

State of Democracy in Jordan Public Opinion Survey

Wave 4

May-June 2023



A PROJECT OF THE INTERNATIONAL REPUBLICAN INSTITUTE

Detailed Methodology

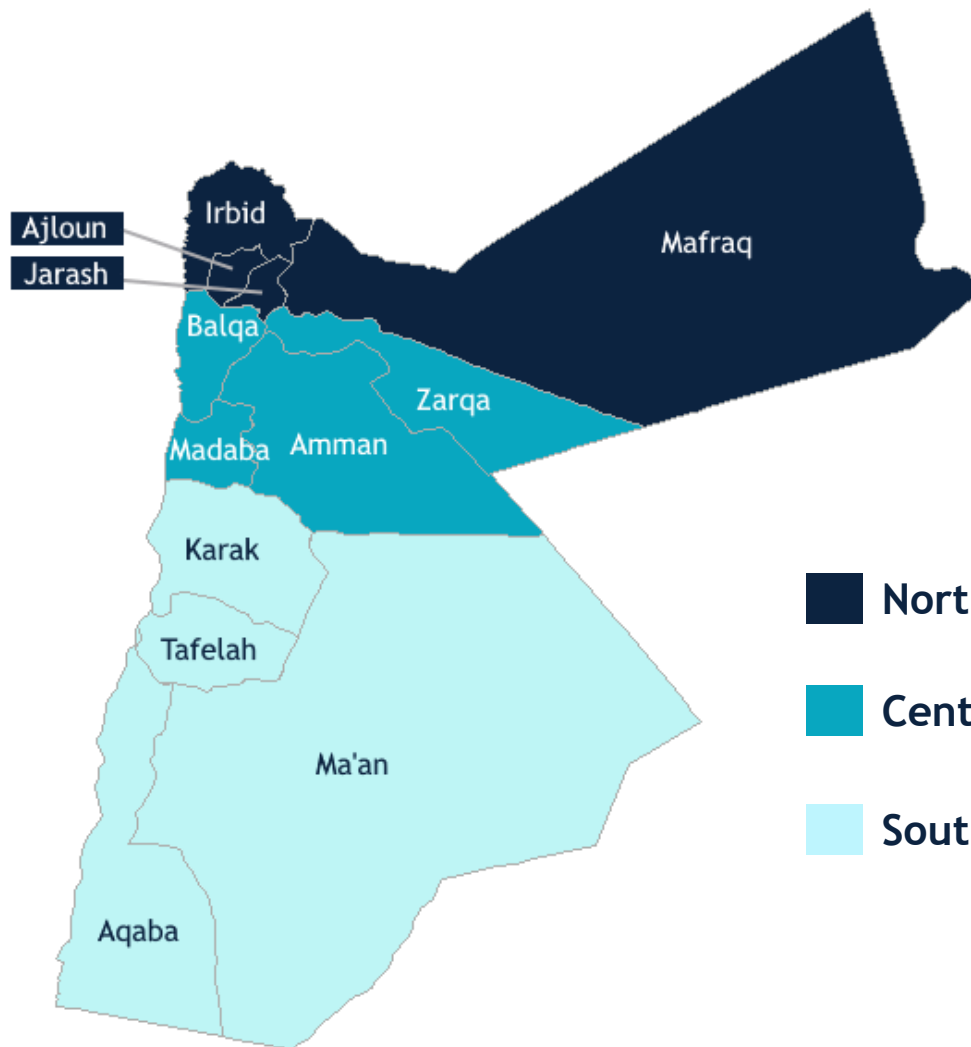
- The survey was conducted on behalf of the International Republican Institute's [Center for Insights in Survey Research](#) by the University of Jordan's [Center for Strategic Studies \(CSS\)](#).
- Data was collected between May 24 and June 6, 2023, through CAPI-administered face-to-face interviews at respondents' homes.
- The sample consisted of n=3,000 adult Jordanians, aged 18 and older.
- Using the 2015 Jordan Population and Housing Census as a sampling frame, a sample consisting of 3,000 households was drawn under a stratified cluster sample design. The sample was stratified proportionally by governorates and urbanicity, and rural areas were oversampled in several low-population governorates. Census blocks served as primary sampling units and were selected within the strata via simple random sampling. Households were selected using a random route technique and respondents were selected using the *next birthday* method under a 50/50 gender quota.
- The achieved sample was weighted by governorate, urbanicity, age, gender, and educational attainment according to data from the Jordanian Department of Statistics' updates to the 2015 Census (January 2023). Education adjustments are based on the 2015 Census.
- The response rate was 76%. The margin of error for the mid-range of the full sample does not exceed ± 2.5 -points at the 95% confidence level.
- Charts and graphs may not add up to 100% due to rounding. Cited bases are weighted.
- The survey was funded by the [United States Agency for International Development](#).

Frequently Cited Disaggregate Bases

Disaggregate	Category	Base
Age Groups	18-35	n = 1,566
	36-55	n = 1,073
	56+	n = 361
Gender	Men	n = 1,480
	Women	n = 1,520
Educational Attainment	Less than secondary	n = 1,346
	Secondary	n = 761
	Mid diploma and above	n = 893
Regions	North (Irbid, Ajloun, Jarash, Mafraq)	n = 866
	Center (Amman, Balqa, Madaba, Zarqa)	n = 1,886
	South (Karak, Tafelah, Ma'an)	n = 248
Most Populous Governorates	Amman	n = 1,242
	Zarqa	n = 427
	Irbid	n = 554

Margin of error will vary with sample size n. Cited bases are weighted.

Regions and Governorates of Jordan



- North (Irbid, Ajloun, Jarash, Mafrq)
- Center (Amman, Balqa, Madaba, Zarqa)
- South (Karak, Tafelah, Aqaba, Ma'an)

Previous *State of Democracy* Surveys

Poll	Fieldwork Dates	Total Sample Size
Wave 3	November 11-30, 2021	n = 3,010
Wave 2	September 4-13, 2020	n = 3,000
Wave 1	March 21 - April 16, 2019	n = 3,020

About the Center for Insights In Survey Research (CISR)



Research and qualitative and quantitative public opinion data is a cornerstone of IRI's approach to programming. Our data ensures citizens' needs are at the center of the political debate and guide our projects' goals. To date, IRI has conducted more than 1,000 polls in over 100 countries, surveying more than 1.5 million people and measuring community attitudes on a wide range of issues.

IRI's research approach integrates CISR's methodological polling best practices protocol and field partner in-depth knowledge of the local research environment. This close collaboration begins at project design, with carefully calibrated sampling and instrument development, and continues throughout the entire fieldwork cycle to ensure the collection of reliable qualitative and quantitative data.

← For more of IRI's public opinion research, see [CISR's content](#).

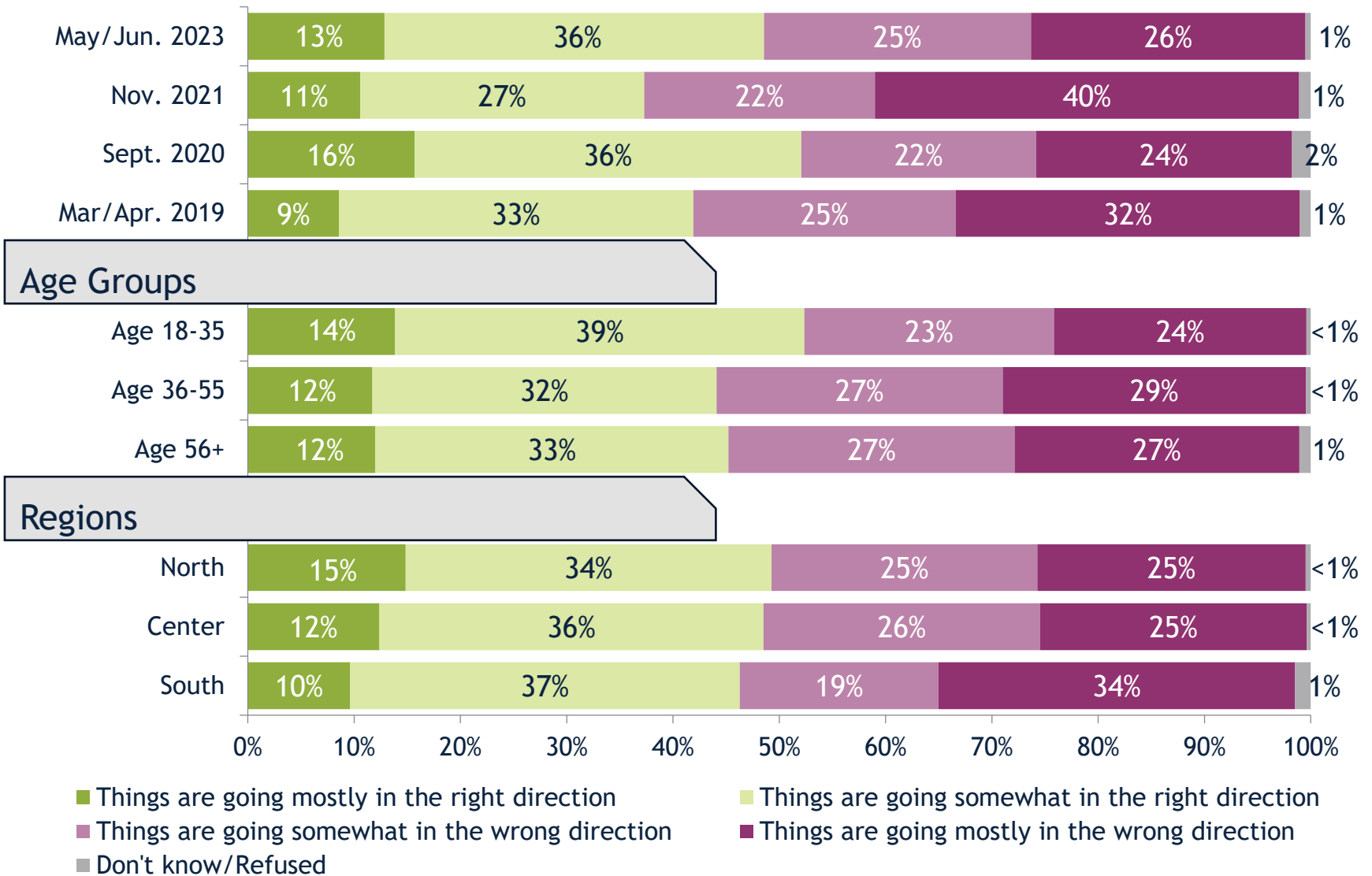
General Perceptions of Democracy



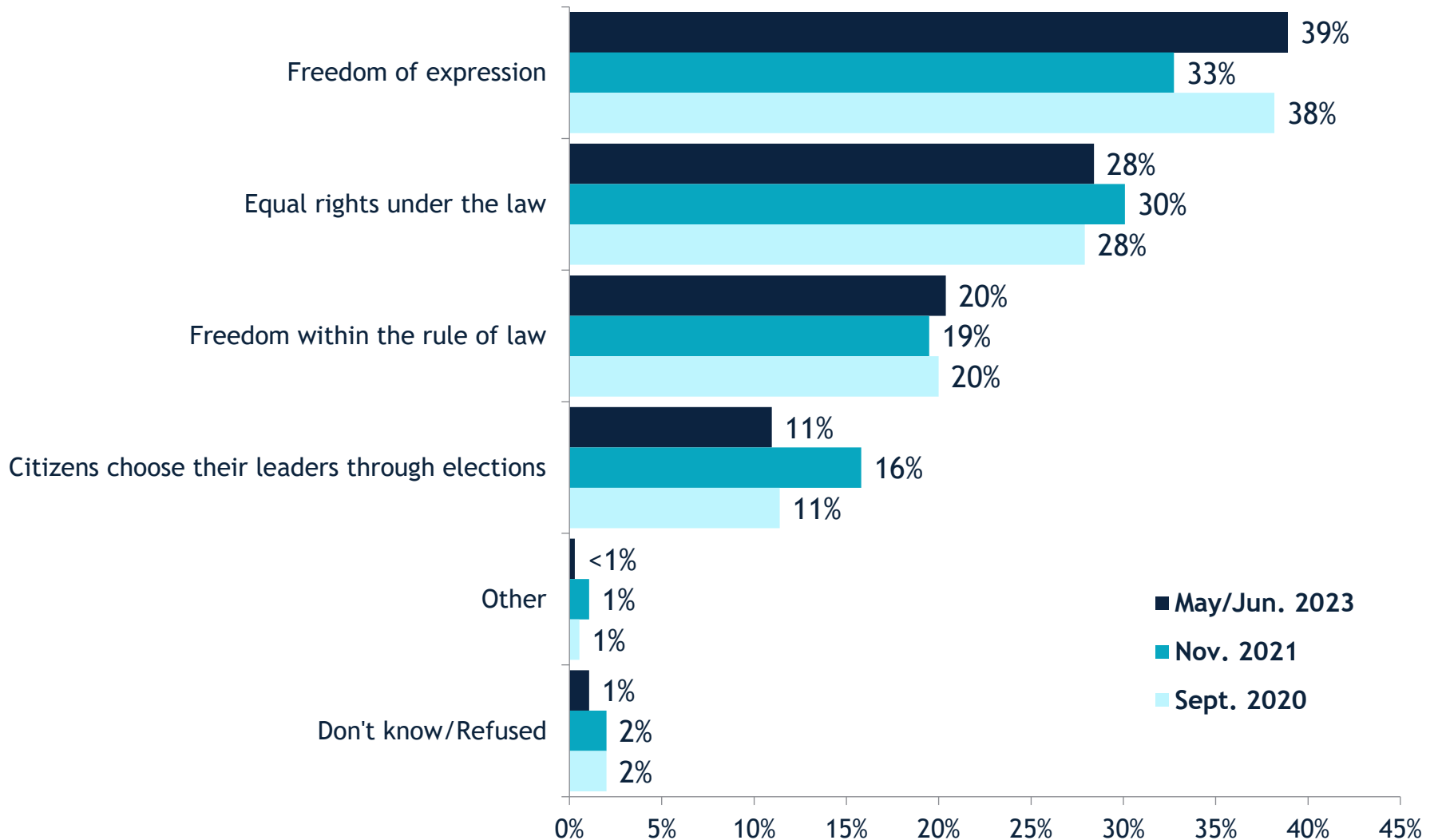
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Overall, is Jordan headed in the right or wrong direction?



Which of the following elements do you consider to be the most important element of democracy?

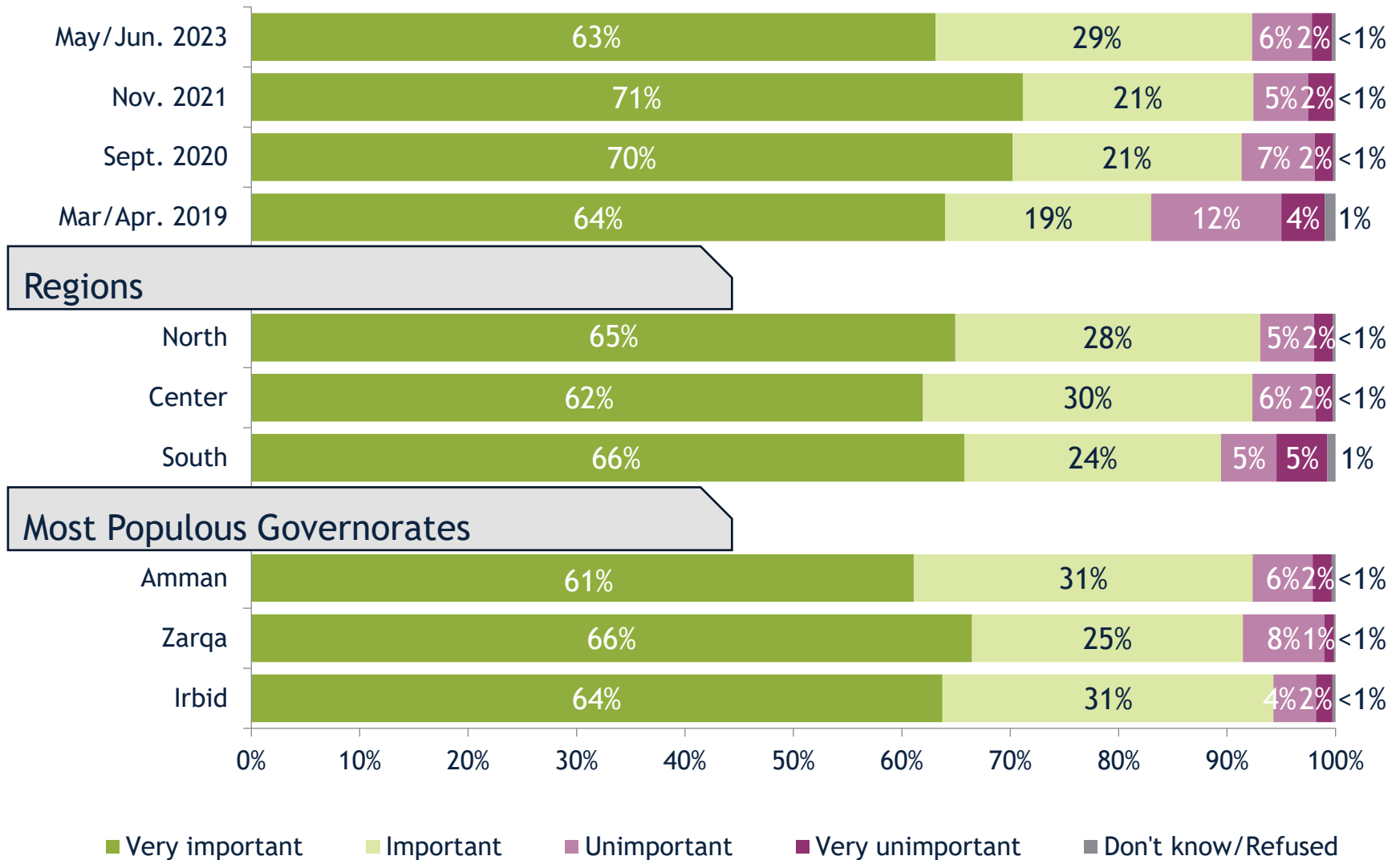




Which of the following elements do you consider to be the most important element of democracy?

	Regions			Most Populous Governorates		
	North	Center	South	Amman	Zarqa	Irbid
Freedom of expression	38%	39%	46%	38%	37%	40%
Equal rights under the law	28%	29%	23%	29%	33%	25%
Freedom within the rule of law	22%	20%	16%	20%	21%	22%
Citizens choose their leaders through elections	11%	11%	13%	12%	9%	11%
Other	<1%	<1%	1%	1%	<1%	<1%
Don't know/Refused	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%

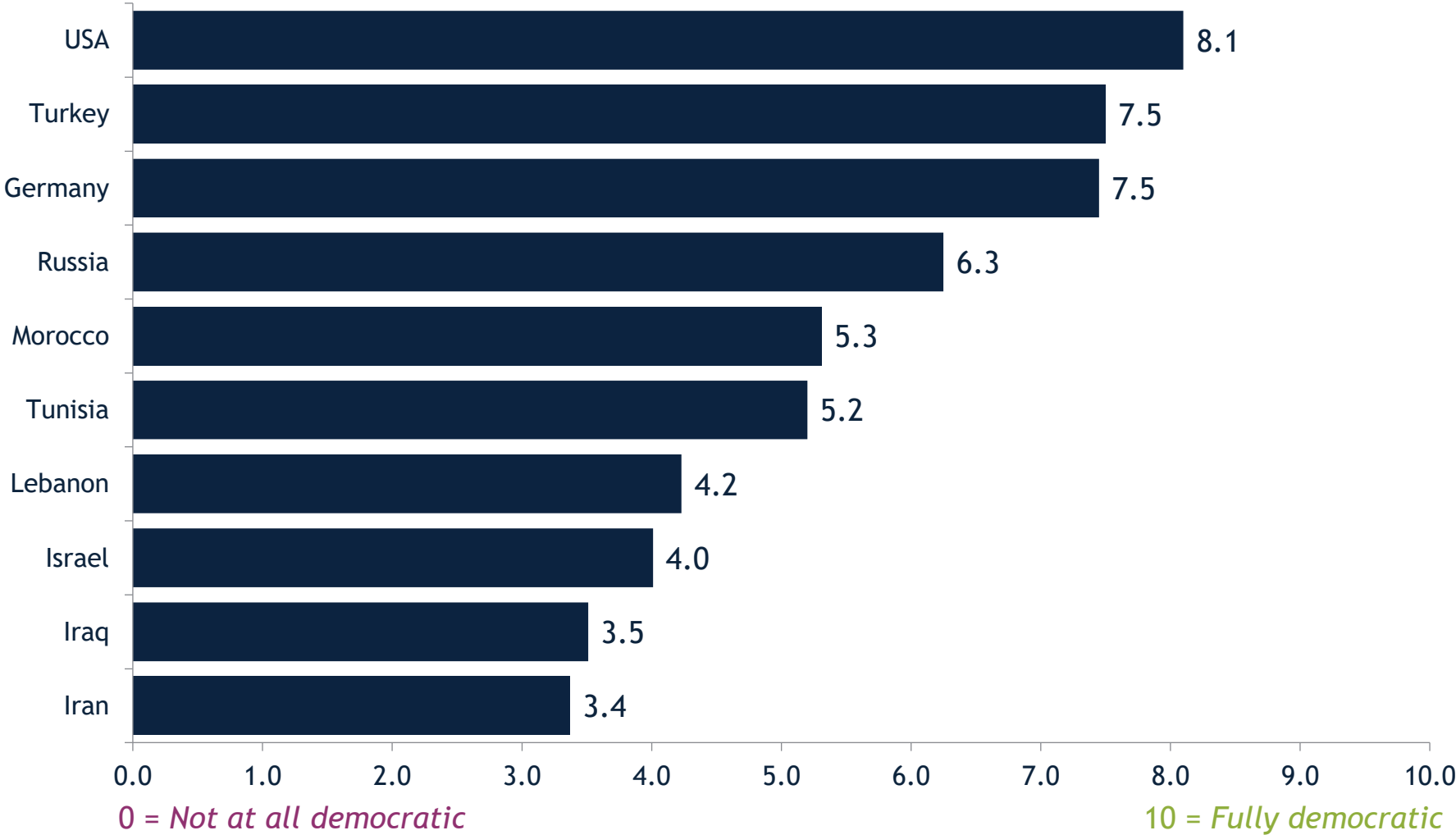
How important is it for you to live in a country that is governed democratically?





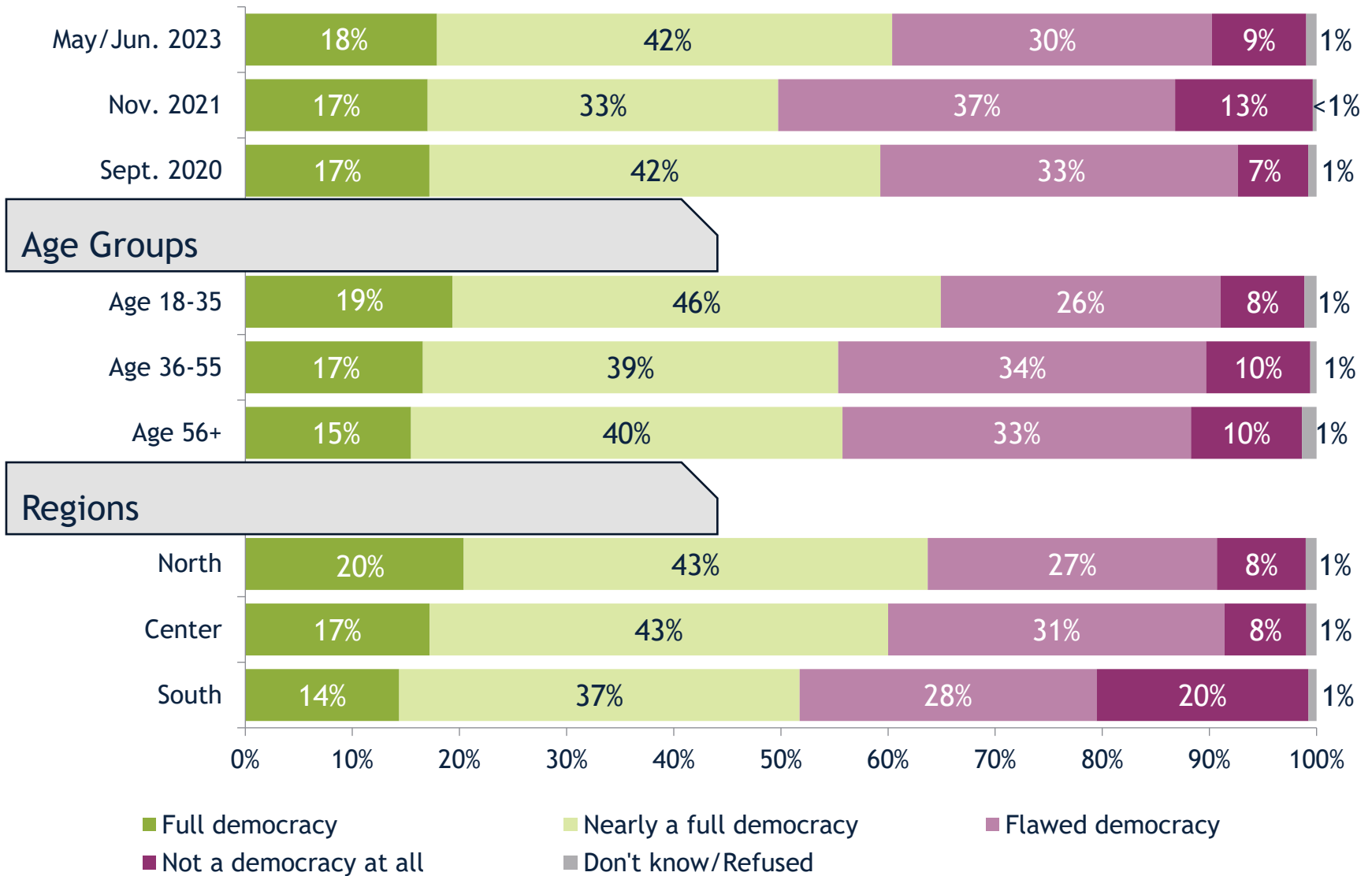
On a scale of 1-10 (where 1 means *not at all* and 10 means fully democratic) to what extent is each of the following countries a democracy?

(Average scores)

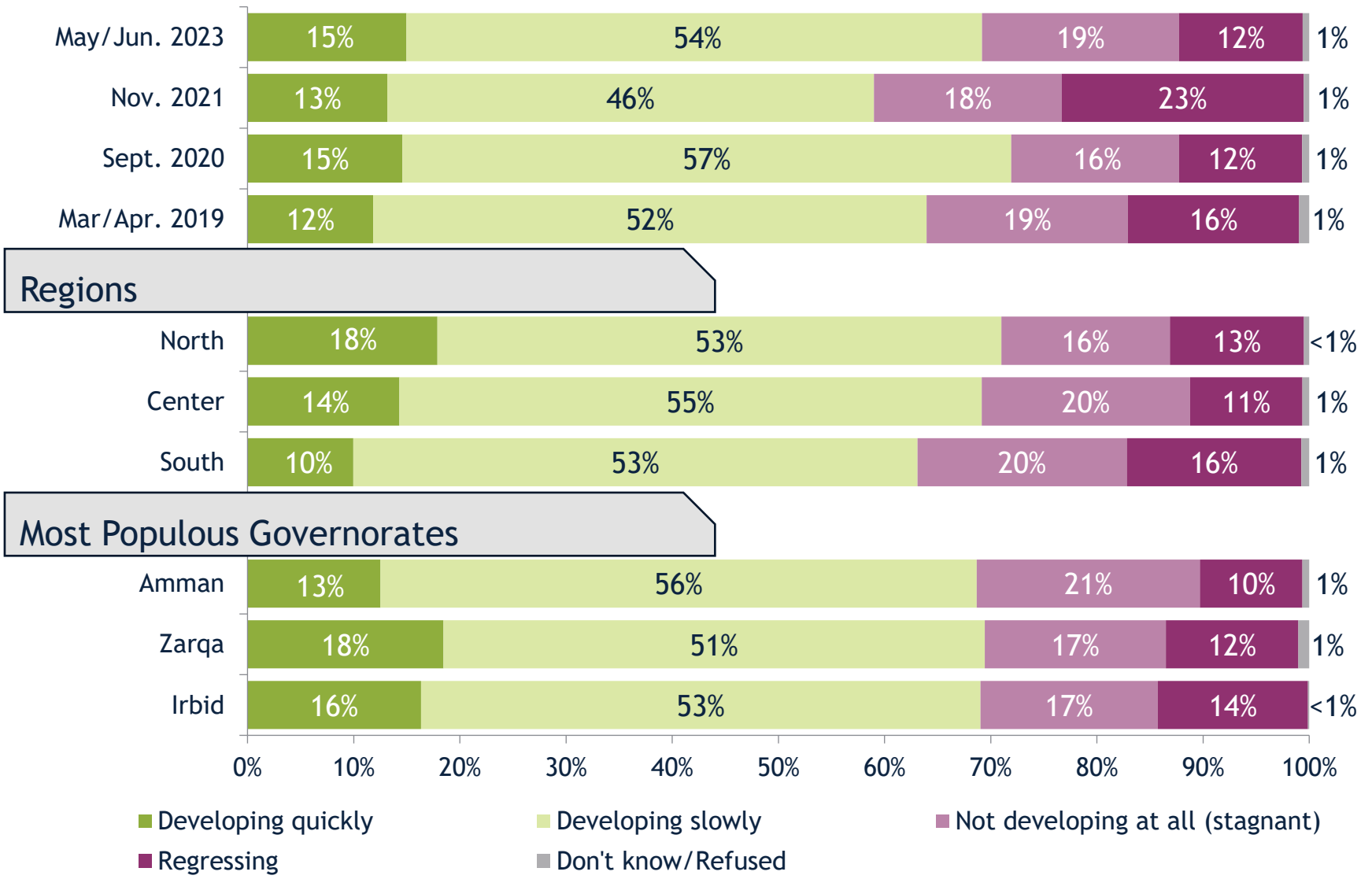


*Averages exclude *Don't know/Refused* responses. Bases range from USA (n=2,755) to Russia (n=2,490)

Thinking about our country's current political system, do you believe it is a...

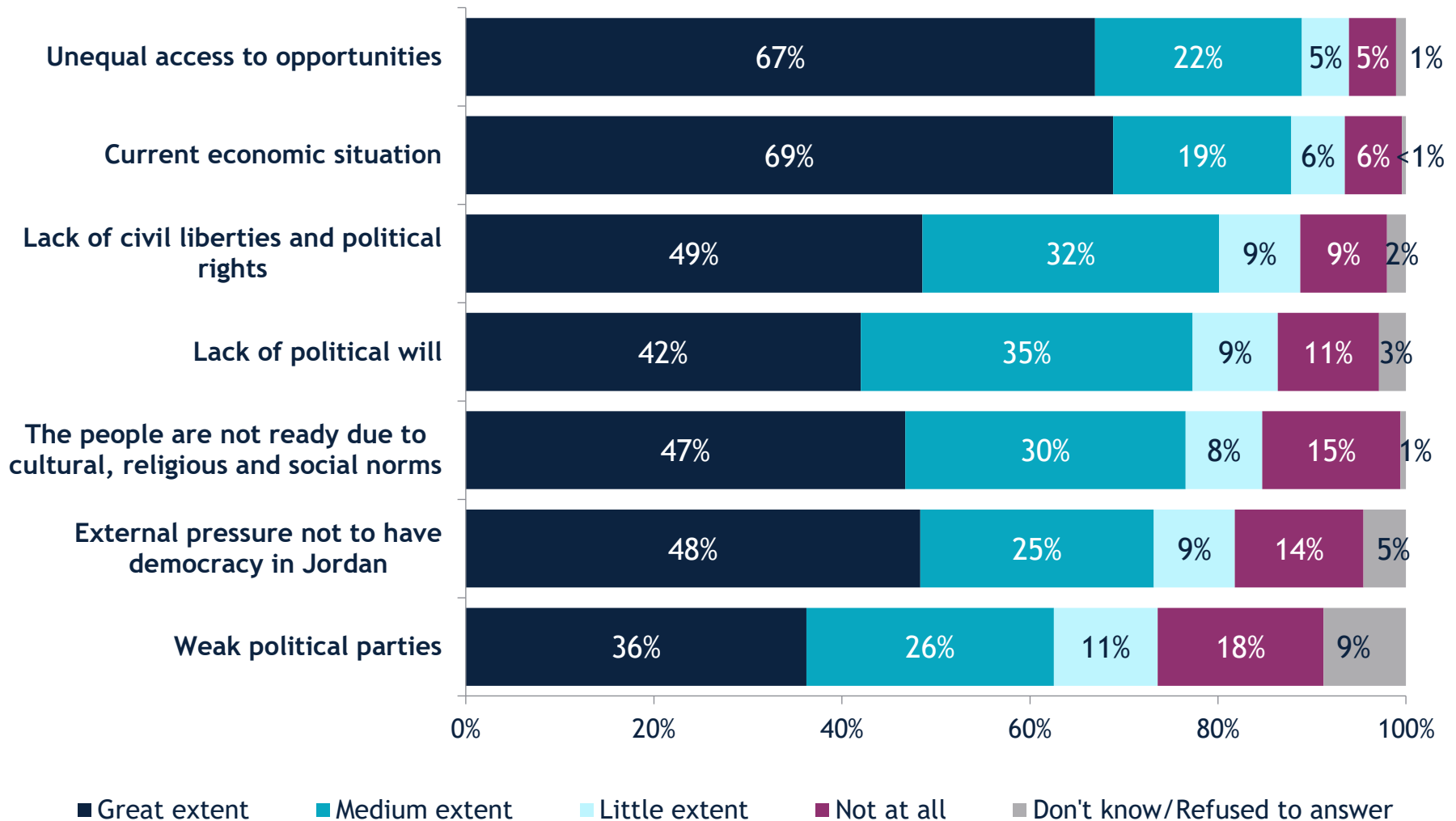


When you think about the development of democracy in Jordan, do you think it is developing quickly, developing slowly, not developing at all, or regressing?



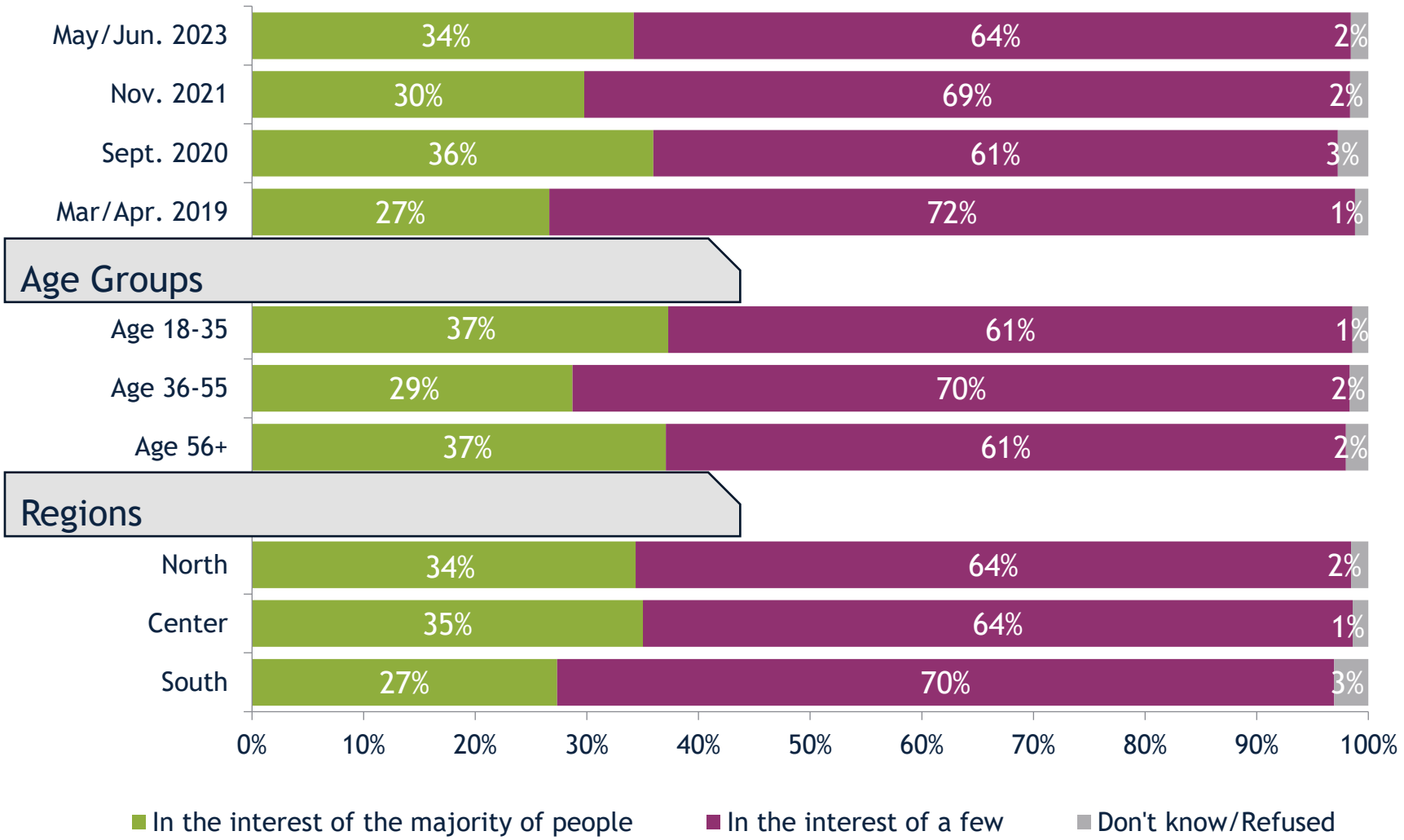


To what extent do you think the following constitute an obstacle to the development of democracy in Jordan?



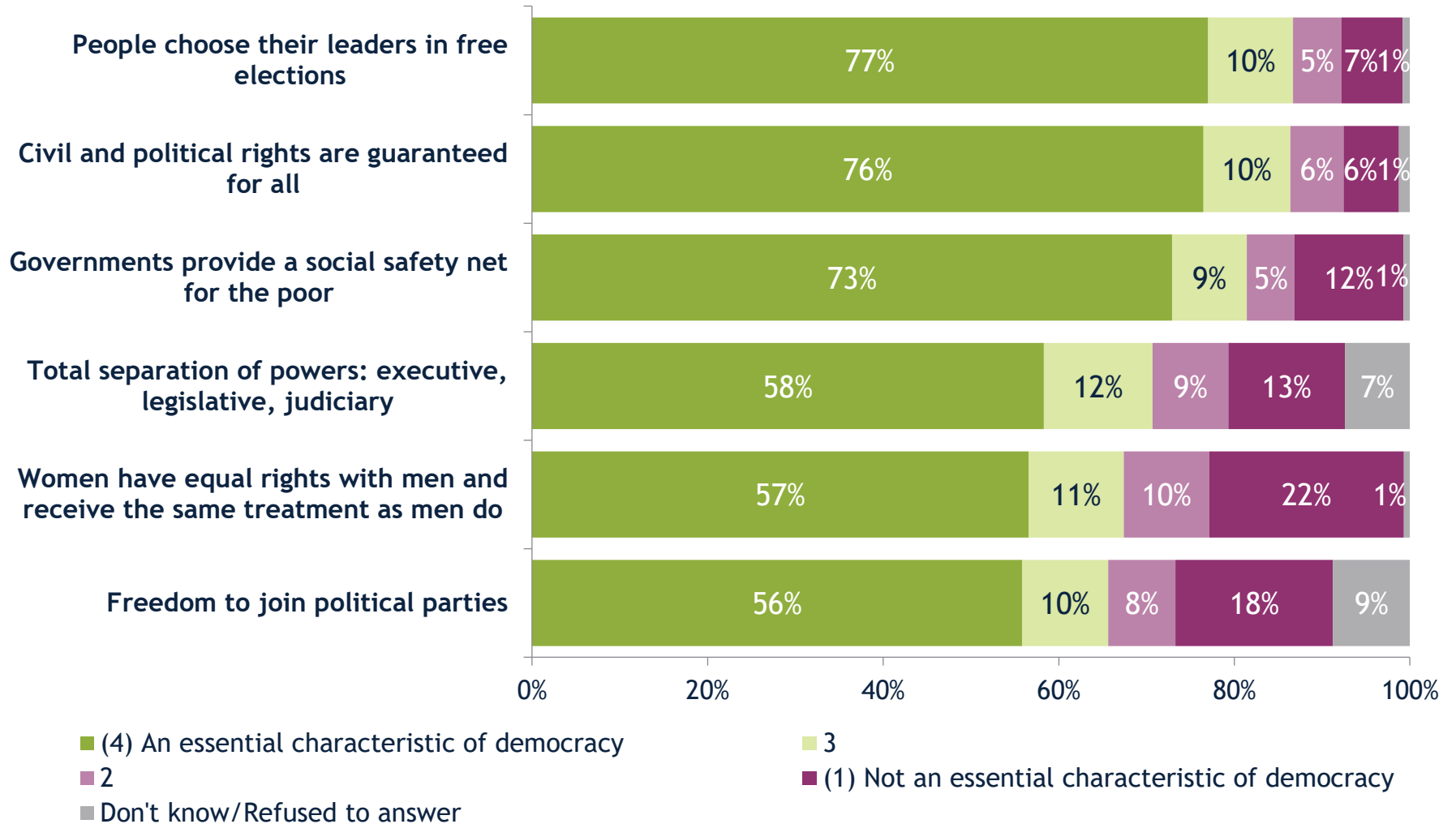
Which of the following two statements best represents your point of view?

The country is governed in the interest of the majority of people, or in the interest of a few



Please tell me for each of the following things how essential you think it is as a characteristic of democracy?

Use this scale where one (1) means “not at all an essential characteristic of democracy” and four (4) means it definitely is “an essential characteristic of democracy”



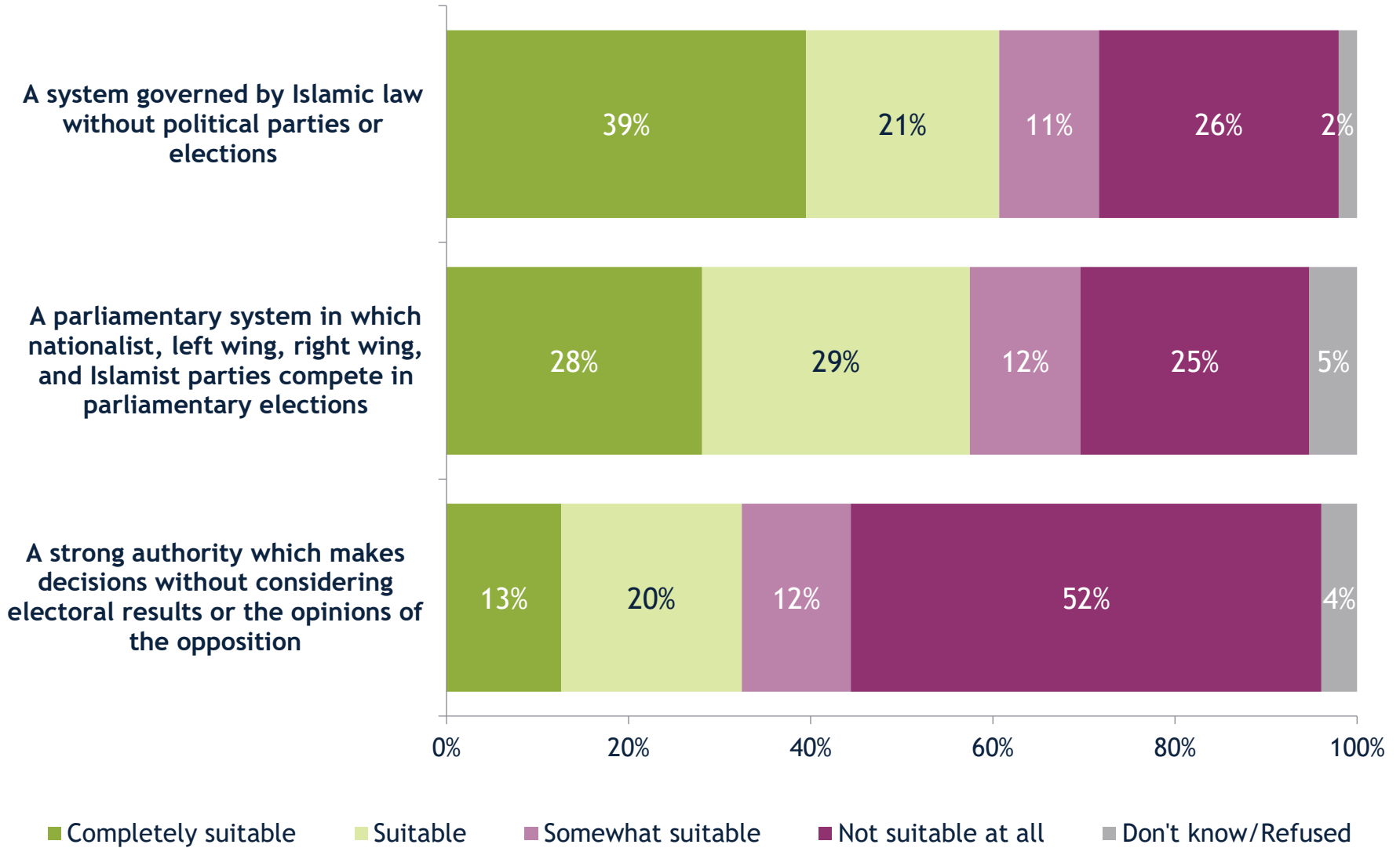


Please tell me for each of the following things how essential you think it is as a characteristic of democracy?

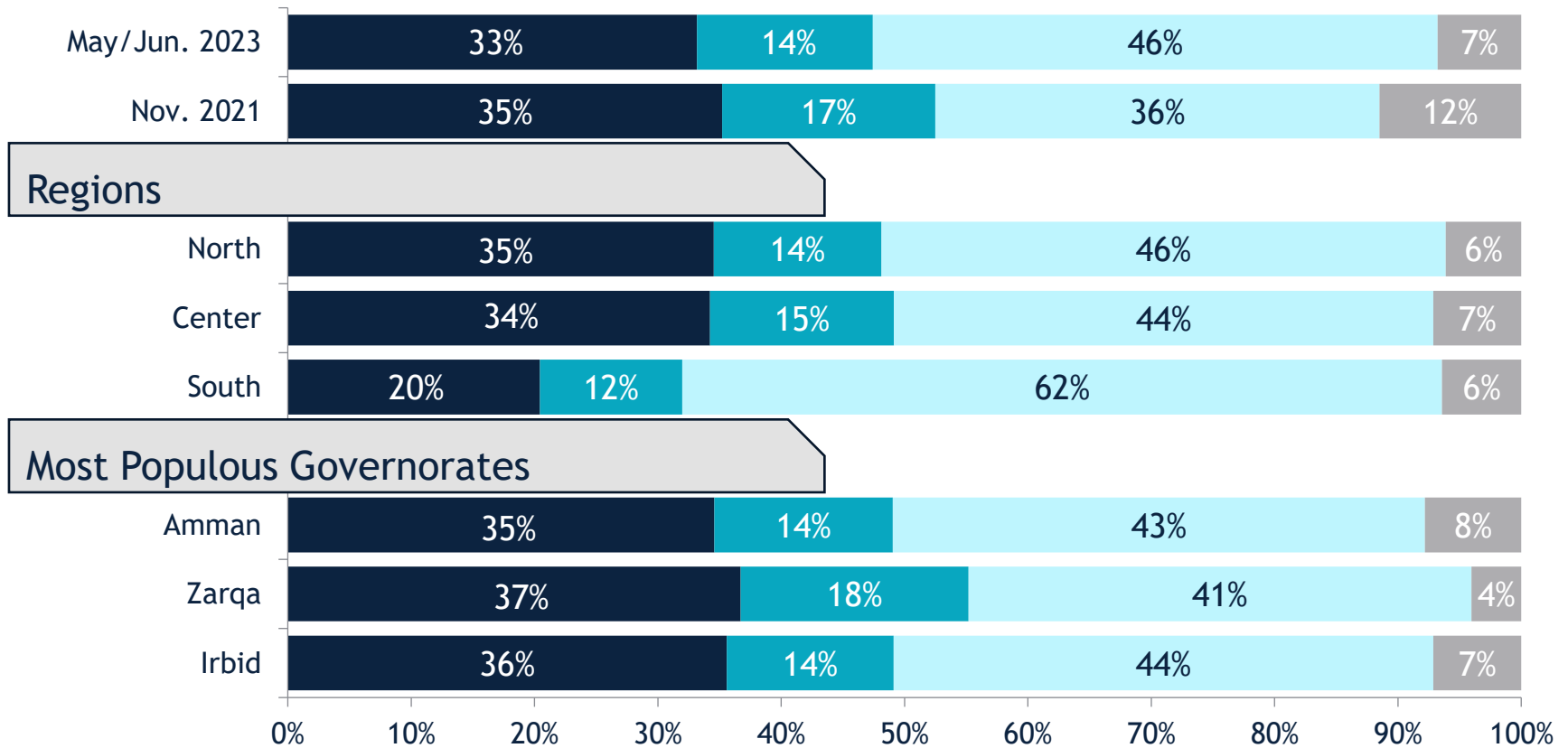
(Essential characteristic responses displayed)

	Age Groups			Regions			Most Populous Governorates		
	18-35	36-55	56+	North	Center	South	Amman	Zarqa	Irbid
People choose their leaders in free elections	78%	76%	76%	78%	77%	79%	75%	80%	74%
Civil and political rights are guaranteed for all	77%	76%	74%	78%	76%	74%	75%	81%	78%
Governments provide a social safety net for the poor	73%	74%	69%	73%	73%	73%	71%	79%	71%
Total separation of powers: executive, legislative, judiciary	59%	59%	55%	59%	58%	58%	56%	59%	60%
Women have equal rights with men and receive the same treatment as men do	56%	56%	61%	60%	56%	52%	55%	58%	61%
Freedom to join political parties	56%	57%	53%	59%	55%	48%	54%	56%	61%

I would like to know to what extent you think each of these systems would be suitable for Jordan ...



Which of the following would be best to solve the economic problems in Jordan?



- A parliamentary system in which nationalist, left wing, right wing, and Islamist parties compete in parliamentary elections
- A strong authority which makes decisions without considering electoral results or the opinions of the opposition
- A system governed by Islamic law without political parties or elections
- Don't know/Refused

Civil Liberties



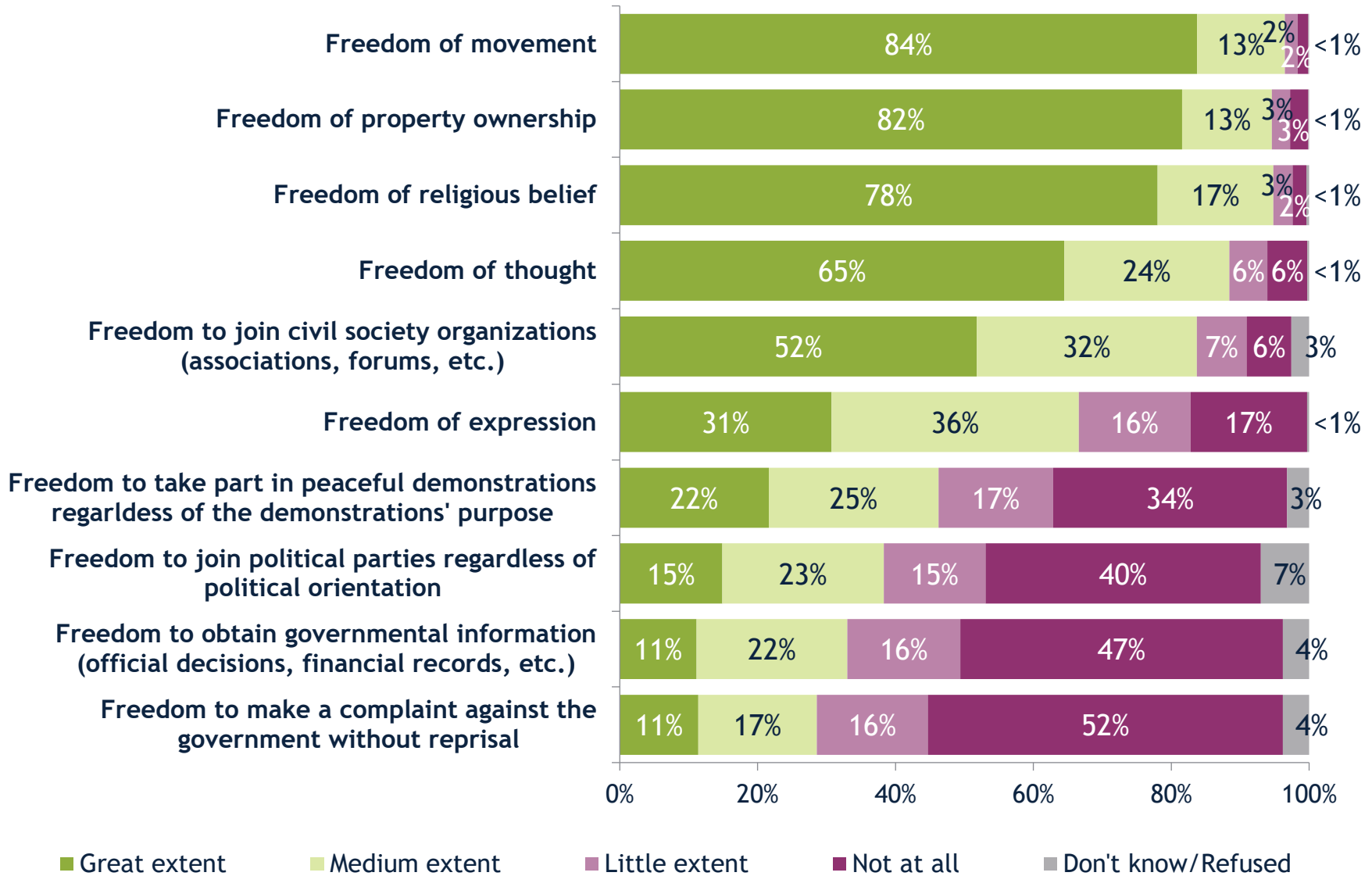
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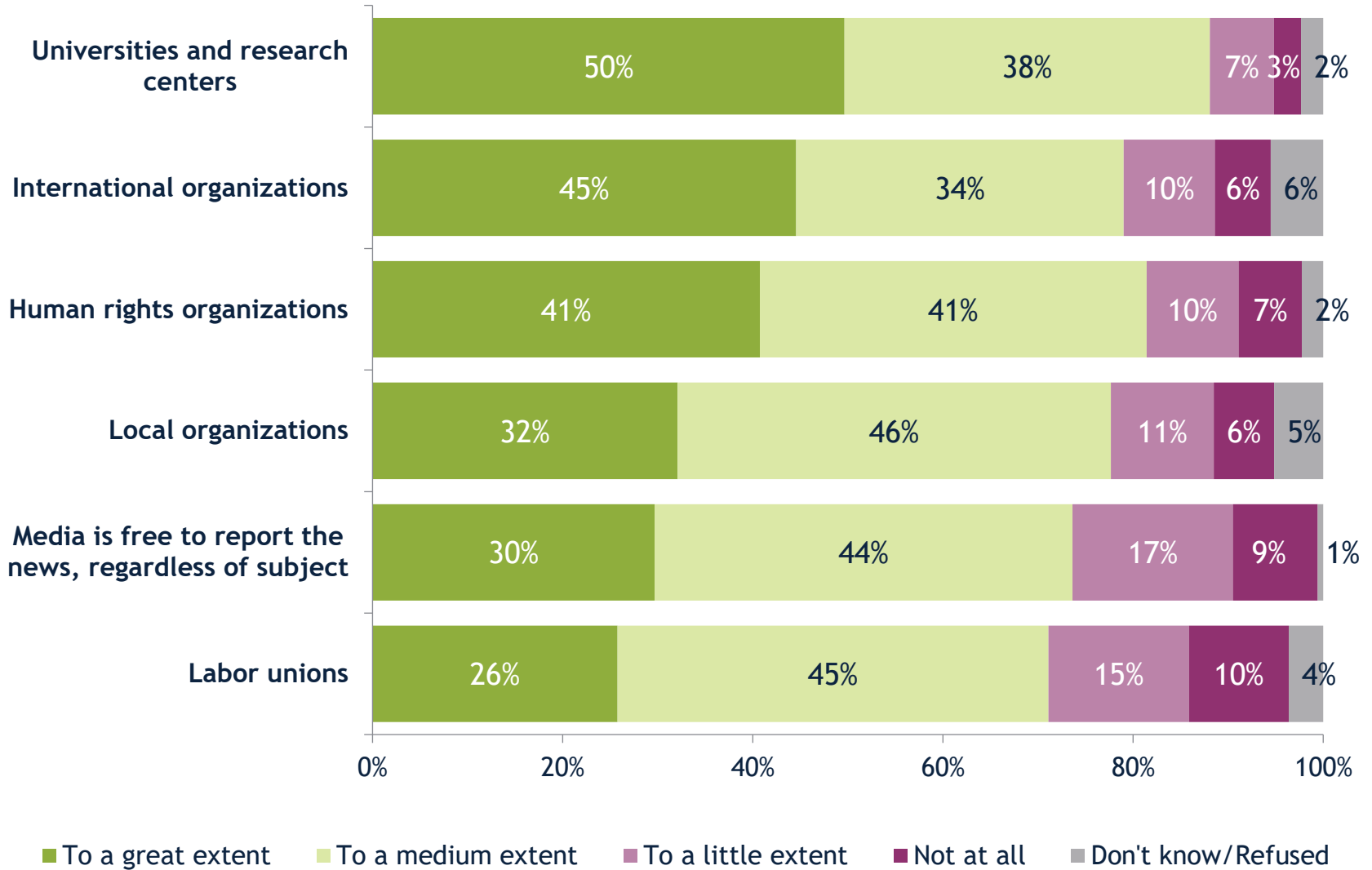


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In your opinion, to what extent are the following freedoms guaranteed for someone like you in Jordan?

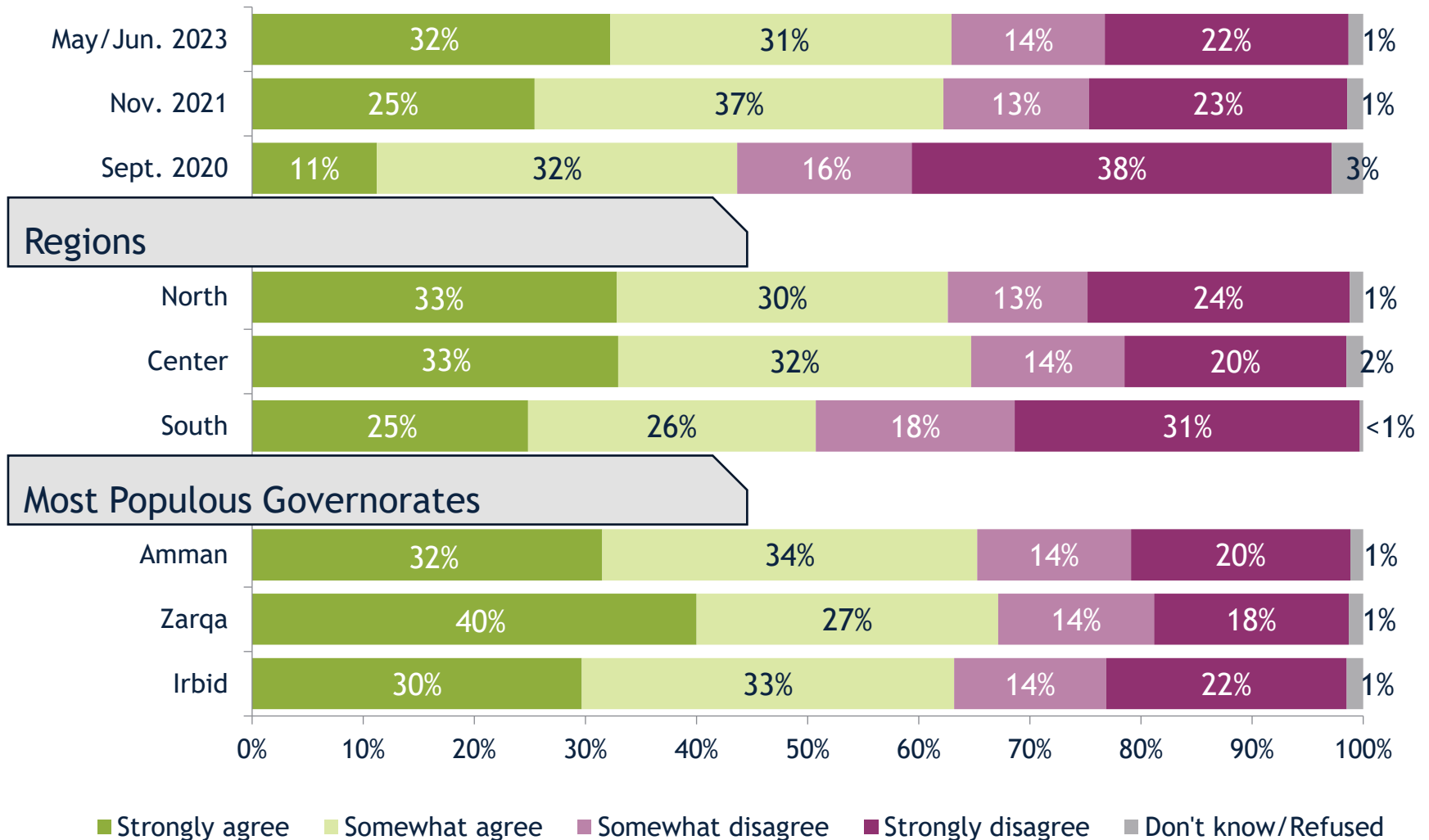


To what extent do you think that each of the following has freedom to do its work in Jordan?

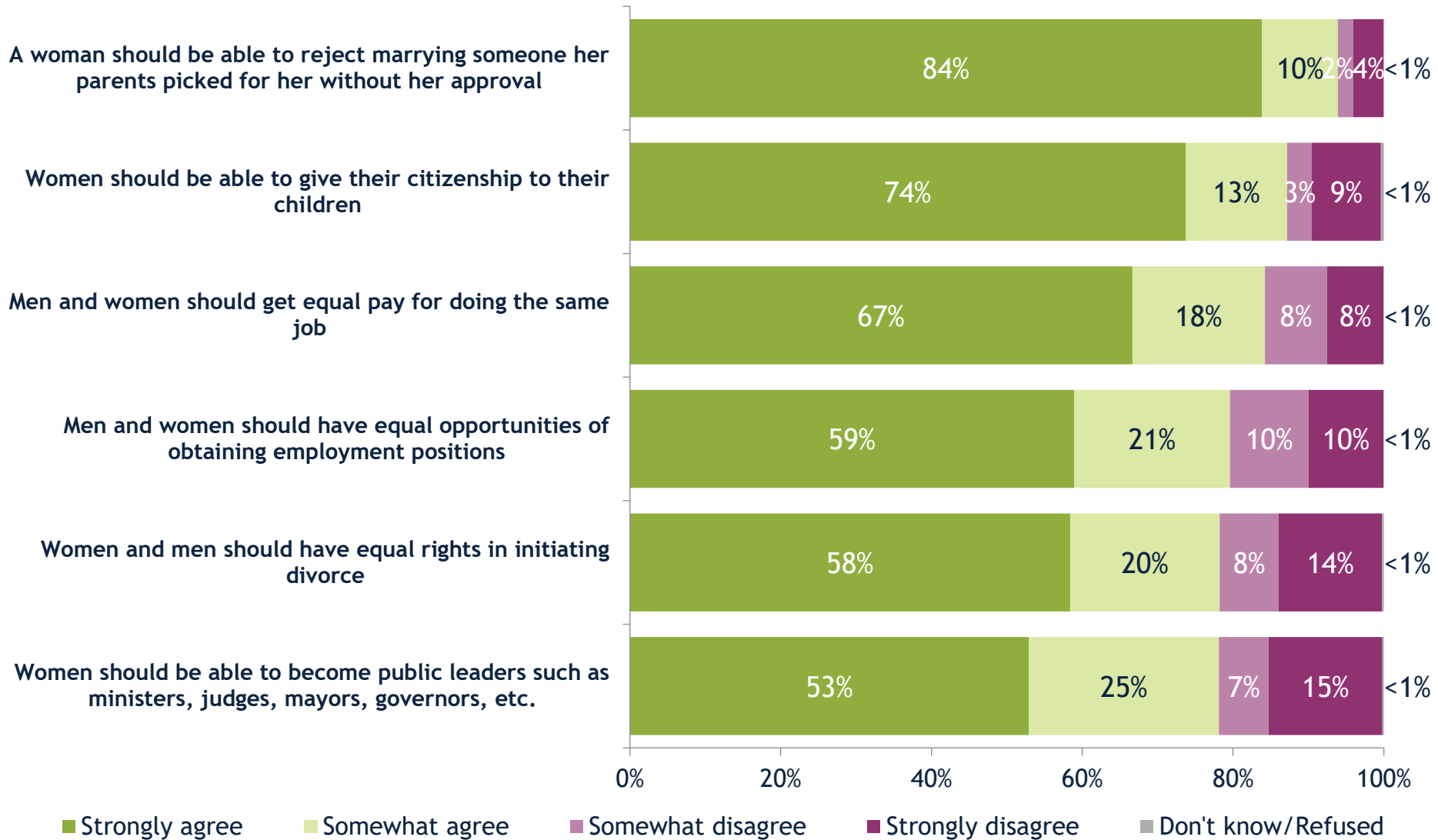


To what degree would you agree with the following statement?

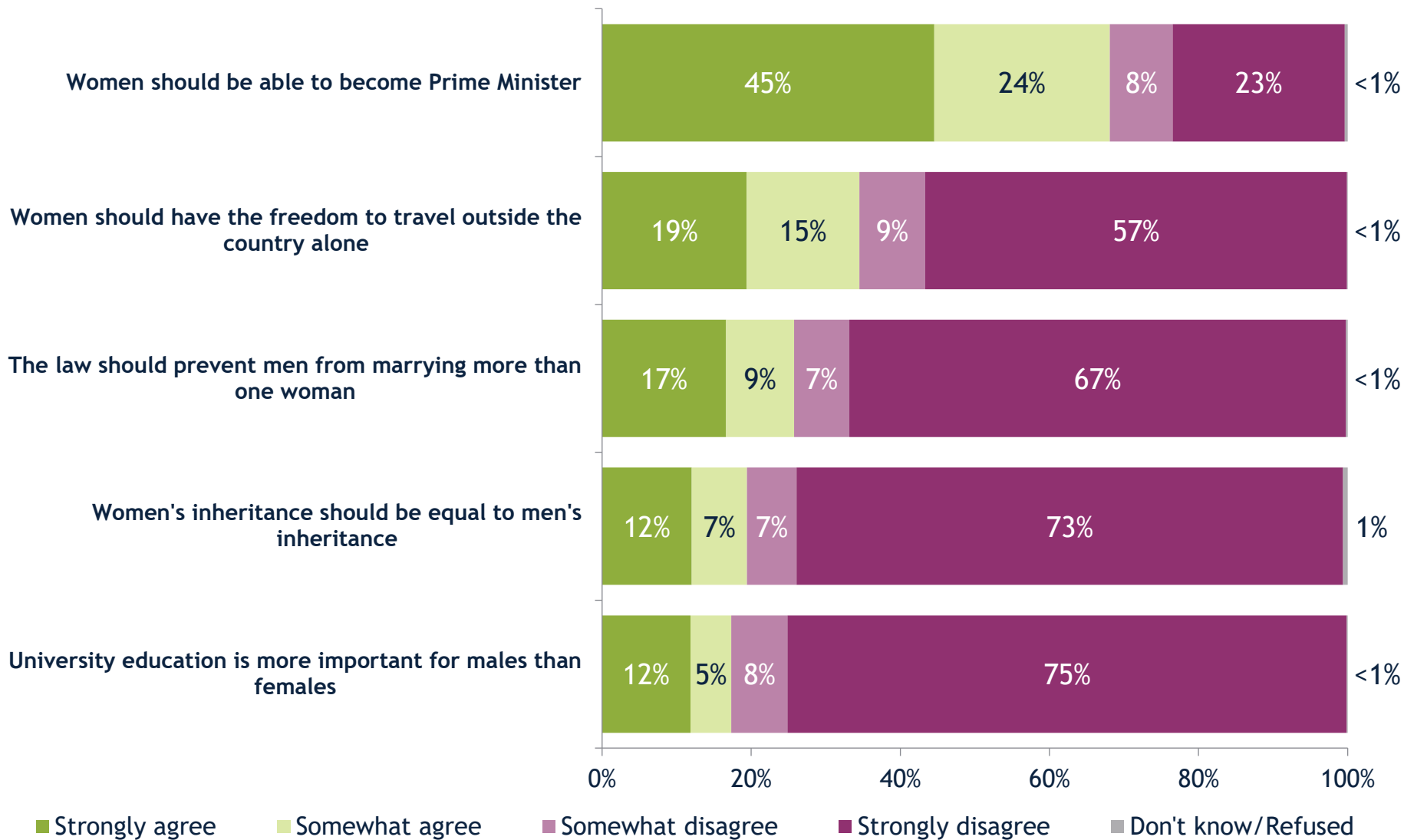
It is necessary to ensure security and stability, even if that requires violations of human rights



To what extent do you agree with the following statements?



To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

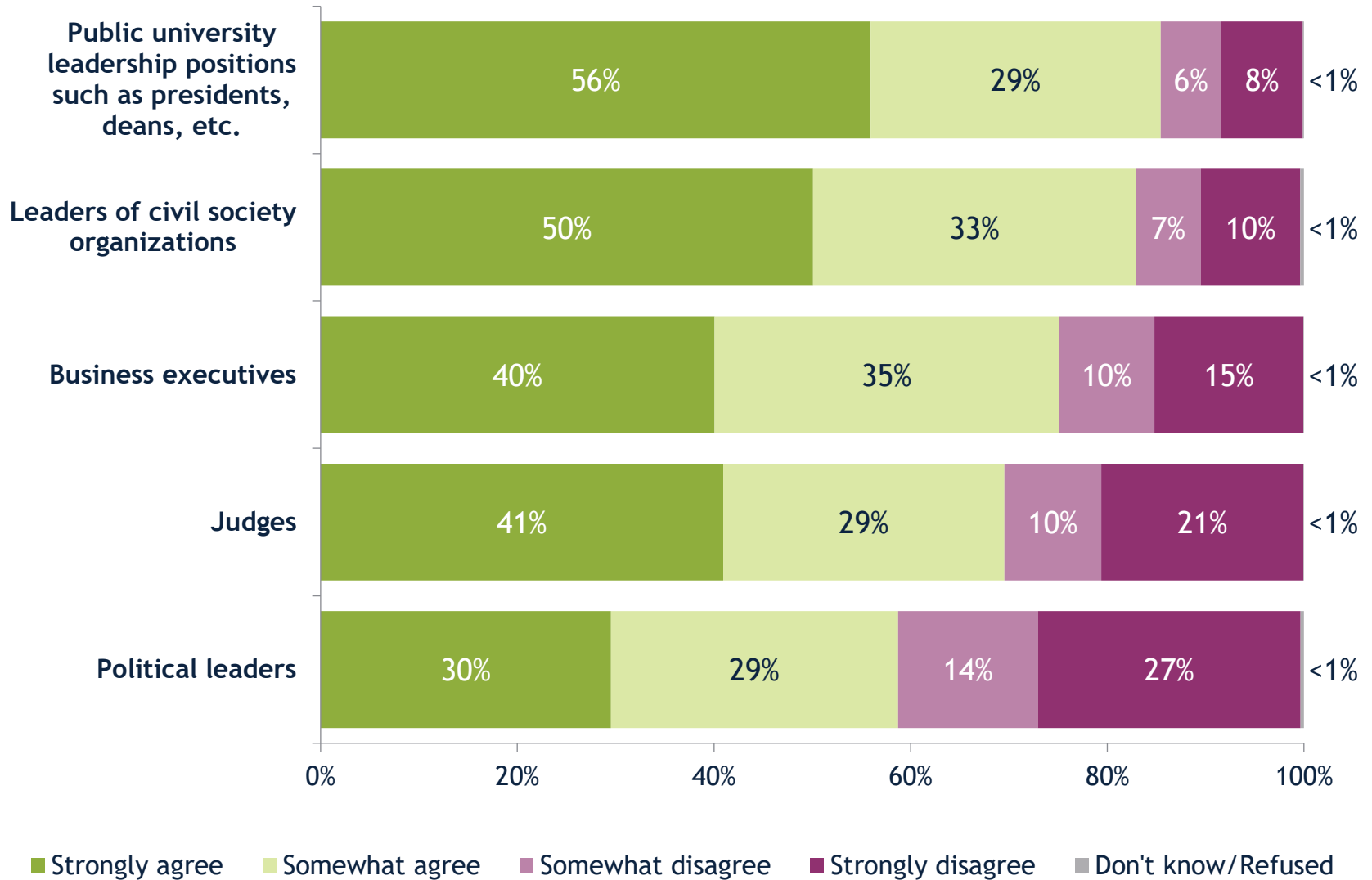


To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

(Agree responses displayed)

	Age Groups			Gender	
	18-35	36-55	56+	Men	Women
A woman should be able to reject marrying someone her parents picked for her without her approval	94%	94%	92%	94%	94%
Women should be able to give their citizenship to their children	86%	89%	86%	83%	91%
Men and women should get equal pay for doing the same job	83%	85%	85%	80%	88%
Men and women should have equal opportunities of obtaining employment positions	79%	80%	82%	72%	87%
Women and men should have equal rights in initiating divorce	77%	81%	77%	71%	85%
Women should be able to become public leaders such as ministers, judges, mayors, governors, etc.	75%	80%	85%	70%	86%
Women should be able to become Prime Minister	64%	71%	76%	59%	77%
Women should have the freedom to travel outside of the country alone	35%	34%	32%	24%	45%
The law should prevent men from marrying more than one woman	29%	24%	17%	12%	39%
Women's inheritance should be equal to men's inheritance	21%	18%	18%	17%	22%
University education is more important for males than females	18%	17%	14%	25%	10%

Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree that women are equally as effective as men in each of the following?



Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree that women are equally as effective as men in each of the following?

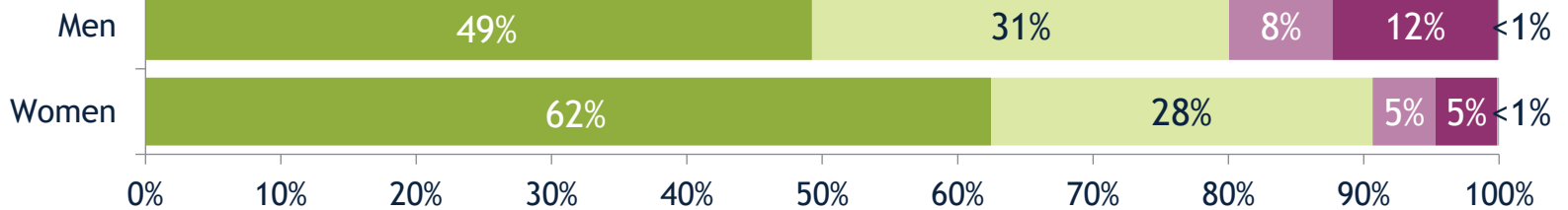
Public university leadership positions, such as presidents, deans, etc.



Age Groups



Gender



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

Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree that women are equally as effective as men in each of the following?

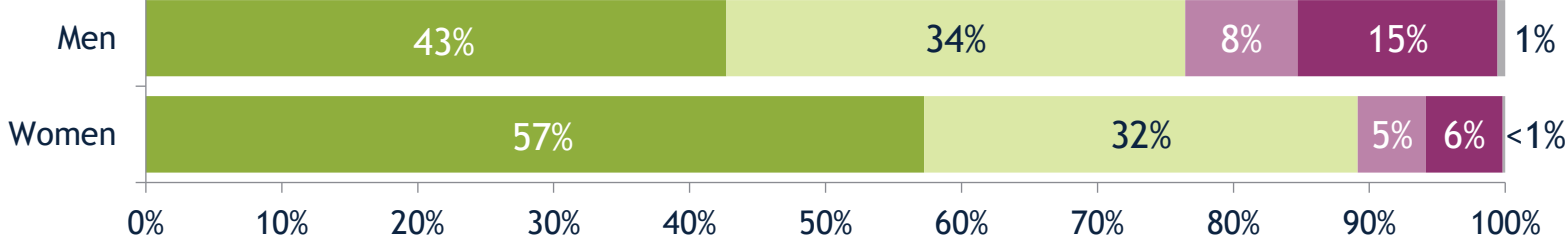
Leaders of civil society organizations



Age Groups



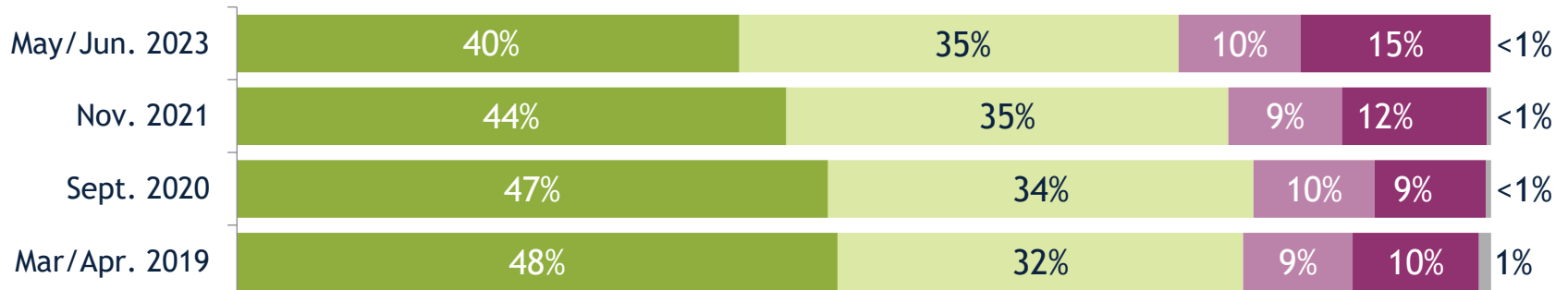
Gender



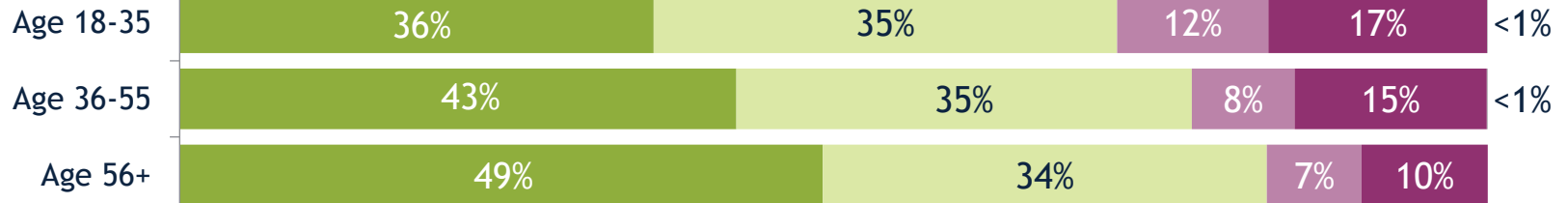
Strongly agree Somewhat agree Somewhat disagree Strongly disagree Don't know/Refused

Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree that women are equally as effective as men in each of the following?

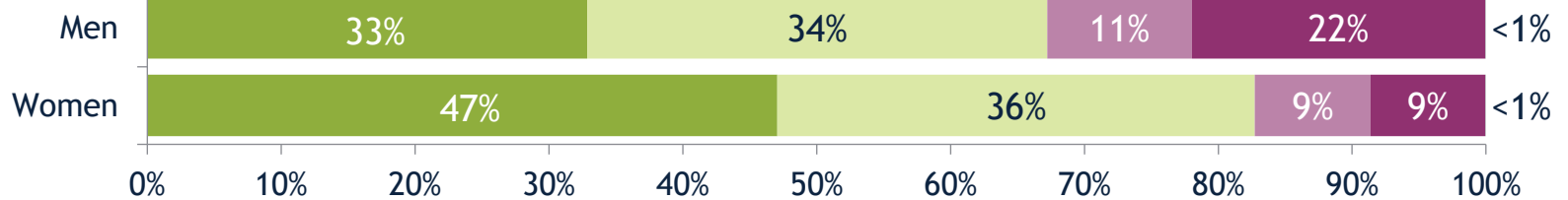
Business executives



Age Groups



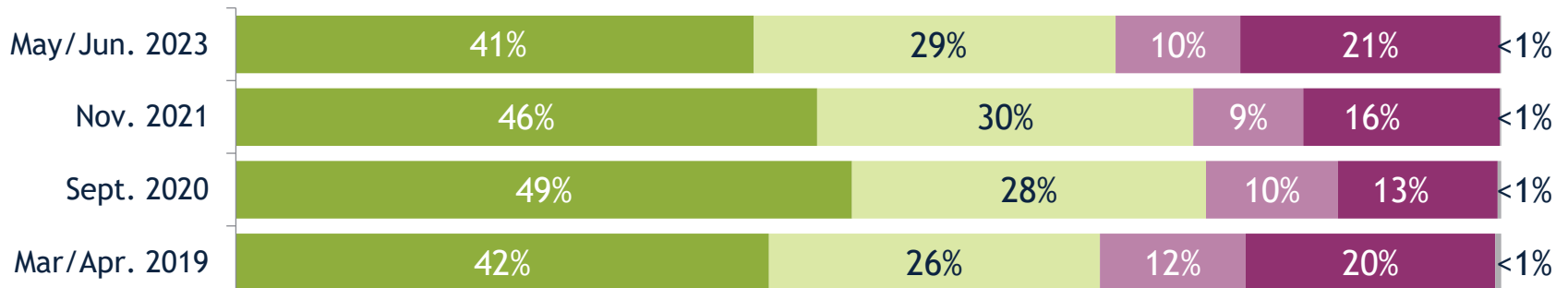
Gender



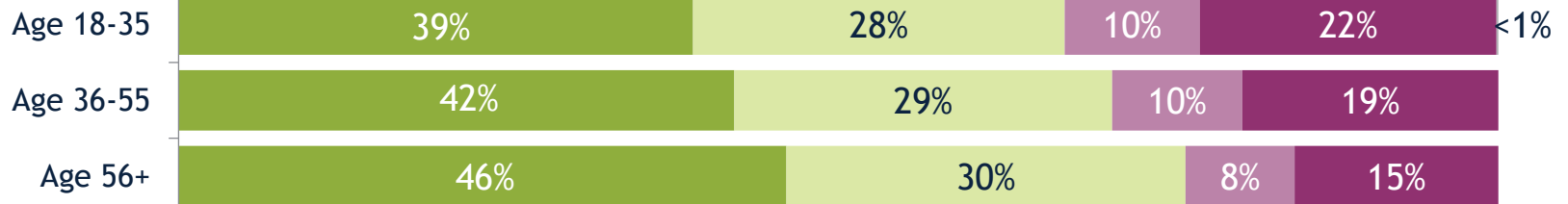
■ Strongly agree
 ■ Somewhat agree
 ■ Somewhat disagree
 ■ Strongly disagree
 ■ Don't know/Refused

Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree that women are equally as effective as men in each of the following?

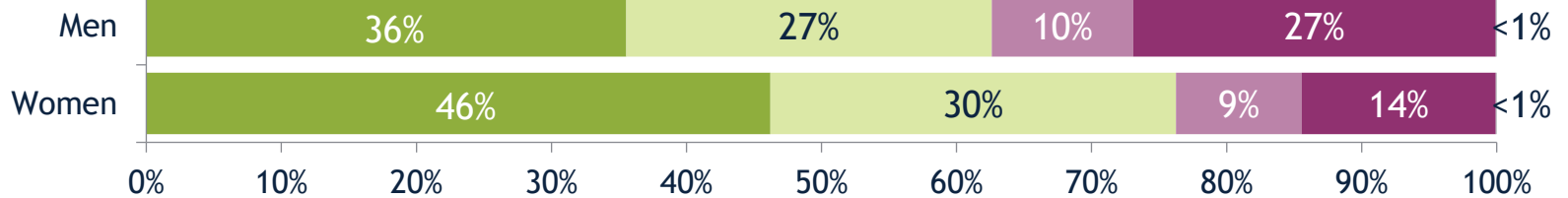
Judges



Age Groups



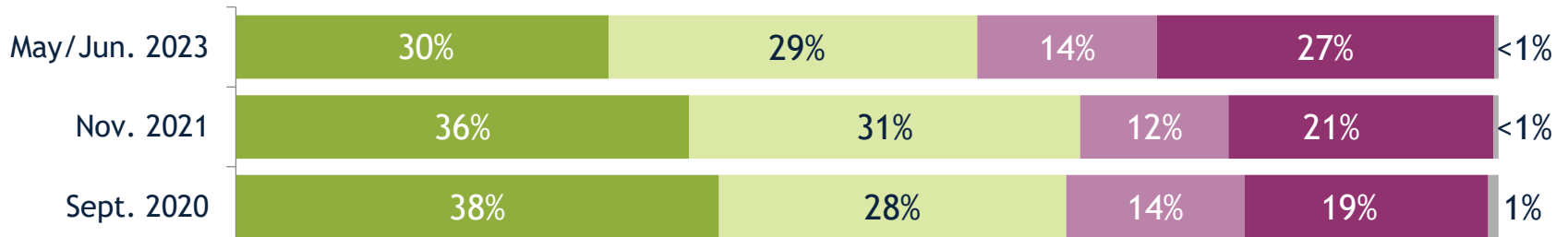
Gender



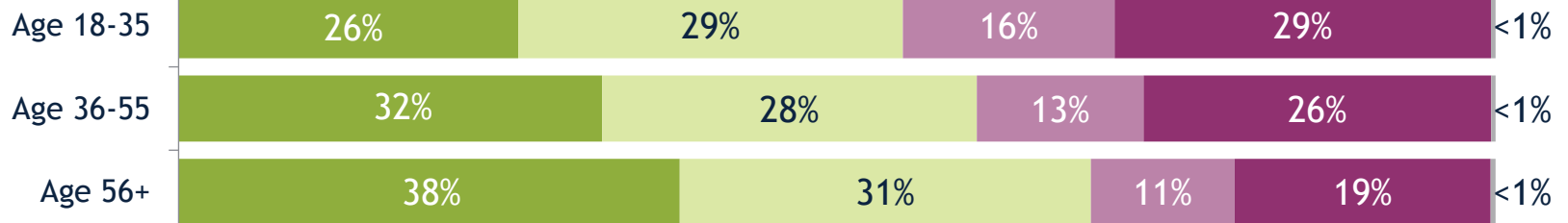
■ Strongly agree
 ■ Somewhat agree
 ■ Somewhat disagree
 ■ Strongly disagree
 ■ Don't know/Refused

Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree that women are equally as effective as men in each of the following?

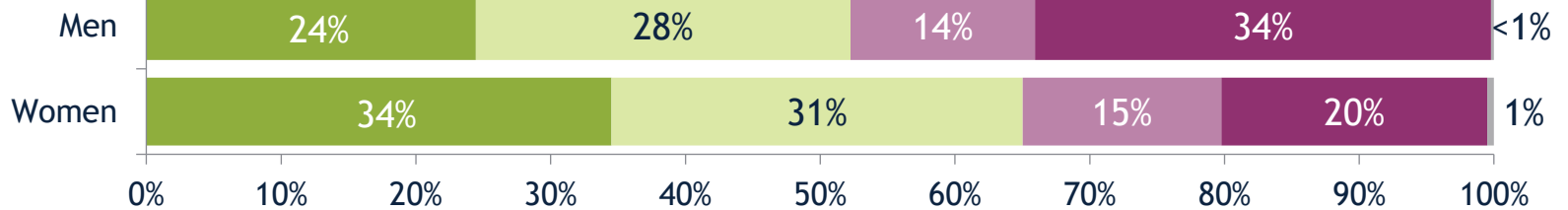
Political leaders



Age Groups

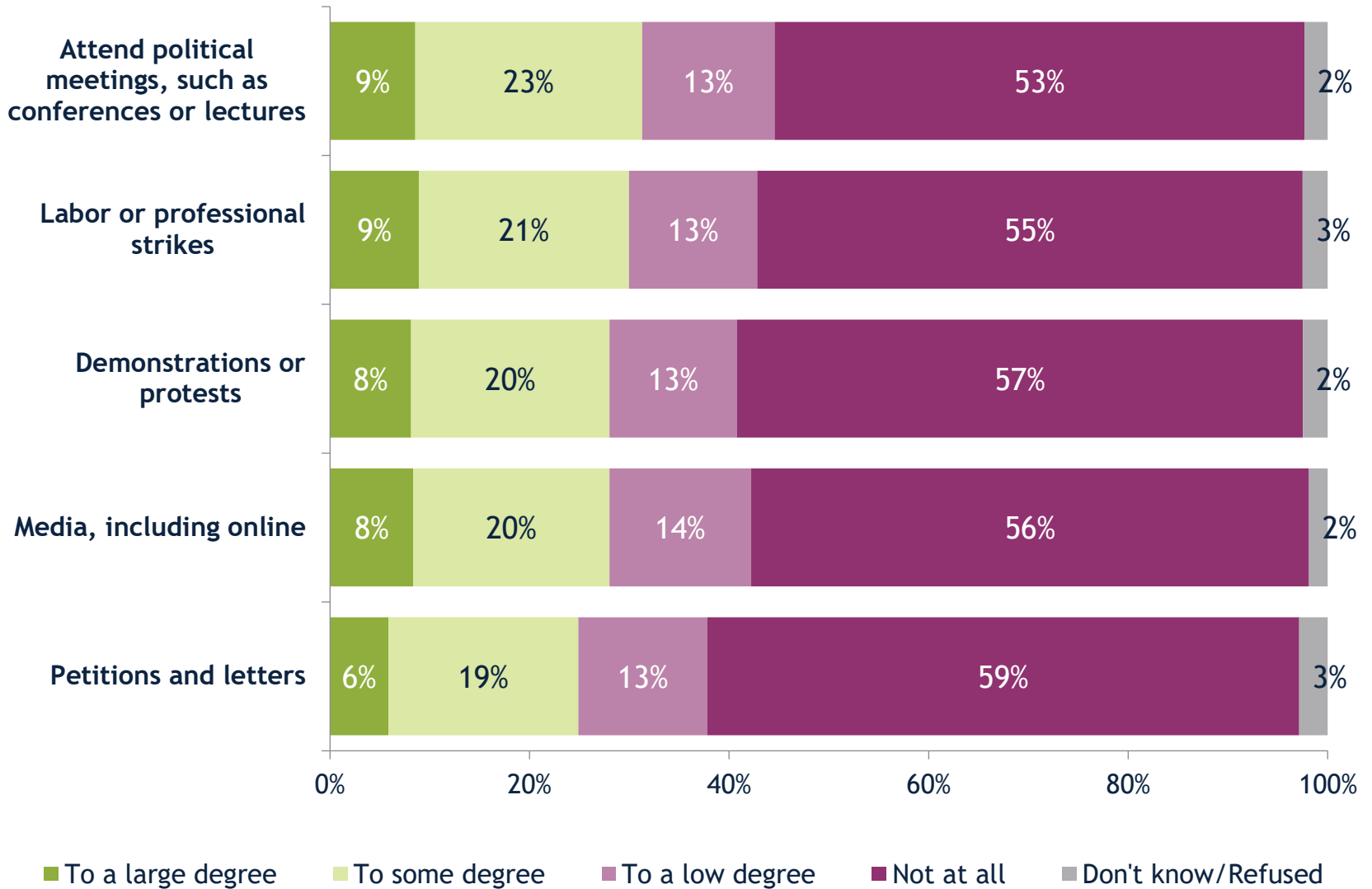


Gender



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

To what degree can you criticize government policies through the following forms of expression without fear of exposing yourself to adverse consequences on your security and livelihood?



Political Participation and Elections

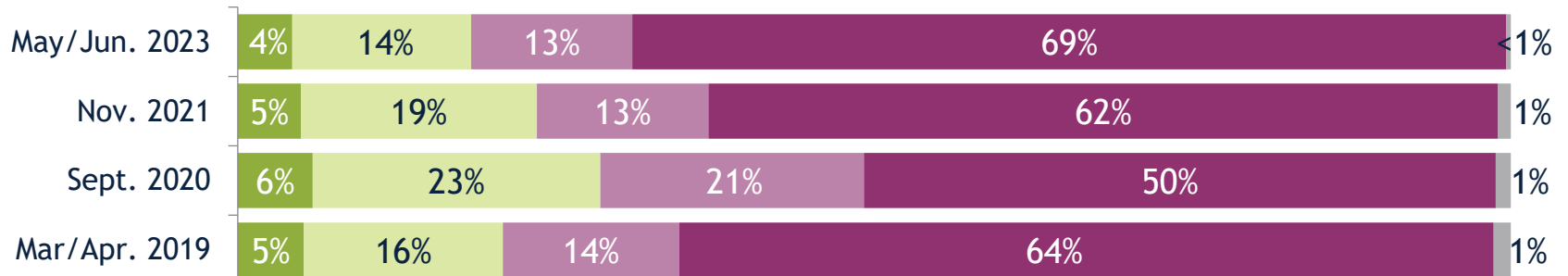


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To what extent do you believe that someone like you can have an impact on government decision making?



Age Groups



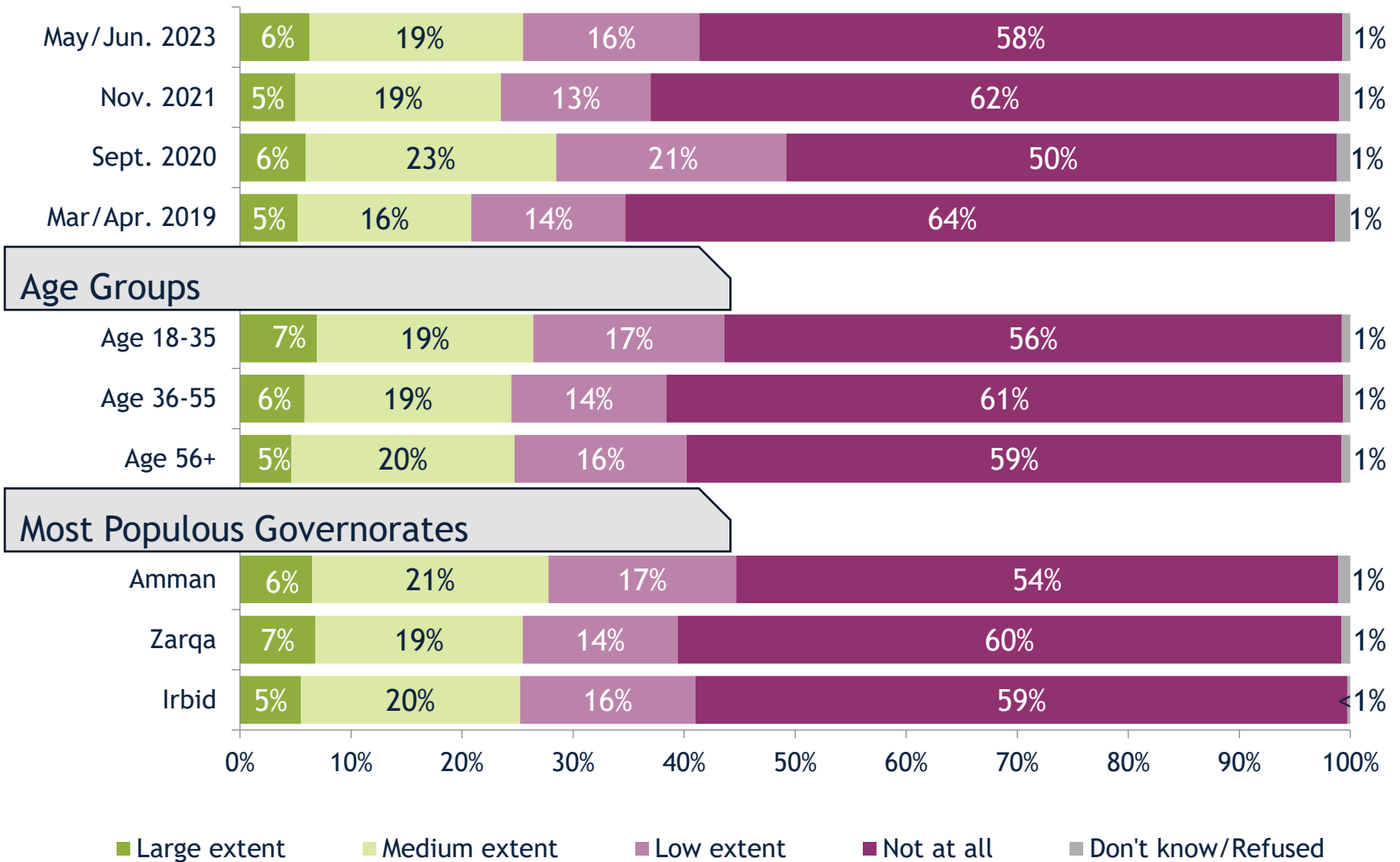
Most Populous Governorates



0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

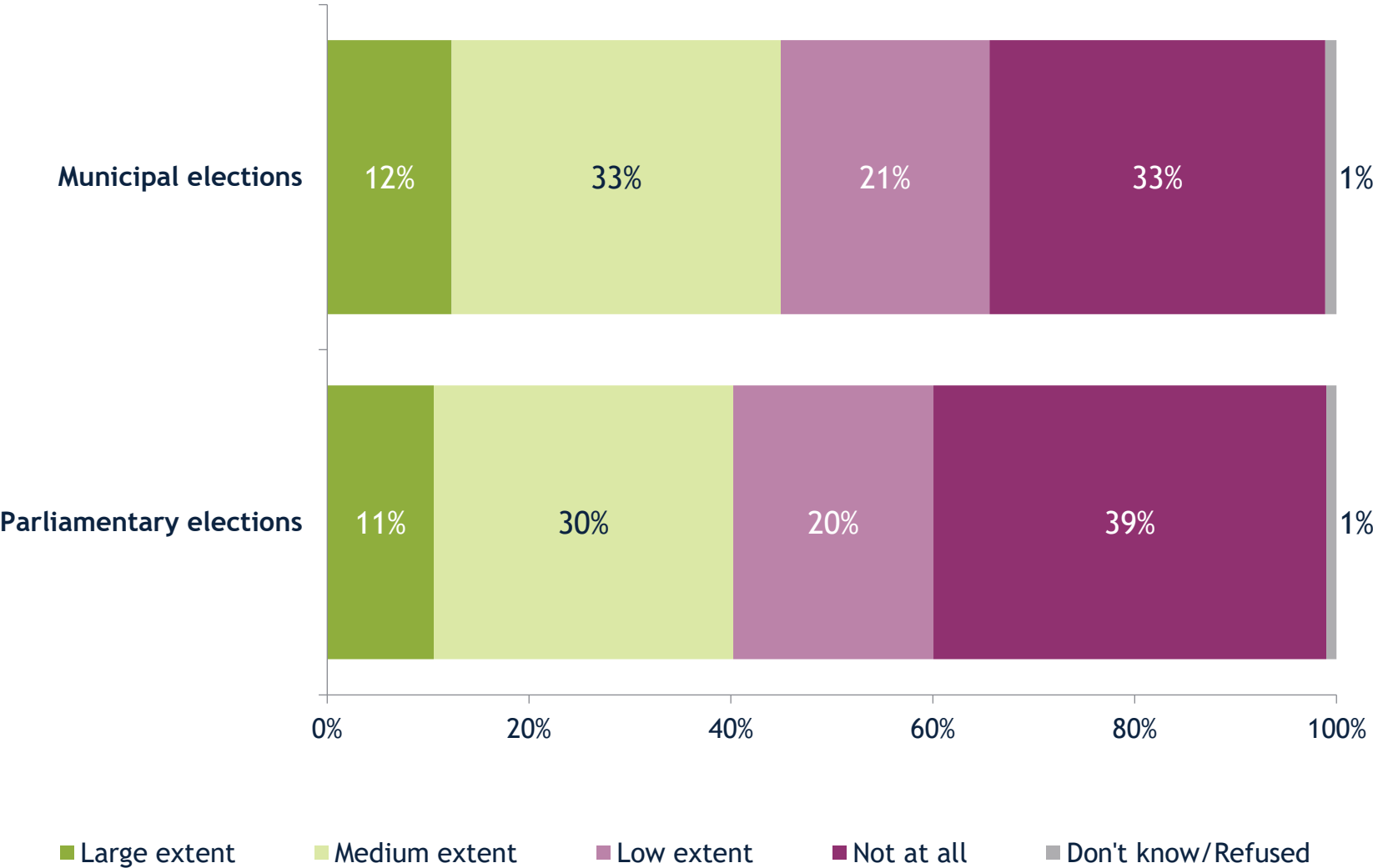
■ Large extent ■ Medium extent ■ Low extent ■ Not at all ■ Don't know/Refused

To what extent do you believe that someone like you can have an impact on **municipal** decision making?



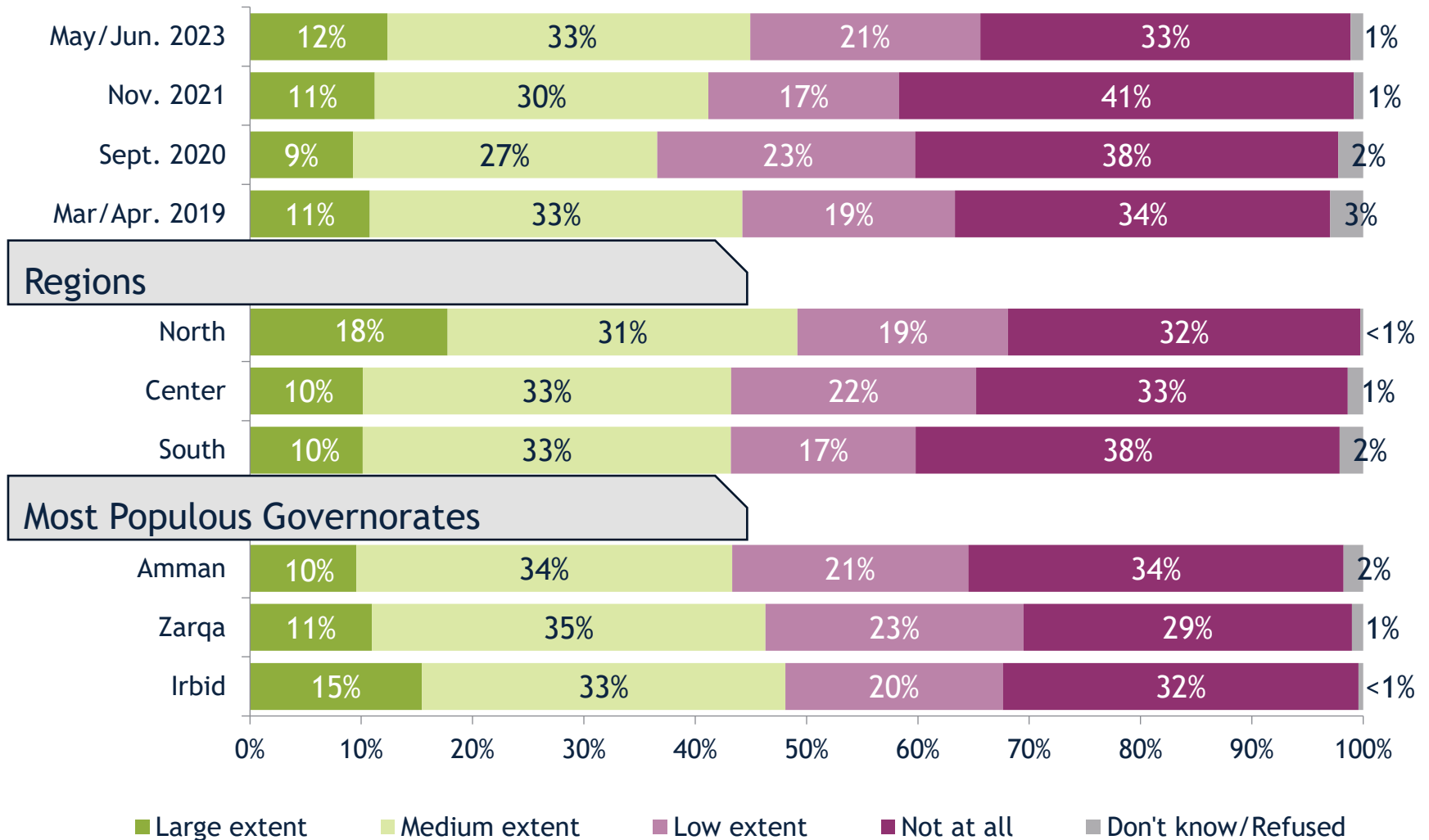


To what extent do you believe that elections in Jordan accurately reflect the will of the Jordanian people?



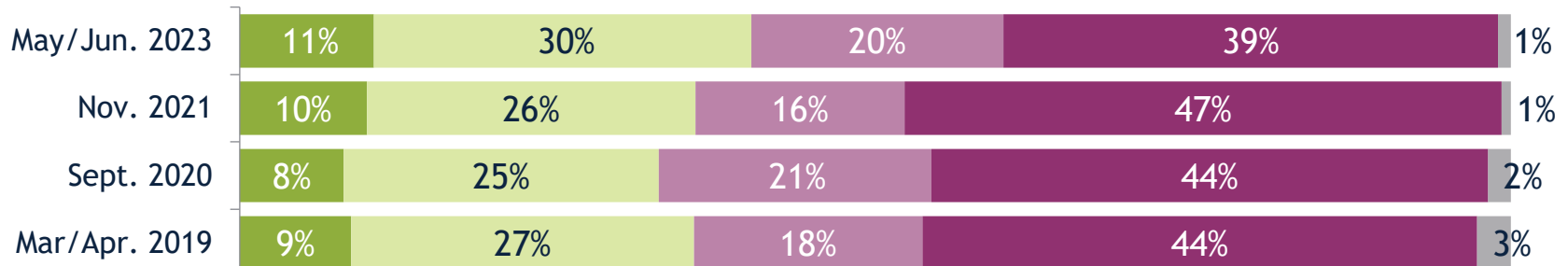
To what extent do you believe that elections in Jordan accurately reflect the will of the Jordanian people?

Municipal elections

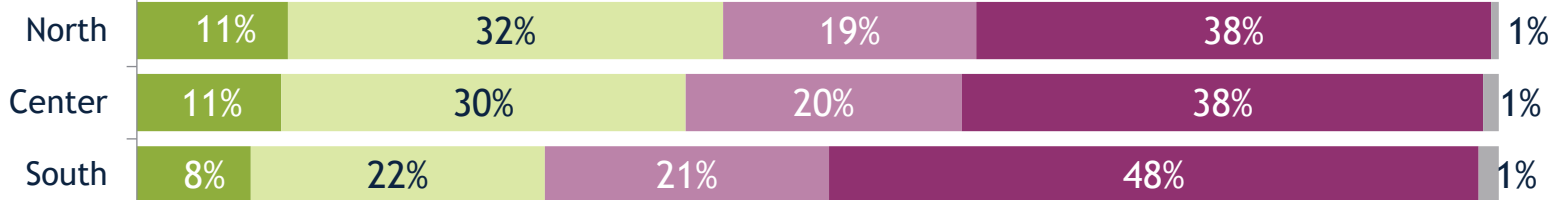


To what extent do you believe that elections in Jordan accurately reflect the will of the Jordanian people?

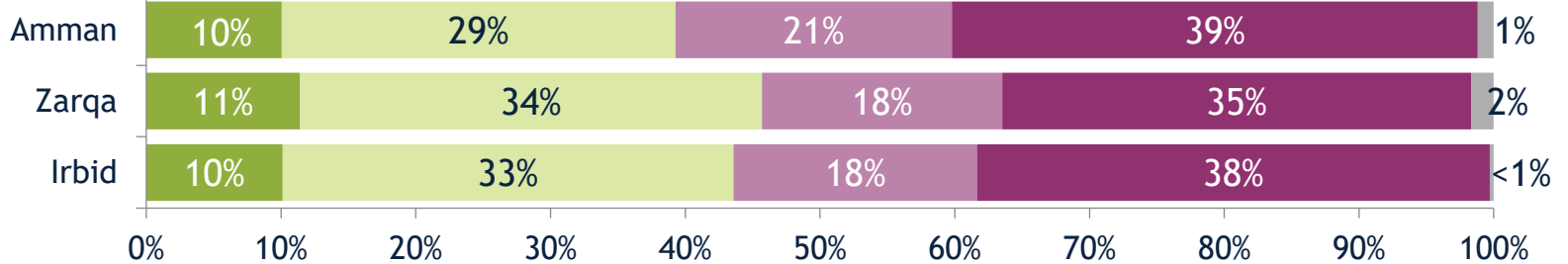
Parliamentary elections



Regions

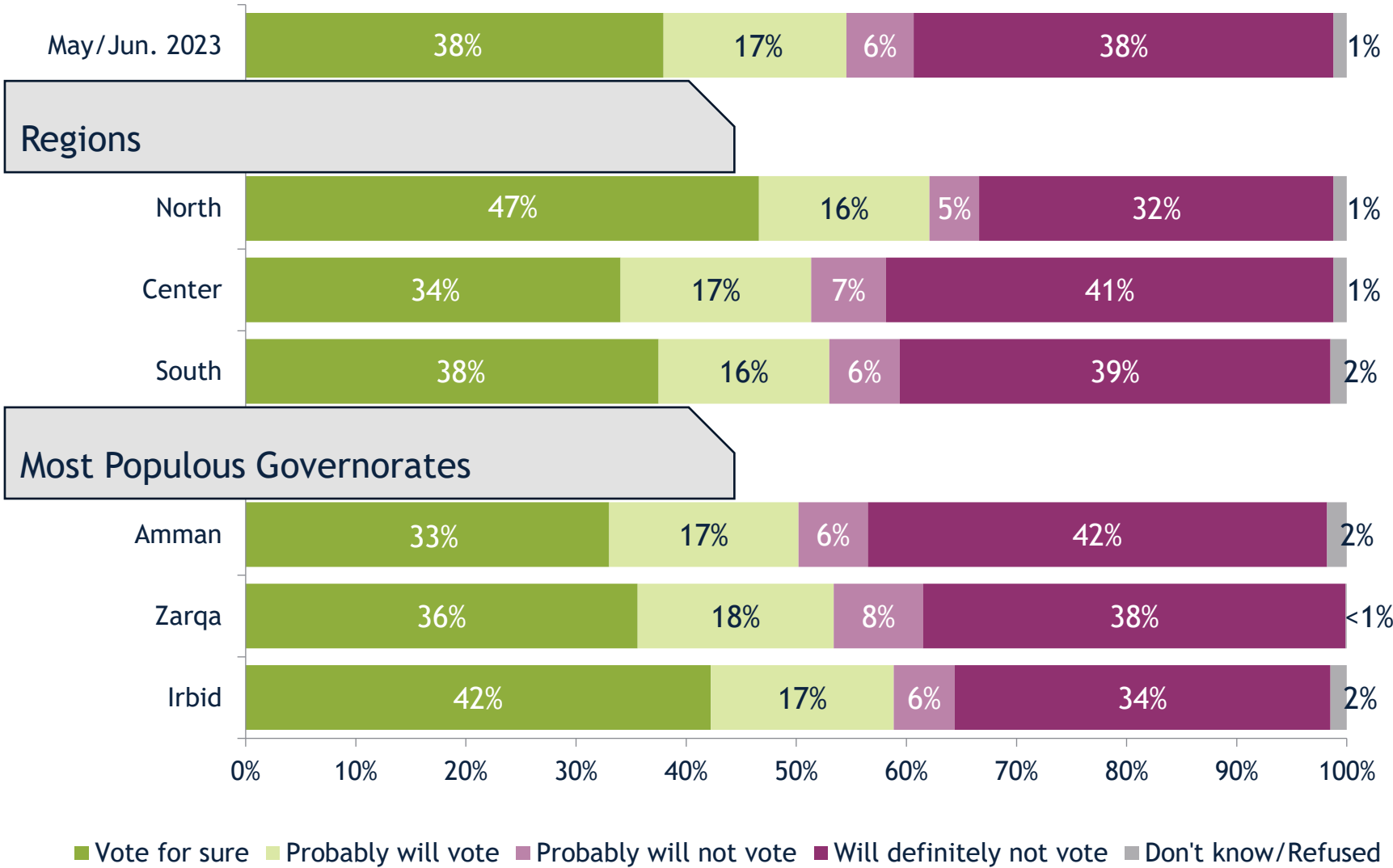


Most Populous Governorates

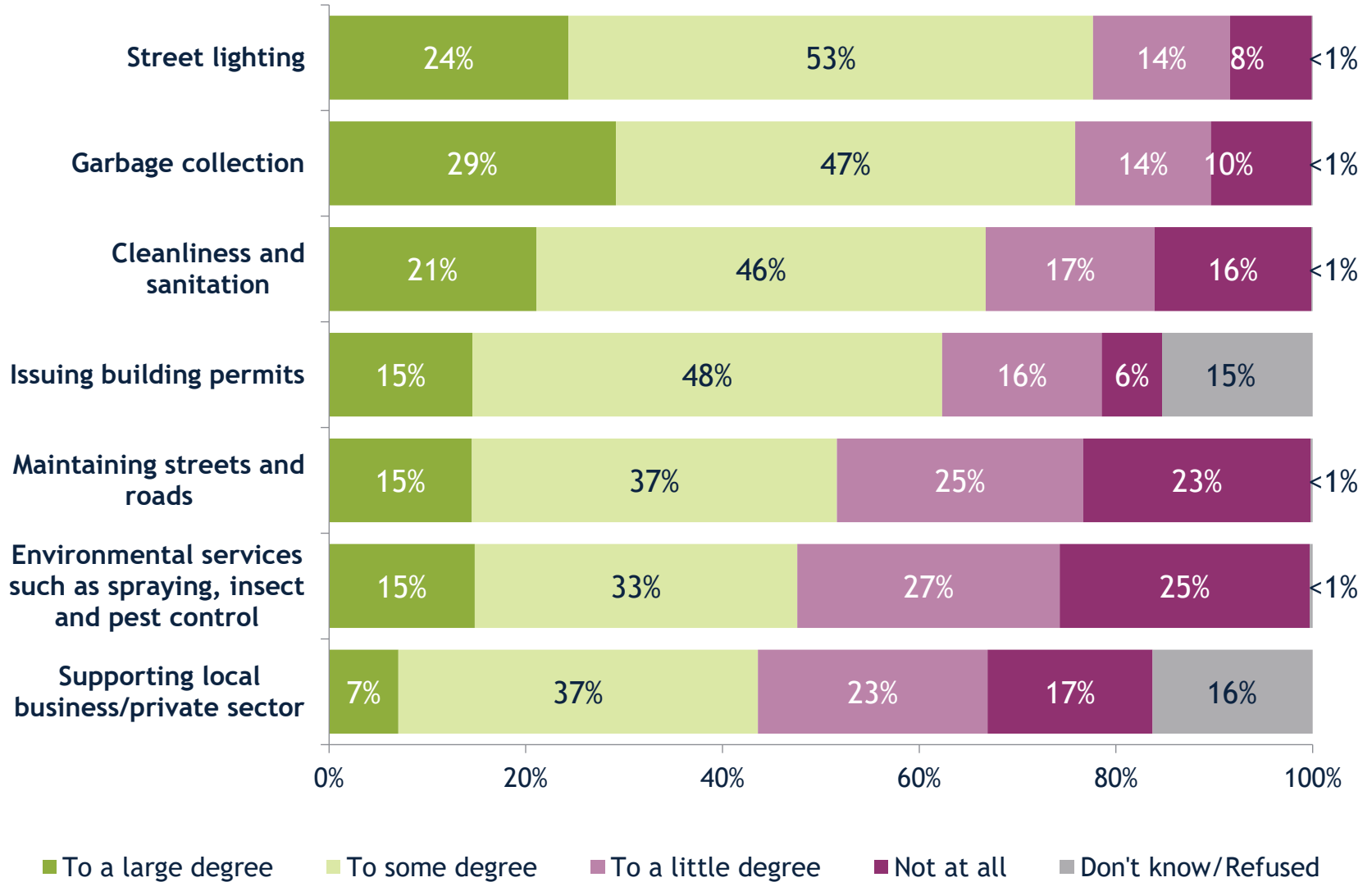


■ Large extent
 ■ Medium extent
 ■ Low extent
 ■ Not at all
 ■ Don't know/Refused

It is expected that the parliamentary elections will be taking place next year. Are you going to...

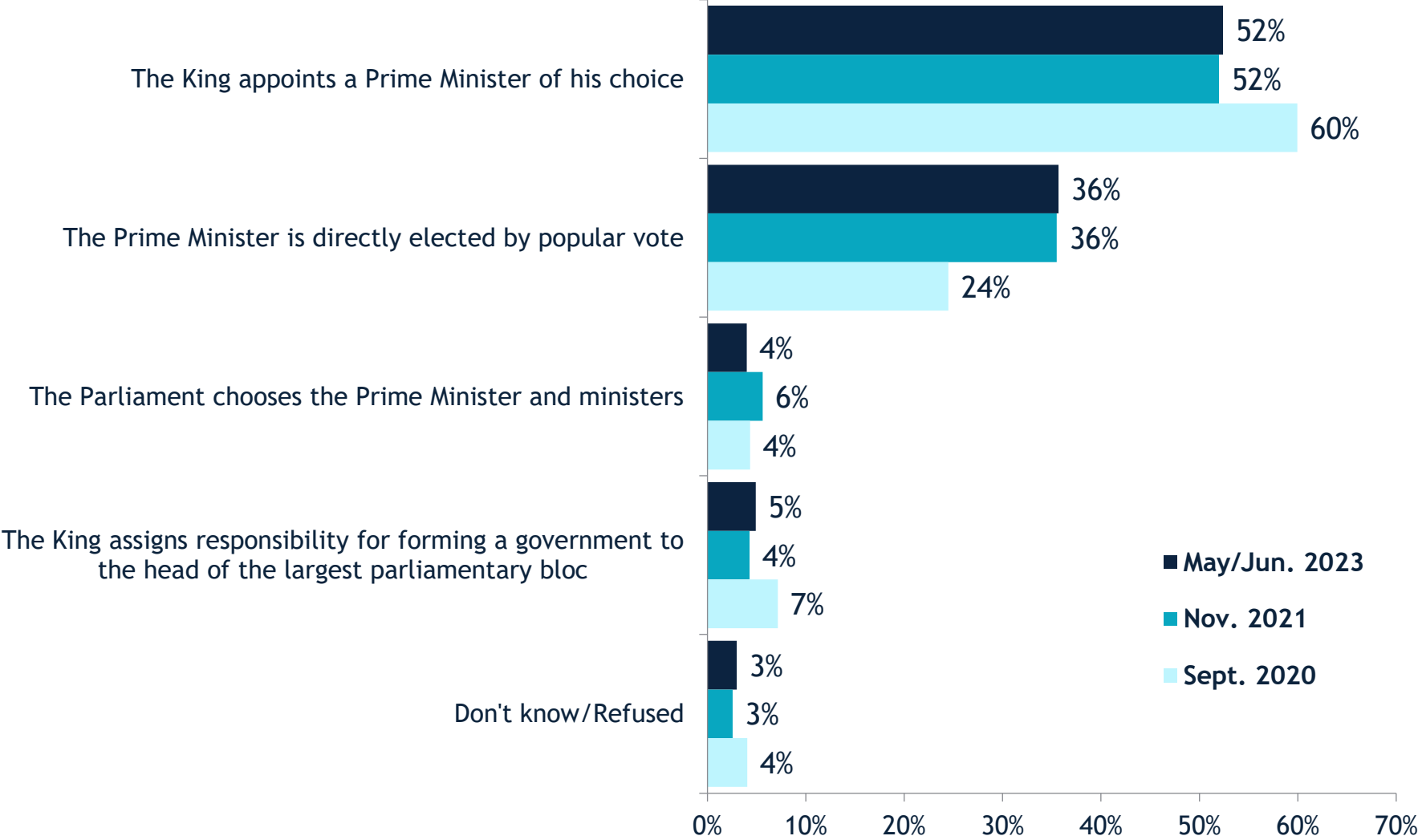


In regard to your municipal government, to what extent do you believe it fulfills the following functions?

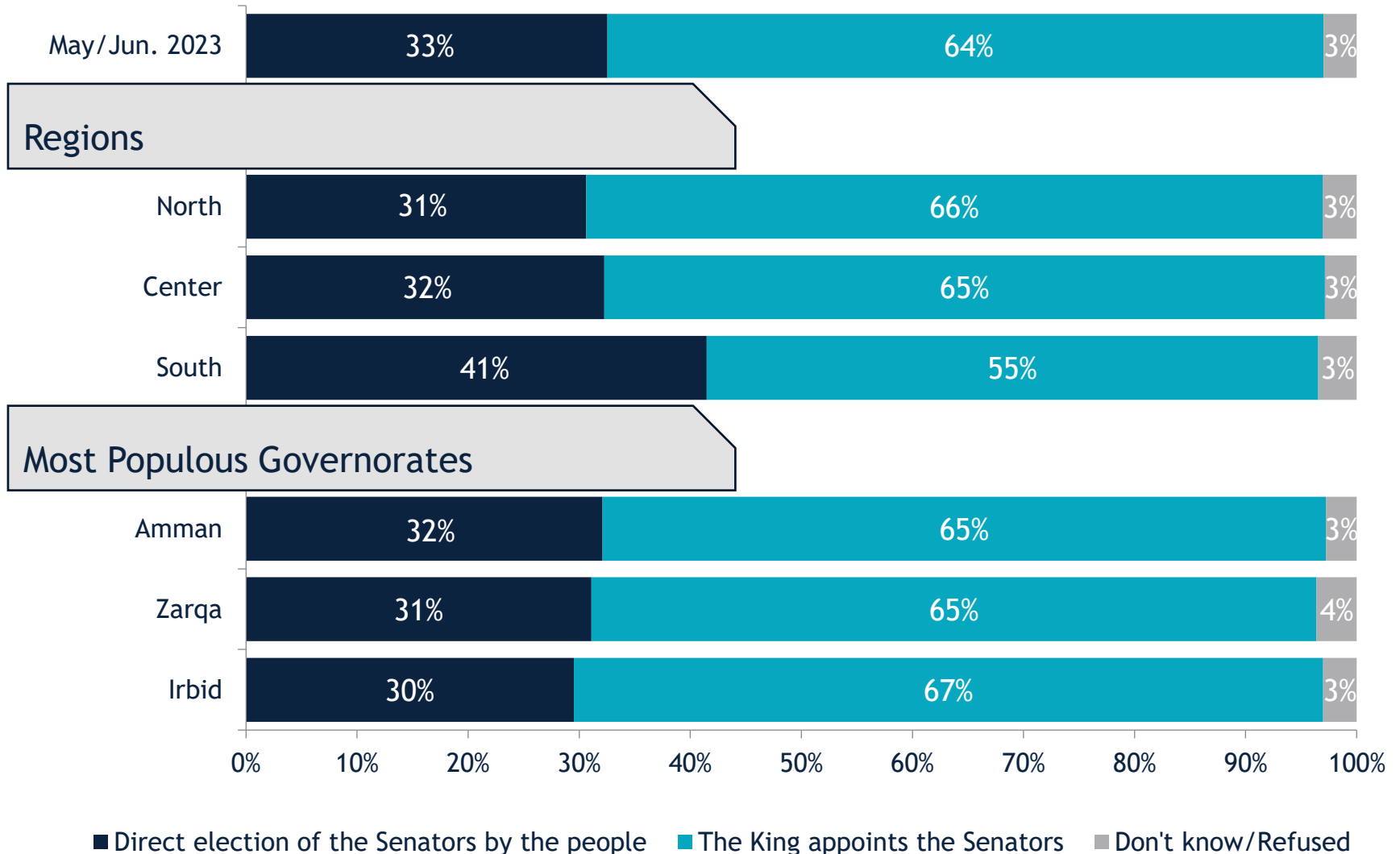




We would like to know your opinion concerning the best options for forming governments in Jordan. Which of the following options do you consider to be the best?



According to the constitution, the Senate is formed by appointment from his Majesty the King. We would like to know your opinion about the best option to form the House of Senators. Which of the following do you consider best?



Political Competition



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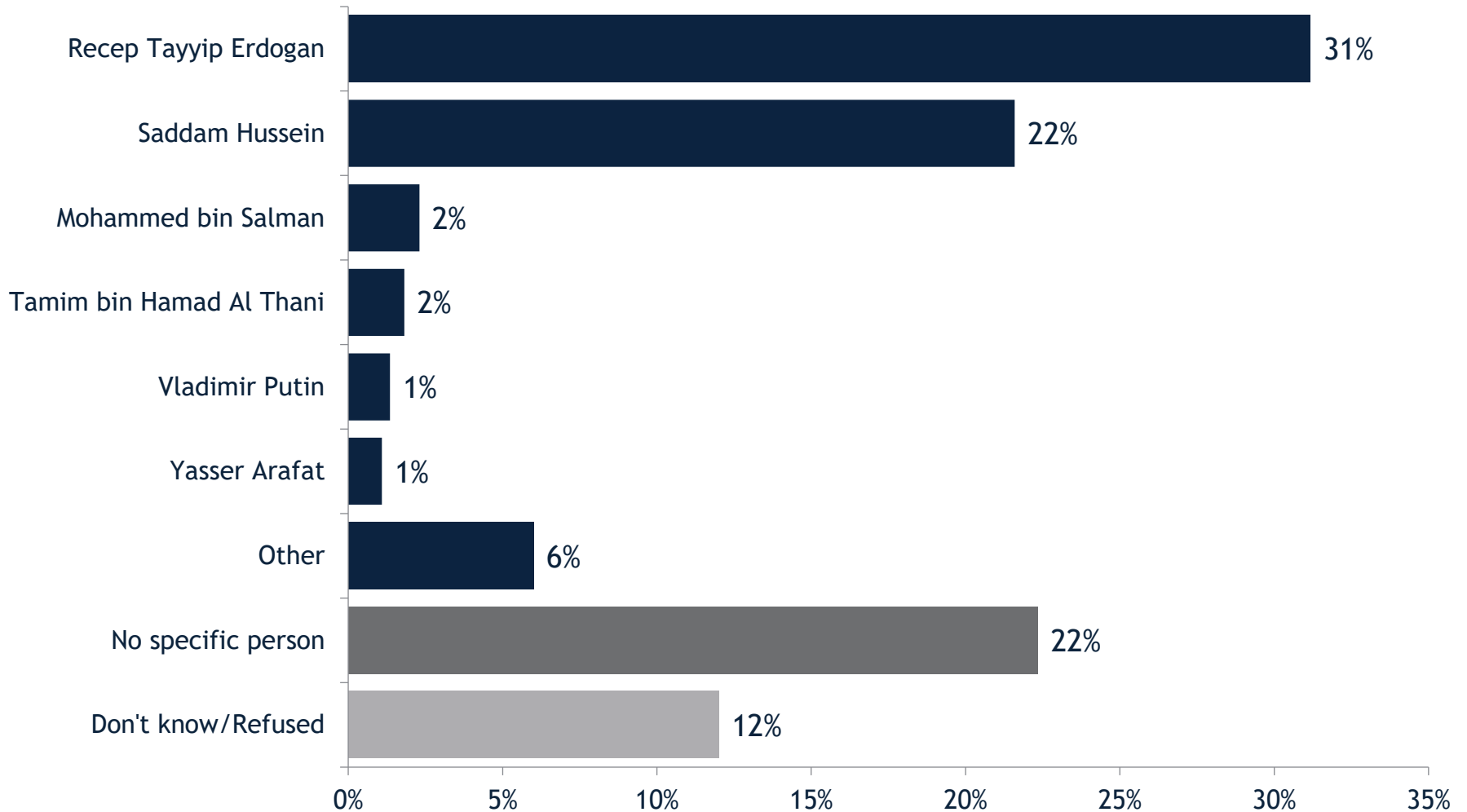
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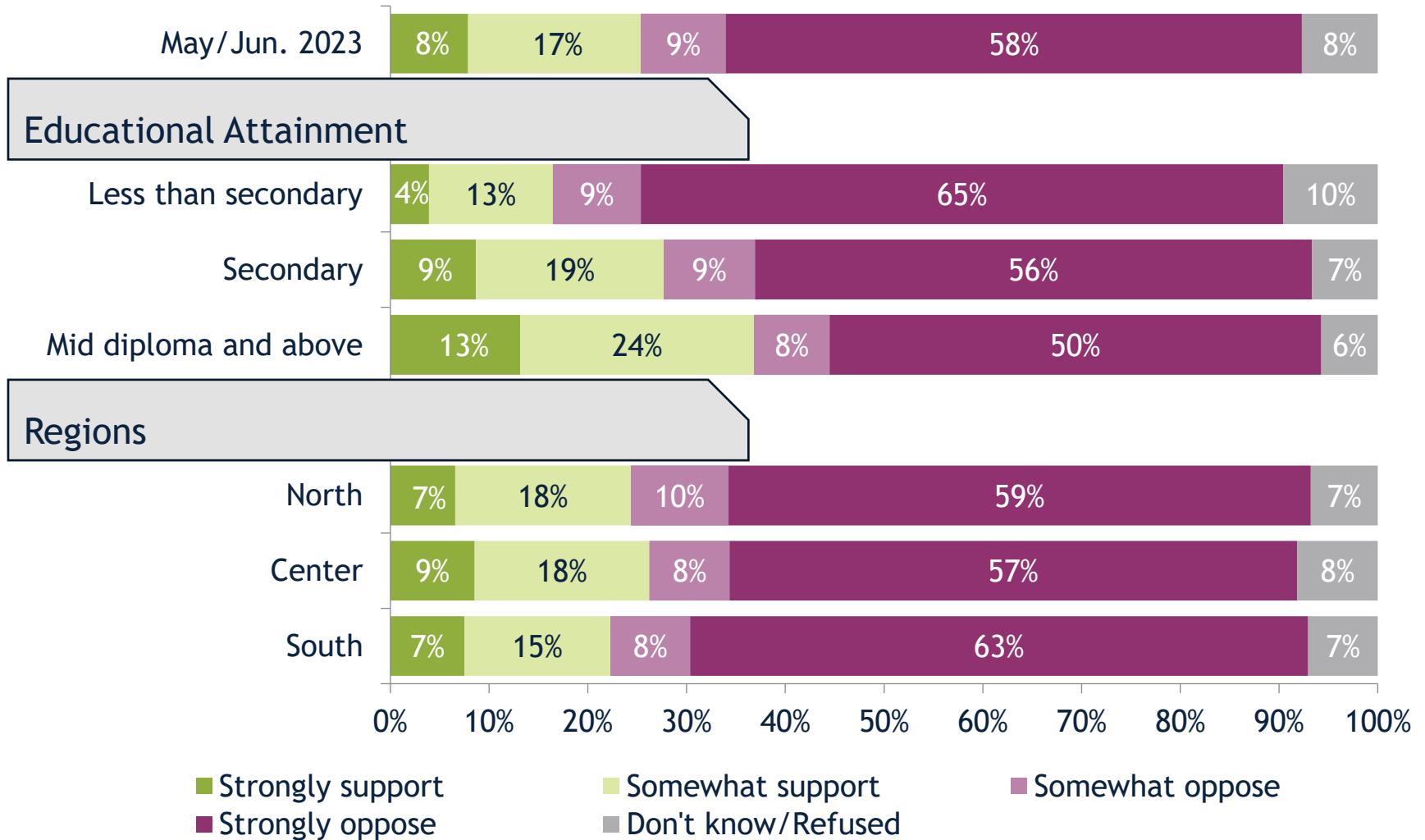
What is the name of the political leader you respect the most outside of Jordan?

(Spontaneous response)



*Responses receiving <1% are collapsed into *Other*.

Political parties may now hold party activities in Jordanian universities. Do you support or oppose parties holding activities in Jordanian universities?



The Judiciary

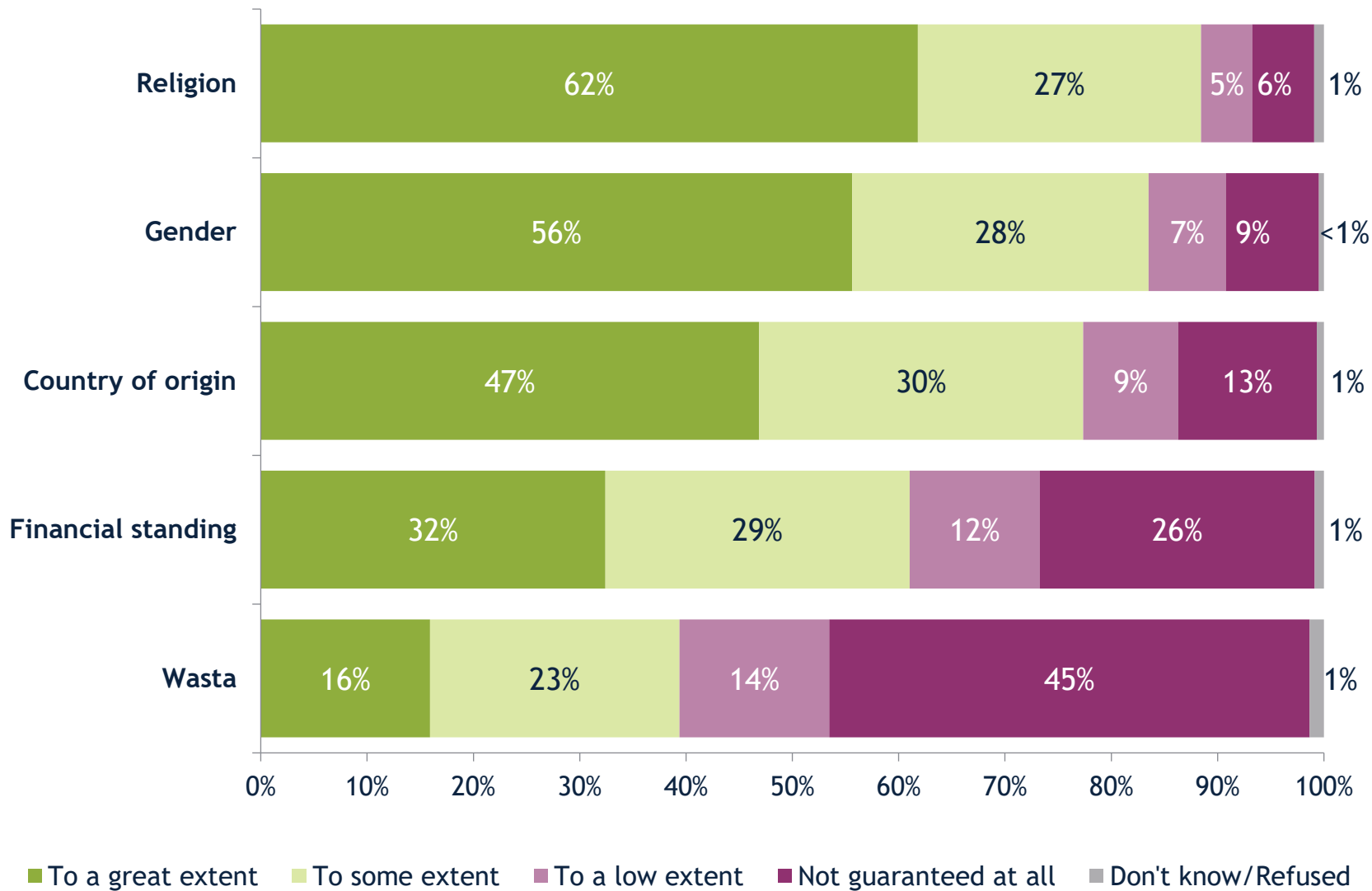


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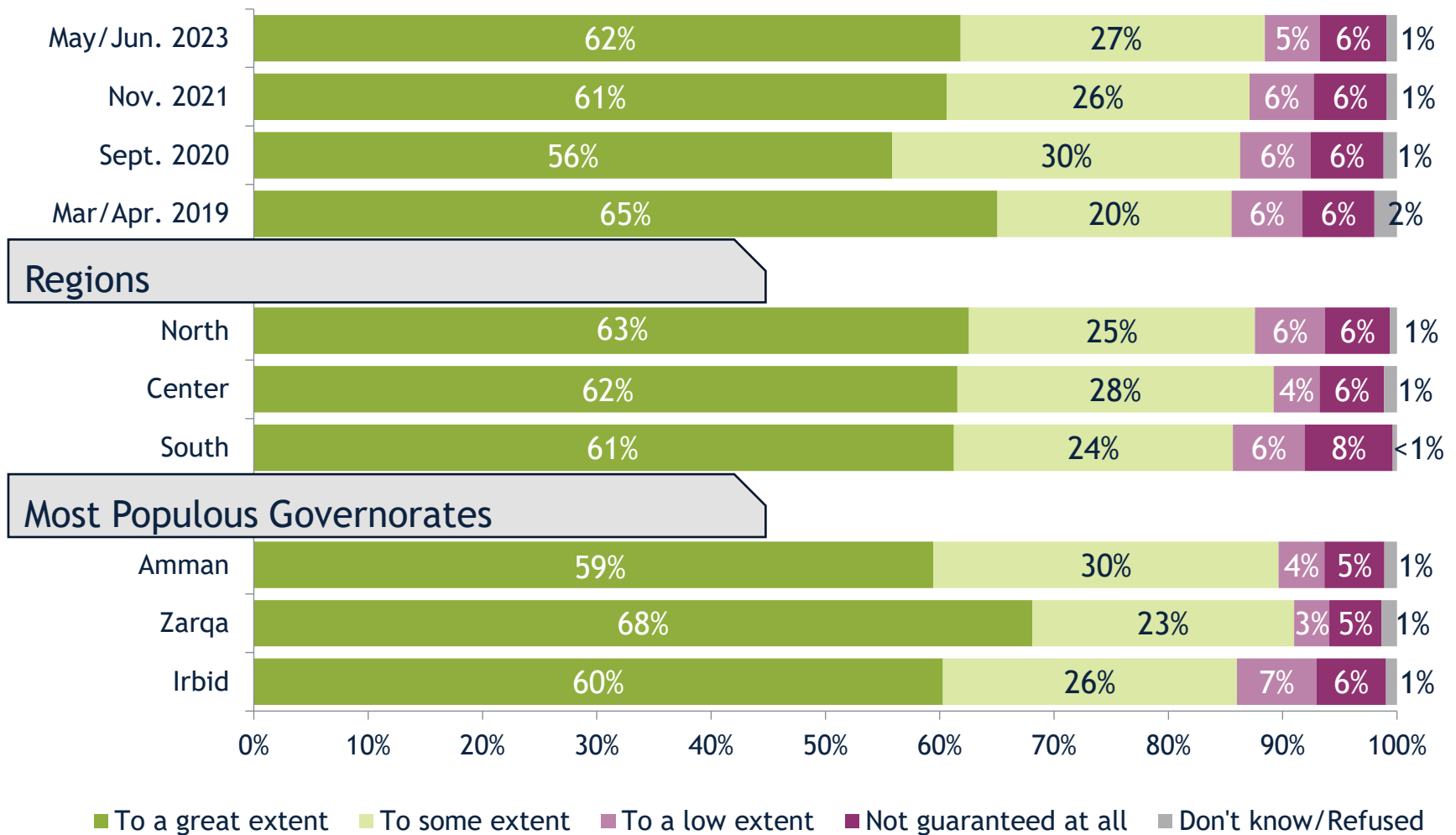
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To what extent are the following rights guaranteed under the law for someone like you in Jordan? *Equality before the law for all citizens regardless of ...*



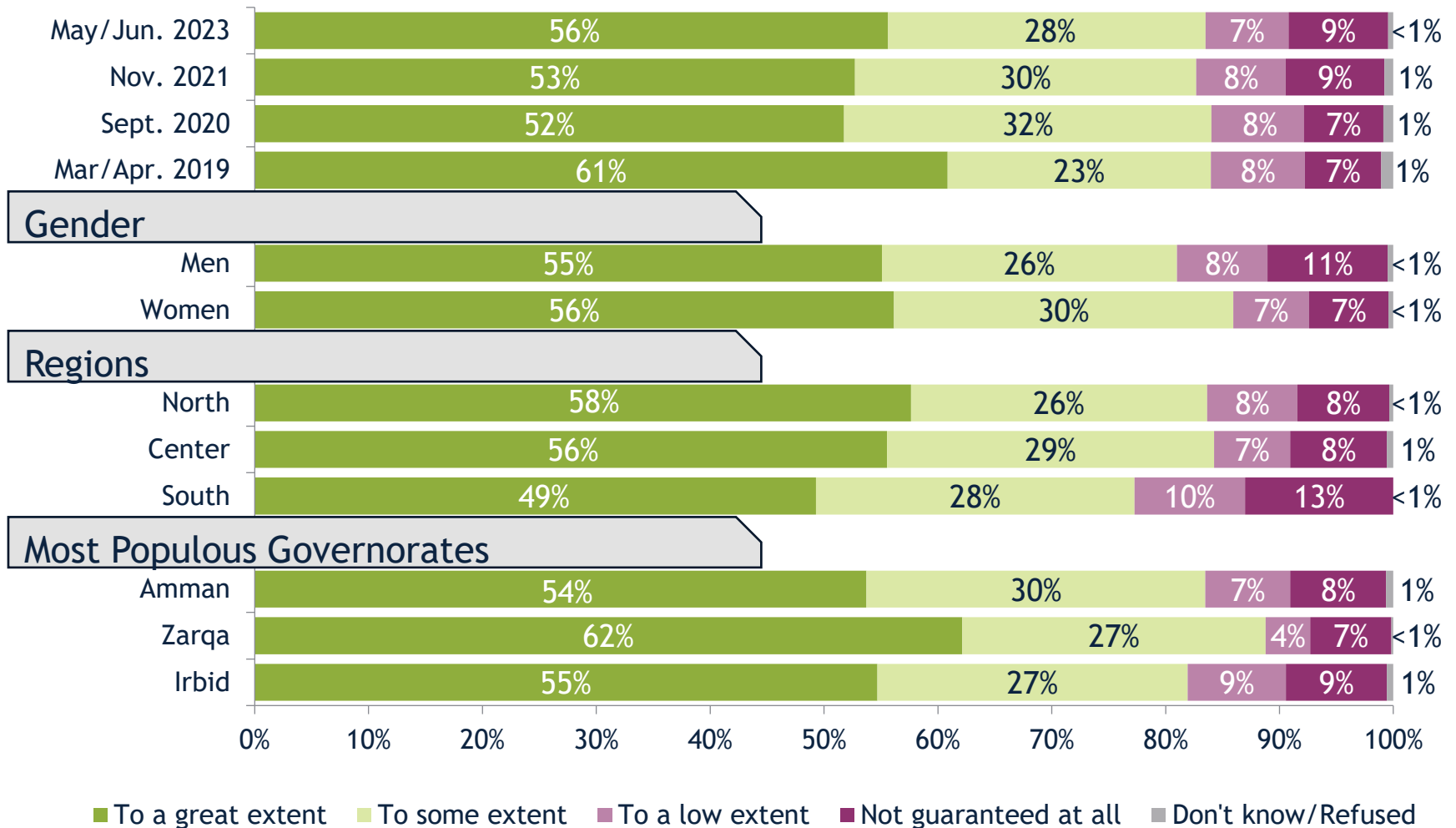
To what extent are the following rights guaranteed under the law for someone like you in Jordan?

Equality before the law for all citizens regardless of religion



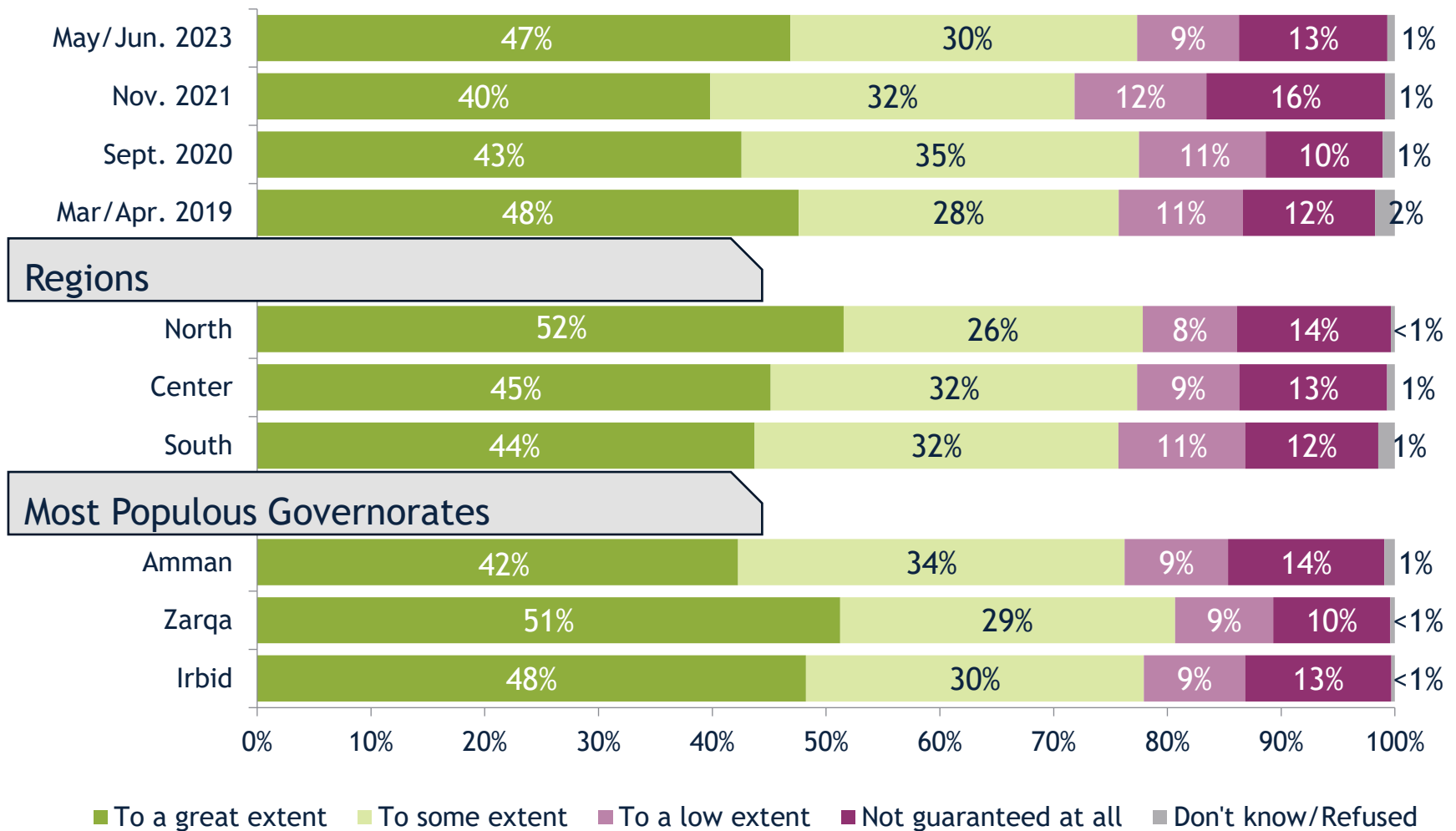
To what extent are the following rights guaranteed under the law for someone like you in Jordan?

Equality before the law for all citizens regardless of gender



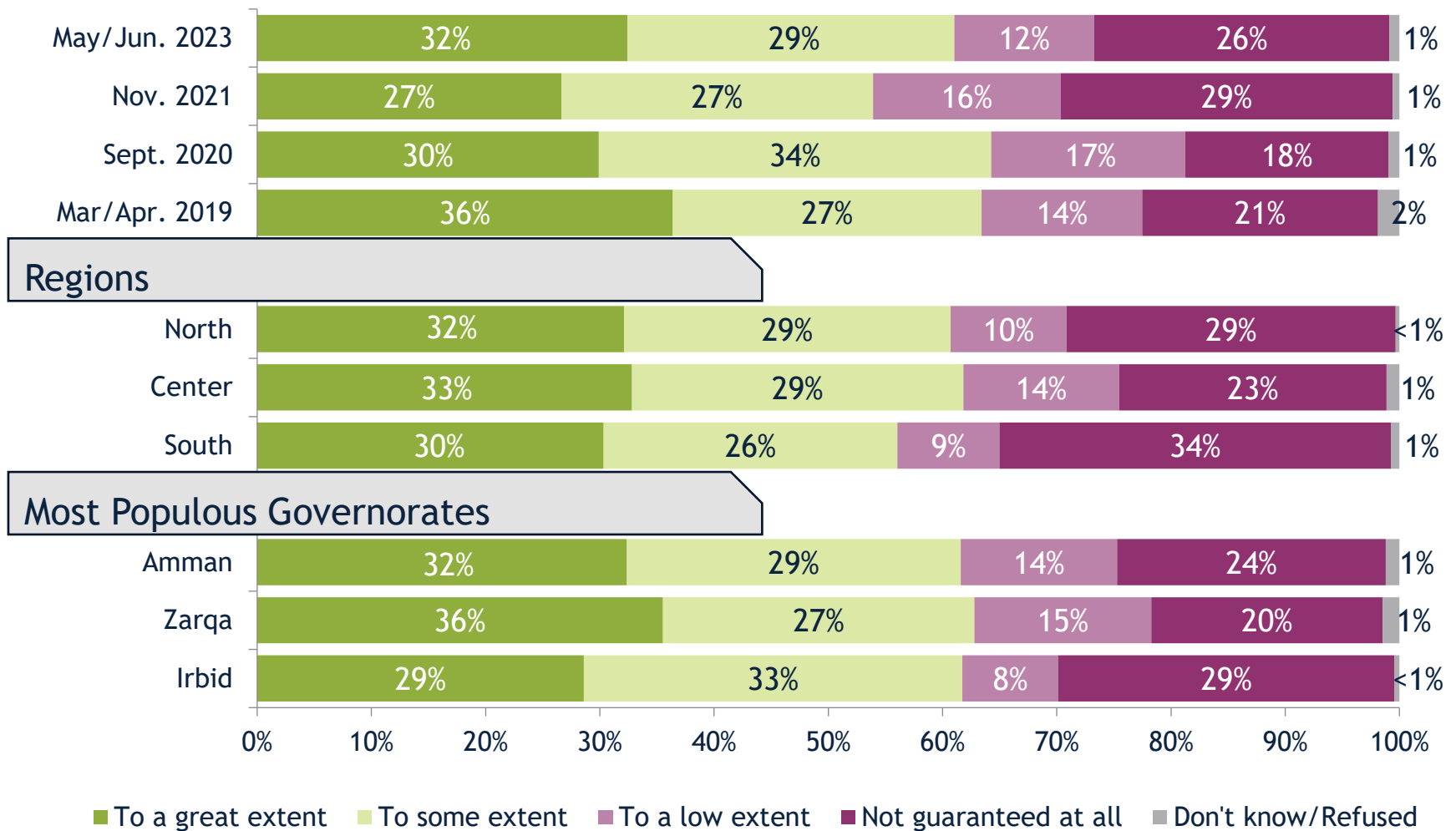
To what extent are the following rights guaranteed under the law for someone like you in Jordan?

Equality before the law for all citizens regardless of country of origin



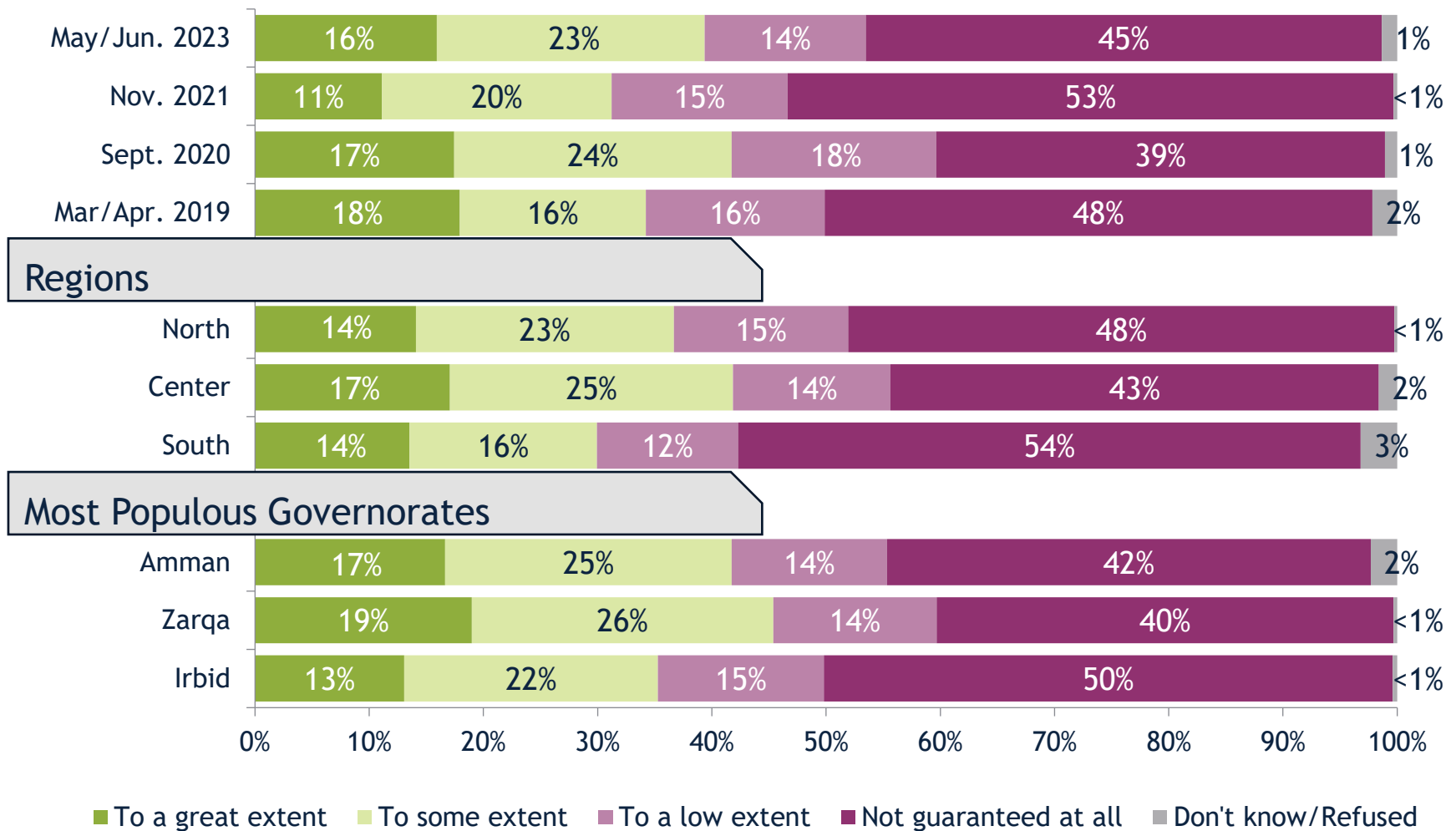
To what extent are the following rights guaranteed under the law for someone like you in Jordan?

Equality before the law for all citizens regardless of financial standing



To what extent are the following rights guaranteed under the law for someone like you in Jordan?

Equality before the law for all citizens regardless of wasta



Trust and Satisfaction with Public Institutions



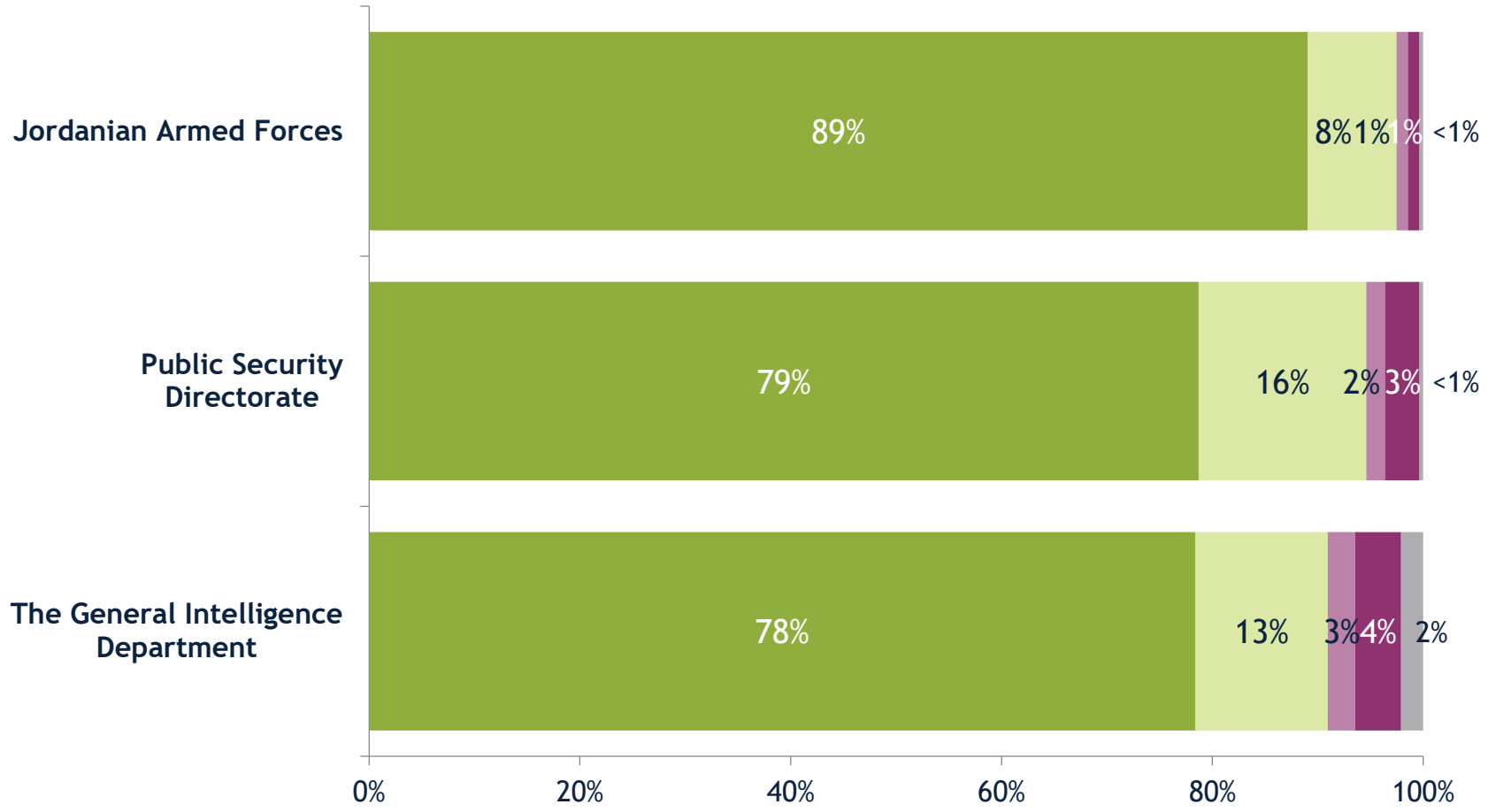
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To what degree do you trust each of the following? To a large degree, to some degree, to a low degree, or do not trust at all?

Security Institutions

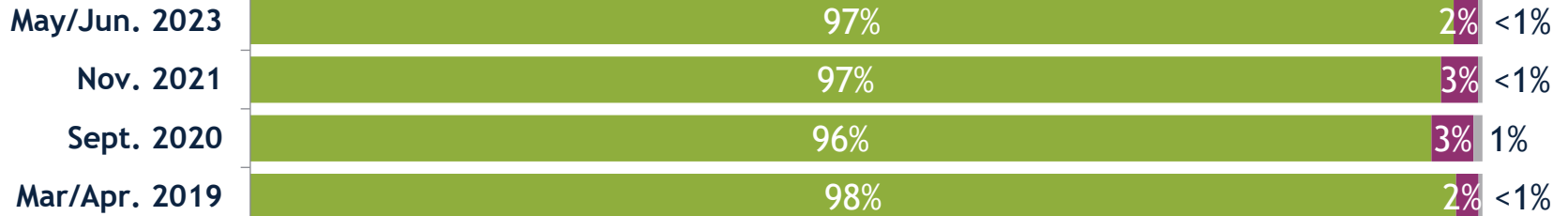


■ To a large degree
 ■ To some degree
 ■ To a low degree
 ■ Do not trust at all
 ■ Don't know/Refused

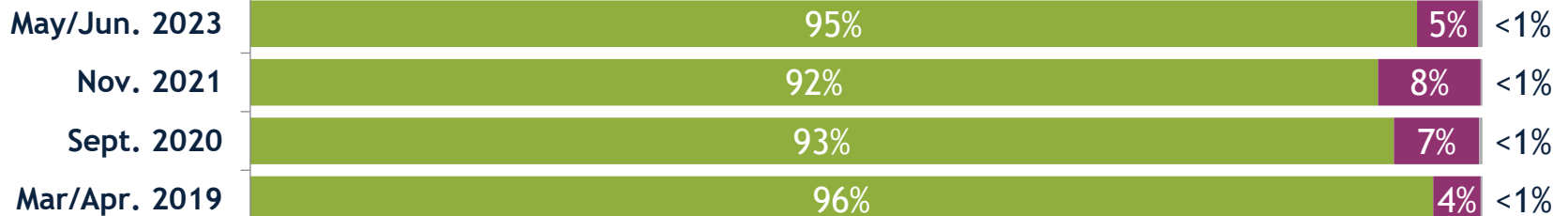
To what degree do you trust each of the following? To a large degree, to some degree, to a low degree, or do not trust at all?

Security Institutions

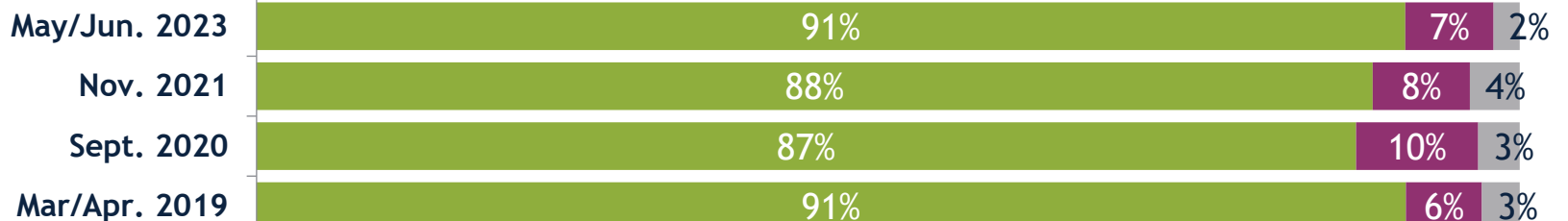
Jordanian Armed Forces



Public Security Directorate



General Intelligence Department



0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

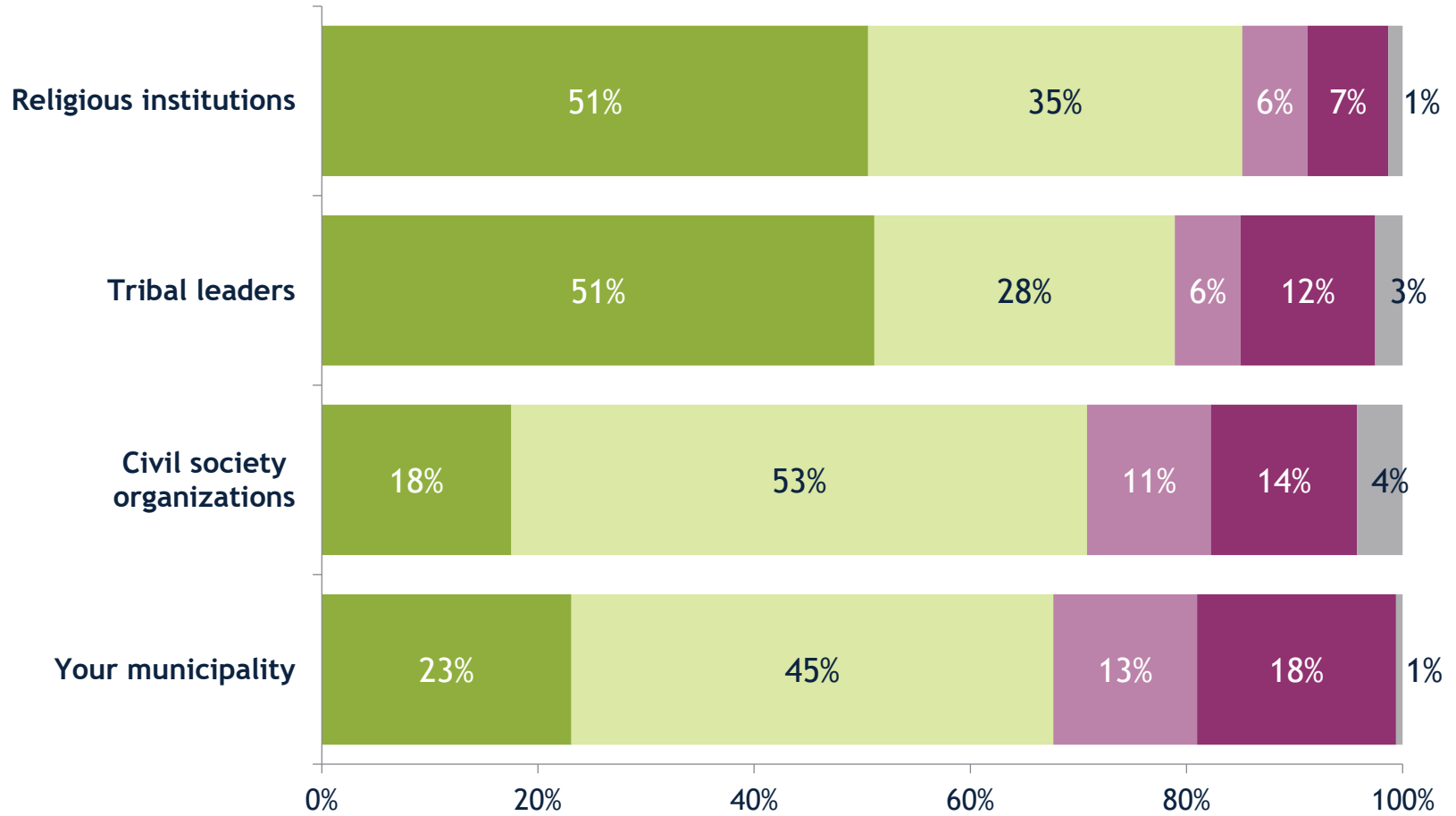
■ To a large/some degree

■ To a low degree/not at all

■ Don't know/Refused

To what degree do you trust each of the following? To a large degree, to some degree, to a low degree, or do not trust at all?

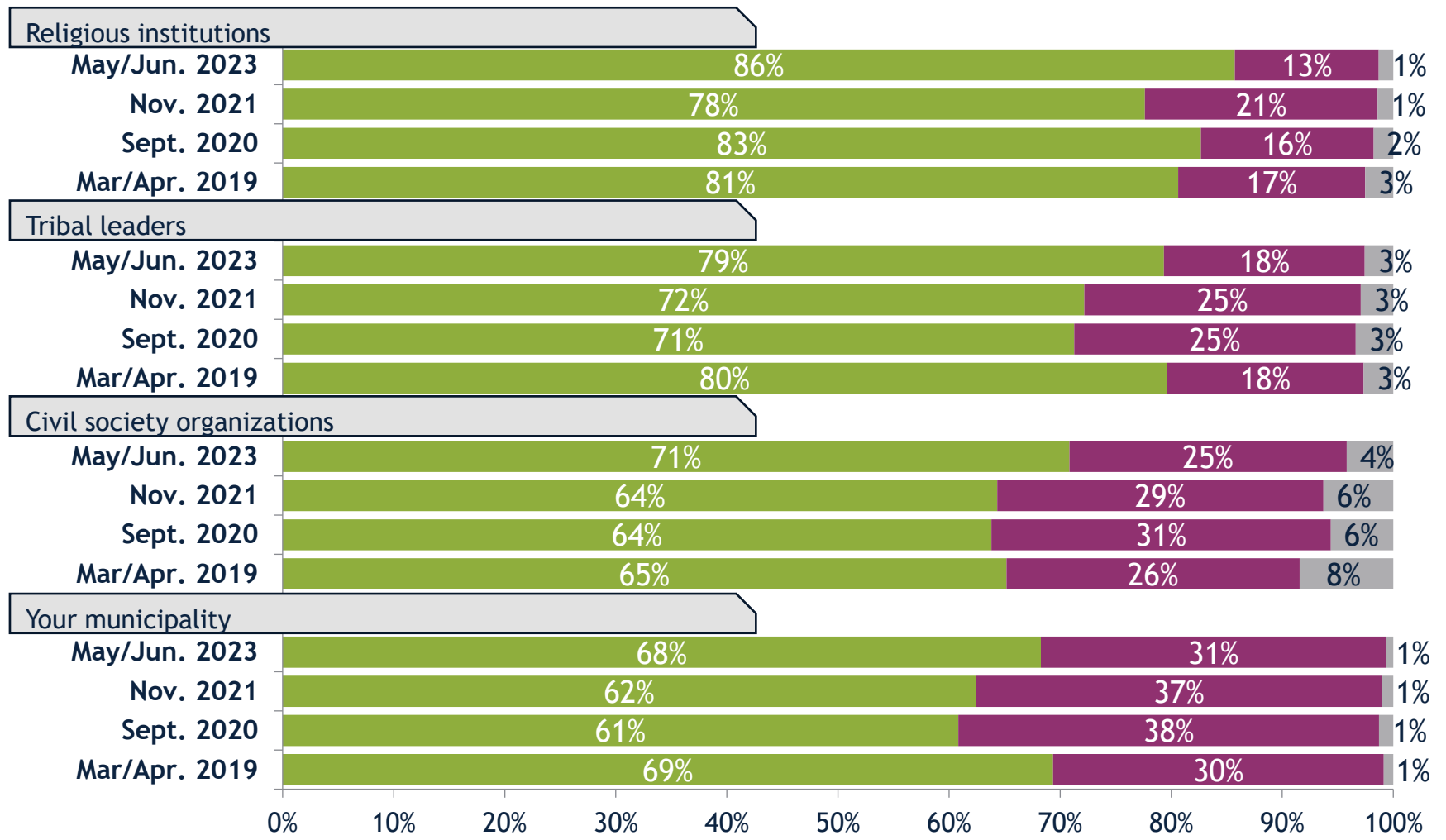
Community Institutions



■ To a large degree ■ To some degree ■ To a low degree ■ Do not trust at all ■ Don't know/Refused

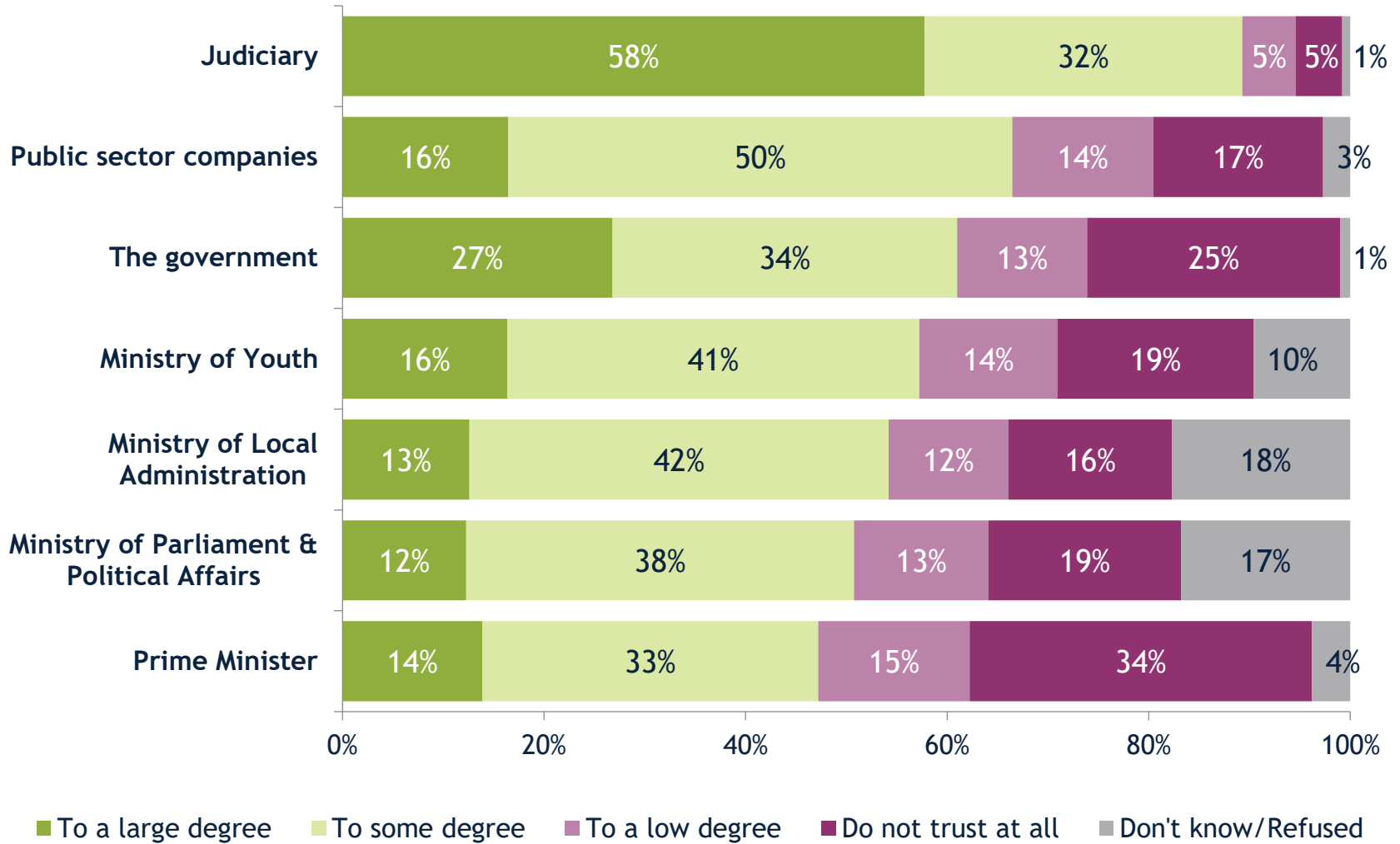
To what degree do you trust each of the following? To a large degree, to some degree, to a low degree, or do not trust at all?

Community Institutions



To what degree do you trust each of the following? To a large degree, to some degree, to a low degree, or do not trust at all?

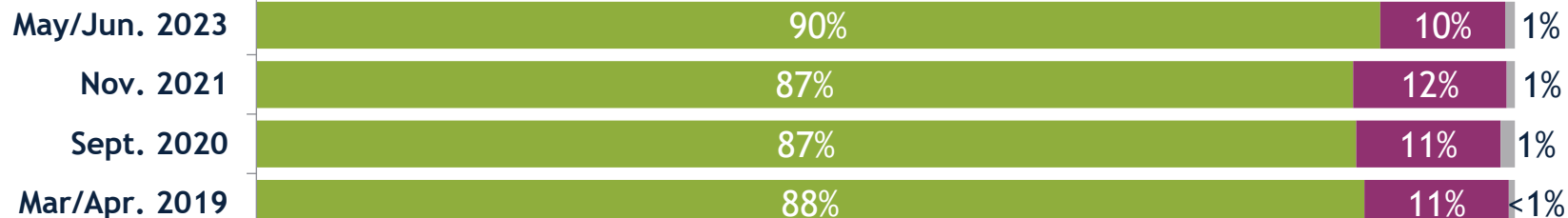
State Institutions



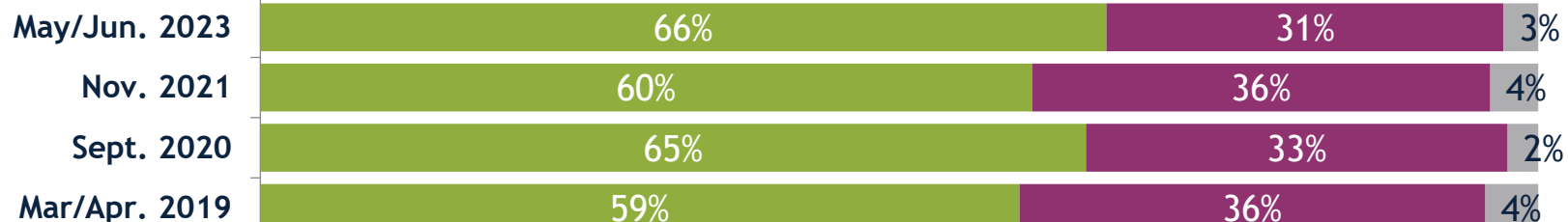
To what degree do you trust each of the following? To a large degree, to some degree, to a low degree, or do not trust at all?

State Institutions

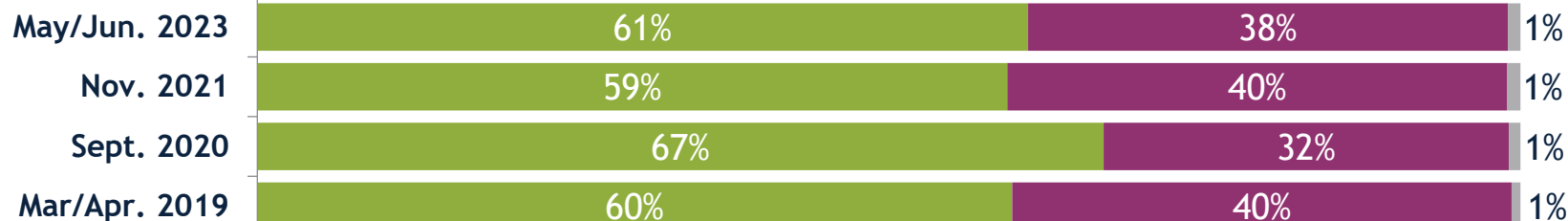
Judiciary



Public sector companies



The government



0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

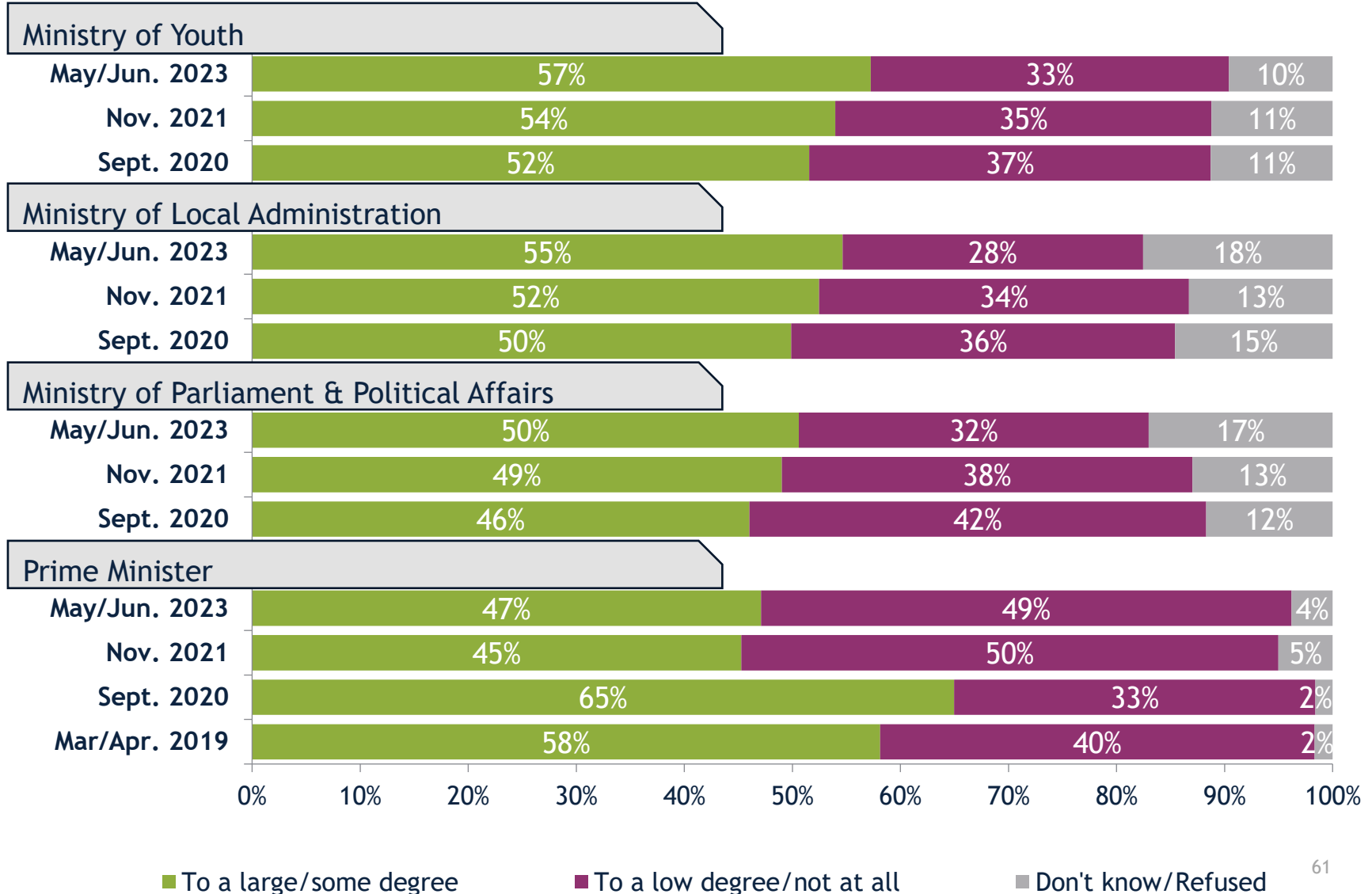
■ To a large/some degree

■ To a low degree/not at all

■ Don't know/Refused

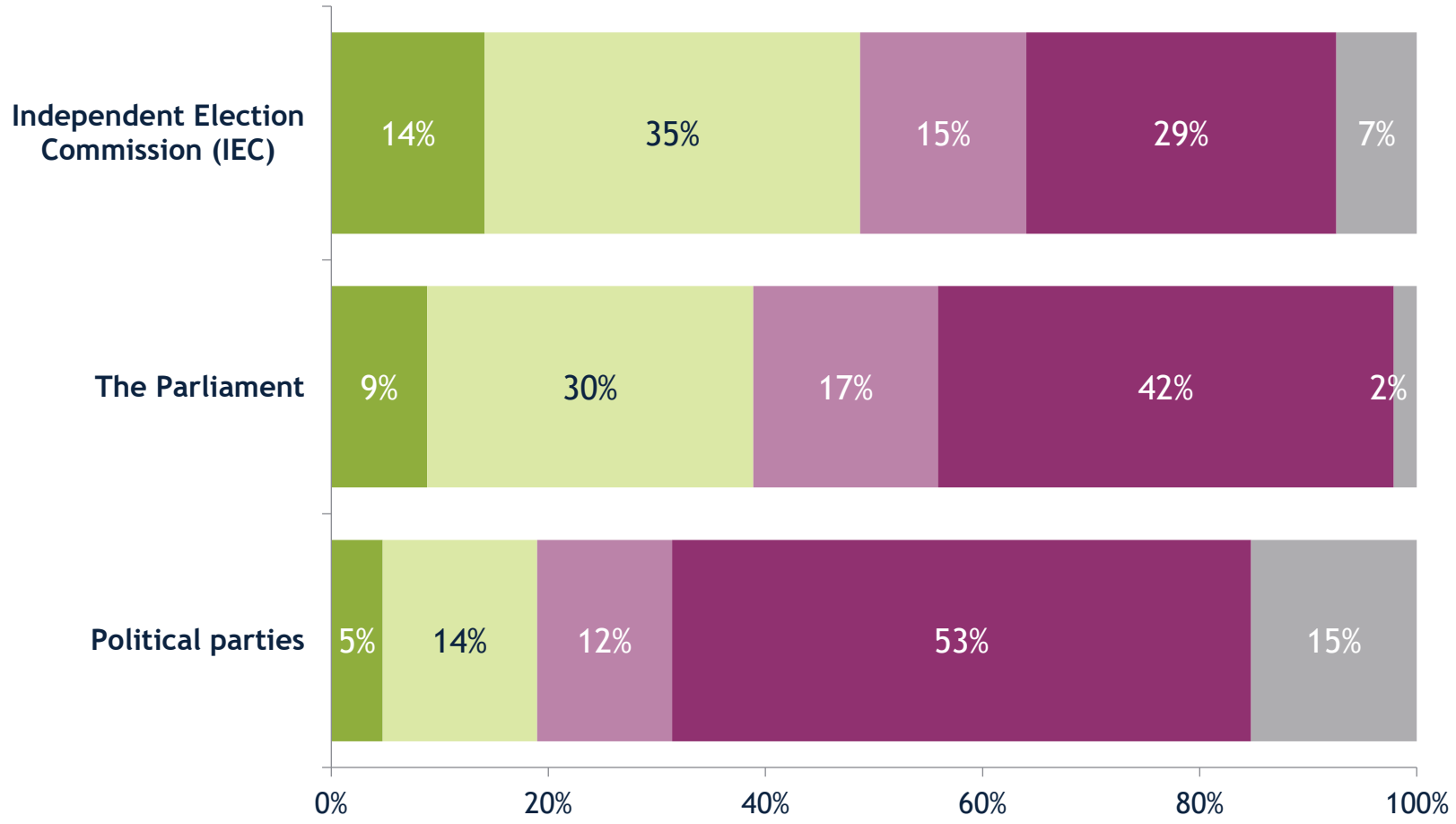
To what degree do you trust each of the following? To a large degree, to some degree, to a low degree, or do not trust at all?

State Institutions



To what degree do you trust each of the following? To a large degree, to some degree, to a low degree, or do not trust at all?

Democracy Institutions



■ To a large degree ■ To some degree ■ To a low degree ■ Do not trust at all ■ Don't know/Refused to answer

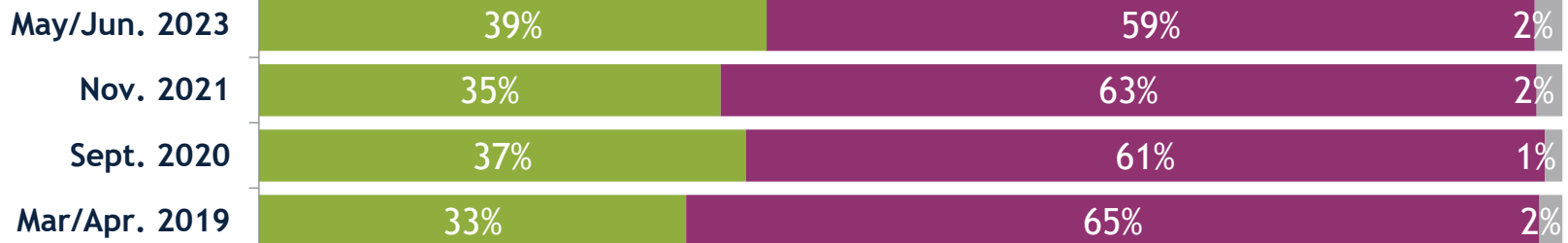
To what degree do you trust each of the following? To a large degree, to some degree, to a low degree, or do not trust at all?

Democracy Institutions

Independent Election Commission (IEC)



The Parliament



Political parties



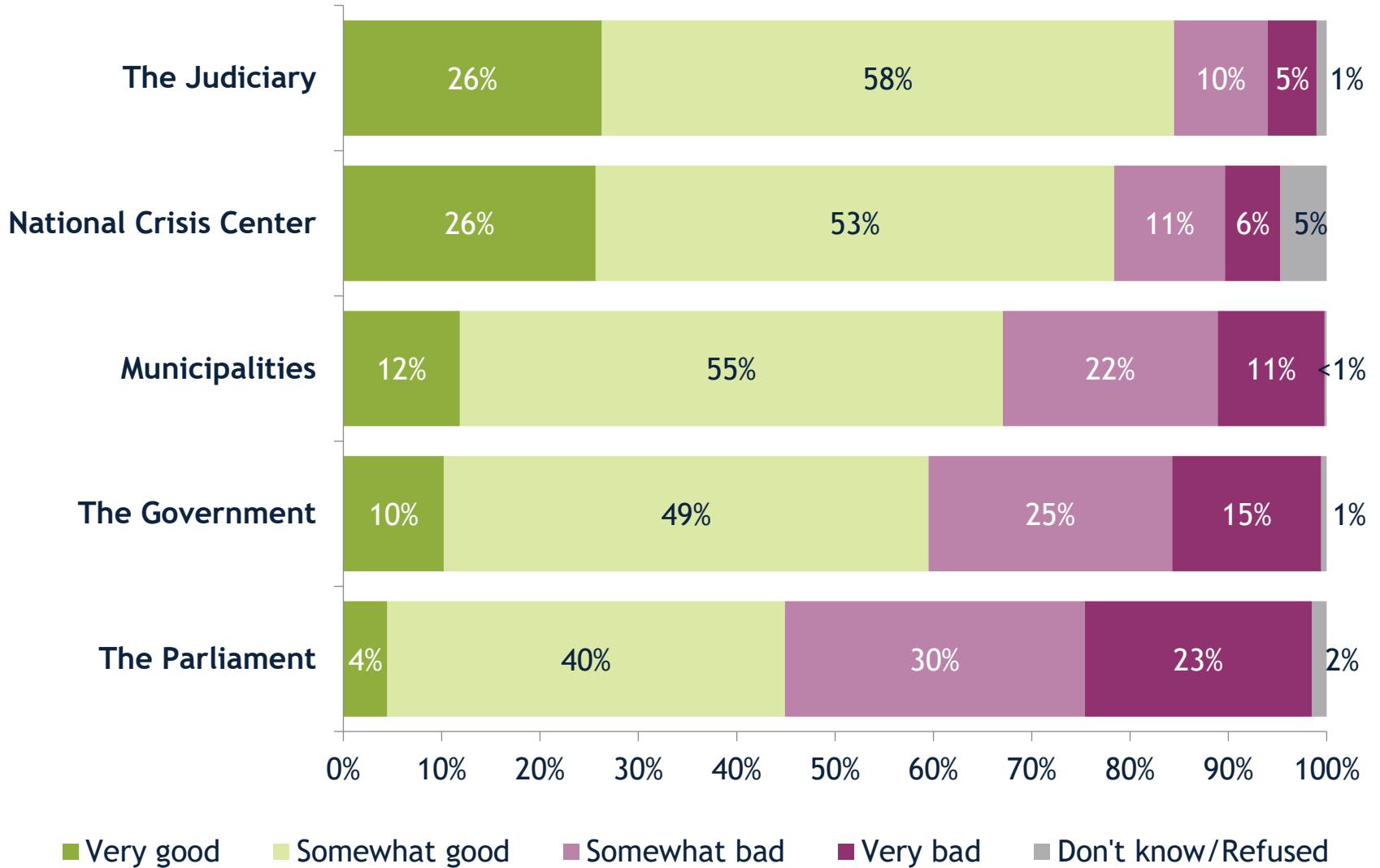
0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

■ To a large/some degree

■ To a low degree/not at all

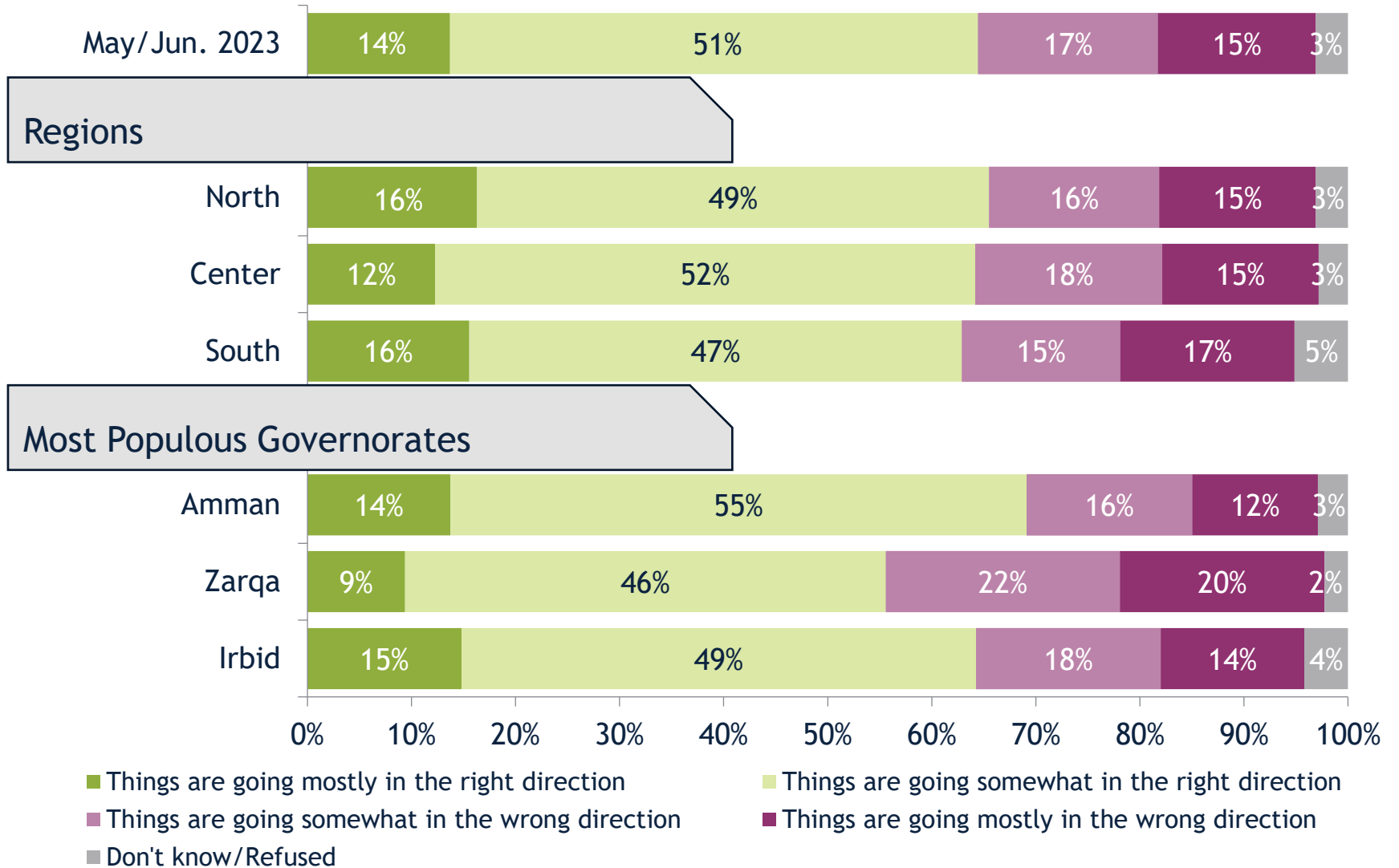
■ Don't know/Refused

In general, how do you evaluate the performance of the following in doing their duties?

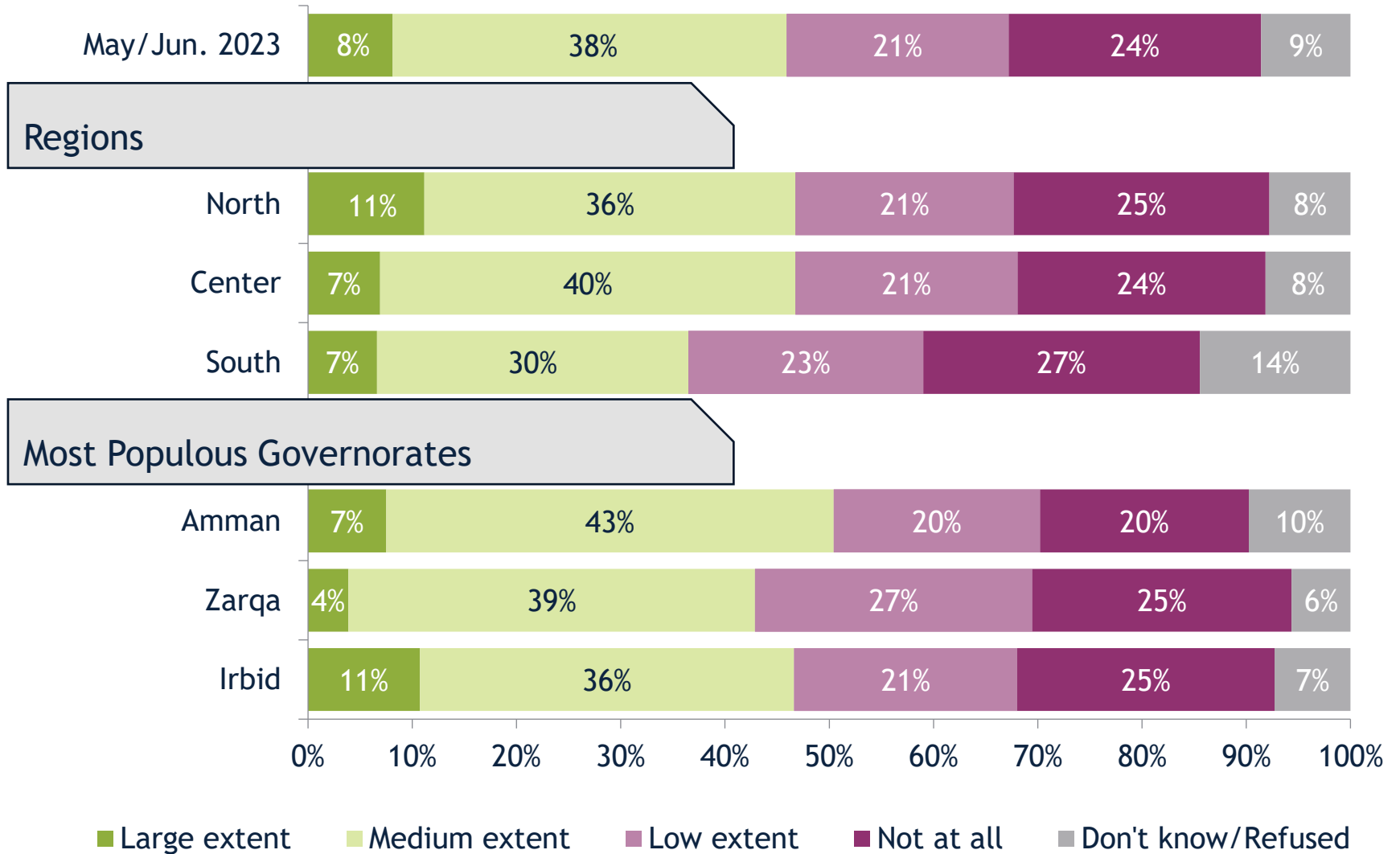




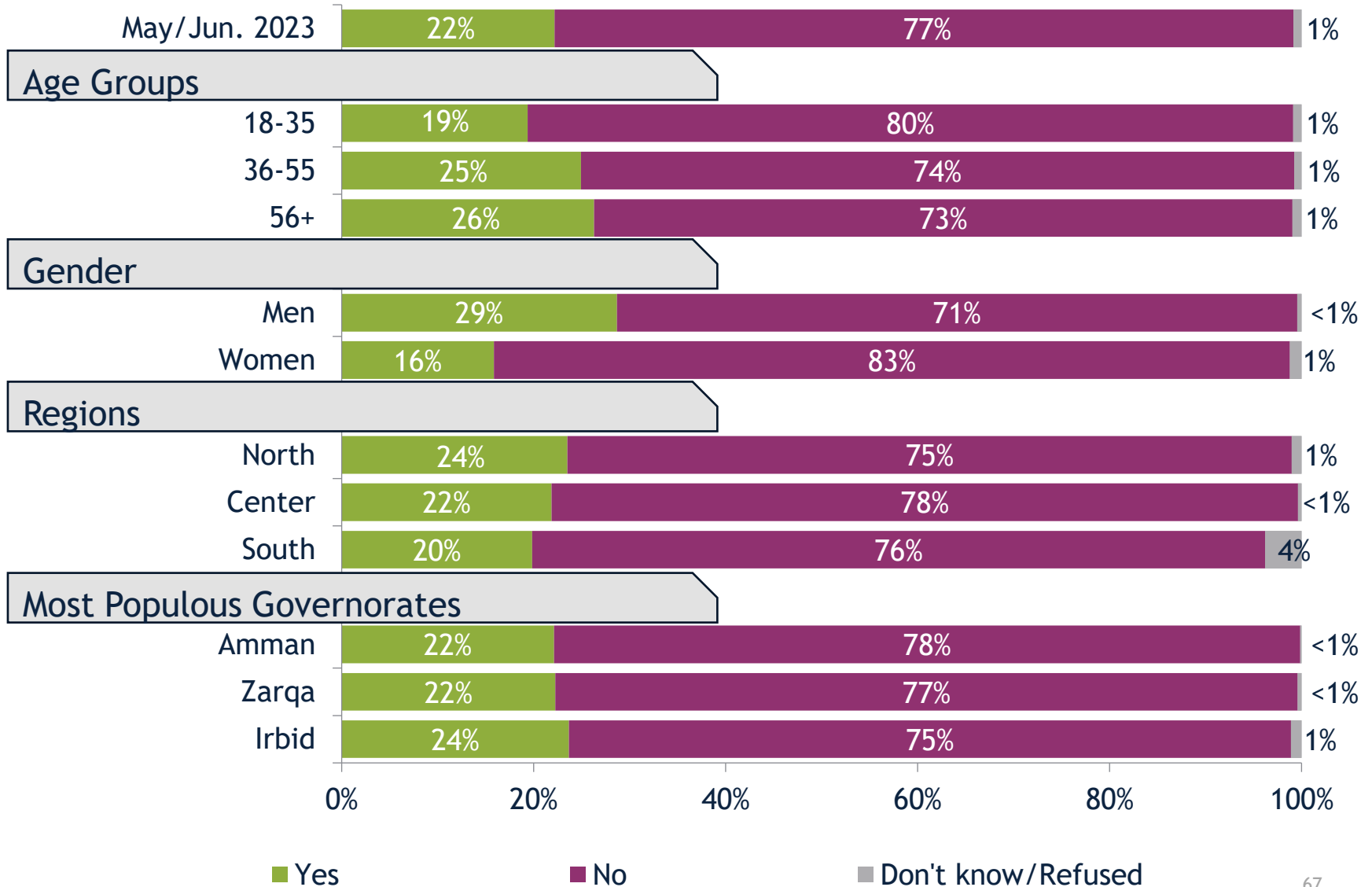
Overall, is your municipality heading in the right or wrong direction?



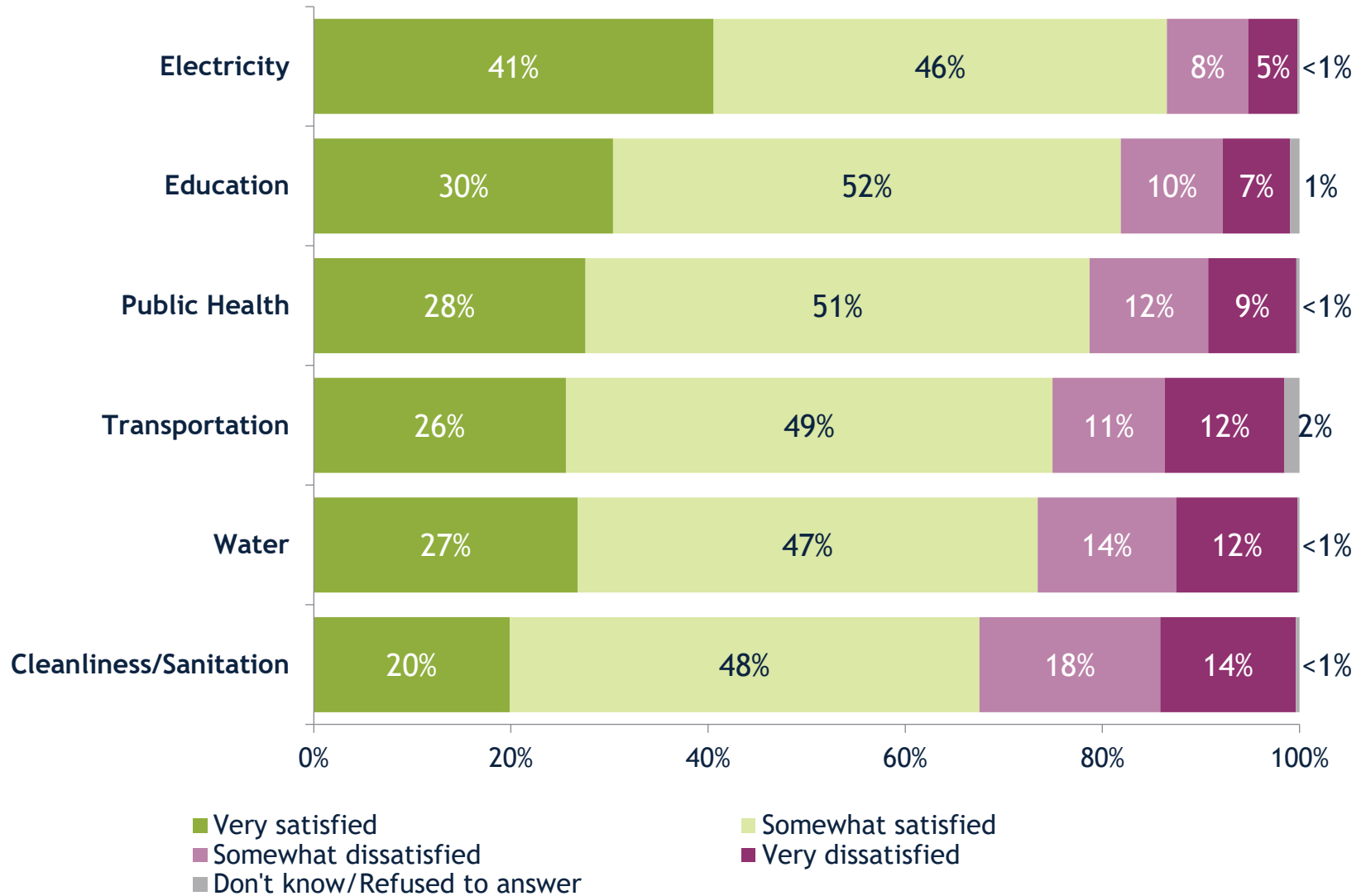
To what extent do you believe that the municipality uses its financial resources efficiently?



In the past year, have you visited or contacted the offices of the municipality regarding any matter that relates to services provided by the council?

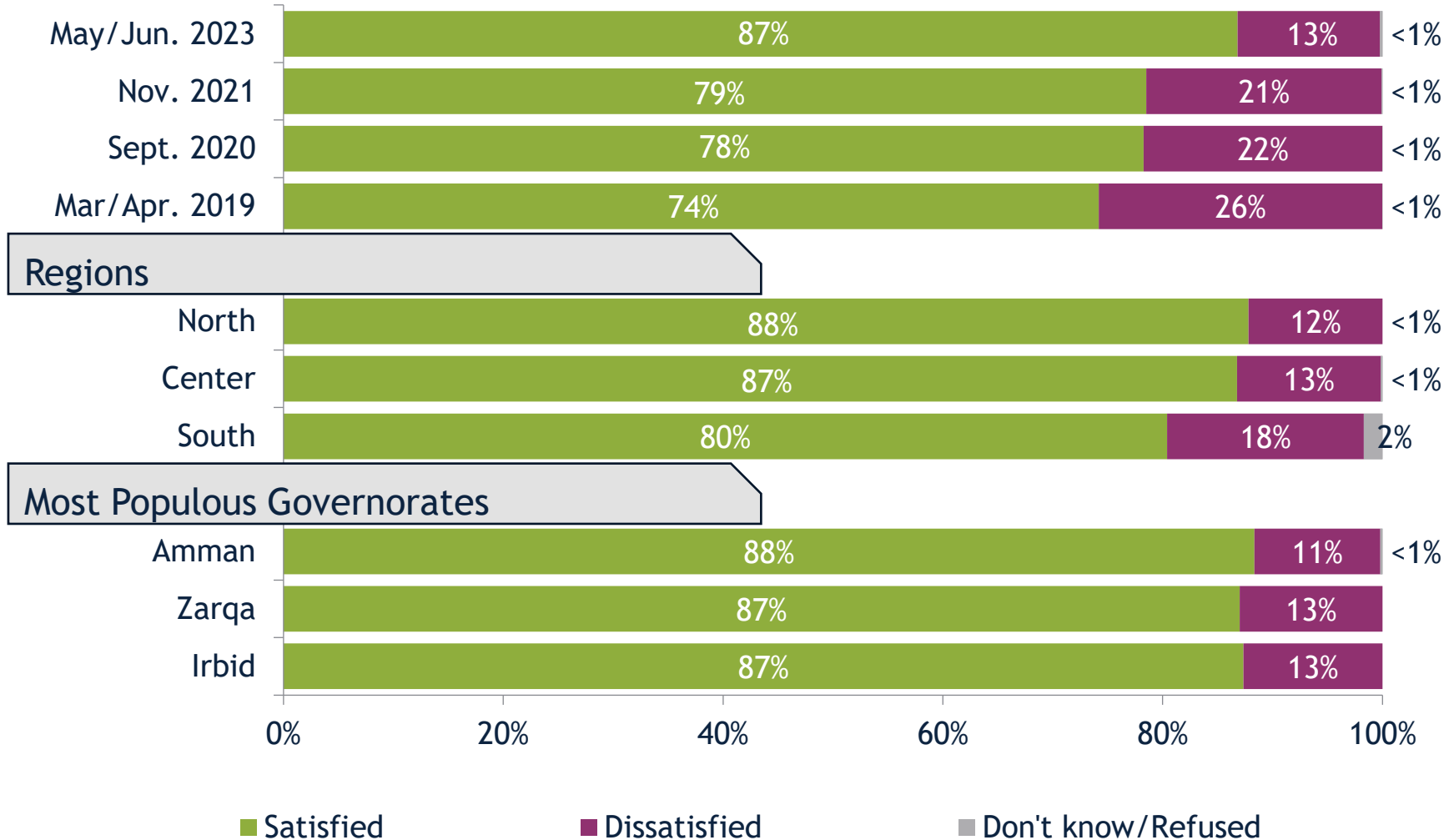


To what extent are you satisfied with the performance of public institutions in regard to each of the following?



To what extent are you satisfied with the performance of public institutions in regard to each of the following?

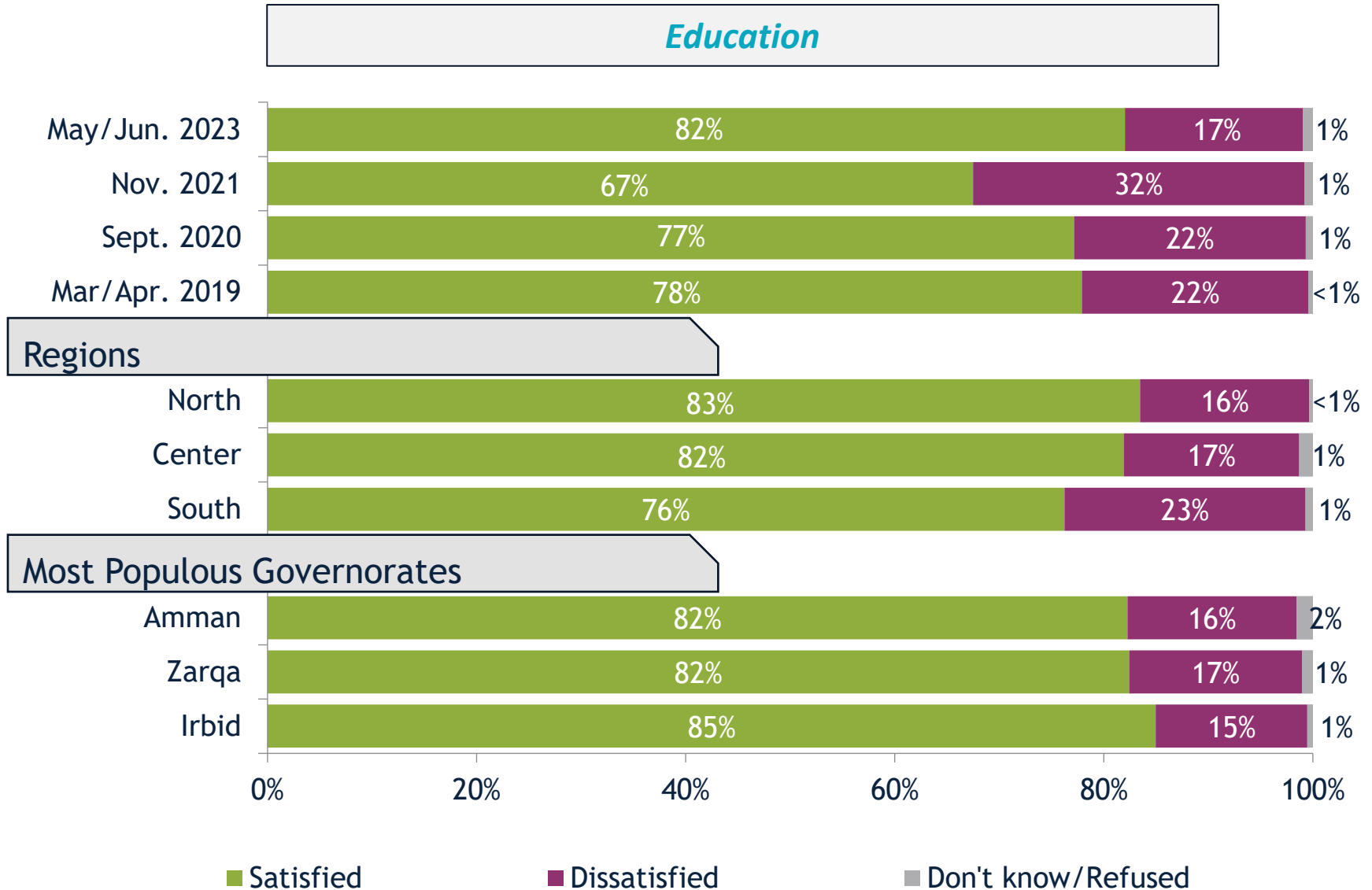
Electricity



*Very/somewhat satisfied and very/somewhat dissatisfied responses are merged

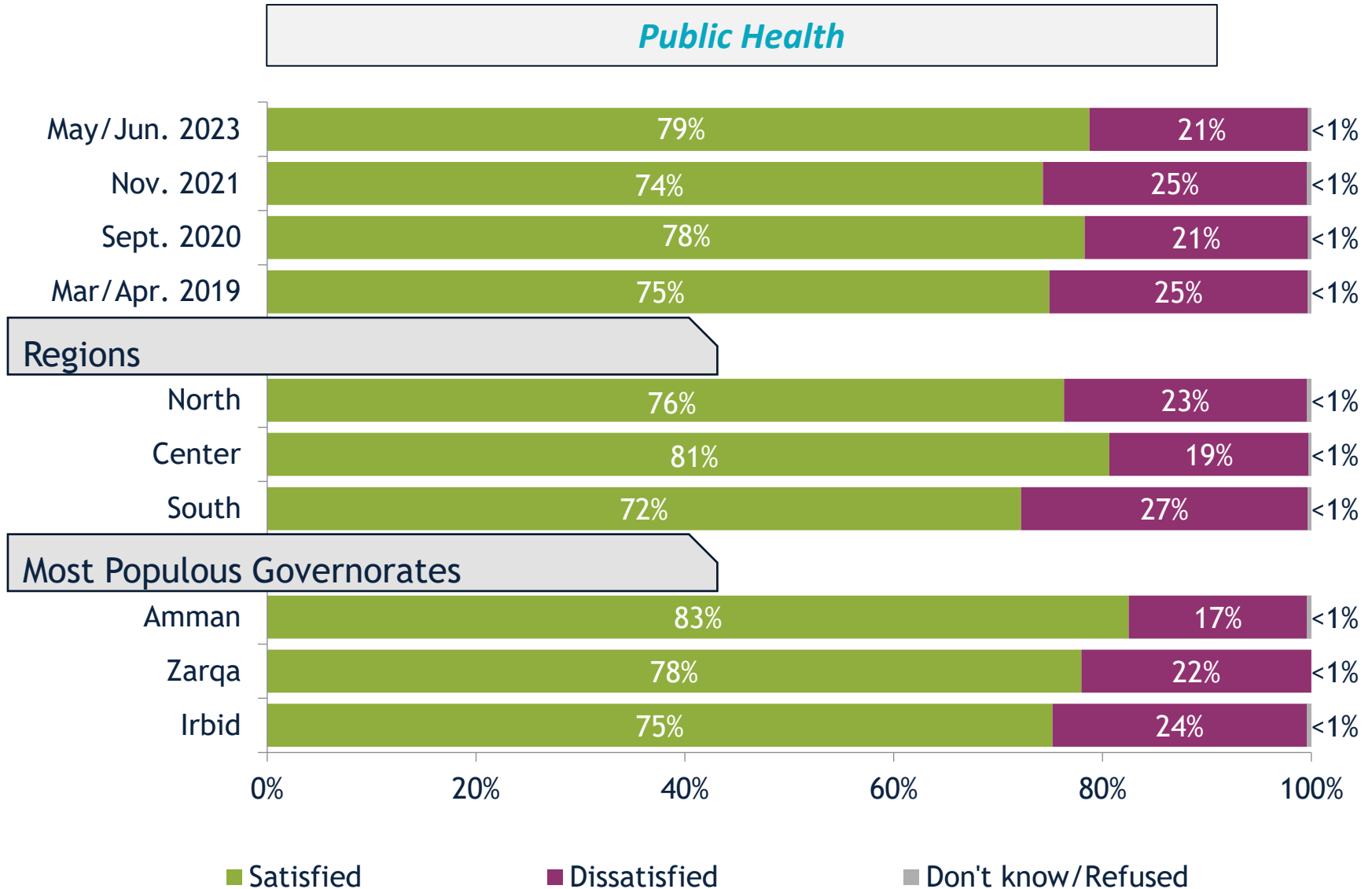
To what extent are you satisfied with the performance of public institutions in regard to each of the following?

Education



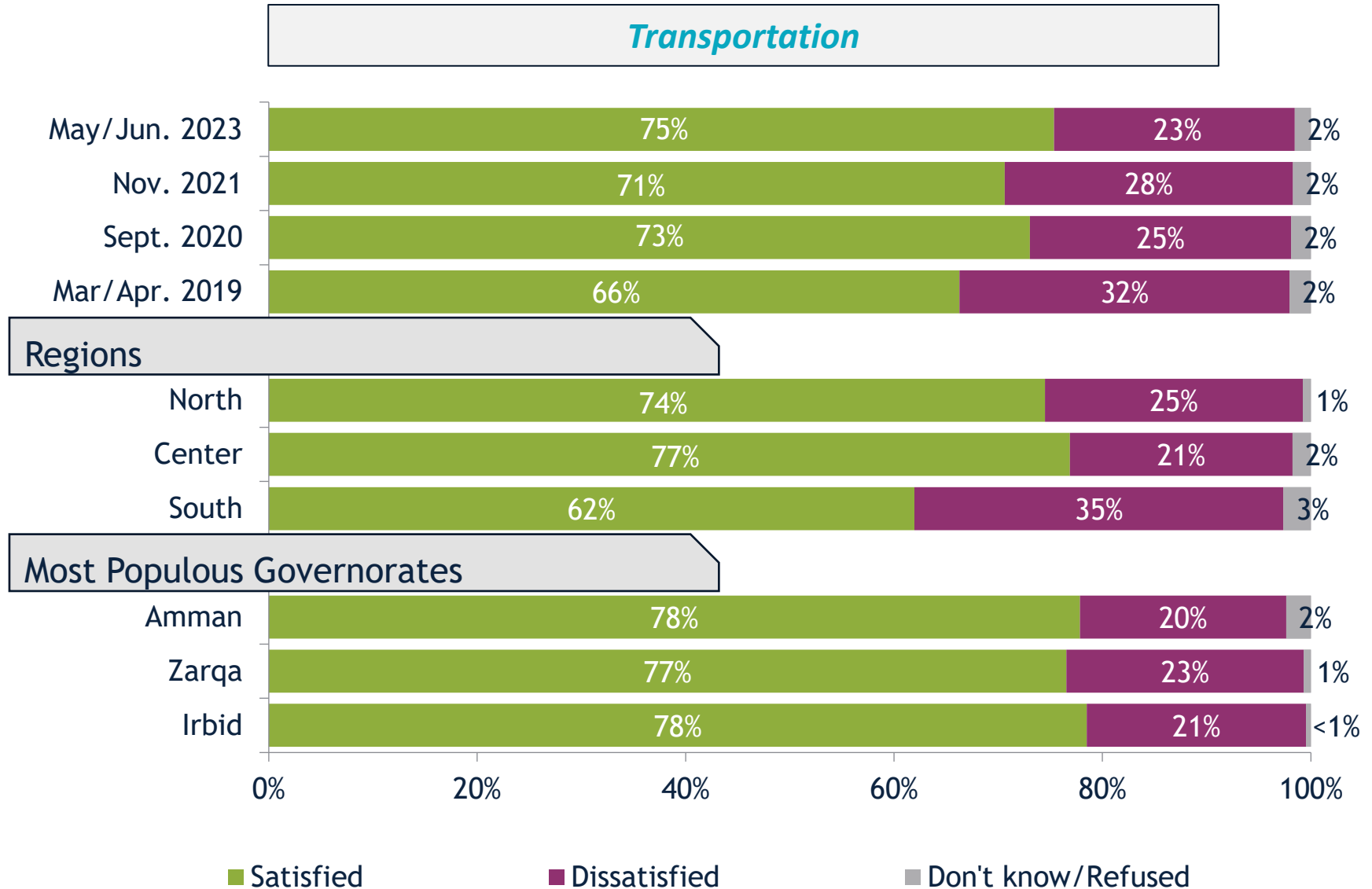
*Very/somewhat satisfied and very/somewhat dissatisfied responses are merged

To what extent are you satisfied with the performance of public institutions in regard to each of the following?



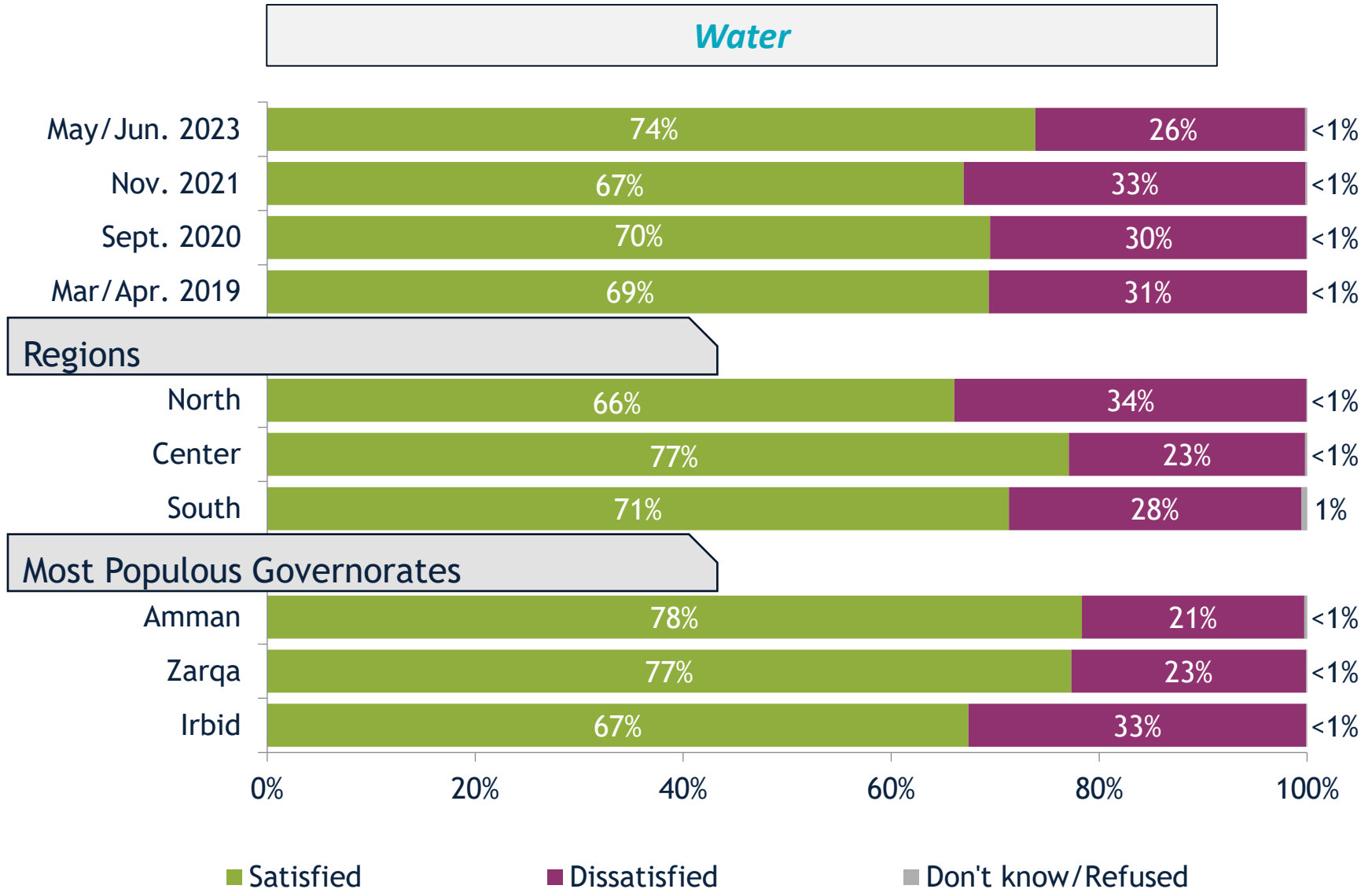
*Very/somewhat satisfied and very/somewhat dissatisfied responses are merged

To what extent are you satisfied with the performance of public institutions in regard to each of the following?



*Very/somewhat satisfied and very/somewhat dissatisfied responses are merged

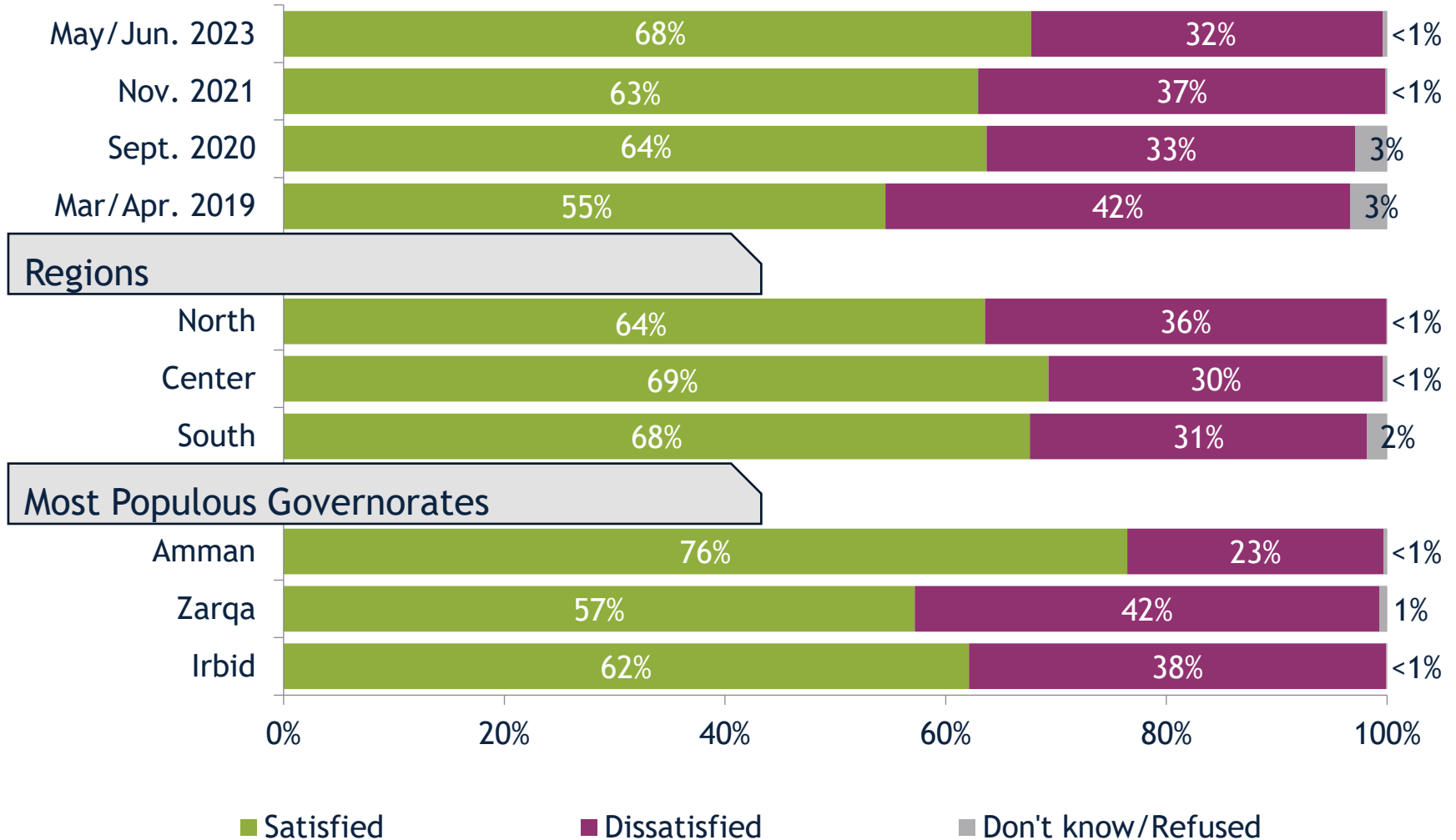
To what extent are you satisfied with the performance of public institutions in regard to each of the following?



*Very/somewhat satisfied and very/somewhat dissatisfied responses are merged

To what extent are you satisfied with the performance of public institutions in regard to each of the following?

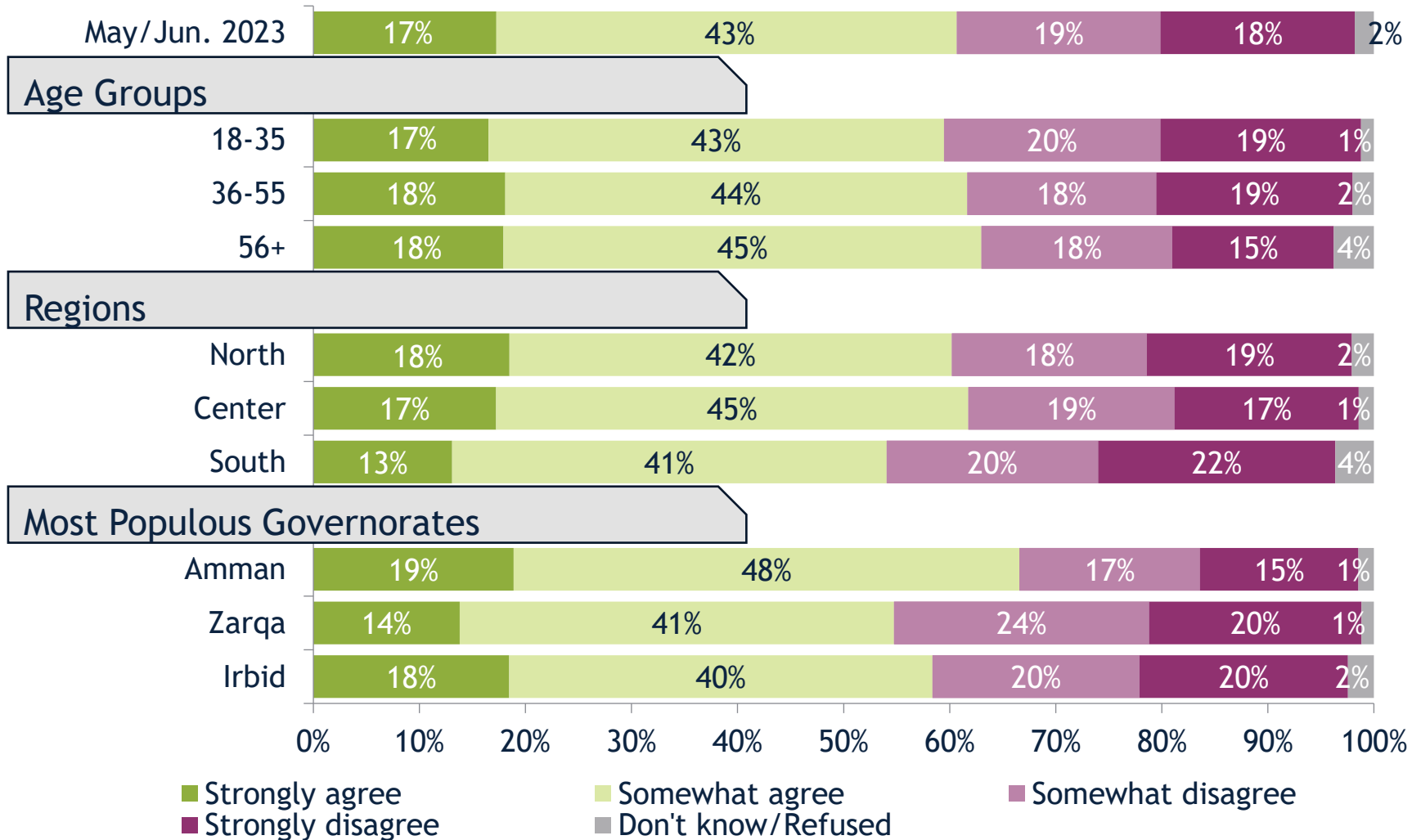
Cleanliness/Sanitation



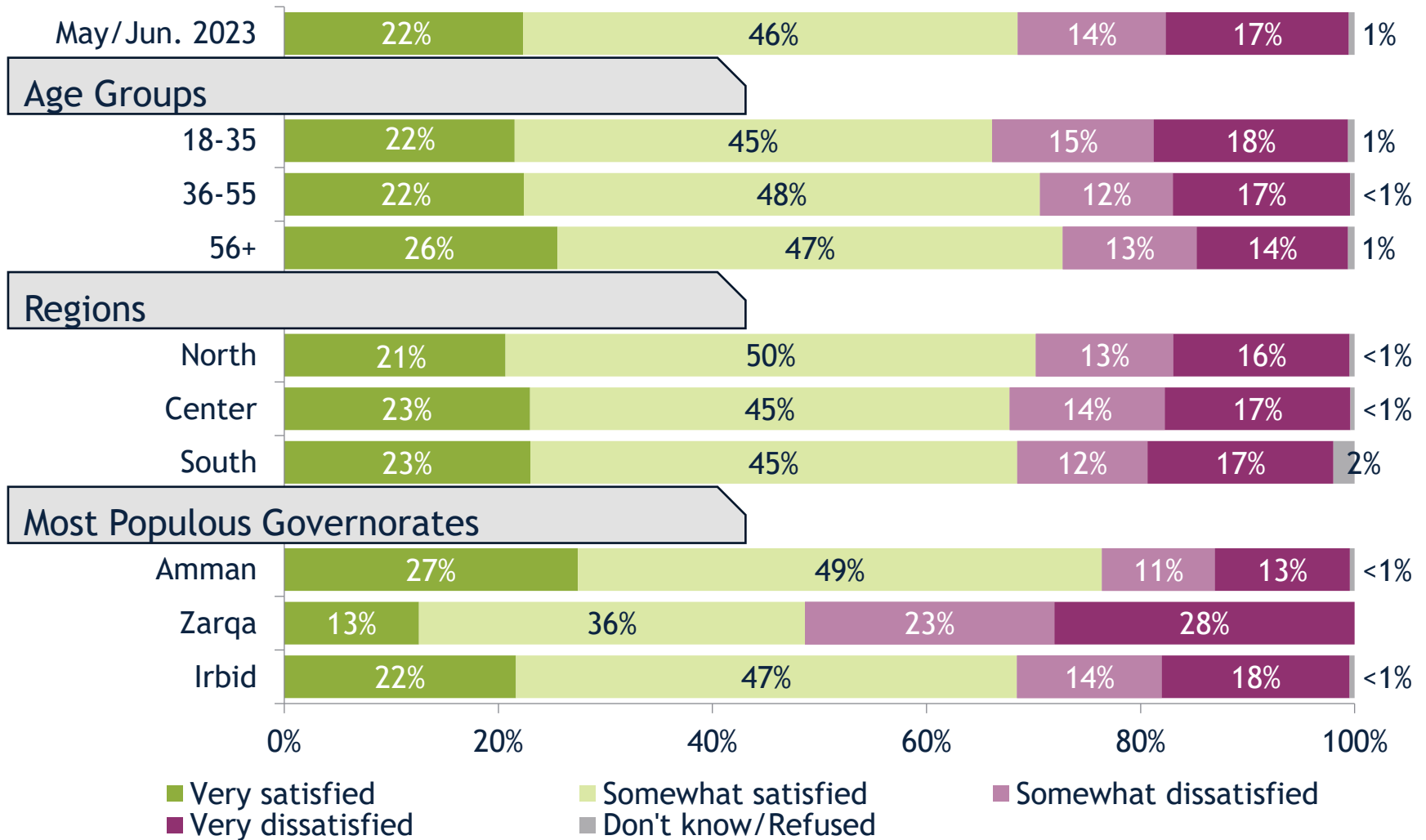
*Very/somewhat satisfied and very/somewhat dissatisfied responses are merged

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

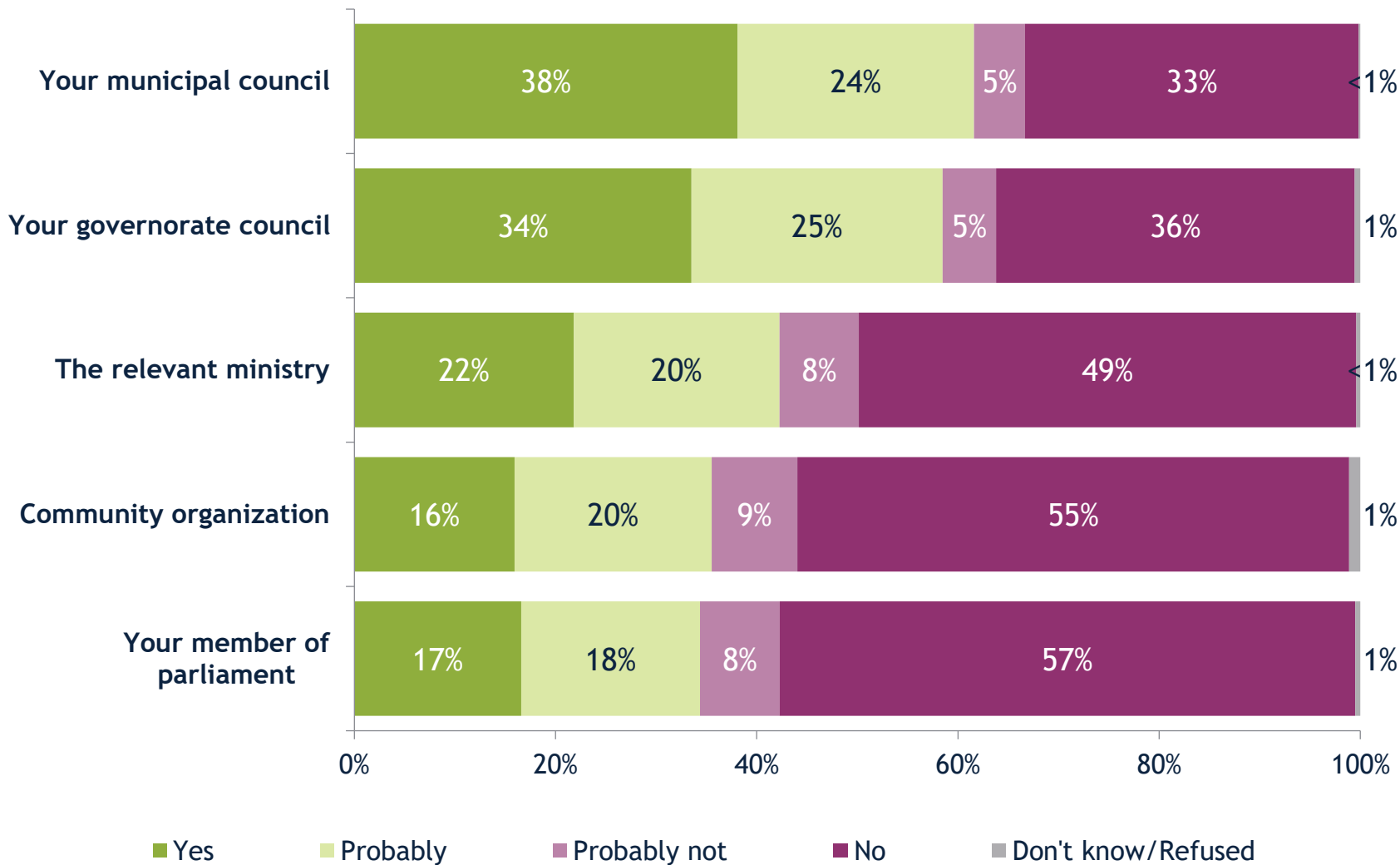
The municipal council does its best to provide citizens with public services



Are you satisfied with the cleanliness of your municipality?



In the event that you have a problem related to your region, please tell me if you would contact each of the following entities to help solve your problem





In the event that you have a problem related to your region, please tell me if you would contact each of the following entities to help solve your problem

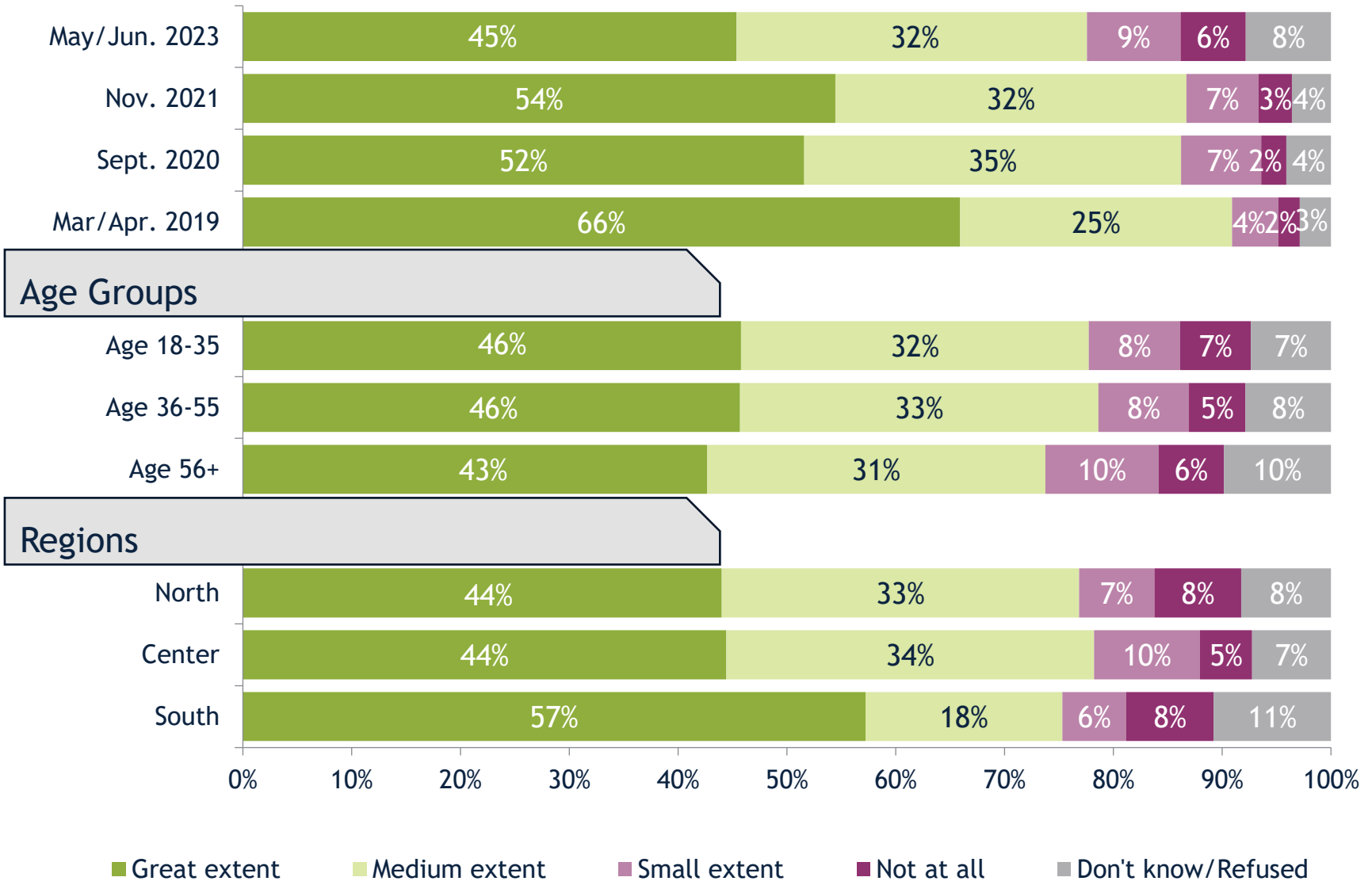
(Yes/Probably responses displayed)

	Age Groups			Regions			Most Populous Governorates		
	18-35	36-55	56+	North	Center	South	Amman	Zarqa	Irbid
Your municipal council	60%	64%	61%	67%	59%	62%	60%	58%	68%
Your governorate council	57%	61%	60%	62%	58%	52%	59%	54%	61%
The relevant ministry	41%	43%	43%	44%	42%	41%	42%	43%	43%
Community organization	36%	36%	35%	38%	34%	35%	36%	31%	36%
Your member of parliament	34%	34%	36%	38%	33%	32%	33%	36%	36%

Corruption and Wasta



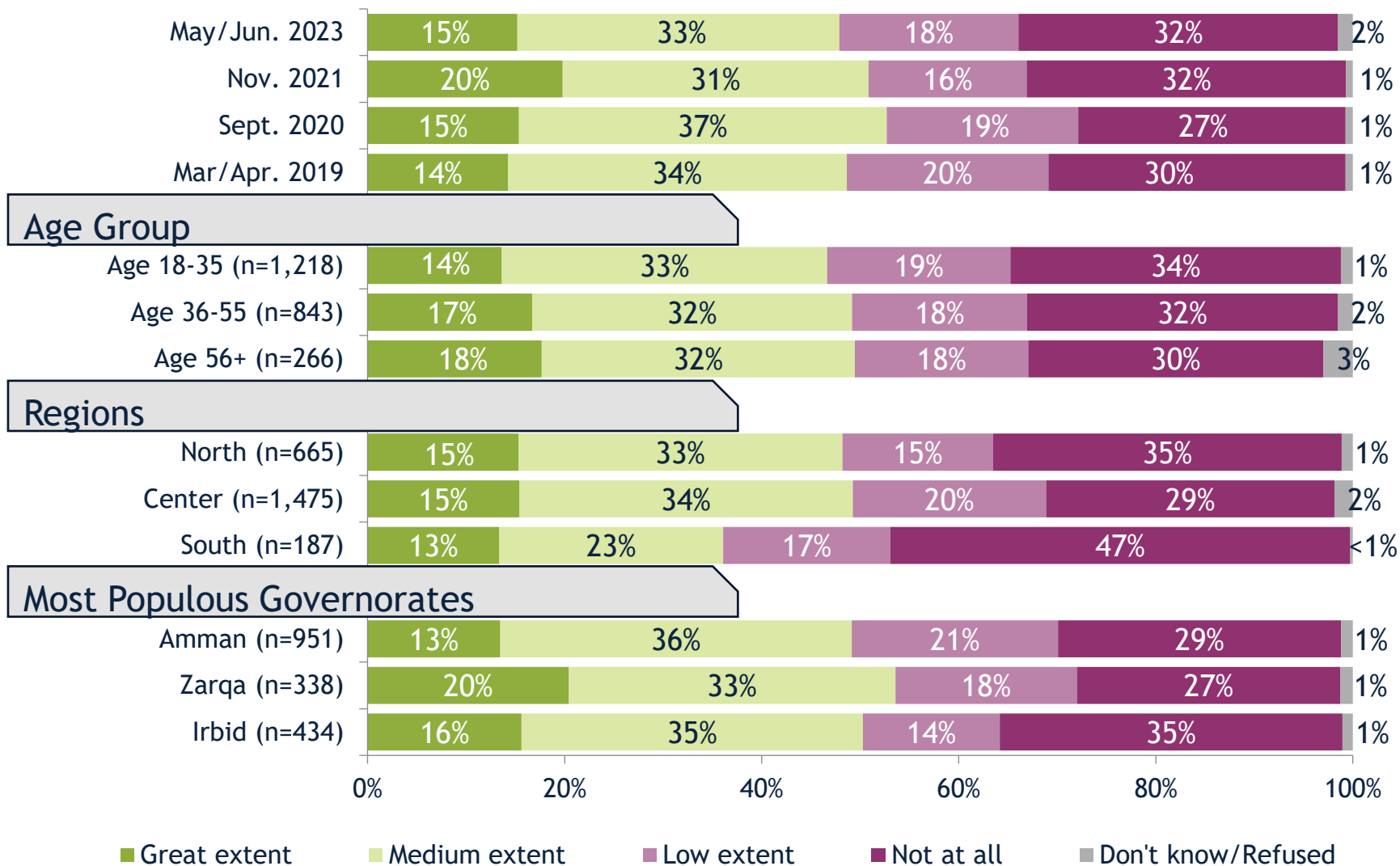
To what extent does corruption exist in state institutions? *By corruption we mean “the abuse of power for personal gain” ...*



*Surveys done before May/Jun. 2023 defined corruption as: “Using authority to achieve personal gains”

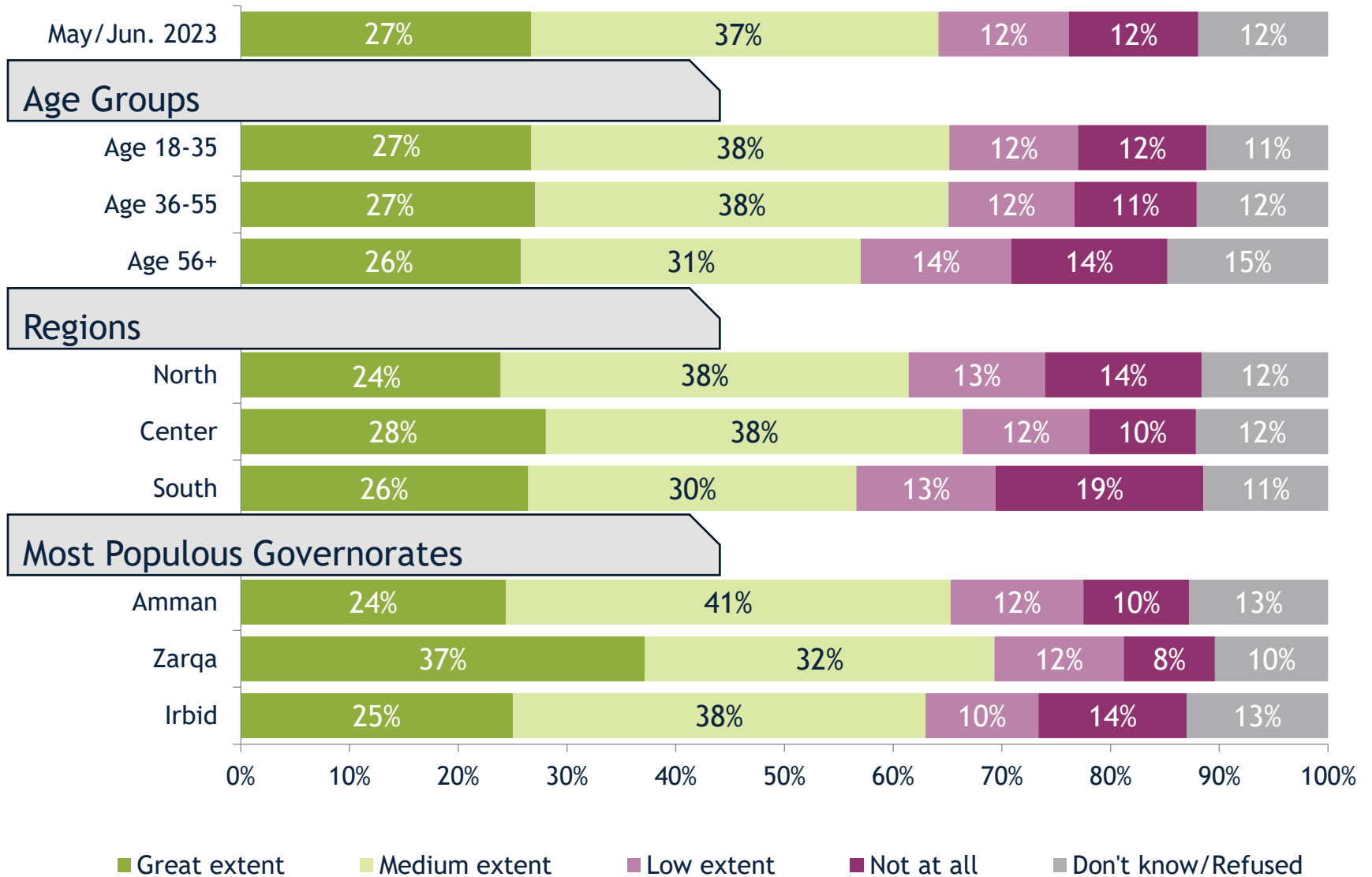
In your opinion, to what extent do you think the government is serious about fighting corruption in Jordan? *By corruption we mean “the abuse of power for personal gain” ...*

(Among those say that corruption exists to a medium or great extent in state institutions)

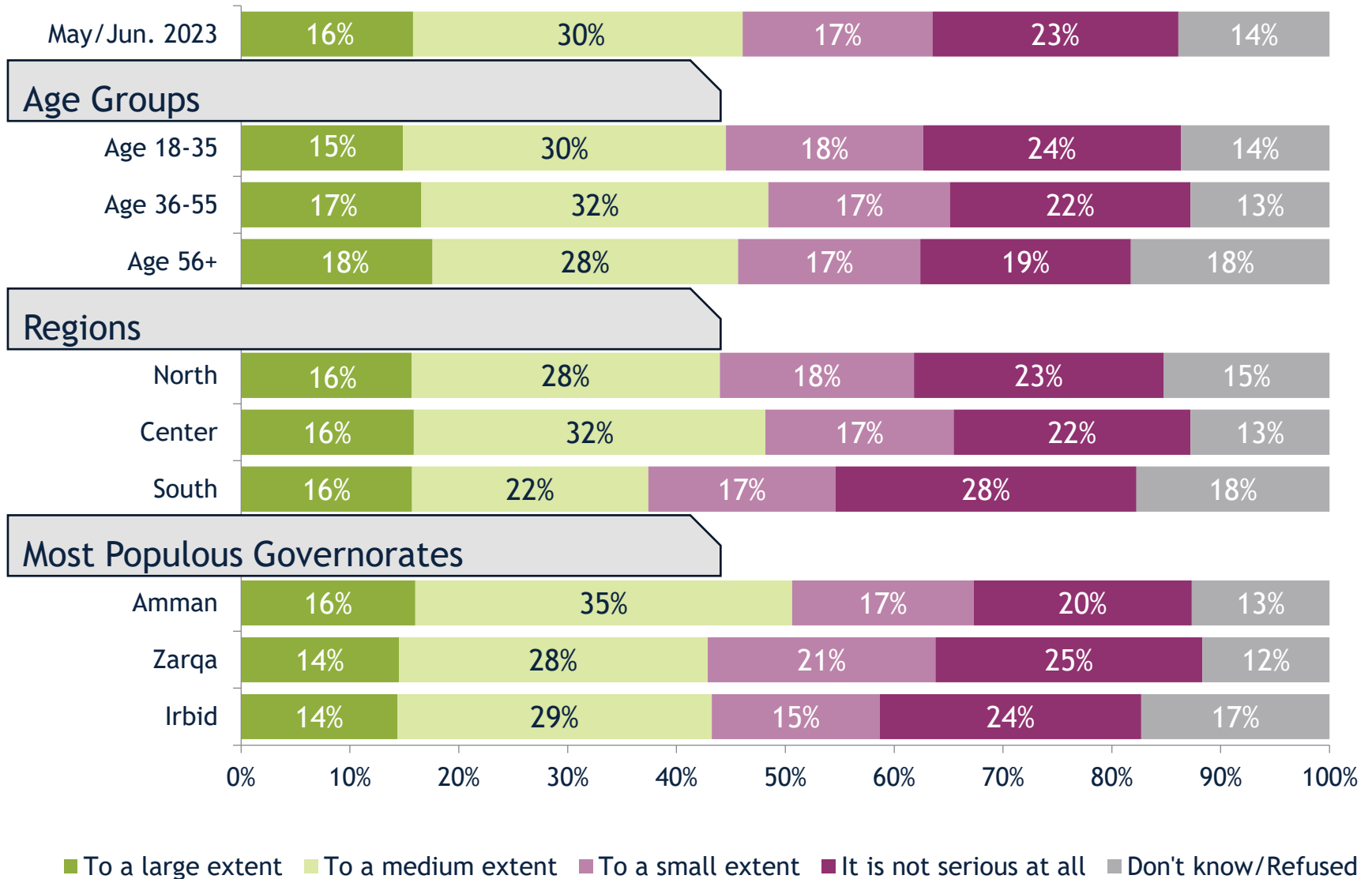


*Surveys done before May/Jun. 2023 defined corruption as: “Using authority to achieve personal gains”

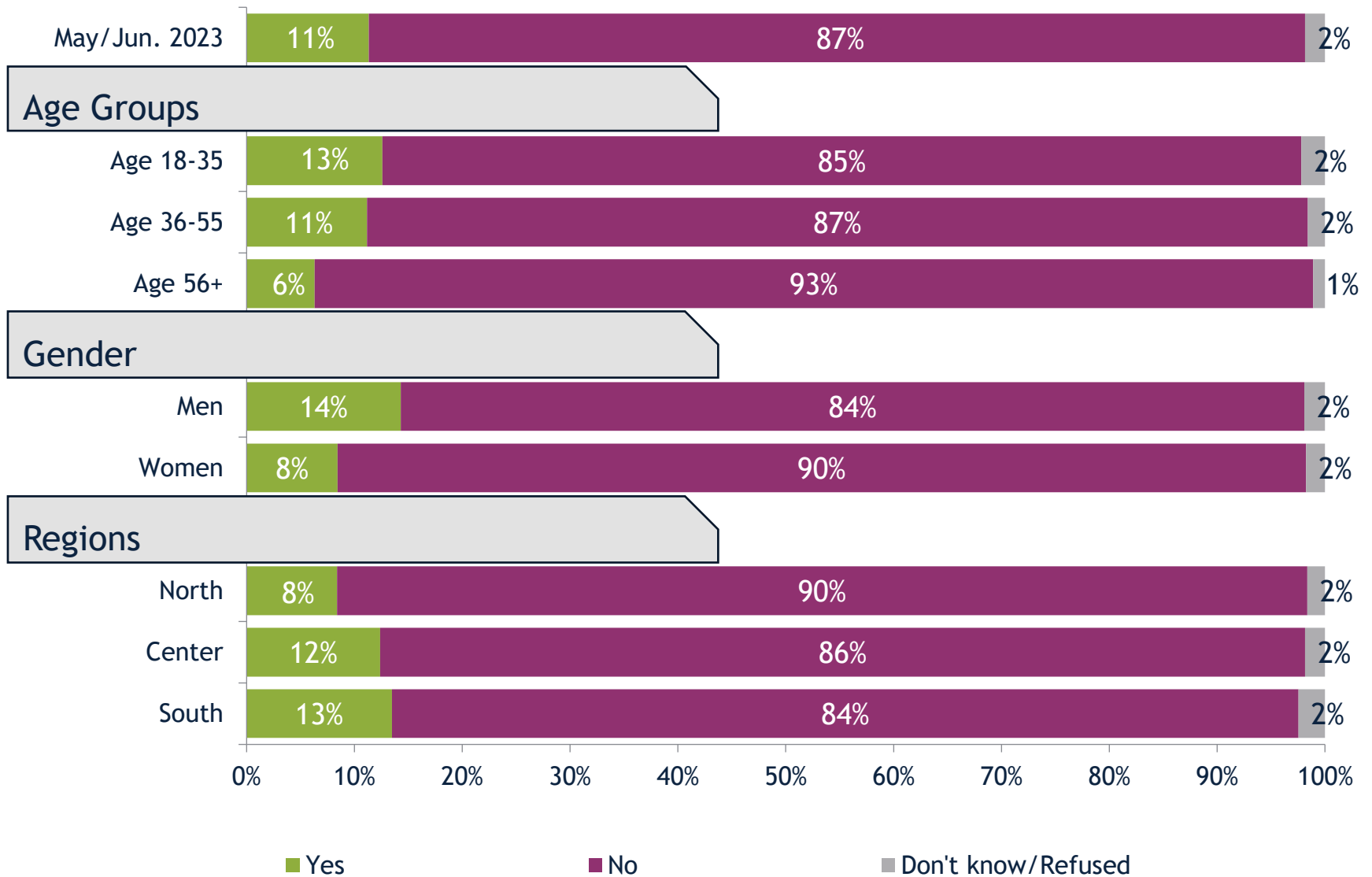
To what extent does corruption exist in local government? By corruption we mean “the abuse of power for personal gain” ...



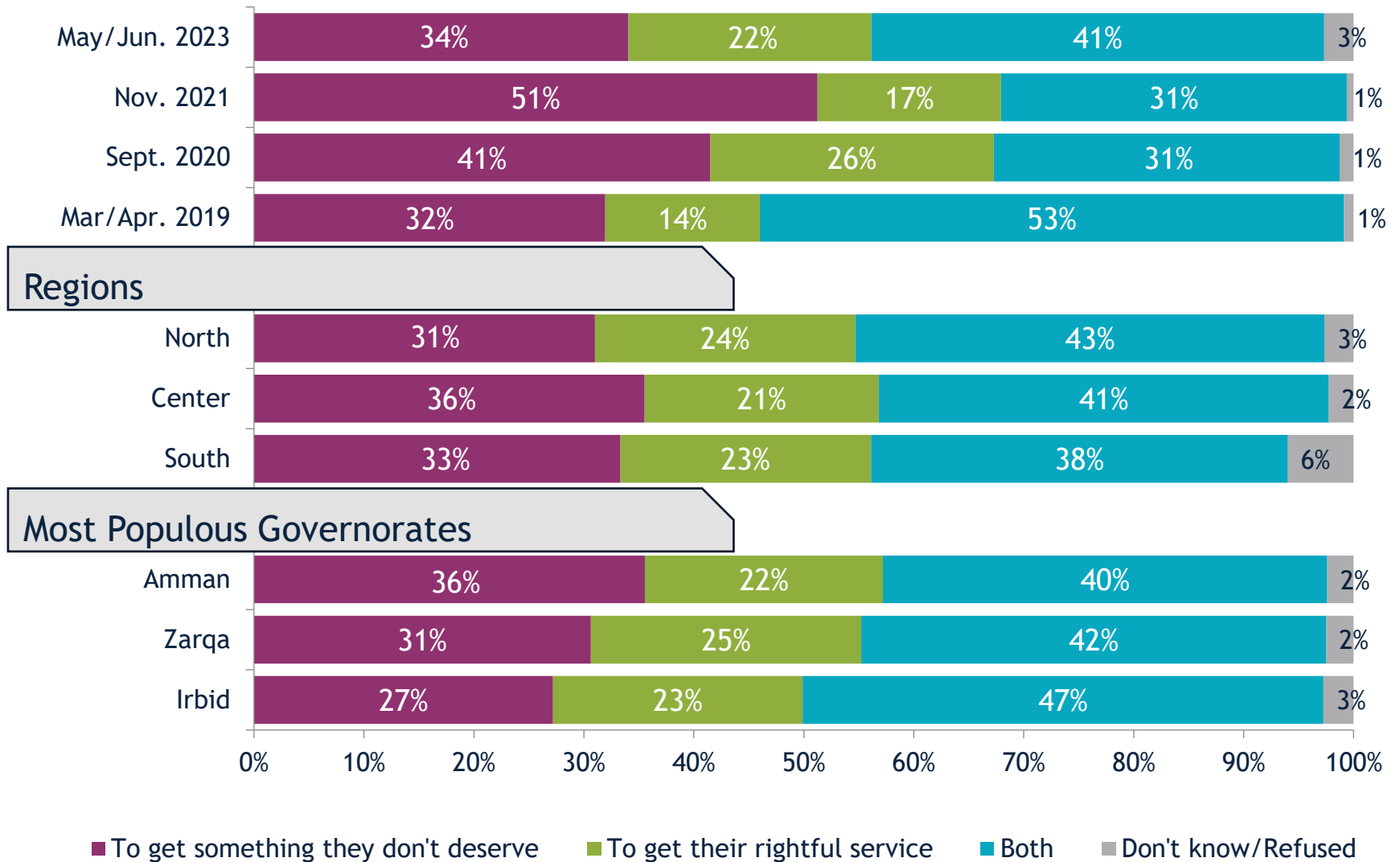
In your opinion, to what extent do you think your **local government** is serious about fighting corruption in your area? *By corruption we mean “the abuse of power for personal gain” ...*



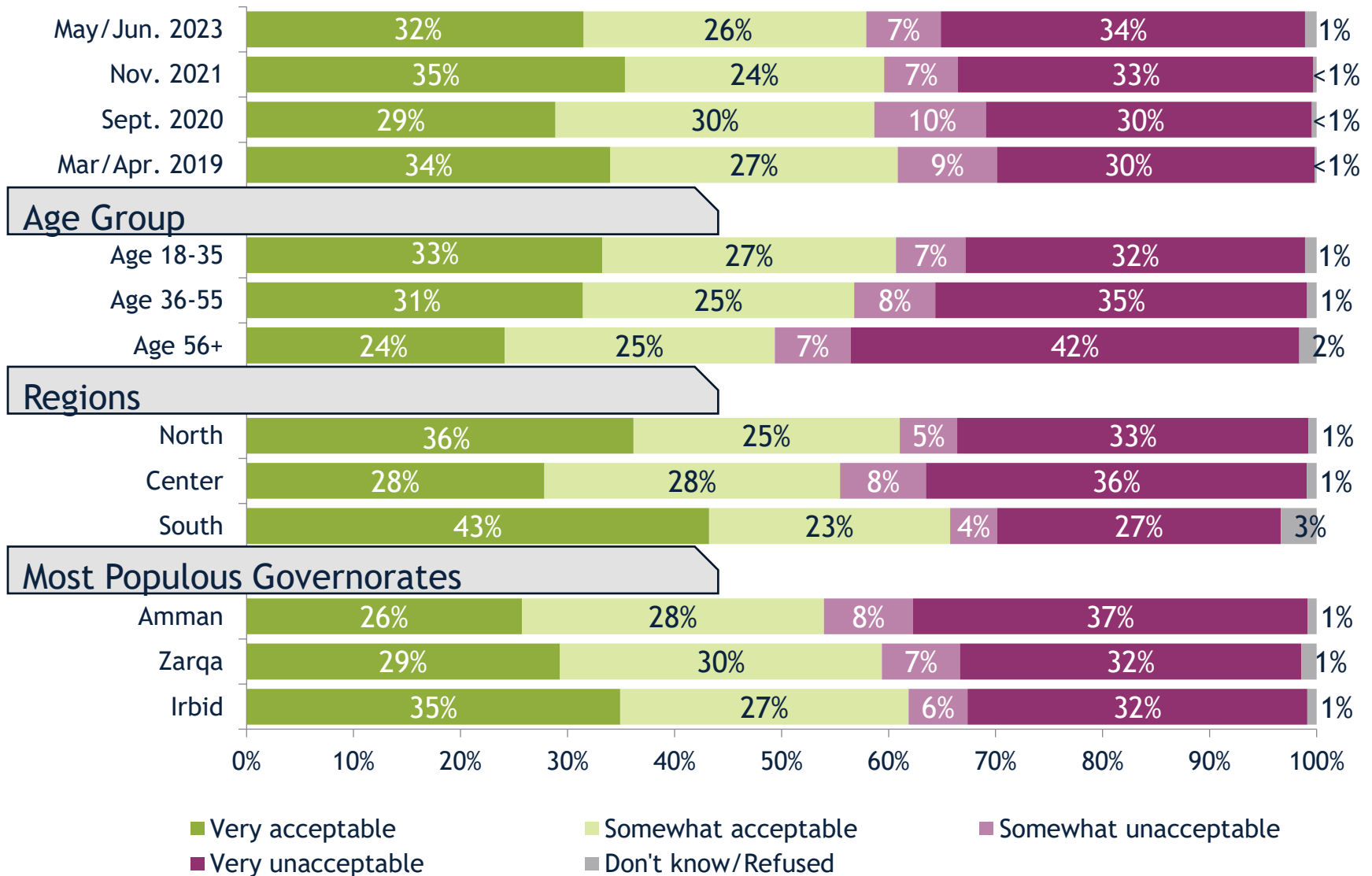
Thinking about your interactions with the local government over the past 12 months, did you or anyone you know have to do a favor, give a gift, or pay an official extra money to get a service or document?



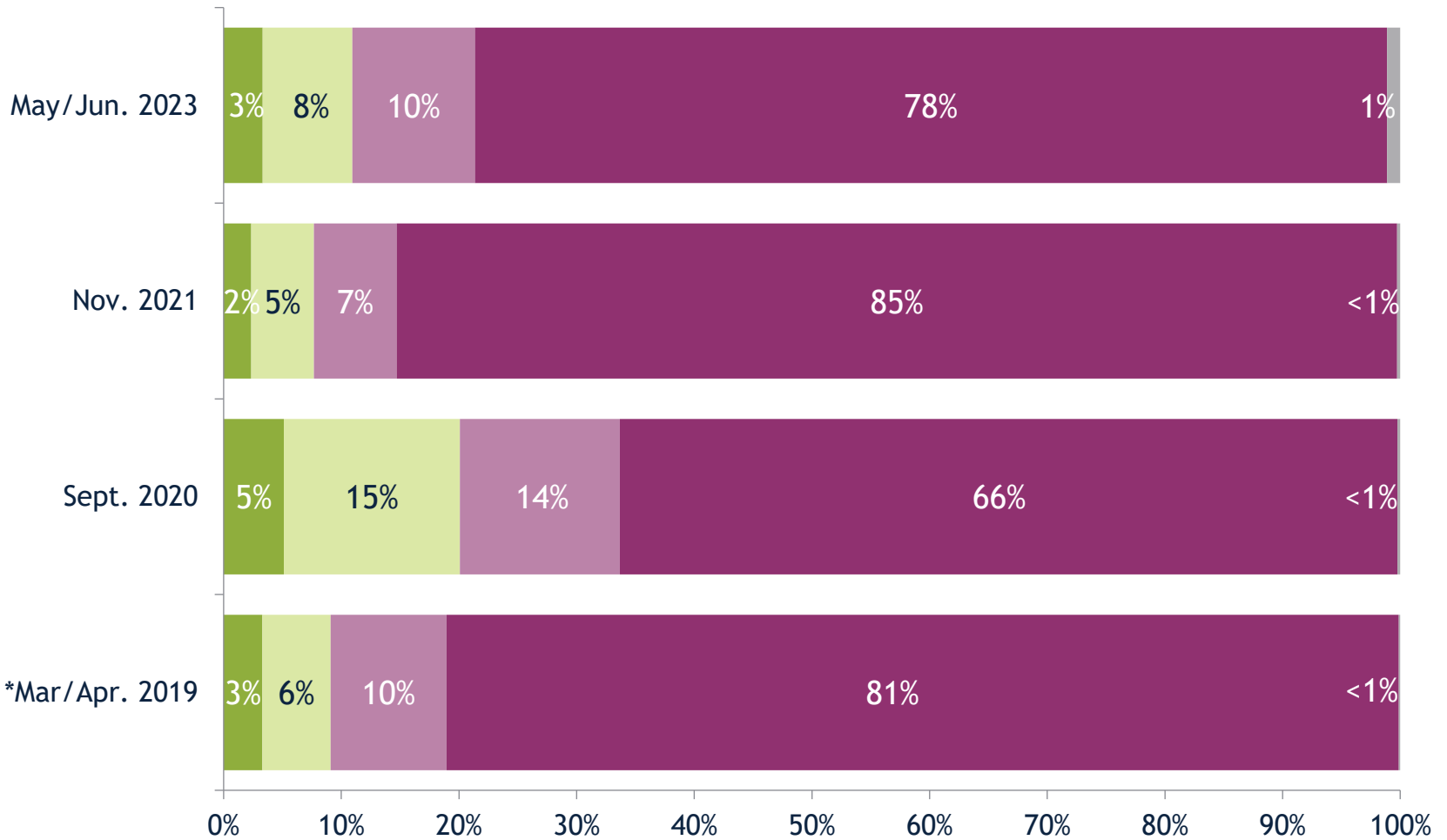
Do you think people use *Wasta* to get something they don't deserve, or do they use it to get their rightful service?



To what extent do you consider it acceptable to use *Wasta* to obtain your rightful service?



To what extent do you believe it is acceptable to use Wasta to get services you want but that you may not be entitled to?



■ Very acceptable
 ■ Somewhat acceptable
 ■ Somewhat unacceptable
 ■ Very unacceptable
 ■ Don't know/Refused

*The 2019 survey phrased this question: *To what extent do you consider it acceptable to use Wasta to obtain something you don't deserve?*

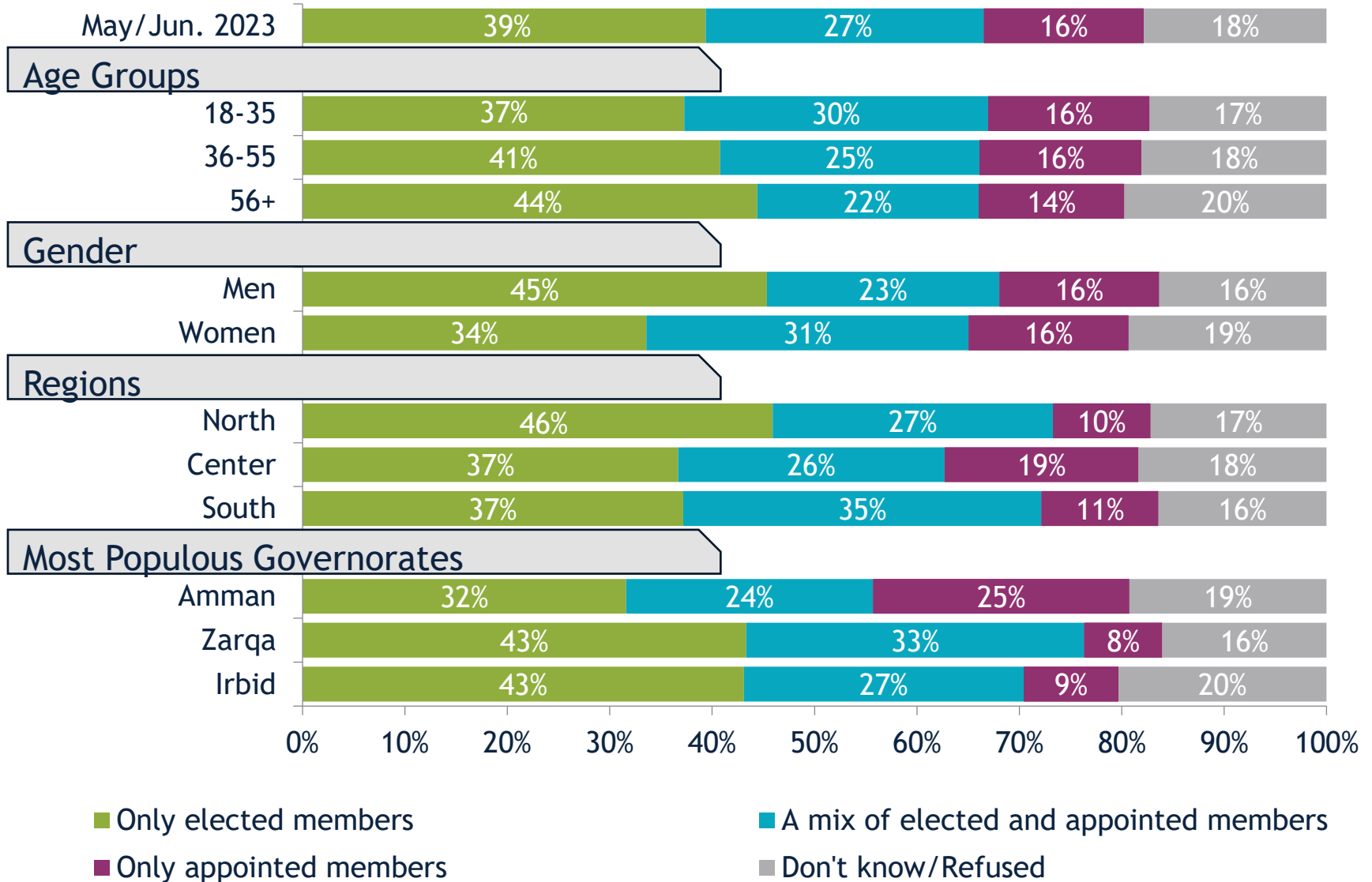
Local Government Reforms: Governorate/Central Councils



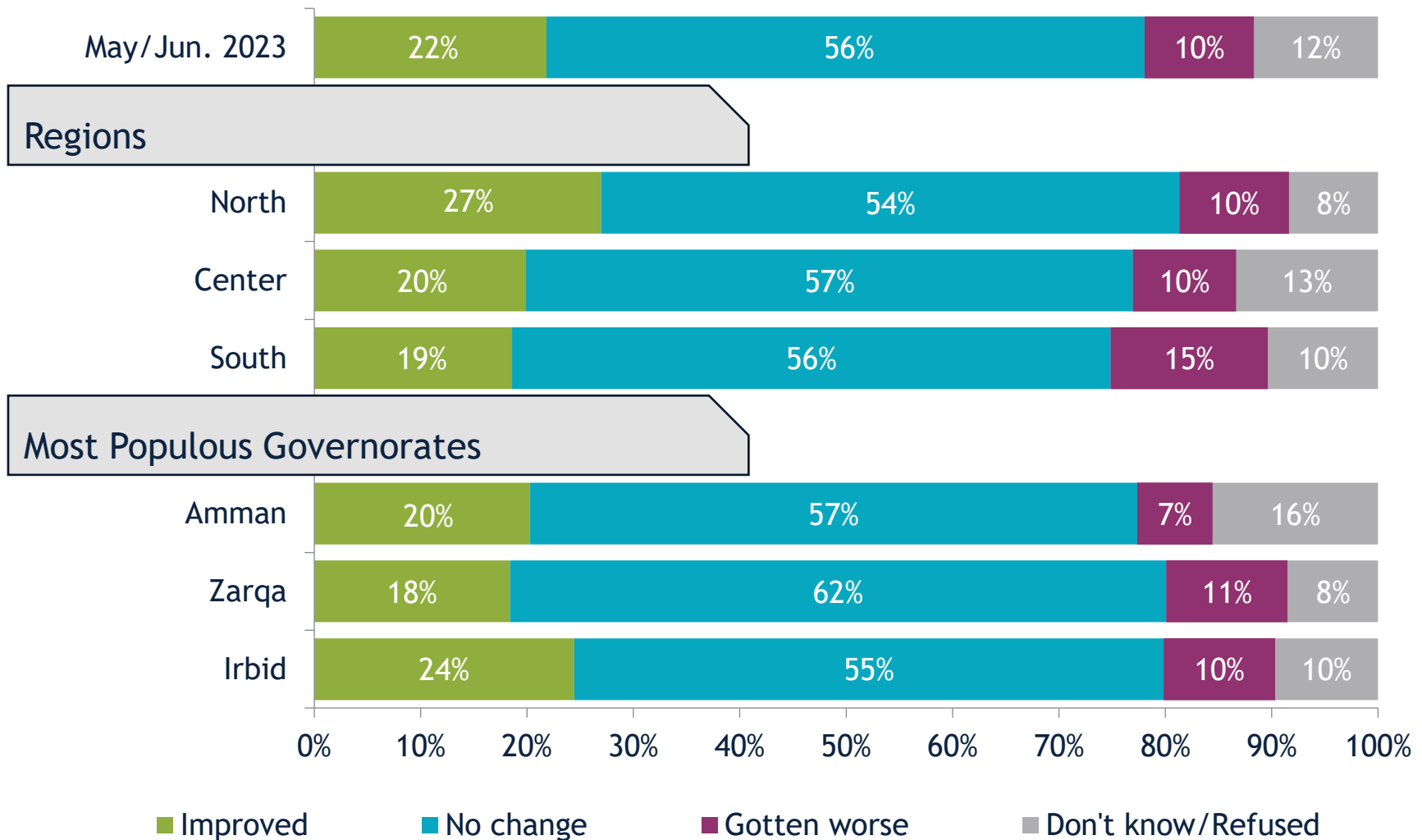
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Are you in favor of having a governorate/central council that includes only elected members, only appointed members, or a mix of elected and appointed members?



Has the level of services in your region improved, gotten worse, or has there been no change since the establishment of the governorate/central council after the last local elections?



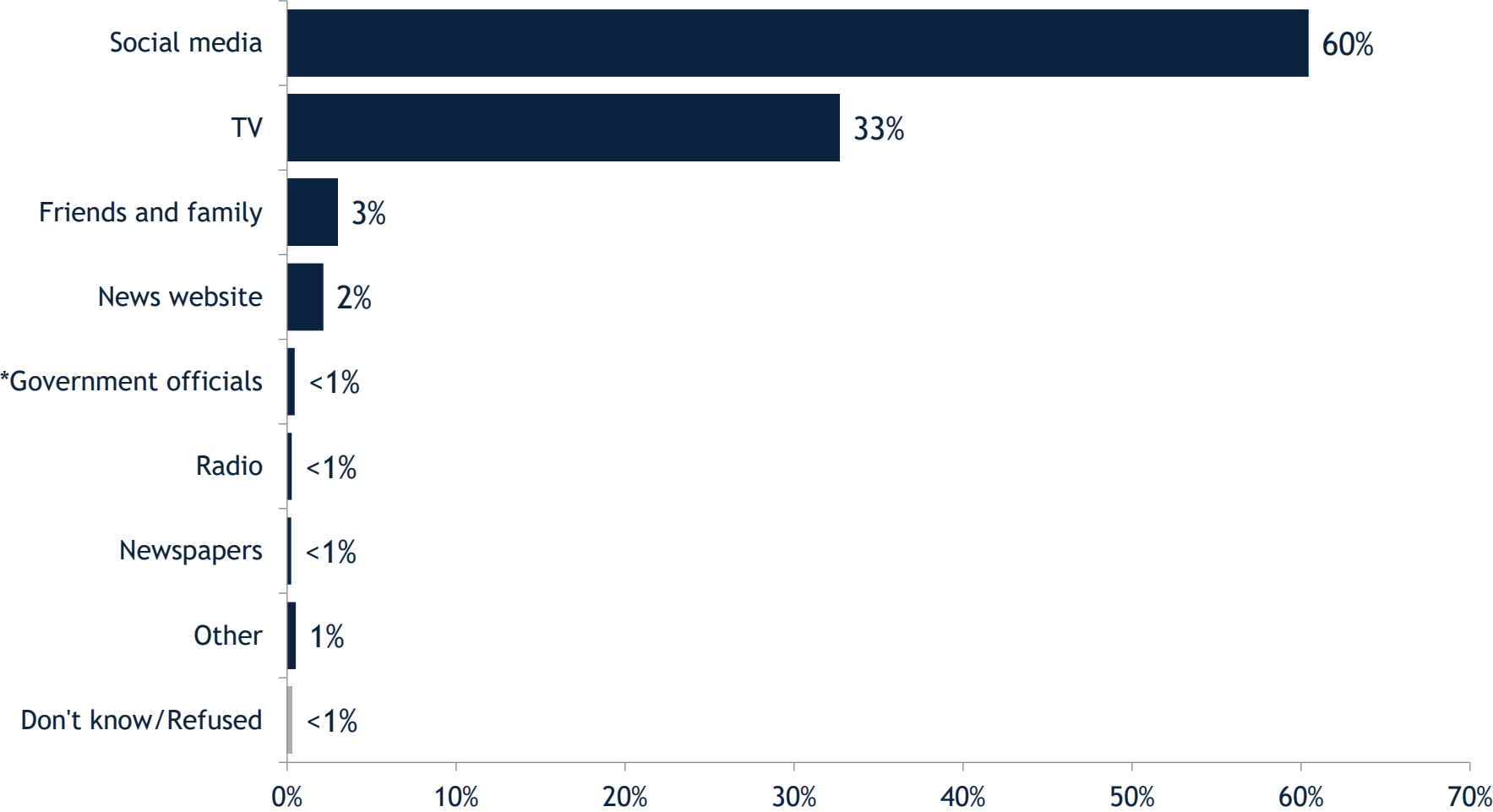
*Jordan held local elections on March 22, 2022

Information Sources





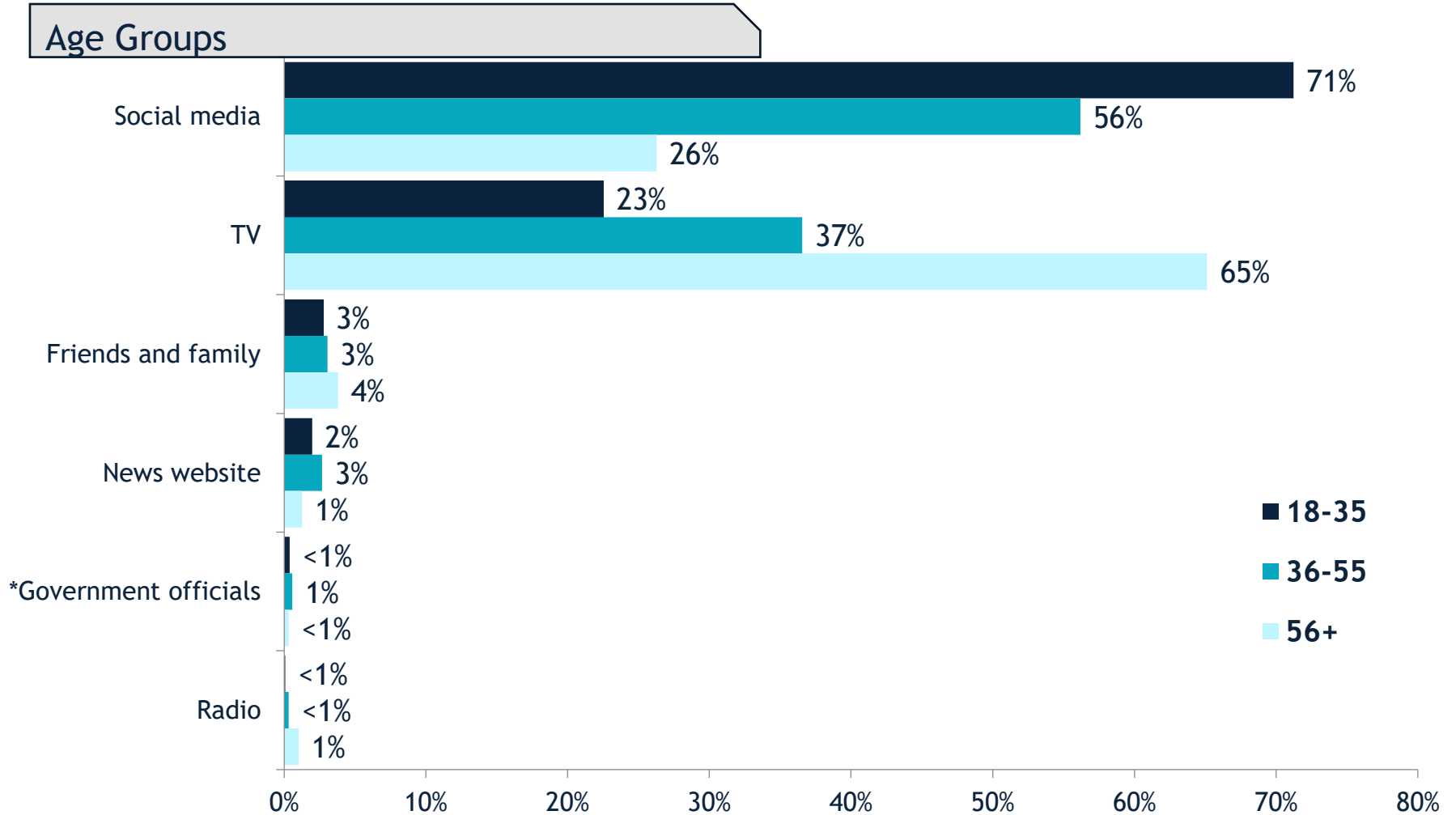
Where do you most frequently get your news from?



*Full response: Government officials like the Minister for State and Media Affairs

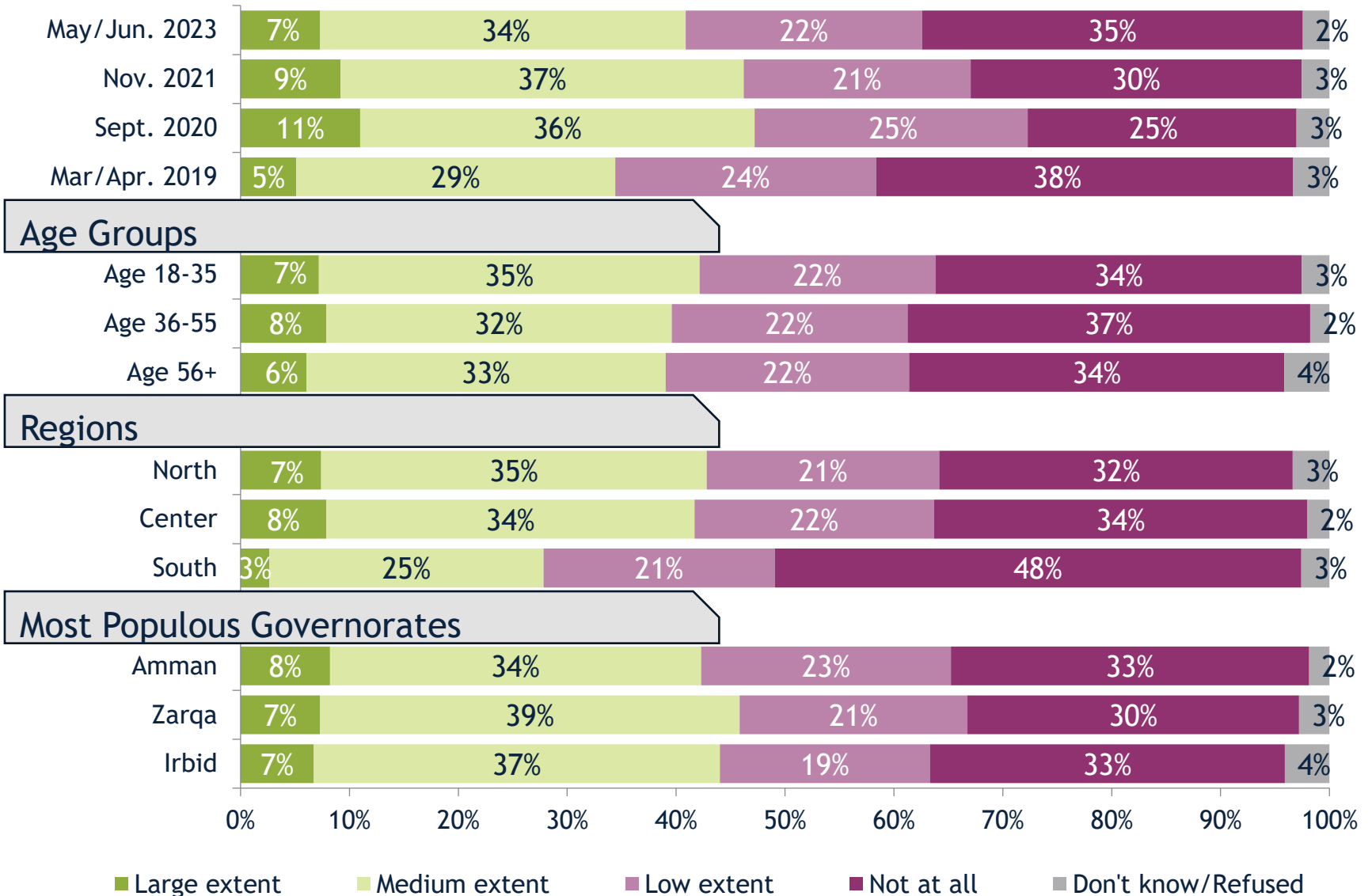
Where do you most frequently get your news from?

(Responses receiving $\geq 1\%$ from at least one age group are displayed)

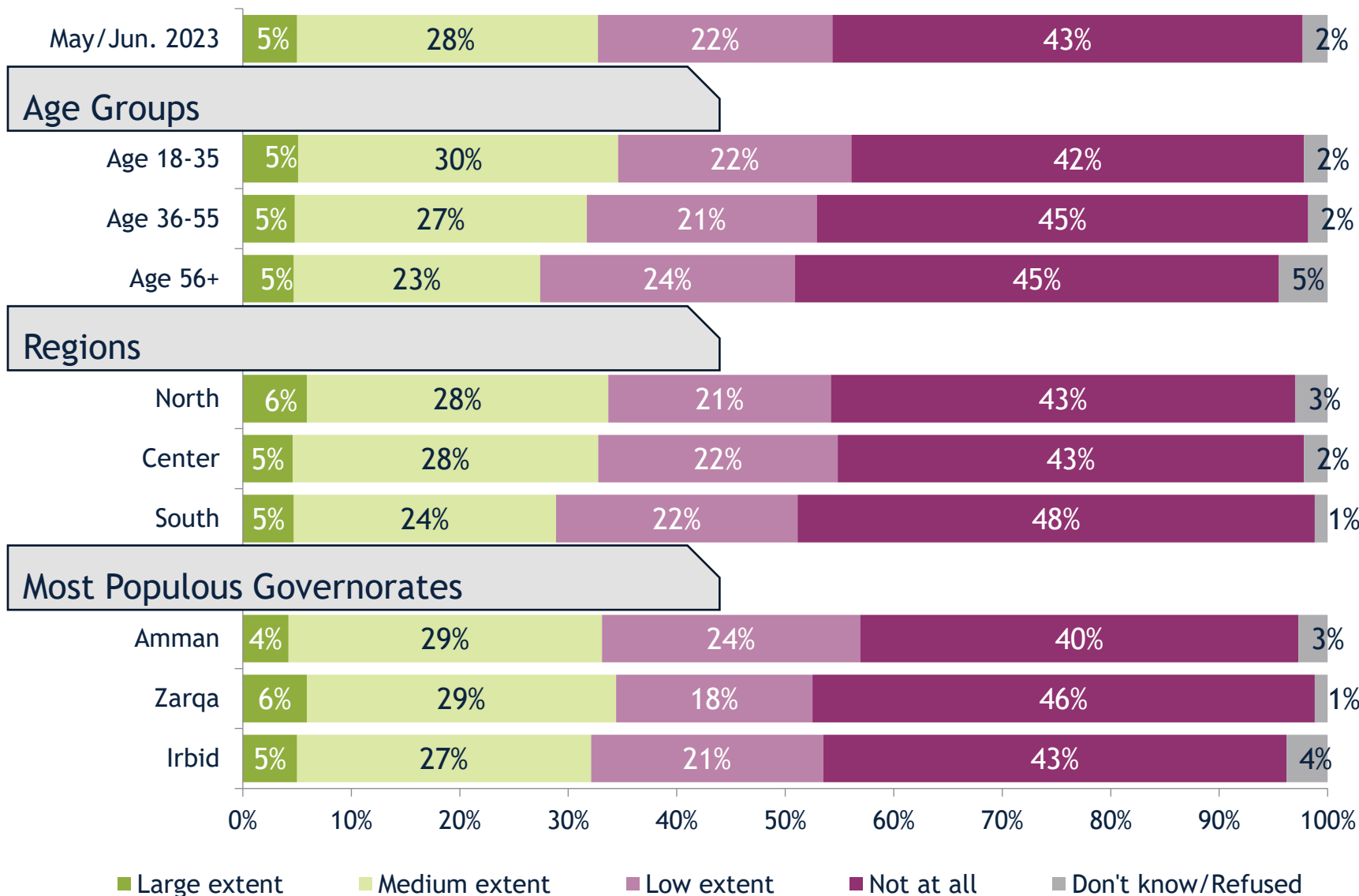


*Full response: *Government officials like the Minister for State and Media Affairs*

To what extent do you believe that the government provides you with adequate information regarding its public policies?

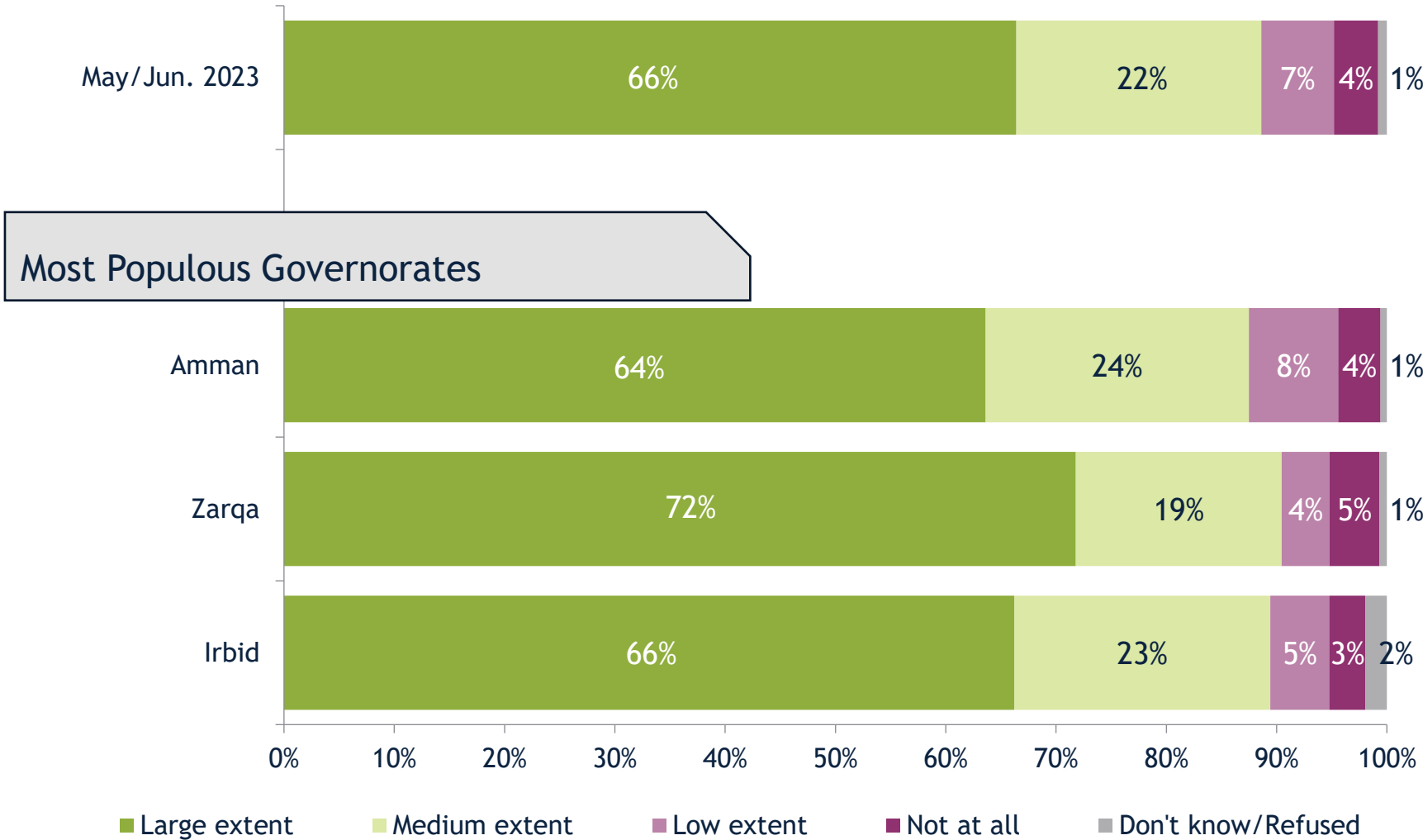


To what extent do you believe that your municipal government provides you with adequate information regarding its actions and policies?

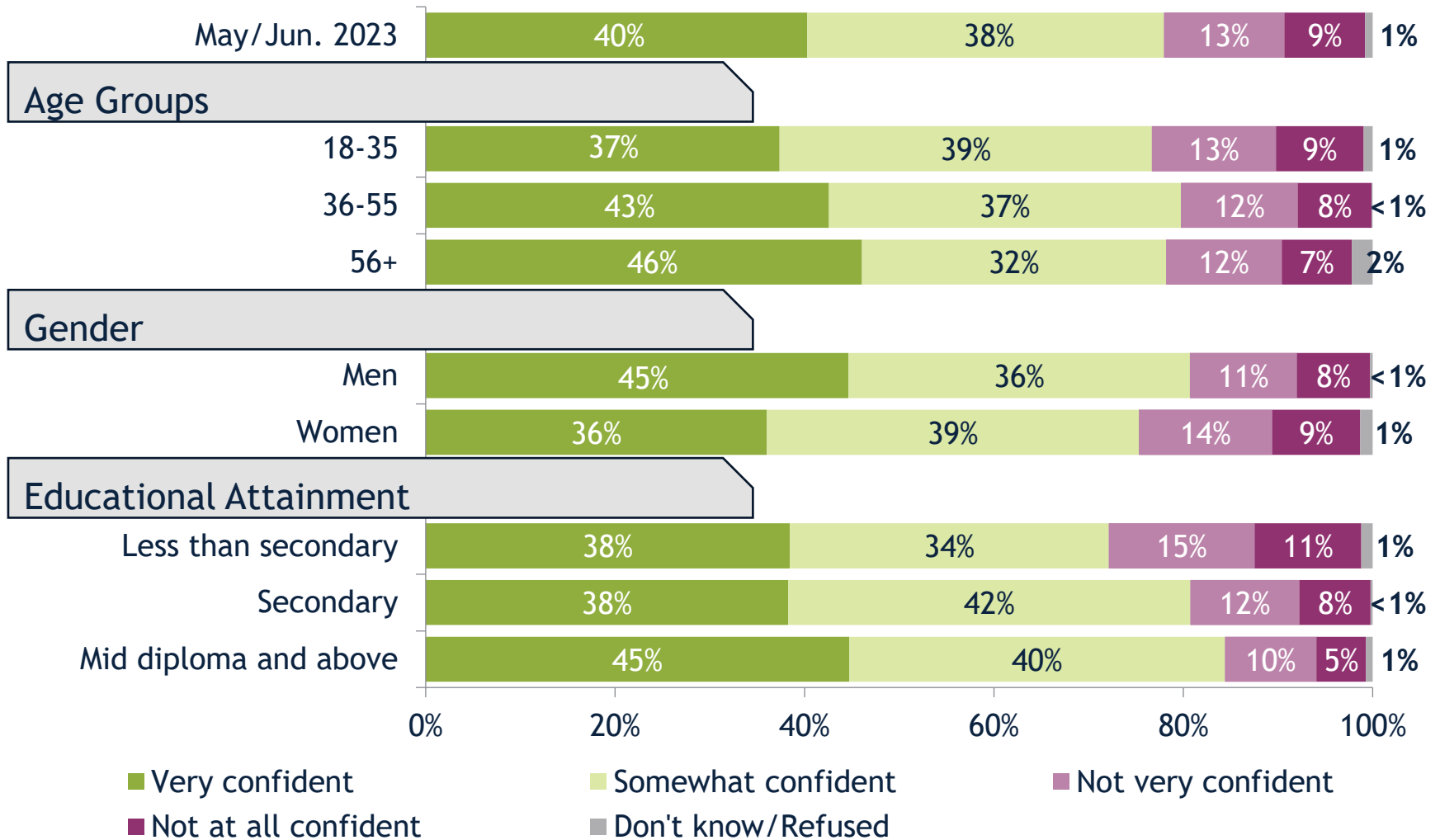




To what extent does fake news have a negative impact on our country?



How confident do you feel in your ability to distinguish true news from fake news?



Demographics

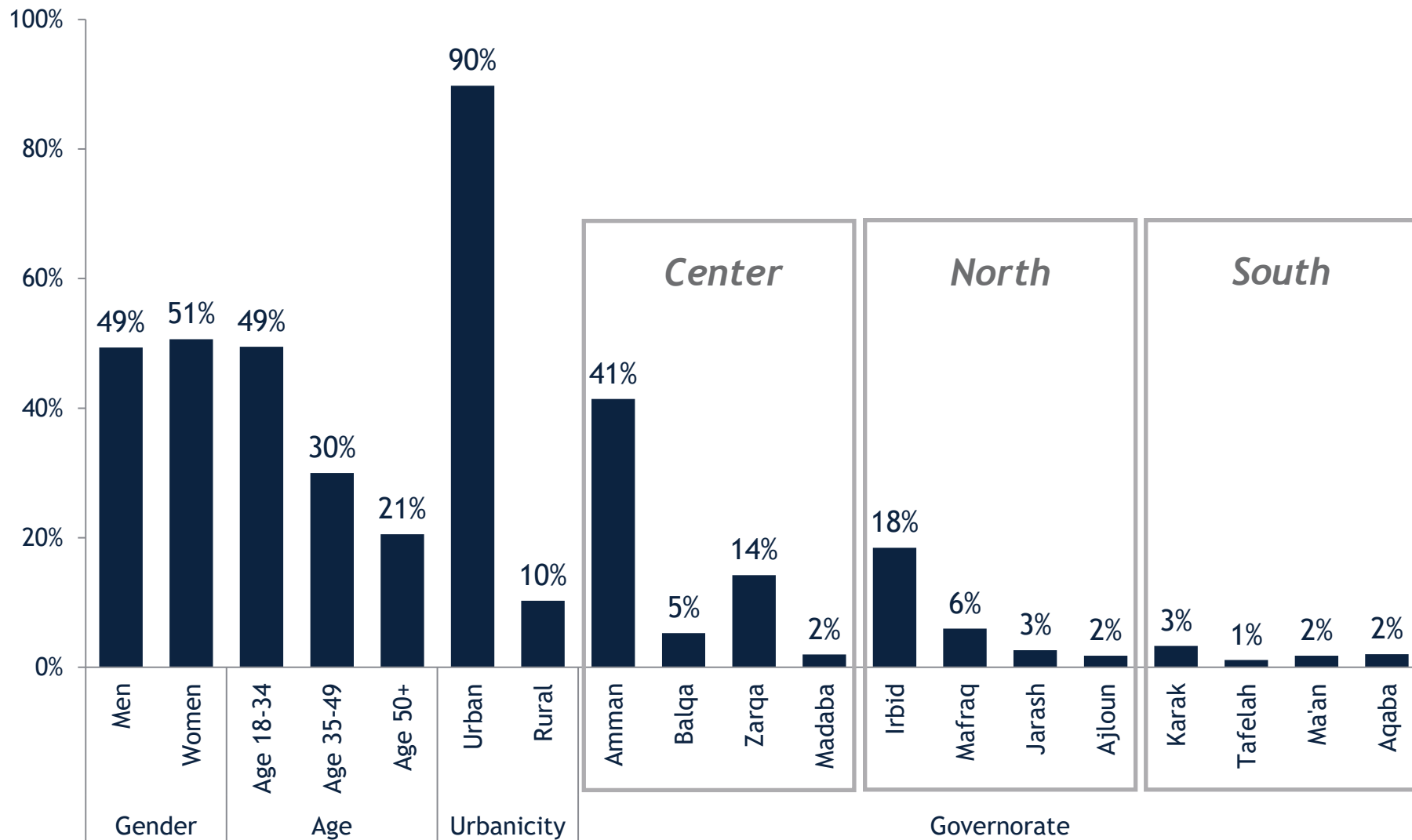


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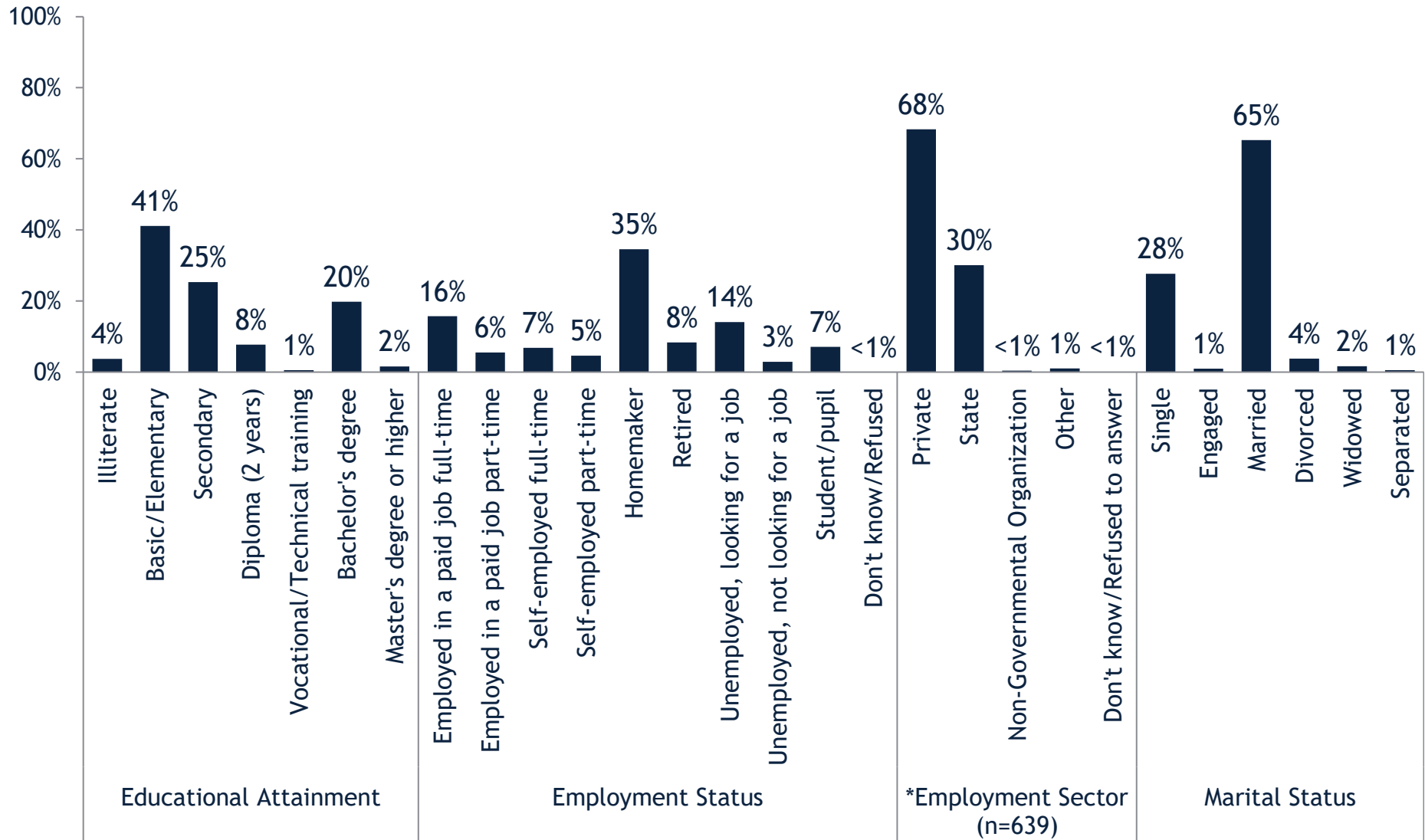
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Demographics



Demographics



*Among those employed in a paid job full or part-time.

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