



# Survey of Public Opinion in Georgia

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February 22 - March 8, 2017



# Detailed Methodology

- The survey was conducted by Dr. Rasa Alisauskiene of the public and market research company Baltic Surveys/The Gallup Organization on behalf of the International Republican Institute. The fieldwork was carried out by the Institute of Polling & Marketing.
- Data was collected throughout Georgia (excluding the occupied territories of Abkhazia and South Ossetia) between February 22 and March 8, 2017 through face-to-face interviews at respondents' homes.
- The sample consisted of 1,501 permanent residents of Georgia 18 years and older and eligible to vote. It is representative of the general population by age, gender, education, region and size/type of the settlement.
- A multistage probability sampling method was used, employing the "random route" and "next birthday" respondent selection procedures.
  - Stage one: All districts of Georgia were grouped into 10 regions. The survey was conducted throughout all regions of Georgia, except for the occupied territories of Abkhazia and South Ossetia.
  - Stage two: the territory of each region were split into settlements, and grouped according to subtype (i.e. cities, towns and villages).
    - Settlements were selected at random.
    - The number of selected settlements in each region is proportional to the share of population living in a particular type of the settlement in each region.
  - Stage three: primary sampling units were described.
- The margin of error does not exceed plus or minus 2.5 percent.
- The response rate was 69 percent.
- Charts and graphs may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.
- The survey was funded by the [U.S. Agency for International Development](#).



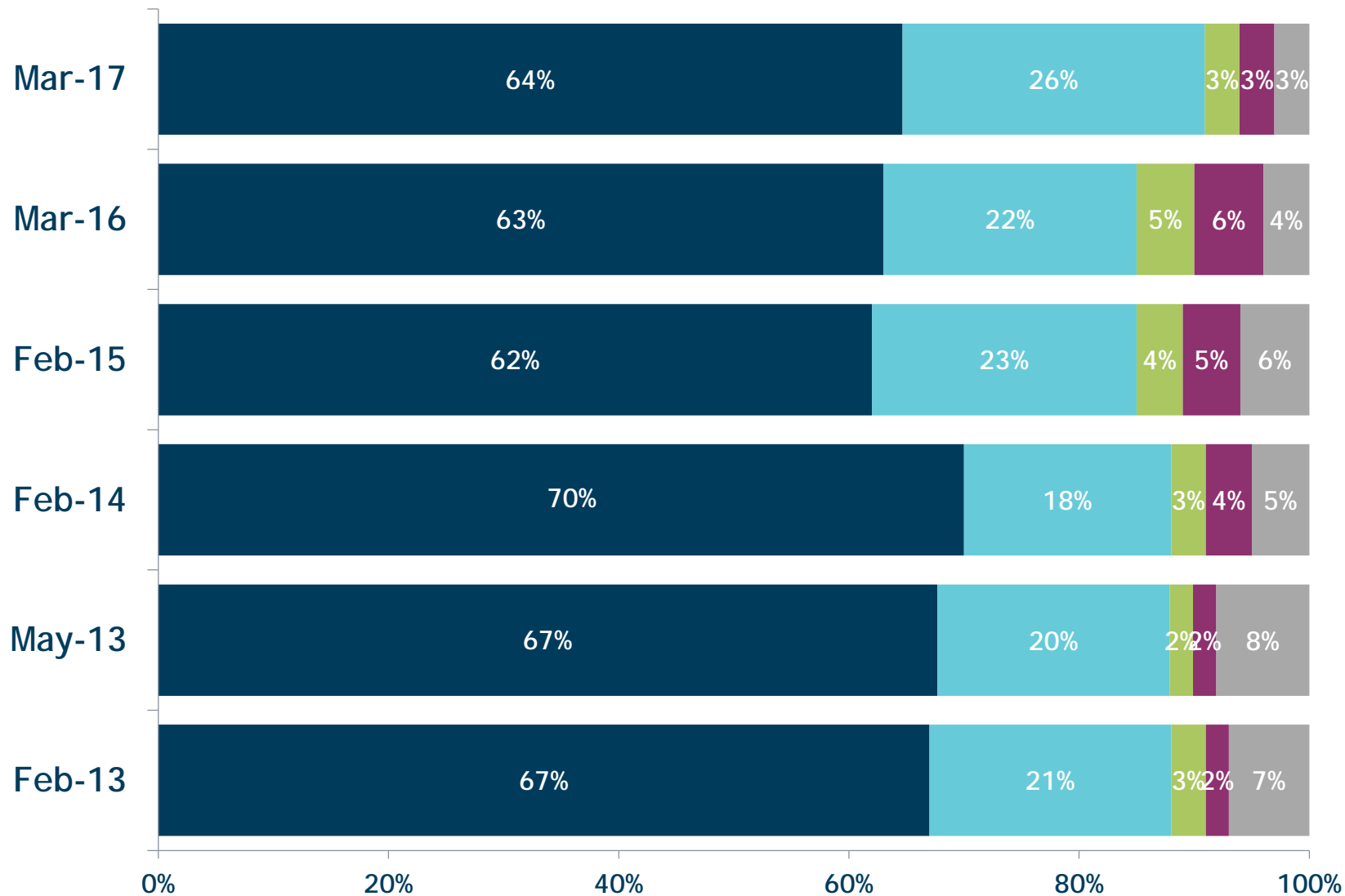
# Strong Support for Euro-Atlantic Integration

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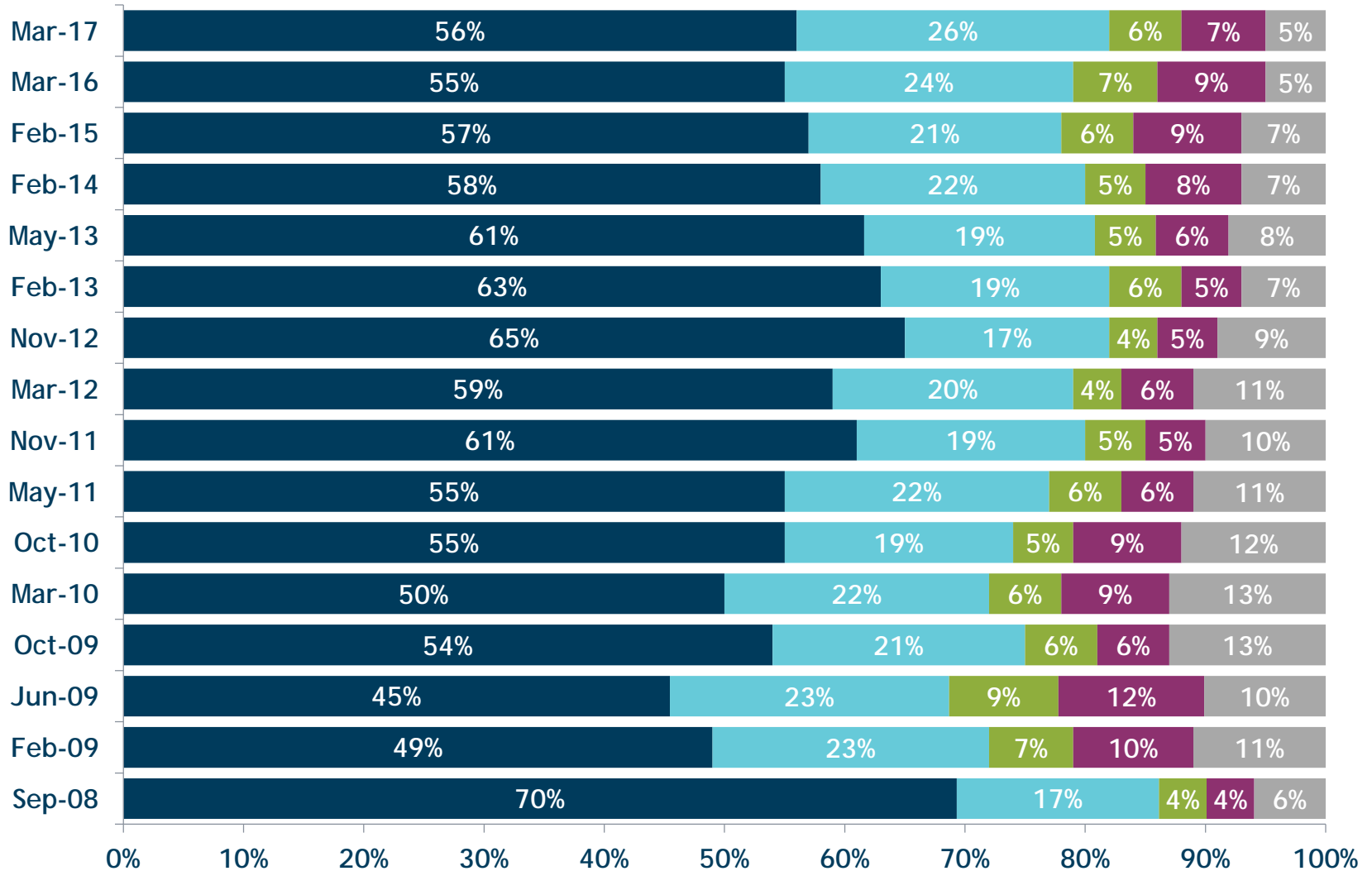
# Do you support Georgia joining the European Union (EU)?

■ Fully support ■ Somewhat support ■ Somewhat oppose ■ Strongly oppose ■ Don't know/No answer

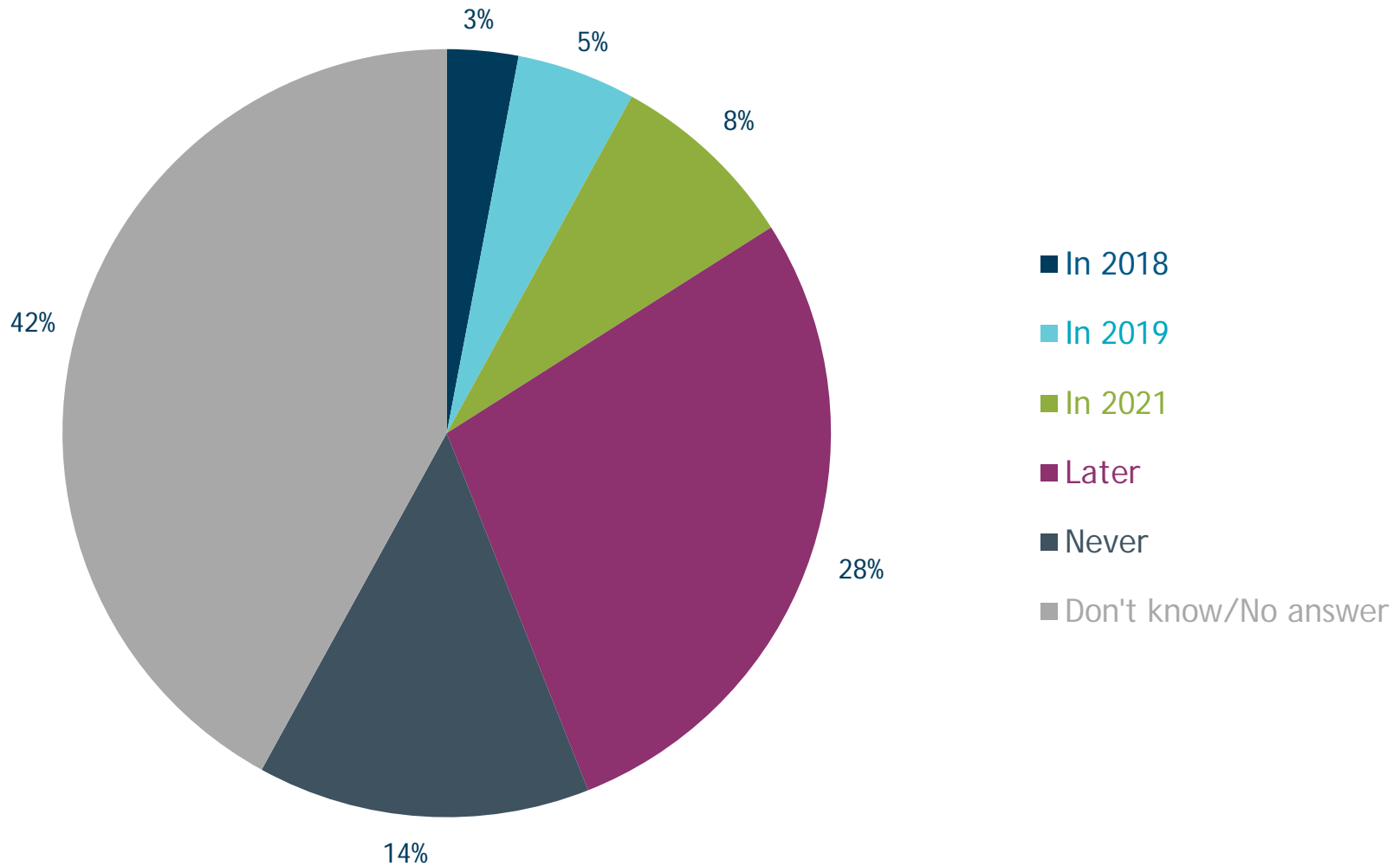


# Do you support Georgia joining NATO?

■ Fully support  
 ■ Somewhat support  
 ■ Somewhat oppose  
 ■ Strongly oppose  
 ■ Don't know/No answer

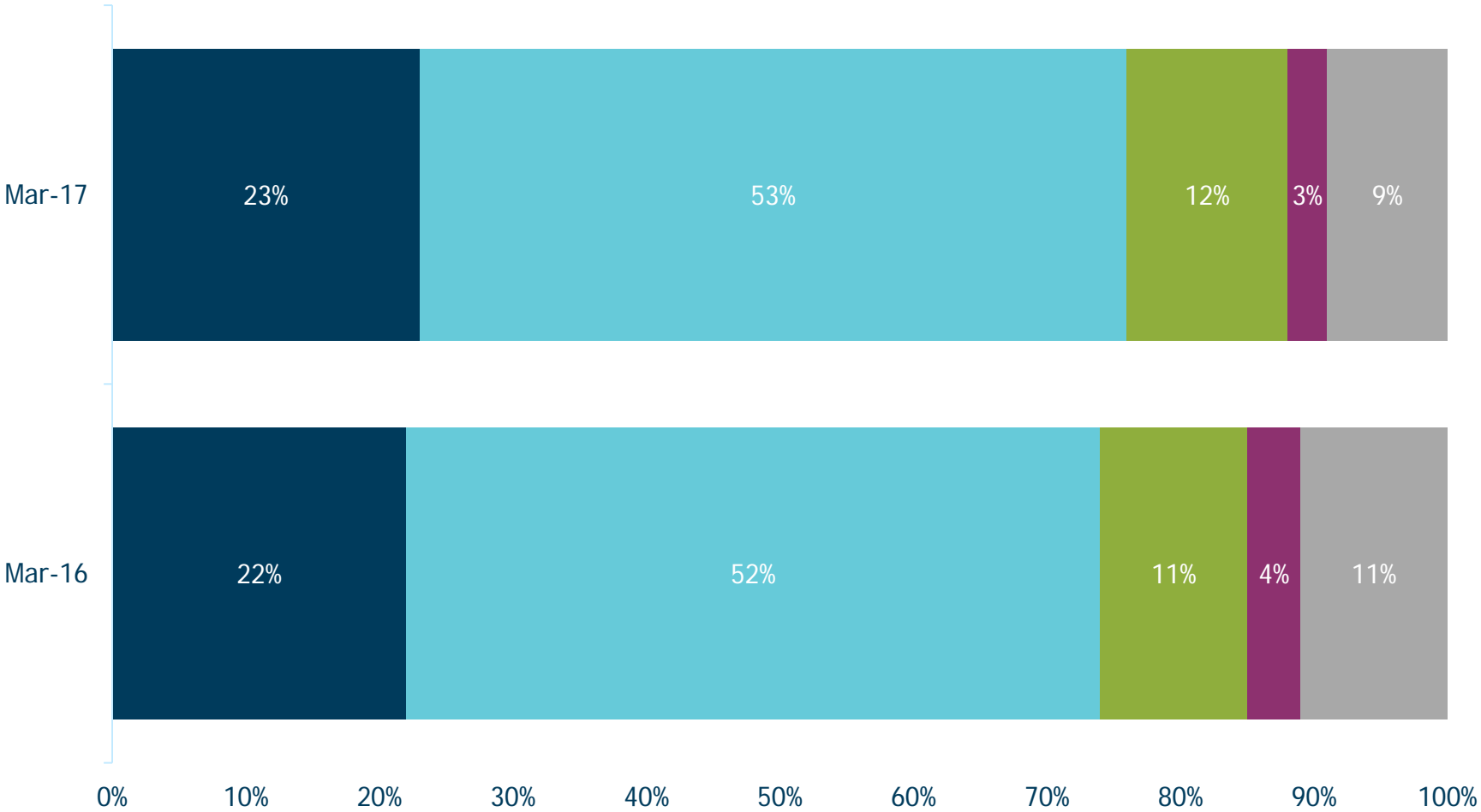


# When do you think Georgia will become a member of NATO?

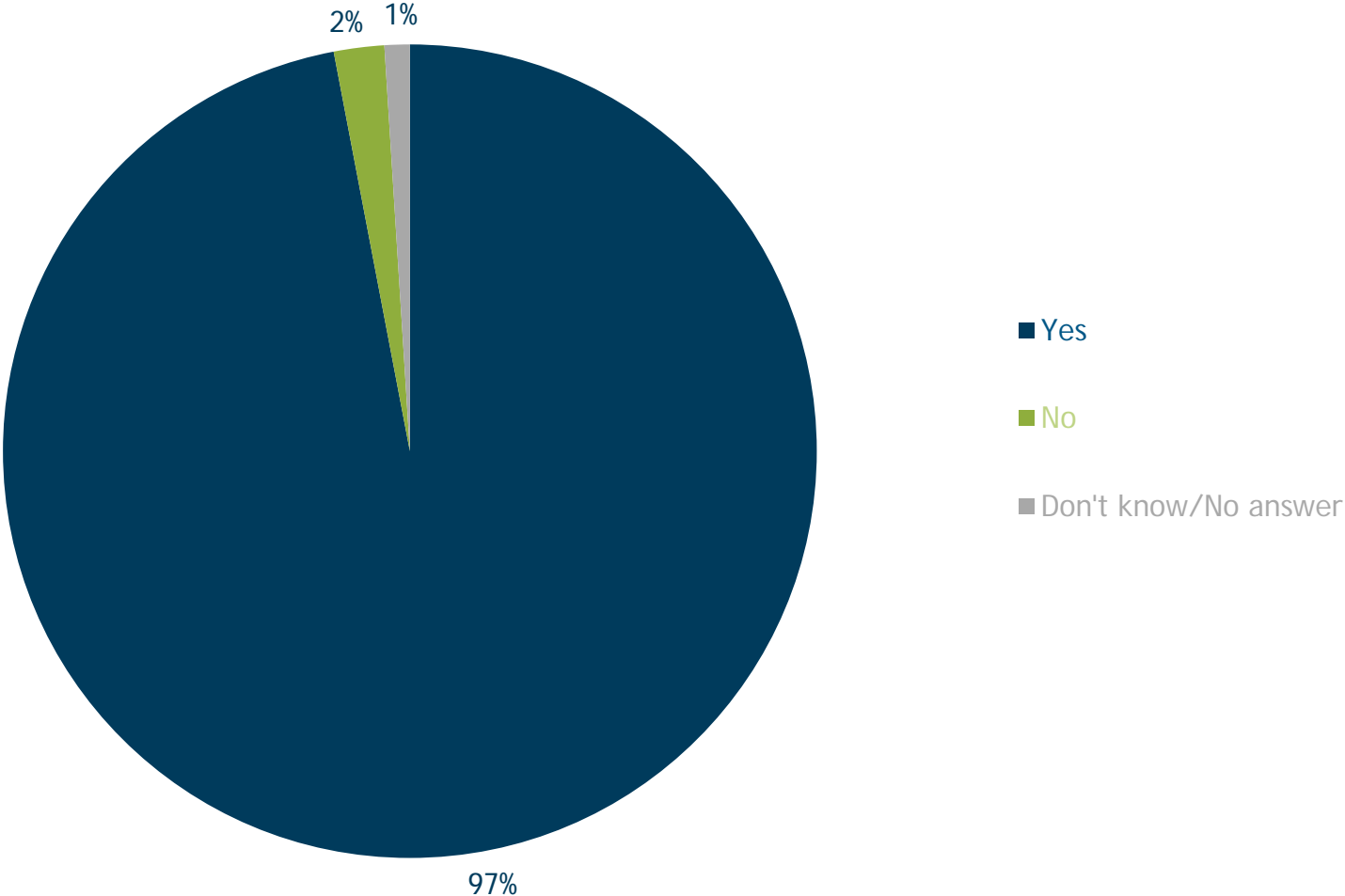


# In your opinion, what should Georgia's foreign policy approach be?

- Only pro-EU/pro-Western
- Pro-Russian but remain an ally of the EU/the West
- Don't know/No answer
- Pro-Western, but keep up relations with Russia
- Only pro-Russian

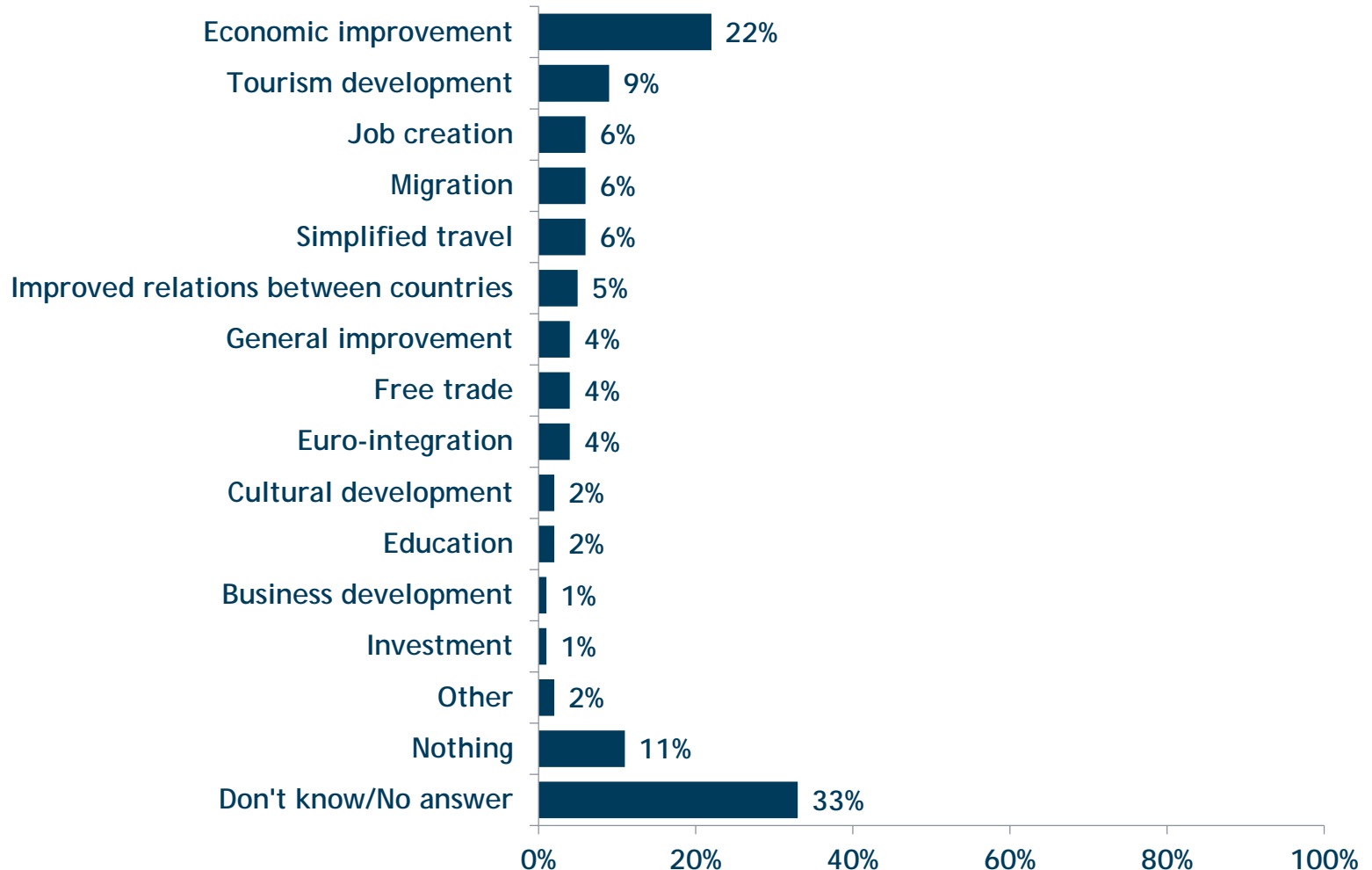


# Have you heard about the approval of visa-free travel between the European Union and Georgia?





# After the implementation of visa-free travel, what do you expect the next steps will be for Georgia regarding the European Union Association Agreement? (three answers possible)





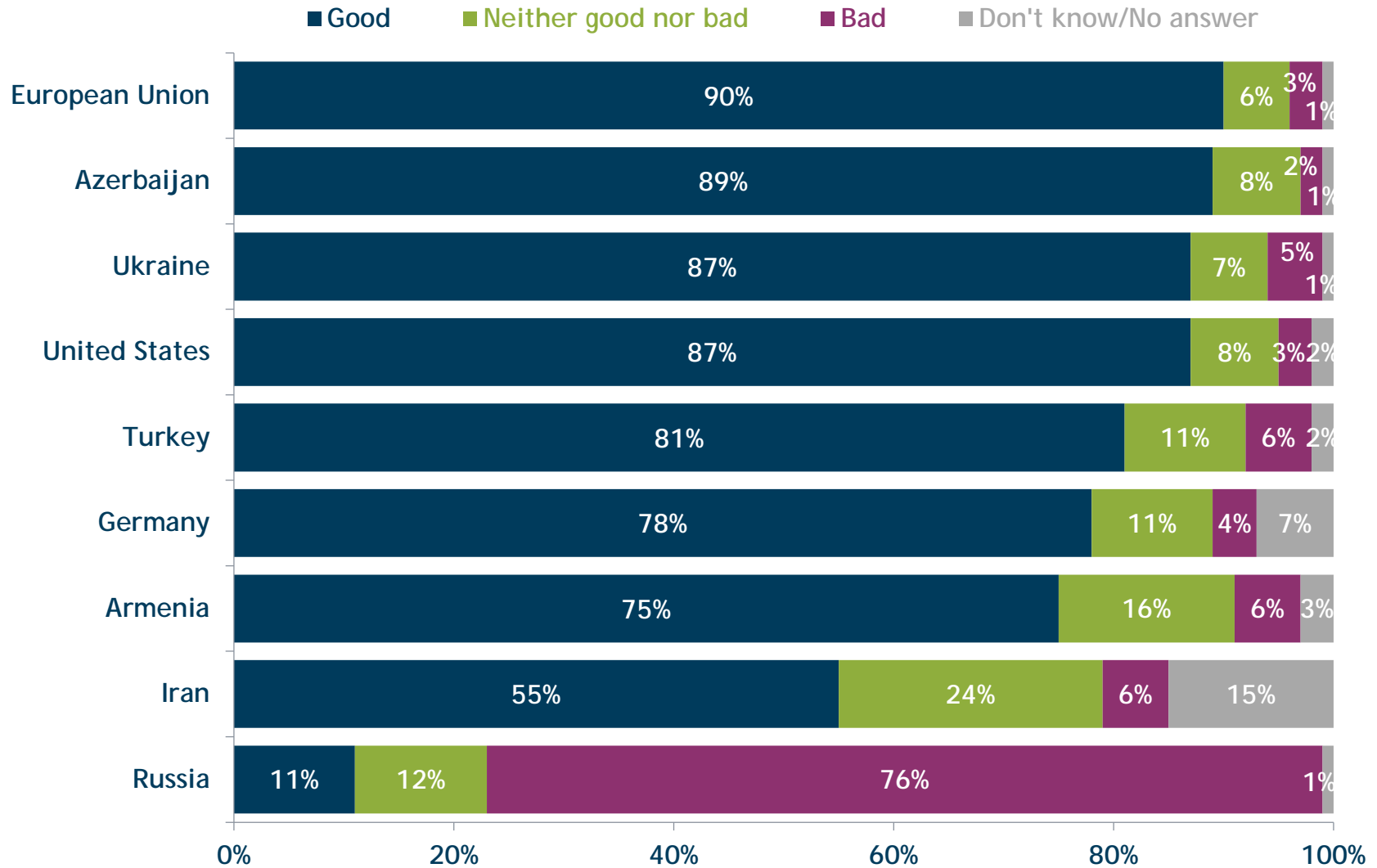
# Attitudes Toward Russia

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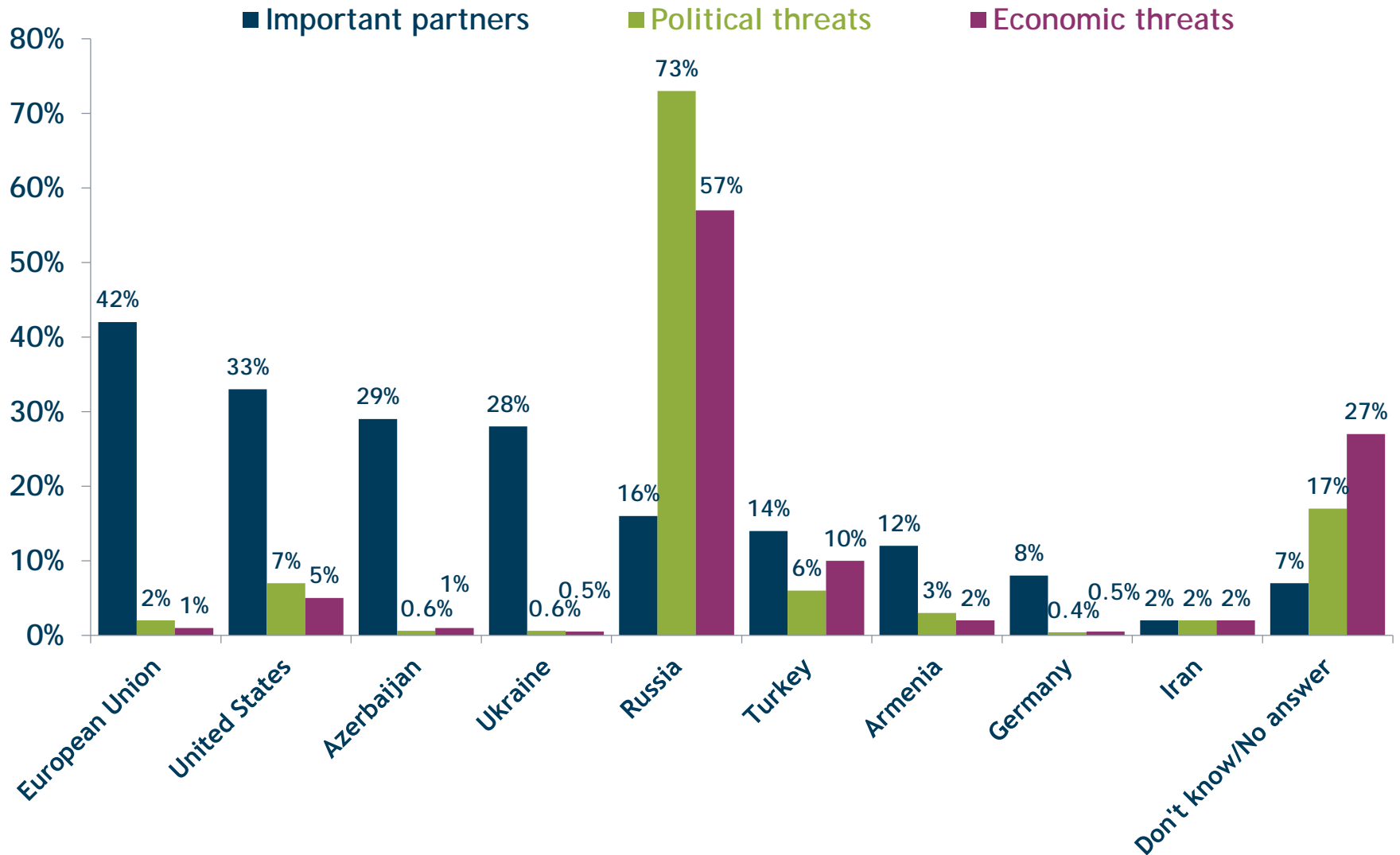


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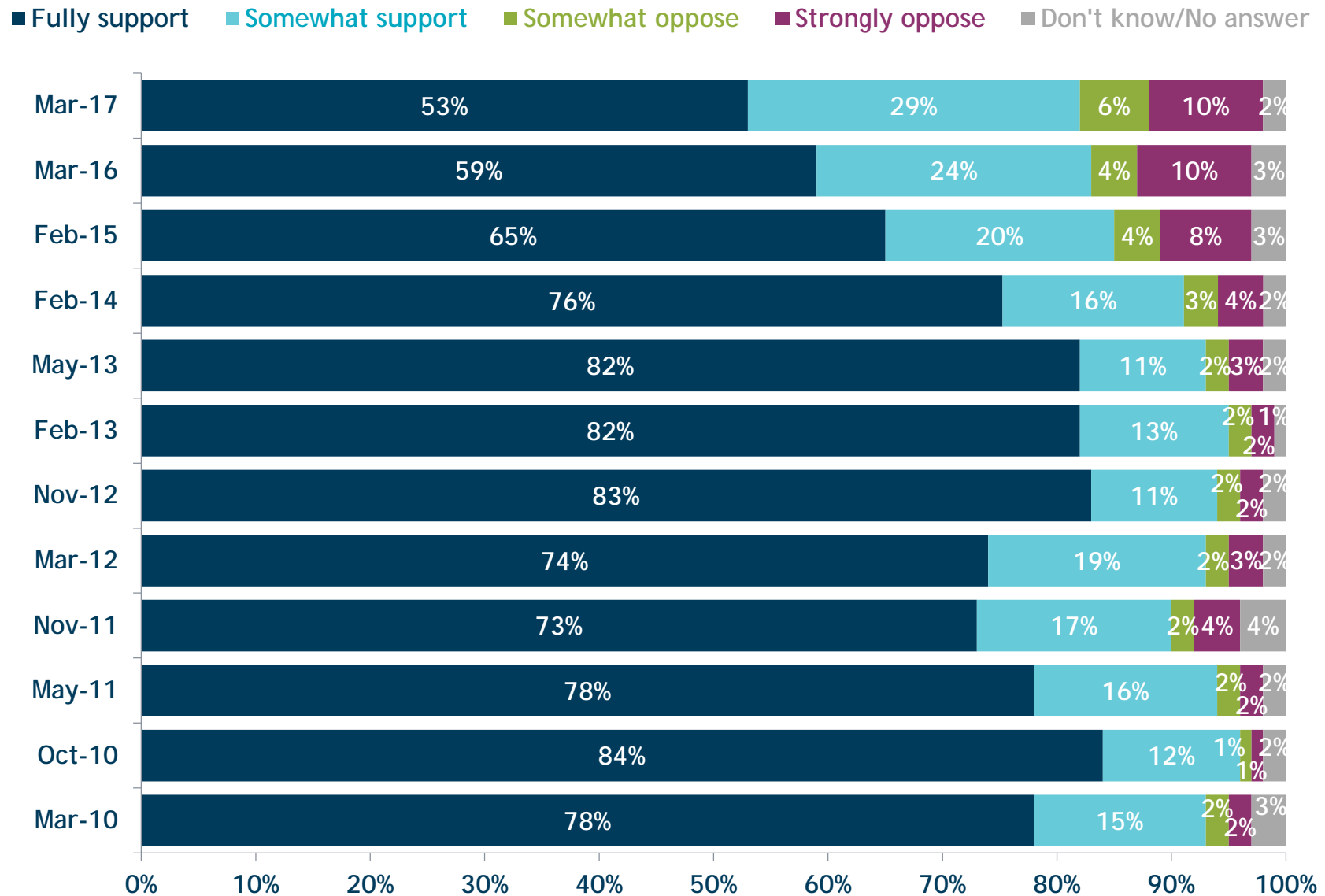
# How would you characterize the current state of the relationship between Georgia and...?



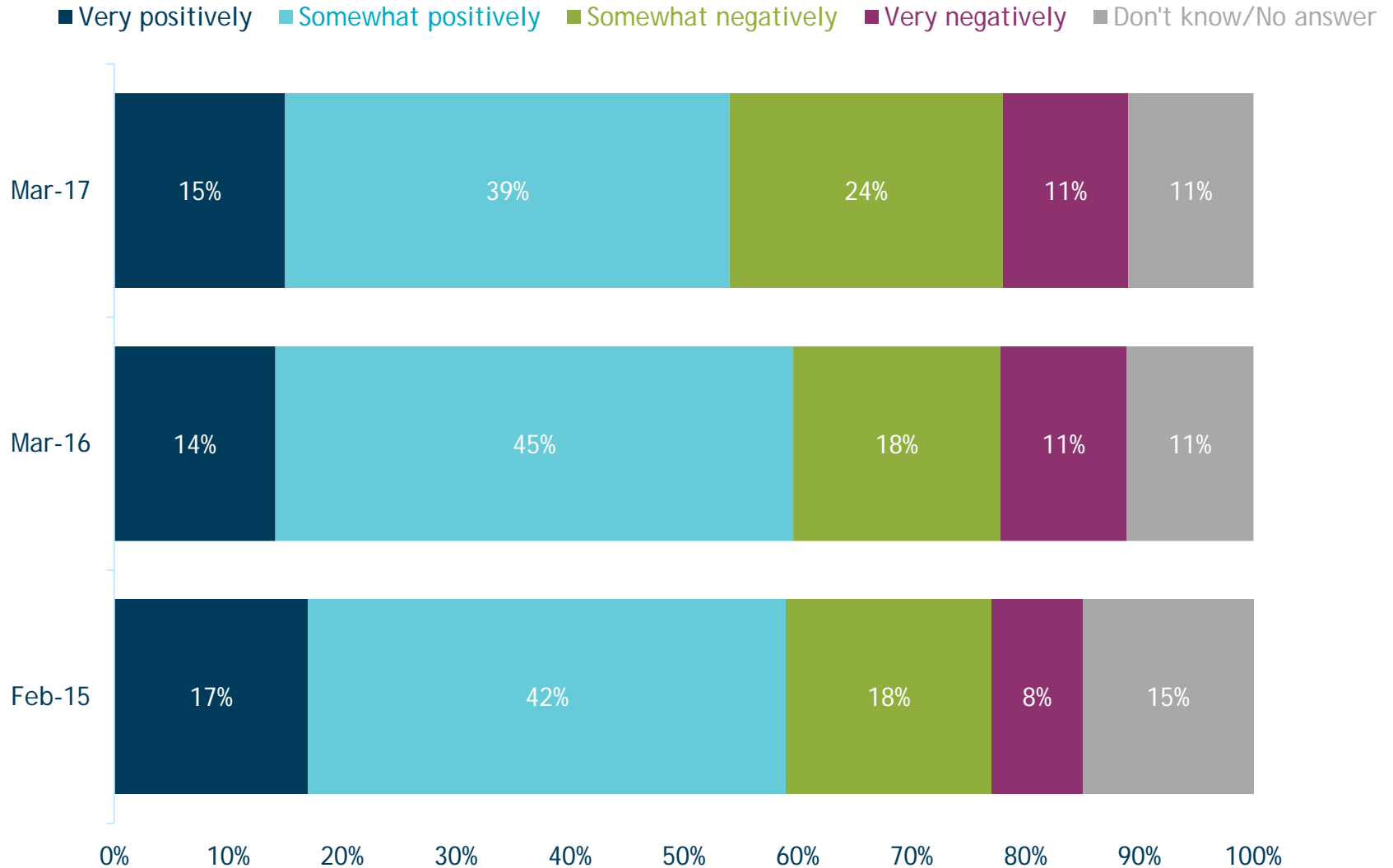
# Which of these countries do you consider to be Georgia's important partners? Political threats? Economic Threats? (three answers possible for each)



# Would you support further dialogue with Russia?

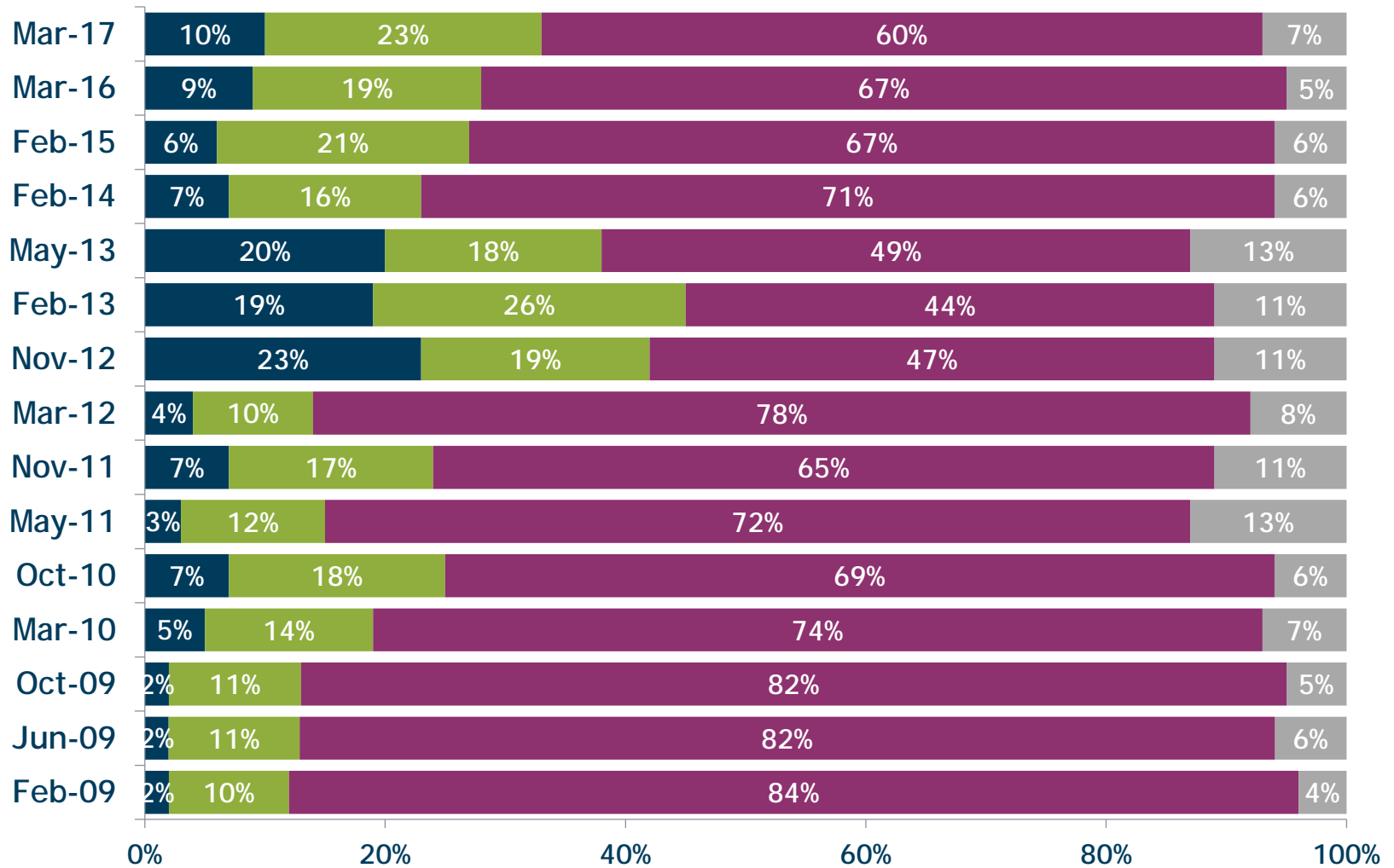


# How do you rate the government's handling of Georgia's relationship with Russia?



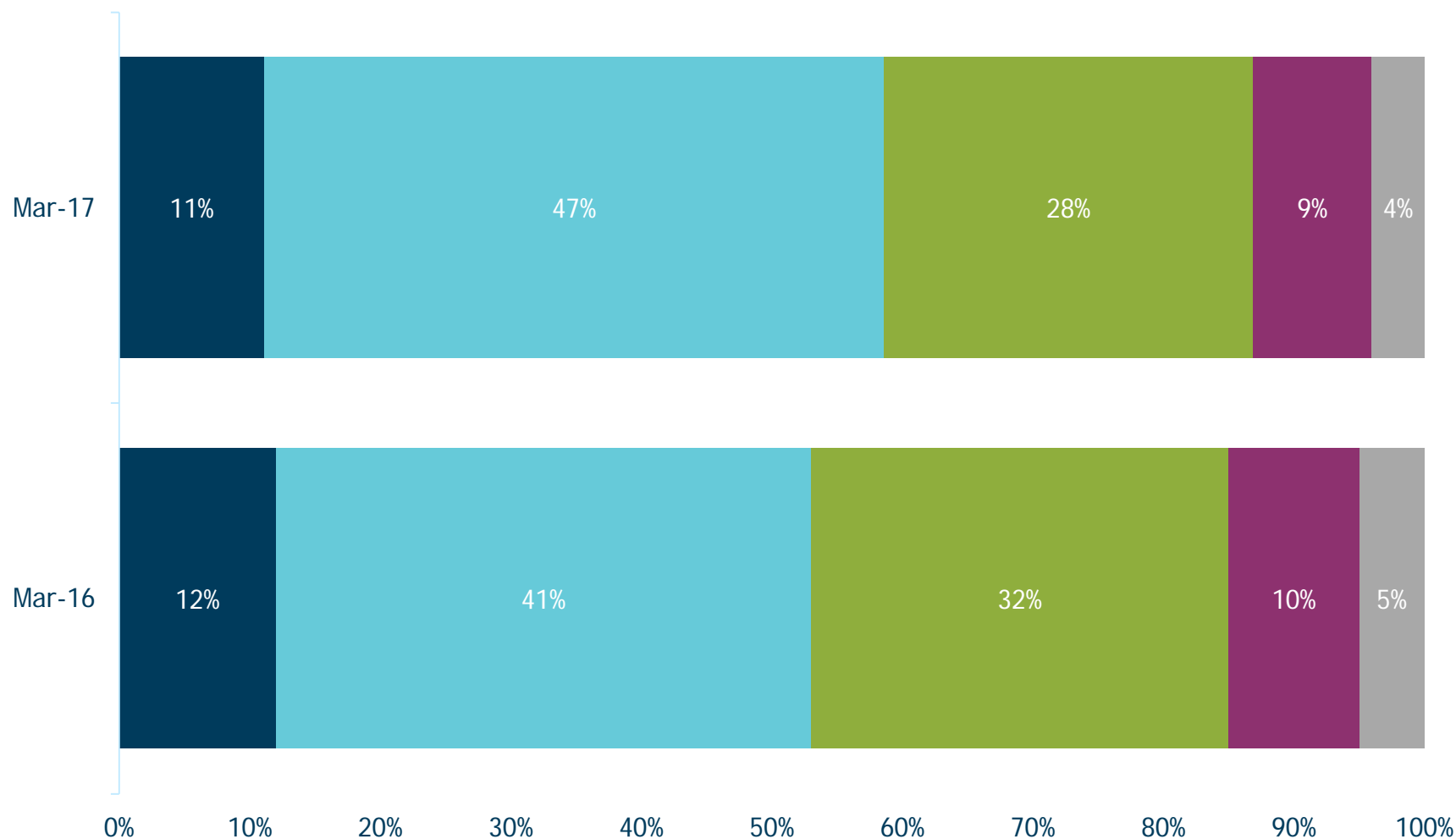
# Do you think that Russian aggression toward Georgia is over or is still going on?

- It is over and unlikely to resume
- It is over but likely to resume
- It is still going on
- Don't know/No answer



# Given the current state of Georgia's relationship with Russia, how secure do you feel living in Georgia?

■ Very secure ■ More secure than insecure ■ More insecure than secure ■ Very insecure ■ Don't know/No answer



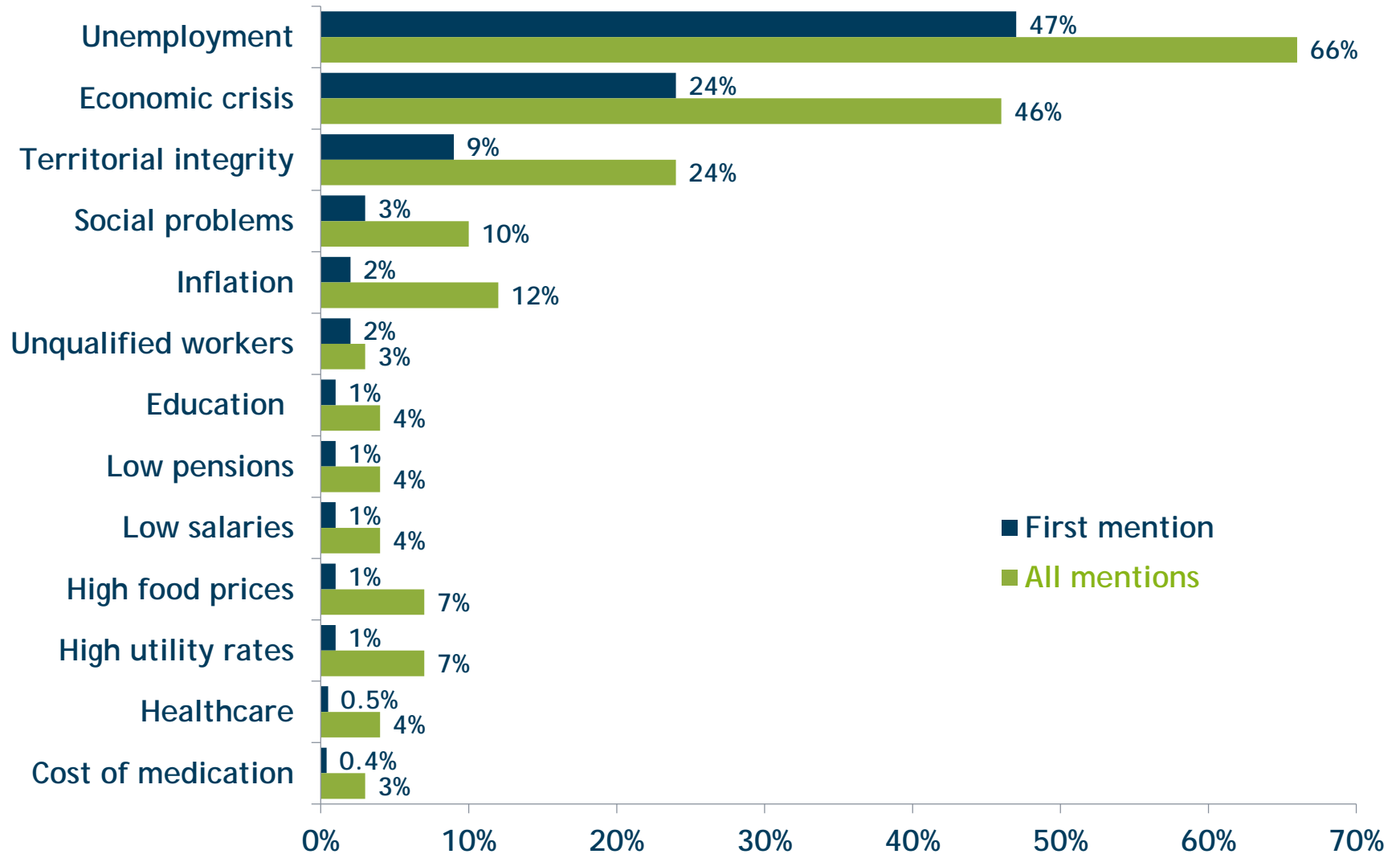




# State of the Economy

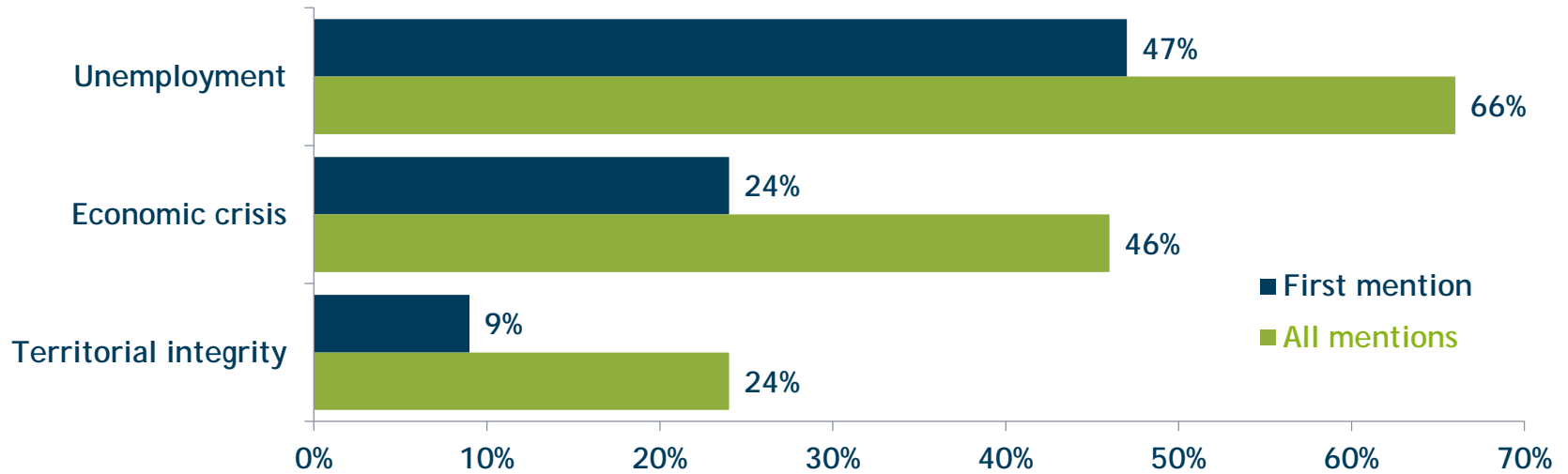


# What are the main problems currently facing Georgia? (three possible answers)

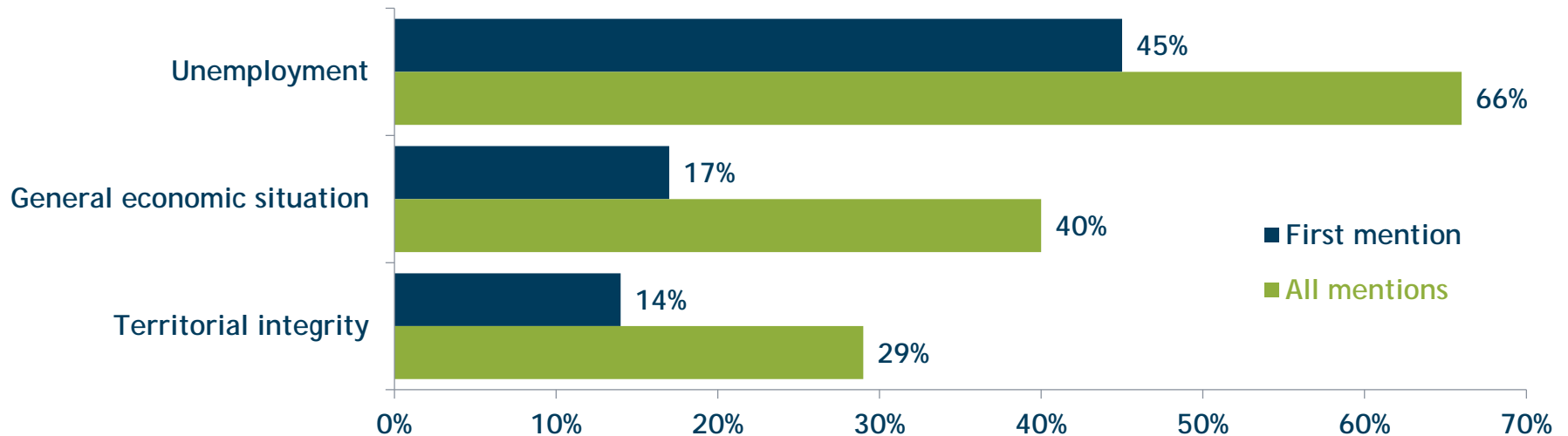


# What are the main problems currently facing Georgia? (top three answers)

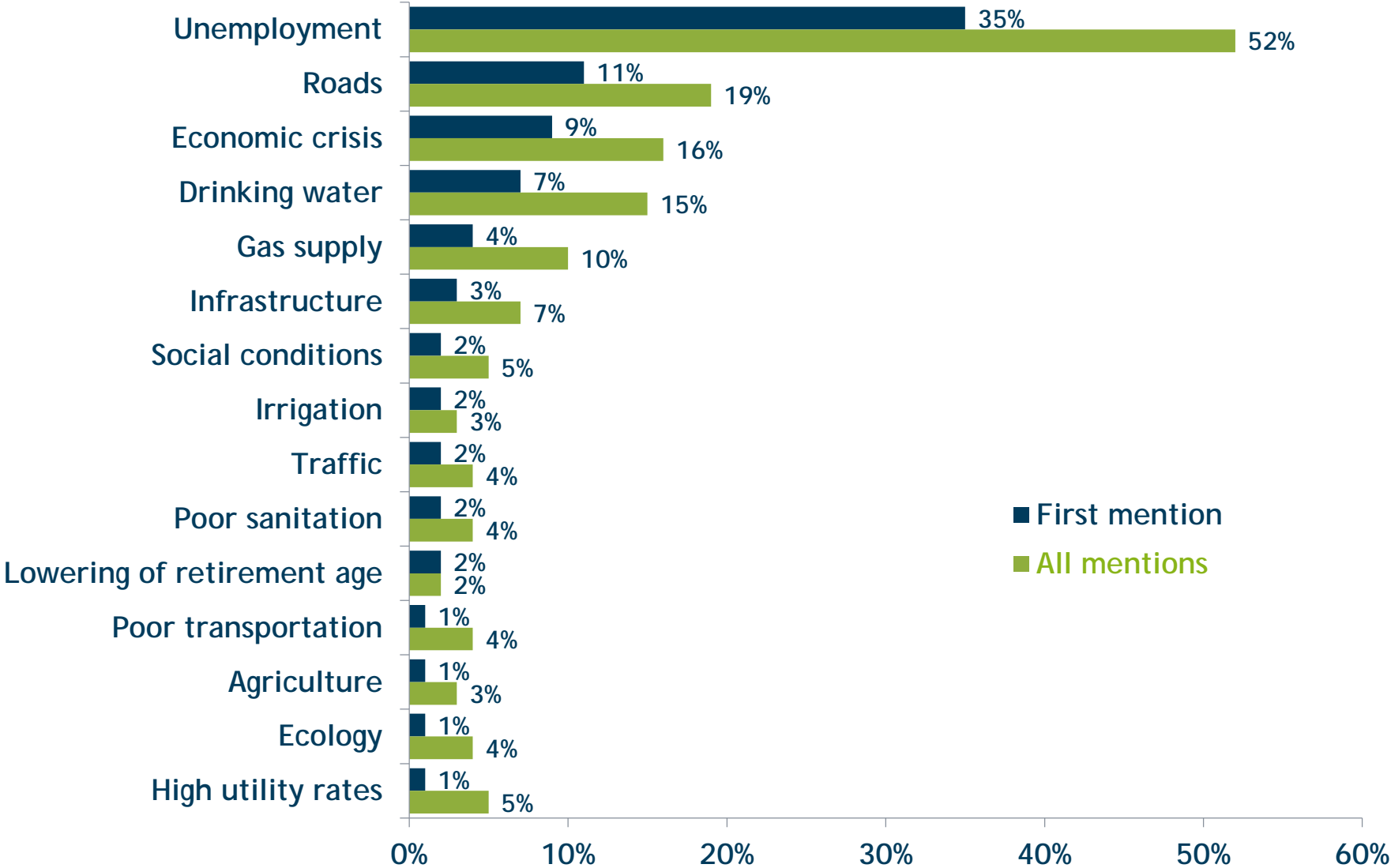
March 2017



March 2016

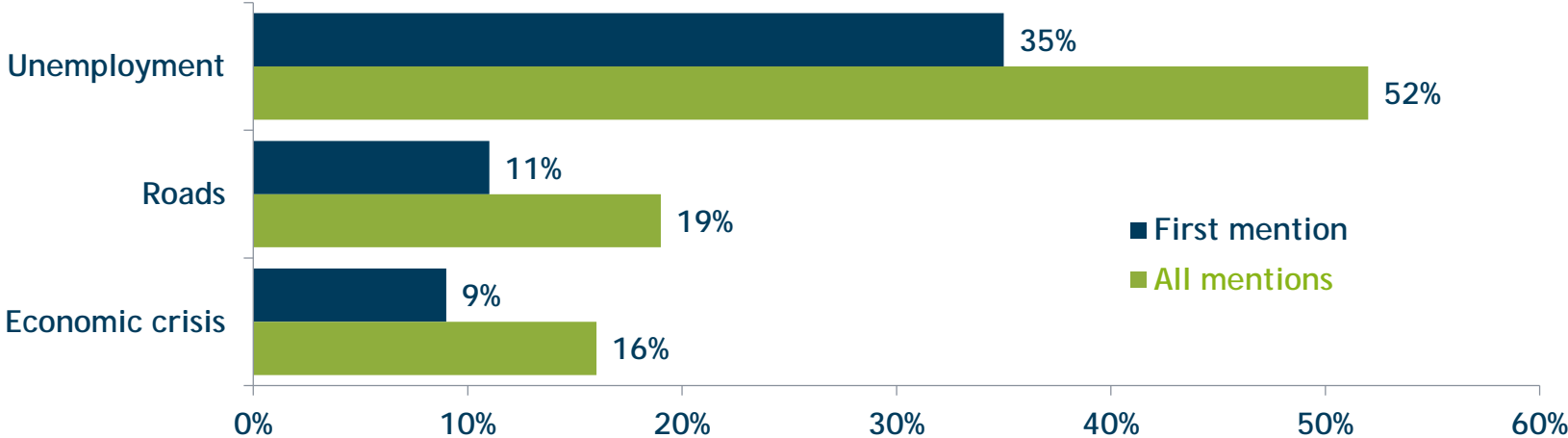


# What are the main problems currently facing your town or village? (three possible answers)

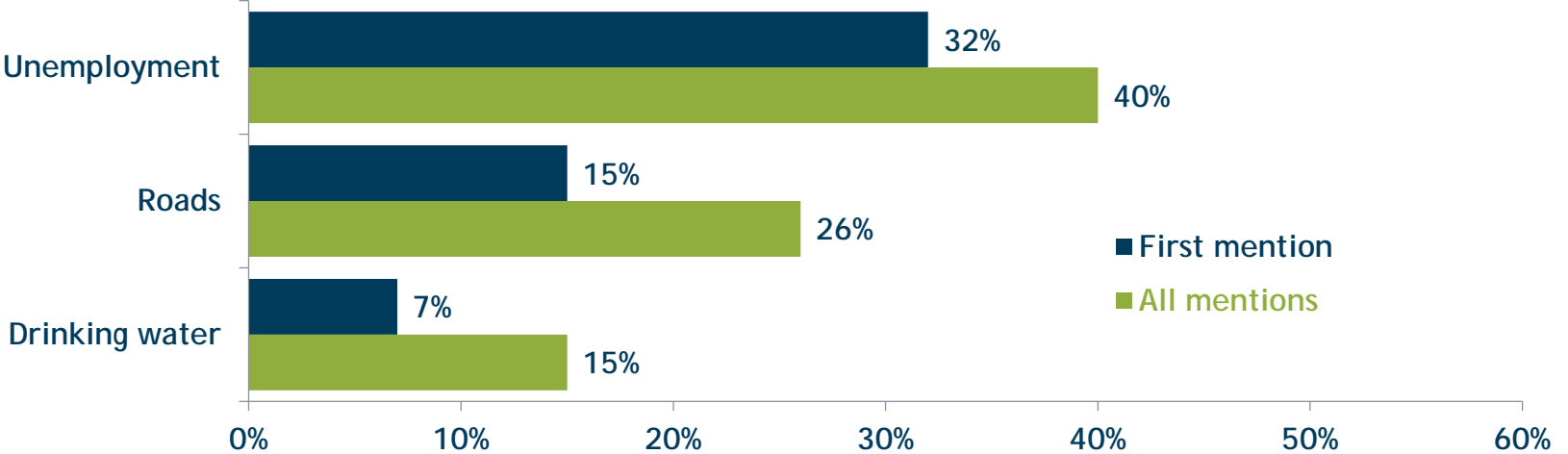


# What are the main problems currently facing your town or village? (top three answers)

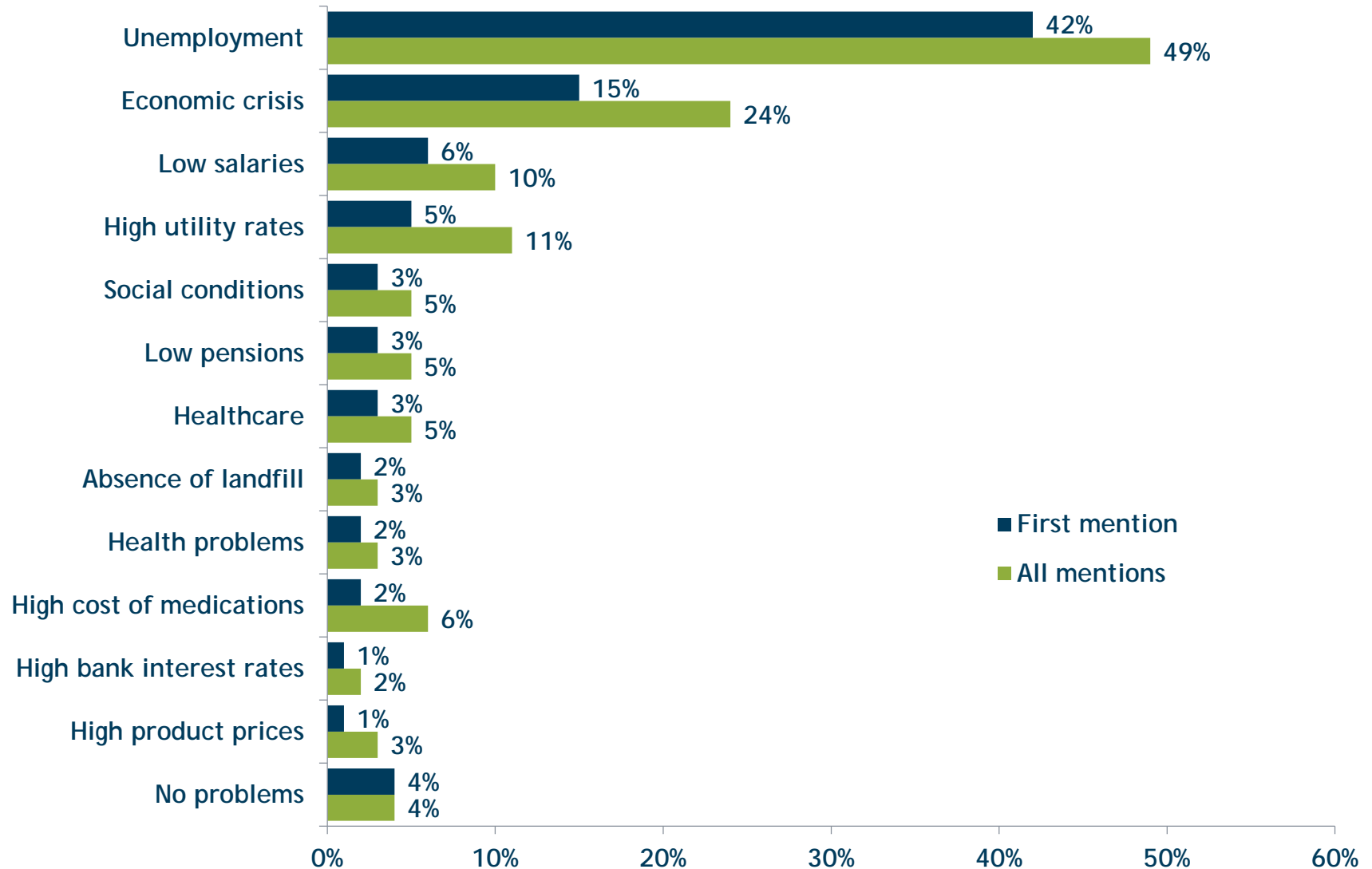
March 2017



March 2016

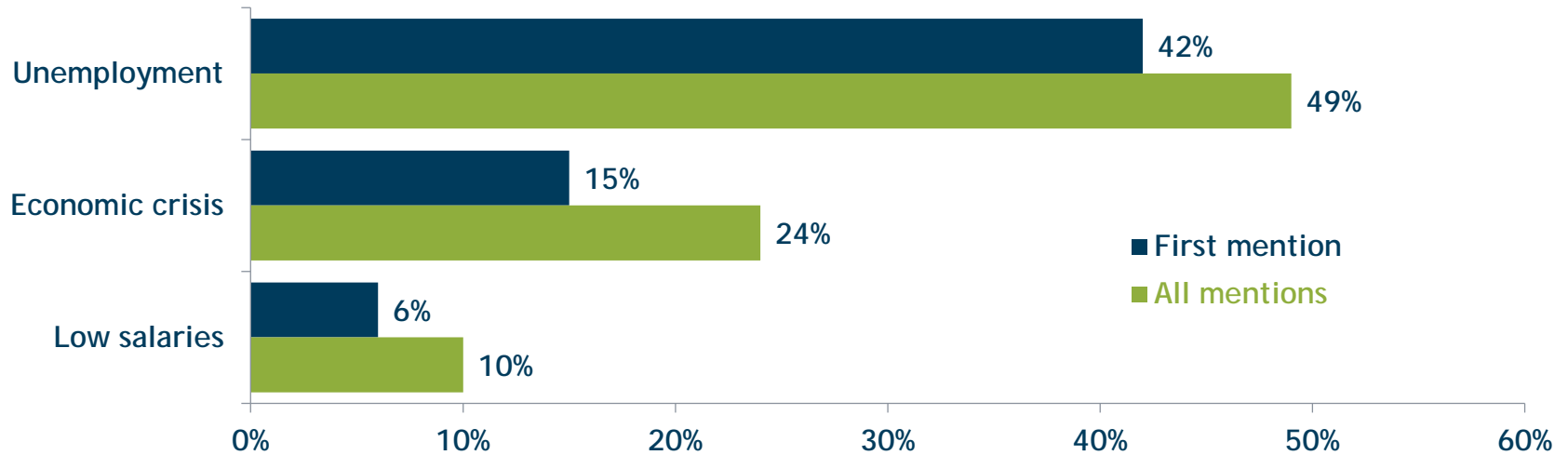


# What are the main problems currently facing your household? (three possible answers)

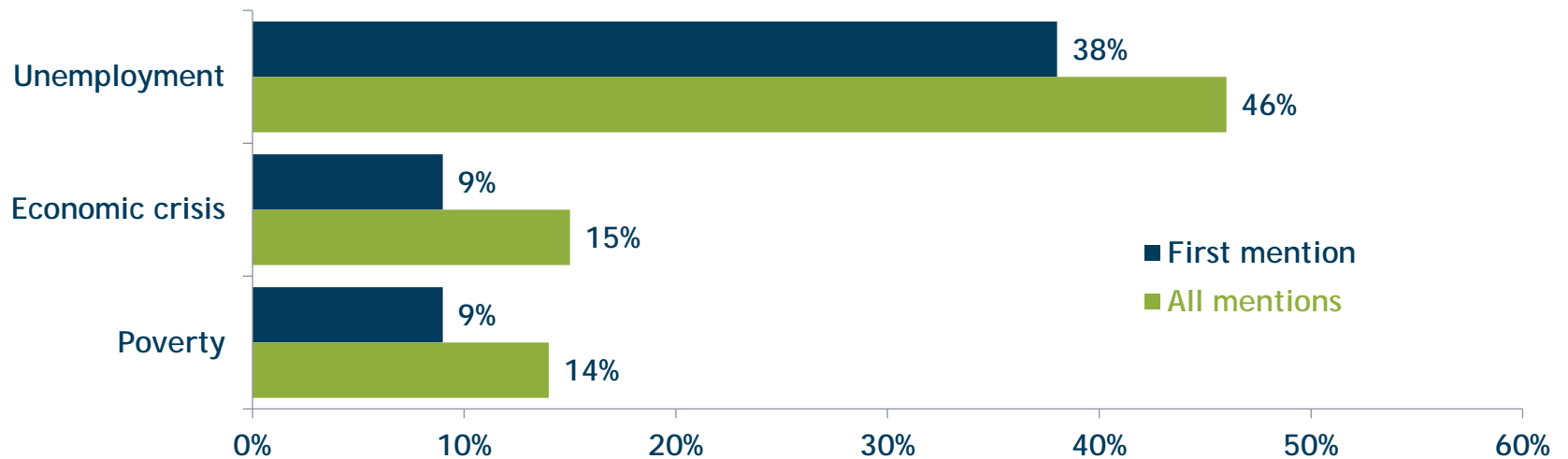


# What are the main problems currently facing your household? (top three answers)

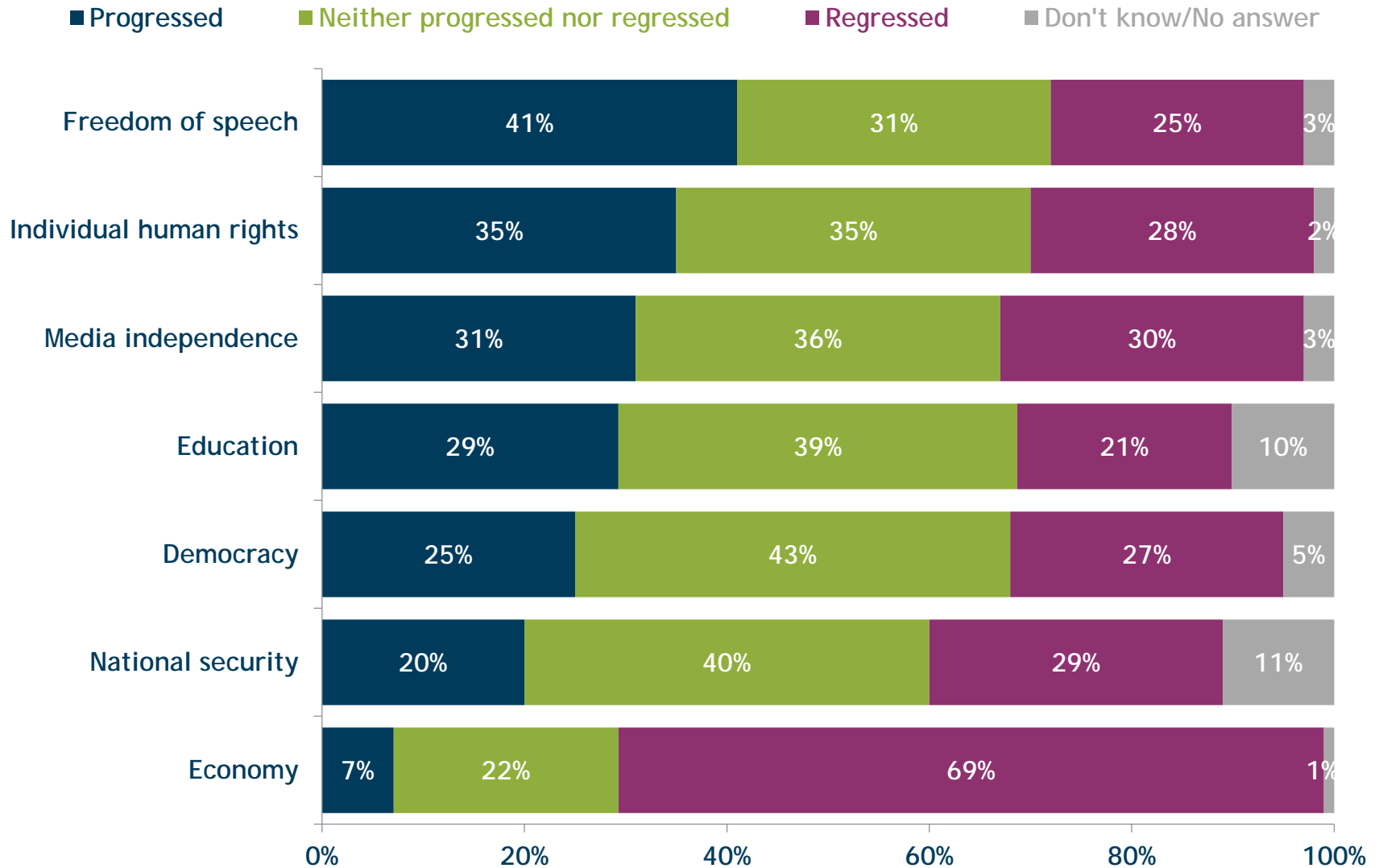
March 2017



March 2016



# How do you feel about the direction of each of the following issues during the past four years?







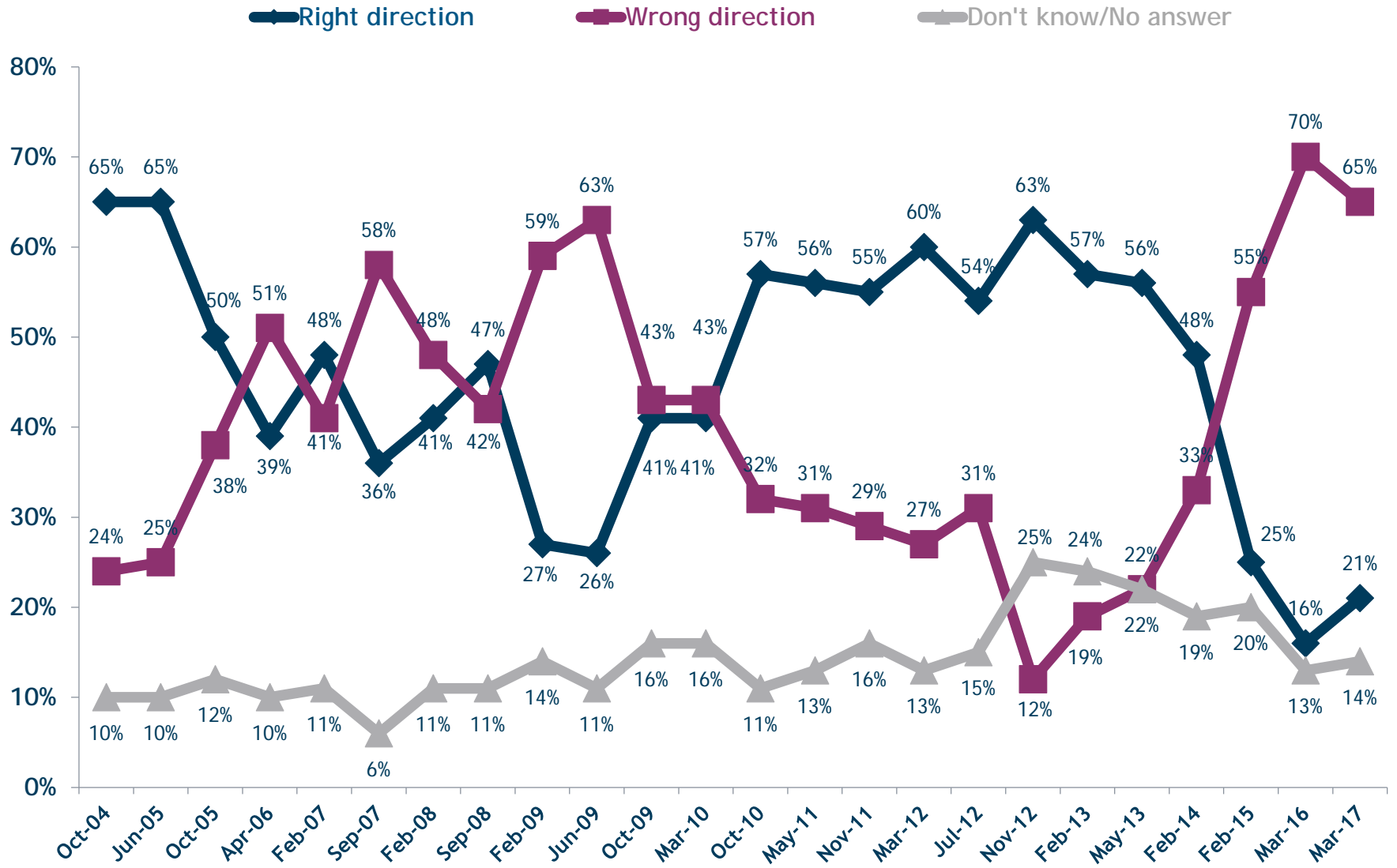
# Mood of the Country

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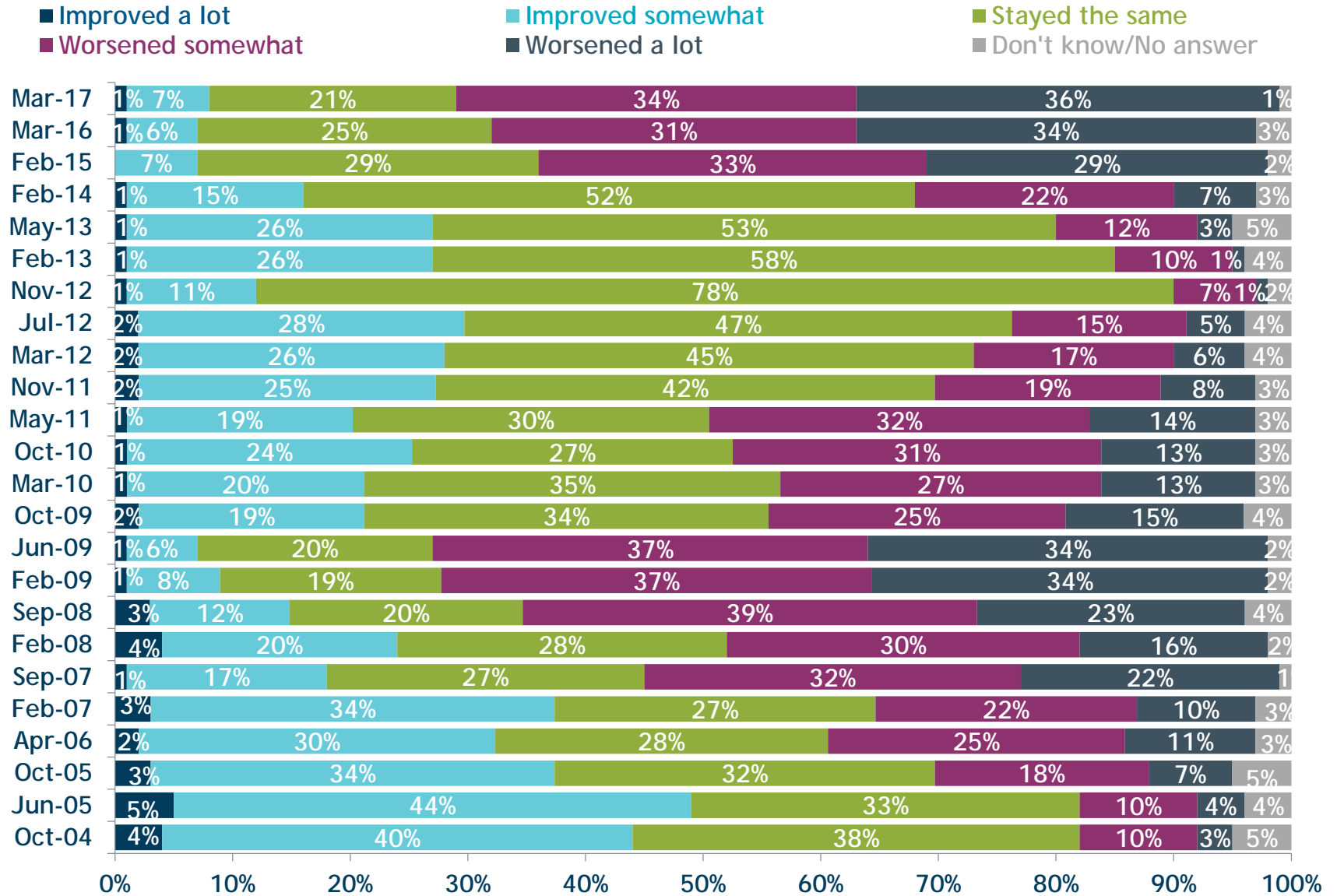


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# Do you think that things in Georgia are going in the....

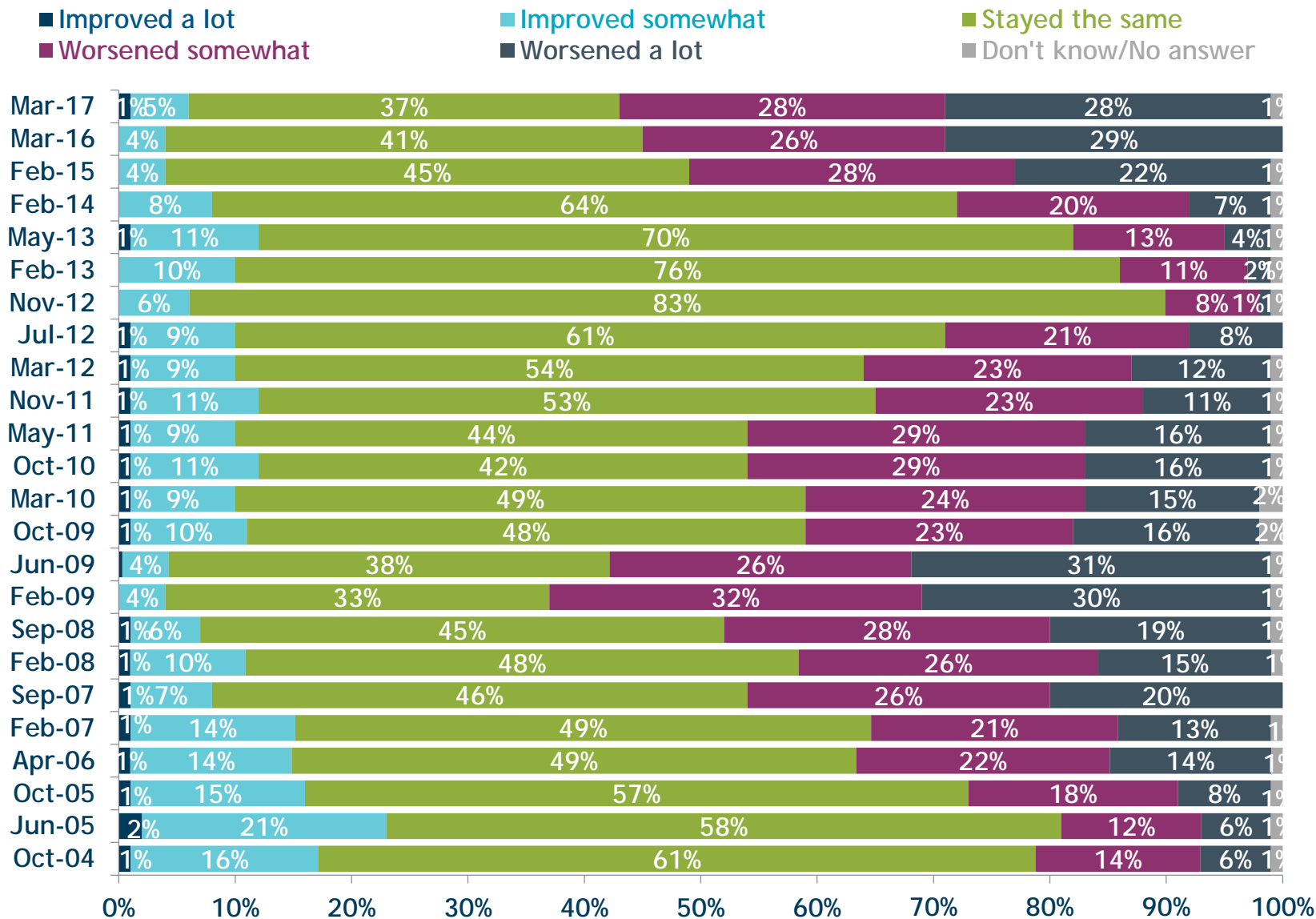


# Over the last two months,\* the economic situation in Georgia has...



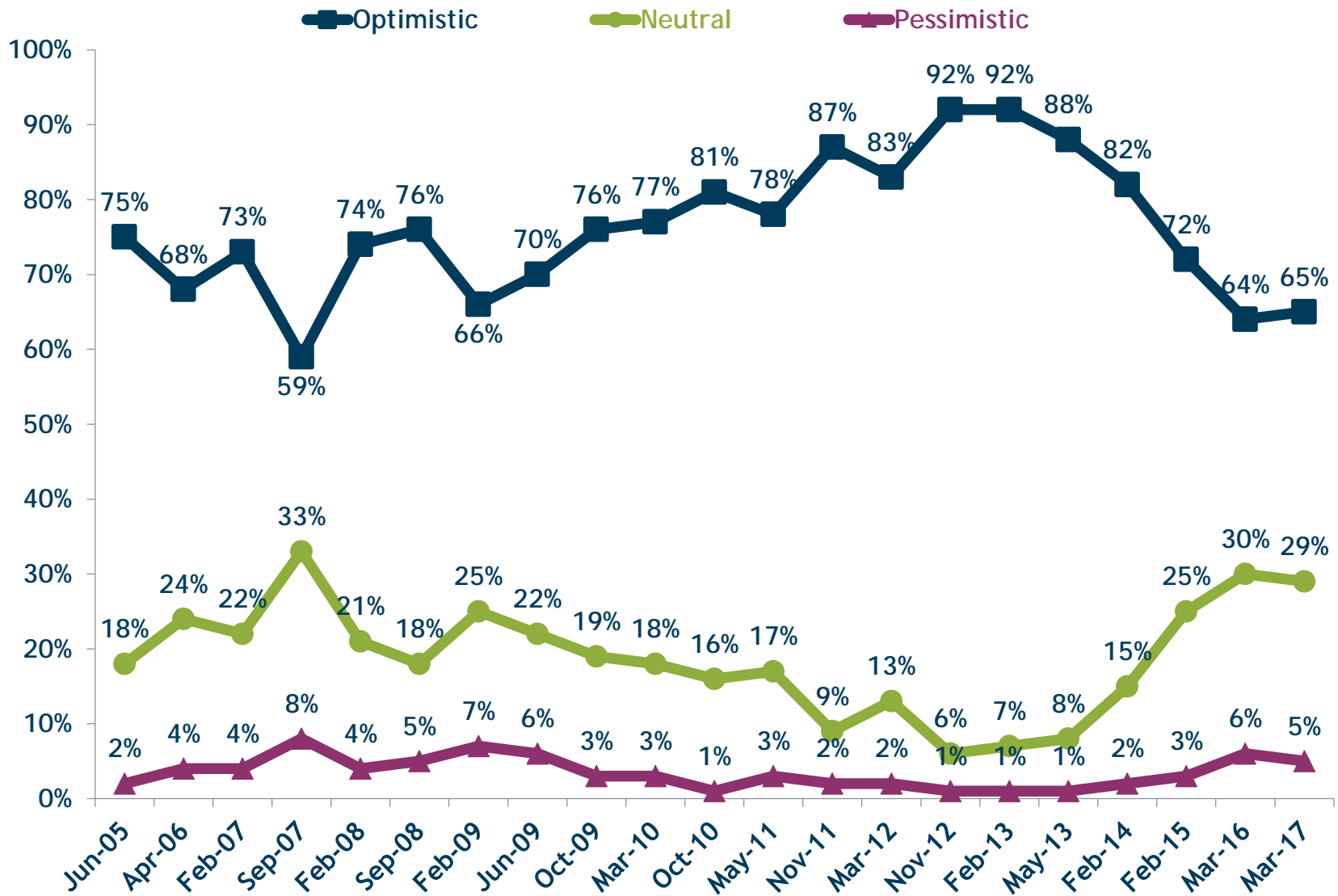
\* In surveys before 2008, respondents were asked about the three months prior to the poll.

# Over the last 12 months,\* the financial situation of your household has...



\* In surveys before 2008, respondents were asked about the three months prior to the poll.

# How would you evaluate the prevailing mood of the Georgian population?





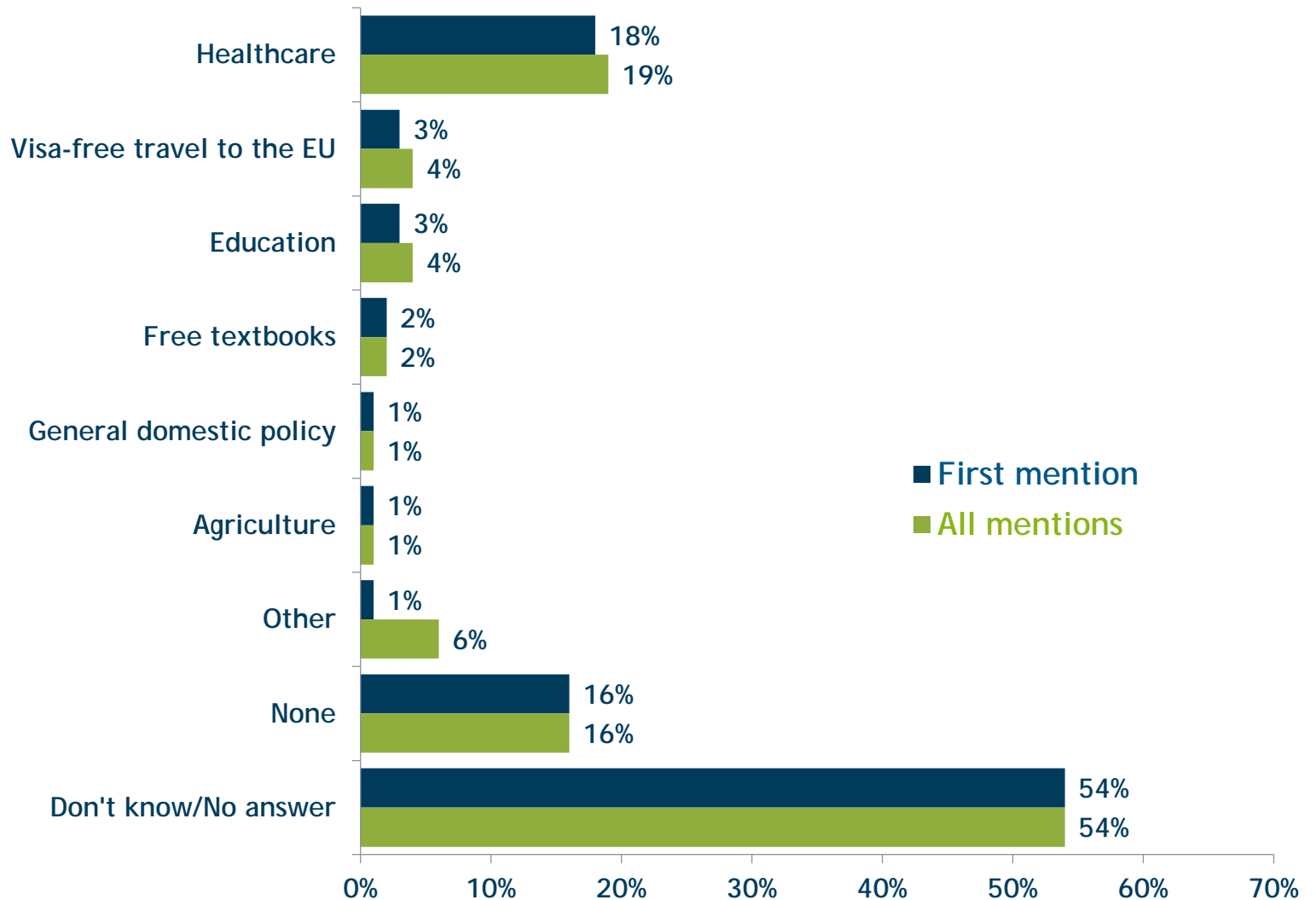
# Issues of Concern

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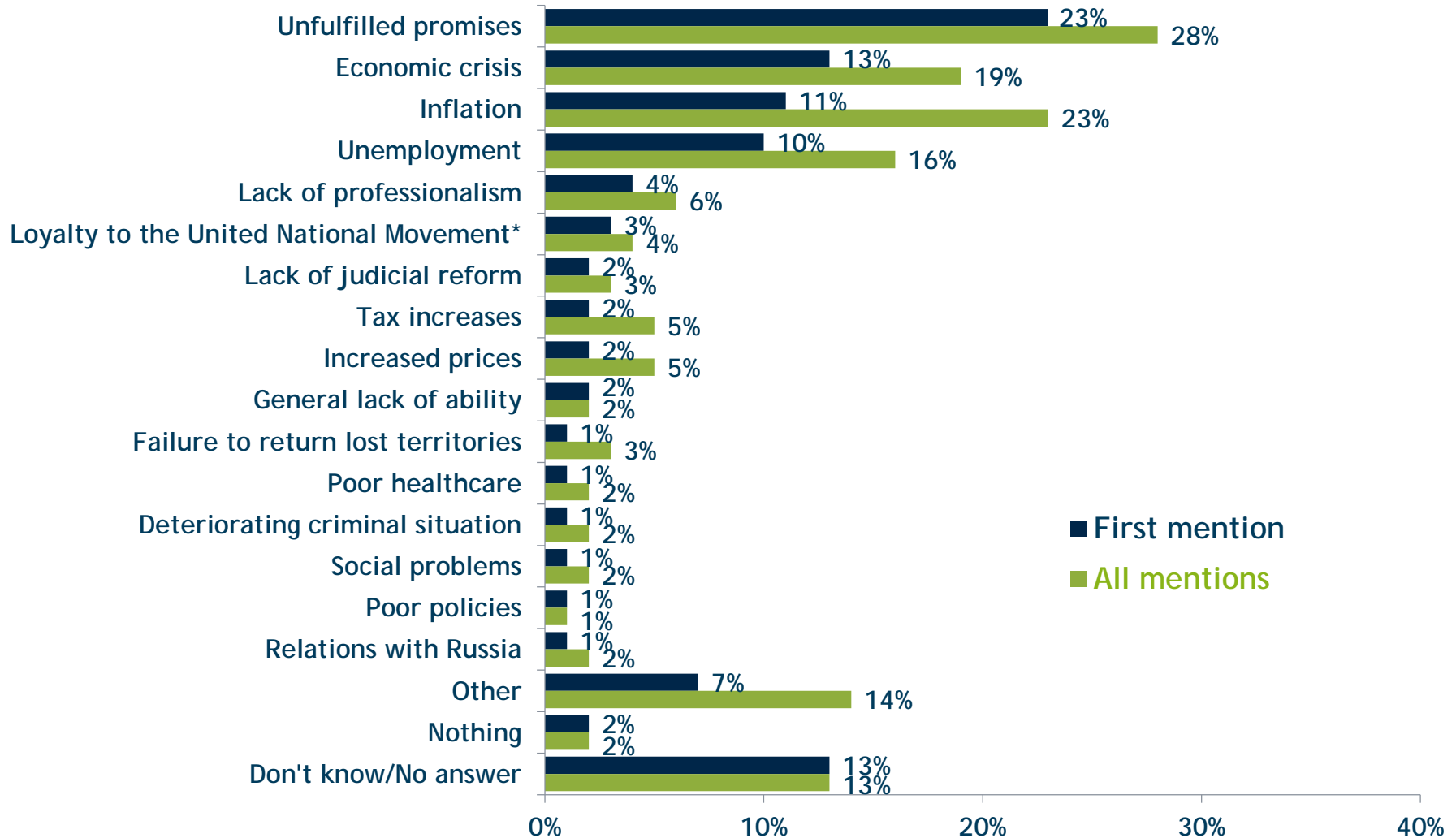


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# What were the most successful reforms passed by the current government? (three possible answers)



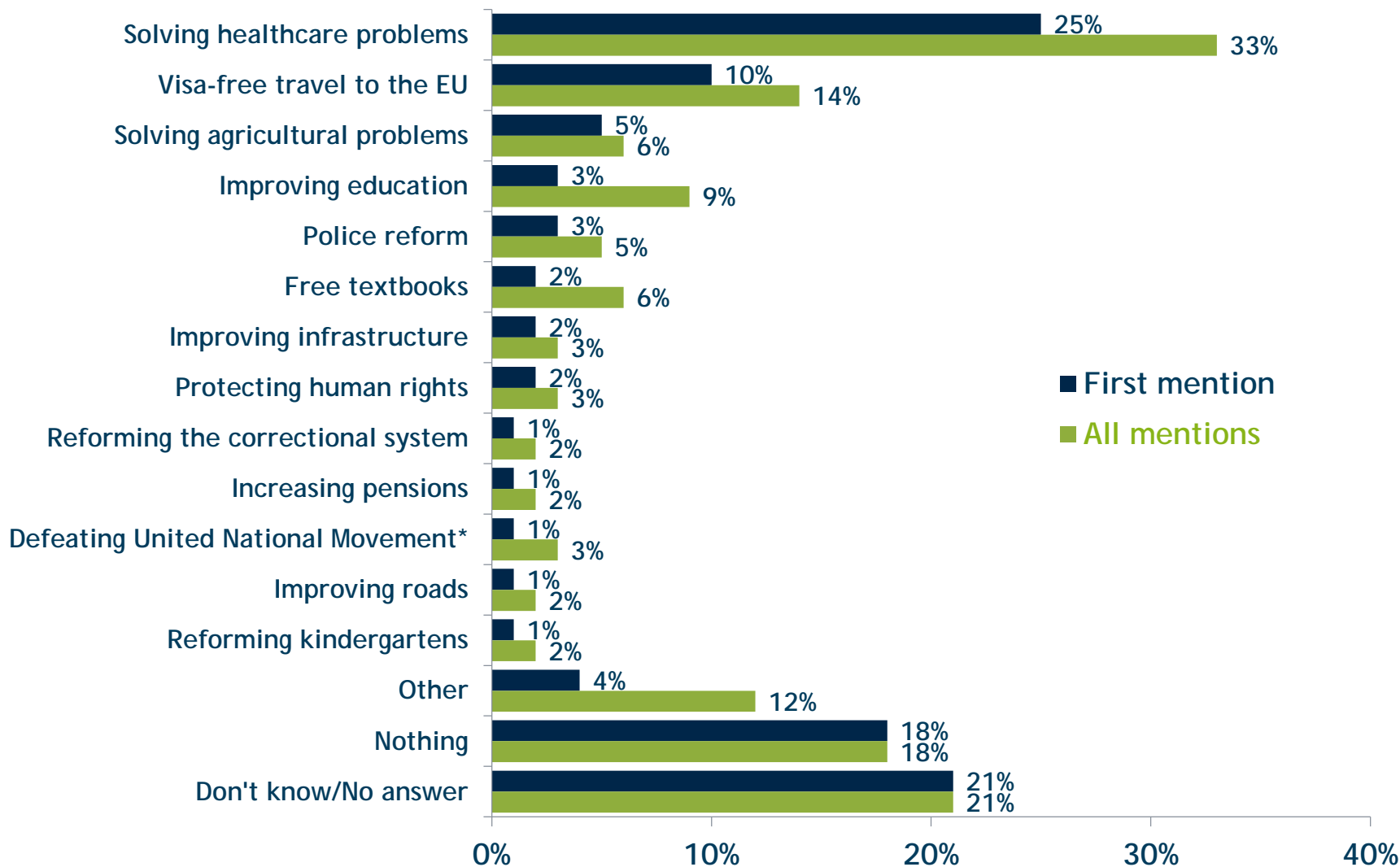
# What are the three biggest failures of the government? (three possible answers)



\* Now the main opposition party, the United National Movement was the ruling party from 2004-2012.

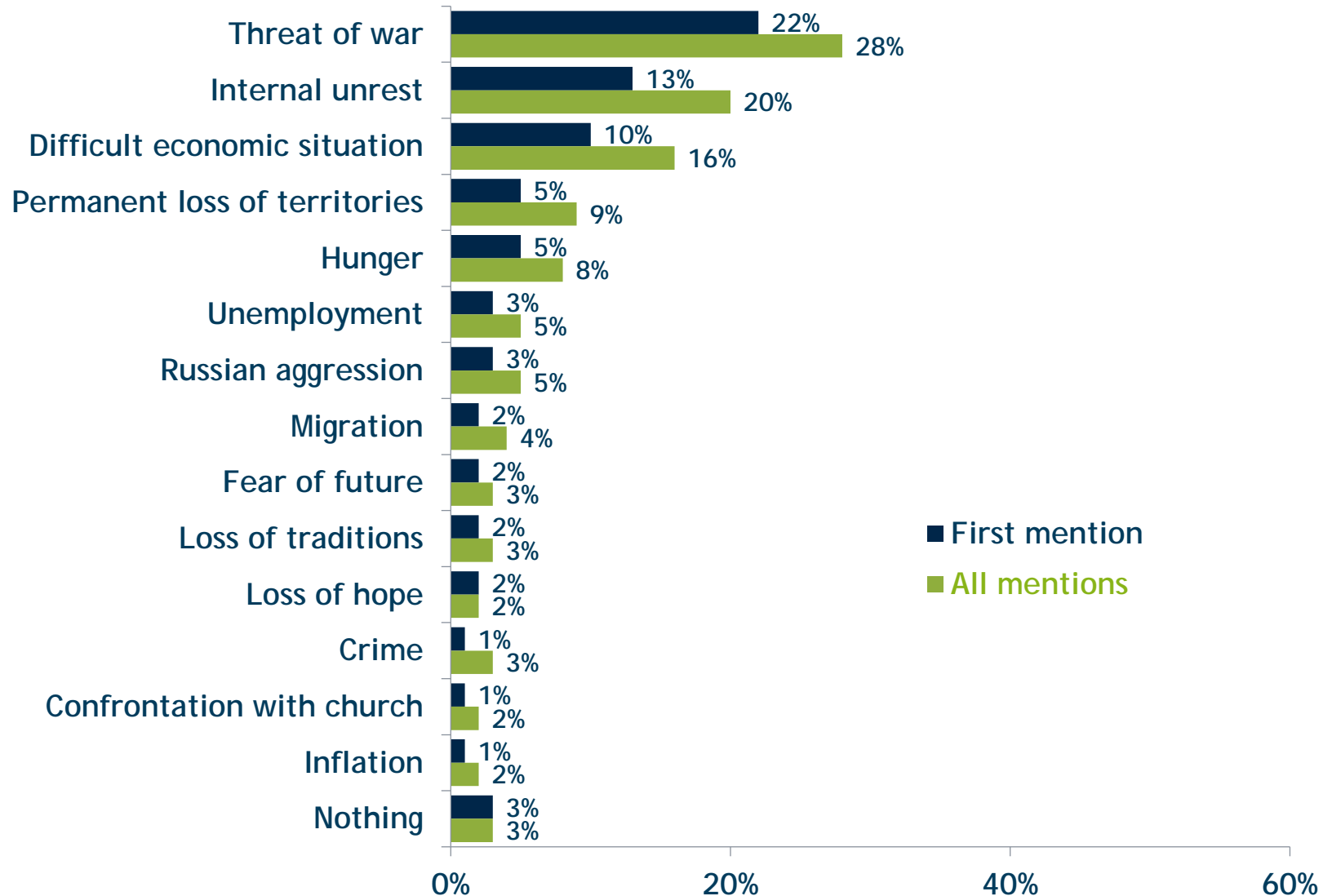


# What are the three main accomplishments of the government? (three possible answers)

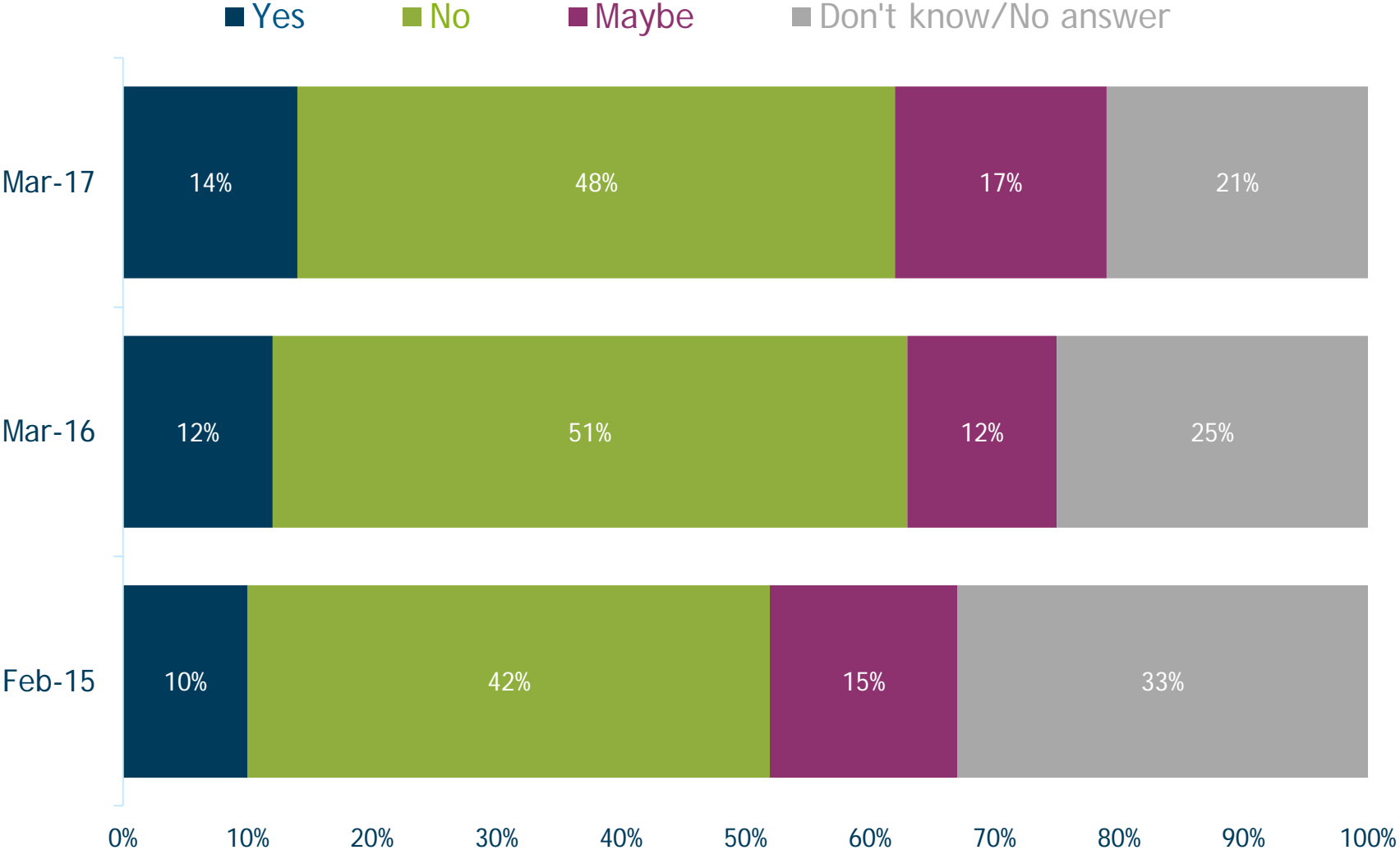


\* United National Movement and former President Mikheil Saakashvili led the Georgian government from 2004-2012.

# What concerns you most about the future of the country? (three possible answers)



# Are you willing to sacrifice economic growth in the short term in order for Georgia to meet the requirements of the European Union Association Agreement?



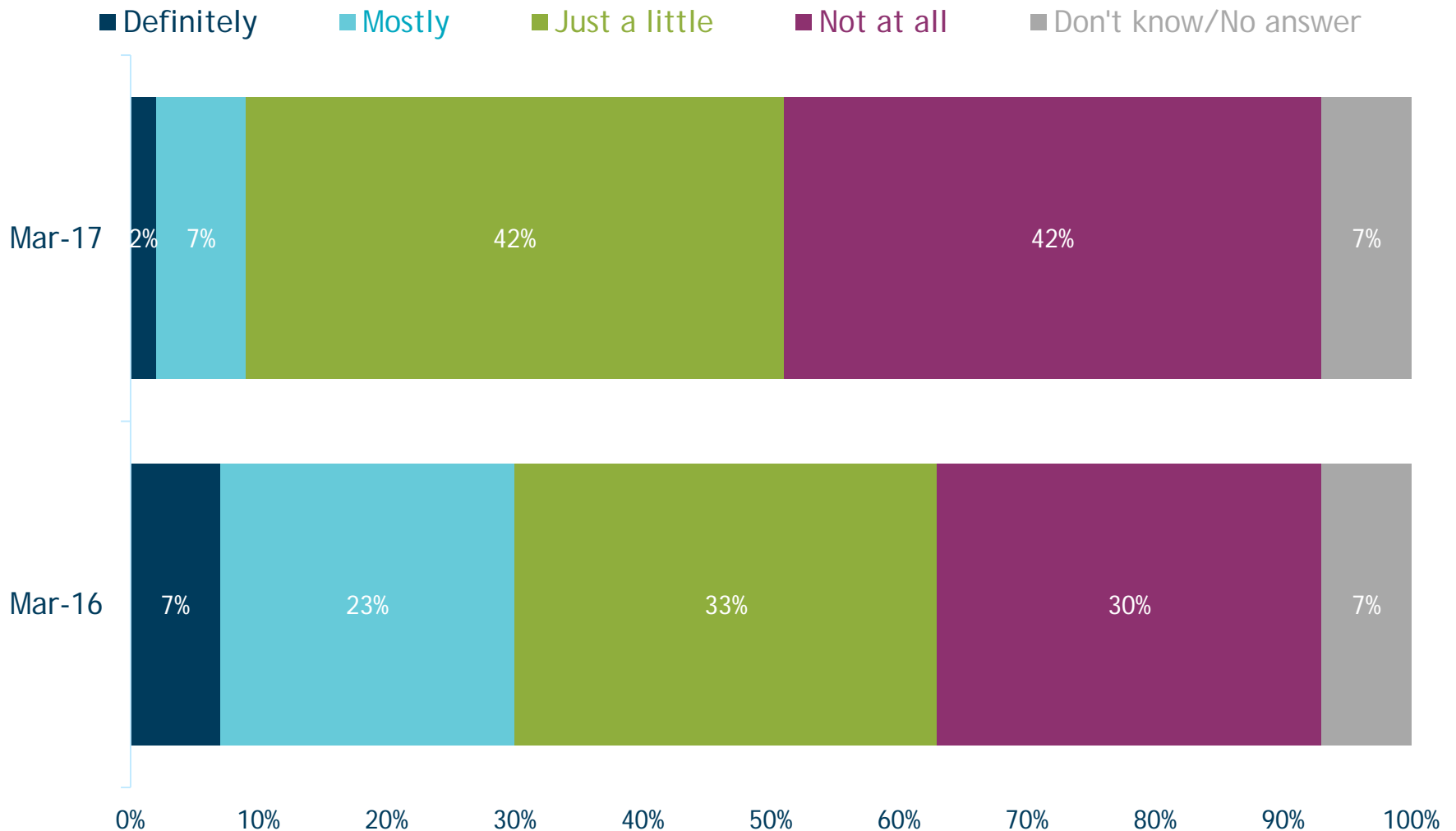


# Governance and Institutions

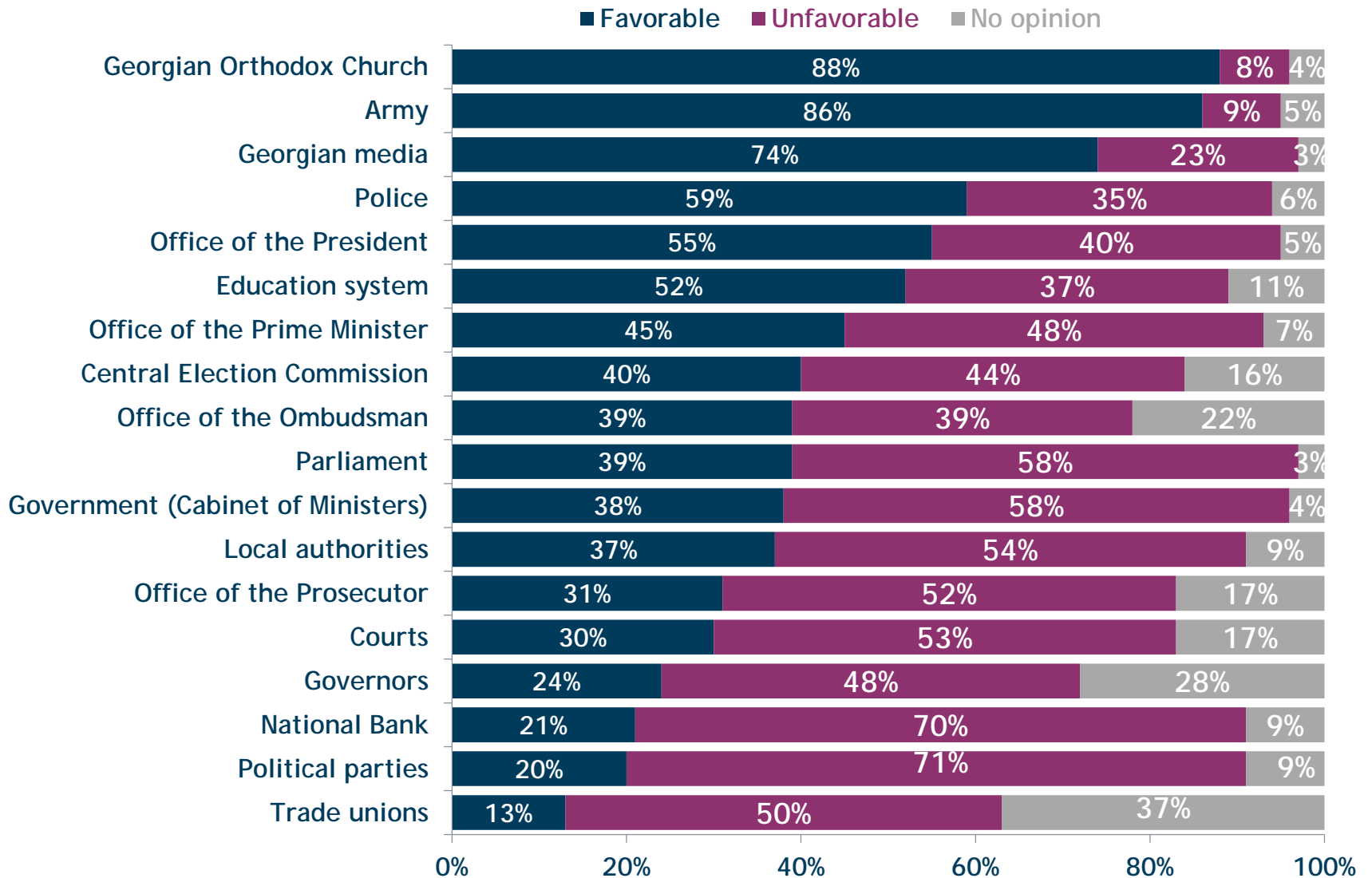
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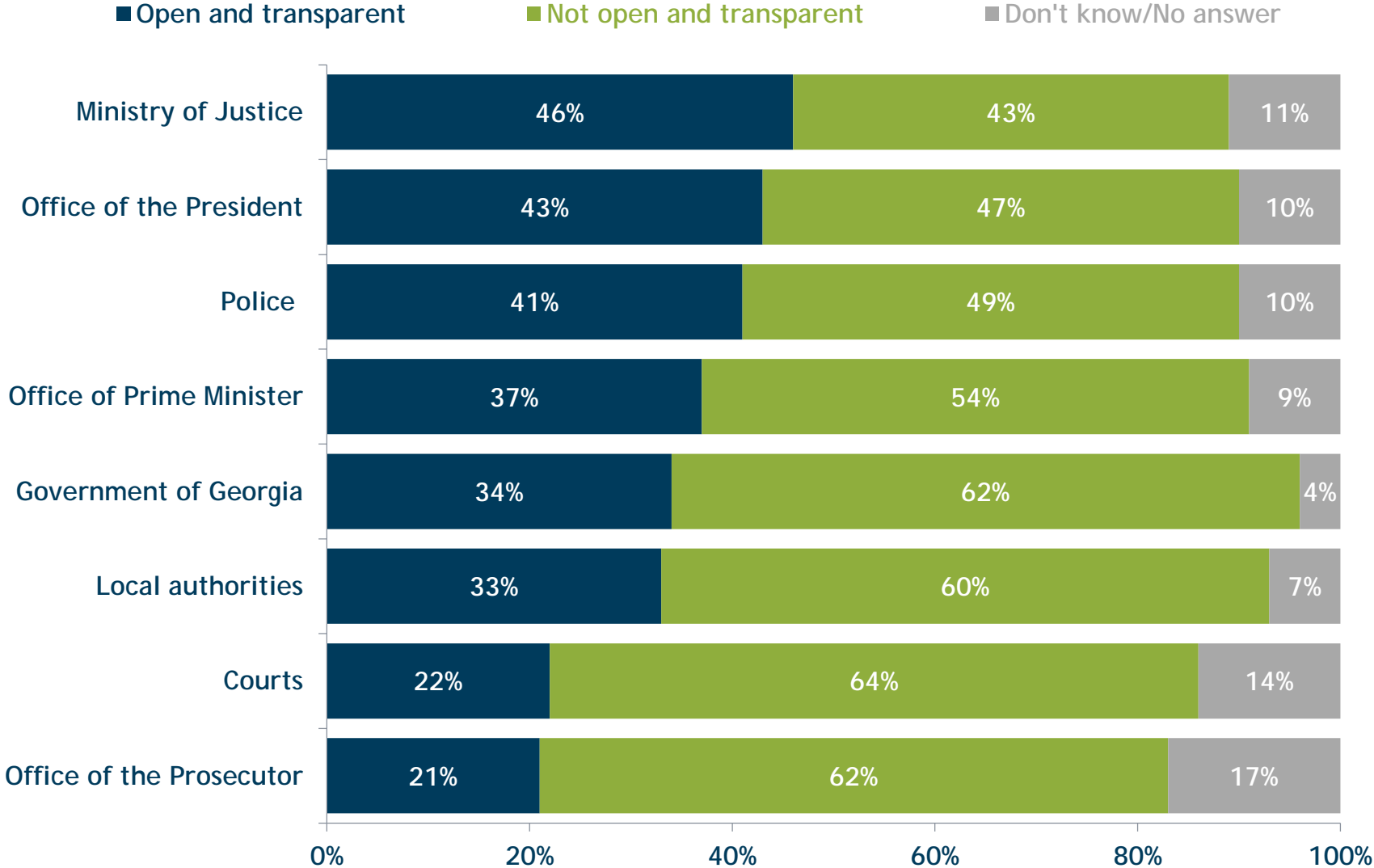
# Overall, do you think the political environment in Georgia is conducive to finding solutions to the problems you face in your daily life?



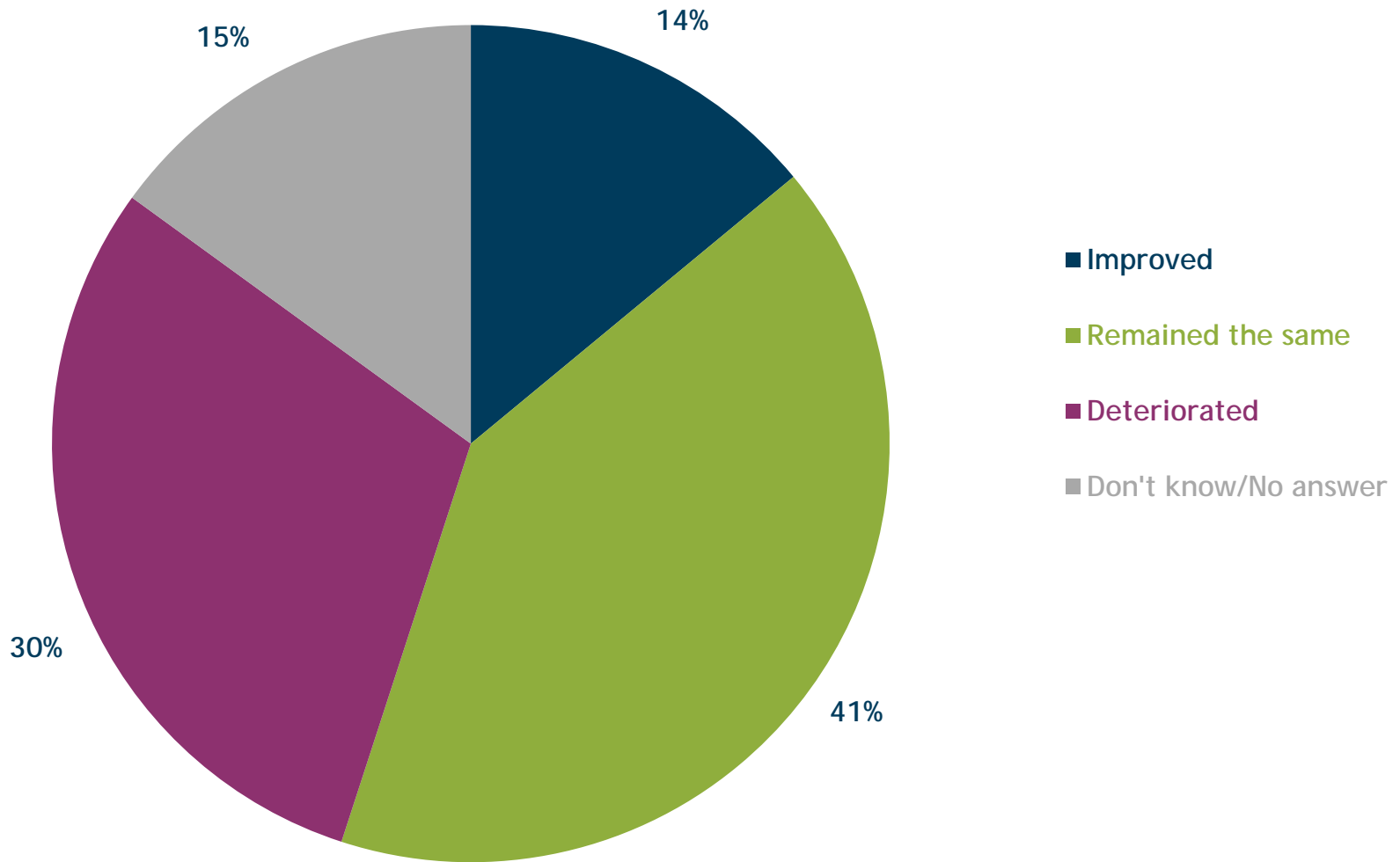
# Please tell me your opinion of the work of the following institutions?



# How do you assess the performance of the following institutions in terms of openness and transparency?

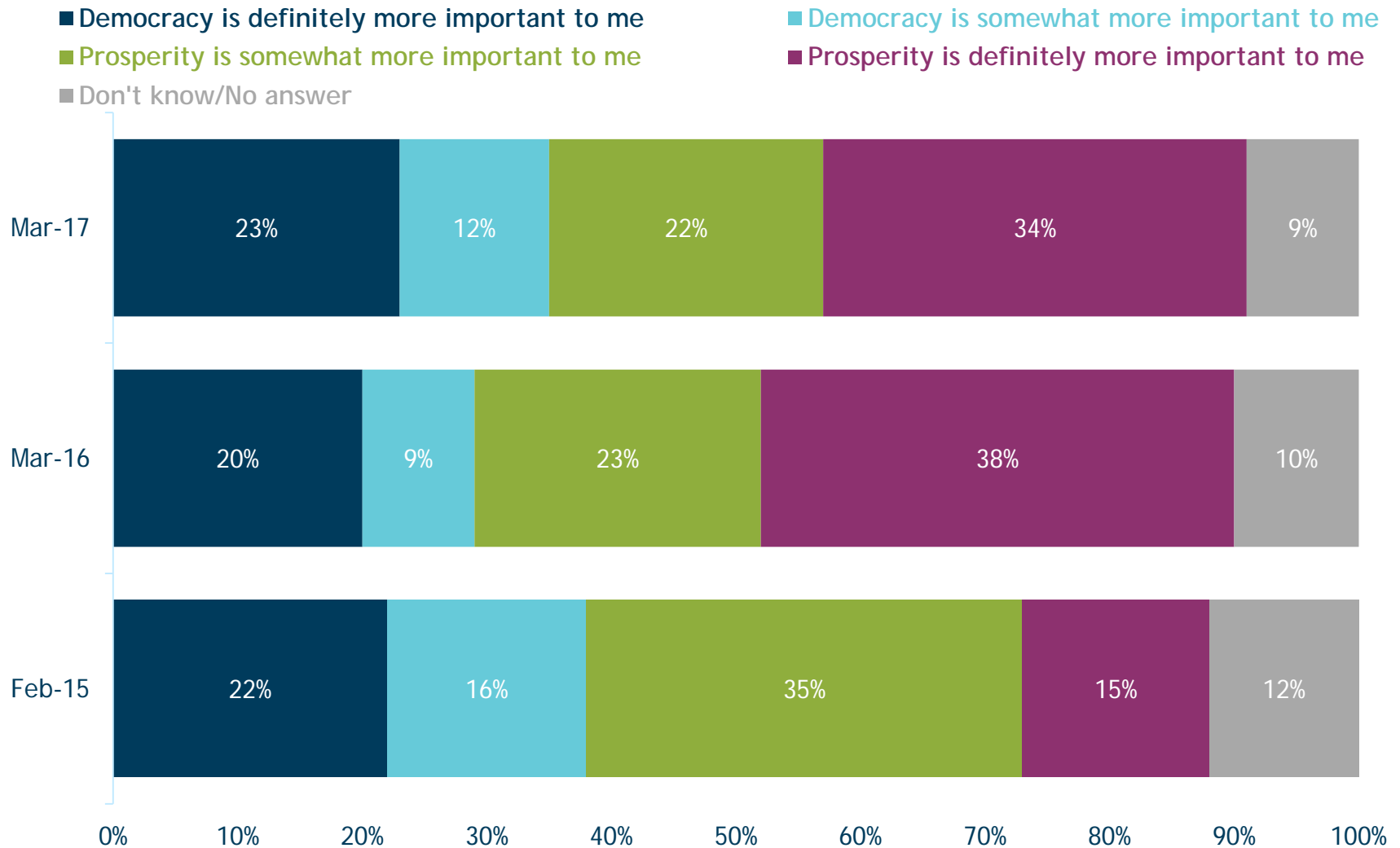


# In your opinion, in the last four years, has the corruption situation...?

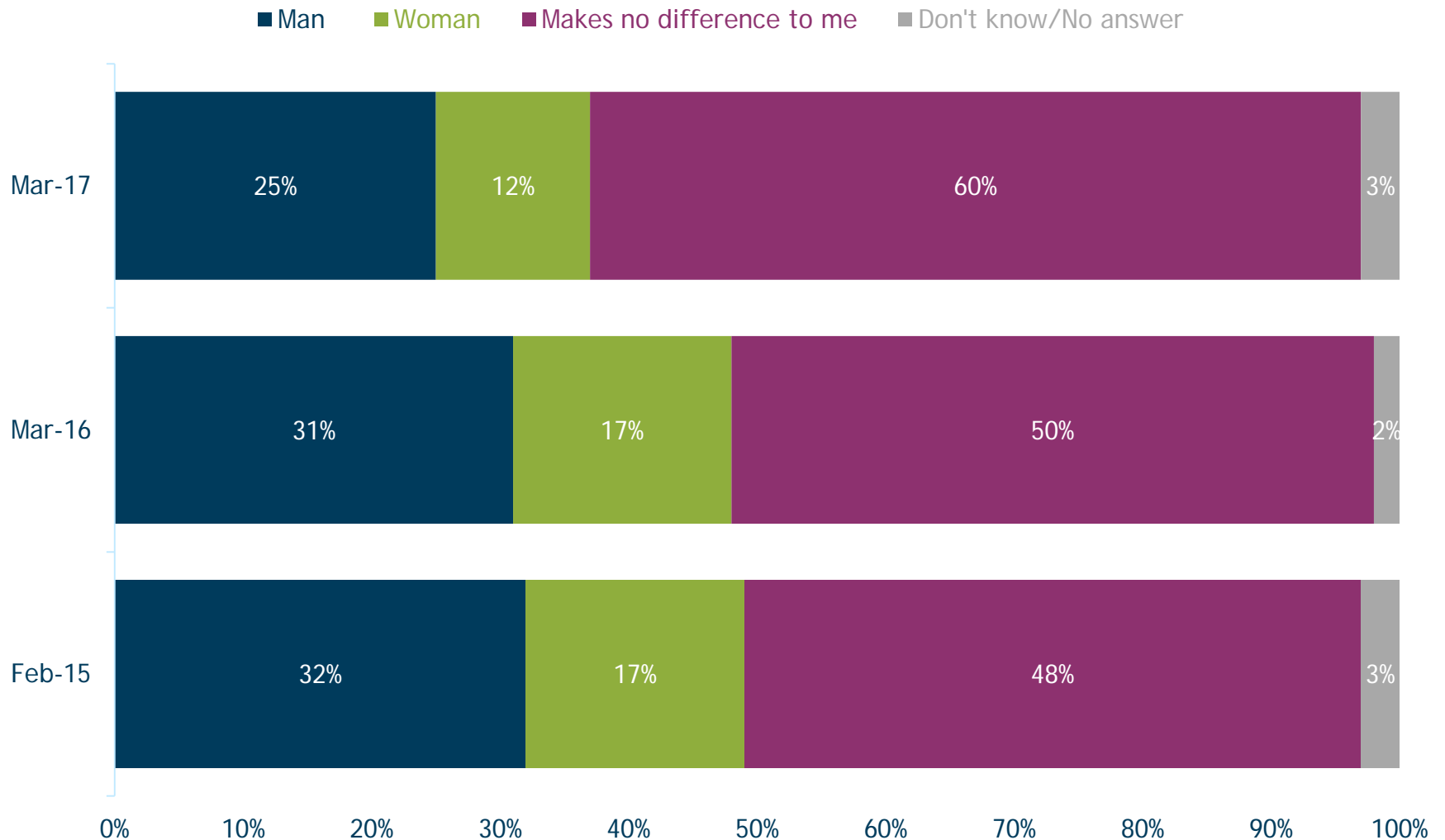




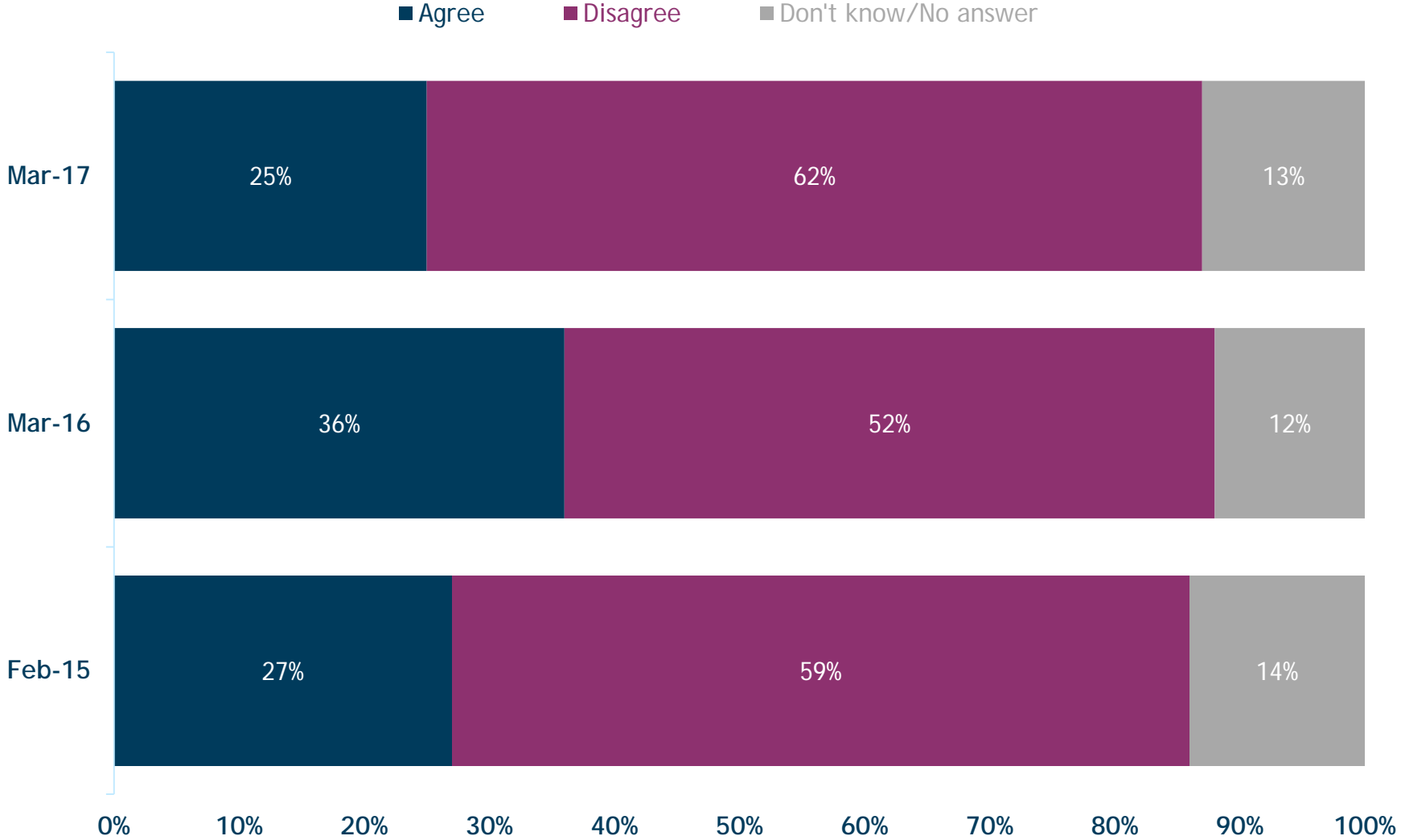
# If you could only have one or the other, which is more important to you: a democratic system of government or a prosperous economy?



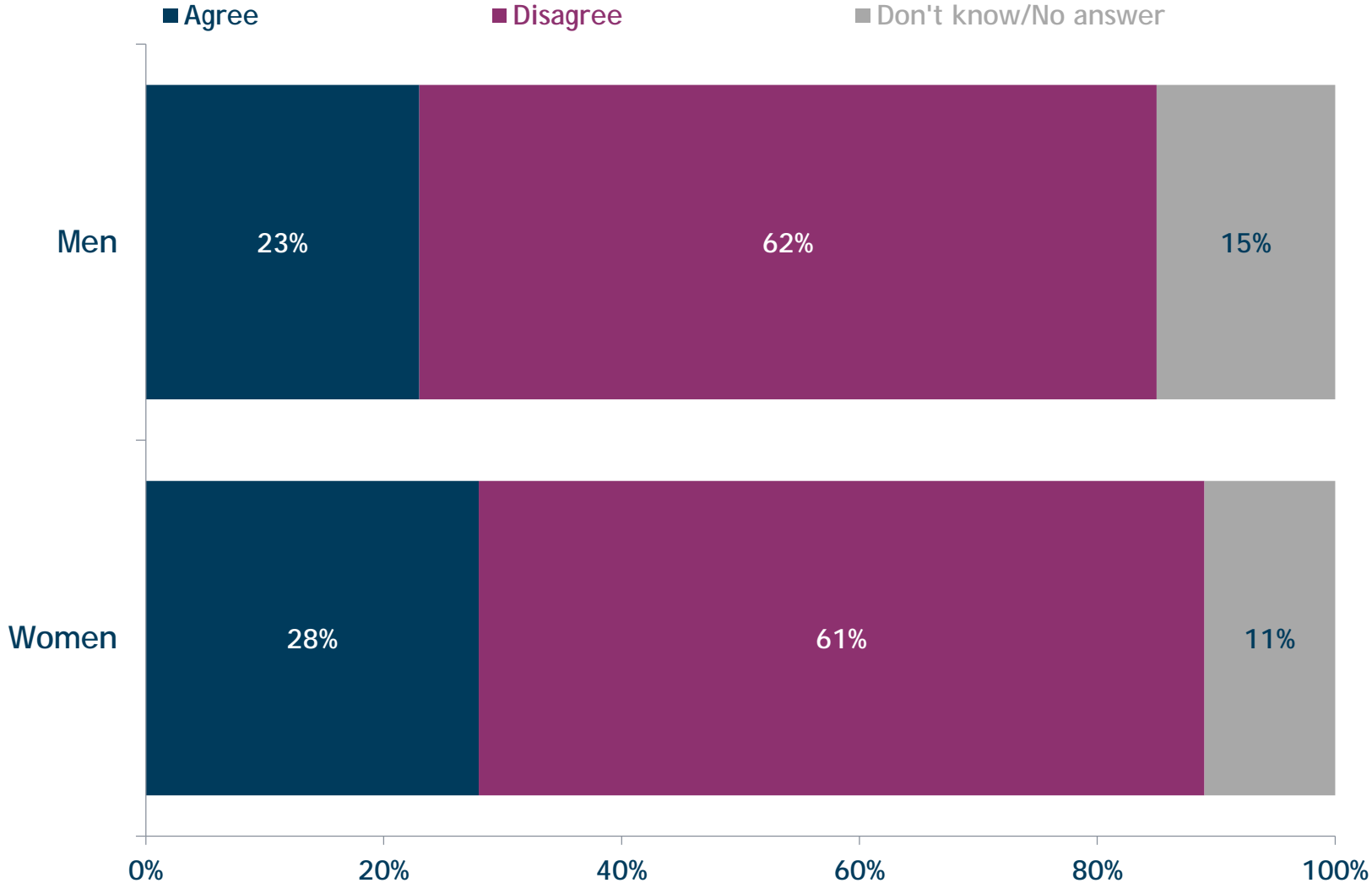
# If there are two candidates running for office and they have the same qualifications aside from the fact that one is a man and one is a woman, which candidate are you more likely to support?



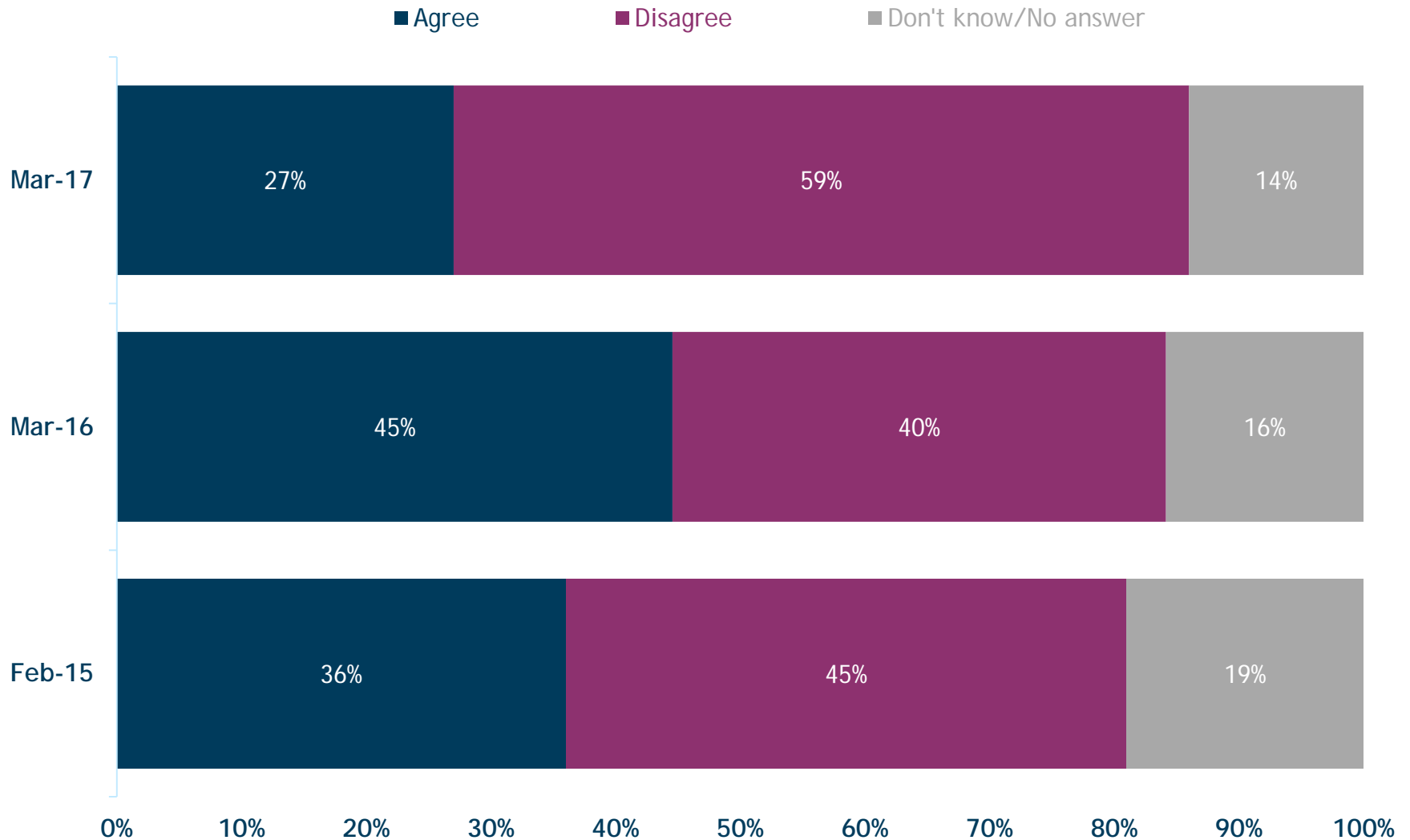
# Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: “Politicians do not listen to the needs and ideas of women.”



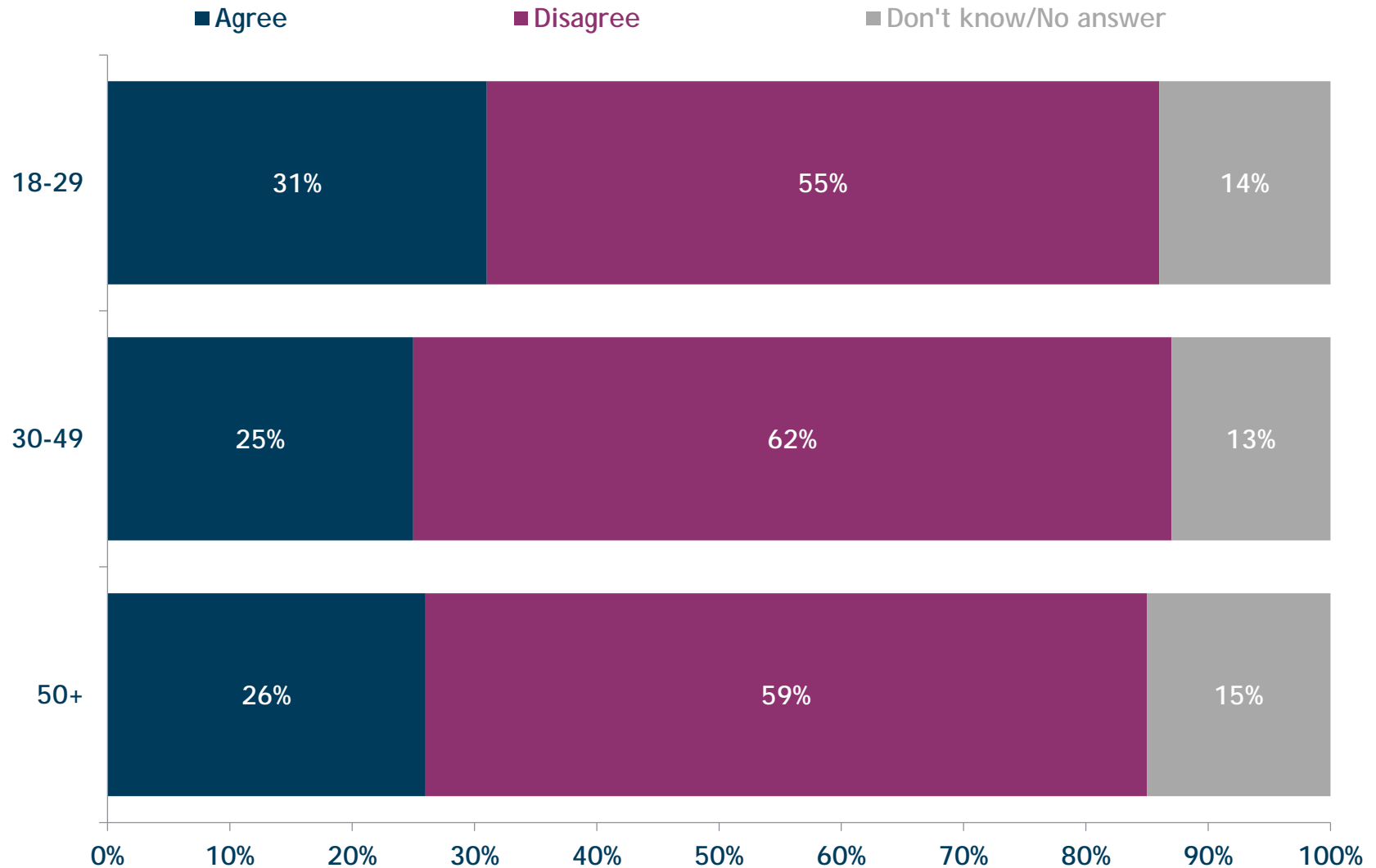
Do you agree or disagree with the following statement:  
“Politicians do not listen to the needs and ideas of women.”  
(continued; disaggregated by gender)



# Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "Politicians do not listen to the needs and ideas of young people."



# Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "Politicians do not listen to the needs and ideas of young people." (continued; disaggregated by age)





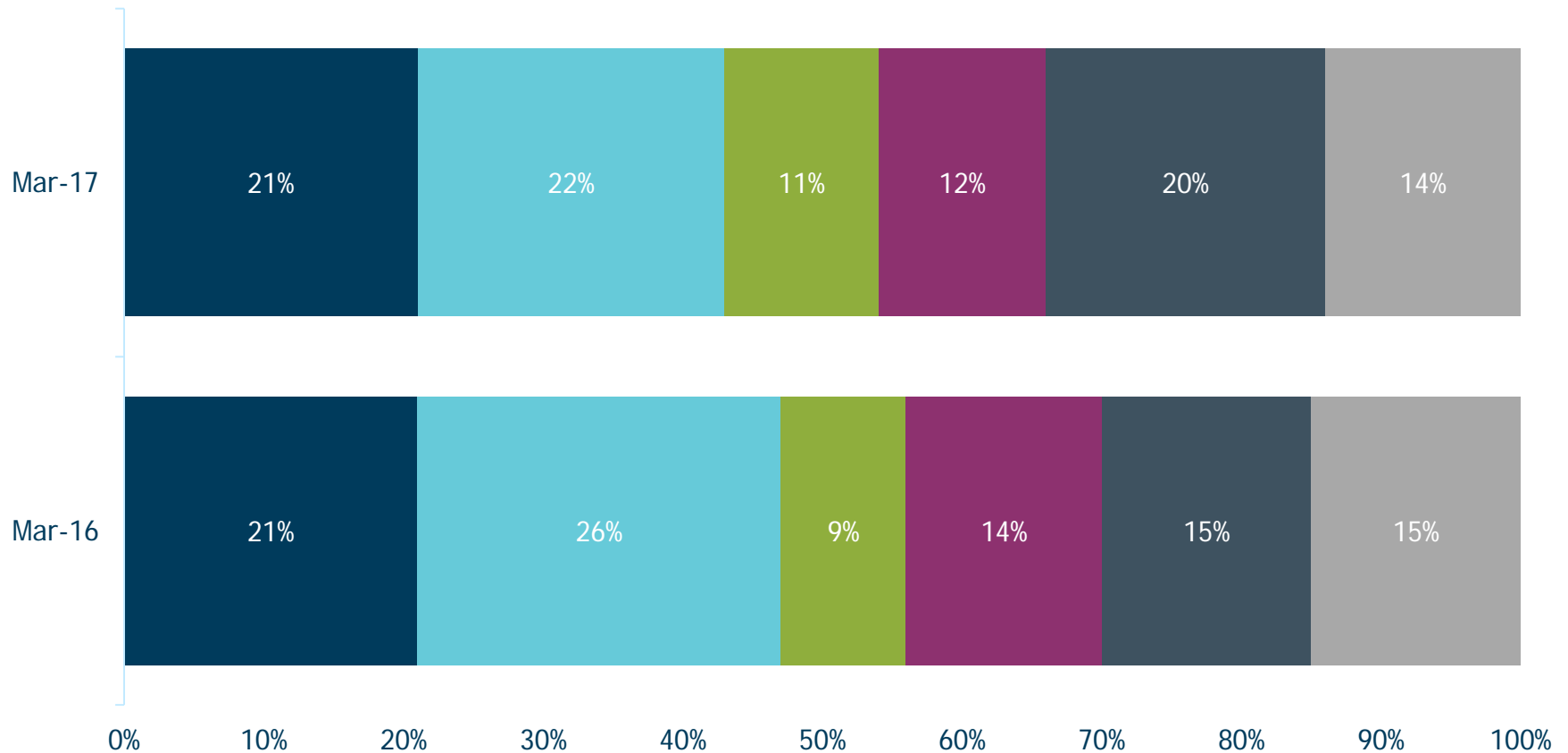
# Domestic Policy

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# Do you support efforts to establish quotas for women's representation in elected bodies, including Parliament and Sakrebulo\*?

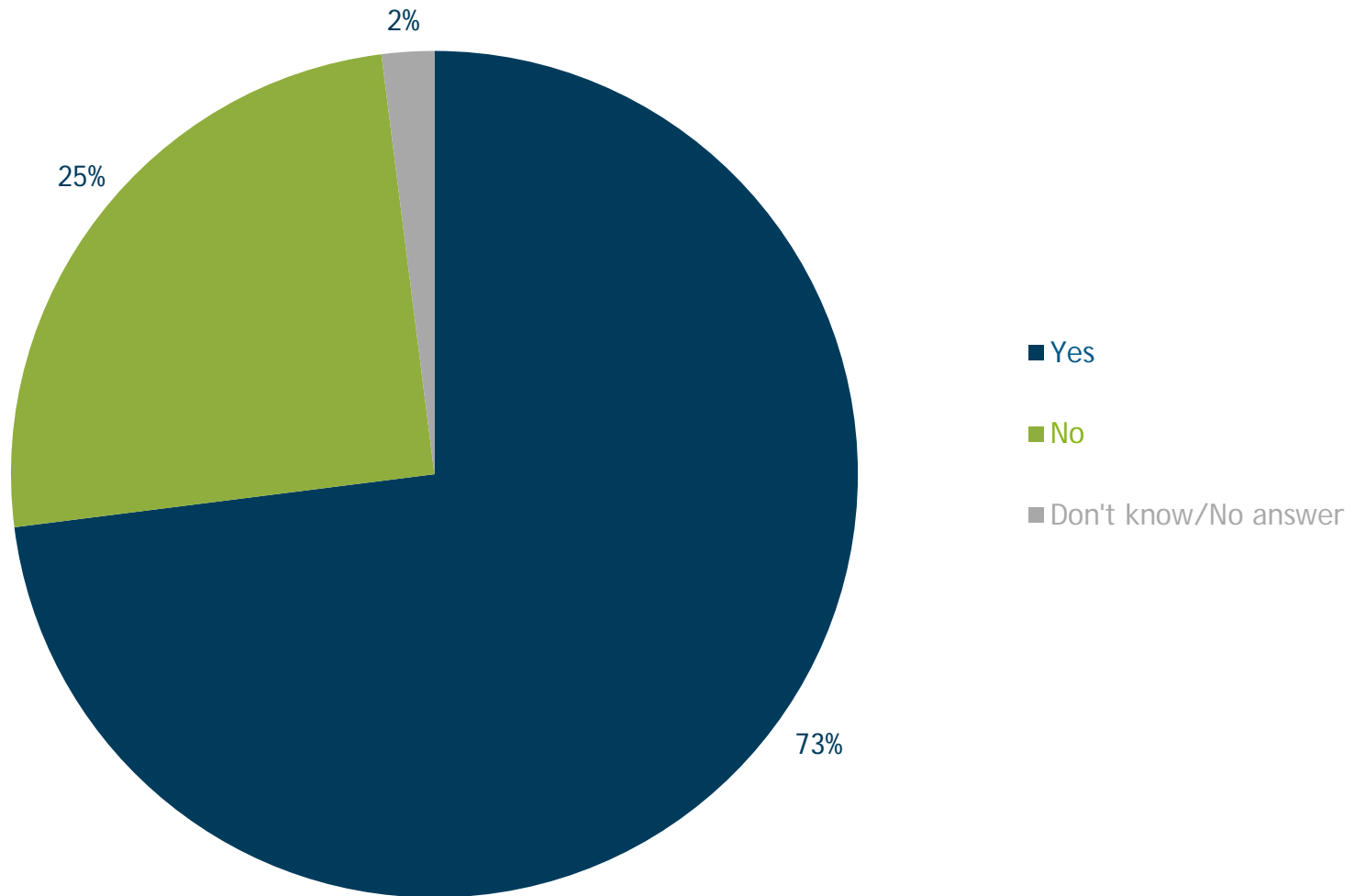
■ Very supportive ■ Somewhat supportive ■ Somewhat unsupportive ■ Very unsupportive ■ Neutral ■ Don't know/No answer



\* Sakrebulo are local councils at the incorporated city/town and unincorporated county/regional levels of government.

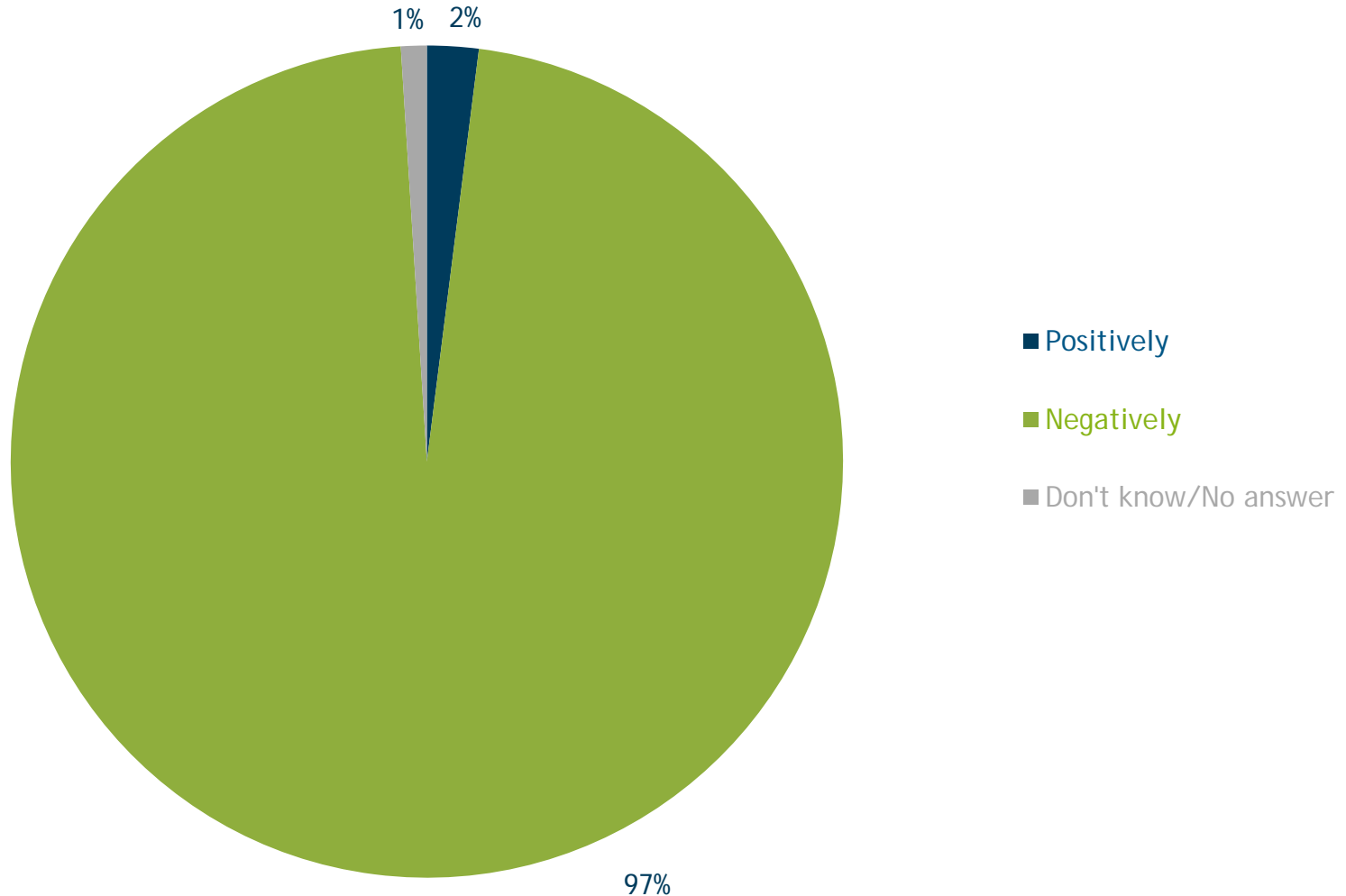


# Are you aware of the Government's tax increase initiative?\*

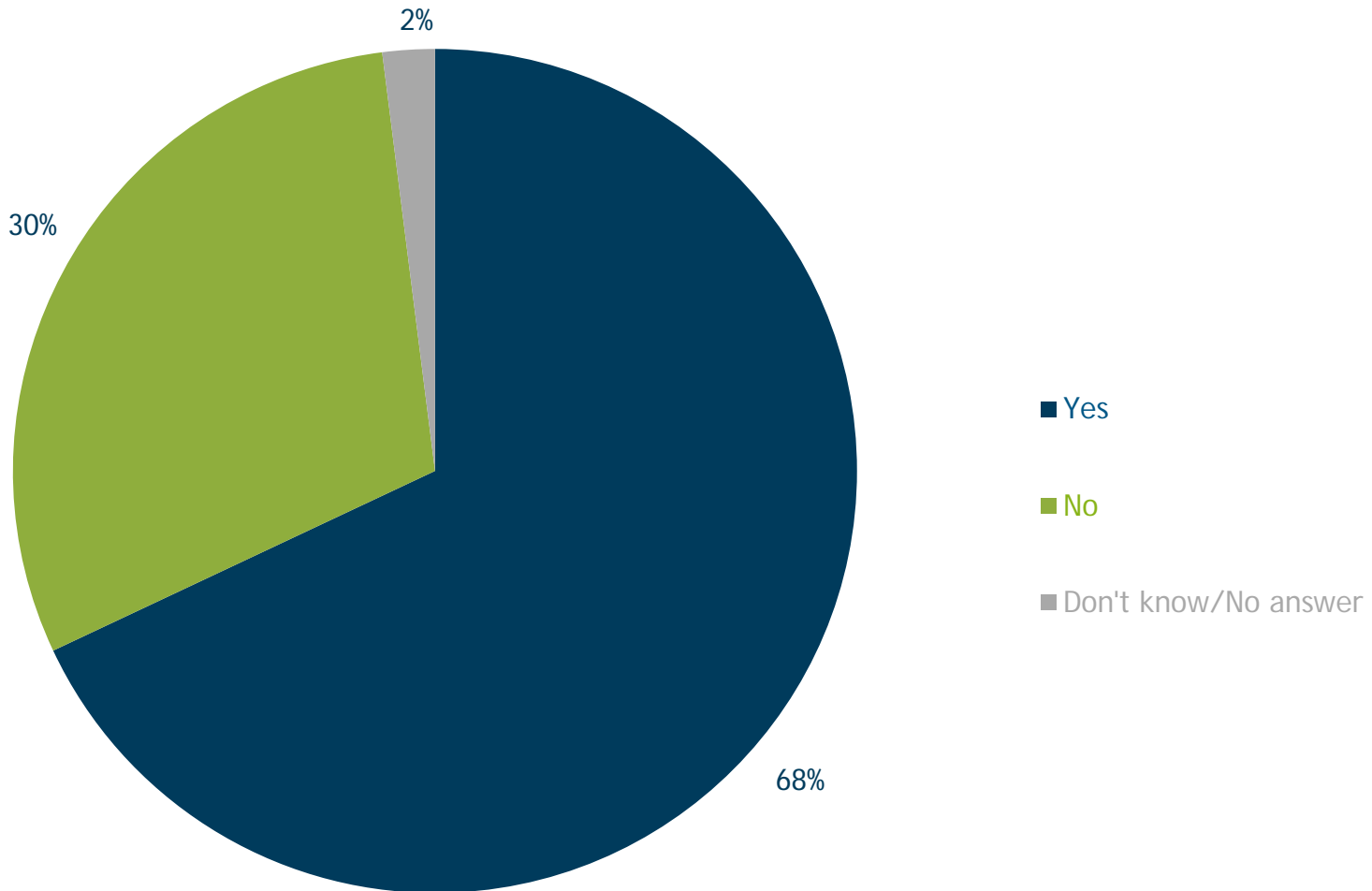


\* In December 2016, the Georgian Parliament adopted tax increases on tobacco, automobiles, oil, and gambling. The new taxes went into effect on January 1, 2017.

# If you are aware of the Government's tax increase initiative, how would you evaluate the new tax increases? (those aware of the tax initiative, N=1,091)



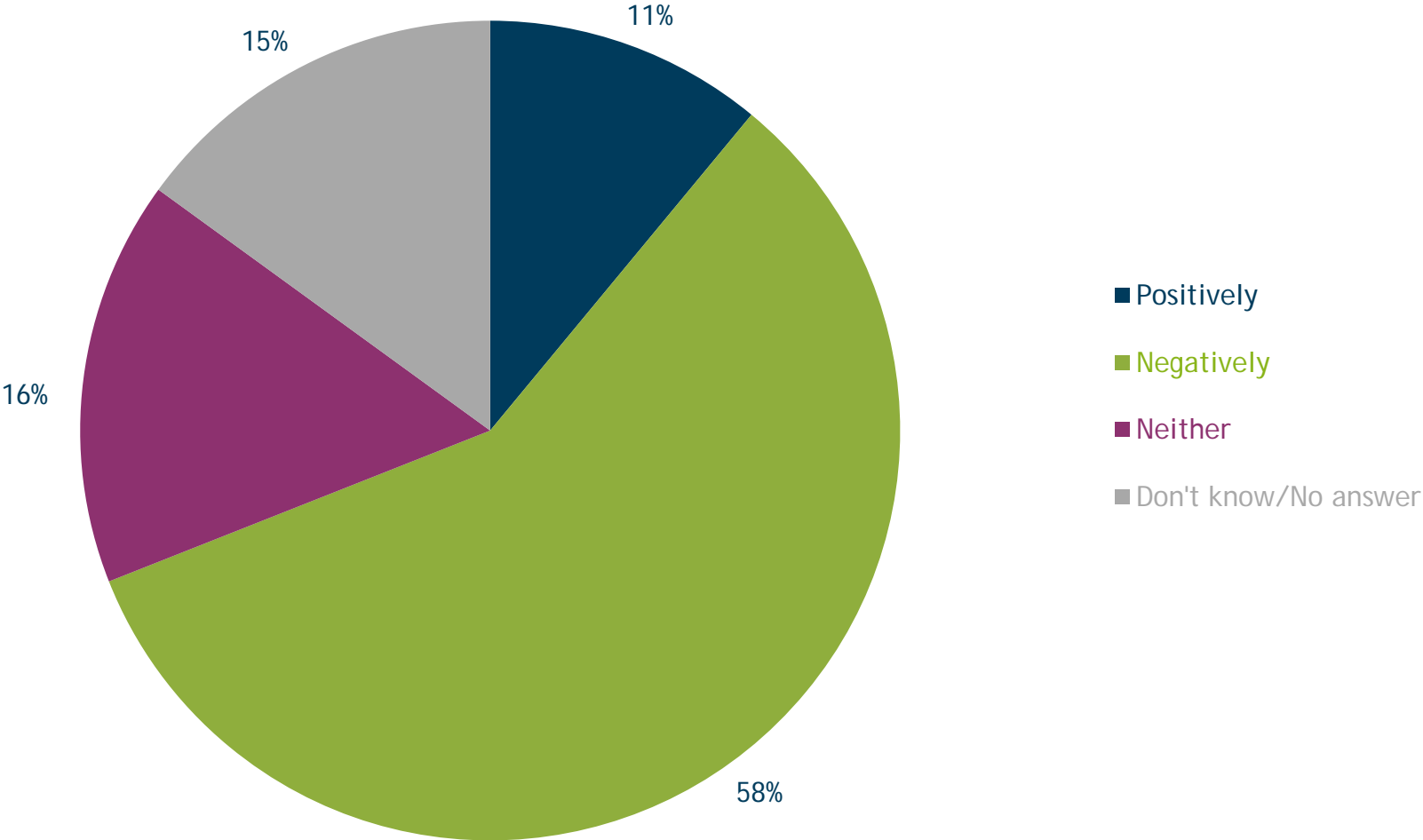
# Are you aware of the government's decision to amend its contract with the Russian company, Gazprom?\*



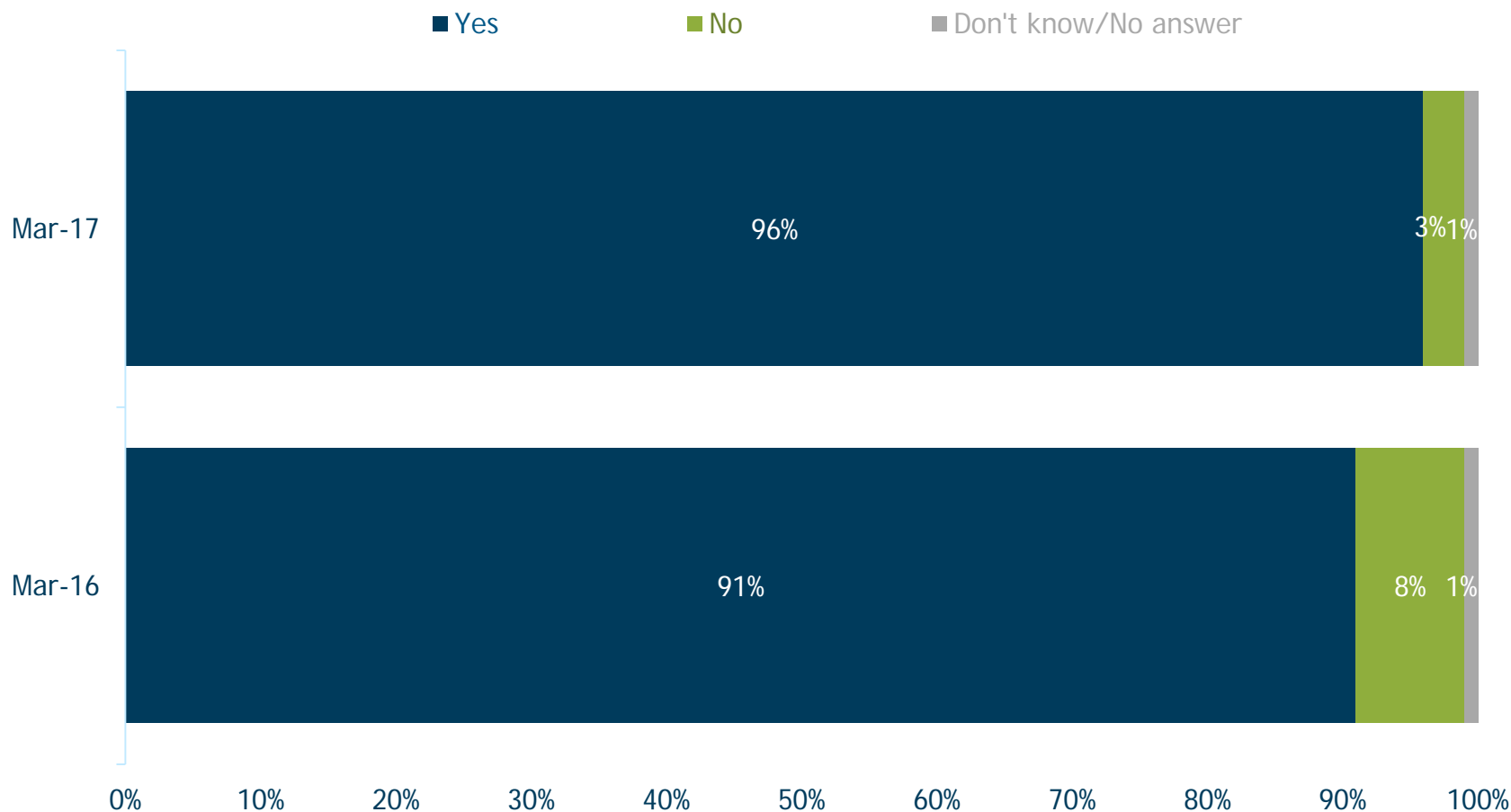
\* Over a series of meetings between the Georgian Ministry of Energy and Gazprom in December 2016 and January 2017, the two parties agreed to modify the existing contract. Favorable purchase prices were allegedly exchanged for Georgia's facilitation of gas transit between Russia and Armenia. The full details of the revised deal have not been disclosed by the government.

# How would you evaluate the decision to amend the contract with Gazprom?

(those aware of the Gazprom decision, N=1,021)

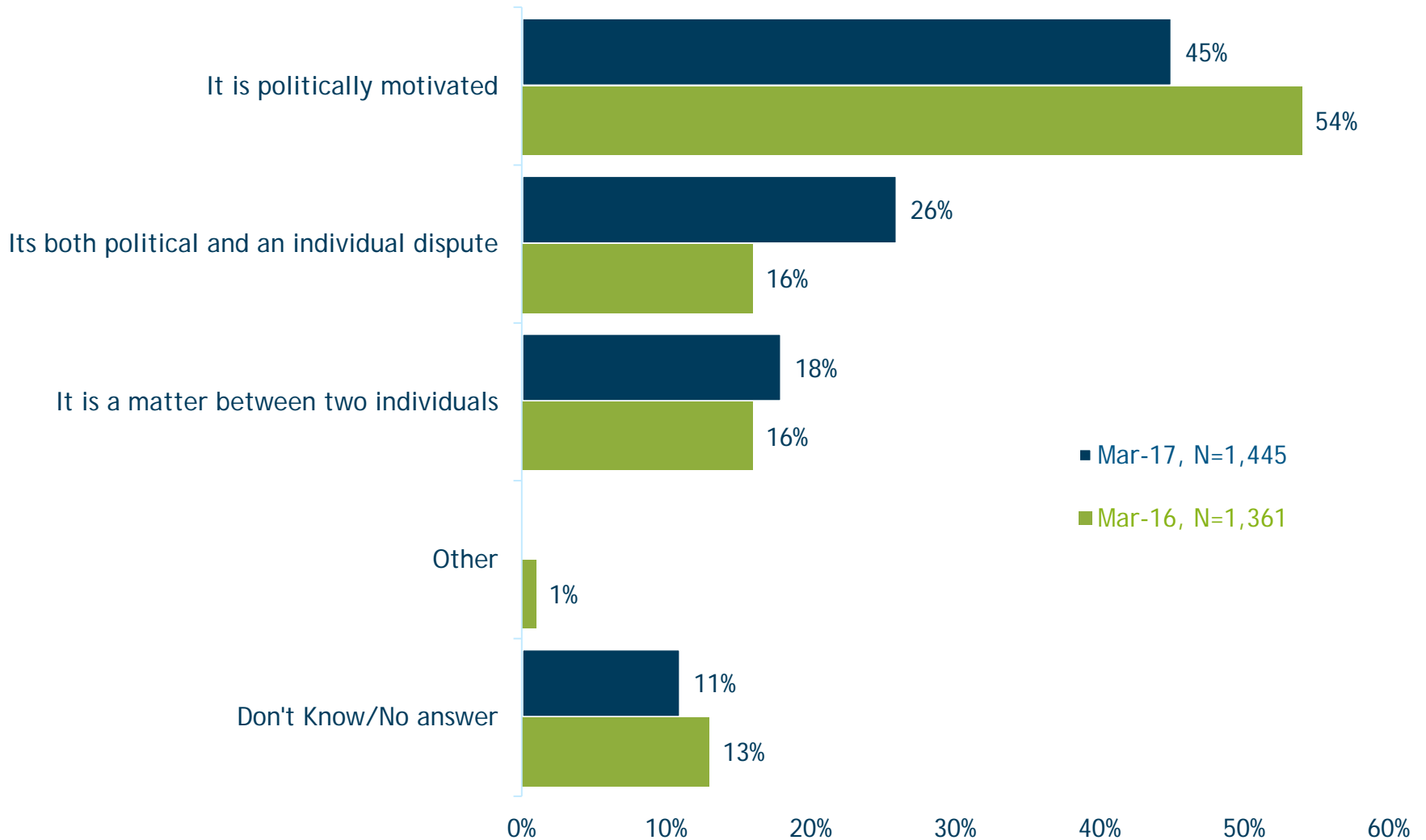


# Have you heard about the court case involving RUSTAVI 2 ownership?\*



\* Rustavi 2, which many consider to be the last truly independent TV channel in Georgia, lost a lawsuit over corporate ownership on March 2, 2017 (after this poll was already in the field). The judgment (currently stayed after an injunction issued by the European Court of Human Rights in March 2017) would return the station to its pre-2011 owner who is suspected of ties to former Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili.

# If you have heard of the RUSTAVI 2 case, what is your opinion about it?





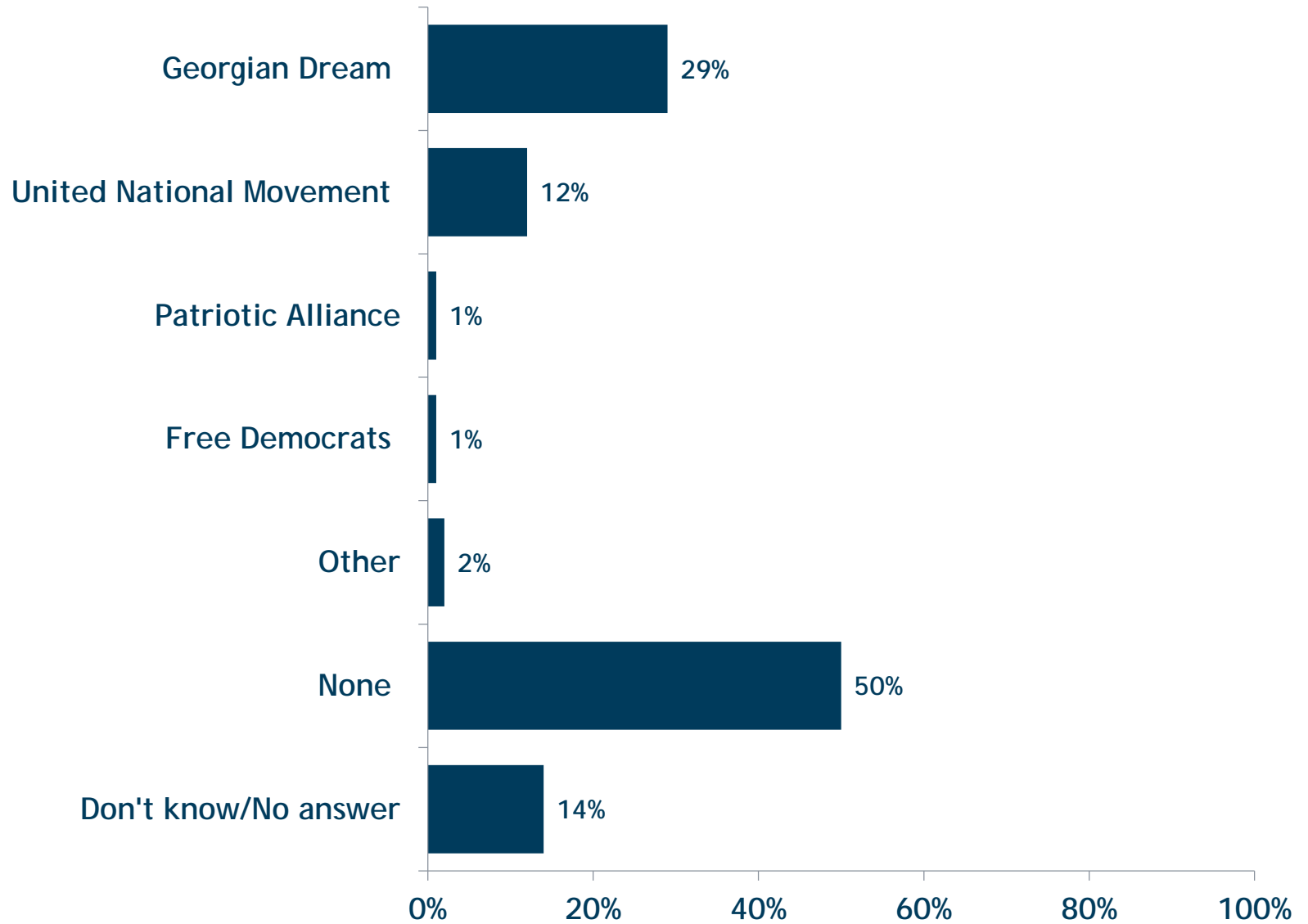
# Political Parties

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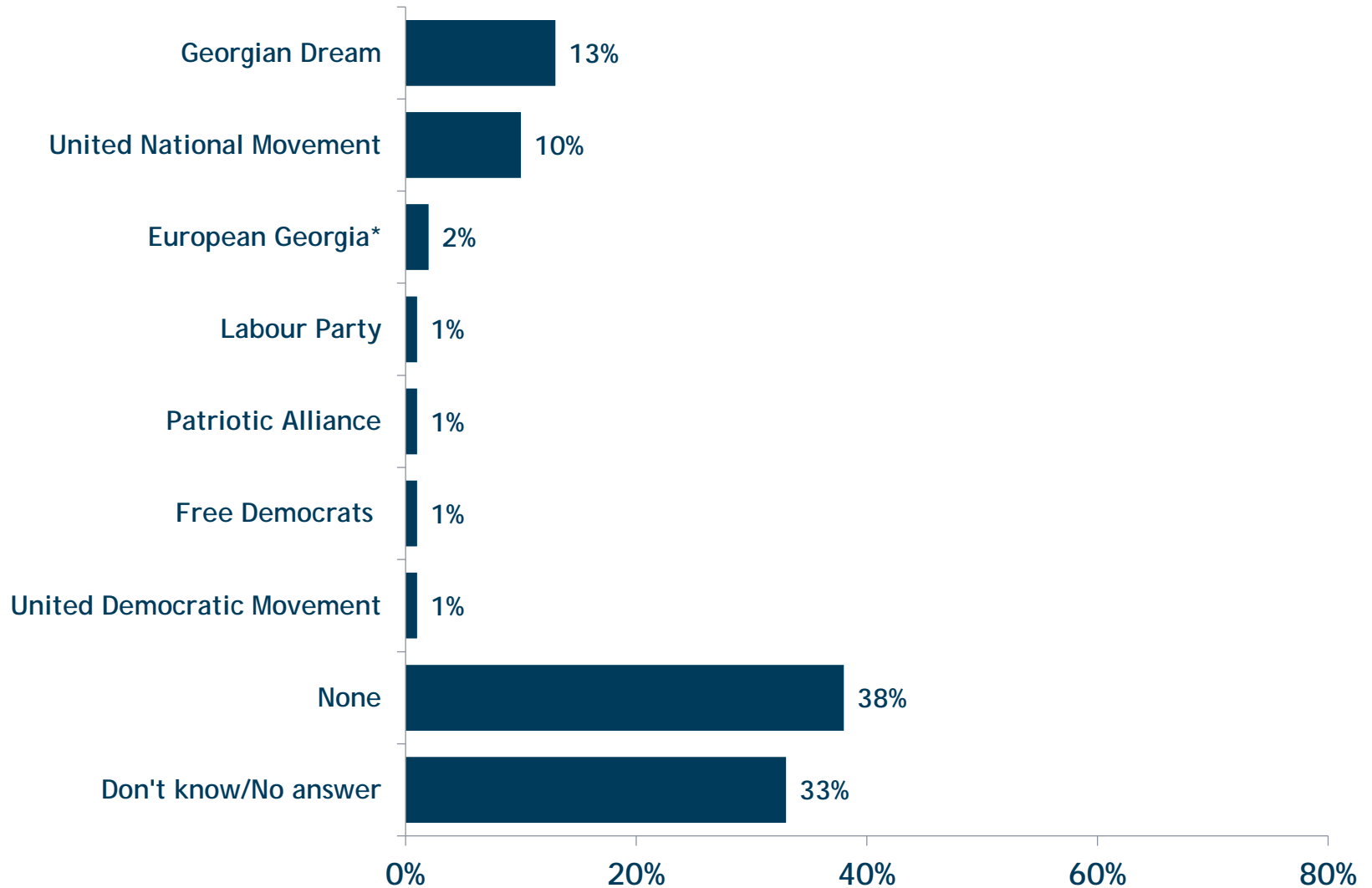
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# Which political parties, if any, are active in your region?



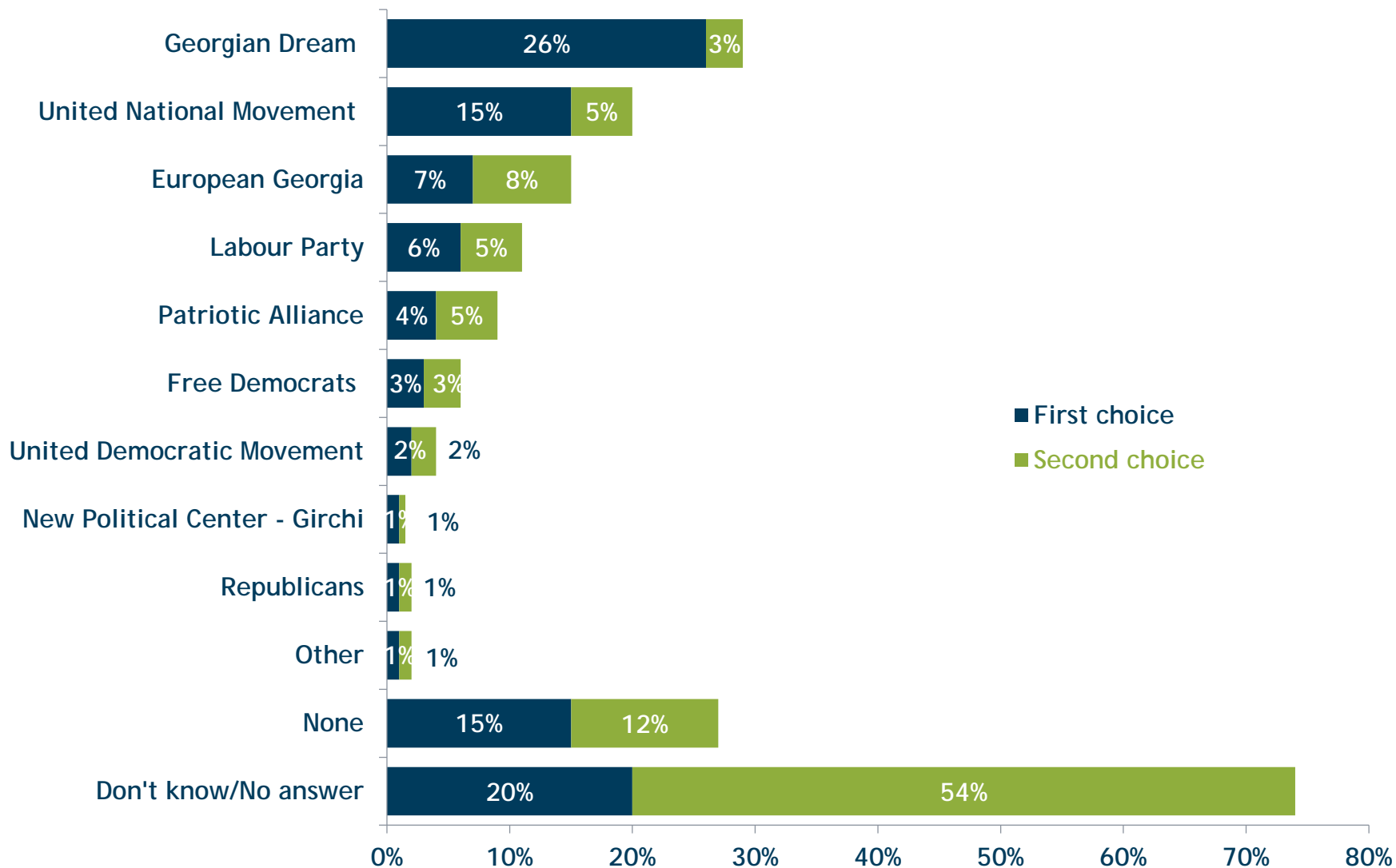


# Which political party can deal most successfully with the most important problems that Georgia is facing?



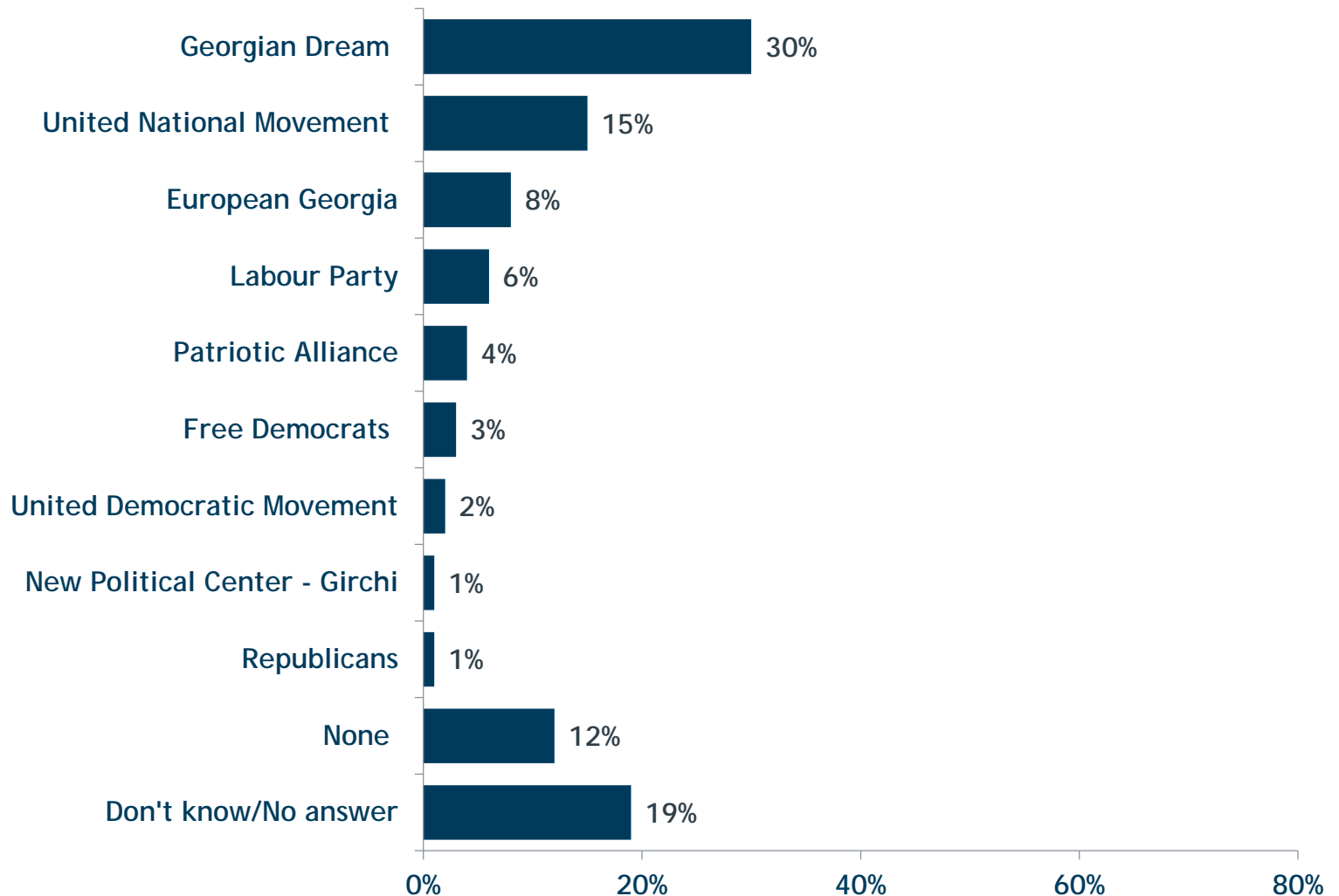
\* European Georgia was formed in January 2017 following a split in the United National Movement leadership.

# For which of these political parties would you vote if local elections were held next Sunday and these parties were participating?



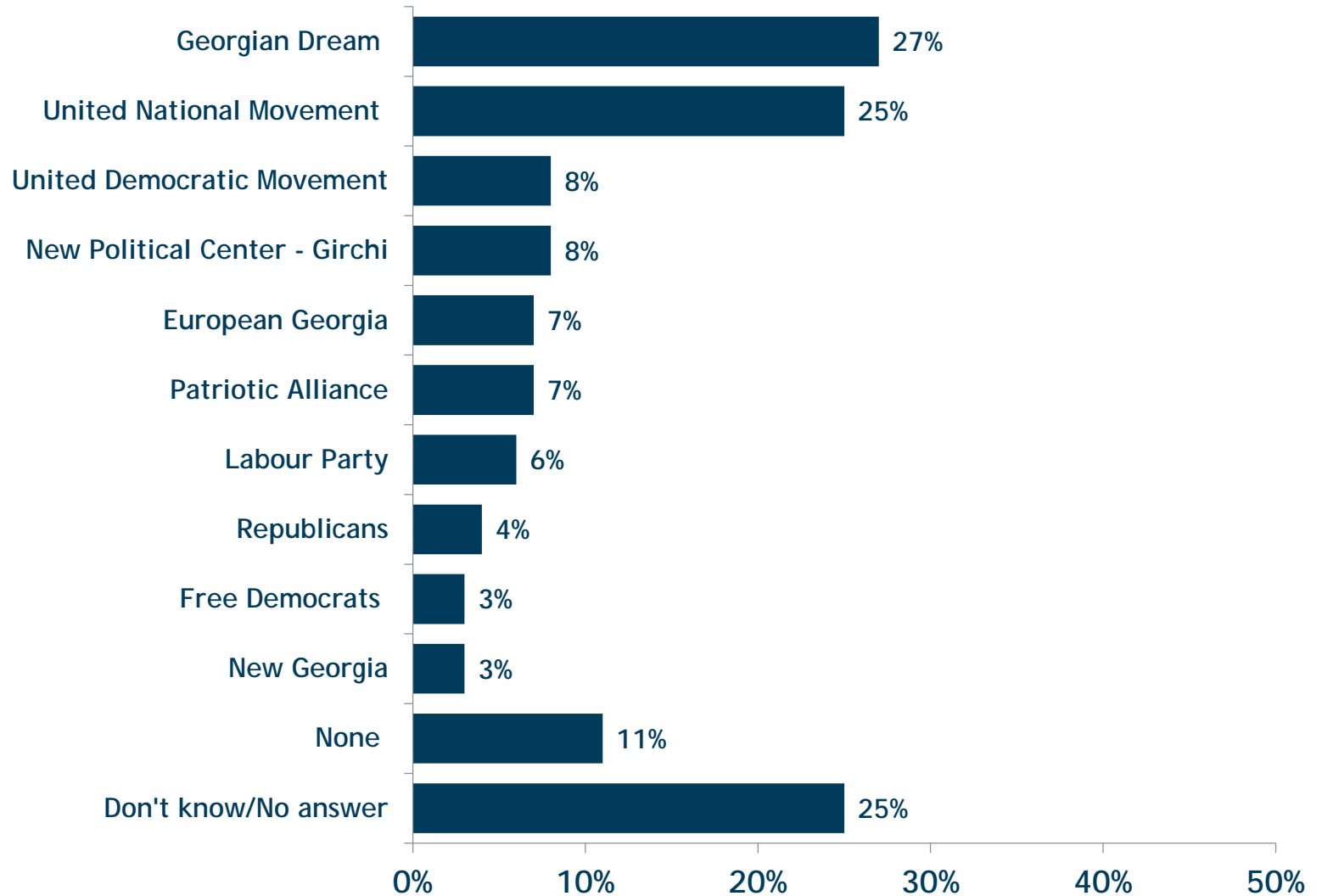
# For which of these political parties would you vote if local elections were held next Sunday and these parties were participating?

(continued; likely voters\*, N=1,233)

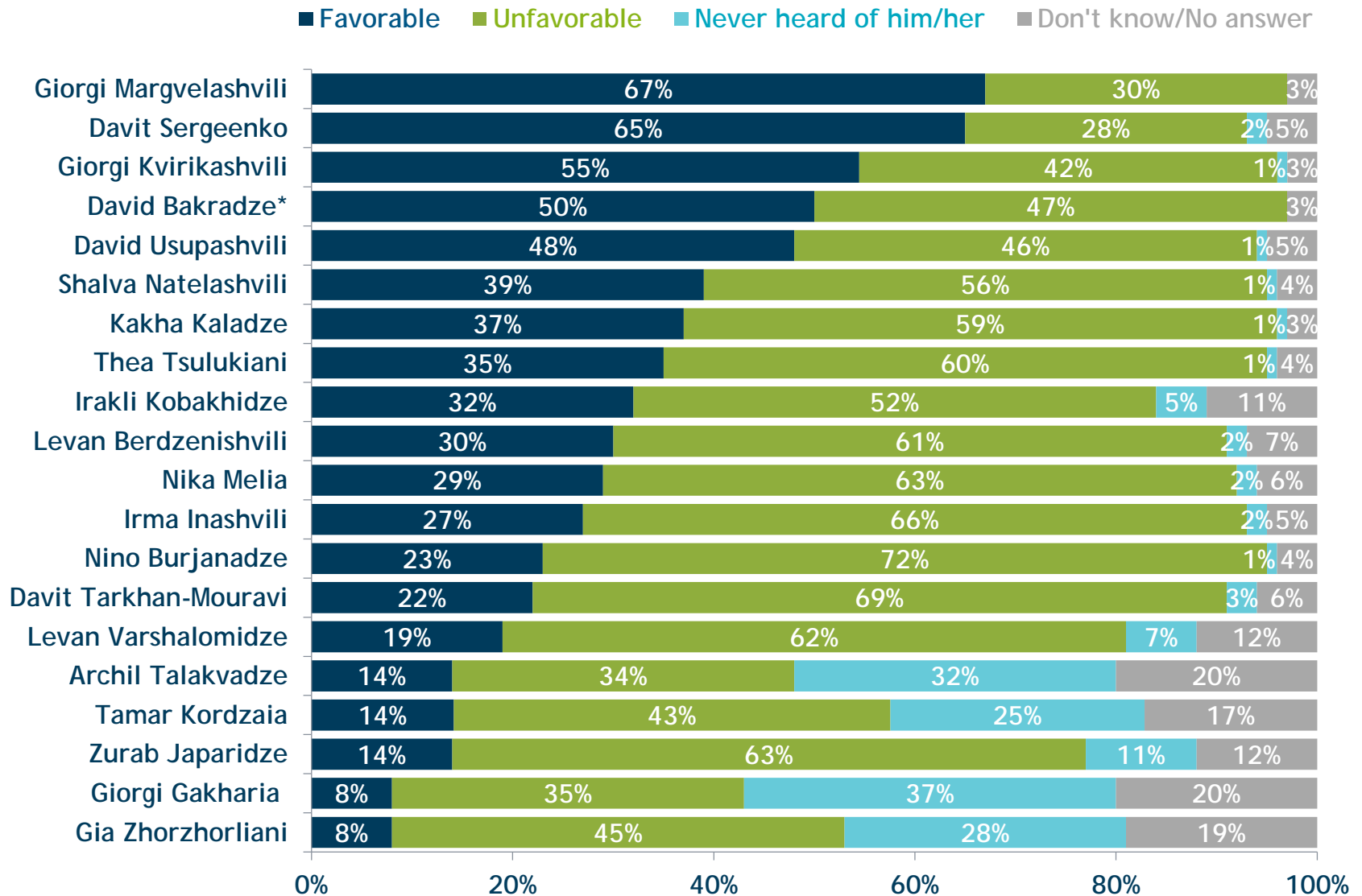


\* See slide 66.

# For which political parties would you never vote? (multiple answers possible)



# What is your opinion of the following Georgian politicians and other well-known persons in Georgian society?



\* Former Speaker of Parliament under UNM, now a leader of European Georgia.



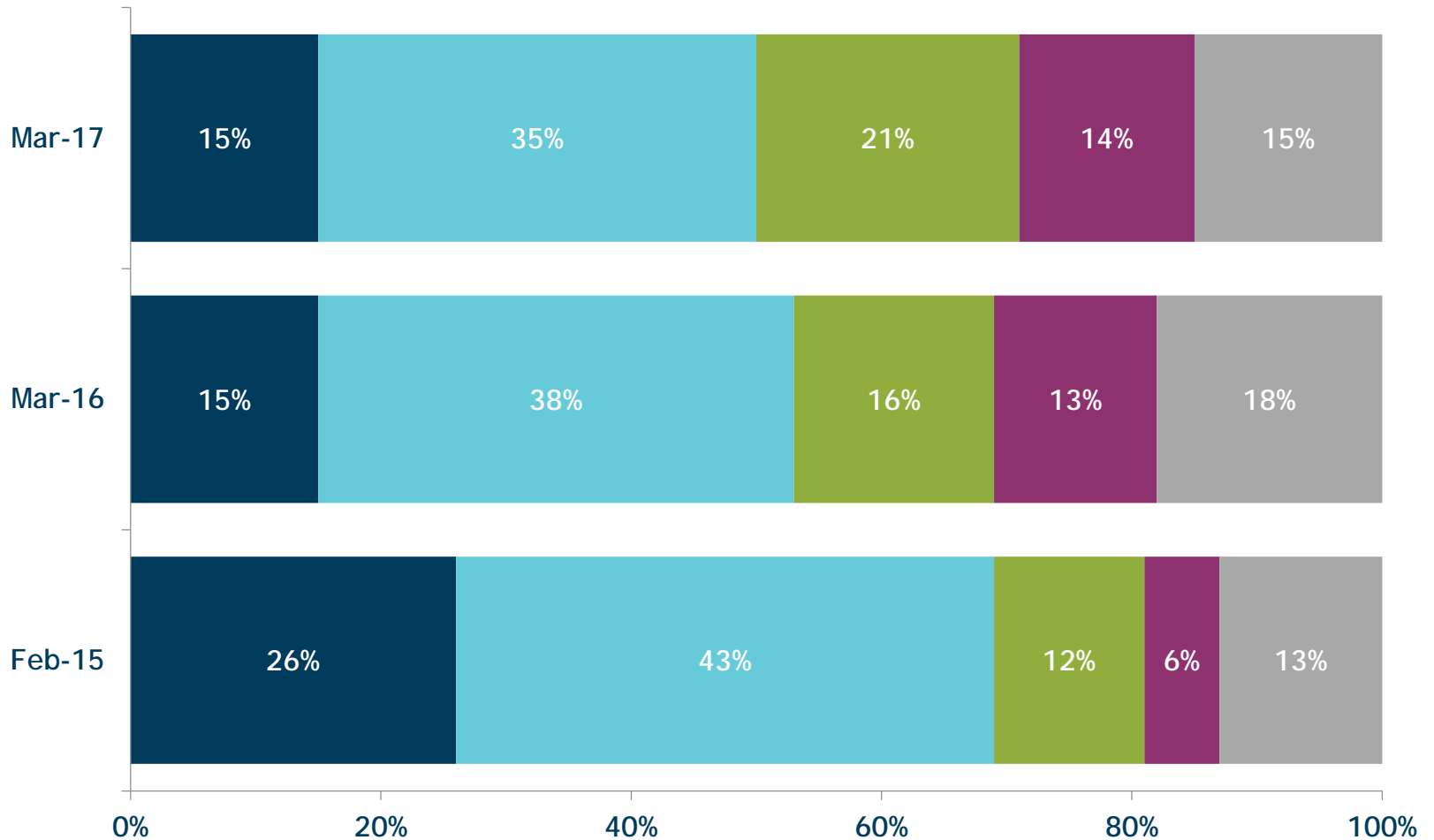
# Elections and Electoral Administration

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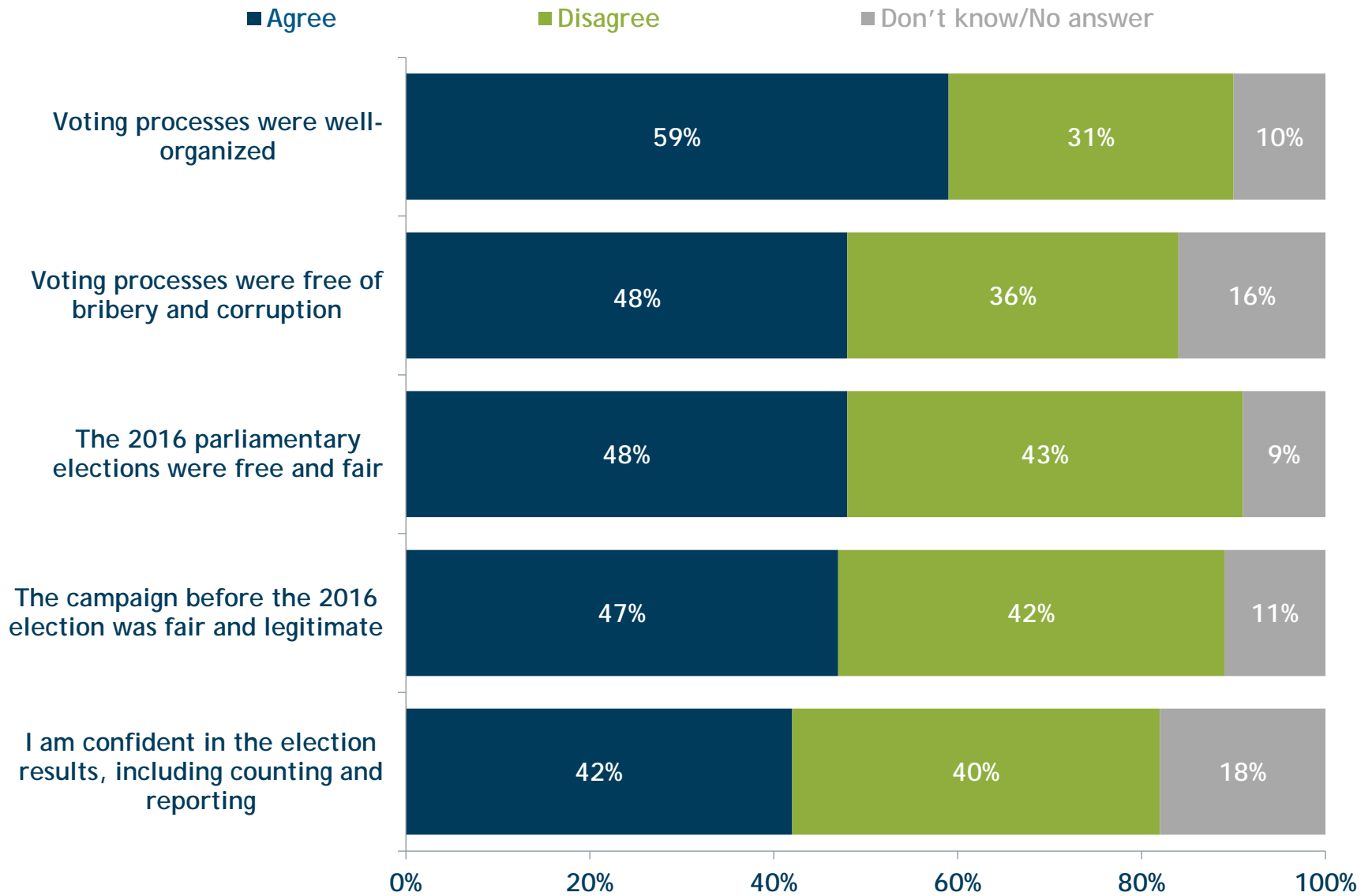


# Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "The Central Election Commission (CESKO) performs its work in a trustworthy manner."

■ Strongly agree ■ Somewhat agree ■ Somewhat disagree ■ Strongly disagree ■ Don't know/No answer

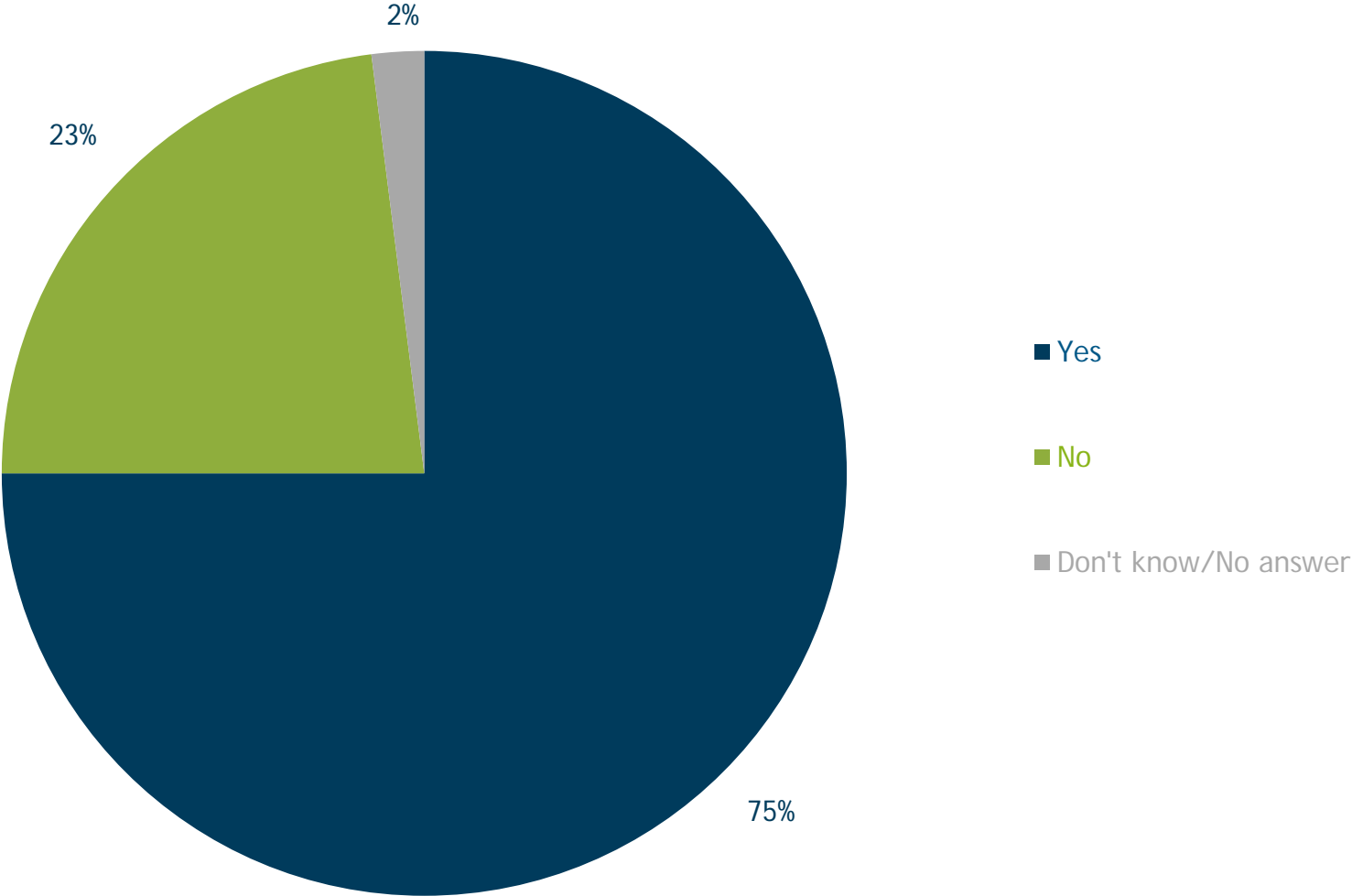


# Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about the 2016 parliamentary elections?

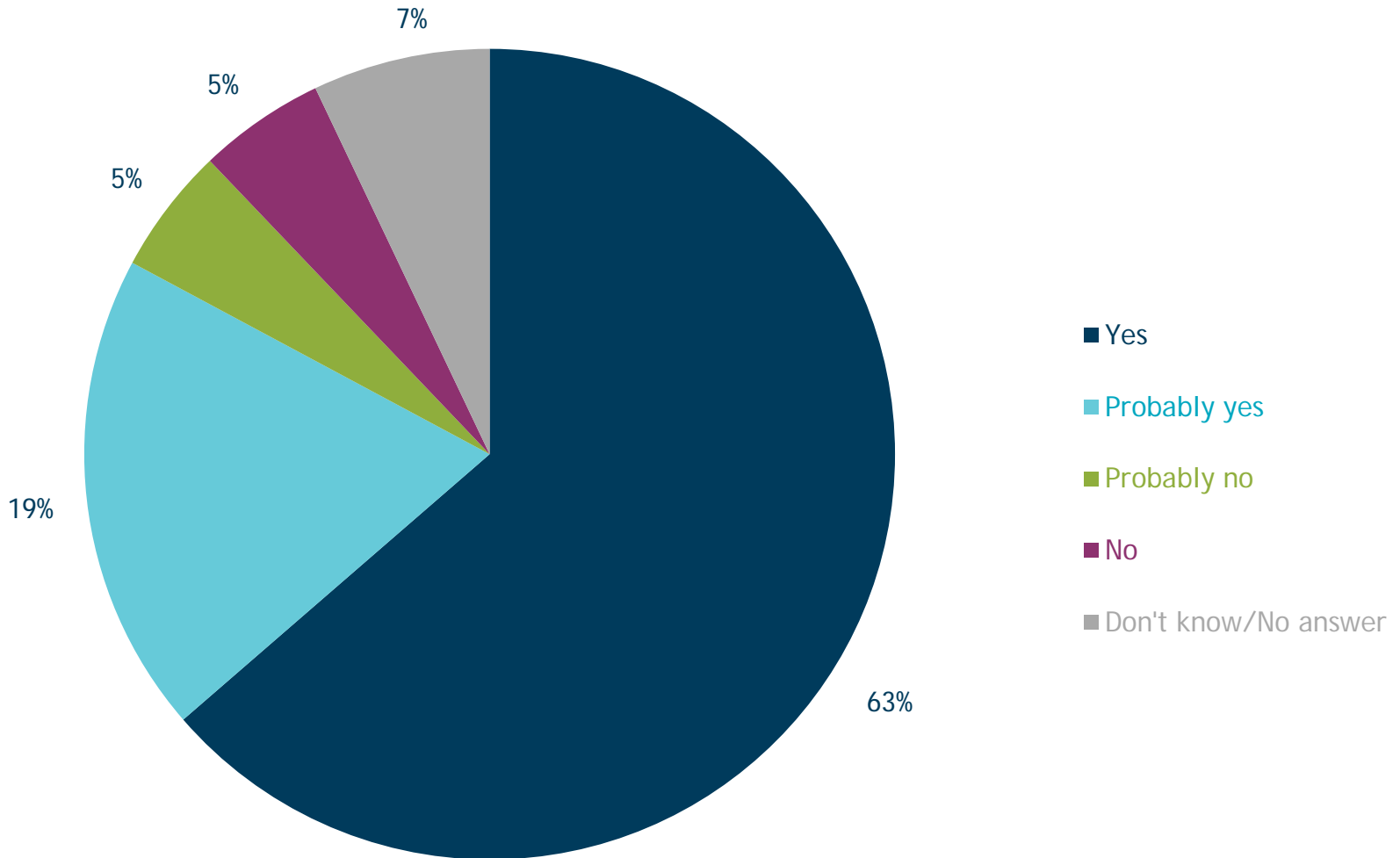




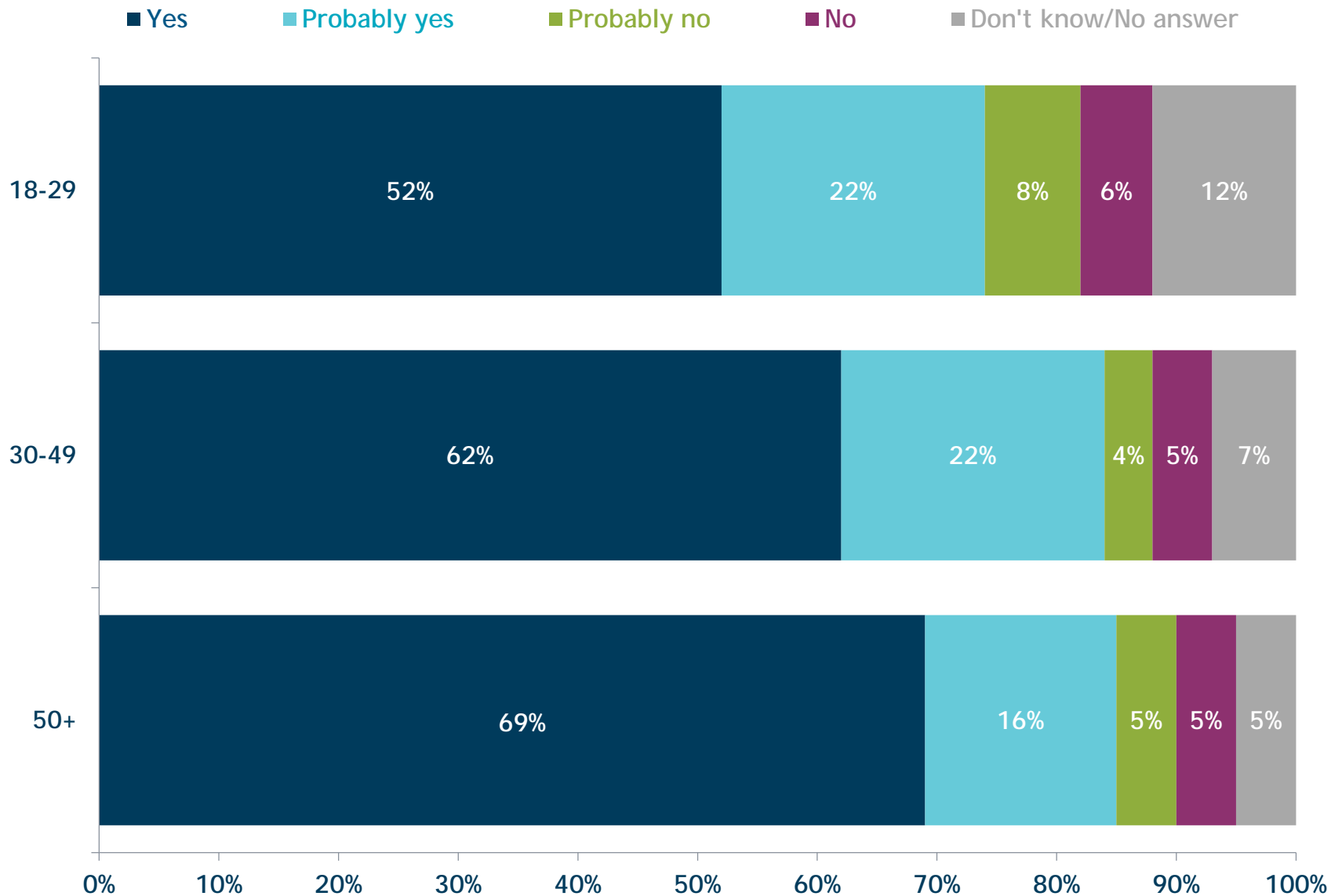
# Did you vote in the 2014 local elections?



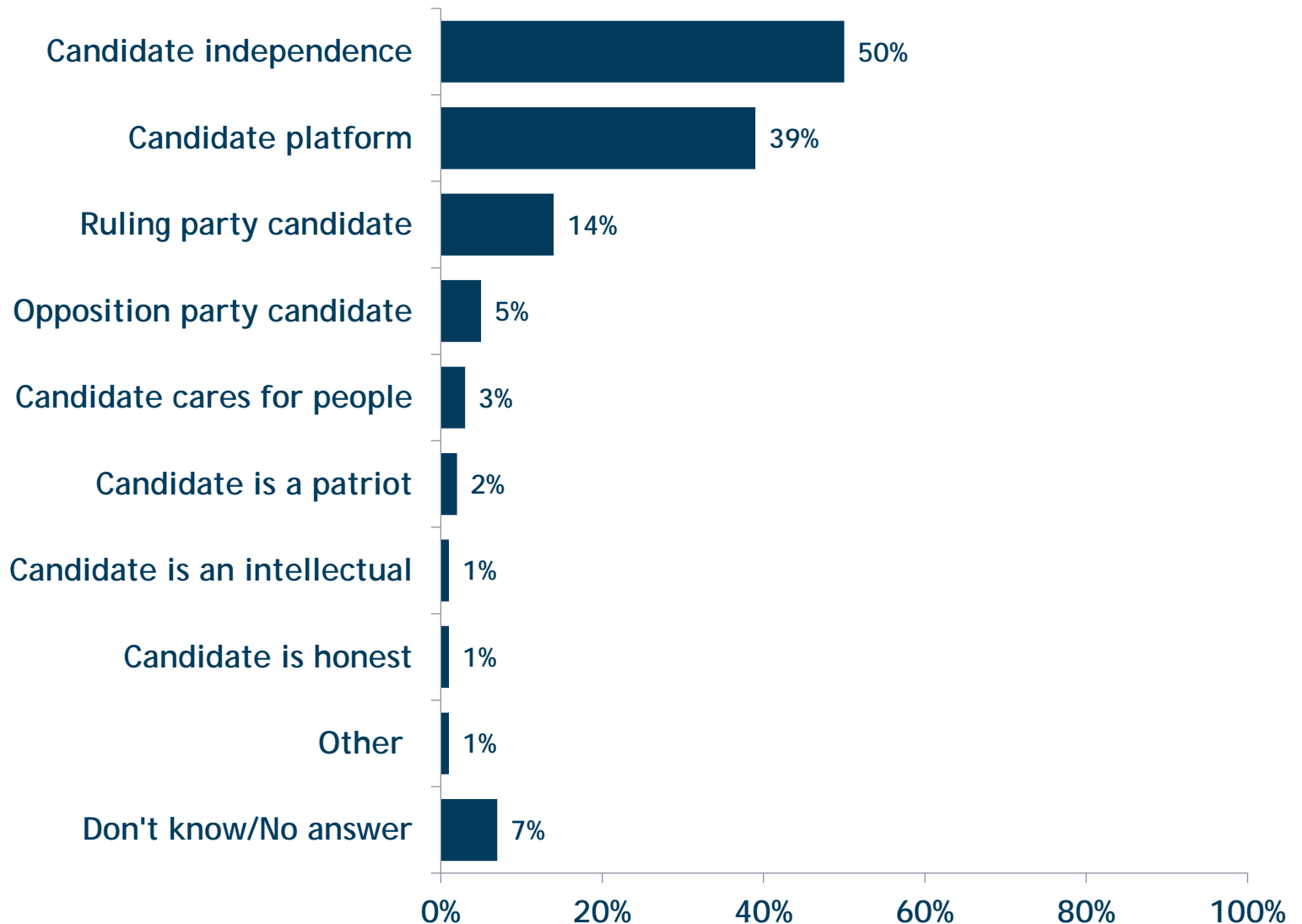
# Will you vote in the 2017 local elections?



# Will you vote in the 2017 local elections? (continued; disaggregated by age)

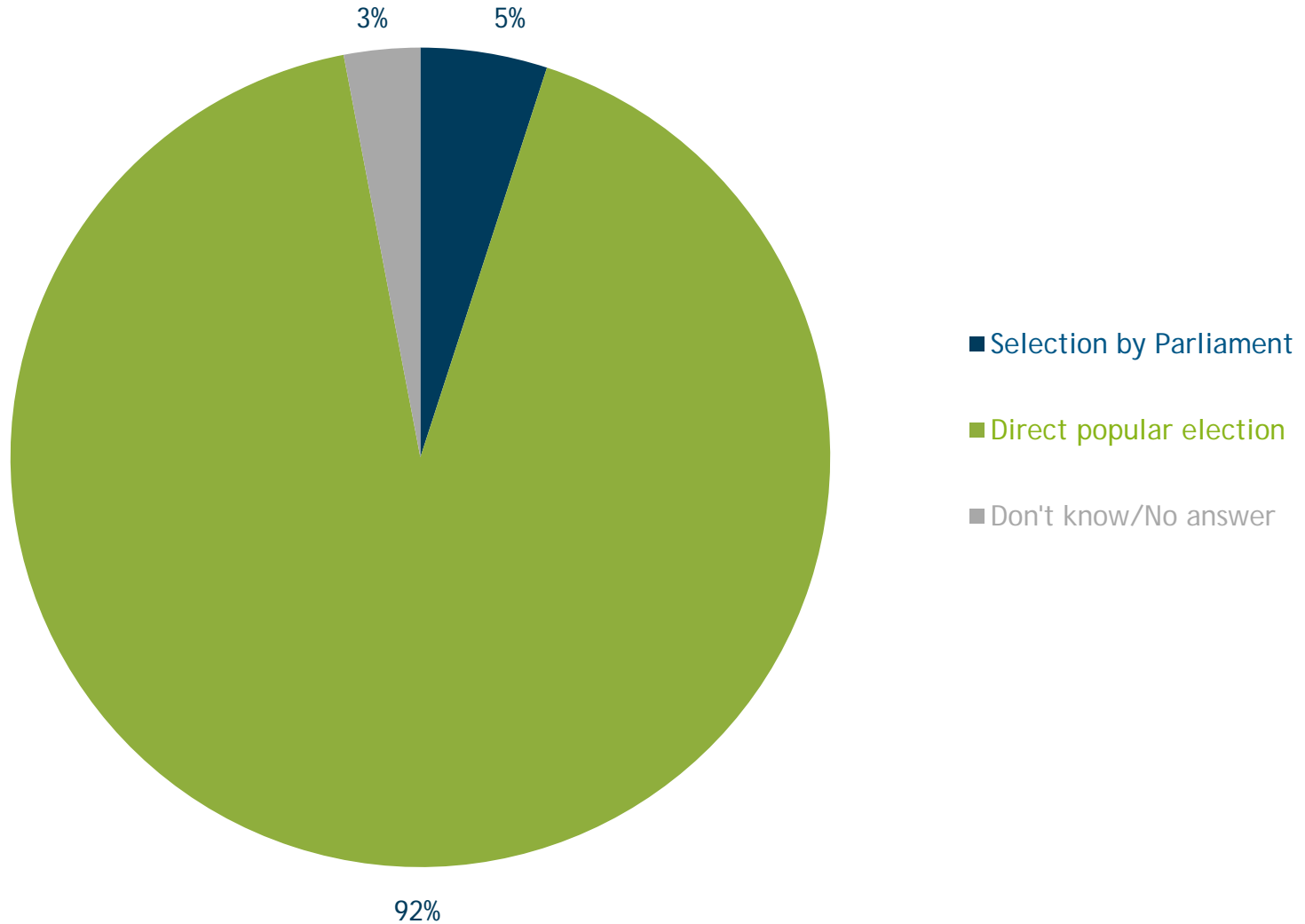


# What are the two most important factors for you when voting for mayor/*gamgebeli*?\*



\* The *gamgebeli* is the equivalent of a county administrator for an unincorporated municipality or region.

# How do you think the President of Georgia should be elected?



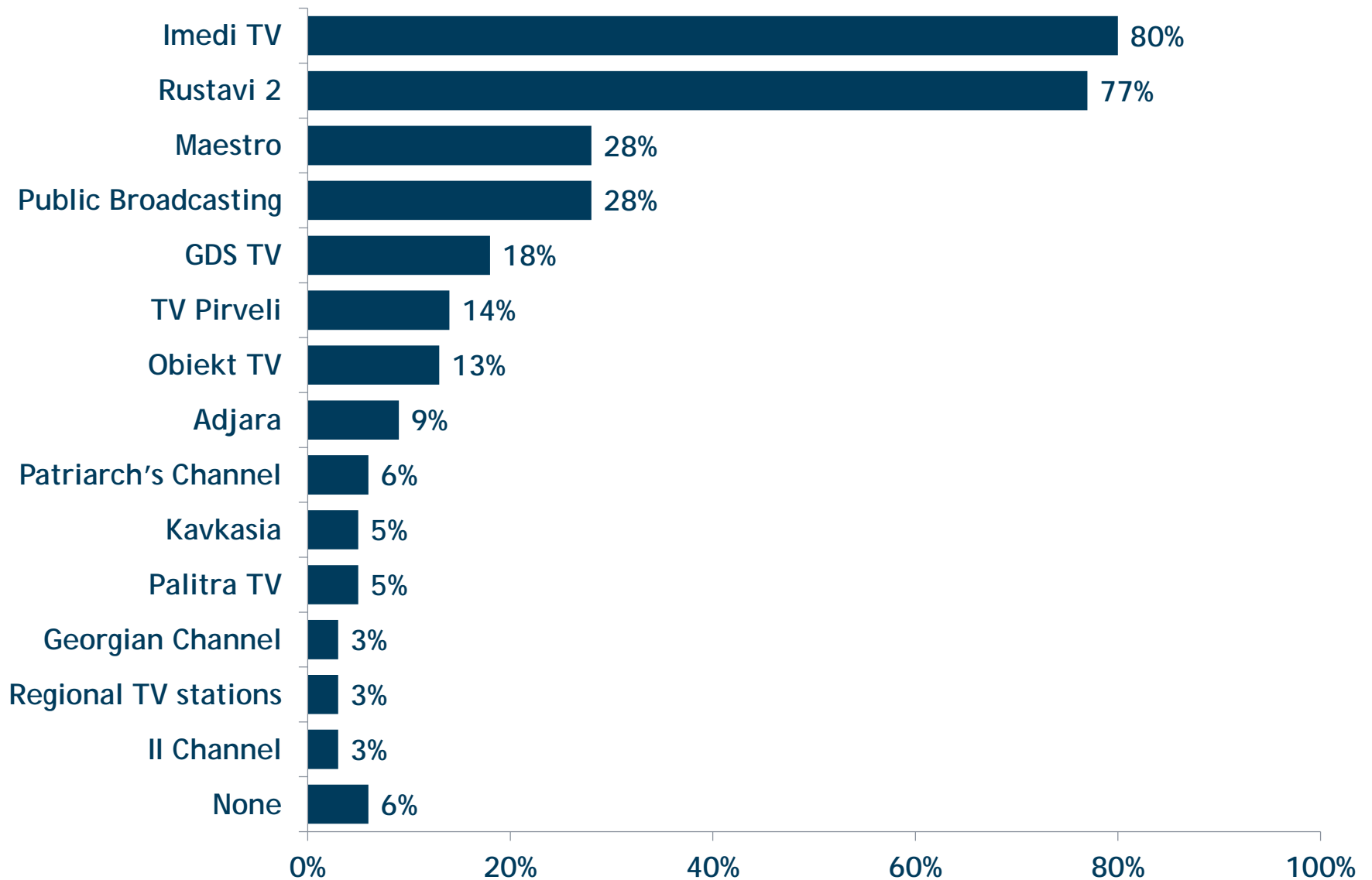


# Sources of Information

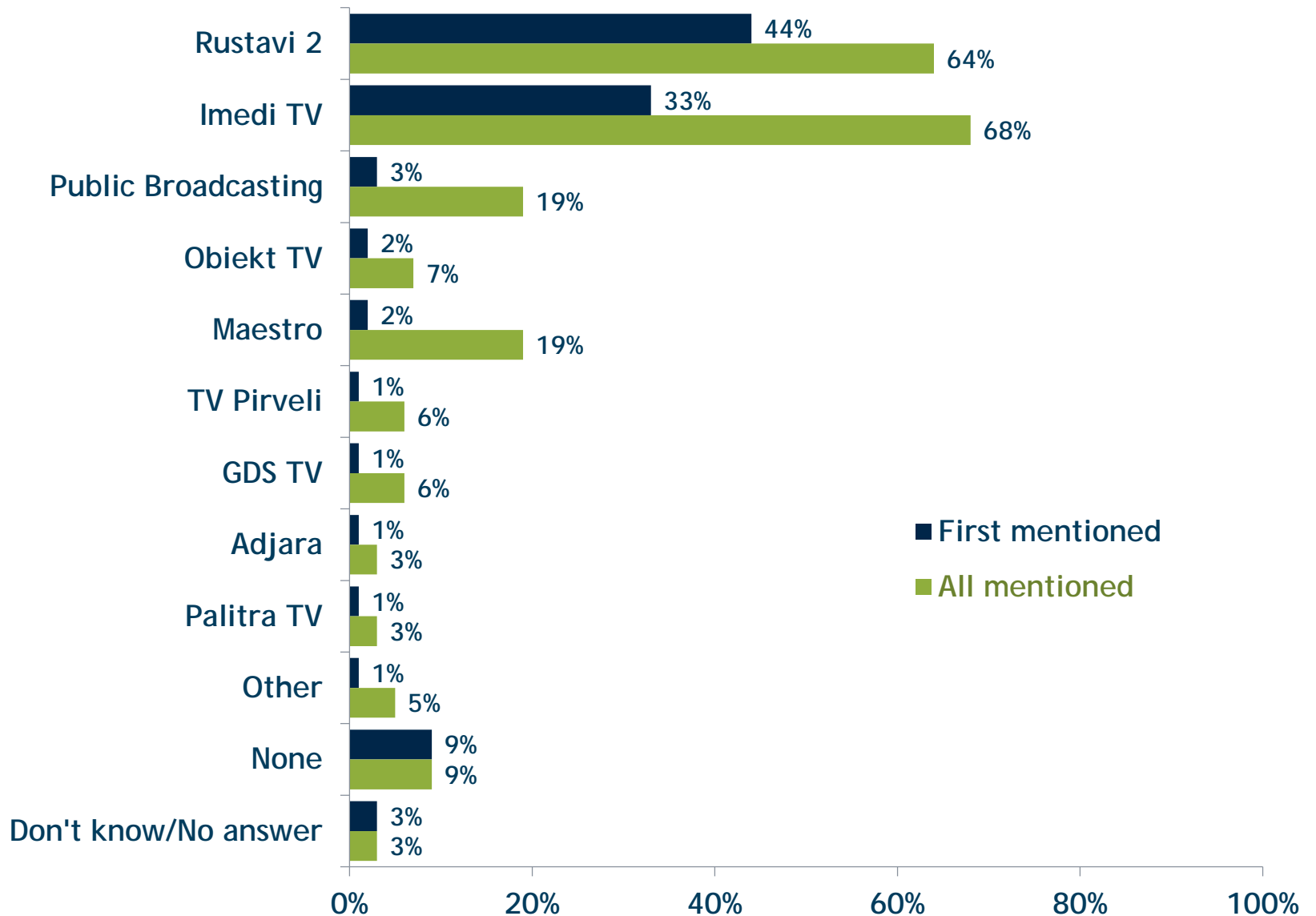
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# Which Georgian TV stations do you watch regularly? (multiple answers possible)

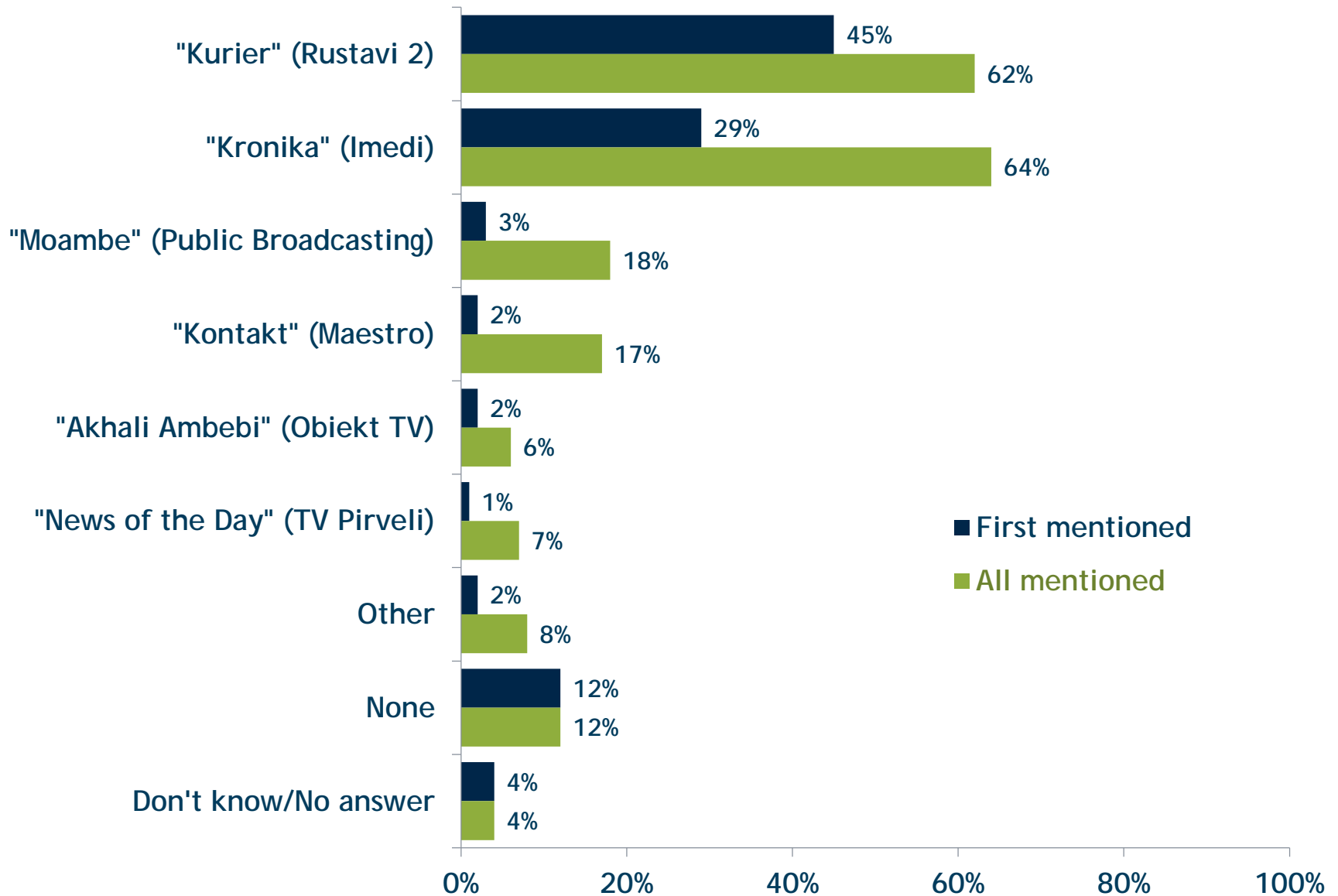


# Which Georgian TV station do you trust the most for news and political information? (three possible answers)

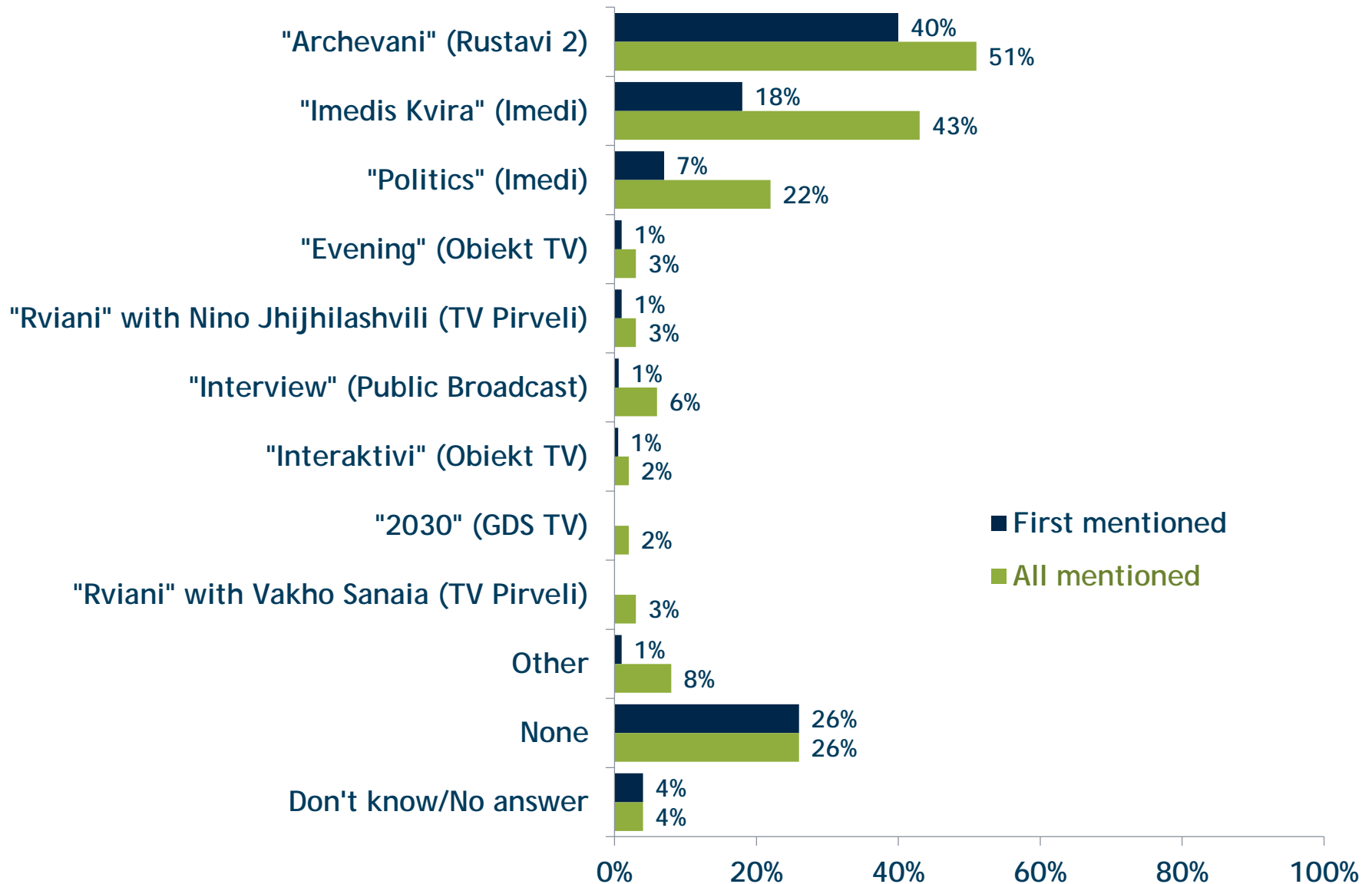




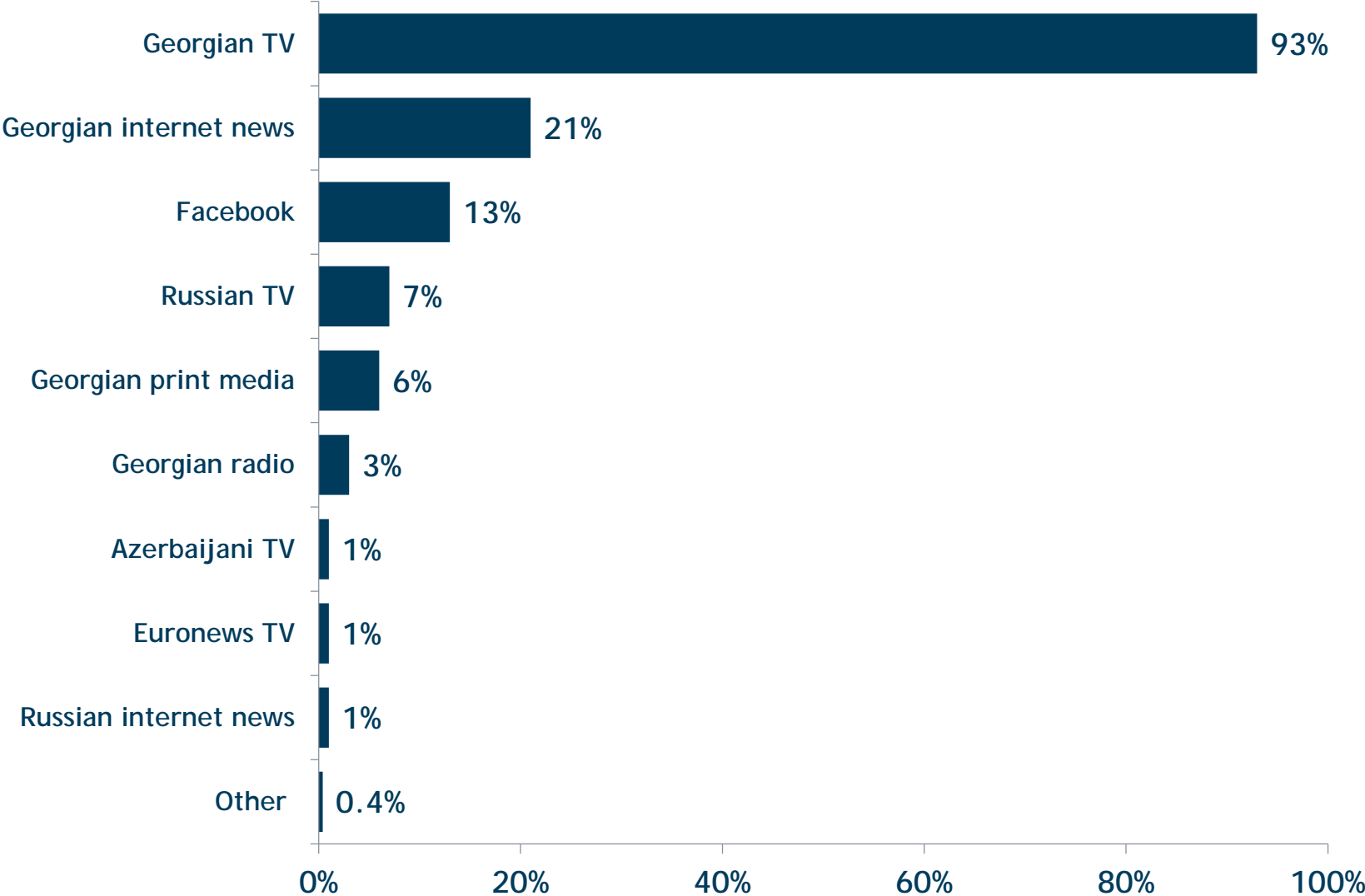
# Which TV news program do you trust the most? (three answers possible)



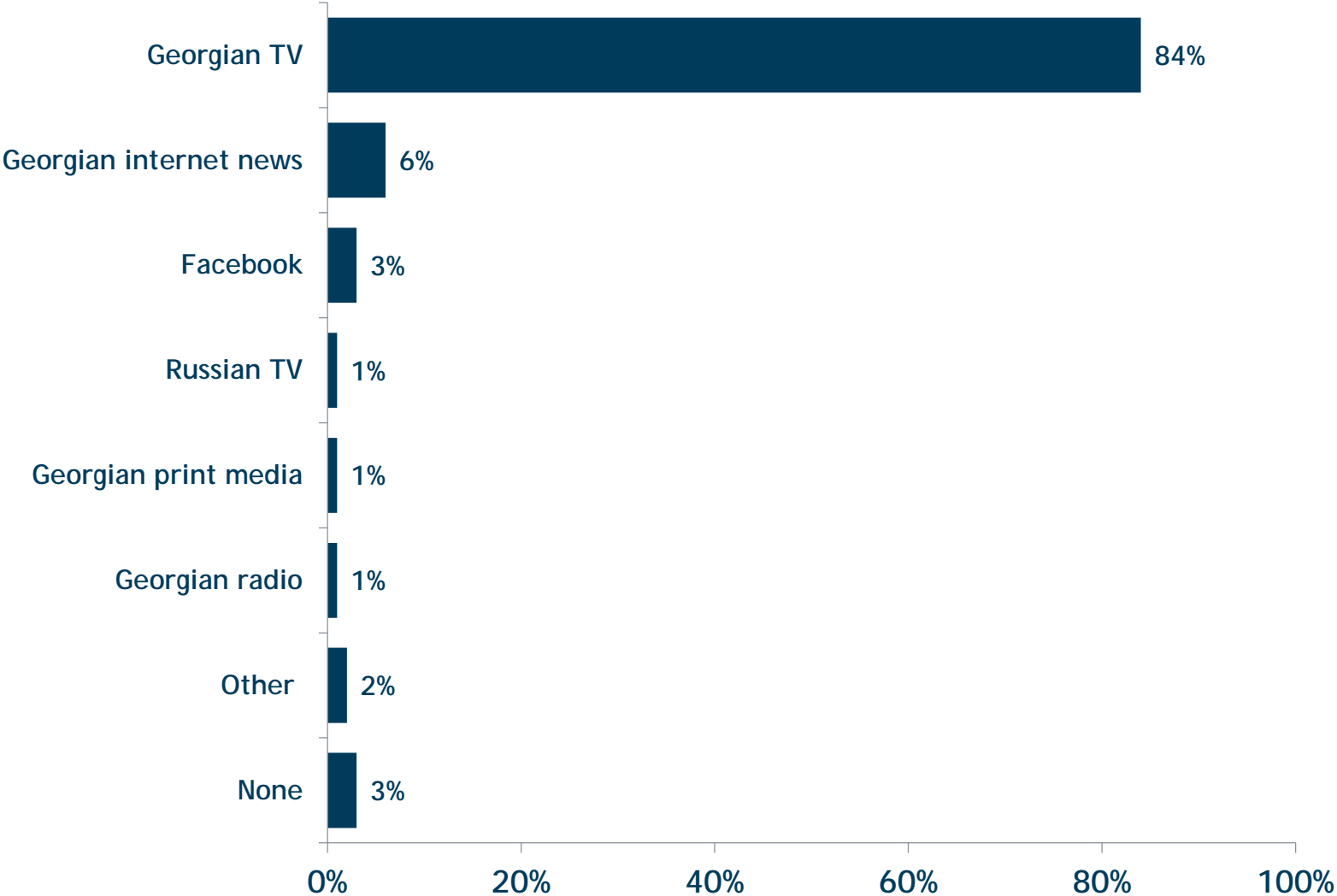
# Which TV talk show do you watch most frequently? (three answers possible)



# Which sources do you most use for information about the current international situation?

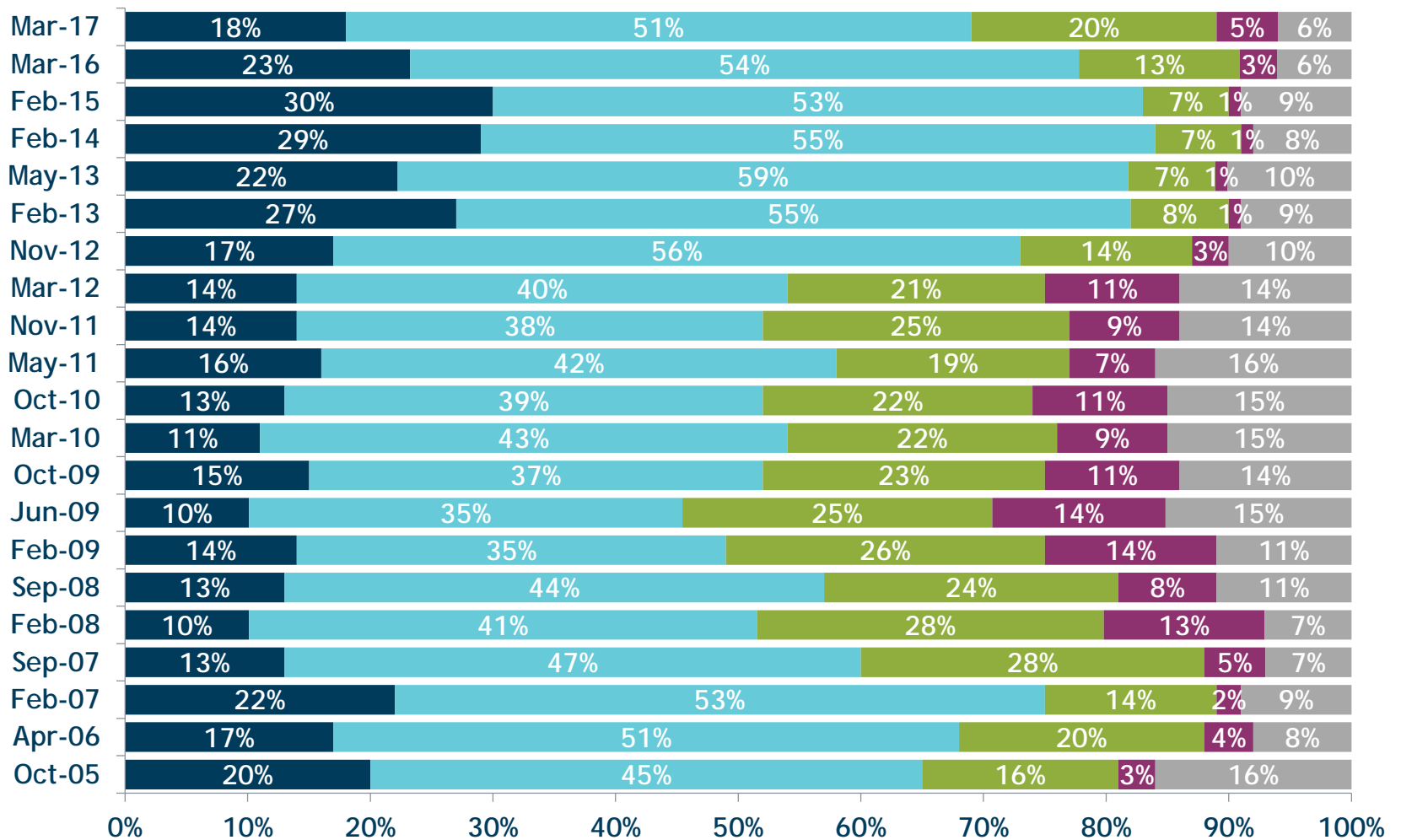


# Which of these sources do you trust most for information about the current international situation?

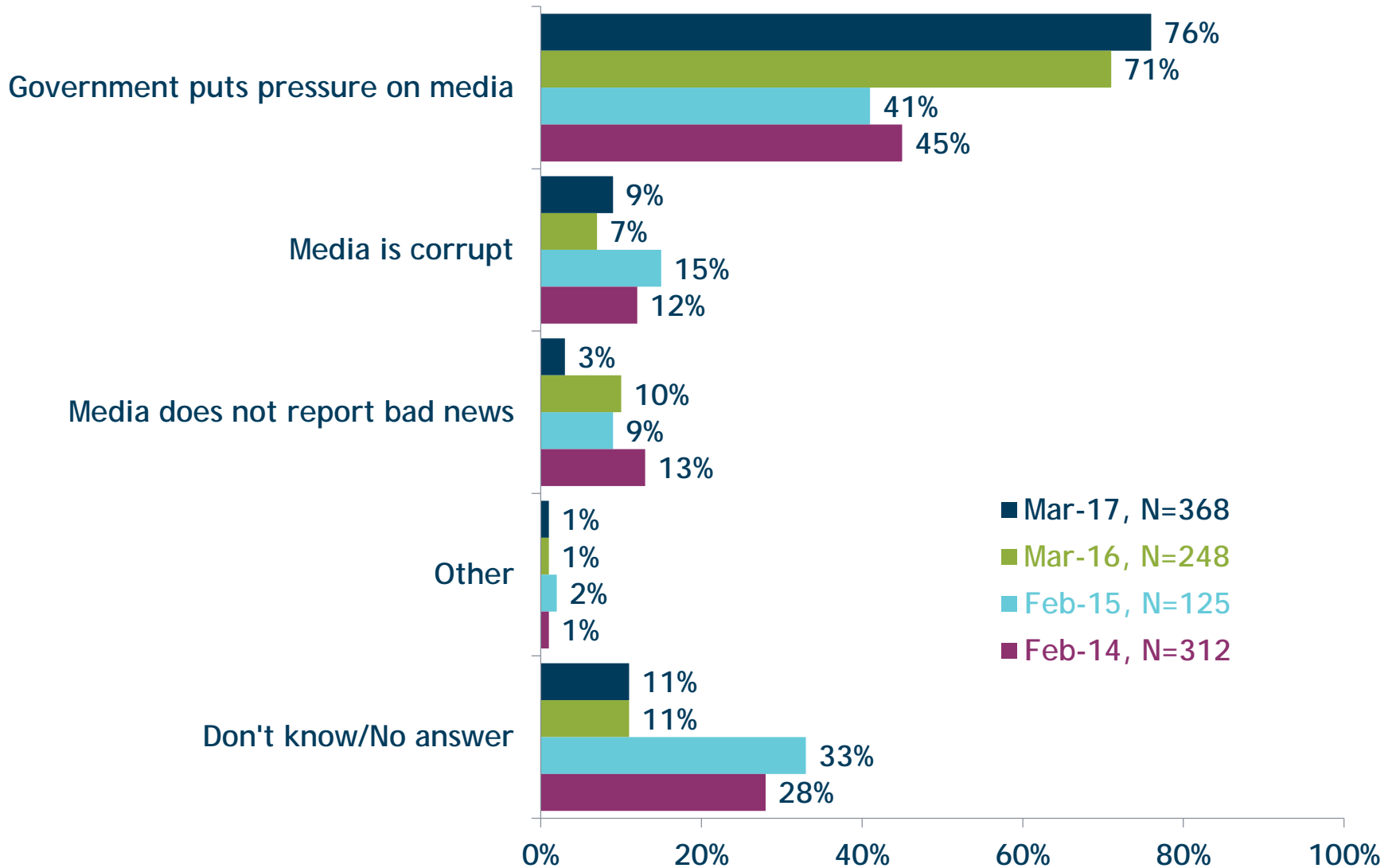


# Is Georgian mass media free to express various political views or does the government control media content?

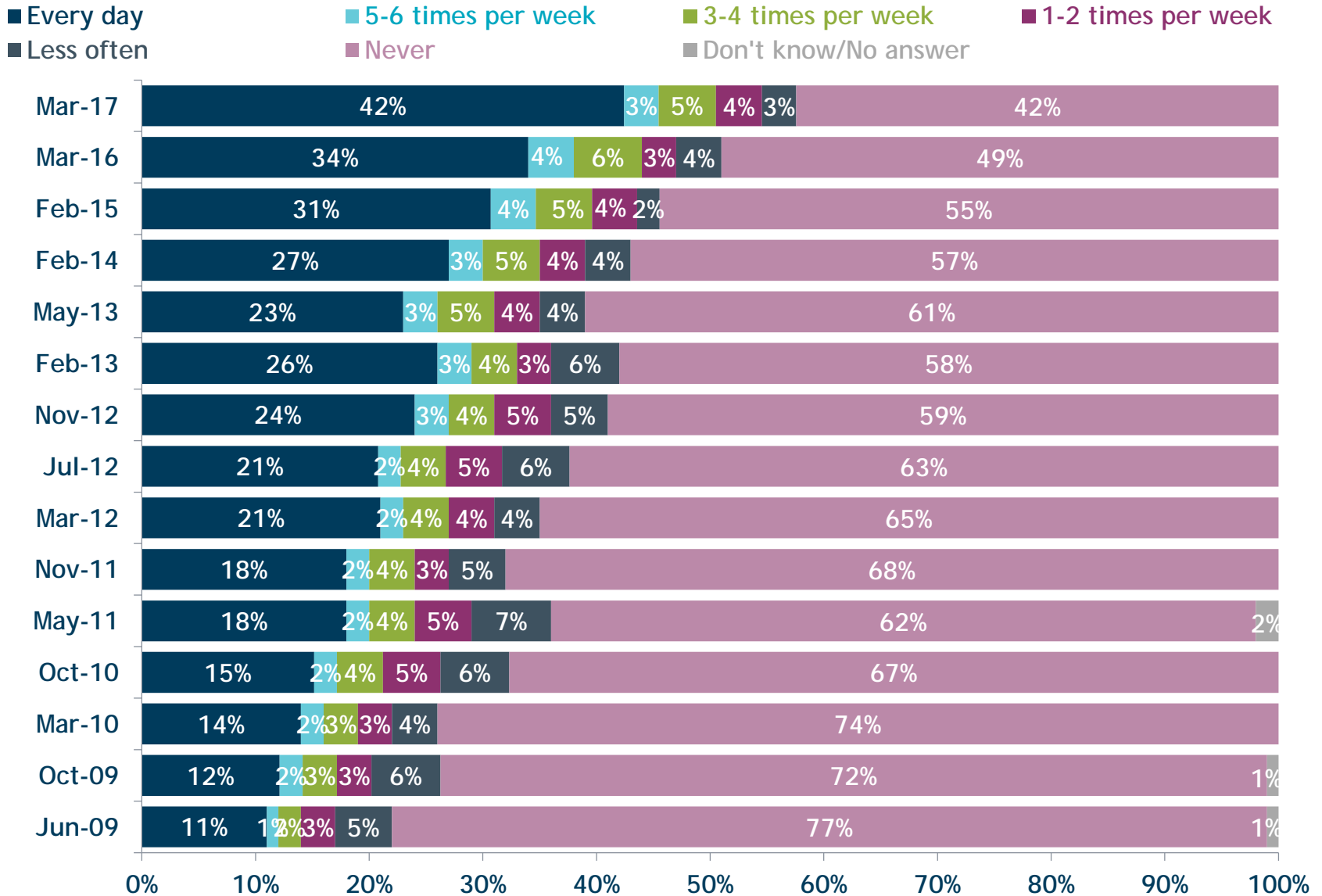
■ **Totally free**    
 ■ **Somewhat free**    
 ■ **Not very free**    
 ■ **Not free at all**    
 ■ **Don't know/No answer**



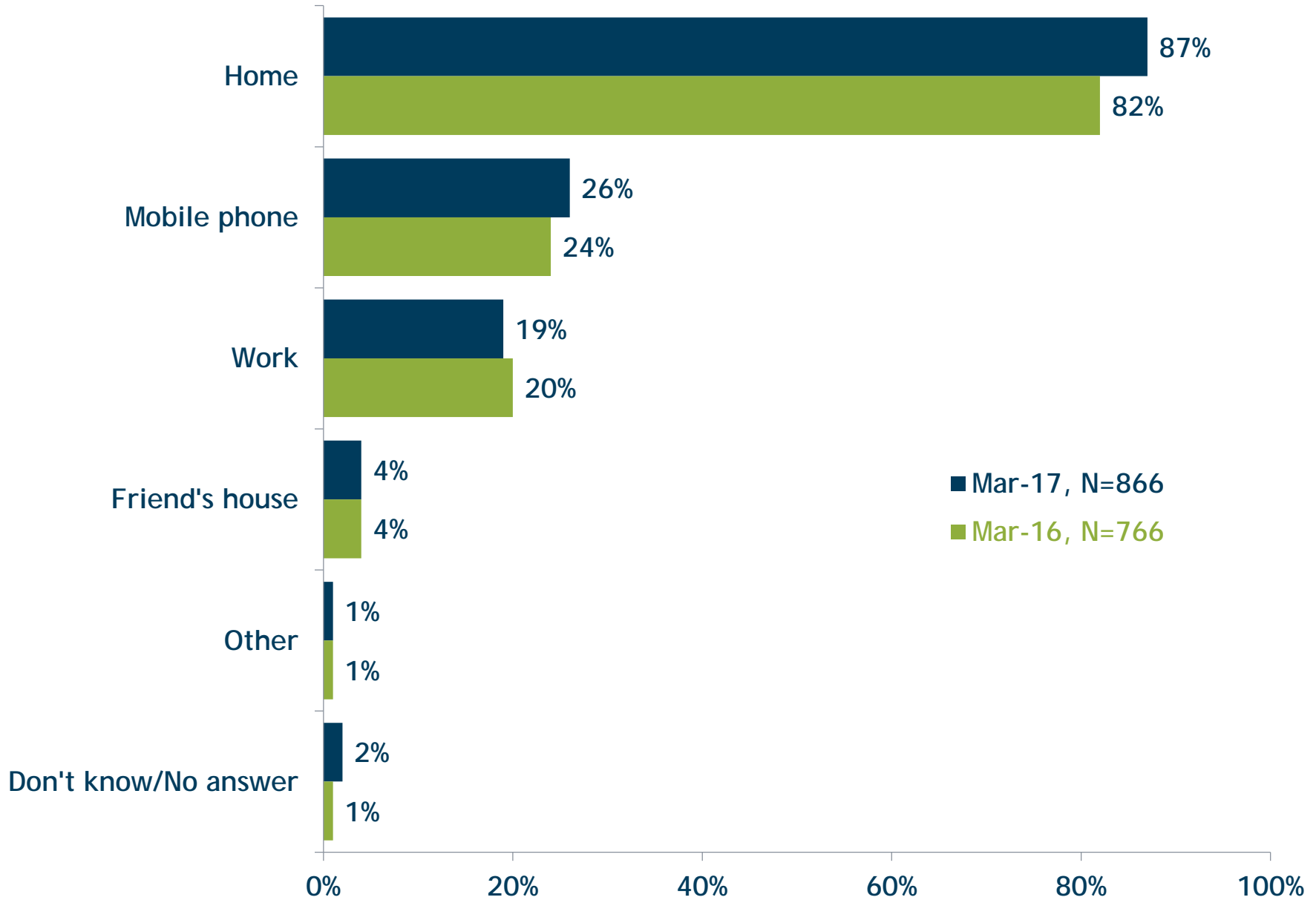
# Why do you think that Georgian mass media is not free to express various political views?



# How many times per week do you access the internet?

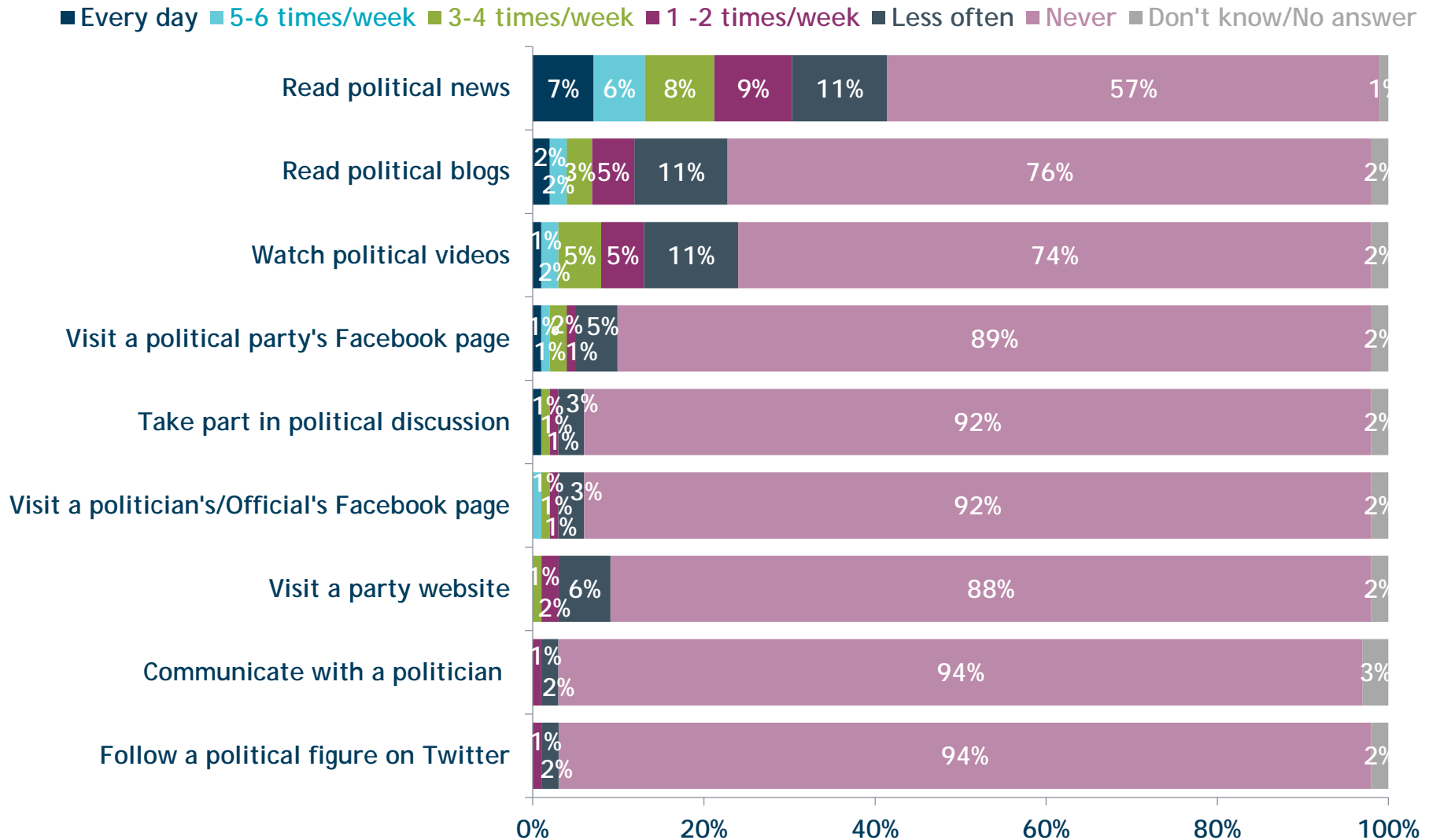


# Where do you access the internet?

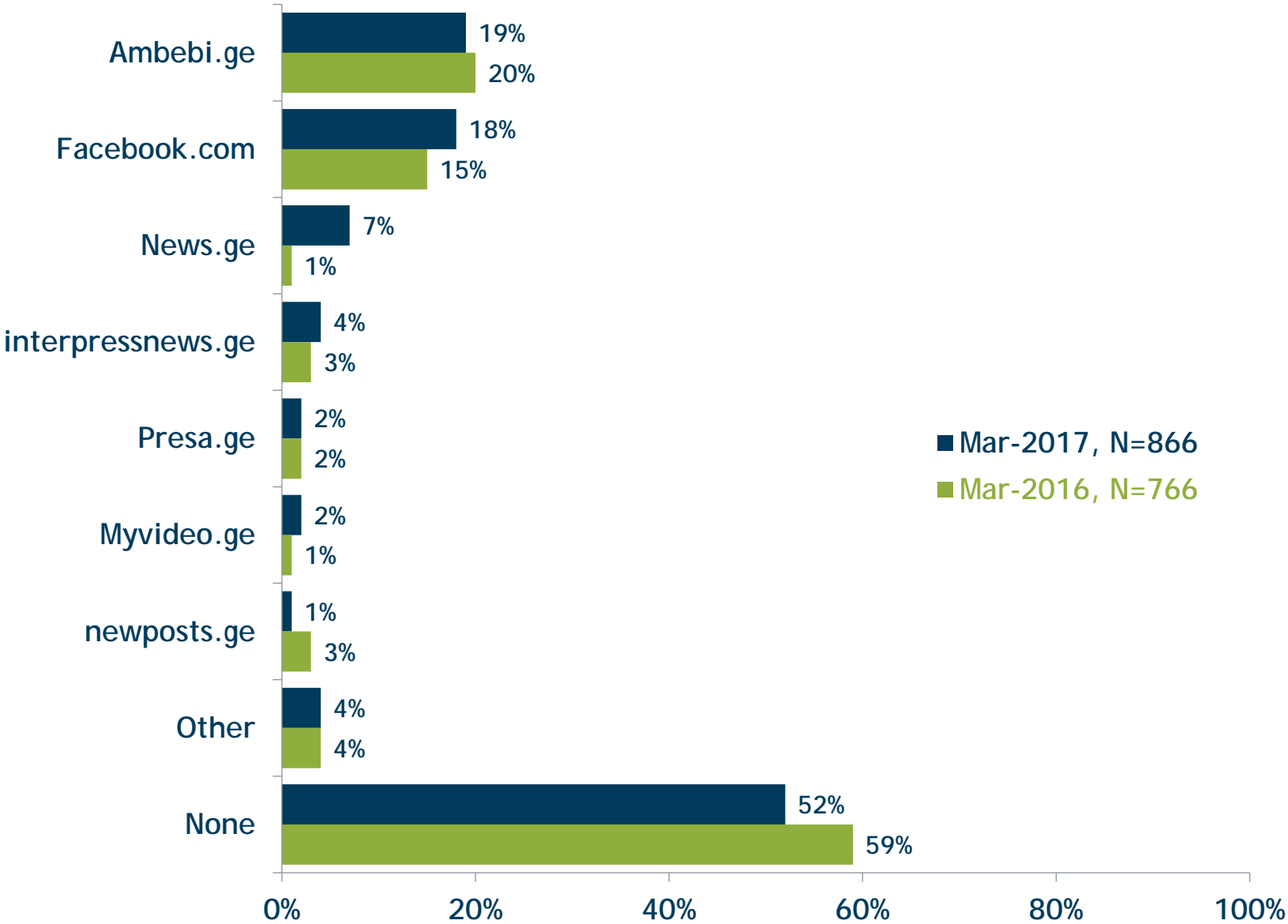




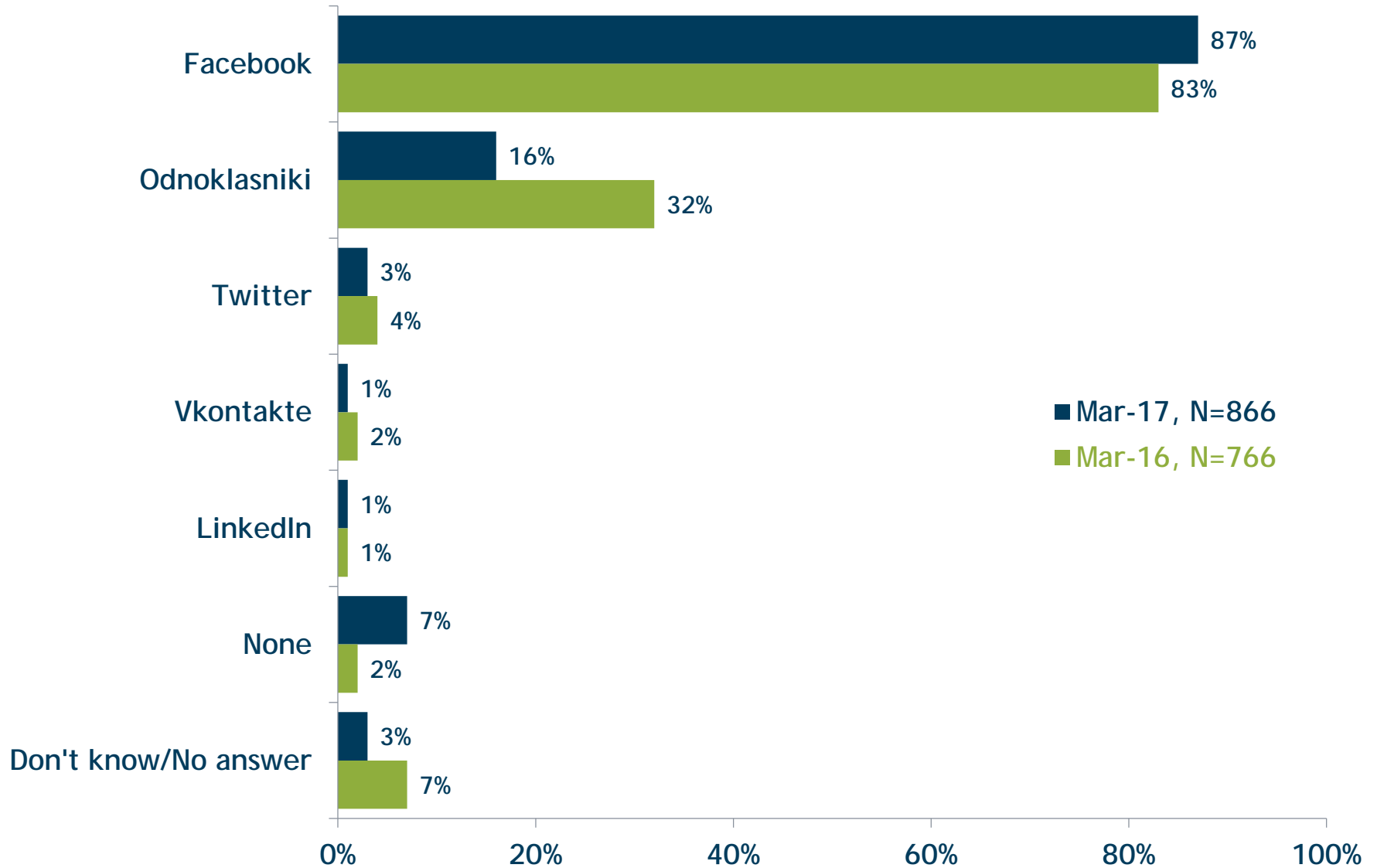
# How often do you do the following activities on the internet? (internet users, N=866)



# Which internet sites do you visit most often to read the news?



# Which social media sites do you use most often? (three possible answers)





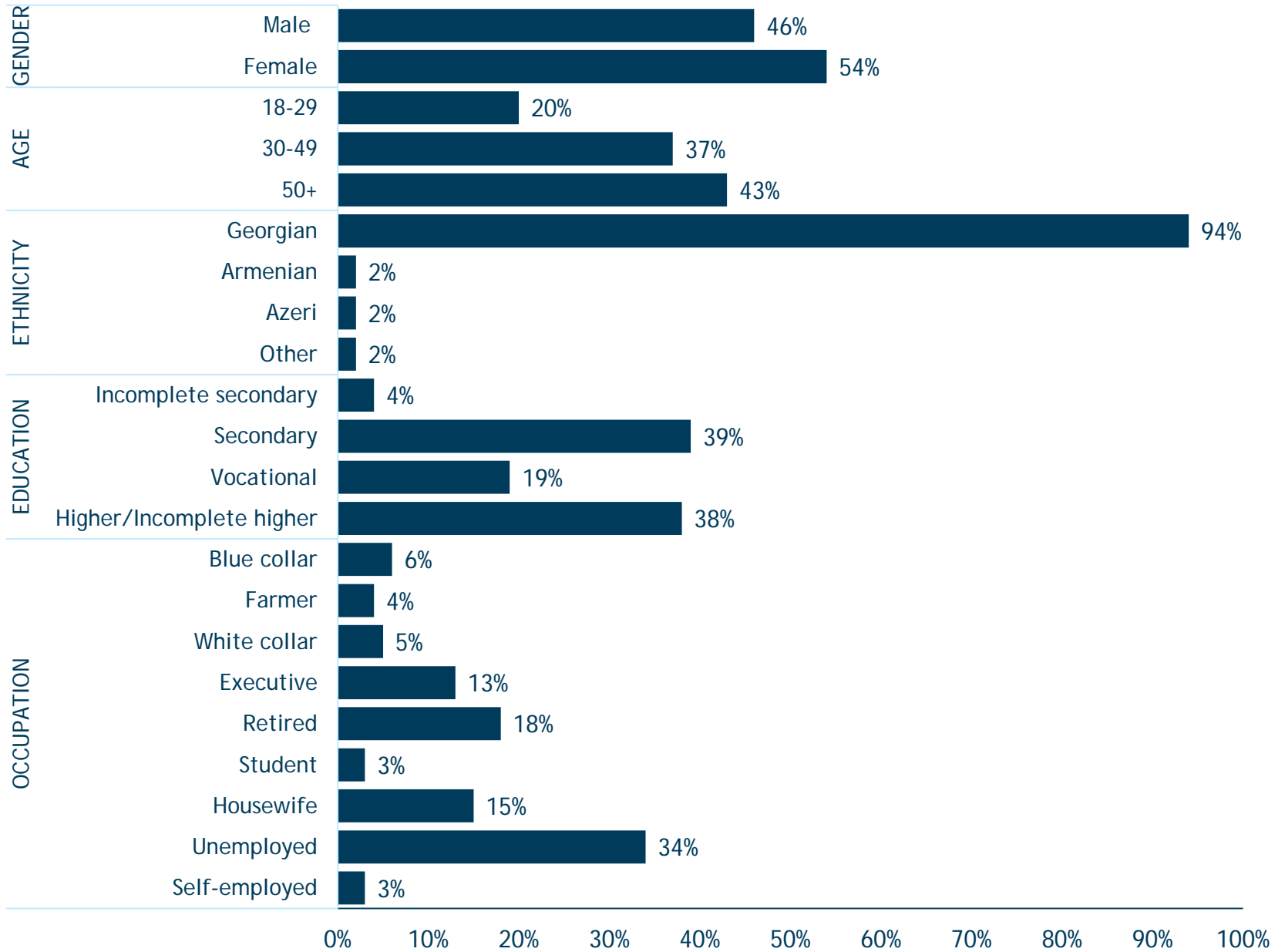
# Demographics

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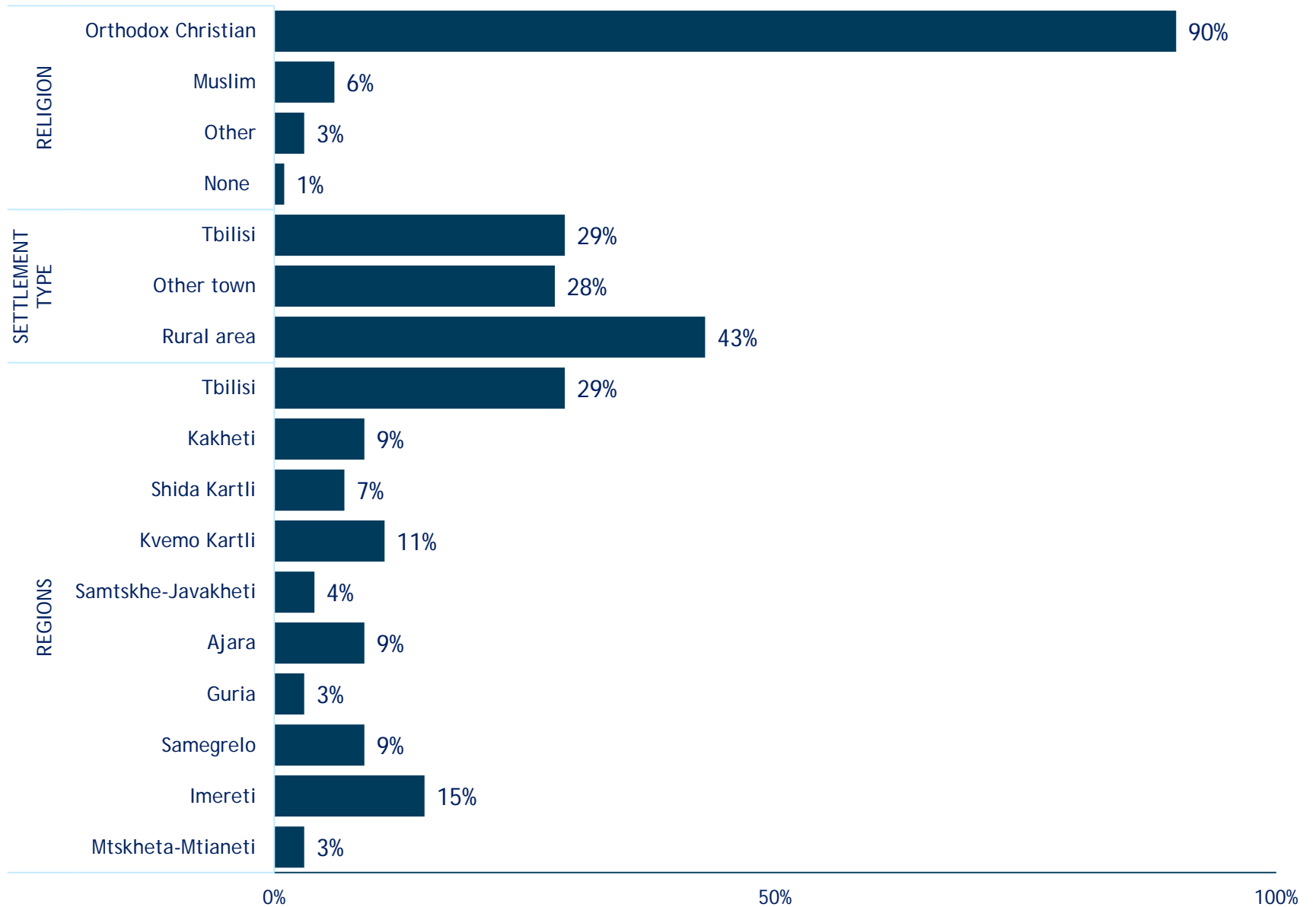


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**RESEARCH**

# Demographics



# Demographics



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