



# Ipsos MORI Public Spending Index

22 June 2009

<http://www.ipsos-mori.com/researchspecialisms/socialresearch.aspx>

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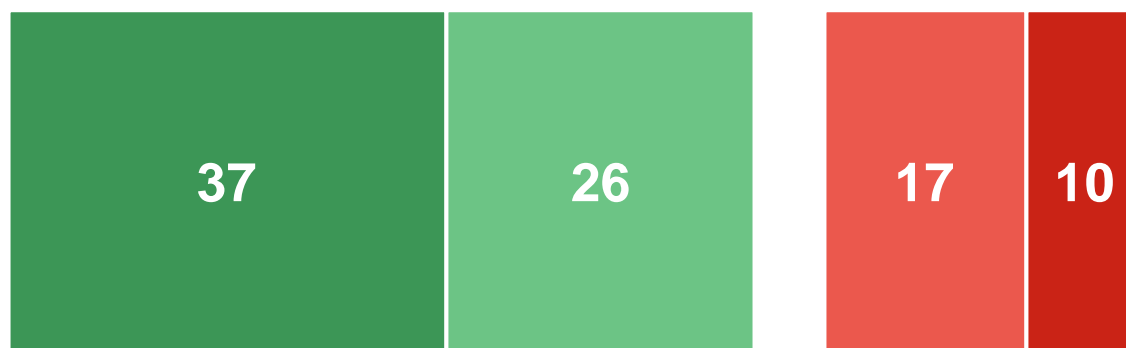
With borrowing and debt at record levels, what do people want from public services?

# Most think public services AREN'T run efficiently

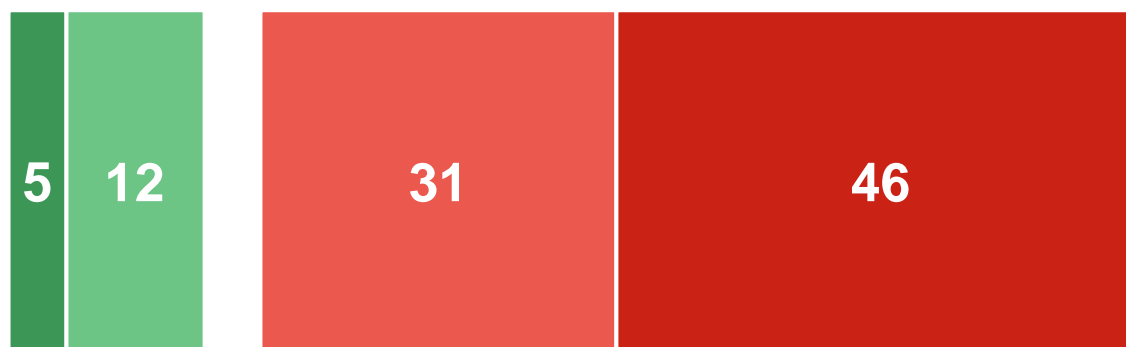
Please tell me how strongly you agree or disagree with each of these arguments about public services and public spending

■ % Strongly agree   ■ % Tend to agree   ■ % Tend to disagree   ■ % Strongly disagree

There are many public services that are a waste of money and can be cut



Public services are already run efficiently, and so the only way to cut spending is to cut services provided to the public



Base: 1,004 British adults, 19-21 June 2009

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Source: Ipsos MORI Public Spending Index

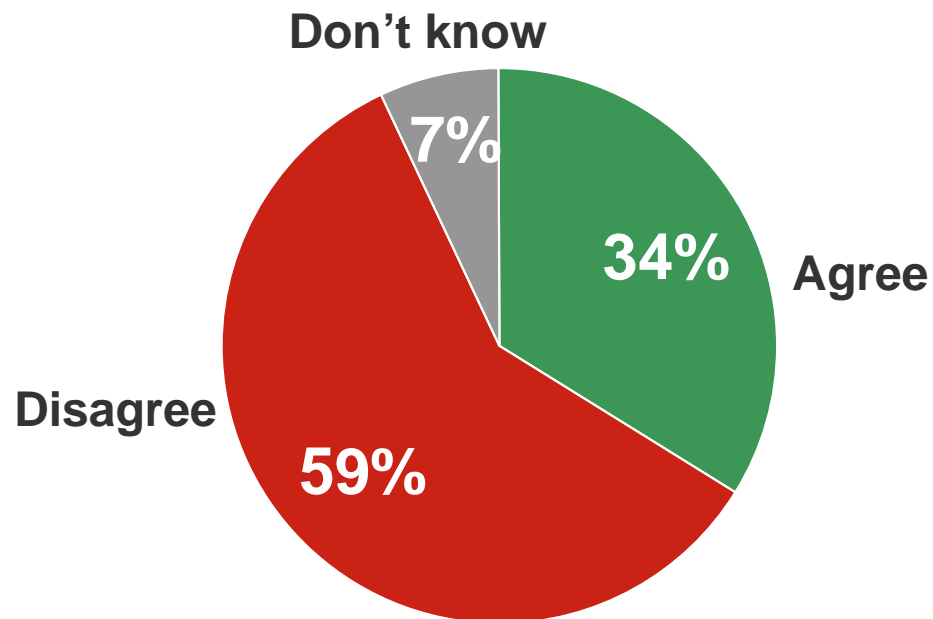


Confidence in the government has  
been hit

# Low confidence in government policies

## Economy

On balance, do you agree or disagree that in the long term, this government's policies will improve the state of Britain's economy?

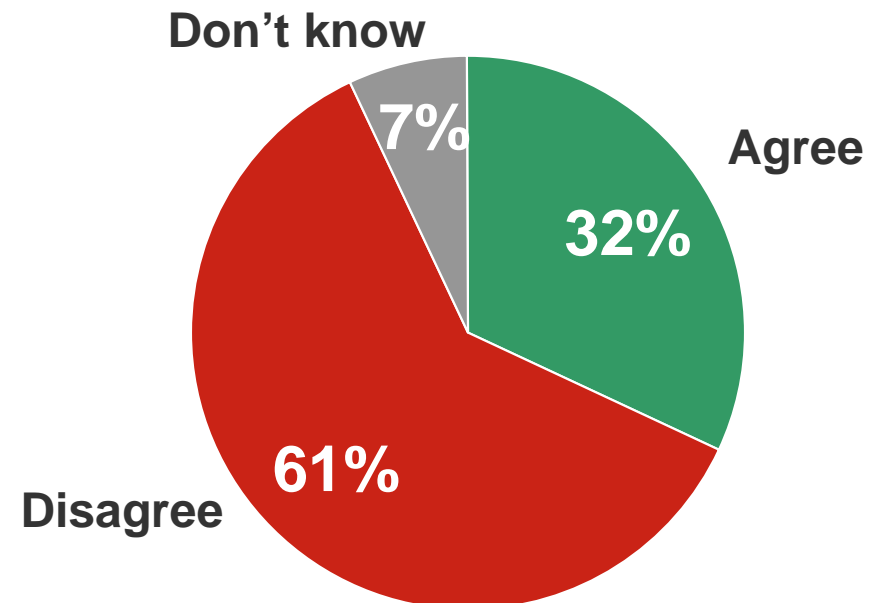


**Net agree = -25**

Base: 1,004 British adults, 19-21 June 2009  
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## Public Services

On balance, do you agree or disagree that in the long term, this government's policies will improve the state of Britain's public services?

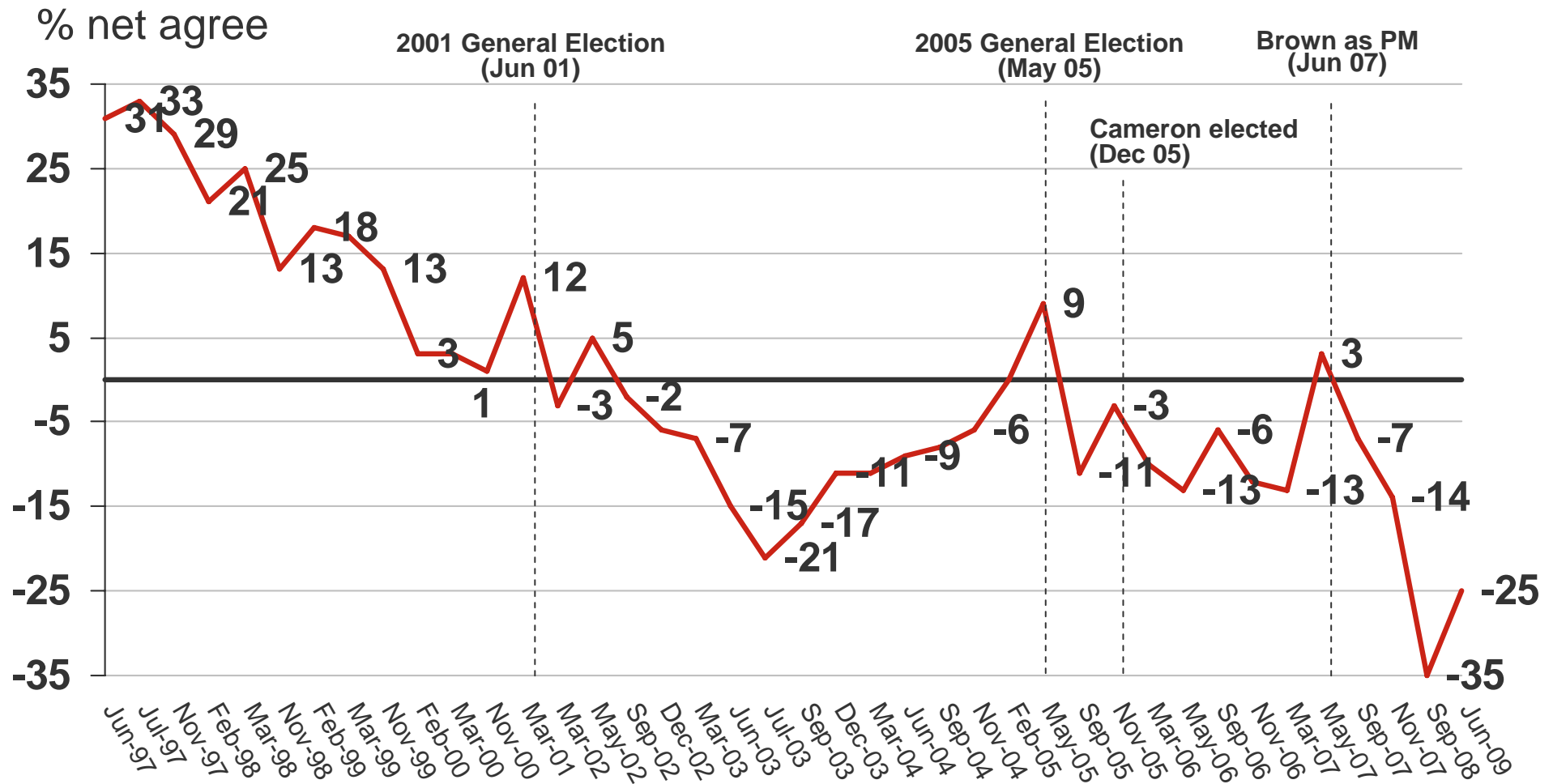


**Net agree = -29**

Source: Ipsos MORI Public Spending Index

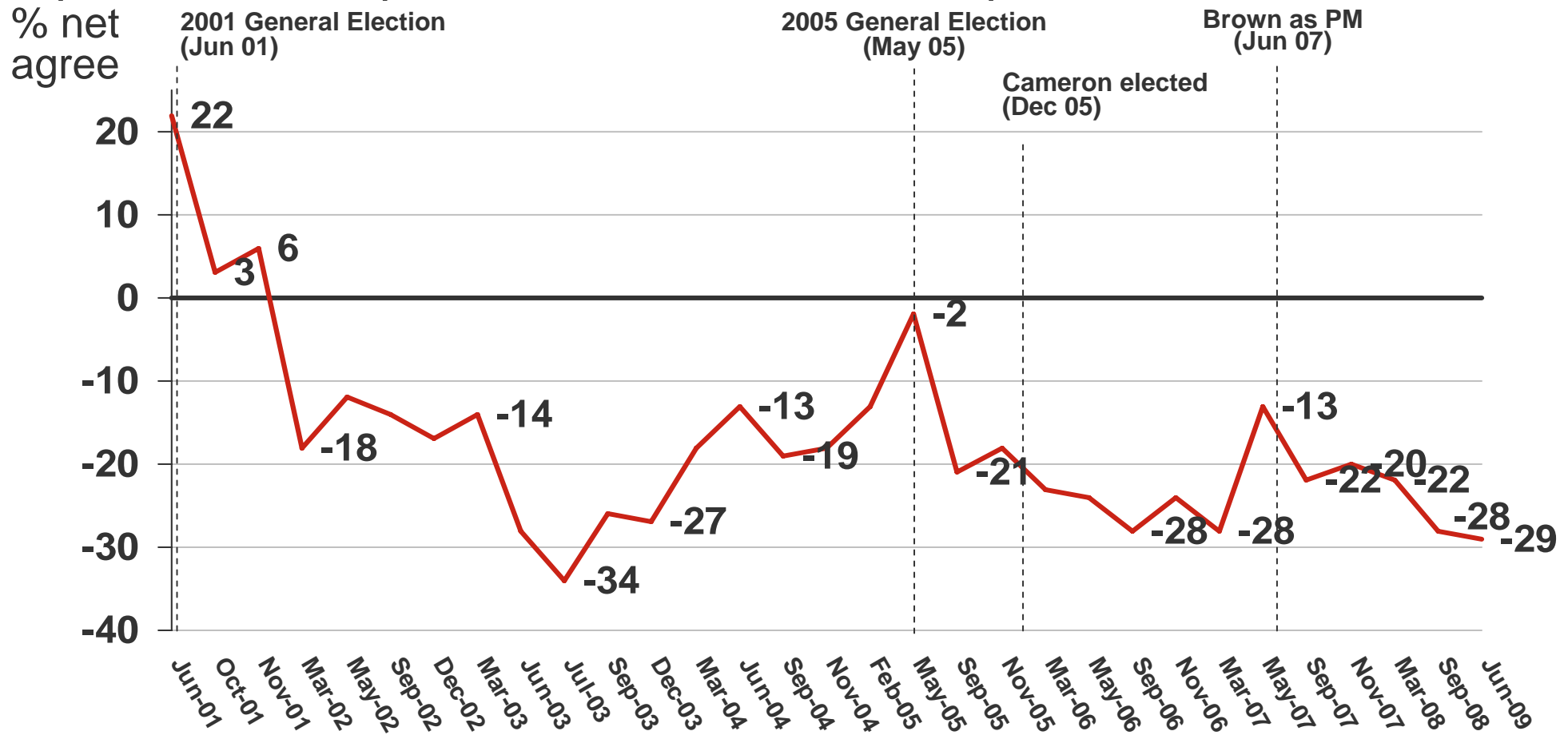
# Confidence in government's economic policies has fallen...

Do you agree or disagree... "In the long term, this government's policies will improve the state of Britain's economy"



# ...as it has on public services...

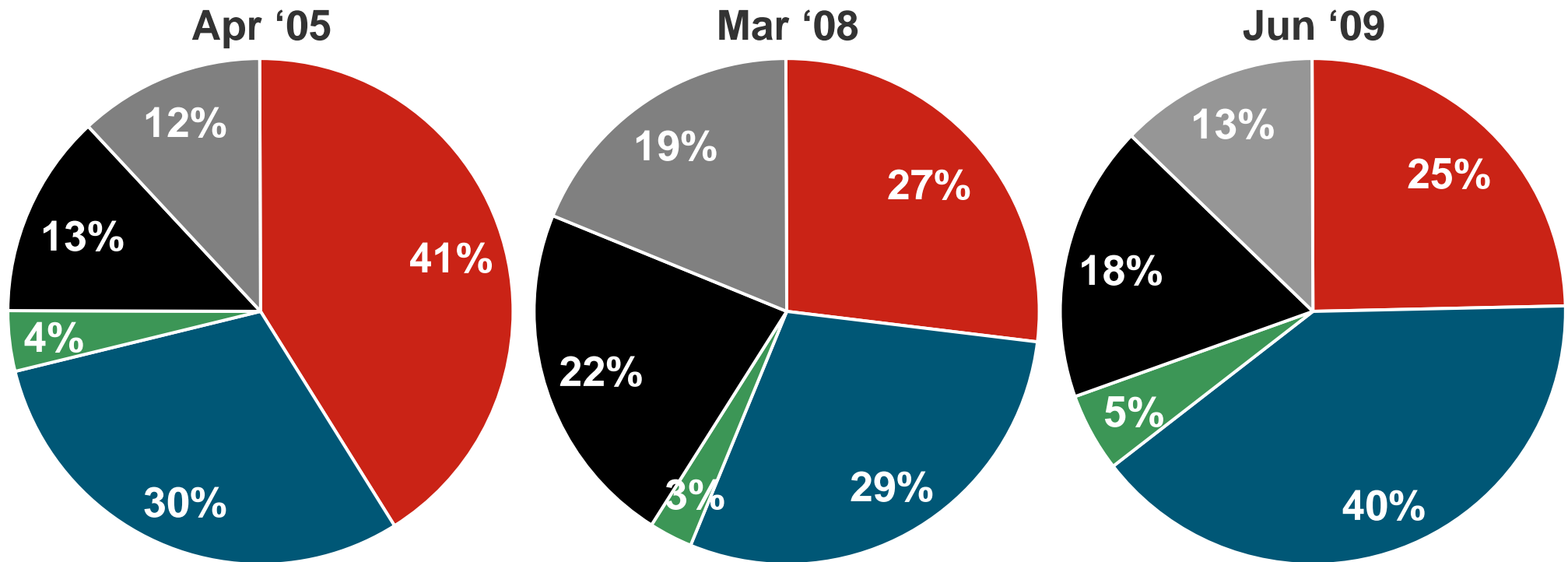
Do you agree or disagree... “In the long term, this government’s policies will improve the state of Britain’s public services”



# ...and the Conservatives have benefited

Do you think a Labour or Conservative Government would be most effective in getting good value for the public money it spends?

- % Labour Government
- % Conservative Government
- % Other
- % None
- % Don't know



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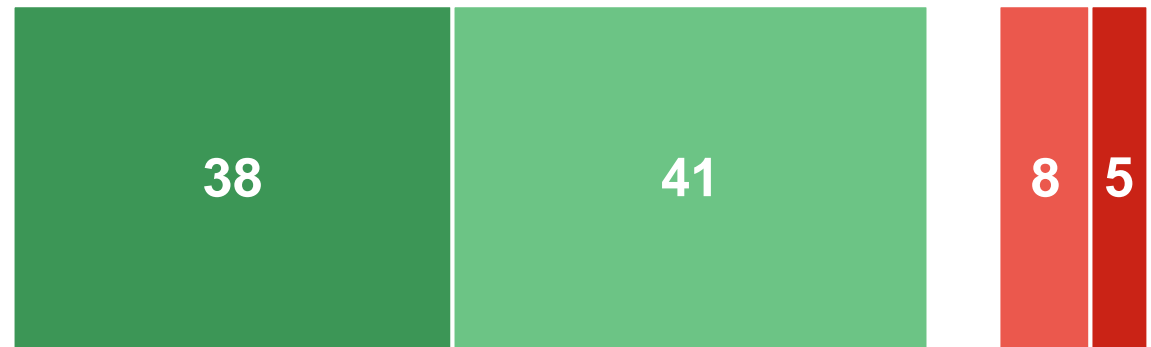
The public believe efficiencies, not  
cuts, can do it –  
'hard truths' not accepted?

# Most think efficiency savings can be made WITHOUT cutting services

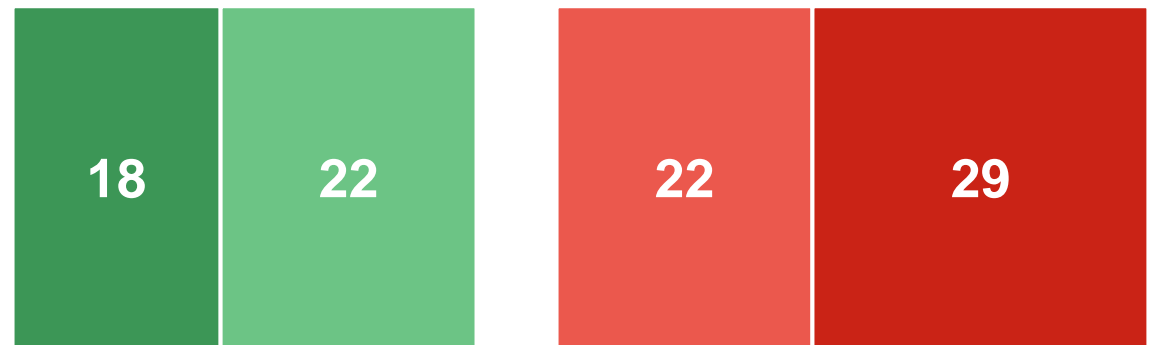
Please tell me how strongly you agree or disagree with each of these arguments about public services and public spending

■ % Strongly agree   ■ % Tend to agree   ■ % Tend to disagree   ■ % Strongly disagree

Making public services more efficient can save enough money to help cut government spending, without damaging services the public receive



There is a real need to cut spending on public services in order to pay off the very high national debt we now have



Base: 1,004 British adults, 19-21 June 2009

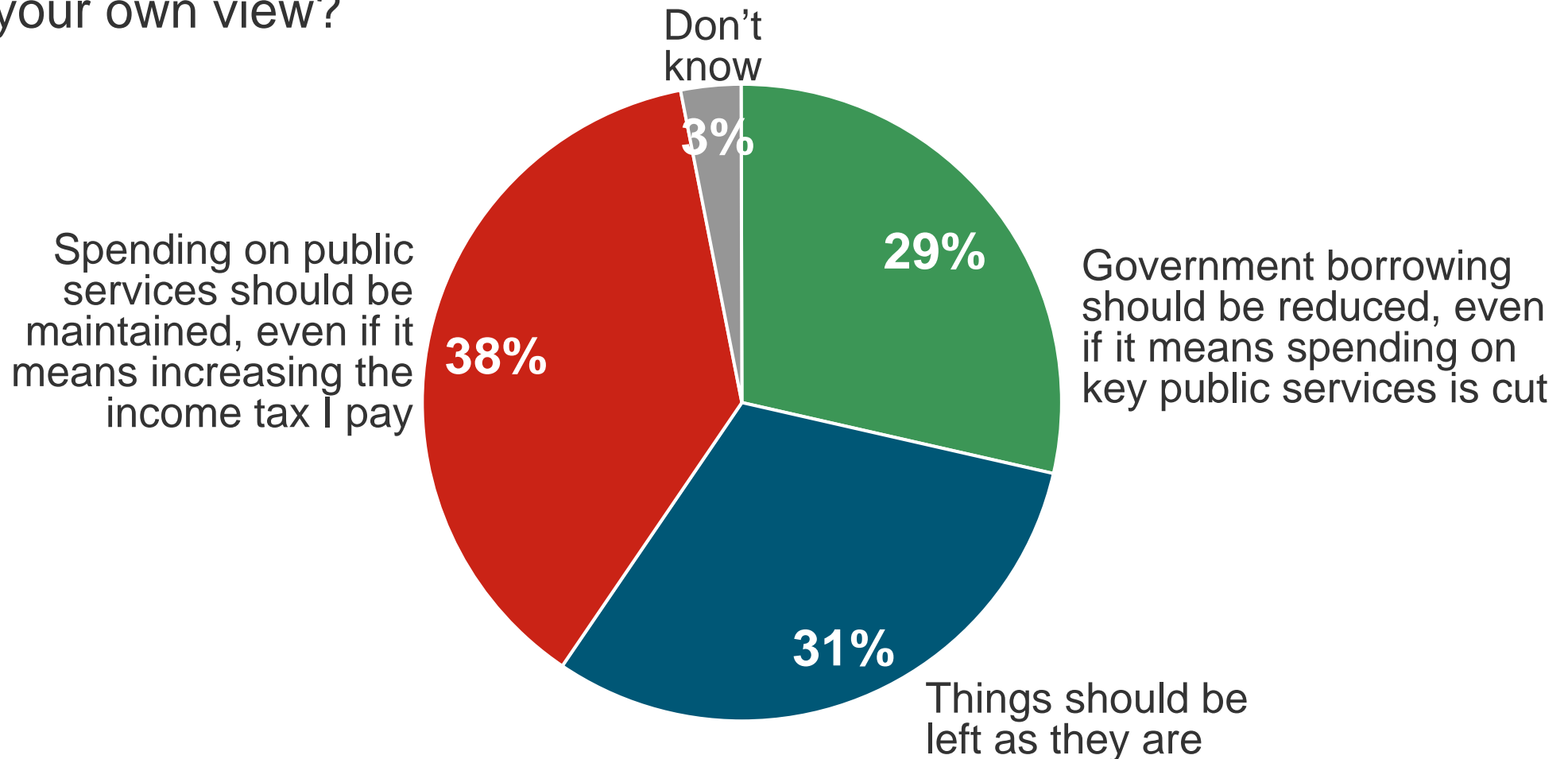
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Source: Ipsos MORI Public Spending Index



# Three-way split on whether to cut services, raise taxes or do nothing!

Government borrowing is now at record levels, and will need to be reduced in future. Which of these statements comes closest to your own view?



Base: 1,004 British adults, 19-21 June 2009

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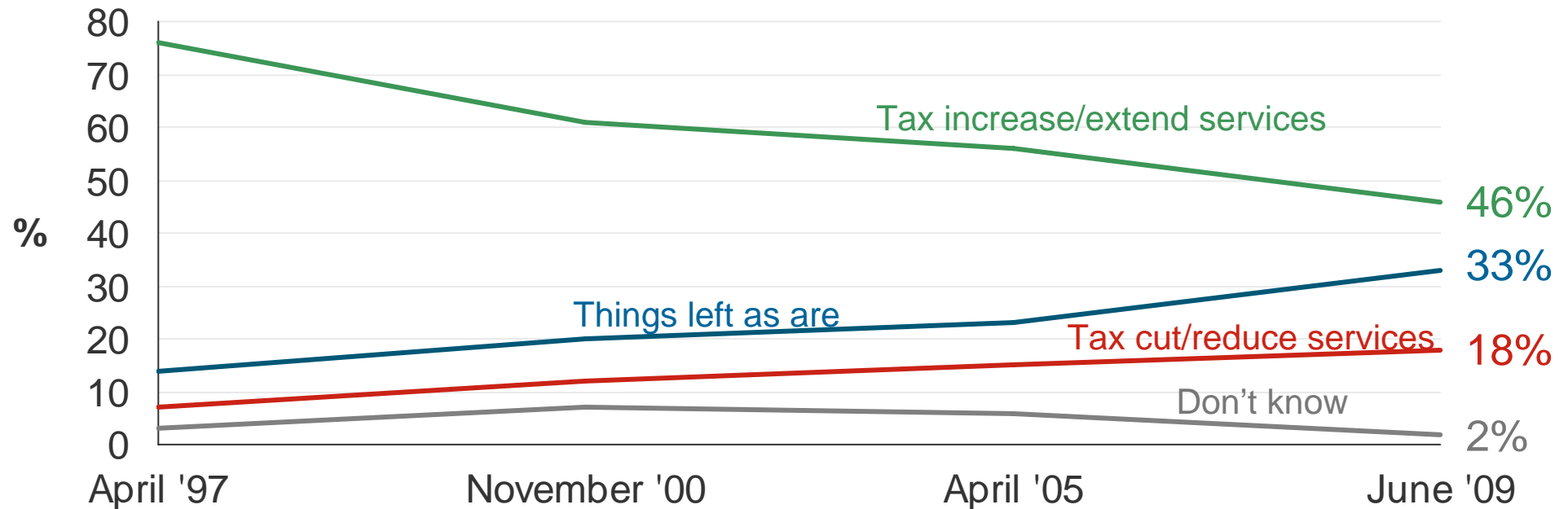
Source: Ipsos MORI Public Spending Index



# Fewer now support extending services

People have different views about whether it is more important to reduce taxes or keep up government spending. How about you? Which of these statements comes closest to your own view?

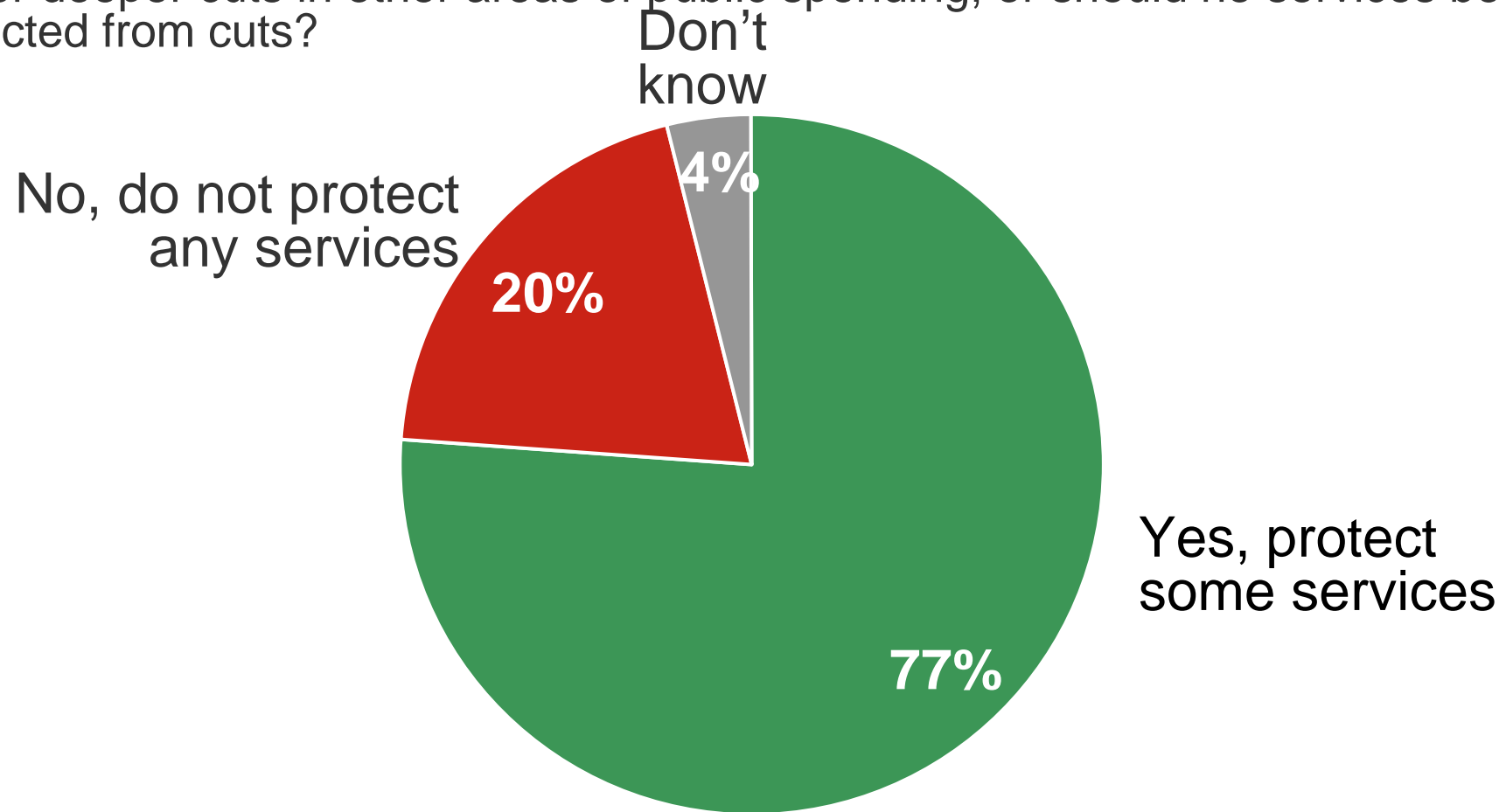
- % Government services such as health, education and welfare should be extended, even if it means some increases in taxes
- % Things should be left as they are
- % Taxes should be cut, even if it means some reduction in government services, such as health, education and welfare
- % Don't know



If cuts have to happen – where  
should they take place?

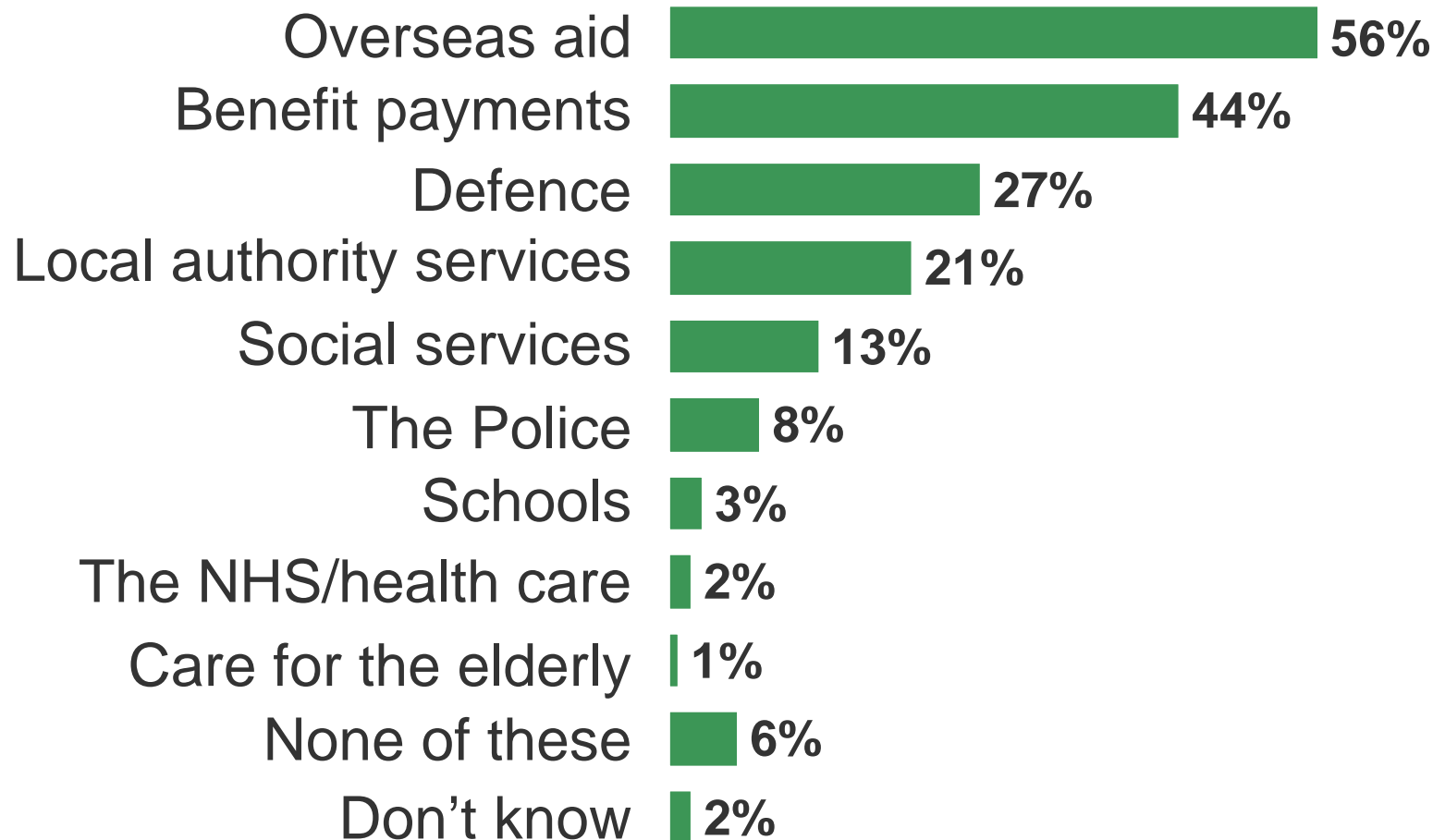
# Most want some services protected from cuts

If the overall level of public spending is going to be reduced as part of the process of reducing borrowing and rebalancing the public finances, should spending on some services be protected from cuts even if that means bigger rises in taxation and/or deeper cuts in other areas of public spending, or should no services be protected from cuts?



# Overseas aid and benefits (even in a recession) are the prime candidates for cuts...

And which TWO or THREE, if any, of the following main areas of public spending do you think **should be cut** to restore public finances?



Base: All who think some services should be protected (773), 19-21 June 2009

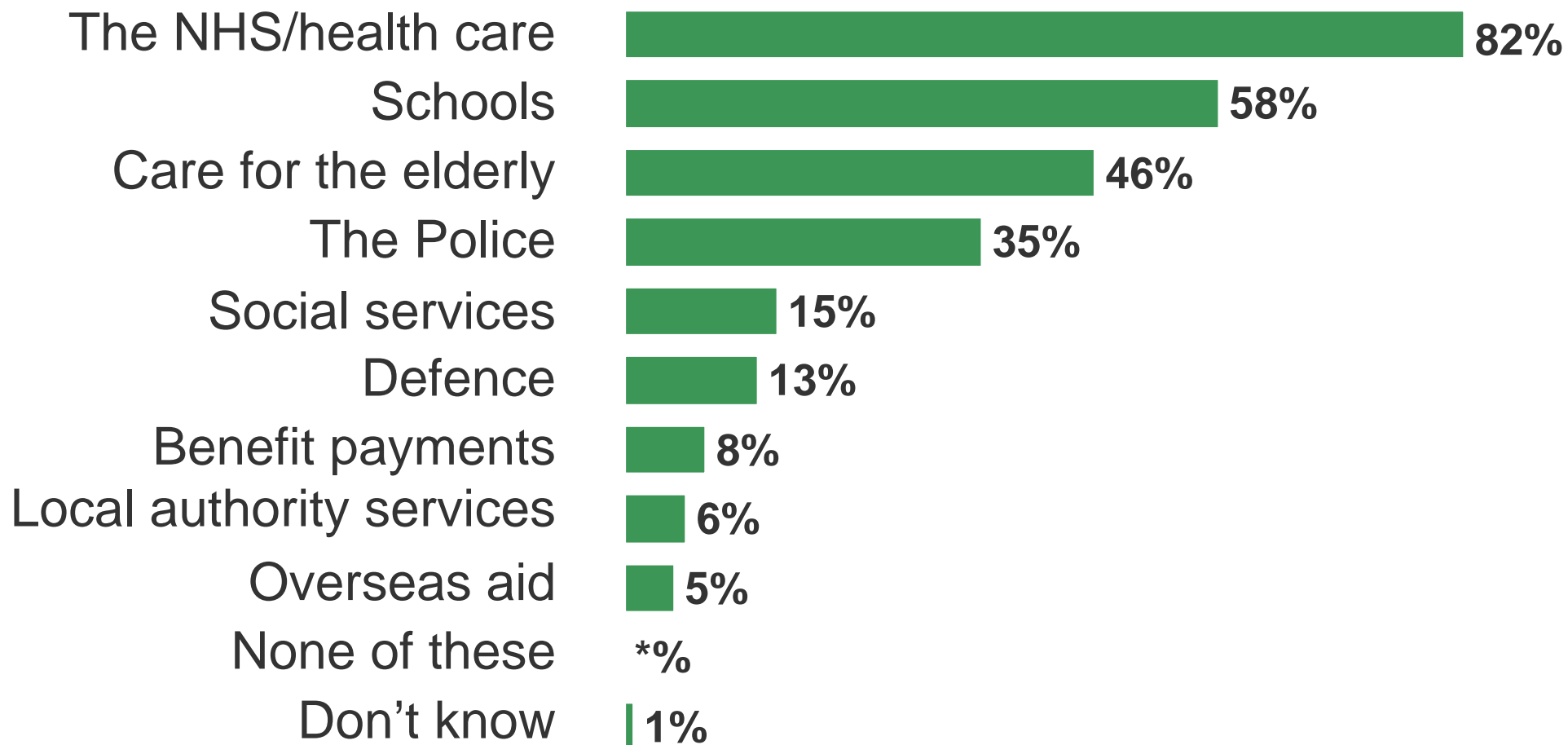
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## ...but NHS and schools should be 'ring-fenced'

Which TWO or THREE, if any, of the following main areas of public spending do you think **should be protected from any cuts?**



Base: All who think some services should be protected (773), 19-21 June 2009

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Source: Ipsos MORI Public Spending Index





# Appendix

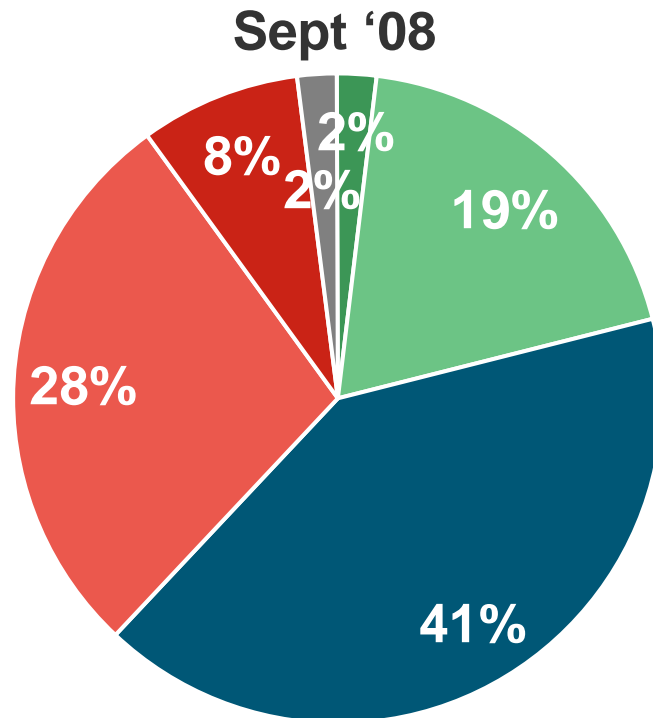
# Expectations of the NHS

Thinking about the NHS over the next few years do you expect it to get better/worse?

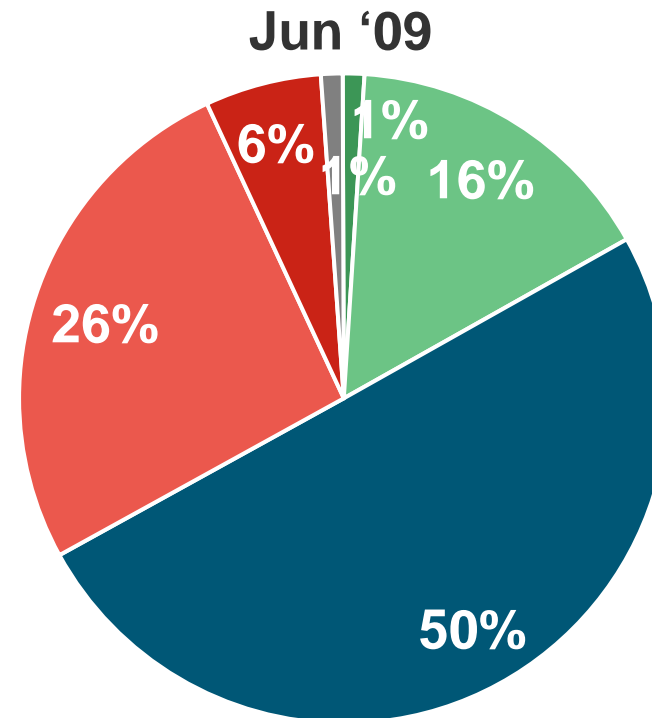
- % Get much better
- % Get worse

- % Get better
- % Get much worse

- % Stay about the same
- % Don't know



**Net agree = -15**



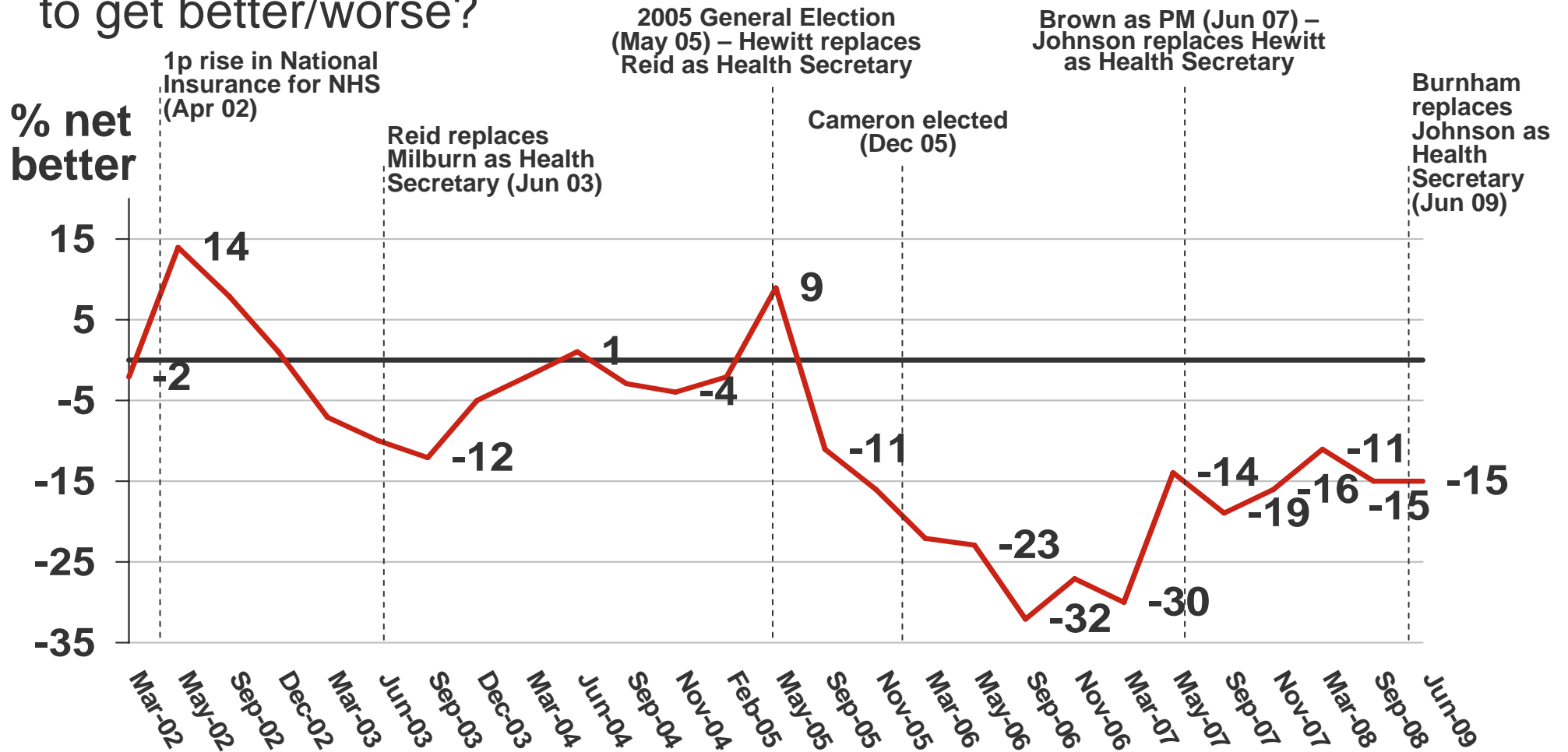
**Net agree = -15**

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# Expectations of the NHS: now stabilising after recovery?

Thinking about the NHS over the next few years do you expect it to get better/worse?



# The Ipsos MORI Public Spending Index

- The Ipsos MORI Public Spending Index focuses on expectations for public services and the economy generally, as well as the public's priorities for Government spending and taxation
- Fieldwork was conducted by telephone, from 19-21 June
- 1,004 British adults aged 18+ were interviewed

# The Ipsos MORI Social Research Institute

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- Crime: Annabelle Phillips
- Education: Fiona Johnson
- Public Transport: Nigel Shepherd and Ben Marshall
- Environment: Ed Langley
- Employment, Welfare & Skills: Suzanne Hall and Rebecca Guest