



British Embassy
Tbilisi

Public Attitudes in Georgia

Results of February 2021 telephone survey



Carried out for NDI by CRRC Georgia

This research project is funded with
UK aid from the British people

WHY WE CONDUCT POLLS?



To foster the development of more responsive policies and governance;

To help stakeholders diagnose and address issues of public concern.

- ❖ Leaders from across the political spectrum have reported that polls are important to their work and encourage continued polling;
- ❖ Inclusive process: the polling instrument was developed in consultation with political parties, government, and civil society leaders.

ABOUT THE POLL

- ❖ Fieldwork dates:
February 17-24, 2021
- ❖ 2,024 completed interviews (25% response rate, according to AAPOR standards)
- ❖ The average margin of error is +/- 1.4%
- ❖ **Note: the margin of error is different for every response**
- ❖ **Shift from face-to-face to telephone method might affect a change on historical slides.**

SAMPLE

- ❖ All interviews were conducted via **mobile phone interview** method
- ❖ Simple random sampling method was used. Respondents were selected using the **random-digit-dial method**
- ❖ Interviews were conducted in Georgian, Azerbaijani, Armenian and Russian languages
- ❖ The poll is representative of entire Georgian population (excluding the occupied territories)
- ❖ In addition, the poll is representative of the capital, urban and rural settlements

Quality control

- ❖ All interviewers receive special training
- ❖ CRRC central office coordinators conduct quality control interviews

Differences between face to face and telephone surveys

Face to face survey



- ❑ Ability to ask more questions (60-80);
- ❑ Interviews take longer (30-60 min);
- ❑ You can ask longer questions, provide definitions;
- ❑ You can show cards with answer options.

Telephone survey



- ❑ Number of questions limited (20-30);
- ❑ Shorter duration (10-20 min);
- ❑ Questions are shorter and simpler, than during face to face interviews;
- ❑ You can't use show cards with answer options. This means that answer options should be shorter, or interviewer should correspond answers.

Differences between face to face and telephone surveys

Face to face survey



- Interviewer sees respondent and can observe respondent's non-verbal behavior, whether he/she understand the question or not;
- Interviewer is in the same space with respondent and can better manage the situation;
- Certain group of busy people are harder to reach this way;
- Due to the sampling method, margin of error is higher than during telephone surveys;
- More expensive;
- Longer fieldwork.

Telephone survey



- Chances are higher that respondent can't understand the question and interviewer won't notice it;
- Interviewer has no way of knowing in what kind of environment the respondent is;
- Easier to approach some respondents, e.g. men or people who are often out of home;
- Due to the sampling method, margin of error is lower than during face to face interviews;
- Cheaper;
- Shorter fieldwork.

RESEARCH GOALS:

- To help stakeholders better understand public attitudes towards the top national issues: economy and healthcare;
- To help the newly elected Parliament diagnose and address expectations towards the new convocation;
- To help stakeholders understand attitudes and challenges around Covid-19 and upcoming vaccination, including reasons for vaccine support and hesitancy.

MAIN FINDINGS

- ❖ As in previous months, the state of the country's economy and the impact of Covid-19 remain at the forefront of citizens' concerns. A quarter of the population reports either losing their job (13 percent) or experiencing salary/income reduction (12 percent) since the start of the pandemic, while a plurality said they remain unemployed. Georgians in the retail, construction, transport, and restaurant sectors were most affected by the pandemic.
- ❖ The public is split when assessing the government's economic response to the pandemic; 50 percent assess the government's economic plan as effective and half of those who received financial assistance report it as being sufficient.
- ❖ As Georgia begins to roll out its vaccination plan, the public remains skeptical. Less than half (42 percent) of Georgians believe that the government's vaccination plan is effective. Only 35 percent would choose to receive a vaccine, if given the option right now; 53 percent said they would not. Vaccine hesitancy is highest among women and individuals under 55.

MAIN FINDINGS

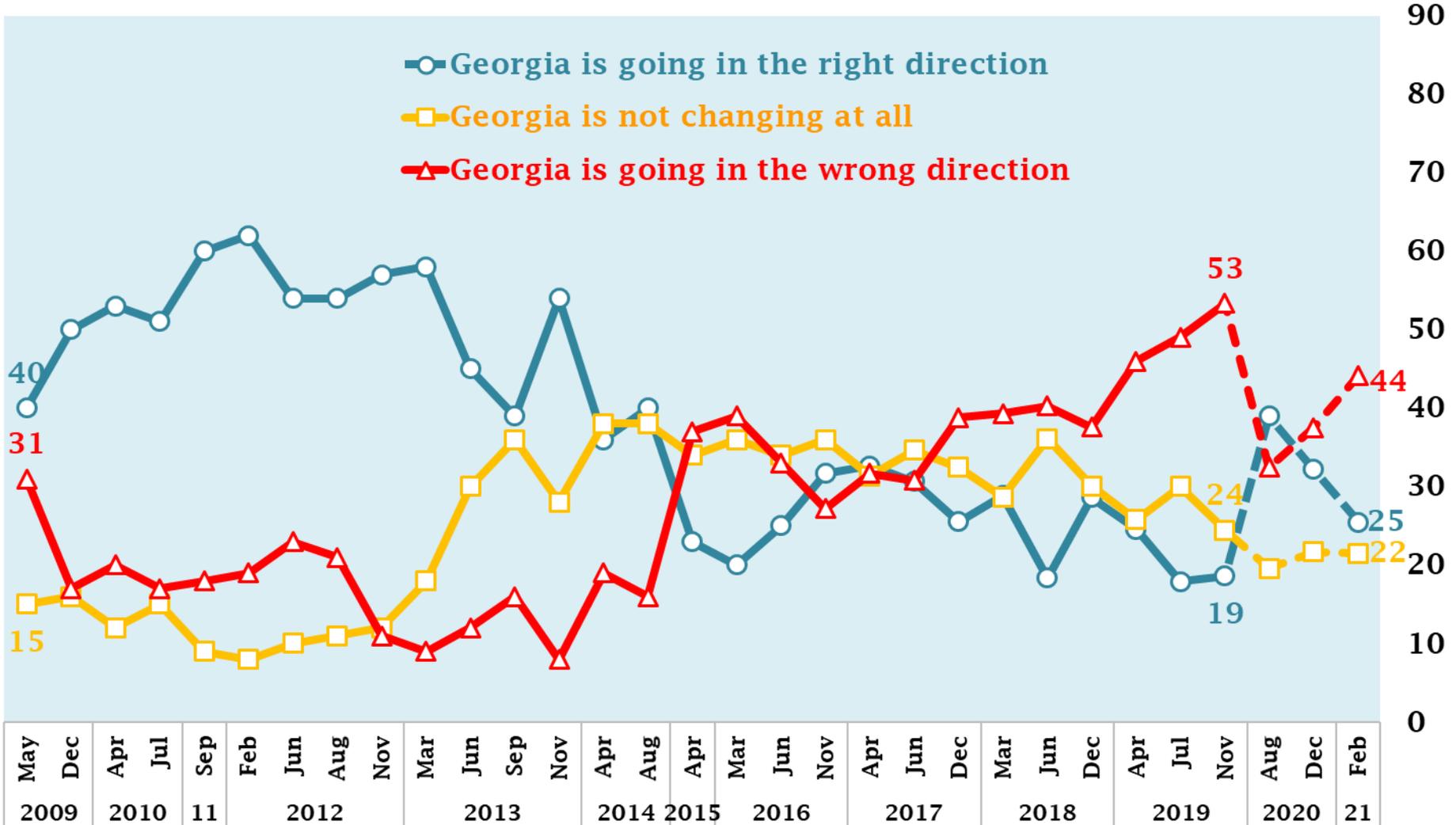
- ❖ Among those who are hesitant, the main reasons are concerns about the quality of the vaccine (48 percent) and the belief that they can overcome the pandemic without vaccination (20 percent).
- ❖ Georgians, who say they get their news on Covid-19 primarily from television (60 percent) and internet (35 percent), look to medical professionals (74 percent) and the Georgian National Center for Disease Control (NCDC) (68 percent) for trustworthy information.
- ❖ During the upcoming year, the public wants to see the Georgian parliament focused on the economy, healthcare, and education.
- ❖ Georgians remain skeptical of the parliament's willingness to actually address their concerns. A majority does not believe parliament will take into account opinions of people like them (54 percent) and believes that MPs will only serve their own interests (55 percent). The lack of faith in parliament likely contributes to low interest in engagement with the institution. When asked about the preferred form of communication, a plurality (39 percent) said they don't want to be engaged with the parliament.
- ❖ Citizens expect parties to address issues of inclusion: a majority of Georgians want to see more women in parliament; approximately half favor equal representation.

Country Direction

Country direction

There are different opinions regarding the direction in which Georgia is going. Which one do you agree with? (q3)

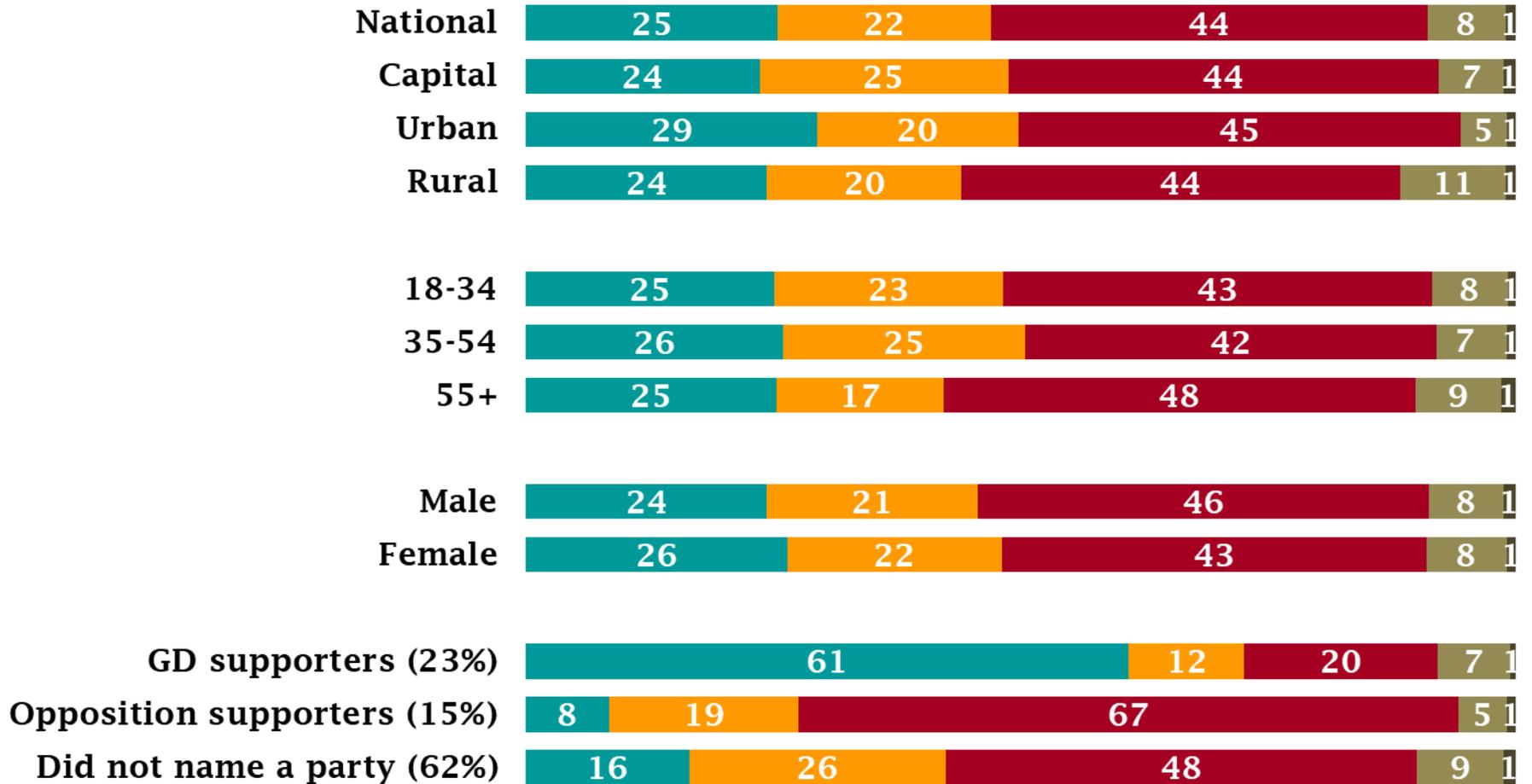
*Dashed line represents change in method from face-to-face to telephone



Country direction

There are different opinions regarding the direction in which Georgia is going. Which one do you agree with? (q3 X Settlement, Age, Gender, Party closest to you)

- Georgia is going in the right direction
- Georgia is not changing at all
- Georgia is going in the wrong direction
- DK
- RA

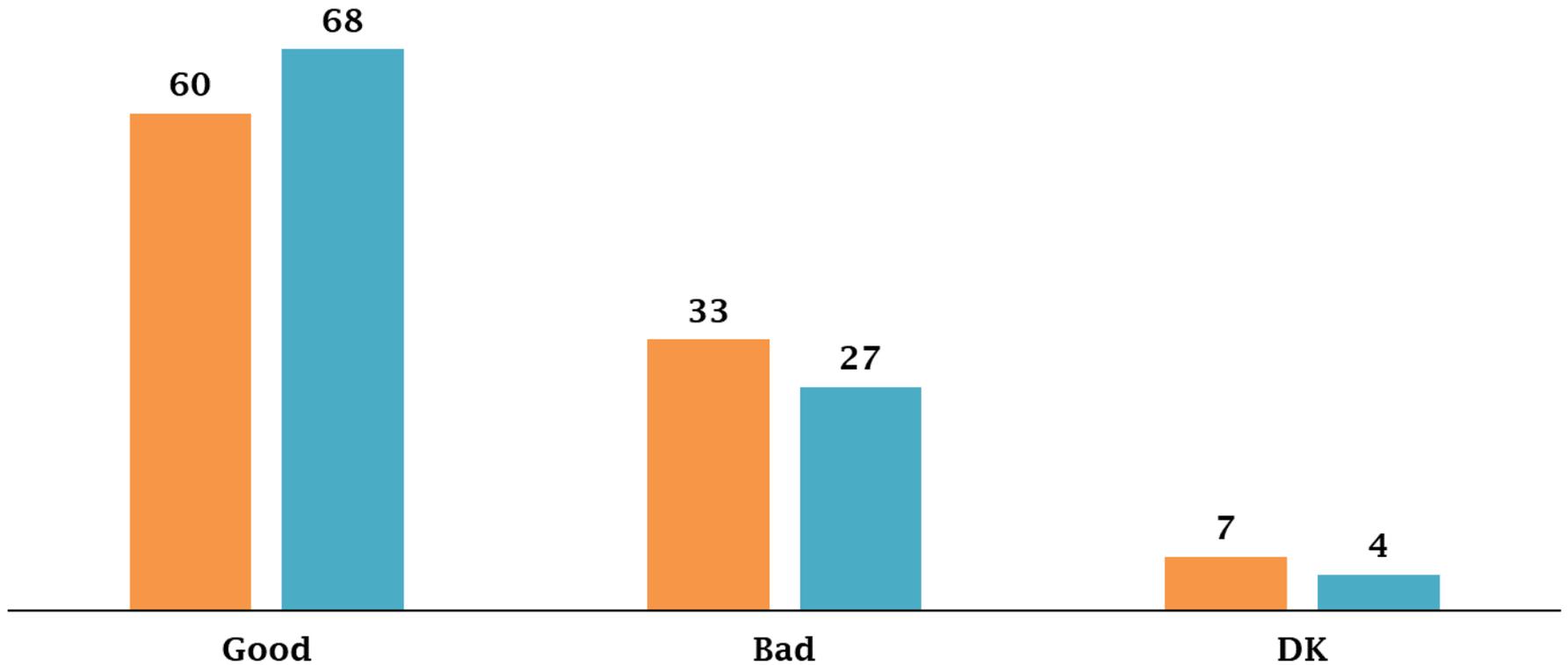


Covid-19 Pandemic

Handling of Covid-19 pandemic

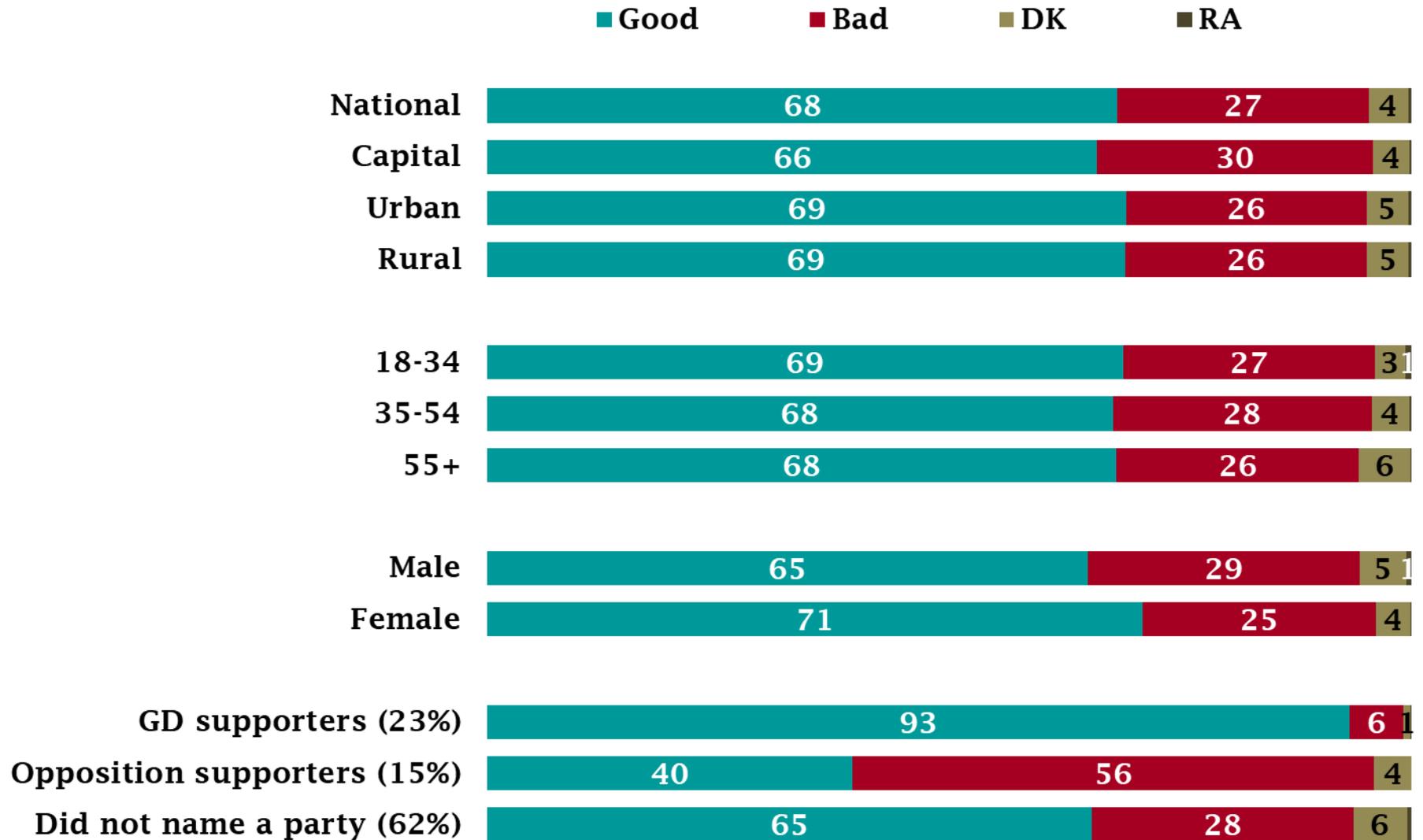
Overall, how would you rate the government's handling of Covid-19 pandemic? (q16)

December 2020 February 2021



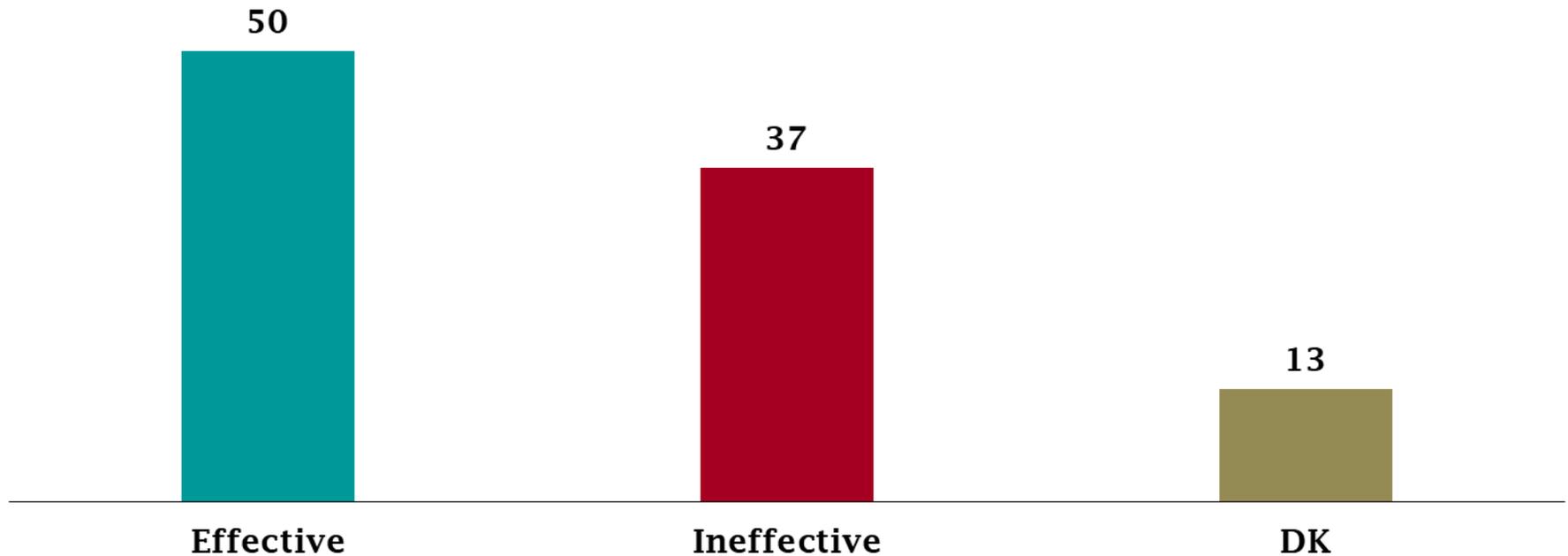
Handling of Covid-19 pandemic

Overall, how would you rate the government's handling of Covid-19 pandemic? (q16 X Settlement, Age, Gender, Party closest to you)



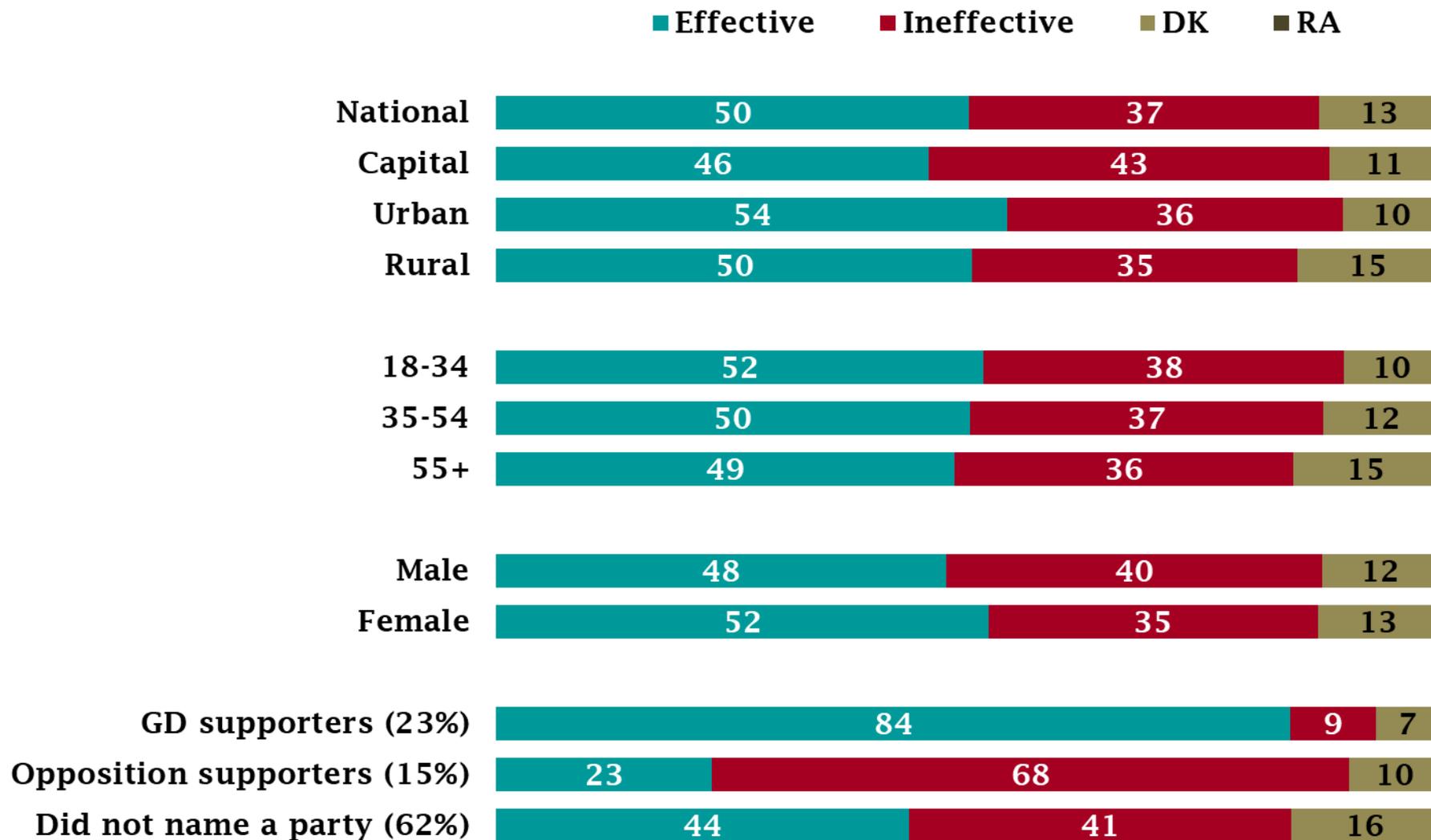
Government's economic plan

In your opinion, how effective or ineffective is the government's economic plan in response to Covid-19 in Georgia? (q19)



Government's economic plan

In your opinion, how effective or ineffective is the government's economic plan in response to Covid-19 in Georgia? (q19 X Settlement, Age, Gender, Party closest to you)

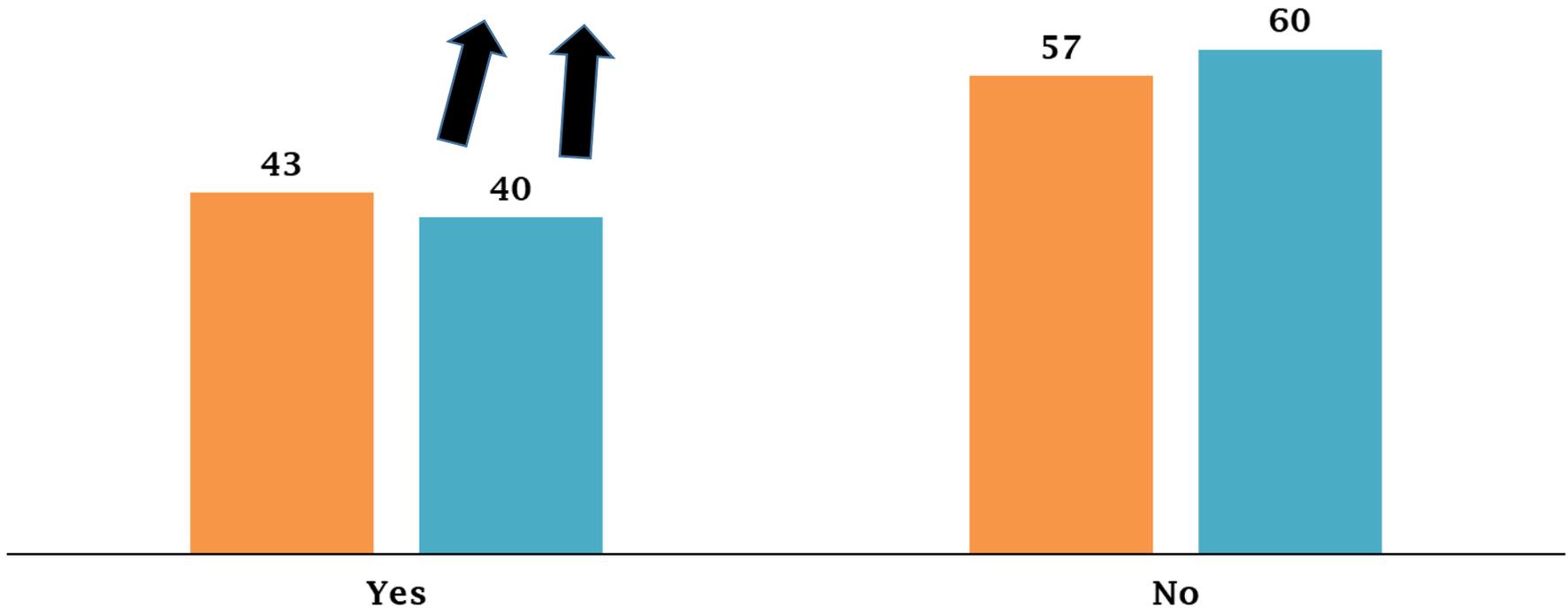


Financial aid

Have you or someone in your household received any kind of financial aid or benefit from the government during the Covid-19 pandemic? (q17)

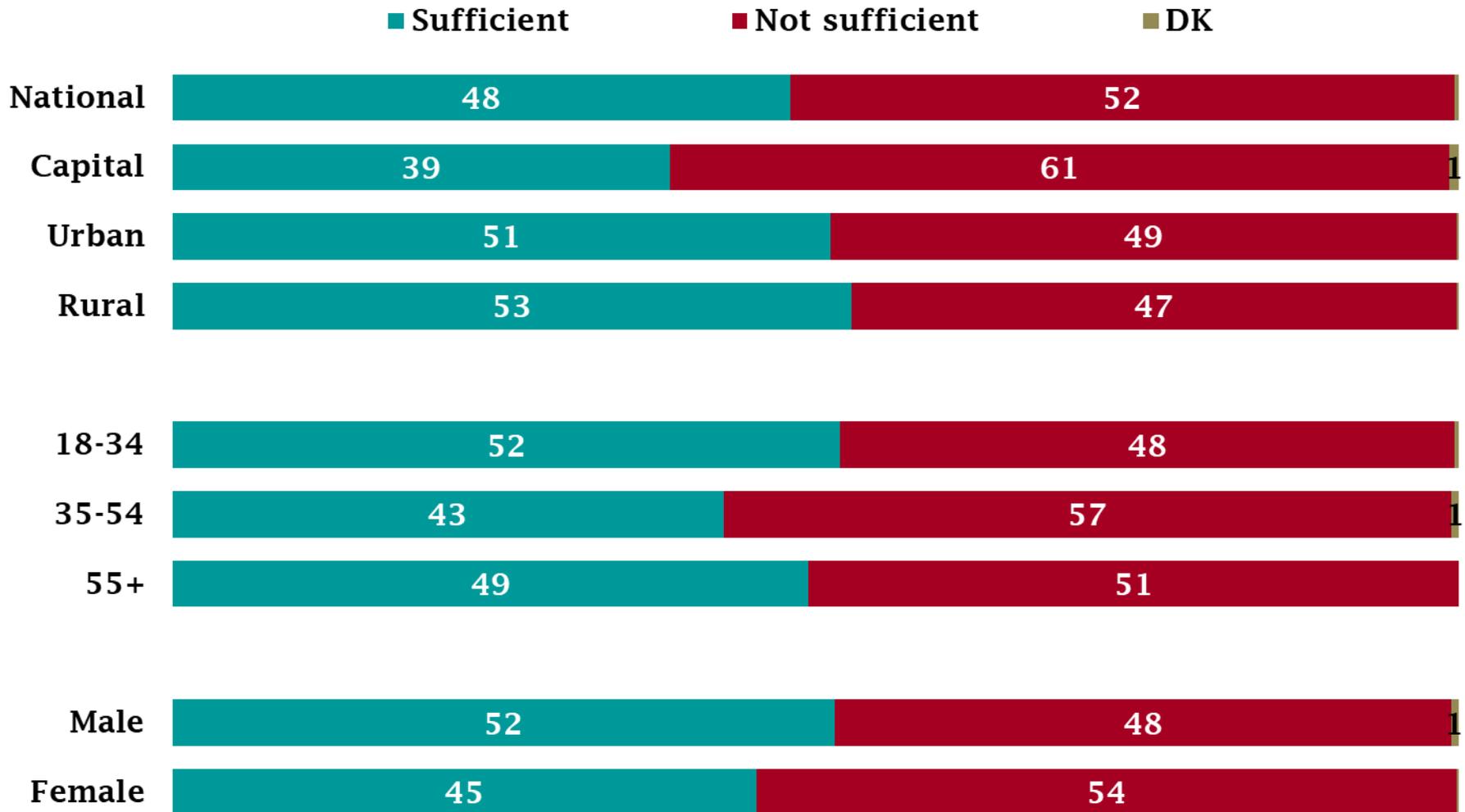
■ August 2020 ■ February 2021

48% said it was sufficient
52% said it was not sufficient



Financial aid

If yes, how would you assess the aid provided? This aid was ...
(q18 X Settlement, Age, Gender, Party closest to you) - of the 40%
who said they received financial aid or benefit from government
during the Covid-19 pandemic

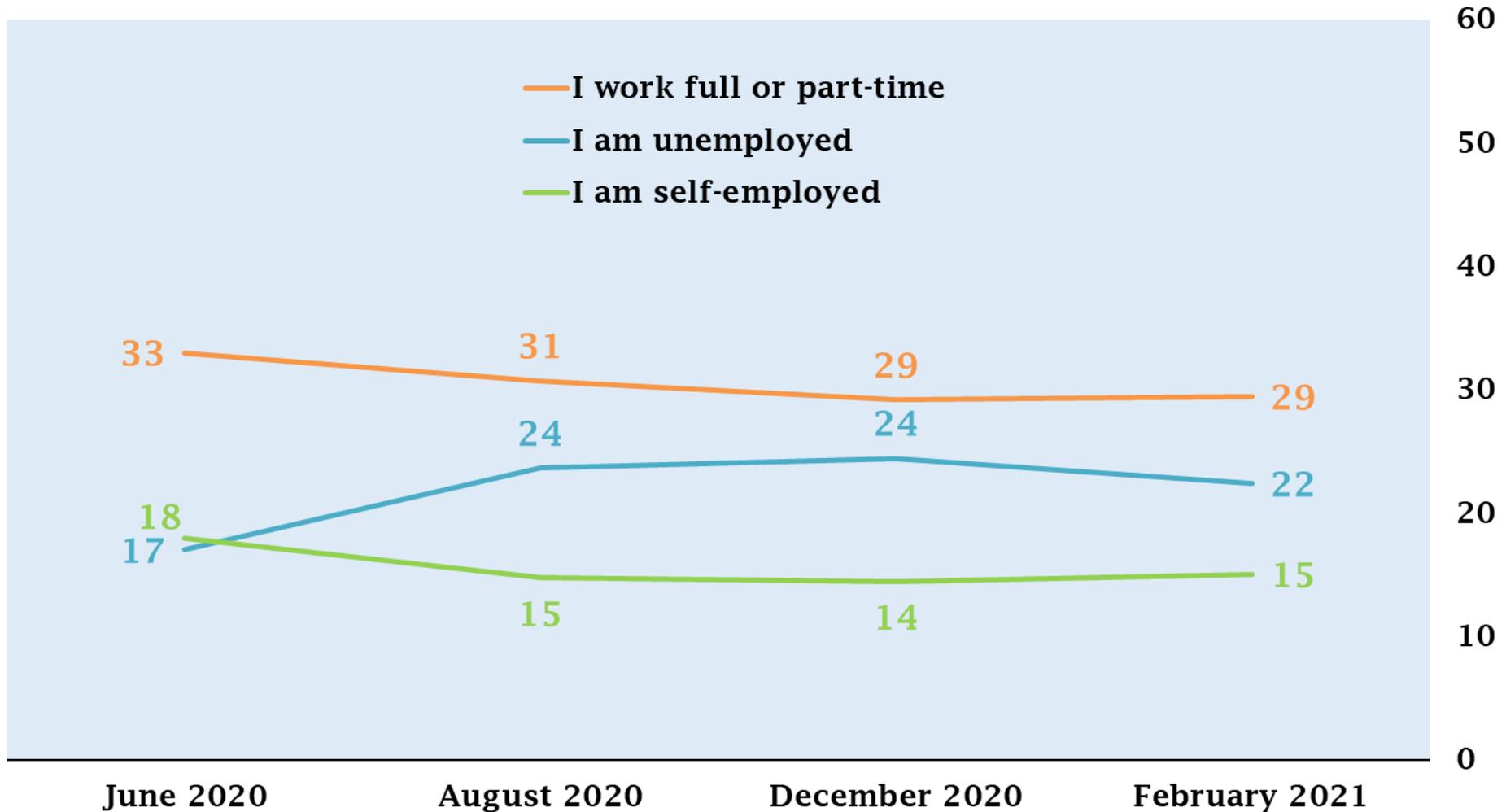


Economic impact of the pandemic

Employment status

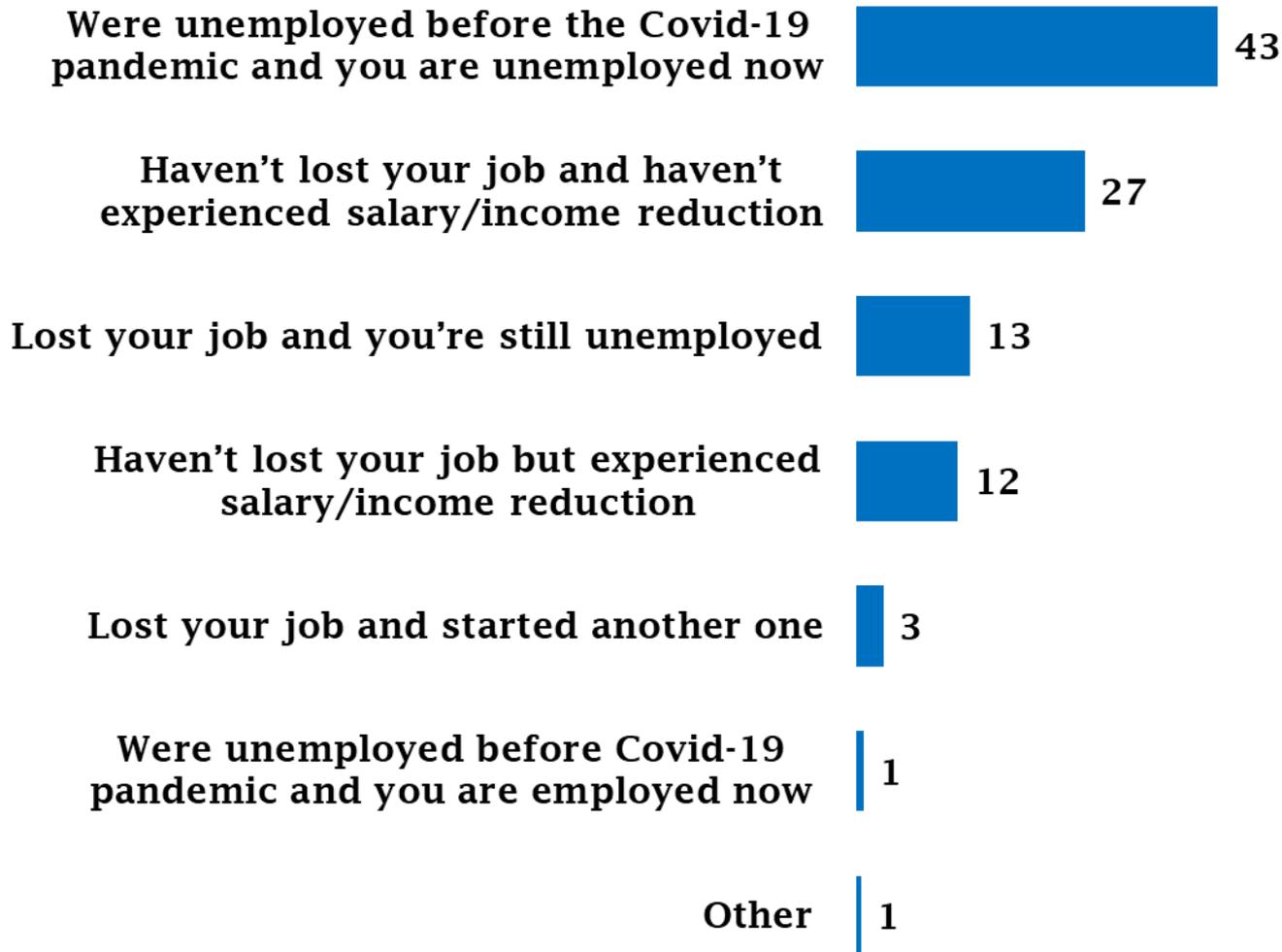
Which of the following best describes your situation? Please tell me about the activity that you consider to be primary. (q4)

- Retired: 15%
- Housewife: 14%
- Student: 3%
- People with disabilities: 1%



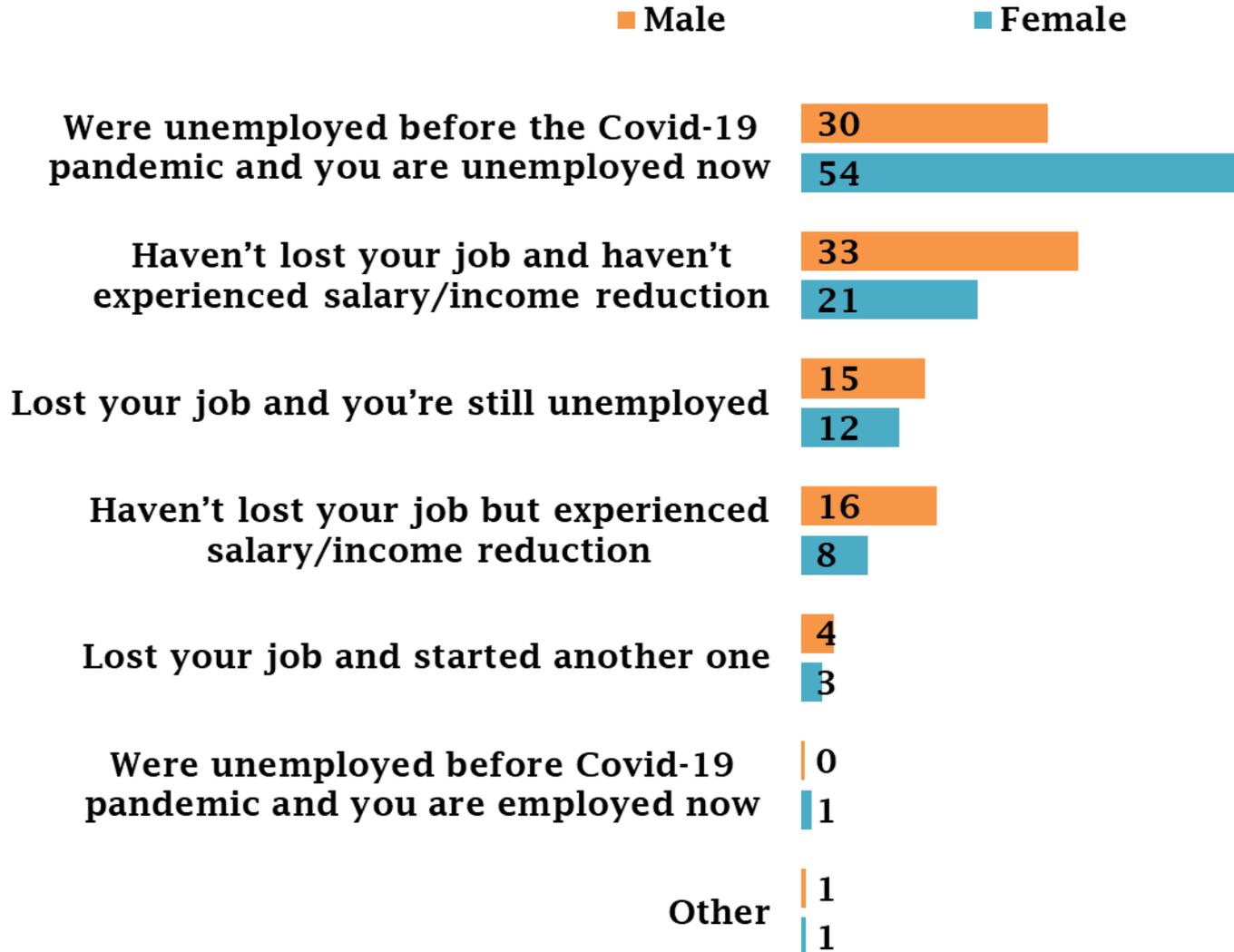
Employment and the pandemic

Which of the following best describes your situation? Since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic in Georgia, you: (q5)



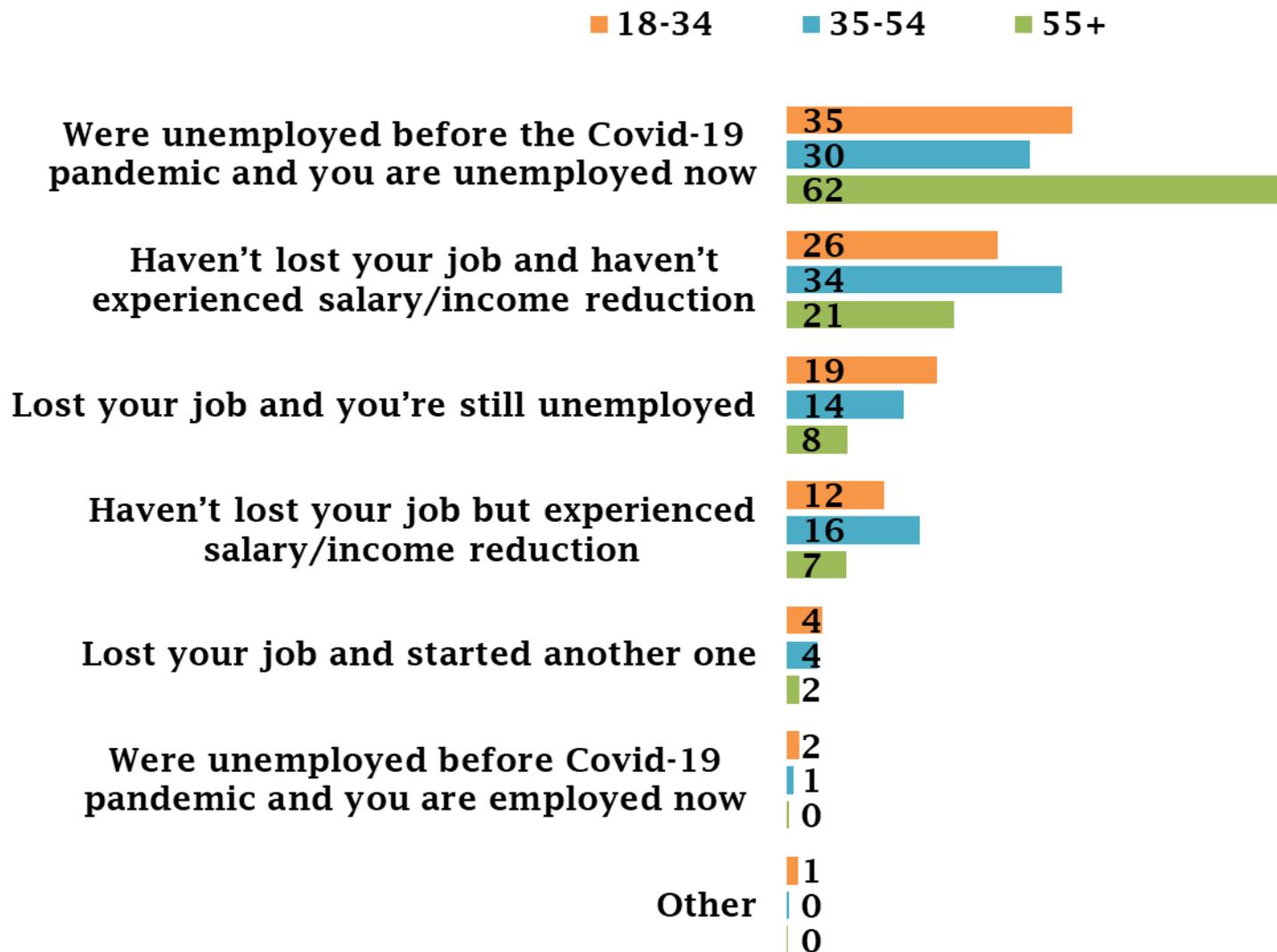
Employment and the pandemic

Which of the following best describes your situation? Since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic in Georgia, you: (q5 X Gender)



Employment and the pandemic

Which of the following best describes your situation? Since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic in Georgia, you: (q5 X Age)



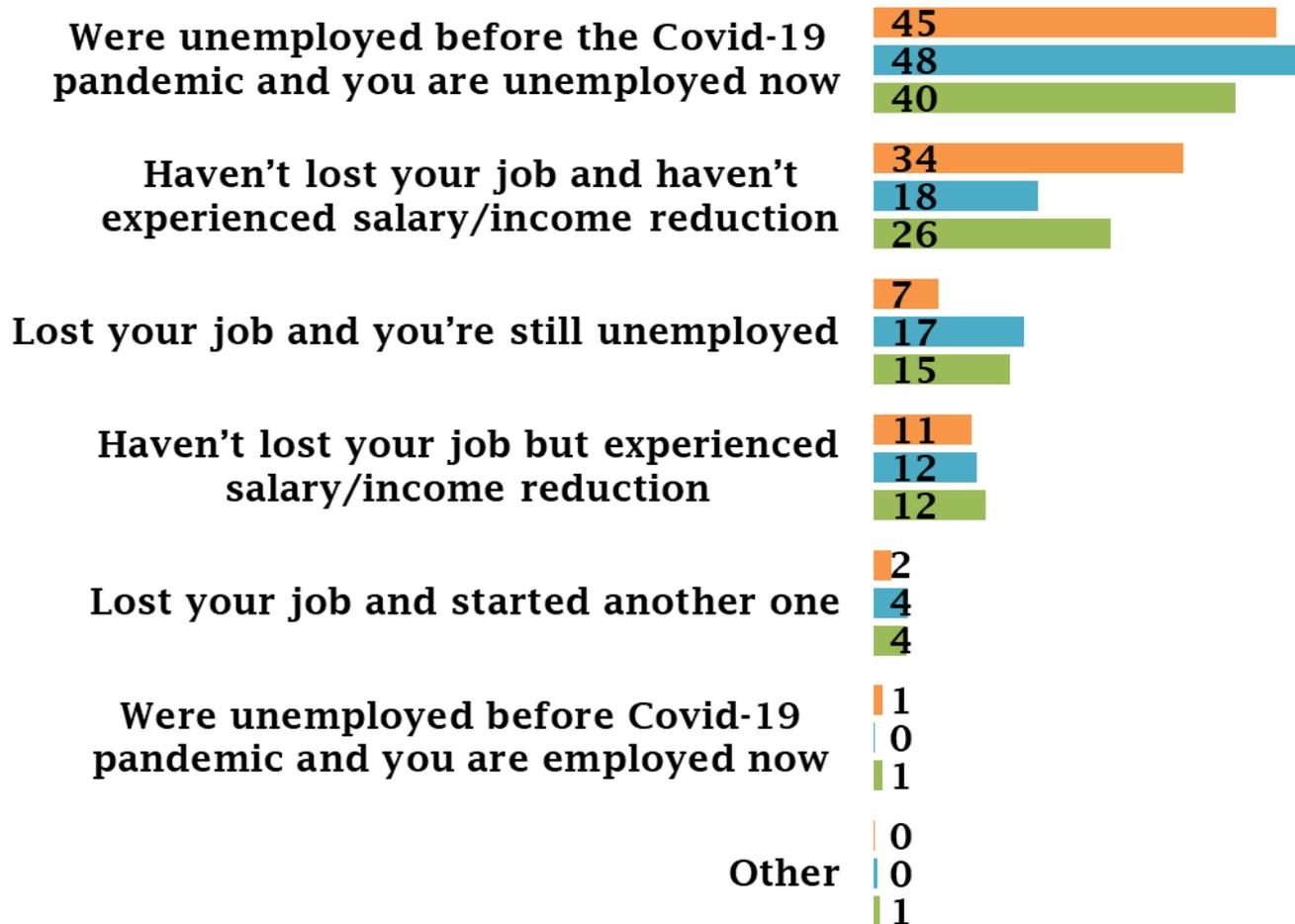
Employment and the pandemic

Which of the following best describes your situation? Since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic in Georgia, you: (q5 X Party closest to you)

■ Georgian Dream supporters (23%)

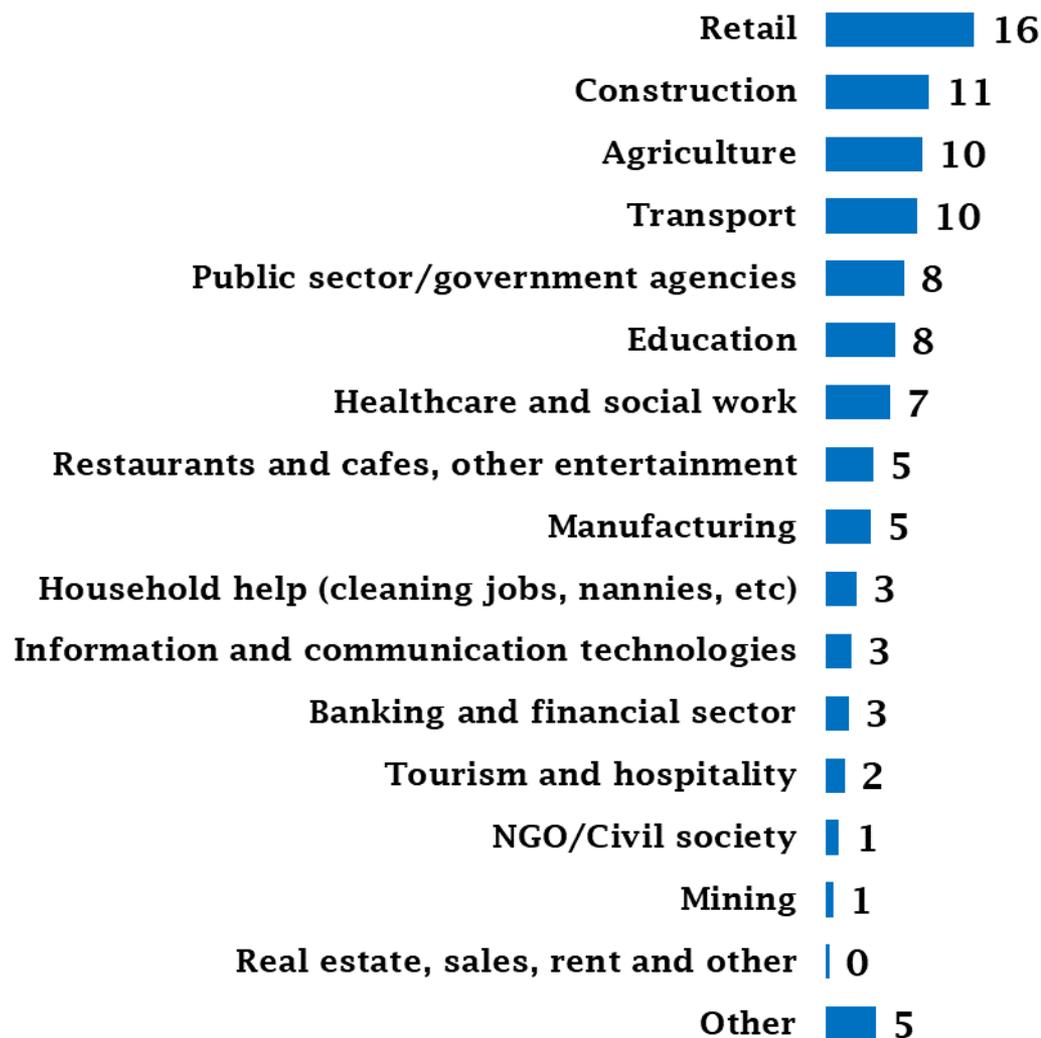
■ Opposition supporters (15%)

■ Did not name a party (62%)



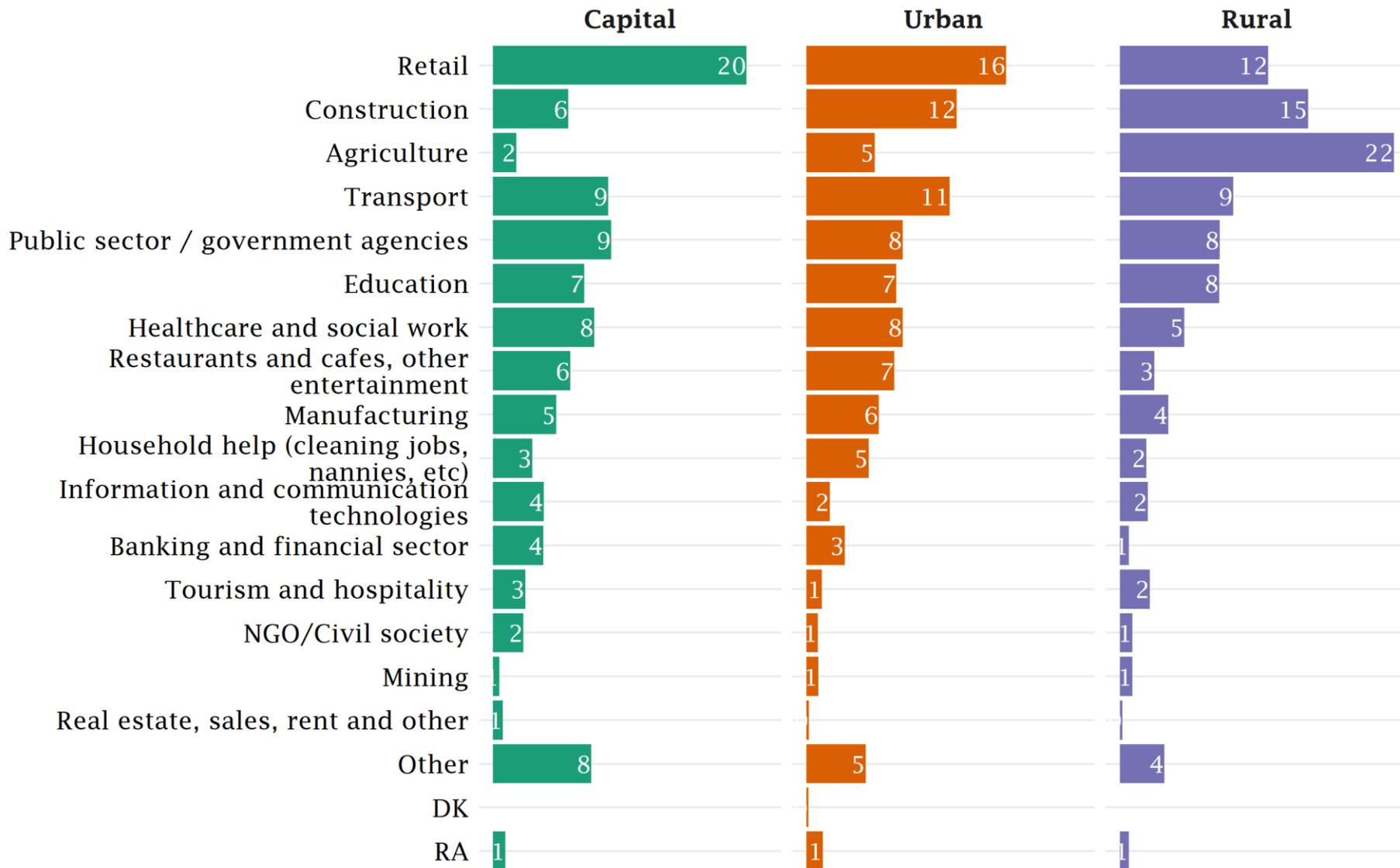
Employment sectors

Which of the following best describes the sector in which you work/or used to work before the pandemic outbreak? (q6) - **of the 57% who is or was employed** - Open question



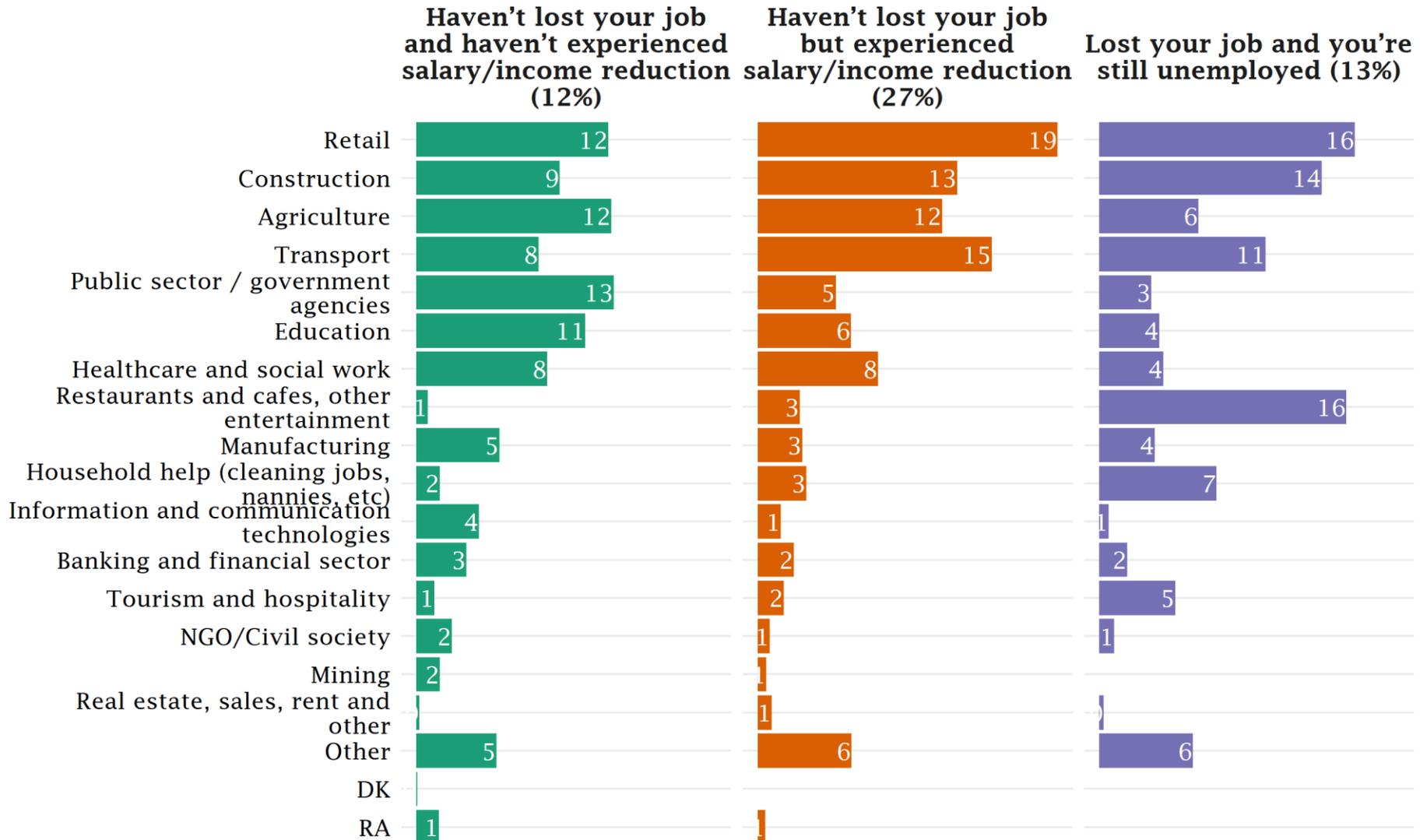
Employment sectors

Which of the following best describes the sector in which you work/or used to work before the pandemic outbreak? (q6 x Settlement)



Employment sectors

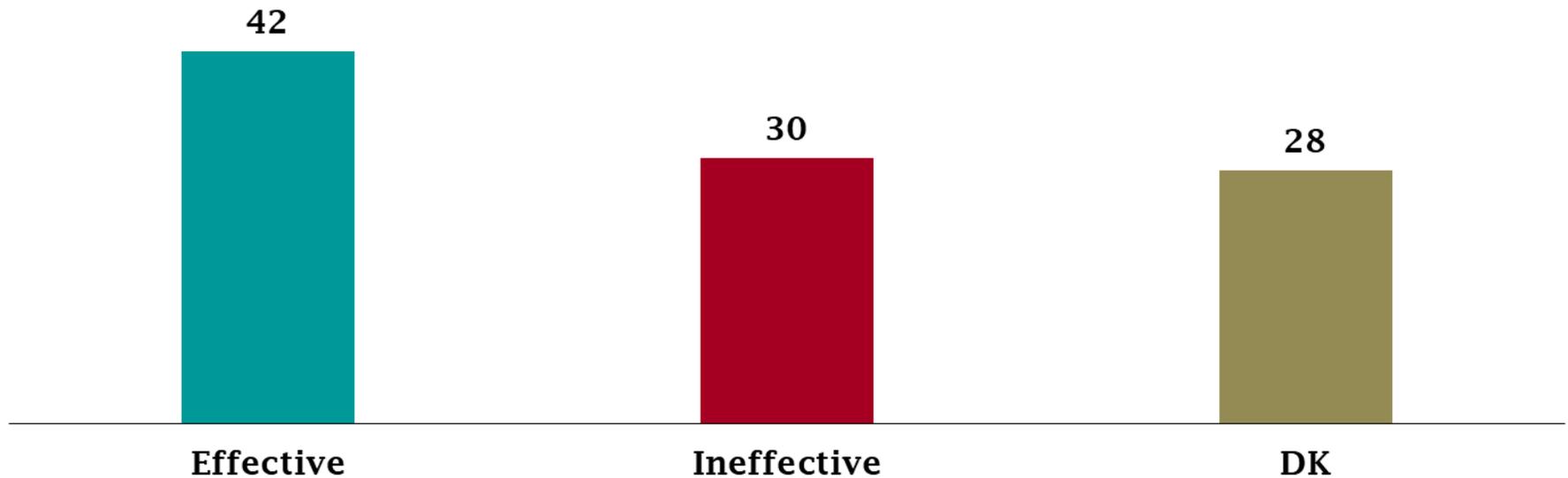
Which of the following best describes the sector in which you work/or used to work before the pandemic outbreak? (q6 X q5) - of the 57% who is or was employed



Covid-19 vaccination

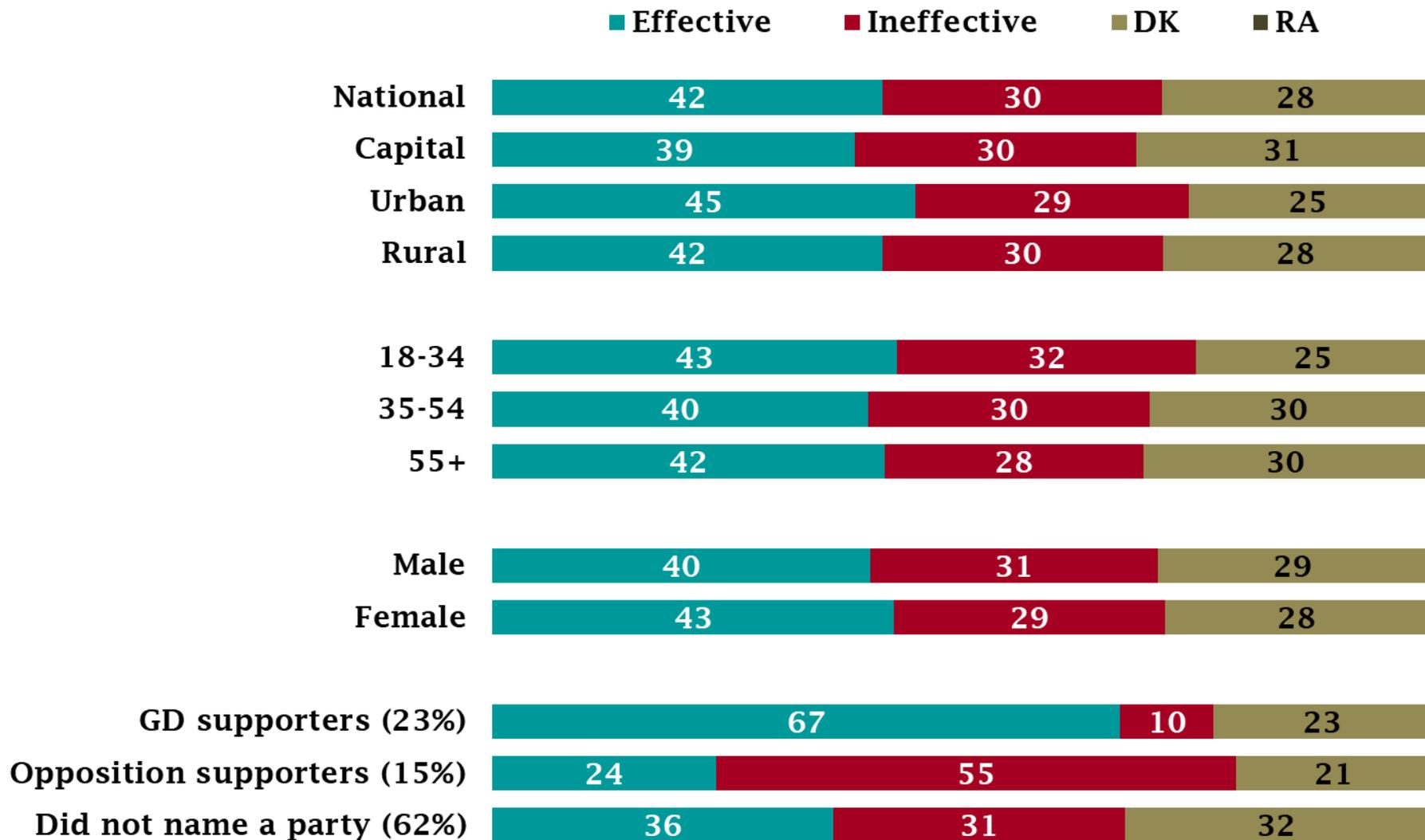
Government's vaccination plan

In your opinion, how effective or ineffective is the government's plan for Covid-19 vaccination? (20)

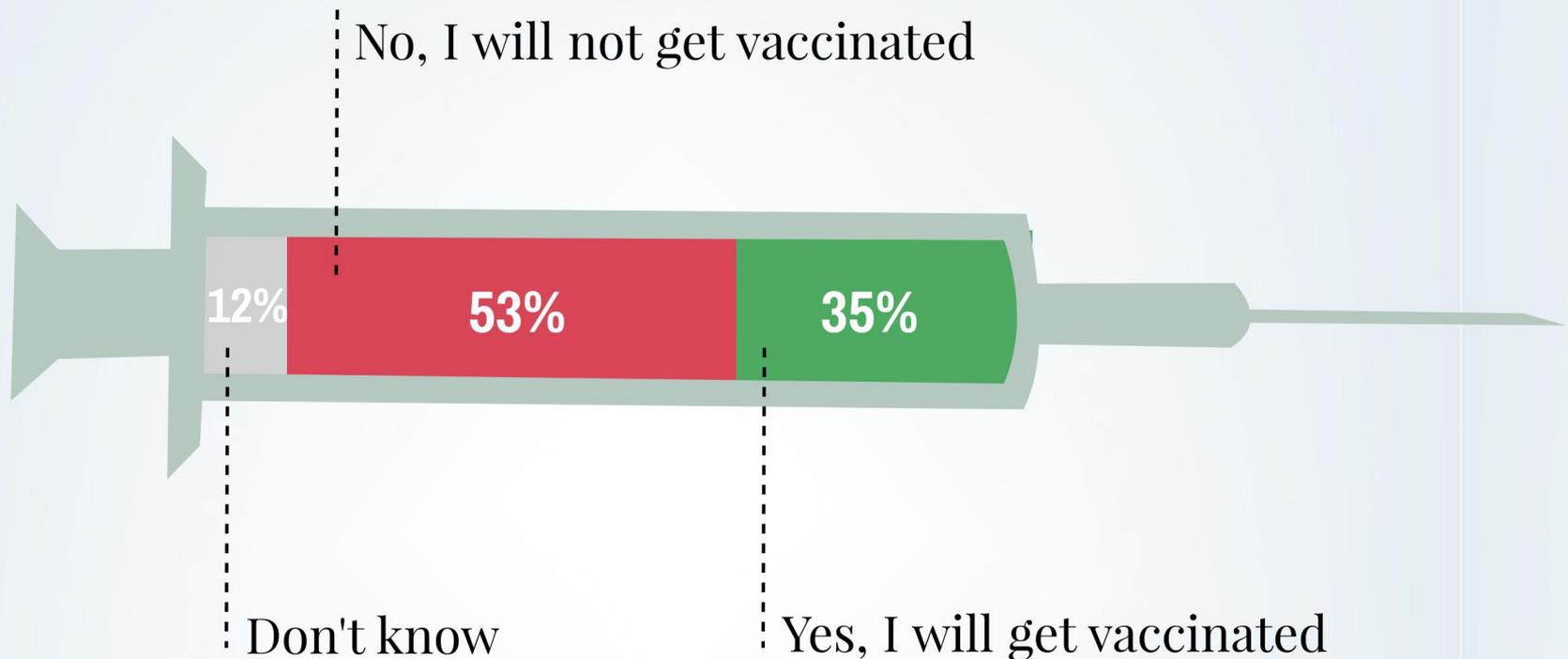


Government's vaccination plan

In your opinion, how effective or ineffective is the government's plan for Covid-19 vaccination? (20 X Settlement, Age, Gender, Party closest to you)

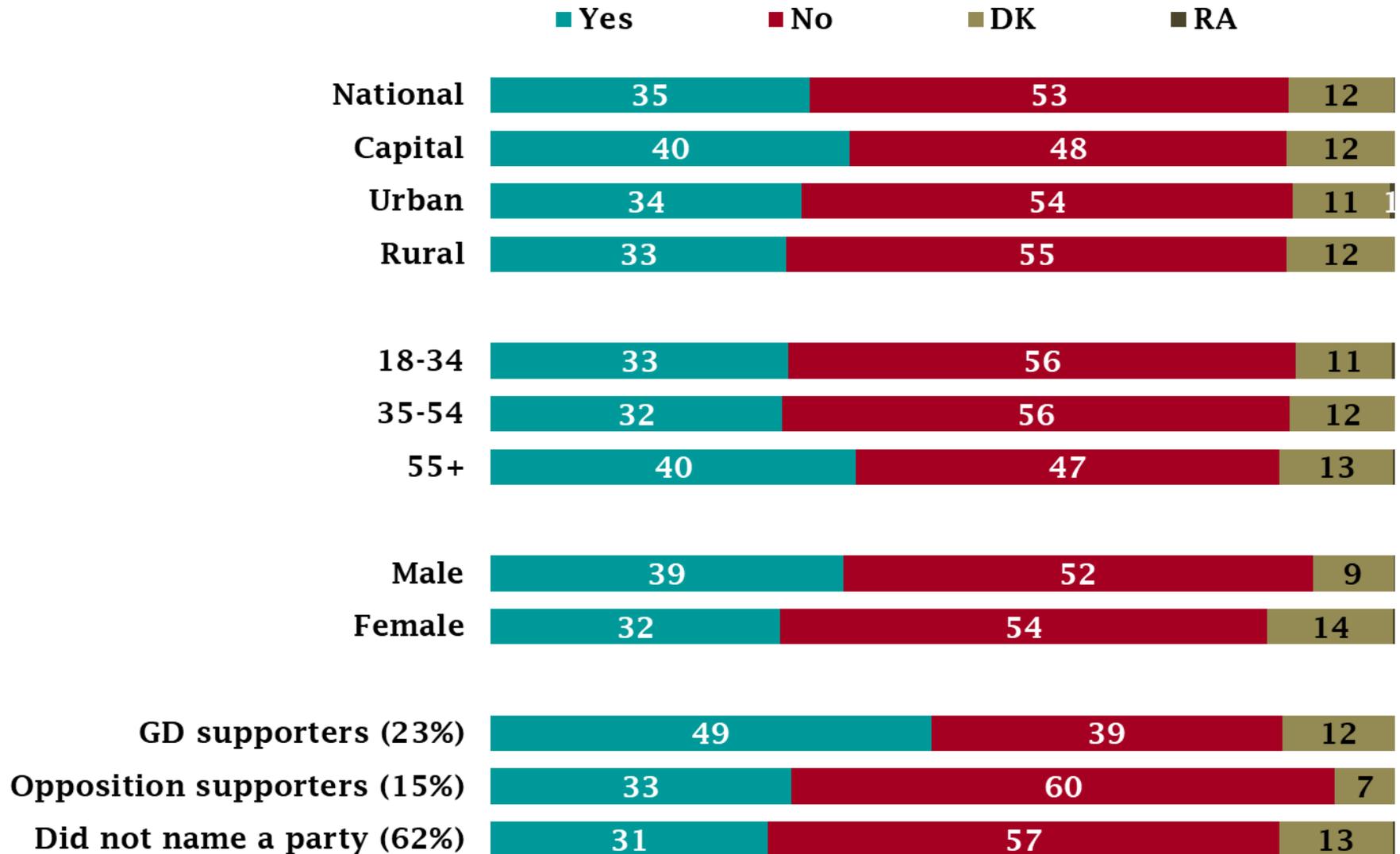


WILL YOU GET VACCINATED?



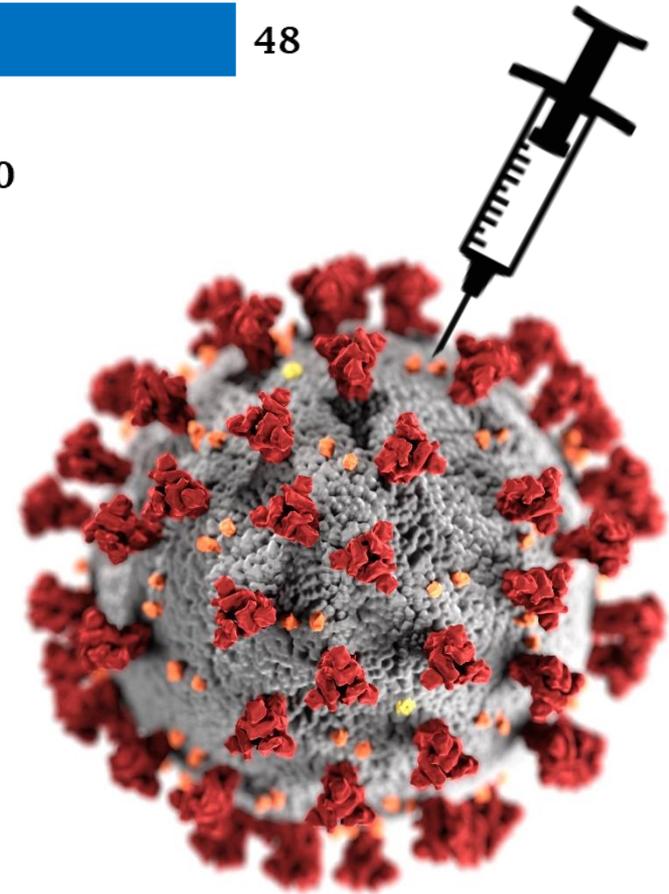
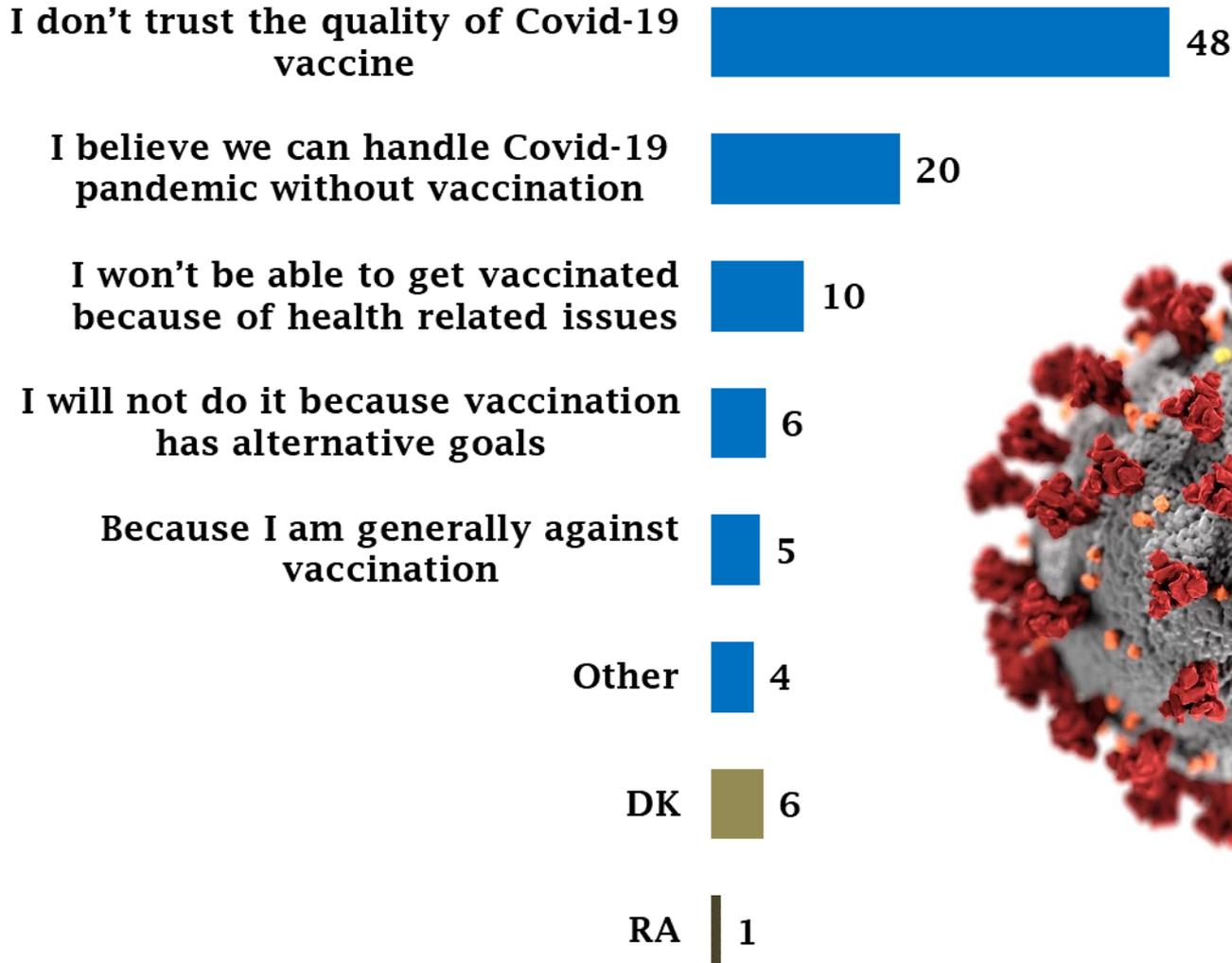
Covid-19 vaccine

Would you or would you not get vaccinated?
(q21 X Settlement, Age, Gender, Party closest to you)



Why against vaccination?

If not, why would not you get vaccinated? (q22) - of the 65% who did not say they would get vaccinated



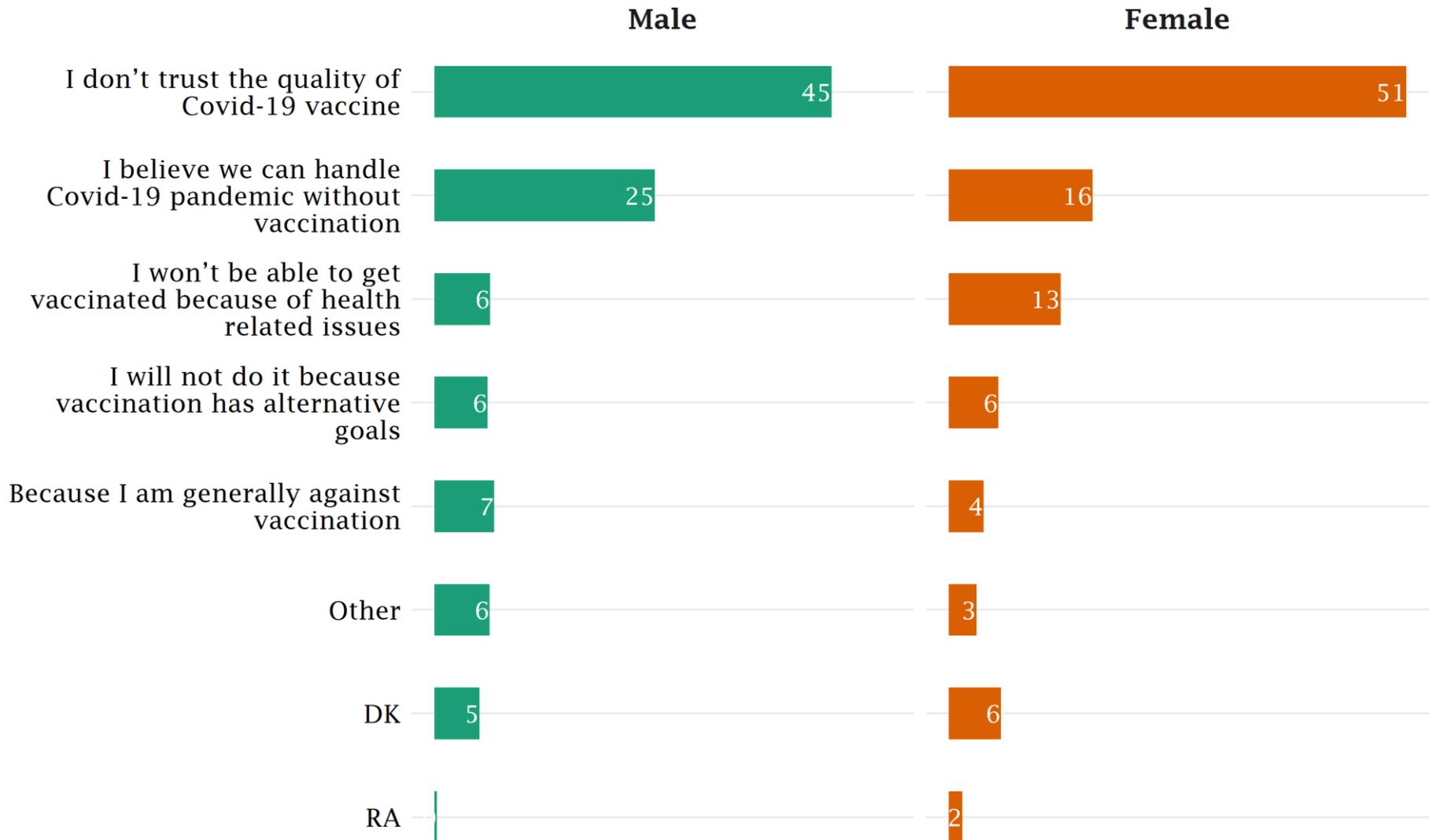
Why against vaccination?

If not, why would not you get vaccinated? (q22 X Settlement) - of the 65% who did not say they would get vaccinated



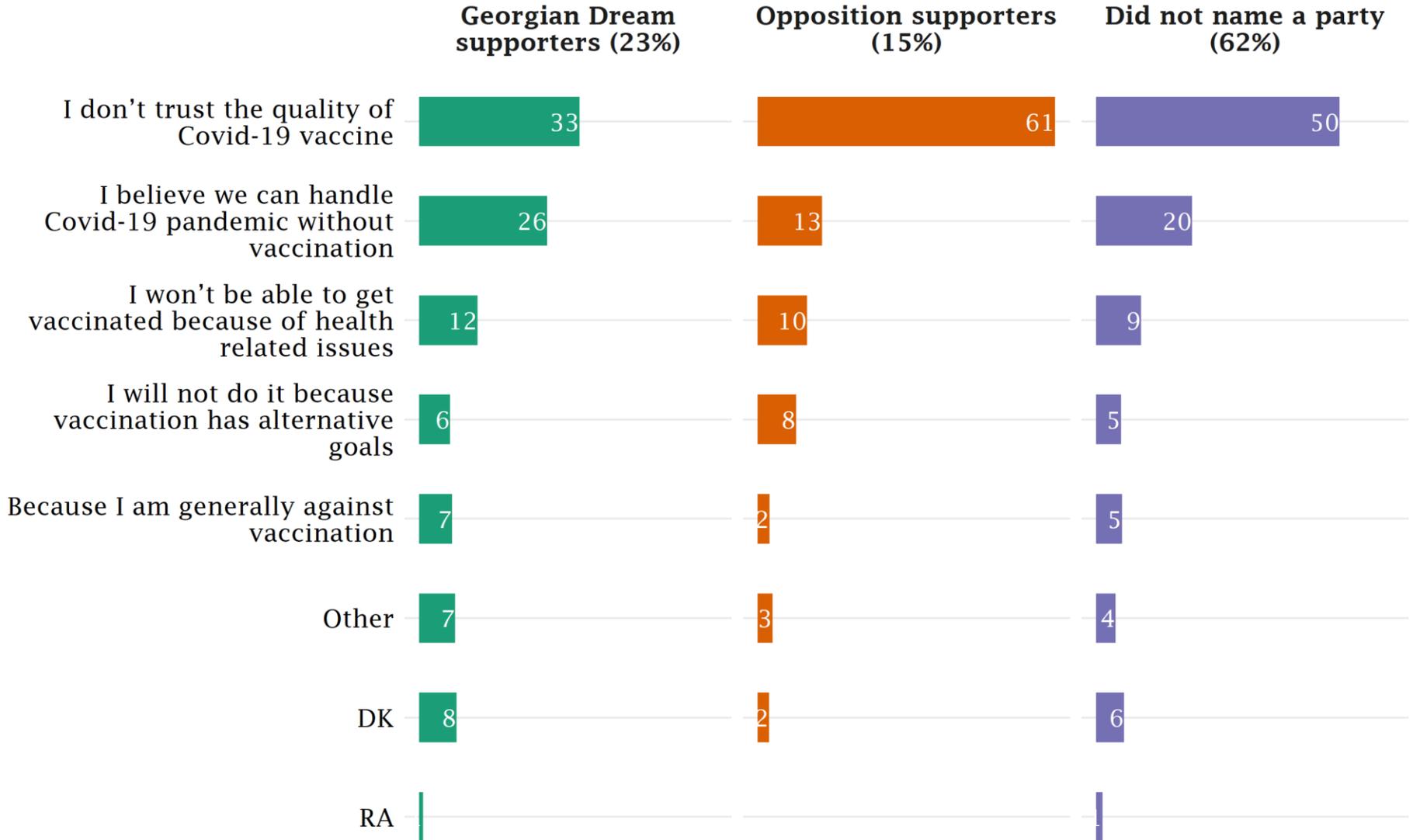
Why against vaccination?

If not, why would not you get vaccinated? (q22 X Gender) - of the 65% who did not say they would get vaccinated



Why against vaccination?

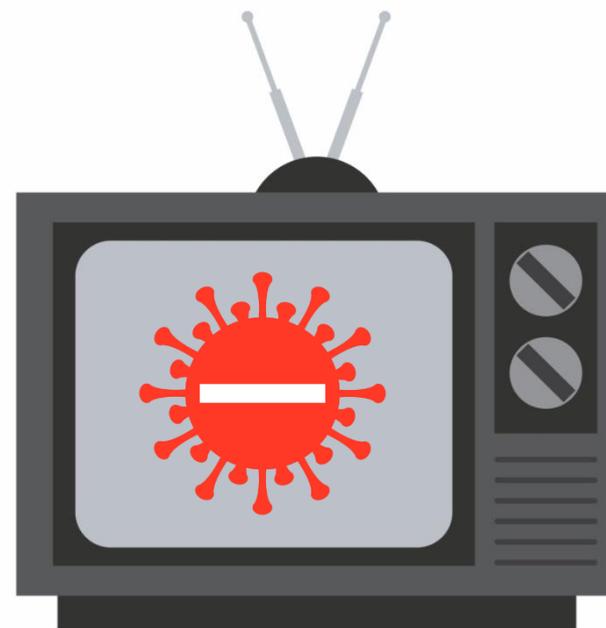
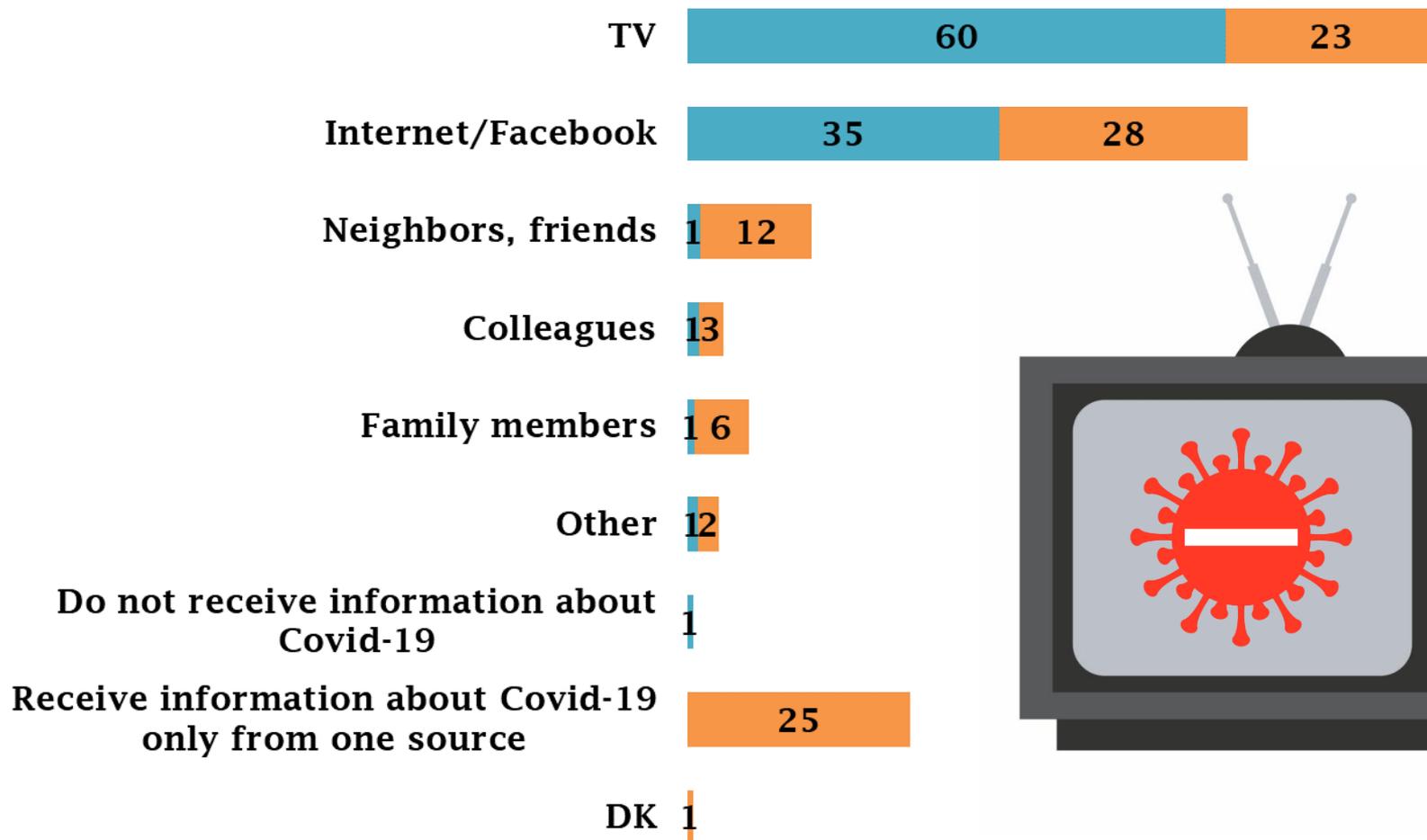
If not, why would not you get vaccinated? (q22 X Party closest to you) - of the 65% who did not say they would get vaccinated



Information sources

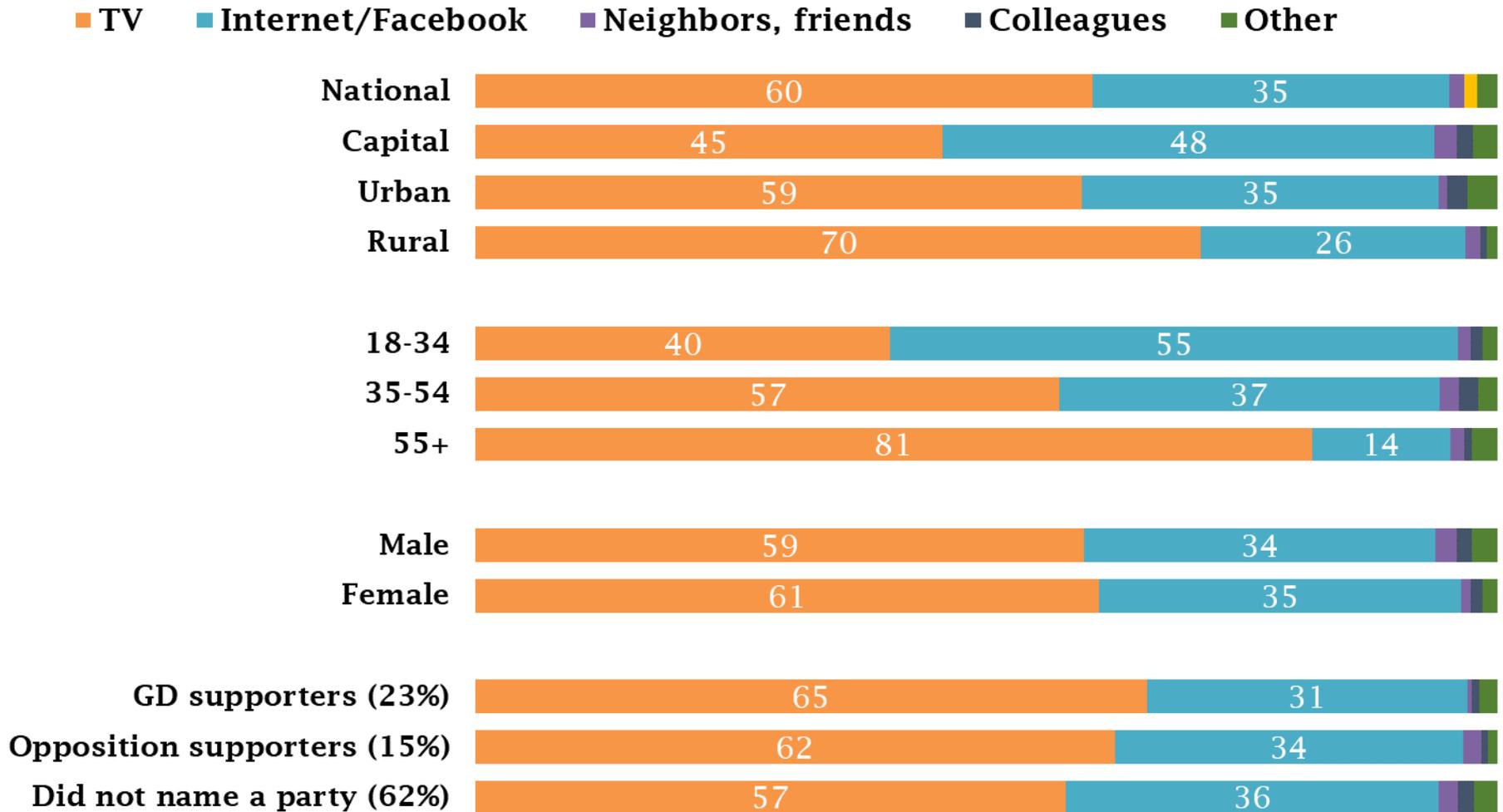
What are your main sources of information for receiving news about Covid-19? Please tell me, which is your first main source of information. And what is your second main source of information about Covid-19? (q23, q24)

■ First source ■ Second source



Information sources

What are your main sources of information for receiving news about Covid-19? Please tell me, which is your first main source of information. And what is your second main source of information about Covid-19? (q23 X Settlement, Age, Gender and Party closest to you)



Trust towards information sources

How much do you trust or distrust information about Covid-19 vaccine received from following sources ...? (q25) - of the 99% who receives information about Covid-19

■ Trust ■ Distrust ■ Do not receive information from this source ■ DK ■ RA

Medical professionals (outside NCDC)



NCDC



Government



Journalists/media



Your religious leader/church



Your local government (Sakrebulo, Mayor's office)

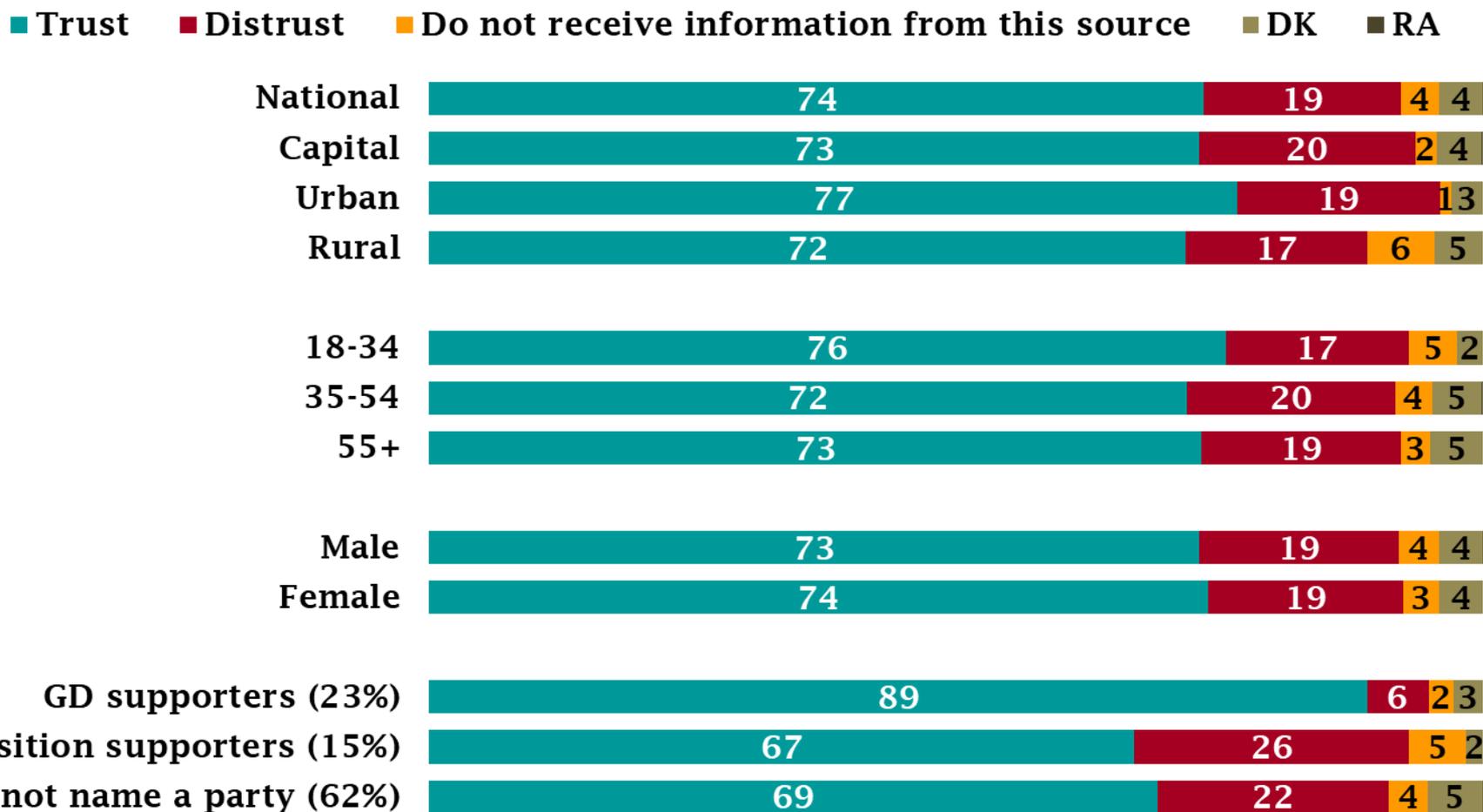


NGOs



Trust towards information sources - Medical professionals

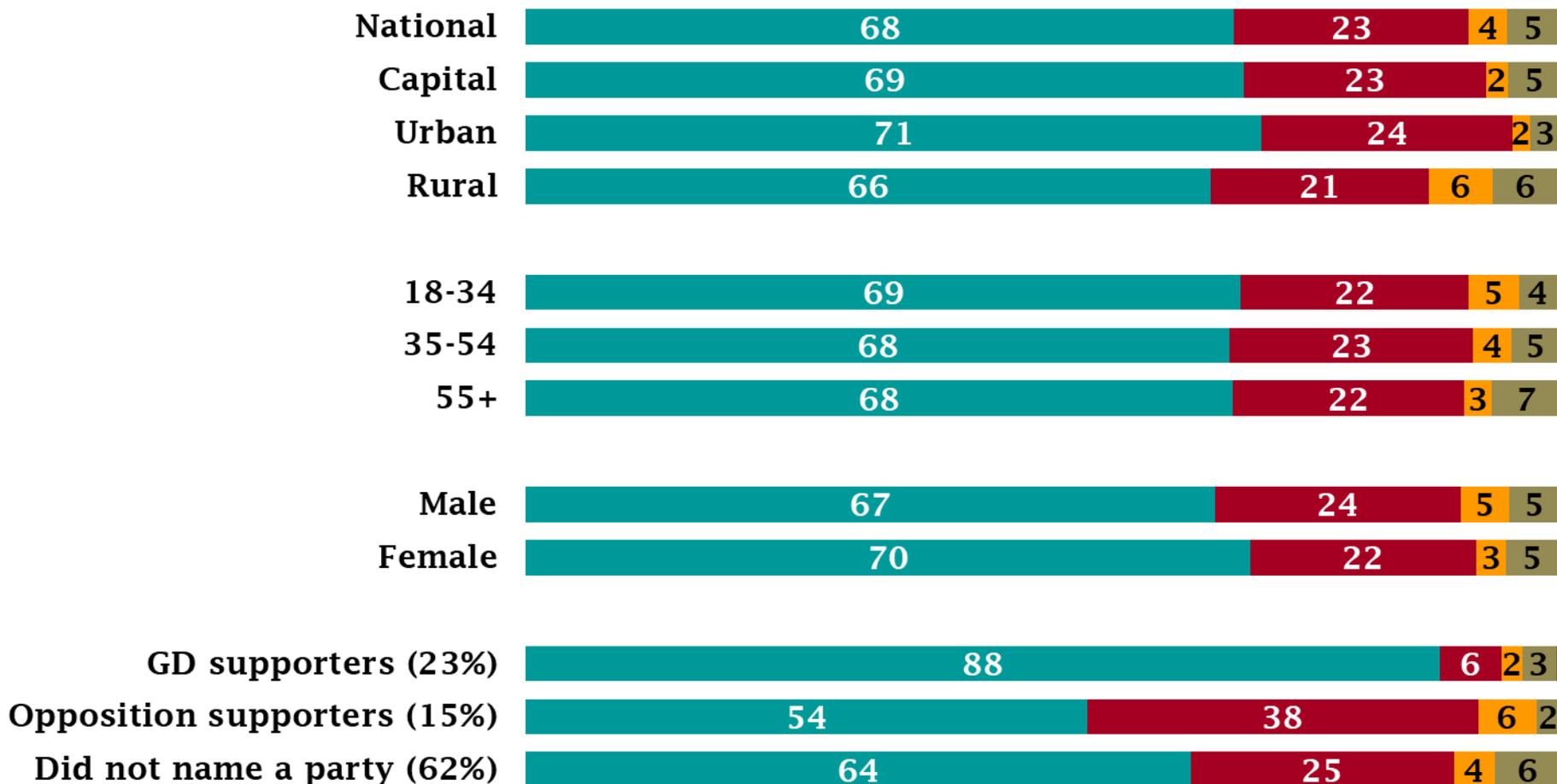
How much do you trust or distrust information about Covid-19 vaccine received from following sources ...? Medical professionals (outside NCDC) (q25_3 X Settlement, Age, Gender, Party closest to you) - of the 99% who receives information about Covid-19



Trust towards information sources - NCDC

How much do you trust or distrust information about Covid-19 vaccine received from following sources ...? NCDC (q25_2 X Settlement, Age, Gender, Party closest to you) - of the 99% who receives information about Covid-19

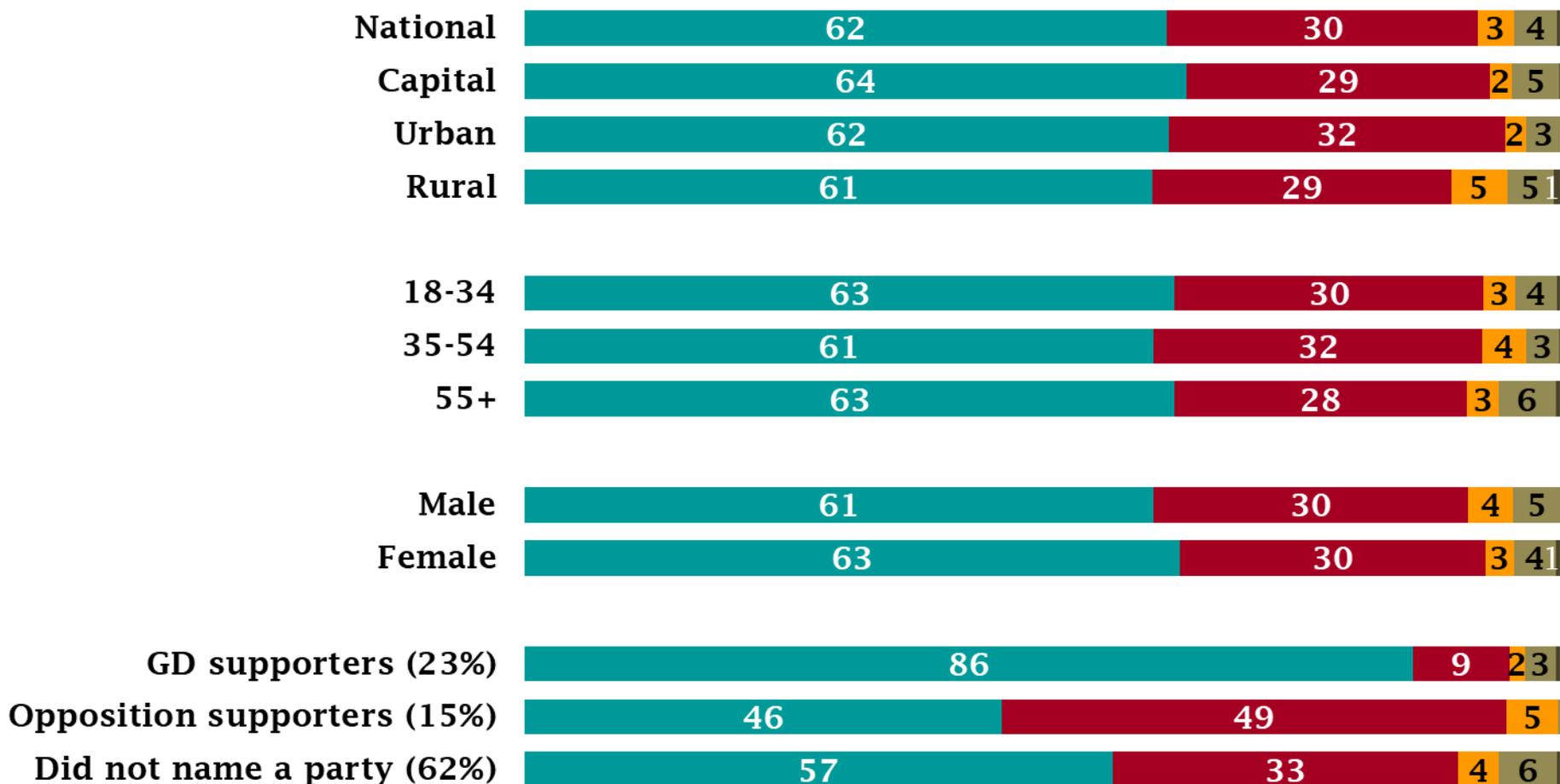
■ Trust ■ Distrust ■ Do not receive information from this source ■ DK ■ RA



Trust towards information sources - Government

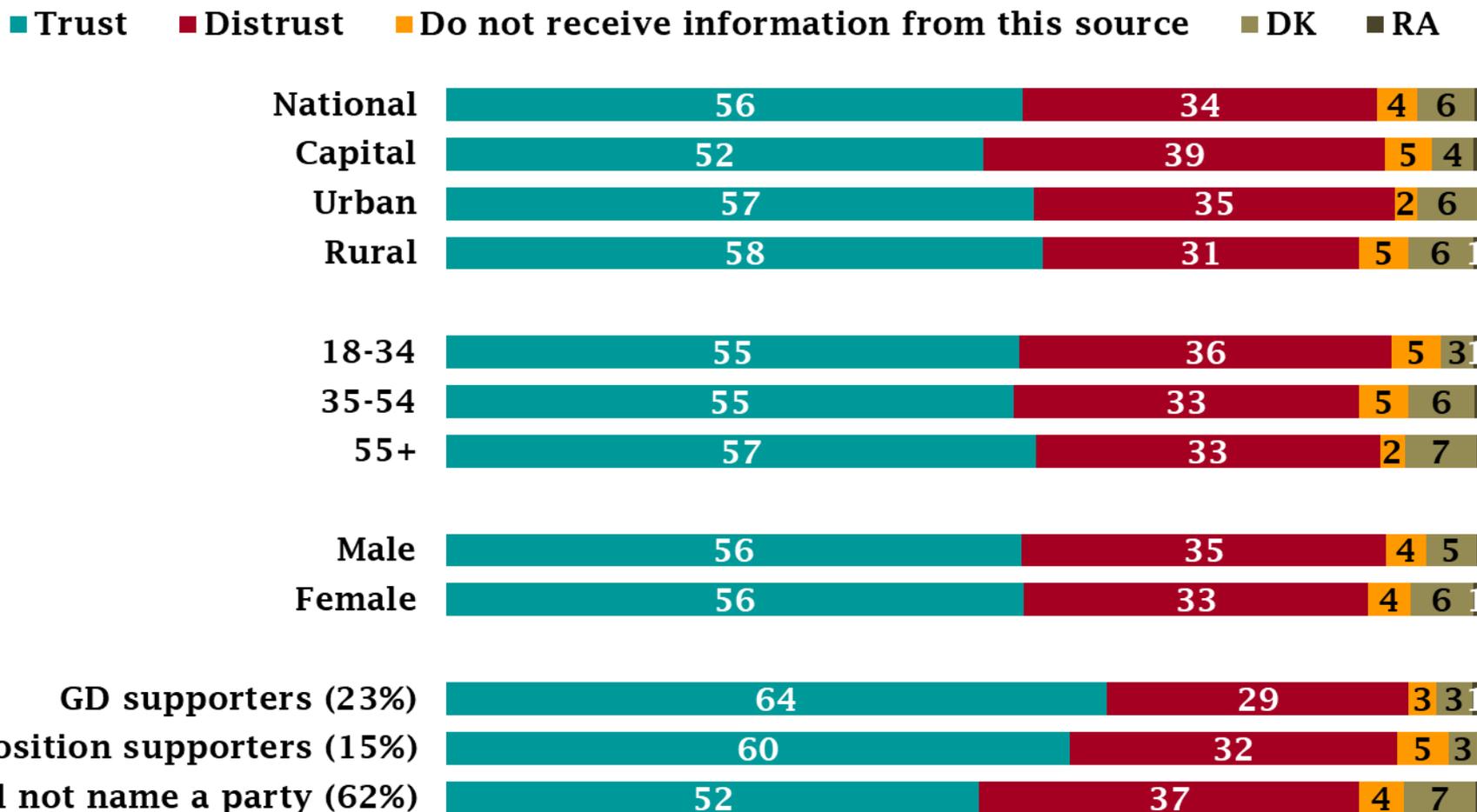
How much do you trust or distrust information about Covid-19 vaccine received from following sources ...? Government (q25_1 X Settlement, Age, Gender, Party closest to you) - of the 99% who receives information about Covid-19

■ Trust ■ Distrust ■ Do not receive information from this source ■ DK ■ RA



Trust towards information sources - Journalists/media

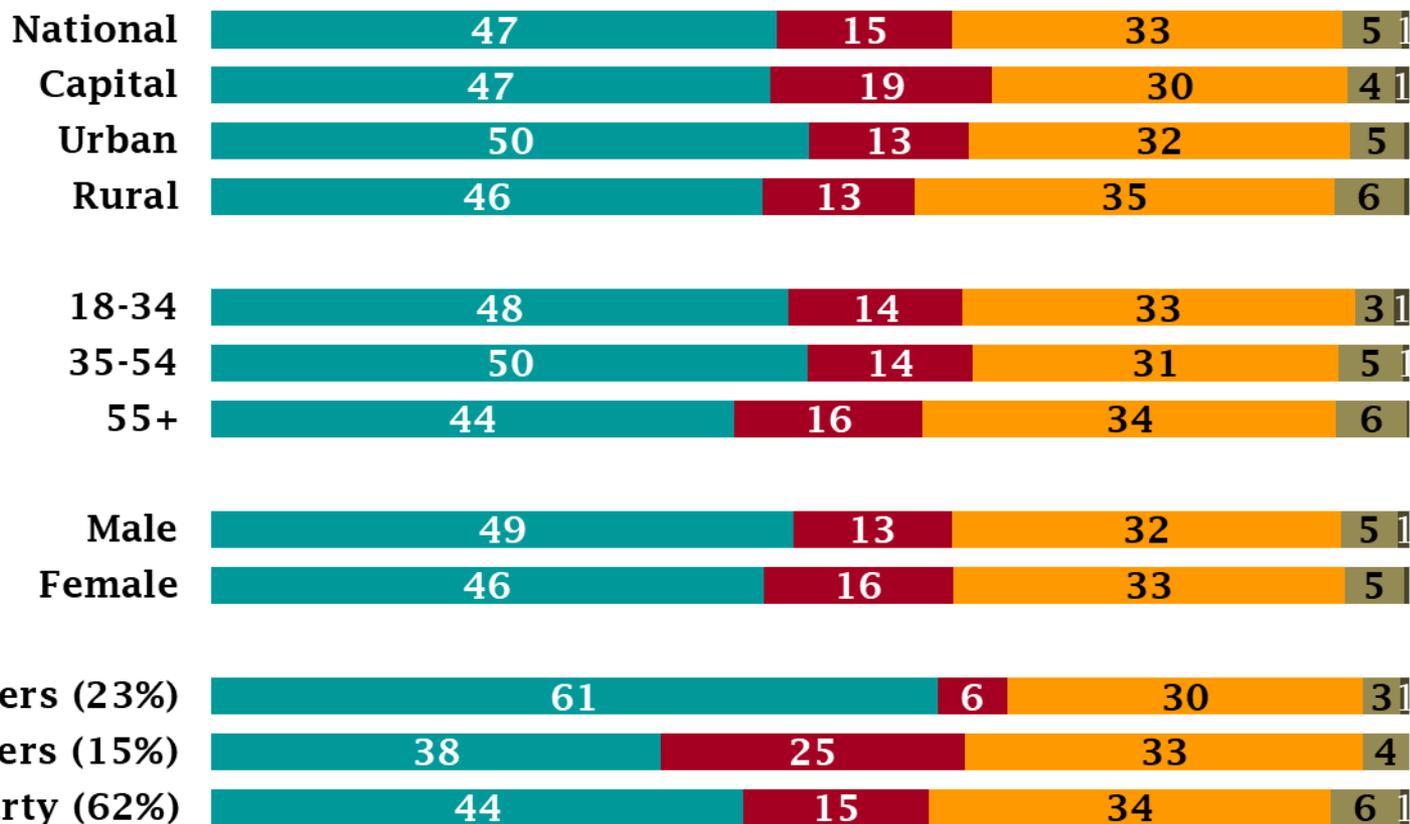
How much do you trust or distrust information about Covid-19 vaccine received from following sources ...? Journalists/media (q25_5 X Settlement, Age, Gender, Party closest to you) - of the 99% who receives information about Covid-19



Trust towards information sources - Religious leader/church

How much do you trust or distrust information about Covid-19 vaccine received from following sources ...? Your religious leader/church (q25_4 X Settlement, Age, Gender, Party closest to you) - of the 99% who receives information about Covid-19

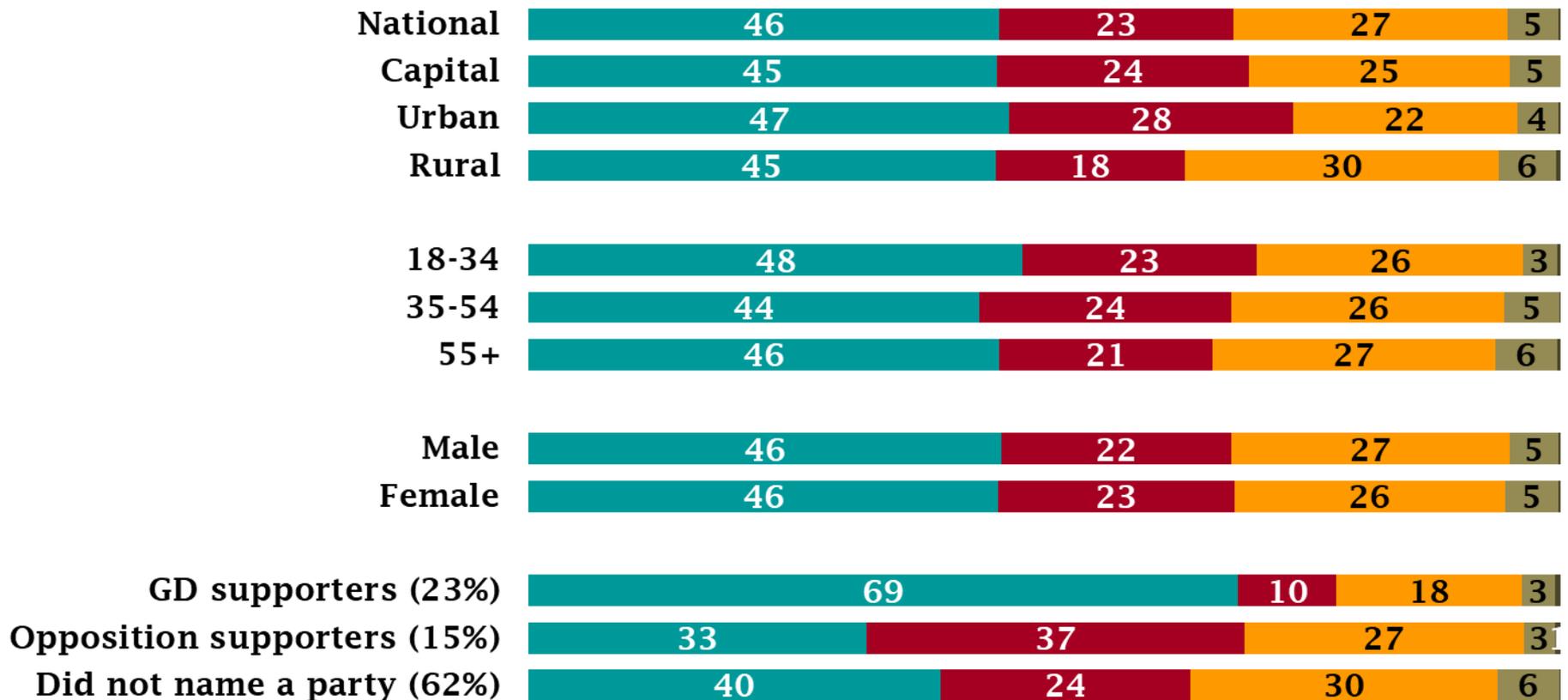
■ Trust ■ Distrust ■ Do not receive information from this source ■ DK ■ RA



Trust towards information sources - Local government

How much do you trust or distrust information about Covid-19 vaccine received from following sources ...? Your local government (Sakrebulo, Mayor's office) (q25_6 X Settlement, Age, Gender, Party closest to you) - of the 99% who receives information about Covid-19

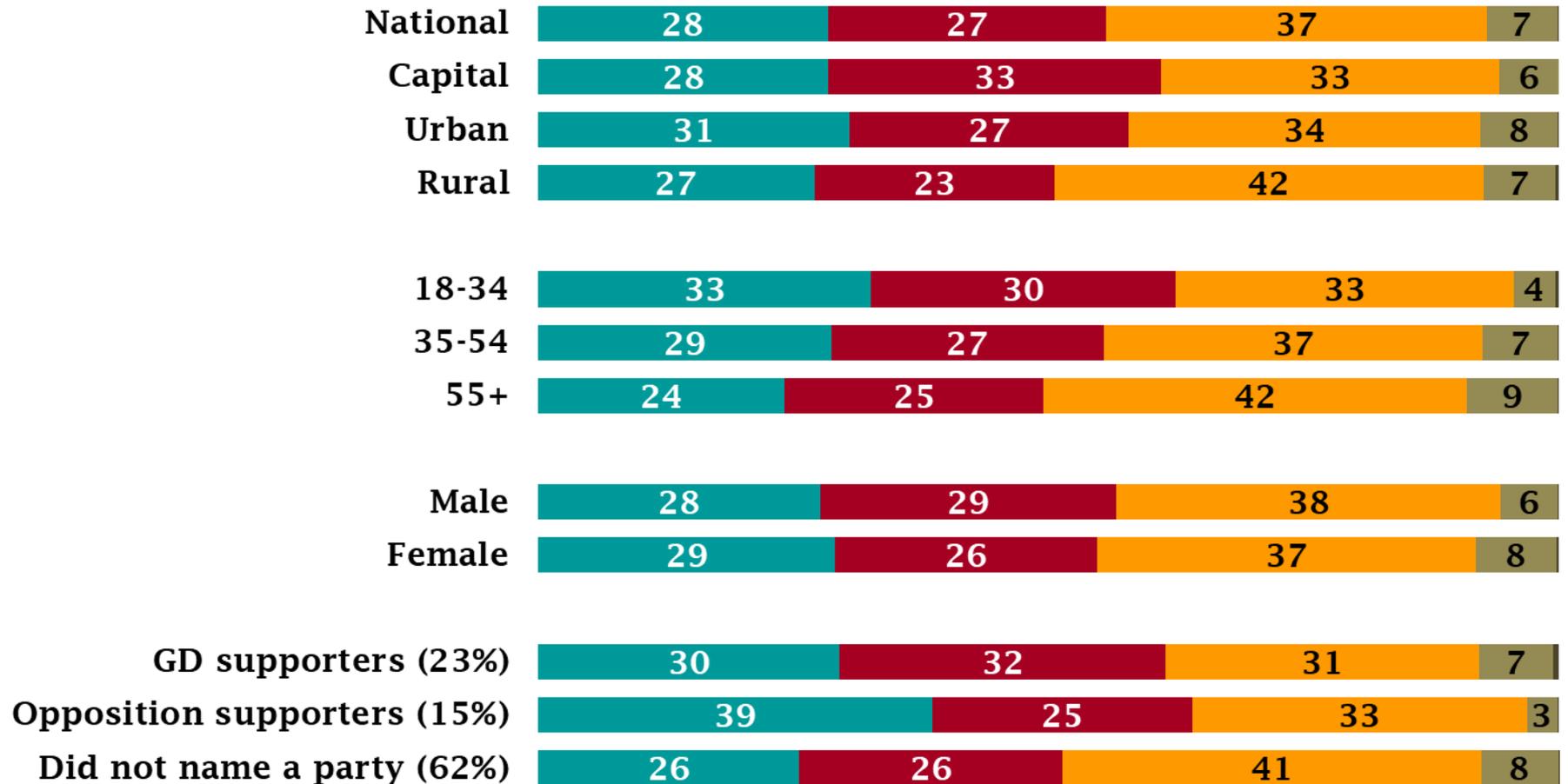
■ Trust ■ Distrust ■ Do not receive information from this source ■ DK ■ RA



Trust towards information sources - NGOs

How much do you trust or distrust information about Covid-19 vaccine received from following sources ...? NGOs (q25_7 X Settlement, Age, Gender, Party closest to you) - of the 99% who receives information about Covid-19

■ Trust ■ Distrust ■ Do not receive information from this source ■ DK ■ RA

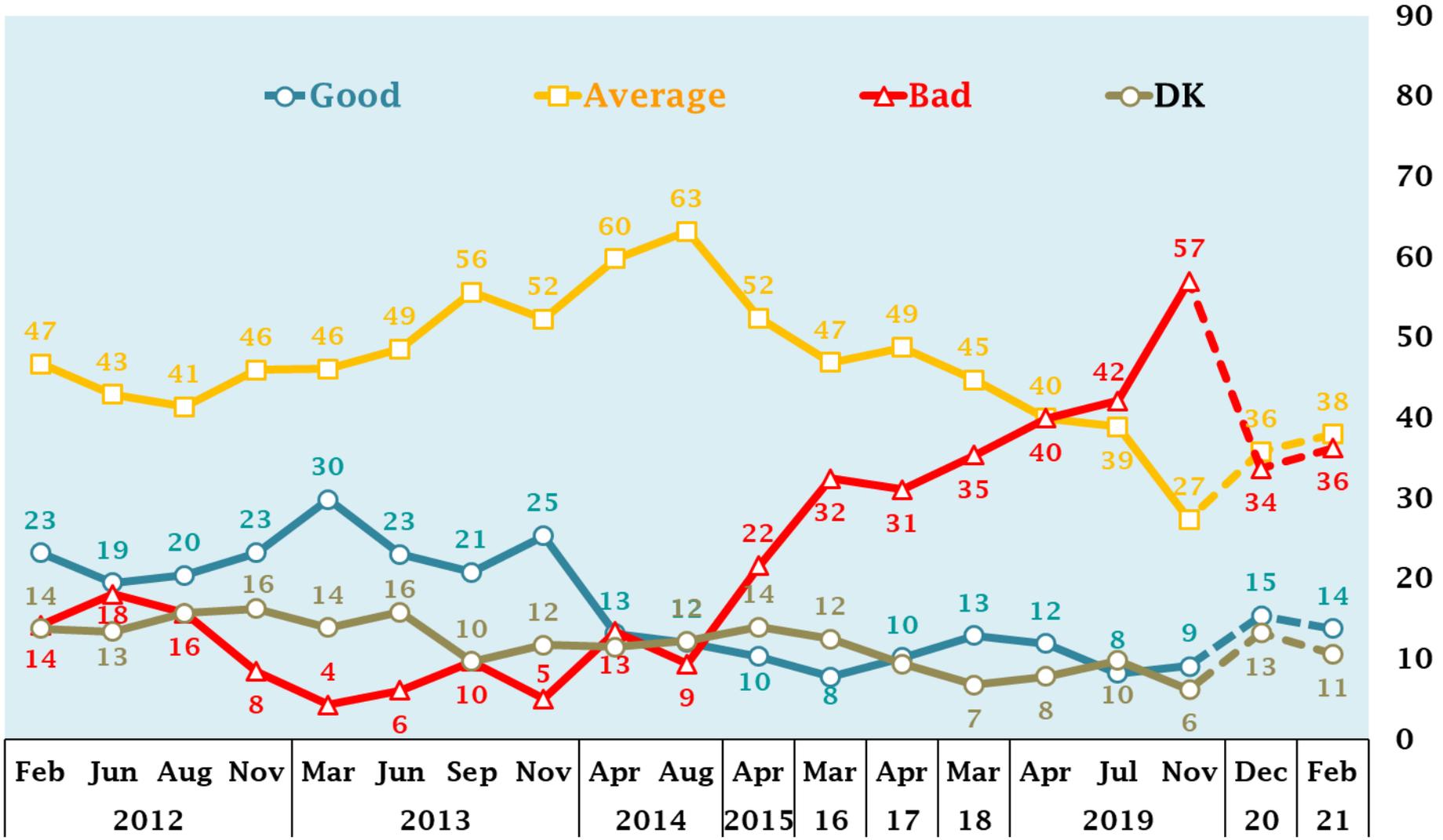


Attitudes towards the Parliament

Performance of the parliament

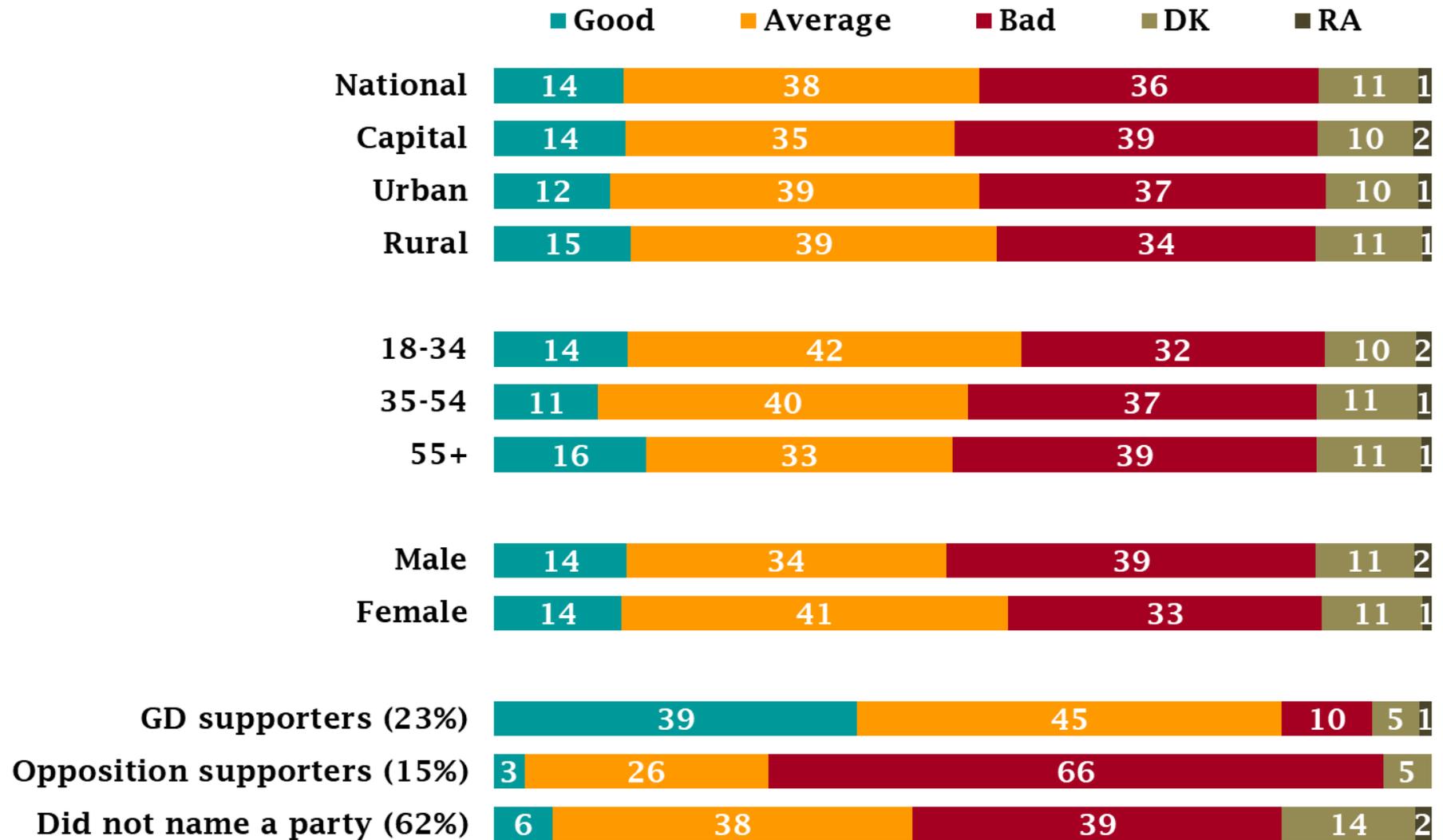
How would you rate the performance of the parliament? (q7)

*Dashed line represents change in method from face-to-face to telephone



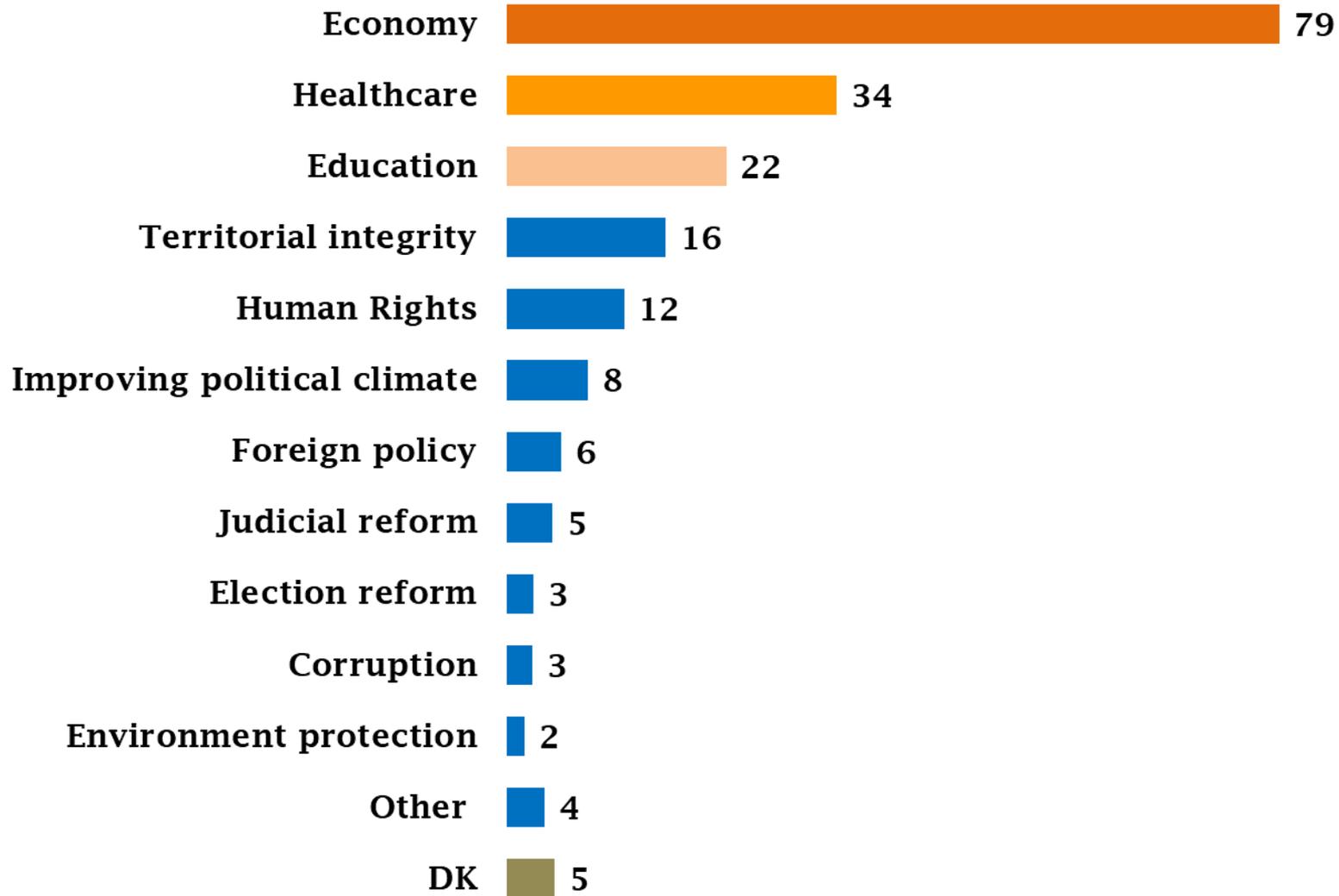
Performance of the parliament

How would you rate the performance of the parliament?
(q7 X Settlement, Age, Gender, Party closest to you)



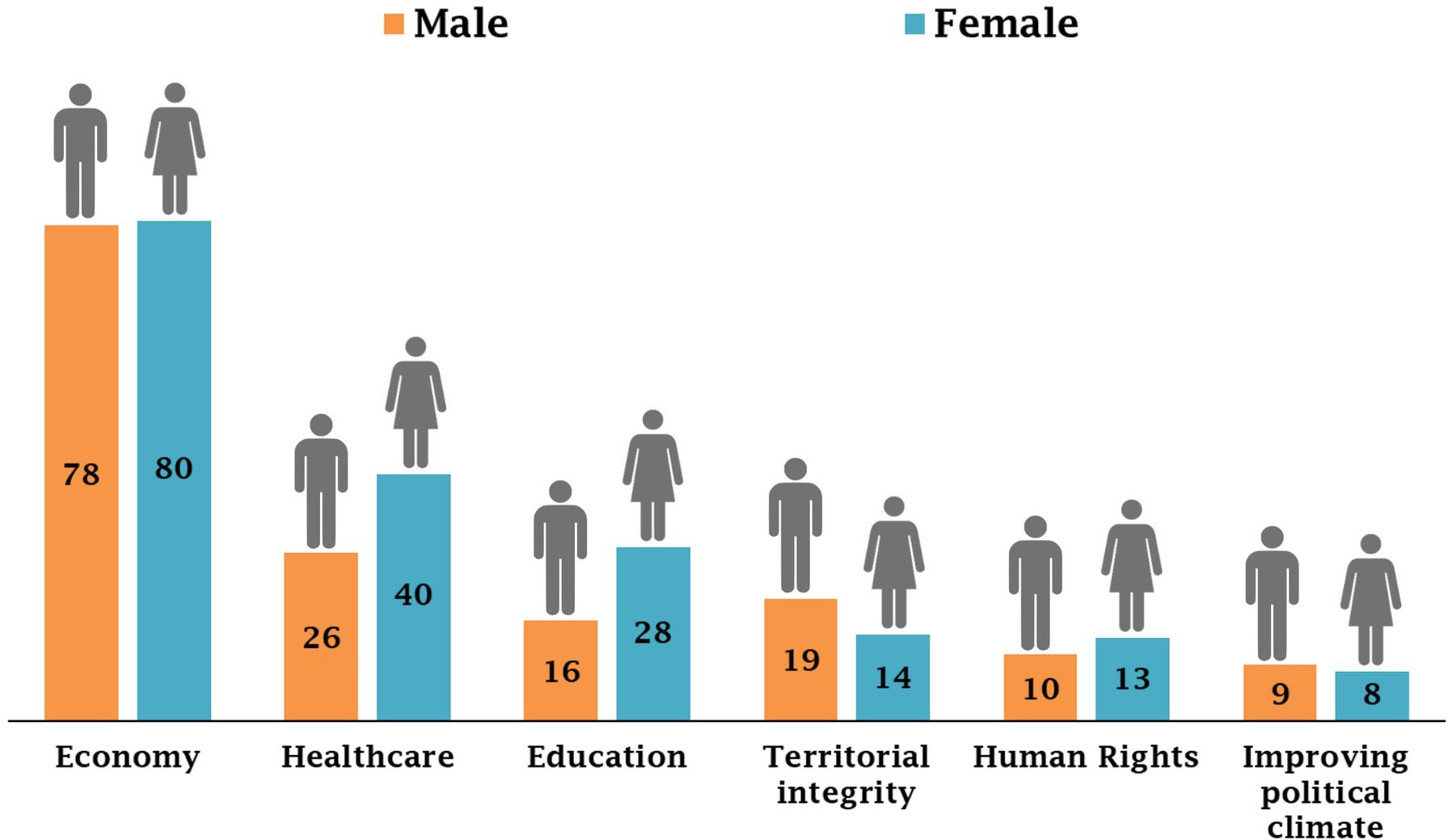
Public priorities for the parliament

Thinking about the new parliament, which issues should parliament focus on in the upcoming year? Please name up to three. **Open question (q8)**



Public priorities for the parliament

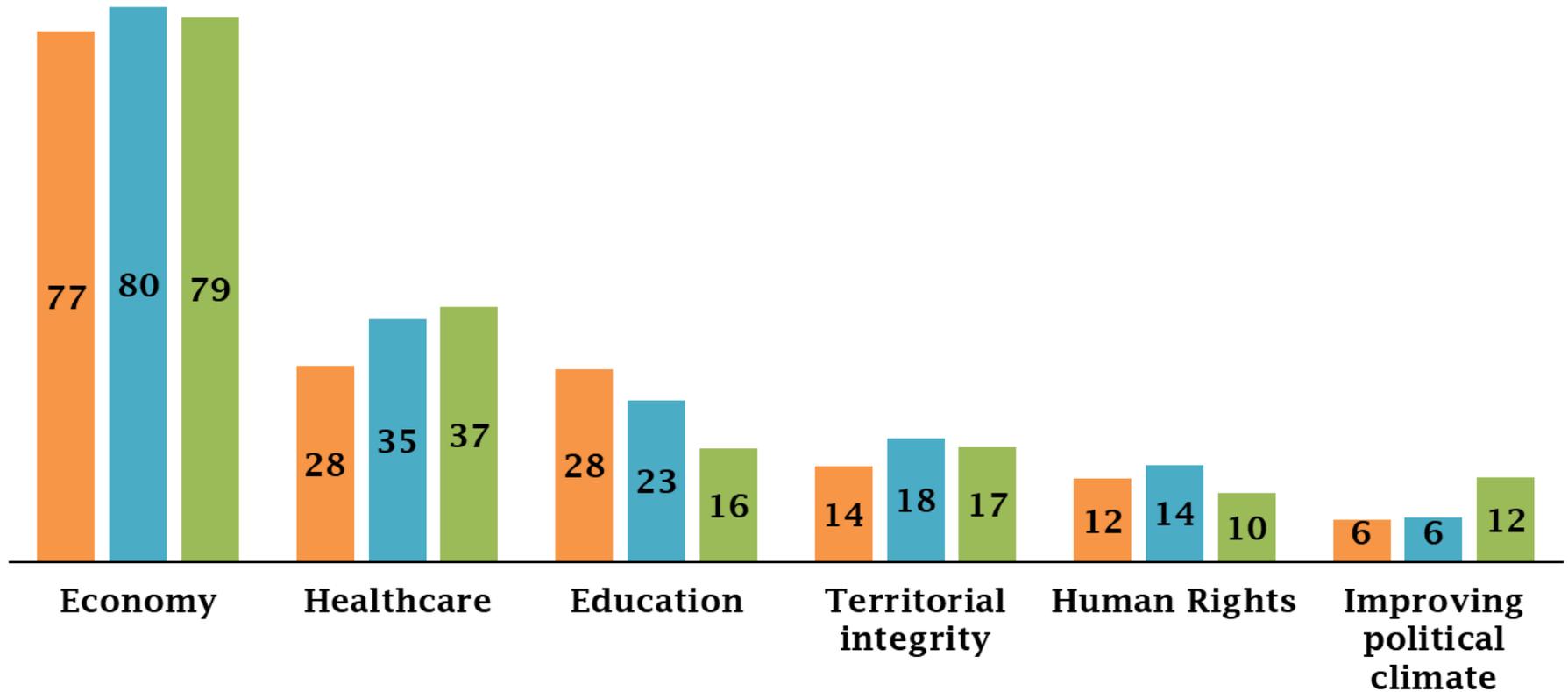
Thinking about the new parliament, which issues should parliament focus on in the upcoming year? Please name up to three. **Open question** (q8 X Gender) Part 1



Public priorities for the parliament

Thinking about the new parliament, which issues should parliament focus on in the upcoming year? Please name up to three. (q8 X Age) Part 1

■ 18-34 ■ 35-54 ■ 55+

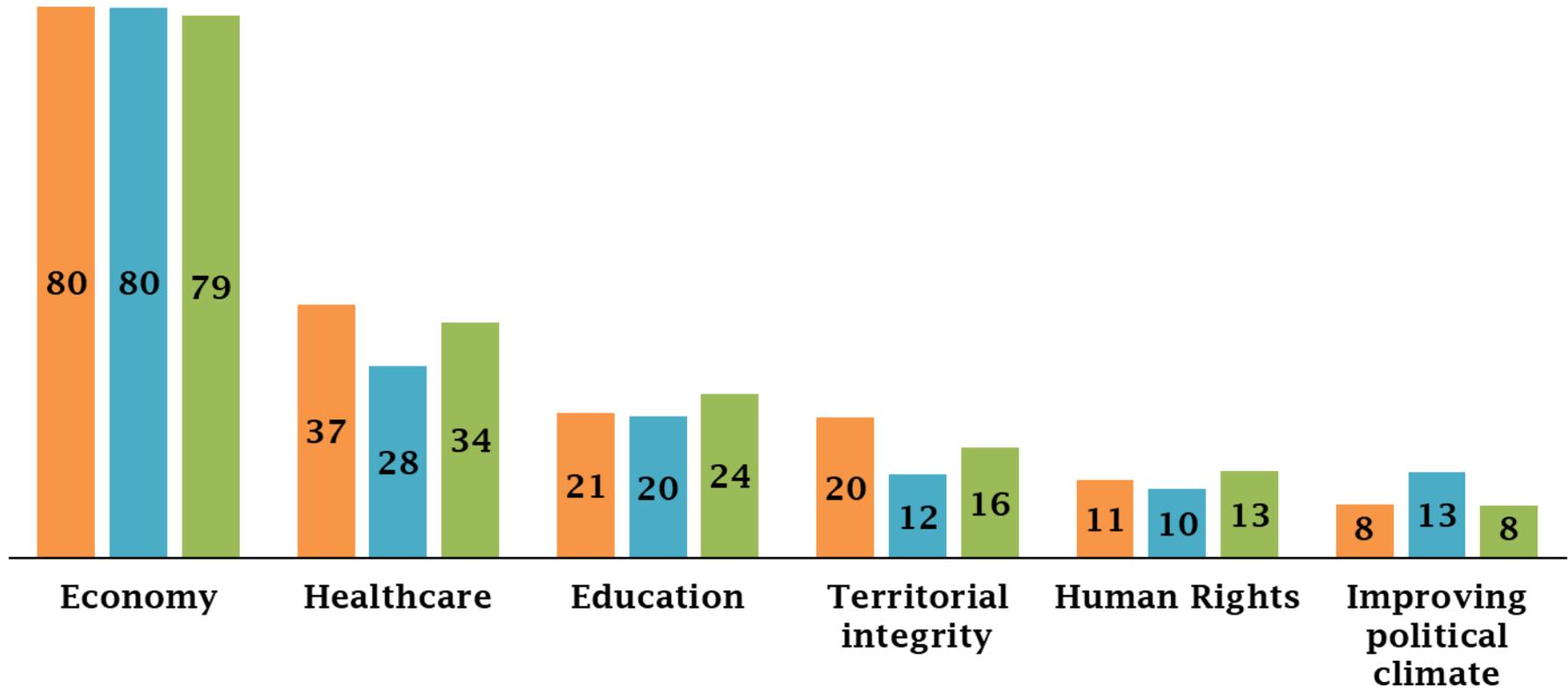


Public priorities for the parliament

Thinking about the new parliament, which issues should parliament focus on in the upcoming year? Please name up to three.

(q8 X Party closest to you) Part 1

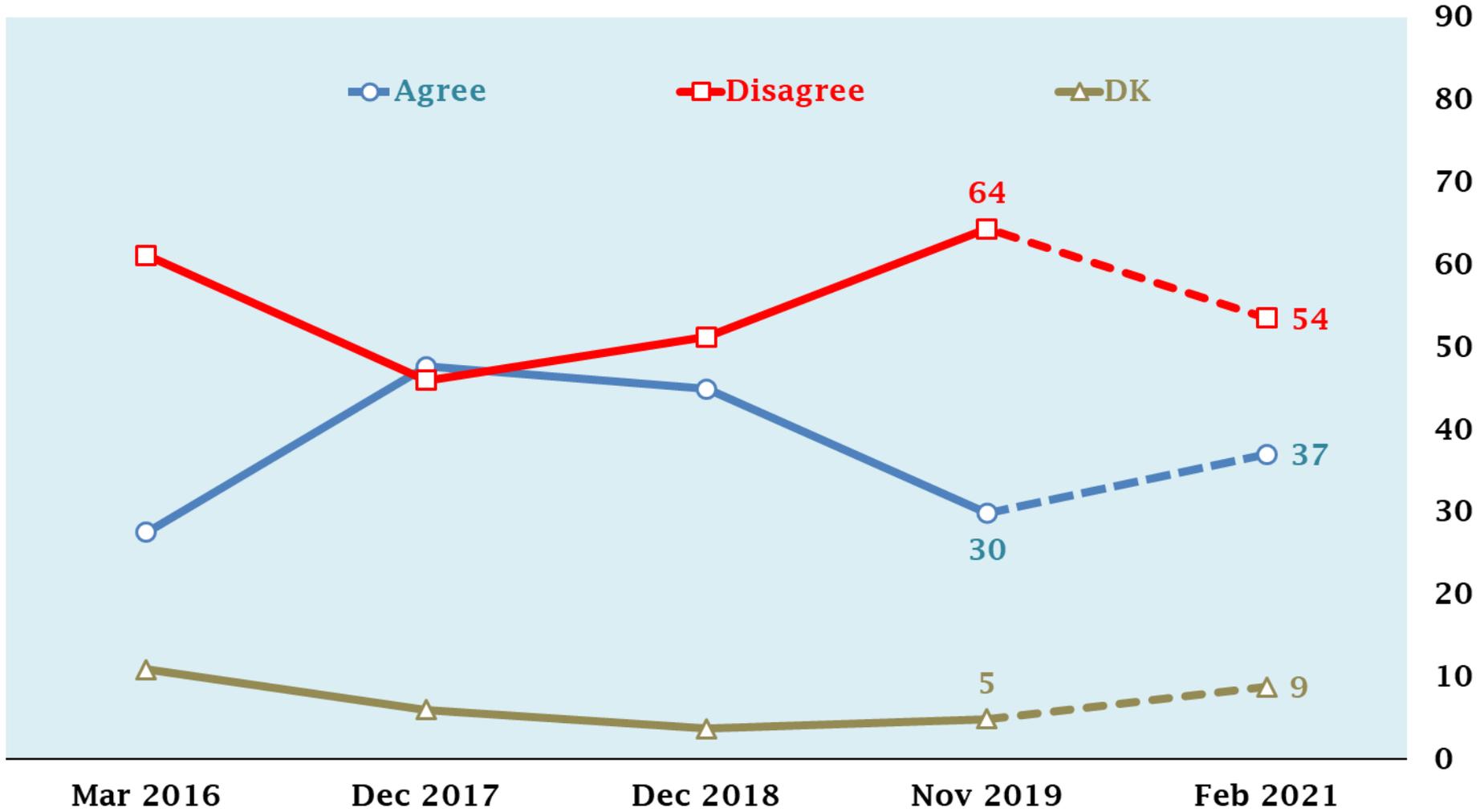
- Georgian Dream supporters (23%)
- Opposition supporters (15%)
- Did not name a party (62%)



Parliament and the public

Please, tell me how much do you agree or disagree that Members of parliament take into account opinions of people like you? (q9)

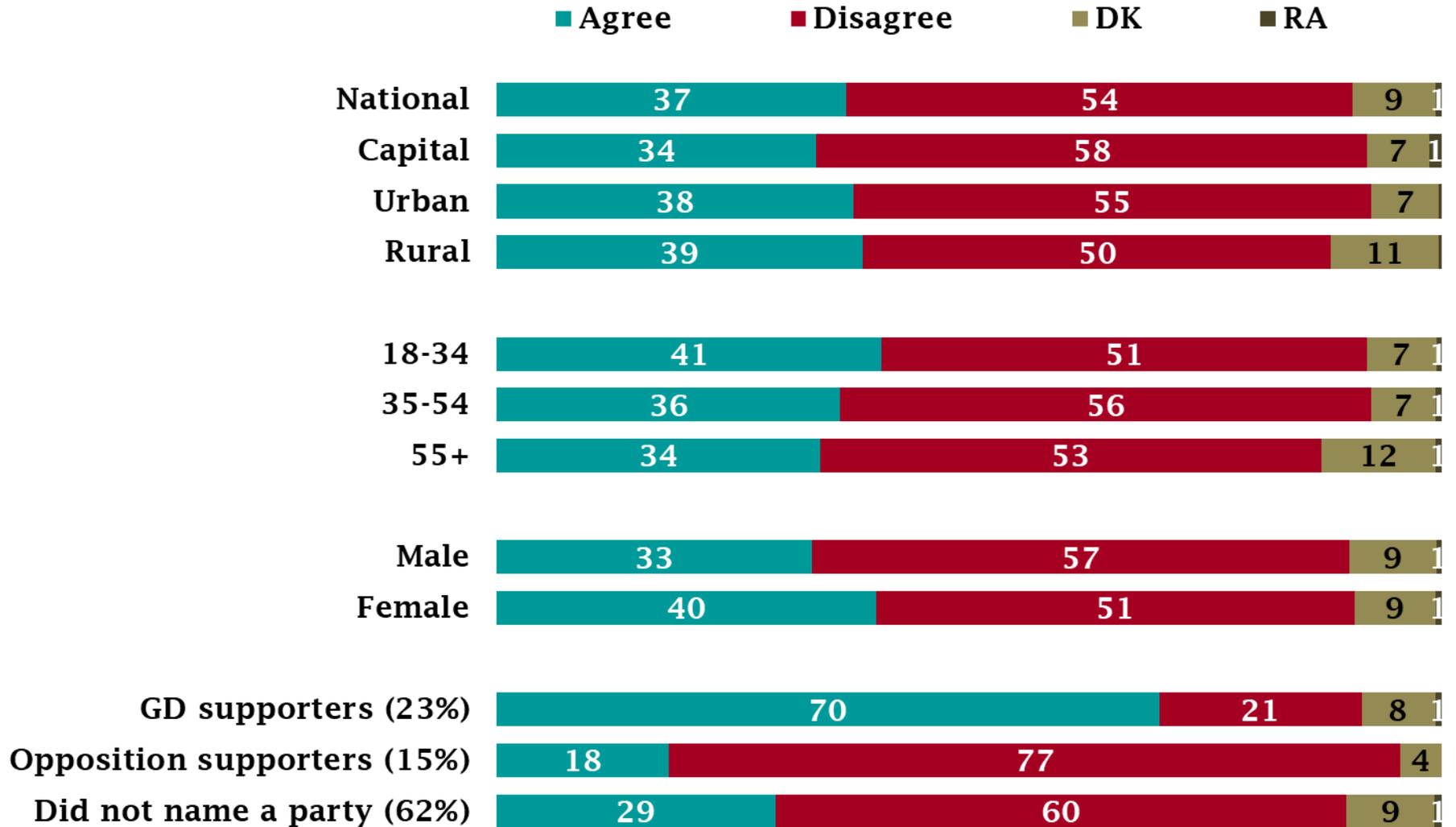
*Dashed line represents change in method from face-to-face to telephone



Parliament and the public

Please, tell me how much do you agree or disagree that Members of parliament take into account opinions of people like you?

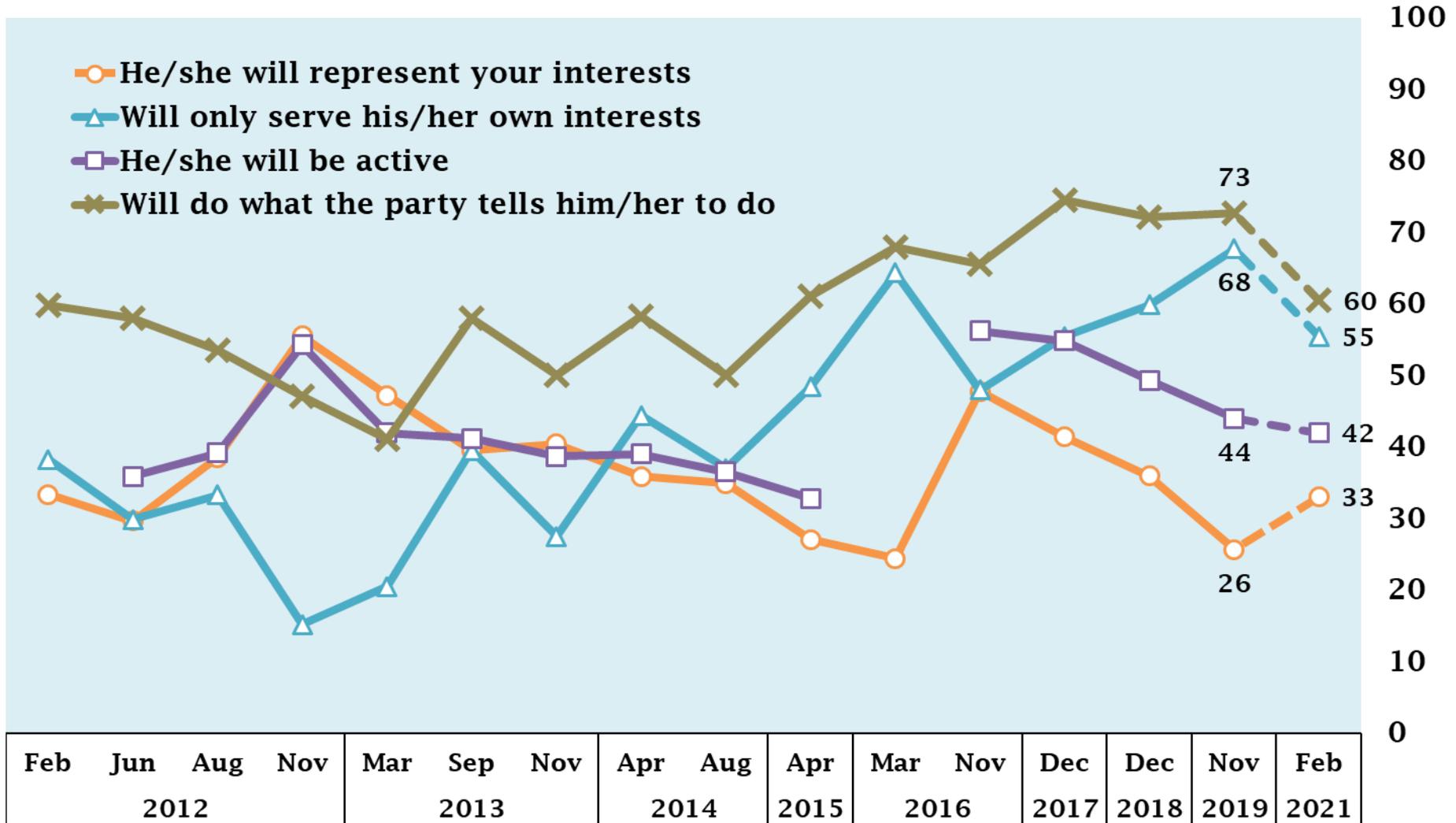
(q9 X Settlement, Age, Gender, Party closest to you)



Expectations towards MPs

What do you expect from the member of the Parliament (MP)? (q10)

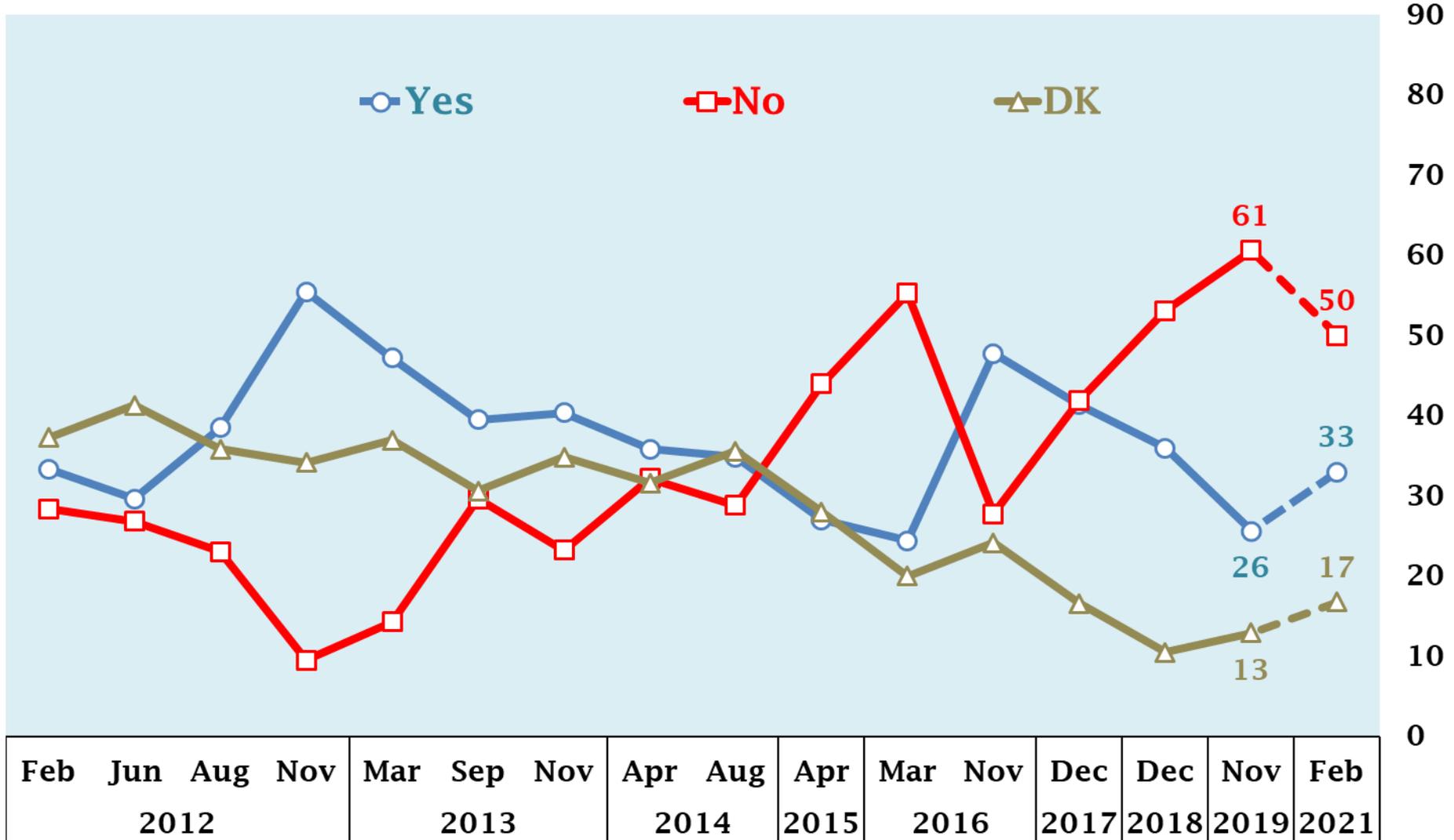
*Dashed line represents change in method from face-to-face to telephone



Expectations towards MPs

What do you expect from the member of the Parliament (MP)? (q10_1)
He/she will represent your interests

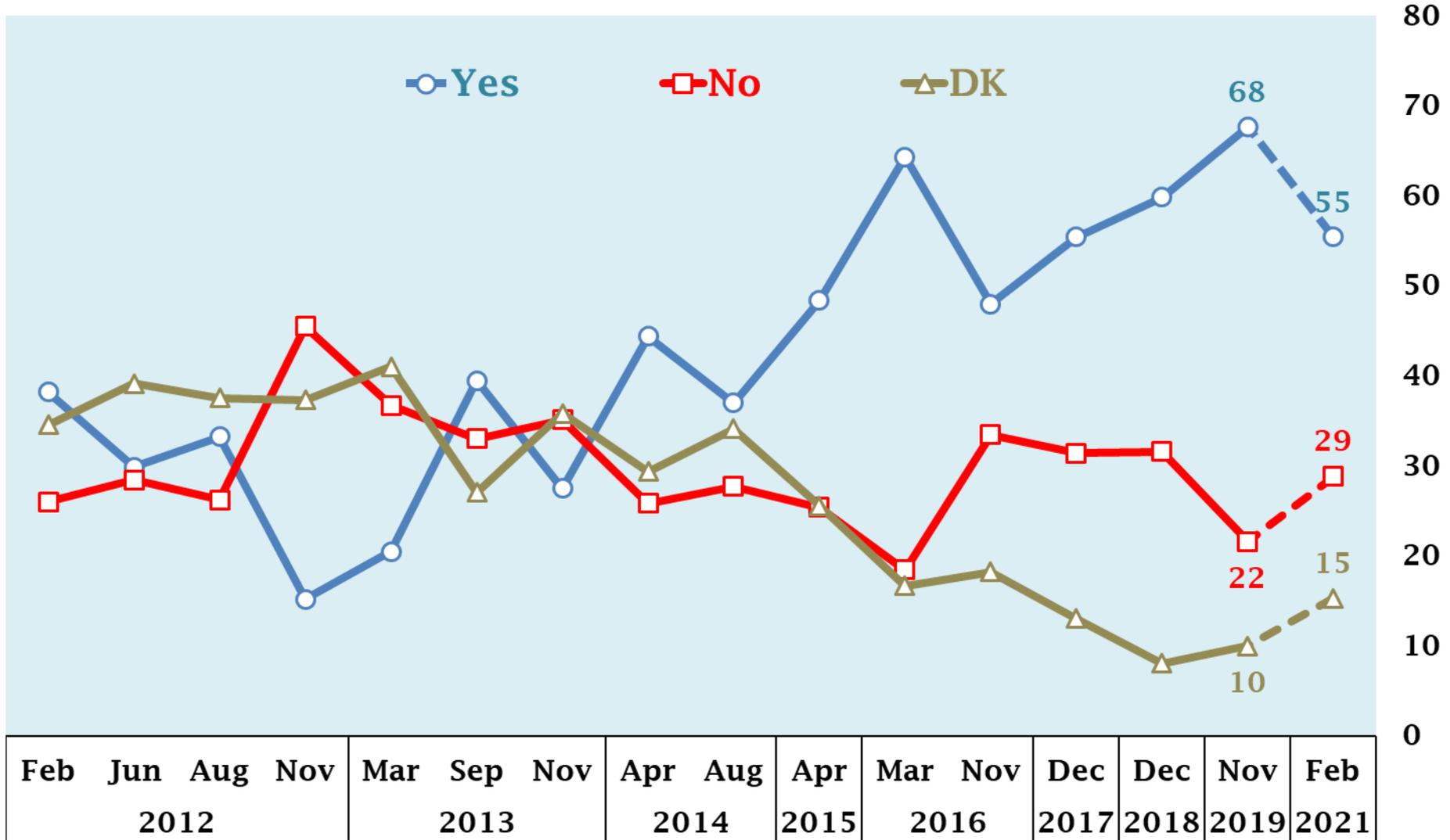
*Dashed line represents change in method from face-to-face to telephone



Expectations towards MPs

What do you expect from the member of the Parliament (MP)? (q10_2)
 Will only serve his/her own interests

*Dashed line represents change in method from face-to-face to telephone

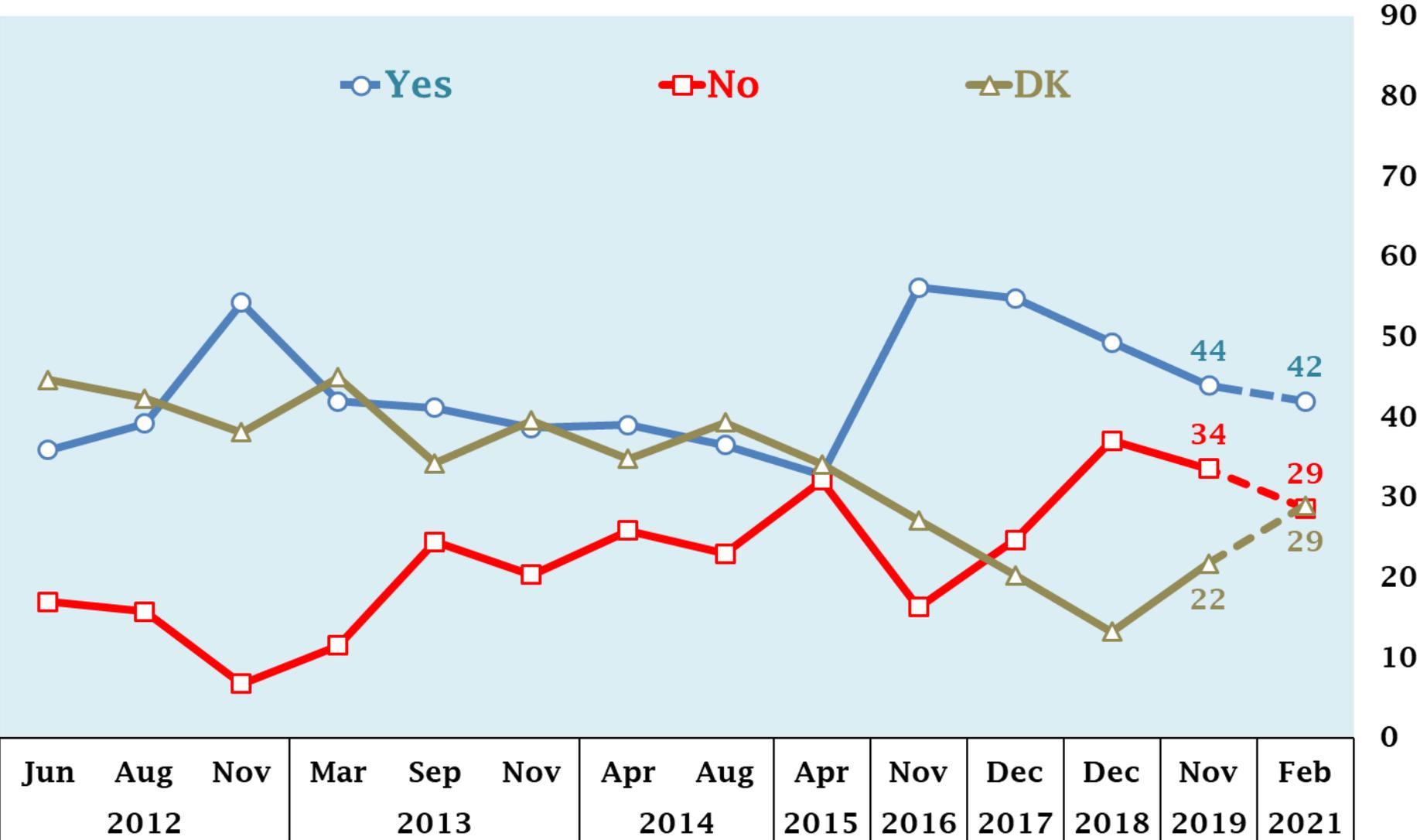


Expectations towards MPs

What do you expect from the member of the Parliament (MP)? (q10_3)

He/she will be active

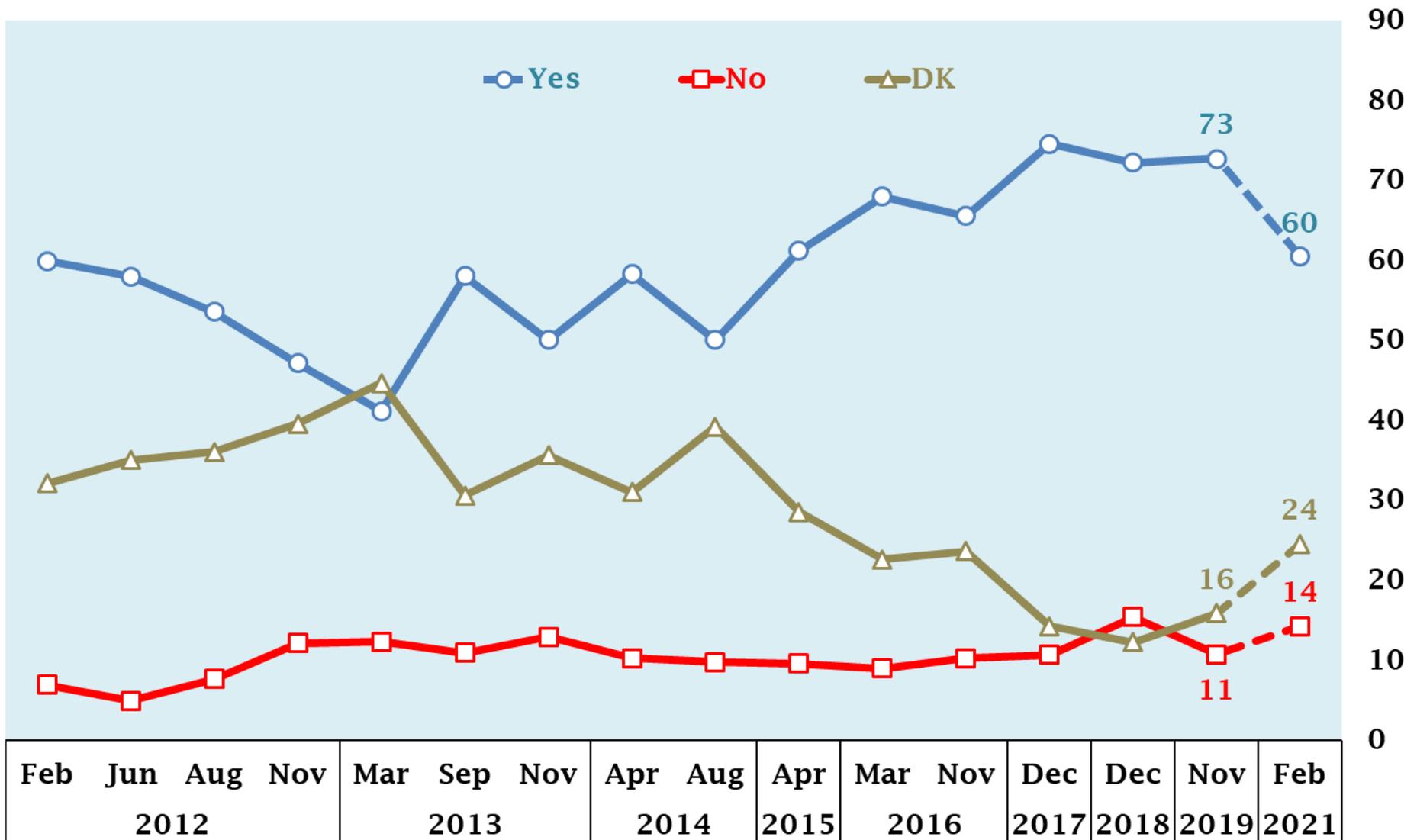
*Dashed line represents change in method from face-to-face to telephone



Expectations towards MPs

What do you expect from the member of the Parliament (MP)? (q10_4)
Will do what the party tells him/her to do

*Dashed line represents change in method from face-to-face to telephone



Expectations towards MPs

What do you expect from the member of the Parliament (MP)?
(q10 X Party closest to you)

■ Yes ■ No ■ DK ■ RA

Will do what the party tells him/her to do



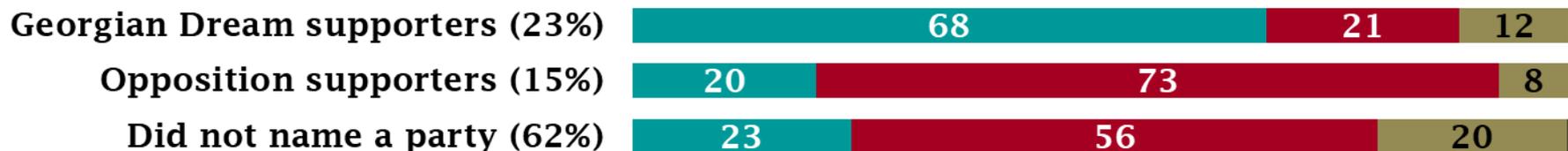
Will only serve his/her own interests



He/she will be active



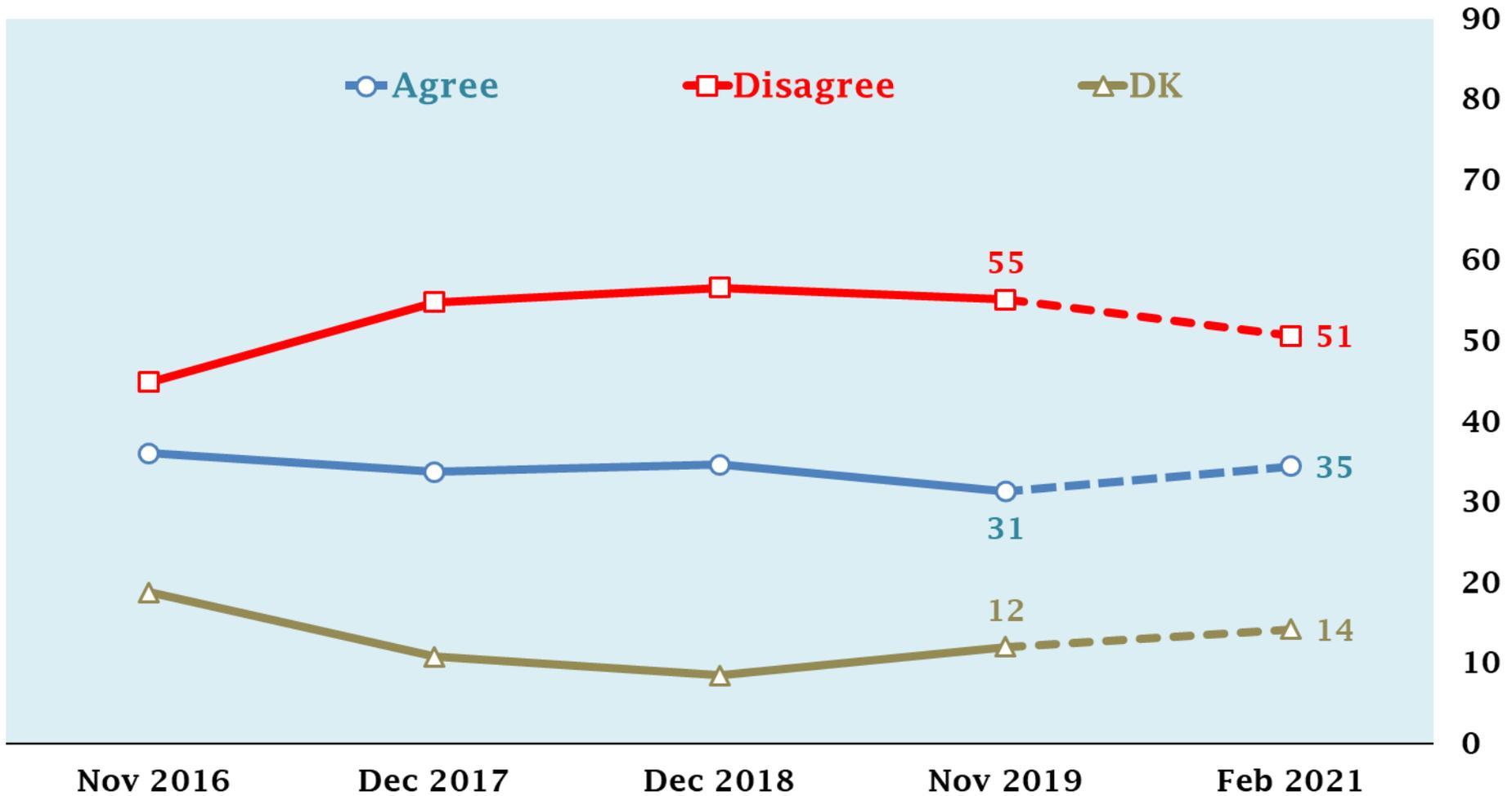
He/she will represent your interests



Parliament and the public

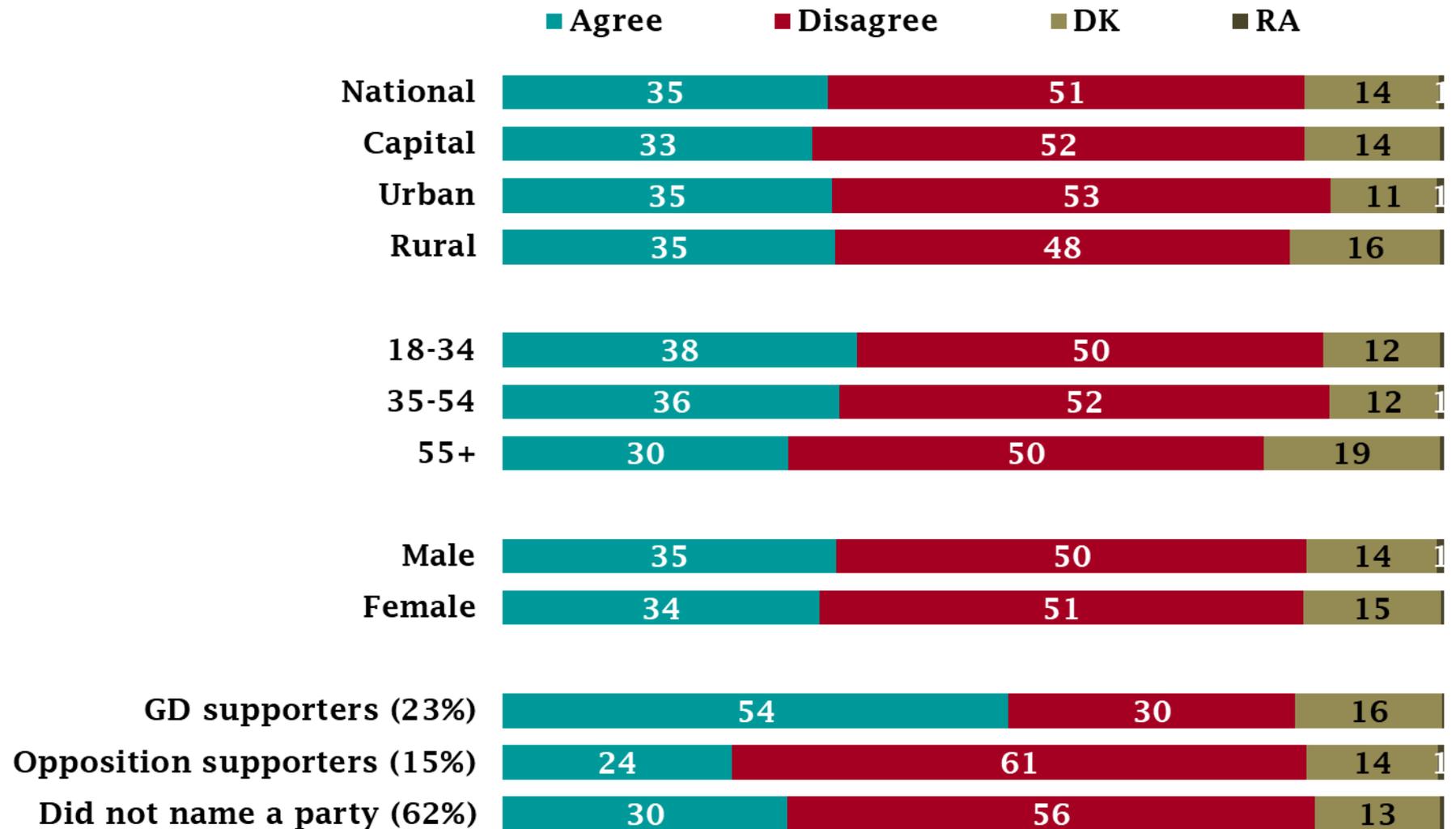
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: If you wanted to, you would be able to easily arrange a meeting with the Member of Parliament. (q11)

*Dashed line represents change in method from face-to-face to telephone



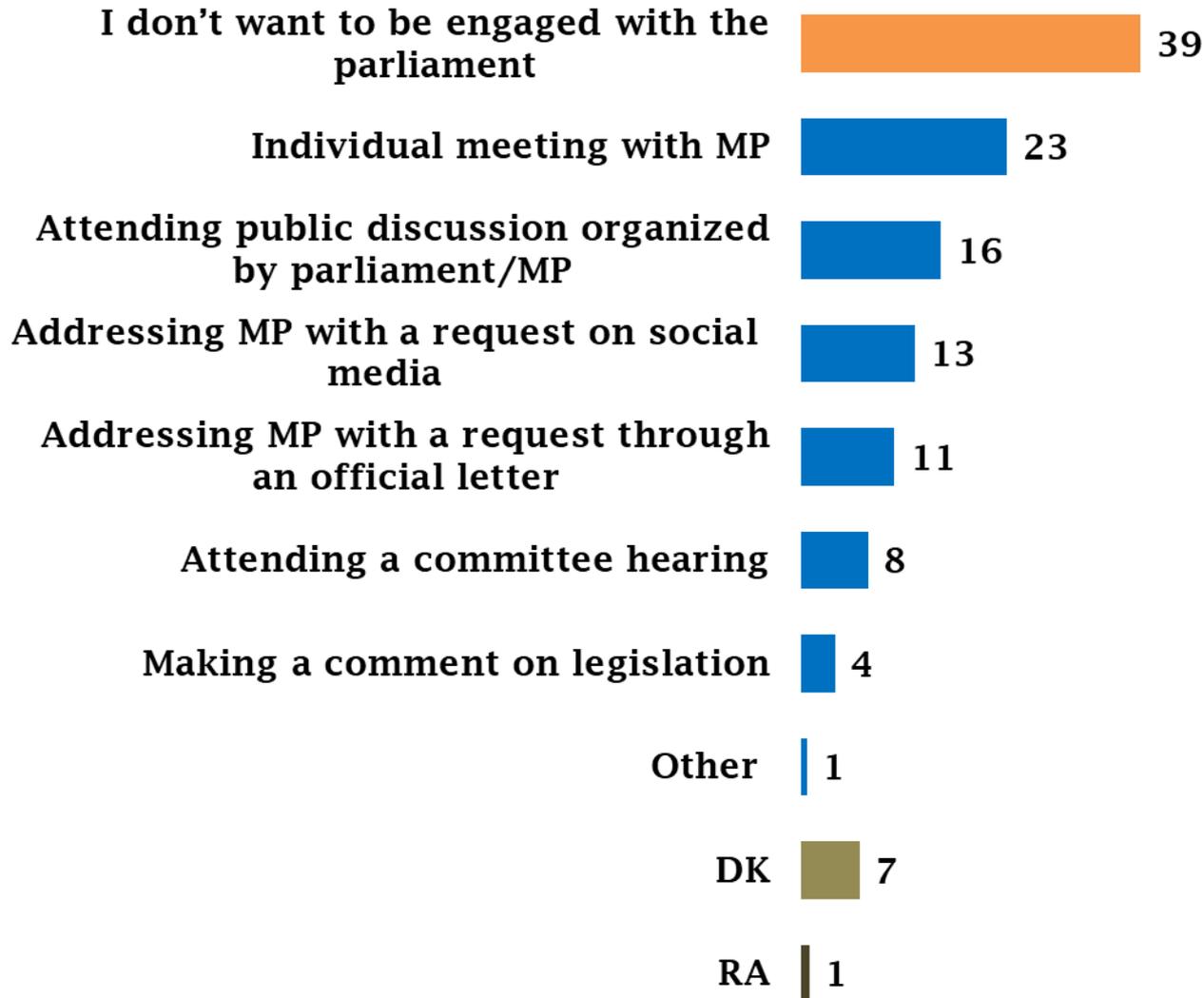
Parliament and the public

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: If you wanted to, you would be able to easily arrange a meeting with the Member of Parliament. (q11 X Settlement, Age, Gender, Party closest to you)



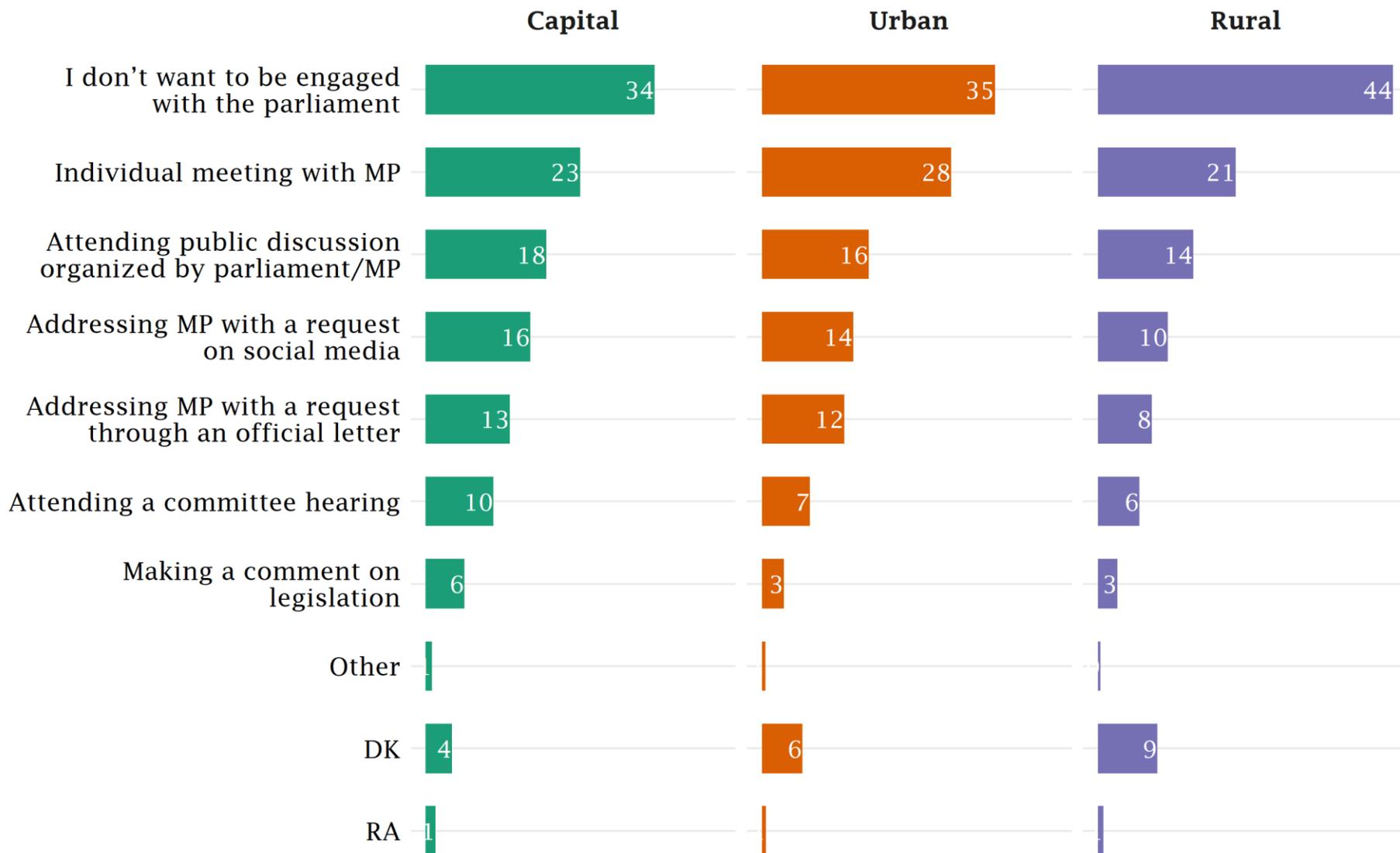
Communication with the parliament

Of these six ways, which would be the best for you for engaging with the parliament? Up to three answers (q12)



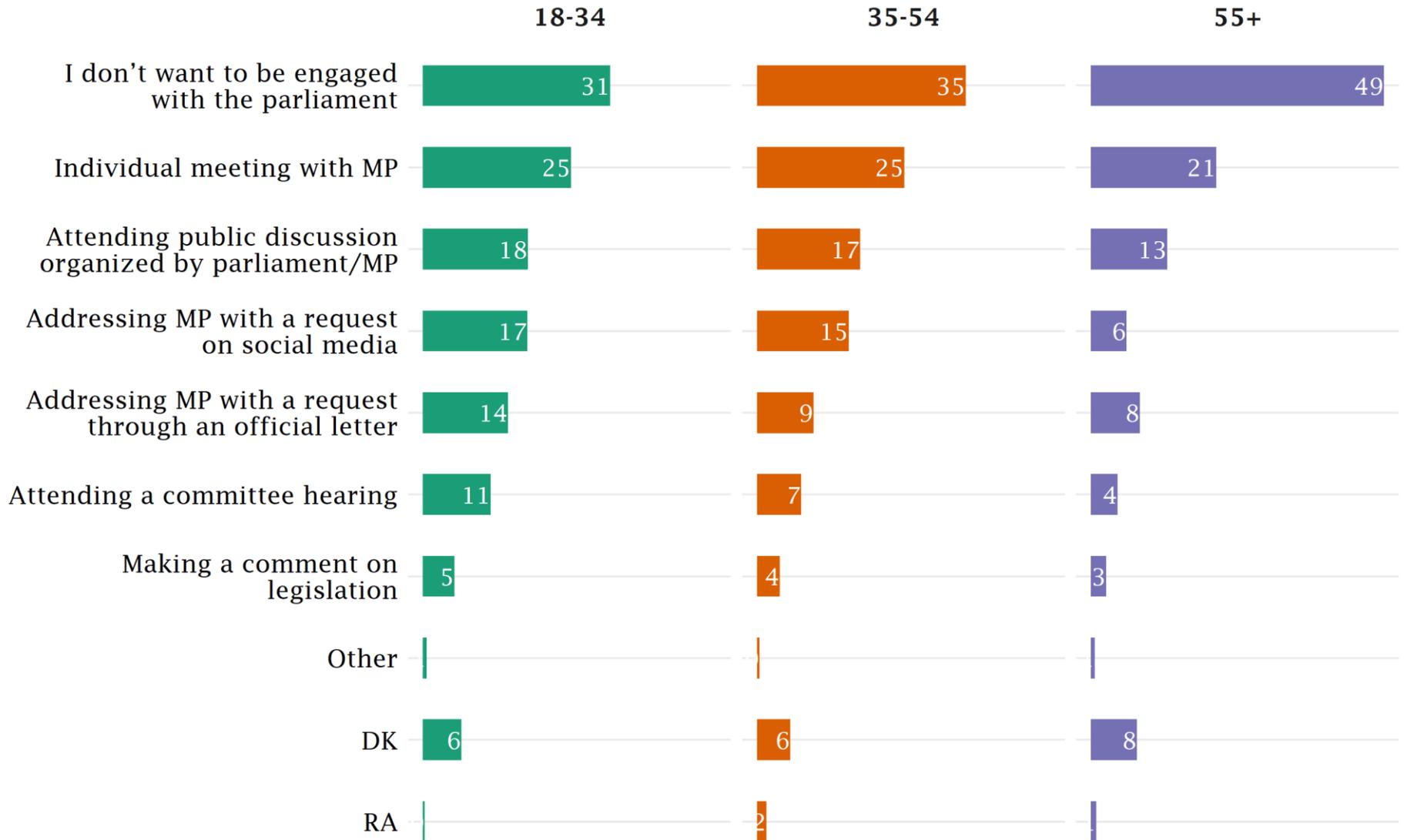
Communication with the parliament

Of these six ways, which would be the best for you for engaging with the parliament? Up to three answers (q12 X Settlement)



Communication with the parliament

Of these six ways, which would be the best for you for engaging with the parliament? Up to three answers (q12 X Age)



Communication with the parliament

Have you been involved in the work of the parliament in the last four years, in the following ways? (q13)

■ Yes ■ No ■ DK ■ RA

Attended public discussion organized by parliament/MP



Had individual meeting with MP



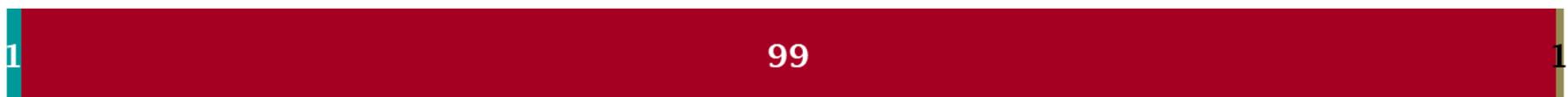
Addressed the parliament/MP with a request



Made a comment on legislation



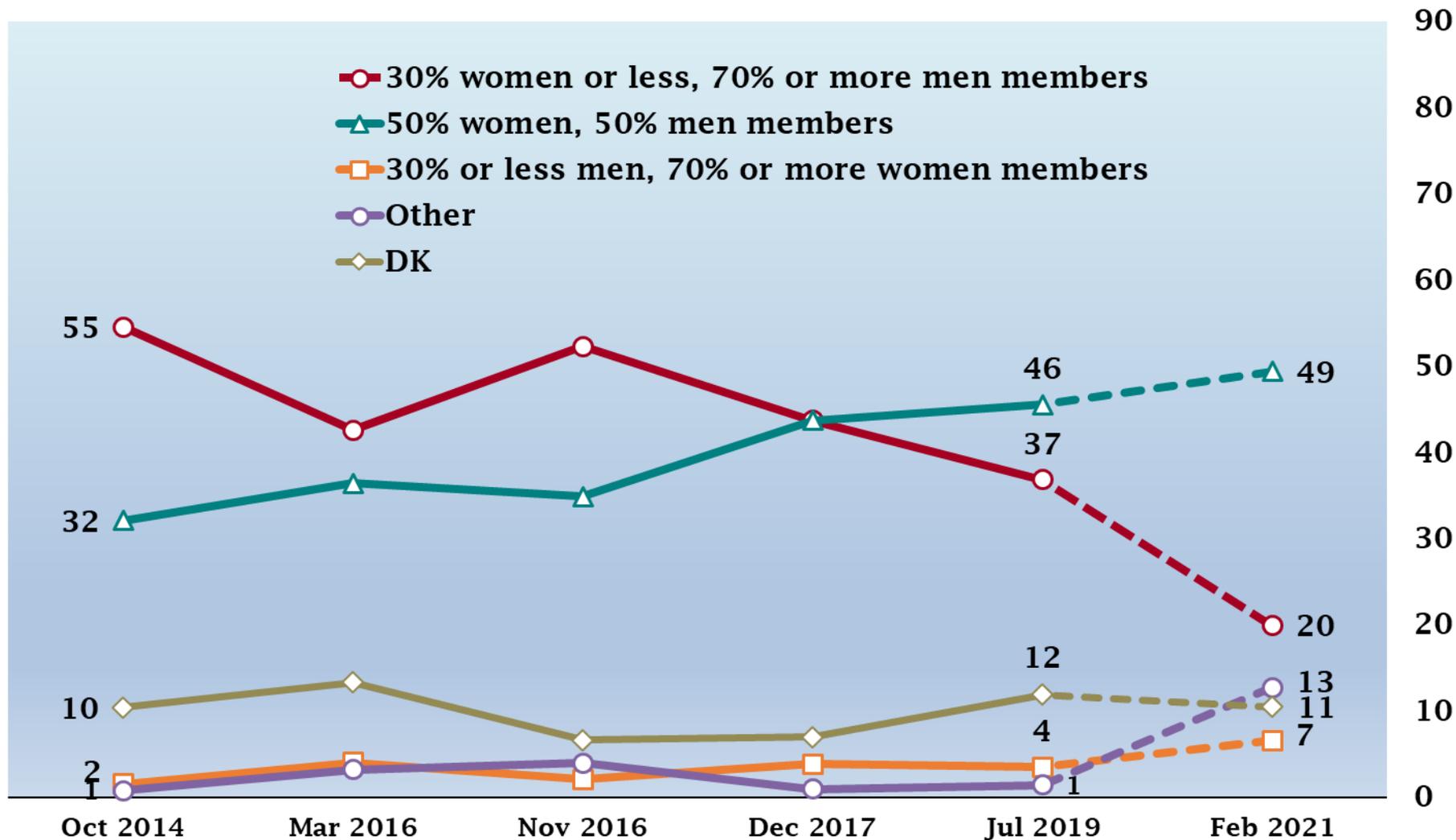
Attended a committee hearing



Women in parliament

In your opinion, what would be the best proportion of men and women members in parliament? (q14)

*Dashed line represents change in method from face-to-face to telephone

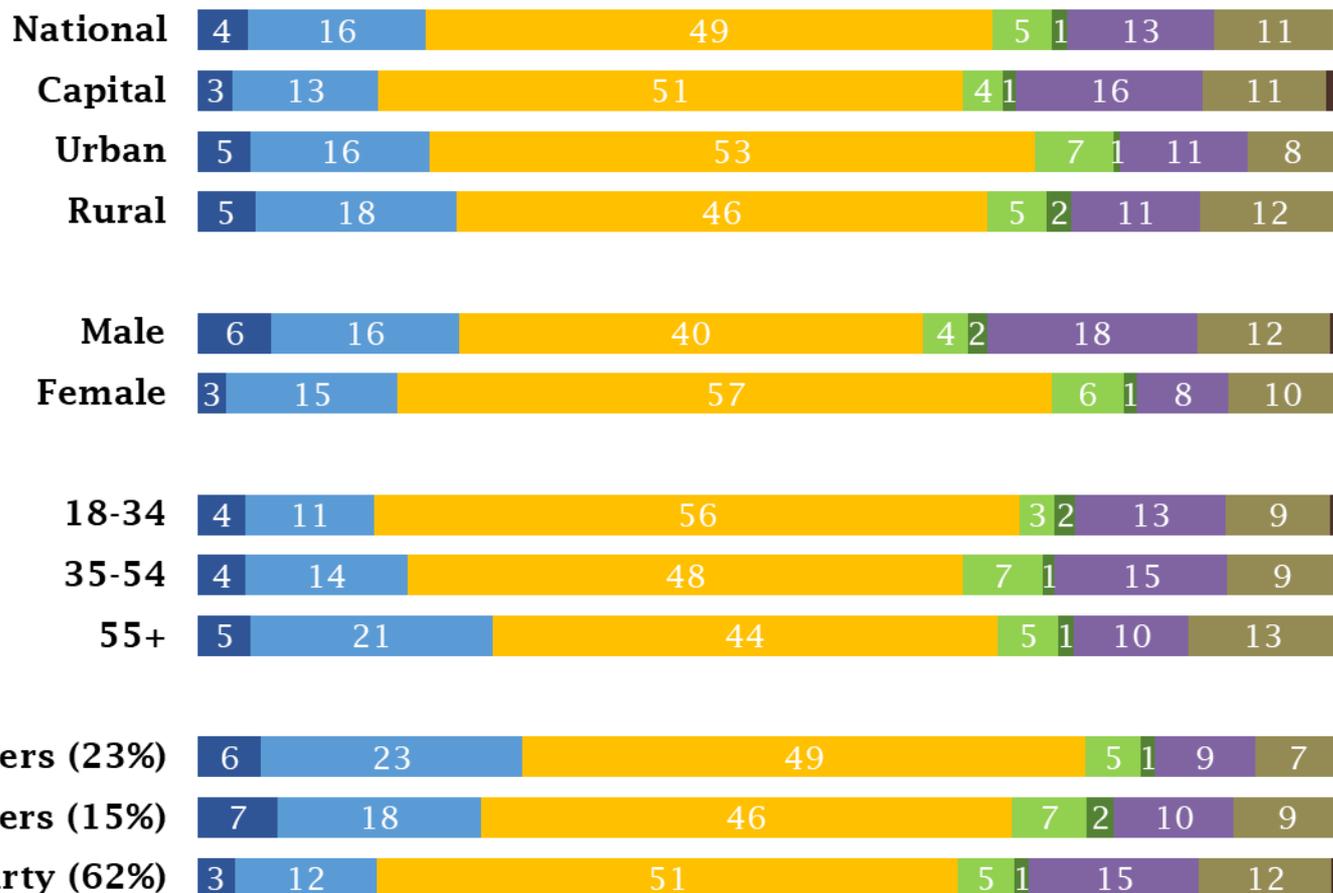


Women in Parliament

In your opinion, what would be the best proportion of men and women members in parliament? (q14 X Settlement, Age, Gender, Party closest to you)

- 10% women, 90% men members
- 50% women, 50% men members
- 10% men, 90% women members
- DK

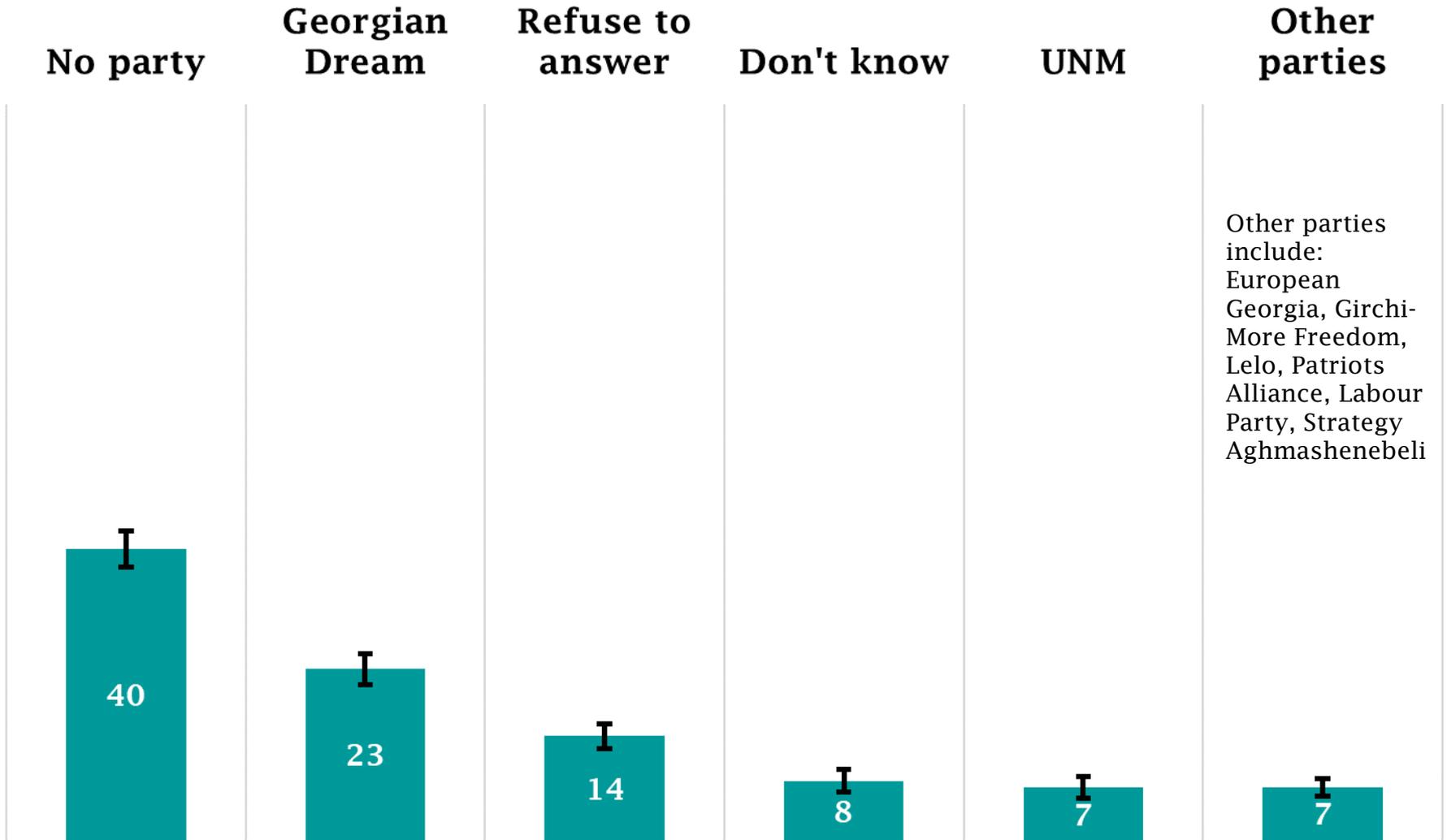
- 30% women, 70% men members
- 30% men, 70% women members
- Other
- RA



Party support

Party support

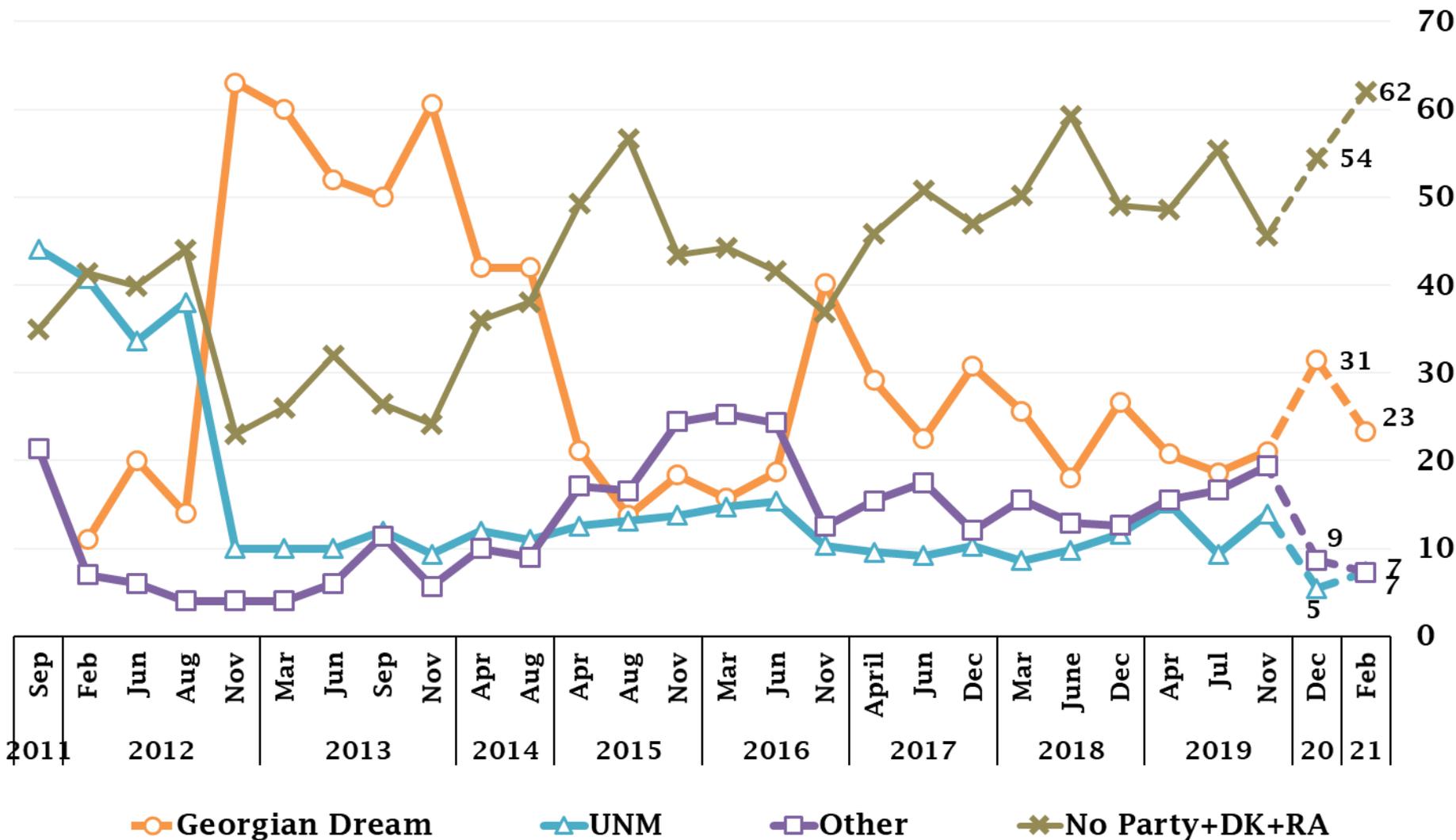
Which political party is closest to you? (q15)



Party support

Which party is closest to you? (q15)

*Dashed line represents change in method from face-to-face to telephone

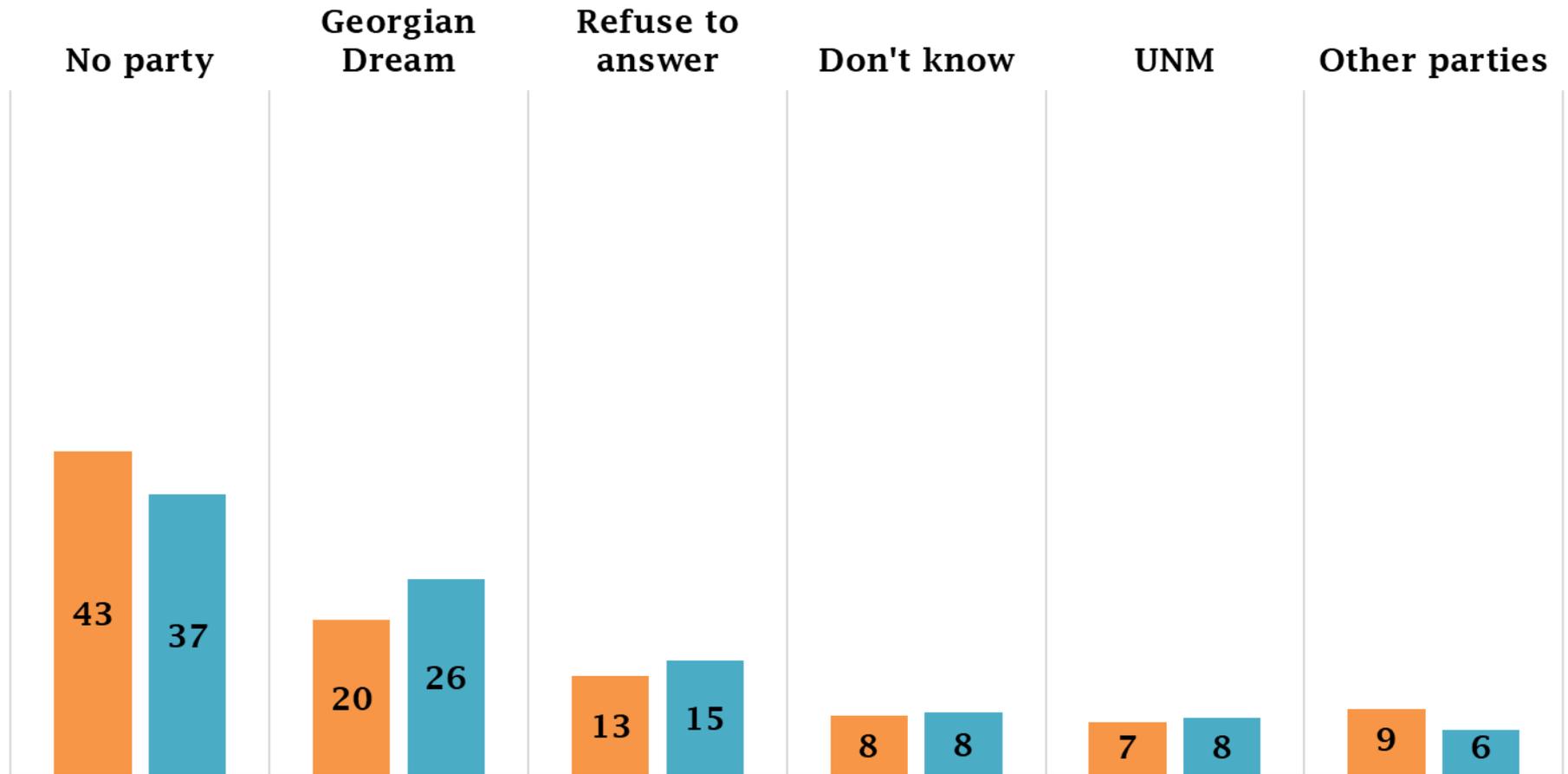


Party support

Which party is closest to you? (q15 X Gender)

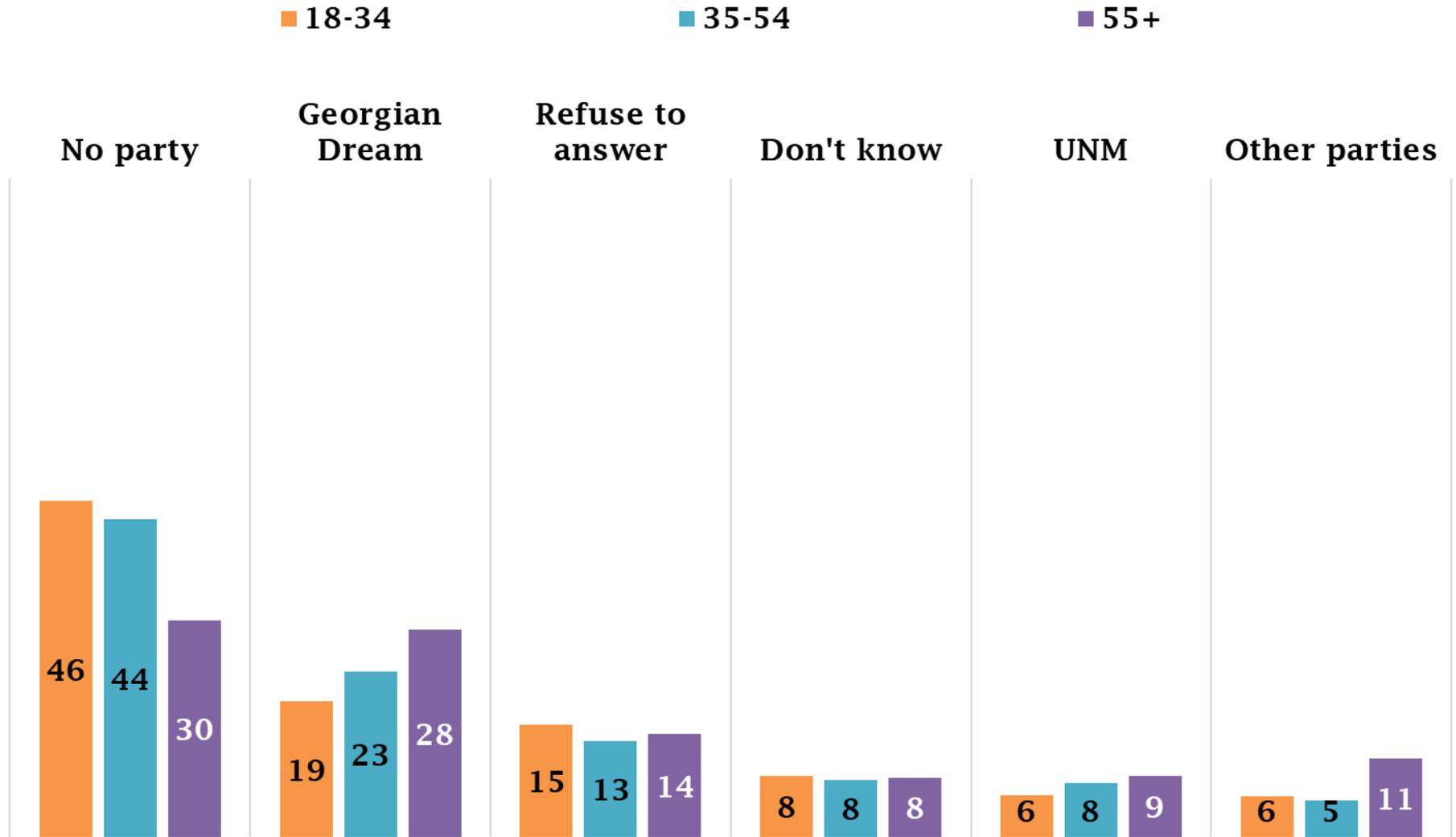
■ Male

■ Female



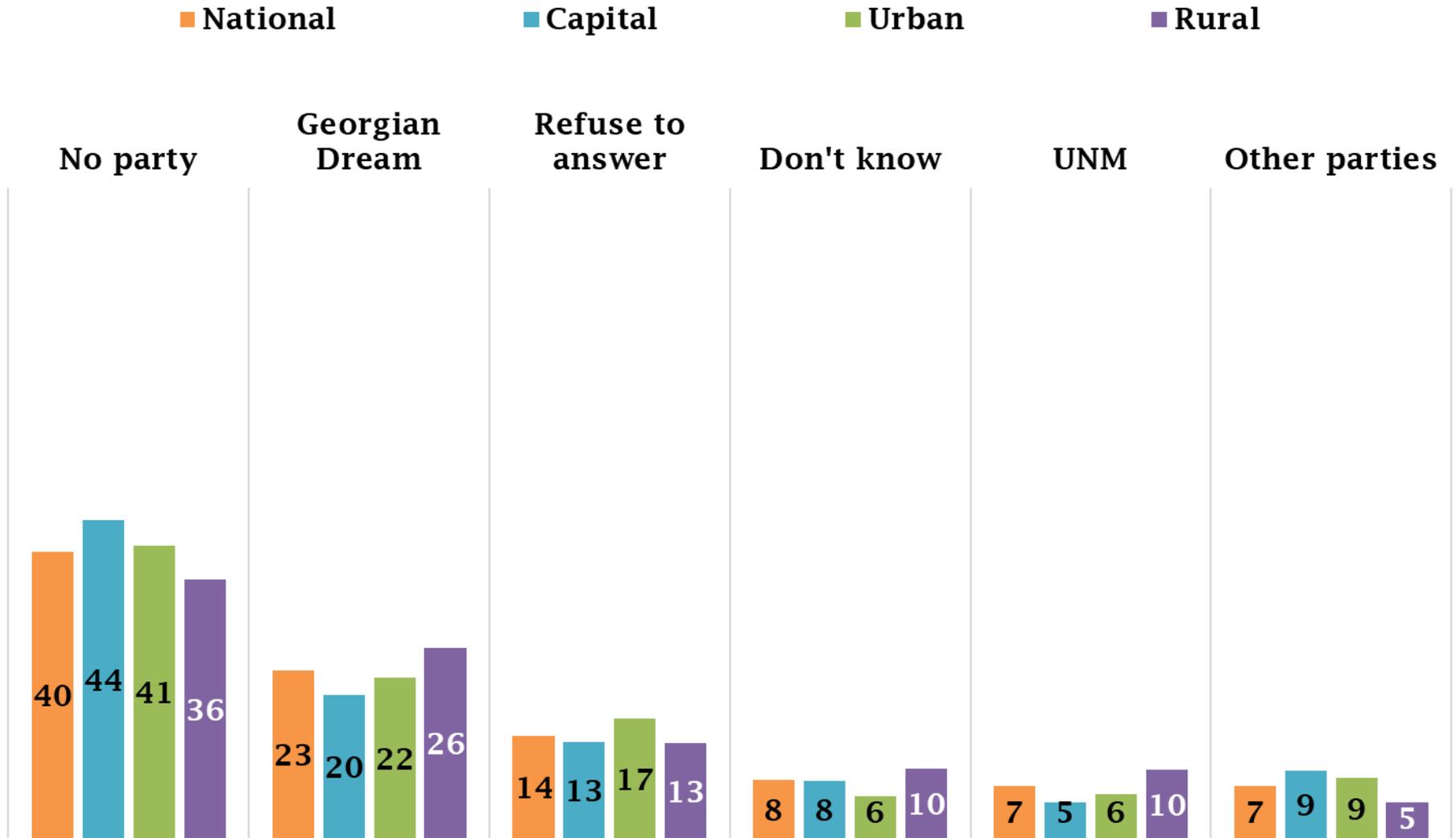
Party support

Which party is closest to you? (q15 X Age)



Party support

Which party is closest to you? (q15 X Settlement)



NDI-CRRC POLLS AVAILABLE AT:

- www.ndi.org/georgia-polls
- ww.caucasusbarometer.org