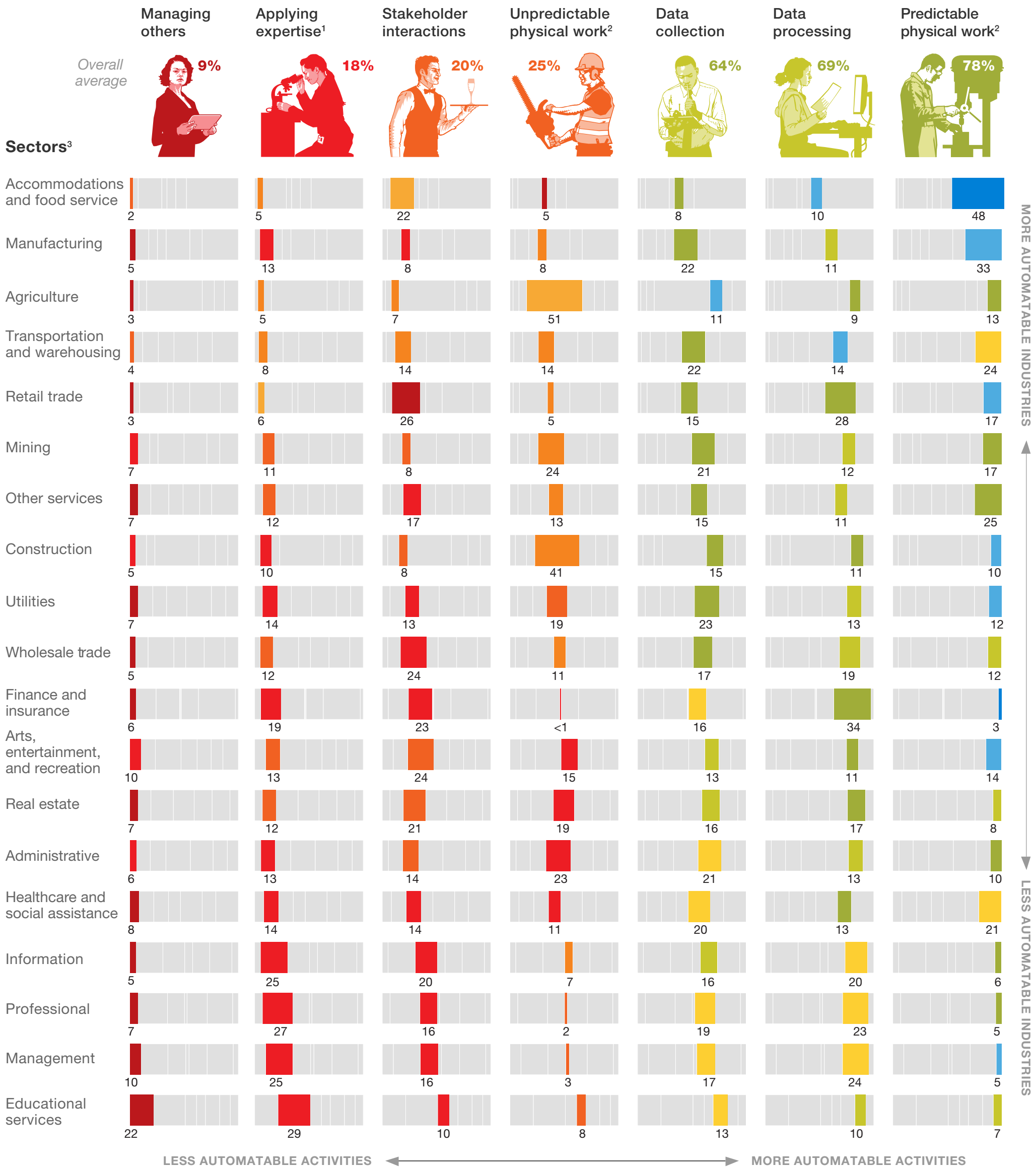
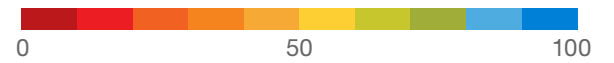


# The technical potential for automation in the US

Many types of activities in industry sectors have the technical potential to be automated, but that potential varies significantly across activities.

**Technical feasibility:** % of time spent on activities that can be automated by adapting currently demonstrated technology



*In practice, automation will depend on more than just technical feasibility. Five factors are involved: technical feasibility; costs to automate; the relative scarcity, skills, and cost of workers who might otherwise do the activity; benefits (eg, superior performance) of automation beyond labor-cost substitution; and regulatory and social-acceptance considerations.*

<sup>1</sup>Applying expertise to decision making, planning, and creative tasks.

<sup>2</sup>Unpredictable physical work (physical activities and the operation of machinery) is performed in unpredictable environments, while in predictable physical work, the environments are predictable.

<sup>3</sup>**Agriculture** includes forestry, fishing, and hunting; **other services** excludes federal-, state-, and local-government services; **real estate** includes rental and leasing; **administrative** includes administrative support and government administration; **healthcare and social**

**assistance** includes private, state-government, and local-government hospitals; **professional** includes scientific and technical services; **educational services** includes private, state-government, and local-government schools.