

Attitudes towards immigration

Survey conducted in collaboration with British Future

Fieldwork 19 July – 3 August 2022

British Future...



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Attitudes towards Immigration | Wave 14 | October 2022 | Version 5 | PUBLIC



Technical note

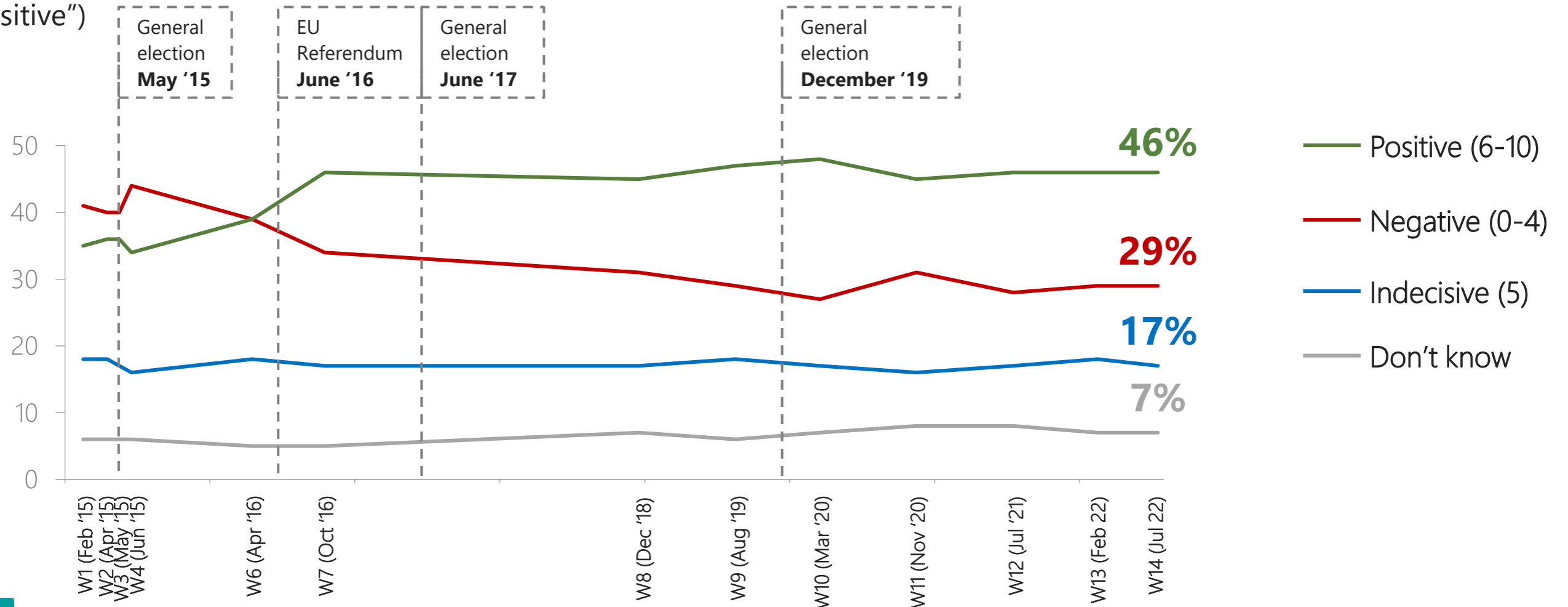
- Ipsos interviewed 3,004 adults aged 18+ across Great Britain online. Data are weighted to reflect the population profile.
- Fieldwork dates were 19 July to 3 August 2022.
- The survey was conducted in collaboration with British Future with funding from Unbound Philanthropy and the Barrow Cadbury Trust.
- 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.

Immigration



Attitudes towards the impact of immigration remain unchanged with more Britons remaining positive than negative

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")

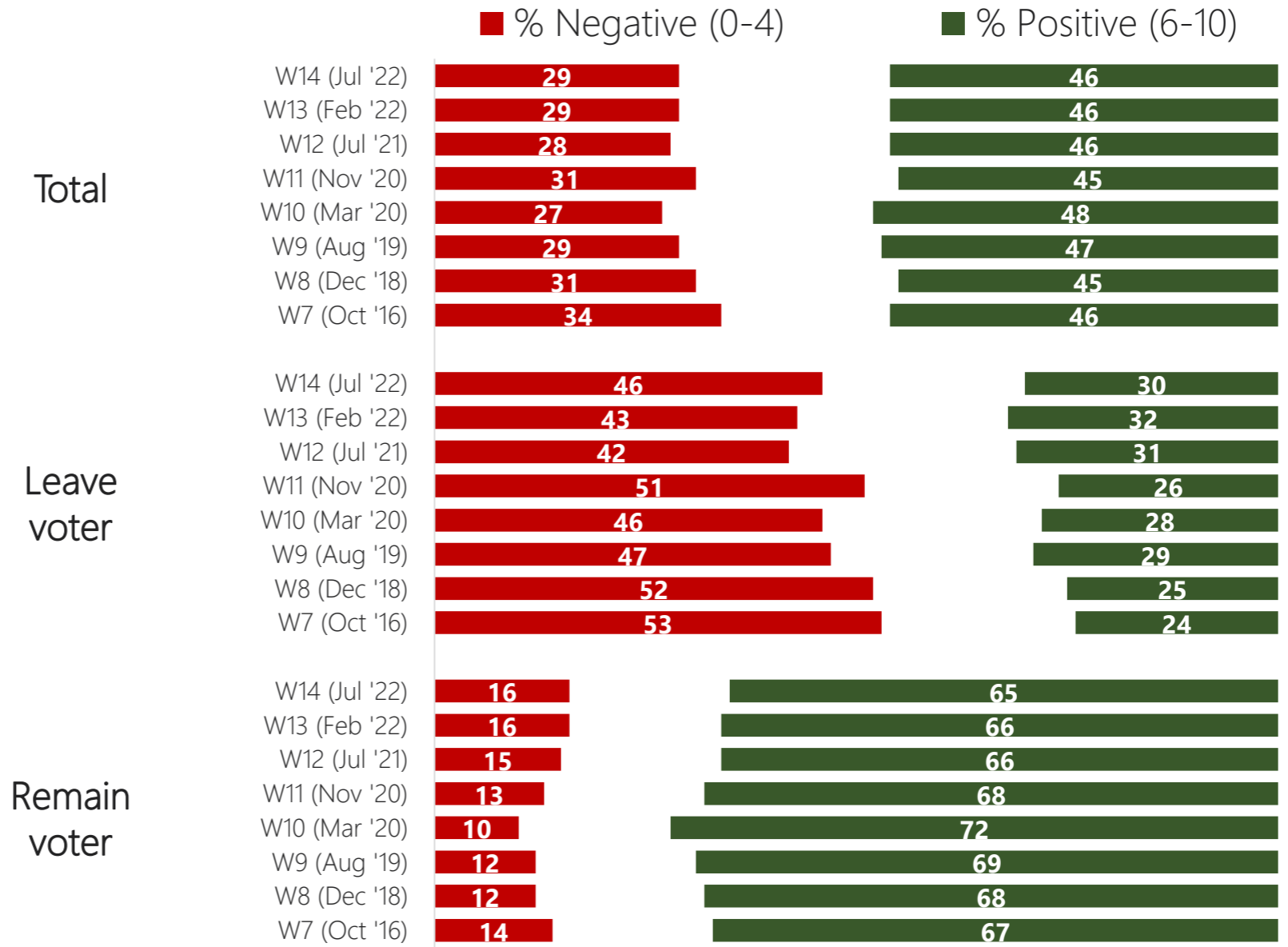


Base: All respondents (W1: 4574; W2: 3770; W3:3023; W4:2698; W6: 4002; W7: 4071; W8: 2520; W9: 2006; W10: 2100; W11: 2532; W12: 4000; W13: 3206; W14: 3,004); Fieldwork dates: 19 July to 3 August 2022

Overall, just under half (46%) think migration has had a positive impact on the country, whilst three in ten (29%) disagree.

Leave voters, however, have become slightly more negative since February.

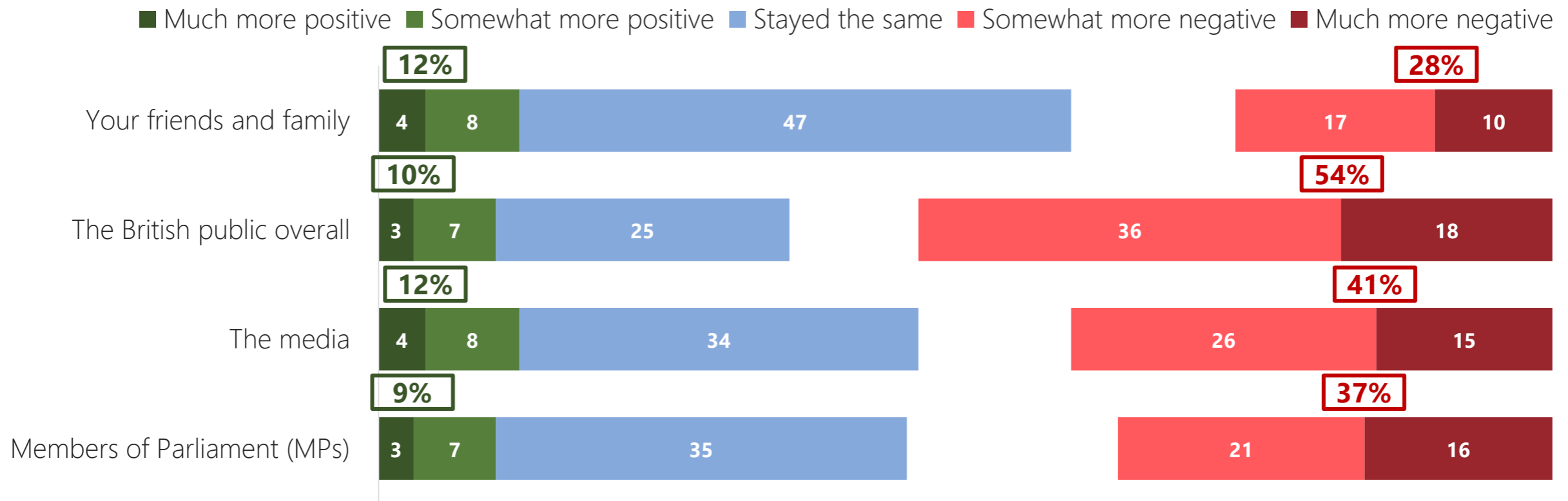
Q On a scale of 0 to 10, has migration had a positive or negative impact on Britain? (0 is "very negative", 10 is "very positive")



Base: All respondents (W7: 4071; W8: 2520; W9: 2006 ; W10: 2100; W11: 2532; W12: 4000; W13: 3206; W14: 3004): Fieldwork dates: 19 July to 3 August 2022

Despite British views becoming more positive towards immigration over the past few years, a majority believe the public has become more negative

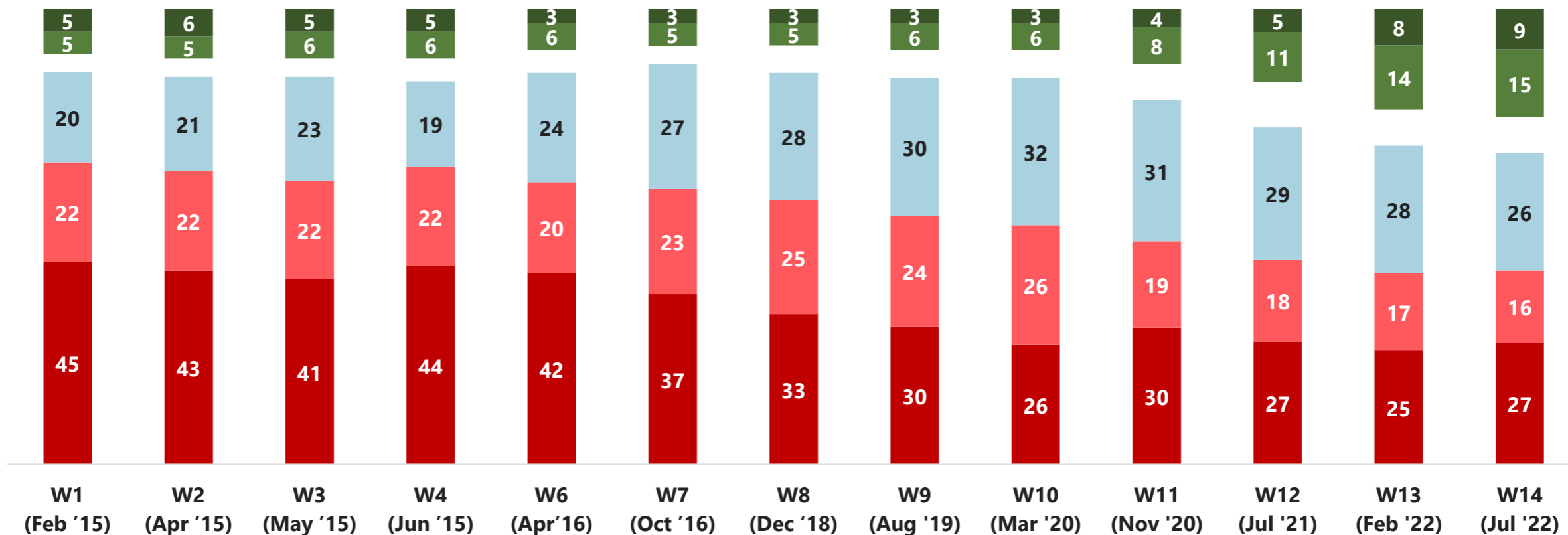
Q Thinking about each of the following, do you think their views about the impact of immigration on Britain have become more positive or more negative over the last few years, or have their views stayed the same?



The proportion of people wanting to see immigration reduced is similar to February as is the proportion of those wanting to see it 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?

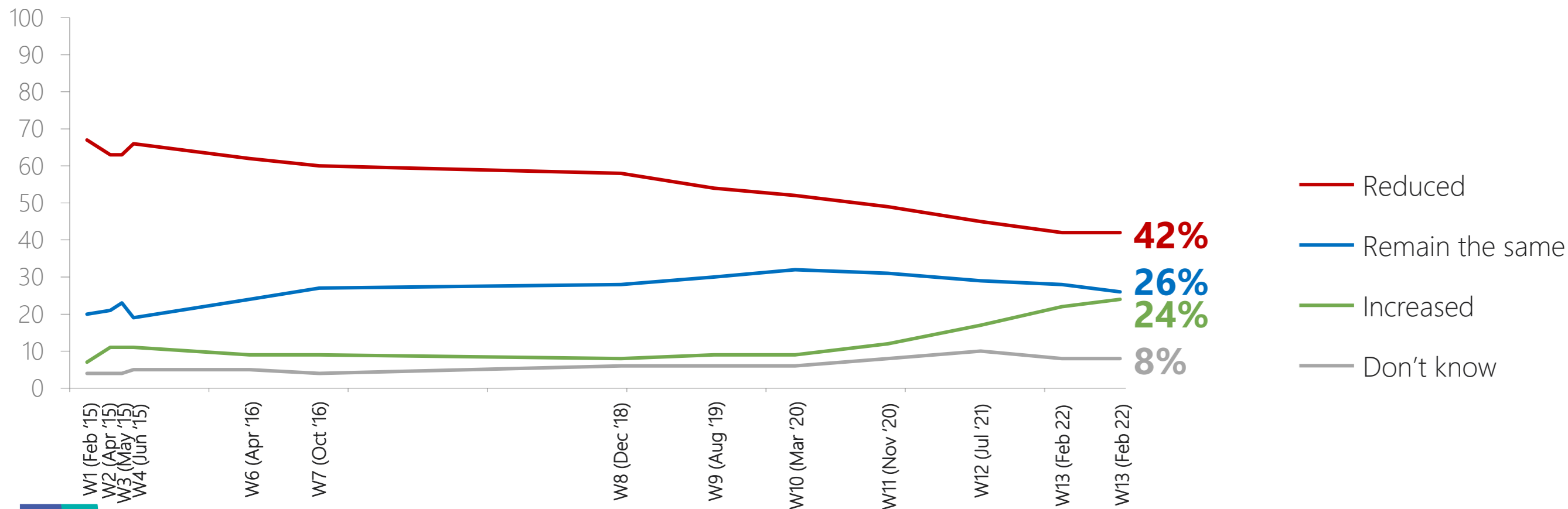
■ % Reduced a lot ■ % Reduced a little ■ % Remain the same as it is ■ % Increased a little ■ % Increased a lot



Base: All respondents (W1: 4574; W2: 3770; W3:3023; W4:2698; W6: 4002; W7: 4071; W8: 2520; W9: 2006; W10: 2100; W11: 2532; W12: 4000; W13: 3206; W14: 3004);
Fieldwork dates: 19 July to 3 August 2022

The longer term trends show the proportion of those wanting to see immigration reduced plateauing at 42%. Those wanting to see numbers increased has steadily increased since 2020.

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?

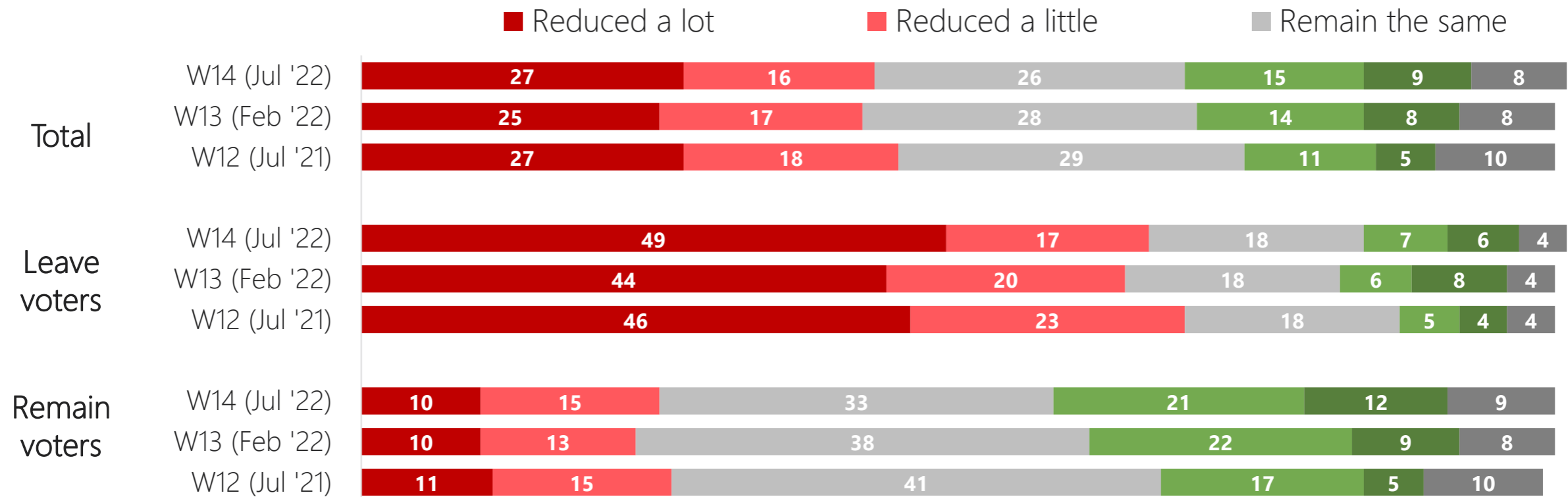


Base: All respondents (W1: 4574; W2: 3770; W3:3023; W4:2698; W6: 4002; W7: 4071; W8: 2520; W9 2006; W10: 2100; W11: 2532; W12: 4000; W13: 3206; W14: 3004):

Fieldwork dates: 19 July to 3 August 2022

Two thirds of Leave voters want to see immigration numbers reduced compared to a quarter of Remain voters

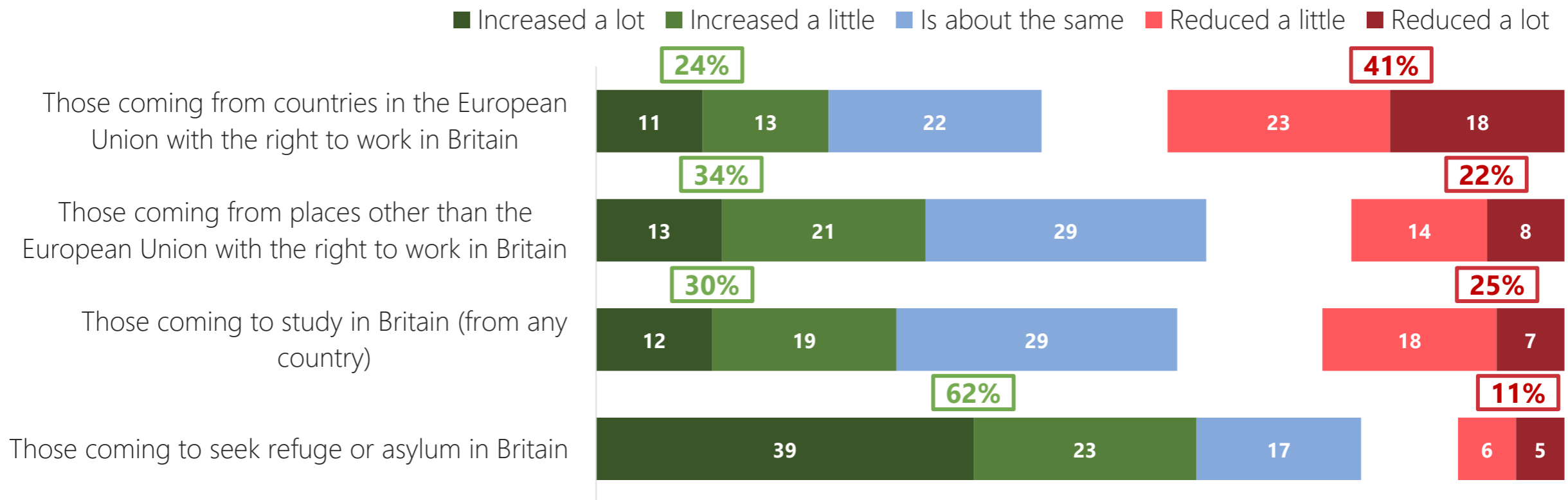
Q Do you think the number of immigrants coming to Britain nowadays should be increased a lot, increased a little, remain the same as it is, reduced a little, or reduced a lot?



Base: All respondents (W7: 4071; W12: 4000; W13: 3206; W14: 3004): Fieldwork dates: 19 July to 3 August 2022

While more people think the number of EU migrants coming to Britain has reduced rather than increased, six in ten Britons believe the number of asylum seekers has increased.

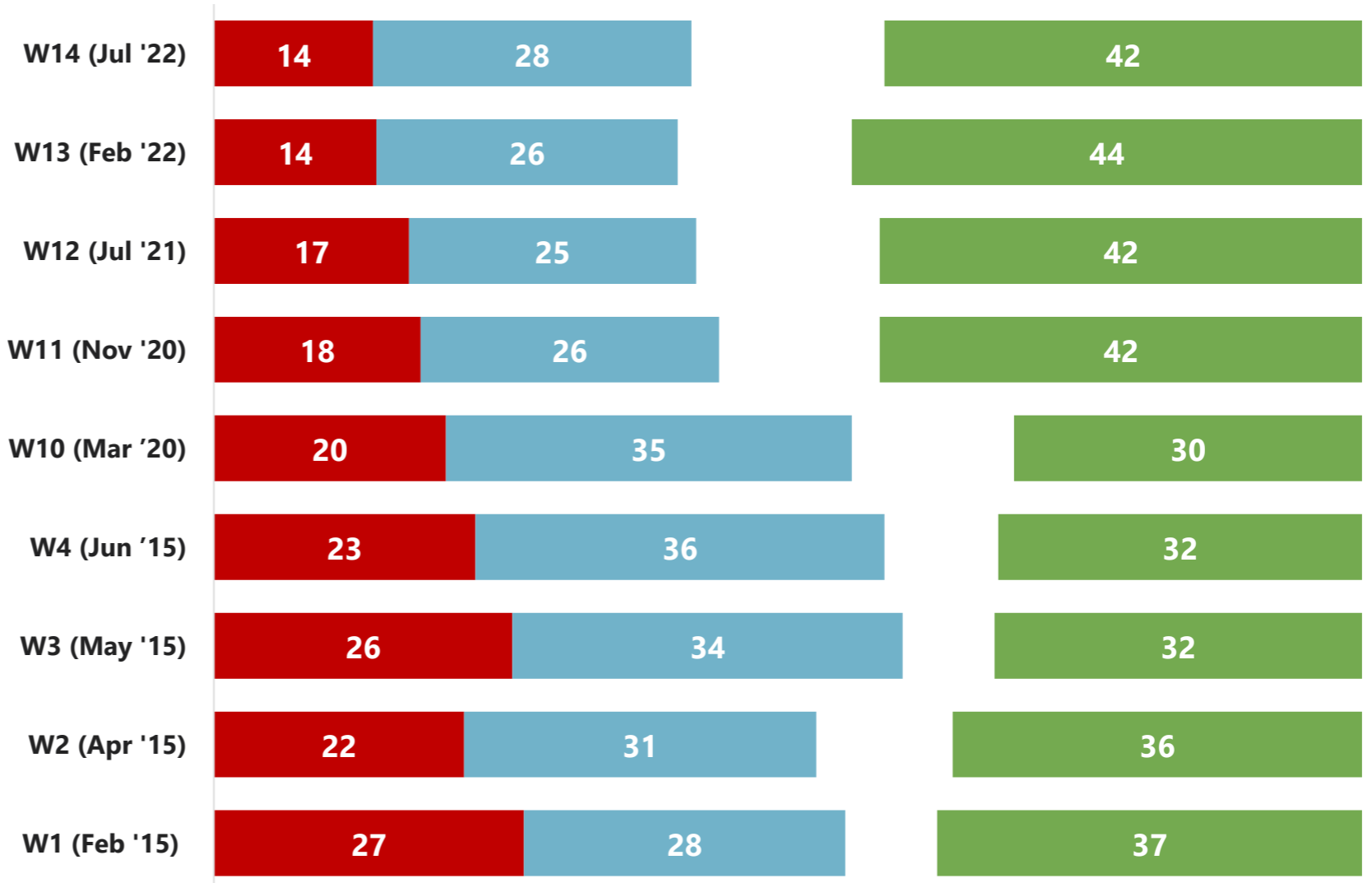
Q For each of the following groups, do you think the number of immigrants coming to Britain nowadays has increased, reduced or is about the same over the last few years?



There has been little shift in the proportion thinking that immigration has been discussed too little. However, since Feb 2015, the proportion thinking it has been discussed too much has almost halved.

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?

■ % Discussed too much ■ % Discussed about the right amount ■ % Discussed too little



Base: All respondents (W1: 4574; W2: 3770; W3:3023; W4:2698; W10: 2100 W11: 2532; W12: 4000; W13: 3206; W14: 3004): Fieldwork dates: 19 July to 3 August 2022)

There has been little change with the proportion dissatisfied with the current government's dealing with immigration

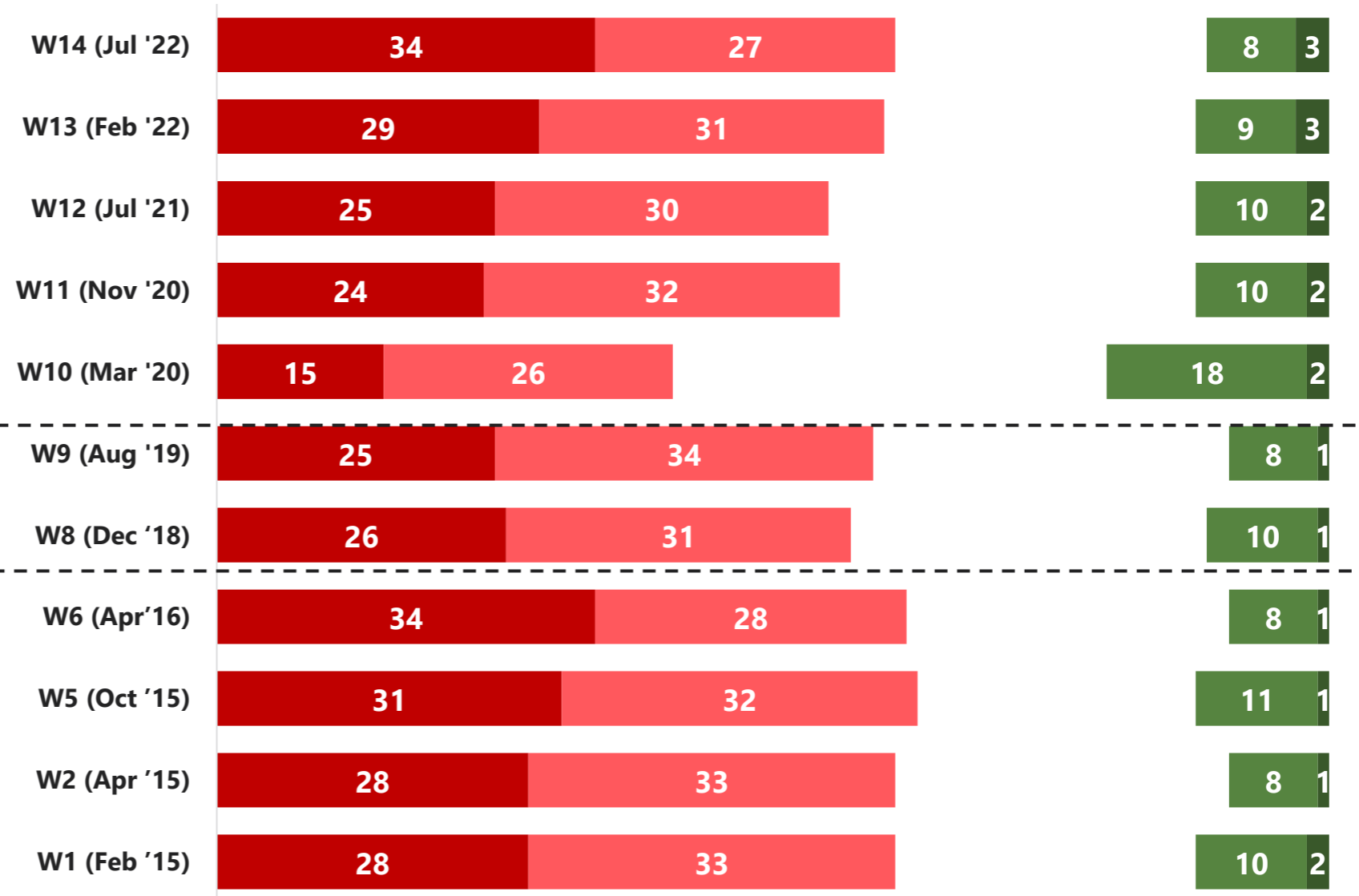
Q Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the way the current government is dealing with immigration?

July '19 Boris Johnson becomes Prime Minister

July '16 Theresa May becomes Prime Minister

NB: Polling was conducted prior to Liz Truss becoming PM

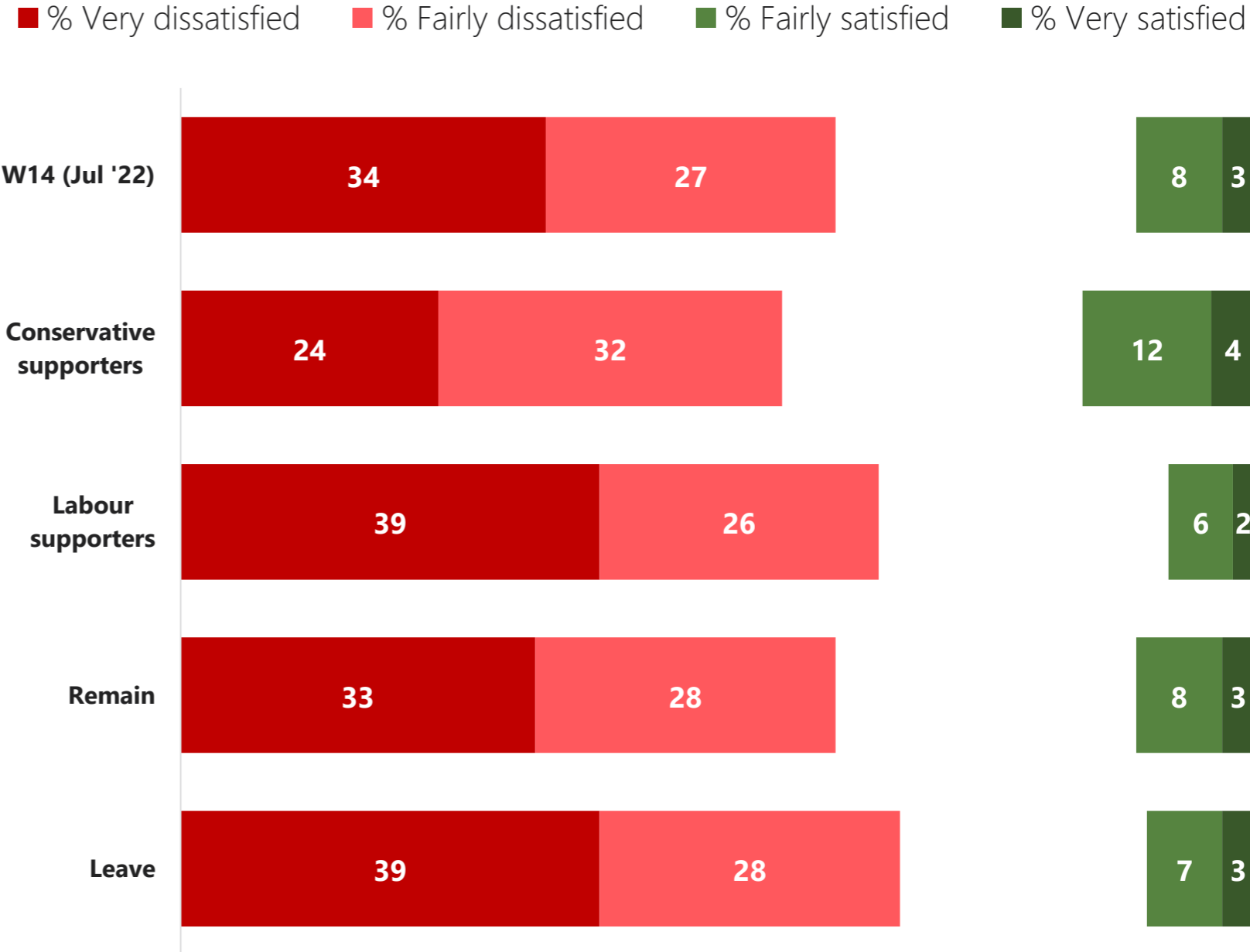
■ % Very dissatisfied ■ % Fairly dissatisfied ■ % Fairly satisfied ■ % Very satisfied



Base: All respondents (W1: 4574; W2: 3770; W5:1941; W6: 4002; W8: 2520; W9: 2006; W10: 2100; W11: 2532; W12: 4000; W13: 3206; W14: 3004): Fieldwork dates: 19 July to 3 August 2022

Labour supporters and Leave voters are more likely to be dissatisfied with the government's handling of immigration than Conservative supporters and Remain voters.

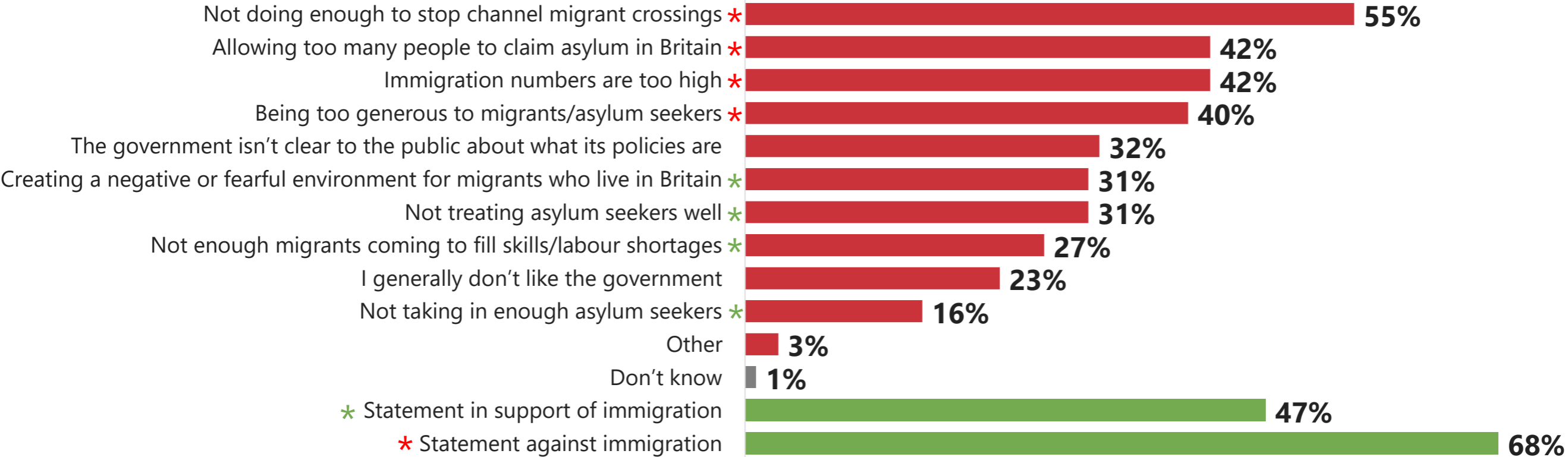
Q Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the way the current government is dealing with immigration?



Base: All respondents (W14: 3004); Fieldwork dates: 19 July to 3 August 2022

More than half of those dissatisfied with the Government's handling of immigration cite not enough being done to stop channel crossings.

Q And for which of the following reasons, if any, make you dissatisfied with the way the current government is dealing with immigration?

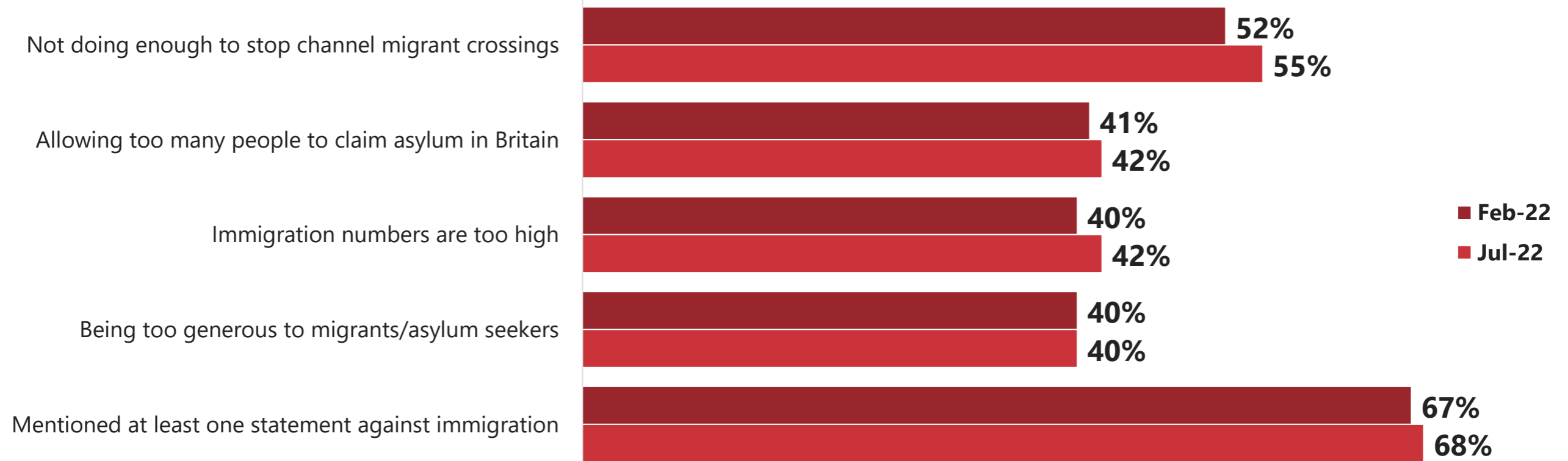


Base: All respondents dissatisfied with the way the Government's dealing with immigration (W14: 1871); Fieldwork dates: 19 July to 3 August 2022)

Most who are dissatisfied with the way the government is dealing with immigration say it's because it's not doing enough to stop the channel migrant crossings

Q And for which of the following reasons, if any, make you dissatisfied with the way the current government is dealing with immigration?

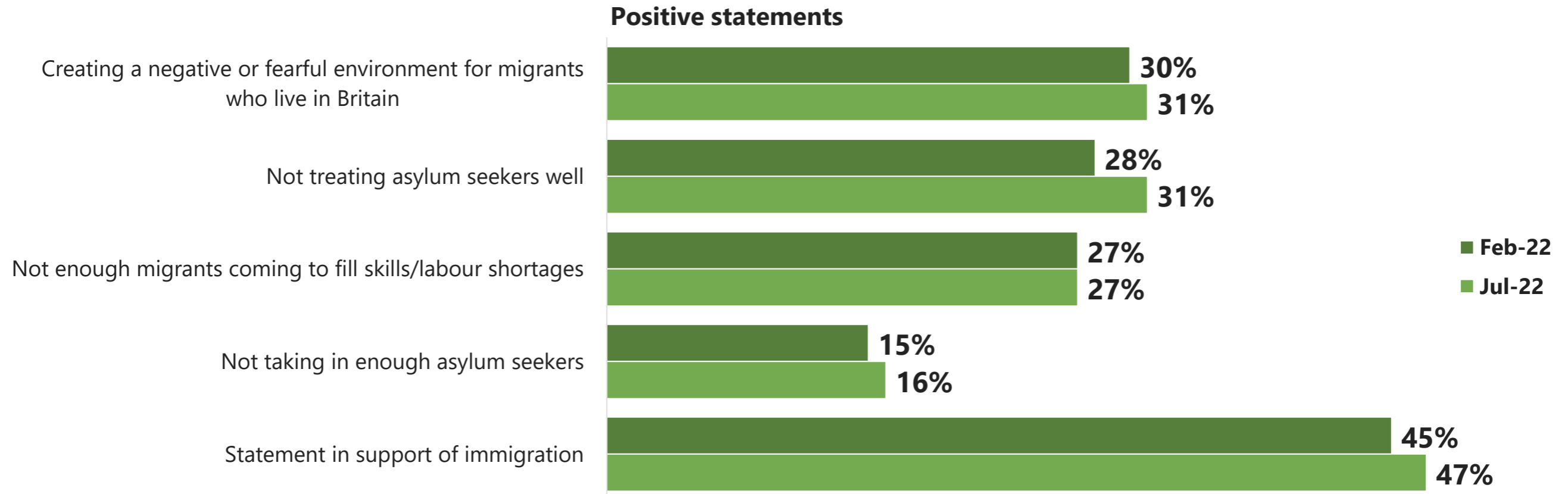
Statements against immigration



Base: All respondents dissatisfied with the way the Government's dealing with immigration (W13: 1932; W14: 1871); Fieldwork dates: 19 July to 3 August 2022)

While three in ten say it's because of not treating asylum seekers well, creating a fearful environment for migrants or not allowing enough migrants to come to fill job shortages

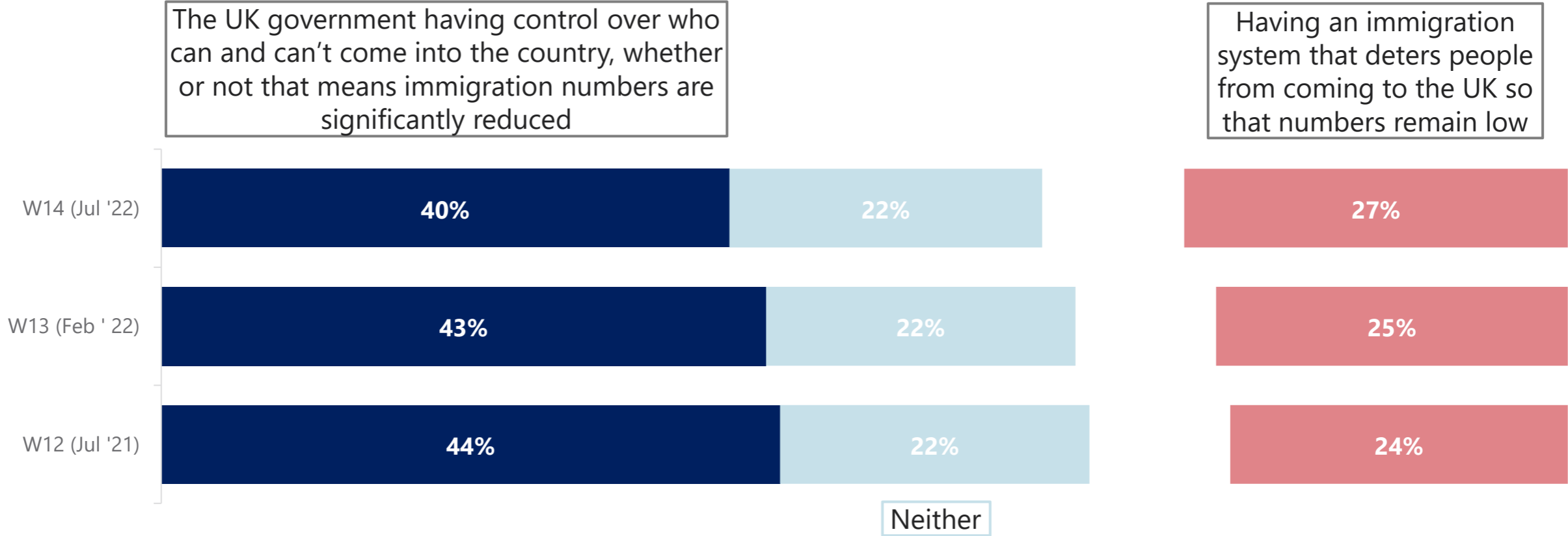
Q And for which of the following reasons, if any, make you dissatisfied with the way the current government is dealing with immigration?



Base: All respondents dissatisfied with the way the Government's dealing with immigration (W13: 1932; W14: 1871); Fieldwork dates: 19 July to 3 August 2022)

More prefer an immigration system that prioritises having control of who can and can't come into the country than one which deters people from coming

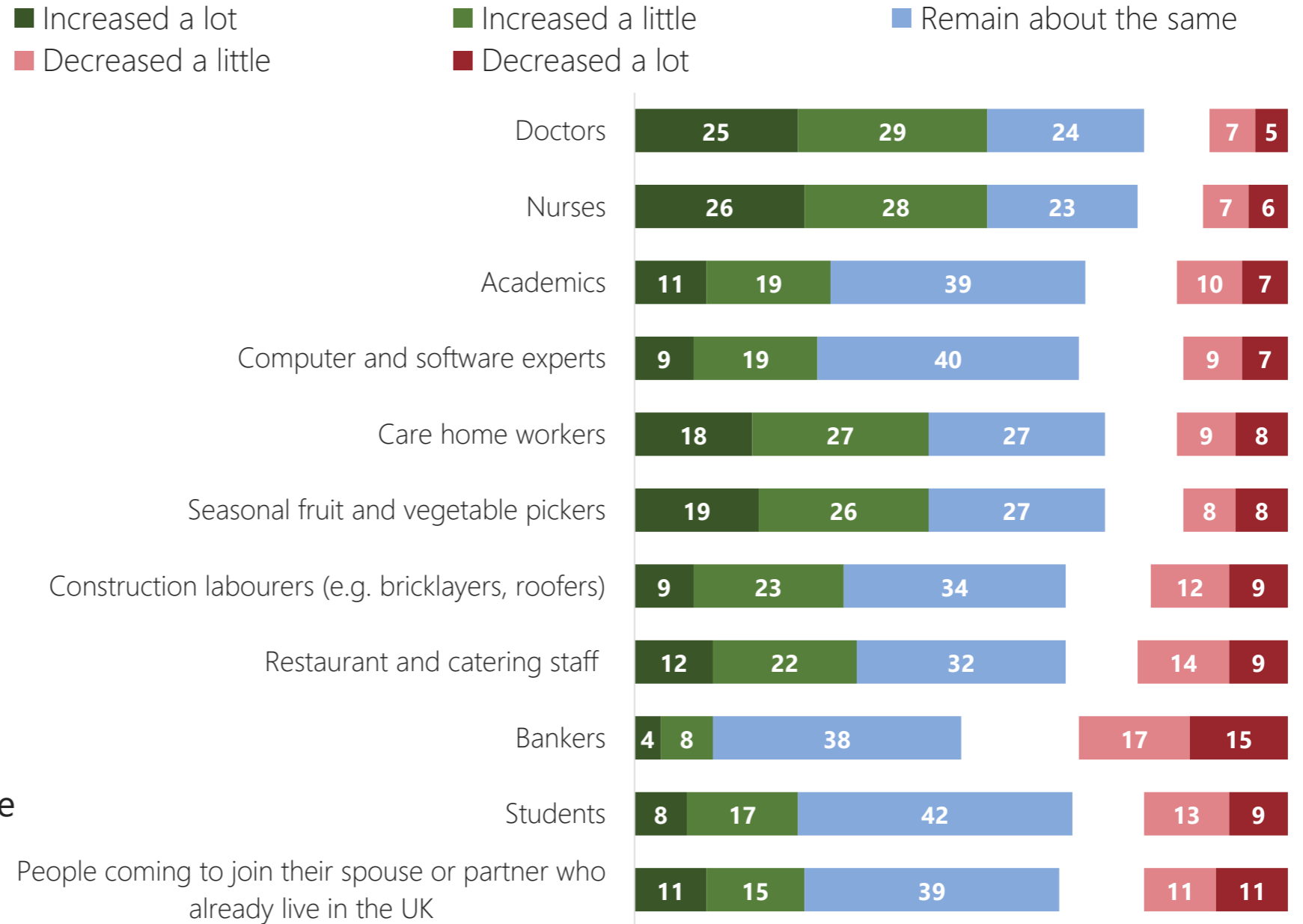
Q When thinking about the government's immigration policy, which of the following two statements is most important to you?



Base: All respondents (W12: 4000; W13: 3206; W14: 3004); Fieldwork dates: 19 July to 3 August 2022)

Doctors and nurses are the occupations which most Britons would like to see the number of migrants increased

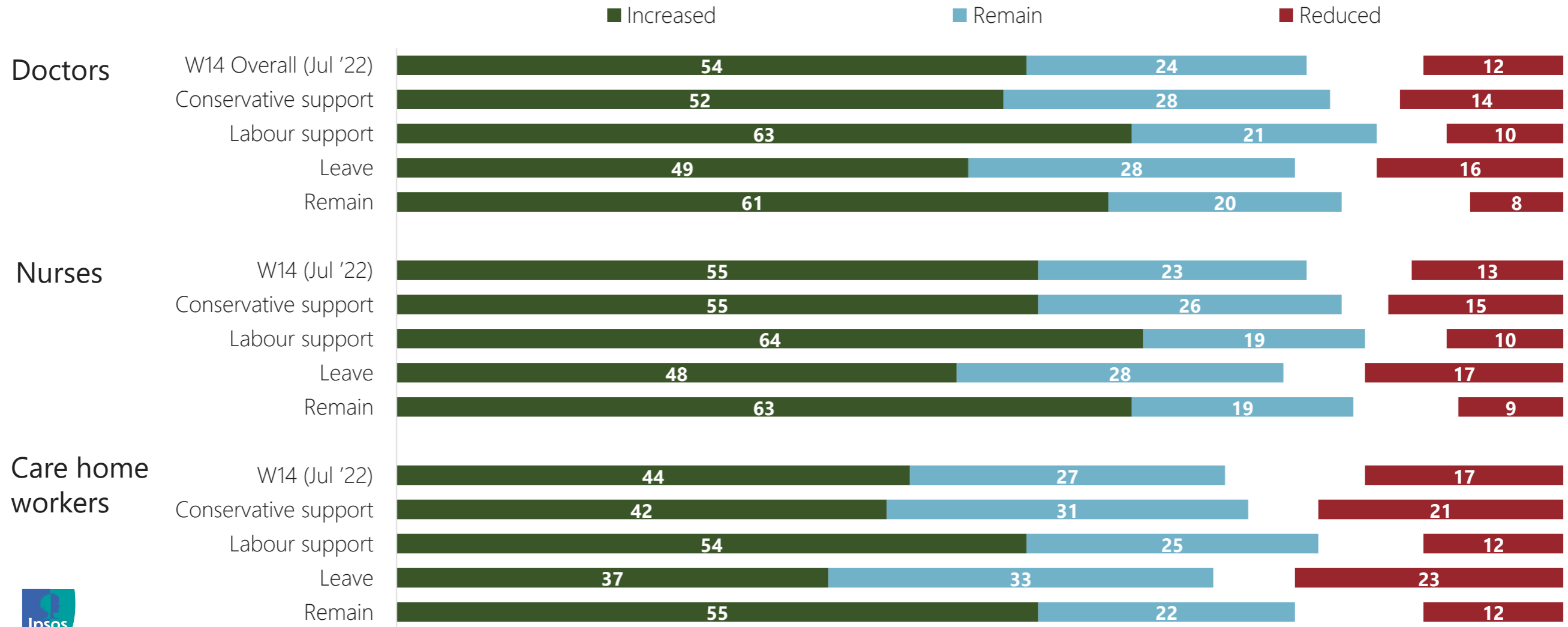
Q Would you prefer the number of migrants (from any country) from each of the below groups coming to live in the UK to be increased, reduced, or should it remain about the same?



Base: All respondents (W14: 3004): Fieldwork dates: 19 July to 3 August 2022

Labour supporters and Remain voters are most likely to advocate an increase in number of migrant health workers coming to live in the UK

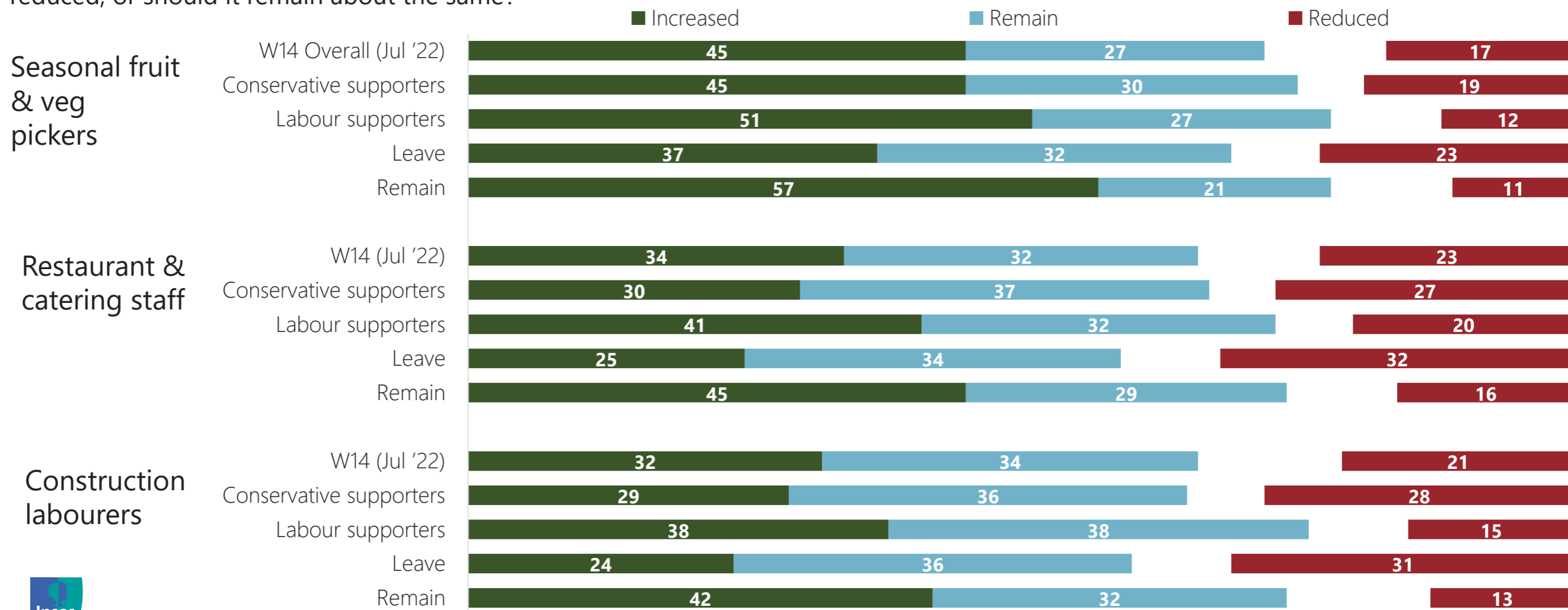
Q Would you prefer the number of migrants (from any country) from each of the below groups coming to live in the UK to be increased, reduced, or should it remain about the same?



Base: All respondents (W14: 3004); Fieldwork dates: 19 July to 3 August 2022

While Labour supporters and Remain voters are also more likely to support an increase of seasonal workers, hospitality staff and construction workers

Q Would you prefer the number of migrants (from any country) from each of the below groups coming to live in the UK to be increased, reduced, or should it remain about the same?

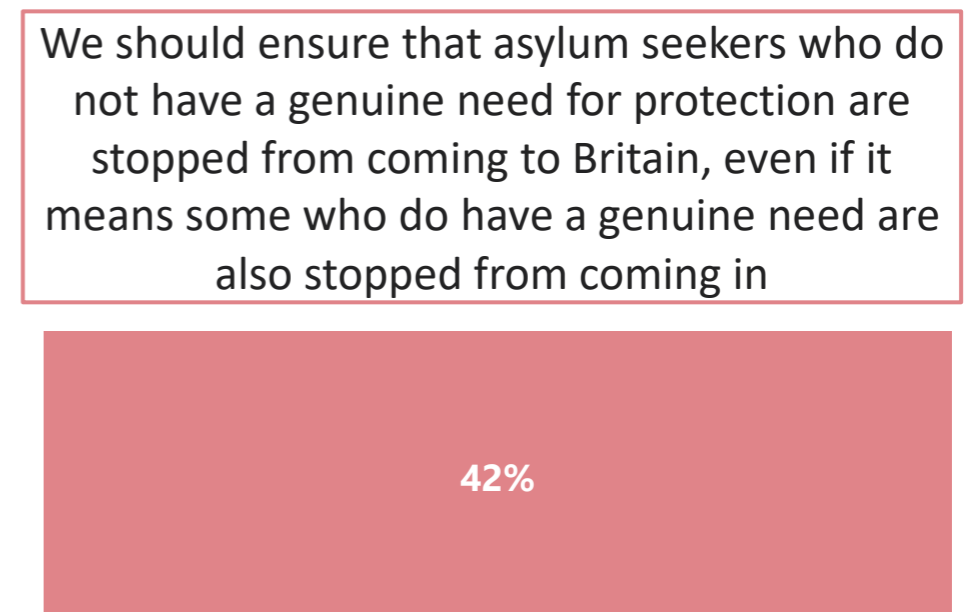
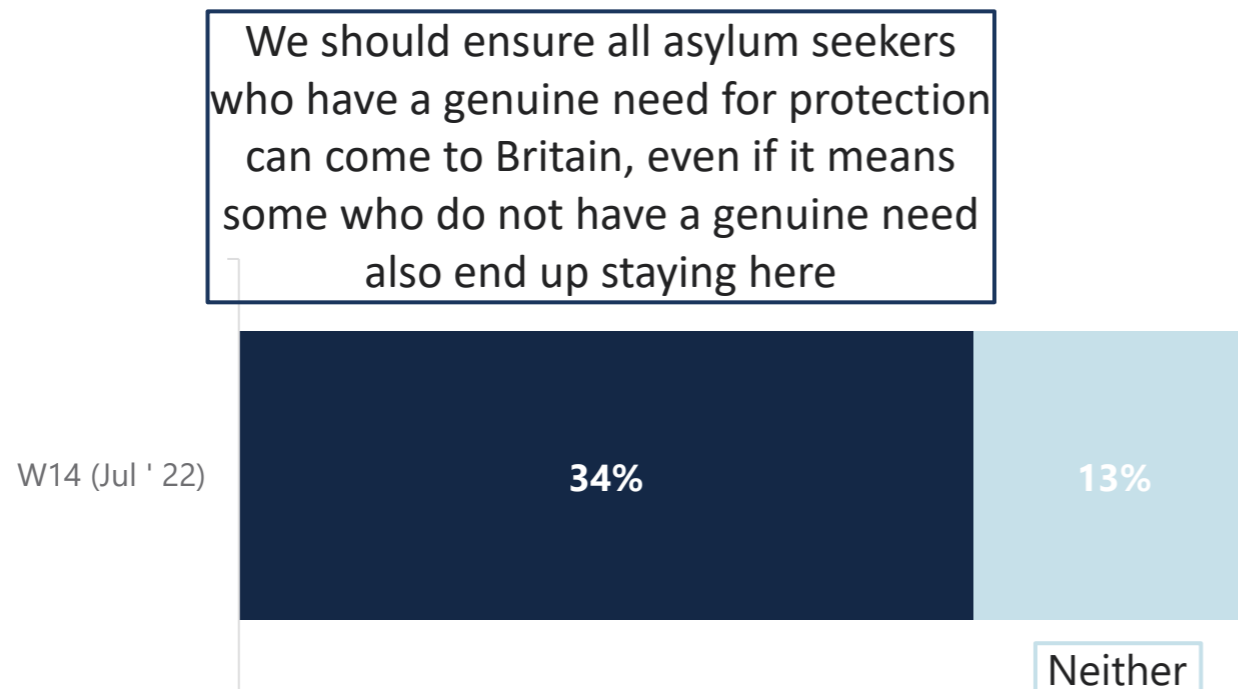


Base: All respondents (W14: 3004); Fieldwork dates: 19 July to 3 August 2022

Refugees and asylum

More say it is more important to ensure asylum seekers who do not have a genuine claim are stopped from coming to Britain than those who say it is more important to ensure all asylum seekers who have a genuine need for protection can come to Britain.

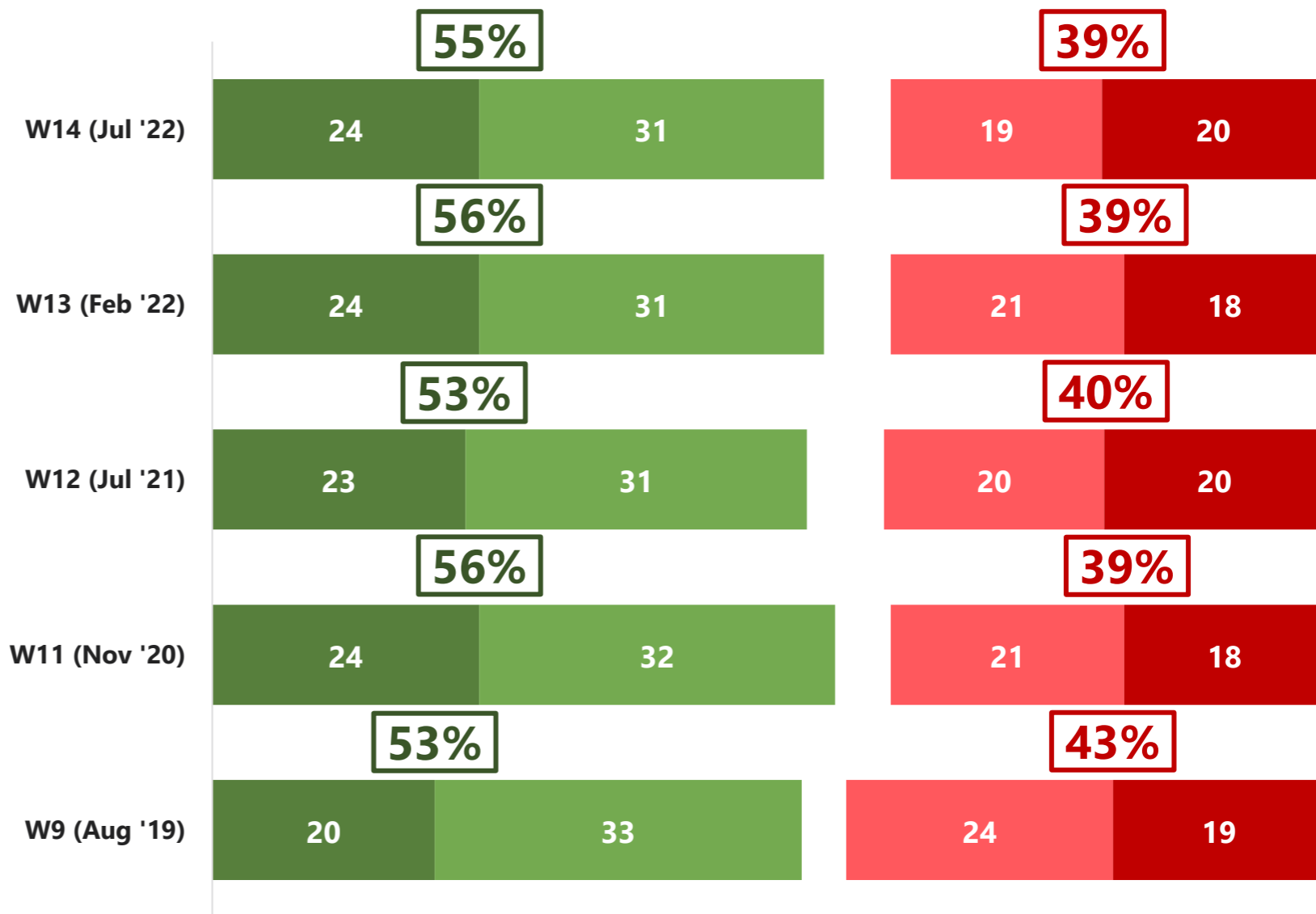
Q Which of the following statements, if either, do you think is more important for how Britain deals with asylum seekers?



A majority continue to have sympathy for migrants attempting to cross the English Channel.

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?

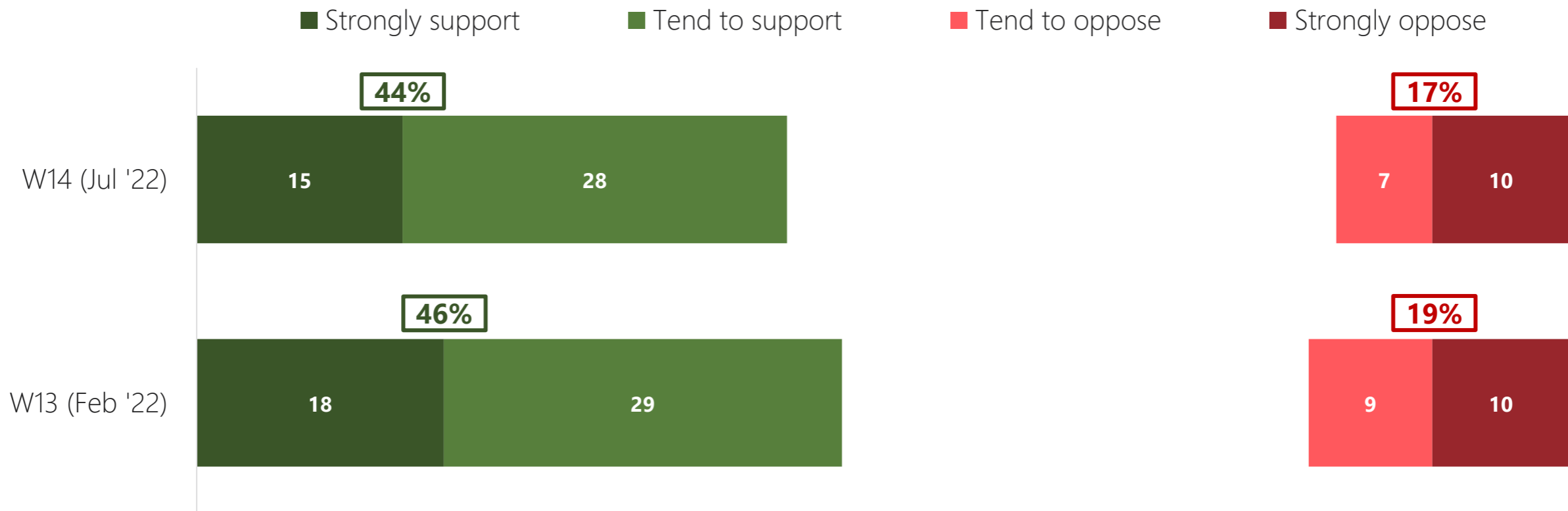
■ % A great deal ■ % A fair amount ■ % Not very much ■ % None at all



Base: All respondents (W9: 2006; W11: 2532; W12: 4000; W13: 3206; W14: 3004); Fieldwork dates: 19 July to 3 August 2022)

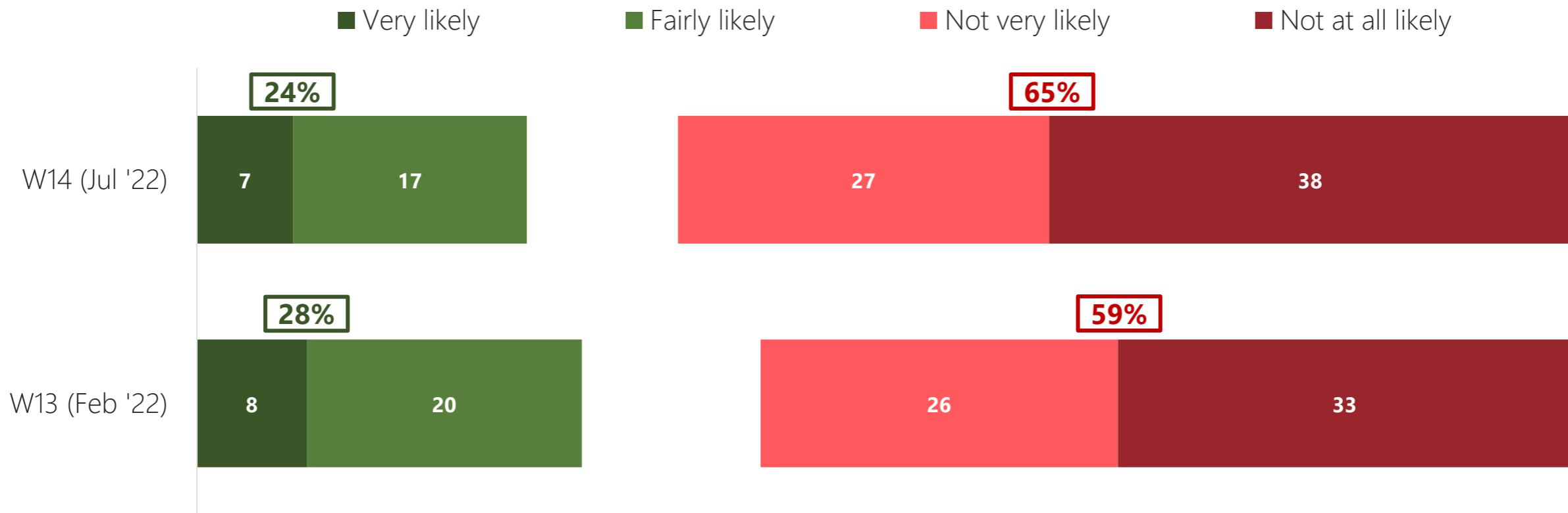
More support than oppose the idea of the British government creating a welcoming programme for newly arrived migrants

Q How strongly would you support or oppose the British government creating a welcoming programme linking British people with newly arrived migrants to help them settle and integrate in Britain?



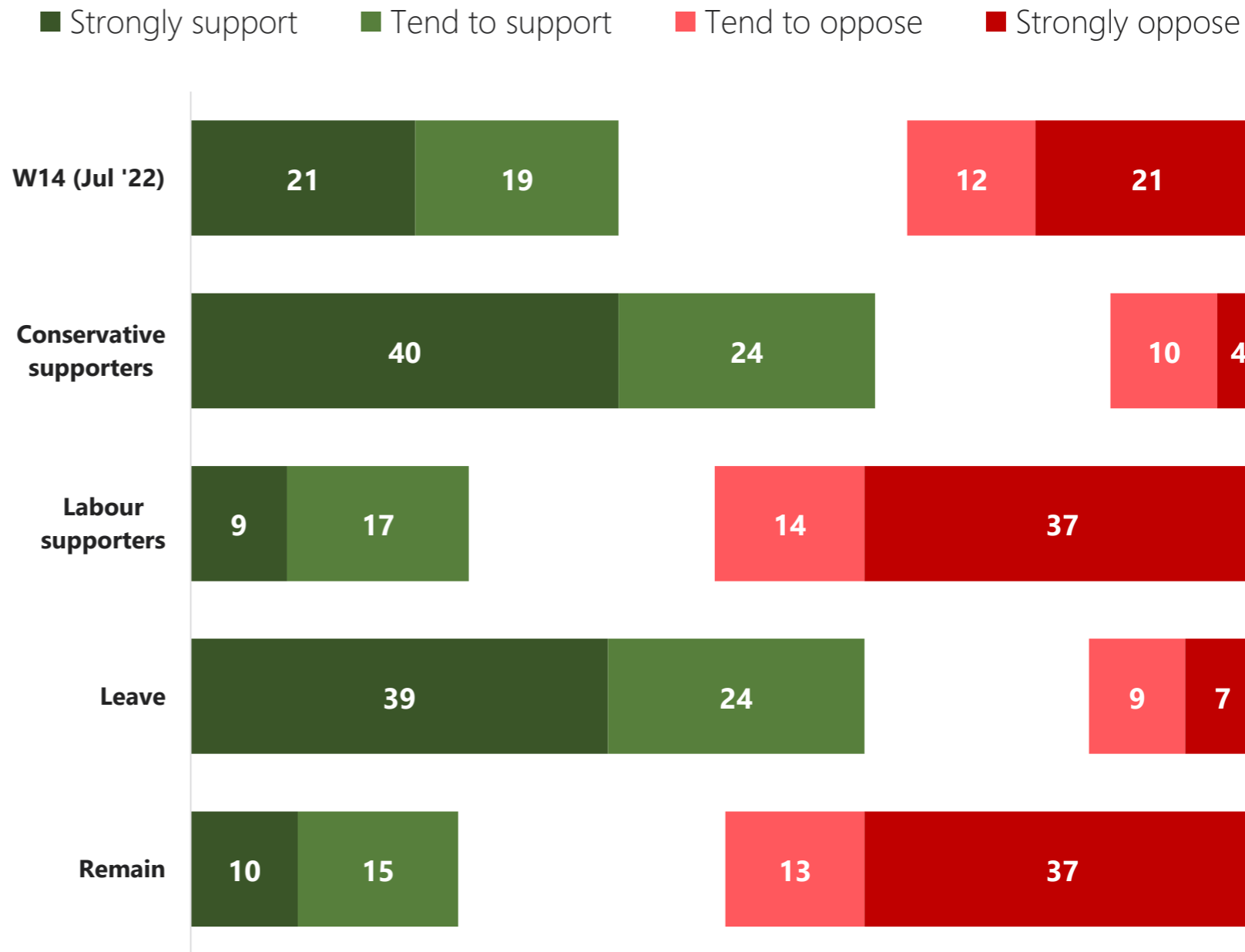
However, just under a quarter would likely take part in a welcoming programme slightly lower from February this year.

Q And how likely, if at all, would you personally be to take part in a welcoming programme?



More Britons support than oppose the government's Rwanda policy- with a majority from Conservative and Leave voters supporting the policy

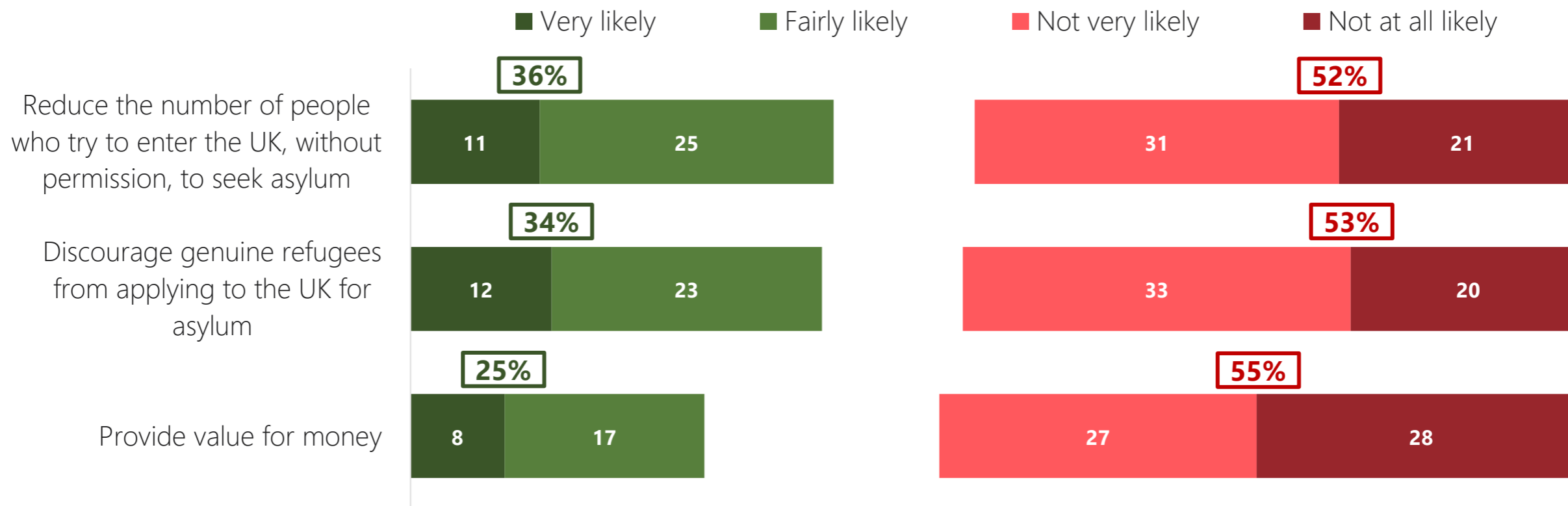
Q The UK Government has recently introduced a policy in which some people who enter the UK to seek asylum, by coming across the Channel without prior permission, will be sent to Rwanda without the UK assessing their claim. Those sent to Rwanda can apply for asylum there through the Rwandan asylum system and will not be eligible to return to the UK. On balance, to what extent, if at all, do you support or oppose this policy?



Base: All respondents (W14: 3004): Fieldwork dates: 19 July to 3 August 2022

A majority think the Rwanda policy is not likely to reduce the number of refugees trying to enter the UK without permission or discourage genuine refugees from applying for asylum while a majority also think the policy will not provide value for money.

Q And how likely or unlikely do you think it is that this policy will...?

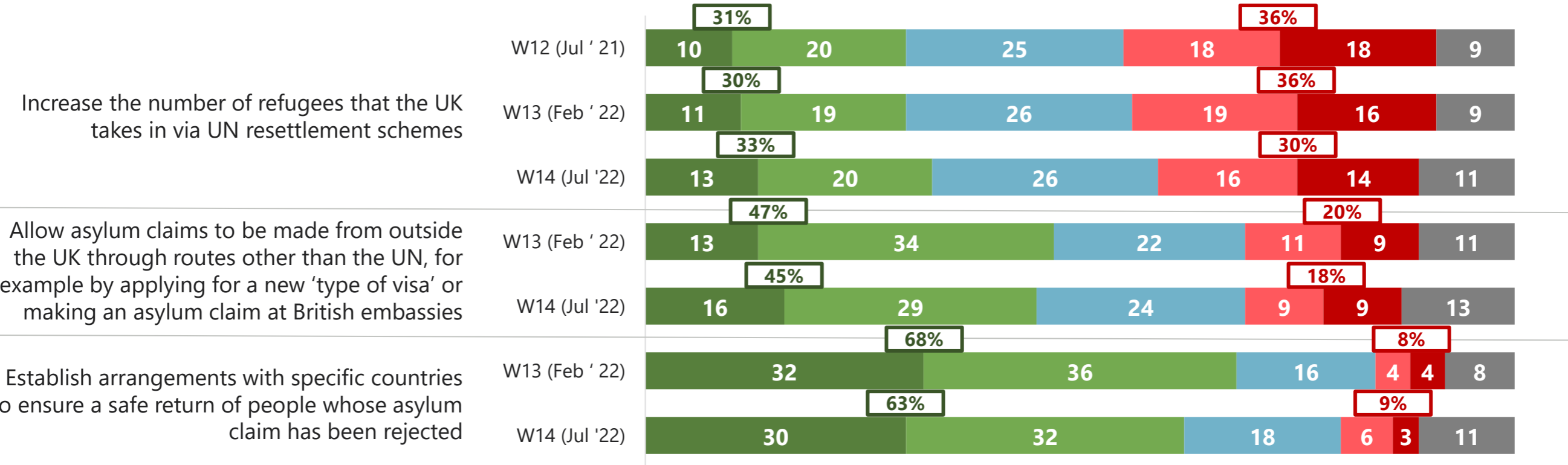


Base: All respondents (W14: 3004); Fieldwork dates: 19 July to 3 August 2022

There is little appetite among the public to take more refugees in from UN resettlement schemes while more support than oppose allowing other routes than the UN, such as a new type of visa

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

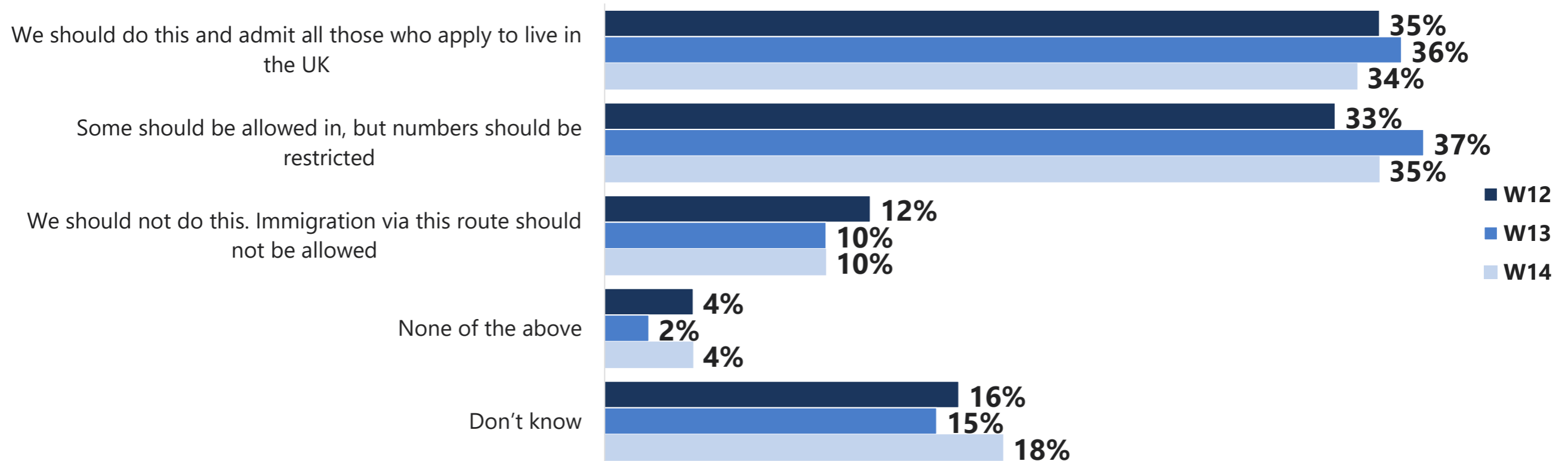
■ % Fully support ■ % Somewhat support ■ % Neither/nor ■ % Somewhat oppose ■ % Fully oppose ■ % Don't know



Base: All respondents (W12: 4000; W13: 3206); Fieldwork dates: 19 July to 3 August 2022

A majority supports the UK Government in allowing at least some of those with BNO citizenship from Hong Kong to come and live in Britain

Q Which of the following statements, if any, comes closest to your view about those with BNO status coming to live in the UK?



Base: All respondents (W12: 4000; W13: 3206; W14: 3004); Fieldwork dates: 19 July to 3 August 2022)

FURTHER INFORMATION

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