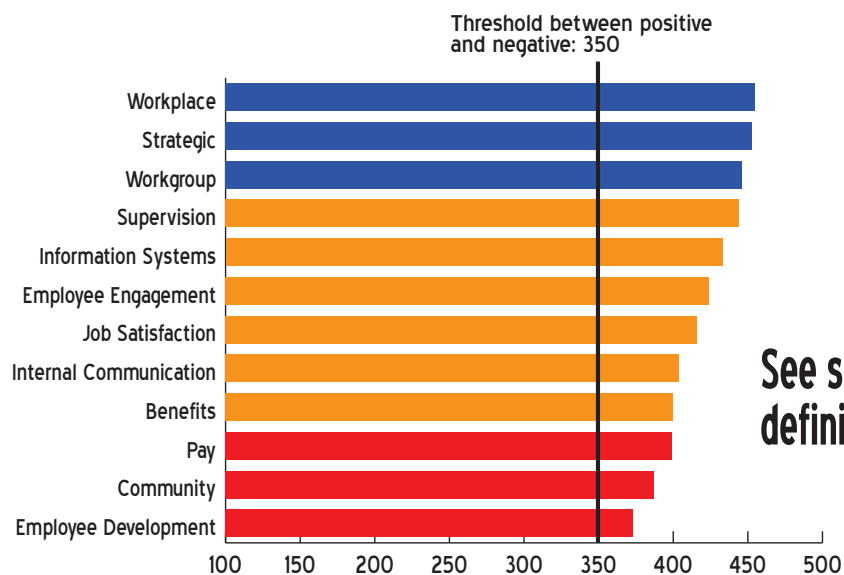
- Stop publishing violator names
- Create a TBAE app/fully mobile site
- Greater ease/anonymity of filing a complaint
- Accept alternate payment systems (PayPal, Apple Pay, etc.)

TBAE Survey of Employee Engagement, 2015 HIGHLIGHTS

Overall score



Survey construct scores



TBAE Survey of Employee Engagement, 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

Areas of Strength

Workplace Score: 455

The workplace construct captures employees' perceptions of the total work atmosphere, the degree to which they consider it safe, and the overall feel. Higher scores suggest that employees see the setting as satisfactory, safe and that adequate tools and resources are available.

Strategic Score: 453

The strategic construct captures employees' perceptions of their role in the organization and the organization's mission, vision, and strategic plan. Higher scores suggest that employees understand their role in the organization and consider the organization's reputation to be positive.

Workgroup Score: 446

The workgroup construct captures employees' perceptions of people they work with on a daily basis and how effective they are. Higher scores suggest that employees view their workgroup as effective, cohesive and open to the opinions of all members.

Areas of Concern

Employee Development Score: 373

The employee development construct captures employees' perceptions about the priority given to their personal and job growth needs. Lower scores suggest that employees feel stymied in their education and growth in job competence.

Community Score: 387

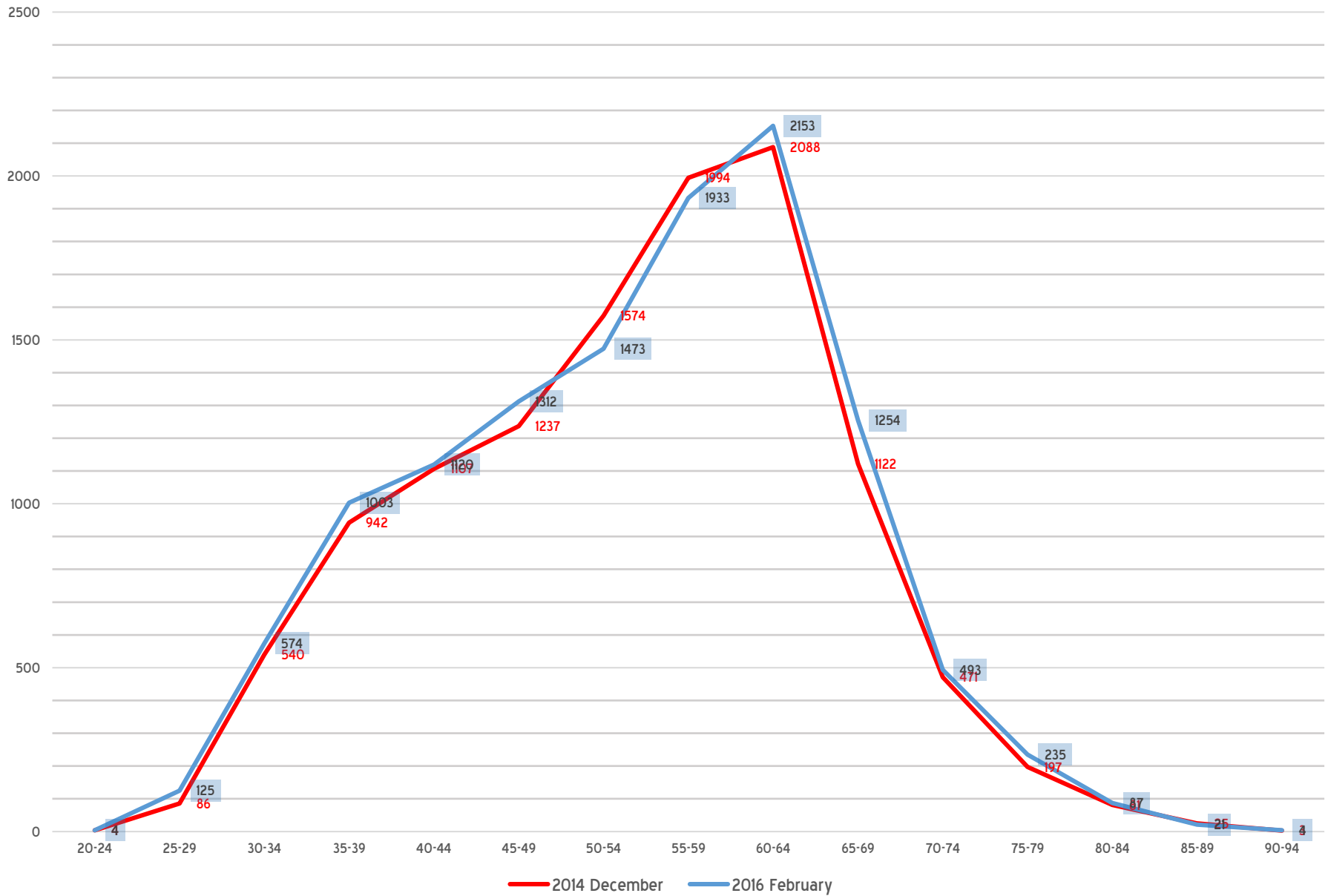
The community construct captures employees' perceptions of the relationships between employees in the workplace, including trust, respect, care, and diversity among colleagues. Lower scores suggest that employees feel a lack of trust and reciprocity from their colleagues.

Pay Score: 399

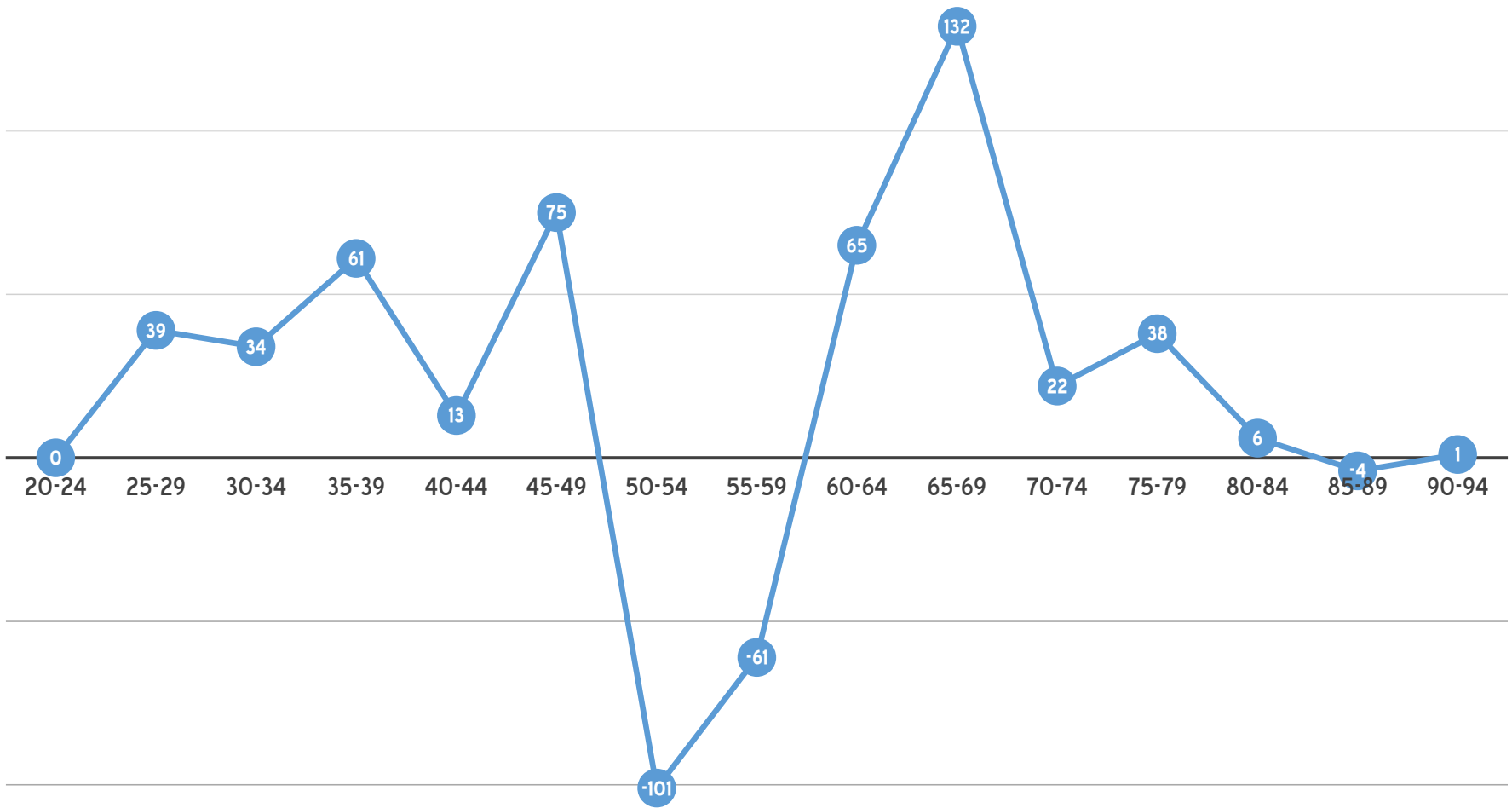
The pay construct captures employees' perceptions about how well the compensation package offered by the organization holds up when compared to similar jobs in other organizations. Lower scores suggest that pay is a central concern or reason for discontent and is not comparable to similar organizations.

Note: Construct descriptions and score interpretations per Institute for Organizational Excellence.

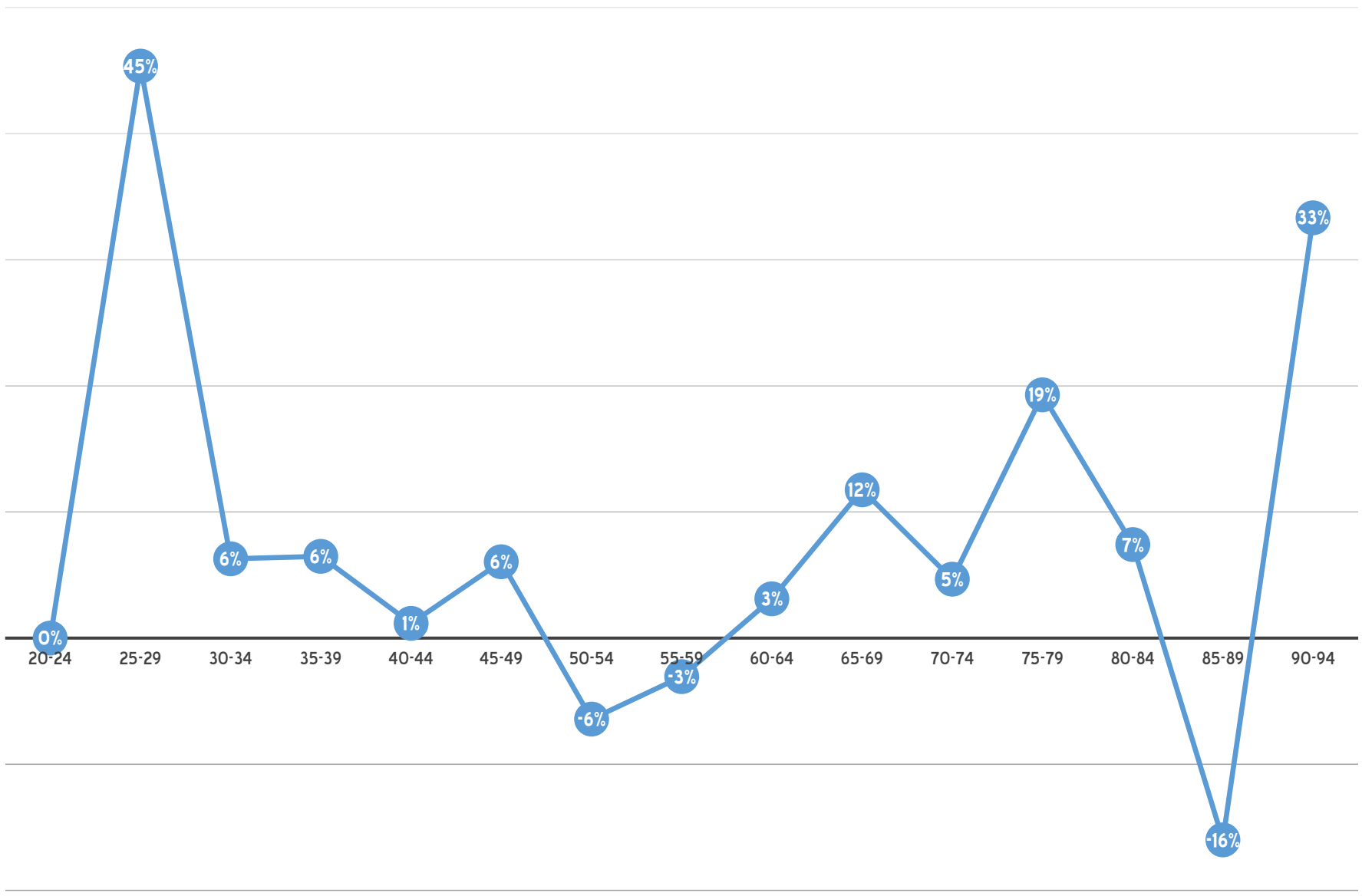
Active Architects by Age Cohort, December 2014 and February 2016



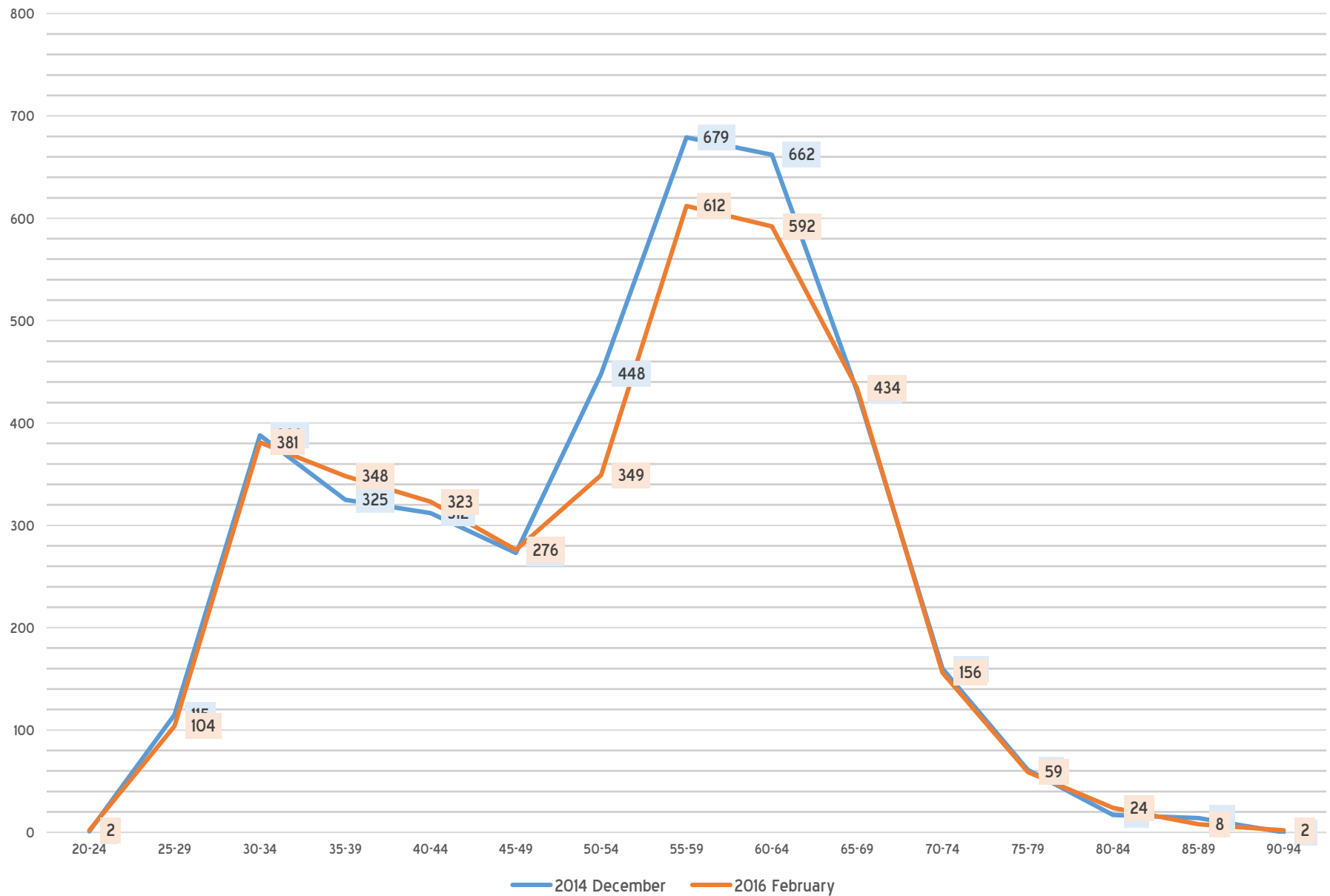
**Net change in Active Architects ,
December 2014 to February 2016 by Age Cohort**



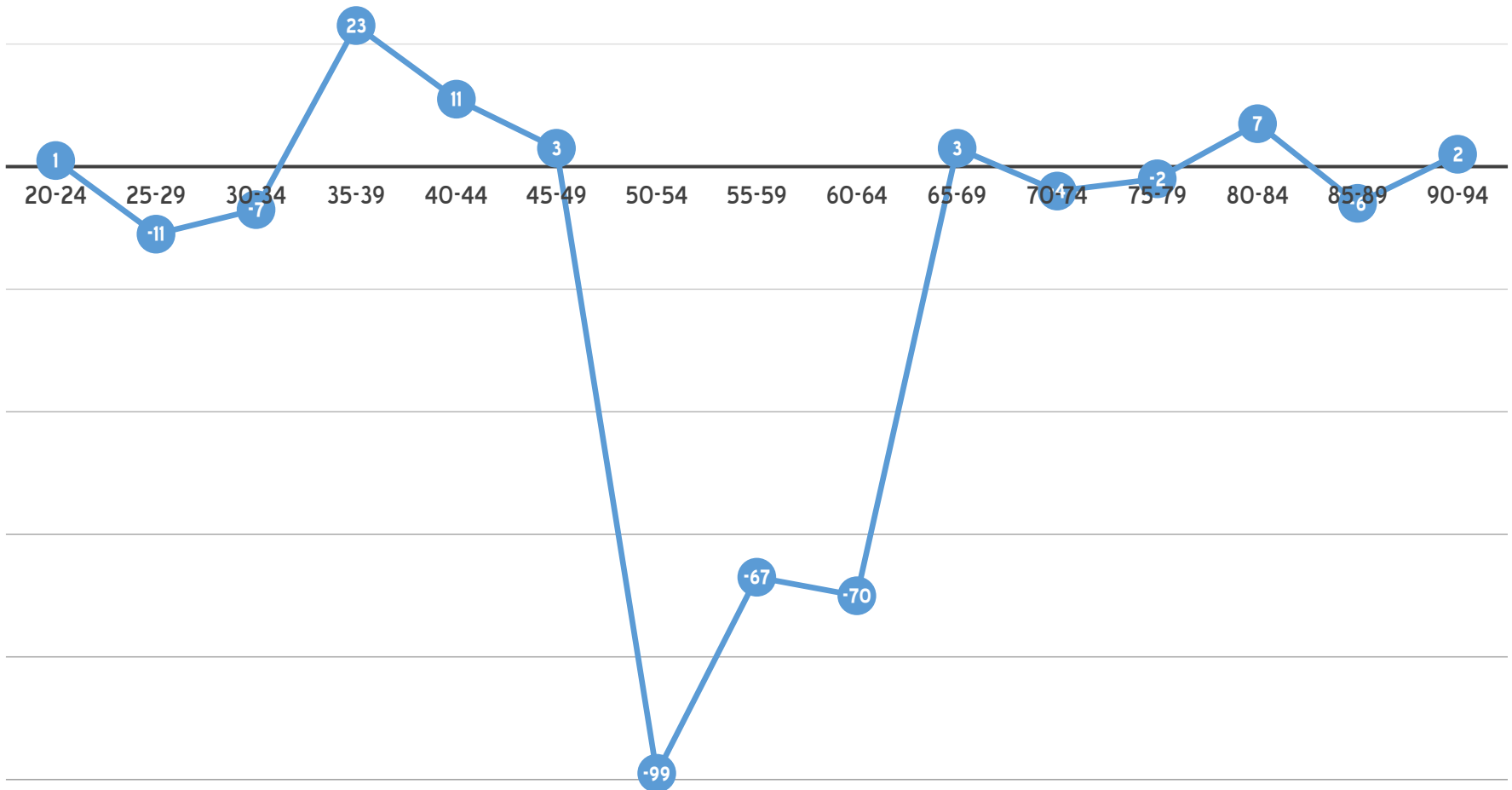
**Active Architects, Percent Change in Registrants
December 2014 to February 2016 by Age Cohort**



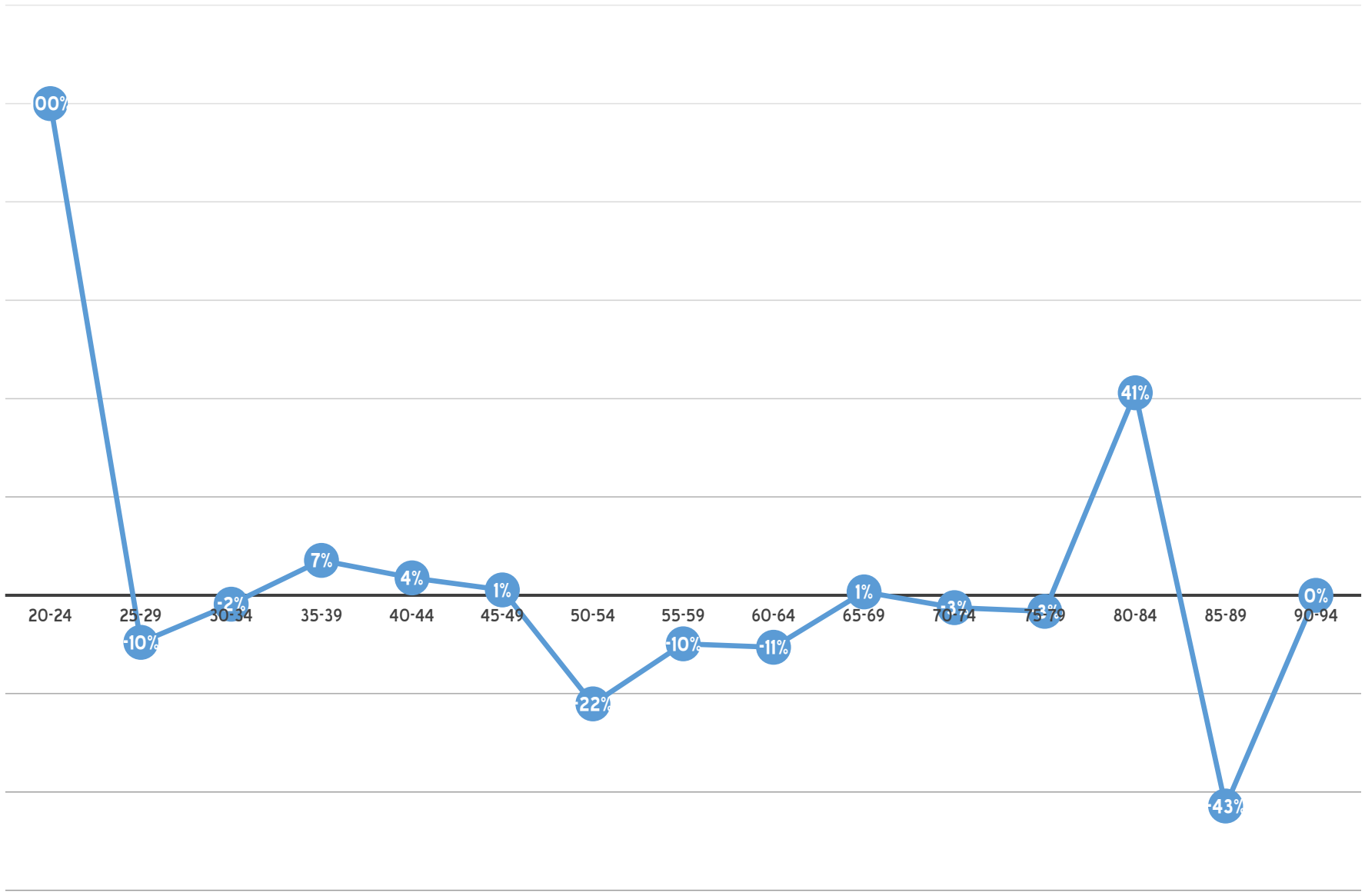
Active RIDs by Age Cohort, December 2014 and February 2016



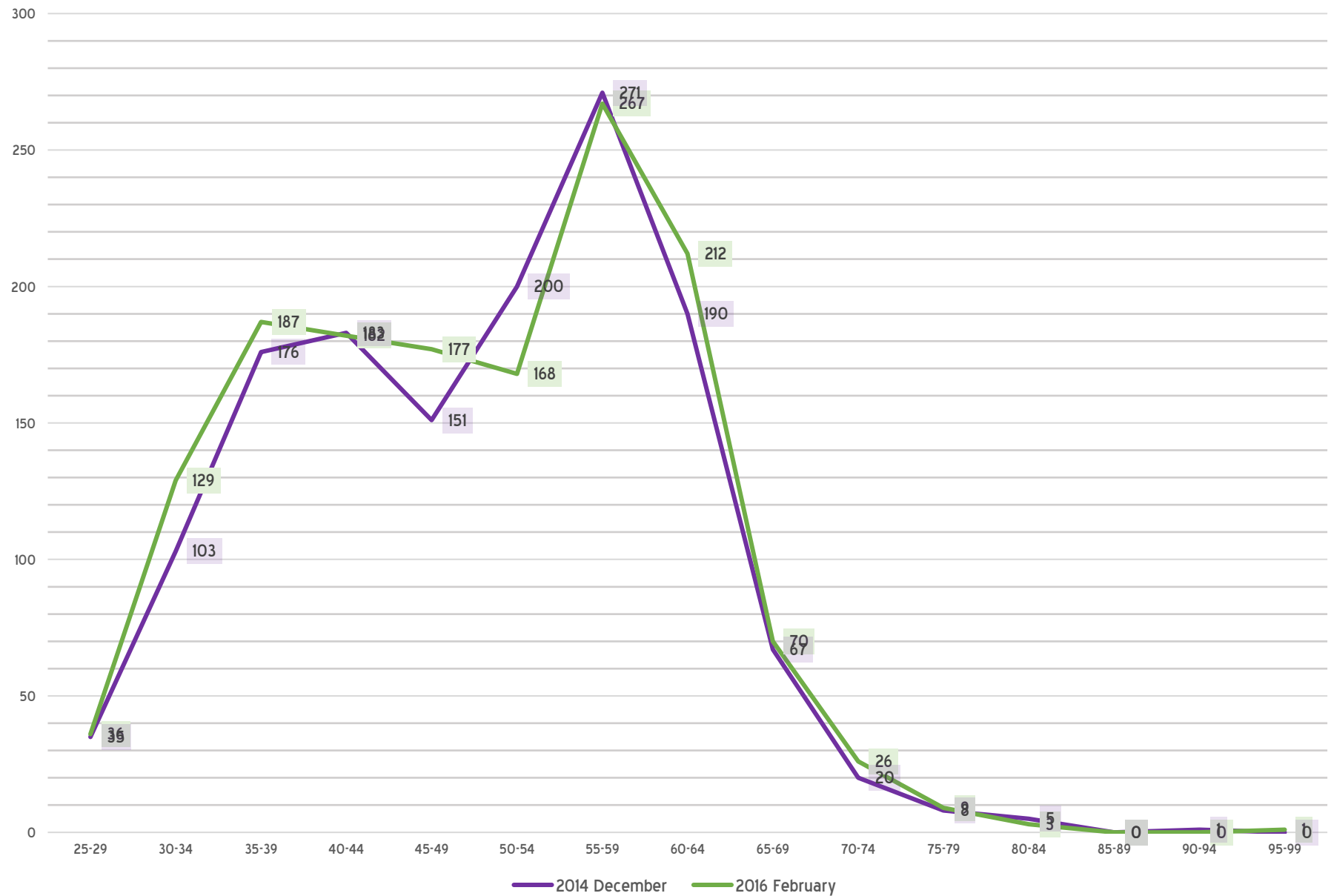
**Net change in Active RIDs,
December 2014 to February 2016 by Age Cohort**



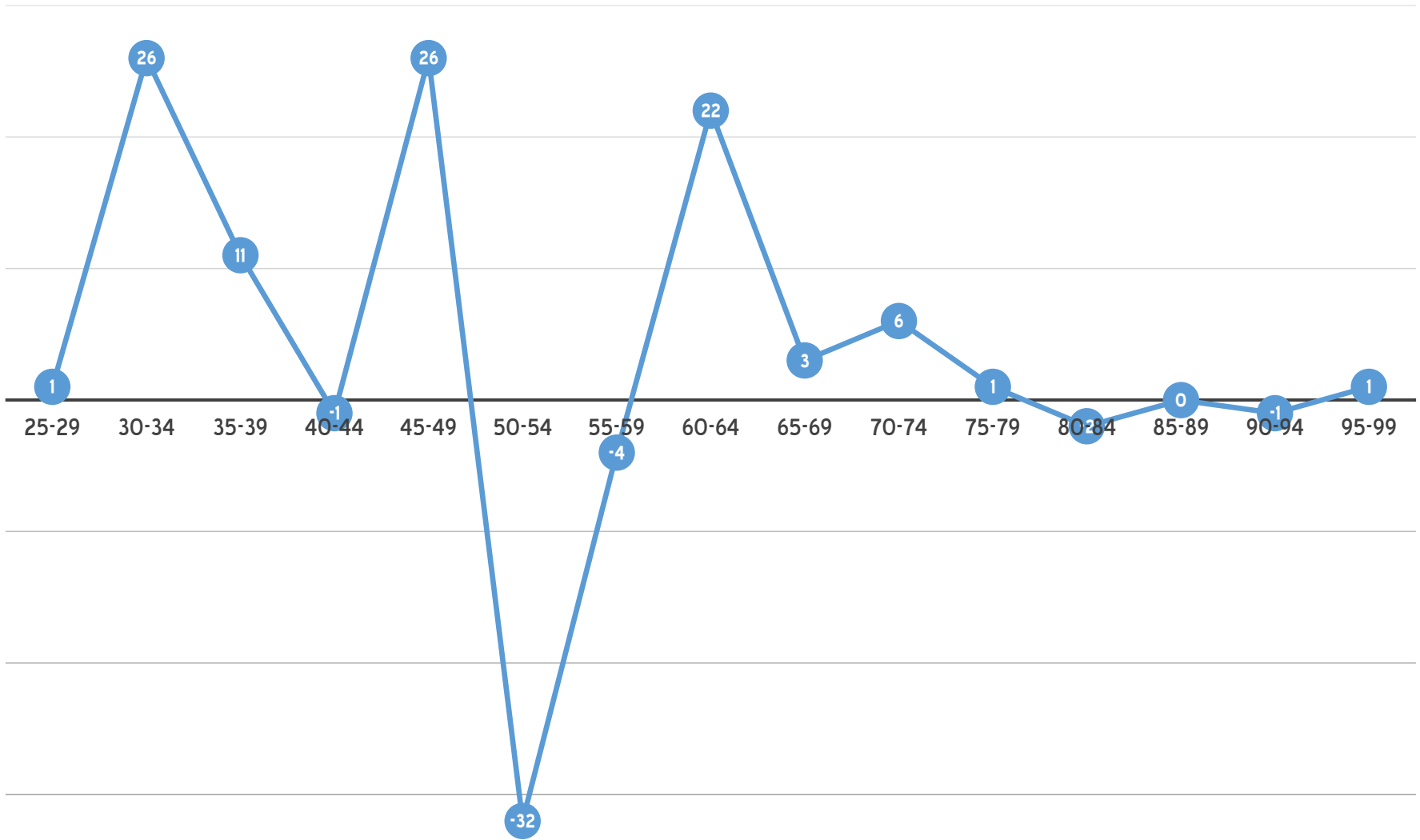
Active RIDs, Percent Change in Registrants
December 2014 to February 2016 by Age Cohort



Active LAs by Age Cohort, December 2014 and February 2016



Net change in Active Landscape Architects, December 2014 to February 2016 by Age Cohort



Active Landscape Architects, Percent Change in Registrants December 2014 to February 2016 by Age Cohort

