



Survey of Macedonian Public Opinion

December 9 -15, 2014

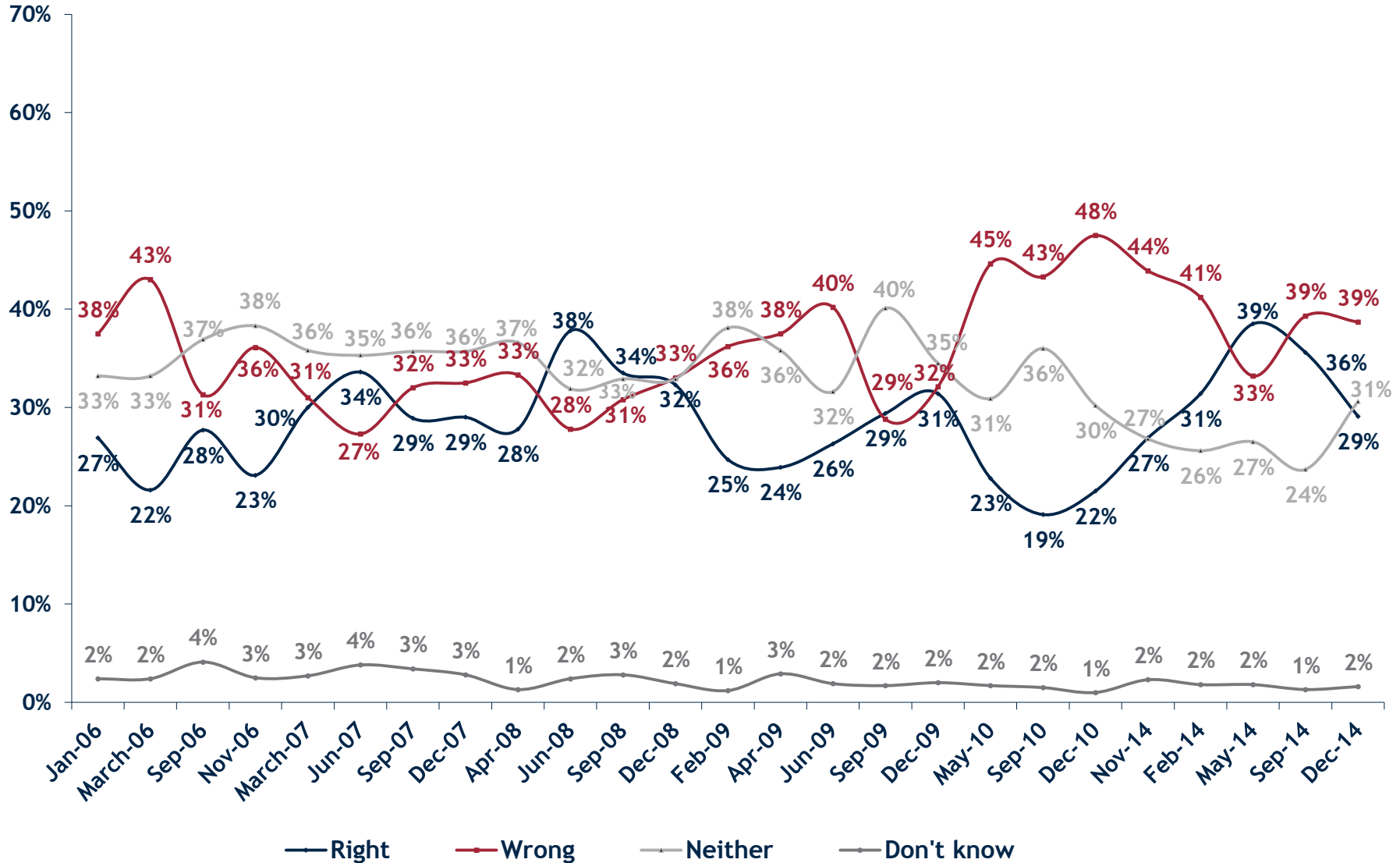
Detailed Methodology

- 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 December 9 - 15, 2014, using in-person, face-to-face methodology by trained professional interviewers.
- A total of 1,105 interviews were 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 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 the 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 Continues on Overall Direction of the Country, Unemployment is Top Concern

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



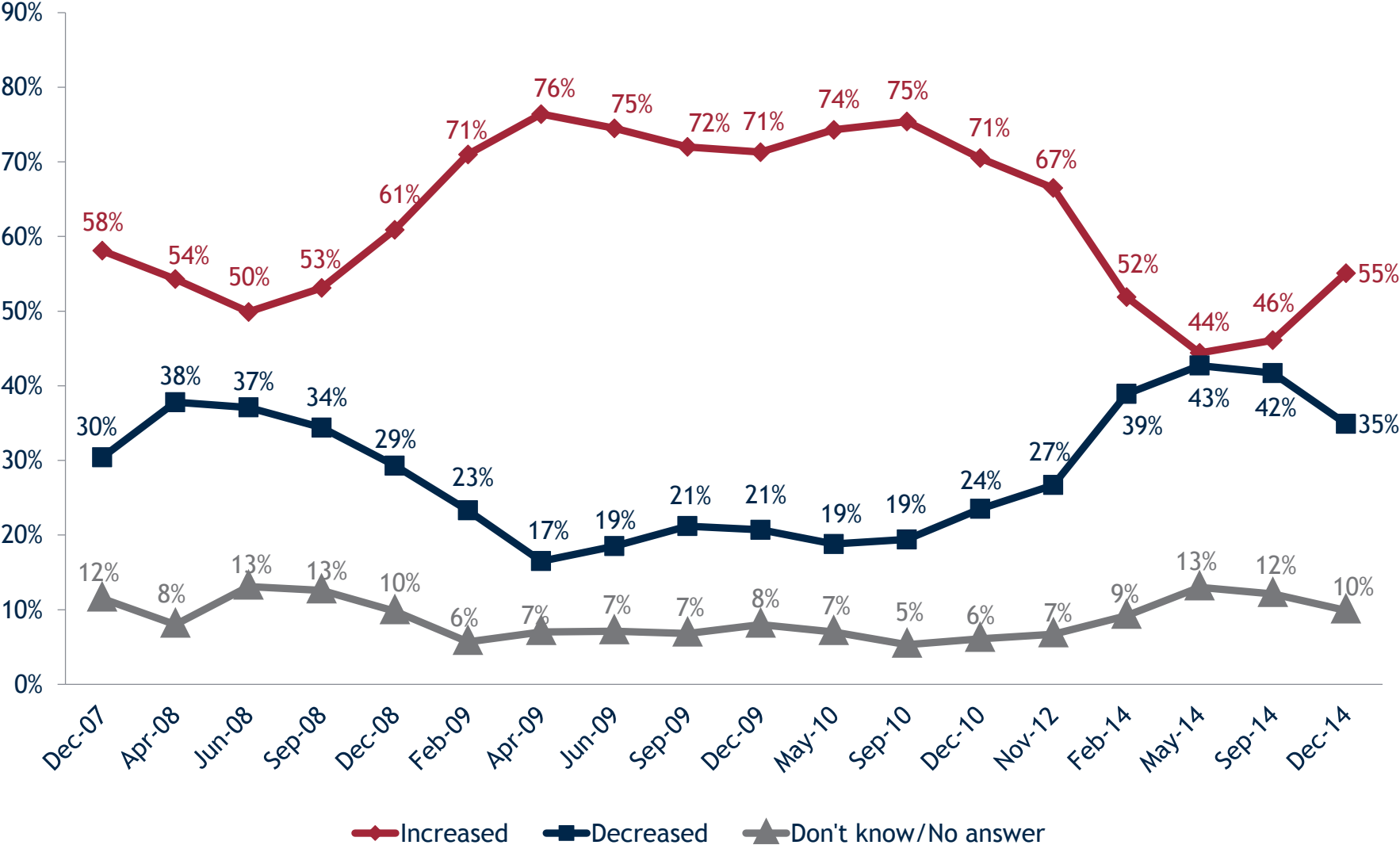
In your opinion what are the two most serious problems facing Macedonia today? (Open-ended)

	1 st	2 nd	TOTAL
Unemployment	47%	19%	67%
Low standard of living/Poverty	15%	16%	31%
Economic problems	8%	9%	17%
Low/Non-payment of salary or pension	5%	9%	14%
High prices/High taxes	2%	8%	10%
Name of the country	5%	4%	9%
Interethnic relations	2%	4%	6%
Corruption	2%	3%	5%
Social problems	1%	3%	4%
General political situation	2%	1%	3%
Entrance into NATO/European Union	1%	3%	4%

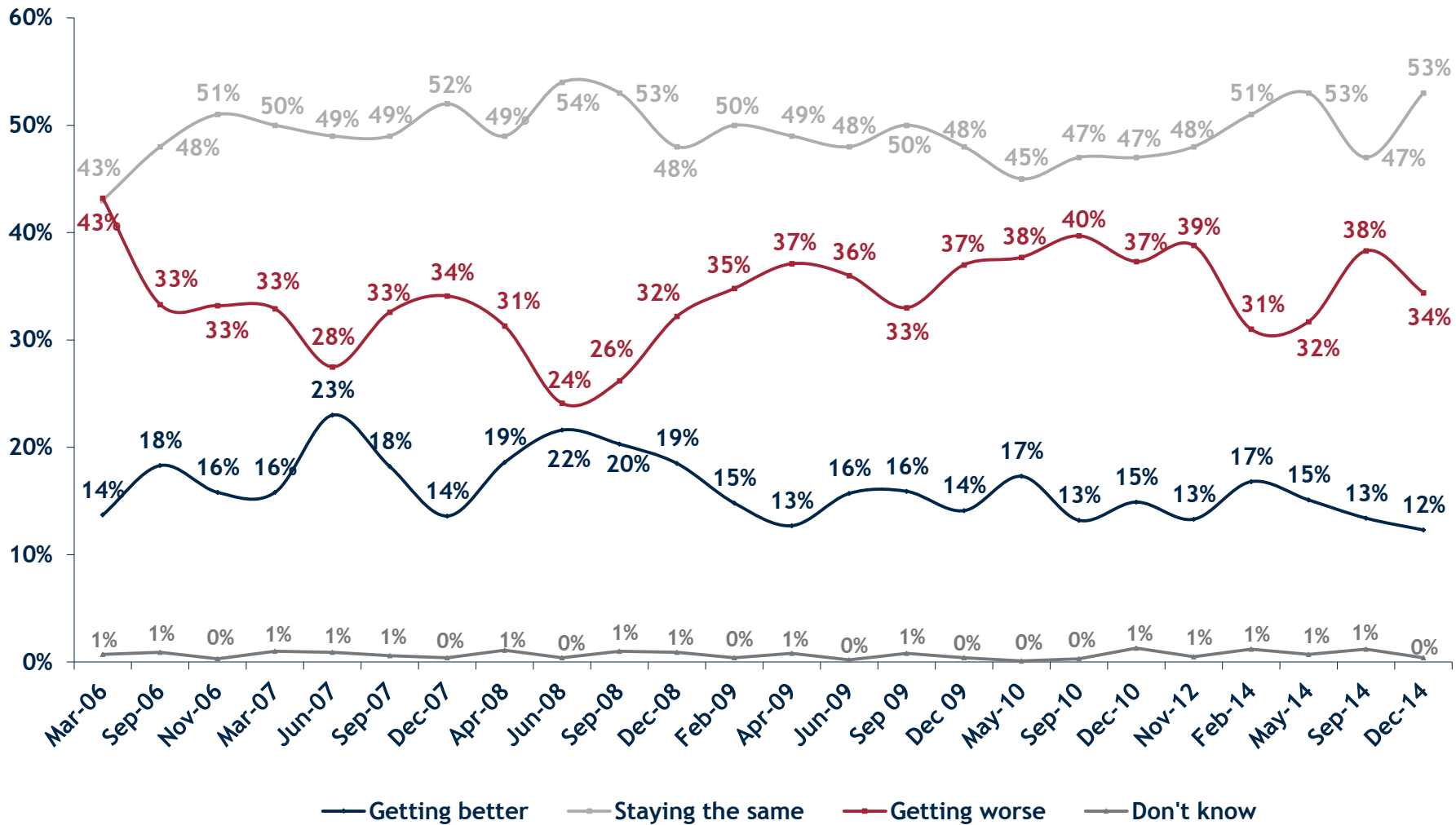
In your opinion what is the most serious problem facing Macedonia today? (Trends from 2009 to 2014)

	Sep-09	Dec-09	May-10	Sep-10	Dec-10	Nov-12	Feb-14	May-14	Sep-14	Dec-14
Unemployment	46%	41%	42%	40%	37%	42%	43%	45%	44%	47%
Low standard of living/Poverty	13%	11%	10%	14%	16%	13%	11%	13%	15%	15%
Economic problems	15%	17%	20%	17%	18%	17%	12%	8%	6%	8%
Name of the country	6%	12%	11%	8%	8%	4%	6%	7%	6%	5%
Low/Non-payment of salary or pension	4%	4%	2%	4%	4%	4%	4%	5%	4%	5%
High prices/High taxes	—	—	1%	2%	1%	4%	3%	2%	3%	2%
Interethnic relations	1%	1%	2%	1%	—	1%	2%	4%	3%	2%
Corruption	2%	2%	2%	3%	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%
General political situation	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%	3%	2%	2%	2%
Social problems	4%	3%	2%	2%	2%	3%	5%	2%	1%	1%
Entrance into NATO/European Union	—	—	1%	1%	1%	—	1%	—	3%	1%

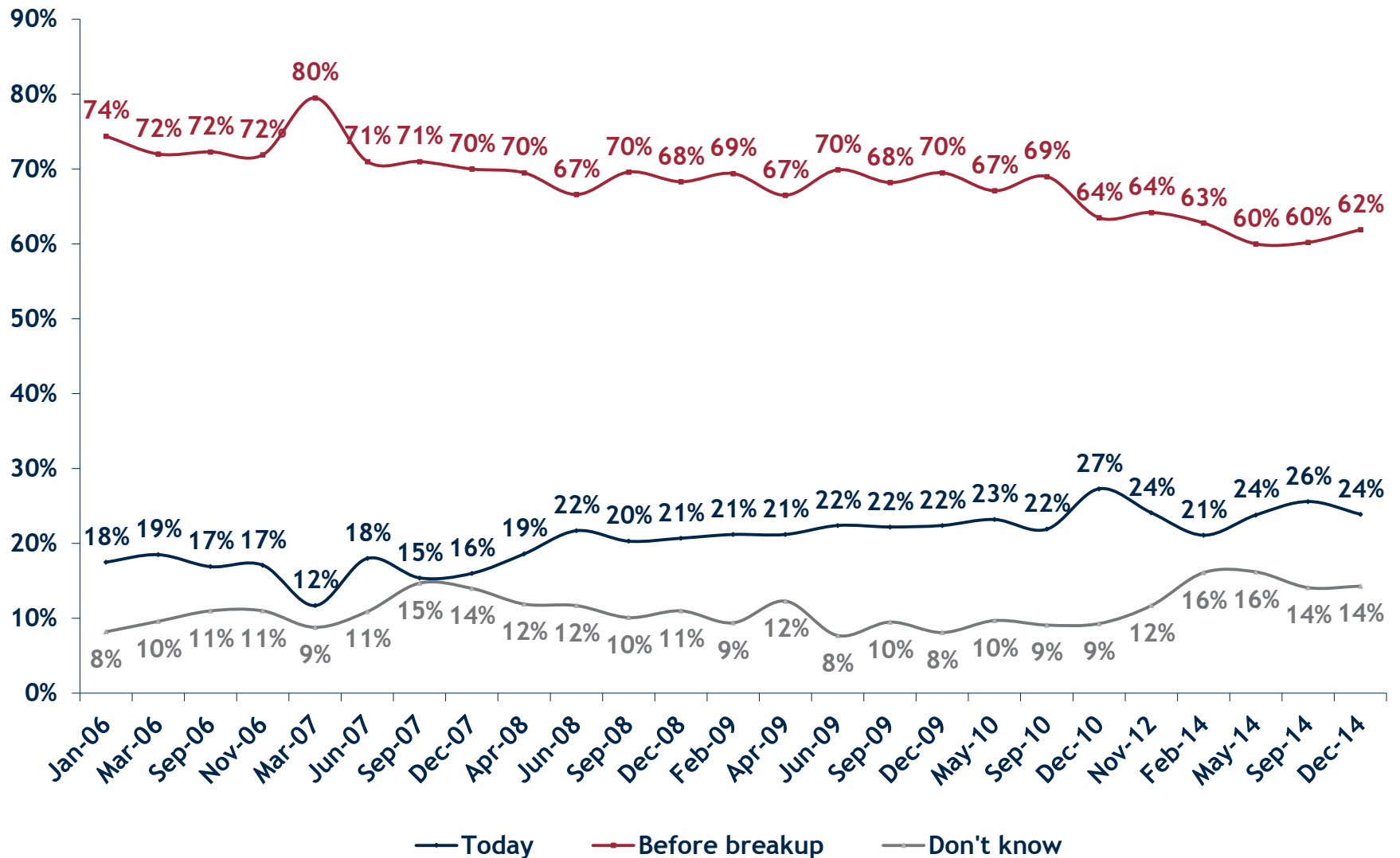
Has unemployment increased or decreased over the last year?



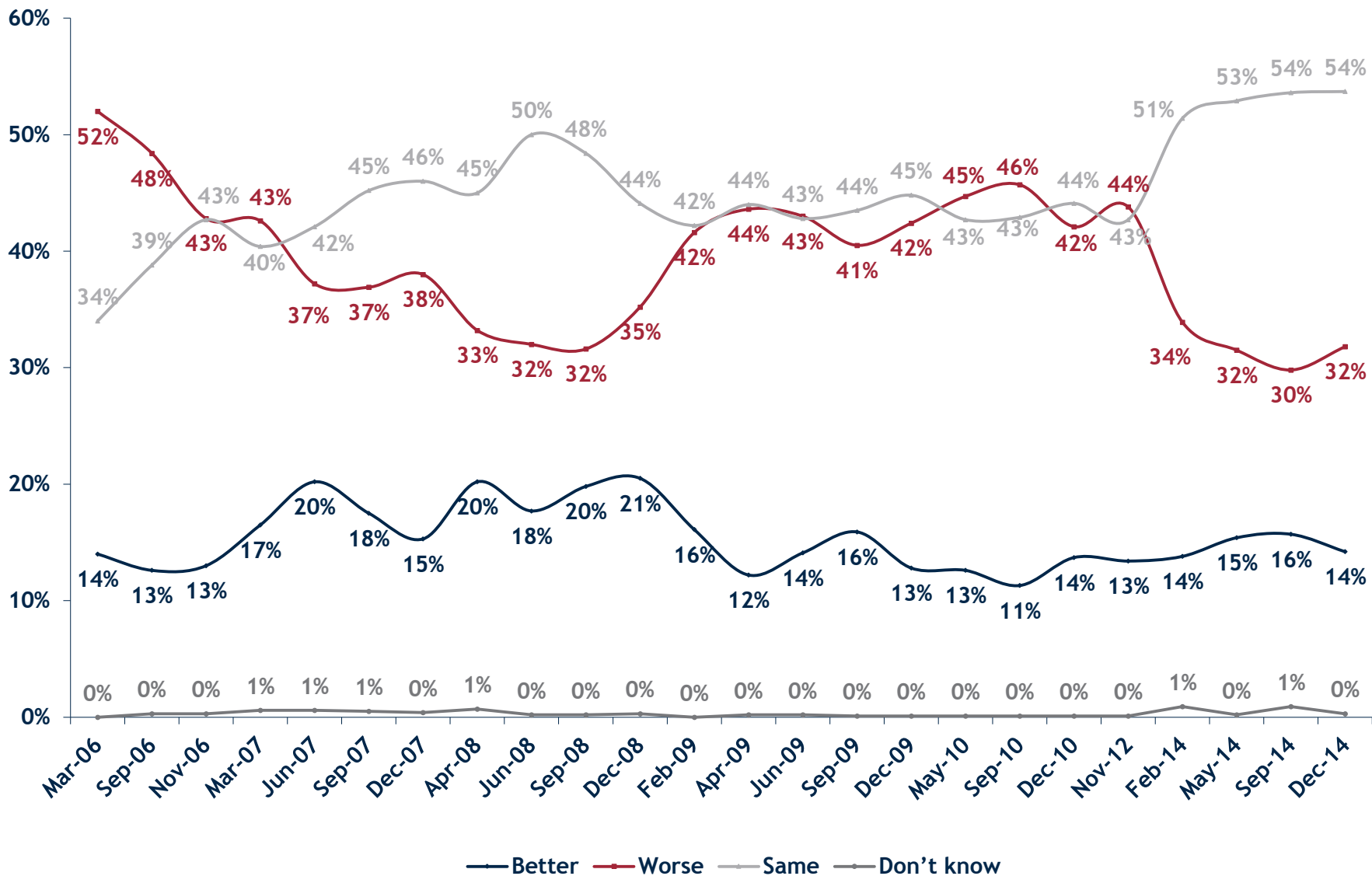
Speaking personally, is your overall quality of life...?



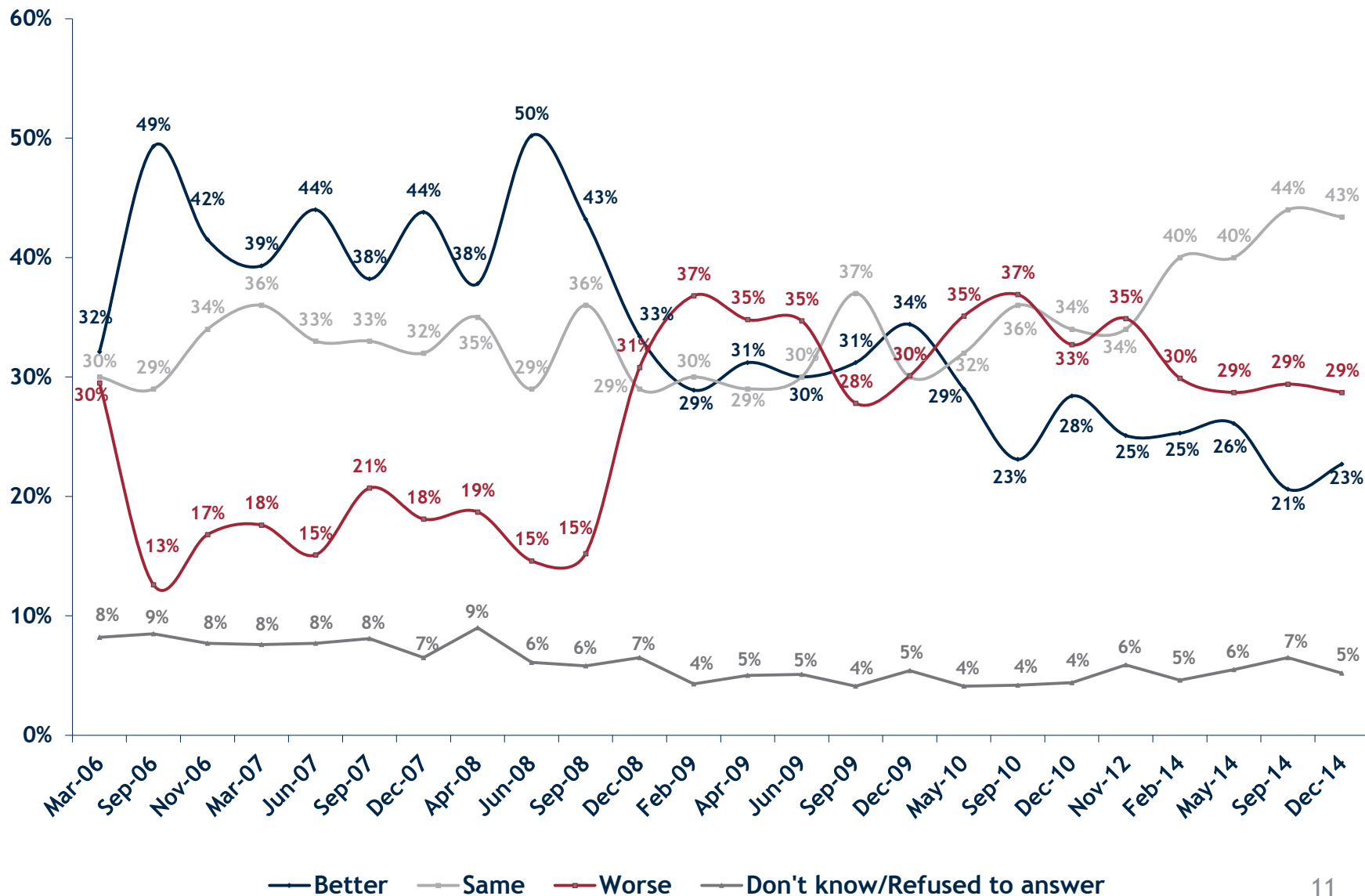
When was life better for you, today or before the breakup of Yugoslavia?



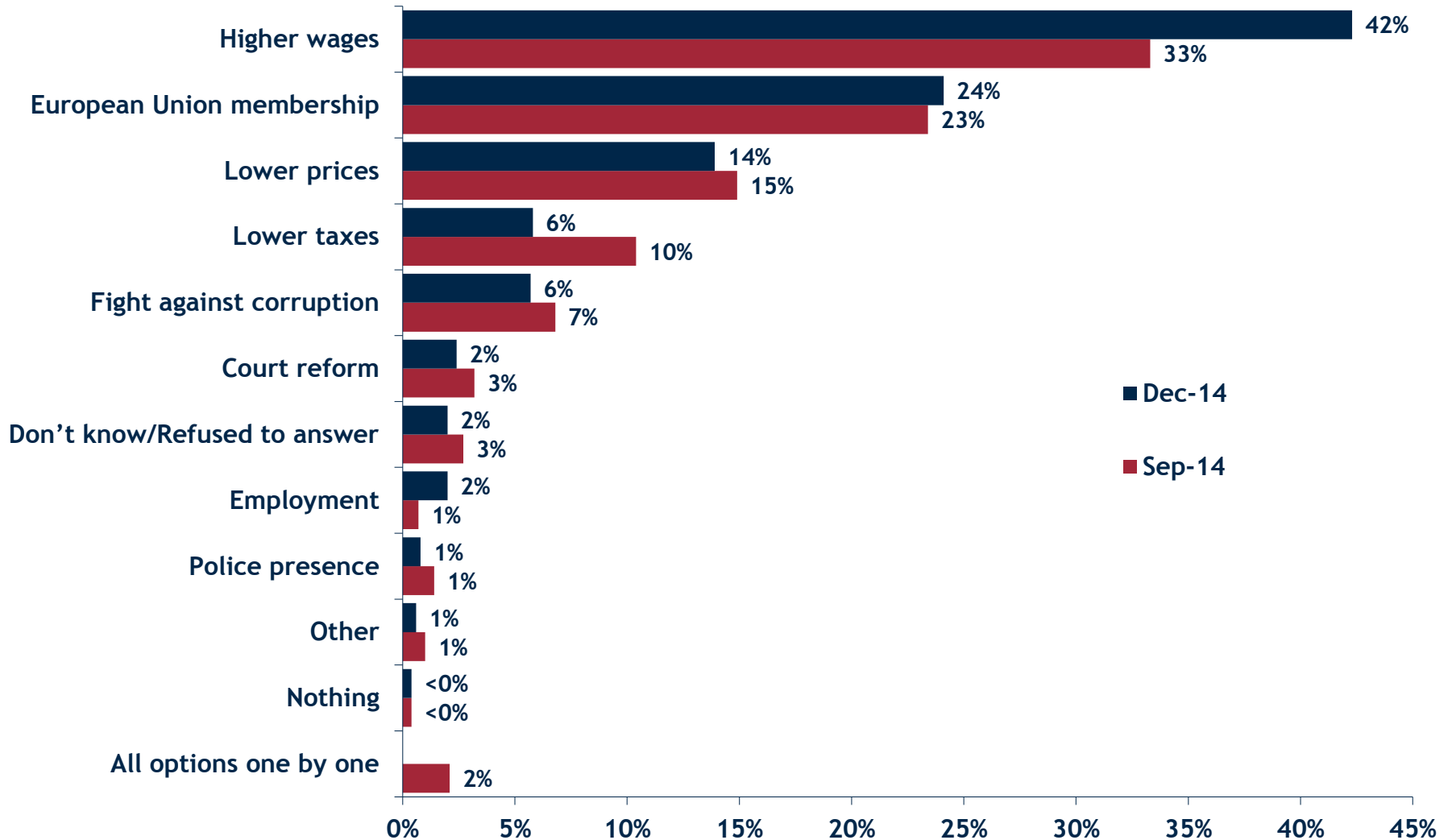
How is your family's economic situation compared with one year ago?



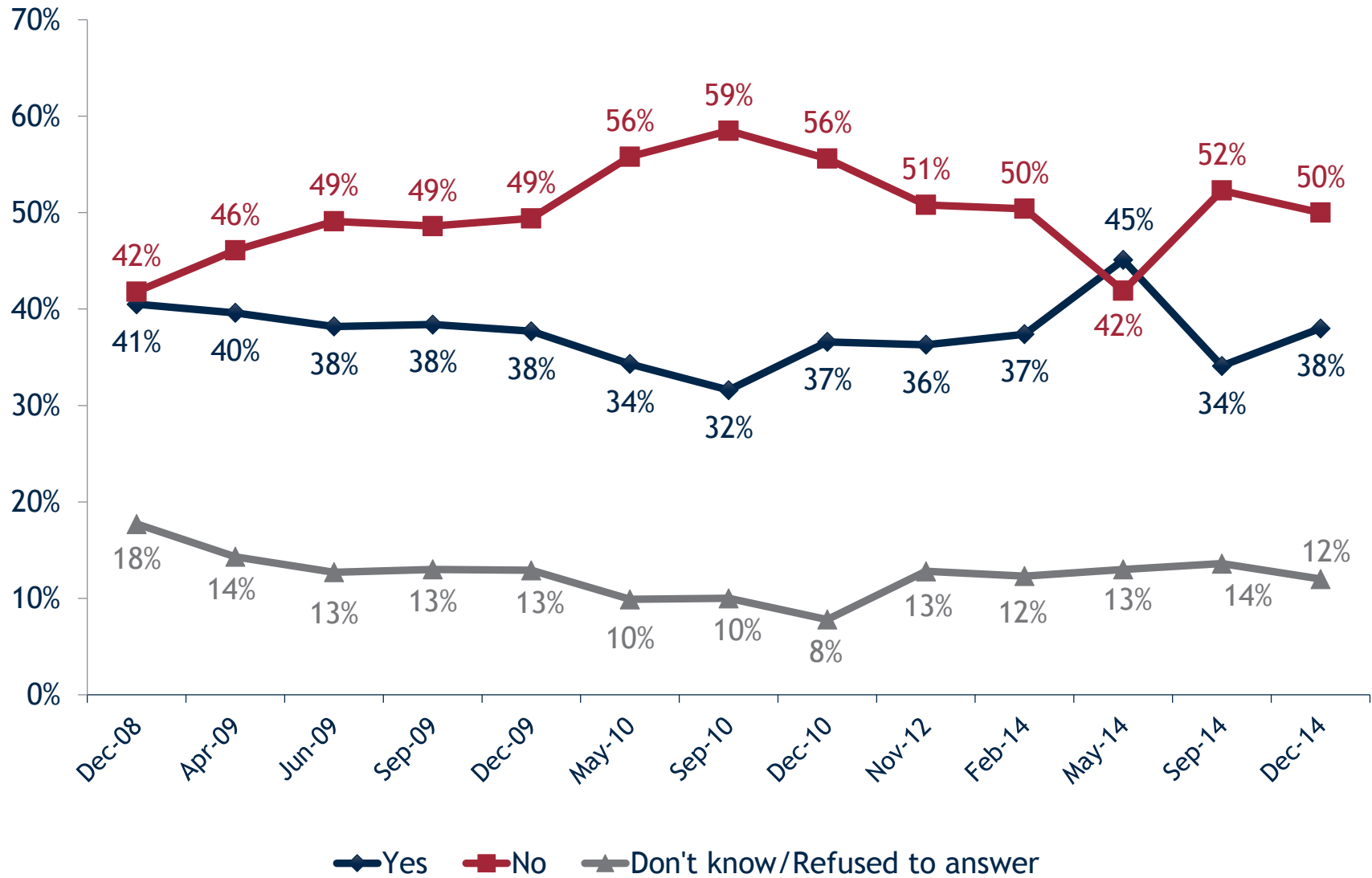
In the next two years, will the Macedonian economy get better, get worse or stay the same?



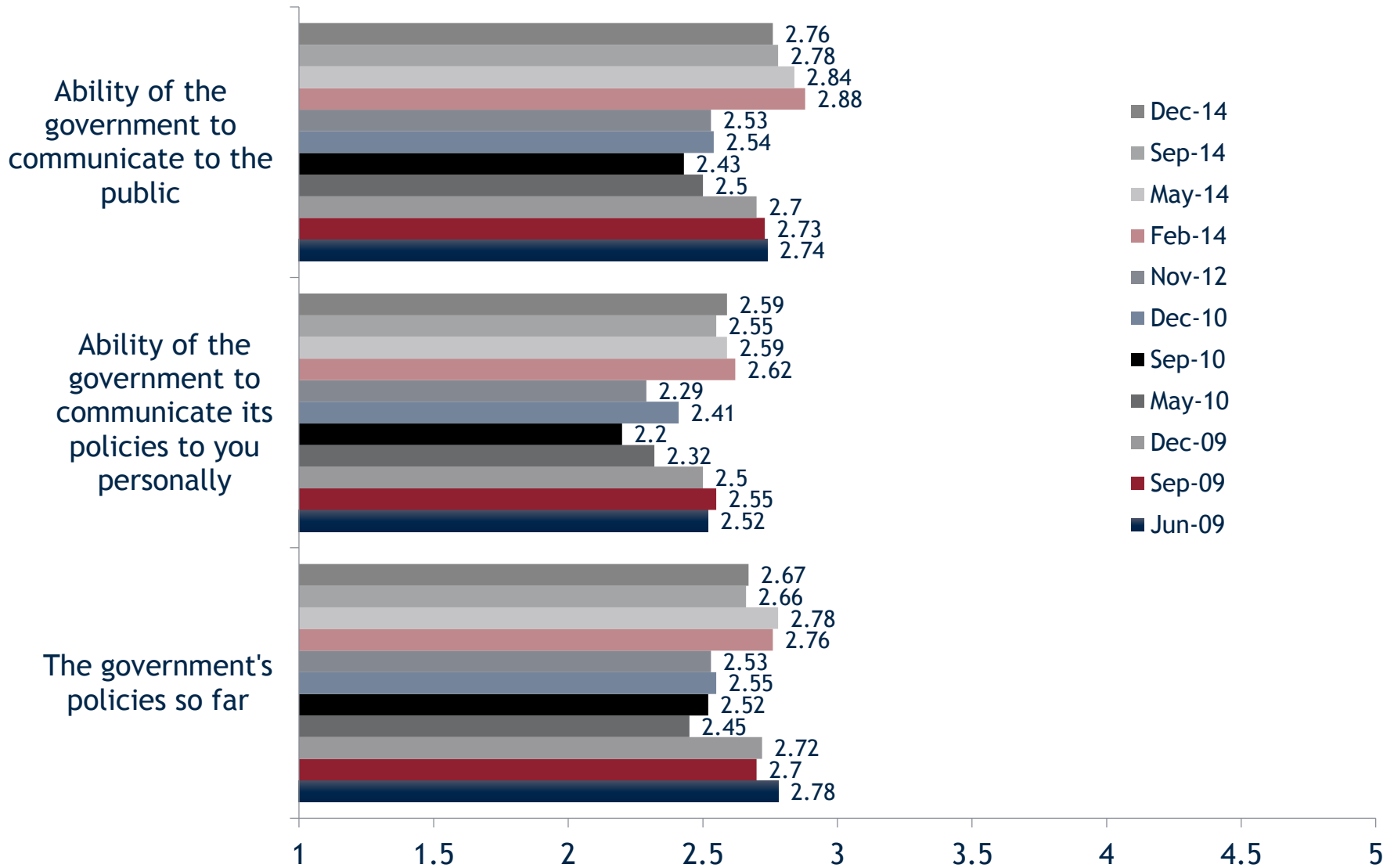
Which one of these issues would directly make your life better?



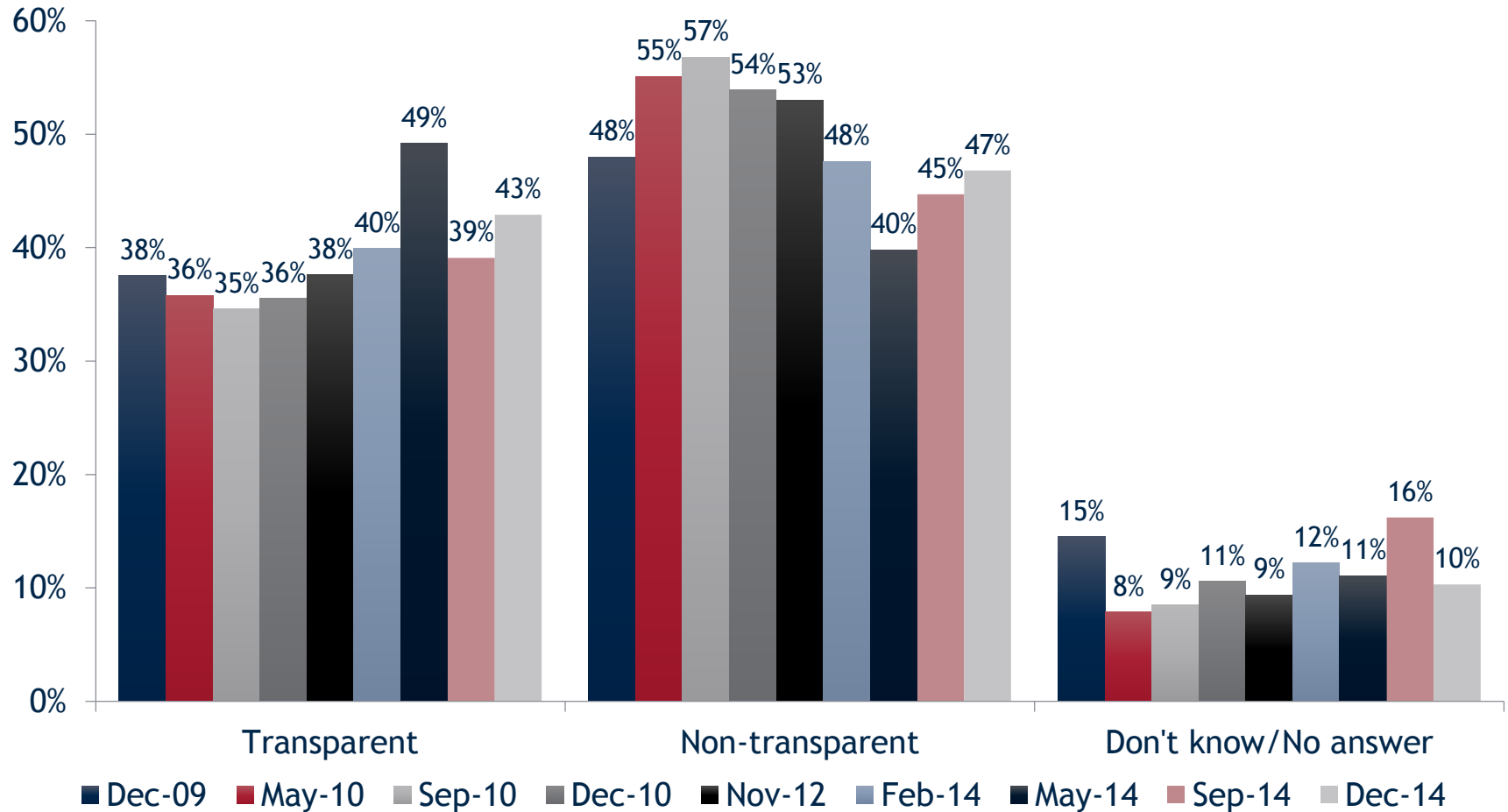
According to you, does the government have an effective plan to address the economic problems Macedonia is facing?



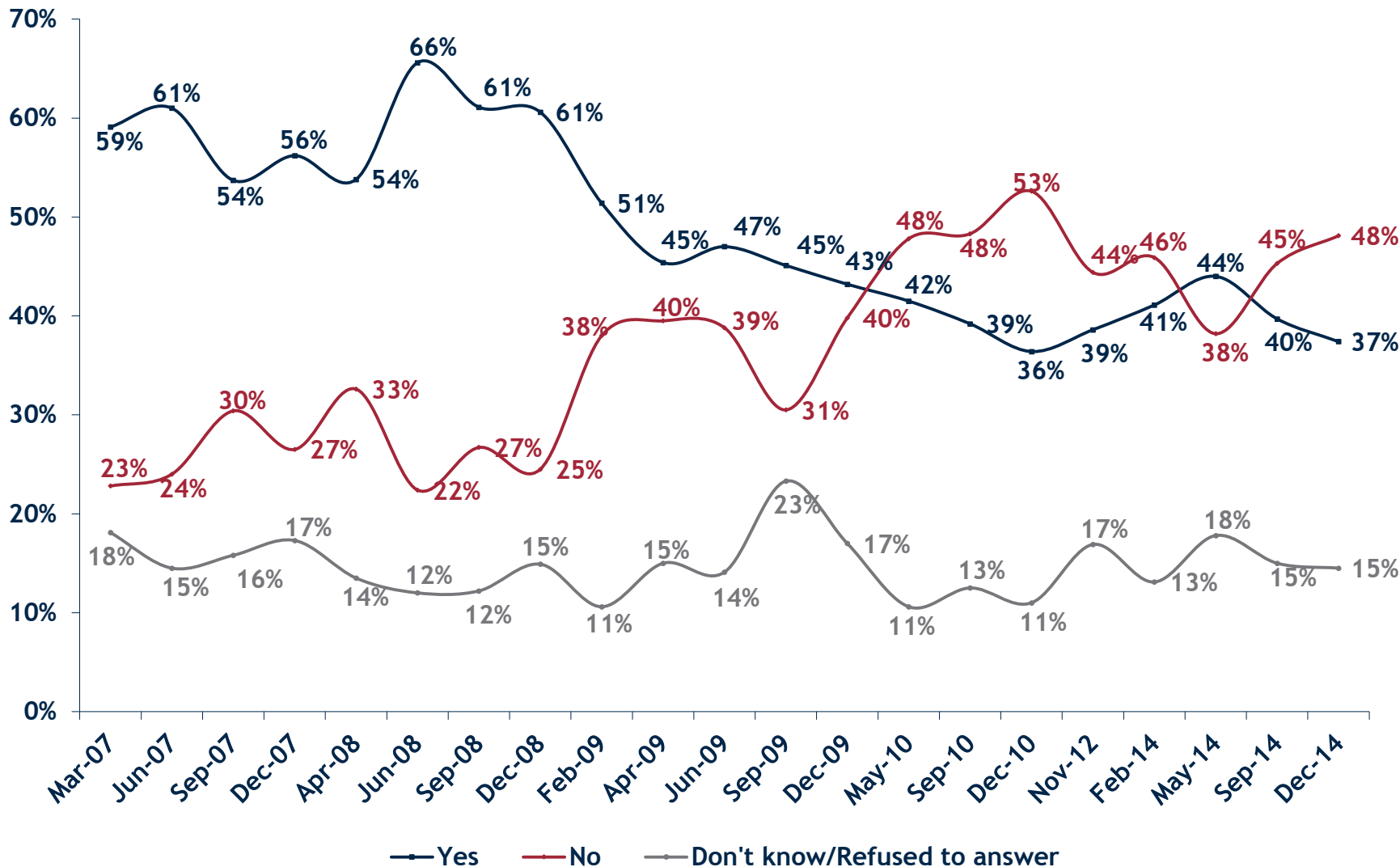
Using the scale used in Macedonian schools, where one is unsatisfactory and five is excellent, what grade would you give for the... ?



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



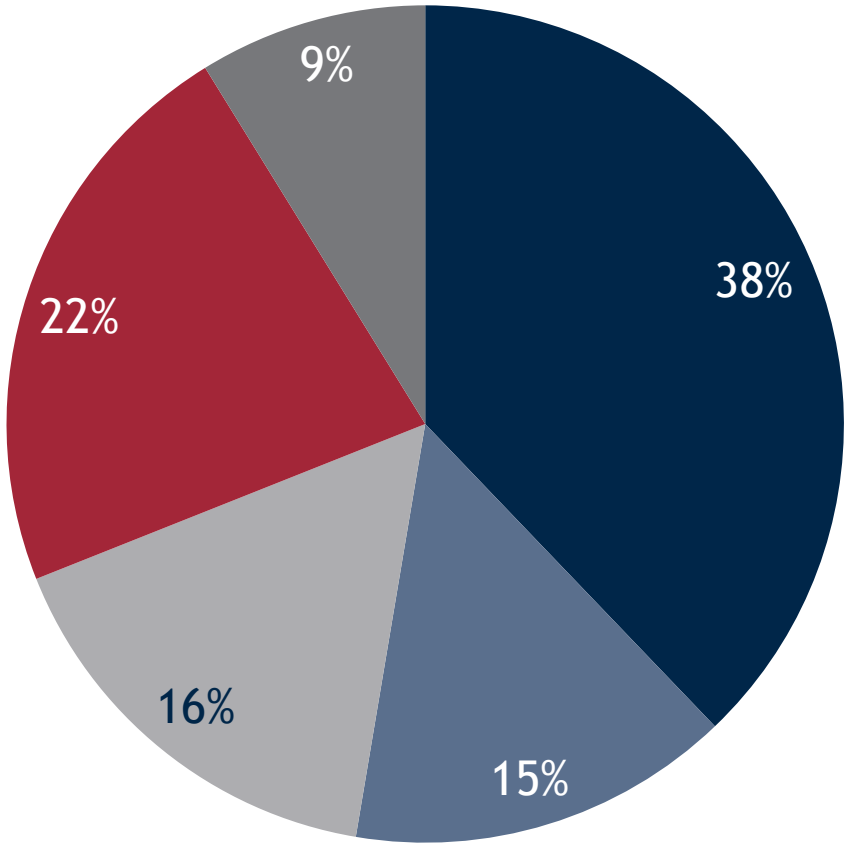
Has Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski done his job well enough to deserve re-election?





Democratic System of Government More Important than Economic Prosperity

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

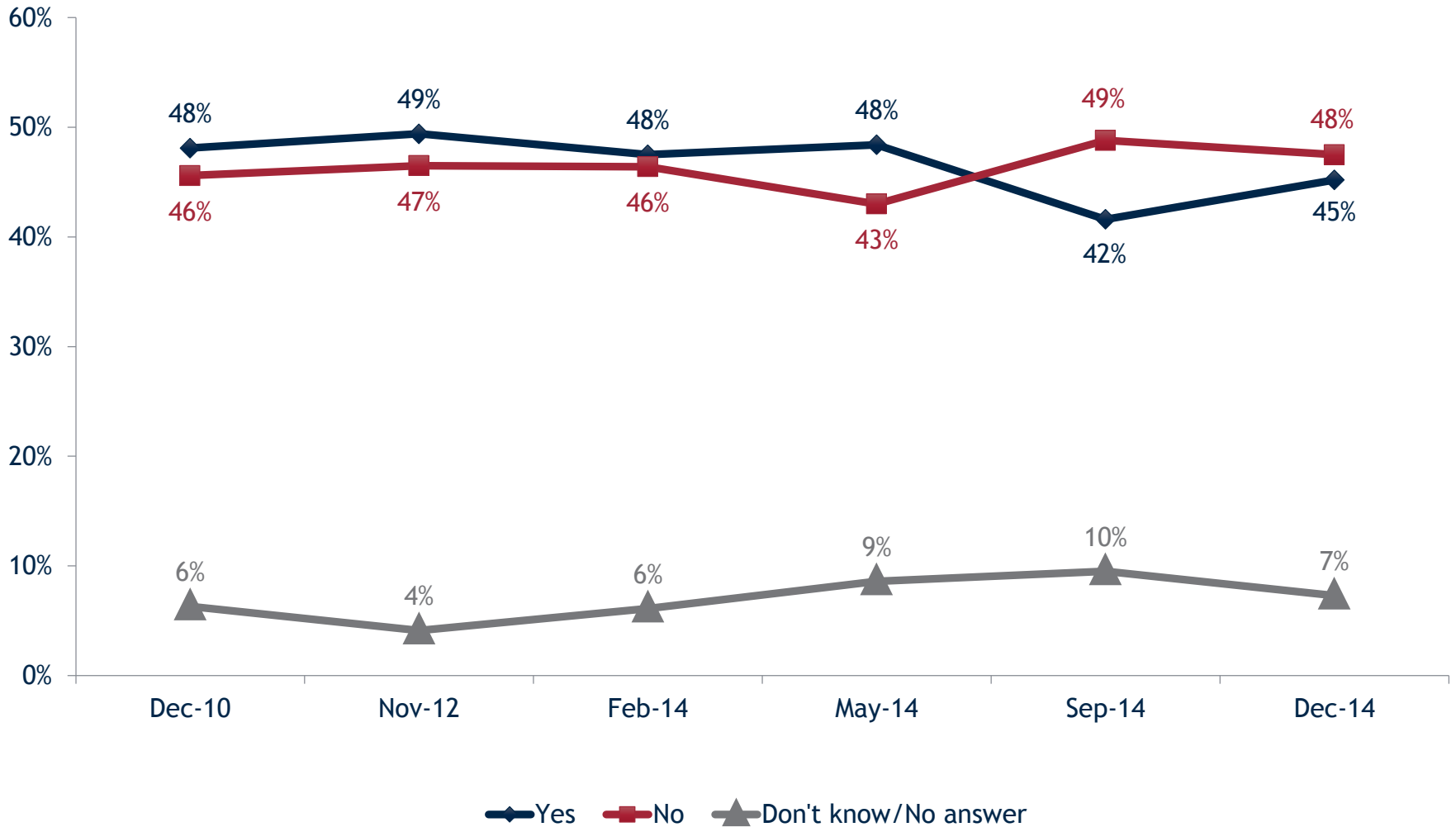


- Democracy is definitely more important to me
- Democracy is somewhat more important to me
- Prosperity is somewhat more important to me
- Prosperity is definitely more important to me
- Do not know/Refused to answer

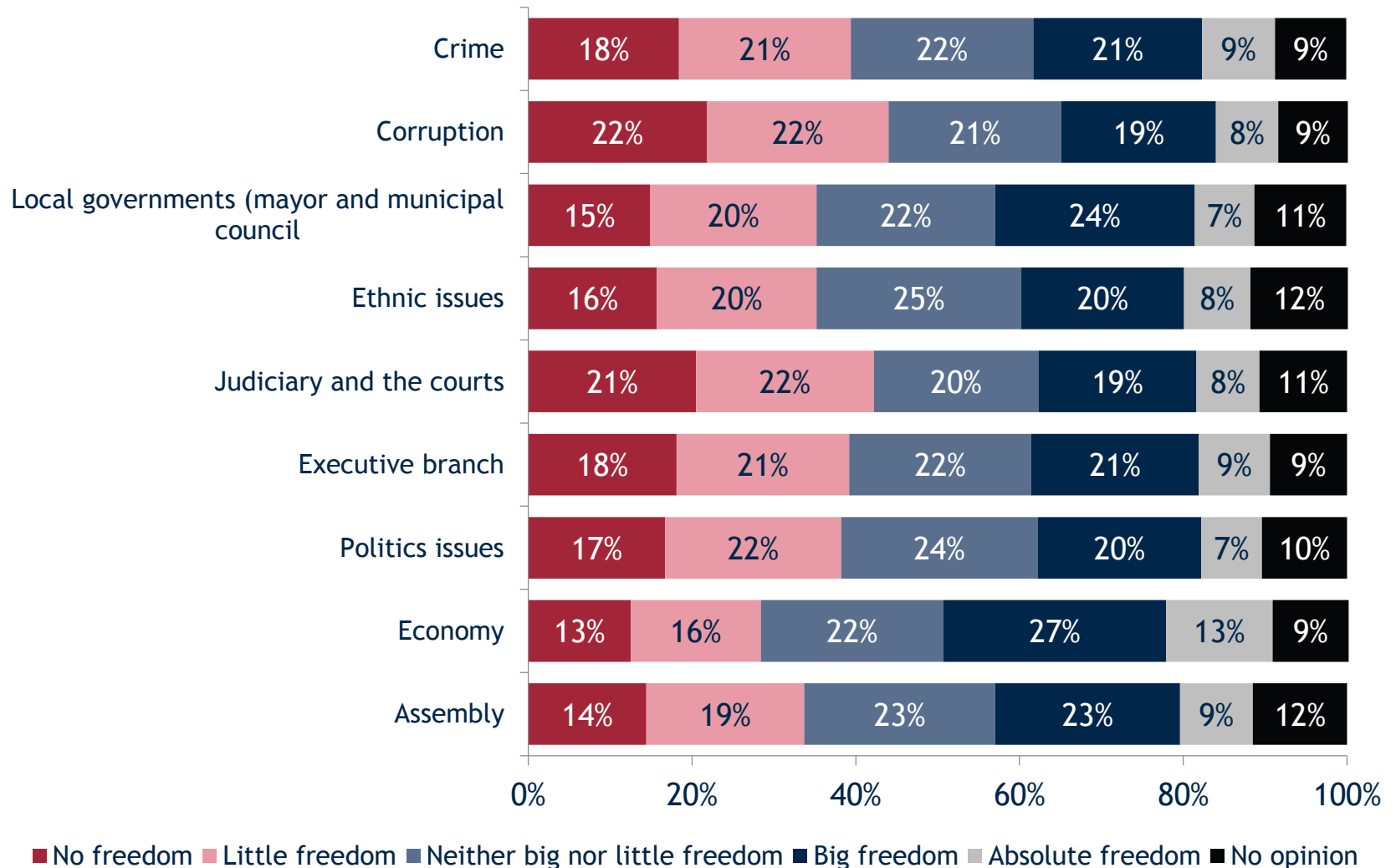


Freedom of Expression Still a Concern, Media Seen as Lacking Freedom

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

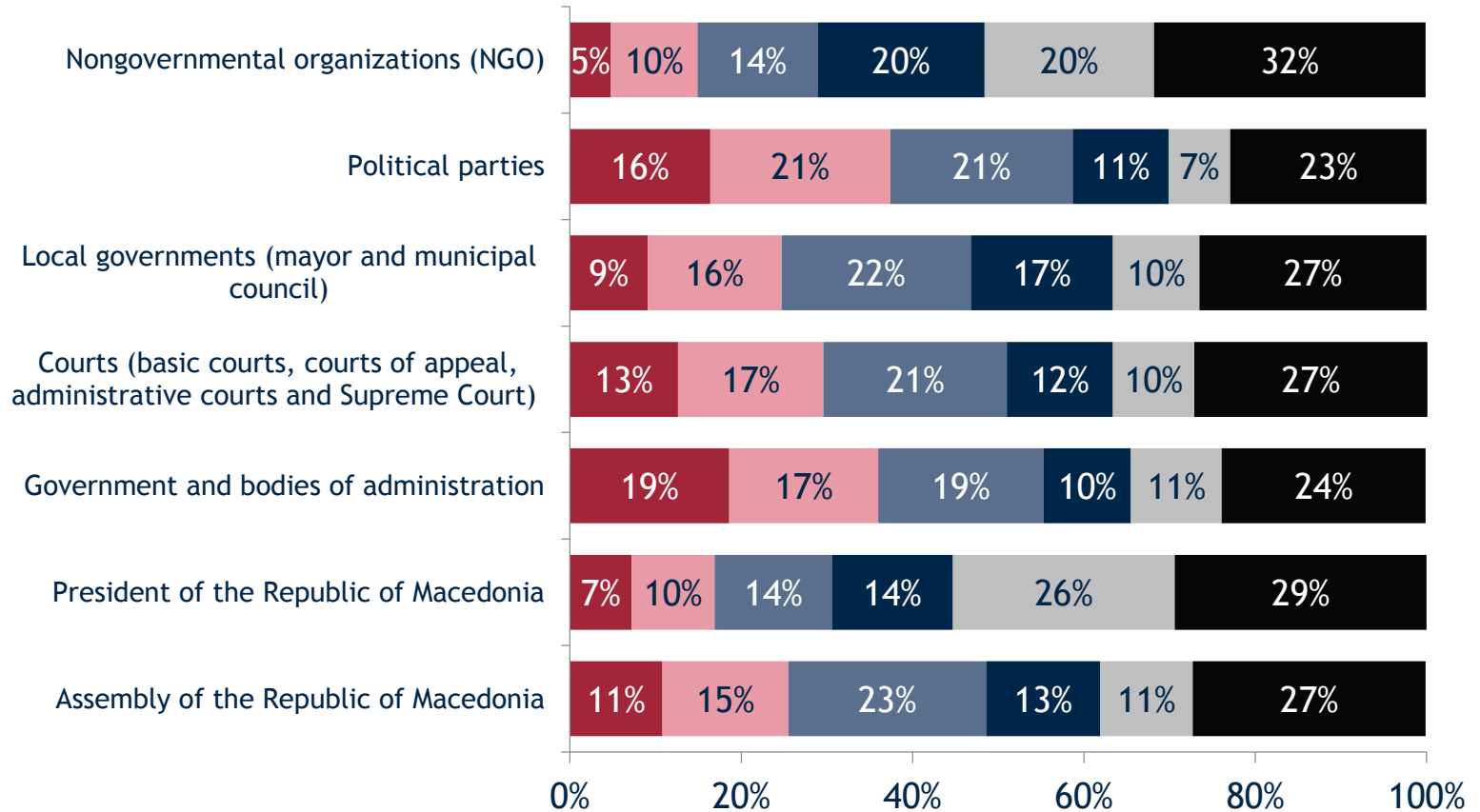


To what extent do you think media have the freedom to write the truth about...

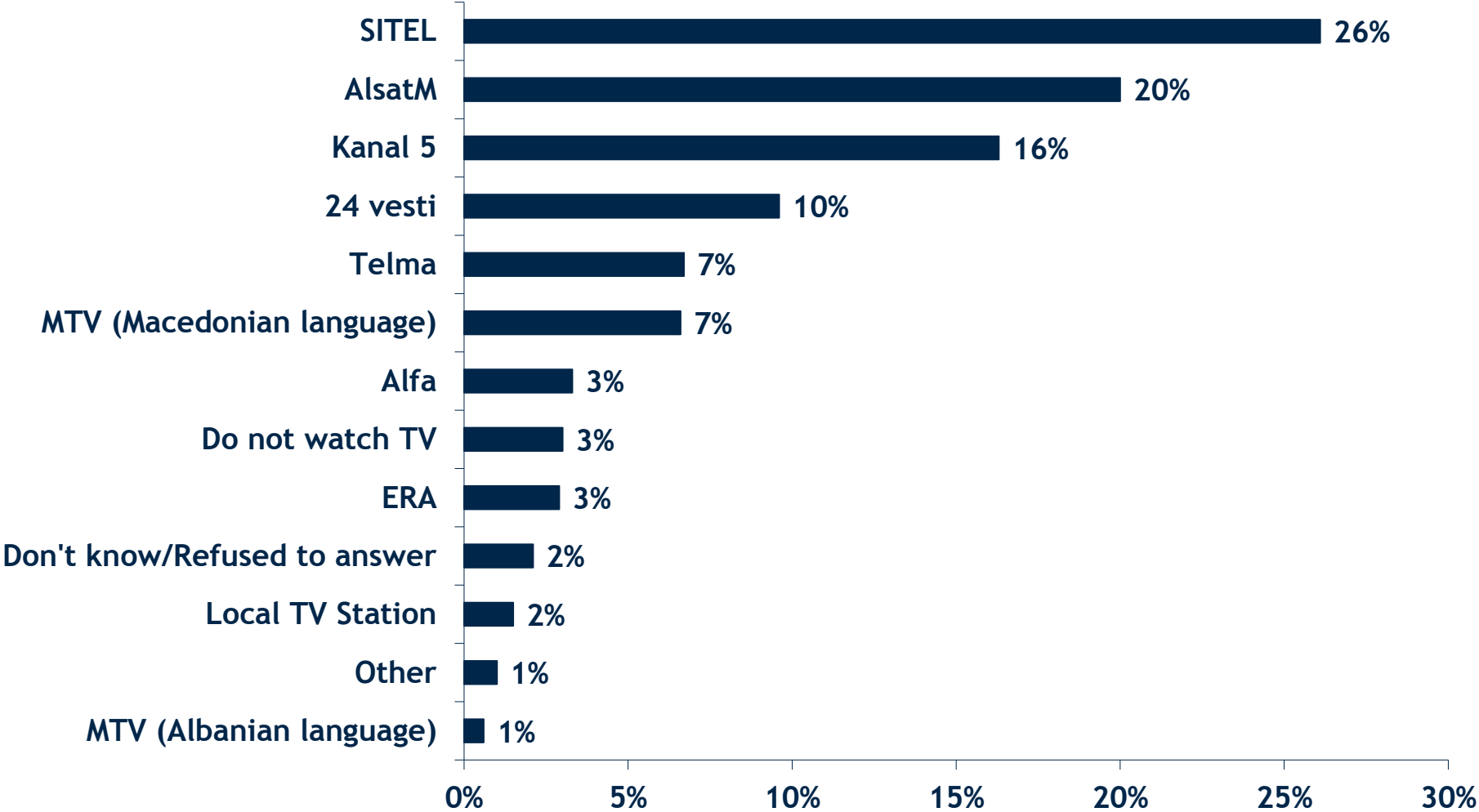


Do you think that any of the following exert pressure on the media?

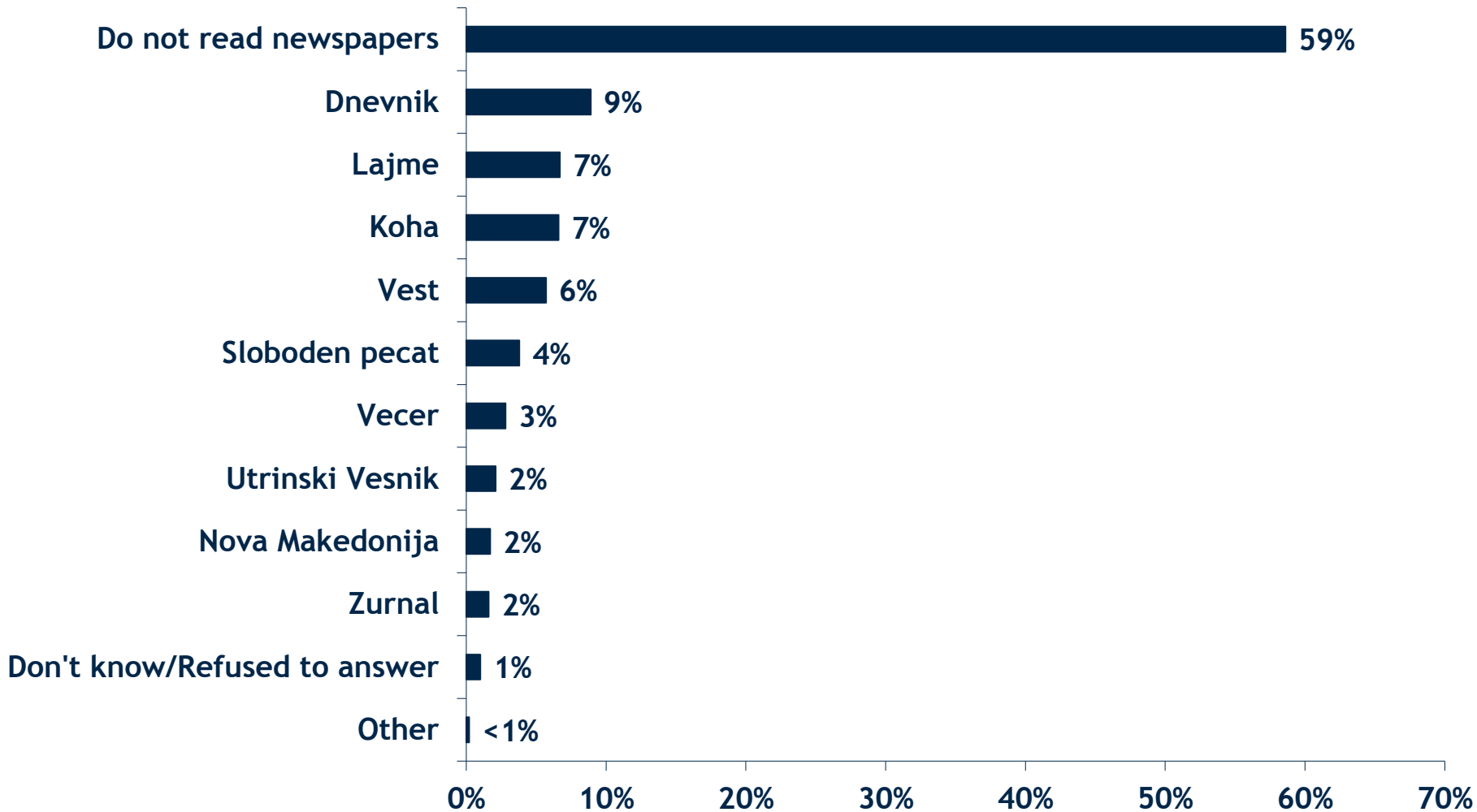
■ Ordinarily (almost on a daily basis)
 ■ Often (few times a week)
 ■ Sometimes (two or twice a month)
 ■ Rarely (once a month)
 ■ Never
 ■ No opinion



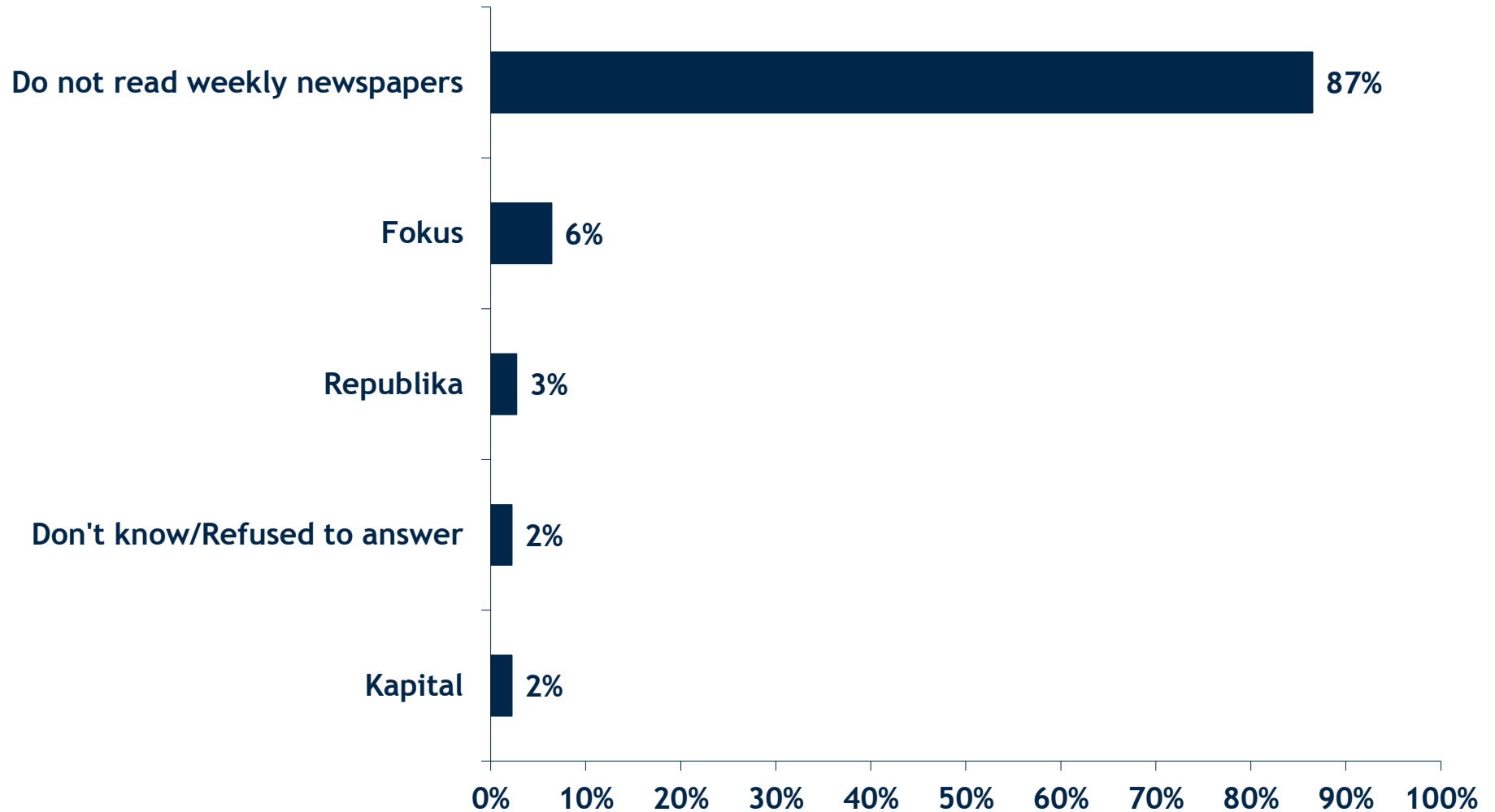
Which television station do you watch most often for political news?



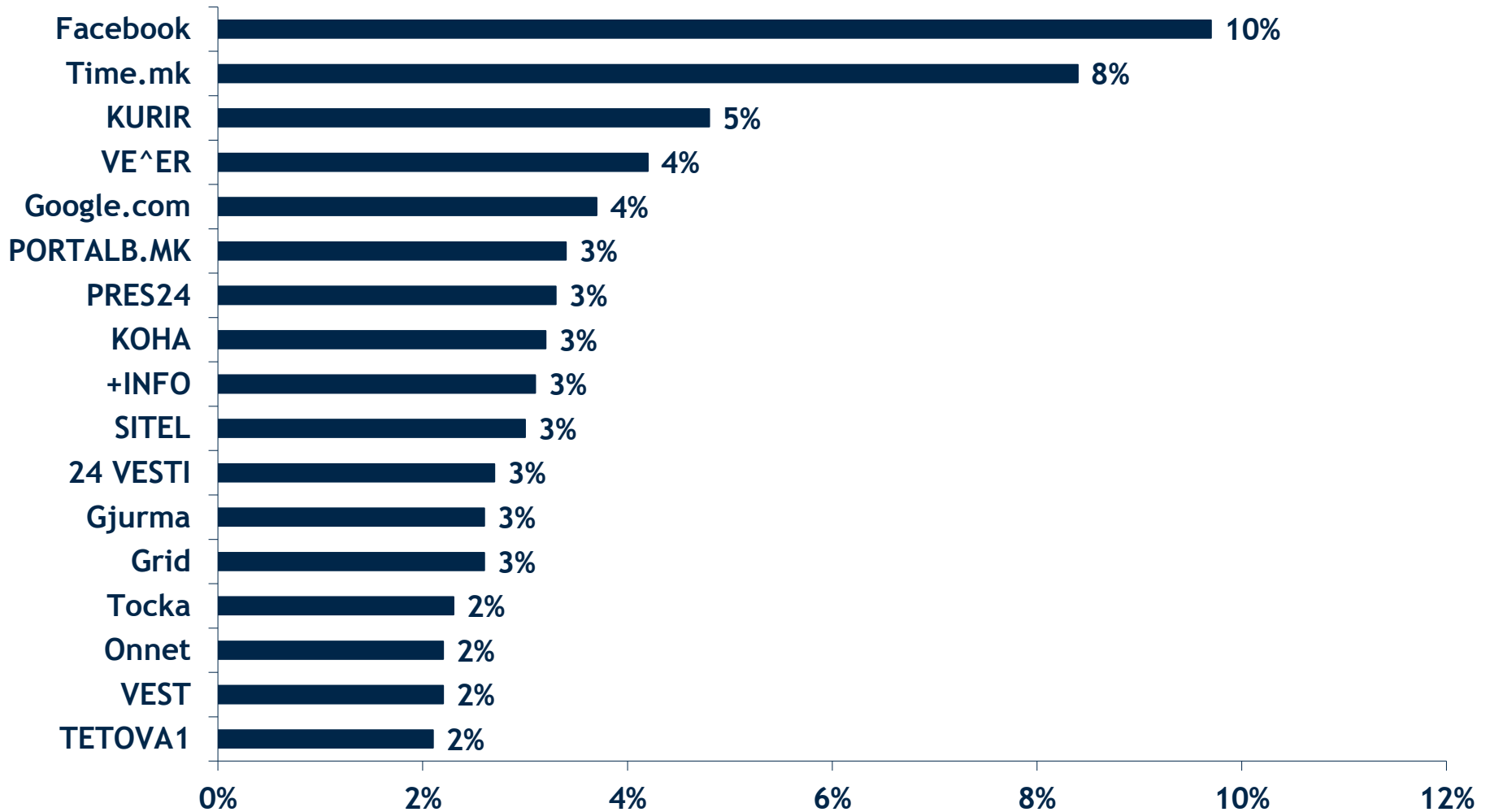
Which daily newspaper do you read most often for political news?



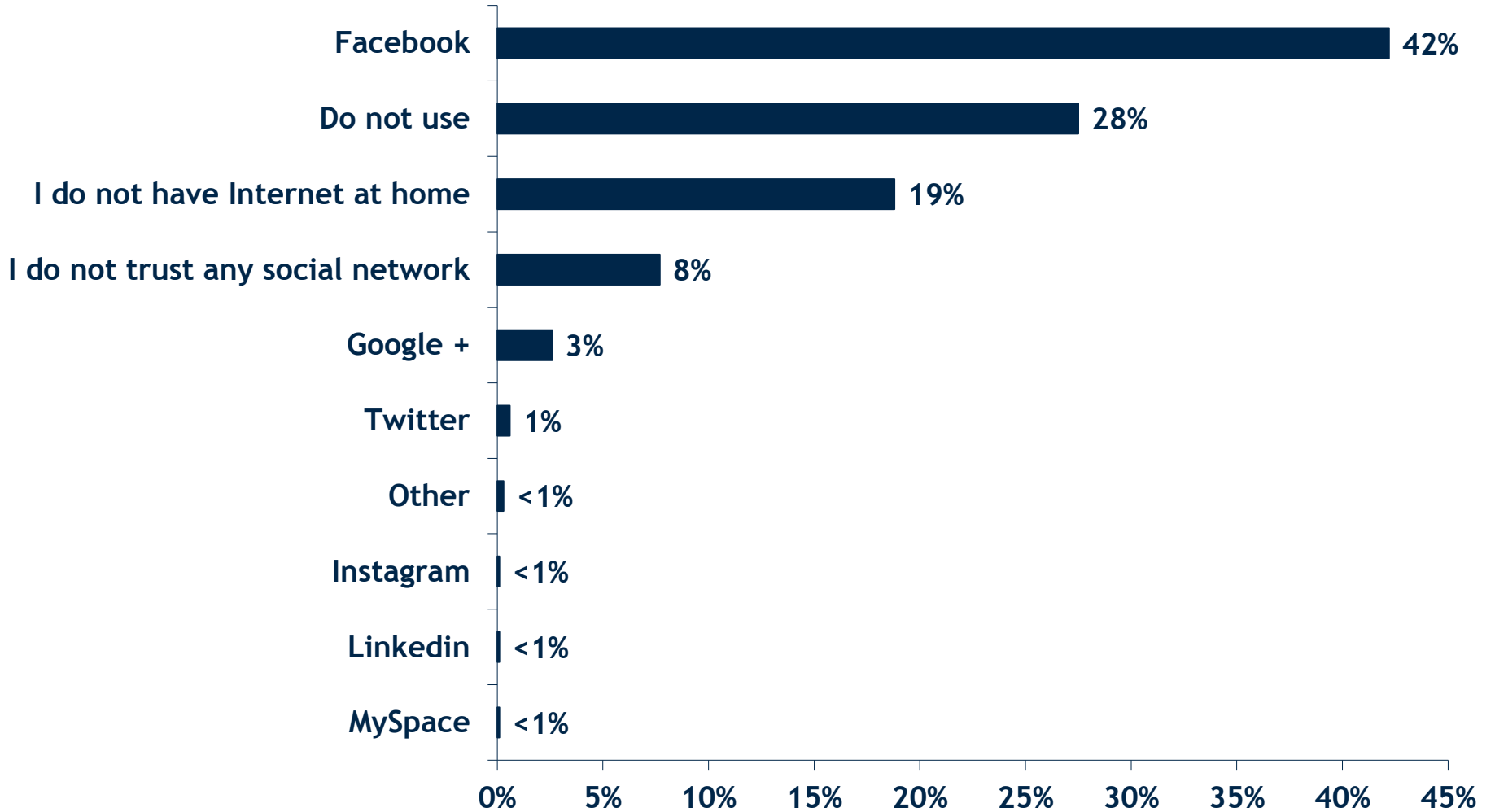
Which weekly newspaper do you read most often for political news?



Which Internet news portal/website do you read most often for political news? Spontaneous (n=365)



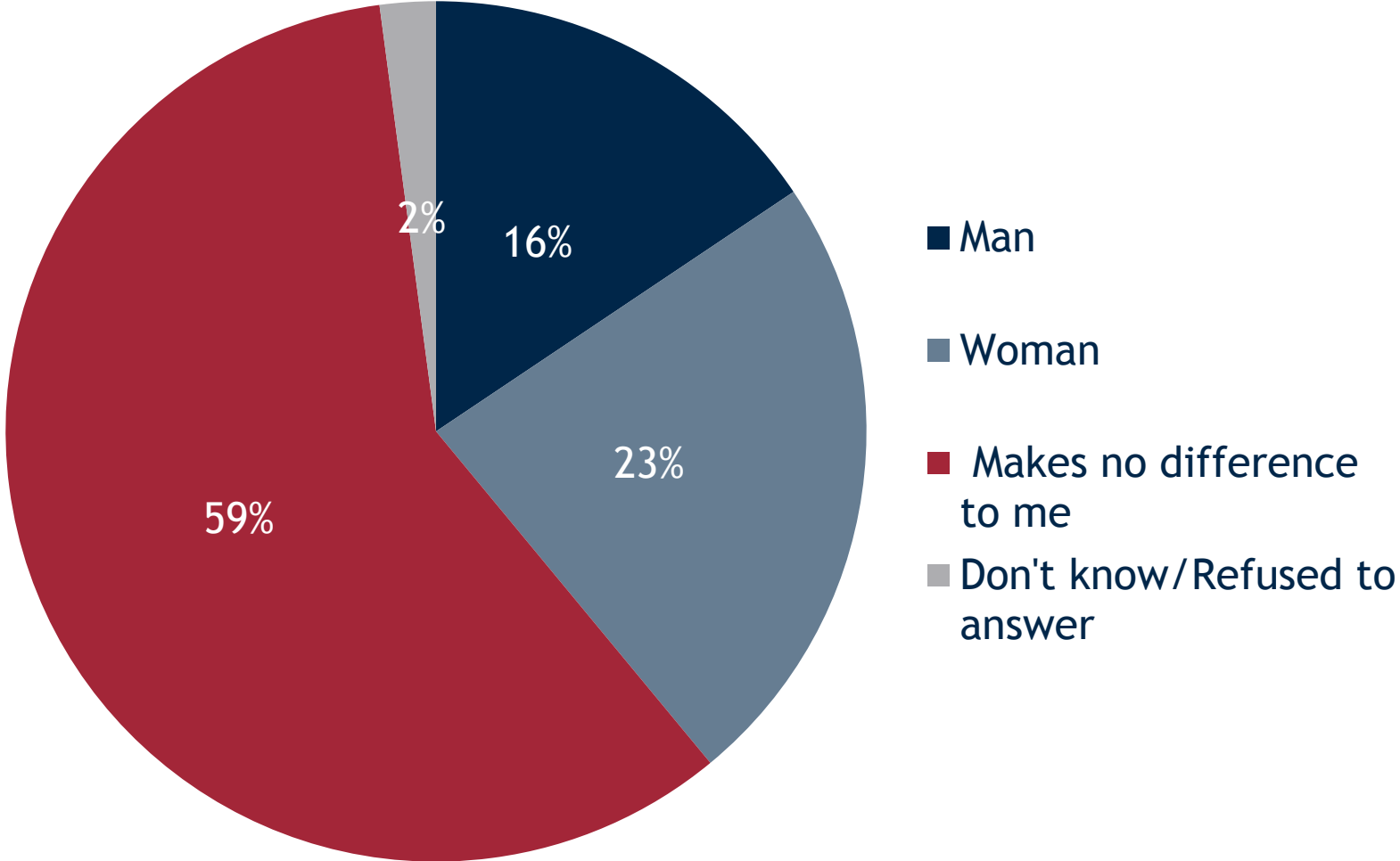
Which social network do you use most often?



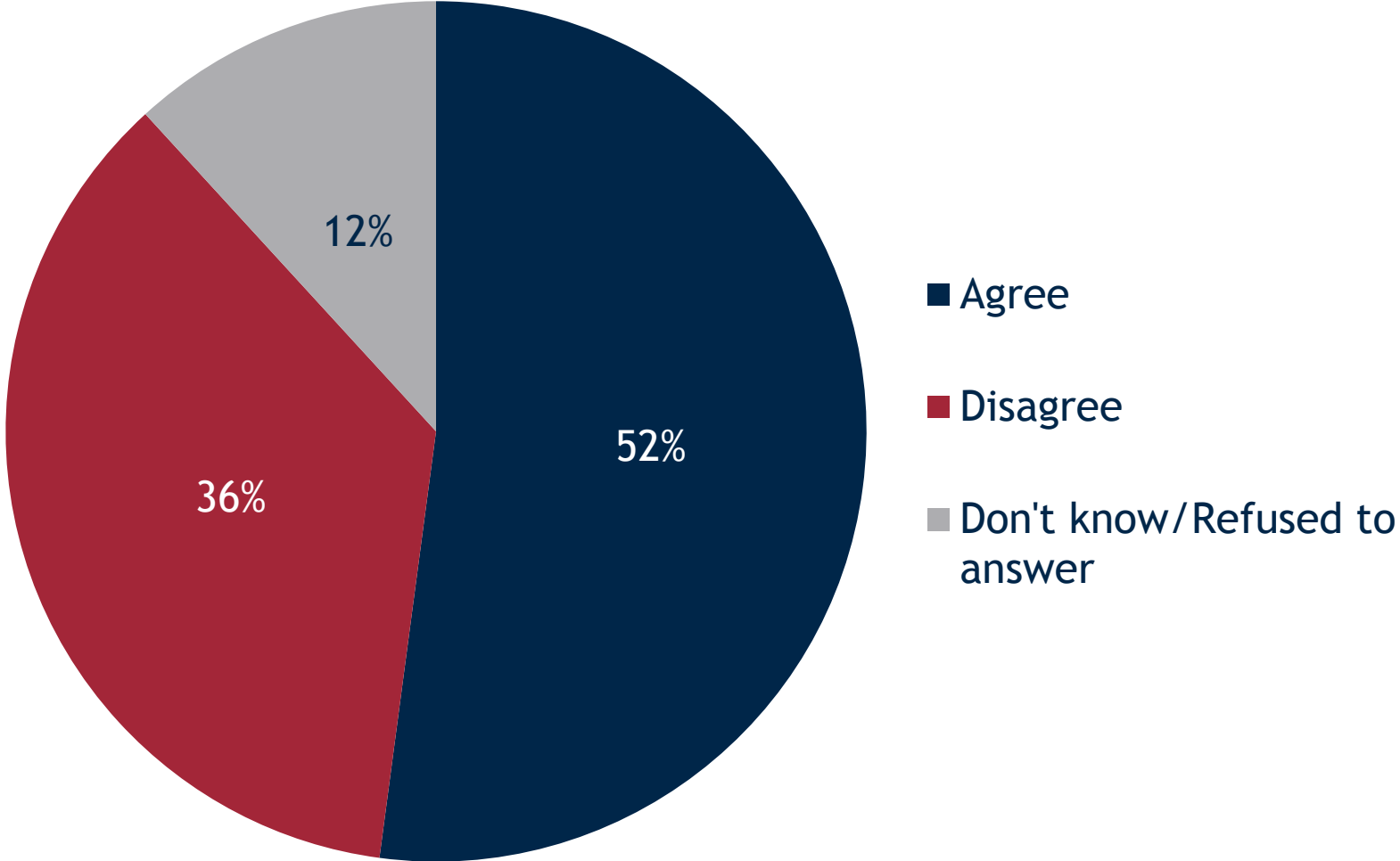


**Majority Supports More
Women Candidates for Office,
Greater Youth Involvement in Politics**

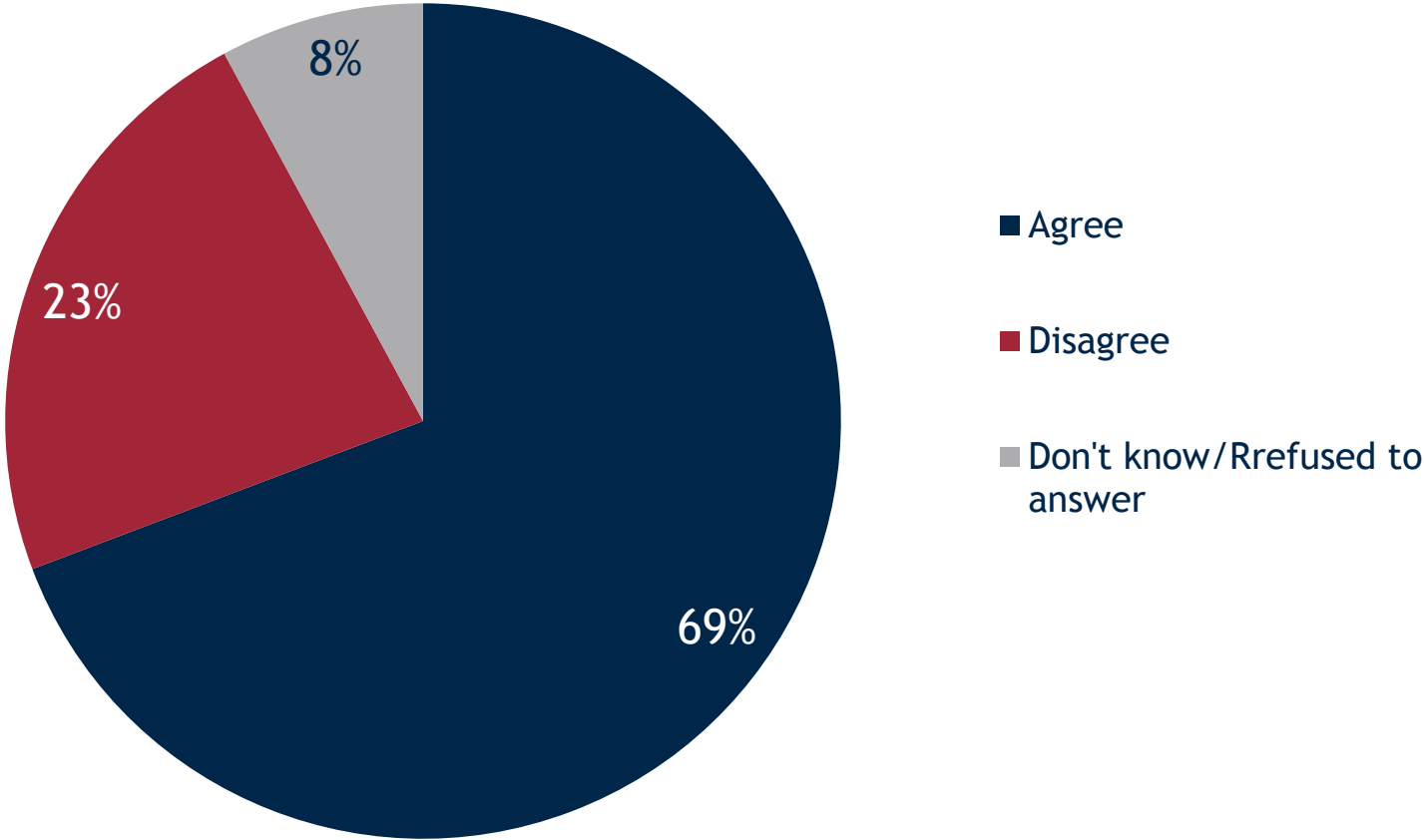
If there are two candidates running for office and they have the same qualifications aside from the fact that one is a man and one is a woman, which candidate are you more likely to support?



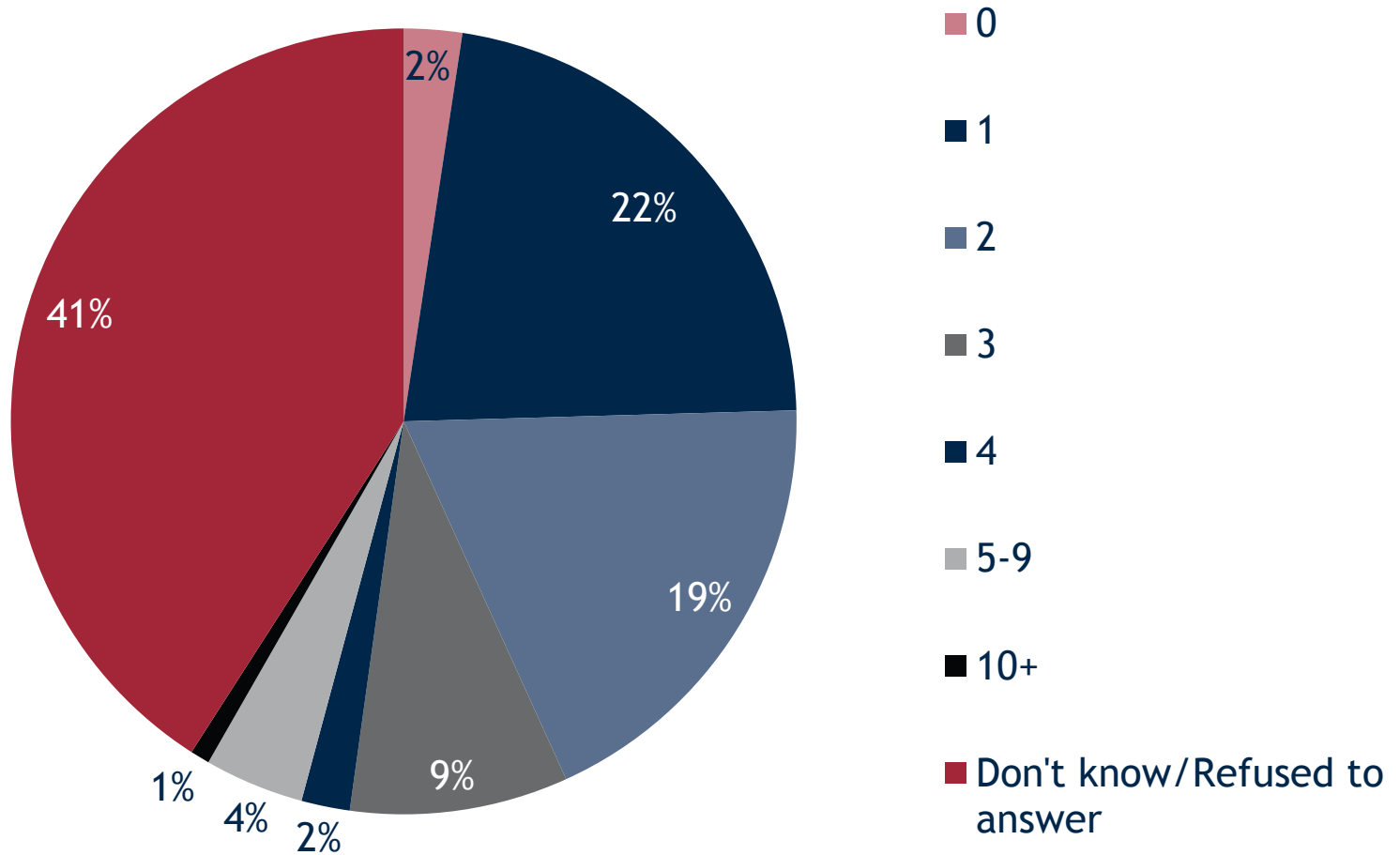
Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Politicians do not listen to the needs and ideas of women.



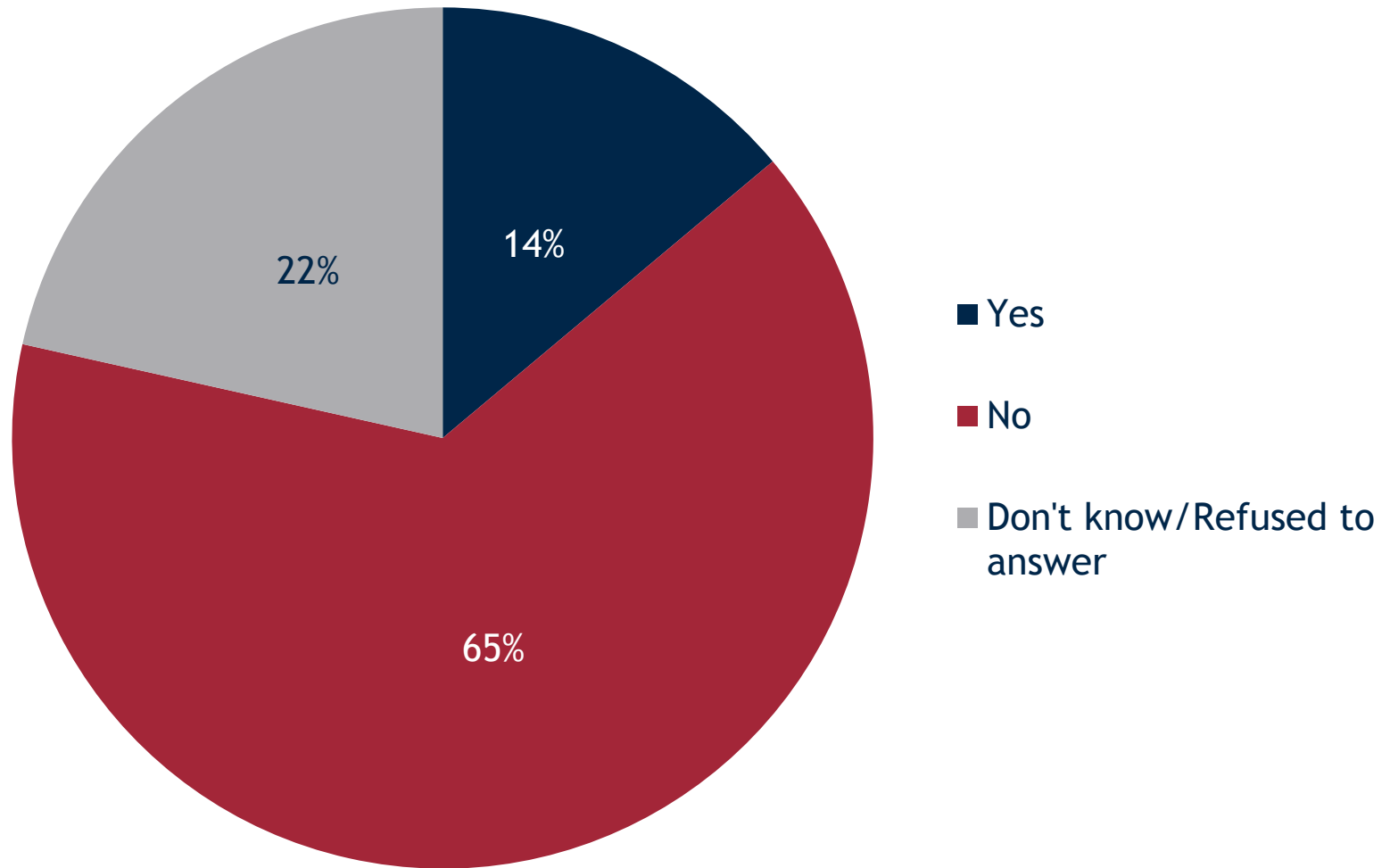
Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Politicians do not listen to the needs and ideas of young people.



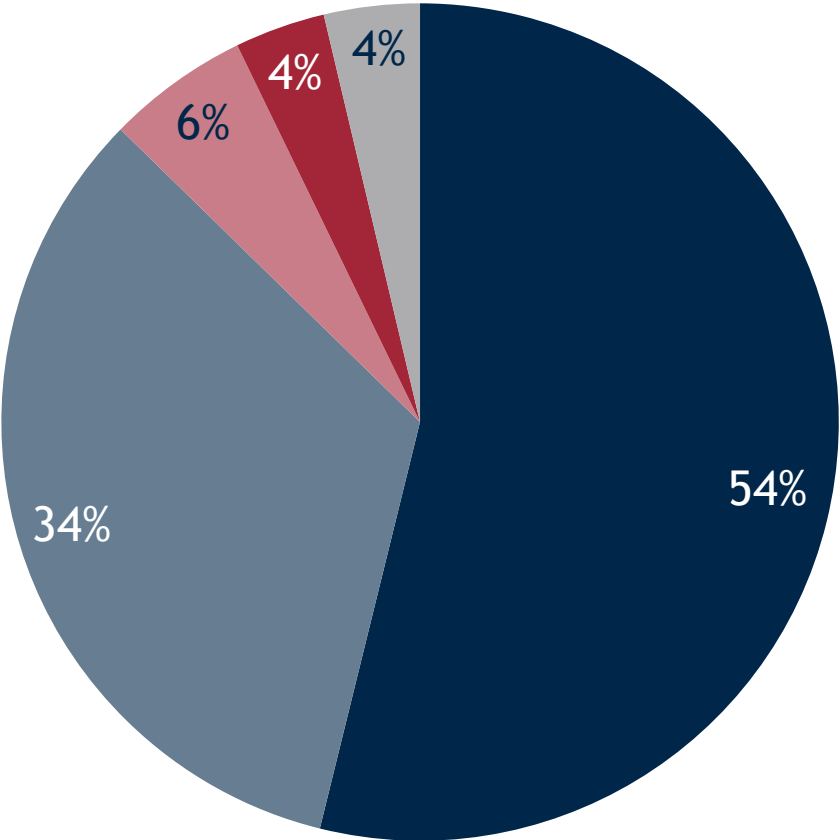
How many of the mayors in Macedonia are women?



In your opinion, are there sufficient number of women mayors?

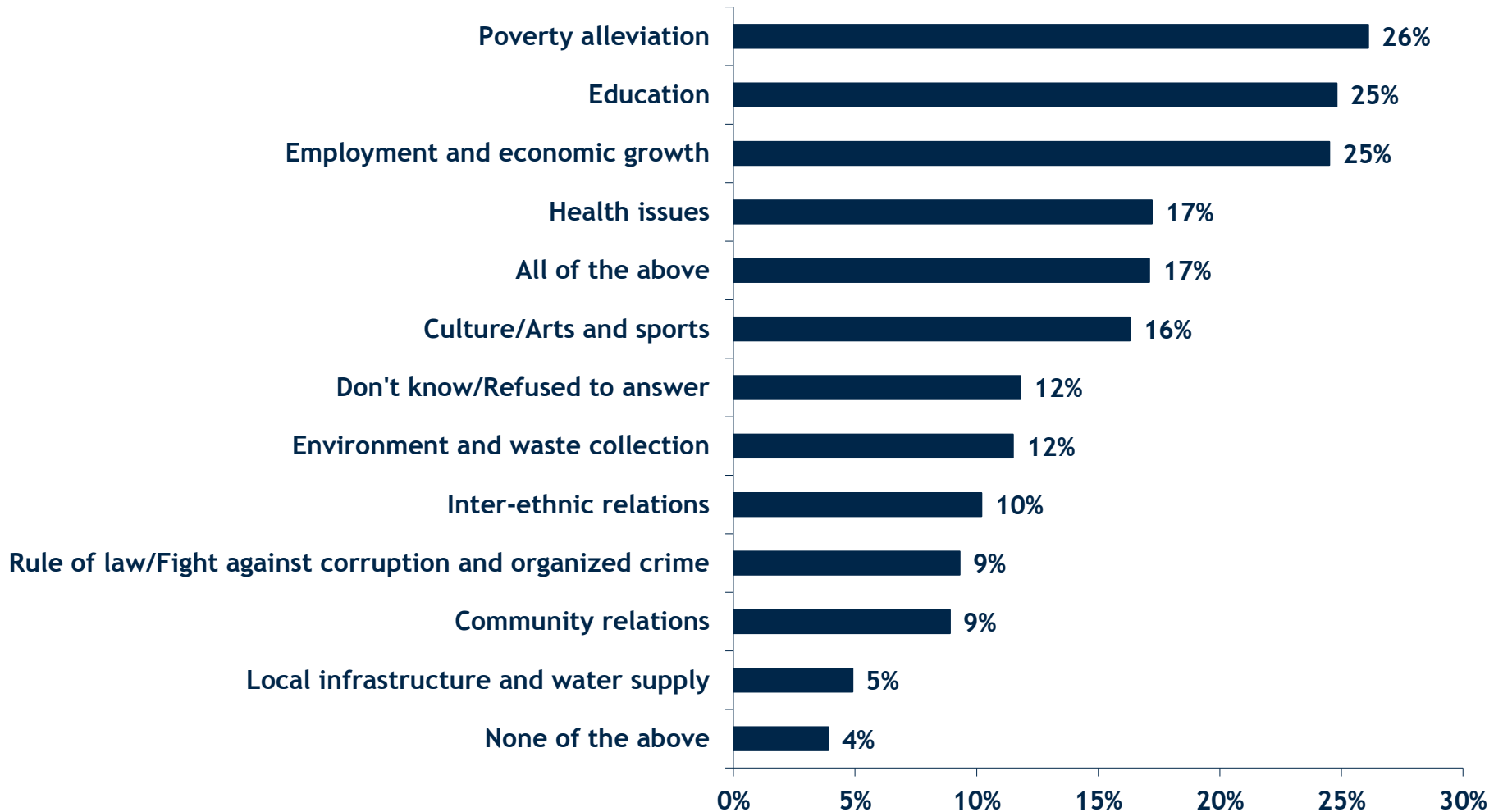


Would you support and vote for a woman for mayor?



- I would completely support and vote for a woman mayor
- I would somewhat support and vote for a woman mayor
- I would somewhat not support and not vote for a woman mayor
- I would completely not support and not vote for a woman mayor
- Don't know

In which of the following areas, do you believe a woman mayor would perform well? (Three possible responses)

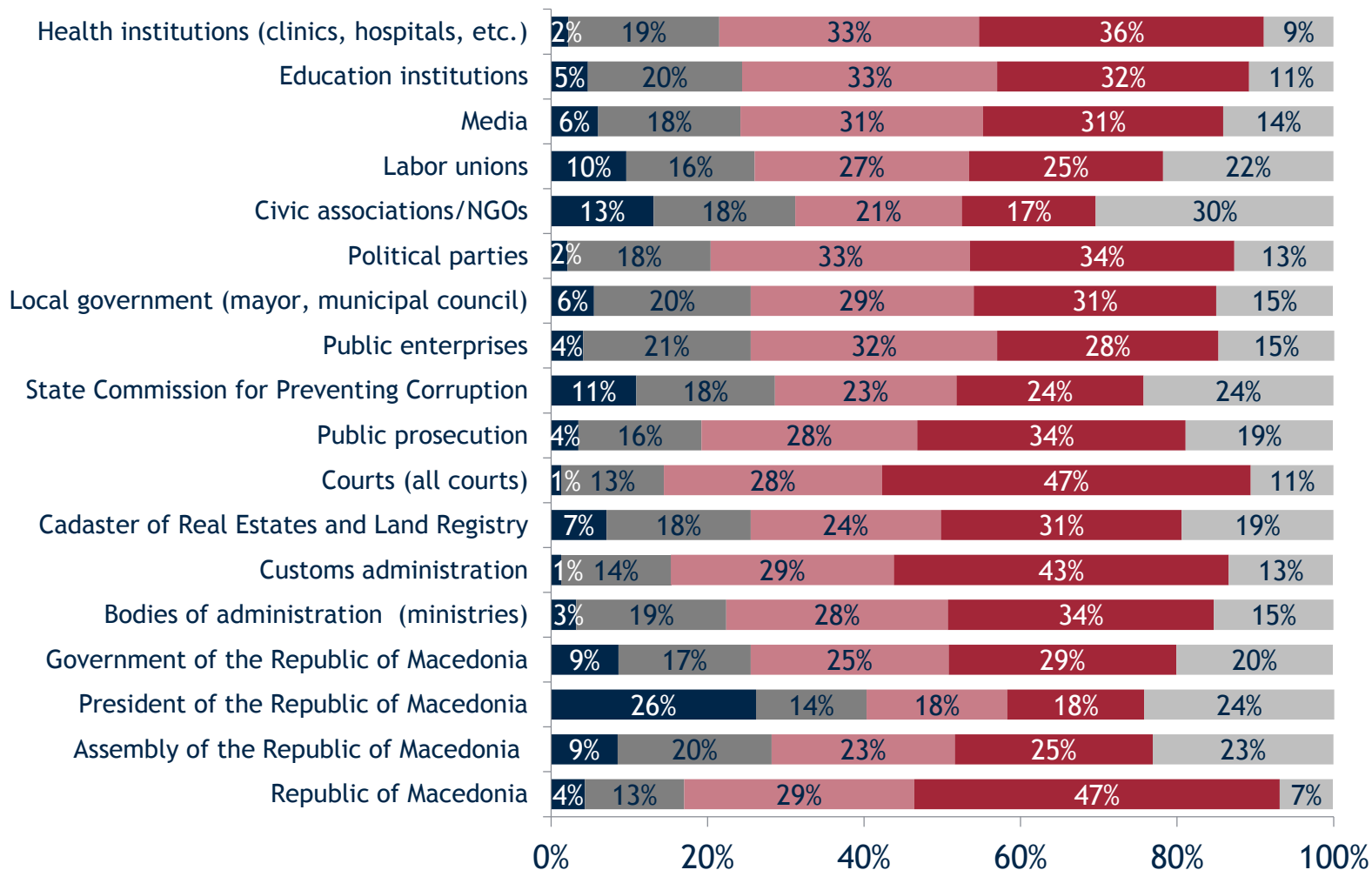




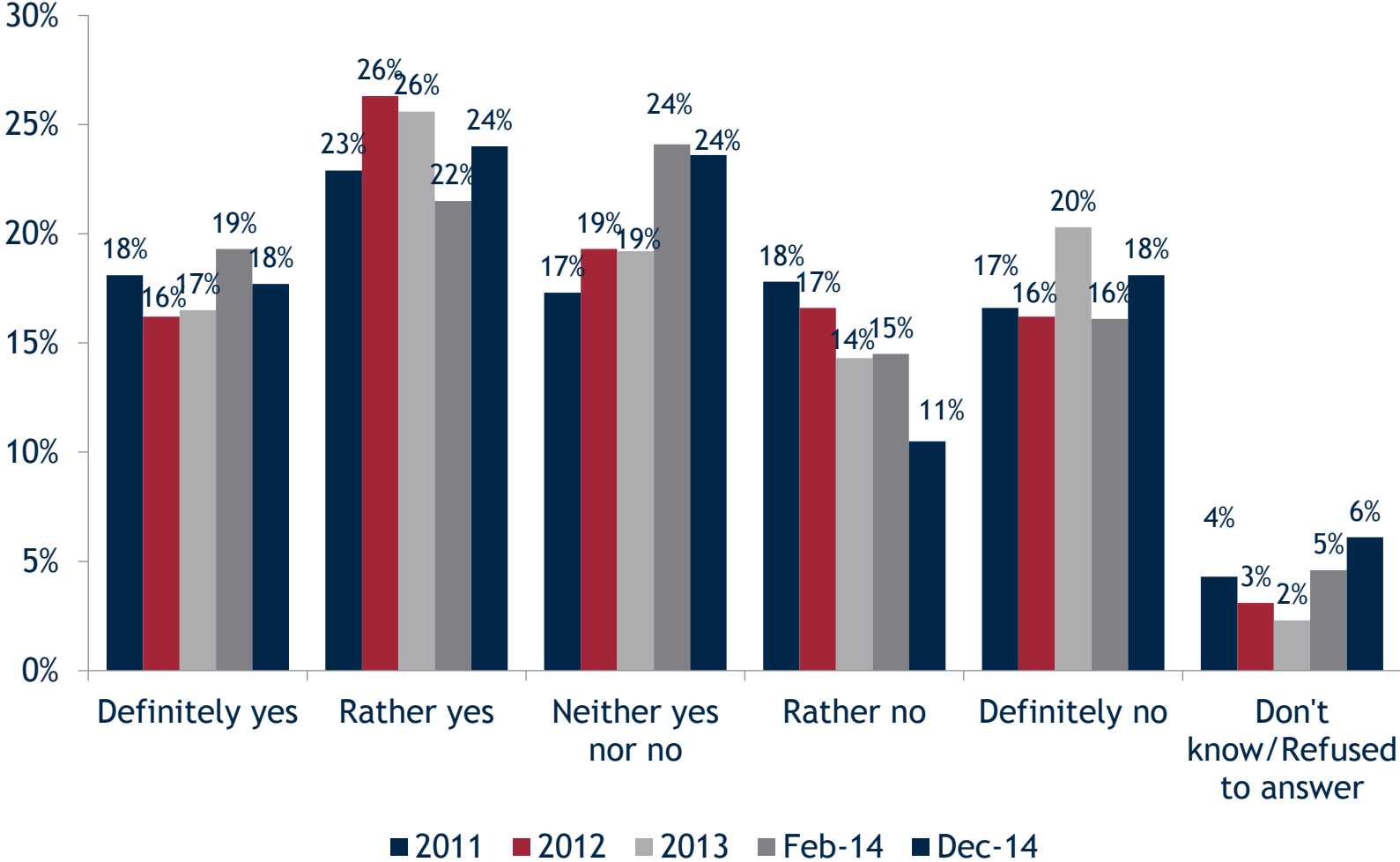
Widespread Corruption Seen in Courts and Customs Administration

To what degree do you think corruption is widespread in...?

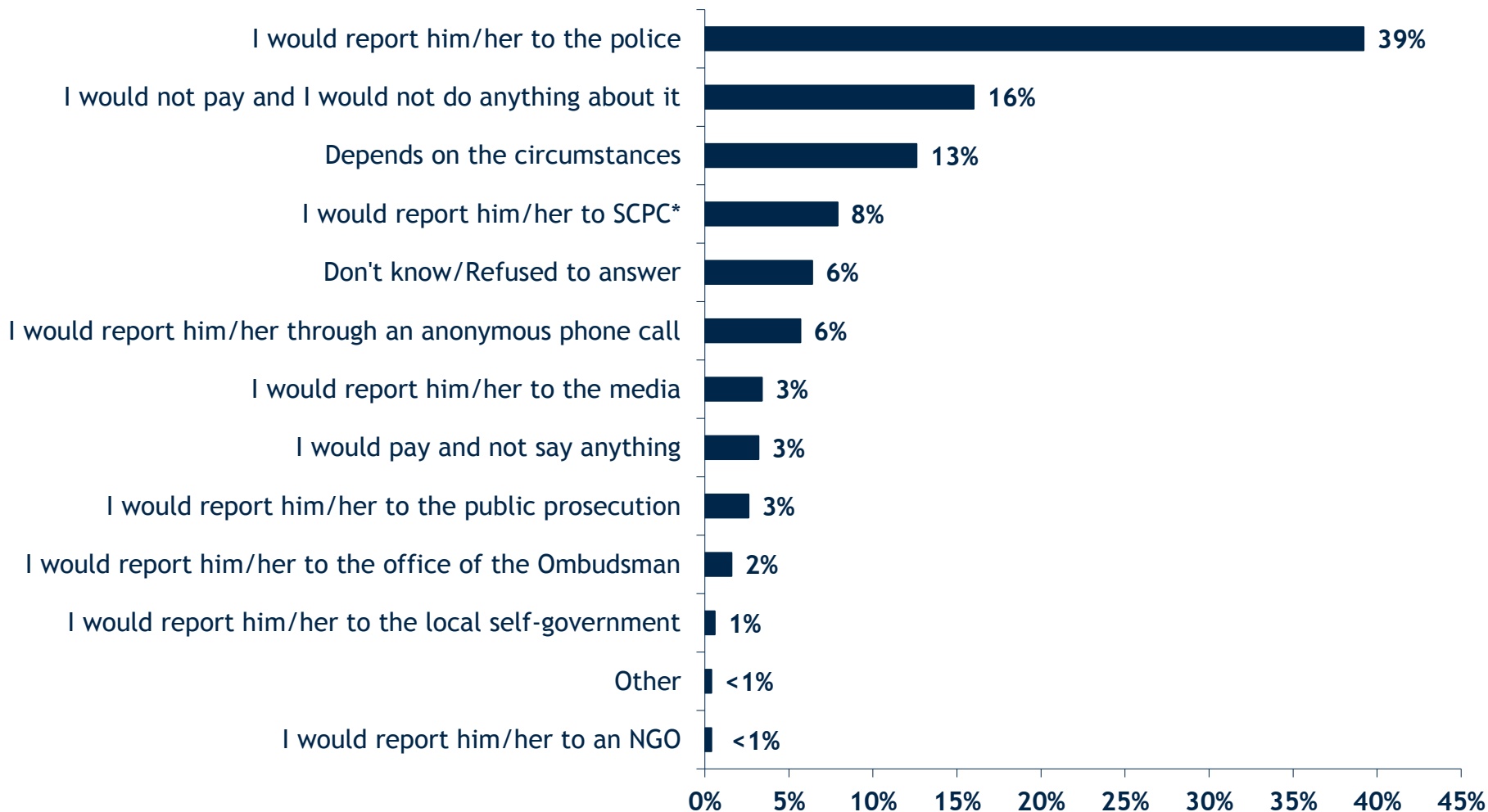
- There is no corruption in Macedonia
- There is low level of corruption
- There is an average level of corruption
- Corruption is widespread
- Do not know



Is this government seeking to solve the corruption problem?



If someone demanded a bribe from you in order to complete something of great importance, what would you do?

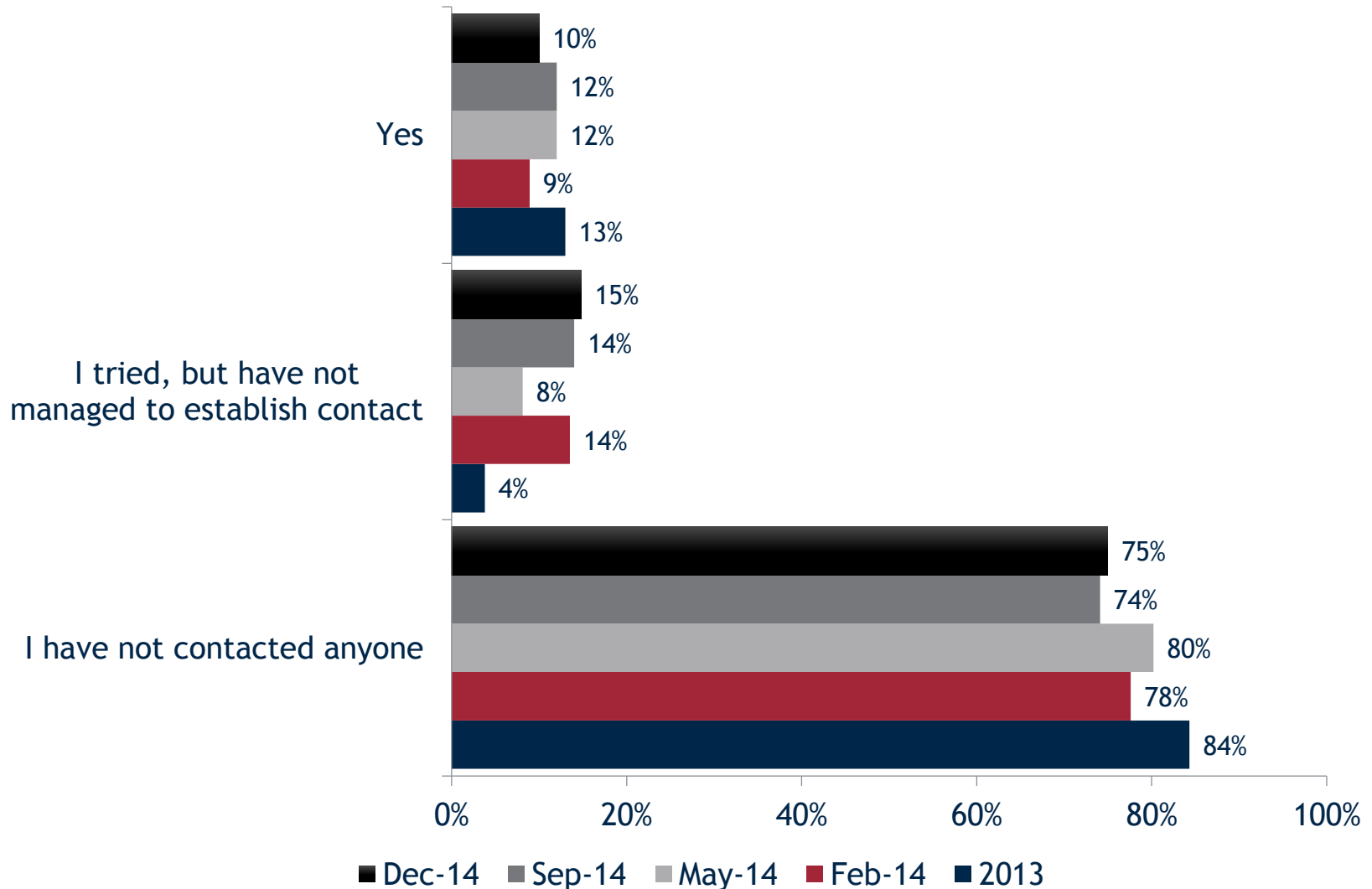


*State Commission for Prevention of Corruption

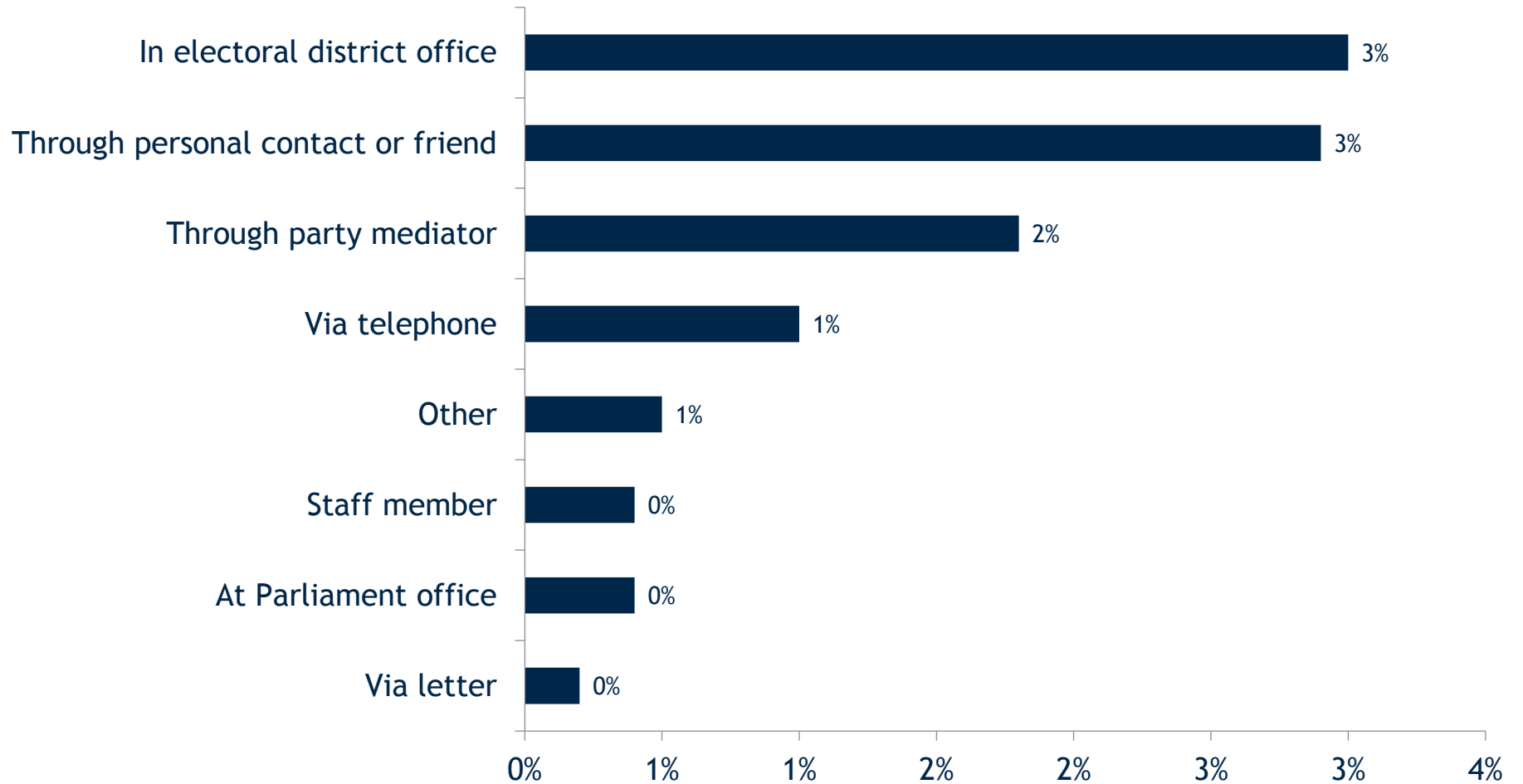


Little Contact Between Parliament and Citizens

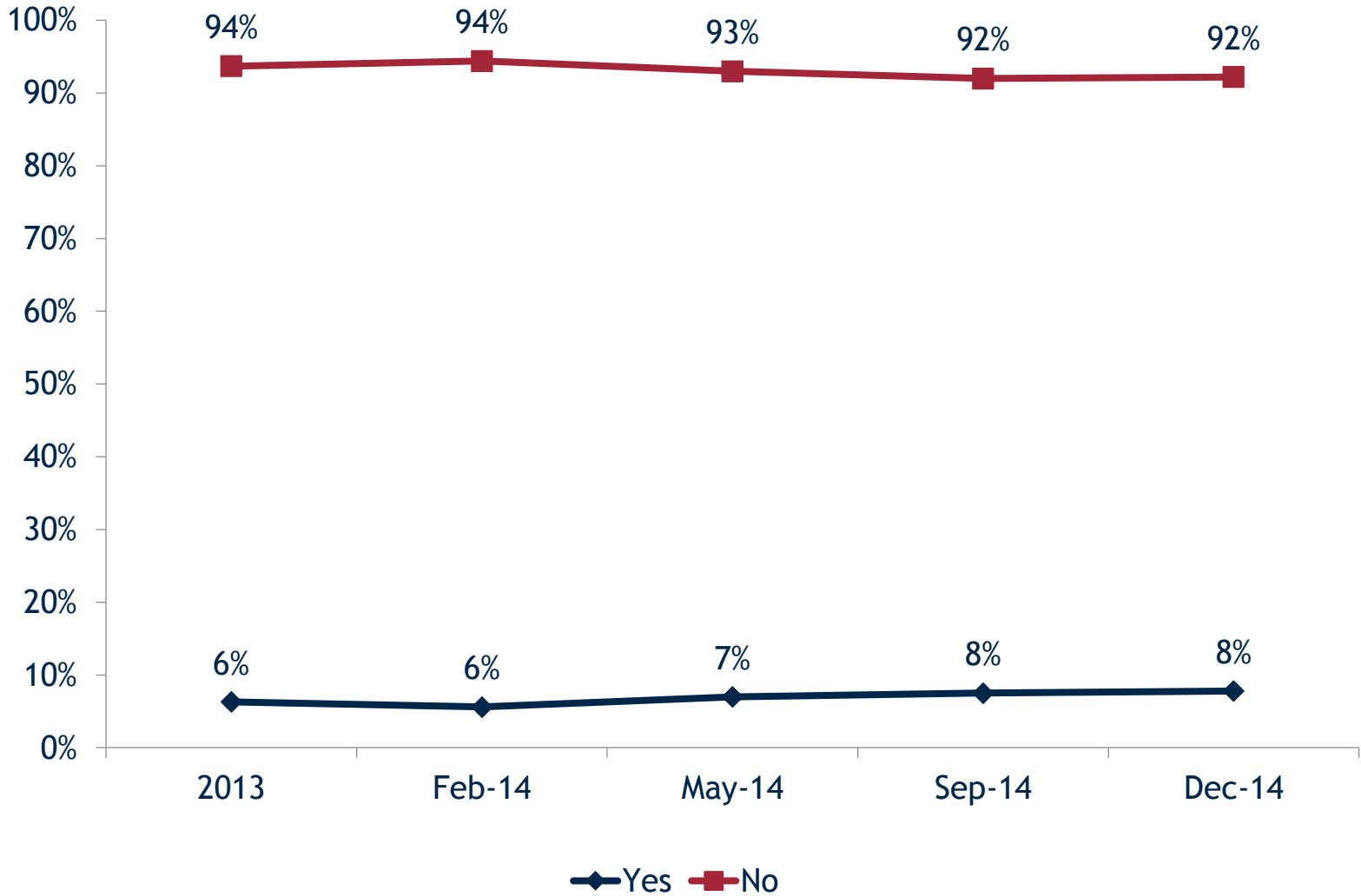
Have you contacted a current member of parliament in the last 12 months?



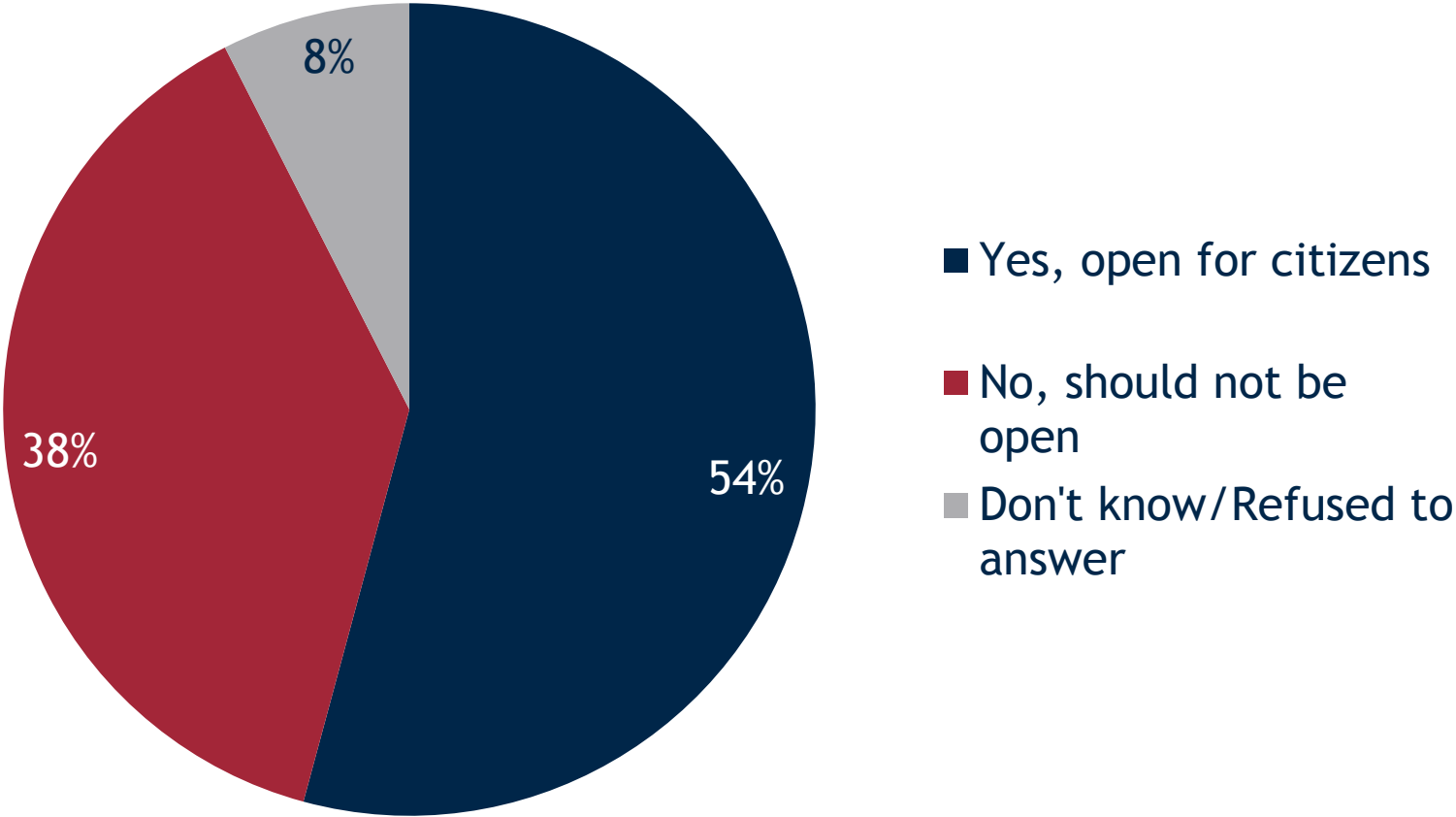
If you have contacted a member of parliament in the last 12 months,
how did you establish that contact?
(n=113)



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

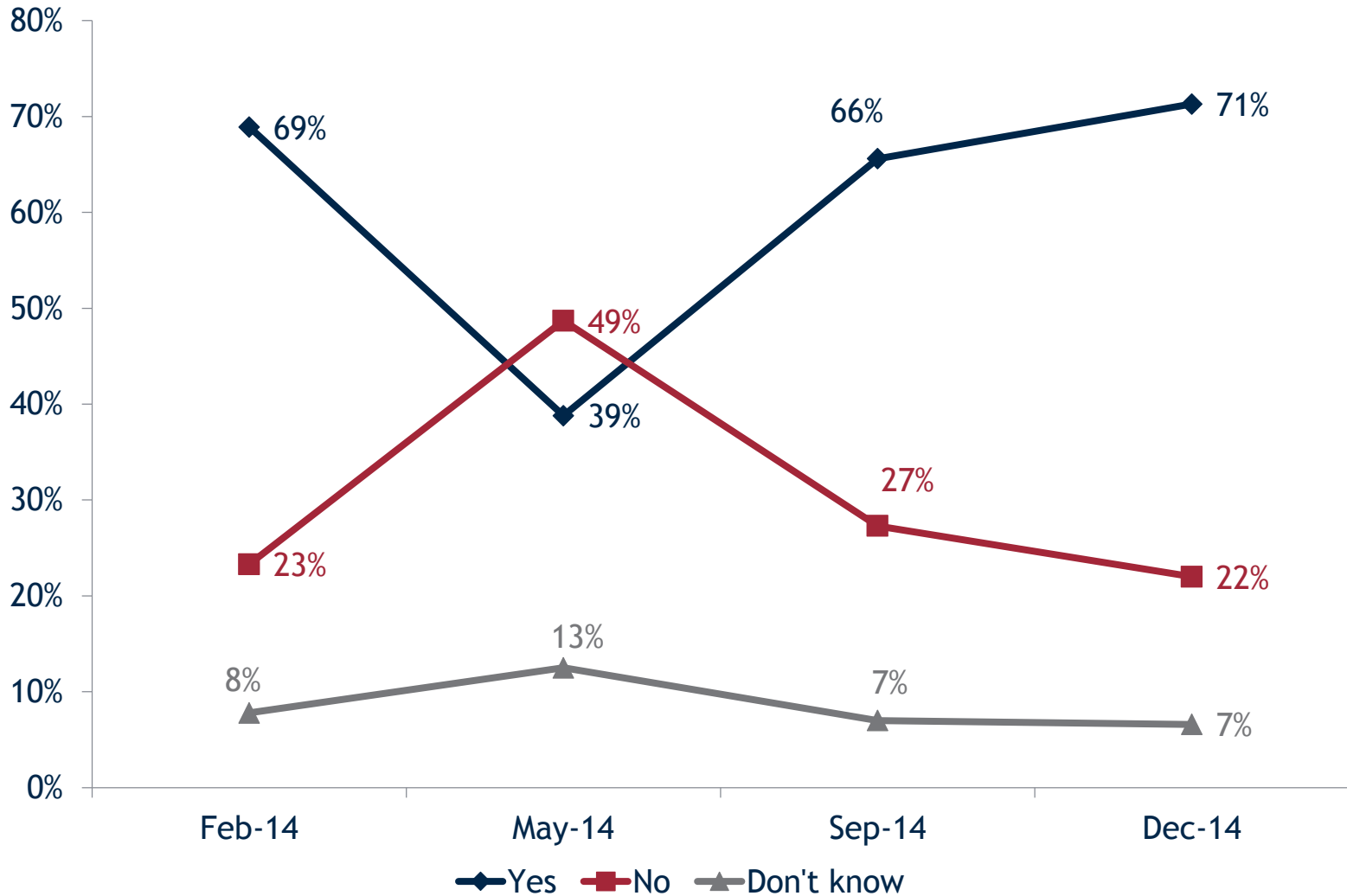


Do you think that Parliament should be open to citizens, for example, that they be allowed to enter the premises of the Parliament without prior scheduling and to follow sessions of Parliament or its committees?



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

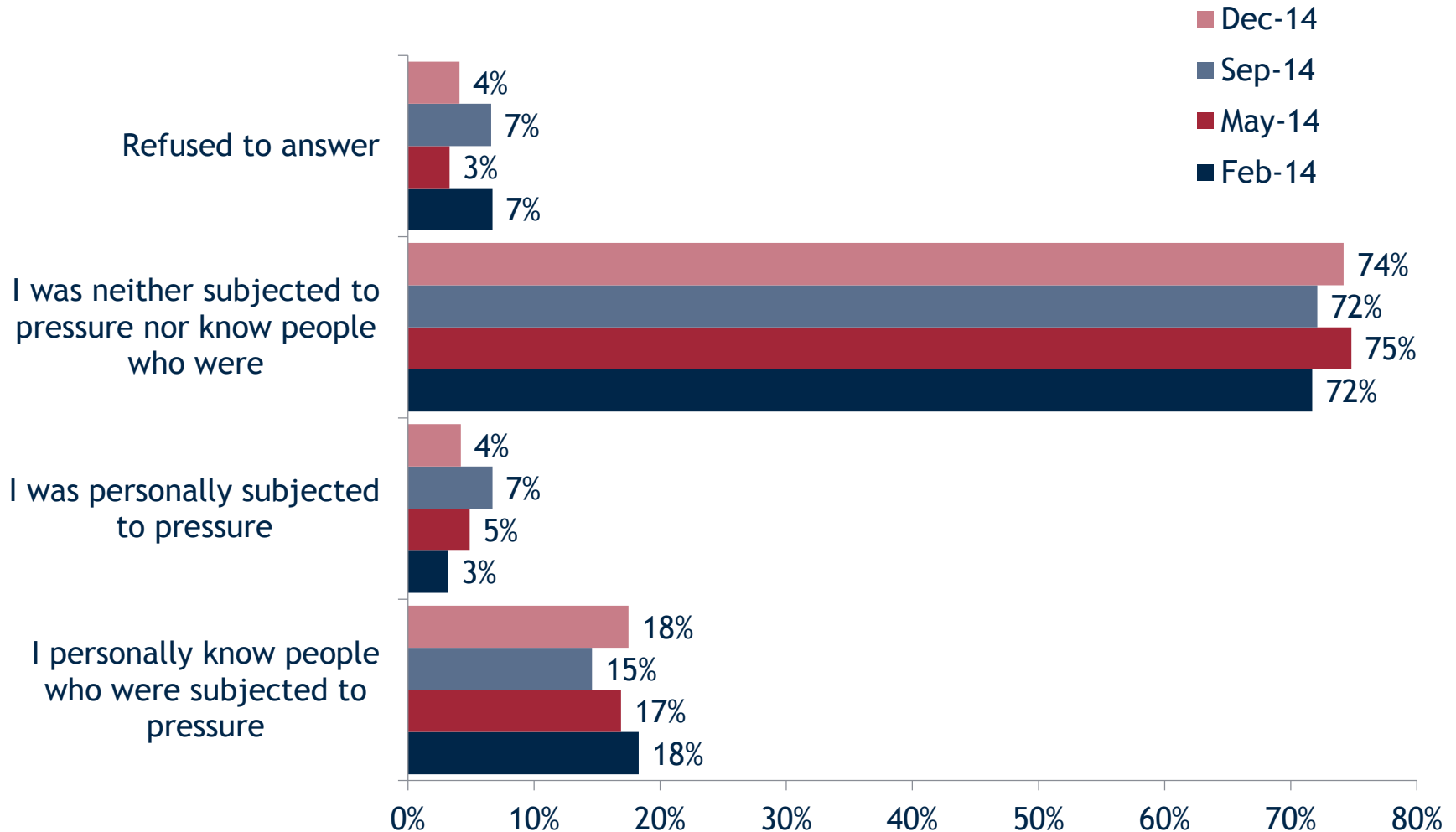
(In May 2014 the question was phrased “Do you believe that even though casting the vote on Election Day was secret some political party knows who you voted for?”)



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)

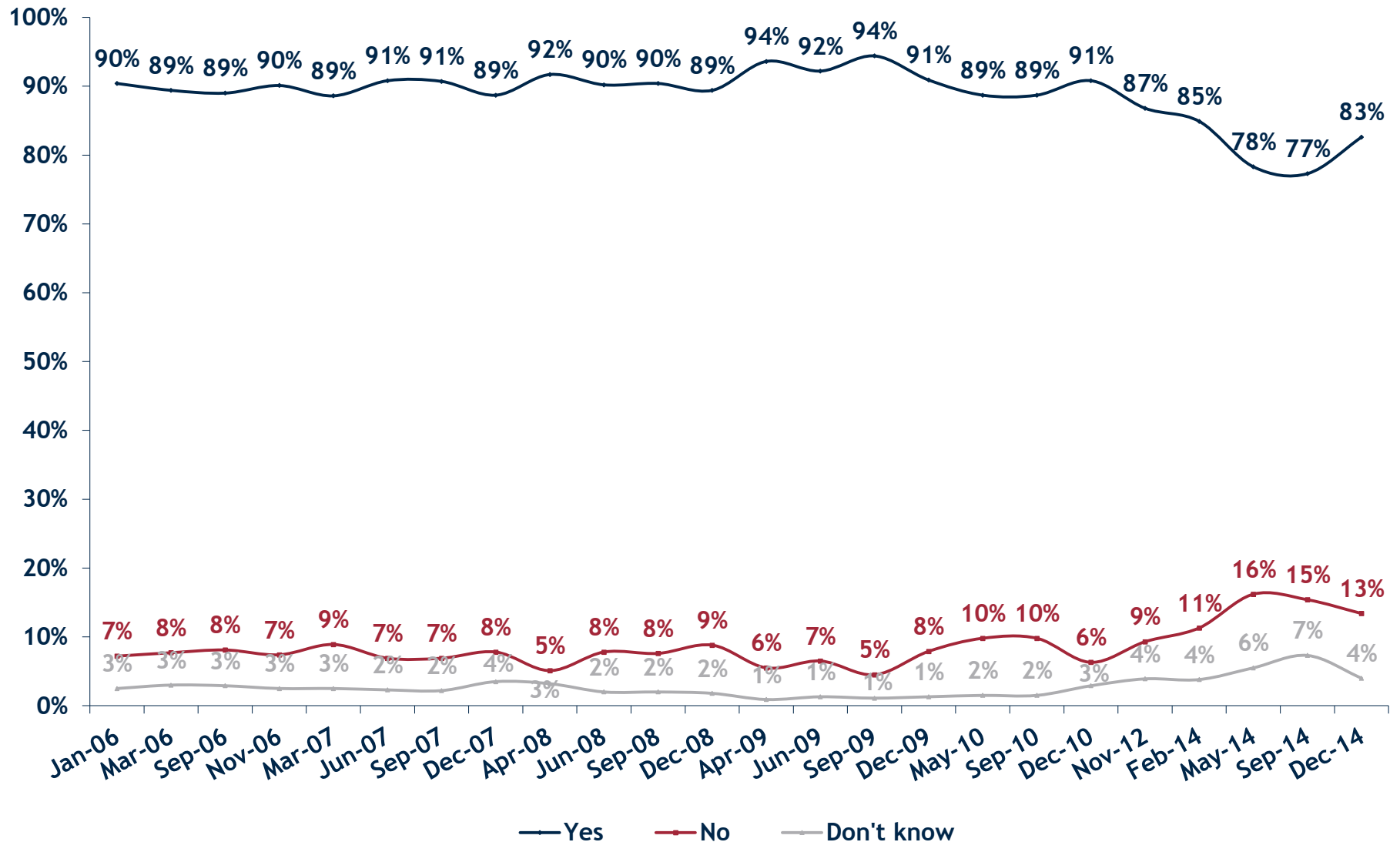
(in May 2014 responses refer to 2014 elections)



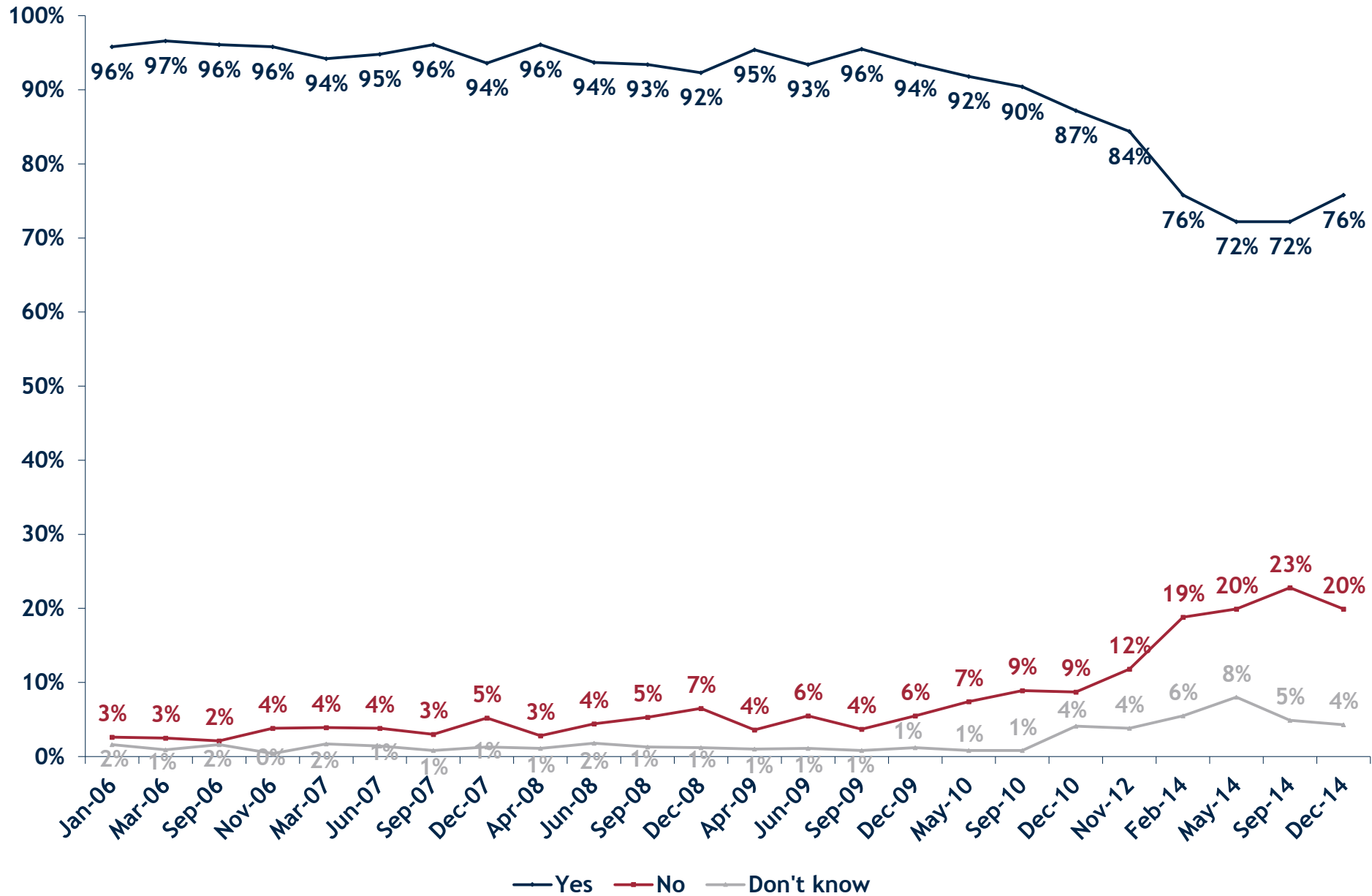


Support for NATO and EU Membership Rise

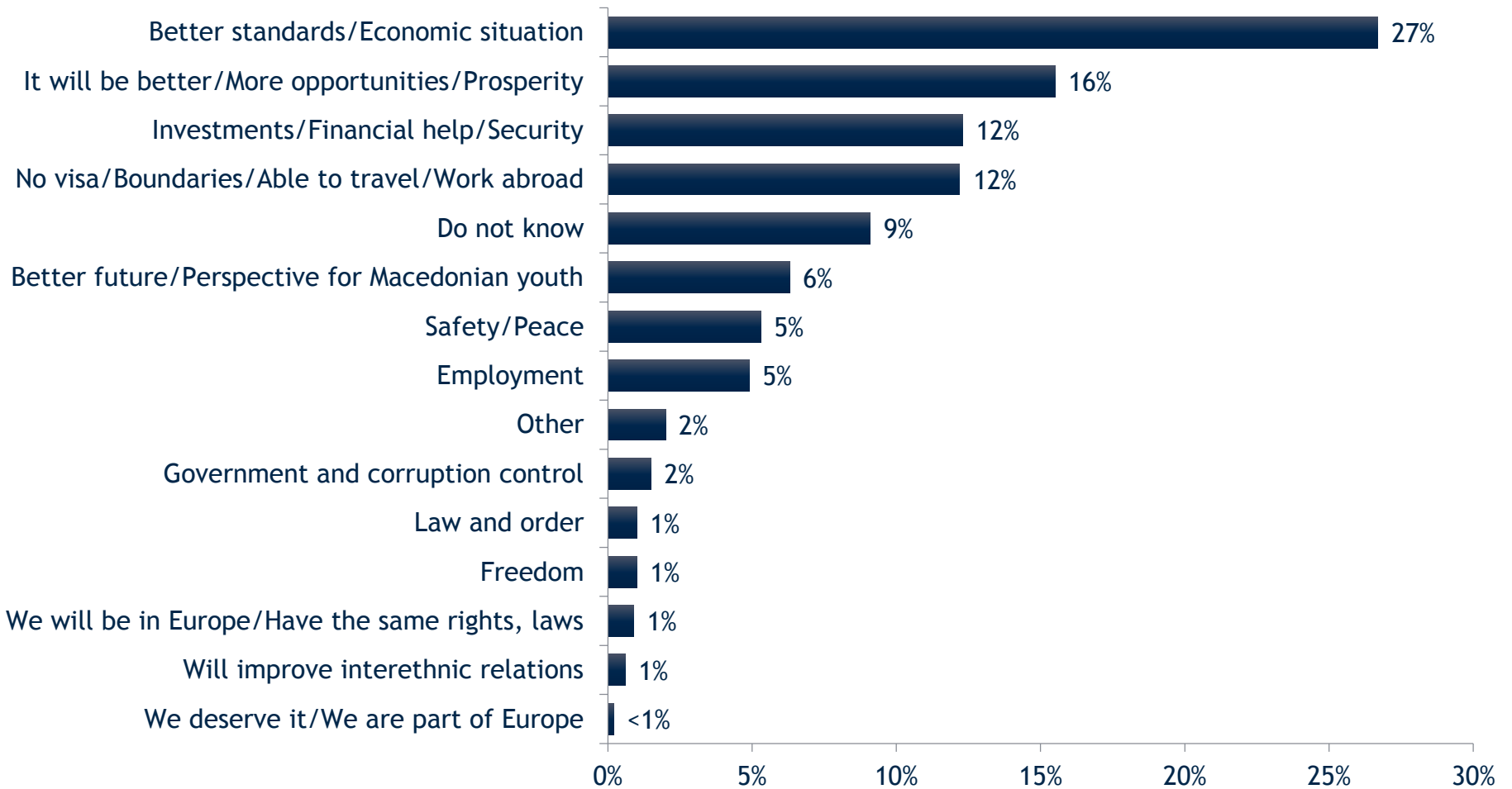
Do you support Macedonia becoming a member of NATO?



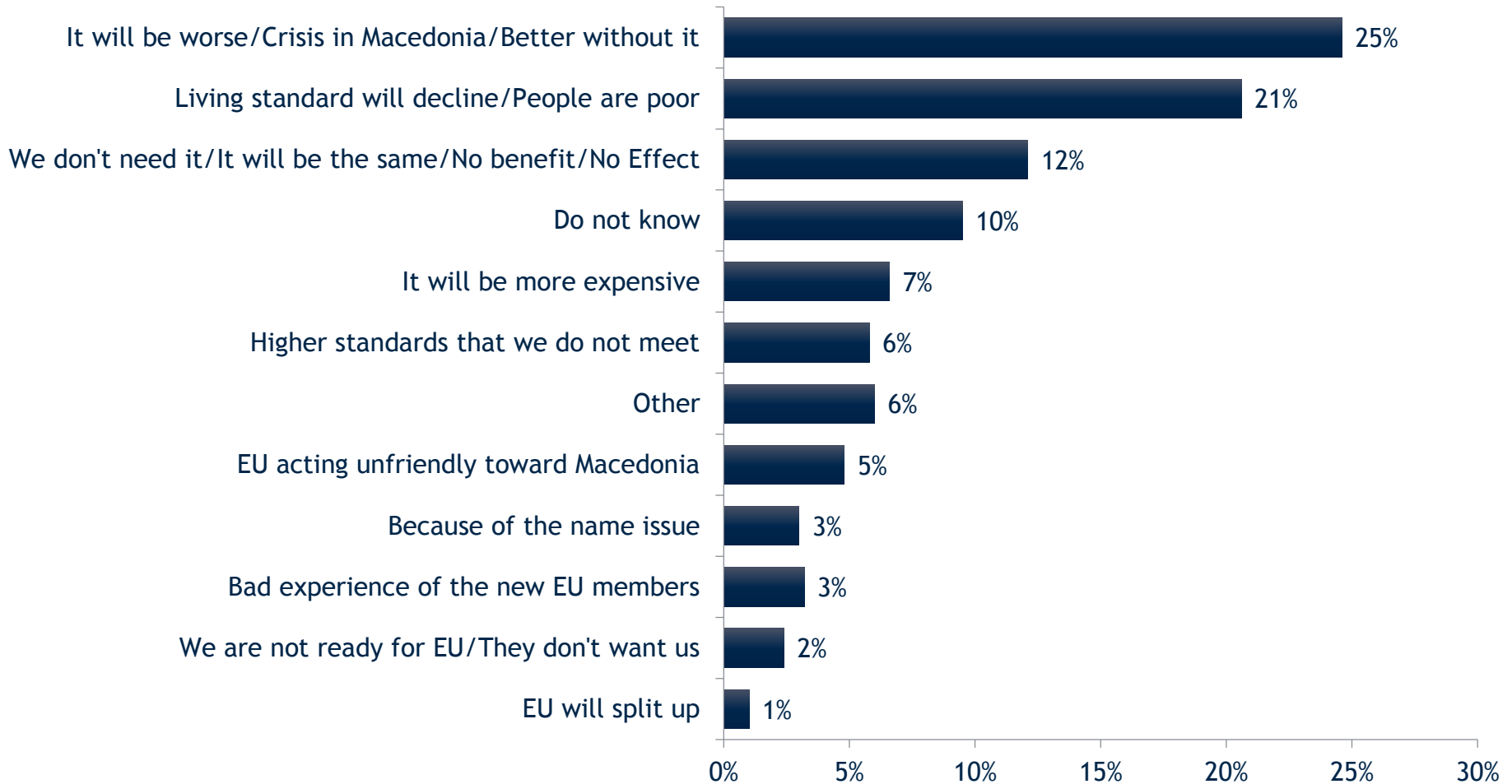
Do you support Macedonia becoming a member of the EU?



Why do you support Macedonia becoming a member of EU? (n=838)

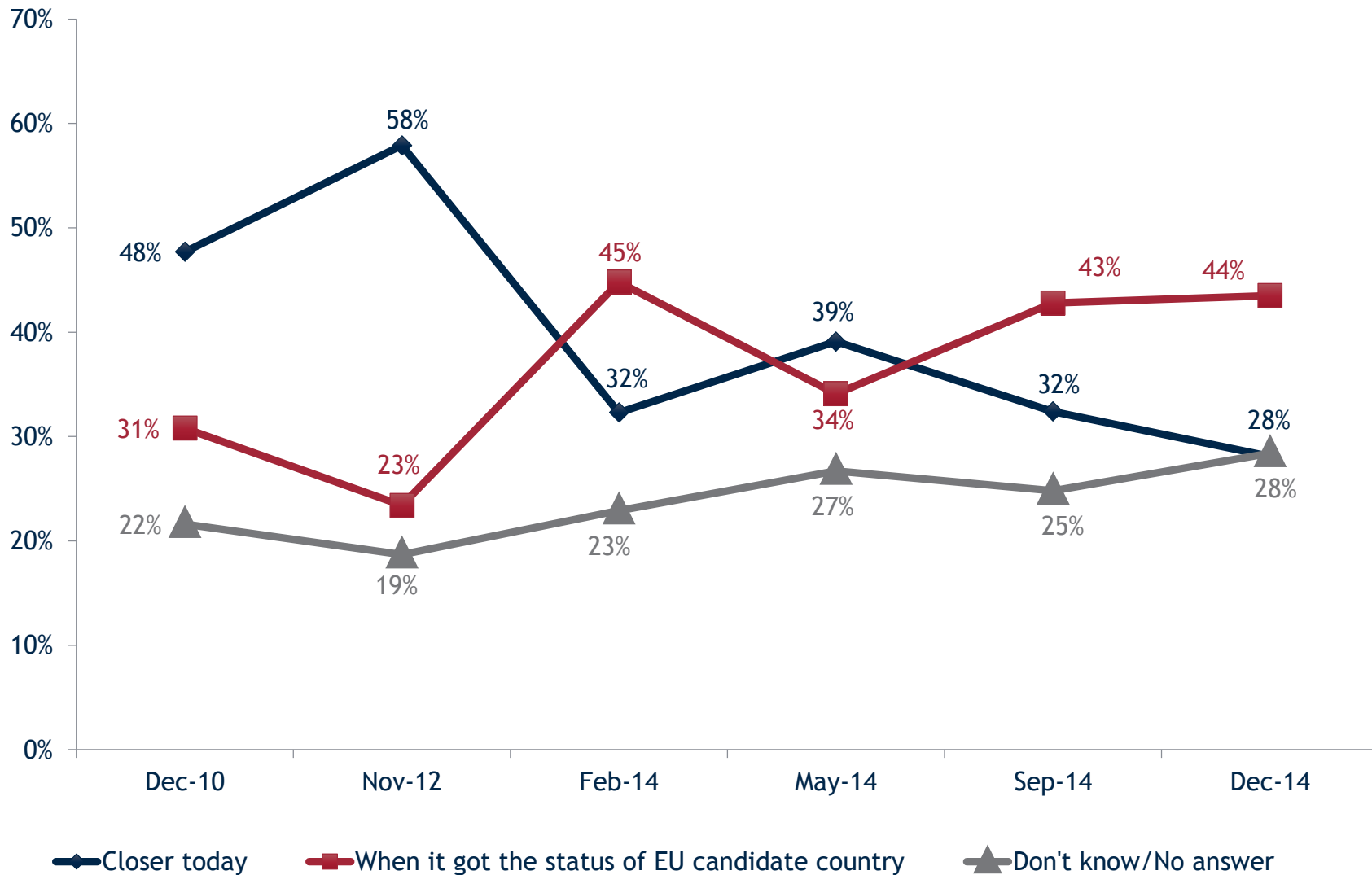


Why don't you support Macedonia becoming a member of EU? (n=220)

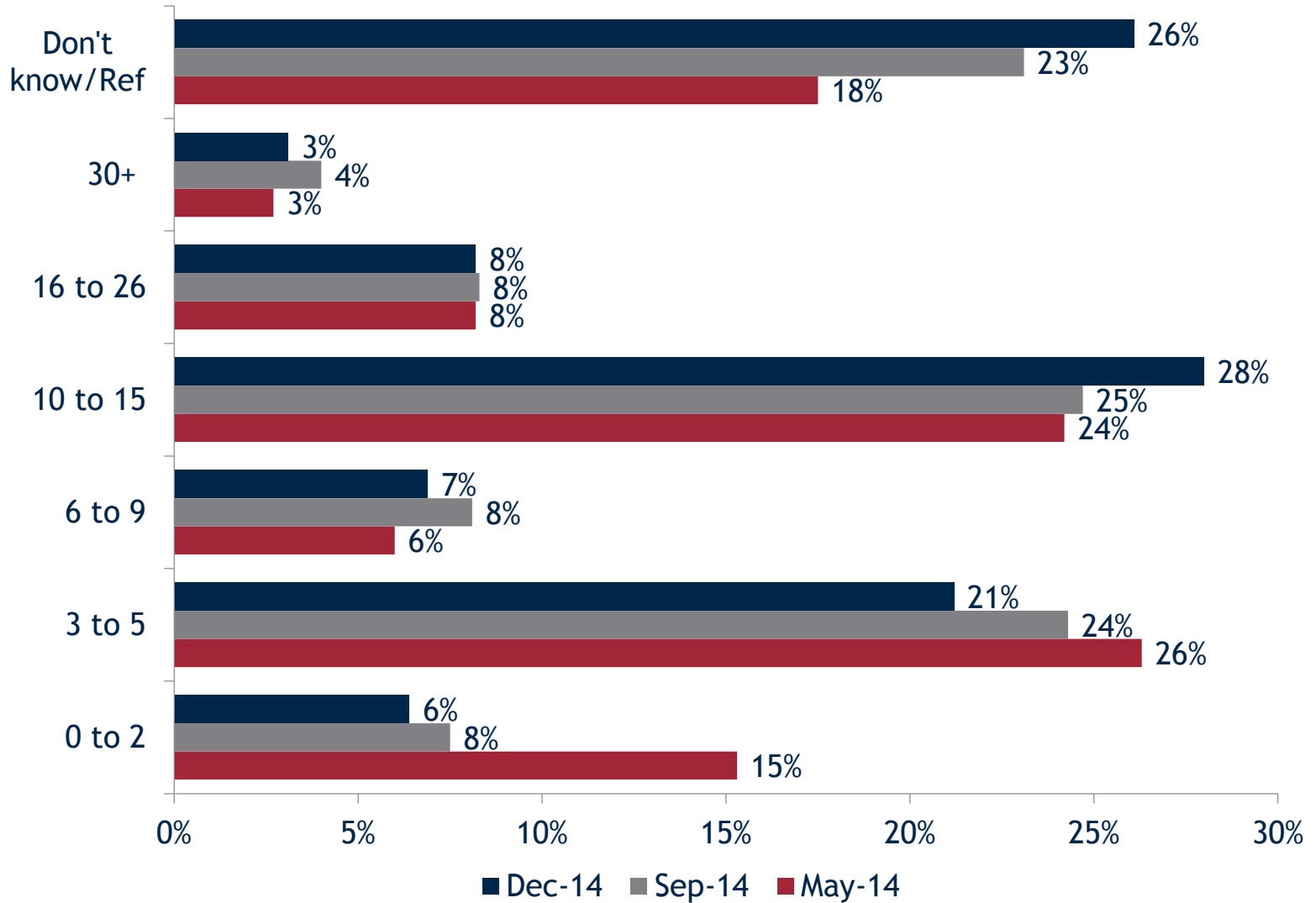


Do you think Macedonia is closer to EU entry today, or was it closer when it got its EU candidate country status?

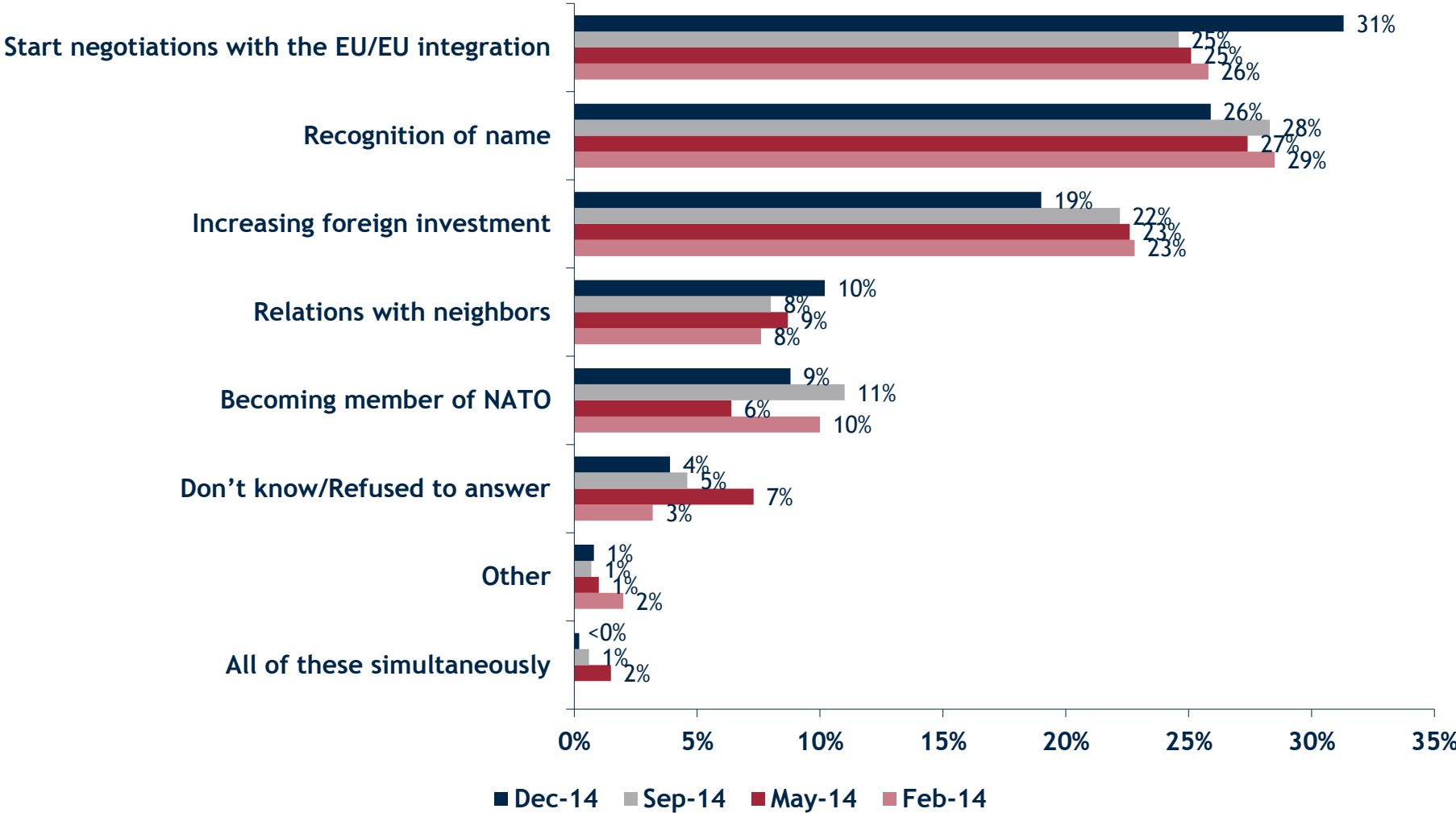
(Prior to Feb. 2014 the question was phrased “...today, or four years ago?”)



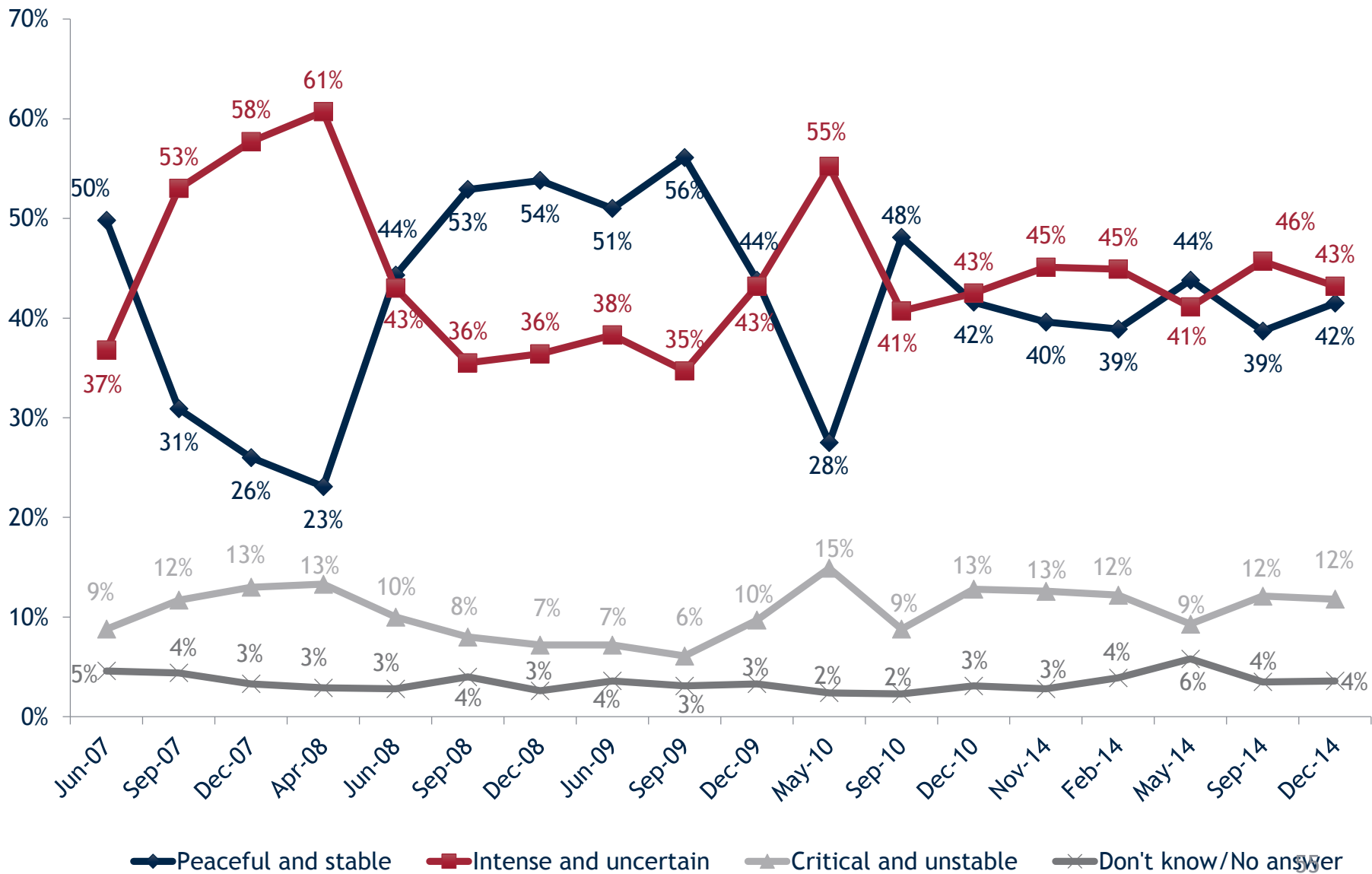
In how many years do you think Macedonia will become a member of the EU?



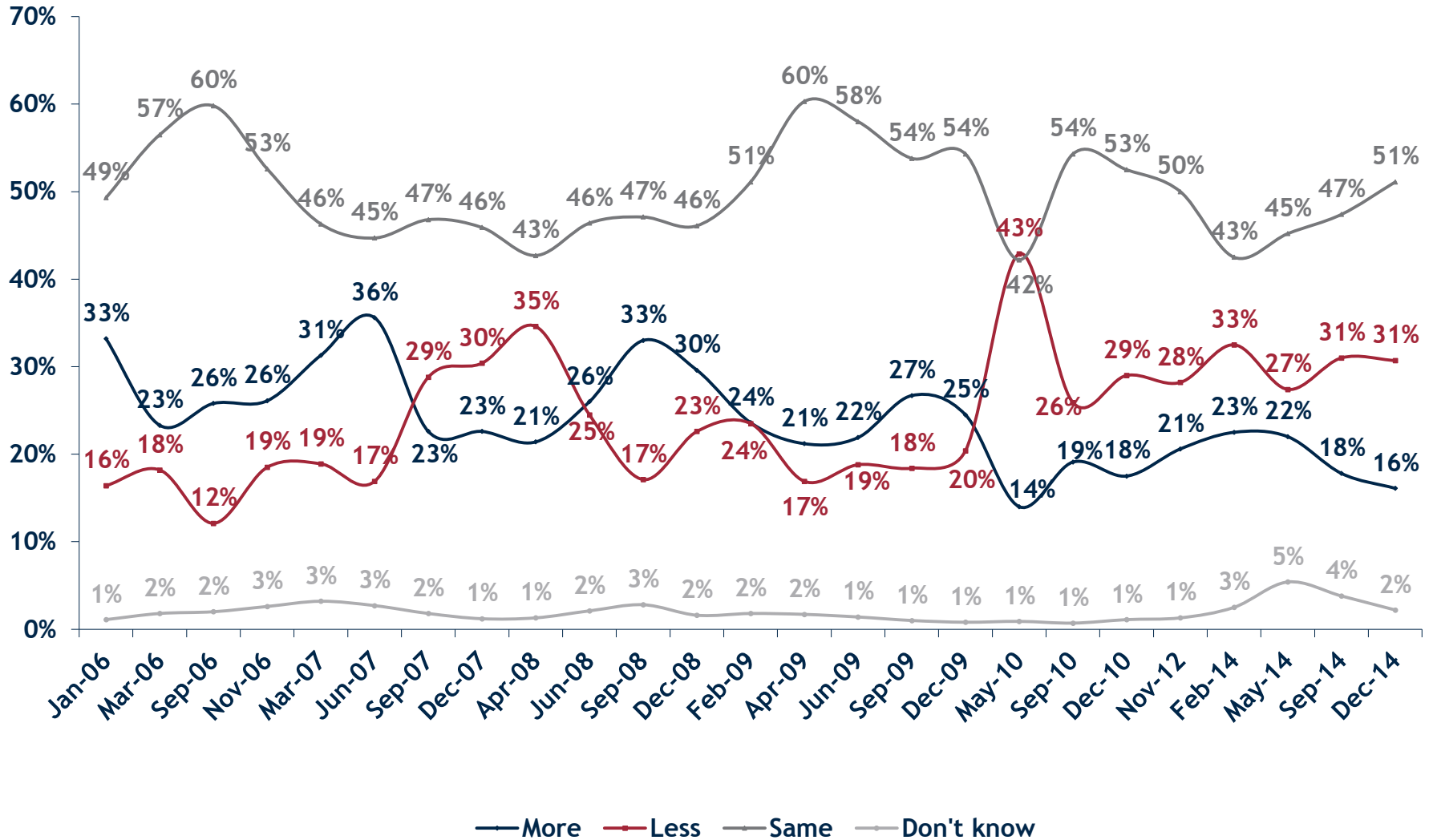
Which one of these would you say is the most important foreign policy issue facing Macedonia?



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



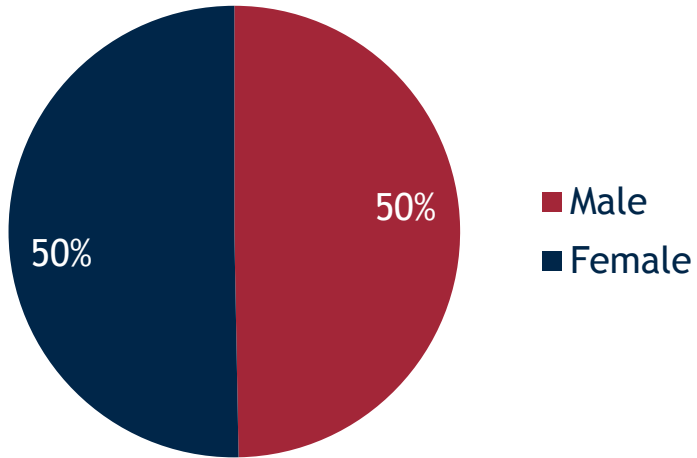
Is the Republic of Macedonia more or less stable today than it was one year ago?



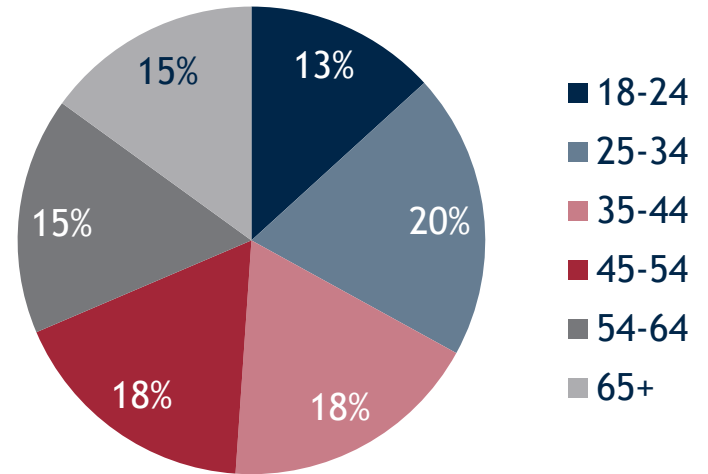


Demographics

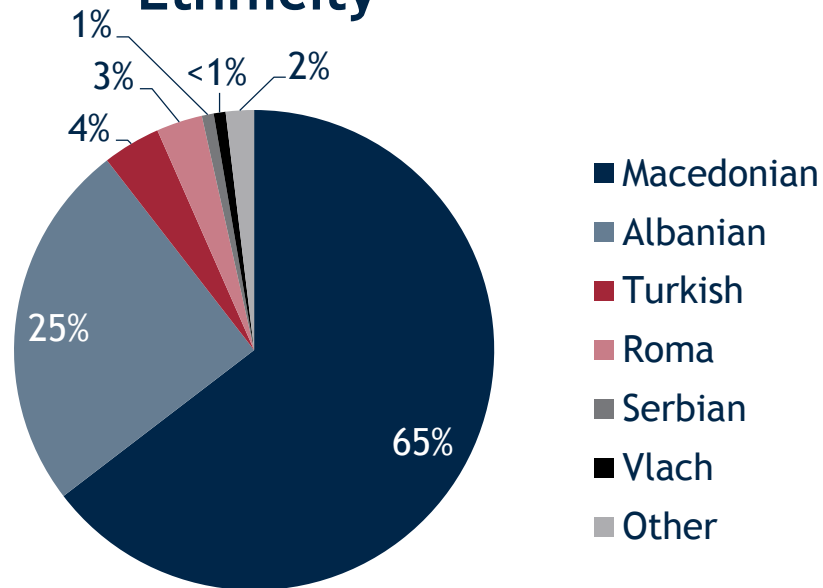
Gender



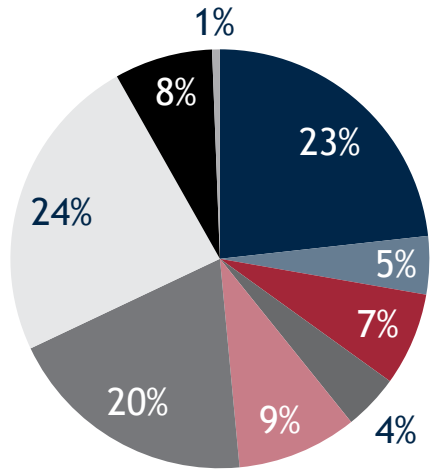
Age



Ethnicity

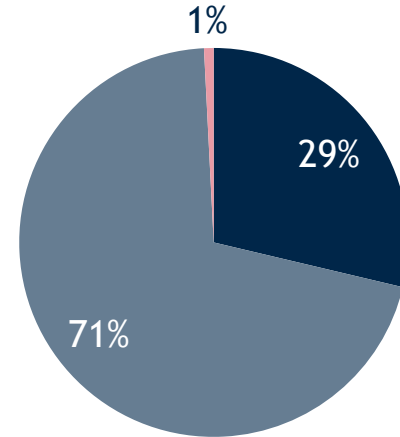


Employment



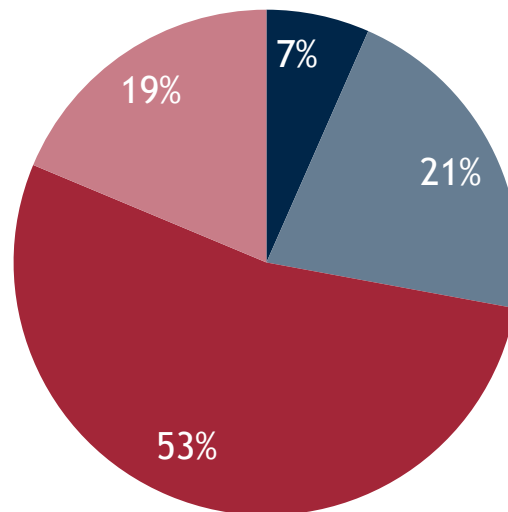
- Blue-collar worker
- Agricultural
- White-collar worker
- Professional
- Housewife
- Retired
- Unemployed
- Student
- Other

Type of Employment (n= 385)



- Public sector
- Private sector
- Other/Refused to answer

Education



- No education/Incomplete elementary education
- Elementary education
- Secondary education
- University/Higher education

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