

Ipsos Education polling

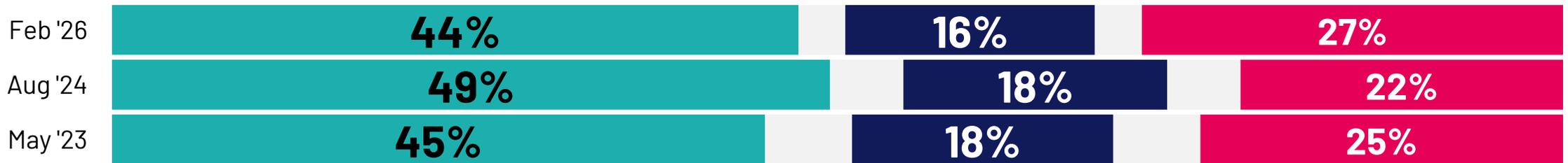
February 2026

44% of Britons think it is worth going to university, down slightly from August 2024

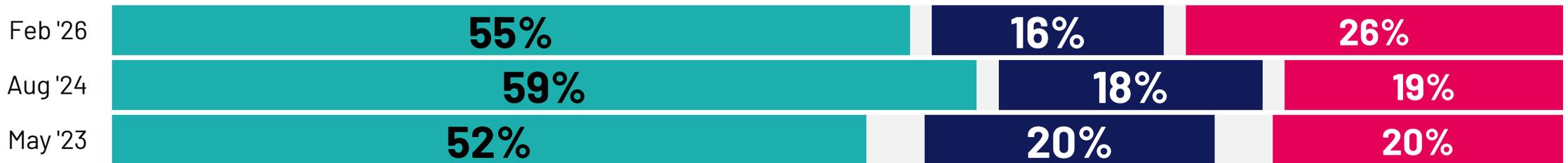
Thinking about the young people in your family or that you might know, to what extent do you think it would be worth it or not worth it for them to go to university?



Among all



Among parents of children in education

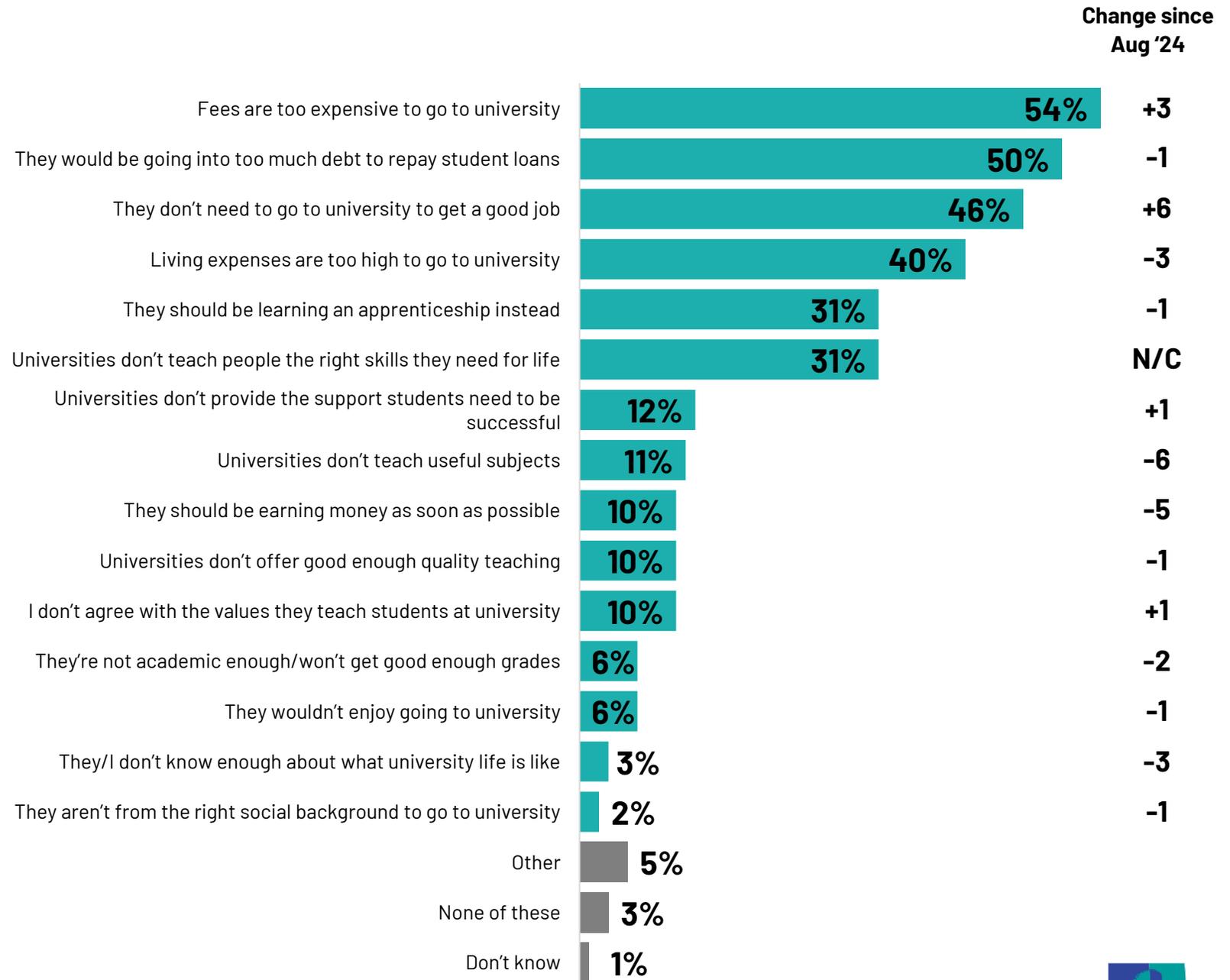


Base: 2,260 Online British adults aged 18+, including 810 parents of children in education, 13-17 February 2026

Among those who do not think it is worth going to university the cost and the level of debt continue to be key issues

Why do you not feel it is not worth it for them to go to university?

Base: 888 Online British adults aged 18+ who say it's not worth going to university, 13-17 February 2026



Britons tend to favour reducing the annual cost of university or making it free through annual taxation

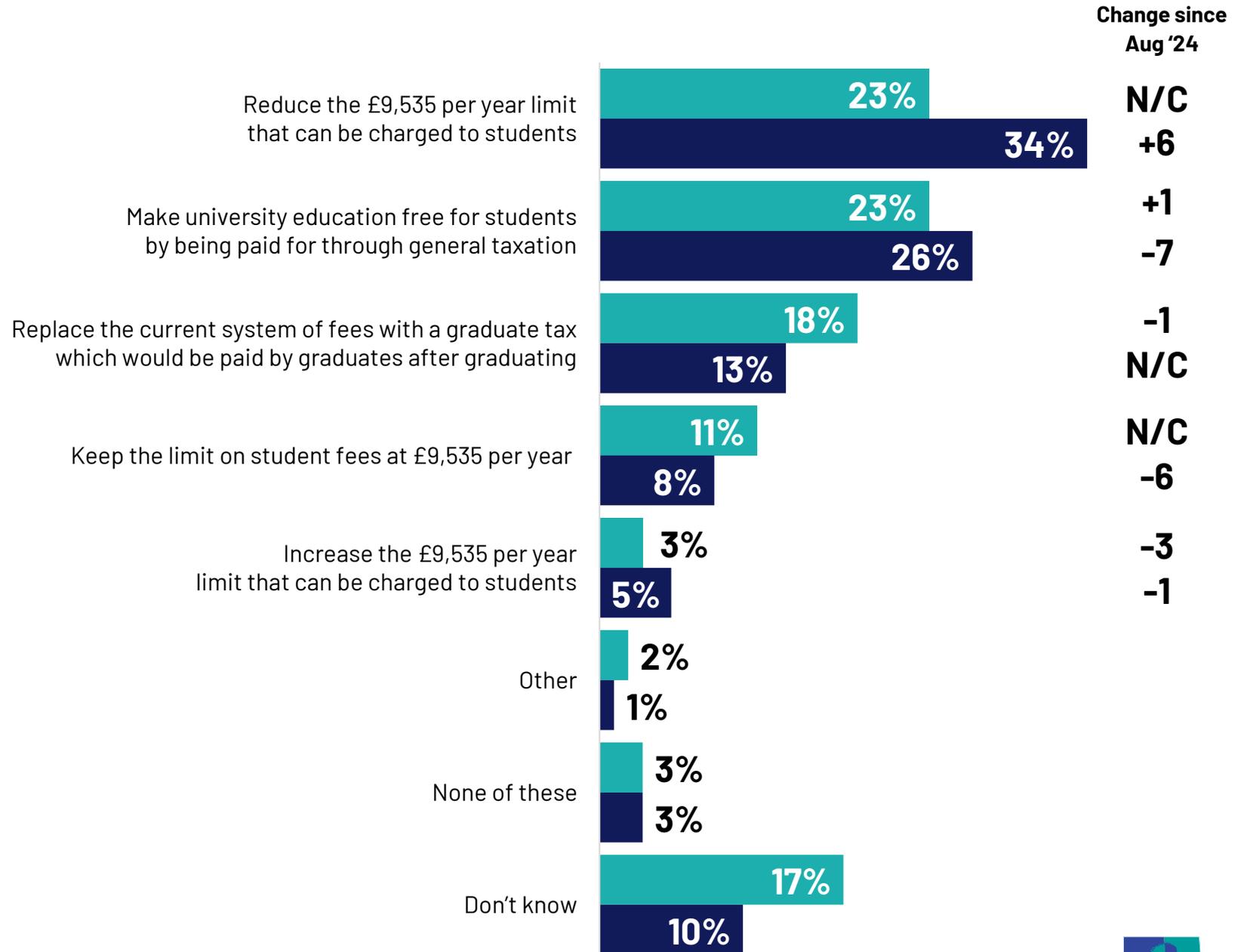
Which, if any, of the following best describes what you think the government should do with tuition fees for undergraduate degree programmes in England?

Base: 1,950 Online adults aged 18+ in England, including 373 Gen Z, 13-17 February 2026

* Note change in the cost of fees from August 2024

Among all living in England

Among Gen Z

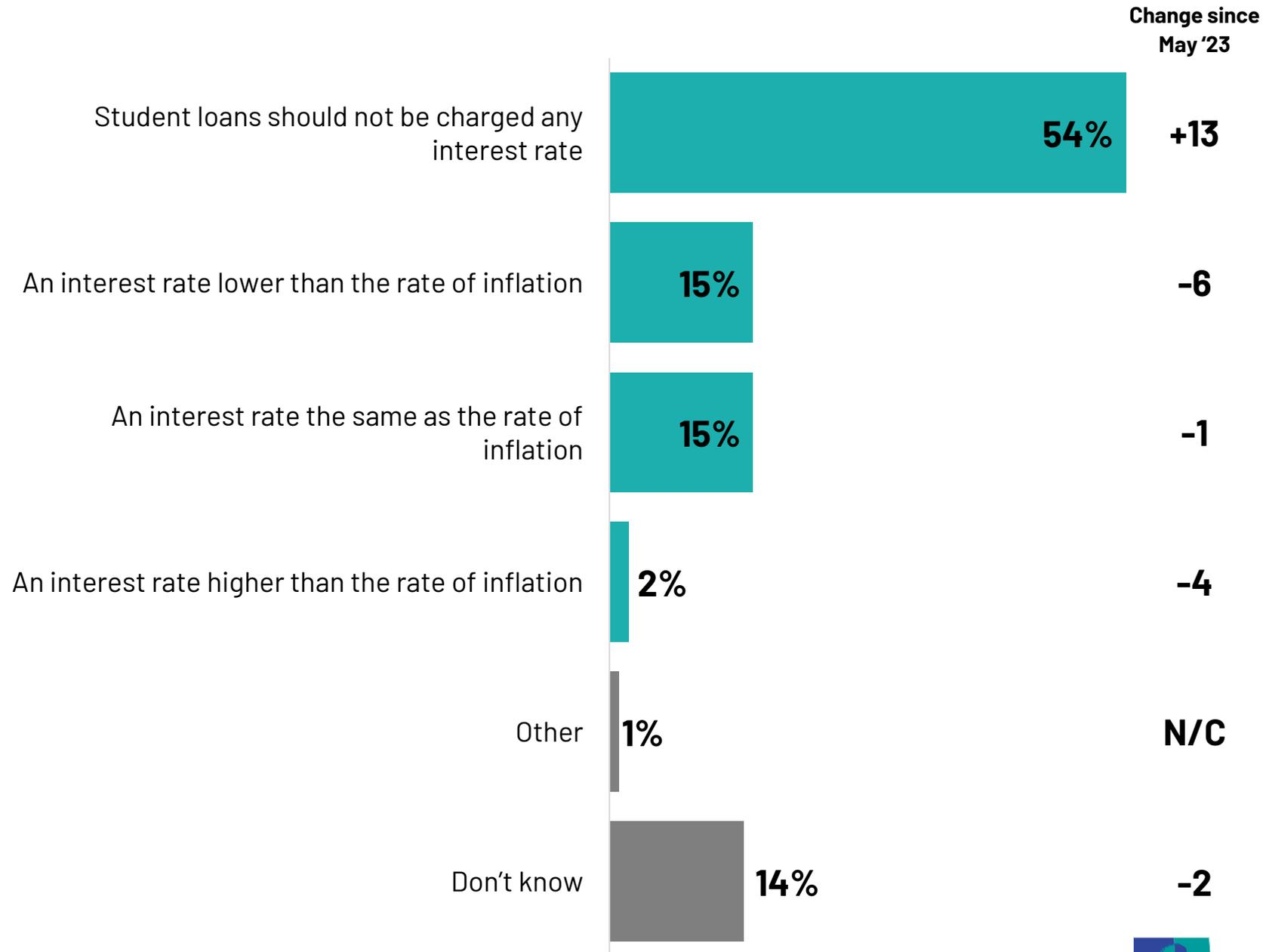


Over half of Britons think student loans should not be charged any interest rate, up from 41% in May 2023

As you may know students in England currently pay back their student loans when they start earning at a certain rate.

Which of the following, if any, best describes what interest rate you think should be charged on student loans?

Base: 1,950 Online adults aged 18+ in England 13-17 February 2026



Four in ten Britons do not know what interest rate is currently charged on student loans

And which of the following, if any, do you think best describes what interest rate is currently being charged on student loans?

Base: 1,950 Online adults aged 18+ in England 13-17 February 2026

An interest rate higher than the rate of inflation

23%

An interest rate the same as the rate of inflation

14%

Student loans are not charged any interest rate

10%

An interest rate lower than the rate of inflation

10%

Other

1%

Don't know

41%

Whilst half of Britons think student loans should not be charged any interest rate, just one in ten think this is what currently happens

Which of the following, if any, best describes what interest rate you think should be charged/is currently being charged on student loans?

Which of the following, if any, best describes what interest rate you think should be charged on student loans?

Which of the following, if any, do you think best describes what interest rate is currently being charged on student loans?

Student loans should not be charged any interest rate / are not charged any interest rate



An interest rate lower than the rate of inflation



An interest rate the same as the rate of inflation



An interest rate higher than the rate of inflation



Other



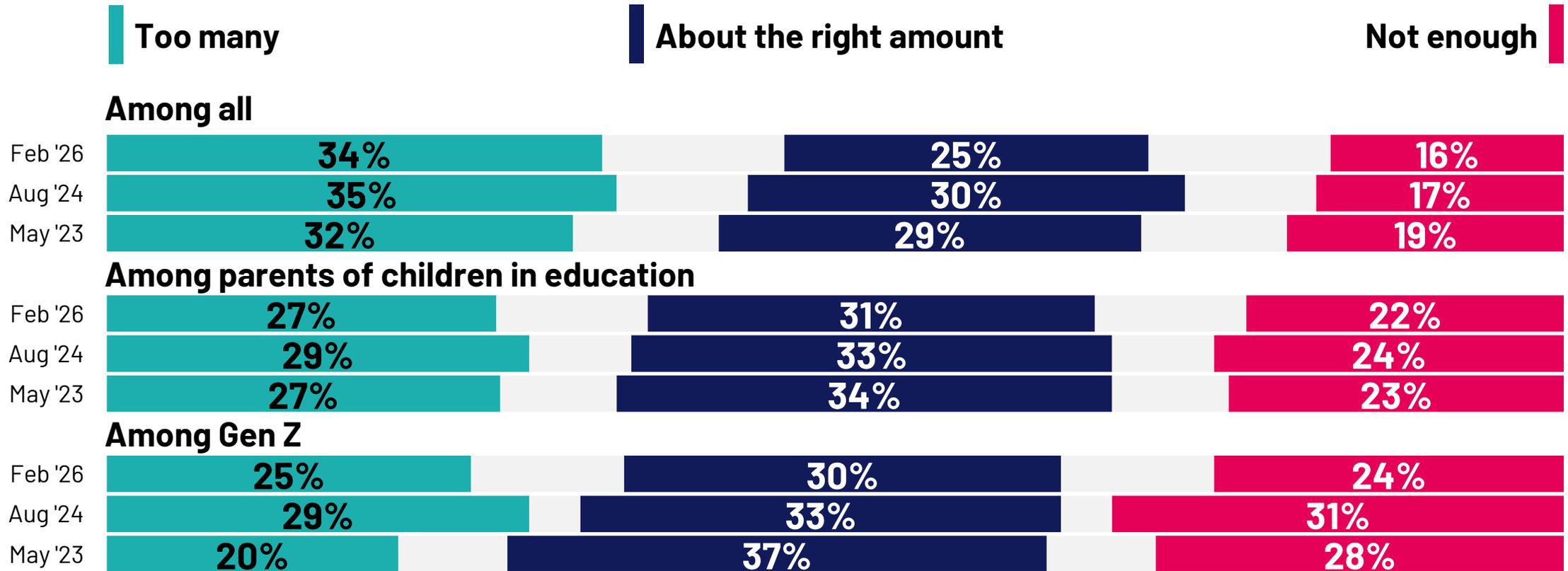
Don't know



Base: 1,950 Online adults aged 18+ in England 13-17 February 2026

A third of Britons think too many young people go to university

When thinking about the amount of young people who go to university, in your opinion, is it too many young people, not enough young people, or about the right amount?



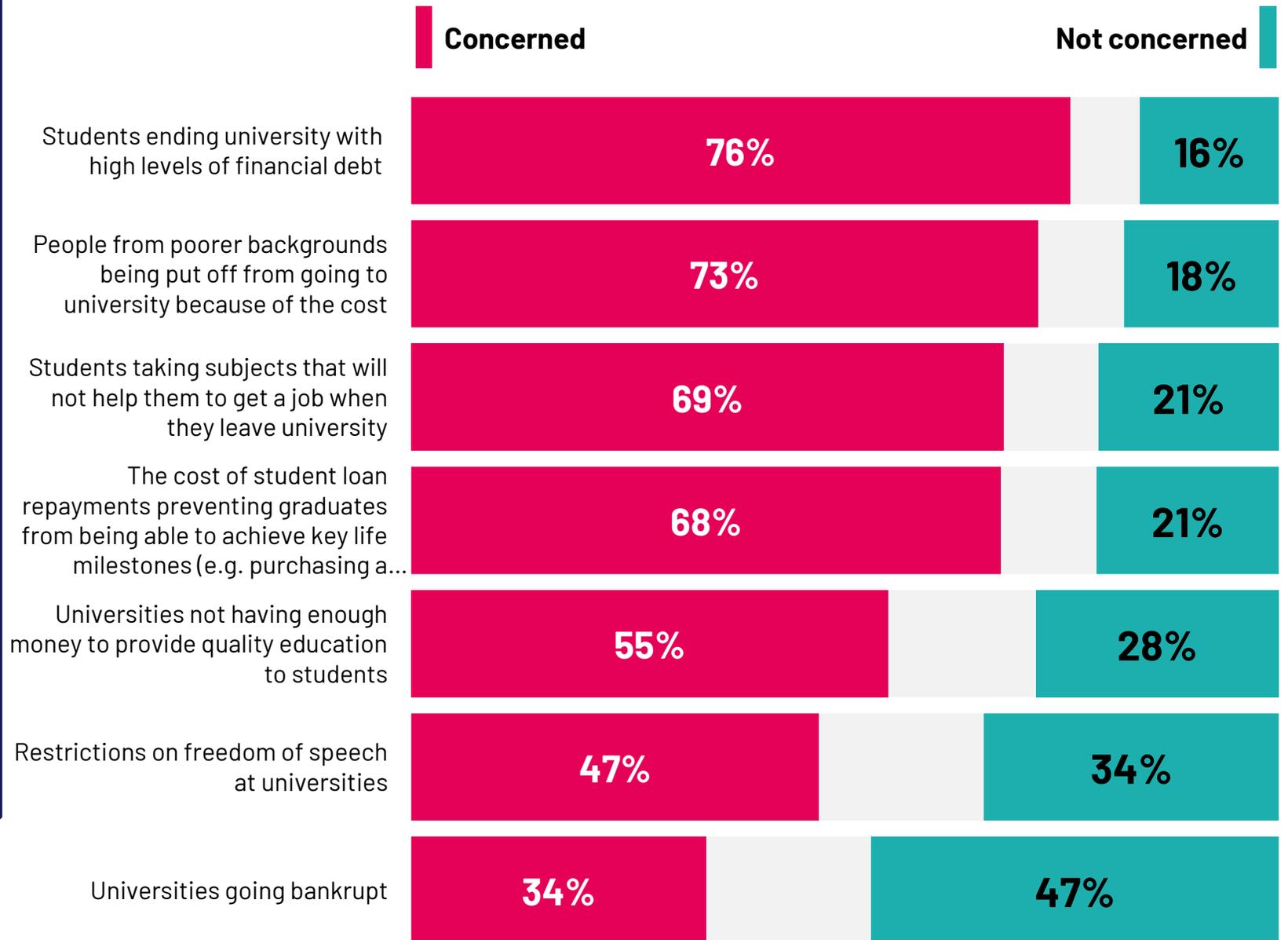
Base: 2,260 Online British adults aged 18+, including 810 parents of children in education and 427 Gen Z, 13-17 February 2026

* Note small base size for Gen Z

Three quarters of Britons are concerned that students end up with high levels of debt from going to university

When thinking about universities in Britain, to what extent, if at all, are you concerned about each of the following ?

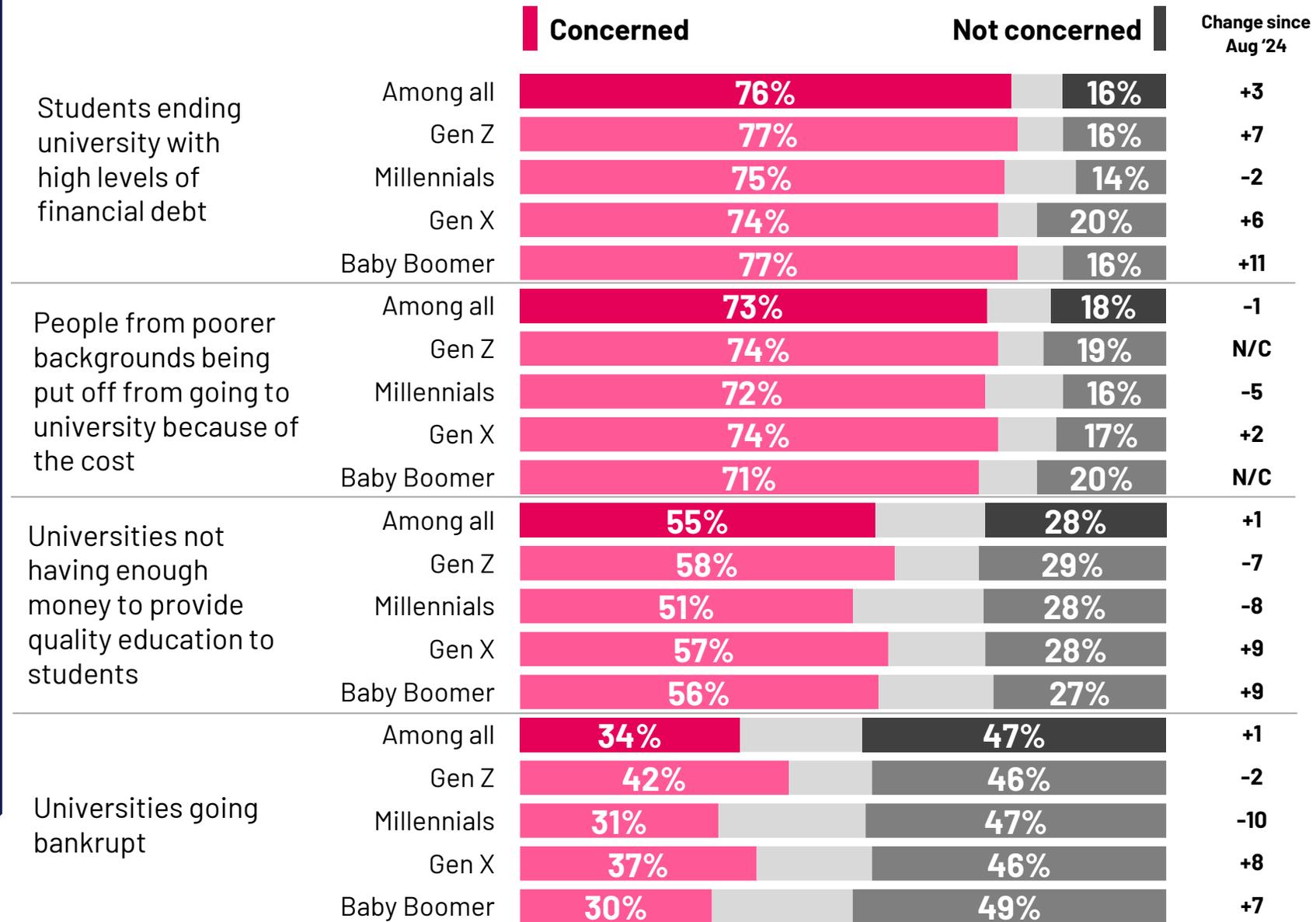
Base: 2,260 Online British adults aged 18+, 13-17 February 2026



Attitudes towards universities are consistent across generations

When thinking about universities in Britain, to what extent, if at all, are you concerned about each of the following?

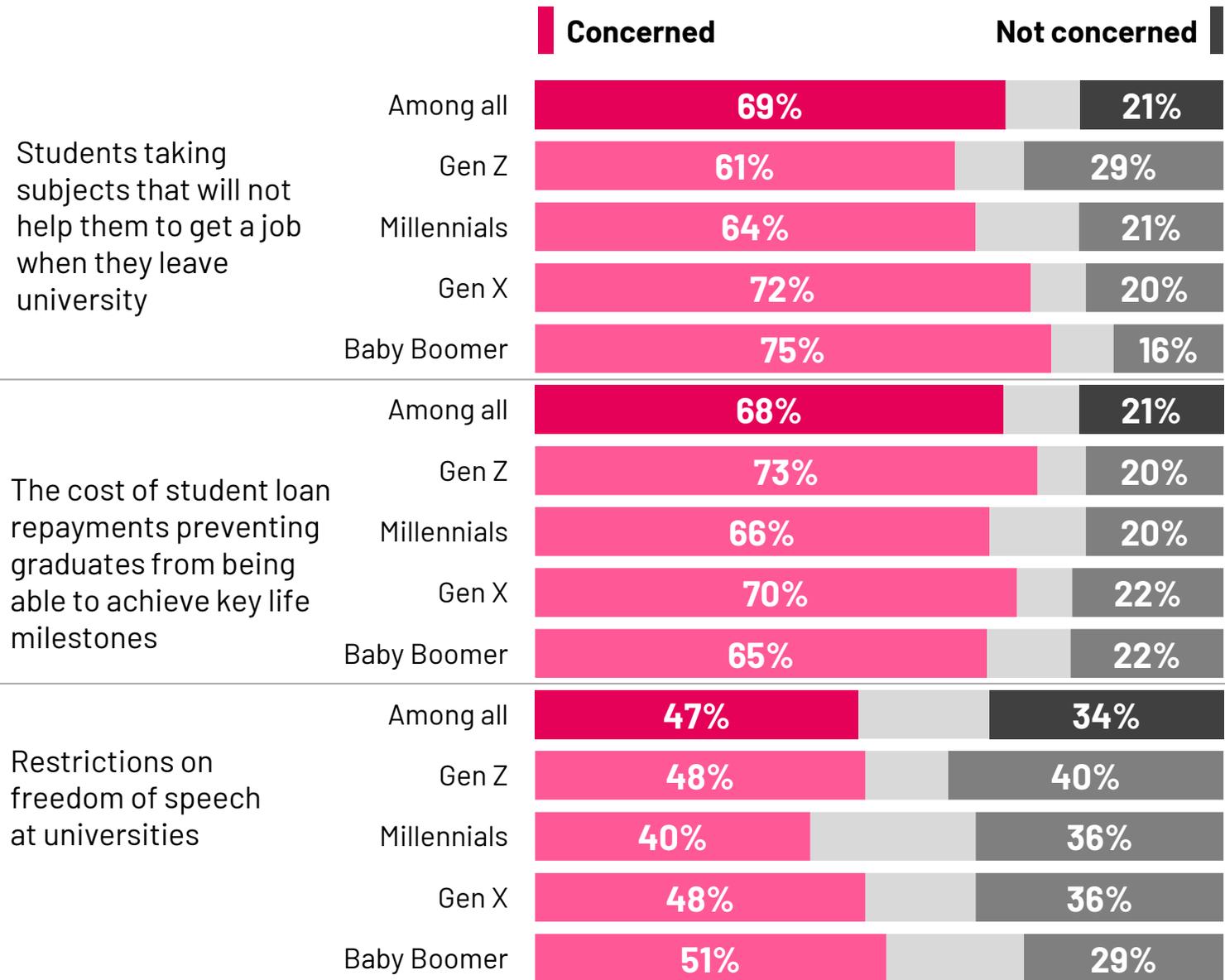
Base: 2,260 Online British adults aged 18+, including 427 Gen Z, 667 Millennials, 558 Gen X and 608 Baby Boomers, 13-17 February 2026.



Over two thirds of Britons are concerned that the cost of student loan repayments prevents graduates from achieving key life milestones

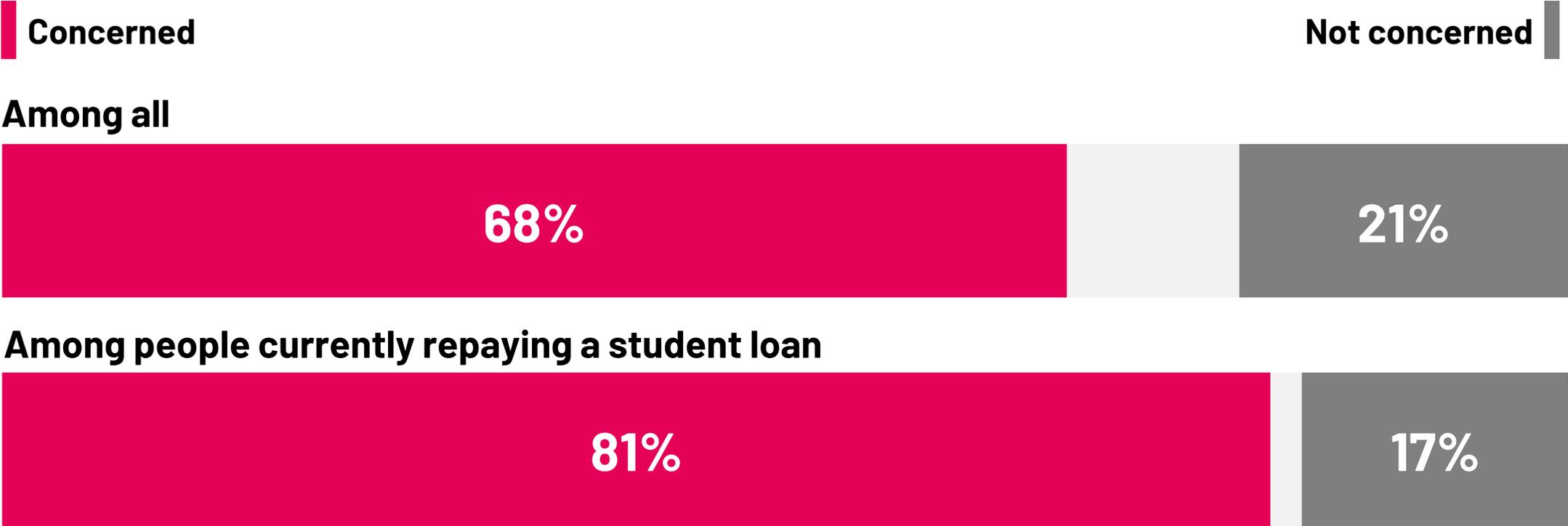
When thinking about universities in Britain, to what extent, if at all, are you concerned about each of the following?

Base: 2,260 Online British adults aged 18+, including 427 Gen Z, 667 Millennials, 558 Gen X and 608 Baby Boomers, 13-17 February 2026.



Four in five Britons currently repaying a student loan are concerned that the cost of repayments prevent graduates from achieving key life milestones

When thinking about universities in Britain, to what extent, if at all, are you concerned about each of the following? *The cost of student loan repayments preventing graduates from being able to achieve key life milestones (e.g. purchasing a house, starting a family, getting married, etc.)*



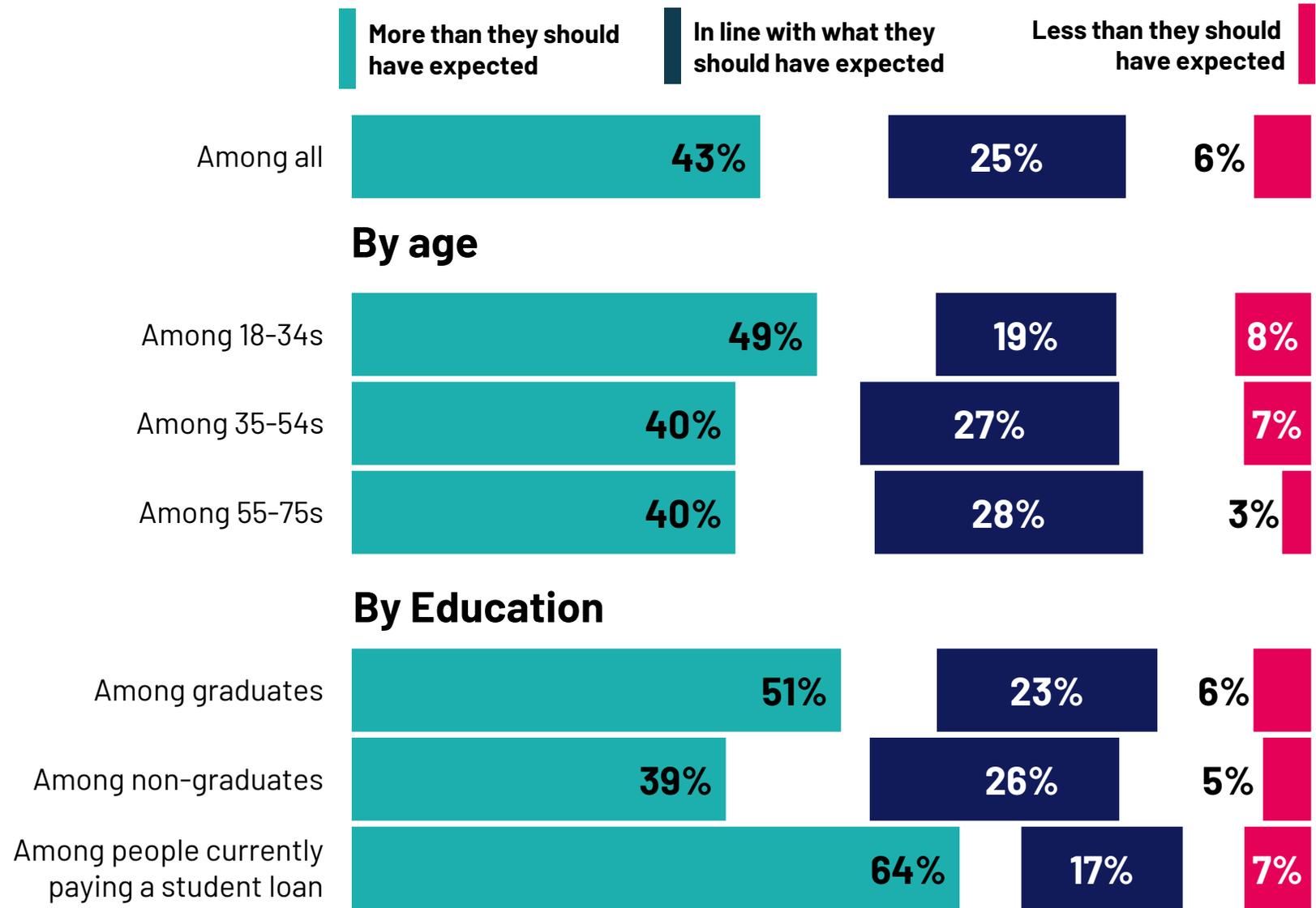
Base: 2,260 Online British adults aged 18+, including 284 Currently paying a student loan, 13-17 February 2026



Four in ten Britons think the amount graduates are paying off on their student loan is more than they should have expected when they took out the loan. This rises to almost two thirds among people currently paying a student loan.

Now thinking about graduates who have been to university and are will need to paying off their student loans, do you think that the total amount they will need to repay to pay off their loans is in line with what they should have expected to pay at the time they took out their loan, more than they should have expected or less than they should have expected?

Base: 2,260 Online British adults aged 18+, including 675 18-34-year-olds, 796 35-54s, 789 55-75s, 1,349 Graduates, 911 Non-graduates and 284 Currently paying a student loan, 13-17 February 2026





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For more information

Gideon Skinner

Research Director

gideon.skinner@ipsos.com

Keiran Pedley

Research Director

keiran.pedley@ipsos.com

Ben Roff

Senior Research Executive

ben.roff@ipsos.com