


PUBLIC PERSPECTIVES



Global and Canadian Views
on Immigration and Refugees

November 2017



General themes from the data are...

CANADIANS HAVE MIXED OPINIONS ON IMMIGRATION BUT ARE AMONG THE MOST FAVOURABLE WORLDWIDE

Canadians are more likely to say that immigration has increased compared to two years ago (up 10 percentage points to 80%) but they remain split on whether the impact is positive (38%) or negative (30%).

Canadians lean toward believing that immigration is good for the economy (43%), and that immigration makes the country more interesting (48%). At the same time, many agree that immigration is changing the country in an undesirable direction (40%), and putting pressure on public services (50%).

On most of these metrics, Canadians rank lower on the negative and higher on the positive compared with most other countries.

THEY HAVE MIXED OPINIONS ON REFUGEES BUT ARE AMONG THE MOST FAVOURABLE WORLDWIDE

Just one-quarter of Canadian support closing the country's border entirely, up six percentage points from 2016.

Opinion is split on whether refugees are really refugees (41% think they aren't, vs 45% who think they are), but there is majority agreement that there are terrorists pretending to be refugees (52%). A majority are confident that refugees will eventually acculturate, but this not overwhelming (54%).

On all of these metrics, Canadians rank lower on the negative and higher on the positive compared with most other countries.

IMPLICATIONS

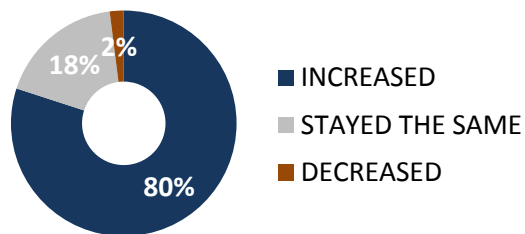
Challenges regarding immigration and refugees will undoubtedly continue to multiply as events continue to disrupt the world. While there is little doubt that Canadians are more receptive to immigration and refugees than most other countries, positive opinion is not overwhelming and more often than not, the public are split. Understanding public opinion on this issue will be key to navigating future immigration and refugee policies.

CANADIANS ATTITUDES TOWARD IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEES

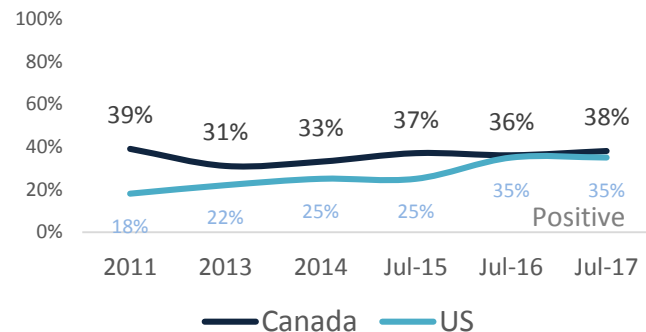
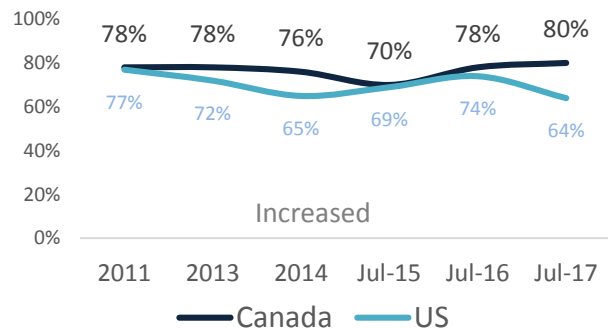
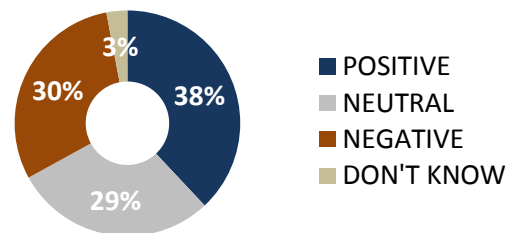
Attitudes toward immigration

Canadians are, not surprisingly, more likely to say that immigration has increased compared to two years ago. There is a split on whether the impact is positive or negative.

Over the last 5 years, in your opinion has the amount of migrants in Canada...? (US comparative "in US")



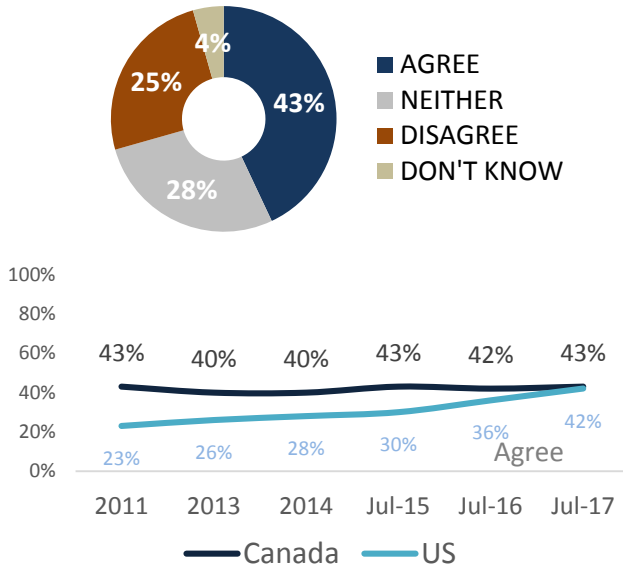
Would you say that immigration has generally had a positive or negative impact on Canada? (US comparative "on US")



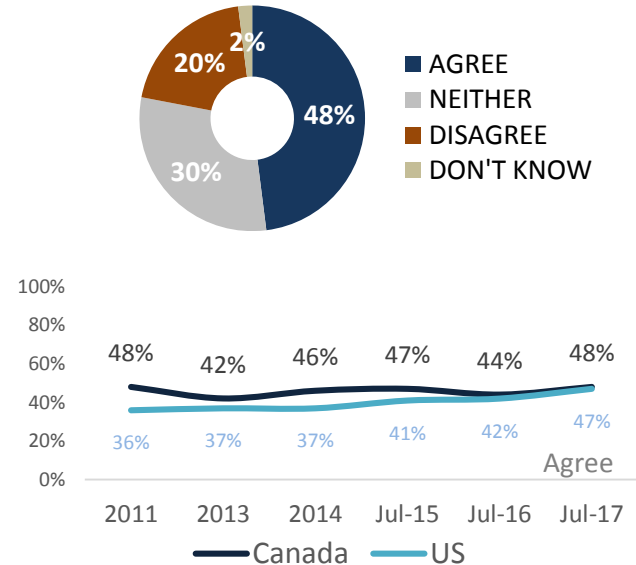
Attitudes toward immigration cont'd

Canadians are not convinced, but lean toward believing that immigration is good for the economy, and makes the country a more interesting place.

Immigration is good for the economy of Canada
(US comparative "US")



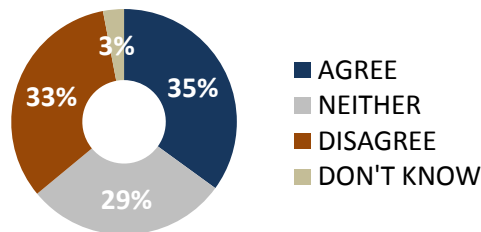
Immigrants make Canada a more interesting place to live
(US comparative "US")



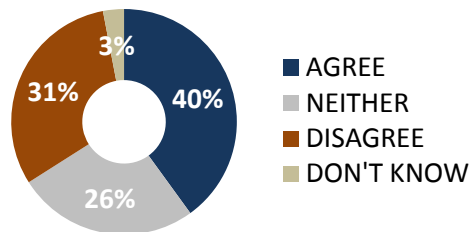
Attitudes toward immigration cont'd

Canadians are divided but decreasingly likely to believe that there are too many immigrants in the country. Agreement leans toward the sentiment that immigration is changing the country in an undesirable way, and that it is putting pressure on public services.

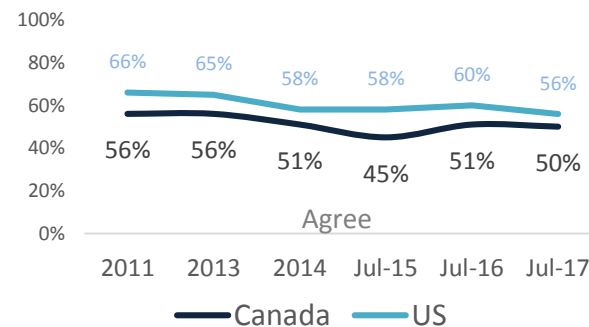
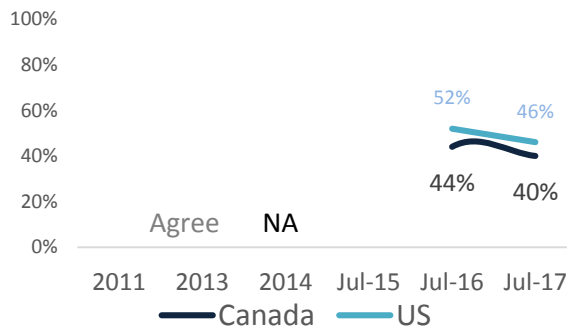
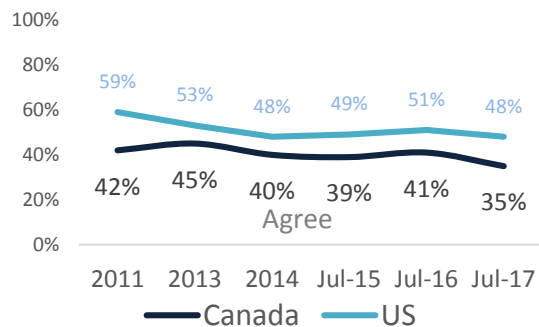
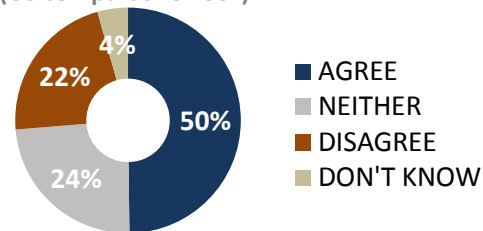
"There are too many immigrants in Canada" (US comparative "US")



"Immigration is causing Canada to change in ways that I don't like" (US comparative "US")



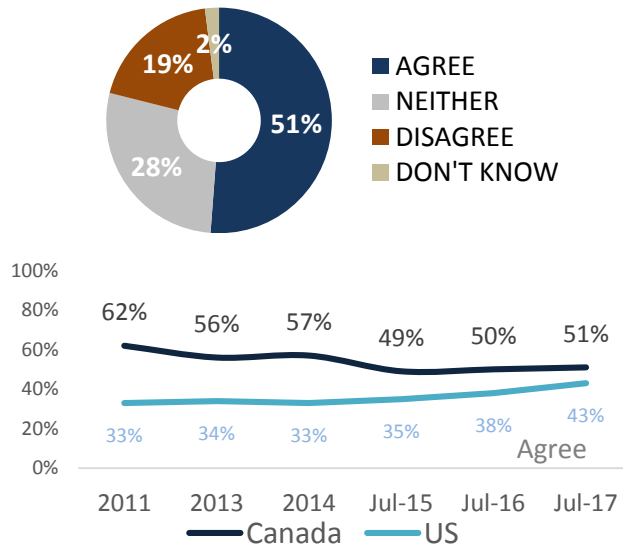
Immigration has placed too much pressure on public services in Canada (US comparative "US")



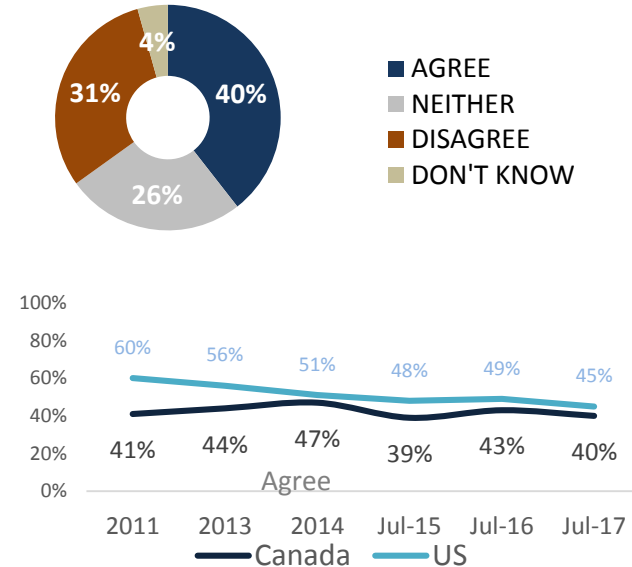
Attitudes toward immigration cont'd

A majority of Canadians believe that higher educated immigrants should receive higher priority, but there is some concern that immigrants will make it more difficult for Canadians to get jobs.

Priority should be given to immigrants with higher education and qualifications who can fill shortages among certain professions in Canada (US comparative "US")



Immigrants in Canada have made it more difficult for people of your nationality to get jobs (US comparative "US")

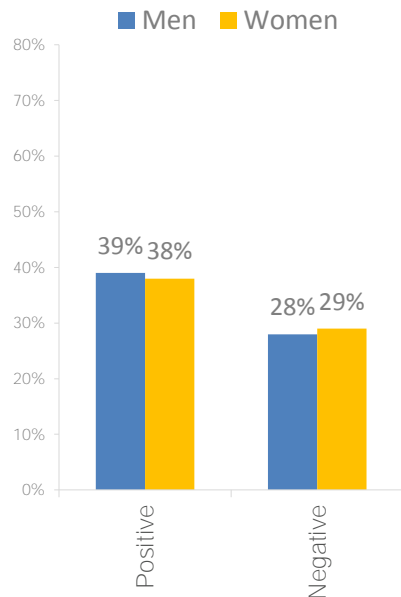


Impact immigration on Canada by demographics

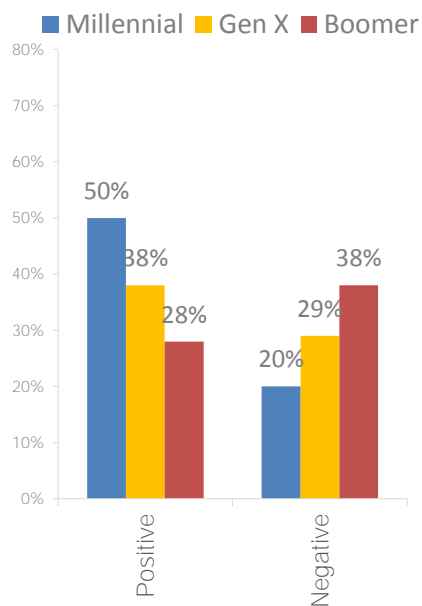
Millennials, higher income, and BC, Alberta and Atlantic residents tend to be most positive in assessing the impact of immigration on Canada.

Would you say that immigration has generally had a positive or negative impact on Canada? -- % Positive vs Negative

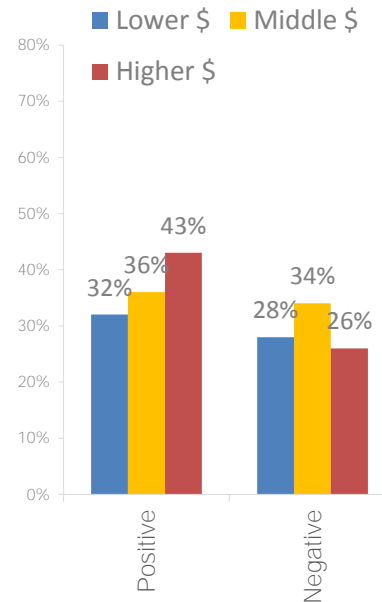
GENDER



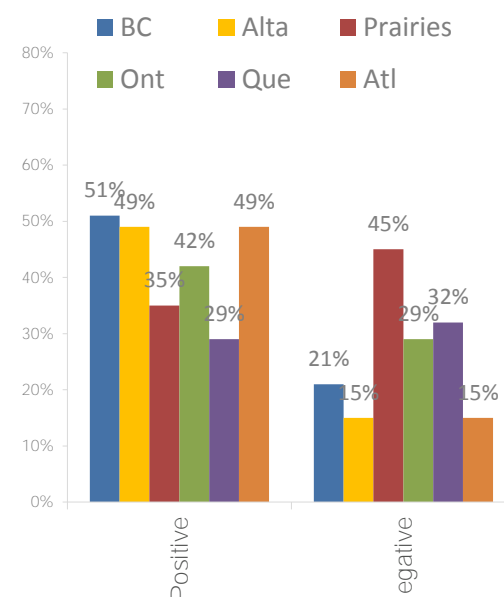
AGE



INCOME



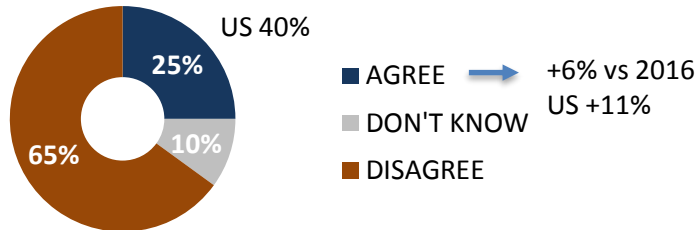
REGION



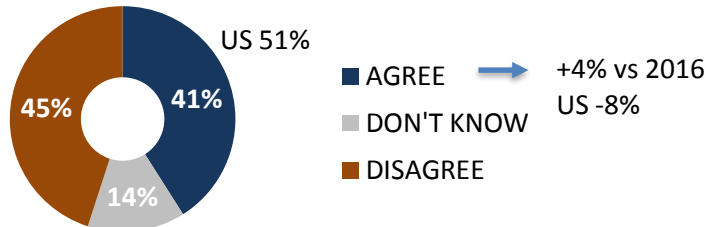
Attitudes toward refugees

Canadians do not support a closed door approach to refugees, although support for this option has increased slightly over the last year. Opinion is split on whether refugees are really refugees, but a majority agree that there are terrorists pretending to be refugees. A majority are confident that refugees will eventually acculturate but this not overwhelming.

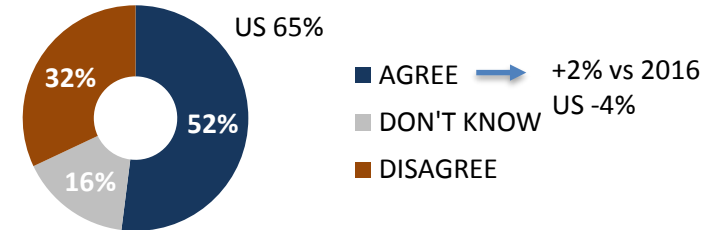
*"We must close our borders to refugees entirely—
we can't accept any at this time"*



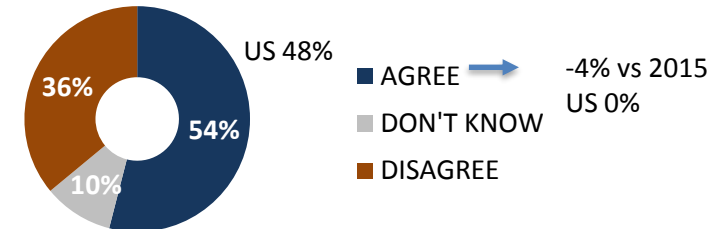
*"Most foreigners who want to get into Canada as a refugee really
aren't refugees. They just want to come here for economic reasons,
or to take advantage of our welfare services"* (US comparative "US")



*"There are terrorists pretending to be refugees who will enter
Canada to cause violence and destruction"* (US comparative "US")



*"I'm confident that most refugees who come to Canada will
successfully integrate into their new society"* (US comparative "US")



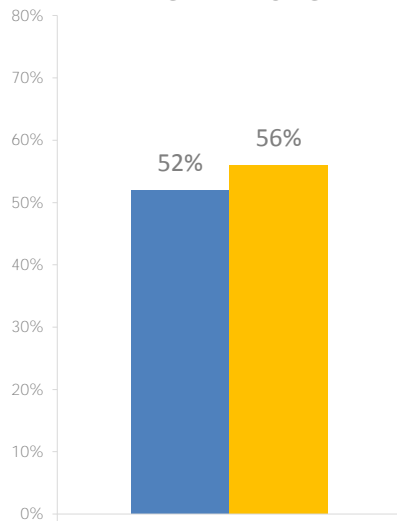
Refugees by demographics

Millennials and Gen Xers, higher income and BC, Ontario and Atlantic residents tend to be most positive in believing that refugees will eventually acculturate.

"I'm confident that most refugees who come to Canada will successfully integrate into their new society" -- % agree

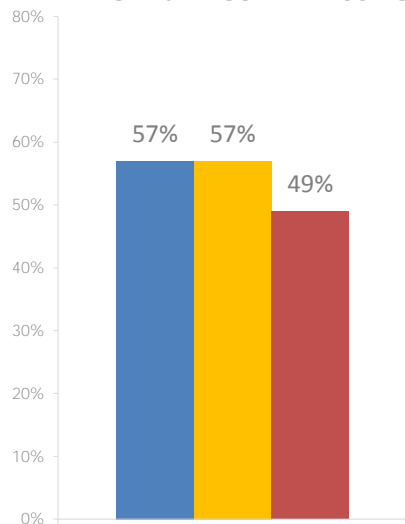
GENDER

■ Men ■ Women



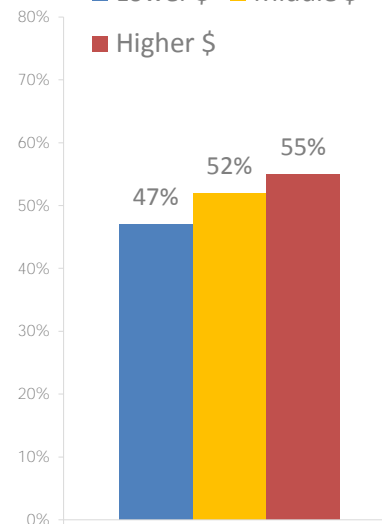
AGE

■ Millennial ■ Gen X ■ Boomer



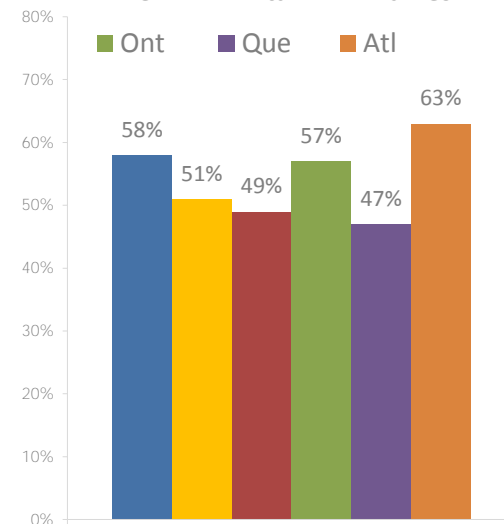
INCOME

■ Lower \$ ■ Middle \$
■ Higher \$



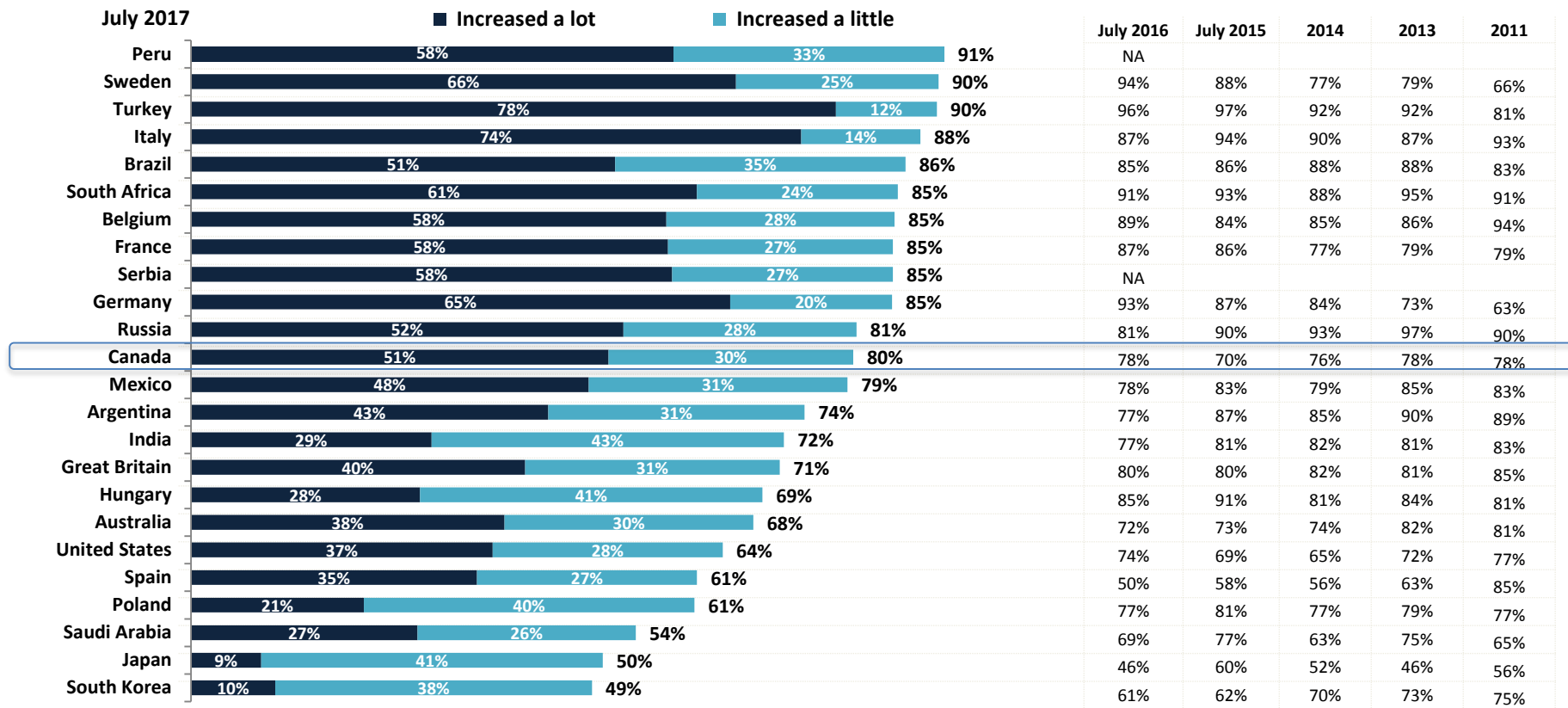
REGION

■ BC ■ Alta ■ Prairies
■ Ont ■ Que ■ Atl



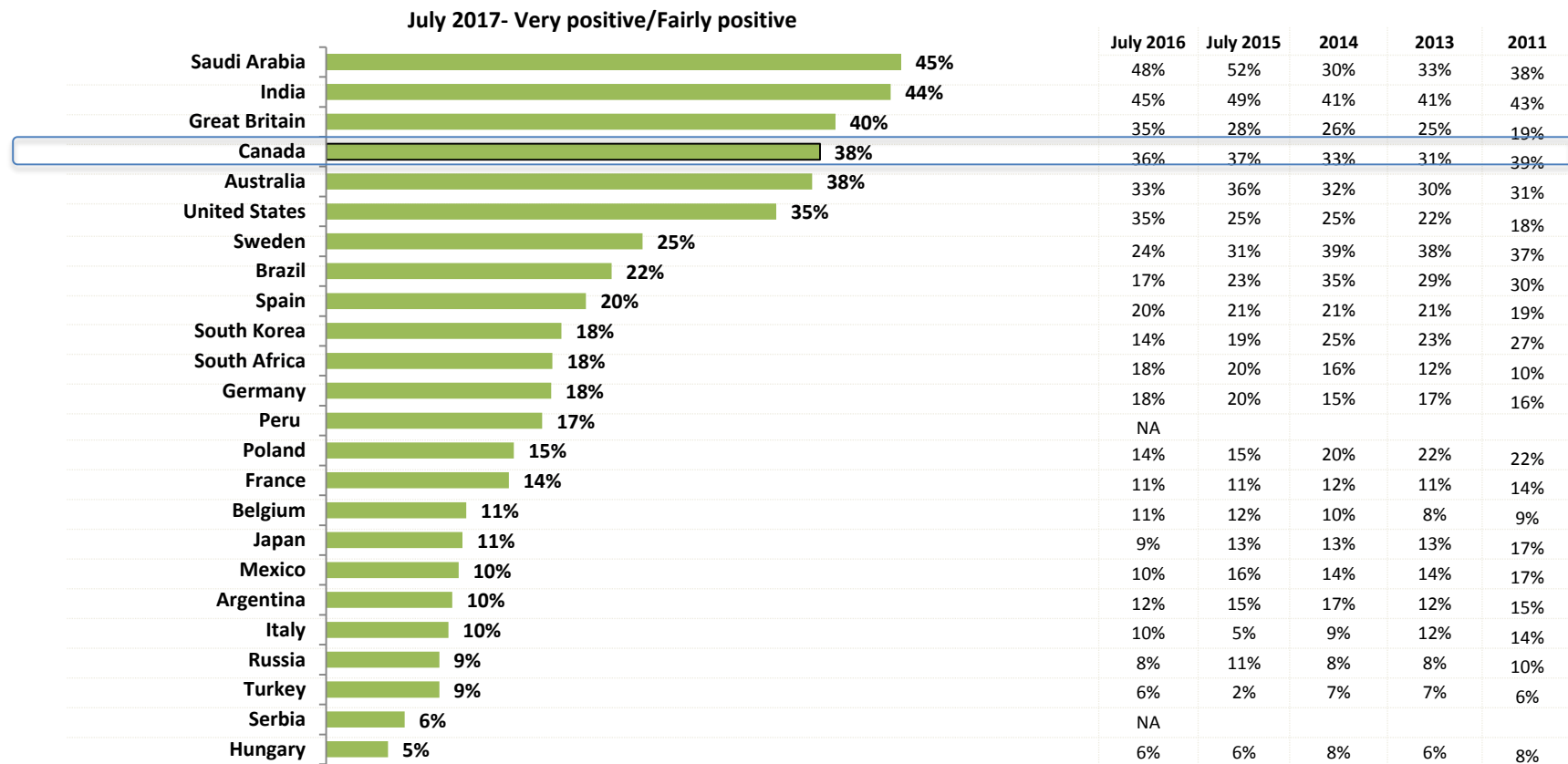
CANADA VS OTHER COUNTRIES -- ATTITUDES TOWARD IMMIGRATION

Canada in the middle of the pack in believing that immigration has increased

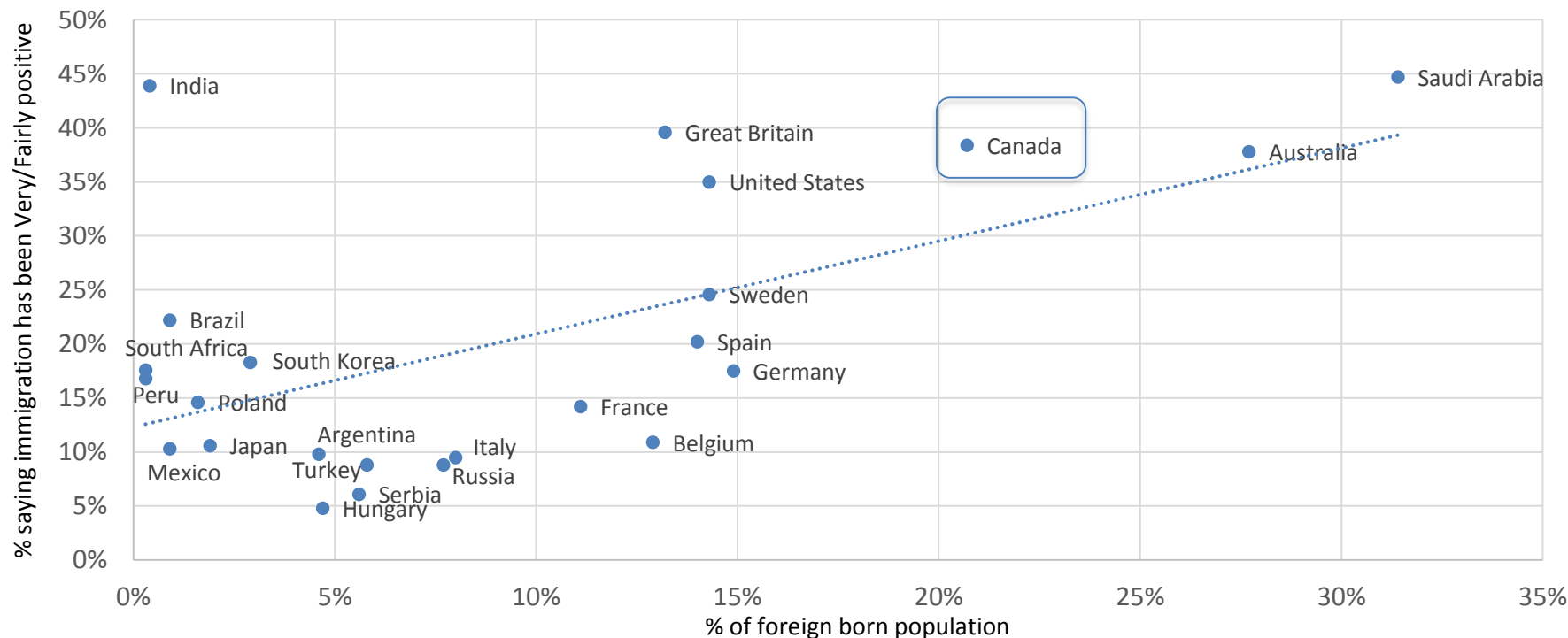


Over the last 5 years, in your opinion has the amount of migrants in your country decreased or increased?

Canadians among most positive about the impact of immigration



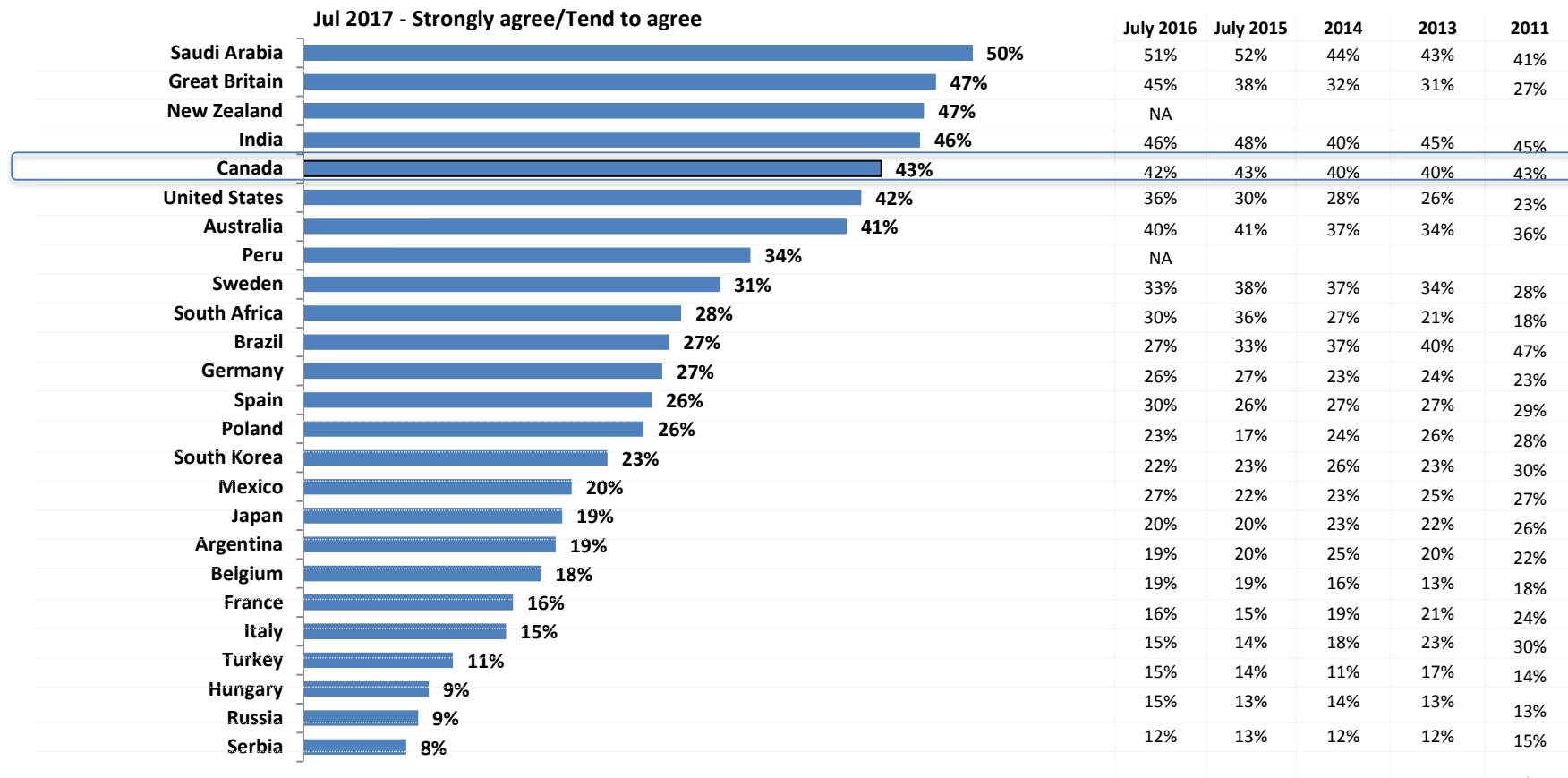
Immigration data suggests countries with a higher proportion of immigrants tend to have more positive views about immigration



Would you say that immigration has generally had a positive or negative impact on your country?

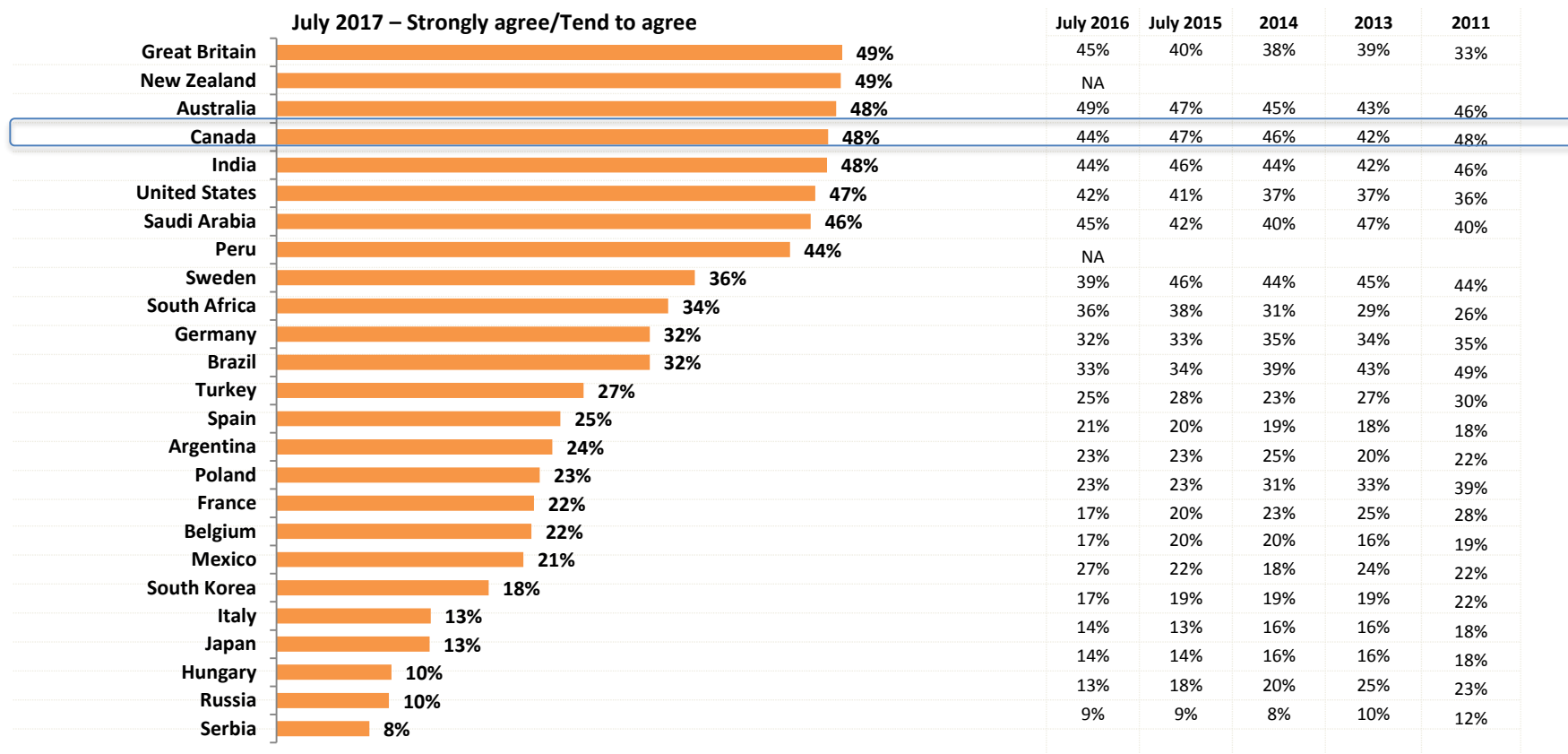
Foreign born population figures: *United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. 2015.*

Canadians more likely to agree that “Immigration is good for the economy”



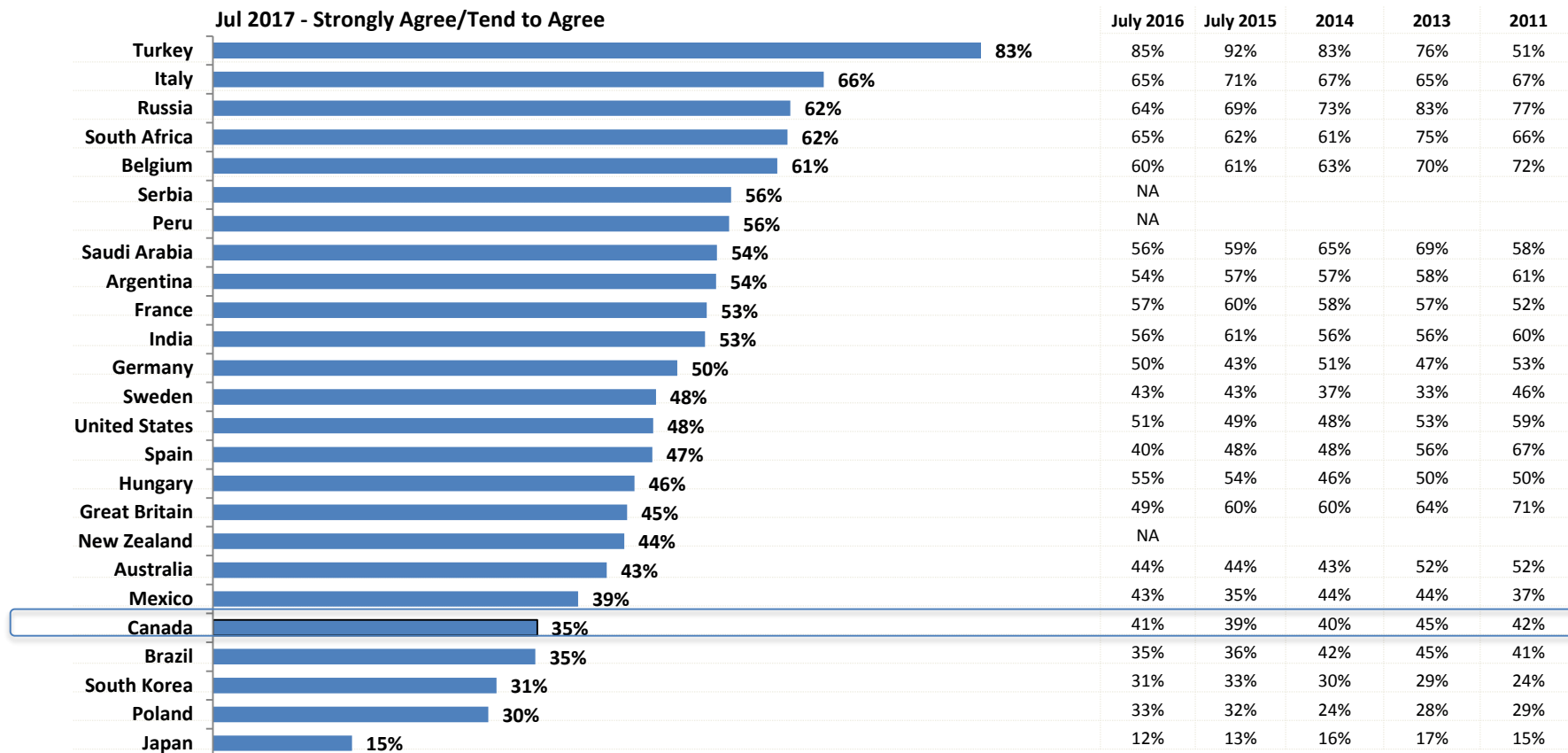
Please tell whether you agree or disagree with the following statement – “Immigration is good for the economy of your country”

Canadians more likely to believe that “Immigrants make the country a more interesting place to live”



Please tell whether you agree or disagree with the following statement – “Immigrants make your country a more interesting place to live”

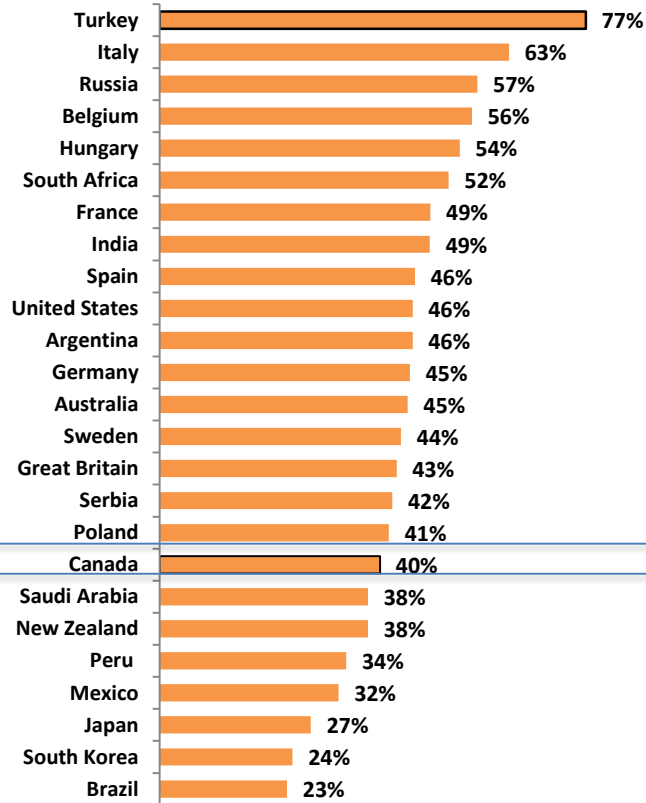
Canadians among least likely to believe that “There are too many immigrants in our country”



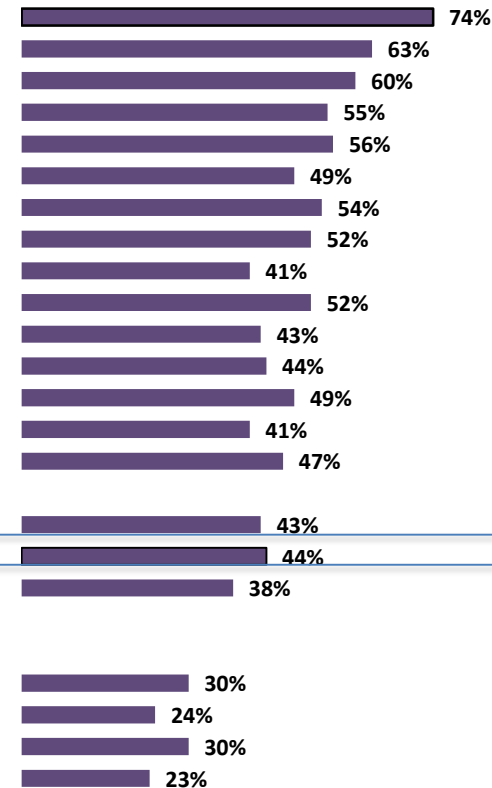
Please tell whether you agree or disagree with the following statement – “There are too many immigrants in our country”

Canada lower-middle of the pack in believing “Immigration is causing my country to change in ways that I don’t like”

2017 – Strongly agree/ tend to agree



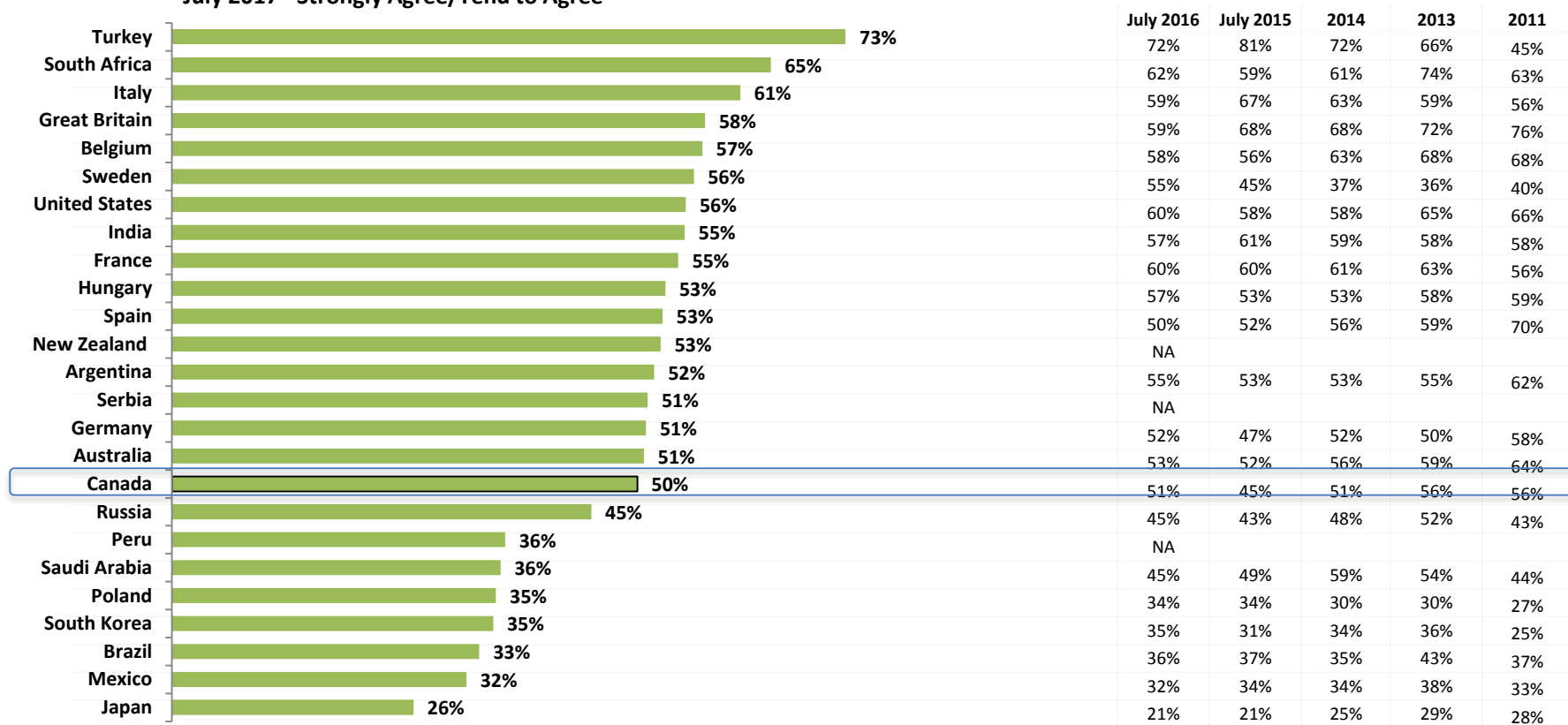
2016 – Strongly agree/ tend to agree



“Immigration is causing my country to change in ways that I don’t like”.

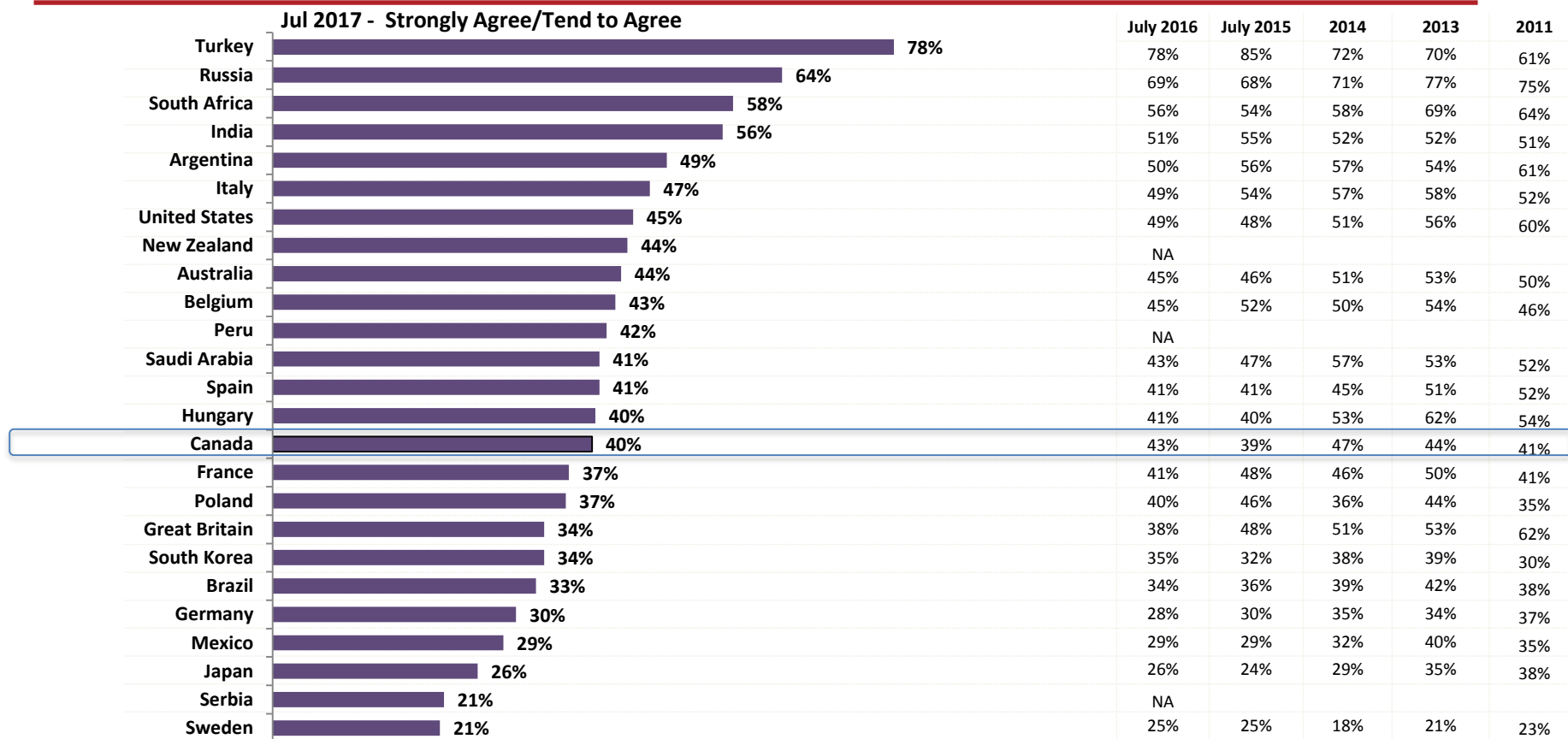
Canada in lower-middle of the pack believing “Immigration has placed too much pressure on public services”

July 2017 - Strongly Agree/Tend to Agree



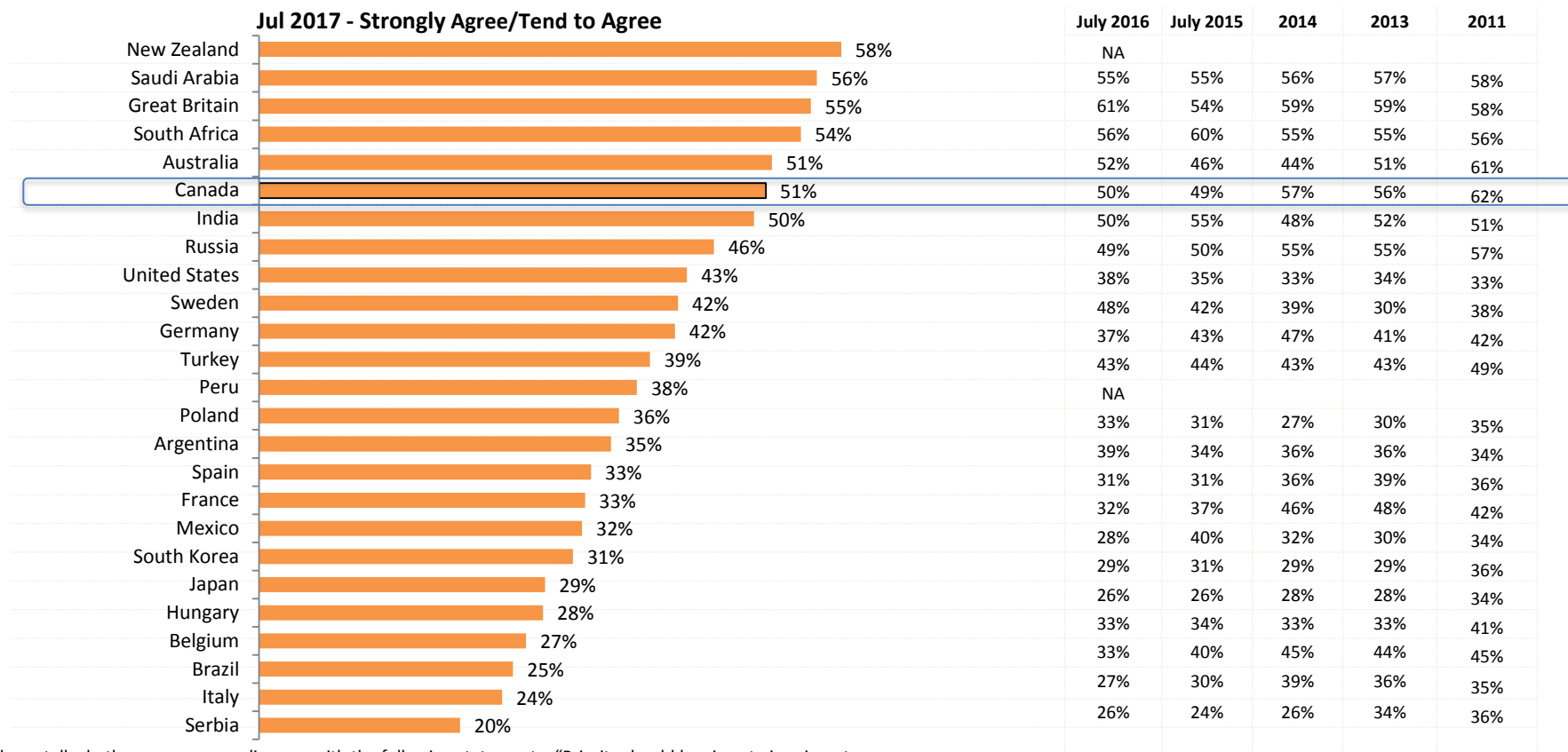
Please tell whether you agree or disagree with the following statement – “Immigration has placed too much pressure on public services in your country”

Canada in middle of the pack believing “Immigrants have made it more difficult for people of your nationality to get jobs”



Please tell whether you agree or disagree with the following statement – “Immigrants in your country have made it more difficult for people of your nationality to get jobs”

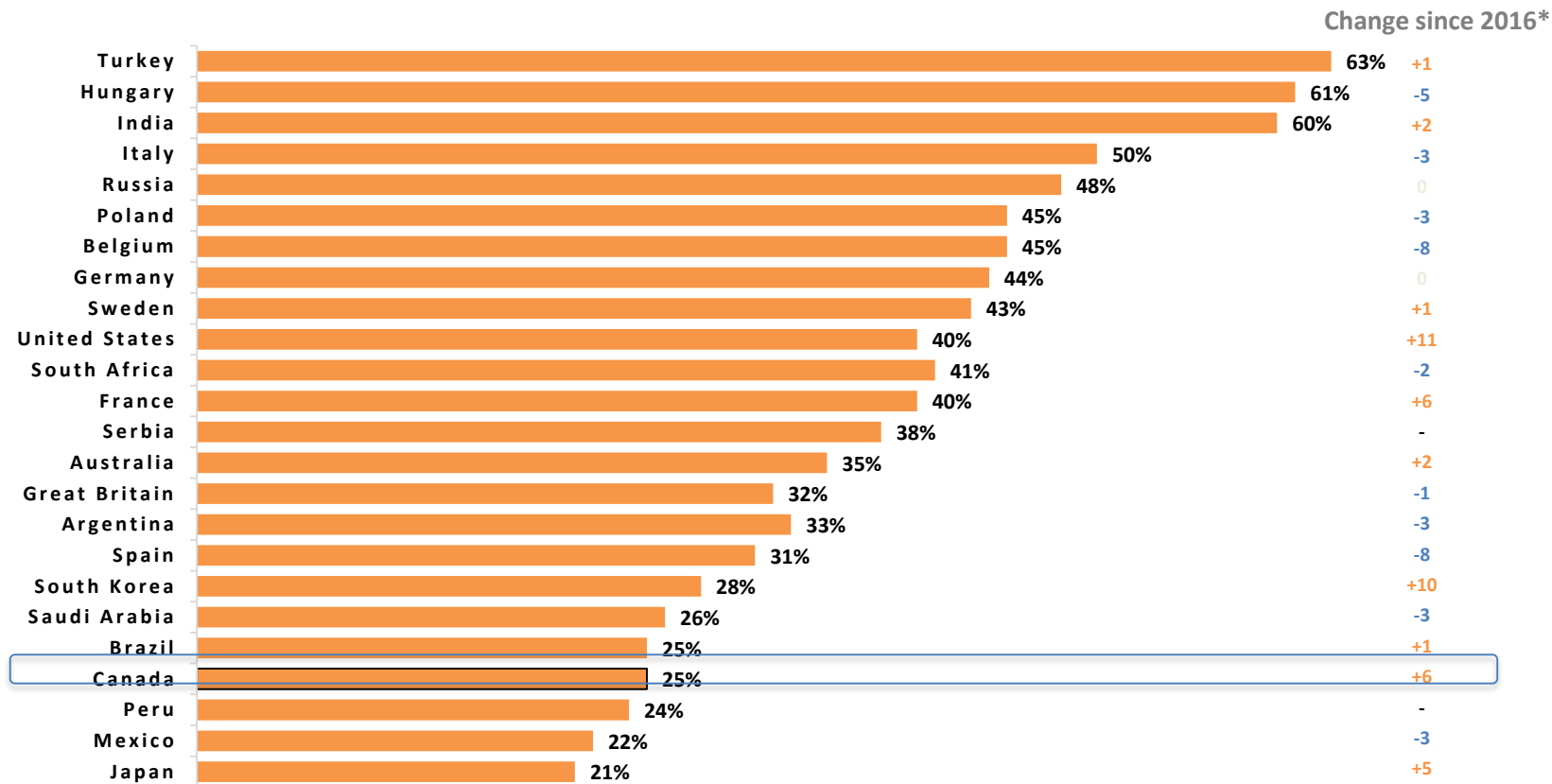
Canadians more likely to agree “Priority should be given to immigrants with higher education who can fill shortages in certain professions”



Please tell whether you agree or disagree with the following statement – “Priority should be given to immigrants with higher education and qualifications who can fill shortages among certain professions in your country”

CANADA VS OTHER COUNTRIES -- ATTITUDES TOWARD REFUGEES

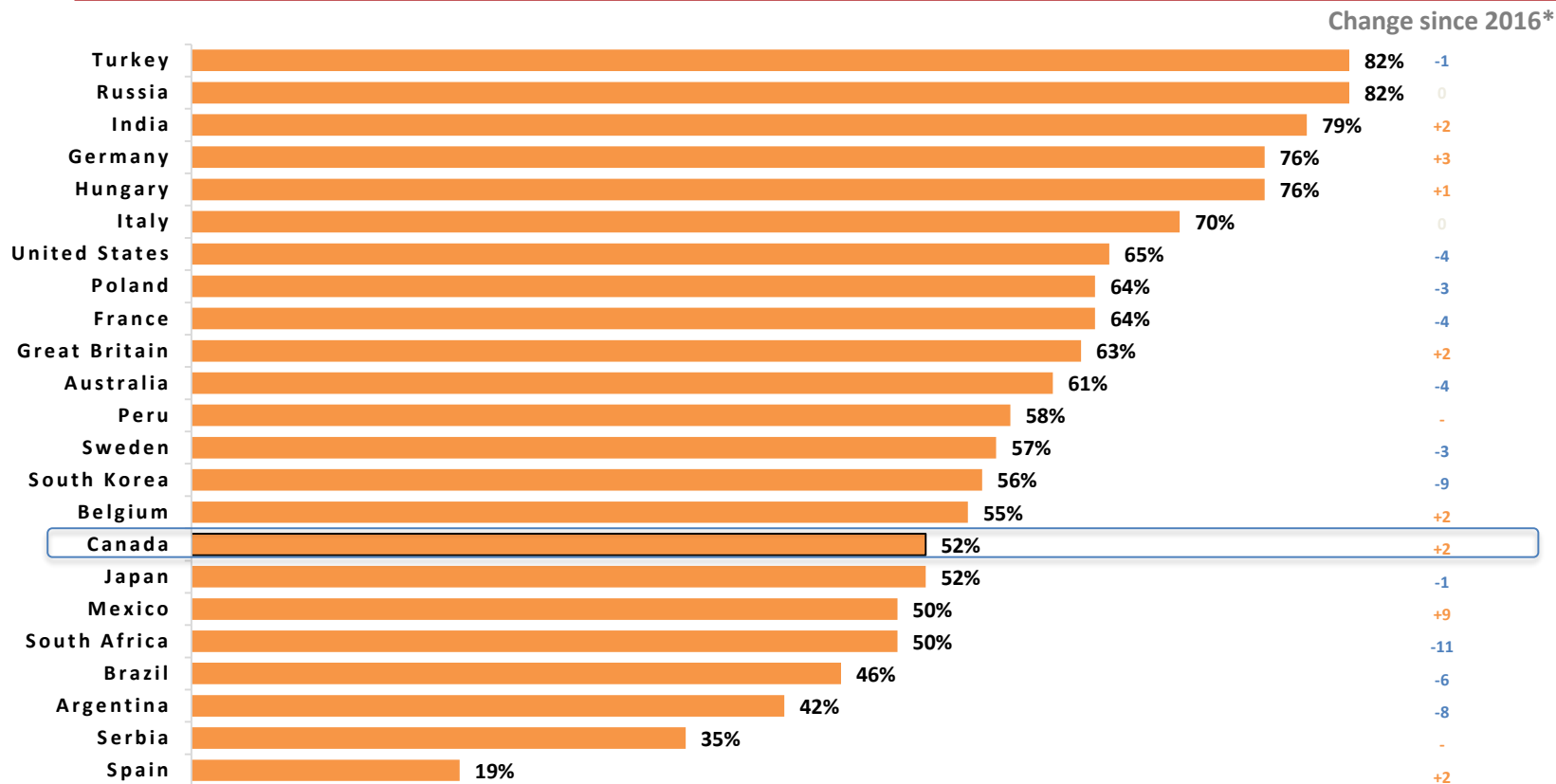
Canadians less likely to agree that “We must close our borders to refugees entirely - we can’t accept any at this time”



Please tell whether you agree or disagree with the following statement – “We must close our borders to refugees entirely - we can’t accept any at this time”

*Trends from 2016 calculated by
repercentaging 2017 figures to exclude
don’t knows

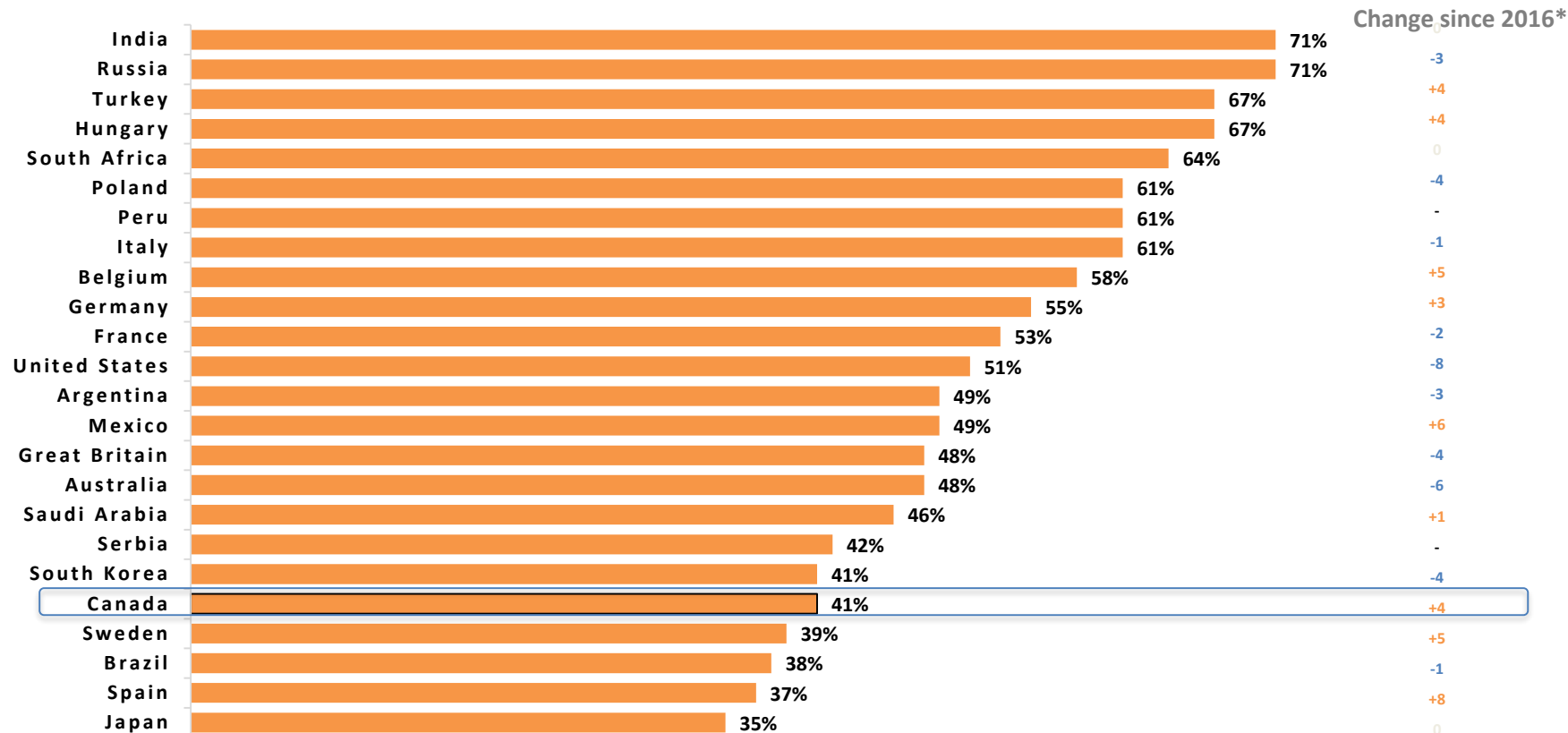
Canada lower-middle of the pack believing “There are terrorists pretending to be refugees who will enter my country to cause violence...”



Please tell whether you agree or disagree with the following statement – “There are terrorists pretending to be refugees who will enter my country to cause violence and destruction”

*Trends from 2016 calculated by
repercentaging 2017 figures to exclude
don't knows

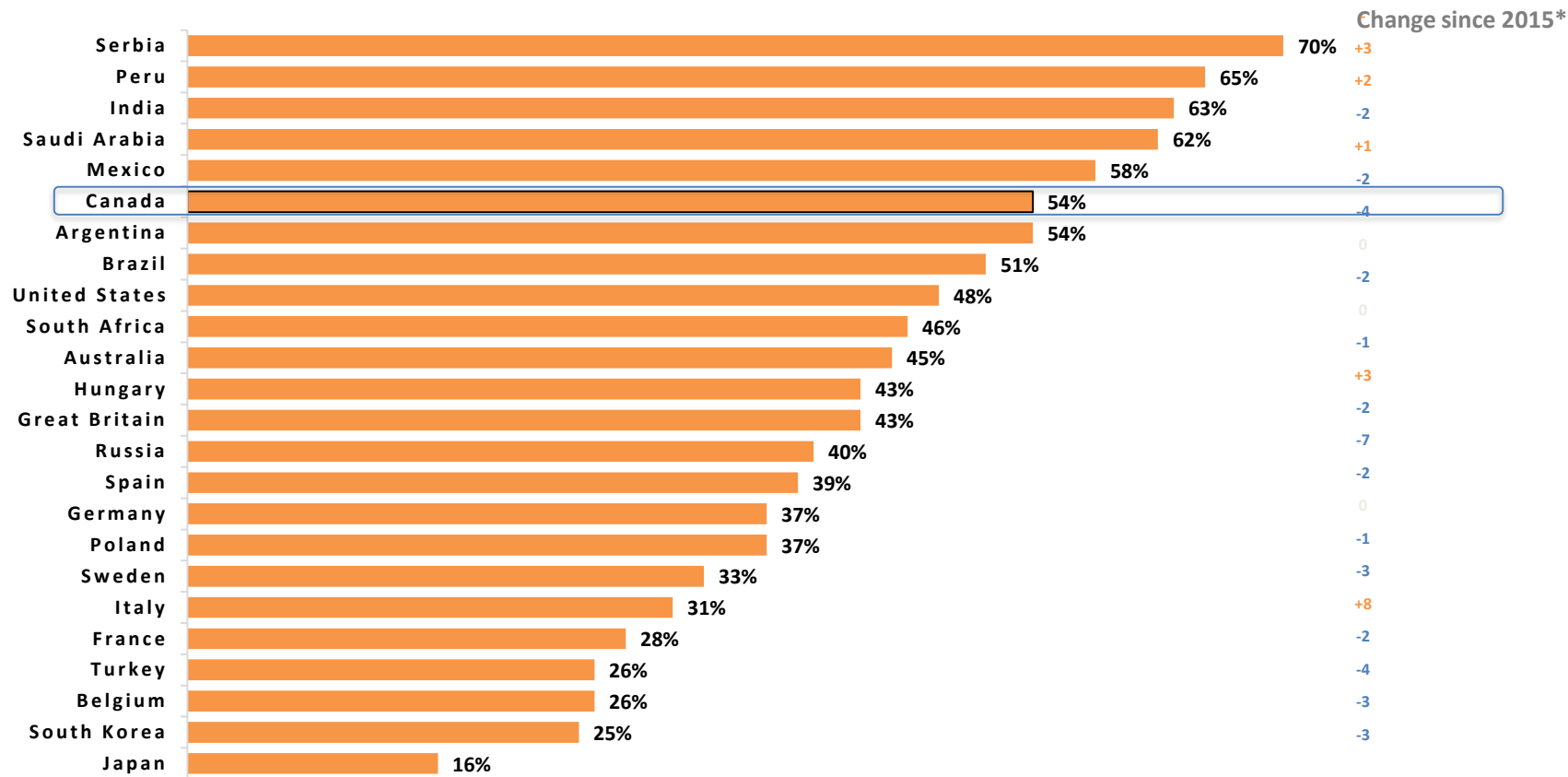
Canadians less likely to agree “Most foreigners who want to get into my country as a refugee really aren’t refugees...here for economic reasons...”



*Trends from 2016 calculated by
repercentaging 2017 figures to
exclude don't knows

Please tell whether you agree or disagree with the following statement – “Most foreigners who want to get into my country as a refugee really aren’t refugees. They just want to come here for economic reasons, or to take advantage of our welfare services”

Canadians more likely to agree “I’m confident that most refugees who come to my country will successfully integrate into their new society”



Please tell whether you agree or disagree with the following statement – “I’m confident that most refugees who come to my country will successfully integrate into their new society”

*Trends from 2016 calculated by
repercentaging 2017 figures to
exclude don't knows

Methodology

- These are the findings of the Global @dvisor Immigration tracker 2011-2017. In total 17,903 interviews were conducted between 24 June and 8 July 2017 among adults aged 18-64 in the US and Canada, and adults aged 16-64 in all other countries.
- The survey was conducted in 25 countries around the world via the Ipsos Online Panel system in Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Poland, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, and the United States.
- Between 500 and 1000+ individuals participated in each country via the Ipsos Online Panel. The sample was 1000+ in Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, Spain and the United States of America. In all other countries the sample was 500+. The precision of Ipsos online polls is calculated using a credibility interval with a poll of 1,000 accurate to +/- 3.5 percentage points and of 500 accurate to +/- 5.0 percentage points. For more information on Ipsos' use of credibility intervals, please visit the Ipsos website.
- 16 of the 25 countries surveyed online provide nationally representative samples: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Poland, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, and the United States. Online samples in Brazil, India, Israel, Mexico, Peru, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and Turkey are more urban/educated/income than their fellow citizens and are referred to as "Upper Deck Consumer Citizens."
- Where results do not sum to 100, this may be due to computer rounding, multiple responses or the exclusion of don't knows or not stated responses.
- Data are weighted to match the profile of the population.

CONTACTS

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