



# **Survey of Turkish Public Opinion**

## **March 29 – April 14, 2008**

Williams and Associates  
Salem, Massachusetts



## Survey Specifications

- The survey was conducted through in-person, in-home interviews by Infakto Research Workshop. Oversight and analysis was provided by David Williams of Williams and Associates of Salem, Massachusetts
- Target population of the survey was Turks aged 18 and older.
- Sampling framework of the poll is designed to represent Turkish voters through a multi-stage stratified random sampling. In the first stage, the sample has been stratified to 11 NUTS (the Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics ) of Turkey and three metropolitan cities (as Self-Representing Units). In the second stage, a province has been selected from each NUTS through the probability proportionate to size (PPS) methodology. In the third stage, the sample has been stratified according to central-other sub-provinces and the urban-rural distribution of the province. Final sampling units were households selected according to the Kish method.
- The sample size is 1,554 with a response rate of 62.5 percent according to American Association for Public Opinion Research calculation standards. Estimated sampling error under the simple random sampling assumption is 2.5 percent at the 95 percent level of confidence.
- The fieldwork was completed between March 29 – April 14, 2008.

## Survey Specifications – Demographics

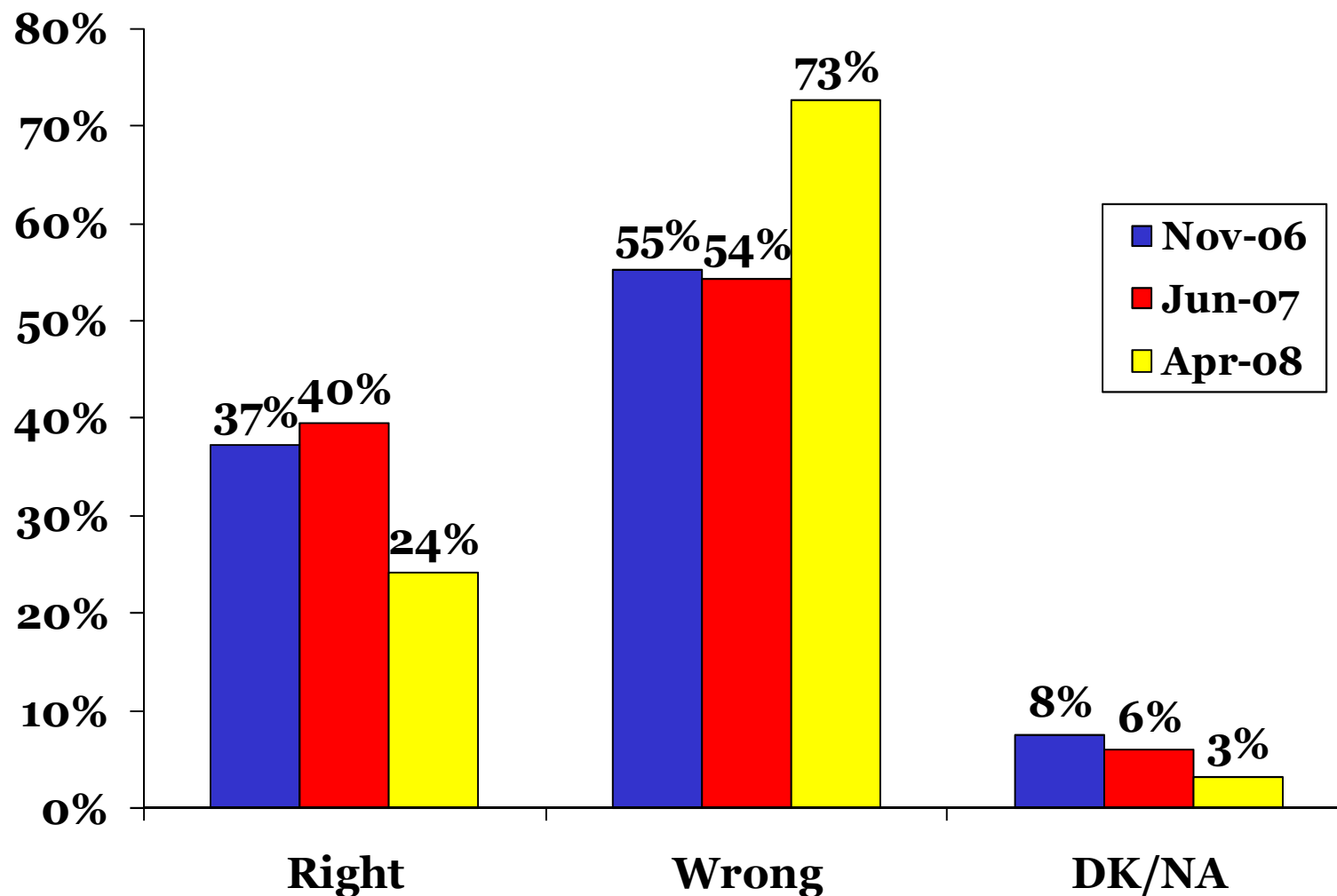
- **Gender**
  - Male 50.0%
  - Female 50.0%
- **Religion**
  - Muslim 99.6%
  - Christian 0.1%
  - Jewish 0.1%
  - Other 0.1%
  - Do Not Know 0.0%
  - No Answer 0.1%
- **Education**
  - Illiterate 3.9%
  - Literate, not graduated from a school 4.2%
  - Primary school 41.0%
  - Secondary school 12.3%
  - High School 29.5%
  - Vocational School (2 years) 2.9%
  - University (4 years) 5.1%
  - Graduate School 0.7%
  - Other 0.3%
  - No Answer 0.1%
- **Working Status**
  - Working – Full Time 32.2%
  - Working – Part Time 3.3%
  - Working – Seasonal 3.0%
  - Working – Unpaid Family Worker 2.4%
  - Not Working – Housewife 36.0%
  - Not Working – Retired 8.4%
  - Not Working – Student 5.0%
  - Not Working – Has other revenues 1.4%
  - Not Working – Unemployed 7.4%
  - Not Working – Because of illness, etc. 0.6%
  - No Answer 0.3%
- **Marital Status**
  - Married 69.9%
  - Single/Never Married 26.8%
  - Divorced/Separated 1.4%
  - Widow 1.8%
  - Living together or religious marriage 0.1%
  - No Answer 0.0%



# Politics and the Economy

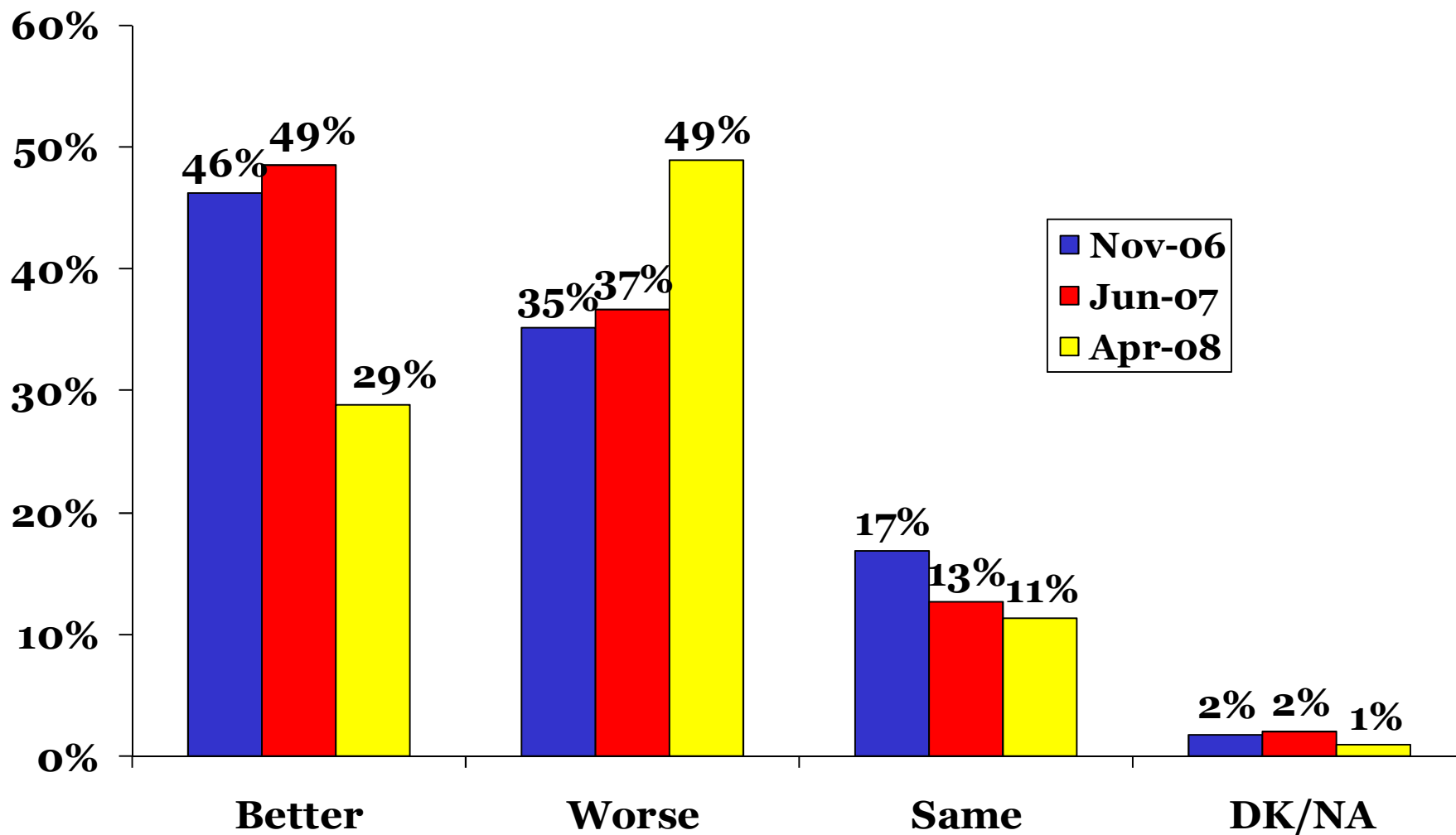


## Overall is Turkey heading in the right direction or the wrong direction?



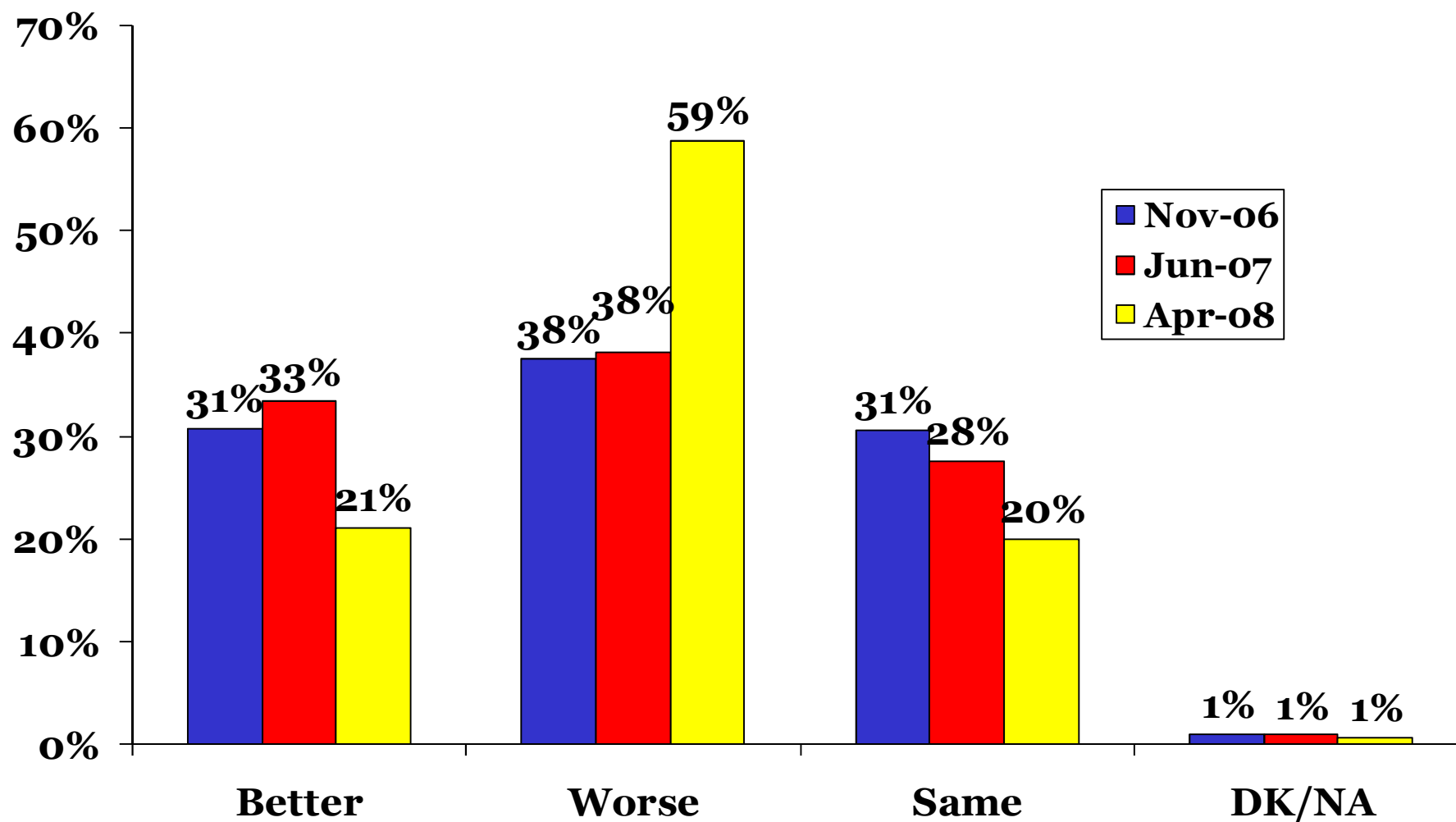


## Compared to five years ago, do you think the economic situation in the country has gotten better or worse?



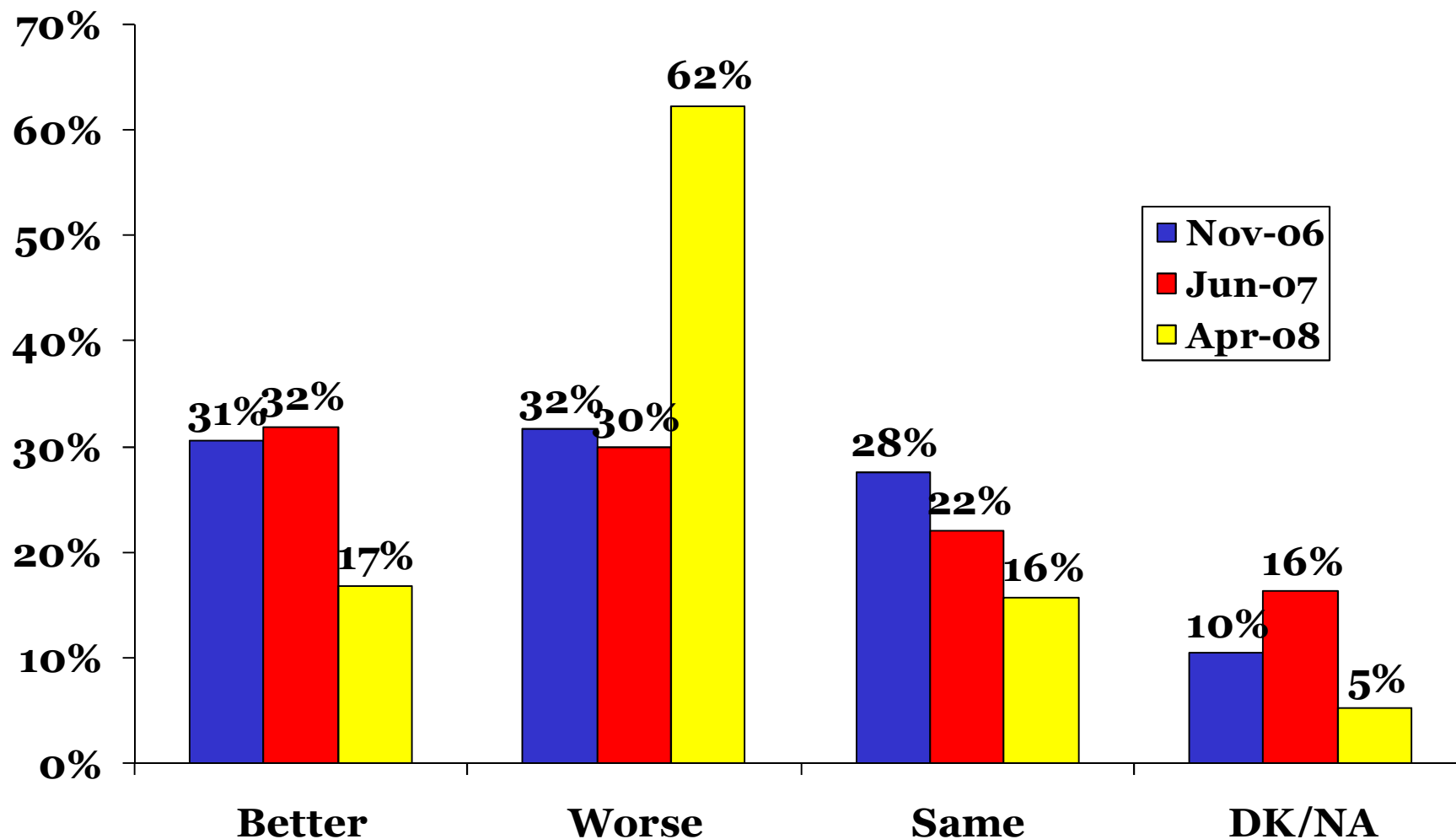


Compared to five years ago, do you think the financial situation of your family has gotten better or worse?





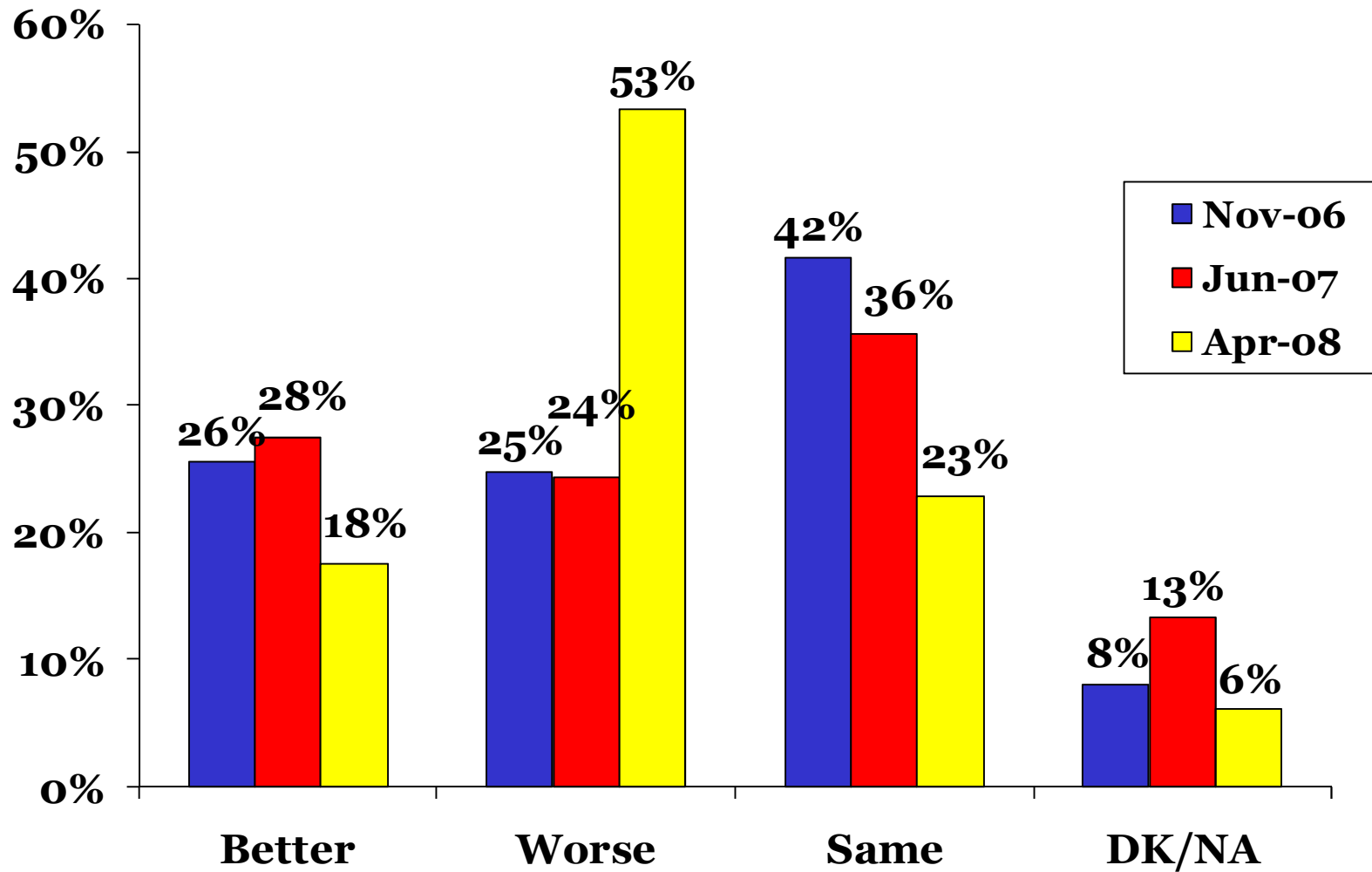
## During the next 12 months, will the economic situation in Turkey get better or worse?





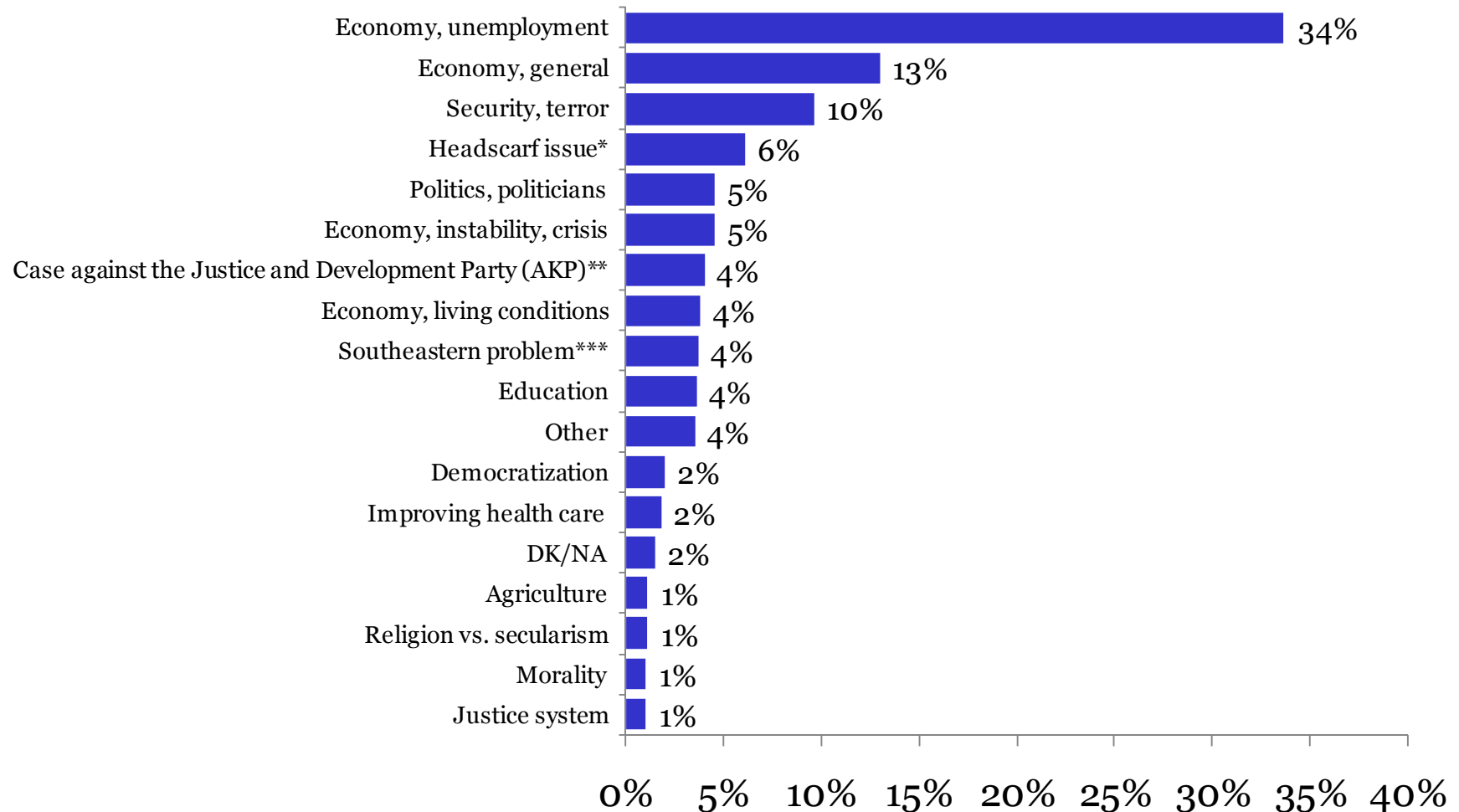


## During the next 12 months, will the financial situation of your family get better or worse?





## What is the most important problem facing Turkey today?



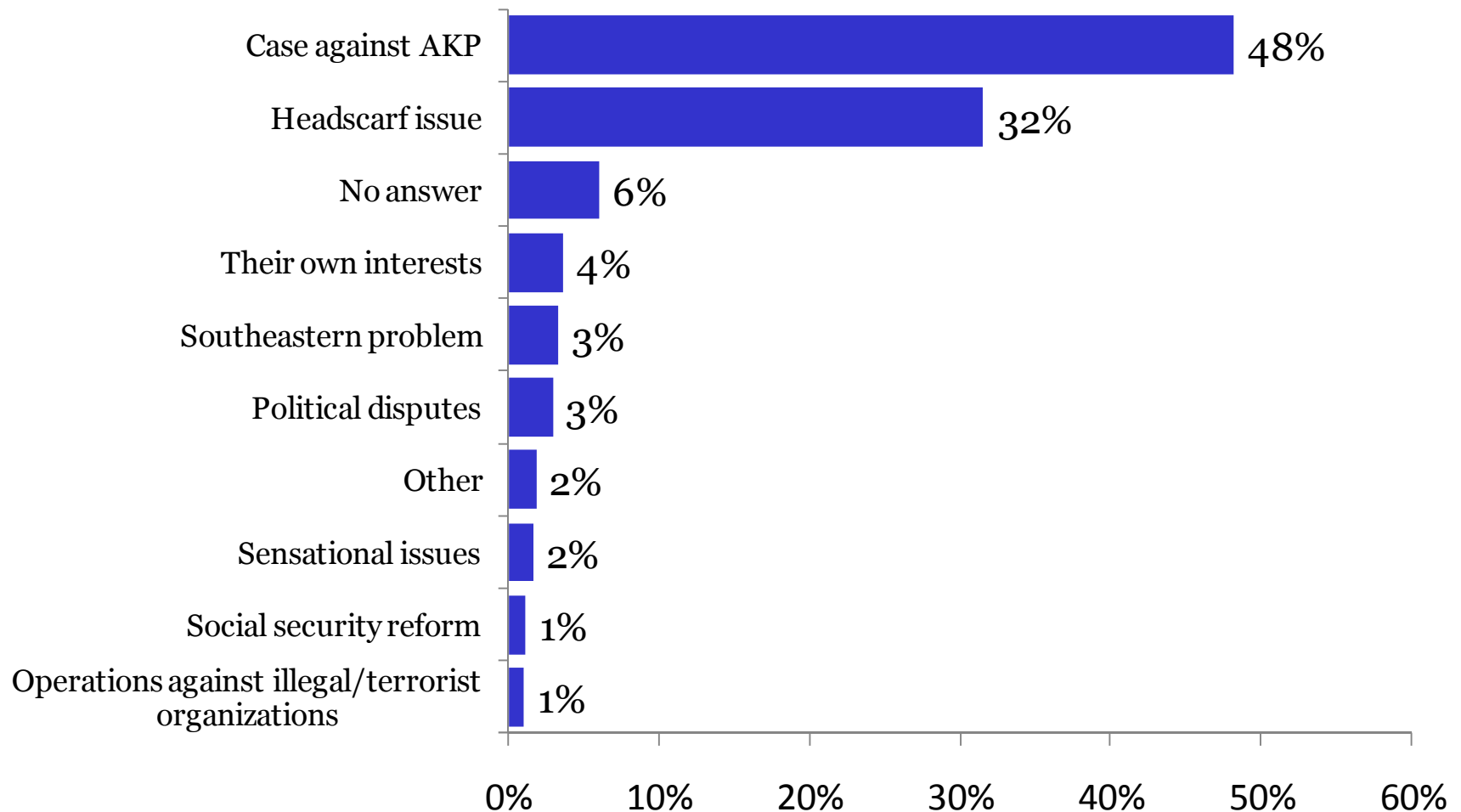
\*There is a debate about whether the ban on headscarves in public places should continue.

\*\*There is a case pending before Turkey's constitutional court against AKP.

\*\*\*How Turks refer to conflict with the Kurds.

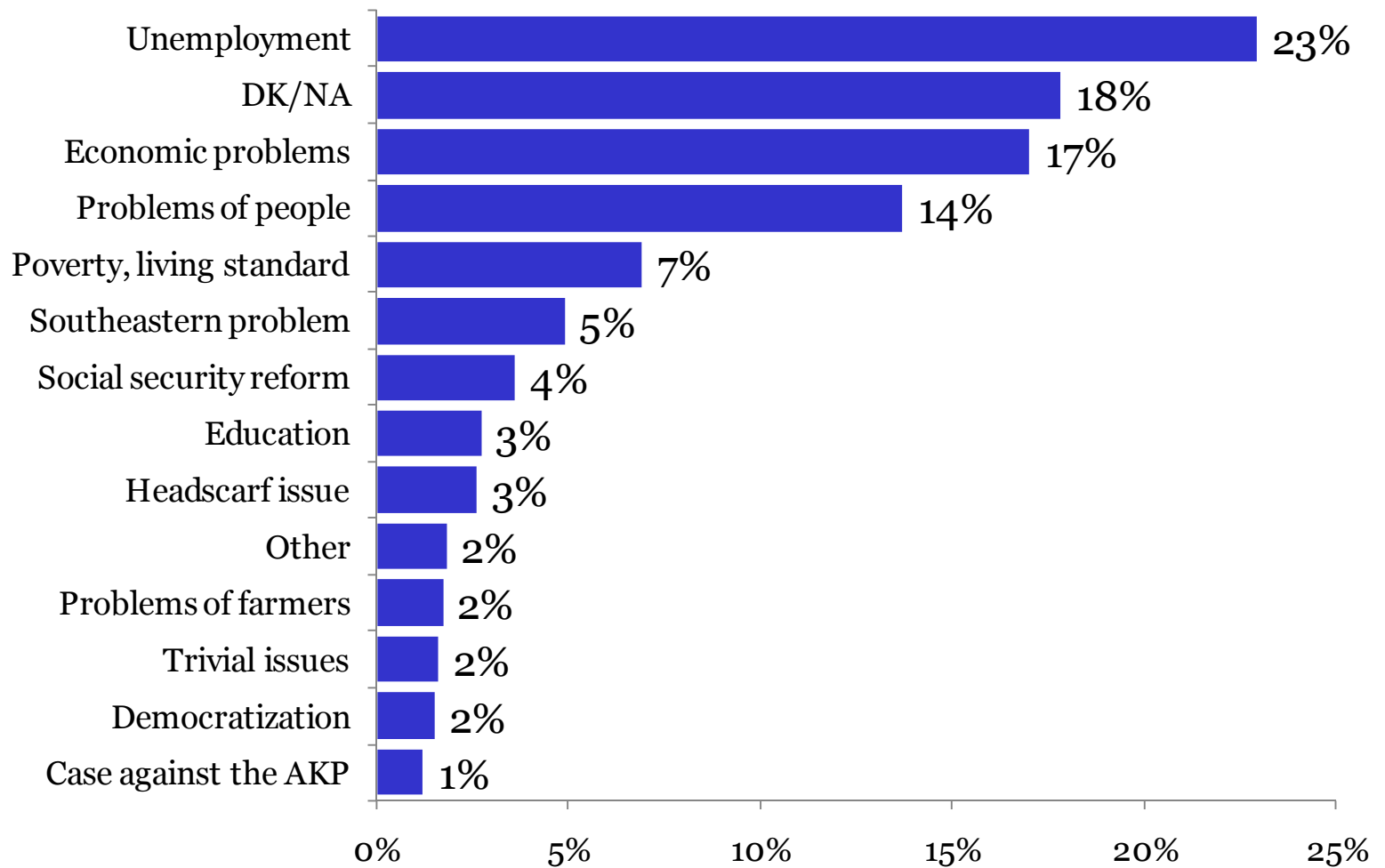


## In your opinion, what do politicians talk too much about?



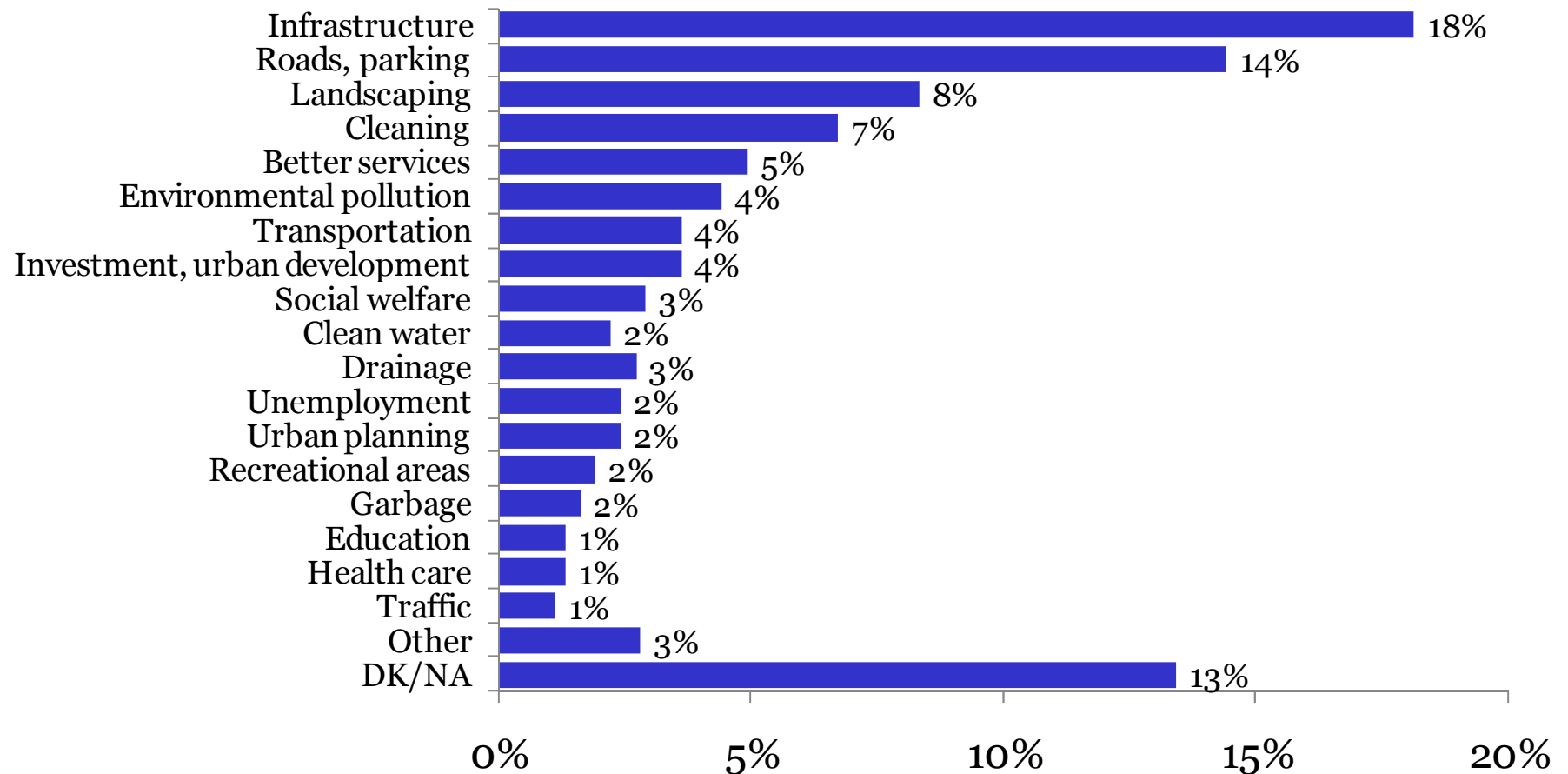


## In your opinion, what do politicians talk too little about?



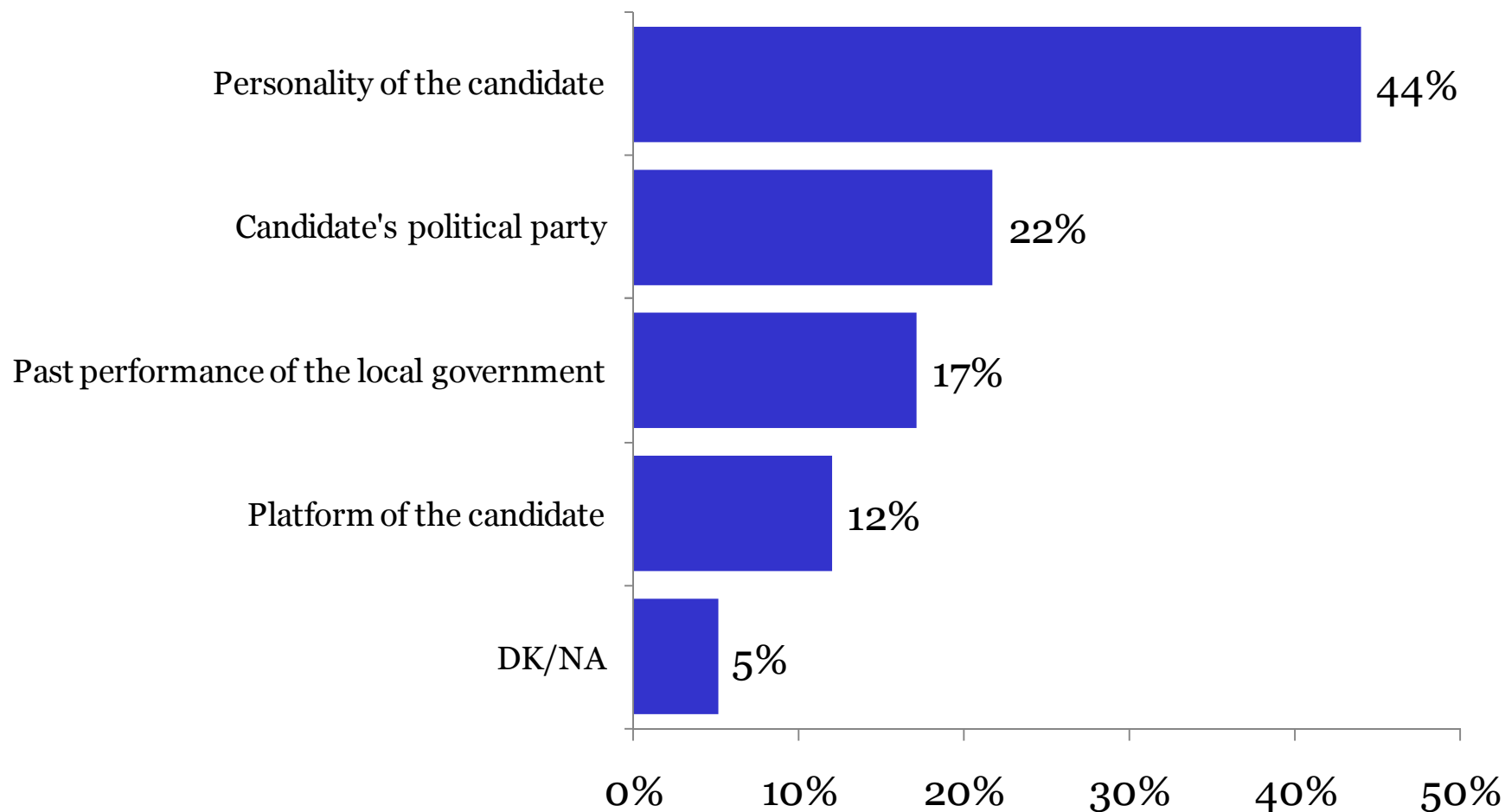


## What is the most important problem for local government to address?



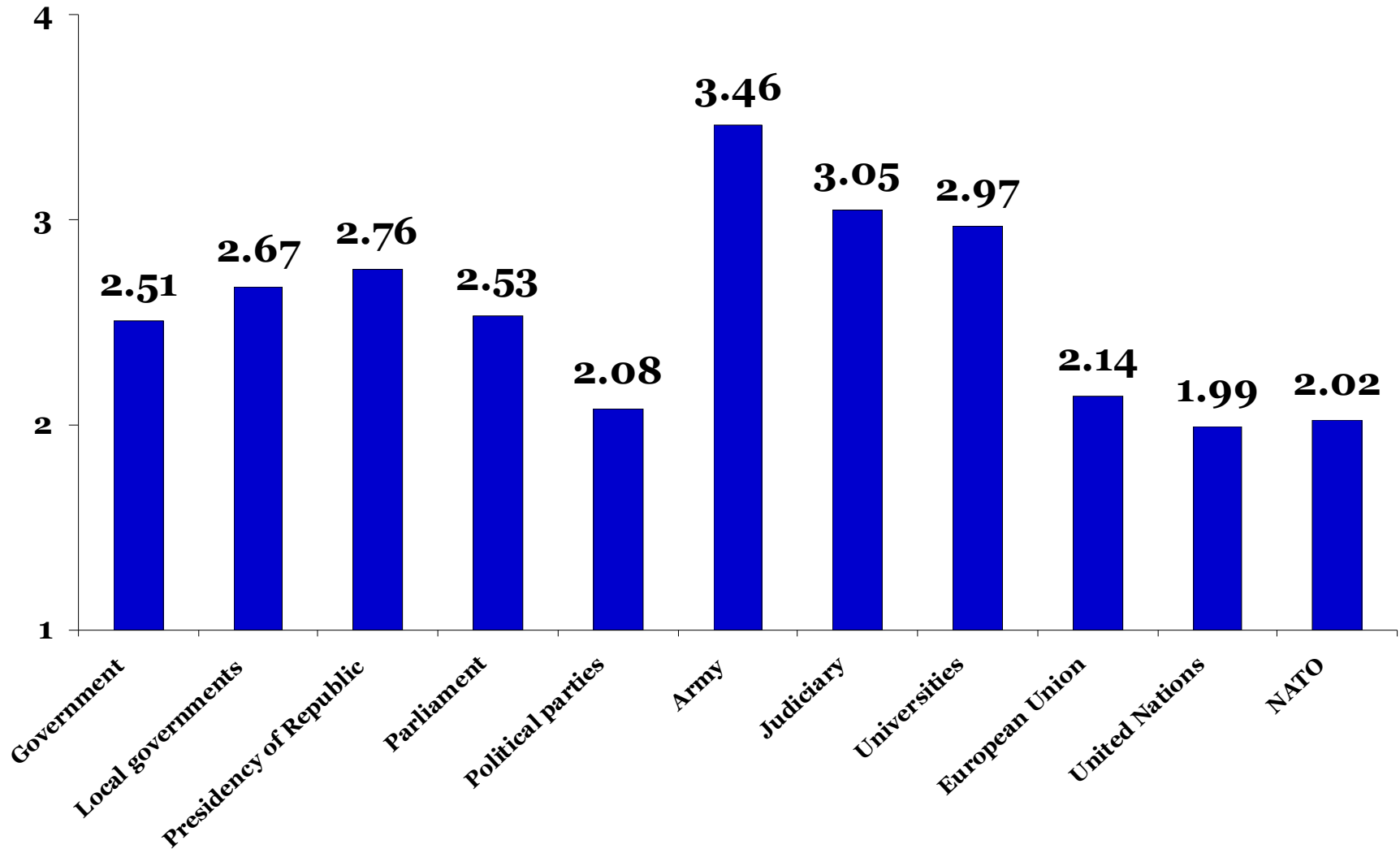


## What is the major factor in deciding your vote for local elections?



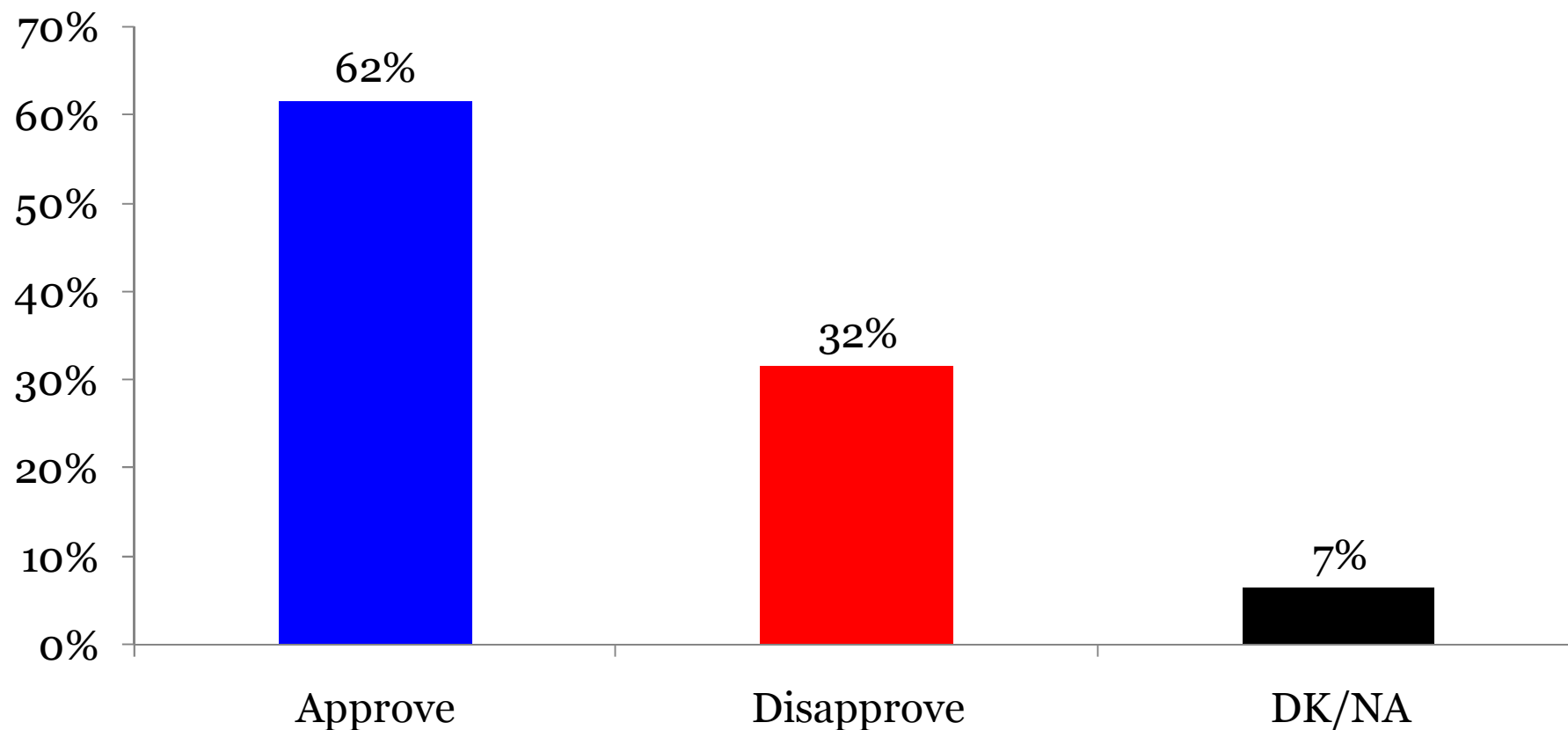


On a scale from 1 to 4, where one is worst and four is best, how much confidence do you have in each of the following institutions? Mean scale ratings





## Do you approve or disapprove of the way your local government has performed?



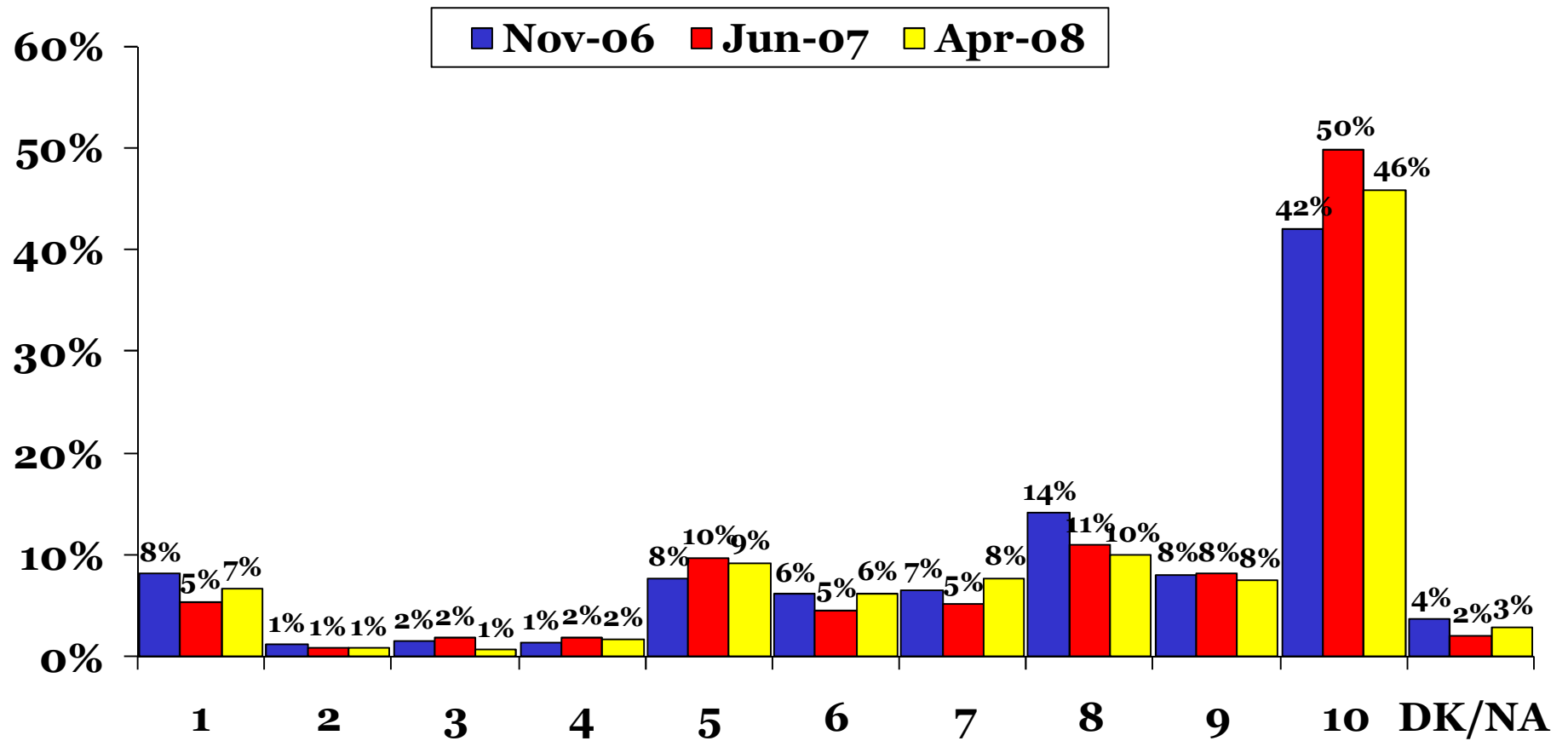




# **Personal Attitudes and Beliefs**

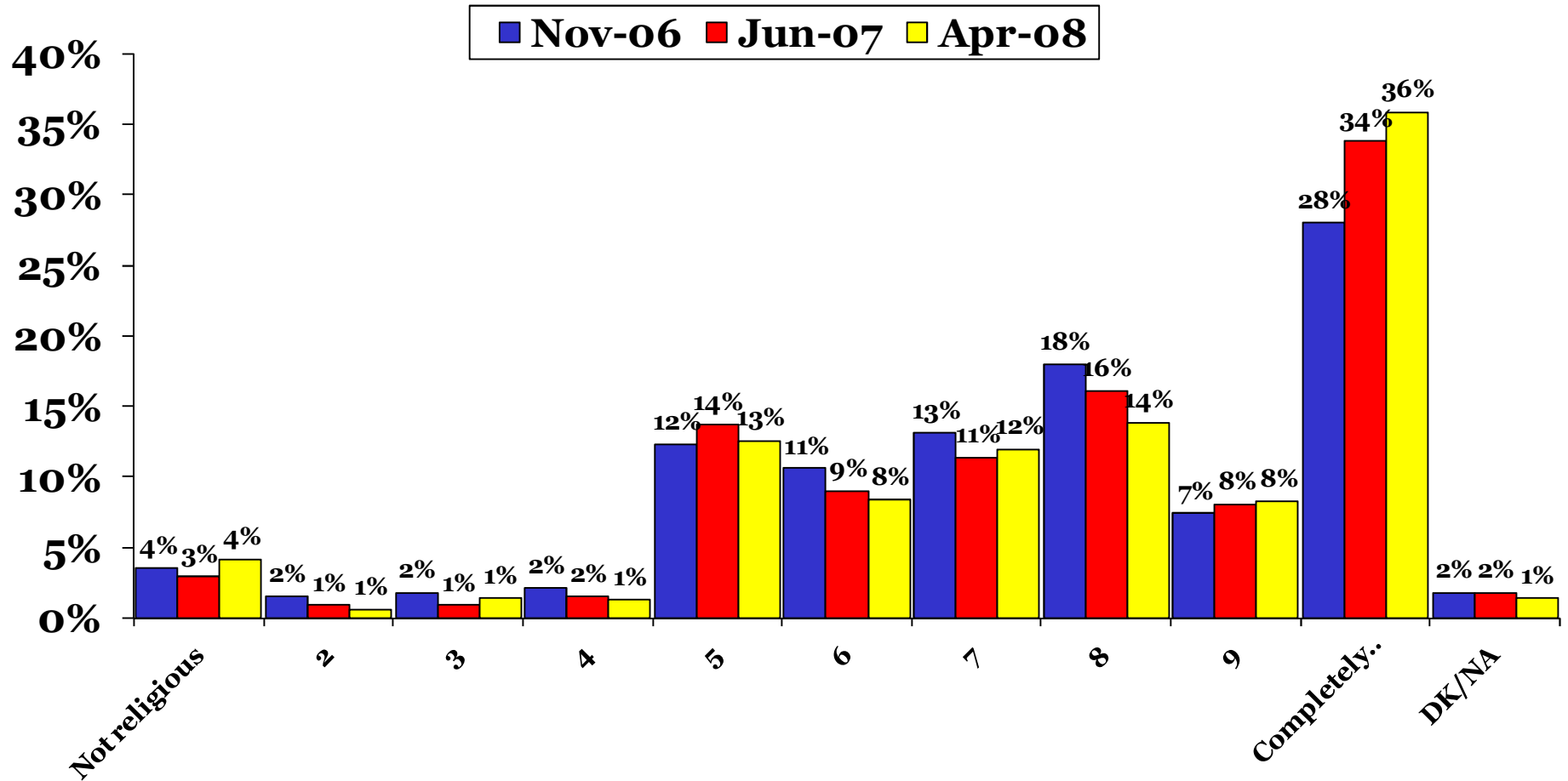


On a scale from 1 to 10, how would you rate yourself as a Turkish nationalist? The more nationalist you feel, the higher you would place yourself on the scale.



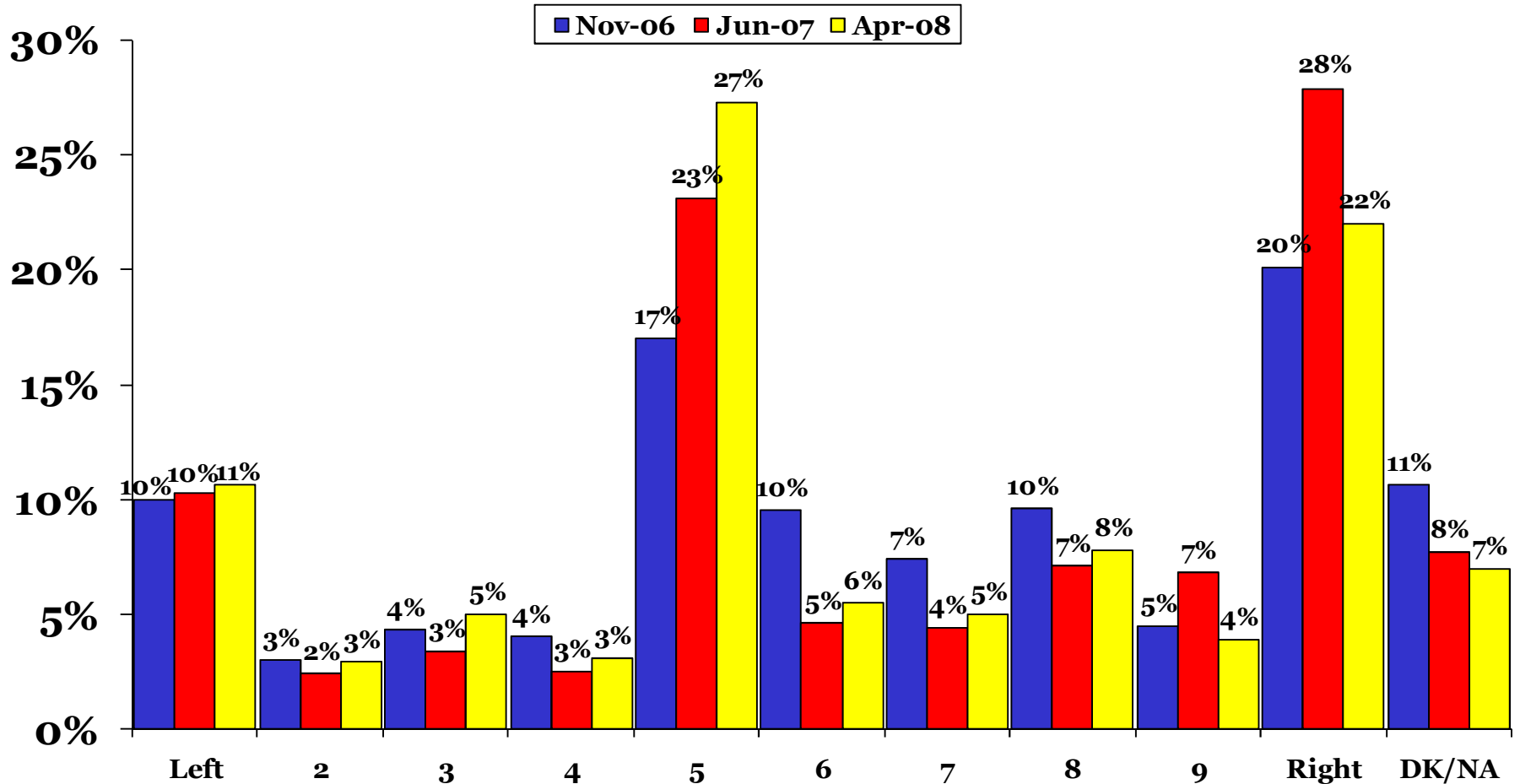


On a scale from 1 to 10 where one is not religious at all and 10 is completely religious, where would you place yourself on scale?



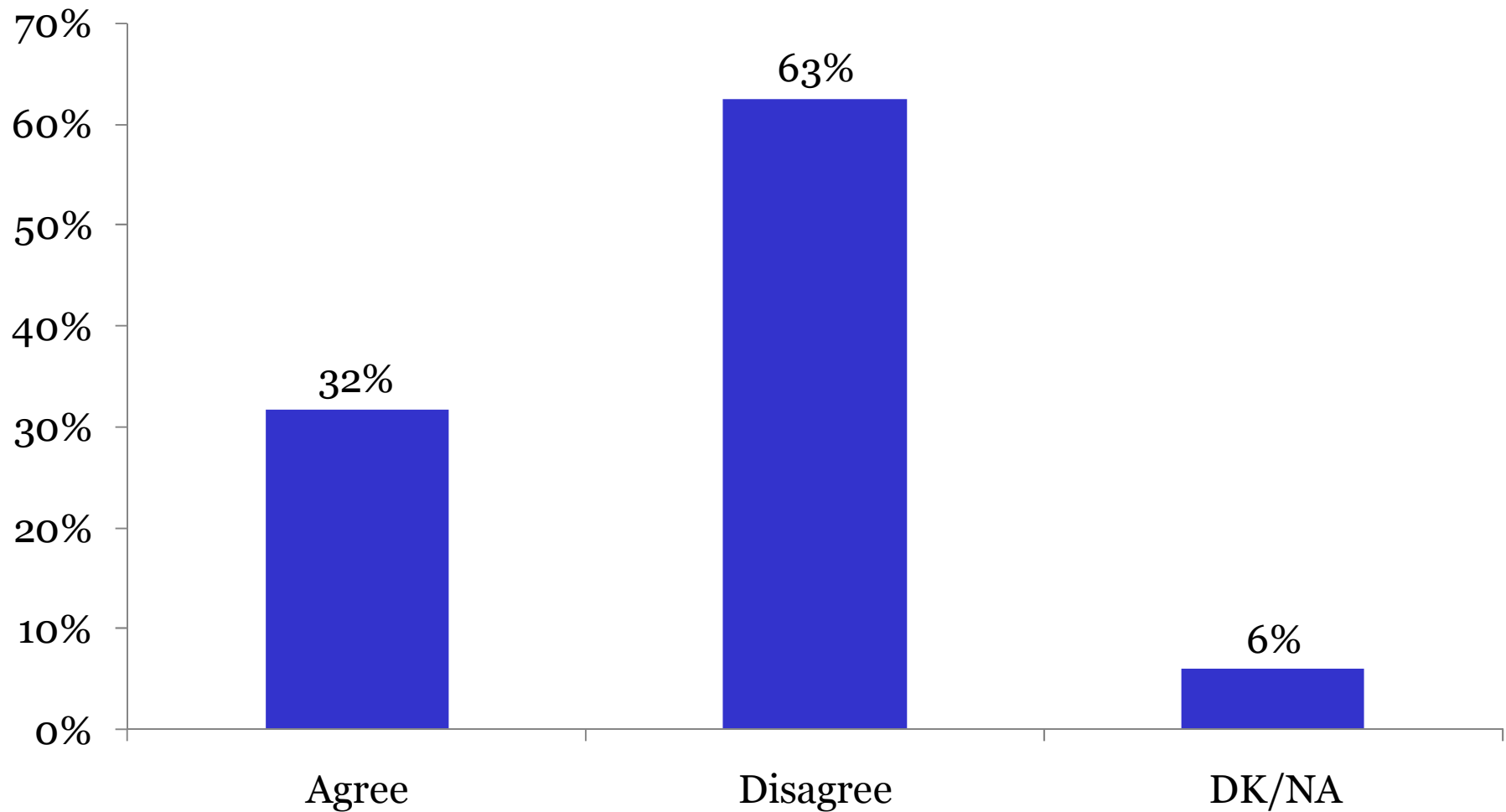


In political matters people talk of the left and the right. Generally speaking, how would you place yourself on the following scale?



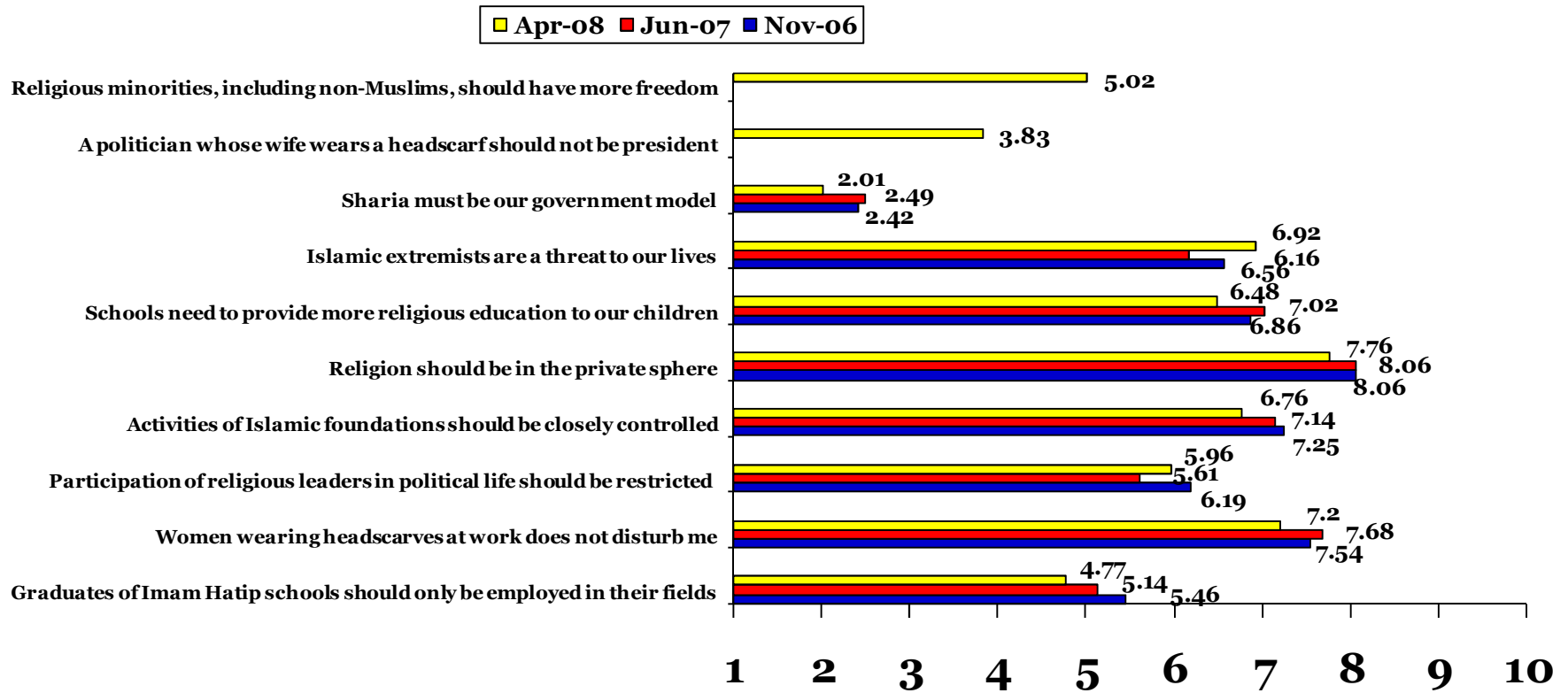


What do you think about the discussions on headscarves? Some people say that there is a difference between the turban and traditional headscarf. They say that the turban is a political symbol rather than expression of religious faith. Do you agree or disagree?



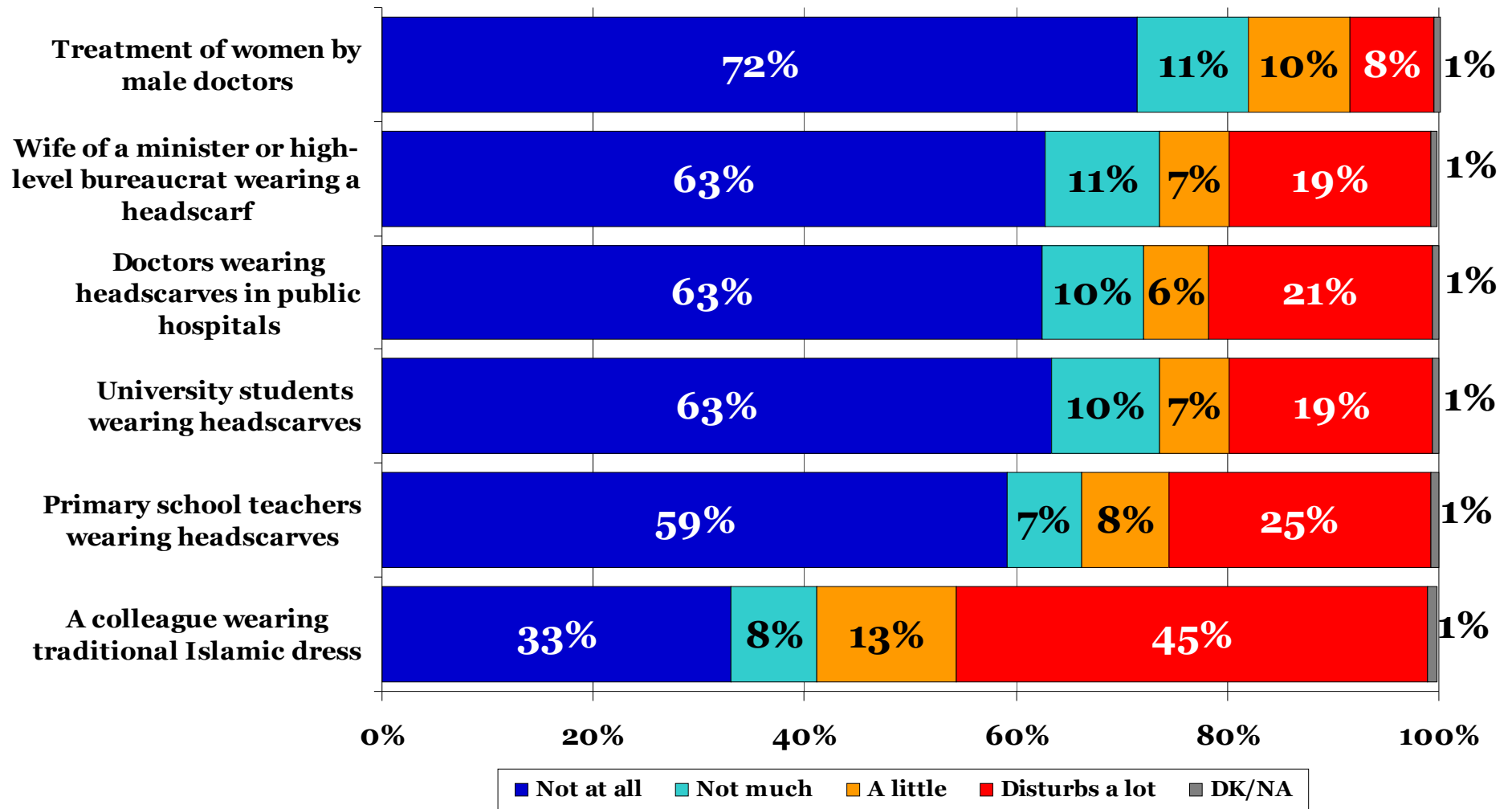


Using a scale from 1 to 10 where one is don't agree at all and 10 is completely agree, how much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? Mean position on scale:



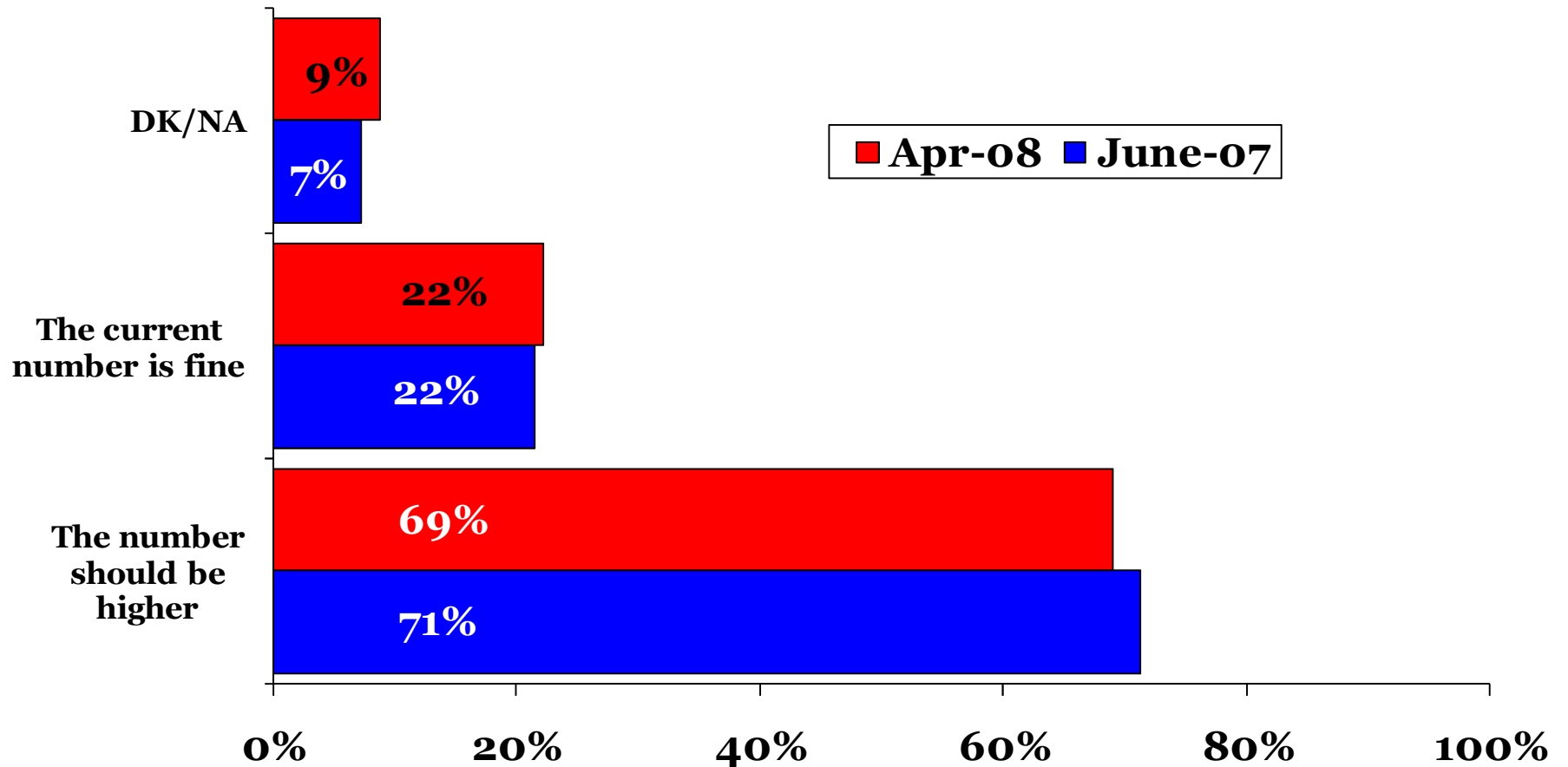


## Please tell me how much each of the following disturbs you





## Which of these statements about female parliamentarians is closest to your own opinion?



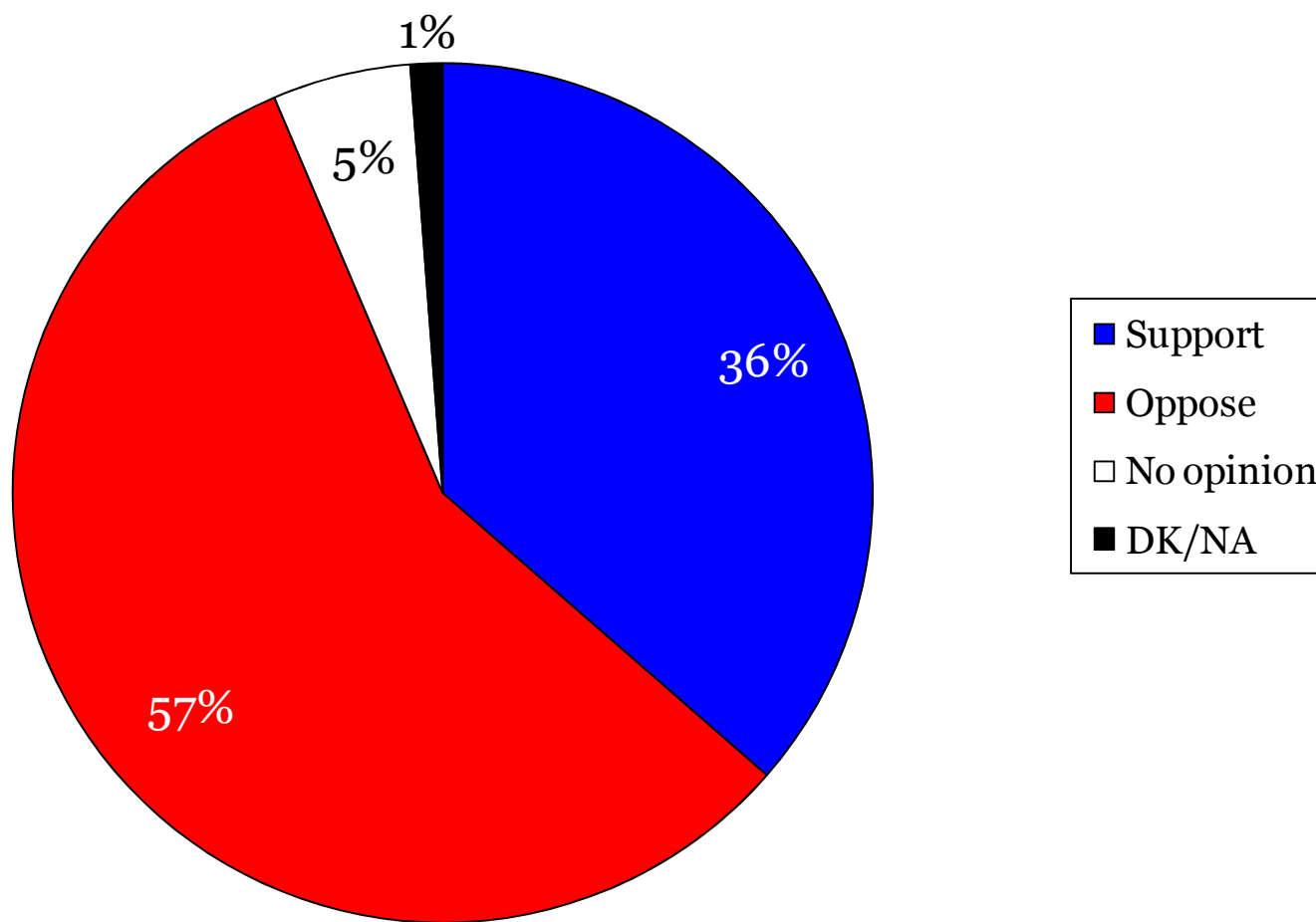




# Recent Events in Turkey

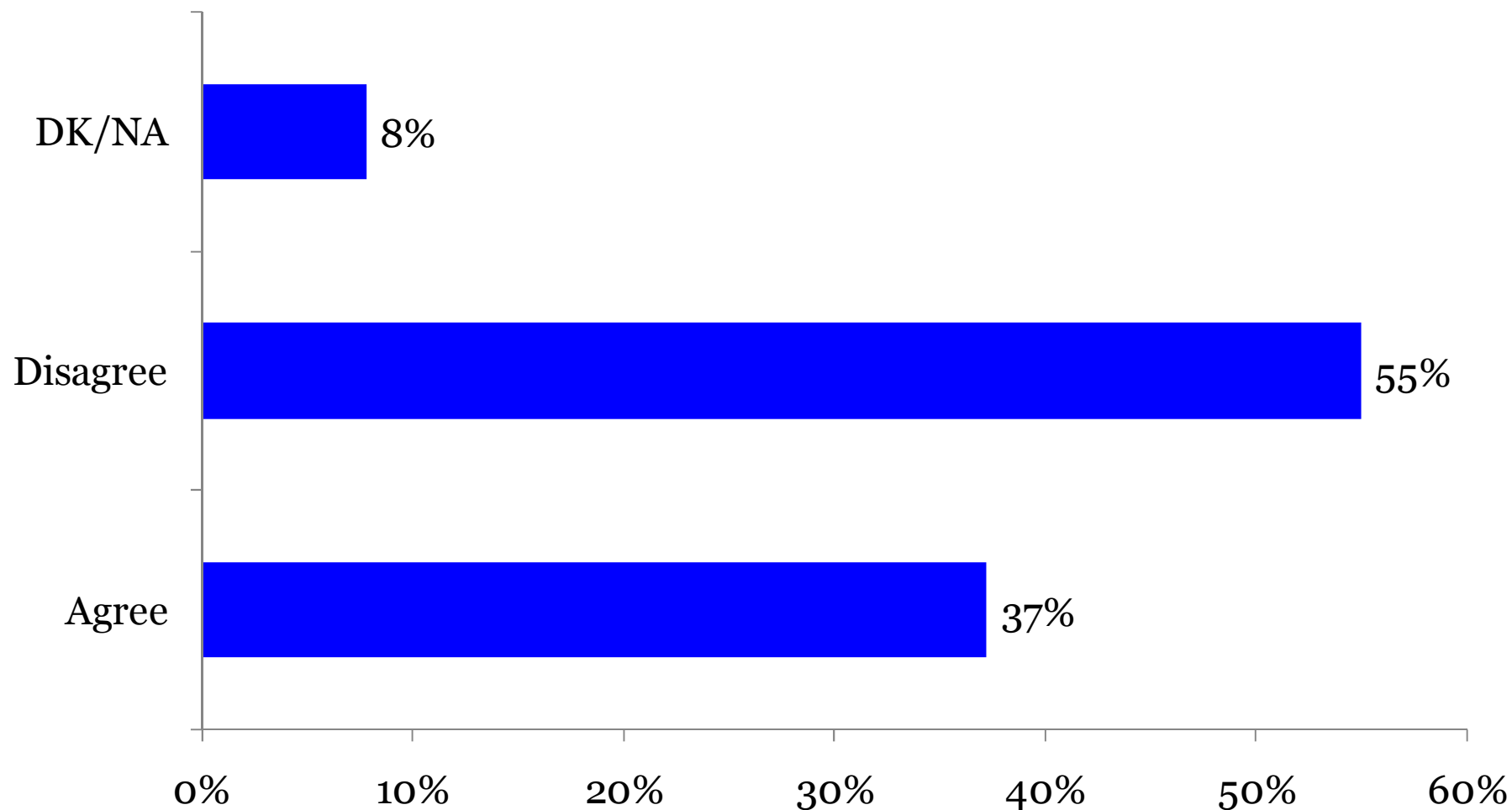


As you may know, the chief prosecutor is seeking to close the AKP because he charges that the party's activities are anti-secular. Do you support this action of the chief prosecutor?



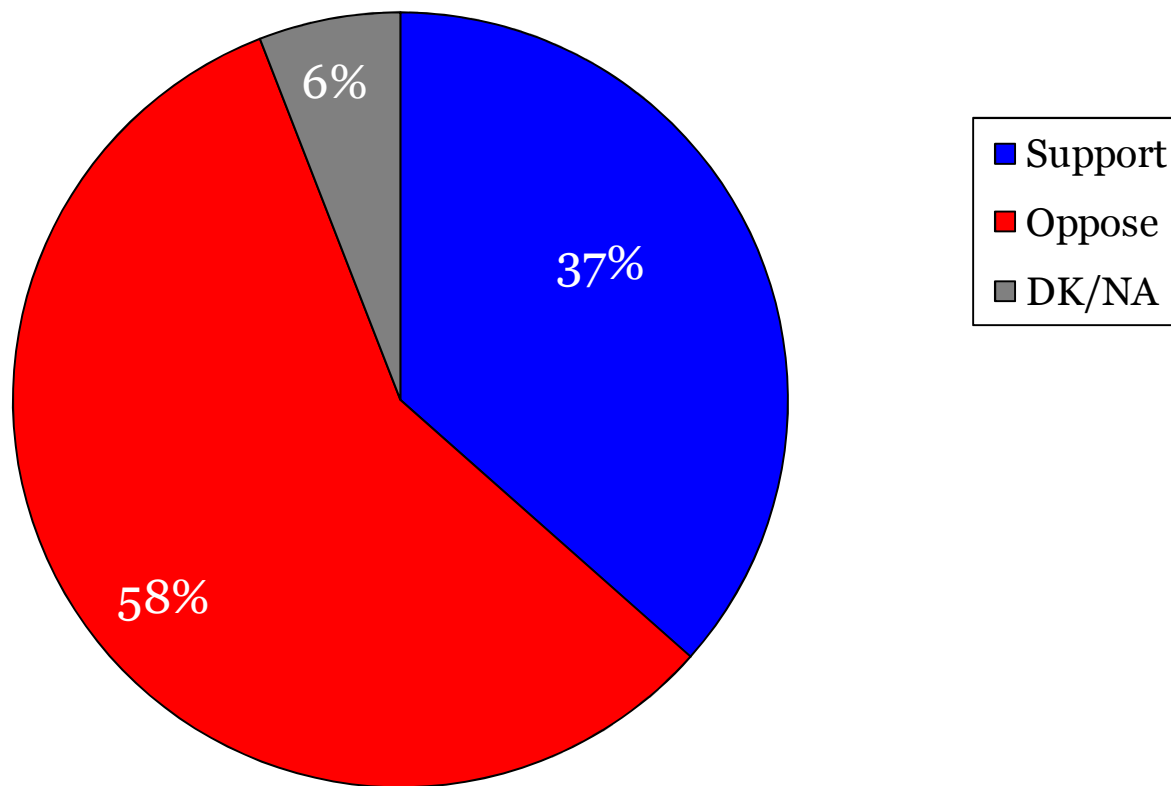


The major cause of this prosecution is given as anti-secular activities of the AKP. Some people believe that the AKP is guilty of conducting anti-secular activities. Do you agree with those people?



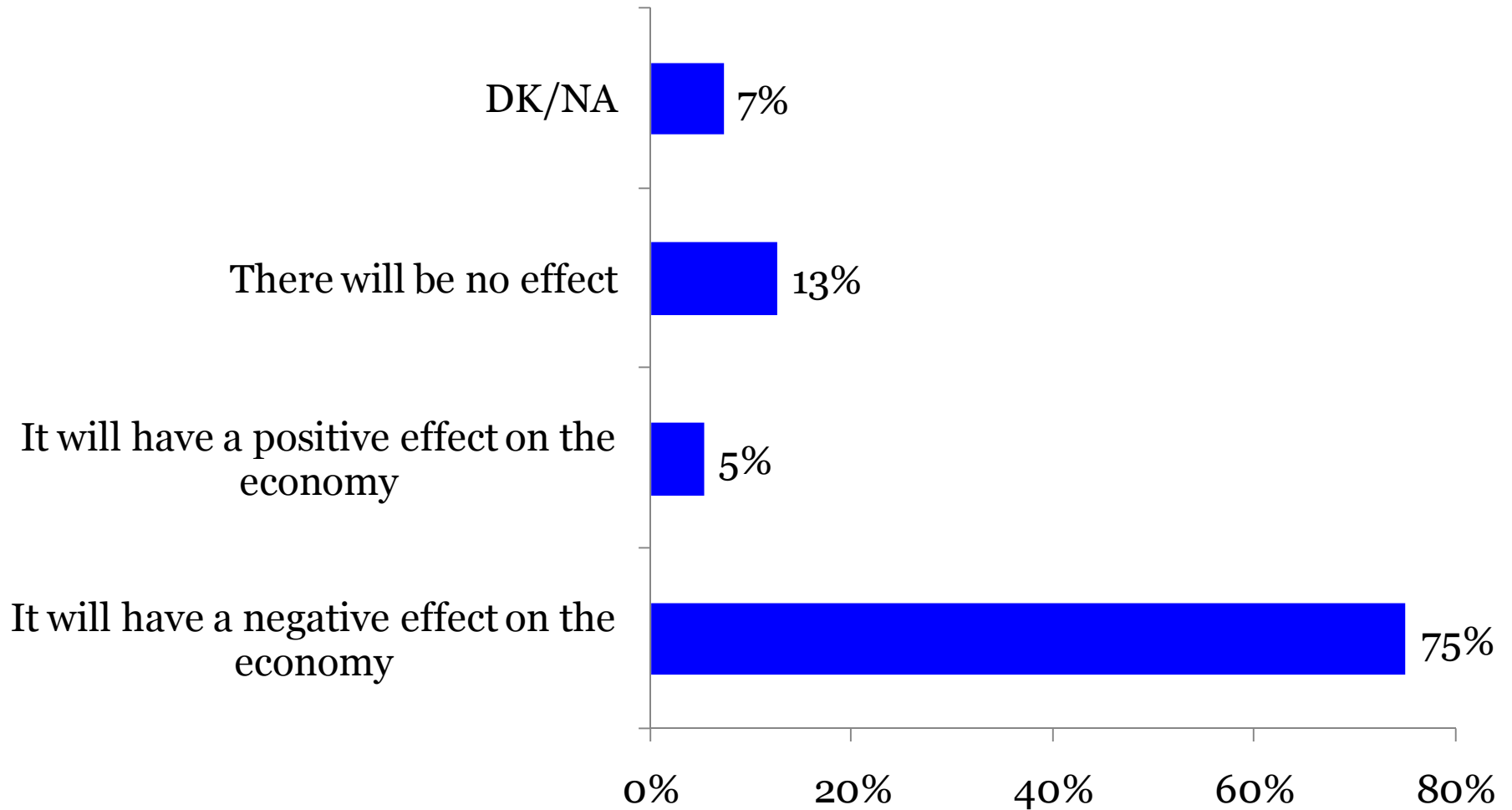


The Constitutional Court may decide to close down the AKP. If the court takes such a decision, will you support it?



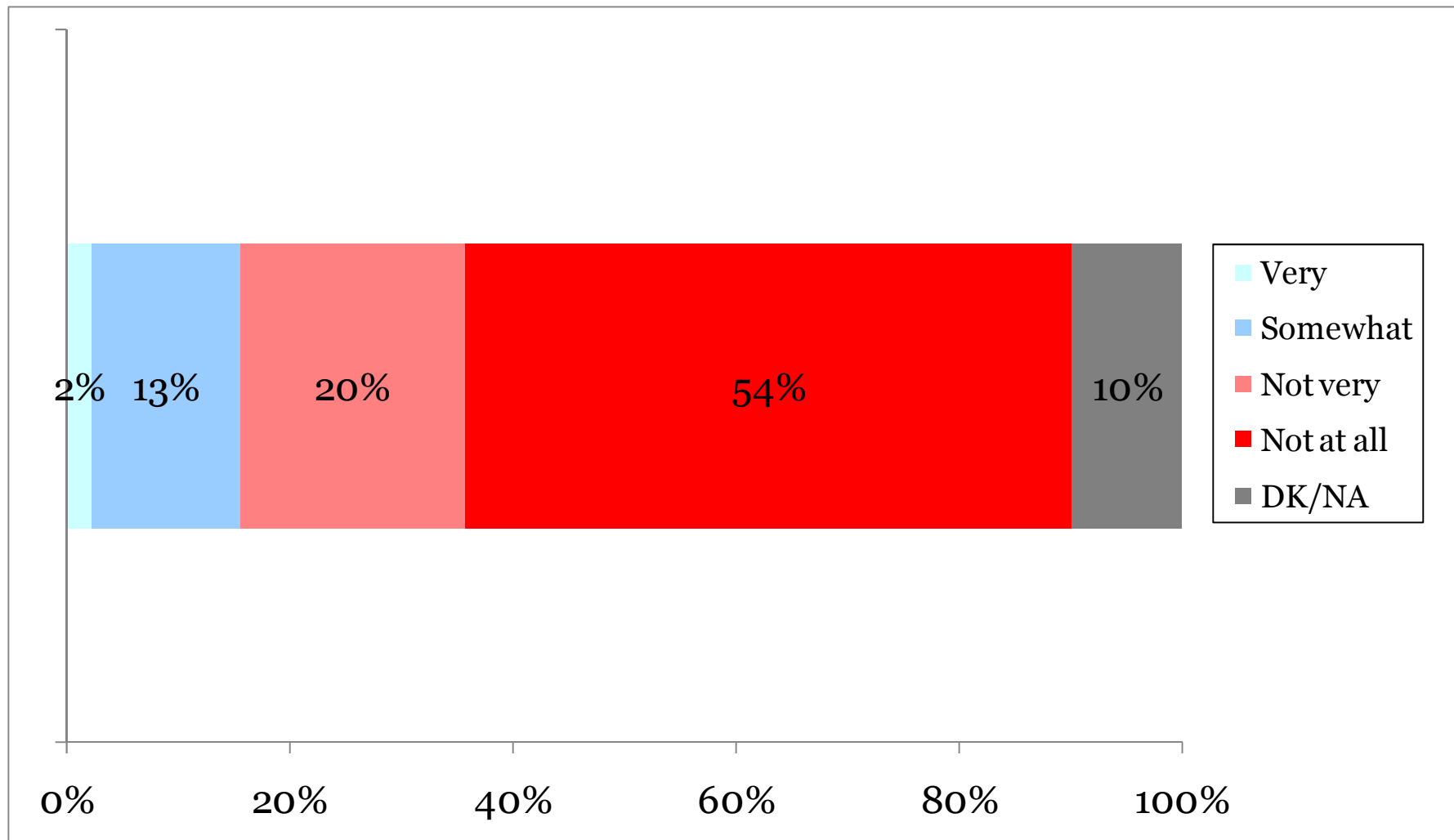


Some people think that if the Constitutional Court decides to close down the AKP, this decision will directly affect the economic situation of the country. In your opinion, will this decision negatively affect the economy, or will it not have any effect?



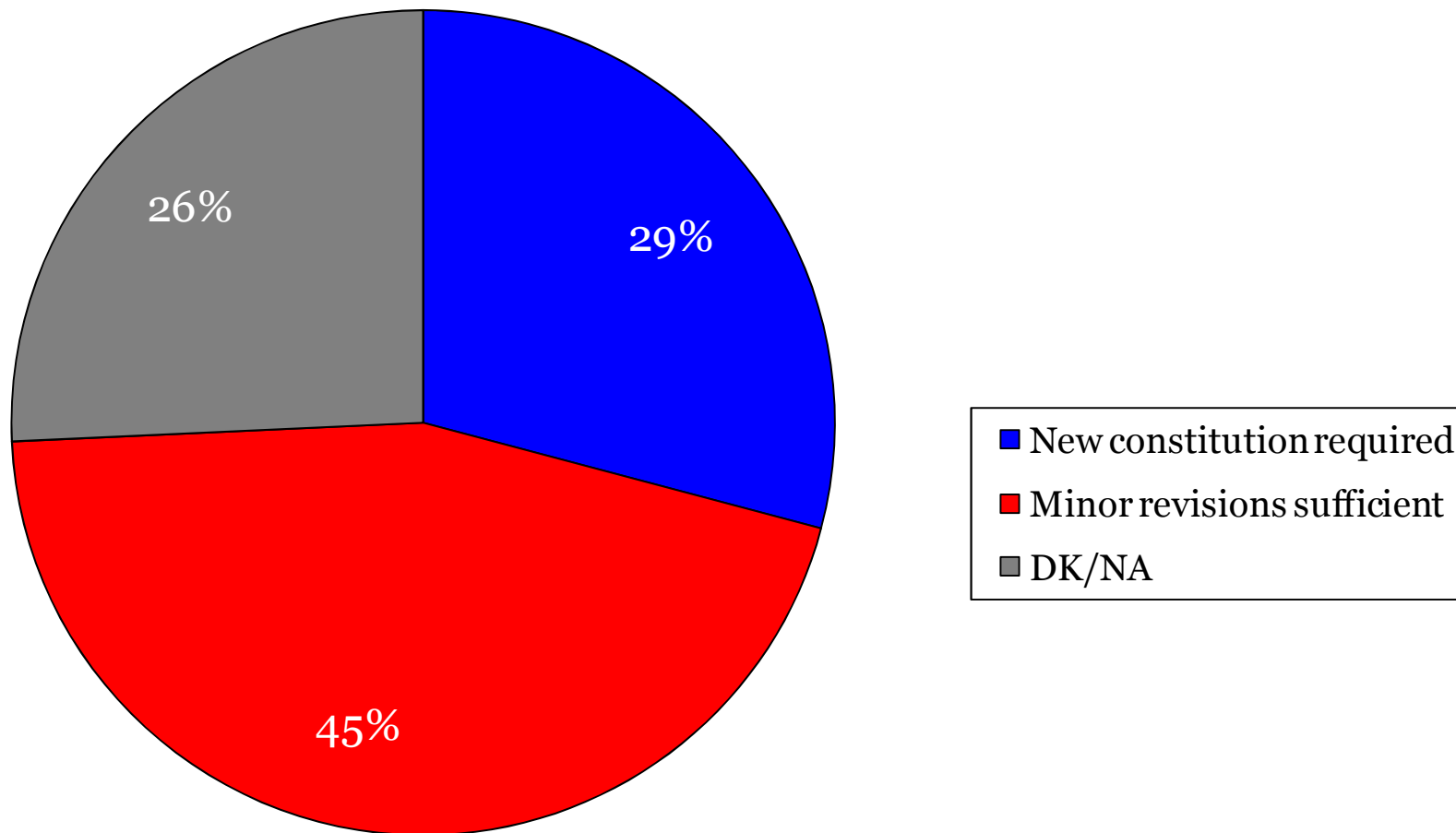


## The AKP is preparing a new proposal for the Constitution. How familiar are you with this proposal?





Many people think that Turkey needs a new constitution to implement reforms. Others think that only minor revisions are required. Which is closest to your opinion?



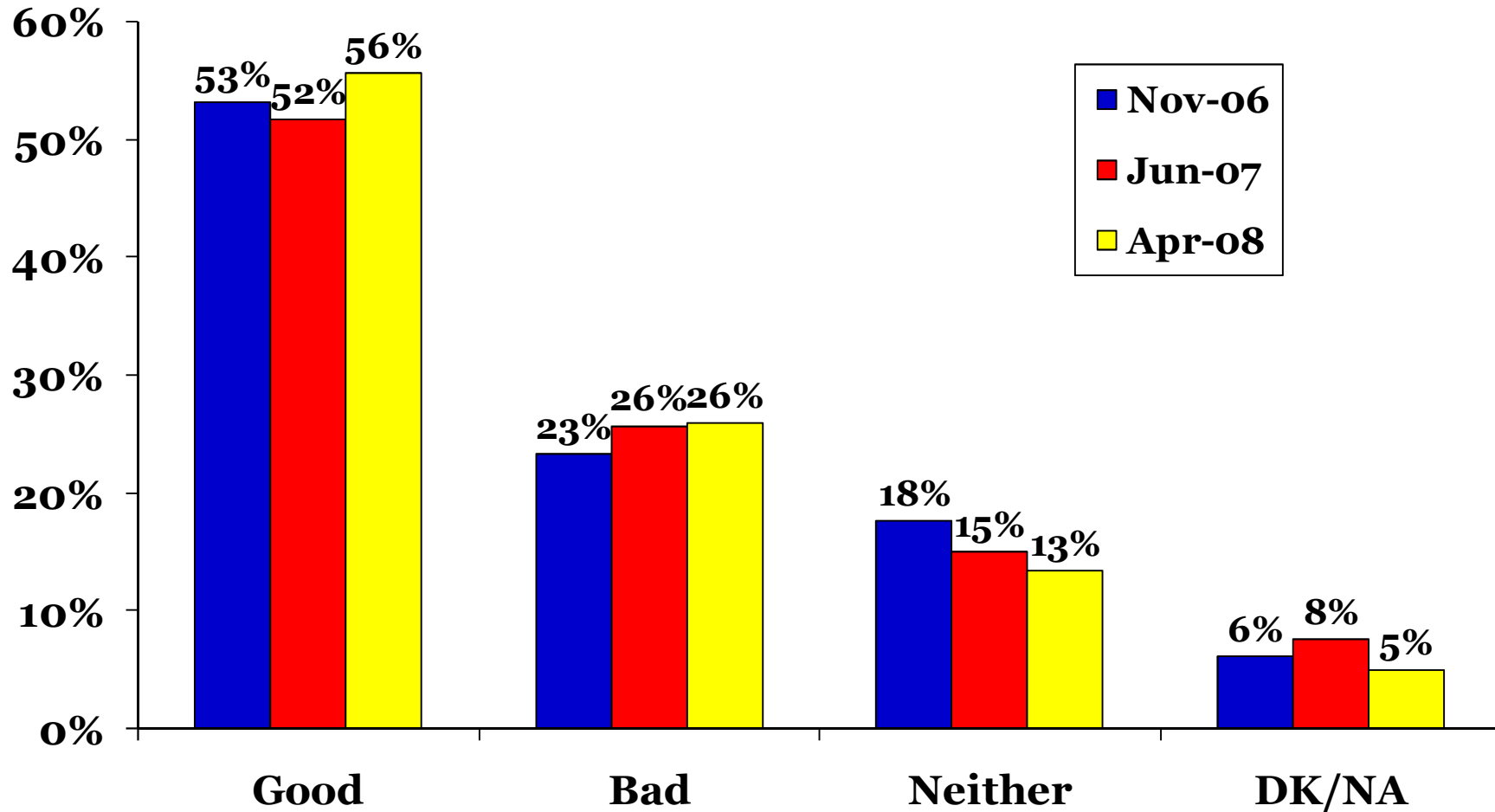


# Foreign Affairs



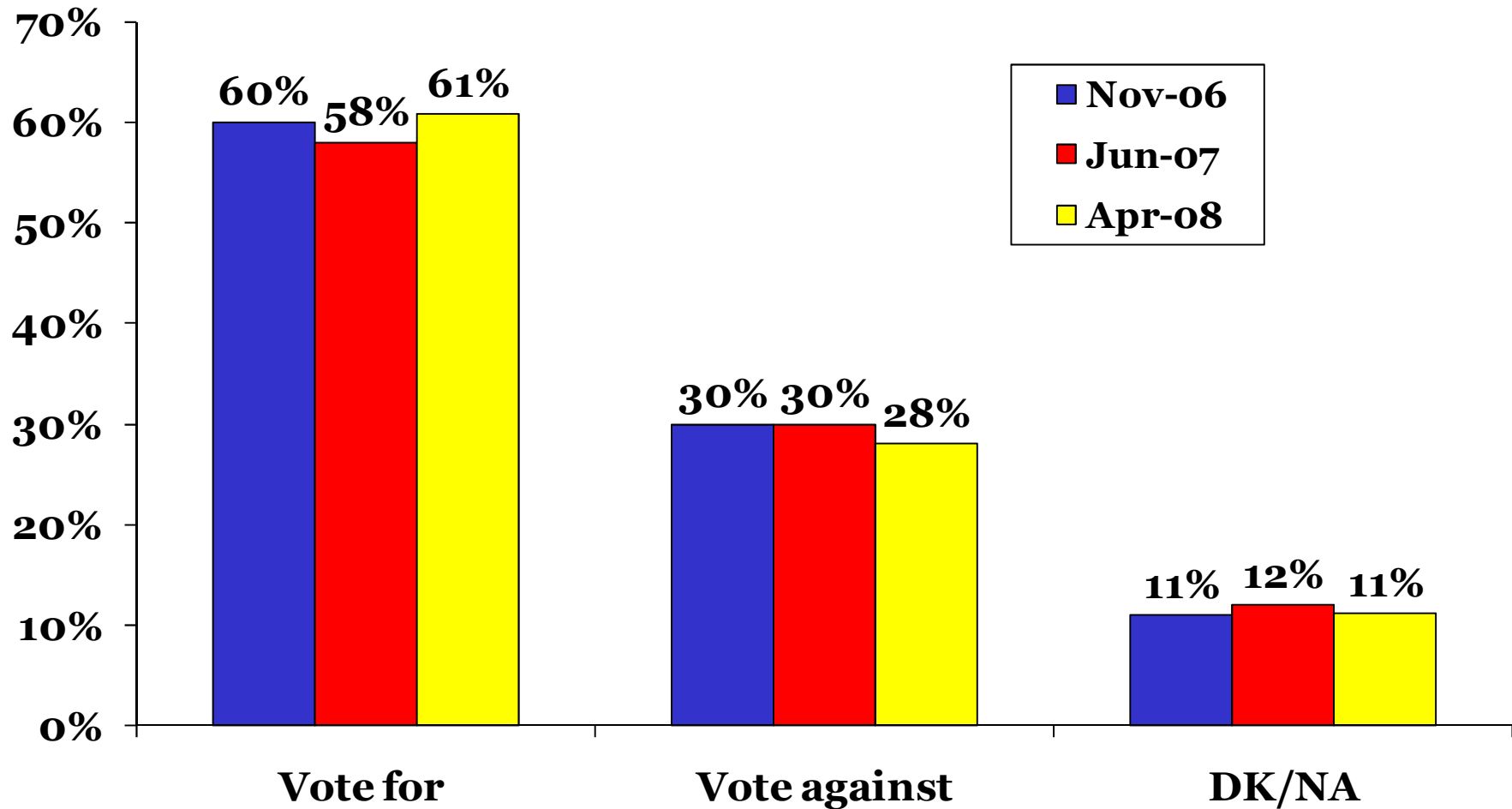


## Generally speaking is Turkey's membership in the European Union a good thing or a bad thing?



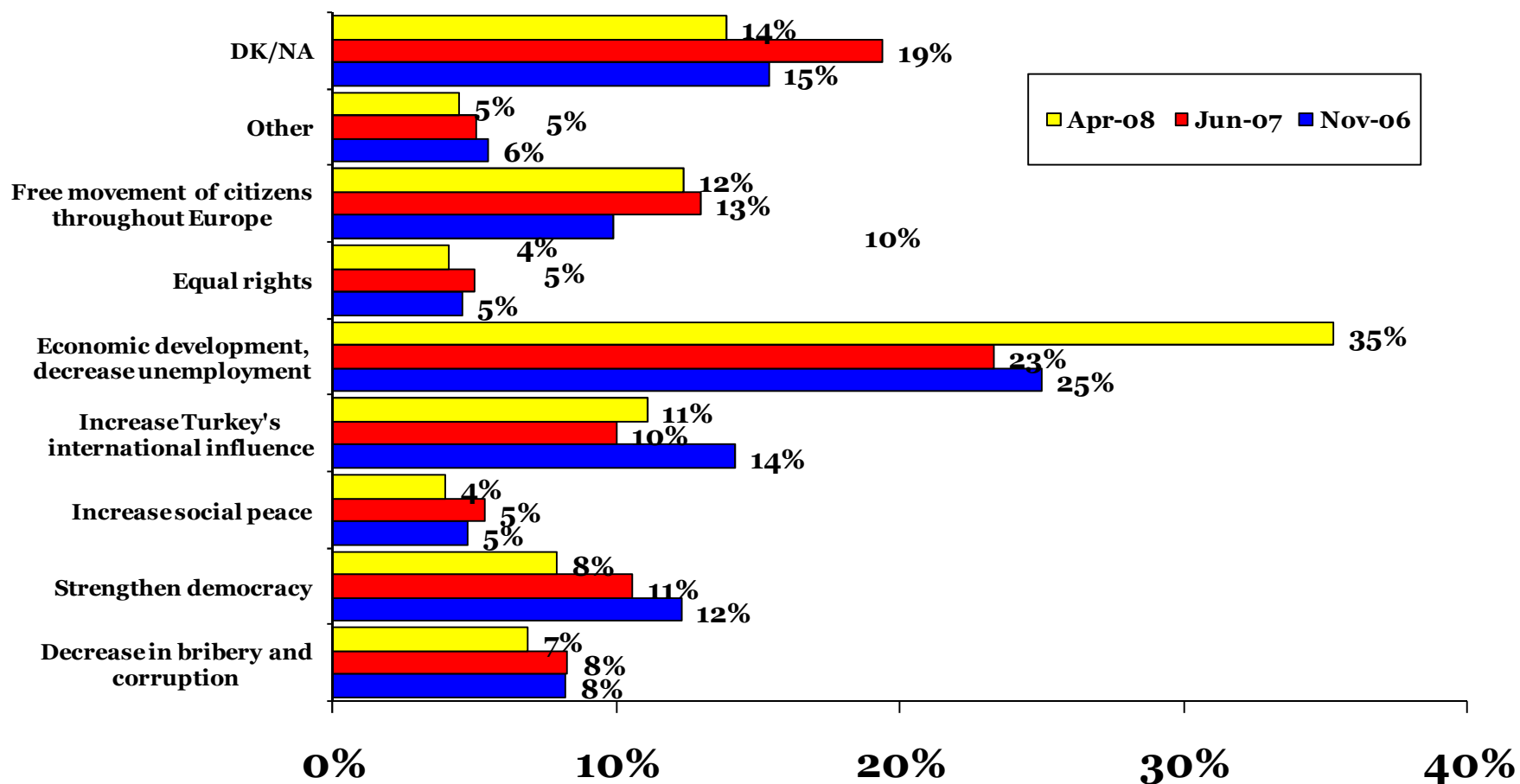


## If a referendum were held on Sunday on European Union membership, would you vote for it or against it?



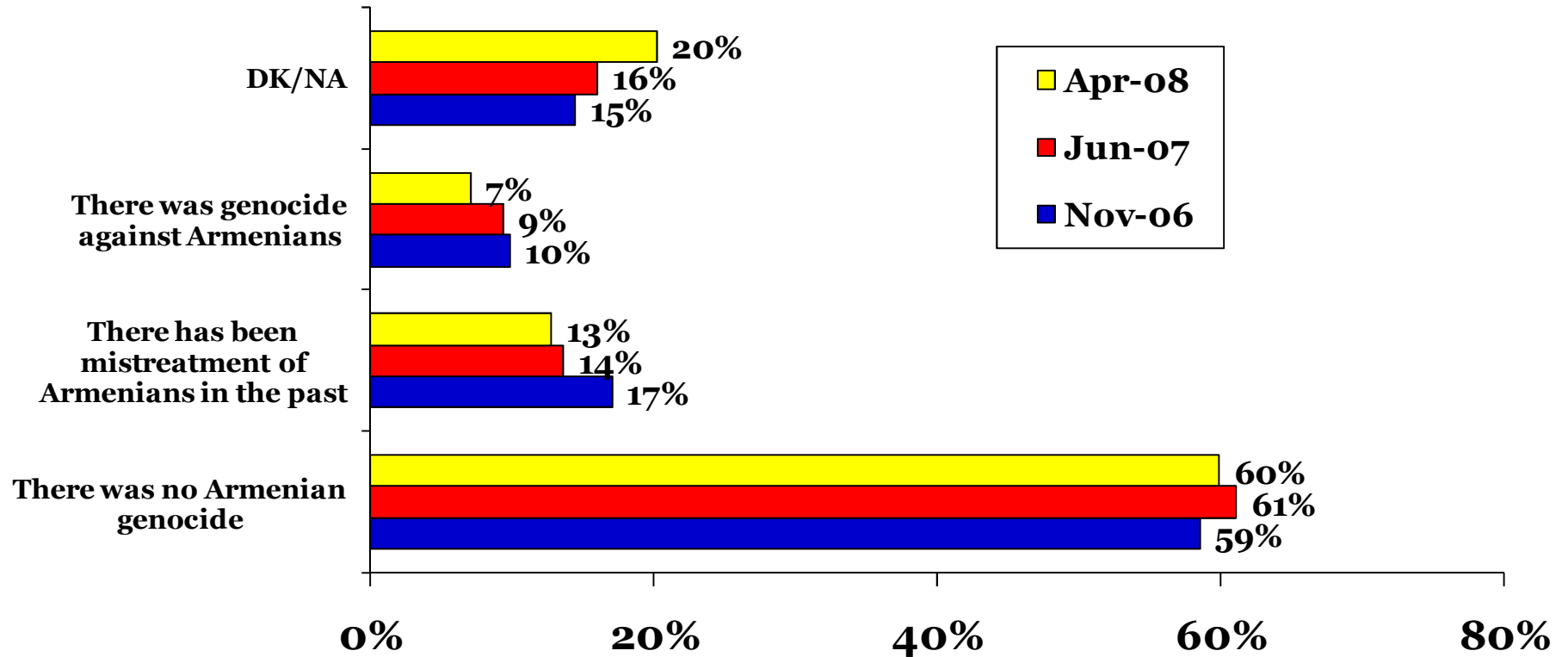


## What are the most important benefits of membership in the European Union?





## Which of the following statements come closest to your own point of view?





## Considering relations with its neighbors, should Turkey increase or decrease its relations with...?

