IPSOS Public attitudes towards strike action

January 2024



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While support for strikes across several sectors has softened since August, the public continue to be most supportive of health workers considering strike action.

As you may know, workers from some sectors have been on strike over the past year or are considering strike action in the future. From what you know or have heard, to what extent, if at all, would you support or oppose strikes by each of the following, if they did decide to strike?

	Strongly/tend to support	Neither support	nor oppose	Str	ongly/tend to oppose	support since Aug '23
Nurses	58%		15	15% 25%		-5
Ambulance workers	55%		17%	17% 26%		-5
Junior doctors	48%		17%	33%		-5
Teachers	44%	2	21%	33%		-4
Consultants (Senior doctors)	39%	21%		38%		+1
Railway workers	33%	24%		40%		-3
Border force / passport control staff	31%	32%		32%		-3
Civil servants	31%	28%		37%		-1
University staff	30%	30%		37%		-4
Driving examiners	24%	36%		34%		-2
	and 0.070 Online Dritich adults 40.75. 0.44 L	0001				

Base: 2,079 Online British adults 18-75, 9-11 January 2024

N/A* - not asked in the August 2023 survey



% change in

The public are split on whether employers and trade unions have too much power or about the right amount – but half believe workers have too little power in Britain

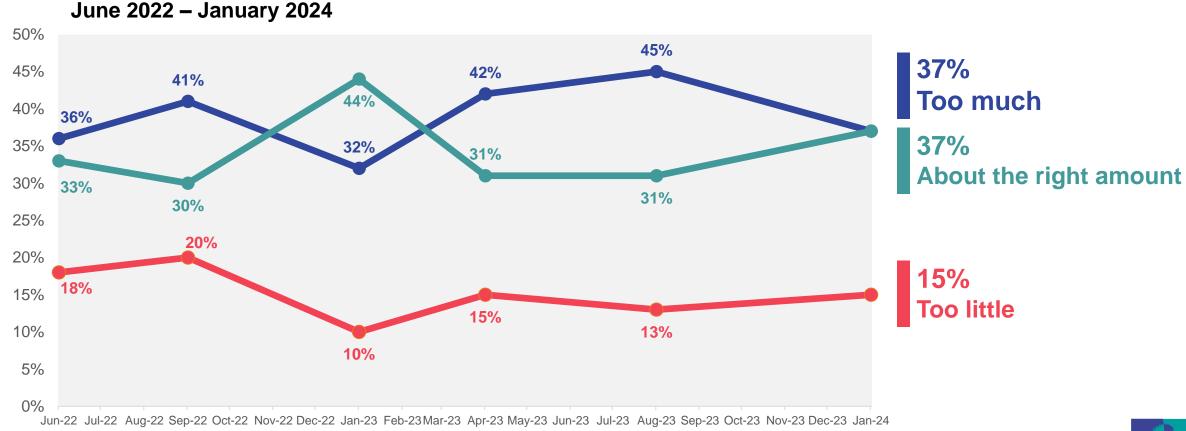
Do you think the following have too much, too little, or about the right amount of power in Britain today?

Too much	About	About the right amount		Too little	
Employers					
37%		37%		15%	
Trade Unions					
30%		31%		23%	
Workers					
7% 31%			53%		



Power in Britain: Employers

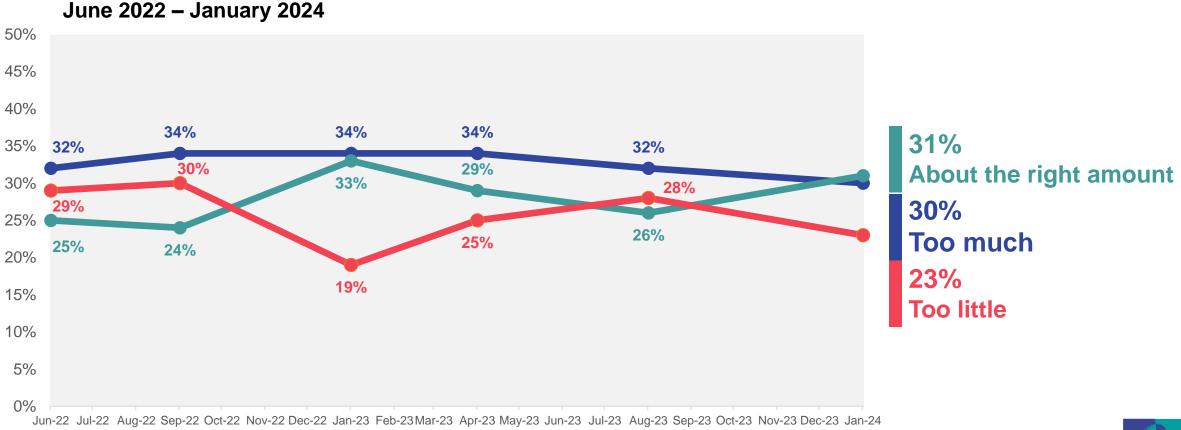
Do you think the following have too much, too little, or about the right amount of power in Britain today? Employers





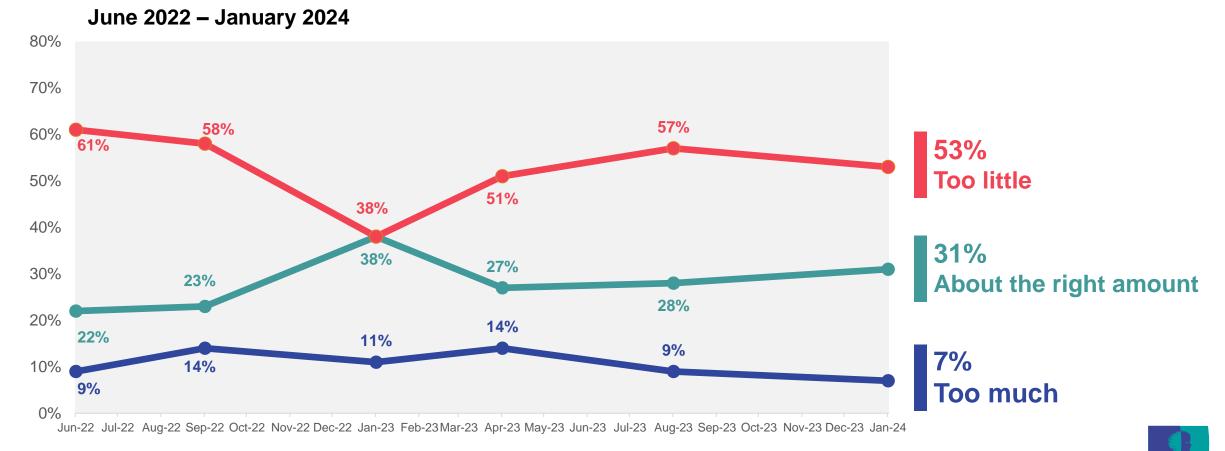
Power in Britain: Trade Unions

Do you think the following have too much, too little, or about the right amount of power in Britain today? Trade Unions



Power in Britain: Workers

Do you think the following have too much, too little, or about the right amount of power in Britain today? Workers



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Over half of Britons continue to think Sunak's government is doing a bad job handling negotiations with trade unions – but continue to be split on whether a hypothetical Labour Government would do a better job or make no difference.

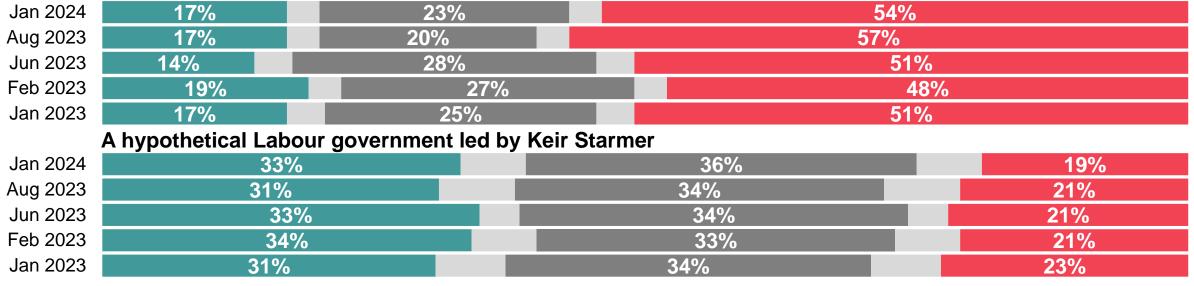
Do you think the UK government led by Rishi Sunak is doing a good job or bad job, if either, at negotiating with trade unions to prevent public sector workers going on strike? / And compared to the current UK Government, do you think a Labour Government led by Keir Starmer, would do a better or worse job at negotiating with trade unions to prevent public sector workers going on strike, or would it make no difference?

Very/fairly good/better job

Neither good nor bad/no difference

Fairly/very bad/worse job

The current UK government led by Rishi Sunak



Base: 2,079 Online British adults 18-75, 9-11 January 2024 N.B. June 2023 wave 16-75.



2019 Conservative voters are also more likely to believe the Govt is doing a bad rather than good job at negotiating with trade unions

Do you think the UK government led by Rishi Sunak is doing a good job or bad job, if either, at negotiating with trade unions to prevent public sector workers going on strike?

Very/fairly good job	Neither good nor b	Fairly/very bad job			
Among all					
17%	23%	54%			
Among 2019 Conservatives voters					
27%	31%	39%			
Among 2019 Labour voters					
13% 14%	70%				

Base: 2,079 Online British adults 18-75, 9-11 January 2024, including 2019 Conservative voters (562), 2019 Labour voters (539)



The public are split between whether a hypothetical UK Government led by Starmer, would do a better job or make no difference in negotiating with trade unions

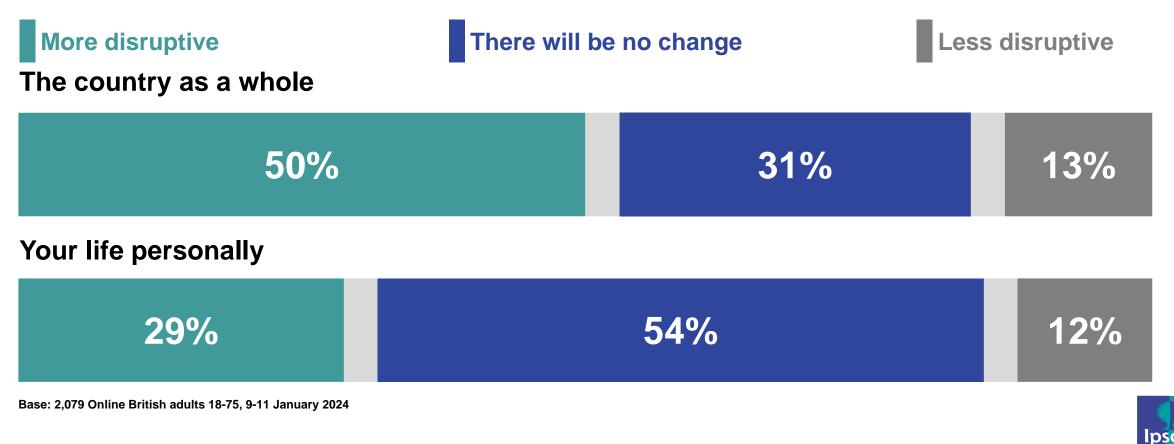
And compared to the current UK Government, do you think a Labour Government led by Keir Starmer, would do a better or worse job at negotiating with trade unions to prevent public sector workers going on strike, or would it make no difference?

A better job	lt	would make no difference	e	A worse job	
Among all					
33%		36%		19%	
Among 2019 Conserv	atives voters				
12%	42%		41%		
Among 2019 Labour v	voters				
	63%		22%	<mark>5%</mark>	
Base: 2,079 Online British adults 18-75, 9-11 January 2024, including 2019 Conservative voters (562), 2019 Labour voters (539)					



Half of Britons expect the impacts of strikes to be more disruptive in 2024 than 2023 to the country as a whole – but half expect there to be no change to their life personally

Thinking about the year ahead compared to last year, do you expect strikes to be more or less disruptive, if either, to...?



How closely have you followed these news stories?

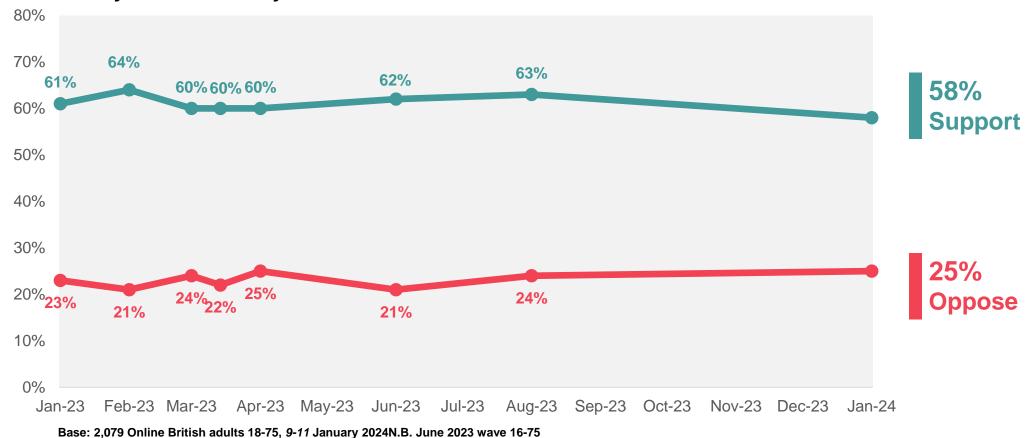
How closely, if at all, have you been following stories about...?

	Very / fairly closely	Not very / at all closely
the rising cost of living		83% 17%
Winter weather		73% 27%
the Post Office scandal and treatment of its employees	63%	<mark>6 36%</mark>
the current conflict in Israel and Gaza	60%	39%
the Russian invasion of Ukraine	59%	40%
Possible strikes from public sector workers	57% 4	2%
	Base: 2,079 Online British adults 18-75, 9-11 January	2024



Support for strikes: Nurses

As you may know, workers from some sectors have been on strike over the past year or are considering strike action in the future. From what you know or have heard, to what extent, if at all, would you support or oppose strikes by each of the following, if they did decide to strike? Nurses

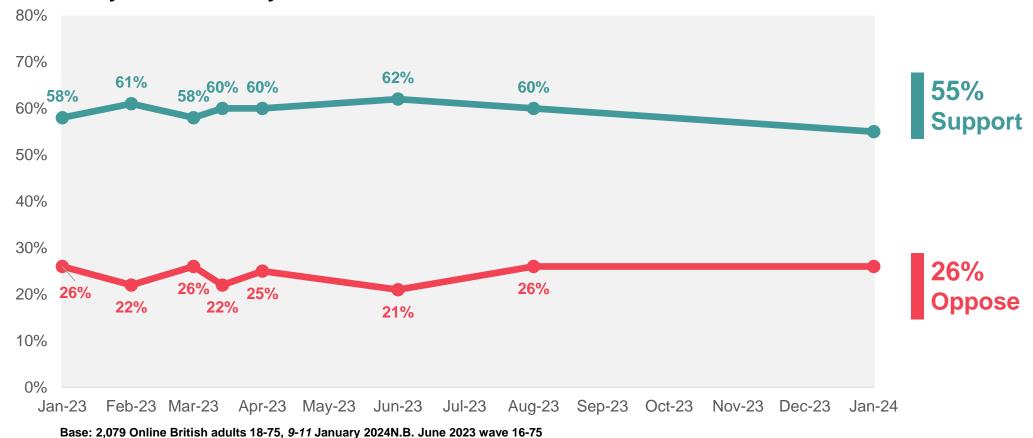


January 2023 – January 2024



Support for strikes: Ambulance workers

As you may know, workers from some sectors have been on strike over the past year or are considering strike action in the future. From what you know or have heard, to what extent, if at all, would you support or oppose strikes by each of the following, if they did decide to strike? Ambulance workers

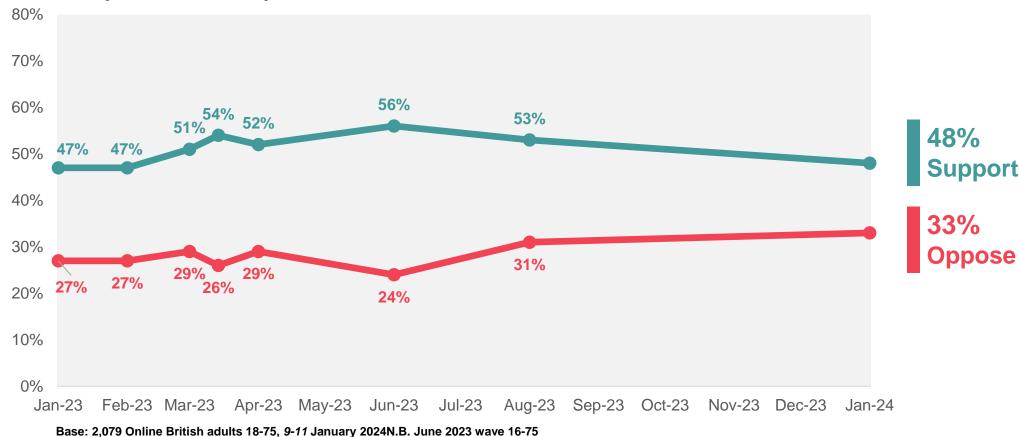


January 2023 – January 2024



Support for strikes: Junior doctors

As you may know, workers from some sectors have been on strike over the past year or are considering strike action in the future. From what you know or have heard, to what extent, if at all, would you support or oppose strikes by each of the following, if they did decide to strike? Junior Doctors

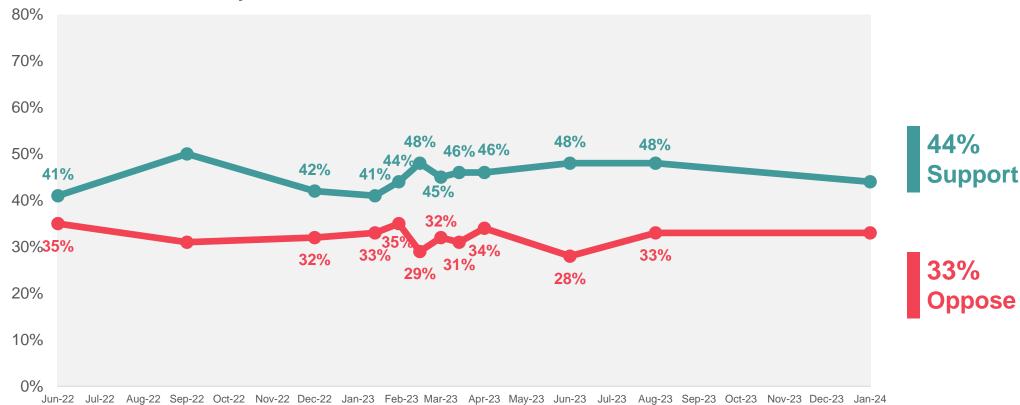


January 2023 – January 2024



Support for strikes: Teachers

As you may know, workers from some sectors have been on strike over the past year or are considering strike action in the future. From what you know or have heard, to what extent, if at all, would you support or oppose strikes by each of the following, if they did decide to strike? **Teachers**



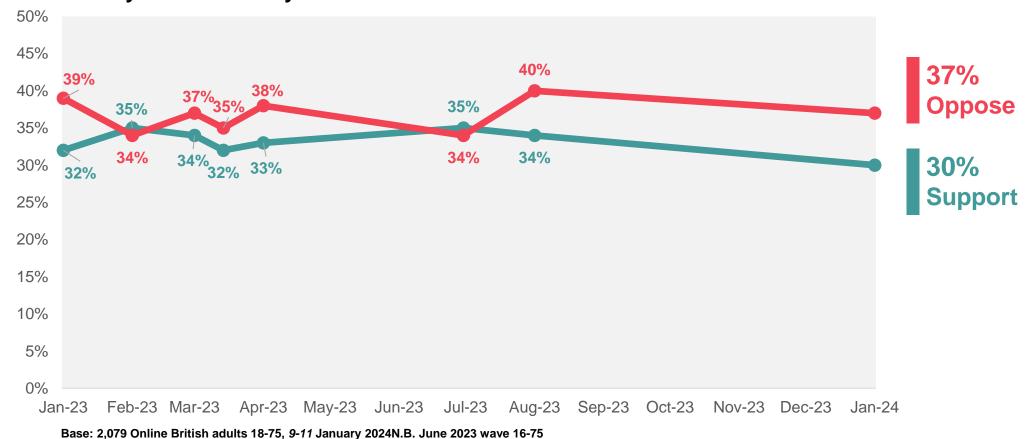
June 2022 – January 2024



Base: 2,079 Online British adults 18-75, 9-11 January 2024N.B. June 2023 wave 16-75

Support for strikes: University staff

As you may know, workers from some sectors have been on strike over the past year or are considering strike action in the future. From what you know or have heard, to what extent, if at all, would you support or oppose strikes by each of the following, if they did decide to strike? University staff

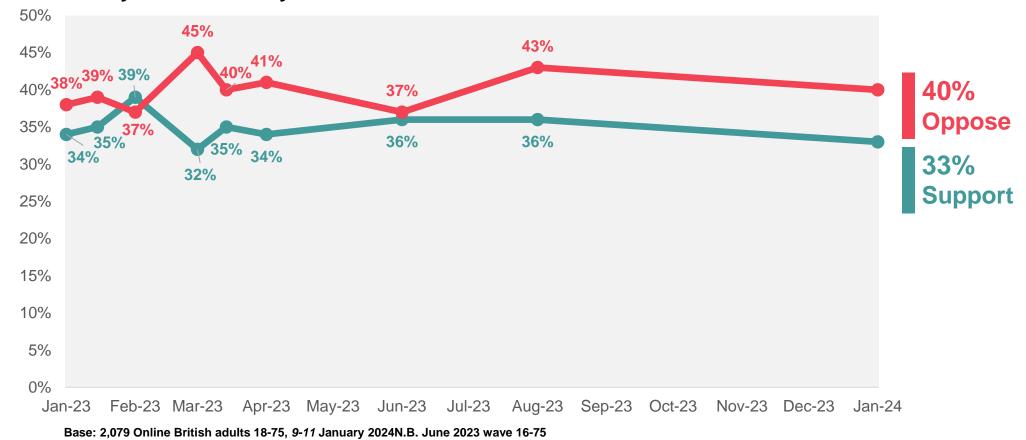


January 2023 – January 2024



Support for strikes: Railway workers

As you may know, workers from some sectors have been on strike over the past year or are considering strike action in the future. From what you know or have heard, to what extent, if at all, would you support or oppose strikes by each of the following, if they did decide to strike? Railway workers

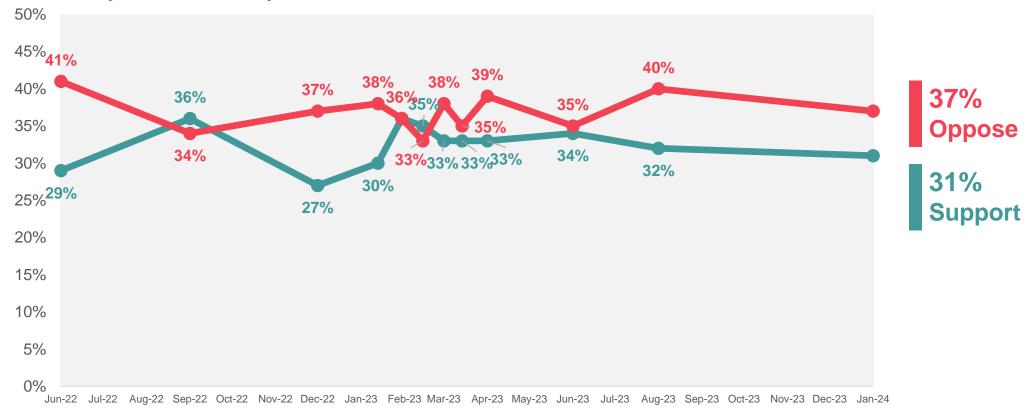


January 2023 – January 2024



Support for strikes: Civil servants

As you may know, workers from some sectors have been on strike over the past year or are considering strike action in the future. From what you know or have heard, to what extent, if at all, would you support or oppose strikes by each of the following, if they did decide to strike? **Civil servants**



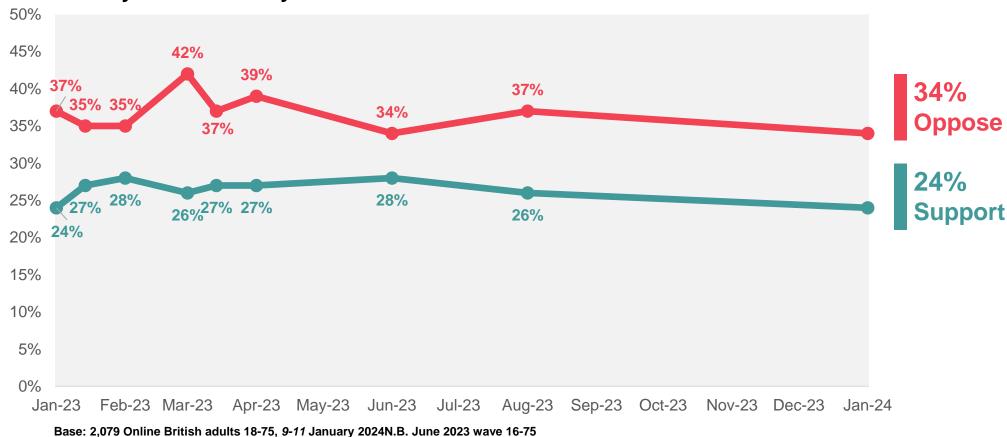
January 2023 – January 2024



Base: 2,079 Online British adults 18-75, 9-11 January 2024N.B. June 2023 wave 16-75

Support for strikes: Driving examiners

As you may know, workers from some sectors have been on strike over the past year or are considering strike action in the future. From what you know or have heard, to what extent, if at all, would you support or oppose strikes by each of the following, if they did decide to strike? Driving examiners



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