



# Public Opinion Poll: Latvia

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January 10 - February 2, 2020



# Detailed Methodology

- The survey was conducted on behalf of the [International Republican Institute's Center for Insights in Survey Research](#) by [Norstat Eesti AS](#).
- Data was collected between January 10 and February 2, 2020 through face-to-face interviews at respondents' homes.
- The sample comprised of 1,010 residents of Latvia, aged 18 and older. The sample is representative of the adult population of Latvia by NUTS-3 region (Statistikie reģioni/regions) and urbanicity in accordance with the 2011 Census of Latvia.
- The survey's response rate was 52 percent. The margin of error for the full sample is  $\pm 3.1$  points at the 95 percent confidence level.
- A multistage probability sampling method was used, employing a random route method for household selection and the Kish grid for respondent selection.
  - Stage 1: PPS stratification across six NUTS-3 regions.
  - Stage 2: PPS stratification by urbanicity.
  - Stage 3: Random allocation of primary sampling units across settlements.
- The sample is weighted for region, urbanicity, gender, age, nationality, and educational attainment level based on the results of the 2011 Census.
- Interviews were conducted in Latvian and Russian.
- Charts and graphs may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.
- Cited bases are weighted.

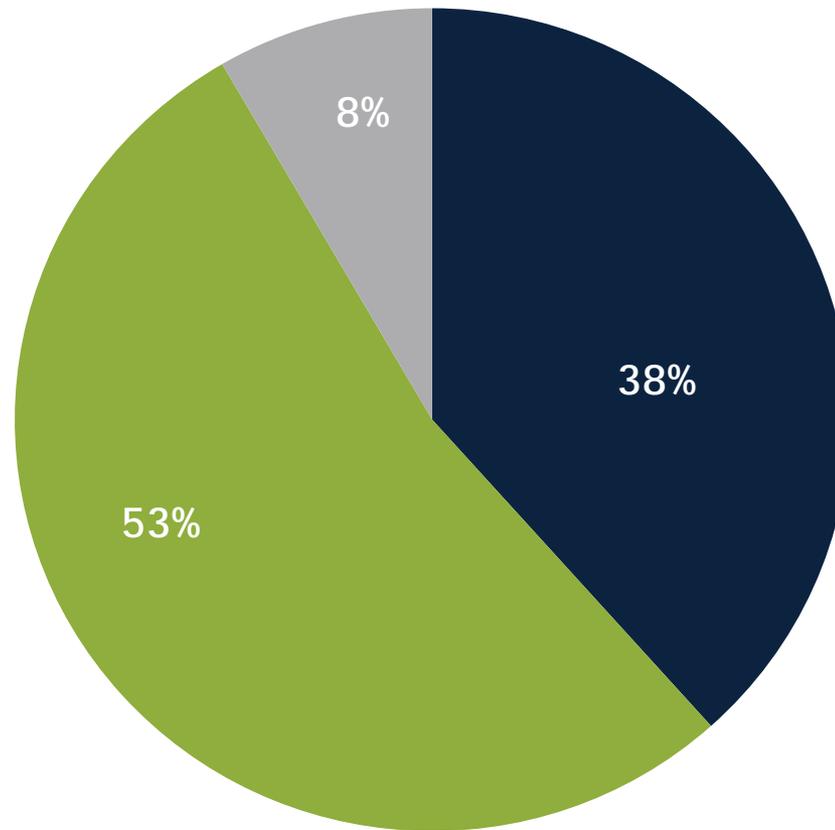


# Opinions of the National and Regional Context

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In general, would you say that Latvia is headed in the right direction or in the wrong direction?

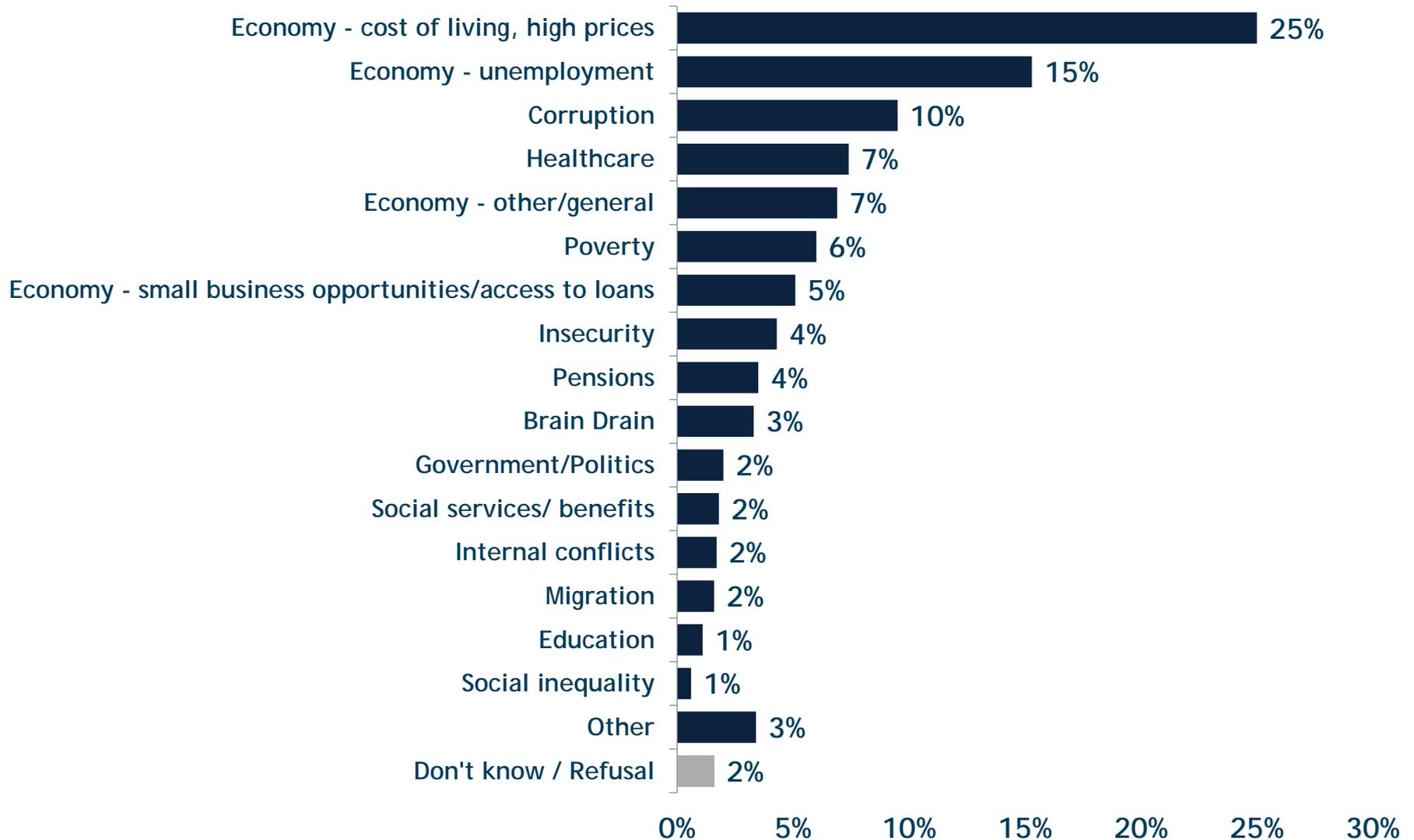


■ In the right direction

■ In the wrong direction

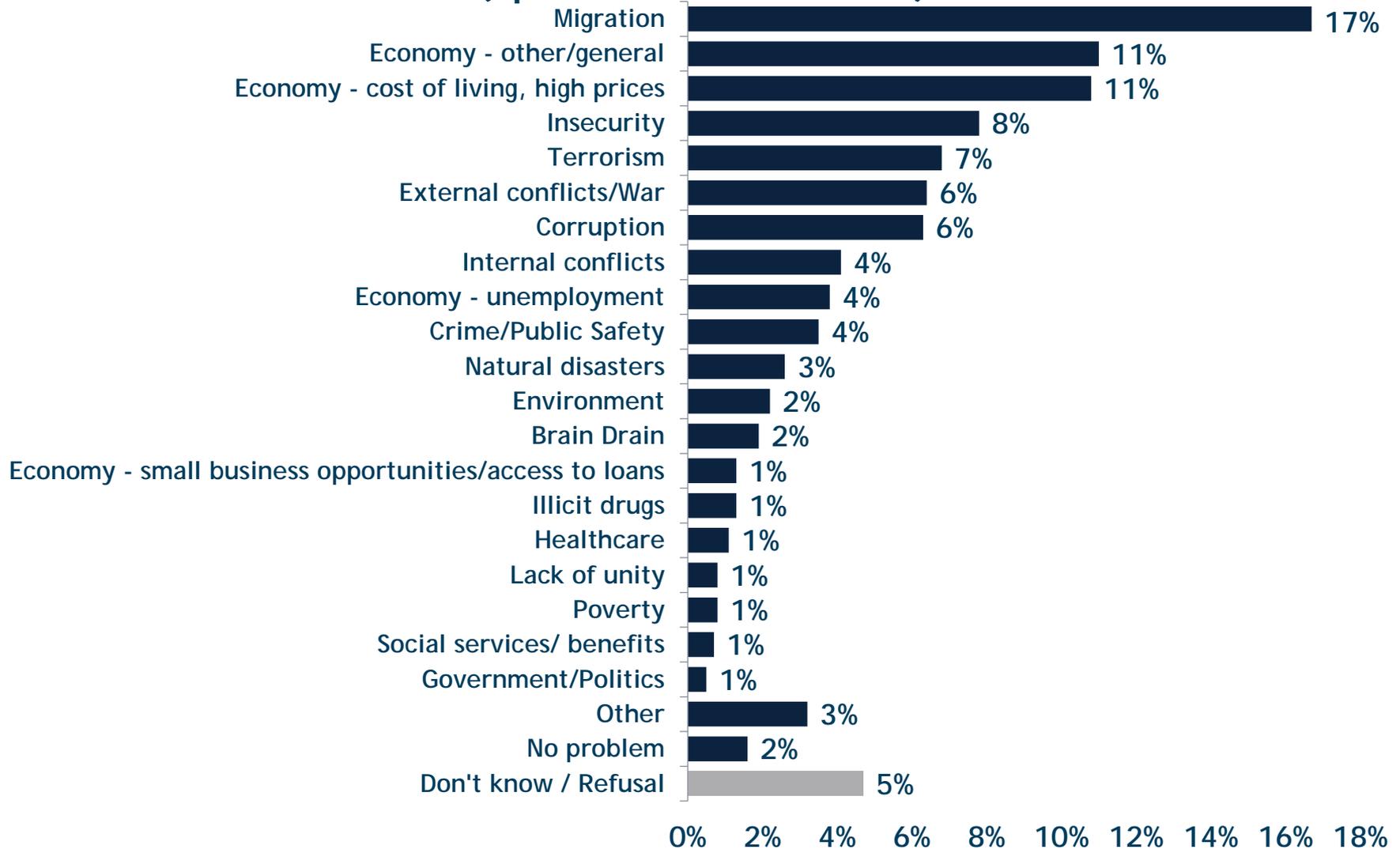
■ Don't know/Refused to answer

# What is the most important problem facing our country today? (Spontaneous answers)



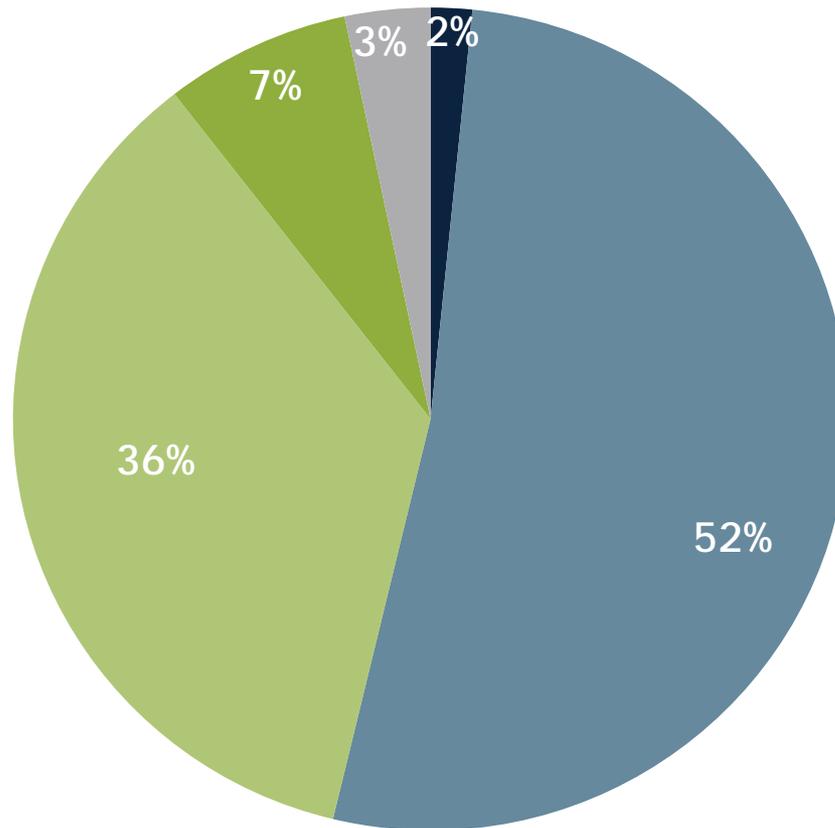
\*Responses receiving less than 1% are collapsed into *Other*.

# How about at the European level? What is the biggest single problem facing Europe today, the one that you are most concerned about? (Spontaneous answers)



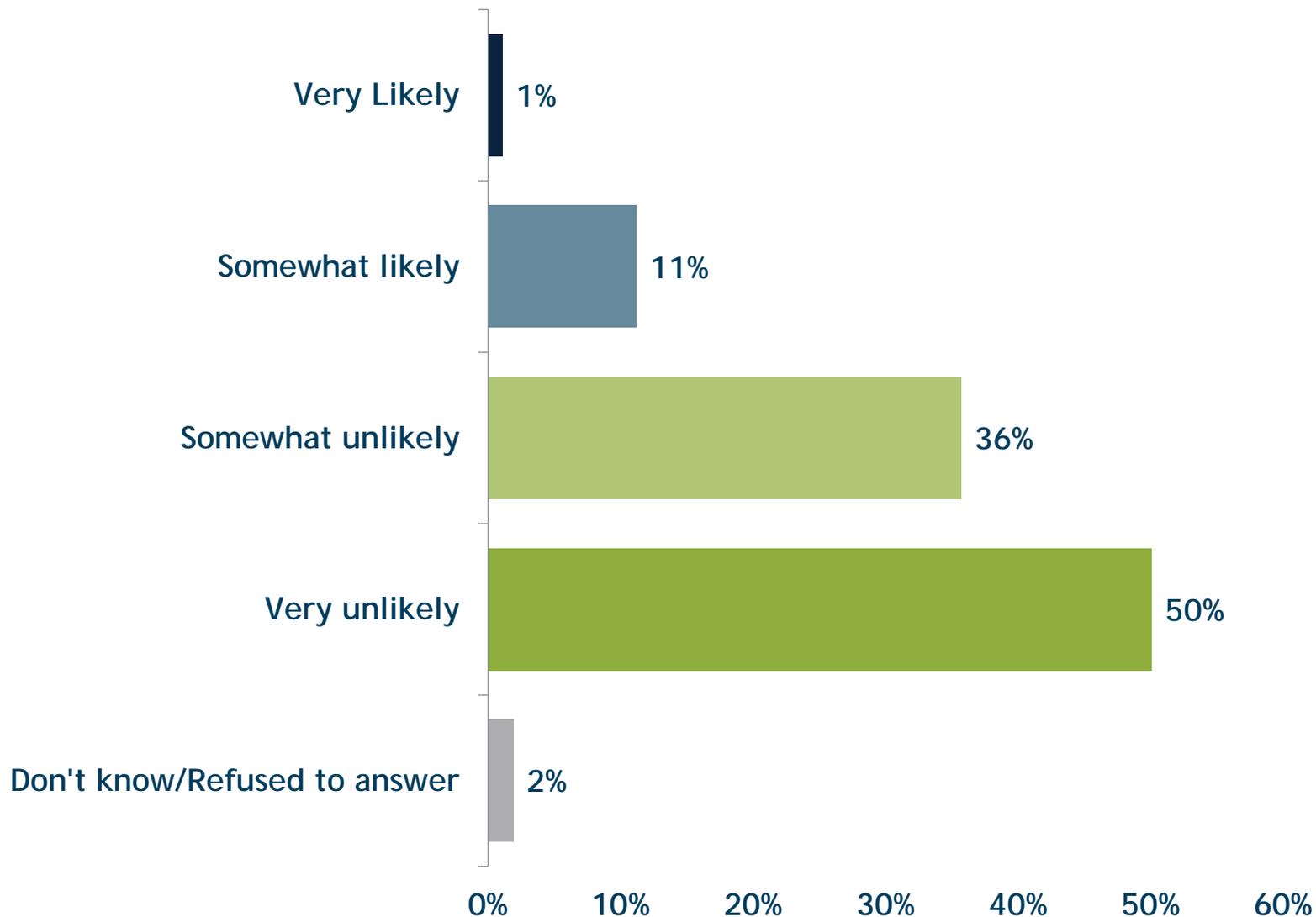
\*Responses receiving less than 1% are collapsed into *Other*.

# How would you describe the current economic situation of your household?

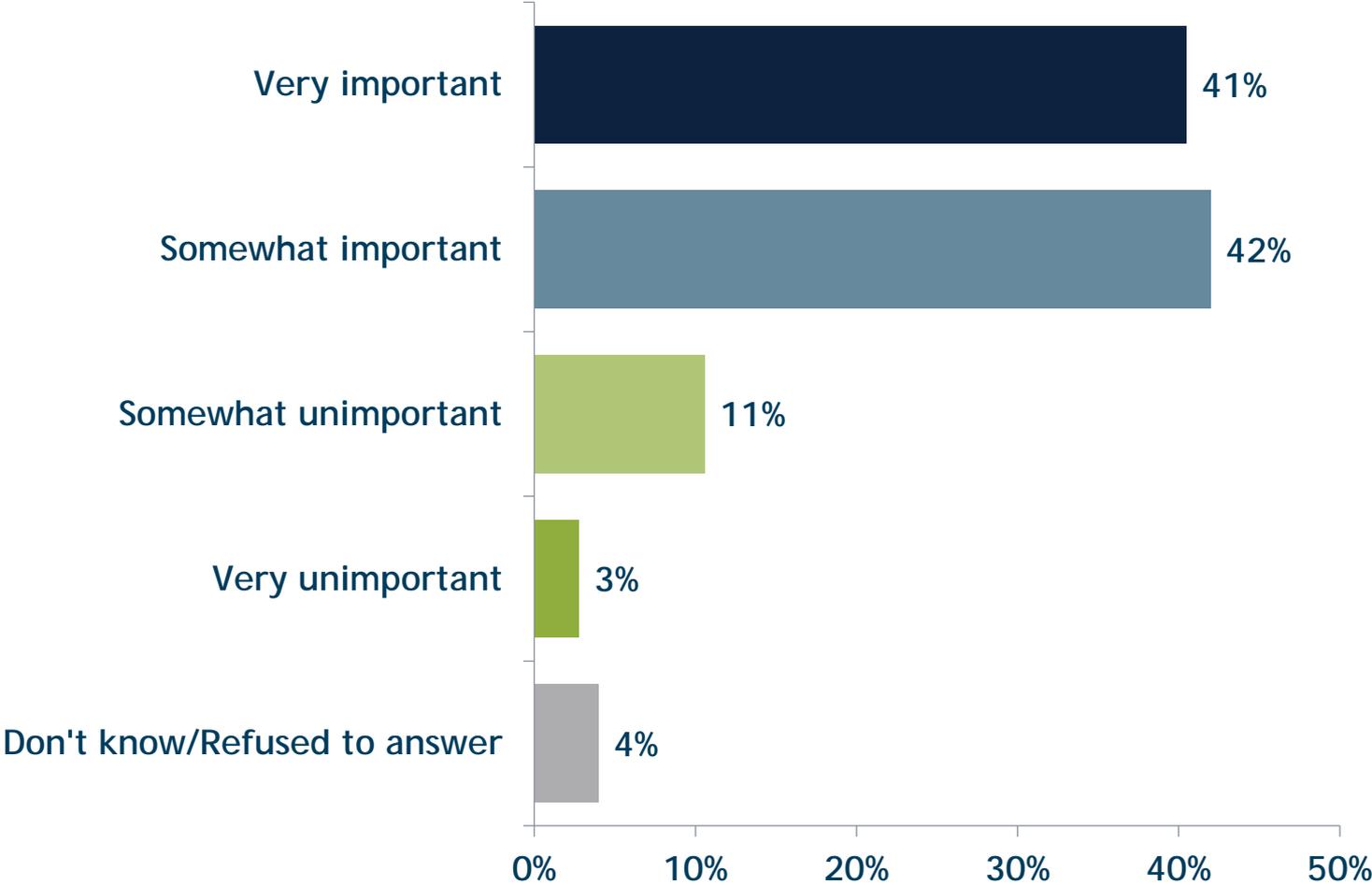


■ Very Good   ■ Somewhat good   ■ Somewhat bad   ■ Very bad   ■ Don't know/Refused to answer

# How likely or unlikely are ordinary people able to influence decisions made in Latvia?

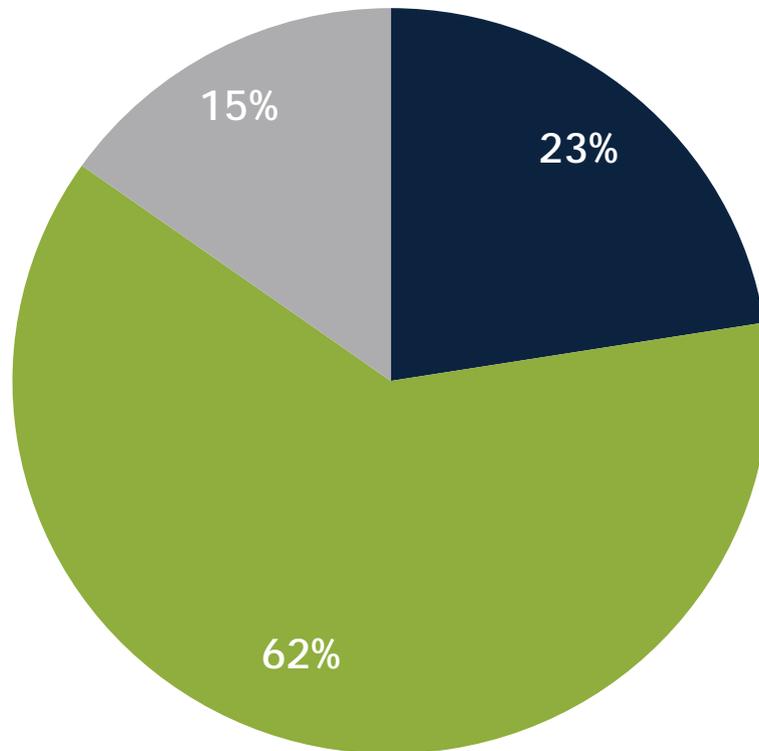


# How important or unimportant is it that all members of our country's adult population, including women, young adults, minorities, and people with disabilities, are included in political decision-making?

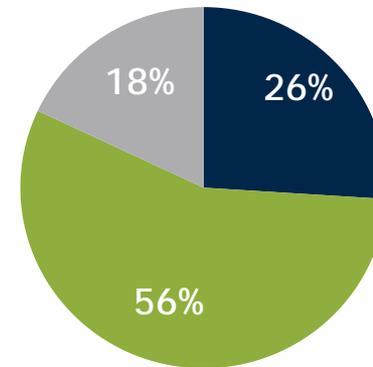


# Do you think that today's generation of young people has a good future in Latvia or not?

Total population

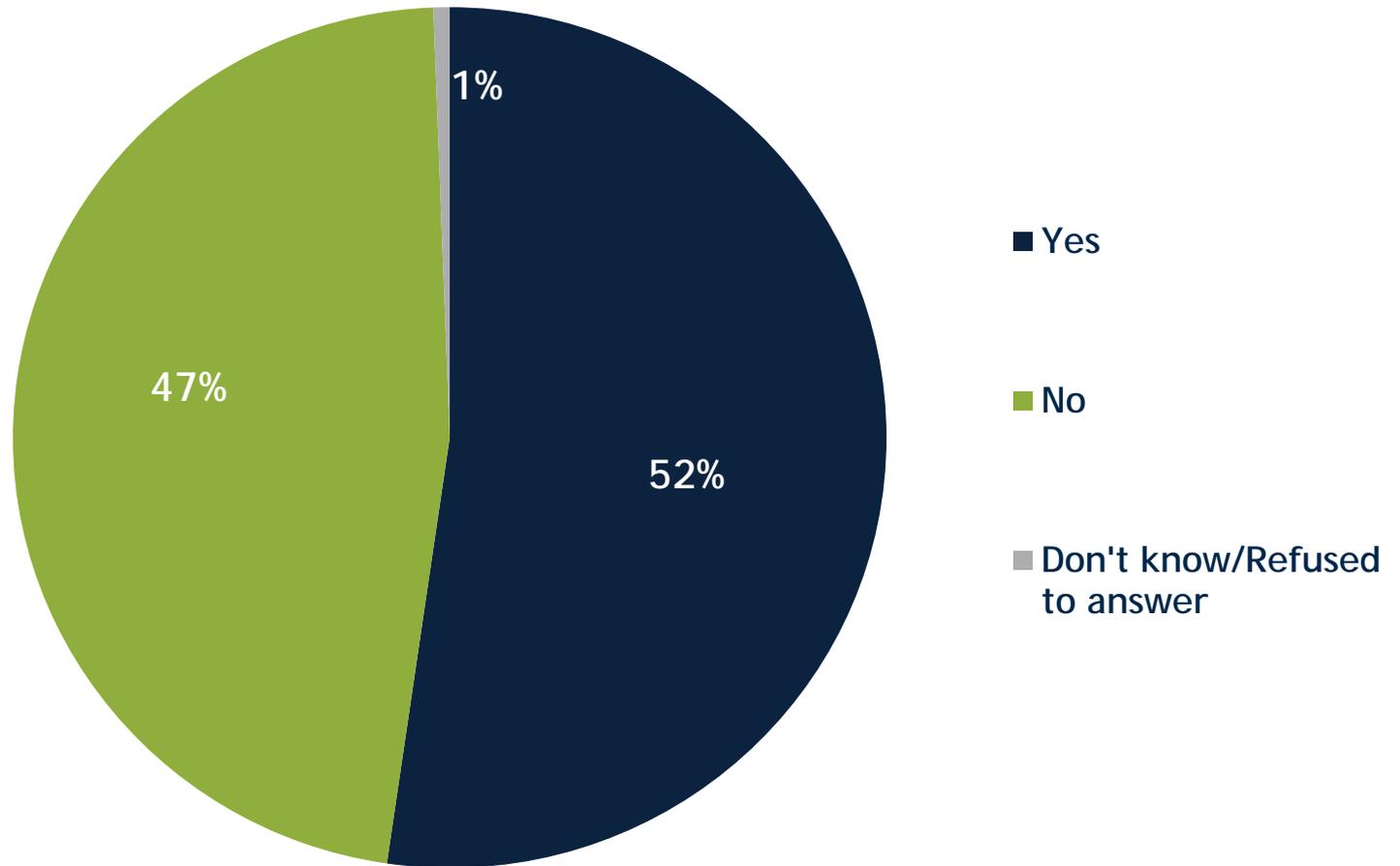


Young people (18-29)  
Base: n=215



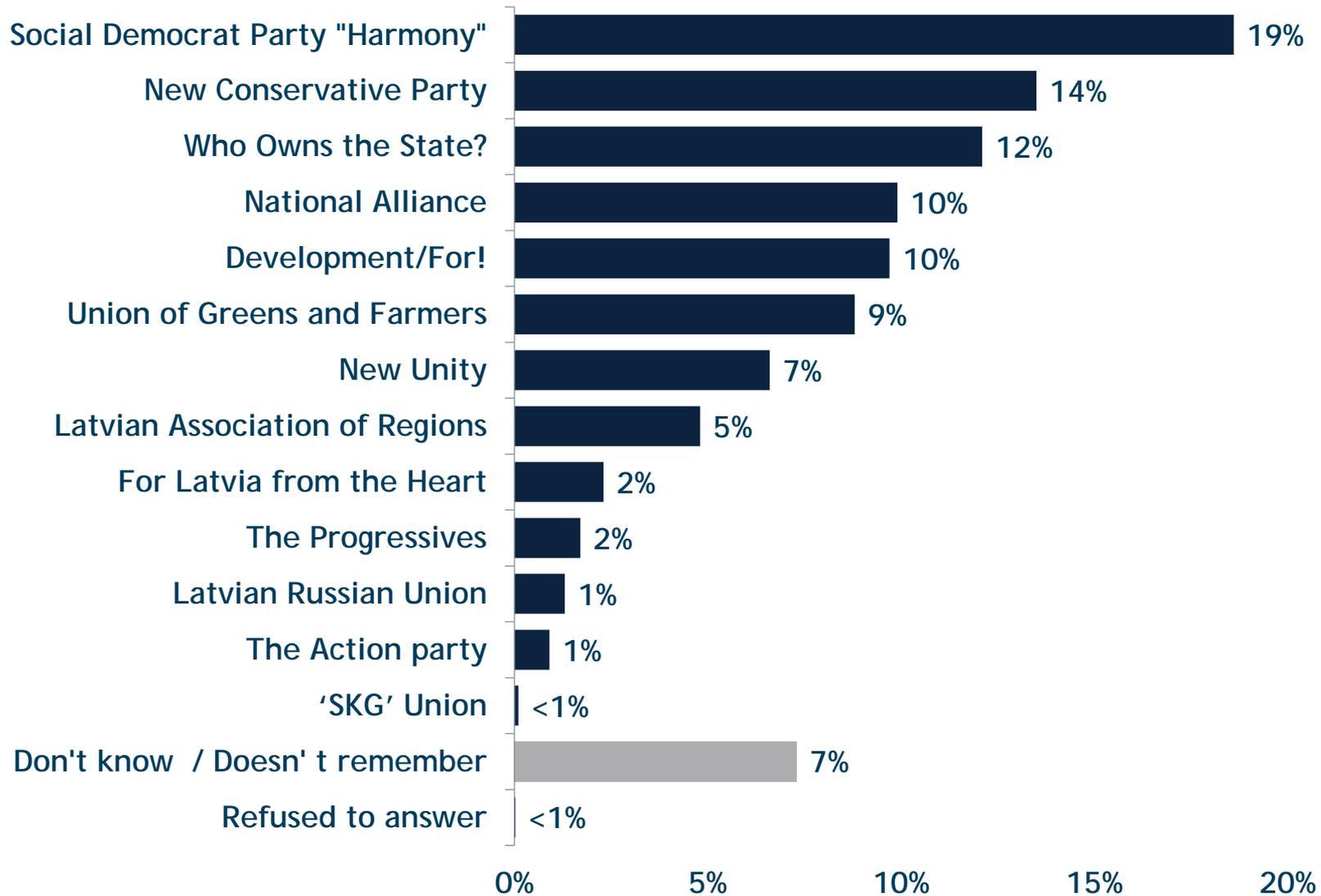
- Yes
- No
- Don't know/Refused to answer

# Did you vote in the Latvian parliamentary elections in 2018?

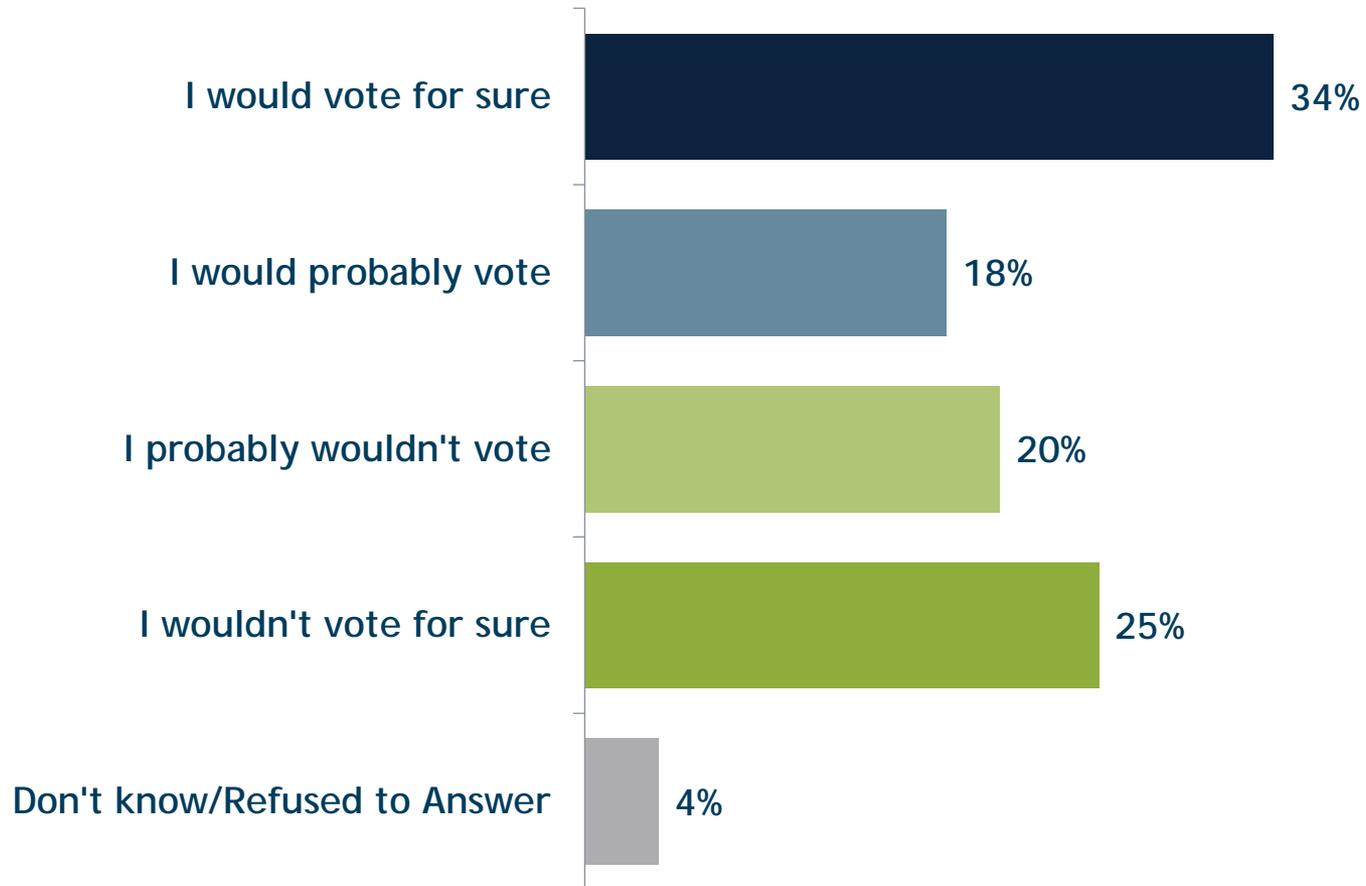


# For which party did you vote?

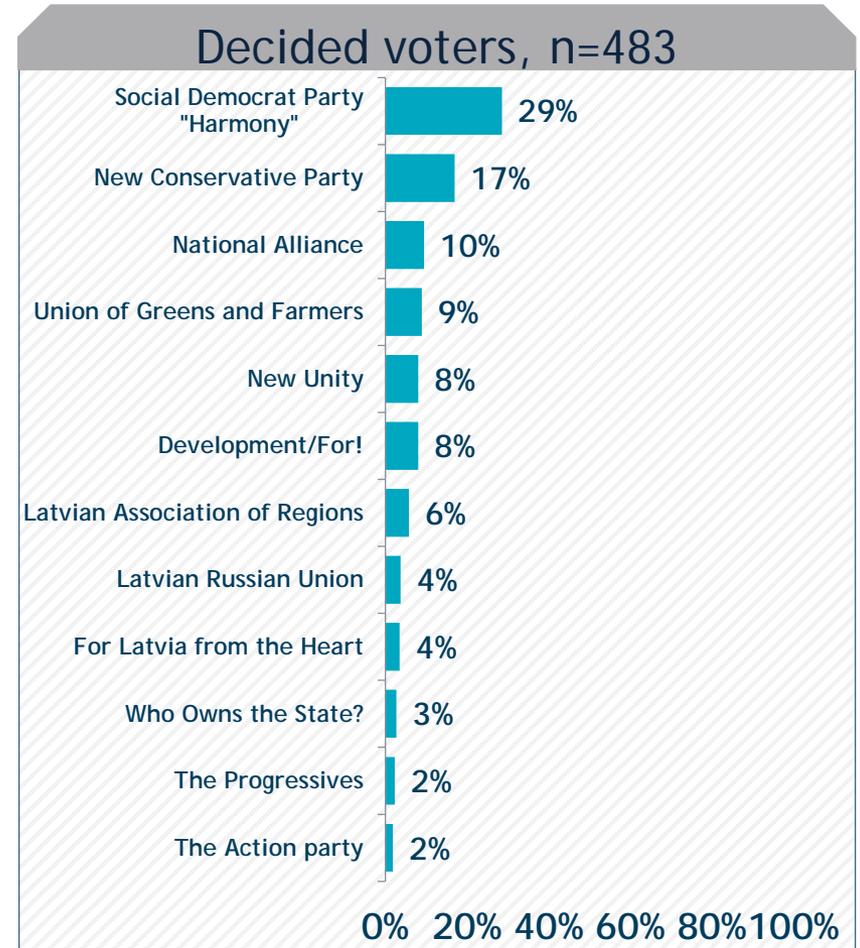
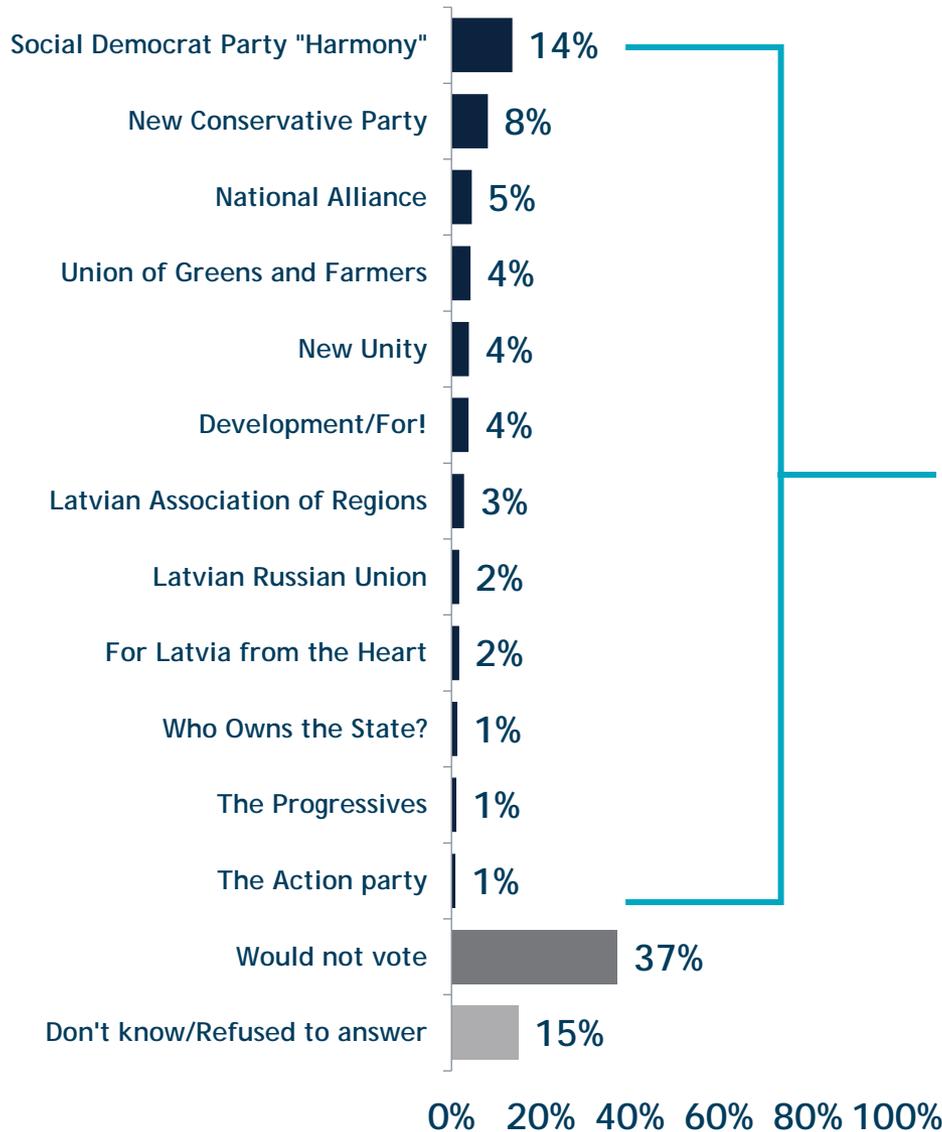
(Respondents who voted in 2018 parliamentary election, n=528)



# If parliamentary elections were held this Sunday, how likely would you be to vote in this election?



# If the following parties/coalitions would run candidates in these elections, for which party would you vote?

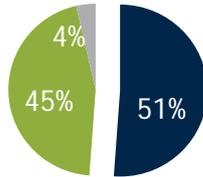


\*Decided voters are those who named a valid political party.

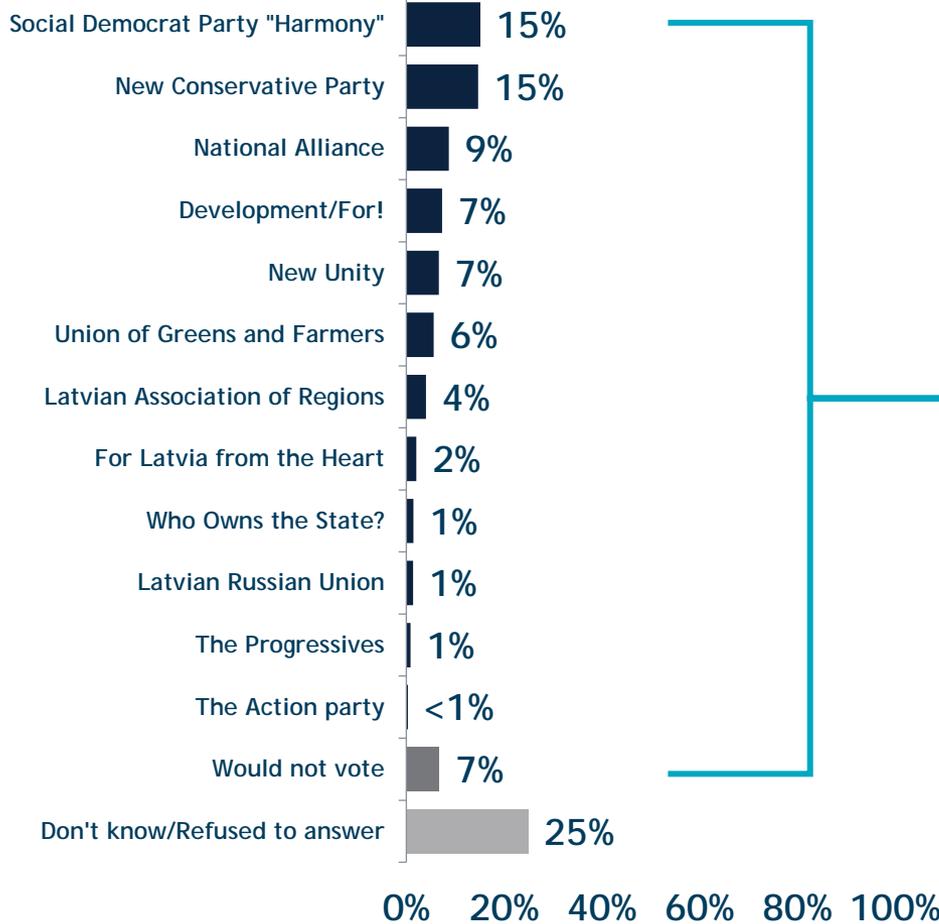
# If the following parties/coalitions would run candidates in these elections, for which party would you vote?

If parliamentary elections were held this Sunday, how likely would you be to vote in this election?

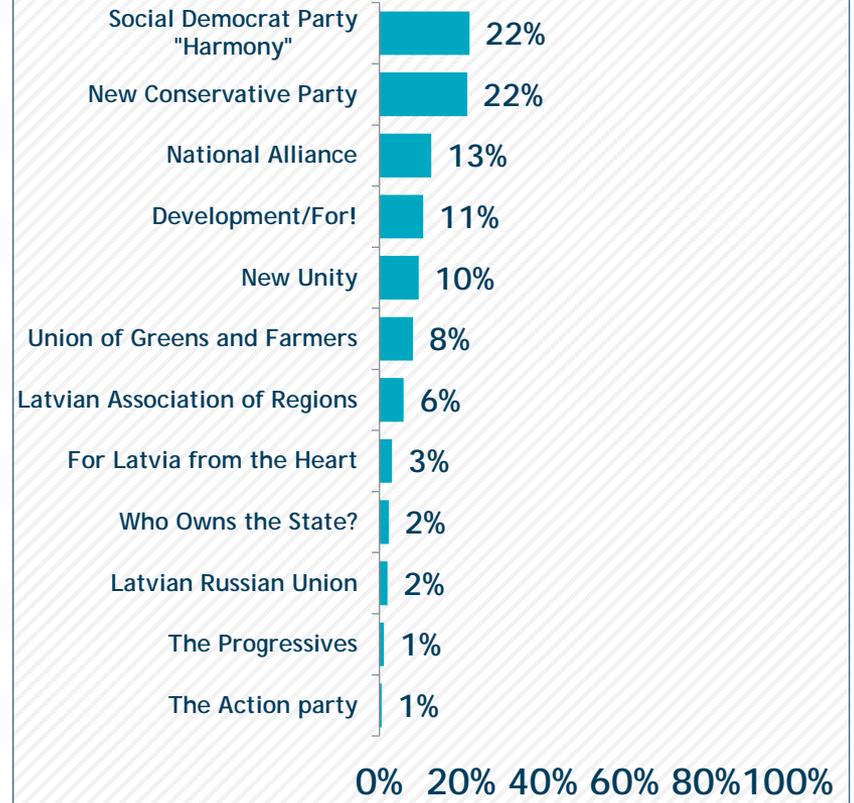
- I would/probably would vote
- I wouldn't/probably wouldn't vote
- Don't know/Refused to answer



## Likely voters, n=517

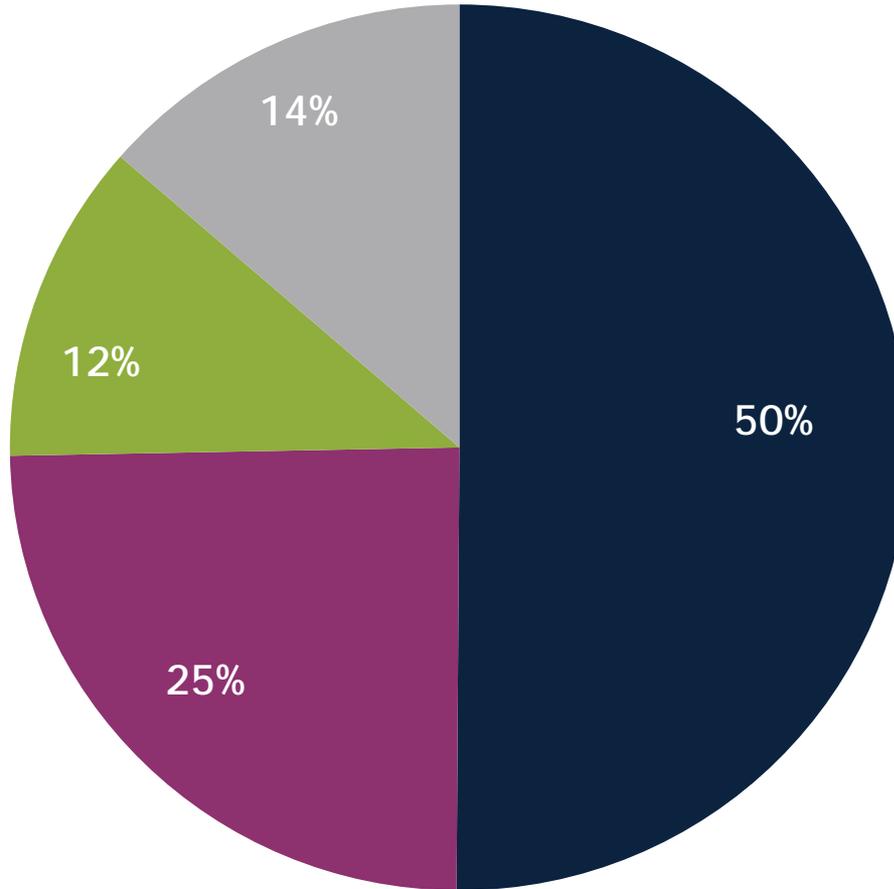


## Decided and likely voters, n=353



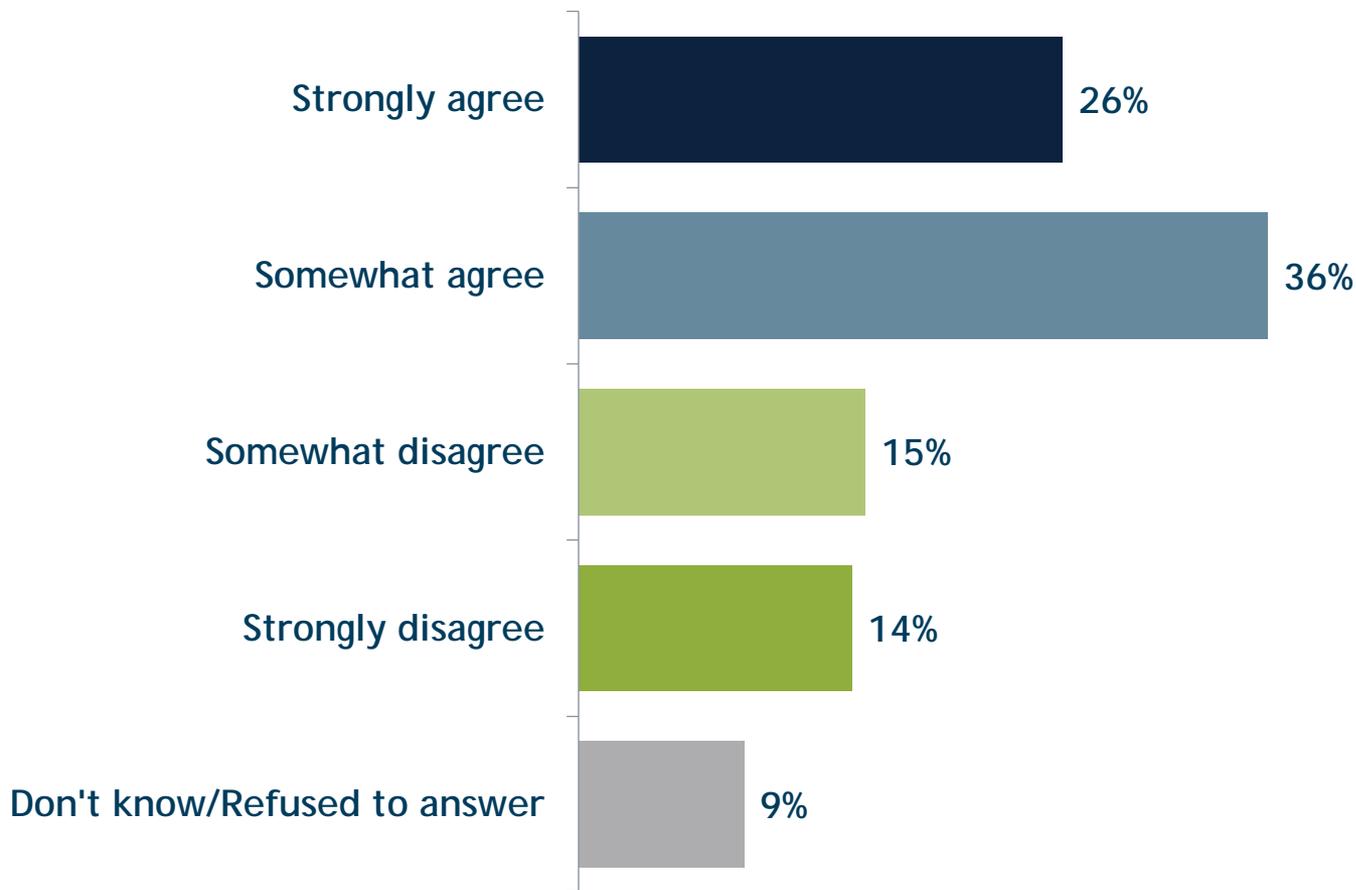
\*Decided and likely voters are those who *would* or *probably would* vote, and who also named a valid political party.

# Do you believe that democracy is the best possible form of government for Latvia or not?



- Yes, it is the best possible form of government for our country.
- No, there are other forms of government that could be equally good for our country.
- No, there are other forms of government that are better than democracy.
- Don't know/Refused to answer

Some people argue that the party choices in our country's politics are too limited and that new political forces should provide other alternatives in future elections. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?



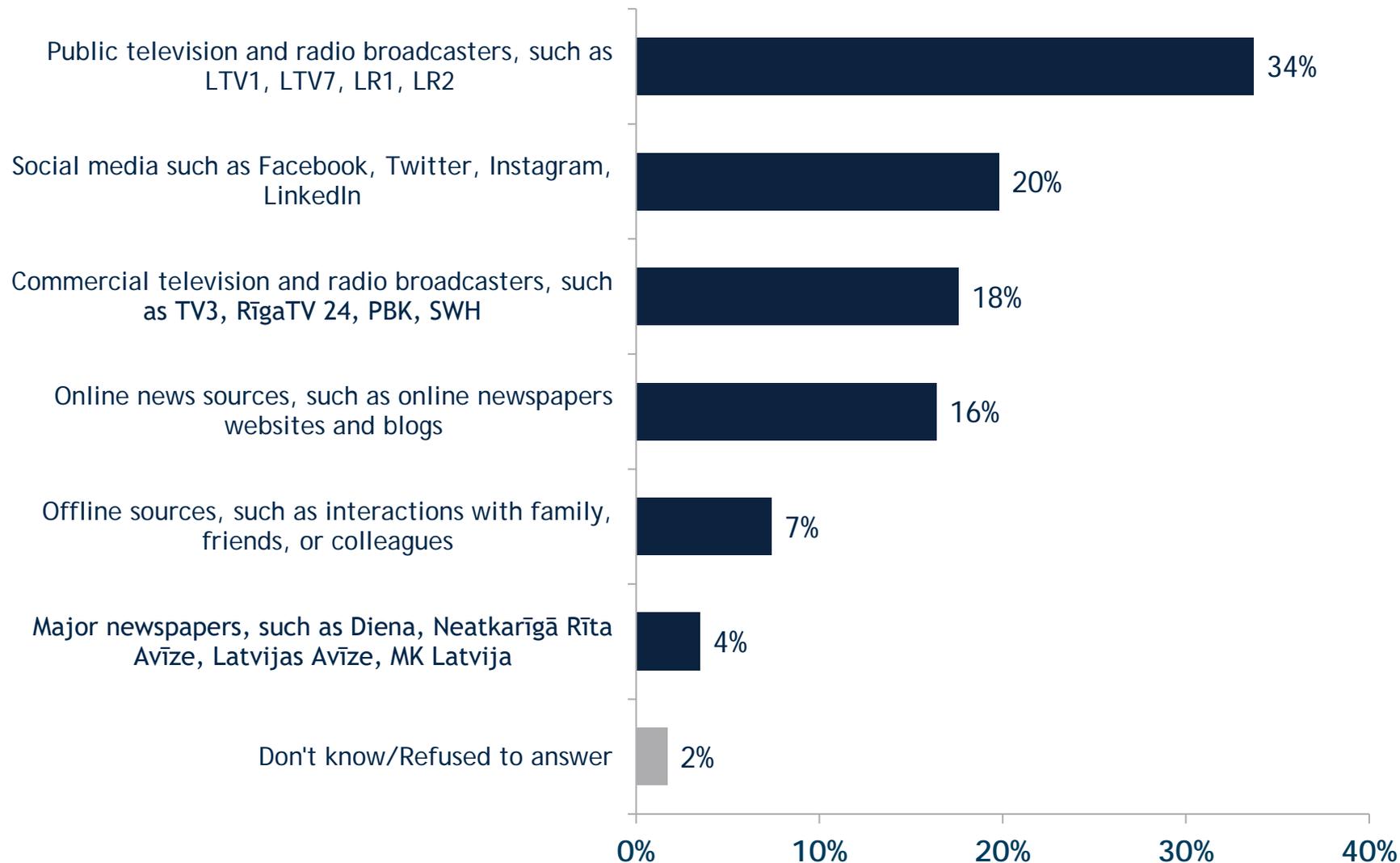


# Media Preferences

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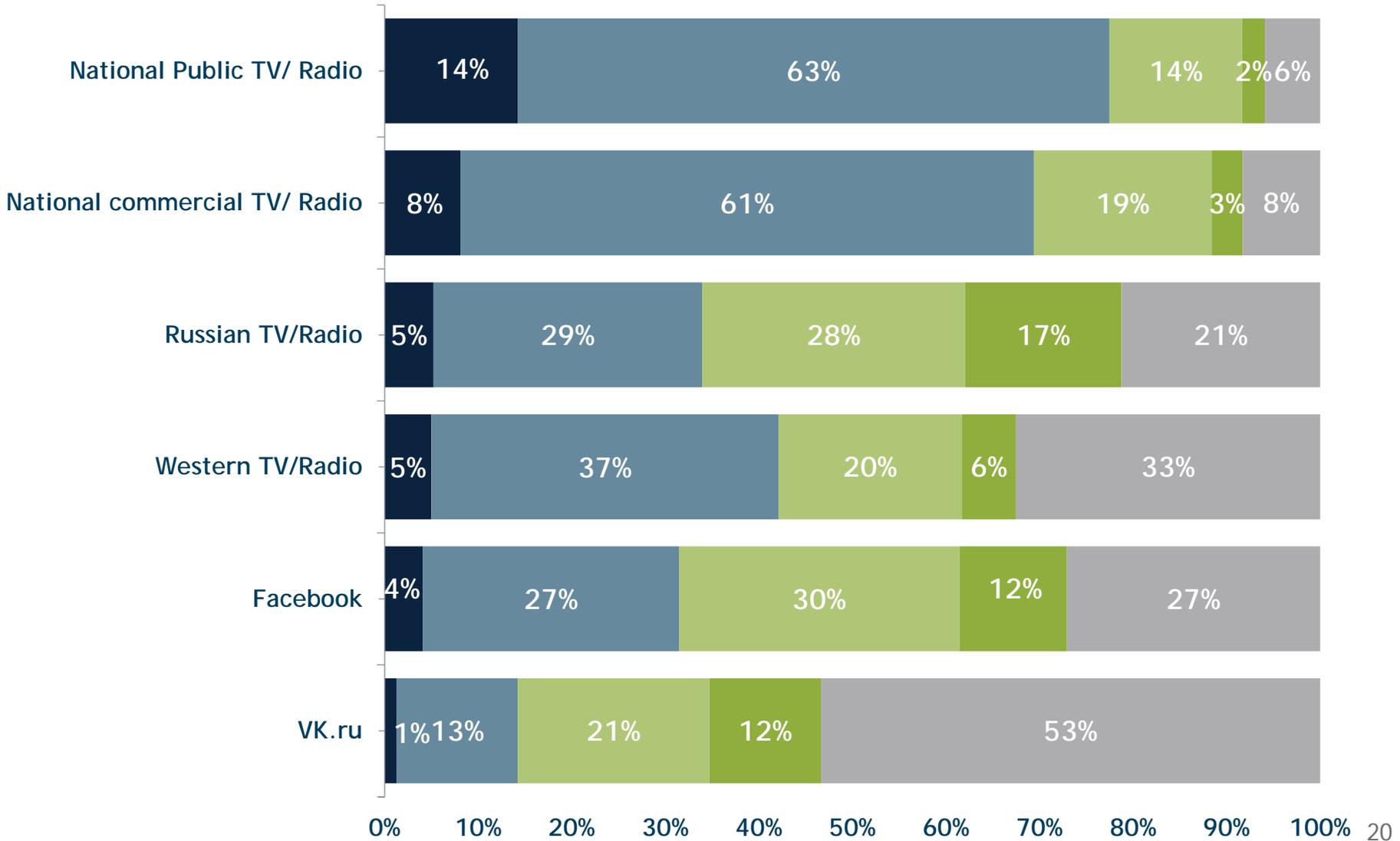


# From which source do you get most of your daily social and political news?

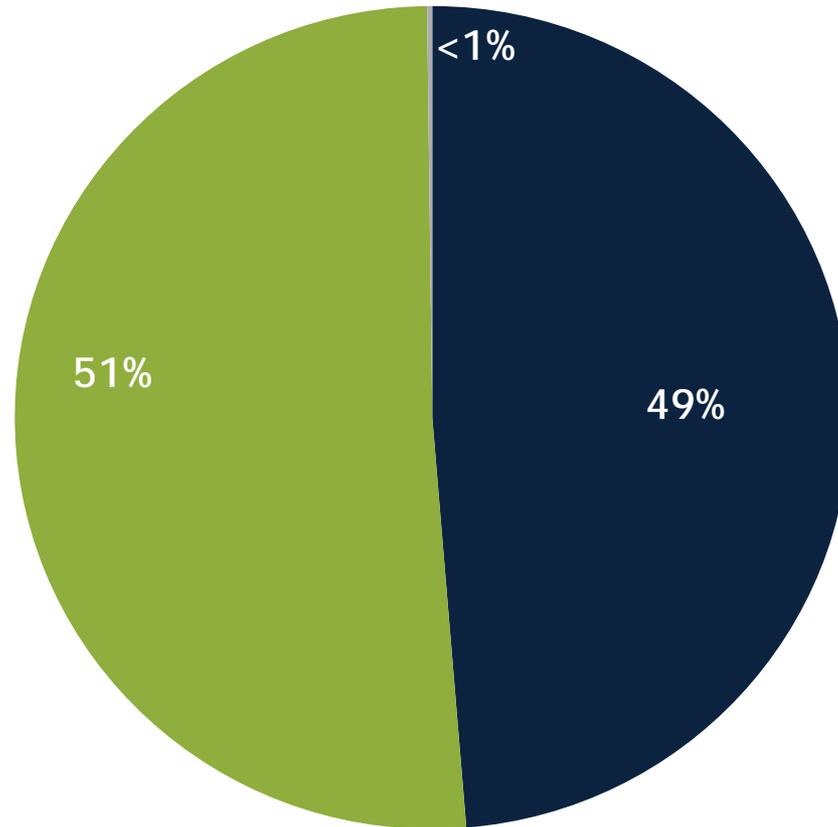


# How reliable or unreliable do you find the following sources of news:

■ Very reliable 
 ■ Somewhat reliable 
 ■ Somewhat unreliable 
 ■ Very unreliable 
 ■ Don't know/Refused to answer



## Do you access news in Russian?



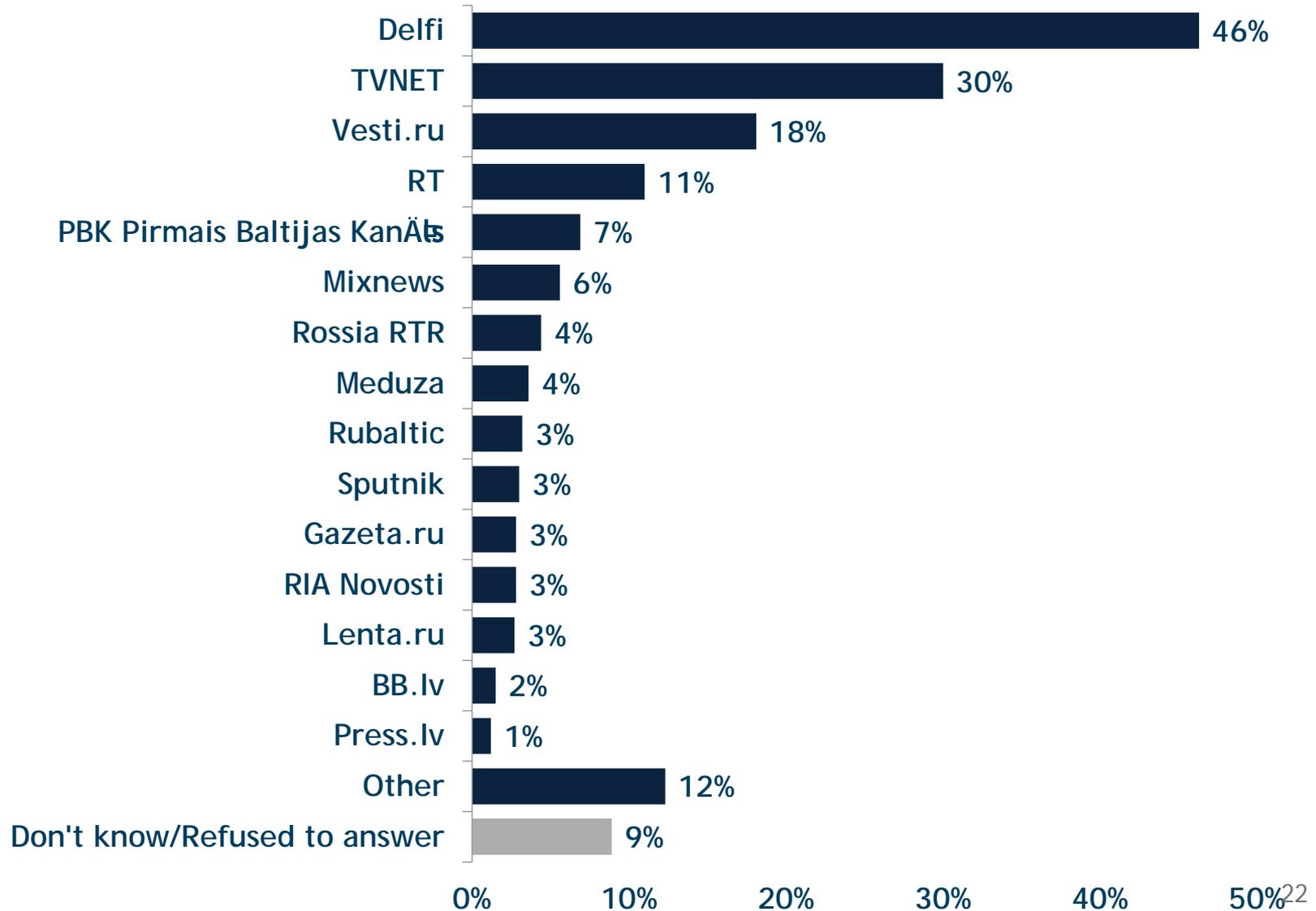
■ Yes

■ No

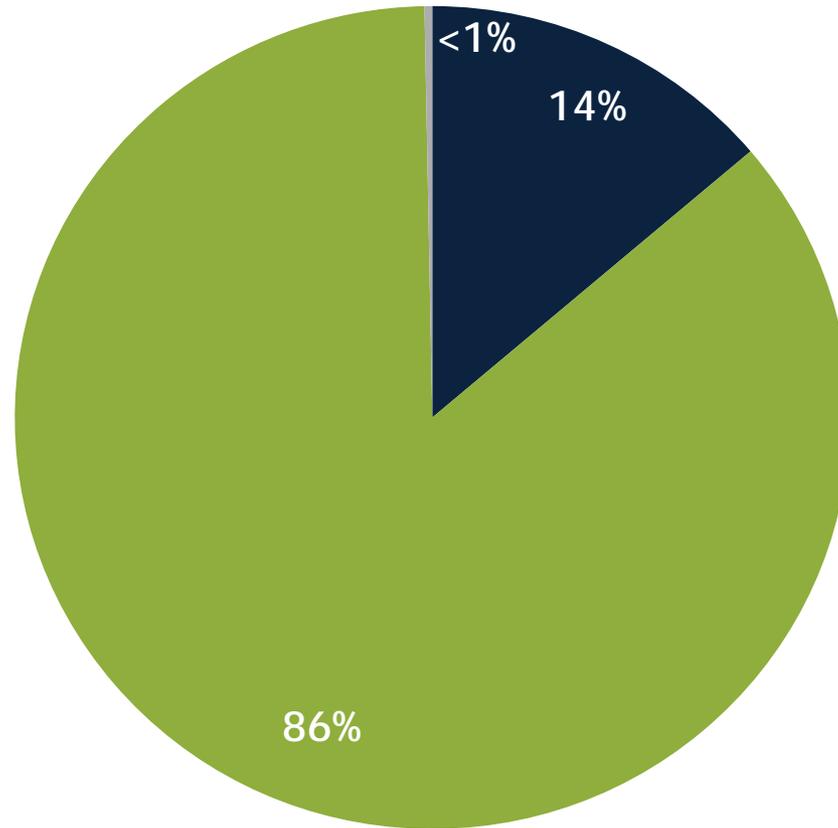
■ Don't know/Refused to answer

# If so, can you name some sources of news you use in Russian? (Up to 3 answers)

(Respondents who access news in Russian: n=492, Local list provided)



# Do you access news in any other languages?



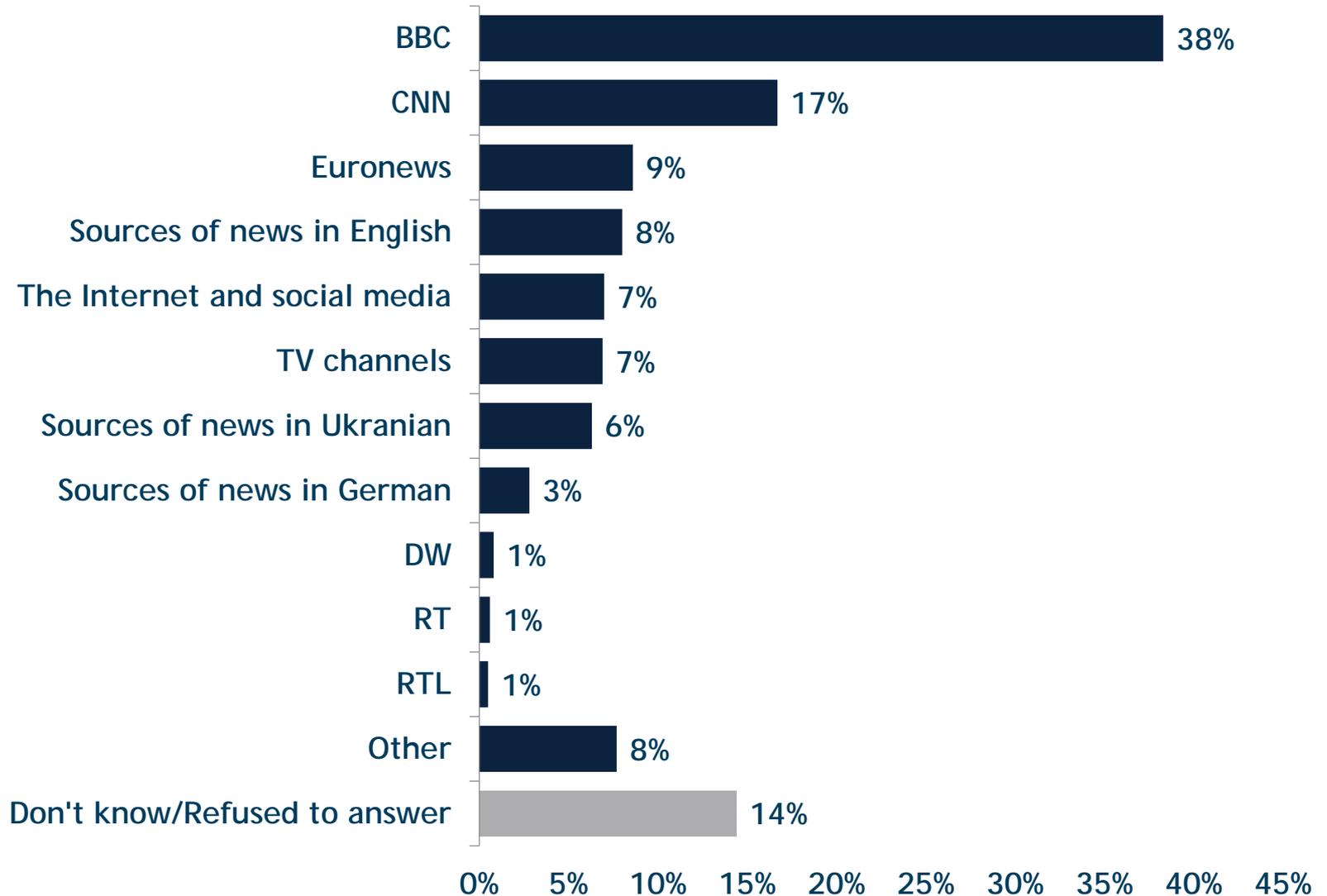
■ Yes

■ No

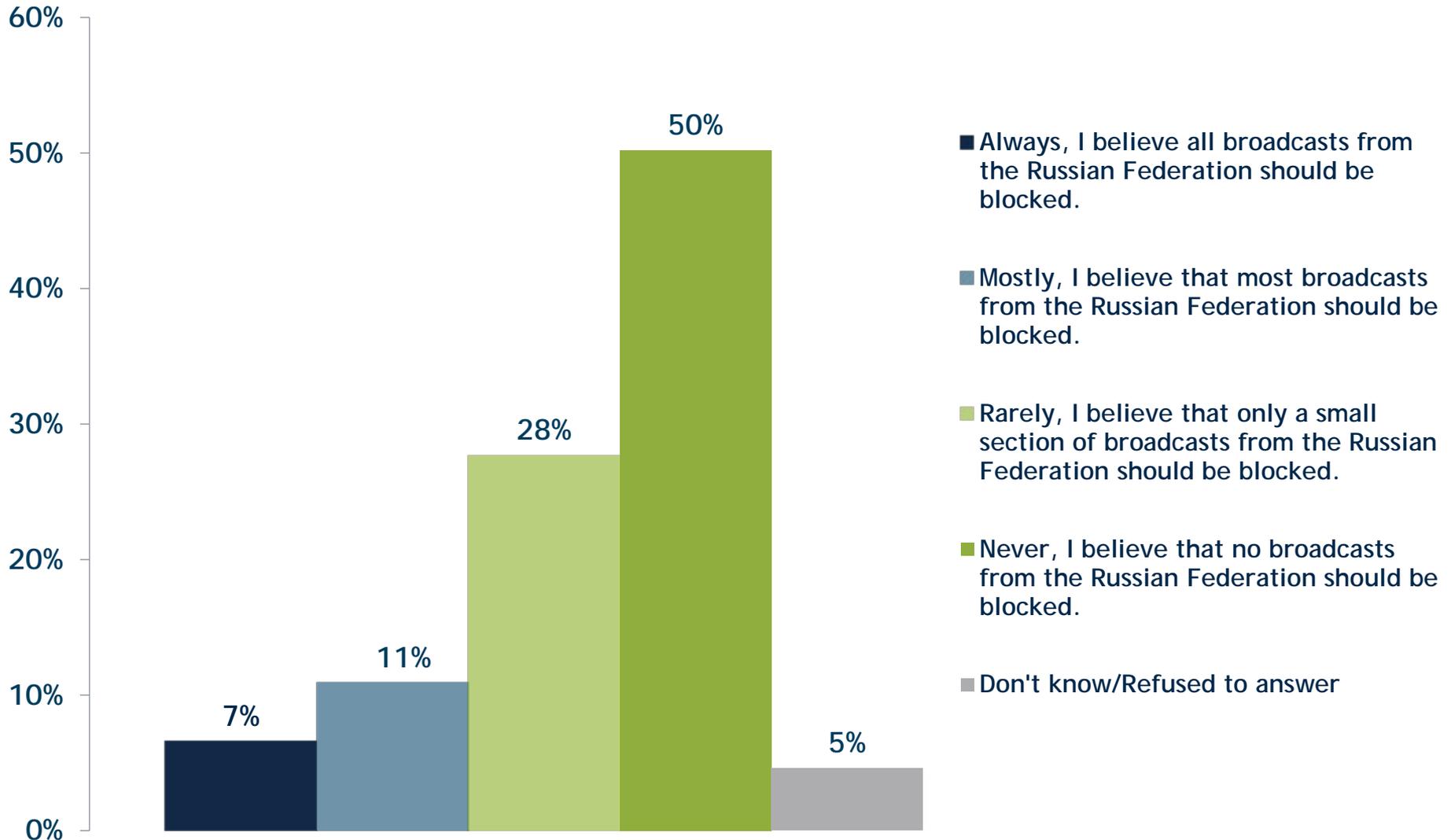
■ Don't know/Refused to answer

# If so, can you name some sources of news you use in other languages? (Up to 3 answers)

(Respondents who access news in any other language: n=139, Top three spontaneous answers)

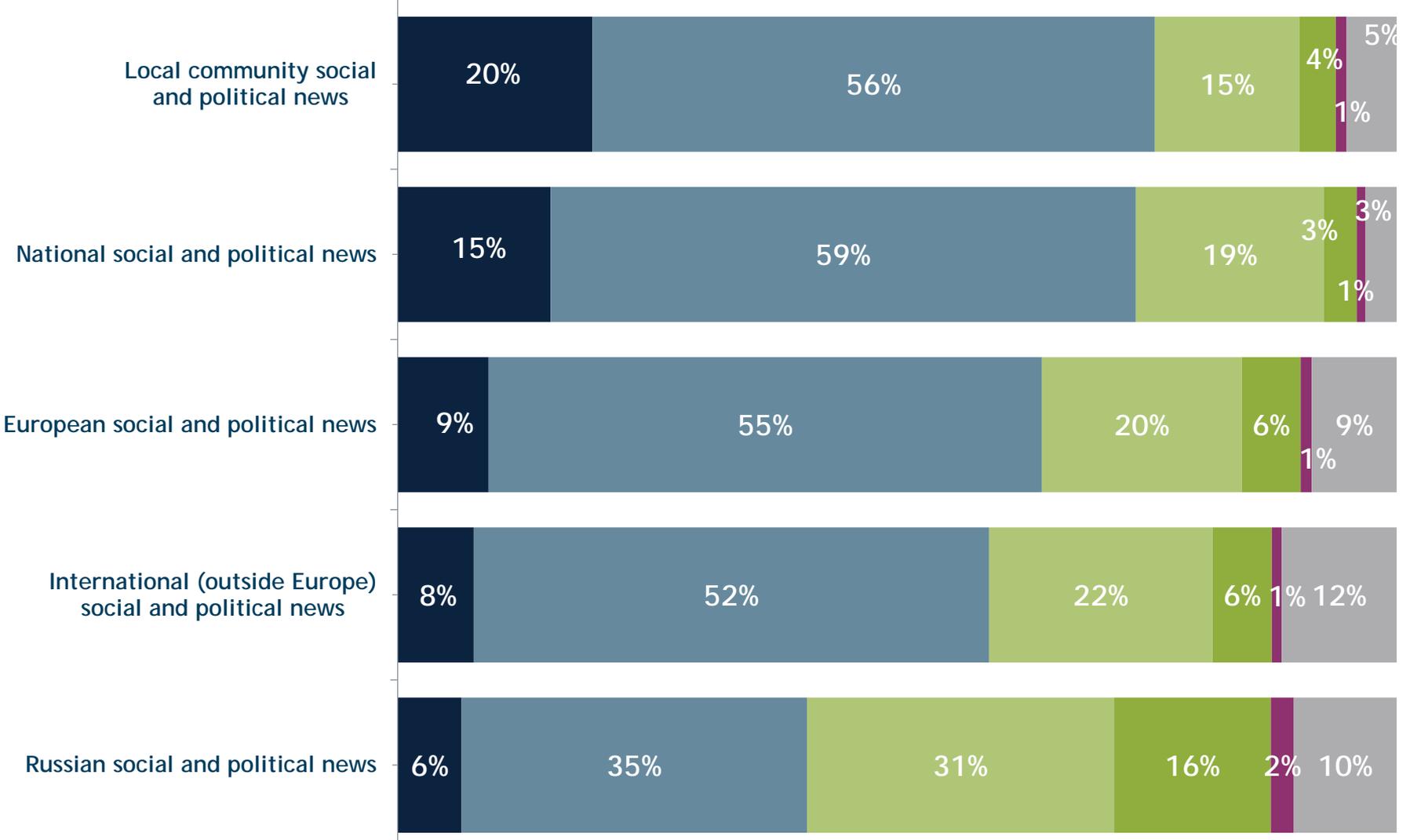


# Do you support or oppose blocking television and radio broadcasts from the Russian Federation into Latvia?



# How much do you trust or distrust the national media's accuracy in its coverage of the following topics?

- Fully trust
- Somewhat trust
- Somewhat distrust
- Fully distrust
- There is no coverage
- Don't know/Refused to answer





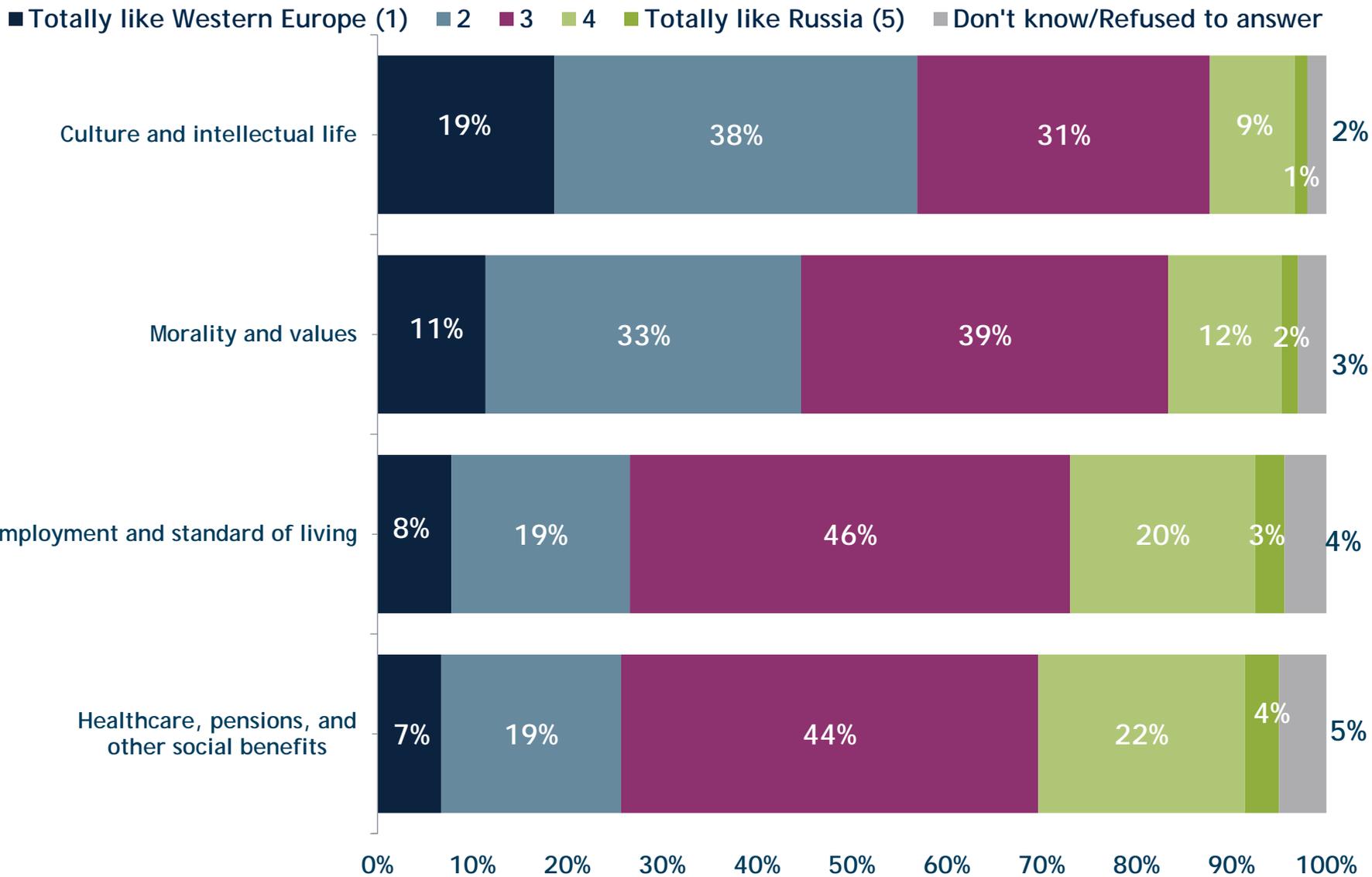
# Values

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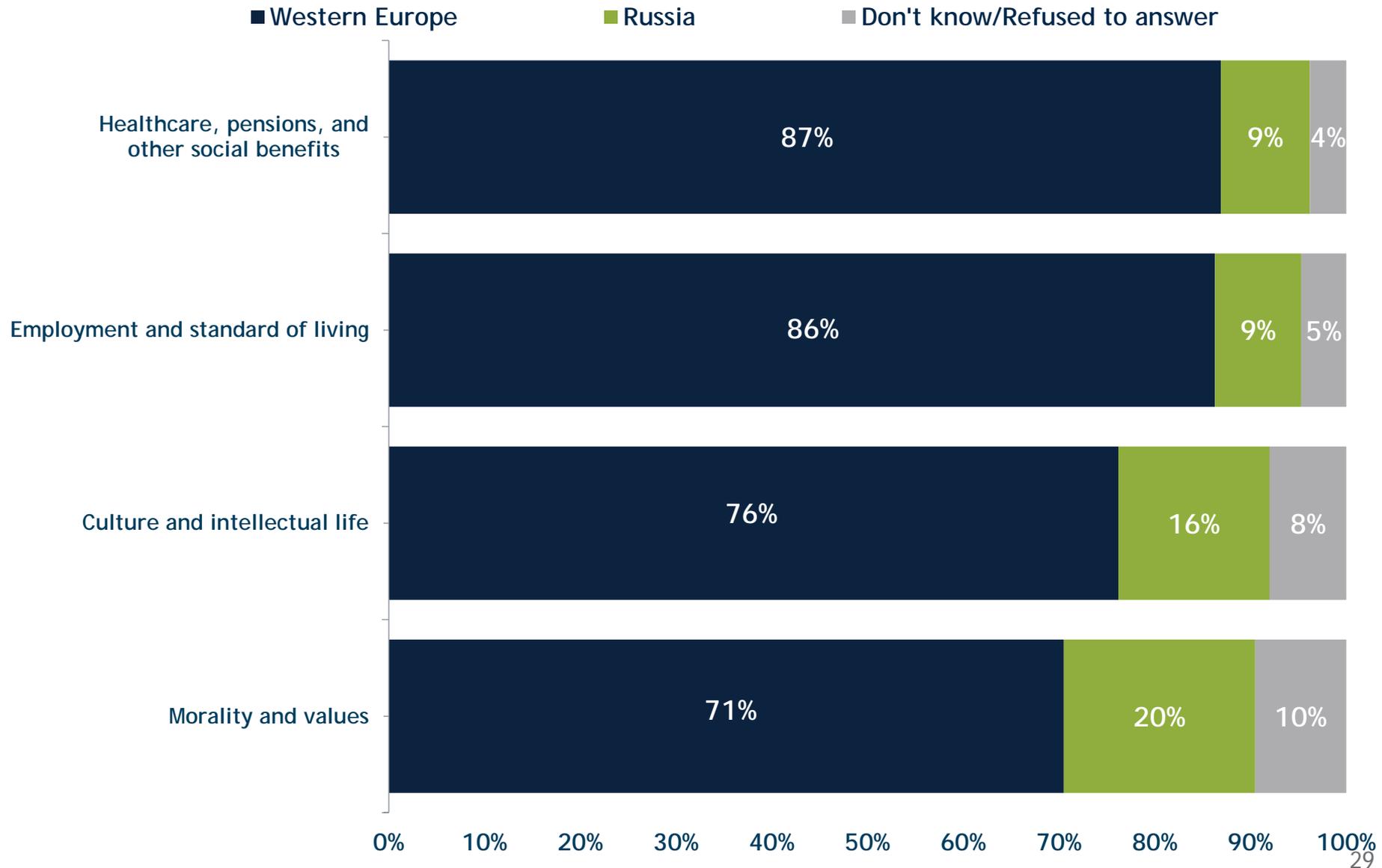


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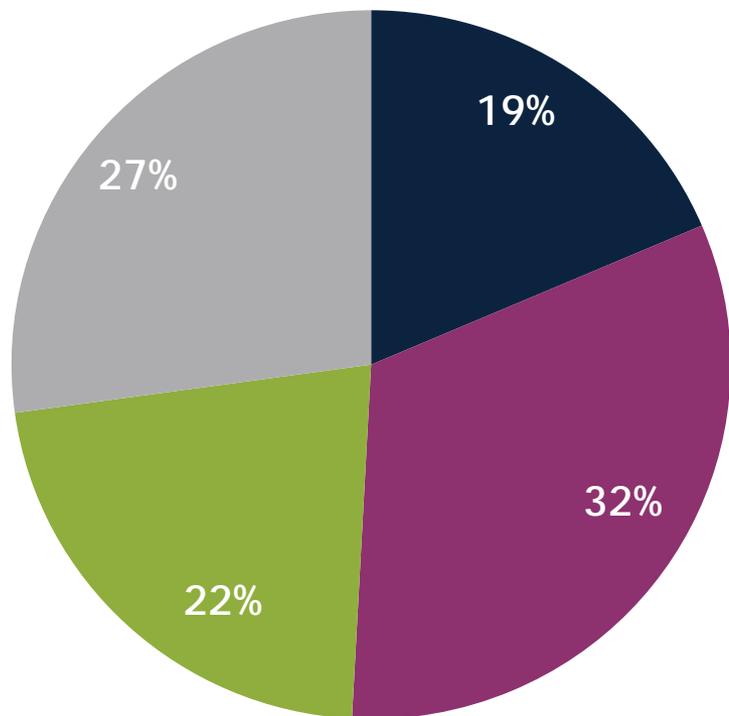
On a scale from 1 to 5, does Latvia have more in common with Western Europe or with Russia, in the following areas. 1 would mean Latvia is totally like Western Europe, while 5 would mean totally like Russia.



# And, for each of these aspects, would you like it to have more in common with Western Europe or Russia?



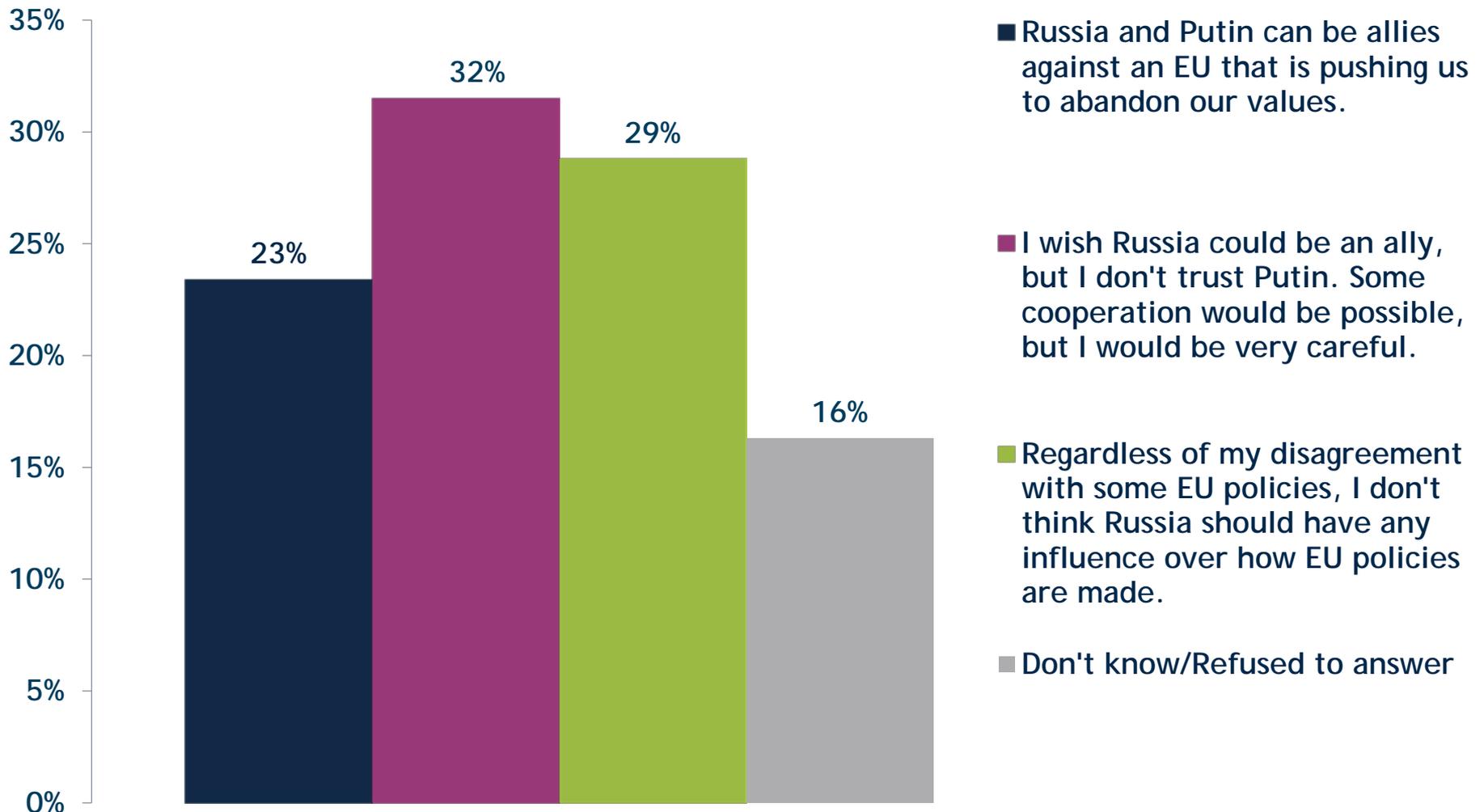
## Vladimir Putin's Russia has tried to portray itself as a defender of Christendom and traditional European values. What is your opinion of this view of Russia?



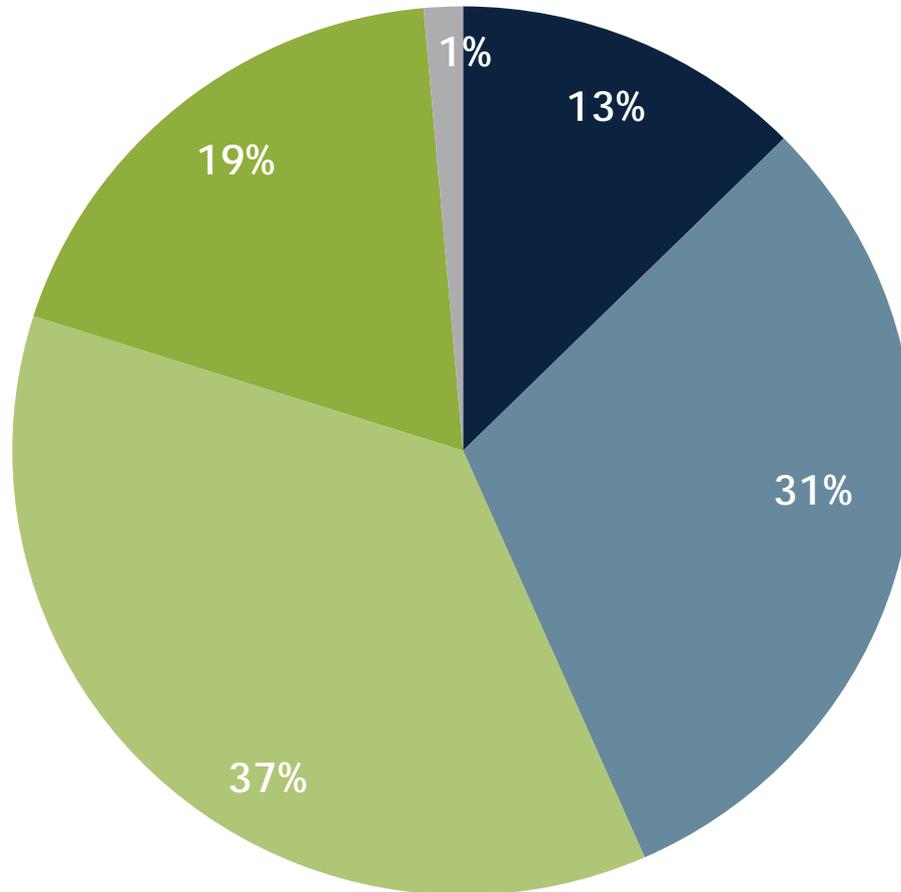
- It is true – on this issue at least, Russia has taken the side of traditional European values.
- It is not really true – Russia is just cynically pretending to stand up for traditional European values while pursuing its own interests.
- It is not true at all – it demonstrates Russia's rejection of modern Western values.
- Don't know/Refused to answer

# Which of the following statements comes closest to your view of Russia and Putin as you consider these changes in European culture?

(For those who answered that it is true that Russia is defending European values, n=188)

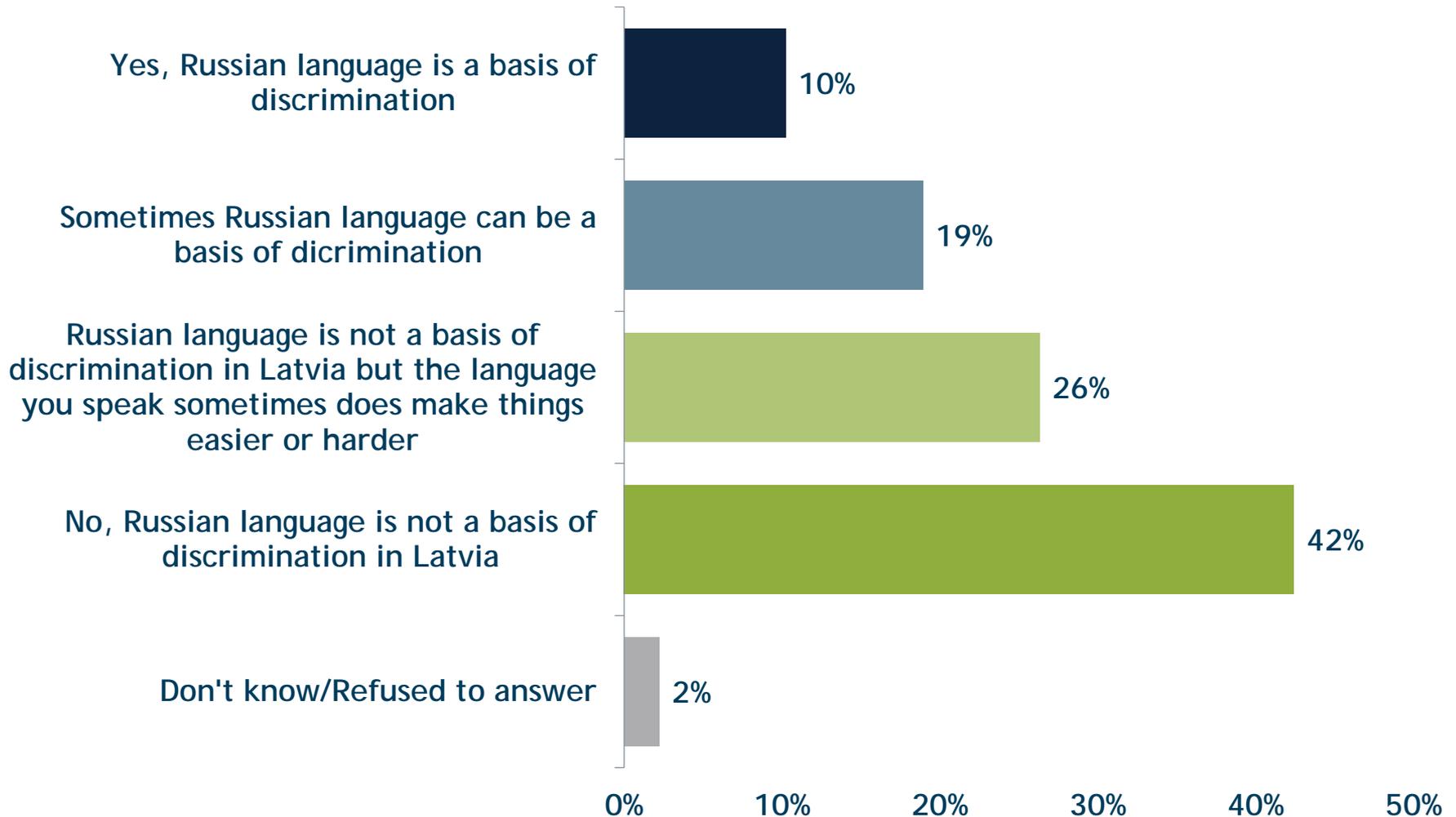


# What should be the role of the Russian language in Latvia today?



- It should be an official language in addition to Latvian language.
- It should be a recognized official minority language.
- It should have an unofficial role, but not a formal one.
- It should have no role at all.
- Don't know/Refused to answer

# Do you think Russian language is a basis of discrimination in Latvia?



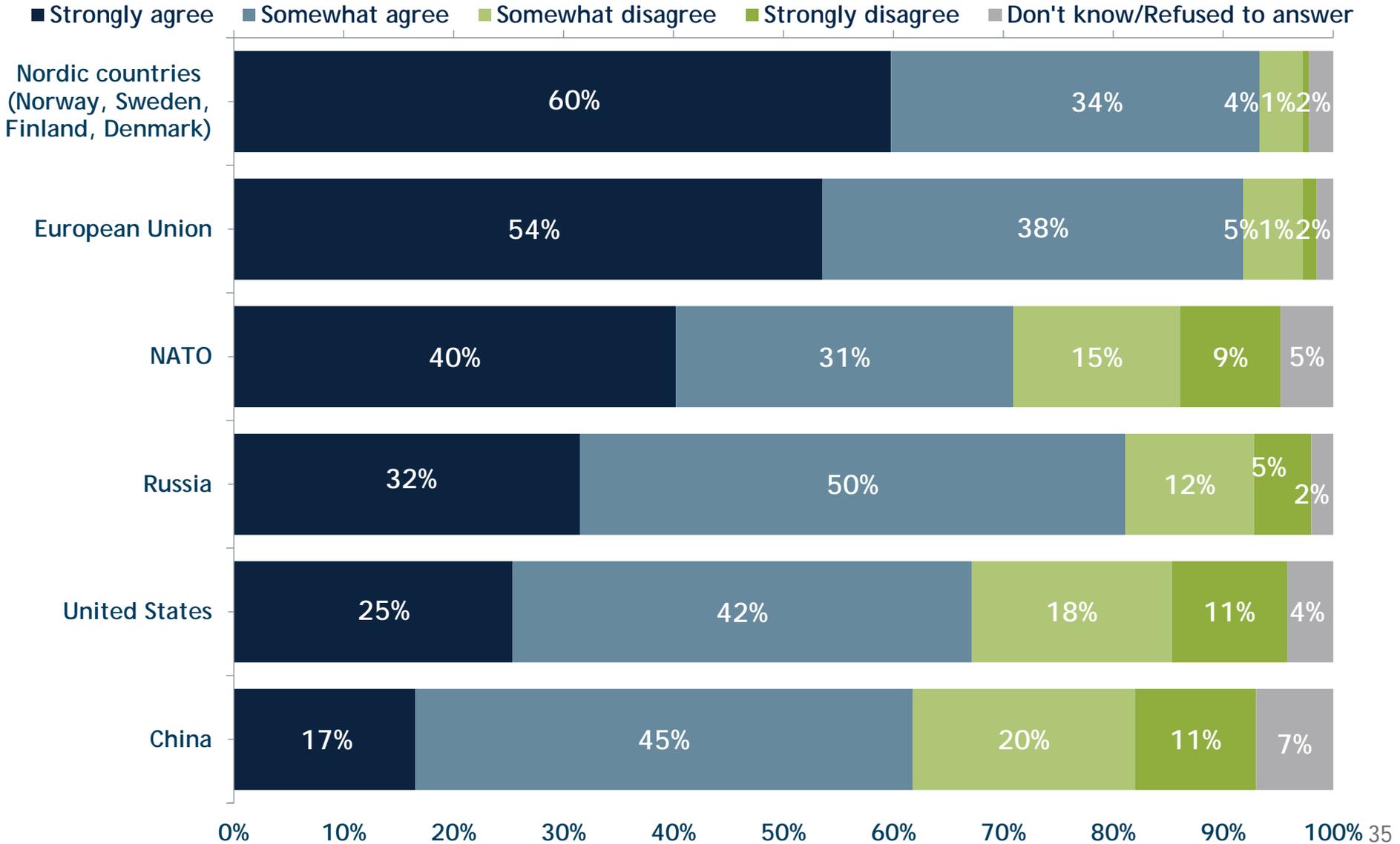


# Foreign Relations and Foreign Influence

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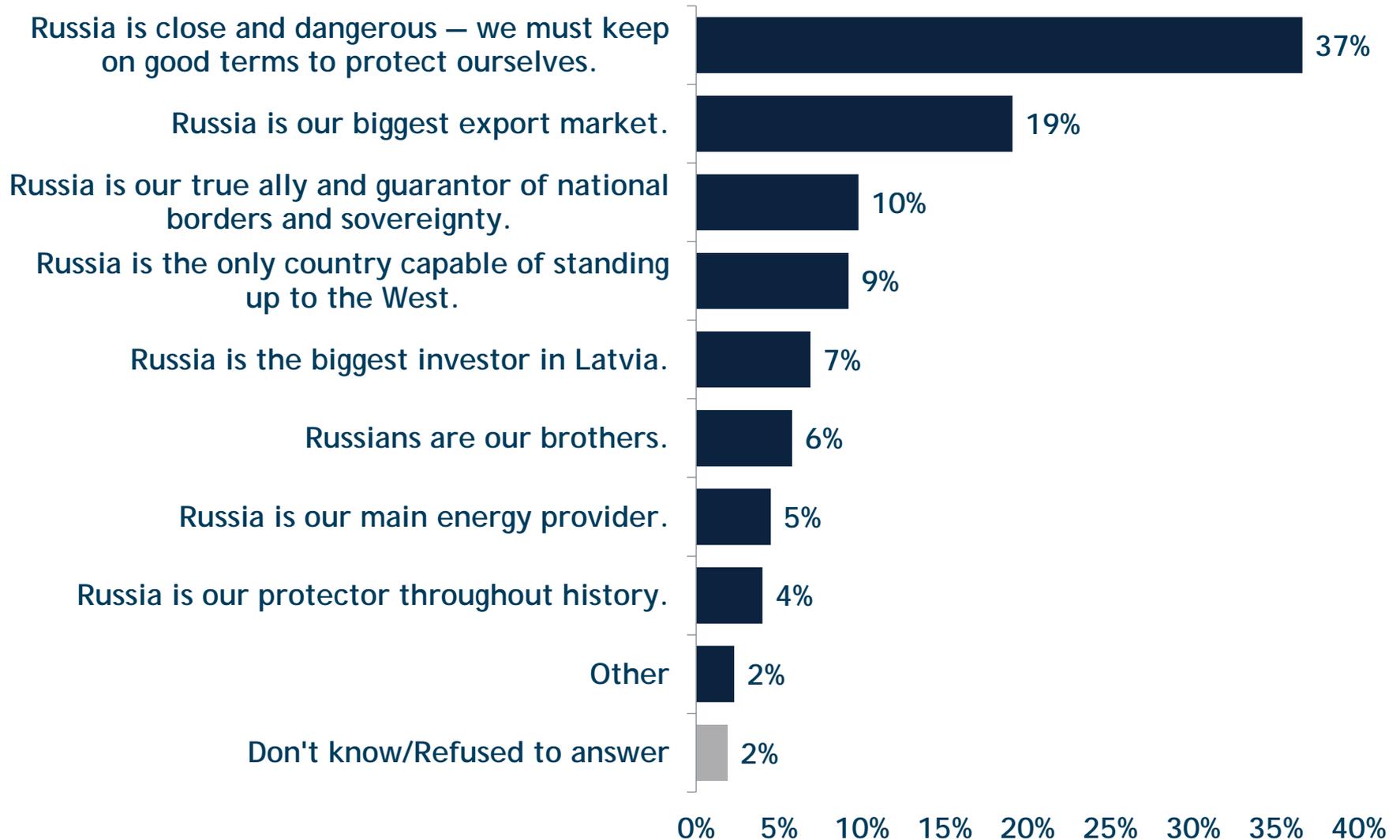


# How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Latvia's interests are best served by maintaining strong relations with:



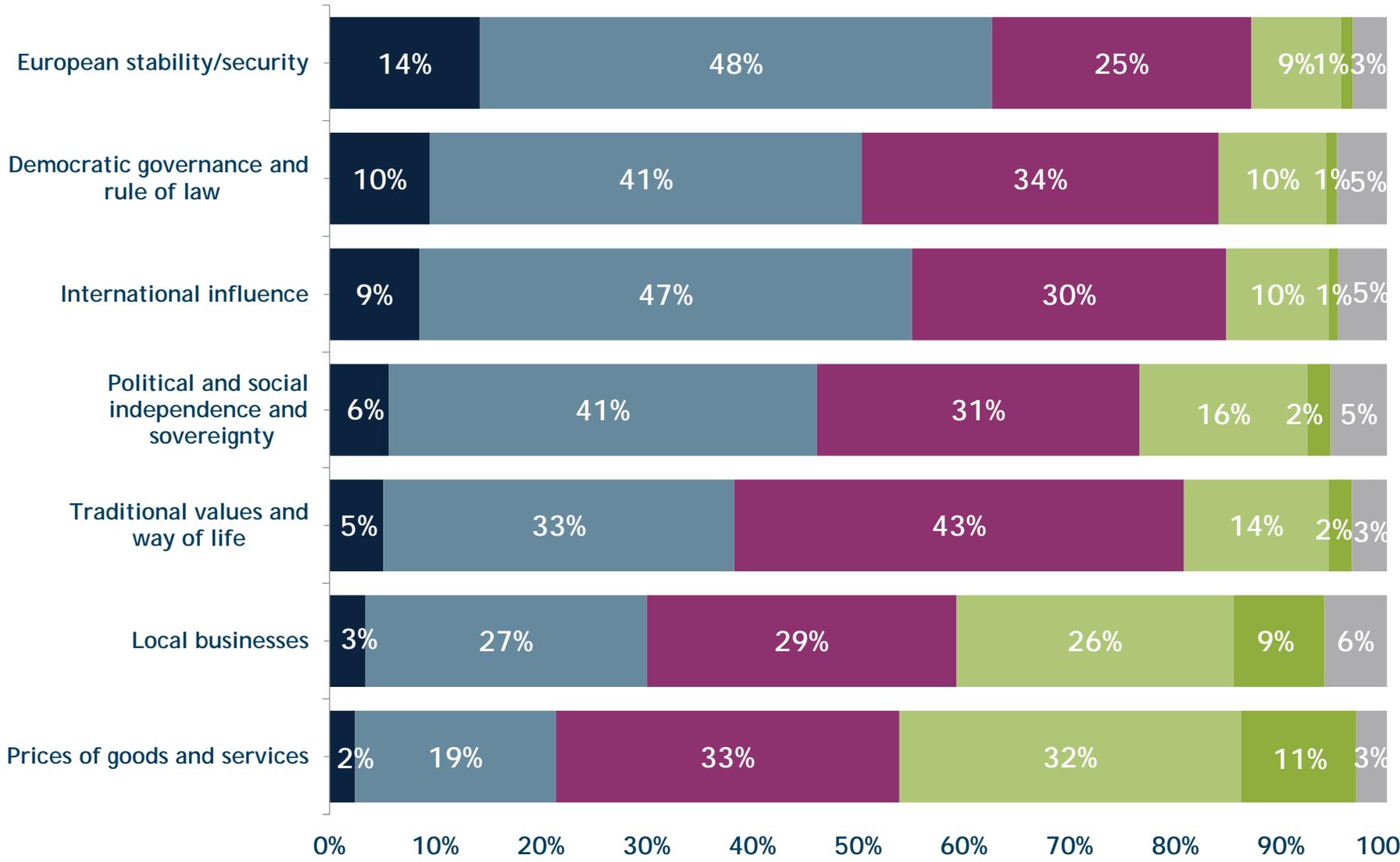
# Why do you think our country's interests are best served by maintaining strong relations with Russia?

(Among those who strongly agree that Latvia should maintain strong relations with Russia, n=318)

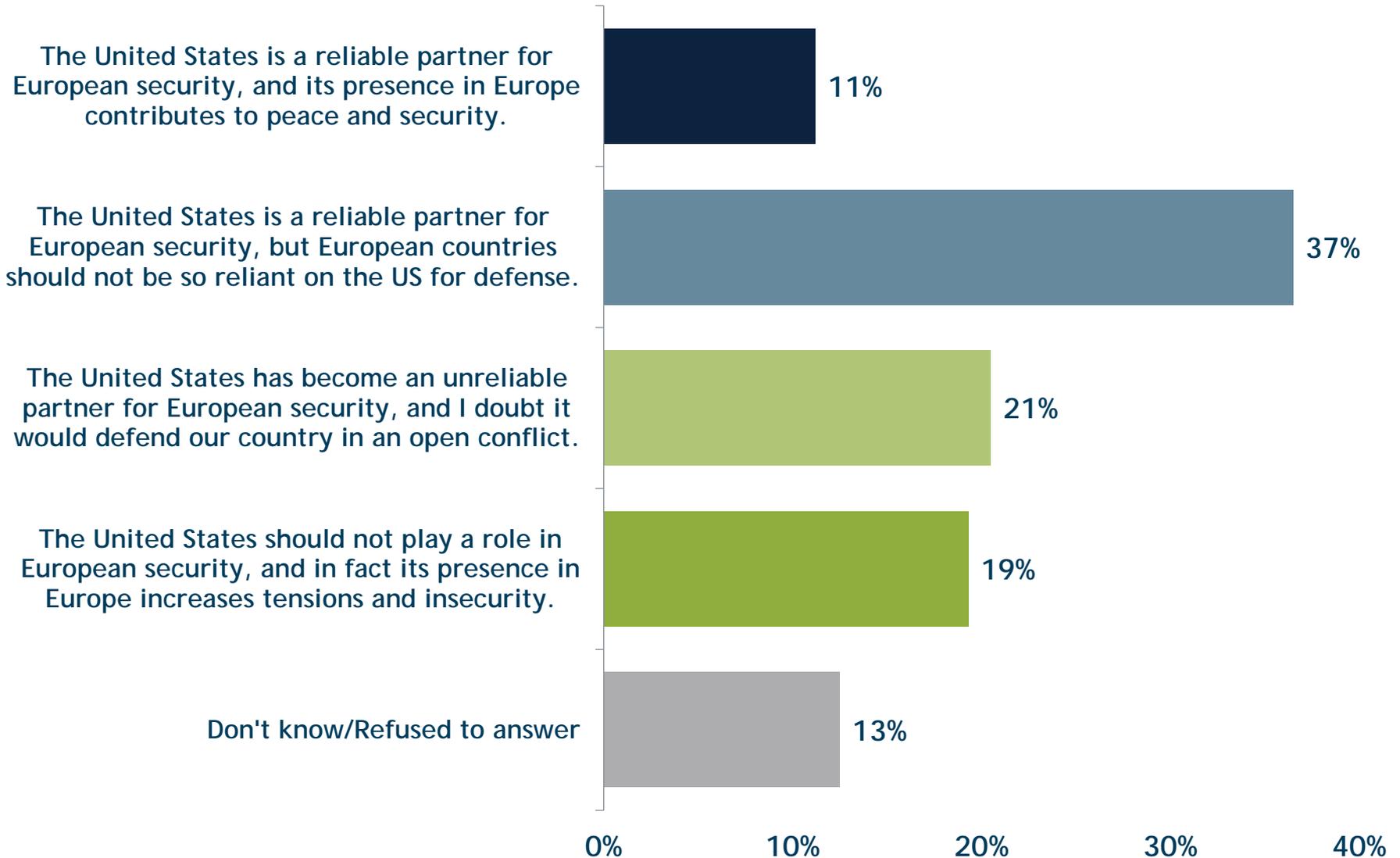


# In your opinion, what has the European Union's impact on the following issues been?

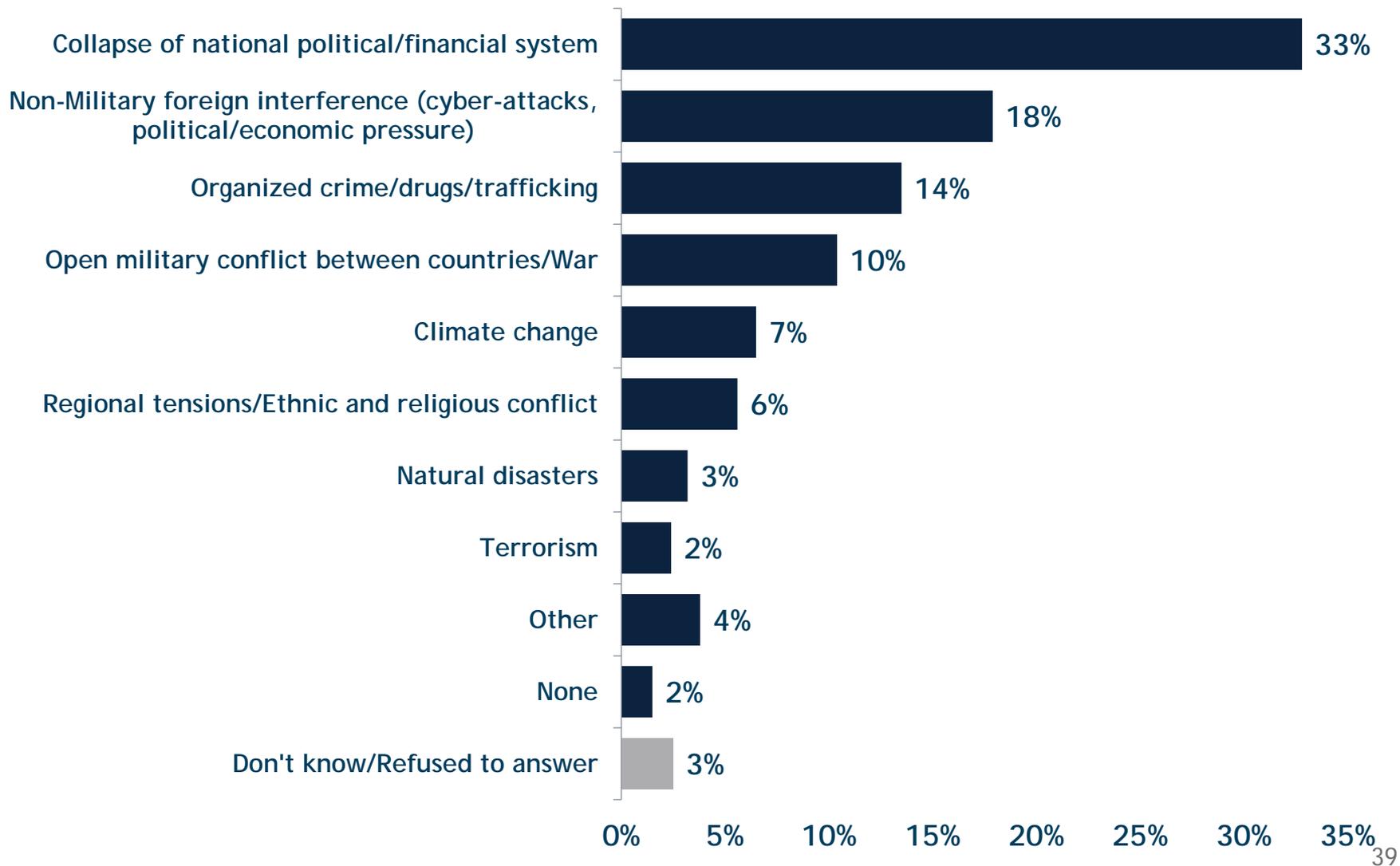
■ Very positive
■ Somewhat positive
■ Neutral
■ Somewhat negative
■ Very negative
■ Don't know/Refused to answer



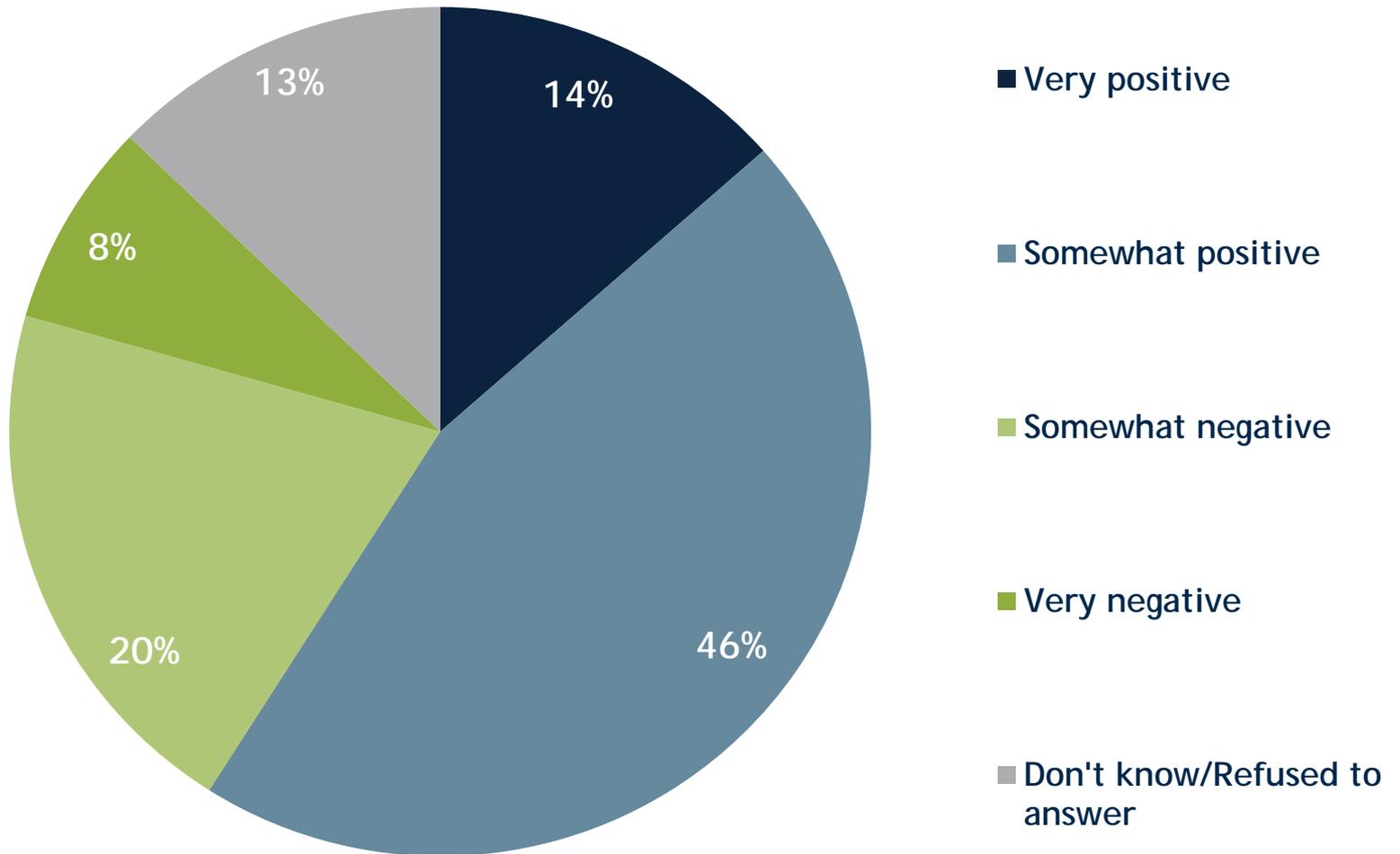
# Which statement is closest to your opinion?



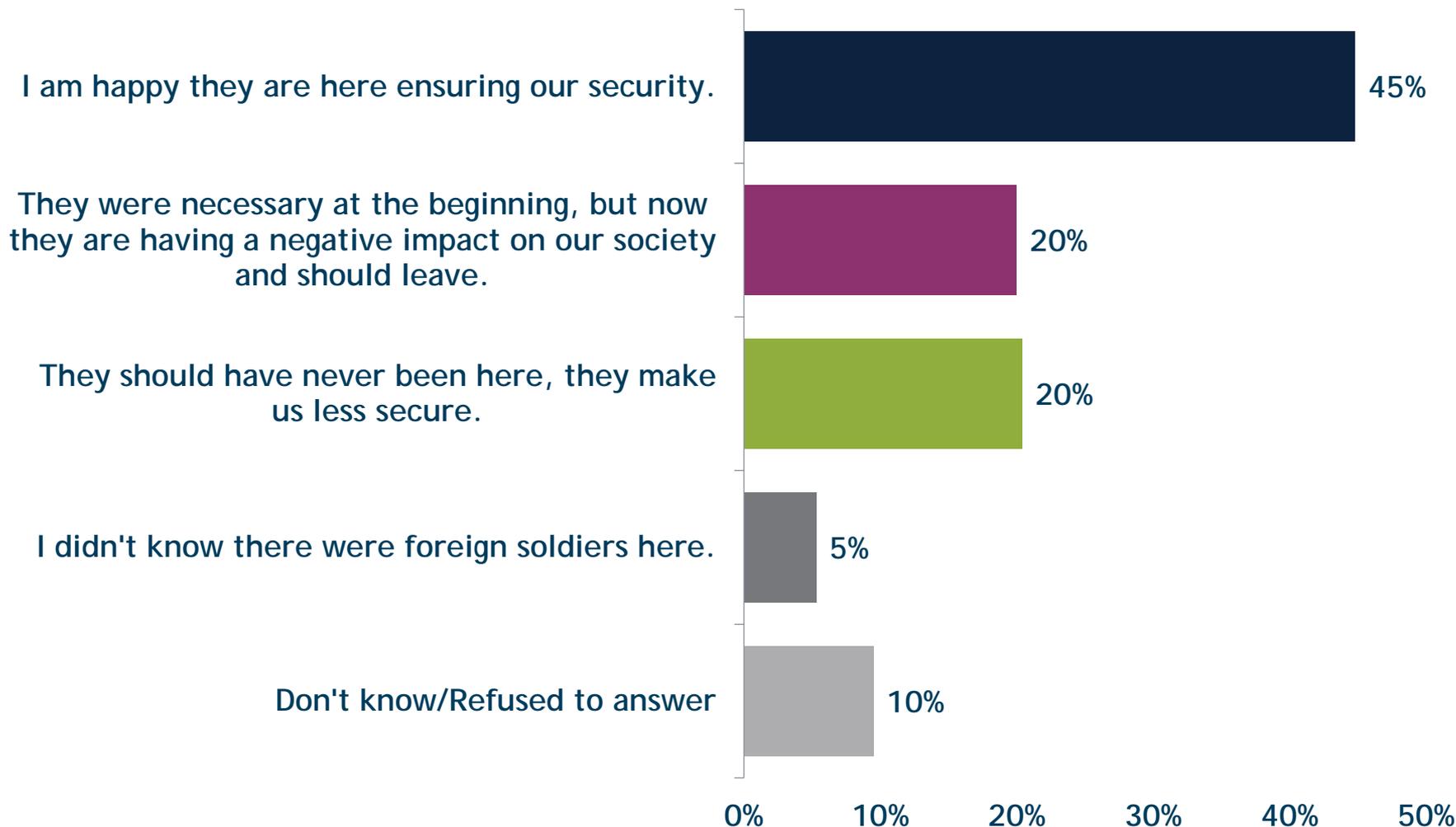
# In your opinion, what is the biggest security threat facing our country today?



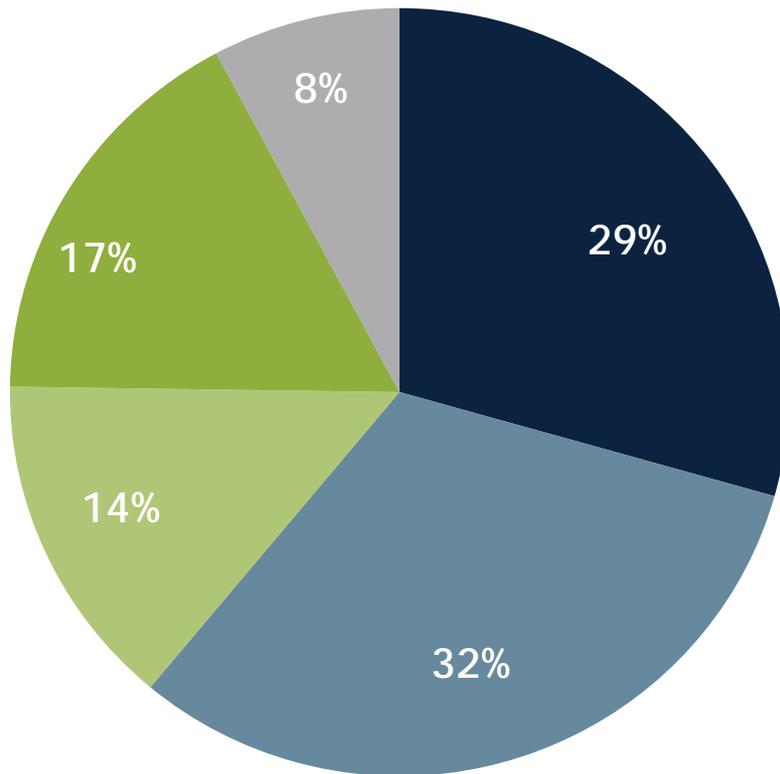
# What is your personal view of NATO?



# Regardless of your view on NATO as an organization, which statement comes closest to your feelings about foreign NATO troops being stationed in Latvia?

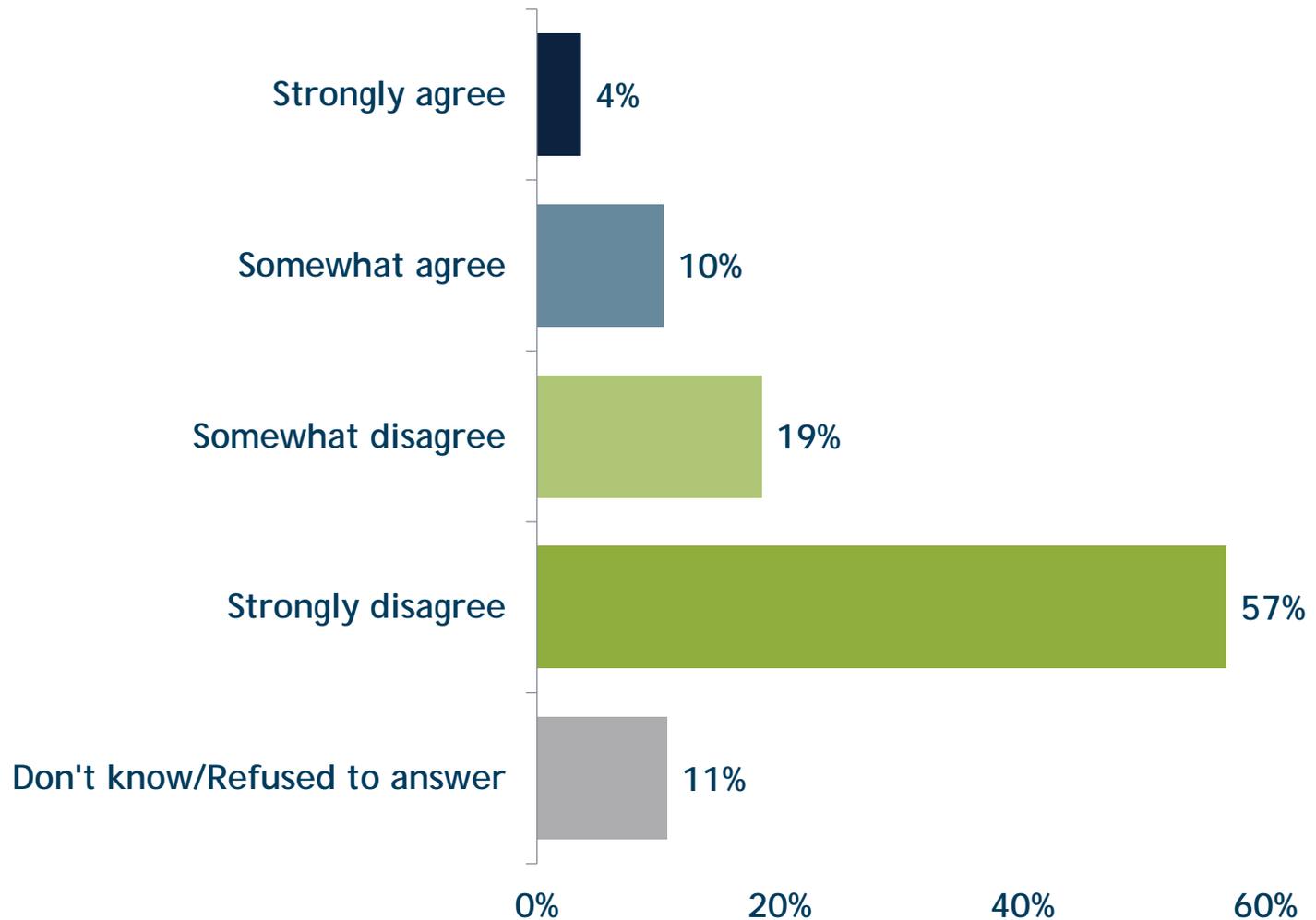


## Which statement comes closest to your opinion about NATO military exercises in the region?

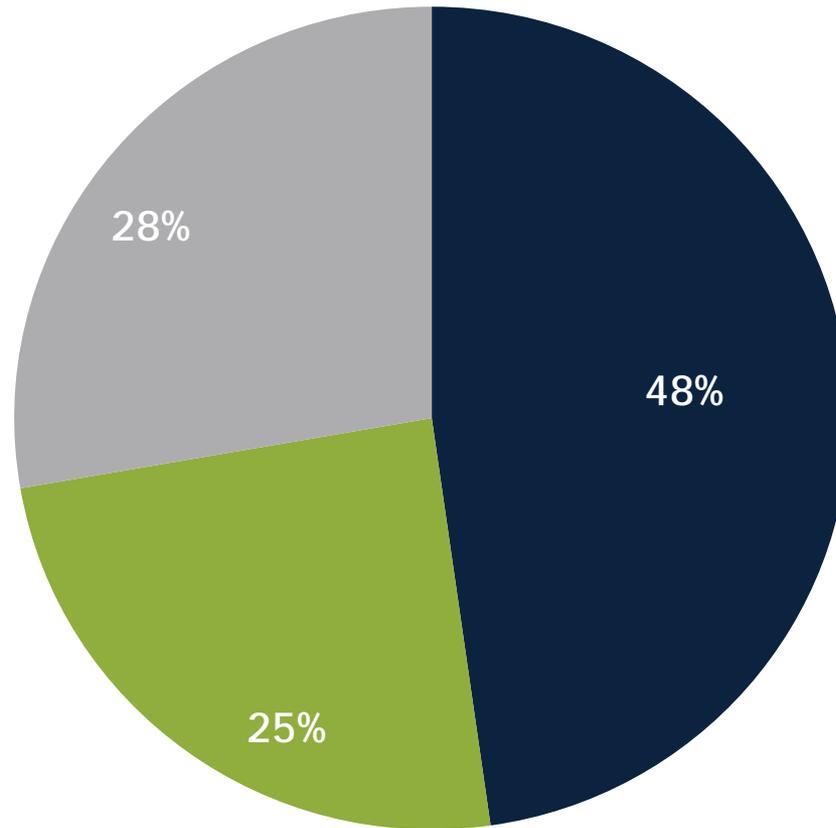


- They are integral to maintain NATO's readiness to defend our country and should continue.
- They are necessary to maintain NATO's readiness to defend our country, but they should be less frequent.
- They may be necessary from time to time but they add to regional destabilization.
- They are not necessary and serve only to aggravate Russia.
- Don't know/Refused to answer

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
Ukraine is a part of Russia's sphere of influence; thus Russia has a right to have a role in decisions made in Ukraine.



Latvia is one of a few NATO members meeting its commitment to spend at least 2 percent of its GDP on defense, while nations like Germany do not. Should Germany increase its defense spending to at least 2 percent of its GDP?



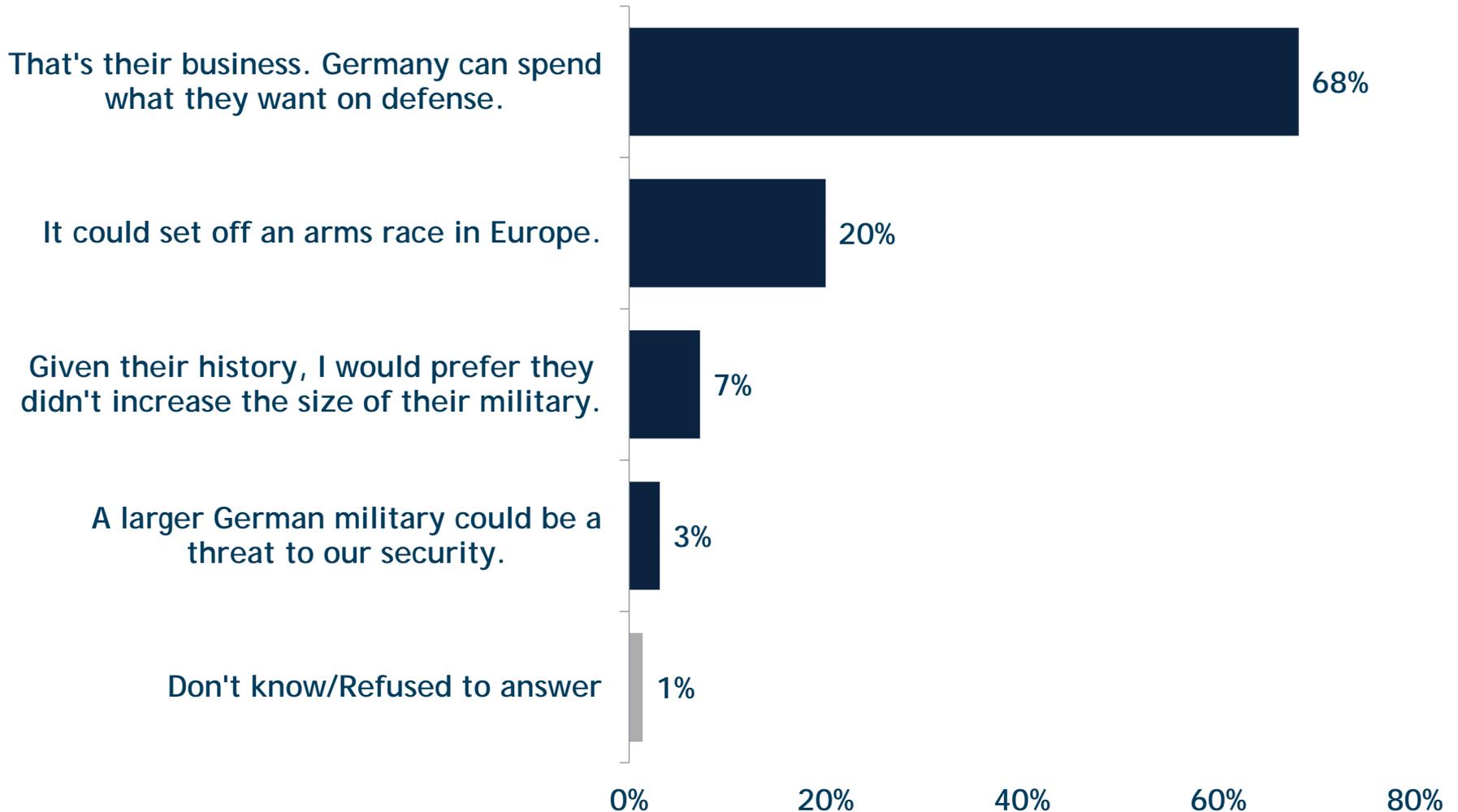
■ Yes

■ No

■ Don't know/Refused to answer

# Which statement comes closest to your opinion about why Germany should not increase its defense spending to 2 percent?

(For those who stated that Germany should not increase its defense spending to at least 2 percent of GDP, n=248)



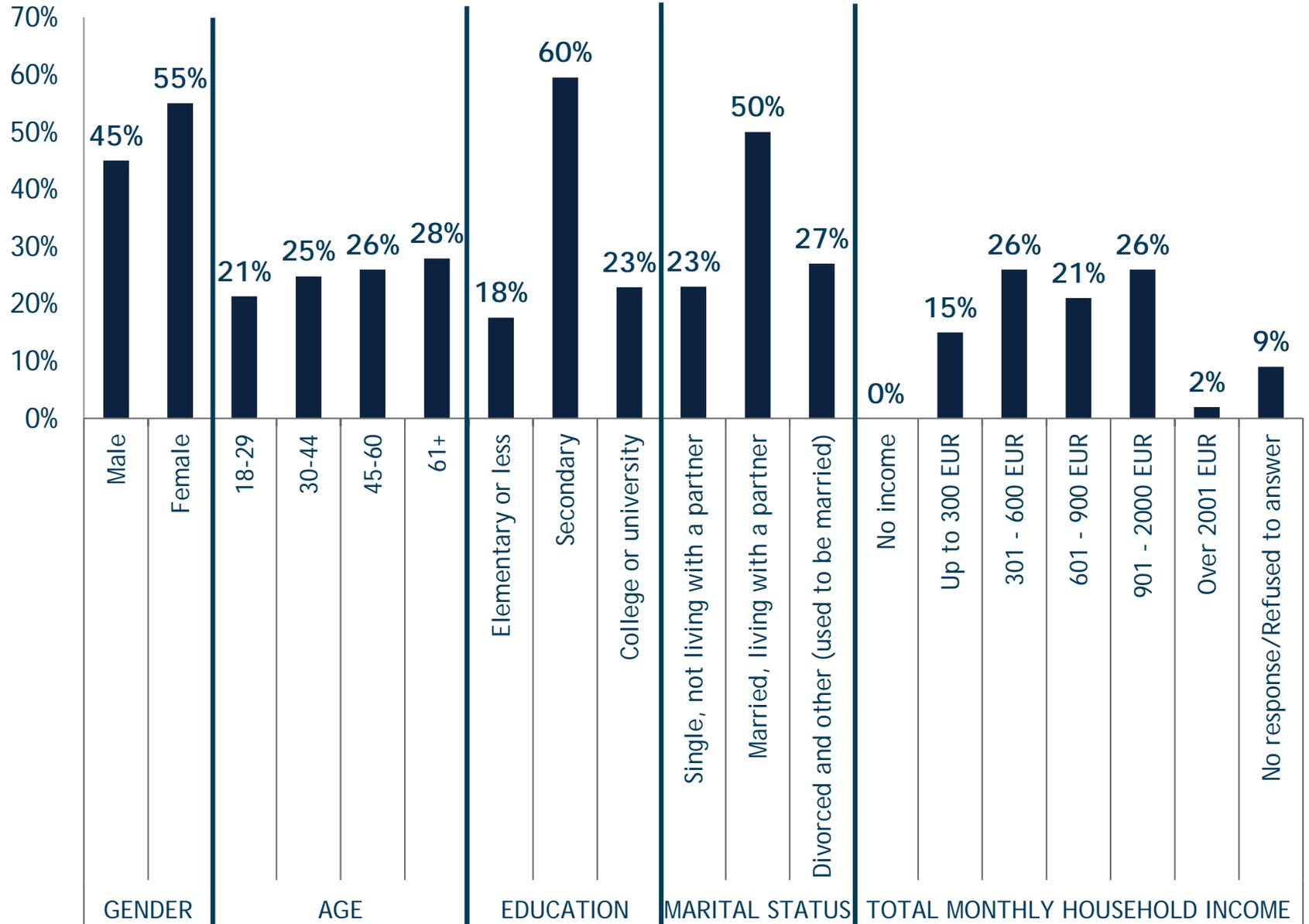


# Demographics

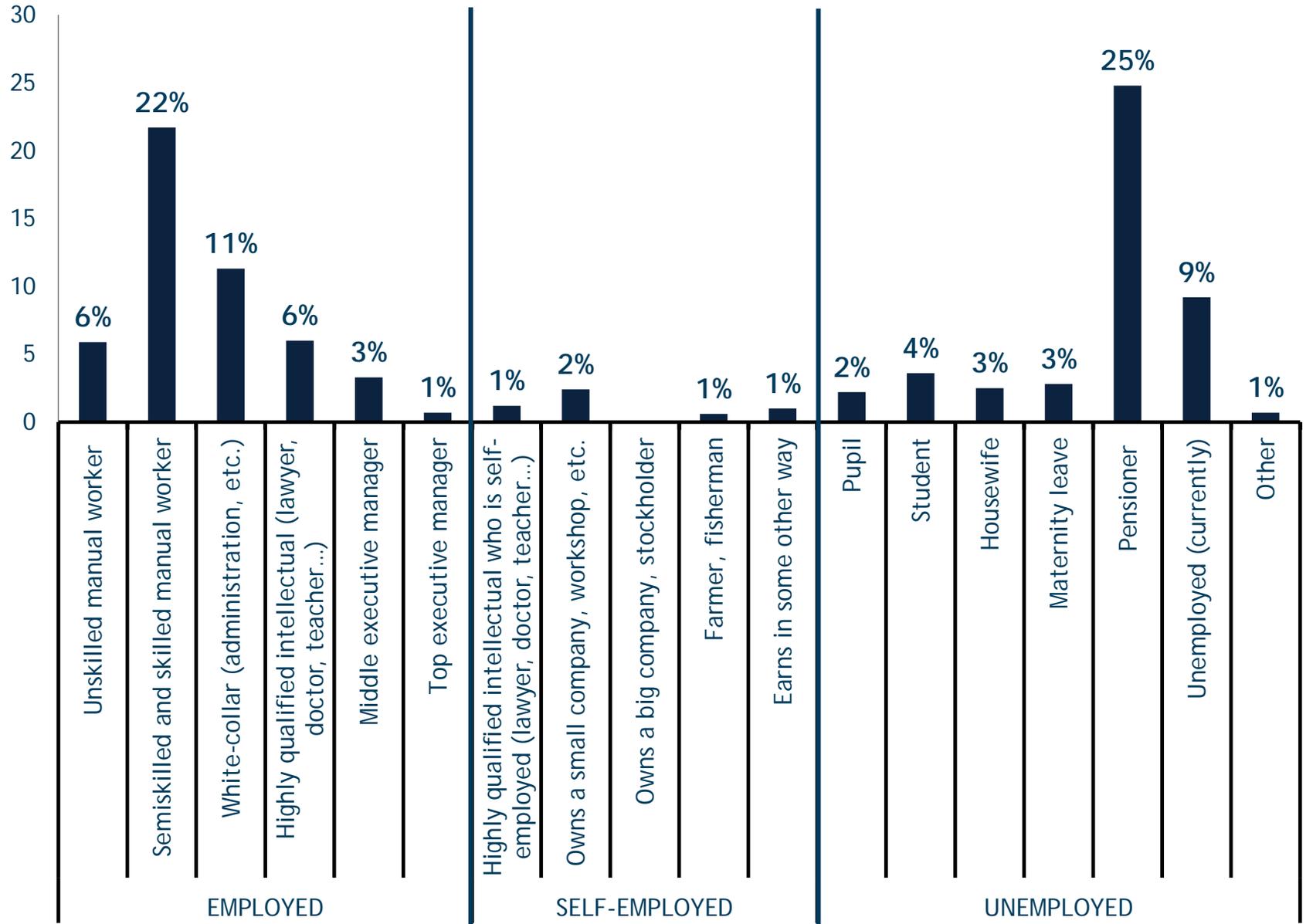
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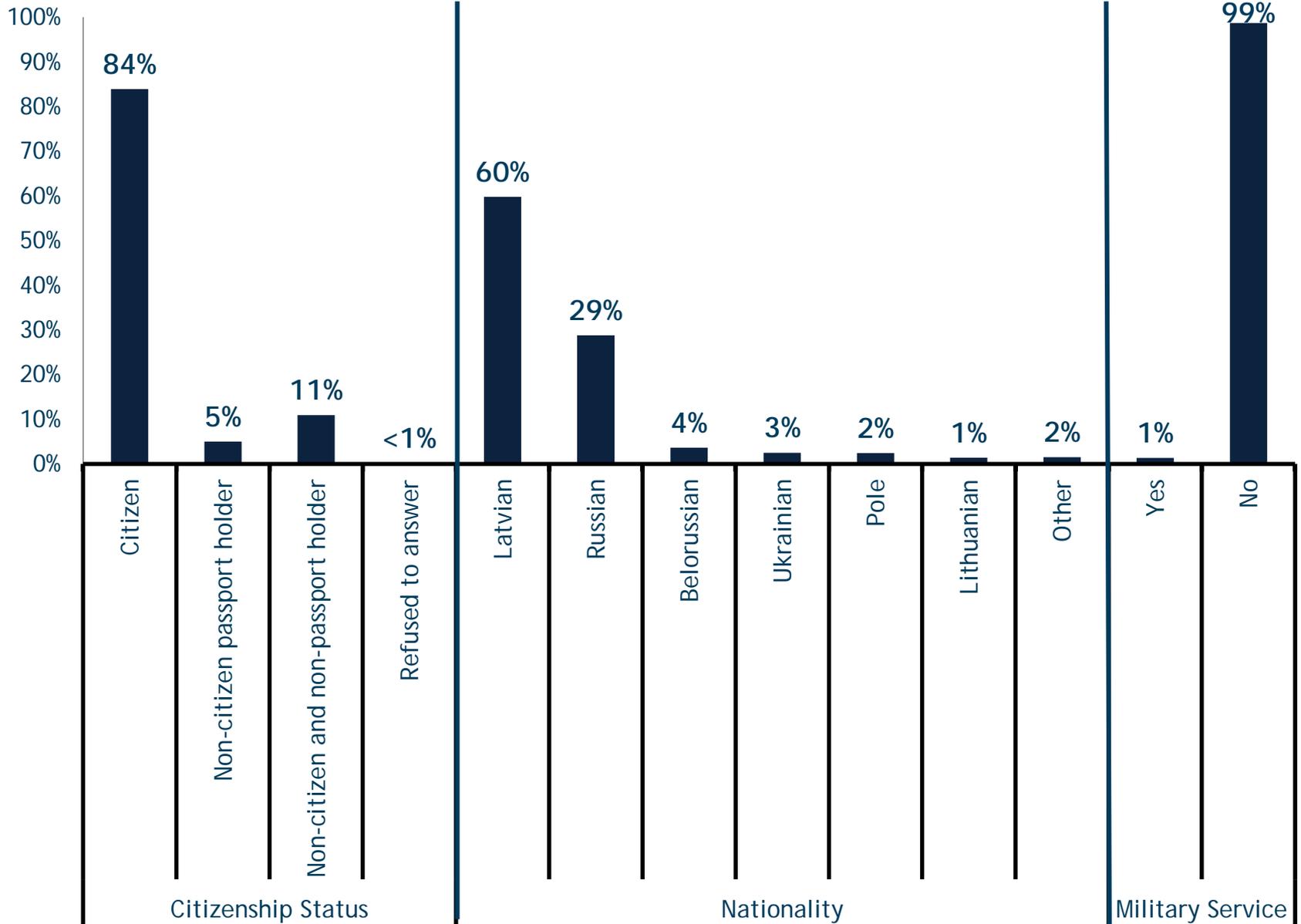
# Demographics



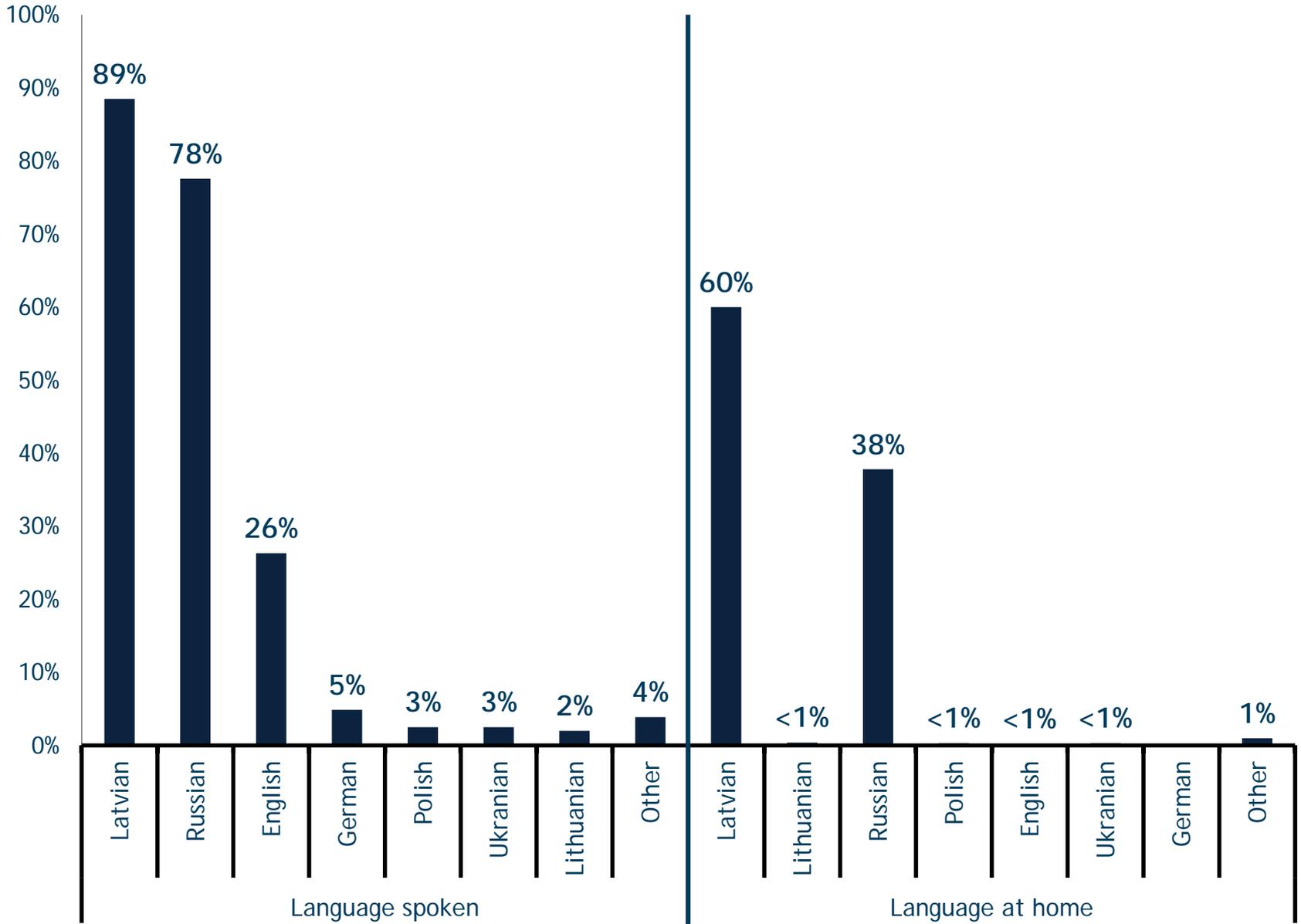
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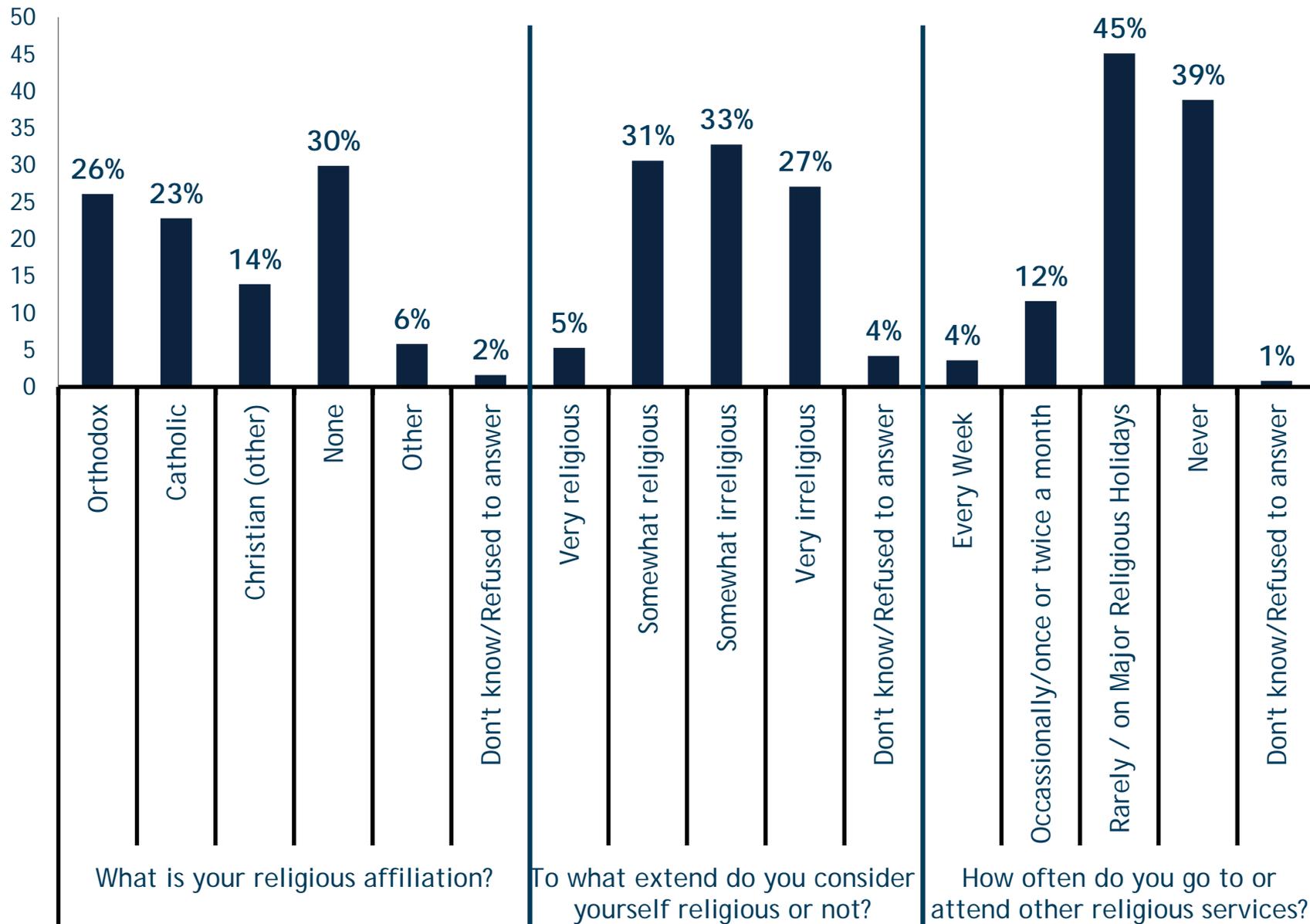
# Demographics



# Demographics



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