



Survey of Macedonian Public Opinion

August 29 - September 5, 2014

Detailed Methodology

- The survey was conducted on behalf of the [International Republican Institute](#), by the [Brima](#) market research firm (member of Taylor Nelson Sofres and Gallup International) under the supervision of David Williams from [Williams and Associates](#) in Salem, Massachusetts.
- Data was collected from August 29-September 5, 2014, using in-person, face-to-face methodology by trained professional interviewers.
- A total of 1,104 interviews was completed yielding an overall margin of error of plus or minus three percent at the midrange of the 95-percent confidence level. A nationally representative sample was based on a multistage stratification proportionate to population sample distribution, with a random selection of households and respondents.
- The sample was prepared using the State Statistical Office data (2002 census results) for the population aged 18 and older, considering the structure of the population according to age, gender, education, type of settlement, national affiliation and region and updated according to estimates and primary information, collected by Brima.
- Stratification was based on three stages: first, the number of respondents for each of the regions was specified in proportion to the size of the population aged 18 and older that live in it. Second, the sampling plan consisted of 164 sampling points located according to: urban/rural split, municipality size and nationality diffusion. Third, the selection of households was based on random route method, whereby in urban areas, every third household on the left-hand side of the street was selected. In rural areas, the wave-wise approach is applied and the selected household is every fourth inhabited house/dwelling on both sides of the interviewer's route/track, counting from the first house on the left.
- The next birthday method was used to select respondents 18 years and older.
- Figures in charts and tables may not add to 100 percent due to rounding error.
- This poll was conducted with support from the [United States Agency for International Development](#).

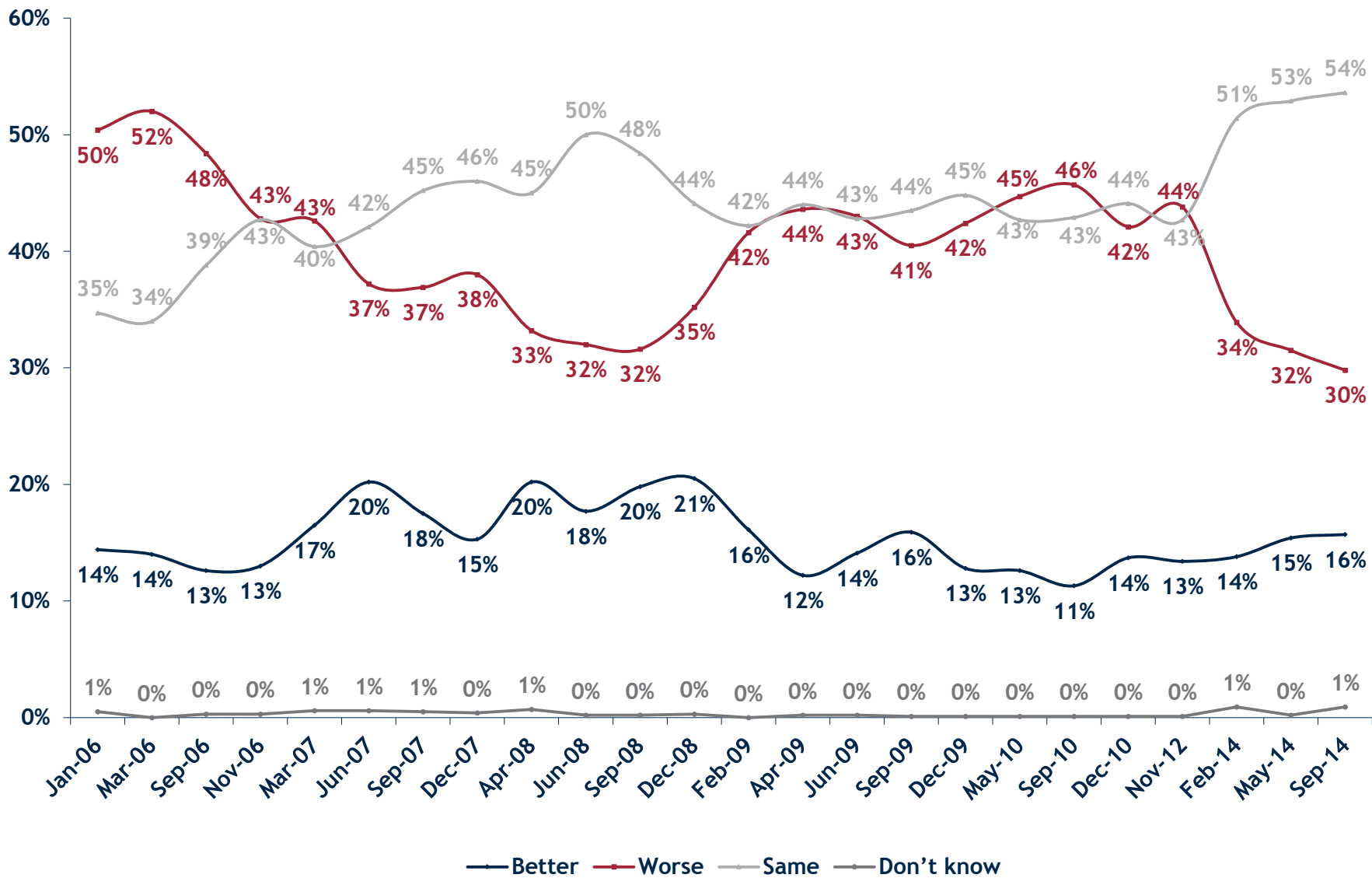


Macedonians Want Improvements to Standard of Living

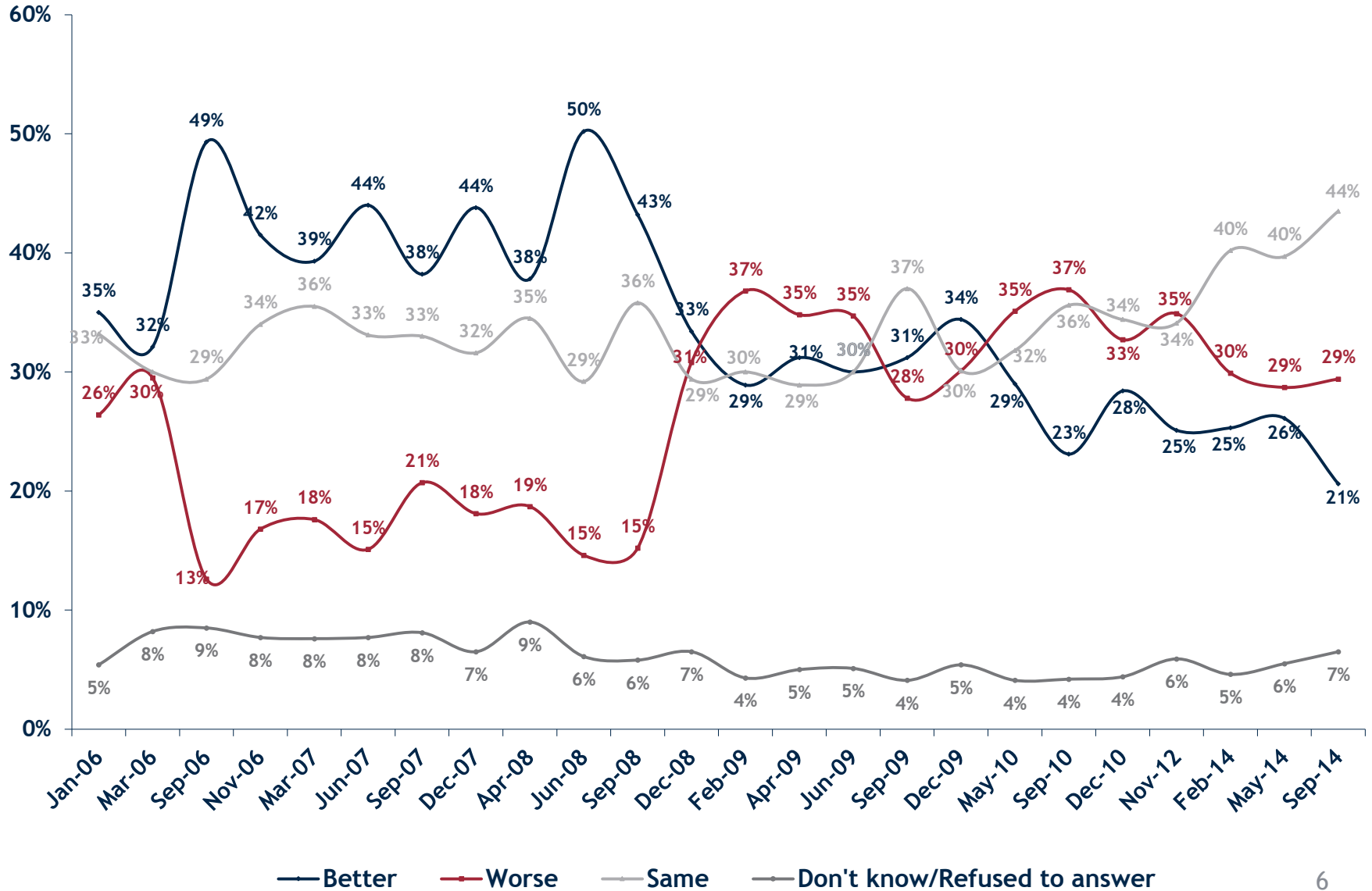
In your opinion what is the most serious problem facing Macedonia today?

	Sep-09	Dec-09	May-10	Sep-10	Dec-10	Nov-12	Feb-14	May-14	Sep-14
Unemployment	46%	41%	42%	40%	37%	42%	43%	45%	44%
Name of the country	6%	12%	11%	8%	8%	4%	6%	7%	6%
Low standard of living/Poverty	13%	11%	10%	14%	16%	13%	11%	13%	15%
Economic problems	15%	17%	20%	17%	18%	17%	12%	8%	6%
Entrance into NATO/EU	—	—	1%	1%	1%	—	1%	—	3%
Interethnic relations	1%	1%	2%	1%	—	1%	2%	4%	3%
Corruption	2%	2%	2%	3%	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%
General political situation	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%	3%	2%	2%
Social Problems	4%	3%	2%	2%	2%	3%	5%	2%	1%
High Prices/High taxes	—	—	1%	2%	1%	4%	3%	2%	3%
Low/Non-payment of salary or pension	4%	4%	2%	4%	4%	4%	4%	5%	4%

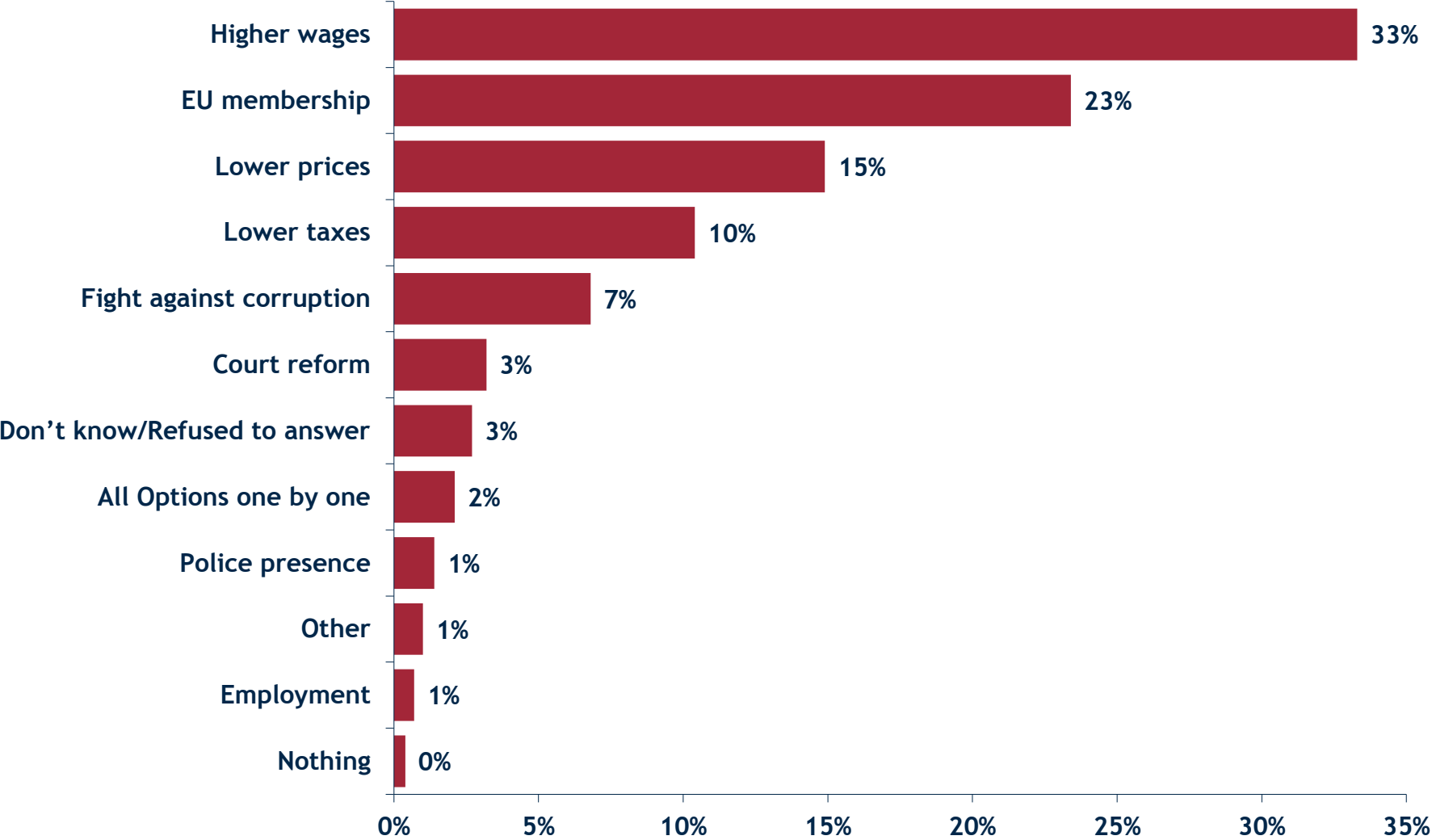
How is your and your family's economic situation, compared with one year ago?



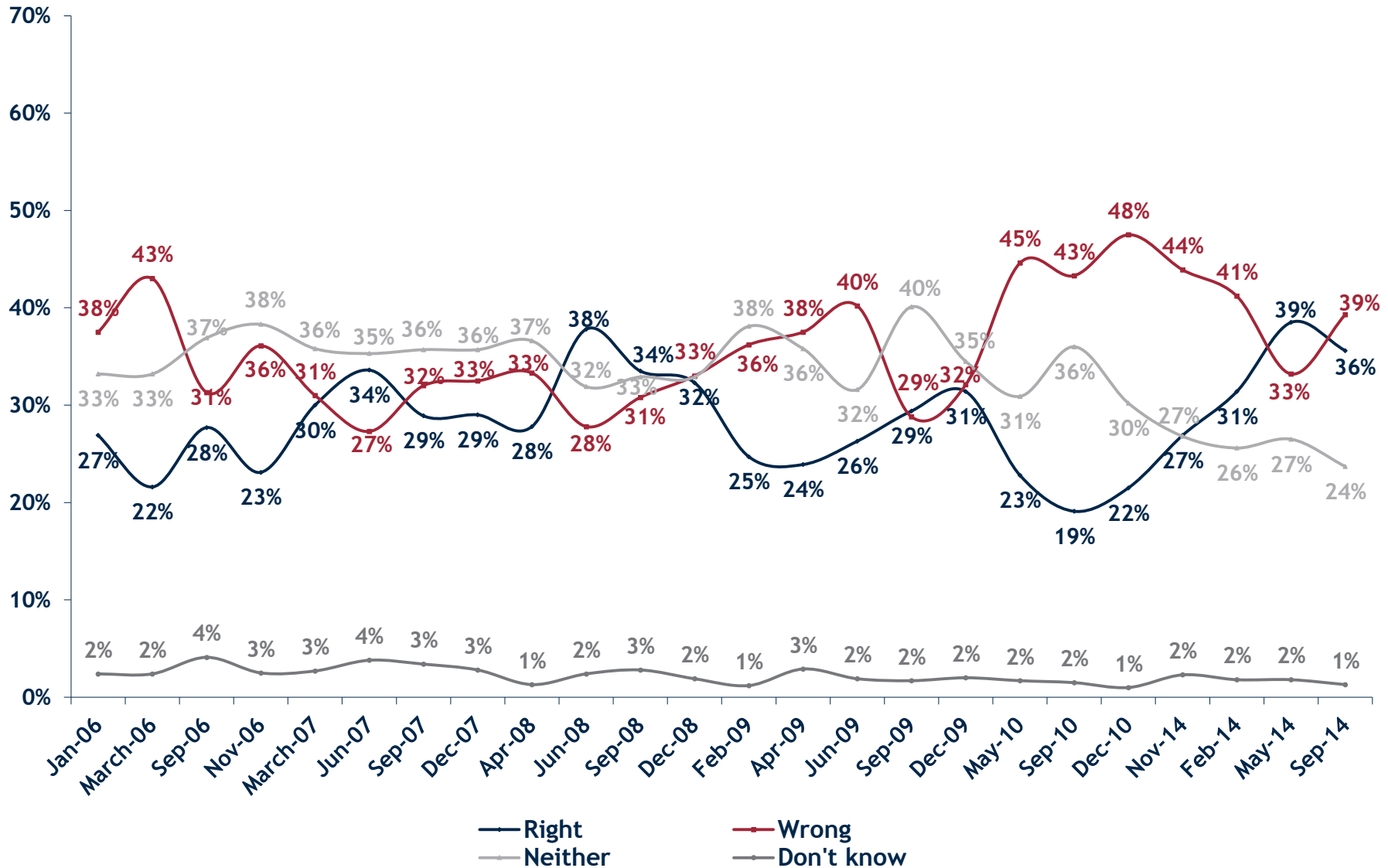
In the next two years, will the Macedonian economy get better, get worse or stay the same?



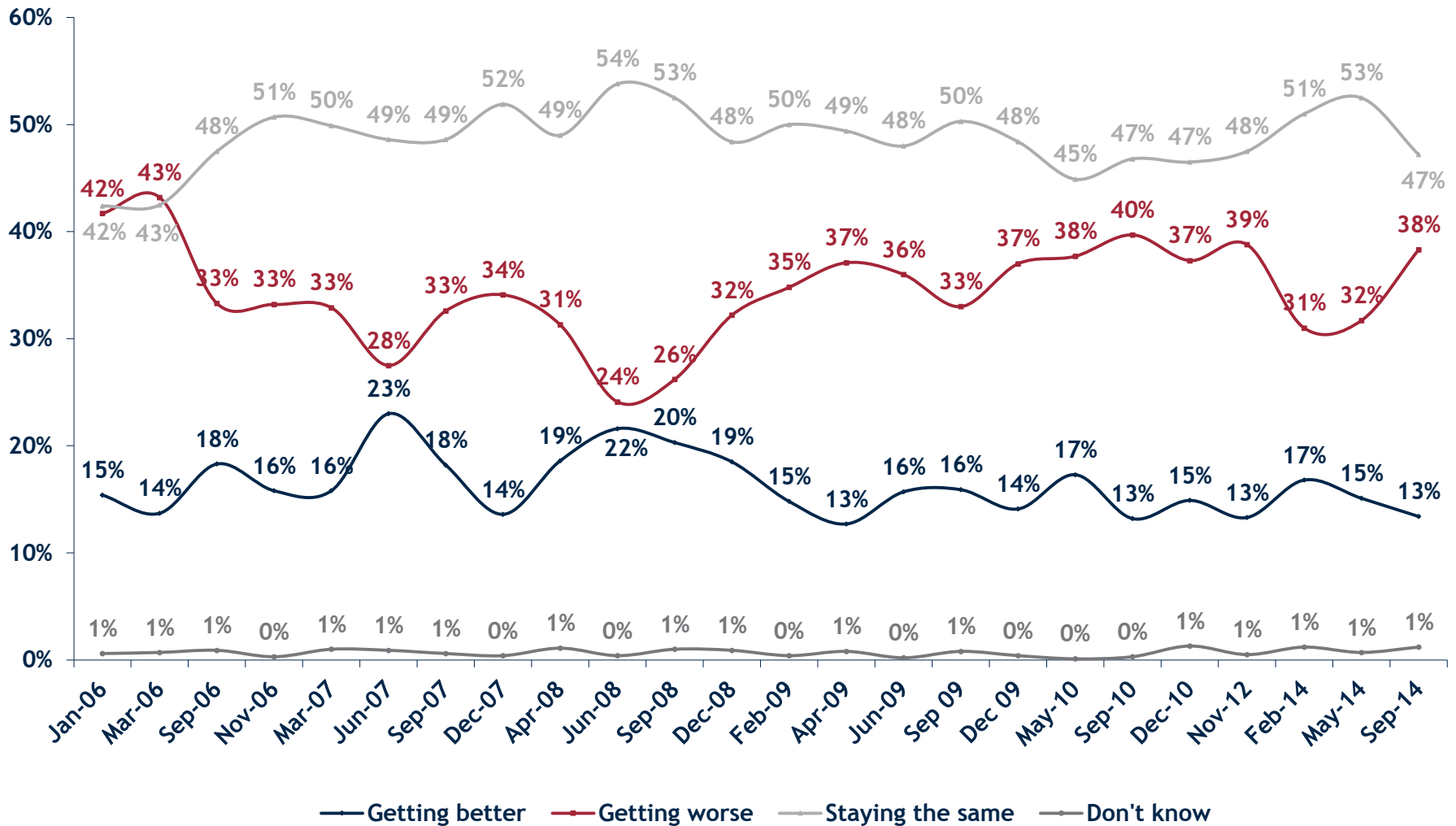
Which one of these issues would directly make your life better?



Overall, is Macedonia moving in the right or wrong direction?

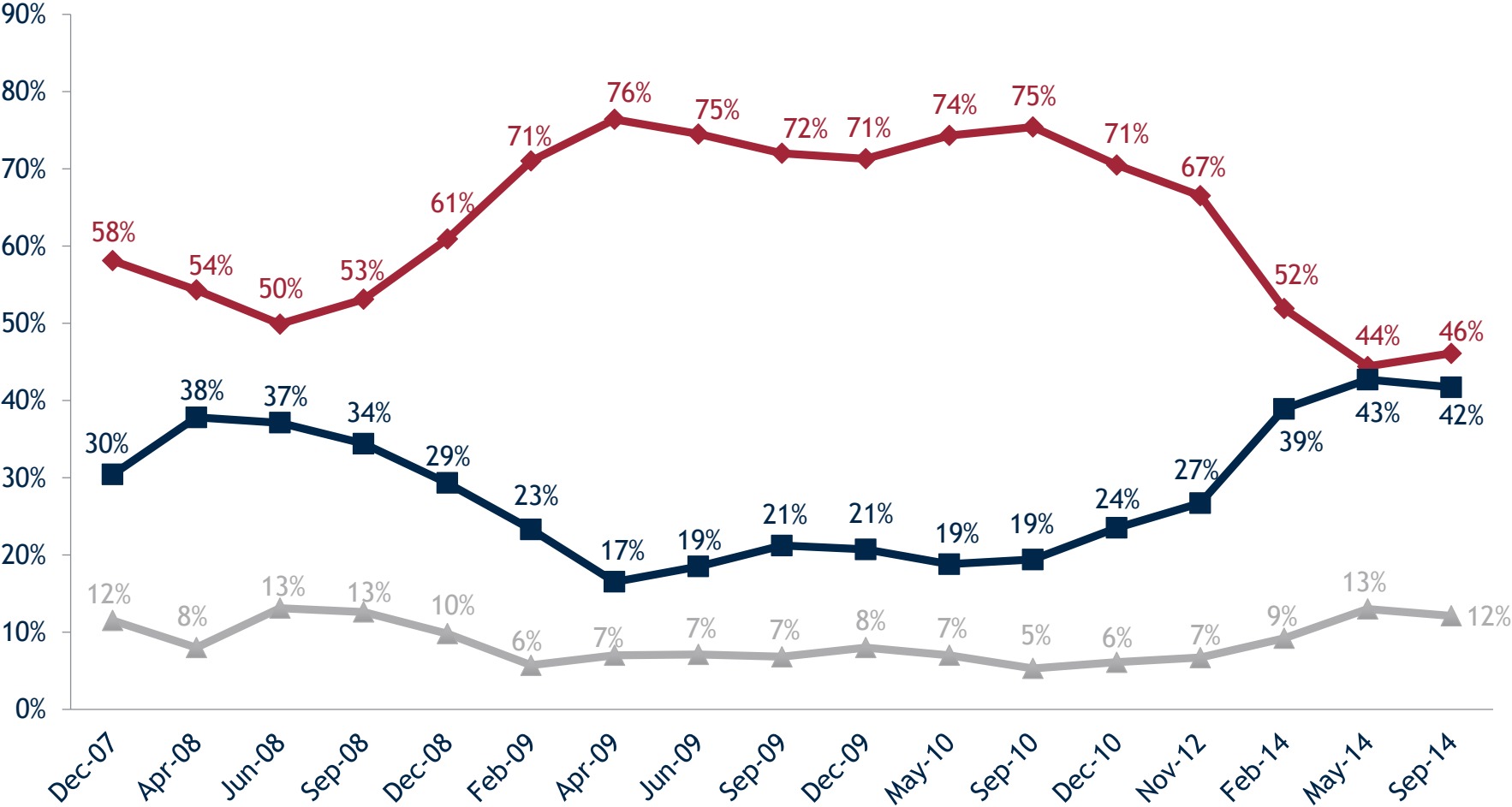


Speaking of you personally, is your overall quality of life:

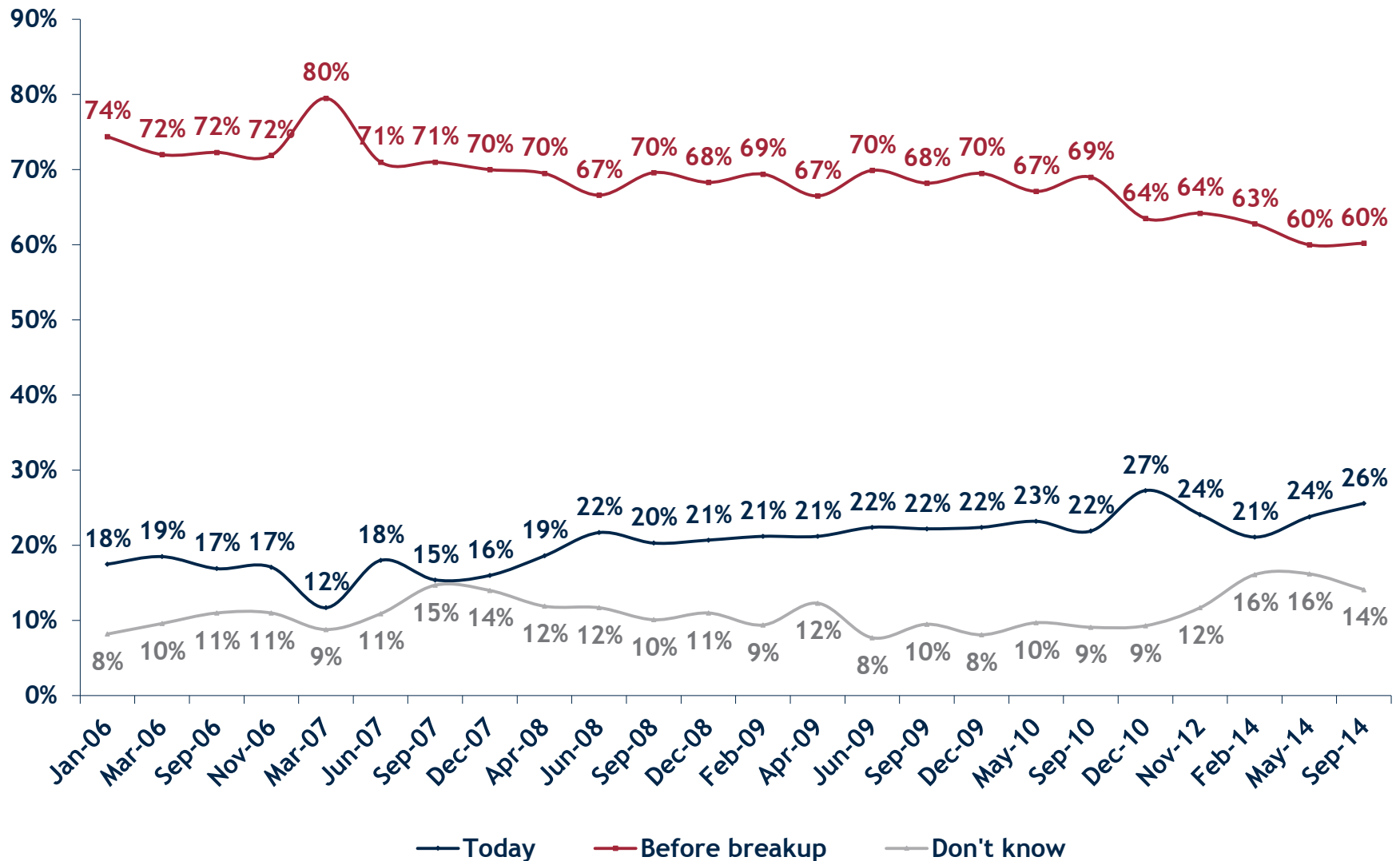


Has unemployment increased or decreased over the last year?

◆ Increased
 ■ Decreased
 ▲ Don't know/No answer



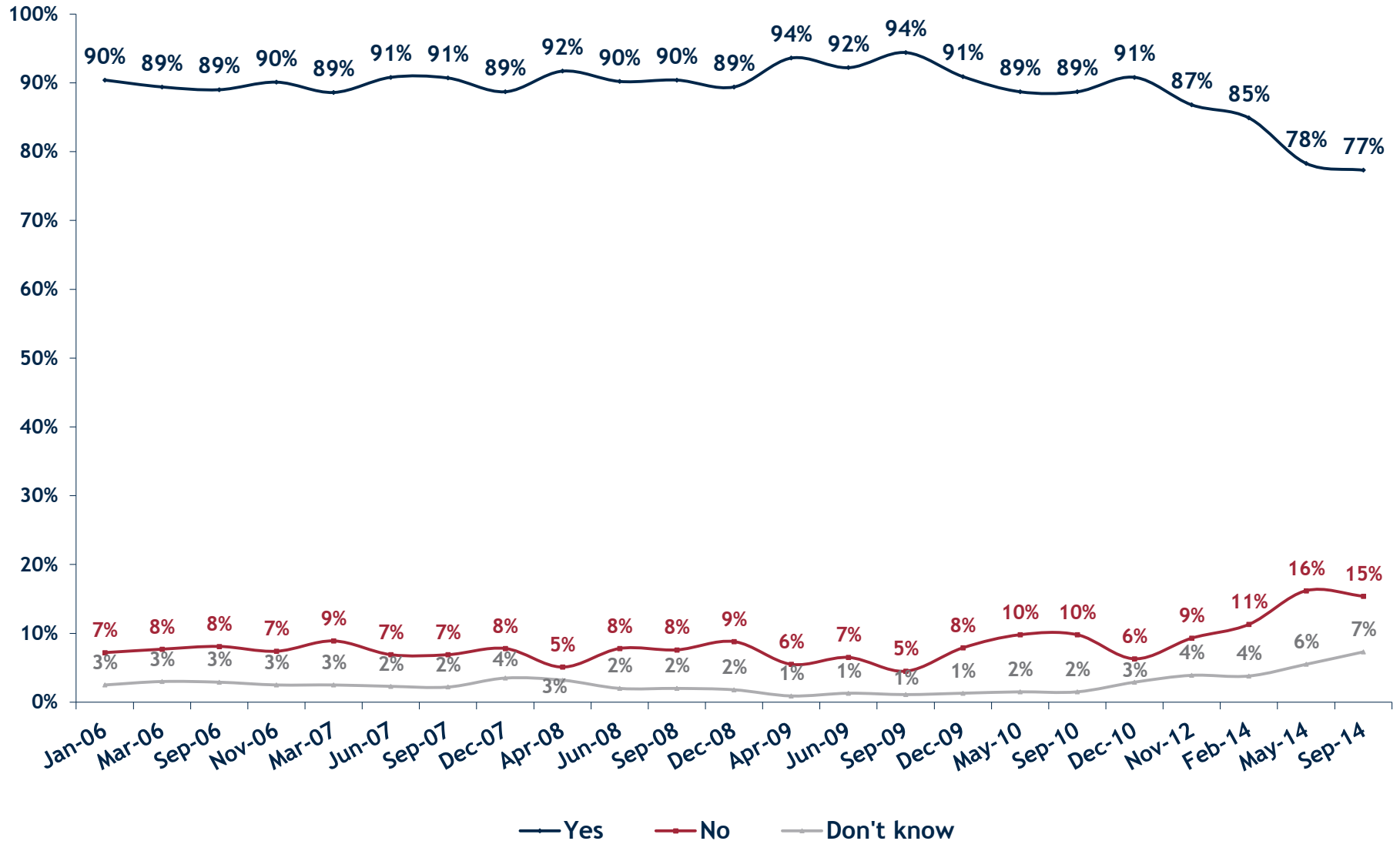
When was life better for you, today or before the breakup of Yugoslavia?



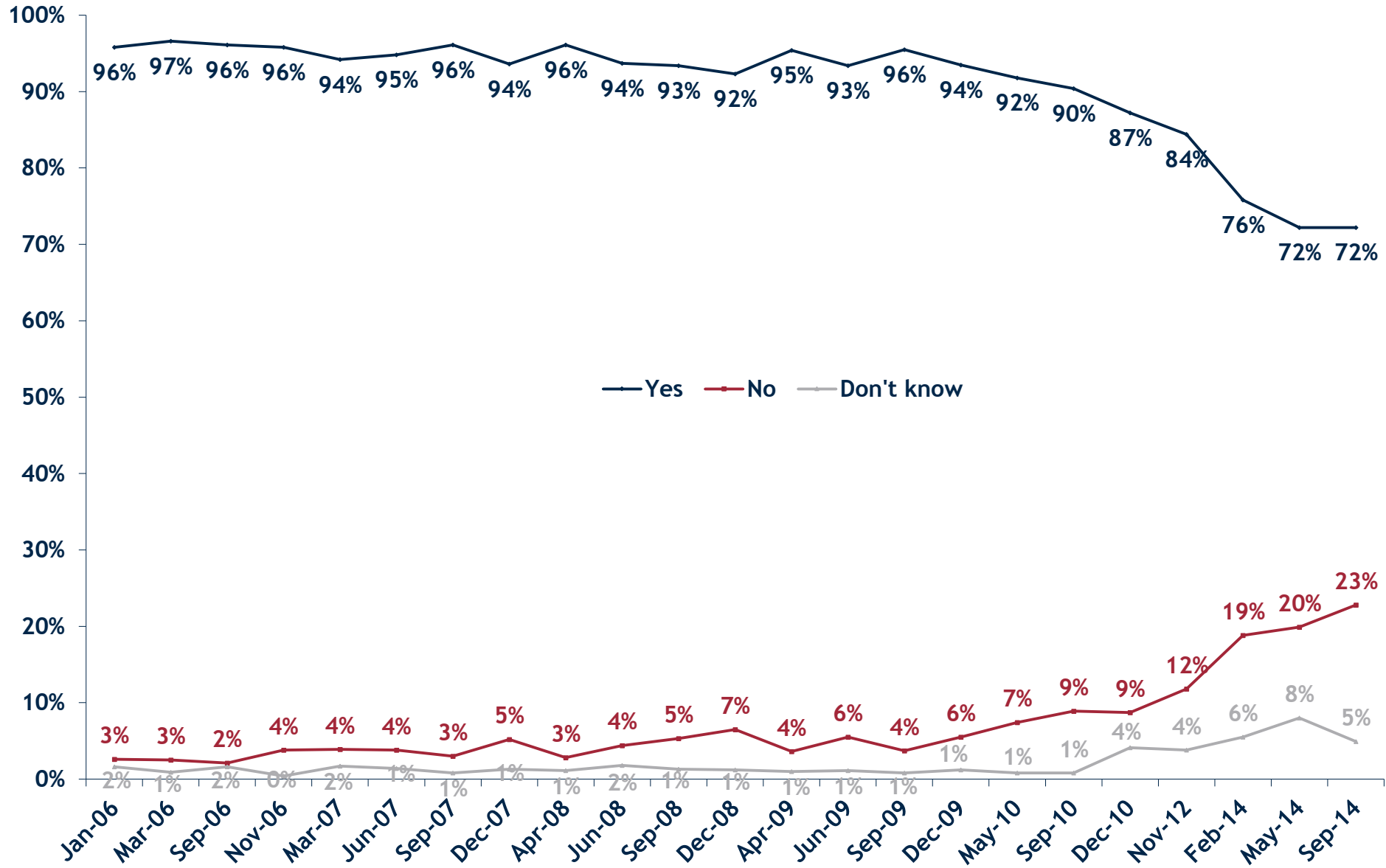


NATO and EU Membership Remain Highly Favored

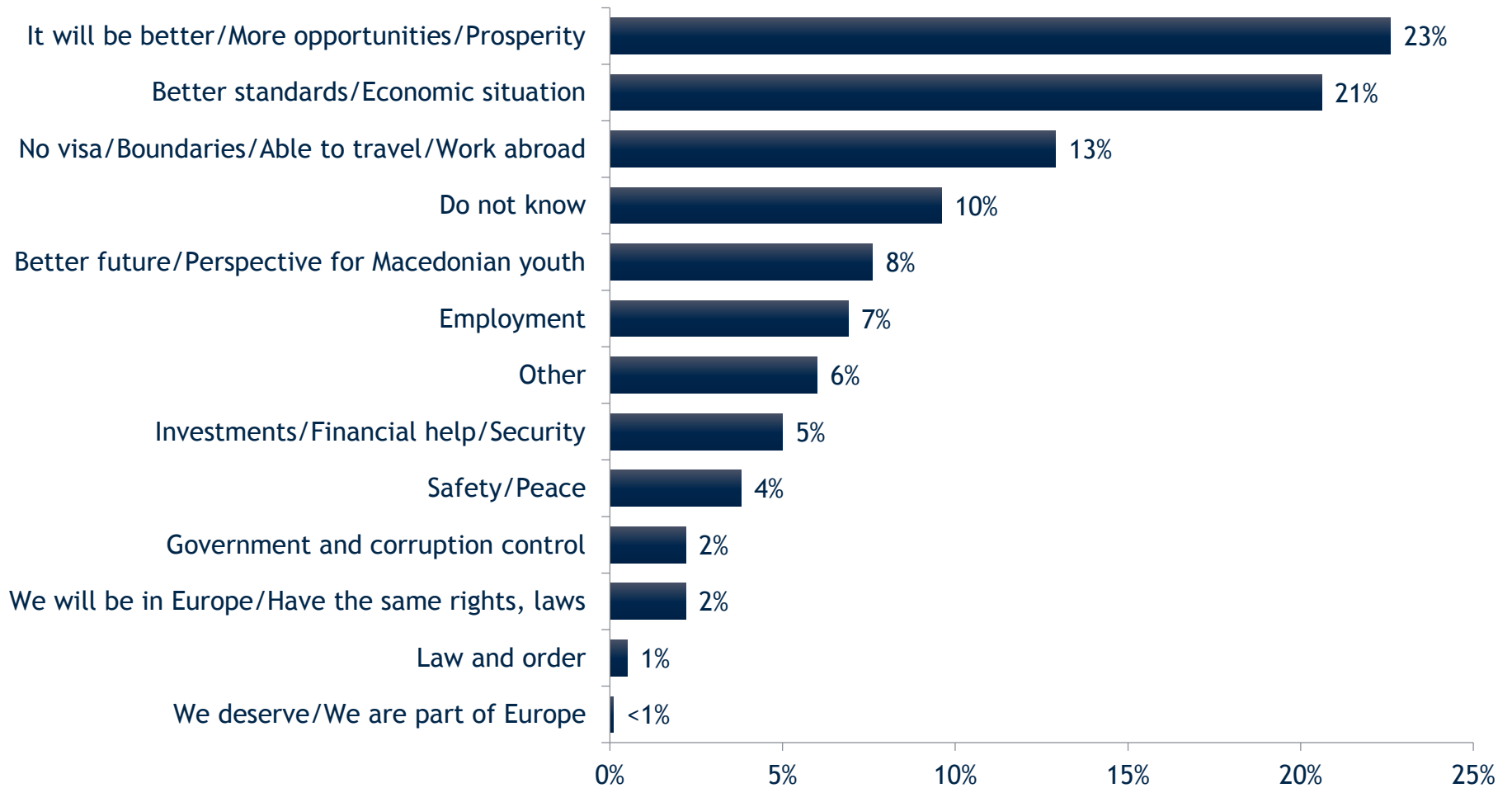
Do you support Macedonia becoming a member of NATO?



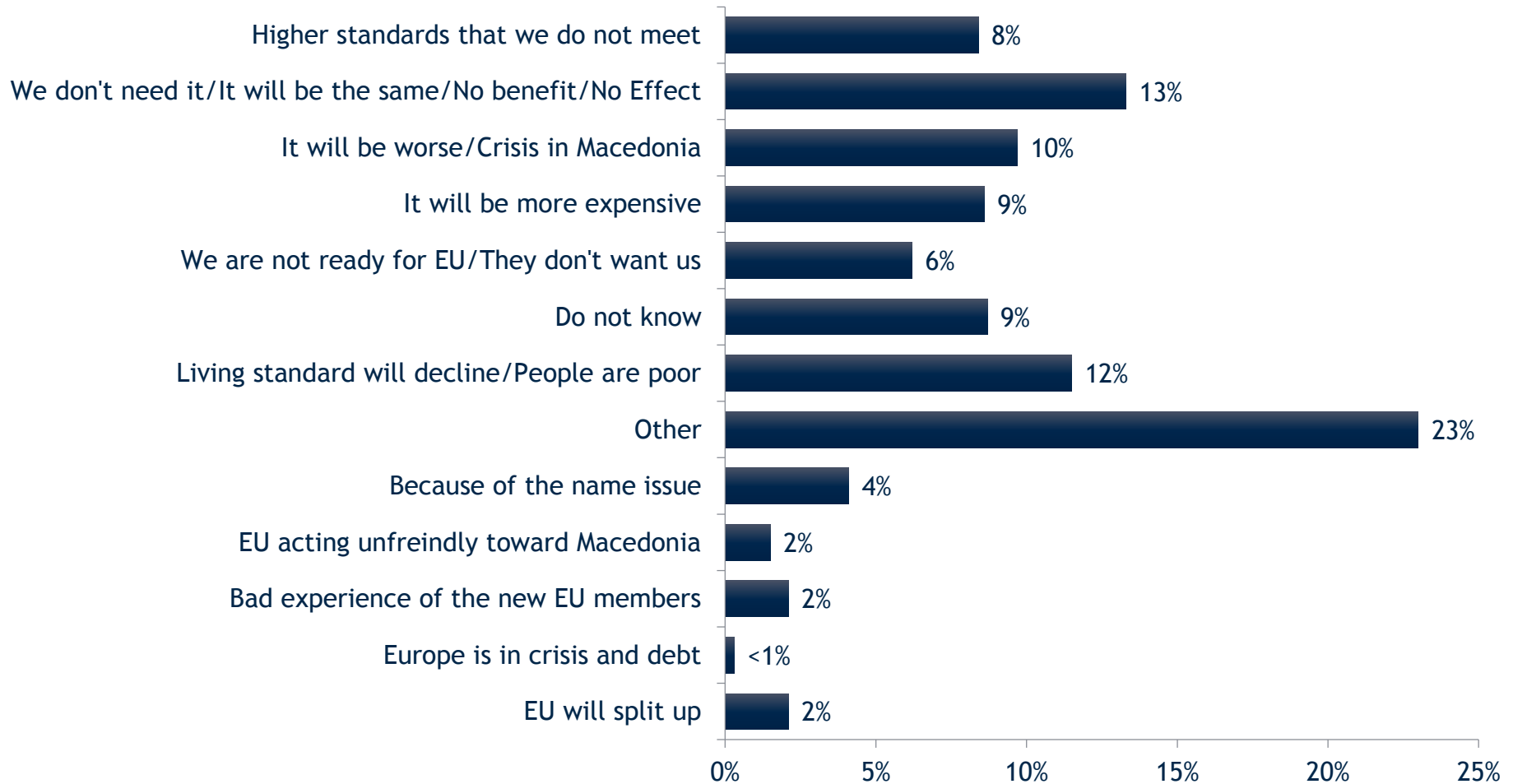
Do you support Macedonia becoming a member of the EU?



Why do you support Macedonia becoming a member of EU? (n=797)

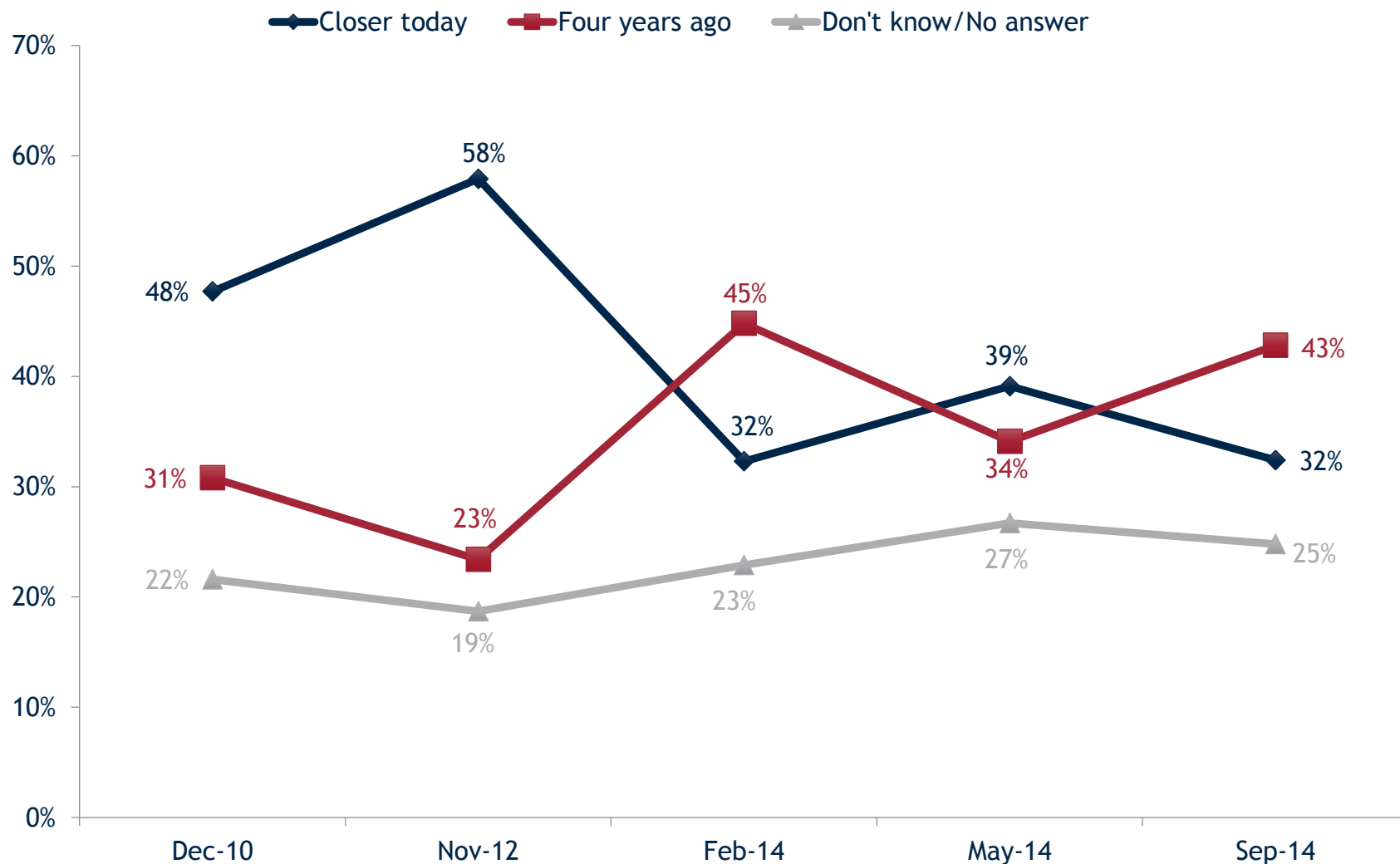


Why don't you support Macedonia becoming a member of EU? (n=252)

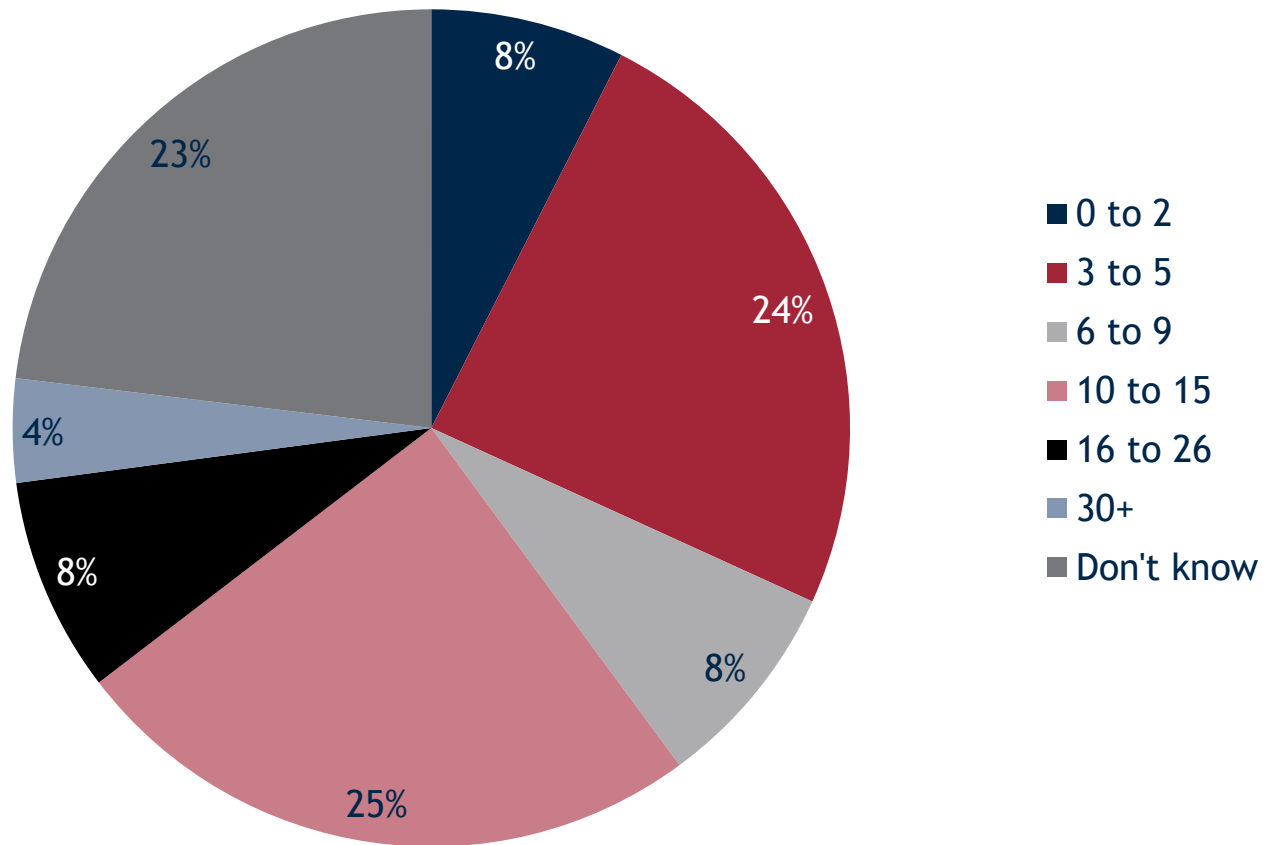


Do you think Macedonia is closer to EU entry today, or was it closer when it got its EU candidate country status?

*(until Nov. 2012 the question was phrased “...today, or four years ago?”)



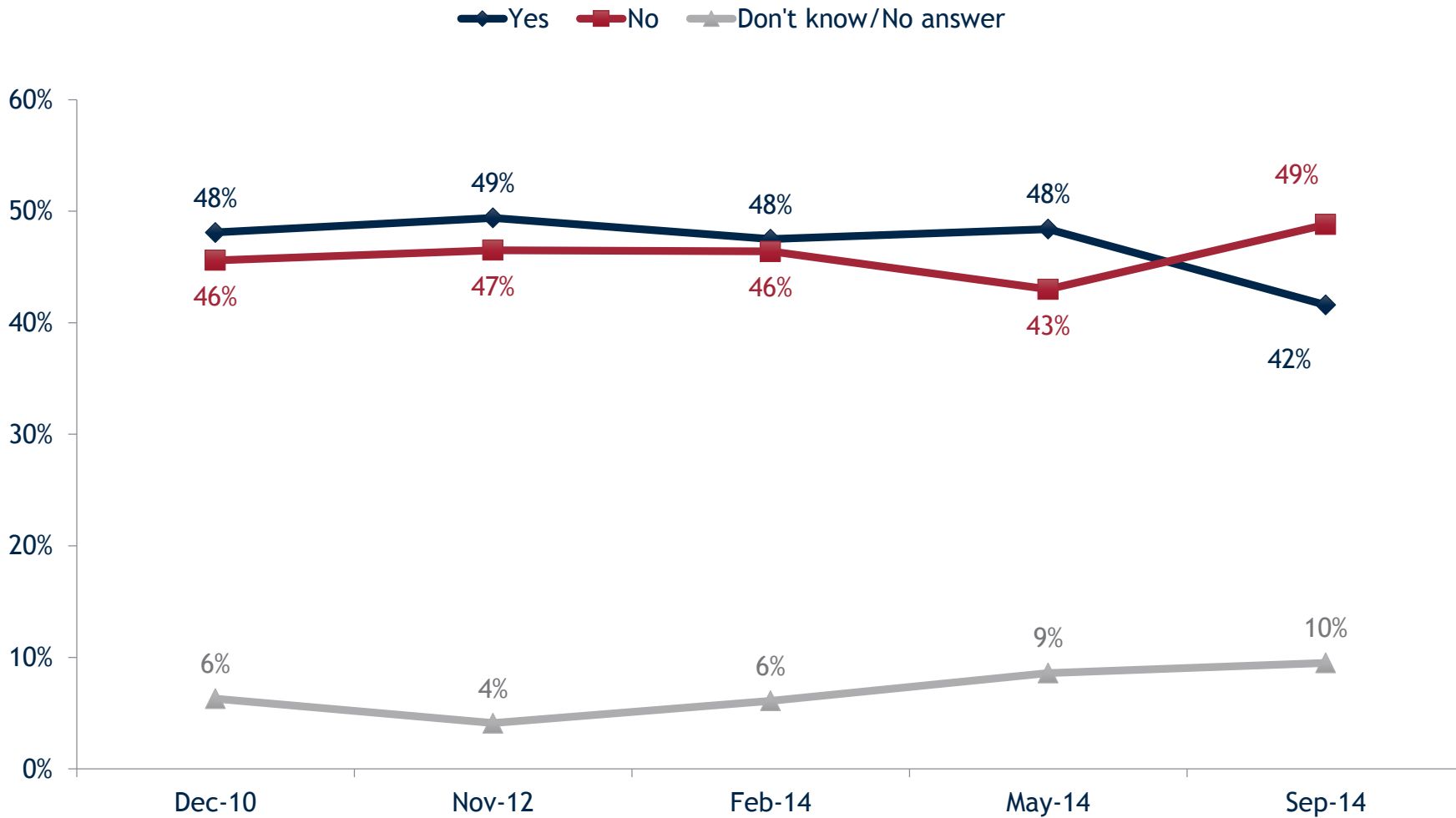
In how many years do you think Macedonia will become a member of the EU?



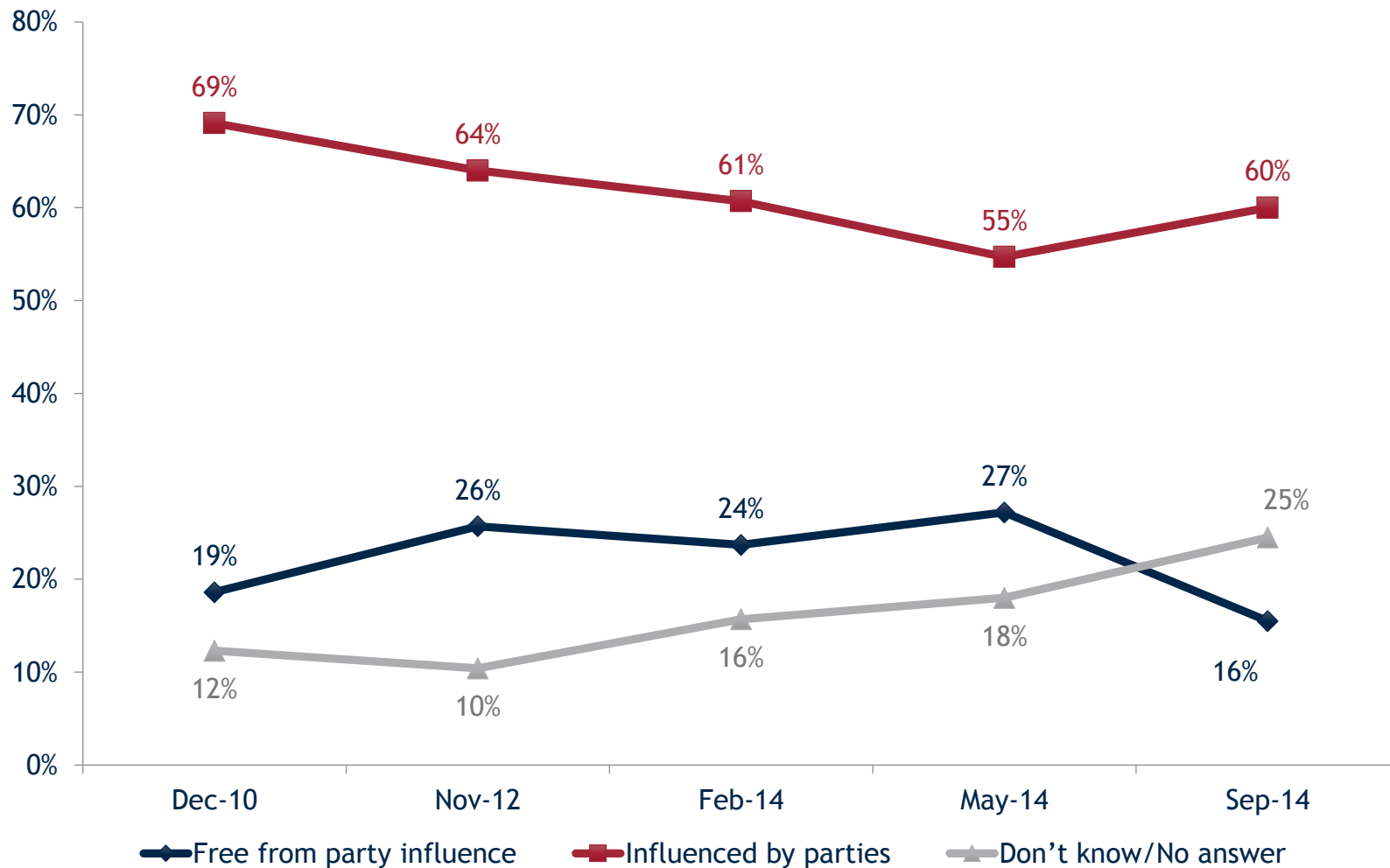


Concerned about Freedom of Speech and Freedom of Expression

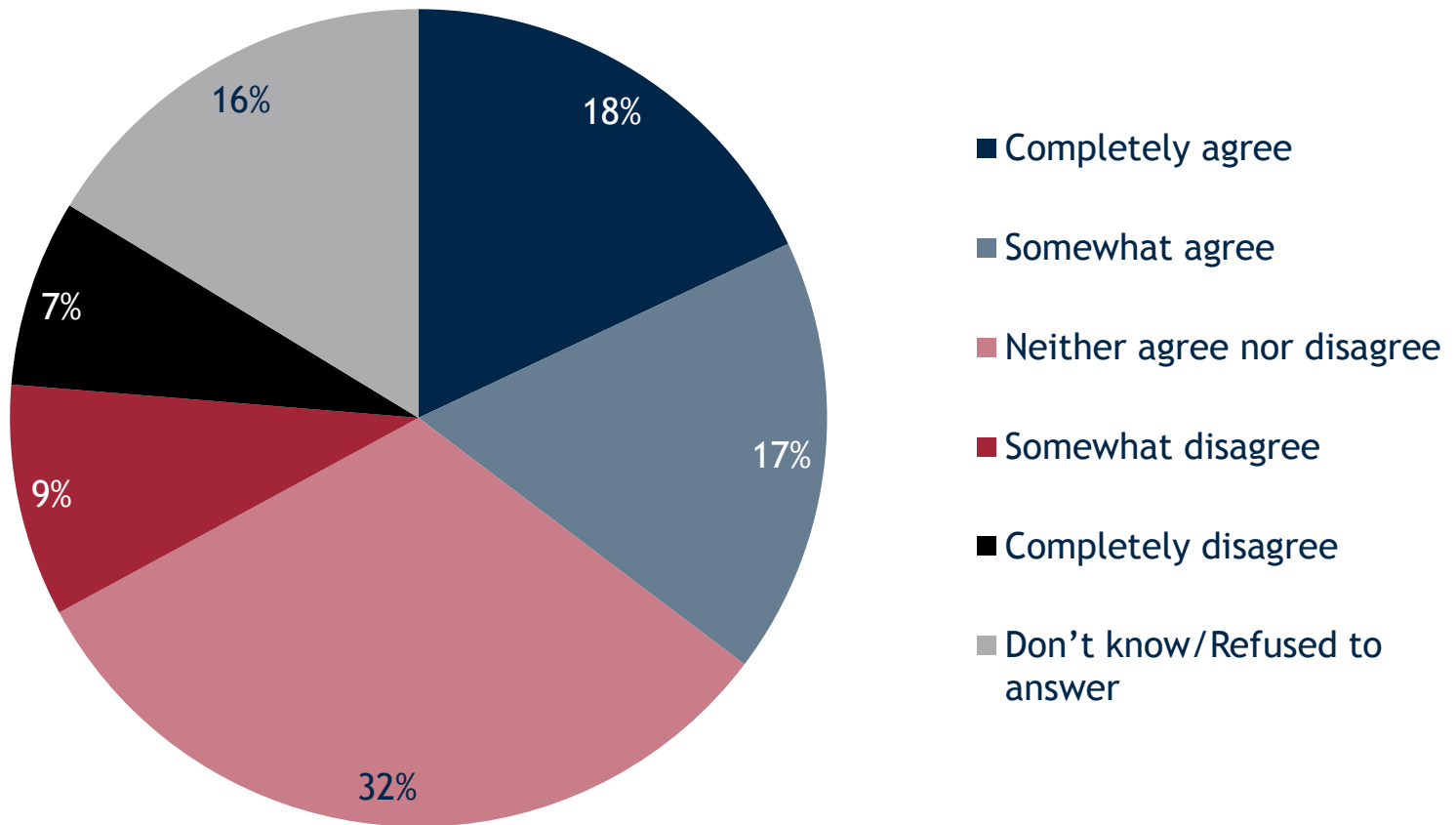
Do you think that free speech and the free expression of ideas exist in Macedonia today?



Do you think that civil society organizations are free from political influence, or are their programs and agenda influenced and funded by political parties in Macedonia?



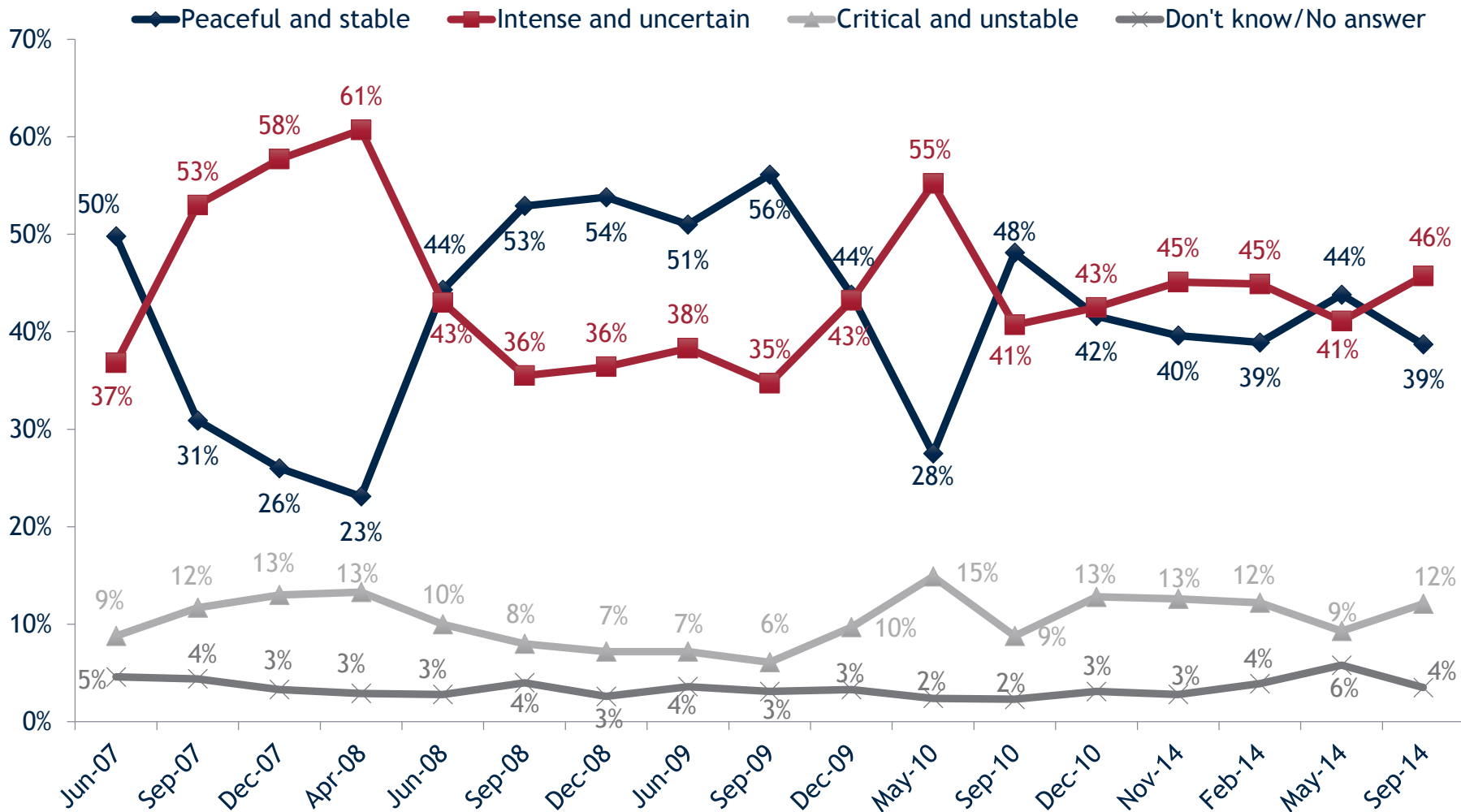
To what level do you agree with the statement:
government advertising in the media negatively affects press freedom?



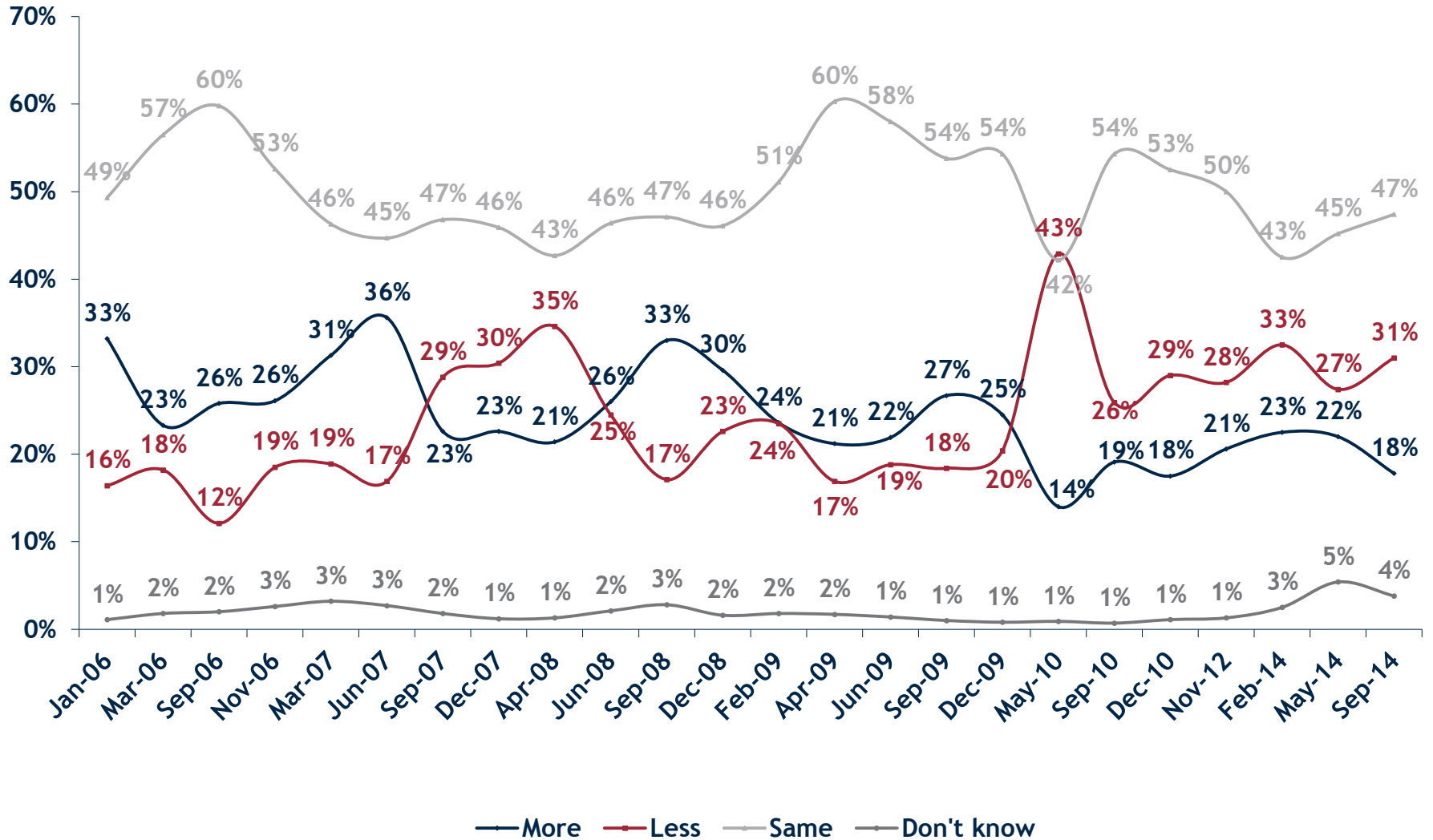


Opinions on Internal Stability and Foreign Policy

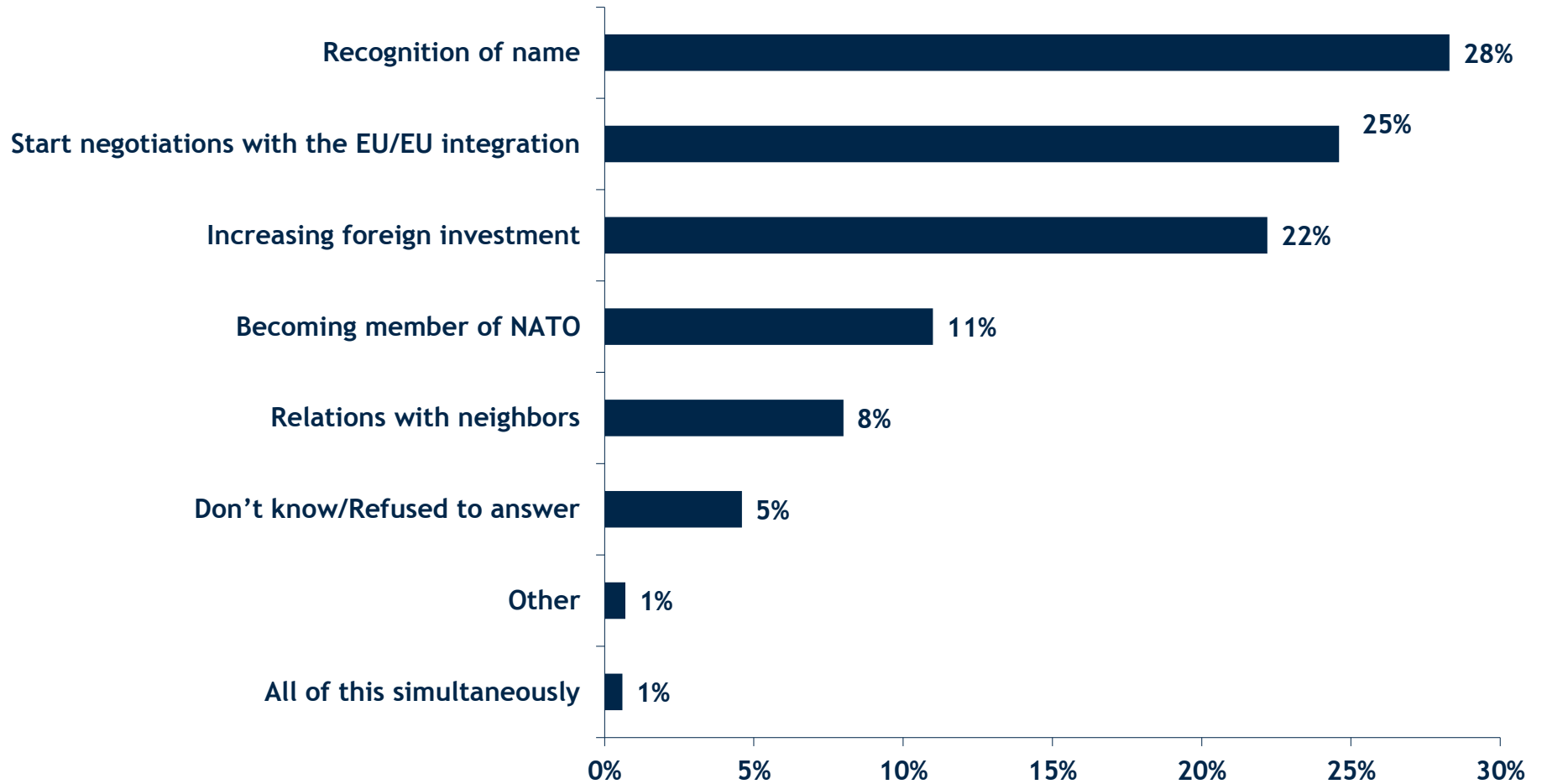
How do you estimate the current internal political situation in Macedonia?



Is the Republic of Macedonia more or less stable today than it was one year ago?



Which one of these would you say is the most important foreign policy issue facing Macedonia?

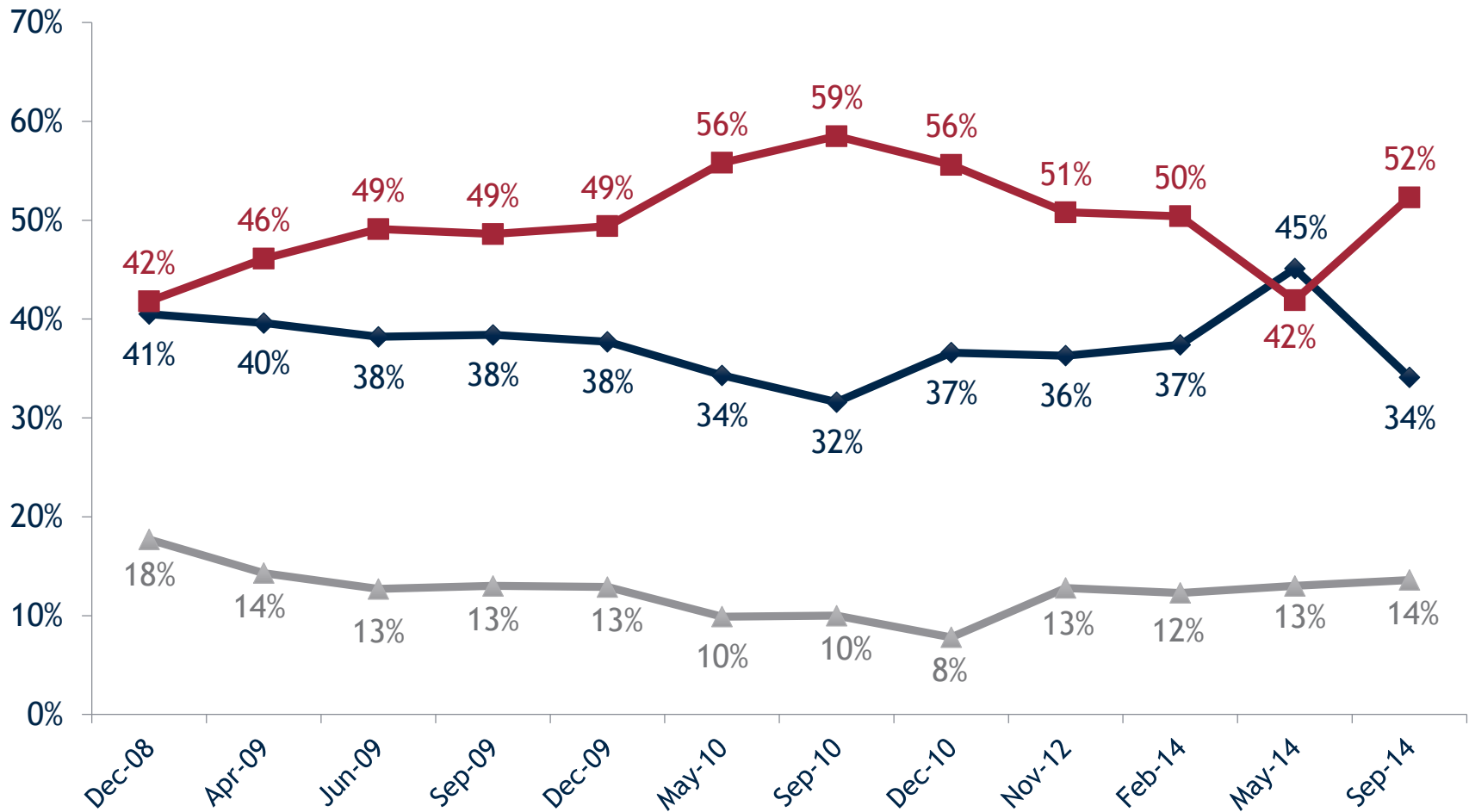




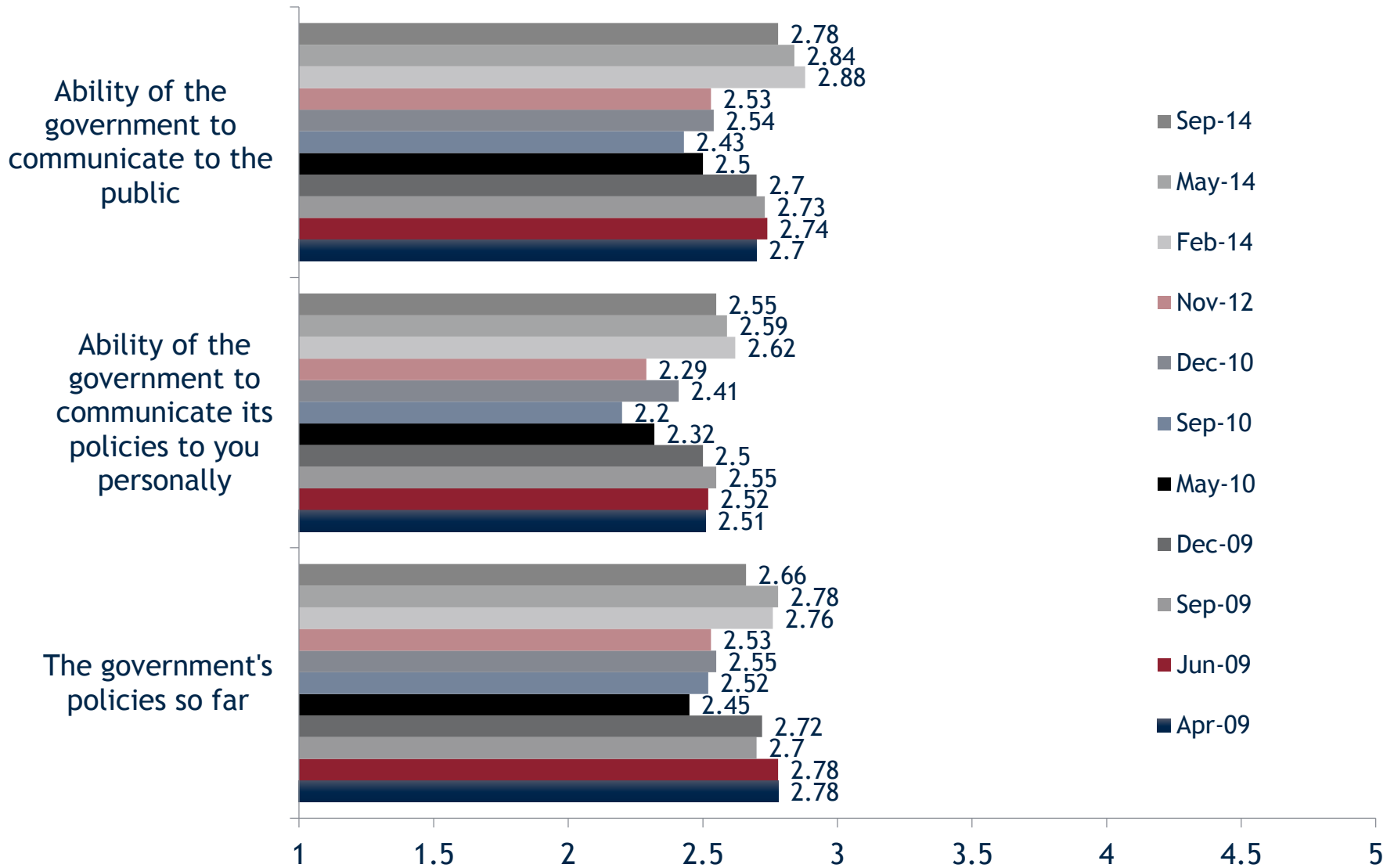
Performance of Government and Institutions

According to you, does the government have an effective plan to address the economic problems Macedonia is facing?

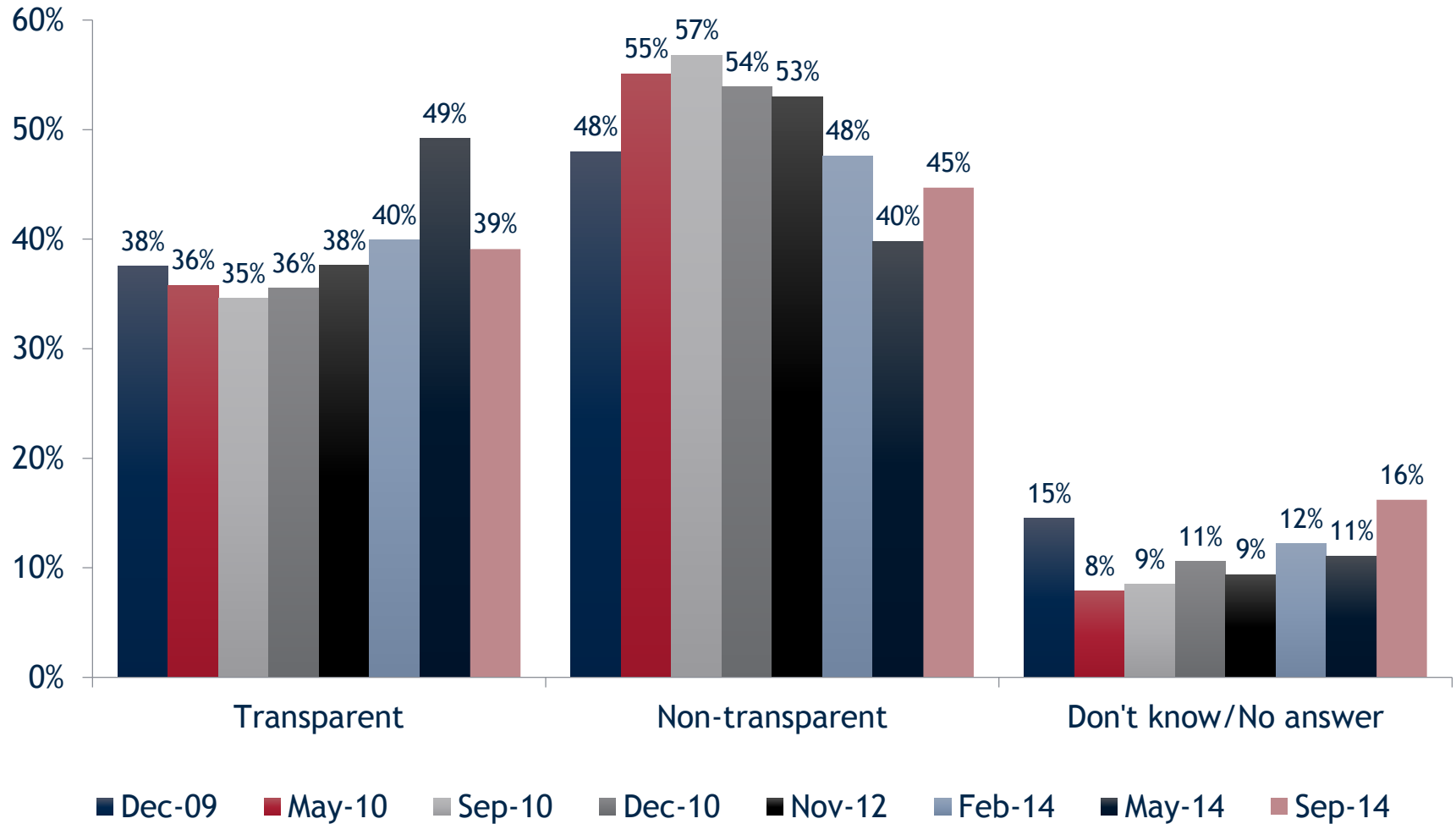
◆ Yes ■ No ▲ Don't know/Refused to answer



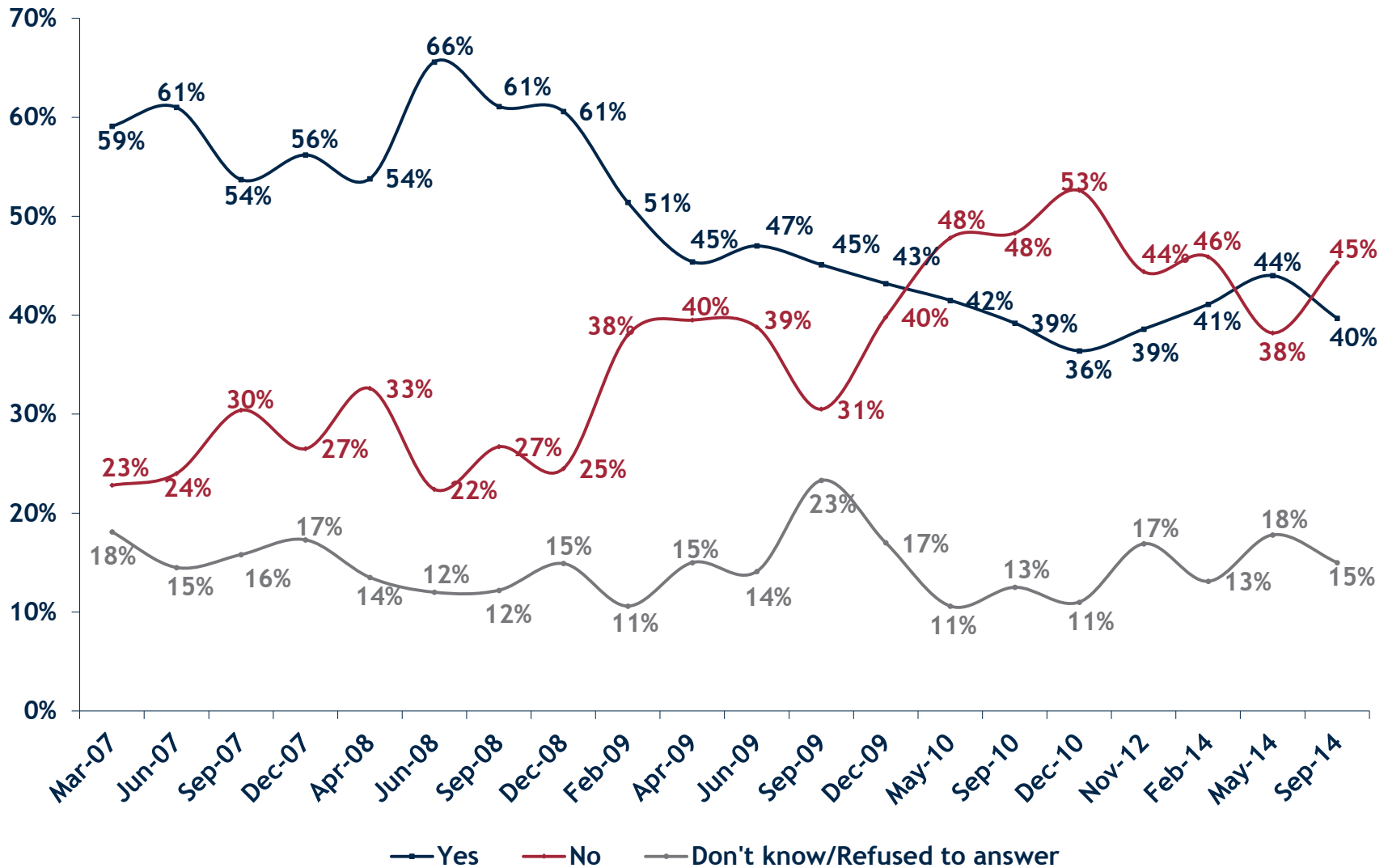
Using the scale used in Macedonian schools, where one is unsatisfactory and five is excellent, what grade would you give for the... ?



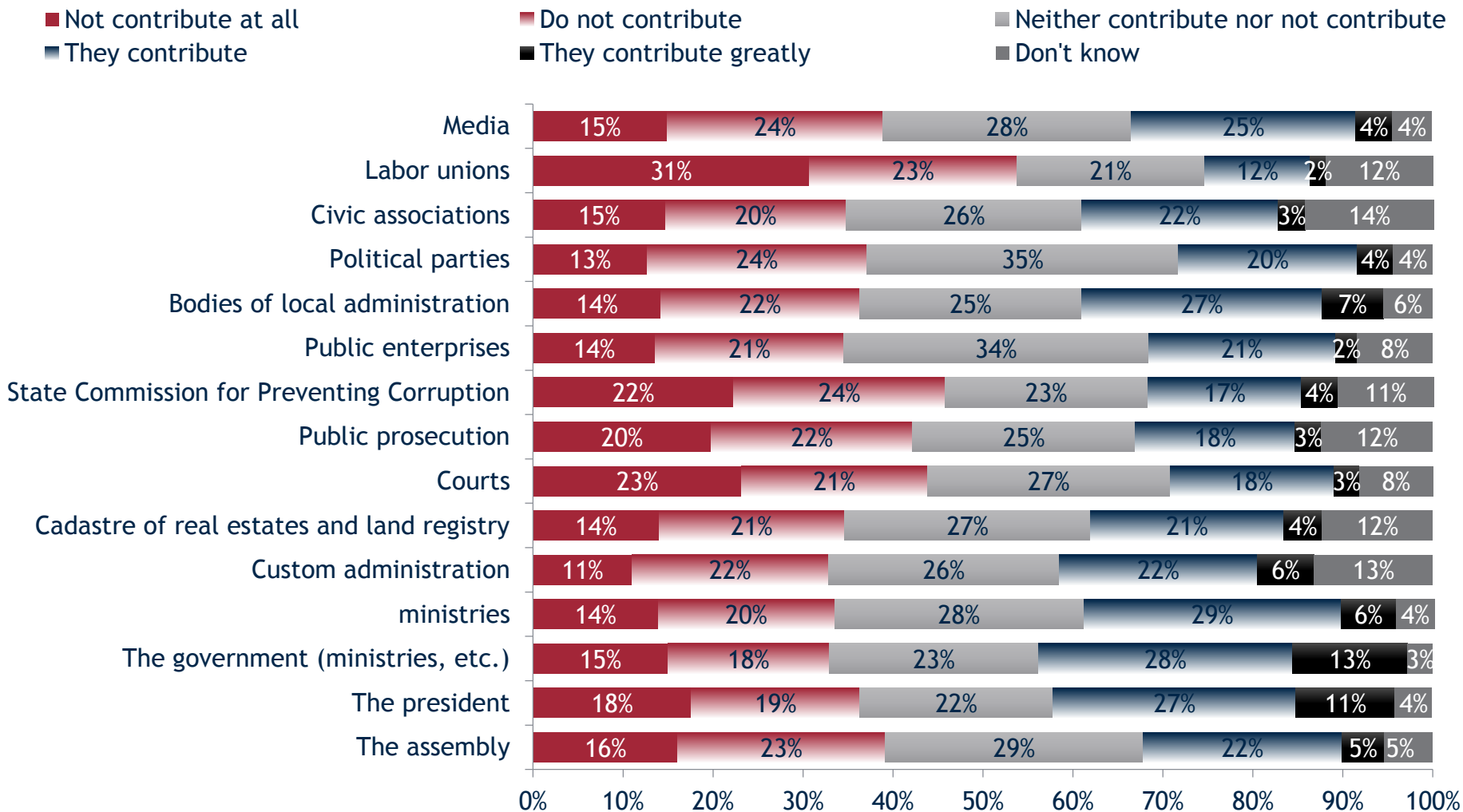
Do you consider that, with its actions and behavior, the government of Nikola Gruevski is transparent or non-transparent?



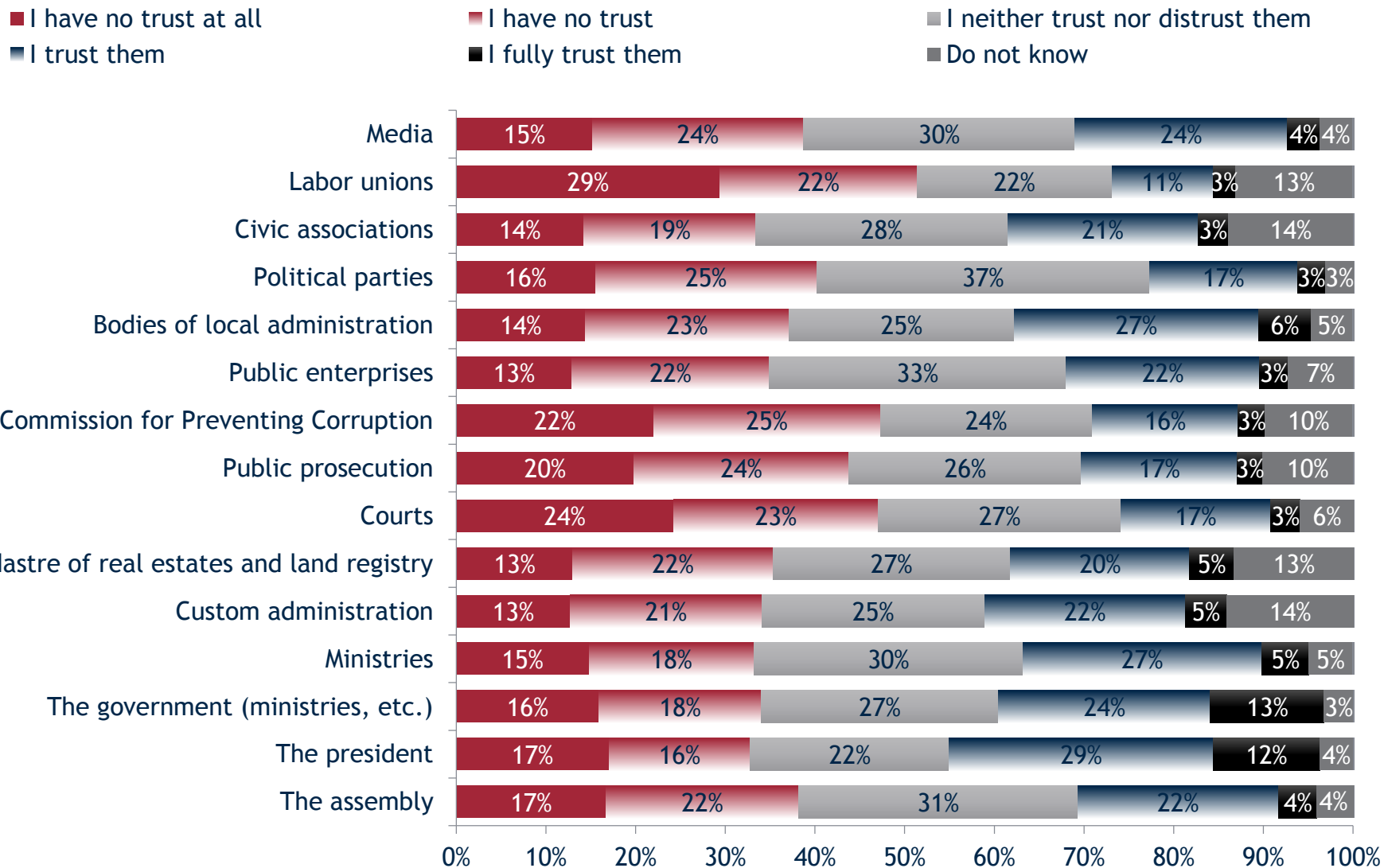
Has Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski done his job well enough to deserve re-election?



According to you, to what degree do the following, through their work and activities, contribute to solving problems in our country?



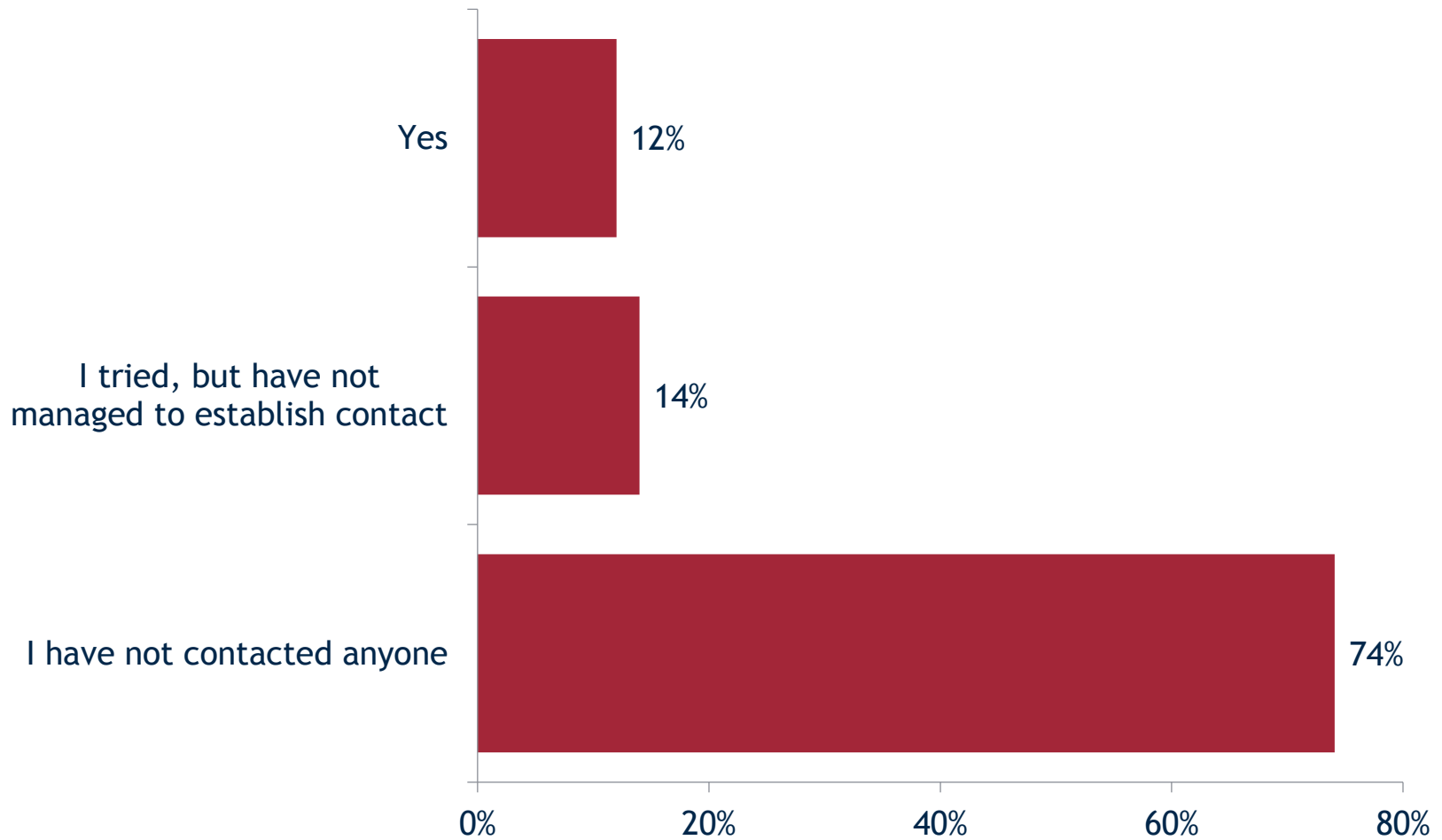
To what degree did you trust the following according to their actions in the last 12 months?



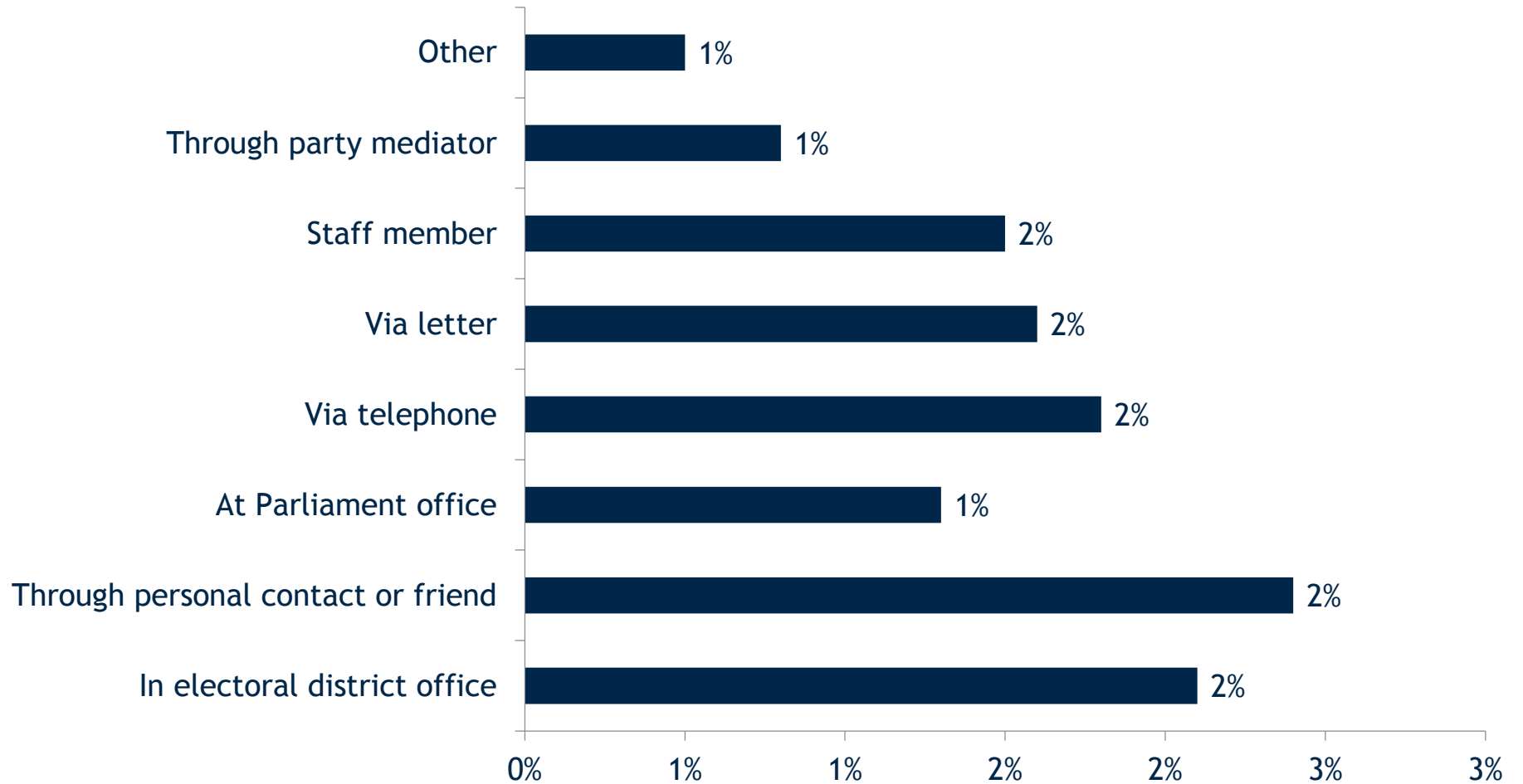


Perception on the Assembly, Experience with MPs and View on Election Day

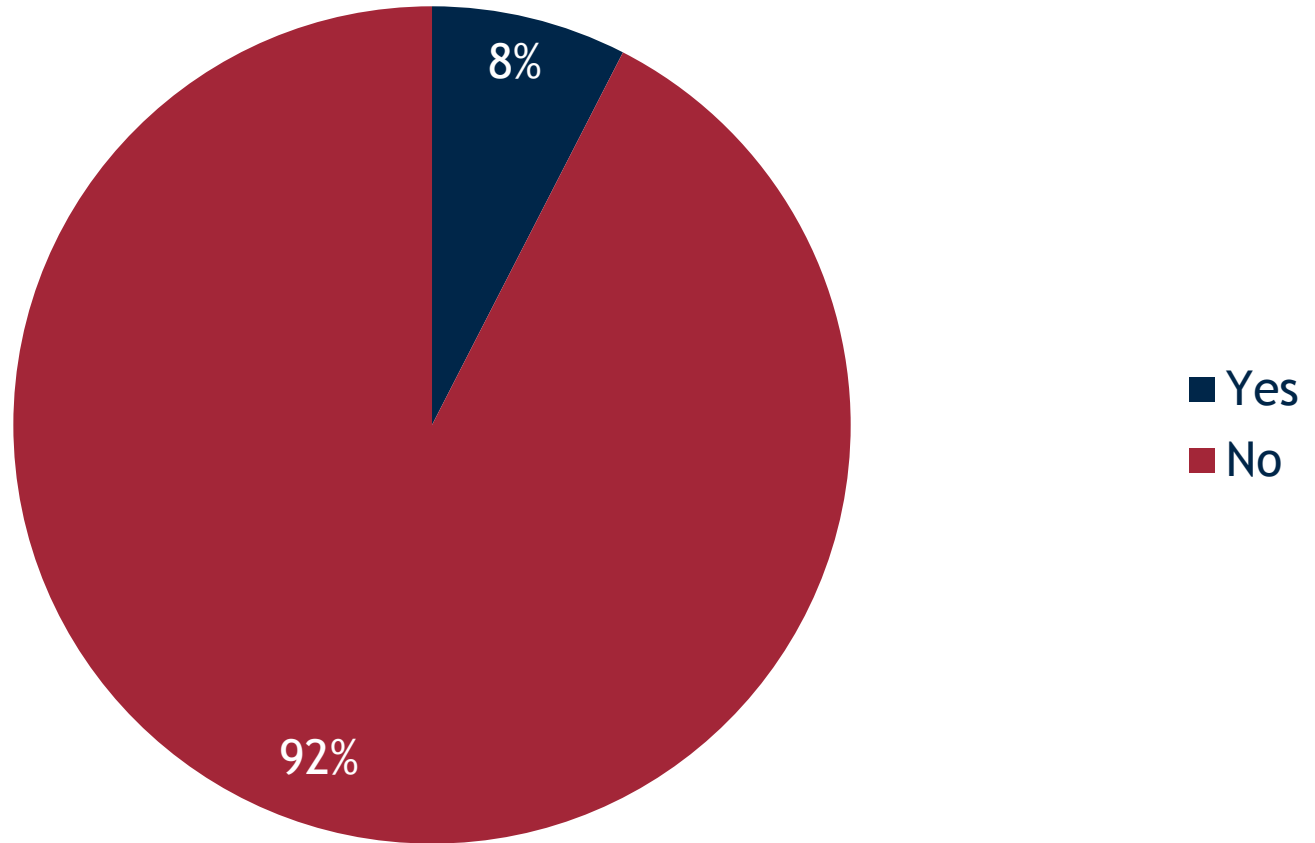
Have you contacted a member of parliament in the last 12 months?



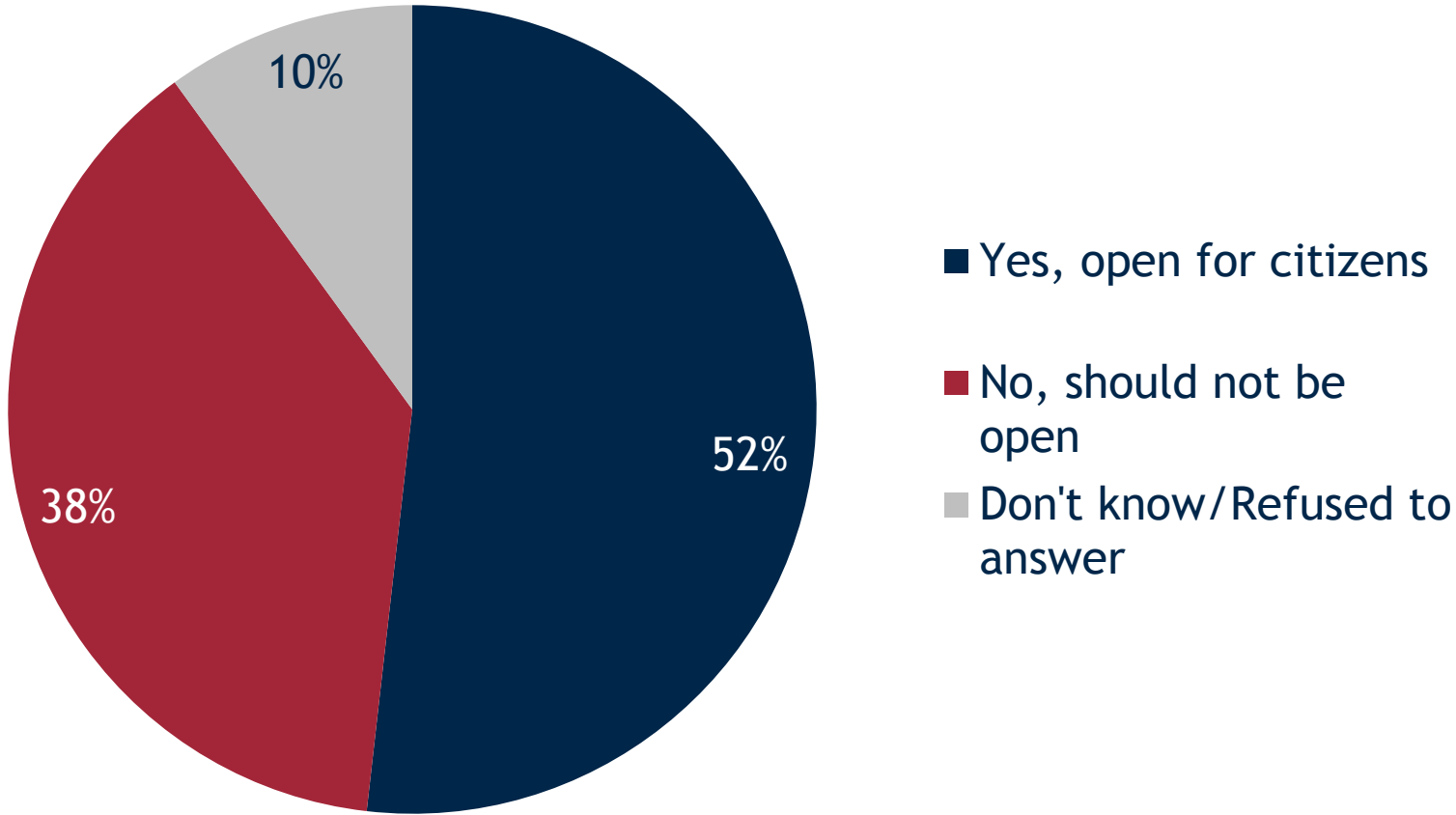
If you have contacted a member of parliament in the last 12 months,
how did you establish that contact?
(n=131)



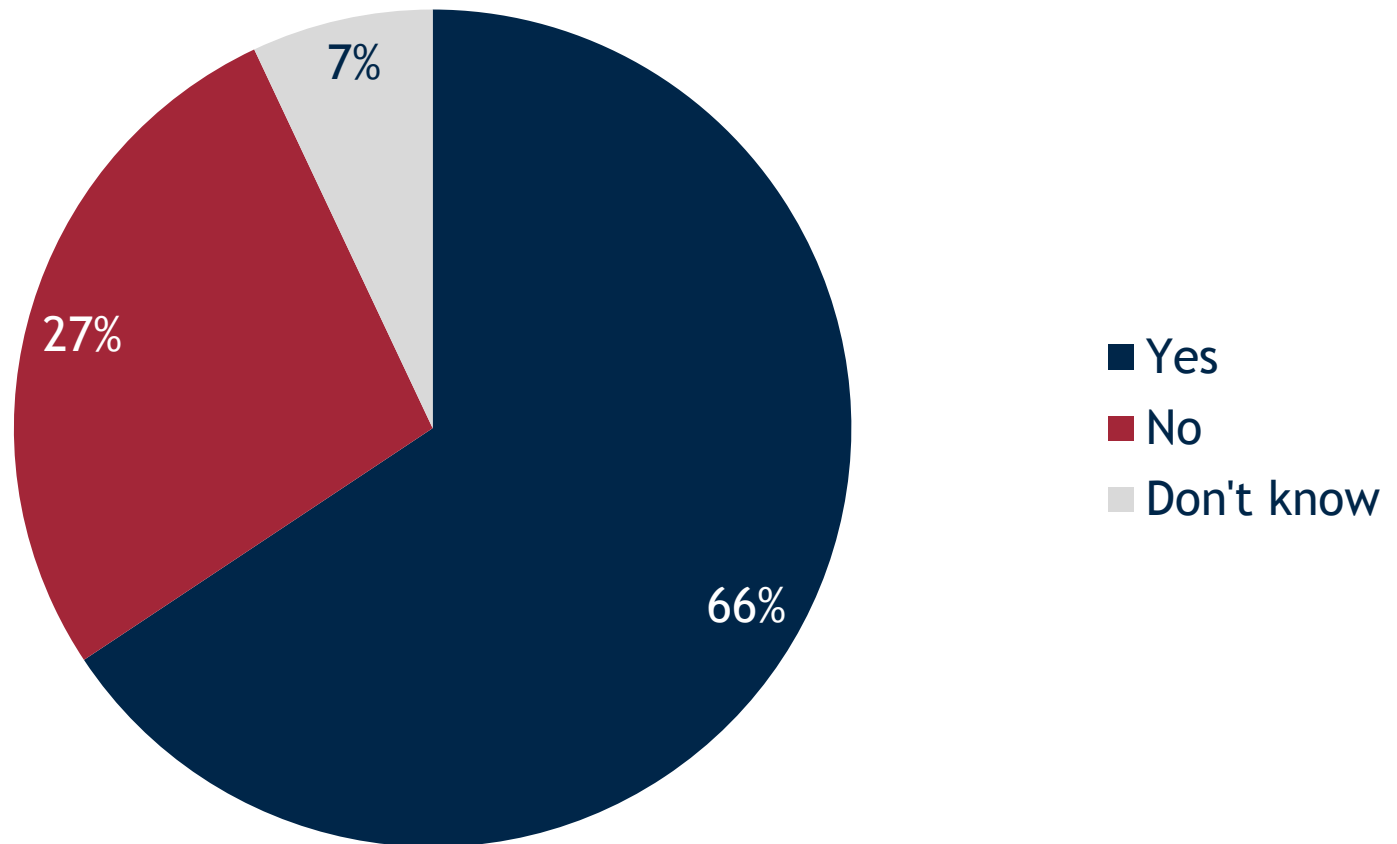
Have you been personally contacted by a member of parliament in the last 12 months?



Do you think that Parliament should be open to citizens, for example, to be allowed to enter the premises of the Parliament without prior schedule and to follow sessions of Parliament or its committees?



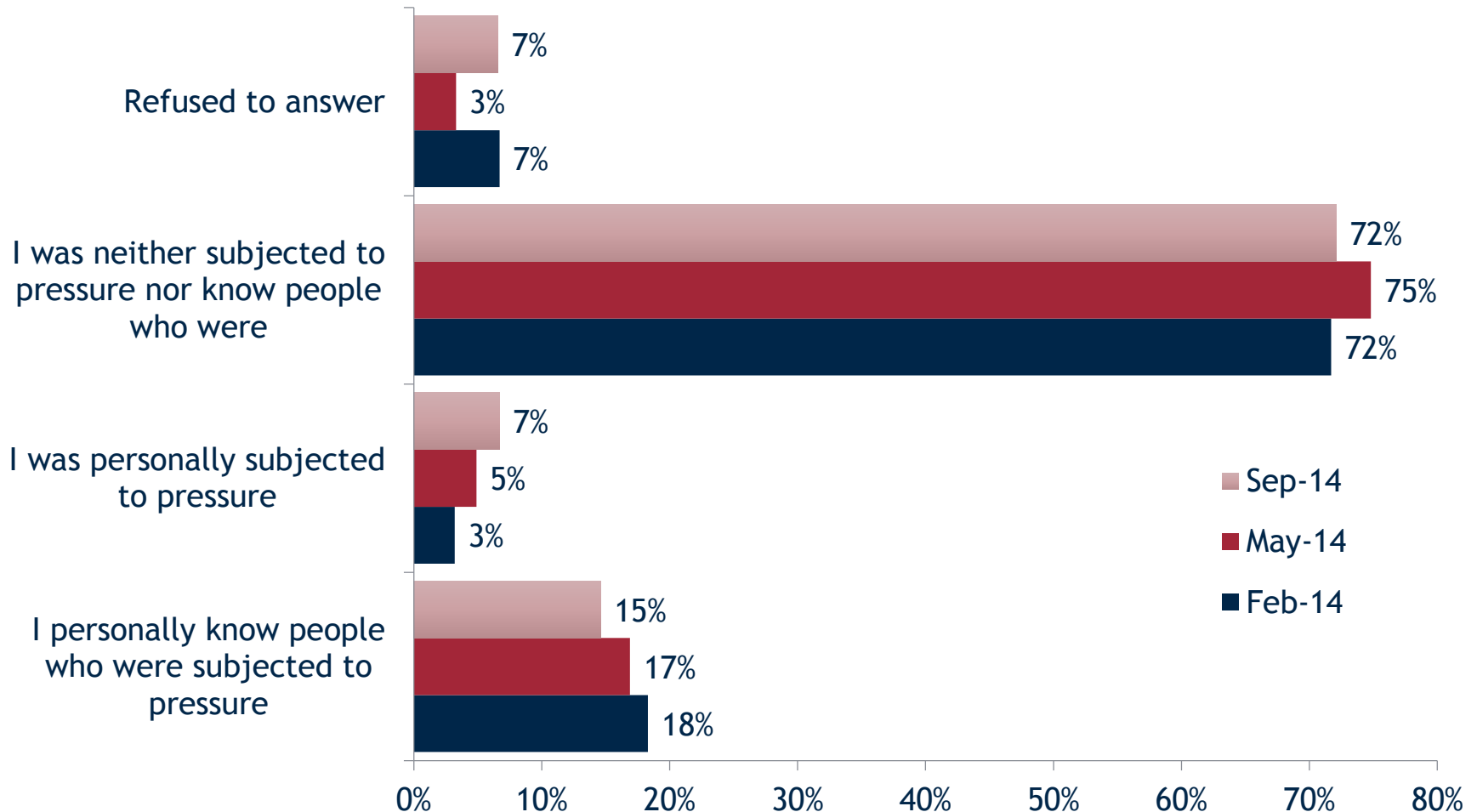
Do you believe that your vote on election day is secret?



Have you, a member of your family, relative or someone you personally know ever been subjected to pressure such as force, threats, vote buying or other illegal means, to vote in a particular way?

*(in Feb. 2014 responses refer to 2011, 2013 and 2014 elections)

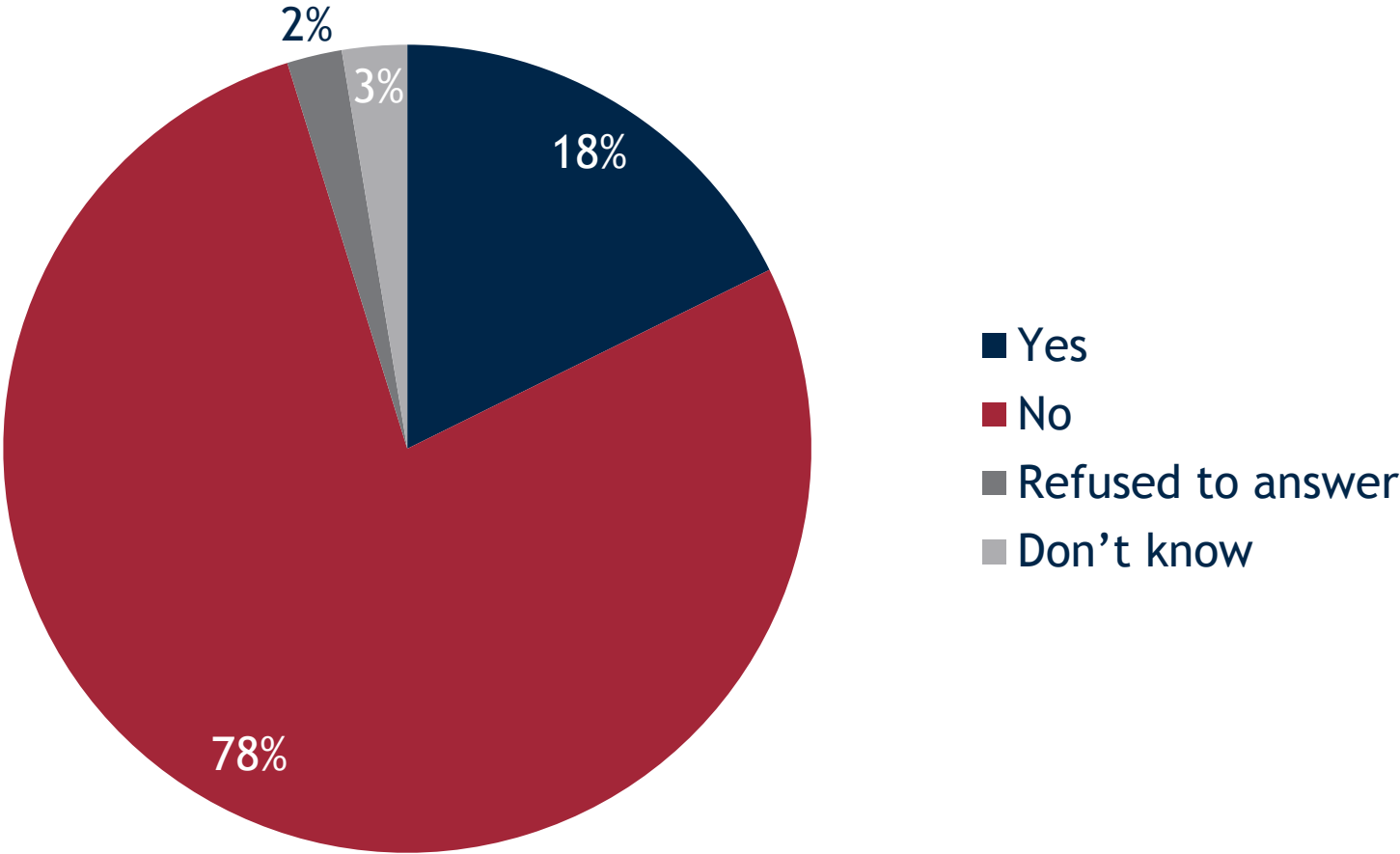
* (in May 2014 responses refer to 2014 elections)





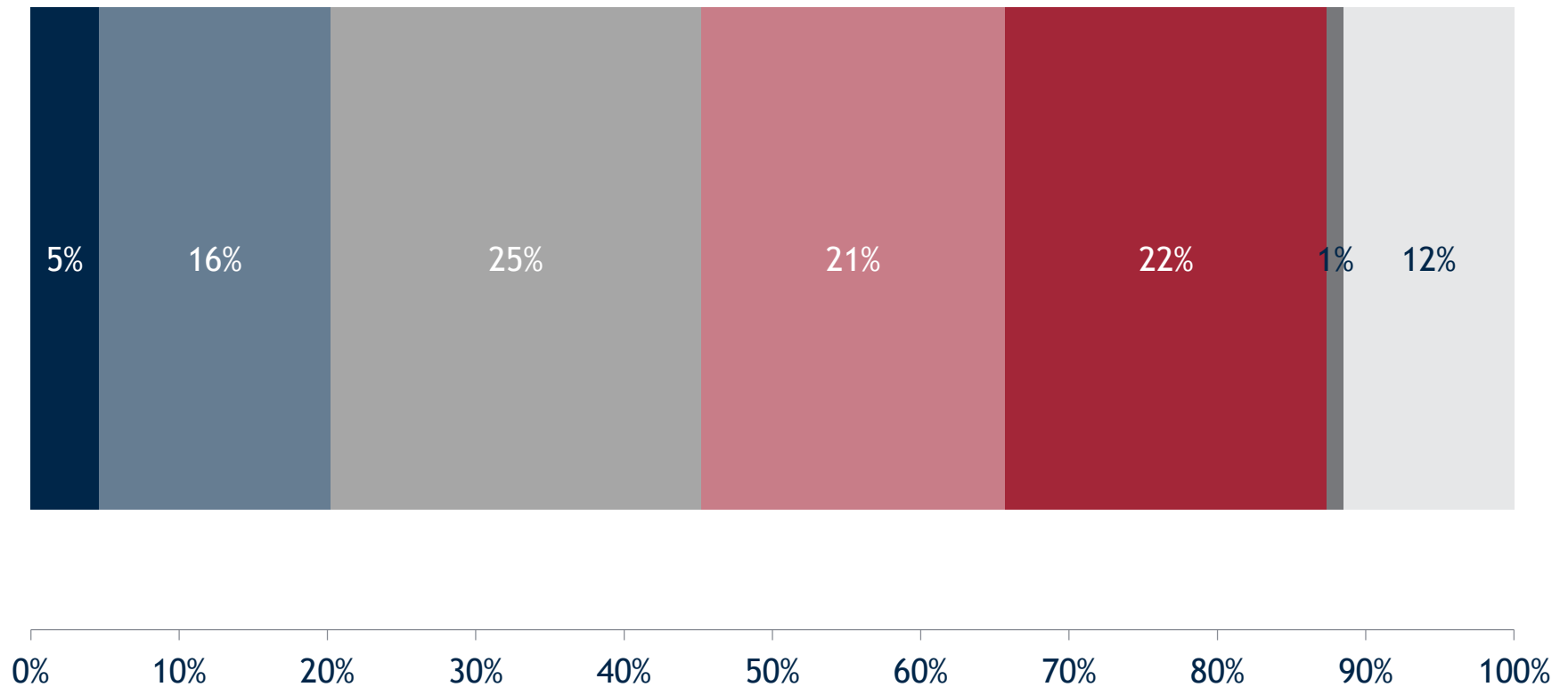
Experience and Views on the Judiciary

Did you, or a member of your family, have any experience with the courts within the last 12 months (as a witness, party in a case, filed a complaint or any other business in the courts)?



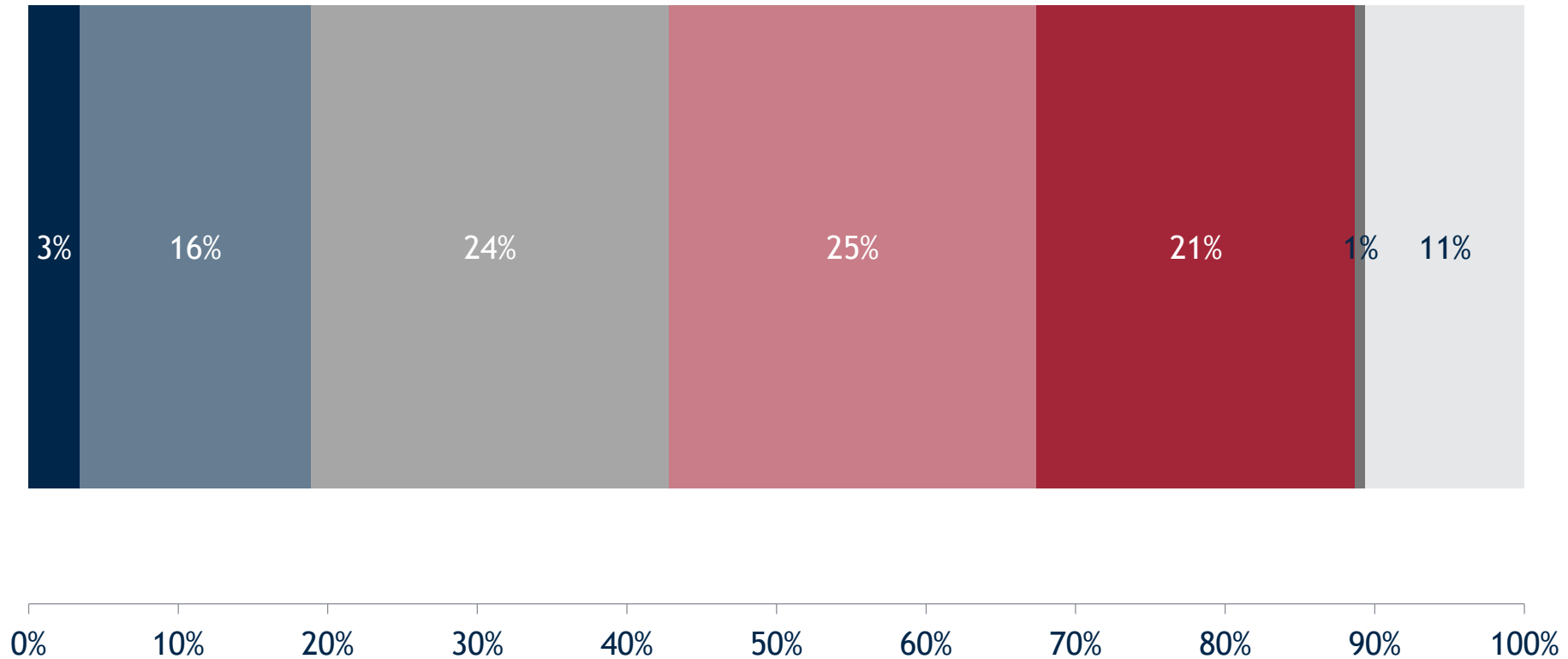
Do you think the courts in Macedonia resolve cases in a timely manner?

- Definitely yes
- Rather yes
- Neither yes or no
- Rather no
- Definitely no
- Refused to answer
- Don't know

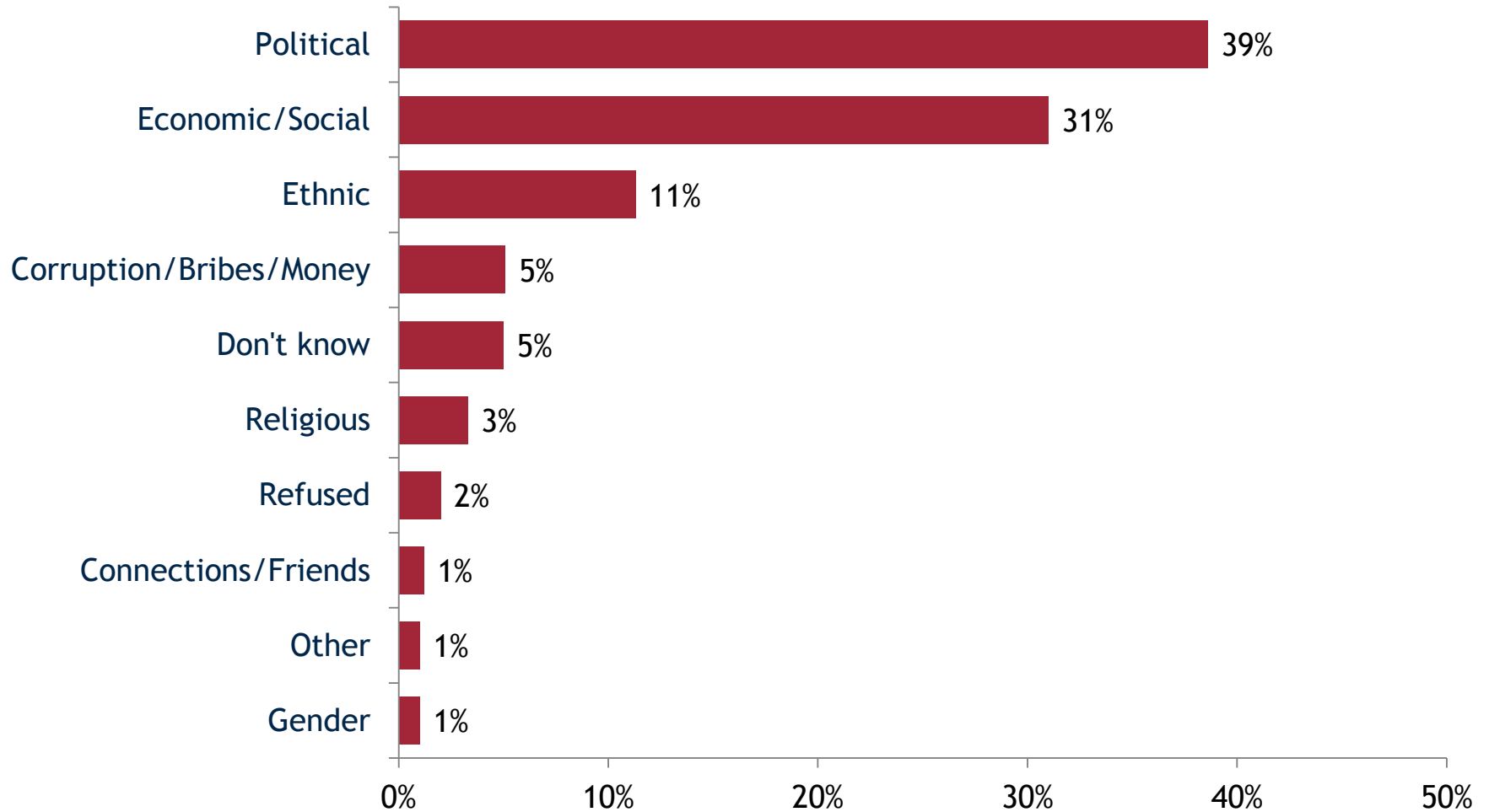


Are all citizens equally treated under the court procedures and in deciding cases?

- Yes, definitely equal
- In general they are equally treated
- More or less
- Not equally treated
- Not equal treated at all
- Refused to answer
- Don't know

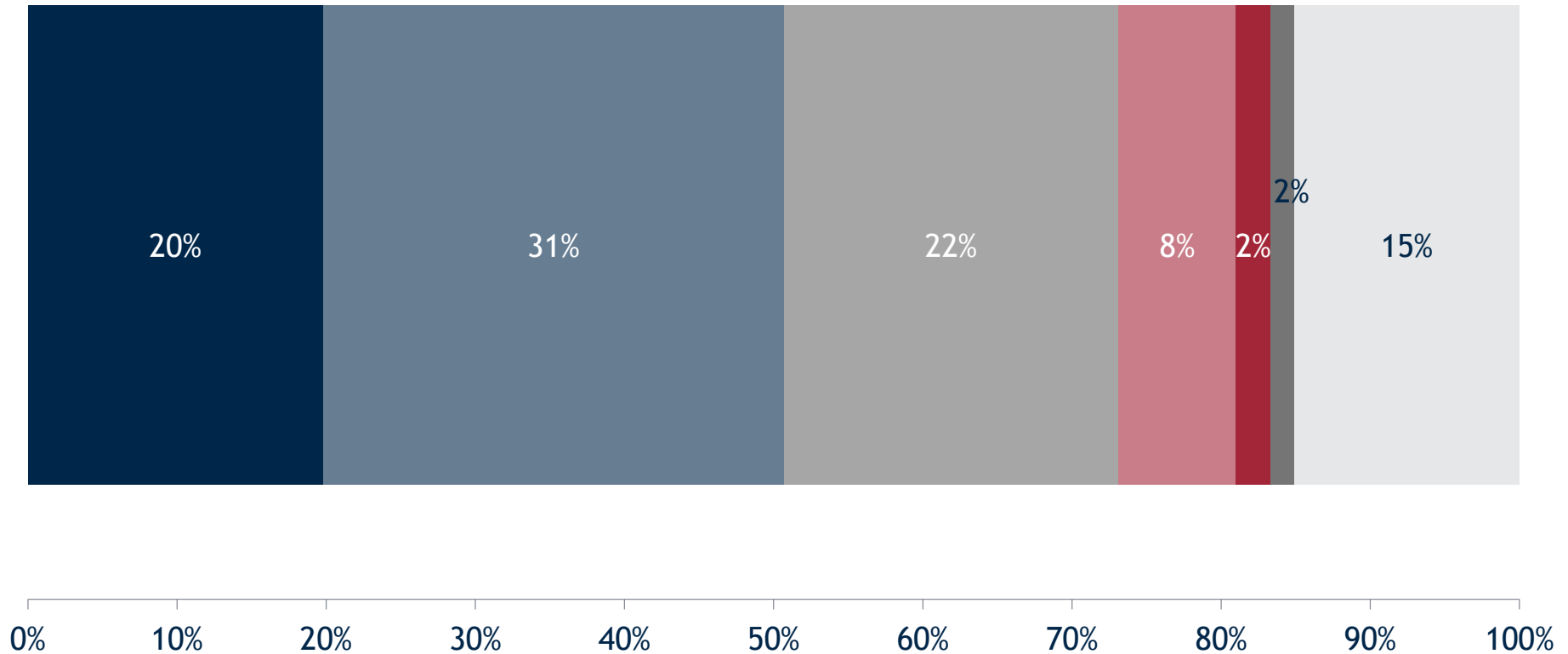


What is the main reason for unequal treatment? (n=507)

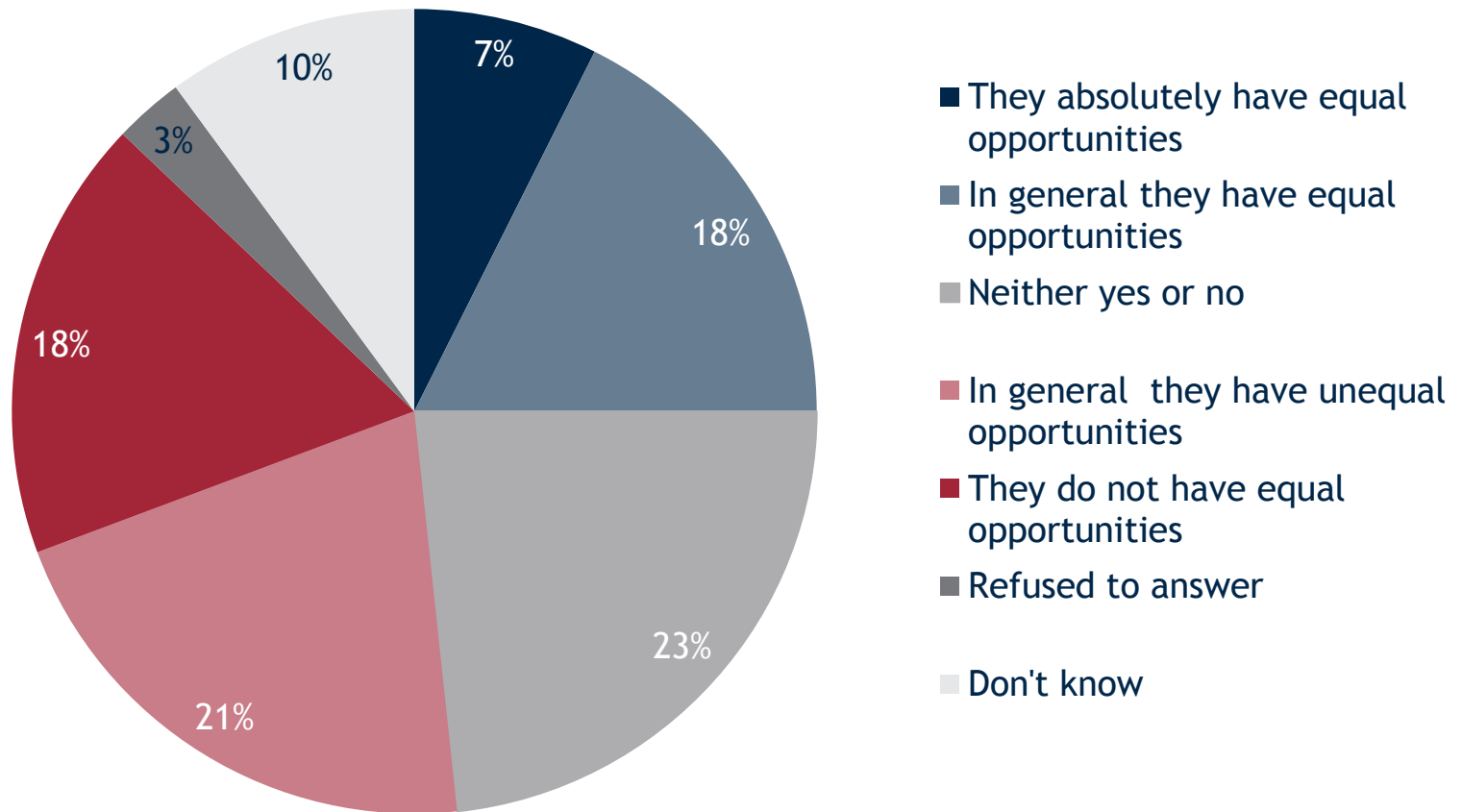


According to you, to what extent are the courts susceptible to political influence in deciding court cases?

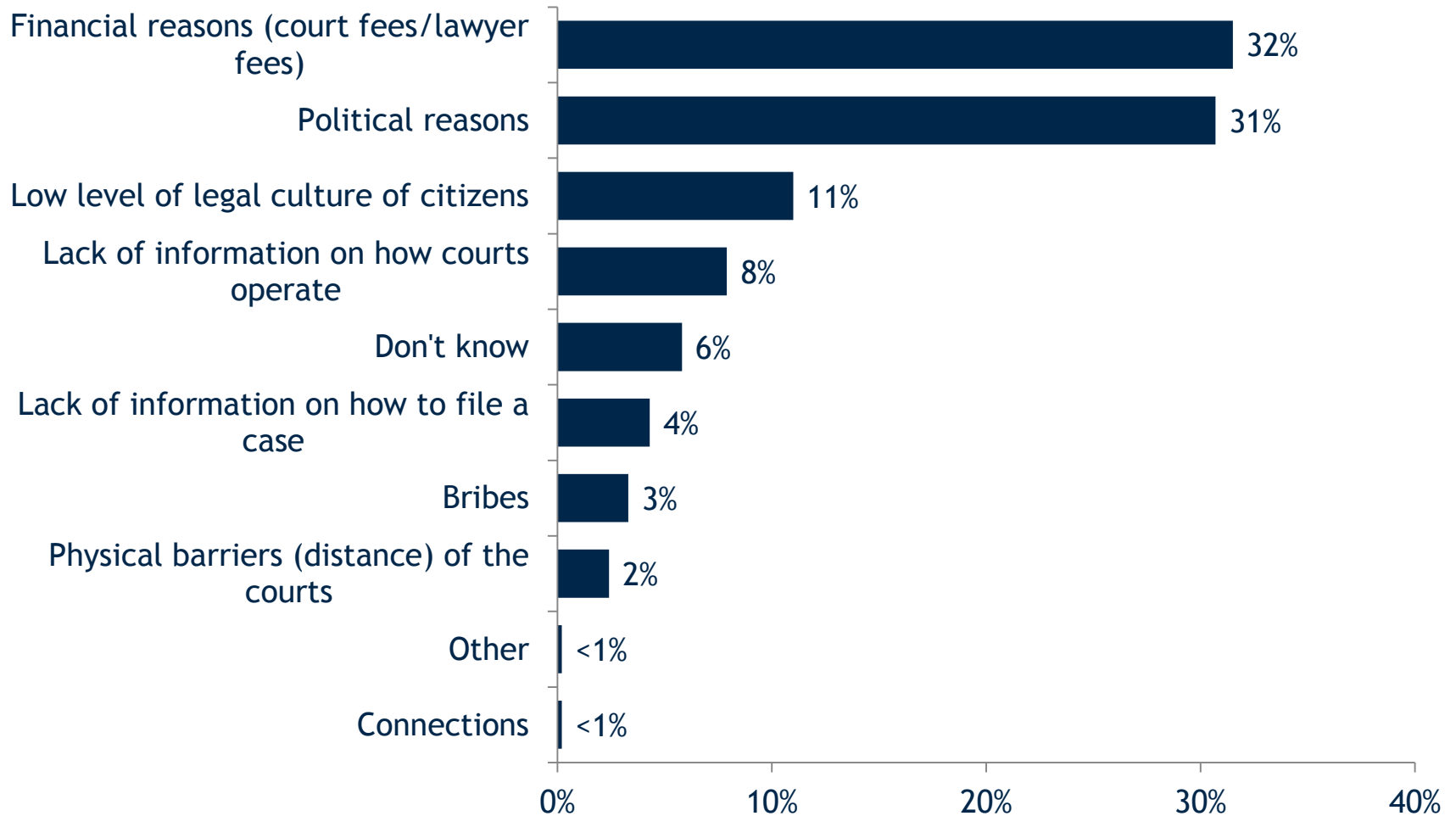
- Fully susceptible
- Rather susceptible
- Neither susceptible nor unsusceptible
- Rather unsusceptible
- Not susceptible at all
- Refused to answer
- Don't know



Do you think in practice that all citizens have equal opportunities to access courts in order to exercise their rights?



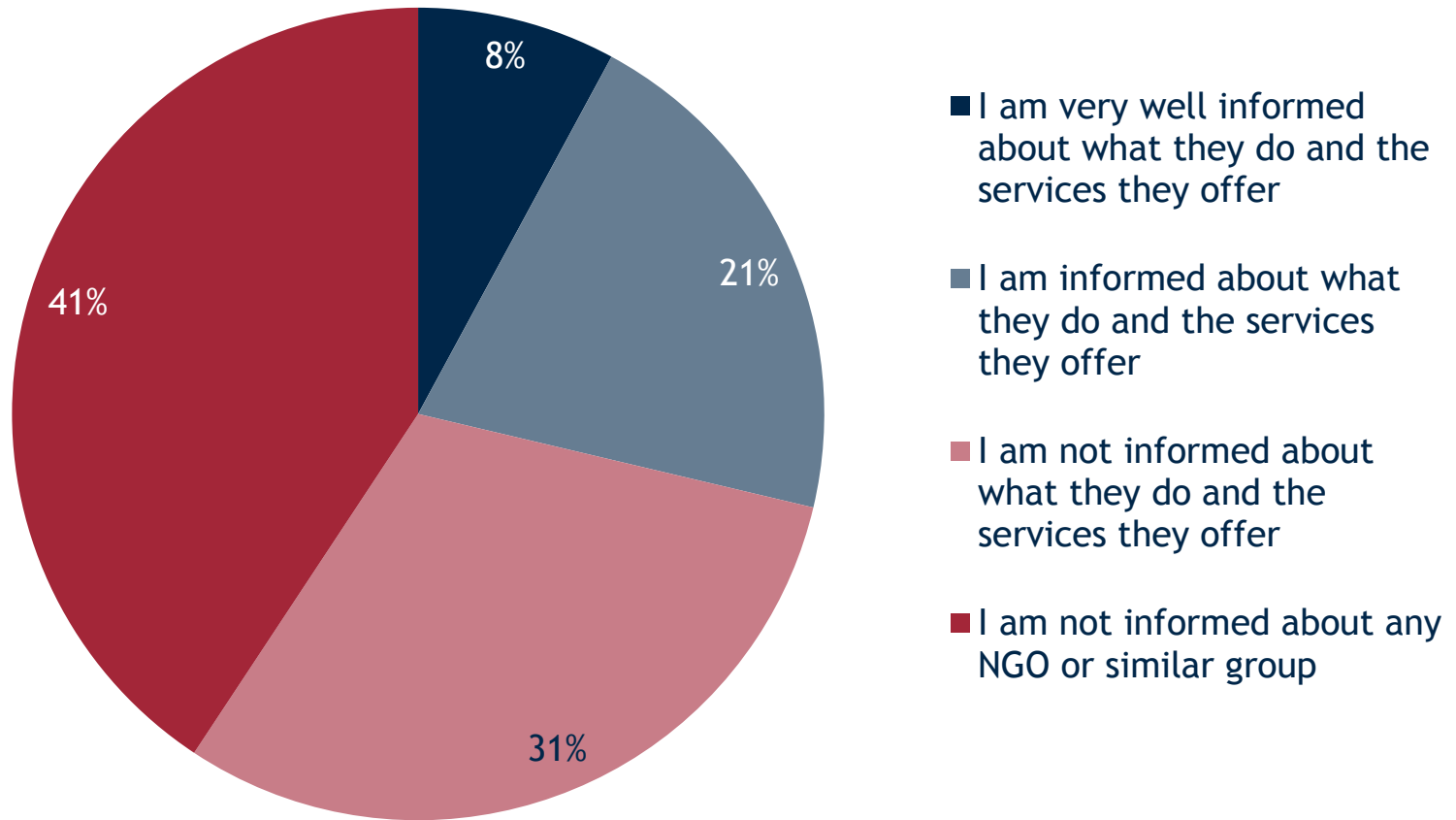
What is the main reason for unequal access to the courts? (n=428)



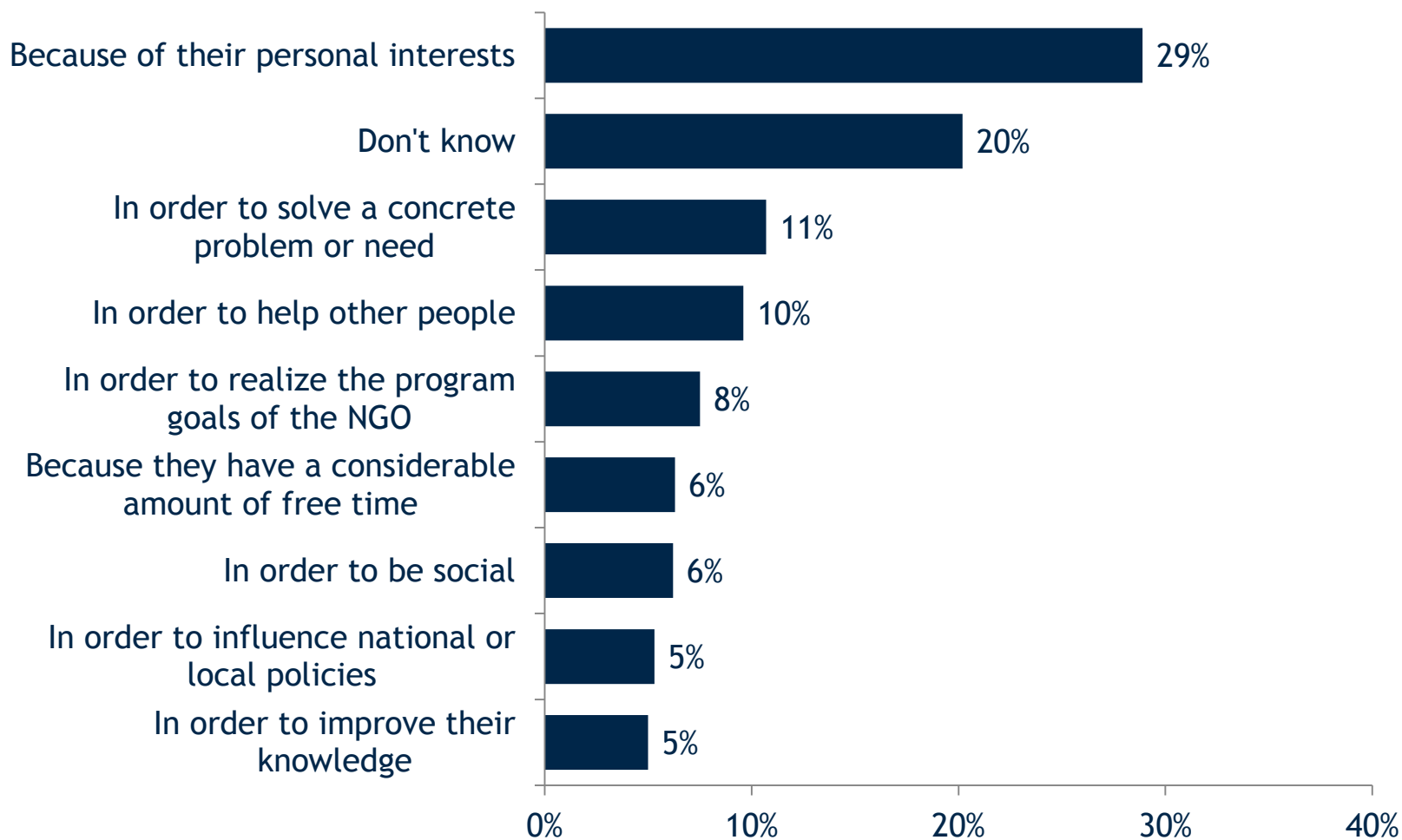


Civil Society and Citizen Participation

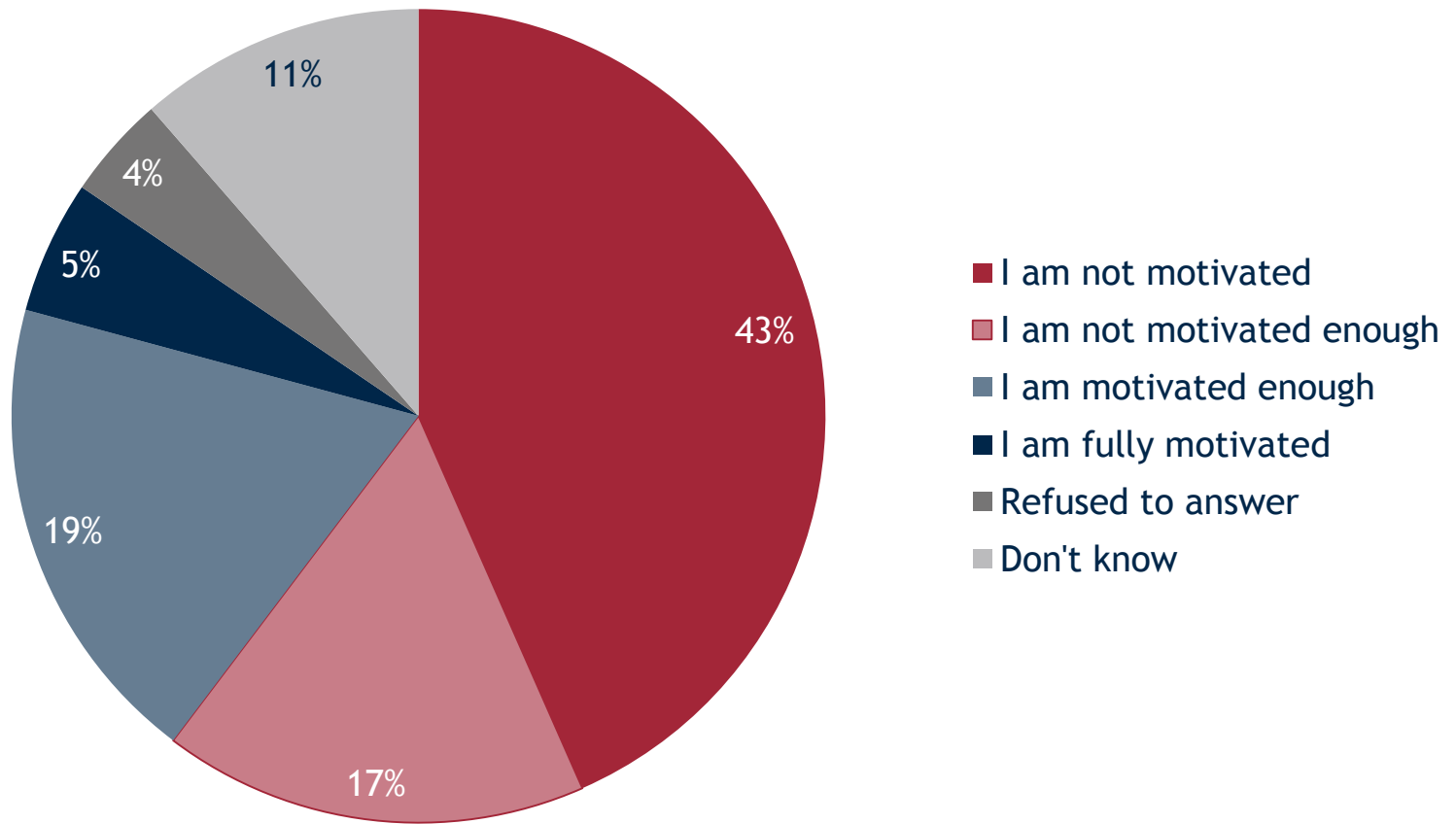
Which of the following statements best describe your knowledge about nongovernmental organizations (NGO) or citizens' associations in your community?



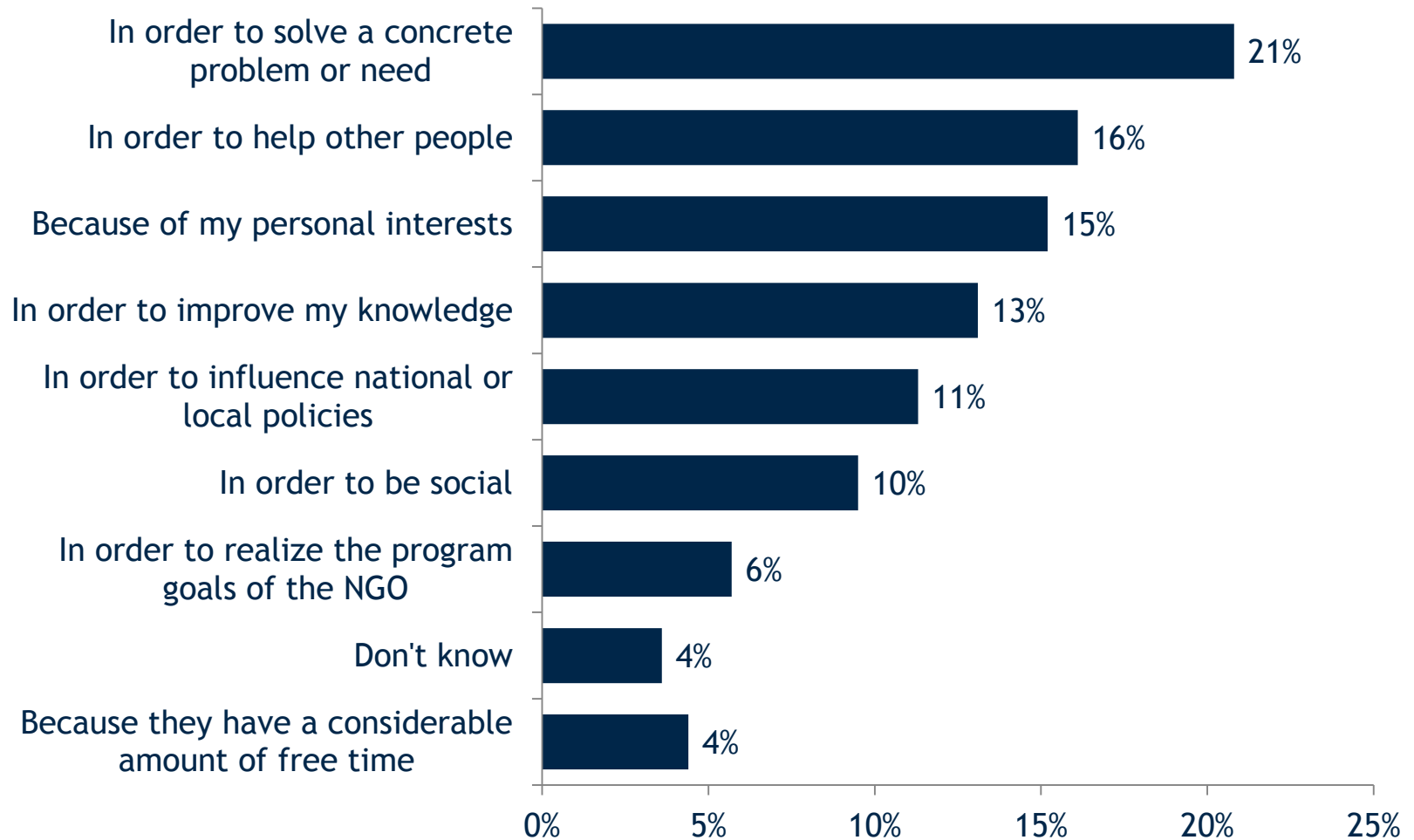
According to you, what is the motivation (principal reason) that citizens in Macedonia become members of citizens' associations (NGO)?



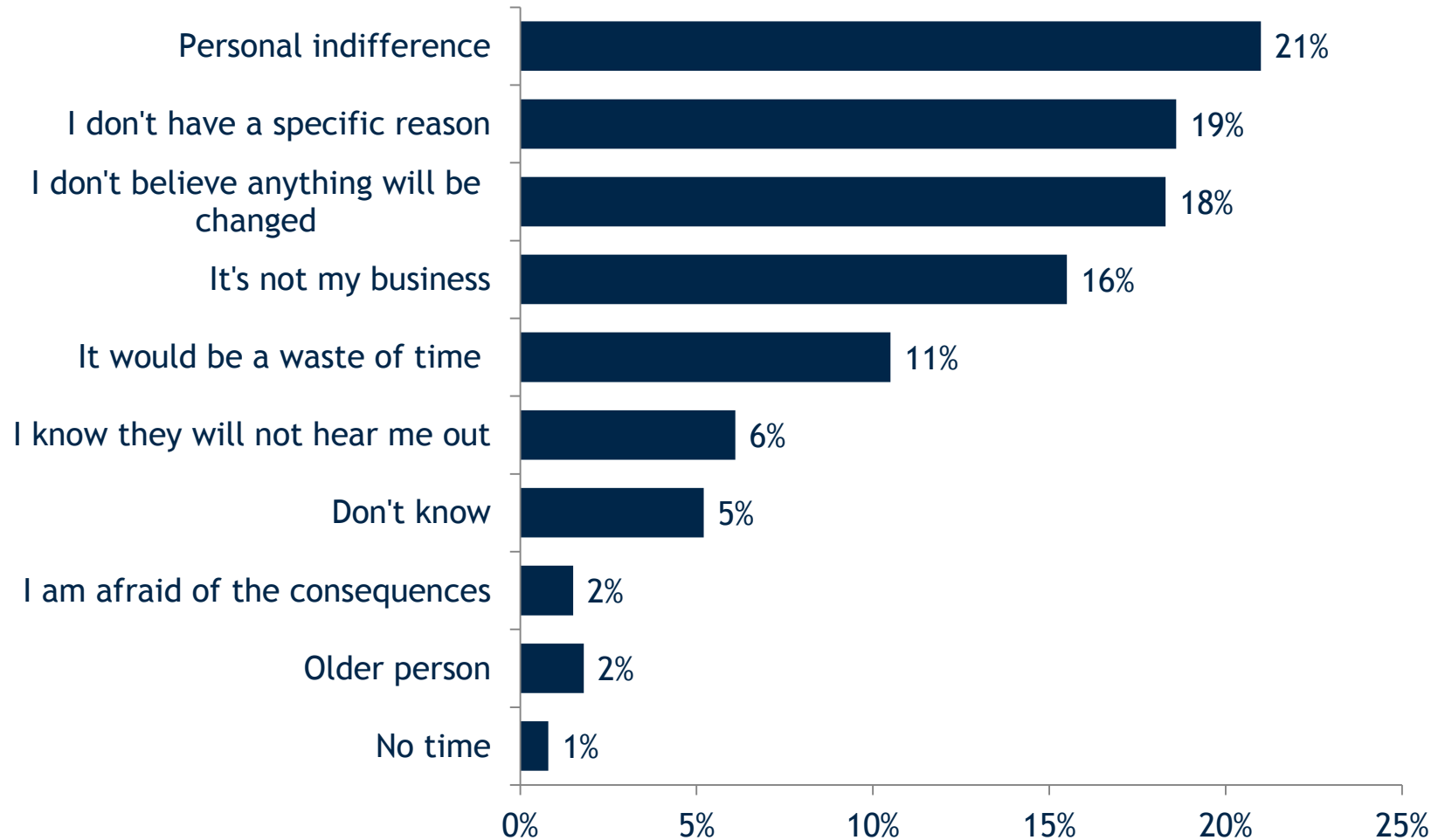
To what degree are you motivated to engage in activities of citizens' associations on issues you consider to be of social importance?



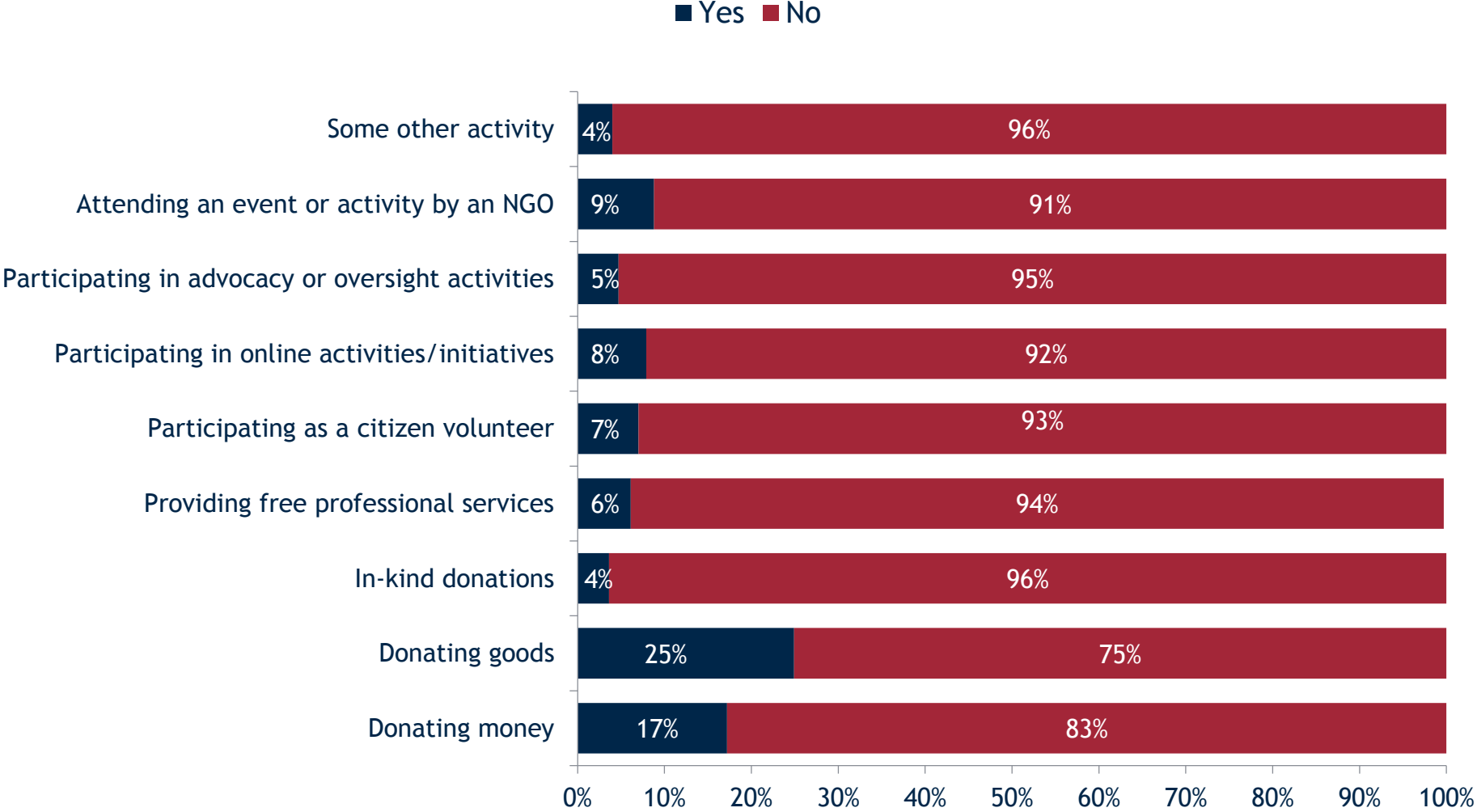
What is the reason you are motivated to engage in NGO activities? (n=267)



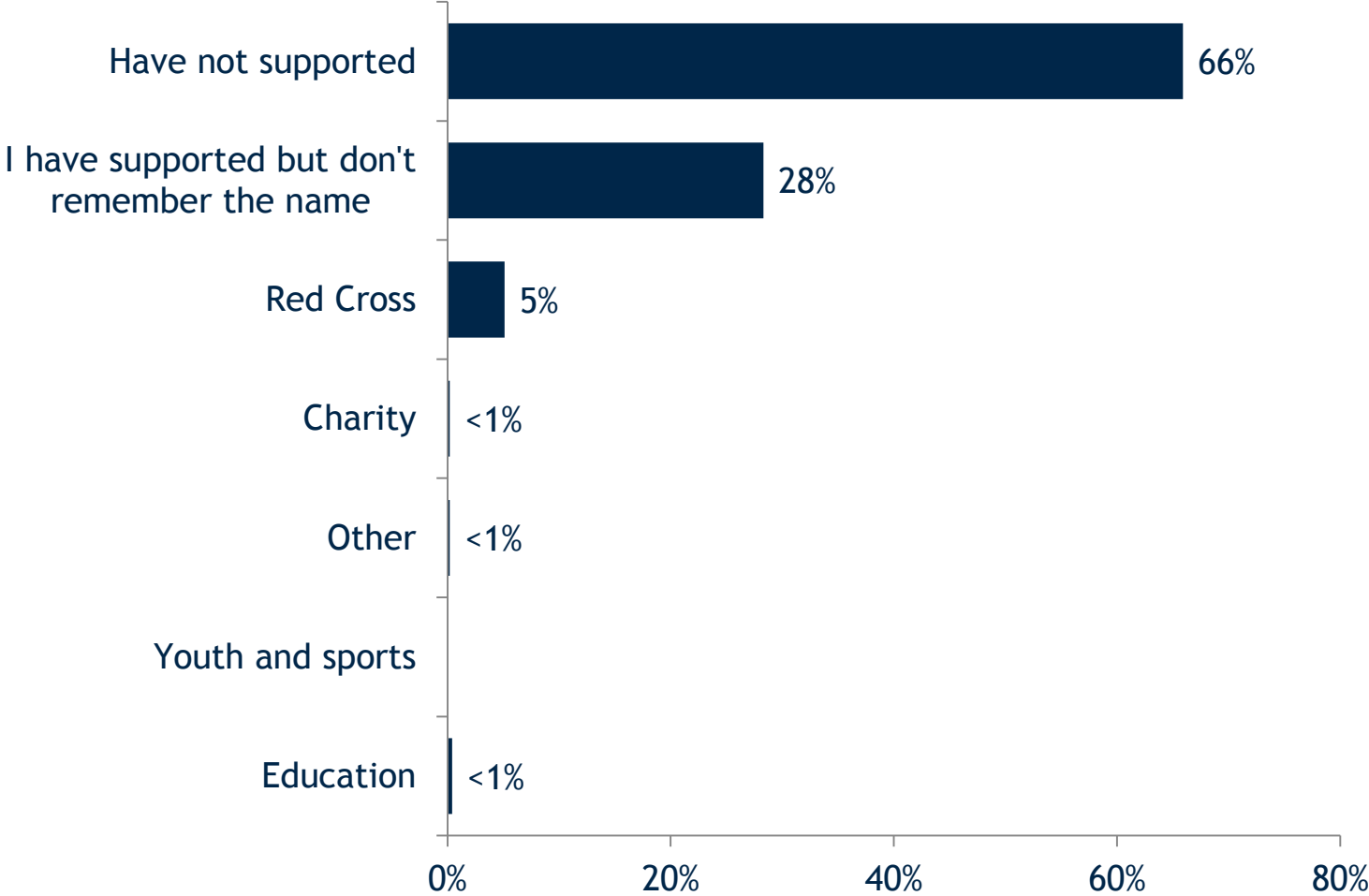
What is the reason you are not motivated to engage in NGO activities? (n=665)



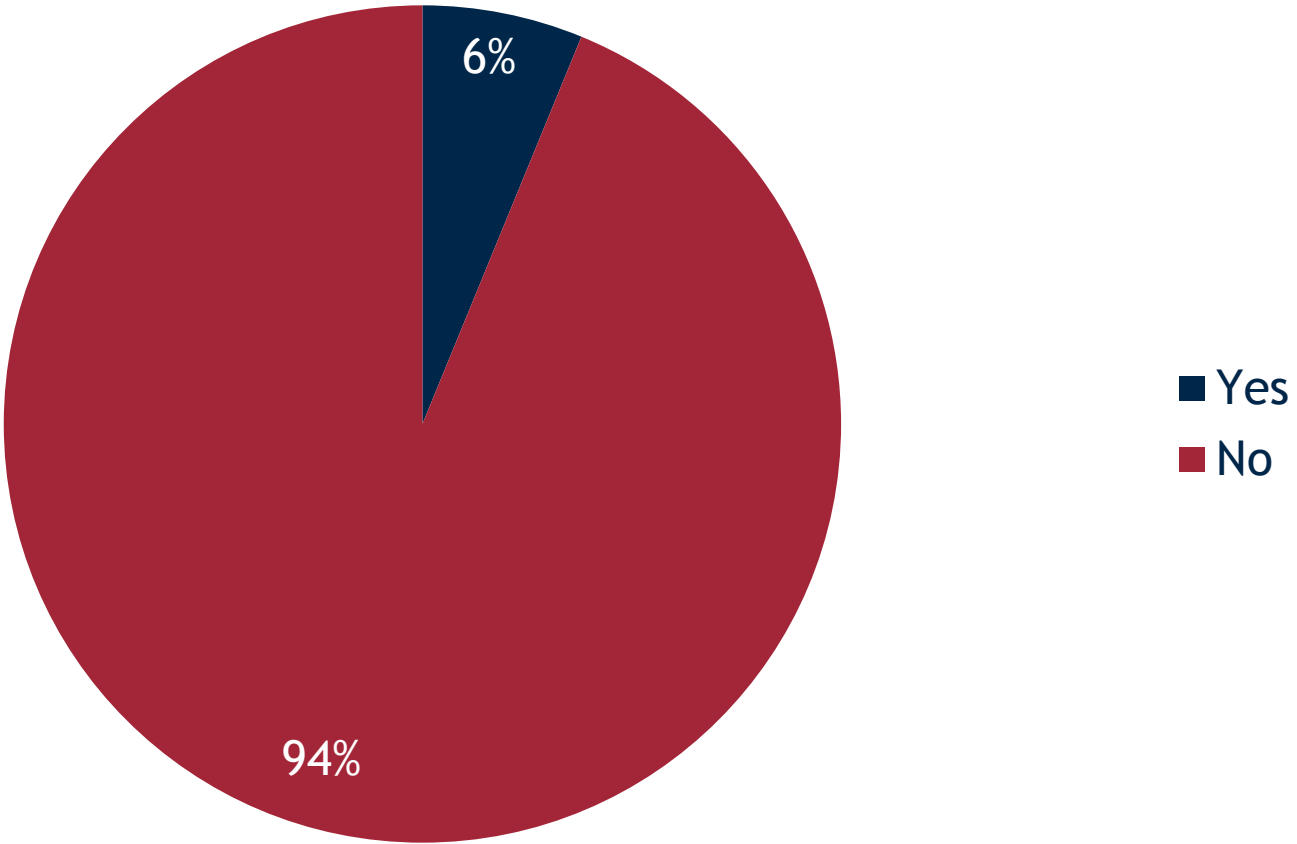
Please indicate if you have personally supported NGO activities in the last 12 months in any of the following ways.



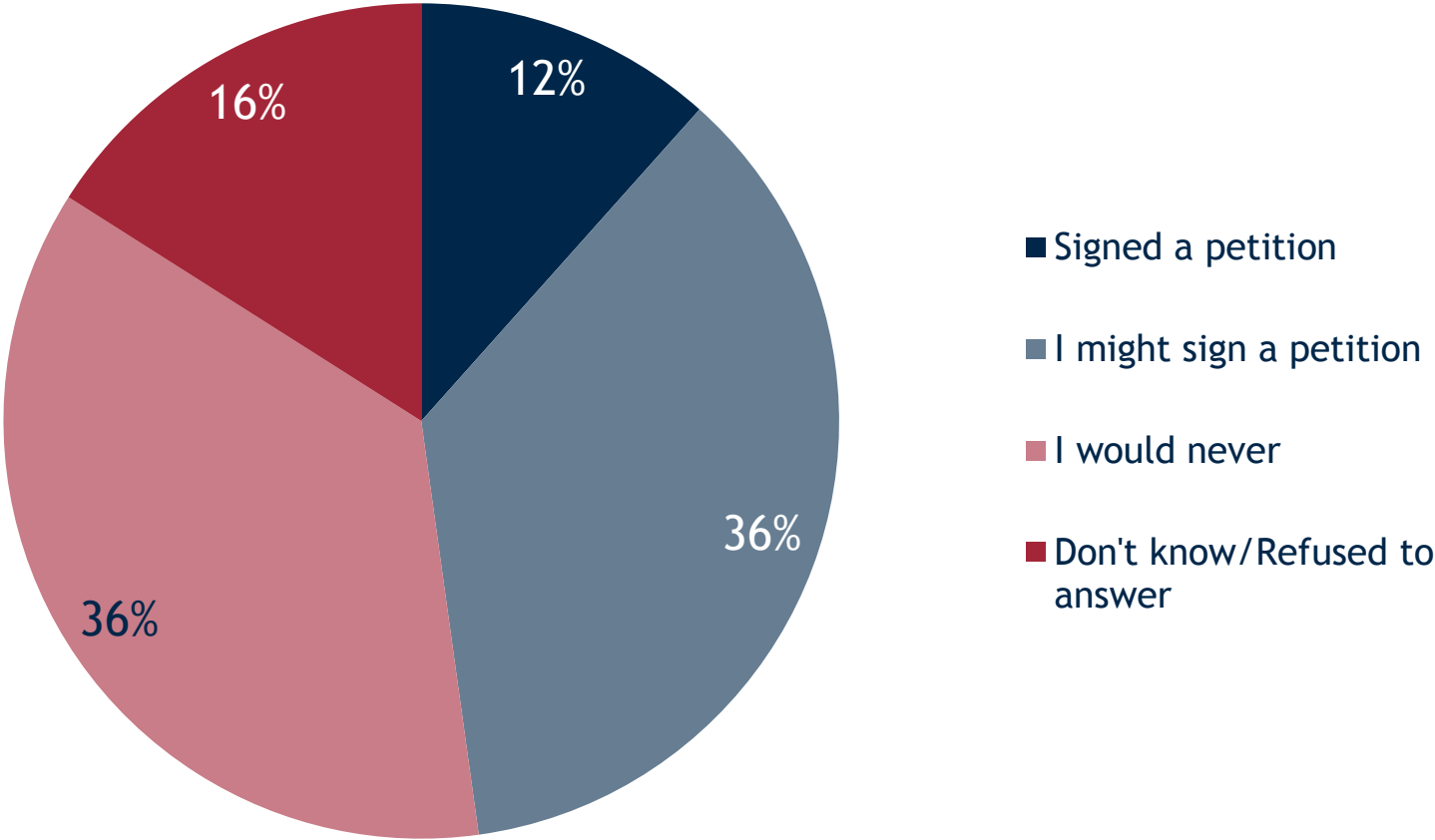
In which area is the NGO activity that you have supported?



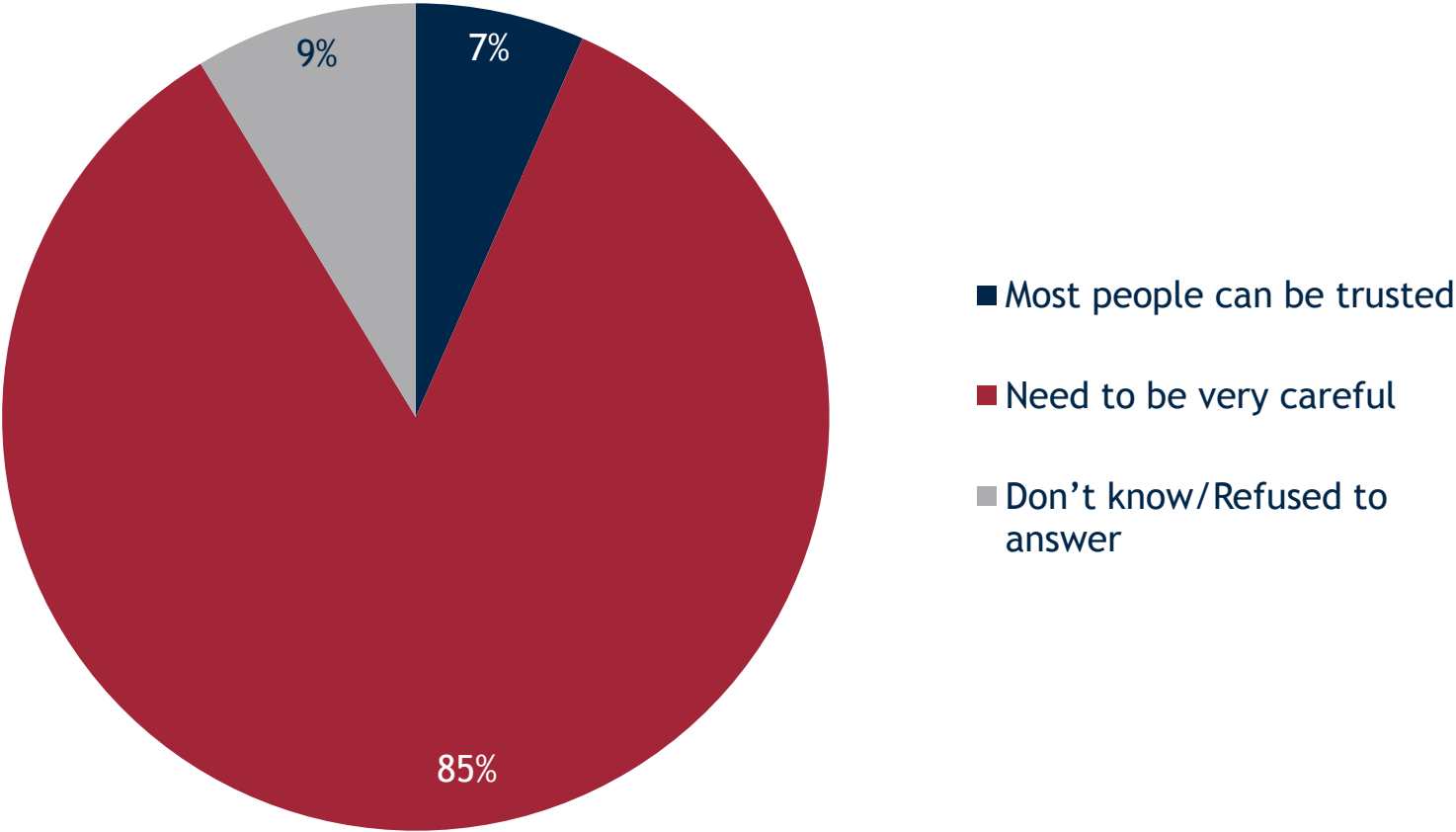
Have you engaged in activities to address a social or community problem in the last 12 months? (e.g. participated in a protest, filed a complaint, initiated or supported an online petition, etc.)

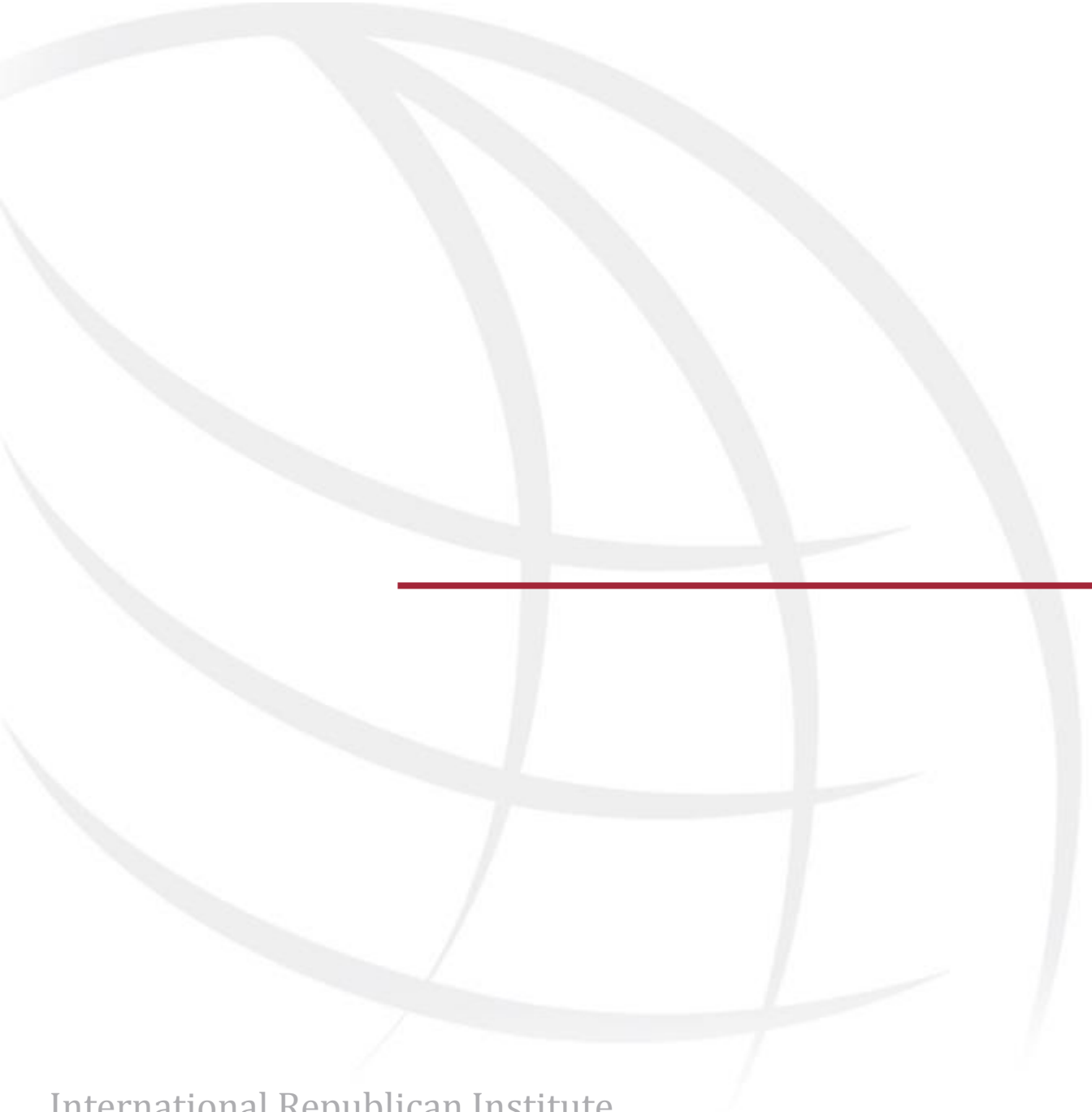


Have you ever signed a petition, do you think you might, or would you never, under any circumstances, do it?



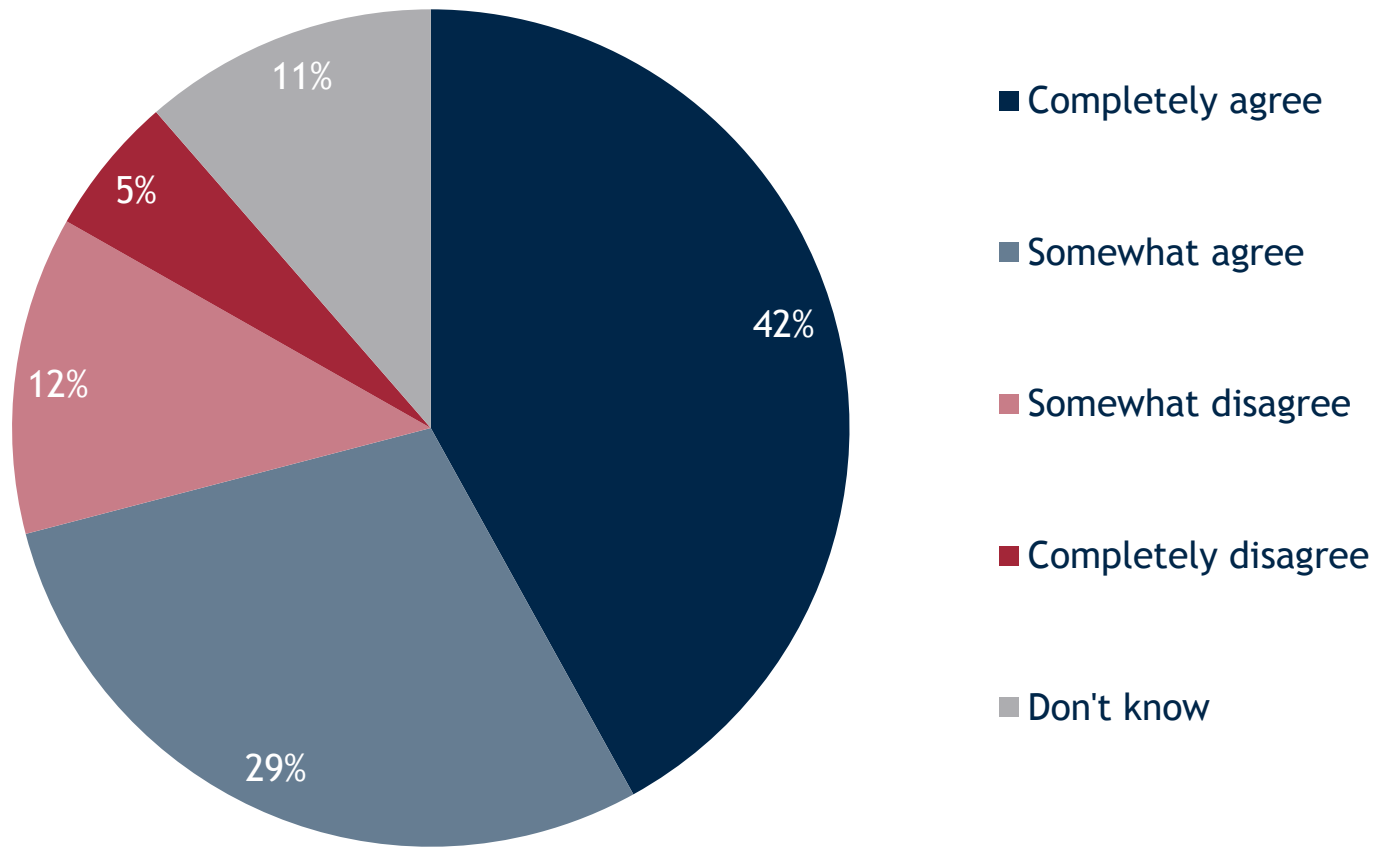
Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted or that you need to be very careful in dealing with people?



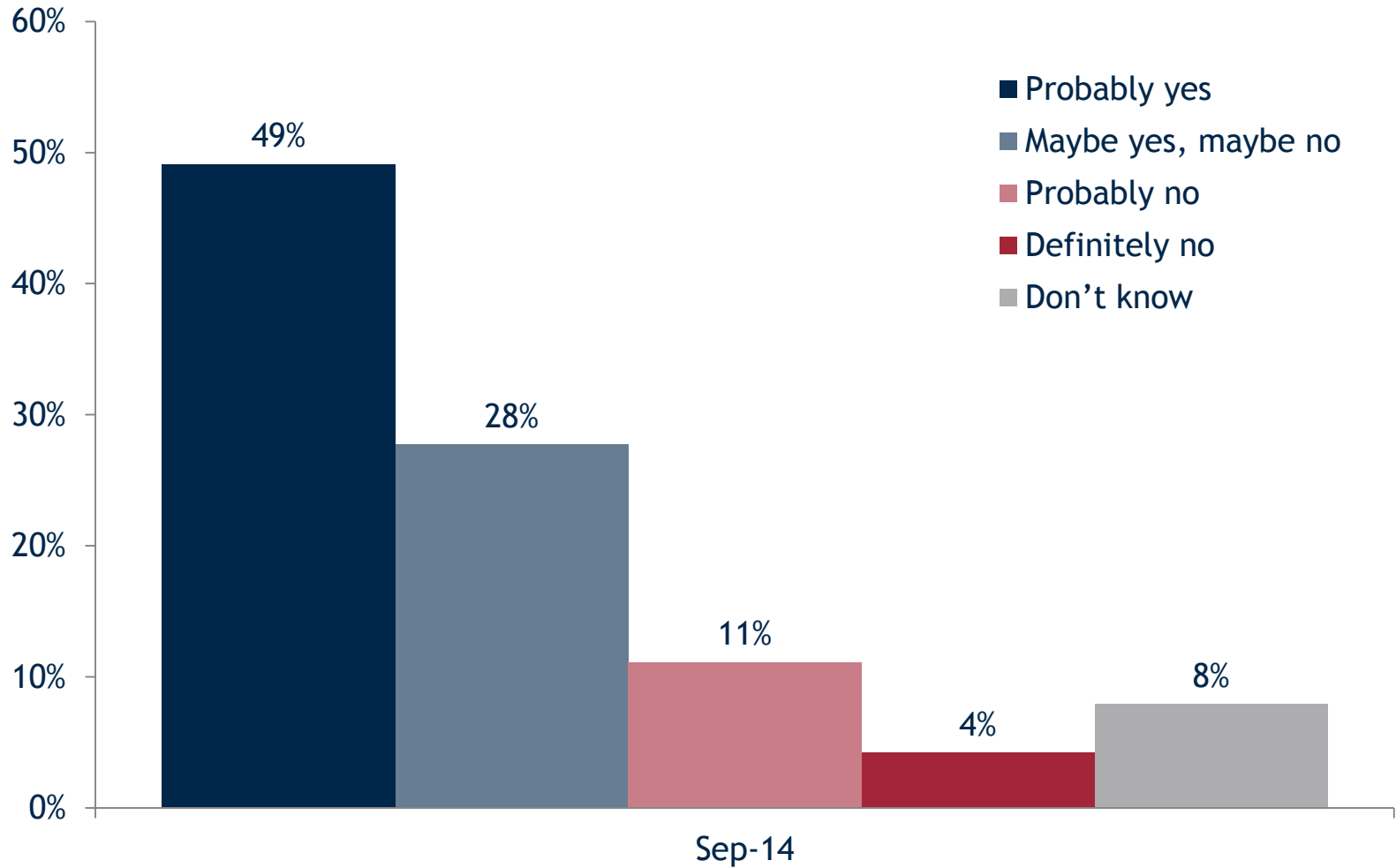


Climate Change

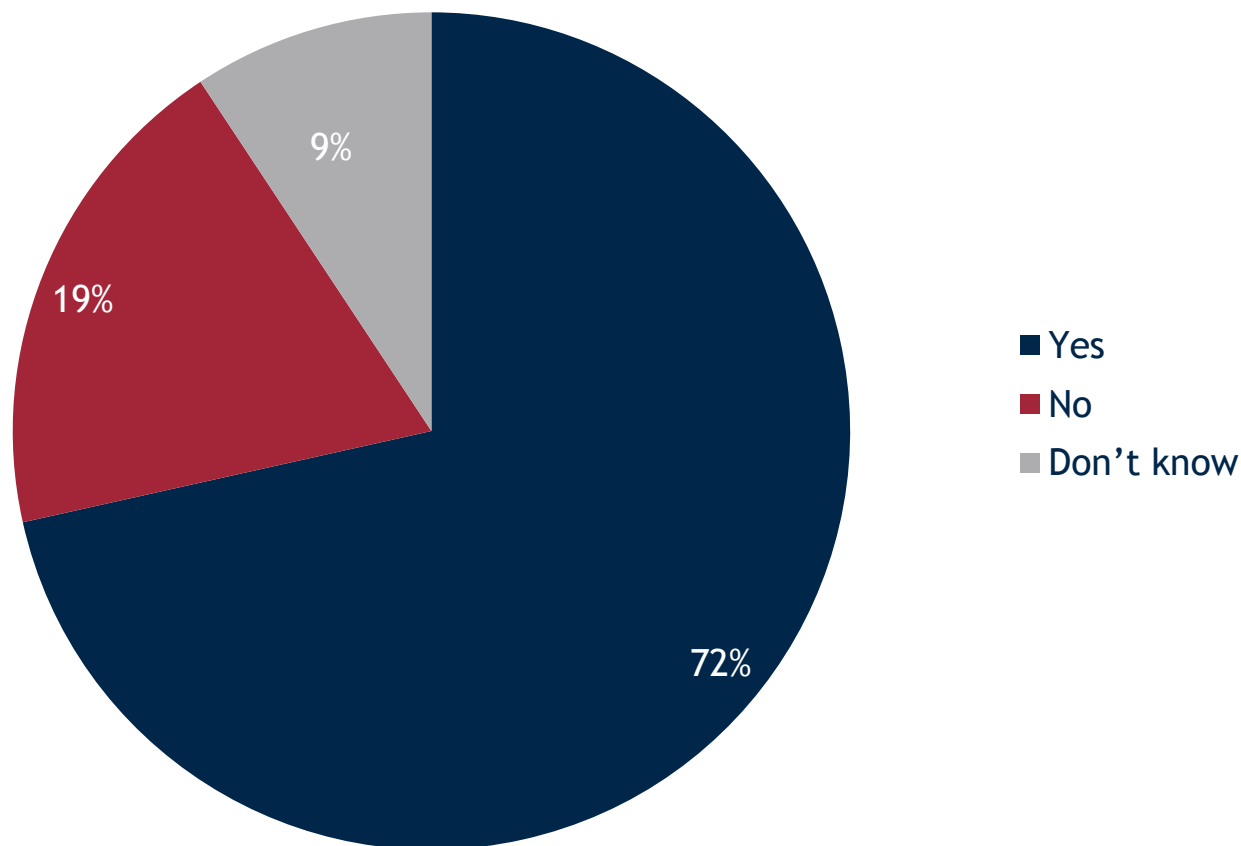
Some argue that human activity is altering the world's climate, do you...



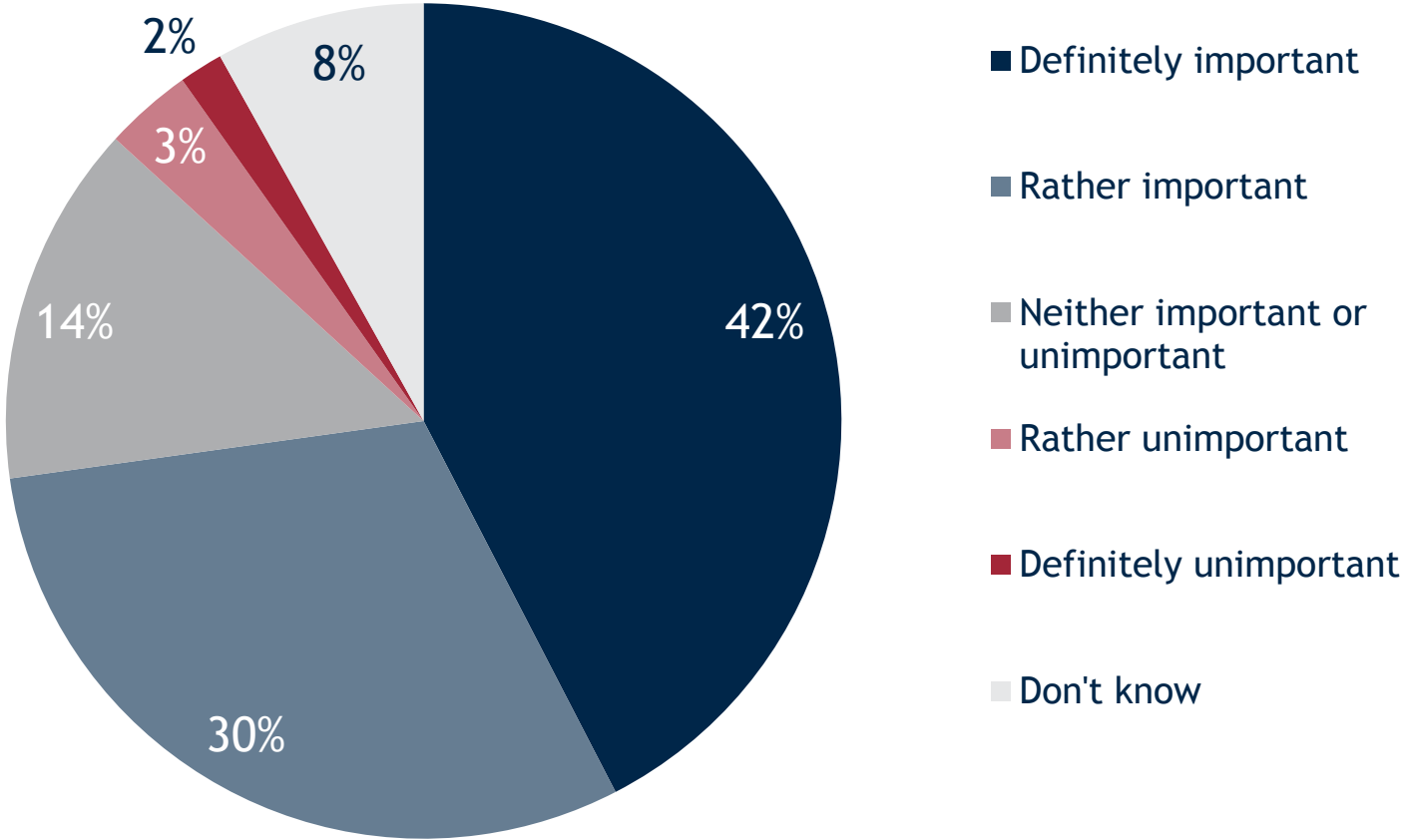
Do you think climate change will affect you or your family in some way?

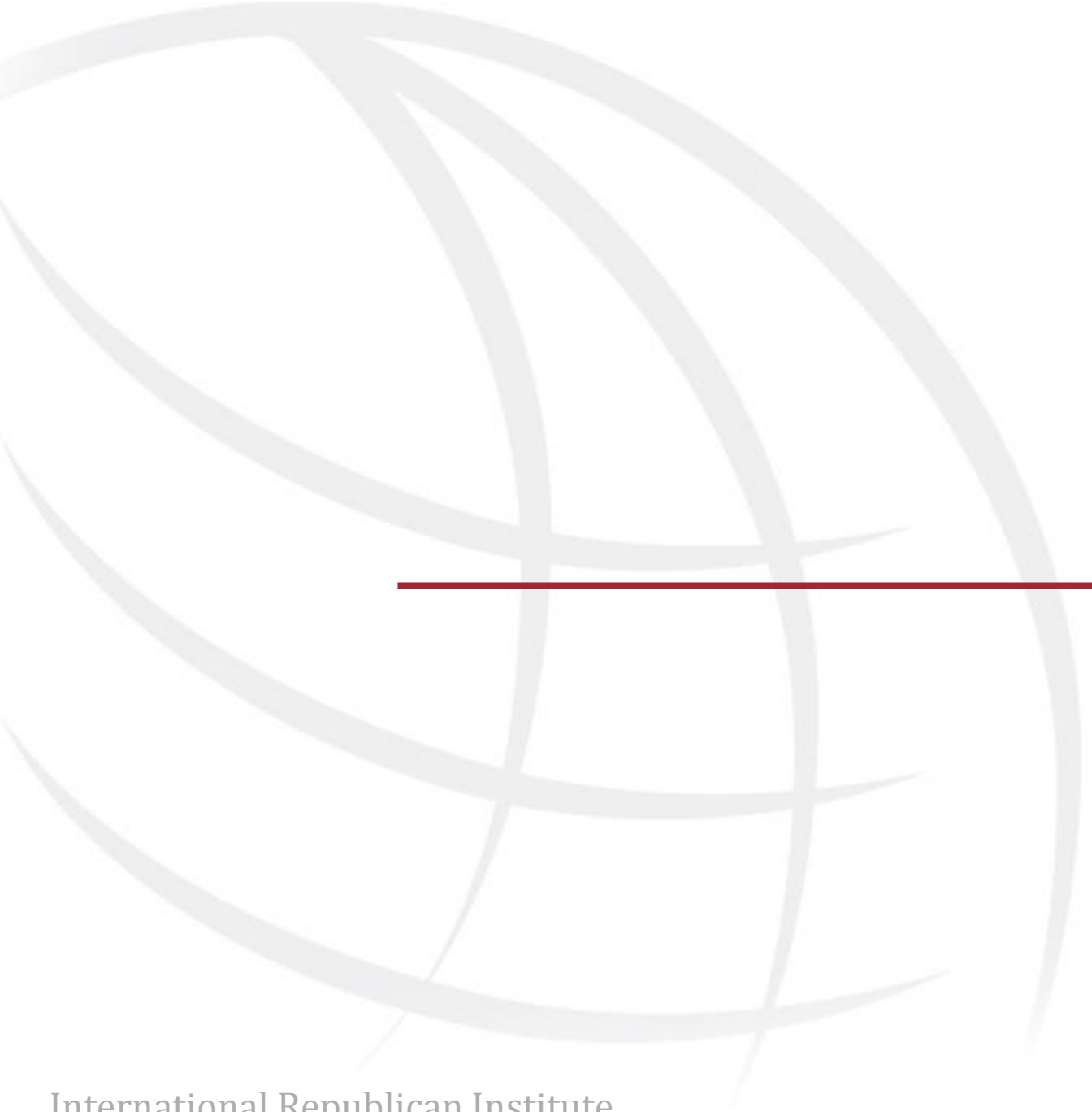


In your view, is climate change having any impact on the region (within Macedonia) where you live?



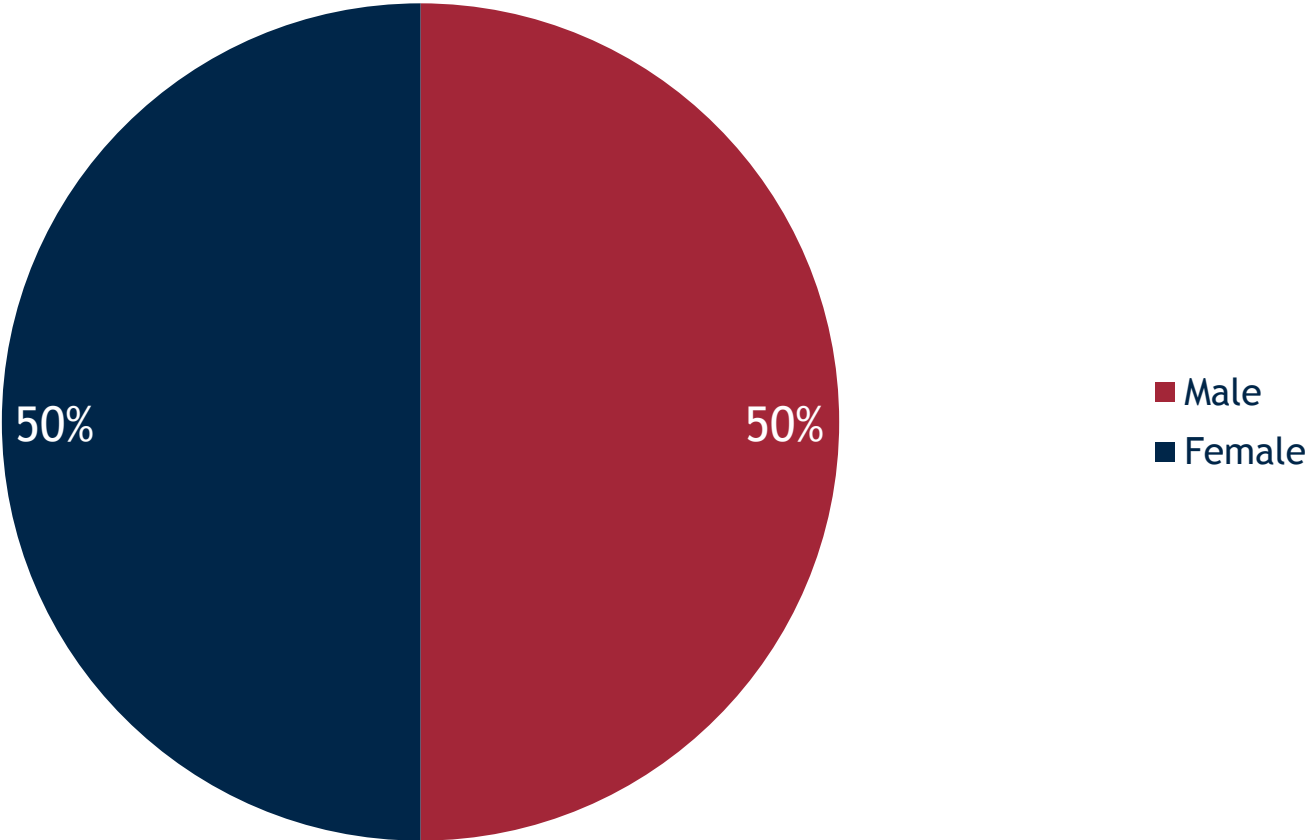
How important is it, in your view, to take collective action to reduce any negative impacts arising from climate change ?



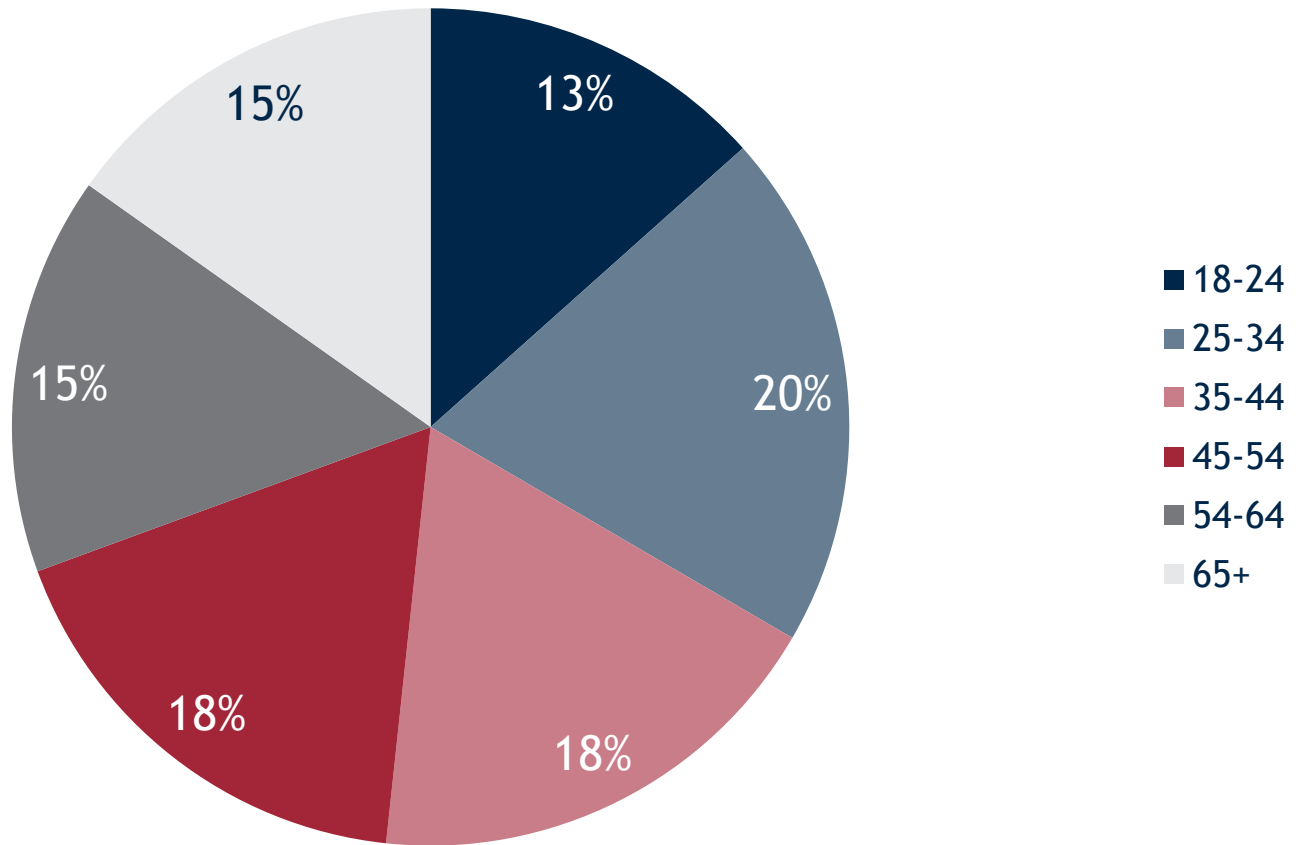


Demographics

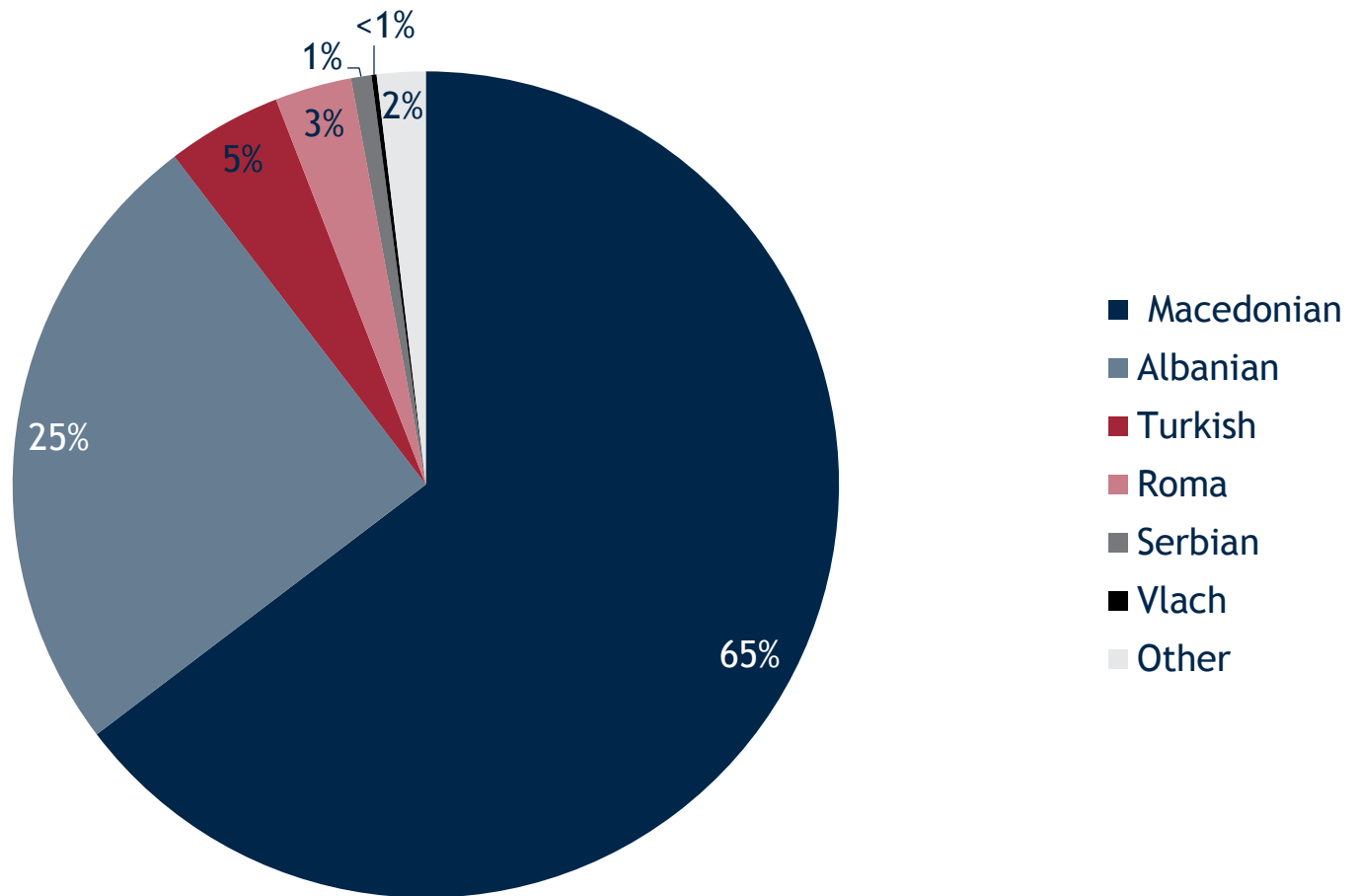
Gender



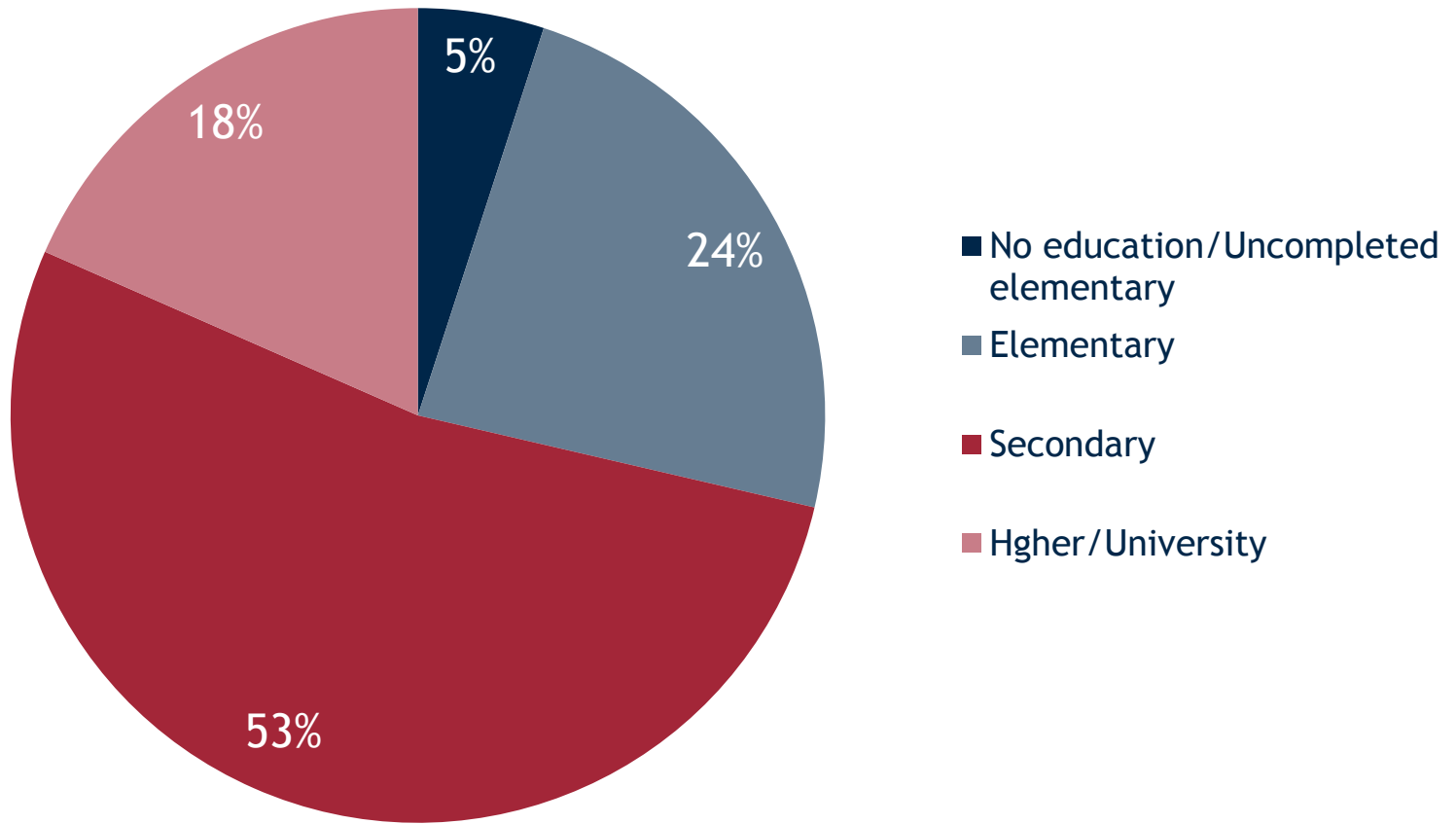
Age



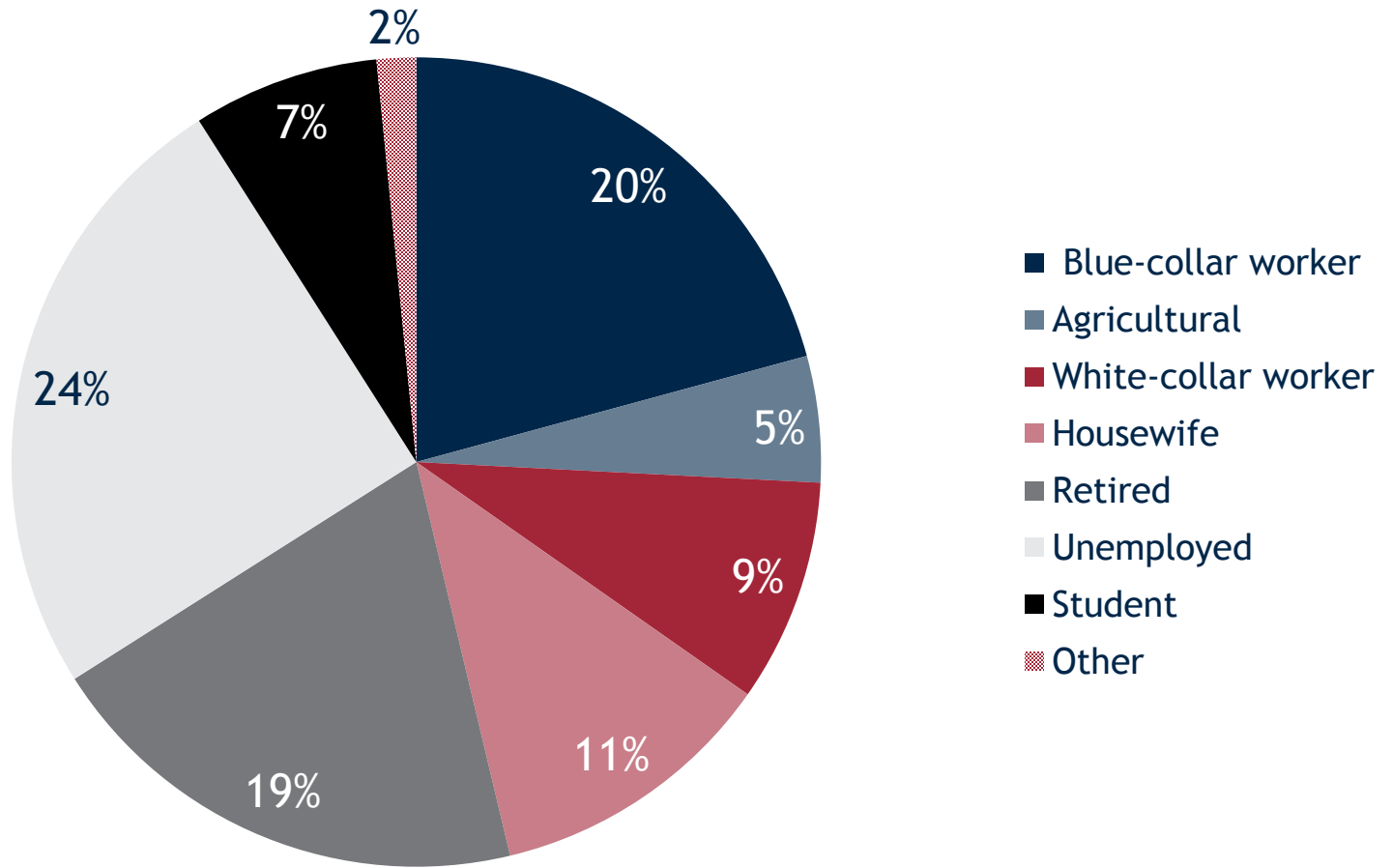
Ethnicity



Education



Occupation



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