Bangladesh Survey of Public Opinion

February 4 - 21, 2016
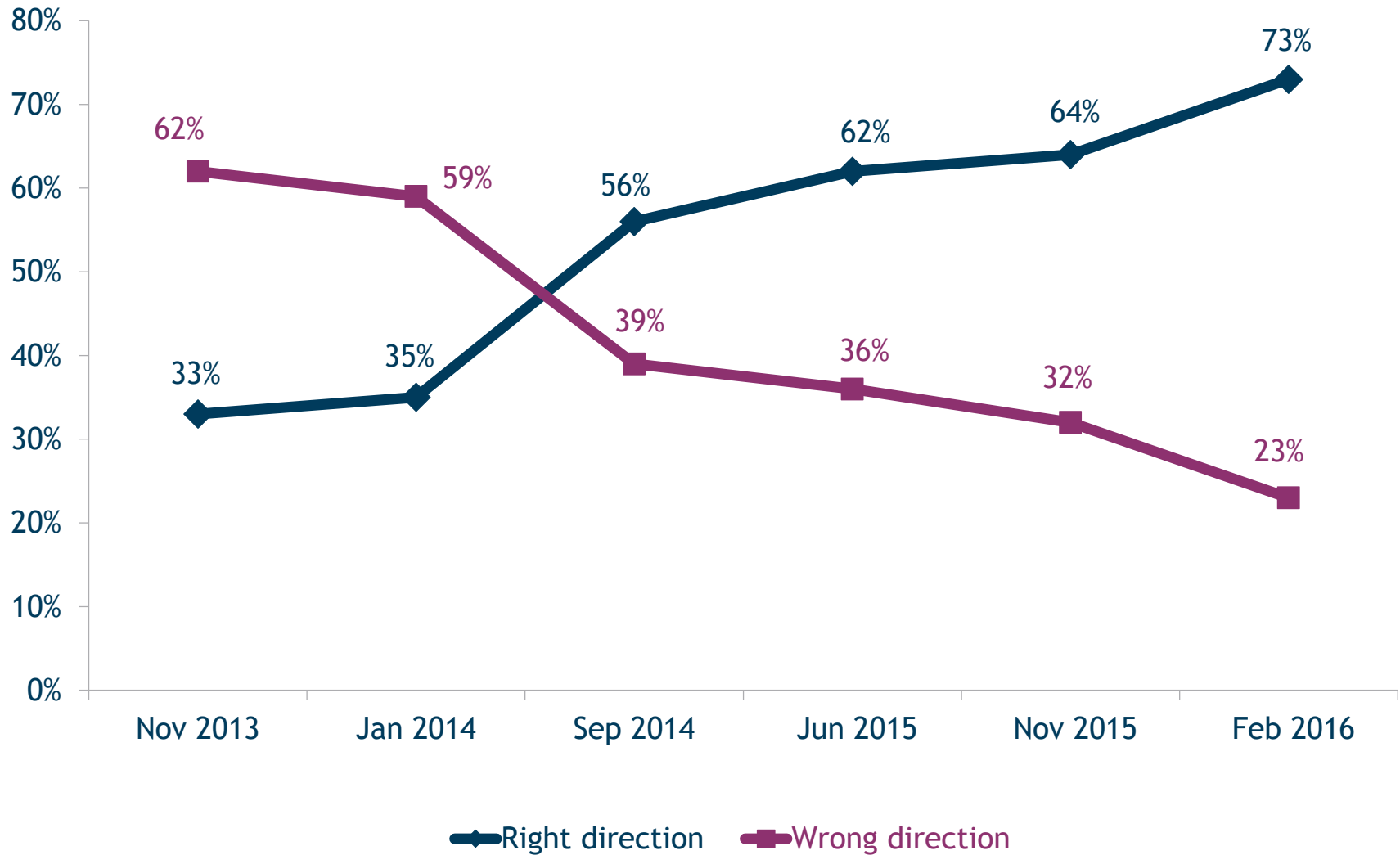
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Detailed Methodology

- The survey was conducted by Nielsen-Bangladesh under the supervision of Mr. Rob Varsalone of Global Strategic Partners and the International Republican Institute between February 4 –21, 2016.

- Data was collected using a multi-stage stratified probability sample and through in-person, in-home interviews. The sample was stratified by the eight administrative divisions, by district and by urban and rural locations.

- The sample consisted of 2,550 respondents (response rate: 43 percent) aged 18 and older, and was representative of voting-age adults nationally.

- The sample was distributed into 255 primary sampling units (PSU) from all 64 districts of all eight divisions. PSUs were defined as *mouza* in rural areas and as *mahalla* in urban areas.

- The probability-proportional-to-size method was used to select localities. After identifying a centrally located starting point, the Date Method was used to select the first house and then Systematic Random Sampling was used to select the appropriate household. Within each household, the Kish Grid was then used to select respondents 18 years and older.

- Interview teams were comprised of both males and females.

- The margin of error does not exceed plus or minus two percent at the mid-range with a confidence level of 95 percent.

- The information in this report has been compiled in accordance with international standards for market and social research methodologies. Figures in charts and tables may not sum to 100 percent due to rounding.

Indicators

Do you believe things in Bangladesh are heading in the right direction, or are they heading in the wrong direction?

Right direction — Nov 2013: 33%, Jan 2014: 35%, Sep 2014: 56%, Jun 2015: 62%, Nov 2015: 64%, Feb 2016: 73%

Wrong direction — Nov 2013: 62%, Jan 2014: 59%, Sep 2014: 39%, Jun 2015: 36%, Nov 2015: 32%, Feb 2016: 23%

Why do you say right direction?
(Those responding right direction, n=1,866, open-ended)

Category	Percentage
Education improvement	71%
Development in transportation system	17%
Better economy	5%
More electricity production	2%
Overall development	2%
Declining terrorism	1%
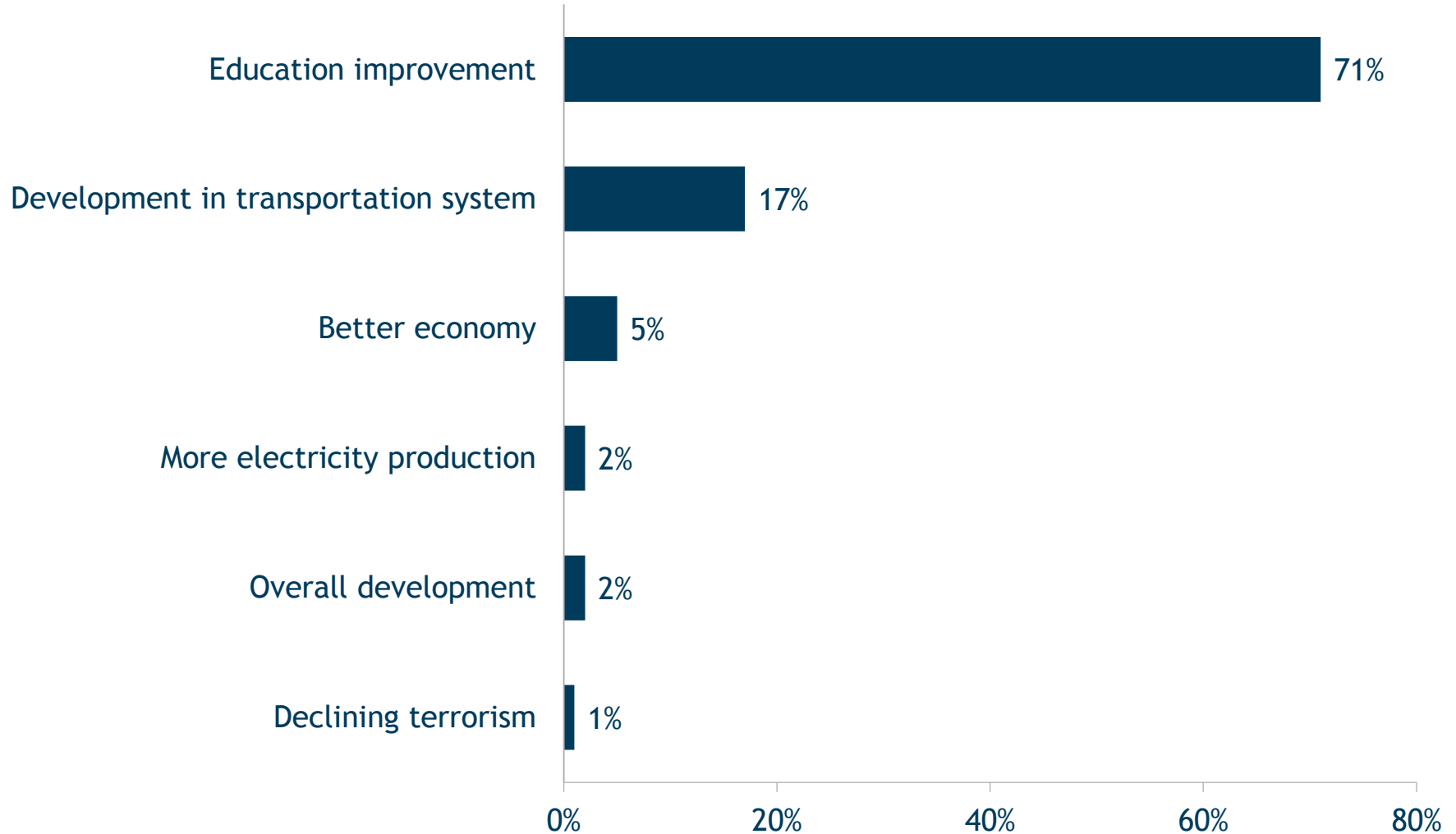
Over the past year, do you believe that the education system has gotten better or worse?

Legend:
- Much better — 55%
- Somewhat better — 37%
- Somewhat worse — 5%
- Much worse — 2%
- Don't know/Refused to answer — 2%
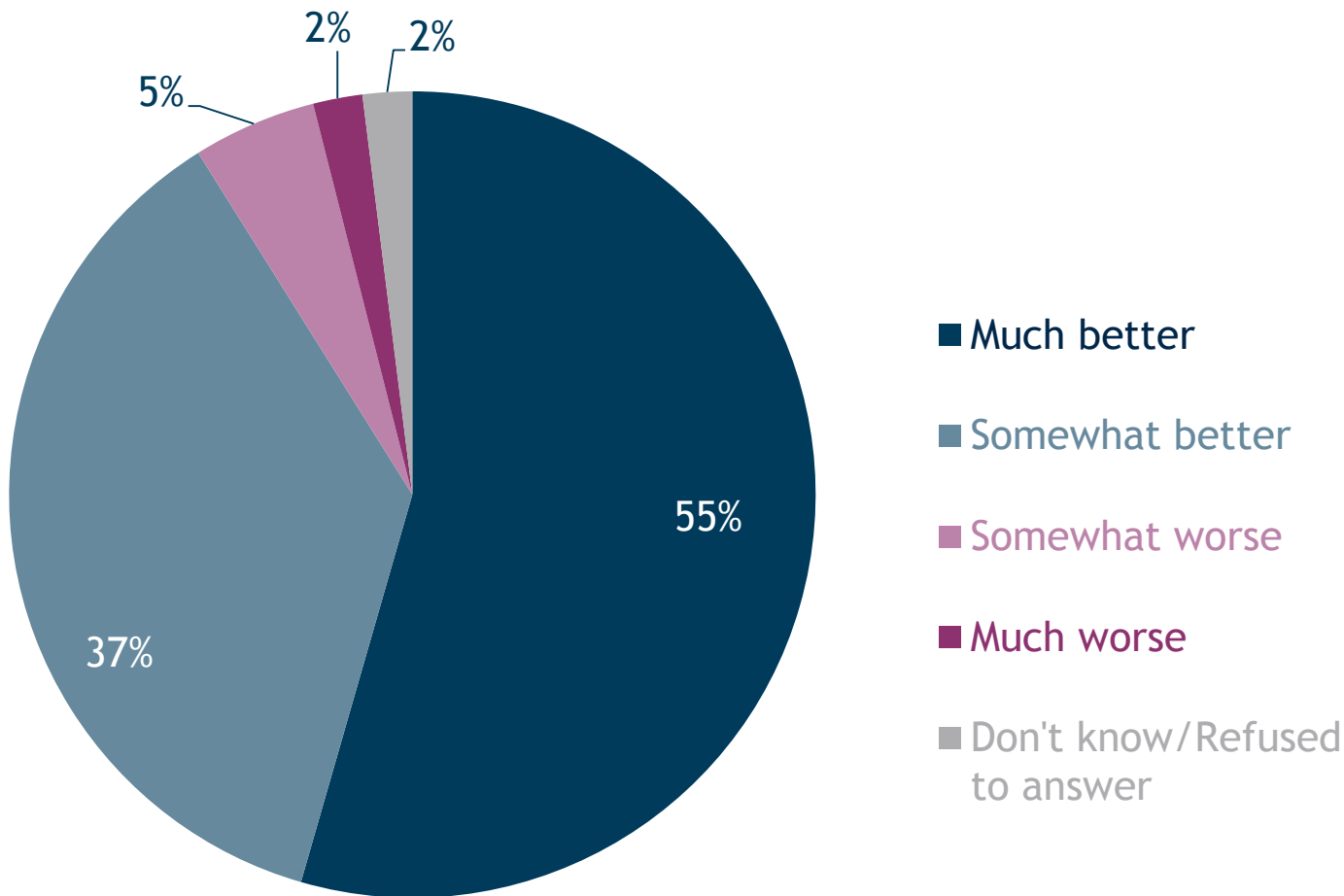
Why do you think the education system is better?
(Those responding better, n=2,333, open-ended)

Category	Percentage
There are more schools	15%
Literacy has increased	15%
Students receive govt. stipends	13%
Public exam pass rate has increased	9%
Education system is good	6%
Govt. provides education for everyone	4%
Standards have increased	1%
Kids attend school regularly	1%
Cheating has declined	1%
Girls education is free	1%
Other	5%
Don't know/Refused	7%
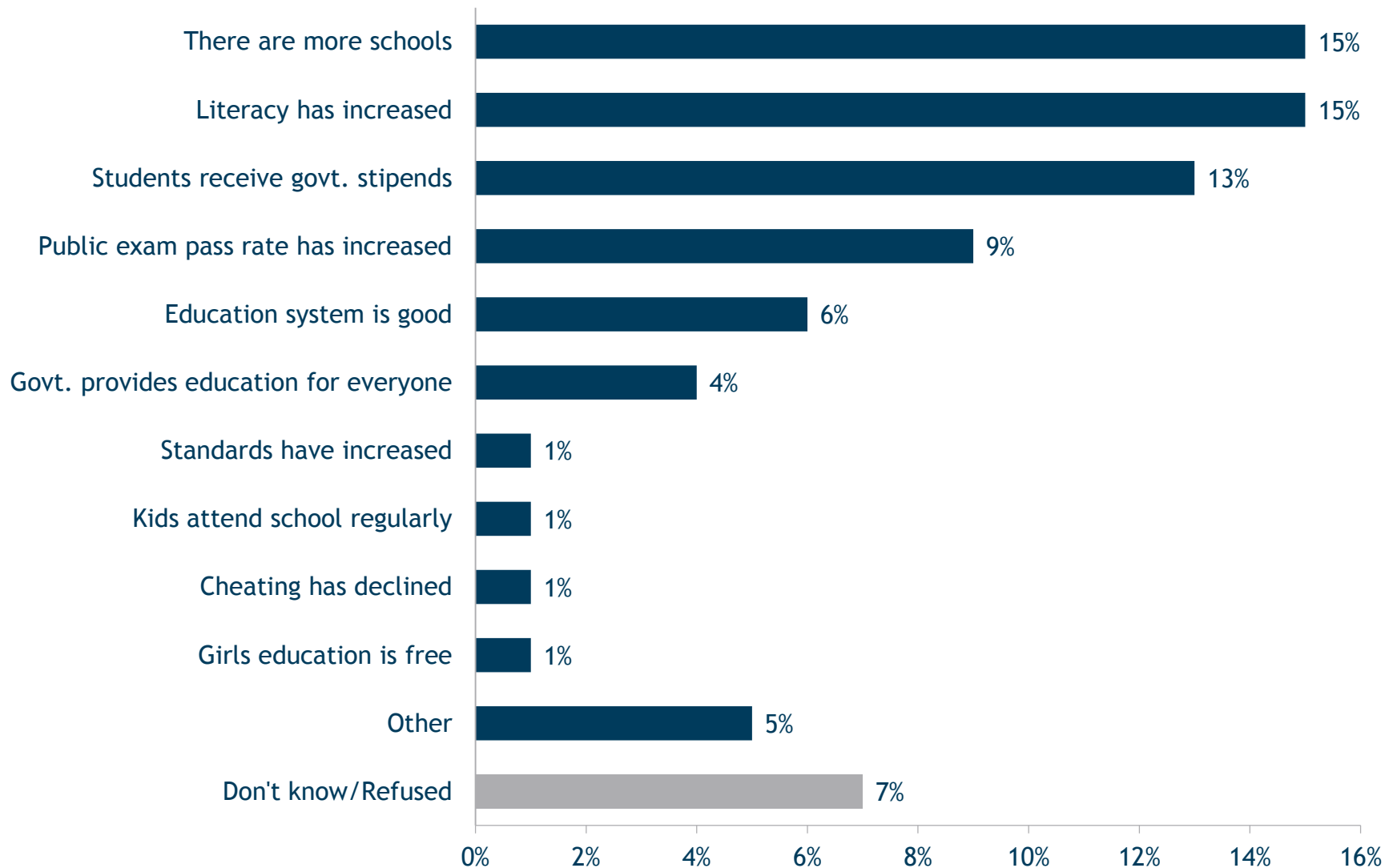
Why do you say wrong direction?
(Those responding wrong direction, n=591, open-ended)

Category	Percentage
Political instability	39%
Price hikes	7%
Economic decline	2%
Poor transportation system	1%
Corruption increased	1%
Hartals*	1%
One-sided government	1%
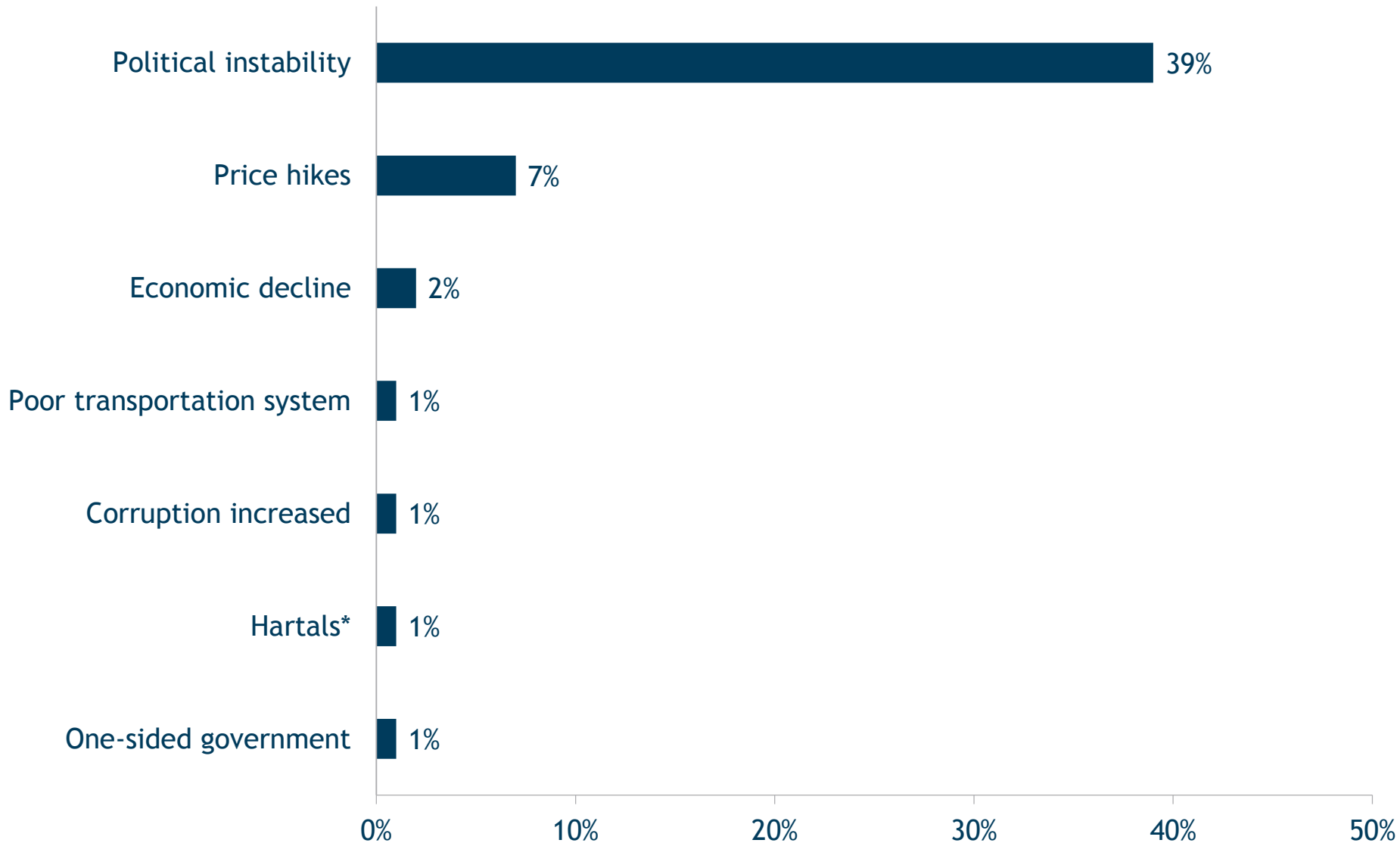
Hartals refer to mass protests that cause sectors of the economy to close down.

Overall, how would you rate the current security conditions in Bangladesh?

	Very good	Somewhat good	Somewhat bad	Very bad	Don't know/Refused
Feb 2016	32%	51%	9%	6%	3%
Nov 2015	29%	51%	11%	9%	1%
Jun 2015	29%	39%	14%	16%	2%
Sep 2014	26%	41%	17%	16%	1%
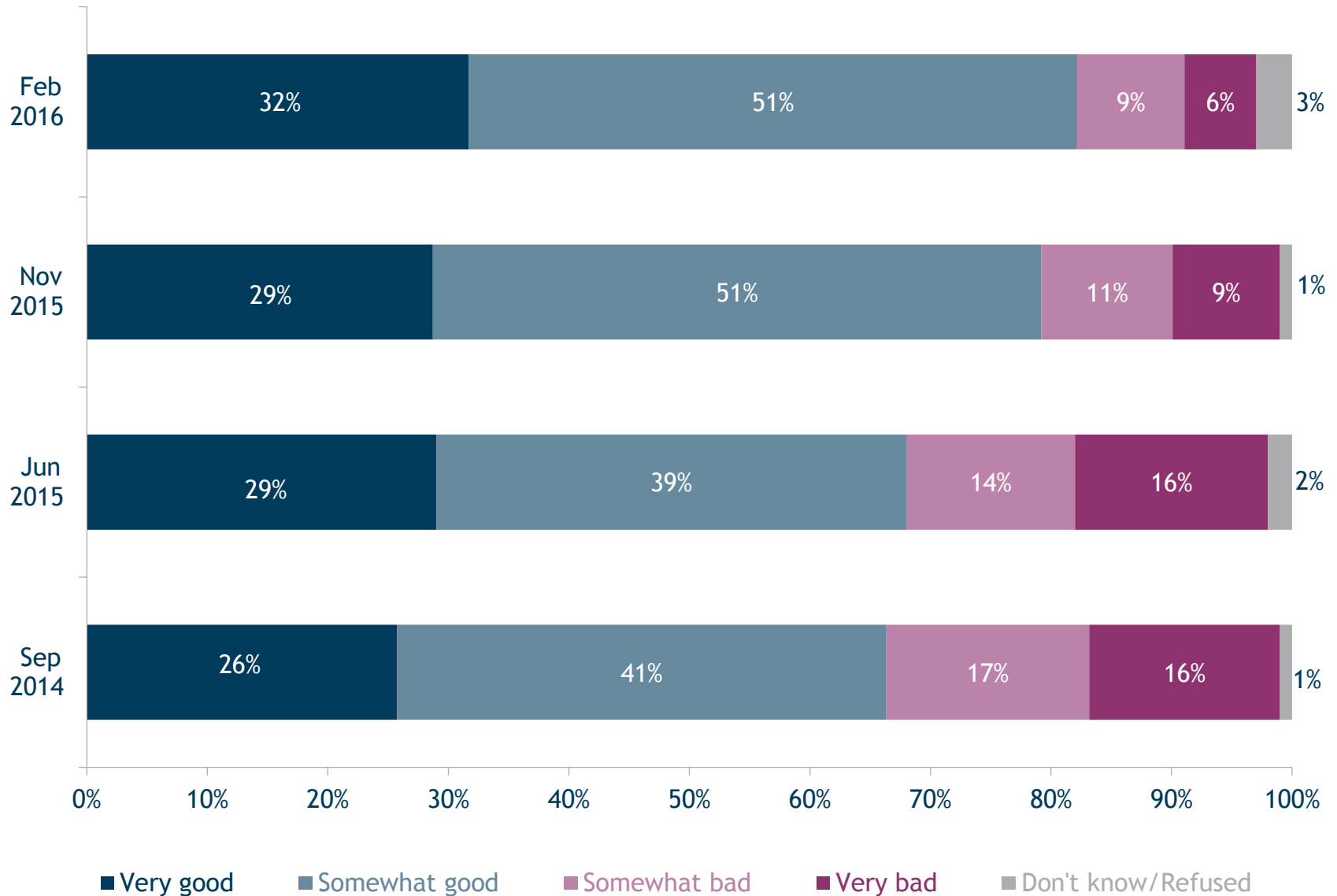
Overall, how would you rate the current political stability in Bangladesh?

	Very stable	Somewhat stable	Somewhat unstable	Very unstable	Don't know/Refused
Feb 2016	19%	58%	9%	7%	8%
Nov 2015	21%	49%	9%	13%	8%
Jun 2015	22%	42%	11%	18%	7%
Sep 2014	19%	40%	22%	16%	3%

■ Very stable ■ Somewhat stable ■ Somewhat unstable ■ Very unstable ■ Don't know/Refused
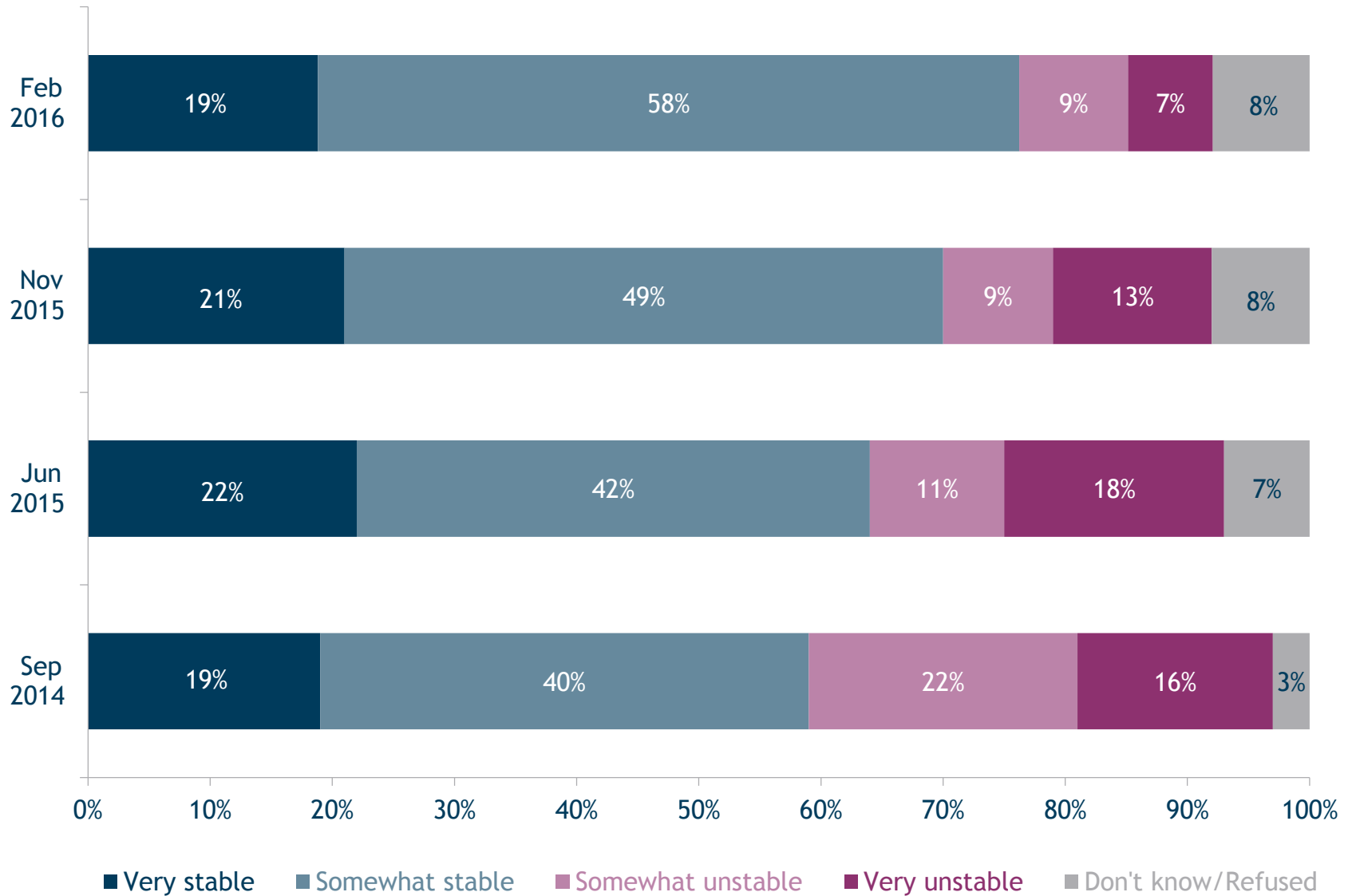
Why do you think the situation is unstable?
(Those responding unstable, n=402, open-ended)

Category	Percent
Quarreling	25%
Political party disputes	13%
Bad security	12%
One-party politics	10%
Corruption/Abuse of power	10%
Lack of democracy	6%
Hartals	5%
Economy	2%
Don't Know/Refused	16%

Multiple responses were allowed.
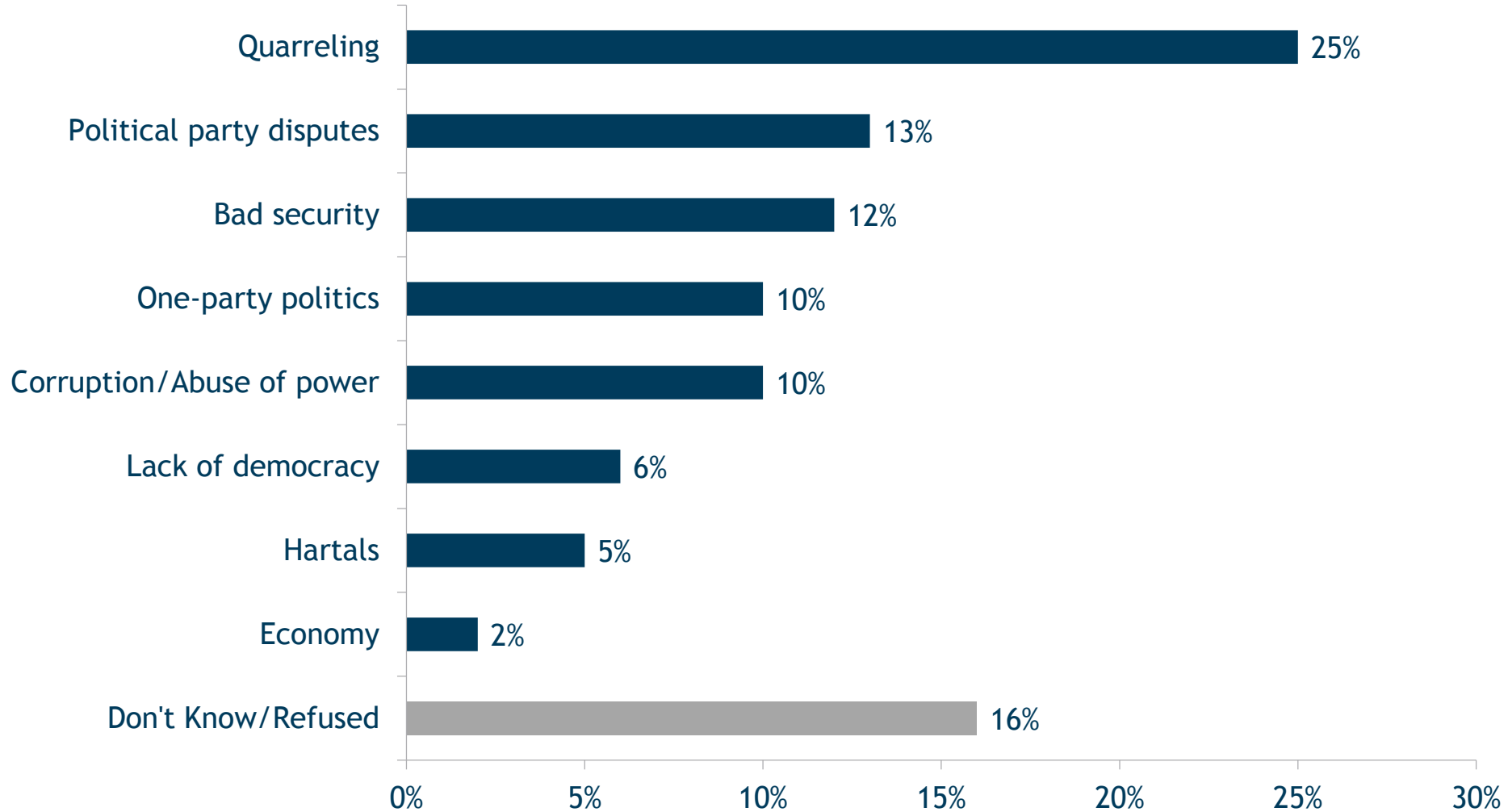
Thinking some more about the political stability of Bangladesh, in the year ahead do you think that it will improve, worsen or stay the same?

	Improve	Same	Worsen	Don't know/Refused
Feb 2016	65%	7%	16%	13%
Nov 2015	50%	17%	13%	20%
Jun 2015	48%	15%	20%	17%

■ Improve ■ Same ■ Worsen ■ Don't know/Refused
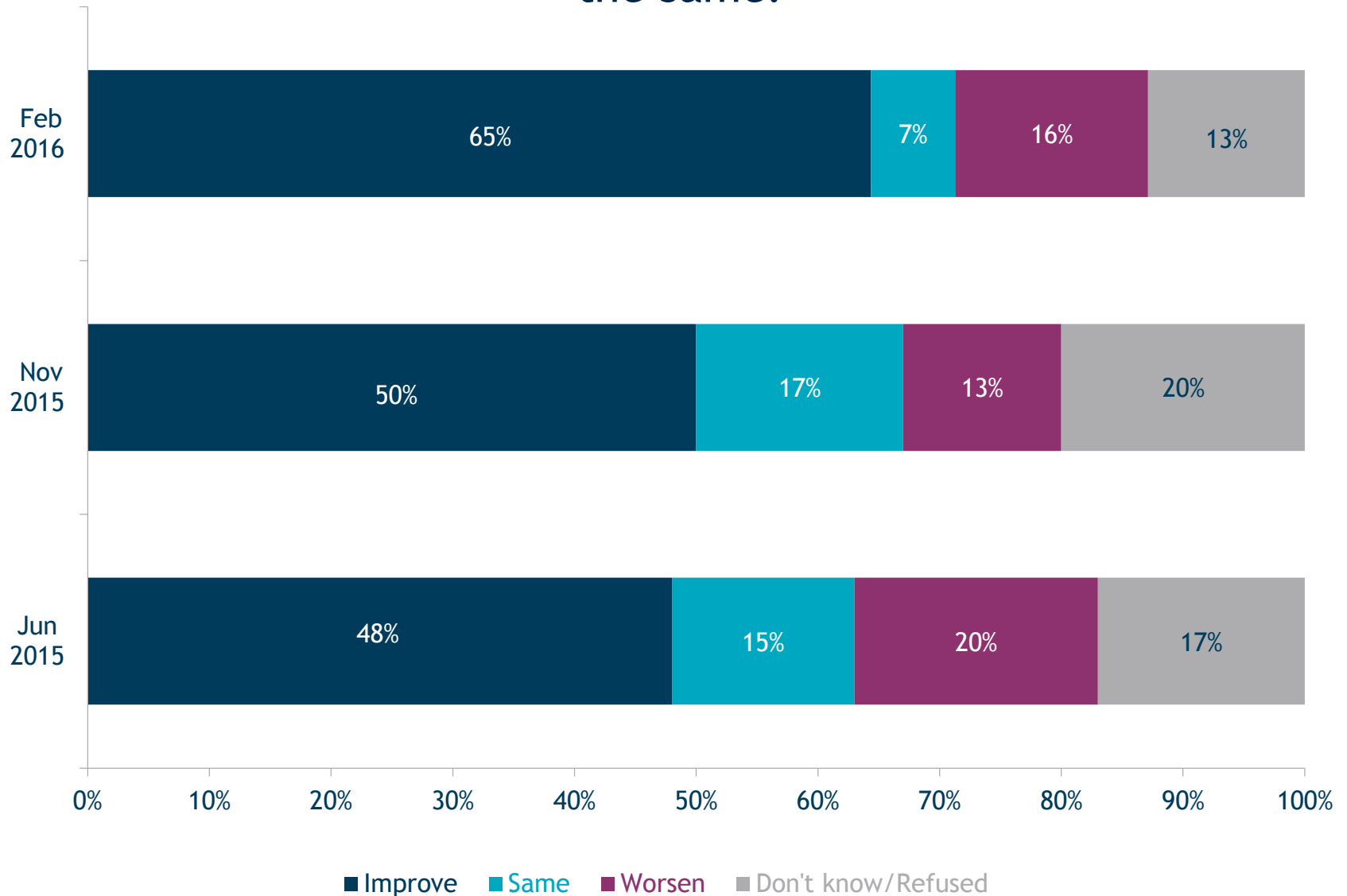
Overall, how would you rate the current economic conditions in Bangladesh?

	Very good	Somewhat good	Somewhat bad	Very bad	Don't know/Refused
Feb 2016	35%	48%	10%	5%	2%
Nov 2015	30%	49%	12%	7%	2%
Jun 2015	28%	44%	14%	12%	2%
Sep 2014	22%	47%	19%	11%	1%

■ Very good　■ Somewhat good　■ Somewhat bad　■ Very bad　■ Don't know/Refused
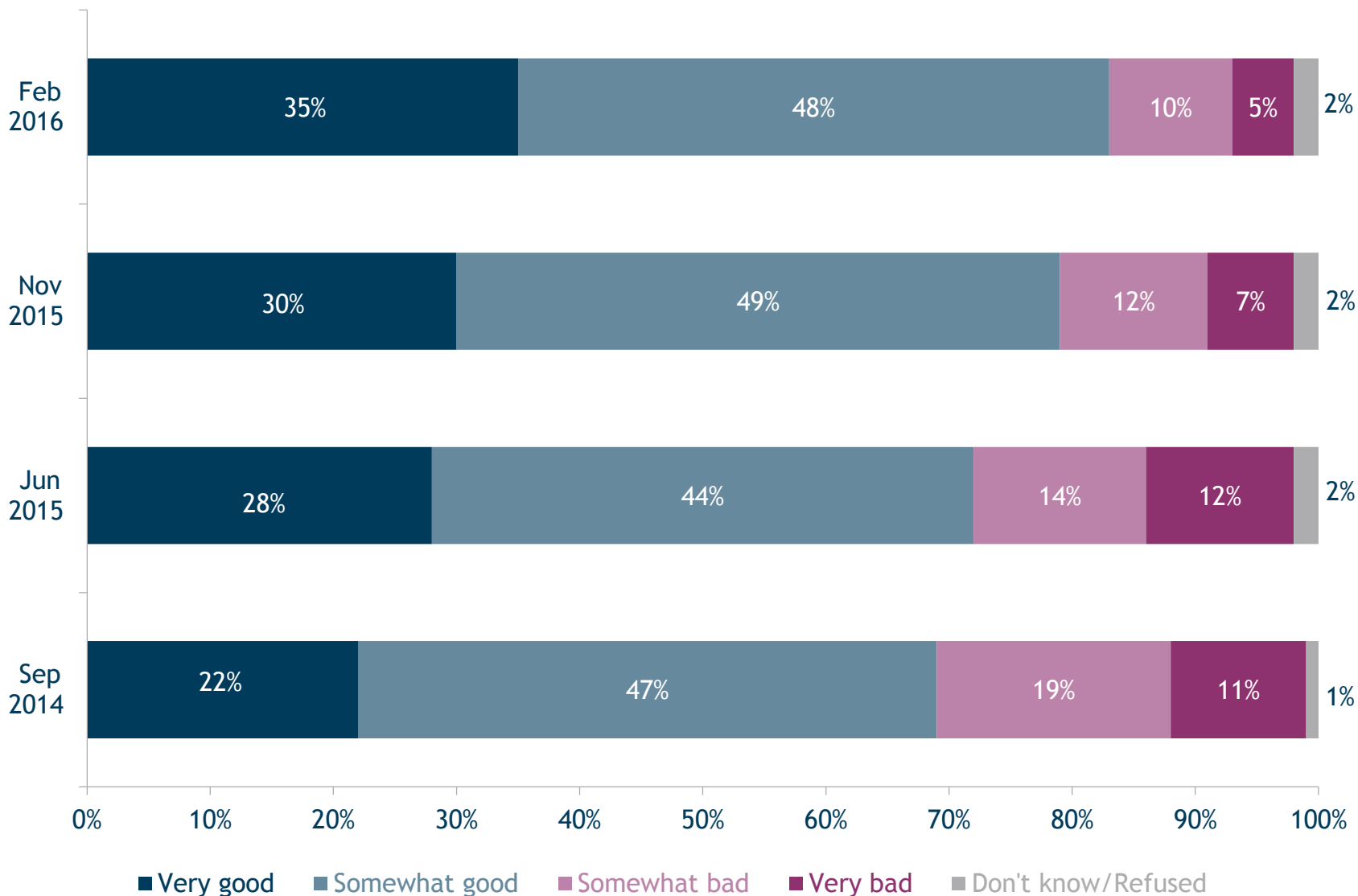
Thinking about the personal economic situation of you and your family, in the past year has it improved, worsened or stayed the same?

	Improved	Same	Worsened	Don't know/Refused
Feb 2016	69%	14%	16%	1%
Nov 2015	65%	18%	17%	
Jun 2015	61%	19%	19%	1%
Sep 2014	49%	21%	29%	1%
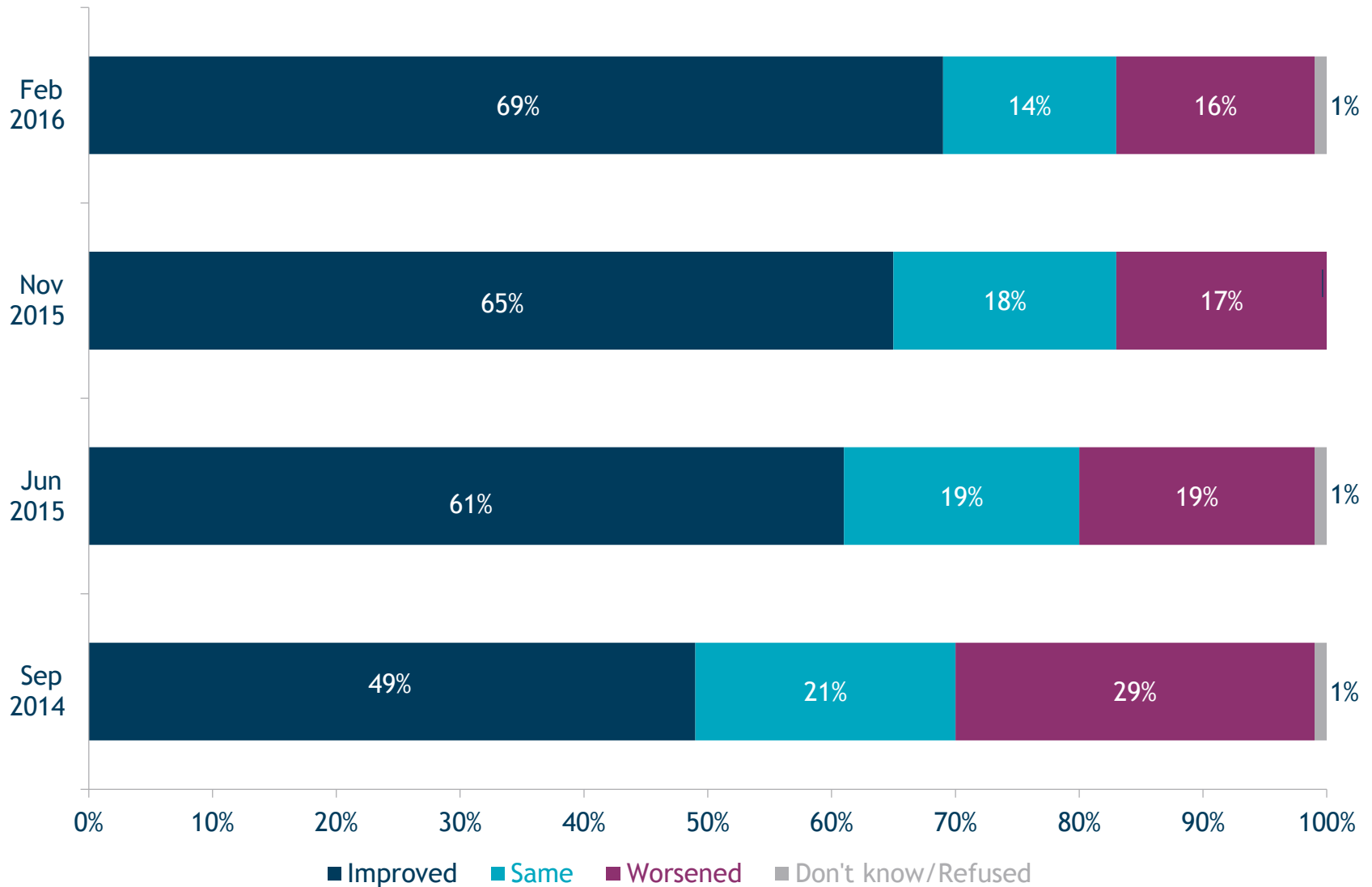
Thinking some more about the personal economic situation of you and your family, in the coming year do you think it will improve, worsen or stay the same?

Date	Improve	Same	Worsen	Don't know/Refused
Feb 2016	72%	7%	10%	12%
Nov 2015	72%	10%	5%	12%
Jun 2015	63%	13%	10%	14%
Sep 2014	60%	16%	14%	10%

■ Improve   ■ Same   ■ Worsen   ■ Don't know/Refused
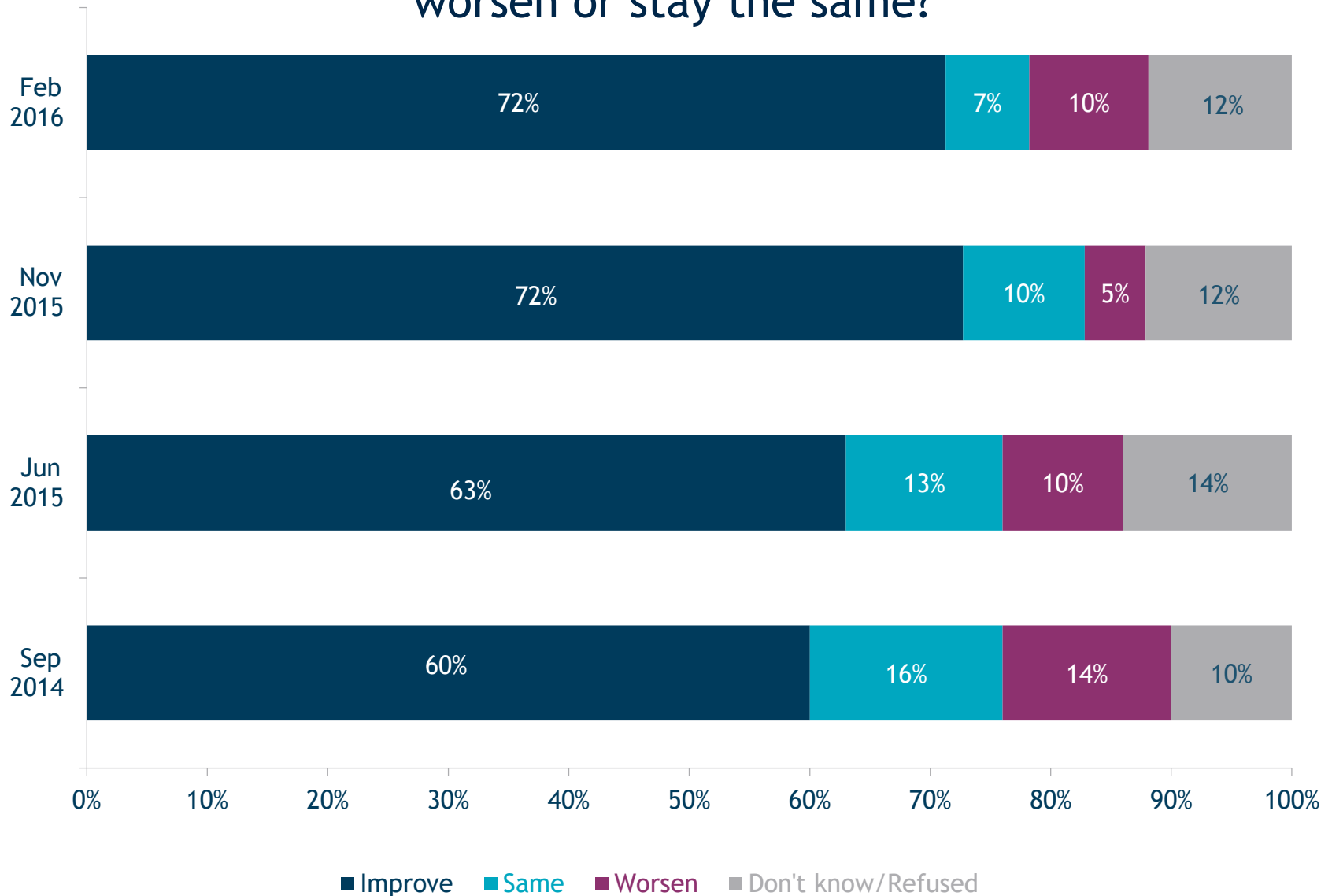
Do you and your family have enough income to afford basic commodities (rice, milk, eggs, fish, *dhal**, etc.) in the market?

	Yes	No	Don't know/Refused
Feb 2016	79%	20%	1%
Nov 2015	90%	10%	
Jun 2015	86%	13%	1%
Sep 2014	78%	21%	1%

■ Yes   ■ No   ■ Don't know/Refused
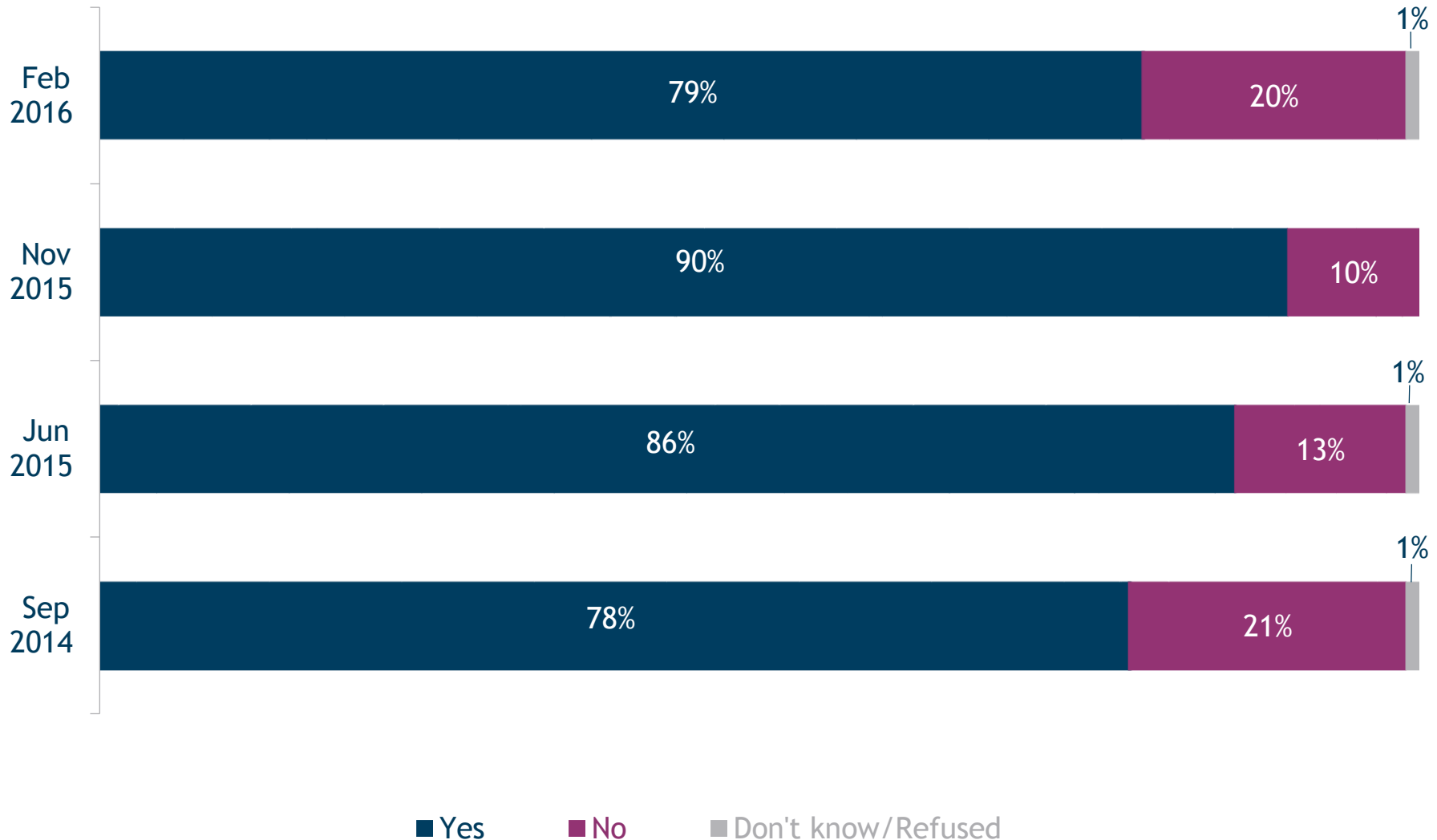
*Dhal is the Bengali term for lentils, a regional dietary staple.

Do you expect the price of basic commodities to be higher or lower six months from now?

	Much higher	Slightly higher	Same	Slightly lower	Much lower	Don't know/Refused
Feb 2016	16%	49%	9%	10%	3%	12%
Nov 2015	12%	49%	12%	12%	2%	13%
Jun 2015	23%	55%	8%	5%	2%	7%
Sep 2014	24%	60%	9%	5%	1%	1%

Much higher Slightly higher Same Slightly lower Much lower Don't know/Refused

Approval Ratings

For each of the following issues, how would you rate the national government's performance?

Issue	Good	Bad	Don't know/Refused
Education	88%	10%	2%
Healthcare	78%	16%	6%
Infrastructure development	77%	18%	5%
Keeping the peace	72%	18%	10%
Gender equality	71%	17%	13%
Water and sanitation	70%	19%	12%
Water availability	70%	17%	13%
Electricity availability	70%	24%	6%
Fighting crime	65%	32%	4%
Inflation	62%	34%	4%
Employment	61%	35%	4%
Poverty reduction	61%	31%	8%
Dealing with hartals	60%	20%	20%
Fighting corruption	58%	37%	6%
Housing	55%	19%	27%
Ending sectarian conflict	55%	19%	26%
Land rights	50%	15%	35%
Democratic reforms	49%	22%	29%
Ending ethnic conflict	45%	12%	43%

■ Good ■ Bad ■ Don't know/Refused

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Can you tell me which party best reflects each of the statements below?

Statement	Awami League	Bangladesh Nationalist Party	Neither/Don't know/Refused
They are trustworthy	57%	25%	18%
They have strong leadership	61%	21%	18%
They have many young leaders	52%	27%	21%
They support women	55%	23%	22%
They are more religious	39%	28%	33%
They have good policies	55%	27%	18%
They support democratic reform	49%	27%	25%
They care about people like me	52%	26%	22%
Their policies help the poor	52%	26%	22%
They consistently fight corruption	53%	23%	25%

■ Awami League   ■ Bangladesh Nationalist Party   ■ Neither/Don't know/Refused

Can you tell me which party best reflects each of the statements below?

Statement	Awami League	Bangladesh Nationalist Party	Neither/Don't know/Refused
They would improve education	73%	20%	7%
They would improve infrastructure	60%	21%	19%
They would improve healthcare	61%	22%	17%
They would improve security	53%	24%	24%
They would improve the economy	49%	24%	27%
They would strengthen the nation	50%	25%	26%
They would end ethnic conflict	44%	21%	35%
They would maintain political stability	47%	24%	30%

■ Awami League ■ Bangladesh Nationalist Party ■ Neither/Don't know/Refused

Thinking now about the following political parties, would you say you liked or disliked them?

Party	Like	Dislike	Don't know/Refused
Awami League	71%	19%	10%
BNP	48%	39%	13%
Jatiya	35%	45%	21%
Jamaat-e-Islami	26%	50%	23%

■ Like ■ Dislike ■ Don't know/Refused

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Top Issues

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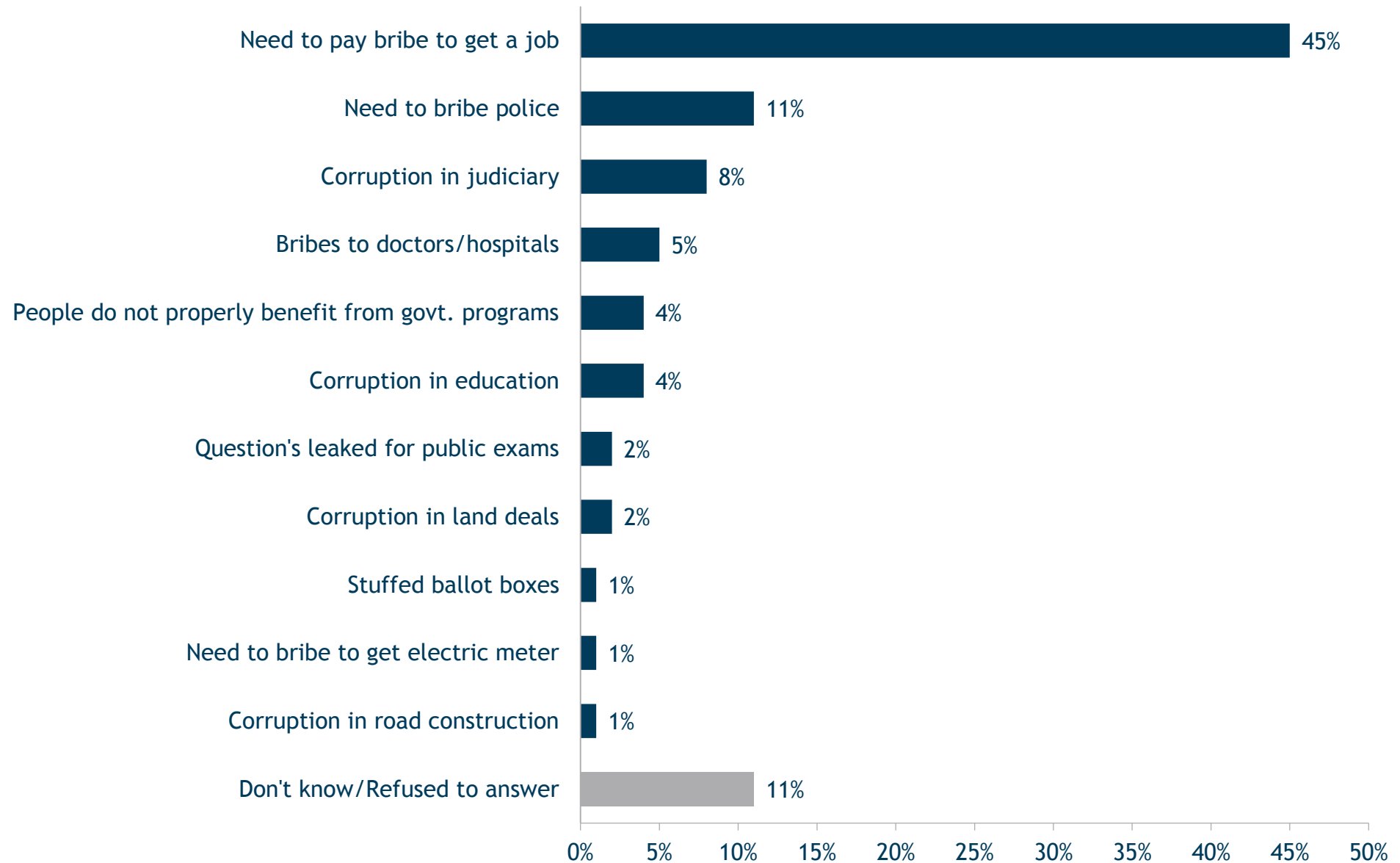INSIGHTS IN
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What are the three most important problems facing Bangladesh?
(Open-ended, comparison of previous survey data, first choice shown)

Issue	Feb 2016	Nov 2015	Jun 2015	Sep 2014	Jan 2014	Nov 2013
Economy	21%	17%	11%	13%	7%	23%
Security/Law and order	21%	13%	15%	9%	11%	11%
Political instability	12%	11%	16%	13%	39%	34%
Corruption	9%	18%	24%	20%	36%	20%
Transportation/Traffic/Infrastructure	8%	11%	6%	17%	1%	3%

Can you give me an example of corruption in Bangladesh?
(Open-ended)

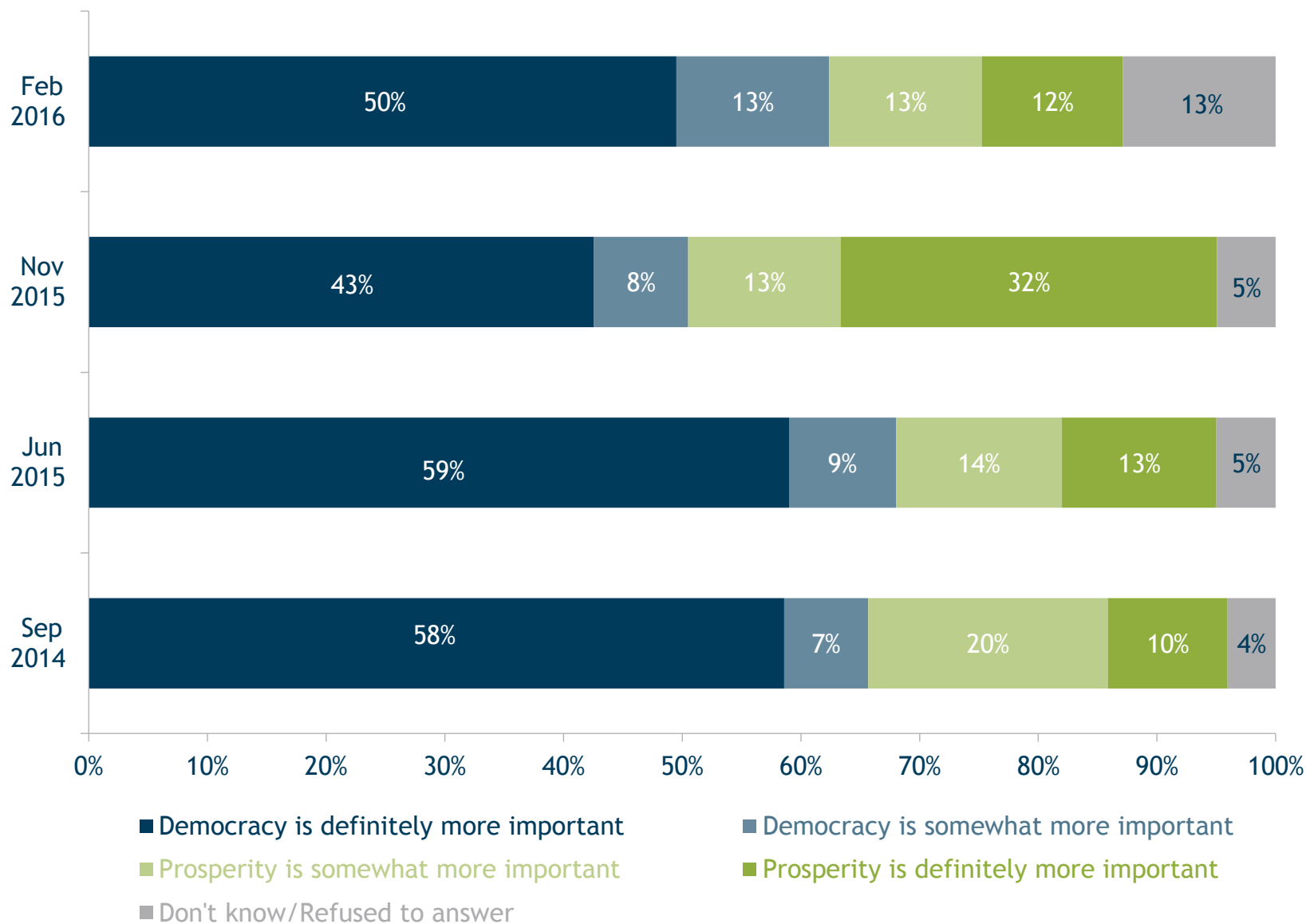| Category	Percentage
Need to pay bribe to get a job	45%
Need to bribe police	11%
Corruption in judiciary	8%
Bribes to doctors/hospitals	5%
People do not properly benefit from govt. programs	4%
Corruption in education	4%
Question's leaked for public exams	2%
Corruption in land deals	2%
Stuffed ballot boxes	1%
Need to bribe to get electric meter	1%
Corruption in road construction	1%
Don't know/Refused to answer	11%

In Bangladesh, if you could only have one or the other, which is more important to you: a democratic system of government or a prosperous economy?
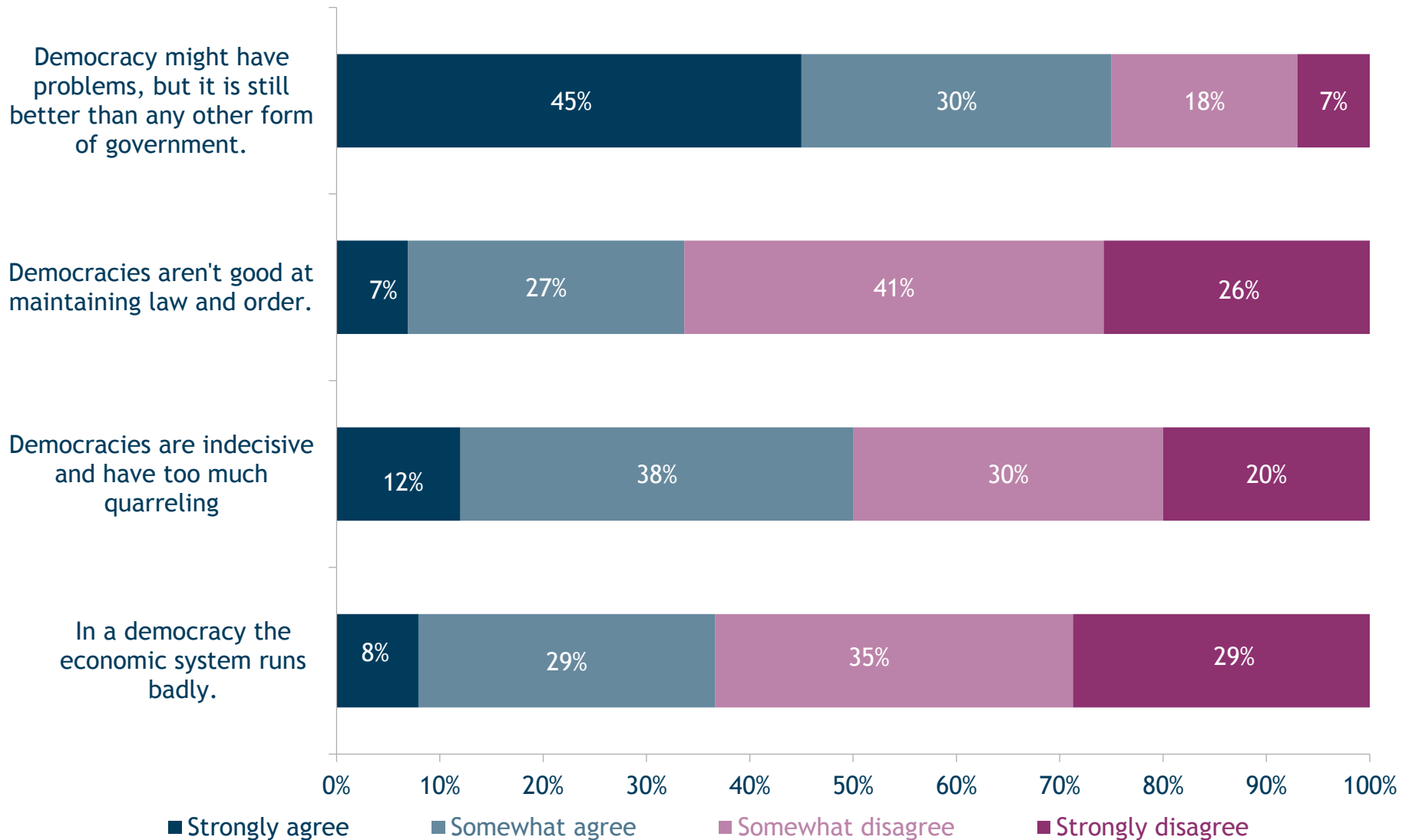

Feb 2016: Democracy is definitely more important 50%, Democracy is somewhat more important 13%, Prosperity is somewhat more important 13%, Prosperity is definitely more important 12%, Don't know/Refused to answer 13%

Nov 2015: Democracy is definitely more important 43%, Democracy is somewhat more important 8%, Prosperity is somewhat more important 13%, Prosperity is definitely more important 32%, Don't know/Refused to answer 5%

Jun 2015: Democracy is definitely more important 59%, Democracy is somewhat more important 9%, Prosperity is somewhat more important 14%, Prosperity is definitely more important 13%, Don't know/Refused to answer 5%

Sep 2014: Democracy is definitely more important 58%, Democracy is somewhat more important 7%, Prosperity is somewhat more important 20%, Prosperity is definitely more important 10%, Don't know/Refused to answer 4%

Legend:
- Democracy is definitely more important
- Democracy is somewhat more important
- Prosperity is somewhat more important
- Prosperity is definitely more important
- Don't know/Refused to answer

When you hear the word democracy, what first comes to your mind?
(Open-ended)

Response	Percent
Government elected by the people	19%
Everyone is equal	9%
Freedom of speech	9%
Individual liberty	6%
Country is peaceful	1%
Bangladesh is independent	1%
Other	6%
Don't know/Refused to answer	49%

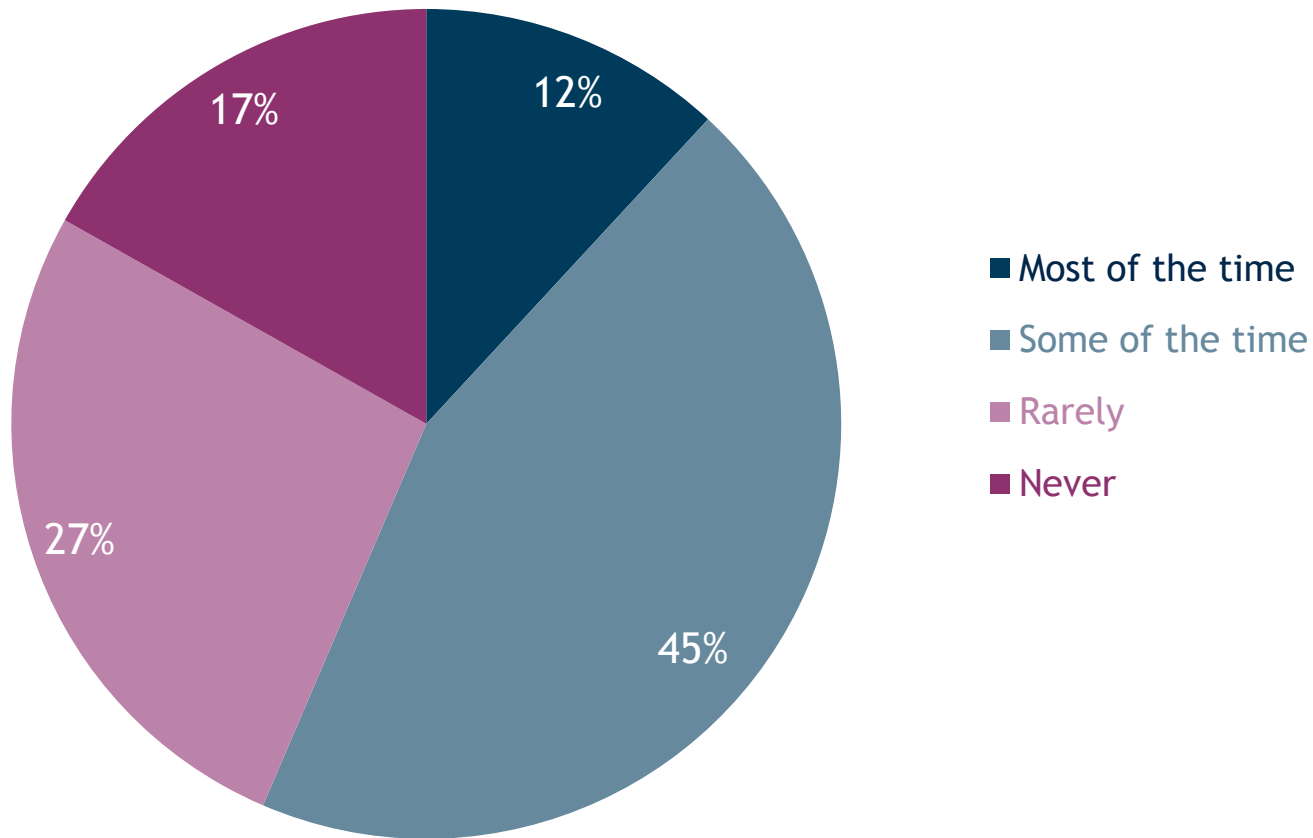# Of the following statements, would you say you agree or disagree?

Statement	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Democracy might have problems, but it is still better than any other form of government.	45%	30%	18%	7%
Democracies aren't good at maintaining law and order.	7%	27%	41%	26%
Democracies are indecisive and have too much quarreling	12%	38%	30%	20%
In a democracy the economic system runs badly.	8%	29%	35%	29%

Legend: ■ Strongly agree ■ Somewhat agree ■ Somewhat disagree ■ Strongly disagree

Agree or Disagree?
Voting gives me a chance to influence decision-making in the country.

Feb 2016: Strongly agree 54%, Somewhat agree 32%, Somewhat disagree 7%, Strongly disagree 2%, Don't know/Refused 5%

Nov 2015: Strongly agree 69%, Somewhat agree 23%, Somewhat disagree 4%, Strongly disagree 2%, Don't know/Refused 2%

Jun 2015: Strongly agree 67%, Somewhat agree 21%, Somewhat disagree 5%, Strongly disagree 5%, Don't know/Refused 1%

Sep 2014: Strongly agree 69%, Somewhat agree 25%, Somewhat disagree 2%, Strongly disagree 2%, Don't know/Refused 2%

Legend: ■ Strongly agree ■ Somewhat agree ■ Somewhat disagree ■ Strongly disagree ■ Don't know/Refused

Agree or disagree?
Politicians listen to my needs and ideas.

Legend:
- Most of the time — 12%
- Some of the time — 45%
- Rarely — 27%
- Never — 17%

Religion and Politics

In your opinion, how influential is religion on...

your day-to-day views and opinions?
- 39% Very influential
- 35% Somewhat influential
- 5% Not very influential
- 17% Not influential at all
- 4%

Bangladesh politics?
- 15% Very influential
- 41% Somewhat influential
- 6% Not very influential
- 24% Not influential at all
- 15%

Legend:
- ■ Very influential
- ■ Somewhat influential
- ■ Not very influential
- ■ Not influential at all
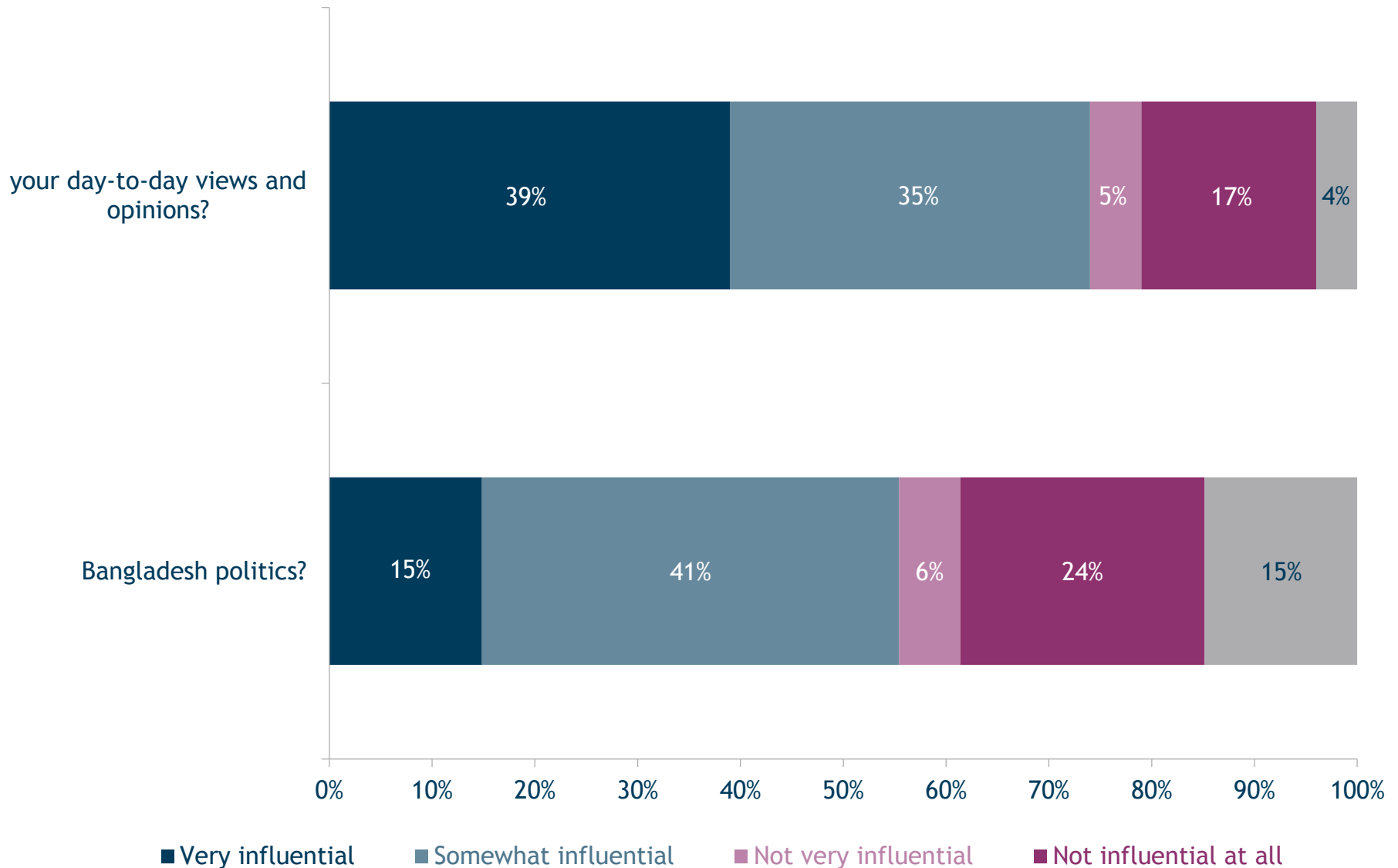
How often do you attend religious services?

Daily	56%
Once a week	34%
Once or twice a month	6%
A few times a year	3%
Rarely if ever	<1%

0%   10%   20%   30%   40%   50%   60%

Views on Extremism

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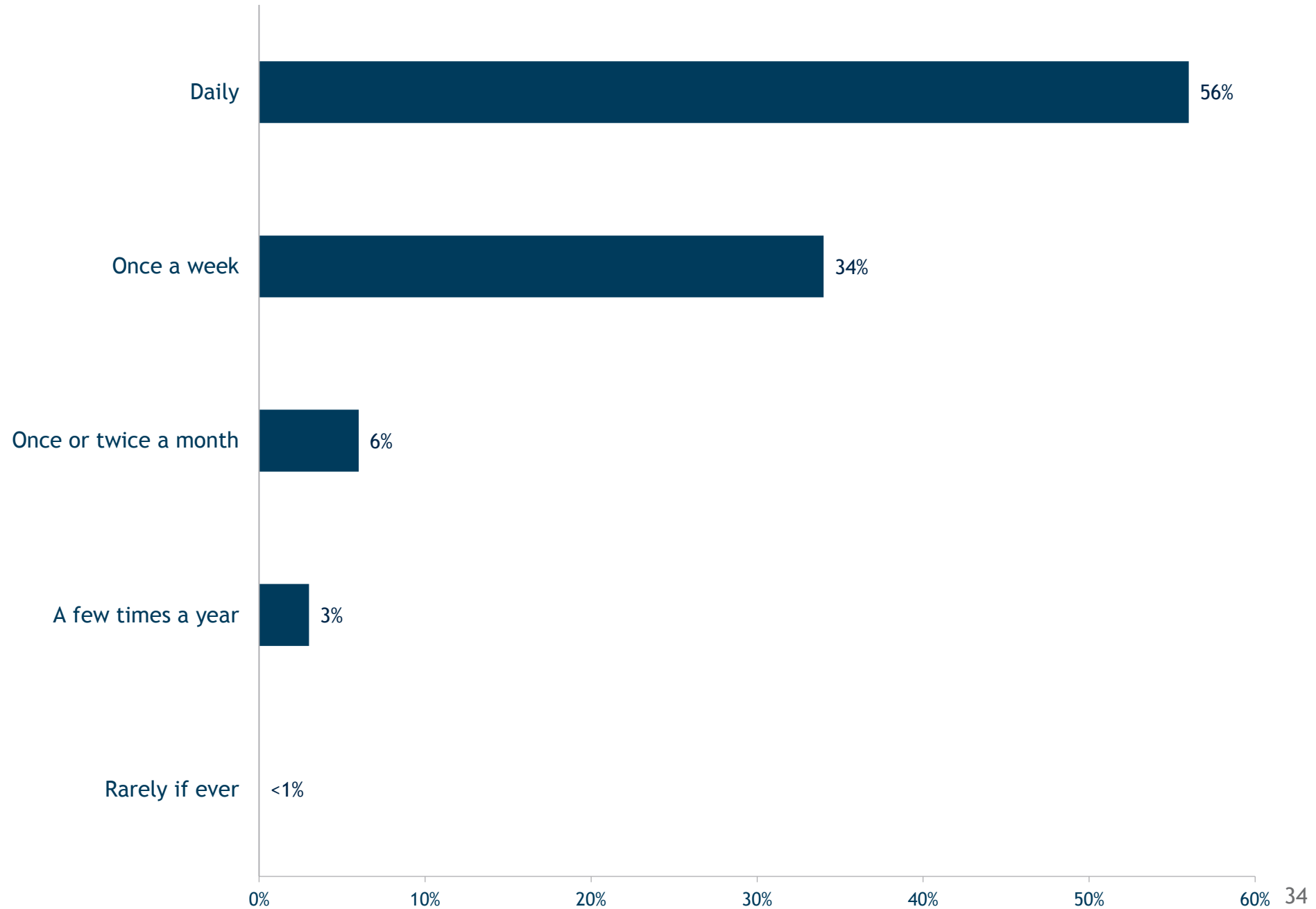
To what extent do you think that...

	Very big problem	Somewhat of a problem	Not really a problem	Not a problem at all	(gray)
political extremism is a problem in Bangladesh?	53%	16%	2%	3%	26%
religious extremism is a problem in Bangladesh?	44%	18%	2%	8%	28%
extremism is a problem in Bangladesh?	51%	15%	2%	4%	28%

■ Very big problem ■ Somewhat of a problem ■ Not really a problem ■ Not a problem at all
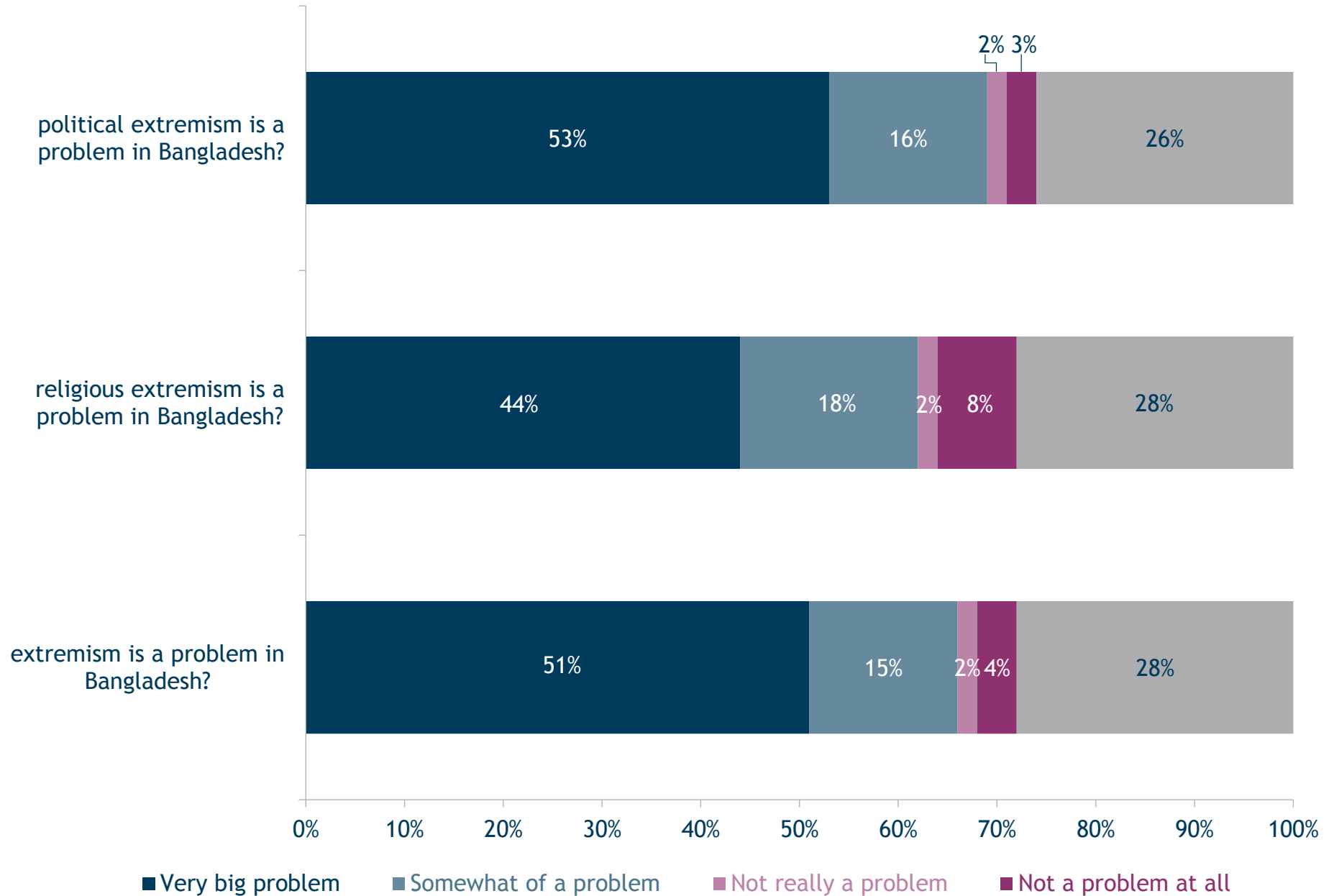
In your opinion, what is the main cause of extremism in Bangladesh?

Category	Percentage
Political differences	38%
Religious differences	6%
Personal grievances	4%
Socio-economic tensions	2%
There are no extremists in Bangladesh	2%
Ethnic tension	1%
Don't know/Refused to answer	47%

Do you ever think it is justified to use violence?

Yes 1%

Don't know/Refused to answer 6%

No 93%

Elections

Thinking now about elections, when would you like to see the next national parliamentary elections occur?

Legend: Feb 2016, Nov 2015, Jun 2015, Sep 2014

	Feb 2016	Nov 2015	Jun 2015	Sep 2014
The parliament should complete its term	51%	51%	40%	45%
Within the next four years	2%	1%	2%	2%
Within the next three years	1%	1%	2%	1%
Within the next two years	2%	1%	1%	1%
Within the next year	3%	3%	5%	4%
As soon as possible	36%	36%	43%	40%
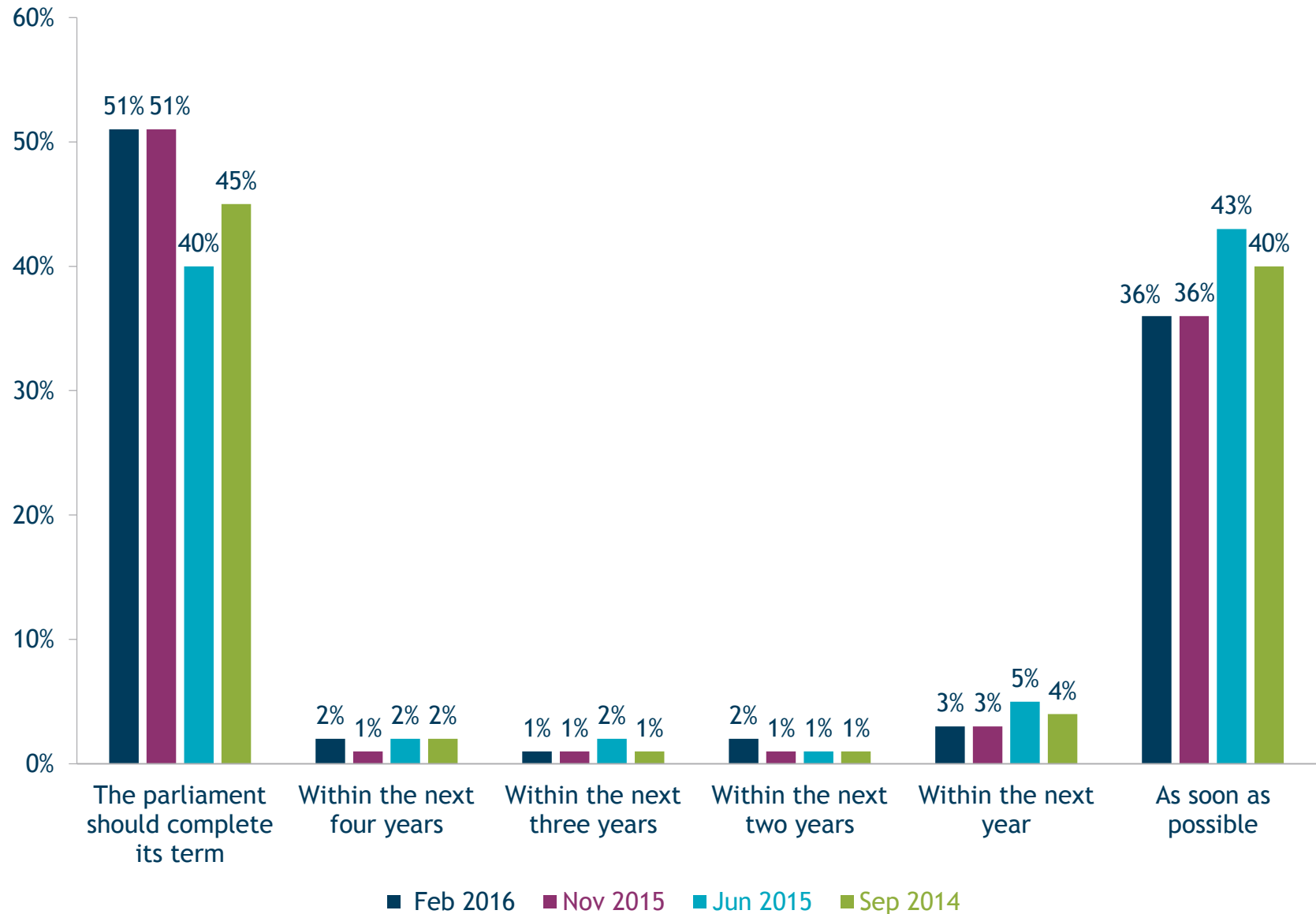
Where do you get information related to candidates and political parties?

Category	Percentage
Family members	37%
Media	19%
Political party/Candidate platforms	18%
Village/Community leaders	14%
Civil society organizations	6%
Religious group/Religious leaders	2%
Other	2%
Don't know/Refused to answer	2%
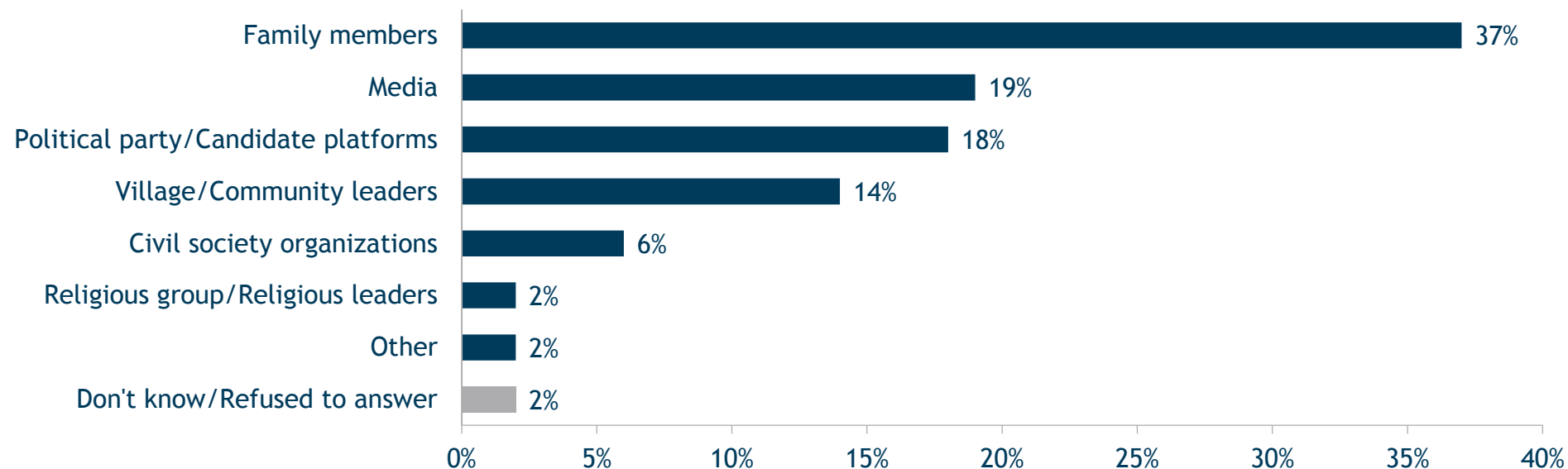
What or who influences your voting decision the most?

Category	Percentage
No one	65%
Family members	18%
Political party/Candidate platforms	5%
Village/Community leaders	5%
Media	4%
Civil society organizations	2%
Taka or gift	1%
Don't know/Refused to answer	1%
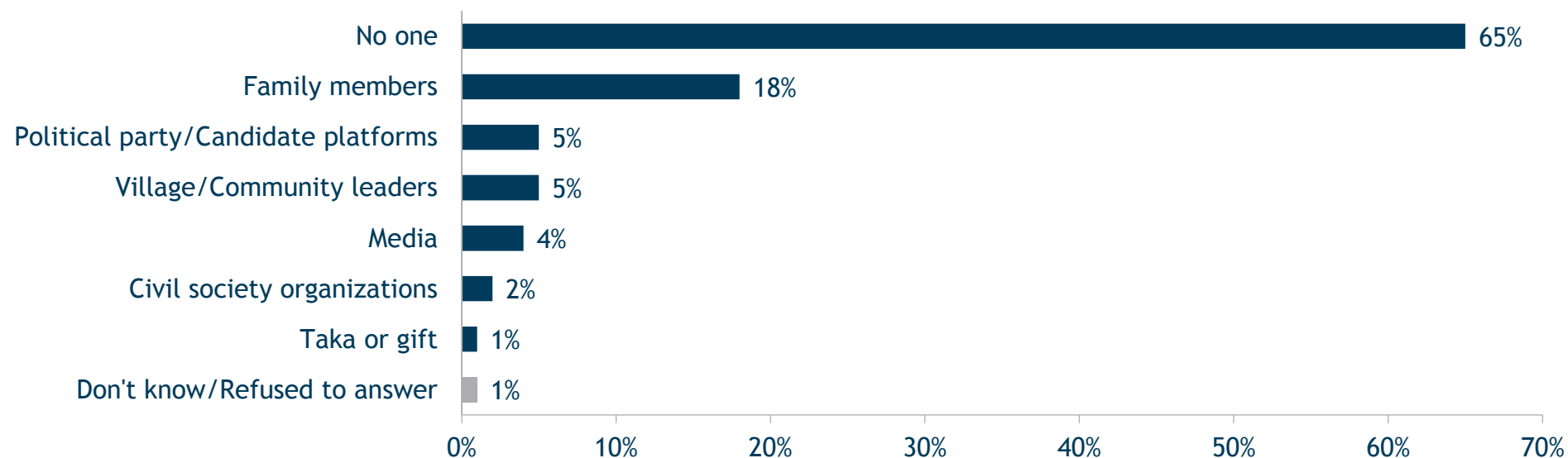
Agree or Disagree?
The municipal elections of December 30, 2015 were free and fair

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
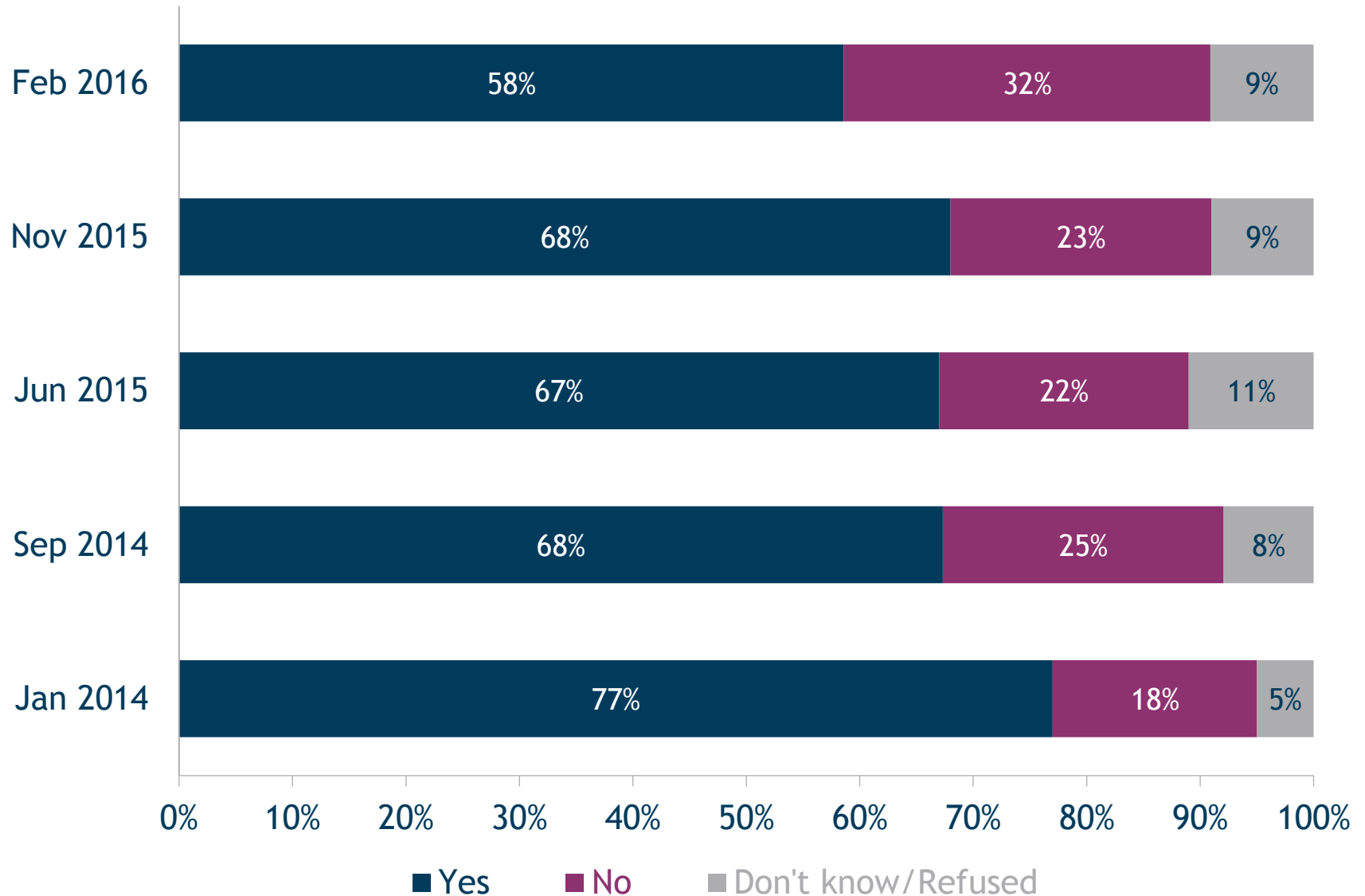- Strongly disagree
- Don't know/Refused to answer

56%
22%
7%
7%
8%
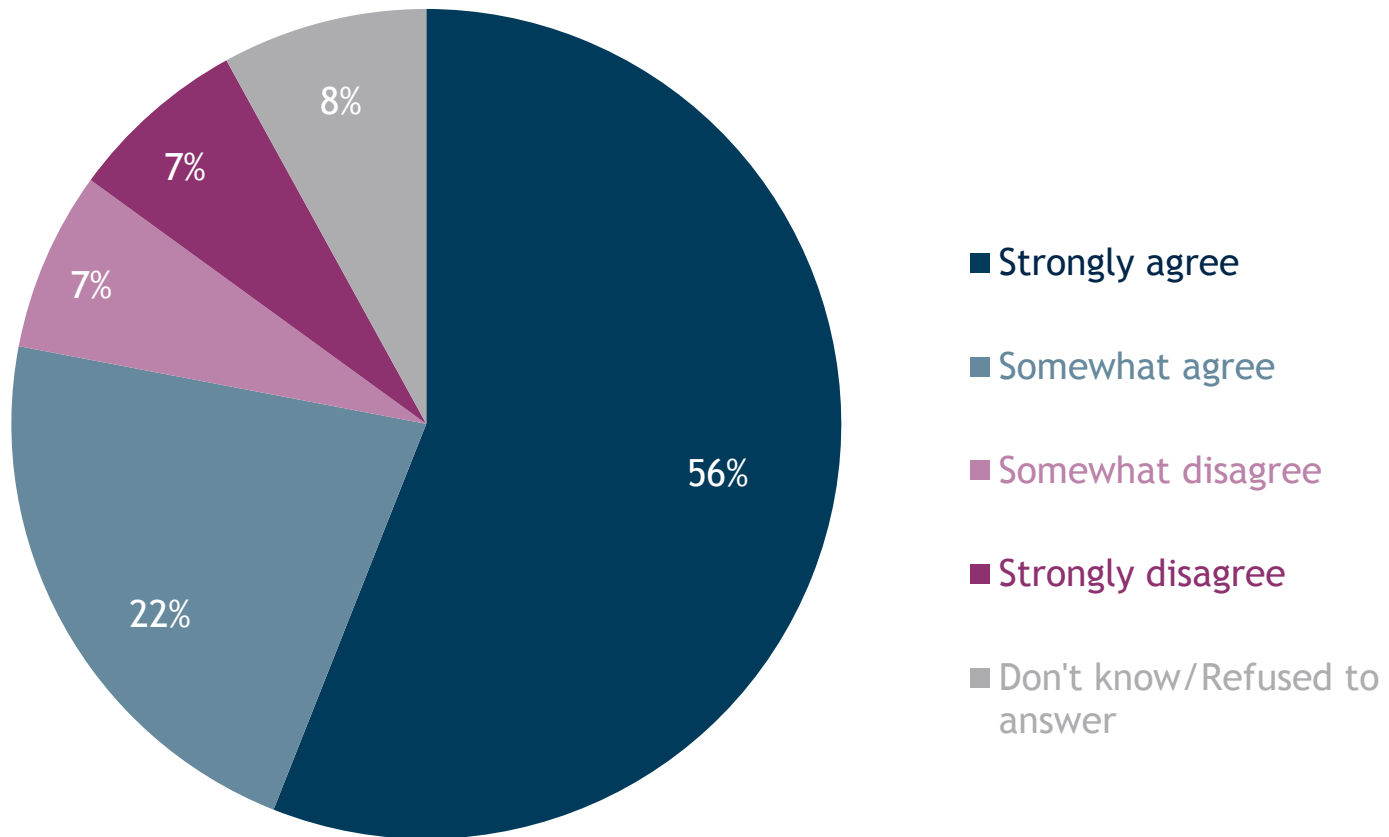
What is the first thing you would like to see the new municipal government accomplish in the first year?

(Open-ended)

Development of roads	45%
Fix the sewage system	6%
Give people jobs	4%
Solve the water supply problem	3%
Solve the gas supply problem	2%
Solve the electricity problem	2%
Keep the peace	1%
Development of schools and colleges	1%
Contruct a bridge in the area	1%
Overall development	1%
Clean the municipality	1%
Don't know/Refused to answer	33%
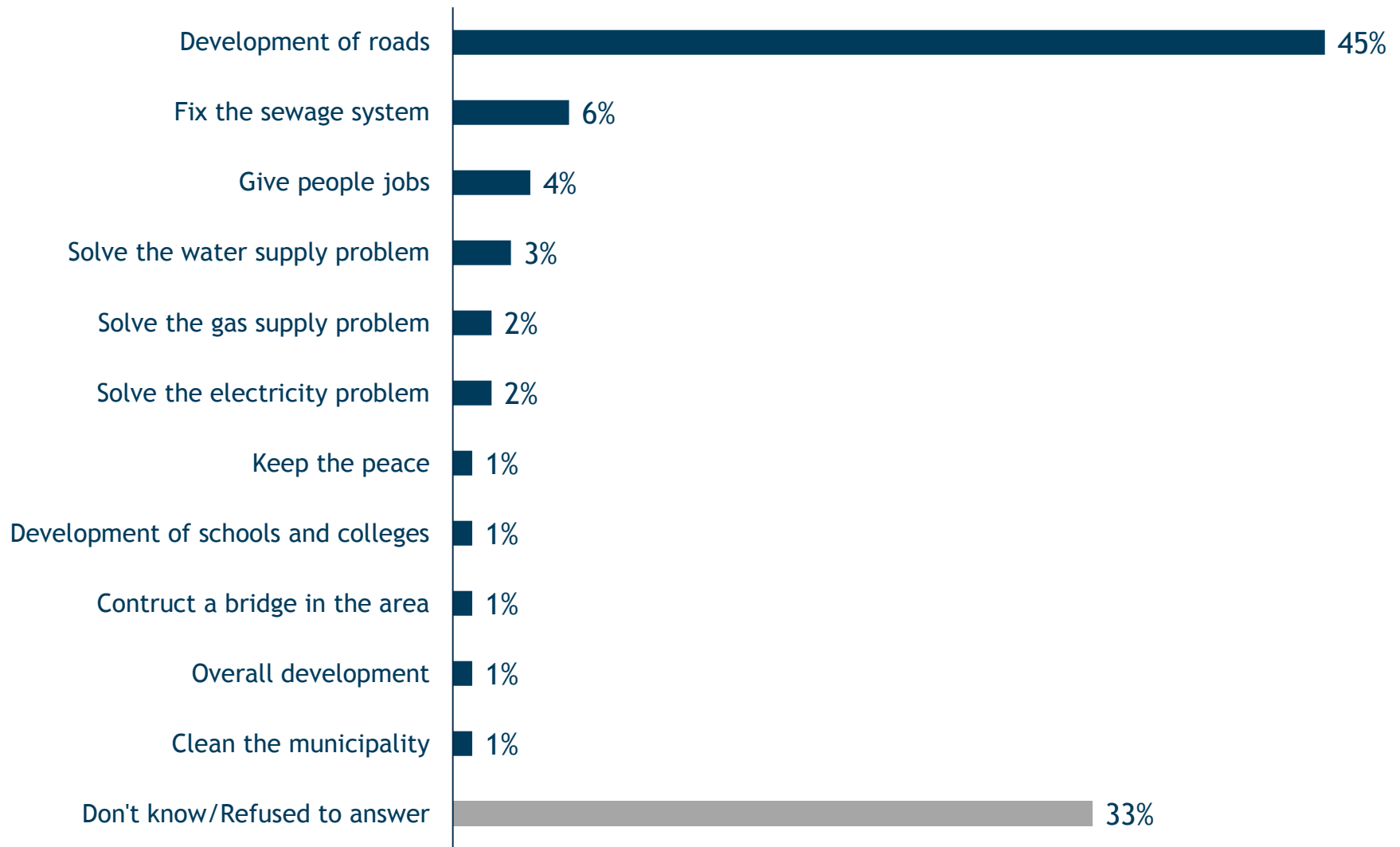
Should a non-party, caretaker government be brought back before the next parliamentary elections?

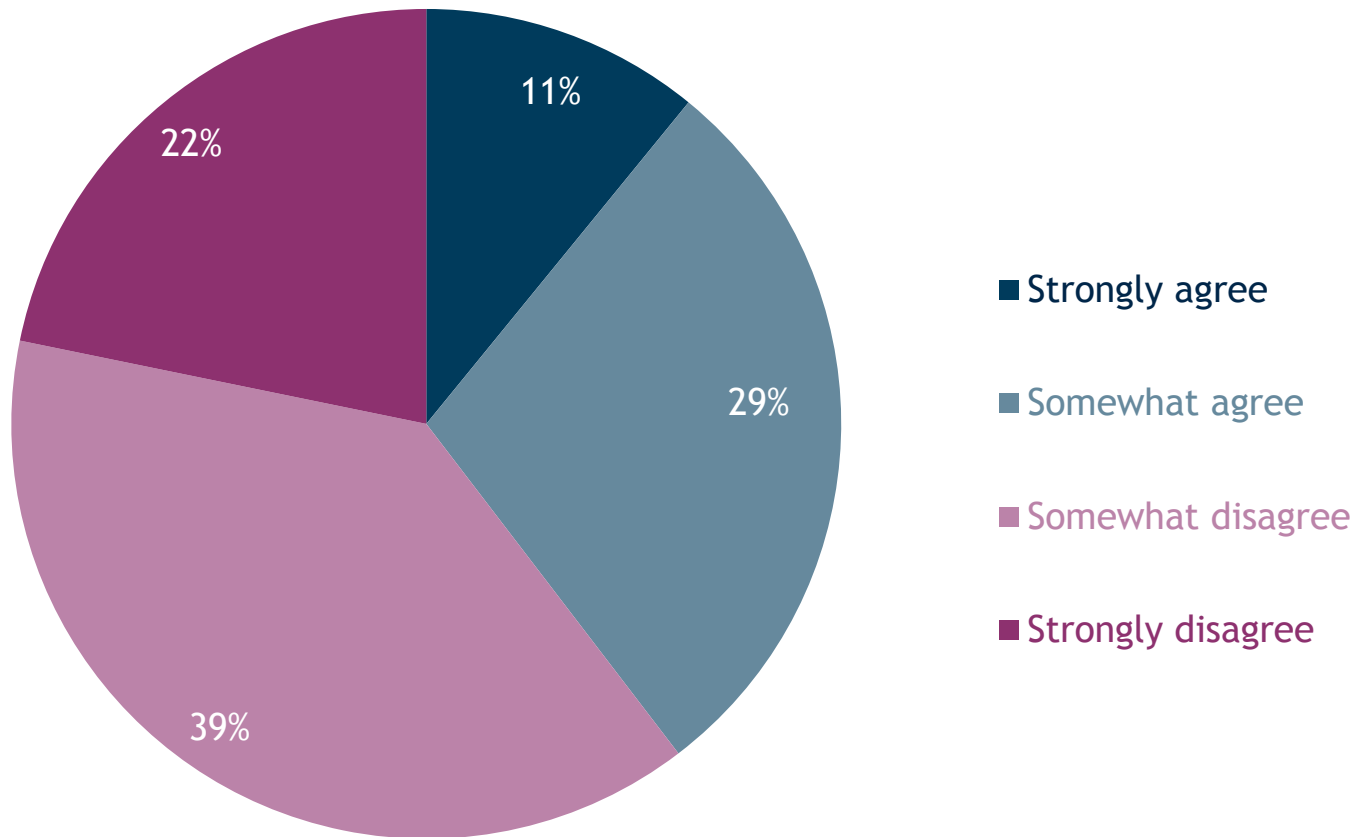|	Yes	No	Don't know/Refused
Feb 2016	58%	32%	9%
Nov 2015	68%	23%	9%
Jun 2015	67%	22%	11%
Sep 2014	68%	25%	8%
Jan 2014	77%	18%	5%

■ Yes ■ No ■ Don't know/Refused

Women and Youth

Agree or Disagree?
Women are equally represented in political decision-making positions in Bangladesh.
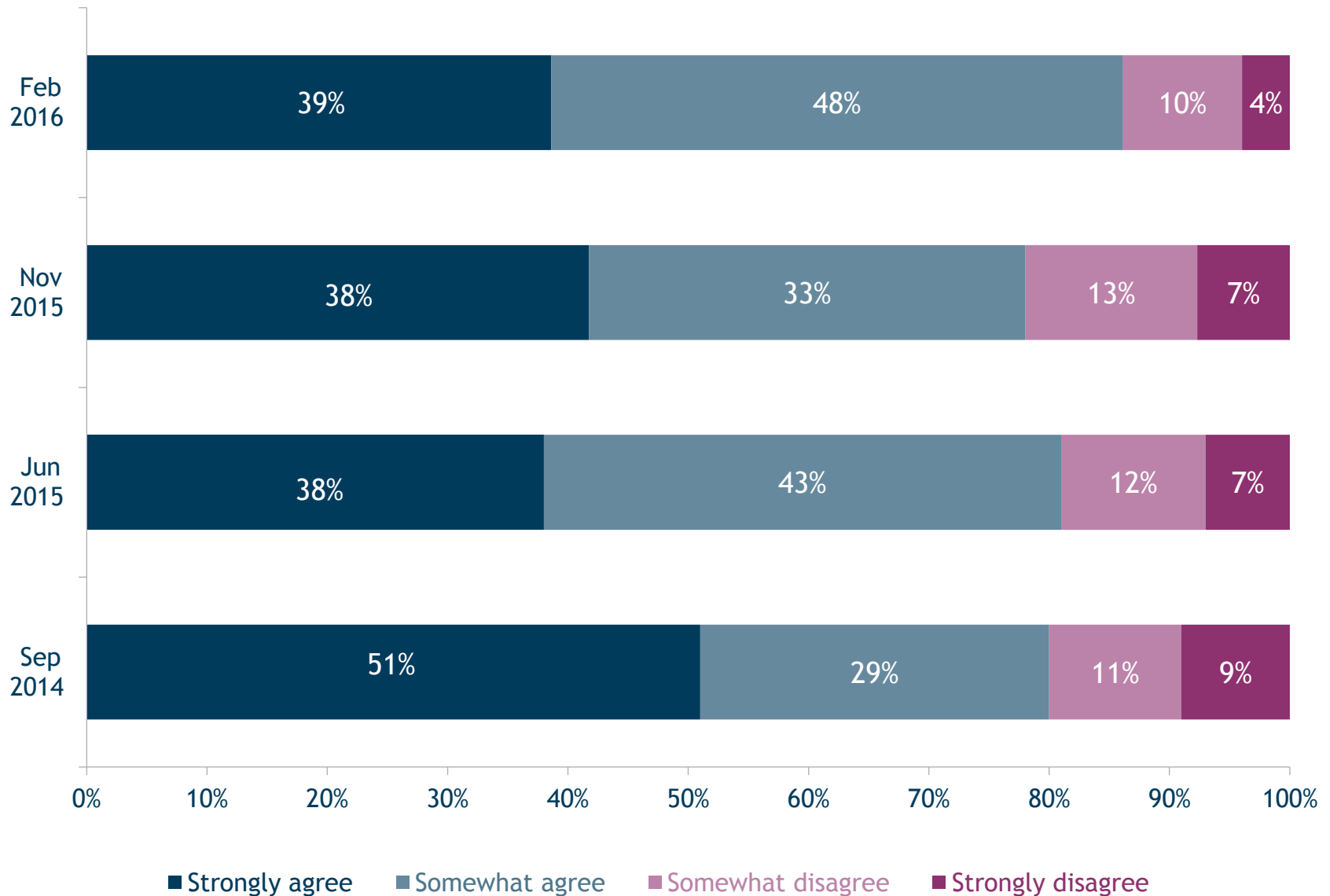
	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Feb 2016	39%	48%	10%	4%
Nov 2015	38%	33%	13%	7%
Jun 2015	38%	43%	12%	7%
Sep 2014	51%	29%	11%	9%

■ Strongly agree ■ Somewhat agree ■ Somewhat disagree ■ Strongly disagree

Agree or disagree?
Politicians <u>don't</u> listen to the needs and ideas of women.

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree
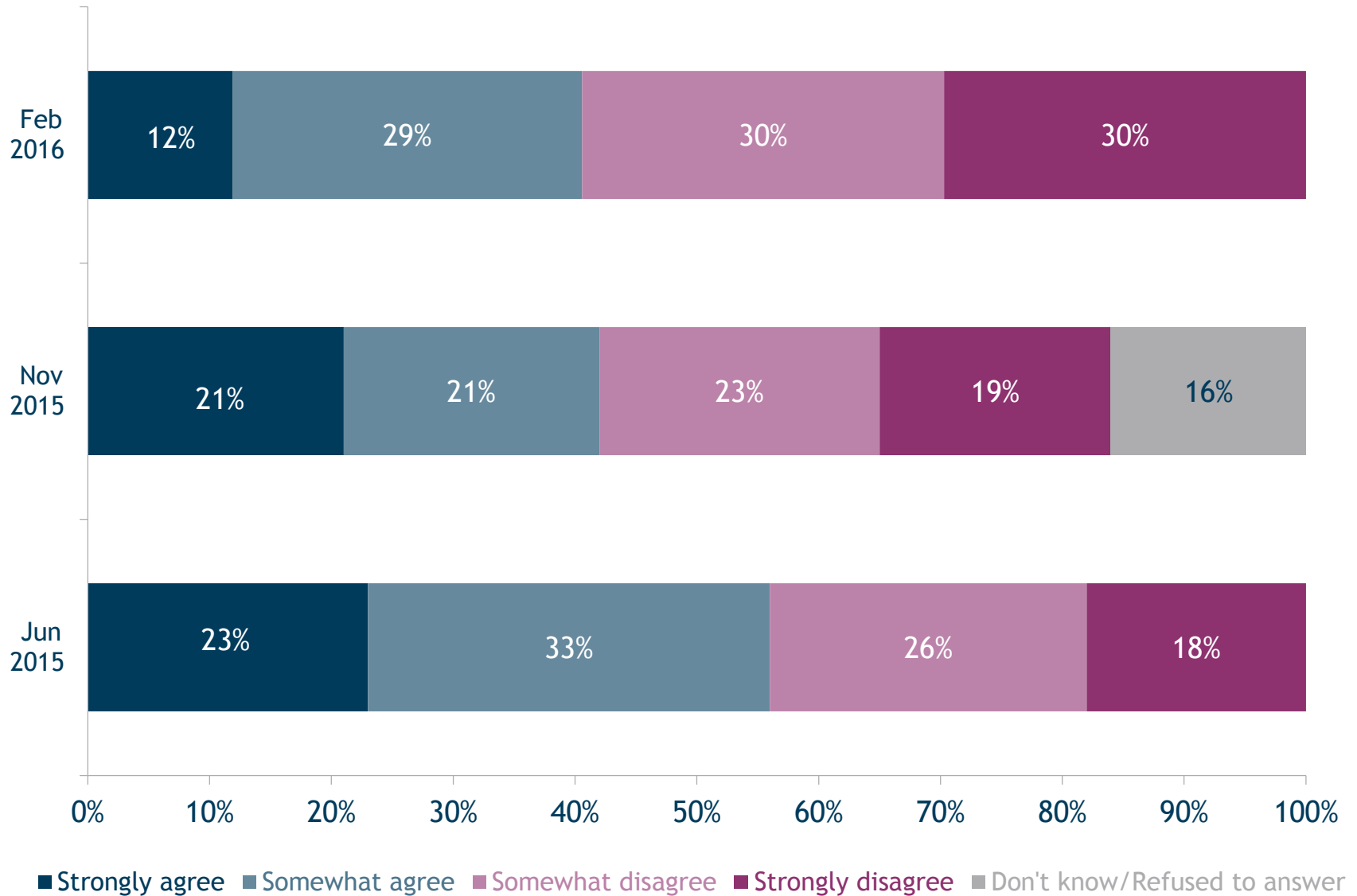
11%

29%

22%

39%

If there are two candidates running for office and they are exactly the same aside from the fact that one is a man and one is a woman, which candidate would you prefer?

	Man	Woman	No difference
Feb 2016	55%	32%	13%
Nov 2015	54%	23%	20%
Jun 2015	56%	23%	21%
Sep 2014	58%	29%	15%

■ Man ■ Woman ■ No difference
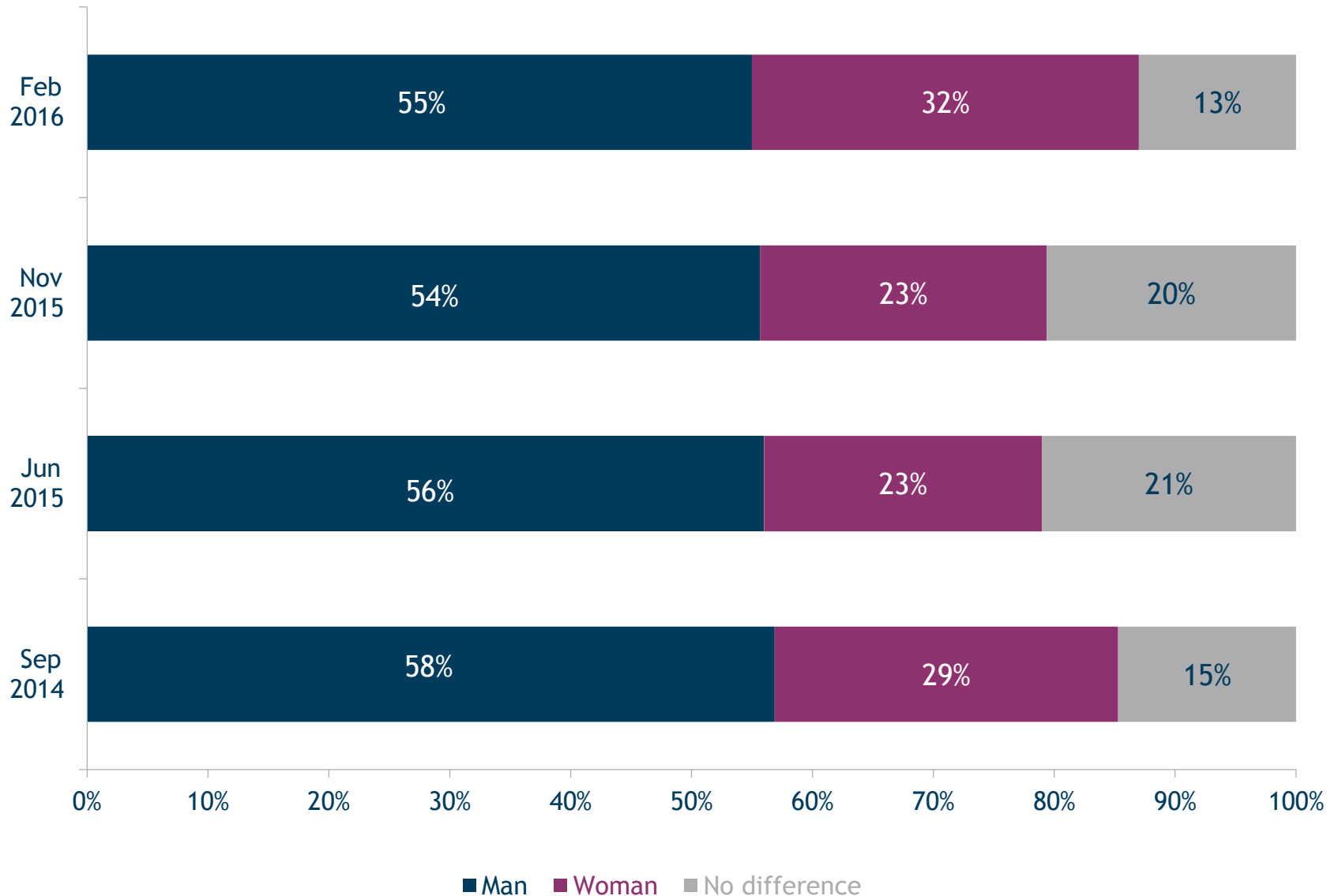
If there are two candidates running for office and they are exactly the same aside from the fact that one is a man and one is a woman, which candidate would you prefer?

By Gender	Feb 2016	Nov 2015	Jun 2015	Sep 2014
Men/Prefer man	74%	77%	69%	79%
Men/Prefer woman	14%	5%	10%	7%
Men/No difference	12%	16%	21%	14%
Women/Prefer man	36%	31%	42%	34%
Women/Prefer woman	50%	41%	37%	51%
Women/No difference	14%	24%	32%	16%

Agree or Disagree?
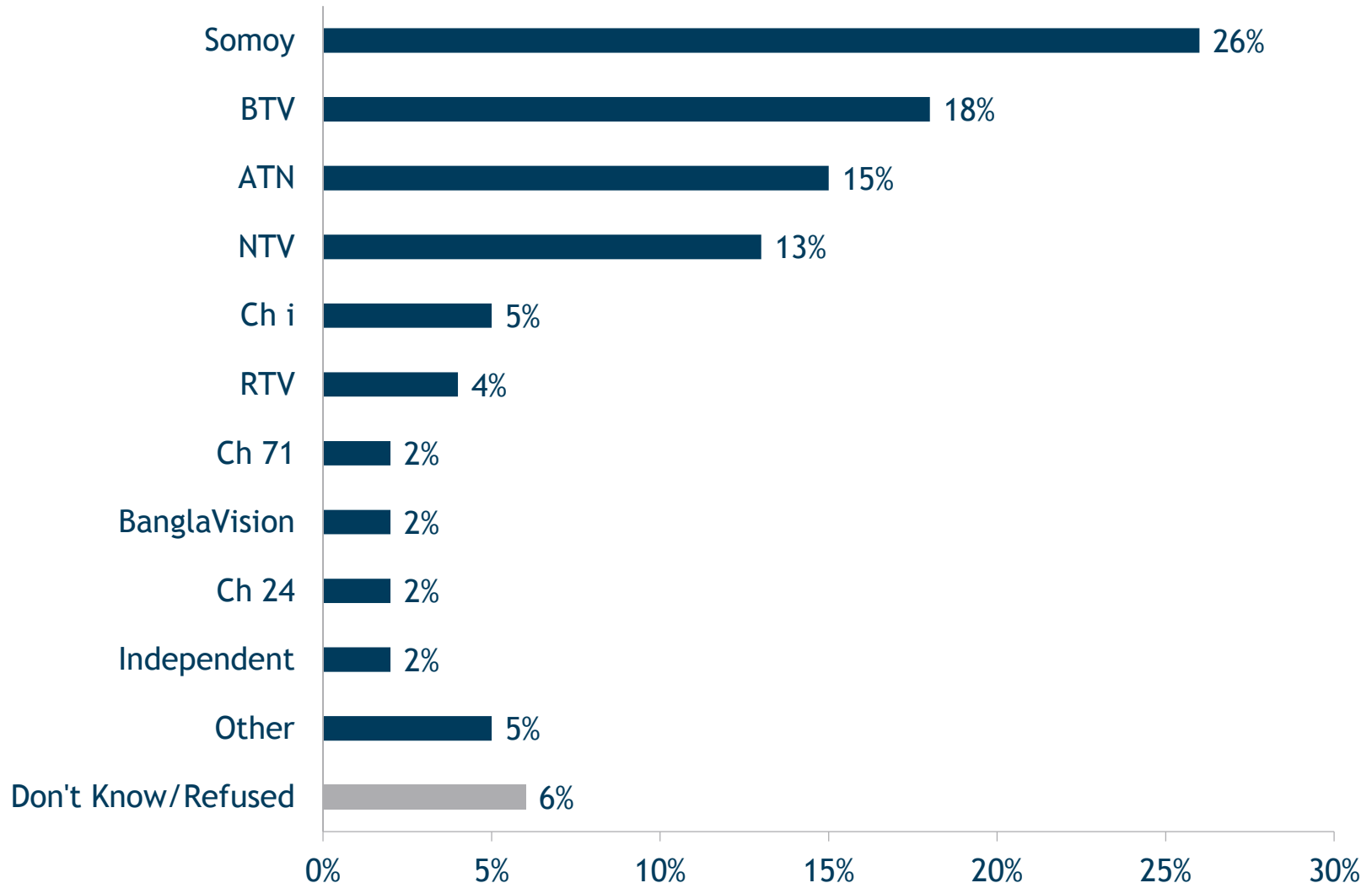# Politicians <u>don't</u> listen to the needs and ideas of young people.

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know/Refused to answer
Feb 2016	12%	29%	30%	30%	
Nov 2015	21%	21%	23%	19%	16%
Jun 2015	23%	33%	26%	18%	

Media

From which type of media are you most likely to get your news?
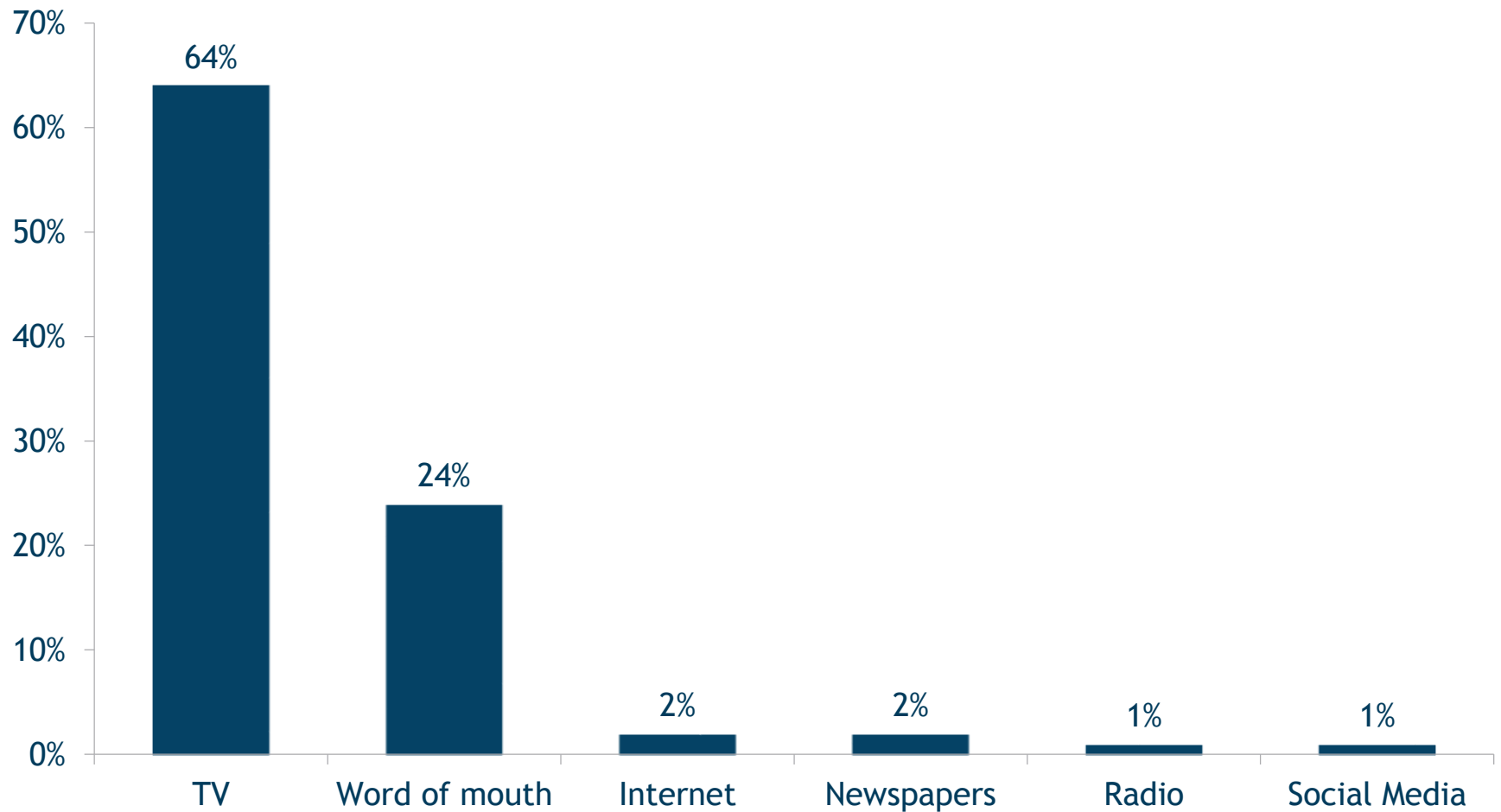
Which TV station do you most often watch?
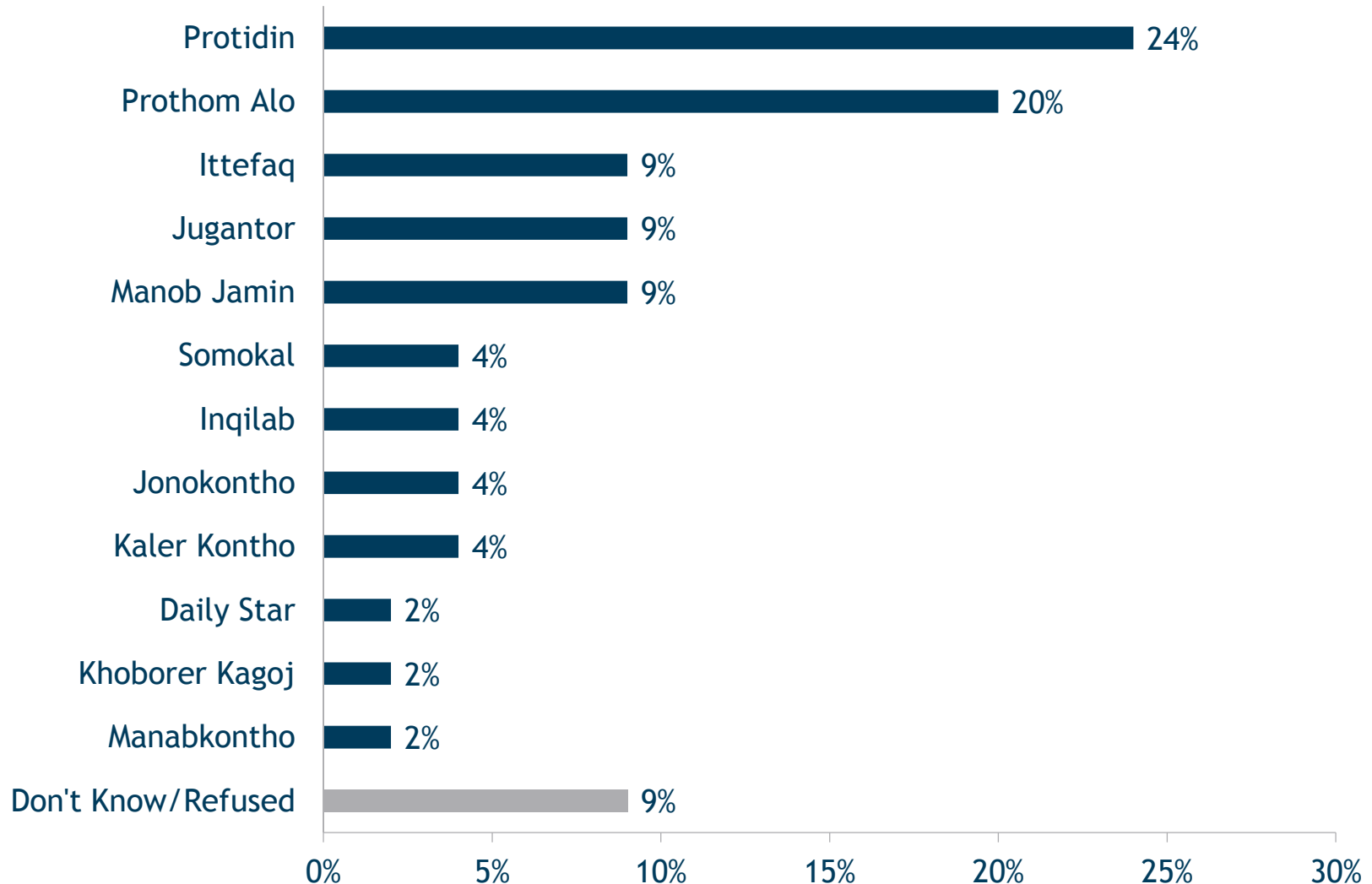## (Those answering TV, n=1,619, open-ended)

TV Station	Percentage
Somoy	26%
BTV	18%
ATN	15%
NTV	13%
Ch i	5%
RTV	4%
Ch 71	2%
BanglaVision	2%
Ch 24	2%
Independent	2%
Other	5%
Don't Know/Refused	6%

To which radio station do you most often listen?
(Those answering radio, n=25, open-ended)

Radio Station	Percentage
Radio Today 89.6	24%
Bangla Betar	16%
Dhaka FM	8%
BBC Bangla	8%
Radio Today	4%
Radio Amar	4%
Radio Foorti	4%
FM 100.8	4%
Don't Know/Refused	28%
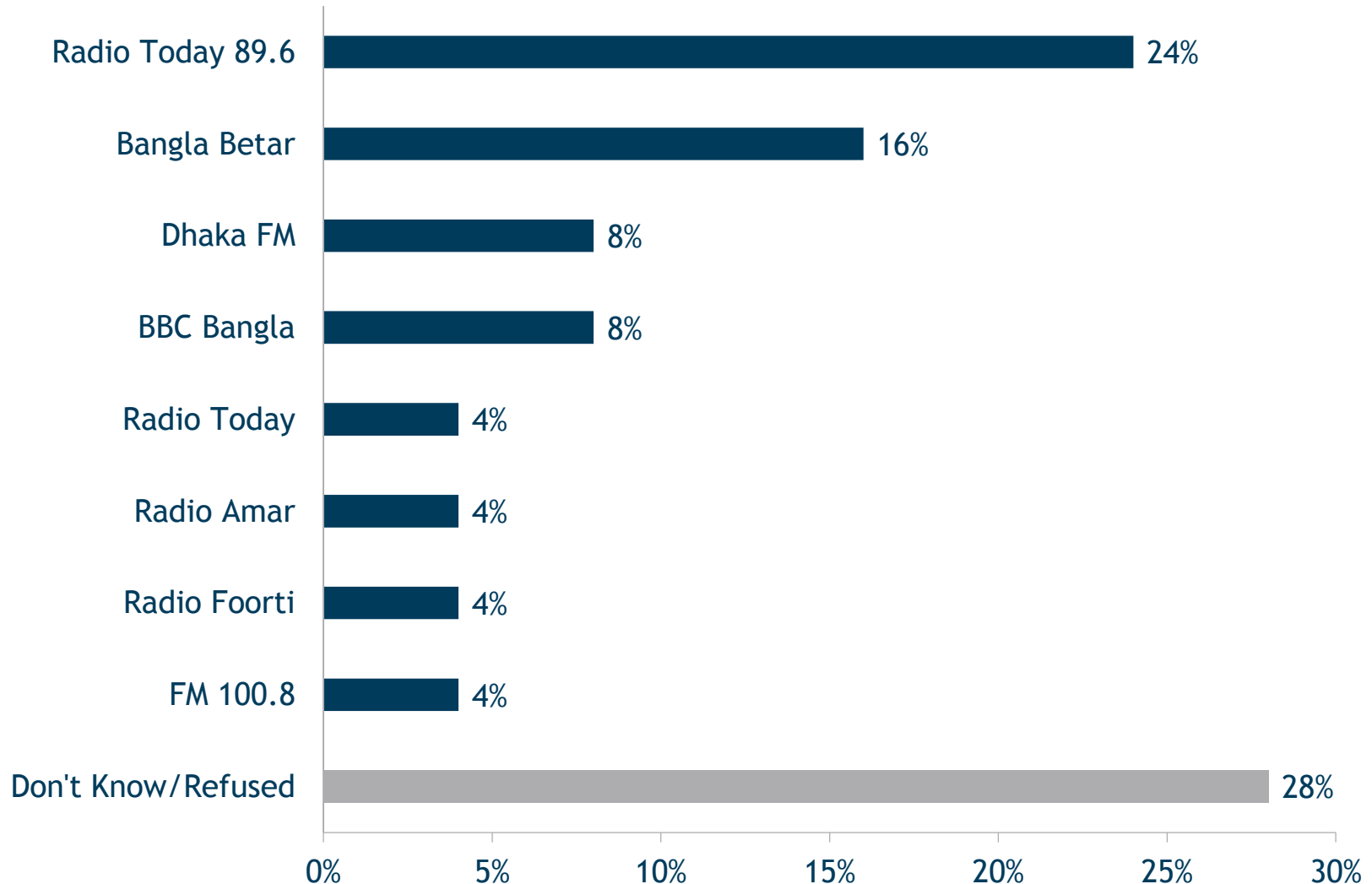
Which newspaper do you most often read?
(Those answering newspaper, n=55)

Newspaper	Percentage
Protidin	24%
Prothom Alo	20%
Ittefaq	9%
Jugantor	9%
Manob Jamin	9%
Somokal	4%
Inqilab	4%
Jonokontho	4%
Kaler Kontho	4%
Daily Star	2%
Khoborer Kagoj	2%
Manabkontho	2%
Don't Know/Refused	9%

Demographics

Monthly Household Income

Less Than 5,000 *taka**	9%
5,001-10,000 *taka*	41%
10,001-15,000 *taka*	26%
15,001-20,000 *taka*	12%
20,001-30,000 *taka*	7%
30,001 *taka* +	4%

Division

Dhaka	32%
Chittagong	20%
Rajshahi	13%
Khulna	11%
Rangpur	11%
Sylhet	7%
Barisal	6%

Education

Illiterate	19%
Literate/No Formal Schooling	9%
Class 1-4	14%
Class 5-9	37%
Secondary School Certificate/*Dakhil*	10%
Higher Secondary Certificate	7%
Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science	3%
Graduate Degree	1%

Age

18-30 years	41%
31-40 years	25%
41-50 years	16%
51-60 years	10%
61 years +	8%

Religion

Muslim	91%
Hindu	8%
Buddhist	1%

Gender

Male	50%
Female	50%

Area

Urban	26%
Rural	74%

*At the time of survey release, one Bangladeshi *taka* was equivalent to $0.013 USD.

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