

Attitudes towards immigration

Survey conducted on behalf of IMiX

Wave 9 Longitudinal Survey August 2019



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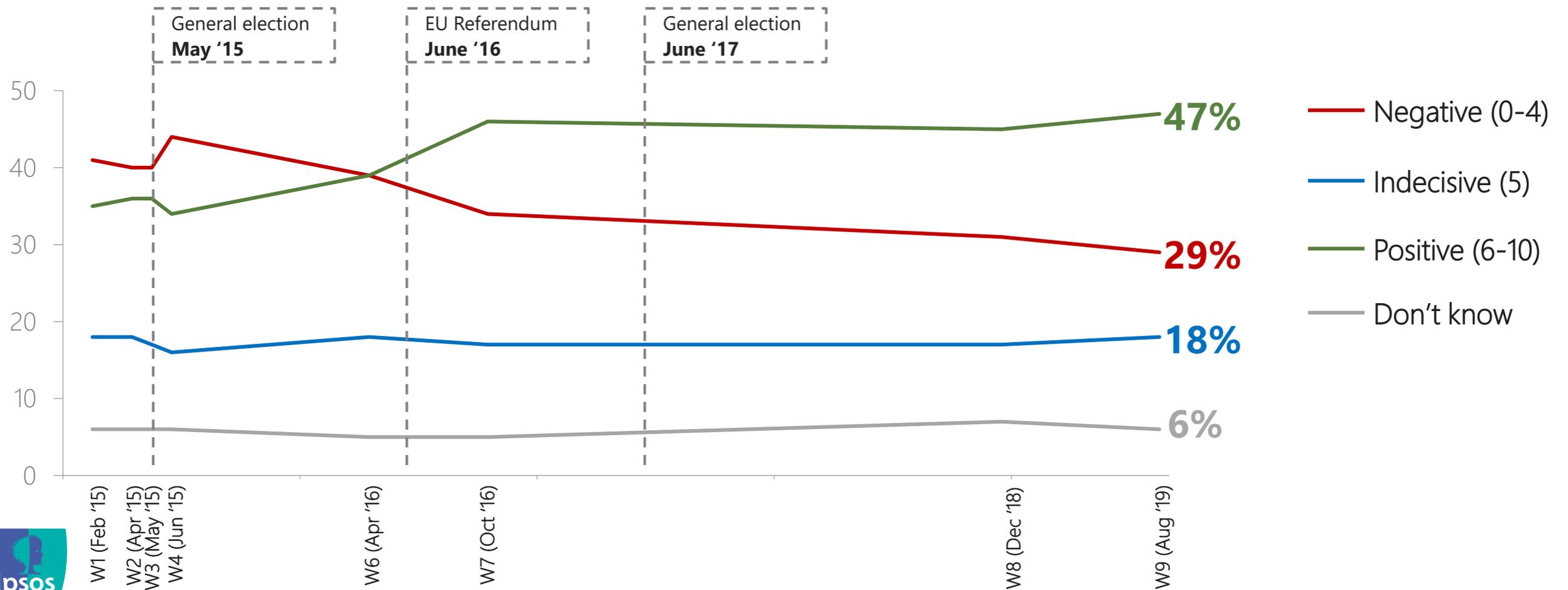
Immigration



Perceptions of immigration's impact on Britain continue to remain

positive

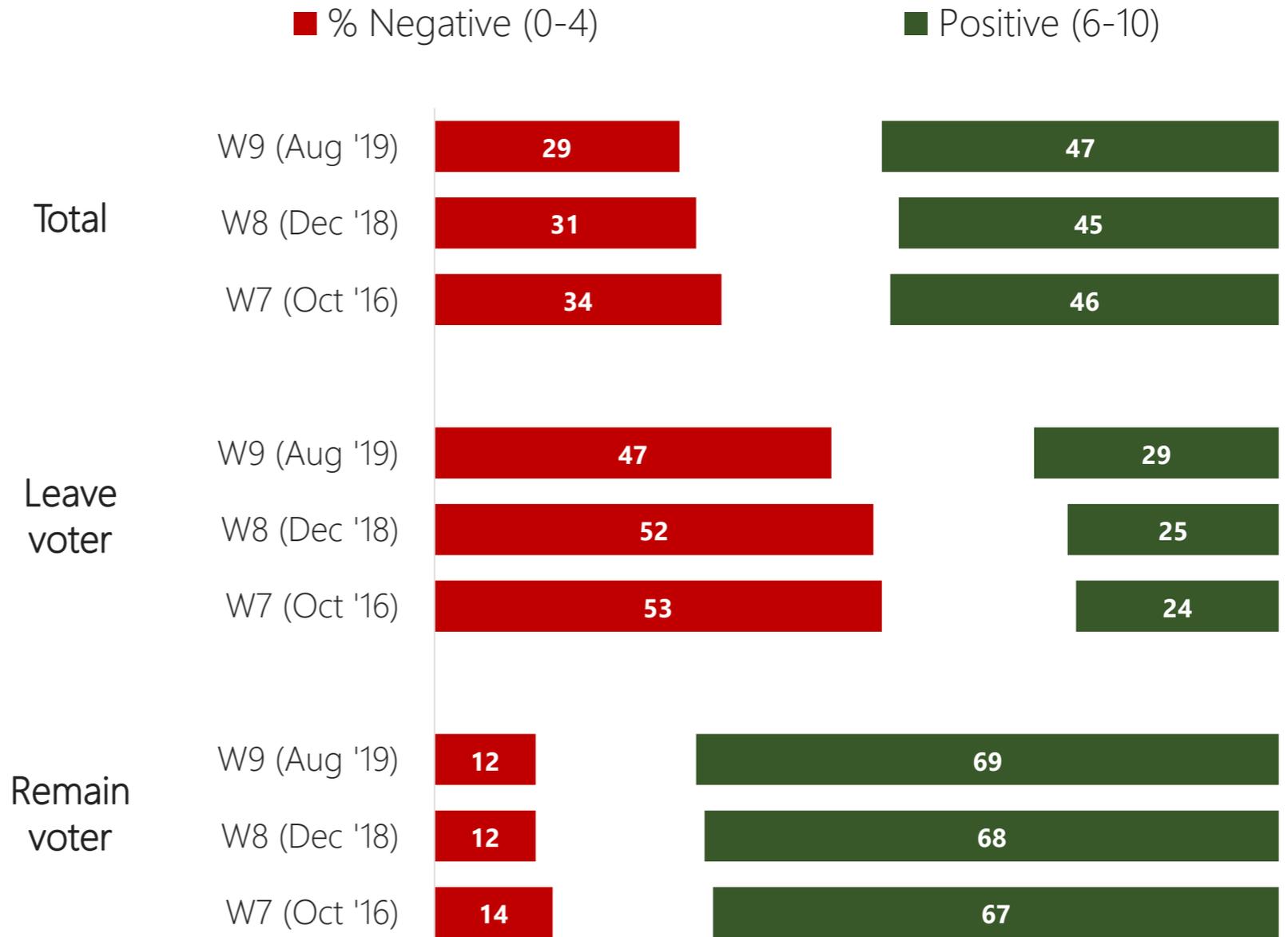
Q On a scale of 0 to 10, has migration had a positive or negative impact on Britain? (0 is "very negative", 10 is "very positive")



Base: All respondents (W1: 4574; W2: 3770; W3:3023; W4:2698; W6: 4002; W7: 4071; W8: 2520; W9 2006): Fieldwork dates: 9th – 23rd August 2019

Those who voted to leave the European Union in the 2016 referendum are more likely to have become less negative towards immigration since October 2016

Q On a scale of 0 to 10, has migration had a positive or negative impact on Britain? (0 is "very negative", 10 is "very positive")



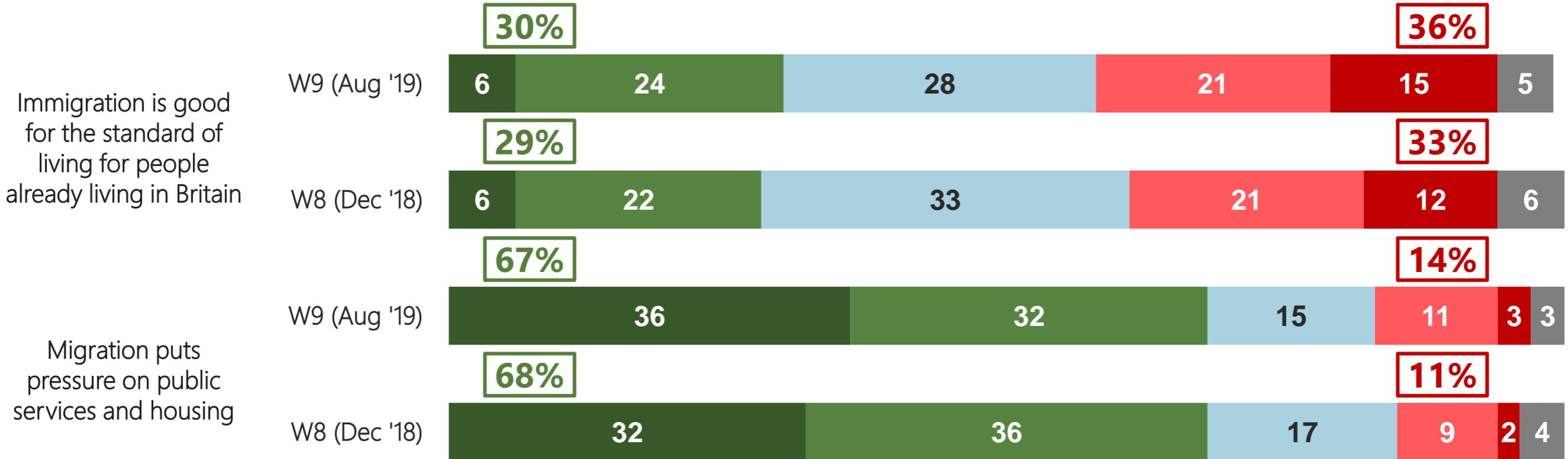
Base: All respondents (W7: 4071; W8: 2520; W9: 2006); Fieldwork dates: 9th – 23rd August 2019

Britons are split on whether immigration improves people's standard of living and a

large majority continue to feel it has put pressure on public services and housing

Q To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following?

■ % Strongly agree
 ■ % Tend to agree
 ■ % Neither / nor
 ■ % Tend to disagree
 ■ % Strongly disagree
 ■ % Don't know

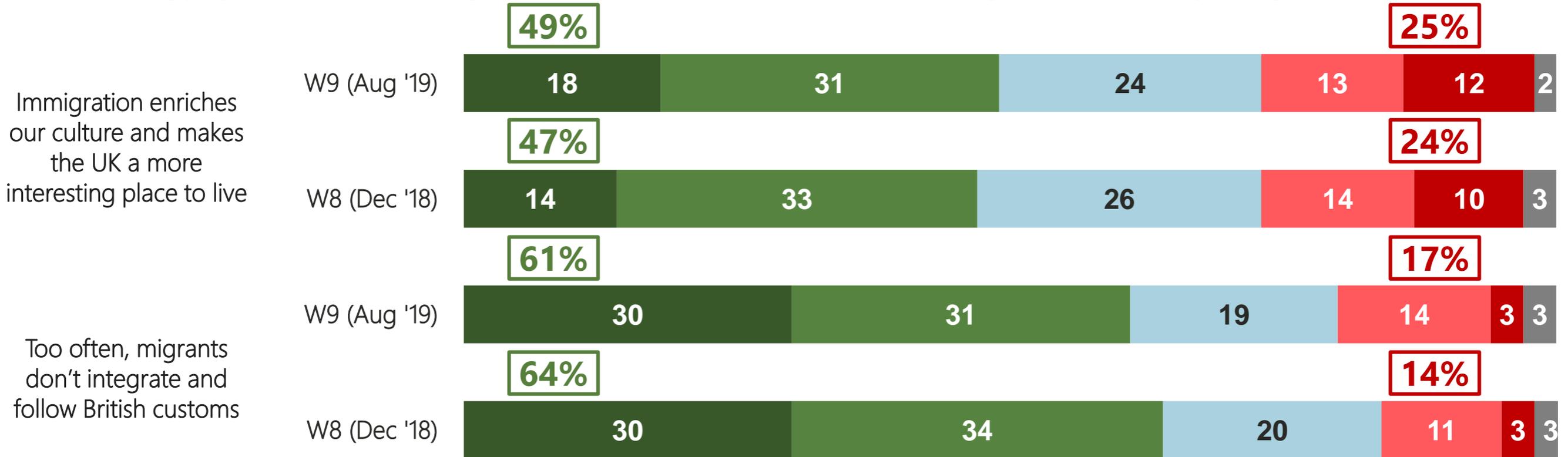


Base: All respondents (W8: 2520; W9: 2006); Fieldwork dates: 9th – 23rd August 2019

Half of Britons agree that immigration enriches UK culture and makes it a more interesting place to live, but three in five believe that too often, migrants don't integrate and follow British customs.

Q To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following?

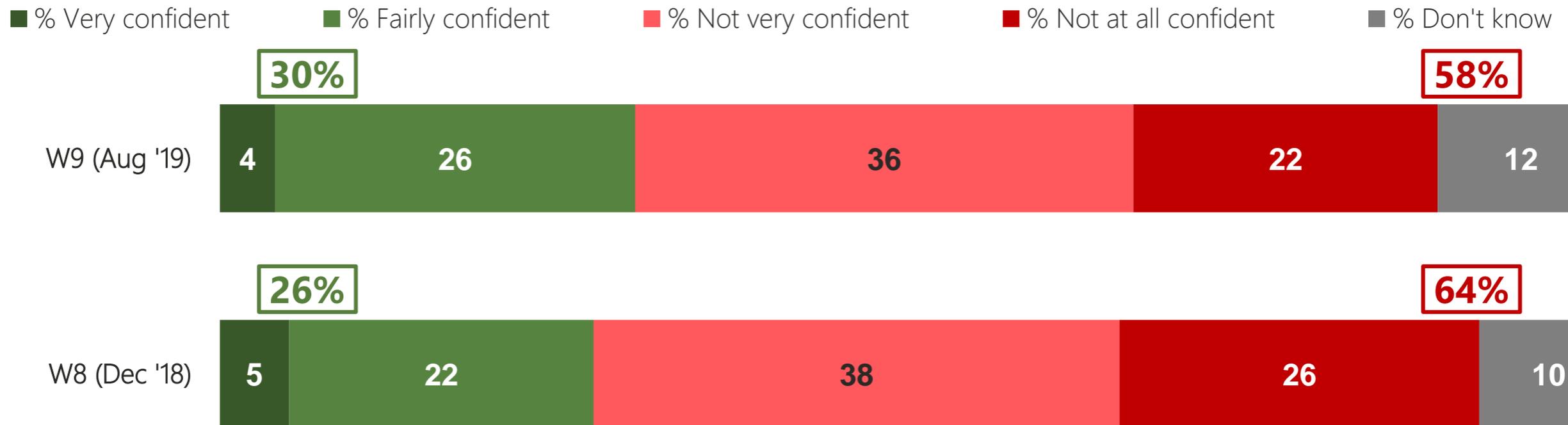
■ % Strongly agree ■ % Tend to agree ■ % Neither / nor ■ % Tend to disagree ■ % Strongly disagree ■ % Don't know



Base: All respondents (W8: 2520; W9: 2006); Fieldwork dates: 9th – 23rd August 2019

A majority of Britons still lack confidence in the Home Office to register EU citizens correctly although confidence has slightly improved since December

Q As you may know, in March 2019 the Home Office opened up a registration scheme for EU citizens who currently live in the UK so that they can stay in the country after Brexit. How confident, if at all, are you that the Home Office will carry out the registration of EU citizens correctly to ensure that those who have the legal right to live in the UK will not be wrongly forced to leave?

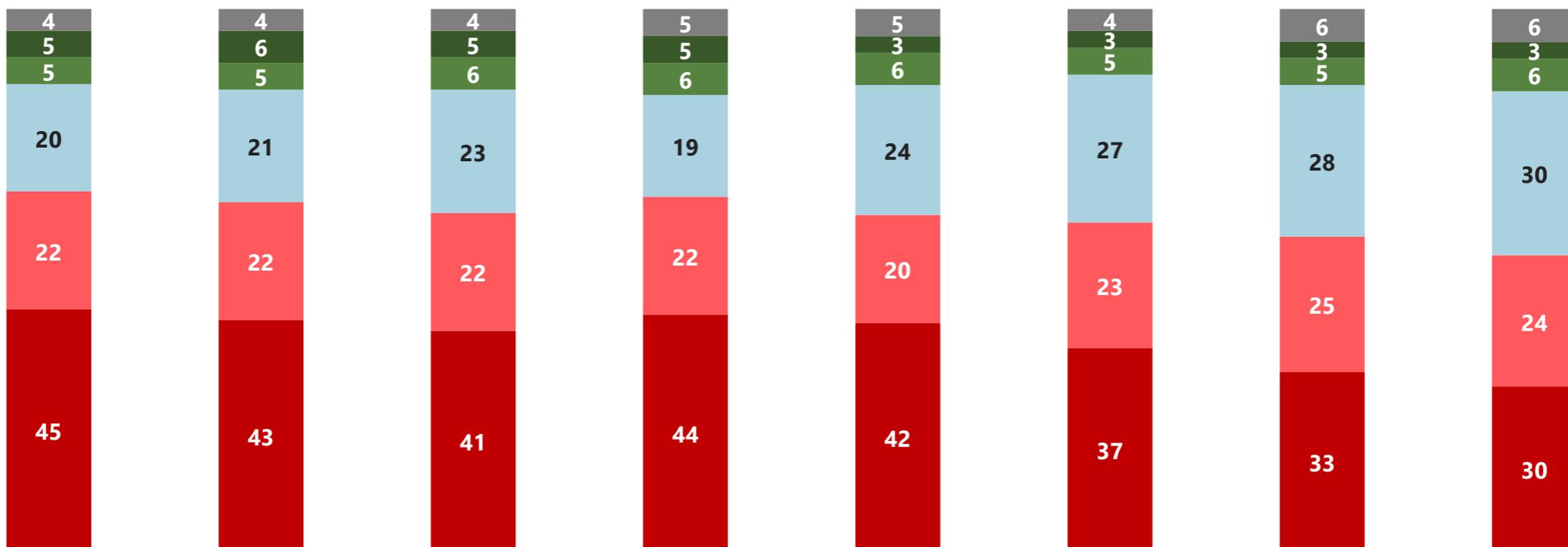


Base: All respondents (W8: 2520; W9: 2006); Fieldwork dates: 9th – 23rd August 2019

While the majority of Britons still want to see immigration numbers reduced, the proportion continues to decrease since June 2015

Q Do you think the number of immigrants coming to Britain nowadays should be increased a lot, increased a little, remain the same as it is, reduced a little, or reduced a lot?

■ % Reduced a lot ■ % Reduced a little ■ % Remain the same as it is ■ % Increased a little ■ % Increased a lot ■ % Don't know



W1 (Feb '15)

W2 (Apr '15)

W3 (May '15)

W4 (Jun '15)

W6 (Apr '16)

W7 (Oct '16)

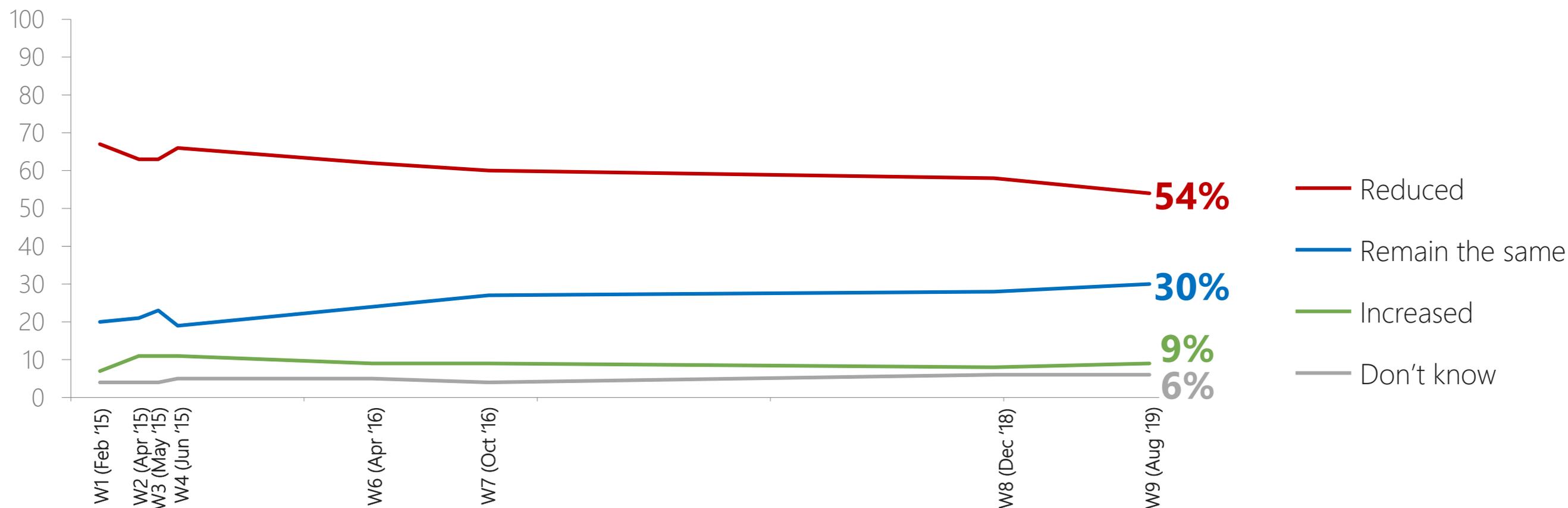
W8 (Dec '18)

W9 (Aug '19)

Base: All respondents (W1: 4574; W2: 3770; W3:3023; W4:2698; W6: 4002; W7: 4071; W8: 2520; W9: 2006): Fieldwork dates: 9th – 23rd August 2019

While the majority of Britons still want to see immigration numbers reduced, the proportion continues to decrease since June 2015

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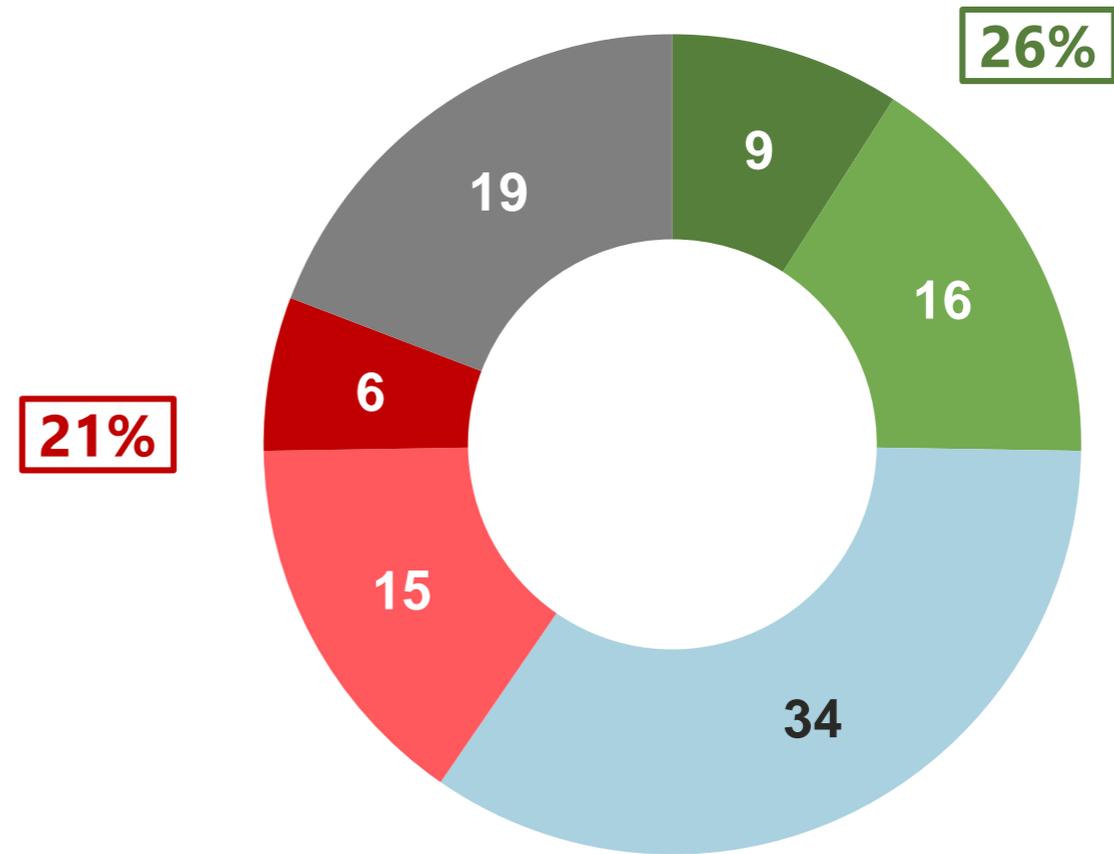


Base: All respondents (W1: 4574; W2: 3770; W3:3023; W4:2698; W6: 4002; W7: 4071; W8: 2520; W9 2006): Fieldwork dates: 9th – 23rd August 2019

Britons are split on whether illegal immigration from the European Union will change once the UK leaves the EU. One in five say it will decrease, a quarter say it will increase and a third say it will stay the same

Q Do you think that once the UK leaves the European Union, the number of immigrants entering the UK illegally from other EU countries will increase, decrease or remain the same?

- % Increase a lot
- % Increase a little
- % Stay the same
- % Decrease a little
- % Decrease a lot
- % Don't know



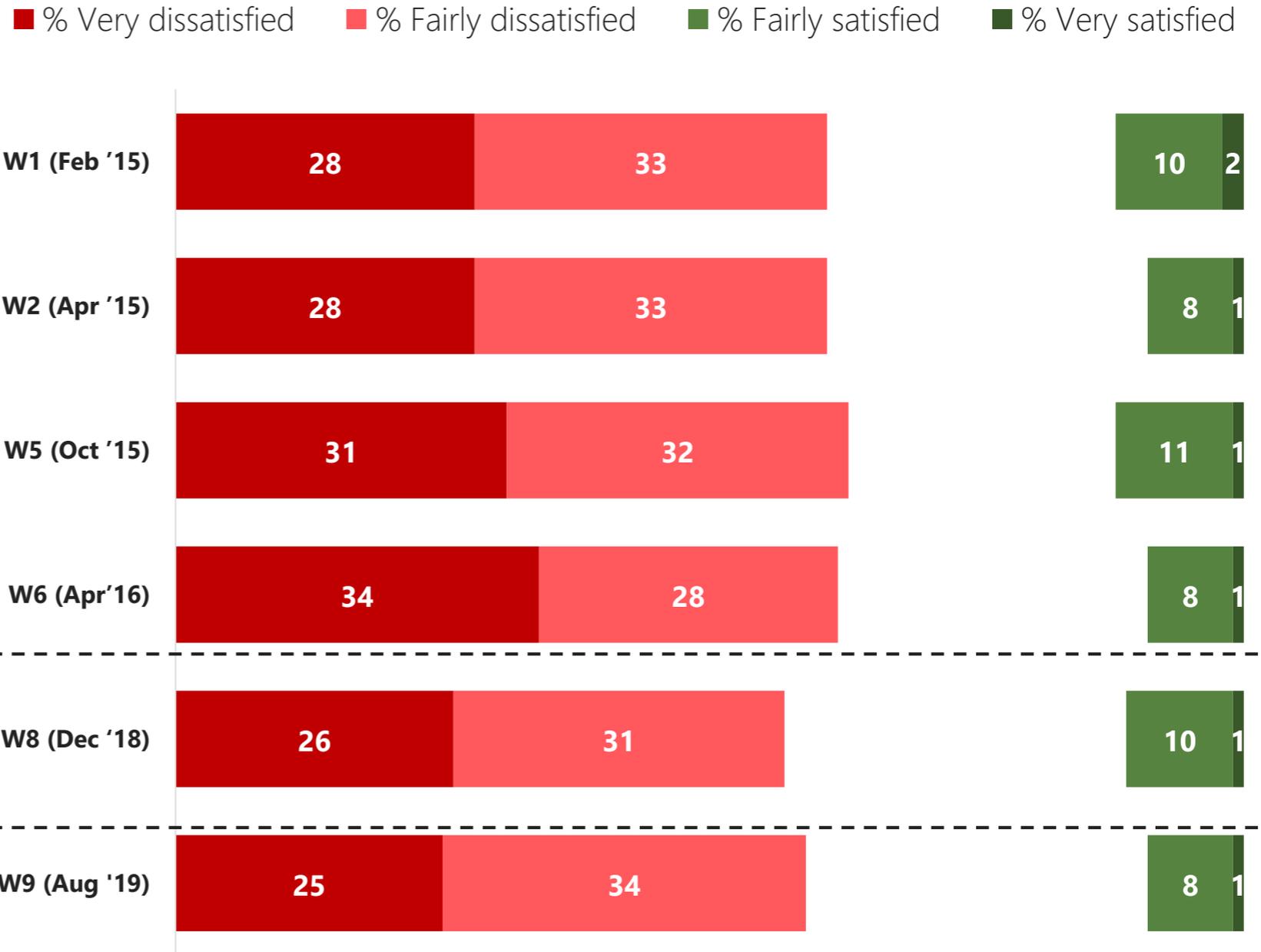
Base: All respondents (W9: 2006): Fieldwork dates: 9th – 23rd August 2019

Just as many are dissatisfied with how the current government is dealing with immigration as with the previous government

Q Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the way the current government is dealing with immigration?

July '16 Theresa May becomes Prime Minister

July '19 Boris Johnson becomes Prime Minister

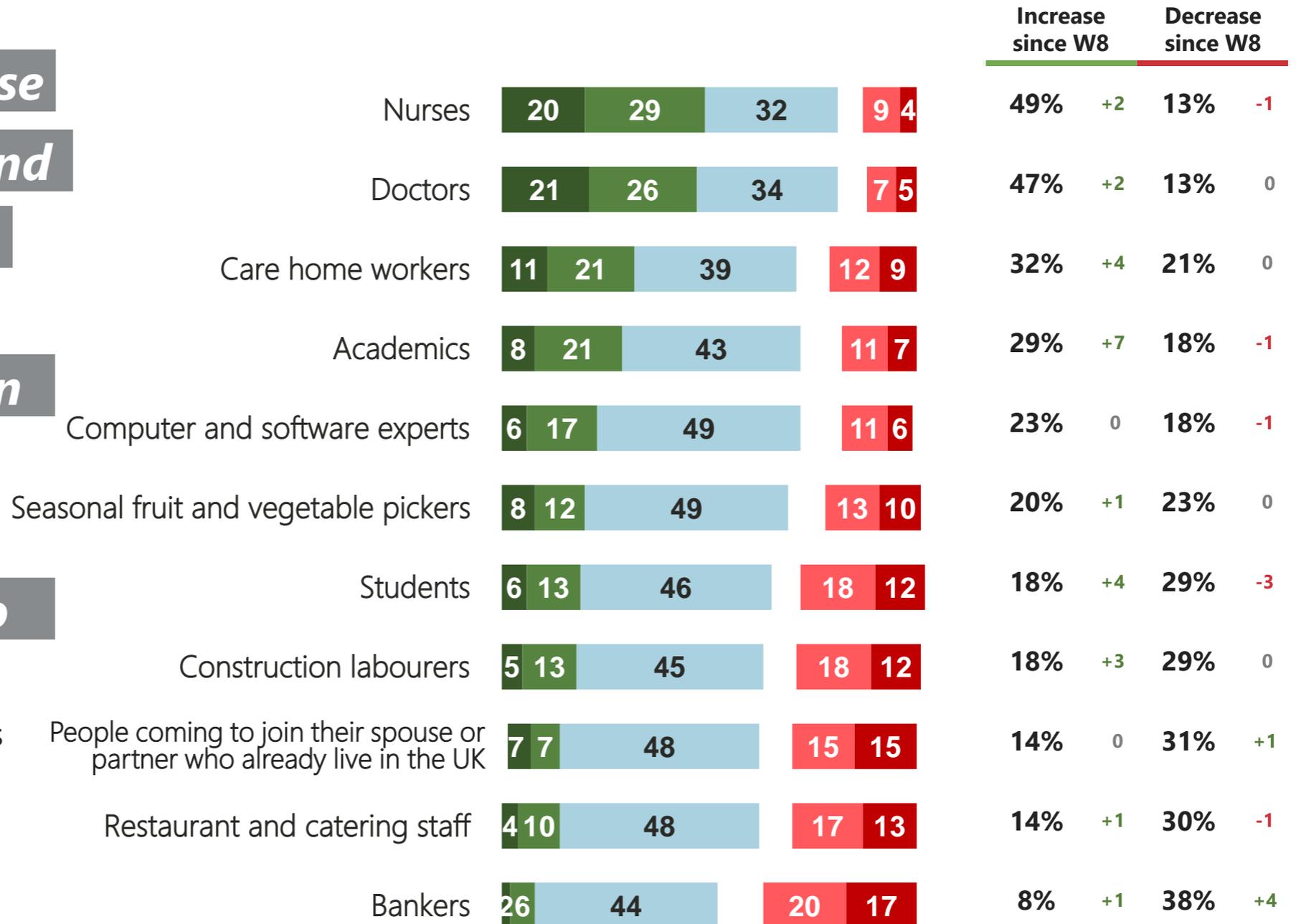


Base: All respondents (W1: 4574; W2: 3770; W5:1941; W6: 4002; W8: 2520; W9: 2006): Fieldwork dates: Fieldwork dates: 9th – 23rd August 2019

■ % Increased a lot ■ % Increased a little ■ % Remain about the same ■ % Decreased a little ■ % Decreased a lot

Almost half of Britons still want to see an increase in the number of nurses and doctors coming to the UK from the EU post-Brexit. While three in ten want an increase in care home workers and academics - more than six months ago

Q After Britain leaves the European Union, would you prefer the number of EU citizens from each of the below groups coming to live in the UK to be increased, reduced, or should it remain about the same?



Base: All respondents (W8: 2520; W9: 2006); Fieldwork dates: 9th – 23rd August 2019

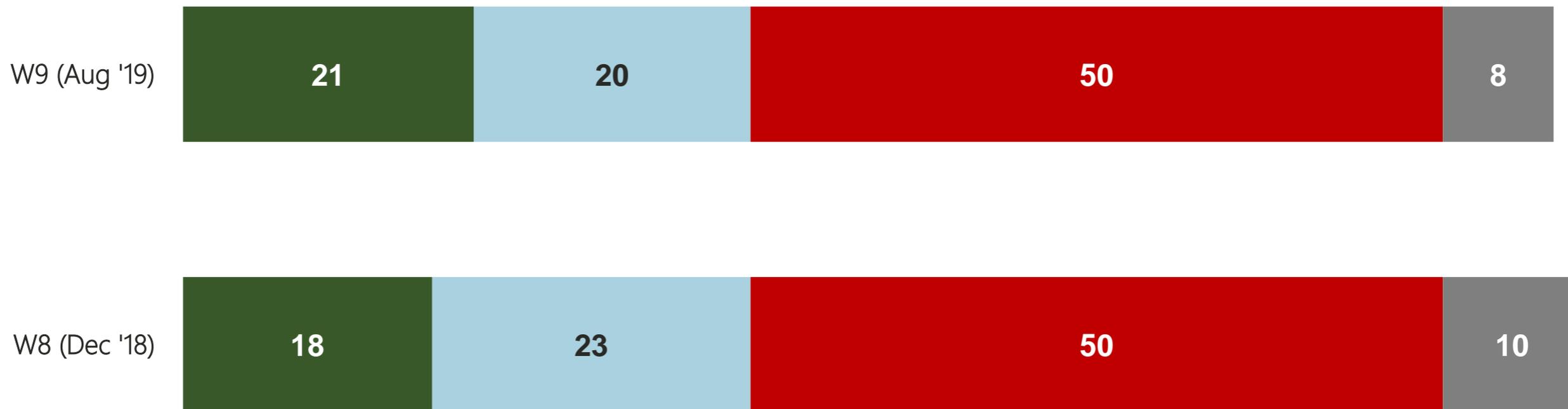
Economic outlook



Half still think the country is moving in the wrong direction. On the other hand, one in five think it's moving in the right direction – a marginal increase since December

Q Do you think the UK is moving in the right or wrong direction?

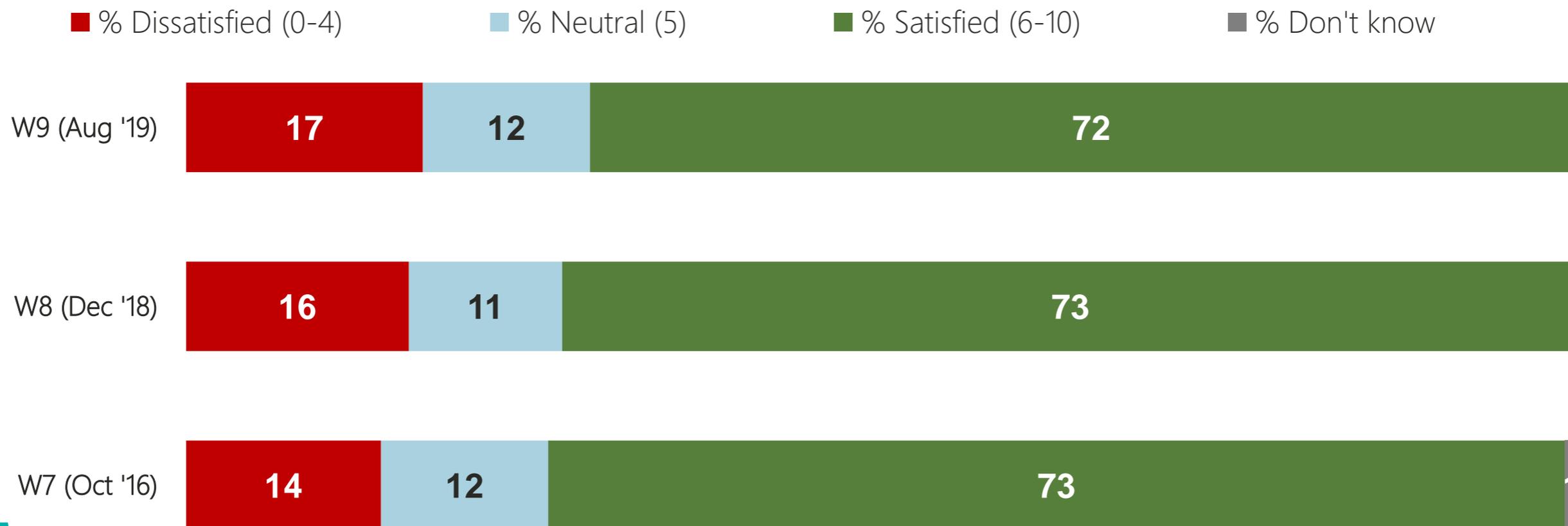
■ % Right direction ■ % Neither the right or wrong direction ■ % Wrong direction ■ % Don't know



Base: All respondents (W8: 2520; W9: 2006); Fieldwork dates: 9th – 23rd August 2019

Three-quarters say they are satisfied with their life, little change since October 2016

Q All things considered, how satisfied are you with your life as a whole nowadays? Where 0 means extremely dissatisfied and 10 means extremely satisfied.

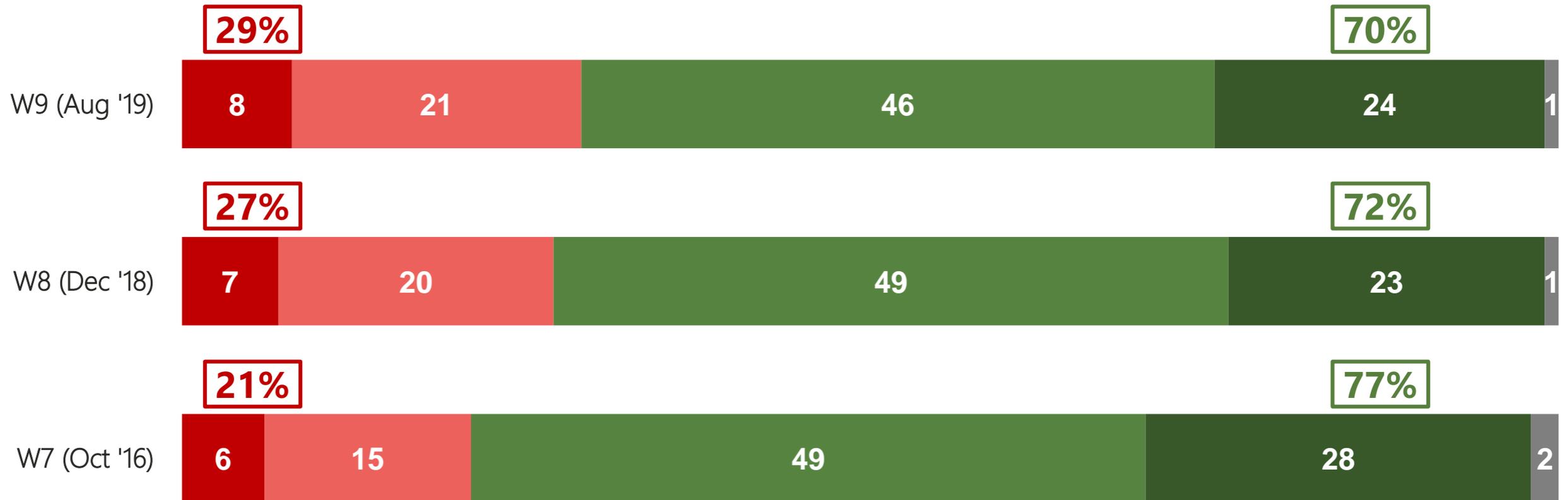


Base: All respondents (W7: 4071; W8: 2520; W9: 2006); Fieldwork dates: 9th – 23rd August 2019

Three in ten find it difficult to get by on their present income- an increase since 2016

Q Which of the descriptions comes closest to how you feel about your household's income nowadays?

■ % Finding it very difficult on present income
 ■ % Finding it difficult on present income
 ■ % Coping on present income
 ■ % Living comfortably on present income
 ■ % Don't know



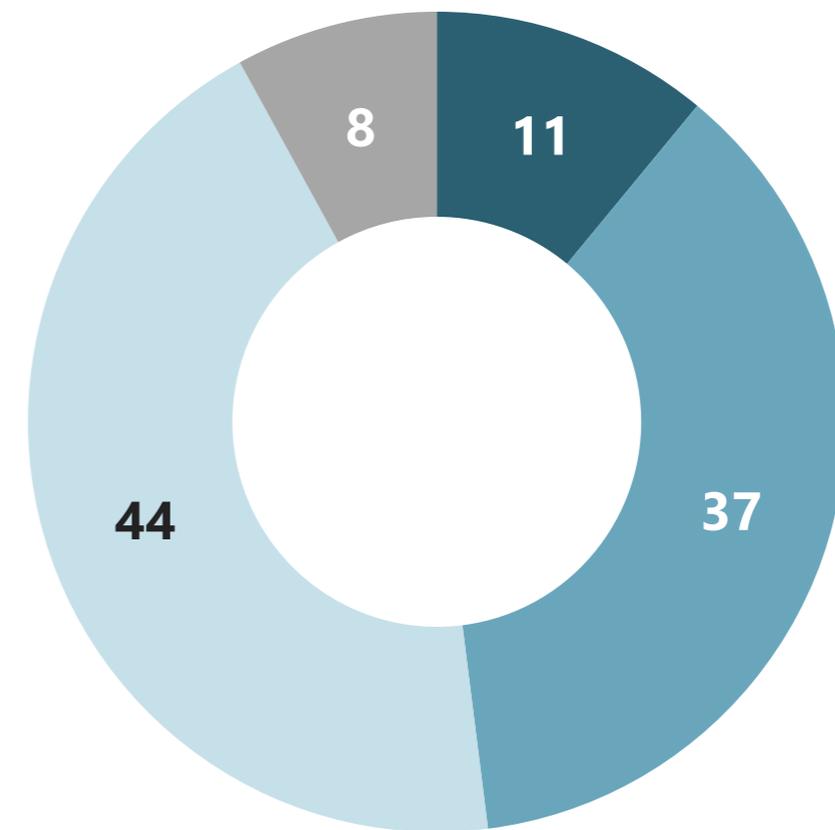
Base: All respondents (W7: 4071; W8: 2520; W9: 2006); Fieldwork dates: 9th – 23rd August 2019

Citizenship

When it comes to immigrants who live in Britain permanently, Britons are split on whether the government should encourage them to apply for British citizenship or if it should be up to the individual to decide. Only one in nine think they should be given citizenship automatically

Q What do you think should happen to people who have immigrated to the UK and are now living here permanently?

- % They should be given automatic British Citizenship
- % They should be encouraged by the government to apply for British Citizenship
- % It should be left up to individuals to decide if they want to apply for British Citizenship or not
- % Don't know



Question context:

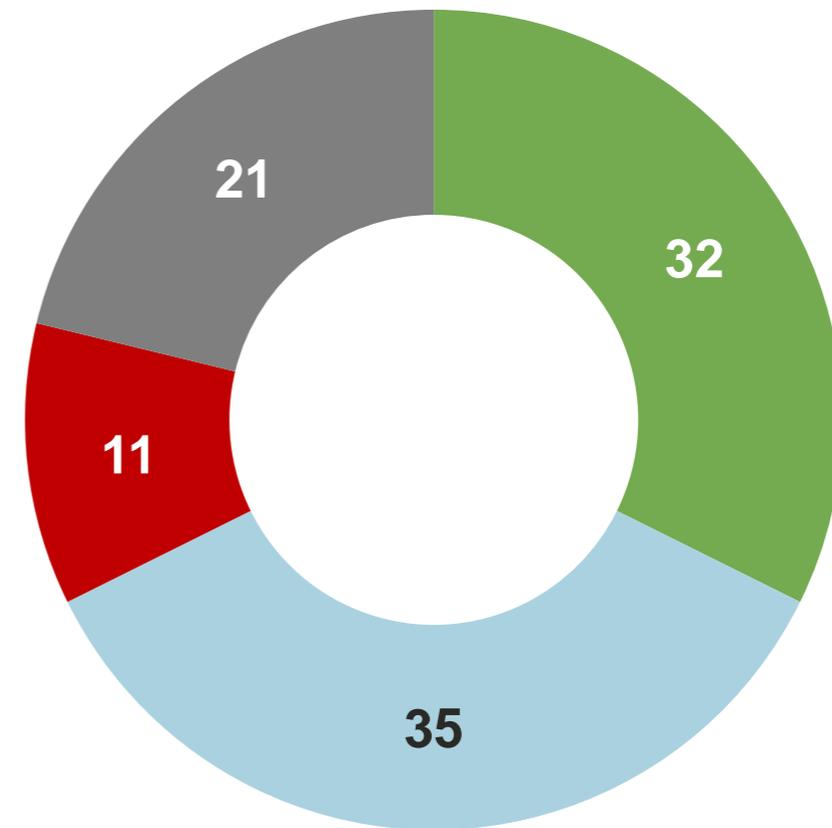
Many people who come to live in the UK are given the right to live here permanently, however, this does not mean they get automatic British citizenship. They need to apply separately for citizenship. In some cases, where a foreign nation does not accept dual citizenship, someone applying for British citizenship may have to give up other citizenship(s) they hold.

Base: All respondents (W9: 2006): Fieldwork dates: 9th – 23rd August 2019

When asked if the British government should do more, less or the same amount to encourage immigrants living in Britain to become citizens, Britons are split between thinking the government should do more or the same amount

Q Do you think the British government should do more, do less or about the same amount as they are doing now to encourage immigrants who live in Britain permanently to become British citizens?

- % Do more
- % The same amount
- % Do less
- % Don't know

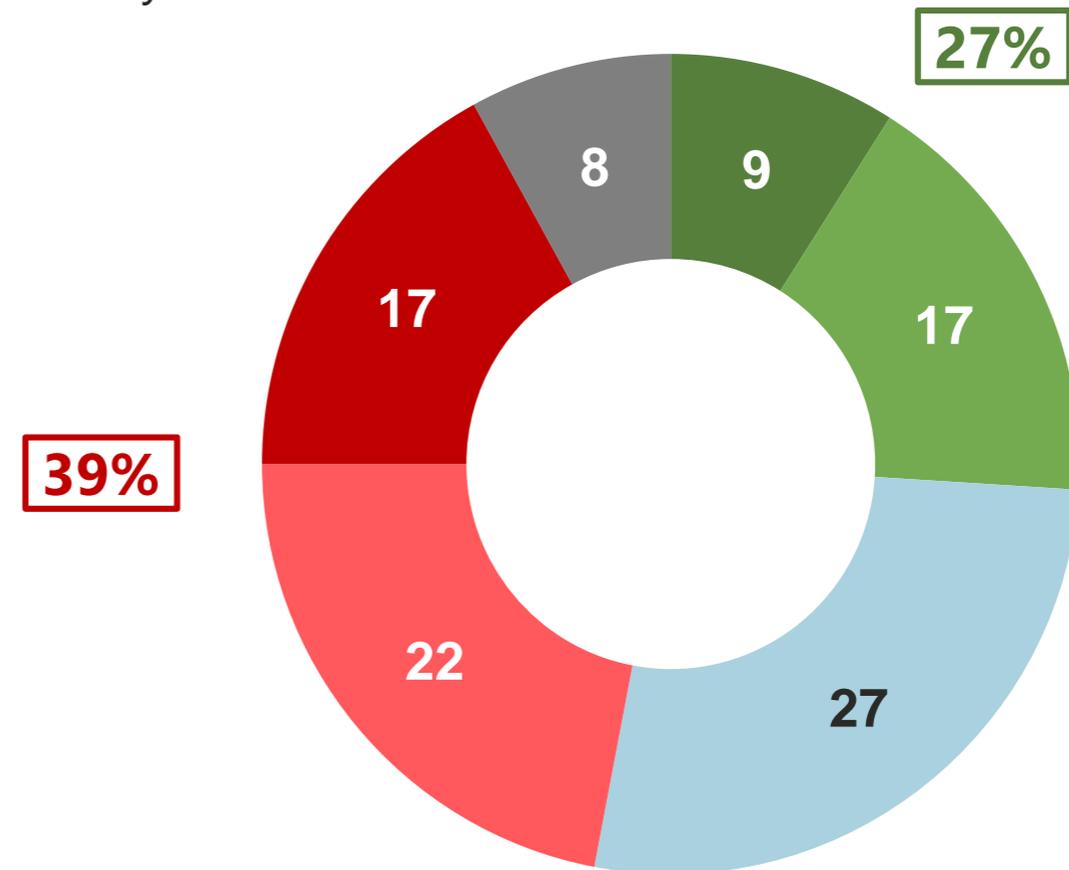


Base: All respondents (W9: 2006): Fieldwork dates: 9th – 23rd August 2019

However, the public are divided on whether or not the process of becoming a citizen should be made easier to encourage more immigrants to apply for citizenship

Q To what extent do you agree or disagree that the process for becoming a British citizen should be made as easy as possible to encourage more immigrants who live here permanently to become British citizens?

- % Strongly agree
- % Tend to agree
- % Neither agree nor disagree
- % Tend to disagree
- % Strongly disagree
- % Don't know

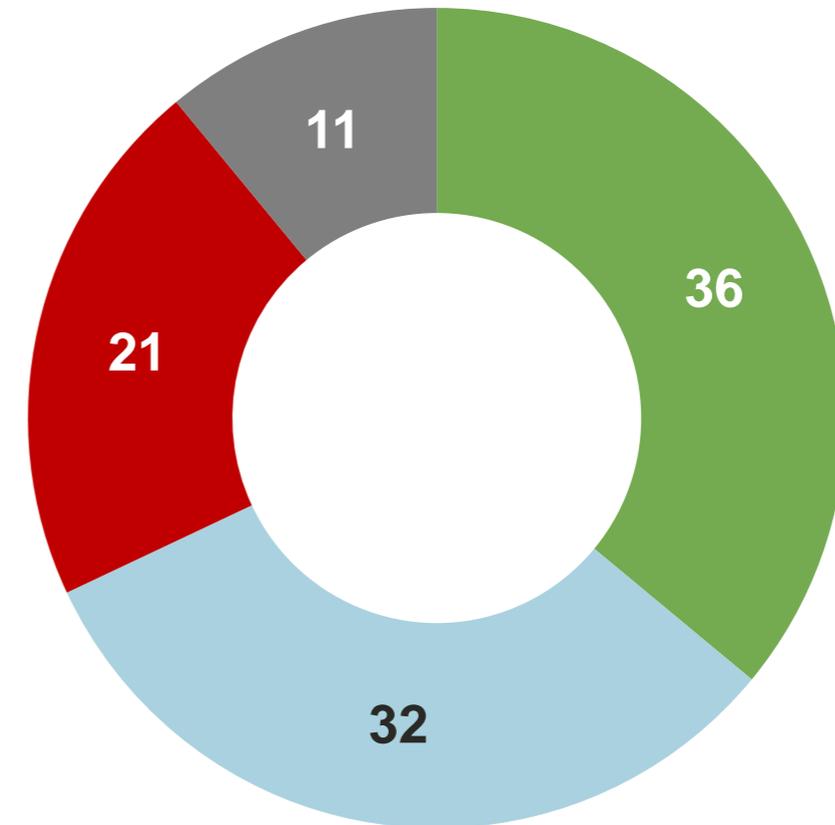


Base: All respondents (W9: 2006): Fieldwork dates: 9th – 23rd August 2019

A third each believe the fee of £1,330 to apply for citizenship should either be reduced or stay the same. A fifth believes it should be increased

Q Immigrants who have the right to live in the UK permanently can apply for British citizenship. At the moment the fee to apply for British citizenship is £1,330. Which of the following statements, if any, comes closest to your view?

- % The fee to apply for British Citizenship is too high and should be reduced
- % The fee to apply for British Citizenship is about right
- % The fee to apply for British Citizenship is too low and should be increased
- % Don't know



A majority believes a child born in the UK should be given British citizenship

automatically when at least one parent is a British citizen or when their parents are not

UK citizens but have the right to live here permanently

Q For each of the following statements please say whether you think that a child born in the following circumstances should or should not have the automatic right to British Citizenship?

■ % Should have the right automatic British Citizenship

■ % Should not have the right to automatic British Citizenship

A child born in the UK if at least one of his/her parents is a British citizen

79

13

A child born in the UK to parents who have the right to live here permanently, but are not British citizens

55

32

A child born in the UK regardless of his/her parents' immigration status in the UK

36

48

A child born in the UK to parents living here on a temporary residence visa

22

64



Base: All respondents (W9: 2006); Fieldwork dates: 9th – 23rd August 2019

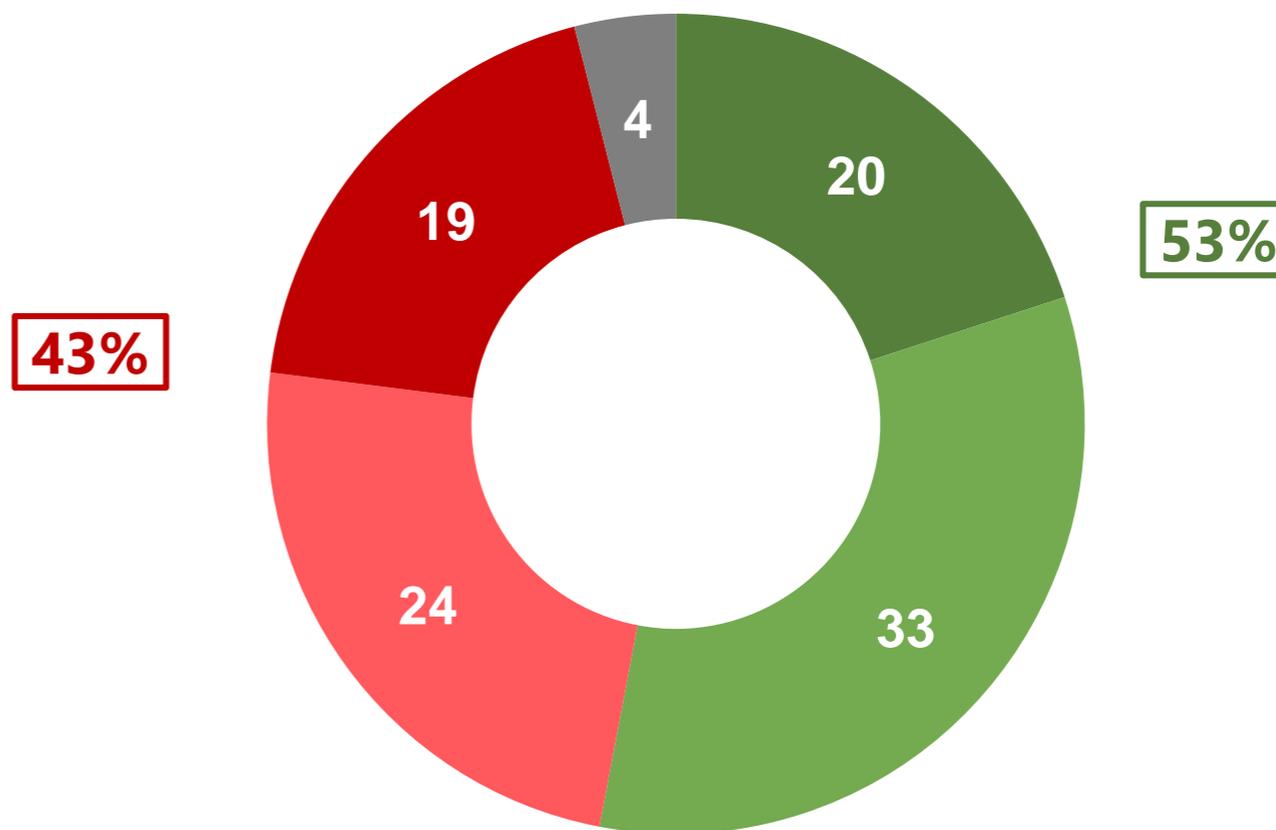
The English Channel Boat Crossings



Most Britons have sympathy for migrants attempting to cross the English channel by boat to come to Britain

Q How much sympathy, if any, do you have for the migrants attempting to cross the English Channel by boat to come to Britain?

- % A great deal of sympathy
- % A fair amount of sympathy
- % Not very much sympathy
- % No sympathy at all
- % Don't know

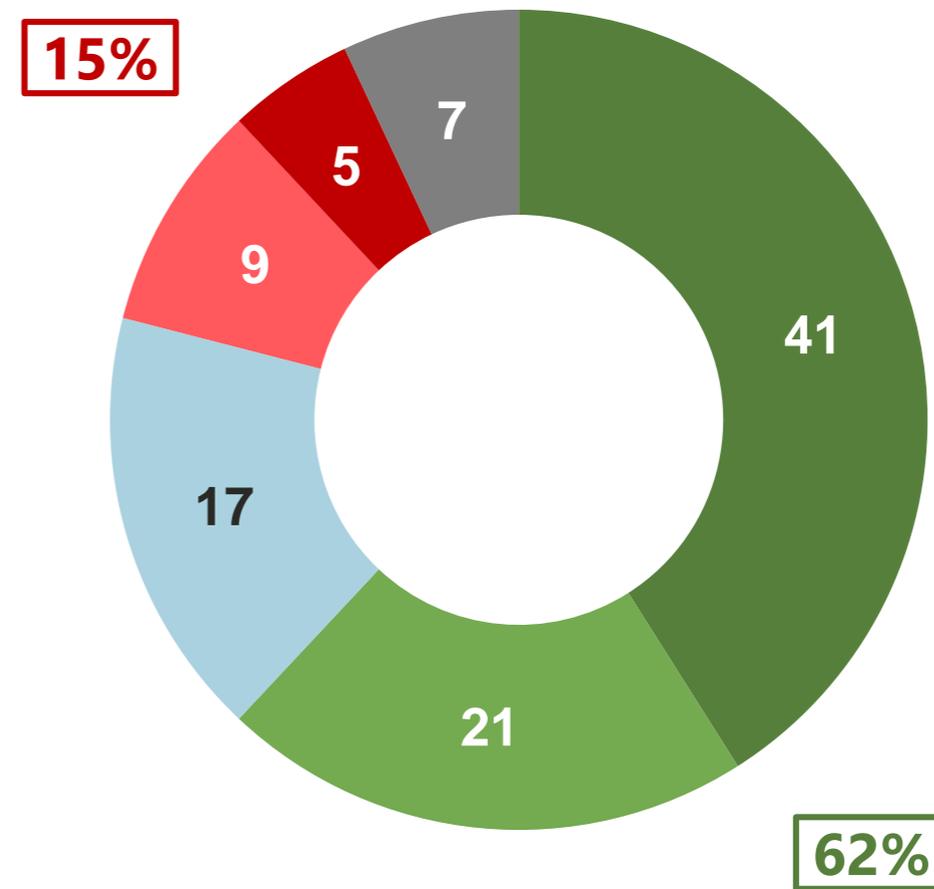


Base: All respondents (W9: 2006): Fieldwork dates: 9th – 23rd August 2019

But six in ten believe illegal migrants who cross the Channel from France should be returned to France

Q To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following? Nobody who is already in France needs to claim asylum in Britain. All illegal migrants who cross the Channel should be returned to France

- % Strongly agree
- % Tend to agree
- % Neither agree nor disagree
- % Tend to disagree
- % Strongly disagree
- % Don't know

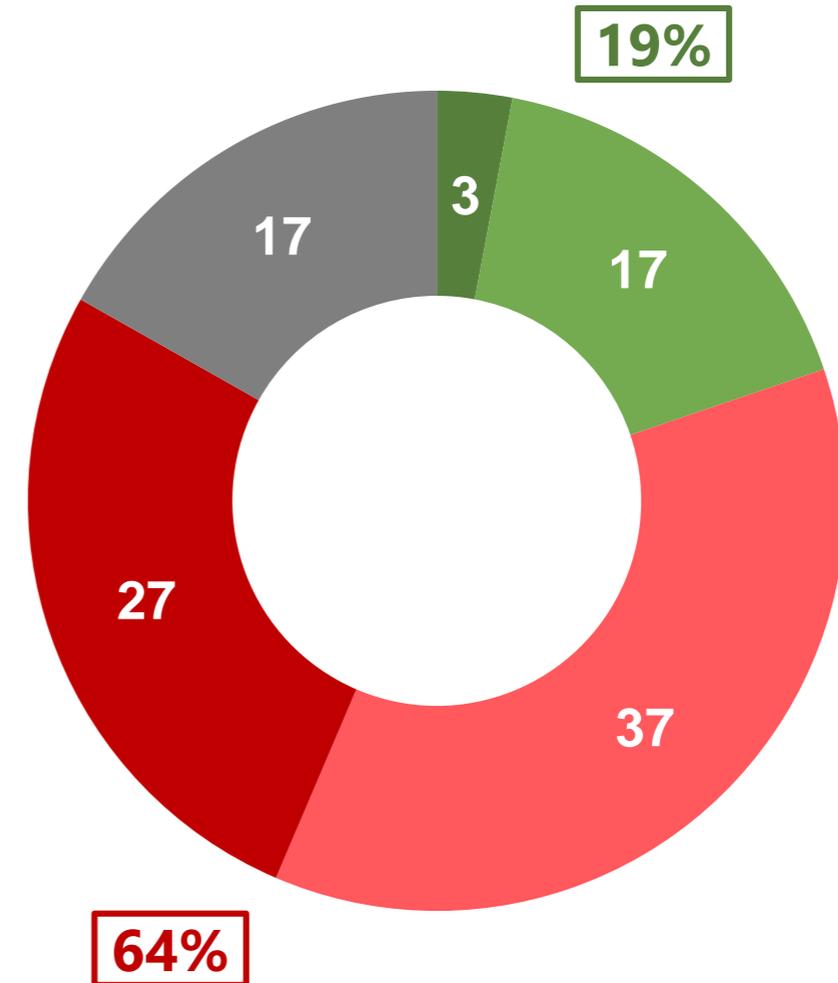


Base: All respondents (W9: 2006): Fieldwork dates: 9th – 23rd August 2019

Two-thirds also believe that the British government has not responded well to the boat crossings

Q How well, if at all, do you think the British Government has responded well to the boat crossings?

- % Very well
- % Fairly well
- % Not very well
- % No at all well
- % Don't know

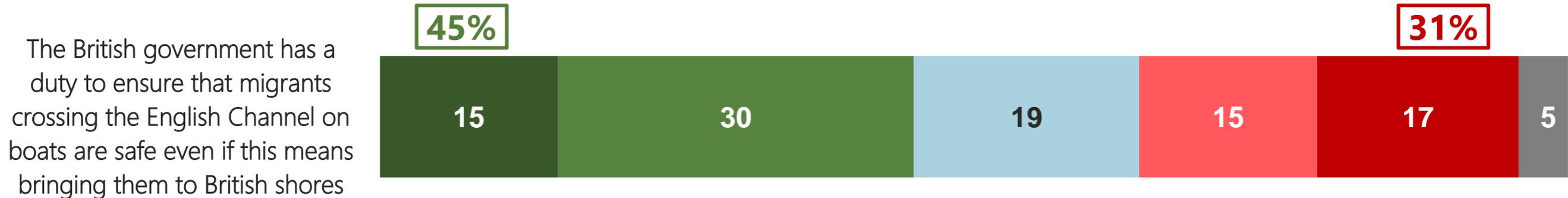


Base: All respondents (W9: 2006): Fieldwork dates: 9th – 23rd August 2019

Britons are split on whether government has a duty to ensure migrants crossing the British channel on boats are safe, with almost half believing that they have this duty even if it means bringing them to British shores

Q To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following?

■ % Strongly agree ■ % Tend to agree ■ % Neither / nor ■ % Tend to disagree ■ % Strongly disagree ■ % Don't know

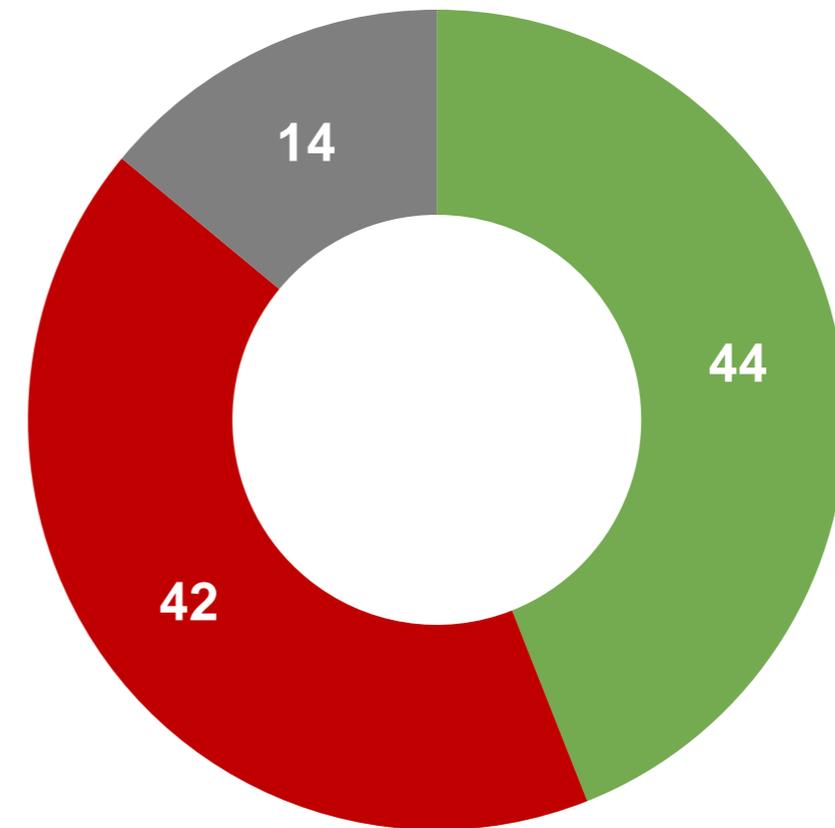


Base: All respondents (W9: 1003 for each statement): Fieldwork dates: 9th – 23rd August 2019

Britons are split on whether there should be an amnesty to allow illegal immigrants to remain in the country if they've been living and working here for at least 10 years

Q I am now going to ask you about immigrants who have come to the UK illegally and don't have the correct papers but who have been living and working here for at least 10 years without being involved in any criminal activity. What do you think should happen to them...?

- % There should be an amnesty to allow them to stay in the country
- % There should not be an amnesty to allow them to stay in the country
- % Don't know



Technical note

- Ipsos MORI interviewed a representative sample of adults aged 18+ across Great Britain. Data are weighted to reflect the population profile. This survey is wave 9 in a series of surveys. Interviews for all 9 waves were conducted online and all questions, with the exception of CHA4a and CHA4b, were asked of all respondents.
- The survey was conducted on behalf of IMIX, the migration communications hub with funding from Unbound Philanthropy and the Barrow Cadbury Trust.
- This survey (wave 9) was conducted as a Device Agnostic survey, enabling respondents to complete the survey on mobile phones and tablets more efficiently.
- Percentage scores are shown out of 100%. Where figures do not add up to 100%, this is due to computer rounding. An asterisks indicates a score less than 0.5%, but greater than zero. Combined figures are based on the constituent parts (e.g. % agree = % strongly agree + % tend to agree). These figures are also subject to the effect of rounding.



The number of interviews completed and fieldwork dates for each wave are outlined in the table below. For each wave, data are weighted to the profile of the population. Differences between waves in these charts are for the overall level rather than longitudinal so they are not indicative of a change at an individual respondent level.

Wave number	Fieldwork dates	Number of respondents
W1 (Feb '15)	25 Feb – 4 Mar 2015	4,574
W2 (Apr '15)	27 Mar – 7 Apr 2015	3,770
W3 (May '15)	30 Apr – 6 May 2015	3,023
W4 (Jun '15)	26 Jun – 2 Jul 2015	2,698
W5 (Oct '15)	15 – 19 Oct 2015	1,941
W6 (Apr'16)	14 – 25 Apr 2016	4,002 which comprised two samples: (1) 1,606 who completed Wave 1 (2) 2,396 new top up sample
W7 (Oct '16)	13 – 20 Oct 2016	4,071 which comprised two samples: (1) 2,765 who completed Wave 6 (2) 1,306 who completed Wave 1
W8 (Dec '18)	17th Dec 2018 - 7th Jan 2019	2,520 which comprised two samples: (1) 1,413 who completed at least one previous wave (1 – 7) (2) 1,107 new top up sample
W9 (Aug '19)	9 – 23 August 2019	2,006 which comprised two samples: (1) 1,303 who completed at least one previous wave (1 – 8) (2) 703 new top up sample

FURTHER INFORMATION

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