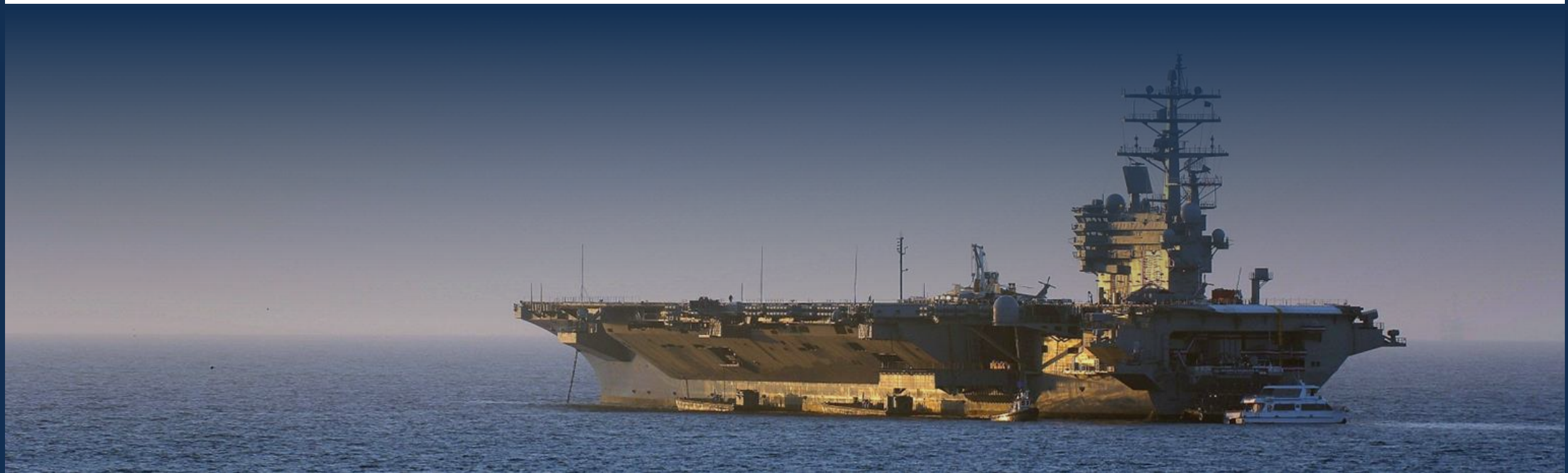




Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation & Institute


2022 National Defense Survey *Executive Summary*



Prepared by Beacon Research and Shaw & Company Research, November 2022



About the Survey

Mode	Combined telephone (n=984) and online panel (n=1554) survey. Telephone interviews conducted by trained professionals calling landlines (38%) and cellphones (62%).
Sample	2,538 US Adults.
Dates	November 9 – November 17, 2022.
Weights	Slight weights were applied to ensure the sample accurately reflects the demographic profile of the US population.
Margin of Error	$\pm 2\%$ at the 95% confidence level for the entire sample. Most questions were split sampled (n \approx 1,250, $\pm 2.8\%$). The margin of error for subgroups is higher.
Research Partnership	 The Research Partnership section features two logos. On the left is the logo for SHAW & Company research, which includes a blue square with a grid pattern and the text "SHAW & Company research". On the right is the logo for BEACON RESEARCH, which features the word "BEACON" in a large, bold, blue font with a blue flame-like shape above the letter "O", and the word "RESEARCH" in a smaller, blue, spaced-out font below it.
Note	Some data may not add to 100% due to rounding.



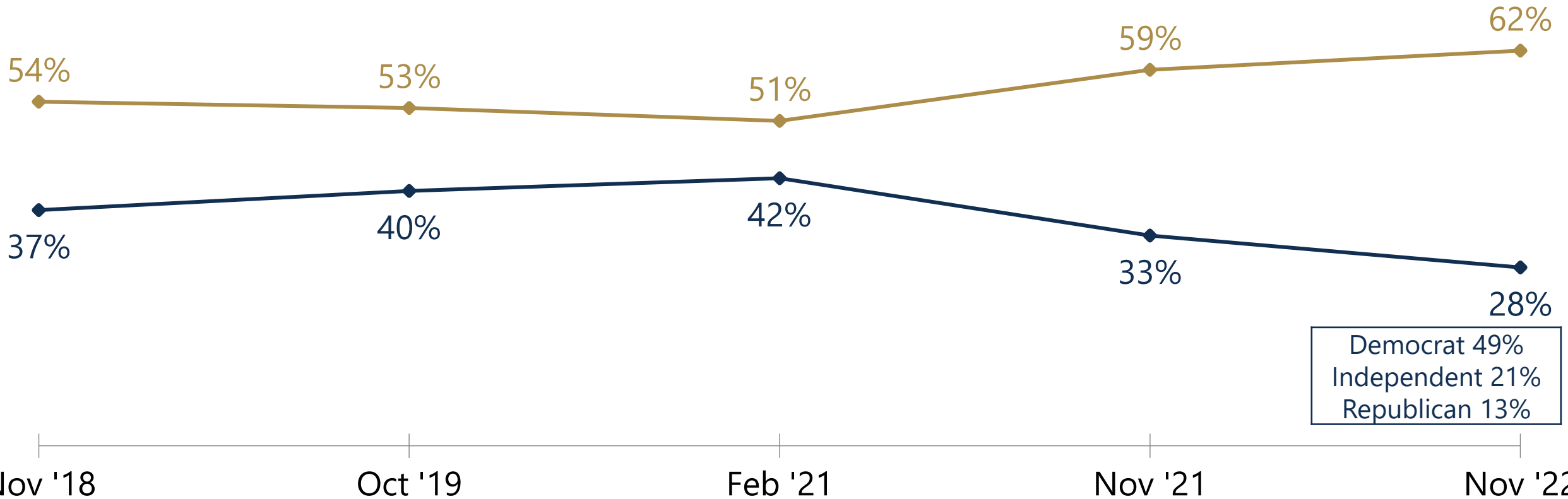
POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT





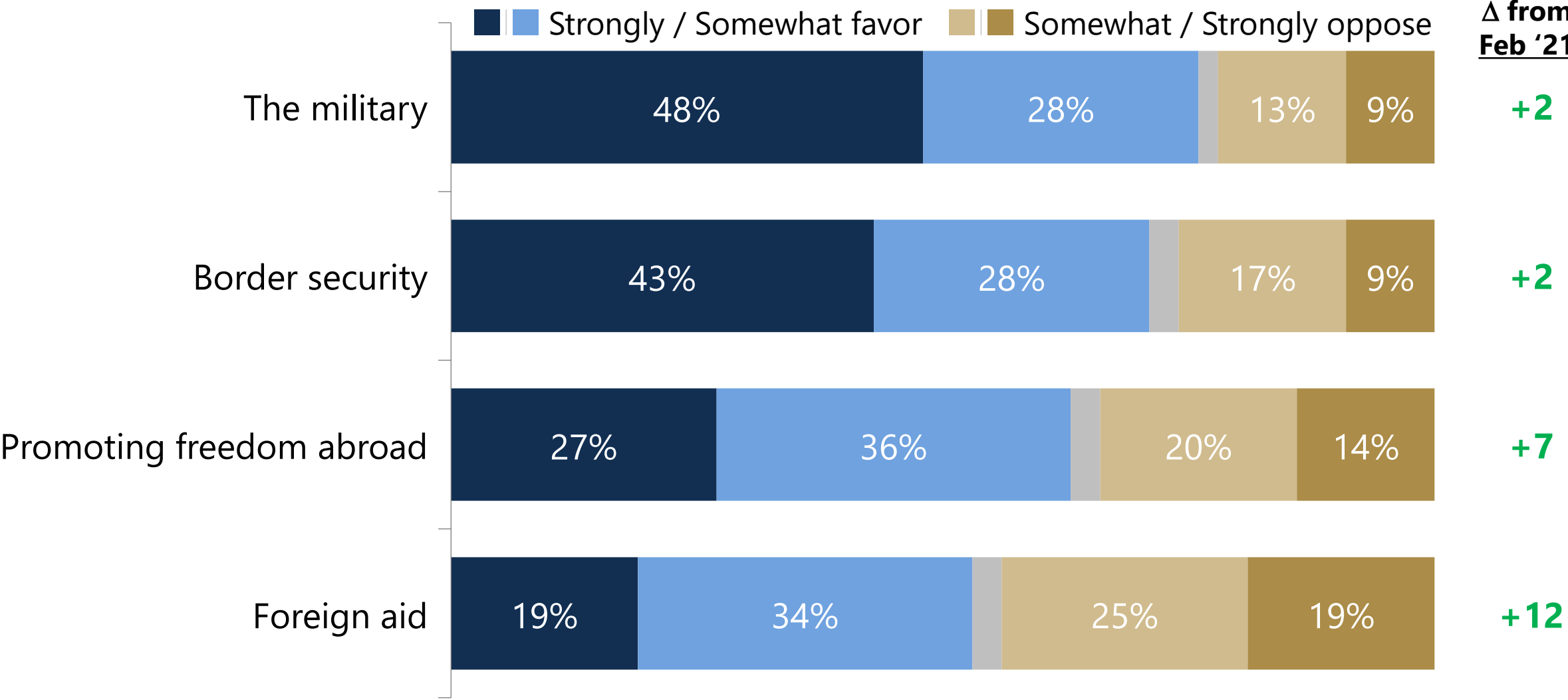
Increasing pessimism about the direction of the country.

◆ Right direction ◆ Wrong track



Q2. Would you say things in the United States today are:

Wide majorities favor increased spending on military and border security.



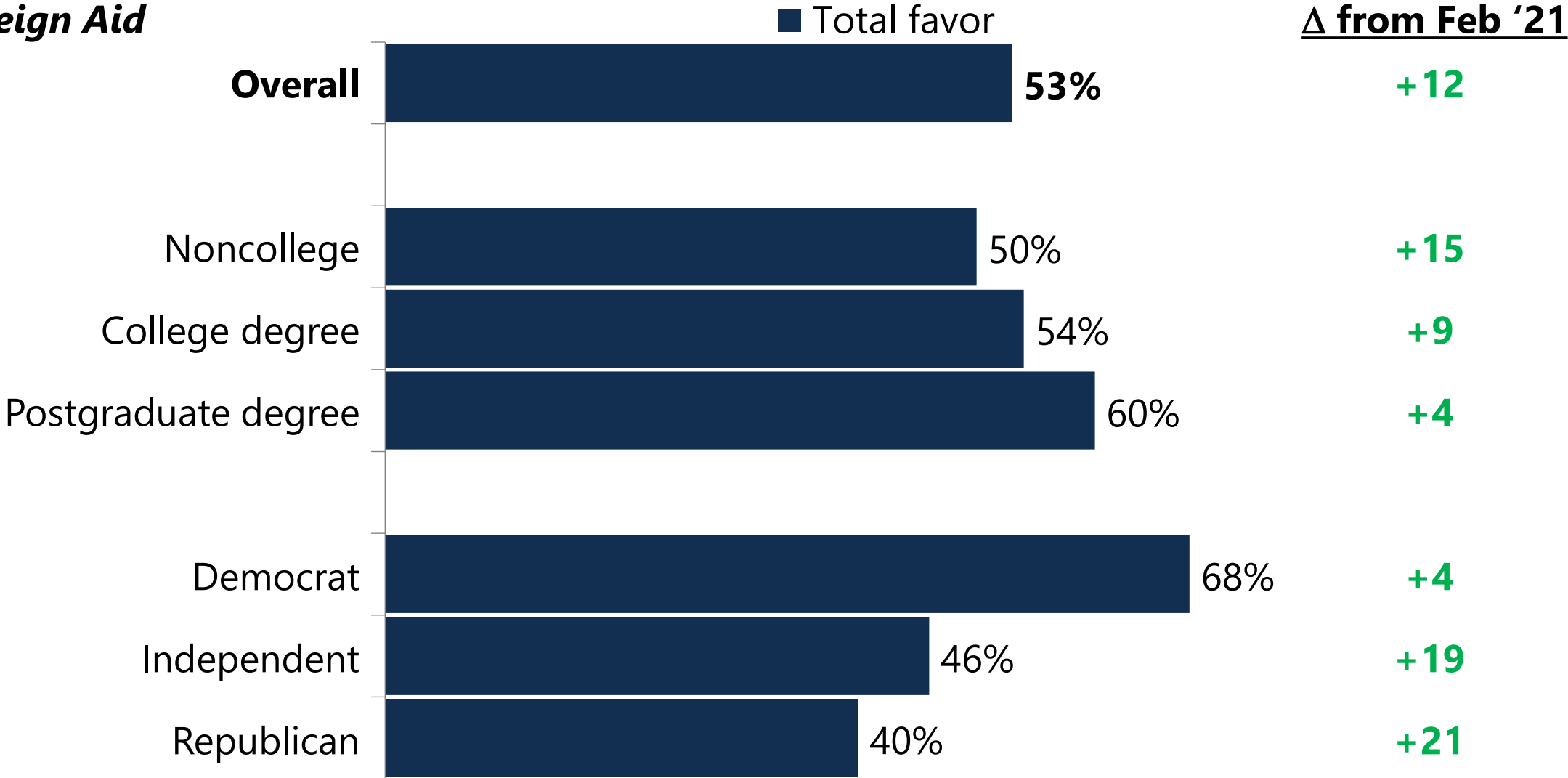
Note: Remainder Don't know

Q23-26. Thinking now about the different areas in which the federal government spends money... Please tell me if you favor or oppose increasing government spending in each of the following areas.



Support for increasing foreign aid, by subgroup.

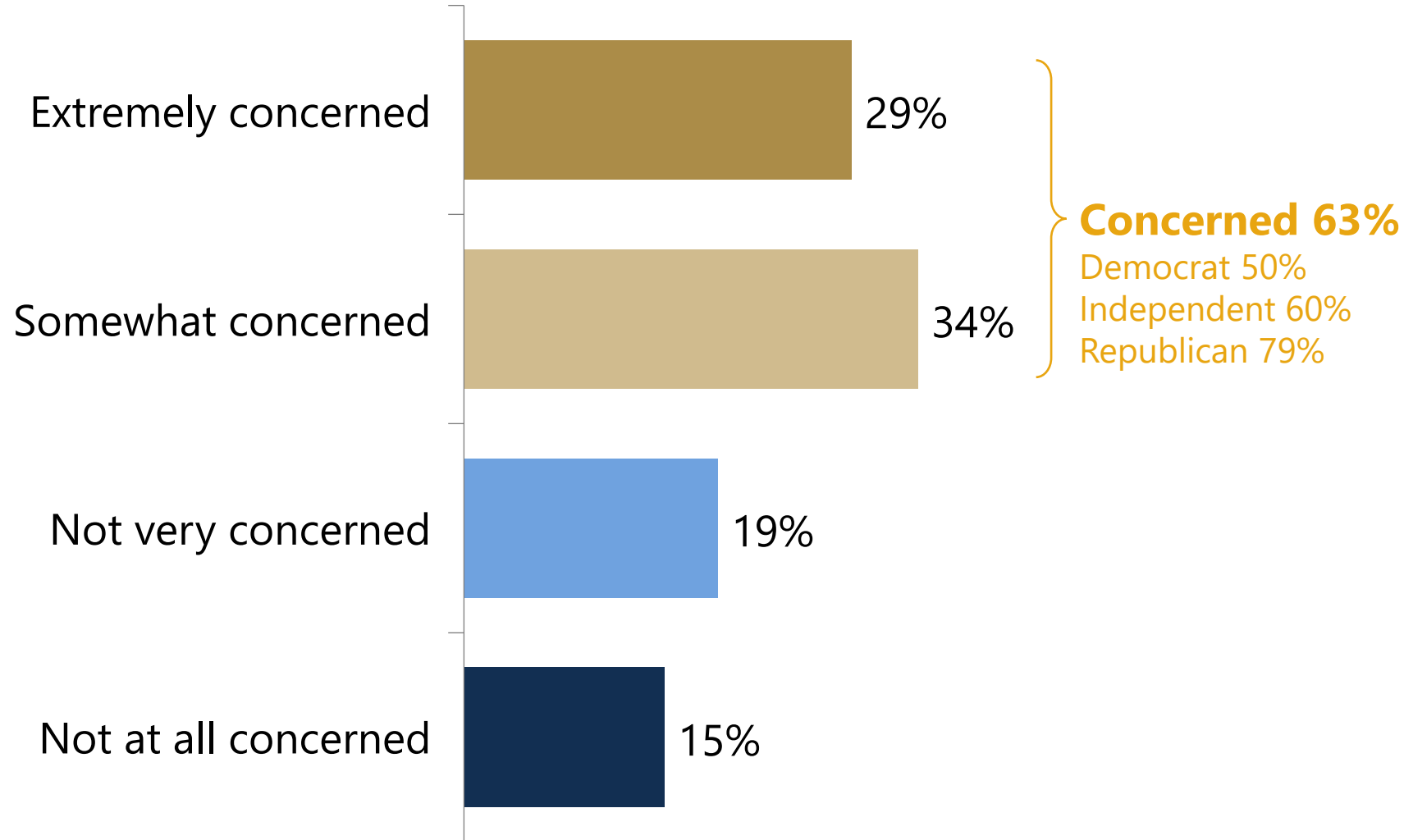
Foreign Aid



Q25. Please tell me if you favor or oppose increasing government spending on: foreign aid.



Nearly two-thirds concerned inflation will harm military procurement and lead to reduced capabilities.

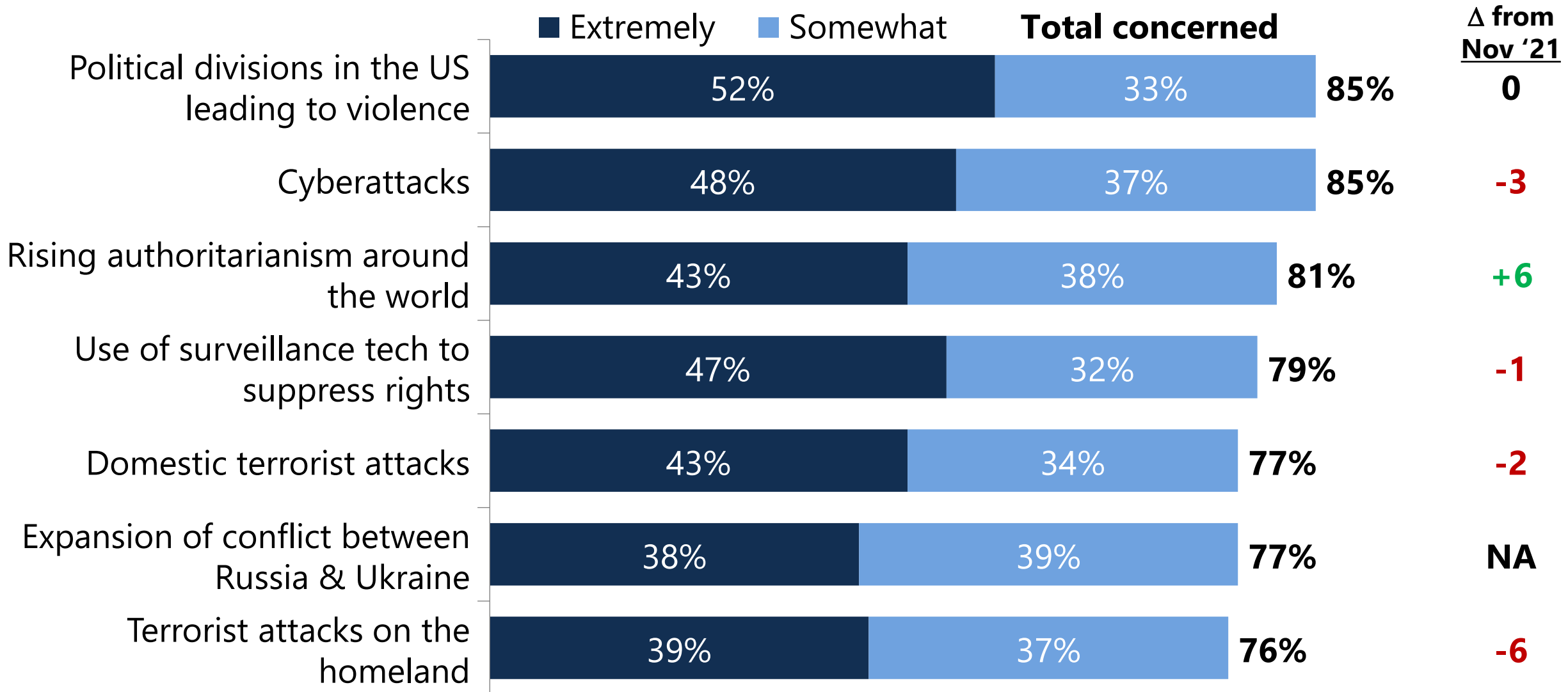


Note: Remainder Don't know

Q27. How concerned are you about the possibility that high inflation means the military cannot purchase as much equipment as it might need, leading to reduced military capabilities?



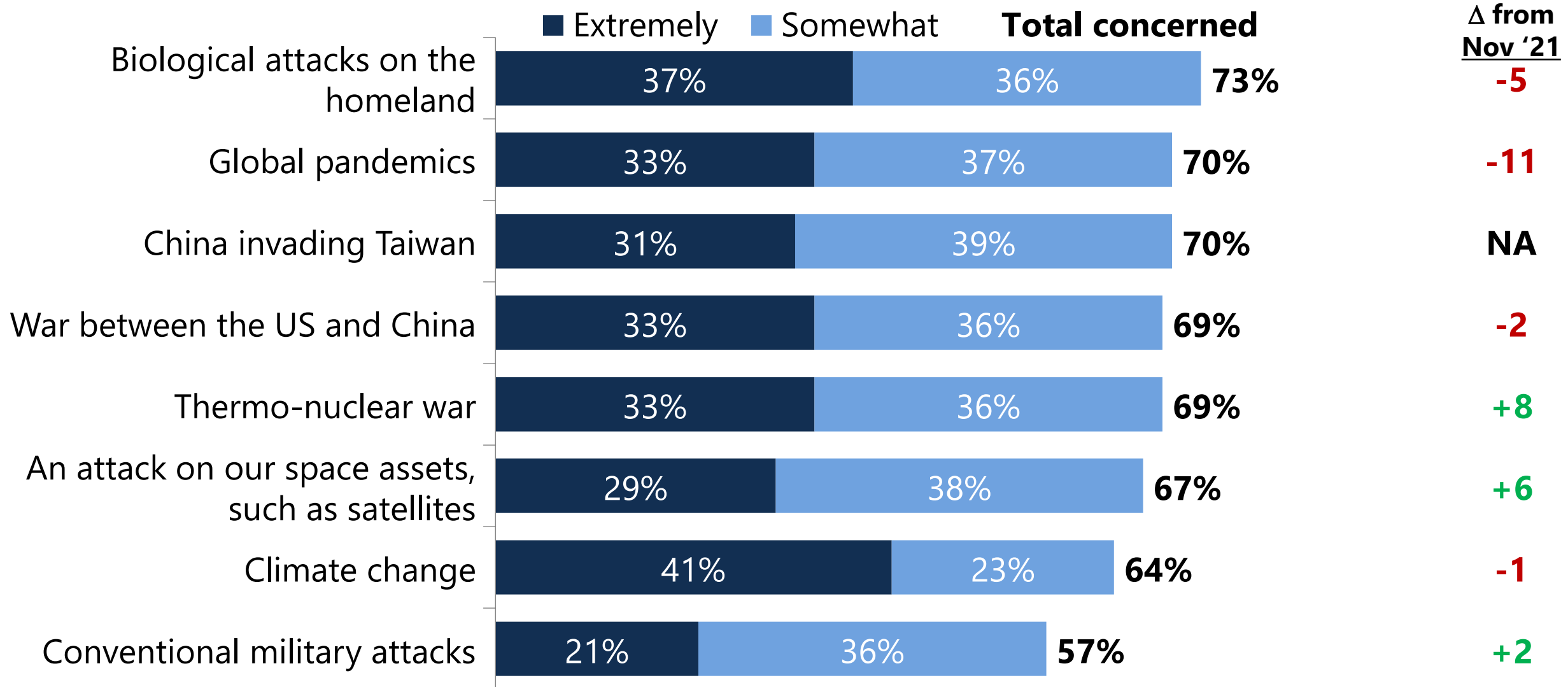
Top threats and concerns: political violence, cyberattacks.



Q28-42. How concerned are you about the threat of each of the following in the next five years?



Items seen as less threatening still a concern for more than two-thirds of Americans.



Q28-42. How concerned are you about the threat of each of the following in the next five years?

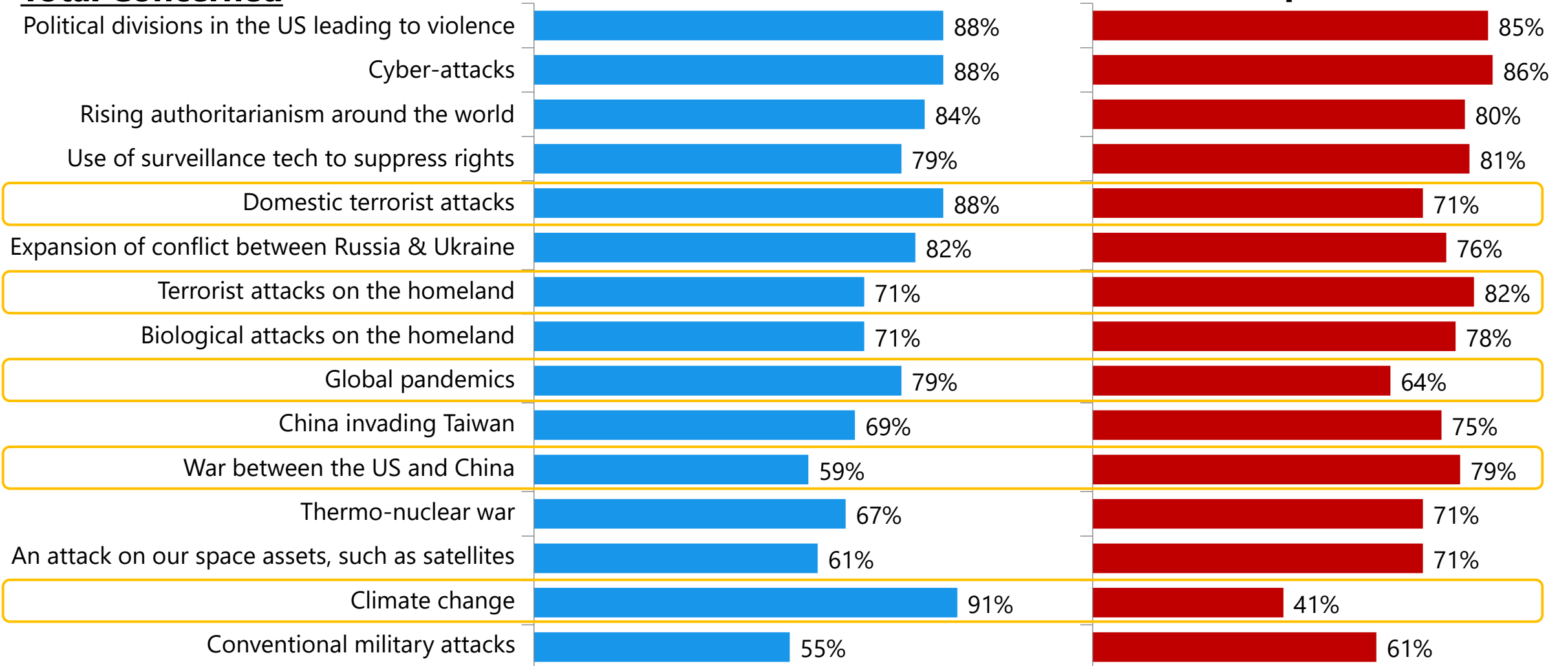


Partisans have similar evaluations of most—but not all—threats.

Total Concerned

Democrats

Republicans



Q28-42. How concerned are you about the threat of each of the following in the next five years?

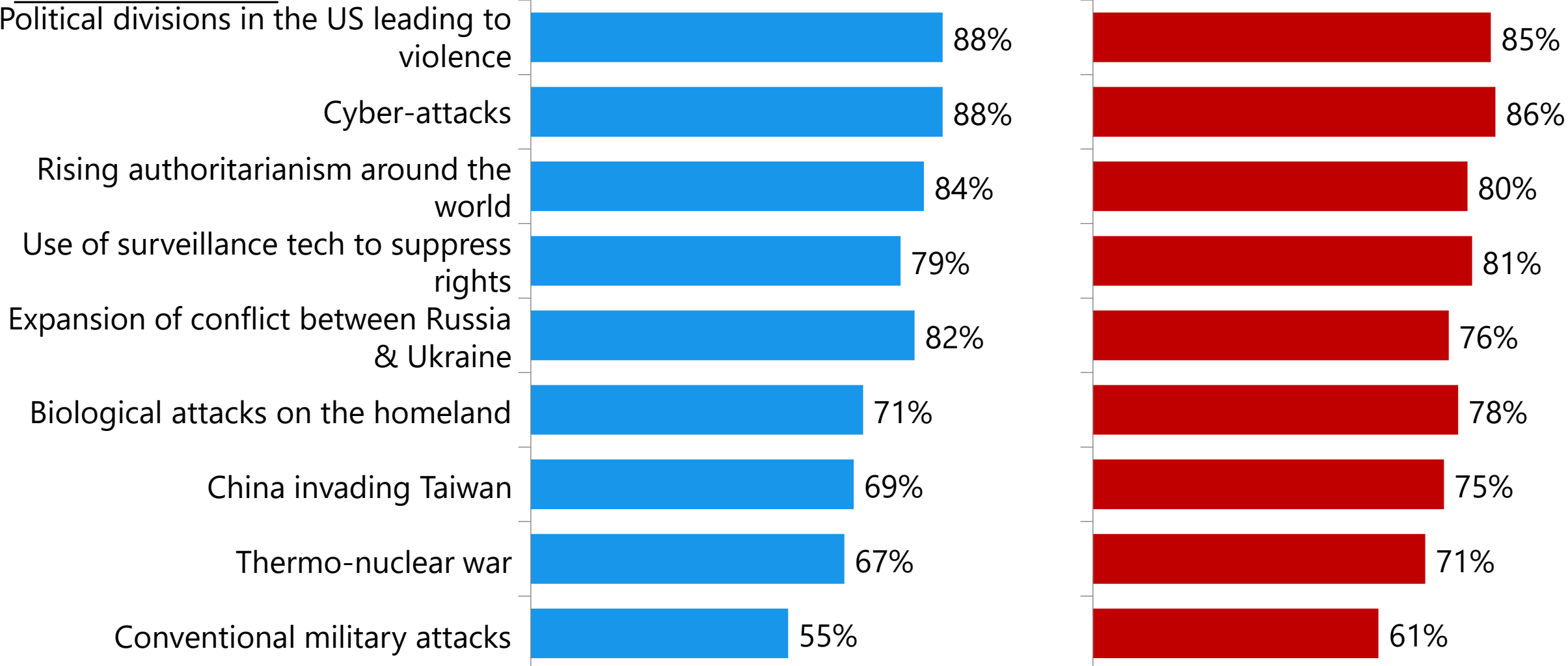


Areas of partisan agreement (concern within 10 points).

Total Concerned

Democrats

Republicans



Q28-42. How concerned are you about the threat of each of the following in the next five years?

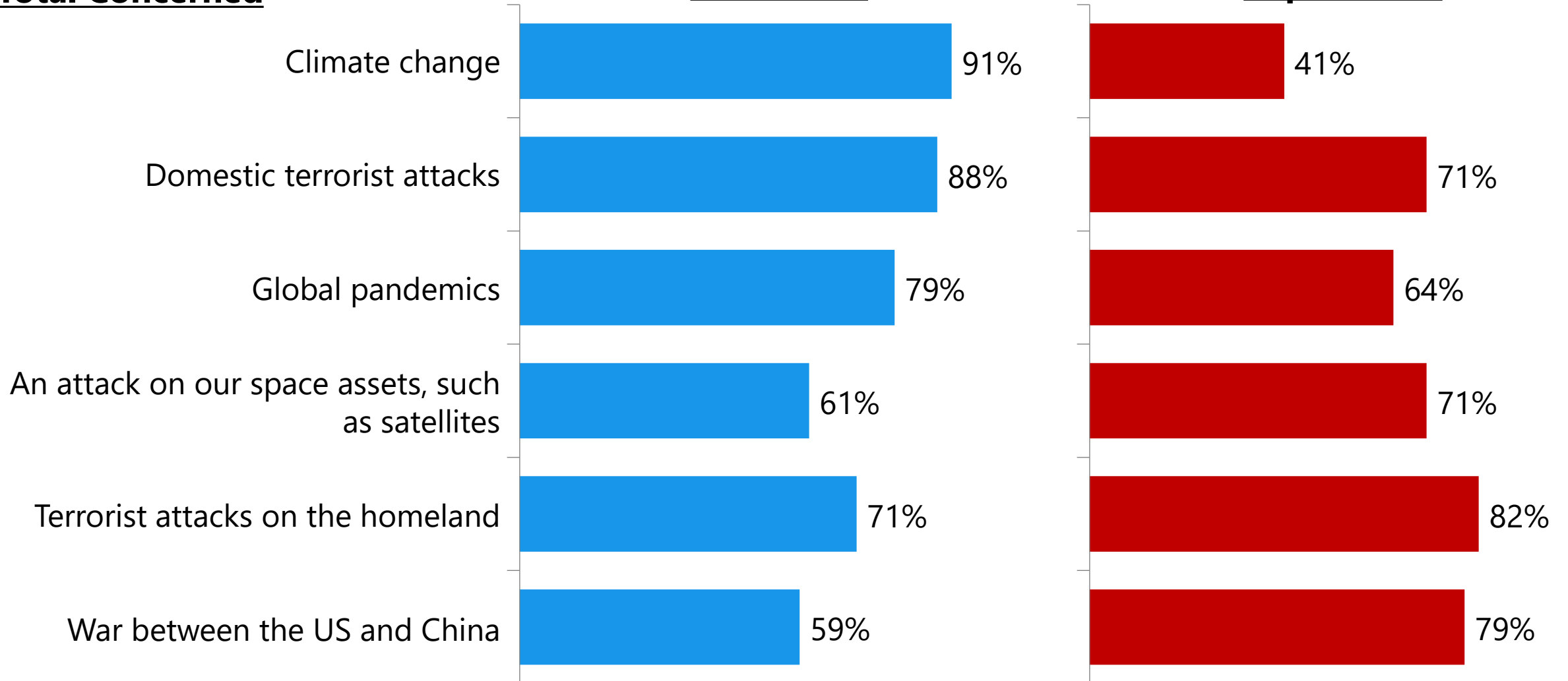


Areas of partisan disagreement.

Total Concerned

Democrats

Republicans



Q28-42. How concerned are you about the threat of each of the following in the next five years?

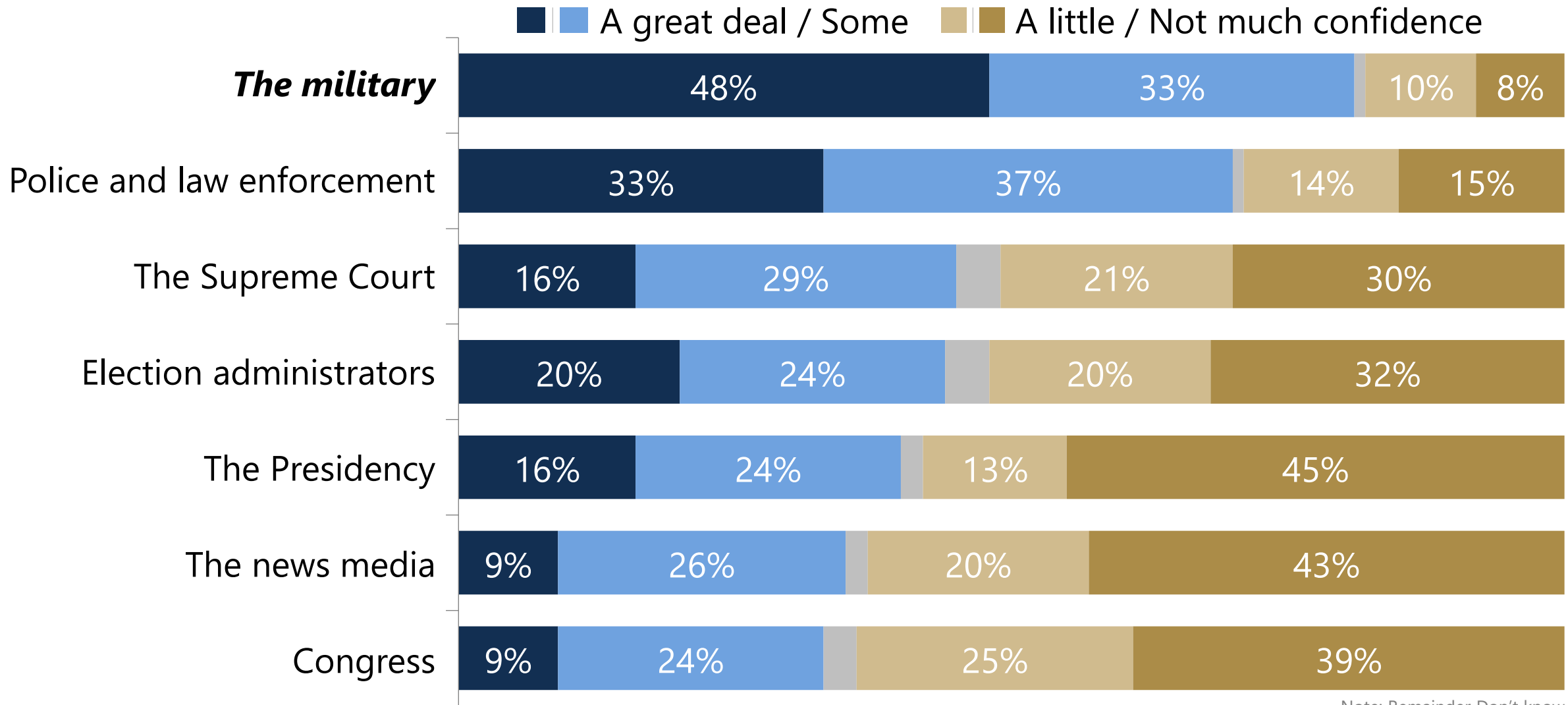


CONFIDENCE IN MILITARY





Military remains the most-trusted institution.

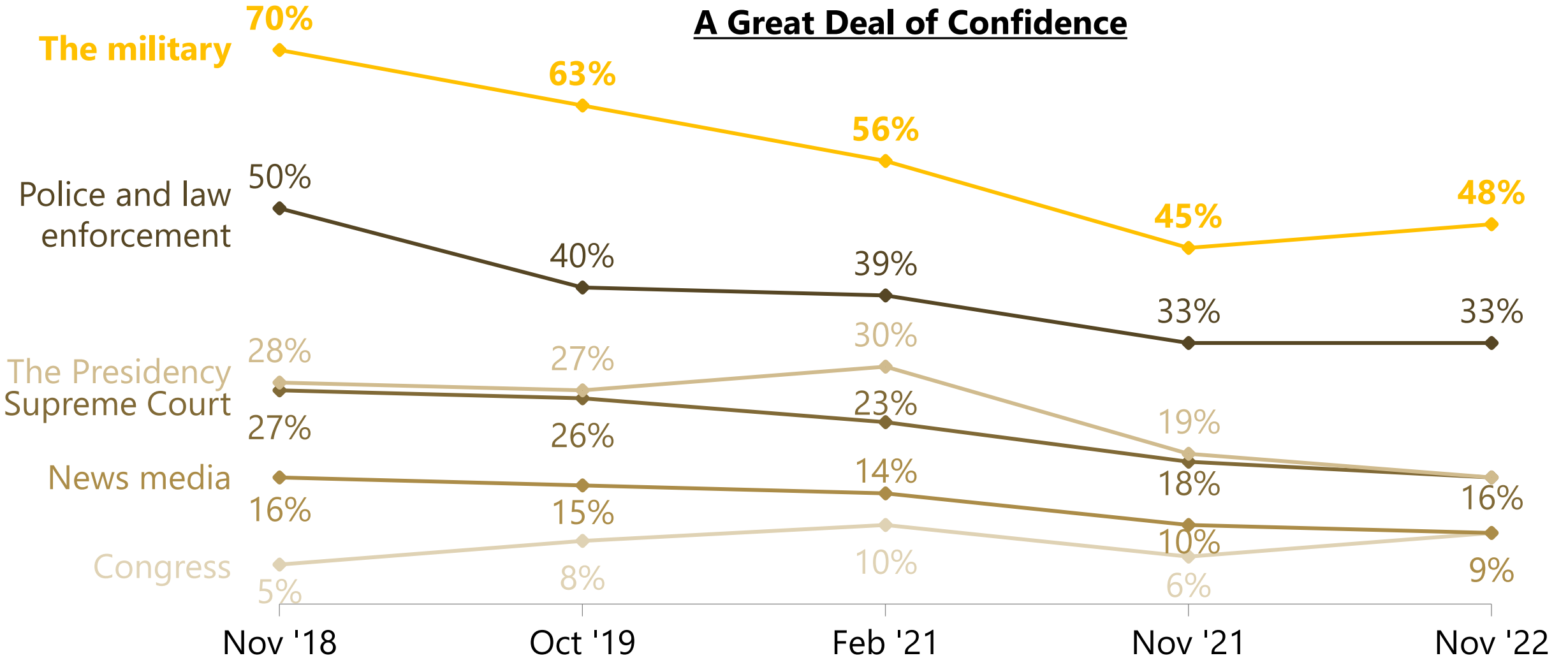


Note: Remainder Don't know

Q4-10. For each of the following groups or institutions, please tell us how much trust and confidence you have in them.



Confidence in military stable after a three-year decline.

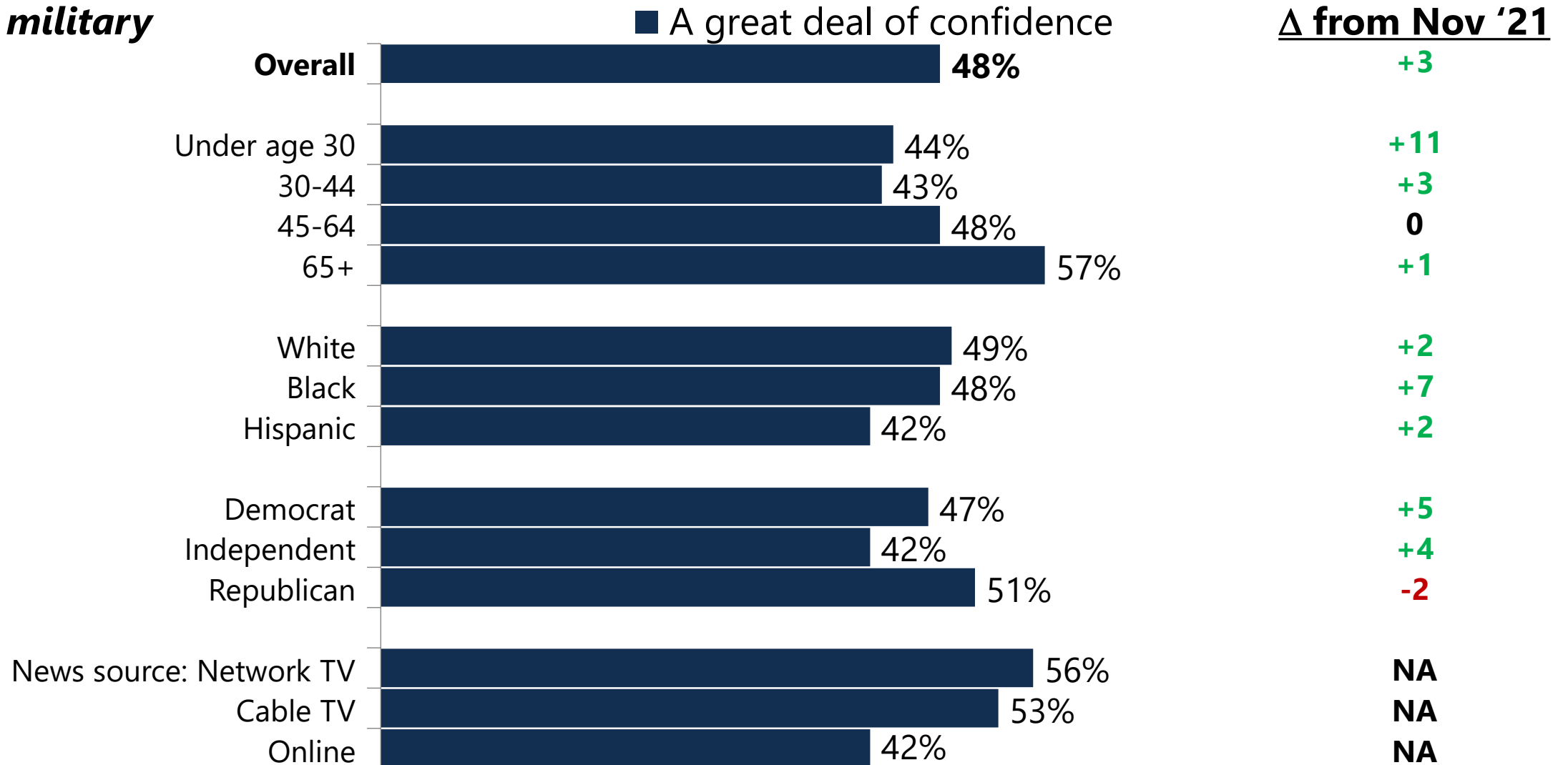


Q4-10. For each of the following groups or institutions, please tell us how much trust and confidence you have in them.



Confidence in military among subgroups.

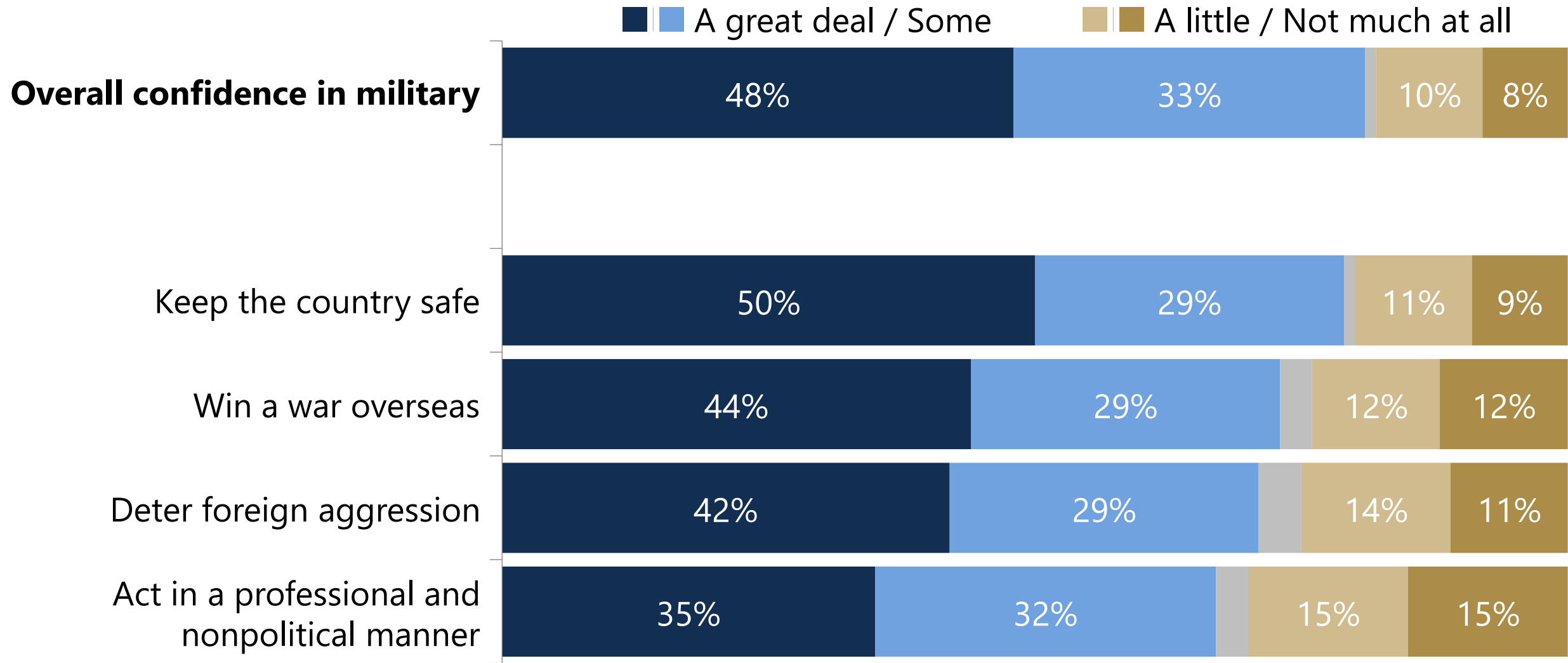
The military



Q4. For each of the following groups or institutions, please tell us how much trust and confidence you have in them: The military



Confidence in military acting professionally/nonpolitically lags confidence in other abilities.



Note: Remainder Don't know

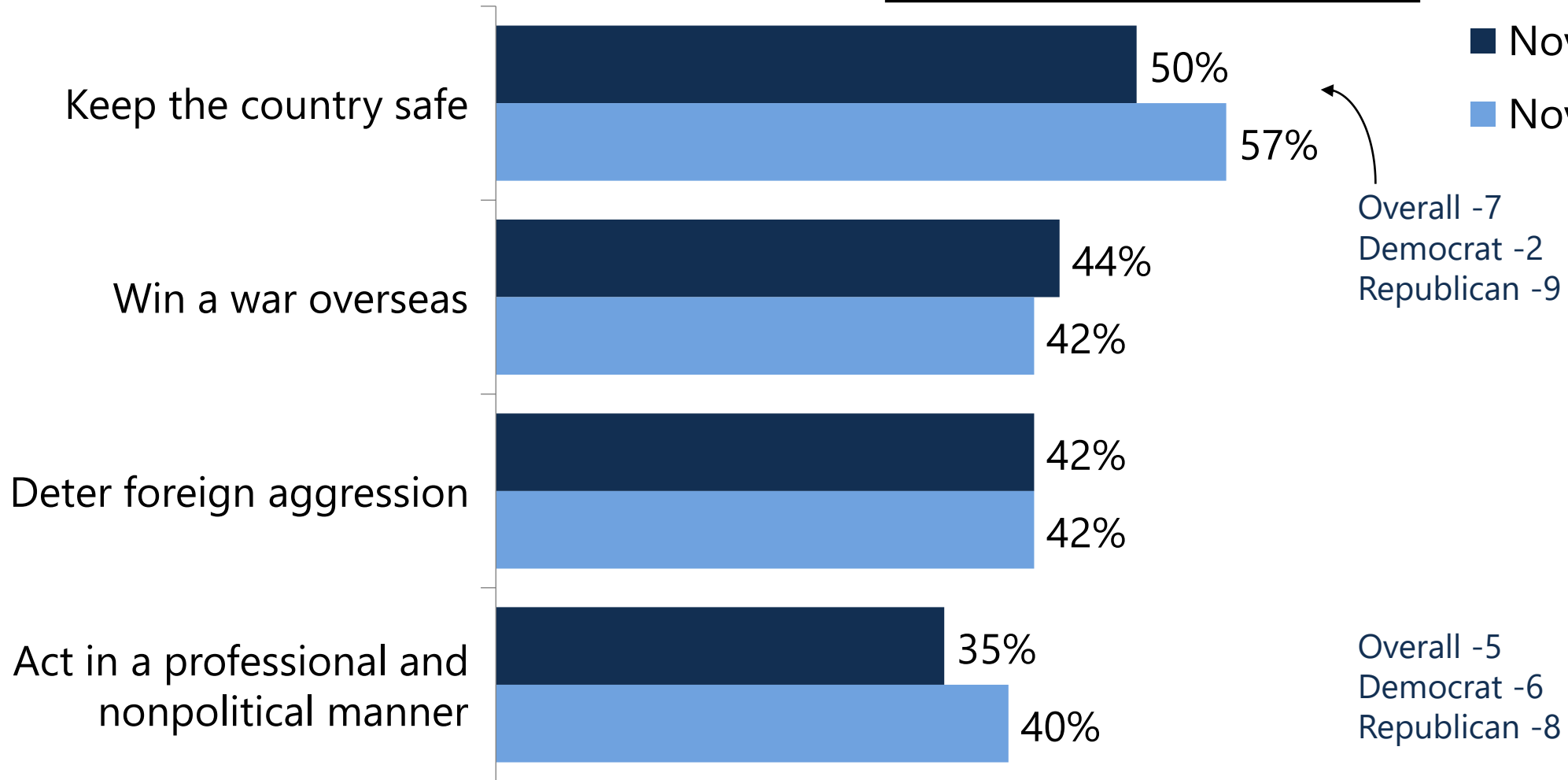
Q4. For each of the following groups or institutions, please tell us how much trust and confidence you have in them: The military AND Q11-14. How much trust and confidence do you have in the US military's ability to...

Declines in confidence military can keep country safe, act nonpolitically.



A Great Deal of Confidence

■ November 2022
■ November 2021

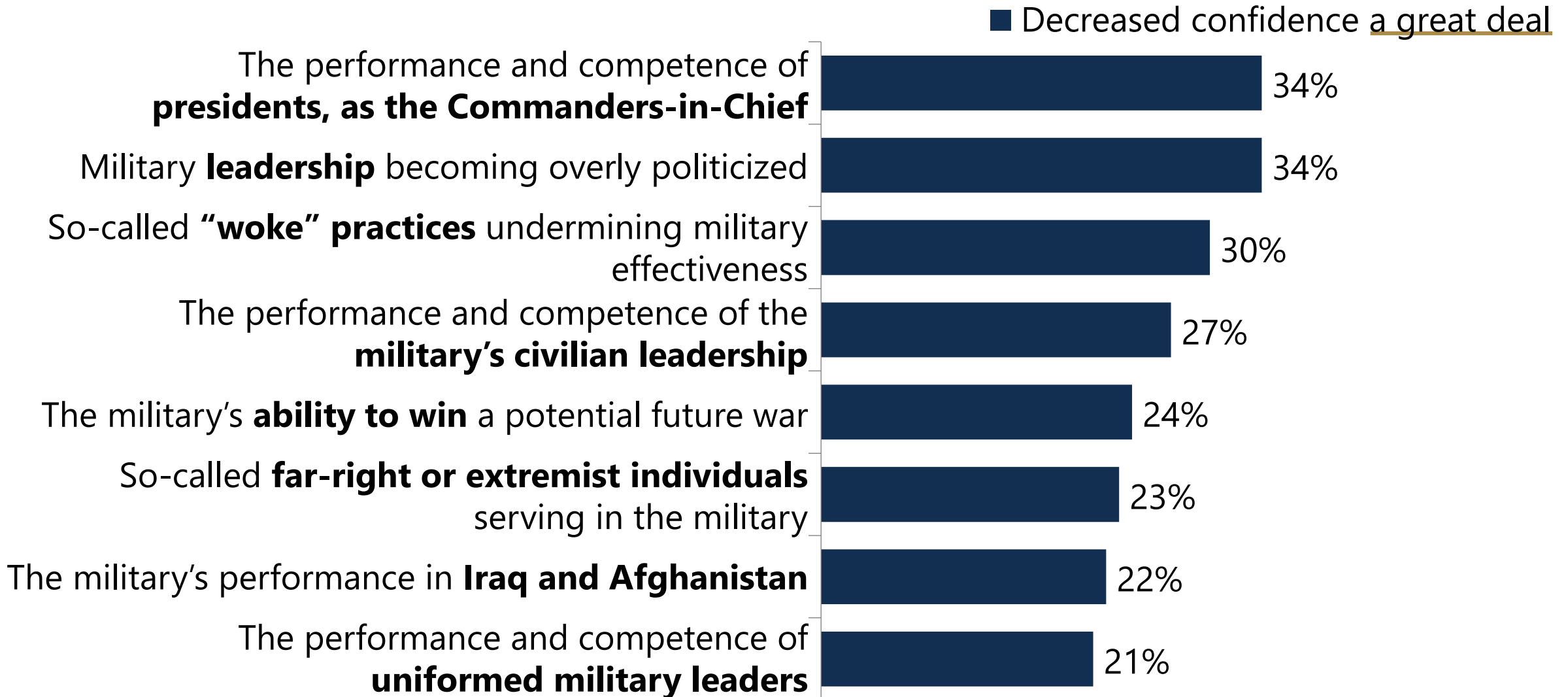


Note: Remainder Don't know

Q11-14. How much trust and confidence do you have in the US military's ability to...



Factors decreasing confidence in military.



Q15-22. To what extent, if at all, have each of the following decreased your confidence in the military?



Factors decreasing confidence, by party identification.

Decreased confidence a great deal

Democrats

Republicans

The performance and competence of **presidents, as the Commanders-in-Chief**



24%



43%

Military **leadership** becoming overly politicized



24%



43%

So-called **“woke” practices** undermining military effectiveness



14%



47%

The performance and competence of the **military’s civilian leadership**



21%



32%

The military’s **ability to win** a potential future war



23%



24%

So-called **far-right or extremist individuals** serving in the military



32%



17%

The military’s performance in **Iraq and Afghanistan**



19%



24%

The performance and competence of **uniformed military leaders**



22%

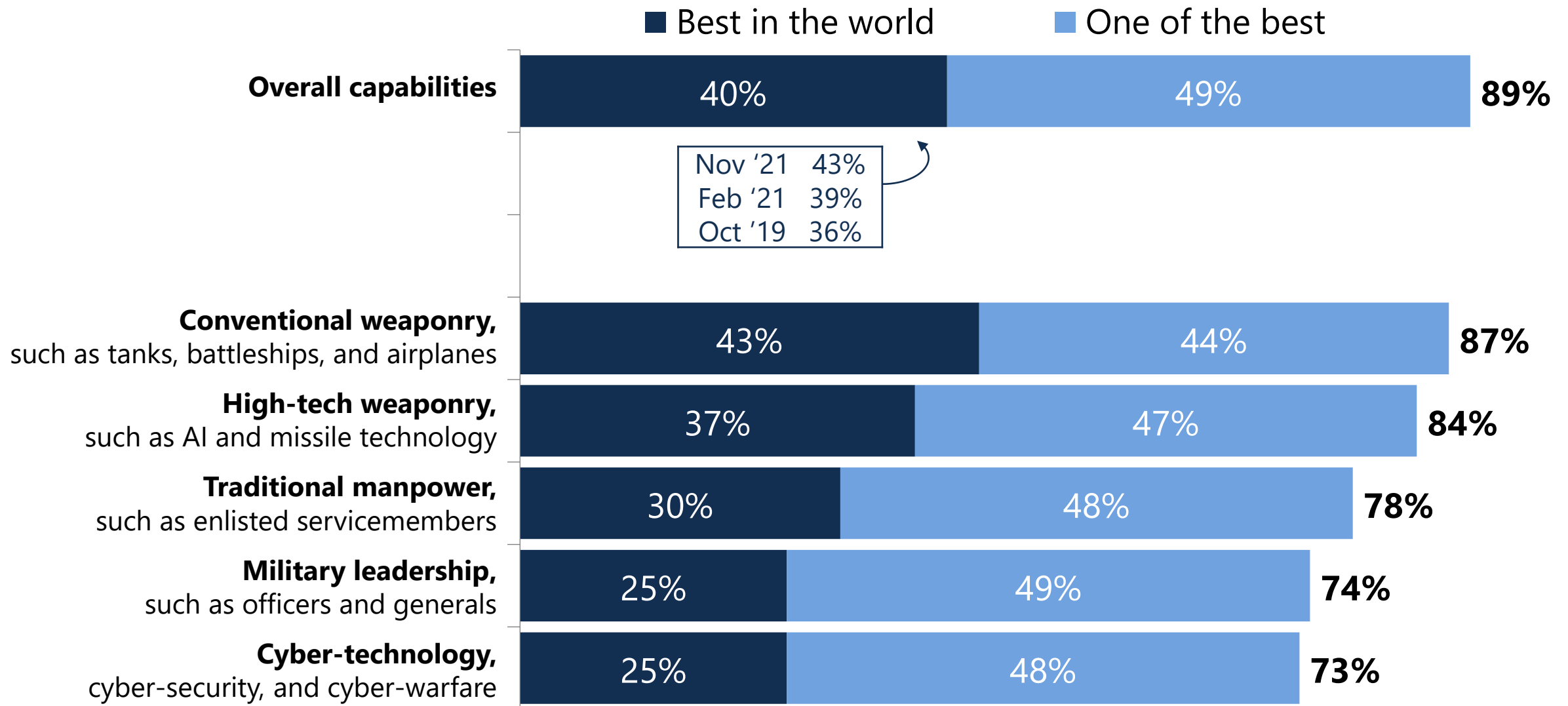


19%

Q15-22. To what extent, if at all, have each of the following decreased your confidence in the military?



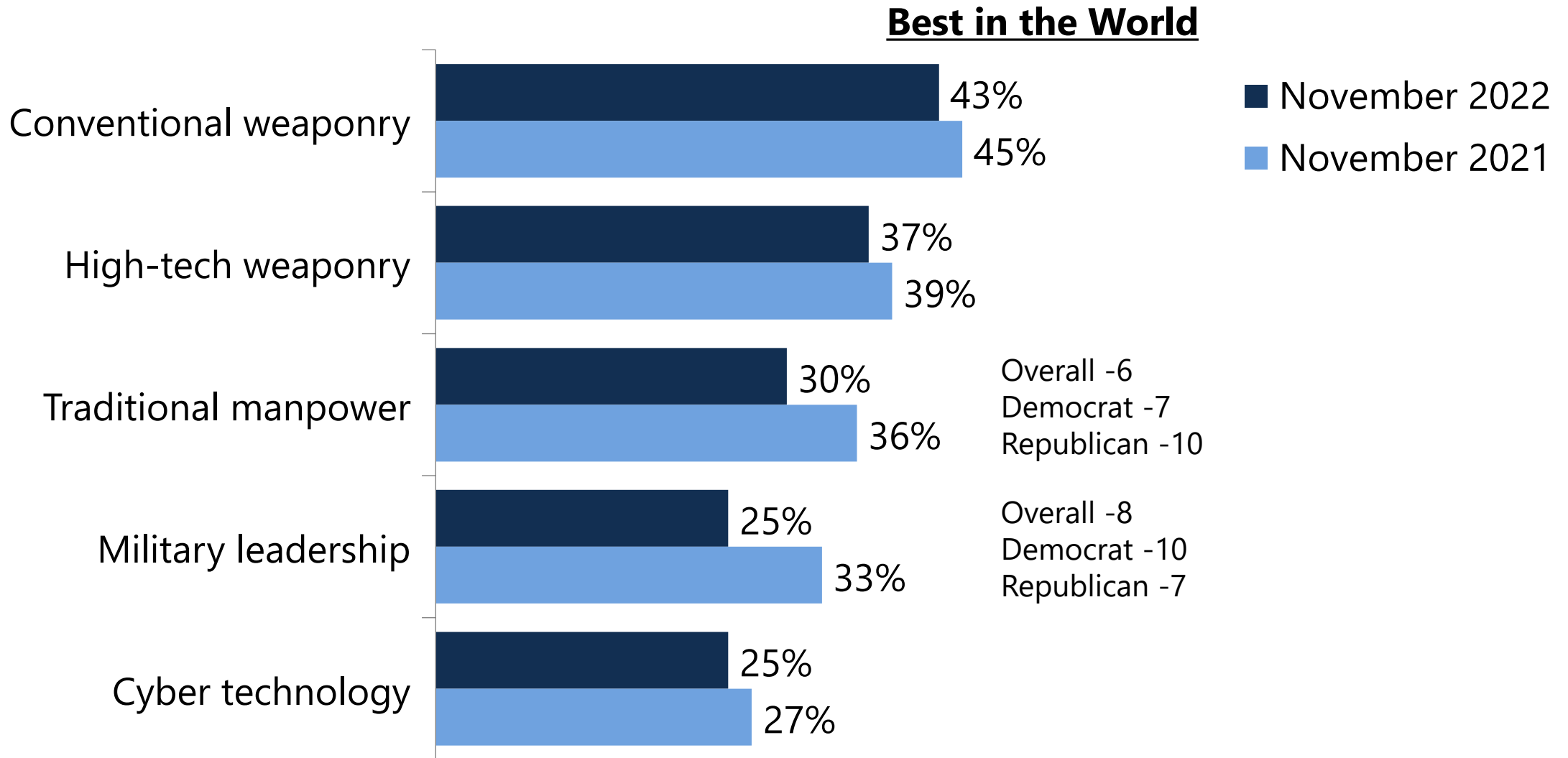
Evaluations of U.S. military capabilities.



Q43-48. For each of the following, please tell us how you think the US military is doing compared to the military in other countries.



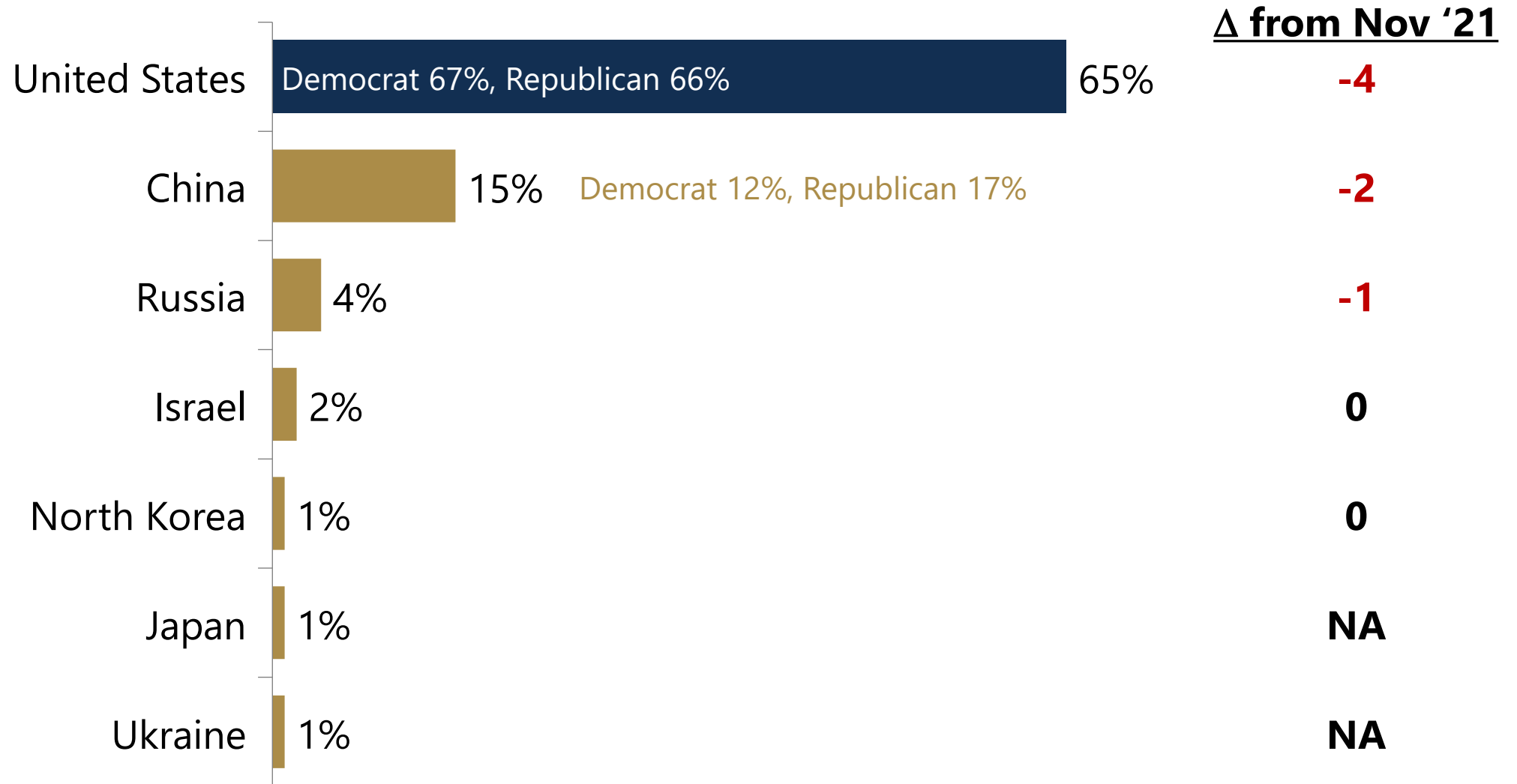
Perceived US edge on leadership and manpower eroded slightly.



Q43-48. For each of the following, please tell us how you think the US military is doing compared to the military in other countries.



When pushed to choose, two-thirds think US has best overall capabilities.

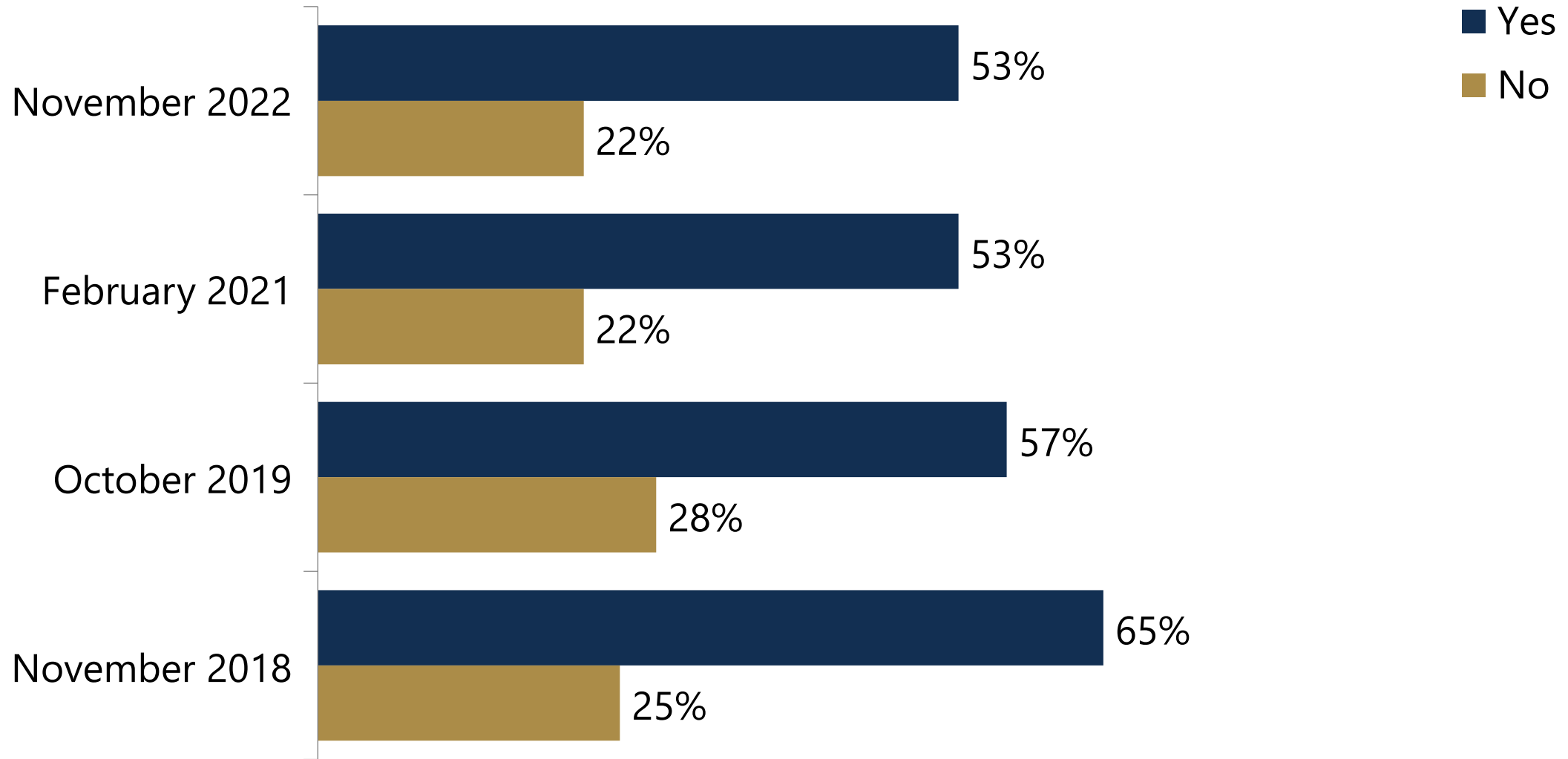


Note: Remainder Other / Not sure / Refused

Q49. Which country do you think has the best overall military capabilities? [RECORD VERBATIM]



Belief in ability to win a nuclear war is unchanged.

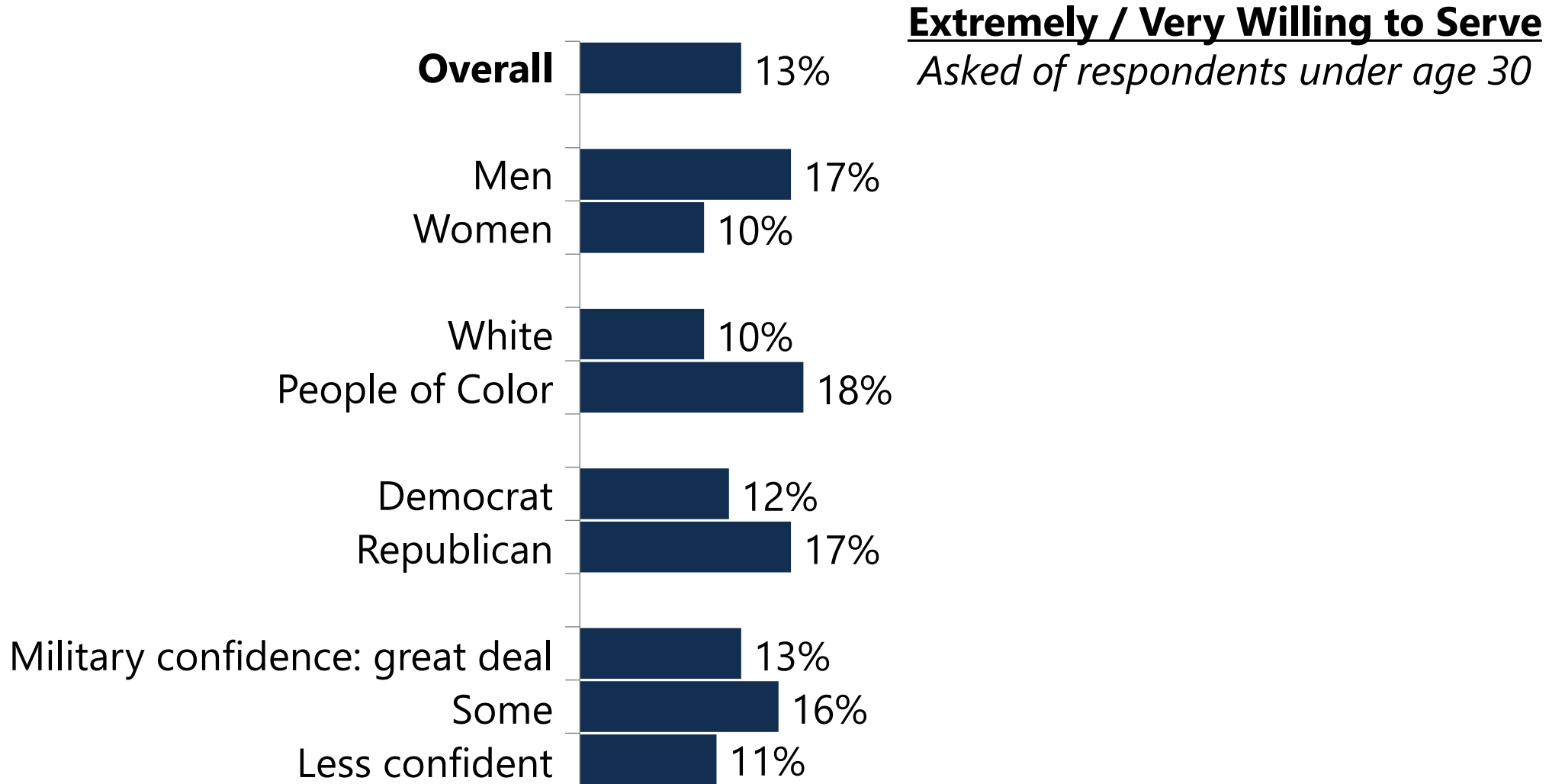


Note: Remainder Don't know

Q50. Do you think the US would win a war with a nuclear power?



One-in-ten under age 30 very willing to serve in US military.



[IF AGE 18-29 AND NOT SERVICE MEMBER OR VETERAN] Q132. How willing would you, personally, be to serve in the US military?



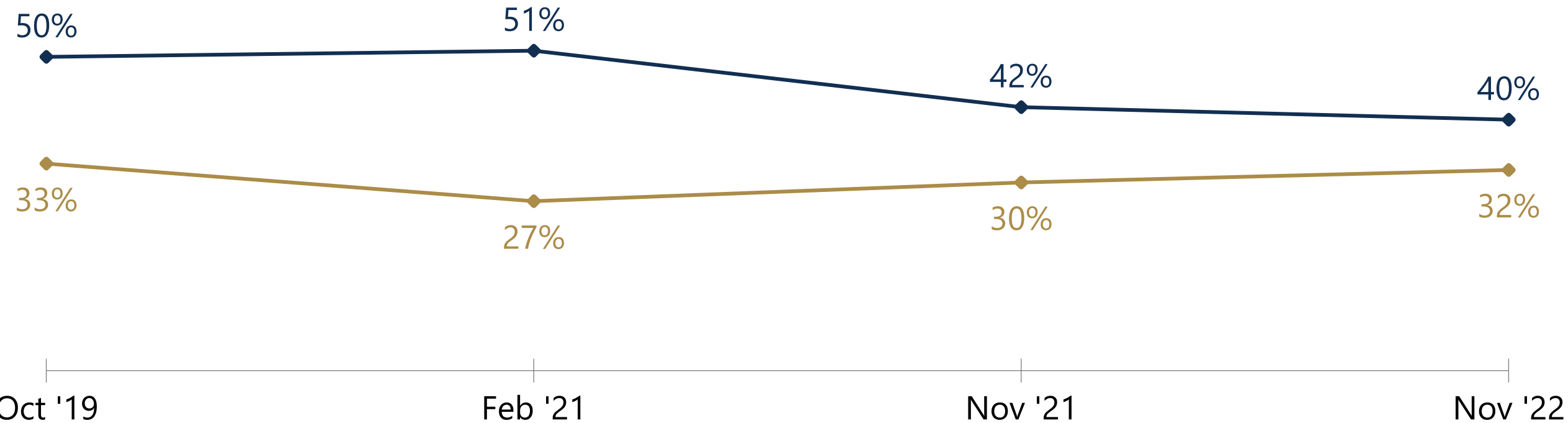
INTERNATIONAL POSTURE





Narrow plurality prefers an engaged US foreign policy.

◆ More engaged and take the lead ◆ Less engaged and react to events

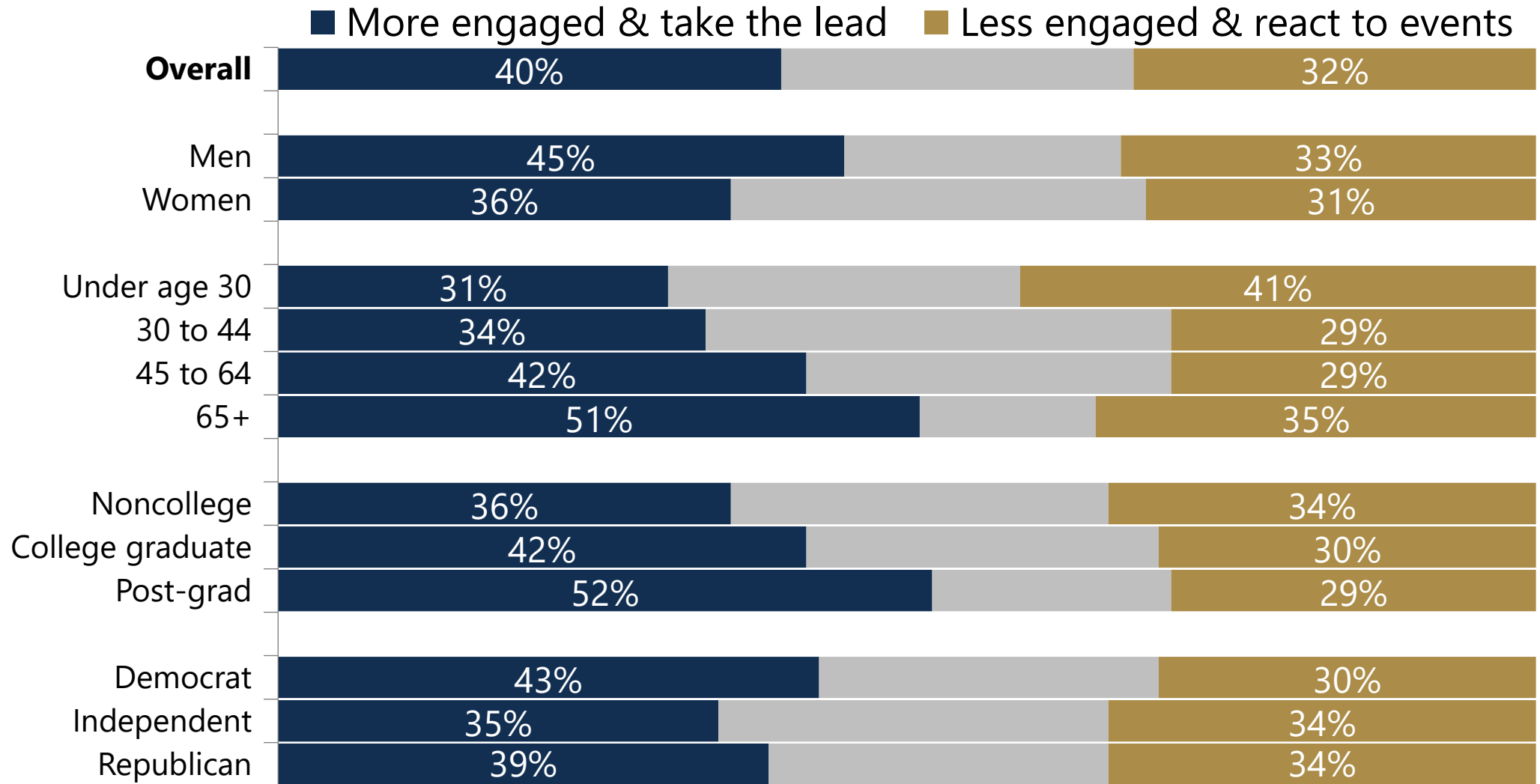


Note: Remainder Depends / Don't know

Q51. When it comes to international events, do you think it is better for the United States to be more engaged and take the lead, or to be less engaged and react to events?



Preferred foreign policy posture, by subgroup.



Note: Remainder Depends / Don't know

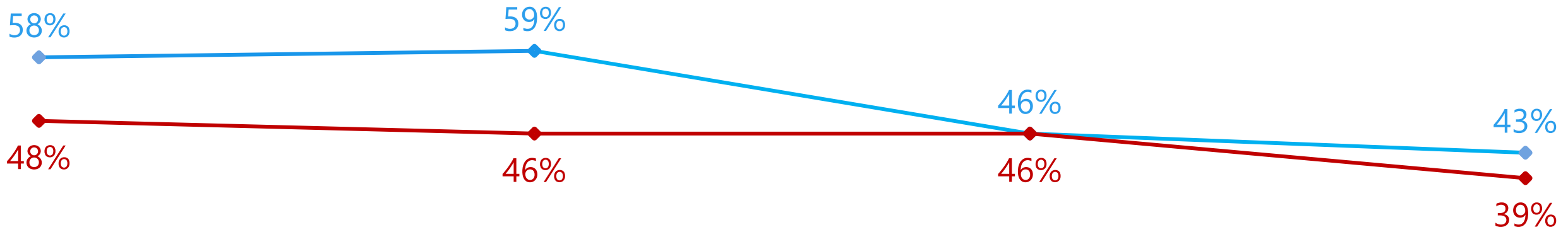
Q51. When it comes to international events, do you think it is better for the United States to be more engaged and take the lead, or to be less engaged and react to events?

Declining preference for engaged posture a bipartisan phenomenon.



More engaged and take the lead

— Democrat — Republican



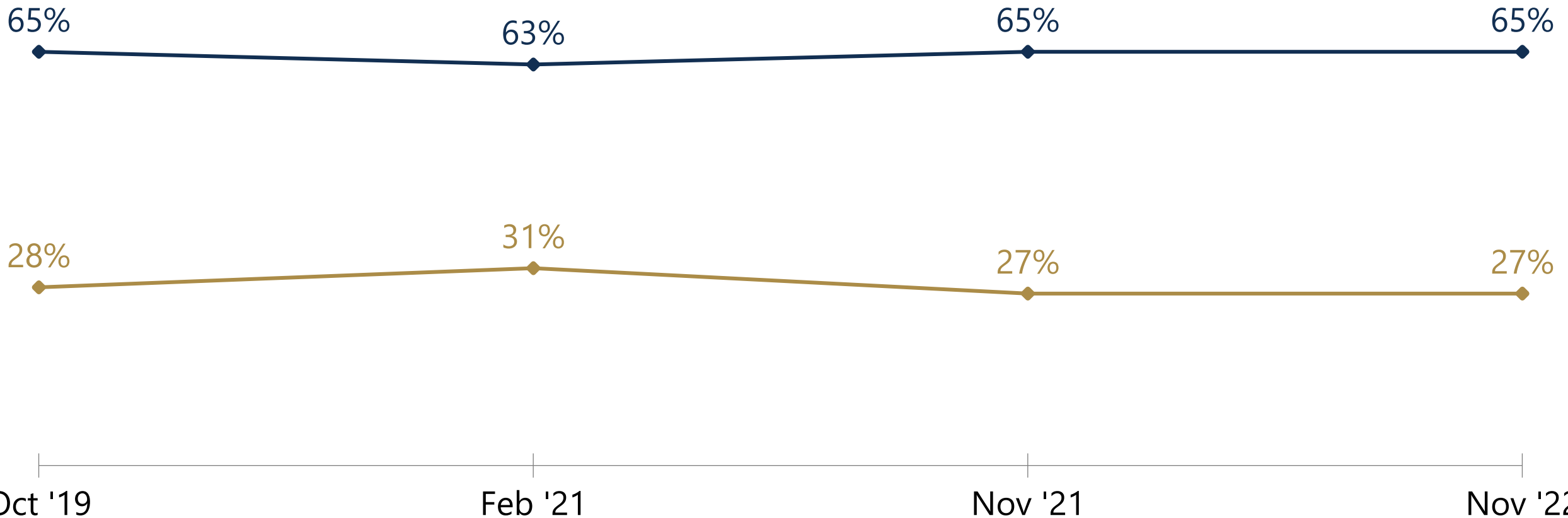
Note: Remainder Depends / Don't know

Q51. When it comes to international events, do you think it is better for the United States to be more engaged and take the lead, or to be less engaged and react to events?



Remarkably stable support for maintaining bases overseas.

◆ Maintain bases ◆ Reduce presence overseas



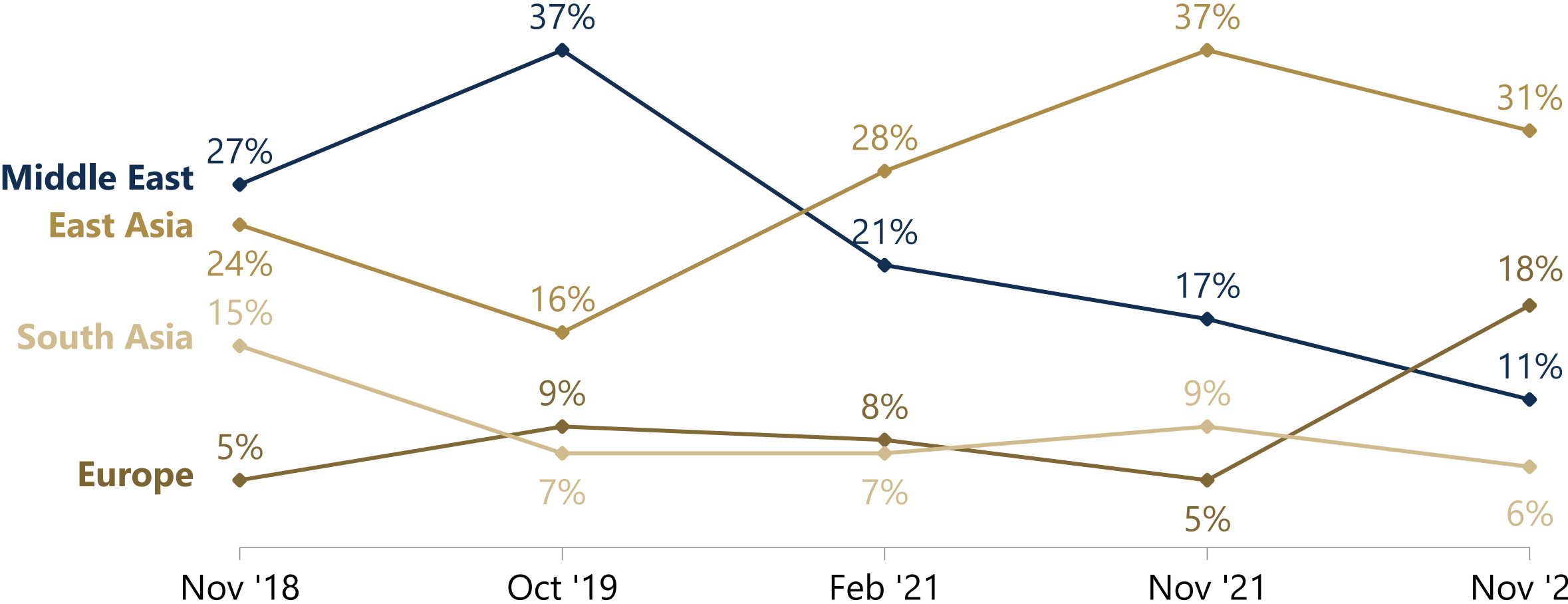
Note: Remainder Don't know

Q53. In general, do you think it is better for the US to maintain military bases around the world to deter attacks and respond quickly if something happens, or do you think the US should reduce our military presence overseas and only deploy troops in response to aggression?

East Asia remains top theater of focus; sharp increase in attention on Europe as Middle East fades.



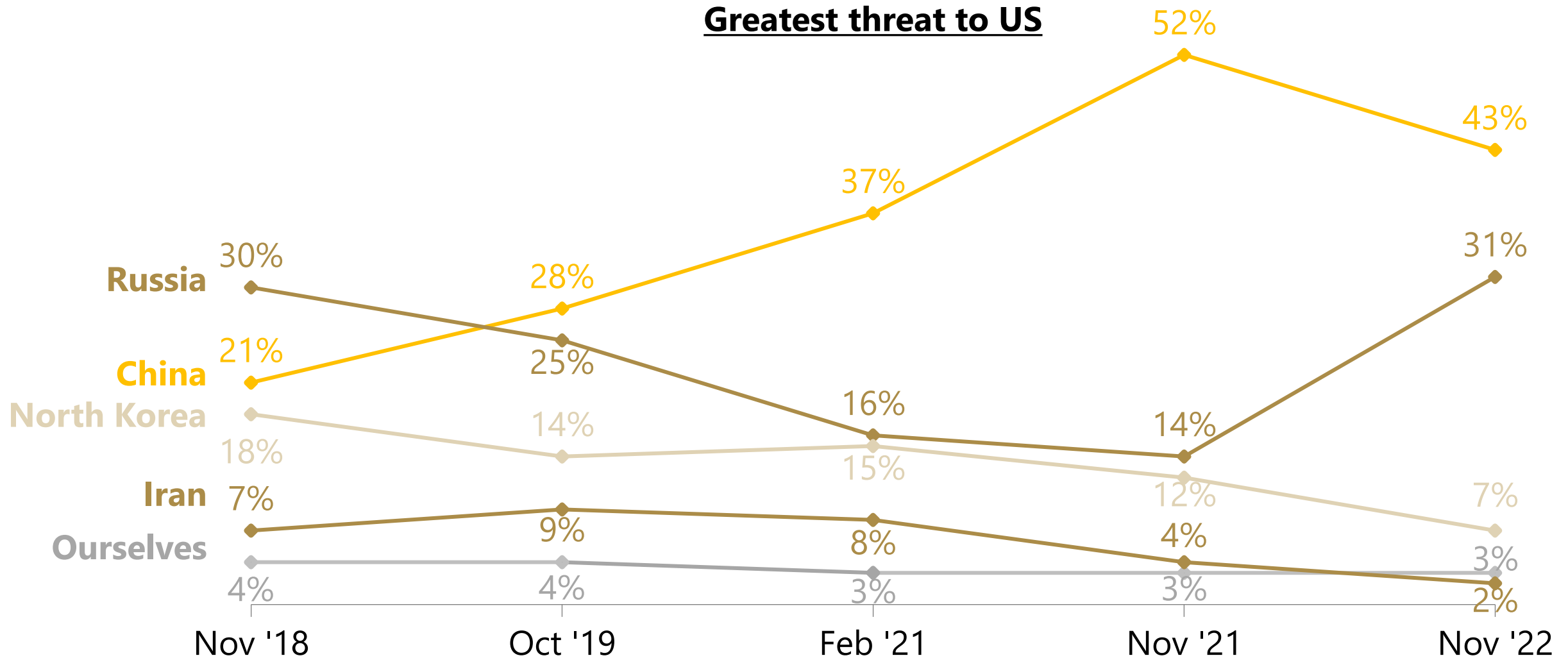
US Military Focus



Q58. Thinking about American interests and the threats that exist in the world today, where do you think the US should focus its military forces?
Top 4 answers shown



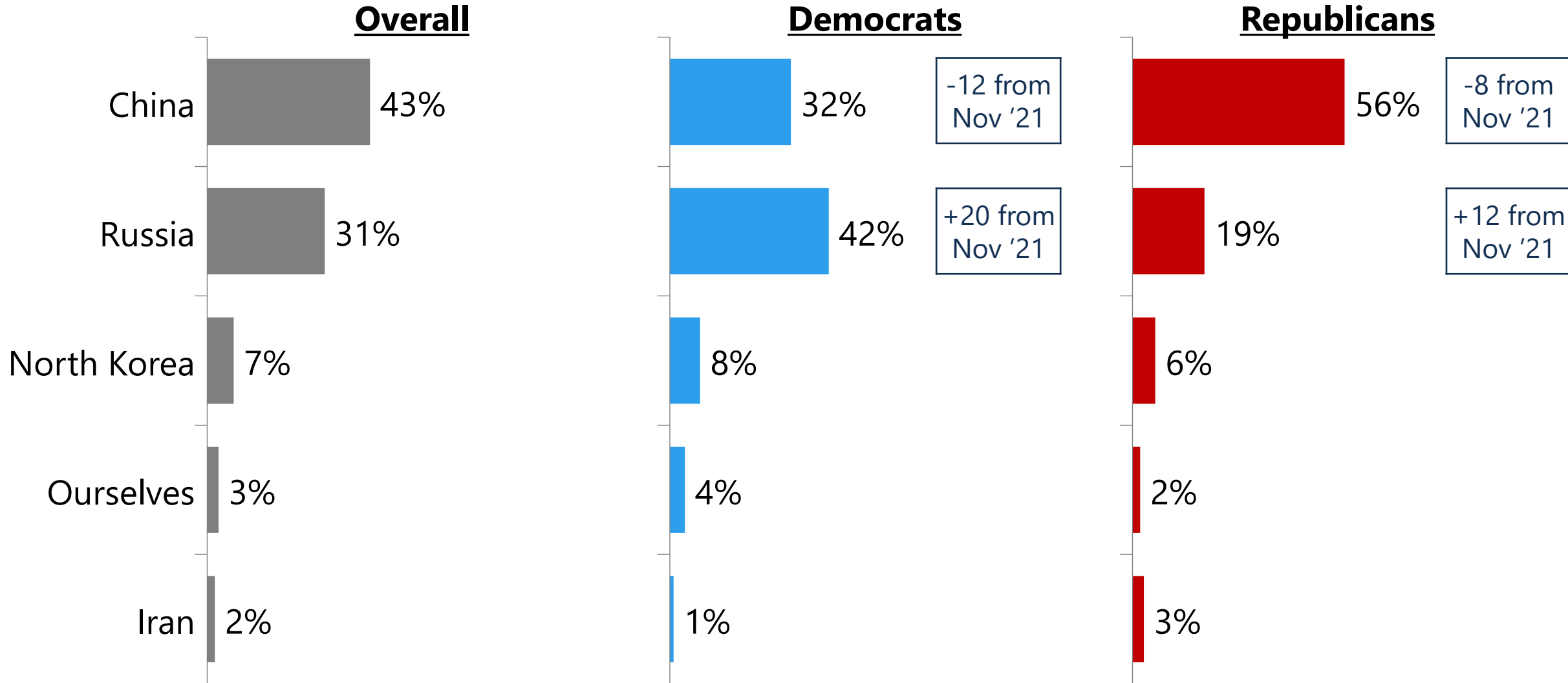
Russia joins China as greatest perceived threats.



Note: Responses under 2% not shown

Q59. Which country do you see as the greatest threat to the US? [RECORD VERBATIM]

Republicans remain focused on China as primary threat; Democrats split between Russia and China.

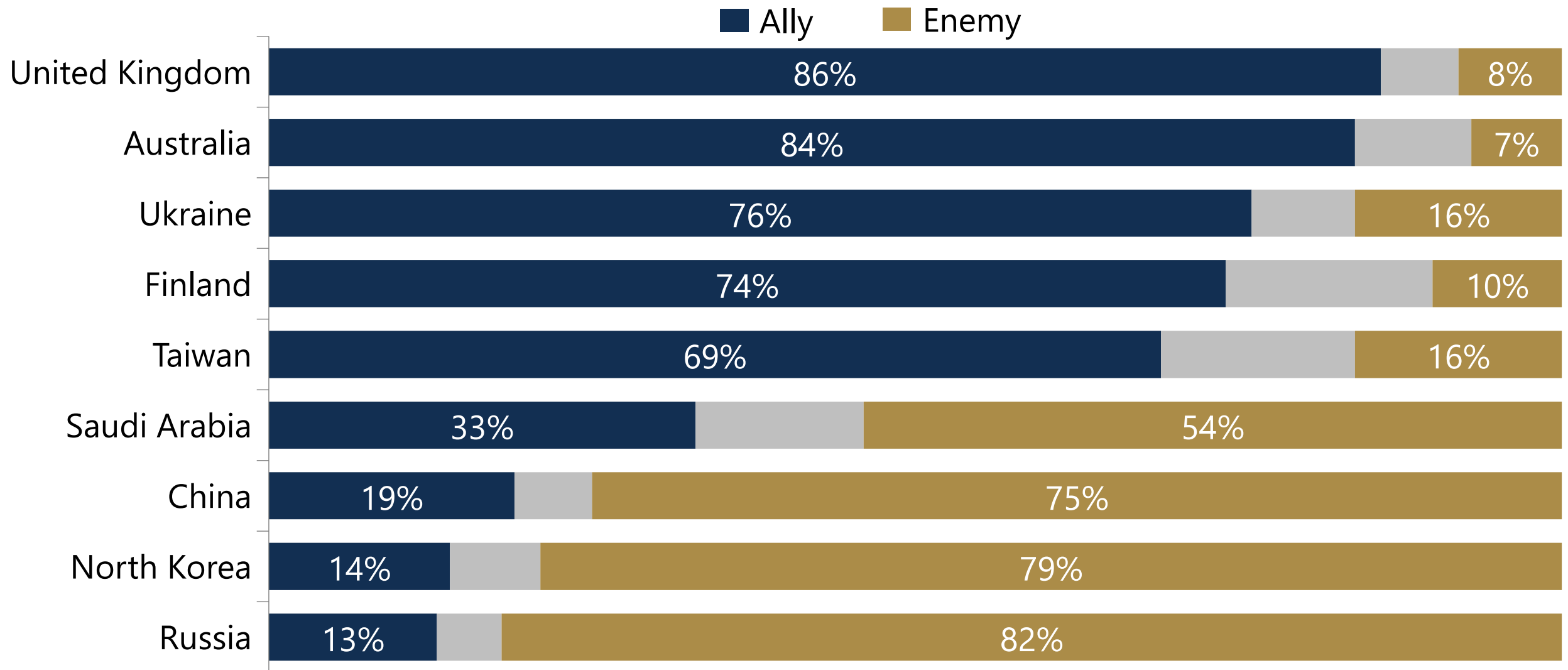


Note: Overall responses under 2% not shown

Q59. Which country do you see as the greatest threat to the US? [RECORD VERBATIM]



Overview of Allies and Enemies

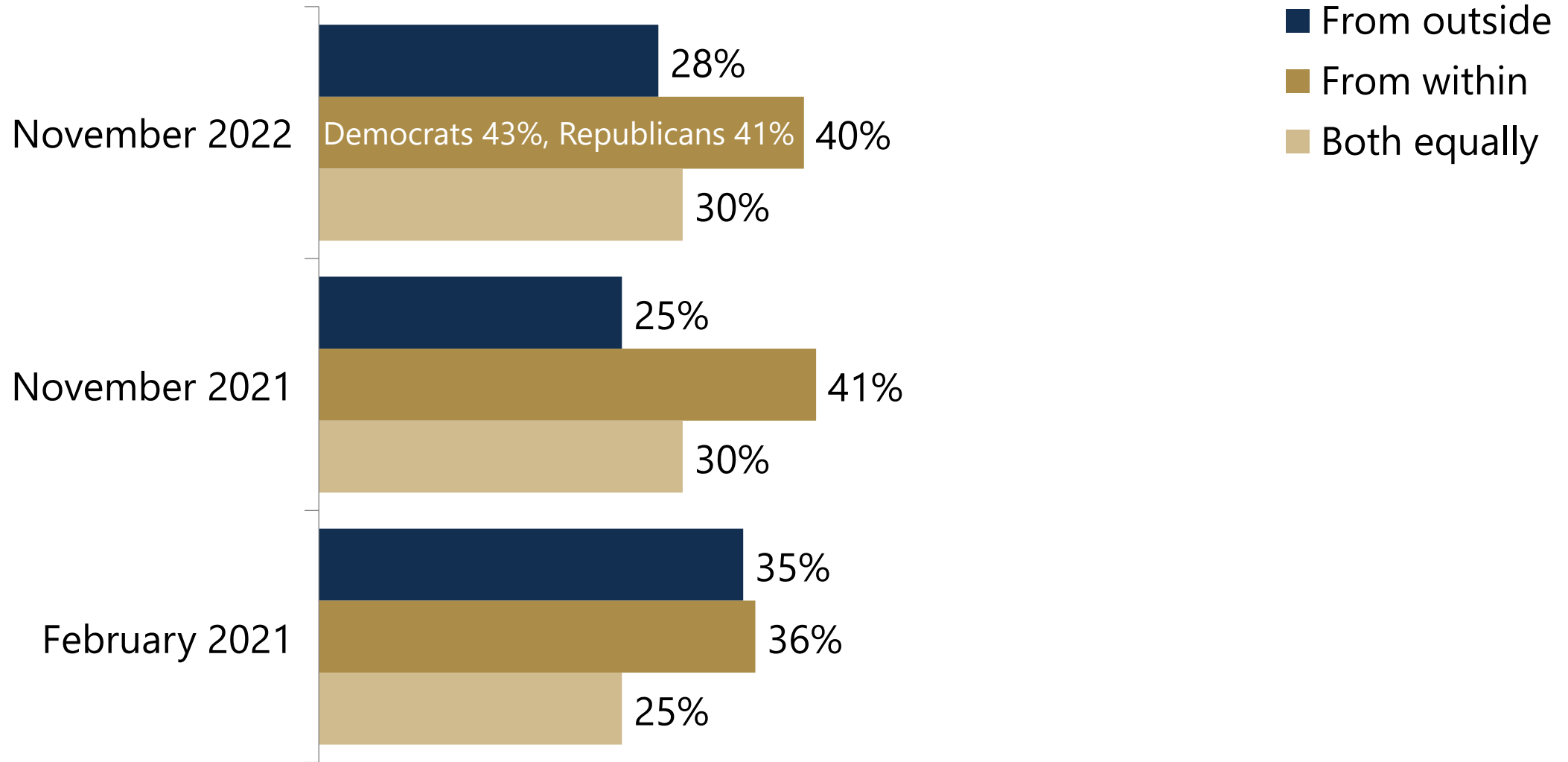


Note: Remainder Don't know

Q60-68. Do you see each of the following countries as a strong ally, something of an ally, something of an enemy, or a strong enemy?



Four-in-ten think greatest threats are internal.

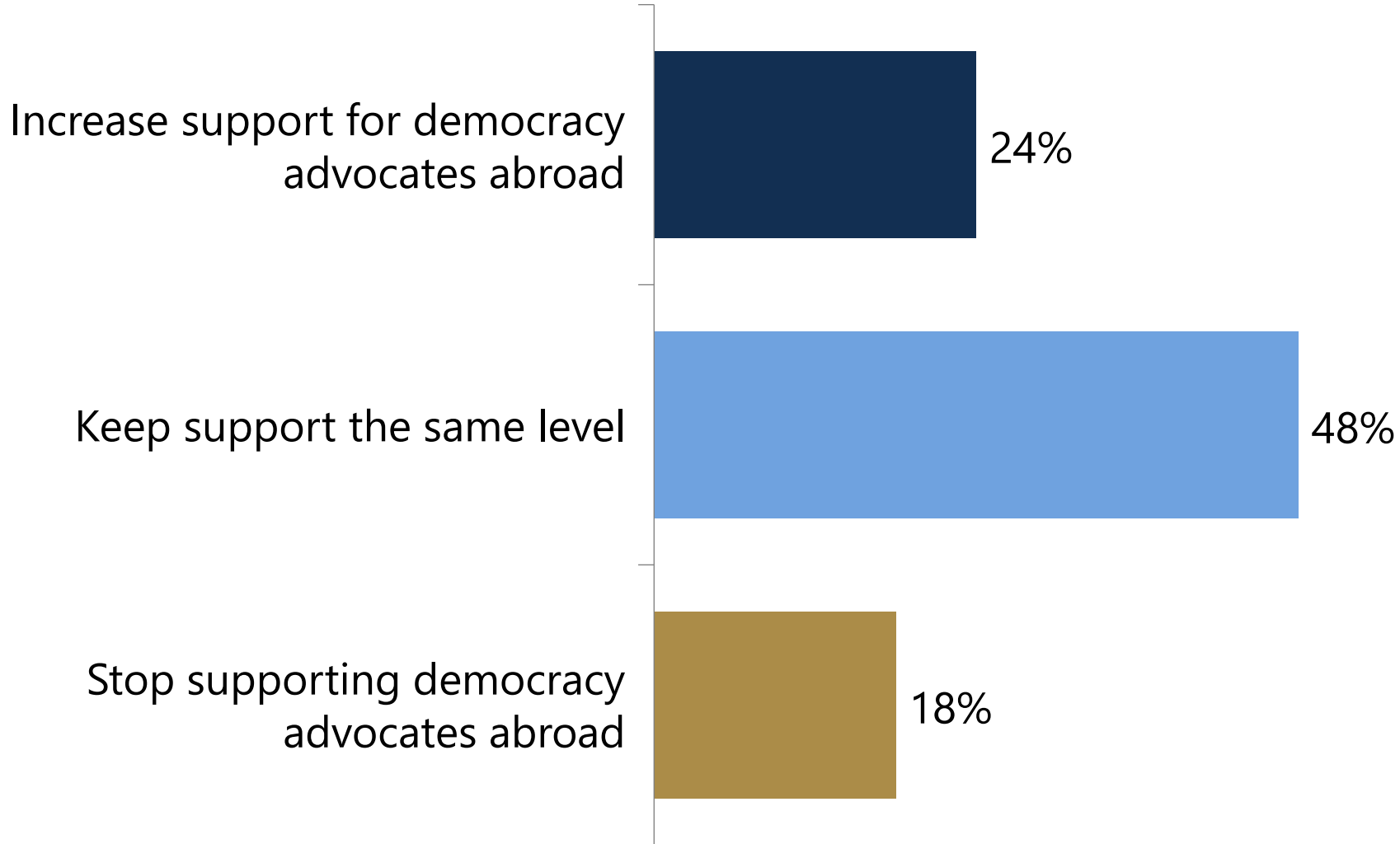


Note: Remainder Don't know

Q69. Do you think the greatest threats to the US come from outside of the country or from within the country?



Just two-in-ten want to reduce support for democracy abroad.

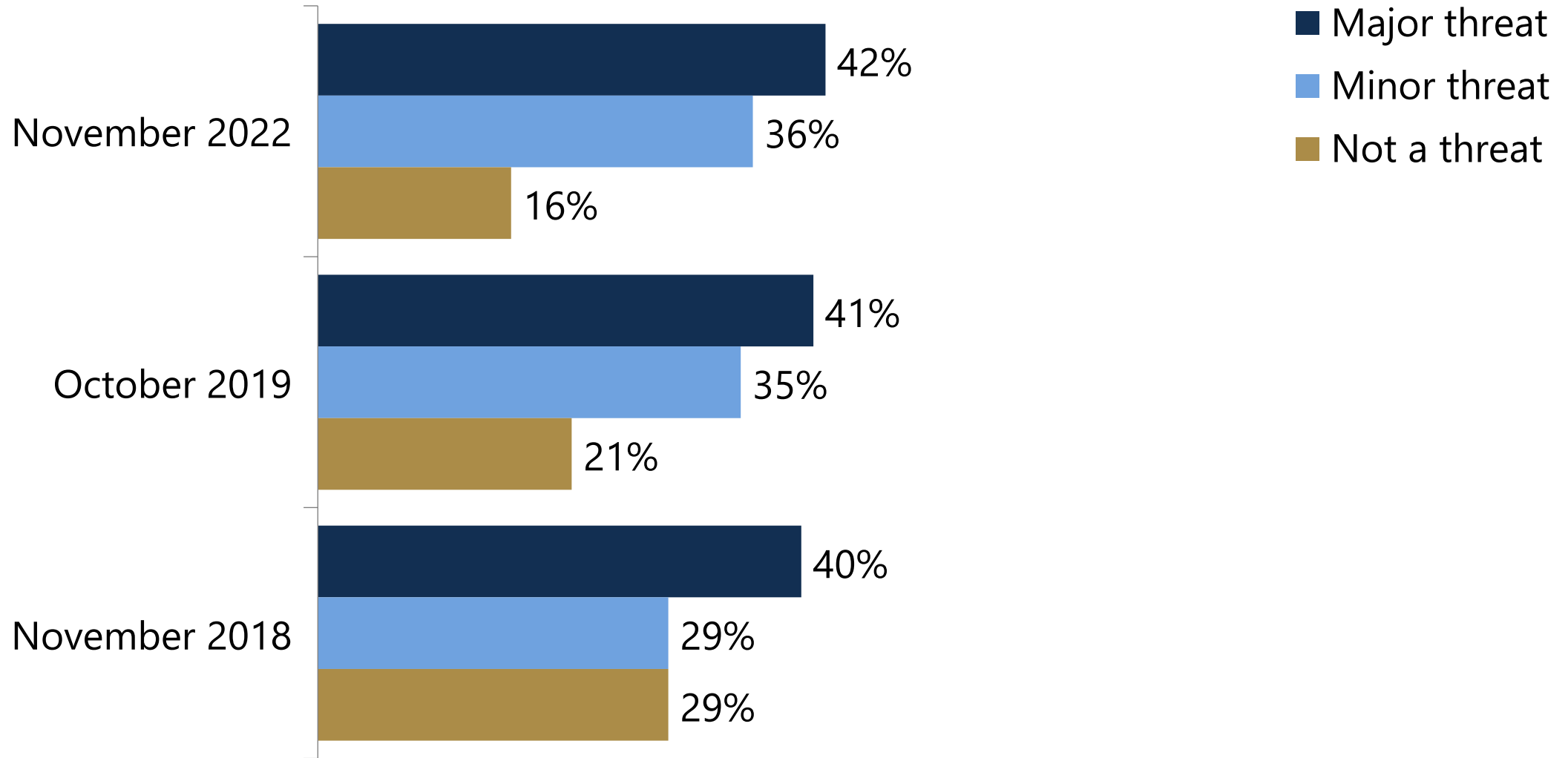


Note: Remainder Don't know

Q52. As you may know, the United States assists people living in authoritarian countries who advocate for their governments to move toward democracy. Should the US increase these activities, keep them at the same level, or stop doing this?



Eight-in-ten see illegal immigration as a security threat.



Note: Remainder Don't know

Q54. In your view, how much of a security threat is illegal immigration across our southern border?

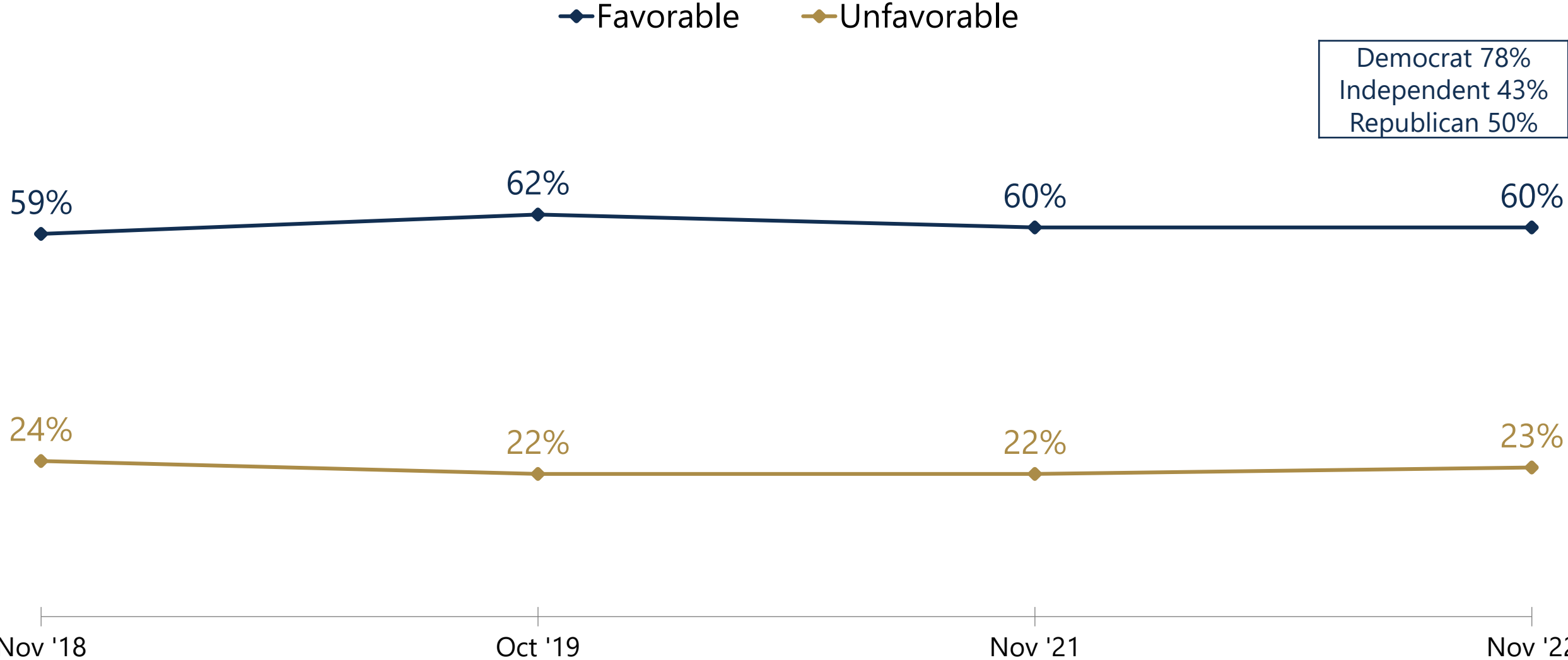


RUSSIA & UKRAINE





Views of NATO favorable and stable.



Note: Remainder Don't know

Q70. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable view of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, also known as NATO?



Wide majorities support adding Finland/Sweden to NATO, would respond if Russia attacked an ally.

Support / Approve

Would you support or oppose the US responding with military force if Russia attacked a NATO ally in Europe?

Democrat 81%, Republican 67%

72%

Do you approve or disapprove of the decision to add Finland and Sweden to NATO?

Democrat 79%, Republican 67%

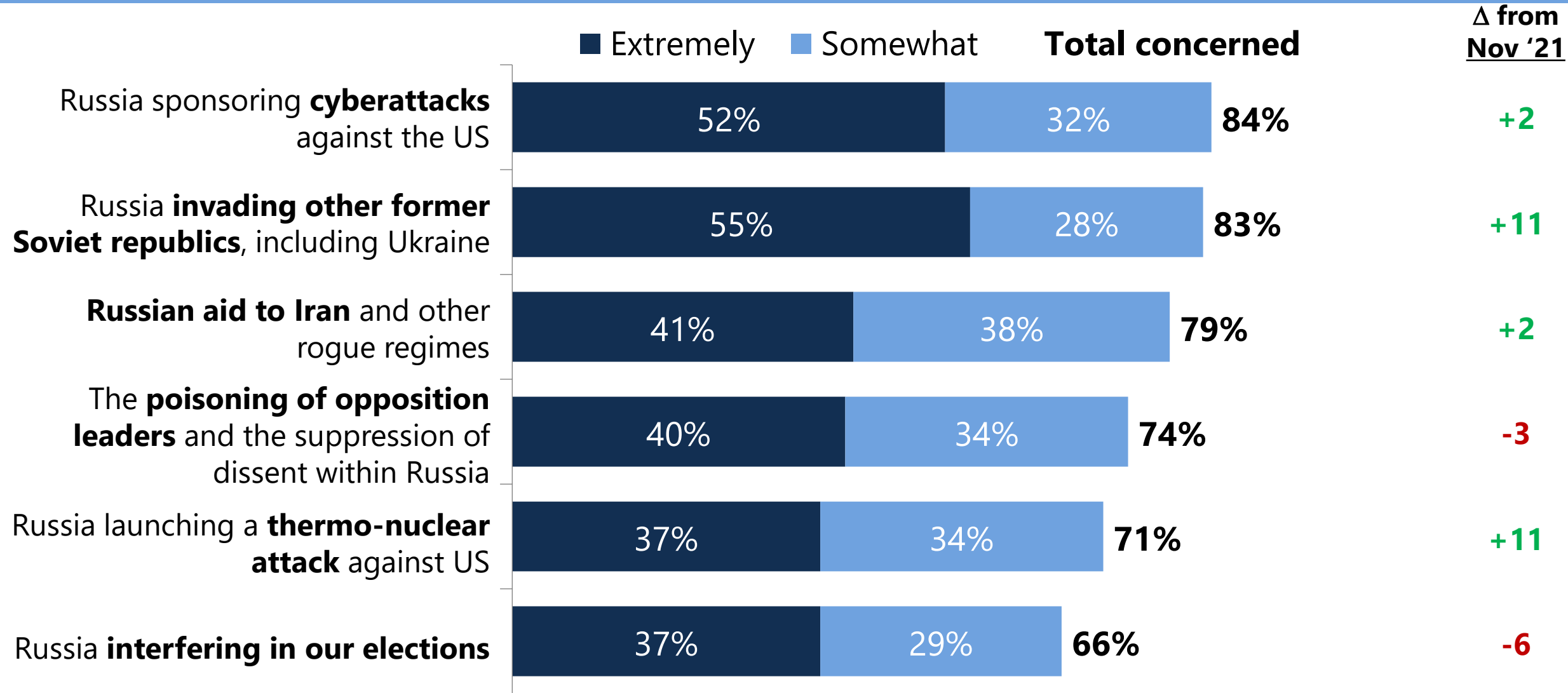
71%

Would you support or oppose adding Ukraine to NATO?

Democrat 72%, Republican 56%

61%

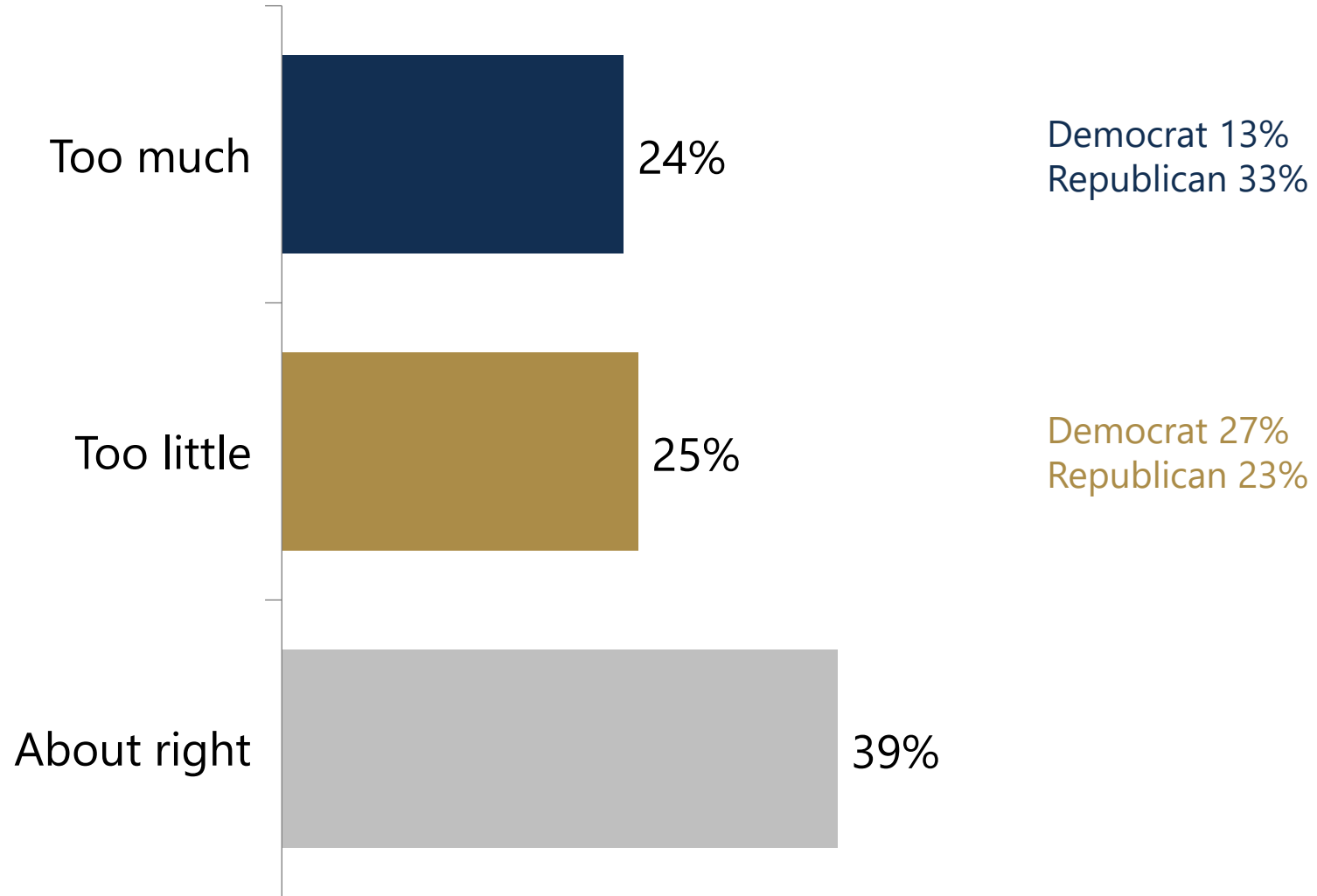
Concern about Russian belligerence, nuclear attack up notably since last year.



Q86-91. Thinking specifically about Russia, how concerned are you about each of the following?



On balance, Americans think aid to Ukraine about right.



Note: Remainder Don't know

Q92. Do you think the US has sent too much military aid to Ukraine, too little, or about the right amount of military aid?



Nearly twice as many think US should continue to provide aid as think the cost/risks are too great.

America must **continue to stand with the people of Ukraine** and oppose Russian aggression in order to protect a friendly democracy and prevent future Russian threats to Europe.



57%

America **has enough problems at home** and cannot afford to spend more on the conflict and risk further provoking Russia.



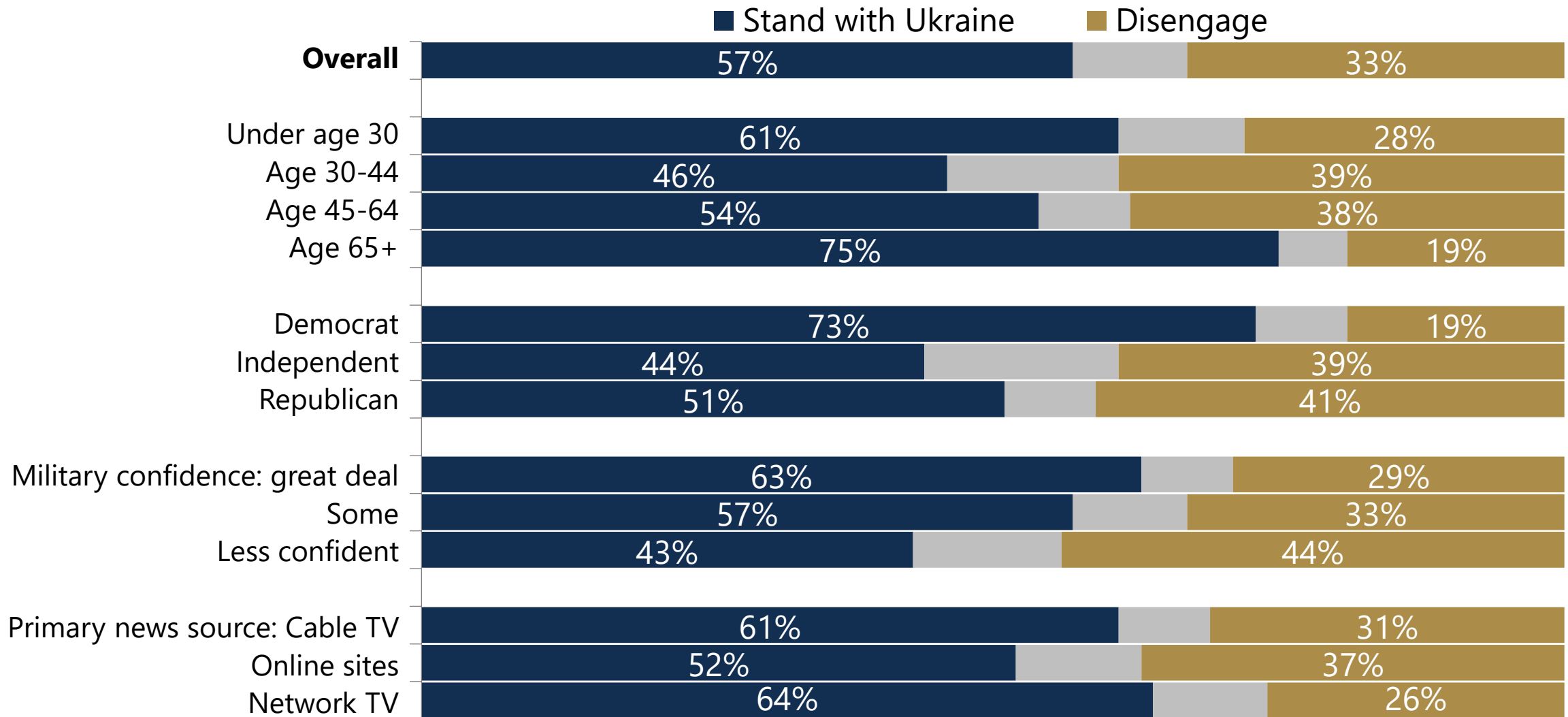
33%

Note: Remainder Neither / Don't know

Q99. With regard to US aid to Ukraine—meaning military equipment and financial assistance—which of these positions is closer to your own?



Views of approach to Ukraine, by subgroup.

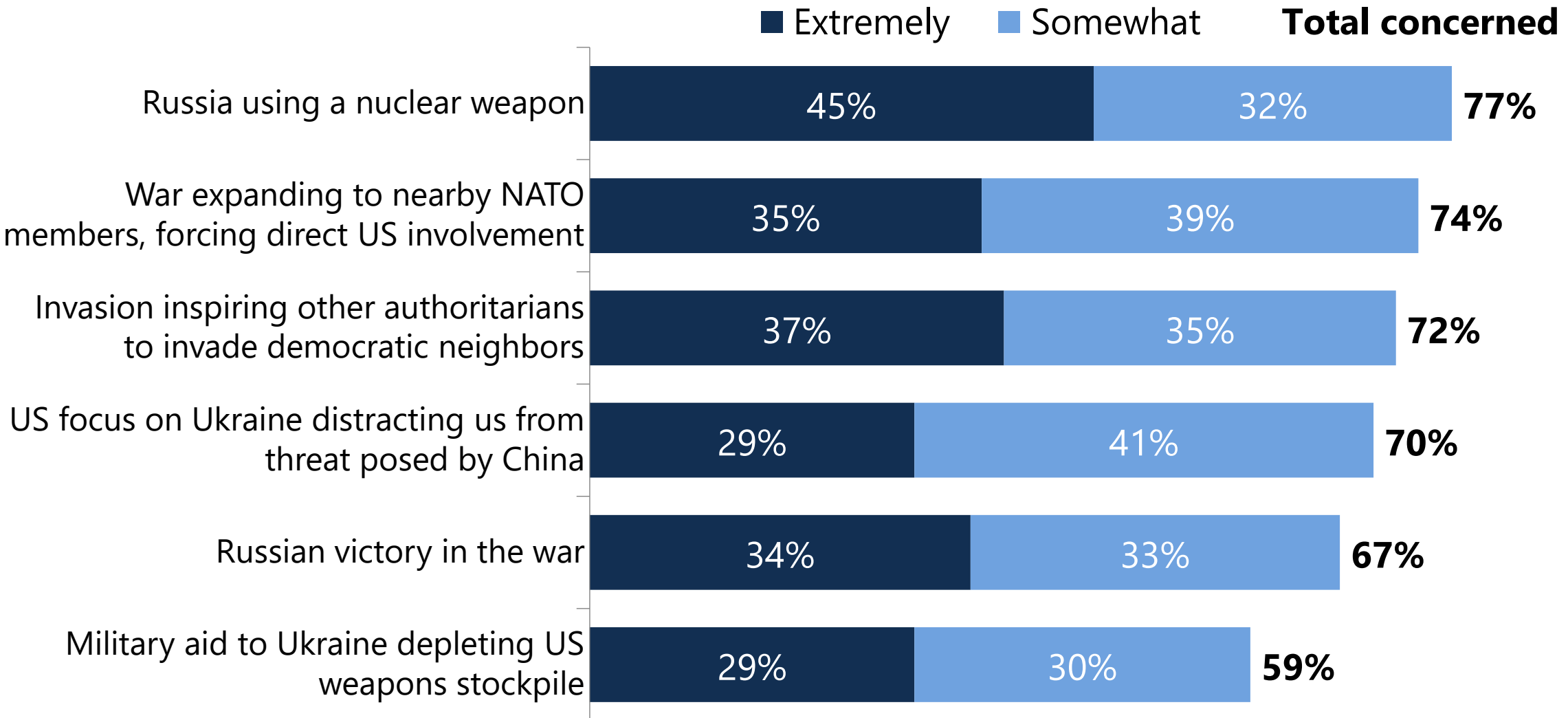


Note: Remainder Not sure / Refused

Q99. With regard to US aid to Ukraine—meaning military equipment and financial assistance—which of these positions is closer to your own?



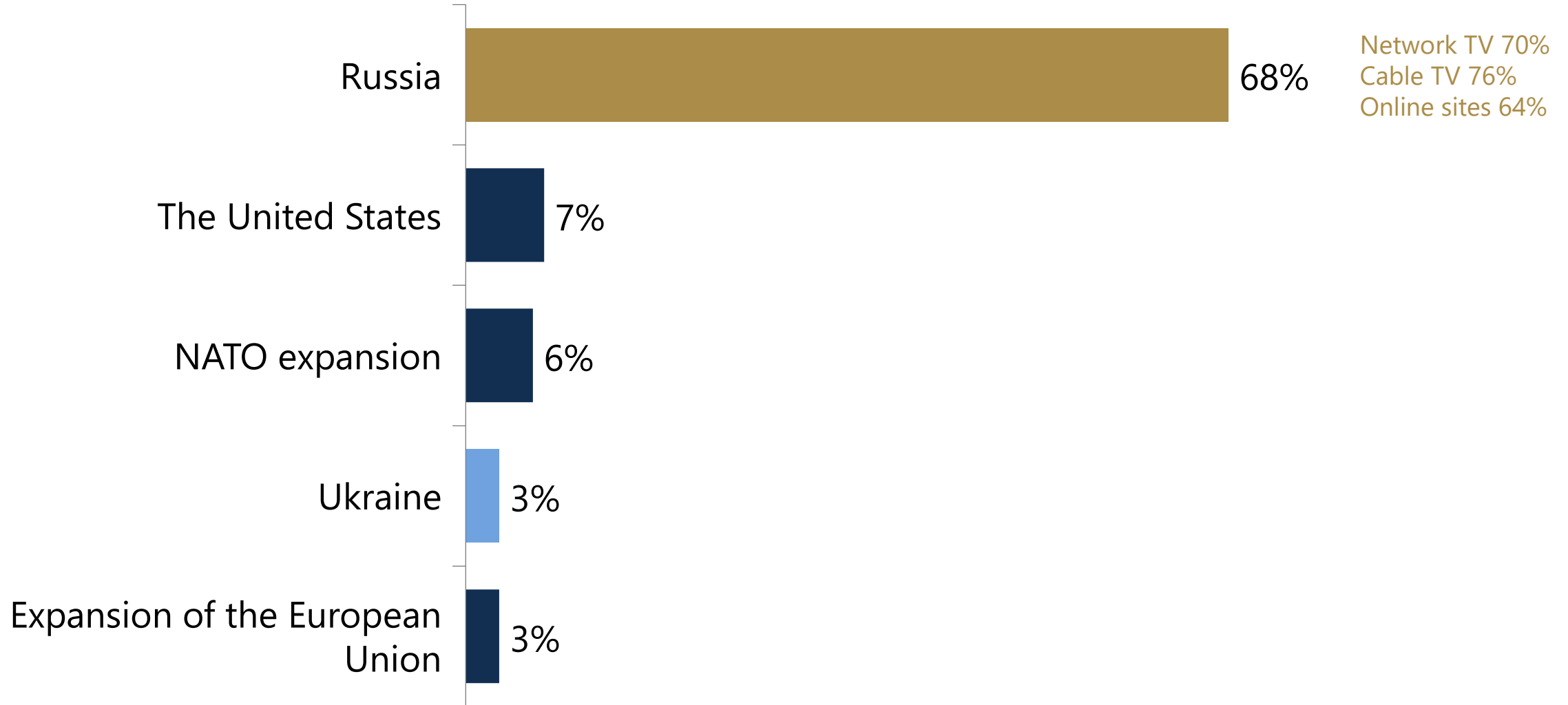
Wide range of concerns about the war in Ukraine.



Q93-98. Regarding the war in Ukraine, how concerned are you about each of the following occurring?



Most blame Russia for the war.

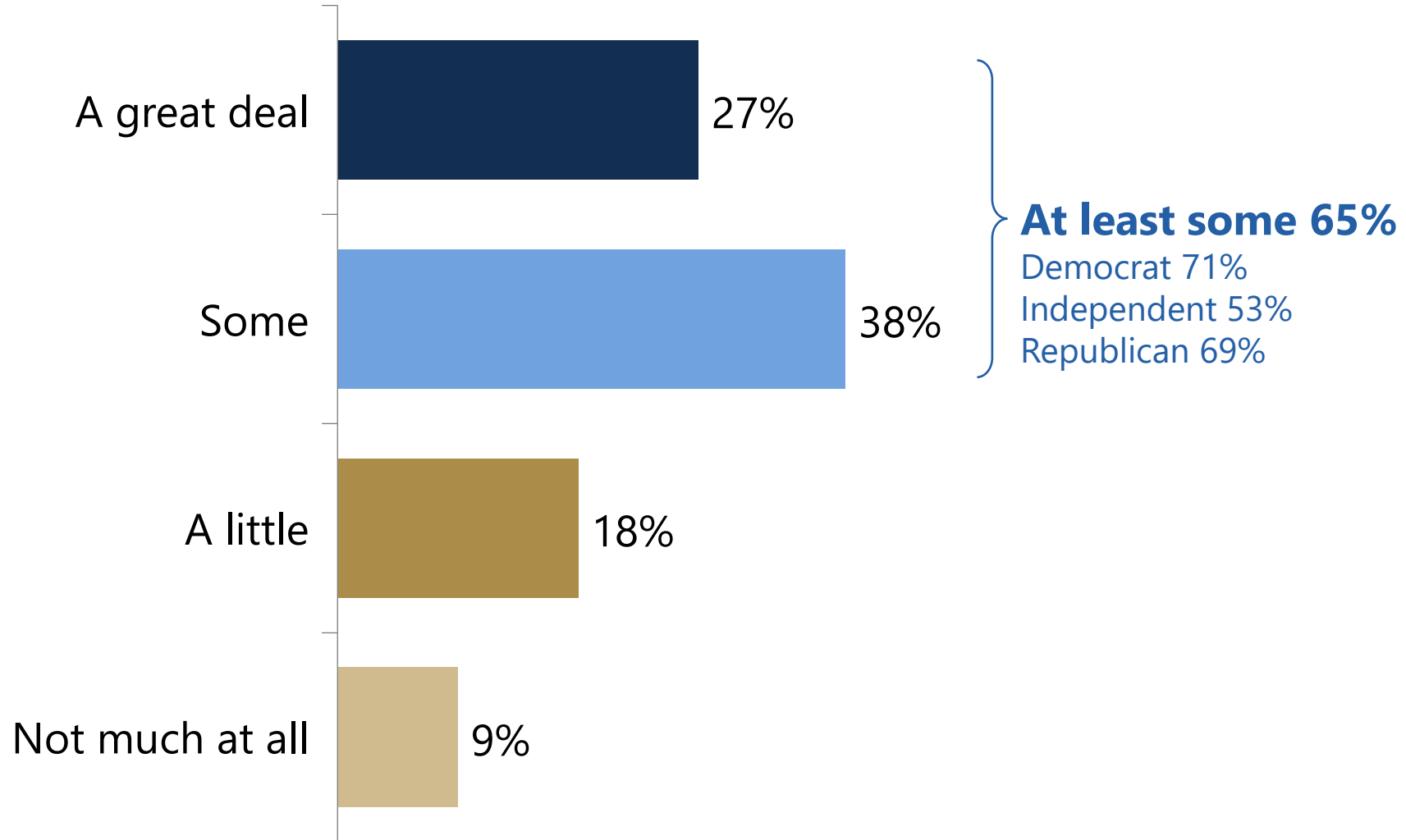


Note: Remainder Don't know

Q100. Who or what do you blame for the war in Ukraine?



Two-thirds think foreign propaganda influences attitudes in US.



Note: Remainder Don't know

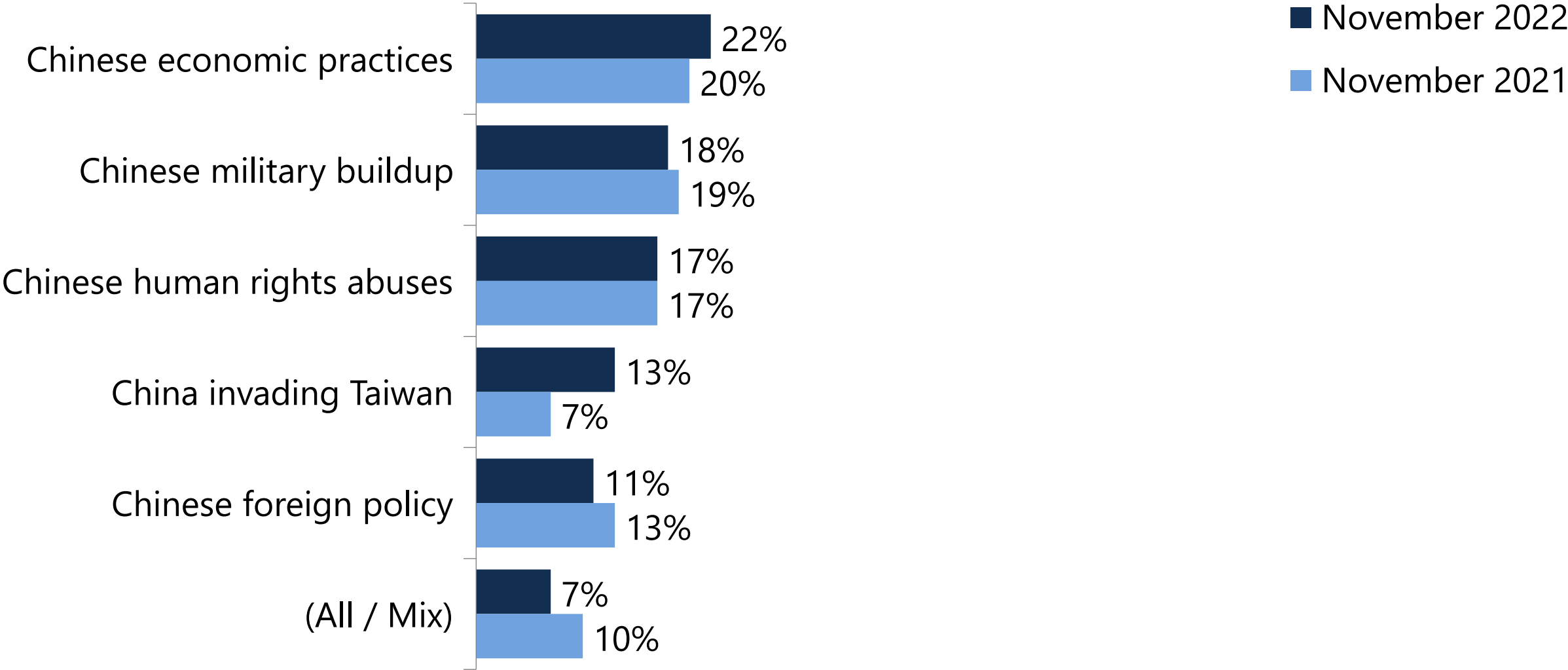
Q108. To what extent do you believe that information operations conducted by foreign governments influence opinions and attitudes in the United States?



CHINA & TAIWAN



Varied concerns about China; worry about an invasion of Taiwan doubles.

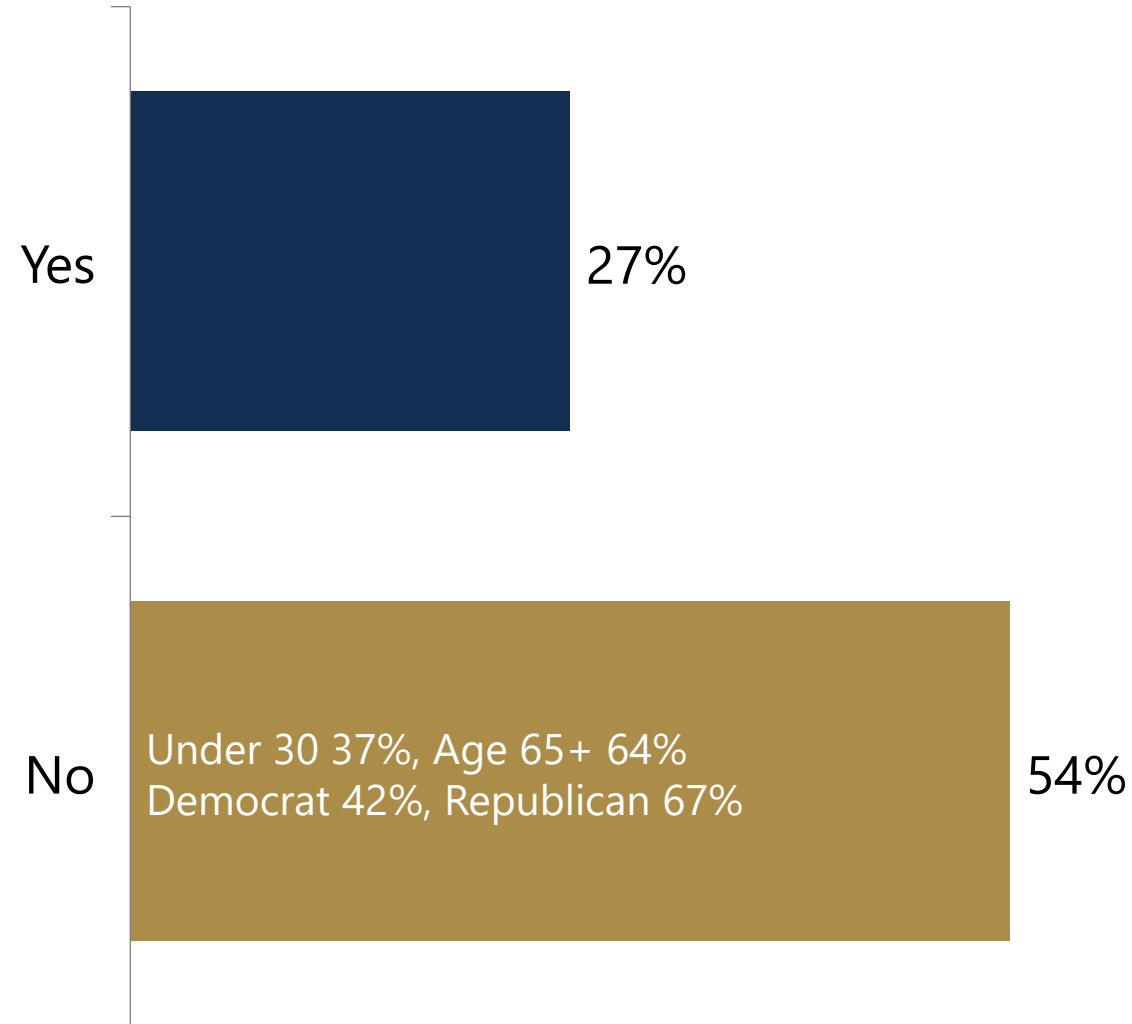


Note: Remainder Don't know

Q74. Which of the following most concerns you about China?



Majority thinks US lacks a strategy for handling China.

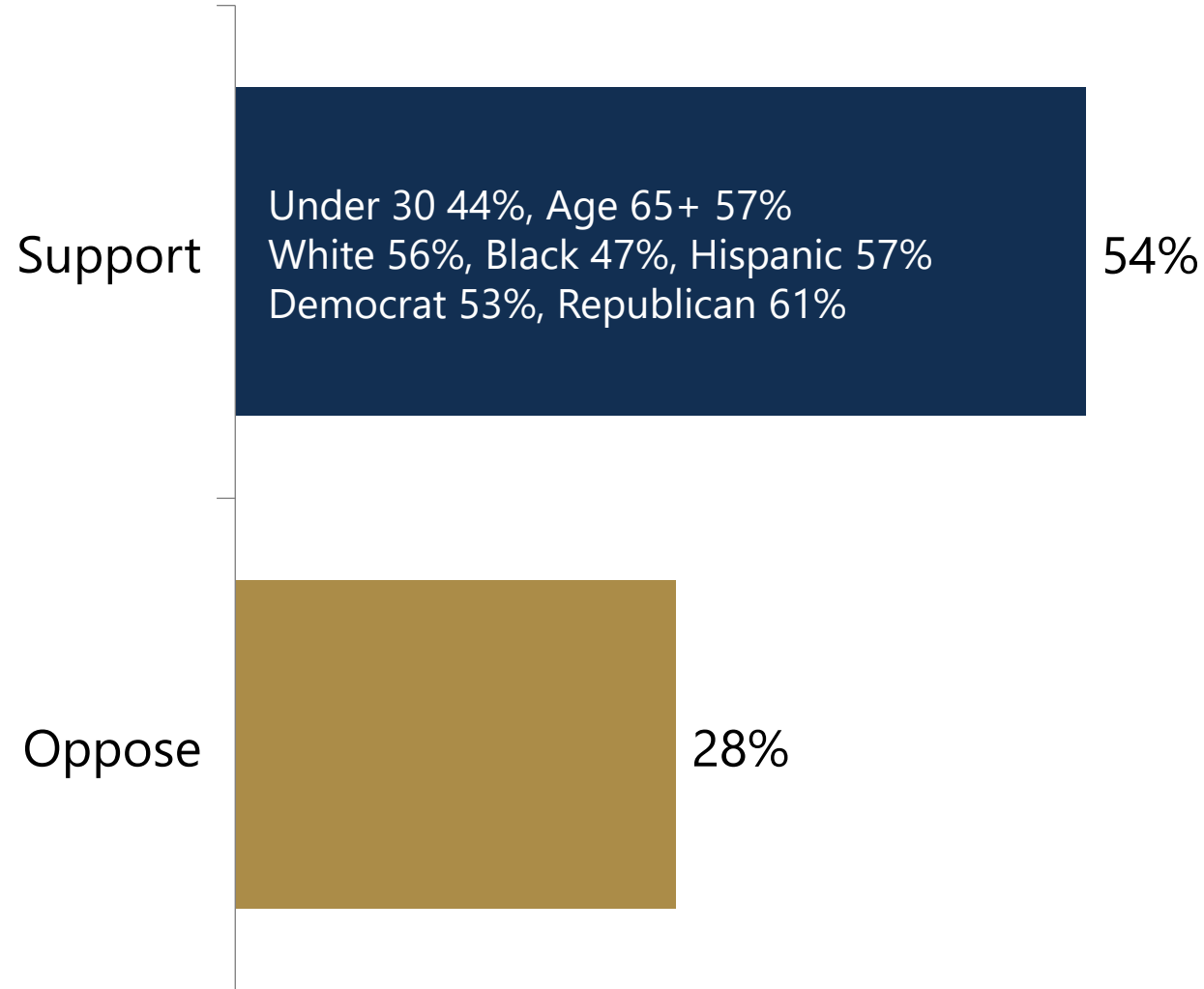


Note: Remainder Don't know

Q75. Do you think the US has a clear strategy for managing its relationship with China?



Majority supports reducing trade with China.

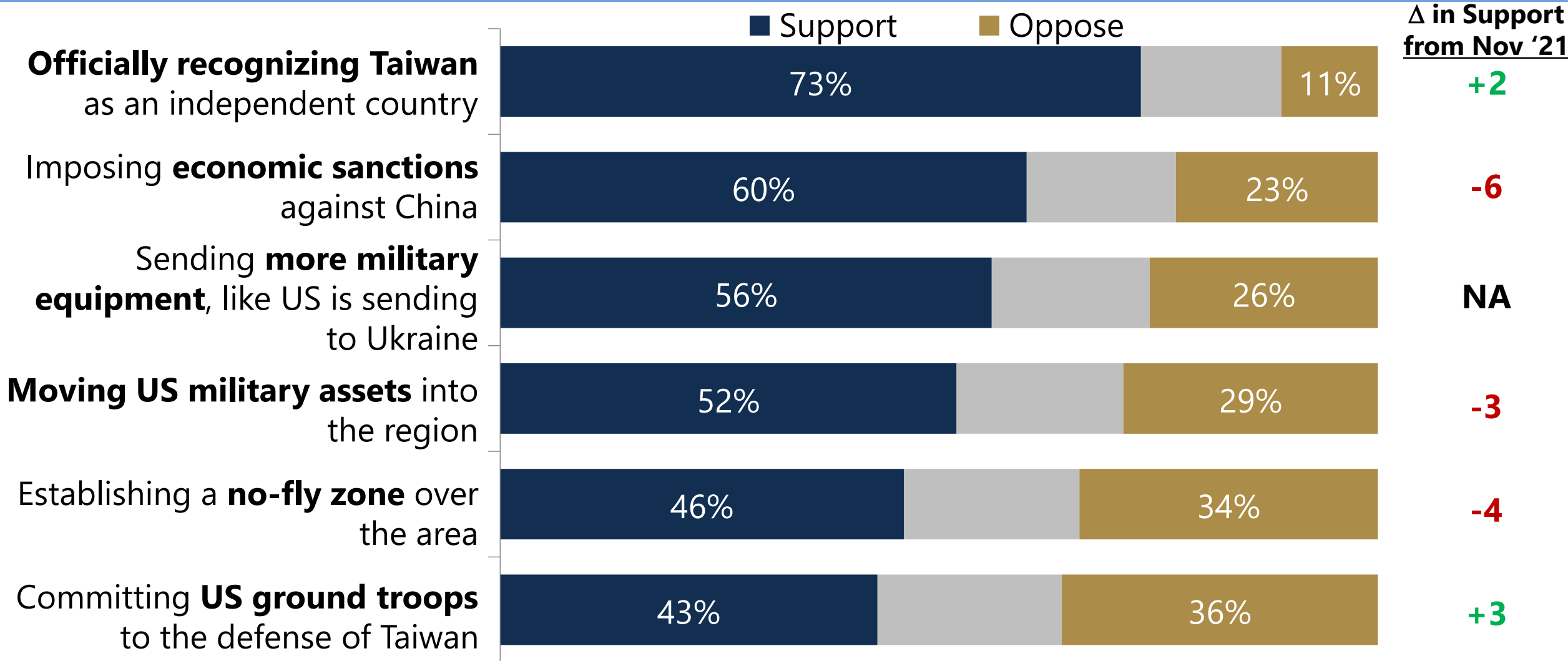


Note: Remainder Don't know

Q76. Do you support or oppose efforts to reduce the amount of trade between the US and China?



If China invades Taiwan, response options short of war garner the most support.



Note: Remainder Don't know

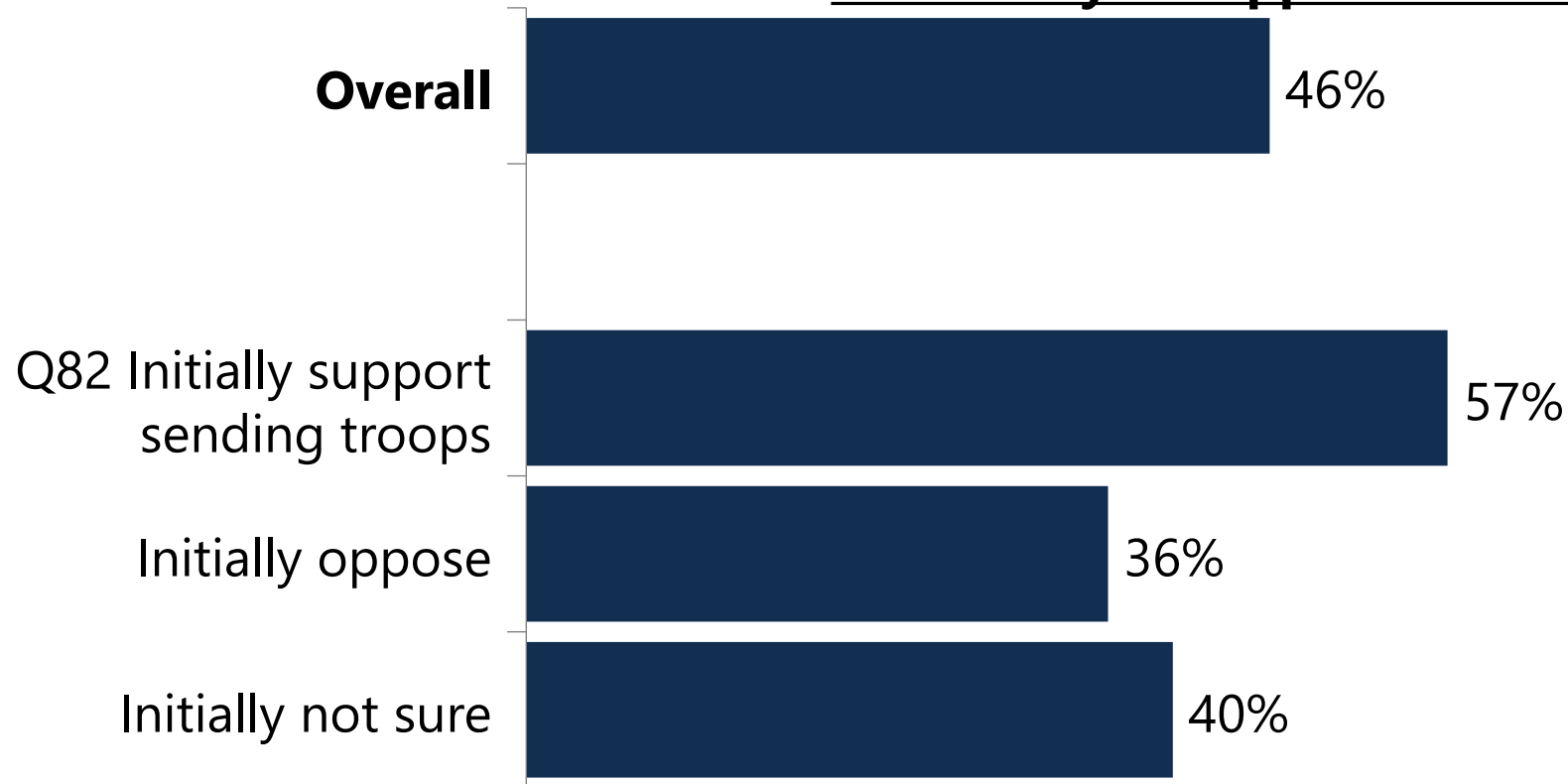
Q77-82. As you may know, although official Chinese policy is that Taiwan is part of China, Taiwan has operated relatively independently for decades. If China invaded Taiwan, please tell me if you would support/oppose the United States coming to Taiwan's defense in each of the following ways.



Context about Taiwan increases support for sending troops if China invades, even among initial skeptics.

Question Frame: *Taiwan has a democratically-elected government, is a major manufacturer of electronics and the world's largest producer of semiconductors. Does hearing this make you more or less likely to support committing US forces to the defense of Taiwan if China invades, or does it have no effect?*

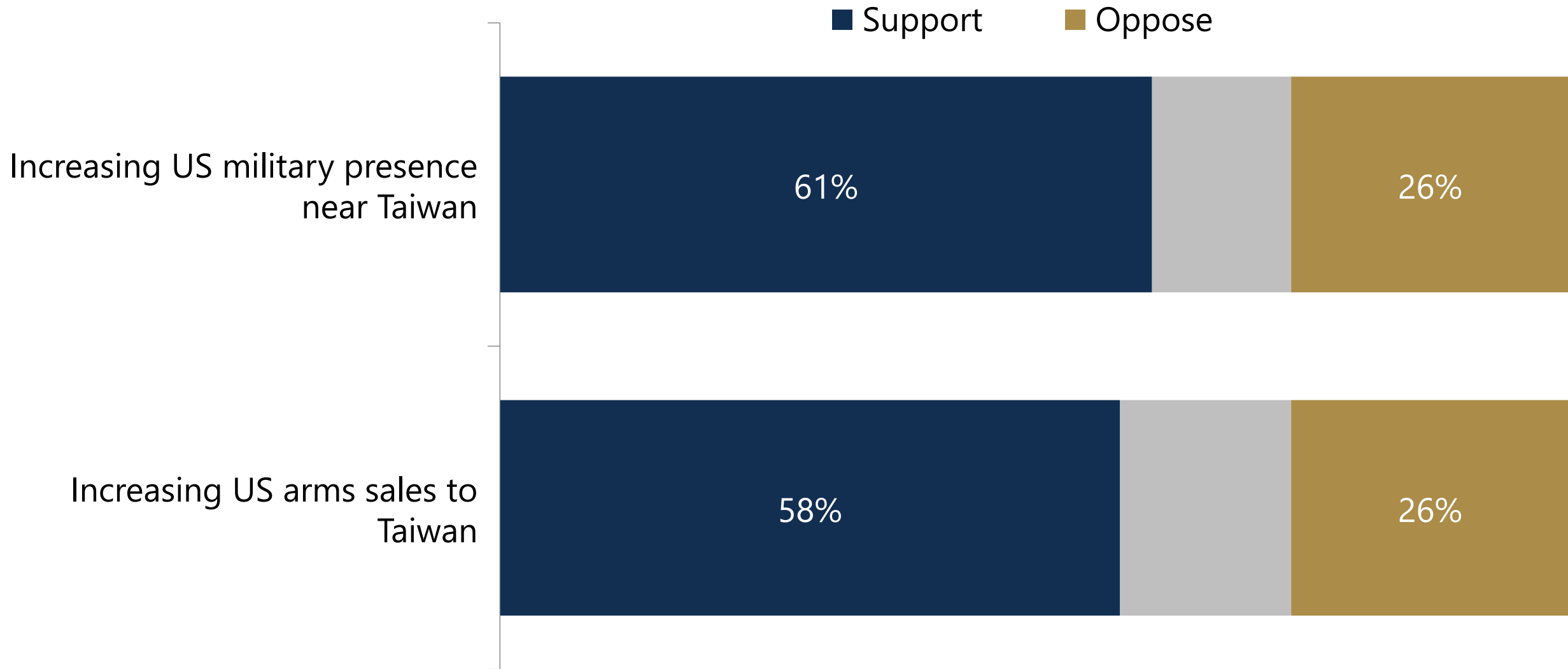
More likely to support sending US troops



Q83. *Does hearing this make you more or less likely to support committing US forces to the defense of Taiwan if China invades...?*



Six-in-ten support measures to deter Chinese invasion.



Note: Remainder Don't know

Q84-85. In an attempt to discourage China from invading Taiwan, do you support or oppose each of the following?



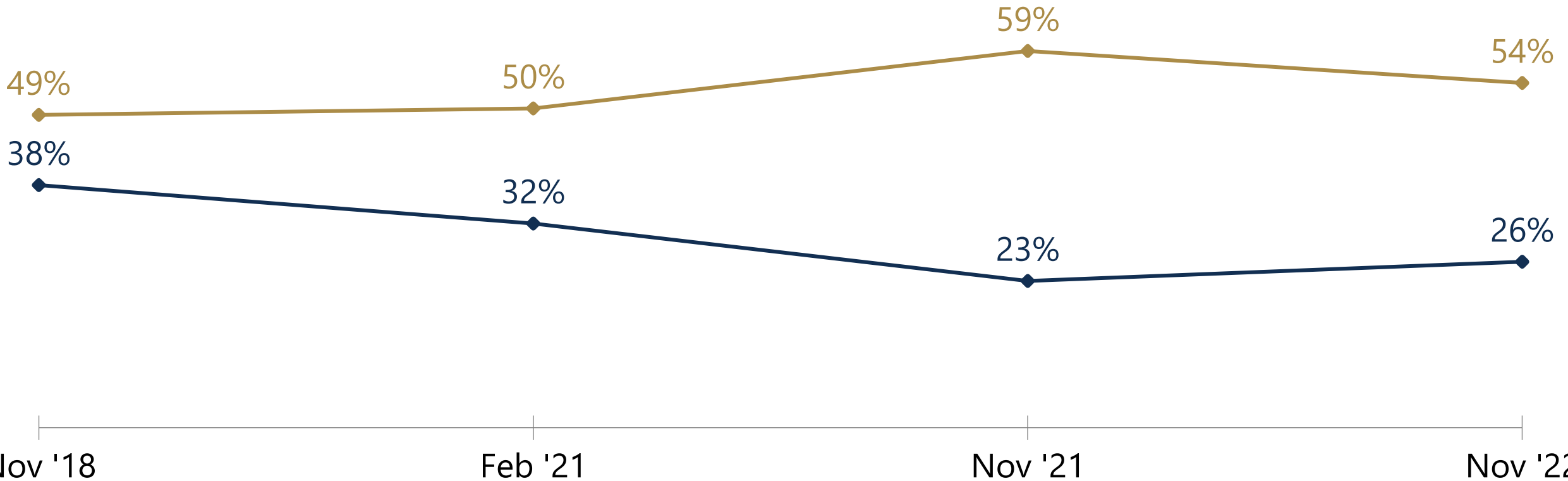
GREATER MIDDLE EAST





Just one-quarter see war in Afghanistan as a success.

◆ Mostly a success ◆ Mostly a failure



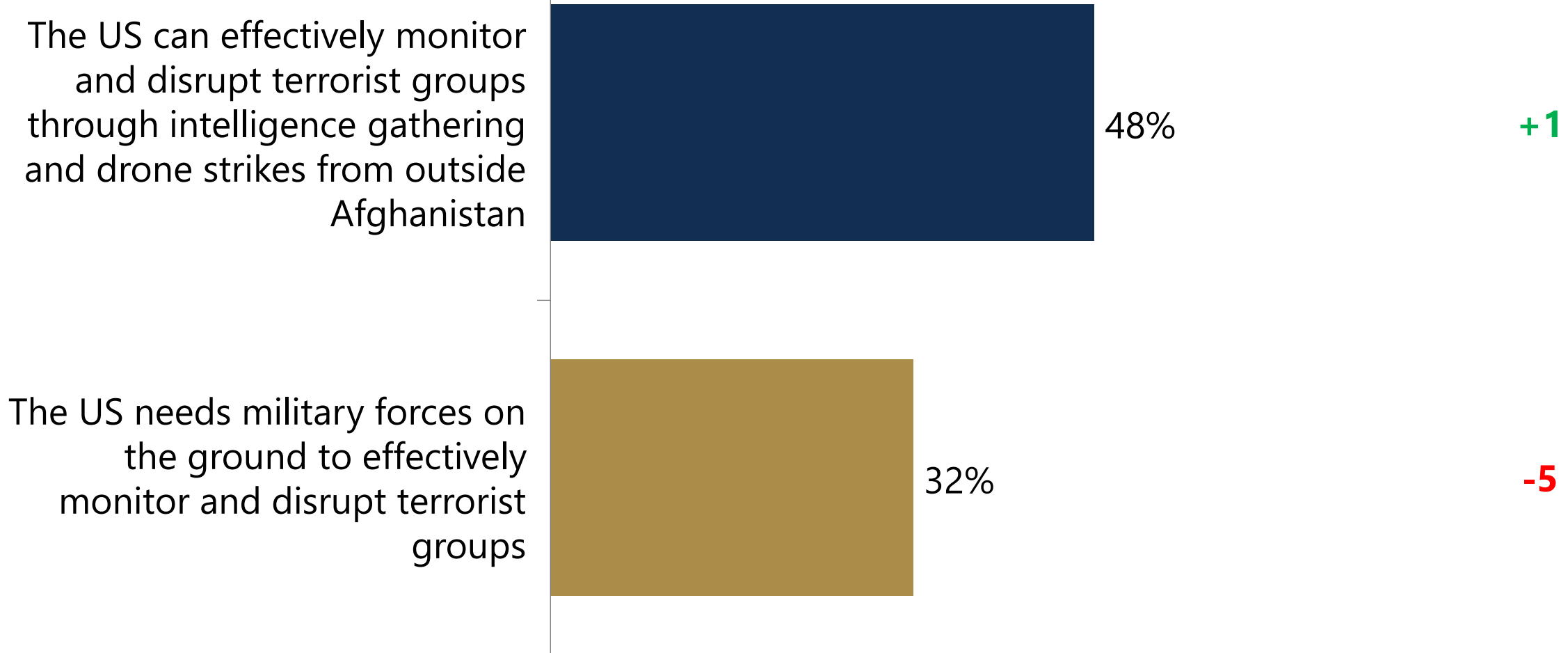
Note: Remainder Don't know

Q101. Do you think the war in Afghanistan was mostly a success or mostly a failure?

Half think US can disrupt terrorist activity with over-the-horizon capabilities.



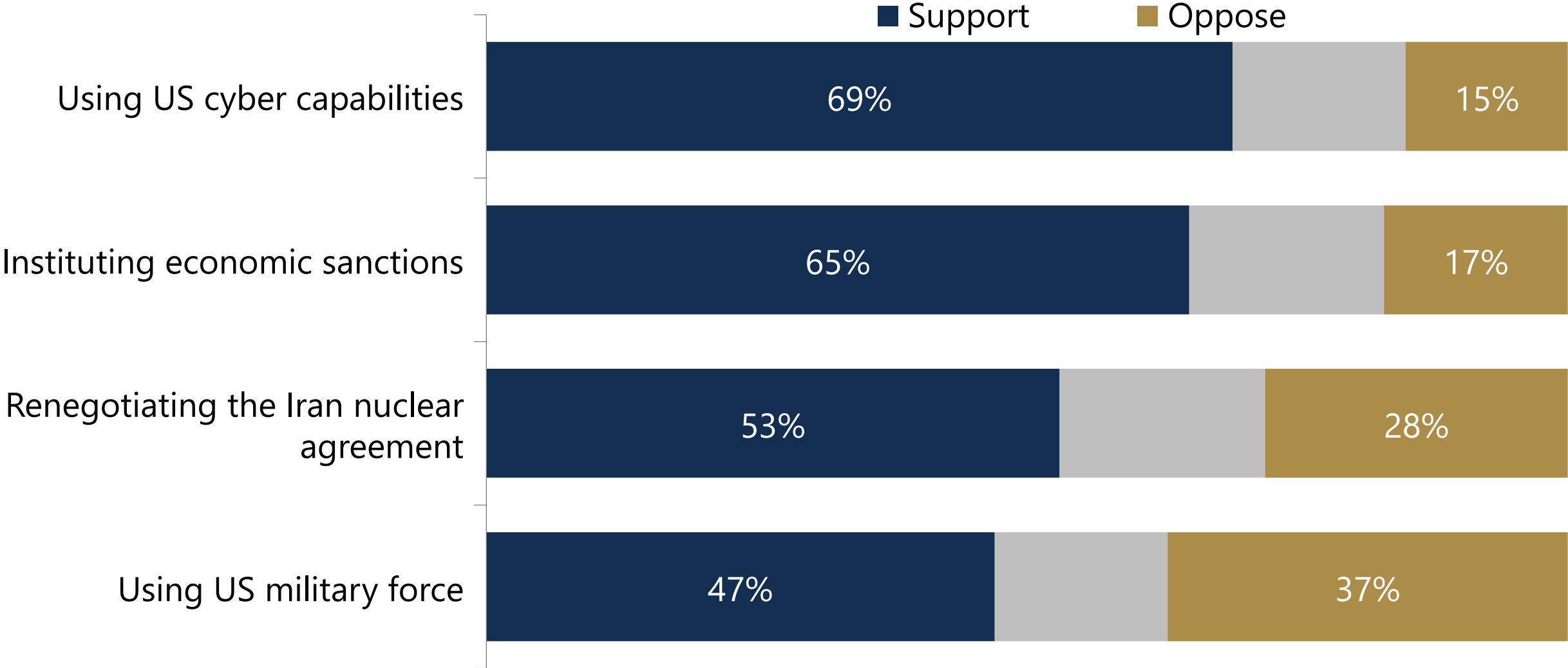
Δ from Nov '21



Note: Remainder Don't know

Q102. Which of the following is closer to your view when it comes to terrorist activities in Afghanistan?

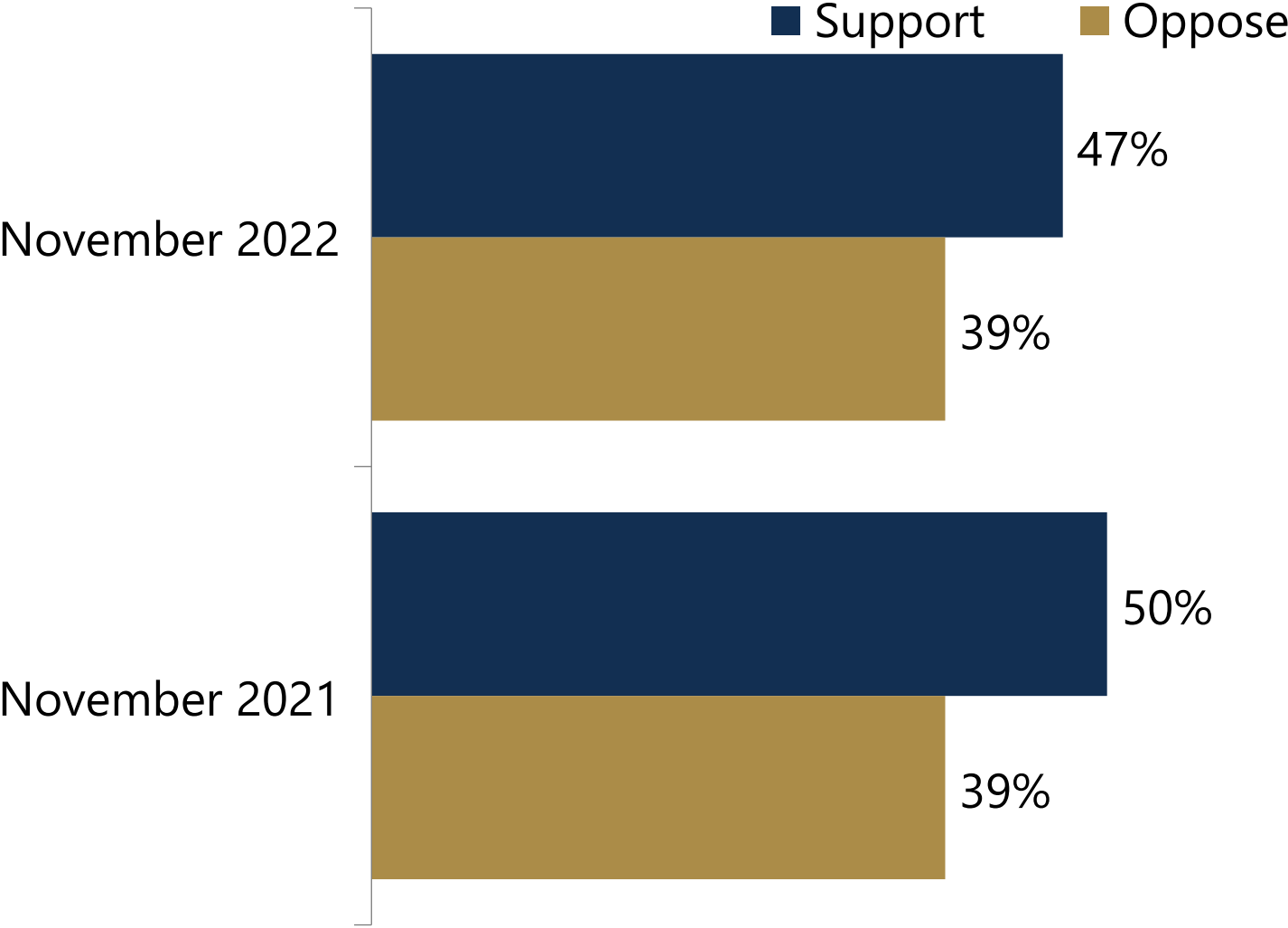
Support for options to prevent Iranian nuclear development.



Note: Remainder Don't know

Q103-106. Do you support or oppose each of the following approaches to preventing Iran from developing nuclear weapons?

Nearly half support military spending on climate change.

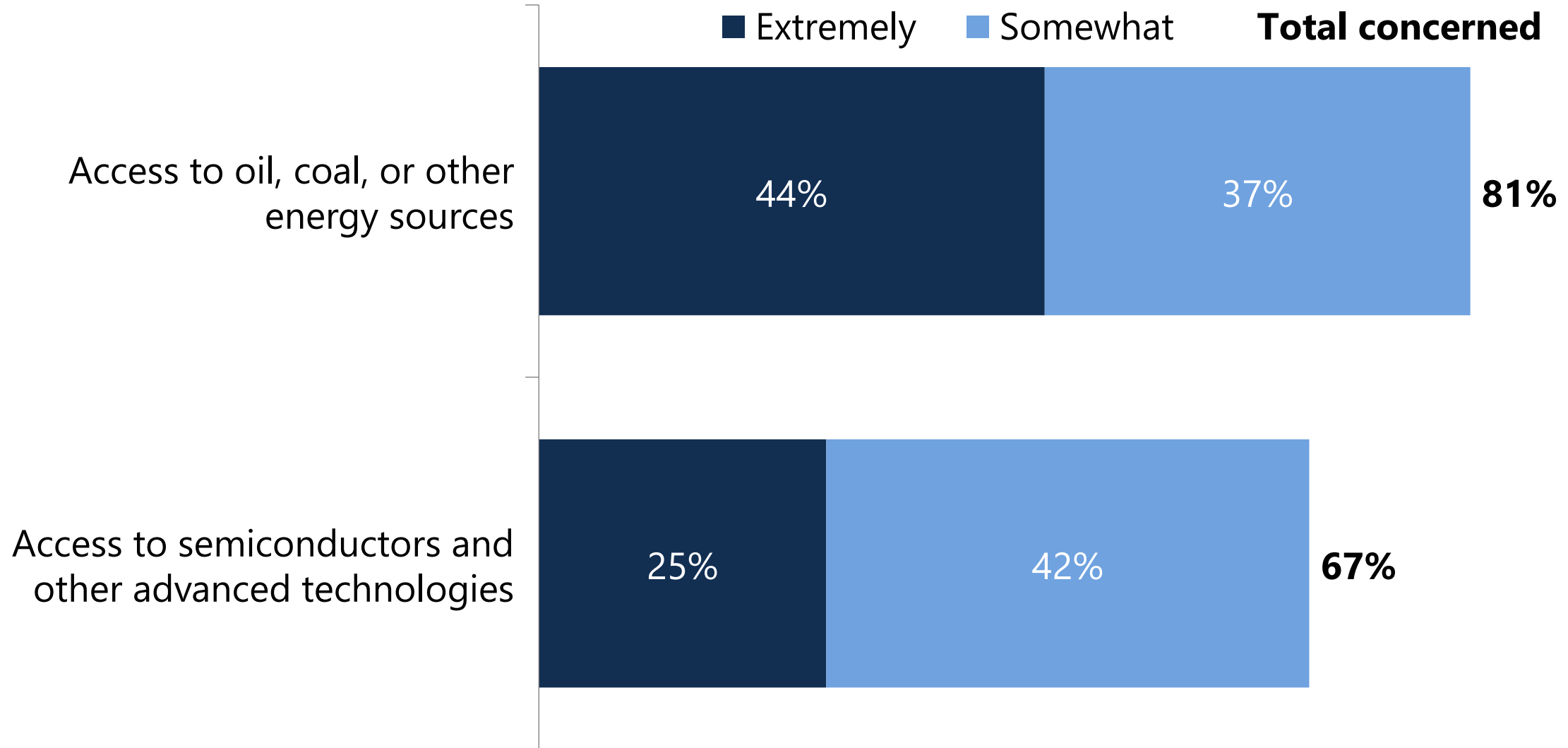


Note: Remainder Don't know

Q55. Do you support or oppose the US military using part of its budget to address climate change?



Concern about war over energy vs advanced technology.



Q56-57. How concerned are you that, in the next ten years, countries will fight wars over each of the following?

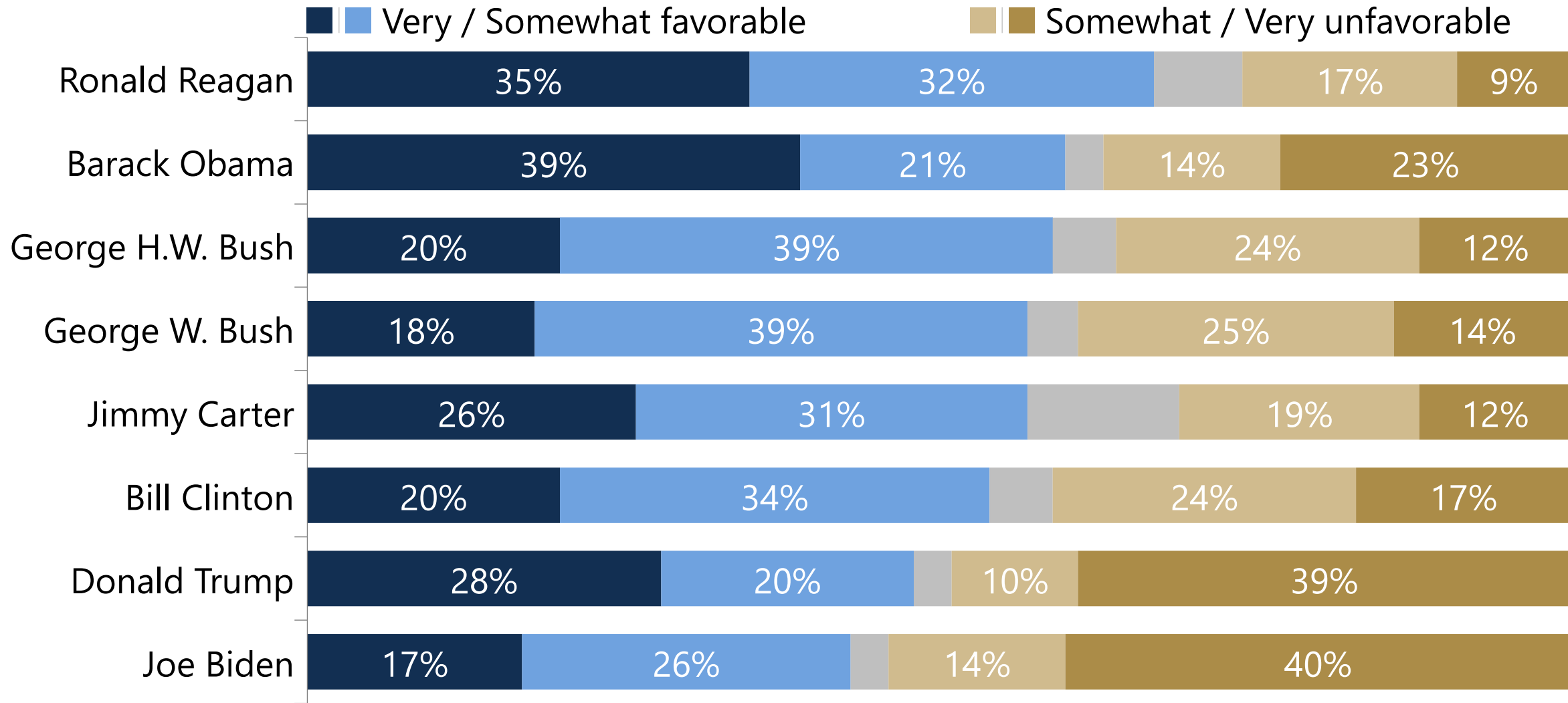


EVALUATIONS OF PAST PRESIDENTS





Favorability Ratings of Past Presidents



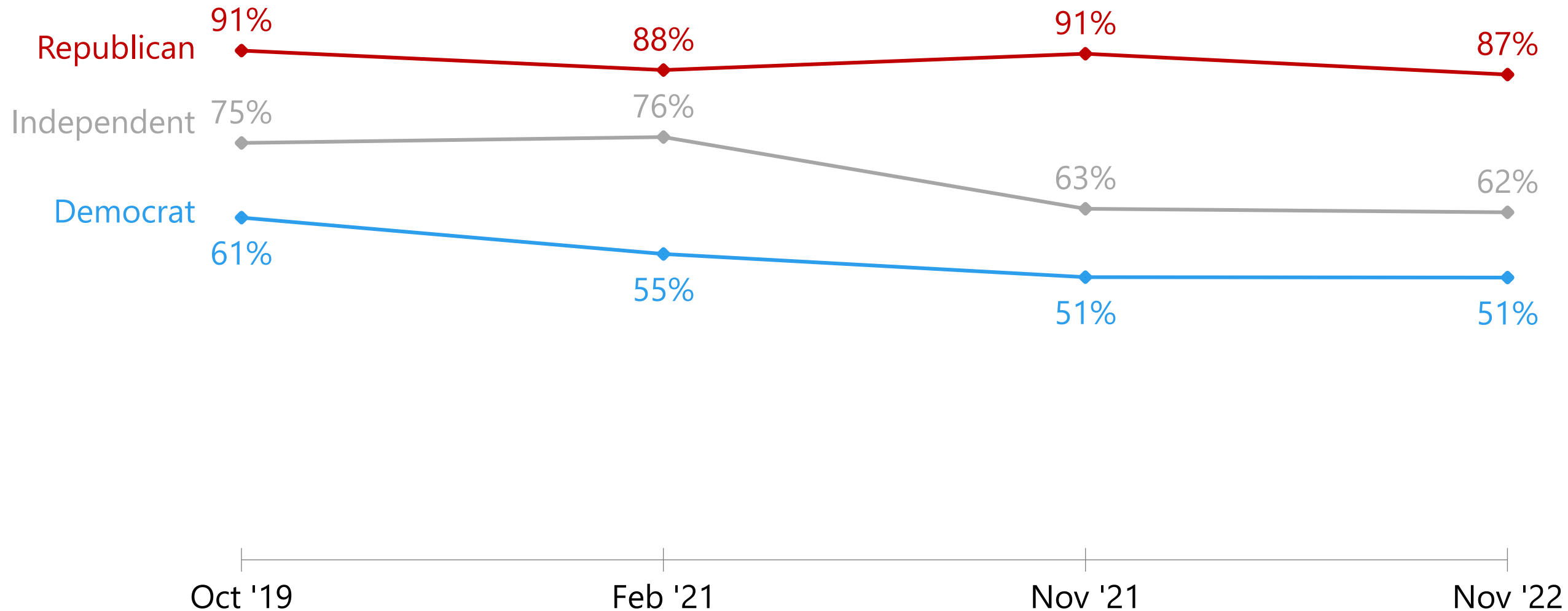
Note: Remainder Don't know

Q109-Q116. Thinking now about recent presidents, please tell me if you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable opinion of each one I mention.



Reagan favorability by party identification.

Total Favorable

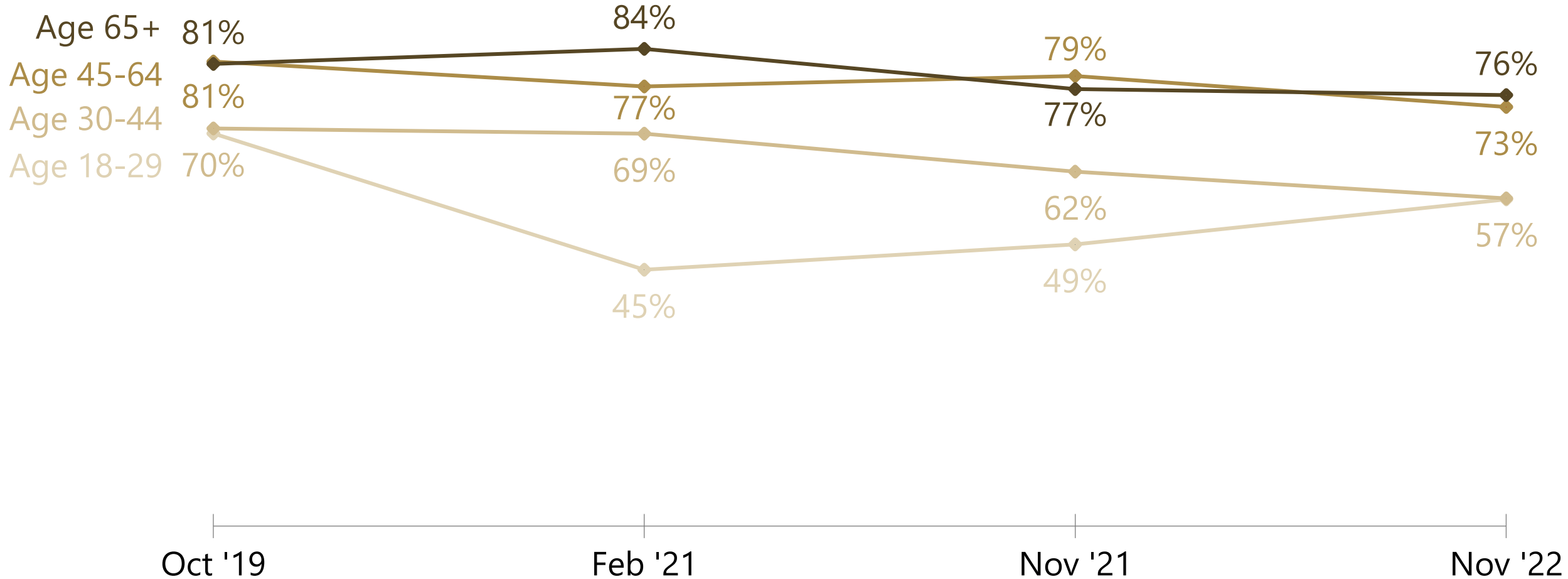


Q110. Thinking now about recent presidents, please tell me if you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable opinion of: Ronald Reagan.



Reagan favorability by age.

Total Favorable



Q110. Thinking now about recent presidents, please tell me if you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable opinion of: Ronald Reagan.

**FOR MORE
INFORMATION,
CONTACT**



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Profile of the Sample

Category	Group	% of Sample
Sex	Male	46%
	Female	52
Age	18-29	17
	30-44	25
	45-64	38
	65+	19
Race	White	76
	Black, African-American	13
	Hispanic or Latino	4
	Asian or Asian-American	3
Education	High school degree or less	25
	Some / 2-year college degree	33
	4-year college degree	25
	Postgraduate degree	15

Category	Group	% of Sample
Region	East	19%
	Midwest	22
	South	38
	West	21
Party	Democrat	38
	Republican	39
	Independent	22
Philosophy	Liberal	26
	Moderate	31
	Conservative	33
Service	Service member	5
	Veteran	10
2020 vote	Trump	36
	Biden	35