

Attitudes towards immigration

Survey conducted on behalf of IMiX

Fieldwork November 2020



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Ipsos MORI

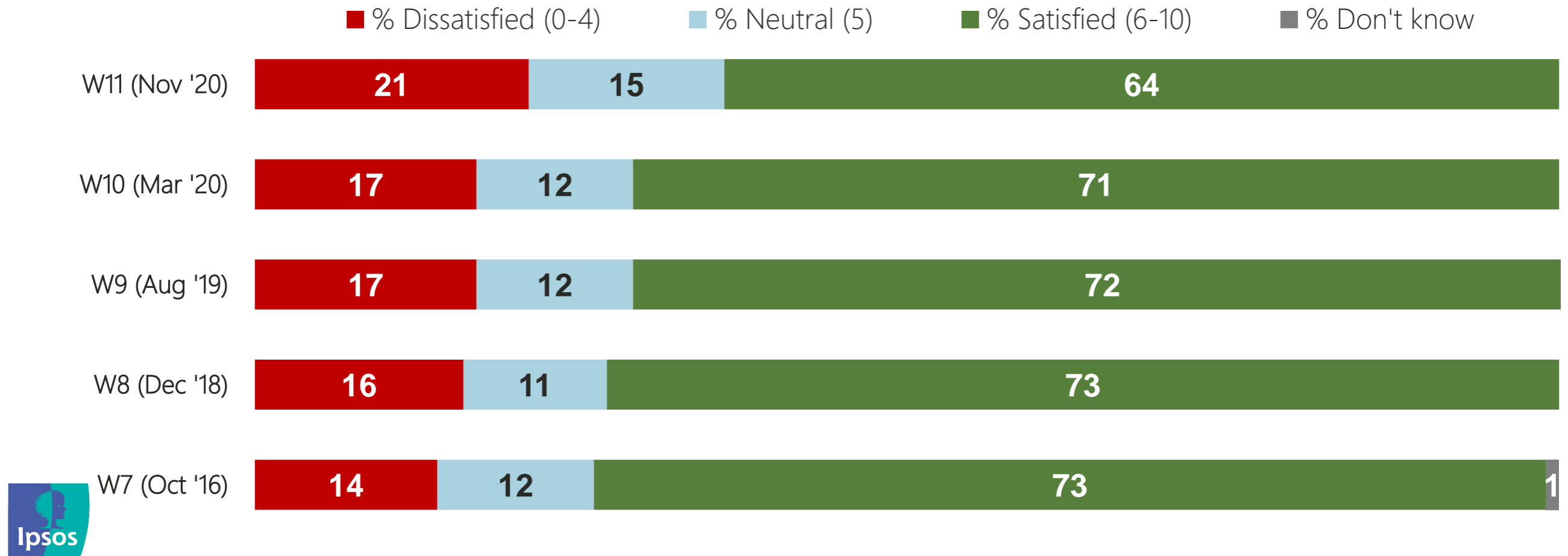


Life satisfaction



Although most Britons remain satisfied with their life, levels of satisfaction have decreased since March this year

Q All things considered, how satisfied are you with your life as a whole nowadays? Where 0 means extremely dissatisfied and 10 means extremely satisfied.

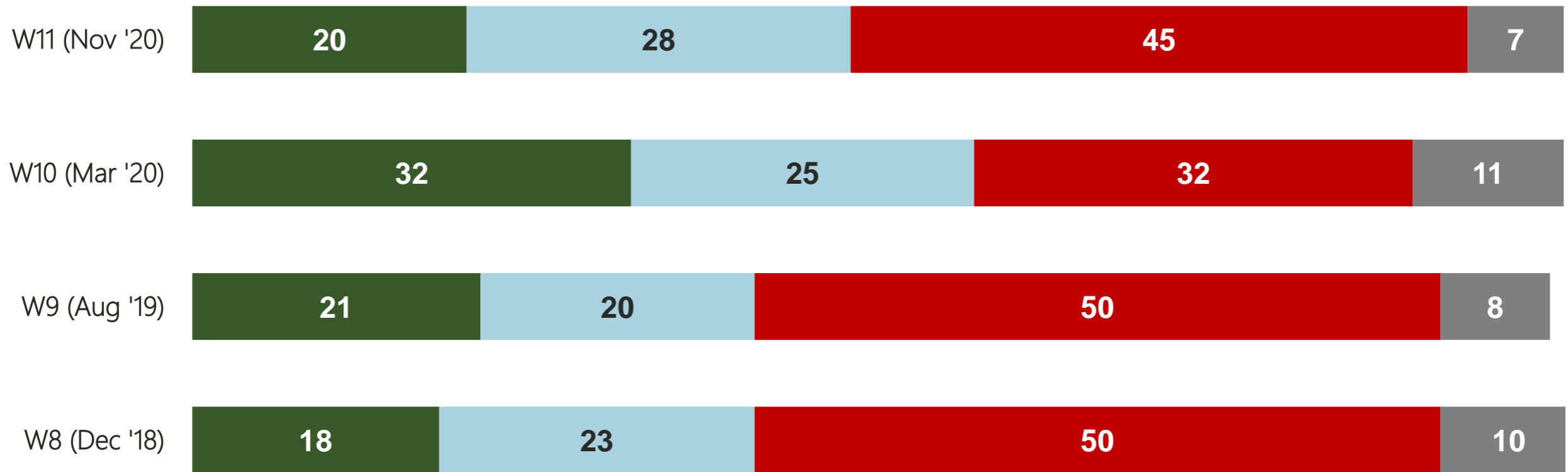


Base: All respondents (W7: 4071; W8: 2520; W9: 2006; W10: 2100; W11: 2532); Fieldwork dates: 12 to 29 November 2020

More now believe Britain is moving in the wrong direction than they did in March

Q Do you think the UK is moving in the right or wrong direction?

■ % Right direction ■ % Neither the right or wrong direction ■ % Wrong direction ■ % Don't know



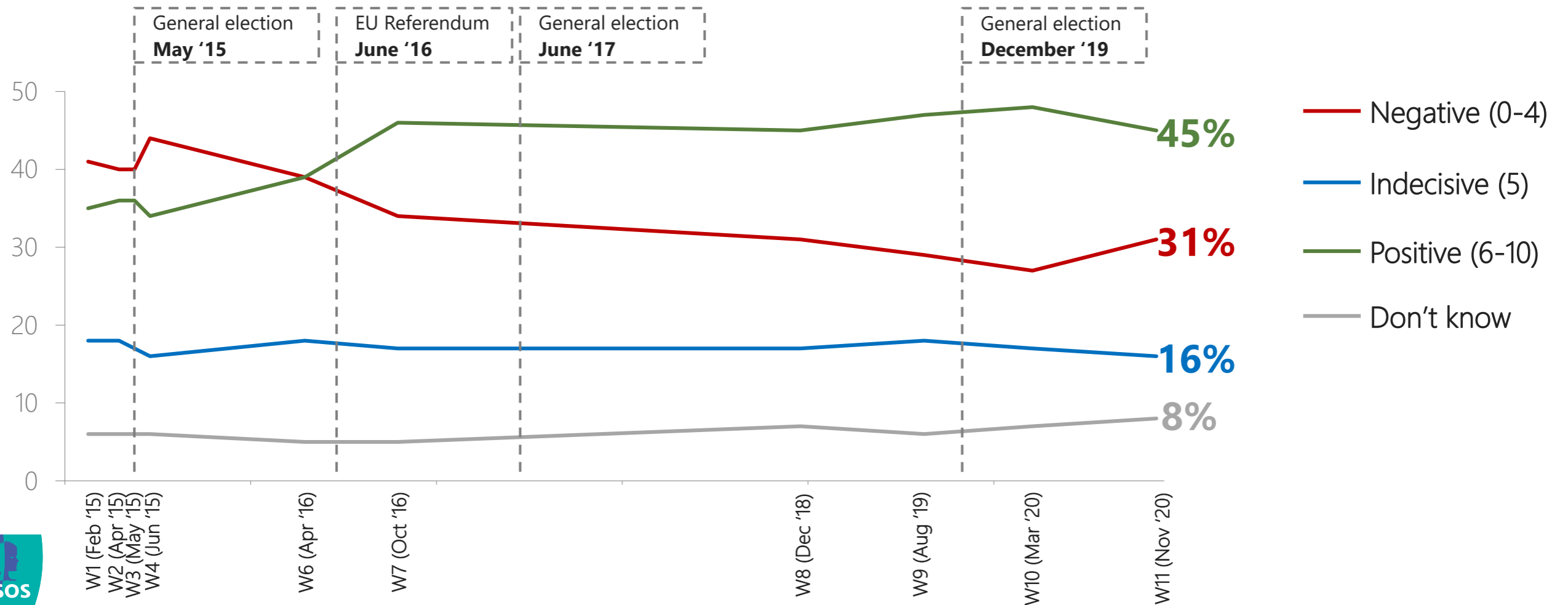
Base: All respondents (W8: 2520; W9: 2006; W10: 2100; W11: 2532); Fieldwork dates: 12 to 29 November 2020

Immigration



Britons remain positive about the impact of immigration with attitudes returning to similar levels seen in December 2018

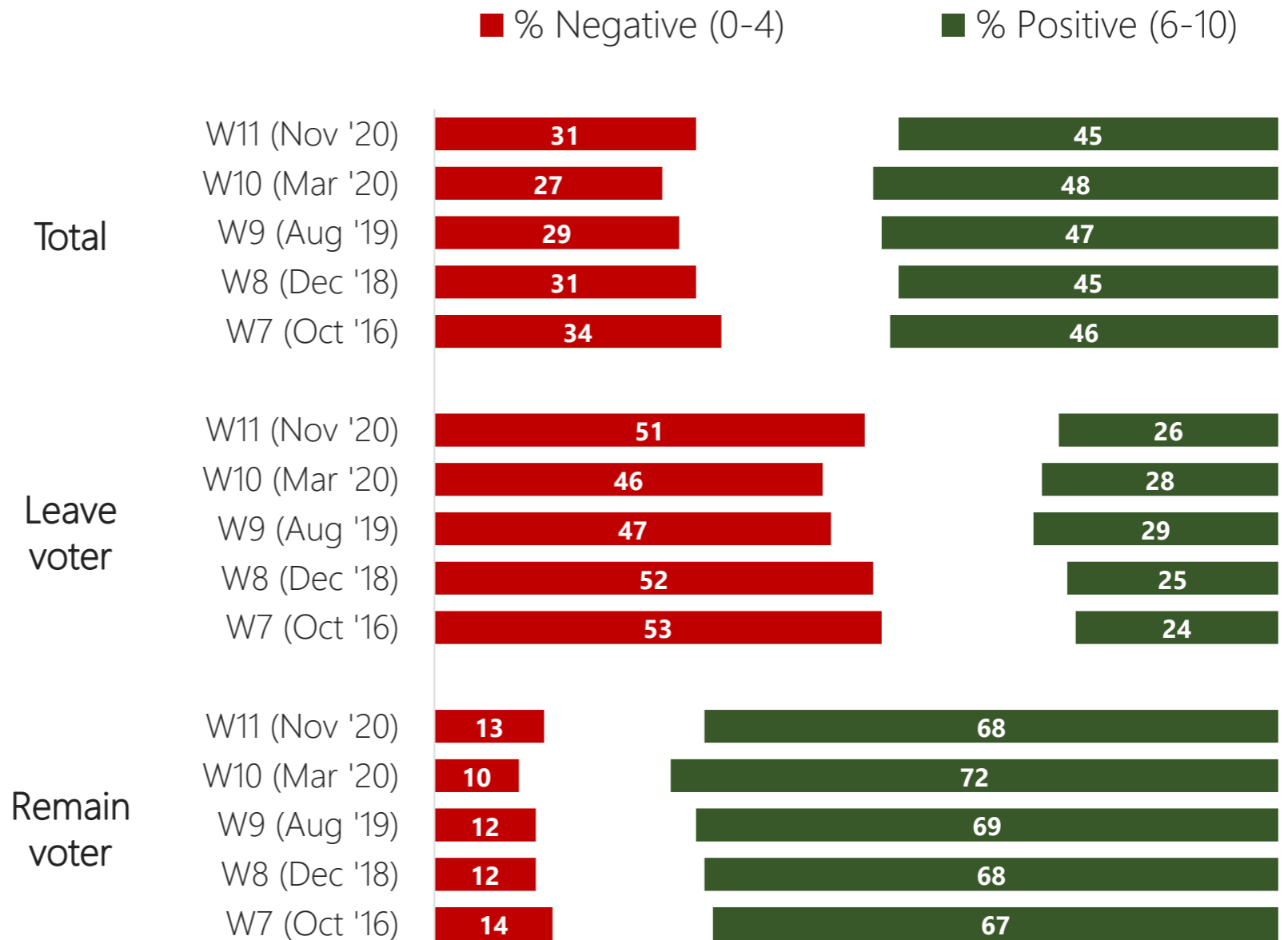
Q On a scale of 0 to 10, has migration had a positive or negative impact on Britain? (0 is "very negative", 10 is "very positive")



Base: All respondents (W1: 4574; W2: 3770; W3:3023; W4:2698; W6: 4002; W7: 4071; W8: 2520; W9 2006; W10: 2100; W11: 2532); Fieldwork dates: 12-29 November 2020

Half of Leave voters see the impact of immigration as having been negative while two-thirds of Remain voters see it as having been positive

Q 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")

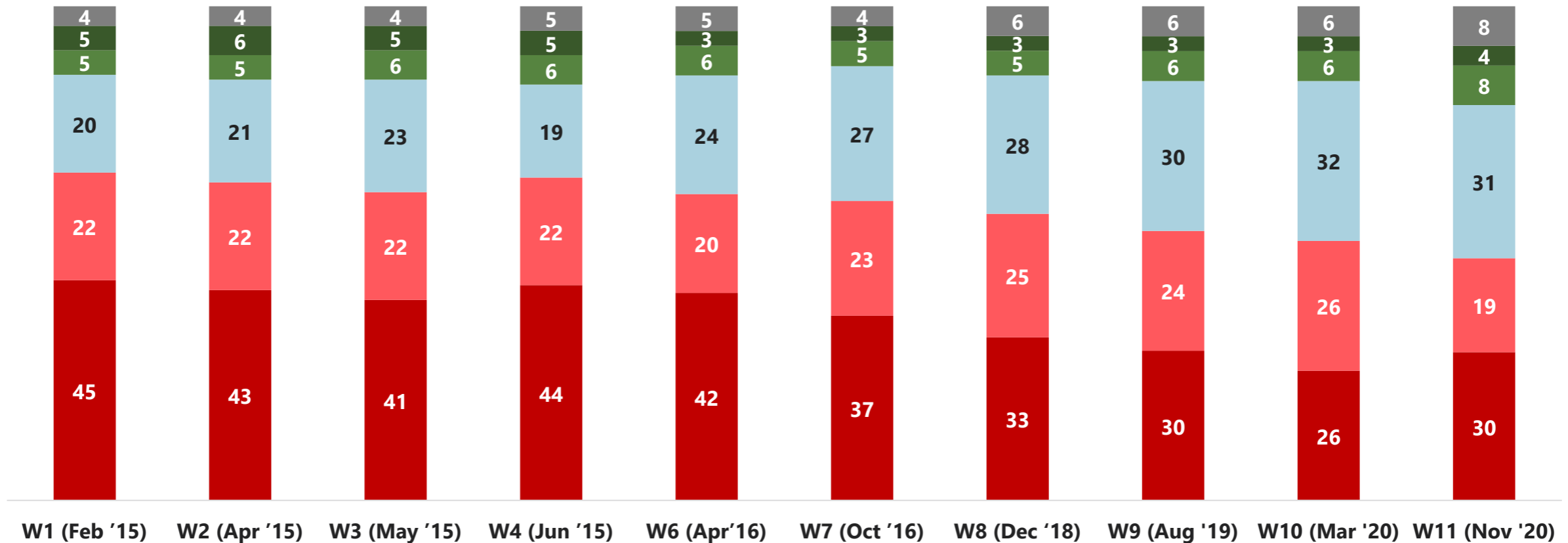


Base: All respondents (W7: 4071; W8: 2520; W9: 2006 ; W10: 2100; W11: 2532): Fieldwork dates: 12 to 29 November 2020

Half want the number of immigrants coming to Britain to be reduced while four in ten want them to either stay the same or be increased

Q 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?

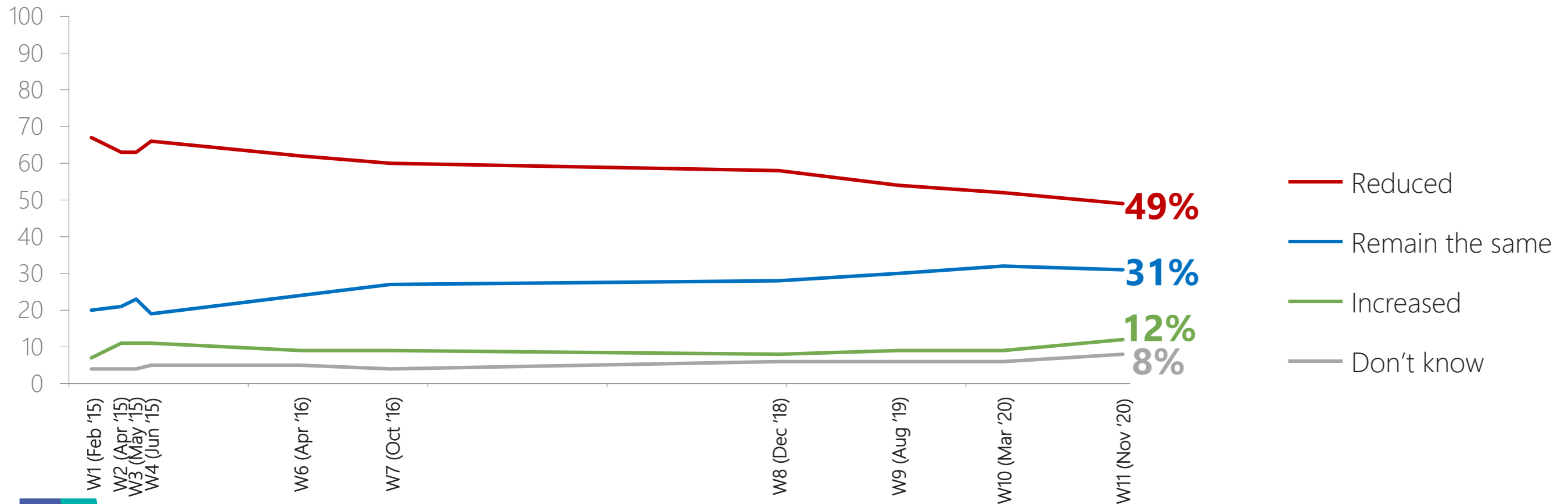
■ % Reduced a lot ■ % Reduced a little ■ % Remain the same as it is ■ % Increased a little ■ % Increased a lot ■ % Don't know



Base: All respondents (W1: 4574; W2: 3770; W3:3023; W4:2698; W6: 4002; W7: 4071; W8: 2520; W9: 2006; W10: 2100; W11: 2532): Fieldwork dates: 12 to 29 November 2020

But fewer want the numbers of immigrants coming to Britain to be reduced compared to all previous waves of this series reflecting a continuous downward trend

Q 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: All respondents (W1: 4574; W2: 3770; W3:3023; W4:2698; W6: 4002; W7: 4071; W8: 2520; W9 2006; W10: 2100; W11: 2532); Fieldwork dates: 12 to 29 November 2020

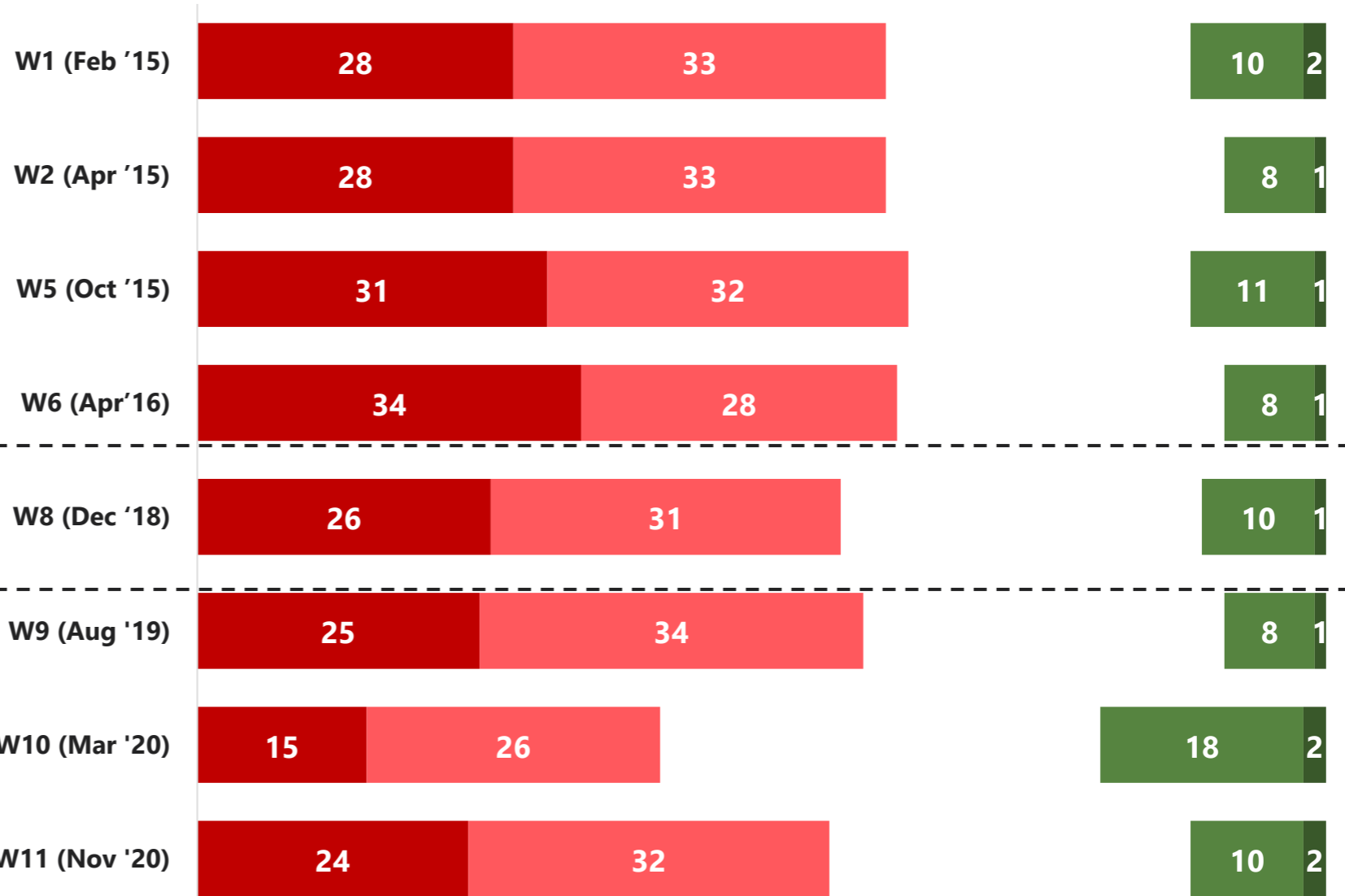
Most are dissatisfied with the current government's dealing with immigration which is a significant increase from March this year

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

July '16 Theresa May becomes Prime Minister

July '19 Boris Johnson becomes Prime Minister

■ % Very dissatisfied ■ % Fairly dissatisfied ■ % Fairly satisfied ■ % Very satisfied



Base: All respondents (W1: 4574; W2: 3770; W5:1941; W6: 4002; W8: 2520; W9: 2006; W10: 2100; W11: 2532): Fieldwork dates: 12 to 29 November 2020

There has been a significant increase from March in the proportion of Britons who think that immigration has been discussed too little

Q Generally speaking, do you think that the issue of immigration has been discussed in Britain too much, too little or about the right amount over the last few months?

■ % It has been discussed too much ■ % It has been discussed about the right amount
■ % It has been discussed too little ■ % Don't know



Base: All respondents (W1: 4574; W2: 3770; W3:3023; W4:2698; W10: 2100 W11: 2532); Fieldwork dates: 12 to 29 November 2020

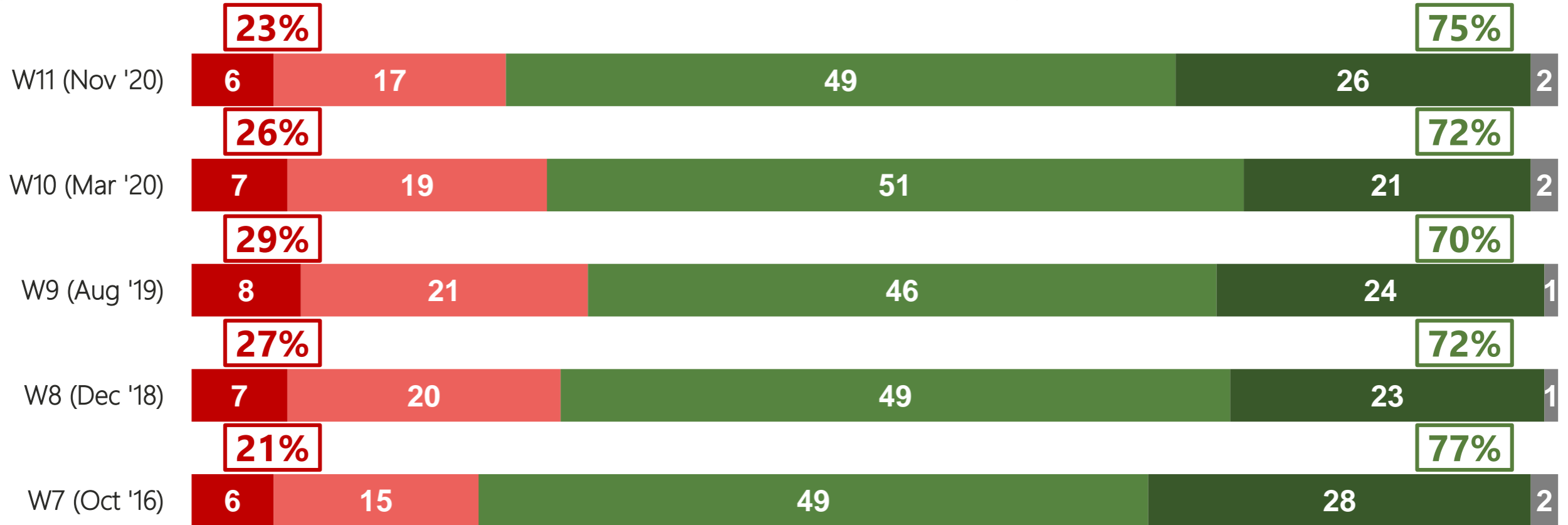
Economic outlook



Less than a quarter of the public are finding it difficult to get by on their present income while three quarters are at least coping

Q Which of the descriptions comes closest to how you feel about your household's income nowadays?

■ % Finding it very difficult on present income
 ■ % Finding it difficult on present income
 ■ % Coping on present income
 ■ % Living comfortably on present income
 ■ % Don't know

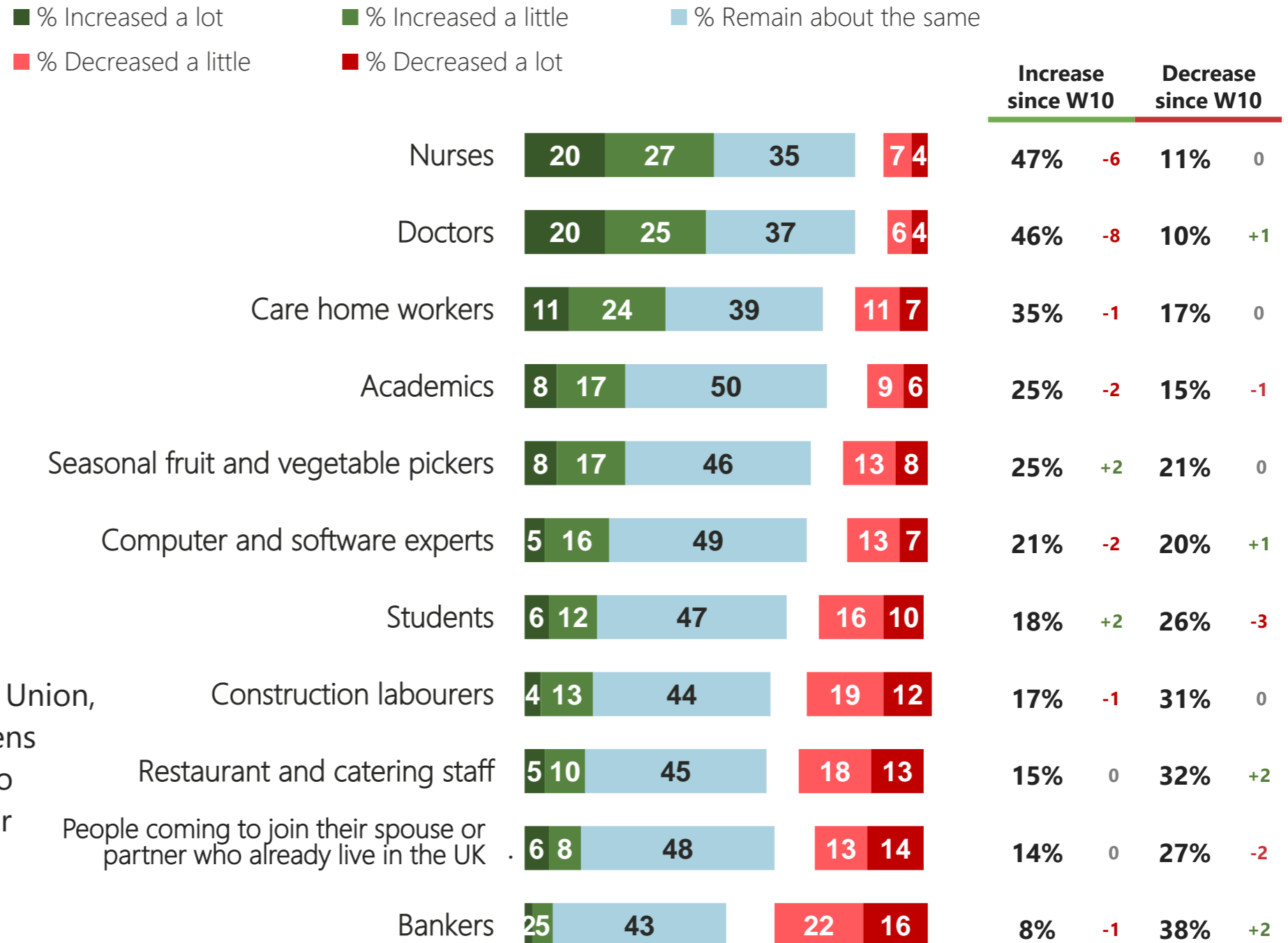


Base: All respondents (W7: 4071; W8: 2520; W9: 2006; W10: 2100; W11: 2532); Fieldwork dates: 12 to 29 November 2020

Other immigration questions

Doctors and nurses remain the most desired occupation to have immigrate to the UK from the EU. However the proportion wanting to increase their numbers is lower now than it was in March

Q Now that Britain has left the European Union, would you prefer the number of EU citizens from each of the below groups coming to live in the UK to be increased, reduced, or should it remain about the same?



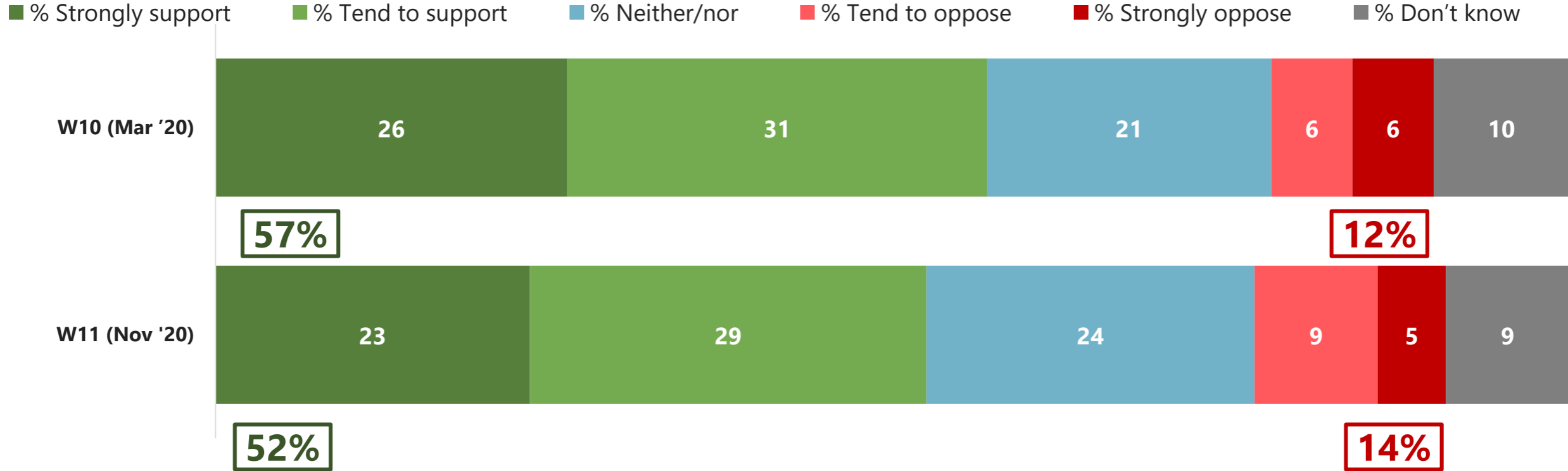
Base: All respondents (W8: 2520; W9: 2006; W10: 2100; W11: 2532); Fieldwork dates: 12 to 29 November 2020

Post Brexit immigration question



A majority support physical ID cards to be given to EU citizens and support has increased from earlier this year

Q How strongly would you support or oppose providing EU citizens with a physical card that would prove their right to live in the UK?

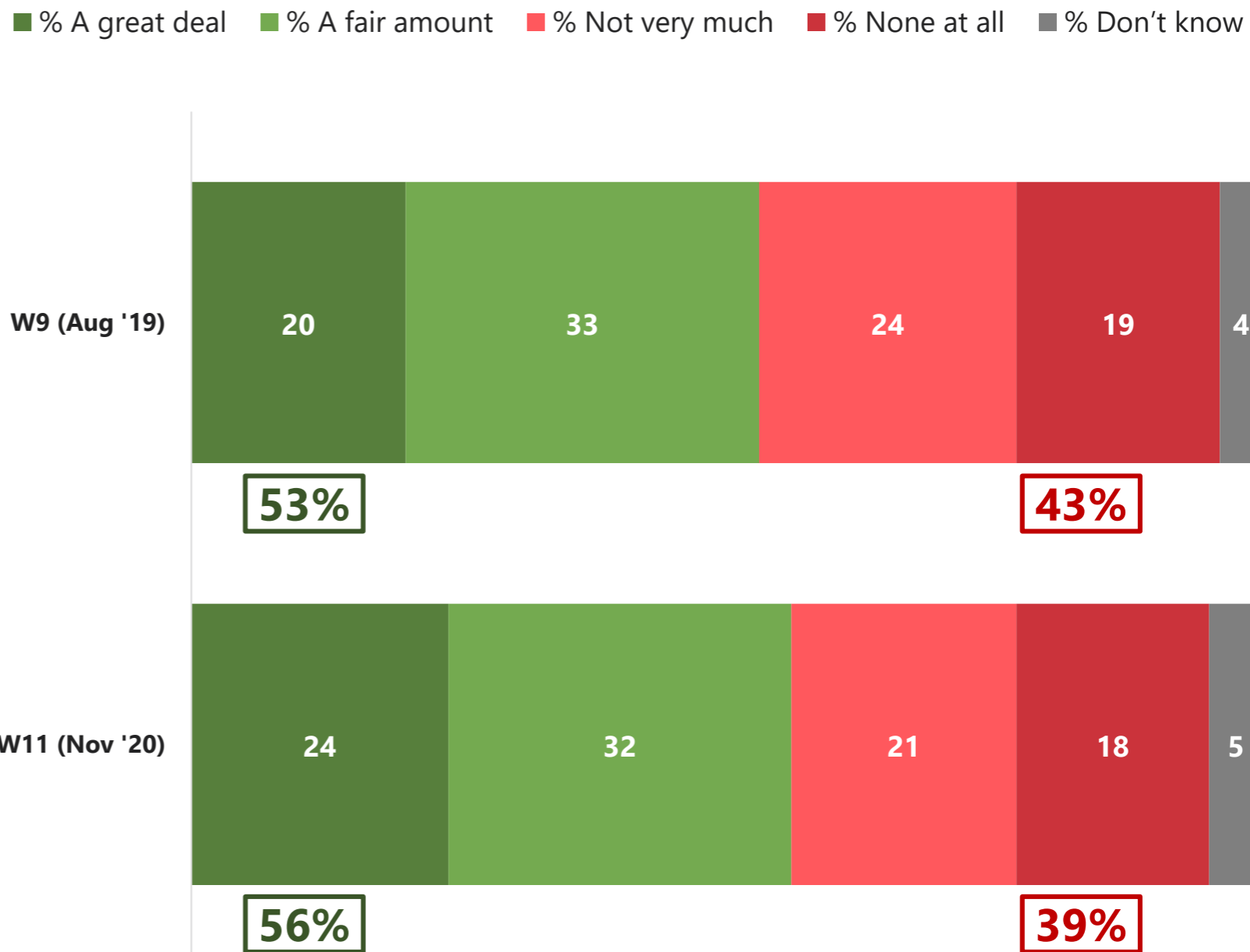


Base: All respondents (W10: 2100; W11: 2532); Fieldwork dates: 12 to 29 November 2020

Refugees

A majority have sympathy for migrants attempting to cross the channel with a small increase since August 2019

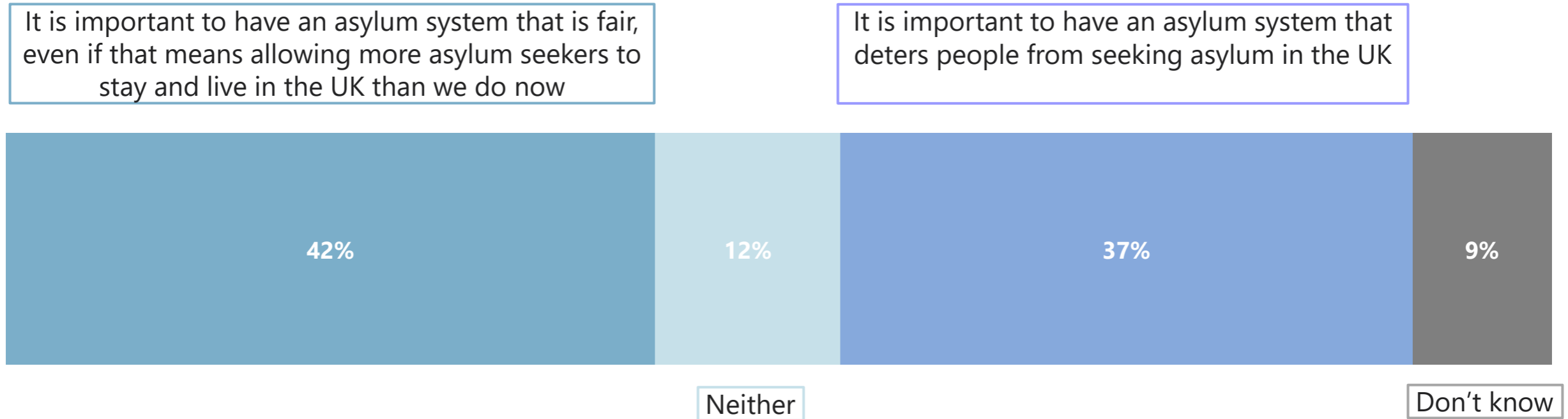
Q How much sympathy if at all, if any, do you have for the migrants attempting to cross the English Channel by boat to come to Britain?



Base: All respondents (W9: 2006; W11: 2532); Fieldwork dates: 12 to 29 November 2020

People are split between wanting an immigration system that is fair versus one that deters people from seeking asylum in the UK

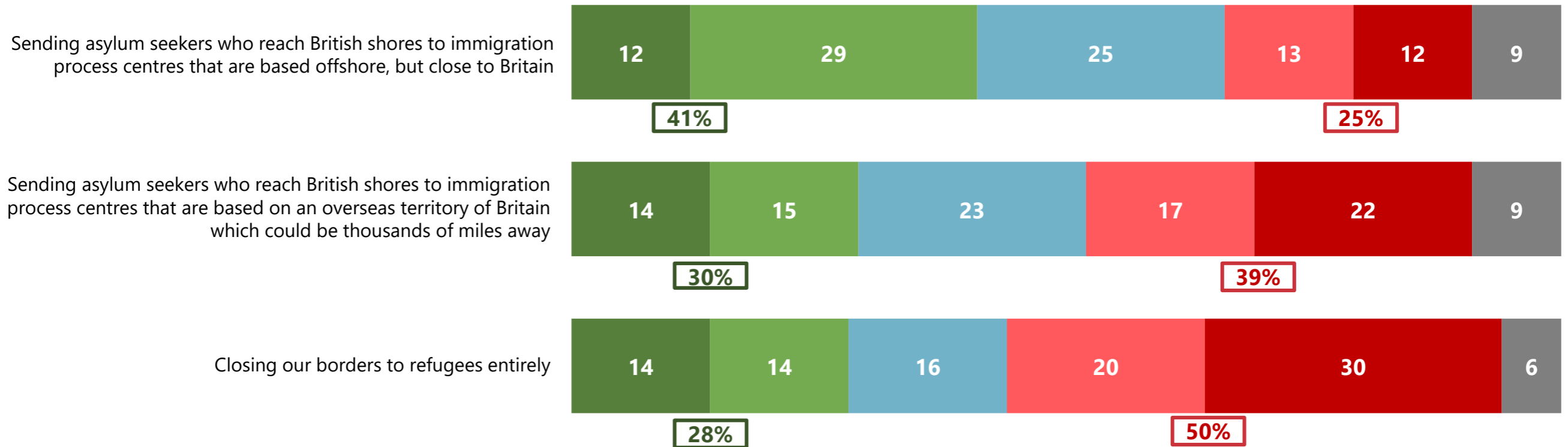
Q When thinking about how the UK processes people who arrive in Britain seeking asylum, which of the following two statements comes closest to your views?



While more Britons support rather than oppose sending asylum seekers offshore but close to Britain to be processed, half are opposed to closing borders to refugees completely

Q To what extent would you support or oppose each of the following potential measures relating to asylum seekers in the UK?

■ % Fully support ■ % Somewhat support ■ % Neither/nor ■ % Somewhat oppose ■ % Fully oppose ■ % Don't know



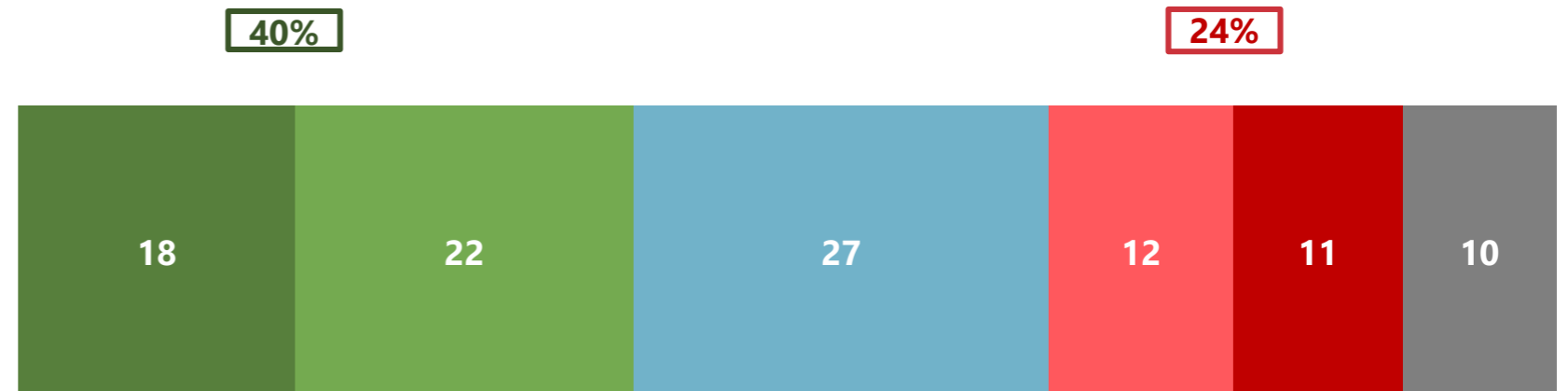
Base: All respondents (W11: 2532); Fieldwork dates: 12 to 29 November 2020

Two in five support the UK in continuing its commitment to the UN refugee resettlement programme compared to a quarter who oppose it

Q To what extent would you support or oppose each of the following potential measures relating to asylum seekers in the UK?

■ % Fully support ■ % Somewhat support ■ % Neither/nor ■ % Somewhat oppose ■ % Fully oppose ■ % Don't know

Continuing the UK's commitment in the UN refugee resettlement programme, where the UK takes asylum seekers assigned by the UN who are unable to travel far beyond the borders of their home countries so that they can resettle in the UK



Base: All respondents (W11: 2532); Fieldwork dates: 12 to 29 November 2020

When it comes to estimating how many asylum applications in the UK are successful Britons as a whole are nearly spot on with their answer

Q And out of every 100 people who apply for asylum in the UK, how many do you think are granted asylum?

Mean: 47%

Actual figure*: 46%

*Home office figures for asylum applications made in the period between 2010 and 2014 estimate that 46% of asylum applicants were successful. These estimates include applications that were initially unsuccessful however succeeded after an appeal. For further info see: <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/migration-statistics-how-many-asylum-seekers-and-refugees-are-there-in-the-uk/>.

Base: All respondents (W11: 1480); Fieldwork dates: 12 to 29 November 2020



Technical note

- Ipsos MORI interviewed 2,532 adults aged 18+ across Great Britain online. Data are weighted to reflect the population profile.
- Fieldwork dates were 12th – 29th November 2020
- The survey was conducted on behalf of IMIX, the migration communications hub with funding from Unbound Philanthropy and the Barrow Cadbury Trust. .
- Percentage scores are shown out of 100%. Where figures do not add up to 100%, this is due to computer rounding. An asterisks indicates a score less than 0.5%, but greater than zero. Combined figures are based on the constituent parts (e.g. % agree = % strongly agree + % tend to agree). These figures are also subject to the effect of rounding.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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