



Ipsos MORI  
Social Research Institute

# ATTITUDES TO IMMIGRATION

## May 2018

GAME CHANGERS

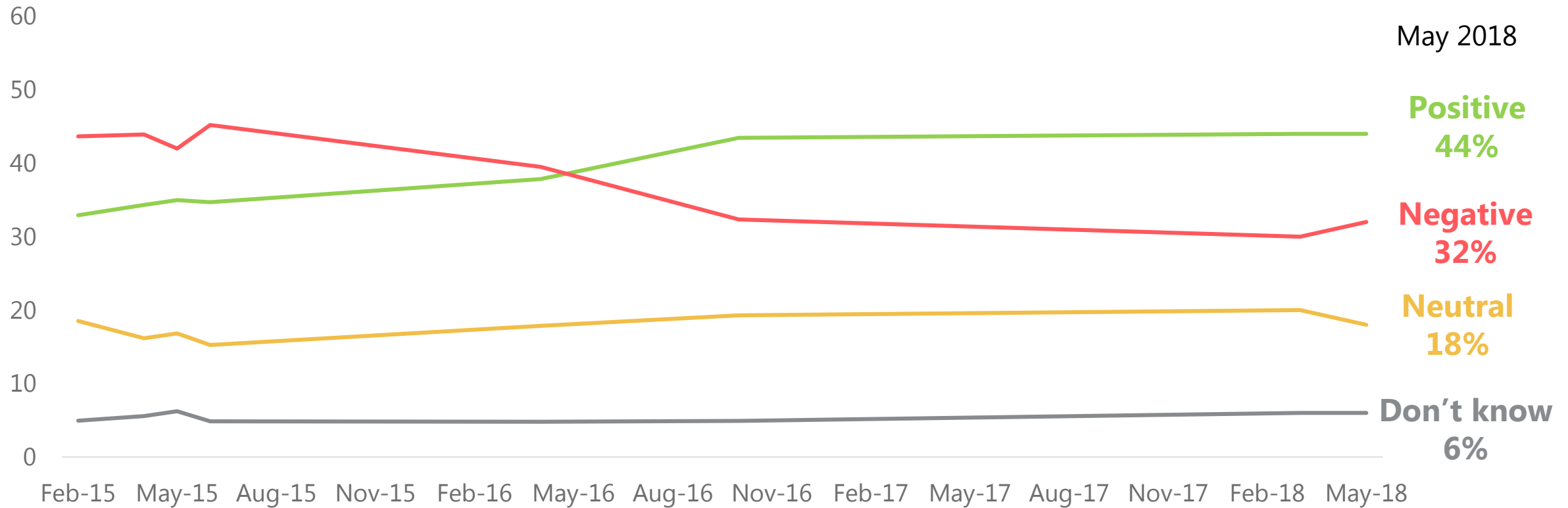


**Immigration attitudes remain more positive than pre-Brexit vote, but majority still want immigration reduced – and dissatisfaction with government has increased**

# People's views on immigration since Brexit vote remain stable

On a scale of 0 to 10, has migration had a positive or negative impact on Britain? (0 is "very negative", 10 is "very positive"): 0-4=Negative; 5=Neutral; 6-10=Positive

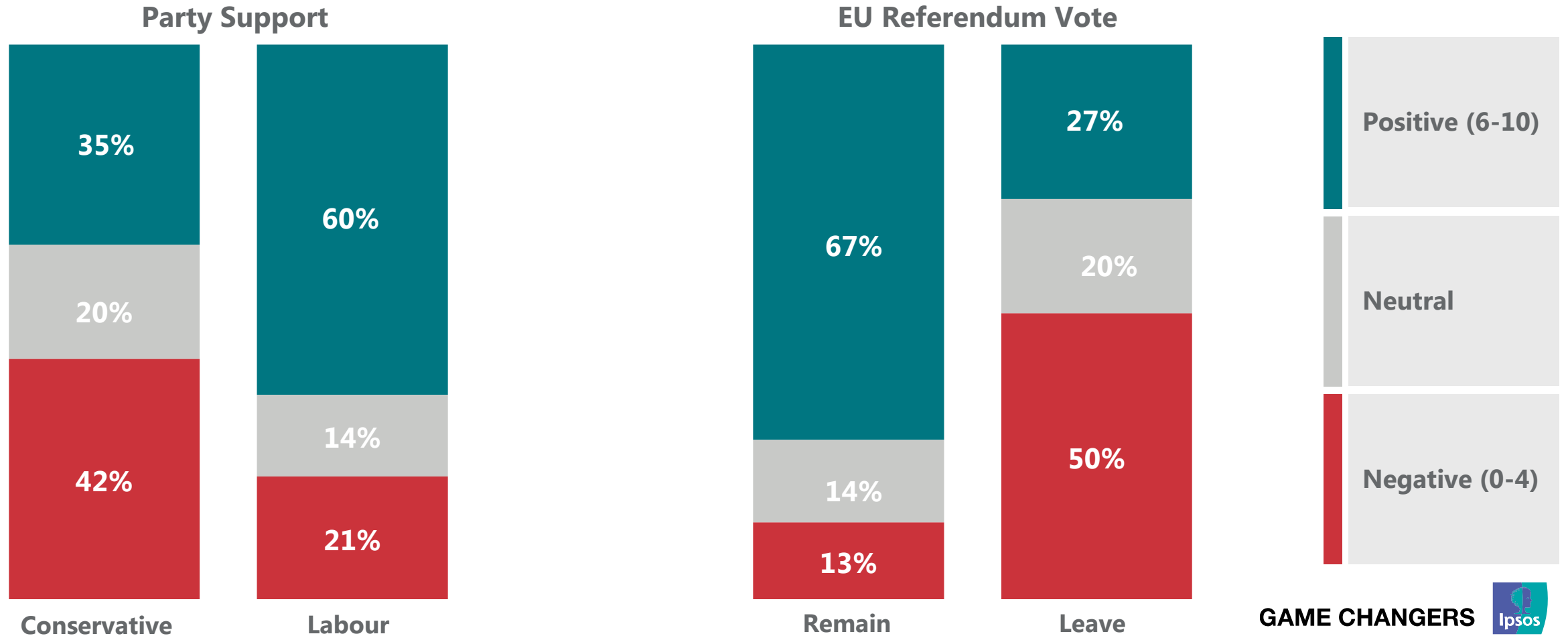
## % saying immigration's impact on their country has been positive/negative on Britain



# Labour and Remain voters more likely to see immigration

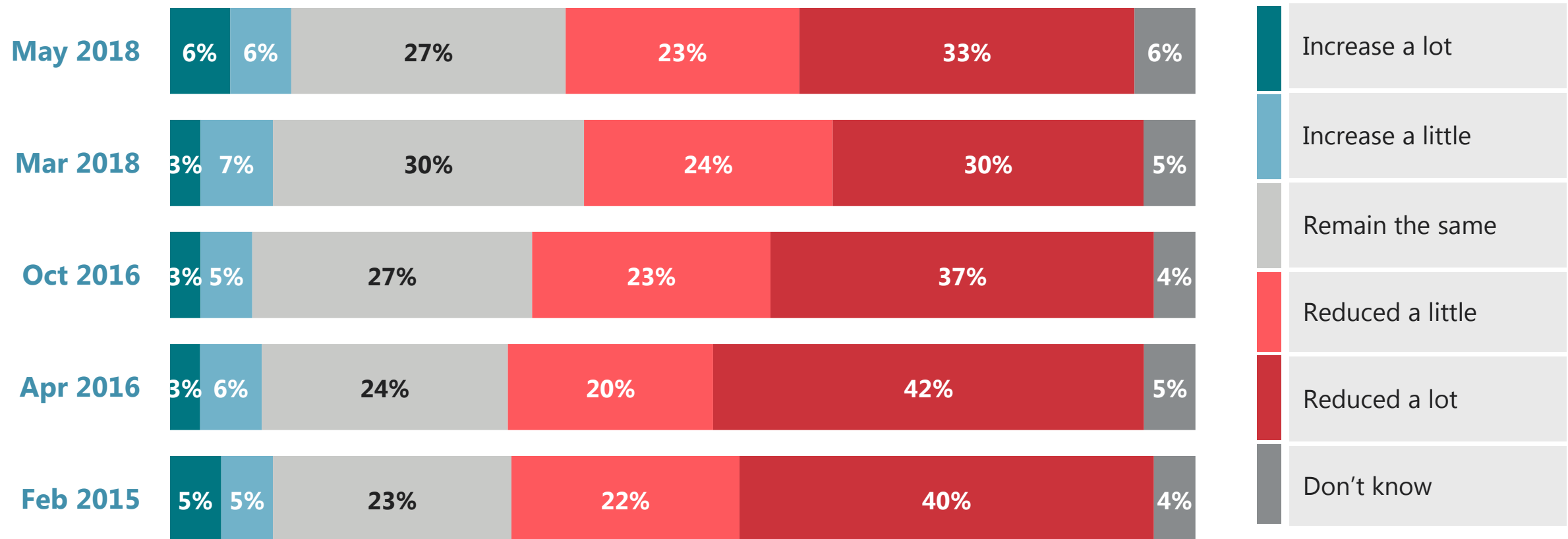
## as having a positive impact

On a scale of 0 to 10, has migration had a positive or negative impact on Britain? (0 is "very negative", 10 is "very positive")



# BUT the majority still want to see immigration numbers reduced

Do you think the number of immigrants coming to Britain nowadays should be increased a lot, increased a little, remain the same as it is, reduced a little, or reduced a lot?

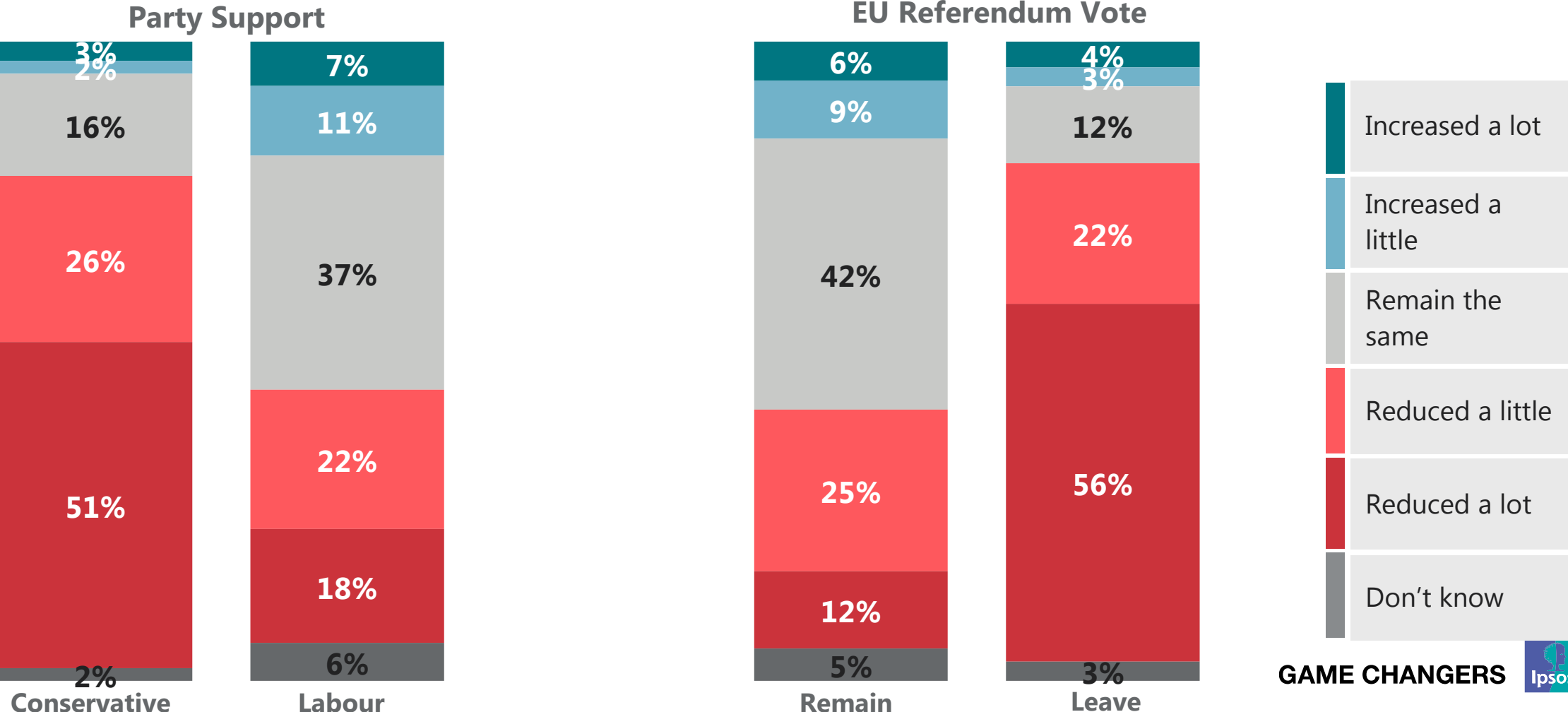




# Majorities of Conservative and Leave voters want immigration reduced

## reduced

Do you think the number of immigrants coming to Britain nowadays should be increased a lot, increased a little, remain the same as it is, reduced a little, or reduced a lot?

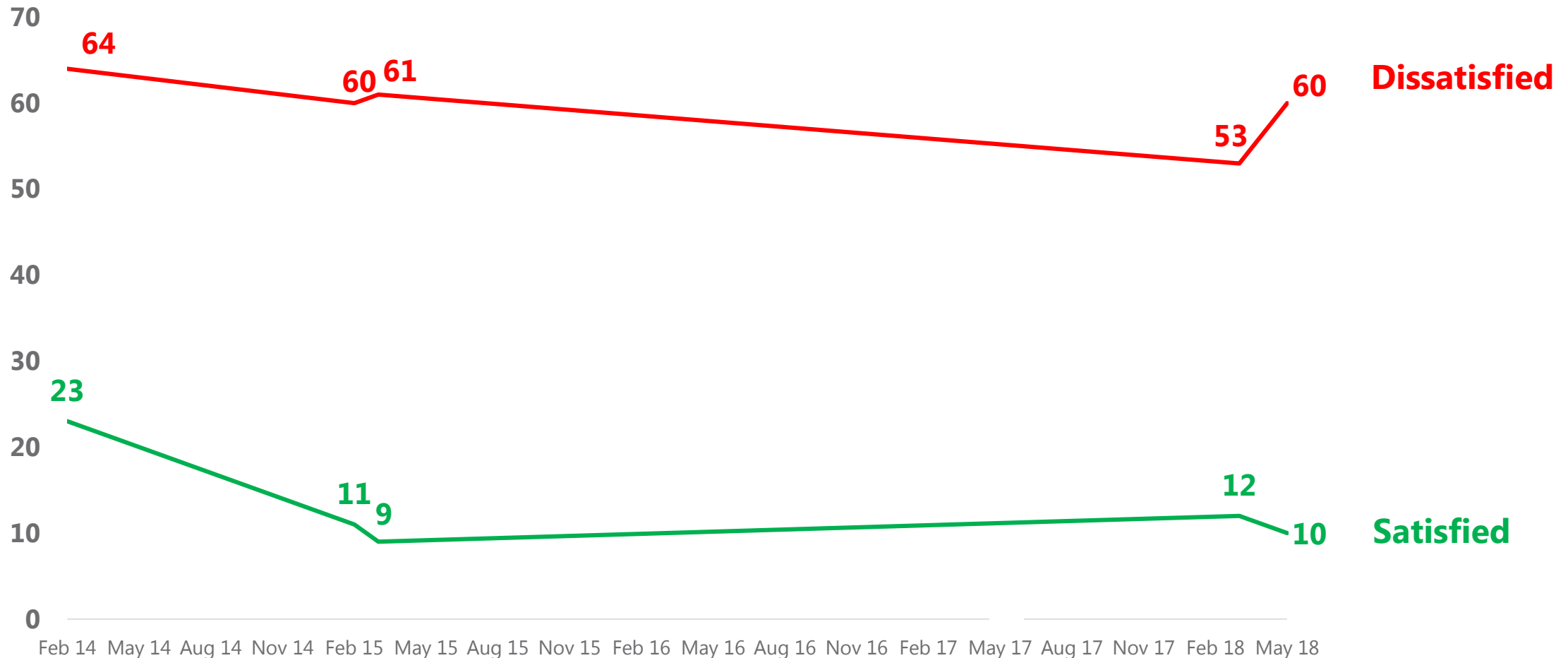


Base: Online survey of 1,067 GB adults aged 18-75 conducted 11-14 May 2018

# Dissatisfaction with the government has increased since March

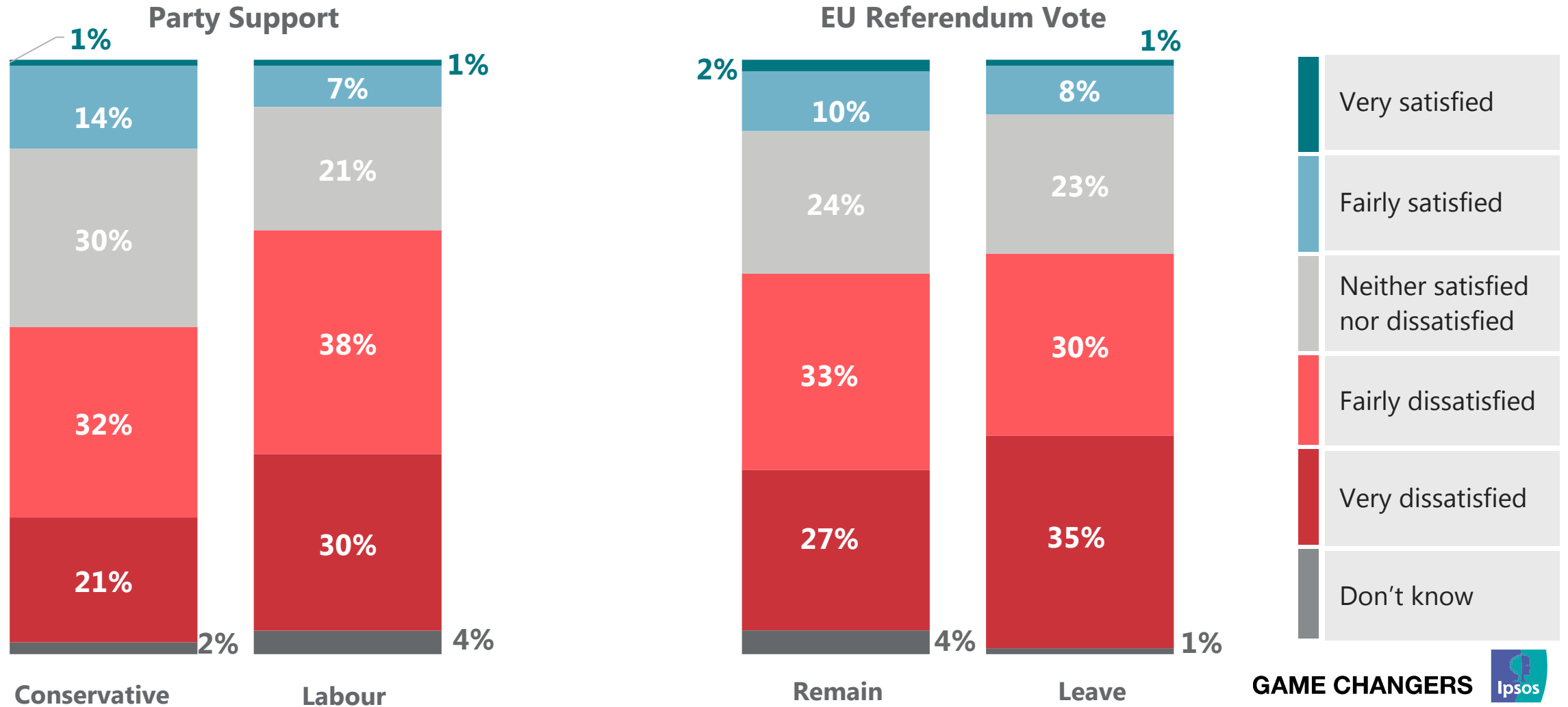
## - back to levels seen in 2015

Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the way the current government is dealing with immigration?



# Leavers and Remainers equally dissatisfied with government on issue

Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the way the current government is dealing with immigration?

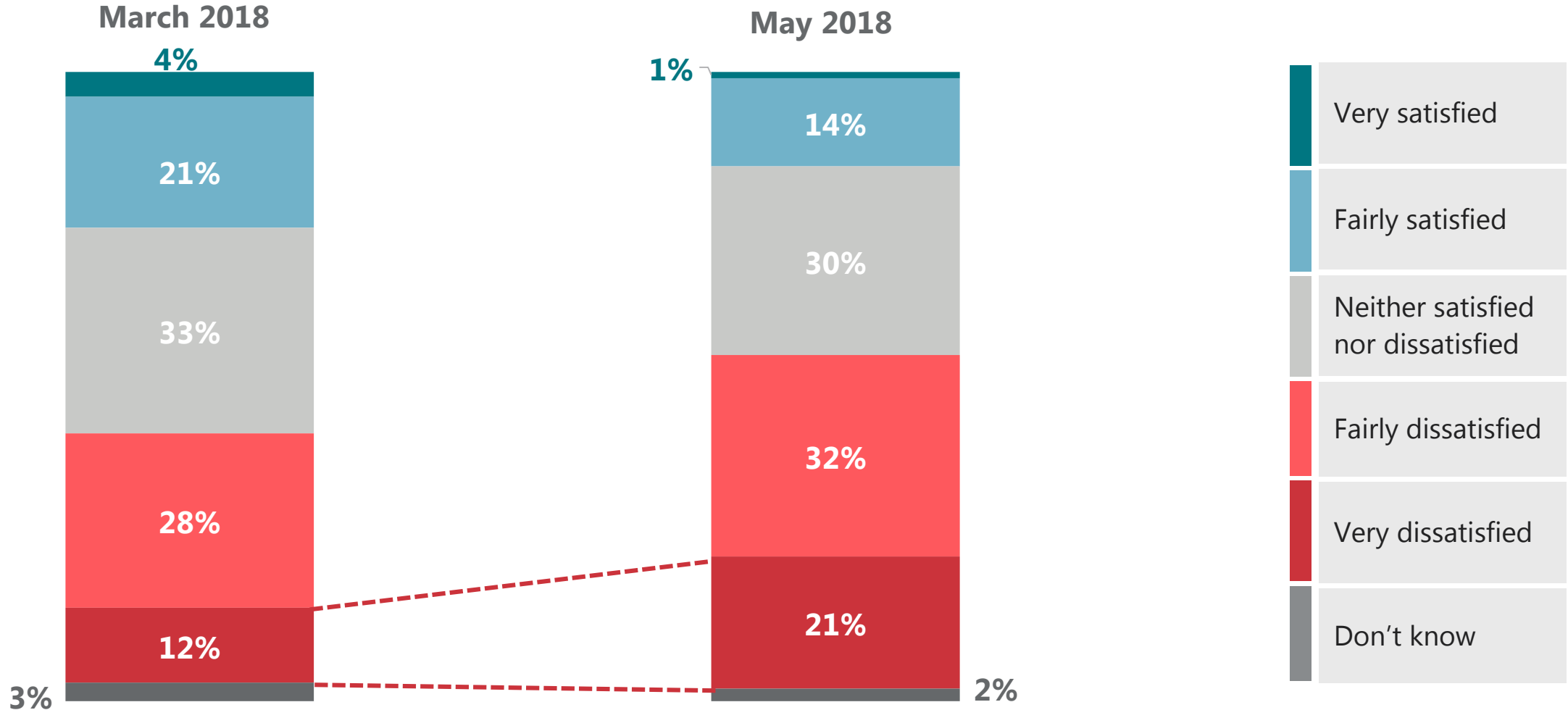


Base: Online survey of 1,067 GB adults aged 18-75 conducted 11-14 May 2018



# But Conservative supporters have become more dissatisfied

Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the way the current government is dealing with immigration?  
Conservative voters only



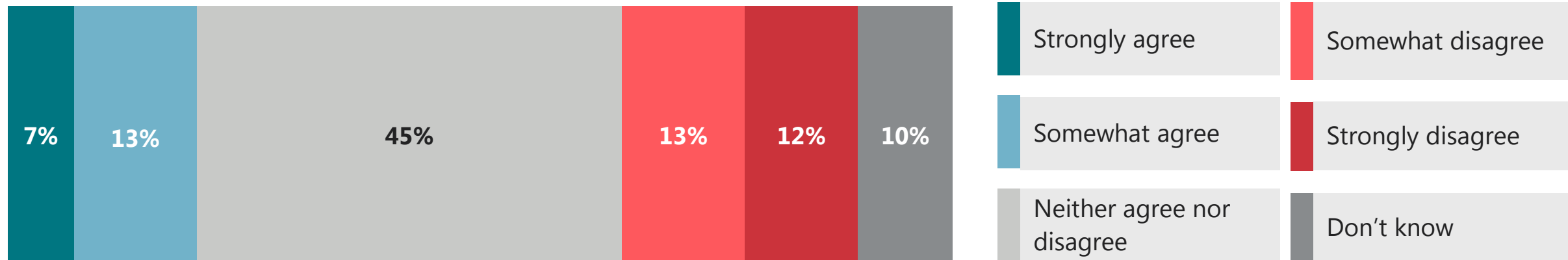
Base: 1,060 GB adults aged 18-75 conducted online 9-13 March 2018

Base: Online survey of 1,067 GB adults aged 18-75 conducted 11-14 May 2018

**In contrast to trends in ratings of immigration since Brexit, just one in five say they have become more positive – and one in four say have become more negative**

# One in five say they have become more positive about the impact immigration has on Britain – one in four more negative

Since Britain has voted to leave the European Union I have become more positive about the impact immigration has on Britain



# Of those who have become more positive, people are split - Two in five say it's because they recognise contribution of immigrants and same proportion say it's because they are reassured that numbers are reducing

Some people's opinions on immigration have shifted since the vote to leave the EU. Which of the following, if any, apply to your views? You can choose as many as you like.

The discussions since the vote to leave the EU has highlighted how much immigrants contribute to the UK, so I feel more positive or less worried about immigration than I did before the vote to leave

39%

I am reassured that fewer immigrants will come to the UK once we actually leave the EU, so I feel more positive or less worried about immigration than I did before the vote to leave

27%

There are fewer immigrants coming to the UK already, so I feel more positive or less worried about immigration than I did before the vote to leave

19%

None of these

14%

Don't know

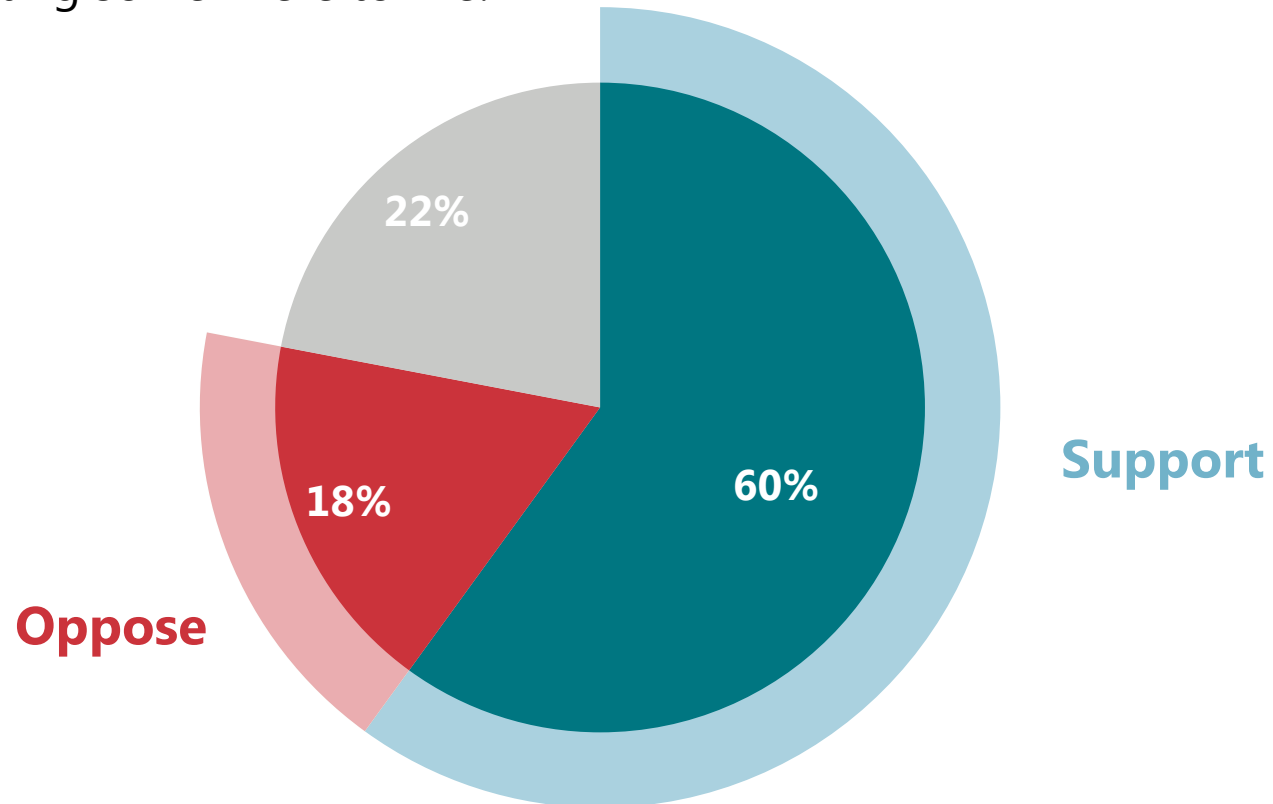
12%

41%\*

**People want a tough  
immigration policy – but one  
that protects people who  
have the legal right to be  
here**

# Six in ten support a 'hostile environment' immigration policy that is tough on illegal immigrants

Do you support or oppose an immigration policy which is designed to make it as difficult as possible for people who do not have the right to be in the United Kingdom to stay here, which has been called a "hostile environment" by some. This includes measures such as requiring ID checks when accessing public services, applying for a job or when renting somewhere to live.



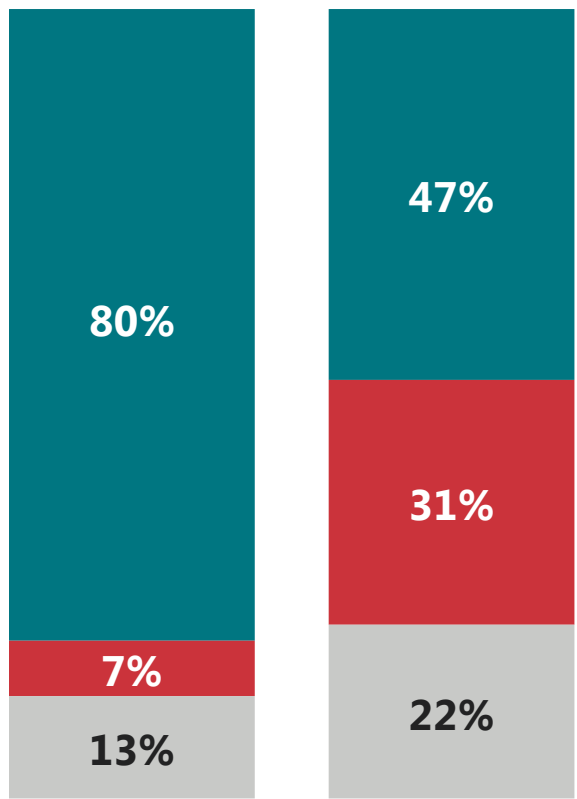


# And support rises to four in five among Conservative supporters and

## Leave voters

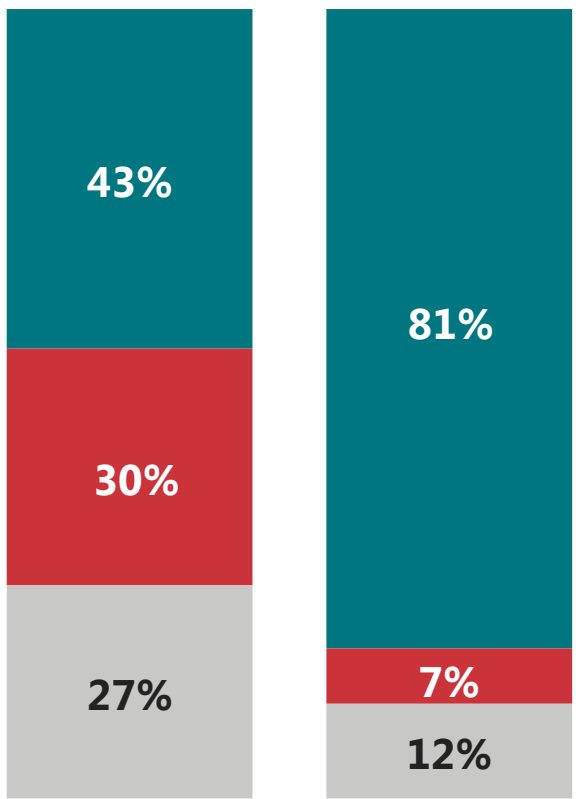
Do you support or oppose an immigration policy which is designed to make it as difficult as possible for people who do not have the right to be in the United Kingdom to stay, which has been called a "hostile environment" by some. This includes measures such as requiring ID checks when accessing public services, applying for a job or when renting somewhere to live.

### Political Voting Intention



Conservative Labour

### EU Referendum Vote



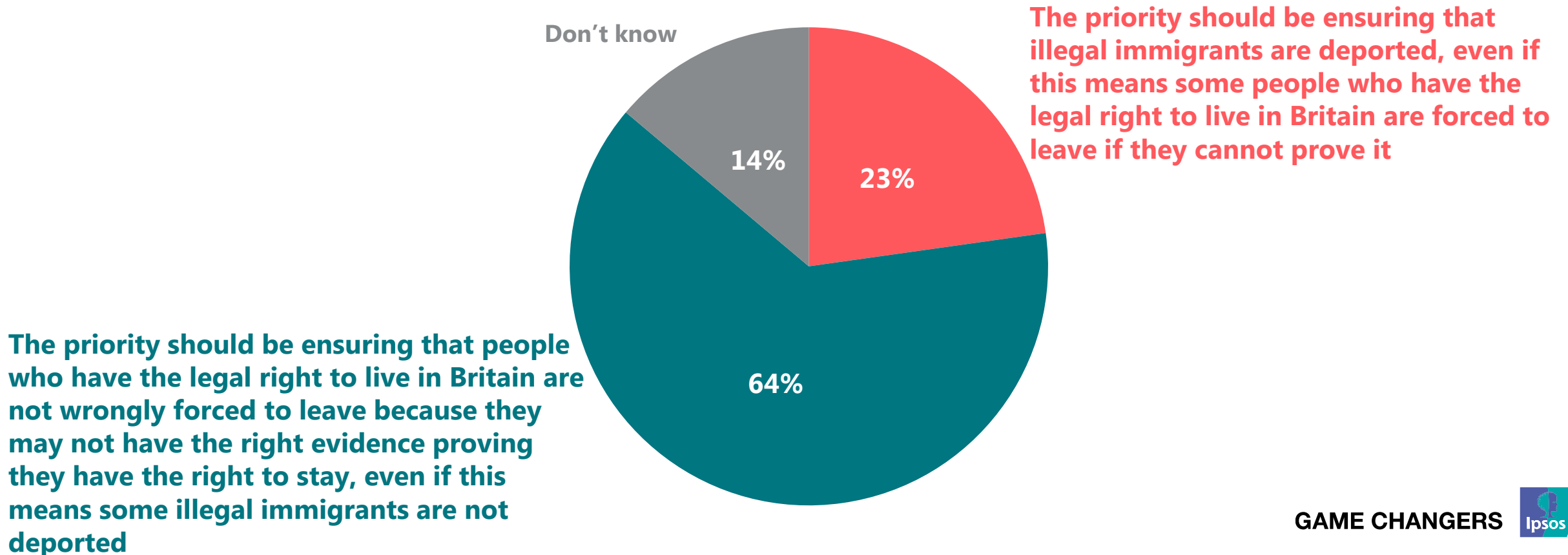
Remain Leave



Base: 1,067 GB adults aged 18-75 conducted online 11-14 May 2018

# BUT majority favour an immigration system that protects people who have the legal right to be here rather than one that prioritises deporting illegal immigrants

When dealing with illegal immigrants which of these priorities comes closest to your views?

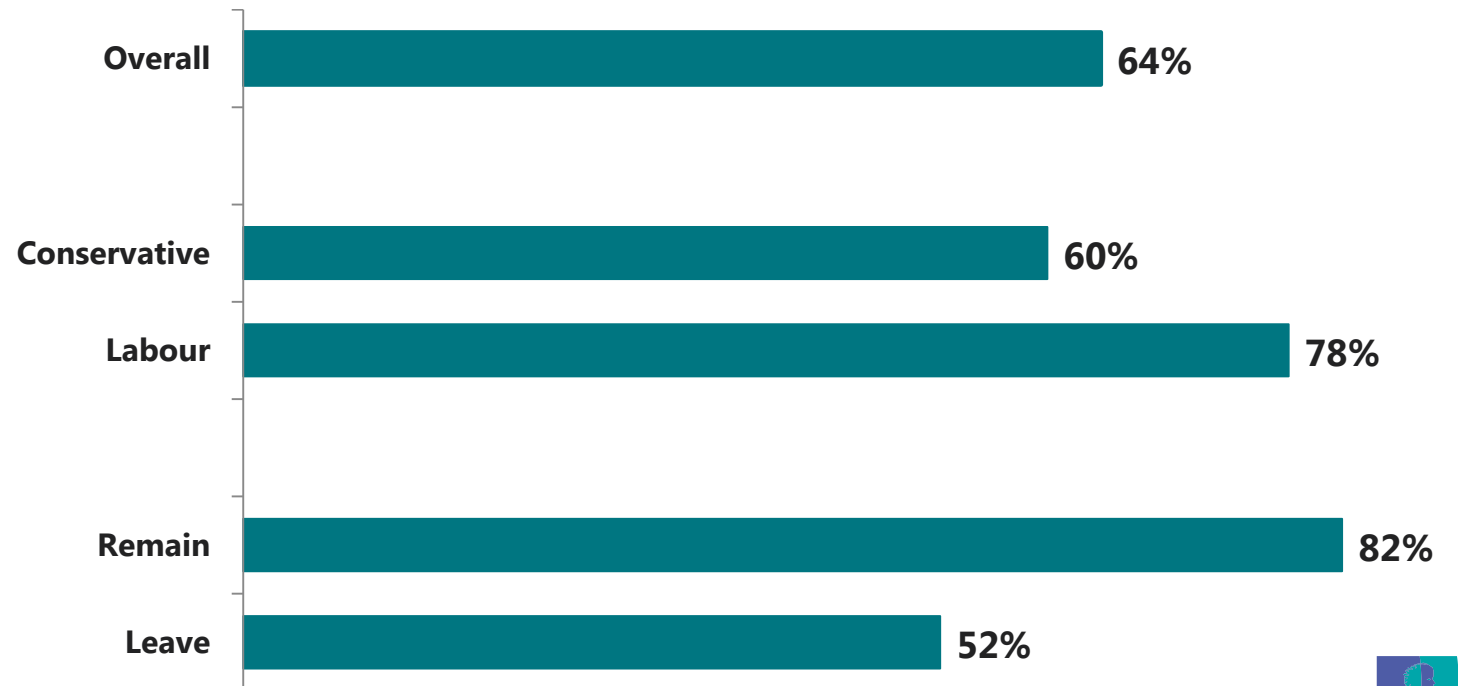
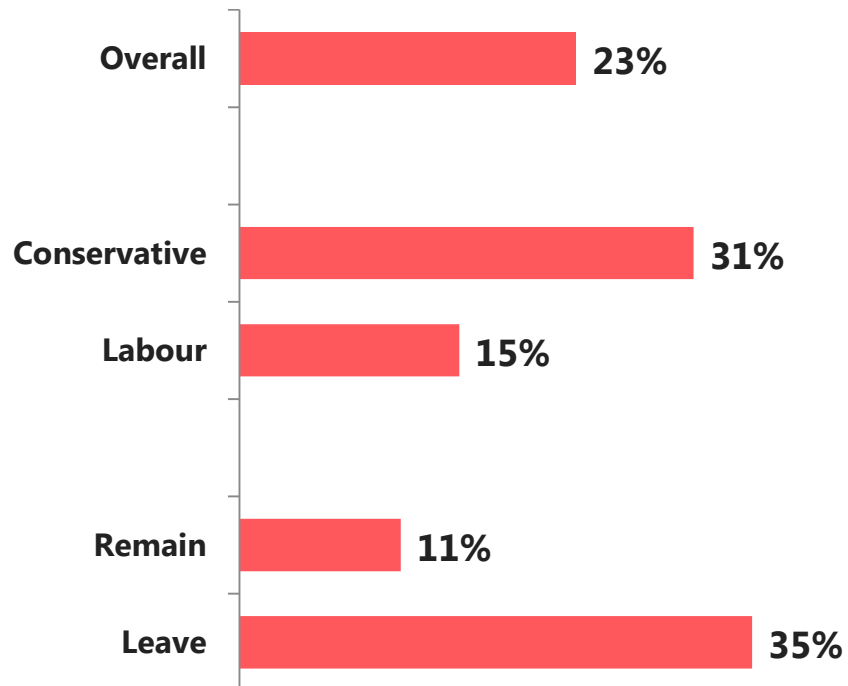


# Majority of party supporters/Leave/Remain voters support policy that protects people that have legal right to be here rather than deporting illegal immigrants

When dealing with illegal immigrants which of these priorities comes closest to your view?

The priority should be ensuring that illegal immigrants are deported, even if this means some people who have the legal right to live in Britain are forced to leave if they cannot prove it

The priority should be ensuring that people who have the legal right to live in Britain are not wrongly forced to leave because they may not have the right evidence proving they have the right to stay, even if this means some illegal immigrants are not deported



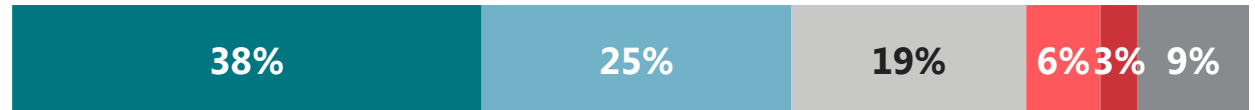
**The Windrush scandal seen  
as result of government  
incompetence and majority  
are ashamed by it**

# While majority are ashamed of how Britain has treated Windrush generation, most believe it was down to govt. incompetence

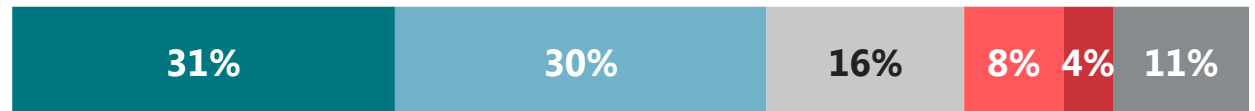
As you may know, some members of the “Windrush generation” who arrived in the UK before the 1971 Immigration Act have faced issues such as detention, refusal of access to public services and deportation if they have been unable to provide evidence that they arrived before 1971 and have the right to remain the UK. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

■ Strongly agree  
 ■ Somewhat agree  
 ■ Neither  
 ■ Somewhat disagree  
 ■ Strongly disagree  
 ■ Don't know

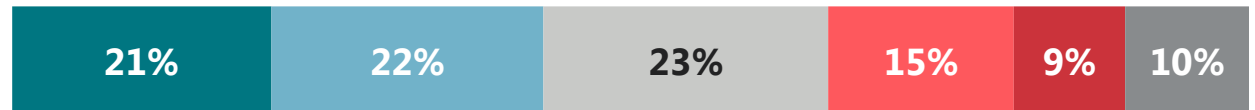
**I am ashamed of how Britain has treated the Windrush generation**



**The Windrush scandal is mainly a result of government incompetence and not because of the rules on immigration**



**The experiences of people caught up in the Windrush scandal show that the British govt is being too hostile towards immigrants**



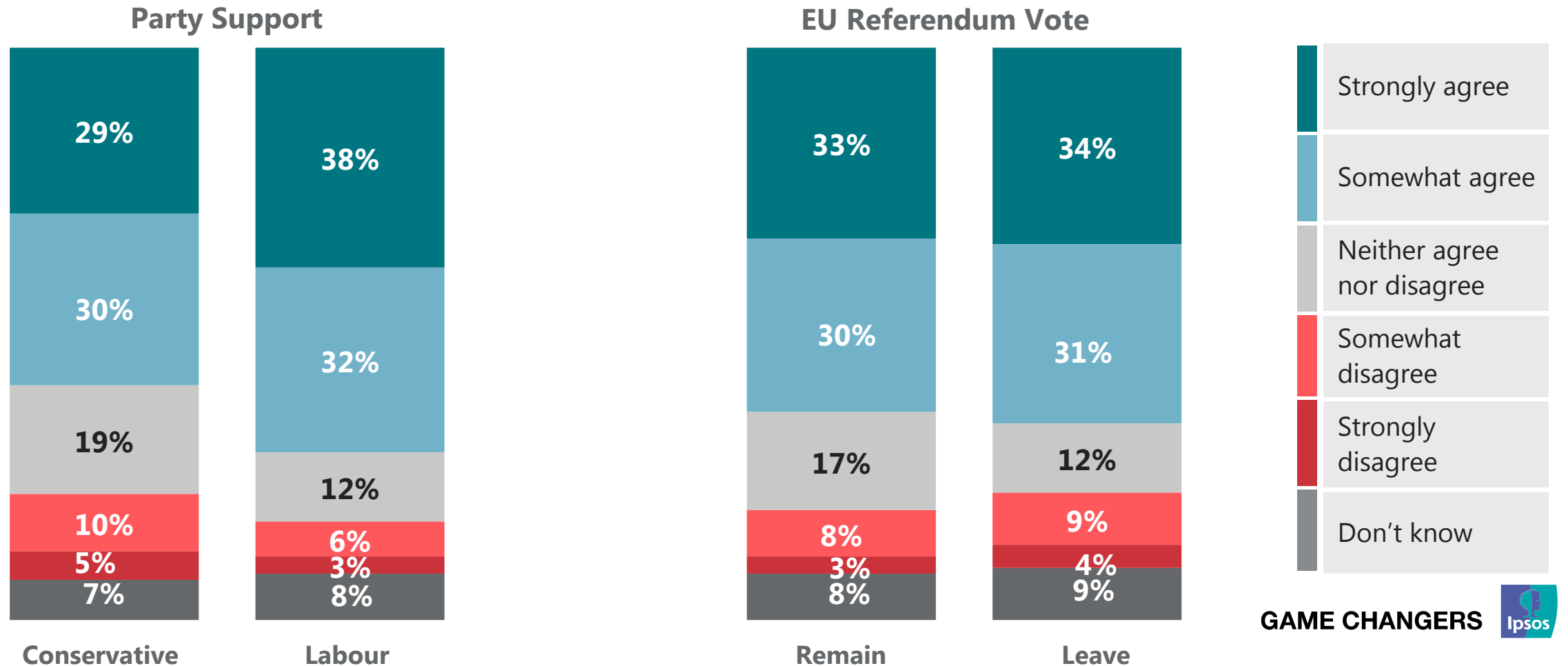
**Issues experienced by those caught up in the Windrush scandal are bad, however this is the unfortunate side effect of controlling illegal immigration**



# Majority of Conservative and Labour supporters and Leavers

## Remainers put the scandal down to government incompetence

The Windrush scandal is mainly a result of government incompetence and not because of the rules on immigration

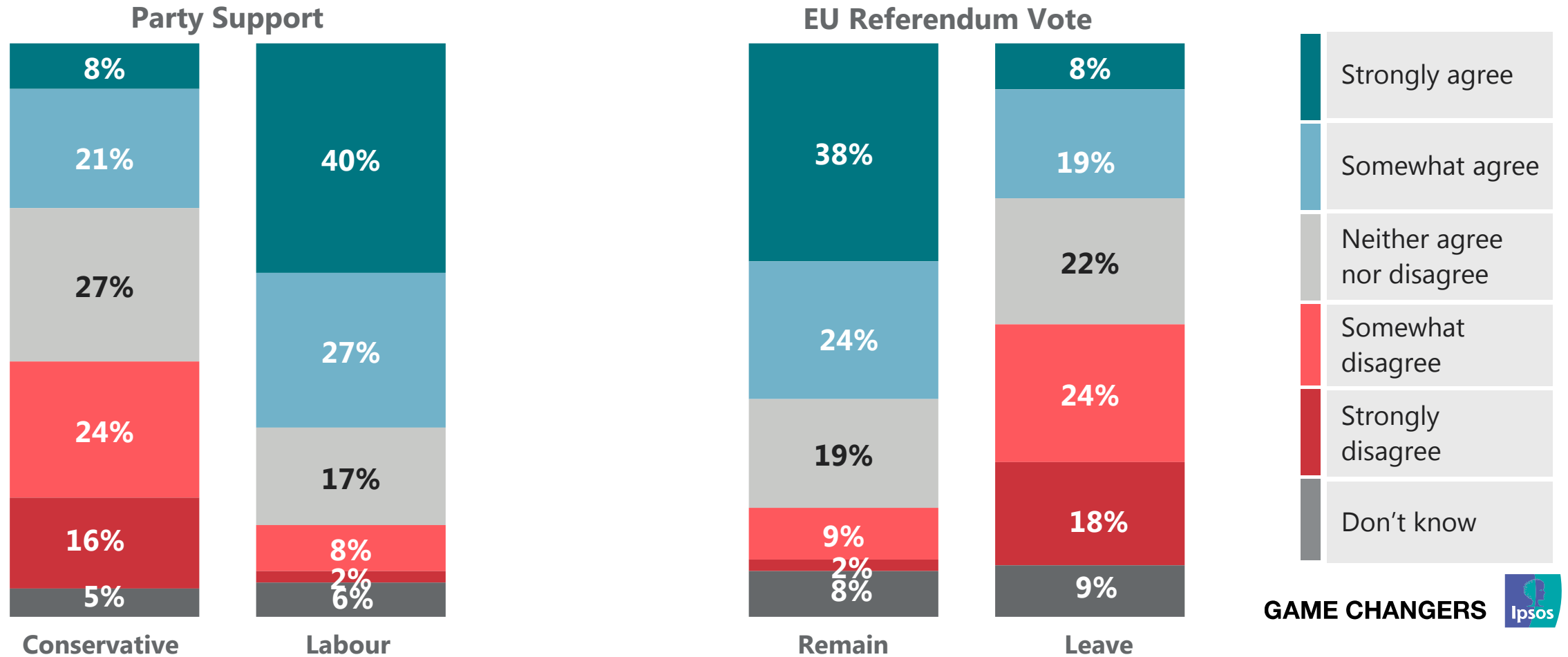




# Labour supporters most likely to say govt being too hostile towards

## immigrants

The experiences of people caught up in Windrush scandal show that the British government is being too hostile towards immigrants



# People overestimate levels of immigration and illegal immigration

# People massively overestimate the proportion of immigrants in Britain

**Out of every 100 people in Britain, about how many do you think were born in a foreign country?**



\* ONS data

# And they think that one in six immigrants is here illegally – higher than estimates\* of 1 in 10

Now thinking about everyone who is living in Britain and was born in a foreign country, out of every 100 people living in Britain who were born in a foreign country, about how many do you think are living here illegally?





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