

# A Decade of Change: Opinions and Values in Georgia, 2009-2019



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# Caucasus Barometer

- A nationwide bi-annual survey in Armenia and Georgia;
- Results of 9 waves of the survey conducted since 2008 are available through our website ([caucasusbarometer.org](http://caucasusbarometer.org))
- Cited in more than 2,000 academic publications and policy documents

# Caucasus Barometer

- The Georgia survey is nationally representative except occupied territories;
- Results can be generalized to the levels of Tbilisi, urban, and rural settlements;
- On average, we interview 2,100 respondents per each wave. Average margin of error is about **2.2-2.8%**
- Surveys are conducted face-to-face in Azerbaijani, Armenian, or Georgian languages. Since 2015, respondents are interviewed using tablet computers

# Caucasus Barometer 2019

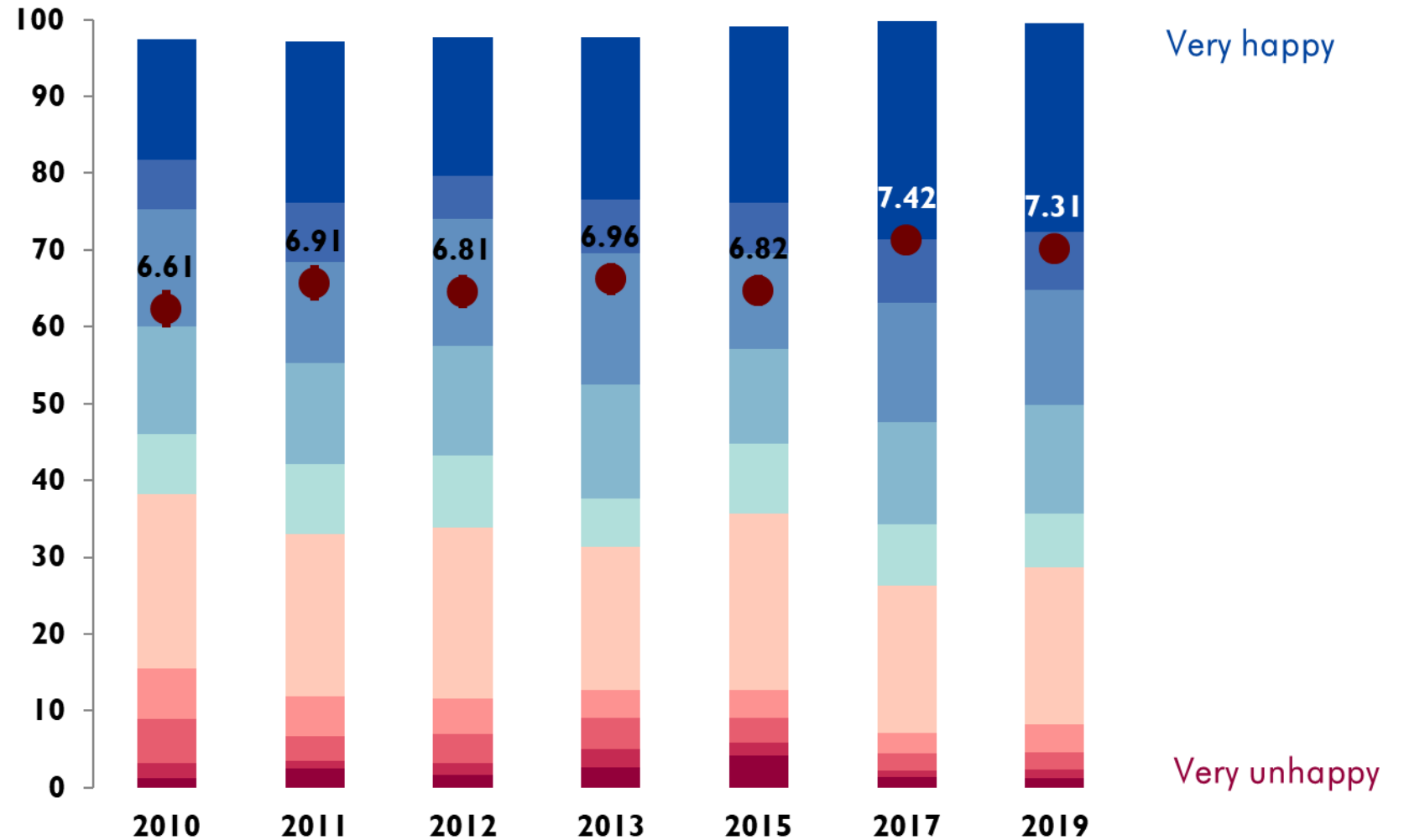
- Fieldwork was conducted between October 9, 2019 and November 4, 2019;
- Response rate: 36%;
- Margin of error:
  - *$\pm 0.7\%$  for estimates near 5% and 95%*
  - *$\pm 2.7\%$  for estimates near 10% and 90%*
  - *$\pm 3.7\%$  for estimates near 25% and 75%*
  - *$\pm 4.1\%$  for estimates near 50%*

# Health and Well-being

## Overall, how happy would you say you are?

Frequency and mean with 95% confidence intervals. Options "Don't know" and "Refuse to answer" are not shown on the chart

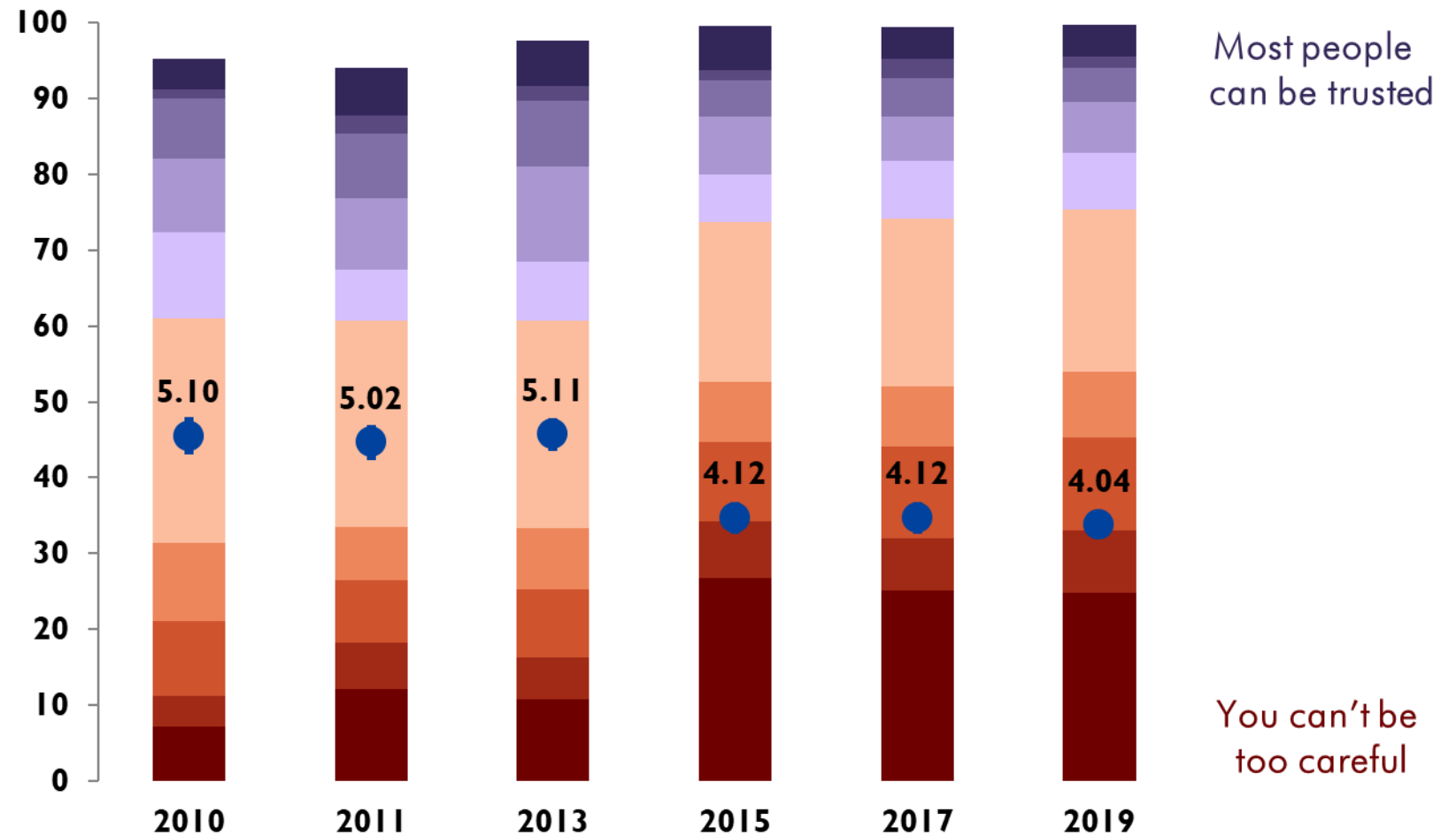
On average, Georgians feel happier than unhappy



## Generally speaking, would you say that most people in Georgia can be trusted, or that you can't be too careful in dealing with people?

Frequency and mean with 95% confidence intervals. Options "Don't know" and "Refuse to answer" are not shown on the chart

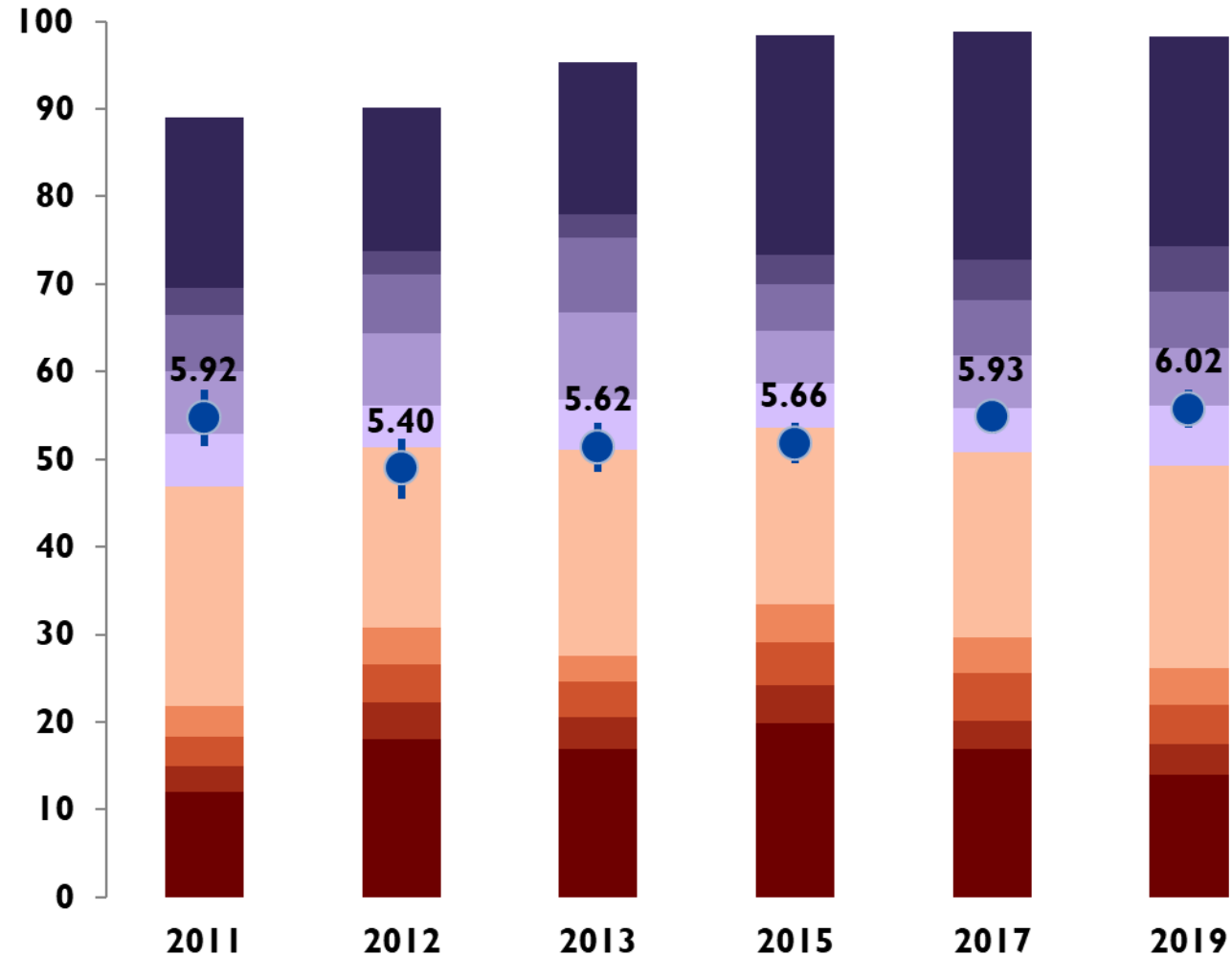
Through the last decade  
Georgians have grown more  
careful when it comes to the  
trust to other people



## Perception of fatalism

Frequency and mean with 95% confidence intervals. Options "Don't know" and "Refuse to answer" are not shown on the chart

Georgians lean towards the opinion that people shape their fate themselves



People shape their fate themselves

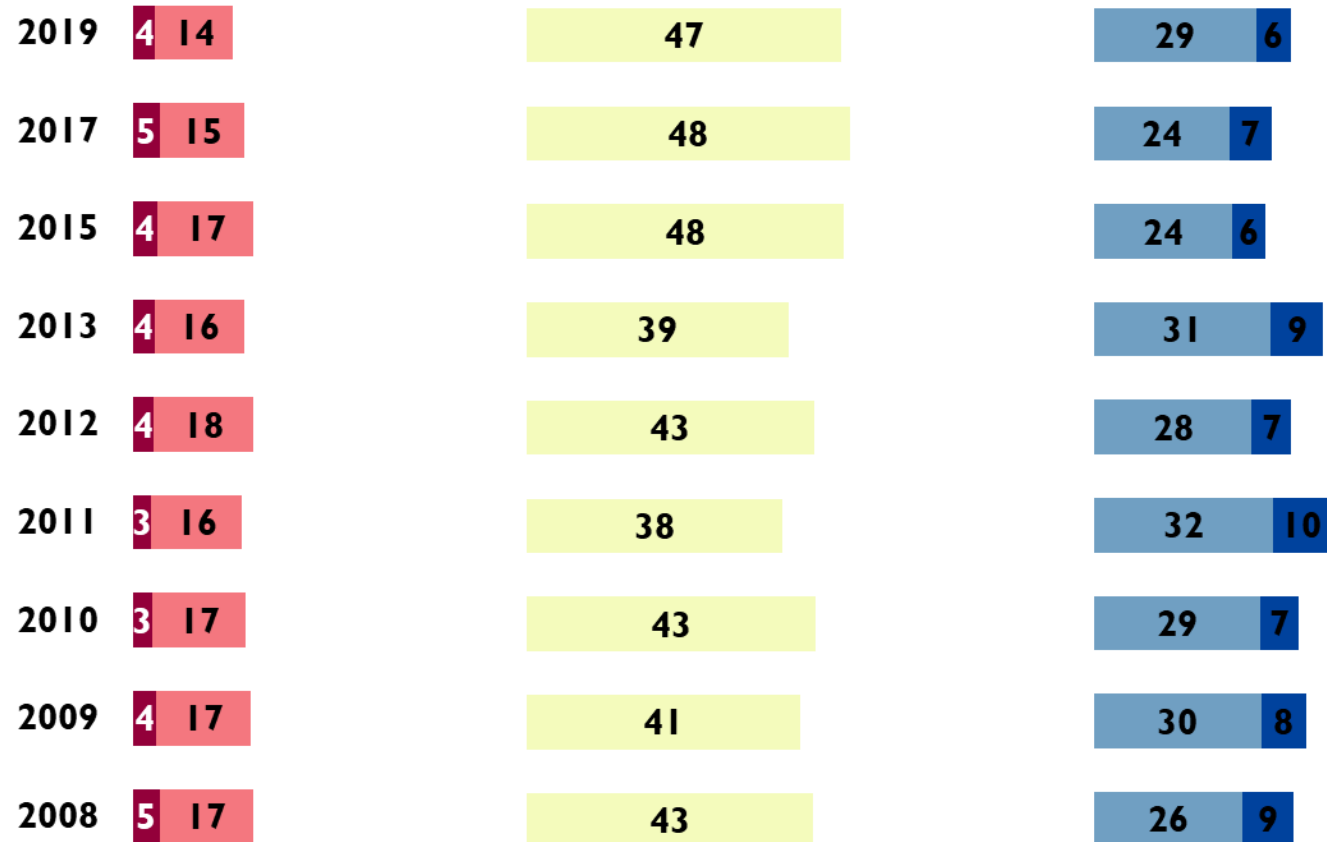
Everything in life is determined by fate



# Overall, how would you rate your health? Would you describe it as...

Options "Don't know" and "Refuse to answer" are not shown on the chart

■ Very poor ■ Poor ■ Fair ■ Good ■ Very good

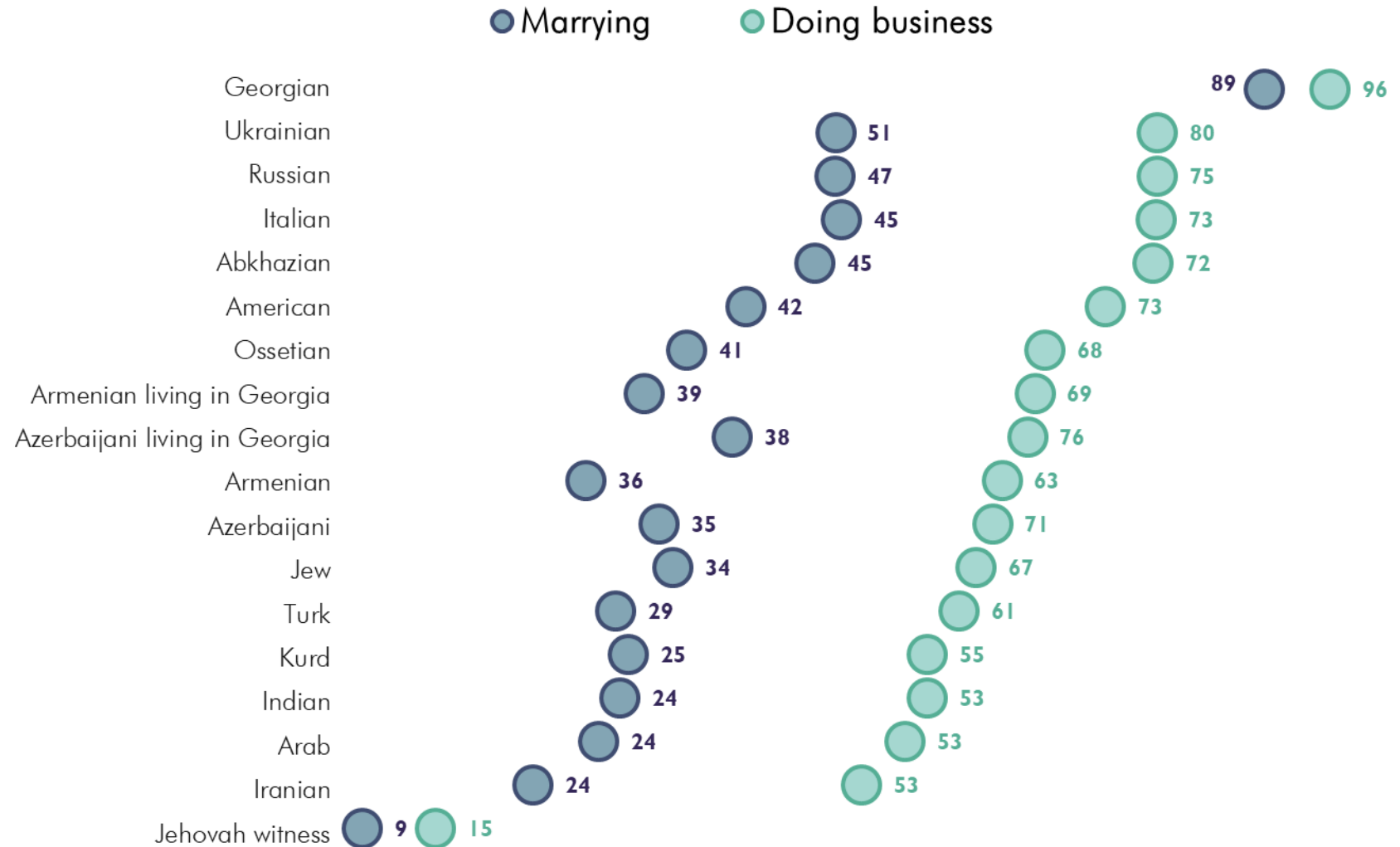


# Social Norms and Values

Georgians feel the closest to Ukrainians and Russians, and the farthest to Arabs, Iranians, and Jehovah's witnesses

## Would you approve or disapprove of people of your ethnicity...

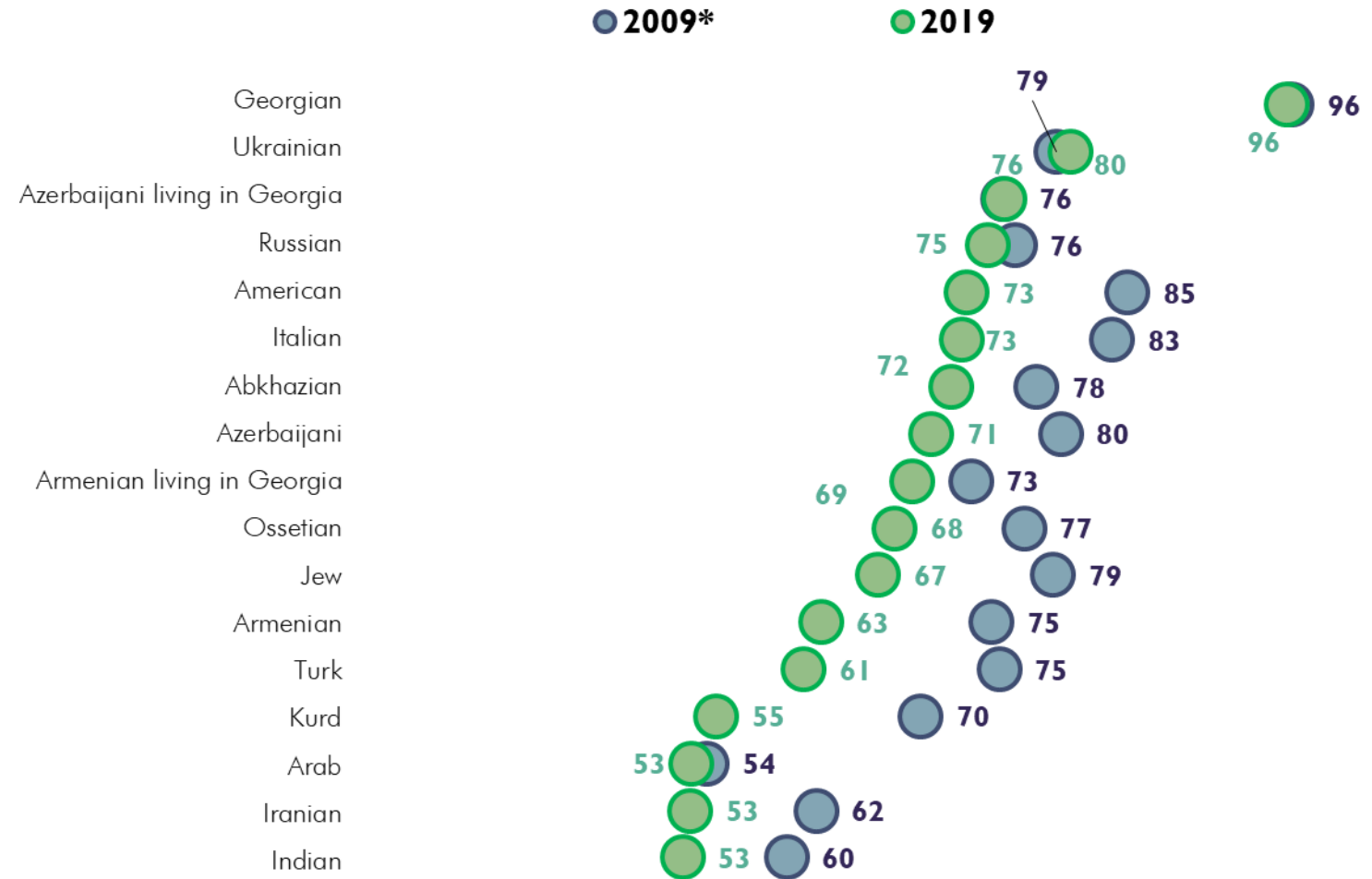
The 2019 wave of the Caucasus Barometer survey. Options "Don't know" and "Refuse to answer" are not shown on the chart. In case of marriage, respondents were asked whether they would approve women of their ethnicity marrying the representatives of respective group



# Would you approve or disapprove of people of your ethnicity doing business with...

Options "Don't know" and "Refuse to answer" are not shown on the chart

Georgians feel the closest to Ukrainians and Russians, and the farthest to Arabs, Iranians, and Jehovah's witnesses

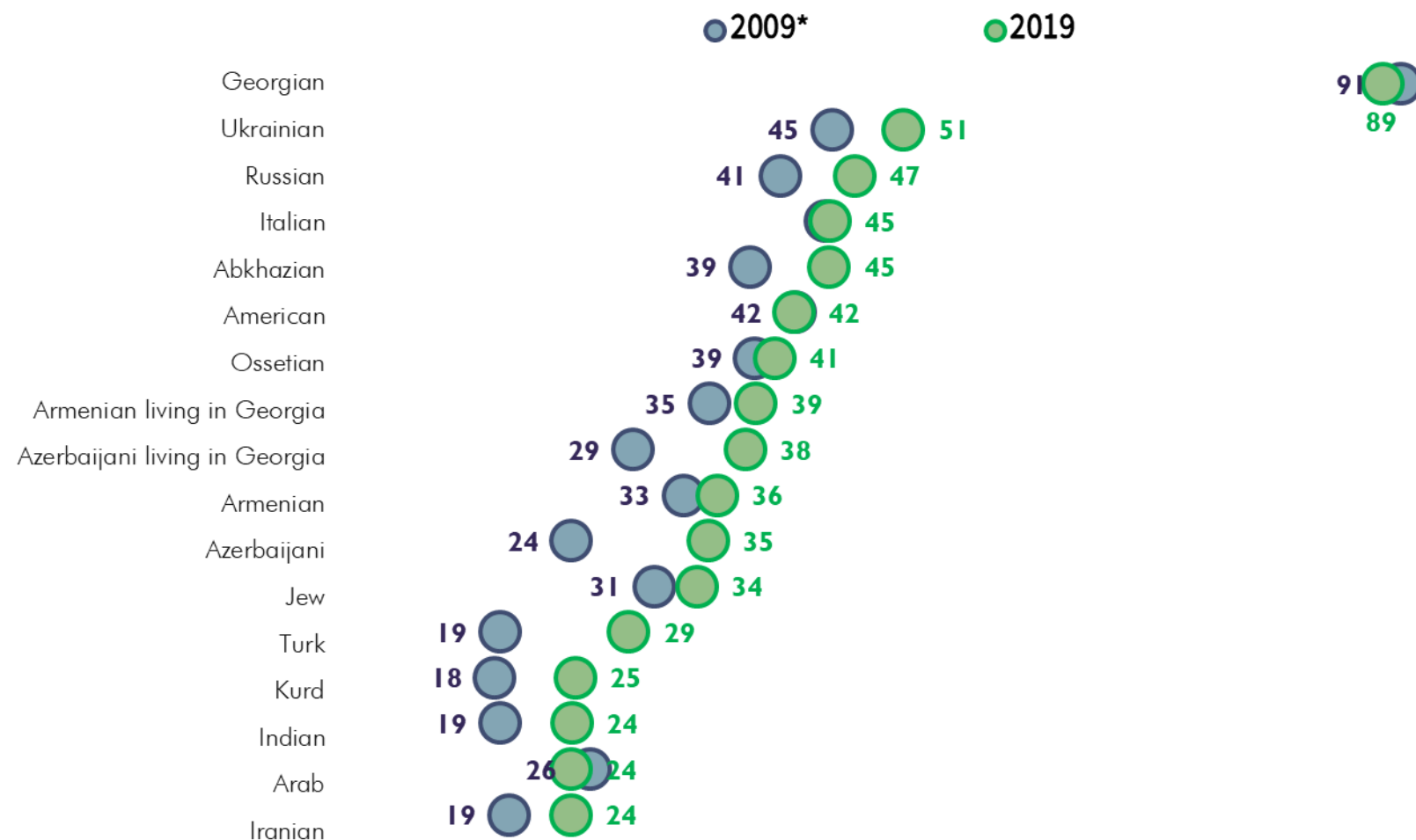


\*Questions on relations with Indians, Iranians, and Ukrainians were first asked in 2010, on Armenians and Azerbaijanis living in Georgia in 2011, and on Arabs in 2017

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Options "Don't know" and "Refuse to answer" are not shown on the chart. In case of marriage, respondents were asked whether they would approve women of their ethnicity marrying the representatives of respective group

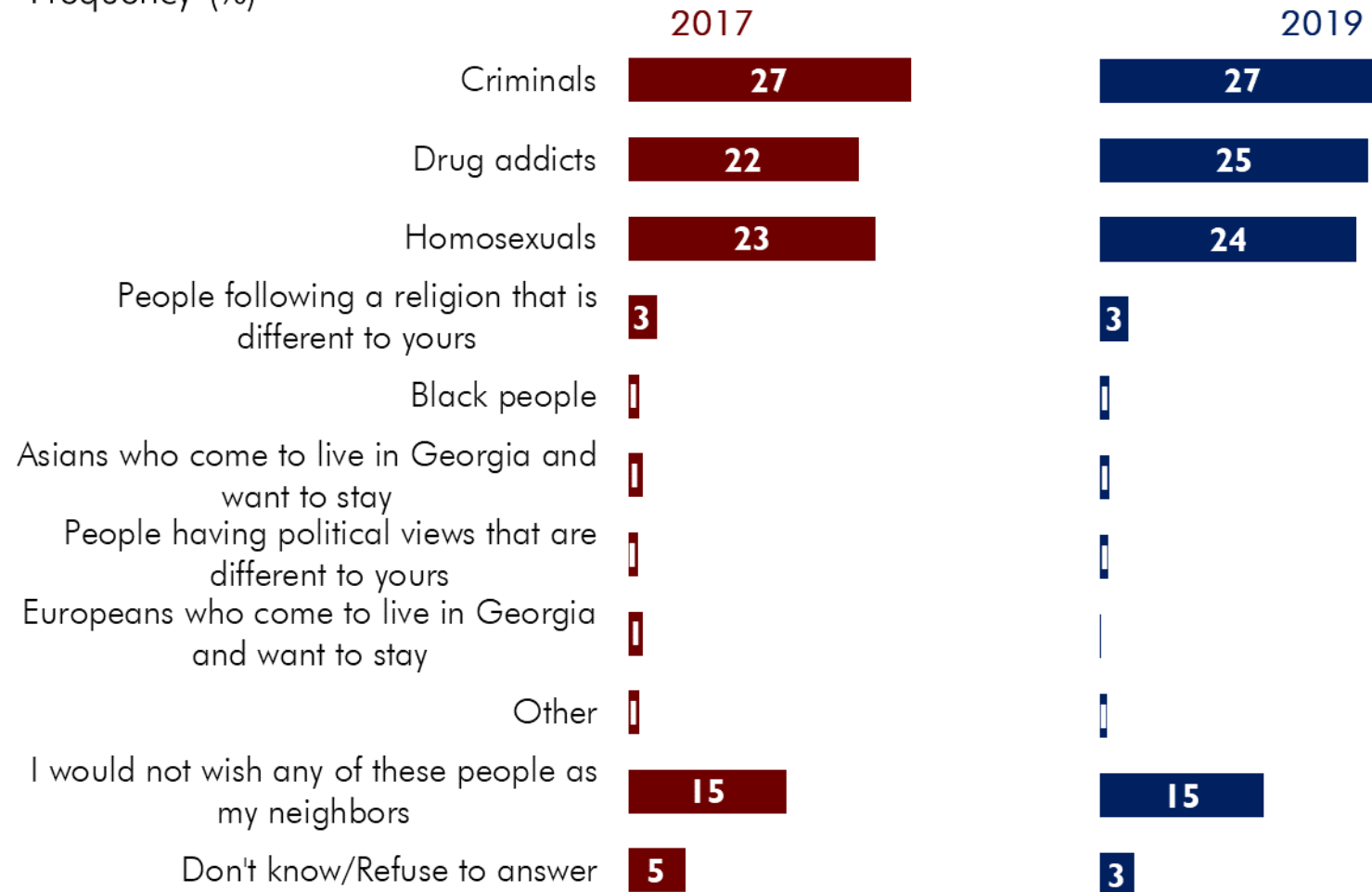
Georgians feel the closest to Ukrainians and Russians, and the farthest to Arabs, Iranians, and Jehovah's witnesses



\*Questions on relations with Indians, Iranians, and Ukrainians were first asked in 2010, on Armenians and Azerbaijanis living in Georgia in 2011, and on Arabs in 2017

## Which of these people would you not wish to have as your neighbors most?

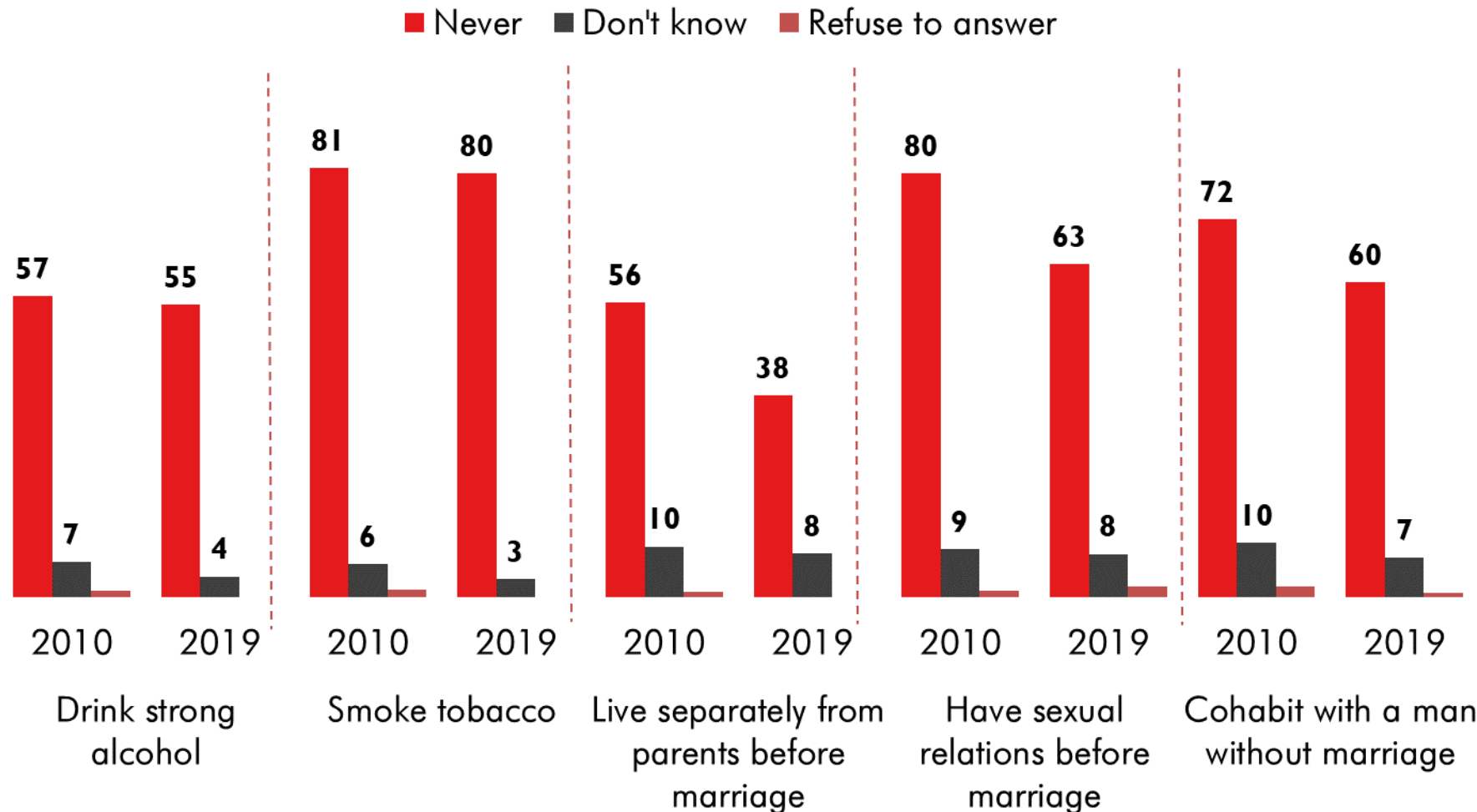
Frequency (%)



## From what age do you think it is acceptable for a woman to...

Mean age named by the respondents ranges between 20-22. Chart shows proportion of the respondents who said "Not acceptable at any age", "Don't know" or "Refuse to answer"

While the majority of Georgians have conservative attitudes towards women's role in society, since 2010 conservative feelings are on decline



## What do you think is the ideal number of children per family in Georgia?

Mean with 95% confidence intervals. Proportion of options "Don't know" and "Refuse to answer" did not exceed 1.5% in each wave. An option "whatever God gives us" was added starting from 2015

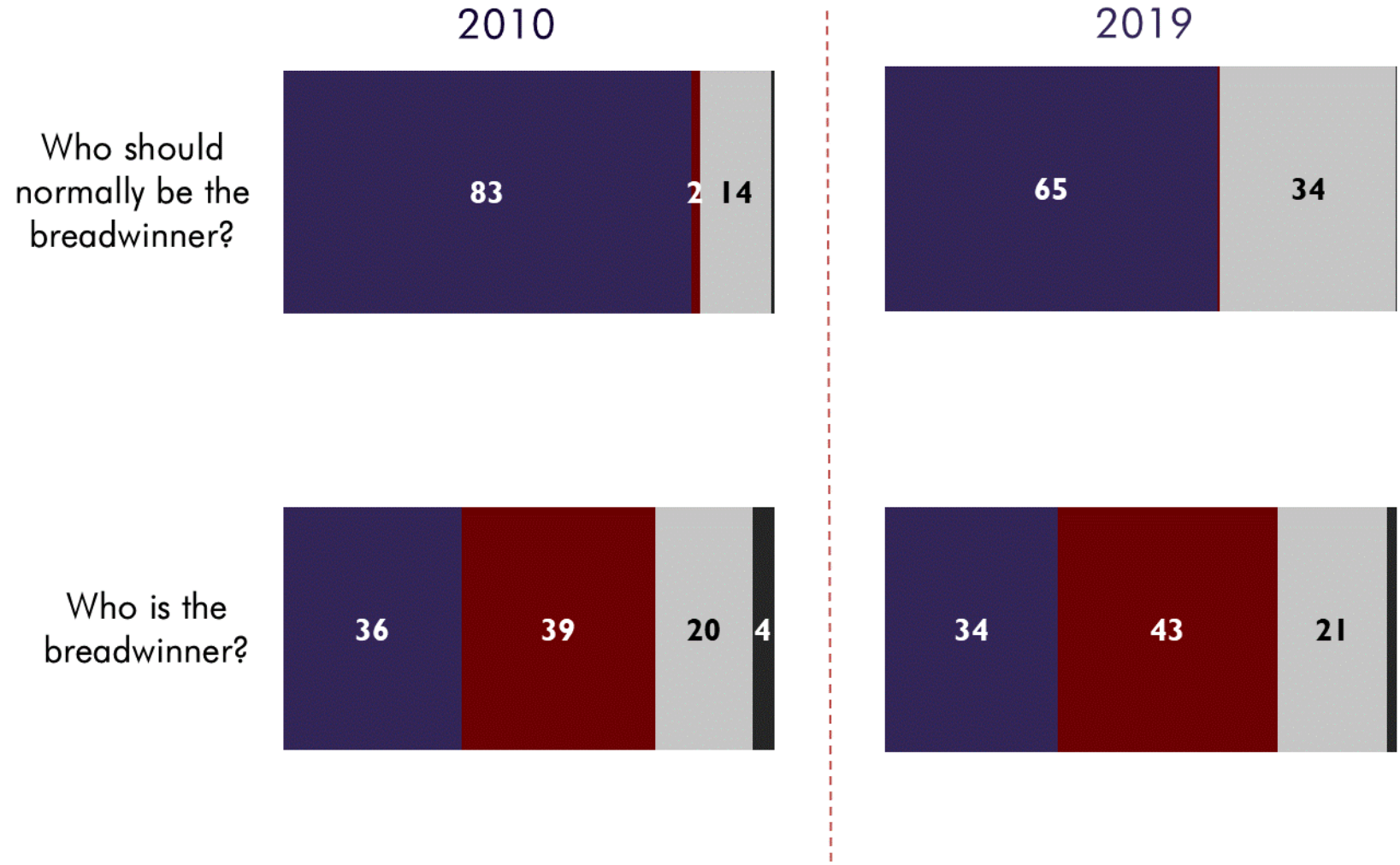




## Opinion about men's and women's role in the family

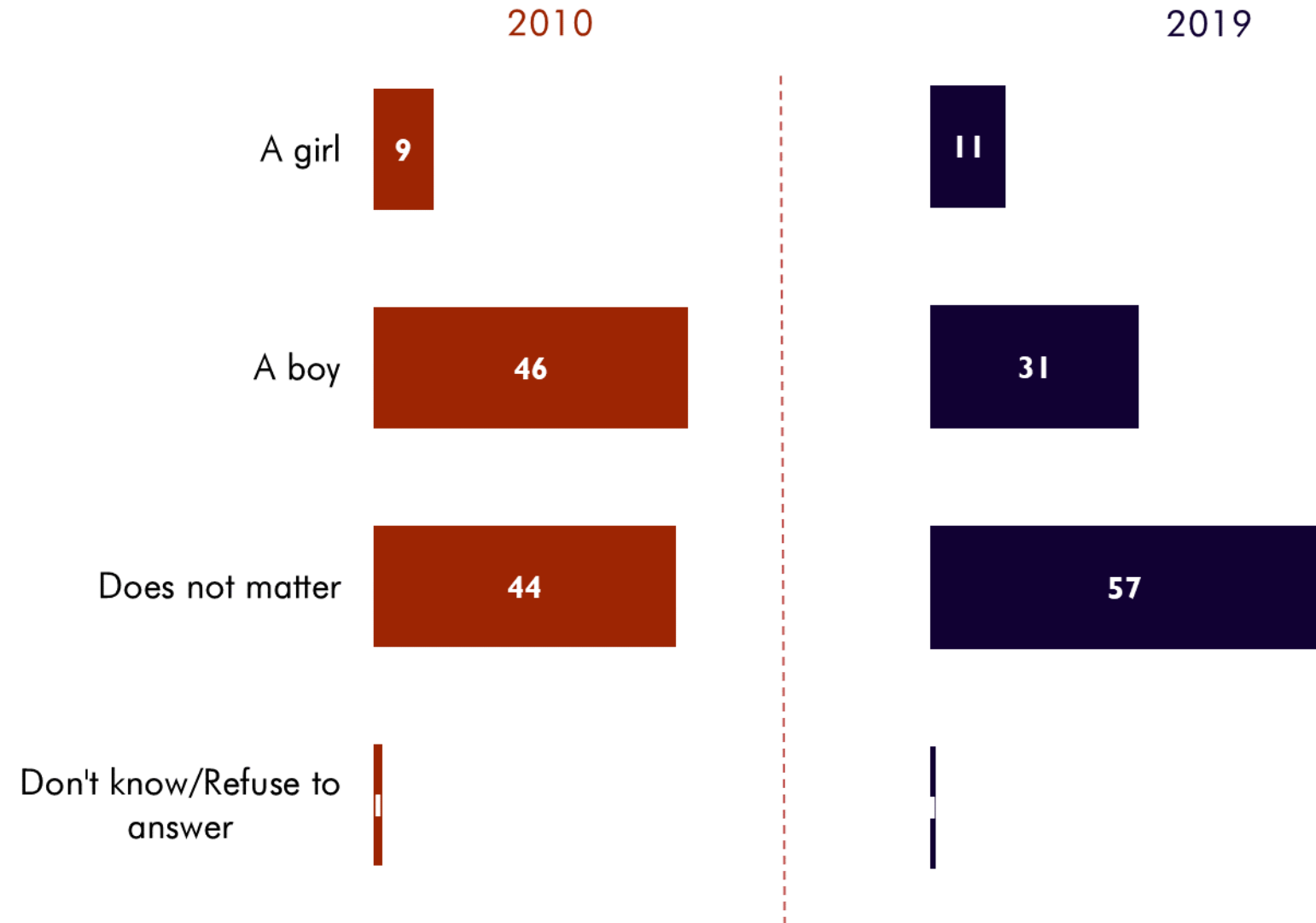
■ A man ■ A woman ■ Equally ■ Don't know/Refuse to answer

The proportion of people who believe that men and women equally should be breadwinners has doubled since 2010



## If a family has one child, what would be the preferred gender of the child?

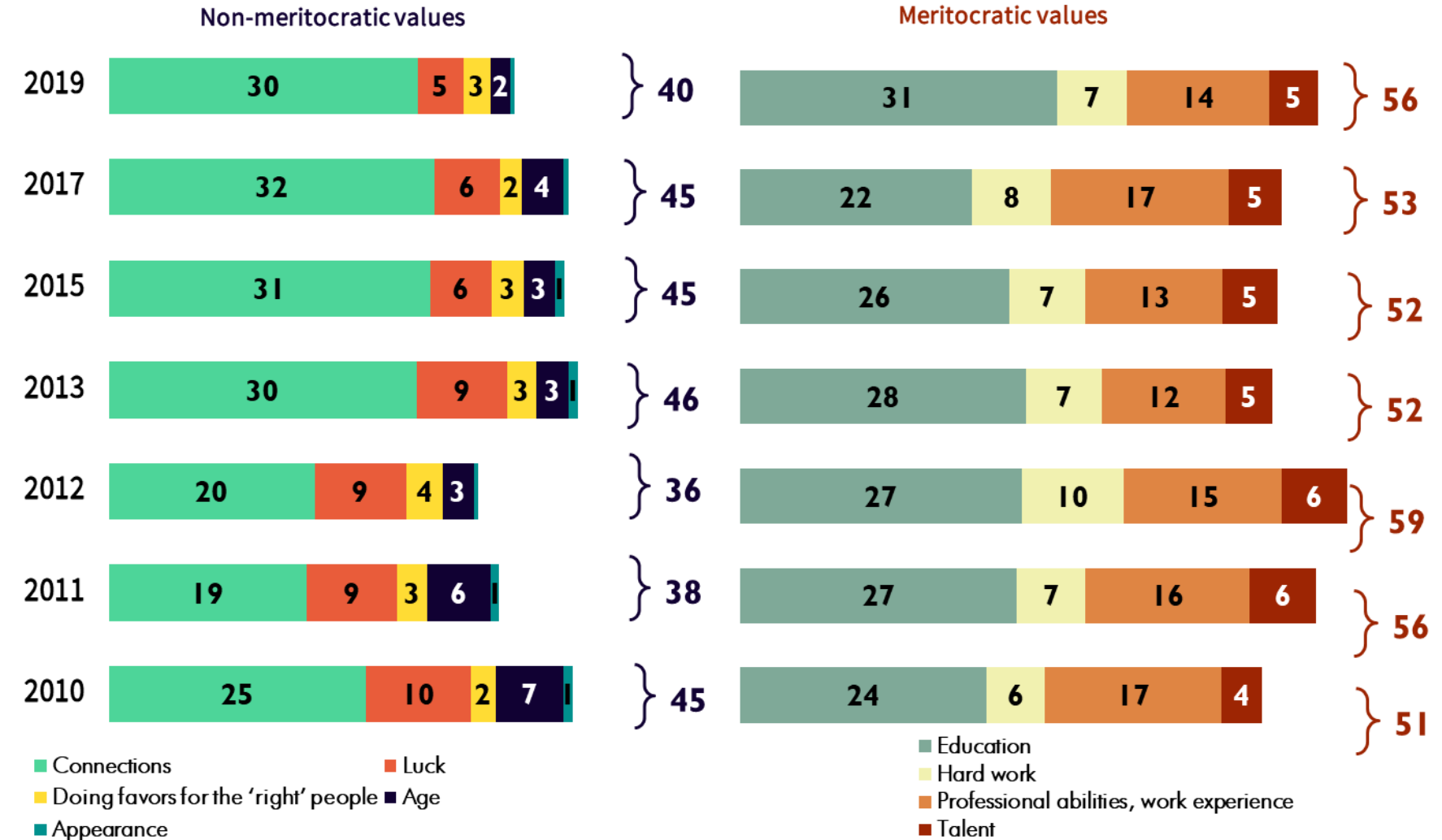
More than half of Georgians believe that the gender of a child does not matter. It is a 13 percentage point increase since 2010



## Which of the following factors do you consider most important for getting a good job in Georgia?

Options "Don't know" and "Refuse to answer" are not shown on the chart. Options "Don't know" and "Refuse to answer" are not shown on the chart. Answer options

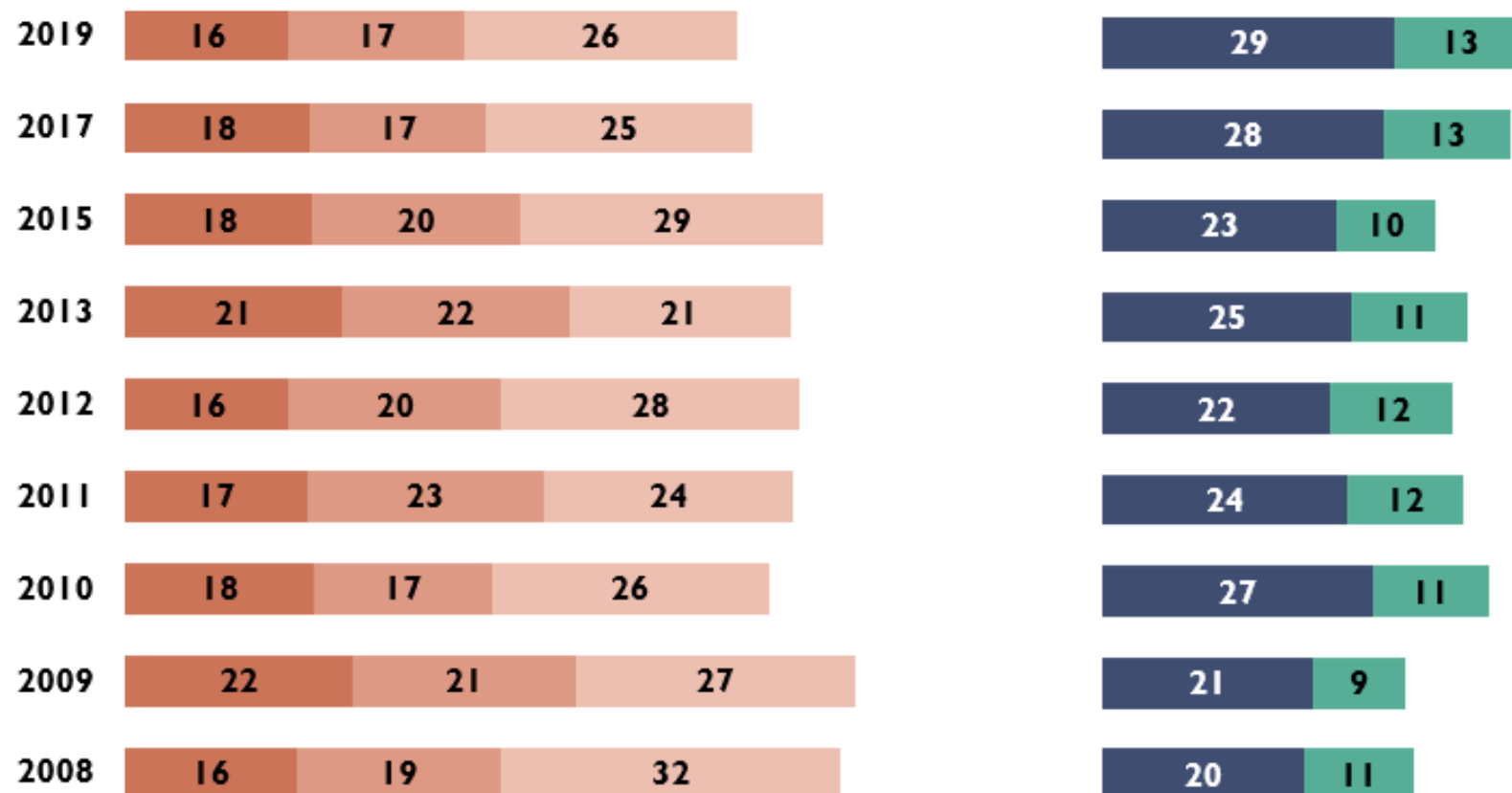
The majority of Georgians believe that meritocratic values are the most important in order to land a good job in Georgia



## How often do you attend religious services nowadays?

Options "Every day", "More than once a week" was grouped with "At least once a week".  
Options "Don't know" and "Refuse to answer" are not shown on the chart. Question was asked only to the respondents who are part of a religious denomination (99% on average in every wave)

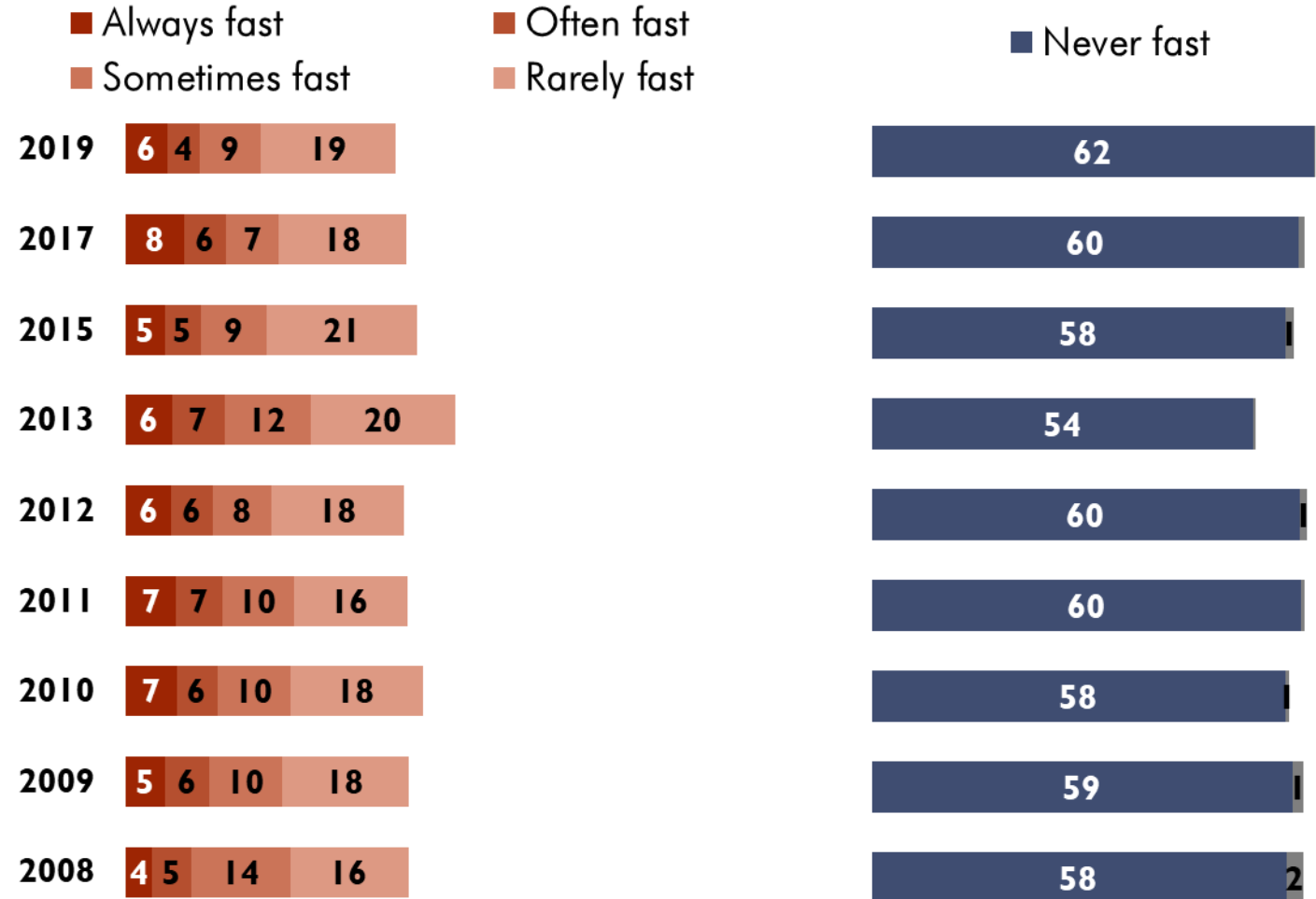
■ At least once a week ■ At least once a month  
■ Only on special holidays ■ Less often ■ Never



While Georgians overwhelmingly perceive themselves as a part of an organized religion, they rarely attend religious services

# How often do you fast when it is required by your religion?

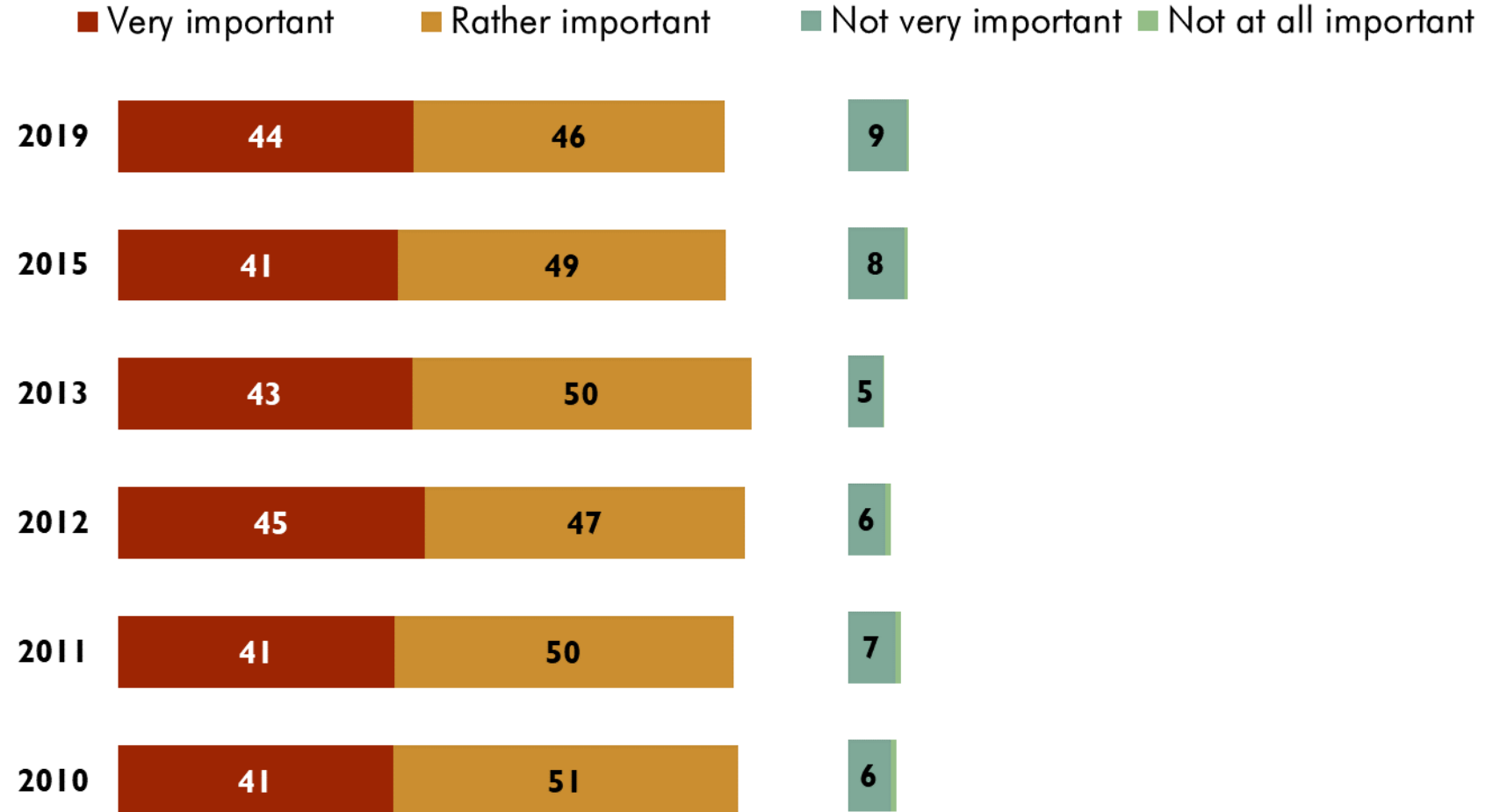
Question was asked only to the respondents who consider themselves to belong to a specific religion (99% on average in every wave)



## How important is religion in your daily life?

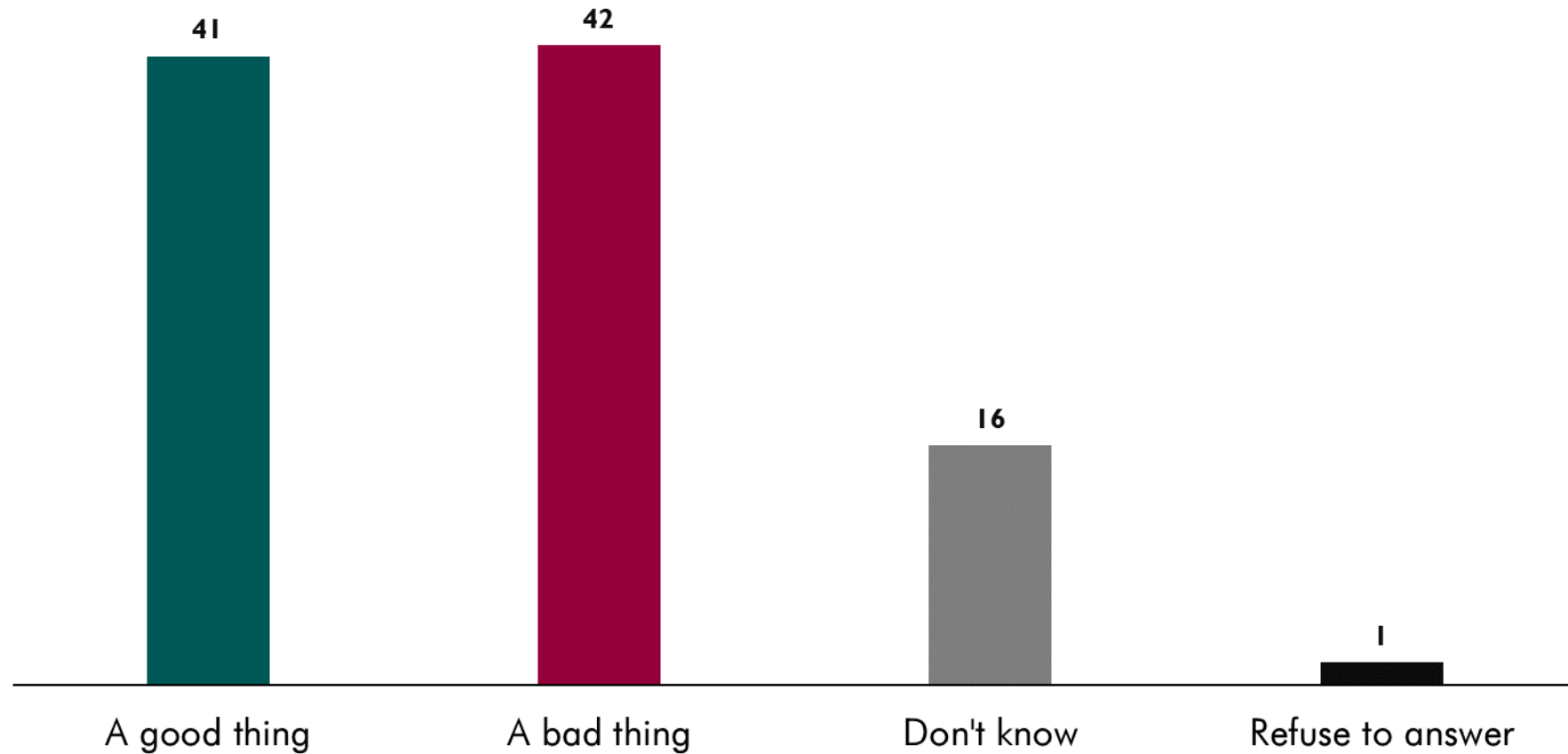
Options "Don't know" and "Refuse to answer" are not shown on the chart.

Question was asked only to the respondents who consider themselves to belong to a specific religion (on average 99% in every wave)



## In your opinion, was the dissolution of the Soviet Union a good thing or a bad thing for Georgia?

Georgians are split when it comes to their attitudes towards the dissolutions of the Soviet Union



# In your opinion, was the dissolution of the Soviet Union a good thing or a bad thing for Georgia?

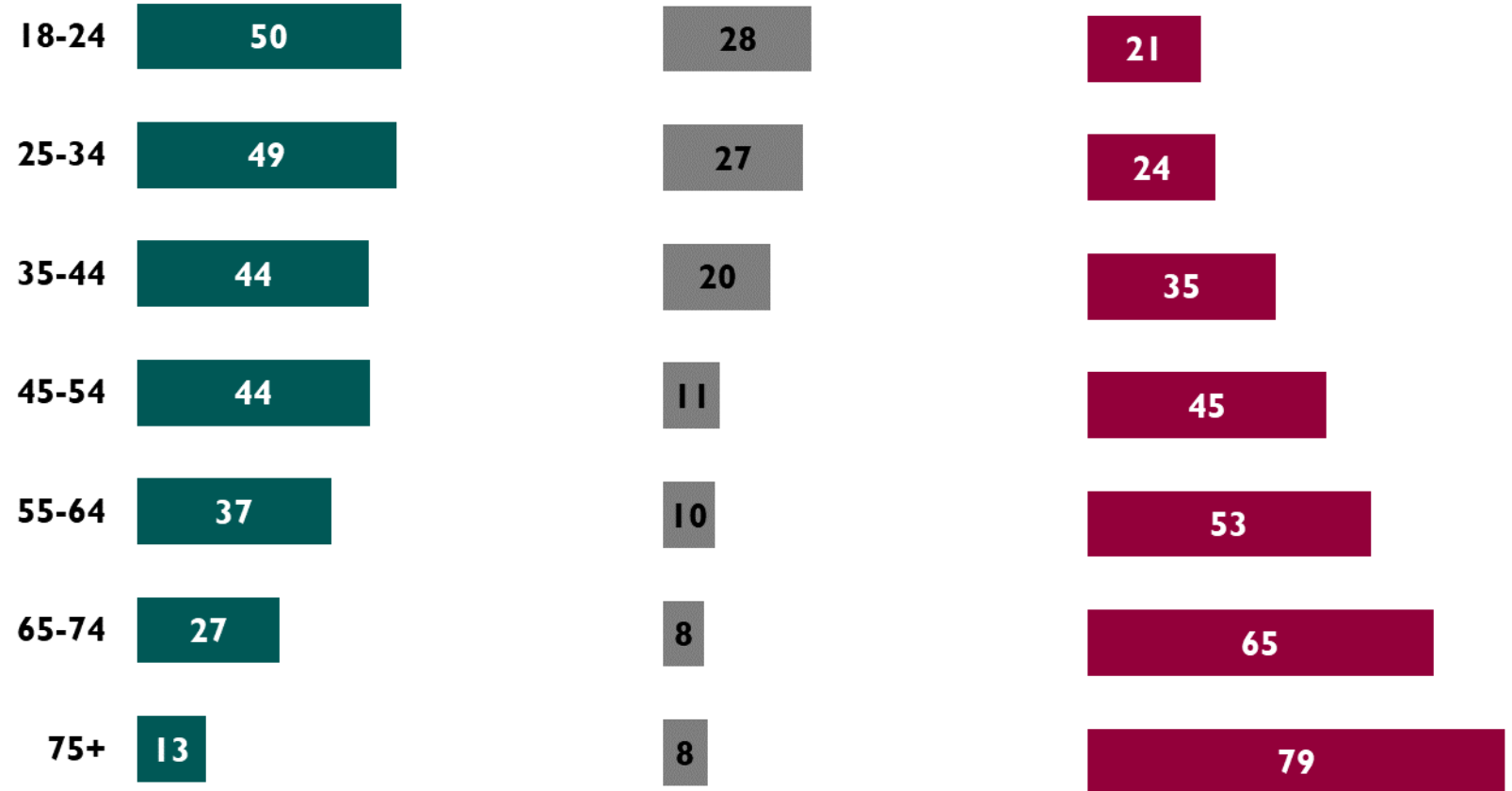
Frequency by Age (%)

■ A good thing

■ Don't know/Refuse to answer

■ A bad thing

Younger respondents are more likely to assess this positively than older respondents





Respondents explain their positive feelings towards the dissolution of the Soviet Union with independence and the development of national culture

## Why was the dissolution of the Soviet Union a good thing for Georgia?

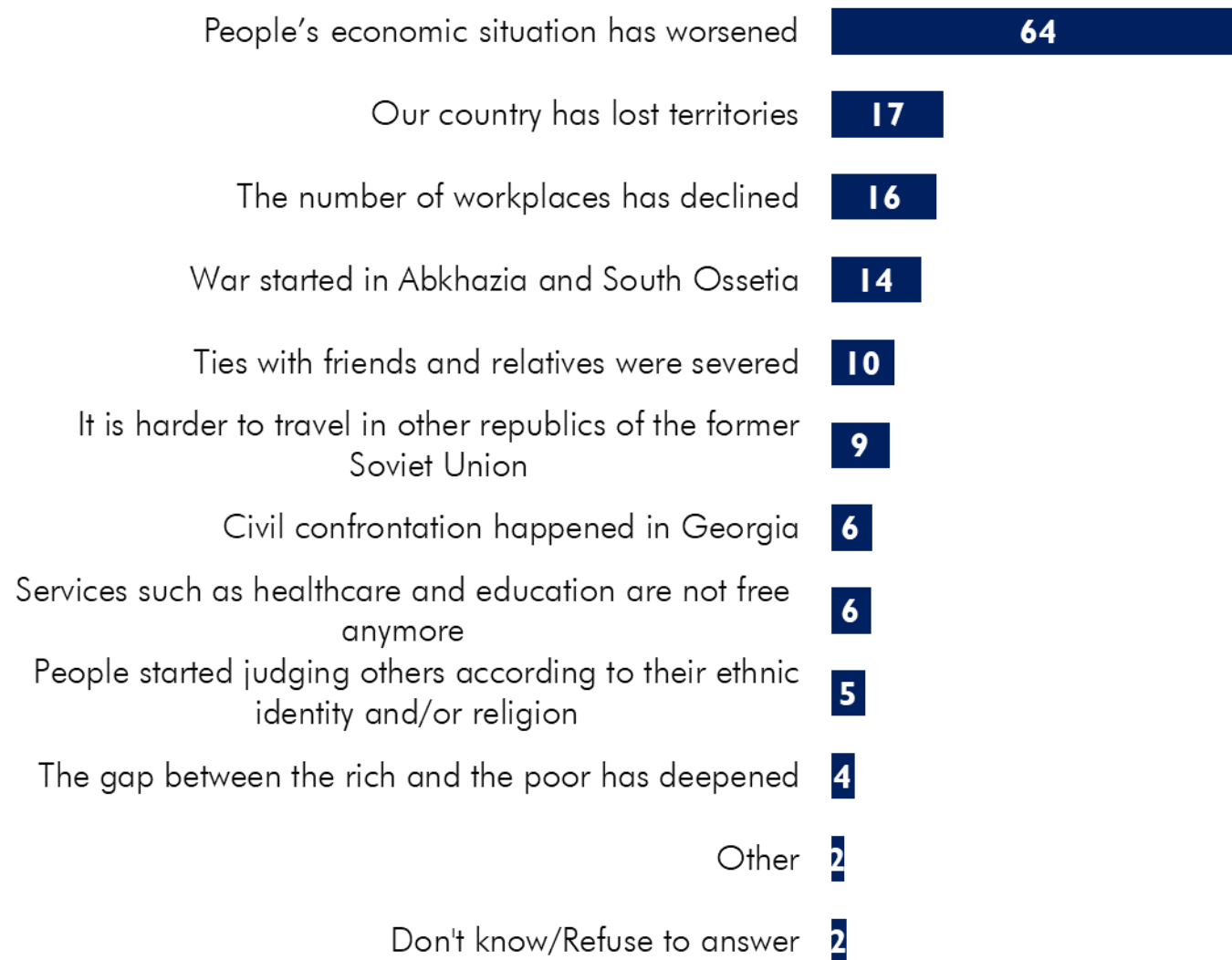
Question was asked only to the respondents who said that dissolution of Soviet Union was a good thing for Georgia (41%)

Georgia became independent	82
We can better sustain our language and uniqueness	8
Now we have a chance to get closer to the West	8
People can openly express their opinions and will not be persecuted because of this	7
Human rights are protected	7
There is an opportunity for our culture to flourish	6
We can elect our own government	4
We can travel abroad	4
People can start a business for his/her own or engage in commercial activities	3
There is a wider selection of consumer goods and food	1
	2
	2

Respondents substantiate their negative feelings towards the dissolution of the Soviet Union by negative economic outcomes and military conflicts

## Why was the dissolution of the Soviet Union a bad thing for Georgia?

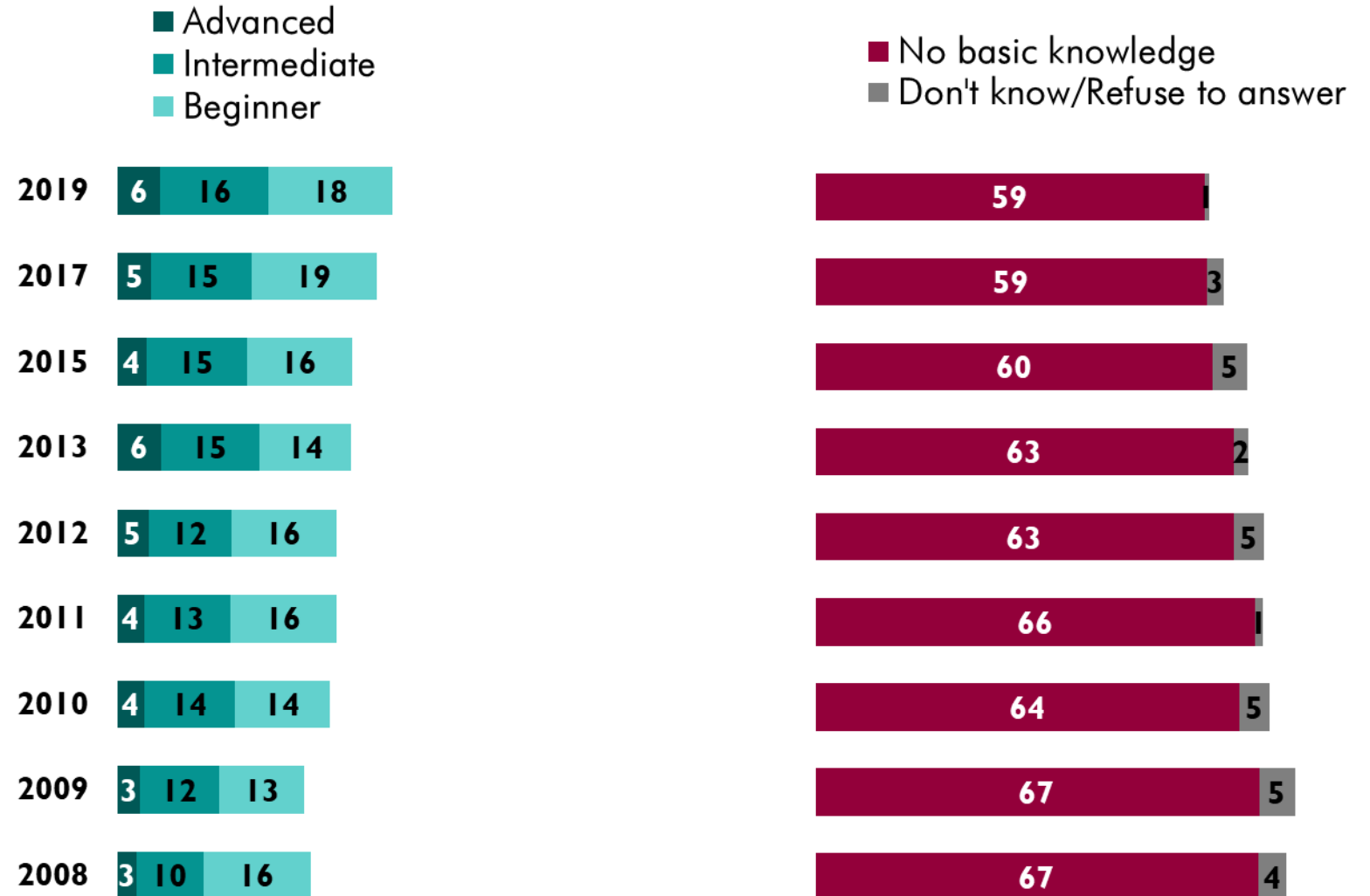
Question was asked only to the respondents who said that the dissolution of Soviet Union was a bad thing for Georgia (42%)



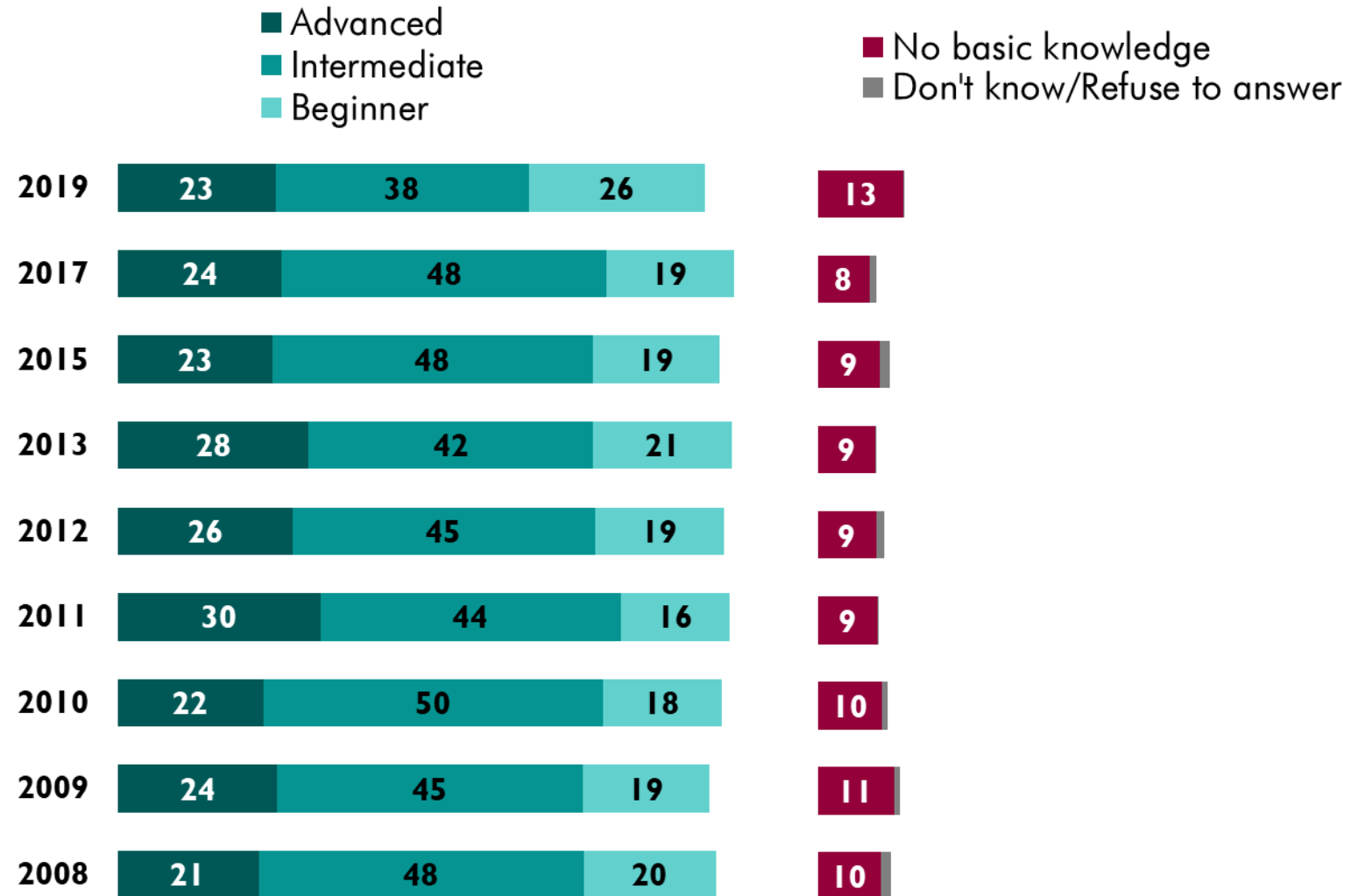
# Knowledge of and Attitudes towards Language

## Which one of these levels best describes your ability in the following: **English**

There is an increase in the number of people who believe that they speak at least some English



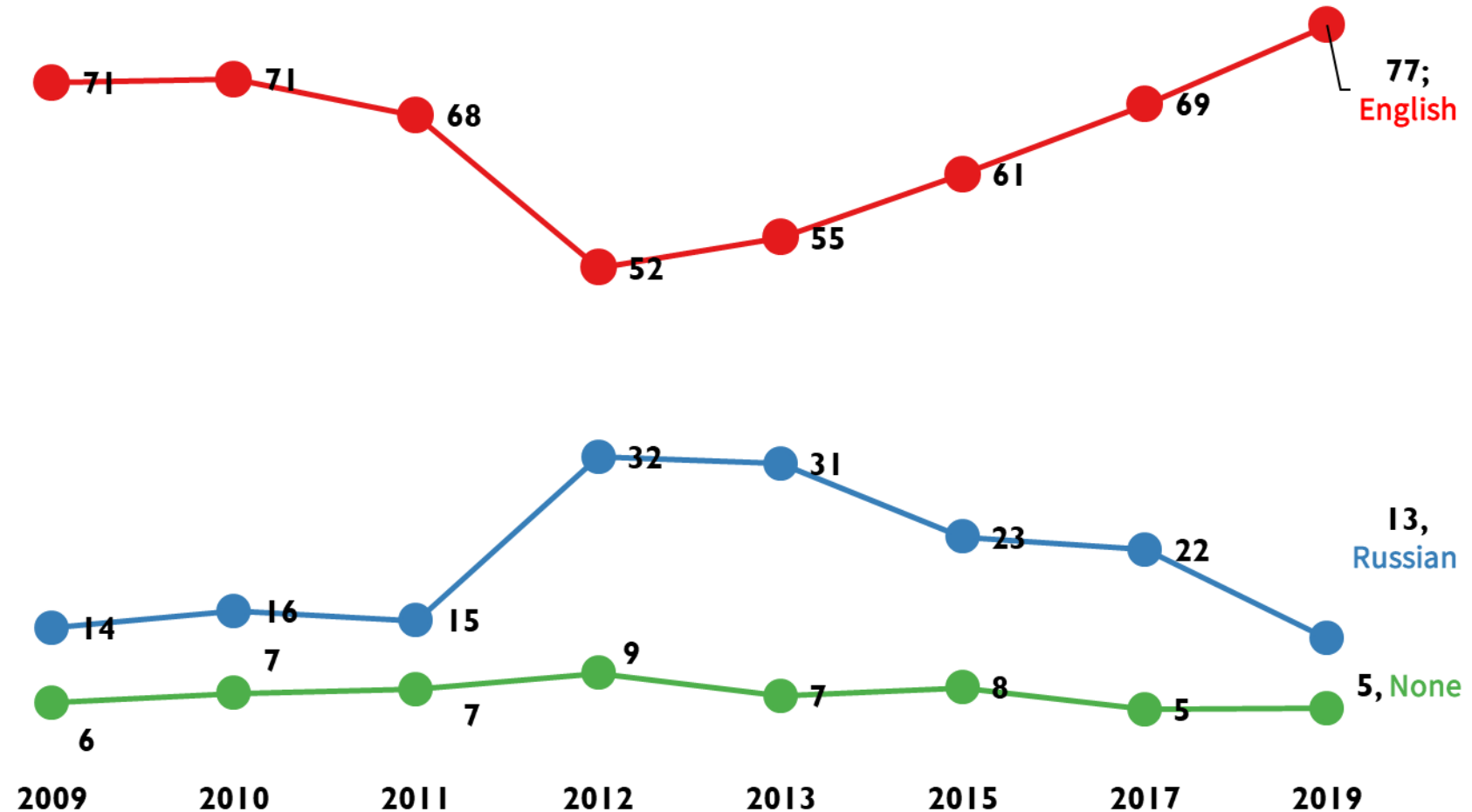
## Which one of these levels best describes your ability in the following: **Russian**



# Which foreign language, if any, do you think should be mandatory in secondary schools of Georgia?

Options "Don't know" and "Refuse to answer" are not shown on the chart

Georgians overwhelmingly think that English languages classes rather than Russian should be mandatory in schools

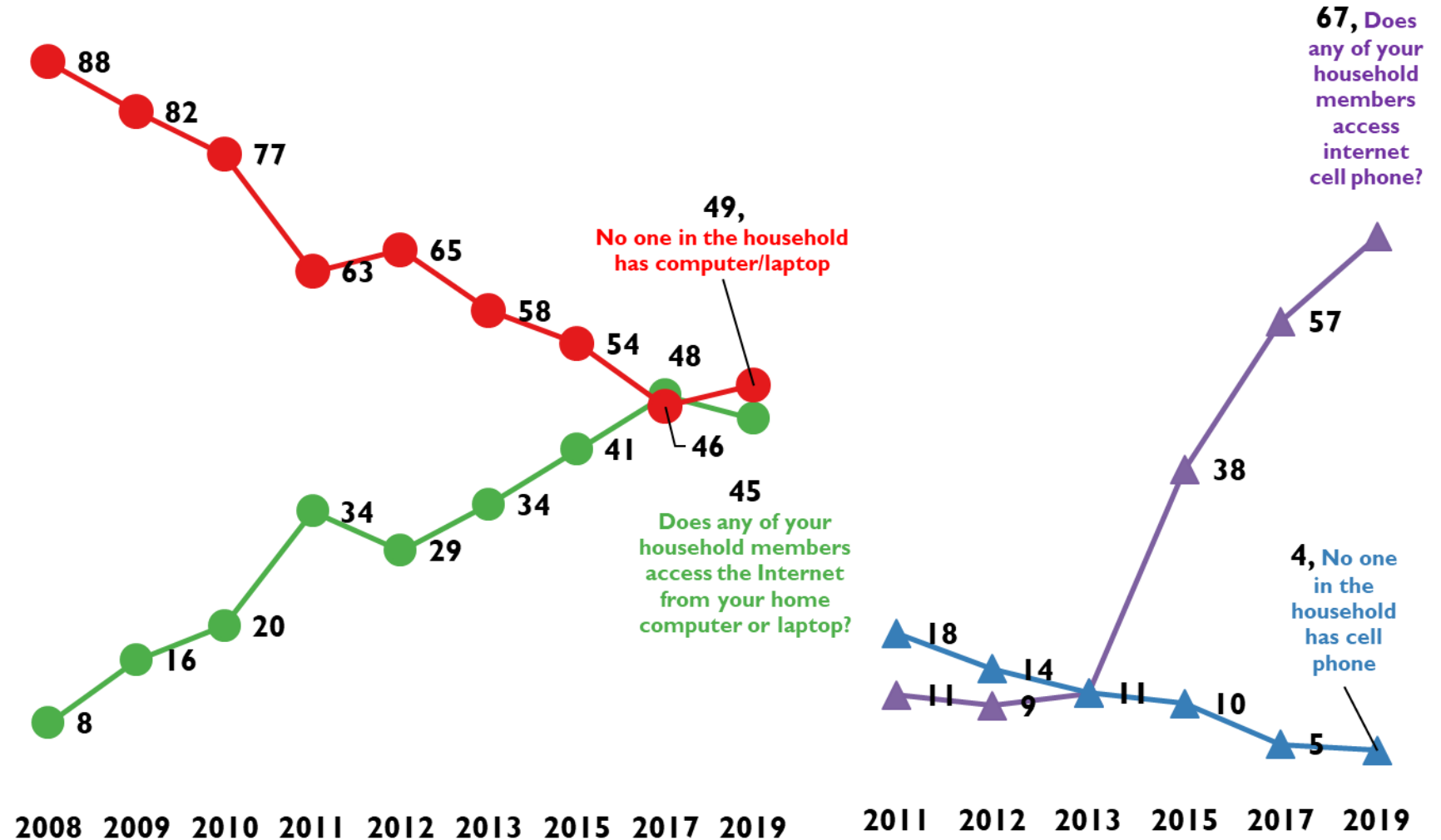


# The Internet

## Information technology and Internet

Options "Don't know" and "Refuse to answer" are not shown on the chart.  
Respondents were asked questions about owning various items, including computer and mobile phone.

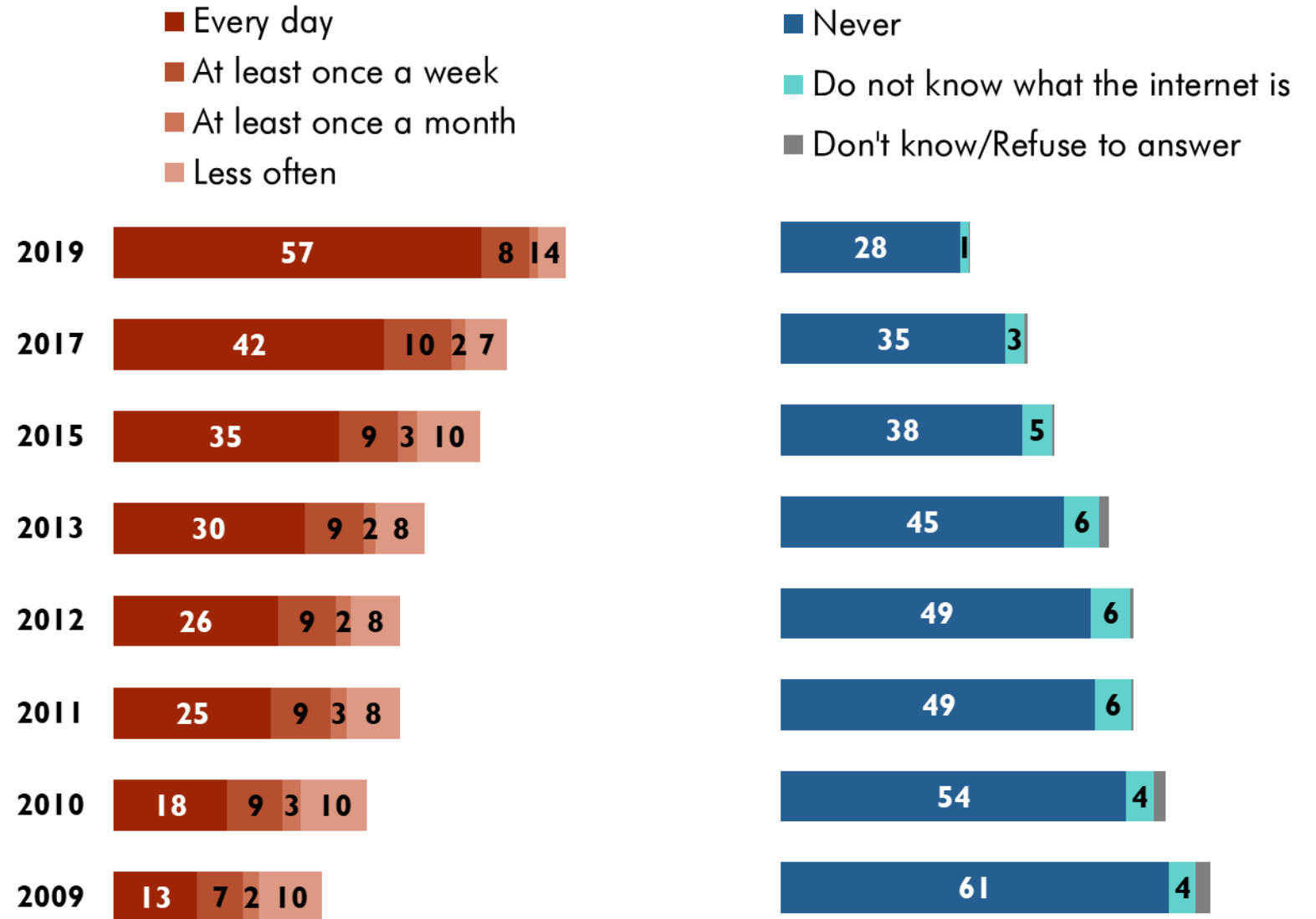
Nowadays, almost half of Georgian households own computers and use them to connect the internet  
About two-thirds of households access the internet using mobile phones





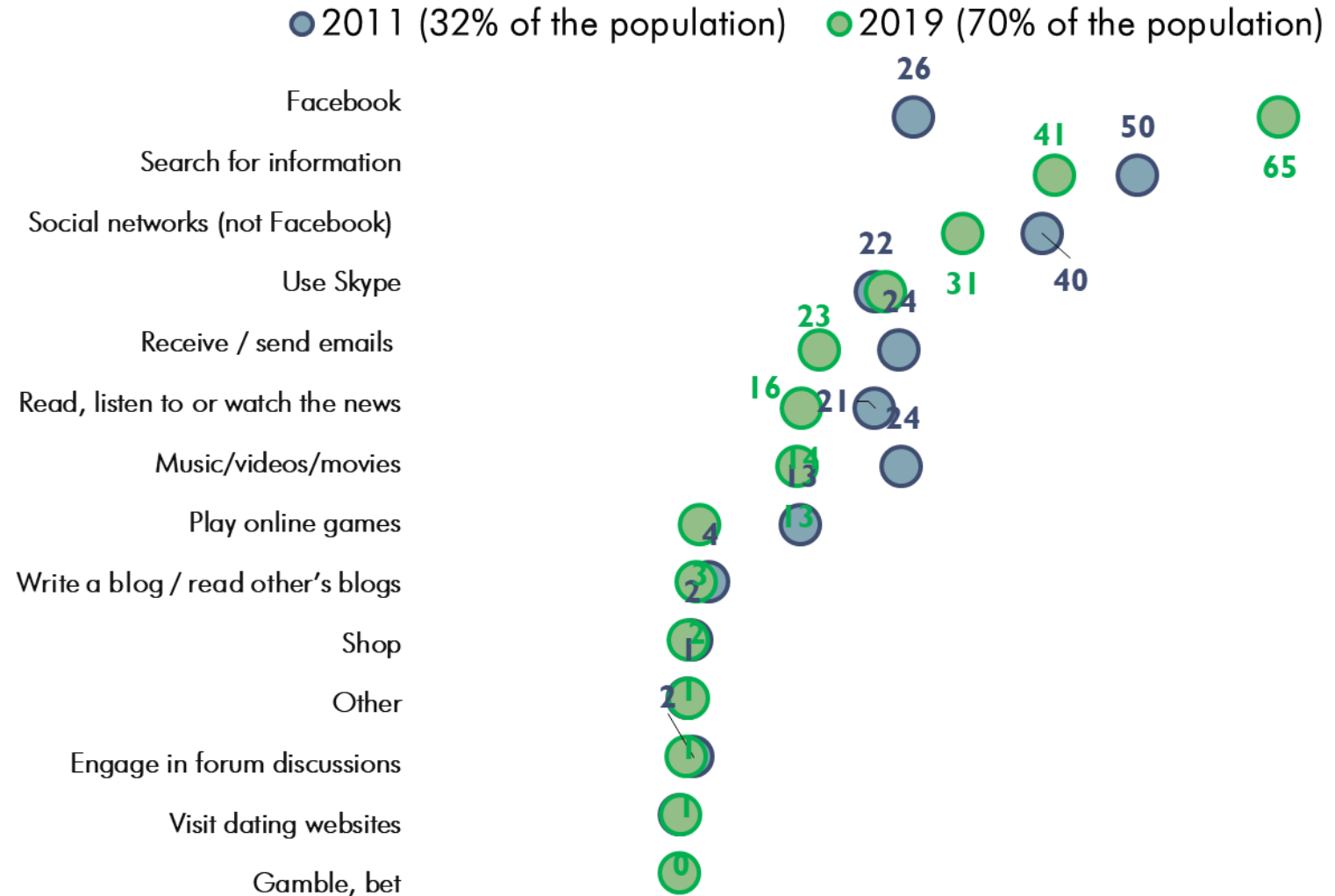
## How often do you use the Internet?

About 70% of Georgians use the internet which is twice as much as the proportion in 2009



## Which of the following do you do most frequently when you are browsing the Internet?

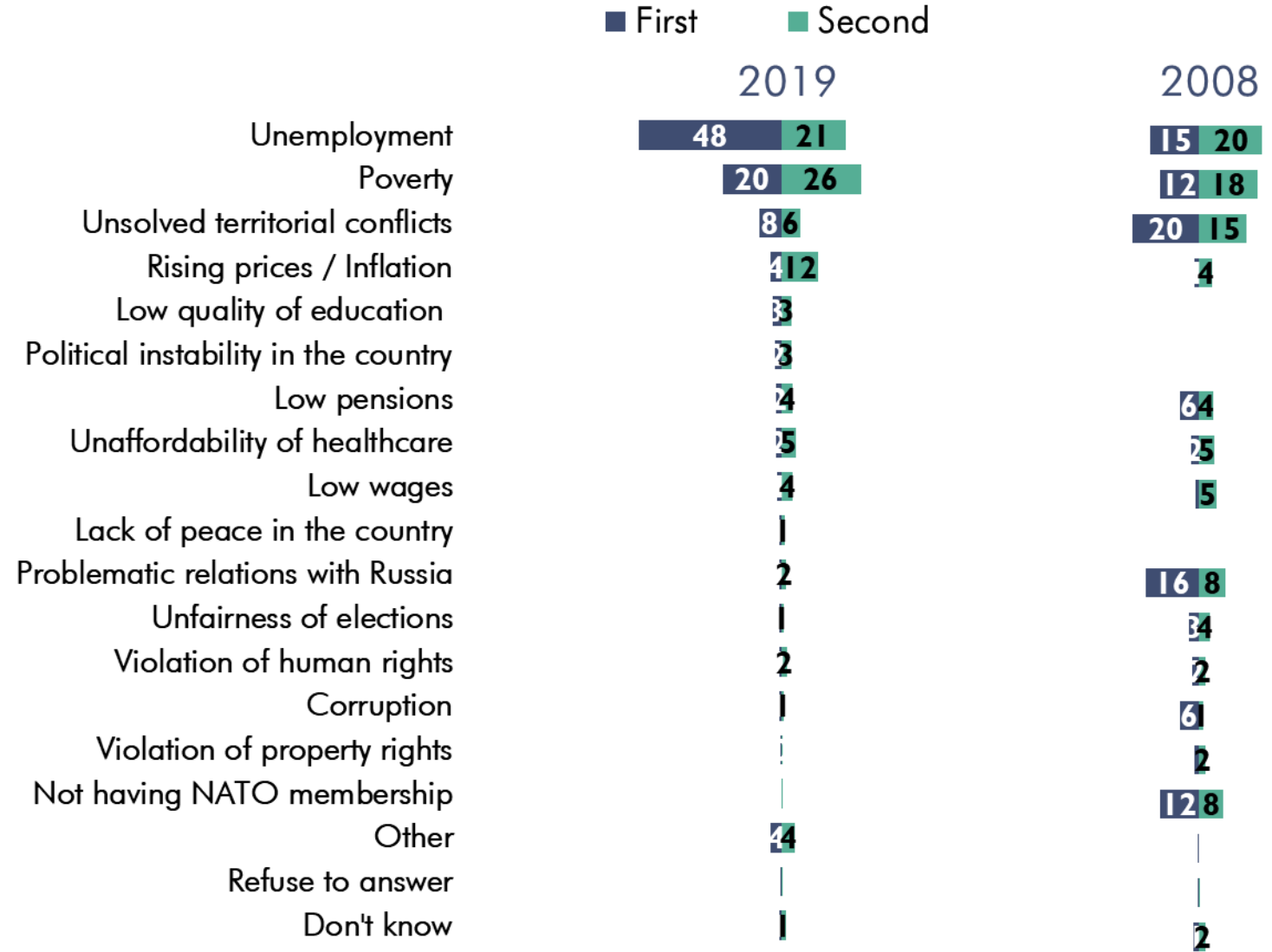
About 45% of Georgians reports using Facebook



# Domestic Politics

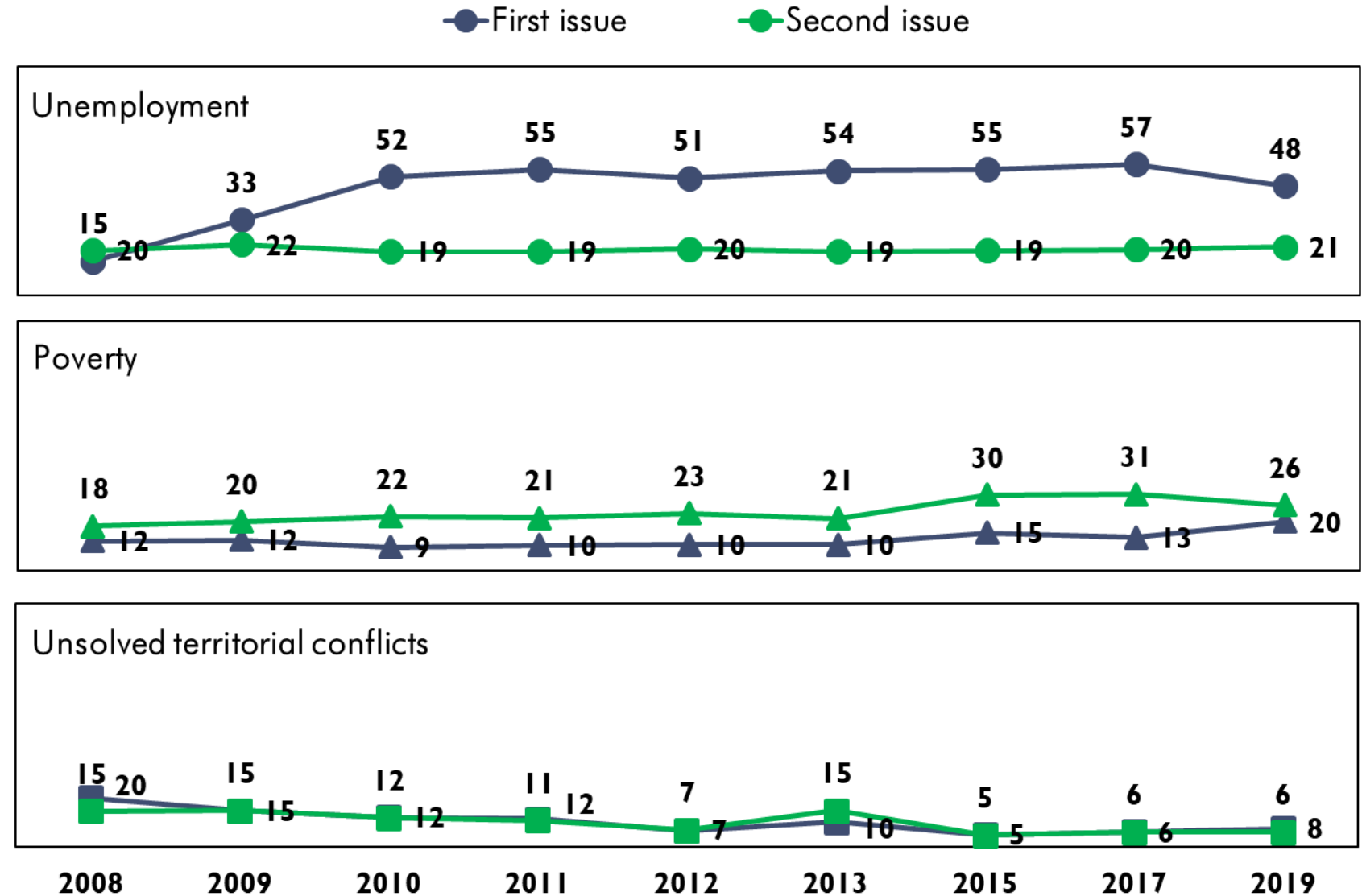
## What do you think is the most important issue facing Georgia at the moment? Second most important?

Georgians perceive economic issues as the most pressing

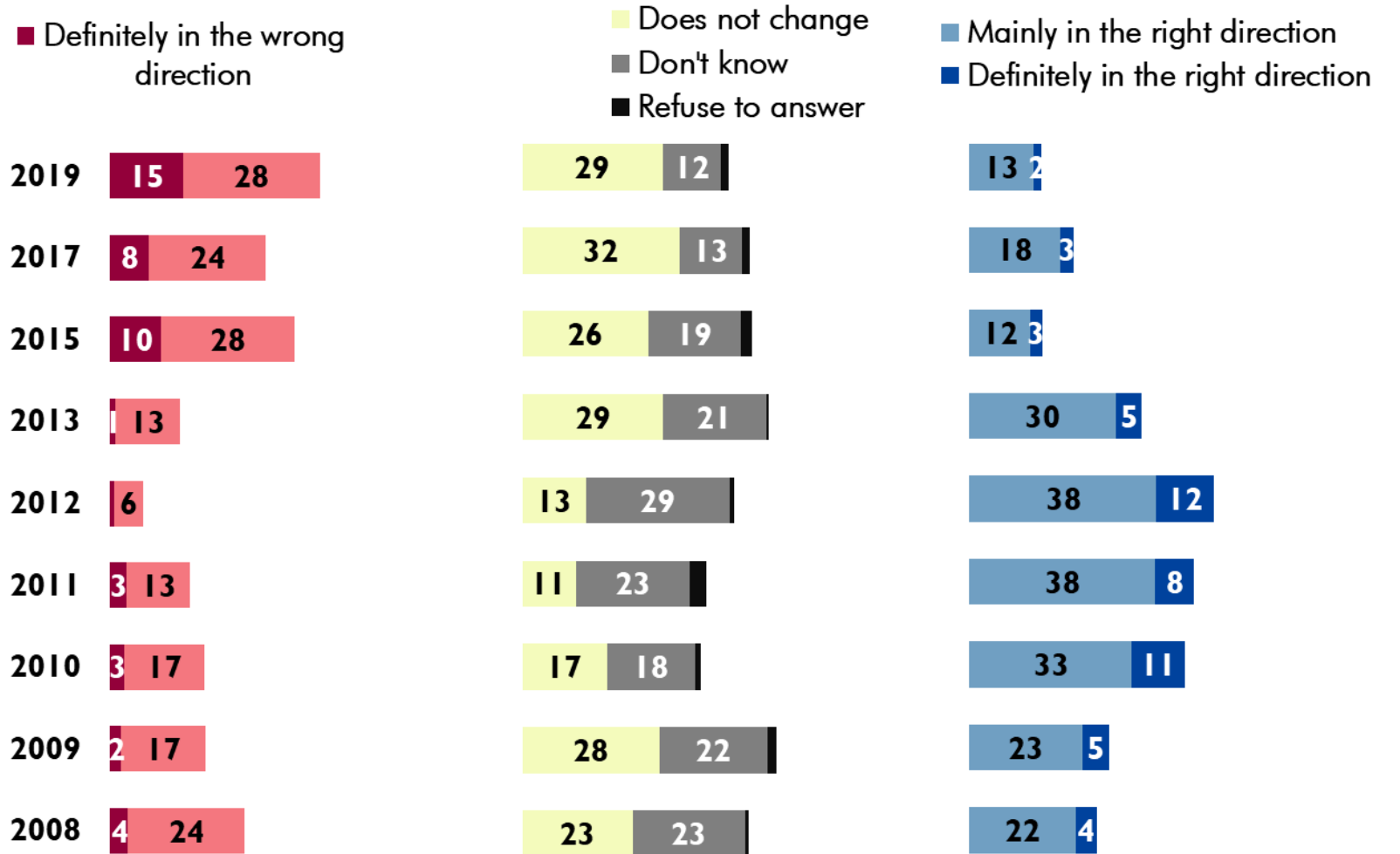


# What do you think is the most important issue facing Georgia at the moment? Second most important?

Georgians perceive economic issues as the most pressing



## There are different opinions regarding the direction in which Georgia's domestic politics are going. Which of the following would you personally agree with?

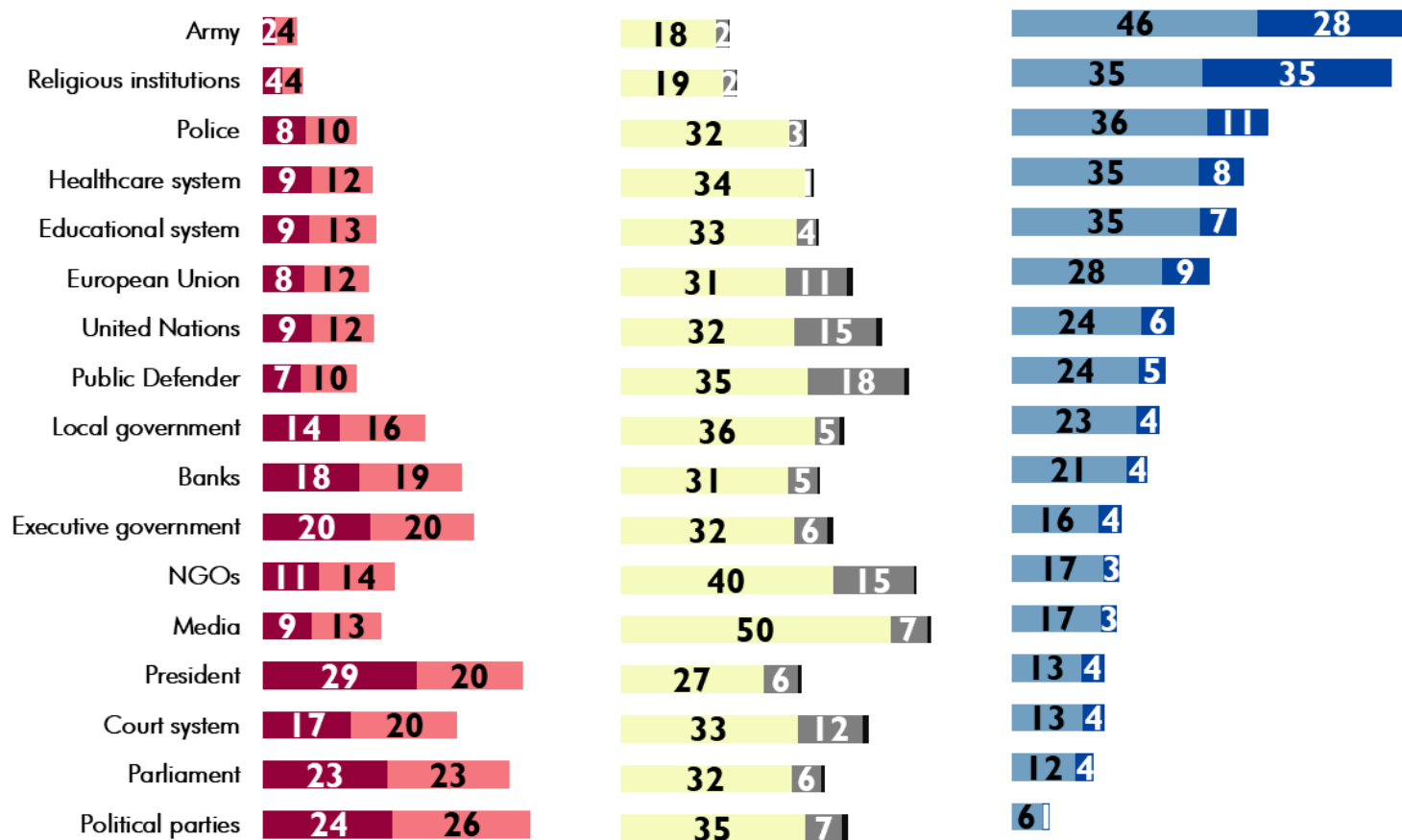


The majority of Georgians think that politics are going in the wrong direction

The 2012 survey had the lowest proportion of respondents who believed so

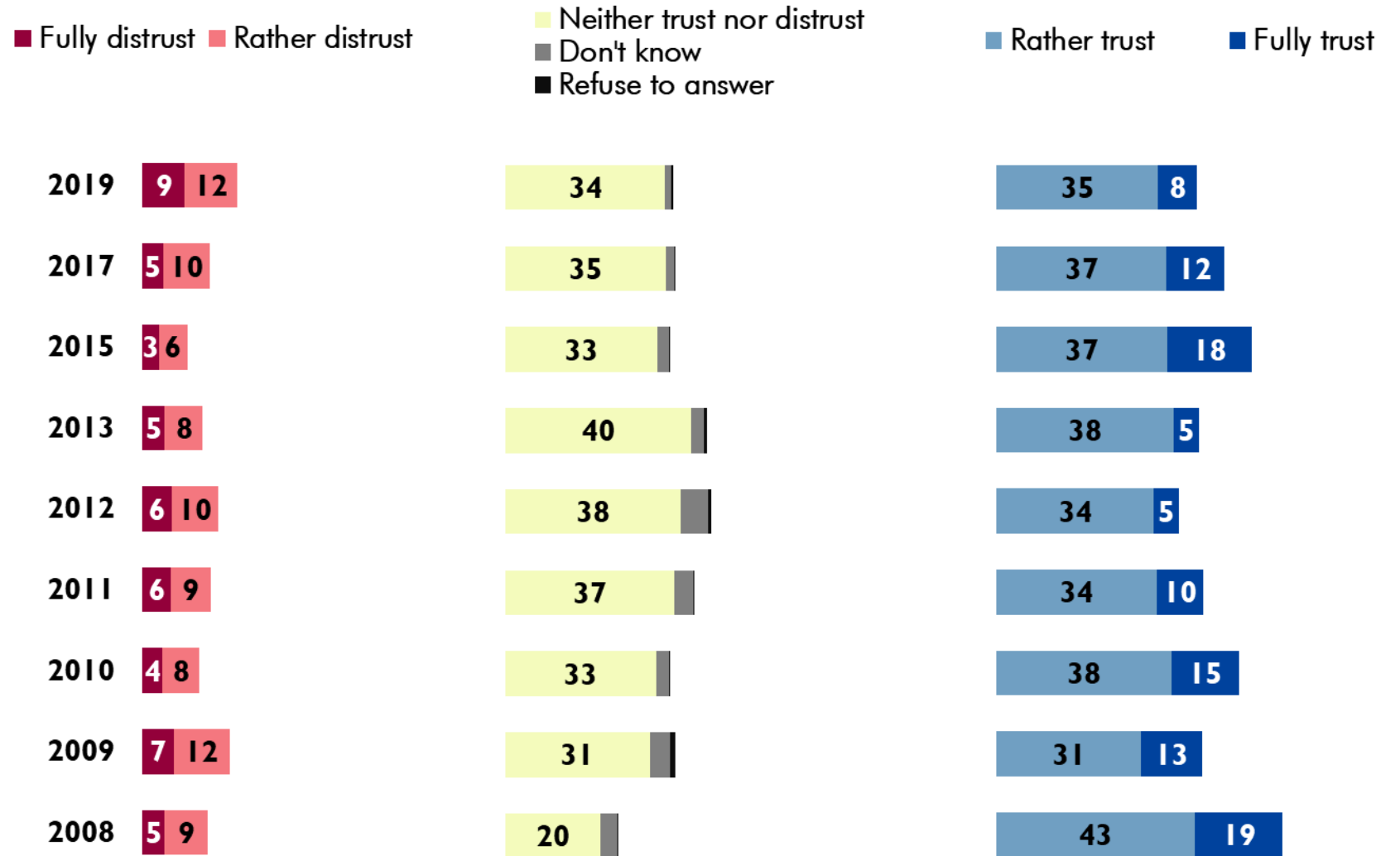
## How much do you trust or distrust...

The 2019 wave of the Caucasus Barometer



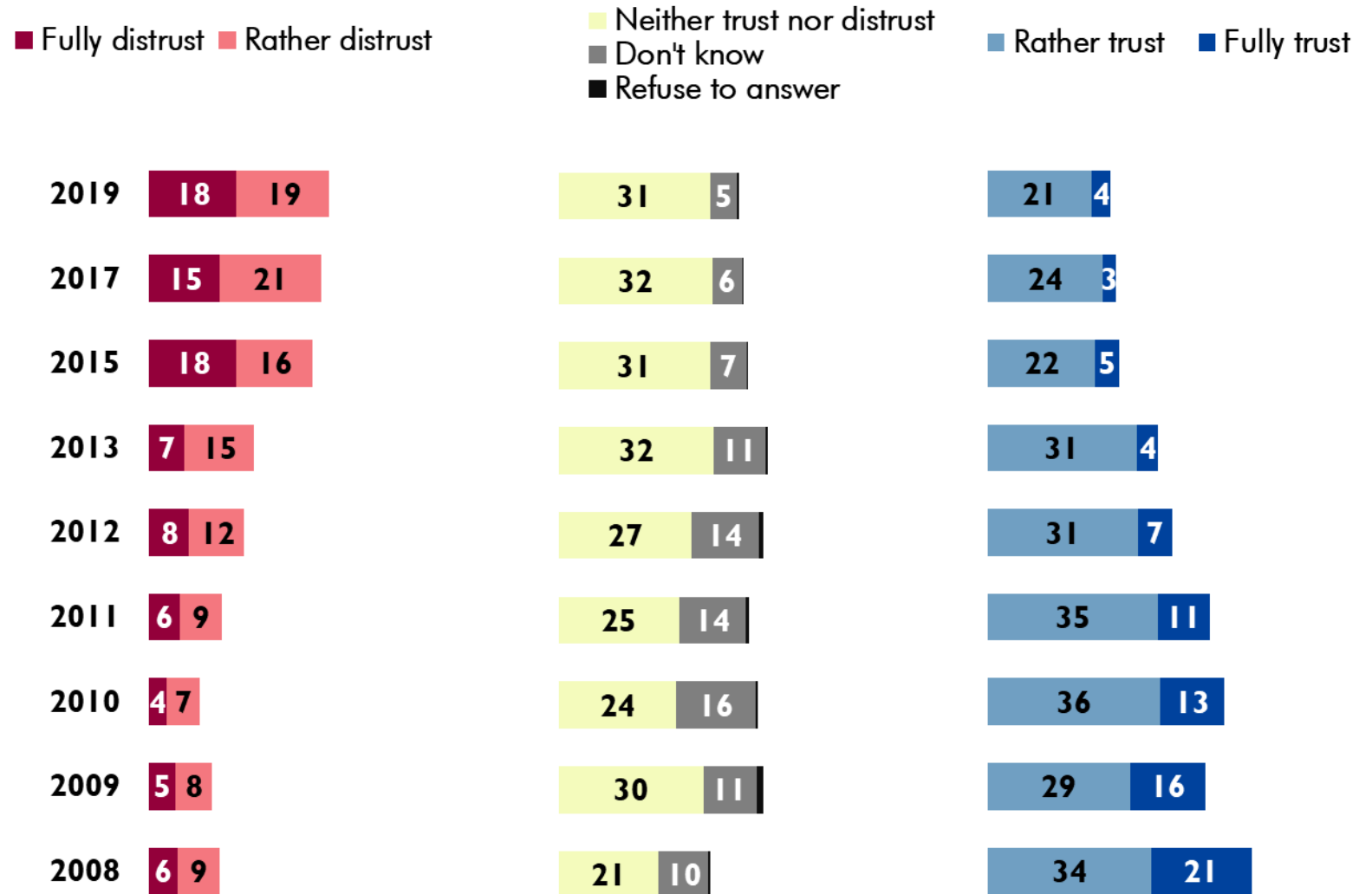
Georgians trust the army, religious institutions, and police the most. Political parties are the least trusted institution

## How much do you trust or distrust Georgia's healthcare system

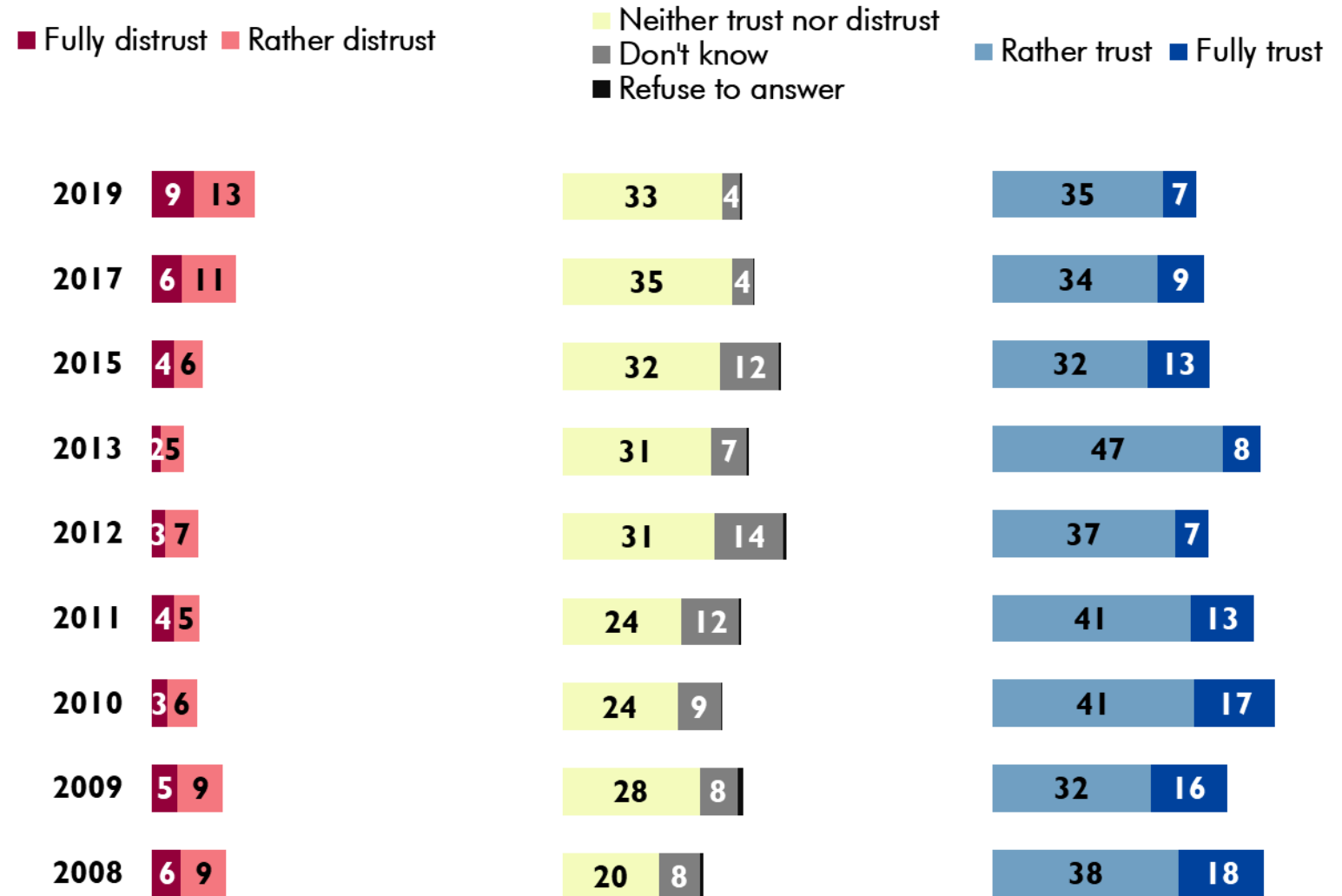




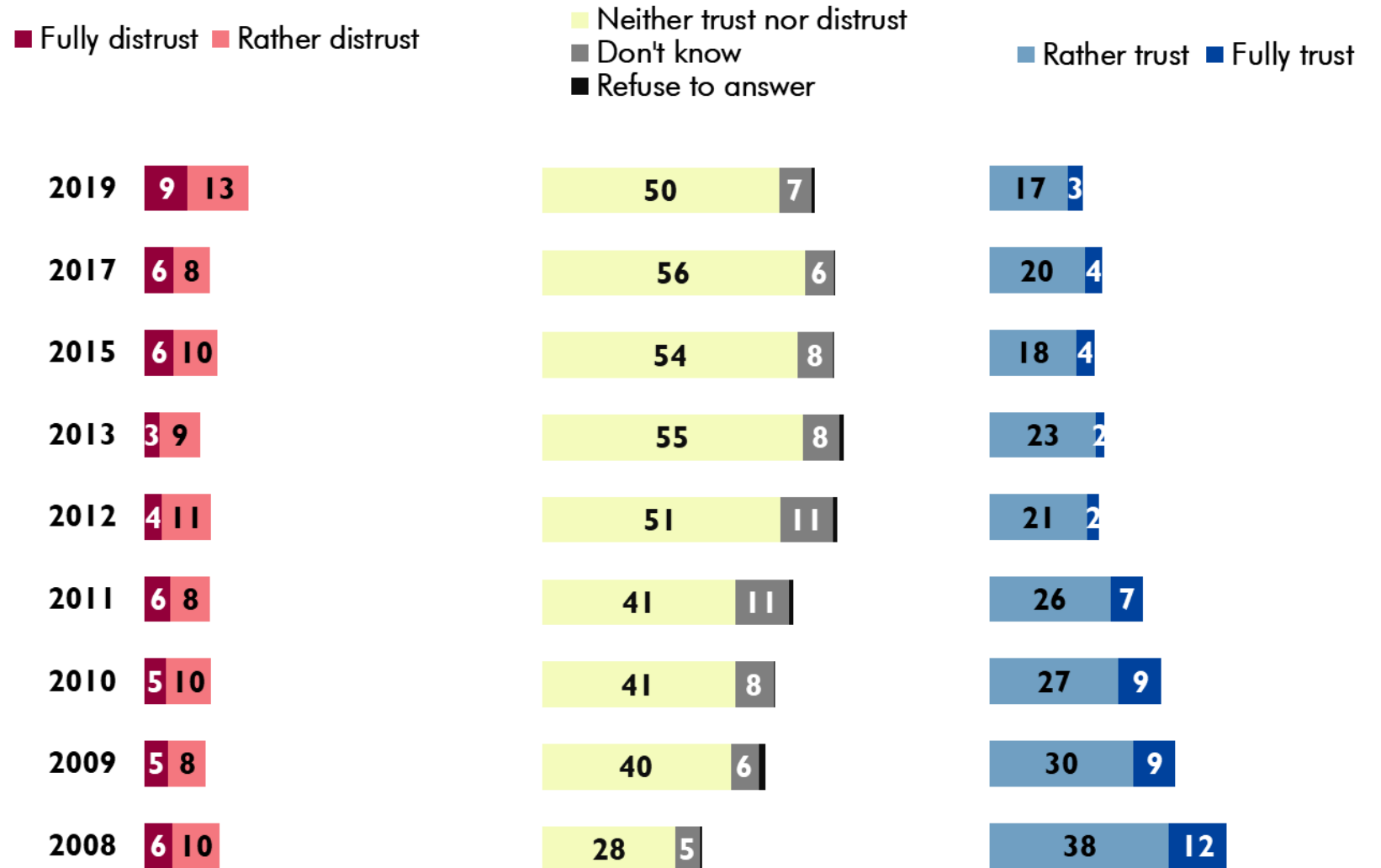
## How much do you trust or distrust Banks working in Georgia



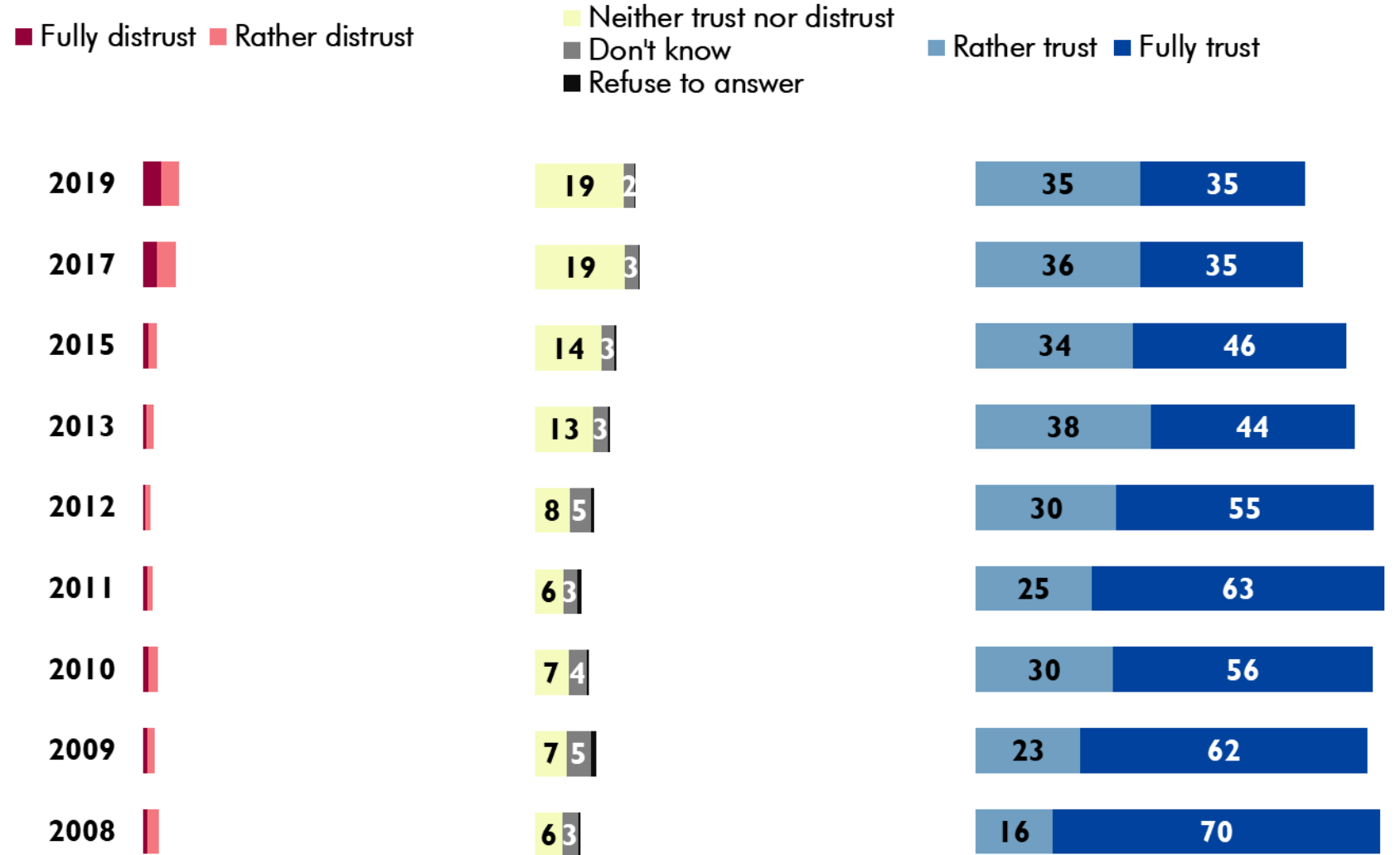
## How much do you trust or distrust Georgia's educational system



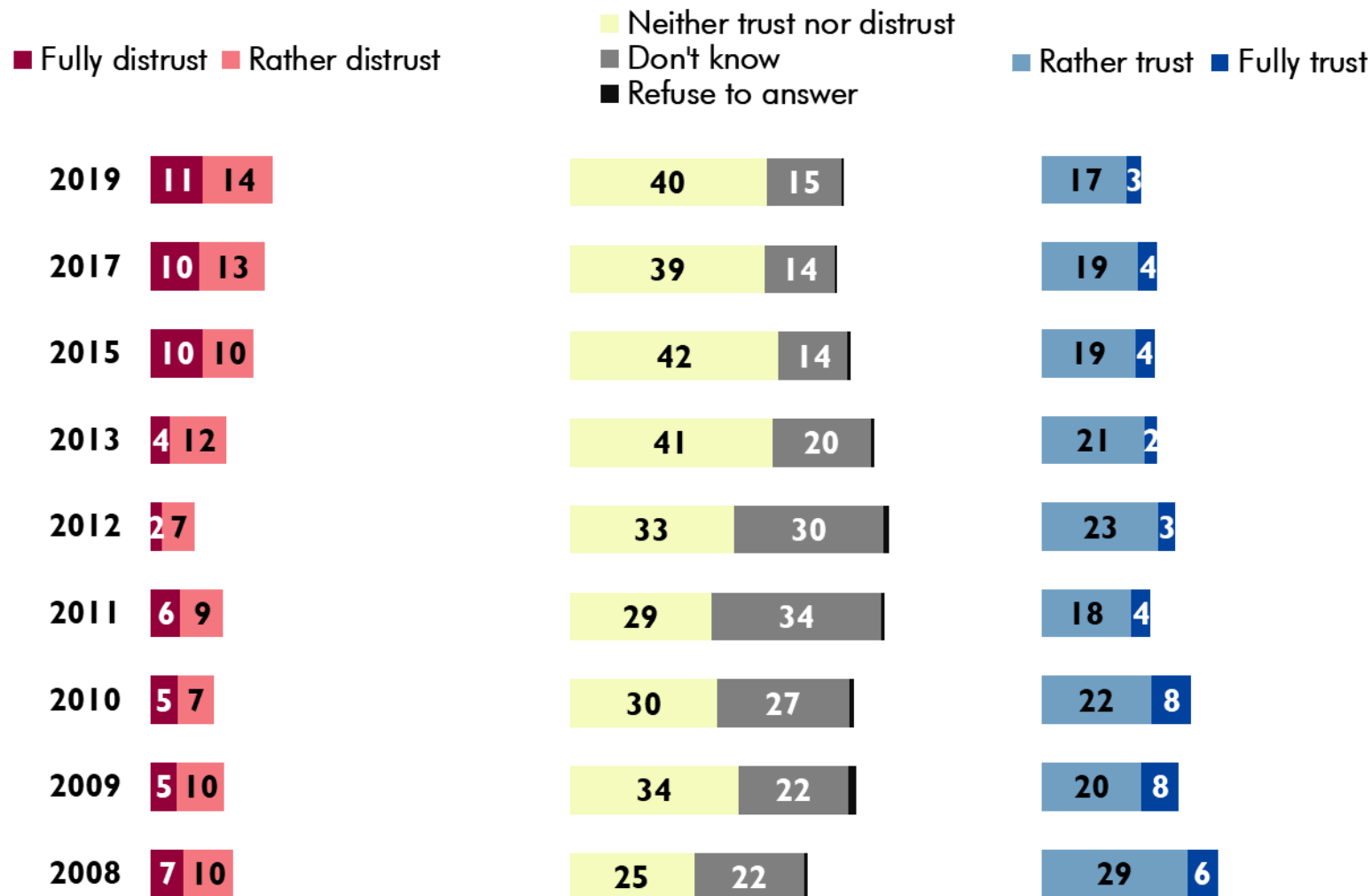
## How much do you trust or distrust Georgia's mass media



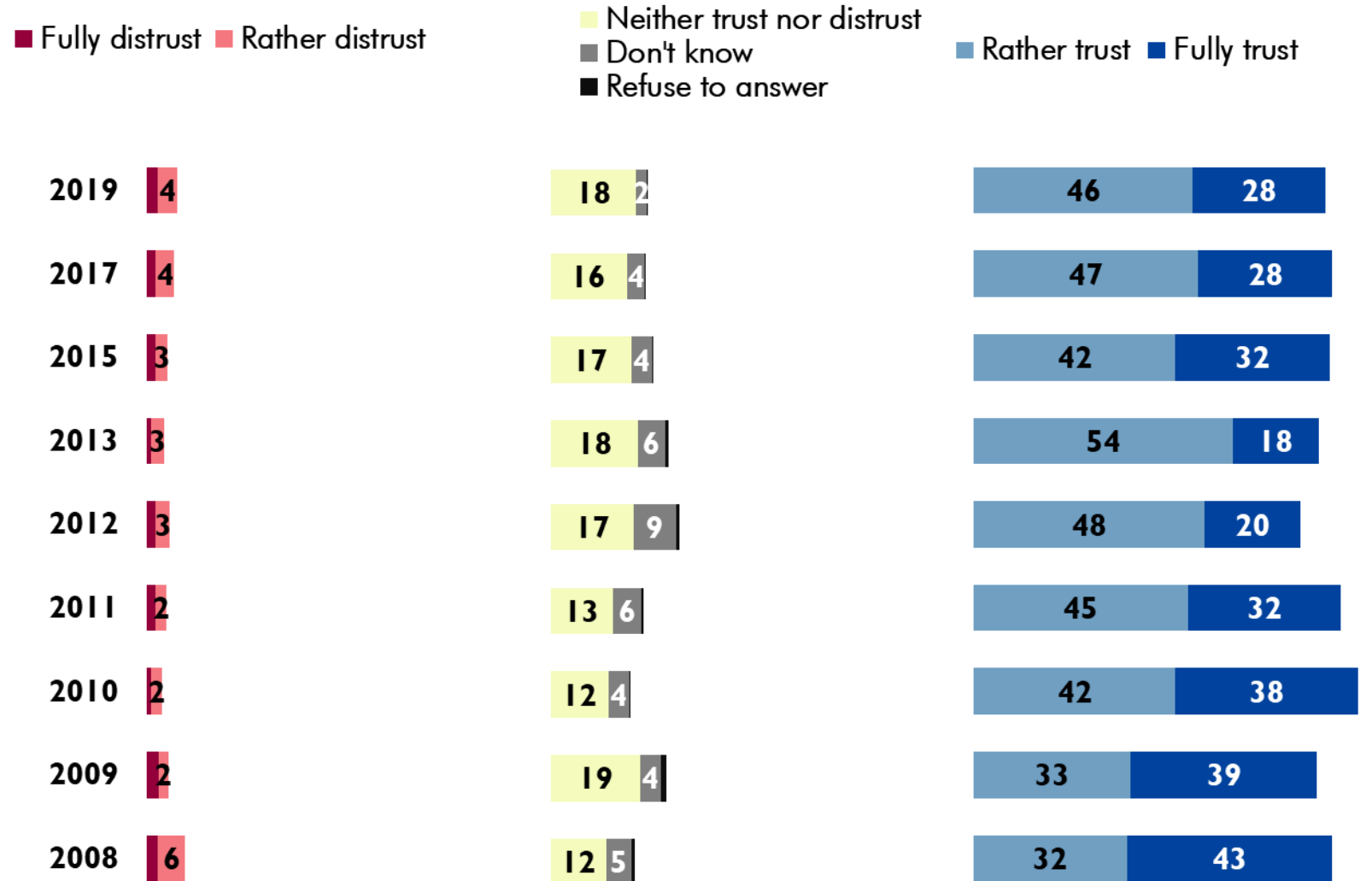
## How much do you trust or distrust Institutions of your religion



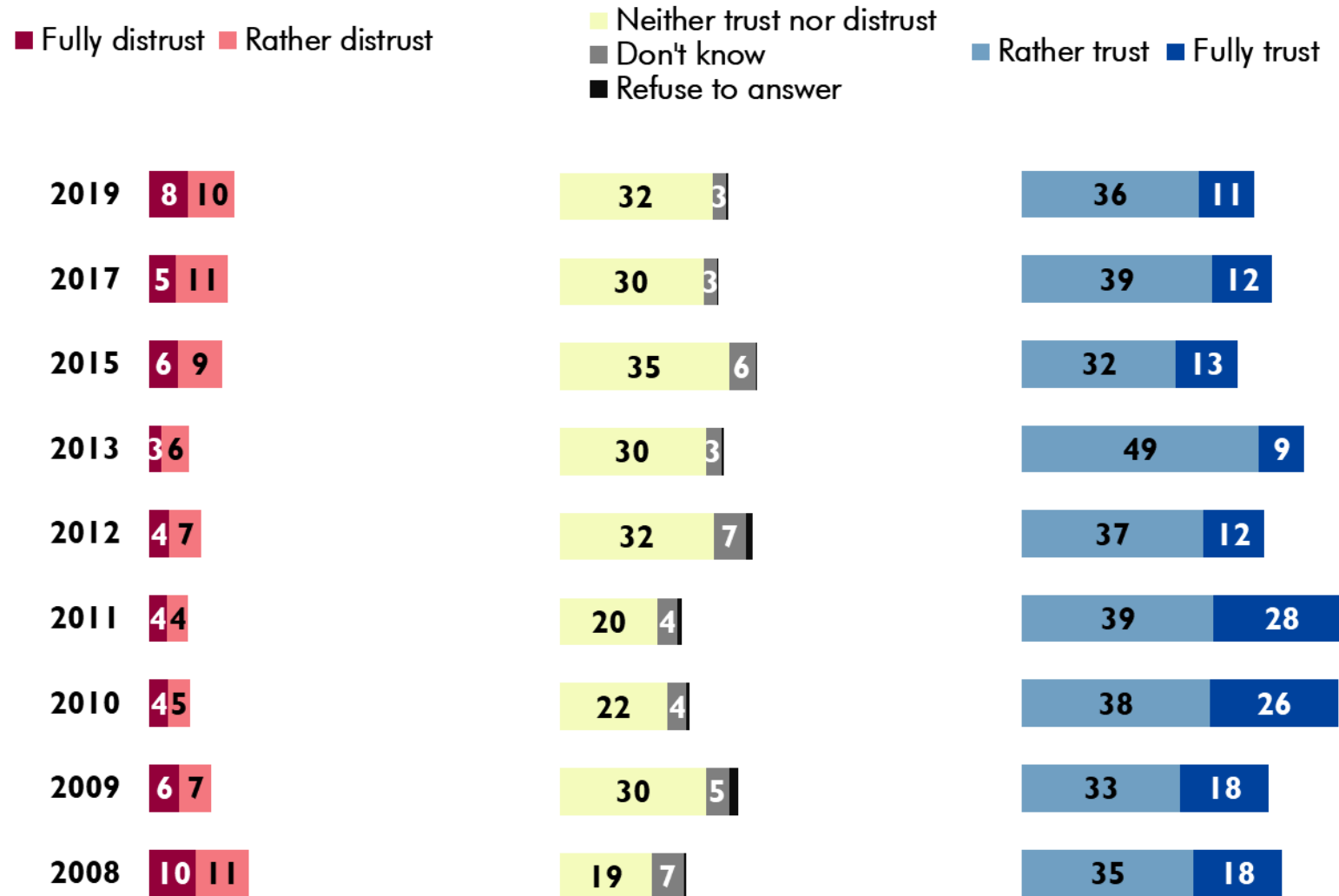
## How much do you trust or distrust NGOs working in Georgia



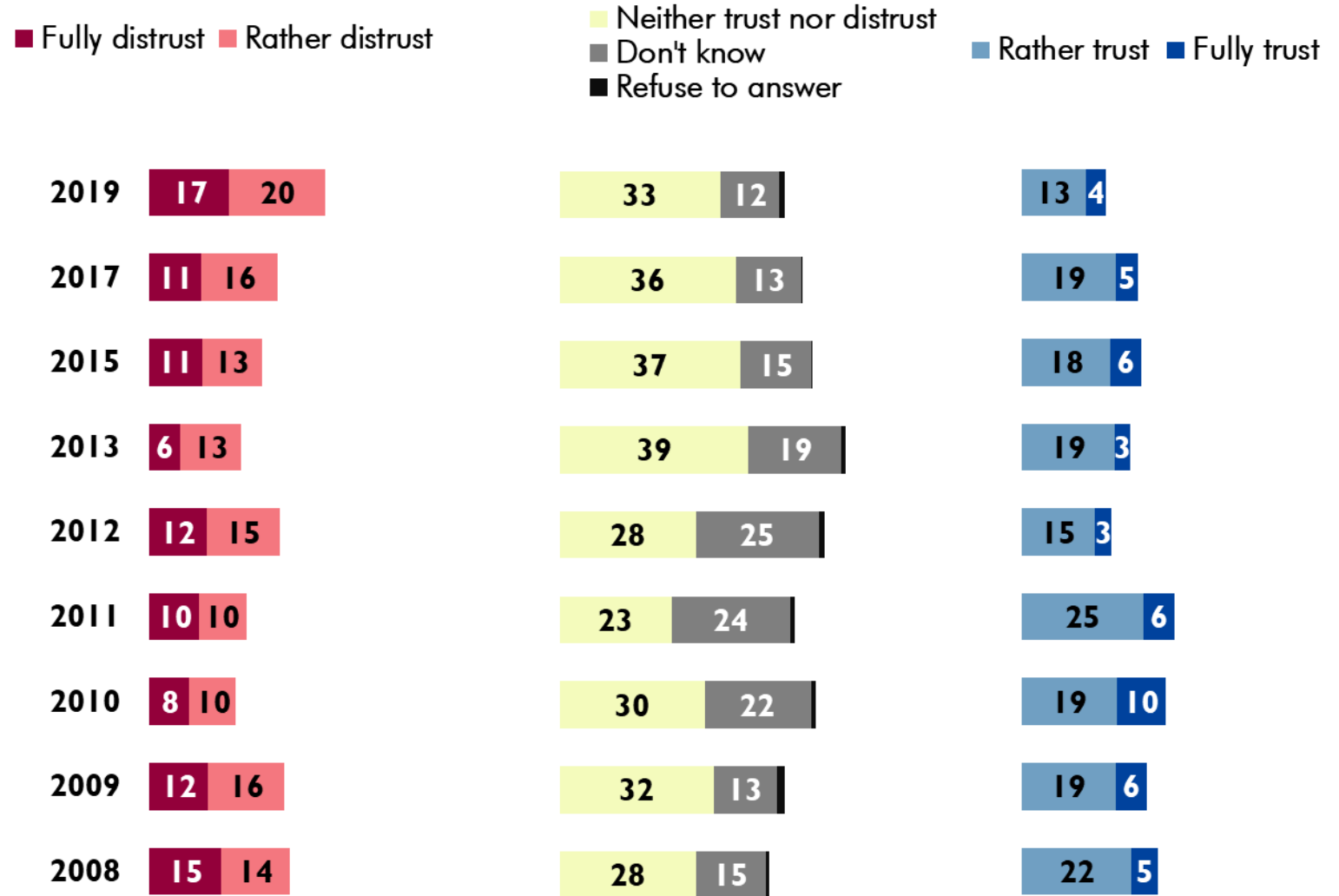
## How much do you trust or distrust Georgia's Army



## How much do you trust or distrust Georgia's police

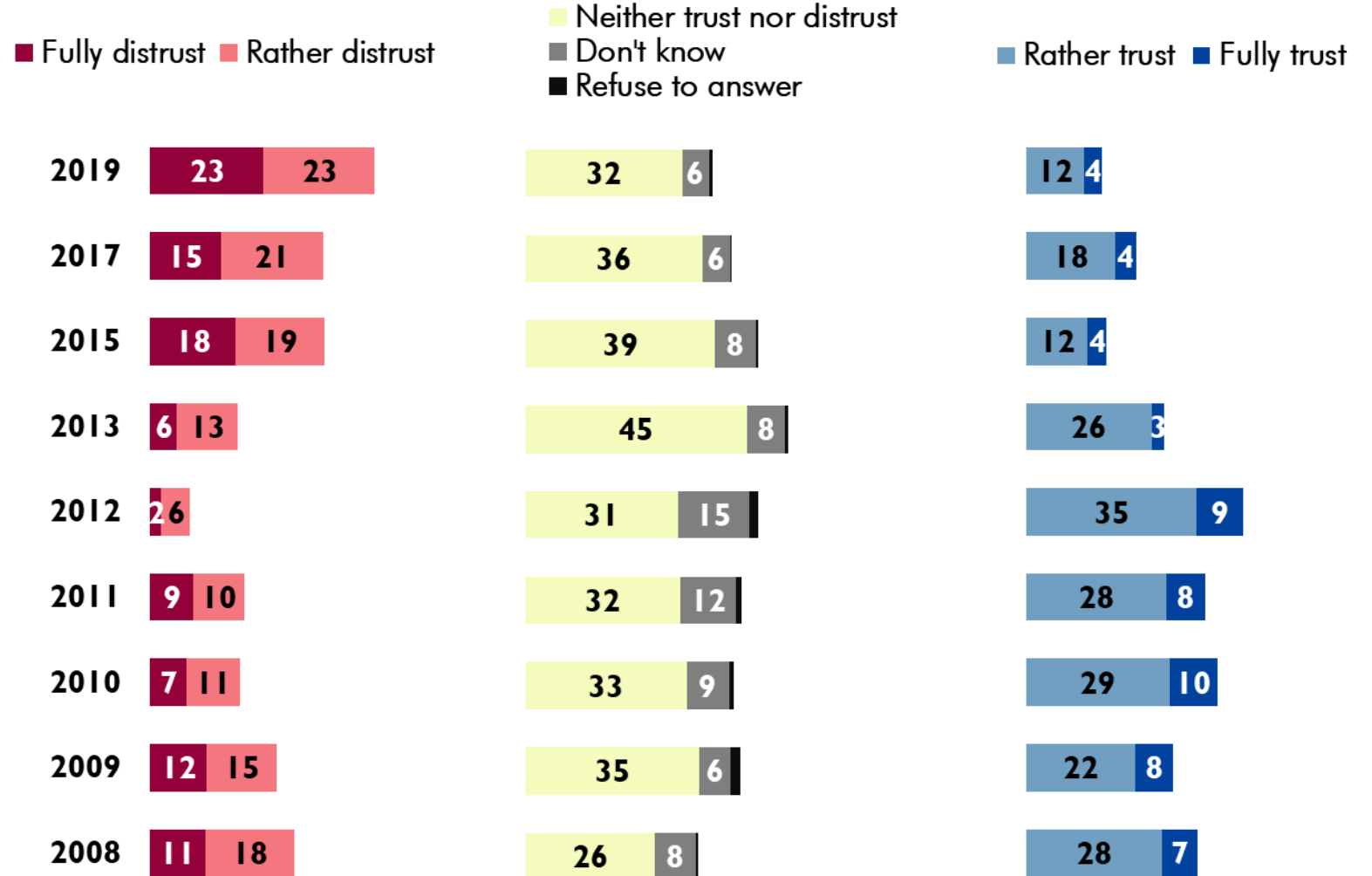


## How much do you trust or distrust Georgia's court system

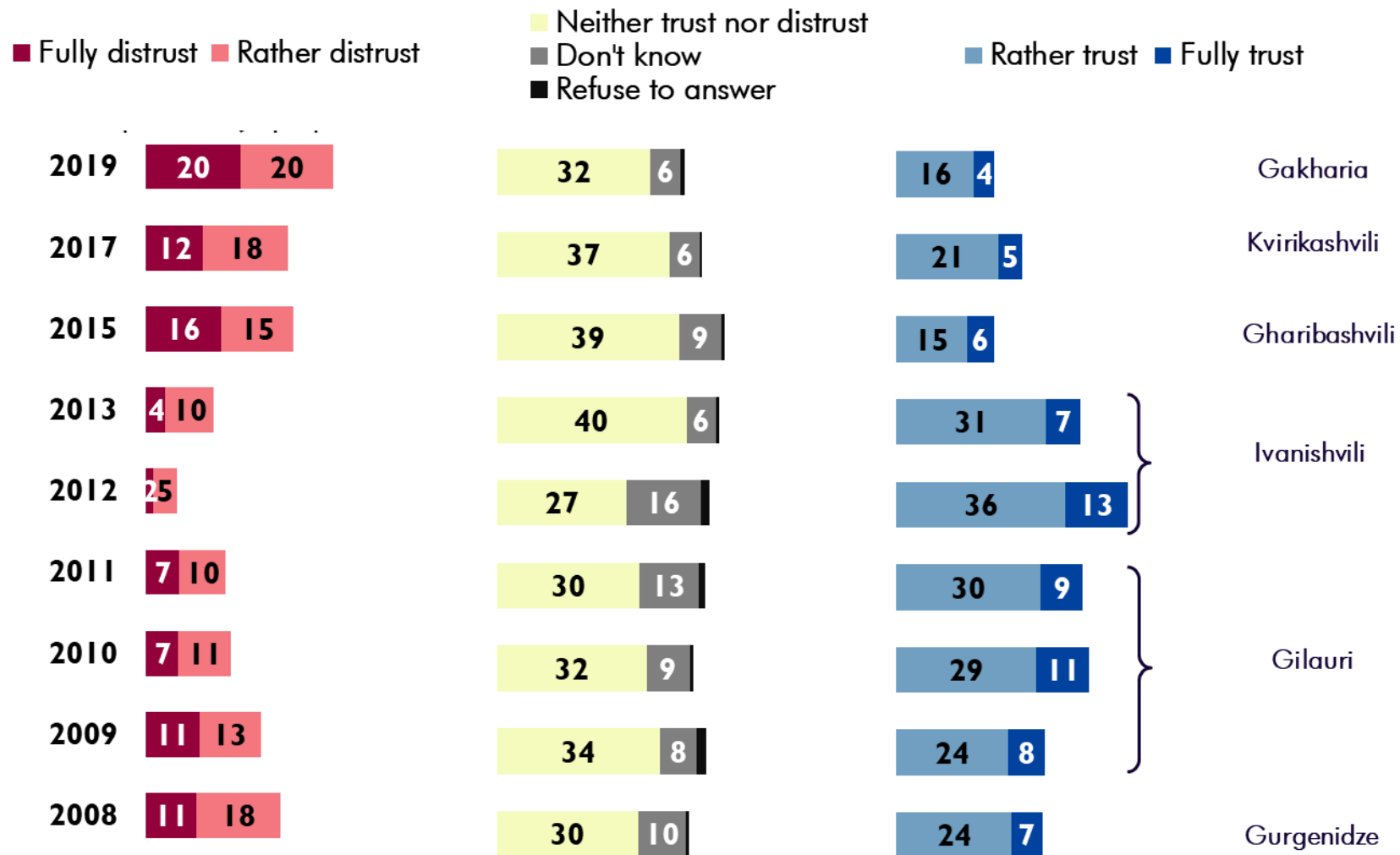




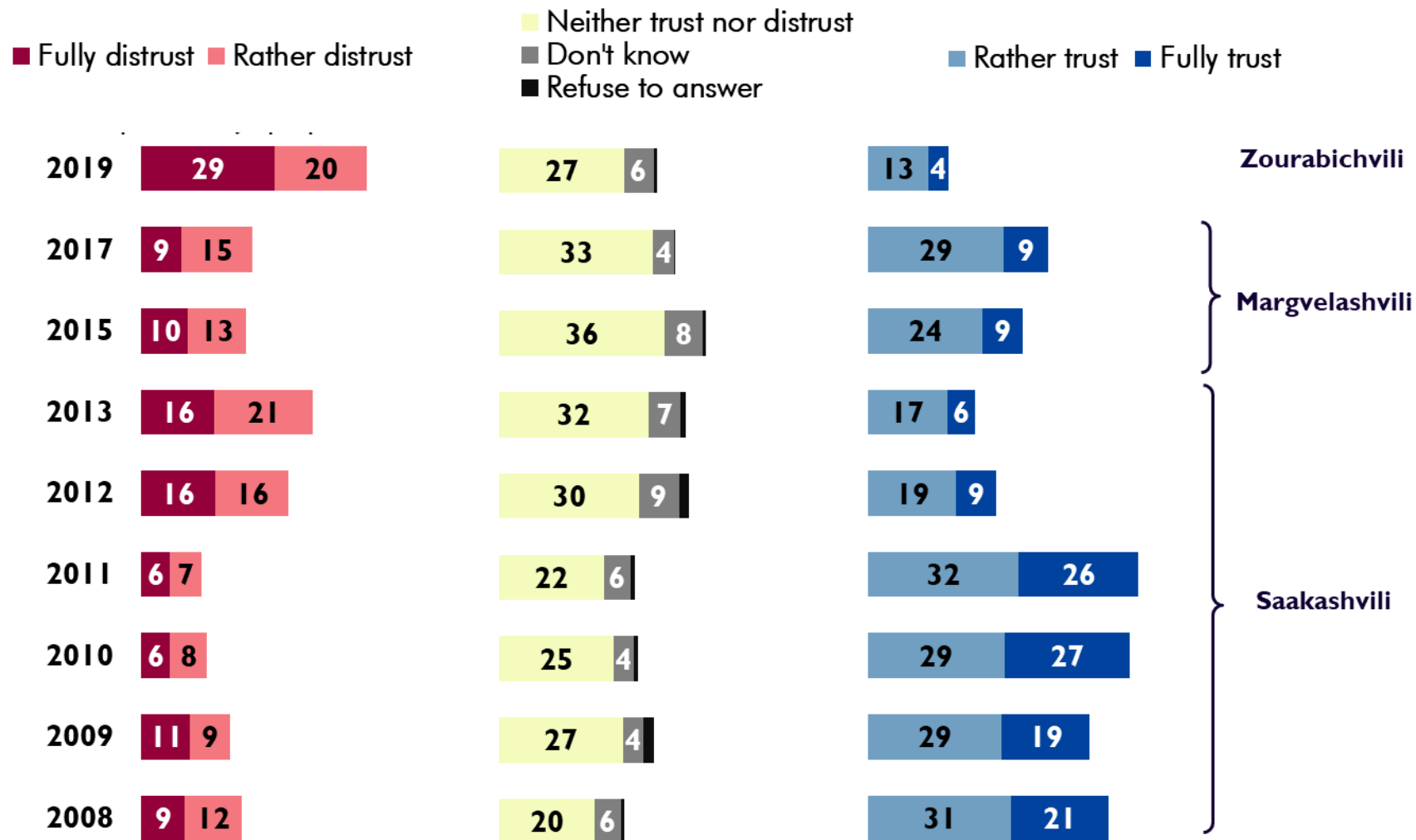
## How much do you trust or distrust the Parliament of Georgia



## How much do you trust or distrust Georgia's executive government

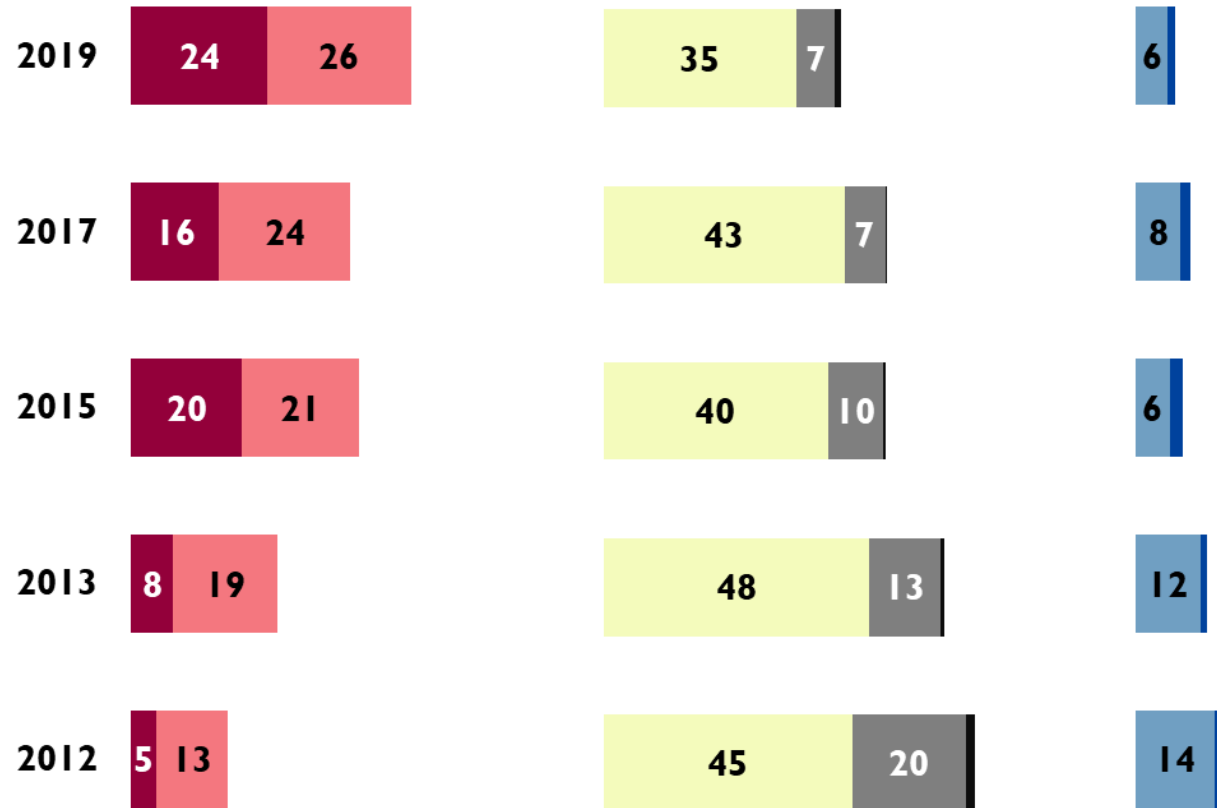


## How much do you trust or distrust Georgia's president

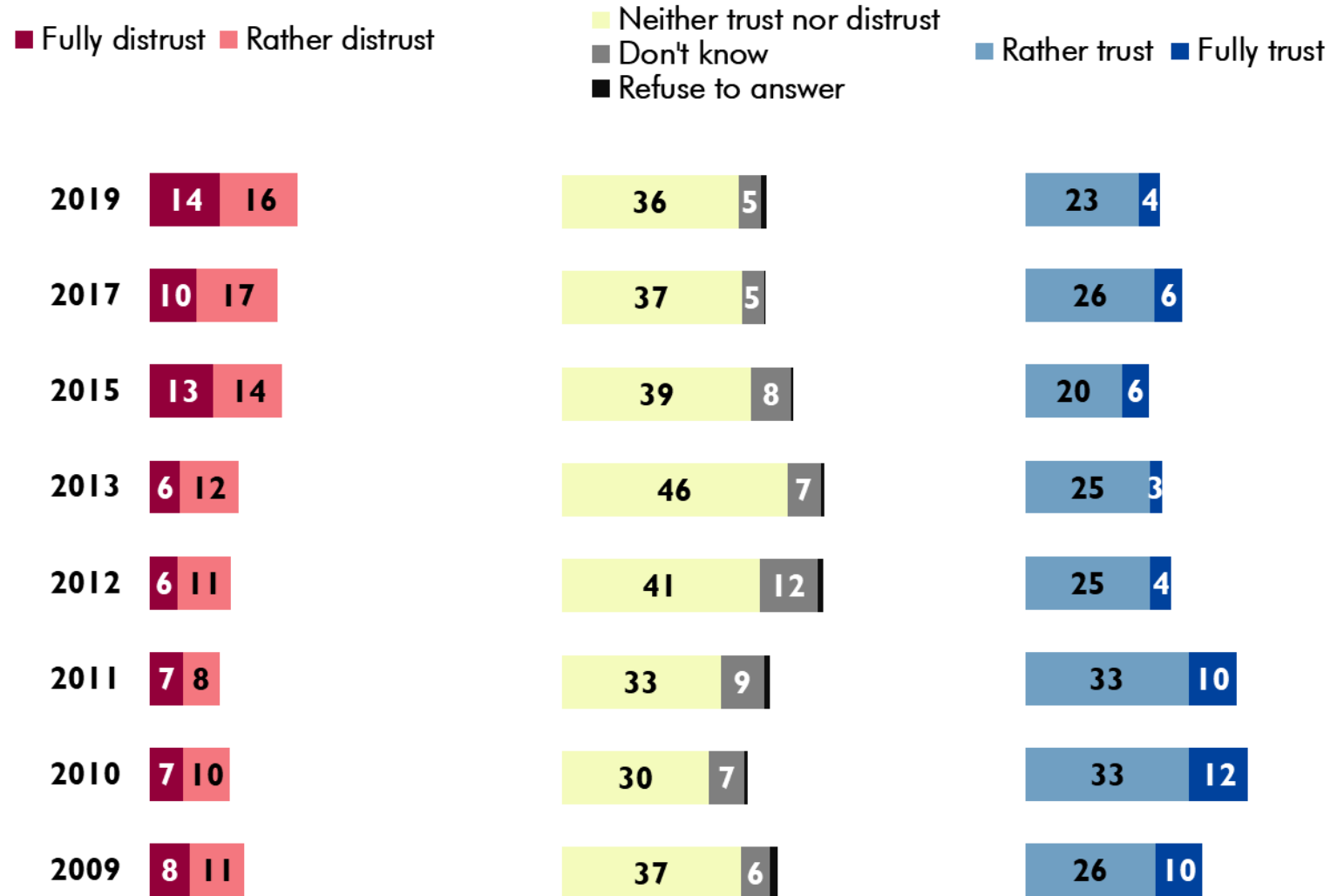


## How much do you trust or distrust Political parties in Georgia

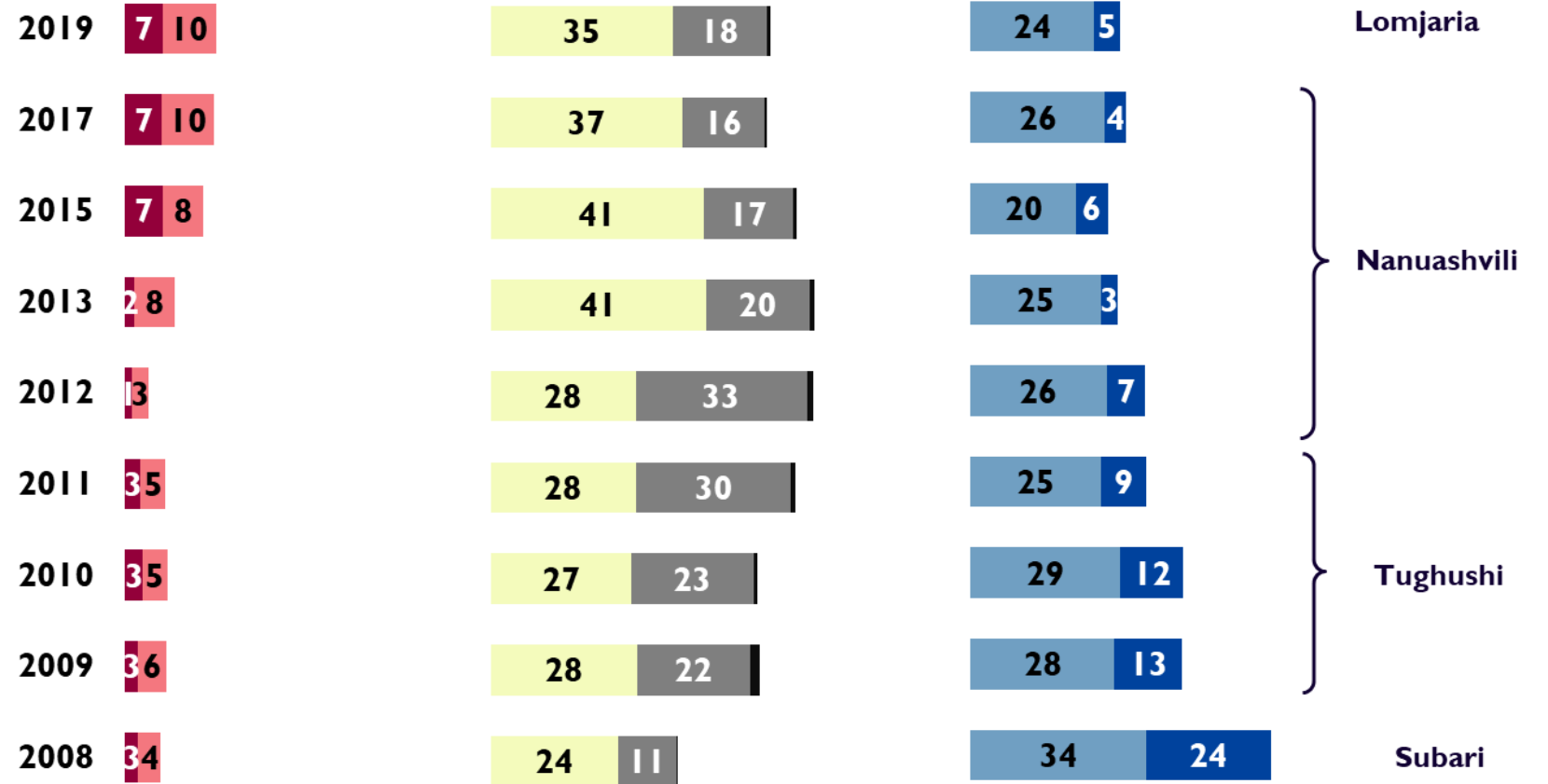
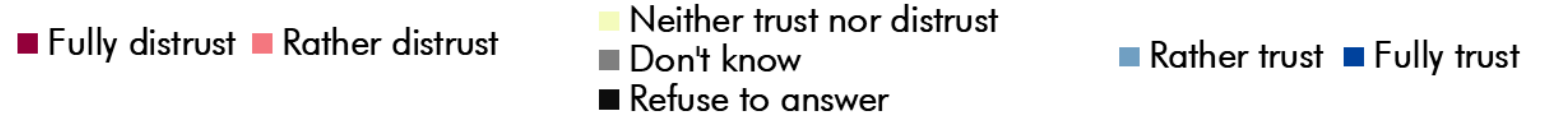
■ Fully distrust ■ Rather distrust ■ Neither trust nor distrust ■ Don't know ■ Refuse to answer ■ Rather trust ■ Fully trust



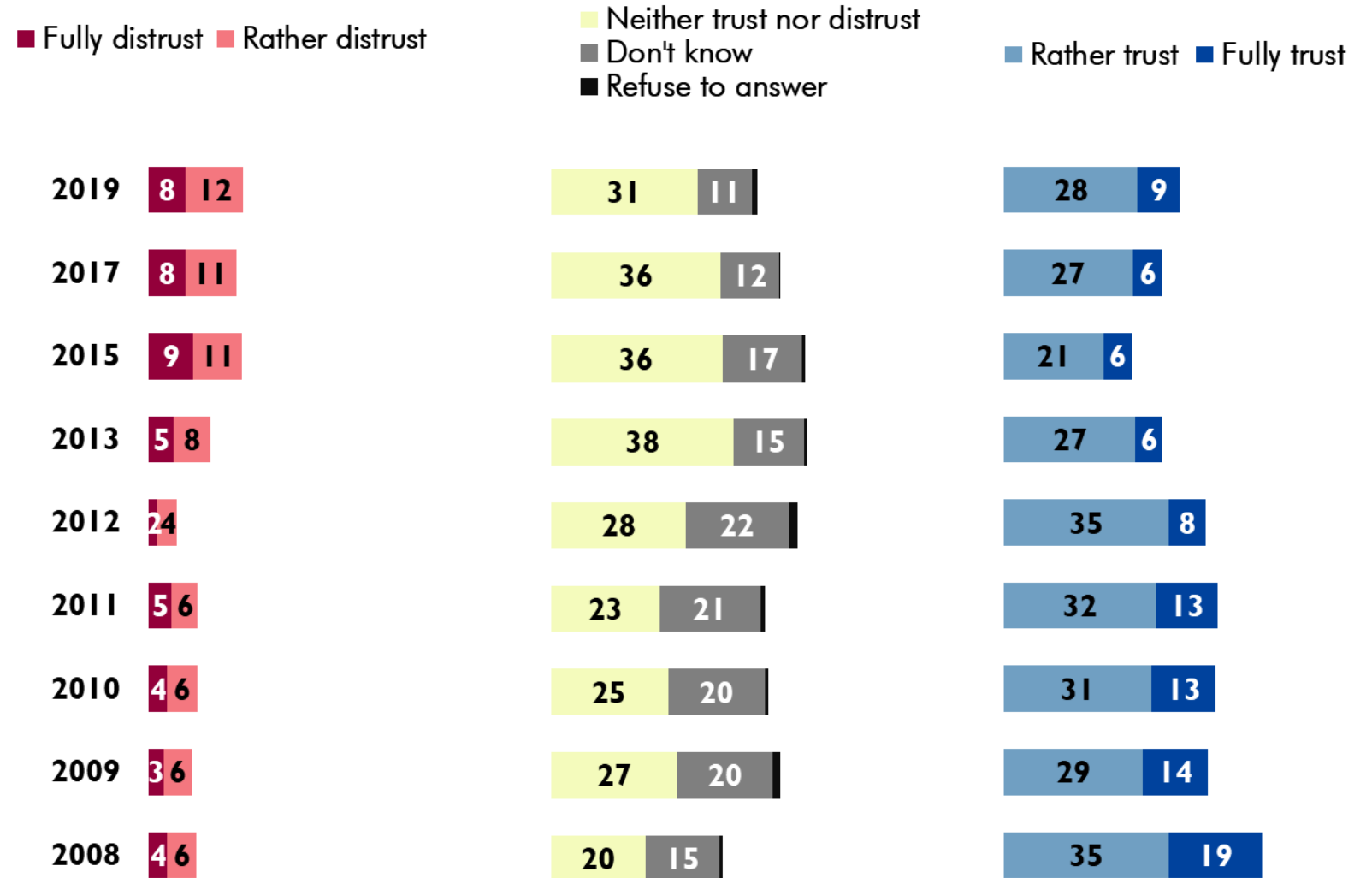
## How much do you trust or distrust Georgia's local government



## How much do you trust or distrust Georgia's public defender

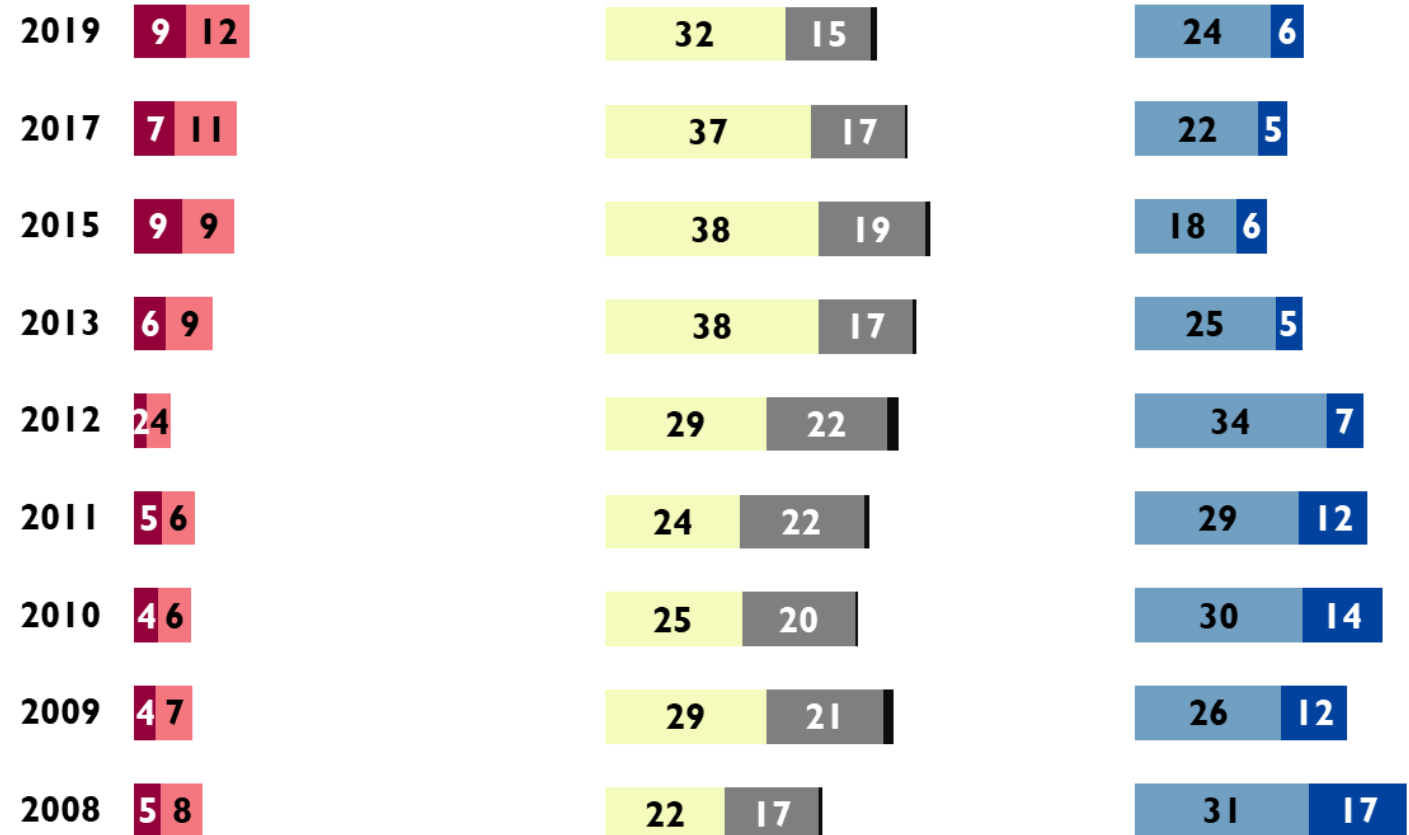


## How much do you trust or distrust the European Union



## How much do you trust or distrust the United Nations?

■ Fully distrust ■ Rather distrust      ■ Neither trust nor distrust ■ Don't know ■ Refuse to answer      ■ Rather trust ■ Fully trust





## Statements about the role of the government

Answer options "agree very strongly" and "agree" are grouped

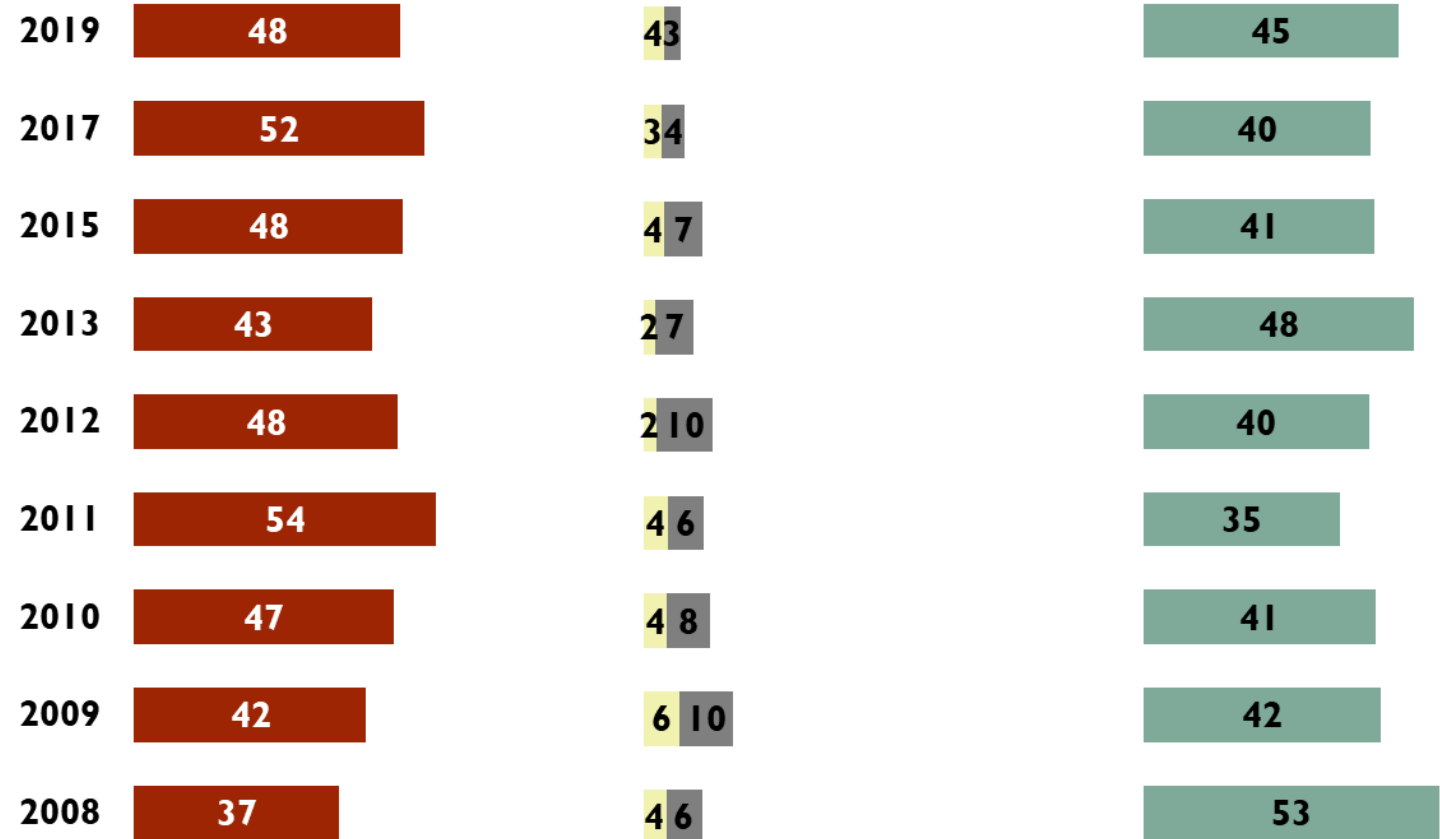
■ People are like children; the government should take care of them like a parent.

■ Agree with neither

■ Don't know/Refuse to answer

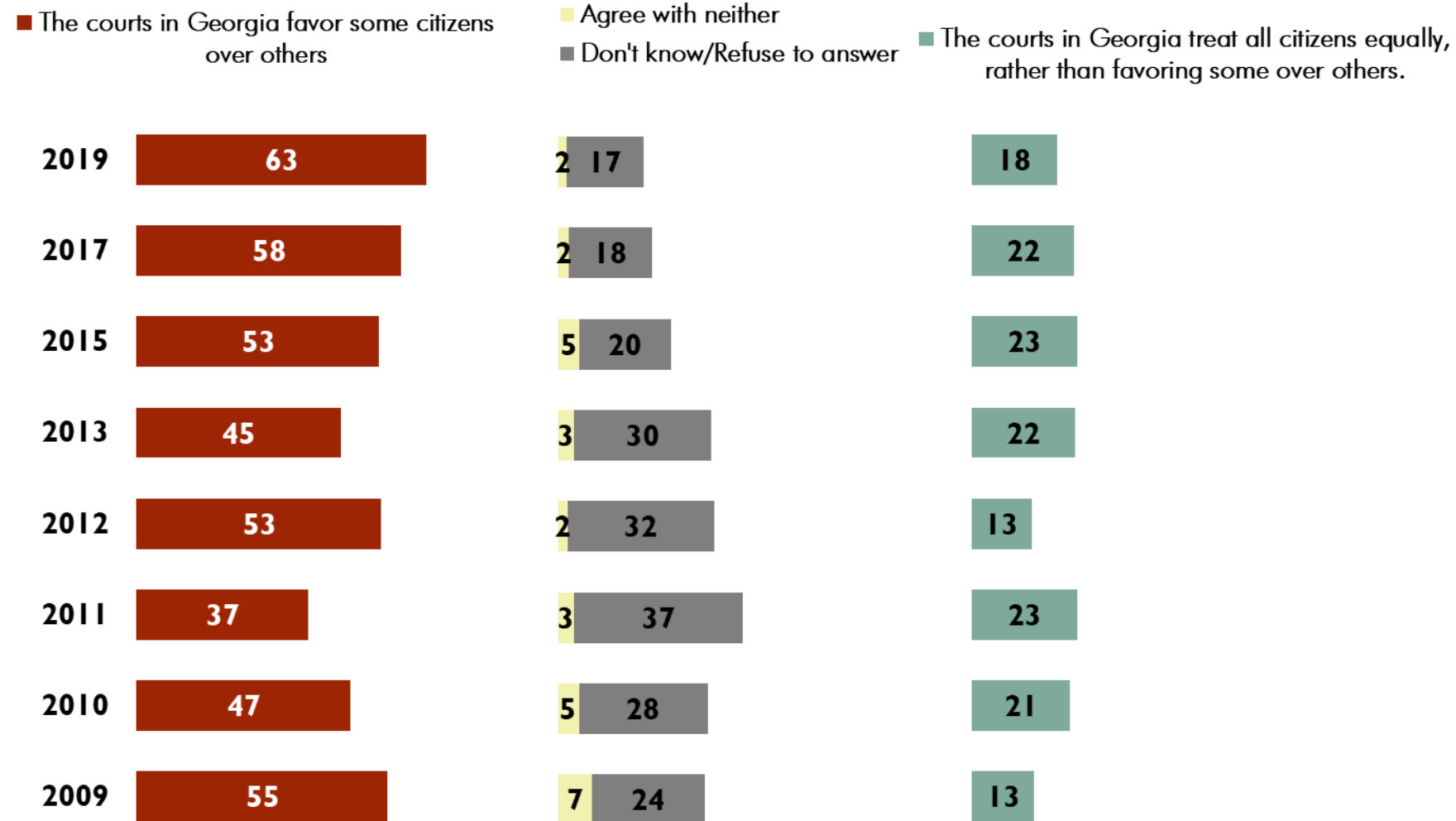
■ Government is like an employee; the people should be the bosses who control the government

Opinions regarding the role of the government are split – about half of Georgians believe that the government should be paternalistic



## Statements about courts

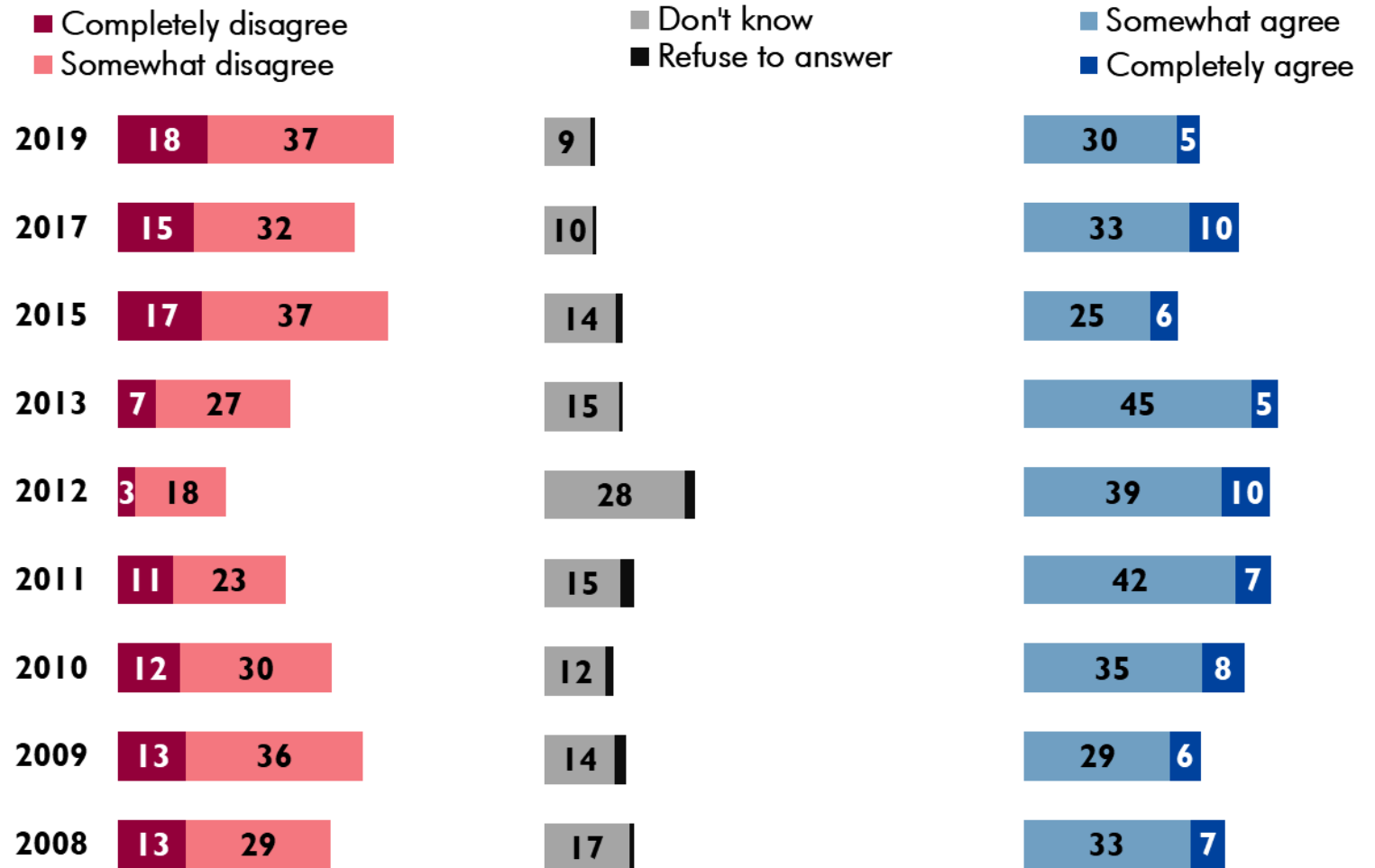
Answer options "agree very strongly" and "agree" are grouped



The majority of Georgians believe that courts favor some citizens over others

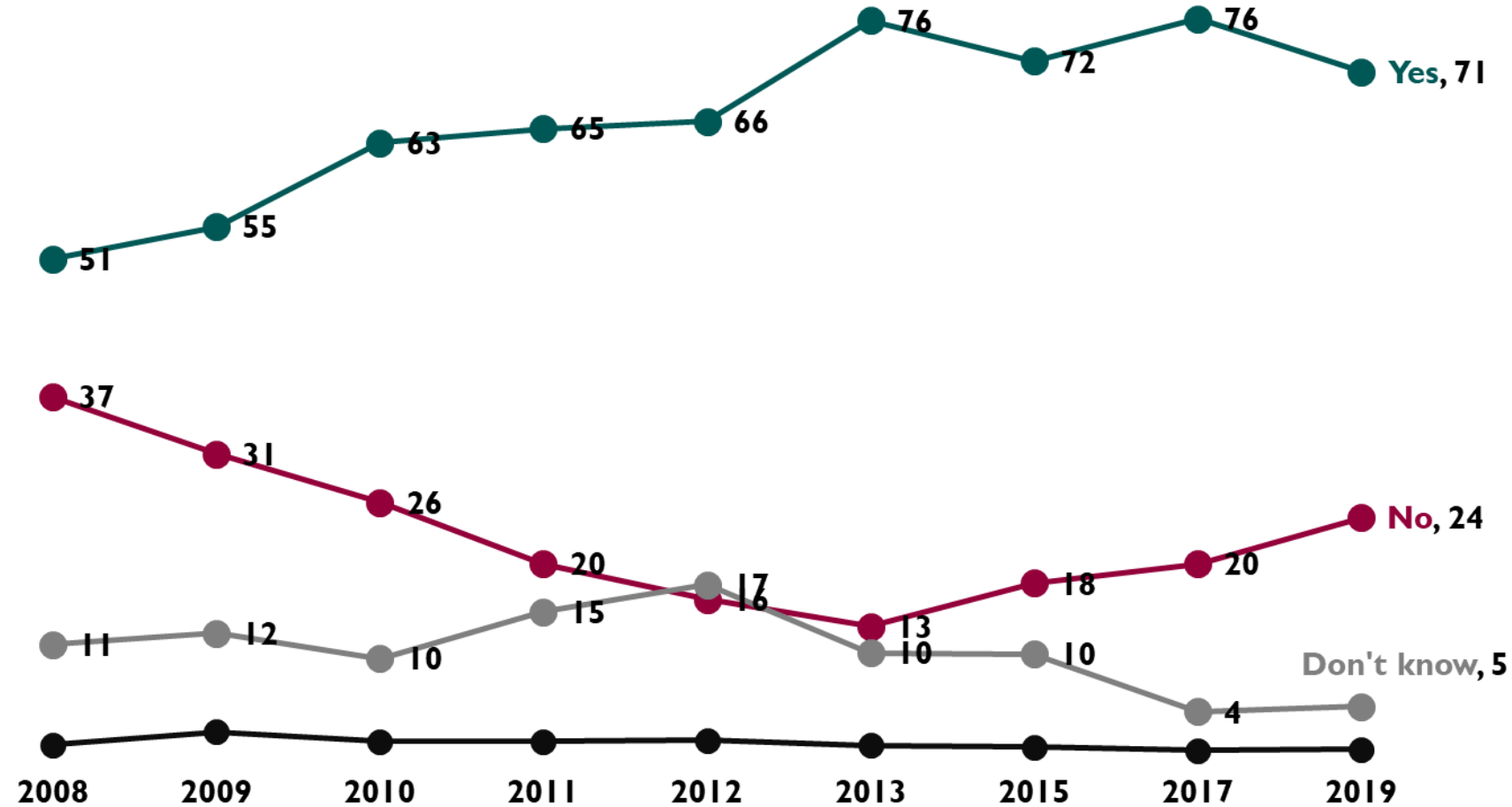
# Under the present government in Georgia, do you completely agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or completely disagree that people like yourself are treated fairly by the government?

The proportion of respondents who believe that the government is treating them fairly is decreasing



## In Georgia today, do you think or not that people like yourself have the right to openly say what they think?

Two thirds of Georgians agree that people can speak up openly in Georgia



## In your opinion, how much of a democracy is Georgia today?

■ Not a democracy

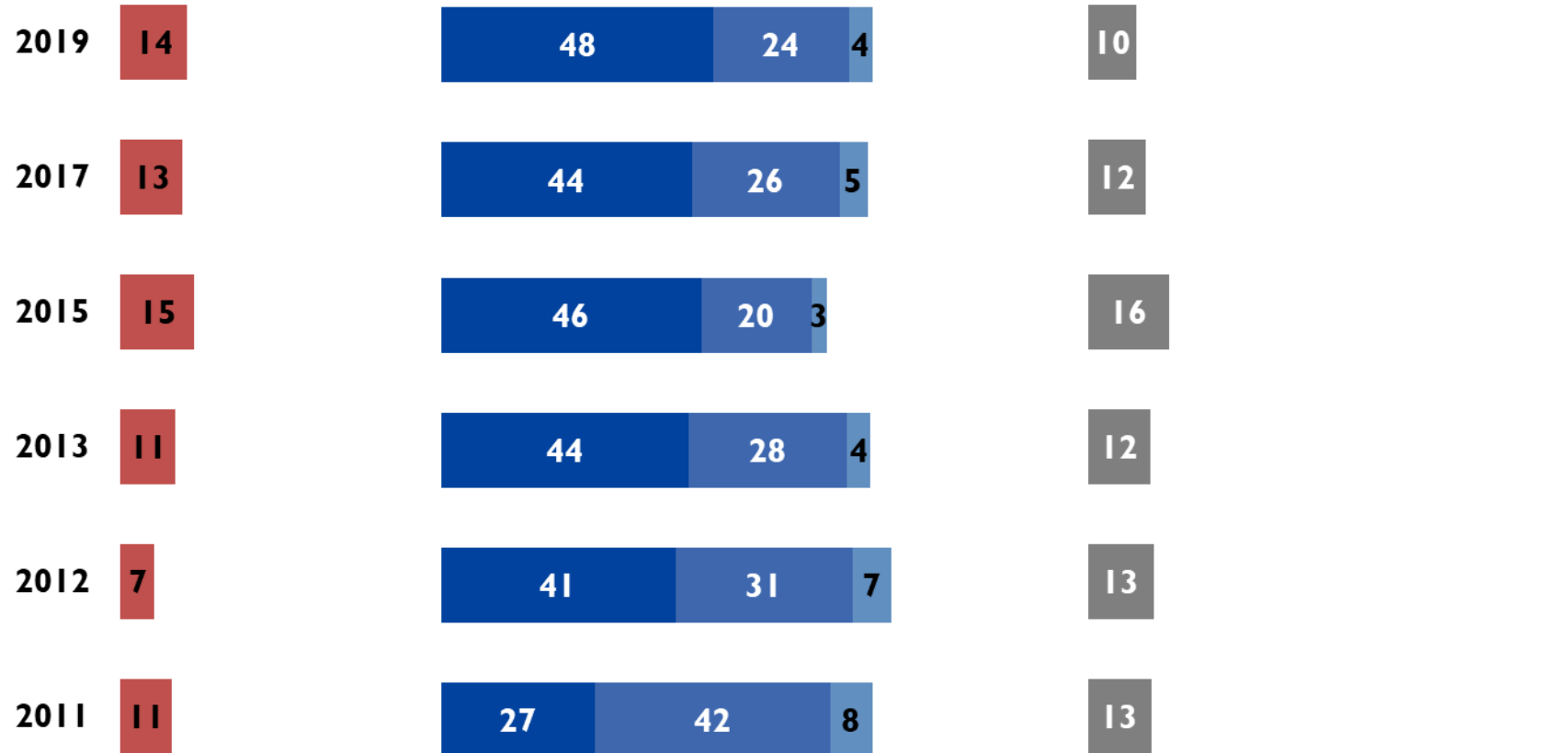
■ A democracy but with major problems

■ Don't know/Refuse to answer

■ A democracy but with minor problems

■ A full democracy

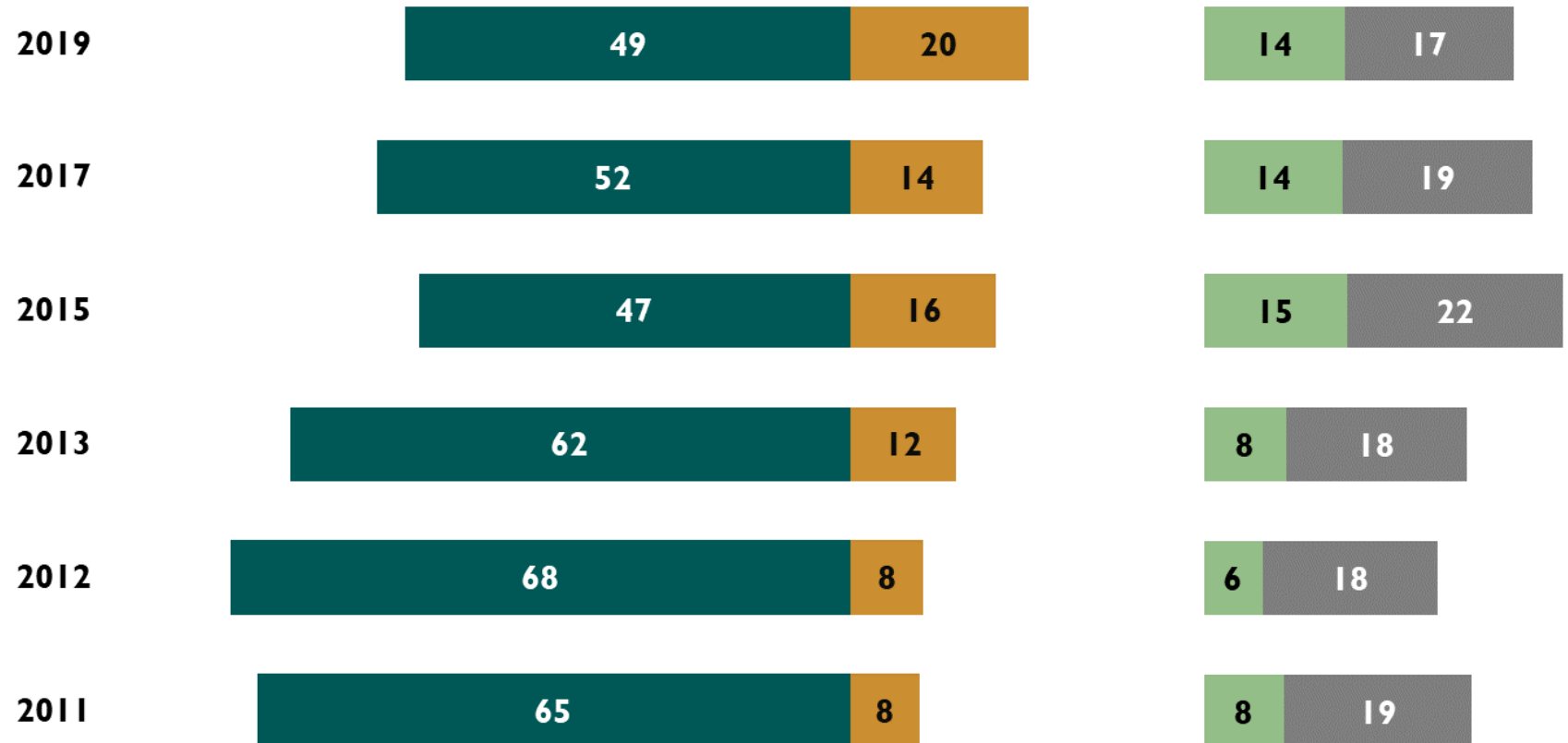
The majority of Georgians think that Georgia is a democracy, although about half of the interviewees believe that Georgia's democracy has major problems



## Which of these three statements is closest to your opinion?

- Democracy is preferable to any other kind of government
- In some circumstances, a non-democratic government can be preferable
- It doesn't matter what kind of government we have
- Don't know/Refuse to answer

Support for democracy is on decline. More than half of Georgians think that it does not matter, has an ambivalent view, or in some circumstances a non-democratic government is better



## Statements about participating in protest rallies

Answer options "agree very strongly" and "agree" are grouped

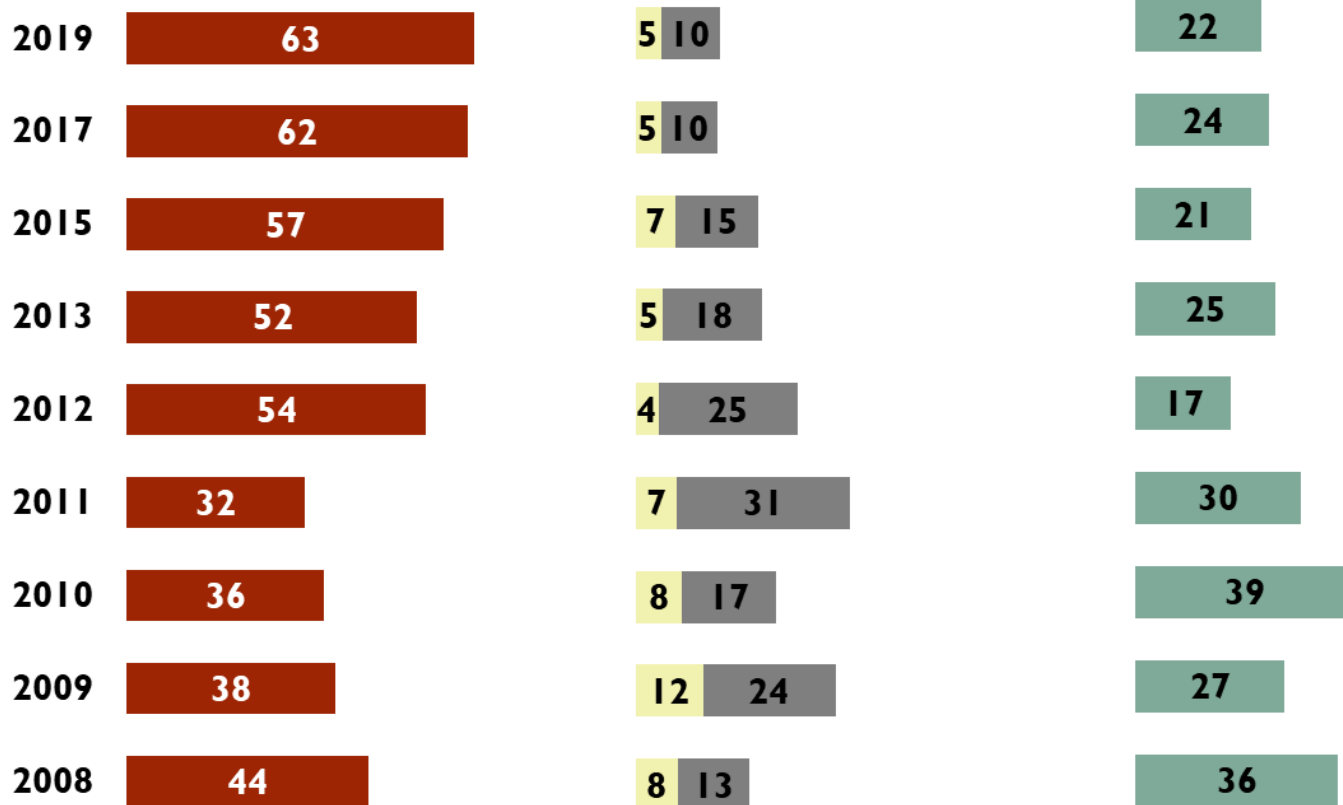
■ People should participate in protest actions against the government, as this shows the government that the people are in charge

■ Agree with neither

■ Don't know/Refuse to answer

■ People should not participate in protest actions against the government, as it threatens stability in our country.

About two thirds of Georgians believe that people should participate in protest rallies

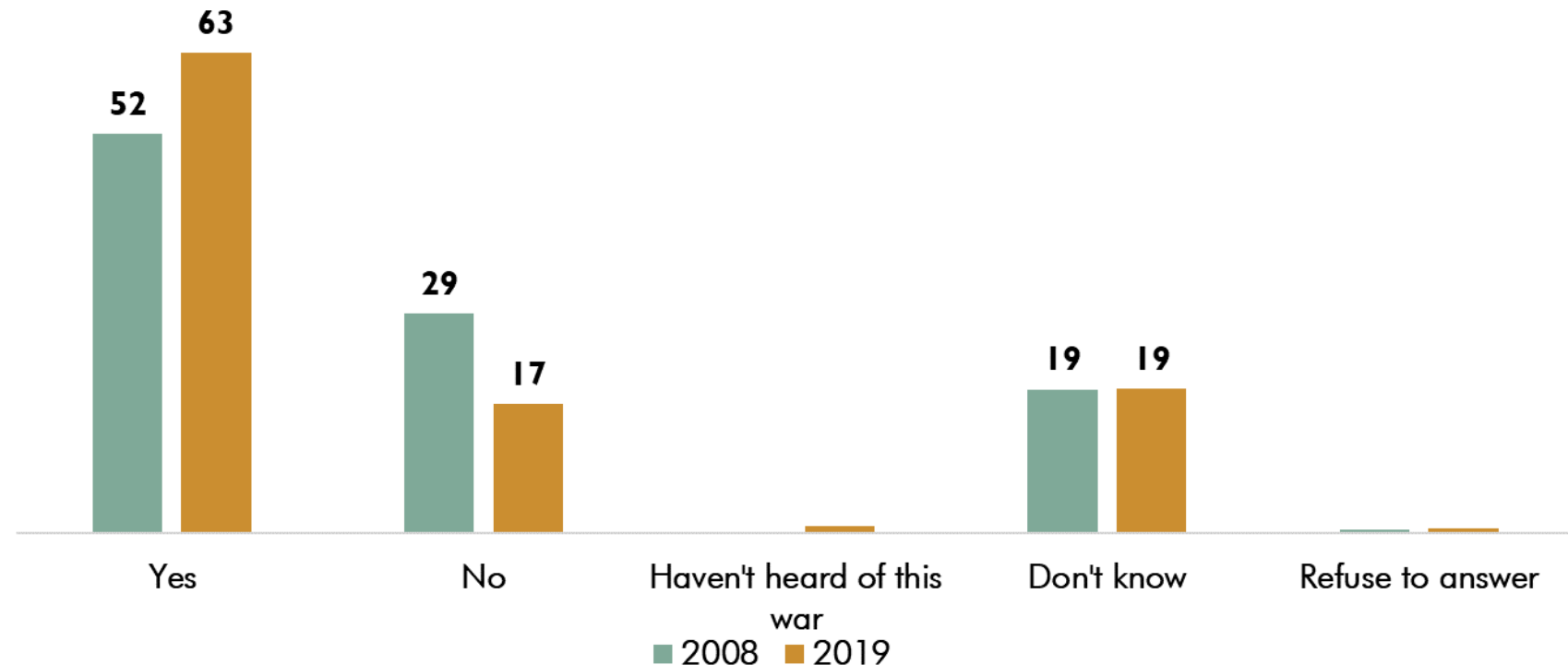


# Conflicts



## Do you agree or disagree with the opinion that the 2008 war between Russia and Georgia could have been avoided?

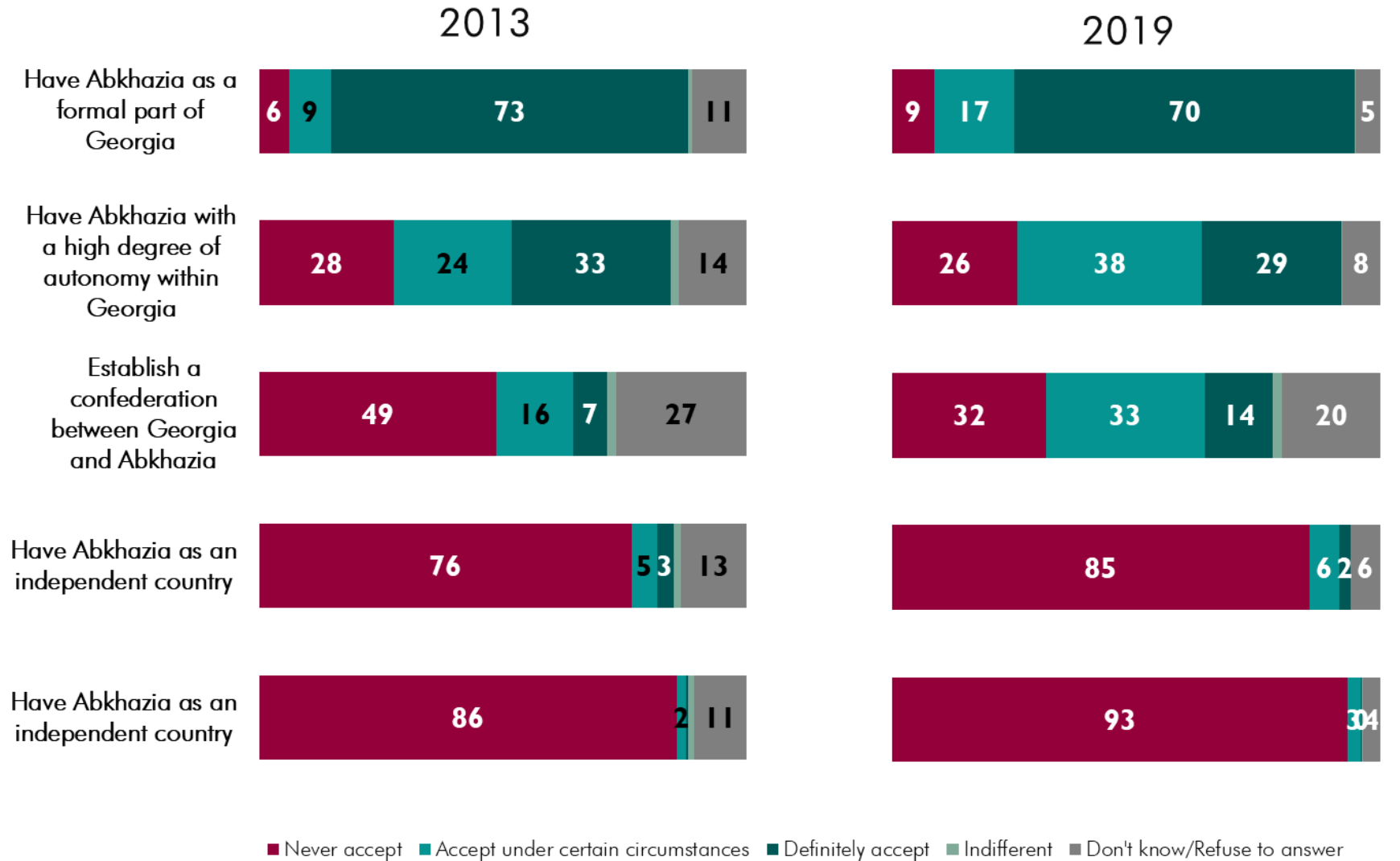
There is a ten-point increase in the share of Georgians who believe that the 2008 war between Georgia and Russia could have been avoided.



## Opinions on solving conflict in Abkhazia

In 2019, only those respondents who have heard about the conflict (86%) were asked these questions

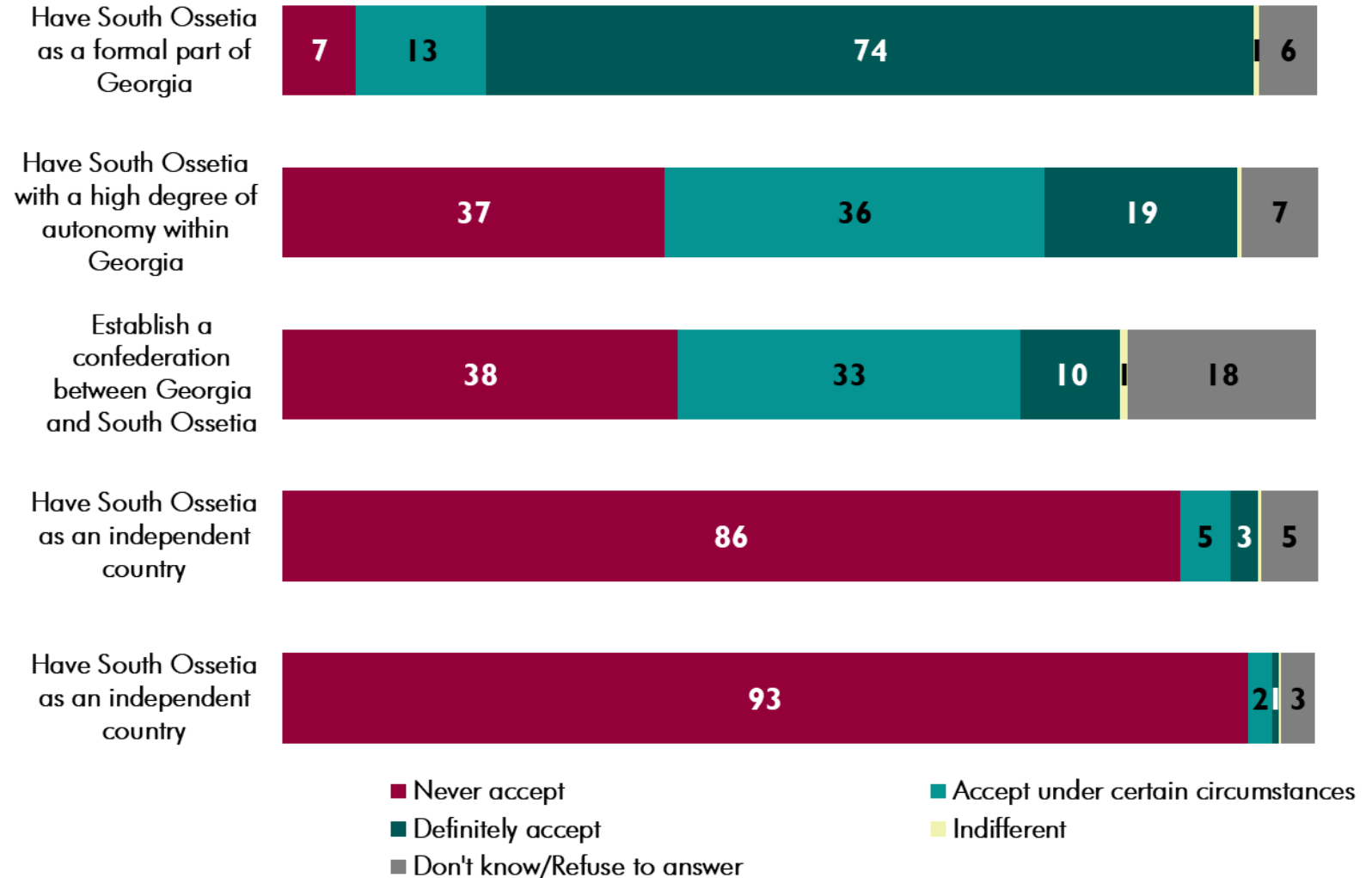
In comparison with 2013, more people agree to the statement that it is acceptable to establish a confederate state between Georgia and Abkhazia. While the absolute majority would not accept Abkhazia to become an independent state or enter Russian Federation



## Opinions on solving conflict in South Ossetia/Tskhinvali Region

The 2019 wave of Caucasus Barometer. Only those respondents who have heard about the conflict (83%) were asked these questions

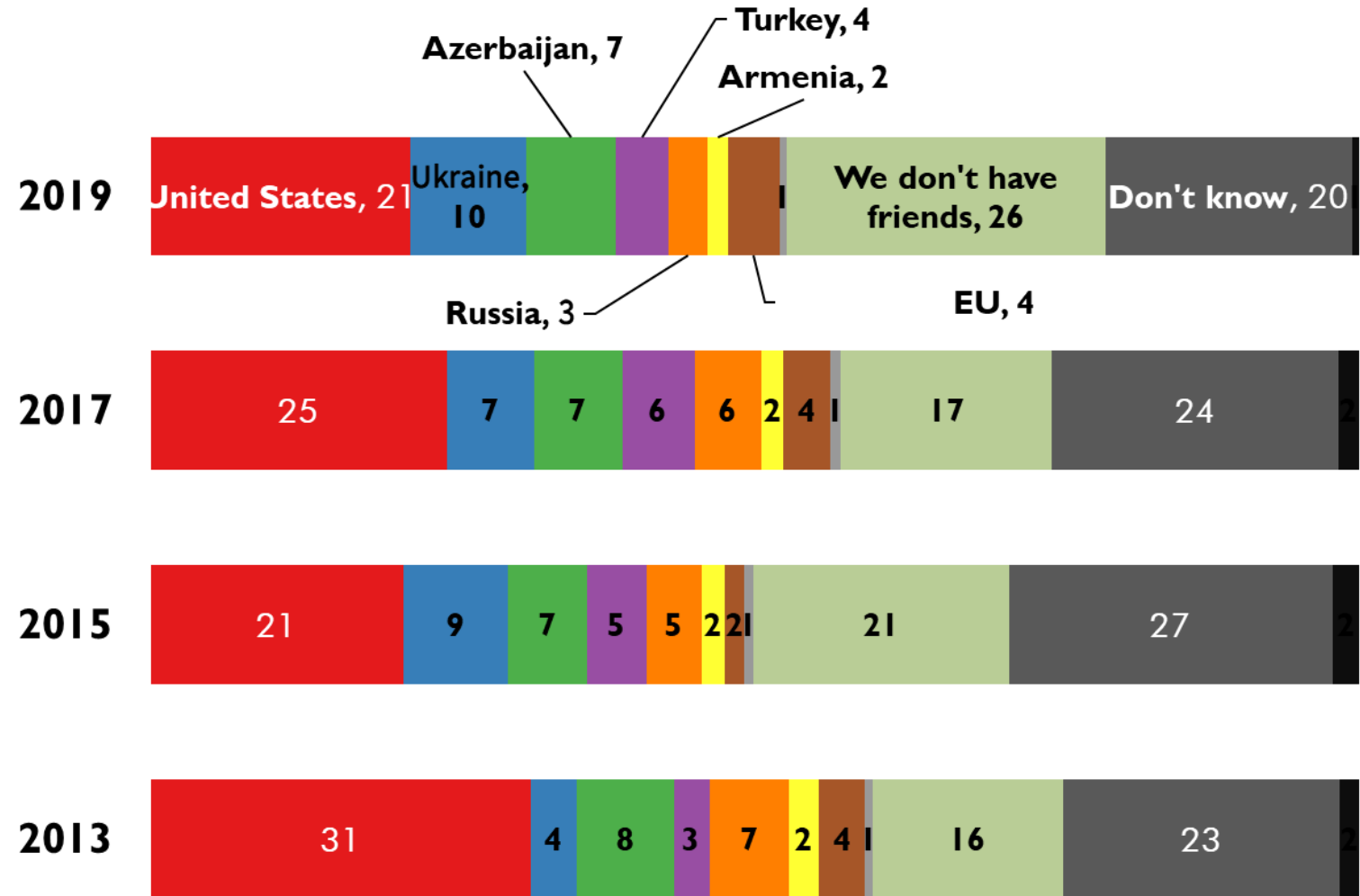
A significant majority of Georgians would accept South Ossetia to have a high degree of autonomy or be in a confederation with Georgia



Foreign policy

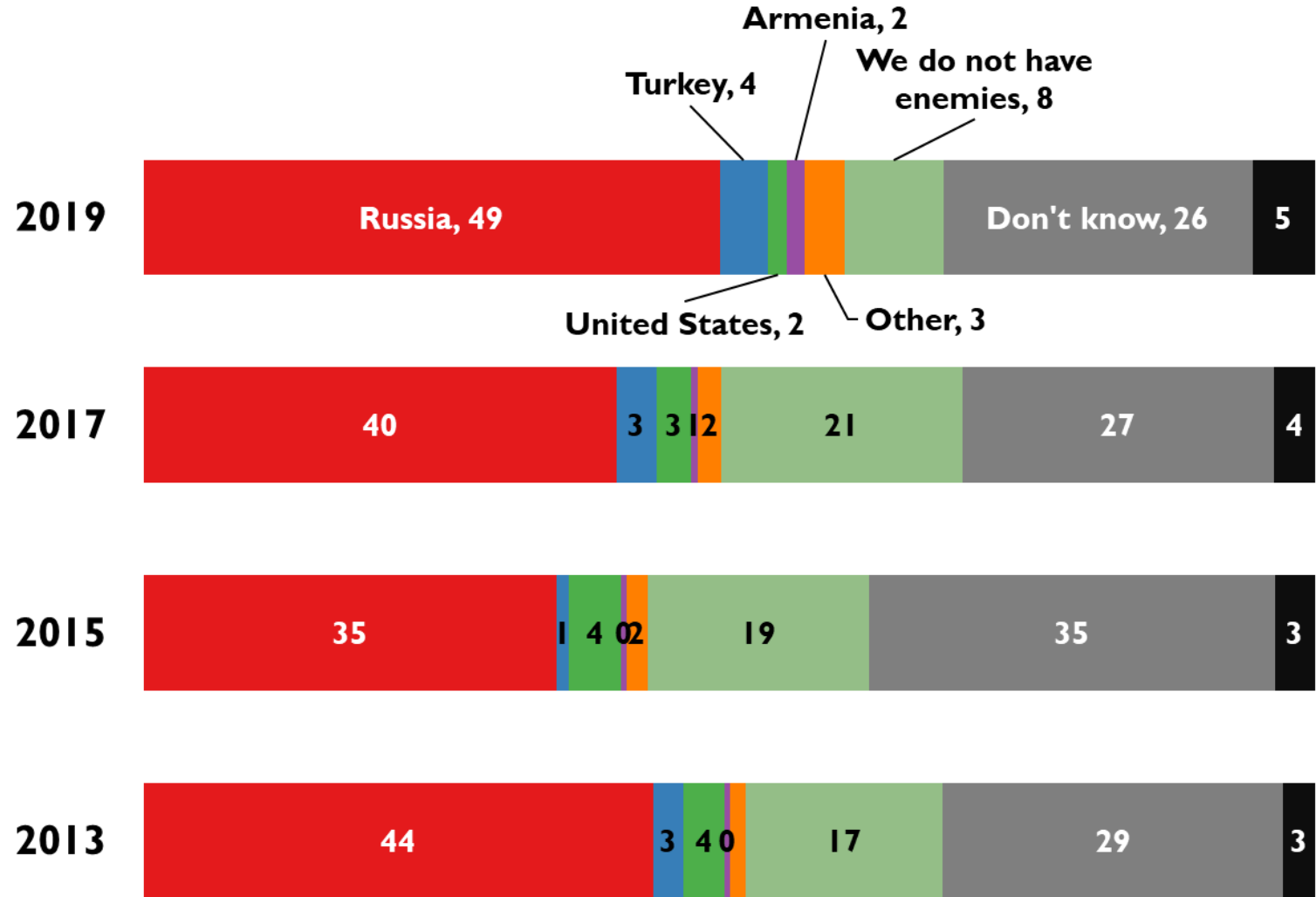
## Which country is currently the main friend of Georgia?

About a quarter of Georgians believe that the country does not have friends. There is a ten percentage point decrease in the proportion of people who perceive the United States as the main friend of Georgia



# Which country is currently the main enemy of Georgia?

About half of Georgians think that Russia is the main enemy of Georgia

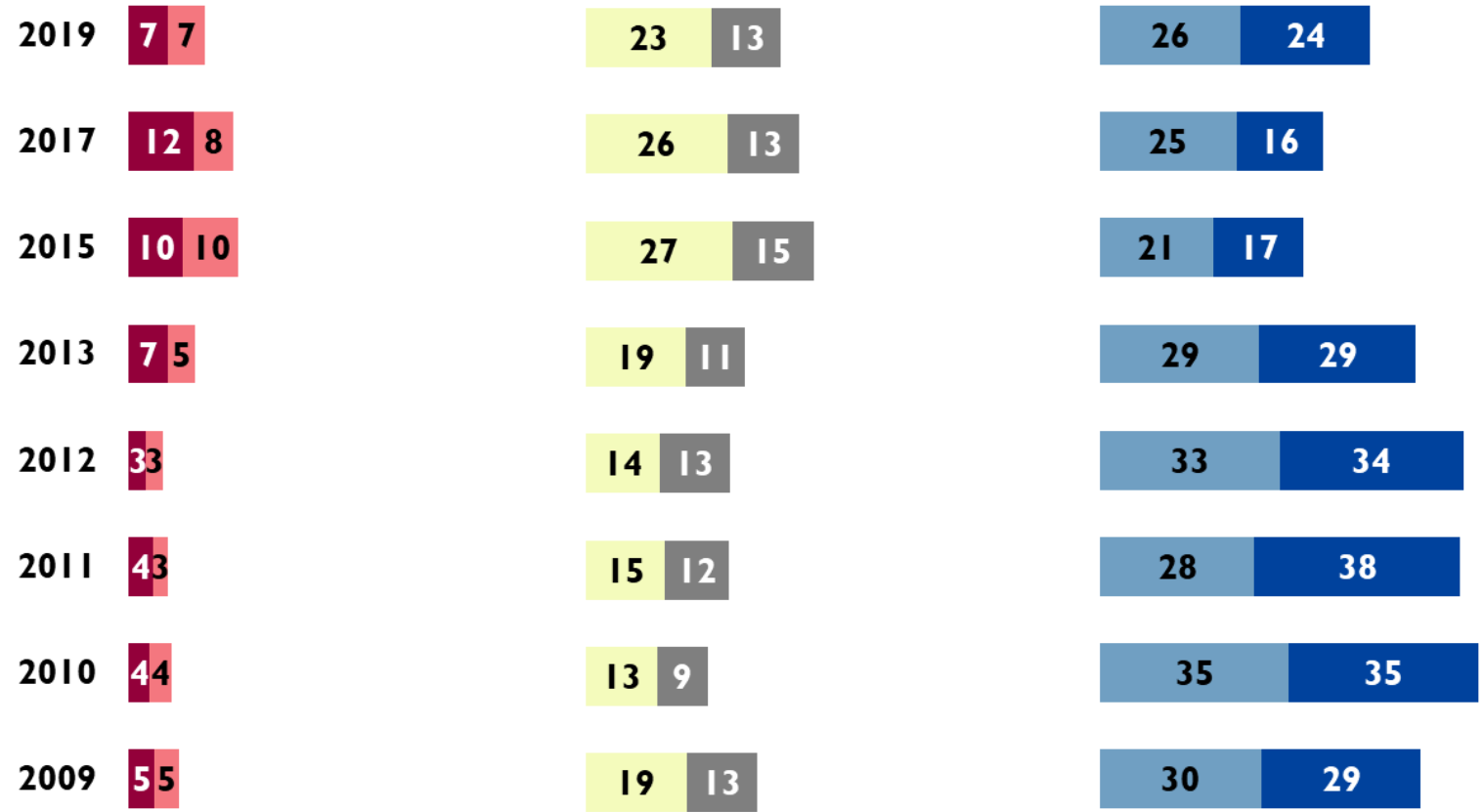


## To what extent would you support Georgia's membership in NATO?

■ Don't support at all  
 ■ Rather not support  
 ■ Partially support, partially don't support  
 ■ Don't know  
 ■ Rather support  
 ■ Fully support

Half of Georgians support the country's membership in NATO, a highest proportion since 2013

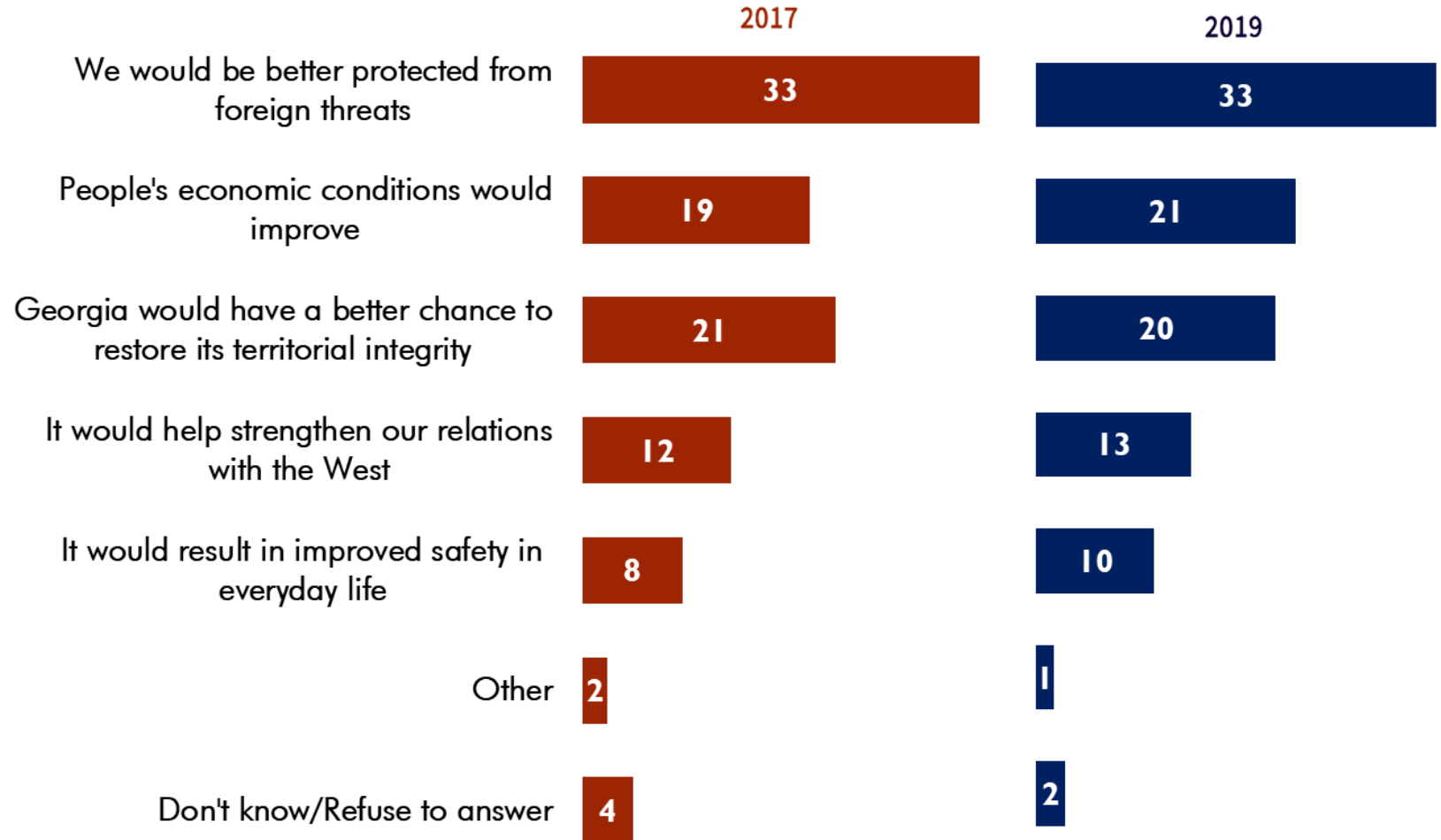
*Difference between results of this survey and other studies is due to a different wording and scale of the question asked*



Respondents substantiate their support with the belief that NATO membership will ensure the country's protection from foreign threats and will help restoring Georgia's territorial integrity

## What is the main reason you would support Georgia's membership in NATO?

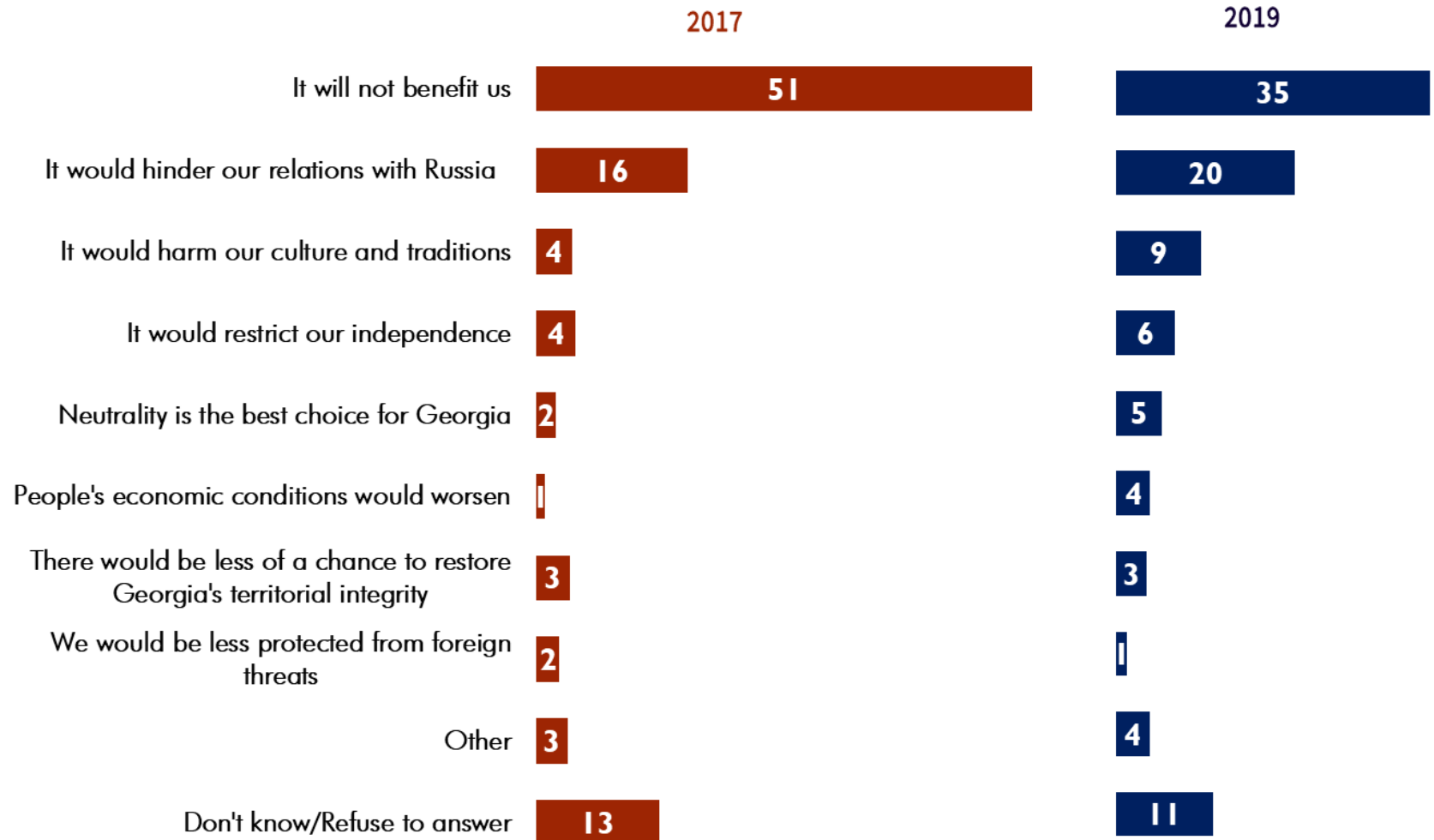
The question was asked to those respondents who supported Georgia's membership in NATO (41 and 50% in 2017 and 2019)





# What is the main reason you would not support Georgia's membership in NATO?

The question was asked to those respondents who supported Georgia's membership in NATO (20 and 14% in 2017 and 2019)

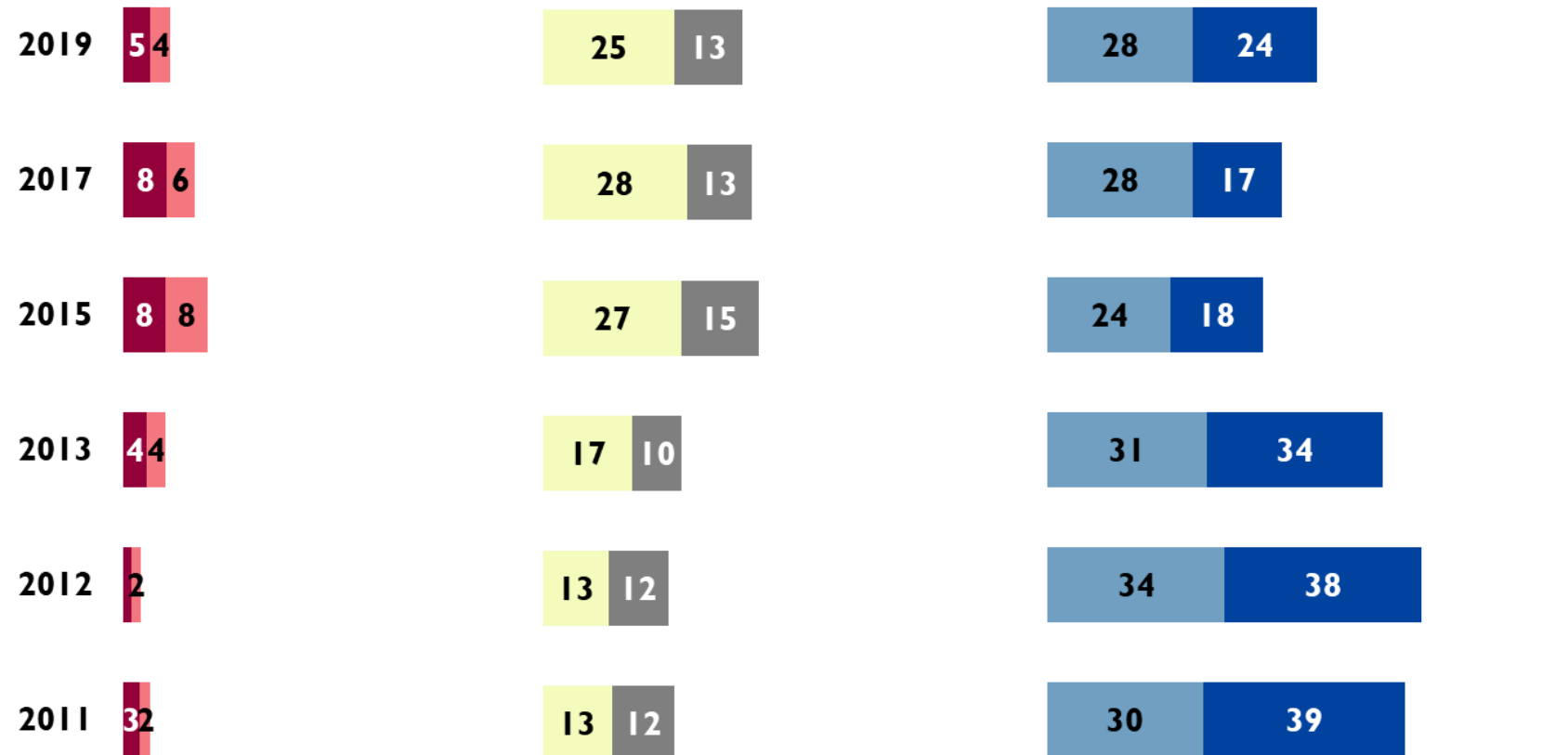


## To what extent would you support Georgia's membership in the European Union?

■ Do not support at all   ■ Partially support   ■ Rather support ■ Fully support  
■ Rather not support   ■ Don't know/Refuse to answer

More than half of Georgians support the country's membership in the European Union, a highest proportion since 2013

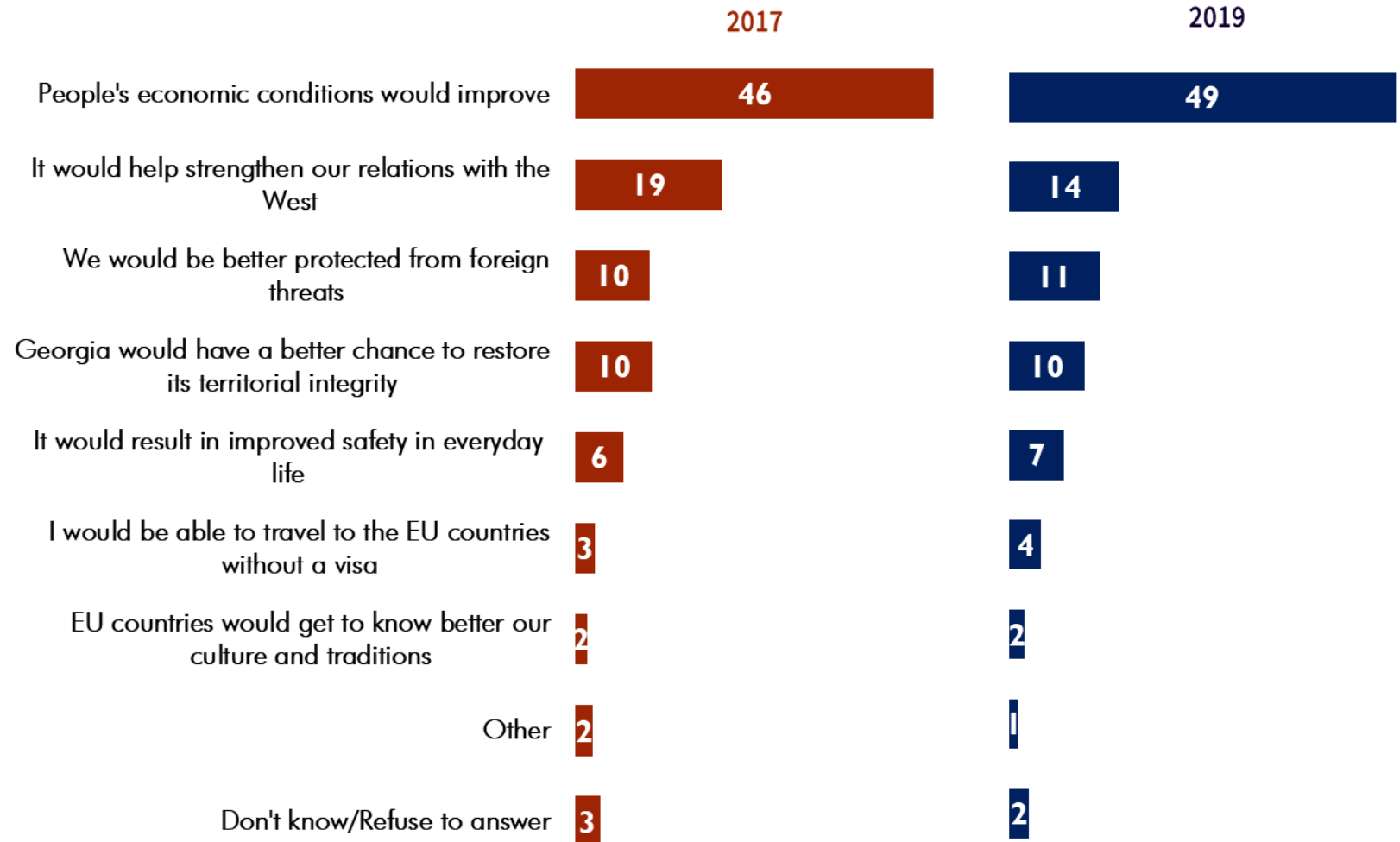
*Difference between results of this survey and other studies is due to a different wording and scale of the question asked*



Respondents explain their support with expected improvement of economic conditions

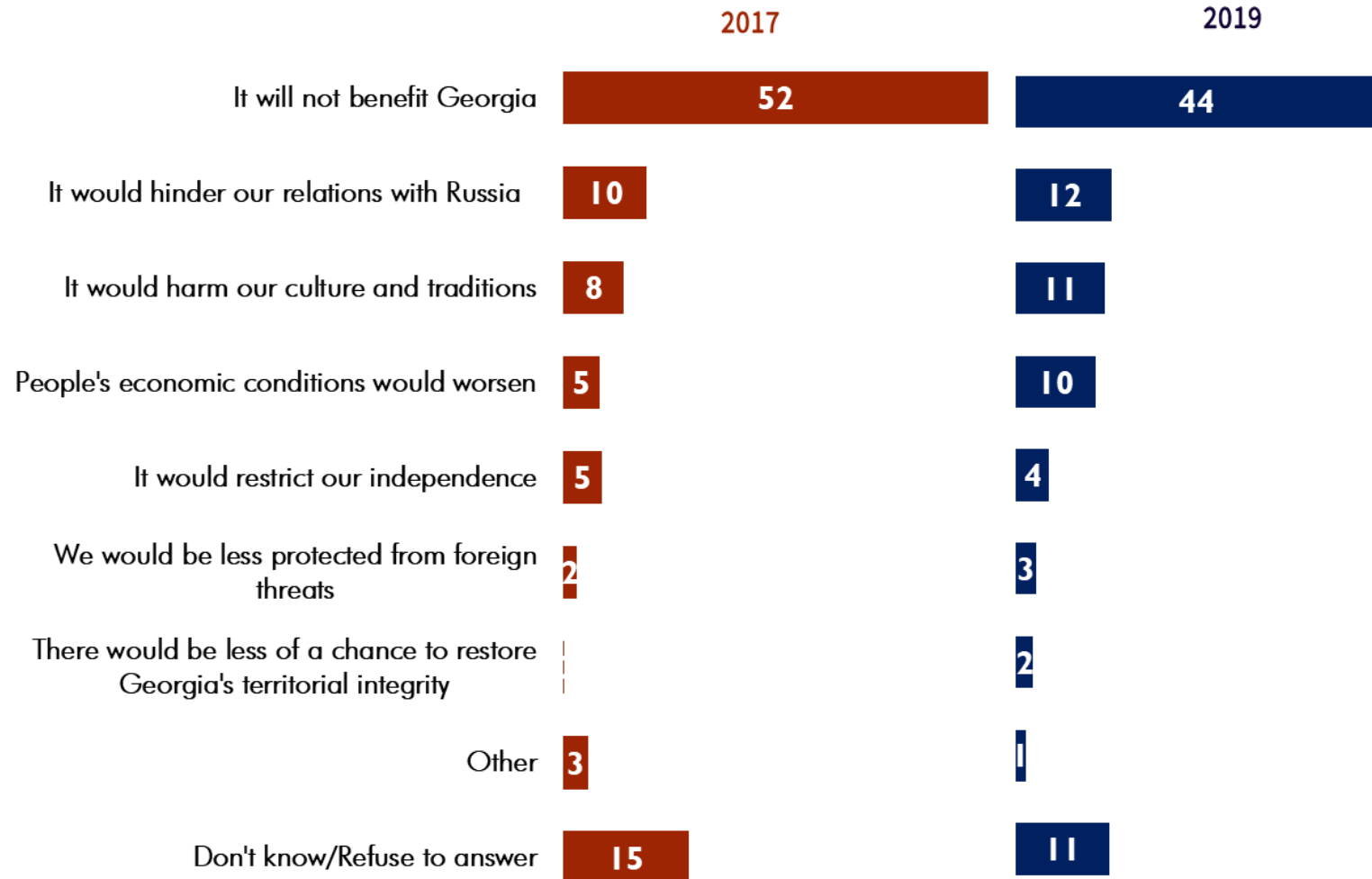
# What is the main reason you would support Georgia's membership in the European Union?

The question was asked to those respondents who supported Georgia's membership in the European Union (45 and 52% in 2017 and 2019)



# What is the main reason you would not support Georgia's membership in the European Union?

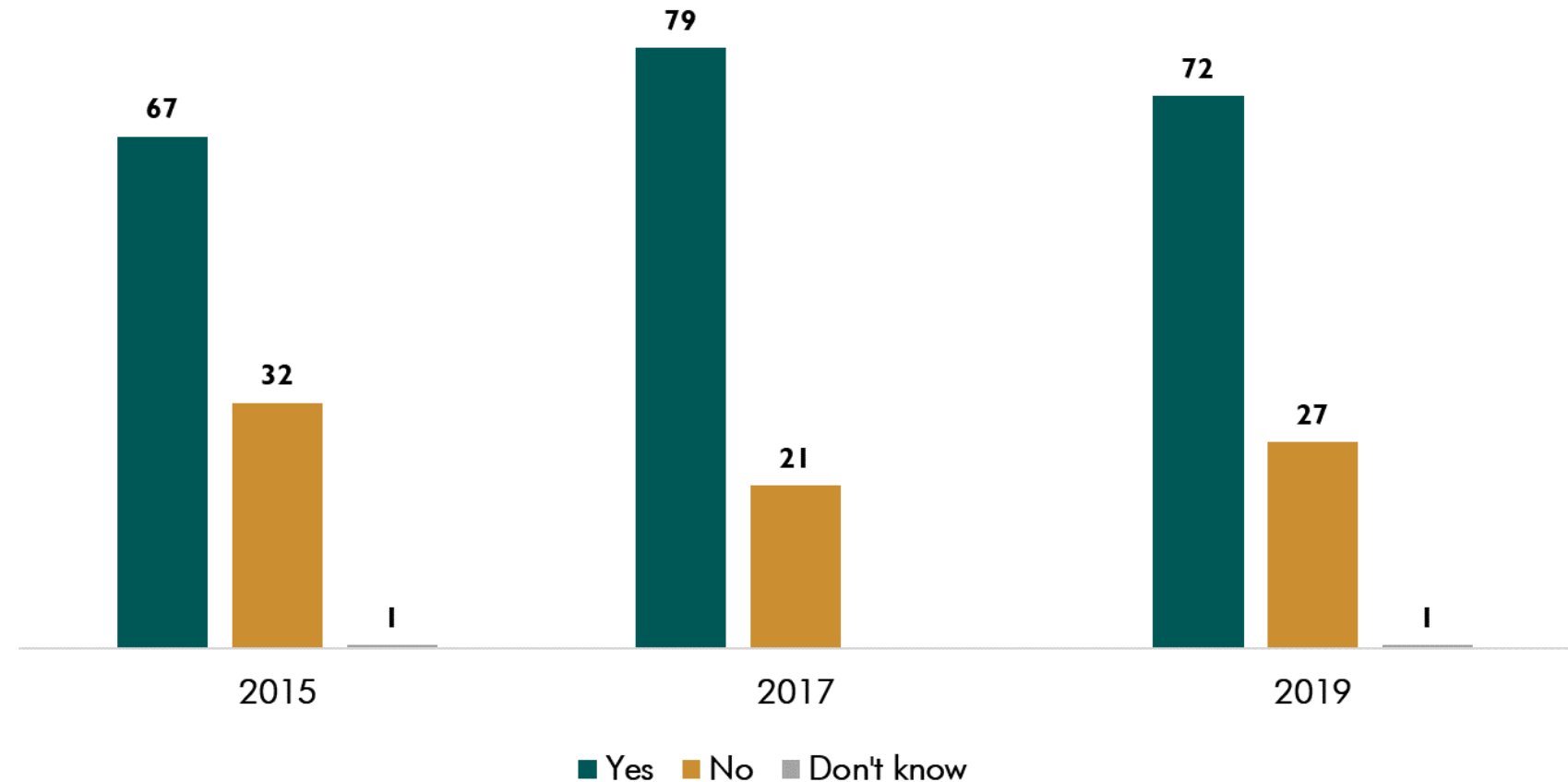
The question was asked to those respondents who supported Georgia's membership in the European Union (14 and 9% in 2017 and 2019)



# Migration

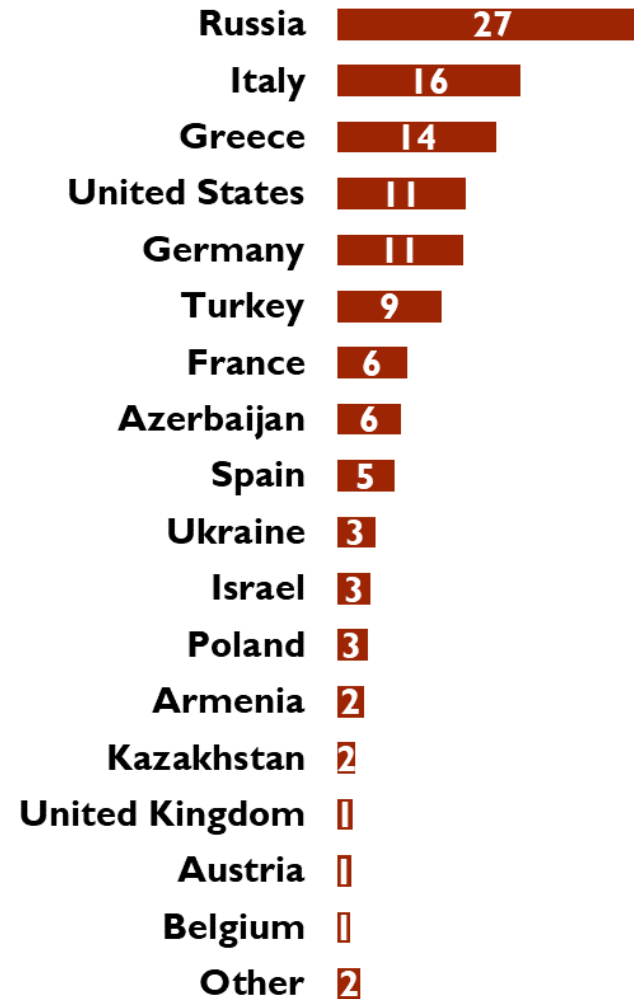
## Do you have a close relative currently living abroad, outside the borders of Georgia?

The majority of Georgians state that they have a close relative who lives abroad for more than three months



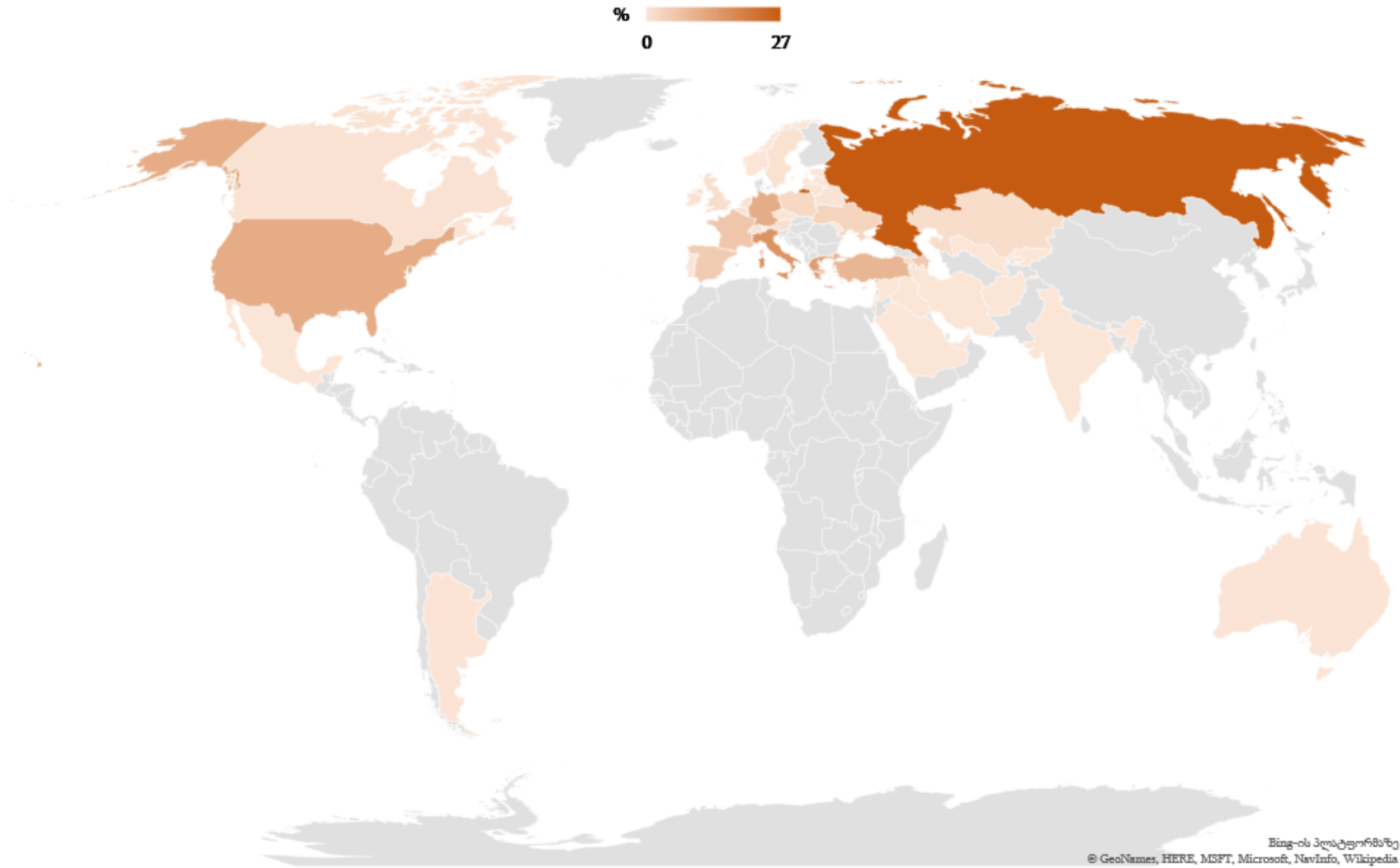
# In which country or region?

The 2019 wave of Caucasus Barometer survey. The question was asked to those respondents who said that they have a close relative abroad



## In which country or region?

The 2019 wave of Caucasus Barometer survey. The question was asked to those respondents who said that they have a close relative abroad

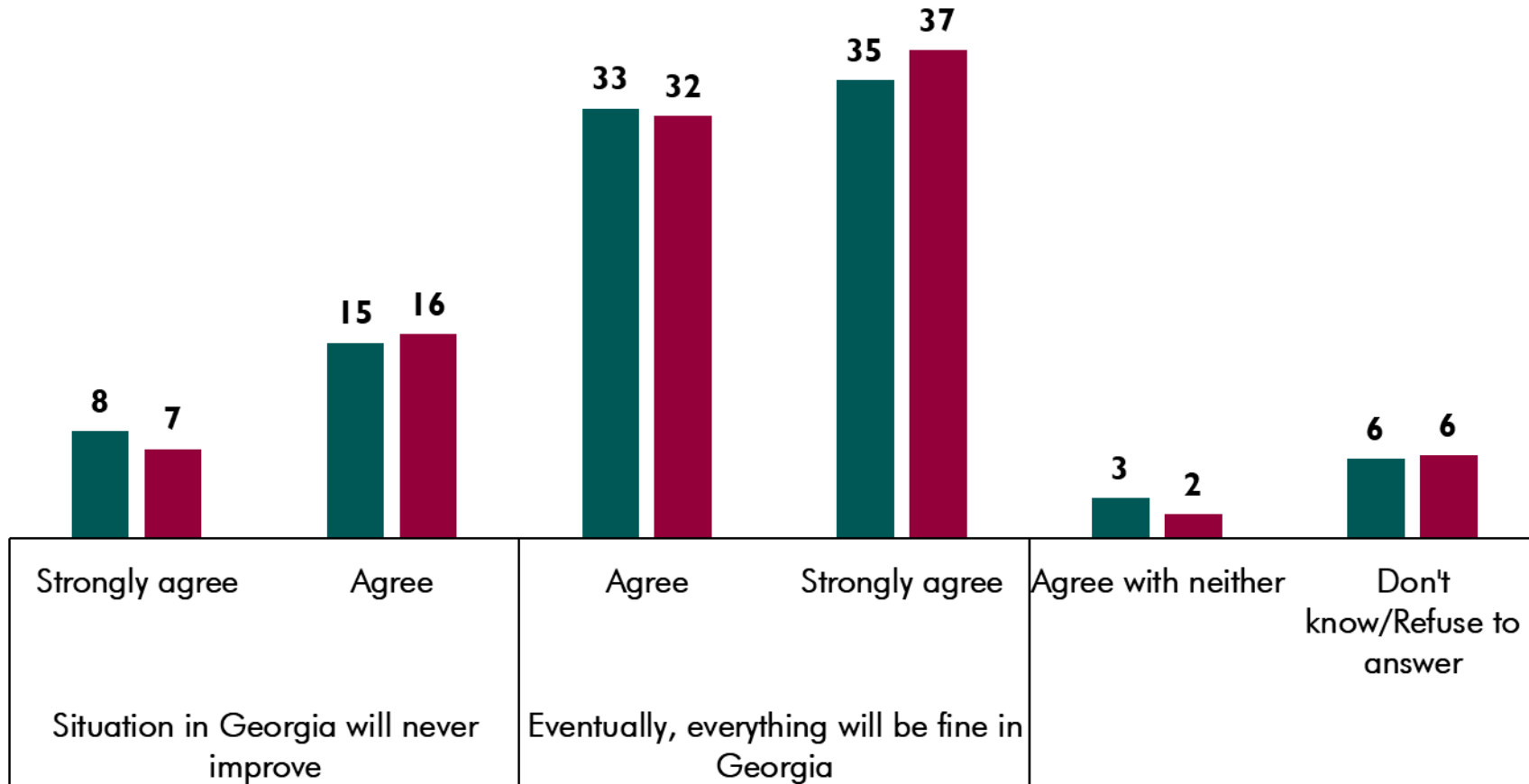




Optimism

# Which of the following statements you agree with and to what extent?

■ 2017 ■ 2019



# In Georgia, We Count!



[crrc.ge](http://crrc.ge)

[caucasusbarometer.org](http://caucasusbarometer.org)

