

International Republican Institute: Turkish Public Opinion Survey

December 18, 2010 – January 4, 2011



Methodology

The survey was conducted through in-person, in-home interviews by Infakto Research Workshop.

Target population of the survey was Turks aged 18 and older.

Sampling framework of the poll is designed to represent Turkish voters through a multi-stage stratified random sampling. In the first stage, the sample was stratified to 11 NUTS (the Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics) of Turkey and three metropolitan cities (as Self-Representing Units). In the second stage, a province was selected from each NUTS through the probability proportionate to size methodology. In the third stage, the sample was stratified according to central-other sub-provinces and the urban-rural distribution of the province. Final sampling units were households selected according to the Kish method. In order to represent three major metropolitan cities, a boosted sample with a size of 800 interviews was applied.

The sample size is 2,006 with a response rate of 39 percent according to American Association for Public Opinion Research calculation standards. Estimated sampling error under the simple random sampling assumption is ± 2.18 percent at the 95 percent level of confidence.

The fieldwork was completed between December 18, 2010 – January 4, 2011.

Infakto created the questionnaire with input from Sarah Simmons at Harris Interactive.

Figures in charts and tables may not sum to 100 percent due to rounding error, omission of Don't know/No answer responses to make chart more readable, highlighting only the top responses, or as specifically explained in individual slides.

Demographic Profile

Gender

Male	52%
Female	48%

Age

18-24	19%
25-34	28%
35-44	23%
45-54	17%
55-64	8%
65 and older	5%

Marital Status

Married	72%
Single	24%
Divorced	2%
Widowed	3%

Has Children

Yes	67%
No	25%

Education

Can't read	3%
Can just read	4%
Elementary	37%
Secondary	14%
High school	31%
Vocational, 2 year university	4%
4 year university	7%
Masters or doctorate	<1%

Employment Status

Full-time	33%
Part-time	2%
Seasonal	2%
Unpaid work for family	3%
Housewife	33%
Retired	10%
Student	8%
Unemployed with income	1%
Unemployed	7%
Can't work	< 1%

Region

Istanbul	18%
Western Marmara	5%
Aegean	13%
Eastern Marmara	9%
Western Anatolia	9%
Mediterranean	13%
Central Anatolian	6%
Western Black Sea	6%
Eastern Black Sea	4%
North Eastern Anatolia	3%
Central Eastern Anatolia	5%
South Eastern Anatolia	10%

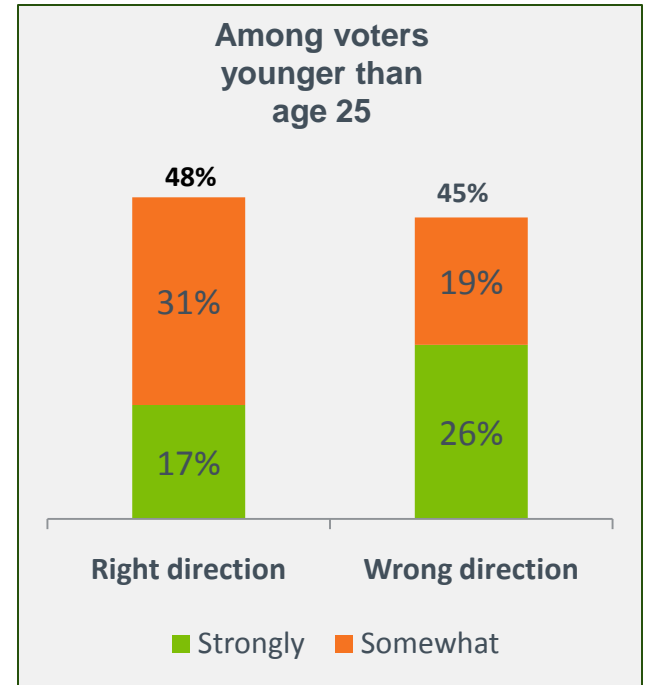
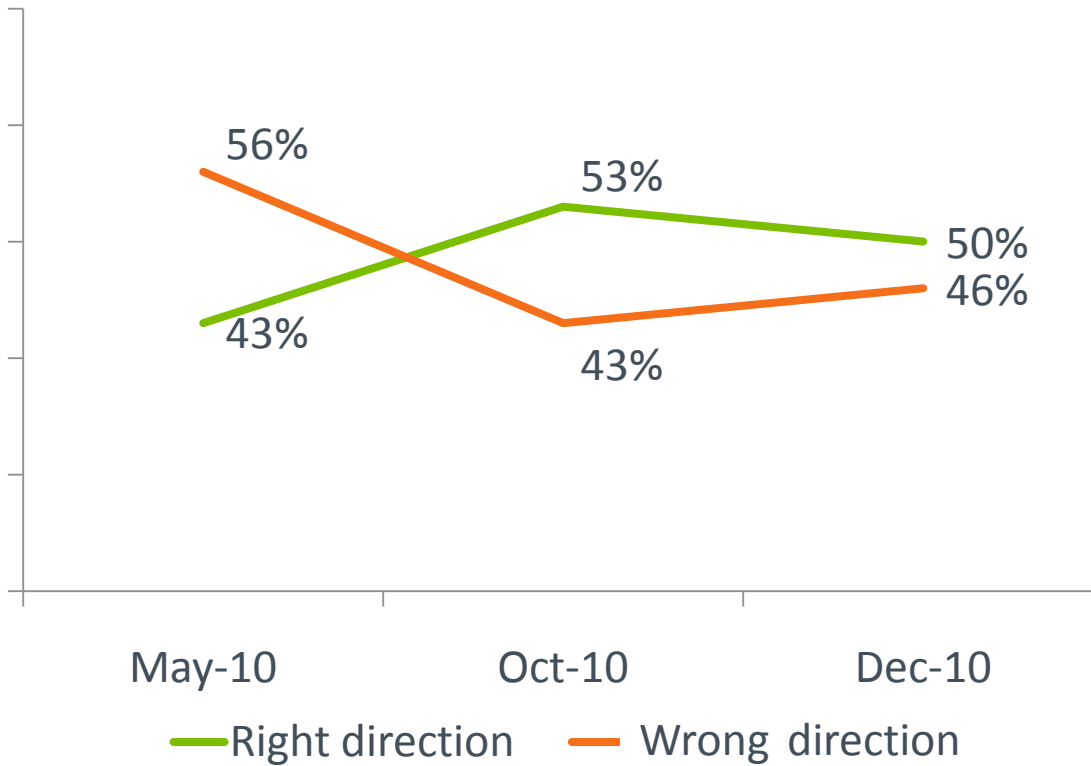
Monthly Family Income

150 TL and less	3%
151-300 TL	2%
301-450 TL	4%
451-600 TL	8%
601-750 TL	17%
751-1,000 TL	18%
1,001-1,200 TL	10%
1,201-1,500 TL	9%
1,501-1,800 TL	7%
1,801-2,400 TL	8%
2,401-3,000 TL	4%
3,001 TL and greater	5%

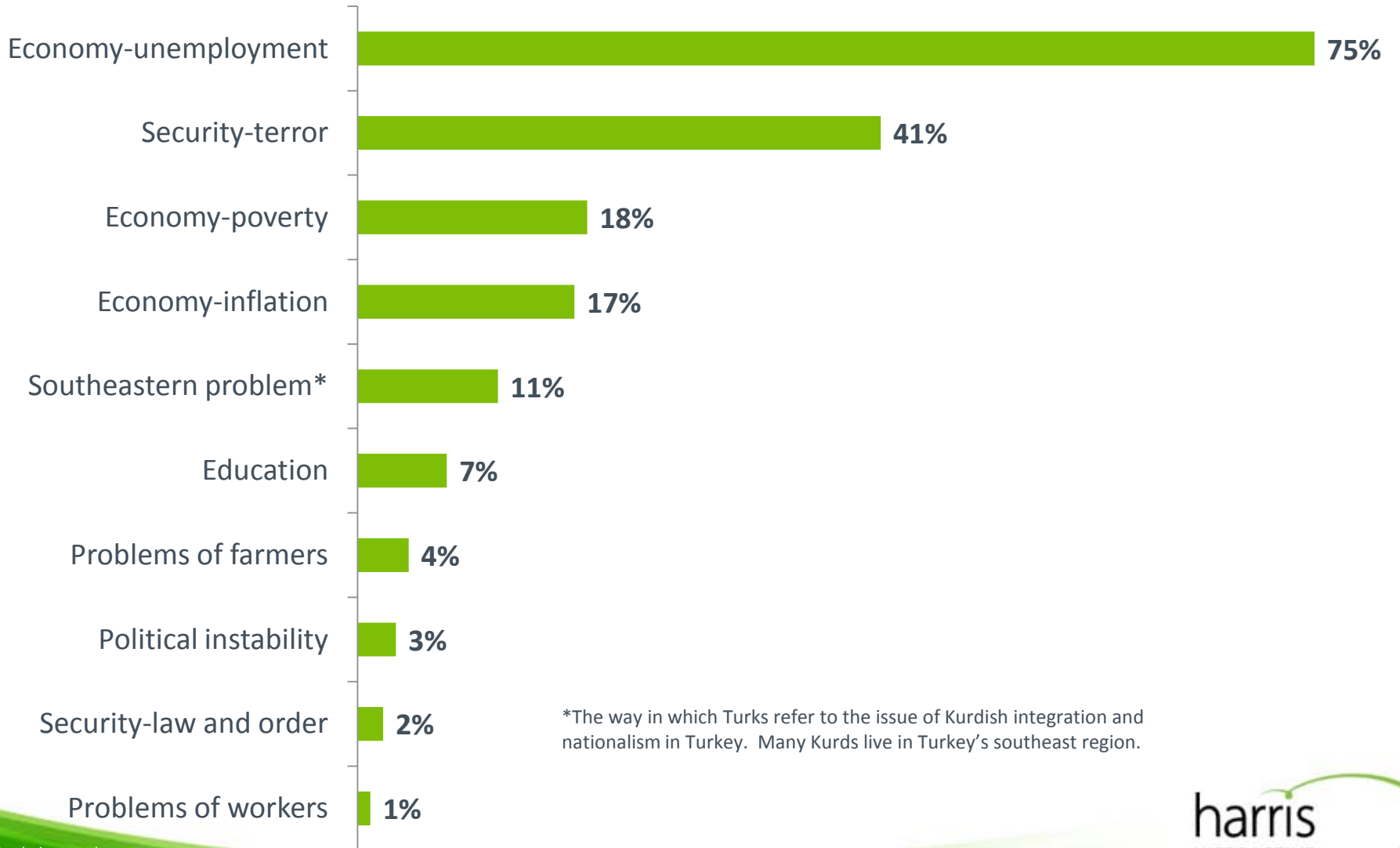


Political environment

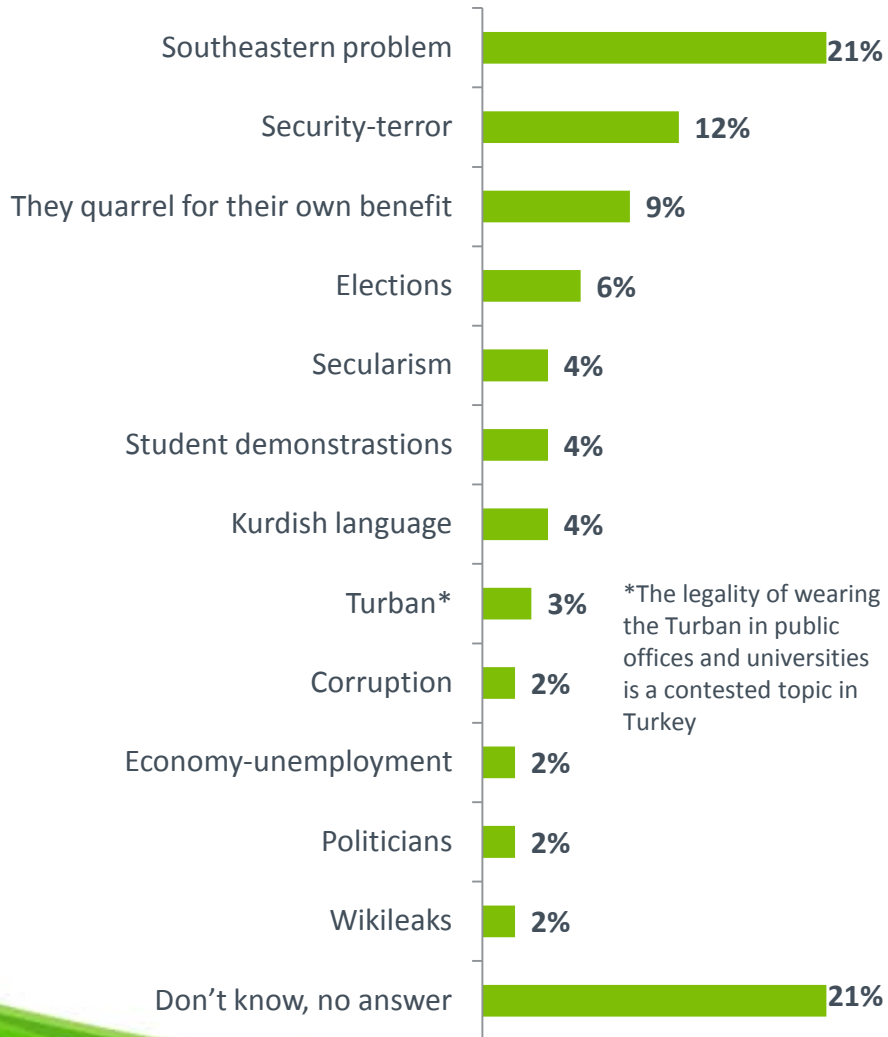
Overall, do you think Turkey is headed in the right direction or in the wrong direction?



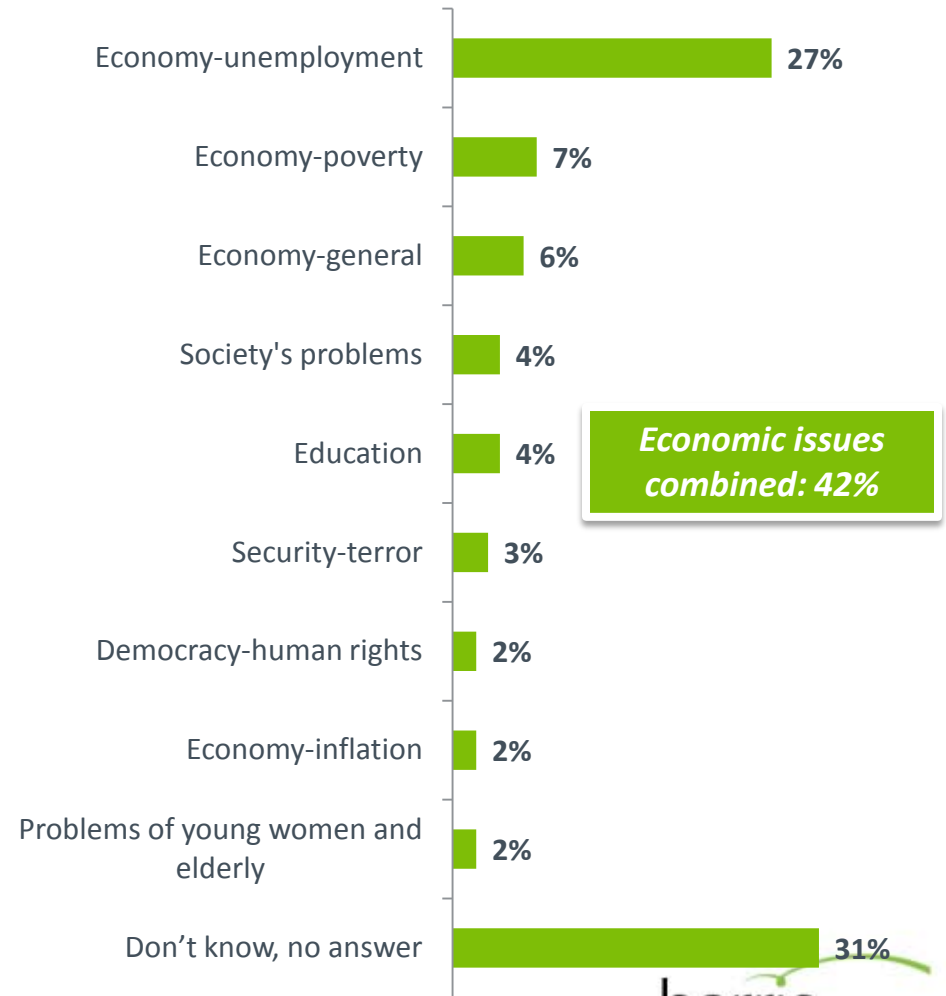
What is the most urgent problem our country is facing today? (Top two issues combined)



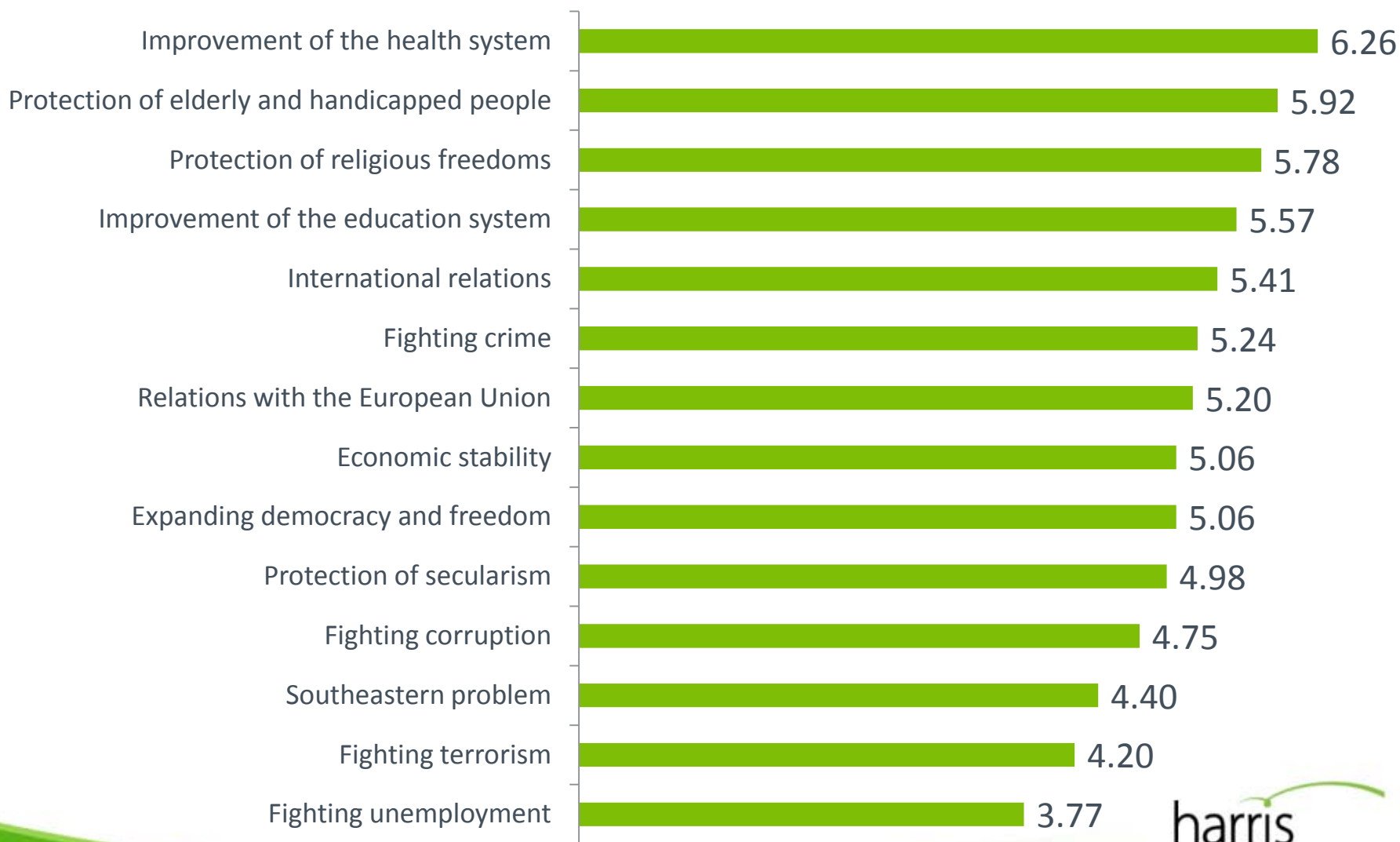
What do politicians talk about too much?



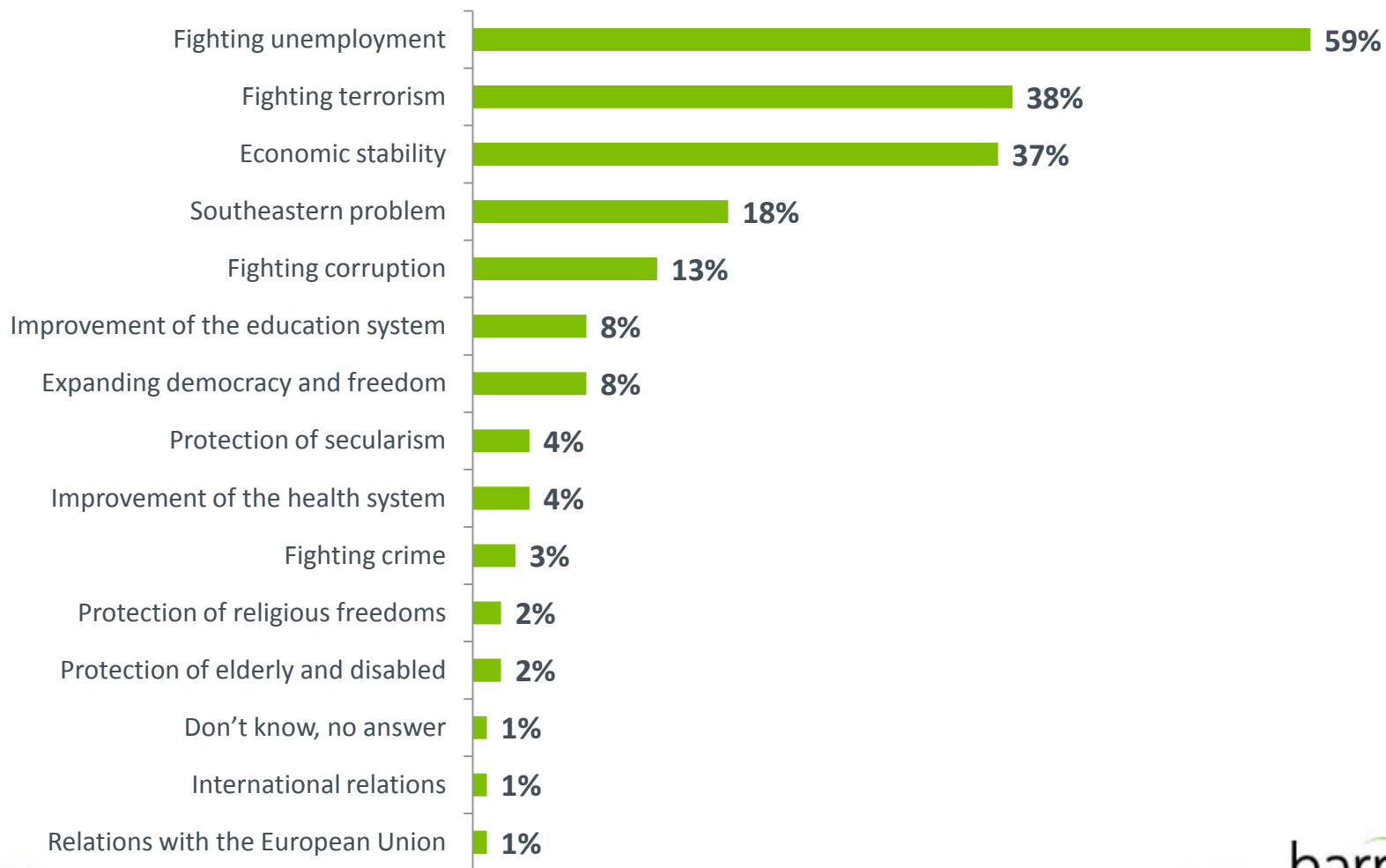
What do politicians not talk about enough?



When you consider the governing period of the Justice and Development Party (AKP) since the last general elections, how do you rate the performance of the government on these issues? Please use the scale in which 10 refers to the best performance and zero refers to the worst.

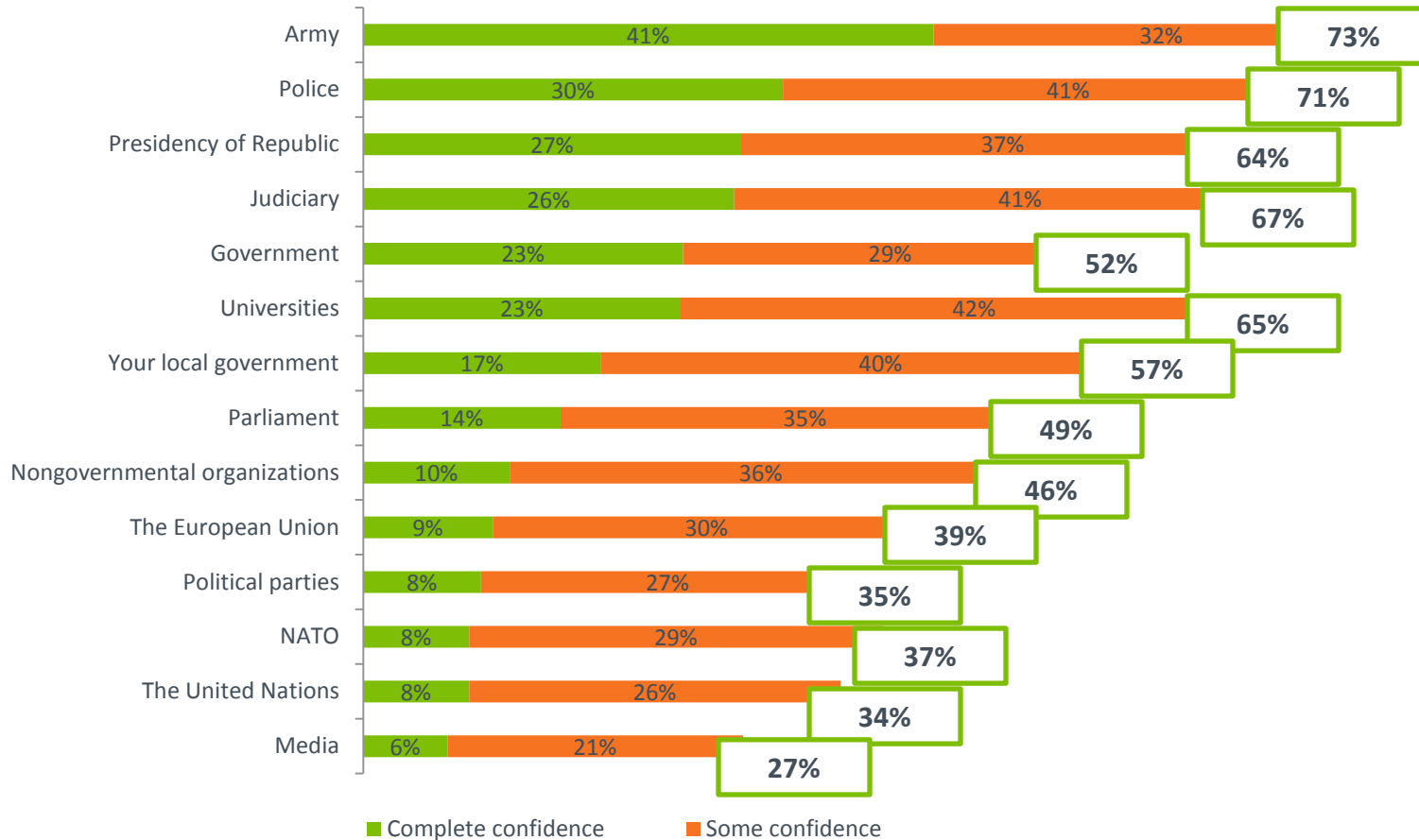


Which of these issues will be the most important for you when you vote in the next general elections? (Top two answers)



Please state how much confidence you have in these institutions....

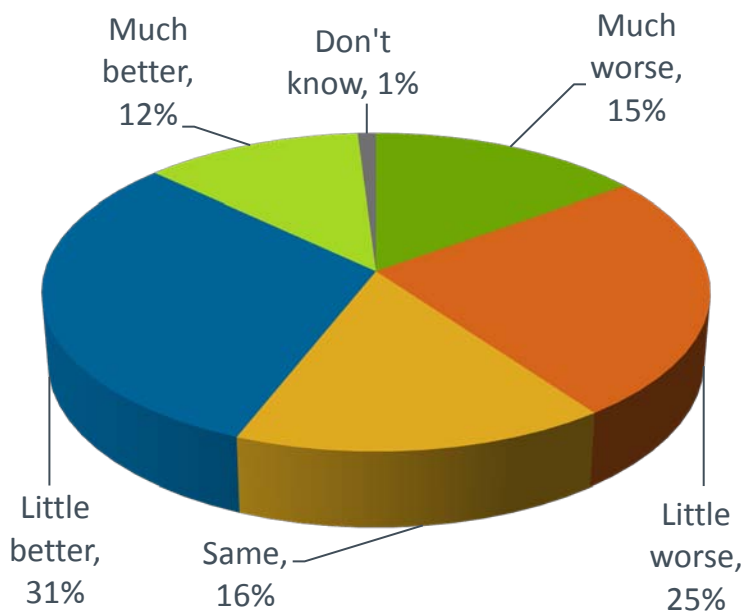
Total confidence:





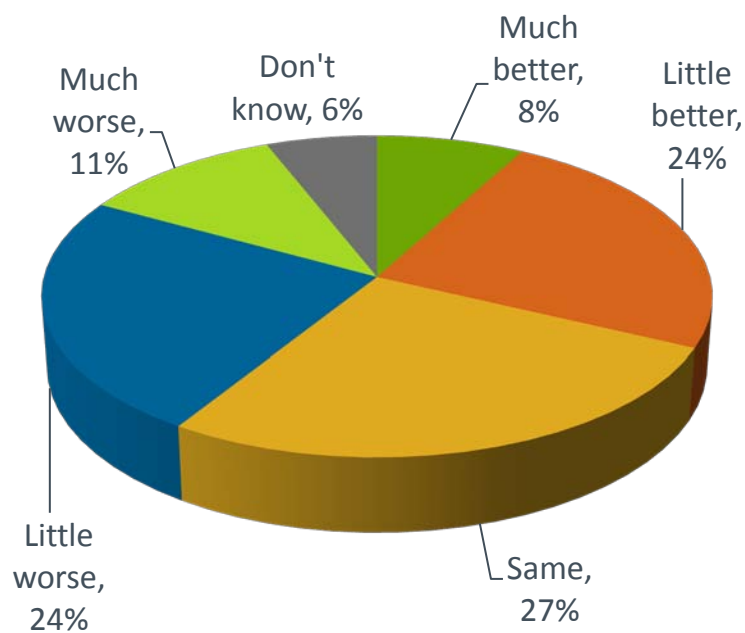
Financial crisis

Compared to five years ago, do you think the economic situation is better or worse?



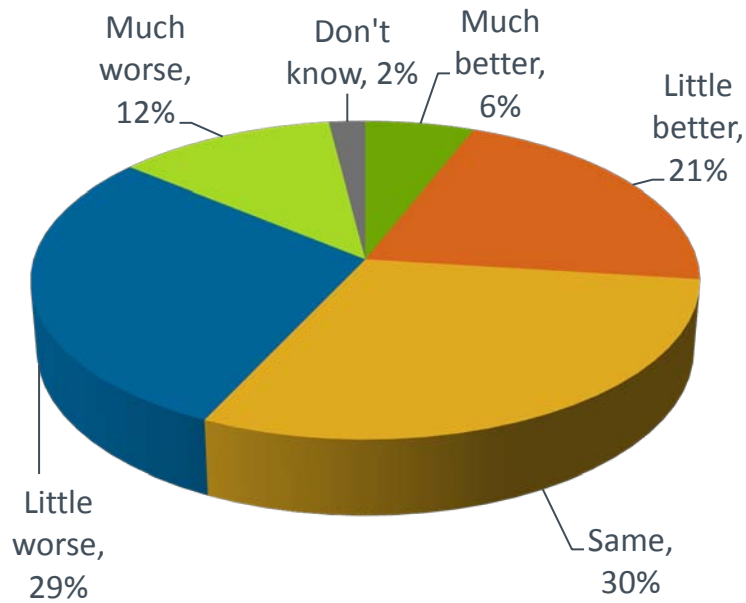
	Dec 10	Oct 10	May 10
Better:	43%	43%	32%
Worse:	40%	37%	52%

When you think about the next 12 months, do you expect the economic situation will be better or worse?

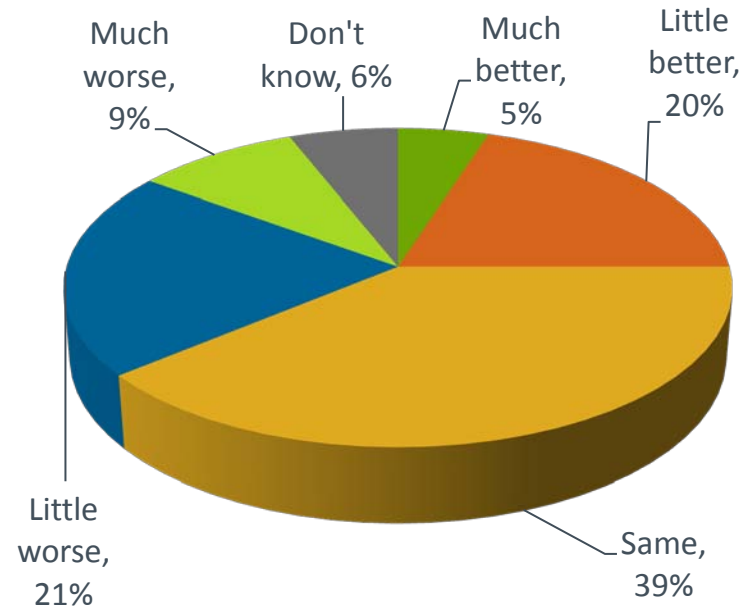


	Dec 10	Oct 10	May 10
Better:	32%	35%	28%
Worse:	35%	31%	42%

Compared to five years ago, do you think your family's economic situation is better or worse?



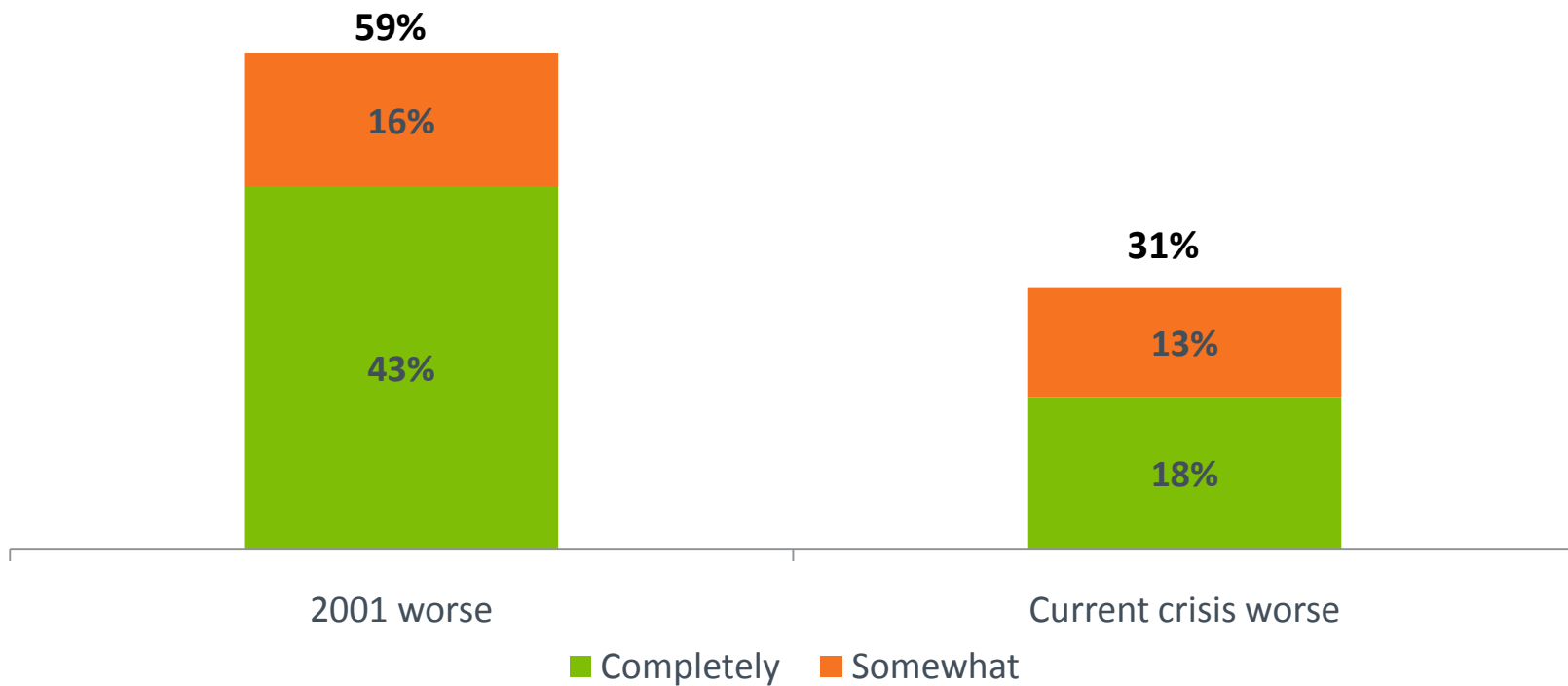
When you think about the next 12 months, do you expect your family's economic situation will be better or worse?



	Dec 10	Oct 10	May 10
Better:	27%	34%	23%
Worse:	41%	39%	50%

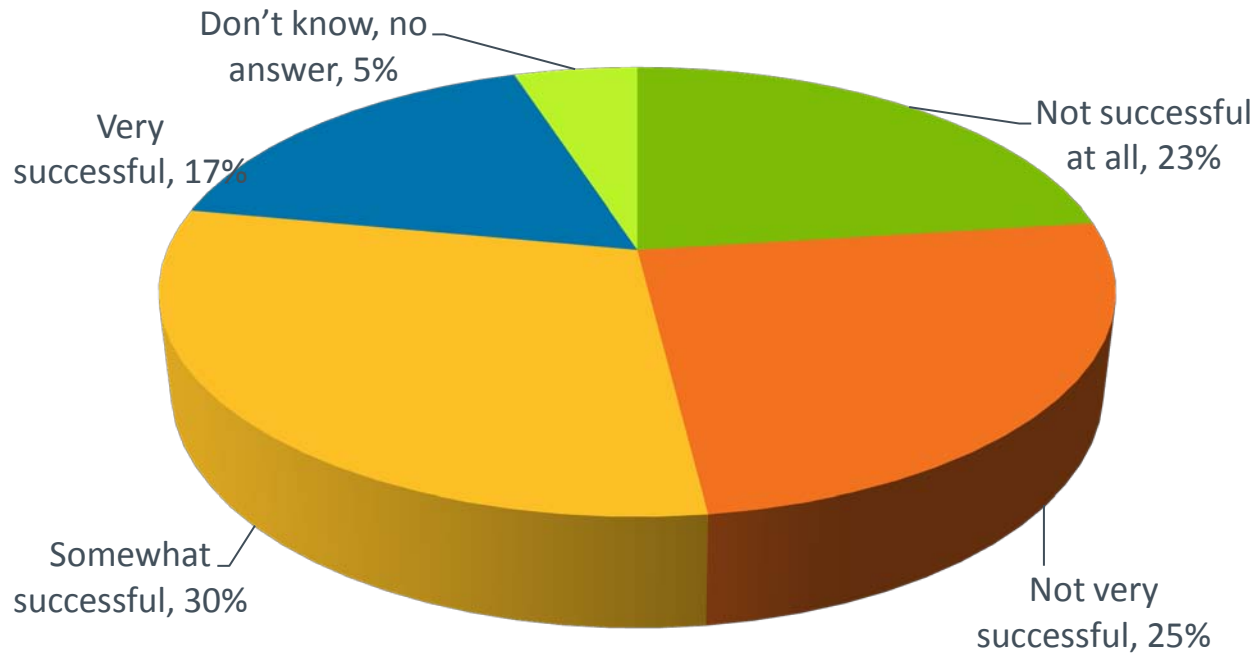
	Dec 10	Oct 10	May 10
Better:	25%	29%	23%
Worse:	30%	29%	36%

Is the existing situation worse than the economic crisis in 2001?



	<i>Dec 10</i>	<i>Oct 10</i>	<i>May 10</i>
<i>2001 was worse:</i>	<i>59%</i>	<i>67%</i>	<i>45%</i>
<i>Current is worse:</i>	<i>31%</i>	<i>23%</i>	<i>44%</i>

How successful has the government been dealing with the crisis?

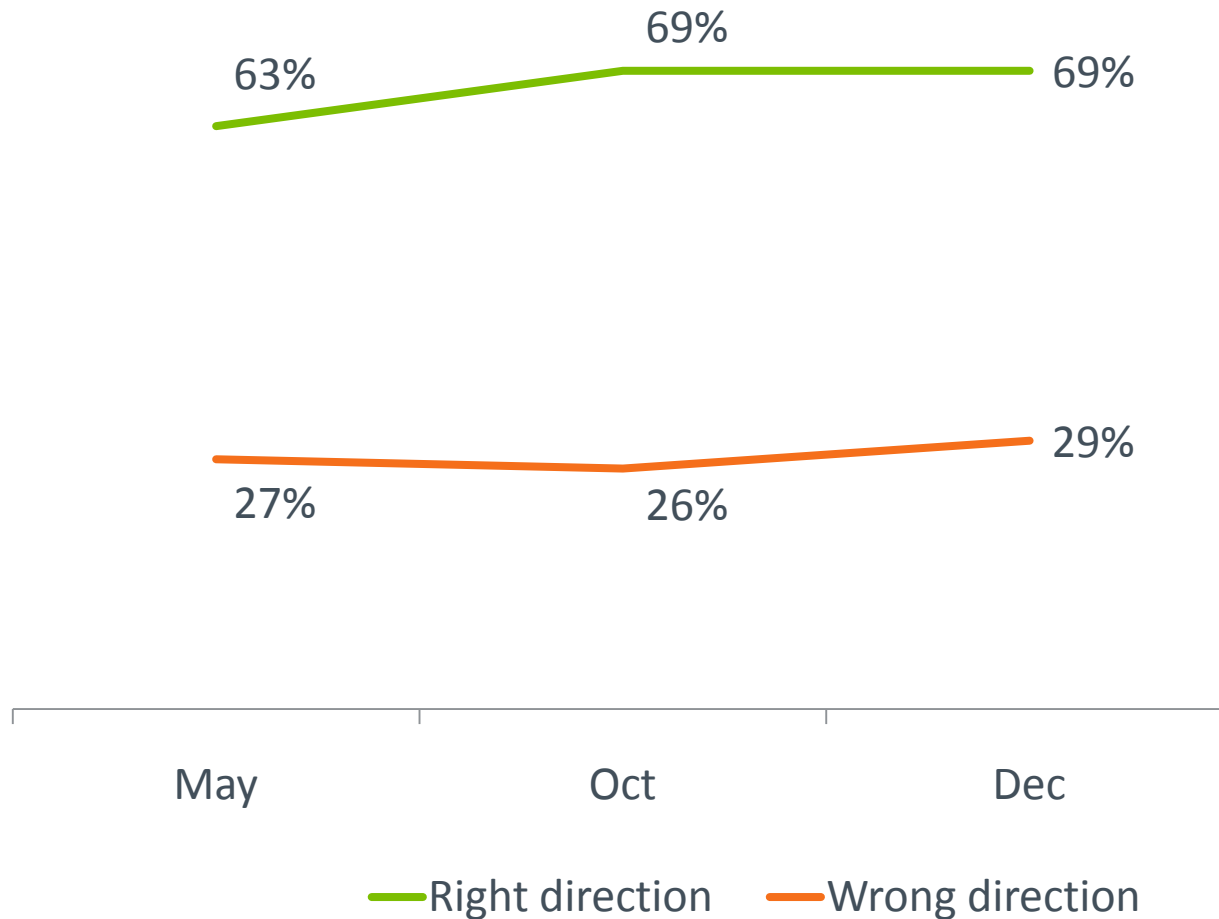


	Dec 10	Oct 10	May 10
Successful:	47%	50%	51%
Unsuccessful:	48%	47%	44%

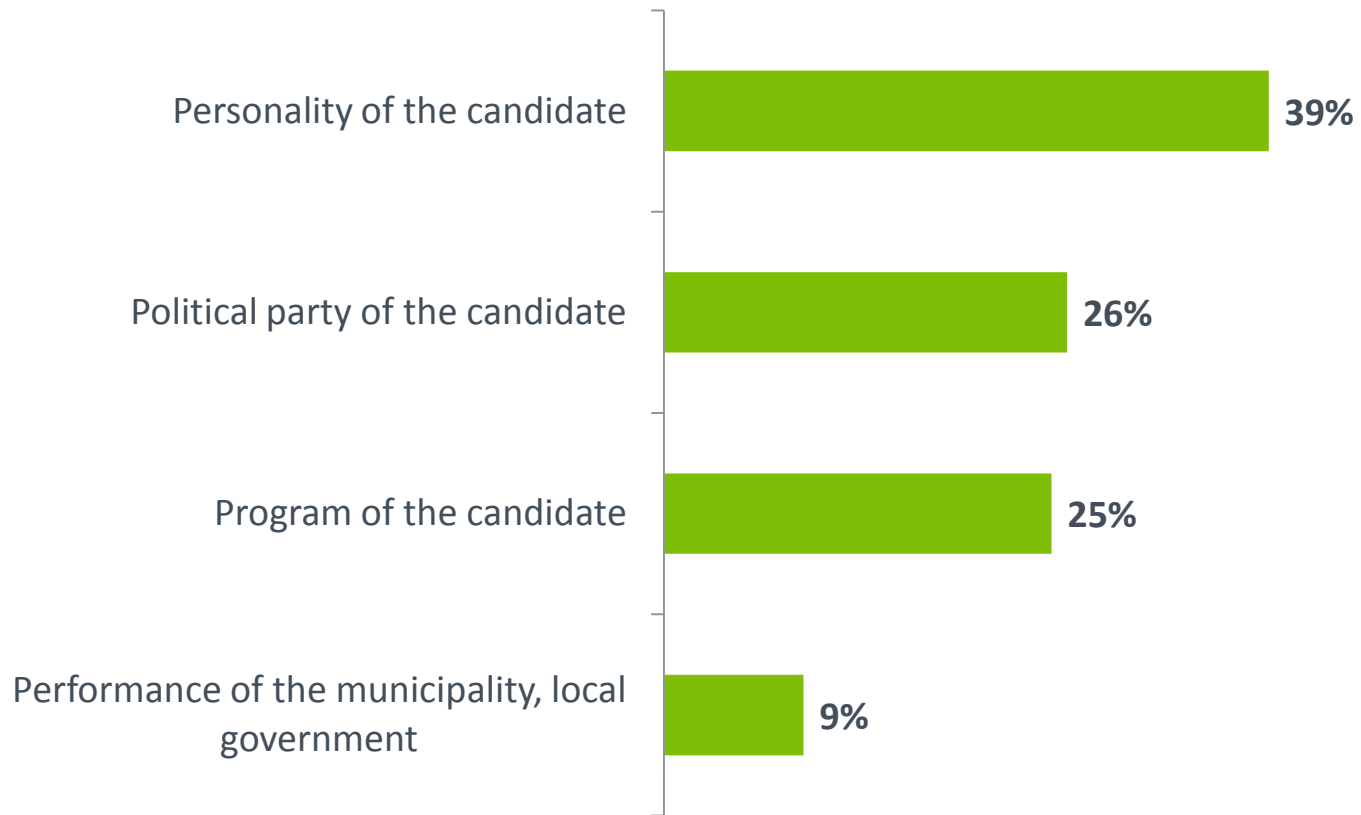


Local political attitudes

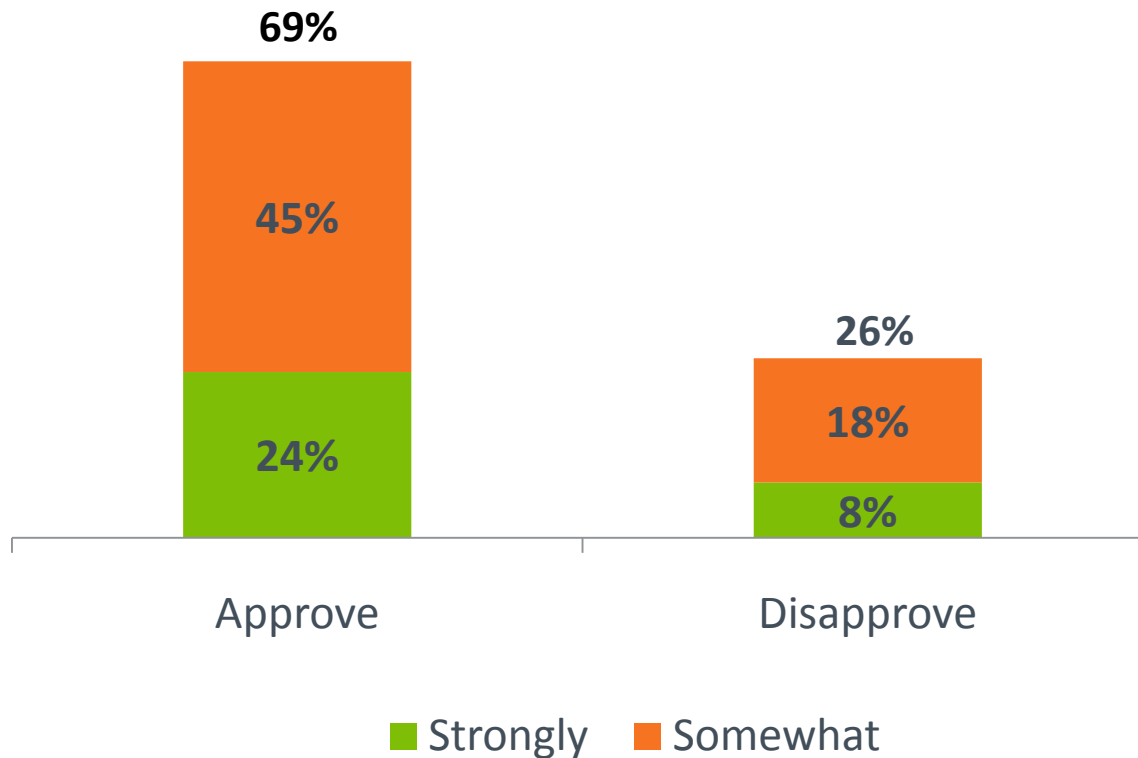
Generally speaking, are things in your municipality heading in the right direction or the wrong direction?



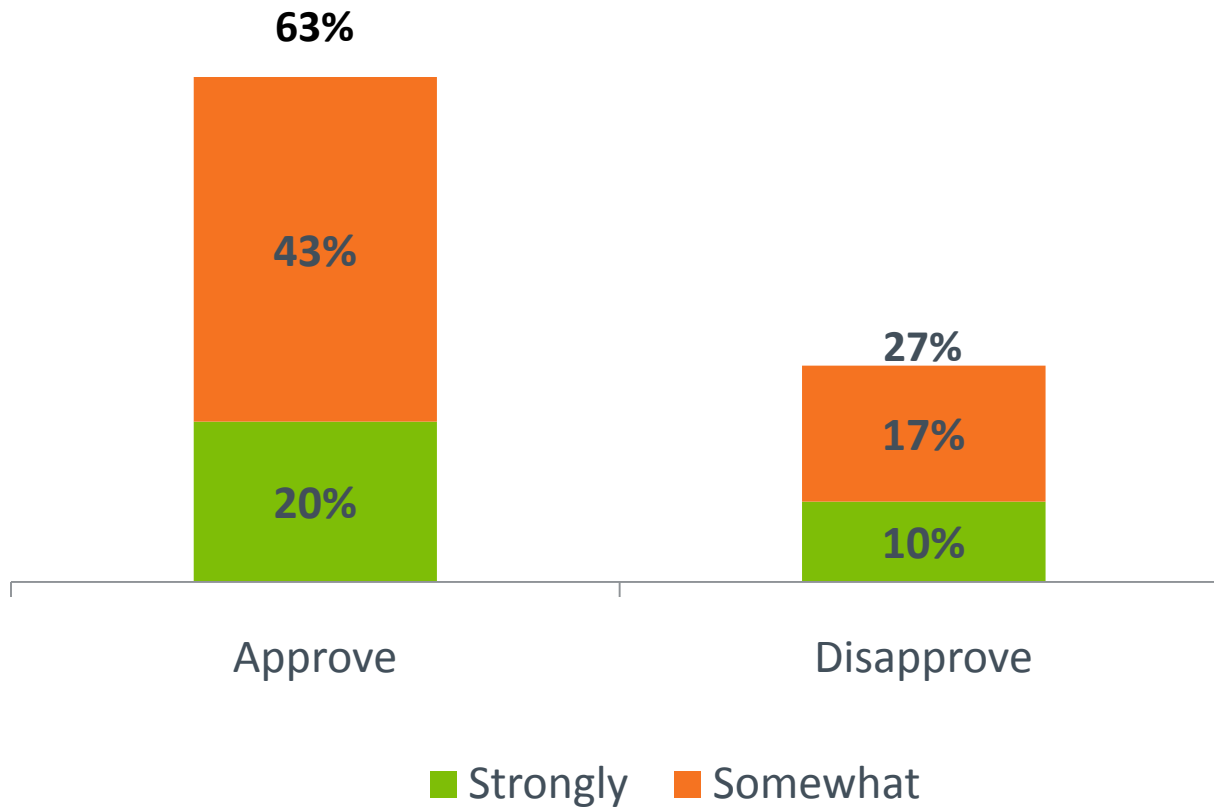
*I will read out some factors which may be affecting your decisions in local elections.
Please say which of these factors is the most important*



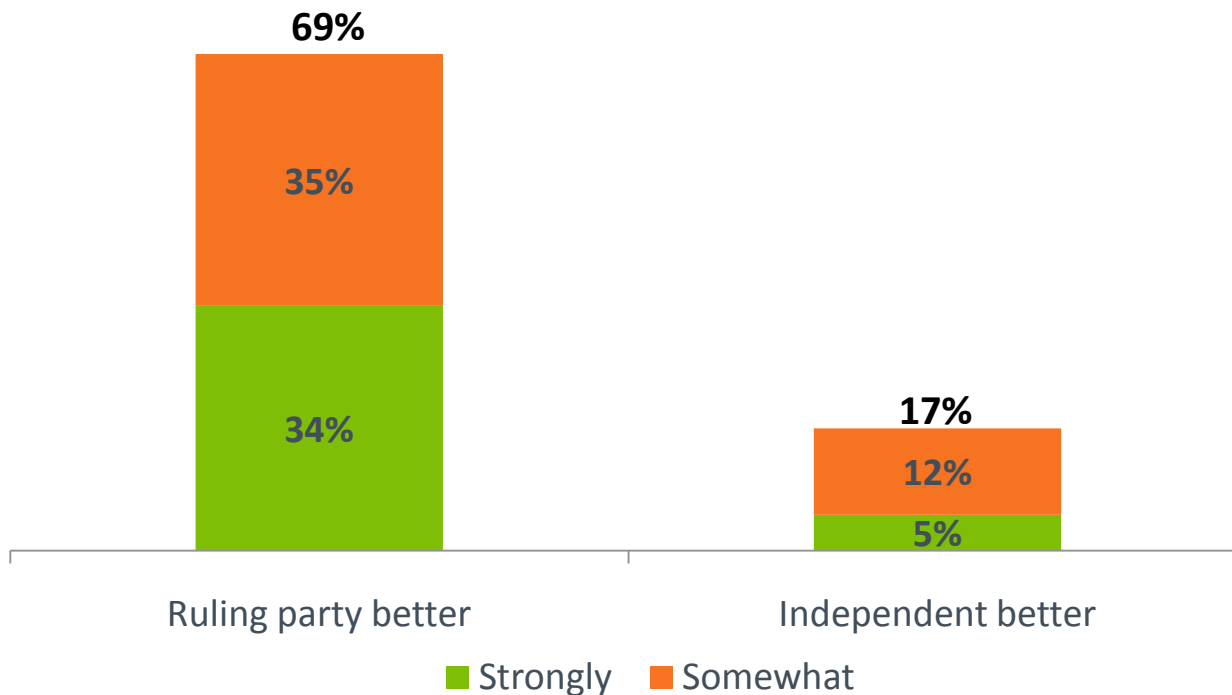
Do you approve or disapprove of the way your local mayor has been handling his or her job?



Do you approve or disapprove of the way your local municipal council has been handling its job?

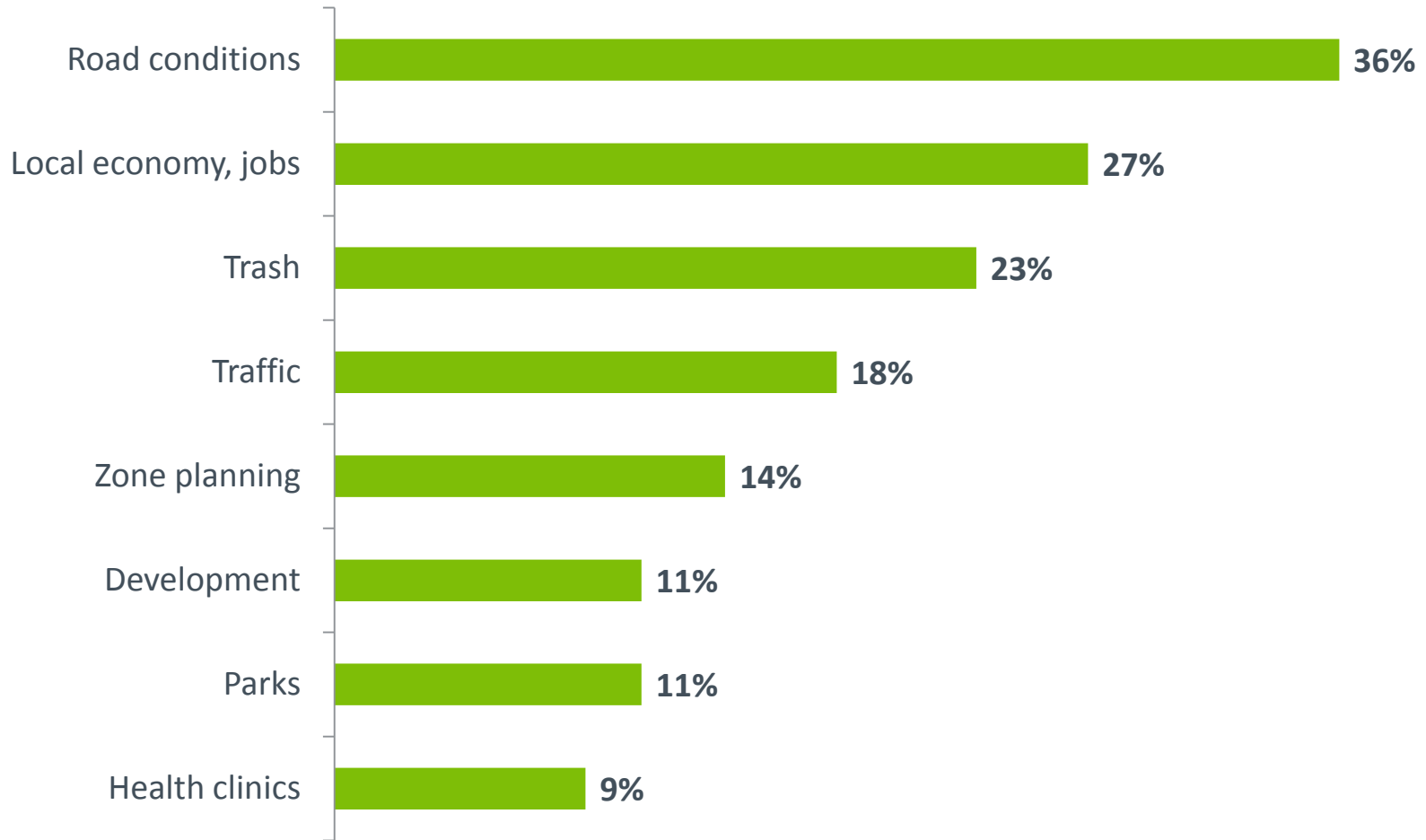


Some argue that if the mayor is from the ruling party, he/she can perform better with the support of the central government. Some say that if the mayor is not from the ruling party, they will be more independent. Which argument best describes your point of view?

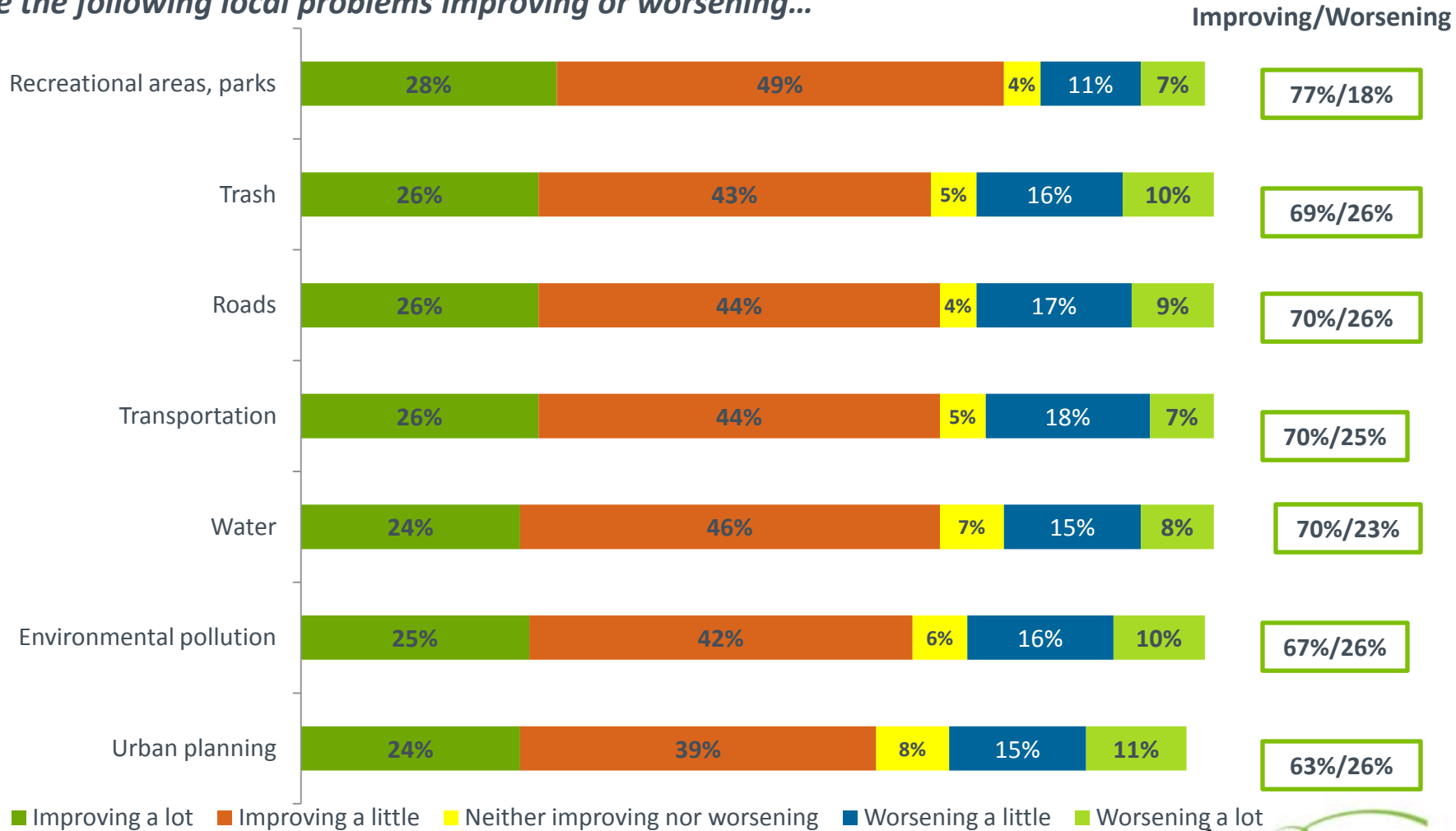


	Dec 10	Oct 10	May 10
<i>Ruling party better:</i>	69%	68%	63%
<i>Independent better:</i>	17%	15%	26%

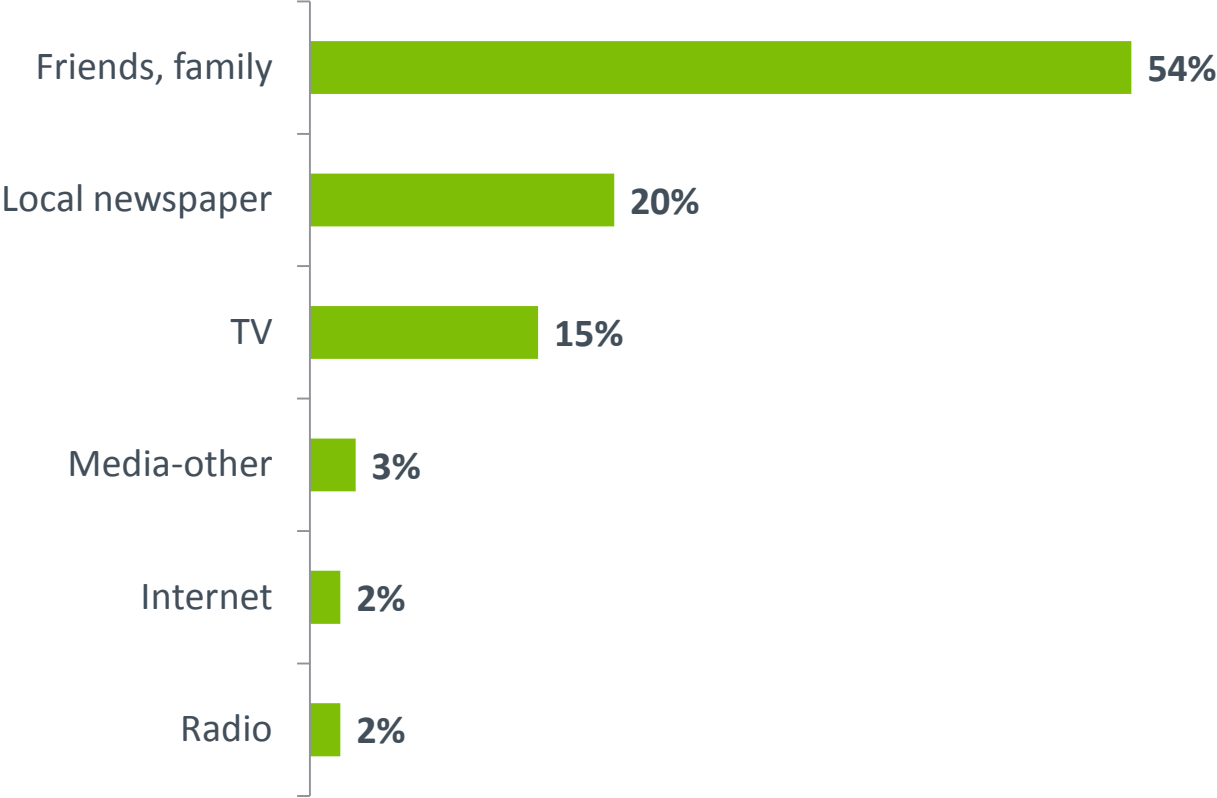
What is the most pressing issue for local government to address? (Top two answers)



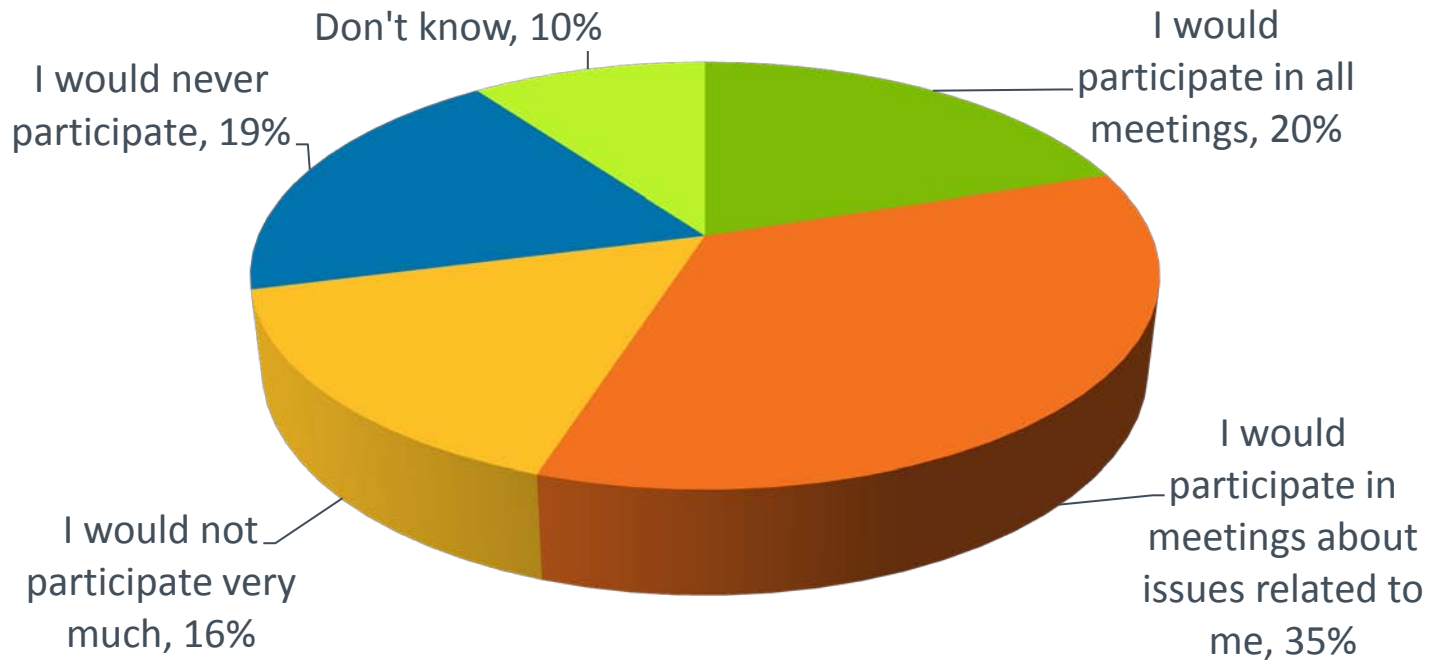
Are the following local problems improving or worsening...



Where do you receive information about what is happening in your municipality?

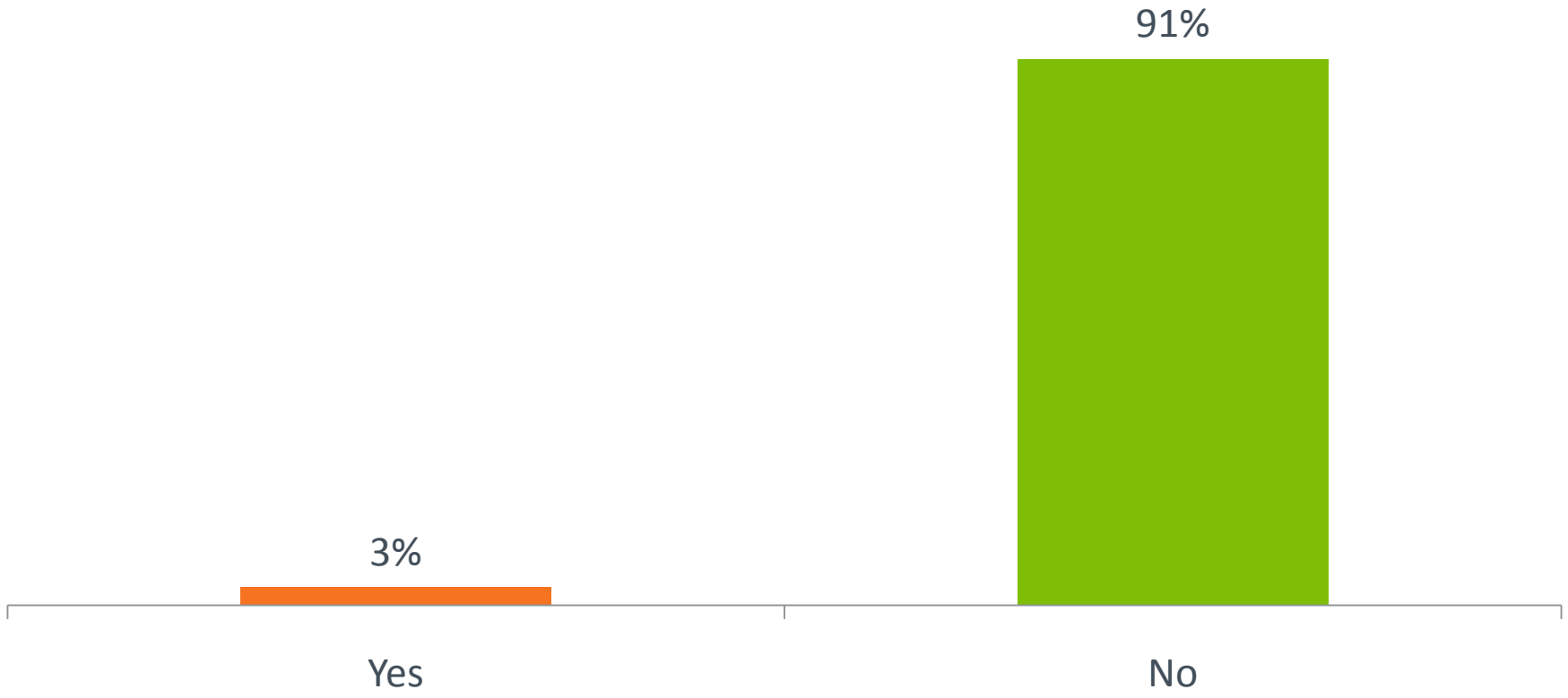


If there was a citizen council auditing the decisions and practices of your municipality, would you participate in its meetings?

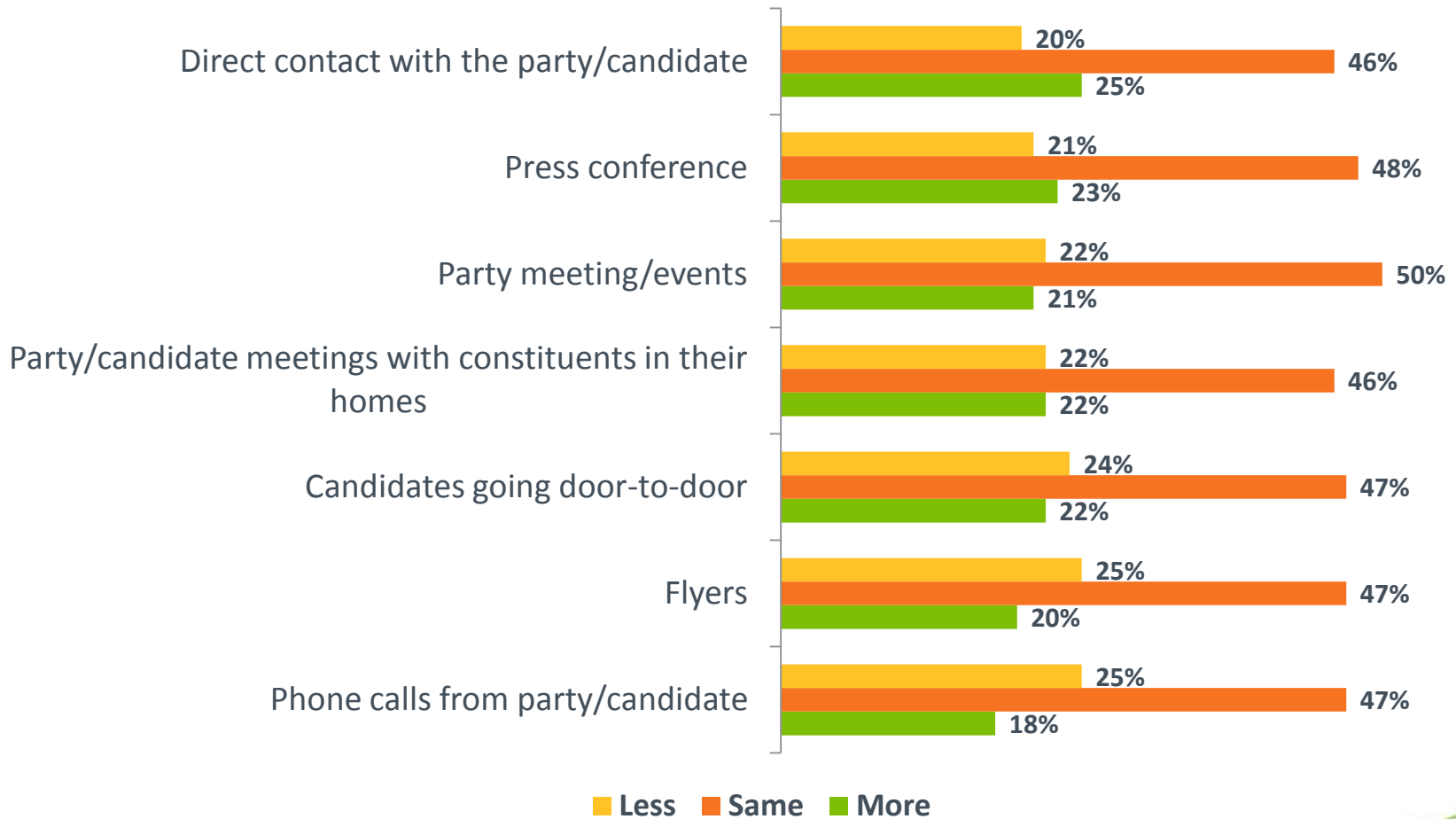


	Dec 10	Oct 10	May 10
<i>Would participate:</i>	<i>55%</i>	<i>67%</i>	<i>63%</i>
<i>Would not participate:</i>	<i>35%</i>	<i>23%</i>	<i>24%</i>

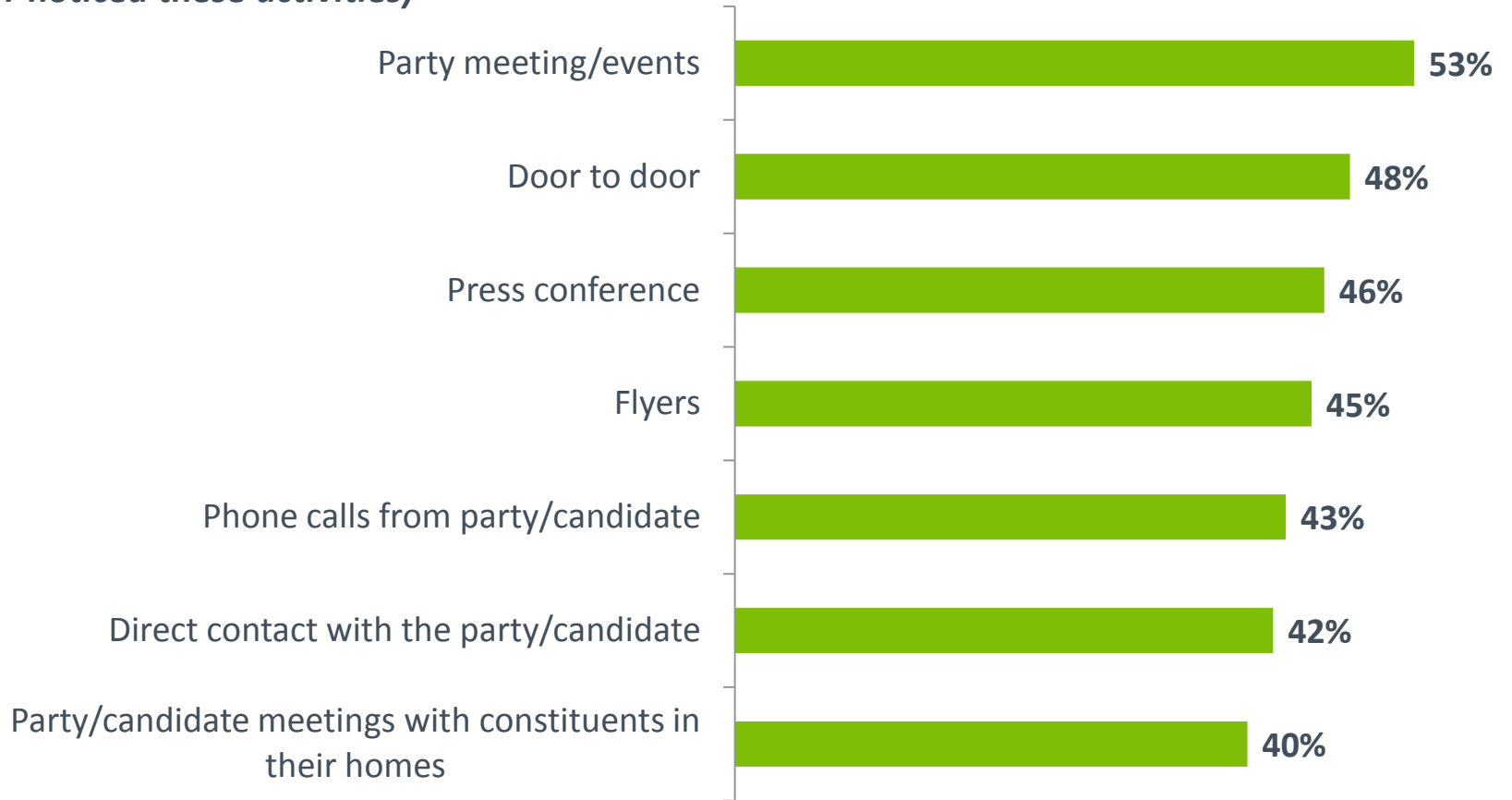
Have you ever donated money or other resources to a political party in your community?



Would you like to see...



Have you heard or noticed local political party activities...(percentage who heard or noticed these activities)

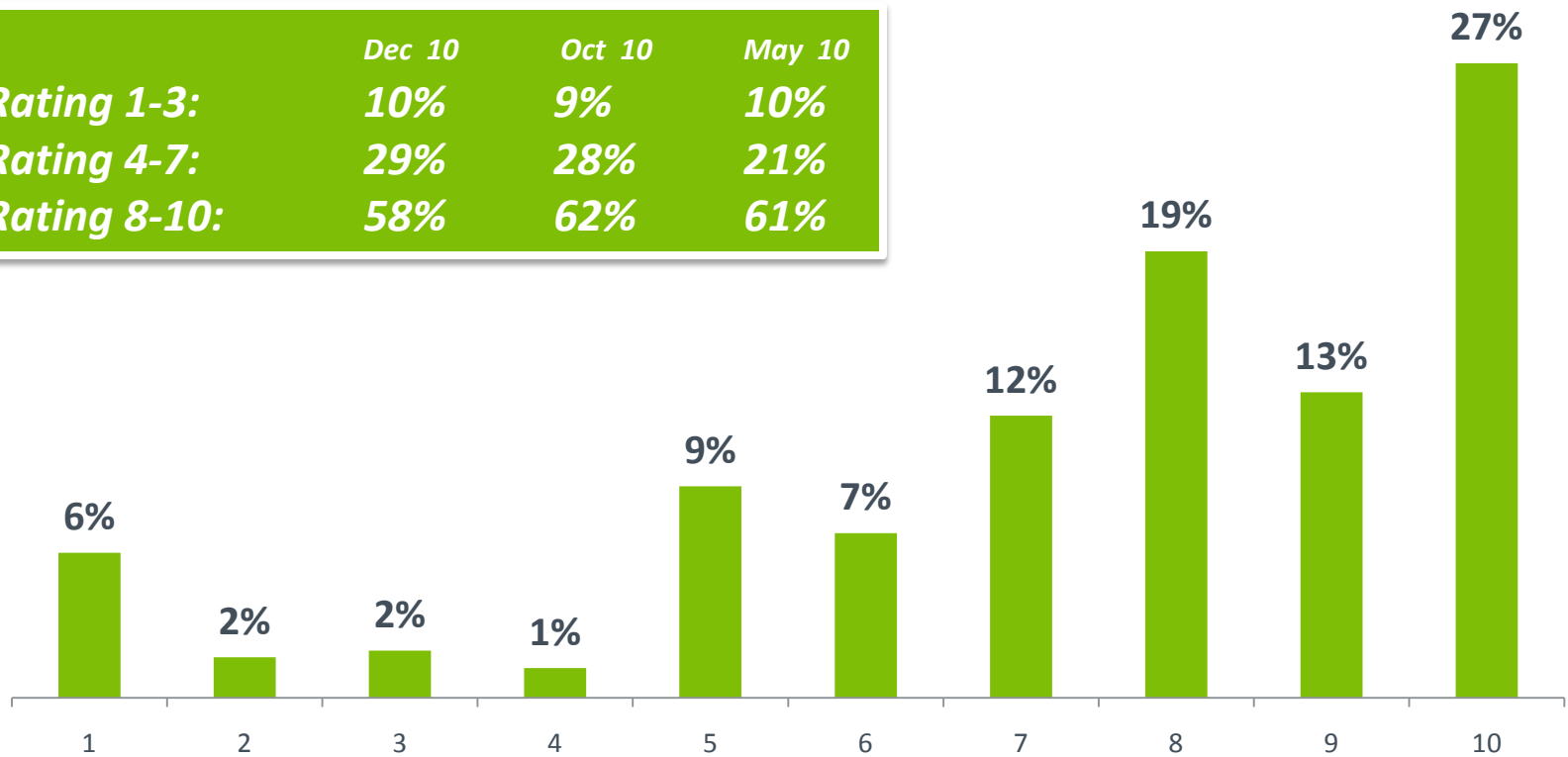




Turkish cultural attitudes

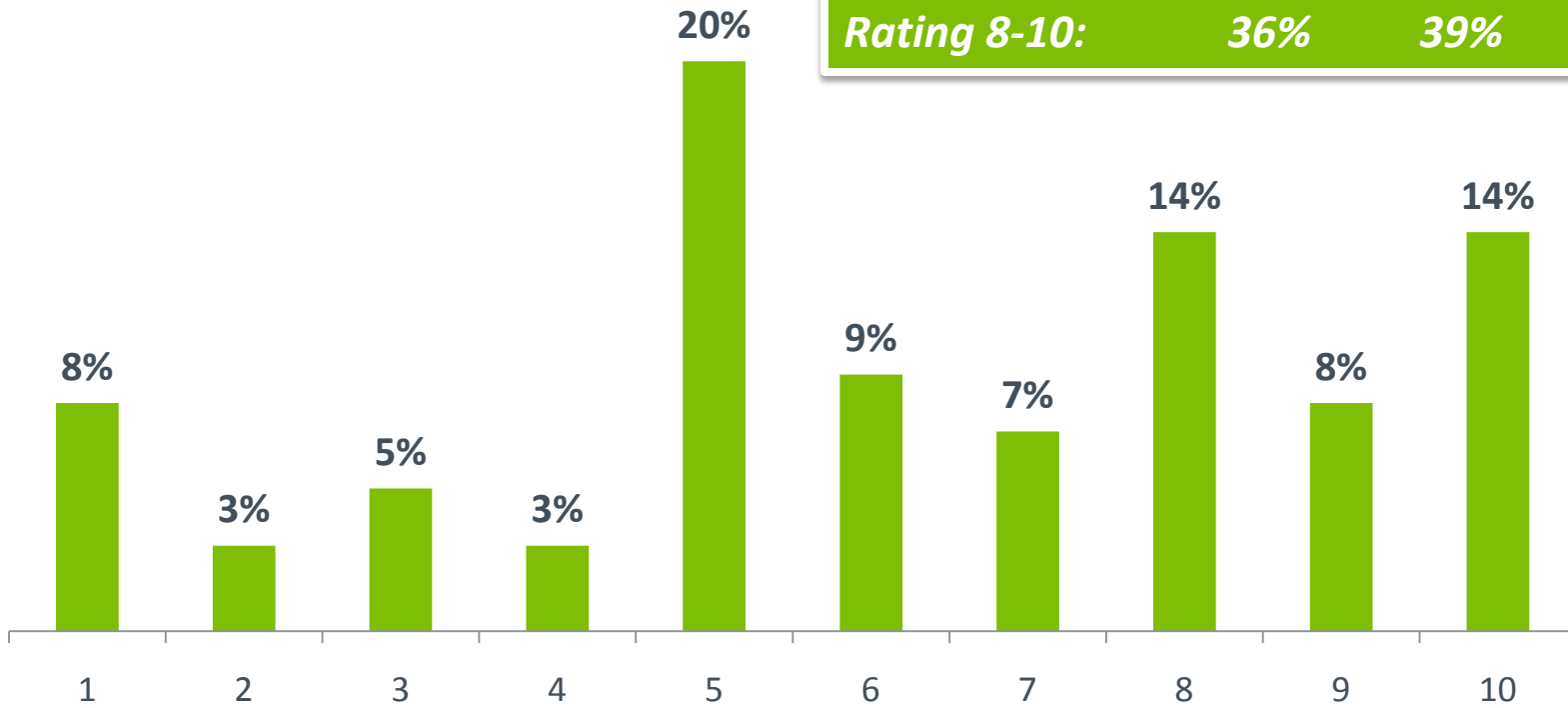
Generally speaking, how nationalistic do you feel? (With one being not nationalistic at all and 10 being entirely)

	<i>Dec 10</i>	<i>Oct 10</i>	<i>May 10</i>
Rating 1-3:	10%	9%	10%
Rating 4-7:	29%	28%	21%
Rating 8-10:	58%	62%	61%



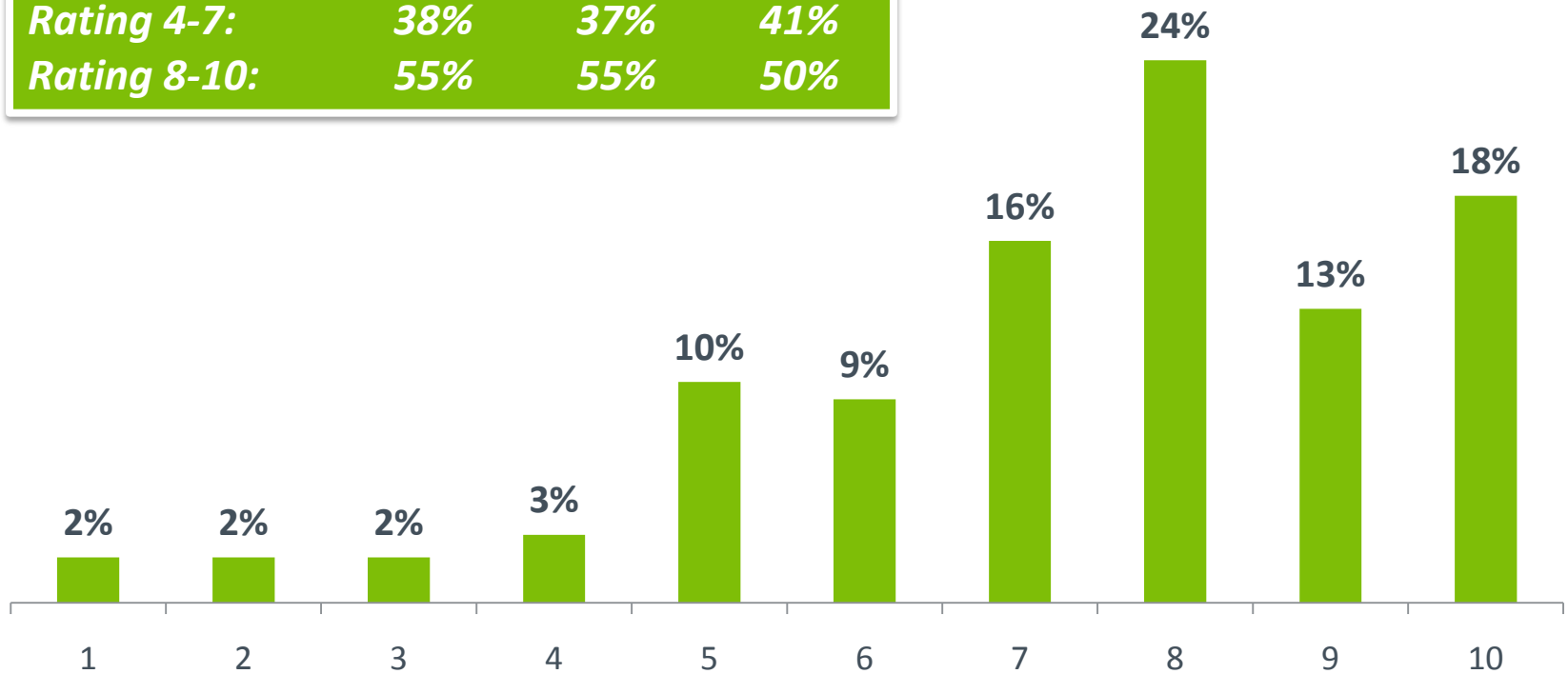
In political matters, people speak of the left and the right. How would you place your views on this scale? (With one being the far left and 10 being the far right)

	<i>Dec 10</i>	<i>Oct 10</i>	<i>May 10</i>
Rating 1-3:	16%	14%	18%
Rating 4-7:	39%	42%	34%
Rating 8-10:	36%	39%	42%

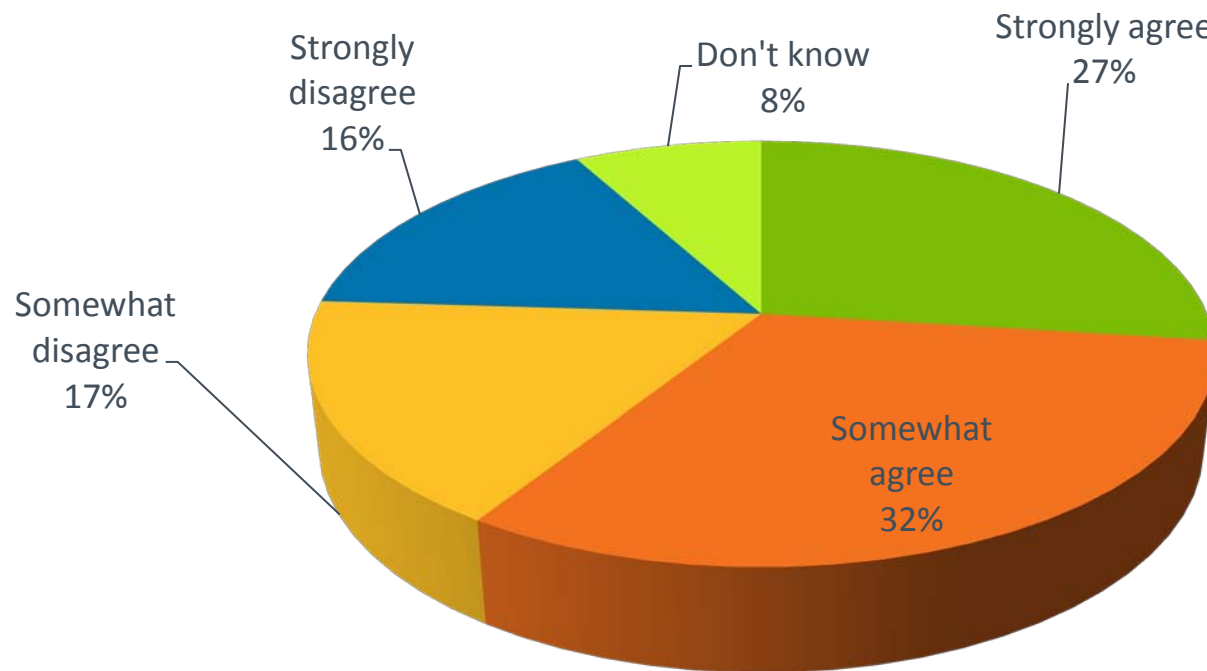


Generally speaking, how religious are you? (With one being not religious at all and 10 being totally religious)

	<i>Dec 10</i>	<i>Oct 10</i>	<i>May 10</i>
Rating 1-3:	6%	5%	5%
Rating 4-7:	38%	37%	41%
Rating 8-10:	55%	55%	50%

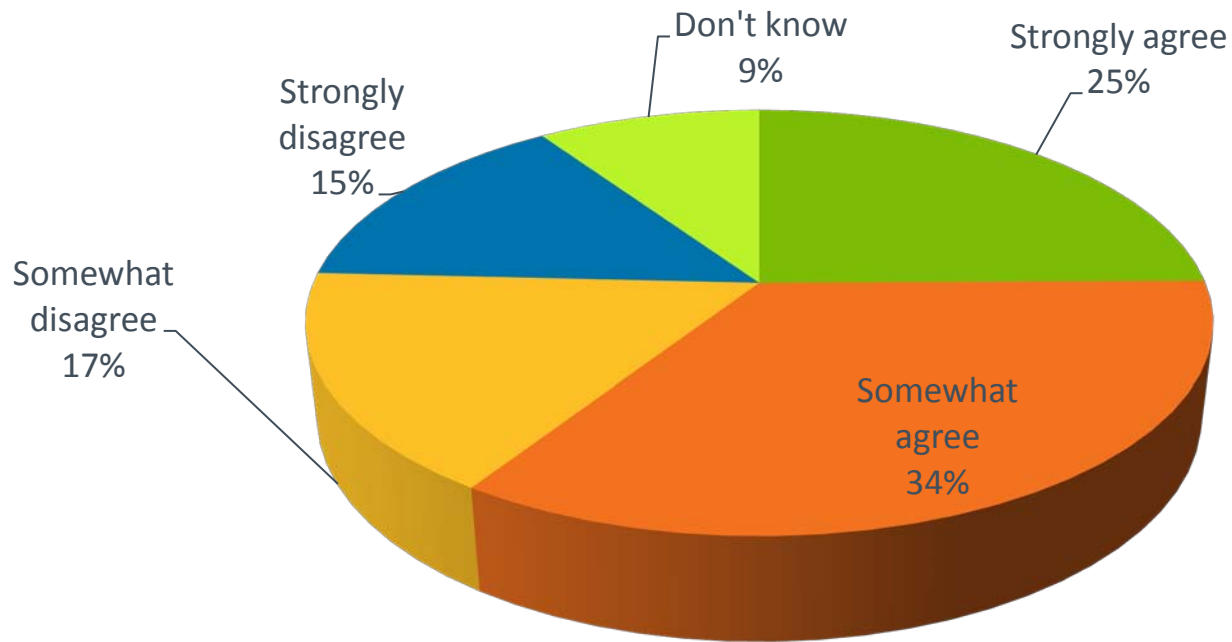


Compared to 10 years ago, do you believe that Turkey has become a more democratic country?



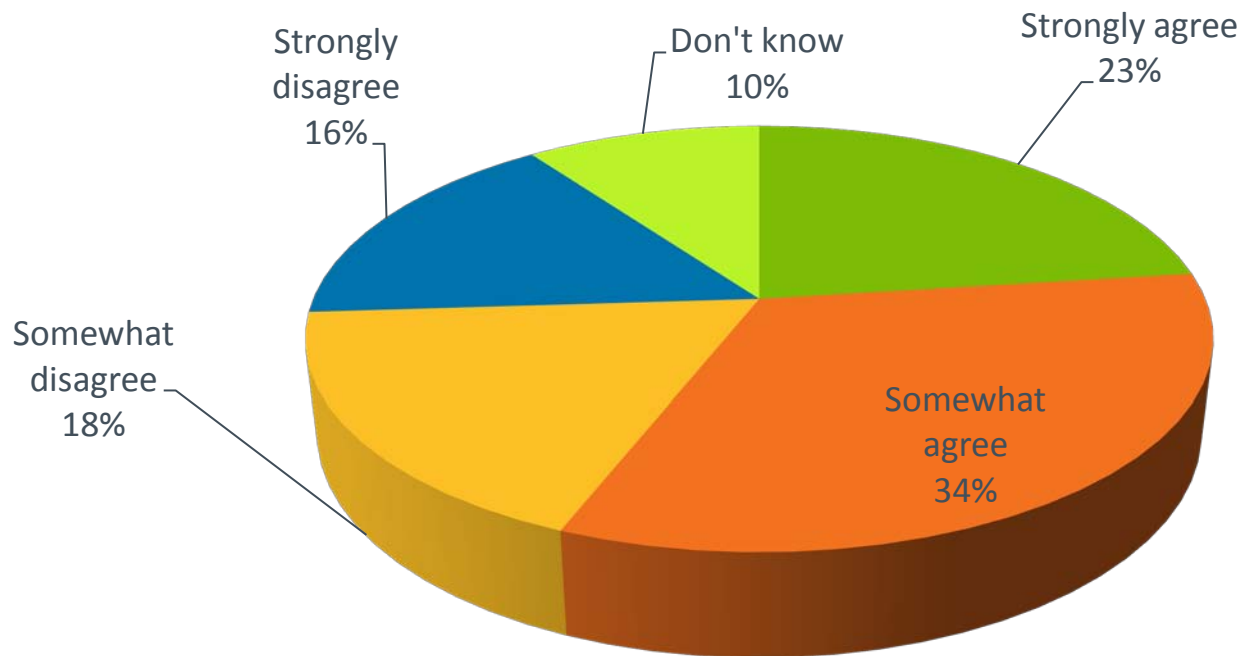
	<i>Dec 10</i>	<i>Oct 10</i>
Agree:	59%	59%
Disagree:	33%	35%

Considering the political and economic situation of the country 10 years ago, do you believe that Turkey has become a more stable country?



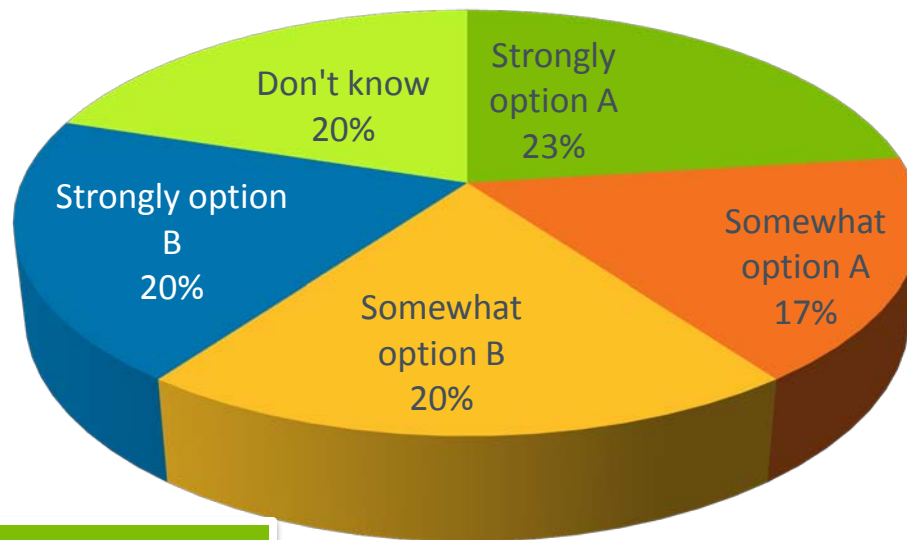
	Dec 10	Oct 10	May 10
Agree:	59%	60%	54%
Disagree:	32%	32%	38%

If you compare the situation of the country with 10 years ago, do you believe Turkey has become a more secular country?



	Dec 10	Oct 10	May 10
Agree:	57%	57%	54%
Disagree:	34%	36%	35%

Some say that the AKP government and its leaders want to limit democratic opposition in the country through authoritarian means (A), while some others believe that the government has no such agenda (B). Which of these arguments is closer to your own?

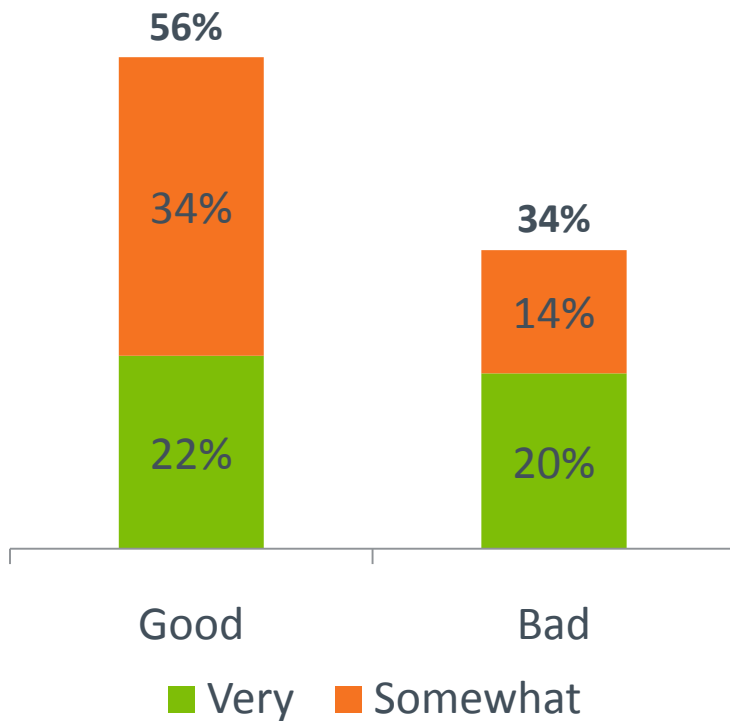


Limit opposition (A): 40%
No agenda to limit (B): 40%



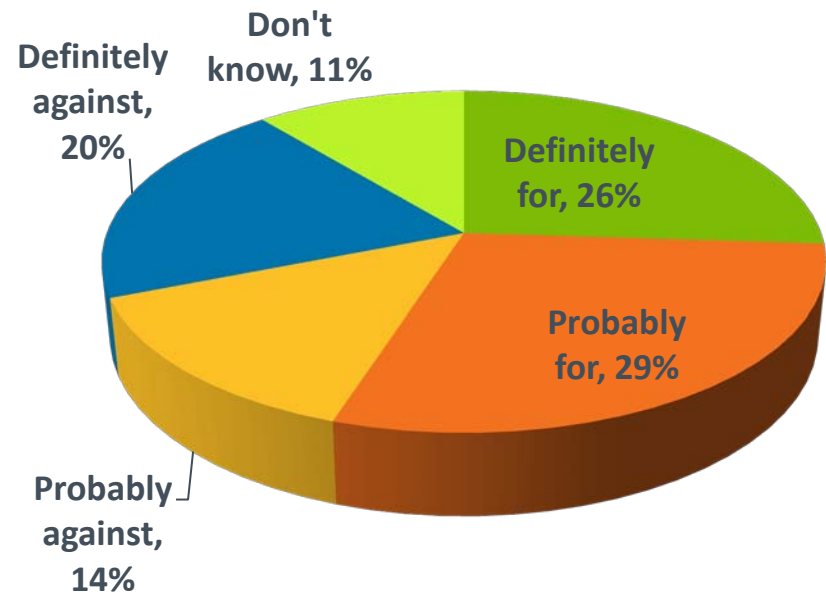
International relations

Generally speaking, do you think that Turkey's membership in the European Union is a good thing or a bad thing?



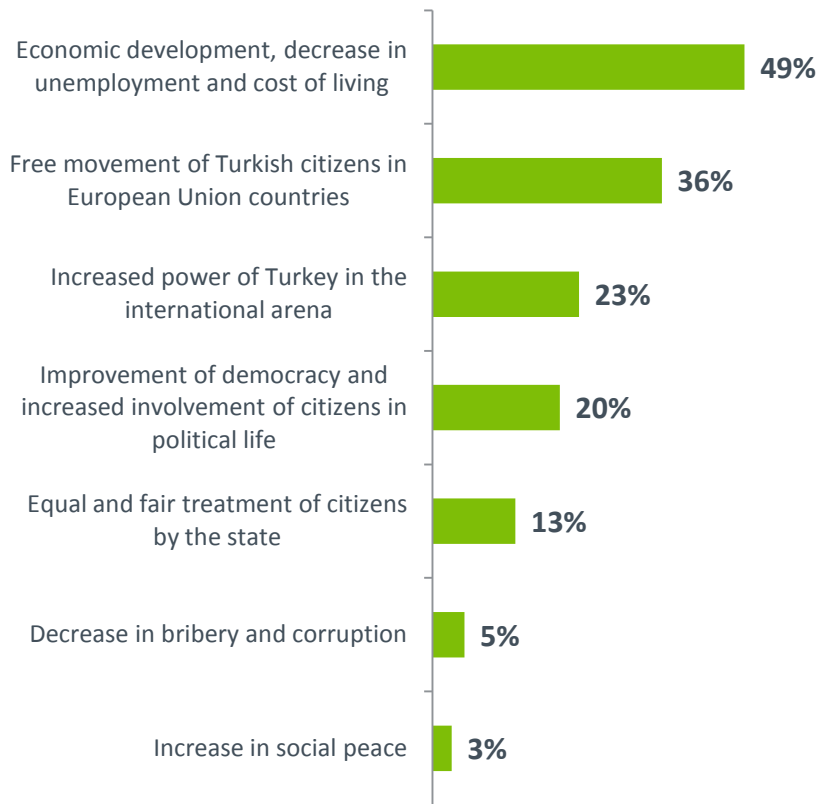
	Dec 10	Oct 10
EU membership good:	56%	65%
EU membership bad:	34%	27%

If a referendum were held this Sunday for Turkey's full membership in the European Union, would you vote for or against it?

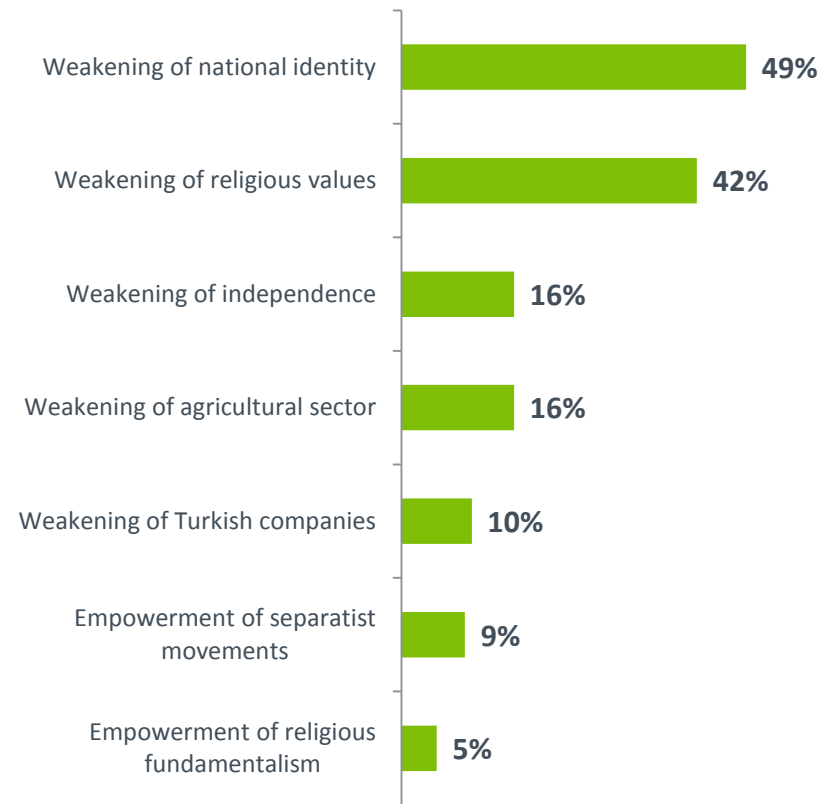


	Dec 10	Oct 10	May 10
Total for EU membership:	55%	63%	51%
Total against EU membership:	34%	25%	28%

What is the most important benefit of European Union membership? (Top two responses)



What are the most important disadvantages of European Union membership? (Top two responses)

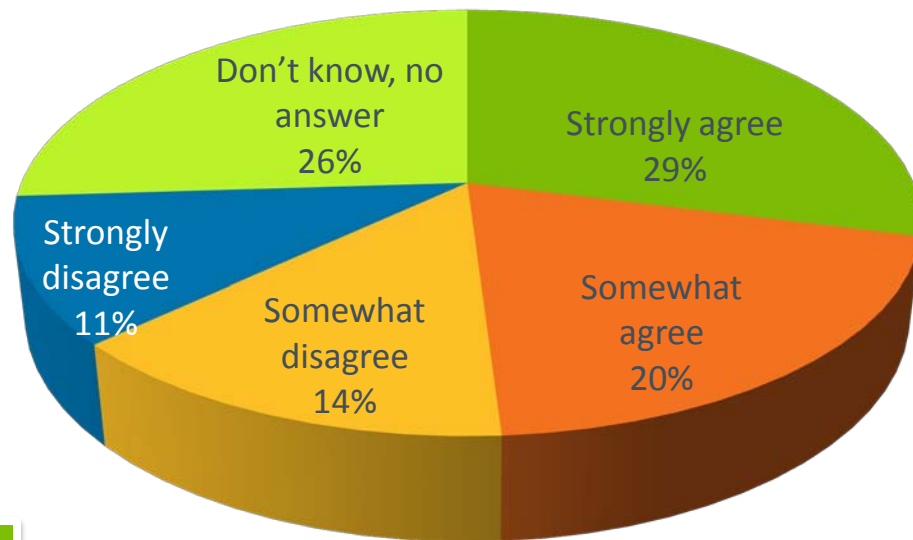


Do you think Turkey's membership in NATO is a good thing or a bad thing?



Dec 10
Good thing 52%
Bad thing 24%

Do you agree or disagree with the government's decision to embargo Southern Cyprus?



	<i>Dec 10</i>
Agree:	49%
Disagree:	25%



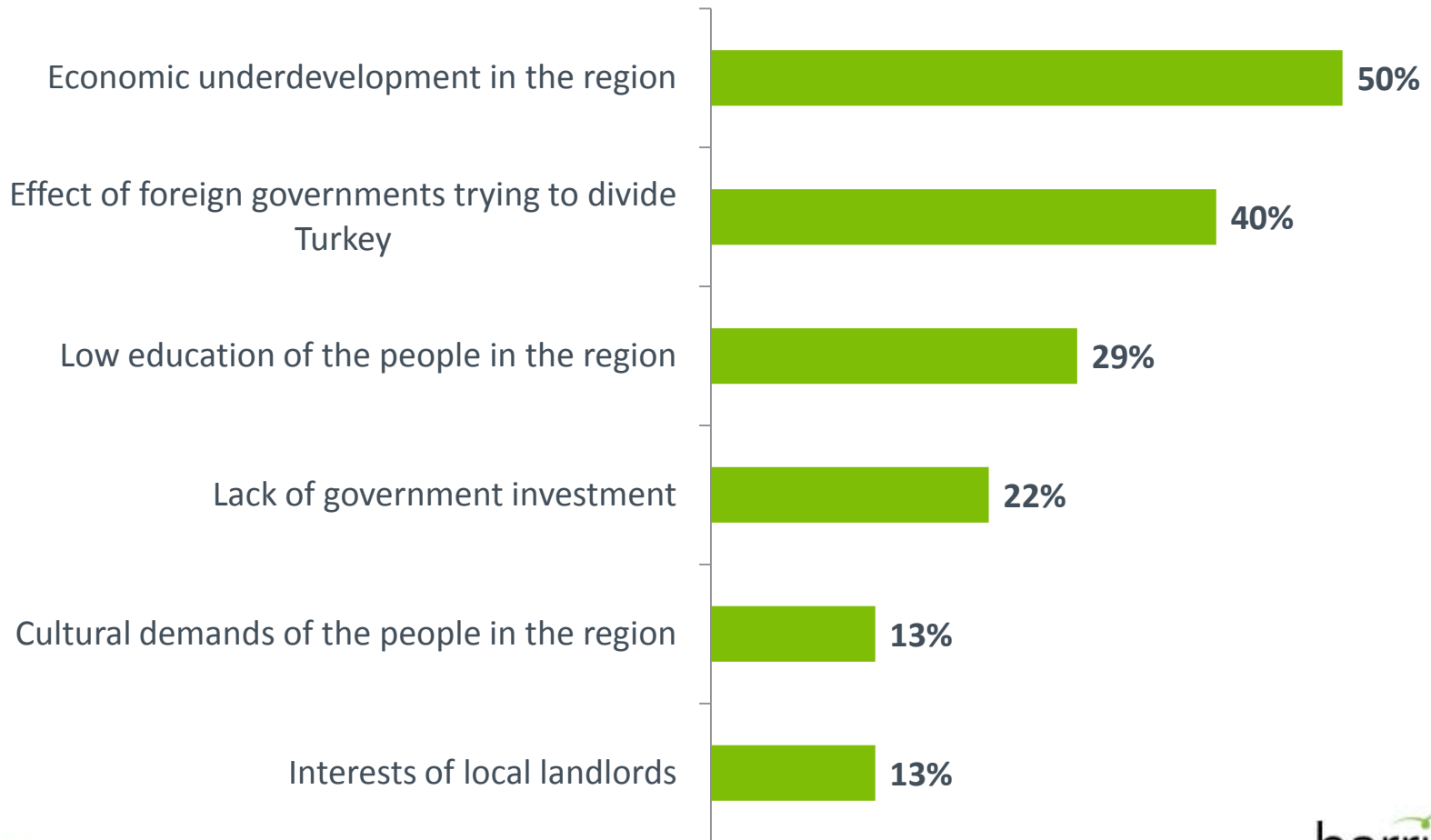
Southeastern issue

Some argue that it's possible to negotiate with Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) leader Abdullah Ocalan. Which of the following is closest to your opinion?

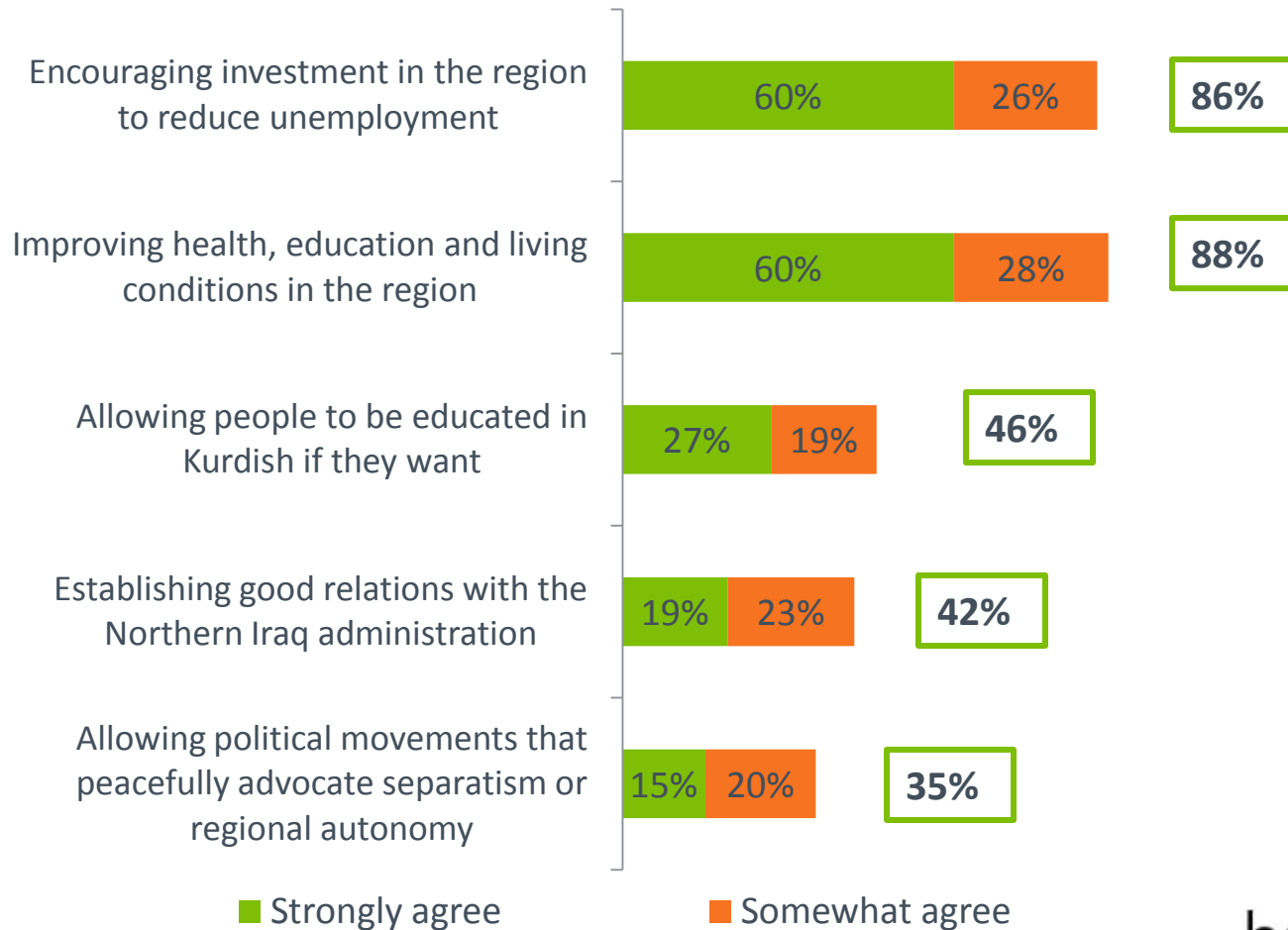


	Dec 10	Oct 10
Negotiate:	26%	24%
Do not negotiate:	66%	63%

Which of the following reasons is the most important cause of the problems in the Southeastern region? (Top two responses)



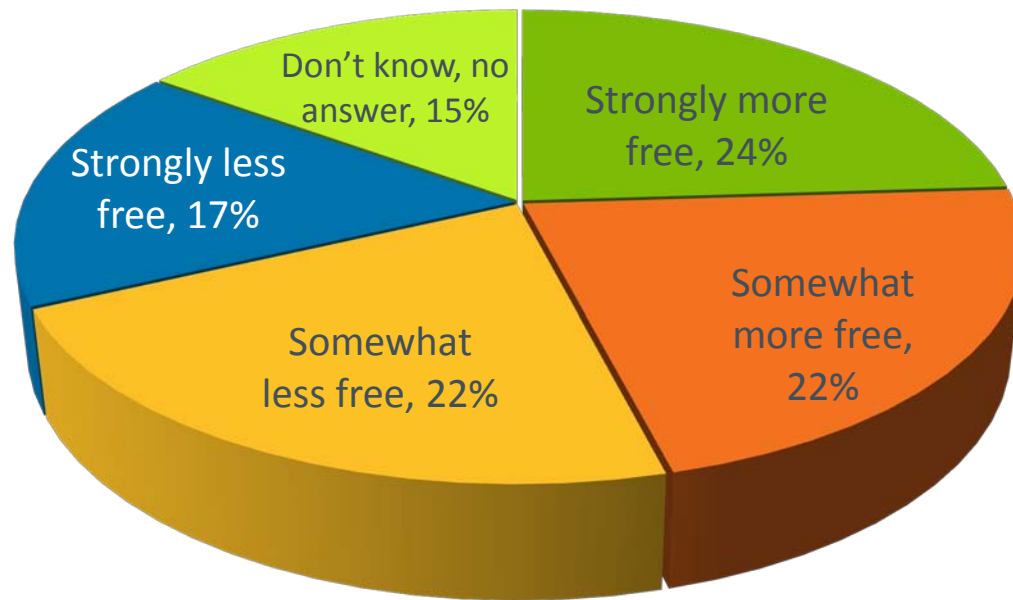
Now, I will read some political actions to solve the Southeastern problem. Do you agree or disagree whether each of these actions will contribute to stopping terrorism in the region?





Media freedom

Some advocate that under AKP, media institutions such as press and television became freer while some others believe that these institutions are no longer as free as they were. Which is closest to your opinion?



Do you think the AKP government believes in the freedom of media institutions to criticize its actions or does it believe that the freedom of these institutions should be restricted?

