



Survey of Macedonian Public Opinion

June 6-15, 2015

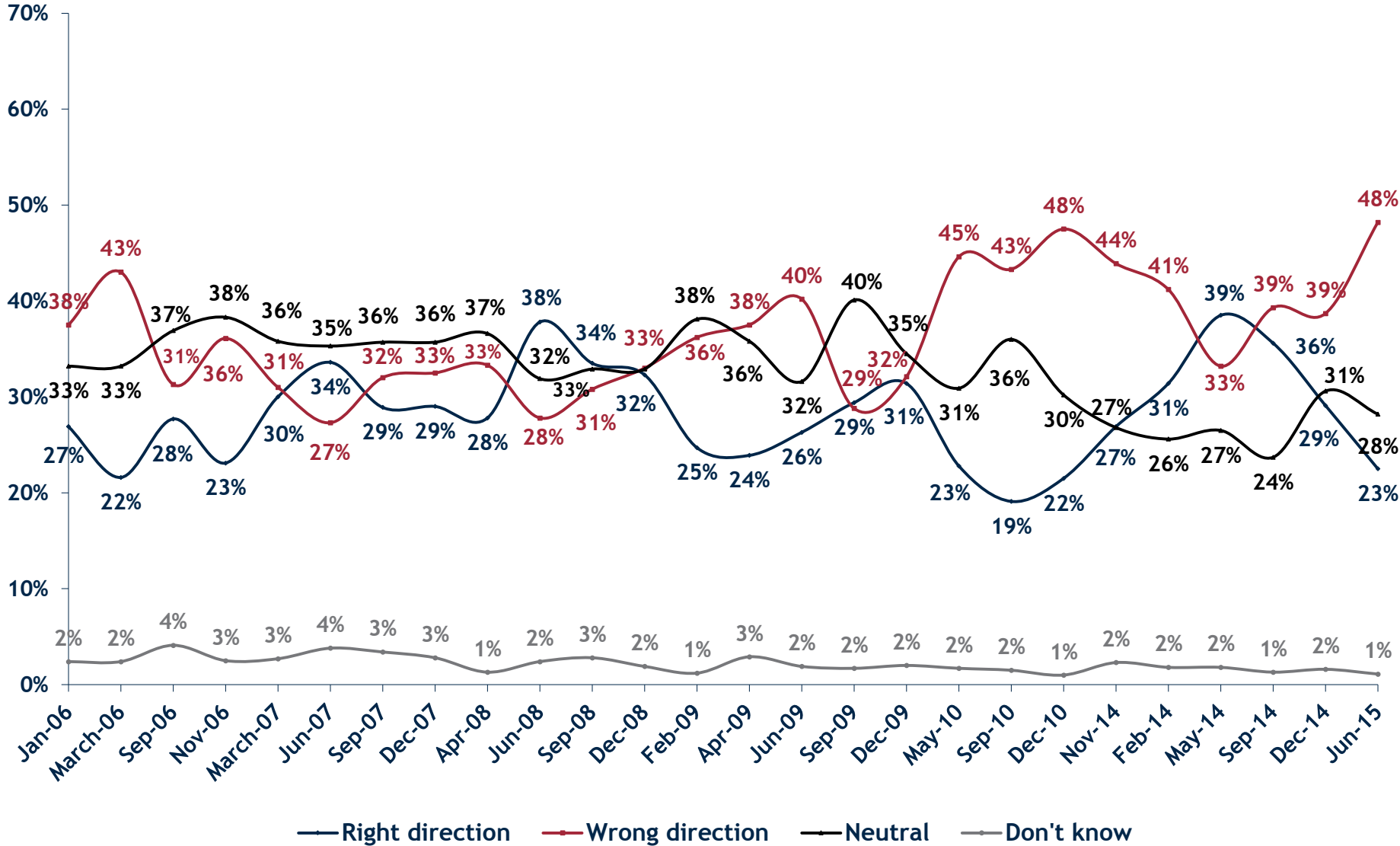
Detailed Methodology

- 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 June 6-15, 2015, using in-person, face-to-face methodology by trained professional interviewers.
- A total of 1,105 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 housing, 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](#).

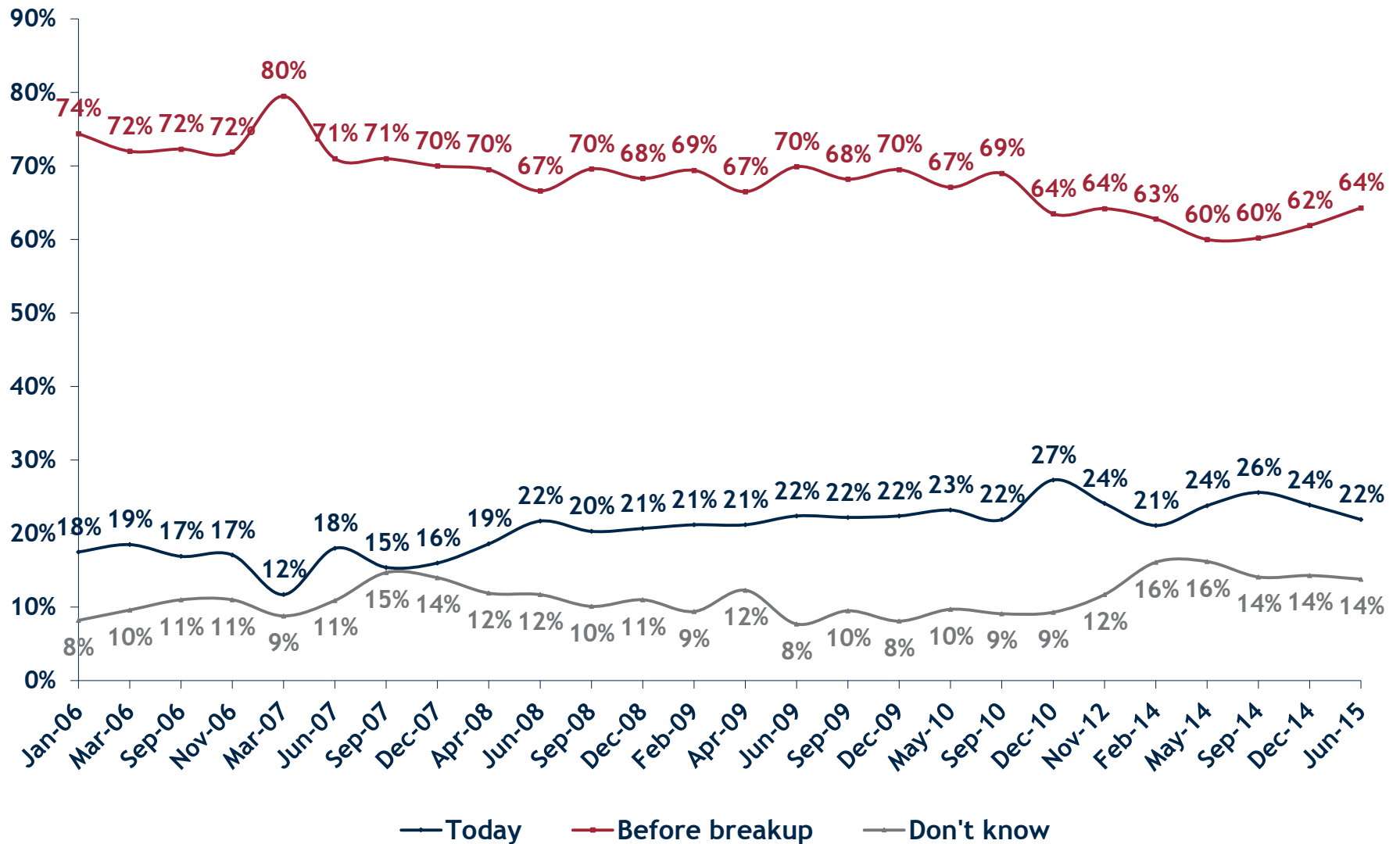


**Pessimism on Overall Direction of Country
Driven by Concern for Economy
and Political Stability**

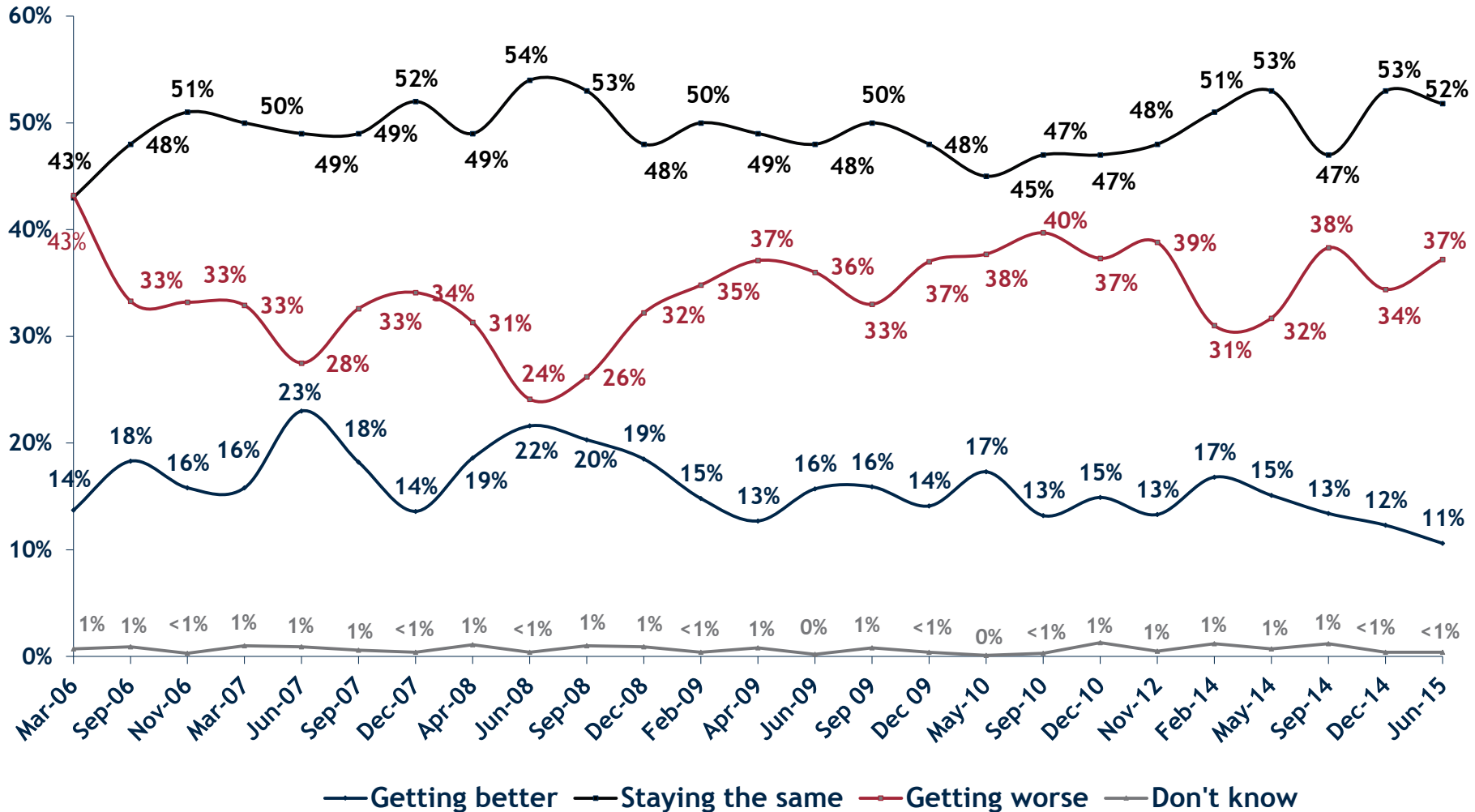
Overall, is Macedonia moving in the right or wrong direction?



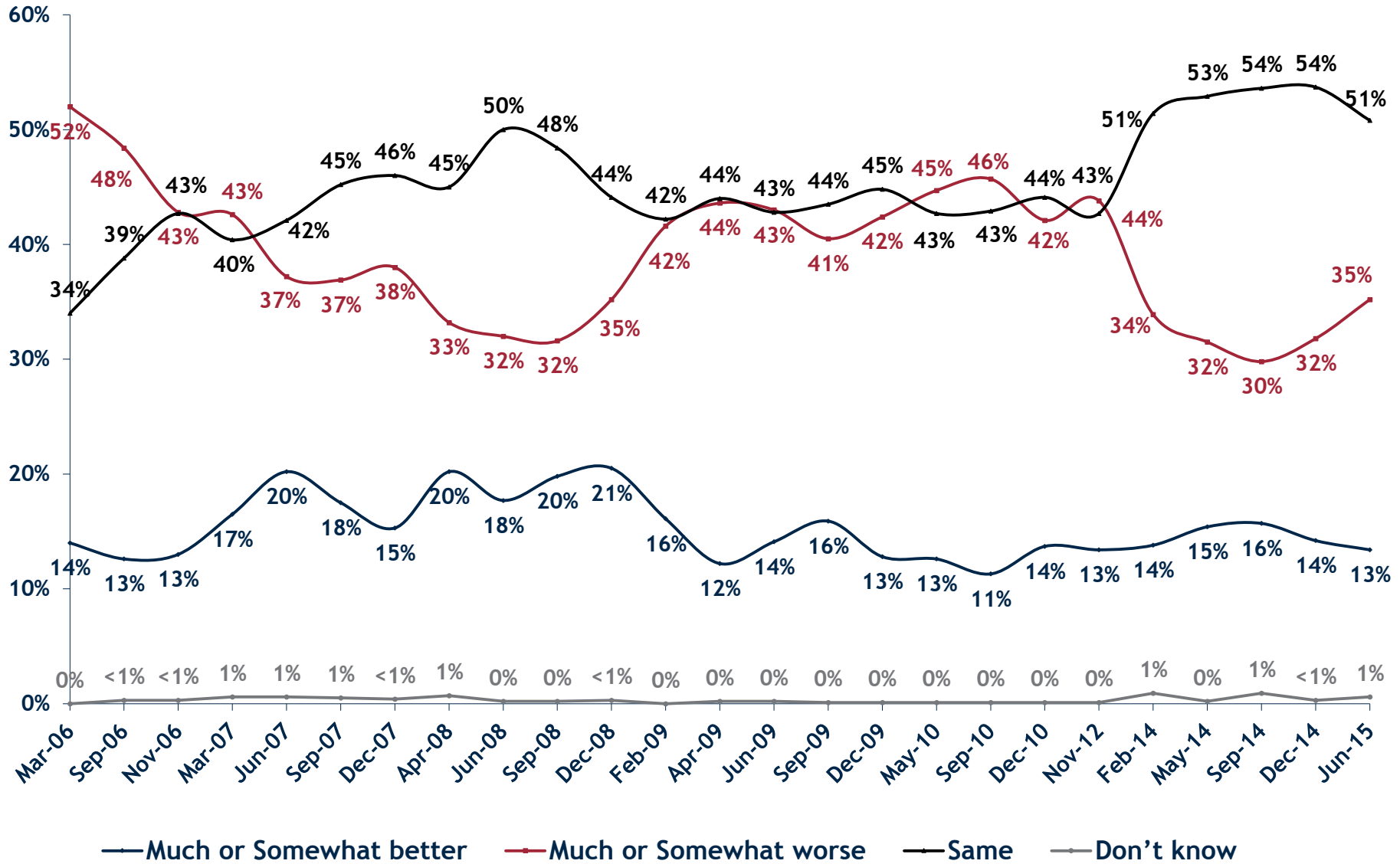
When was life better for you, today or before the breakup of Yugoslavia?



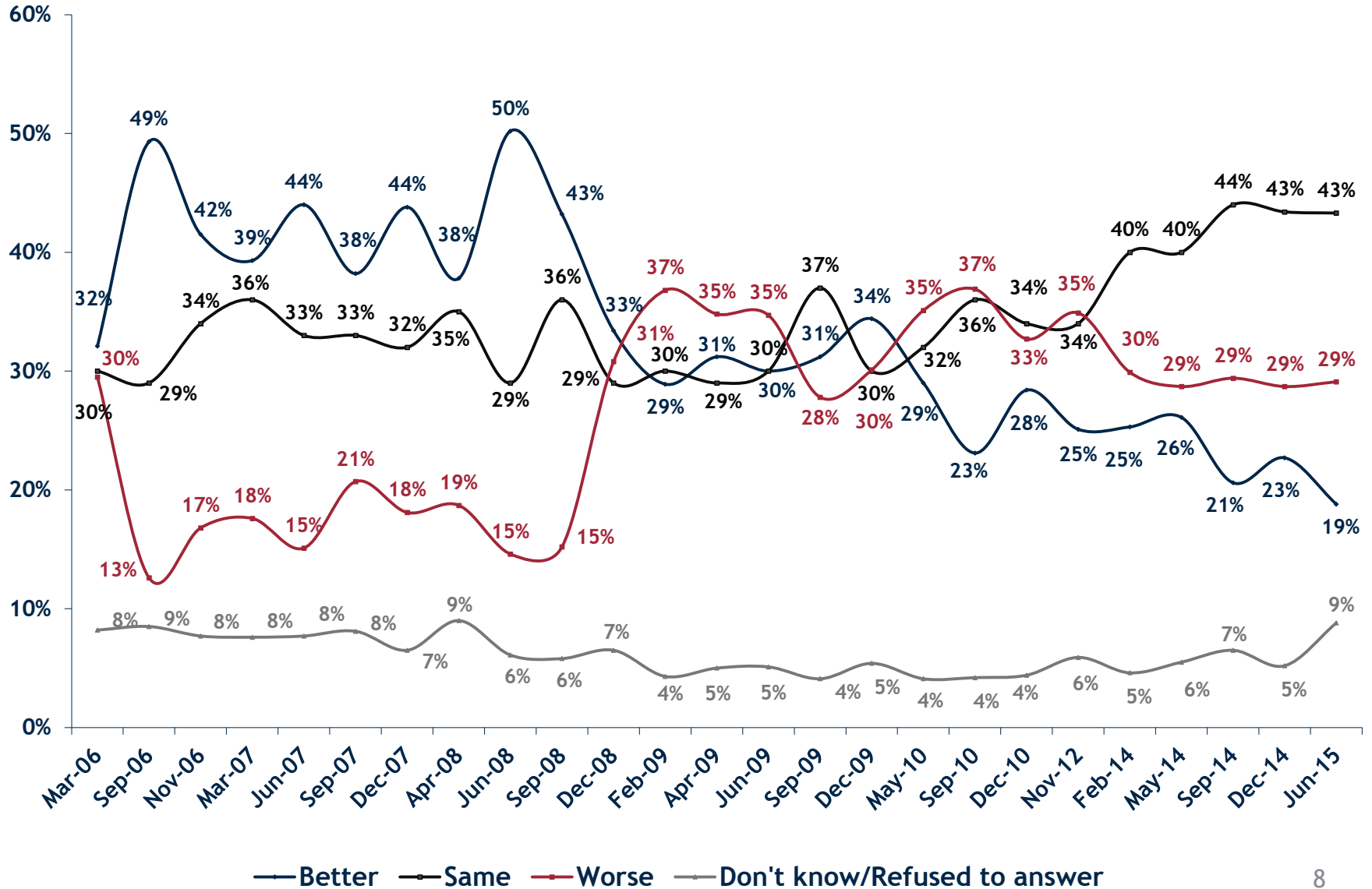
Speaking personally, is your overall quality of life...?



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



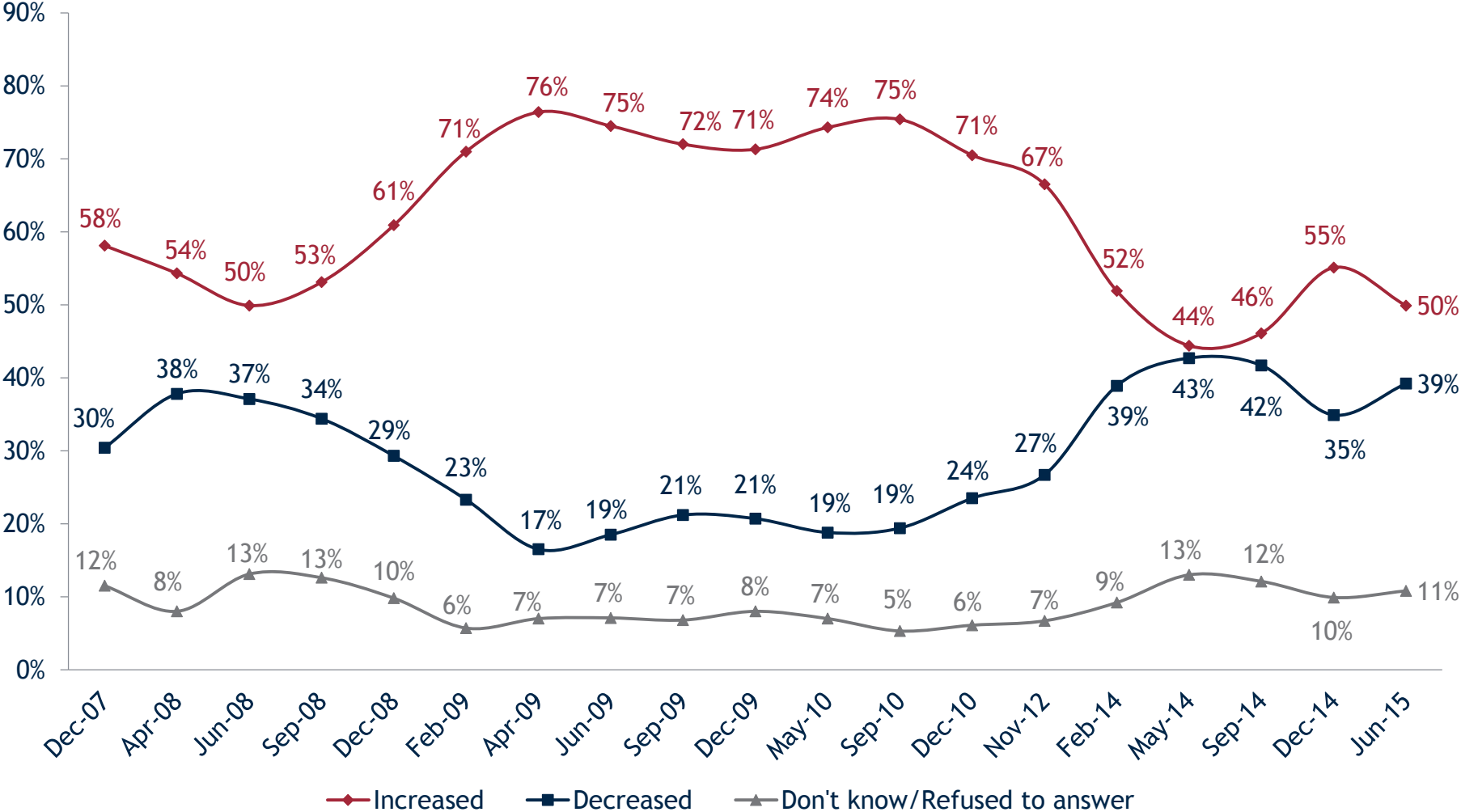
In the next two years, will the Macedonian economy get better, get worse or stay the same?



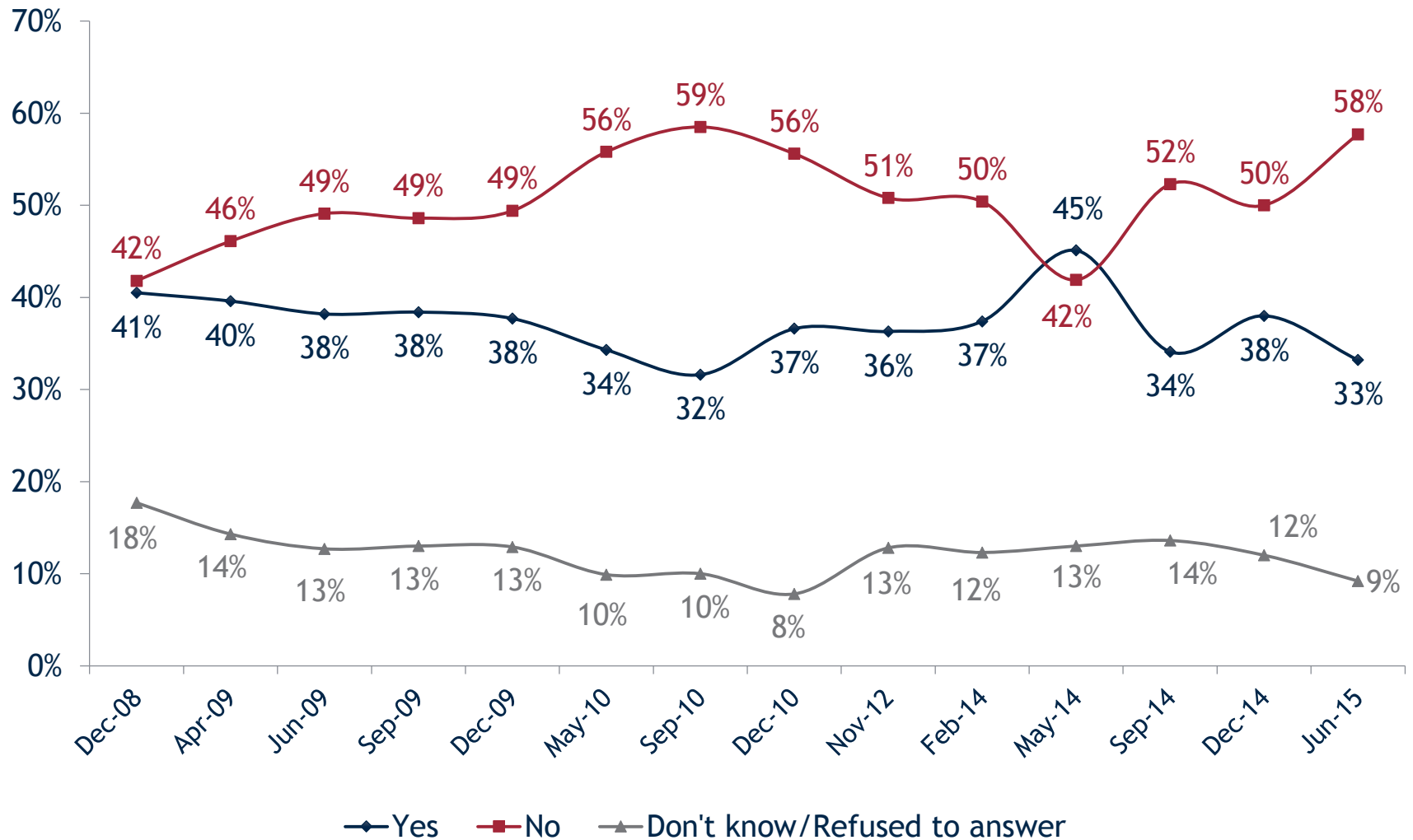
In your opinion, what are the two most serious problems facing Macedonia today? (June 2015; Open-ended)

	1ST	2ND	TOTAL
Unemployment	35%	18%	53%
Poverty/Low standards of living/Problems of common people	13%	18%	31%
General political situation	11%	9%	20%
Economic crisis and financial crisis	9%	8%	17%
Low/Non-payment of salary or pension	5%	10%	15%
Corruption	3%	5%	8%
High prices	2%	5%	7%
Poor performance of the current government	3%	2%	5%
Security crises, peace/Stability, war, terrorism	2%	3%	5%
Name of the country	2%	3%	5%
Entrance into NATO/EU	2%	3%	5%
Crime	1%	3%	4%
Interethnic relations/Conflict	2%	1%	3%

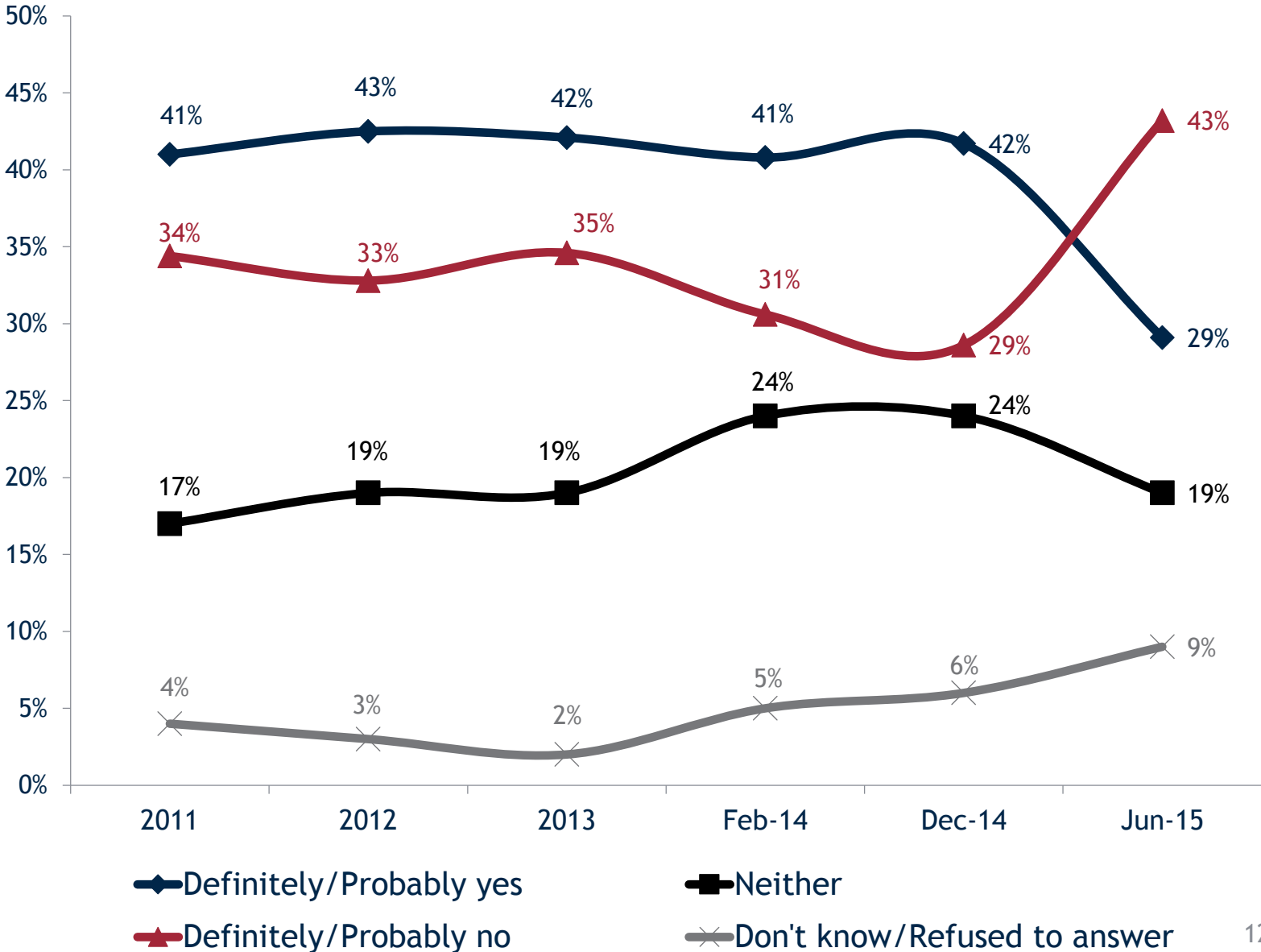
In your opinion, has unemployment increased or decreased over the last year?



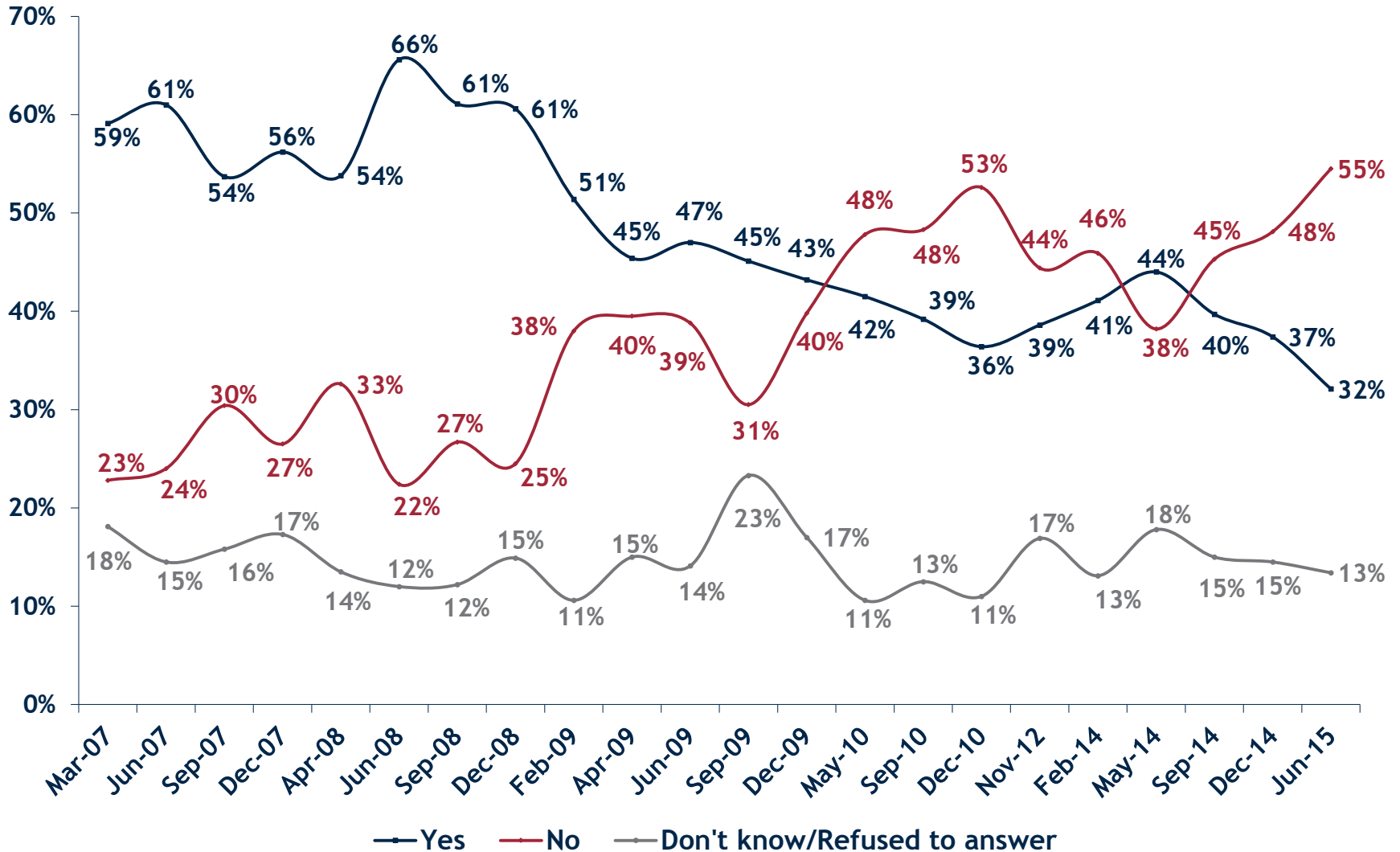
According to you, does the government have an effective plan to address the economic problems Macedonia is facing?



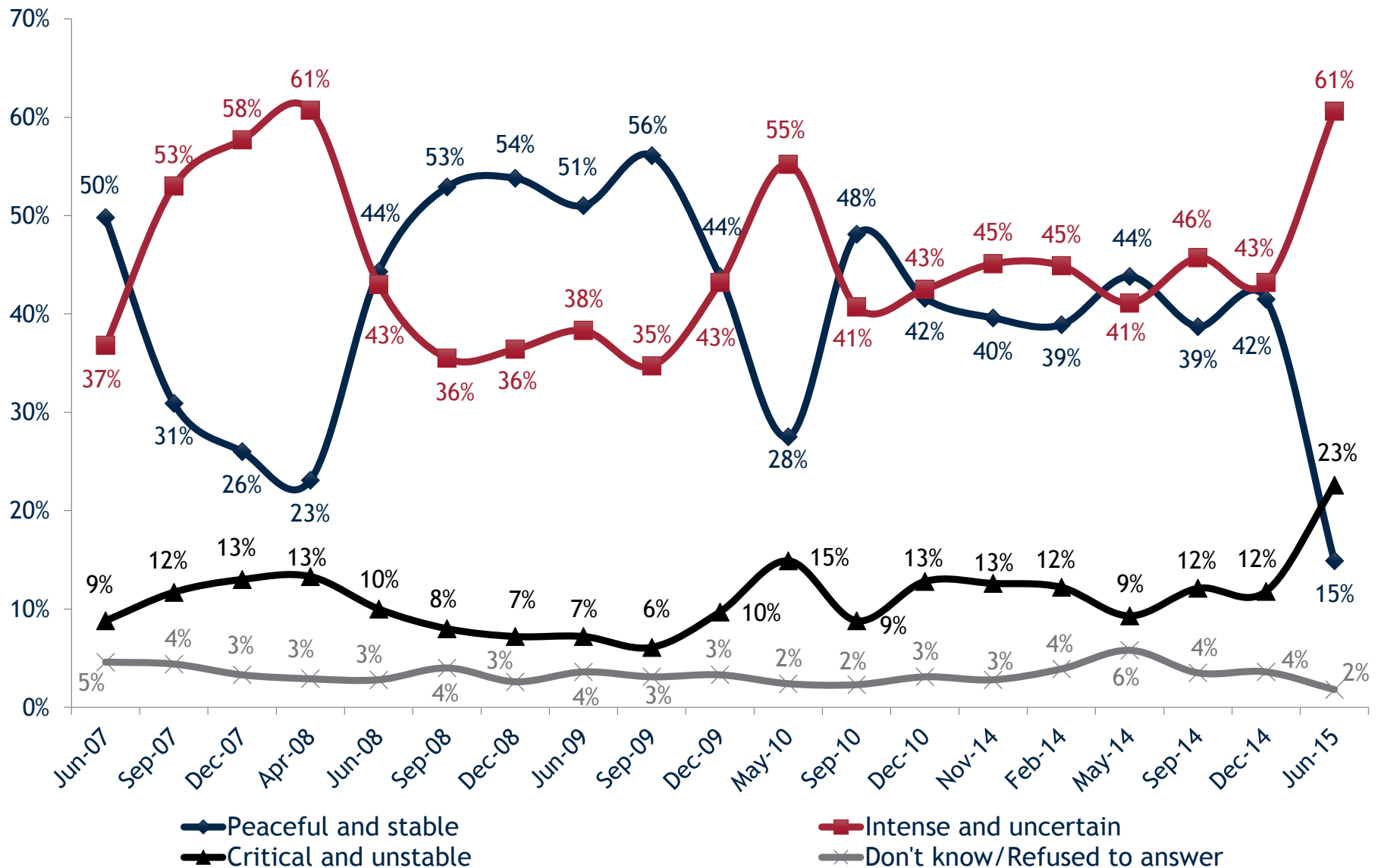
Is this government seeking to solve the corruption problem?



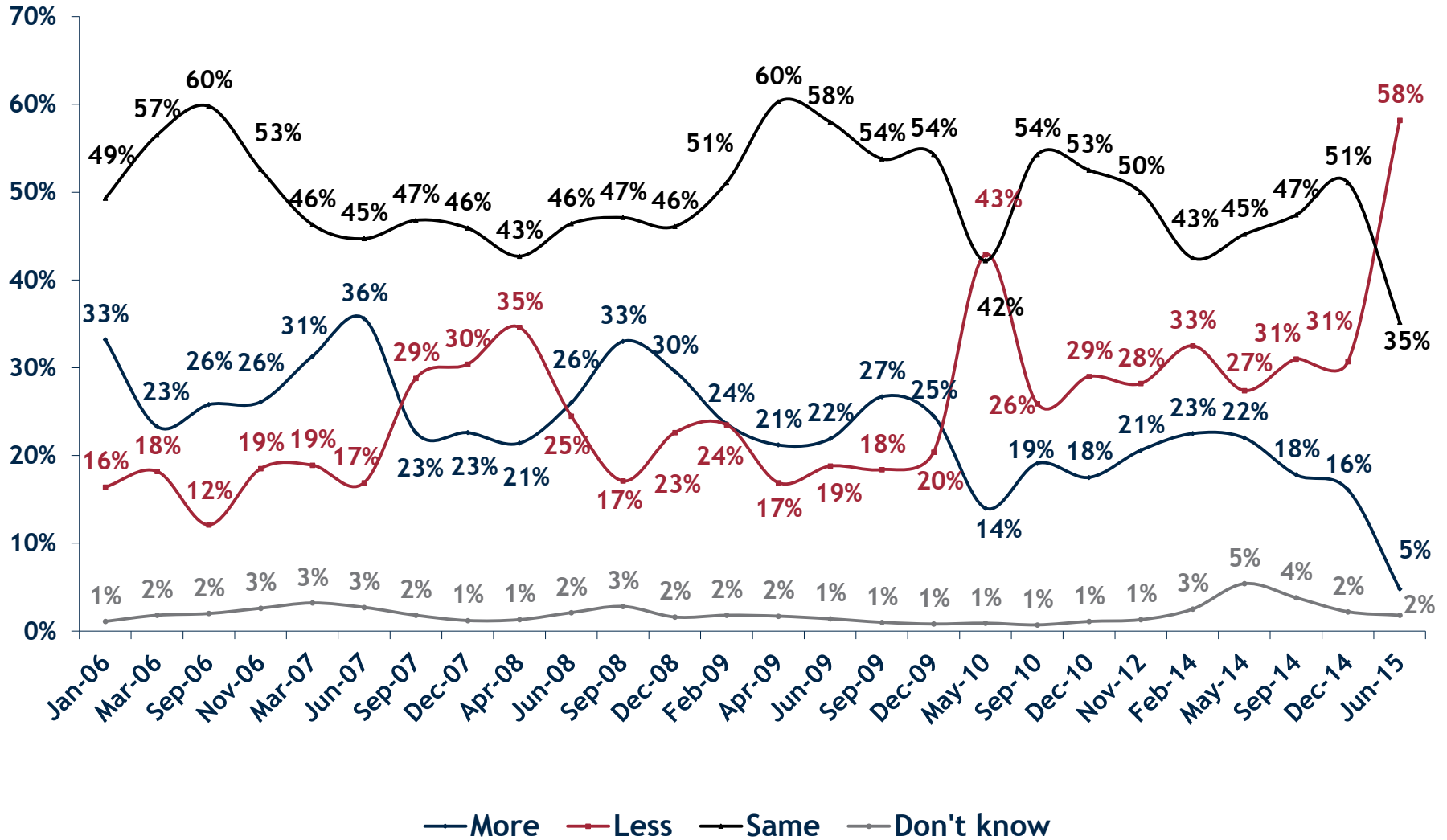
Has Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski done his job well enough to deserve re-election?



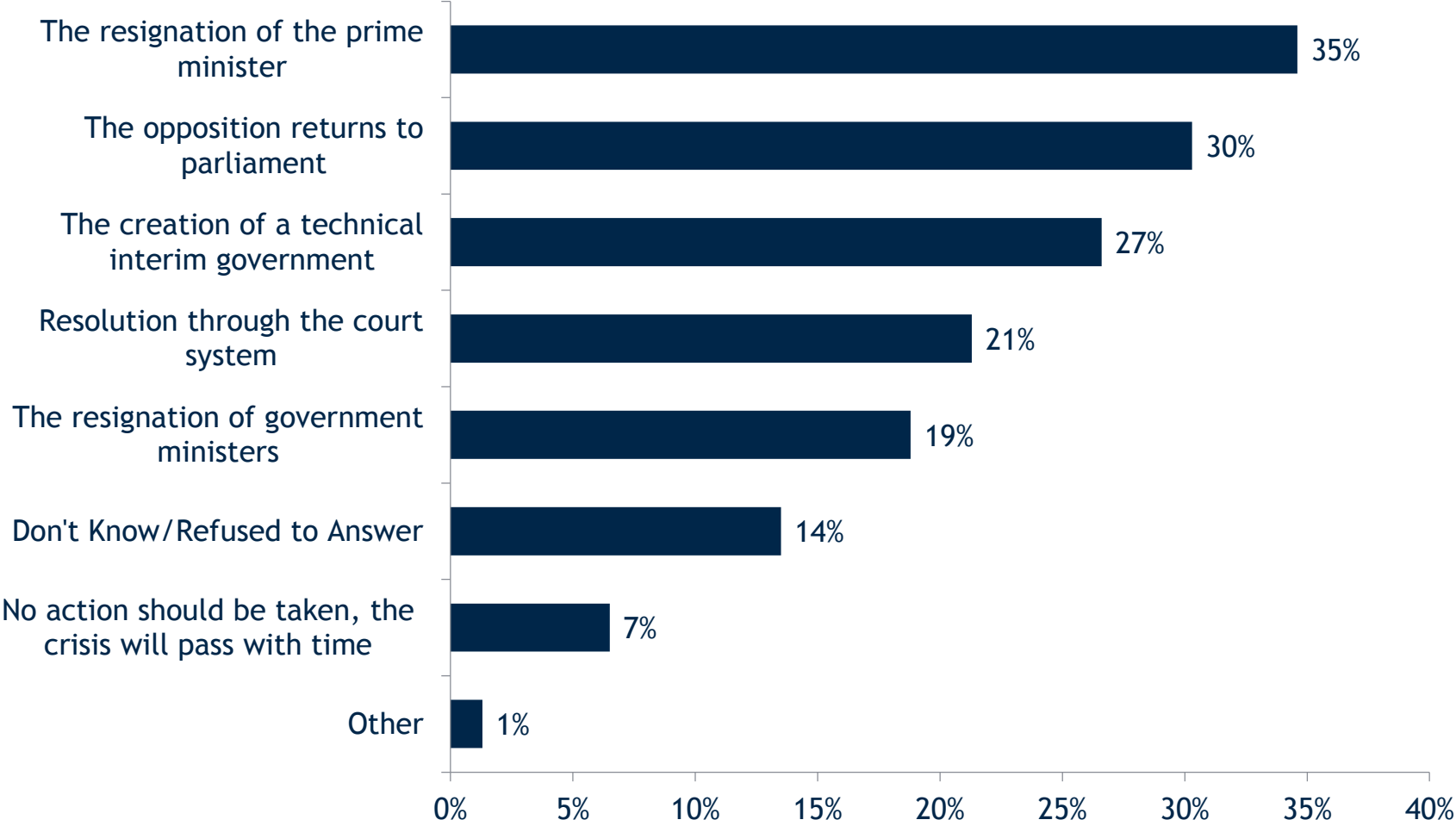
How would you describe the current internal political situation in Macedonia?



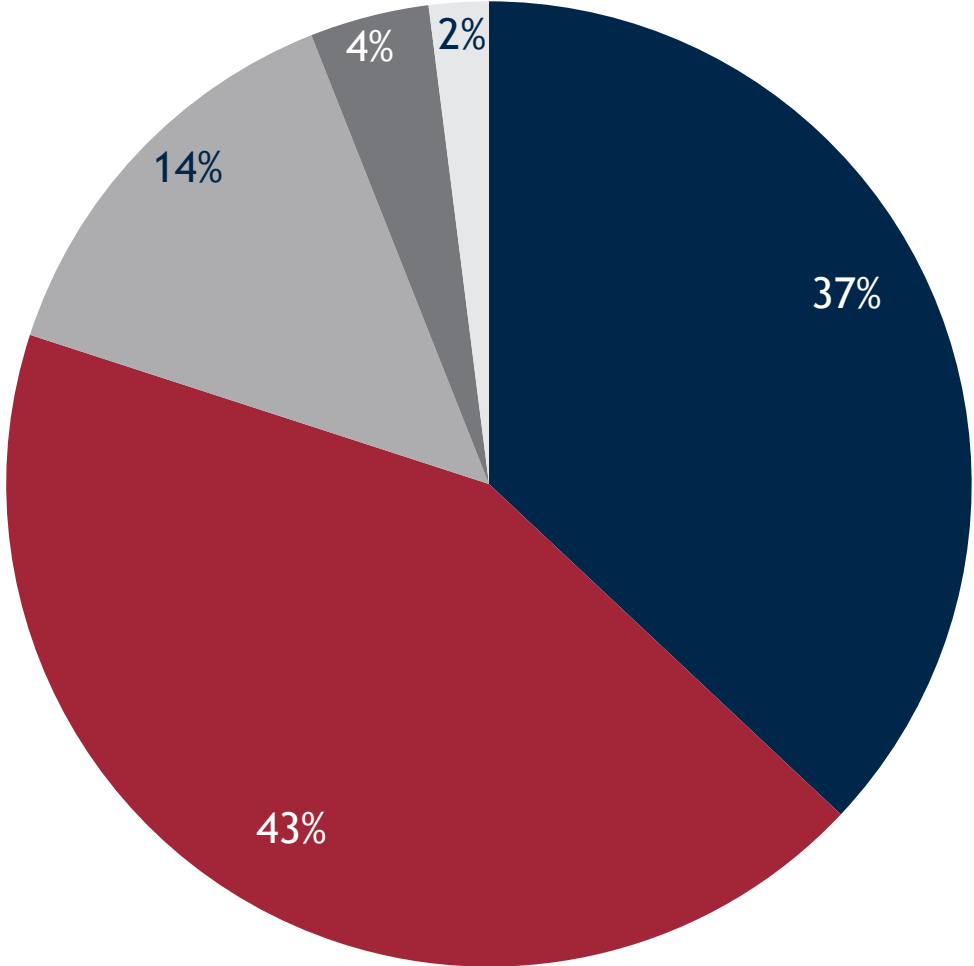
Is the Republic of Macedonia more or less stable today than it was one year ago?



In your opinion, what is the solution to the current political crisis? (Up to three responses allowed)

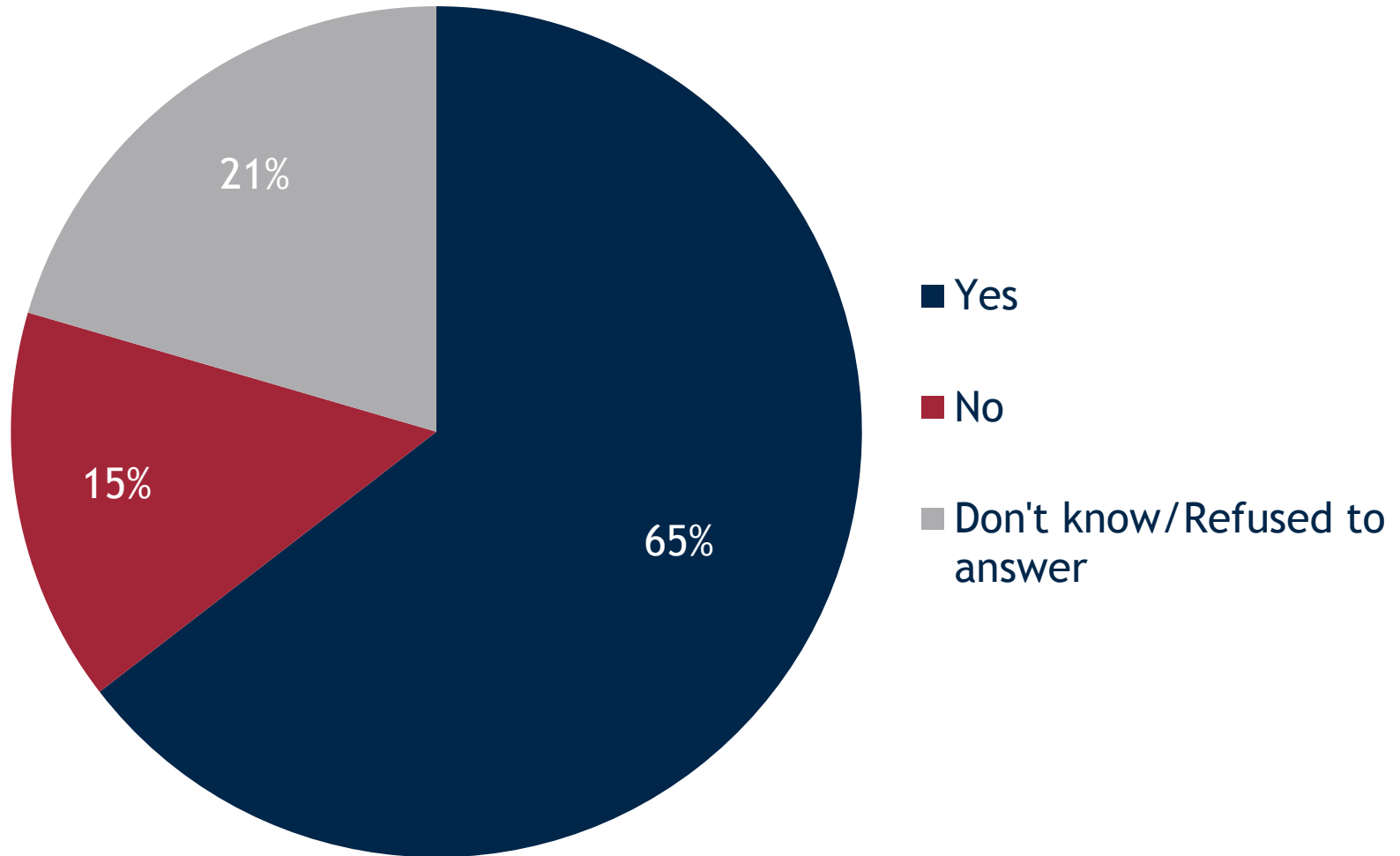


Have you heard the tapped phone conversations released by the opposition?

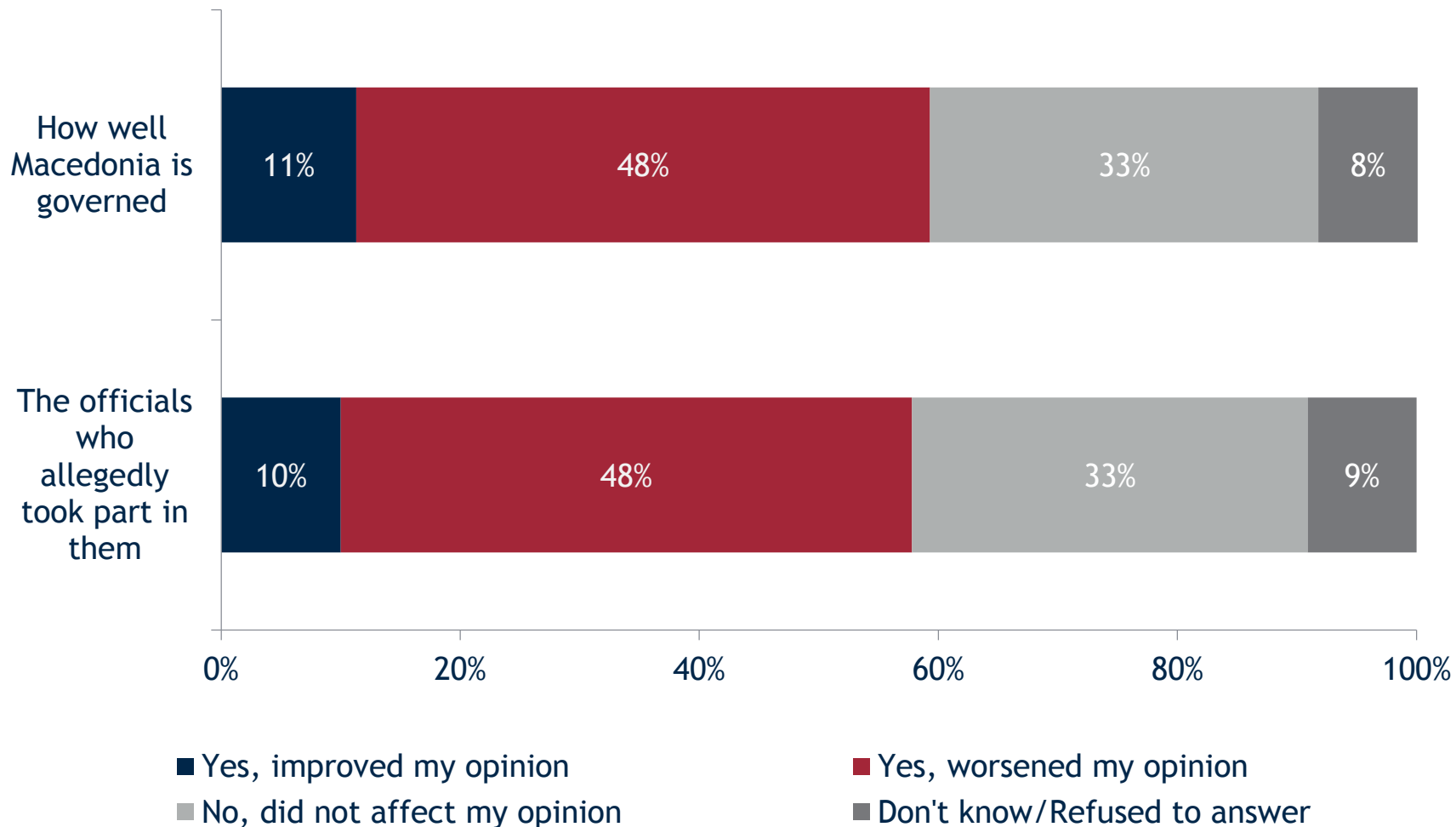


- Yes, I have heard most of these conversations.
- Yes, I have heard some of these conversations.
- No, I haven't heard them, though I have heard of them
- No, I haven't heard of them
- Don't know/Refused to answer

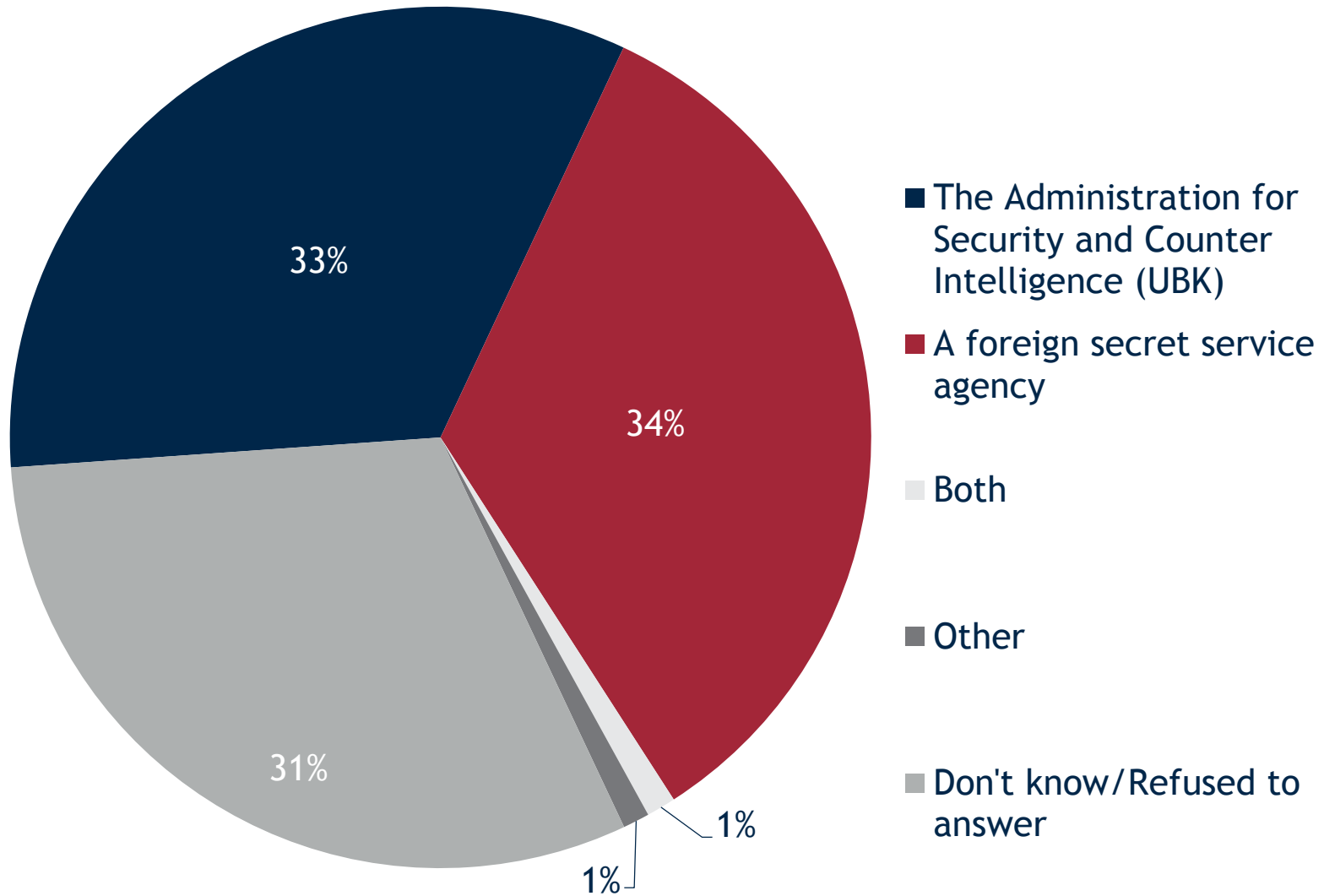
Do you think the recordings of tapped phone conversations are authentic? (n=1,031)



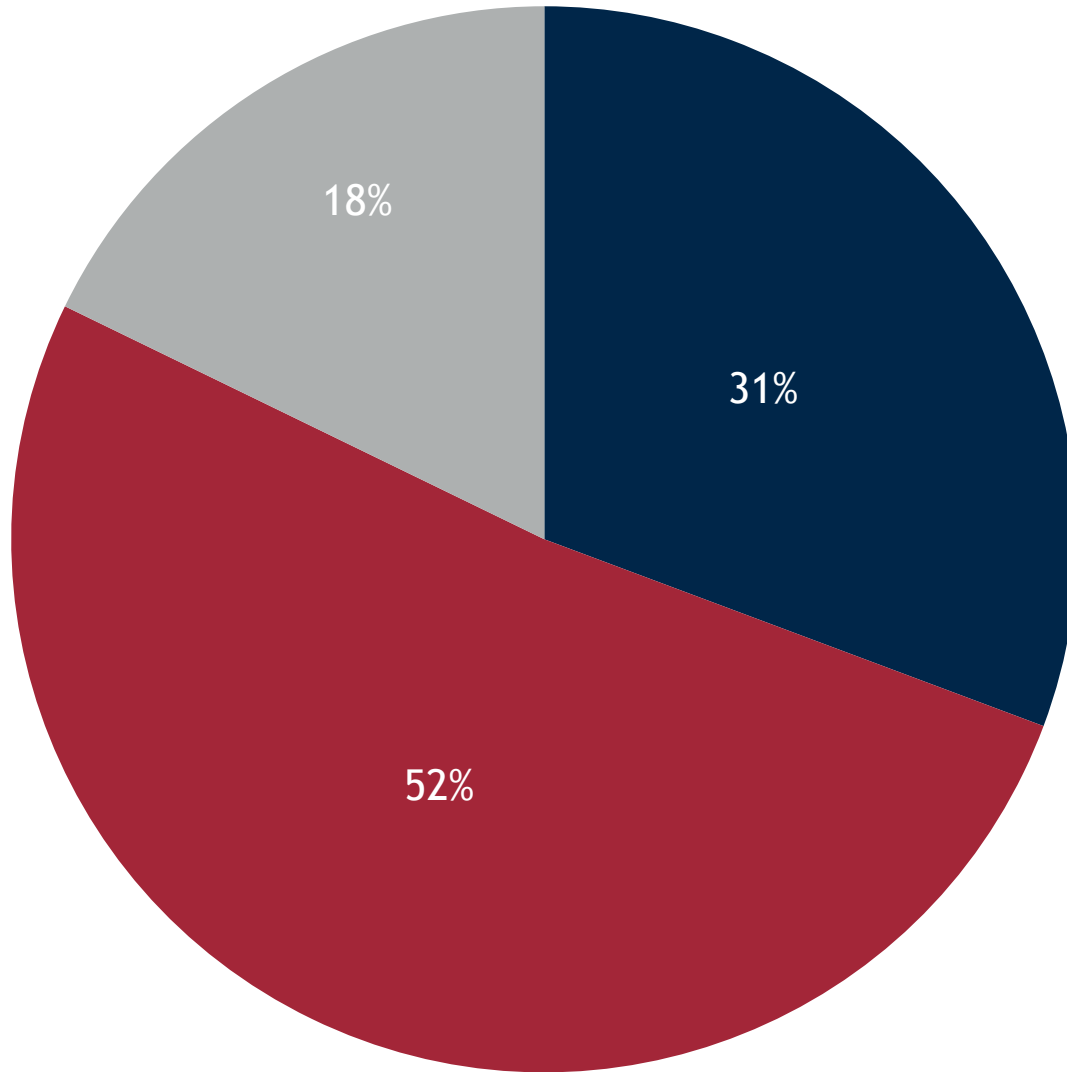
Did these phone conversations affect your opinion about...? (n=1,031)



According to you, who conducted these wiretaps? (n=1,031)

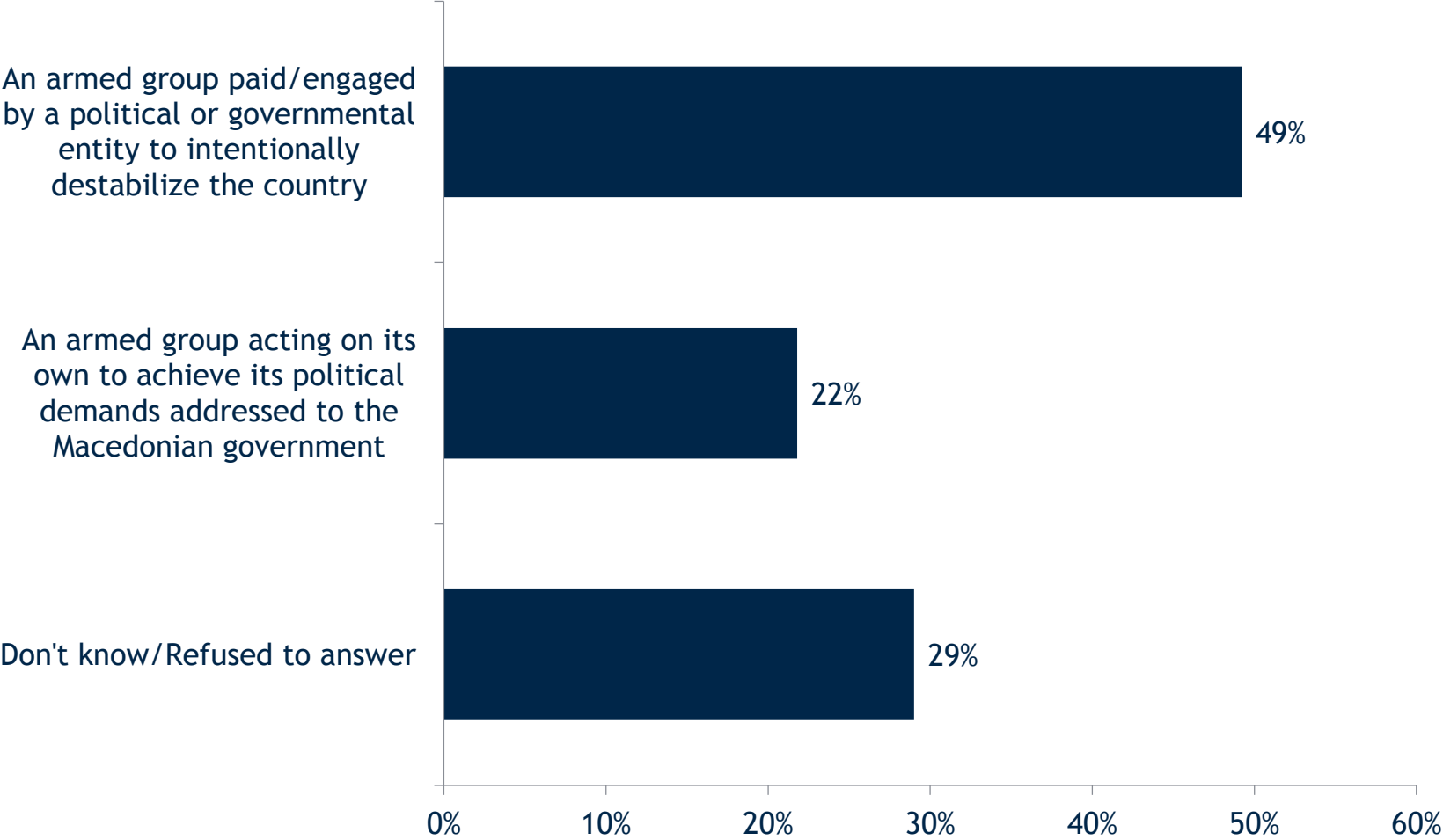


Do you think your phone conversations...?

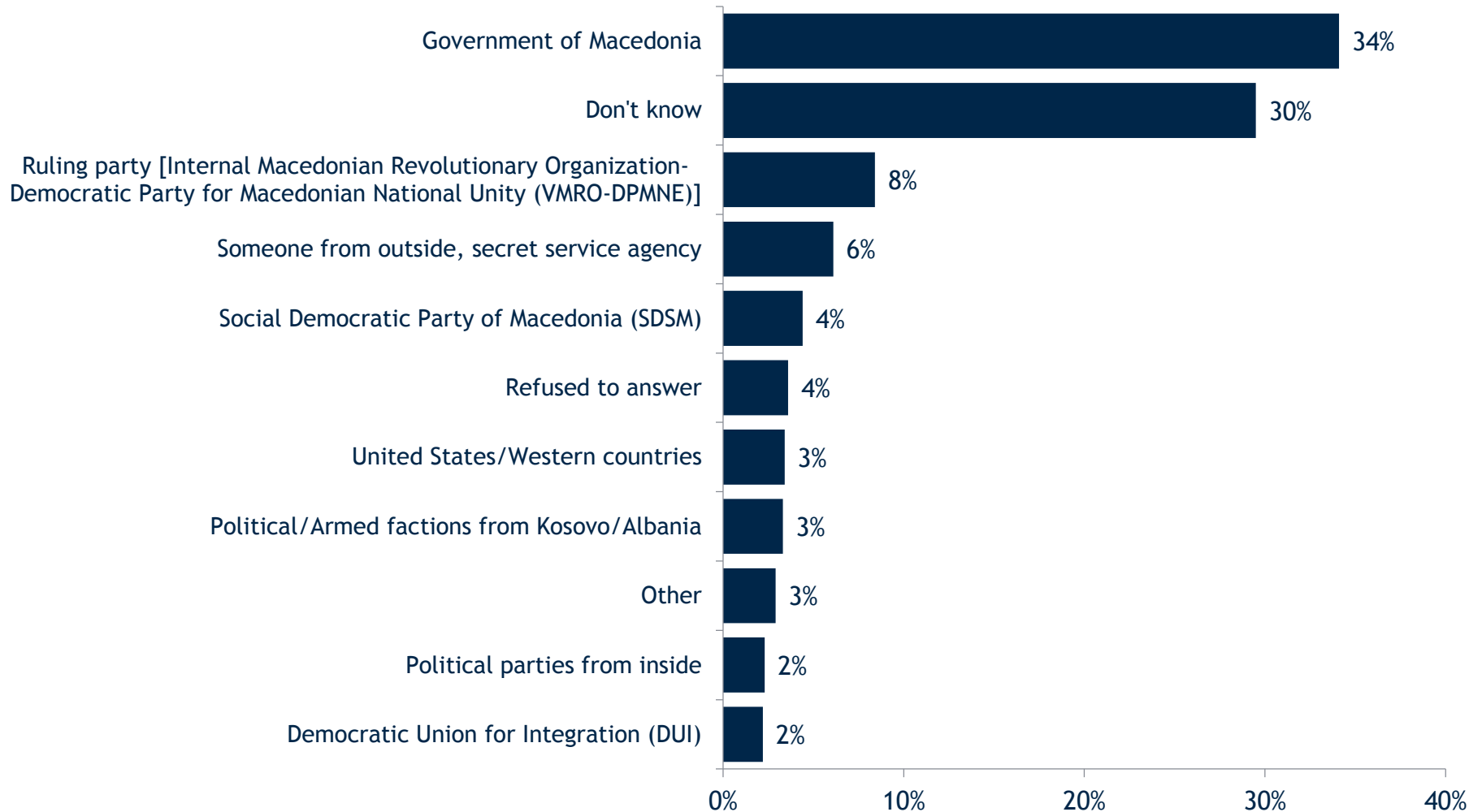


- Are private and safe, that is, you and the other person in the conversation are the only ones aware of the conversation
- Are not private and safe, that is, there is a possibility that my conversations are being listened to and/or recorded by a third party
- Don't know/Refused to answer

On May 9 and 10, Macedonian police forces undertook an action to counter an armed group in Kumanovo. In your opinion, was this...?



According to you, who do you think paid/engaged the armed group to destabilize Macedonia? (Open-ended; n=544)

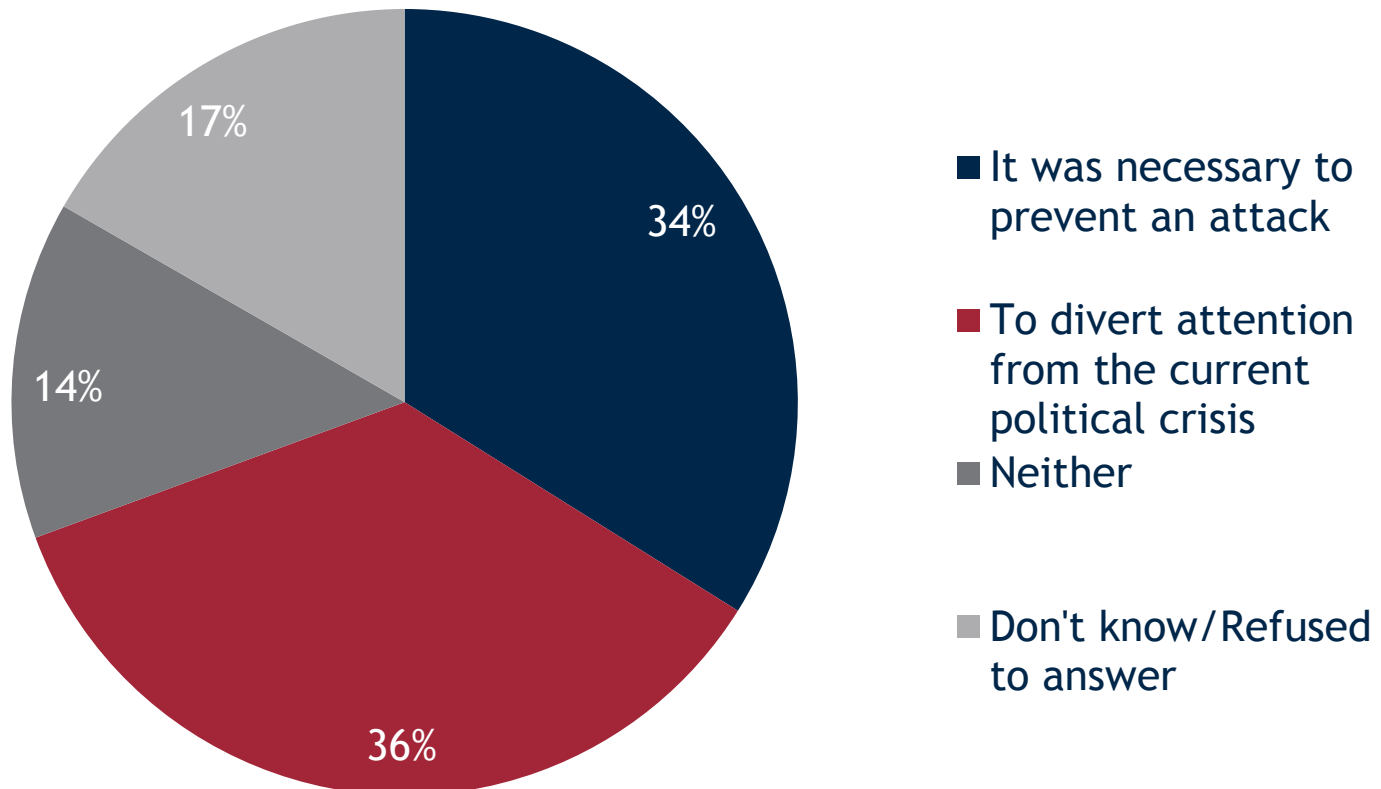


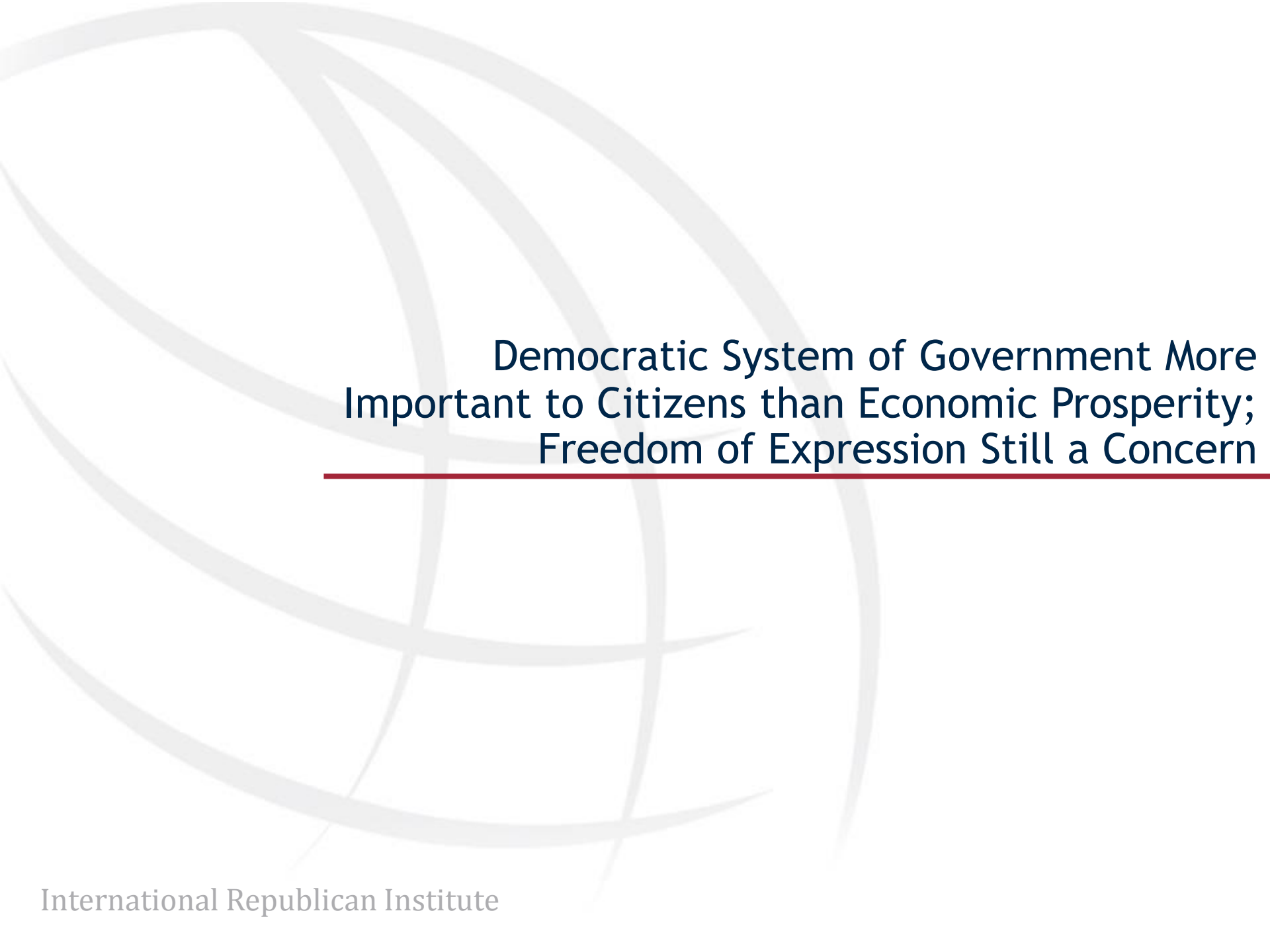
Which of these two opinions is closer to your own?

The police action had to take place on those days to prevent imminent/planned attacks by the armed group.

or

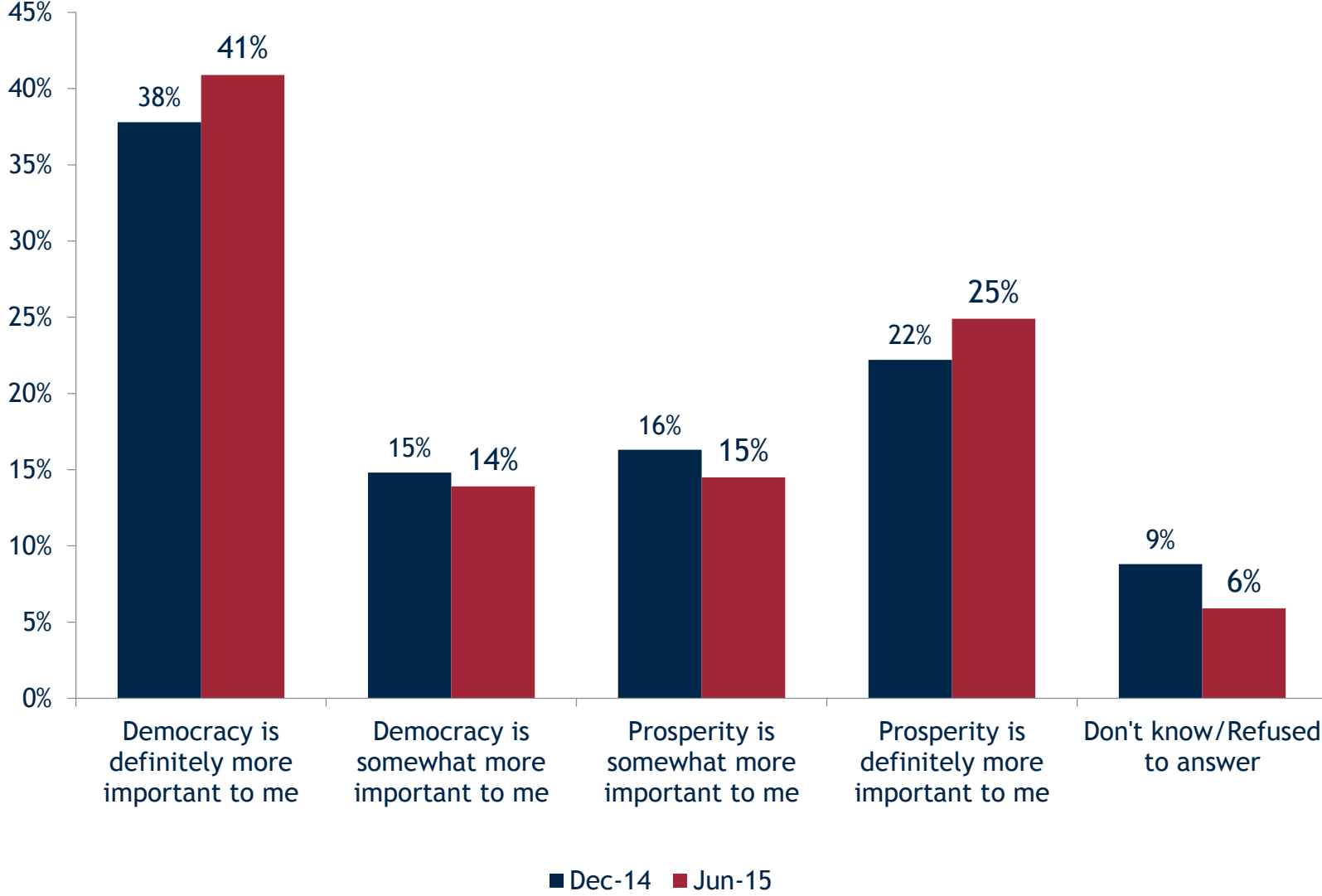
The police action was timed to take place on those days in order to divert public attention from the current political crisis (i.e. the Social Democratic Party of Macedonia's release of wiretaps and the opposition's call for the Government's and Prime Minister's resignation).



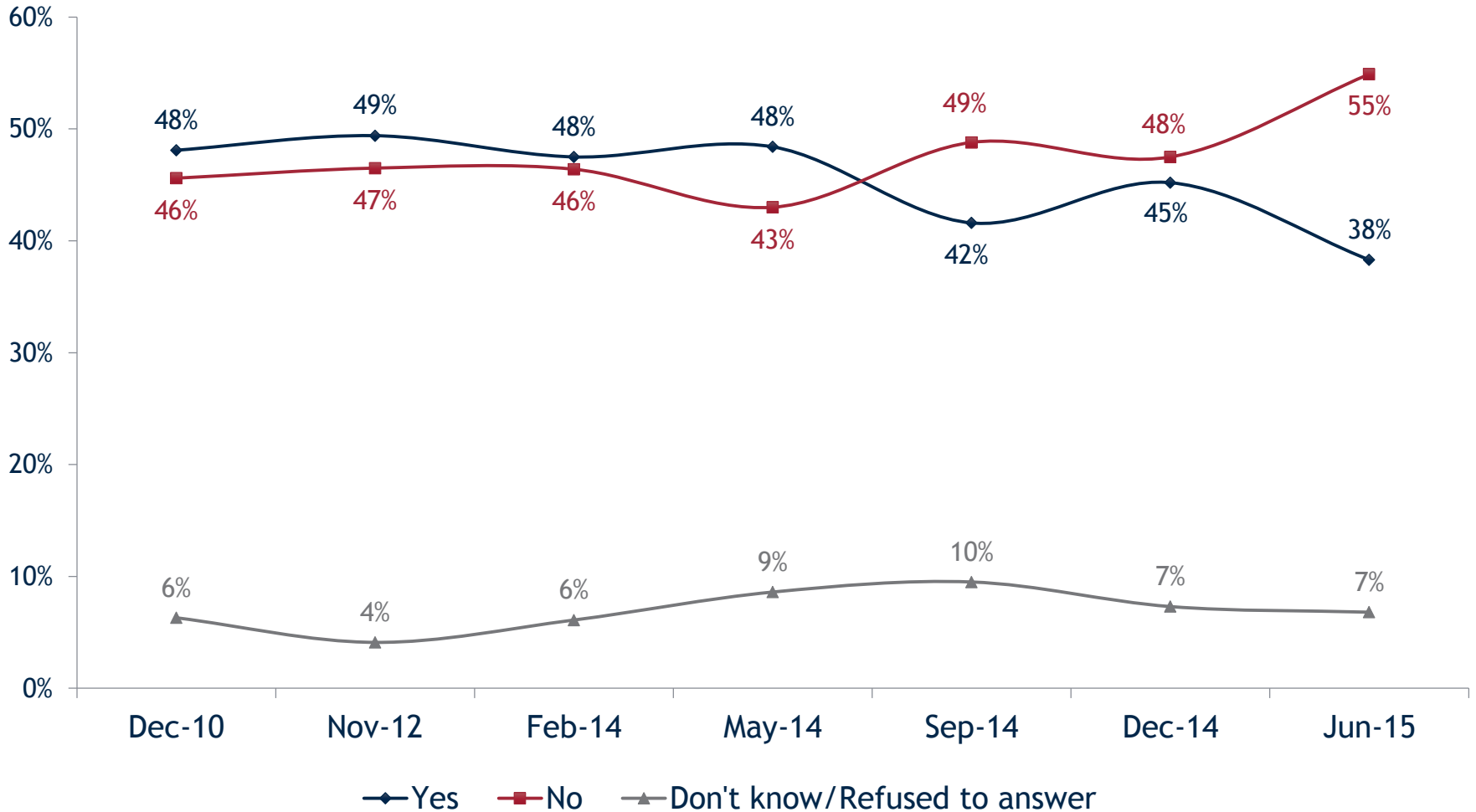


**Democratic System of Government More
Important to Citizens than Economic Prosperity;
Freedom of Expression Still a Concern**

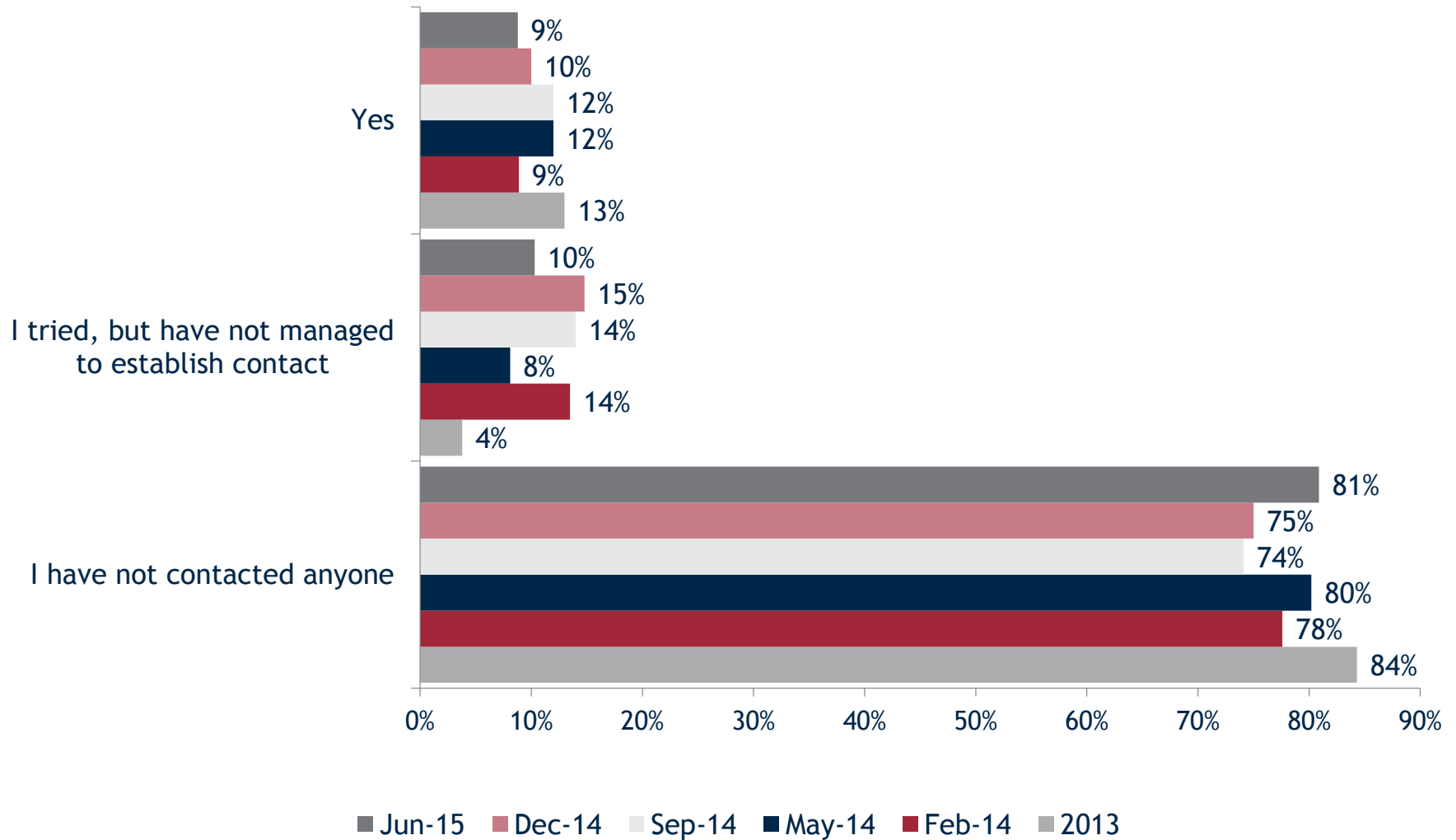
If you could choose only one or the other, which is more important to you: a democratic system of government or a prosperous economy?



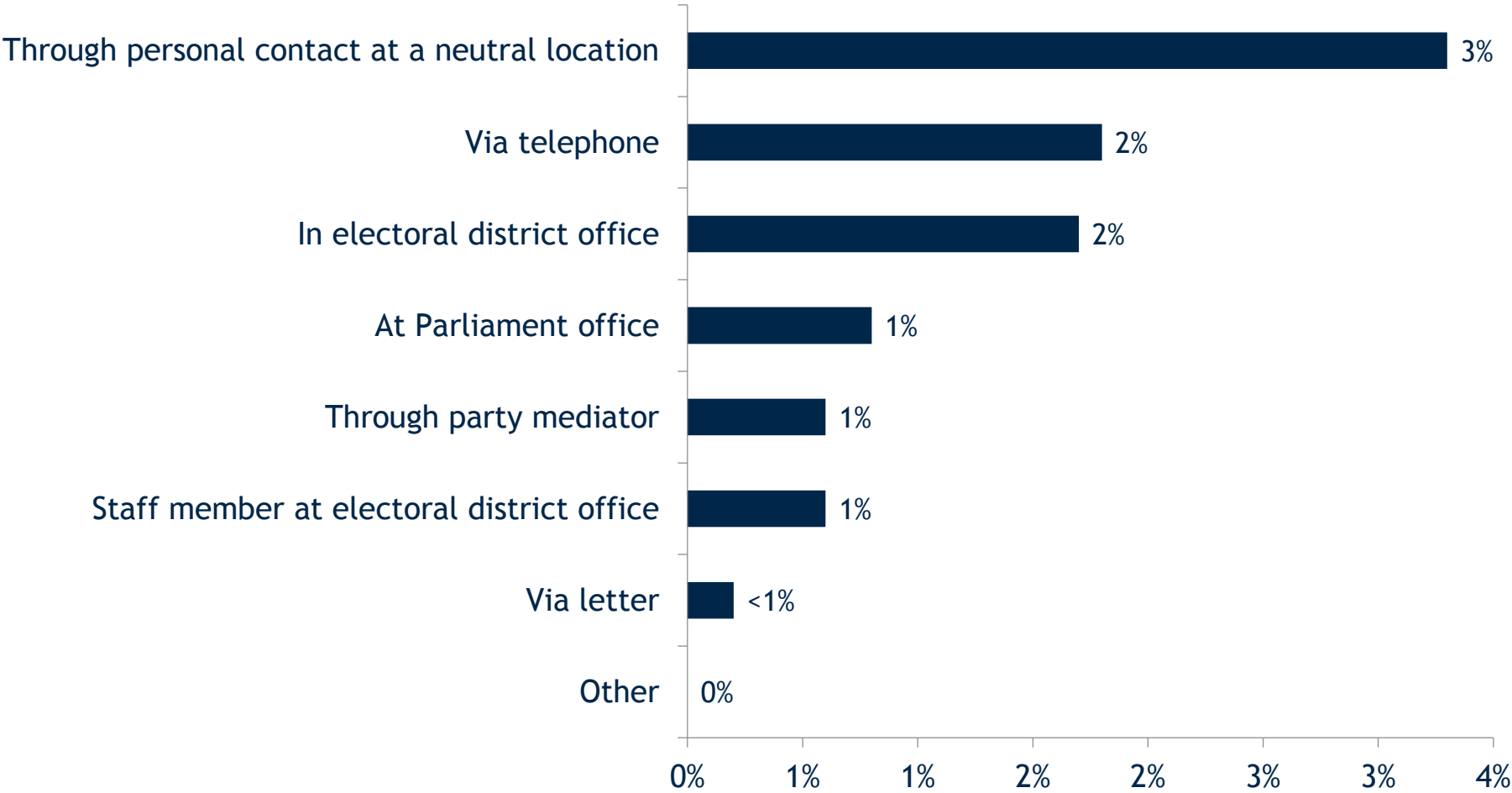
Do you think that free speech and the free expression of ideas exists in Macedonia today?



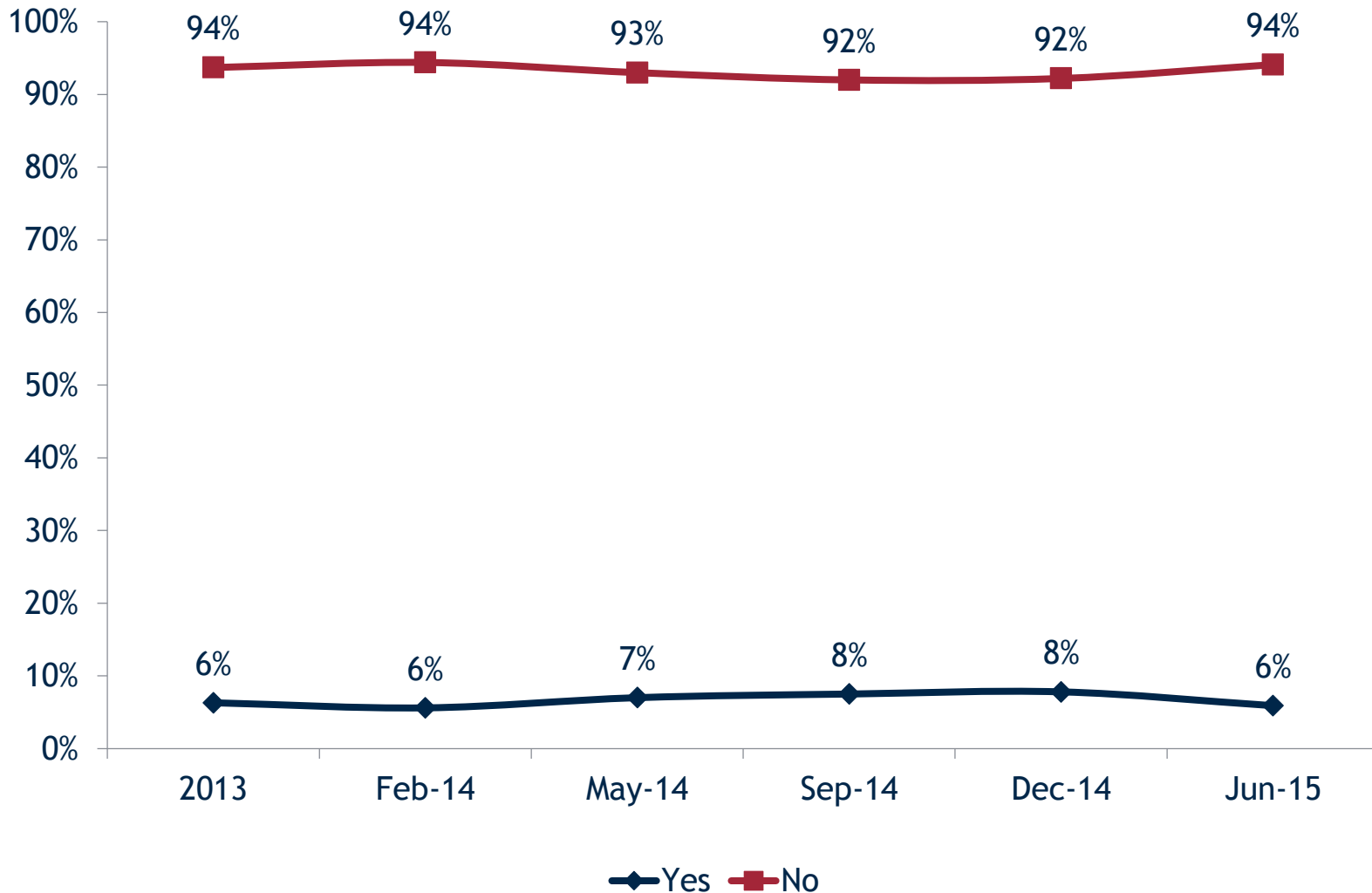
Have you contacted a current member of parliament in the last 12 months?



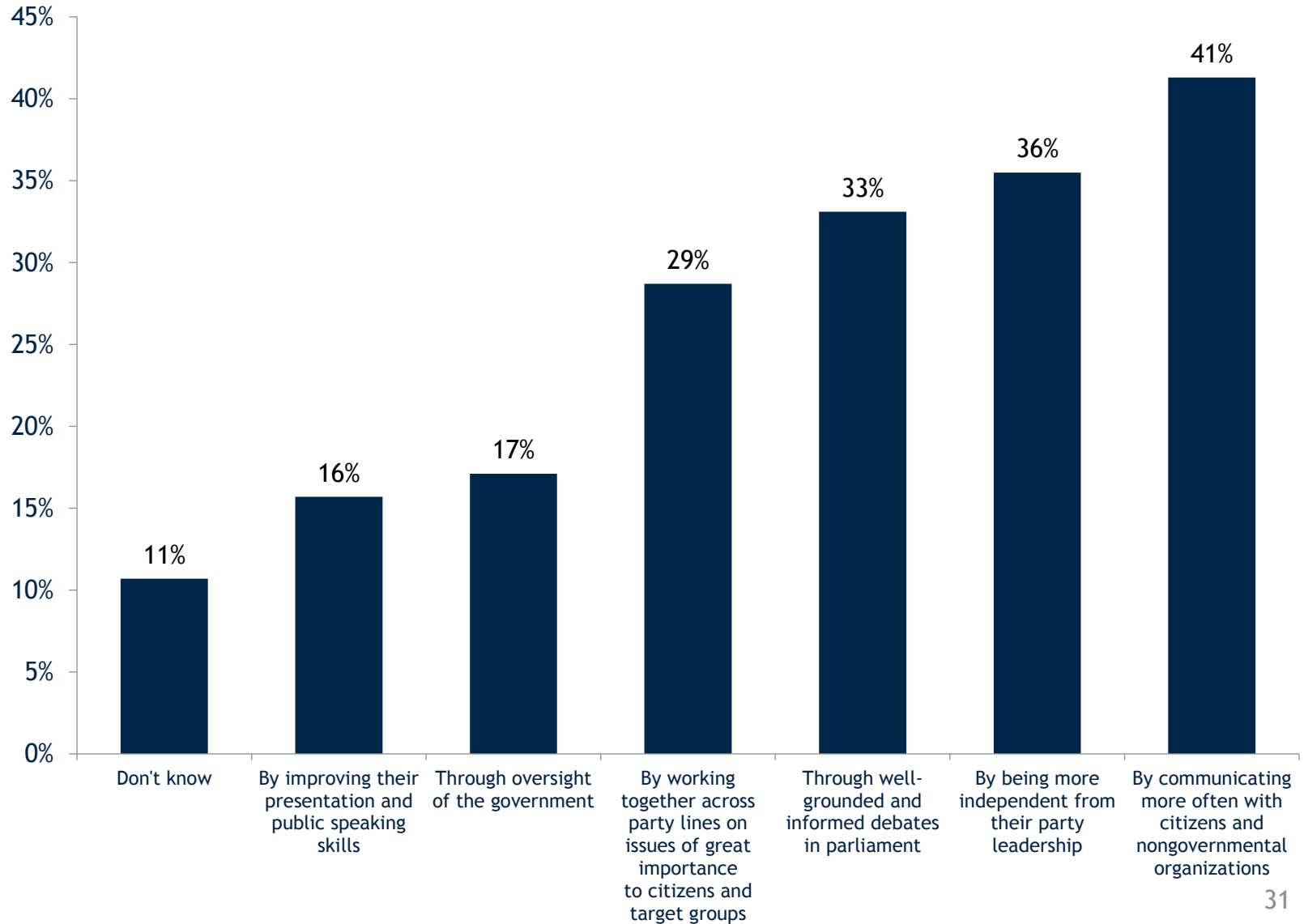
If you have contacted a member of parliament in the last 12 months, how did you establish that contact? (n=97)



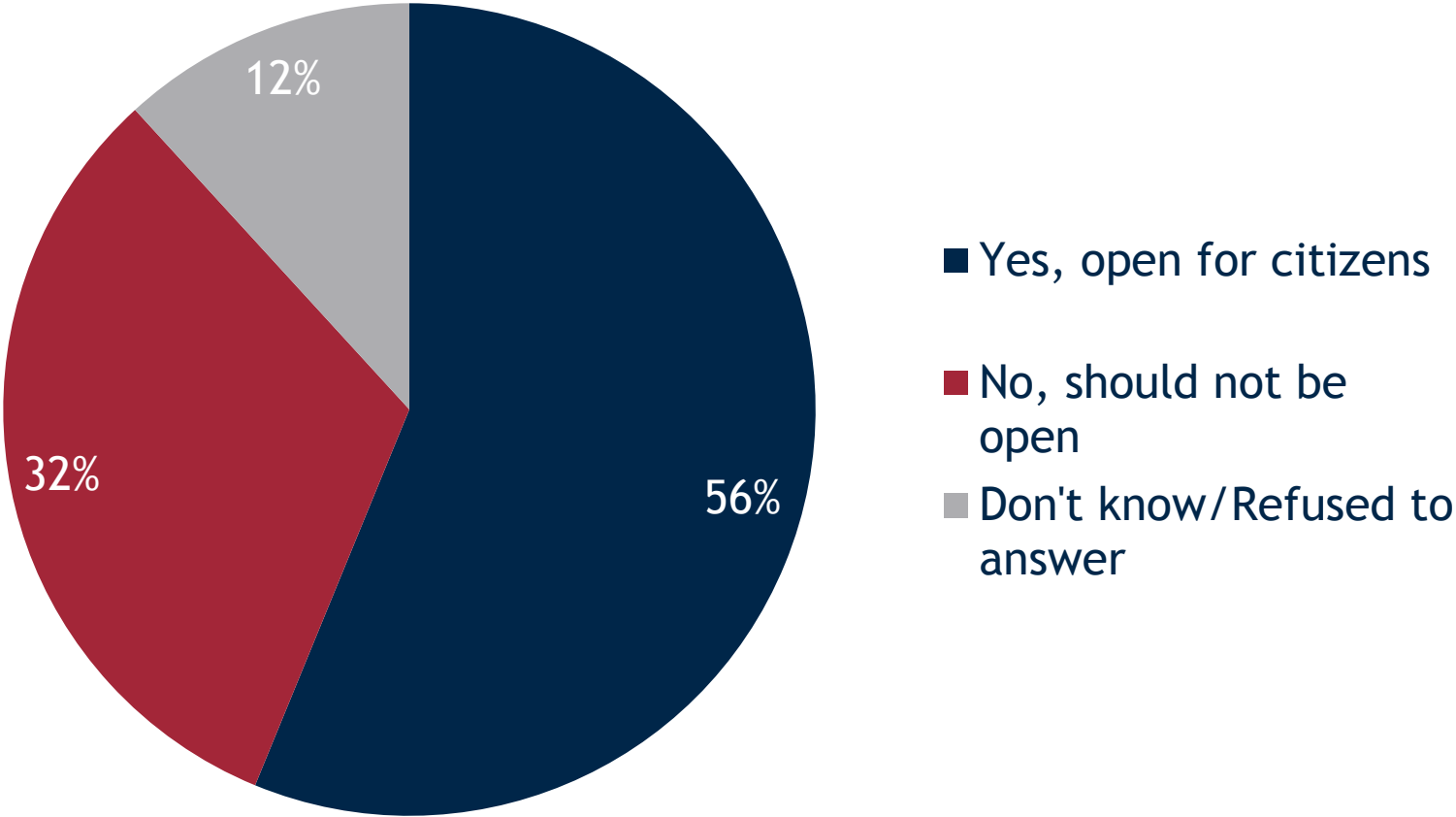
Have you been personally contacted by a member of parliament in the last 12 months?



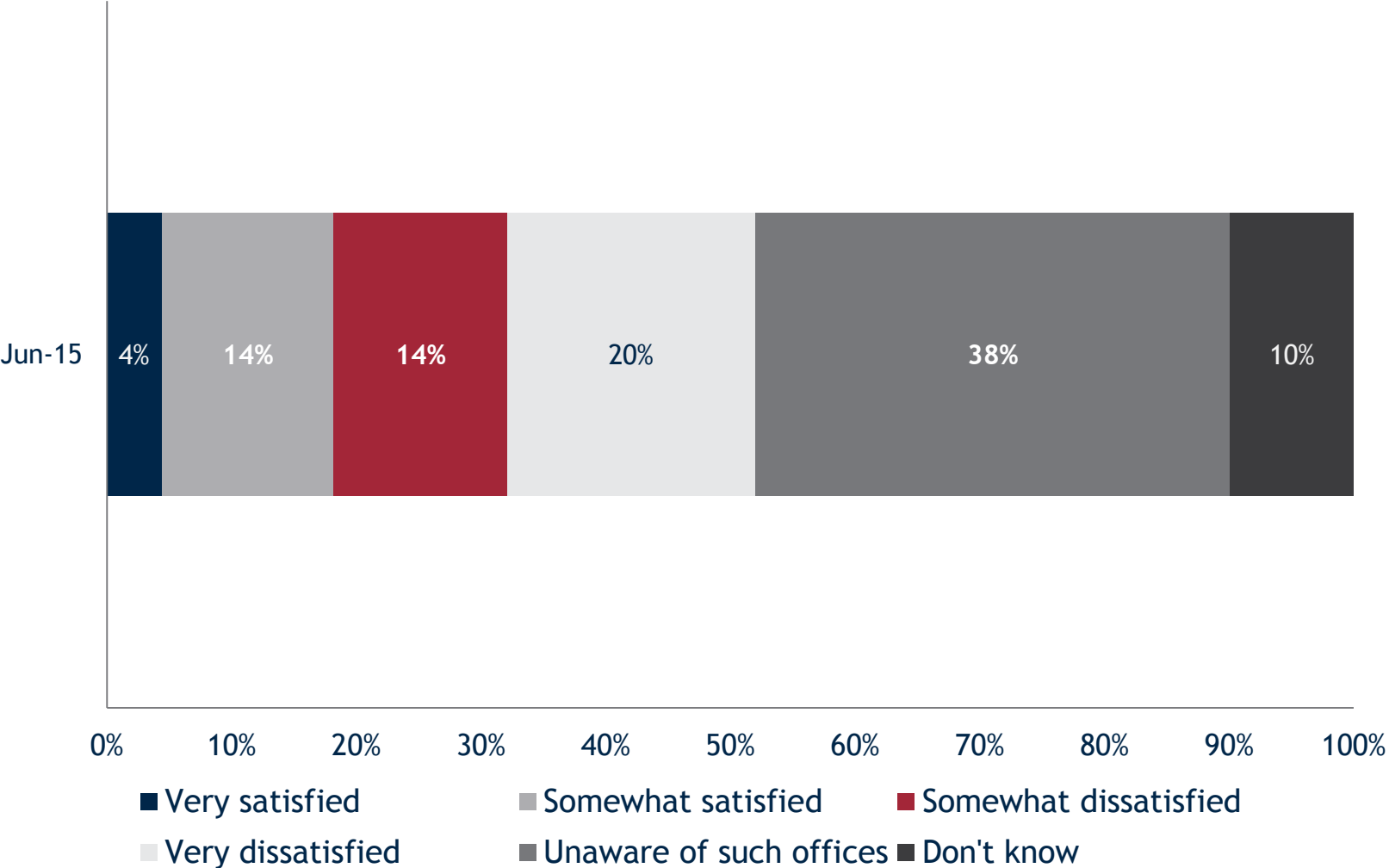
How, according to your opinion, could MPs more effectively perform their jobs? (Multiple responses)



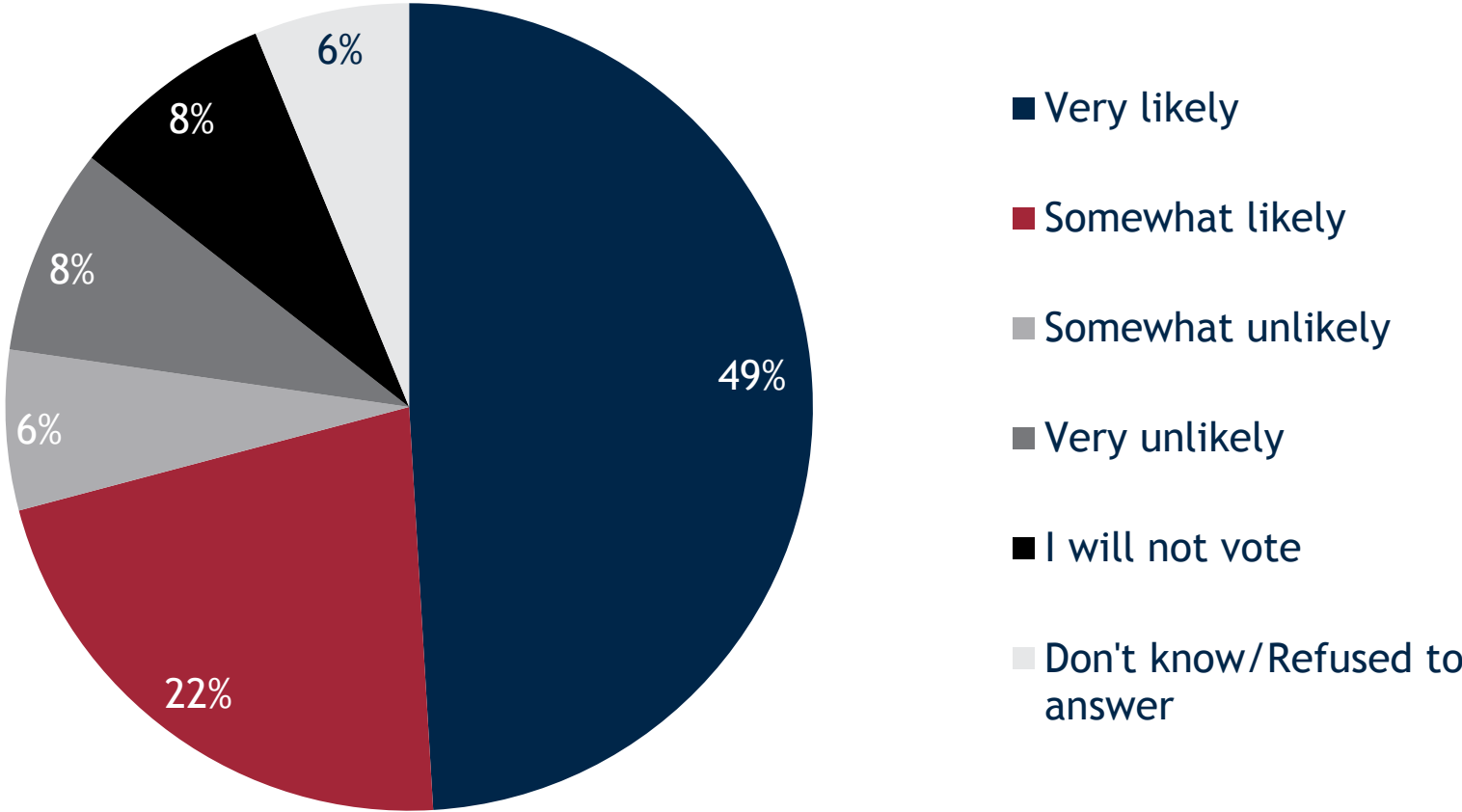
Do you think that Parliament should be open to citizens? For example, should citizens be allowed to enter the premises of the Parliament without a prior meeting scheduled and attend the sessions of Parliament or its committees?



How satisfied are you with how the constituency offices in your electoral unit function?



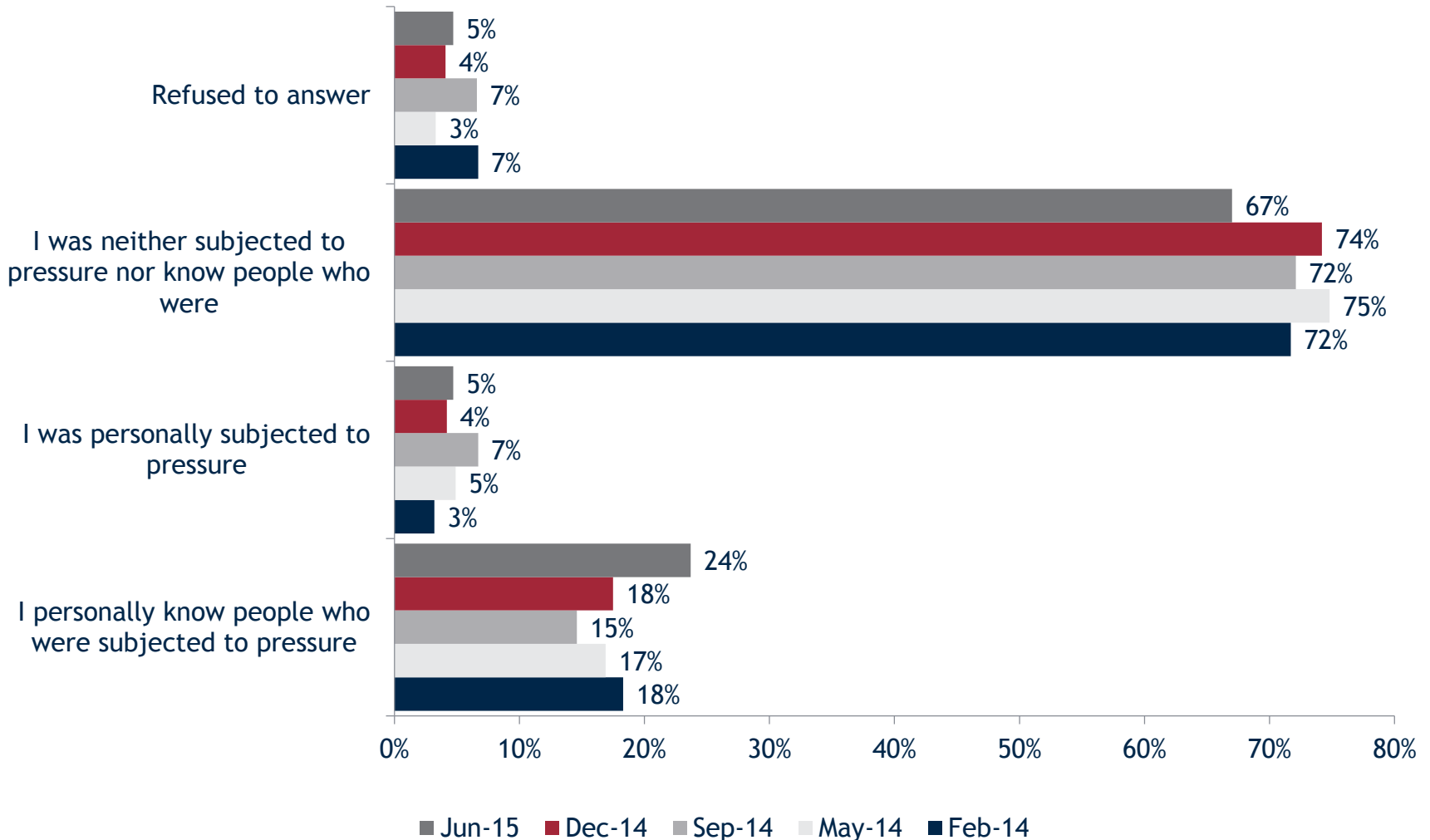
If parliamentary elections were held today, how likely is it that you would vote?



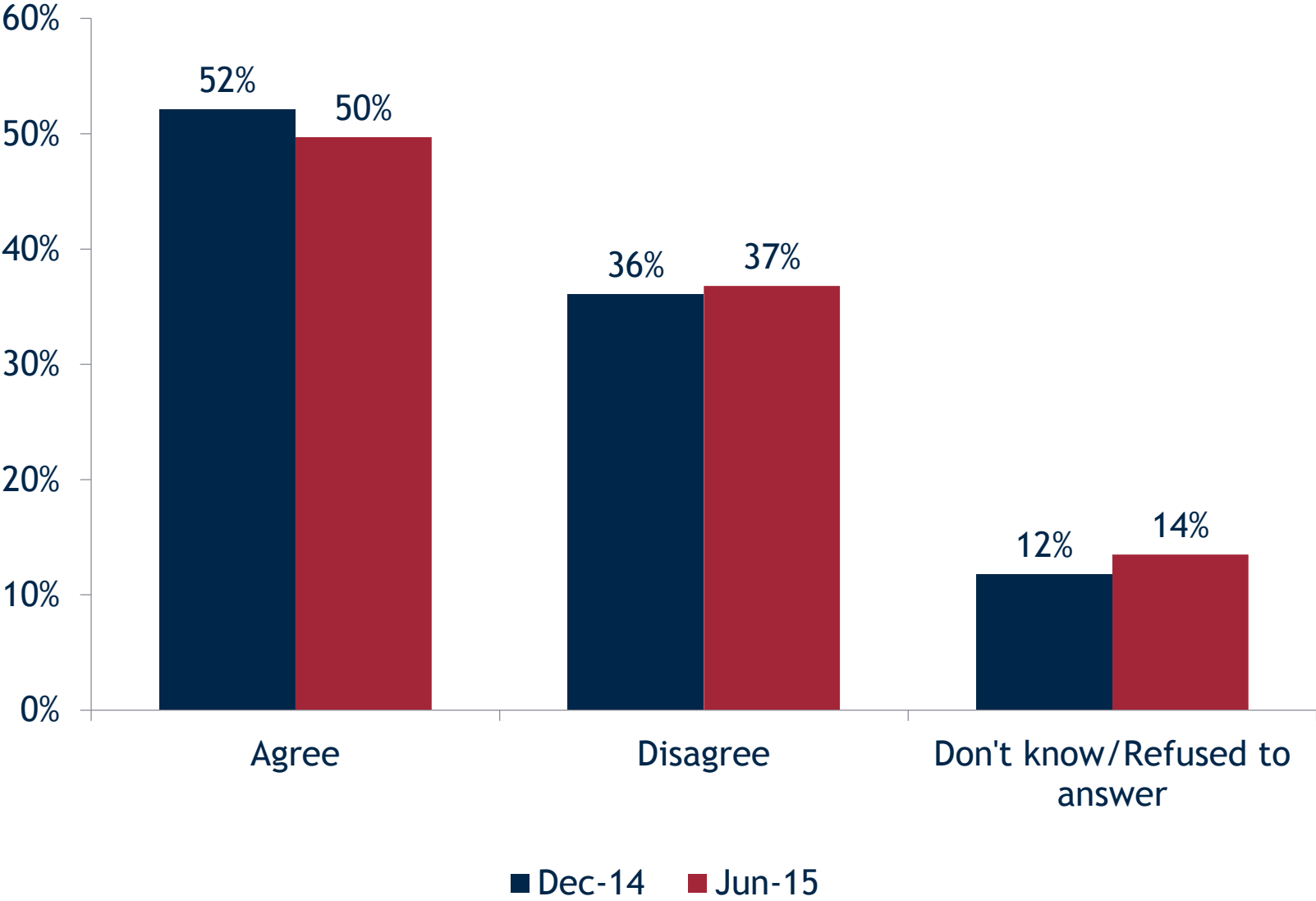
Have you, a member of your family, or someone you personally know ever been subjected to pressure such as force, threats, vote buying or other illegal means to vote in a particular way?

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

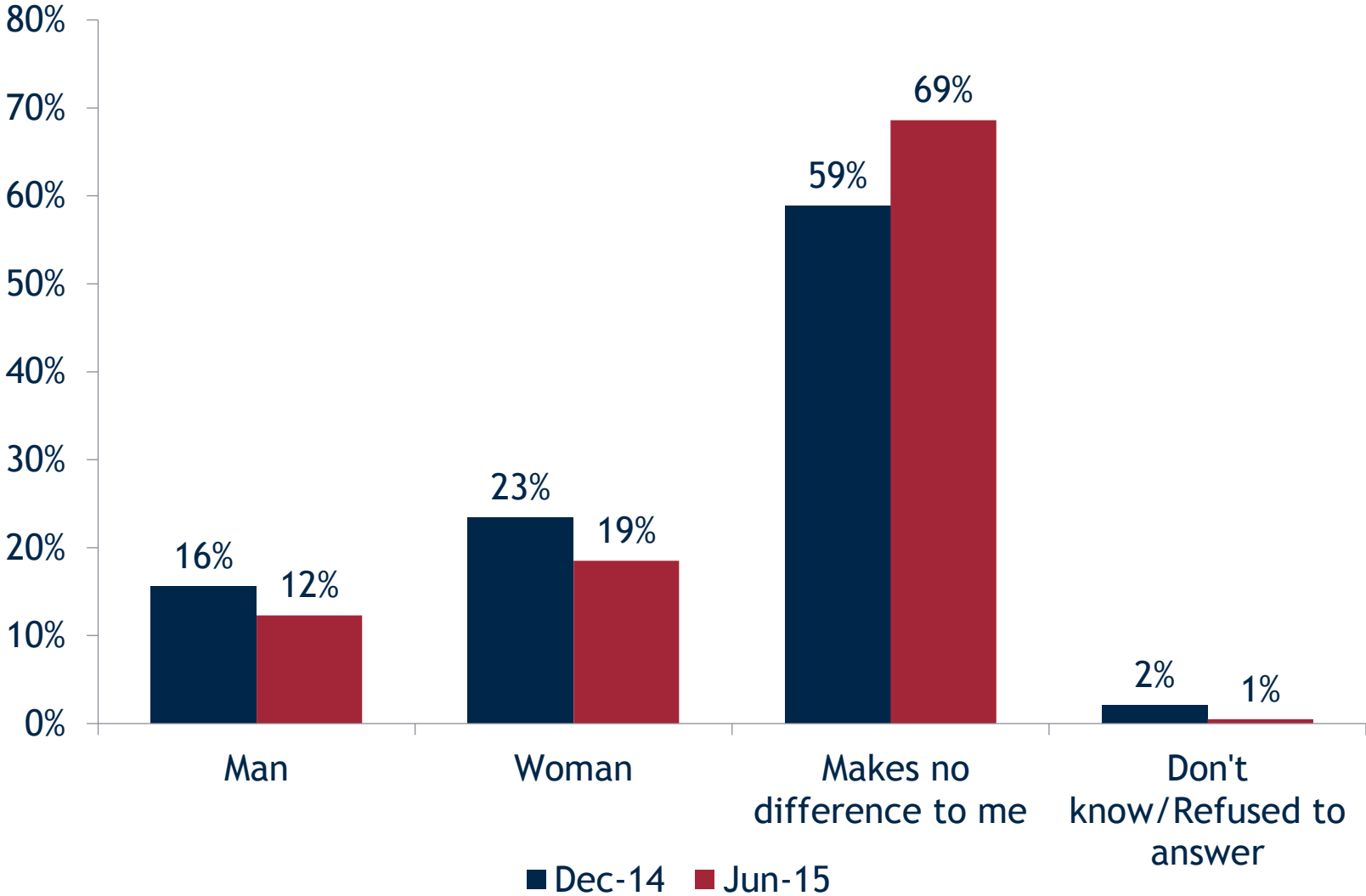
* (in May 2014 responses refer to 2014 elections)



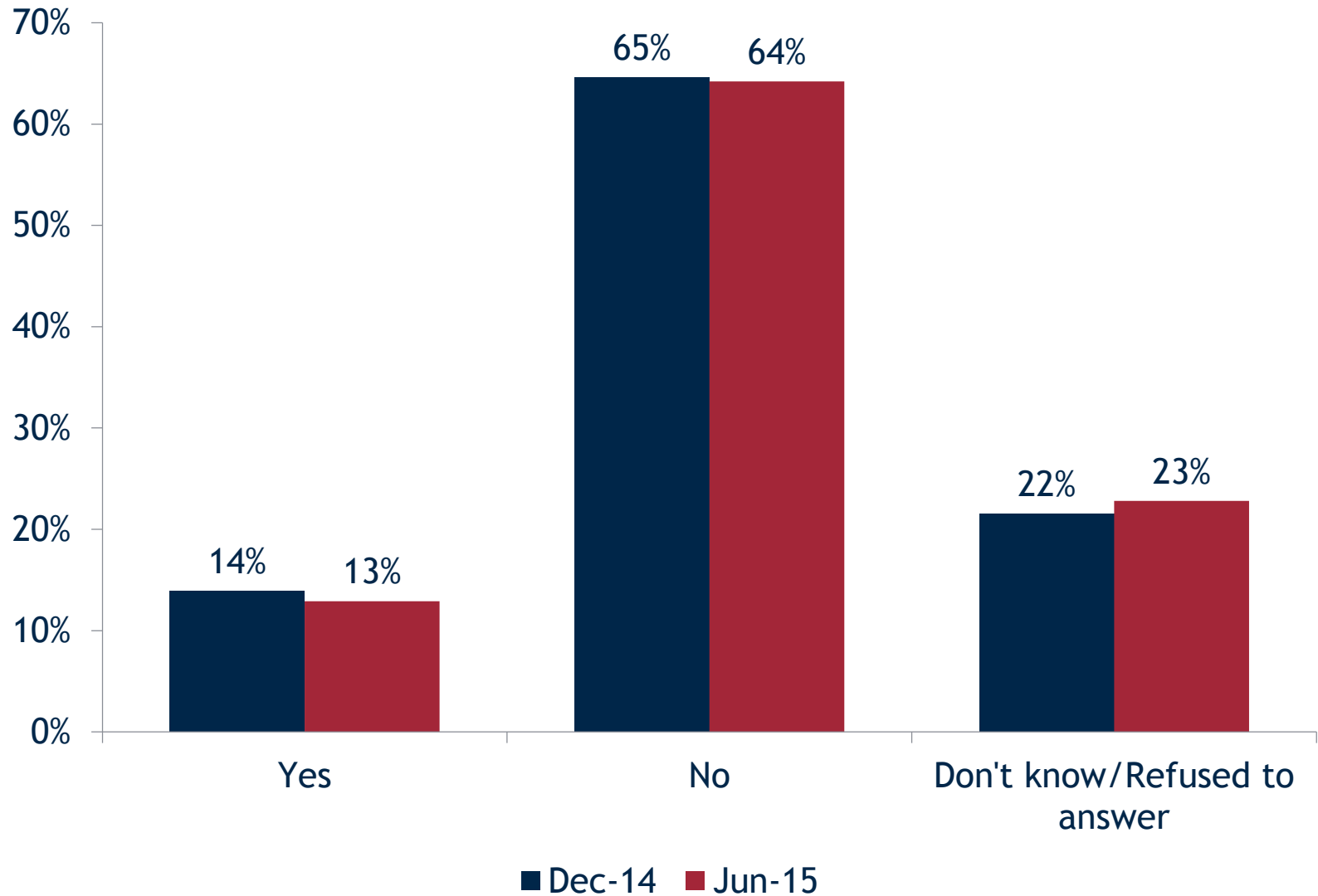
Do you agree or disagree with the following statement:
Politicians do not listen to the needs and ideas of women.



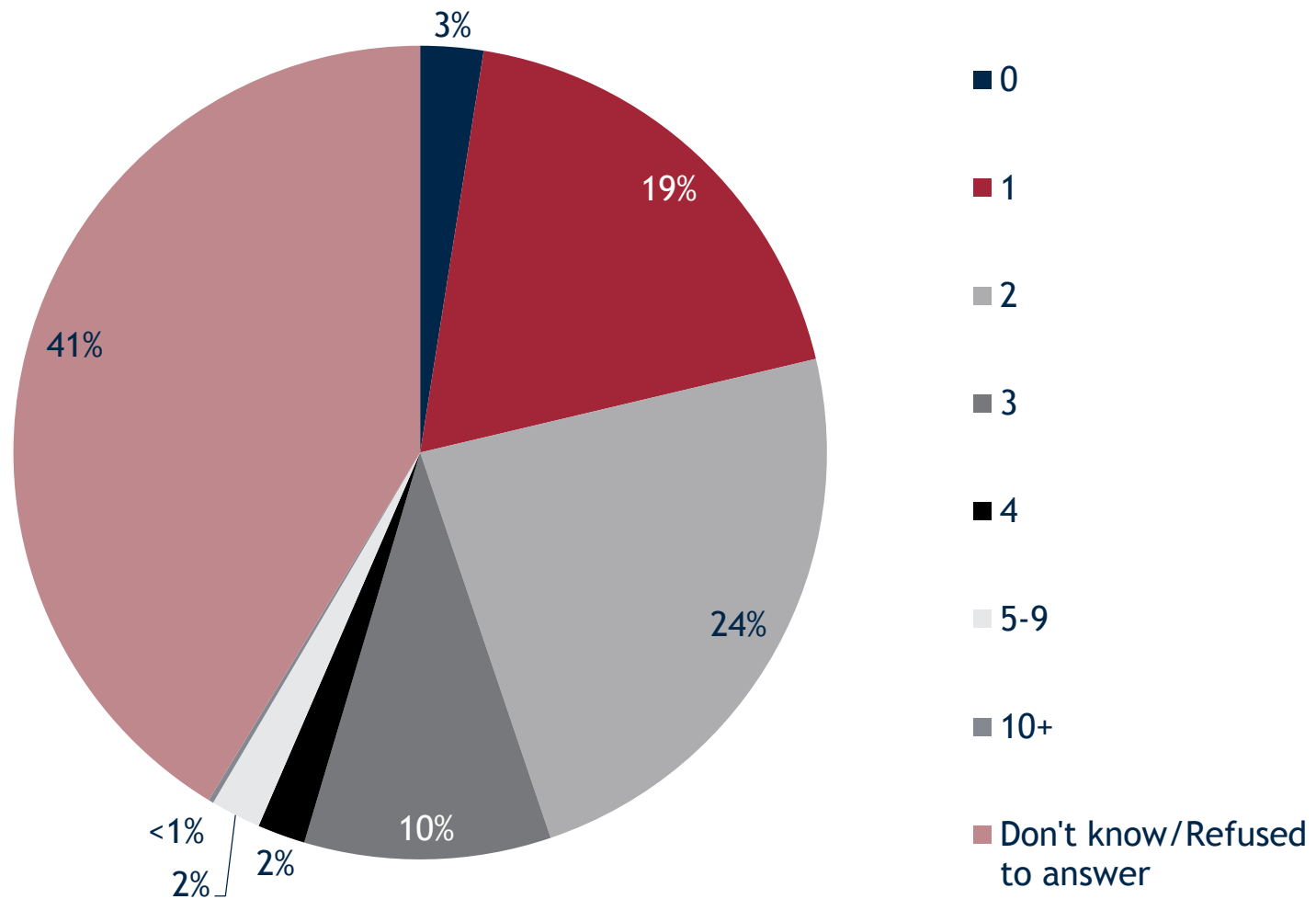
If there are two candidates running for office and they have the same qualifications aside from the fact that one is a man and one is a woman, which candidate are you more likely to support?



In your opinion, is there a sufficient number of women mayors?

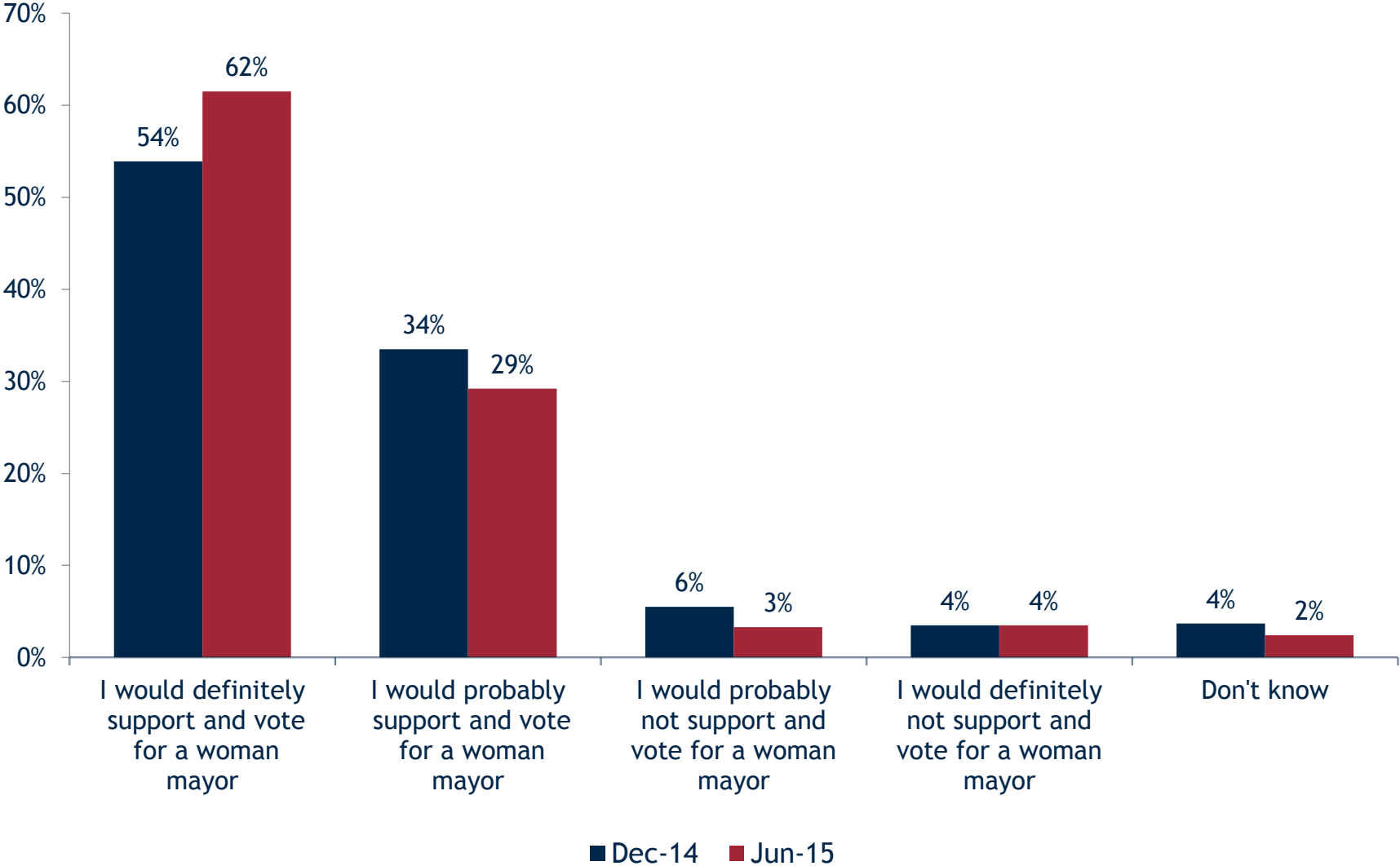


How many of the mayors in Macedonia are women?*

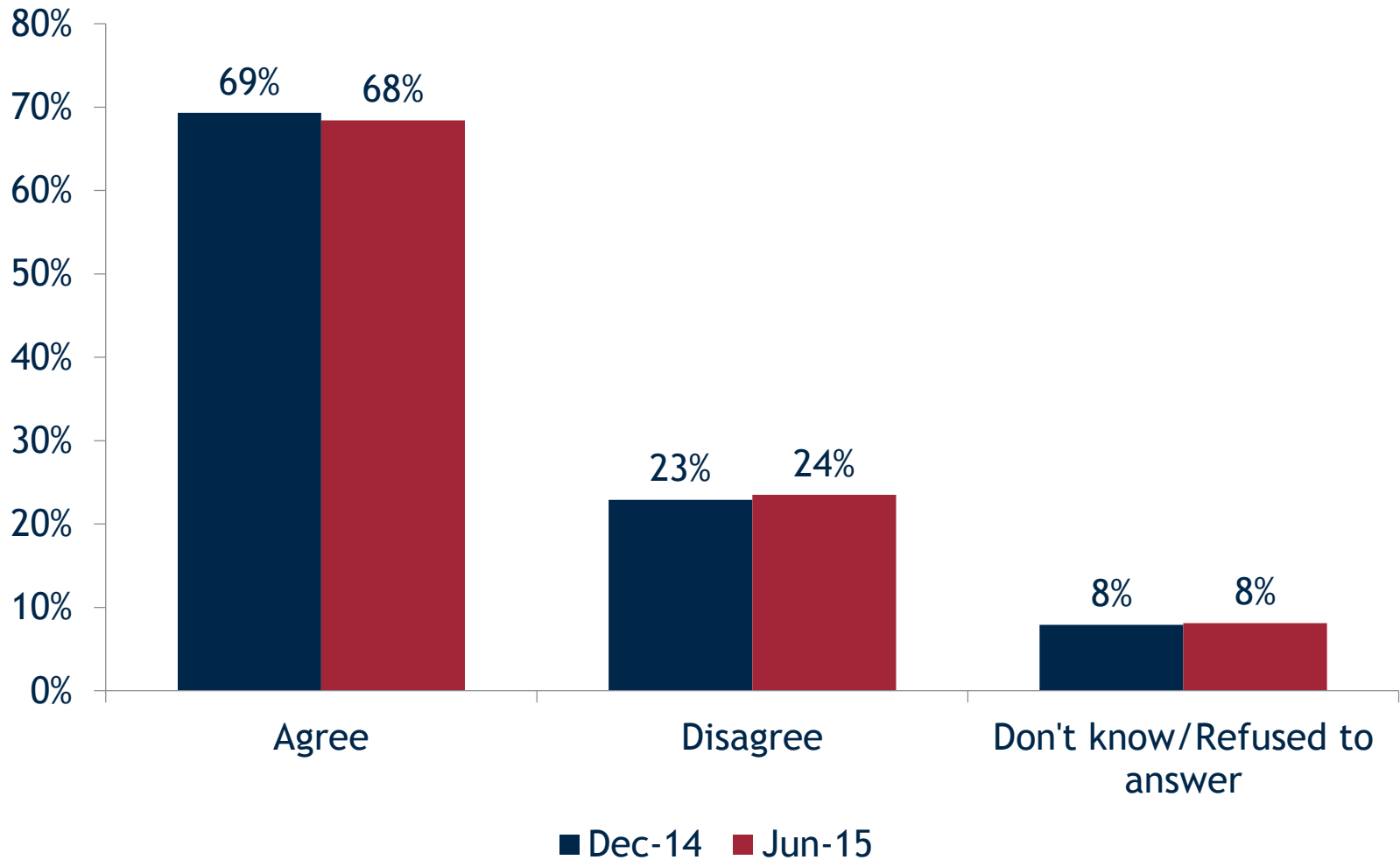


* There are currently four women mayors in Macedonia.

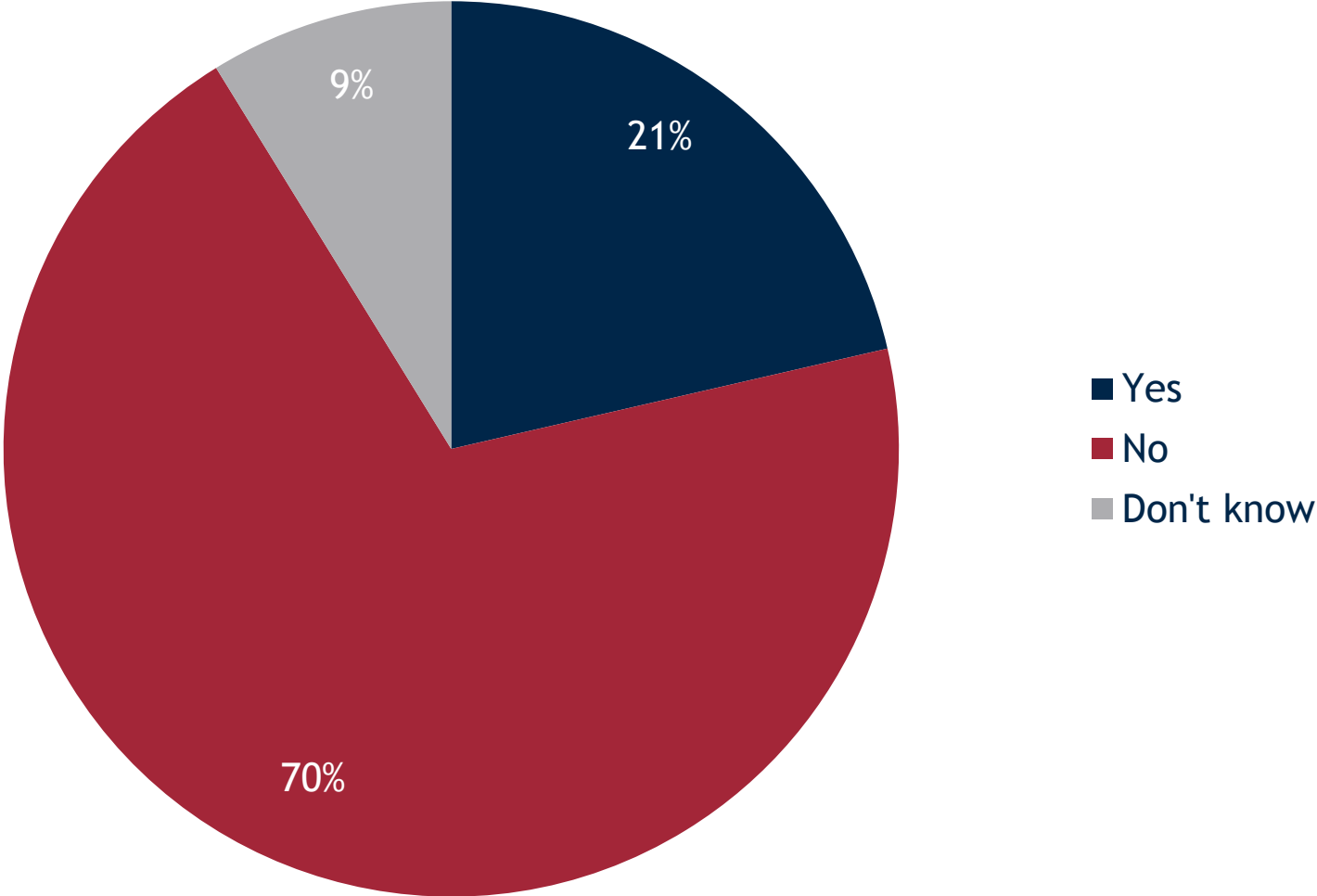
Would you support and vote for a woman for mayor?



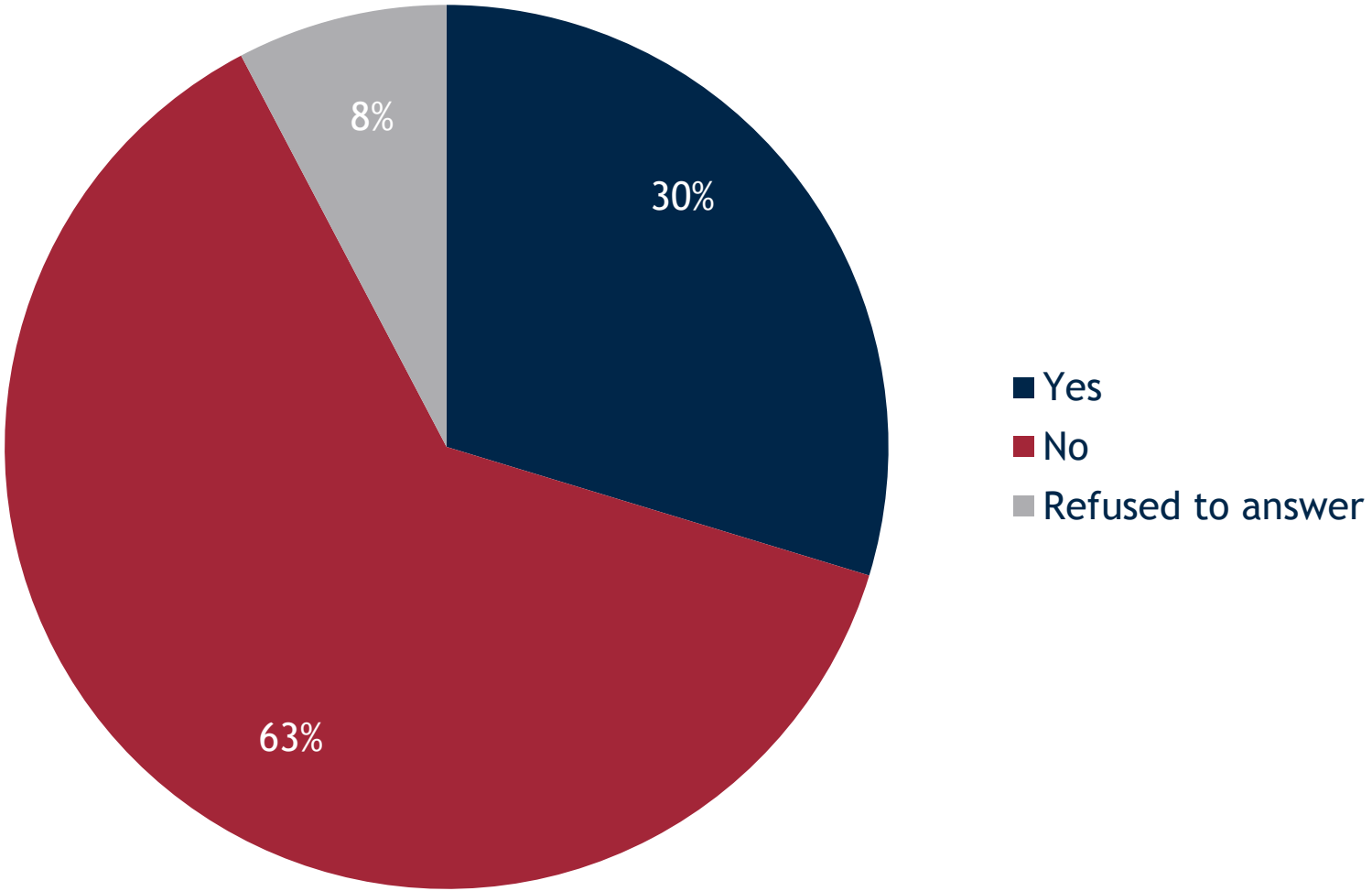
Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Politicians do not listen to the needs and ideas of young people.



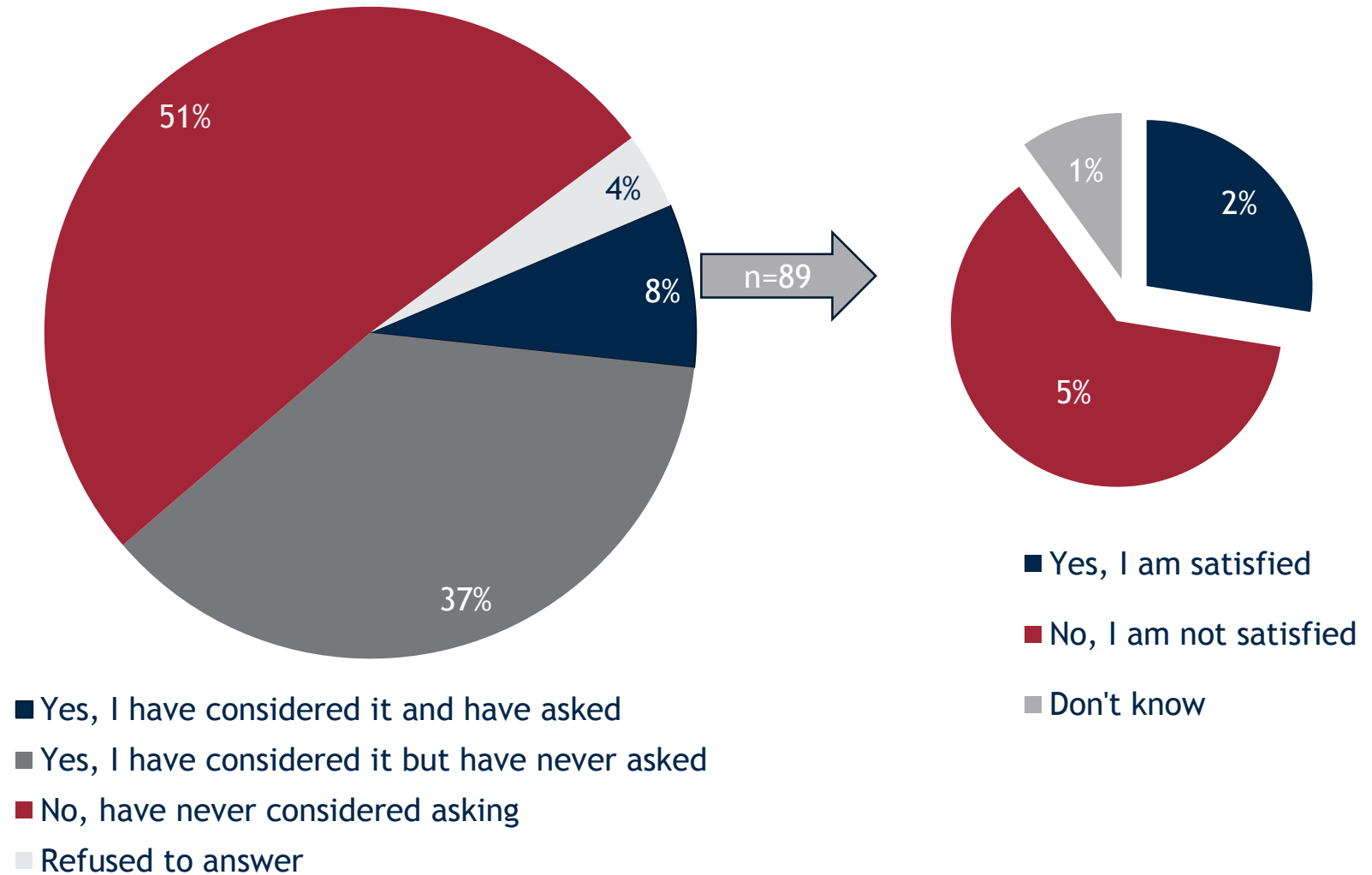
The Macedonian budget is largely funded by taxes paid by Macedonian citizens and companies. With this in mind, do you think that Macedonian citizens have sufficient influence on how their taxes are being used?



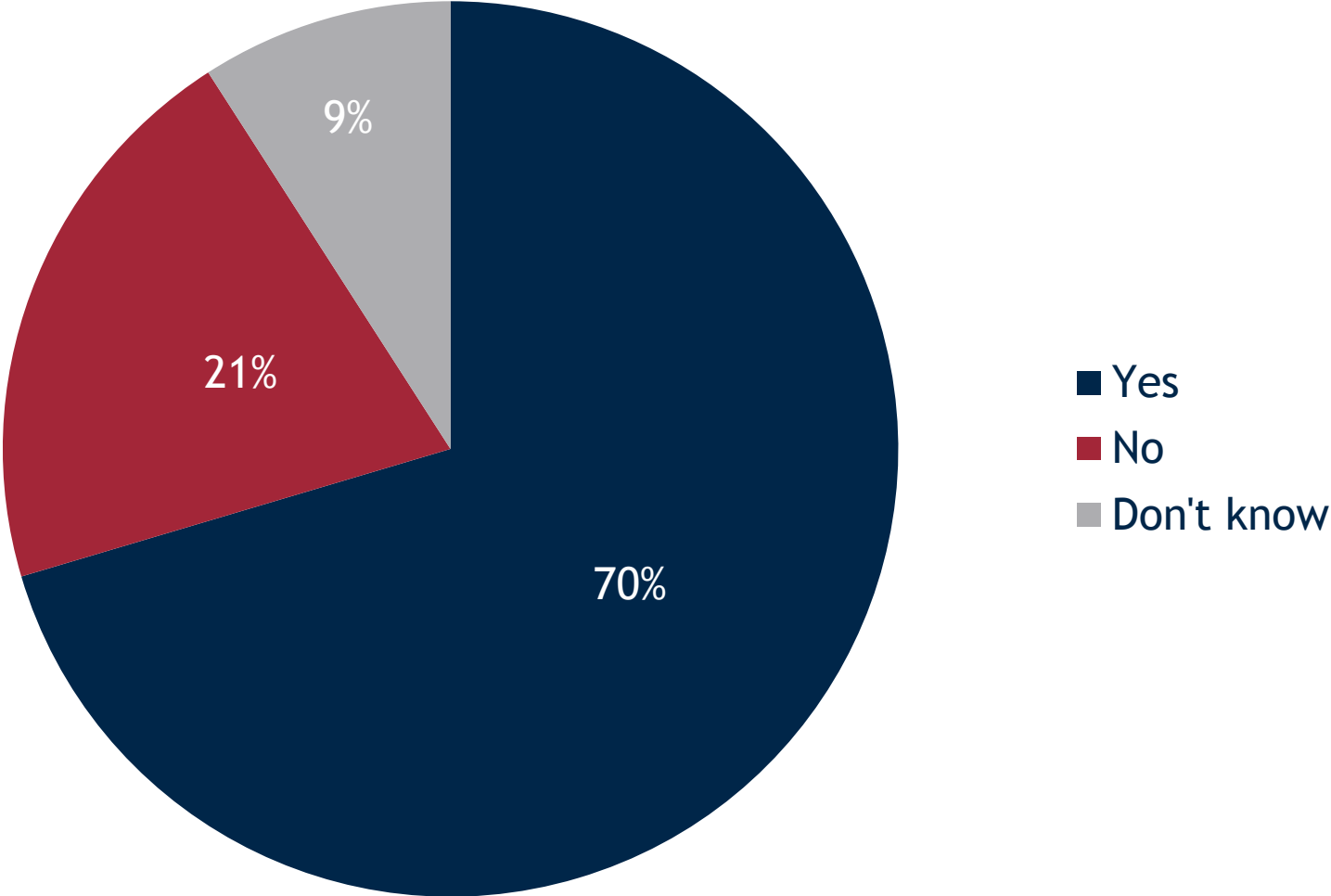
All persons who earn income from sources other than or in addition to a regular salary, pension, agricultural activity, or self-employed activity were obliged to submit a tax report by 15 March this year. Did you submit such a tax report?



Have you ever considered asking state or local institutions about how they spend taxpayers' money? If yes, were you satisfied with the response you received?



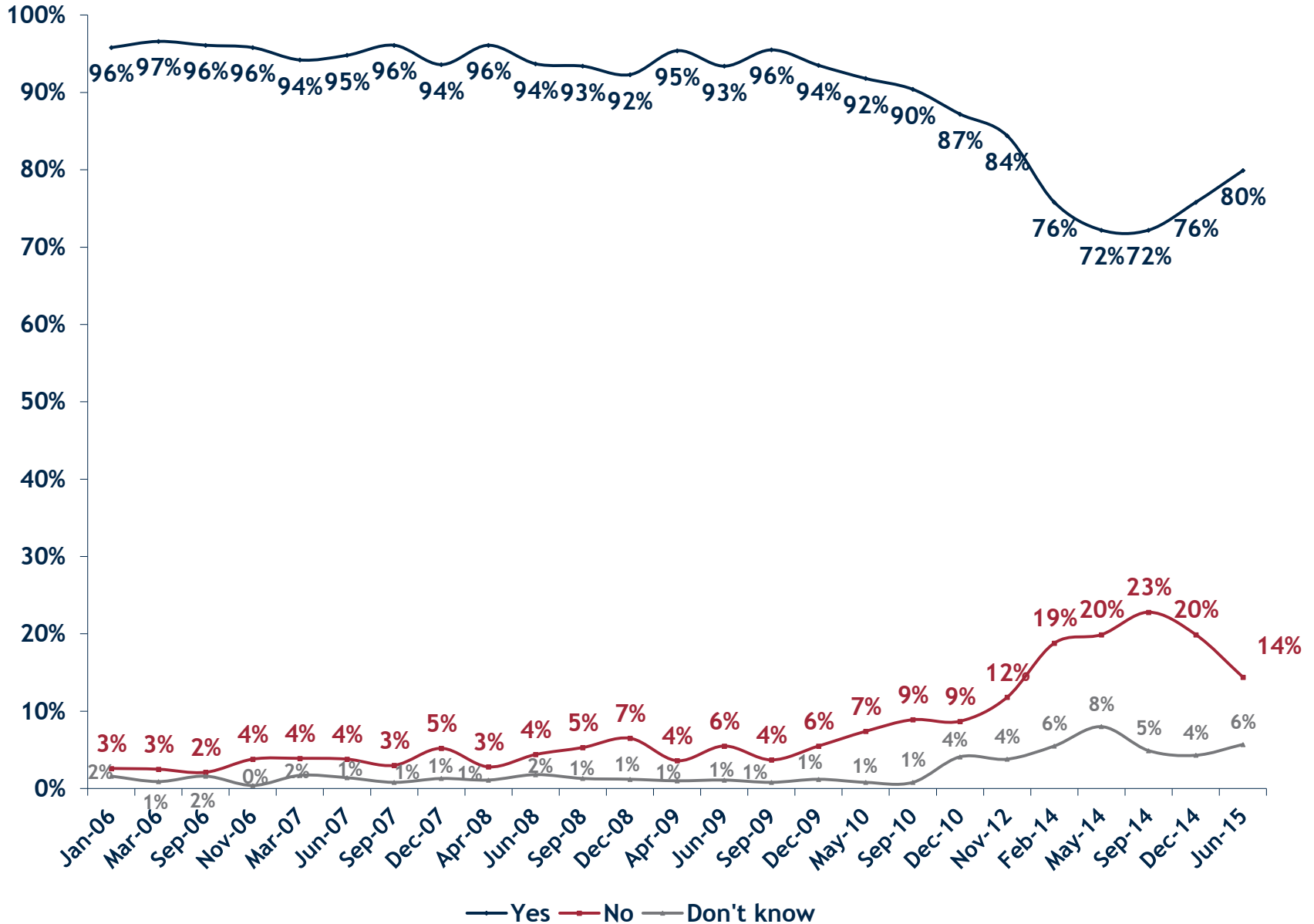
Do you think citizens should have more influence in deciding how government funding is spent?



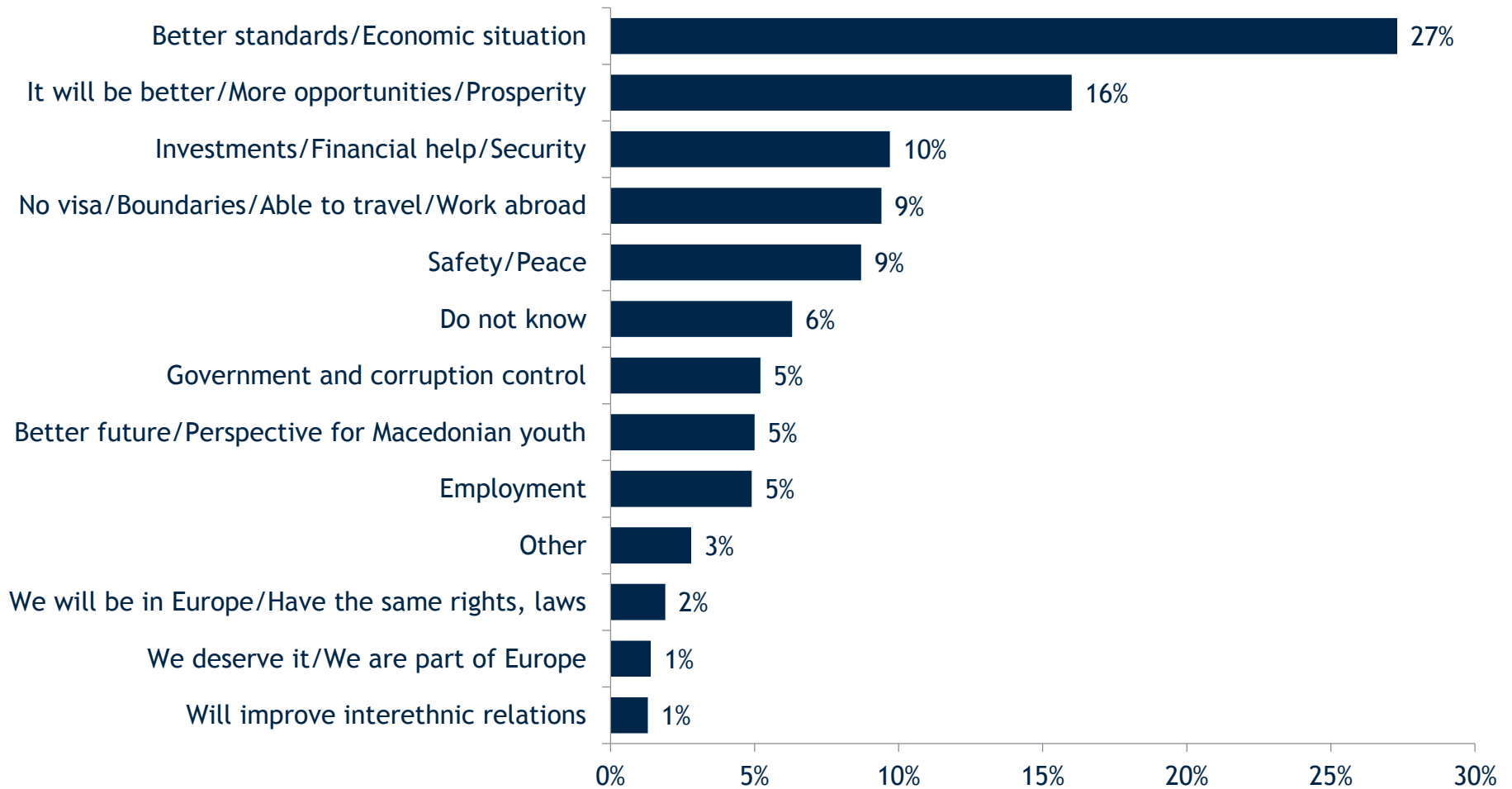


Support for Euro-Atlantic Integration Remains Strong

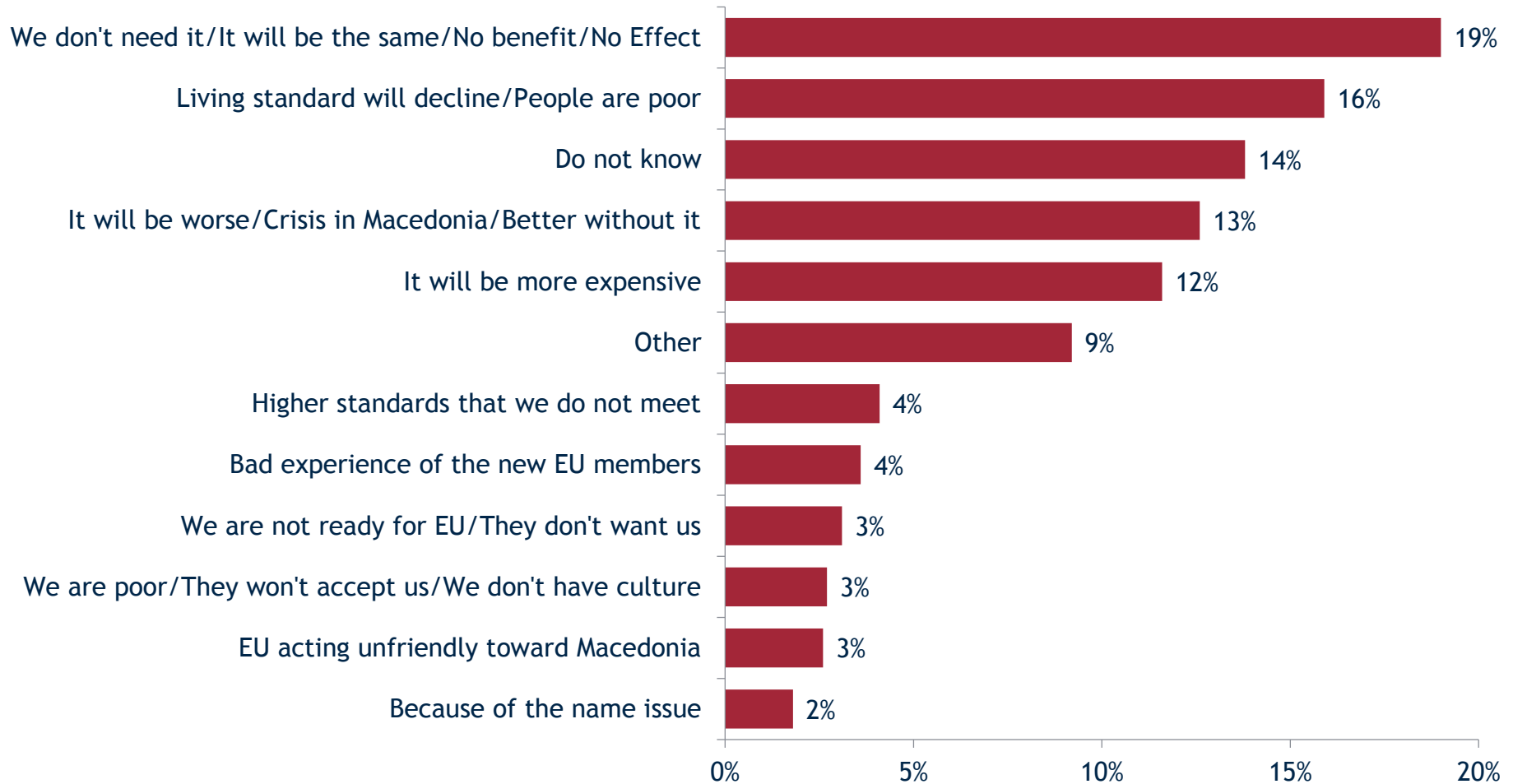
Do you support Macedonia becoming a member of the EU?



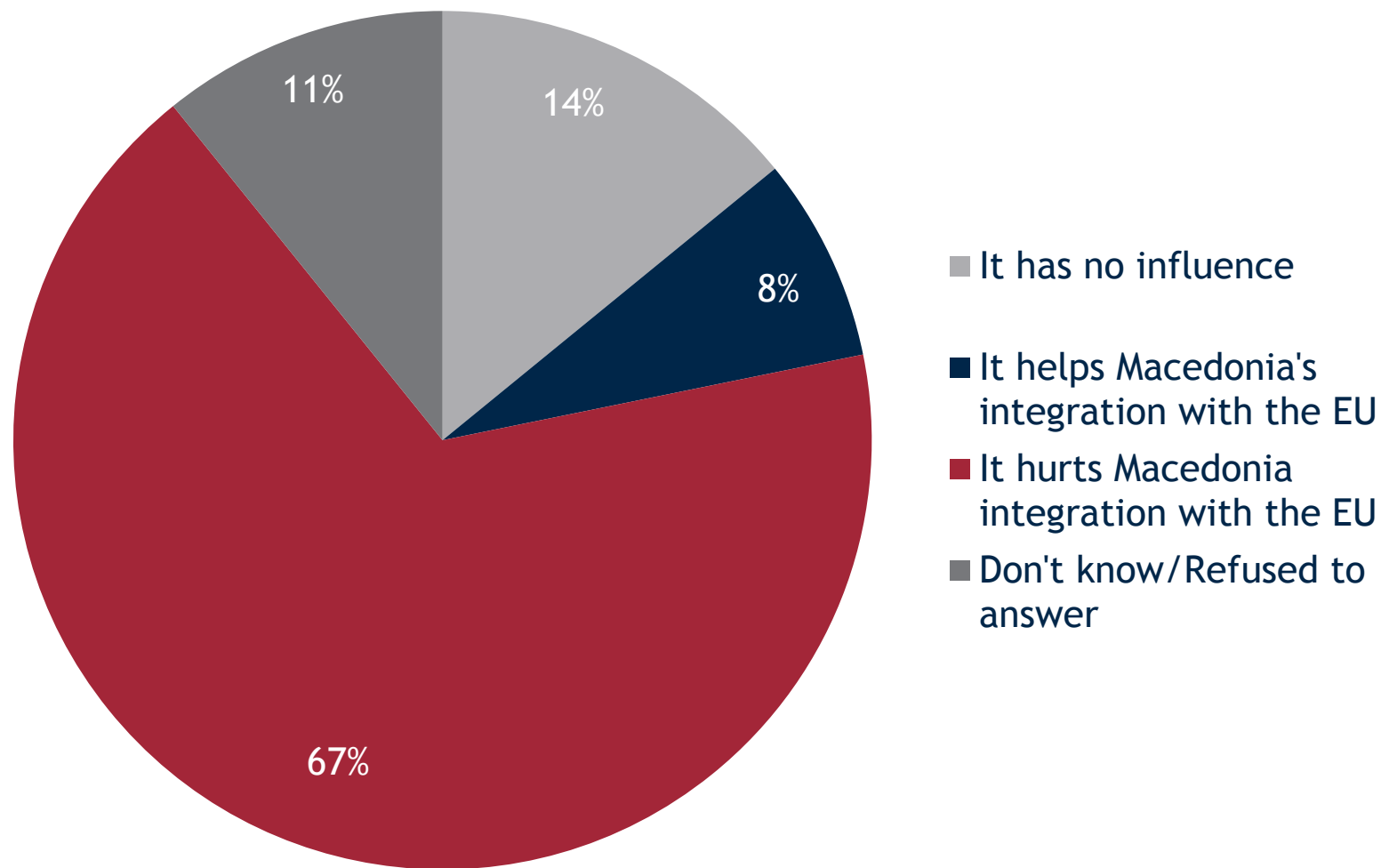
Why do you support Macedonia becoming a member of EU? (n=883)



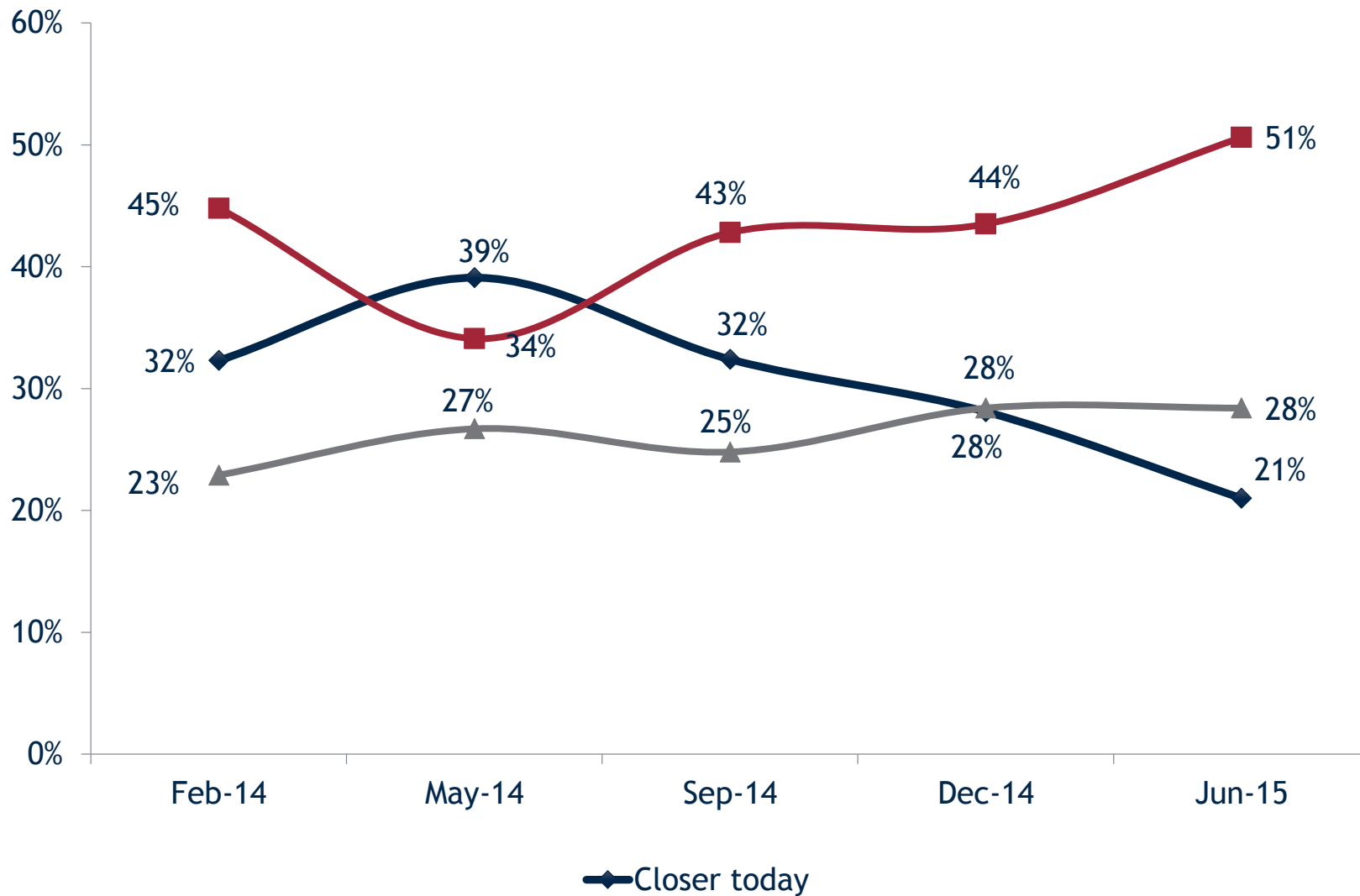
Why do you not support Macedonia becoming a member of EU? (n=159)



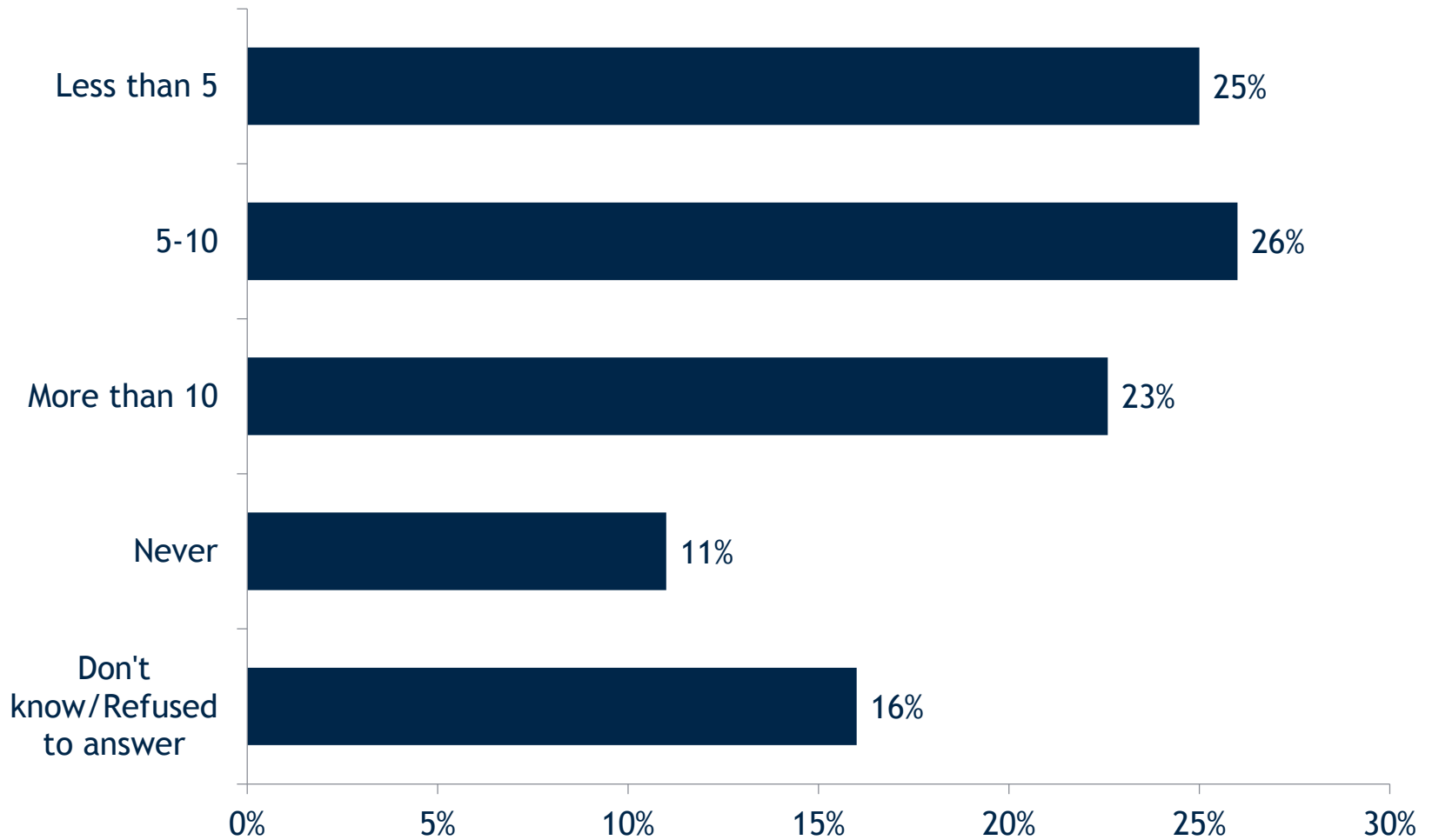
According to you, how does the current political crisis affect Macedonia's integration into the EU?



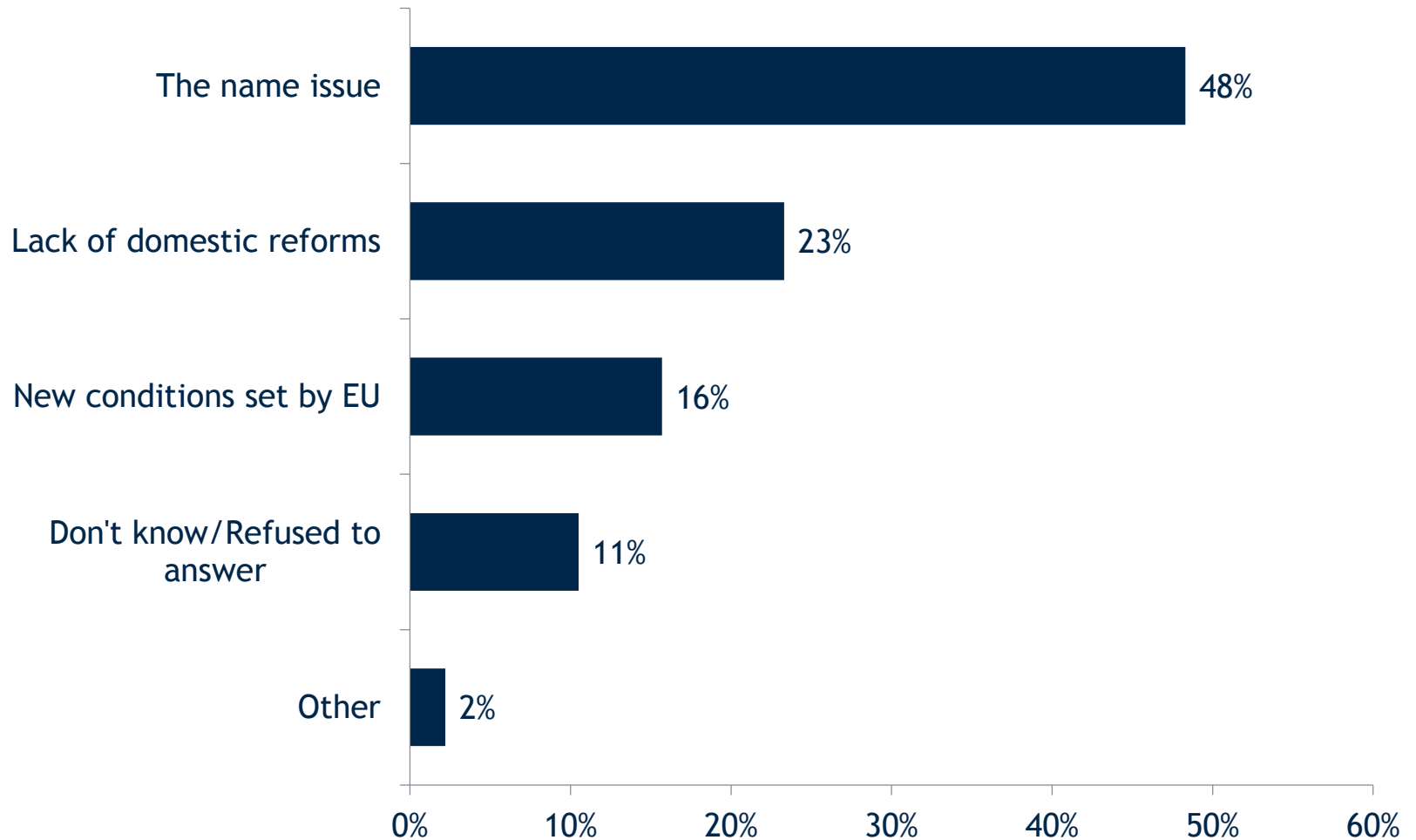
Do you think Macedonia is closer to EU entry today, or was it closer when it got its EU candidate member status?



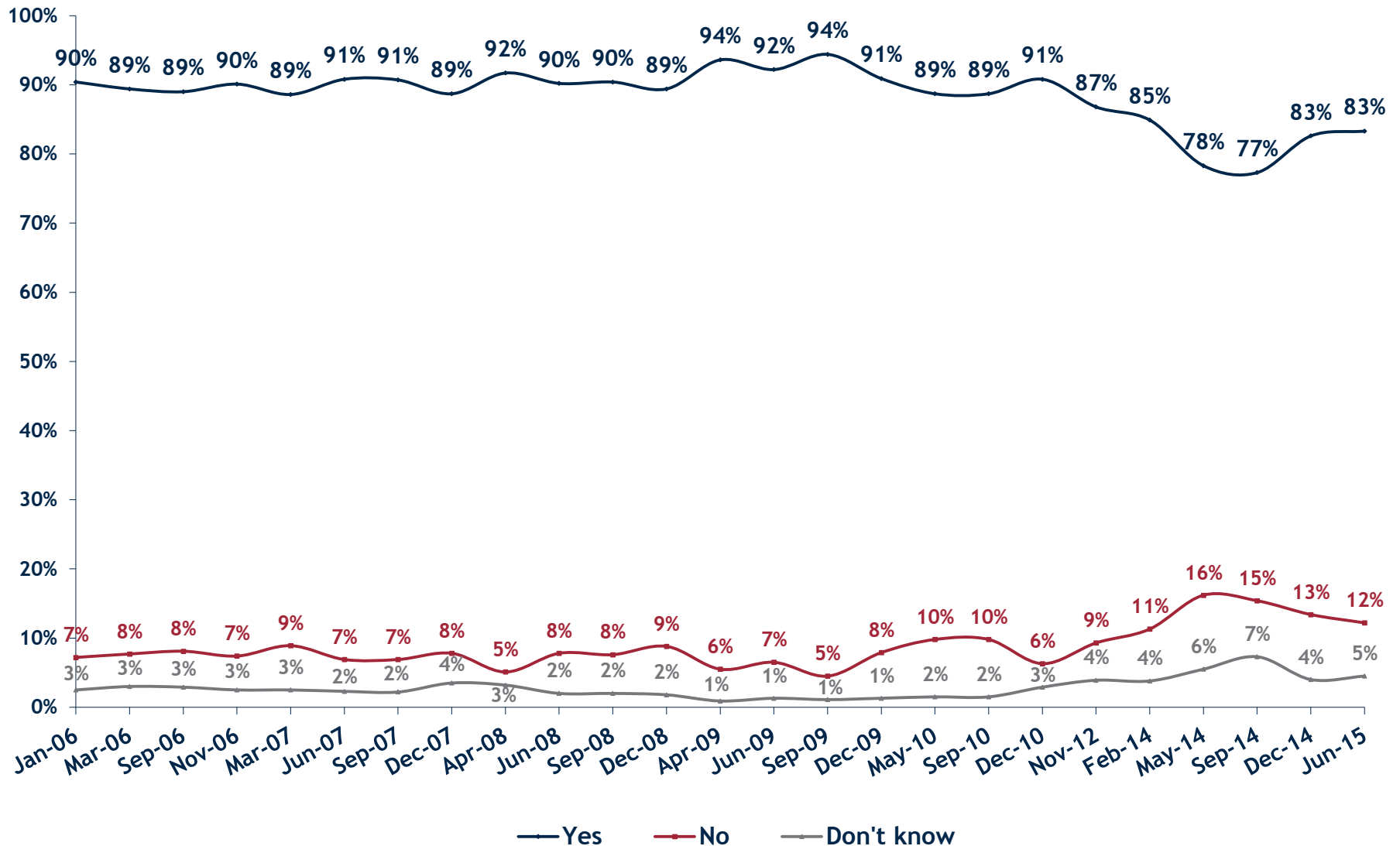
In how many years do you think Macedonia will become a member of the EU?



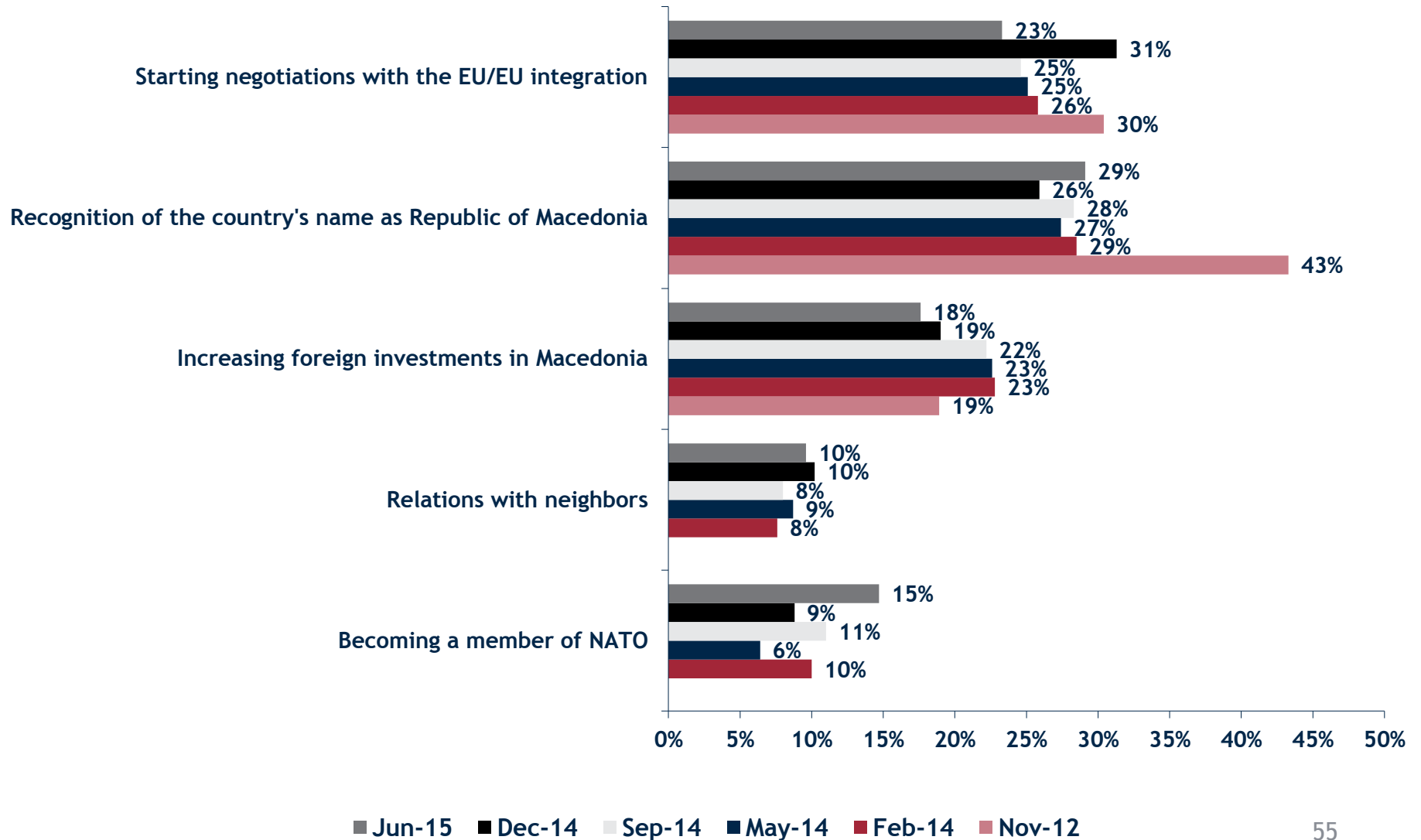
According to you, what is the reason for the slowdown in Macedonia's EU integration?



Do you support Macedonia becoming a member of NATO?



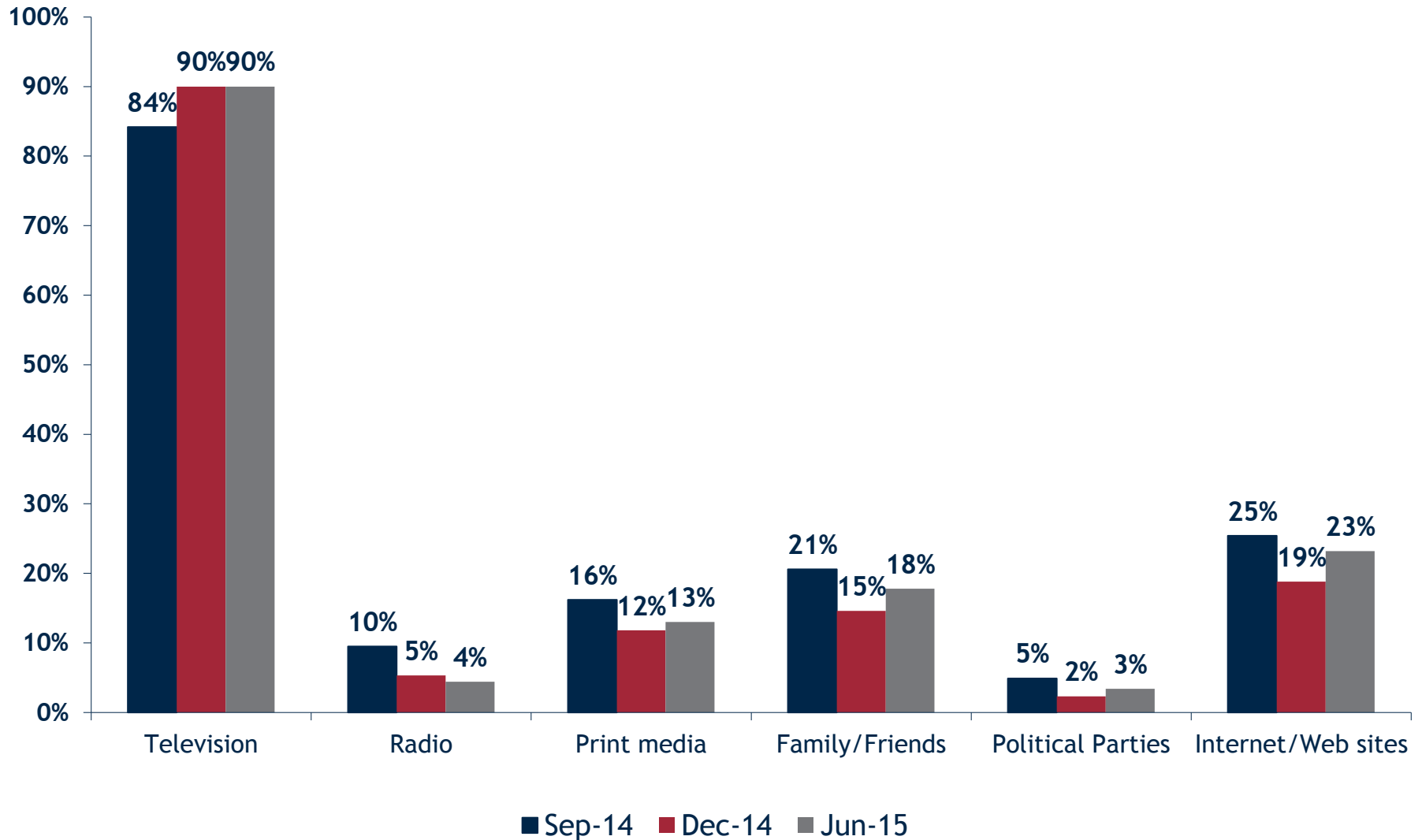
Which one of these would you say is the most important foreign policy issue facing Macedonia?



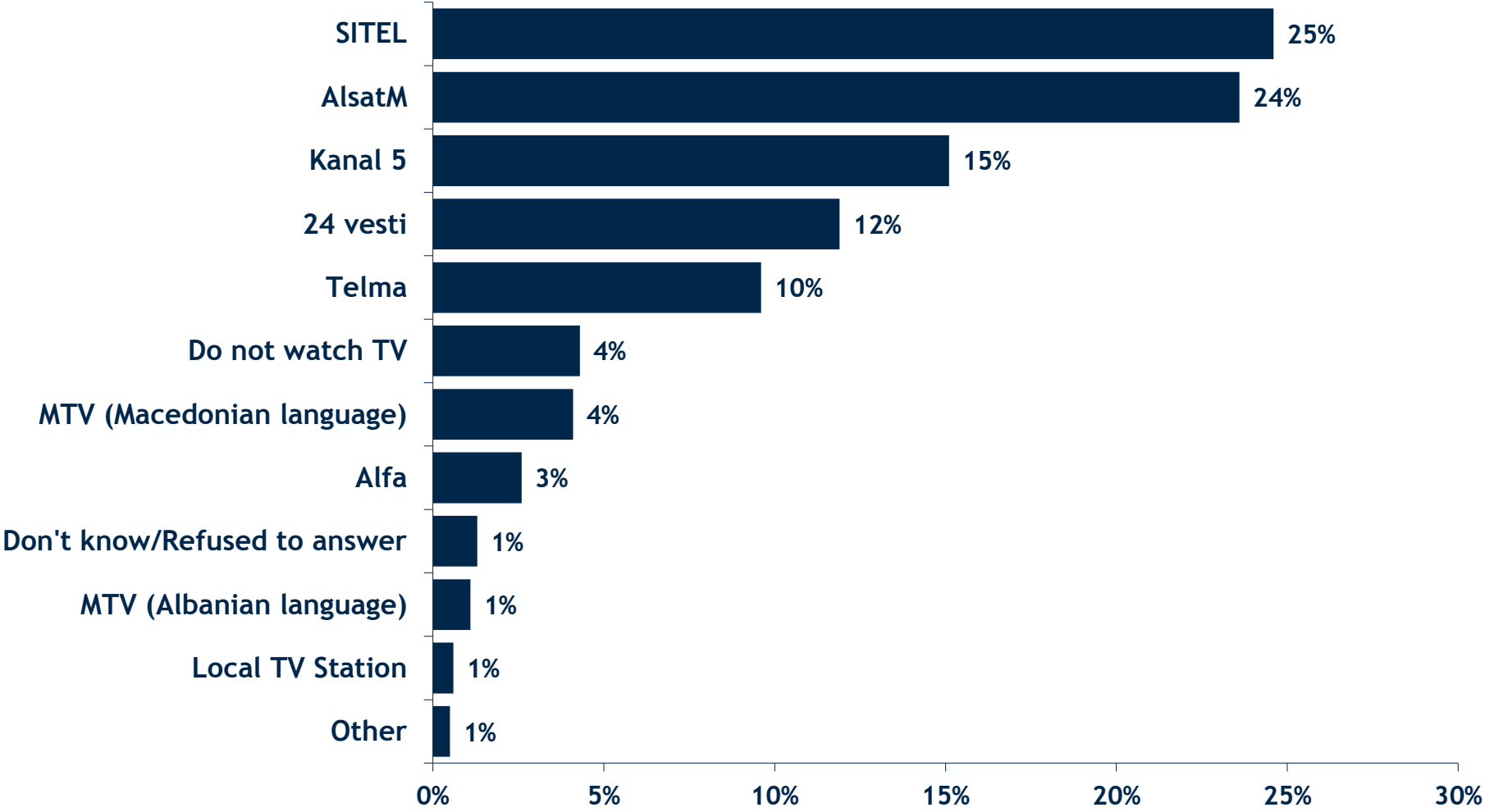


News and Information Sources

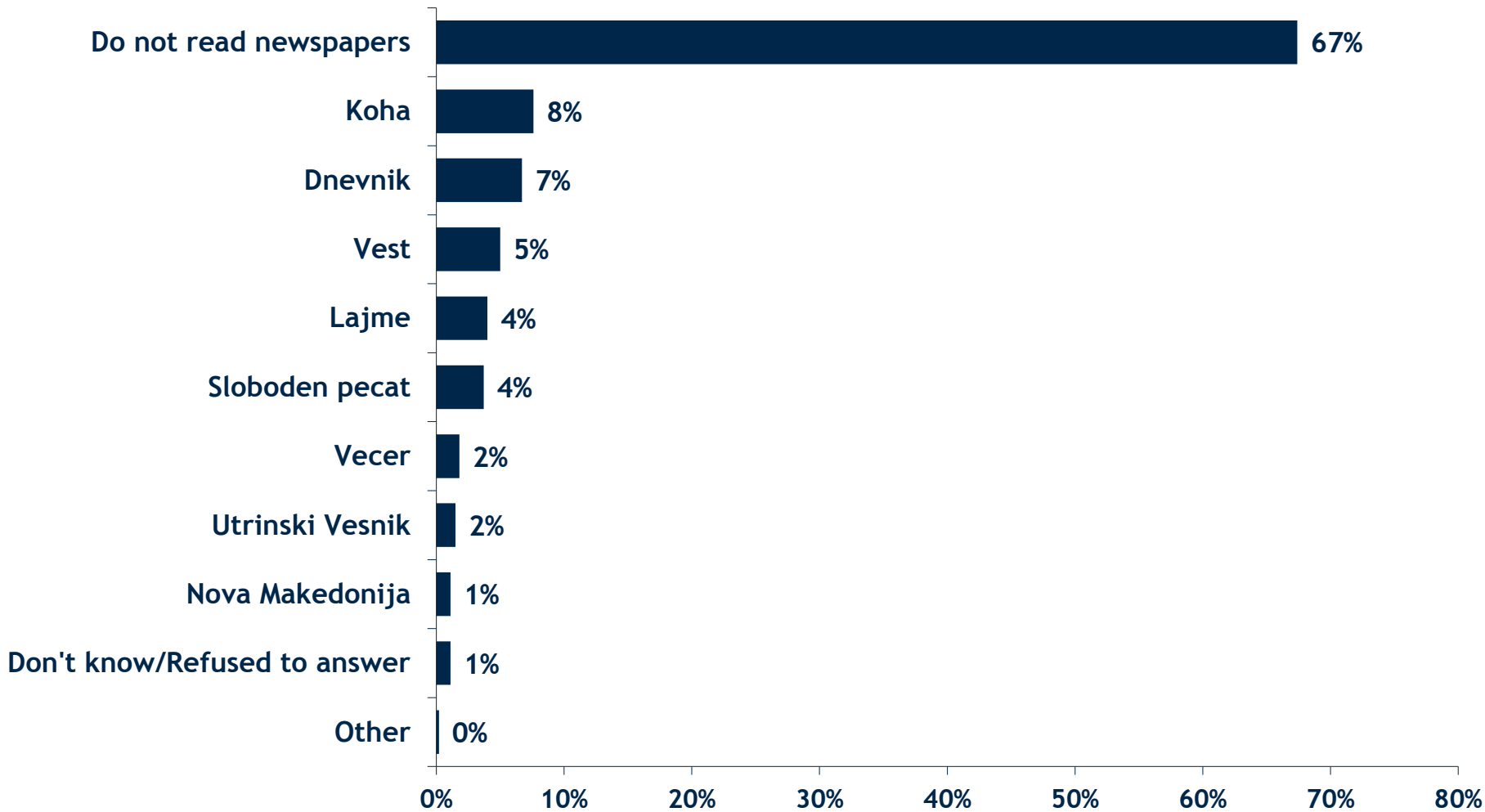
What is your primary source of political news? (Multiple response)



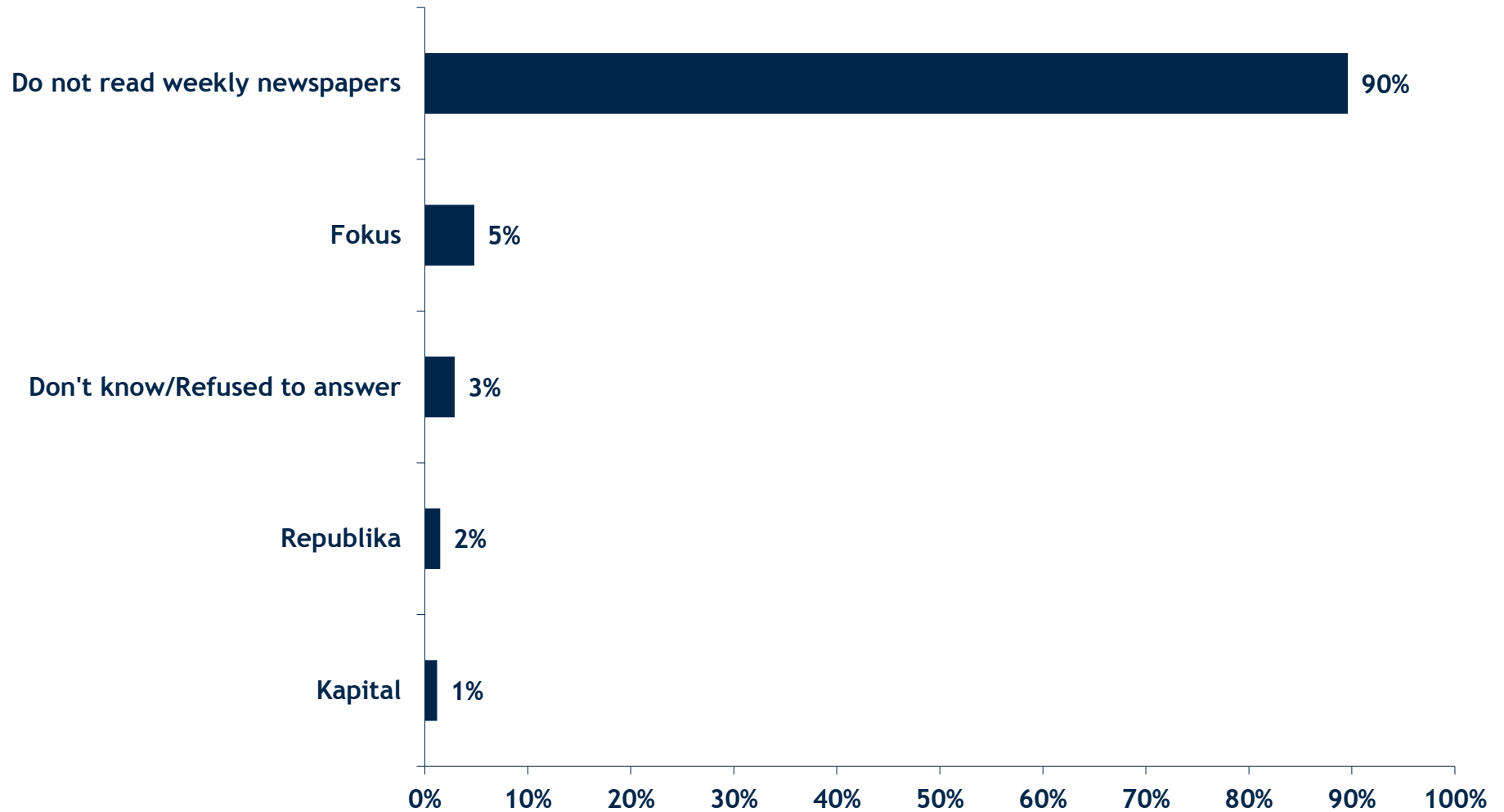
Which television station do you watch most often for political news?



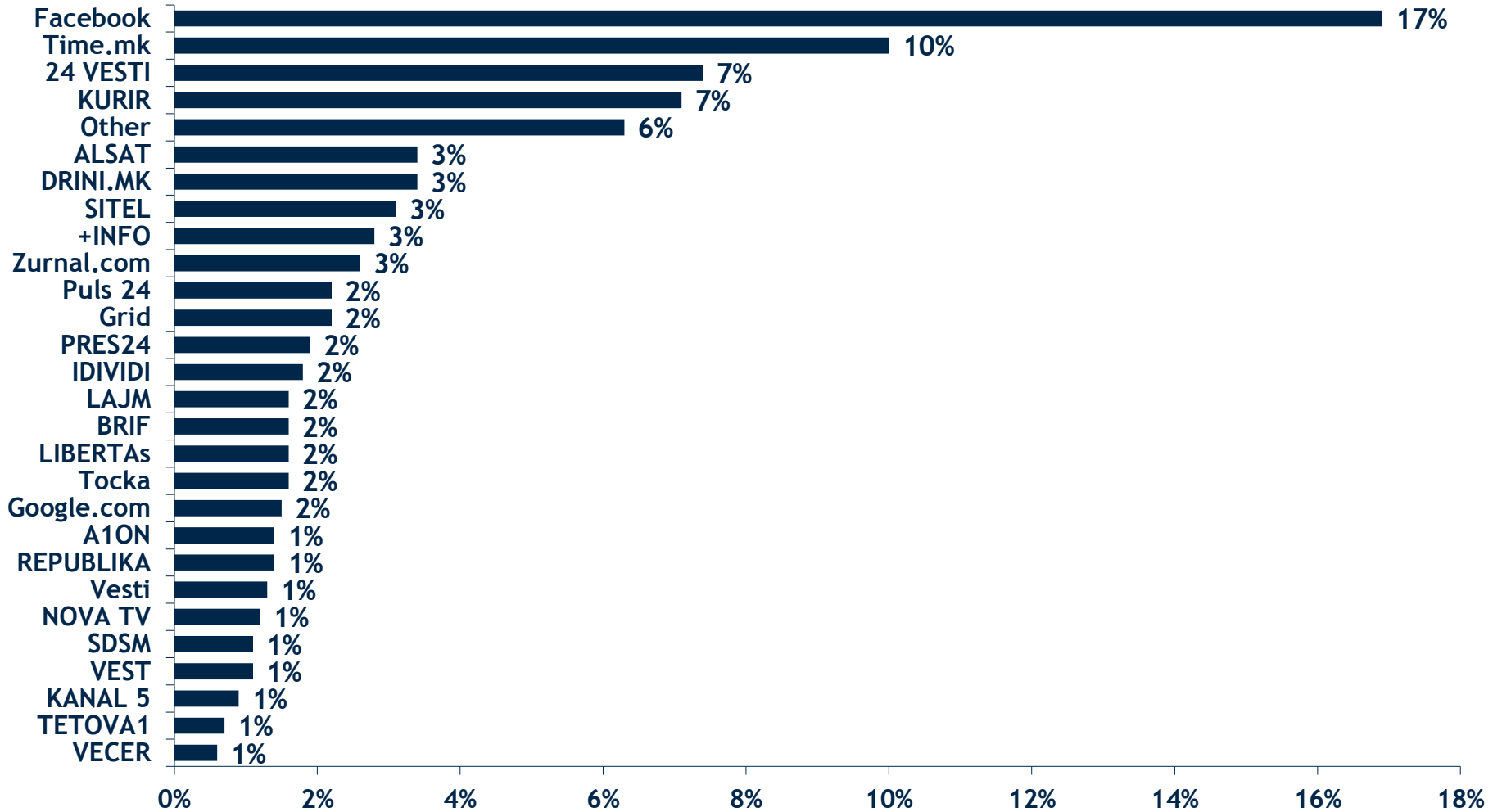
Which daily newspaper do you read most often for political news?

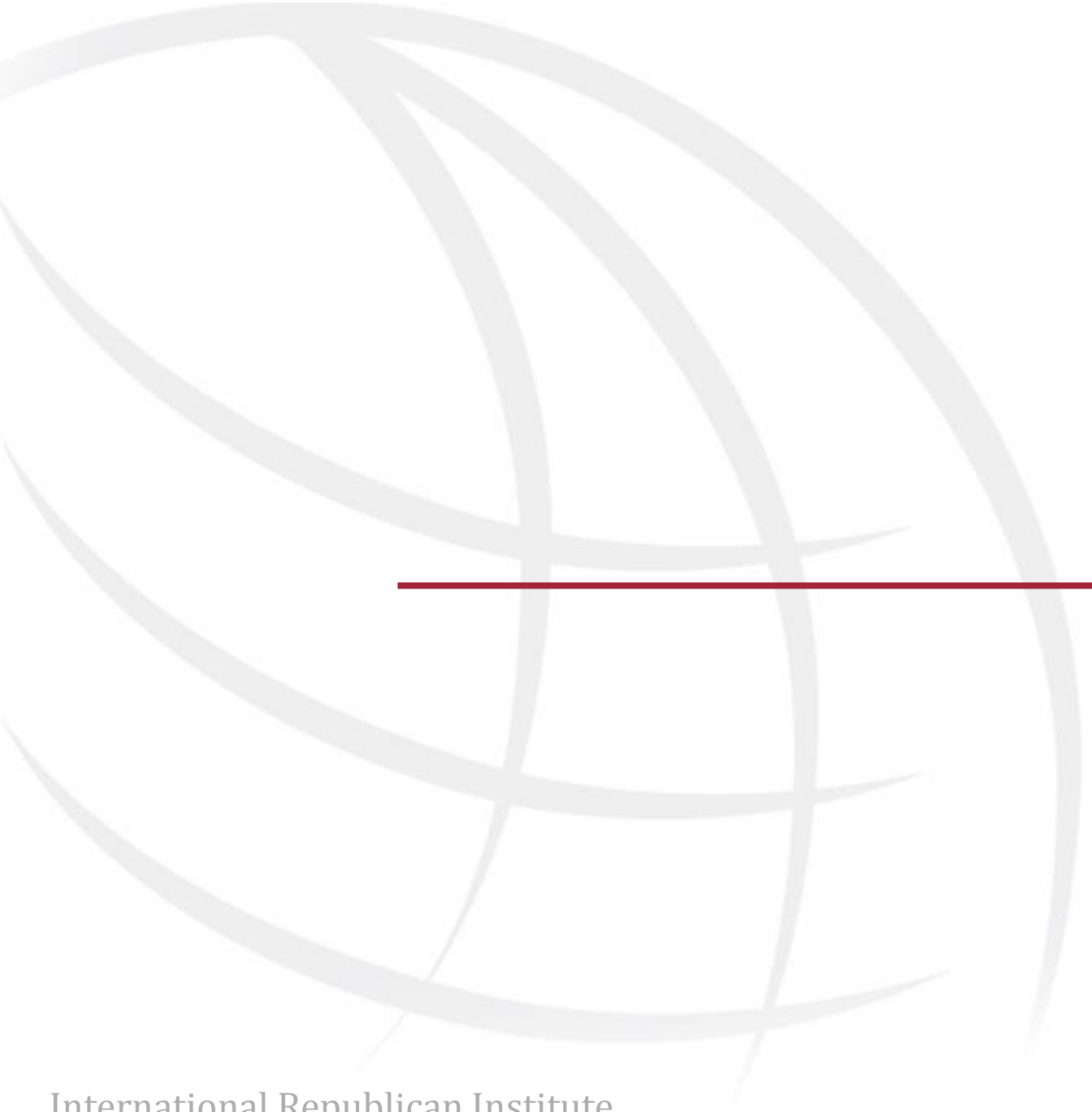


Which weekly newspaper do you read most often for political news?



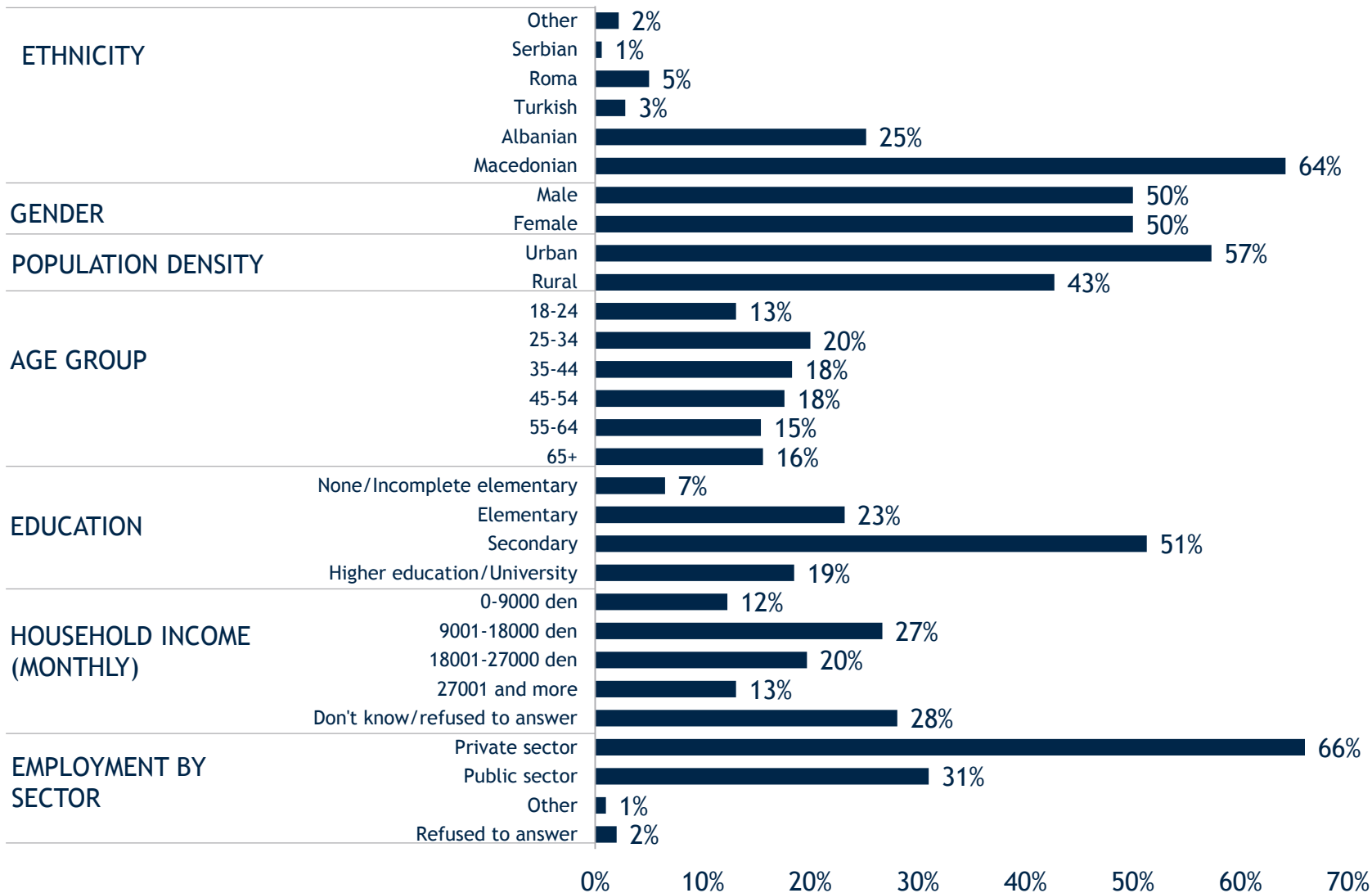
Which Internet news portal/website do you read most often for political news? (Open-ended; Spontaneous First Mention; n=272)





Demographics

Demographics



International Republican Institute
(202) 408-9450 | info@iri.org
www.IRI.org | @IRIGlobal

