



Public Opinion Survey Residents of Georgia

September-October 2019



Detailed Methodology

- The field work was carried out by [Institute of Polling & Marketing](#). The survey was coordinated by Dr. Rasa Alisauskiene of the public and market research company [Baltic Surveys/The Gallup Organization](#) on behalf of the International Republican Institute's [Center for Insights in Survey Research](#).
- Data was collected throughout Georgia between September 11 and October 14, 2019, through face-to-face interviews at respondents' homes.
- The sample consisted of 1,500 permanent residents of Georgia older than the age of 18 and eligible to vote. It is representative of the general population by age, gender, region and size of the settlement.
- Multistage probability sampling method was used with the random route and next birthday respondent's selection procedures.
 - Stage one: All districts of Georgia are grouped into 10 regions. All regions of Georgia were surveyed (Tbilisi city - as separate region).
 - Stage two: selection of the settlements - cities and villages.
 - Settlements were selected at random. The number of selected settlements in each region was 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 and the response rate was 69 percent.
- The achieved sample is weighted for regions, gender, age and urbanity.
- 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](#).

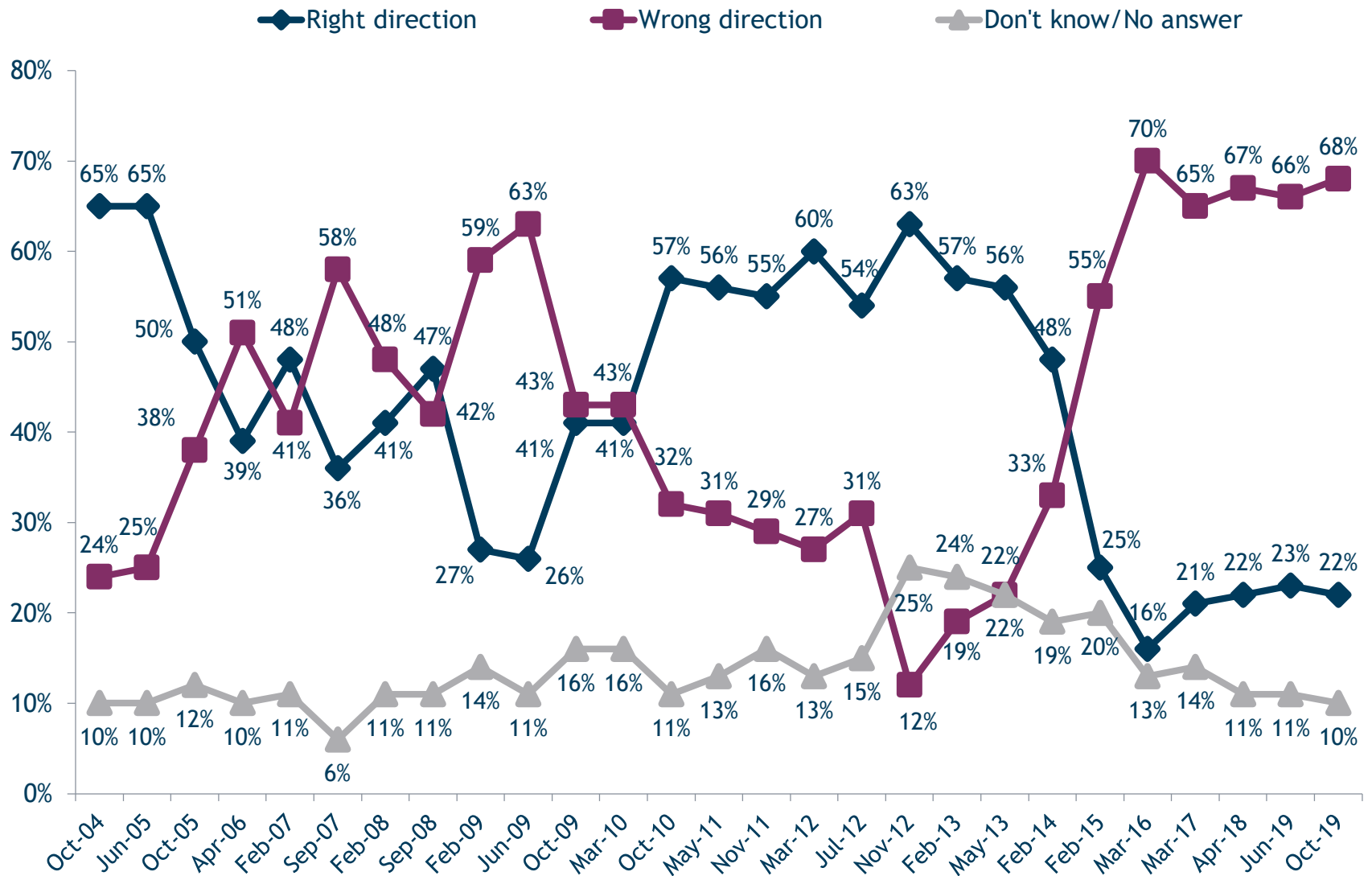


National Outlook

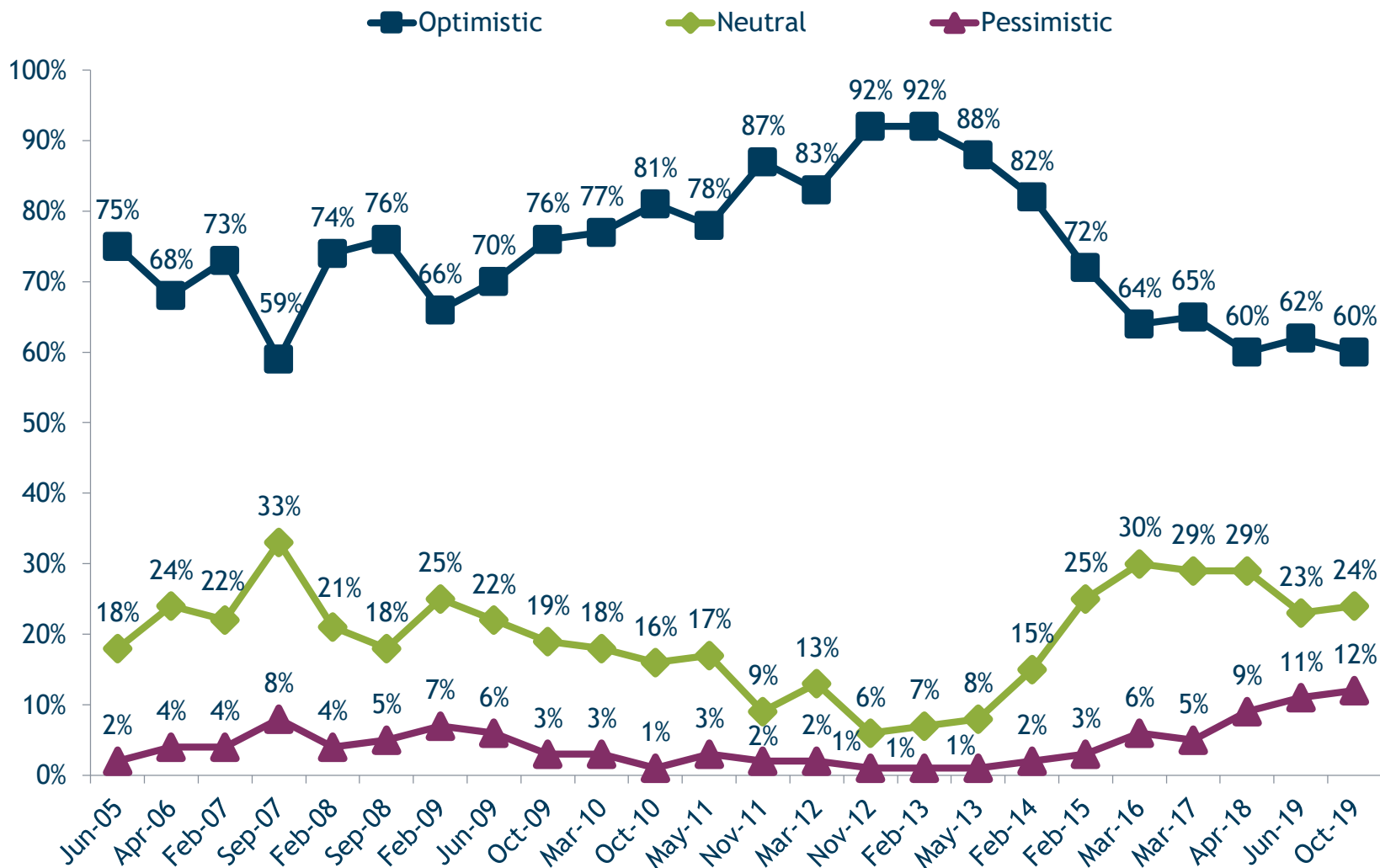


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In general, would you say that our country is heading in the right direction or in the wrong direction?



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

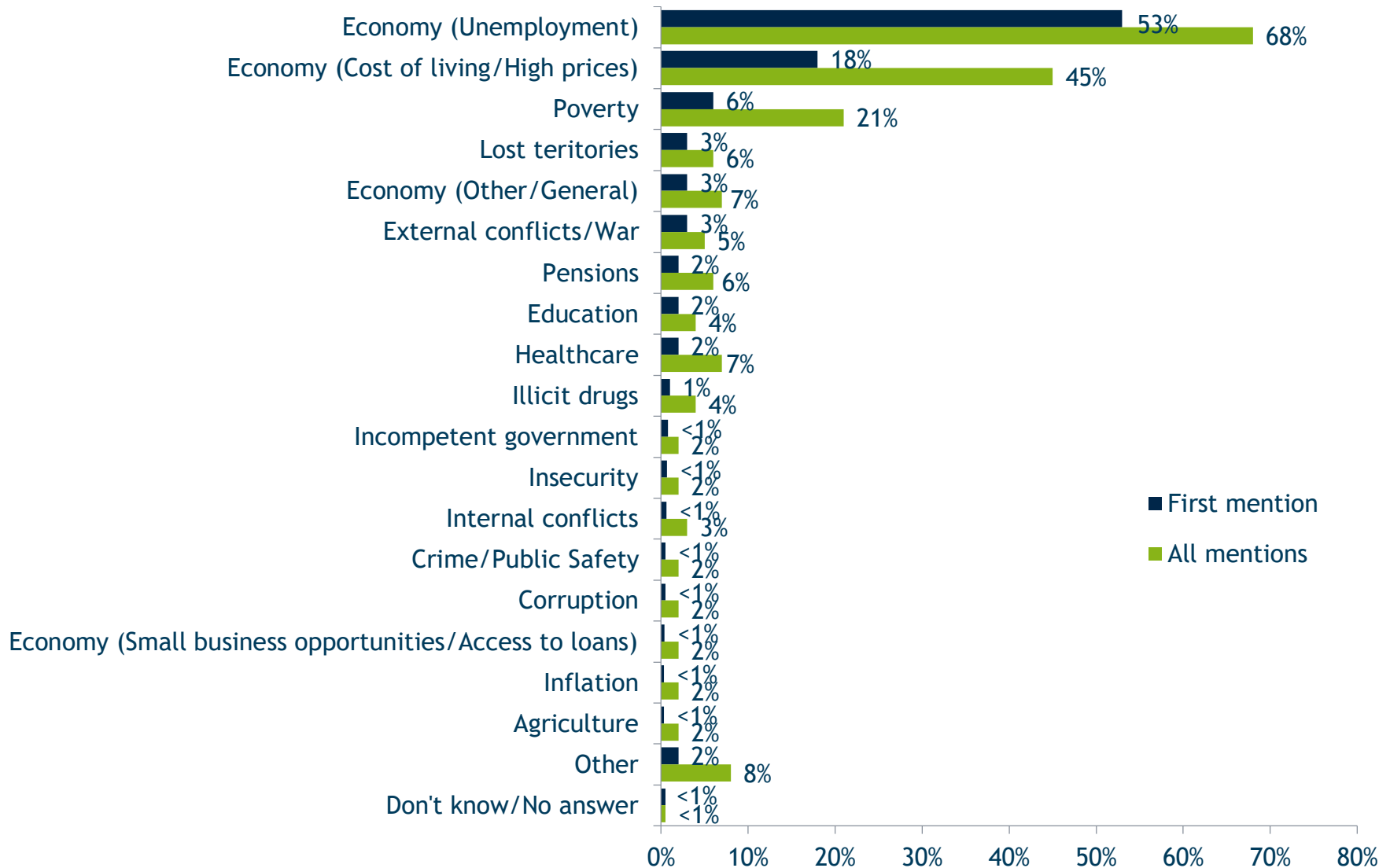


*Optimistic, Neutral, and Pessimistic are aggregates of the original responses:

- Optimistic = "Belief that the future will be definitely better" + "Hope that the future will be somewhat better"
- Neutral = "Not much hope for a better future" + "Apathy, belief in fate"
- Pessimistic = "Insecurity, worry, fear for the future" + "Total disappointment, disbelief in any improvement"

What is the most important problem facing our country today?

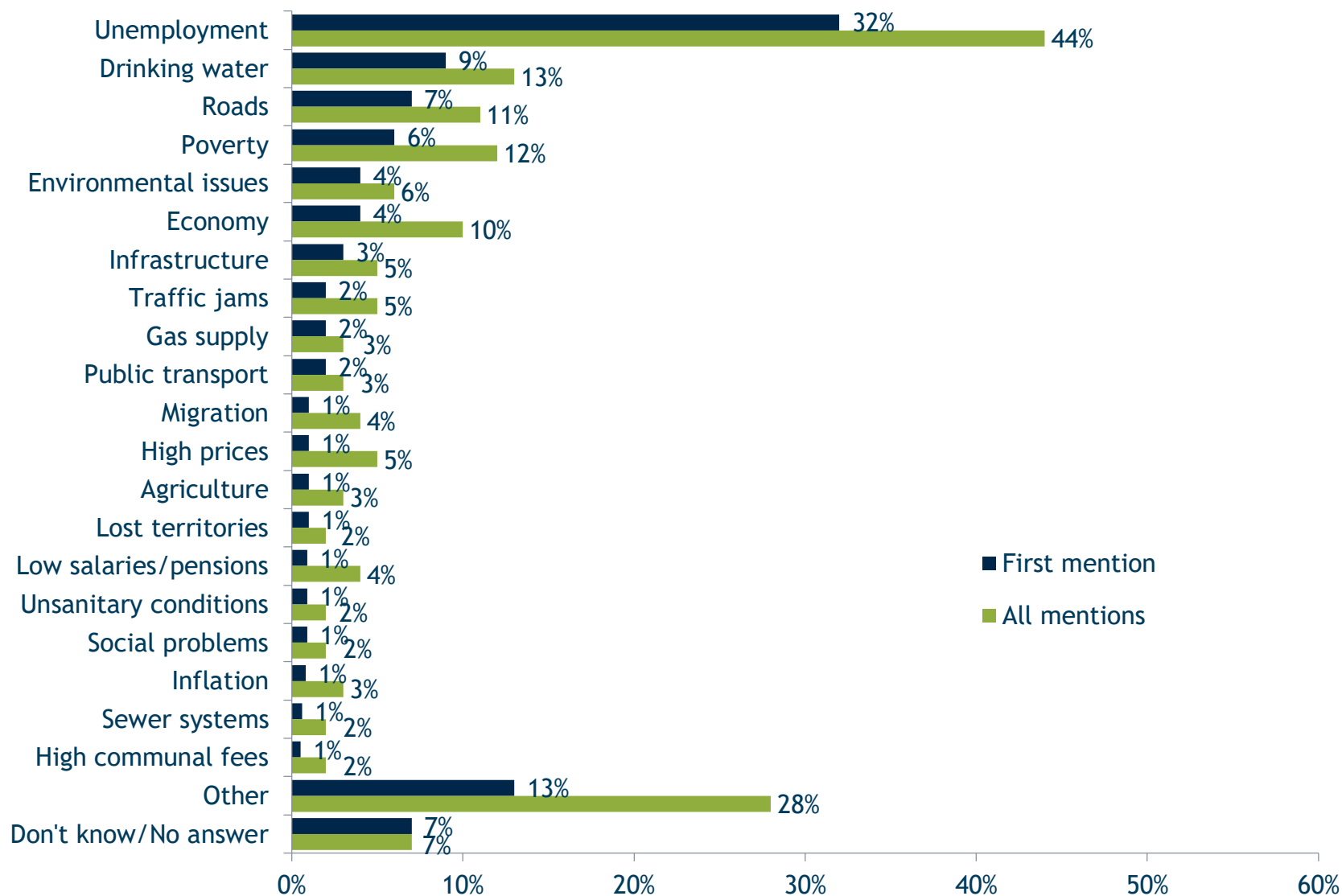
(Spontaneous response; up to two responses permitted)



*Responses receiving less than two percent of all mentions are collapsed into Other.

What is the most important problem facing your town/village today?

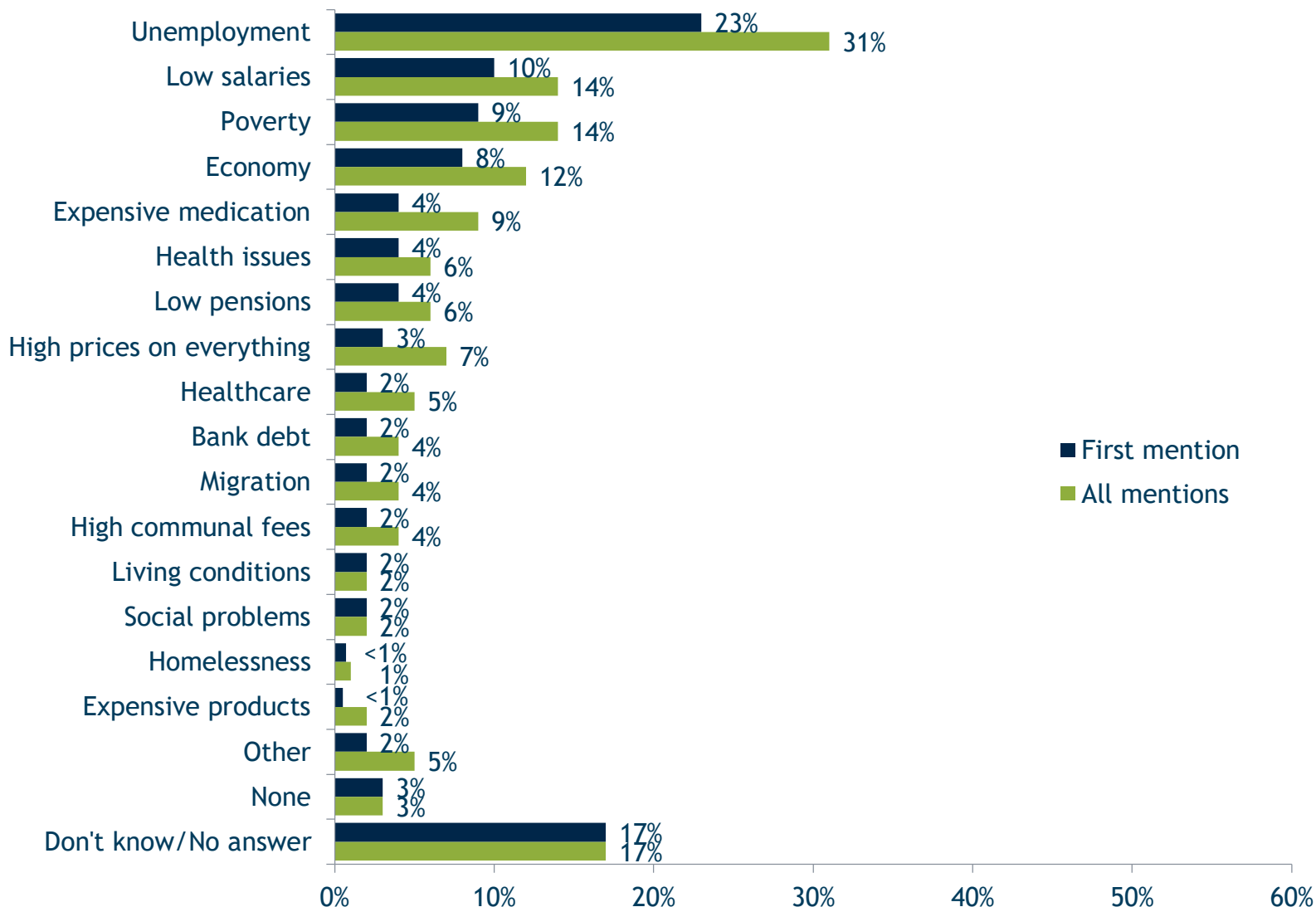
(Spontaneous response; up to two responses permitted)



*Responses receiving less than two percent of all mentions are collapsed into Other.

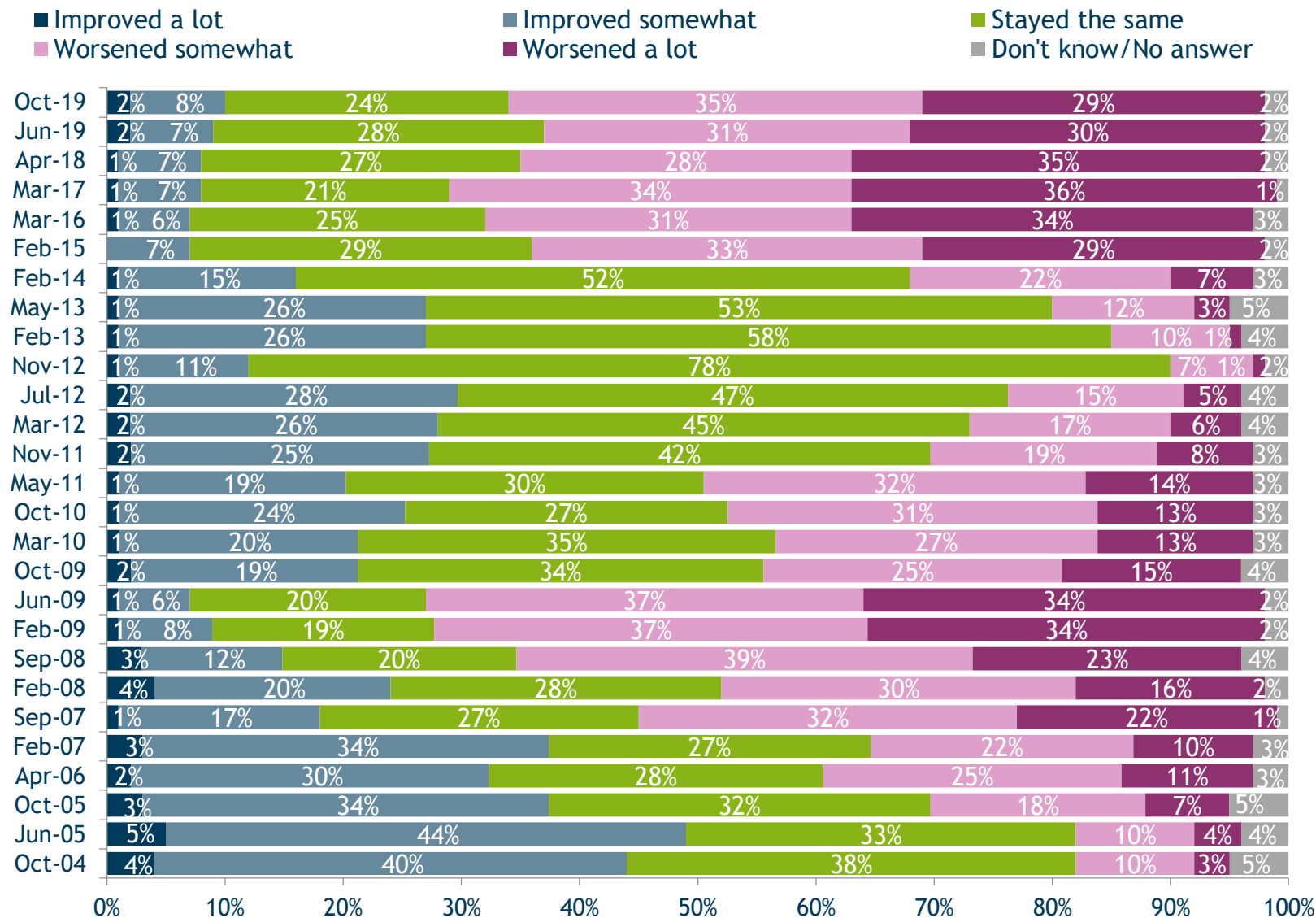
What is the most important problem facing your household today?

(Spontaneous response; up to two responses permitted)



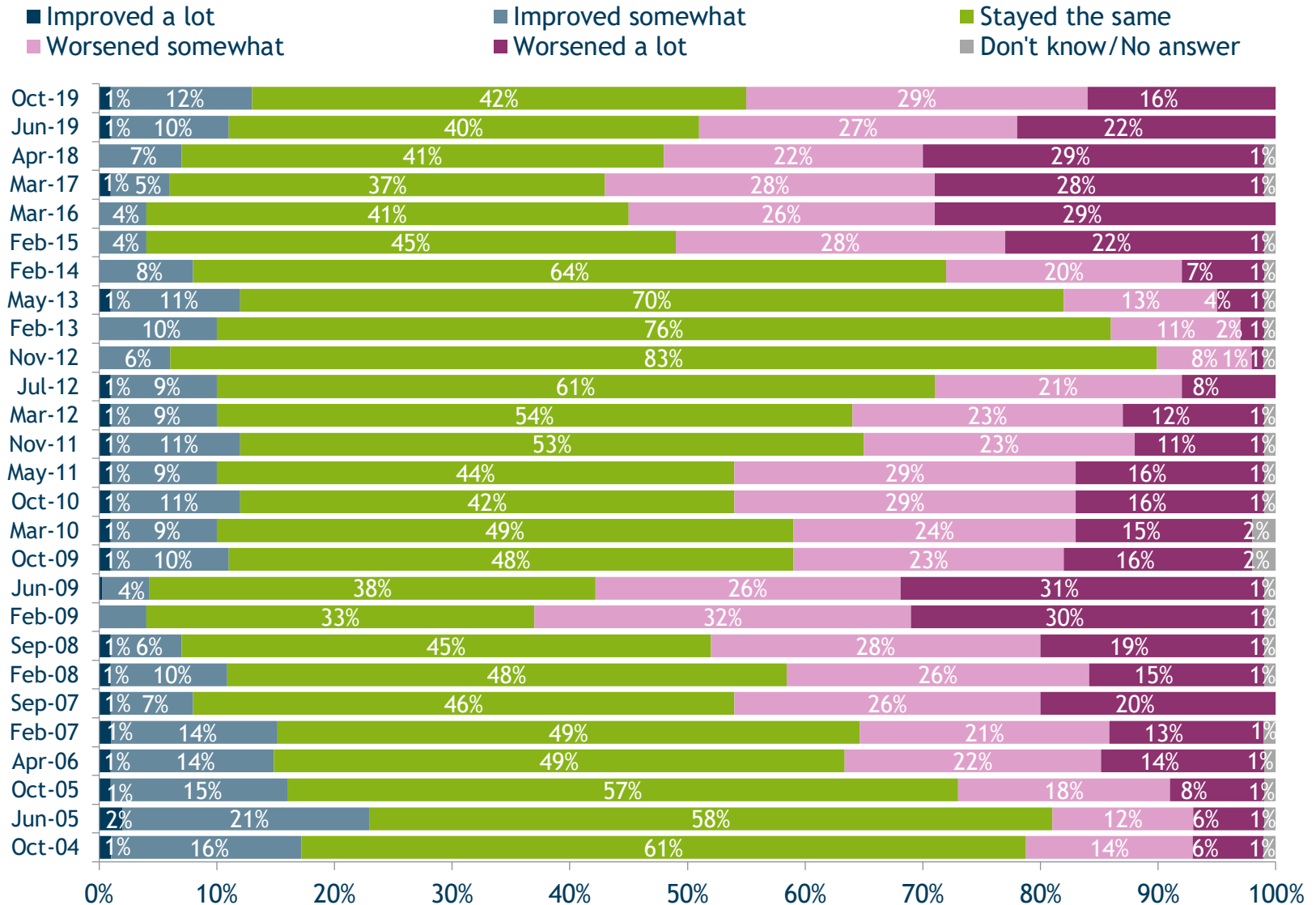
*Responses receiving less than two percent of all mentions are collapsed into Other.

Over the last 12 months*, the economic situation of Georgia change has... ?



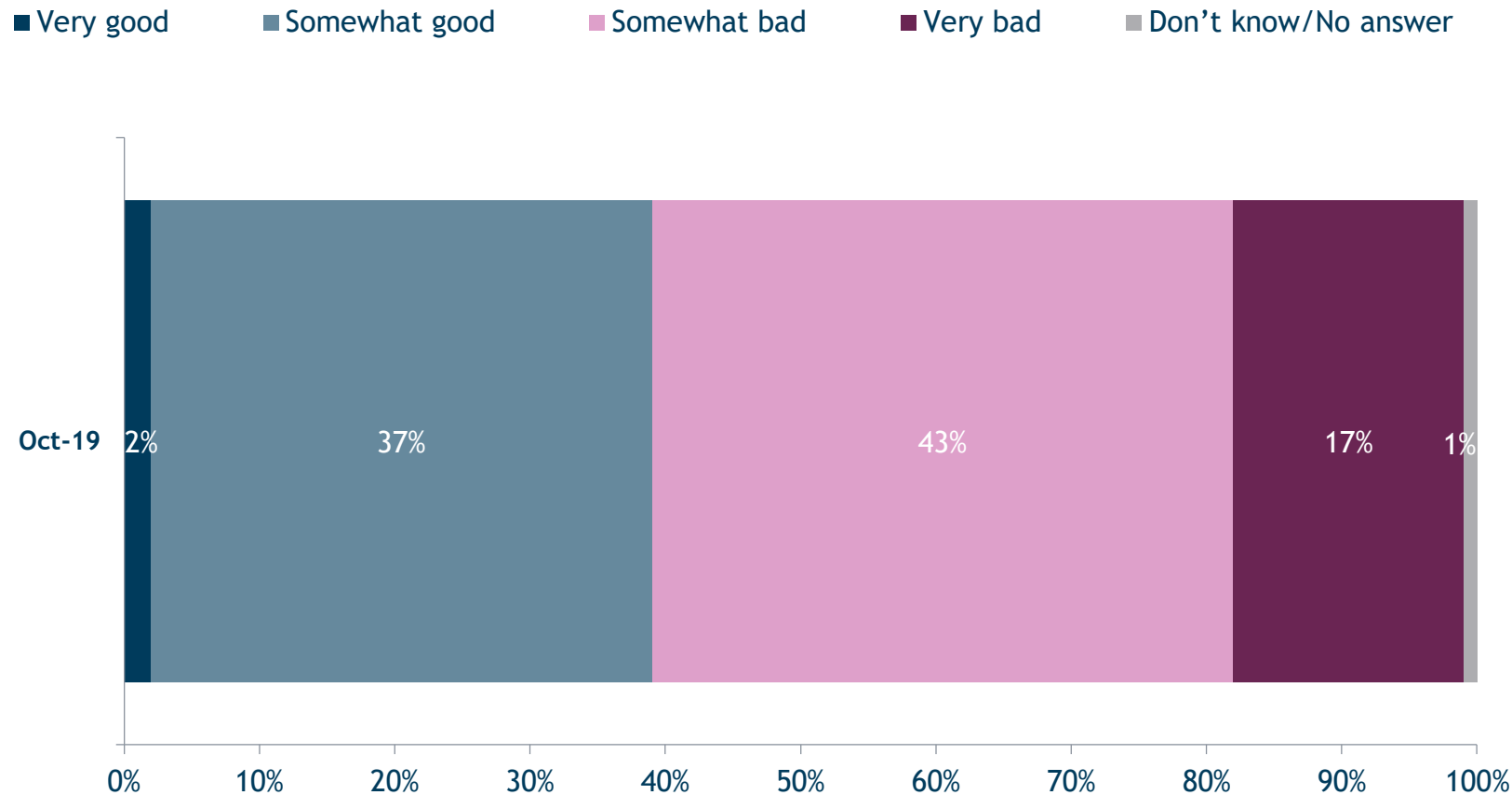
* In surveys before 2008, the question referenced a period of 3 months, in surveys from 2008 to 2017, the reference period was 2 months.

Over the last 12 months*, how has the economic situation of your household changed?

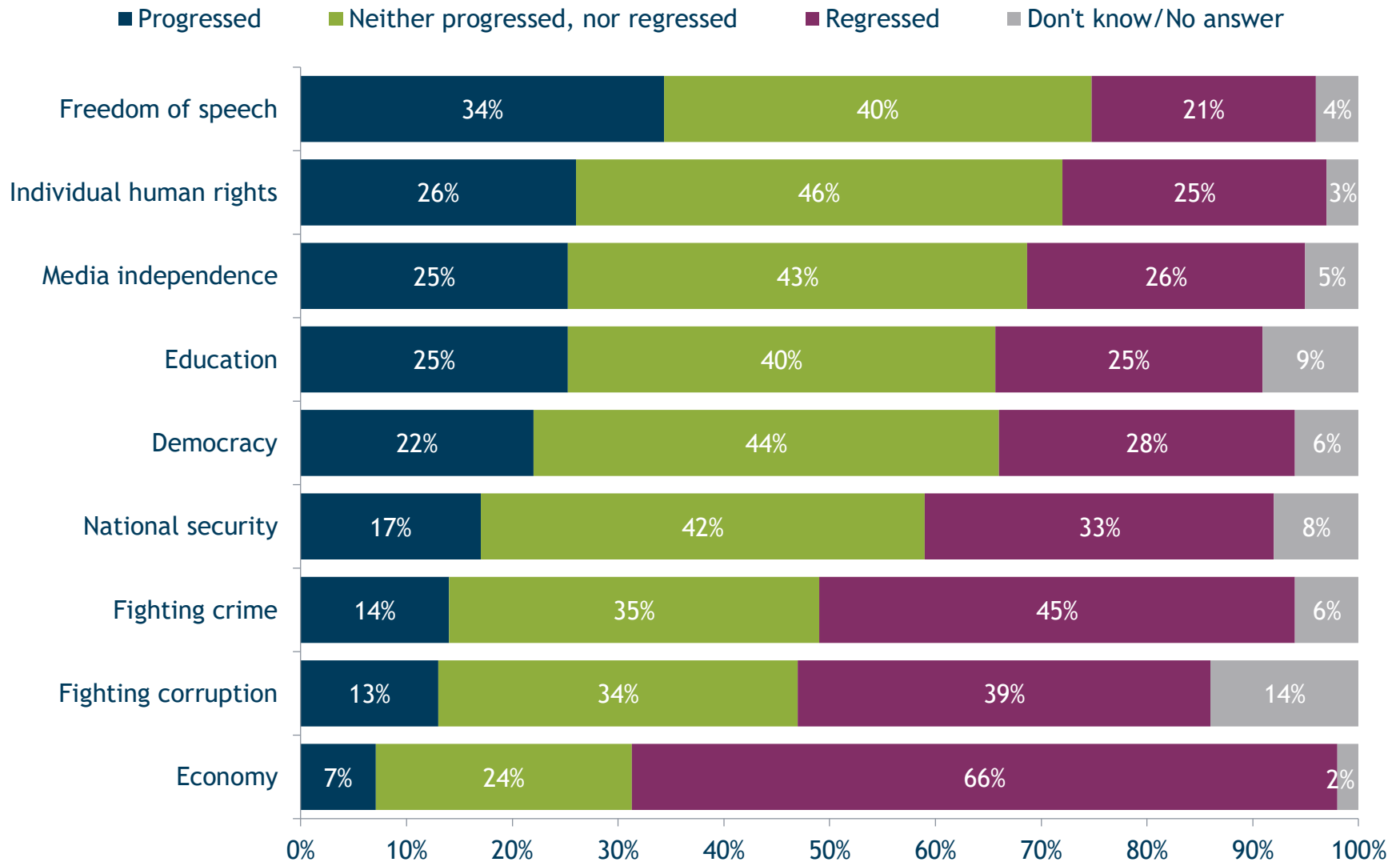


* In surveys before 2008, the question referenced a period of 3 months, in surveys from 2008 to 2017, the reference period was 2 months

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



How do you feel about the direction of each of the following issues during the past year?





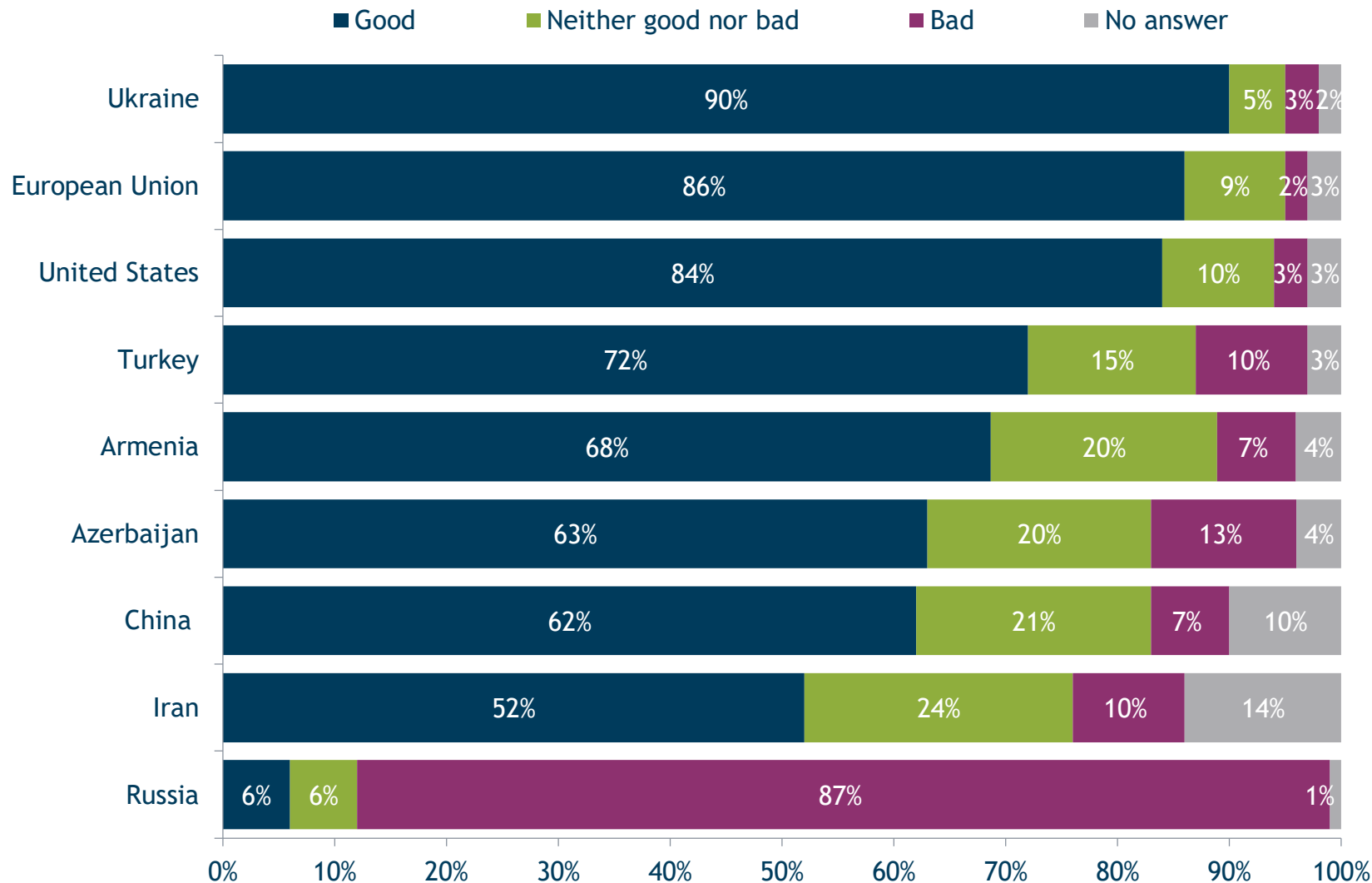
International Relations



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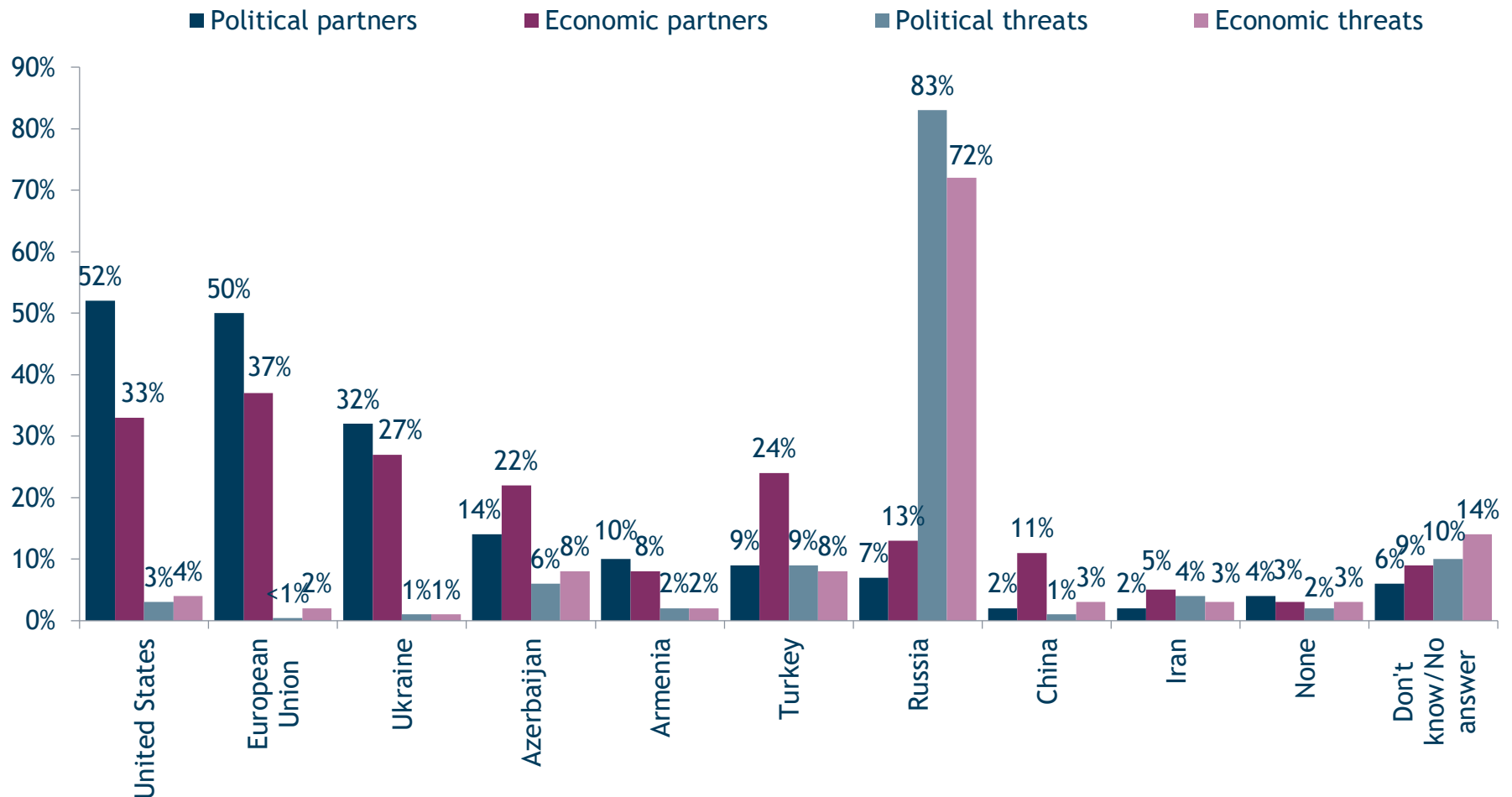
How would you evaluate the current state of the relationship between Georgia and the following countries?



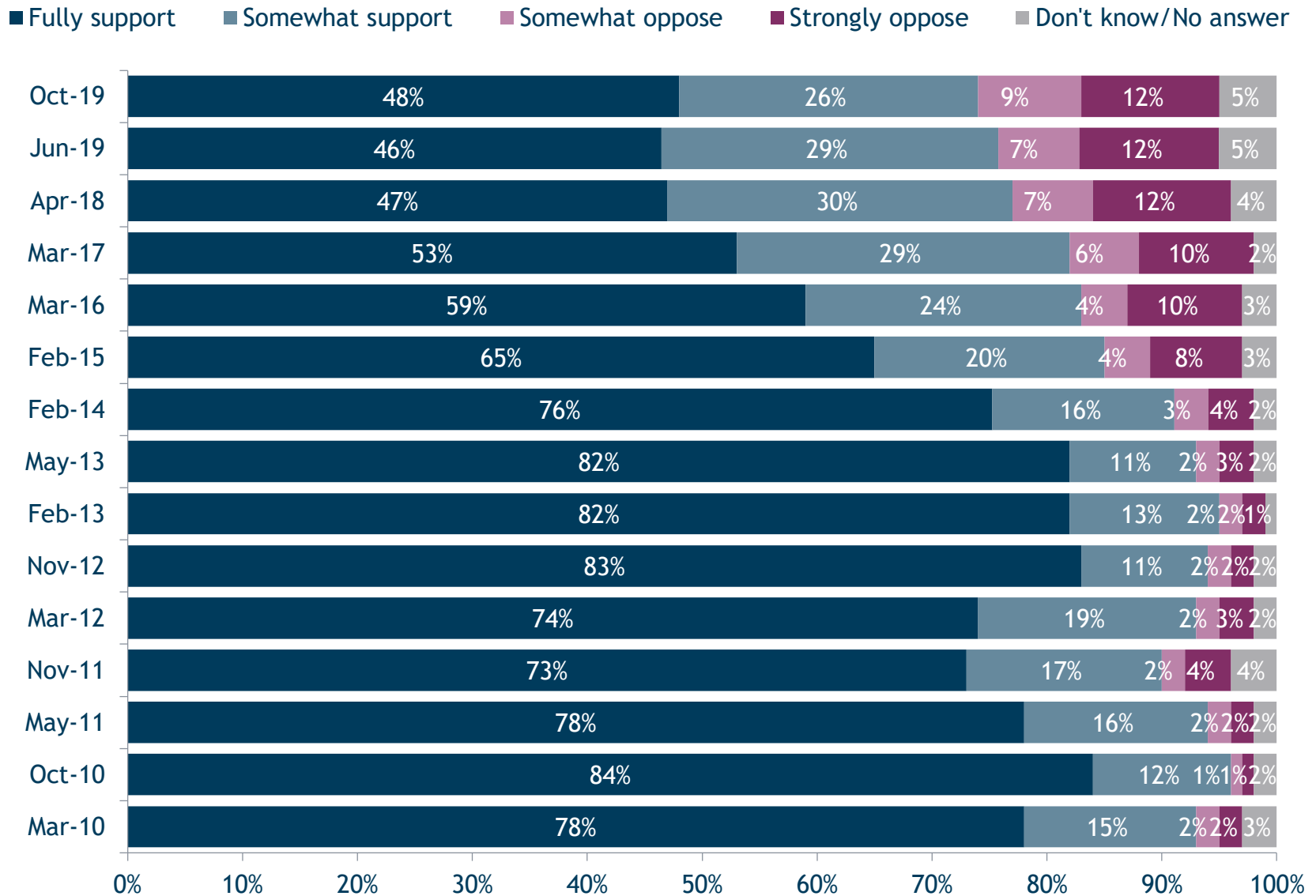
Which of these countries:

- ... do you consider the most important political partners for Georgia?
- ... do you consider the most important economic partners for Georgia?
- ... poses the greatest political threat to Georgia?
- ... poses the greatest economic threat to Georgia?

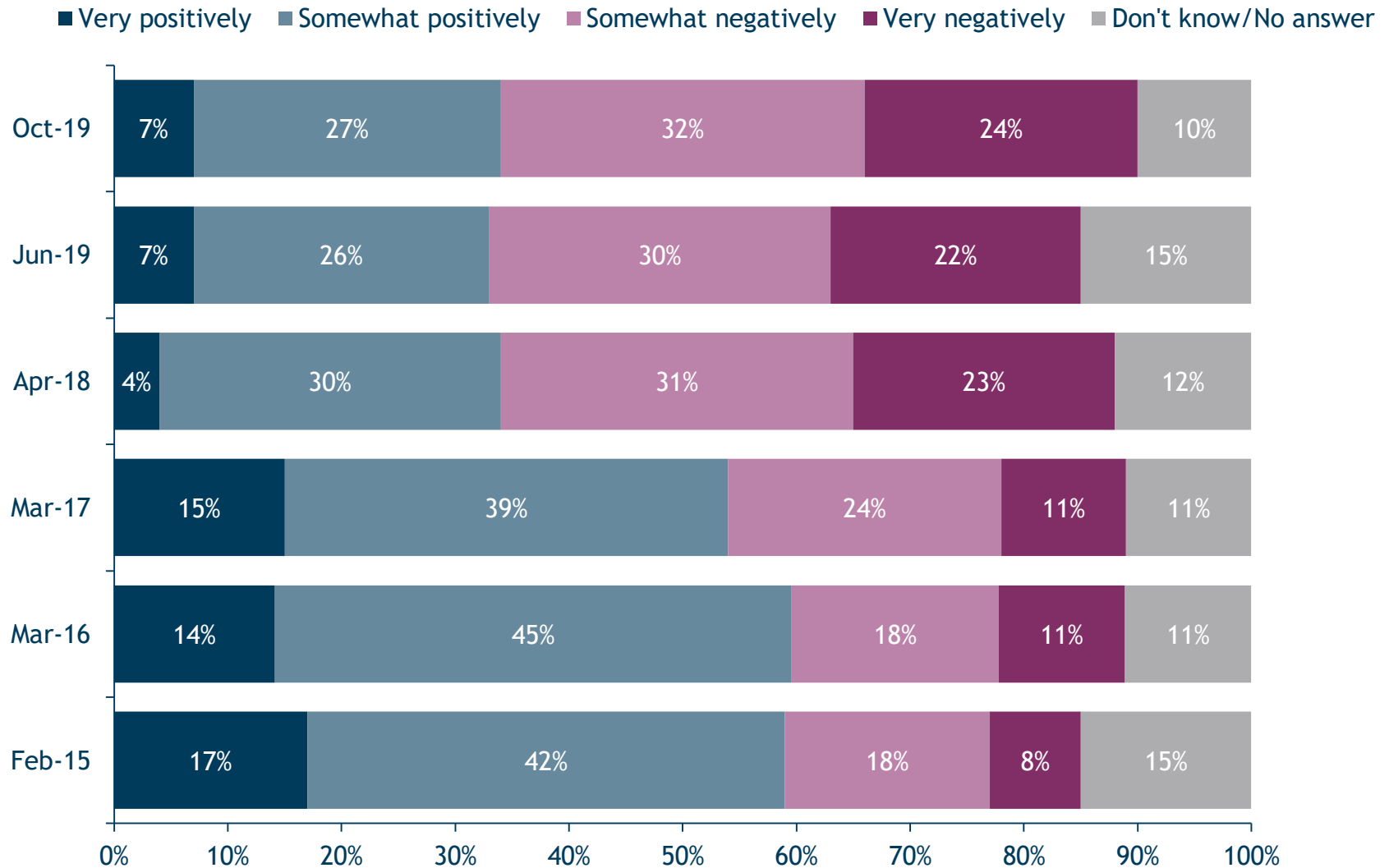
(Multiple responses permitted for each question)



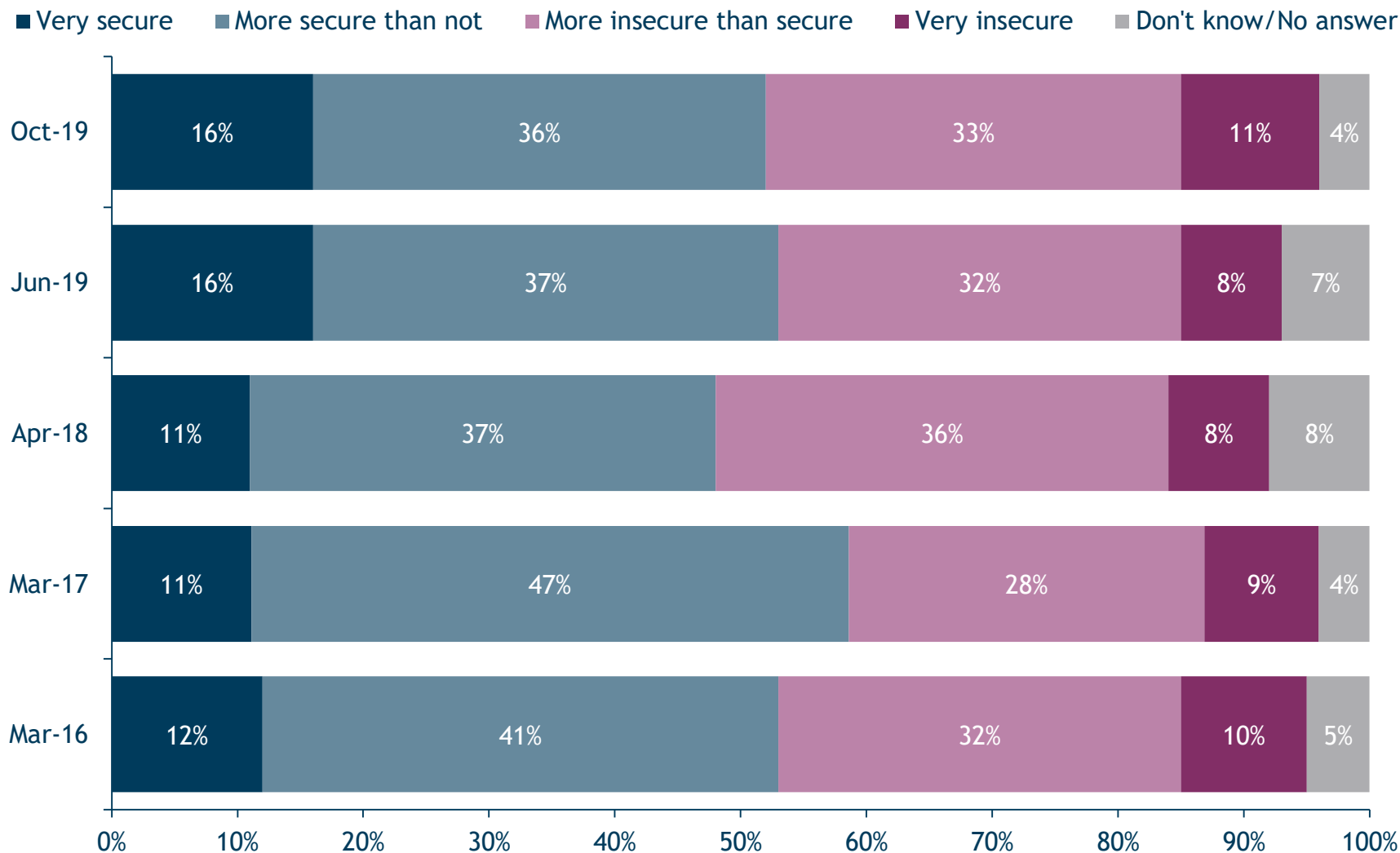
Do you support or oppose further dialogue with Russia?



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

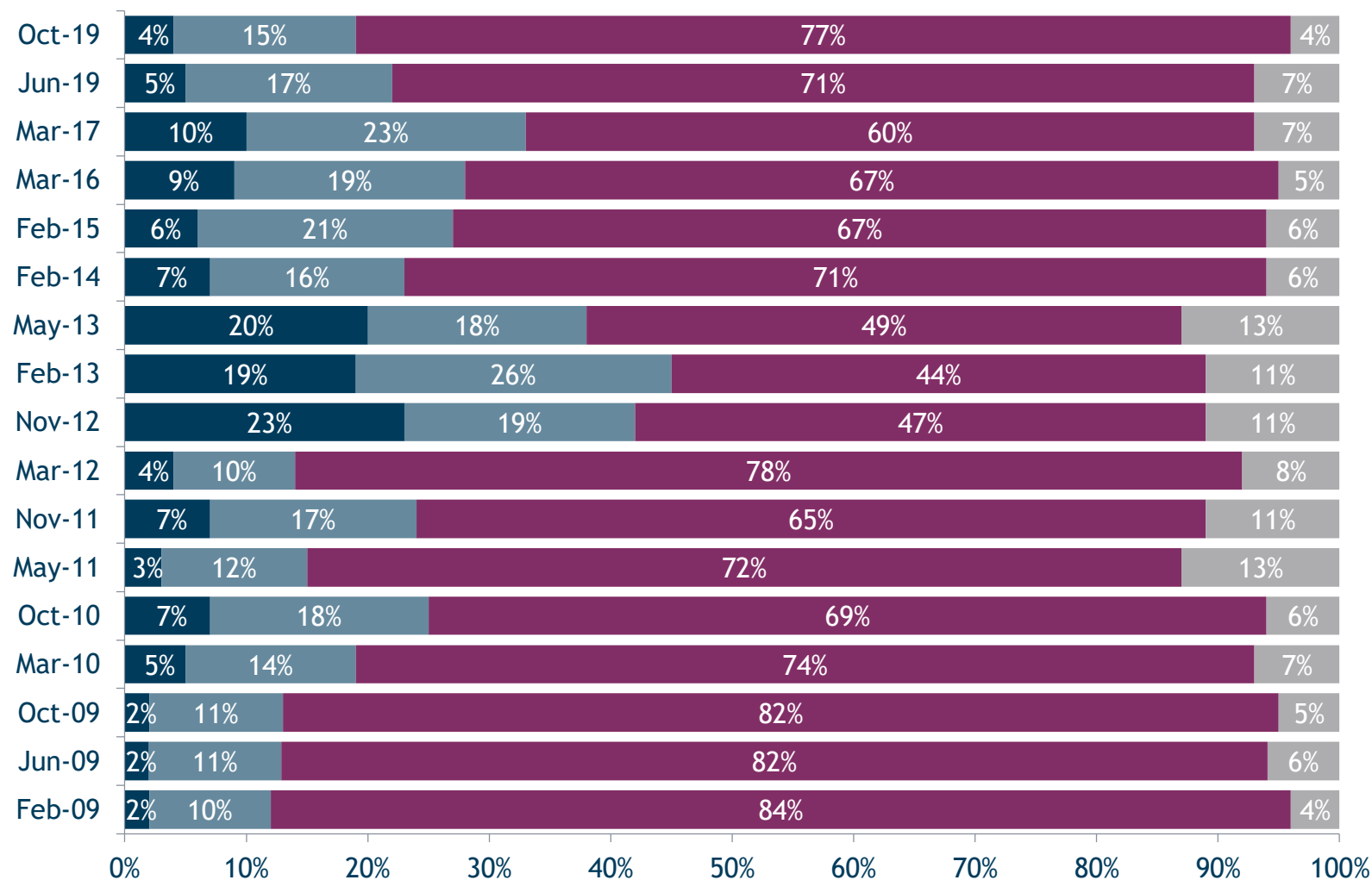


Given the current state of Georgia's relationship with Russia, how secure do you feel living in Georgia?

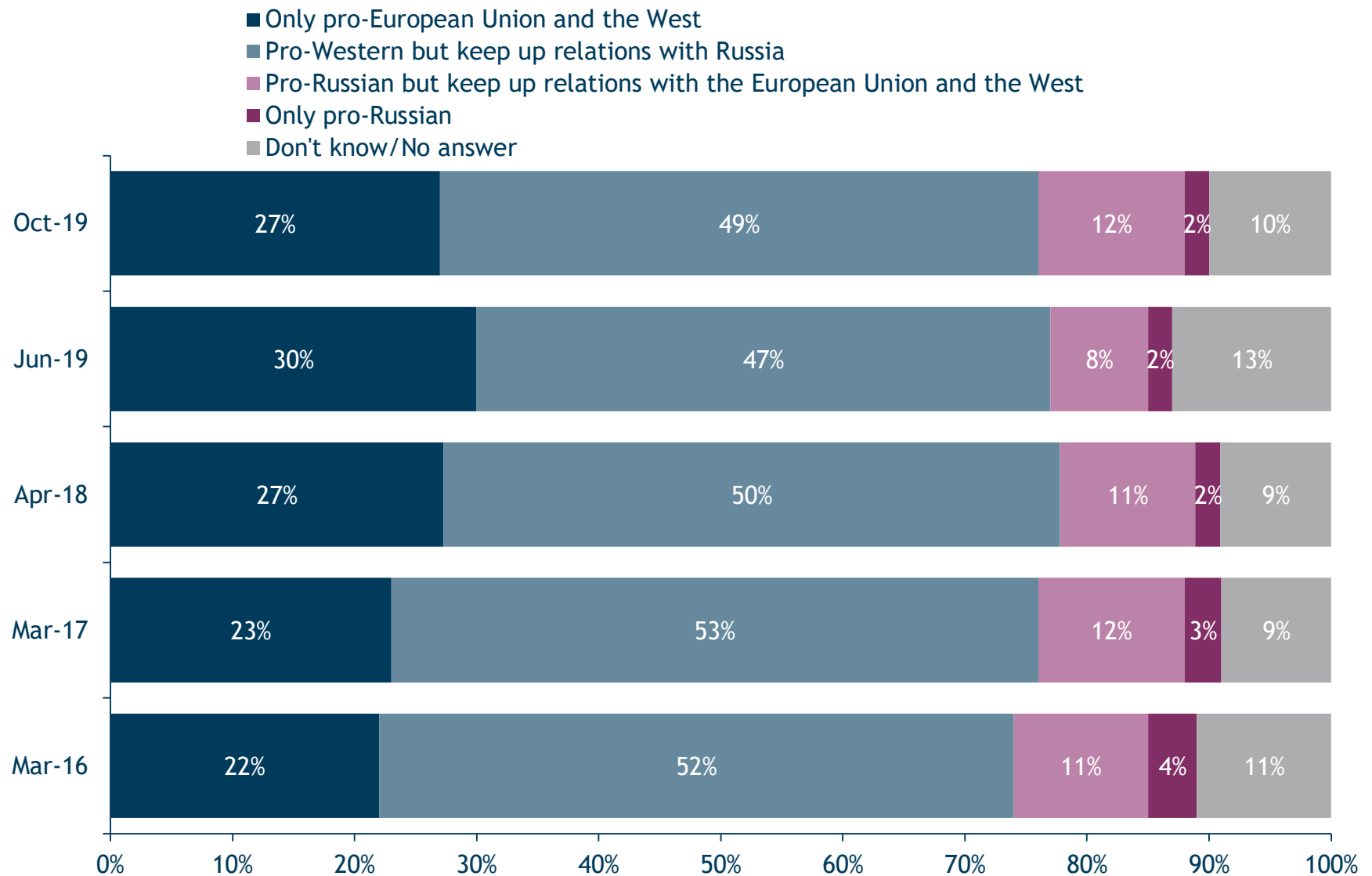


Do you think that Russian aggression to Georgia is over or is it still going on?

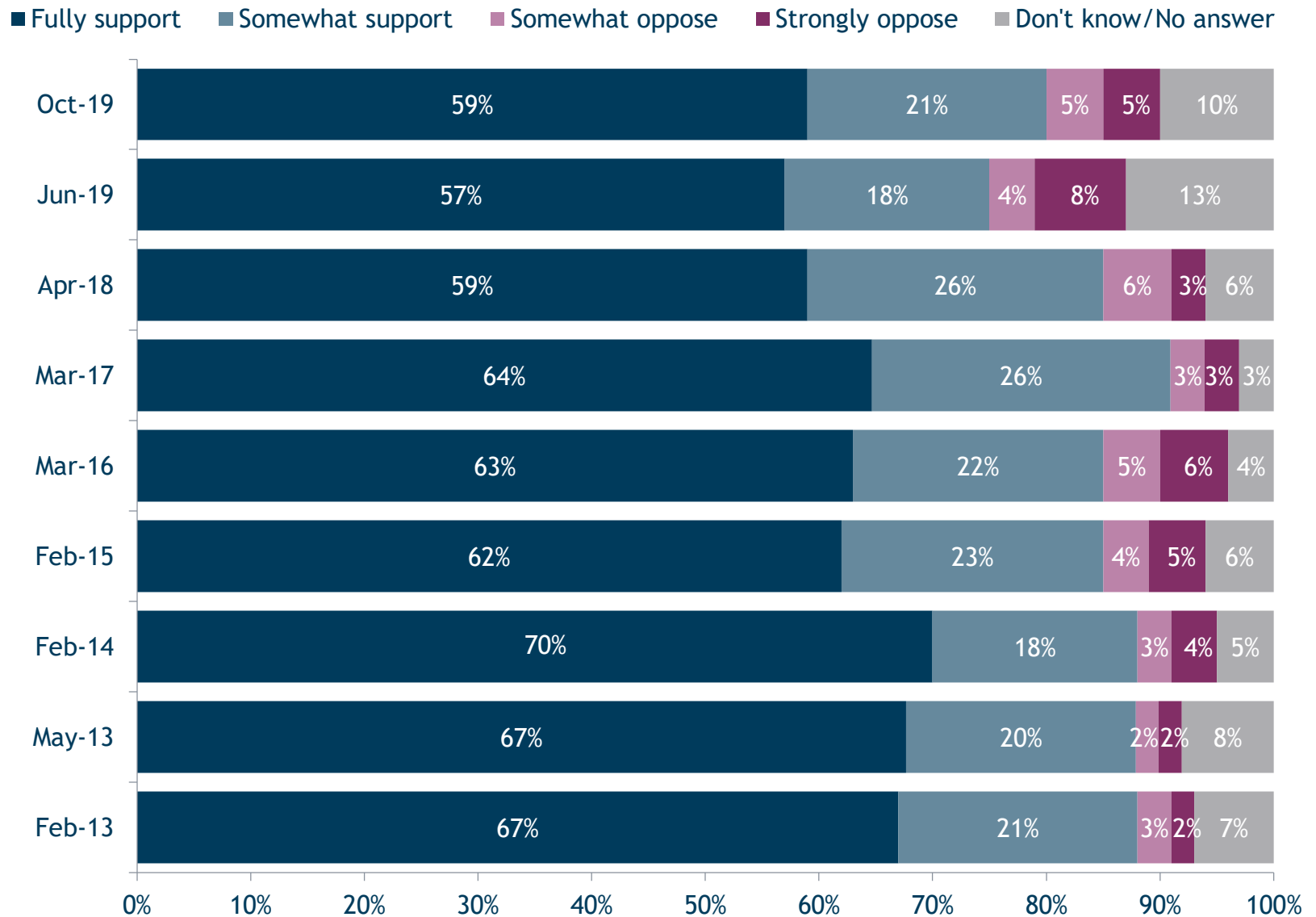
■ It is over and unlikely to resume ■ It is over but likely to resume ■ It is still going on ■ Don't know/No answer



In your opinion what should Georgia's foreign policy course be?

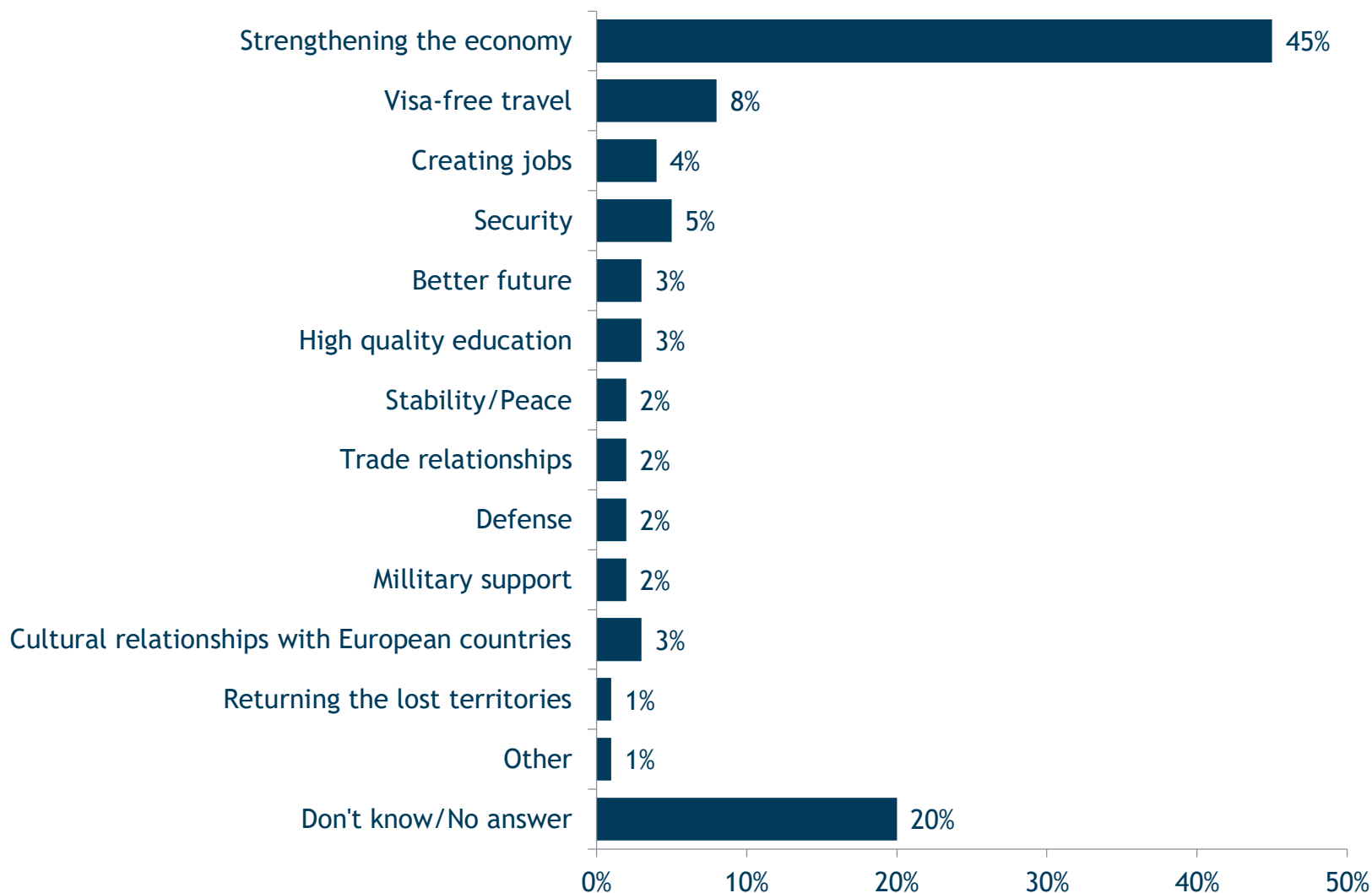


Do you support or oppose Georgia joining the European Union?



If you support, what is the main benefit of joining the European Union?

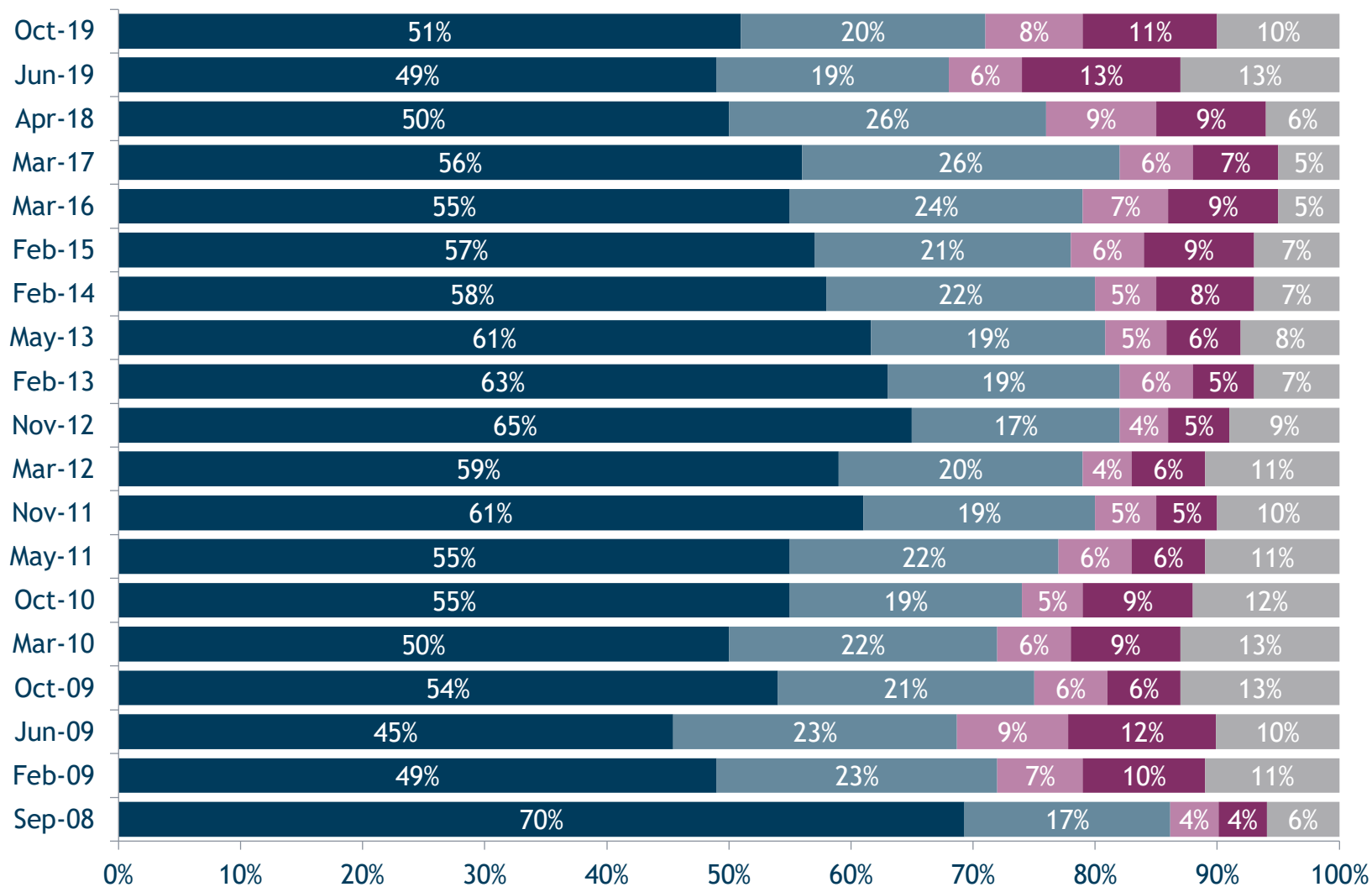
(Respondents supporting Georgia joining the European Union: n=1,193; spontaneous response)



*Responses receiving less than one percent are collapsed into Other.

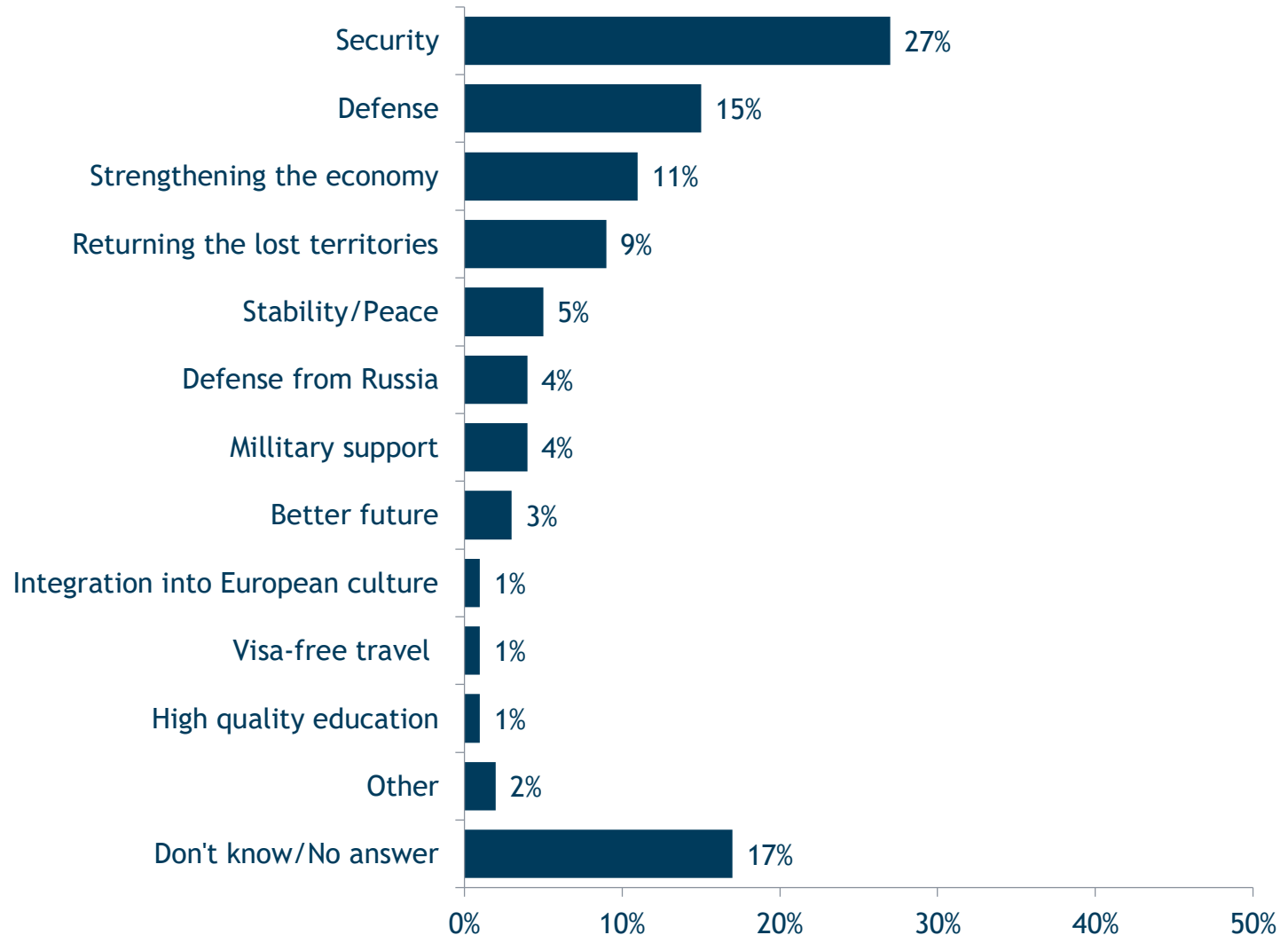
Do you support or oppose Georgia joining NATO?

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



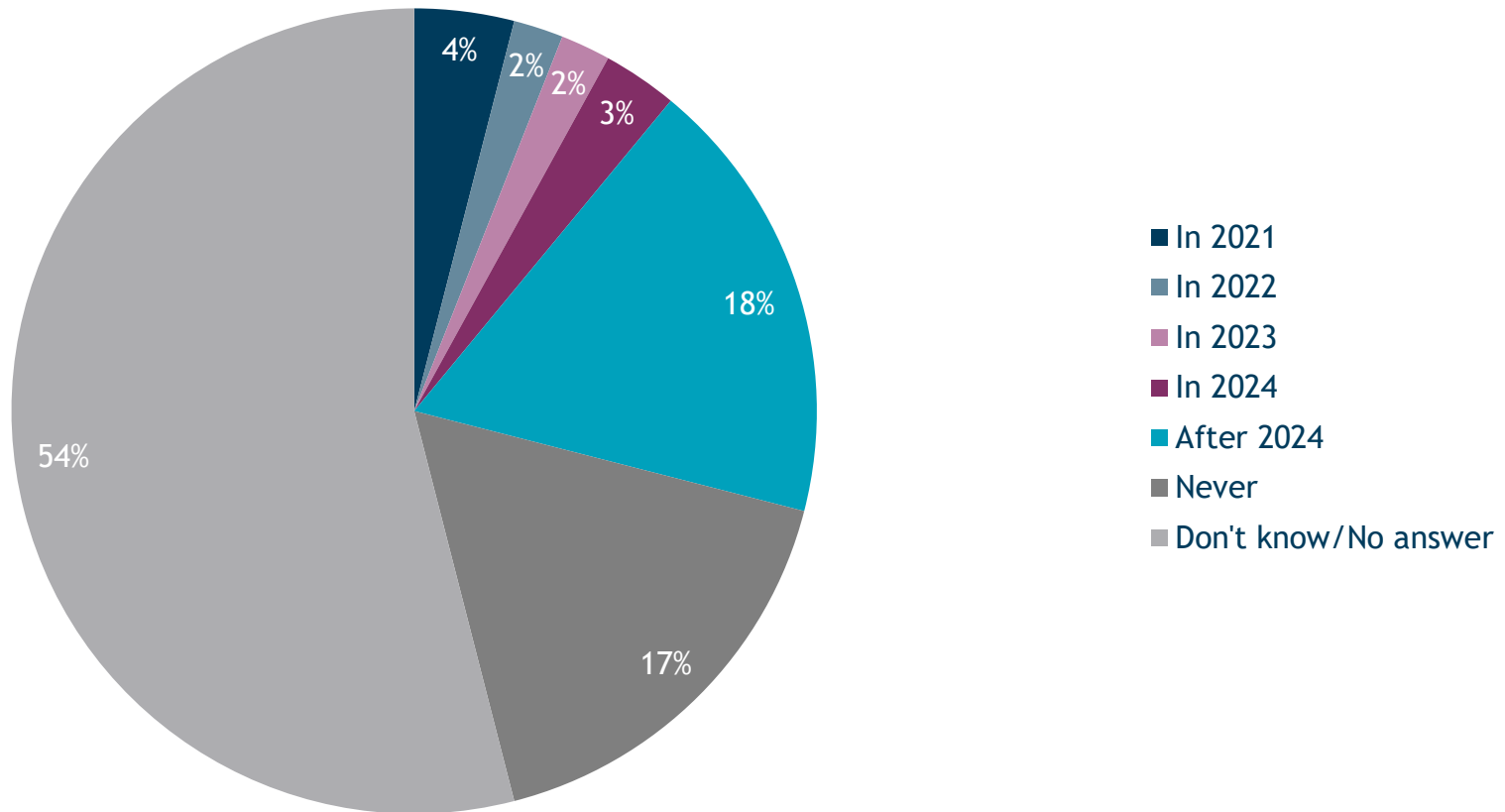
If you support, what is the main benefit of joining NATO?

(Respondents supporting Georgia joining NATO, n=1,059; spontaneous response)

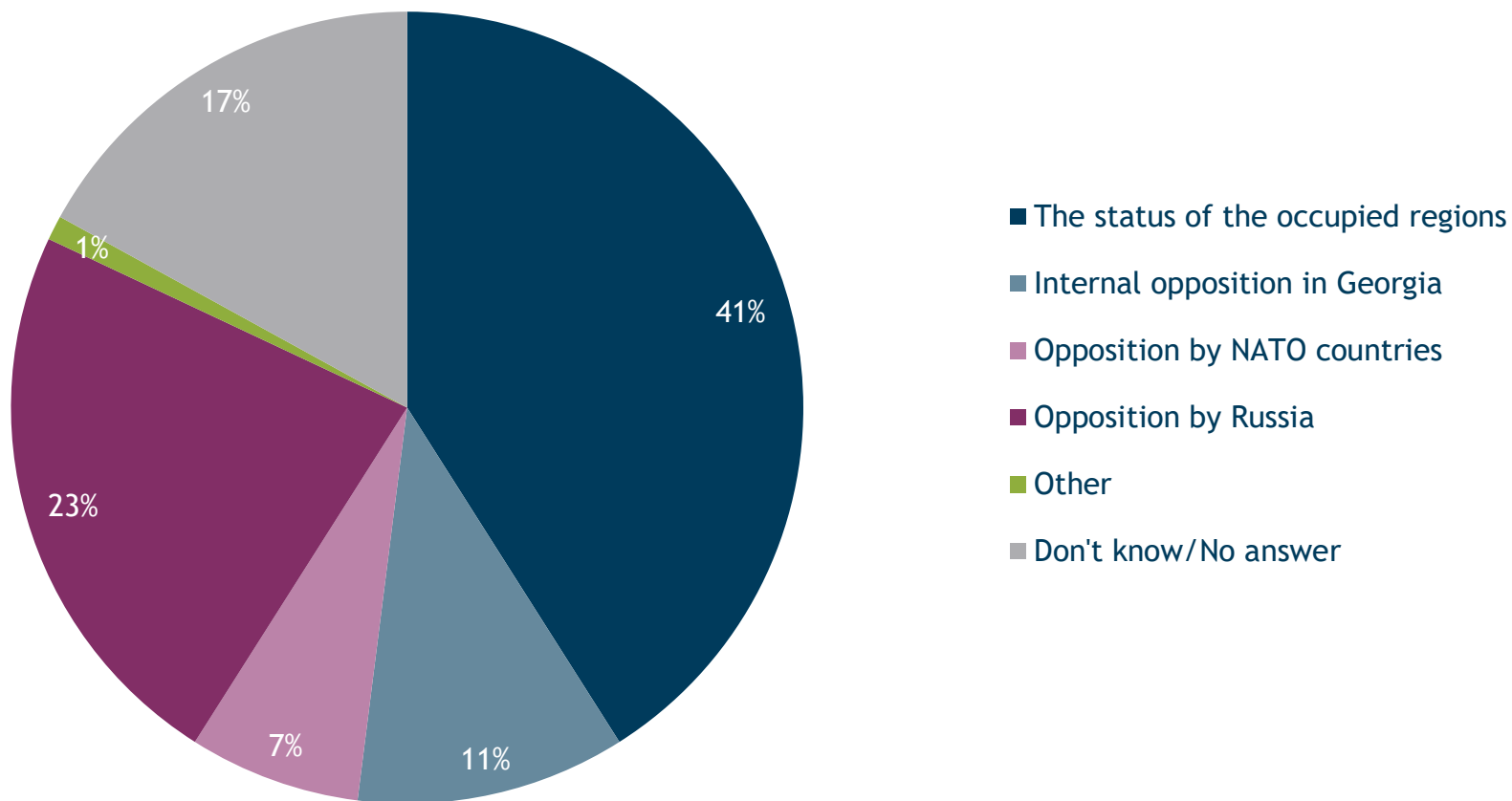


*Responses receiving less than one percent are collapsed into Other.

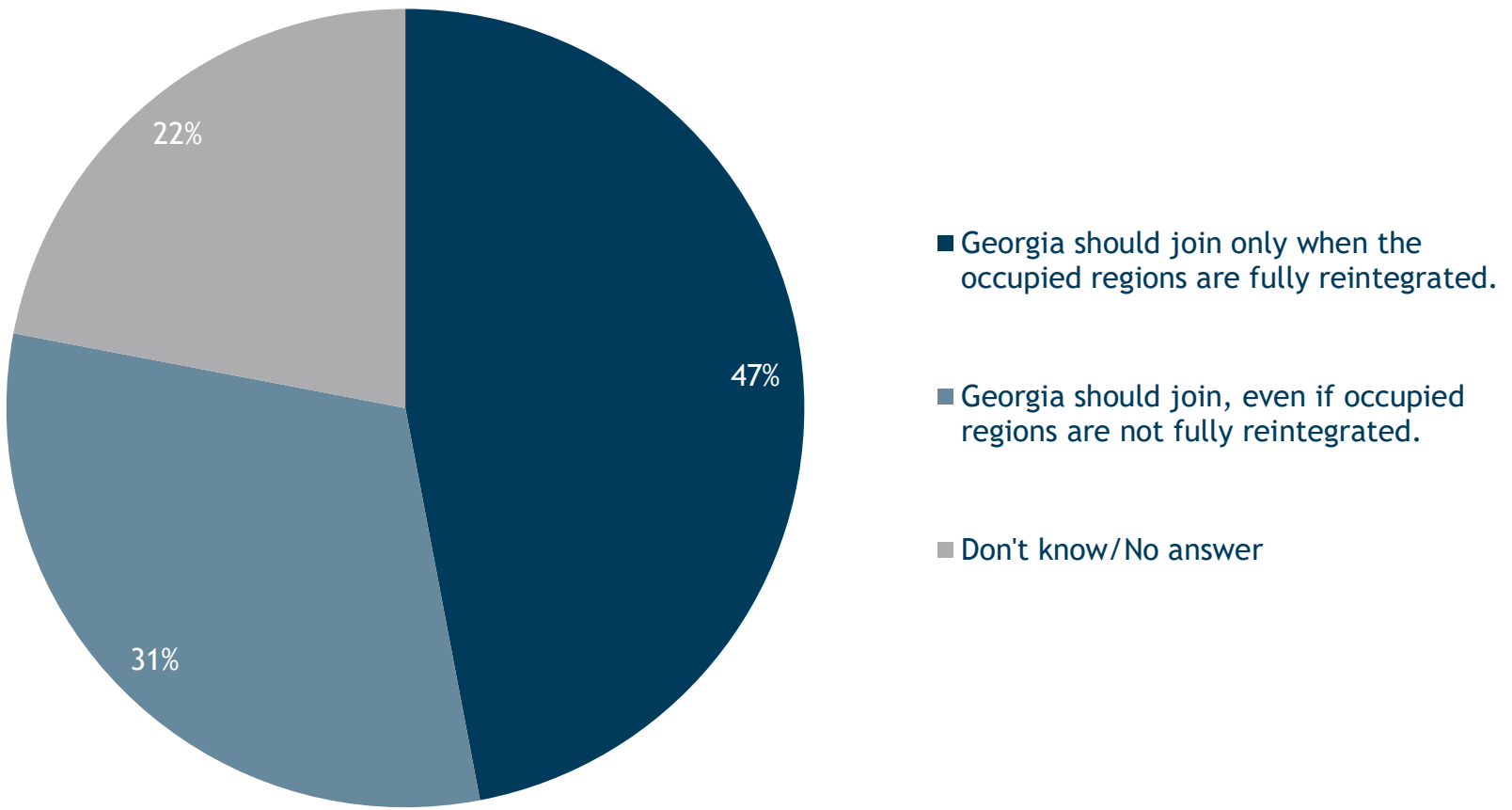
When do you think Georgia will become a member of NATO?



What is biggest obstacle in the way of Georgia joining NATO?



When it comes to the status of the occupied regions, under what conditions should Georgia agree to join NATO?





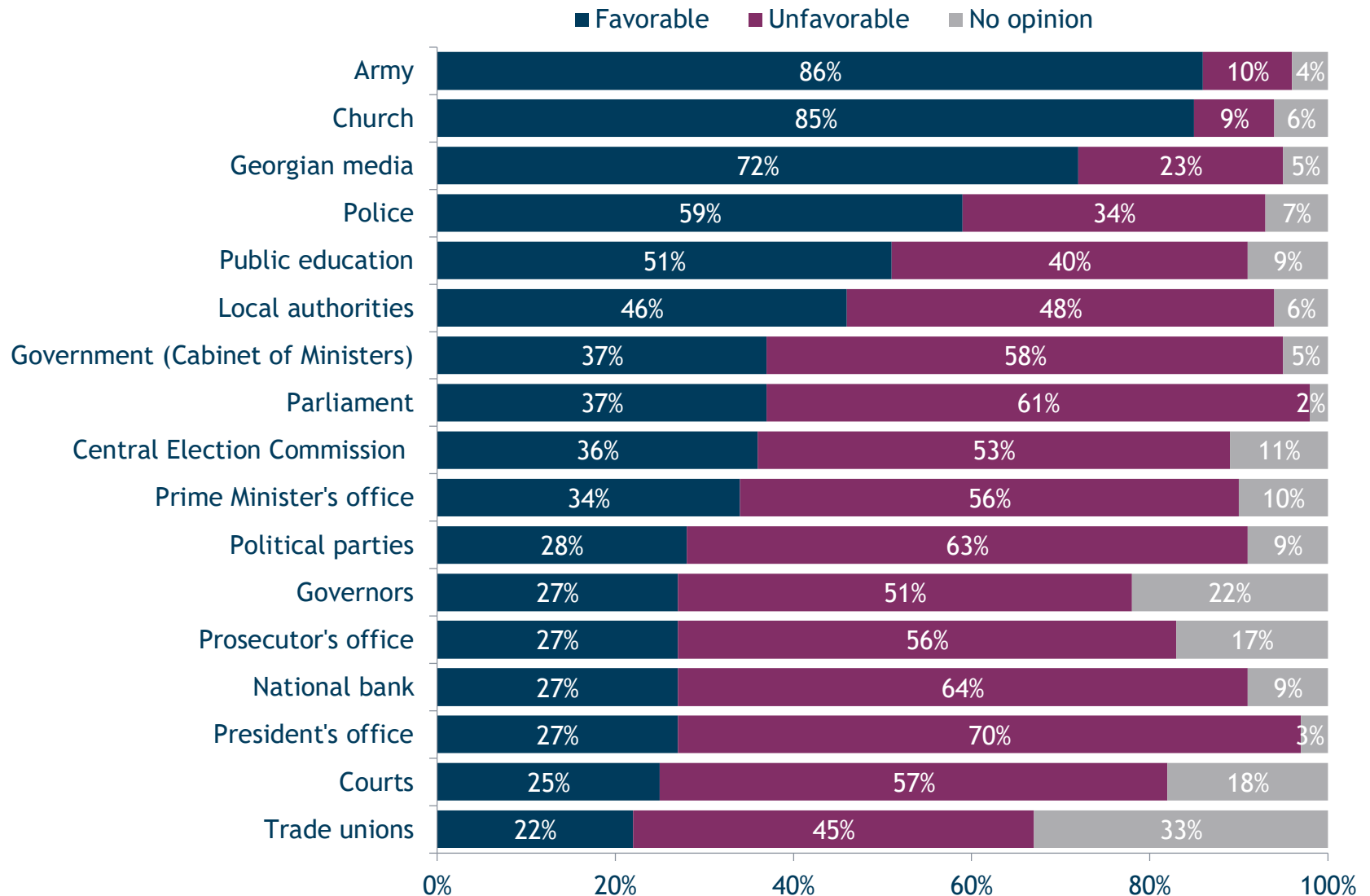
Persons and Institutions



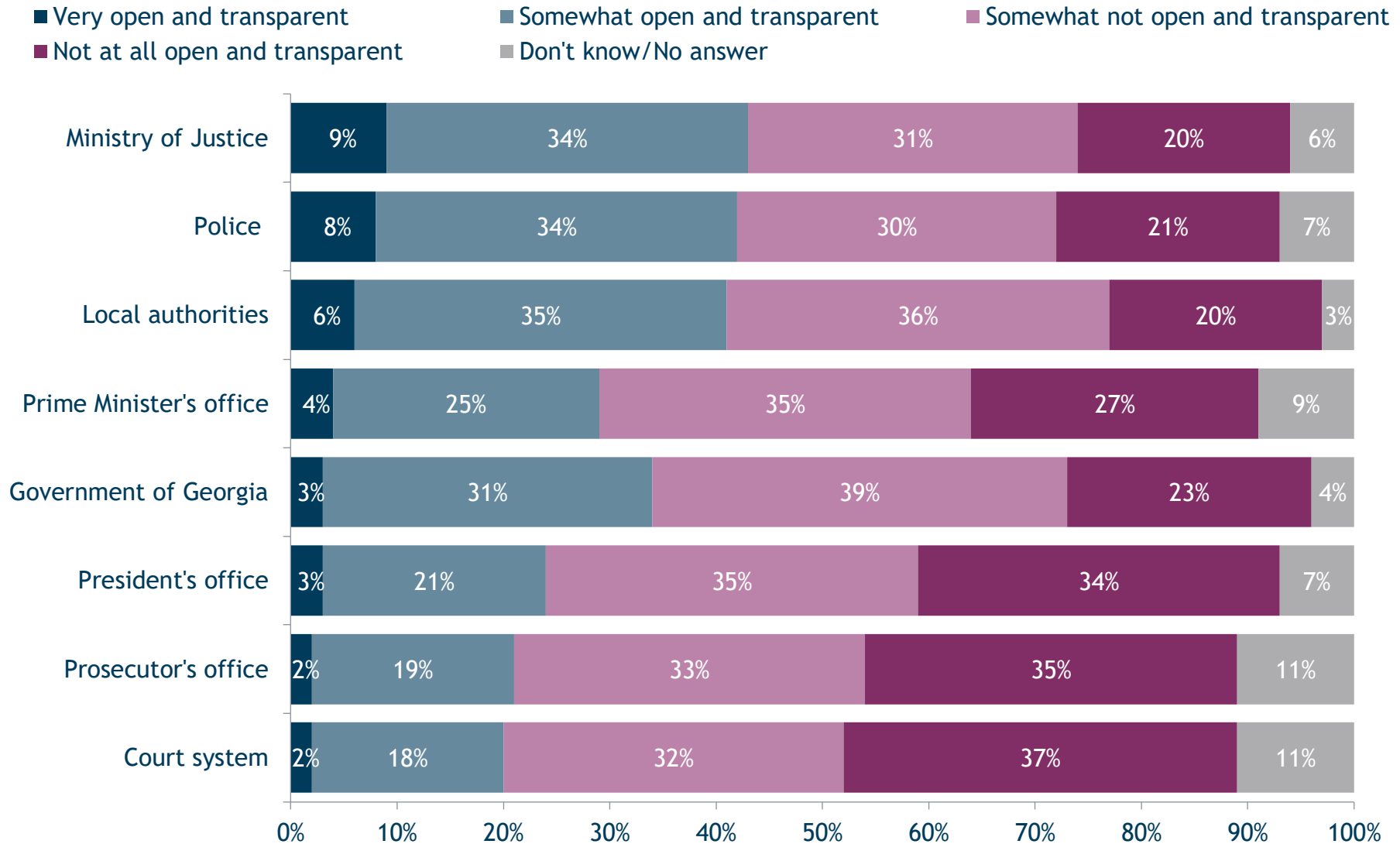
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Please tell me your opinion about the work of each of these institutions:

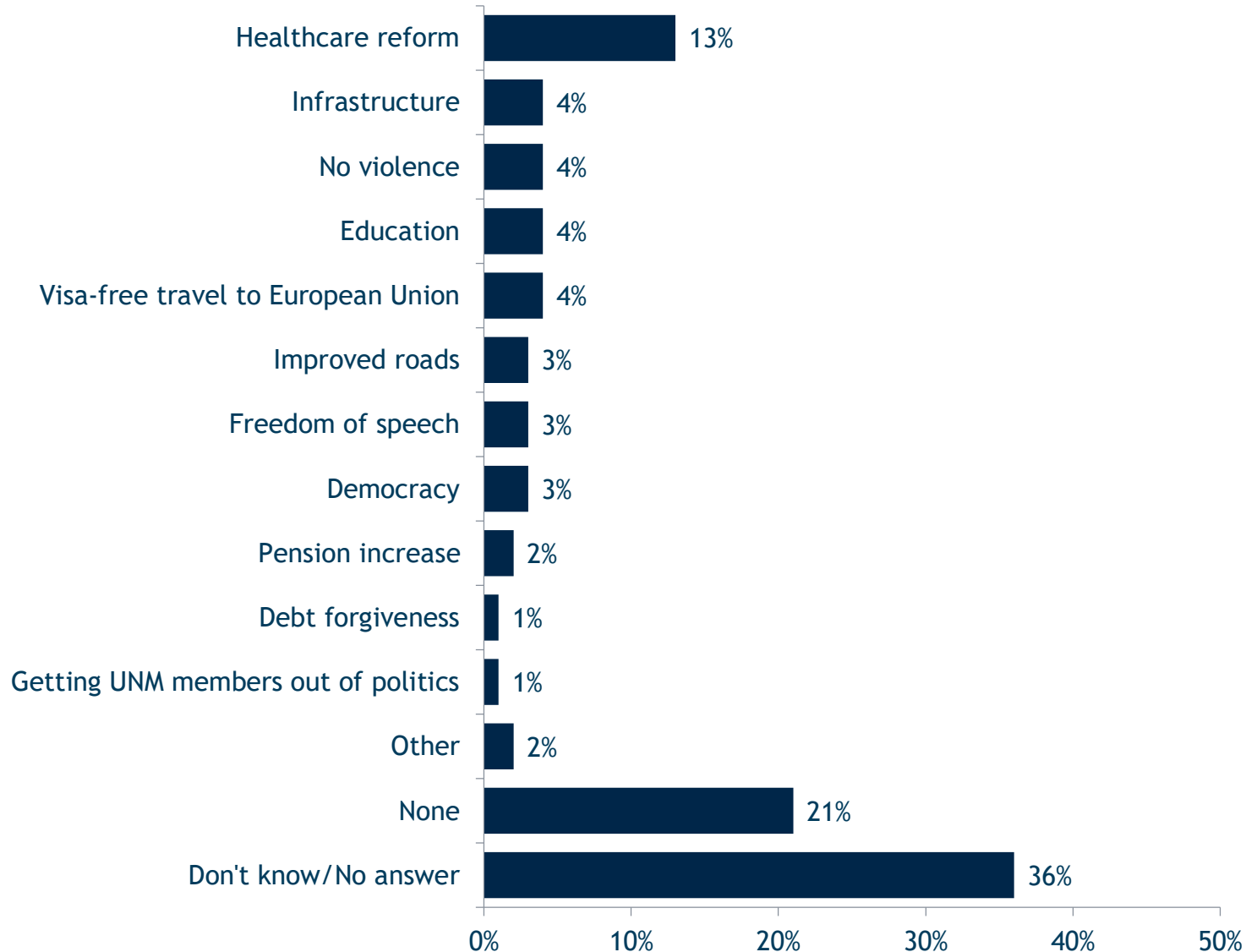


How do you assess performance of the following institutions in terms of openness and transparency?



What is the main accomplishment of the current Government?

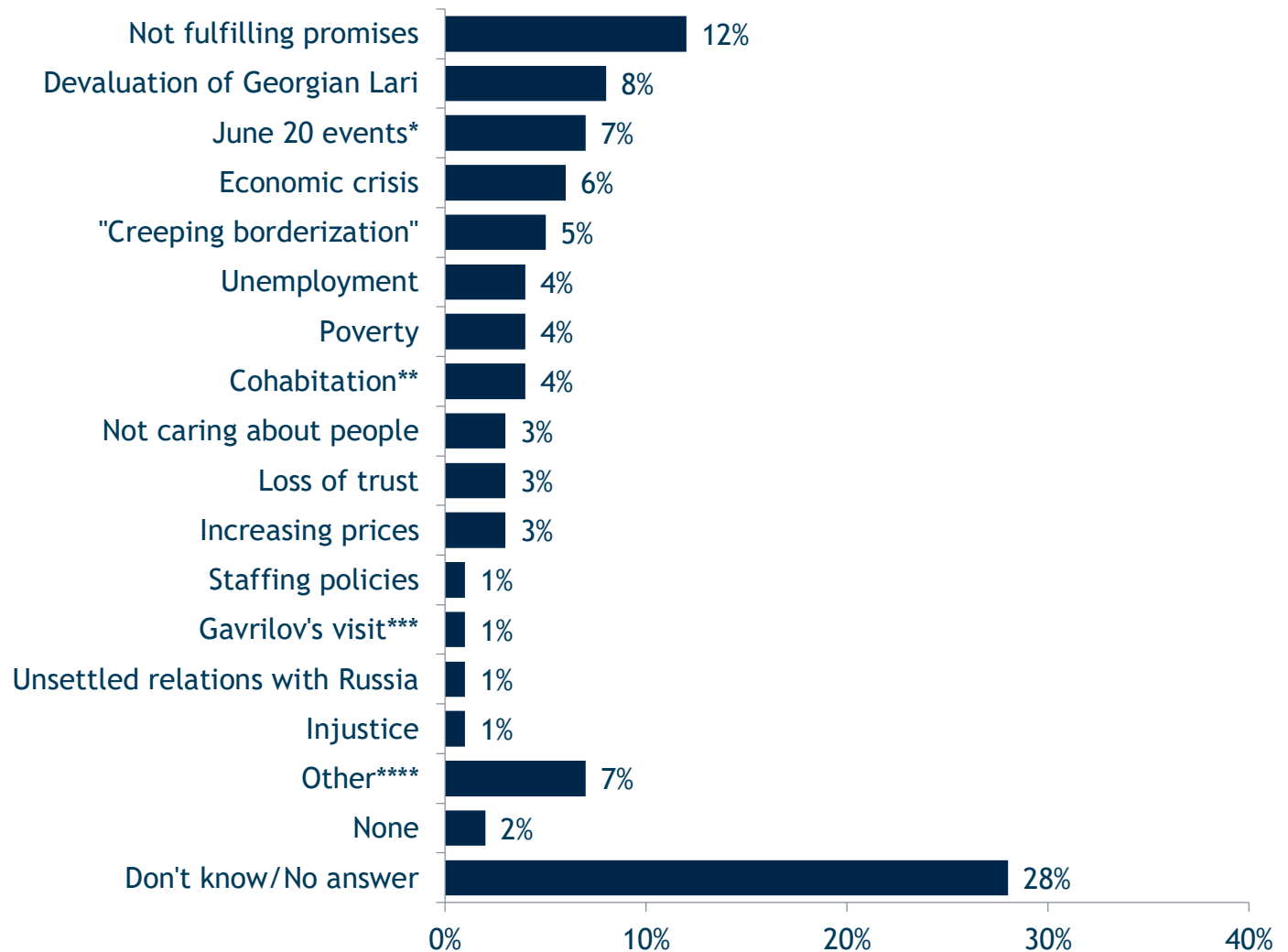
(Spontaneous response; one response permitted)



*Responses receiving less than one percent are collapsed into Other.

What is the biggest failure of the Government?

(Spontaneous response; one response permitted)



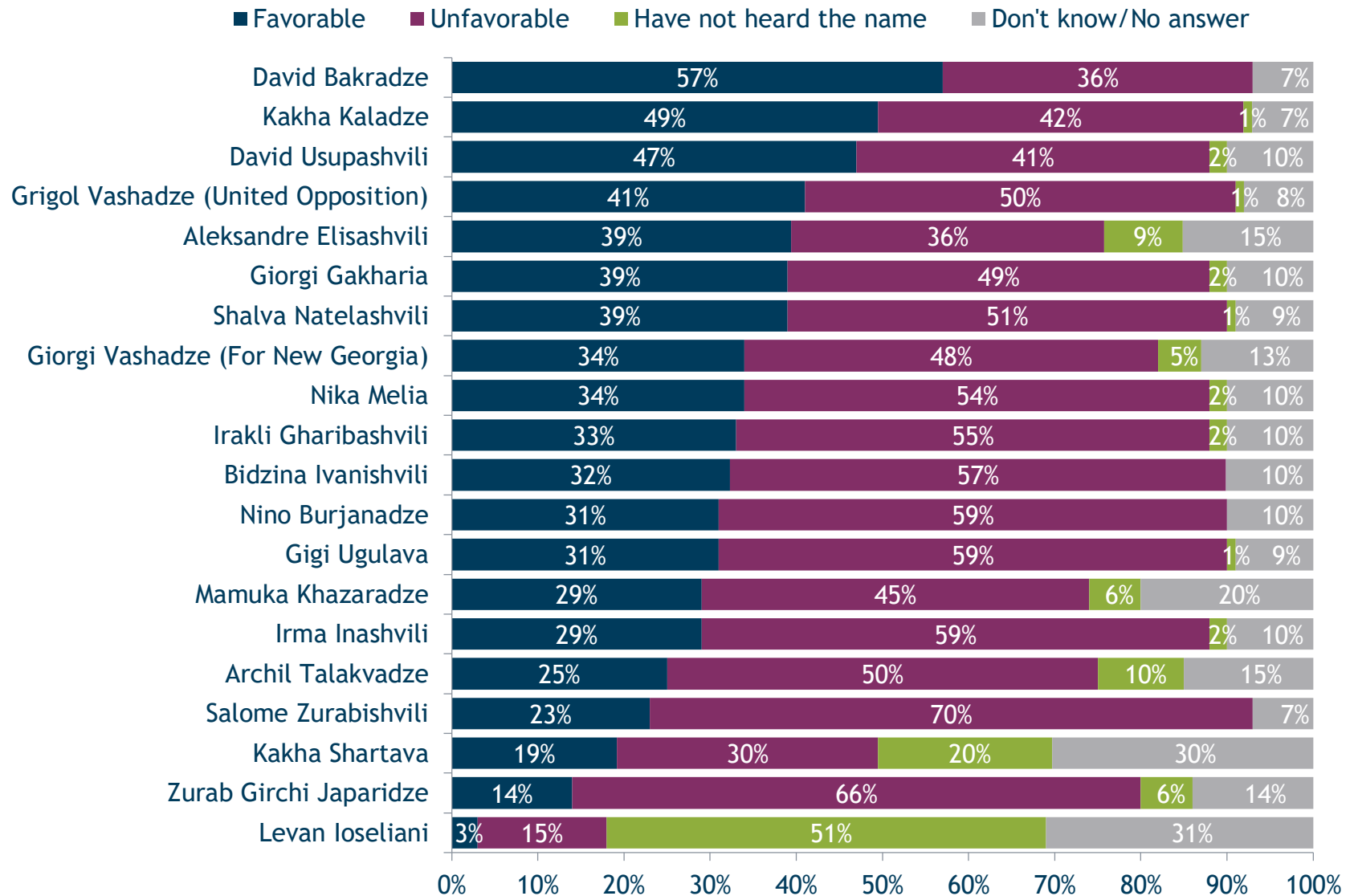
*Referring to the clashes between government forces and protestors on the night of June 20.

**The colloquial term for the period between October 2012 and October 2013 during which Georgia Dream controlled parliament and President Saakashvili was still in power.

***Referring to the Russian MP whose speech from the Speaker's chair of Parliament prompted the June 20 protests.

****Responses receiving less than one percent are collapsed into Other.

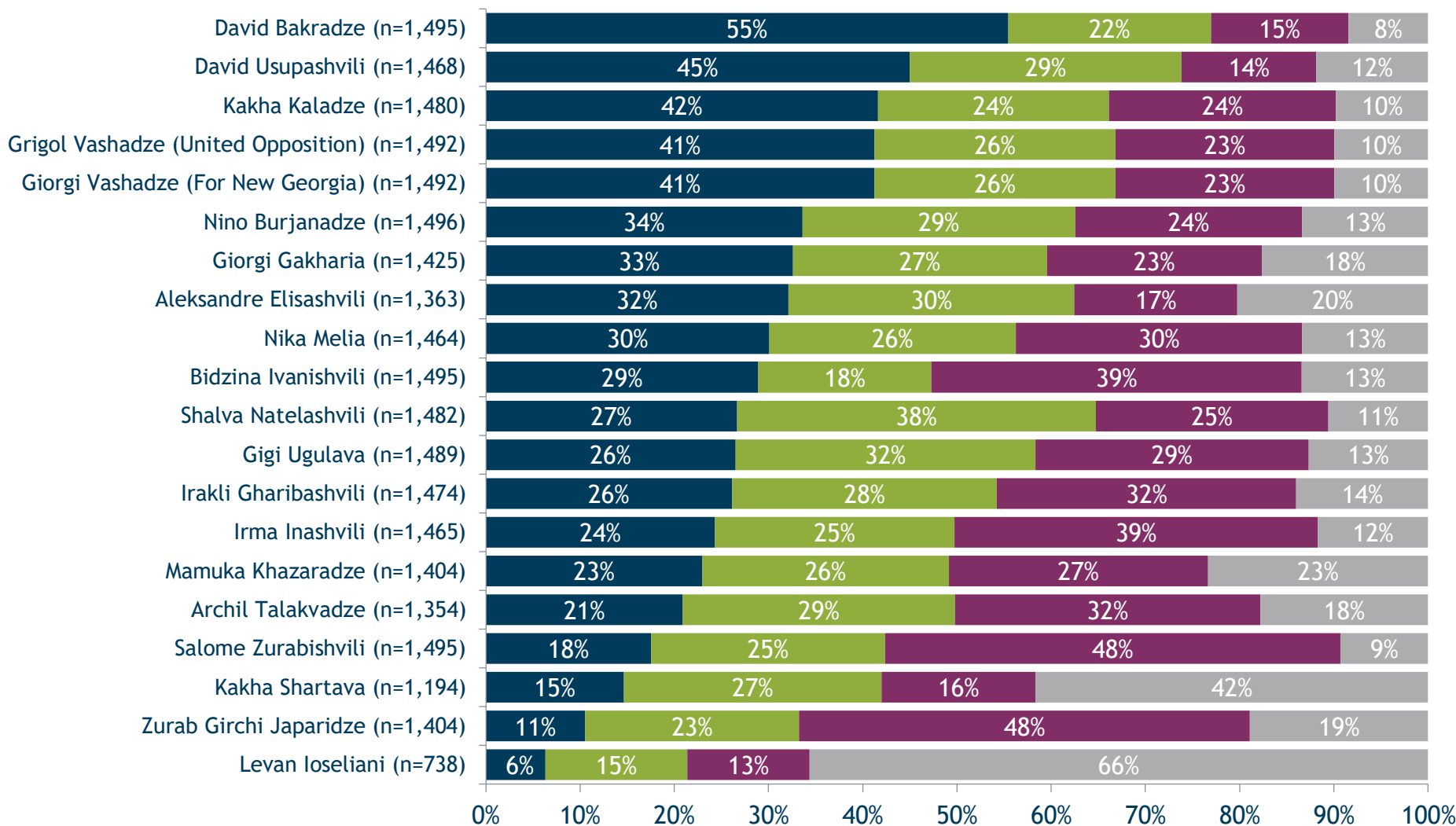
I am going to read you the names of Georgian politicians and public figures. Please tell me your opinion of him/her.



[...] Now I would ask you to evaluate each politician or public figure in the political capacity, how competent do you consider each of them. Please use a five-point scale, where one means *absolutely incompetent* and five means *very competent*.

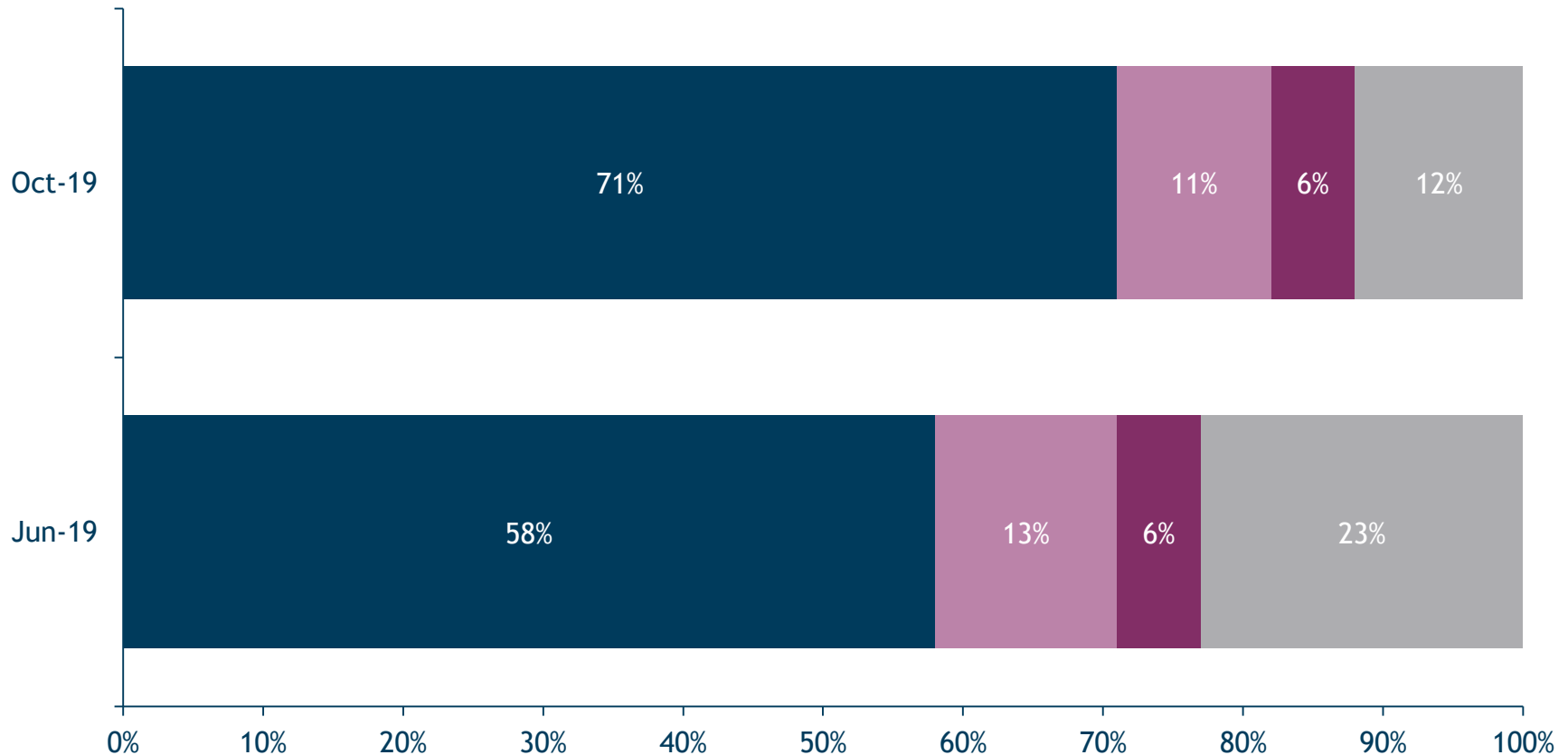
(Among those familiar with each politician or public figure)

■ Competent [5+4] ■ Neither competent nor incompetent [3] ■ Incompetent [2+1] ■ Don't know/No answer

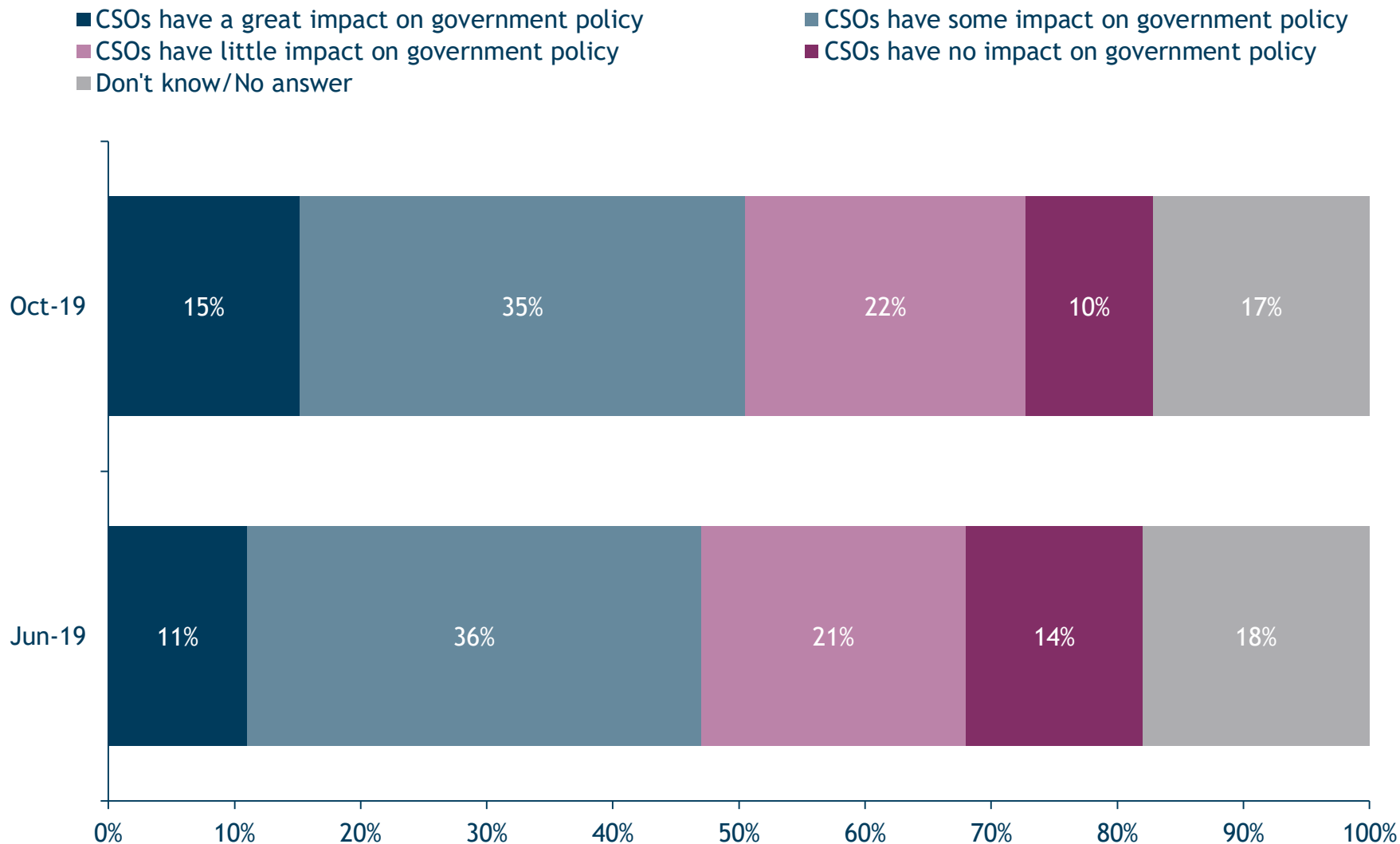


Do you believe that democracy is the best possible form of government for our country or not?

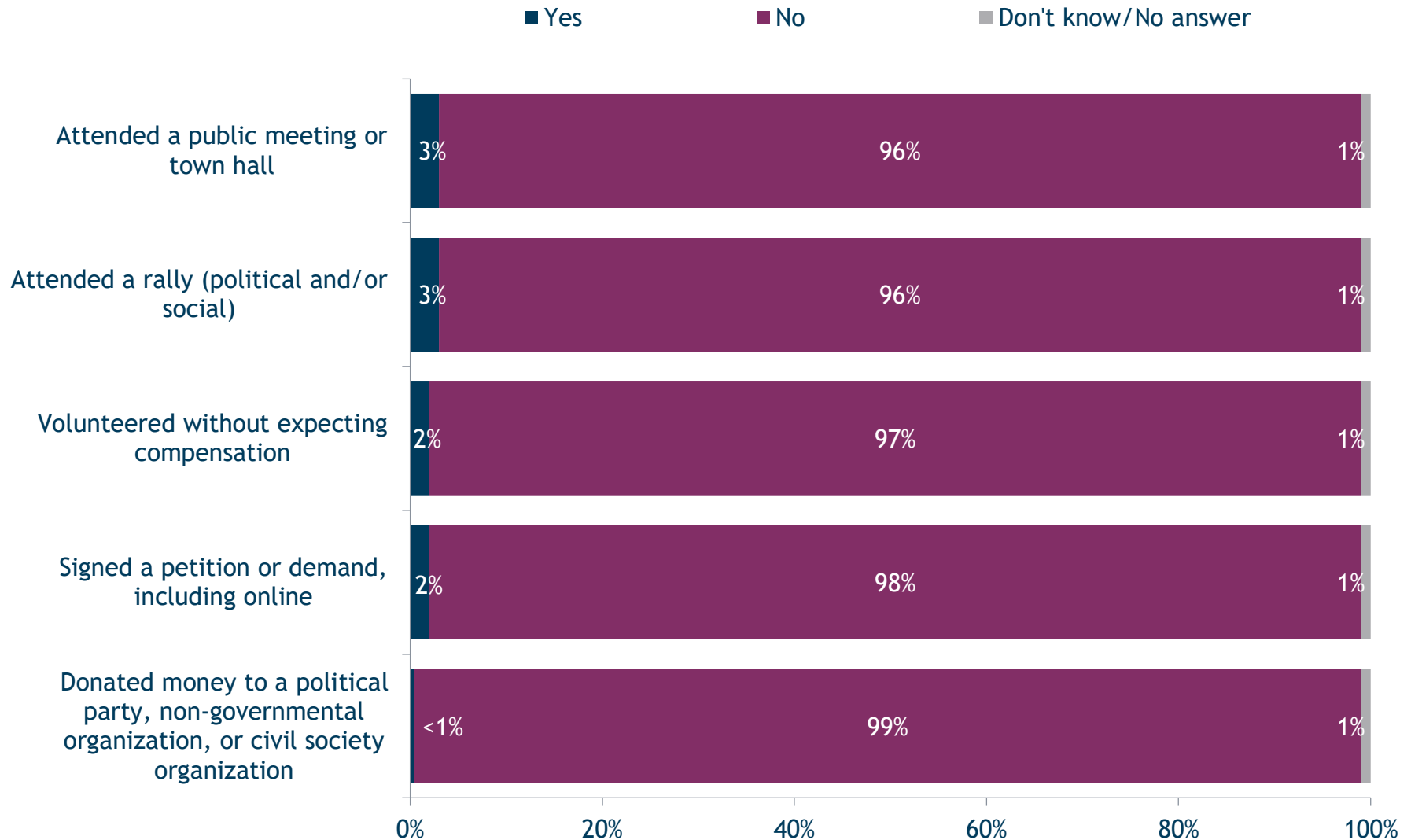
- Yes, it is the best possible form of government for our country.
- No, there are other forms of government that could be equally good for our country.
- No, there are other forms of government that are better than democracy.
- Don't know/No answer



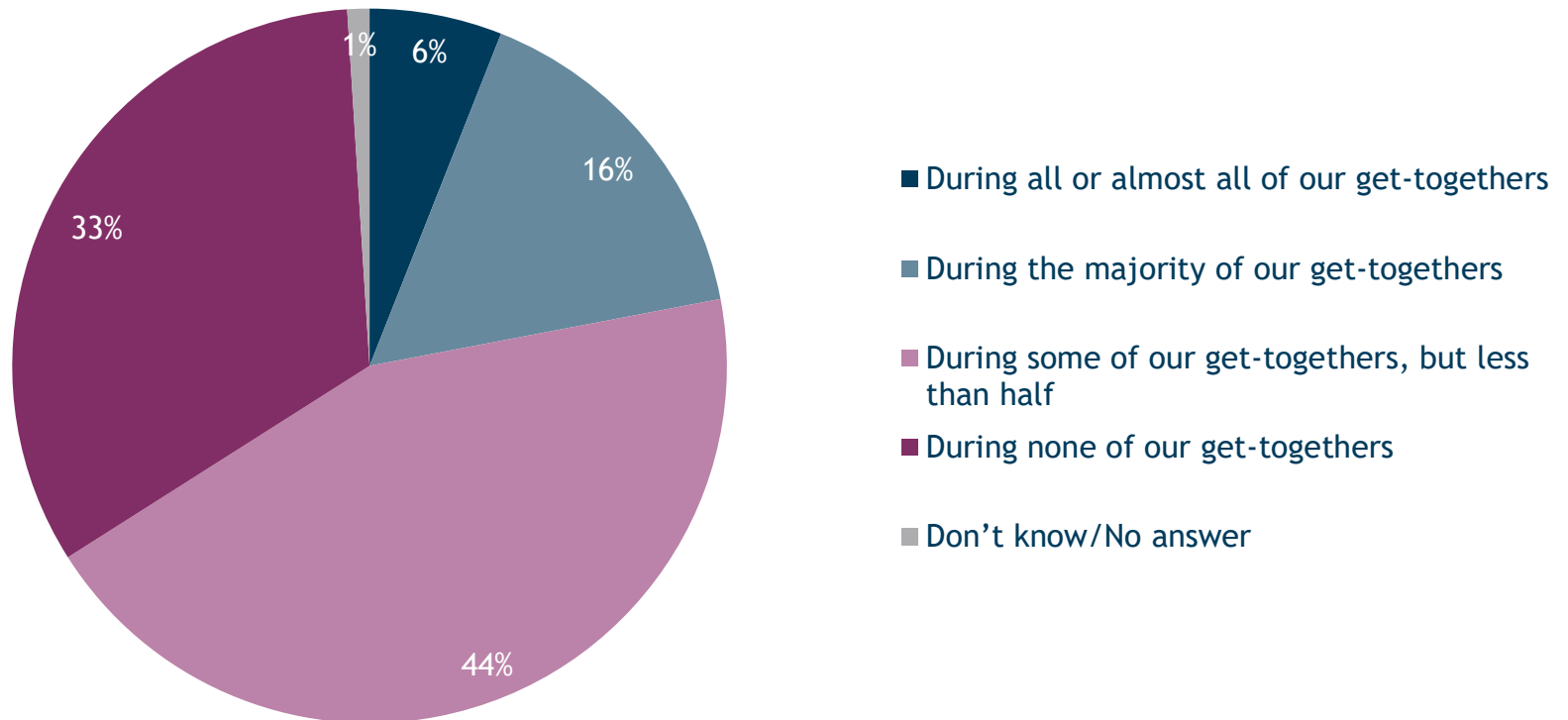
What is your perception of the level of impact of civil society organizations (CSOs) in Georgia?



During the past six months have you participated in any of the following activities?



When you get together with your close relatives and friends, how often do you discuss politics and current affairs?





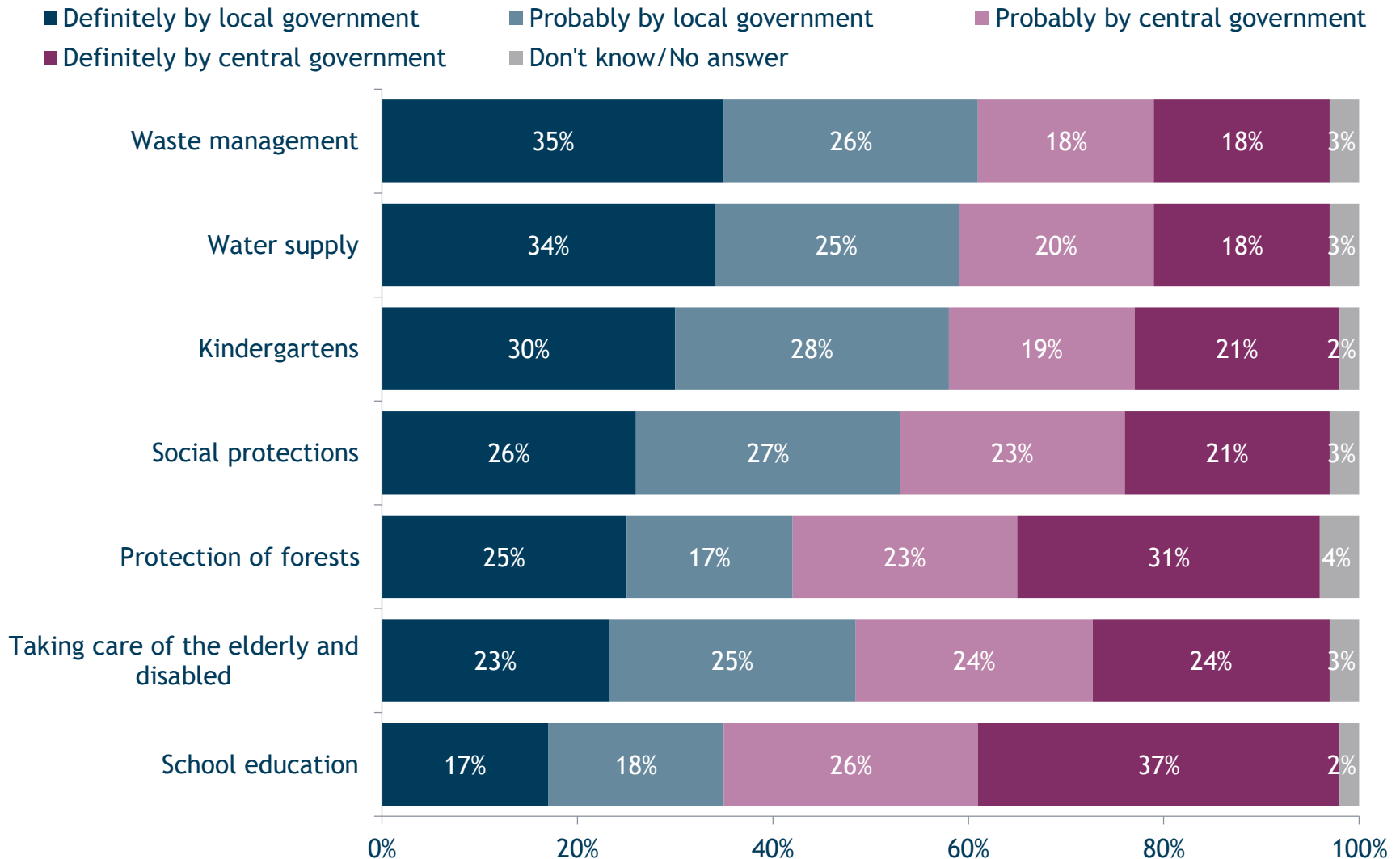
Governance



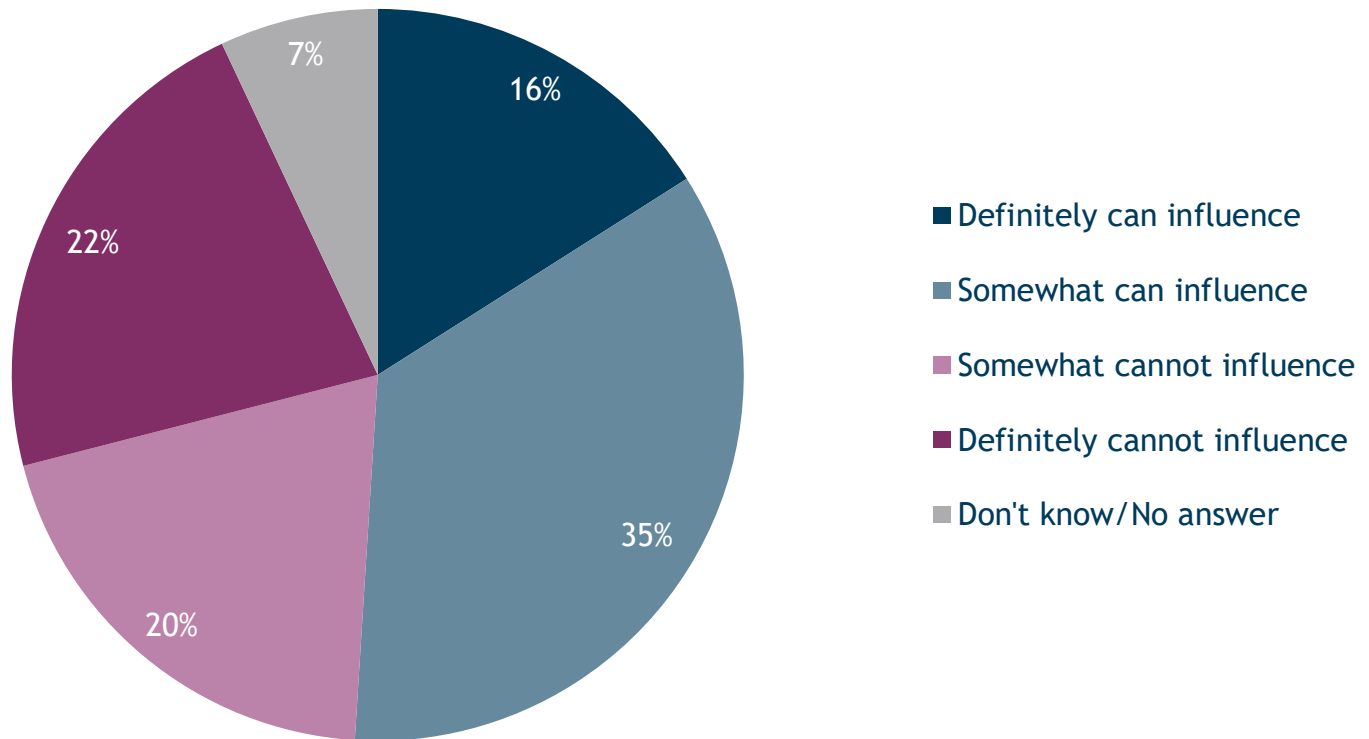
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Do you think that the following services should be provided by local/municipal governments or by the central government?

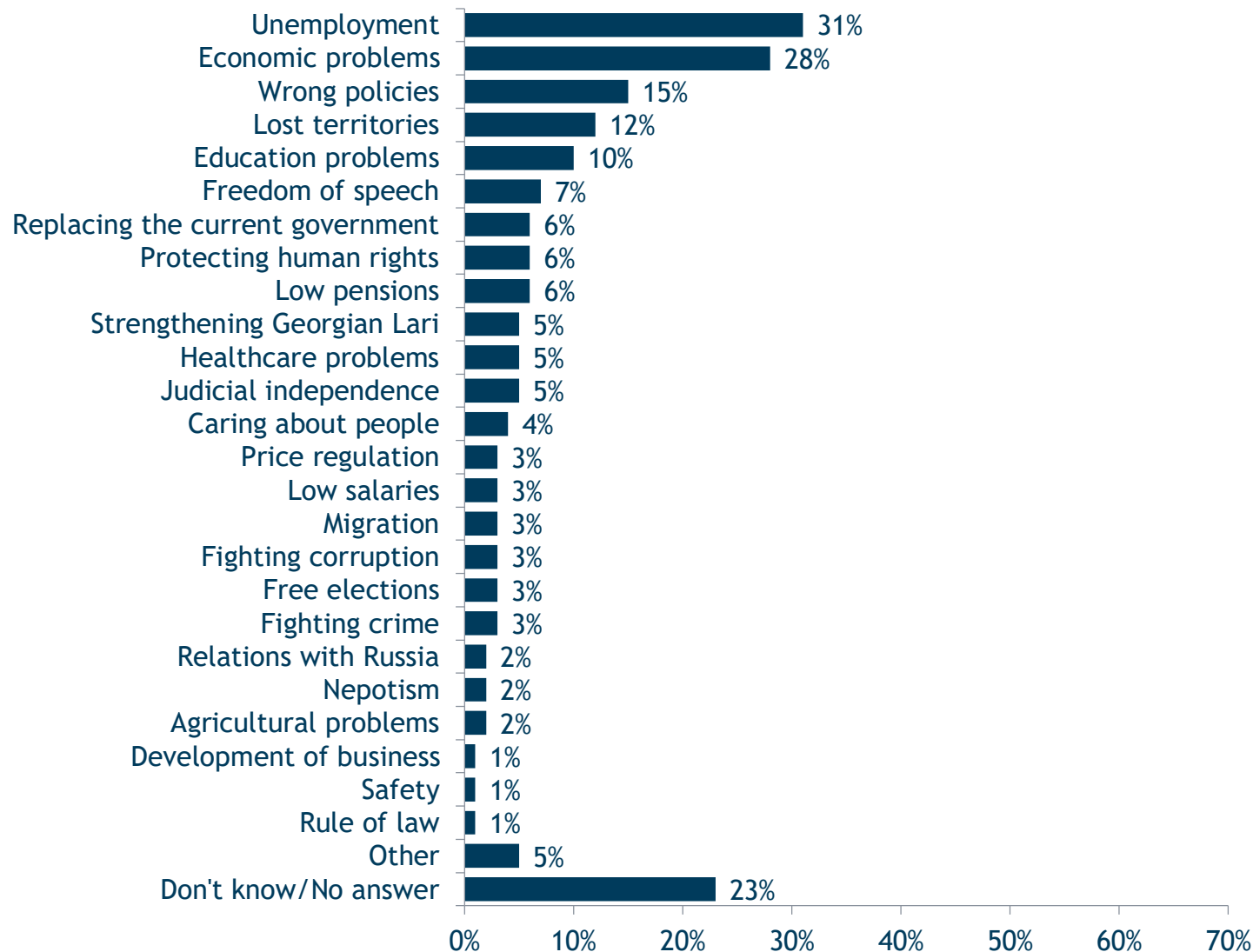


In your opinion, to what extent can people like you influence decisions made by the local government in your municipality?



What do you think are three biggest challenges for Georgia's democratic development/future?

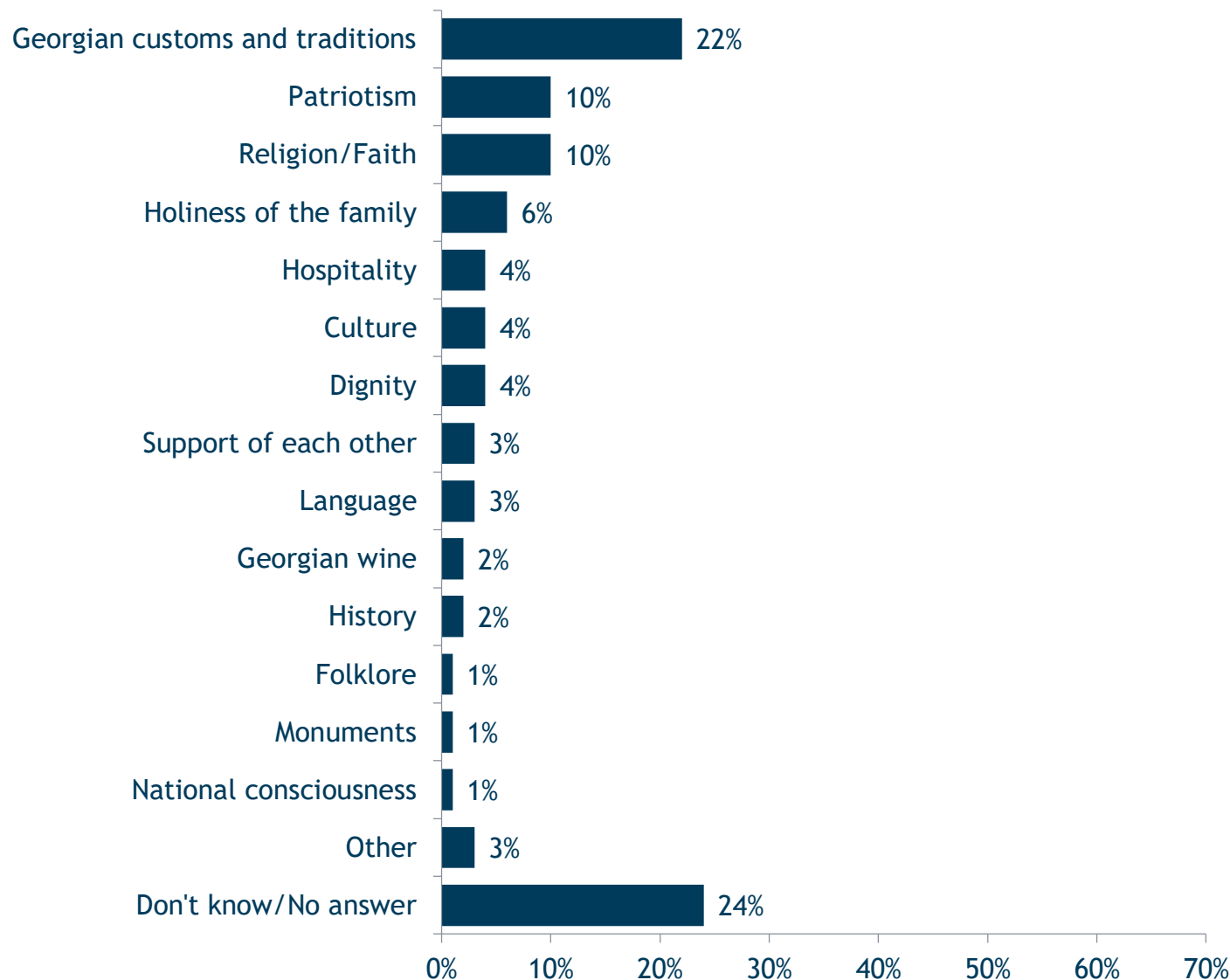
(Spontaneous response; three responses permitted)



*Responses receiving less than one percent of all mentions are collapsed into Other.

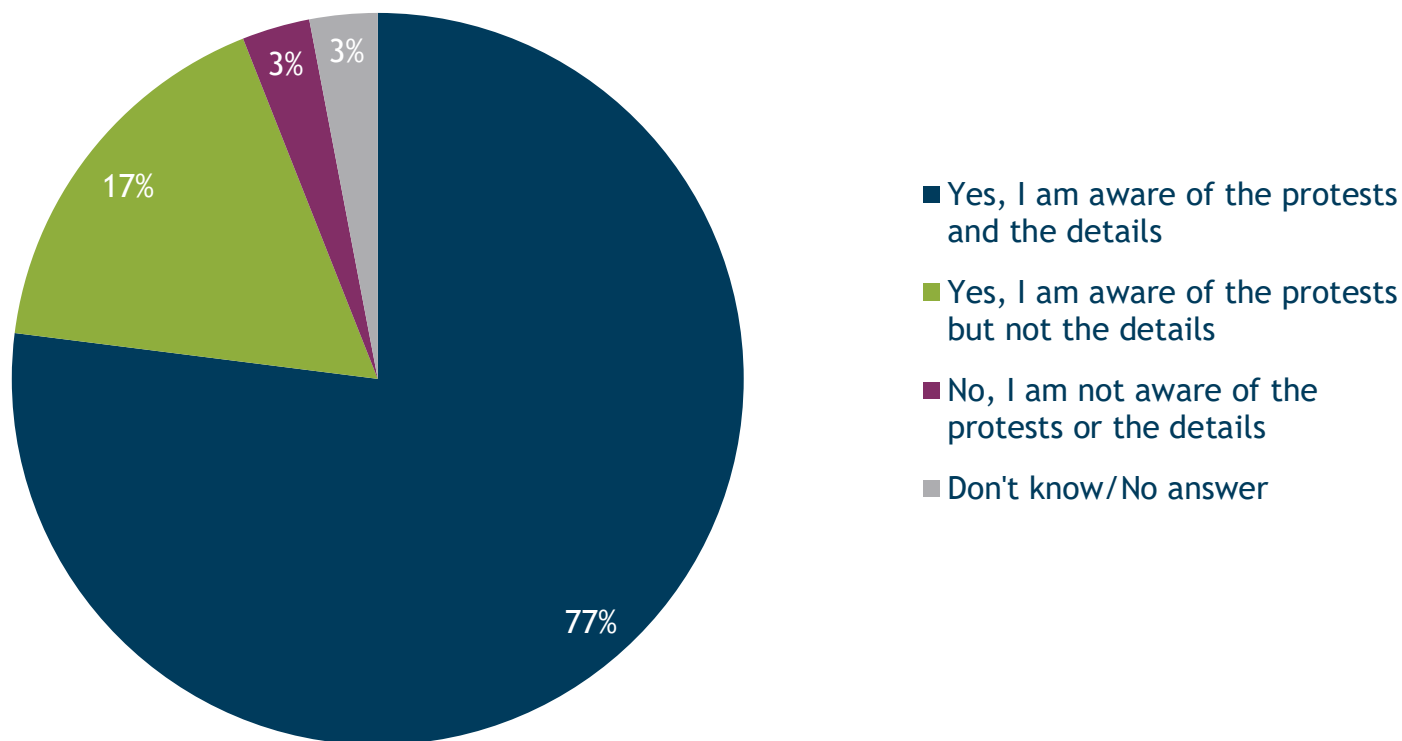
When you think about Georgian values, which value comes to your mind first?

(Spontaneous response)



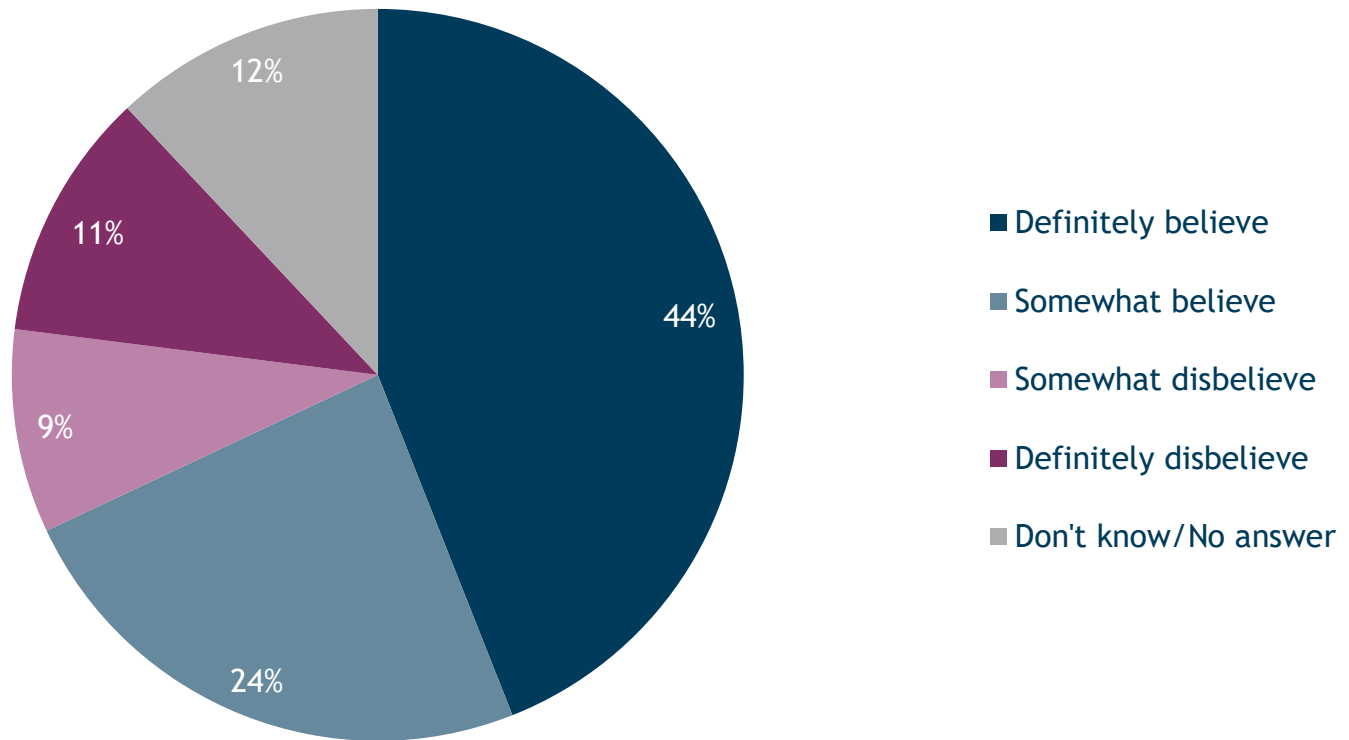
*Responses receiving less than one percent of all mentions are collapsed into Other.

Are you aware of the details surrounding the protests which took place on June 20, 2019?



*On the night of June 20, clashes between government forces and demonstrators resulted in injuries to 240 people, including 80 police officers and more than 30 journalists.

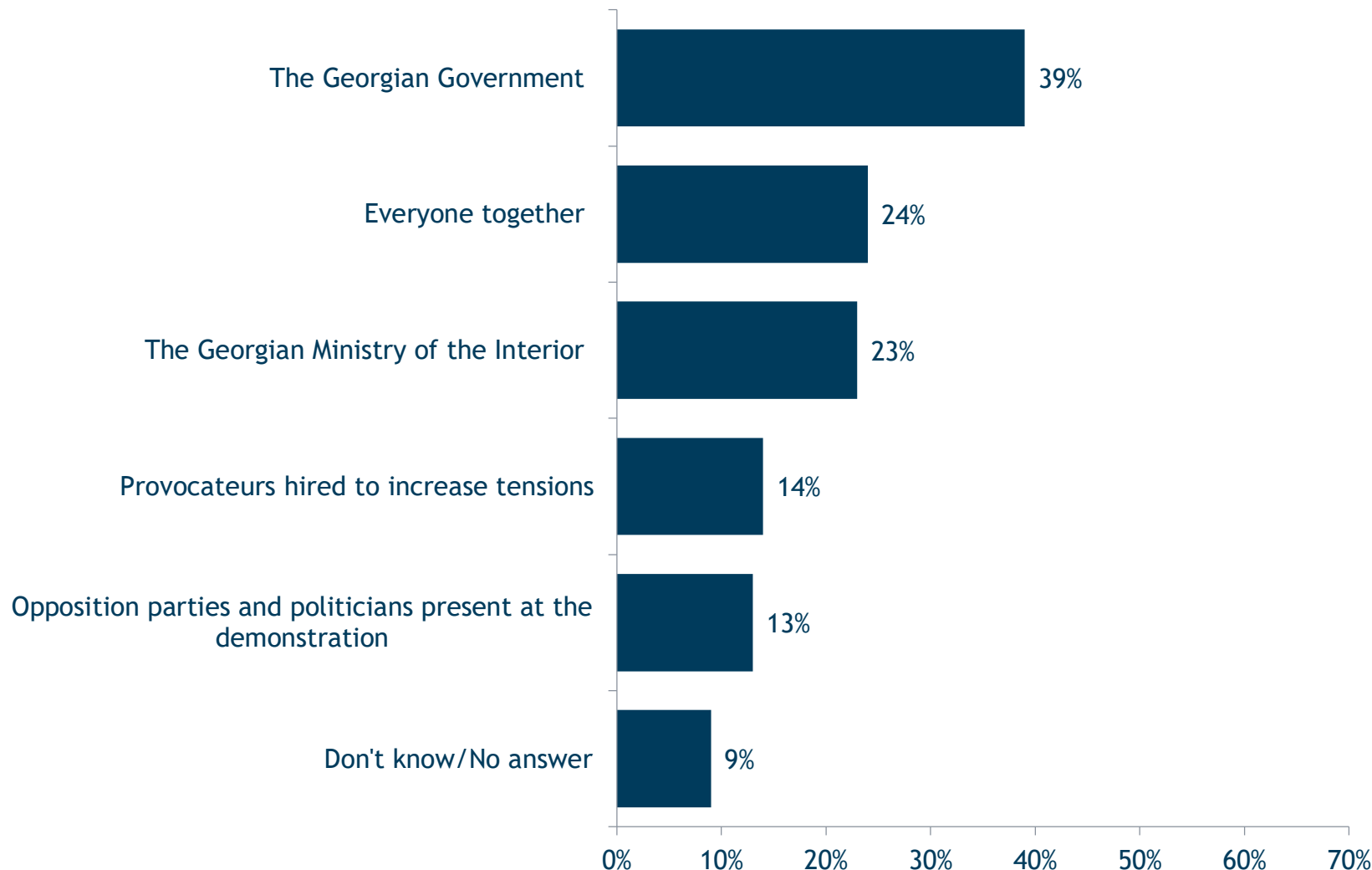
Do you believe the state abused its power or used excessive force against the protesters on June 20?



*On the night of June 20, clashes between government forces and demonstrators resulted in injuries to 240 people, including 80 police officers and more than 30 journalists.

In your opinion, who is responsible for the events that took place on the night of June 20?

(Up to two responses permitted)



*On the night of June 20, clashes between government forces and demonstrators resulted in injuries to 240 people, including 80 police officers and more than 30 journalists.



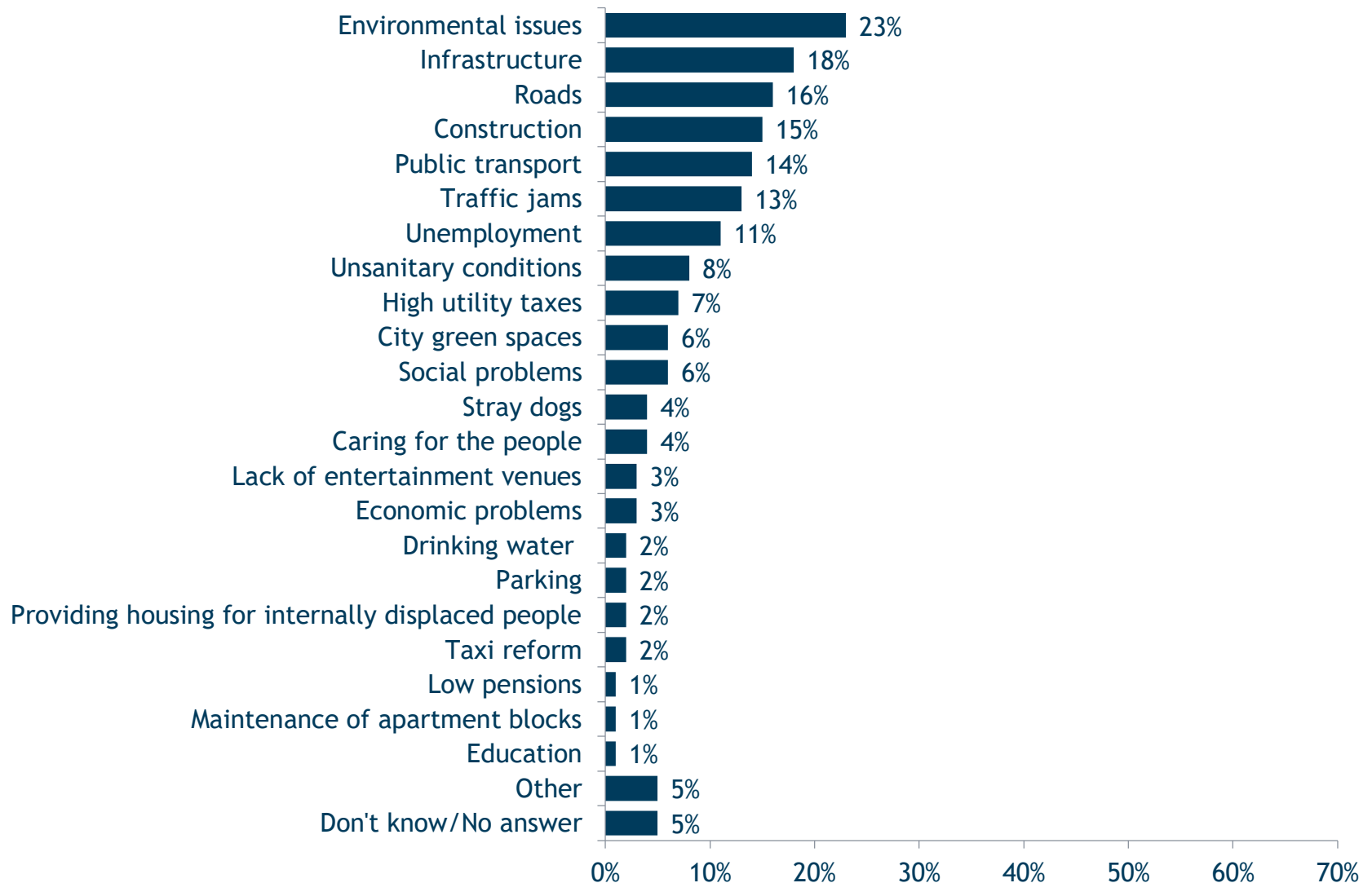
Local Government - Tbilisi



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What are the two main problems that Tbilisi Mayor Kakha Kaladze needs to address?

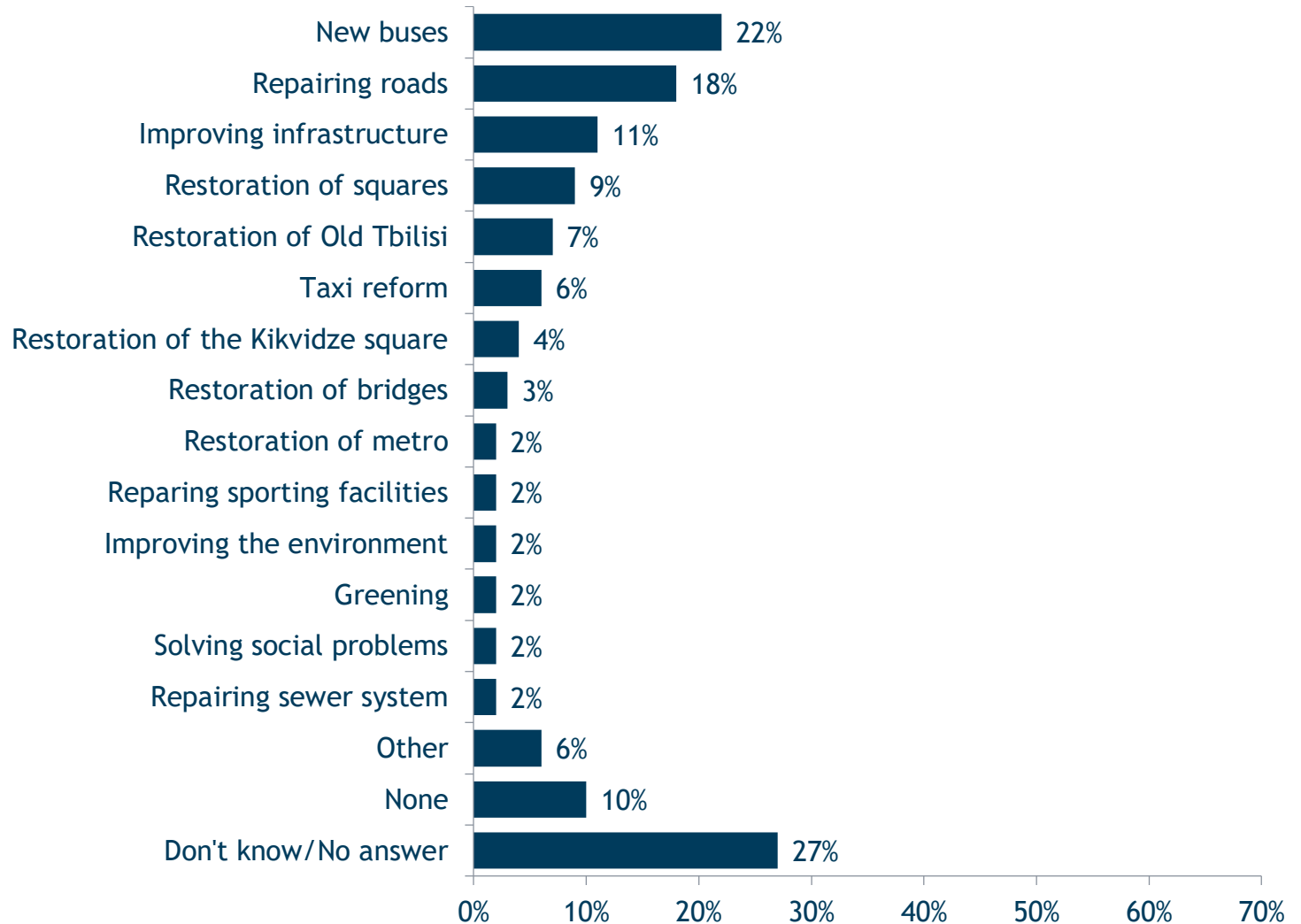
(Residents of Tbilisi, n=453; spontaneous response; up to two responses permitted)



*Responses receiving less than one percent of all mentions are collapsed into Other.

What are the two major accomplishments of Tbilisi Mayor Kakha Kaladze's Office?

(Residents of Tbilisi, n=453; spontaneous response; up to two responses permitted)



*Responses receiving less than two percent of all mentions are collapsed into Other.



Political Parties

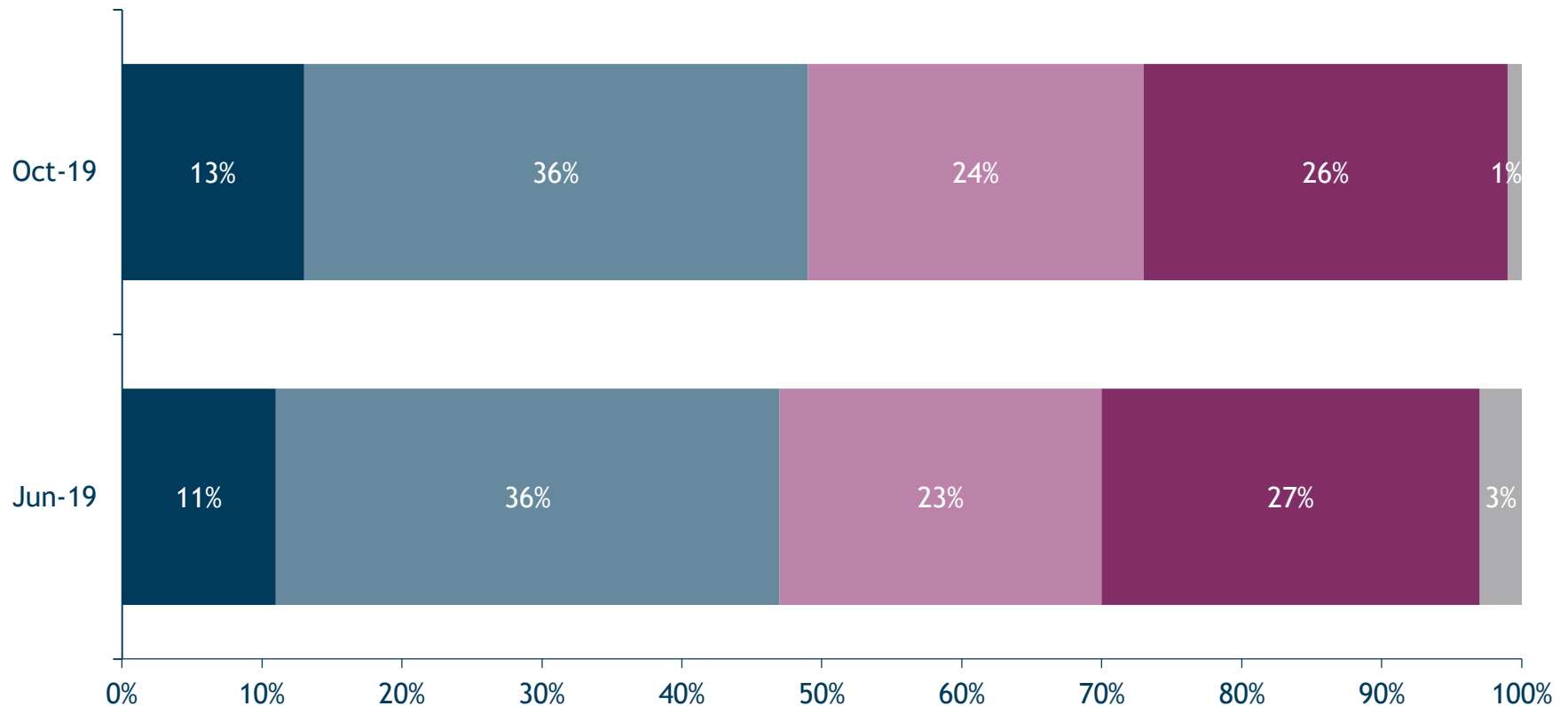


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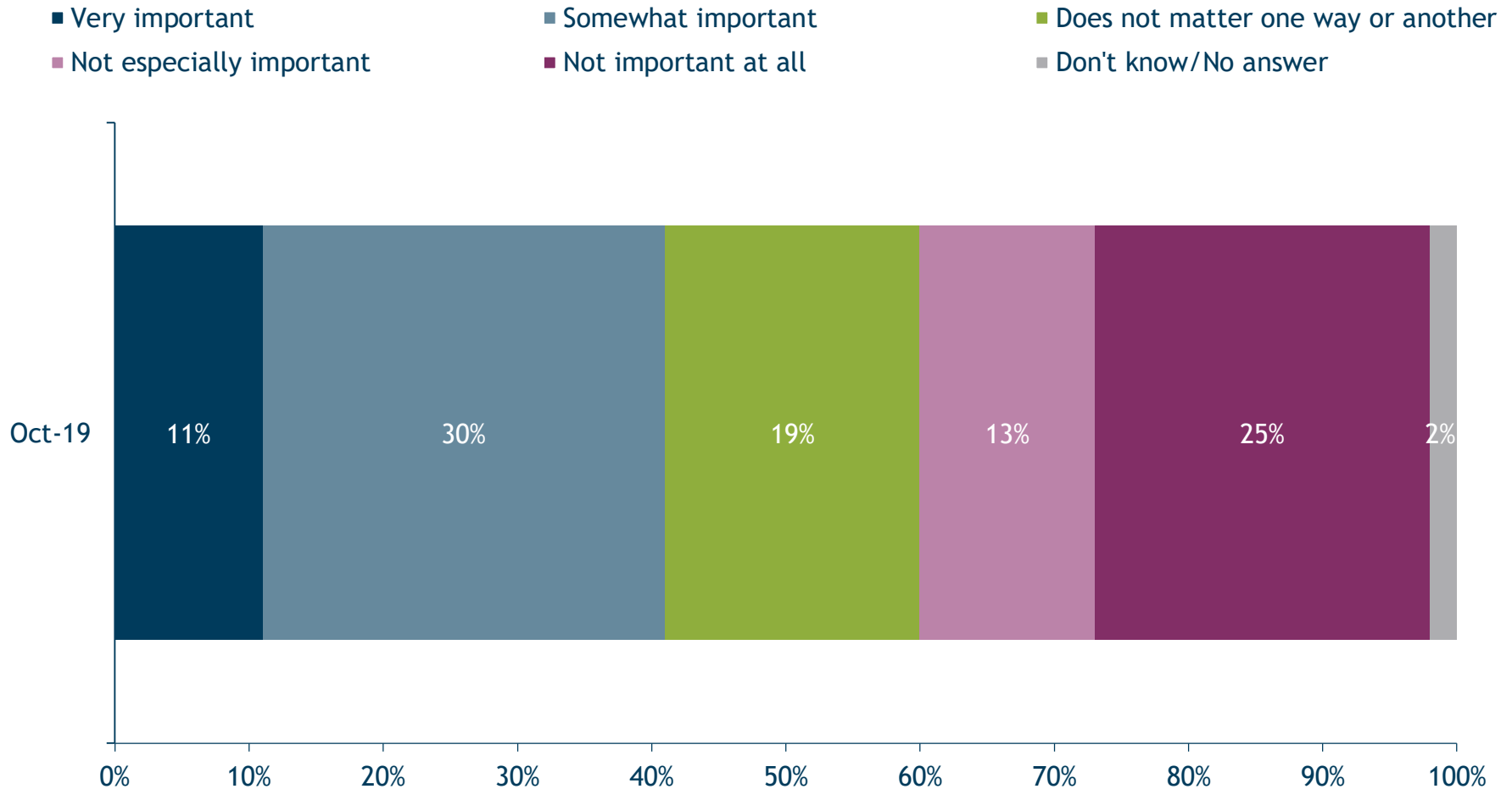
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Generally, are you familiar with the election program of the parties/candidates running in your city/district/village?

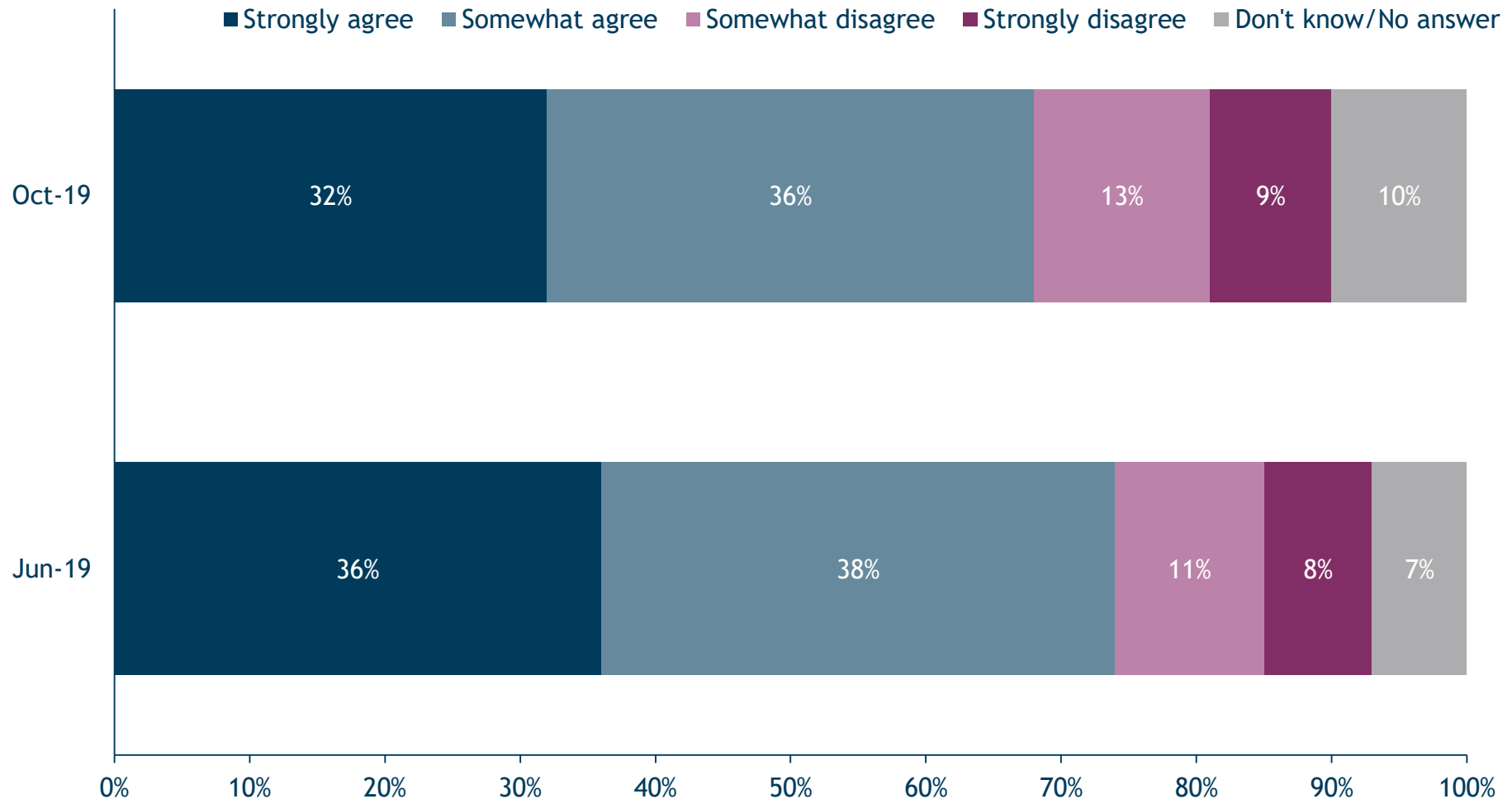
■ Very familiar ■ Somewhat familiar ■ Somewhat unfamiliar ■ Very unfamiliar ■ Don't know/No answer



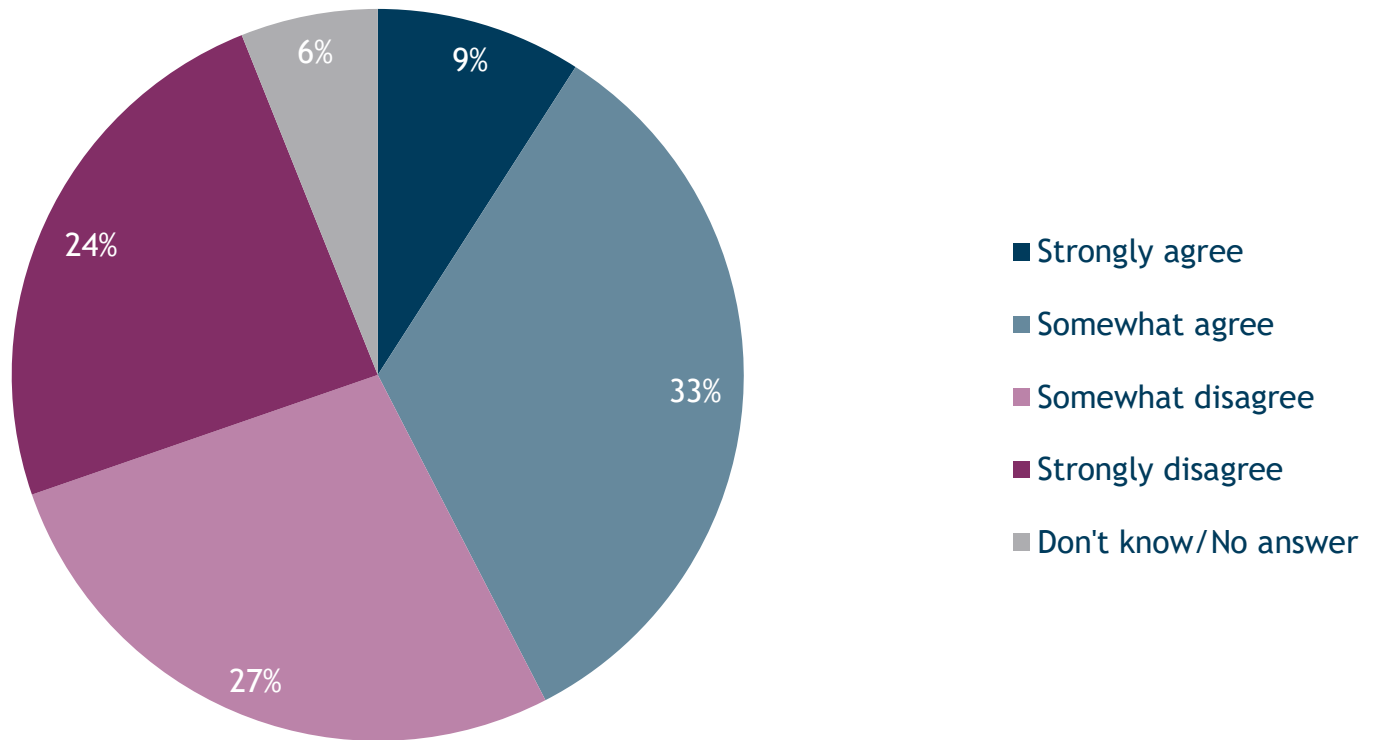
When deciding which political party to support, how important is it to you that a candidate visit your household or meet with you in-person?



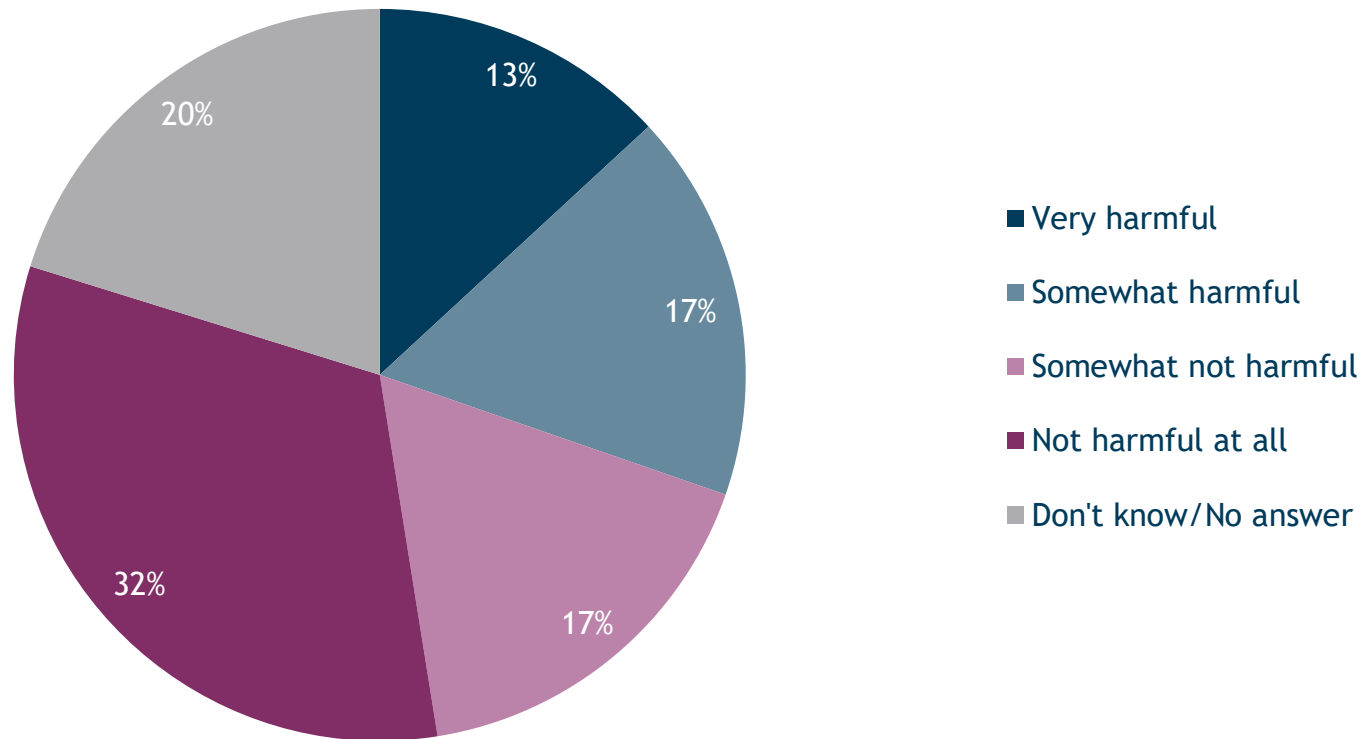
Do you agree or disagree with the following statement:
“It is healthy for Georgia’s democracy to have multiple parties in
power?”



Tell me how you feel about the following statement:
“I am satisfied with the current state of democracy in Georgia”

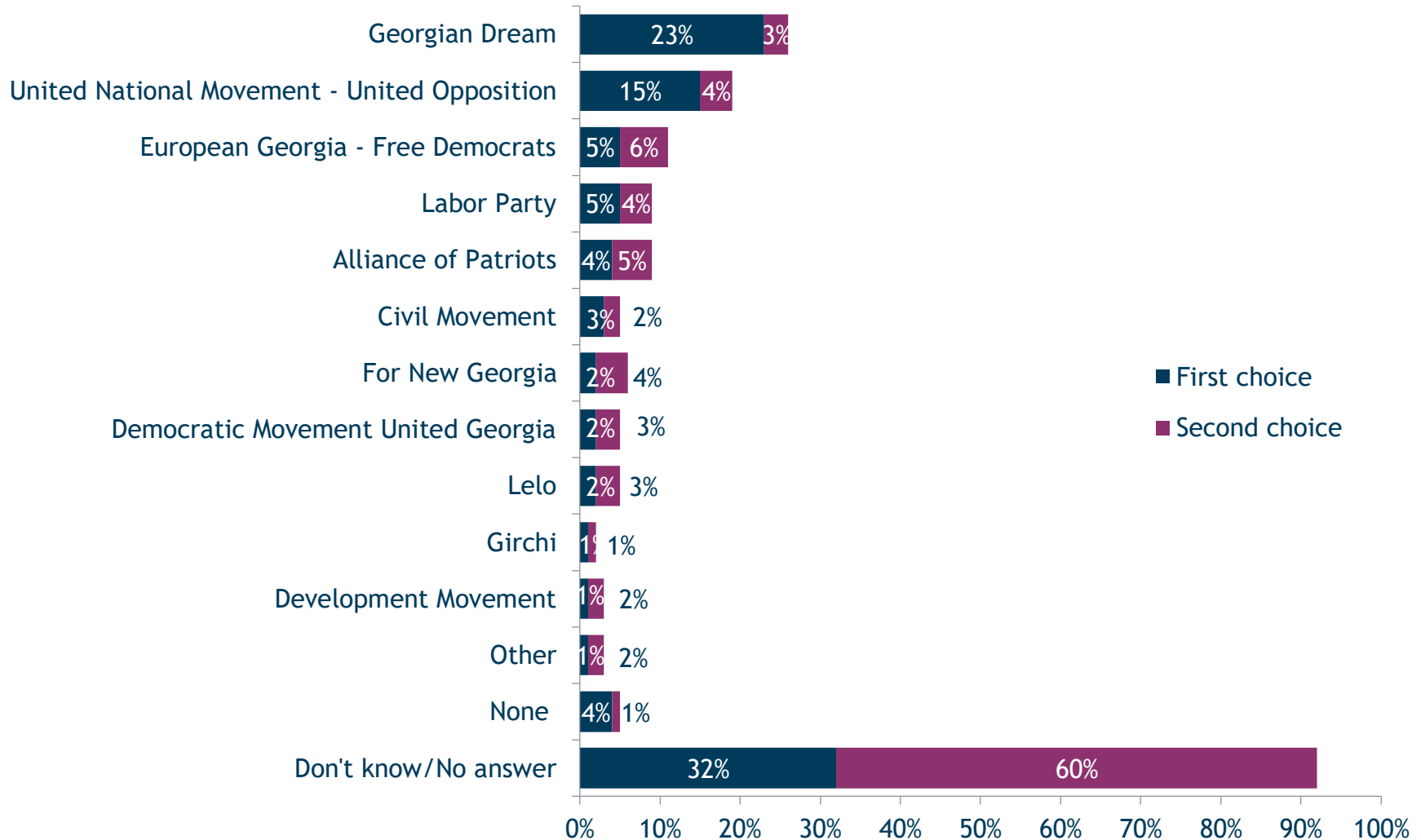


Would it be harmful to your business or personal finances if you supported the political opposition?



If elections were held this coming Sunday, for which party, if any, would you vote? (First choice)

If your first-choice party would not be on the ballot, who would you vote for instead? (Among those with a first-choice candidate, n=971)

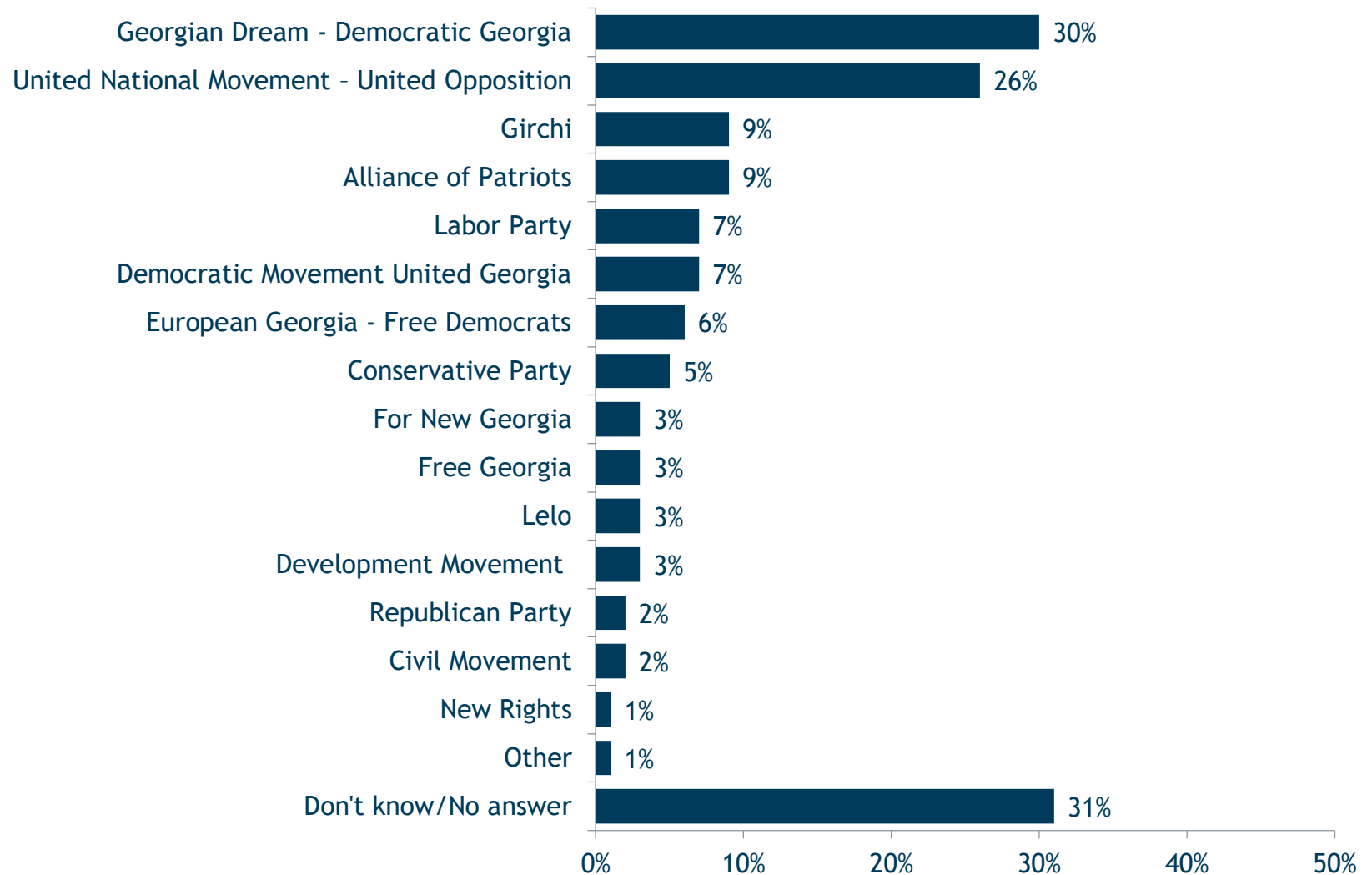


*Responses receiving less than one percent of First choice are collapsed into Other.

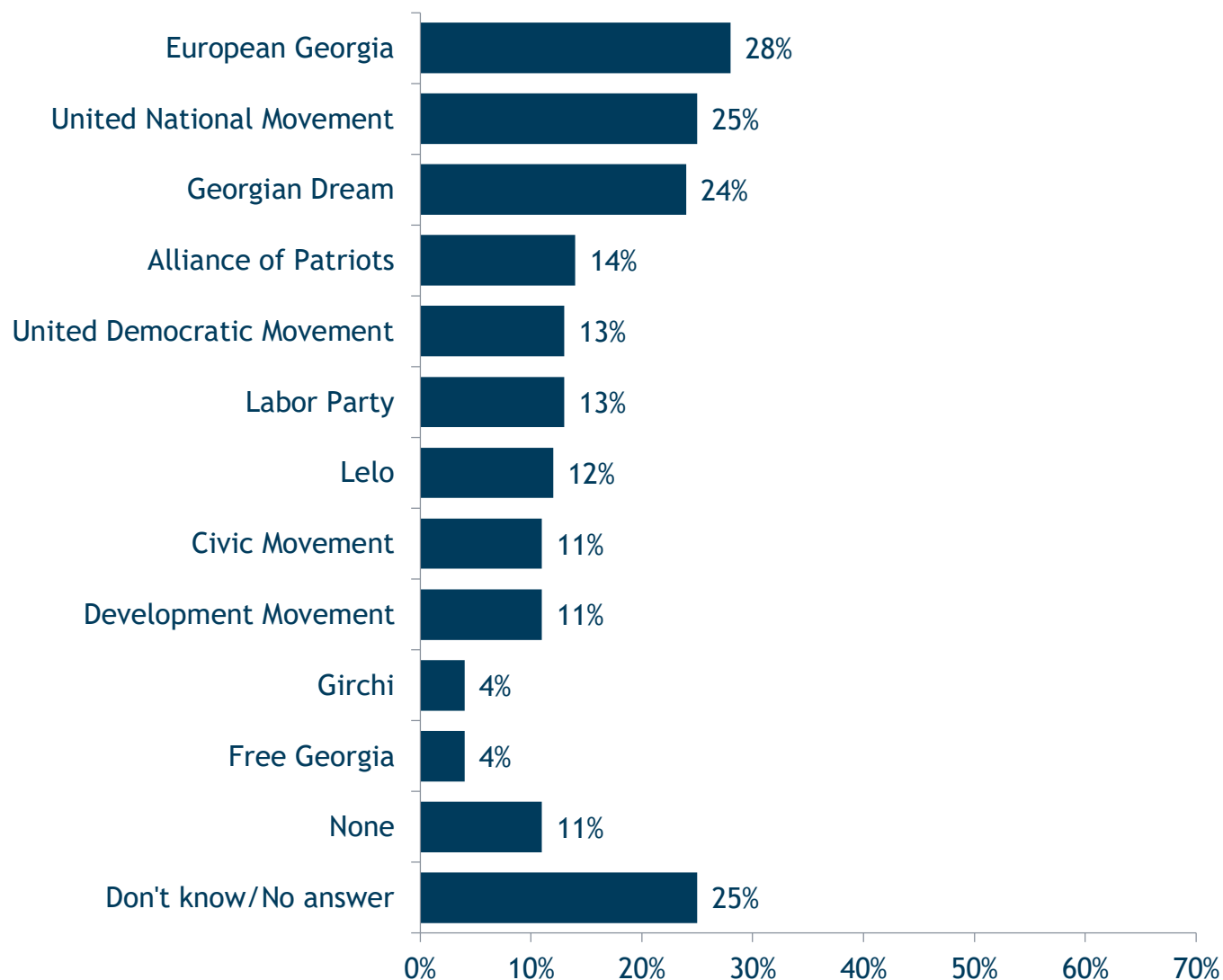
**Total includes first and second choice responses.

Which parties, if any, would you not vote for under any circumstances?

(Up to three responses permitted)



If as a result of 2020 Parliamentary Elections to create a majority it would be necessary to form a coalition, which three political parties would you like to see in a ruling coalition?
(Up to three responses permitted)





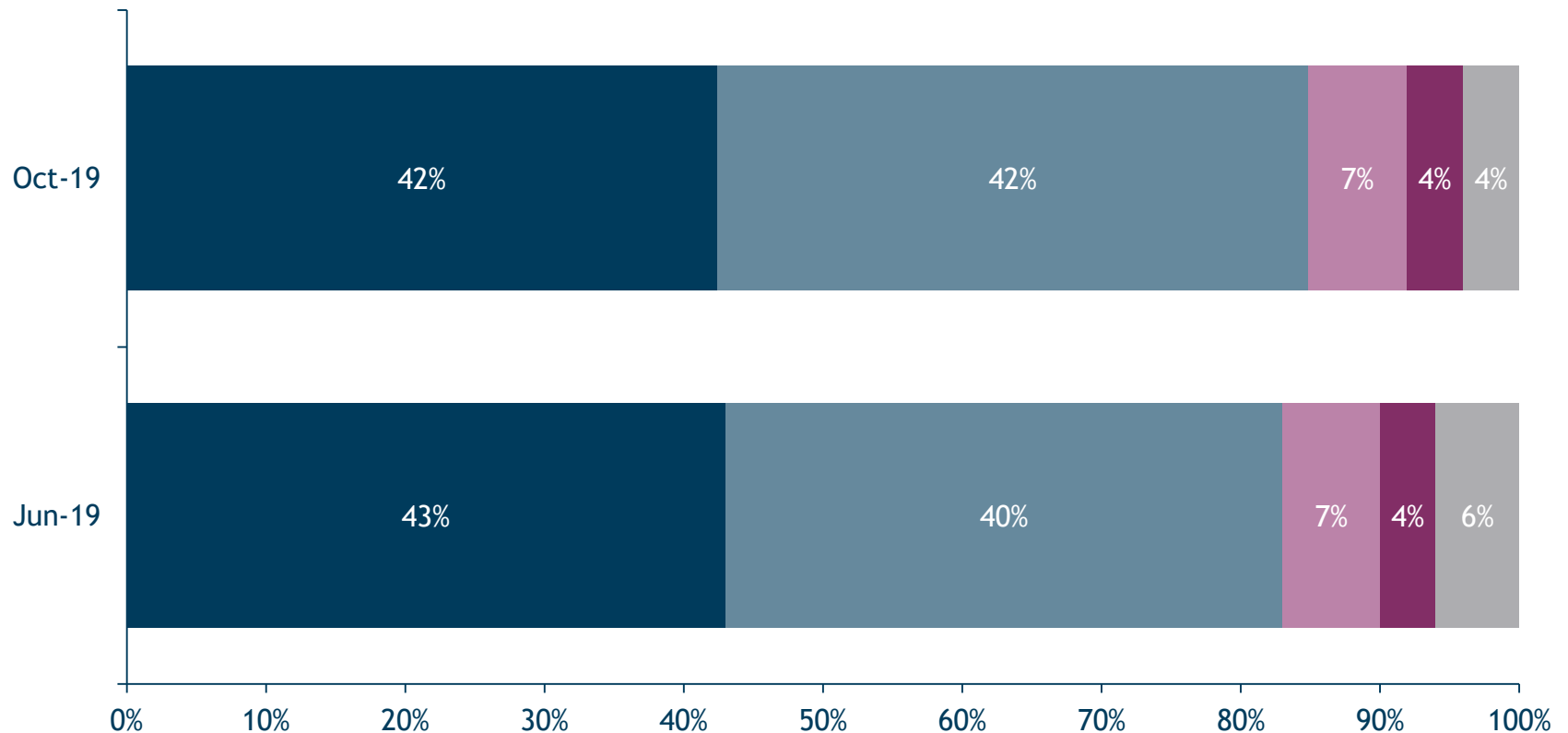
Under-Represented Groups



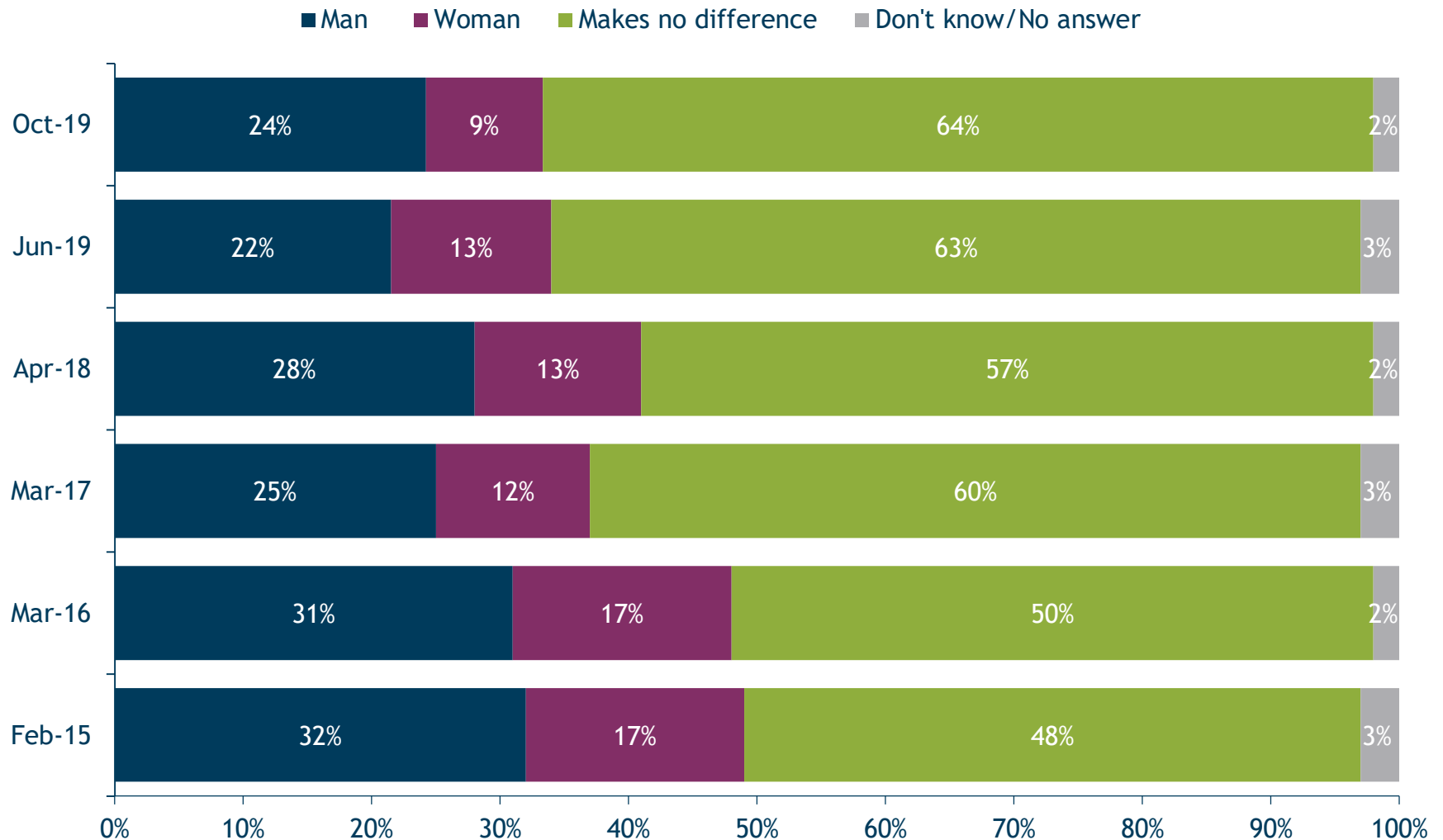
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How important or unimportant is it that all members of our country's adult population, including women, youth, minorities and people with disabilities, are included in political decision making?

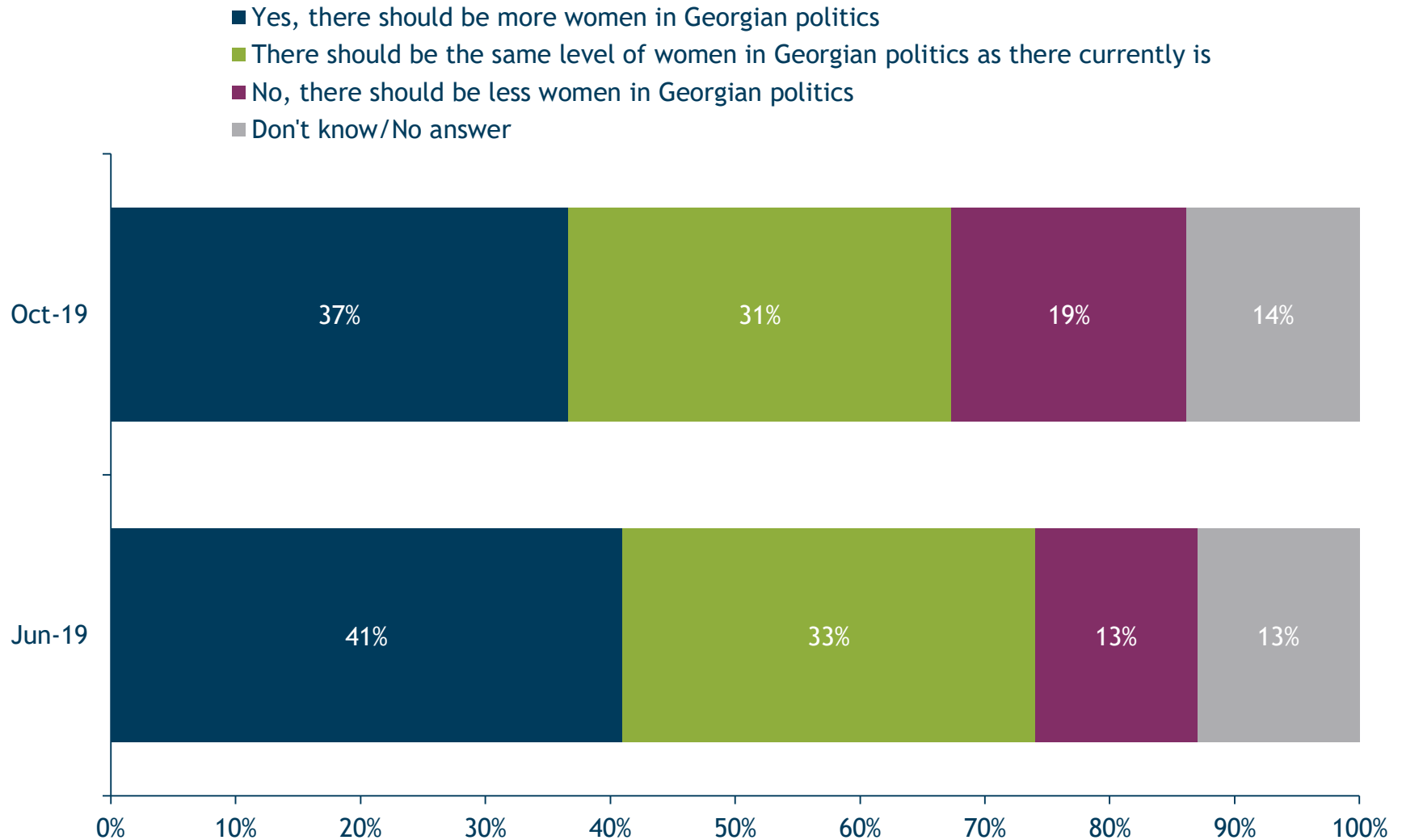
■ Very important ■ Somewhat important ■ Somewhat unimportant ■ Very unimportant ■ Don't know/No answer



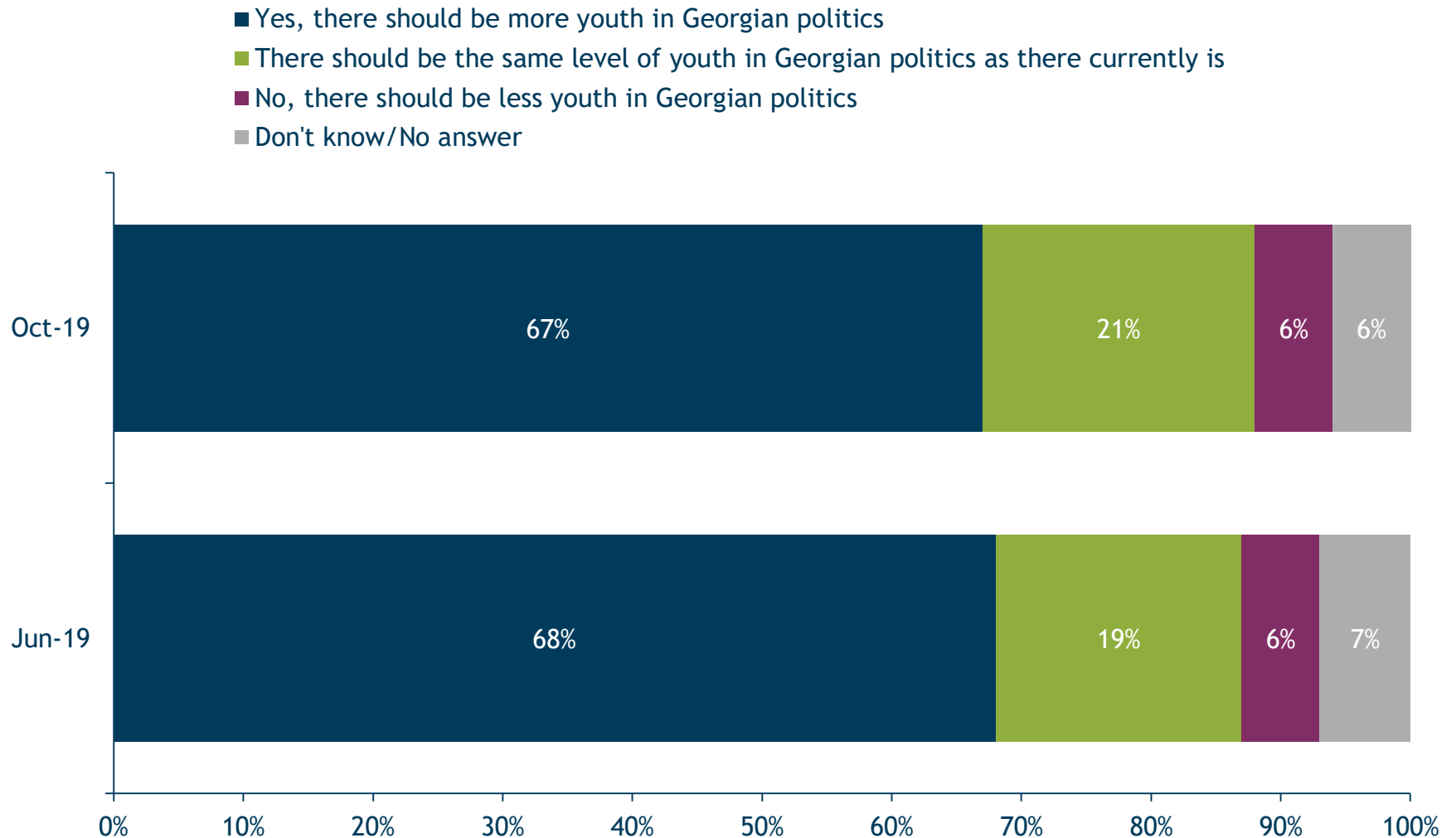
If there are two candidates running for office and they have the same qualifications aside from the fact that one is a man and one is a woman, which candidate are you more likely to support?



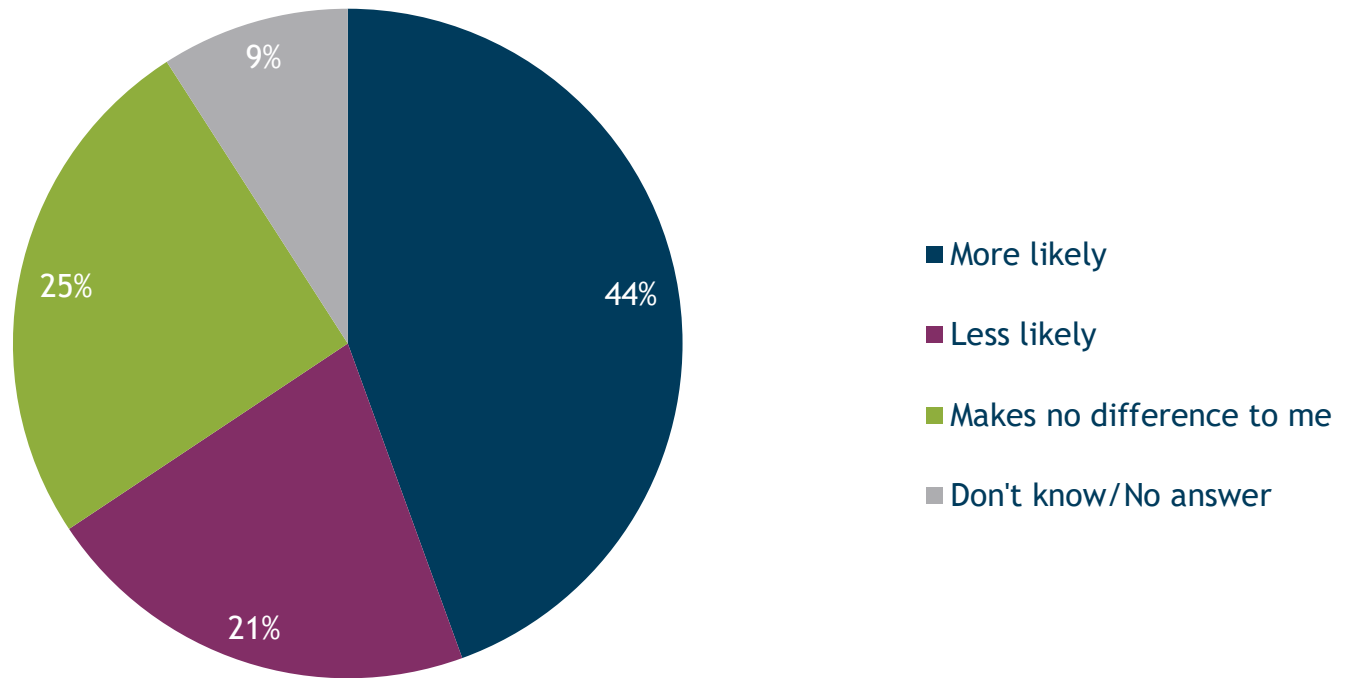
In your opinion, should there be more women in Georgian politics?



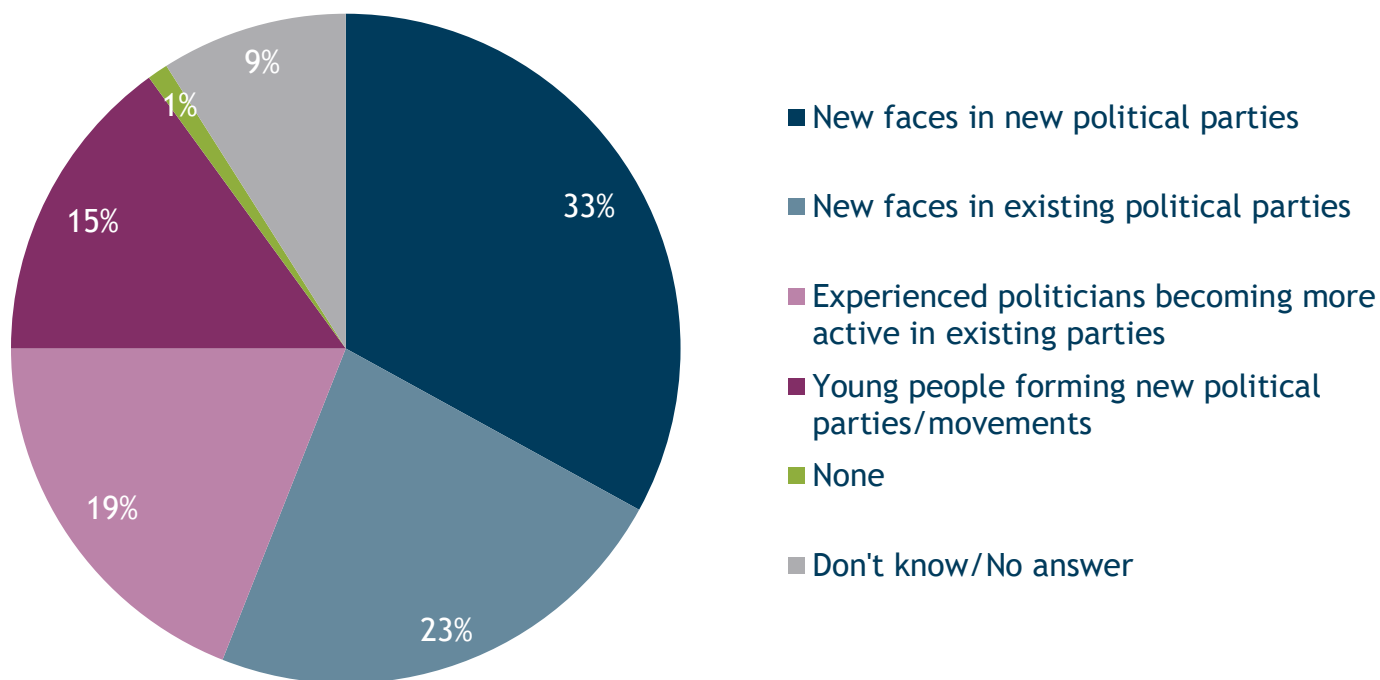
In your opinion, should there be more youth in Georgian politics?



Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a political party that had at a high number of youth on the party list?



Which of the following, if any, would be most appealing to you?





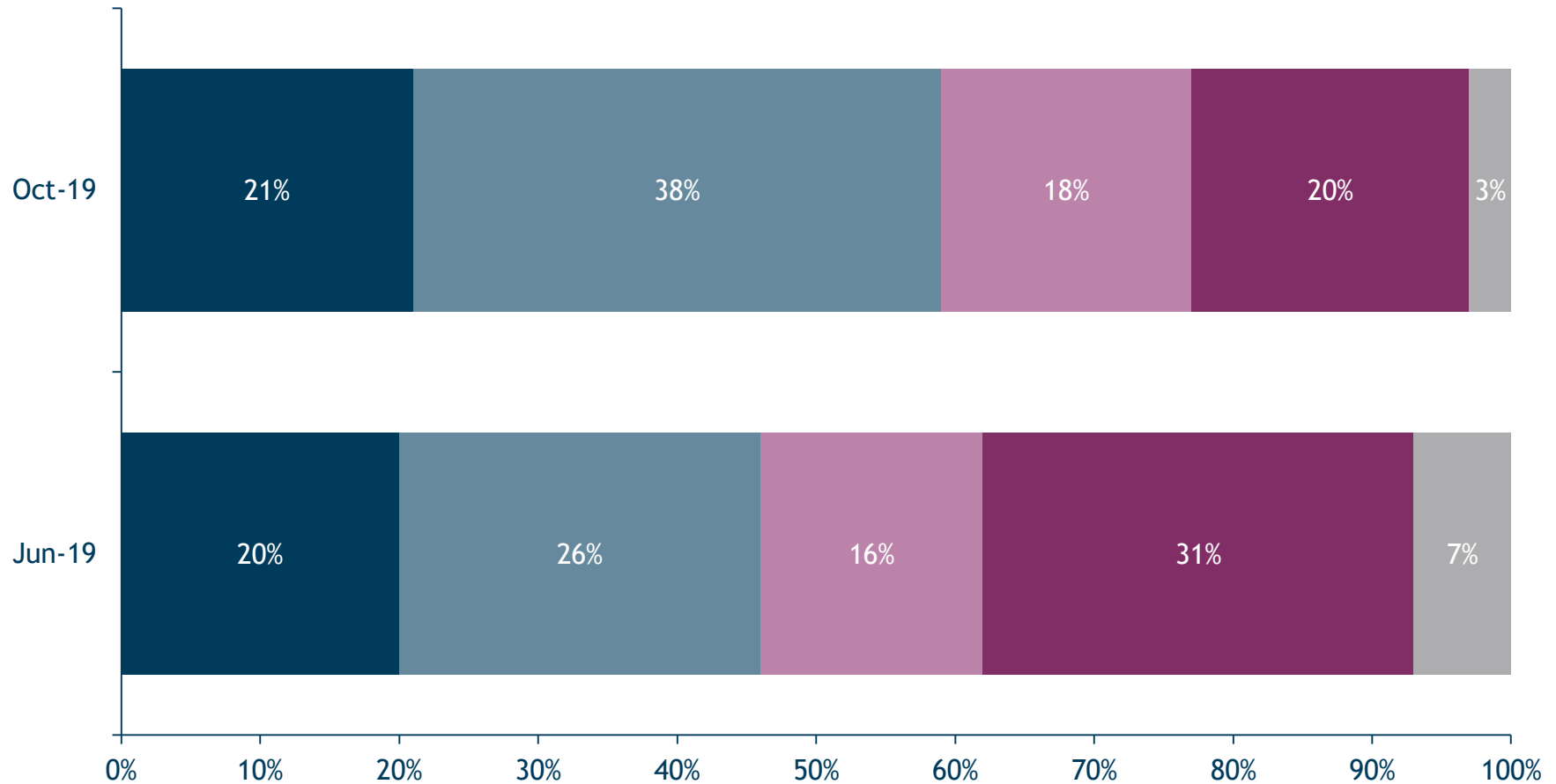
Elections



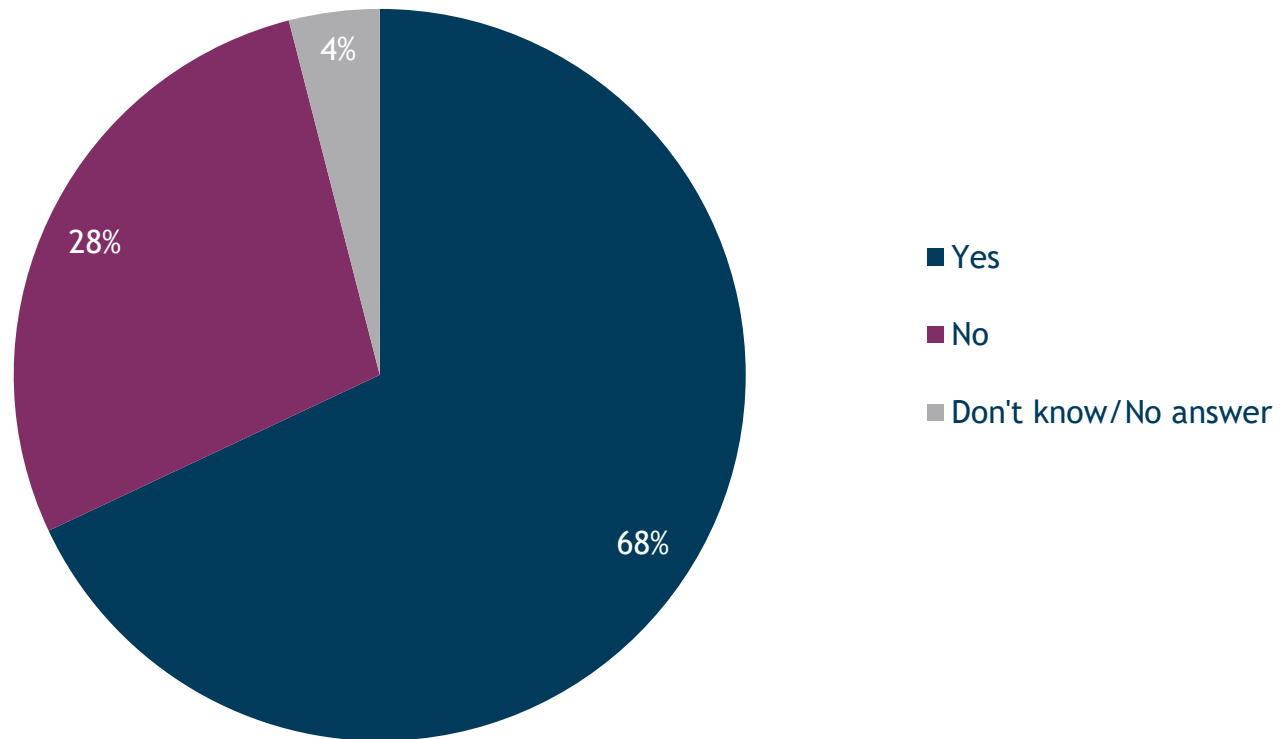
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How likely or unlikely are ordinary people able to influence decisions made in our country?

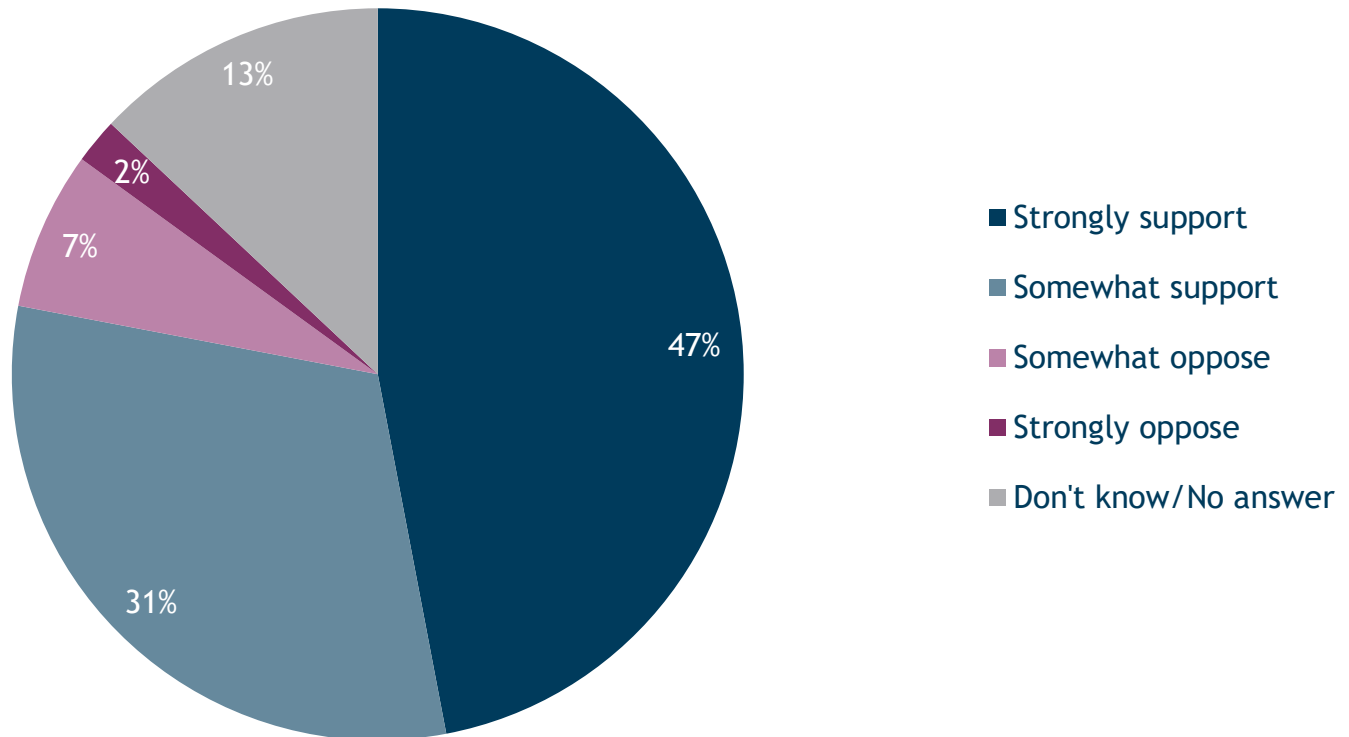
■ Very likely ■ Somewhat likely ■ Somewhat unlikely ■ Very unlikely ■ Don't know/No answer



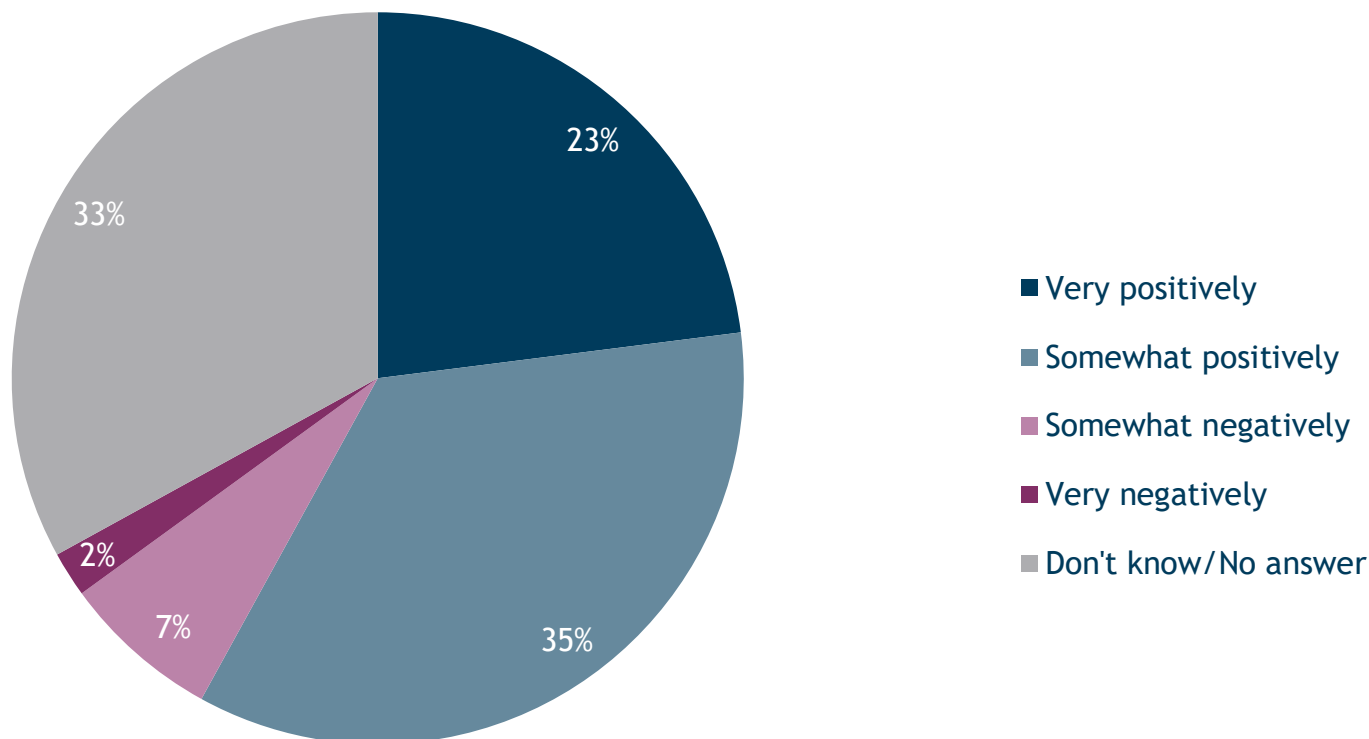
Have you heard about the proportional electoral system?



If yes, do you support or oppose to switching to a fully proportional electoral system in Georgia?
(Respondents aware of the proportional electoral system, n=1,022)

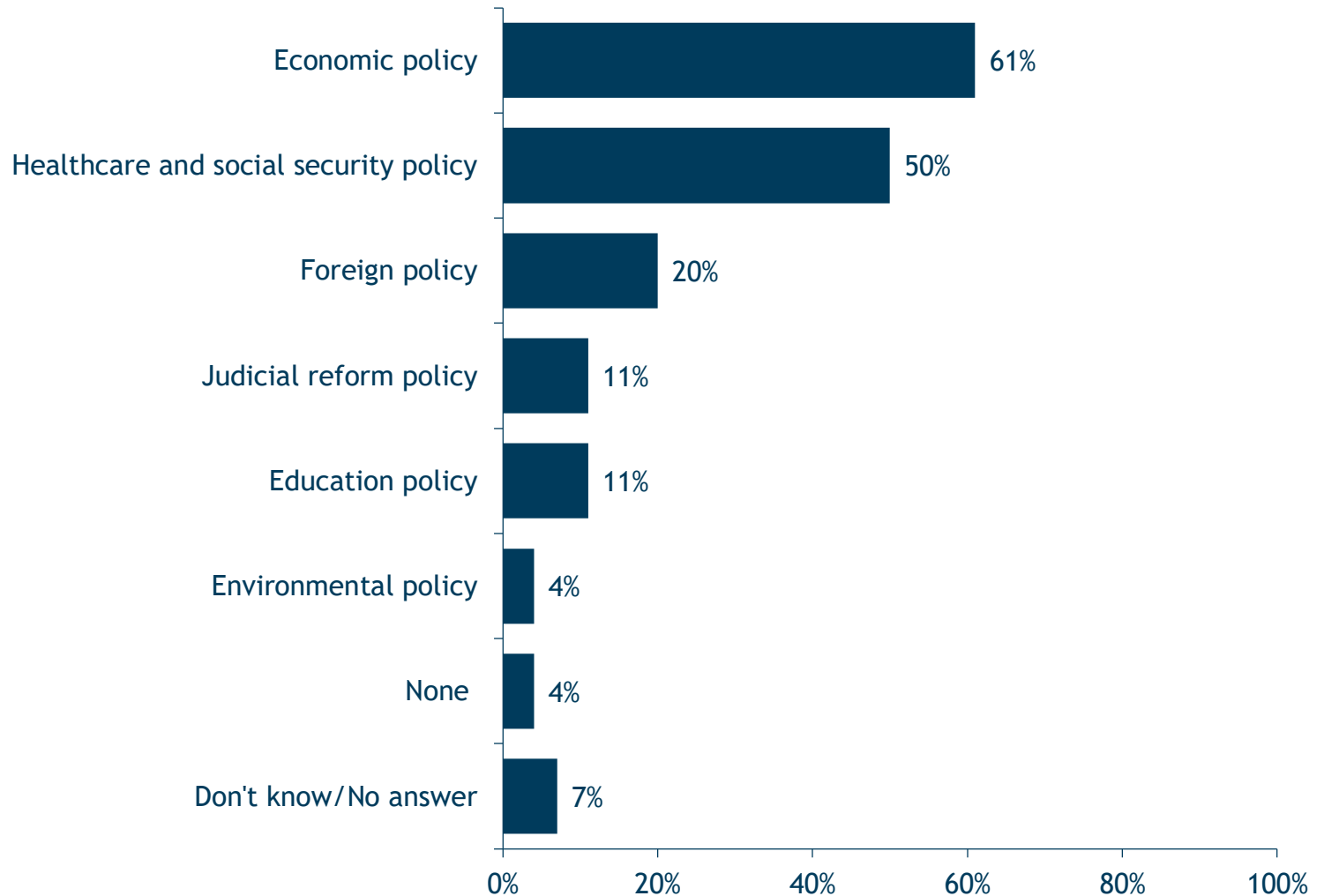


Will the changes to the electoral legislation, specifically the introduction of a fully proportional parliamentary list, positively or negatively affect democratic development in Georgia?



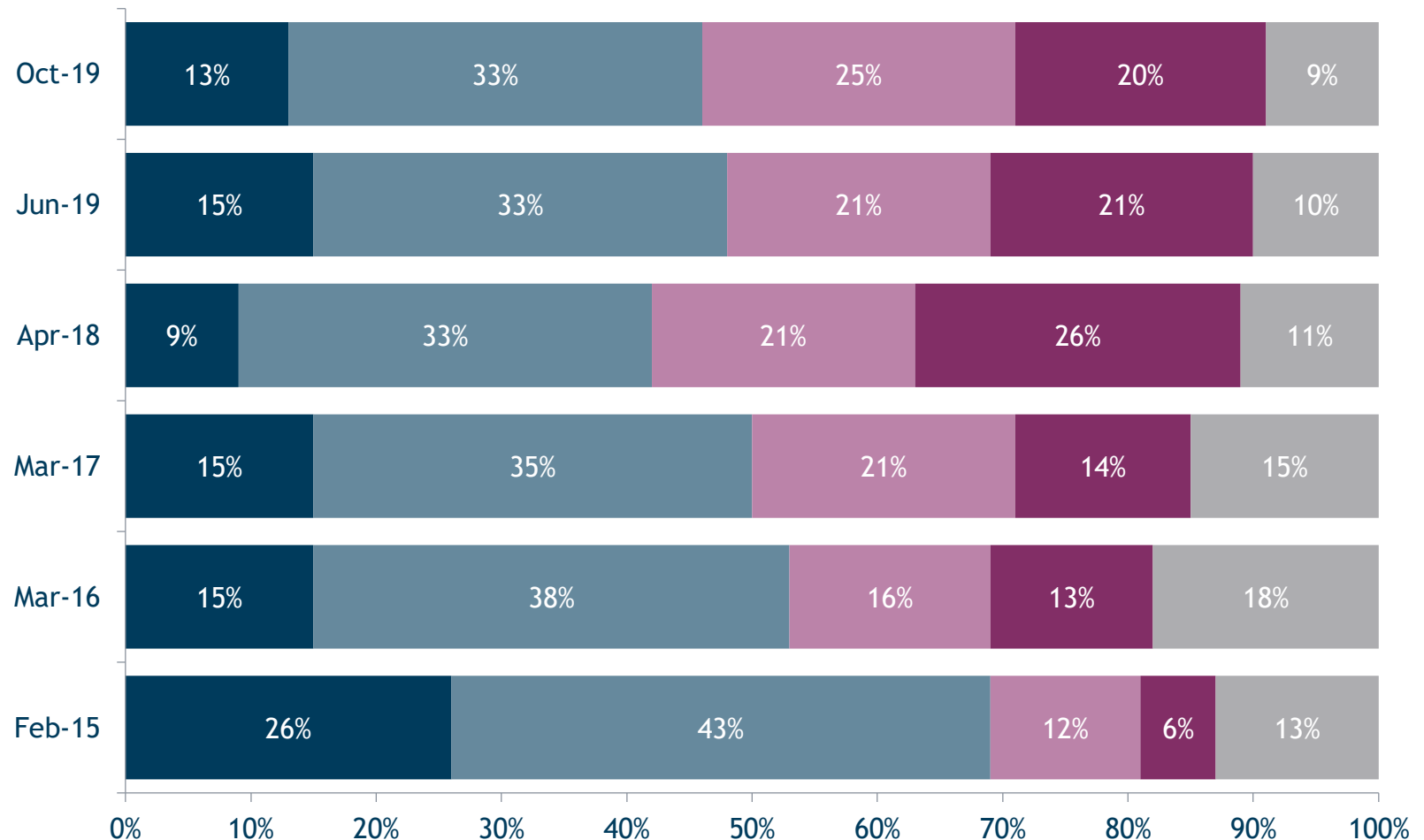
Which component of a party's pre-election program will most likely determine your vote in upcoming parliamentary elections?

(Up to two responses permitted)



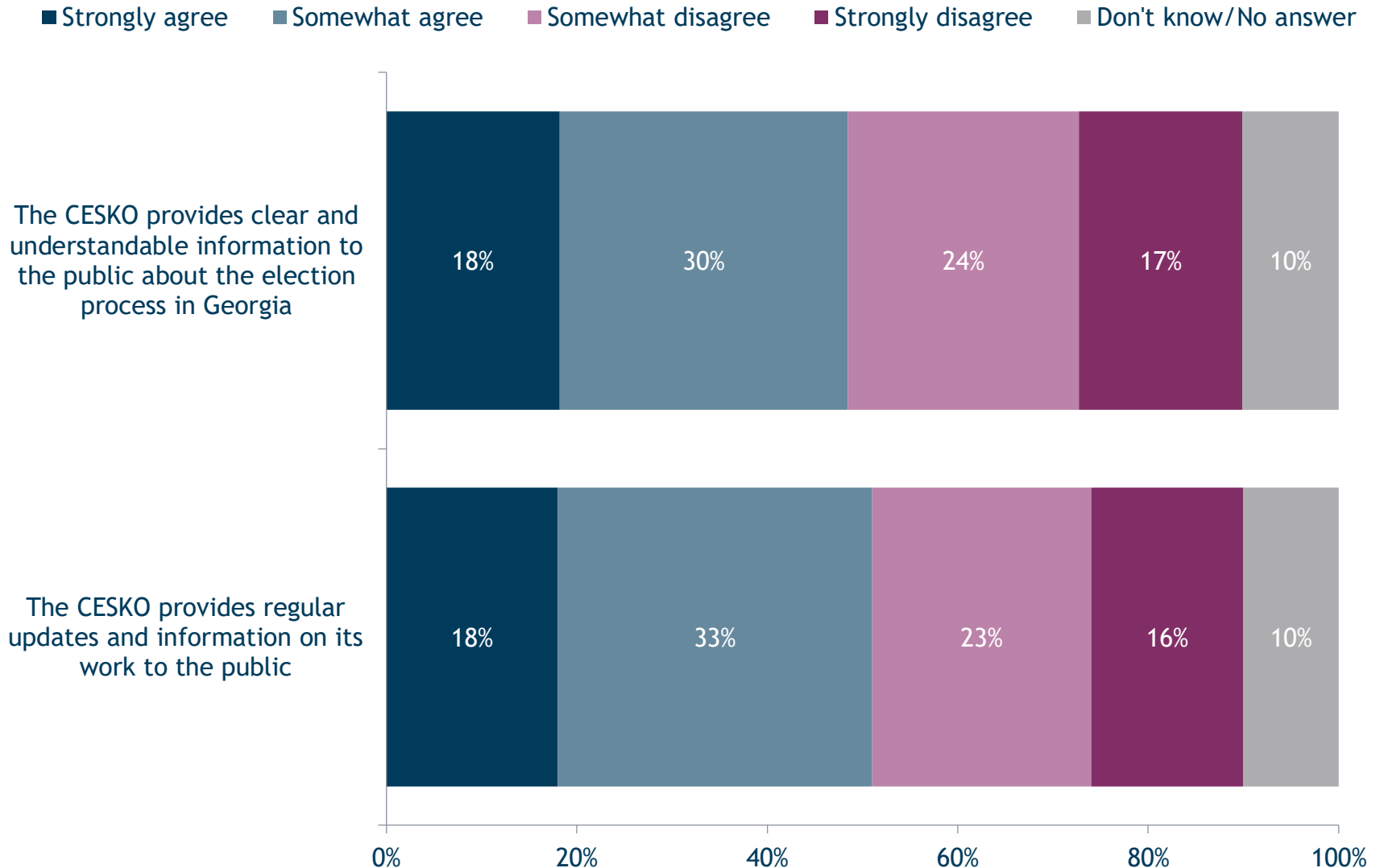
Do you agree or disagree that the Central Election Commission (CESKO) performs its work in a trustworthy manner?

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



* CESKO is the Georgian acronym for the Central Election Commission.

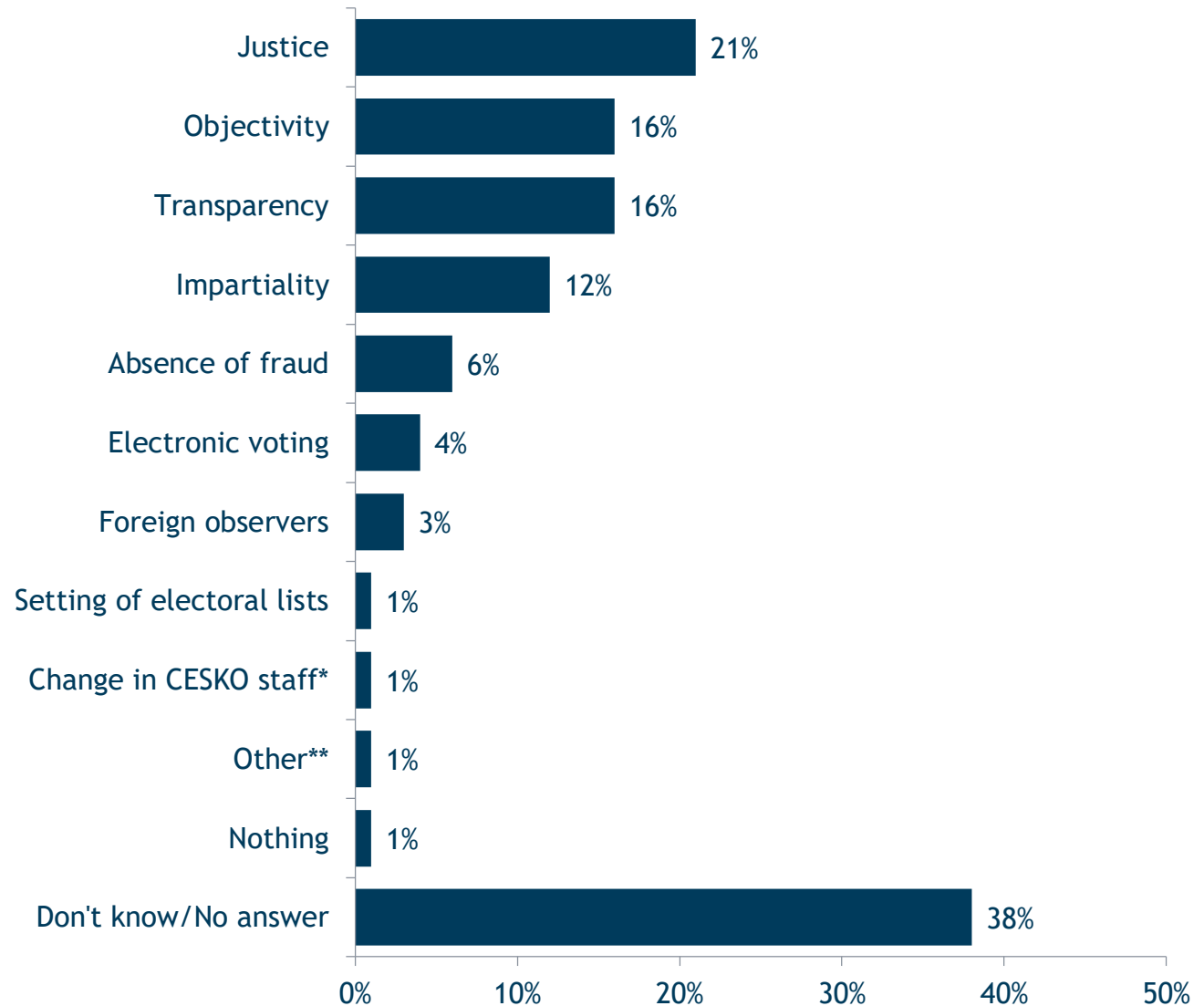
To what degree do you either agree or disagree with the following statements about the work of the CESCO?



* CESCO is the Georgian acronym for the Central Election Commission.

What would increase your overall trust in the electoral process?

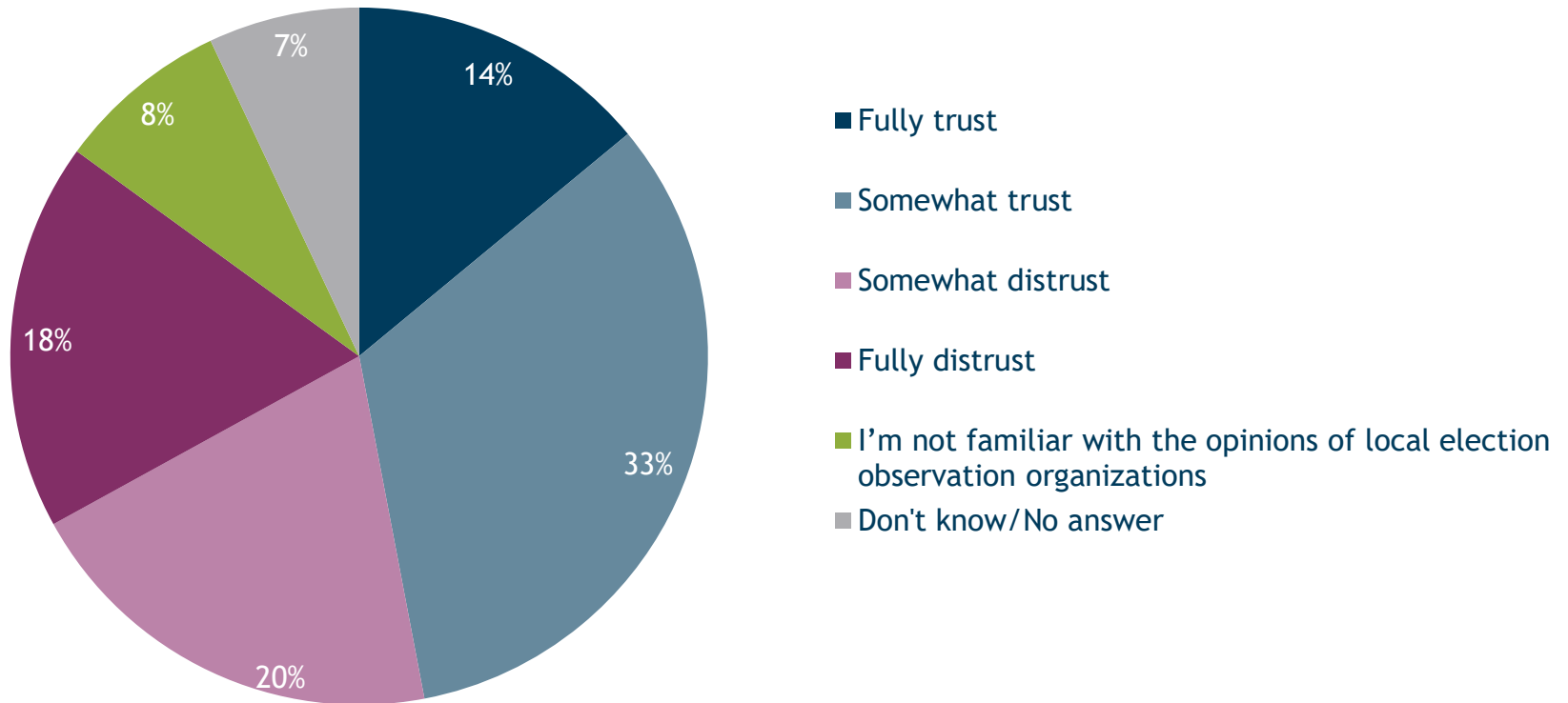
(Spontaneous response; up to two responses permitted)



*CESKO is the Georgian acronym for the Central Election Commission.

**Responses receiving less than one percent of all mentions are collapsed into Other.

Do you trust or distrust the opinion of local election observation organizations regarding whether an election was free, fair and transparent?





Sources of Information

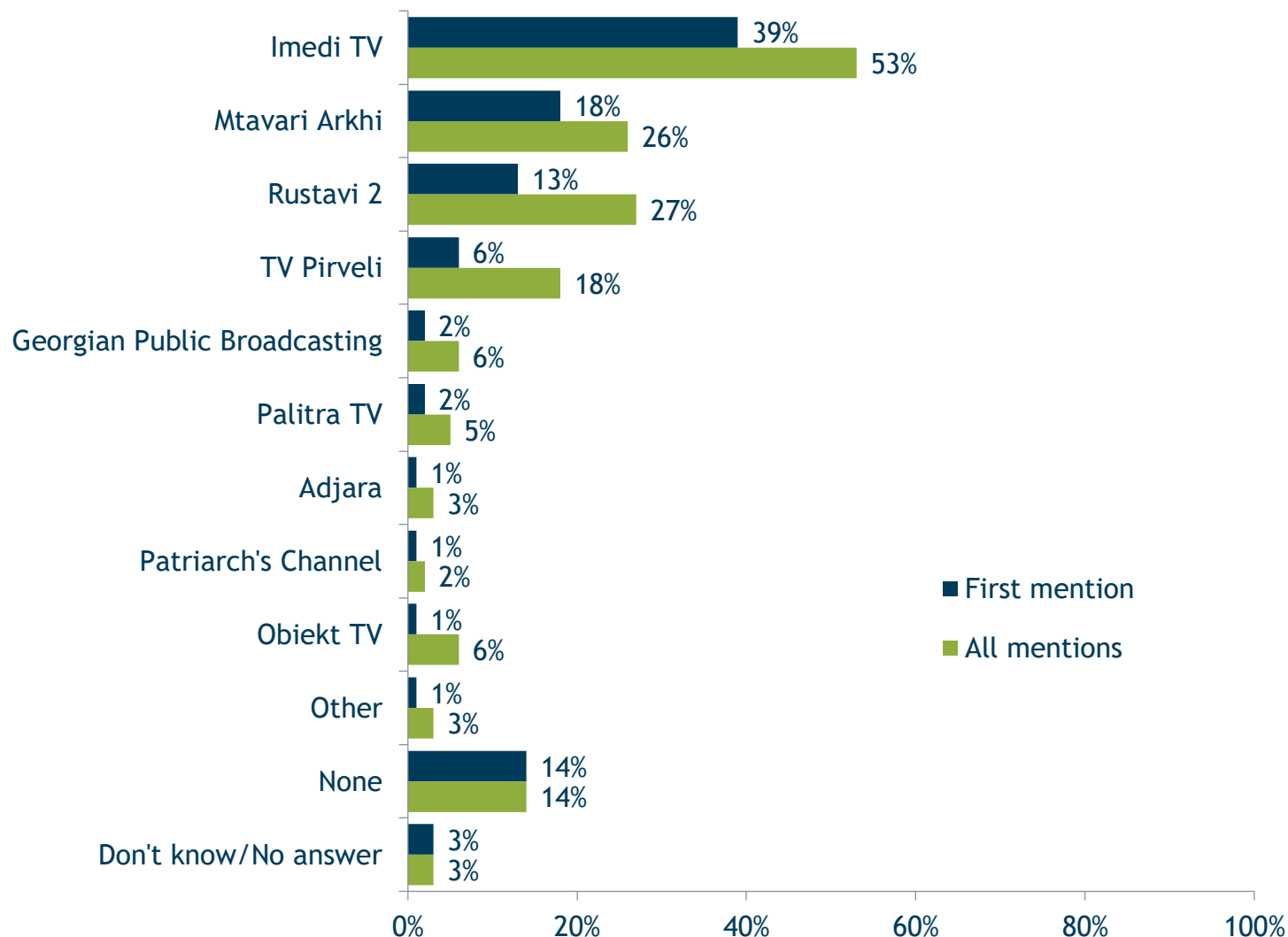


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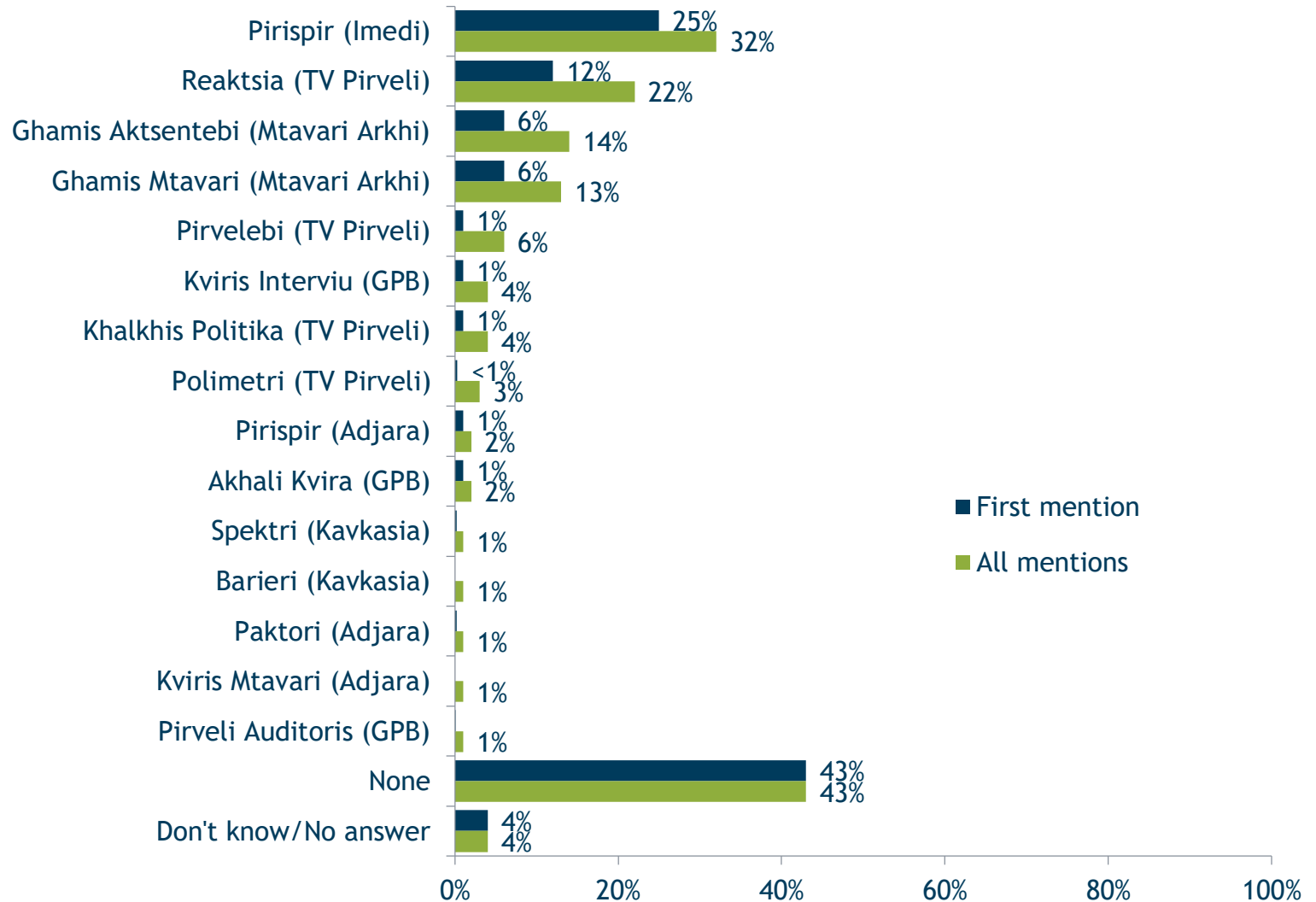
Which Georgian TV station's news and political information do you trust the most?

(Spontaneous response; up to two responses permitted)



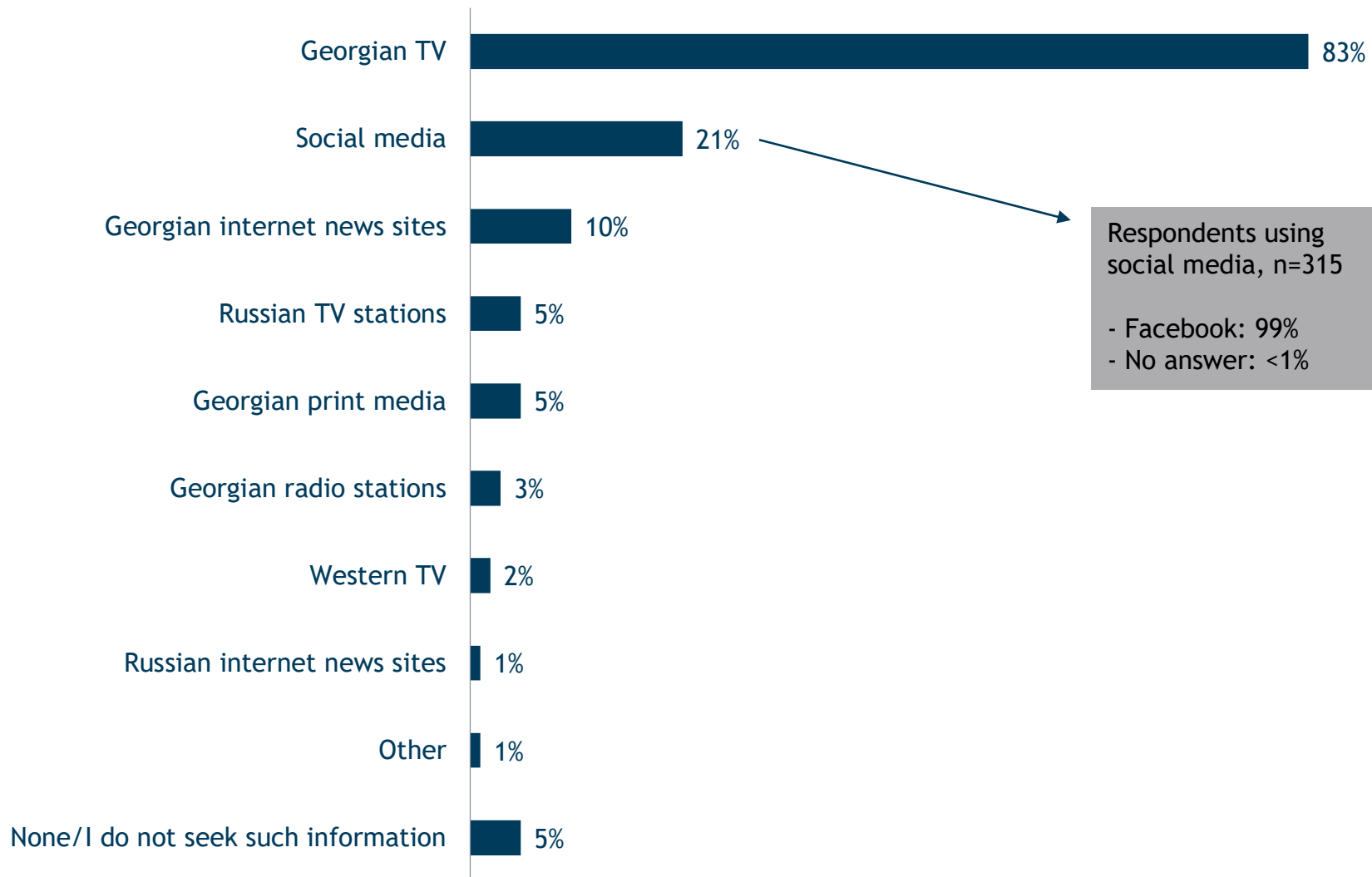
Which TV talk show do you watch most frequently?

(Spontaneous response; up to three responses permitted)

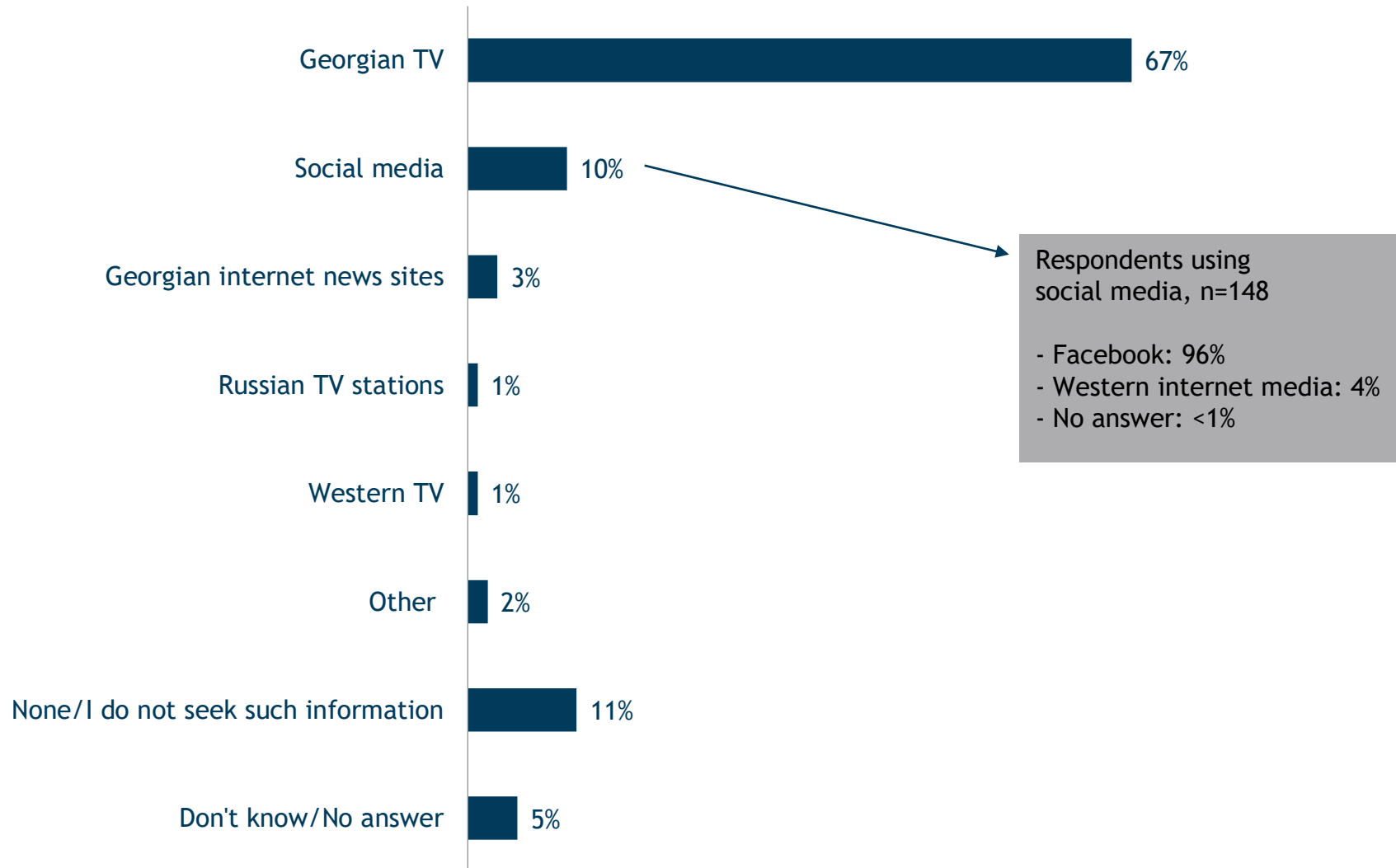


*Responses receiving less than one percent of all responses collapsed into Other.

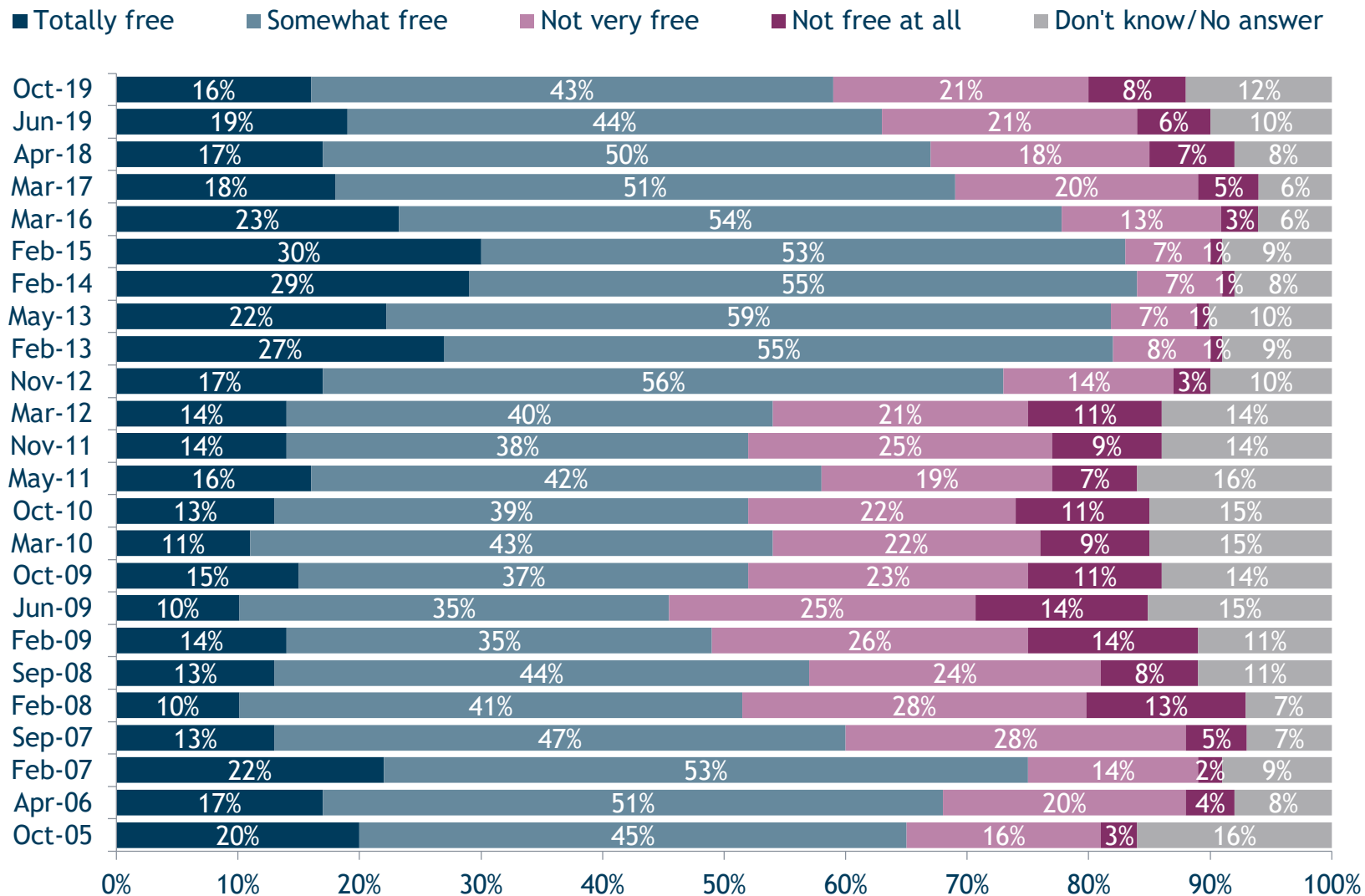
Which sources of information do you use for information about the current international situation? (Multiple responses permitted)



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

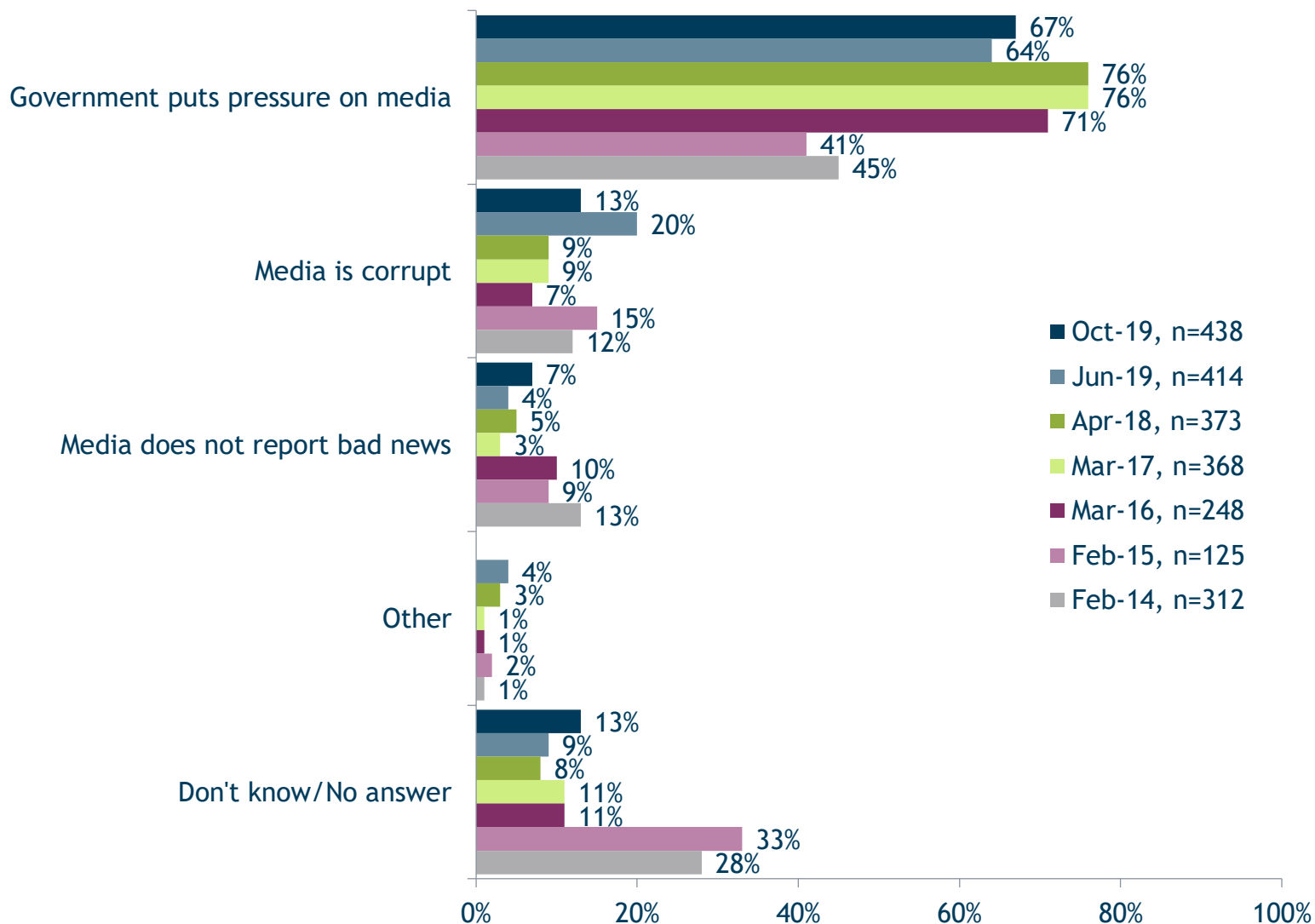


Is Georgian mass media (TV, radio and press) free to express various political views?



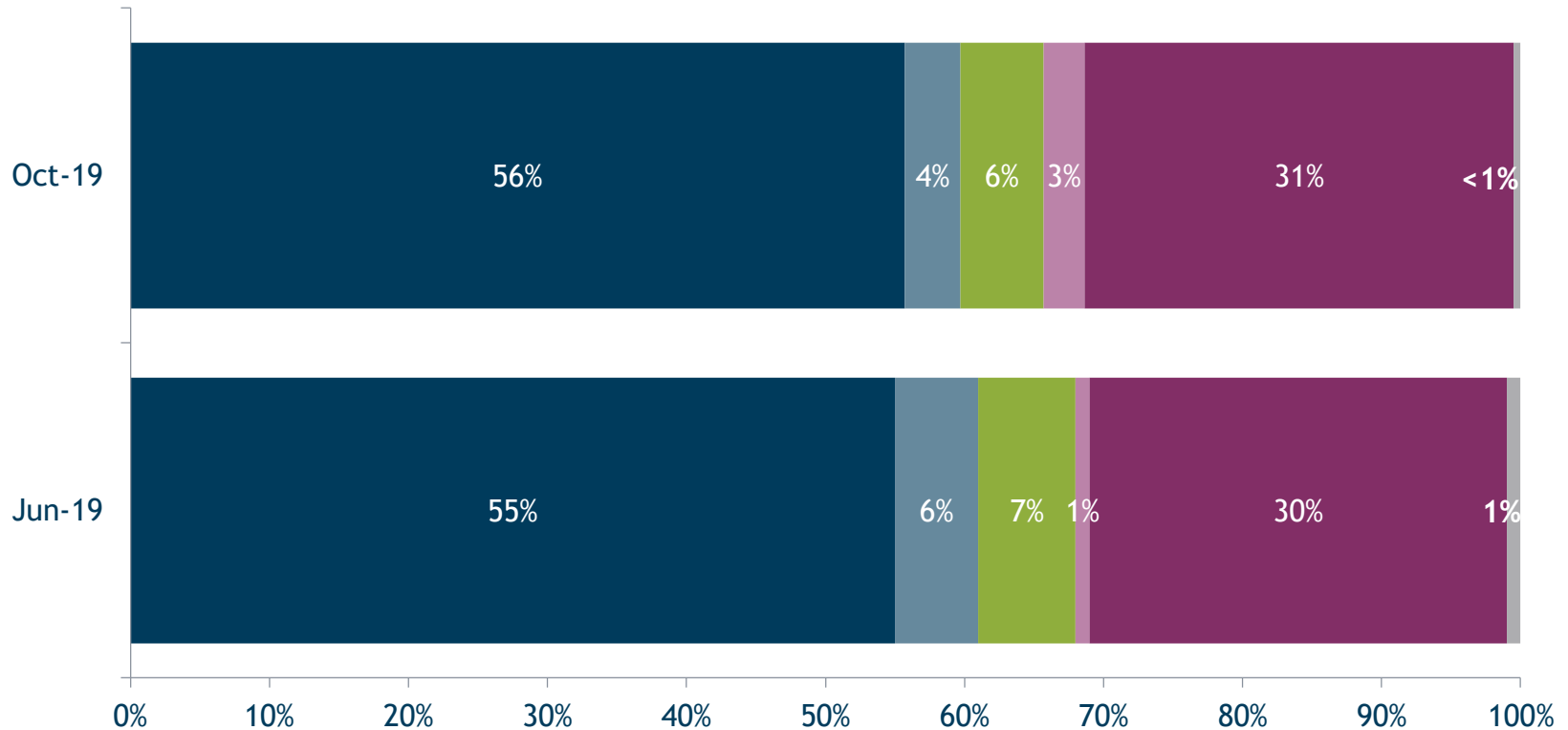
Why do you think that Georgian mass media is not free to express various political views?

(Among those believing that mass media is *not free*, n=438)



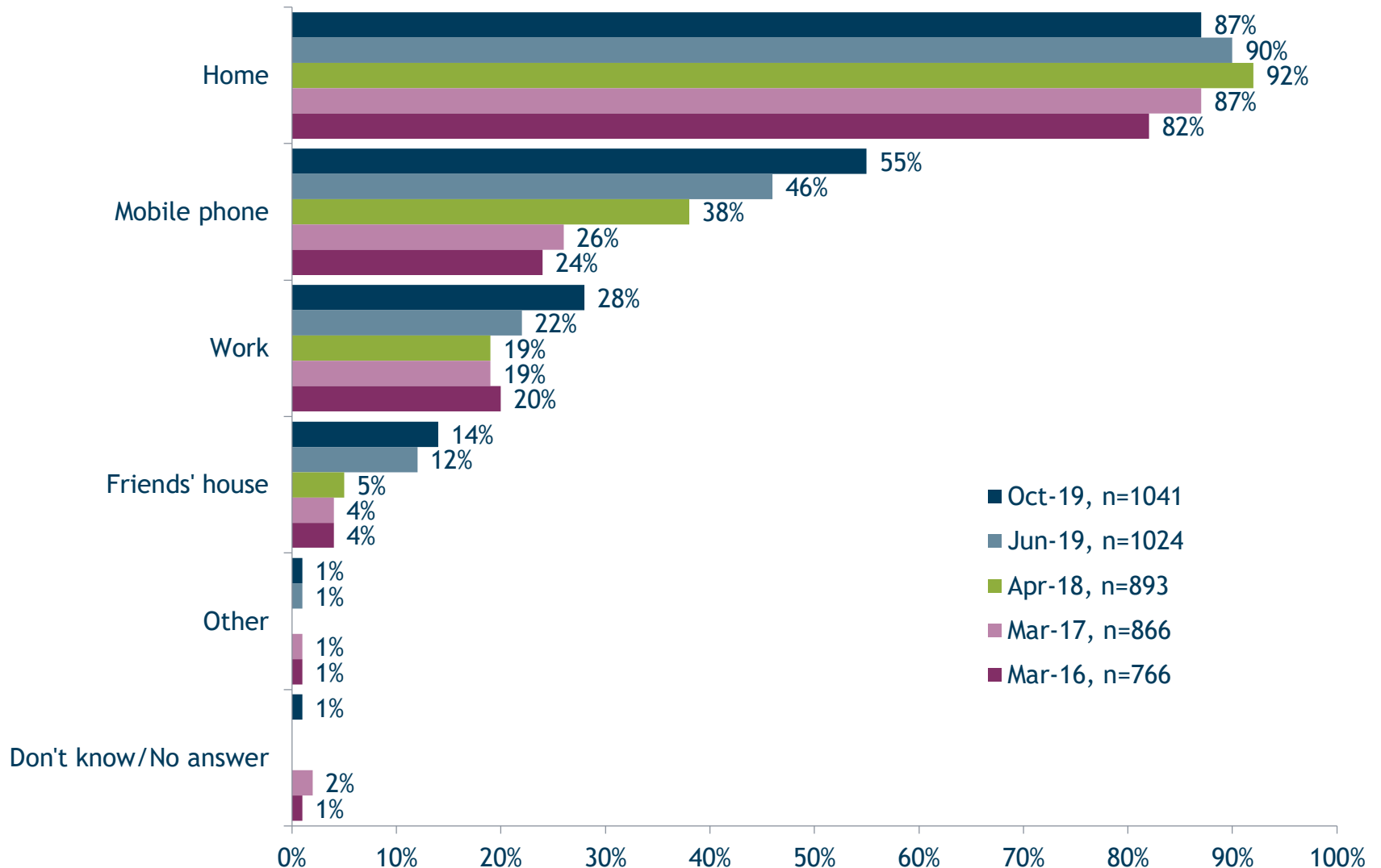
How many times per week do you access the internet?

■ Every day ■ 4-6 times per week ■ 1-3 times per week ■ Monthly ■ Never ■ Don't know/No answer

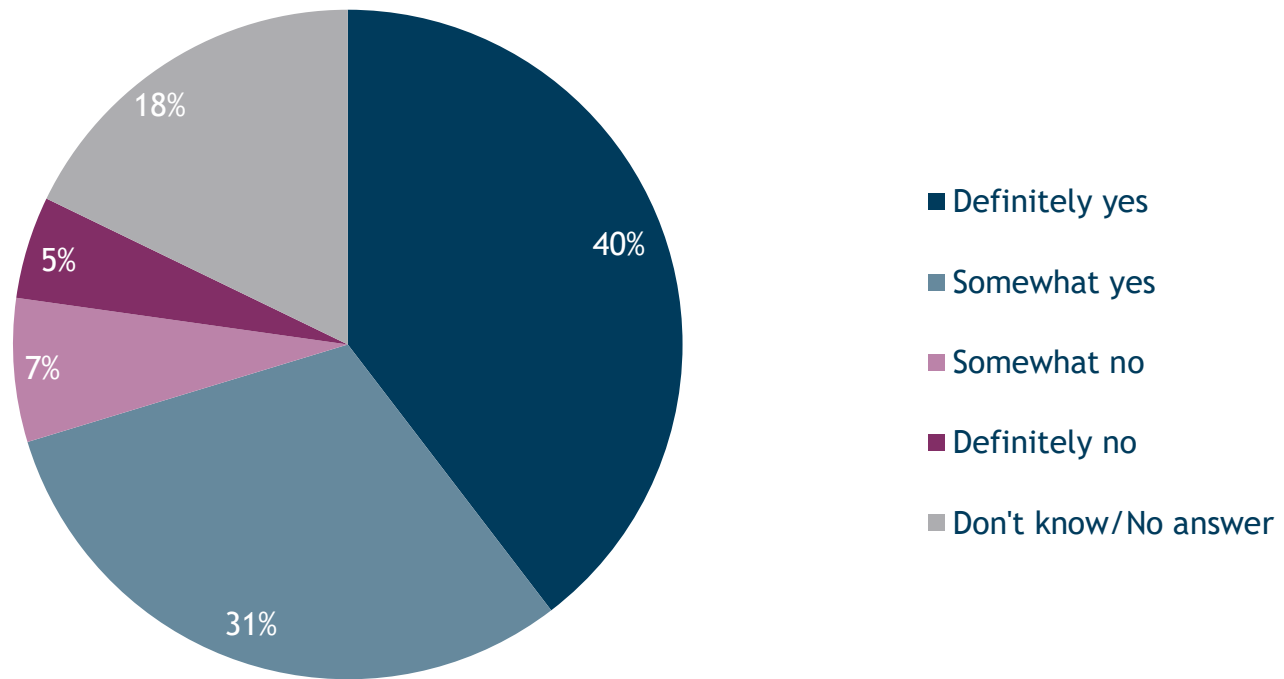


Where do you access the internet?

(Internet users, n=1,041; multiple responses permitted)

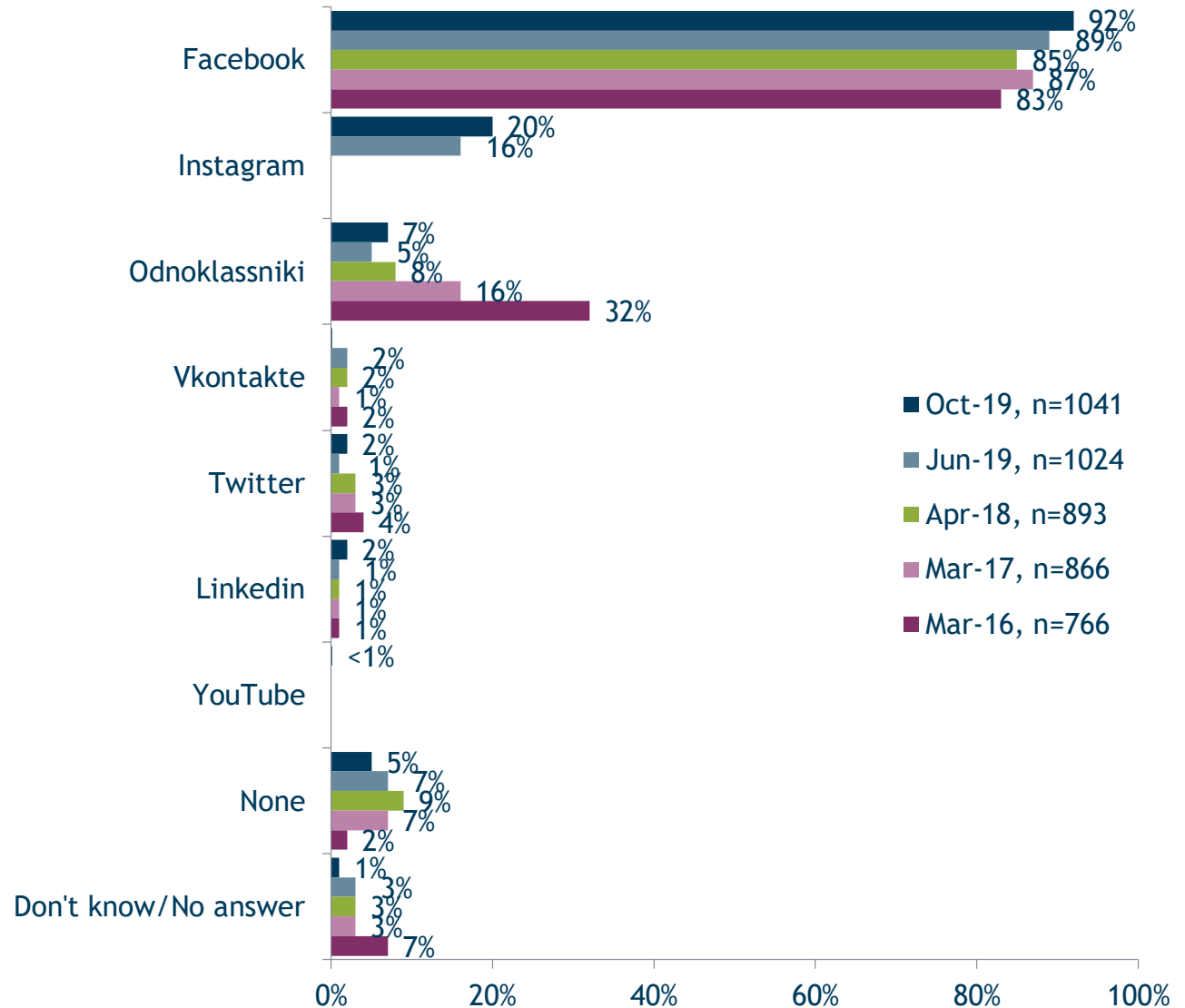


In your opinion, will the editorial policy of Rustavi 2 change due to the change in ownership?



Which social media sites do you use most often?

(Internet users, n=1,041; up to three spontaneous responses permitted)



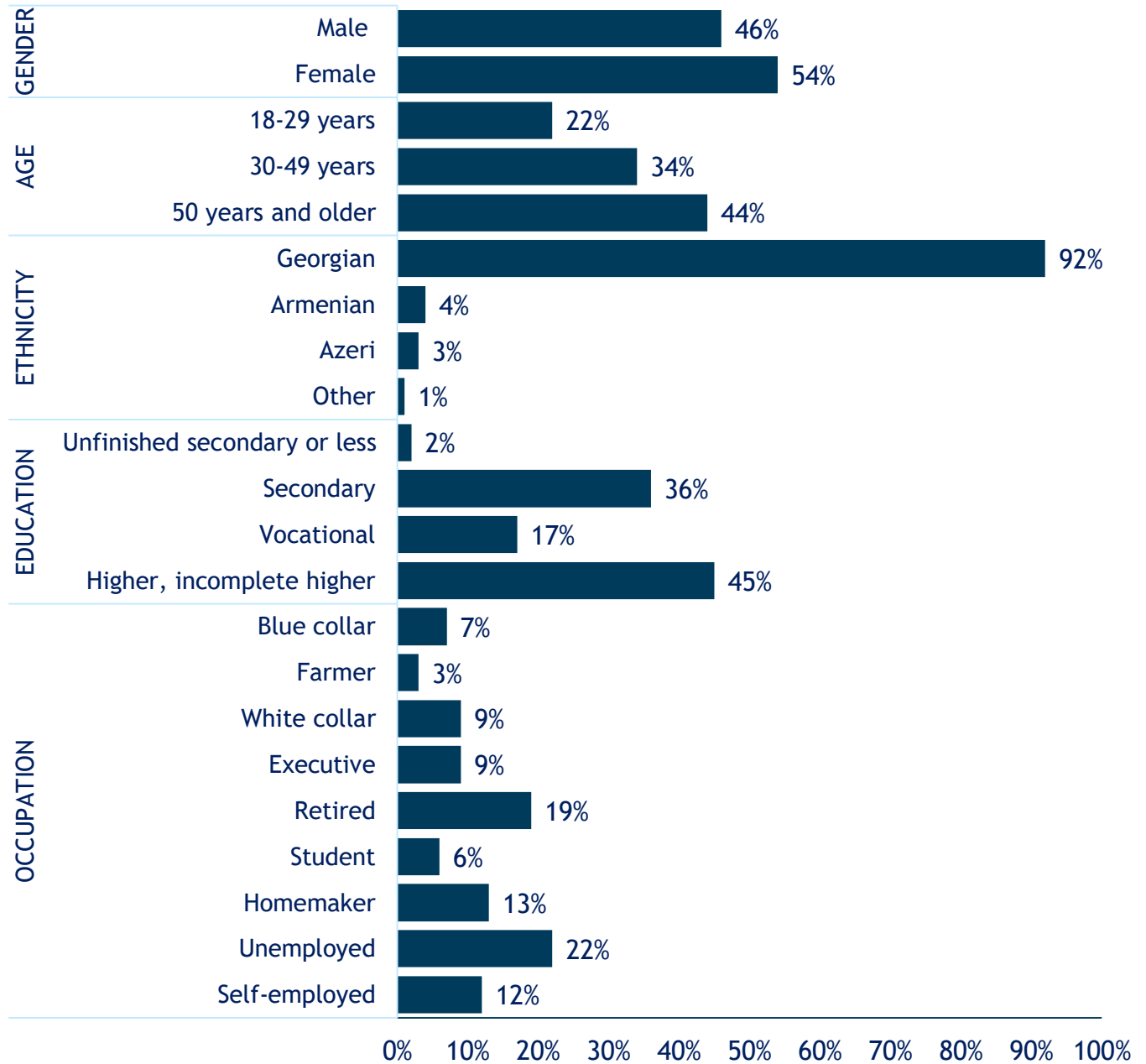


Demographics

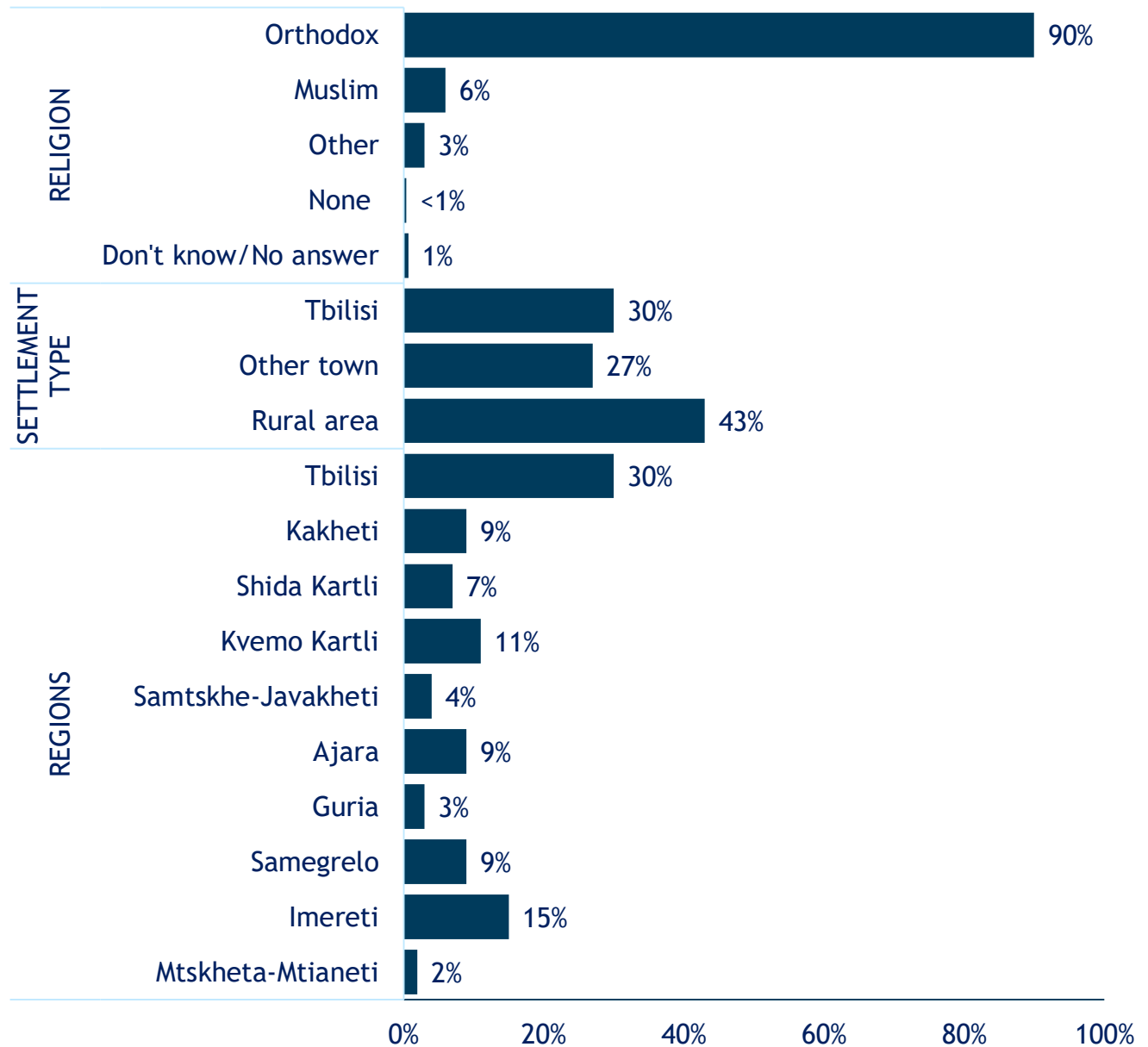


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Demographics



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