

UNDERSTANDING AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND: INFRASTRUCTURE INDEX 2026

August 2026

A 30-Country Global
Advisor Survey

In partnership with:



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2026 | Public



Key findings – New Zealand



More New Zealanders are dissatisfied with infrastructure than satisfied

31% of New Zealanders are satisfied with national infrastructure, while 41% are dissatisfied. Satisfaction has improved significantly (by 4 percentage points) since 2024 but remains well below both historical levels and the global average.



New Zealand is falling behind on infrastructure

Two-thirds (69%) agree New Zealand is not doing enough to meet its infrastructure needs, and the same proportion believe infrastructure has not been adapted enough to cope with future climate change.



Infrastructure priorities have shifted towards resilience and sustainability

Water supply and sewerage remains New Zealand's leading infrastructure investment priority (47%), while solar energy infrastructure (40%) and flood defences (39%) now rank among the highest priorities. Prioritisation of new housing supply has fallen substantially since 2024.



Infrastructure investment is seen as an economic necessity

82% New Zealanders believe infrastructure investment will create jobs and boost the economy, while 78% say maintaining existing infrastructure is just as important as building new assets. A majority (55%) also see infrastructure investment as contributing to climate change mitigation.



Confidence in infrastructure delivery remains low

Only one in five New Zealanders (21%) believe the country has a good record of delivering national infrastructure projects, despite widespread recognition of the need for greater investment.



New Zealanders want better infrastructure, but looking for ways to share the cost

Although most New Zealanders believe more infrastructure investment is needed, only 41% support increased spending if it results in higher taxes or consumer costs. Consistent with this, New Zealanders are most likely to favour a combination of public and private funding across a range of infrastructure outcomes.

Key findings - Global



A largely static picture for overall citizen satisfaction

Across the global country average, four in ten (38%) are satisfied with their national infrastructure, in line with figures from recent years. Three in ten (30%) are dissatisfied. Nearly a third say they are neither satisfied or dissatisfied (27%) or don't know (1%).



Recognised economic and environment dividend of investment

Seven in ten (72%) think that investment would create jobs and boost the economy, six in ten (59%) that it can make an important contribution to combating climate change. But investment in maintenance matters as much as investment in new infrastructure for three-quarters (73%).



Sharpest falls in some G7 nations

There have been falls in satisfaction between 2024 and 2026 in Britain and Germany (both 11 percentage points) and in the U.S. (8 points). This year, Singapore tops the list of most satisfied citizens (74%), compared with just 16% in Hungary and 22% in Spain.



An openness to private sector role if it gets results

In the context of public sector funding shortfalls, 70% say they are comfortable with private sector investment if it delivers necessary improvements. A majority believe private sector funding on its own or in combination with public sector funding is likely to improve infrastructure in several ways.



Priorities for investment have changed and vary

Flood defences are a higher priority in 2026 (perhaps reflecting more extreme flooding events) while rail has moved up as a priority. But there is considerable variation – e.g. water supply and sewerage is chosen by 72% in South Africa and only 19% in South Korea.



But limited appetite for paying and confidence in ability to deliver

Only a third (34%) believe their country has a good record of delivering infrastructure projects, and 57% feel their country is not doing enough to meet infrastructure needs. But 38% are comfortable with funding extra spending through higher taxes or costs for consumers to improve infrastructure.

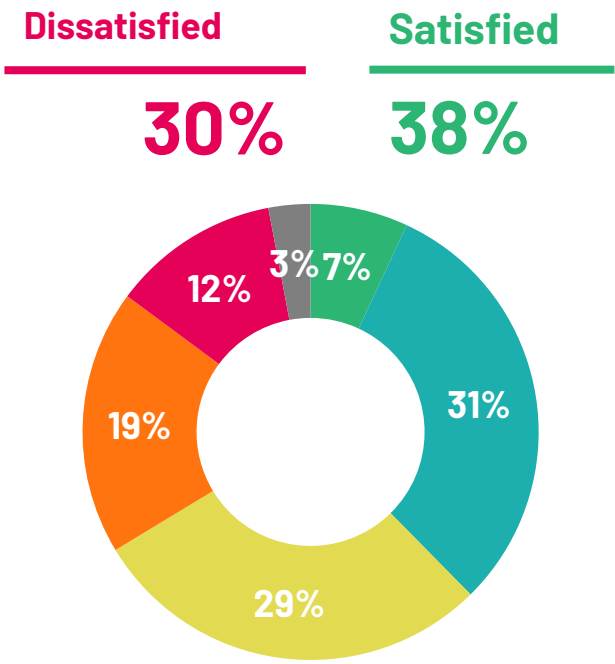
More New Zealanders are dissatisfied with national infrastructure than satisfied.

Q. We now want you to think about [COUNTRY'S] infrastructure. By infrastructure we mean things we rely on like road, rail and air networks, utilities such as energy and water, and broadband and other communications.

Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with [COUNTRY'S] national infrastructure?

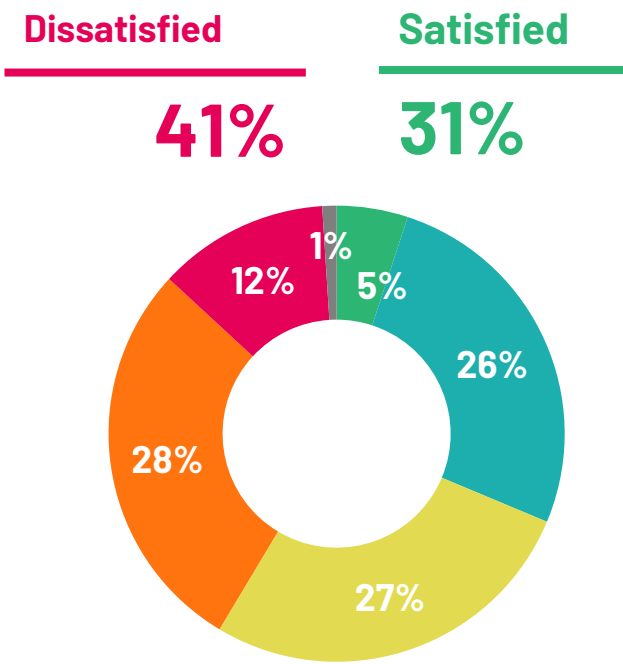
Base: New Zealand total (1,001), Global total (21,521 adults (online), 29 countries)
April - May 2026

Global Country Average*



- Very satisfied
- Fairly satisfied
- Neither/nor
- Fairly dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied
- Don't know

New Zealand Average



* N.B. "The Global Country Average" reflects the average result for all the countries and markets in which the survey was conducted. It has not been adjusted to the population size of each country or market and is not intended to suggest a total result. The number of countries involved has changed over time e.g. 26 in 2016, 32 in 2024, 29 in 2026.



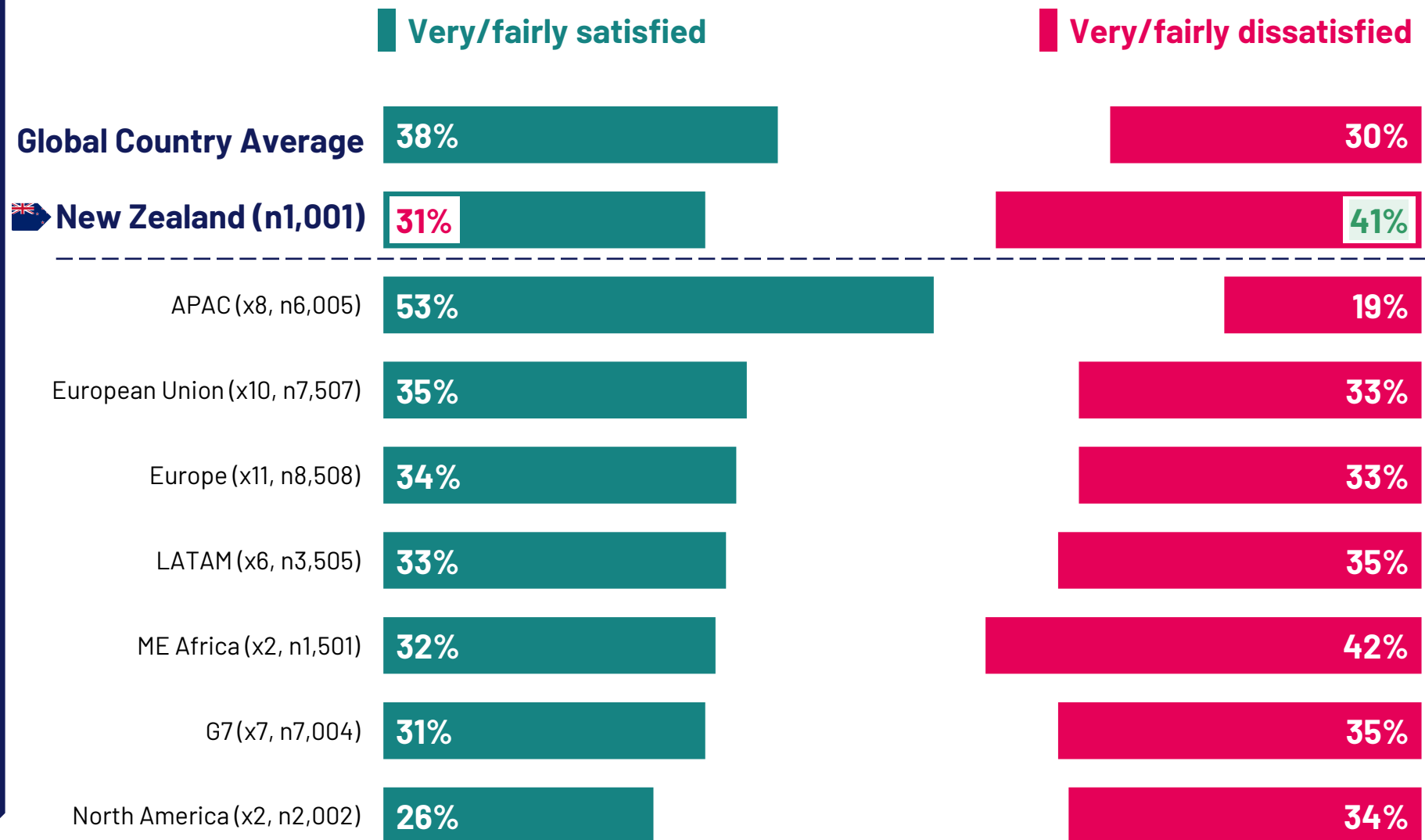
New Zealanders are markedly more dissatisfied with infrastructure than others around the world.

Q. We now want you to think about [COUNTRY'S] infrastructure. By infrastructure we mean things we rely on like road, rail and air networks, utilities such as energy and water, and broadband and other communications.

Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with [COUNTRY'S] national infrastructure?

See **Appendix** for note on regional classifications. Number of countries and aggregate base size in each region shown in ().

Base: New Zealand total (1,001), Global total (21,521 adults (online), 29 countries) April - May 2026



green / red indicates significantly higher / lower compared to the Global Average

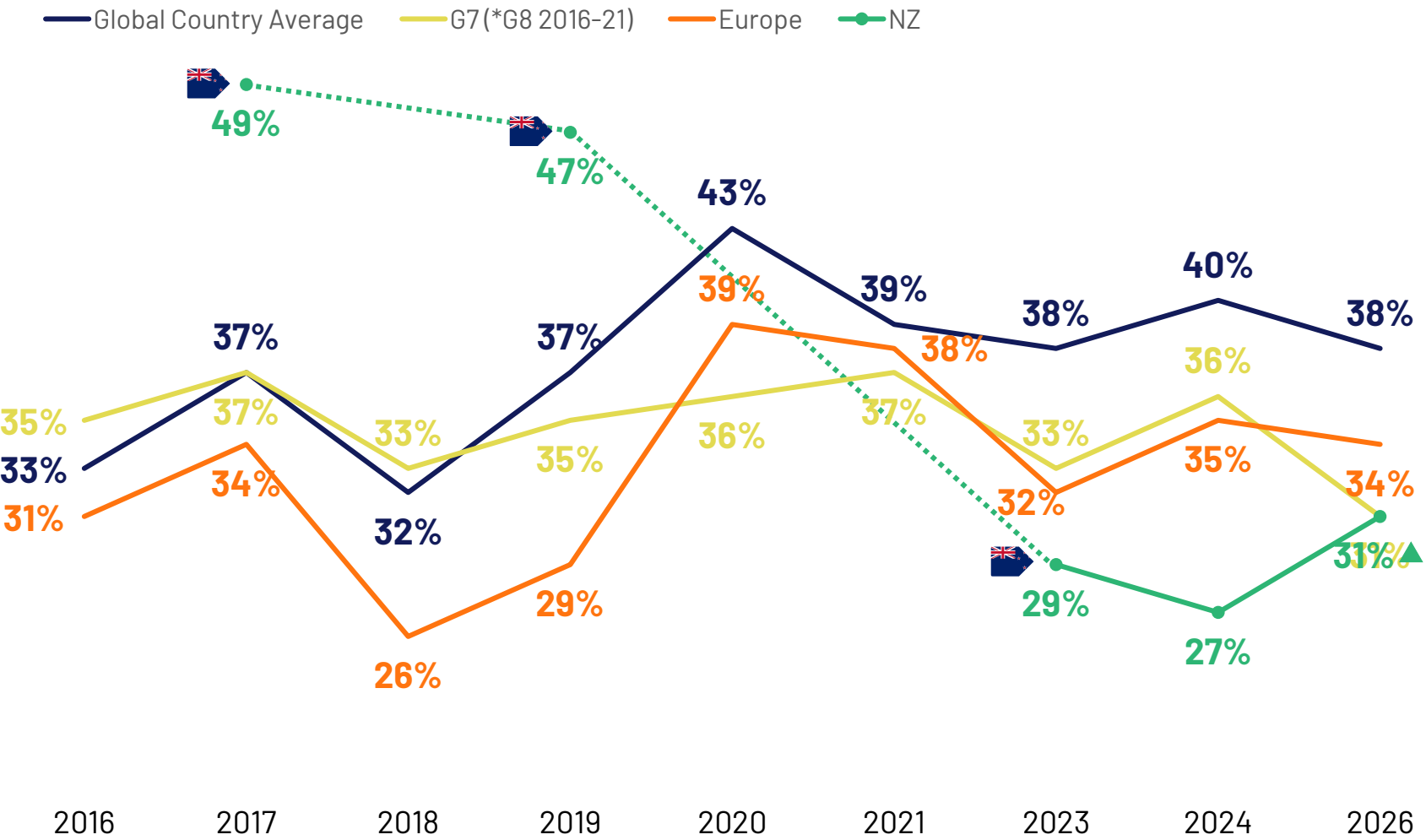
Infrastructure satisfaction in New Zealand has improved significantly from 2024 but remains well below historic levels.

Q. We now want you to think about [COUNTRY'S] infrastructure. By infrastructure we mean things we rely on like road, rail and air networks, utilities such as energy and water, and broadband and other communications.

Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with [COUNTRY'S] national infrastructure?

Base: New Zealand total (1,001), Global total (21,521 adults (online), 29 countries) April – May 2026

% very/fairly satisfied



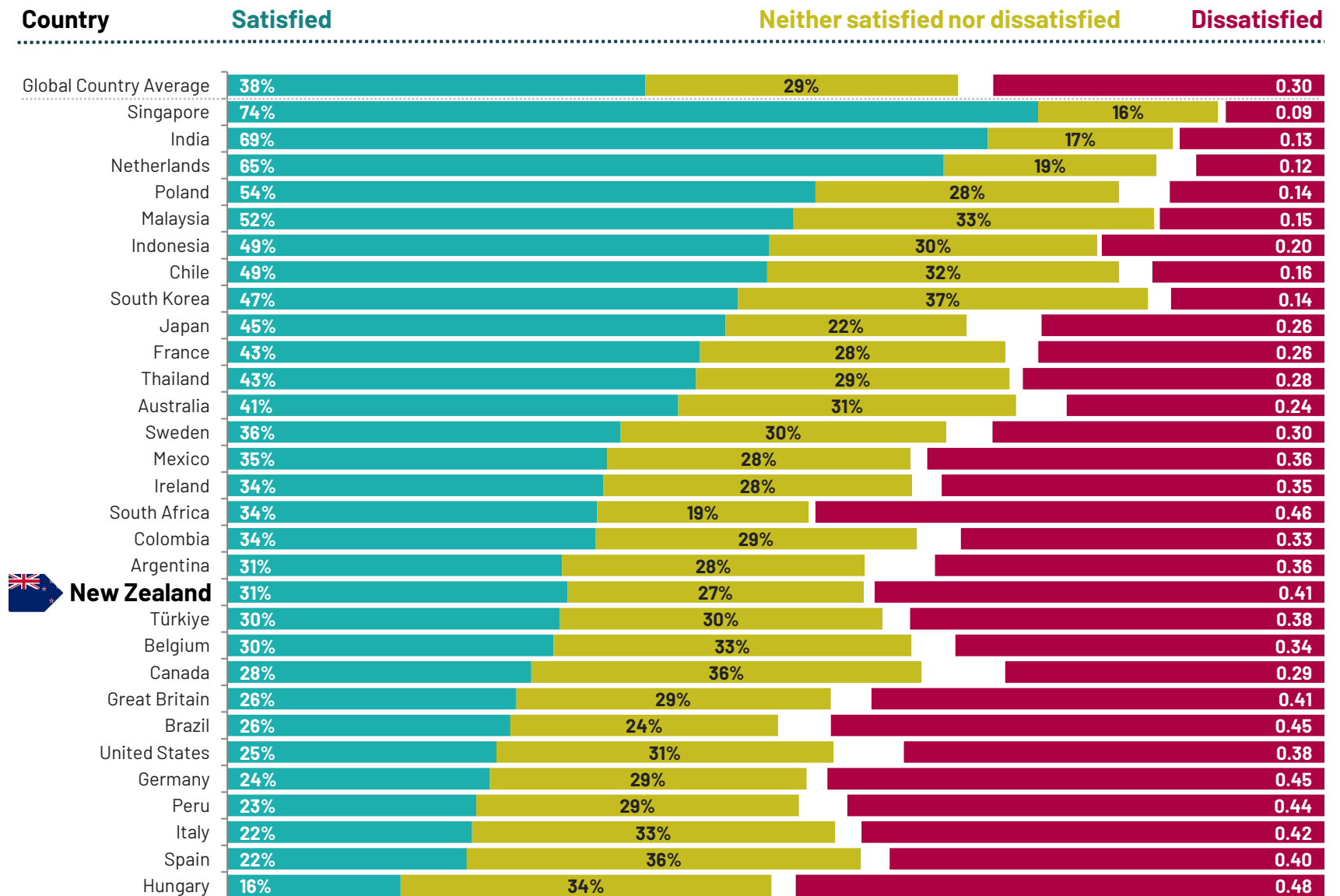
▲ / ▼ indicates significantly higher / lower compared to New Zealand's 2024 result

New Zealand sits below the global average for infrastructure satisfaction.

Q. We now want you to think about [COUNTRY]'s infrastructure. By infrastructure we mean things we rely on like road, rail and air networks, utilities such as energy and water, and broadband and other communications.

Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with [COUNTRY]'s national infrastructure?

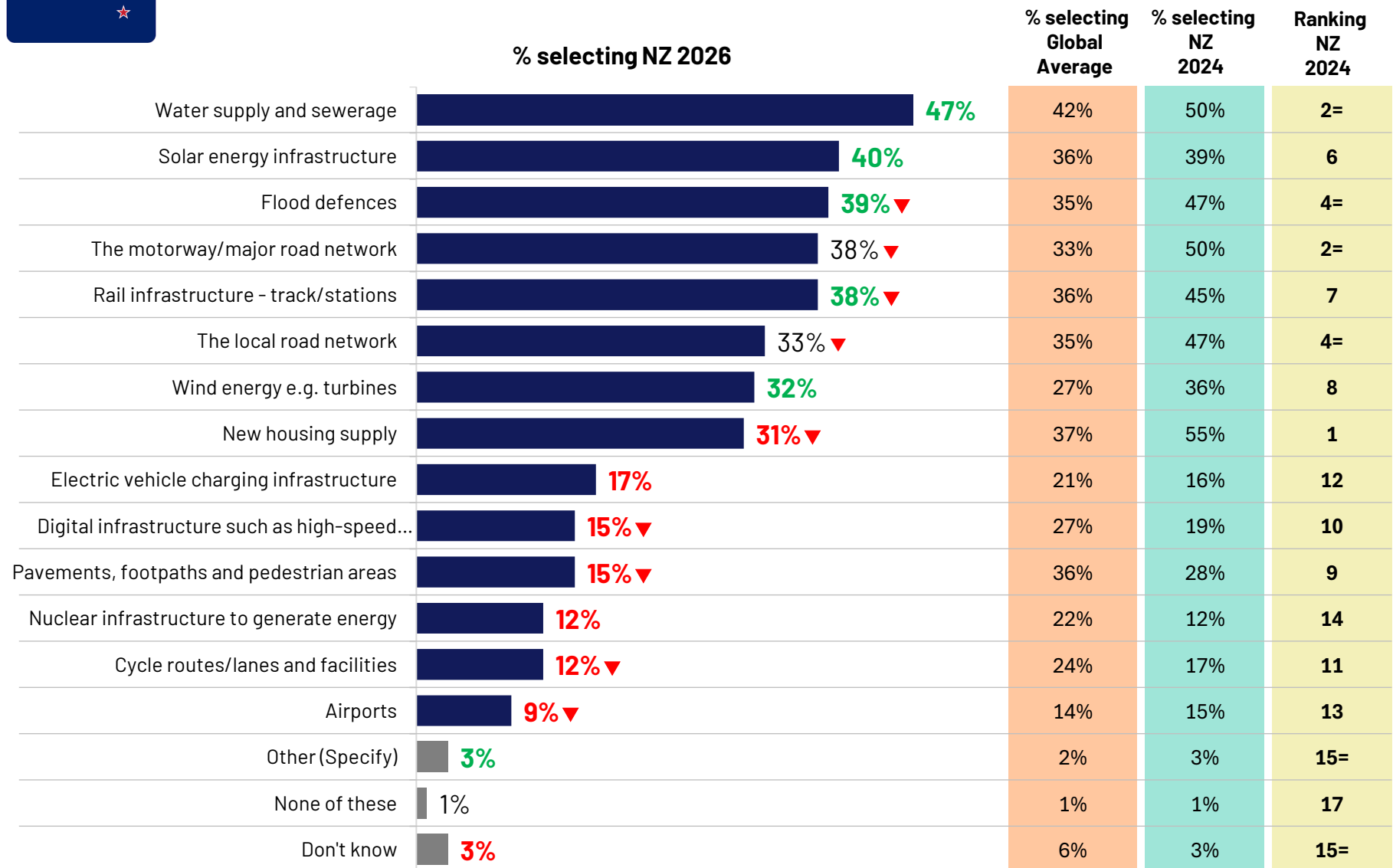
Base: New Zealand total (1,001), Global total (21,521 adults (online), 29 countries) April - May 2026



New Zealanders' Infrastructure priorities have shifted from housing towards resilience and sustainability in 2026, with solar and flood defences ranked in the top three.

Q. Which of these types of infrastructure, if any, do you think should be made a priority for investment for [COUNTRY]?

Base: New Zealand (n=1,001), Global (n=23,530)
May - Jun '24 / New Zealand (n=1,004) May - Jun '23



green / red indicates significantly higher / lower compared to the Global Average
▲ / ▼ indicates significantly higher / lower compared to New Zealand's 2024 result

Investment priorities and their salience vary considerably by country.

Q. Which of these types of infrastructure, if any, do you think should be made a priority for investment for [COUNTRY]?

(ranked by % selected – global country average)

- 15+ %pts above Global Country Average
- 10+ %pts above Global Country Average
- 5+ %pts above Global Country Average

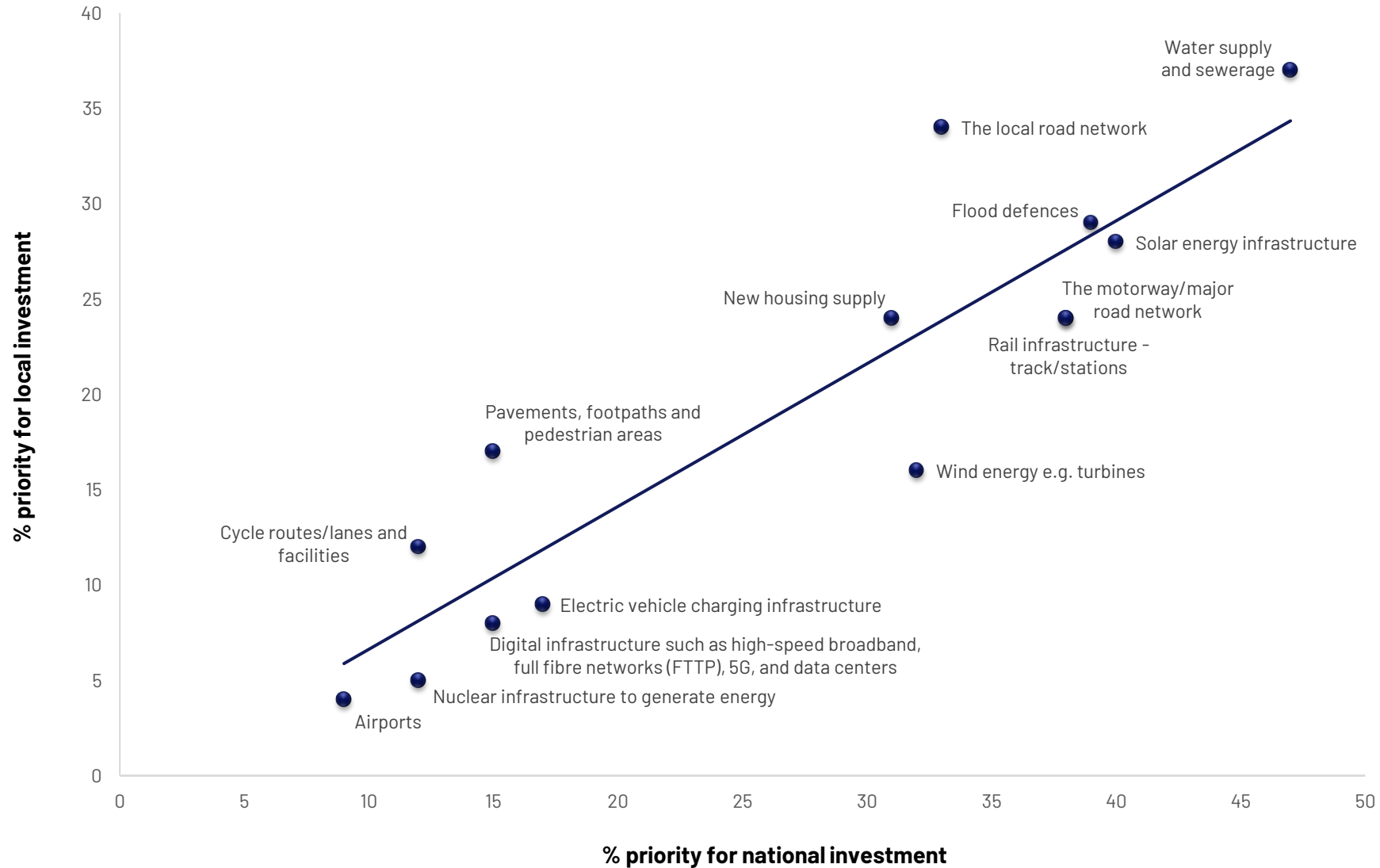
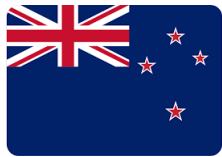
Sector	GLOBAL	ARG	AUS	BEL	Brazil	Canada	Chile	COL	France	GER	Great Britain	HUN	India	INDO	Ireland	Italy	Japan	MAL	Mexico	NETH	NZ	Poland	SING	South Africa	South Korea	Spain	SWE	THA	TUR	United States
Water supply and sewerage	42%	55%	32%	22%	55%	39%	42%	45%	32%	22%	52%	49%	54%	44%	32%	30%	44%	43%	64%	36%	47%	27%	37%	72%	19%	34%	42%	45%	37%	51%
New housing supply	37%	45%	52%	29%	46%	50%	50%	46%	40%	51%	35%	31%	25%	23%	55%	27%	5%	26%	37%	58%	31%	38%	37%	52%	31%	21%	38%	30%	31%	34%
Rail infrastructure – track/stations	36%	41%	37%	26%	32%	23%	39%	31%	36%	45%	40%	64%	40%	27%	43%	41%	25%	32%	22%	31%	38%	35%	36%	43%	20%	58%	63%	37%	30%	31%
Solar energy infrastructure	36%	35%	39%	28%	33%	28%	41%	42%	32%	33%	35%	39%	54%	27%	32%	40%	23%	33%	41%	35%	40%	27%	43%	52%	31%	29%	35%	47%	49%	38%
Pavements, footpaths and pedestrian areas	36%	41%	25%	42%	38%	28%	47%	43%	30%	35%	38%	50%	34%	41%	28%	37%	34%	31%	53%	25%	15%	36%	30%	41%	24%	29%	34%	45%	31%	35%
The local road network	35%	24%	38%	45%	23%	43%	22%	29%	36%	44%	47%	64%	44%	40%	39%	45%	21%	31%	22%	25%	33%	44%	24%	50%	16%	32%	38%	39%	21%	43%
Flood defences	35%	52%	25%	29%	55%	24%	37%	40%	38%	25%	32%	28%	31%	50%	31%	38%	31%	47%	36%	19%	39%	35%	29%	37%	20%	38%	21%	61%	31%	29%
The motorway/major road network	33%	36%	36%	39%	34%	37%	23%	41%	14%	36%	34%	46%	33%	28%	29%	37%	17%	44%	26%	30%	38%	35%	19%	35%	24%	53%	41%	24%	28%	38%
Digital infrastructure*	27%	21%	27%	15%	21%	19%	19%	26%	19%	33%	23%	19%	43%	39%	22%	23%	19%	48%	21%	18%	15%	28%	38%	35%	27%	19%	25%	43%	36%	23%
Wind energy e.g. turbines	27%	25%	26%	25%	21%	27%	28%	23%	21%	30%	36%	39%	33%	14%	33%	32%	18%	18%	27%	25%	32%	32%	17%	30%	16%	22%	34%	29%	42%	29%
Cycle routes/lanes and facilities	24%	28%	14%	34%	27%	16%	27%	21%	25%	35%	15%	36%	25%	16%	18%	21%	31%	18%	19%	34%	12%	30%	23%	18%	15%	15%	32%	29%	28%	16%
Nuclear infrastructure to generate energy	22%	16%	19%	26%	14%	22%	12%	13%	31%	17%	30%	16%	33%	14%	15%	26%	22%	19%	17%	22%	12%	30%	19%	31%	28%	22%	34%	16%	35%	26%
Electric vehicle charging infrastructure	21%	13%	26%	19%	16%	20%	22%	21%	22%	24%	22%	15%	44%	20%	27%	17%	11%	25%	16%	21%	17%	13%	25%	26%	25%	17%	24%	31%	27%	17%
Airports	14%	13%	14%	8%	12%	14%	13%	20%	5%	6%	11%	8%	26%	11%	18%	8%	8%	17%	13%	6%	9%	16%	23%	19%	7%	13%	15%	15%	19%	26%

*Full text: Digital infrastructure such as high-speed broadband, full fibre networks (FTTP), 5G, and data centres

New Zealanders
tend to look more to
central government
and national
investment to
address the
country's biggest
infrastructure
needs.

Q. Here is the same list of types of infrastructure. Which, if any, do you think should be made a priority for investment for [COUNTRY]/ your local area?

Base: New Zealand total (1,001), Global total (21,521 adults (online), 29 countries)
April - May 2026



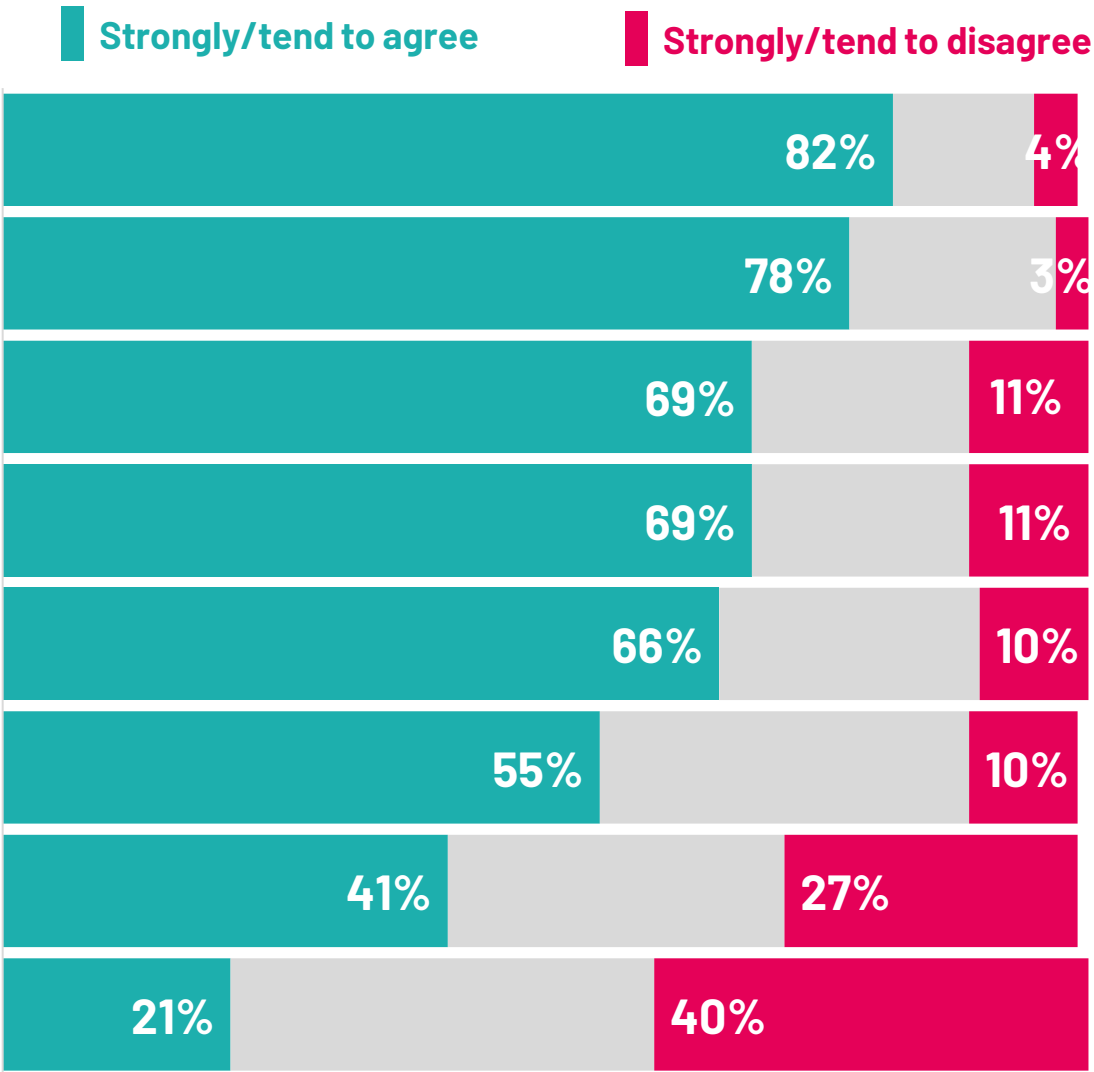
New Zealanders see a strong case for infrastructure investment but are less committed to pay more taxes to fund it.

Q. Still thinking about infrastructure – the things we rely on like road, rail and air networks, utilities such as energy and water, and broadband and other communications – to what extent do you agree or disagree…?

Base: New Zealand total (1,001), Global total (21,521 adults (online), 29 countries)
April - May 2026



- Investing in infrastructure in New Zealand will create new jobs and boost the economy
- It's just as important that we maintain and repair existing infrastructure in New Zealand as it is to build new infrastructure
- As a country we are not doing enough to meet our infrastructure needs
- I don't think infrastructure in New Zealand has been adapted enough to cope with future changes in the climate
- I'm fine with companies in the private sector investing money in New Zealand's infrastructure, if it means we get the improvements we need
- Investing in infrastructure in New Zealand will make an important contribution to combating climate change
- We should increase spending to improve infrastructure in New Zealand, even if that means higher taxes or costs for consumers
- New Zealand has a good record of delivering national infrastructure projects

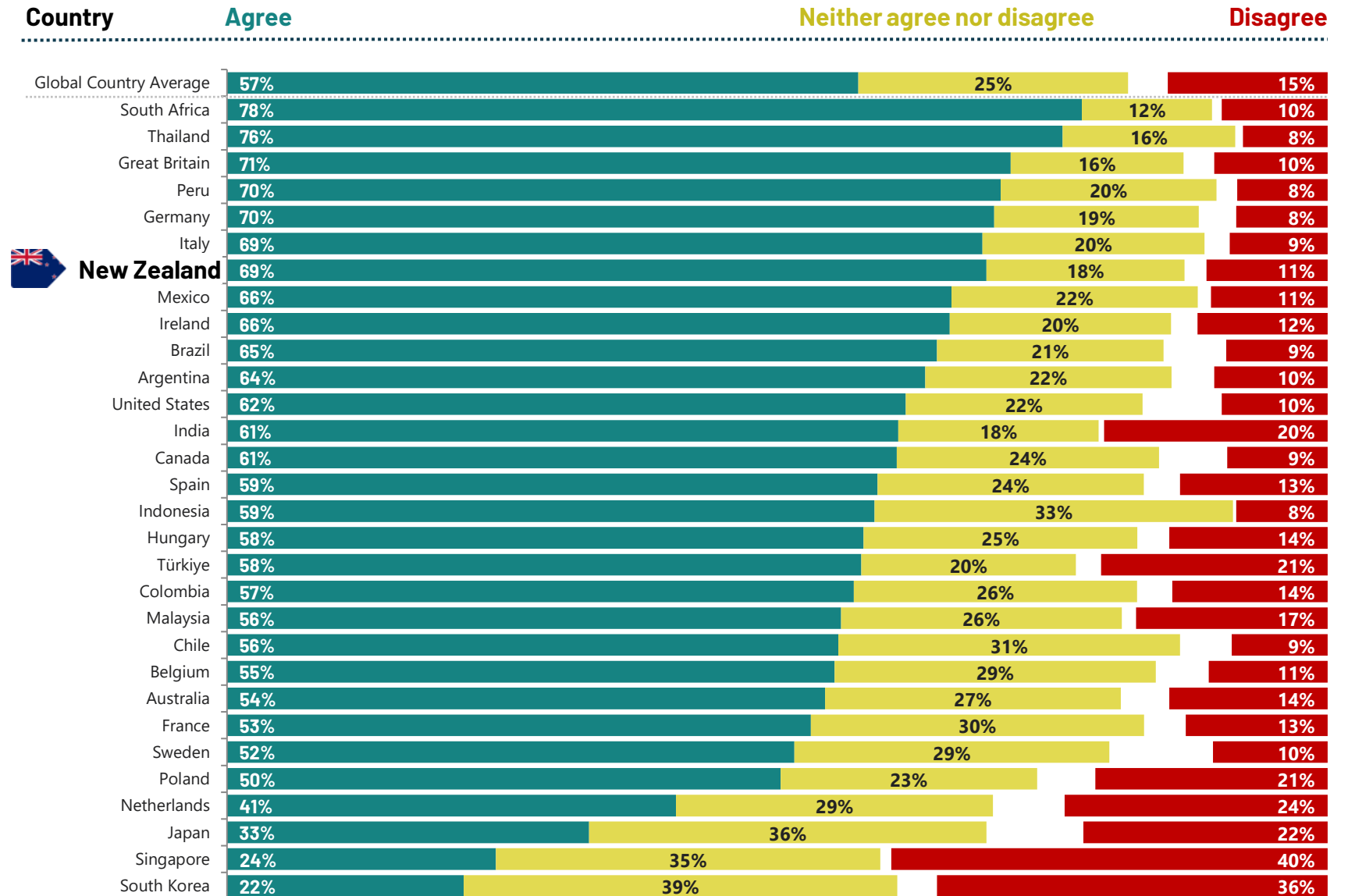


A majority in most countries agree that their country is not doing enough to meet needs. This includes New Zealand, where 2 in 3 hold this view.

To what extent do you agree or disagree...?

As a country we are not doing enough to meet our infrastructure needs

Base: New Zealand total (1,001), Global total (21,521 adults (online), 29 countries)
April - May 2026

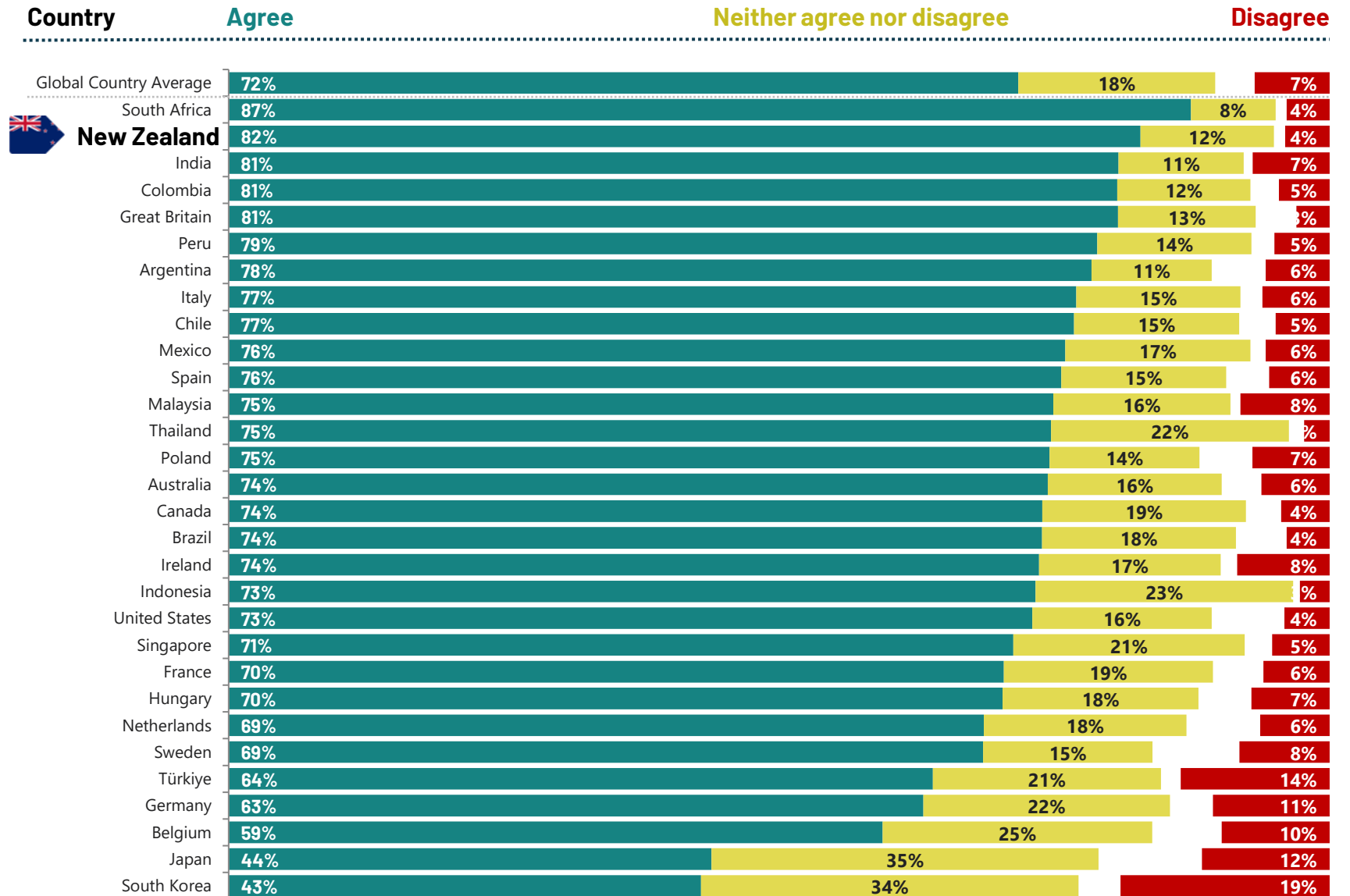


New Zealanders strongly believe infrastructure investment will boost jobs and economic growth...

To what extent do you agree or disagree...?

Investing in infrastructure will create new jobs and boost the economy

Base: New Zealand total (1,001), Global total (21,521 adults (online), 29 countries)
April - May 2026

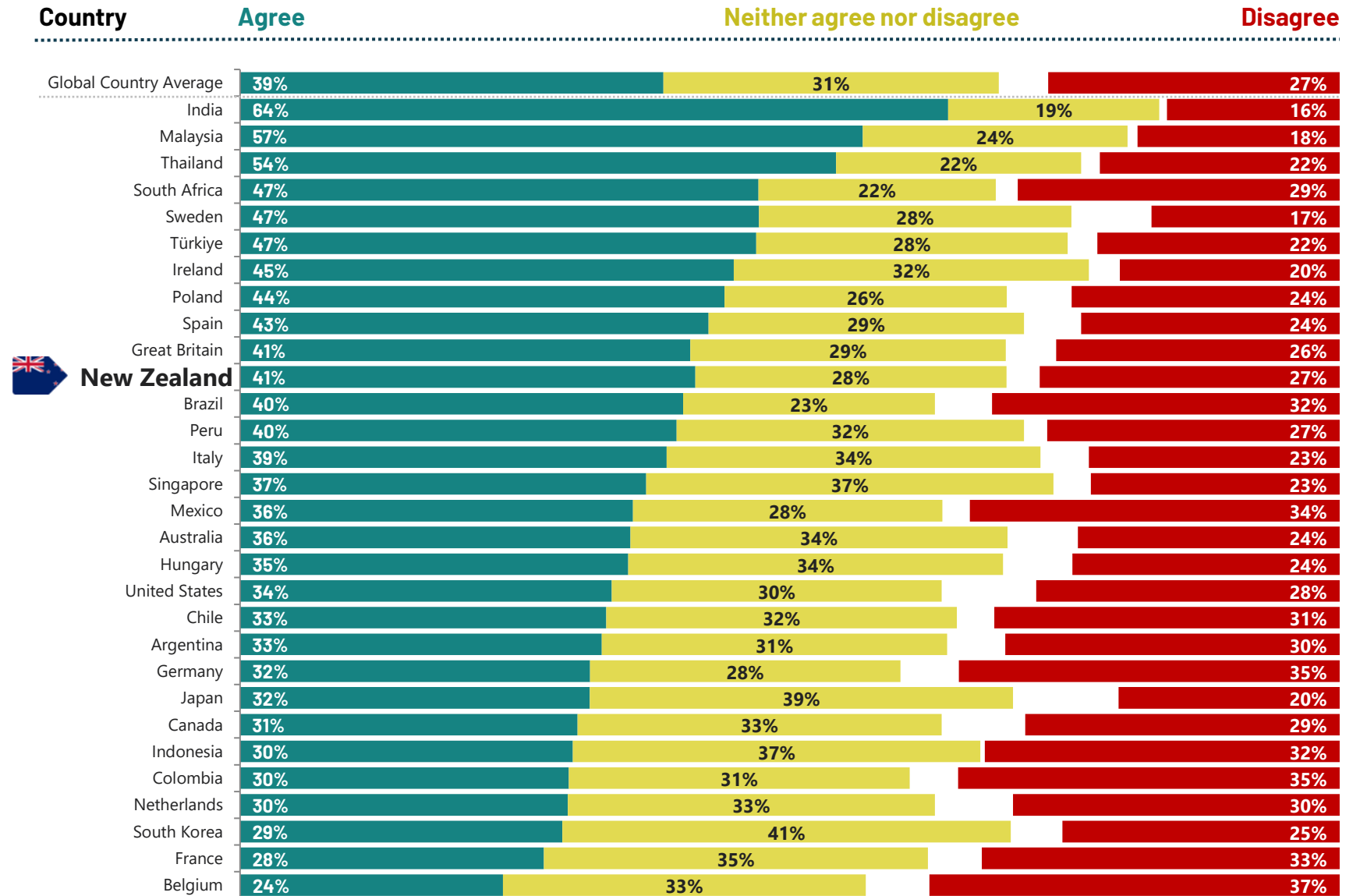


...but support for infrastructure investment weakens when higher costs are involved.

To what extent do you agree or disagree...?

We should increase spending to improve infrastructure in [COUNTRY], even if that means higher taxes or costs for consumers

Base: New Zealand total (1,001), Global total (21,521 adults (online), 29 countries)
April - May 2026

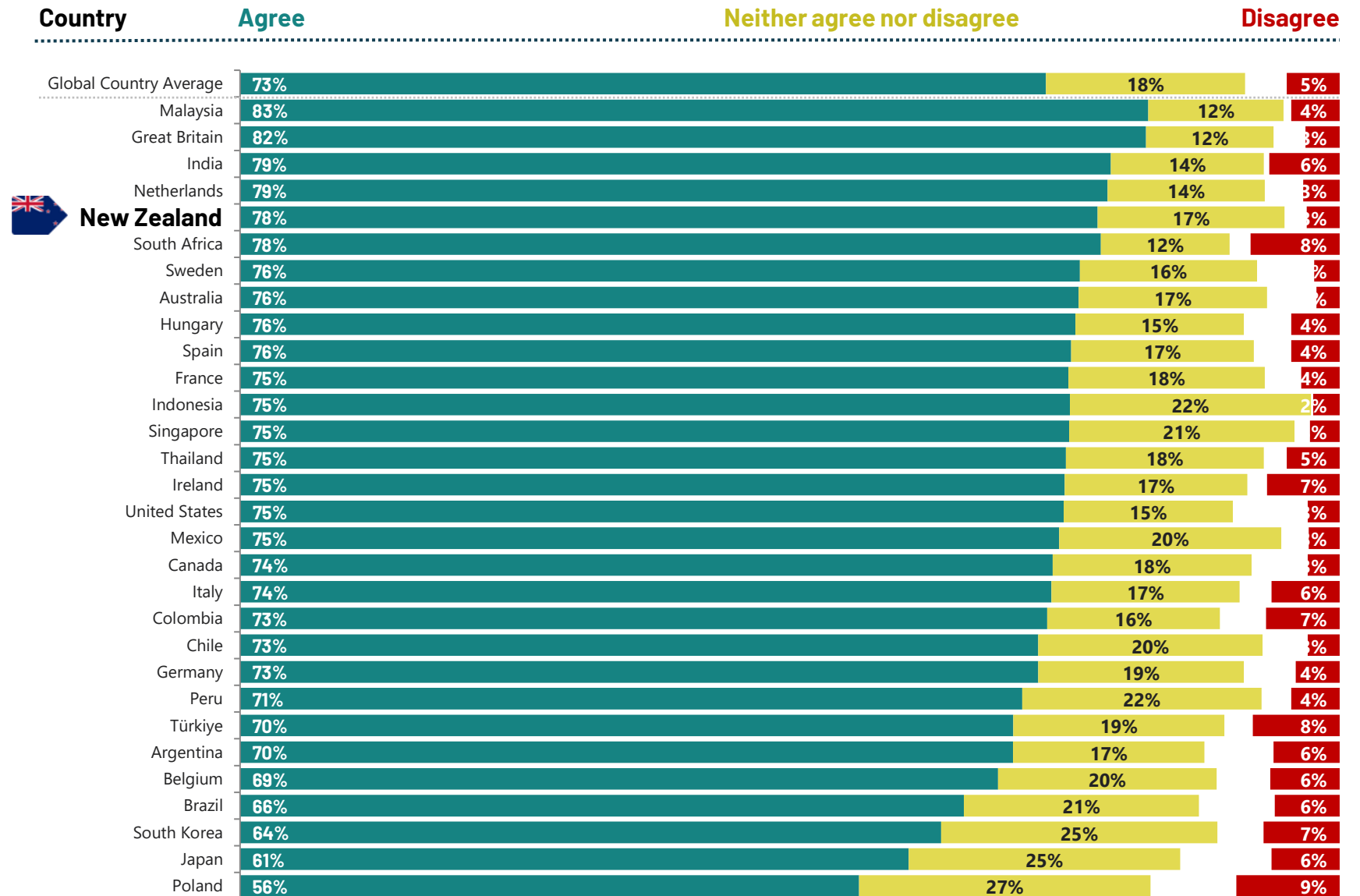


New Zealanders place equal importance on maintaining existing infrastructure and building new assets.

To what extent do you agree or disagree...?

It's just as important that we maintain and repair existing infrastructure in [COUNTRY] as it is to build new infrastructure

Base: New Zealand total (1,001), Global total (21,521 adults (online), 29 countries)
April - May 2026

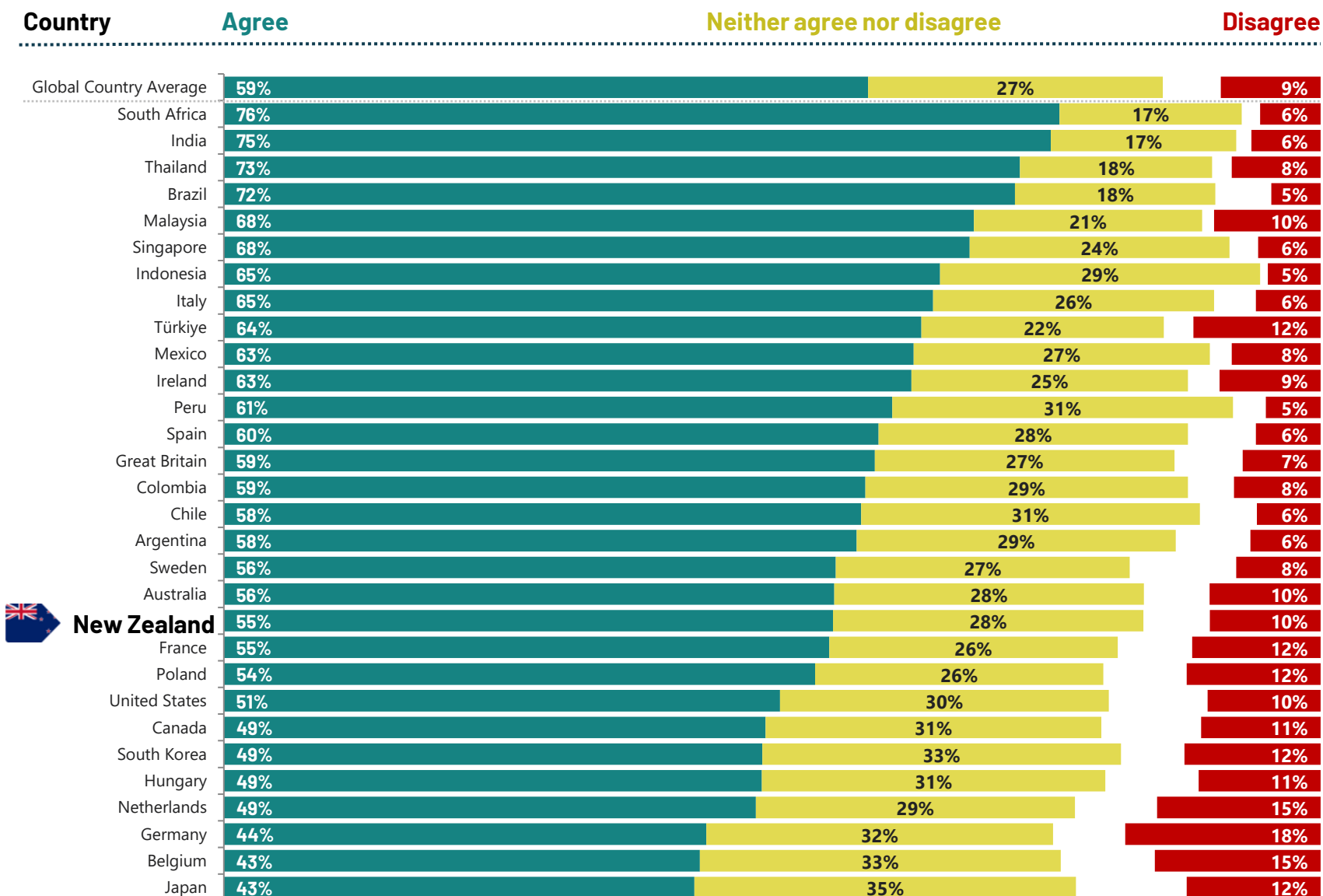


A majority of New Zealanders see infrastructure investment as part of the climate solution, but agreement is less widespread than other countries.

To what extent do you agree or disagree...?

Investing in infrastructure in [COUNTRY] will make an important contribution to combating climate change

Base: New Zealand total (1,001), Global total (21,521 adults (online), 29 countries)
April - May 2026

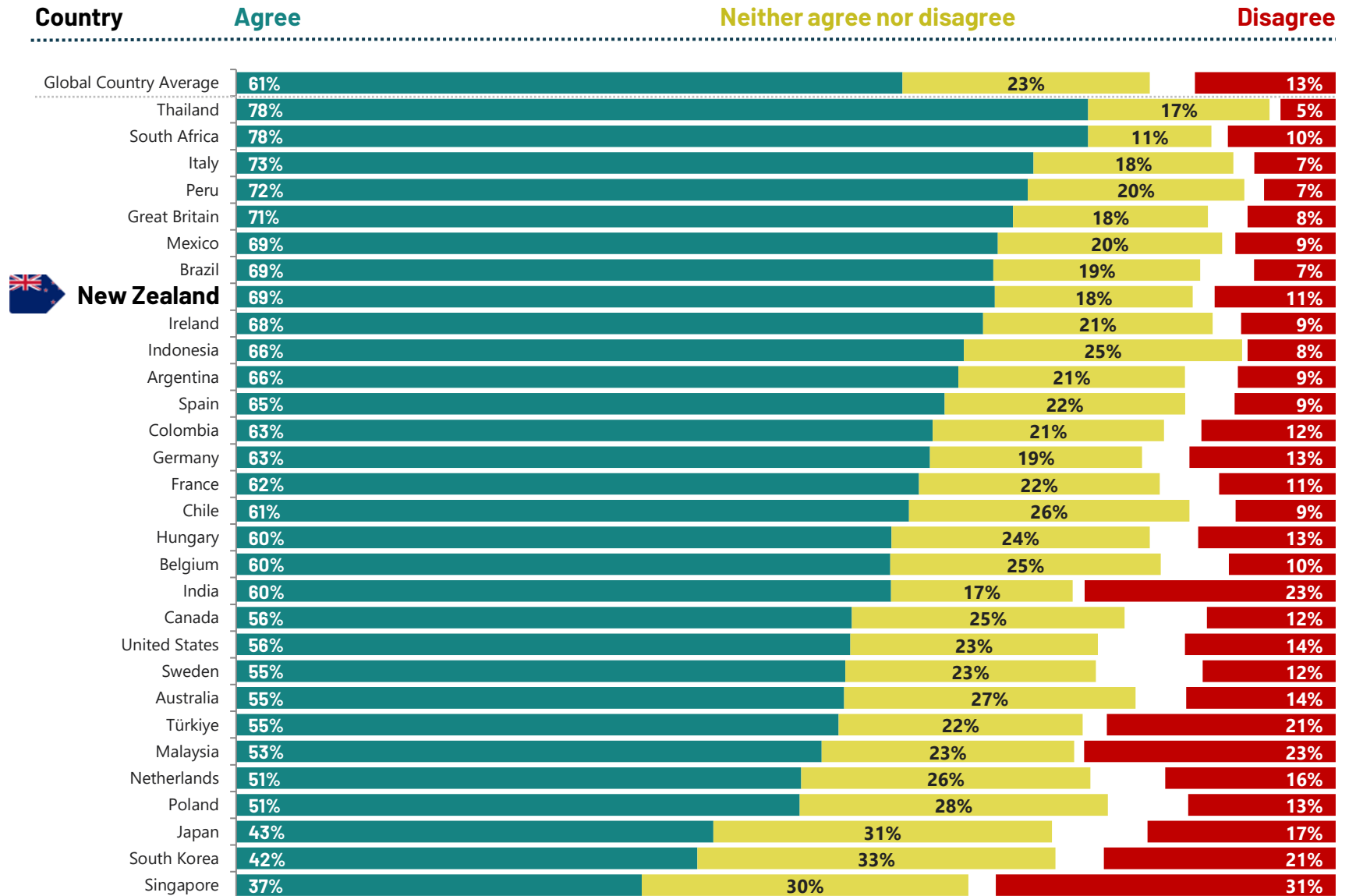


New Zealanders lack confidence that infrastructure is prepared for future climate impacts.

To what extent do you agree or disagree...?

I don't think infrastructure in [COUNTRY] has been adapted enough to cope with future changes in the climate

Base: New Zealand total (1,001), Global total (21,521 adults (online), 29 countries)
April - May 2026

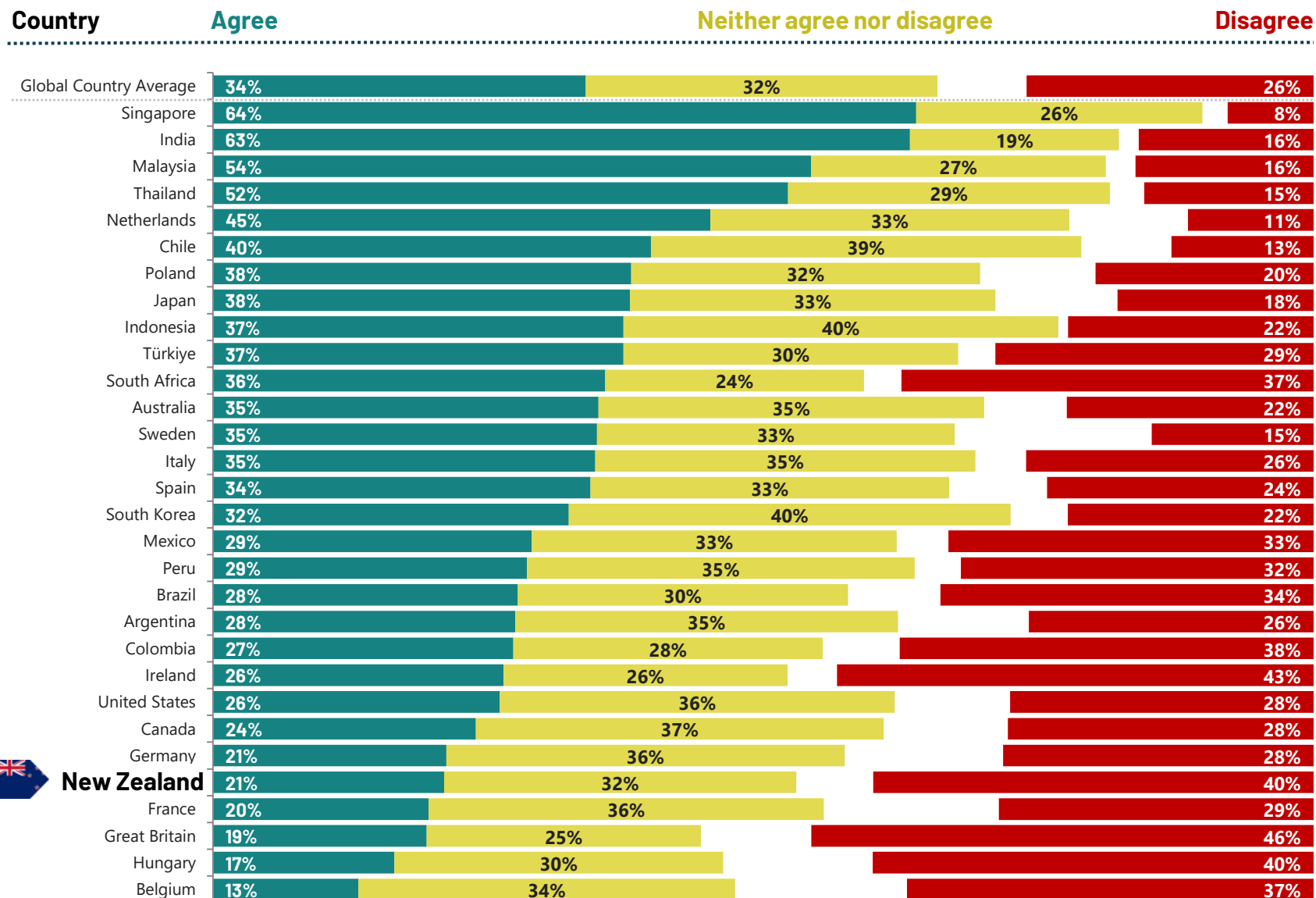


Confidence in New Zealand's ability to deliver infrastructure projects remains low.

To what extent do you agree or disagree...?

[COUNTRY] has a good record of delivering national infrastructure projects

Base: New Zealand total (1,001), Global total (21,521 adults (online), 29 countries)
April - May 2026

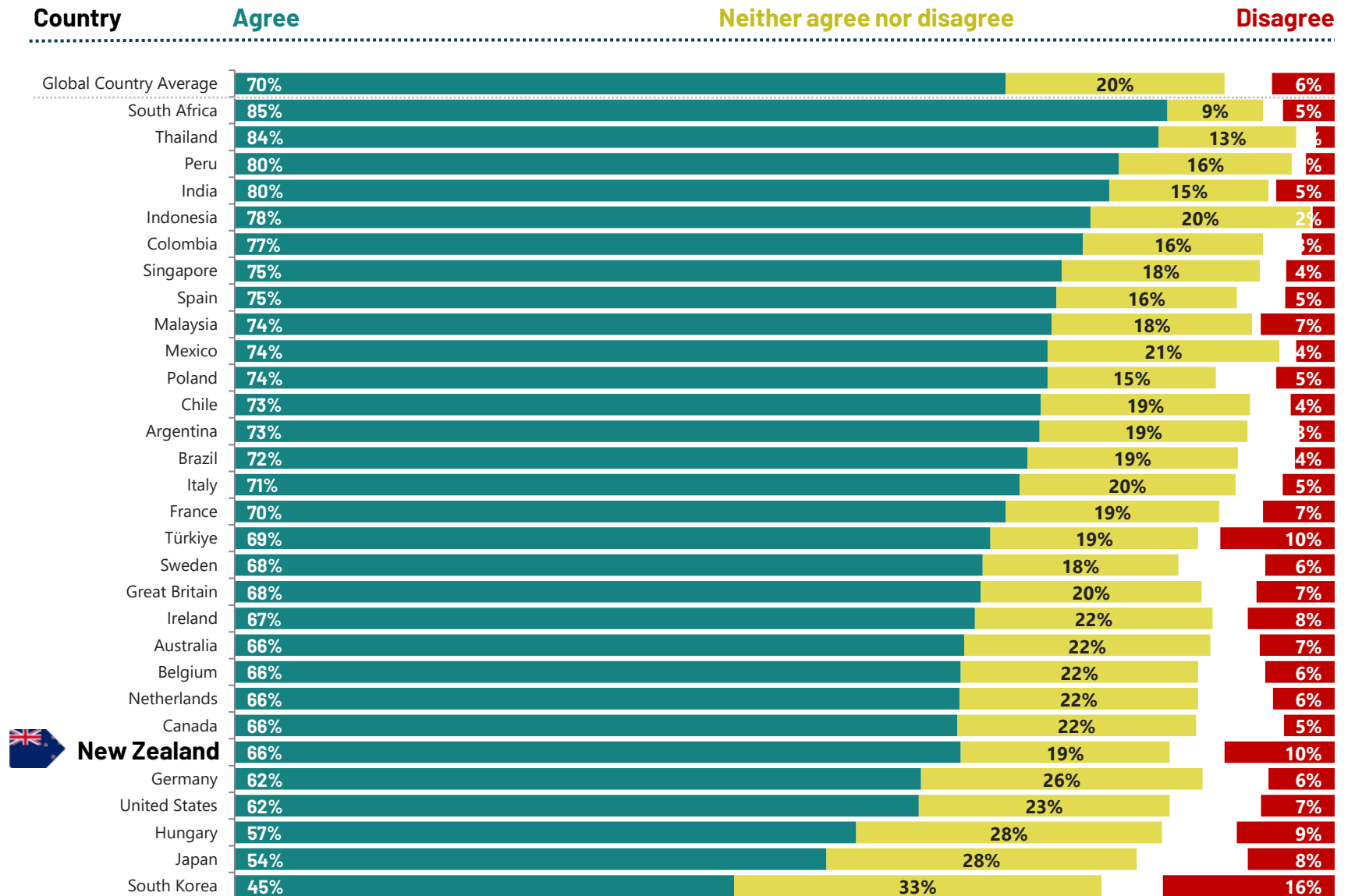


Most New Zealanders are open to private investment if it helps deliver infrastructure improvements.

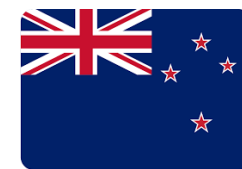
To what extent do you agree or disagree...?

I'm fine with companies in the private sector investing money in [COUNTRY'S] infrastructure, if it means we get the improvements we need"

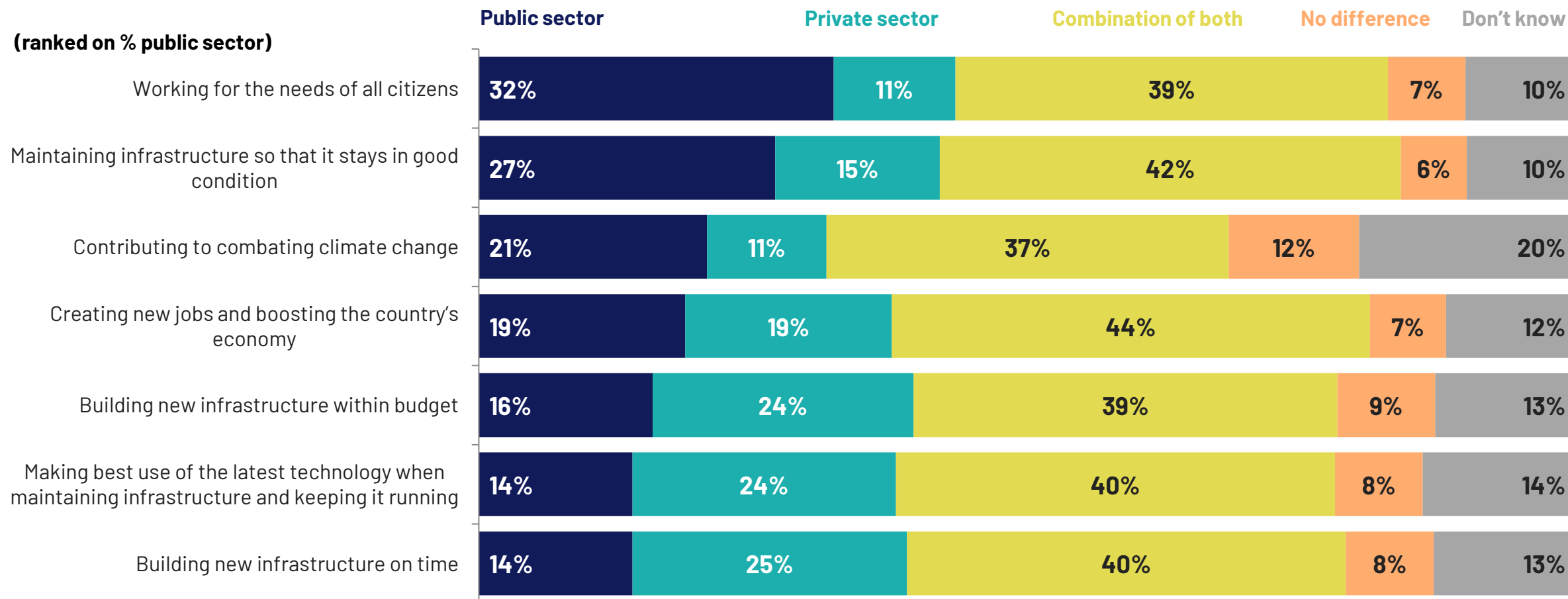
Base: New Zealand total (1,001), Global total (21,521 adults (online), 29 countries)
April - May 2026



New Zealanders favour partnership over public- or private-only funding models.



Q. ...Which of these main sources of funding do you think is more likely to achieve the following, or is there no difference between them?*



Base: 21,521 adults (online), 29 countries, April - May 2026

Source: Ipsos/GIIA

Q (*full text). As you may know, there are different sources of funding for infrastructure. Funding from the PUBLIC sector uses money raised by governments through general taxation, and the PRIVATE sector uses money raised from investors, shareholders, pension funds, and bank loans which is paid back by charging customers who use infrastructure. Which of these main sources of funding do you think is more likely to achieve the following, or is there no difference between them?

* N.B. "The New Zealand Average" reflects the average has not been adjusted to the population size and is not intended to suggest a total result.

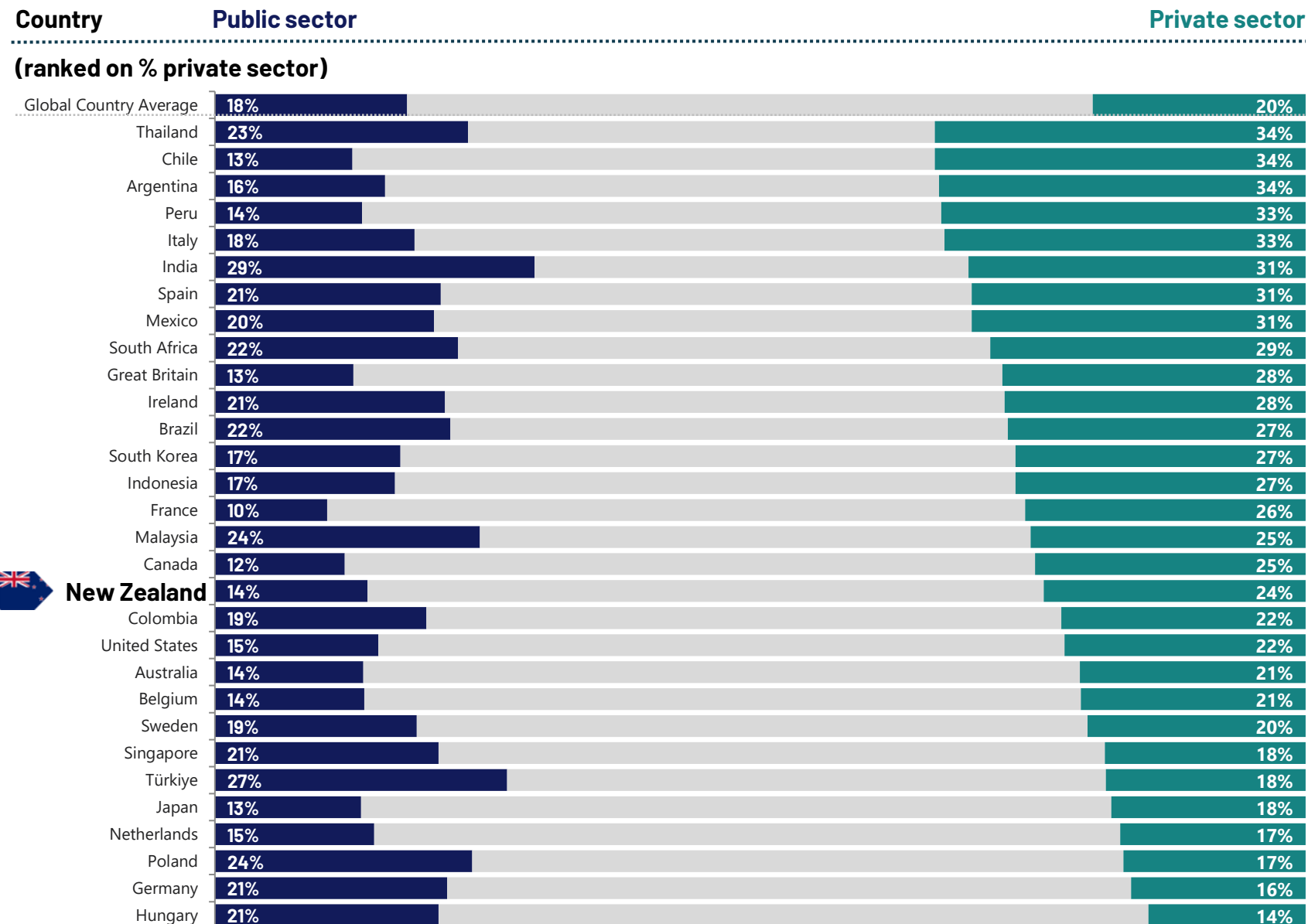


The private sector is viewed as having an advantage in innovation and technology.

Which of these main sources of funding do you think is more likely to achieve the following, or is there no difference between them?*

Making best use of the latest technology when maintaining infrastructure and keeping it running

Base: New Zealand total (1,001), Global total (21,521 adults (online), 29 countries)
April - May 2026

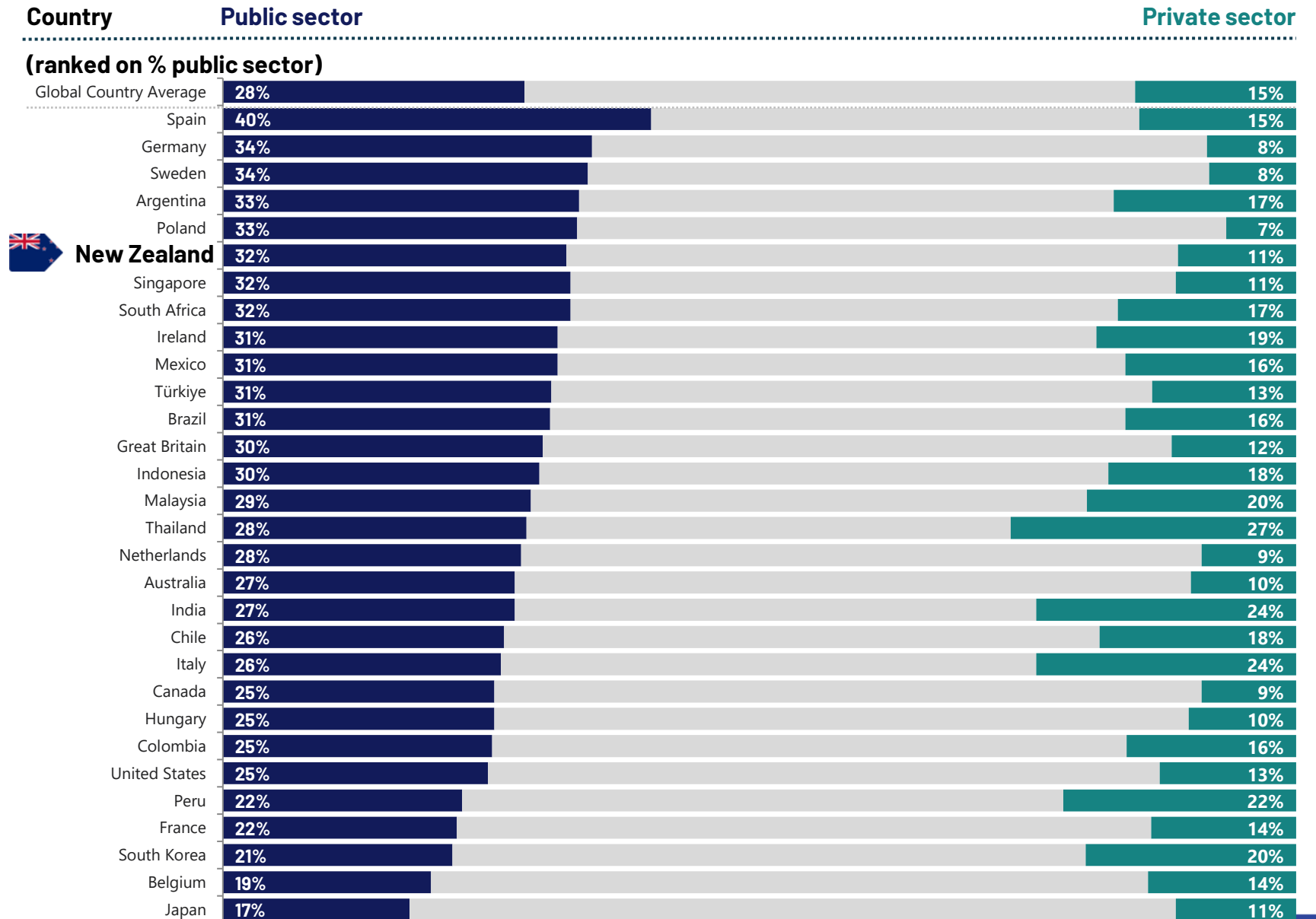


The public sector is seen as best placed to serve the interests of all citizens.

Which of these main sources of funding do you think is more likely to achieve the following, or is there no difference between them?*

Working for the needs of all citizens

Base: New Zealand total (1,001), Global total (21,521 adults (online), 29 countries)
April - May 2026



APPENDIX

METHODOLOGY

These are the results of a 29-country survey conducted by Ipsos on its Global Advisor online platform, between Friday, April 24, and Friday, May 8, 2026. For this survey, Ipsos interviewed a total of 21,521 adults aged 18 years and older in India, 18-74 in Canada, Republic of Ireland, Malaysia, South Africa, Türkiye, and the United States, 20-74 in Thailand, 21-74 in Indonesia and Singapore, and 16-74 in all other countries.

In New Zealand, Ipsos interviewed a total of 1,001 New Zealanders aged 18+ between Wednesday, 8 July and Tuesday, 14 July 2026.

The sample consists of approximately 1,000 individuals each in Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Great Britain, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Spain, Türkiye, and the U.S., and 500 individuals each in Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Hungary, Ireland, Malaysia, Mexico, the Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Sweden, and Thailand.

Samples in Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Poland, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, and the U.S. can be considered representative of their general adult populations under the age of 75. Samples in Brazil, Chile, Colombia, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand, and Türkiye are more urban, more educated, and/or more affluent than the general population. The survey results for these countries should be viewed as reflecting the views of the more “connected” segment of their population.

The data is weighted so that the composition of each country’s sample best reflects the demographic profile of the adult population according to the most recent census data. “The Global Country Average” reflects the average result for all the countries and markets in which the survey was conducted. It has not been adjusted to the population size of each country or market and is not intended to suggest a total result. New Zealand figures have been added to accompany the existing global data and is not part of the “Global Country Averages”.

When percentages do not sum up to 100 or the ‘difference’ appears to be +/-1 percentage point more/less than the actual result, this may be due to rounding, multiple responses, or the exclusion of “don’t know” or not stated responses.

The precision of Ipsos online polls is calculated using a credibility interval with a poll where N=1,000 being accurate to +/- 3.5 percentage points and of where N=500 being accurate to +/- 5.0 percentage points. For more information on Ipsos’ use of credibility intervals, please visit the Ipsos website.

Significance testing was conducted using two-tailed z-tests for independent proportions (NZ n=1,001; Global n=21,521). All reported differences are statistically significant at the 95% confidence level ($p < 0.05$).

Regions

Regions - countries and *unweighted sample sizes in Global Reporting*

Europe	N. America	LATAM	Asia-Pacific (APAC)	ME Africa	G7
x11	x2	x6	x8	x2	x7
8,508	2,002	3,505	6,005	1,501	7,005
Belgium	Canada	Argentina	Australia	South Africa	Canada
France	U.S.A.	Brazil	India	Türkiye	France
Germany		Chile	Indonesia		Germany
Great Britain		Colombia	Japan		Great Britain
Hungary		Mexico	Malaysia		Italy
Ireland		Peru	Singapore		Japan
Italy			South Korea		U.S.A
Netherlands			Thailand		
Poland					(Russia
Spain					excluded)
Sweden					



FURTHER INFORMATION:

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