

Political Trust and the COVID-19 Crisis

Summary charts

August 2020



About the Project

- The TrustGov project (funded by the UK's Economic and Social Research Council) and the Museum of Australian Democracy teamed up to conduct surveys fielded by Ipsos MORI in May and June 2020.
- We asked nationally representative online samples of the Australian, Italian, UK and US publics a series of questions about their perceptions of the coronavirus pandemic, their general trust in a number of institutions, and their evaluations of the performance of political leaders in handling the crisis.
- Details of the fieldwork dates and sample sizes of the four surveys are summarised below

Country	Fieldwork	Sample
Australia	28 May – 15 June*	1,061
Italy	21-22 May	1,134
UK	18-19 May	1,167
USA	19-23 May	1,150

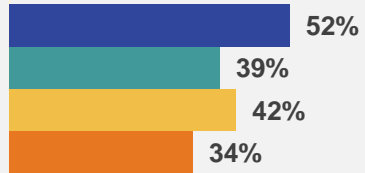
*The main fieldwork (N = 1051) ran from 28th May to 5th June, with a top-up sample (N = 267) added from 5th to 15th June.

Confidence in institutions

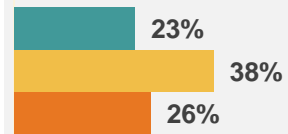
% “A great deal” or “quite a lot” of confidence in...

■ Australia ■ Italy ■ United Kingdom ■ USA

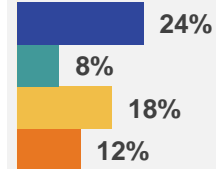
Government



Parliament



Political Parties



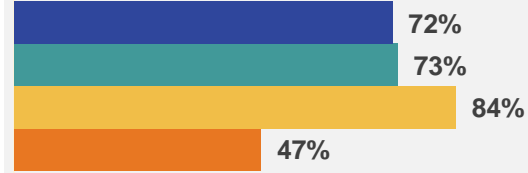
The EU



World Health Organisation



Health Service



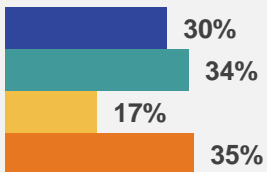
Universities



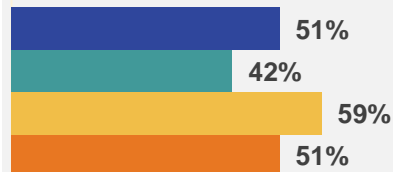
Armed Forces



Press



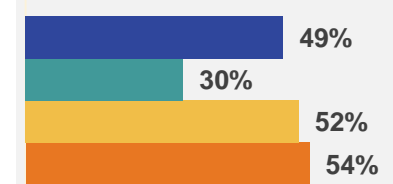
Courts



Police



Civil Service



Base: 1,134 adults in Italy 21-22 May, 1,061 adults in Australia 28 May – 15 June, 1,167 adults in the UK 18-19 May, 1,150 adults in the USA 19-23 May

Evaluations of leader handling of COVID-19

% “Agree” or “strongly agree”

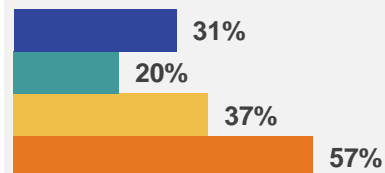
■ Scott Morrison (AUS)

■ Giuseppe Conte (IT)

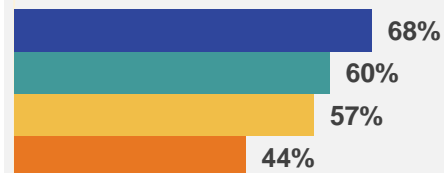
■ Boris Johnson (UK)

■ Donald Trump (US)

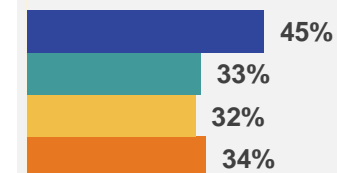
Acts in his own interests



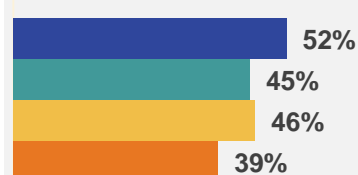
Does his best to serve his country



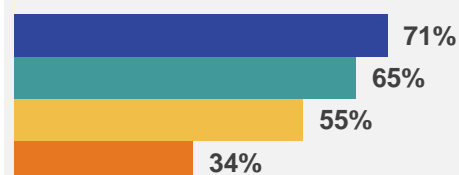
Cares about people like me



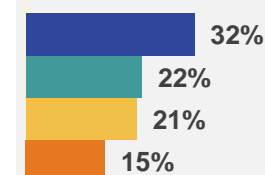
Listens to his party



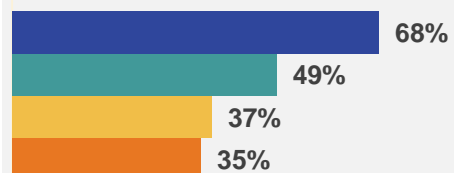
Listens to experts



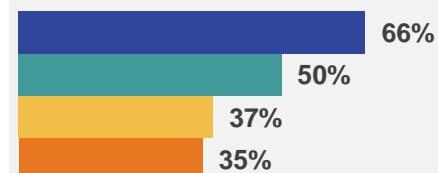
Listens to other parties



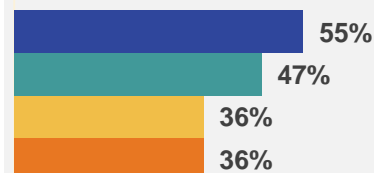
Handling the situation well



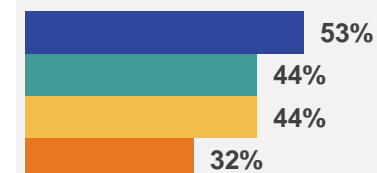
Handling the outbreak competently



Open and transparent



Free of corruption in his handling

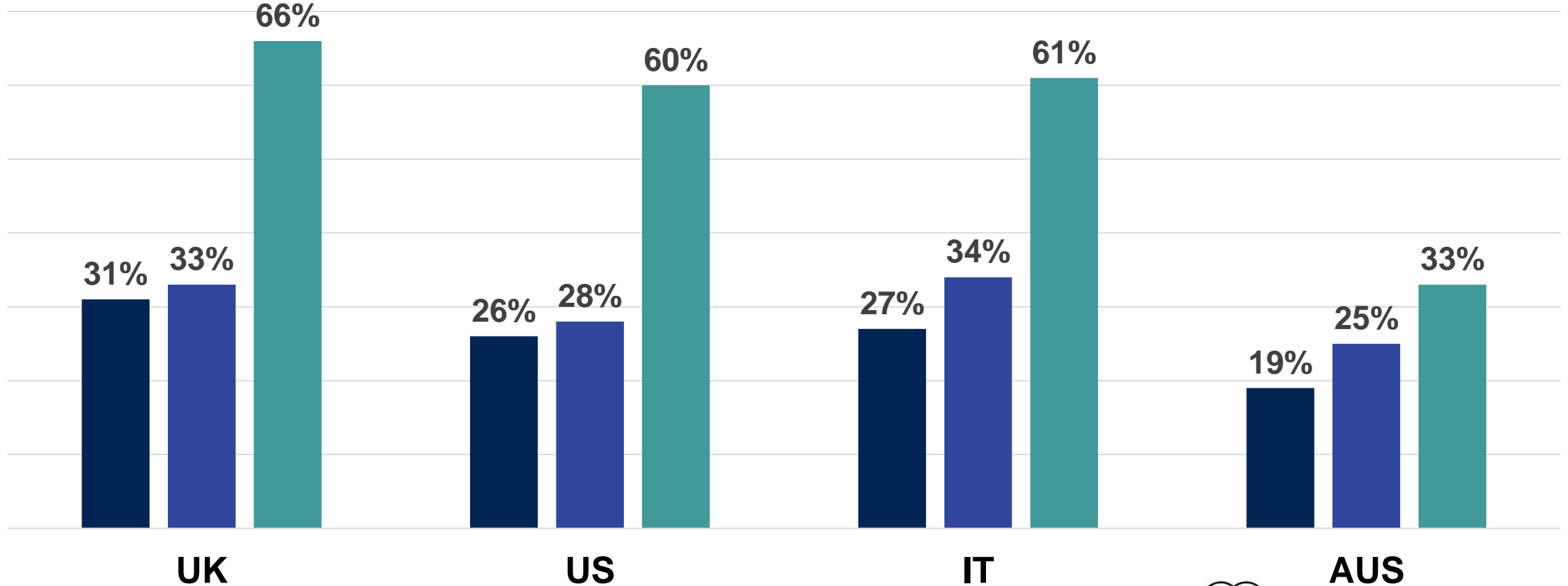


Base: 1,134 adults in Italy 21-22 May, 1,061 adults in Australia 28 May – 15 June, 1,167 adults in the UK 18-19 May, 1,150 adults in the USA 19-23 May

Perceived threat of COVID-19 to...

■ You personally ■ Your job or business ■ Your country

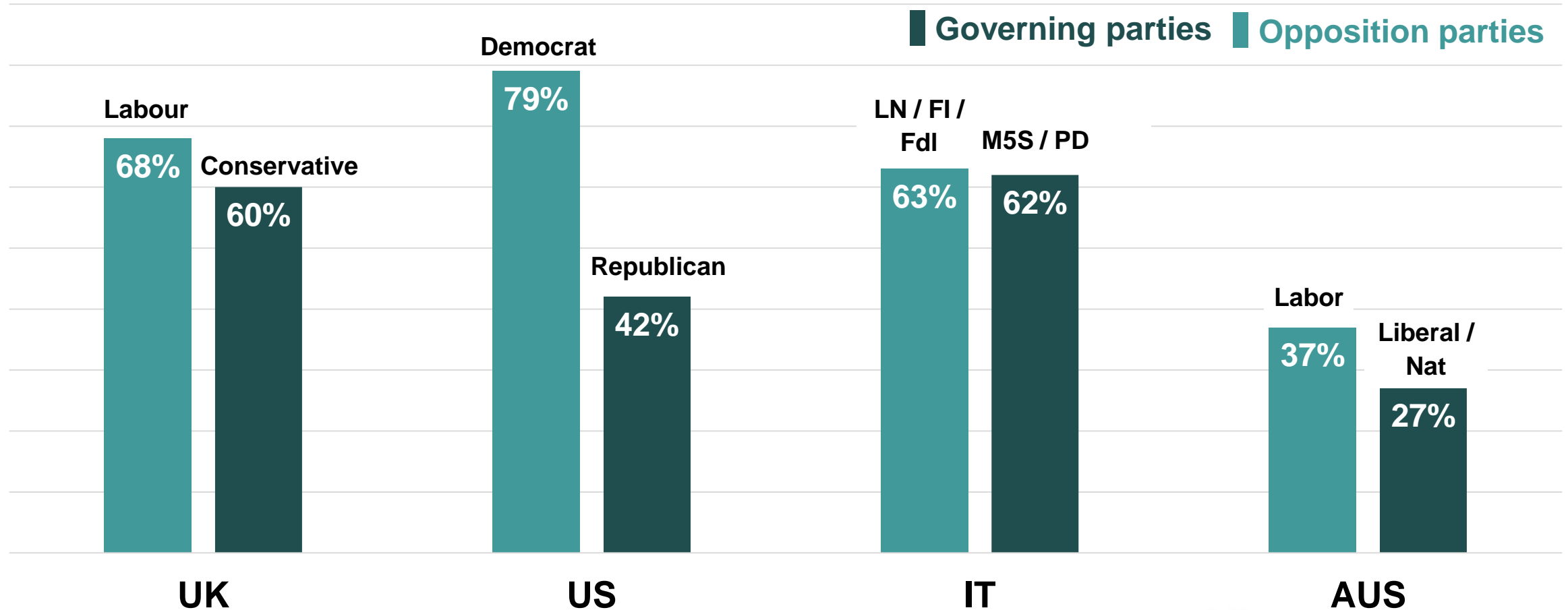
% "High" or "very high" level of threat



Base: 1,134 adults in Italy 21-22 May, 1,061 adults in Australia 28 May – 15 June, 1,167 adults in the UK 18-19 May, 1,150 adults in the USA 19-23 May

Partisan divides in perceptions of the national threat of COVID-19

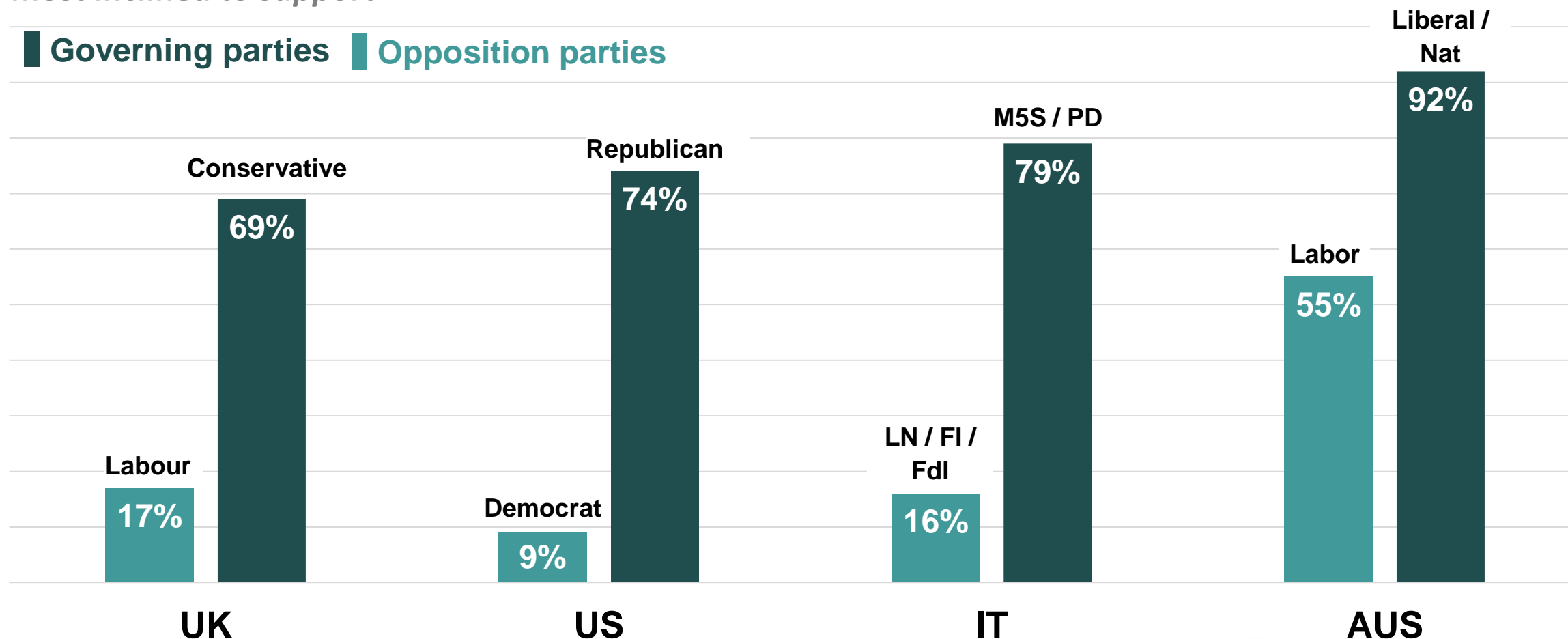
% "High" or "very high" level of threat to their country by party currently most inclined to support



Base: 393 M5S/PD supporters, 267 LN/FI/FdI supporters in Italy 21-22 May, 295 Labor supporters, 430 Liberal/Nat supporters in Australia 28 May - 15 June, 306 Labour supporters, 350 Conservative supporters in the UK 18-19 May, 483 Democrat supporters and 430 Republican supporters in the USA 19-23 May

Partisan divides in evaluations of leader handling of COVID-19

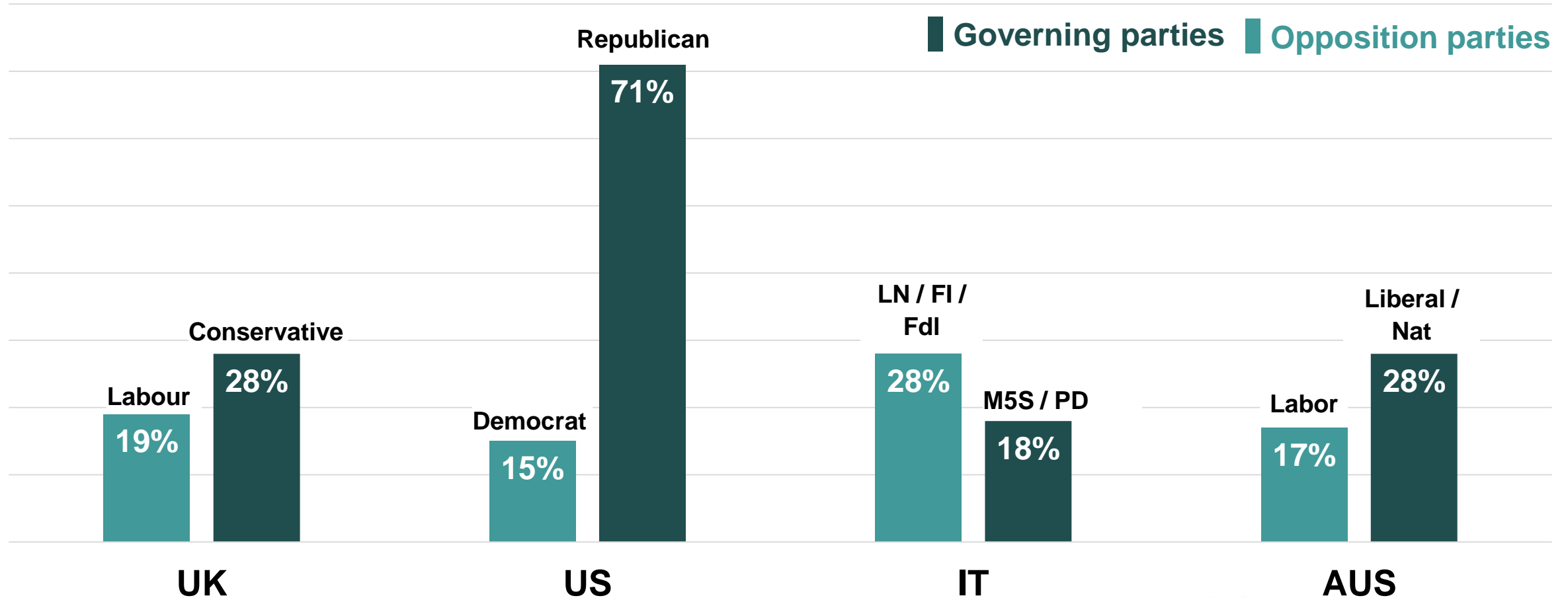
% 'agree' or 'strongly agree' the leader is handling the coronavirus situation well by party currently most inclined to support



Base: 393 M5S/PD supporters, 267 LN/FI/Fdl supporters in Italy 21-22 May, 295 Labor supporters, 430 Liberal/Nat supporters in Australia 28 May - 15 June, 306 Labour supporters, 350 Conservative supporters in the UK 18-19 May, 483 Democrat supporters and 430 Republican supporters in the USA 19-23 May

Partisan divides in perceptions of media exaggeration of COVID-19

% 'agree' or 'strongly agree' media have exaggerated the 'extent of the coronavirus' by party currently most inclined to support



Base: 393 M5S/PD supporters, 267 LN/FI/Fdl supporters in Italy 21-22 May, 295 Labor supporters, 430 Liberal/Nat supporters in Australia 28 May - 15 June, 306 Labour supporters, 350 Conservative supporters in the UK 18-19 May, 483 Democrat supporters and 430 Republican supporters in the USA 19-23 May

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