

The Impact of COVID-19 on Italian Society

Italy



About More in Common



More in Common is an international initiative set up in 2017 to build societies that are stronger, more united, and more resilient to the increasing threats of polarization and social division.

We work with a wide range of groups in civil society, politics, government, business, faith, education, philanthropy and the media to connect people across lines of division.

More in Common's teams in France, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States work together and share a commitment to advancing our mission.

For more information please visit www.moreincommon.com or contact us at contact@moreincommon.com

About This Study



COVID-19 has up-ended the lives of people across the world, causing untold suffering and dislocation, with a death toll expected to exceed one million within days. The impact of the coronavirus on our health, economy and society will re-shape the world of the 2020s. It could result in societies becoming more deeply divided along existing fault-lines, but that is not inevitable. This study shows that COVID-19 has unleashed hopes for change in many societies, especially those who have struggled most with the virus. It has also made us more aware of our shared humanity, the value of strong local communities and the importance of our connection to nature.

Many choices lie ahead as we grapple with the fallout of the pandemic. The decisions being made in the months ahead – in families, communities and nations – will have consequences for a generation. This is why More in Common has compiled this snapshot of public opinion in France, Germany, Italy, Poland, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States, with key findings on:

- The impact of the pandemic on personal health, family life, employment and finances
- How COVID-19 has impacted our societies – and people's feelings of togetherness, solidarity, empathy, trust and loneliness
- Whether people want a return to normal or wish to see significant change in the aftermath of the pandemic
- Whether countries need more European and international co-operation, or whether they should go it alone
- Views on political priorities and support for policies on issues such as the economy, jobs, the environment and taxation
- Hopes and fears for the future

Our snapshot combines a mix of country-specific and cross-country questions. We hope that the findings presented here, as well as the detailed national studies that form part of this project, will provide valuable insights into this once-in-a-generation moment. Most of all, we hope they will strengthen efforts to build more united and resilient societies.

Scope & Methodology



Geographical Scope

France, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Poland, U.K., U.S.

Subject Matter

- Personal life under COVID-19
- COVID-19 as a collective challenge
- Aftermath & Outlook

Methodology

- N=2,000 per country; Margin of error +/- 2%
- Online poll
- Research partners: Kantar (Europe); YouGov (UK & US)
- Fieldwork dates for continental Europe: 1-8 July, 2020
- Fieldwork dates for UK: 19-28 June, 2020

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Covid-19 in Italy



Situation (As of September 4)



In terms of COVID cases, Italy has suffered an enormous human loss. An underprepared health system and an aging society have contributed to the severity of the crisis.

272,912 Cases

35,507 Deaths



The Italian economy has been hard hit, with tourism (around 13% of Italian GDP) expected to be one of the most severely affected sectors. With an already burdened financial household, Italy is expected to hold the highest public deficit in the Eurozone by the end of 2020.

-12.8% Expected drop in GDP for 2020

11.8 % Expected unemployment rate



Italy was one of the first countries to be confronted with a severe rise in COVID-19 cases and swiftly moved to implement one of the strictest lockdowns in Europe.

The country has now slowly returned to a new normal, with most restrictions on public life having been lifted.

National Context

Italy has experienced an unprecedented human crisis. Being one of the first countries in Europe to be faced with an exponential growth in COVID cases, its health system was brought to near collapse with overcrowded intensive care and doctors being forced to apply triage. While pictures and videos of Italian solidarity and community - such as people singing on balconies - went around the world, this has also left the country in deep mourning.

Beyond this, Italians have been deeply disappointed by a lack of European solidarity during the darkest days of the crisis - however, after extremely difficult negotiations, Italy is set to be one of the main beneficiaries of both grants and loans from the European Recovery Fund, receiving €209 billion in total.

What sets Italy apart?

- Italy was and is one of the hardest-hit countries in the European Union
- This is also true for its economy: With little fiscal leeway and a hard-hit tourism sector, Italy will have a difficult restart

Key Infos

- **Head of the Government:** Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte (Independent)
- **Ruling Coalition:** Movimento 5 Stelle (M5S) & the Democratic Party (PD)
- **Next National Election:** General election May 2023

Key Findings

Personal Impact

Covid-19 has had a direct impact on the lives of many Italians:

- a third of Italians have seen their or their dear ones' health and family life deteriorating due to the pandemic;
- the financial situation of almost a half of Italians (48%) has worsened, and many are worried to lose their jobs (42%) or to face future financial difficulties (55%) due to the virus

Collective Experience

During the crisis, only one out of two Italians (52%) have perceived solidarity in their and others' regards, even though most of them maintain that Italians have shown unprecedented levels of solidarity during the pandemic (80%). Most Italians are now more aware of others' conditions (73%) and would not put a price on human lives (80%).

Institutions

Italians are not particularly satisfied with their government's handling of the pandemic, with only 47% of them expressing confidence in its ability to tackle the crisis generated by COVID-19. Trust in the government, the EU and international cooperation has worsened, while trust in the health and welfare system has improved.

The Future

Most Italians believe that COVID-19 has offered us the opportunity to make important changes that can reduce **social inequalities** and that can **tackle climate change**; however, most of them are also quite pessimistic on whether this opportunity will be seized.



Personal Experience under COVID-19



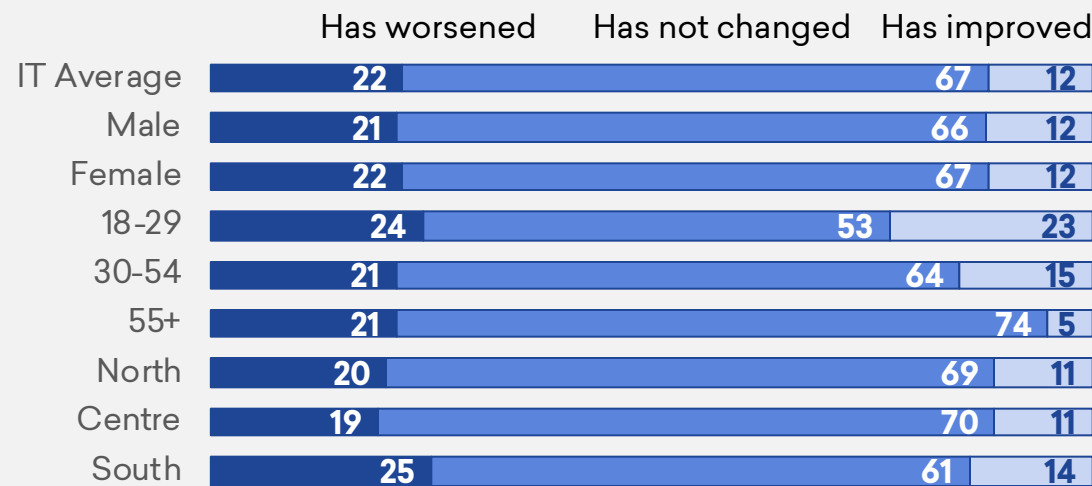
Impact of COVID-19 on personal lives



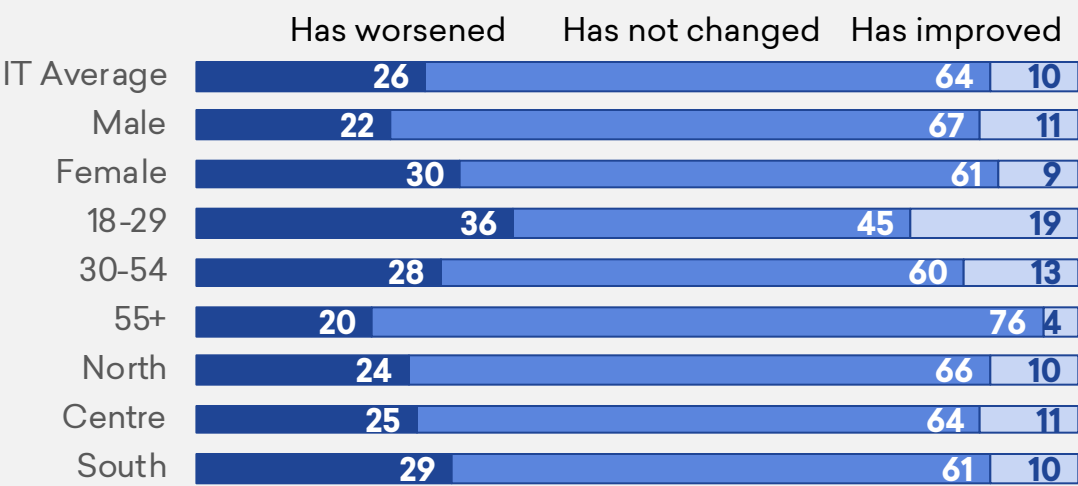
Physical & mental health moderately affected

COVID-19 significantly affected Italians' physical and mental health, though the latter was impacted more severely. Southerners are those perceiving a more severe deterioration of their mental and physical health, while younger cohorts are those showing the largest range in effects.

Physical Health



Mental Health



Question: Since this pandemic began, how have the following things changed, if at all?
Please note: Numbers may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

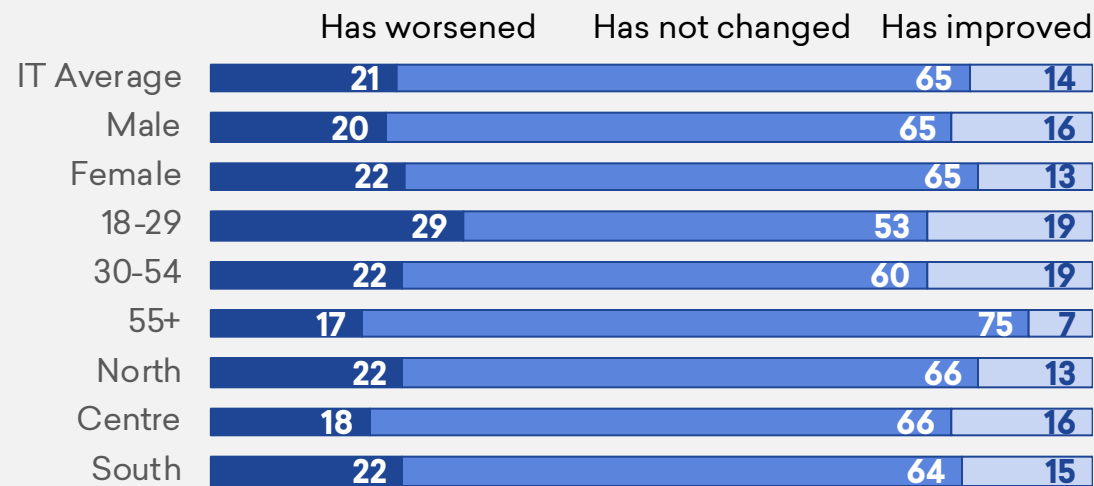
Impact of COVID-19 on personal lives



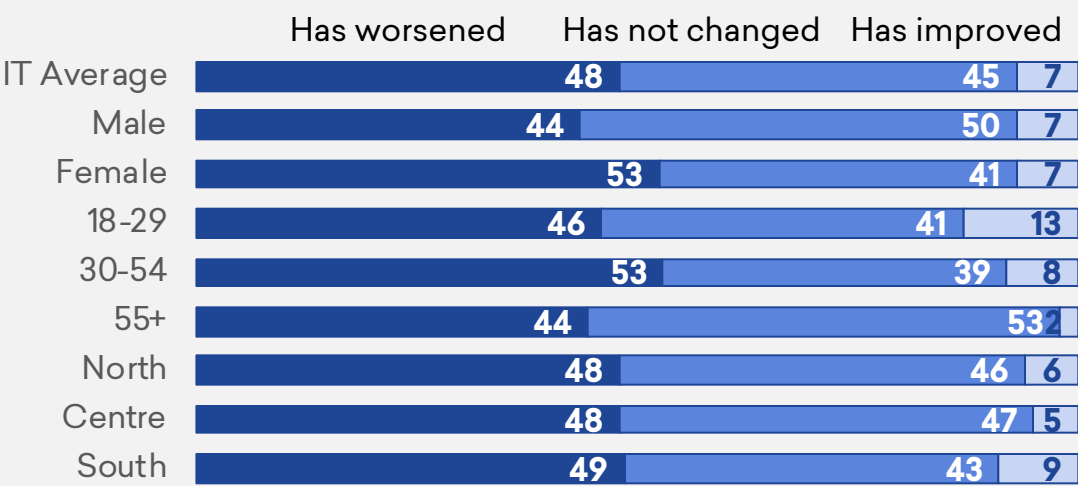
Financial situations most damaged

Italians' financial situation has deteriorated most severely during the crisis, while family life experienced a less drastic and consistent decline. The economic downturn was mostly perceived by people aged 30-54 and women, respectively the most active age cohort and the most disadvantaged gender in the Italian labor market. No major differences are observable regarding geographical location.

Family Life



Financial situation

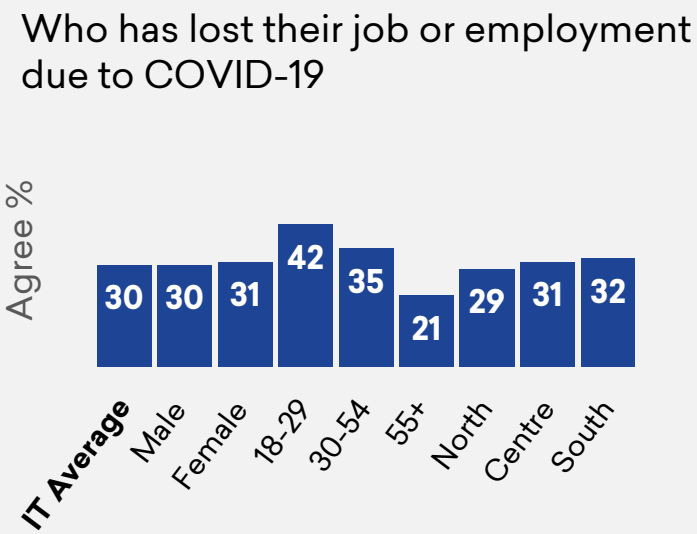
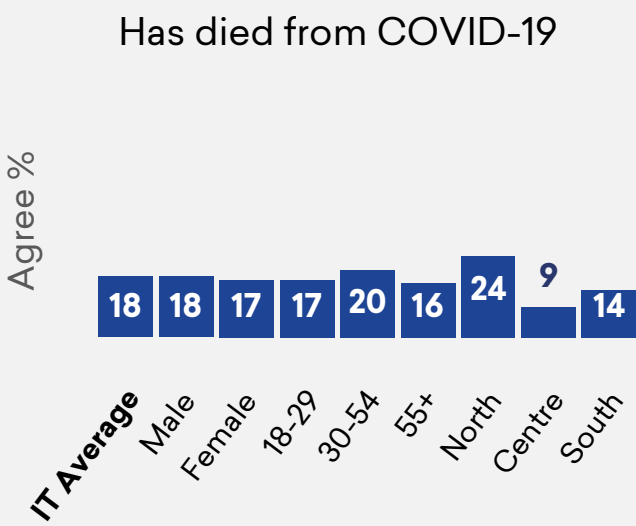
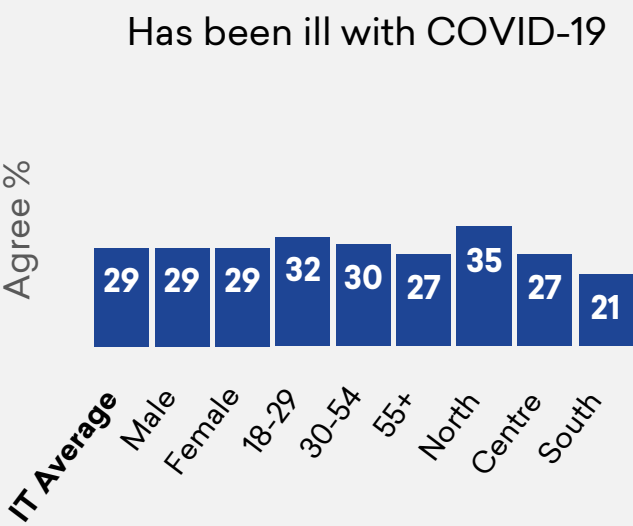


Question: Since this pandemic began, how have the following things changed, if at all?
Please note: Numbers may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Impact of COVID-19 on personal networks

„Do you personally know someone who...?“

A third of Italians personally know someone who has been ill with or who has lost his/her job because of COVID-19, while a fifth has lost a dear one due to it. The majority of those personally knowing someone who fell sick or died of COVID-19 are from Northern Italy, where the pandemic has been more virulent.



Question: Do you personally know someone who...?

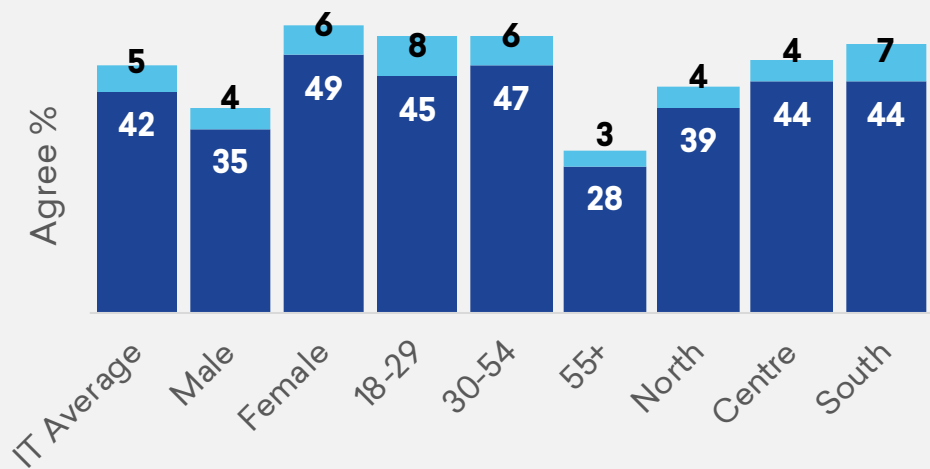
Economic worries and impacts



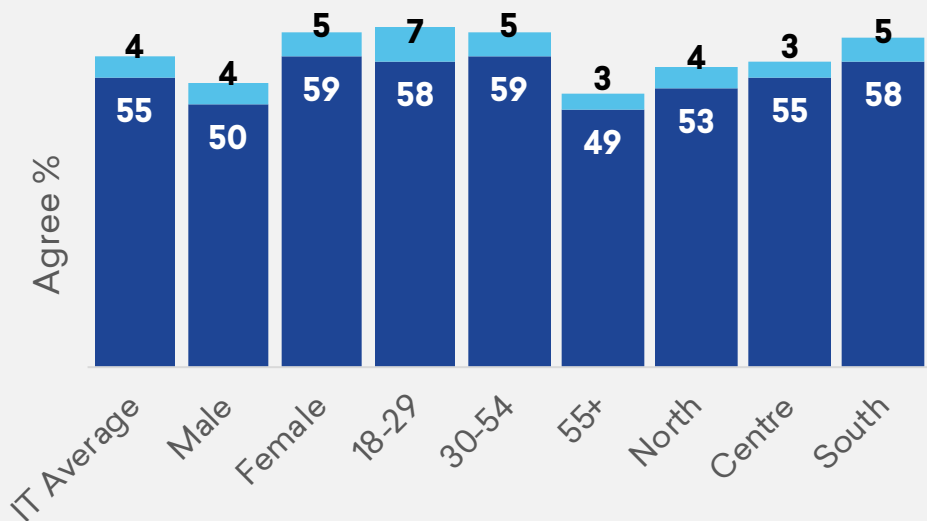
Worried about...

Many Italians are concerned with the possibility of facing financial difficulties or losing their job due to the pandemic. Women, Southerners and people aged 18-29 and 30-54 are the most *scared* of facing economic instability. The young are among those *actually experiencing* financial difficulties the most, possibly because they usually have more precarious and less regulated working conditions in comparison to their older counterparts.

Loss of job or employment*



Financial difficulties



■ Worried about ■ Already happened

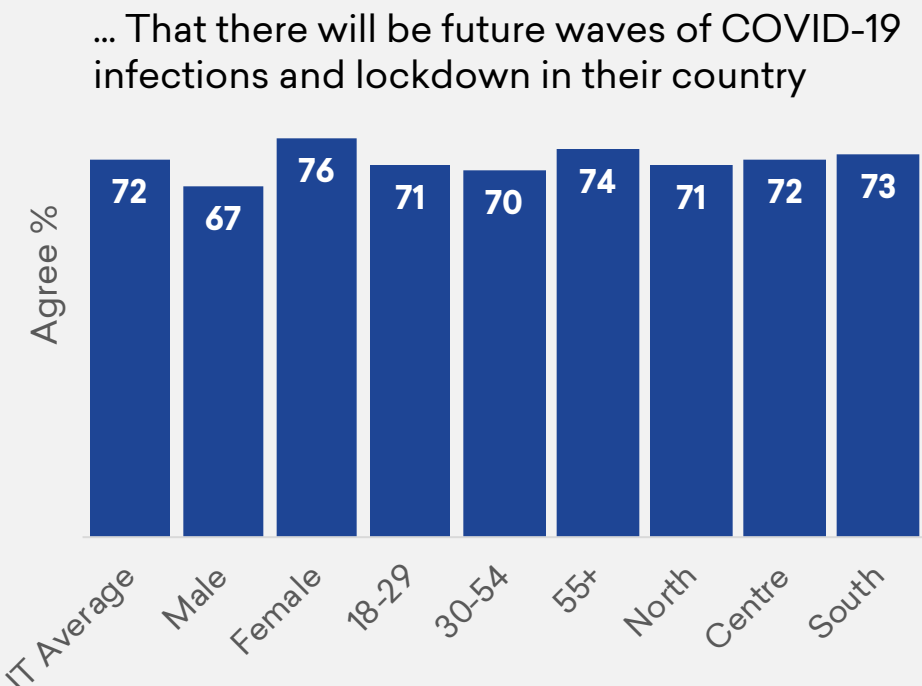
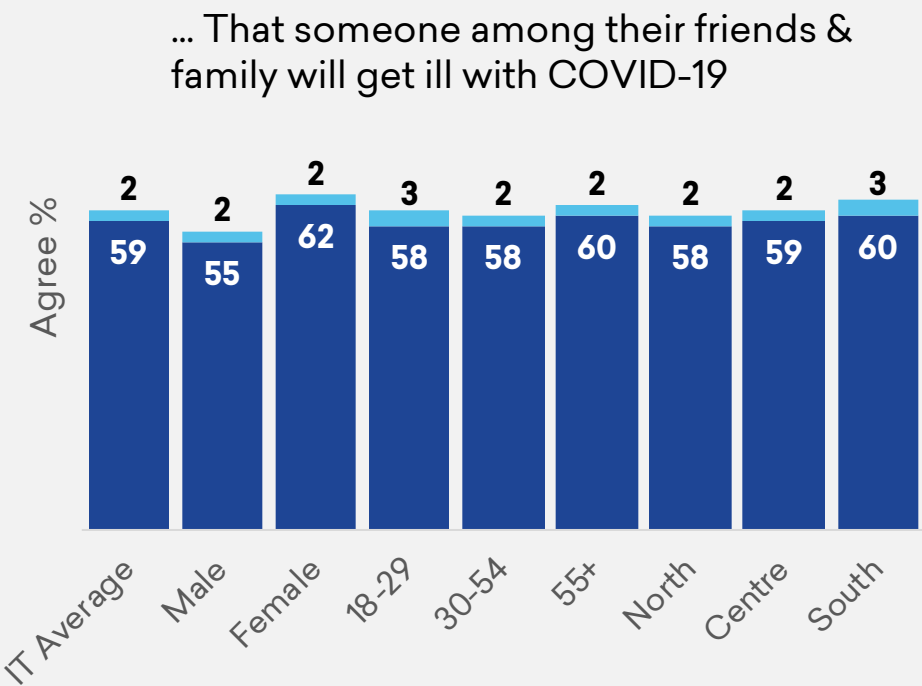
Question: To what extent are you currently worried or not worried that....? *Note that these percentages exclude respondents who responded “Does not apply to me”.

Health worries and impacts



Worried that..

More than two-thirds of Italians are convinced that there will be future waves of COVID-19 and more than half are worried that a family member or a friend will eventually get the virus, with women and the elderly among the most concerned.



■ Worried about ■ Already happened

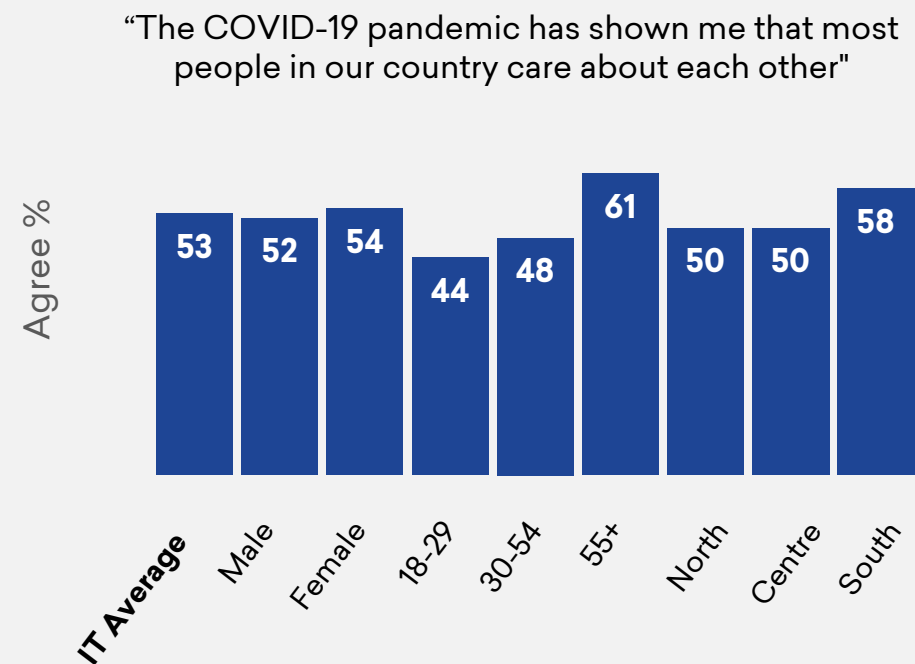
Question: To what extent are you currently worried or not worried that....? *Note that these percentages exclude respondents who responded “Does not apply to me”.

Collective Experience under COVID-19

Support and Care



Only one out of two Italians perceived solidarity during the pandemic. This perception varies among age cohorts, with people over 55 evaluating their fellow citizens' behavior more positively and people below 30 more negatively.

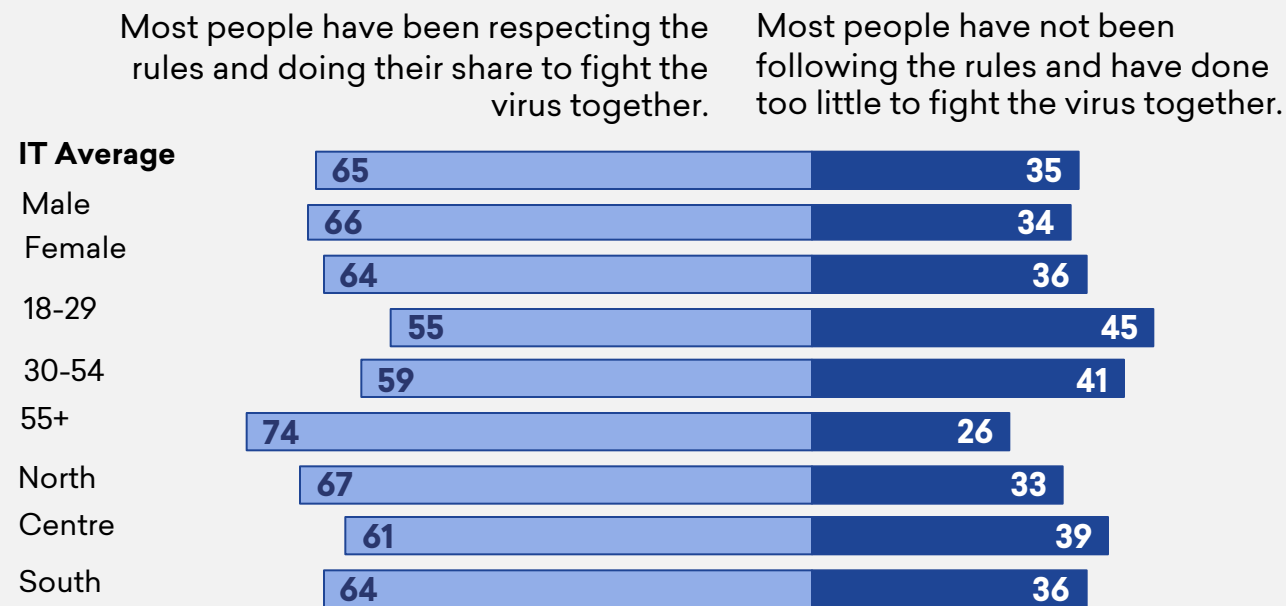
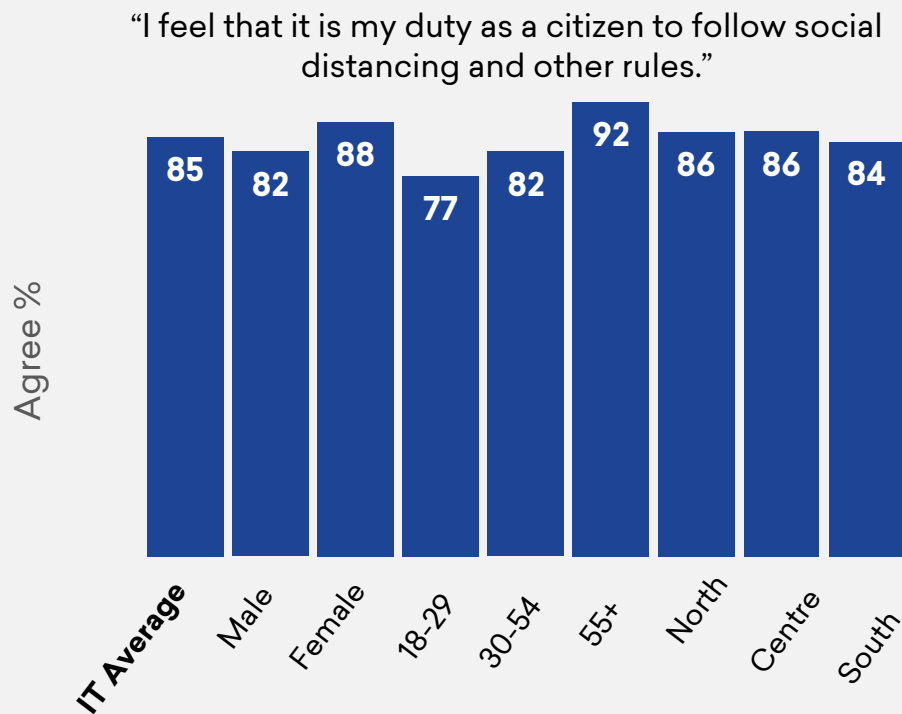


Question: Which of the following statements do you agree with more?; To what extent do you agree with the following statement?
Please note: Numbers may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Lockdown and Restrictions



Italians think of virus-containment practices as their civic duty, but many believe that most of their fellow citizens have not adopted such practices enough. The young are both more negative about others' behavior, but also less inclined to follow containment rules themselves.



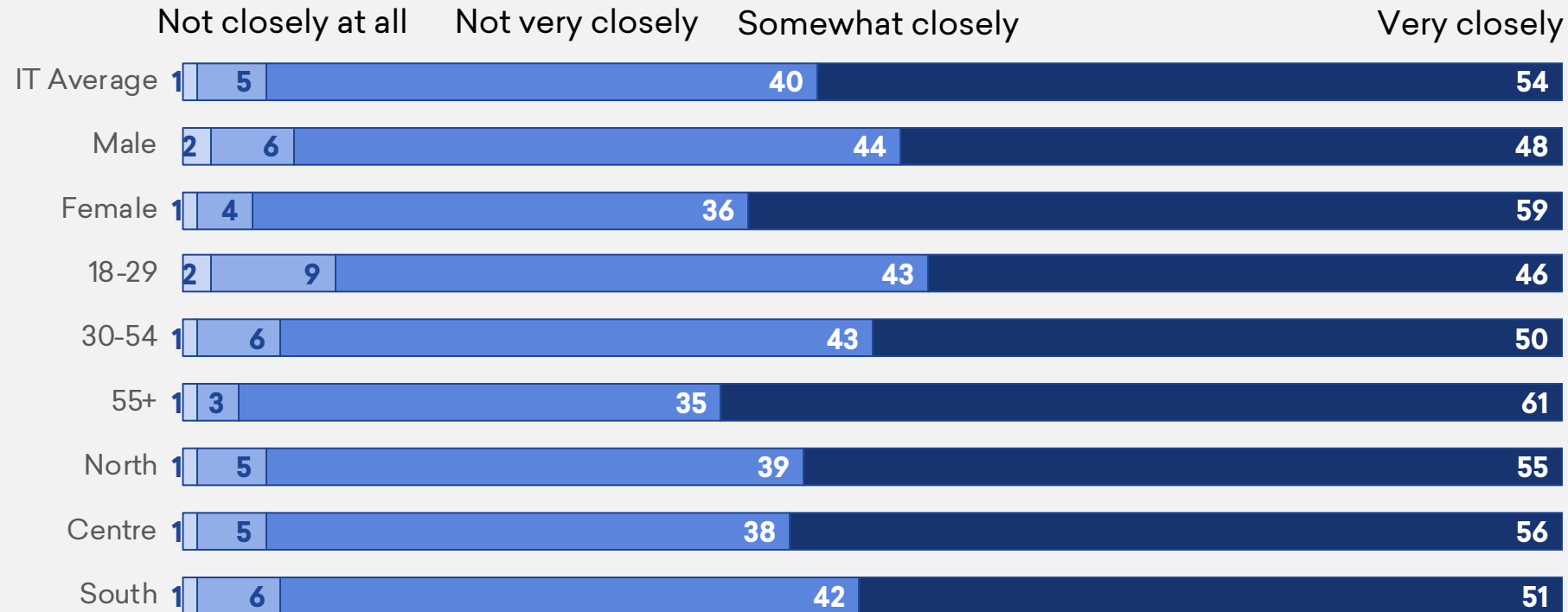
Question: Which of the following statements do you agree with more?; To what extent do you agree with the following statement?
Please note: Numbers may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Lockdown and Restrictions



Italians' diligence in following the rules

Nearly all Italians maintain they follow social distancing rules at least somewhat closely. Women and people over 55 have been most attentive, while people below 30 have been least so, possibly because they were less worried since the first wave of COVID-19 has mostly hit the elderly in Italy.



Question: When it comes to the COVID-19 social distancing rules that have been put in place in your area (wearing a mask, staying home, etc.), would you say that you have followed the rules...?

Please note: Numbers may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Engagement & Contribution



Participation in COVID-19 relief activities

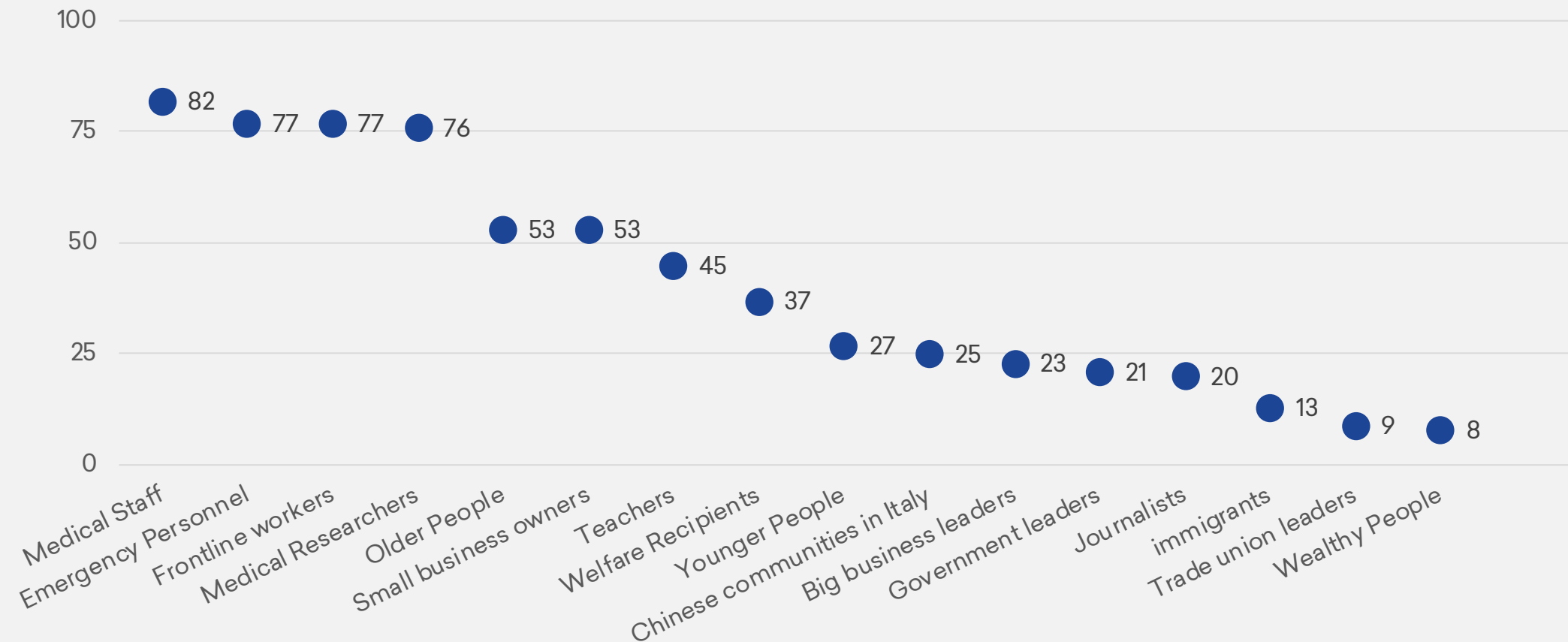


Question: In which of the following activities have you participated since the COVID-19 pandemic began, if any?

Groups in Society: Who deserves praise?



Groups that deserve particular praise: Medical and Frontline Personnel

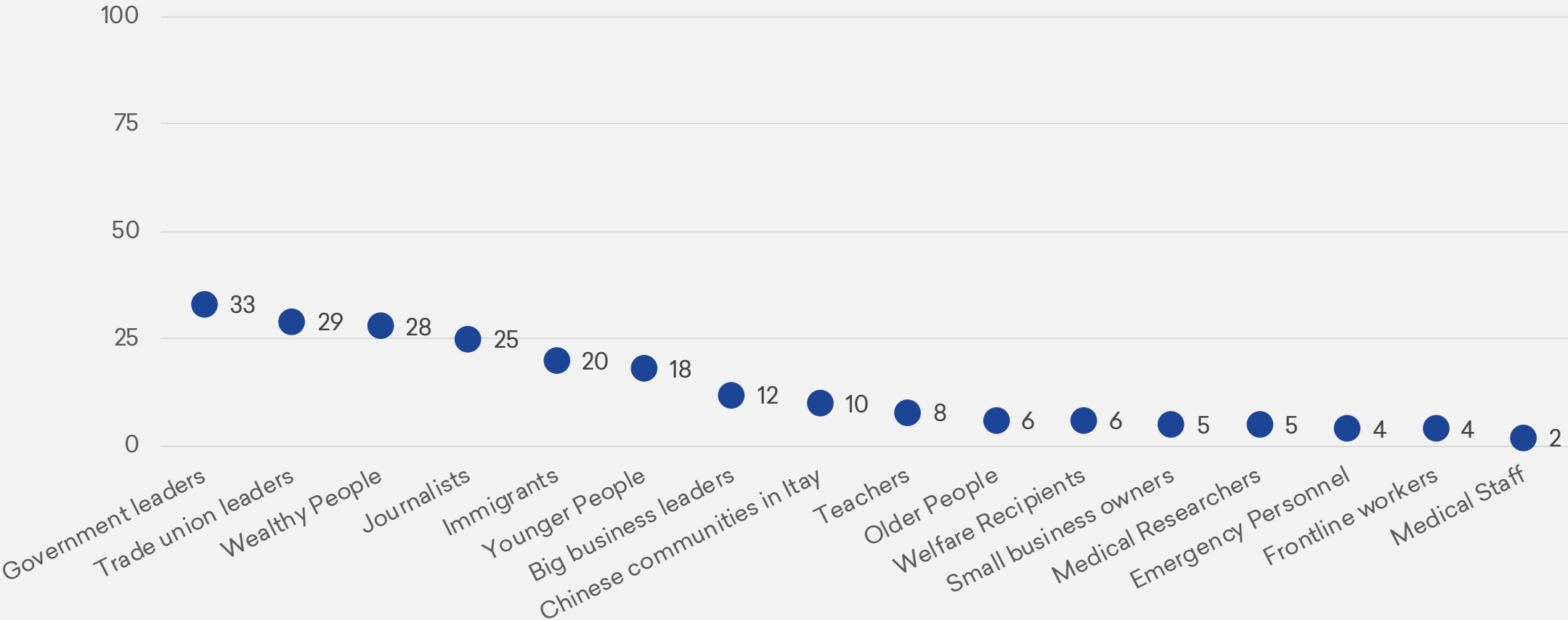


Question: When you think of how different people have acted in the COVID-19 pandemic so far: Please indicate whether the following groups of people deserve particular praise for their actions, deserve particular blame for their actions, or whether they deserve neither particular praise nor particular blame for their actions.

Groups in Society: Who deserves blame?



Groups that deserve particular blame: Institutional Leaders



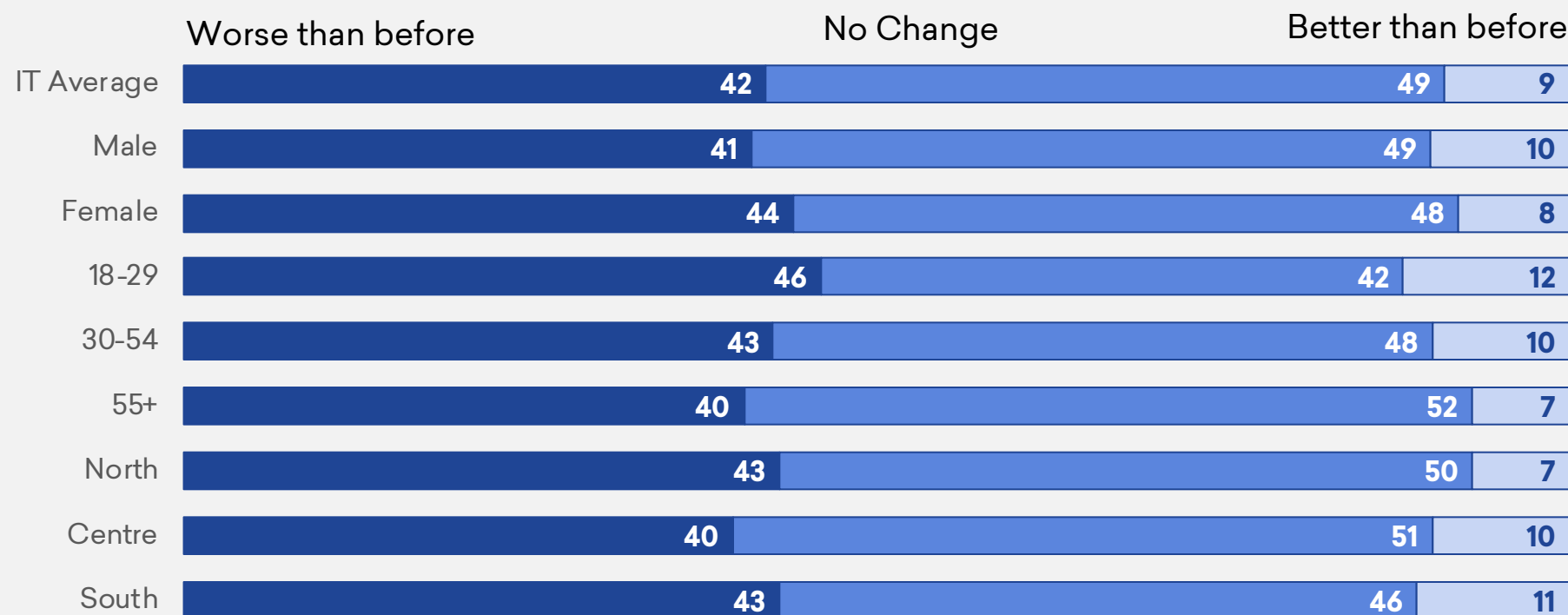
Question: When you think of how different people have acted in the COVID-19 pandemic so far: Please indicate whether the following groups of people deserve particular praise for their actions, deserve particular blame for their actions, or whether they deserve neither particular praise nor particular blame for their actions.

Trust in Others



How has people's trust in others changed during the crisis?

Many Italians have experienced a deterioration of their trust in others during the crisis. Women and people under 30 were those undergoing a sharper decline. Conversely, the elderly experienced a less intense deterioration of their trust.



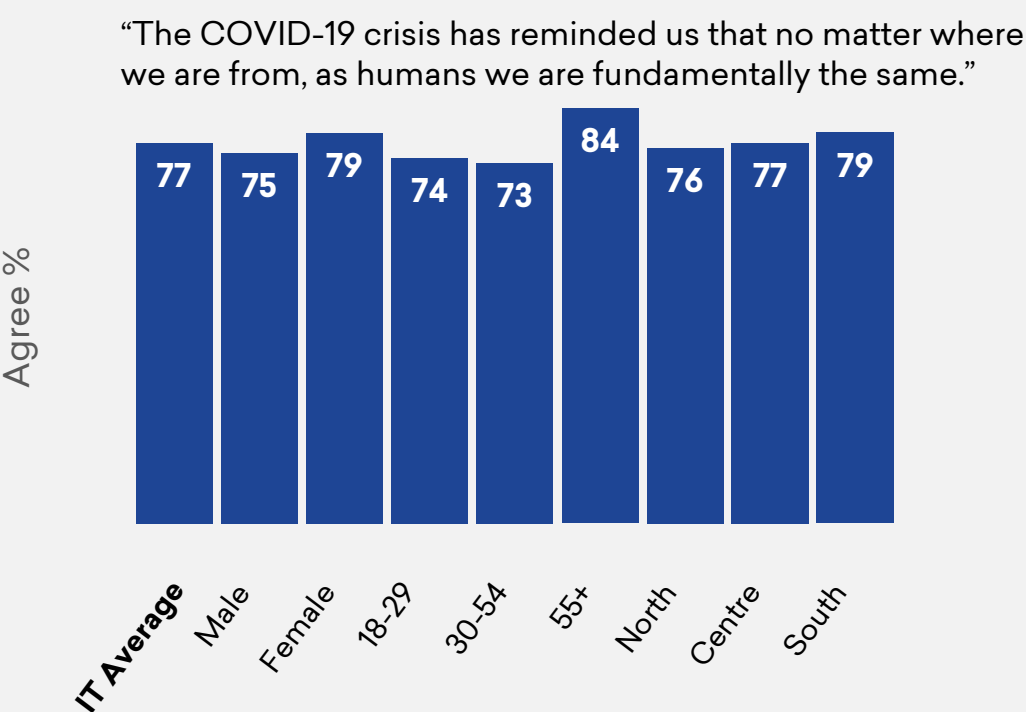
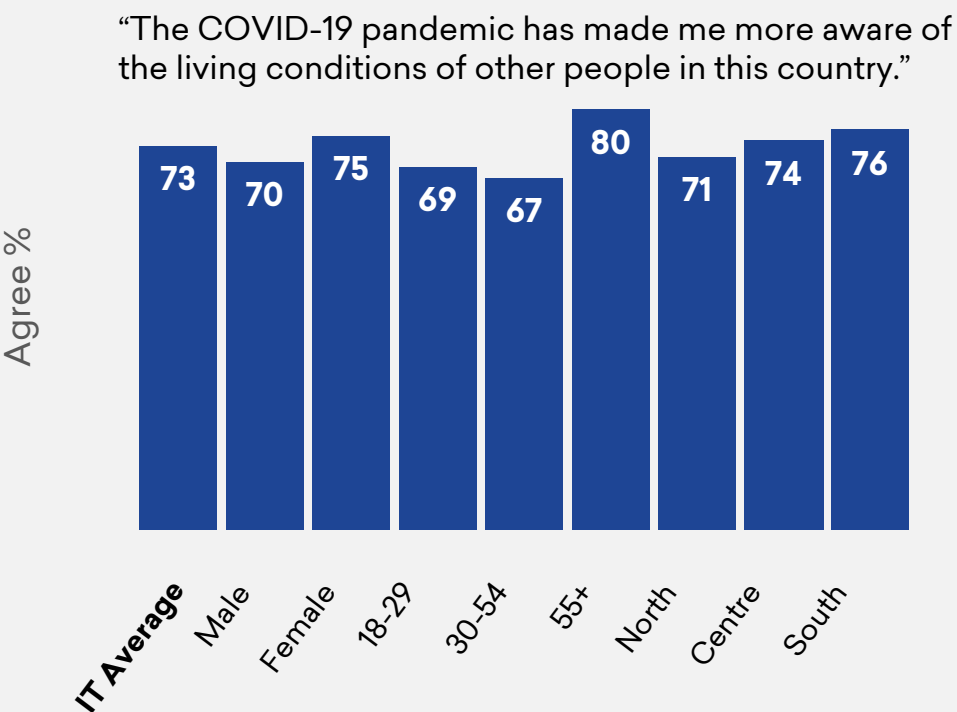
Question: To what extent are the following aspects of your life different due to the COVID-19 pandemic?
Please note: Numbers may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Empathy and Shared Humanity



Awareness of others' living conditions and views on humanity

Three-quarters of Italians feel more sympathetic to others' living conditions and see the crisis as a reminder that humans are equal, regardless of their origins. Women, people from the South and the elderly are those showing the highest level of awareness and solidarity.



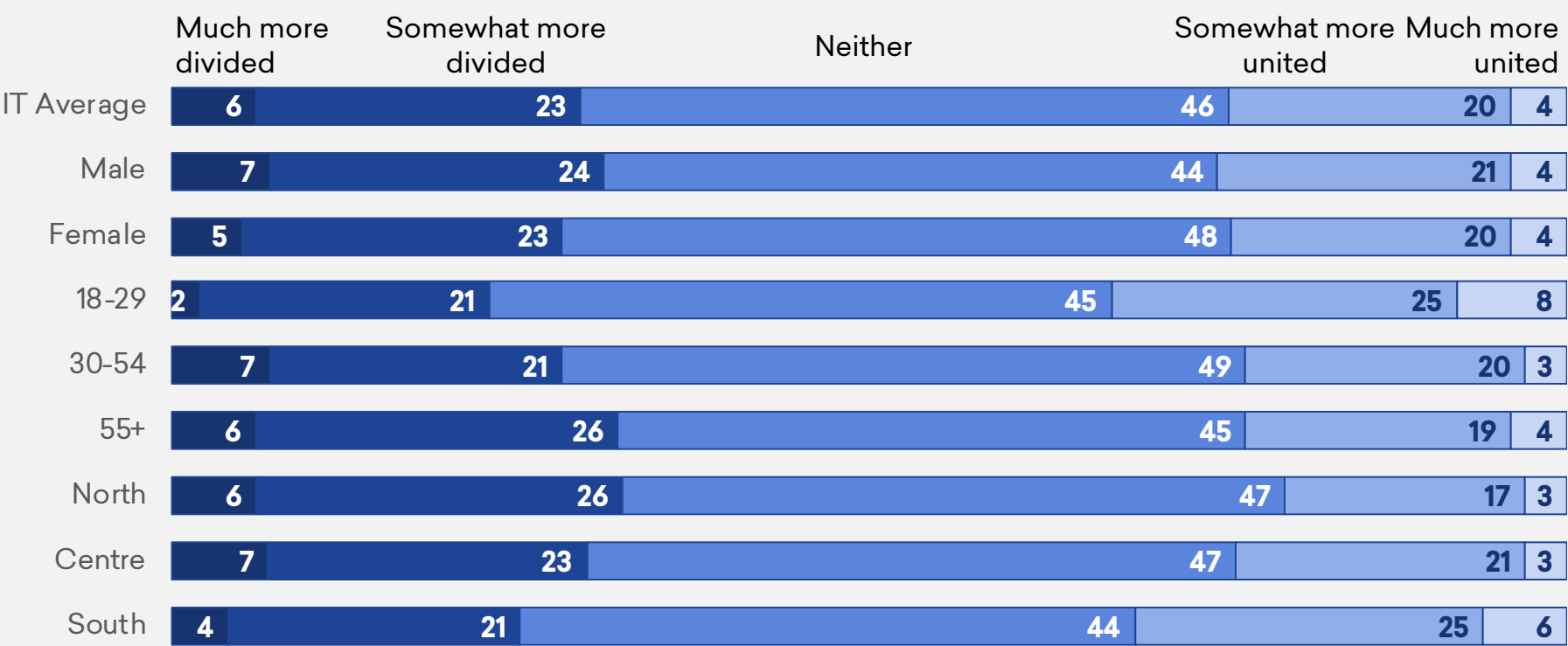
Question: To what extent do you agree with the following statement?

Impact on Cohesion



More united or more divided since COVID-19?

On average, Italians tend to perceive themselves as more divided after the pandemic, though not drastically. Men, people from the North and the elderly tend to perceive this division more, while those under 30 and people from the South feel more cohesive.



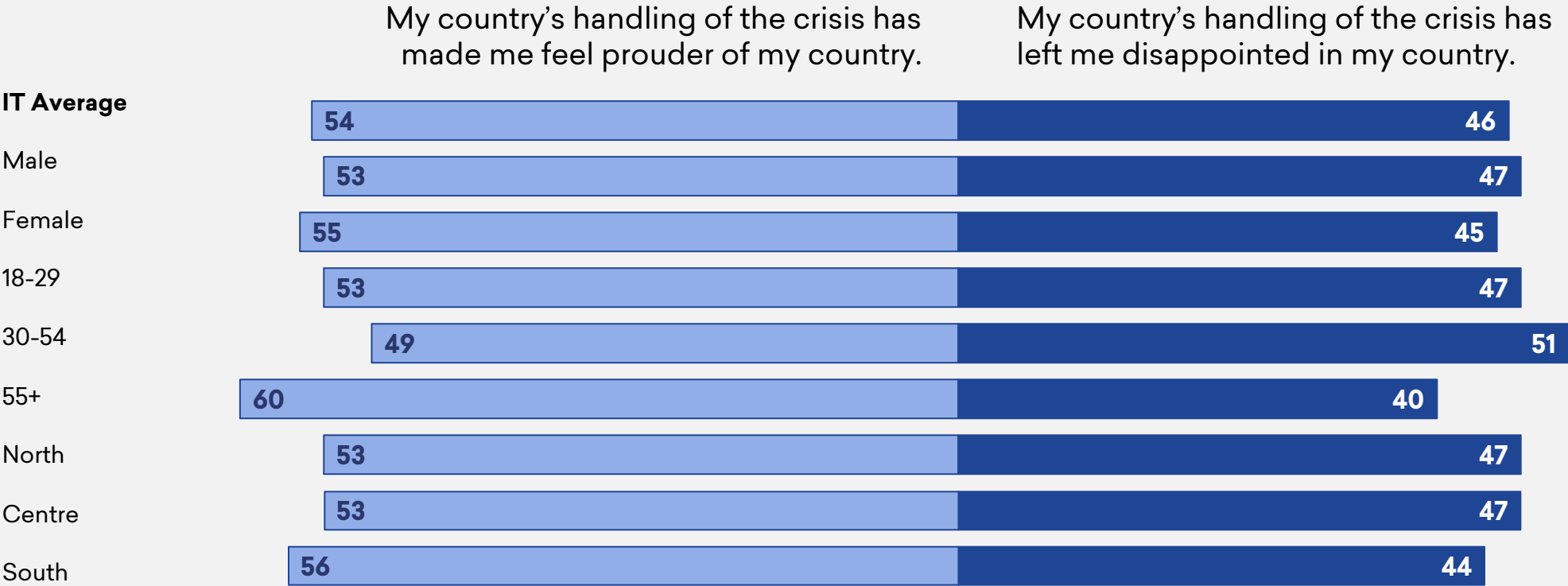
Question: Since the COVID-19 pandemic emerged, how have your perceptions of [COUNTRY] changed, if at all? Is it...?
Please note: Numbers may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Feelings towards country



Proud or Disappointed?

Italians seem quite divided when it comes to their country’s handling of the crisis: while the elderly and people from the South are rather proud of how the pandemic was managed, many groups are nearly evenly divided in their interpretations.



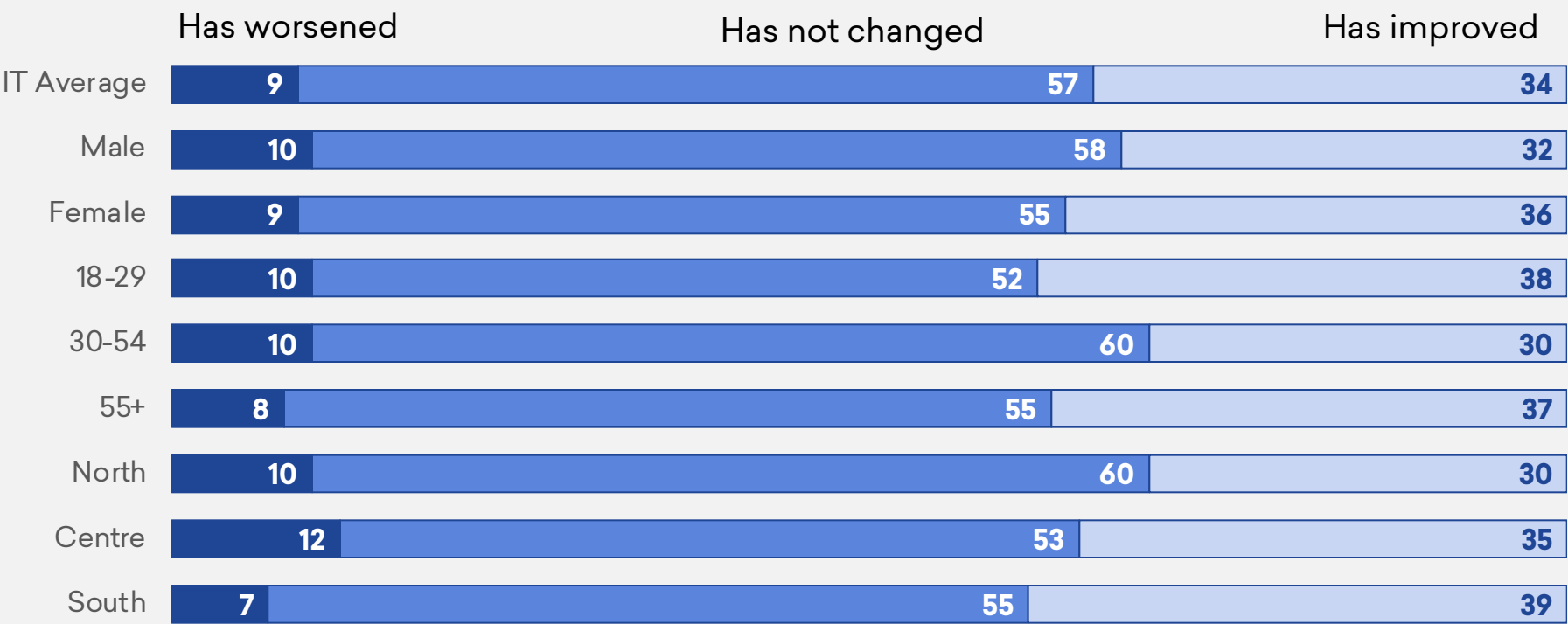
Question: Which of the following statements do you agree with more?
Please note: Numbers may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Change in Concern for Others



How has people’s concern for each other changed during the crisis?

A third of Italians think that the concern for others has improved during the crisis, even though the majority thinks nothing has changed in this regard. People at the end of the age spectrum tend to be more positive, while people from the Northern and Central regions are more negative.



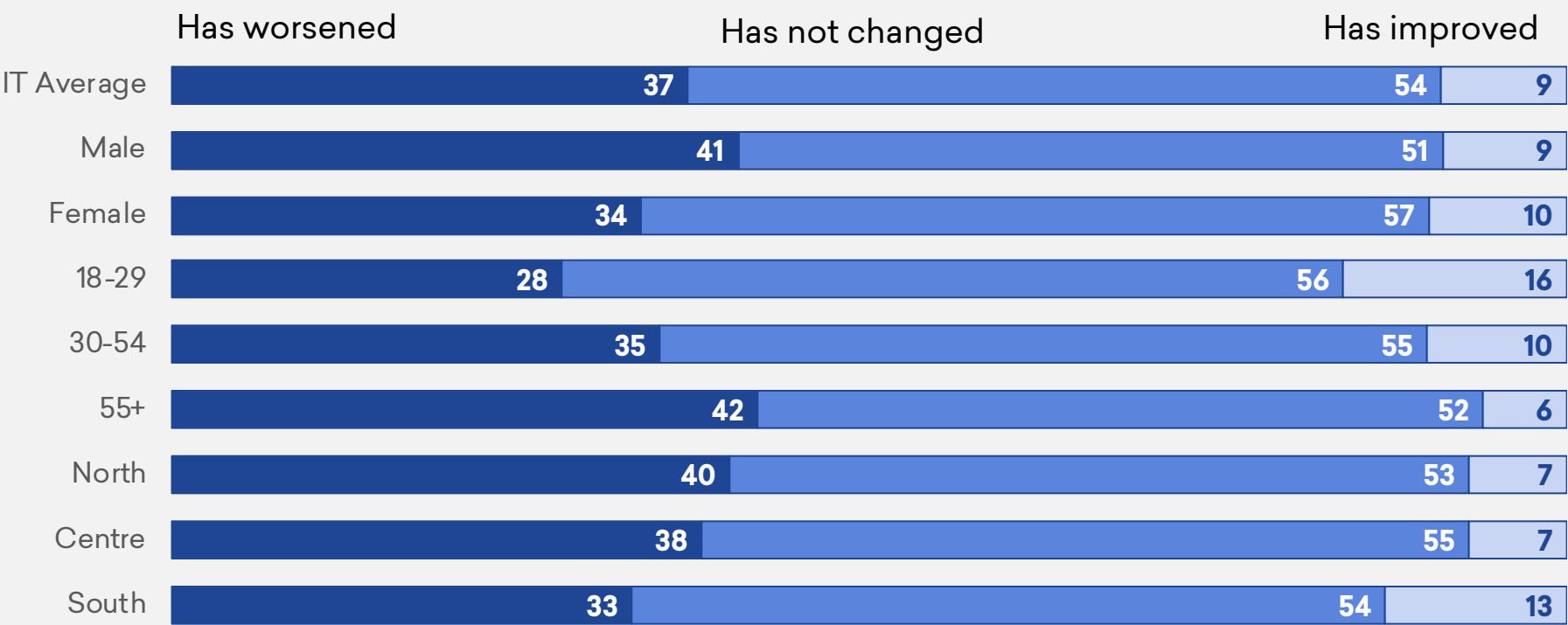
Question: Since this pandemic began, how have the following things changed in [COUNTRY], if at all?
Please note: Numbers may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Change in Public Debate



How has public debate in your country changed during the crisis?

More than a third of Italians think that the quality of public debate has worsened since the beginning of the pandemic. The most critical are men and people over 55, while people under 30 and from the South have a more positive view of the Italian public debate.



Question: Since this pandemic began, how have the following things changed in [COUNTRY], if at all?
Please note: Numbers may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Power, Institutions and the Media

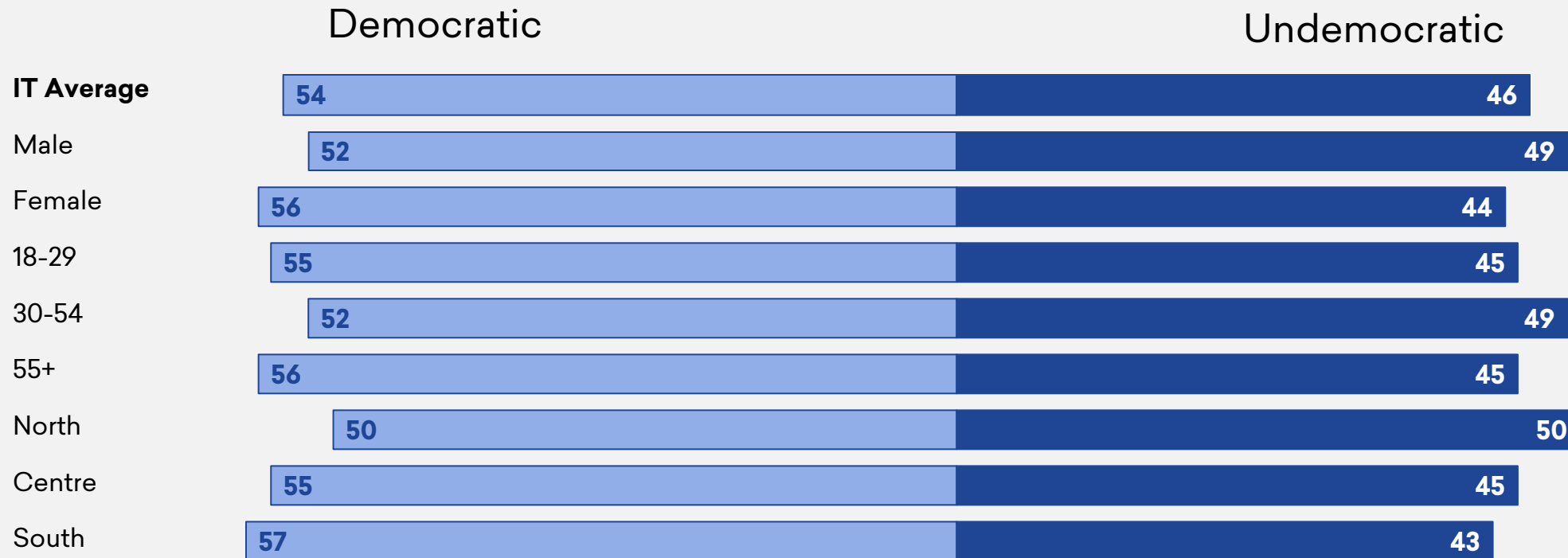




Government handling of crisis

Democratic vs. Undemocratic

Only a slight majority of Italians believe the government handling of the crisis was democratic. People from the North, men and those aged 30-54 are among those perceiving government's actions as more undemocratic.



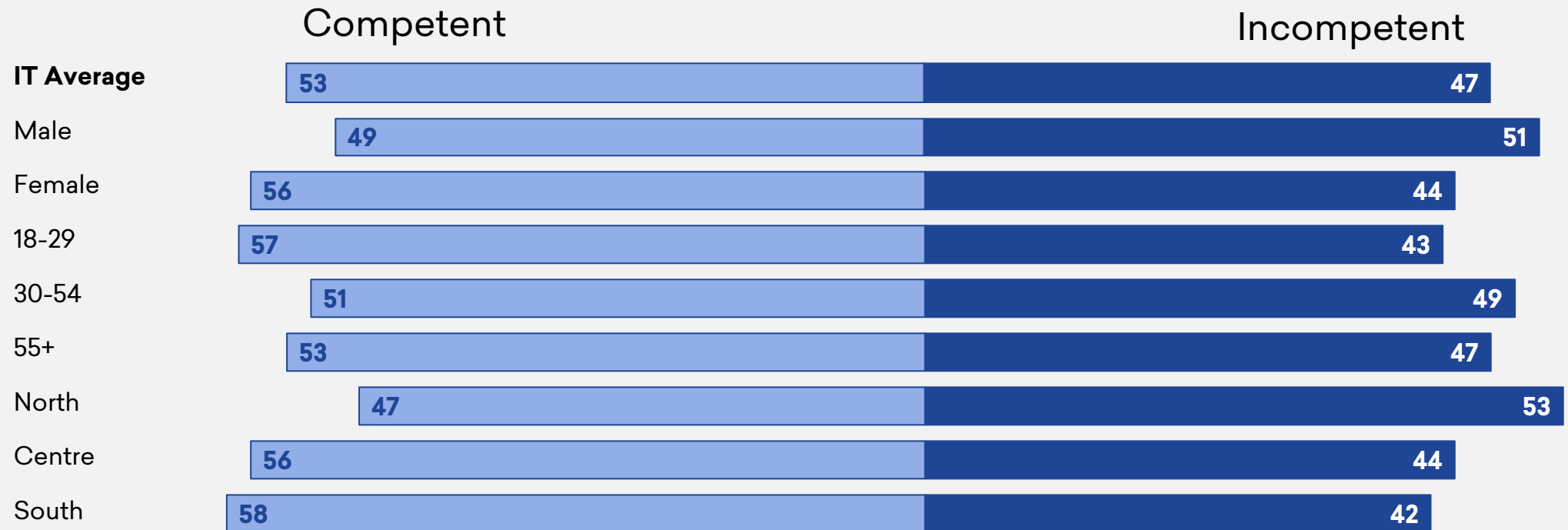
Question: Which of the following statements do you agree with more?
Please note: Numbers may not add up to 100 due to rounding.



Government handling of crisis

Perceptions of competence

Almost one out of two Italians perceived the government handling of the pandemic as incompetent. People from the North are the least satisfied, probably because they paid the highest price, both in terms of human lives and economic loss.



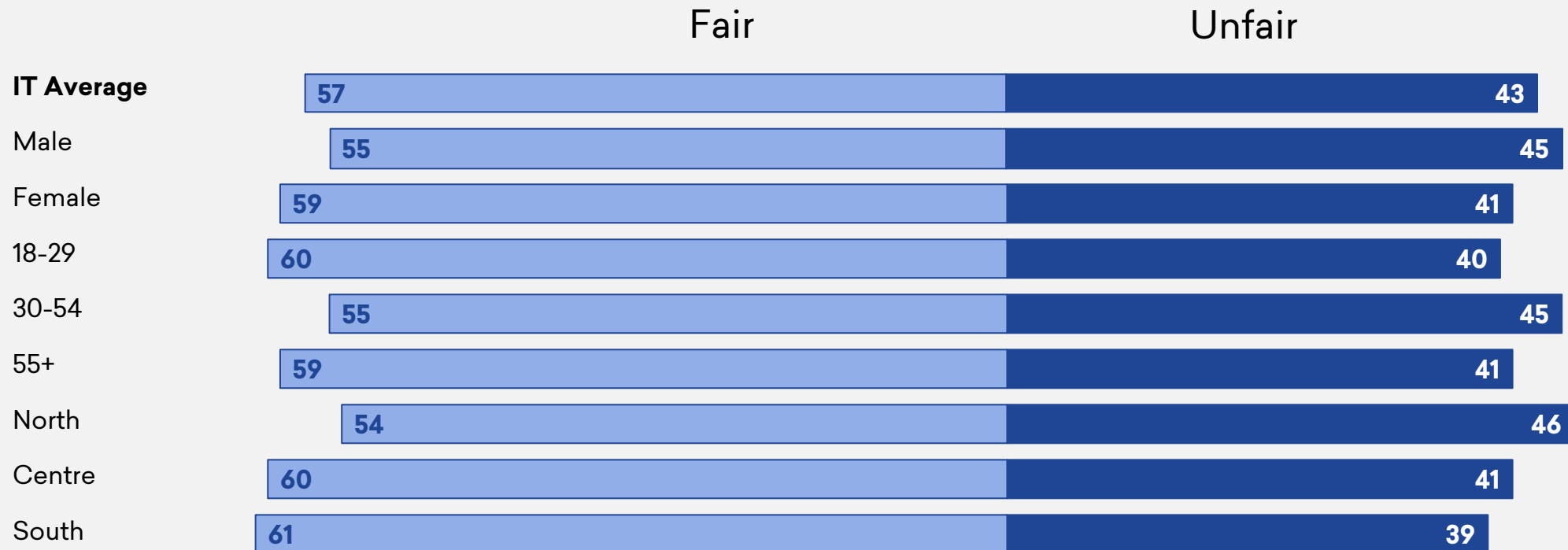
Question: Which of the following statements do you agree with more?
Please note: Numbers may not add up to 100 due to rounding.



Government handling of crisis

Just or discriminatory decisions?

Most Italians perceive the government has managed the COVID-19 crisis fairly. Major differences are noticeable between geographical areas, with people from the North among the most critical and those from the Centre and the South among the most approving, possibly because the different impact the virus had on those areas determined different lockdown timings and various levels of restrictions in terms of intensity.



Question: Which of the following statements do you agree with more?
Please note: Numbers may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Perception of COVID-19 rules: Reasonable?

Proportional vs. Disproportional

On average, most Italians believe that the restrictions they had to face to prevent the spread of COVID-19 were reasonable and proportional, though men and people in the 30-54 age cohort are more likely to find them disproportional.



Question: Which of the following statements do you agree with more?
Please note: Numbers may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

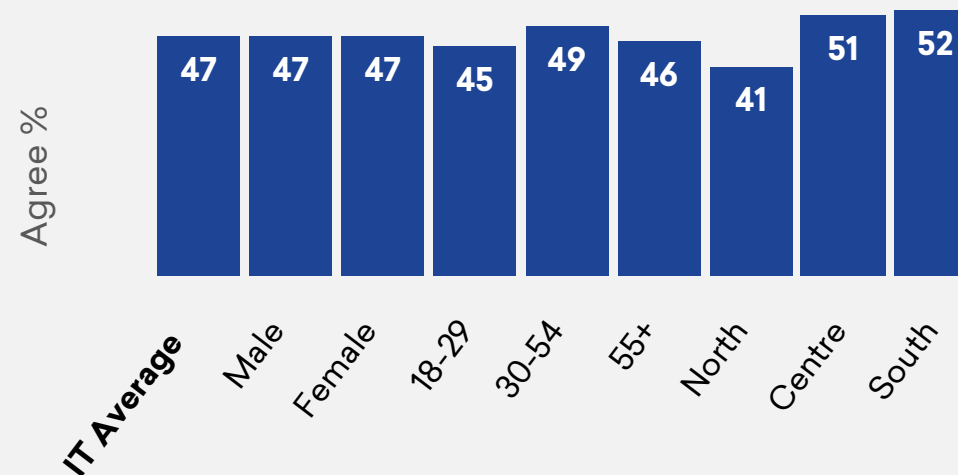
Confidence in Government Ability



Italians are not confident in their government's ability to fight Covid-19

Most Italians are **not** confident that the current government is capable of facing and overcoming the challenges COVID-19 has posed. People from Northern regions — where the pandemic has been more virulent — are particularly disappointed, while Italians living in other regions are less critical.

“I am confident in our current government's ability to tackle the challenges ahead of us.”



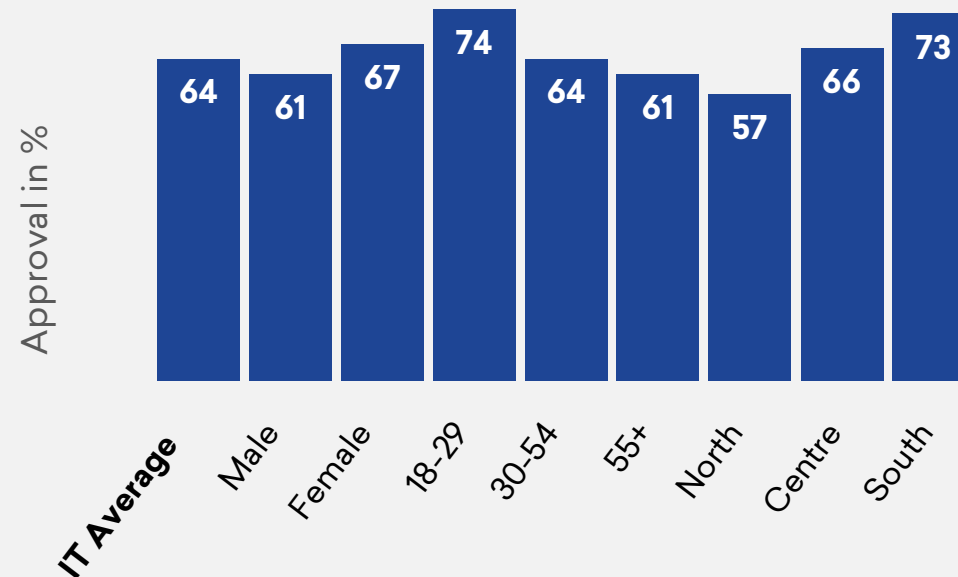
Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

Approval of the Prime Minister



Most Italians believe in Giuseppe Conte

Almost two-thirds of Italians are content with the work done to face the pandemic by Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte. The young and people from the South are the most satisfied, while people from the North are the least so, possibly because the response of Conte's government was slower at the beginning of the crisis and Northern regions have been the first affected by COVID-19, with dramatic consequences.

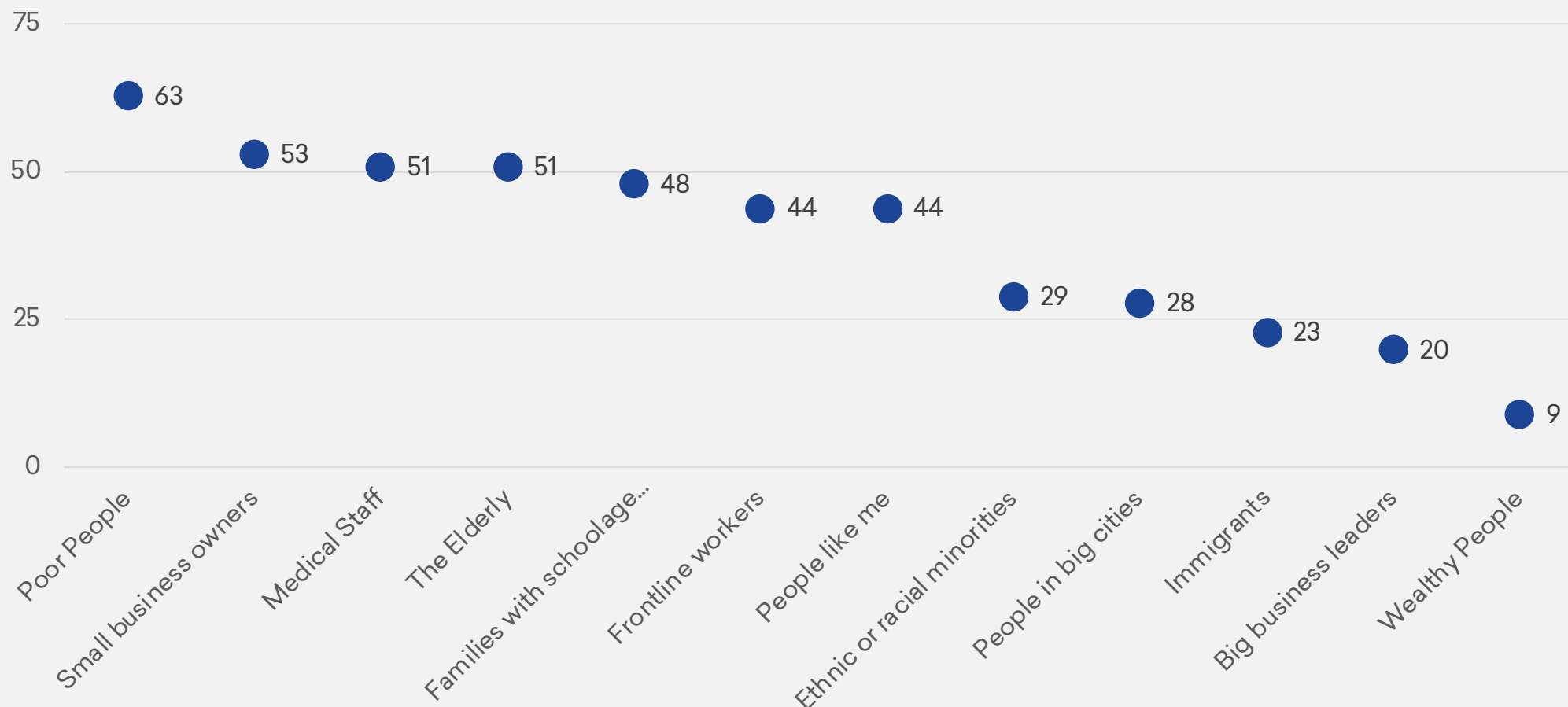


Question: Do you approve or disapprove of the way [HEAD OF GOVERNMENT / STATE] is doing his/her job?

Government cares too little about...



According to most Italians, the government does not care enough about those suffering economic disadvantages, be it people in a state of poverty or small business owners in difficulty due to the prolonged lockdown.

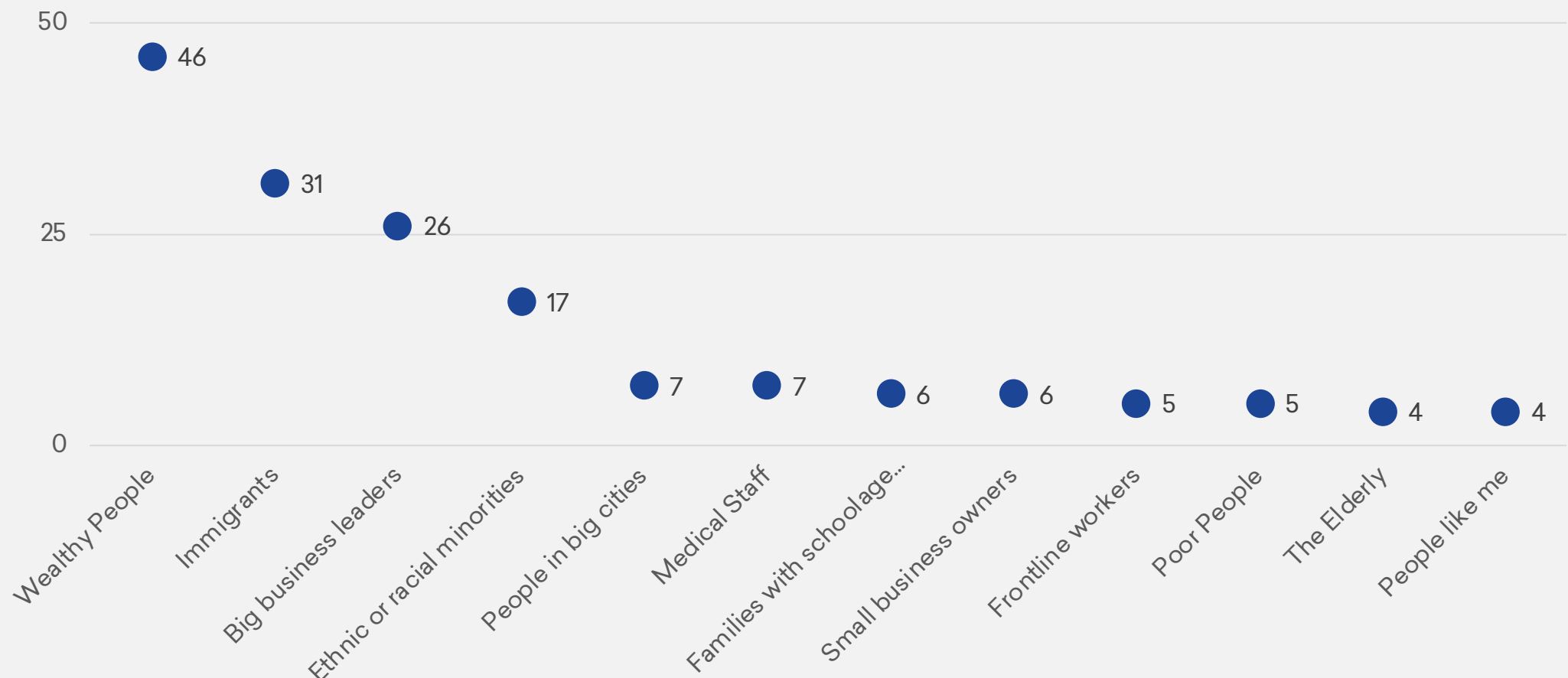


Question: Please indicate how much the [NATIONALITY] government seems to care about the following groups in its response to the COVID-19 situation...

Government cares too much about...



Italians think that the government pays too much attention to two main social groups: the most affluent, including business leaders, and people with a different cultural and/or ethnic background, whether it is migrants or individuals belonging to a minority.



Question: Please indicate how much the [NATIONALITY] government seems to care about the following groups in its response to the COVID-19 situation...

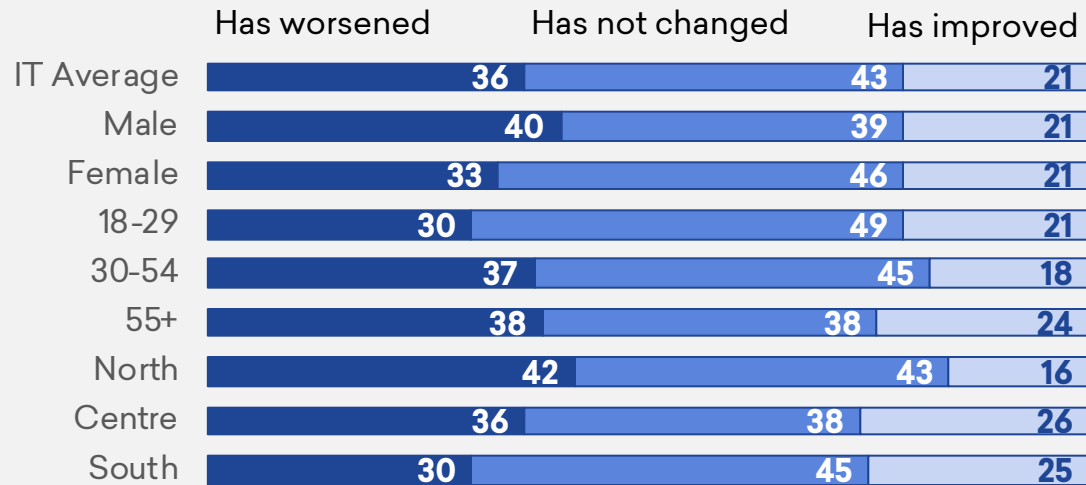
Trust in Institutions



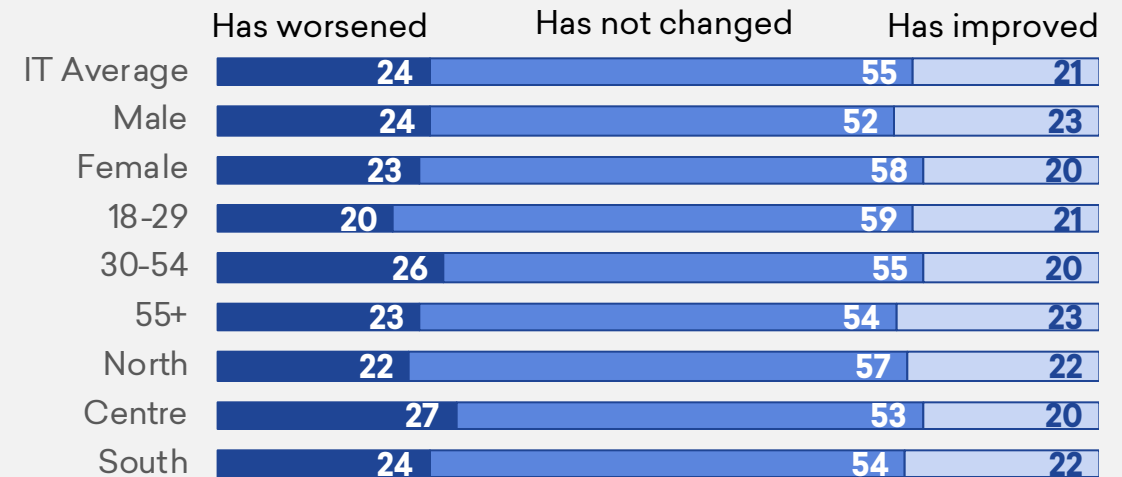
National Government vs. Local Government

Trust in both national and local government has deteriorated during the COVID-19 crisis, with more than a third of Italians not trusting the former and almost a fourth not trusting the latter. The harsher critics are men and Northern Italians for national government, and people from the Centre for the local one.

Trust in National Government



Trust in Local Government



Question: Since this pandemic began, how have the following things changed, if at all?
Please note: Numbers may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

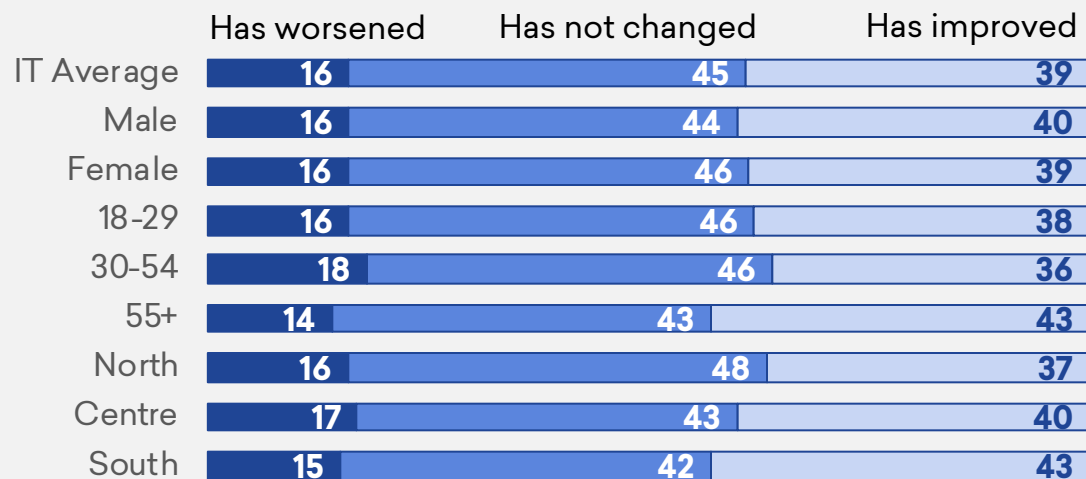
Trust in Institutions



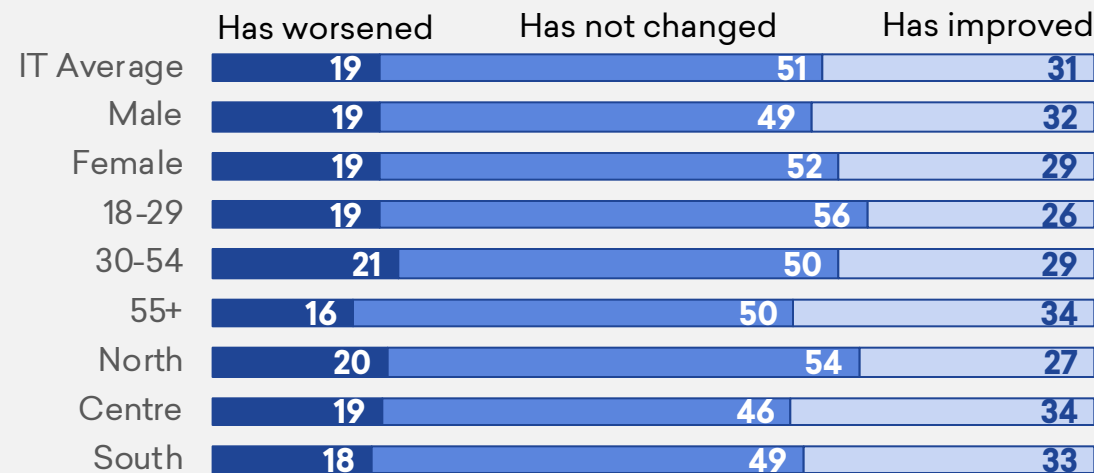
Health & Welfare System

Italians' trust in the Health and Welfare system has improved, especially among people over 55 and those from the Southern regions. Men are slightly more satisfied by these systems than women.

Health System



Welfare System

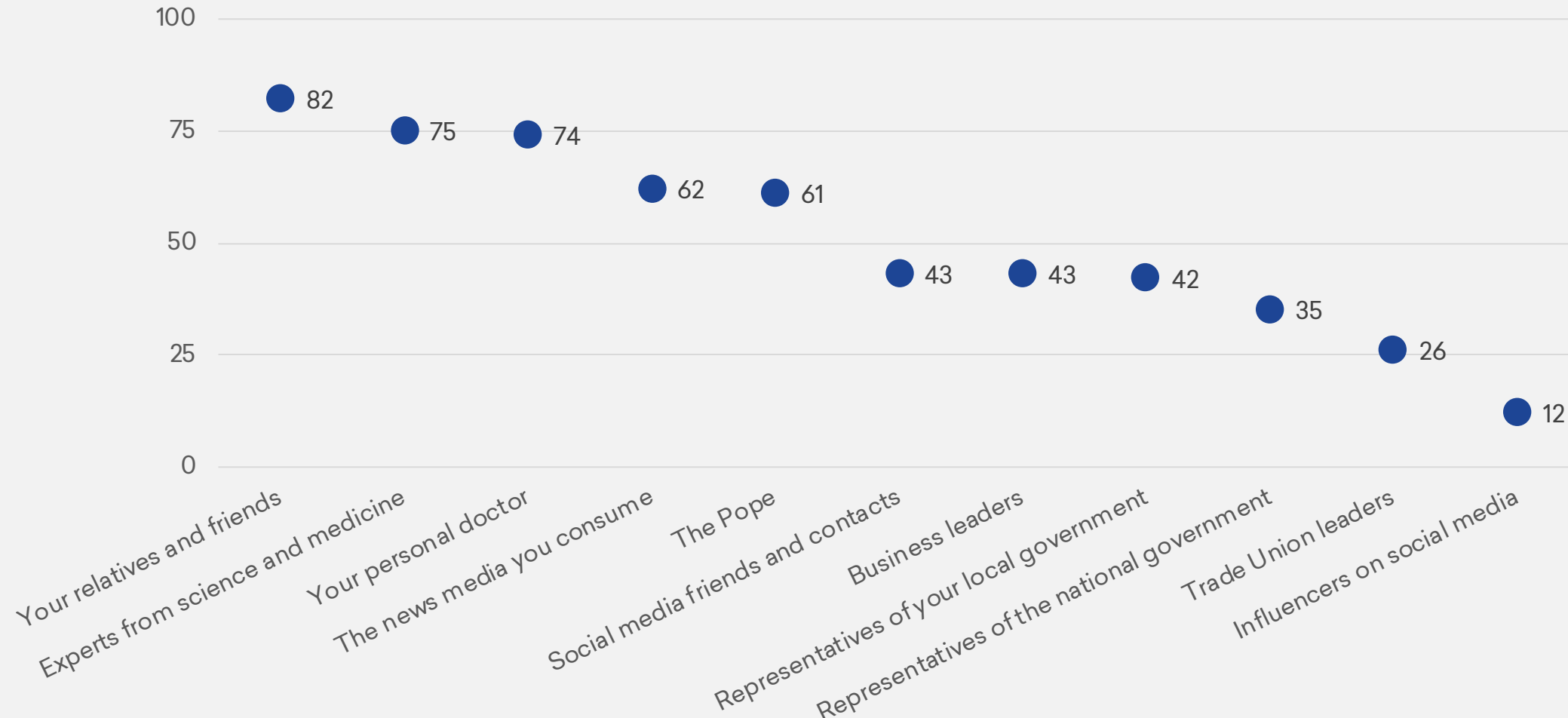


Question: Since this pandemic began, how have the following things changed, if at all?
Please note: Numbers may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Trust in information sources on COVID-19



Who do people trust for reliable information on COVID-19?



Question: Please indicate to what extent, if at all, you trust these groups of people or institutions when it comes to accurate and reliable information on the COVID-19 pandemic.

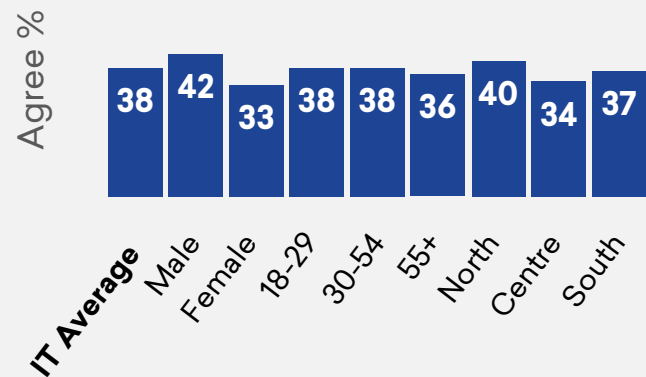
Suspicion & Conspiracy



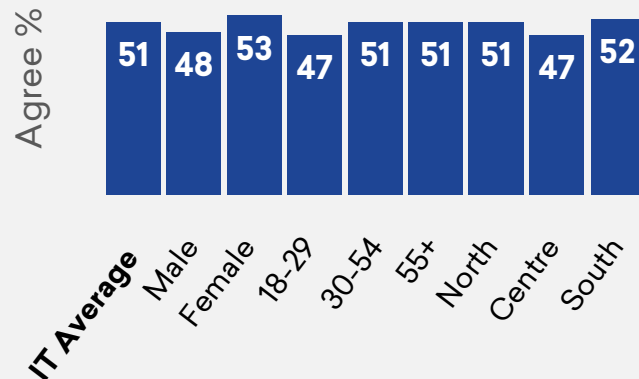
Are people suspicious of government and media?

Italians are more suspicious of the media than they are of the government, but many are convinced that the latter is hiding some pieces of information about the pandemic from the public. Interestingly, men are more likely to think that the government is making the crisis seem bigger, while most Italian women are more likely to believe that it is unwilling to share some pieces of information with the public.

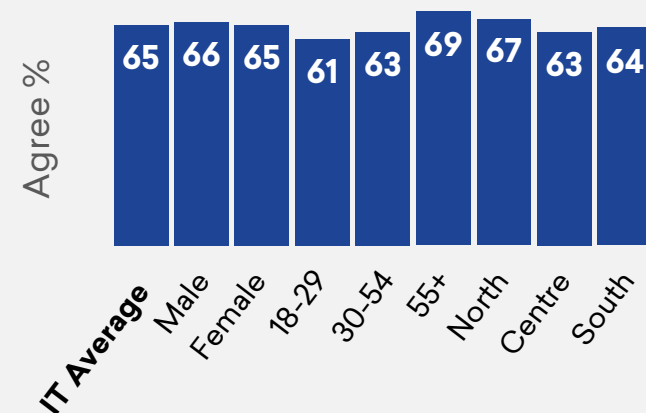
“The government is making this crisis seem bigger than it is to push through their own agenda.”



“The government knows things about COVID-19 that it is hiding from the public.”



“The media seem to be pursuing their own agenda rather than simply reporting the facts.”



Question: To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

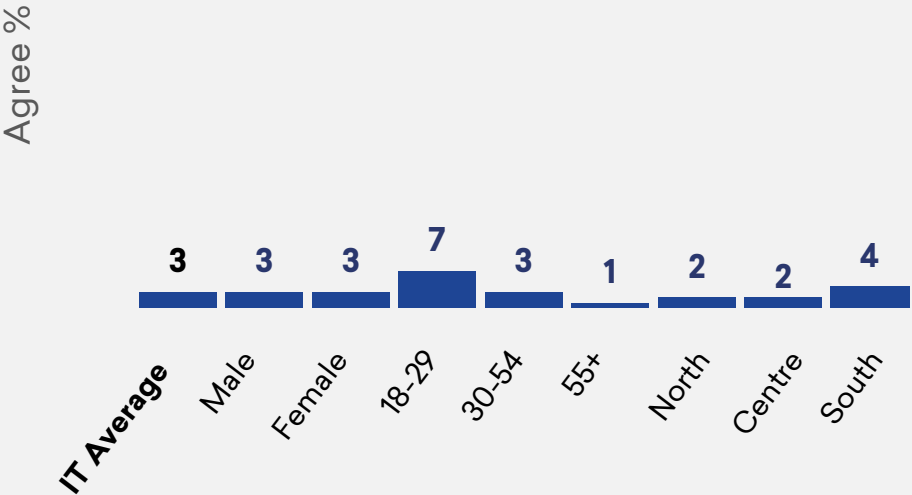
Participation in Anti-Government Protest



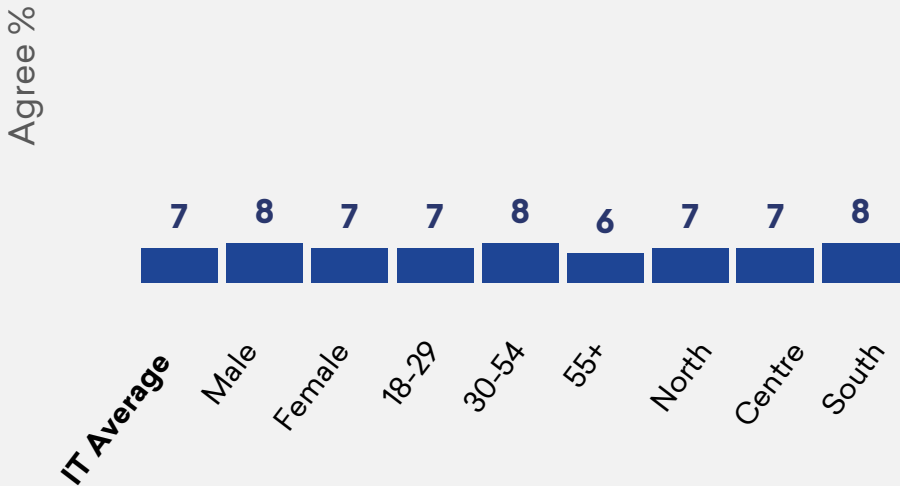
Protest in the streets and on social media: low participation rates

Very few Italians have taken part in anti-government protests, whether online or offline, though attendance to the former has been slightly higher, probably because of its lower participation-costs – especially during the lockdown.

Attended a protest against COVID-related government policies.



Posted on social media against COVID-19 government policies.



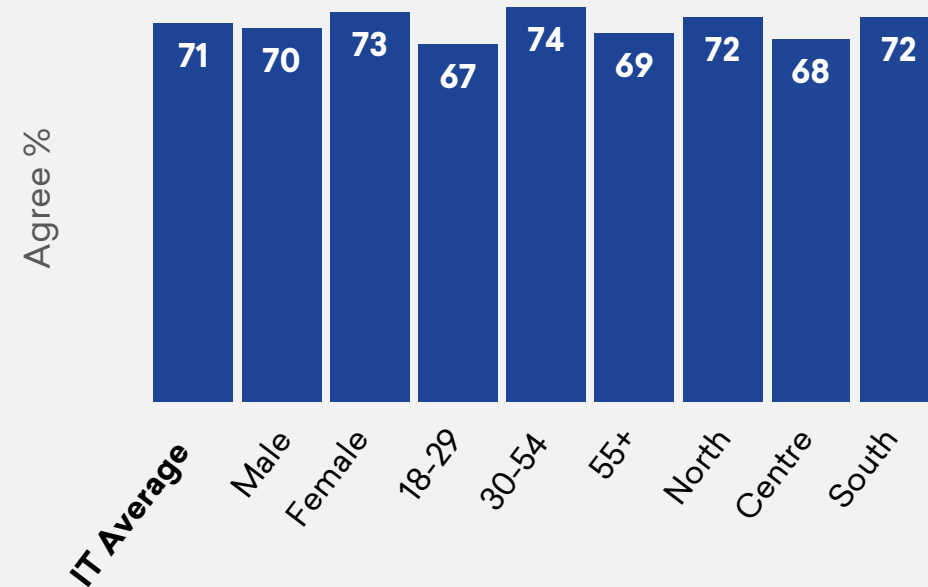
Question: In which of the following activities have you participated since the COVID-19 pandemic began, if any?

Authoritarianism



Desire for a strong leader

„To put our country in order, we need a strong leader who is willing to break the rules.“



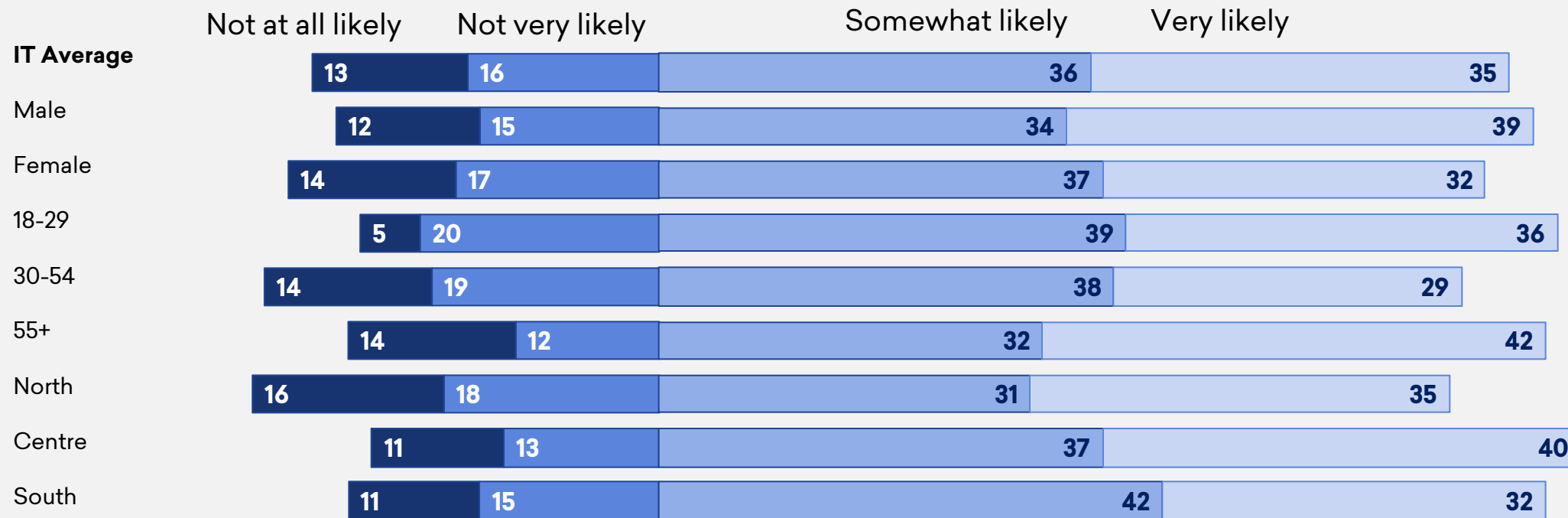
Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

Acceptance of Measures



Willingness to get vaccinated

Most Italians are at least somewhat likely to get vaccinated against Covid-19, once an effective vaccine is developed. Interestingly, people from the North are among those least likely to get vaccinated, though the pandemic was particularly virulent in that area.



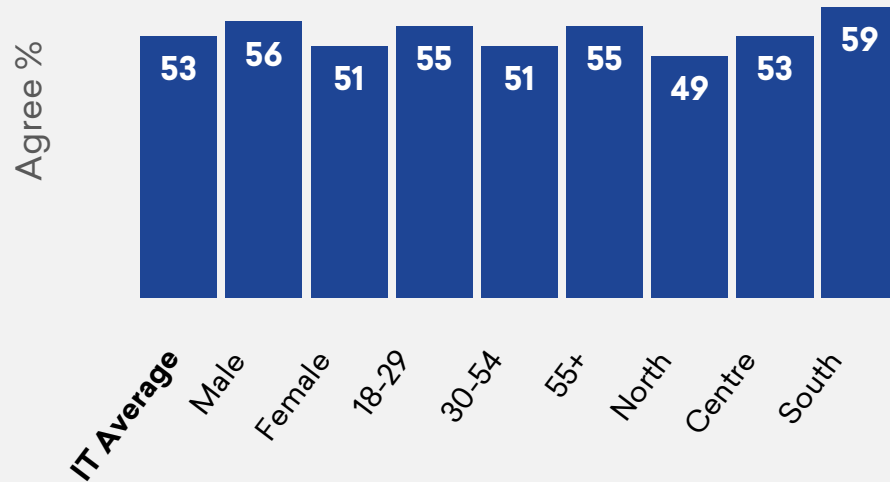
Question: If a safe and effective vaccine against COVID-19 is developed, how likely would you be to get vaccinated?
Please note: Numbers may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Acceptance of Mobile Tracing Apps

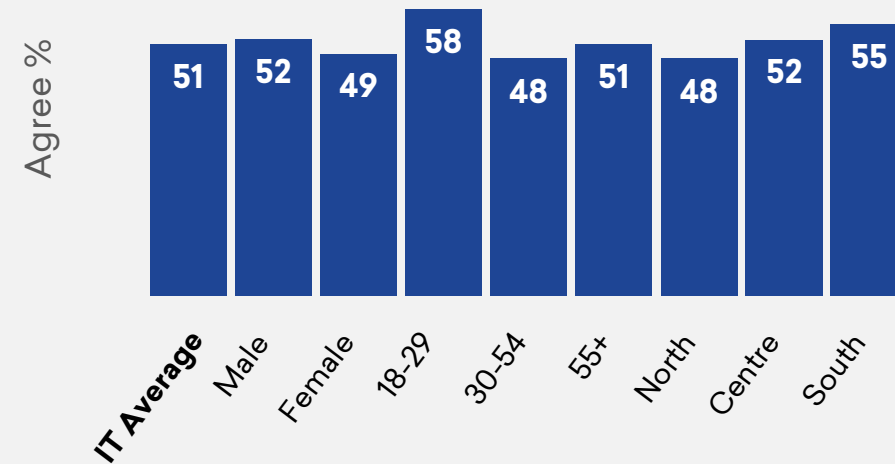


Views on Tracing Apps

“Introducing a tracing app is a necessary step.”



“I trust that my privacy will be protected.”

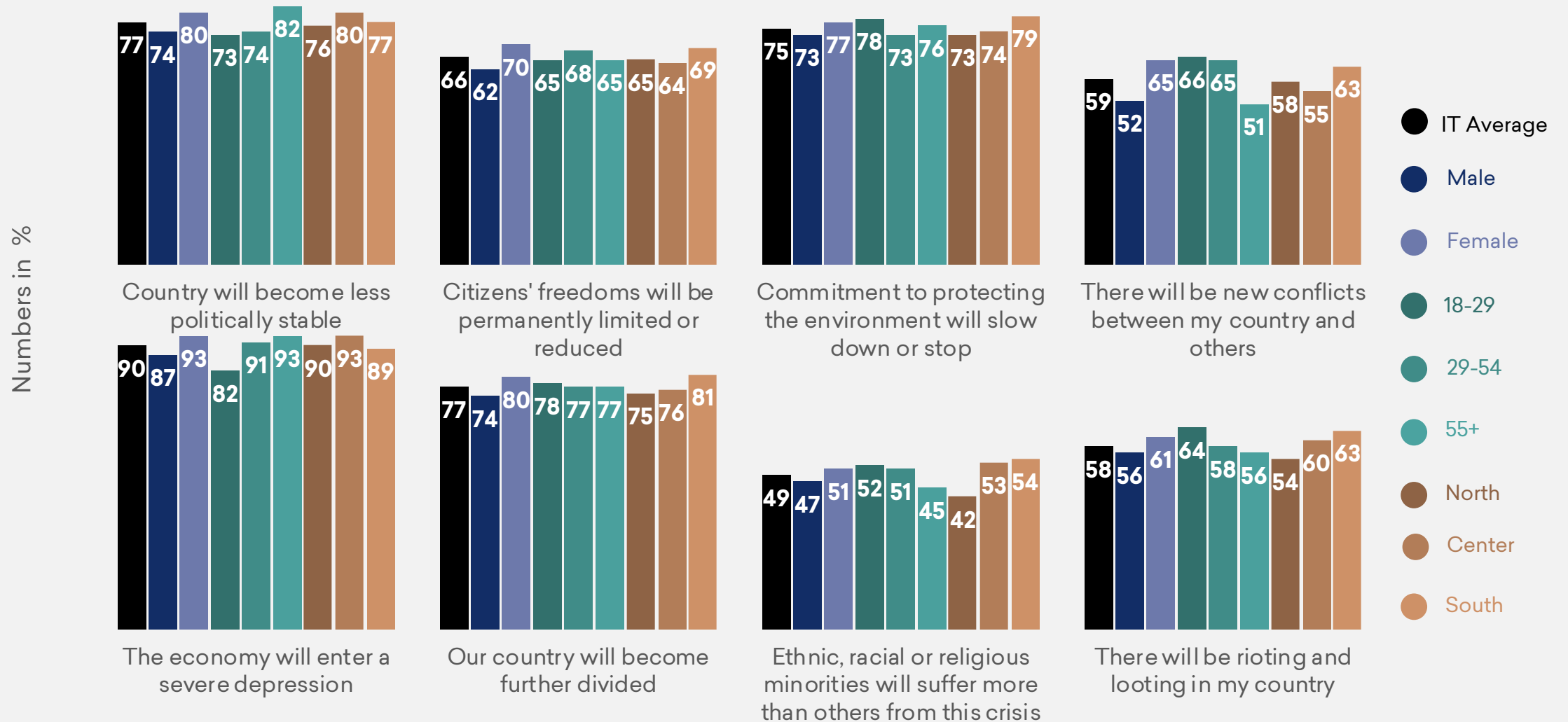


Question: To what extent do you agree with the following statement?

After COVID-19: Policy Outlook



Worries - General Situation



Question: To what extent are you currently worried or not worried that....?

Political Priorities



	IT Average	Male	Female	18-29	30-54	55+	North	Centre	South
Reducing unemployment	48	45	50	36	48	52	47	45	50
Improving the health system	36	36	36	25	34	42	35	34	37
Supporting small businesses	29	29	29	25	27	32	31	29	27
Supporting individuals and families in need	28	23	32	24	27	30	25	28	32
Reducing economic inequality	23	24	23	21	23	24	24	26	21
Reducing immigration and refugee intake	21	24	19	13	20	26	26	20	16
Protecting climate and environment	20	20	19	24	17	20	21	21	17
Improving our education system	17	15	20	17	17	17	17	17	17
Fighting crime and violence	13	15	12	14	13	13	14	12	13
Protecting democratic rights and freedoms	8	9	7	9	9	6	8	10	7
Strengthening European integration	7	9	5	7	6	6	7	7	6
Working towards gender equality	7	6	7	15	7	4	6	6	8
Reducing political division	6	6	6	6	5	6	6	6	5
Addressing racism in our society	5	5	4	11	4	4	4	6	5
Reducing terrorism	5	4	6	5	6	3	4	5	5
Improving cooperation between countries	5	5	5	10	5	3	5	5	6
Protecting ethnic and religious minorities	3	3	3	6	3	2	3	3	4

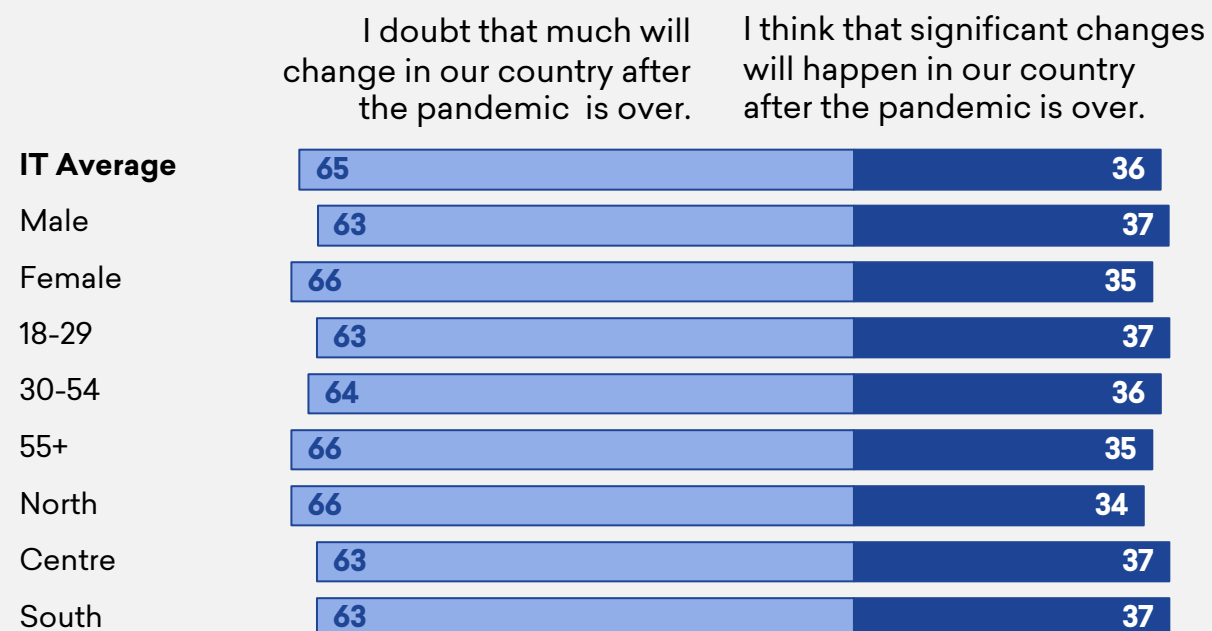
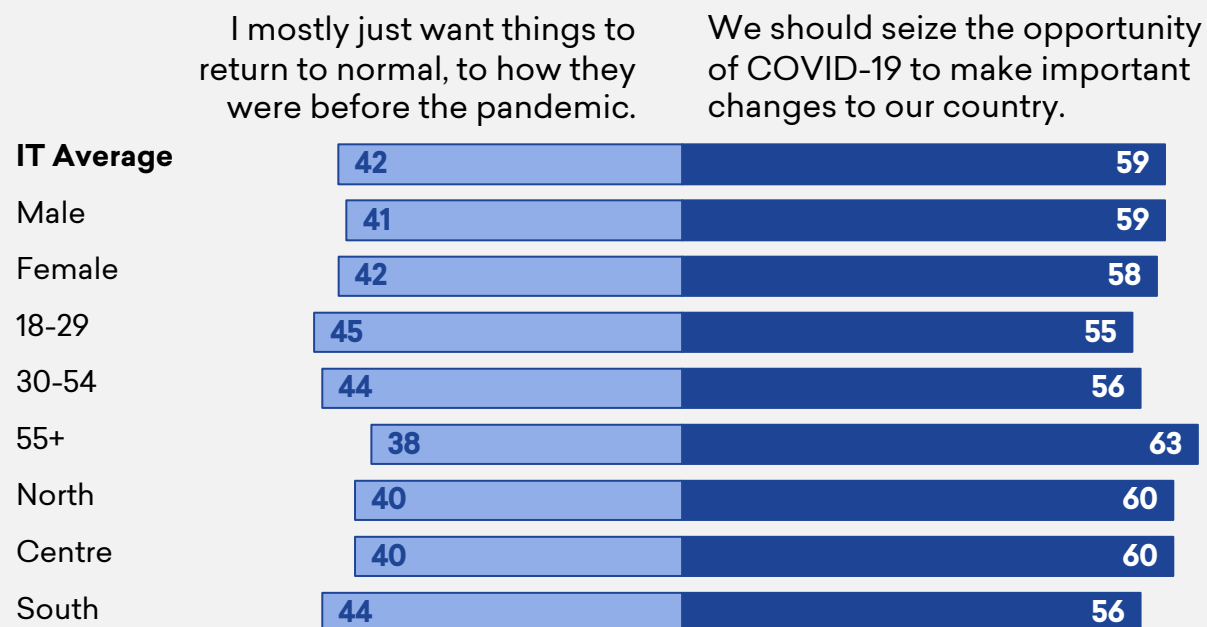
Question: Besides containing the COVID-19 pandemic, which of the following issues should the government prioritize addressing in the months ahead? Please select the top 3.

Turning Point vs. Return to Normal



Post pandemic change versus a return to normal

Although most Italians believe in the importance of seizing the opportunity of COVID-19 to make important social changes, only a third of them think that such changes will actually happen, with people from the North among the most pessimistic.



Question: Which of the following statements do you agree with more?
Please note: Numbers may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

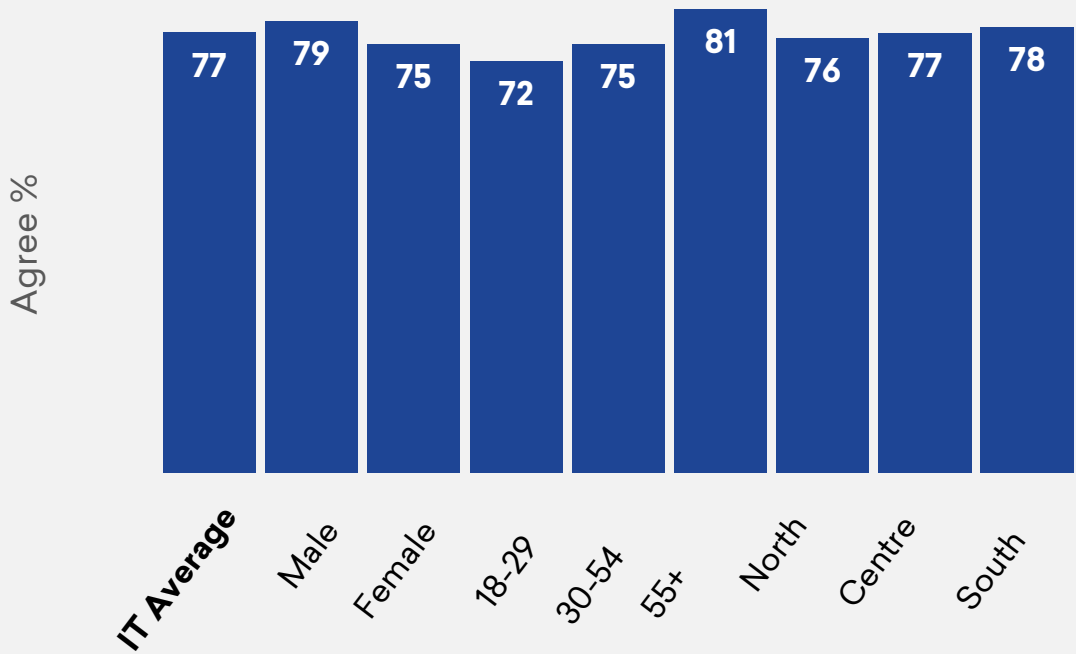
Green New Deal



Support for a Green New Deal in Europe

Most Italians would support a Green New Deal, with men, the elderly and Southerners being the most supportive, while those below 30 being the least so.

A “Green New Deal” that makes large-scale government investments to make our economy more environmentally friendly.

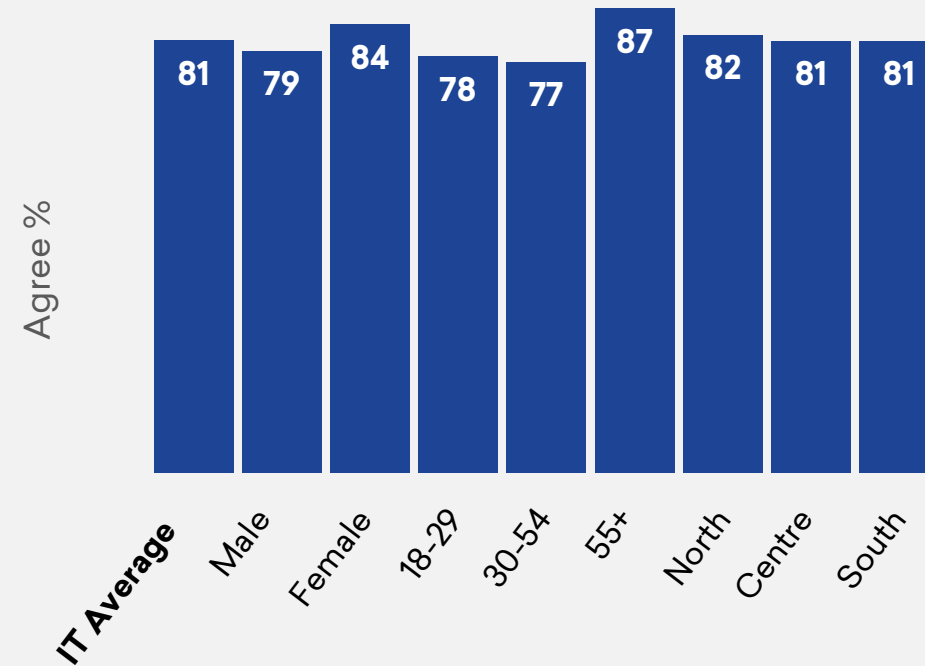


Question: There is currently debate about different political measures. Would you support or oppose the following proposals?



COVID-19 as a chance for climate action?

“The drop in carbon emissions that was seen during the COVID-19 lockdown shows that we can reduce our impact on the environment if we really want to.”

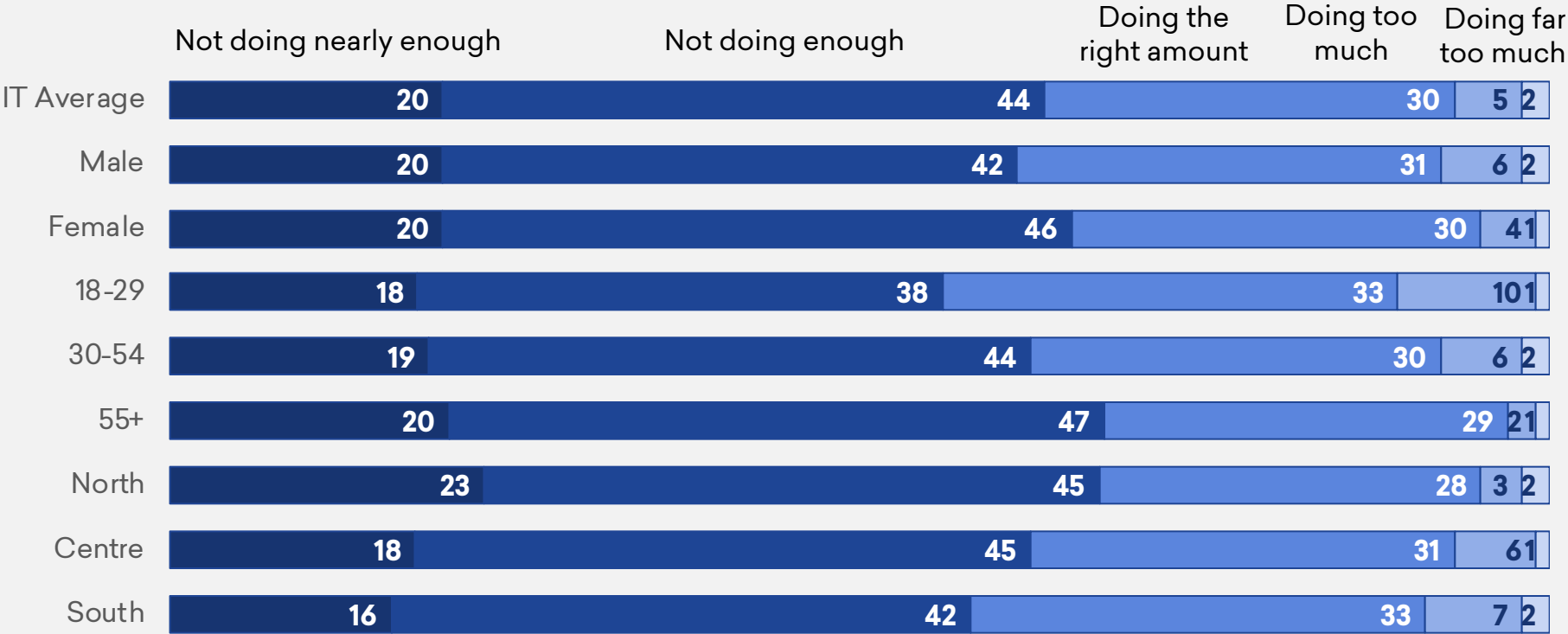


Question: To what extent do you agree with the following statement?



On climate, the government is doing...

Almost two-thirds of Italians think that the government is not doing enough to fight climate change. Interestingly, Italians over 55 are the most dissatisfied with government actions in this sense, while those under 30 are the least so.



Question: Thinking about the current situation, which of the following statements do you agree with most? On the environment, the government is...

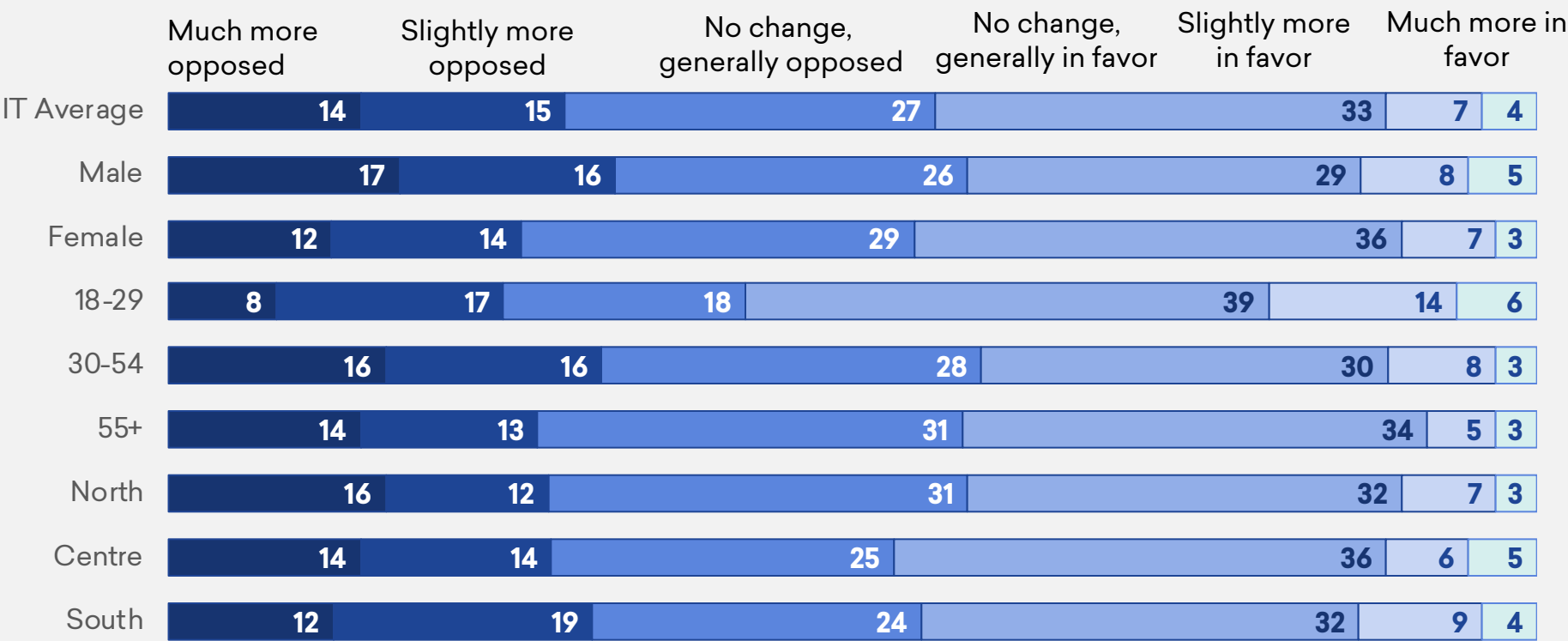
Please note: Numbers may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Migration



Change in views on Migration since COVID-19

Most Italians have not changed their views on migration since COVID-19, but among those who did, the opponents of accepting migrants into Italy are more numerous, especially among men, Southerners, and people in the 30-54 age cohort.



Question: Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, how have your views changed about accepting migrants into [COUNTRY], if at all?
Please note: Numbers may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

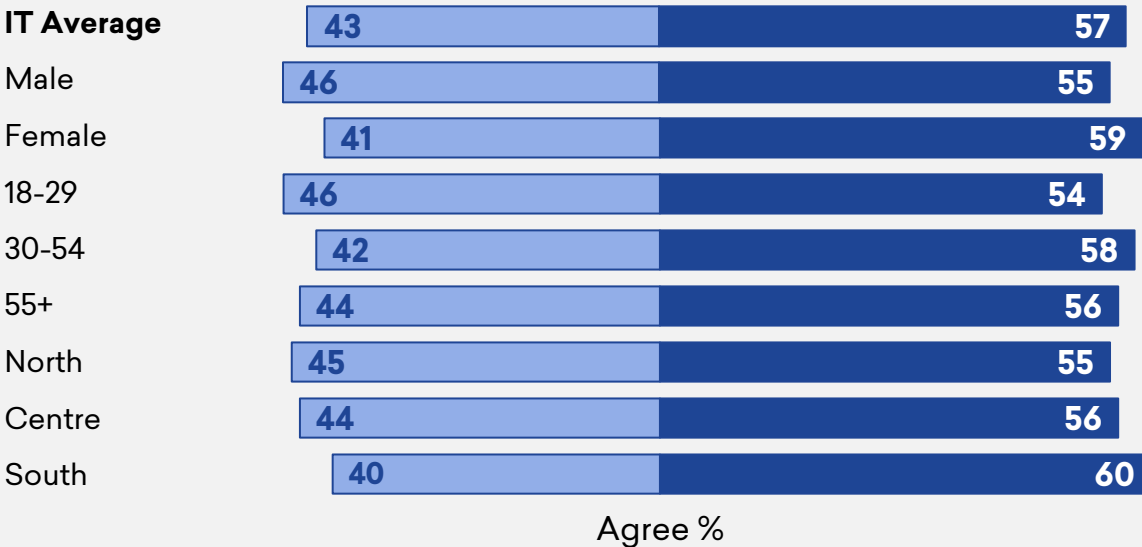
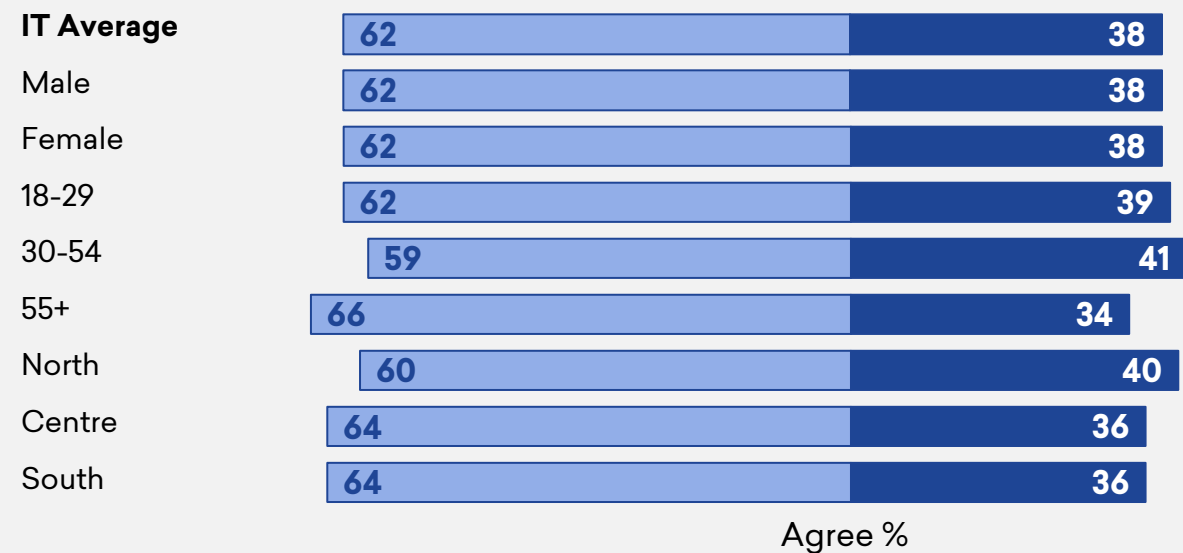
International Cooperation



The need to work together and views on borders

This crisis shows we need to work more closely with other countries and international institutions to address major challenges like pandemics and climate change.

This crisis shows we can't rely on other countries and international institutions for support when we face major challenges like pandemics and climate change.



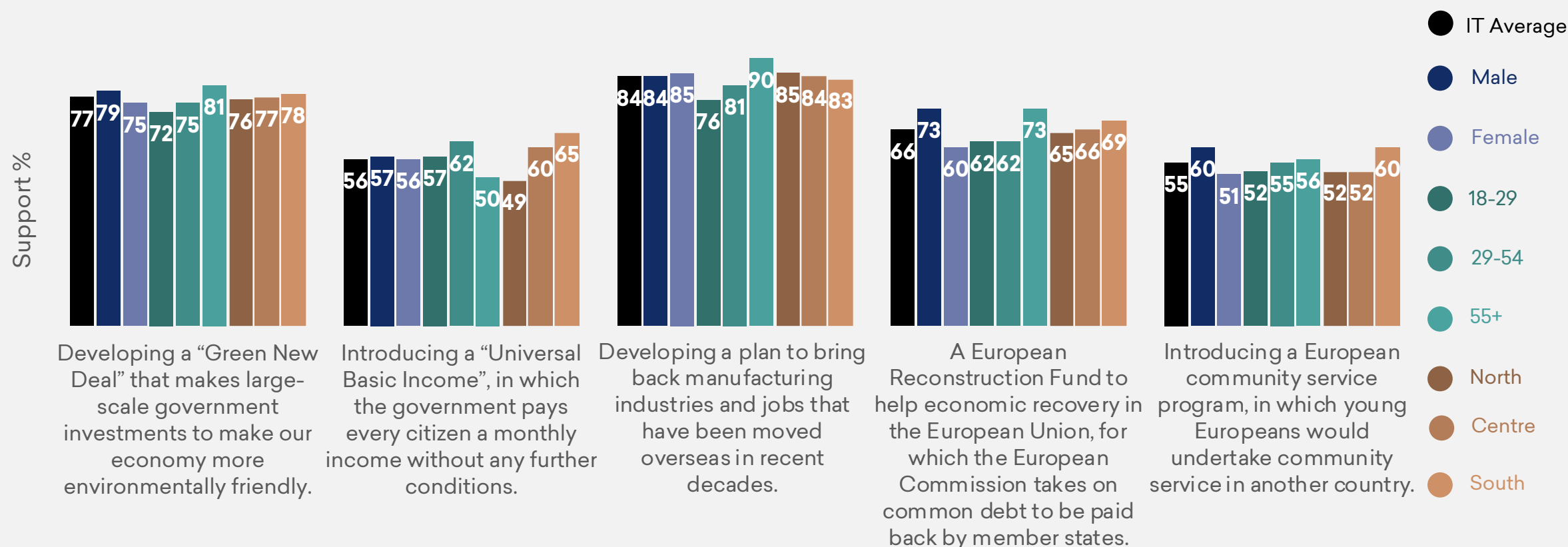
Question: Which of the following statements do you agree with more?
Please note: Numbers may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Aspirational Policies



Appetite for big ideas?

On average, Italians are more in favor of policies aimed at bringing back jobs from overseas and at making Italian economy more environmentally friendly, than of policies introducing a “universal basic income” or a European community service program.



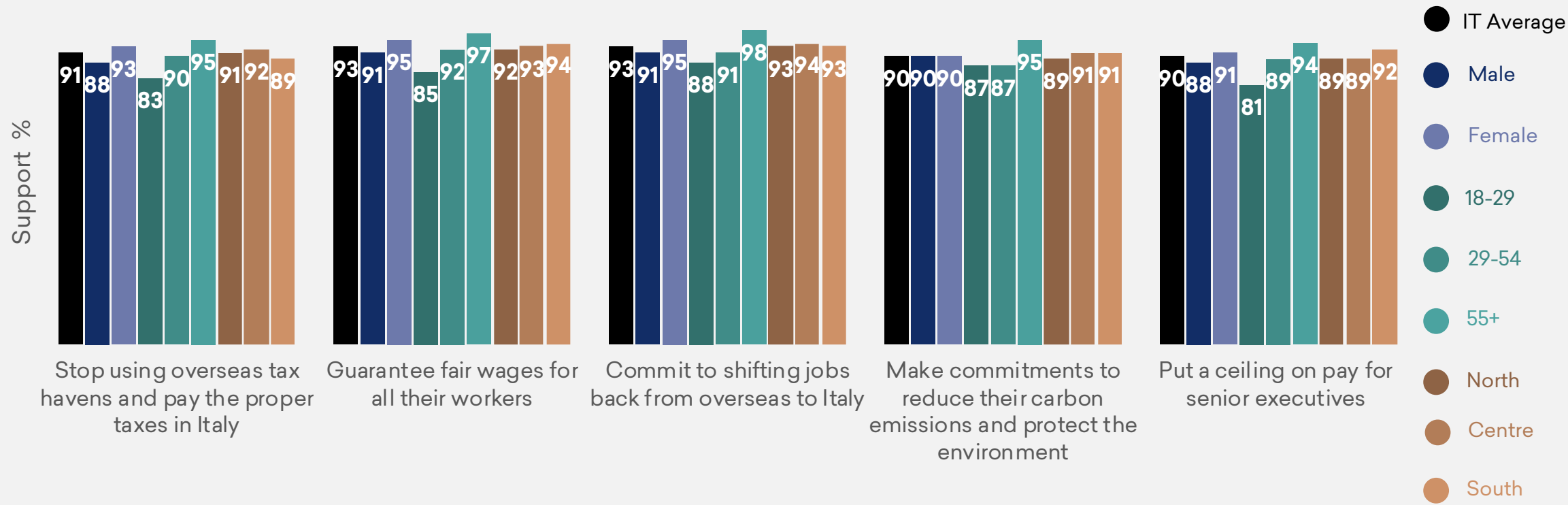
Question: There is currently debate about different political measures. Would you support or oppose the following proposals?

Conditionality for Companies



People expect big business to change their ways

Nearly all Italians maintain that they would support requiring companies to perform greener and more redistributive actions in order to have access to government aid, with the elderly among the biggest supporters of such requirements.

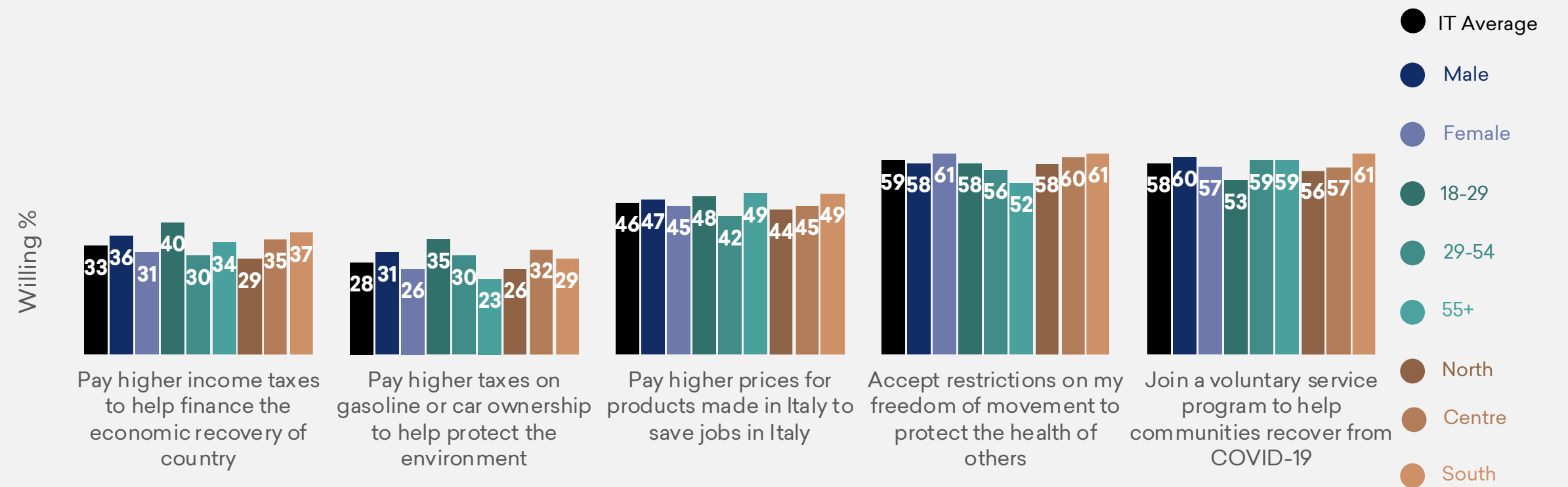


Personal Willingness for Sacrifice



People are willing to make a sacrifice for recovery

Italians are more likely to make non-monetary sacrifices rather than monetary ones to foster recovery, even if that would mean restricting their own freedom.



Question: When it comes to your actions during and after the crisis, would you personally be willing or not to do the following...

Aspirations & Ideals Post-COVID-19



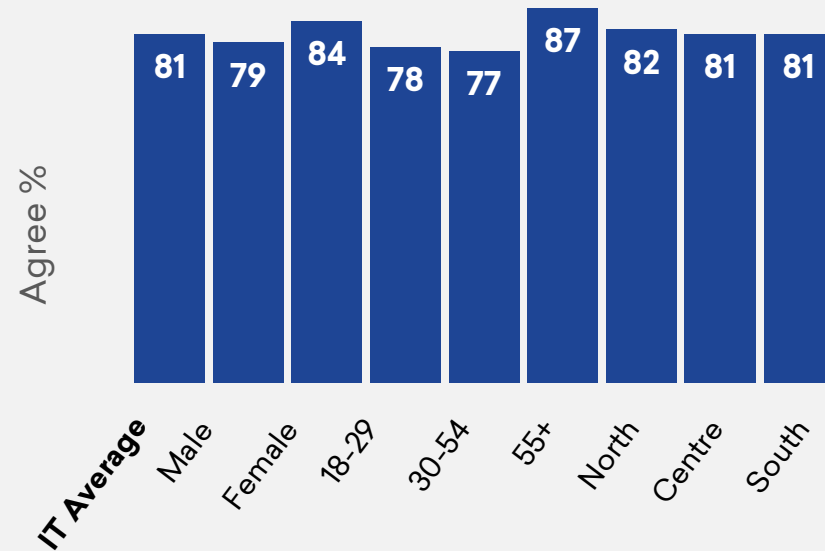
Views on climate action



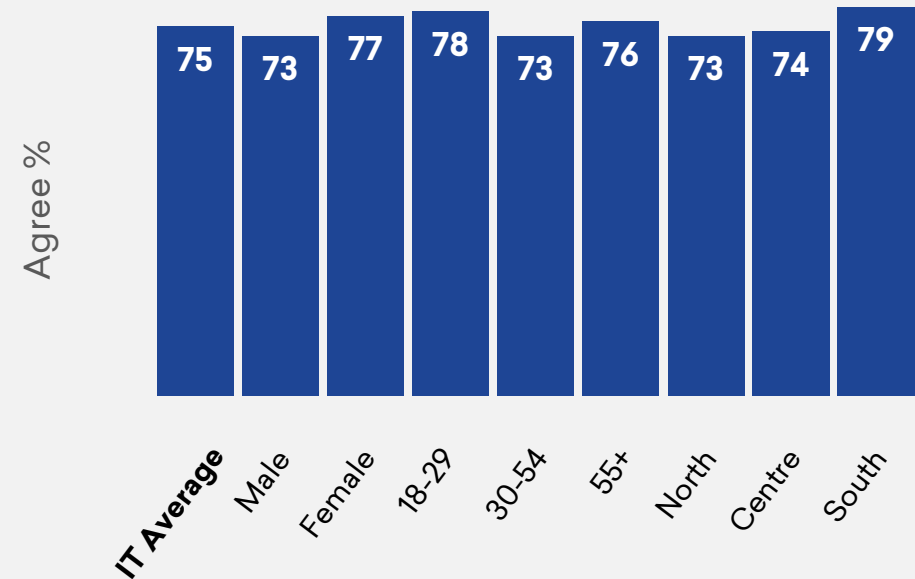
COVID-19 as a chance for climate action?

Even though most Italians believe that COVID-19 has shown us that our environmental footprint can be reduced, three-quarters of them are worried that such a reduction will not be pursued.

“The drop in carbon emissions that was seen during the COVID-19 lockdown shows that we can reduce our impact on the environment if we really want to.”



Worried that commitment to protecting the environment will slow down or stop



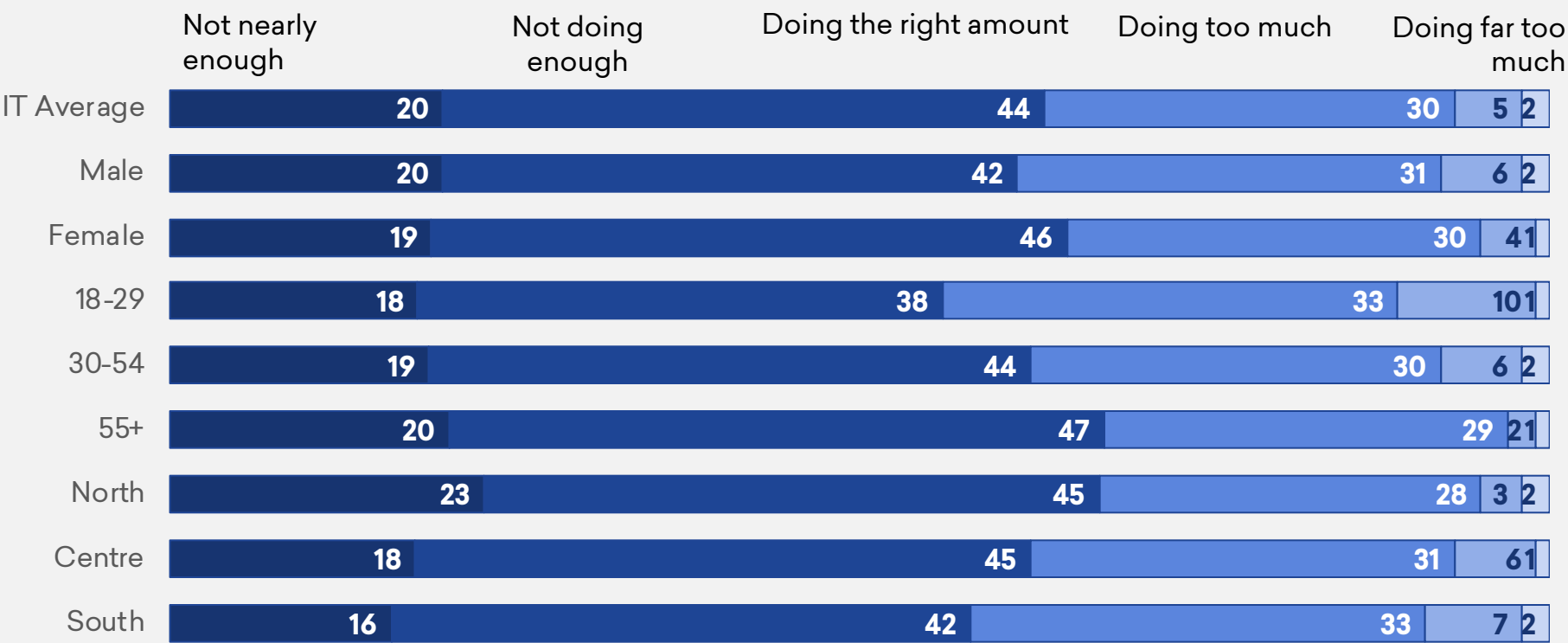
Question: To what extent do you agree with the following statement?; To what extent are you currently worried or not worried that...?

Views of Government measures



On climate, the government is doing...

Almost two-third of Italians think that the government is not doing enough to fight climate change. Interestingly, Italians over 55 are the most dissatisfied with government actions in this sense, while those under 30 are the least so.



Question: Thinking about the current situation, which of the following statements do you agree with most? On the environment, the government is...
Please note: Numbers may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

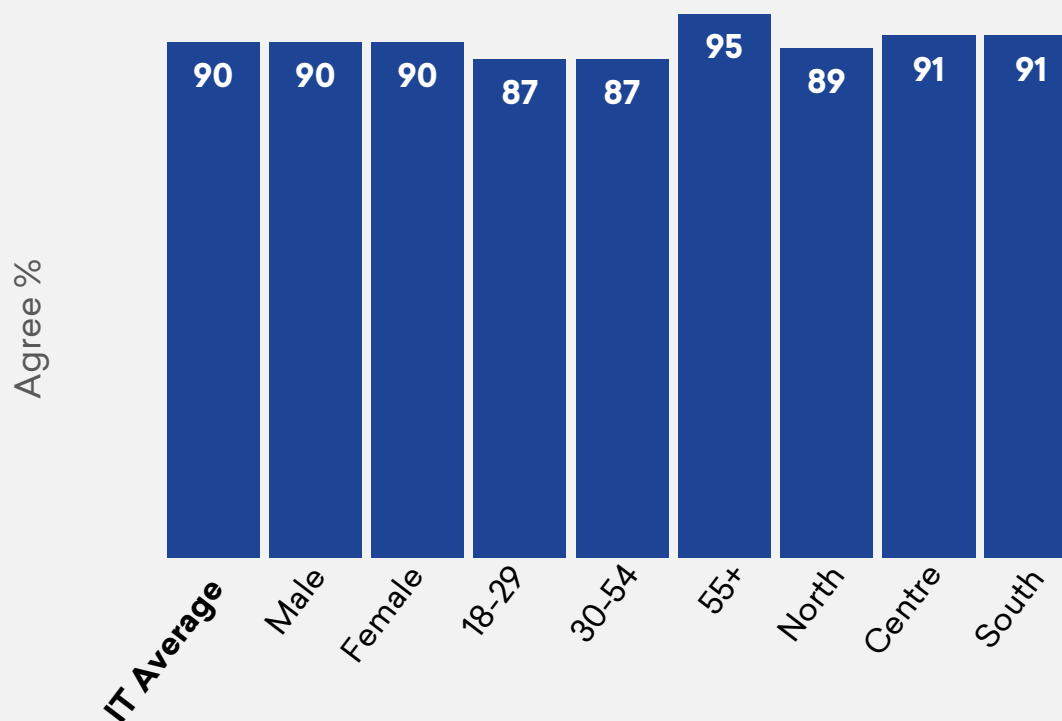
Climate conditionality for companies



Companies that receive state aid should...

Nearly the entirety of Italians maintain that they would support policies requiring companies to perform greener actions to reduce carbon emission in order to have access to government aid, with people over 55 being the most in favor of such requirements.

Companies should make commitments to reduce their carbon emissions and protect the environment.



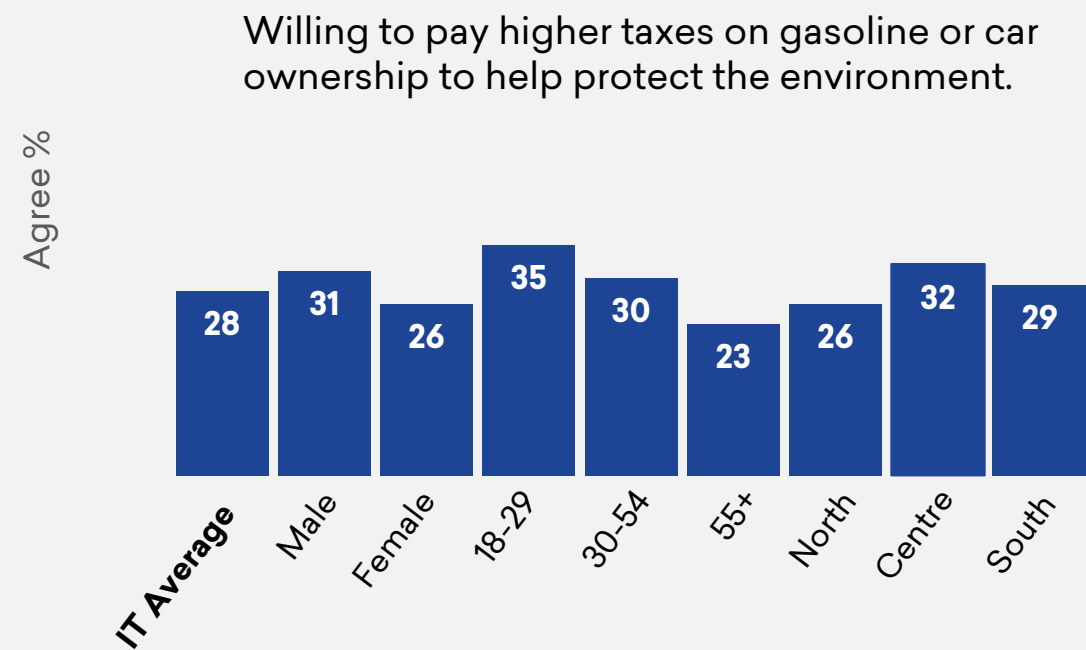
Question: The government is currently working on measures to help the economy and support businesses. What do you think: To what extent would you support or oppose requiring companies to fulfill the following criteria if they are to receive government aid?

Personal Sacrifice for Environment



People are willing to pay higher taxes on gasoline or car ownership

Less than a third of Italians would be willing to pay motors-related taxes to help preserve the environment. Younger generations would be the most supportive of such policies, while the elderly, women and people from the North the least so.



Question: When it comes to your actions during and after the crisis, would you personally be willing or not to do the following...

Aspirations for the country



	IT Average	Male	Female	18-29	30-54	55+	North	Centre	South
Environmentally-friendly	31	31	31	22	27	38	33	30	28
Hard-working	26	24	27	25	25	26	26	25	26
United	23	22	24	22	22	24	22	25	23
Safe	22	22	22	22	19	25	20	21	23
Educated	22	20	24	29	20	22	24	26	18
Fair	21	21	21	22	19	23	22	19	21
Democratic	20	21	19	18	18	22	19	23	19
Family-oriented	16	17	14	6	17	18	16	14	16
Equal	15	13	16	19	12	15	13	16	16
Healthy	13	12	15	13	14	13	14	15	13
Prosperous	12	12	11	9	12	12	11	10	13
Patriotic	11	12	10	13	11	10	12	10	10
Tolerant	10	10	10	11	9	10	11	9	9
Self-confident	10	12	9	11	11	10	11	9	10
Traditional	7	9	6	8	10	5	7	6	8
Christian	7	8	6	5	7	7	5	5	9
Compassionate	3	3	2	3	3	2	3	4	2

Question: Which of the following qualities do you think [COUNTRY] should focus on the most? [COUNTRY] should become more...(max. 3)

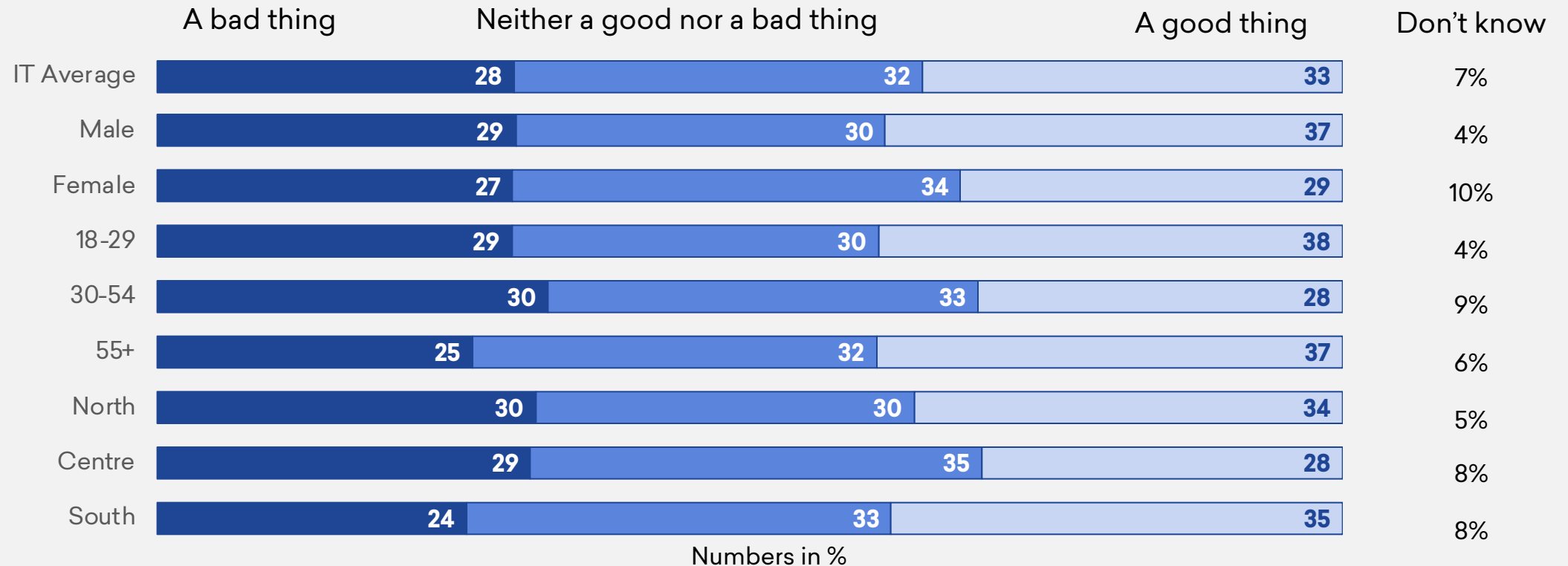
Views on the European Union



Views on EU Membership



EU membership is...

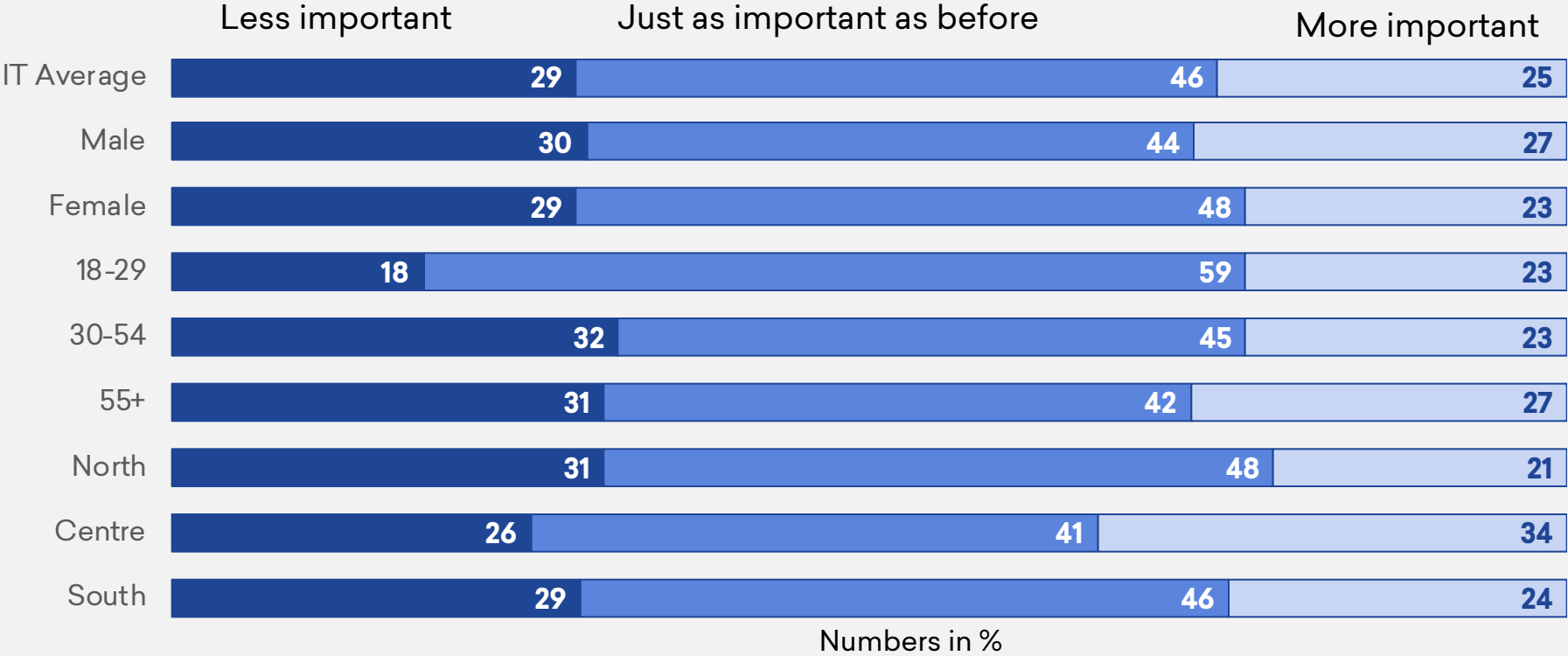


Question: Generally speaking, would you say that [COUNTRY's] membership of the EU is...?
Please note: Numbers may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

EU Membership: Looking Ahead



EU Membership will be...



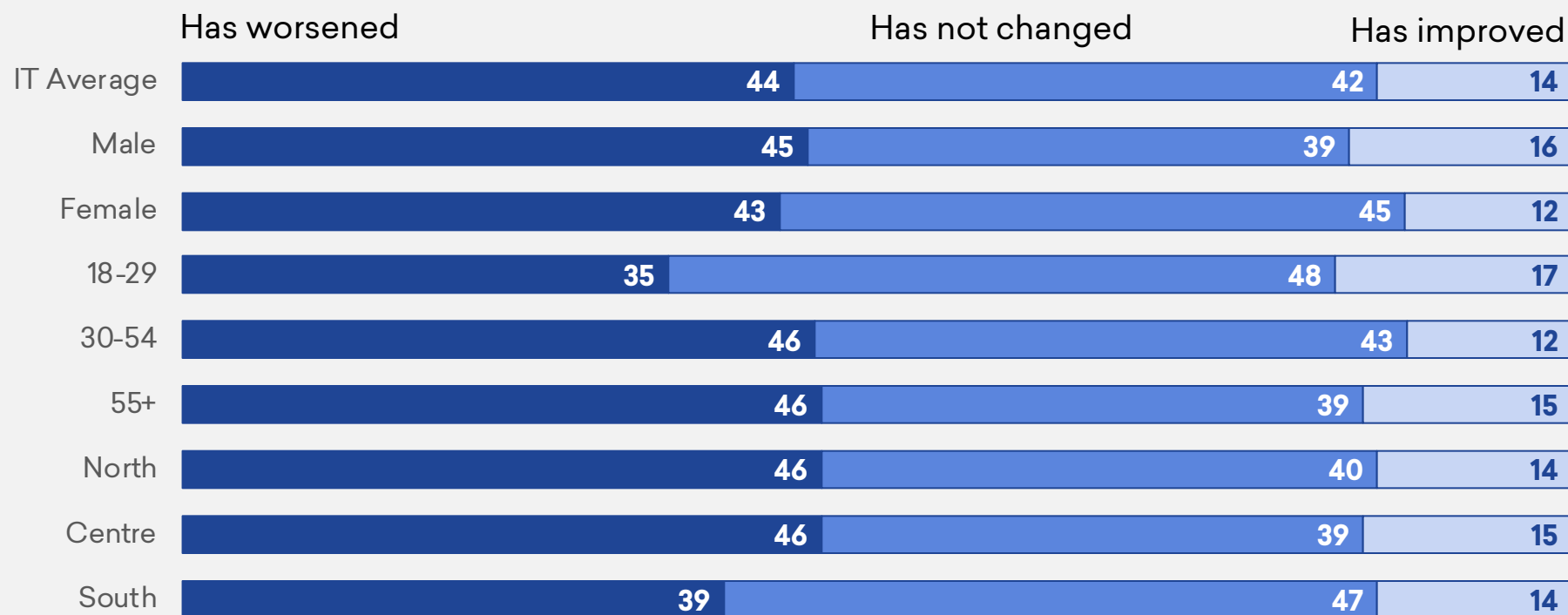
Question: In the coming years, [COUNTRY]’s membership in the EU will be...
Please note: Numbers may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Trust in the EU



Since the COVID-19 pandemic, trust in the EU...

On average, Italians' trust in the EU has worsened during the Covid-19 crisis. Younger Italians and those from Southern regions are the least disappointed, probably because the former are on average more pro-EU than their older counterparts, and the latter have been less affected by the consequences of the pandemic.

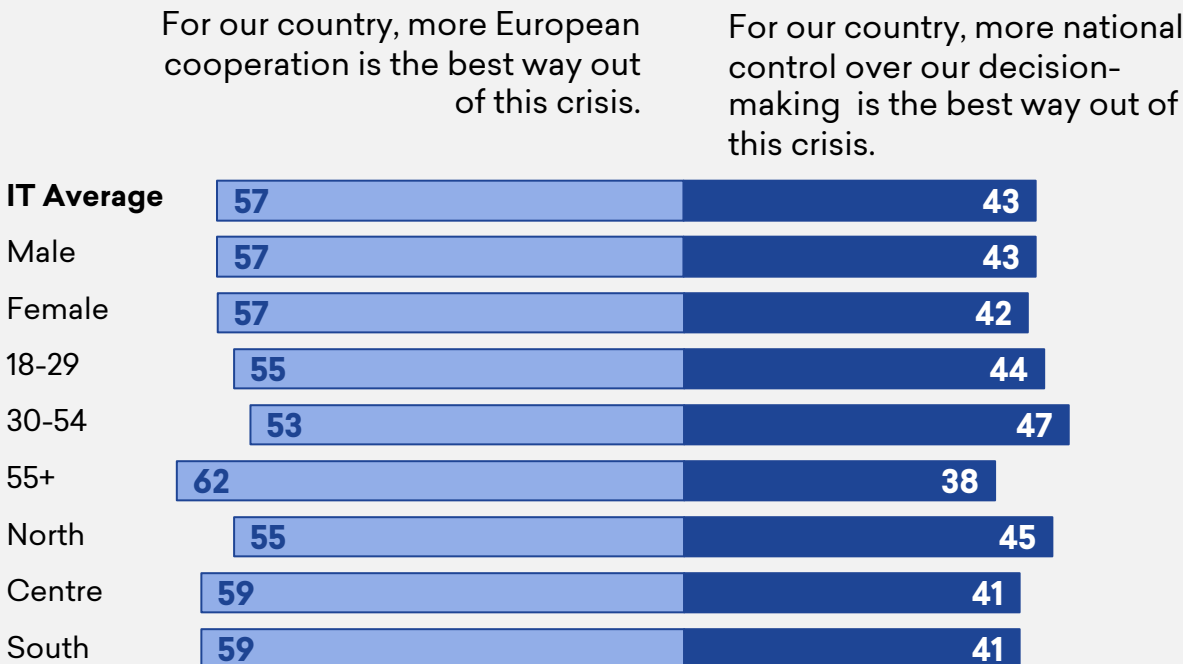
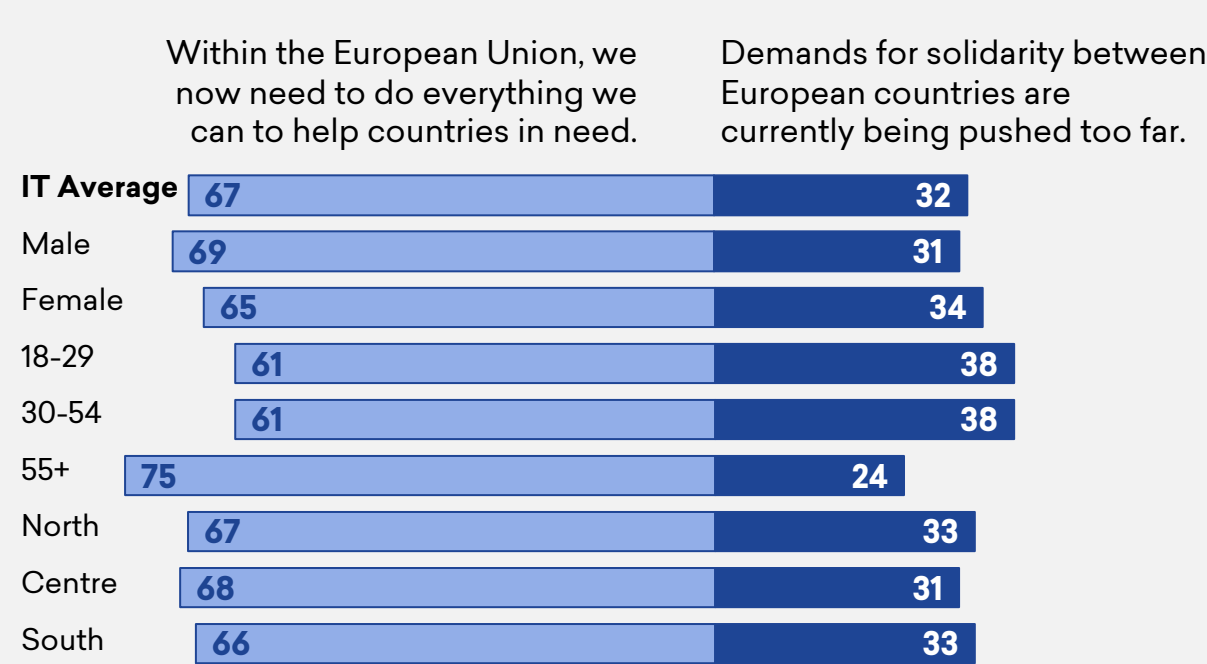


Question: Since this pandemic began, how have the following things changed, if at all?
Please note: Numbers may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

EU Solidarity



Solidarity and Cooperation

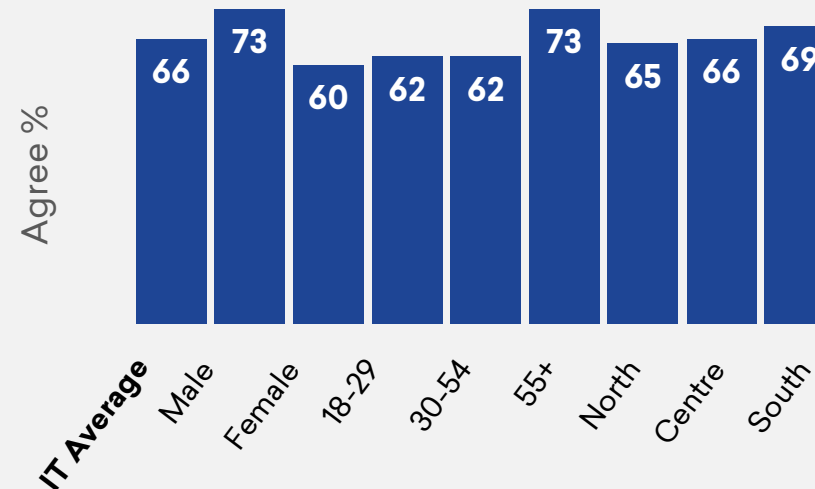


Question: Which of the following statements do you agree with more?
Please note: Numbers may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Support for a European Reconstruction Fund



A **European Reconstruction Fund** to help economic recovery in the European Union, for which the European Commission takes on common debt to be paid back by member states.



Question: There is currently debate about different political measures. Would you support or oppose the following proposals?

Country-specific questions: Italy

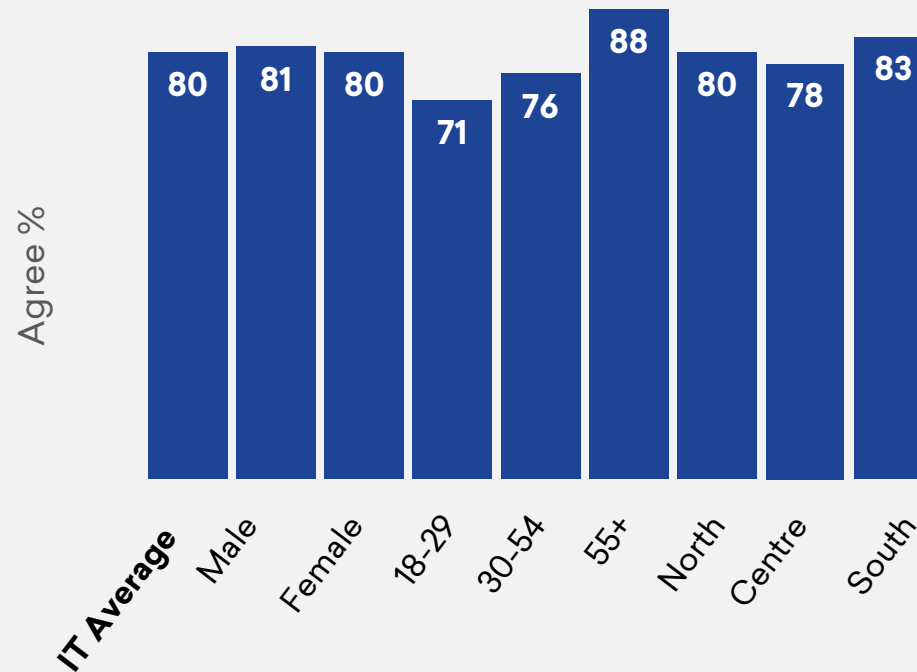


Solidarity



Extraordinary show of Solidarity in Italy

“Italians have demonstrated unprecedented levels of solidarity in this crisis.”



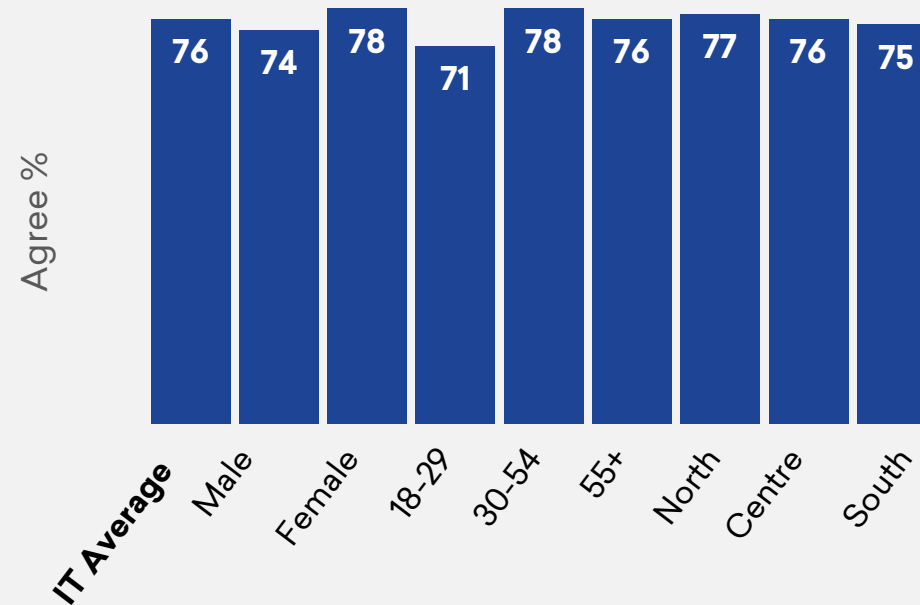
Question: To what extent do you agree with the following statement?

Perception of EU Solidarity in Italy



How did Italians view the EU's role during COVID-19?

“In this crisis, Italy has been abandoned by most other countries in the EU.”



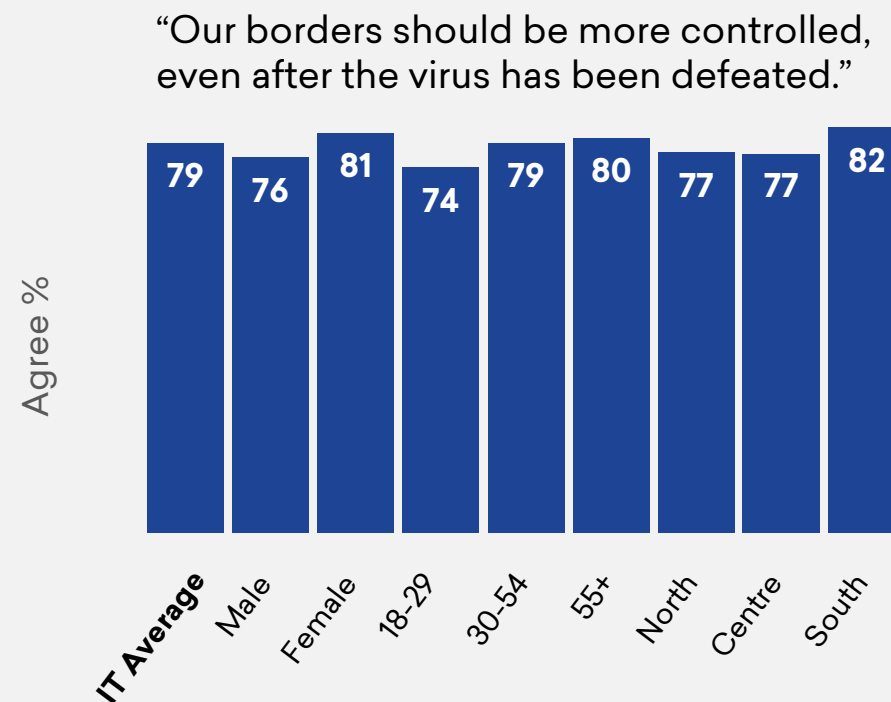
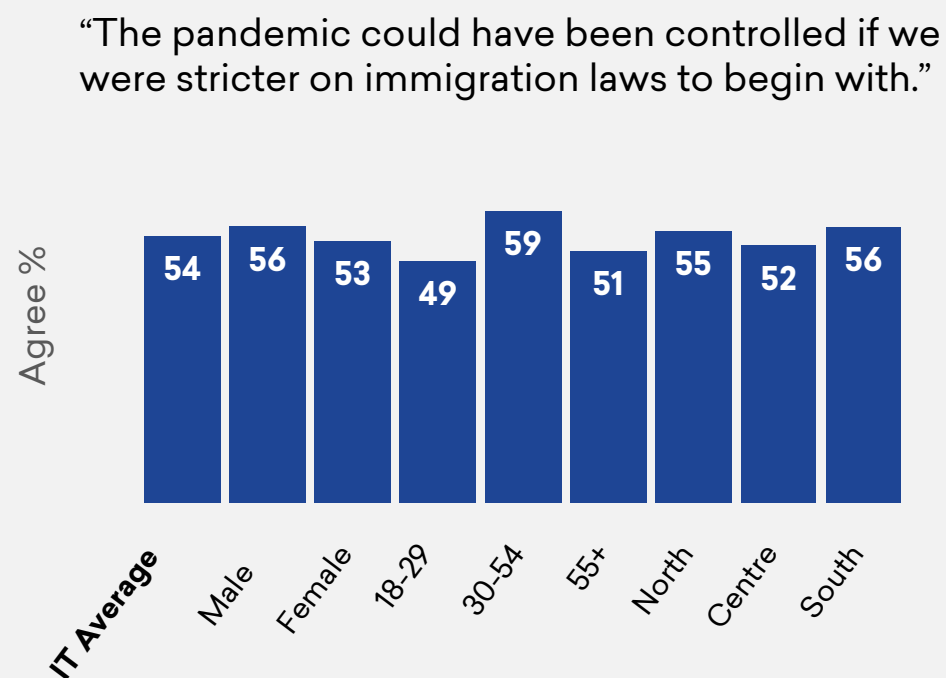
Question: To what extent do you agree with the following statement?

Migration & COVID-19



Perception of Link between migration and COVID-19

Italians seem to believe in a link between the surge of the pandemic and migration, with more than two-thirds of them hoping for stricter border control even after the end of the health crisis. Even though Southerners are not among the most convinced of a link between immigration and Covid-19, they are fervent supporters of stricter border control, perhaps because Southern areas are among the most important landing points for those crossing the Mediterranean Sea.



Question: To what extent do you agree with the following statement?

The Invisibles in Italy



Overview: The Importance of Invisibles



Since 2019, More in Common has explored the attitudes, core beliefs, and behaviors of those less represented and seen in political life, whether it's at the ballot box, in political movements, or on social media. We refer to this population as the "Invisibles".

These populations are not homogenous, nor easily defined. However, More in Common's previous research reveals that they share a feeling of being powerless and disrespected, participate less in society generally, and have the highest levels of loneliness of any population group. Invisibles have the weakest political attachments and are more vulnerable to disinformation, conspiracy theories and the 'othering' of minorities within society.

Just as their embrace of populism has played the key role in up-ending politics in the past decade, the shifts among the Invisibles may prove pivotal in defining the trajectory of the post-lockdown period. It is crucial, for example, to understand the extent to which people in general, and the Invisibles in particular, emerge from the pandemic wanting a 'return to normal' or feeling that 'we can't go back to how it was'. This will be critical in understanding whether the post-COVID-19 frame will be about sweeping change or a return to normal.

In the analysis that follows, we present a new method that standardizes a definition of Invisibles that simplifies their characteristics into a set of behaviors (political disengagement) and attitudes (feeling neglected). We analyse how this key group aligns and departs from the broader Italian population.

Invisible Segment Construction: (1/3)

Political Engagement Index



Political Engagement Index Items

Some people seem to follow what's going on in **government and public affairs** most of the time, whether there's an election going on or not. Others aren't that interested.

Would you say you **follow what's going on** in government and public affairs...

1. Most of the time
2. Some of the time
3. Only now and then
4. Hardly at all

Which of the following statements do you agree with more?

1 - I try as hard as I can to **avoid political discussions** with other people.

2

3

4

5

6 - I **take every opportunity to discuss** the right political point of view with other people.

- Aggregate scores were tabulated for each respondent.
- Sums were re-scaled on an index from 0 to 10.
- Each respondent was assigned into either High or Low, splitting at the national median with median scores assigned to High.

Invisible Segment Construction: (2/3)

Invisibility Index



Invisibility Index Items

Which of the following statements do you agree with more?

1 - In my personal environment **I have people who understand me** and help me.

2

3

4 - In my life, **I'm mostly on my own.**

Which of the following statements do you agree with more?

1 - Most **politicians are interested in what people like me think.**

2

3

4 - Most **politicians don't care** what people like me think.

To what extent do you agree with the following statement:

I often feel like a second-class citizen.

1 - Strongly agree

2 - Somewhat agree

3 - Somewhat disagree

4 - Strongly disagree

To what extent do you agree with the following statement:

All in all, I feel adequately respected and valued in my life.

1 - Strongly agree

2 - Somewhat agree

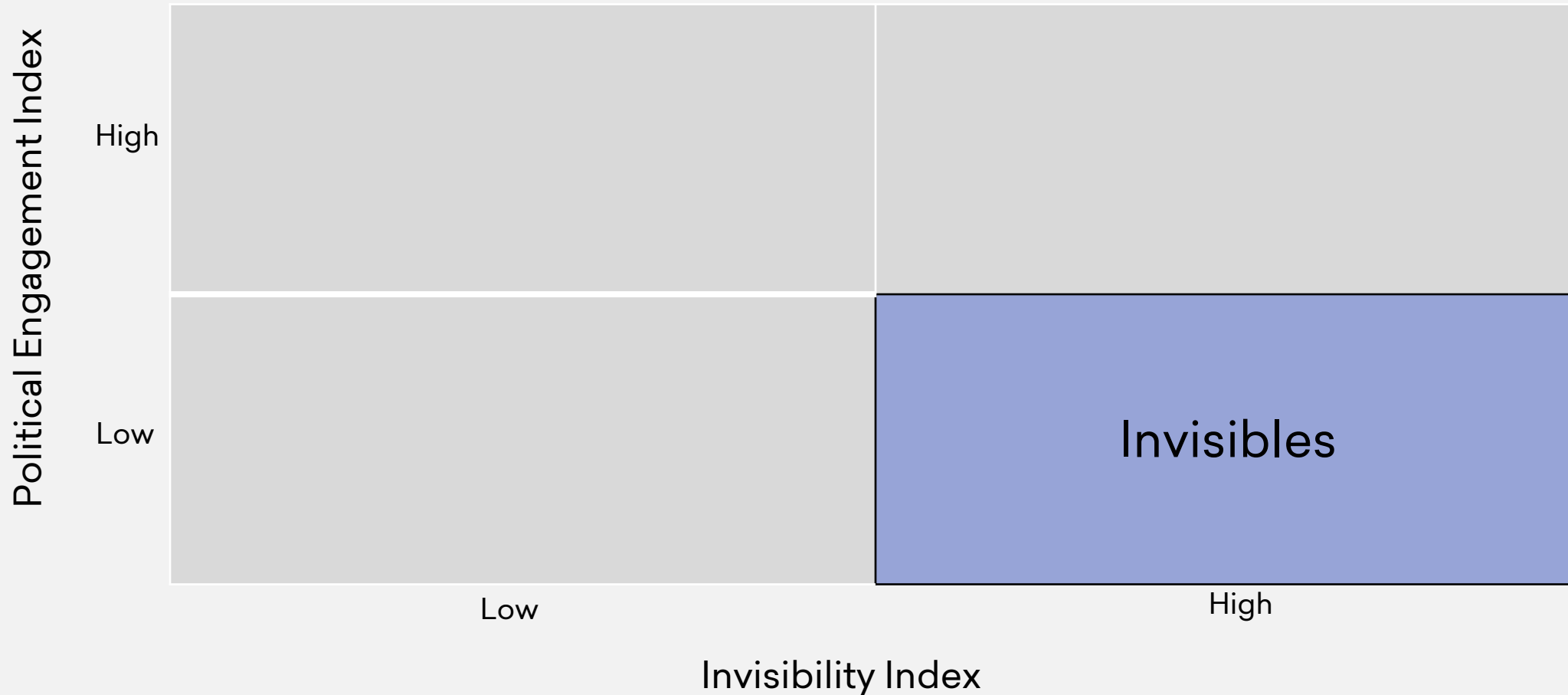
3 - Somewhat disagree

4 - Strongly disagree

- Aggregate scores were tabulated for each respondent.
- Sums were re-scaled on an index from 0 to 10.
- Each respondent was assigned into either High or Low, splitting at the national median with median scores assigned to High.

Invisible Segment Construction: (3/3)

Invisibles are low engagement + high invisibility



Demographic Background of the Invisibles



		Population Average (%)	Invisibles (%)
Age	18-24	8	6.4
	25-39	22	21.7
	40-54	29	33.4
	55-64	15	17.9
	65+	26	20.6
Gender	Male	48	40.4
	Female	52	59.6
Education	Basic	40	47.5
	Intermediate	46	43
	Advanced	14	9.5
Income	< € 1000	23.4	31.8
	€ 1000 to 2000	34.3	37.1
	€ 2000 to 4000	23.4	17.7
	> € 4000	19	13.5



Partisan Background of the Invisibles

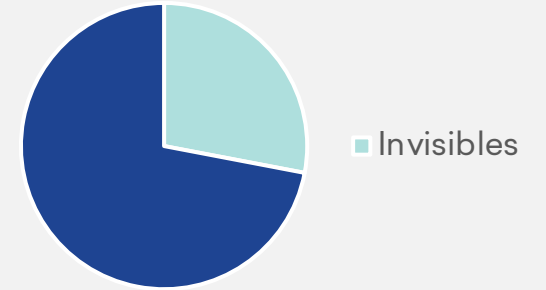
*Voting intention

	Population Average (%)	Invisibles (%)
Movimento 5 Stelle (M5S)	15	11.8
Partito Democratico (PD)	13.1	5.6
Lega	18.6	21.4
Forza Italia (FI)	5	3.7
Fratelli d'Italia (Fdi)	8.4	7.8
Articolo 1 – Movimento Democratico e Progressista (MDP)	0.5	0.4
Sinistra Italiana (SI)	1.4	1.1
UDC	0.1	0
Potere al Popolo (PaP)	1.3	1
Verdi – Italia in Comune	1.4	0.9
Partito Socialista Italiano (PSI)	0.1	0.1
Südtiroler Volkspartei (SVP)	0.1	0
Noi con l'Italia	0.2	0
Other party	2.7	2.5
I would not vote	10.2	15.9
Do not know	21.8	27.7

Who are the Invisibles in Italy?



- Invisibles make up **28% of the national population**.
- They are more likely to **place themselves at the center** on a left-right scale
 - 34% of Invisibles are in the center; vs. 27% on average
- Invisibles are **significantly more dissatisfied with democracy in their country** than the rest of the population.
 - Invisibles dissatisfied with democracy (74%) vs. Average (54%)
- And **much less likely to say that others can be trusted**: Invisibles (30%) vs. Average (44%)
- Invisibles are **less proud of their nation**: Pride in country: Invisibles (43%) vs. Average (61%)
- And much **more likely to feel like a stranger in their own country**: Invisibles (67%) vs. Average (55%)
- They are **much less likely to trust the national government**: Invisibles (25%) vs. Average (46%)
- **Less likely to approve of Prime Minister Conte**: Invisibles (50%) vs. Average (64%)



**The Invisibles in Italy
have had a more severe
experience of the
COVID-19 crisis.**

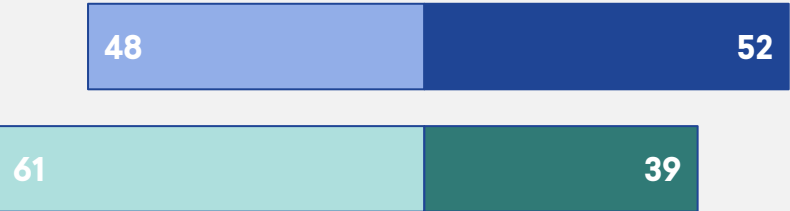


Support and Care



Feelings of mutual support or of isolation?

In this crisis, I have felt like I am mainly on my own. In this crisis, I have felt the support and care of others.

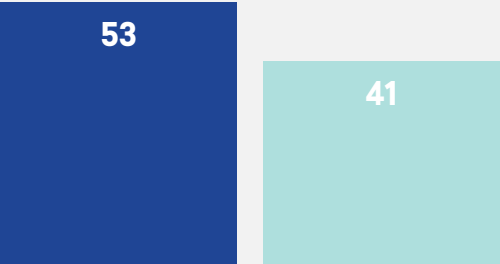


Agree %

■ Total ■ Invisibles

“The COVID-19 pandemic has shown me that most people in our country care about each other”

Agree %

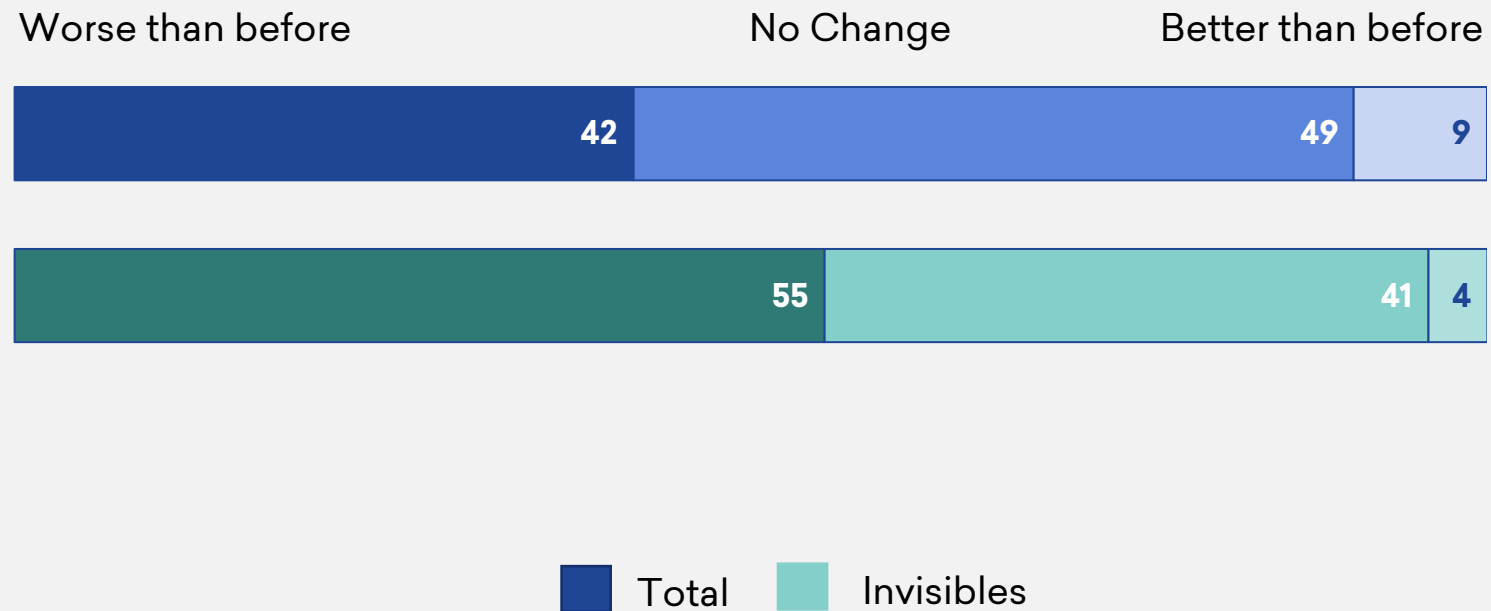


Question: Which of the following statements do you agree with more?; To what extent do you agree with the following statement?
Please note: Numbers may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Trust in Others



How has people's trust in others changed during the crisis?

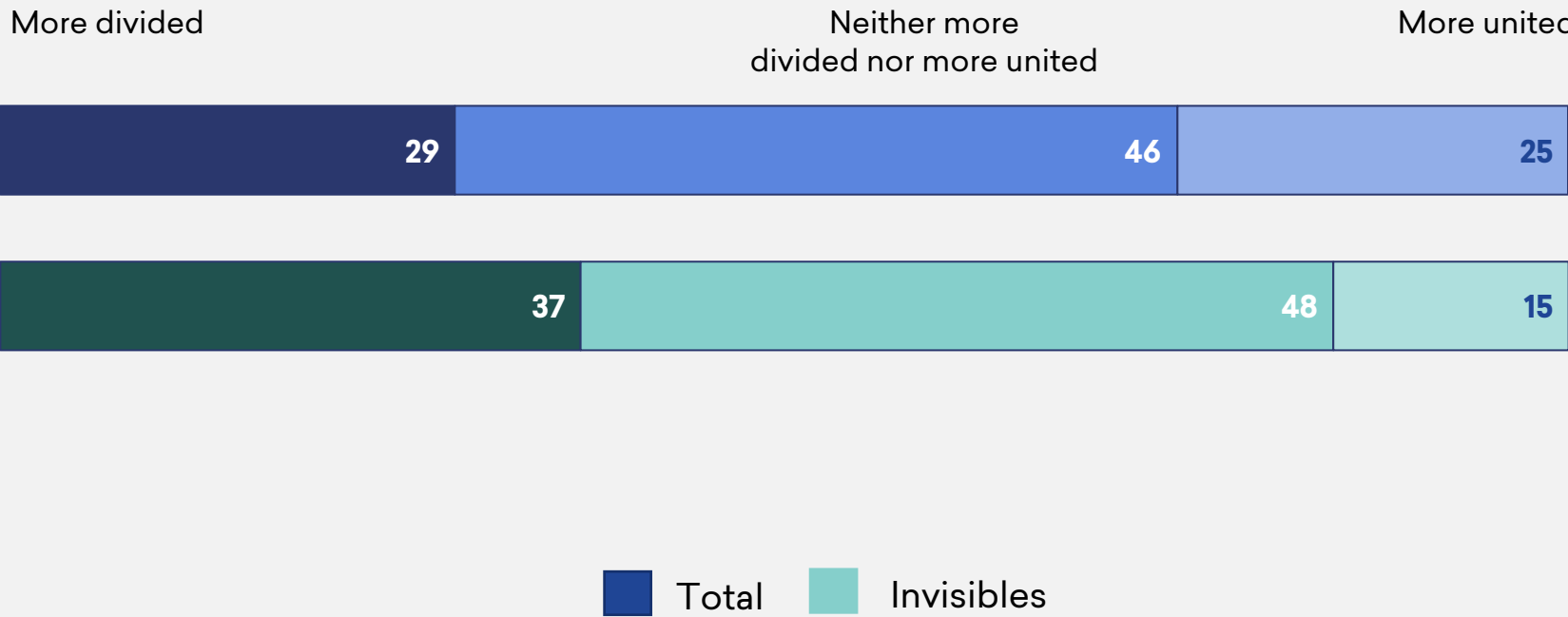


Question: To what extent are the following aspects of your life different due to the COVID-19 pandemic?
Please note: Numbers may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Impact on Cohesion



More united or more divided since COVID-19?

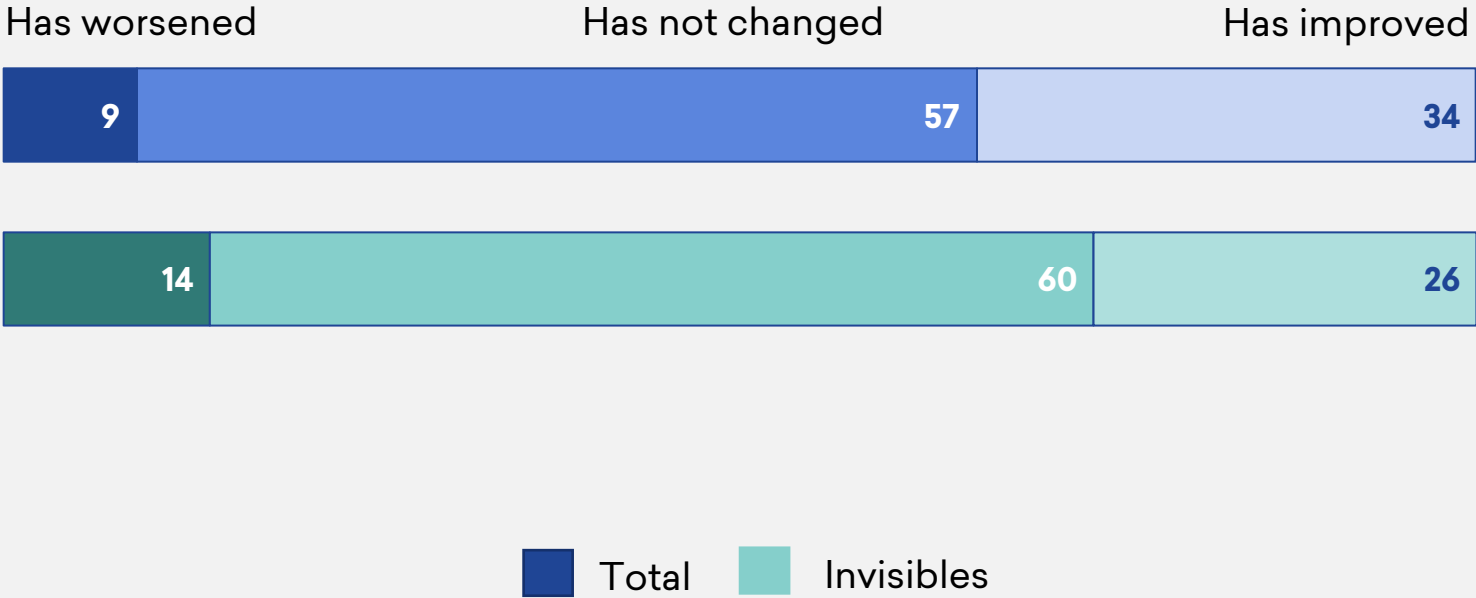


Question: Since the COVID-19 pandemic emerged, how have your perceptions of [COUNTRY] changed, if at all? Is it...?
Please note: Numbers may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Change in Concern for Others



How has people’s concern for others’ wellbeing changed during the crisis?



Question: Since this pandemic began, how have the following things changed in [COUNTRY], if at all?
Please note: Numbers may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

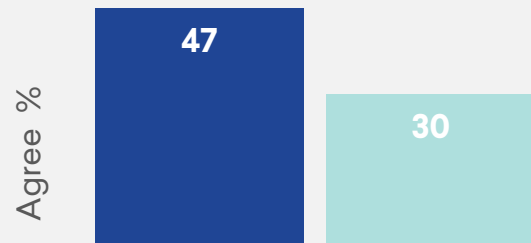
**Invisibles convey
higher levels of resentment
towards leaders' handling
of the crisis.**



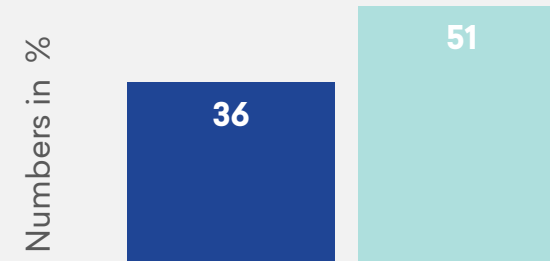


The Invisibles lack confidence in the government's ability to handle this crisis.

"I am confident in our current government's ability to tackle the challenges ahead of us."



Trust in national government has gotten worse.



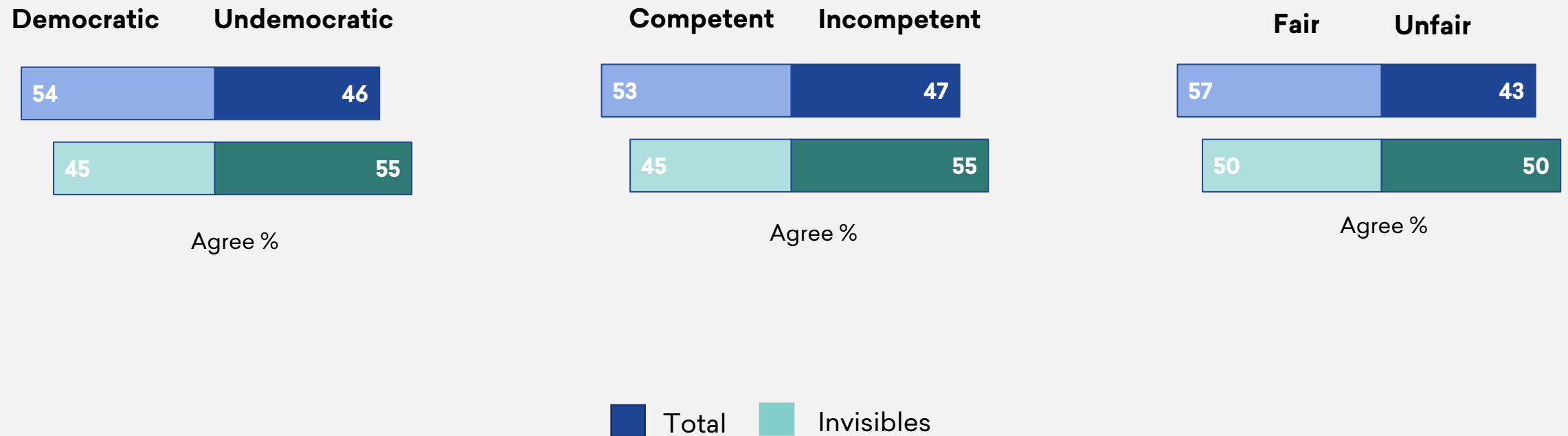
■ Total ■ Invisibles

Question: To what extent do you agree with the following statement?; How has your trust in the national government changed, if at all?
Please note: Numbers may not add up to 100 due to rounding.



Government handling of crisis

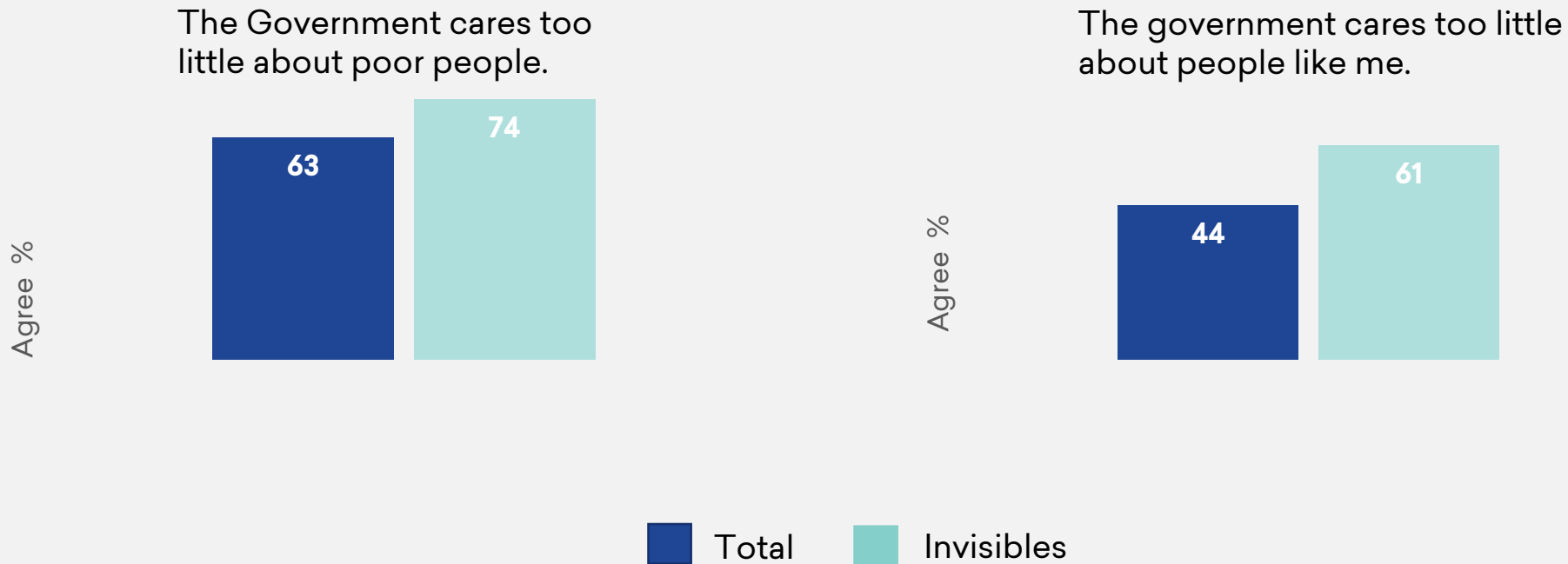
How have people perceived their governments' handling of the crisis?



Question: When you think of how the [NATIONALITY] government has managed the COVID-19 situation so far, which of the following opposing terms describes government action better?
Please note: Numbers may not add up to 100 due to rounding.



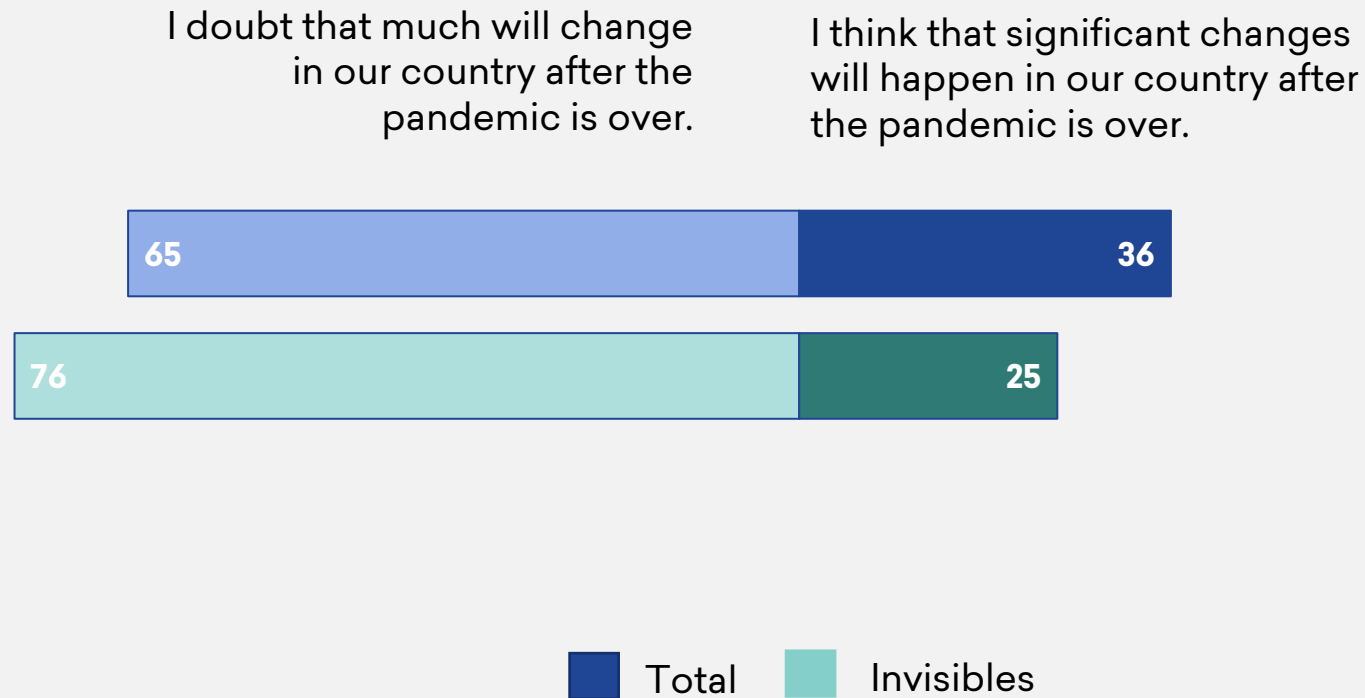
The Invisibles feel that government cares too little about poor people – and about people like them.



Question: Please indicate how much the [NATIONALITY] government seems to care about the following groups in its response to the COVID-19 situation...



They are also less prone to believe that change will happen in the country.

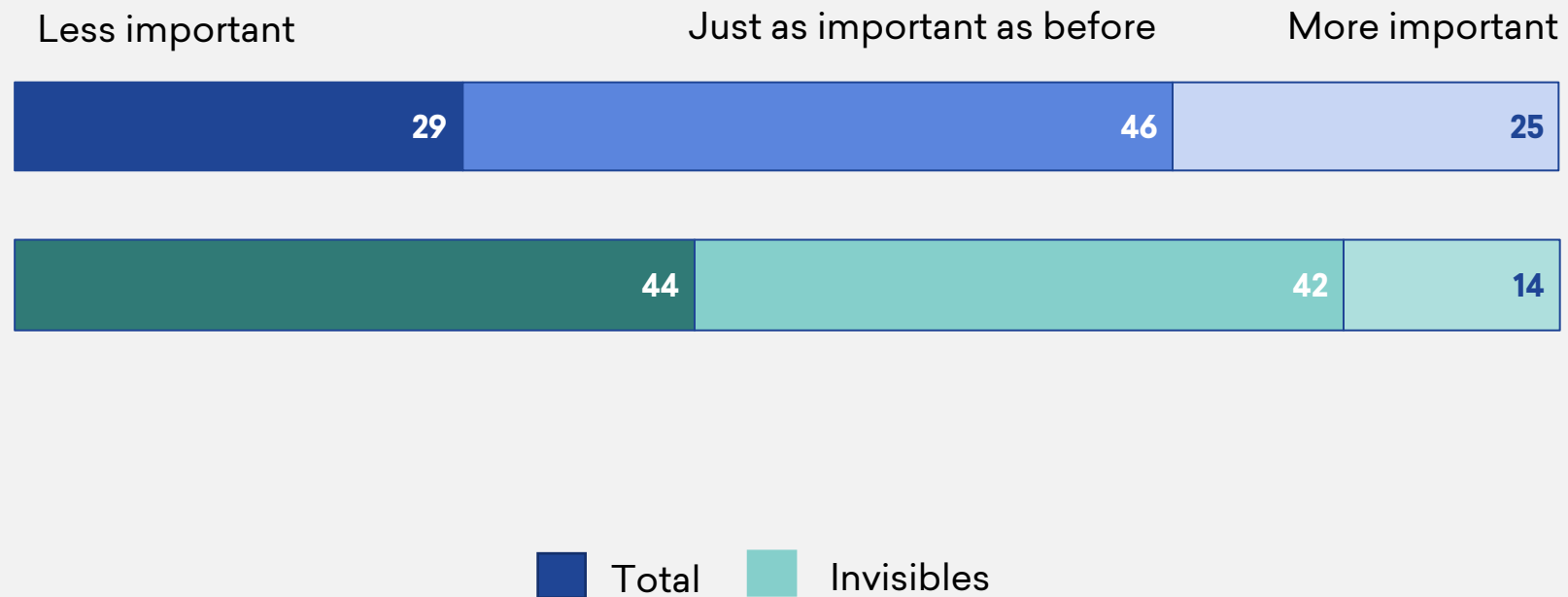


Question: Which of the following statements do you agree with more?
Please note: Numbers may not add up to 100 due to rounding.



The Invisibles perceive EU membership to be less important in the future...

EU Membership will be...

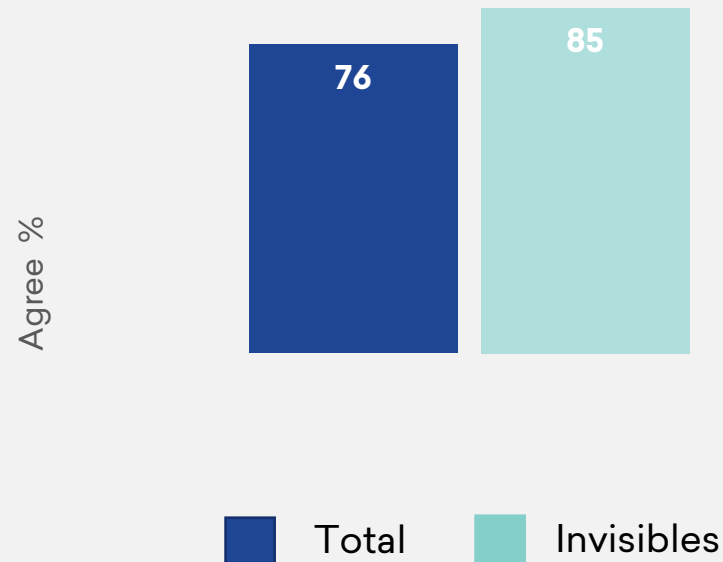


Question: In the coming years, [COUNTRY]'s membership in the EU will be...
Please note: Numbers may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

... and they are even more disappointed in their European neighbors.



“In this crisis, Italy has been abandoned by most other countries in the EU”



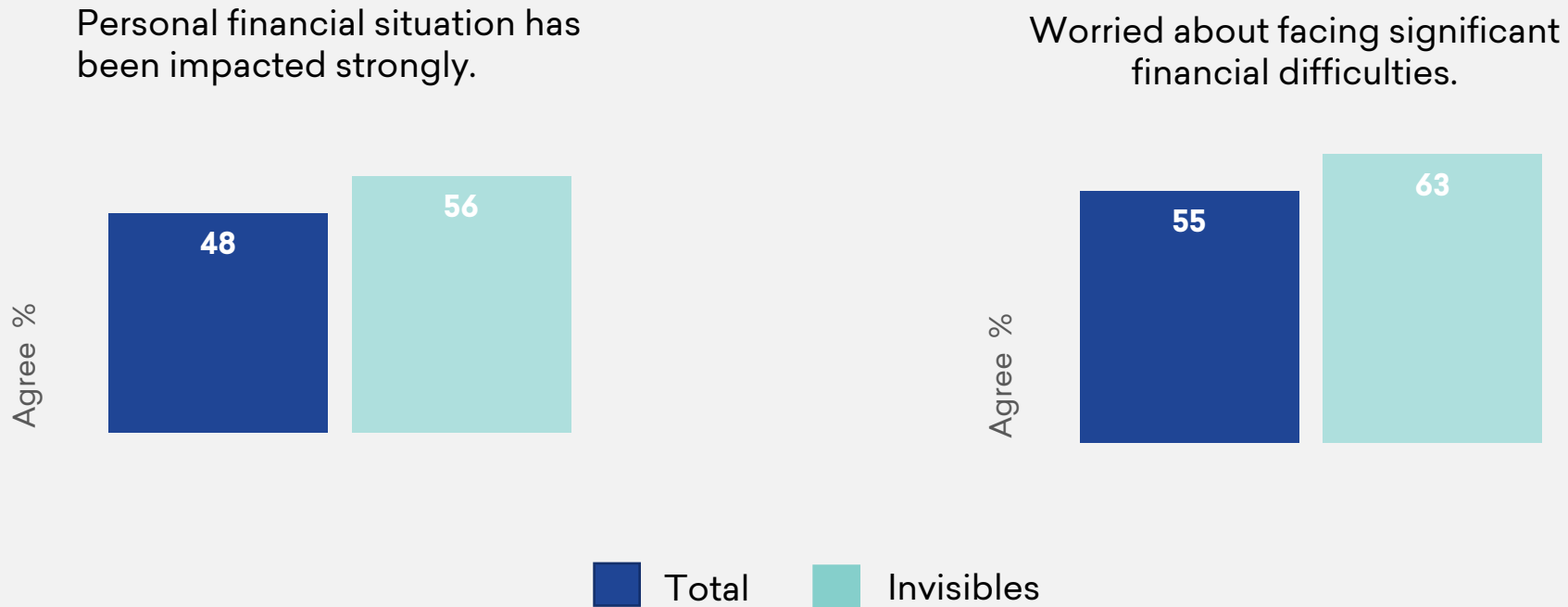
Question: To what extent do you agree with the following statement?

Lastly, the Invisibles are particularly worried about their personal financial situation.

While they care strongly about the environment, they are not willing to make personal sacrifice.



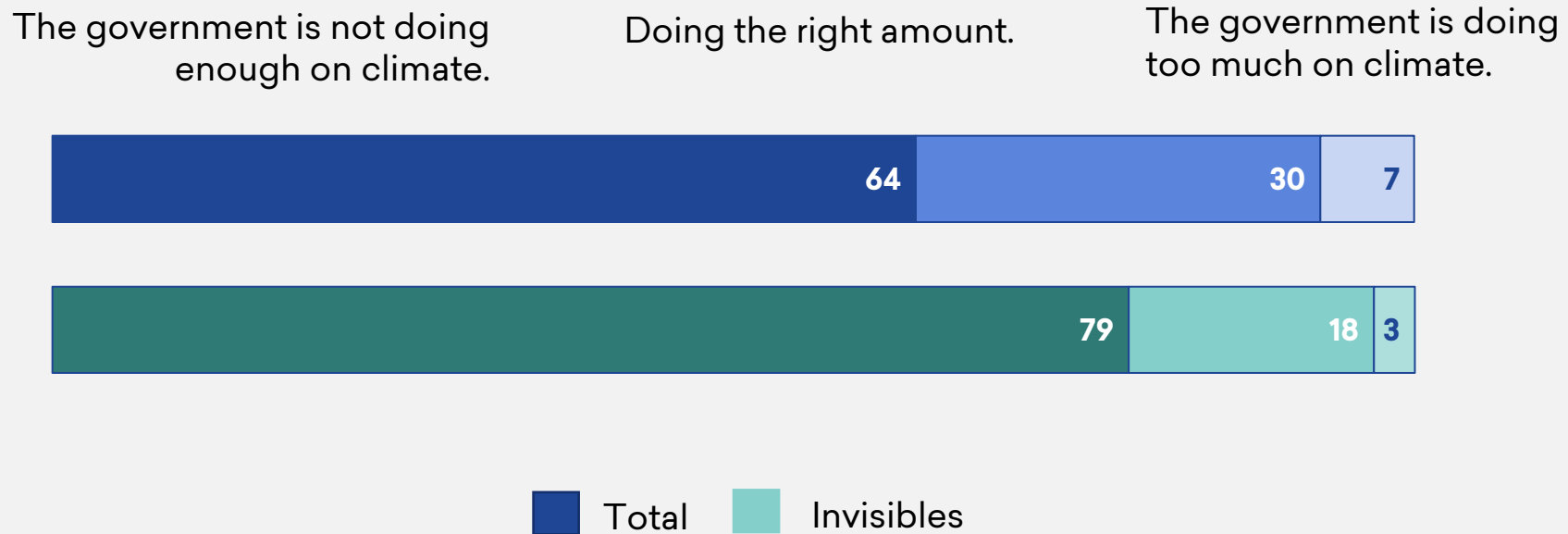
Financially, the Invisibles have suffered more significantly, and are more worried about their personal financial situation.



Question: To what extent has the COVID-19 crisis impacted your financial situation?; To what extent are you currently worried or not worried that...?



The Invisibles are much more likely to say that the government is not doing enough to protect the climate.



Question: Thinking about the current situation, which of the following statements do you agree with most? On the environment, the government is...

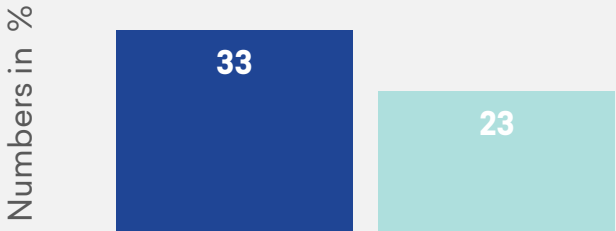
Please note: Numbers may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Personal Sacrifice for Recovery

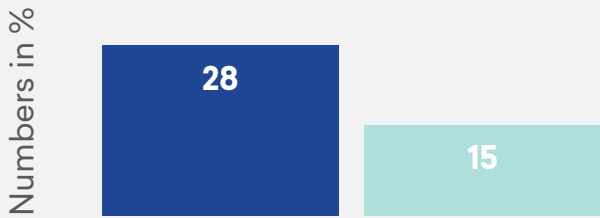


However, likely linked to their strong economic concerns, the Invisibles are less willing to pay higher personal income or environmental taxes to aid recovery efforts.

Willing to pay higher income taxes.



Willing to pay higher taxes on gasoline or car ownership to help protect the environment.



■ Total ■ Invisibles

Question: When it comes to your actions during and after the crisis, would you personally be willing or not to do the following...



Thank you

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