

Attitudes towards immigration

Survey conducted in collaboration with British Future

Fieldwork 28 January – 10 February 2022

British Future...



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Technical note

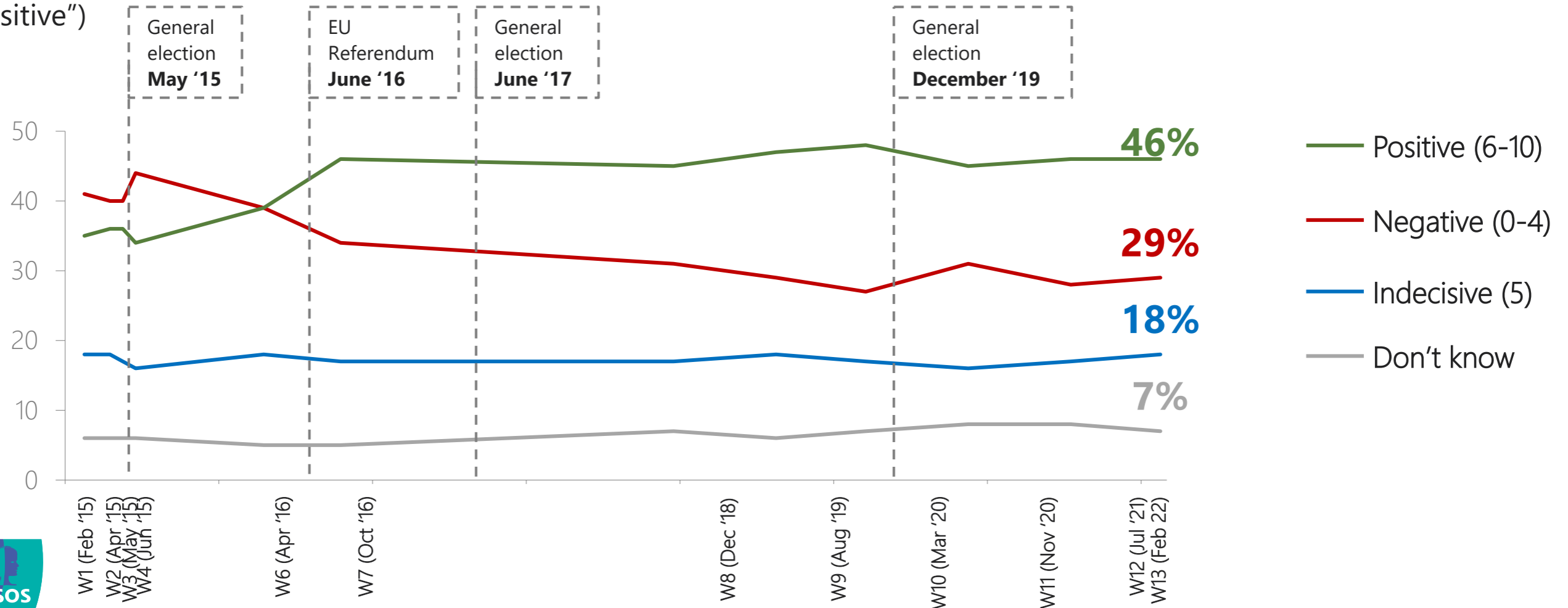
- Ipsos interviewed 3,206 adults aged 18+ across Great Britain online. Data are weighted to reflect the population profile.
- Fieldwork was conducted prior to the invasion of Ukraine. Fieldwork dates were 28 January to 10 February 2022.
- The survey was conducted in collaboration with British Future with funding from Unbound Philanthropy and the Barrow Cadbury Trust.
- 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.

Immigration



Attitudes towards the impact of immigration stay relatively unchanged with more Britons remaining positive than negative

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")

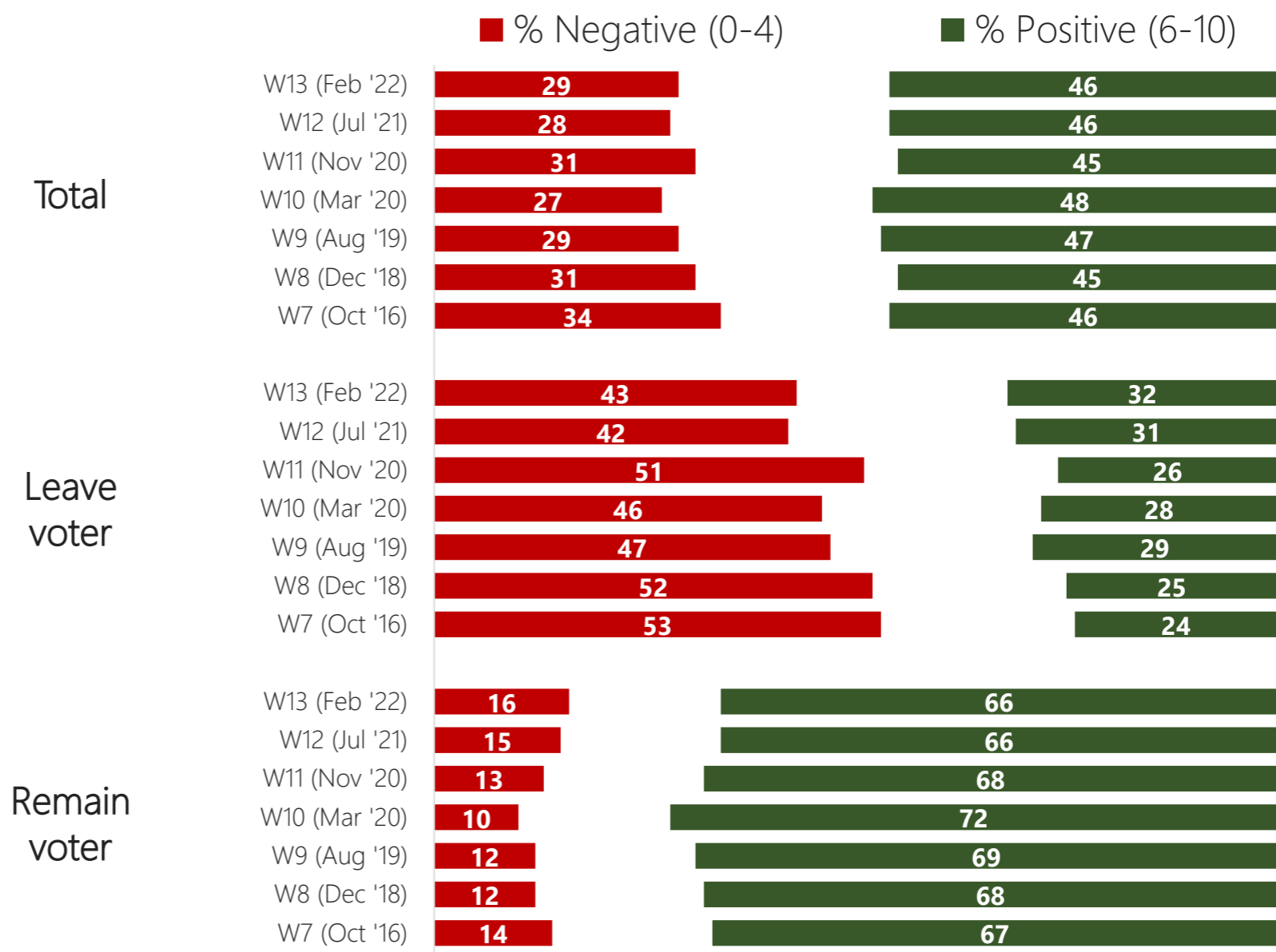


Base: All respondents (W1: 4574; W2: 3770; W3:3023; W4:2698; W6: 4002; W7: 4071; W8: 2520; W9 2006; W10: 2100; W11: 2532; W12: 4000; W13: 3206); Fieldwork dates: 28 January to 10 February 2022

Overall, just under half (46%) think migration has had a positive impact on the country, whilst three in ten (29%) disagree.

Attitudes of both Leave and Remain voters have shifted little since July 2021.

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")

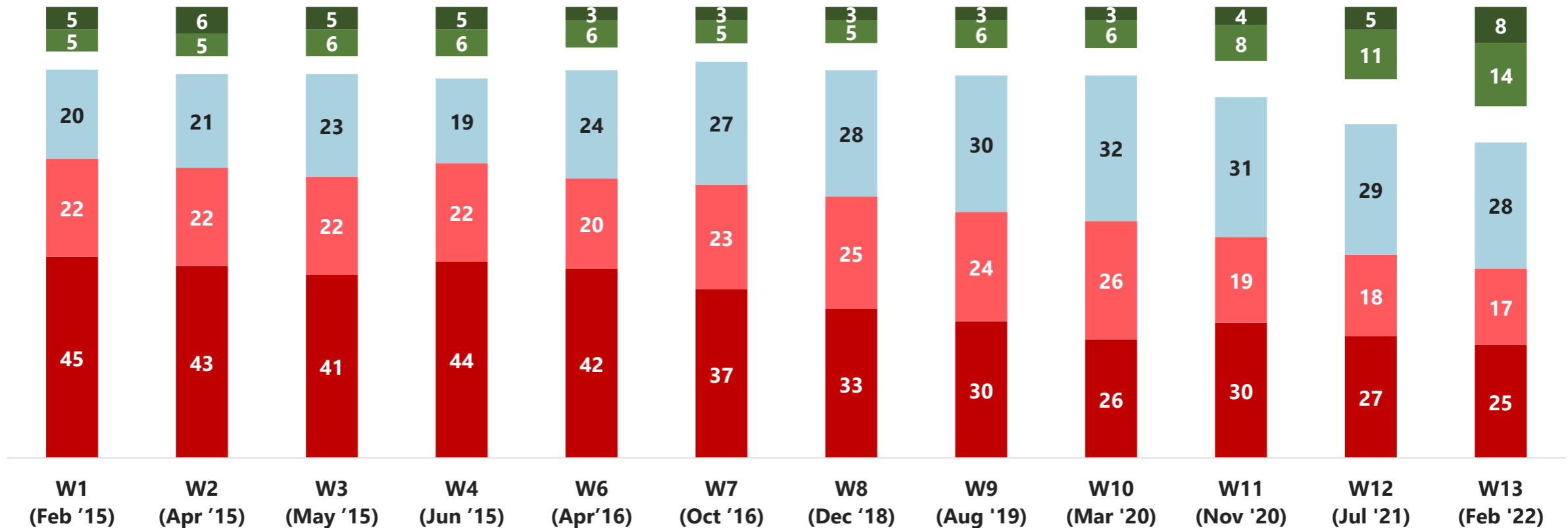


Base: All respondents (W7: 4071; W8: 2520; W9: 2006 ; W10: 2100; W11: 2532; W12: 4000; W13: 3206): Fieldwork dates: 28 January to 10 February 2022

The proportion of people wanting to see immigration reduced continues to decrease over time to its lowest point in the series (42%). Those wanting to see an increase have risen to 22%.

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?

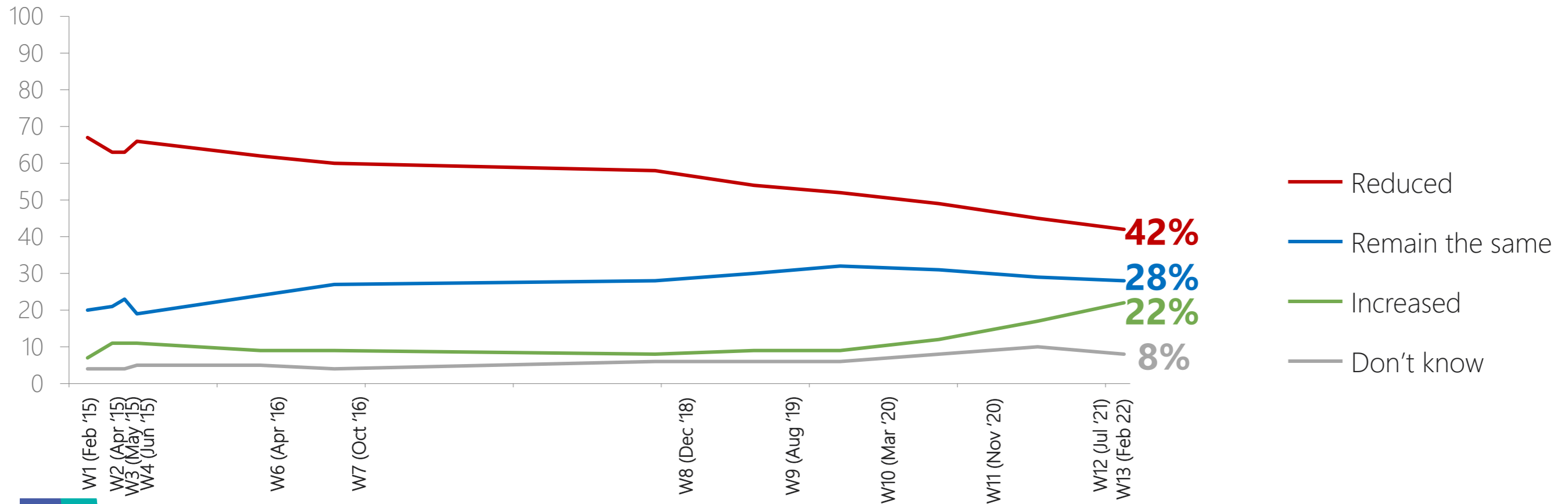
■ % Reduced a lot ■ % Reduced a little ■ % Remain the same as it is ■ % Increased a little ■ % Increased a lot



Base: All respondents (W1: 4574; W2: 3770; W3:3023; W4:2698; W6: 4002; W7: 4071; W8: 2520; W9: 2006; W10: 2100; W11: 2532; W12: 4000; W13: 3206);
Fieldwork dates: 28 January to 10 February 2022

February 2022 shows the lowest proportion of people wanting to see immigration reduced in the series.

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?

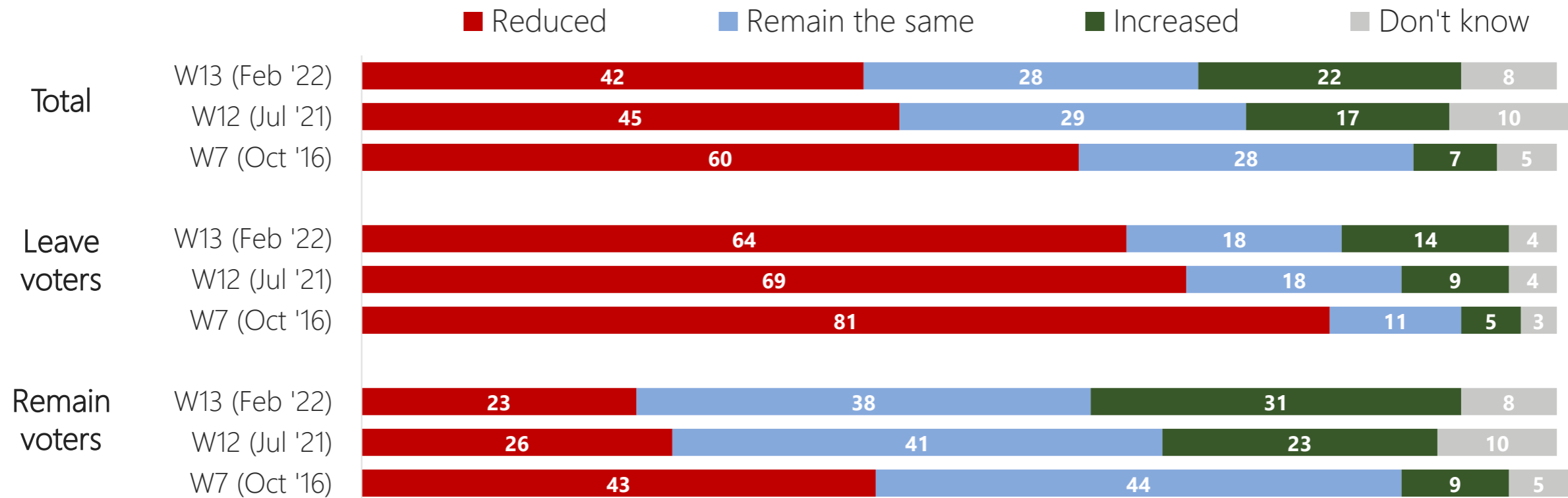


Base: All respondents (W1: 4574; W2: 3770; W3:3023; W4:2698; W6: 4002; W7: 4071; W8: 2520; W9 2006; W10: 2100; W11: 2532; W12: 4000; W13: 3206):

Fieldwork dates: 28 January to 10 February 2022

Just under two thirds (64%) of Leave voters want to see immigration numbers reduced - down from October 2016. Views have also changed among Remain voters.

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?



Base: All respondents (W7: 4071; W12: 4000; W13: 3206): Fieldwork dates: 28 January to 10 February 2022

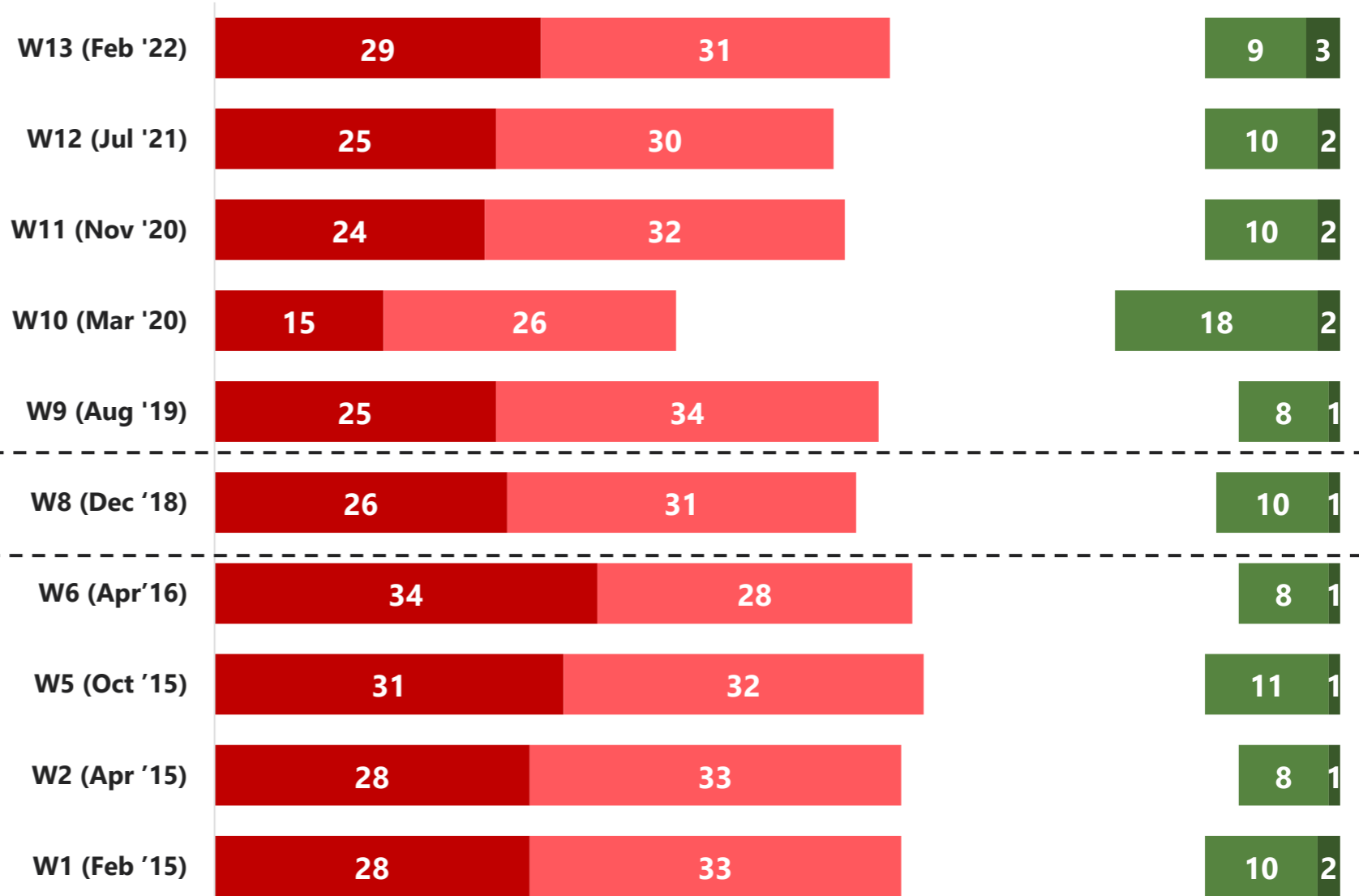
Dissatisfaction with the current government's dealing with immigration has risen to its highest level under Boris Johnson.

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

July '19 Boris Johnson becomes Prime Minister

July '16 Theresa May becomes Prime Minister

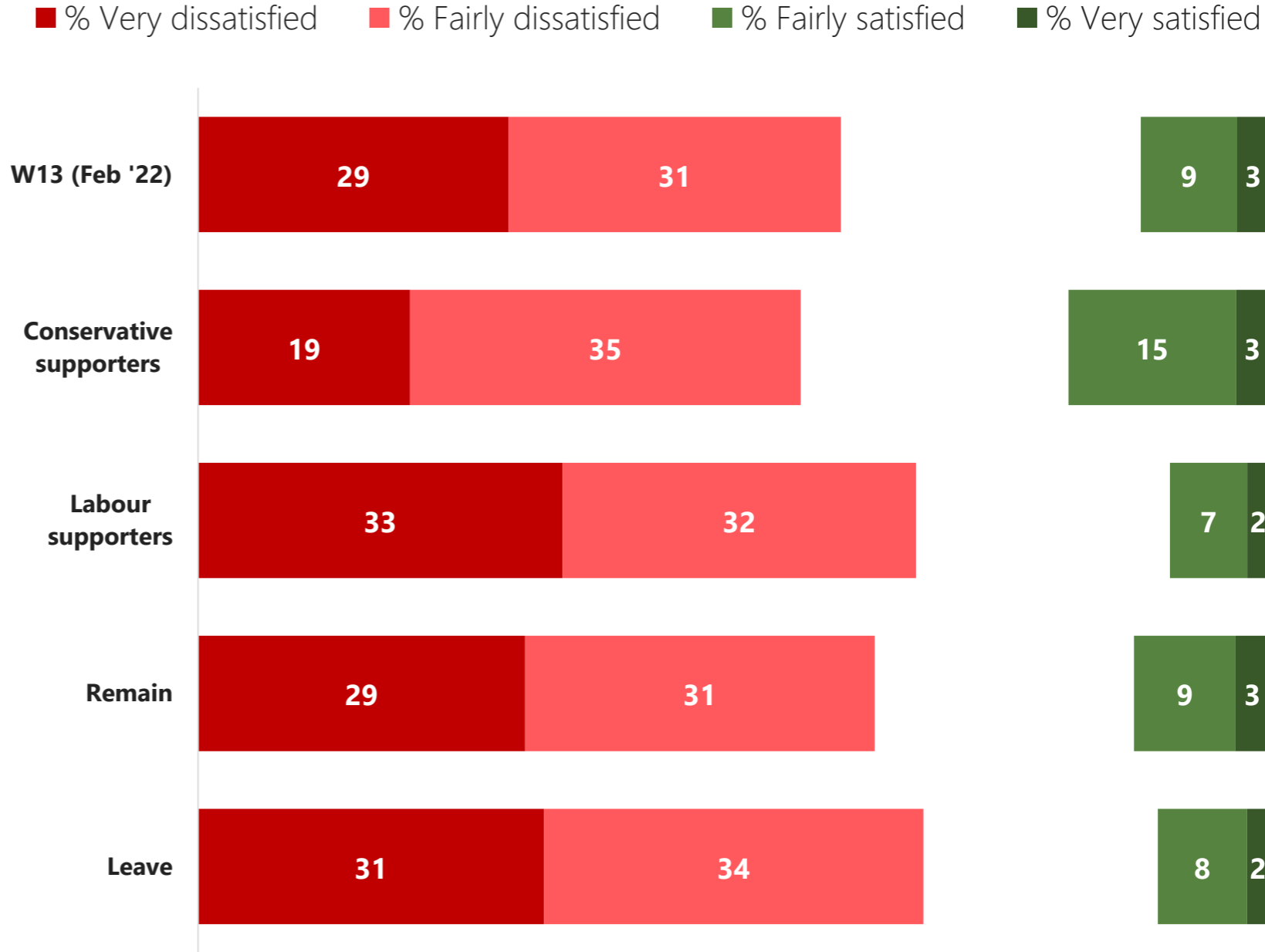
■ % Very dissatisfied ■ % Fairly dissatisfied ■ % Fairly satisfied ■ % Very satisfied



Base: All respondents (W1: 4574; W2: 3770; W5:1941; W6: 4002; W8: 2520; W9: 2006; W10: 2100; W11: 2532; W12: 4000; W13: 3206): Fieldwork dates: 28 January to 10 February 2022

Labour supporters and Leave voters are more likely to be dissatisfied with the government's handling of immigration than Conservative supporters and Remain voters.

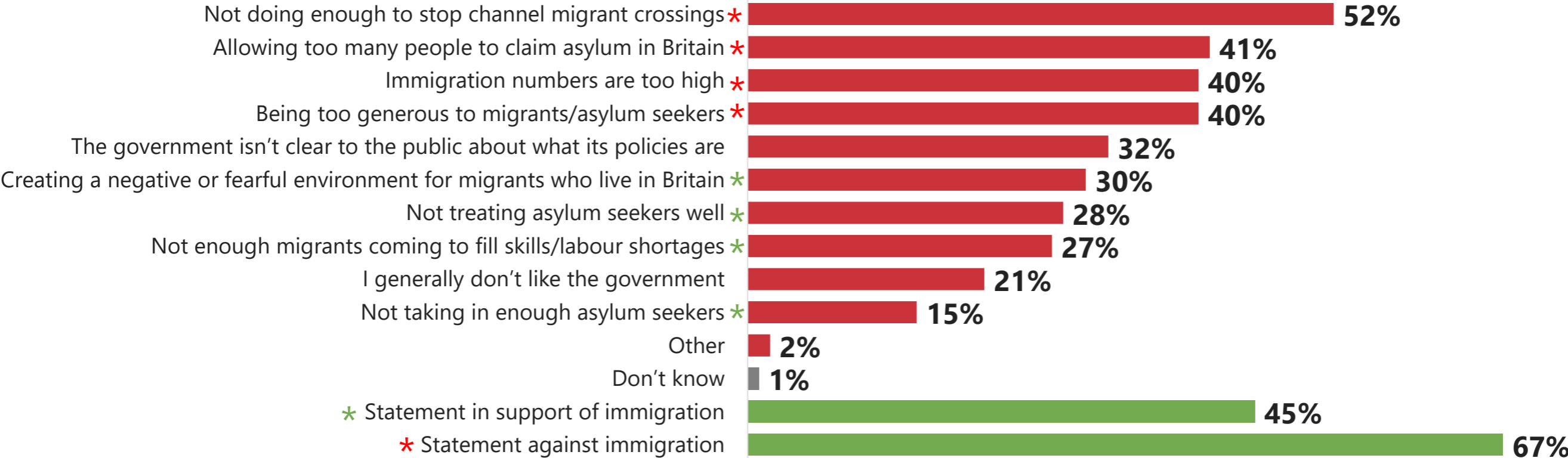
Q Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the way the current government is dealing with immigration?



Base: All respondents (W13: 3206): Fieldwork dates: 28 January to 10 February 2022

Half of those dissatisfied with the Government's handling of immigration cite not enough being done to stop channel crossings.

Q And for which of the following reasons, if any, make you dissatisfied with the way the current government is dealing with immigration?

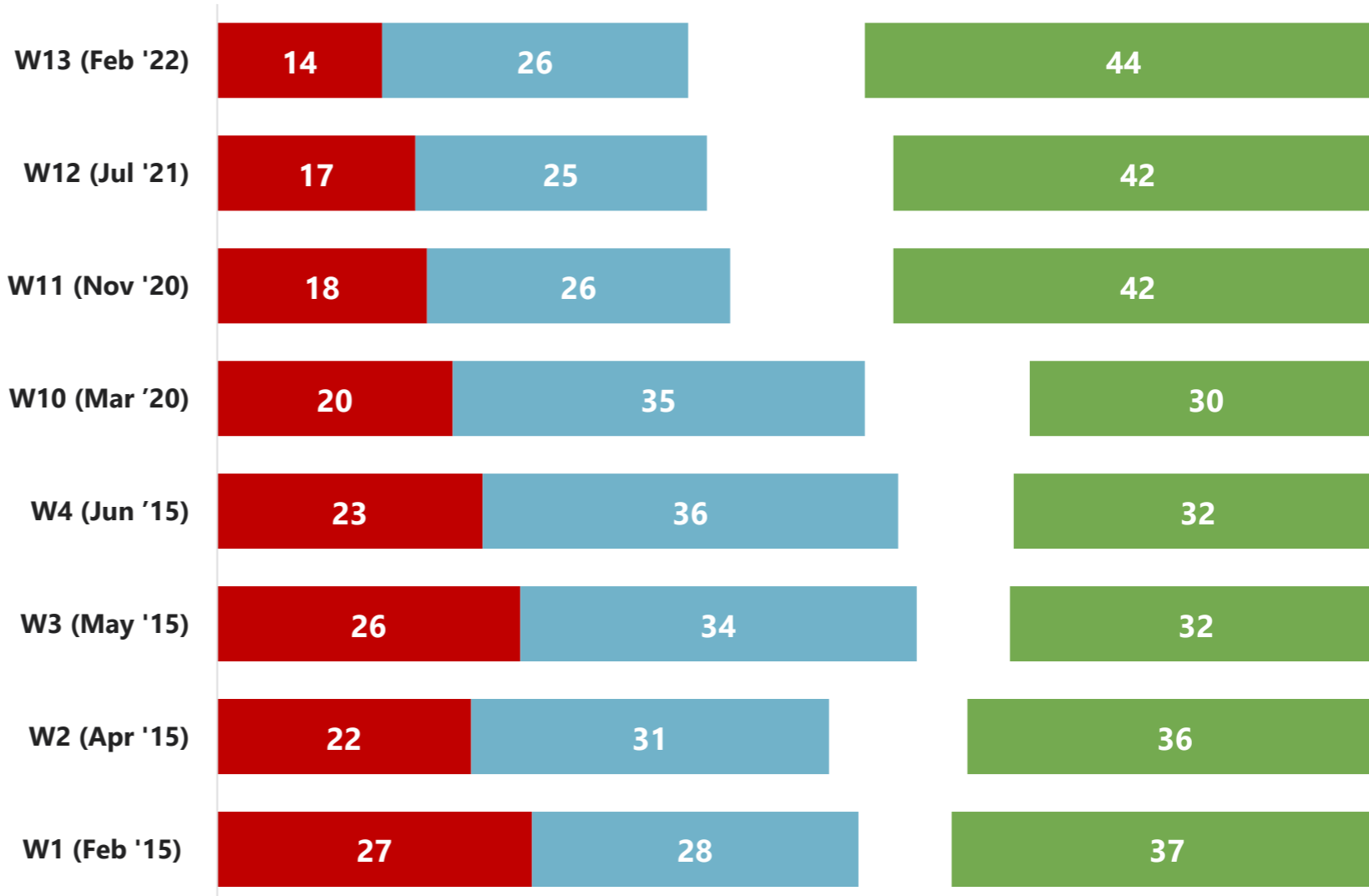


Base: All respondents dissatisfied with the way the Government's dealing with immigration (W13: 1932): Fieldwork dates: 28 January to 10 February 2022)

Three times as many Britons think that immigration has been discussed too little than too much.

Q Generally speaking, do you think that the issue of immigration has been discussed in Britain too much, too little or about the right amount over the last few months?

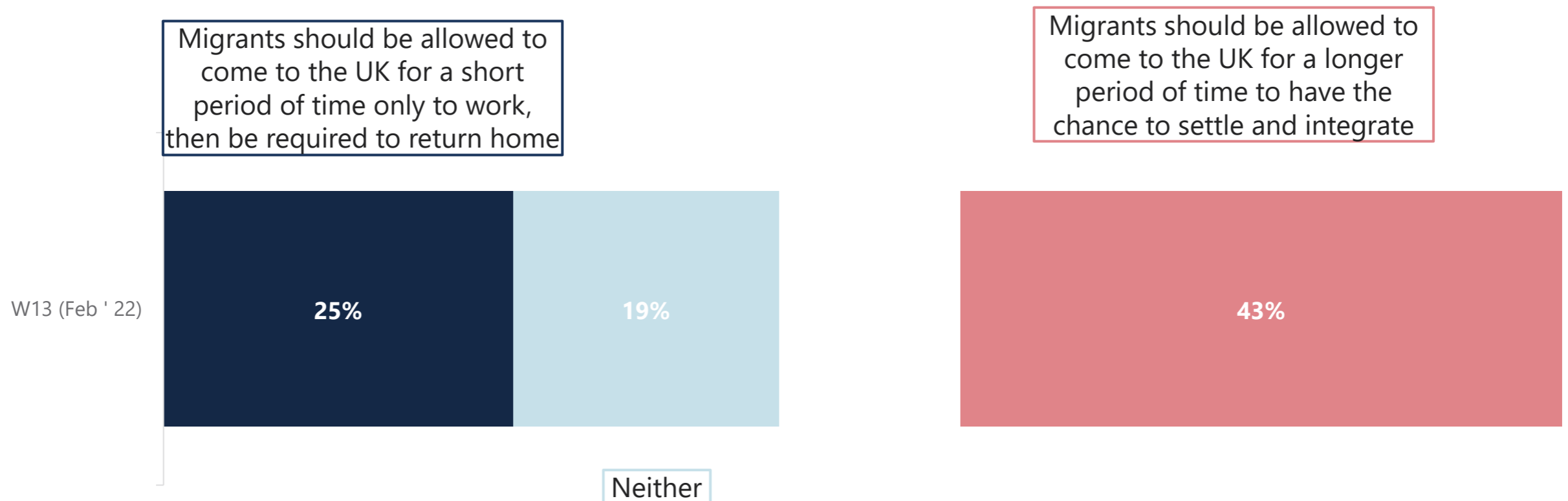
■ % Discussed too much ■ % Discussed about the right amount ■ % Discussed too little



Base: All respondents (W1: 4574; W2: 3770; W3:3023; W4:2698; W10: 2100 W11: 2532; W12: 4000; W13: 3206): Fieldwork dates: 28 January to 10 February 2022)

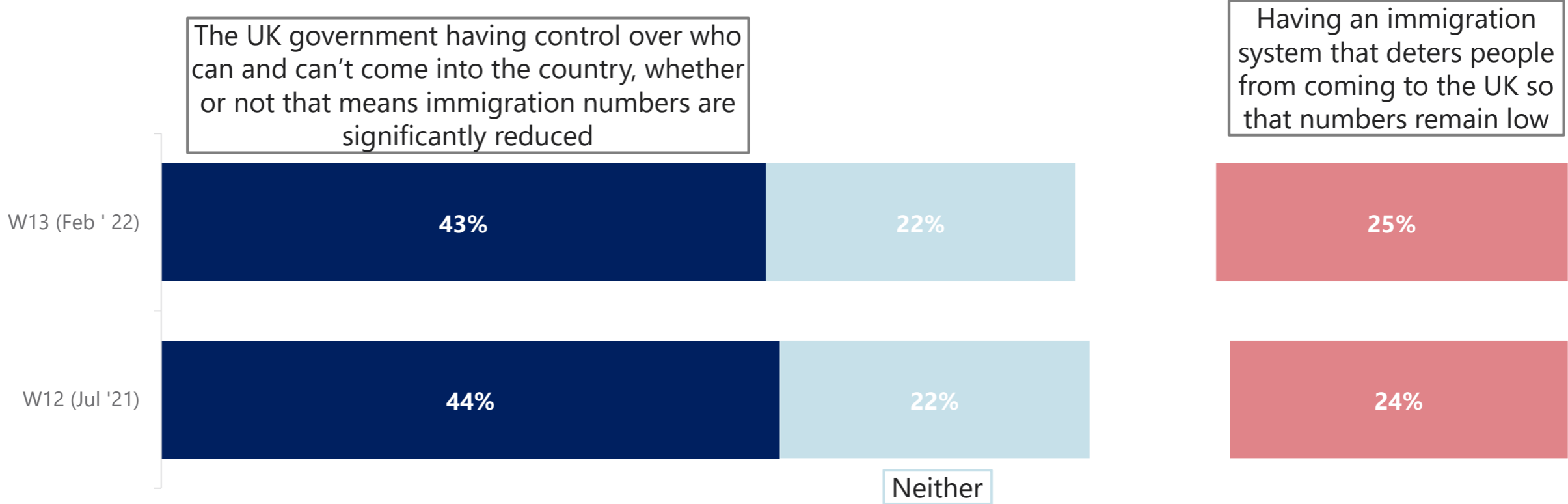
More believe migrants who come to the UK for work should be allowed to stay for a longer, rather than shorter, period of time to have the chance to settle and integrate.

Q Please now think about migration to the UK for work. Which of the following two statements comes closest to your preference.



More prefer an immigration system that prioritises having control of who can and can't come into the country than one which deters people from coming.

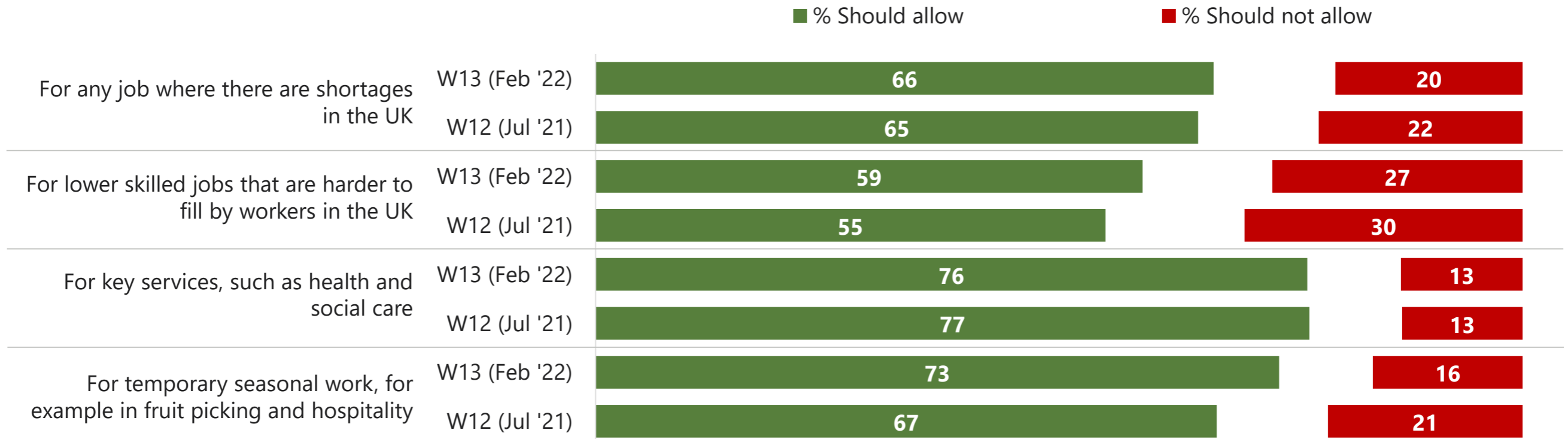
Q When thinking about the government's immigration policy, which of the following two statements is most important to you?



Base: All respondents (W12: 4000; W13: 3206); Fieldwork dates: 28 January to 10 February 2022)

There has been a small increase in support for allowing employers to hire lower skilled workers and seasonal workers from abroad since July 2021

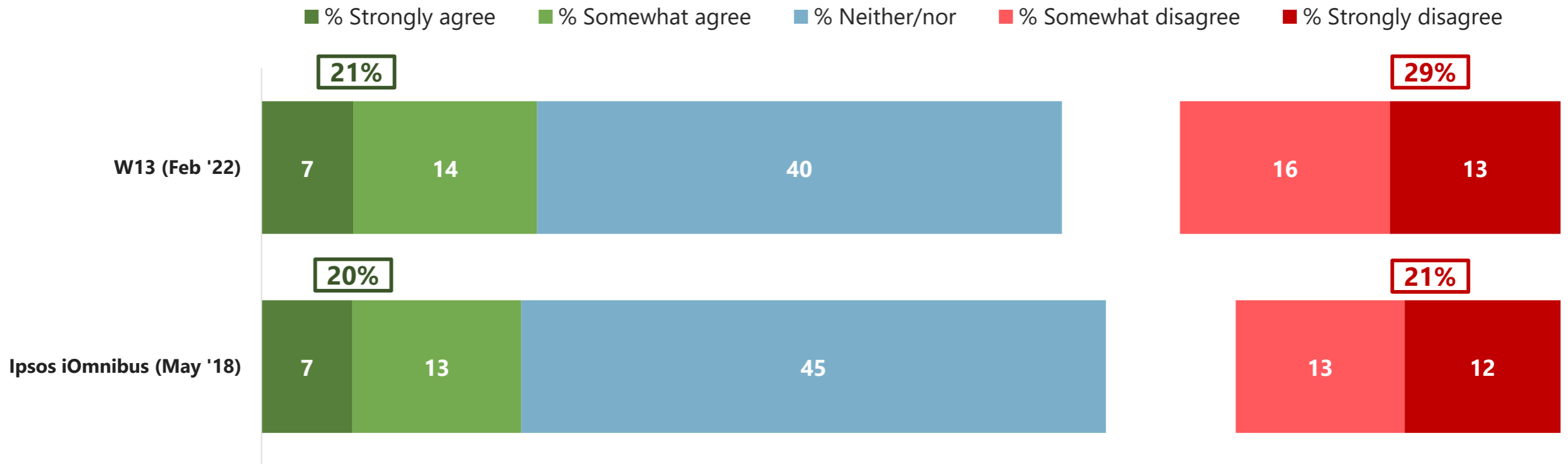
Q For each of the following circumstances, please say whether the government should allow or should not allow employers to be able to recruit employees from overseas.



Base: All respondents (W12: 4000; W13: 3206); Fieldwork dates: 28 January to 10 February 2022)

One in five agree that they have become more positive about the impact immigration has had on Britain since the 2016 referendum.

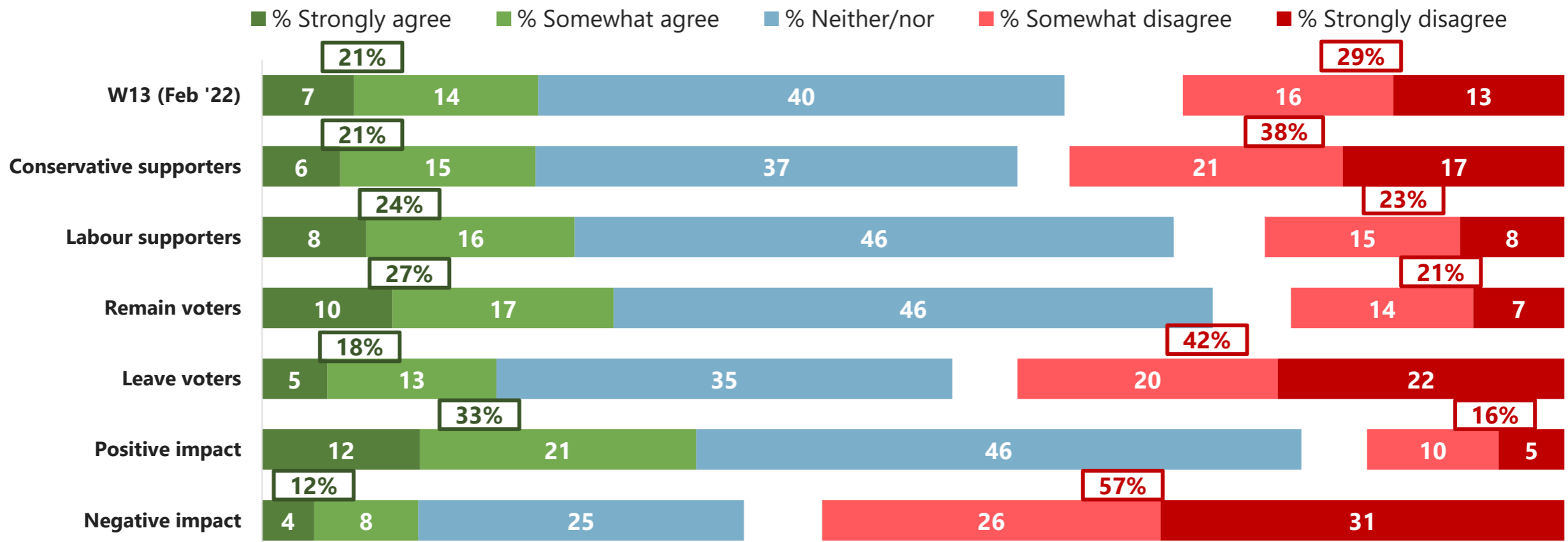
Q How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Since the EU referendum in 2016 I have become more positive about the impact immigration has on Britain?



Base: All respondents (April/May '19: 1,060) (W13: 3206): Fieldwork dates: 28 January to 10 February 2022

Remain voters more likely to say they have become more positive than Leave voters – Conservative supporters also more likely to disagree.

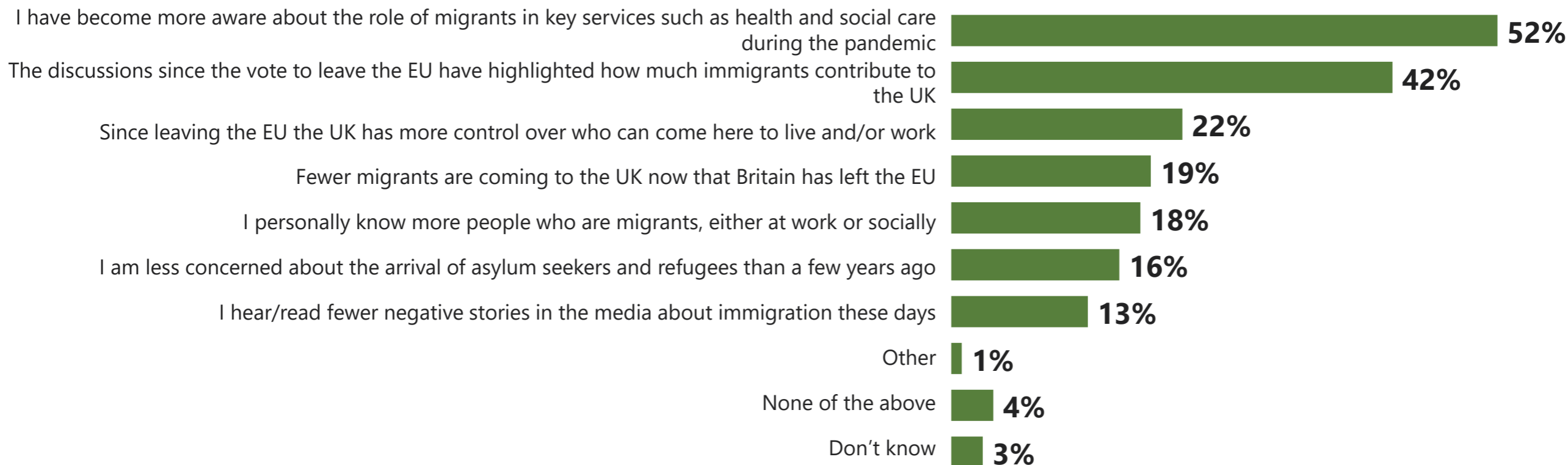
Q How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Since the EU referendum in 2016 I have become more positive about the impact immigration has on Britain?



Base: All respondents (W13: 3206); Fieldwork dates: 28 January to 10 February 2022

Among those who have become more positive about immigration since the EU referendum, most say it is because of them becoming more aware about the contribution of migrants – especially in key services.

Q And for what reason(s) has your attitude towards the impact of immigration become more positive since the EU referendum in 2016?



Base: All respondents who have become more positive about immigration since the EU referendum (W13: 710): Fieldwork dates: 28 January to 10 February 2022)

Refugees and asylum

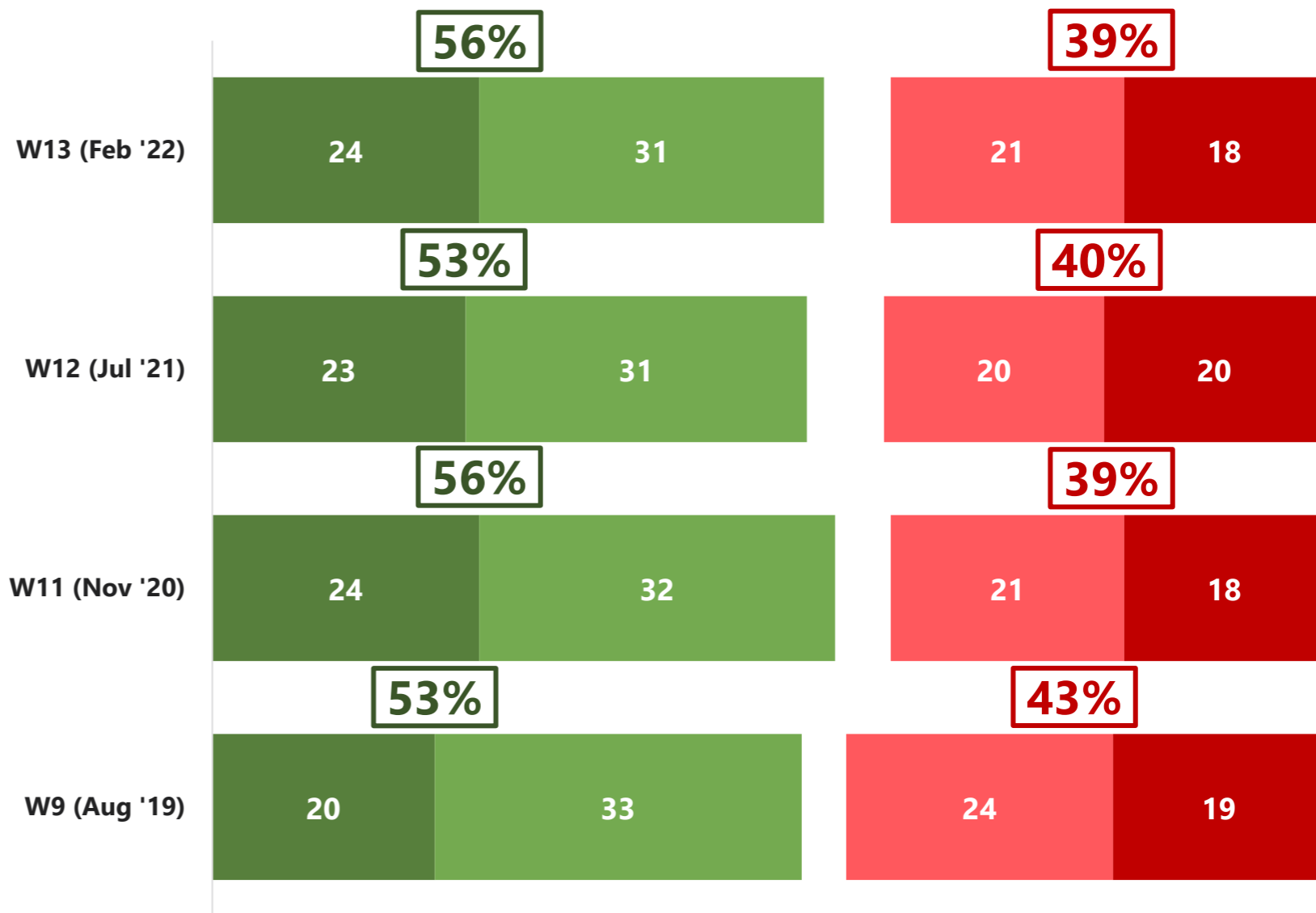
NB: Fieldwork conducted prior to invasion of Ukraine

A majority continue to have sympathy for migrants attempting to cross the English Channel.

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

NB: Fieldwork conducted prior to invasion of Ukraine

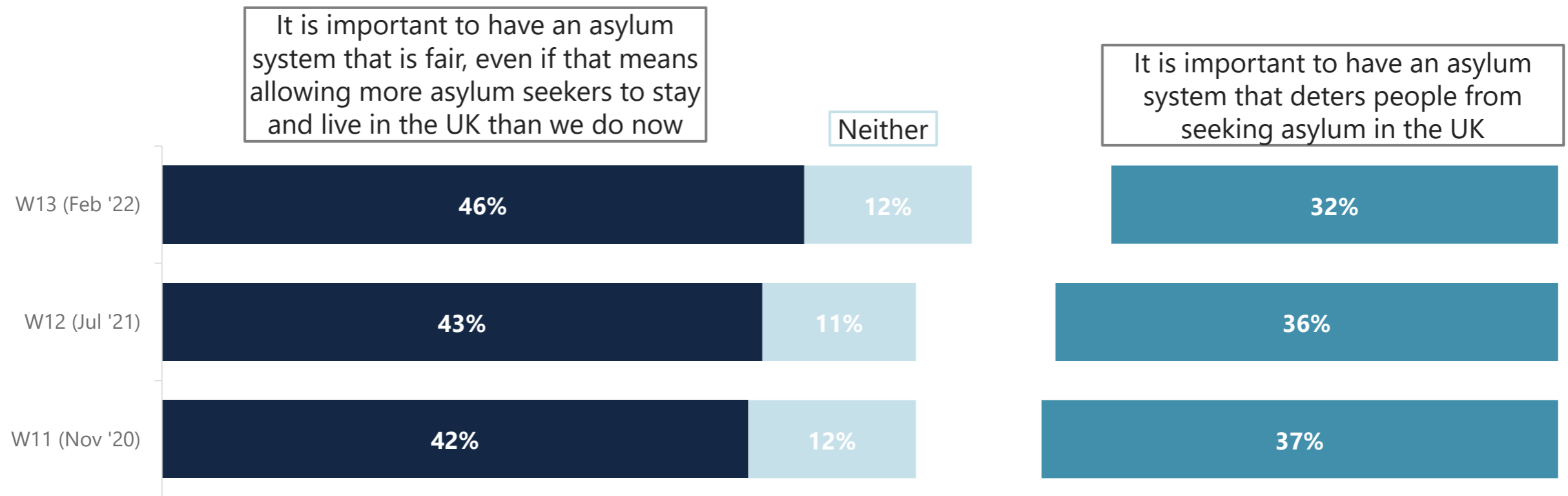
■ % A great deal ■ % A fair amount ■ % Not very much ■ % None at all



Base: All respondents (W9: 2006; W11: 2532; W12: 4000; W13: 3206); Fieldwork dates: 28 January to 10 February 2022)

More want an asylum system that is fair, even if that means allowing more asylum seekers in, rather than one that deters people from seeking asylum in the UK.

Q When thinking about how the UK processes people who arrive in Britain seeking asylum, which of the following two statements comes closest to your views?



NB: Fieldwork conducted prior to invasion of Ukraine

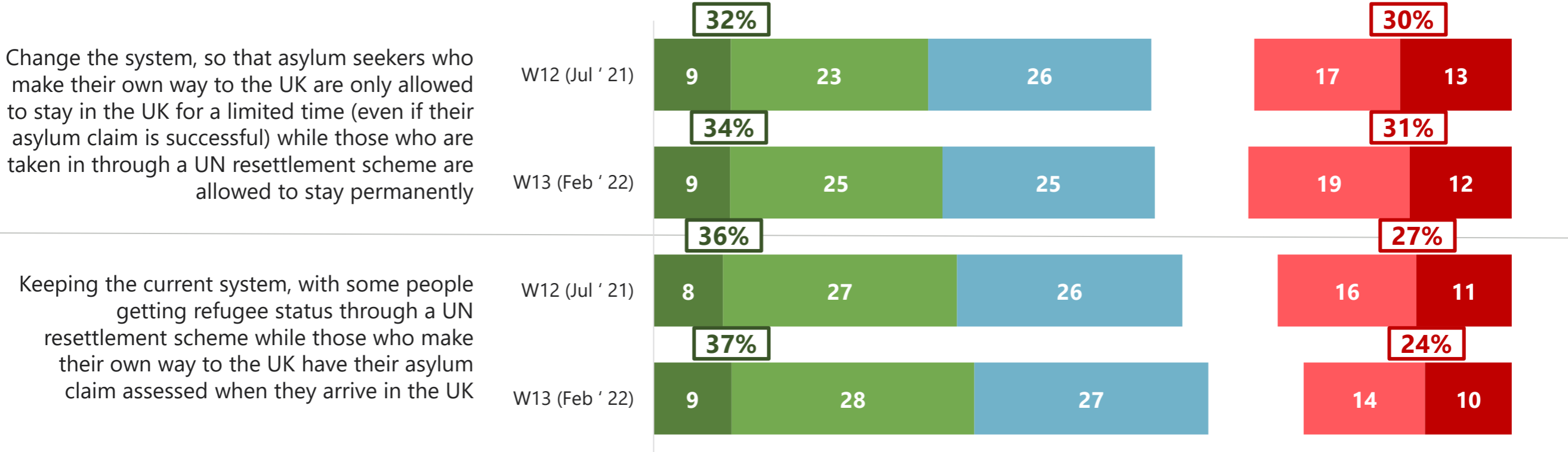


Base: All respondents (W11: 2532; W12: 4000; W13: 3206); Fieldwork dates: 28 January to 10 February 2022)

Britons are split on whether to change the asylum system to allow those who come via the UN resettlement scheme to stay permanently while those who make their own way to the UK can only have a limited stay.

Q To what extent would you support or oppose each of the following potential measures relating to asylum seekers in the UK?

■ % Fully support ■ % Somewhat support ■ % Neither/nor ■ % Don't know ■ % Somewhat oppose ■ % Fully oppose



NB: Fieldwork conducted prior to invasion of Ukraine

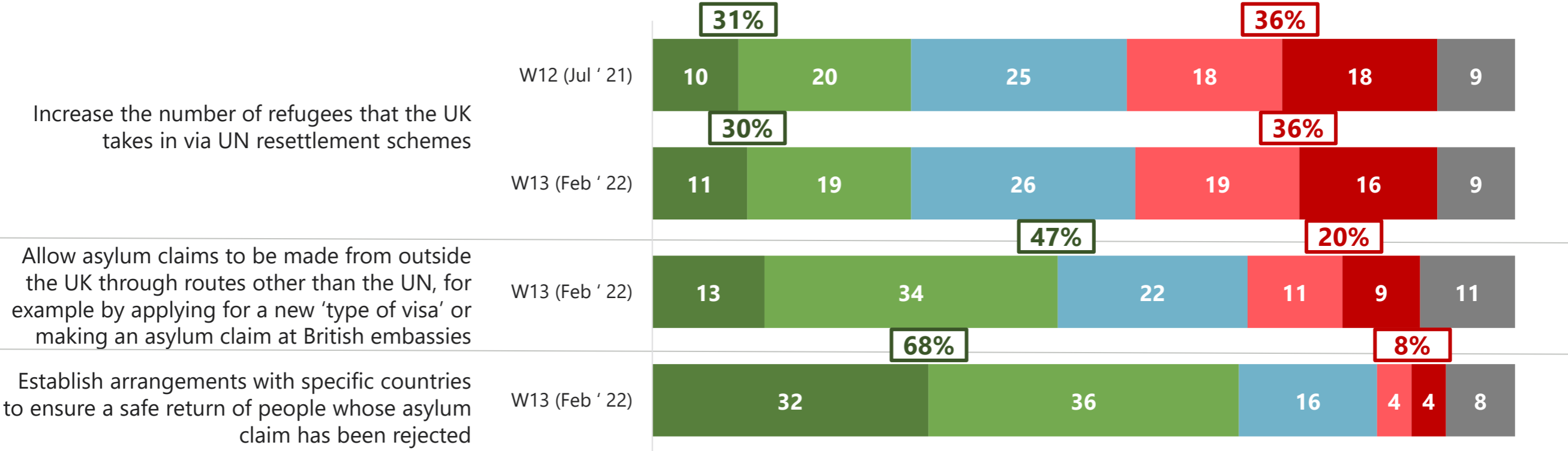


Base: All respondents (W12: 4000; W13: 3206); Fieldwork dates: 28 January to 10 February 2022

There is little appetite among the public to take more refugees in from UN resettlement schemes although more support than oppose allowing other routes to make claims from outside the UK.

Q To what extent would you support or oppose each of the following potential measures relating to asylum seekers in the UK?

■ % Fully support ■ % Somewhat support ■ % Neither/nor ■ % Somewhat oppose ■ % Fully oppose ■ % Don't know



NB: Fieldwork conducted prior to invasion of Ukraine

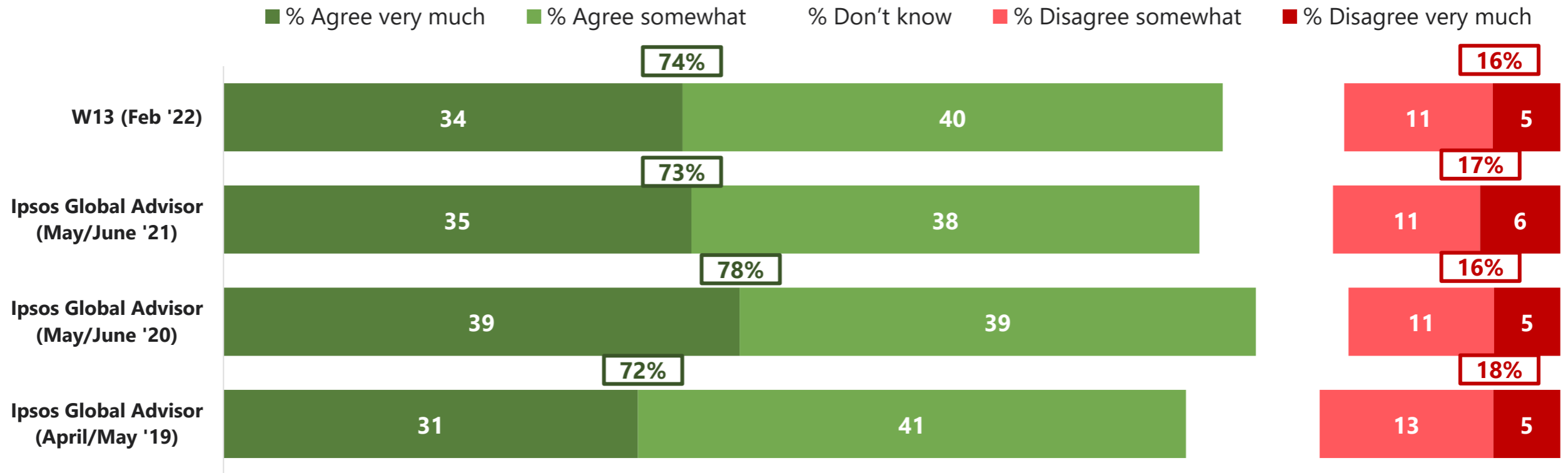


Base: All respondents (W12: 4000; W13: 3206): Fieldwork dates: 28 January to 10 February 2022

3 in 4 Britons agree that people should be able to take refuge in other countries, including Britain, to escape war or persecution – similar to previous years.

Q Thinking about Britain, do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

People should be able to take refuge in other countries, including in Britain, to escape from war or persecution.



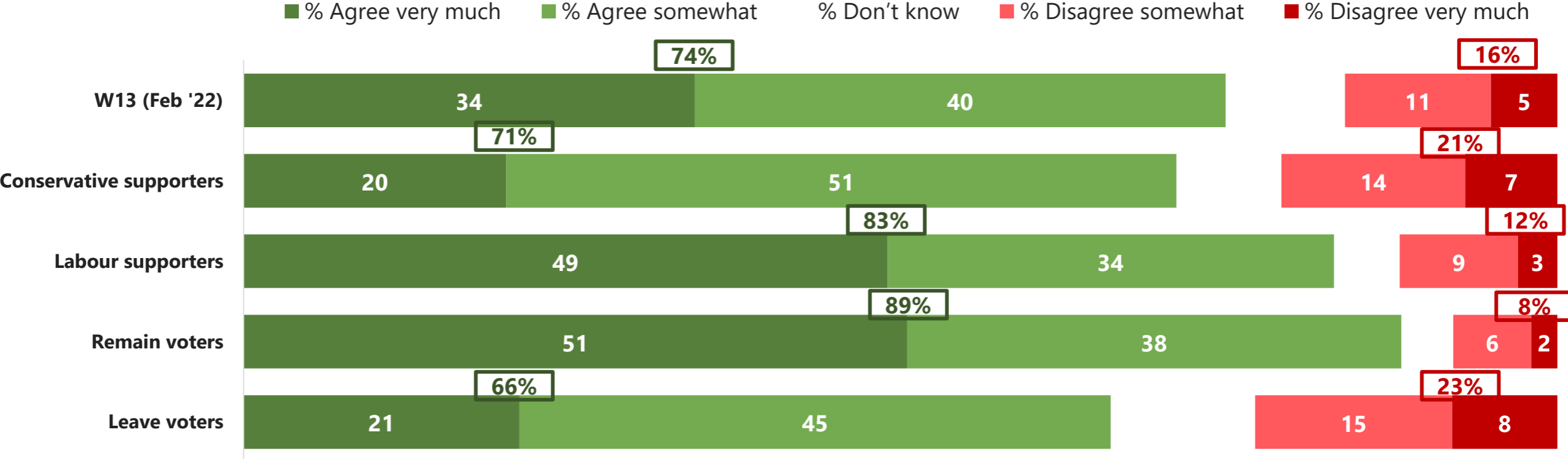
NB: Fieldwork conducted prior to invasion of Ukraine



Base: All respondents (GA April/May '19: 1000 GA May/June '20: 1000; GA May/June 21: 1000; W13: 3206): Fieldwork dates: 28 January to 10 February 2022

A majority of Conservative and Labour supporters as well as Remain and Leave voters believe people should be able to take refuge in other countries, including Britain, to escape from war and persecution.

Q Thinking about Britain, do you agree or disagree with the following statement?
 People should be able to take refuge in other countries, including in Britain, to escape from war or persecution.



NB: Fieldwork conducted prior to invasion of Ukraine



Base: All respondents (W13: 3206): Fieldwork dates: 28 January to 10 February 2022

FURTHER INFORMATION

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