



British Embassy  
Tbilisi

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# Public Attitudes in Georgia

Results of December 2020 telephone survey



Carried out for NDI by CRRC Georgia

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This research project is funded with UK aid  
from the British people

# WHY WE CONDUCT POLLS?



**To foster the development of more responsive policies and governance;**

**To help stakeholders diagnose and address issues of public concern.**

- ❖ Leaders from across the political spectrum have reported that polls are important to their work and encourage continued polling;
- ❖ Inclusive process: the polling instrument was developed in consultation with political parties, government, and civil society leaders.

# ABOUT THE POLL

- ❖ Fieldwork dates: December 17-24, 2020
- ❖ 2,053 completed interviews (28% response rate, according to AAPOR standards)
- ❖ The average margin of error is +/- 1.1%
- ❖ **Note: the margin of error is different for every response**
- ❖ **Shift from face-to-face to telephone method might affect a change on historical slides.**

# SAMPLE

- ❖ All interviews were conducted via **mobile phone interview** method
- ❖ Simple random sampling method was used. Respondents were selected using the **random-digital method**
- ❖ Interviews were conducted in Georgian, Azerbaijani, Armenian and Russian languages
- ❖ The poll is representative of entire Georgian population (excluding the occupied territories)
- ❖ In addition, the poll is representative of the capital, urban and rural settlements

## Quality control

- ❖ All interviewers receive special training
- ❖ CRRC central office coordinators conduct quality control interviews

# Differences between face to face and telephone surveys

## Face to face survey



- ❑ Ability to ask more questions (60-80);
- ❑ Interviews take longer (30-60 min);
- ❑ You can ask longer questions, provide definitions;
- ❑ You can show cards with answer options.

## Telephone survey



- ❑ Number of questions limited (20-30);
- ❑ Shorter duration (10-20 min);
- ❑ Questions are shorter and simpler, than during face to face interviews;
- ❑ You can't use show cards with answer options. This means that answer options should be shorter, or interviewer should correspond answers.

# Differences between face to face and telephone surveys

## Face to face survey



- Interviewer sees respondent and can observe respondent's non-verbal behavior, whether he/she understand the question or not;
- Interviewer is in the same space with respondent and can better manage the situation;
- Certain group of busy people are harder to reach this way;
- Due to the sampling method, margin of error is higher than during telephone surveys;
- More expensive;
- Longer fieldwork.

## Telephone survey



- Chances are higher that respondent can't understand the question and interviewer won't notice it;
- Interviewer has no way of knowing in what kind of environment the respondent is;
- Easier to approach some respondents, e.g. men or people who are often out of home;
- Due to the sampling method, margin of error is lower than during face to face interviews;
- Cheaper;
- Shorter fieldwork.

# RESEARCH GOALS:

- To help stakeholders better understand public attitudes towards the top national issues: economy and healthcare;
- To help the newly elected Parliament diagnose and address expectations towards the new convocation;
- To help stakeholders understand attitudes and challenges around Covid-19 and upcoming vaccination.

# MAIN FINDINGS

- ❖ Georgians remain concerned about economic challenges (72 percent) and, for the first time, covid-19 (16 percent).
- ❖ As in previous years, data shows dissatisfaction about the state of the country's economy. Approximately a quarter (24 percent) of Georgians report that they are unemployed, consistent with NDI's August 2020 poll and likely an indicator of the continued economic impact of the covid-19 pandemic. Only a quarter feel they are better off economically since 2016; 32 percent said they are worse off, while 45 percent believe their situation remains unchanged.
- ❖ Public health is also a significant priority, with cost of medicine (56 percent) and covid-19 related concerns (41 percent) at the top.
- ❖ Georgians are confident that if they or their family member had a covid-19 related emergency, they would know how to get medical assistance (86 percent), how to provide treatment at home (77 percent), and where to get a free or affordable test (65 percent).

# MAIN FINDINGS

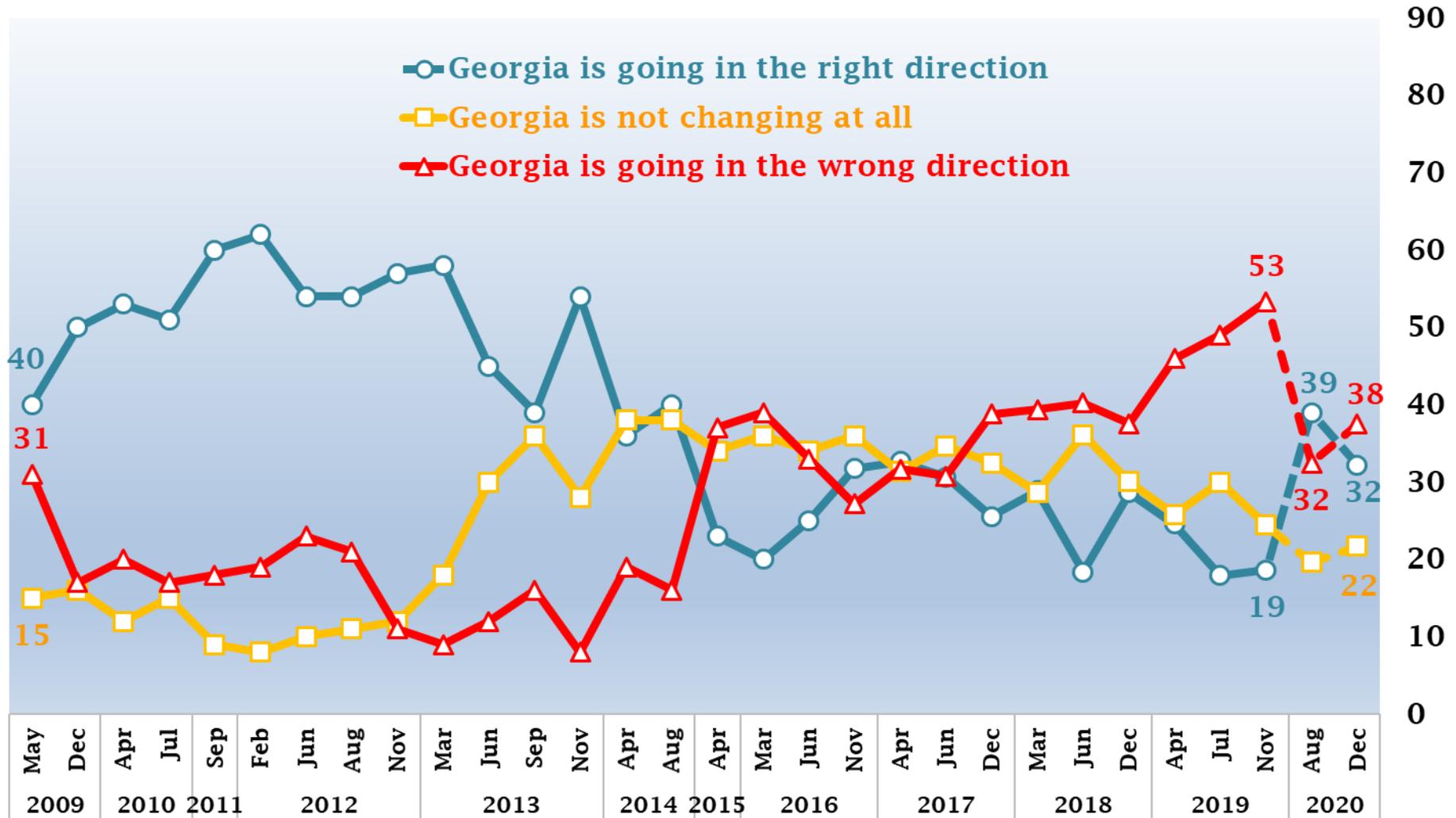
- ❖ A majority (60 percent) credits the government with handling the pandemic well, likely contributing to high evaluations of the government's and prime minister's performance.
- ❖ Looking ahead, a plurality of Georgians (39 percent) think the worst is yet to come, and almost half (41 percent) continue to have reservations with regard to vaccination rollout.
- ❖ Approximately 51 percent of Georgians rated the legislature's performance as good (15 percent) or average (36 percent), up from 36 percent in November 2019. However, citizens remain skeptical of parliament's willingness to address citizen concerns (41 percent do not believe parliament will work on issues that matter to them); deploy consultative processes (a quarter and a third of Georgians do not think the new parliament will engage citizens or CSOs more actively, respectively); and behave ethically (only 36 percent agreed).
- ❖ The majority believes that for the new parliament to represent citizen interests, it is important for political parties to collaborate (82 percent) and for all elected parties to participate in parliament (76 percent). This is consistent across party supporters.

# Country Direction and State of Democracy

# Country direction

There are different opinions regarding the direction in which Georgia is going. Which one do you agree with? (q4)

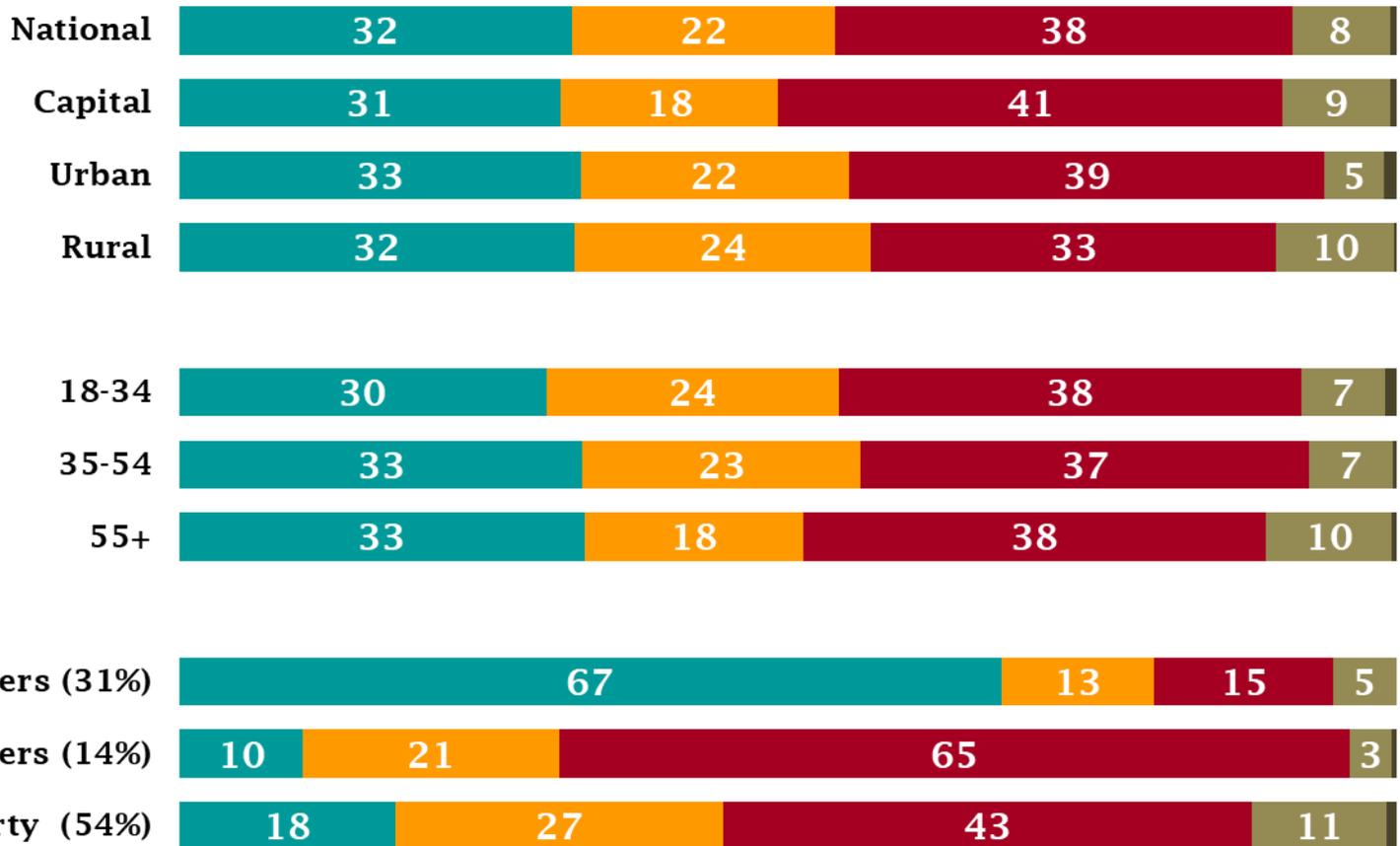
\*Dashed line represents change in method from face-to-face to telephone



# Country direction

There are different opinions regarding the direction in which Georgia is going. Which one do you agree with? (q4 X Settlement, Age, Party Closest to you)

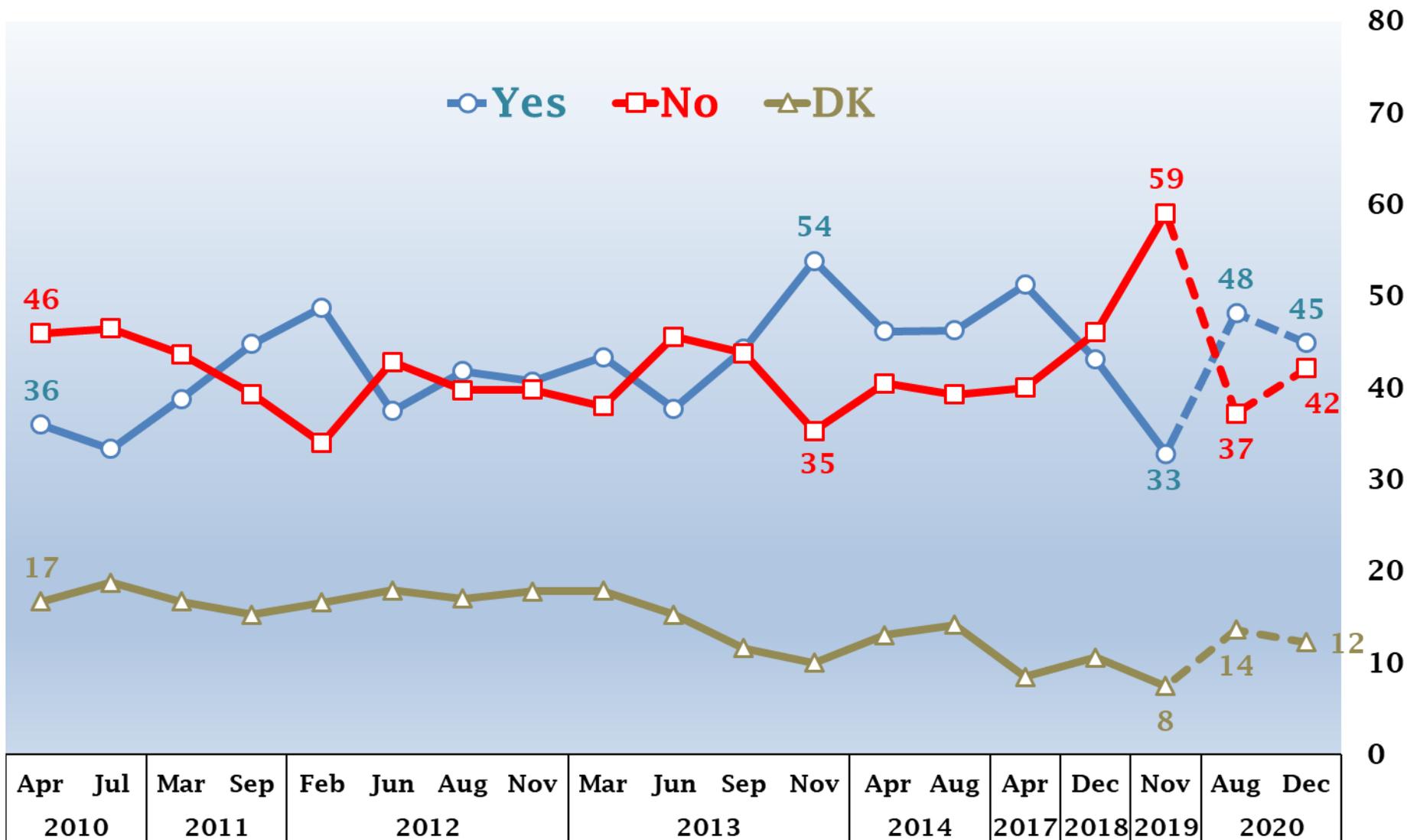
- Georgia is going in the right direction
- Georgia is going in the wrong direction
- Georgia is not changing at all
- DK



# Democracy

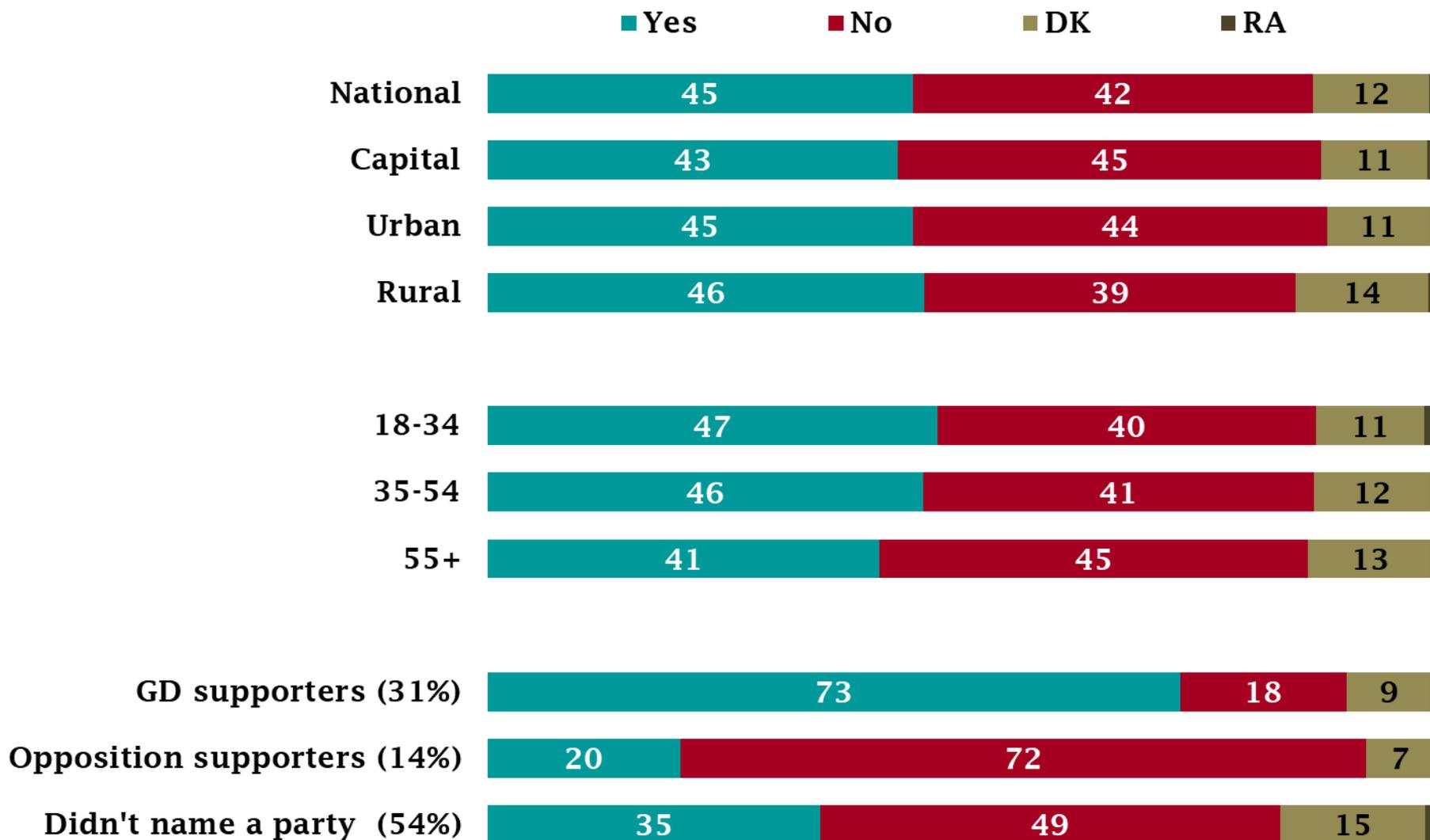
In your opinion, is Georgia a democracy now? (q5)

\*Dashed line represents change in method from face-to-face to telephone



# Democracy

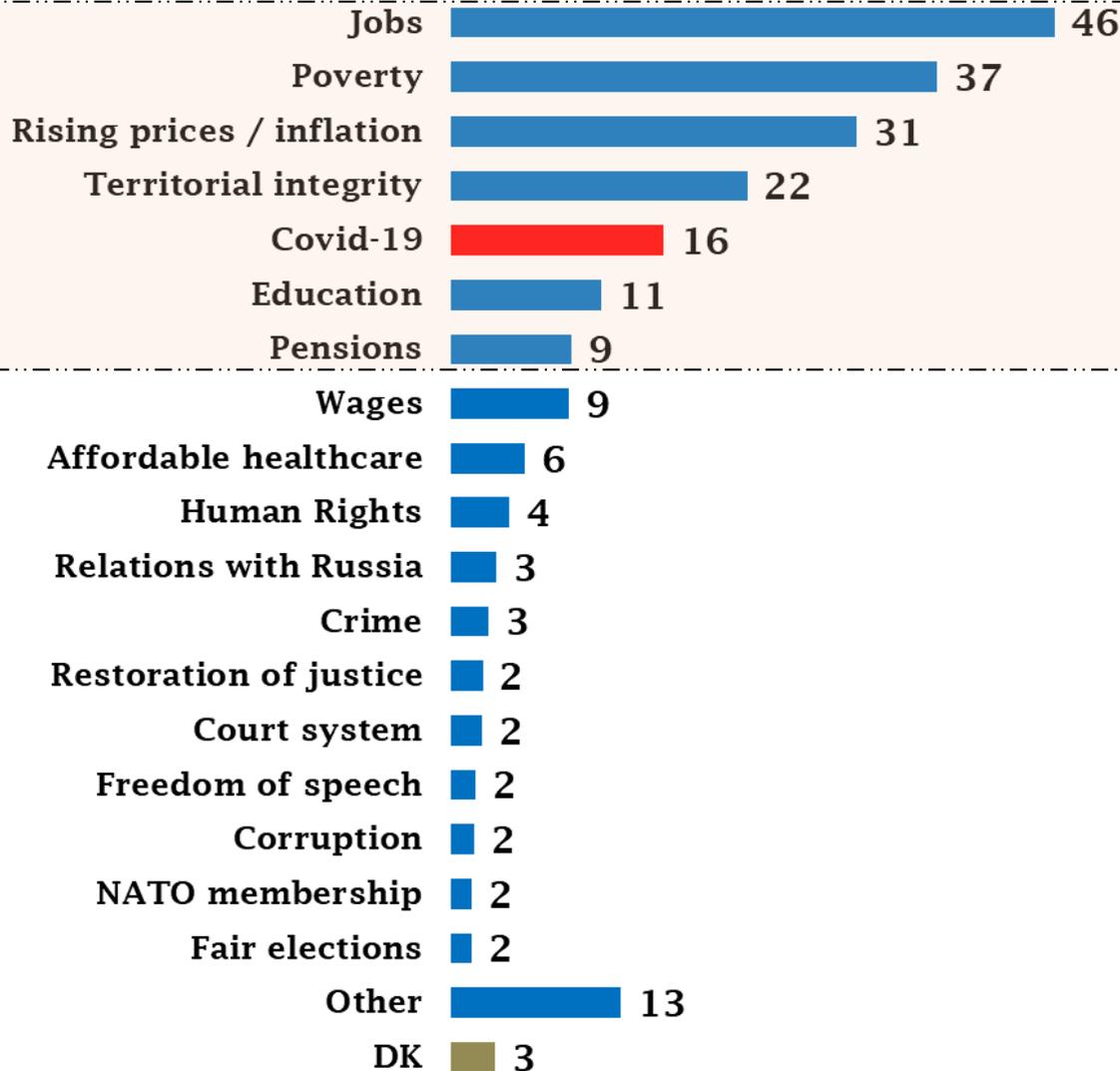
In your opinion, is Georgia a democracy now? (q5 X Settlement, Age, Party closest to you)



# National Issues

# National issues

What are the most important national level issues facing you and your family? Please name up to three. Open Question (q9)

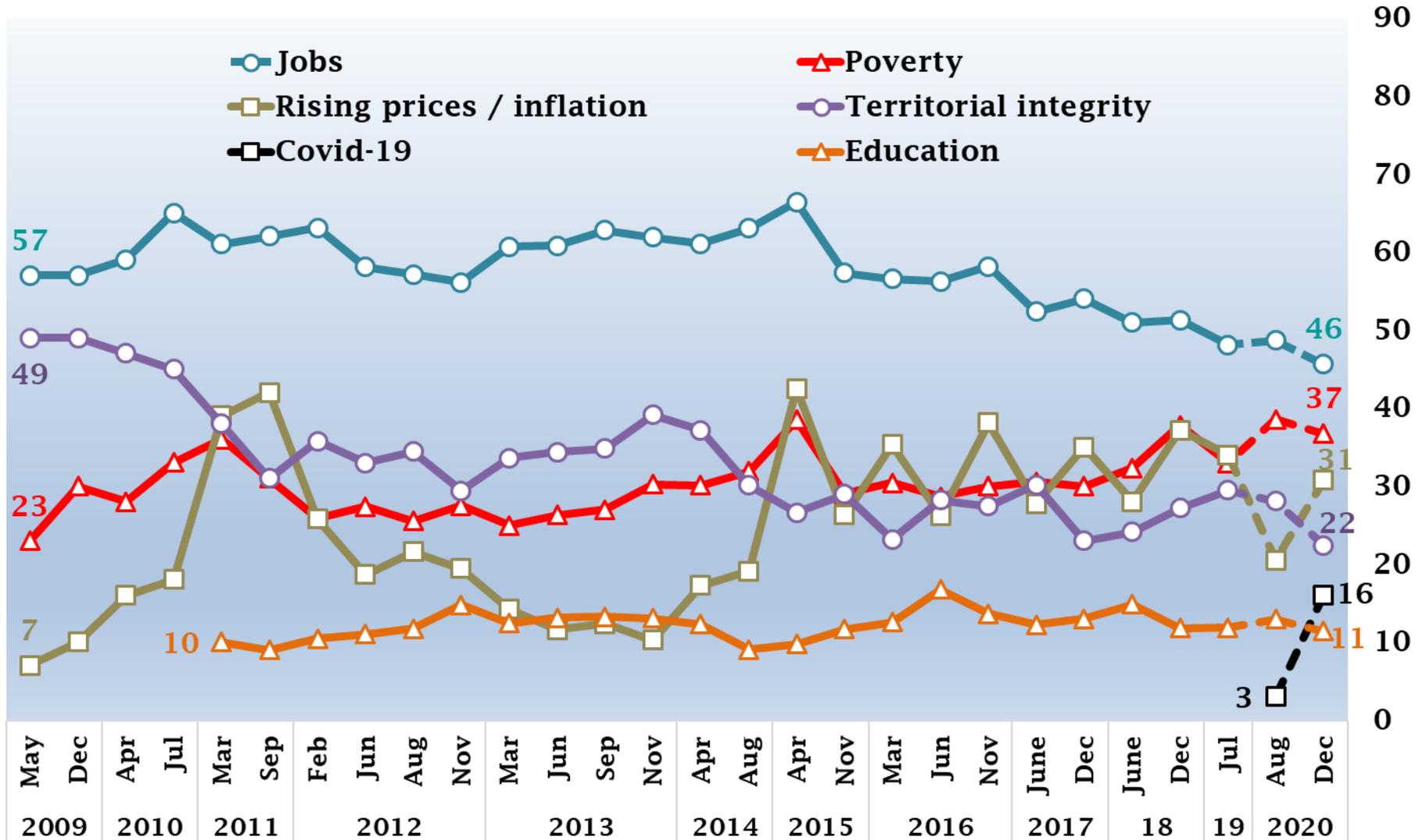


since 2009, Covid-19 is the first new issue in the top list.

# National issues

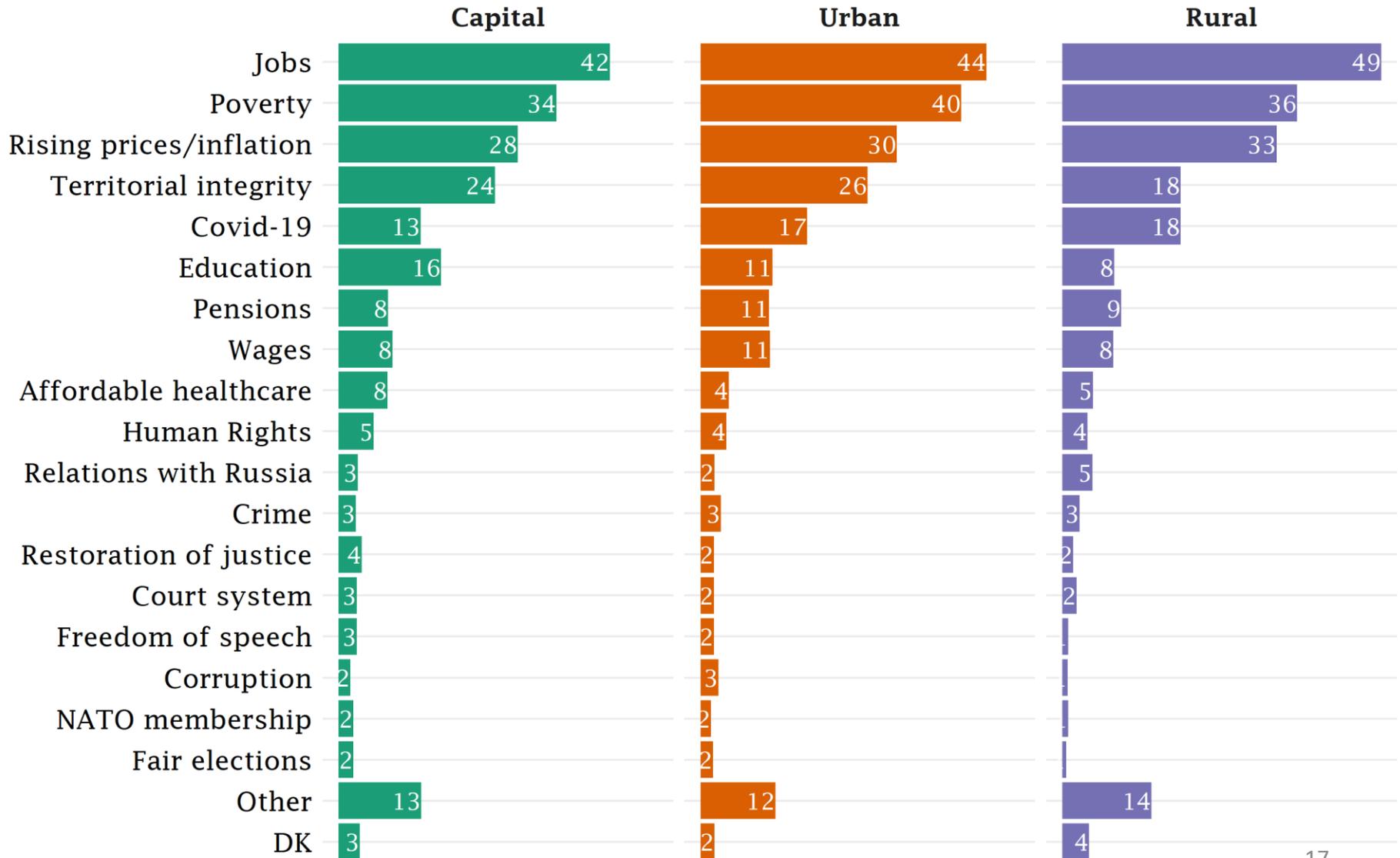
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# National issues

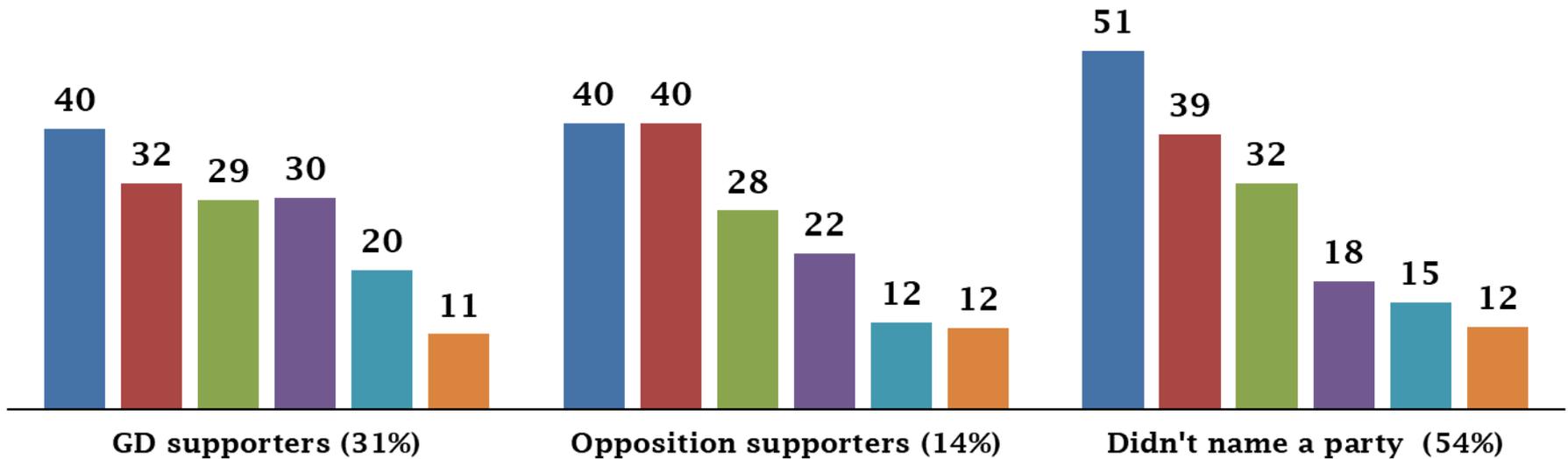
What are the most important national level issues facing you and your family? Please name up to three. Open question (q9 X Settlement)



# National issues

What are the most important national level issues facing you and your family? Please name up to three. Open Question (q9 X Party closest to you)  
Part 1

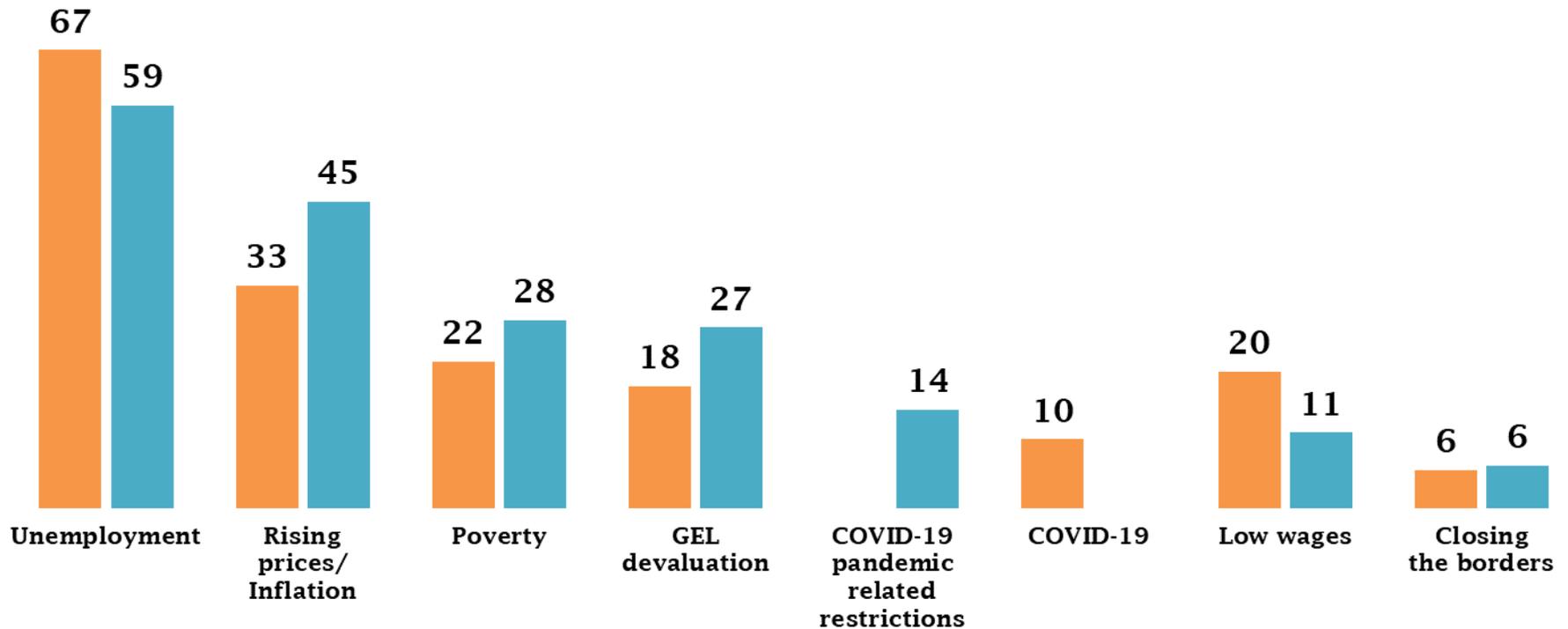
- Jobs
- Poverty
- Rising prices/inflation
- Territorial integrity
- COVID-19
- Education



# Economic issues

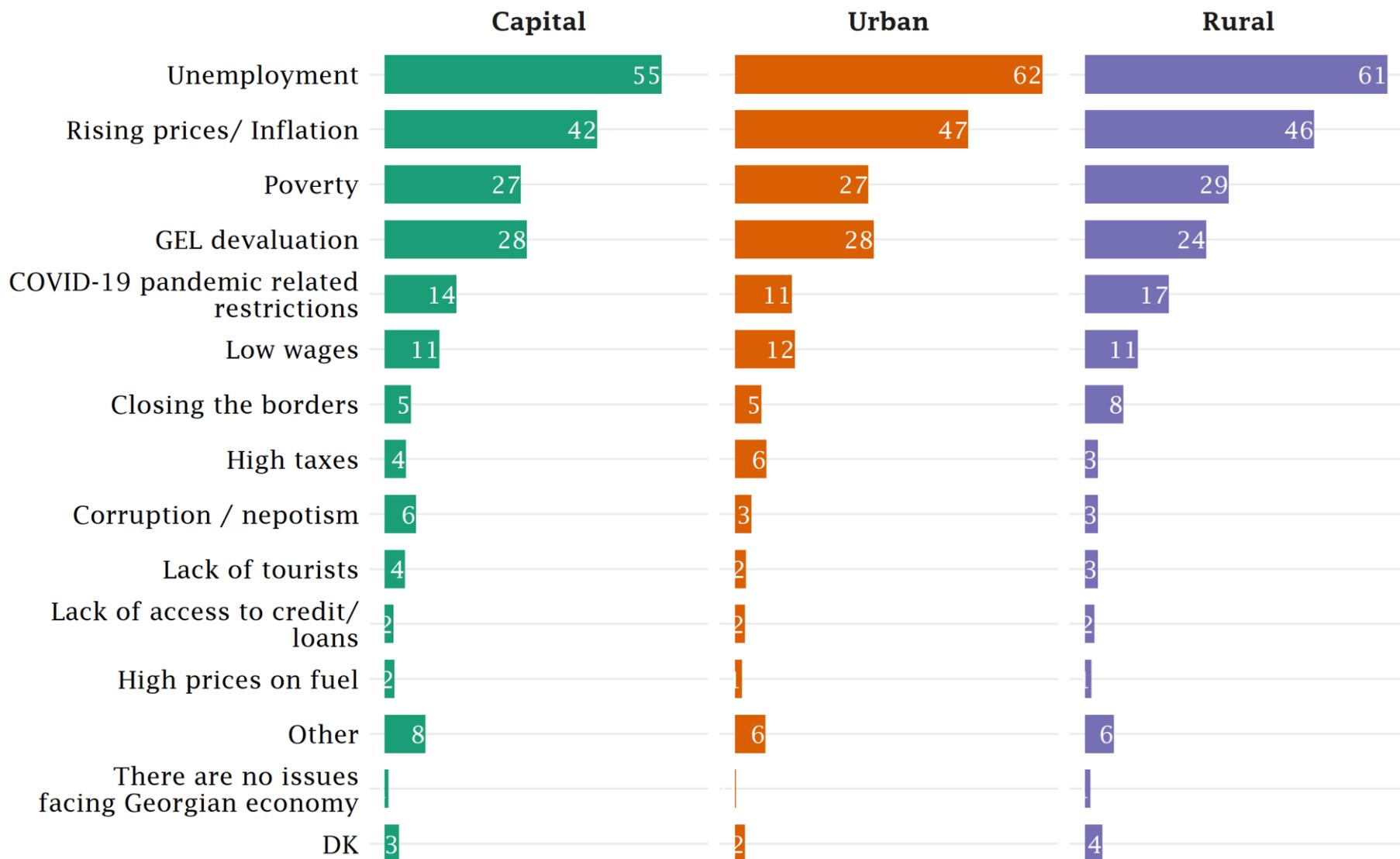
What is the biggest issue facing the Georgian economy today? Up to three answers. Open Question (q11) Part 1

■ August 2020 ■ December 2020



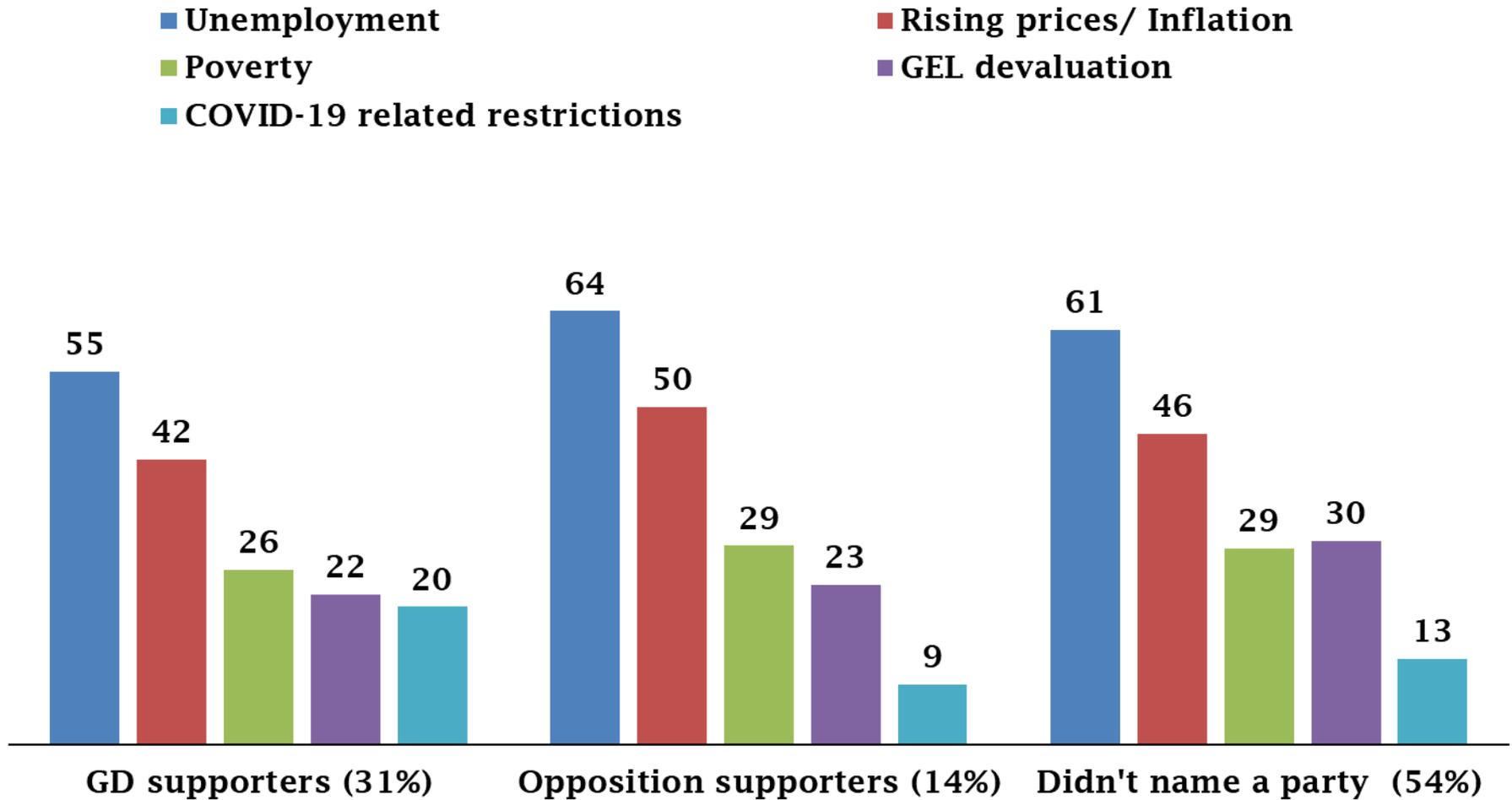
# Economic issues

What is the biggest issue facing the Georgian economy today?  
Up to three answers. Open question (q11 X Settlement)



# Economic issues

What is the biggest issue facing the Georgian economy today? Up to three answers. Open Question (q11 X Party closest to you) Part 1



# Employment Status

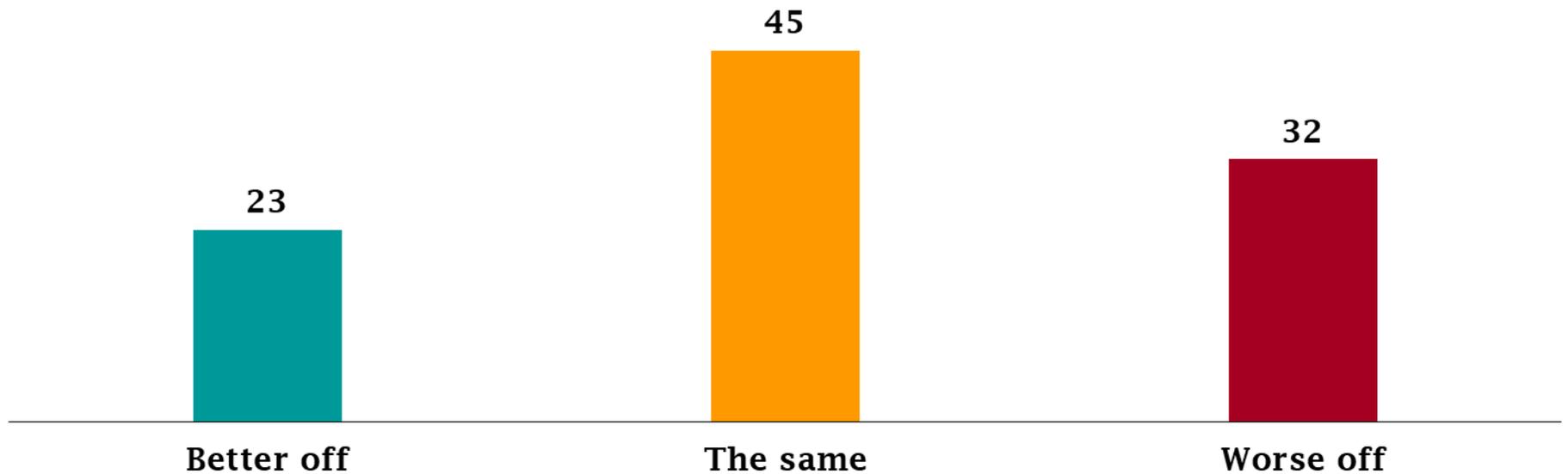
Which of the following best describes your situation? Please tell me about the activity that you consider to be primary. (q3)

■ June 2020   ■ August 2020   ■ December 2020



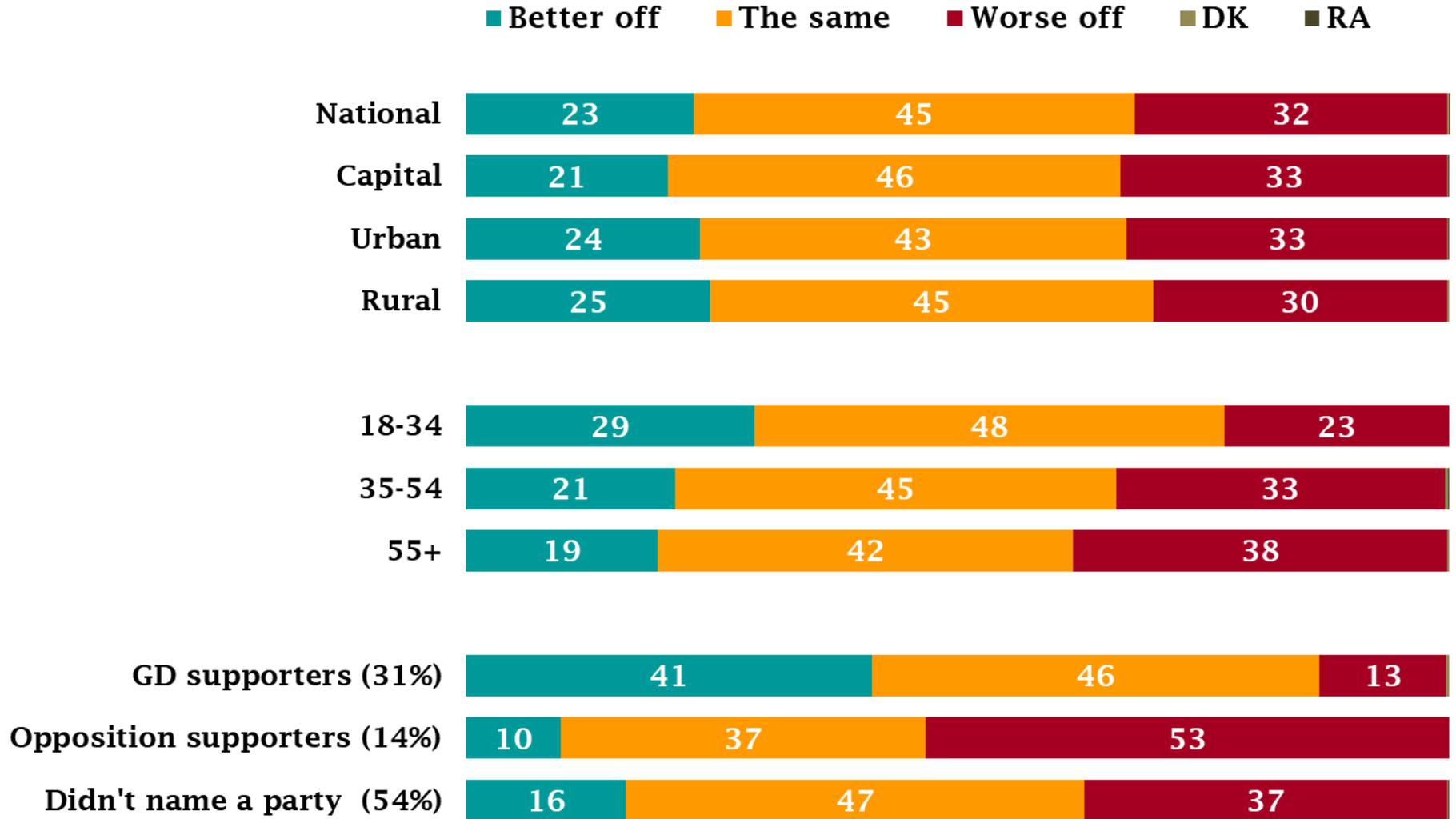
# Household well-being

Generally, taking everything into account, since 2016 you and your household are ...? (q8)



# Household well-being

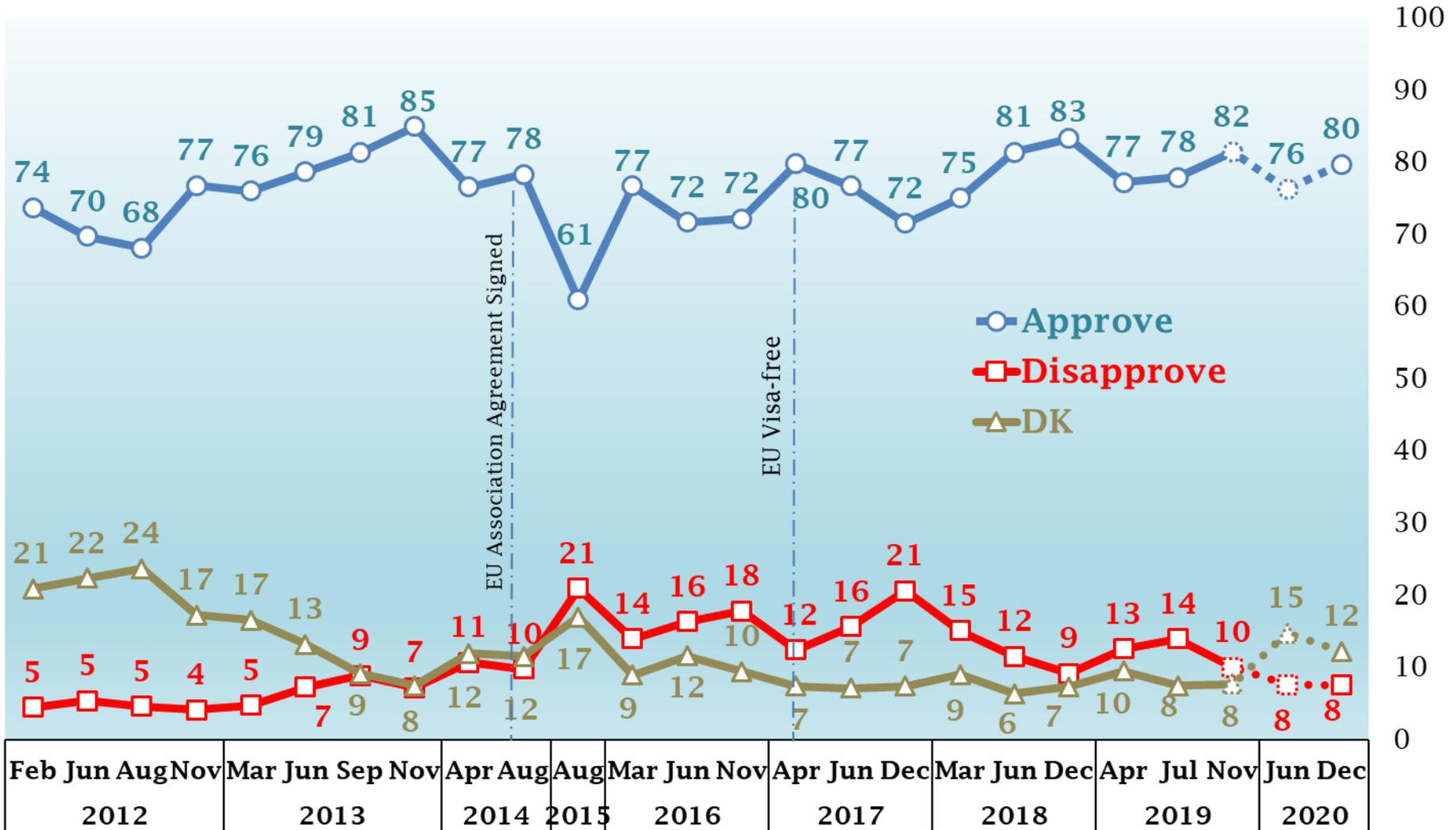
Generally, taking everything into account, since 2016 you and your household are ...? (q8 X Settlement, Age, Party closest to you)



# EU membership support

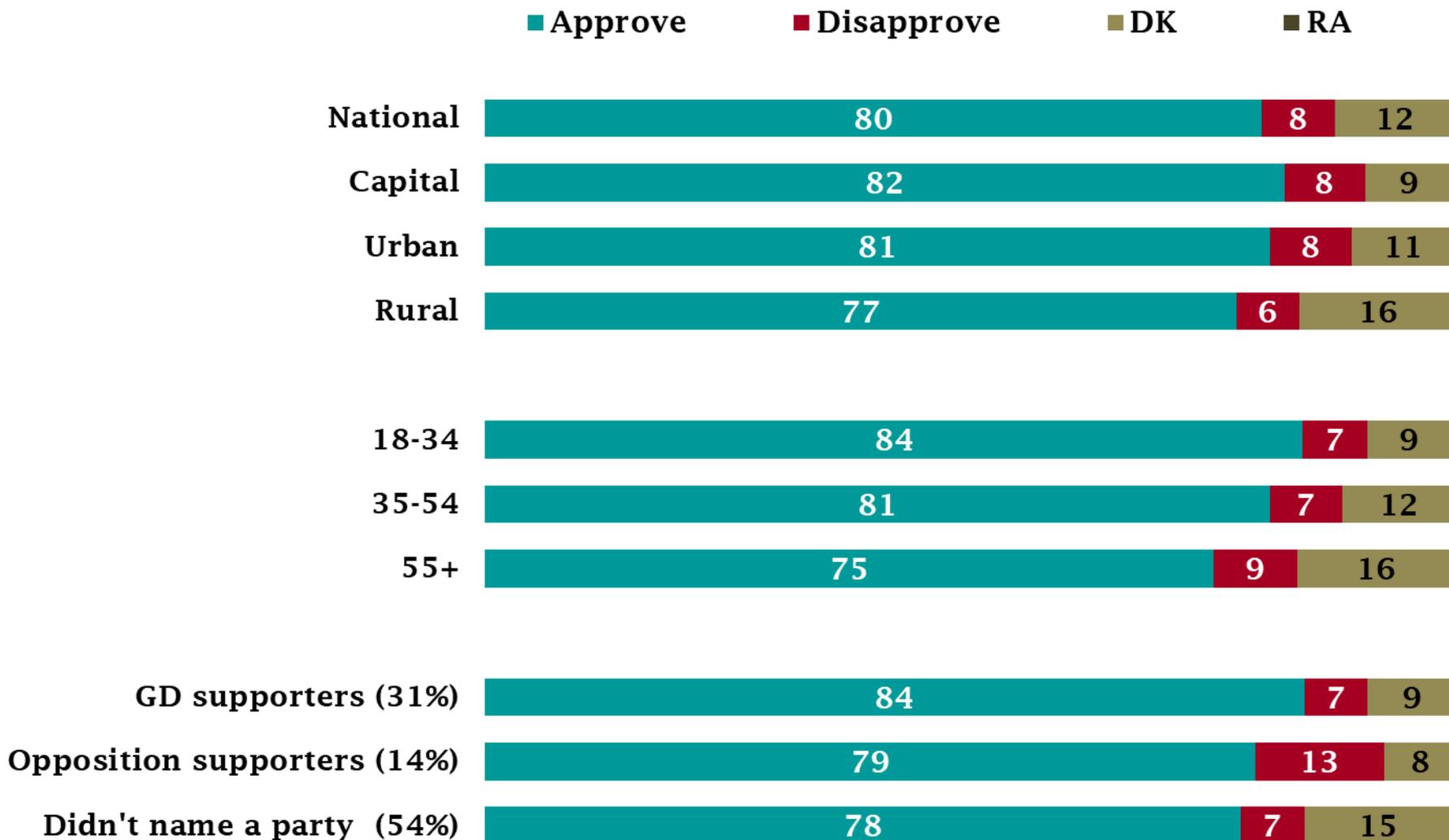
Do you approve or disapprove of Georgian government's stated goal to join the EU? (q12)

\*Dashed line represents change in method from face-to-face to telephone



# EU membership support

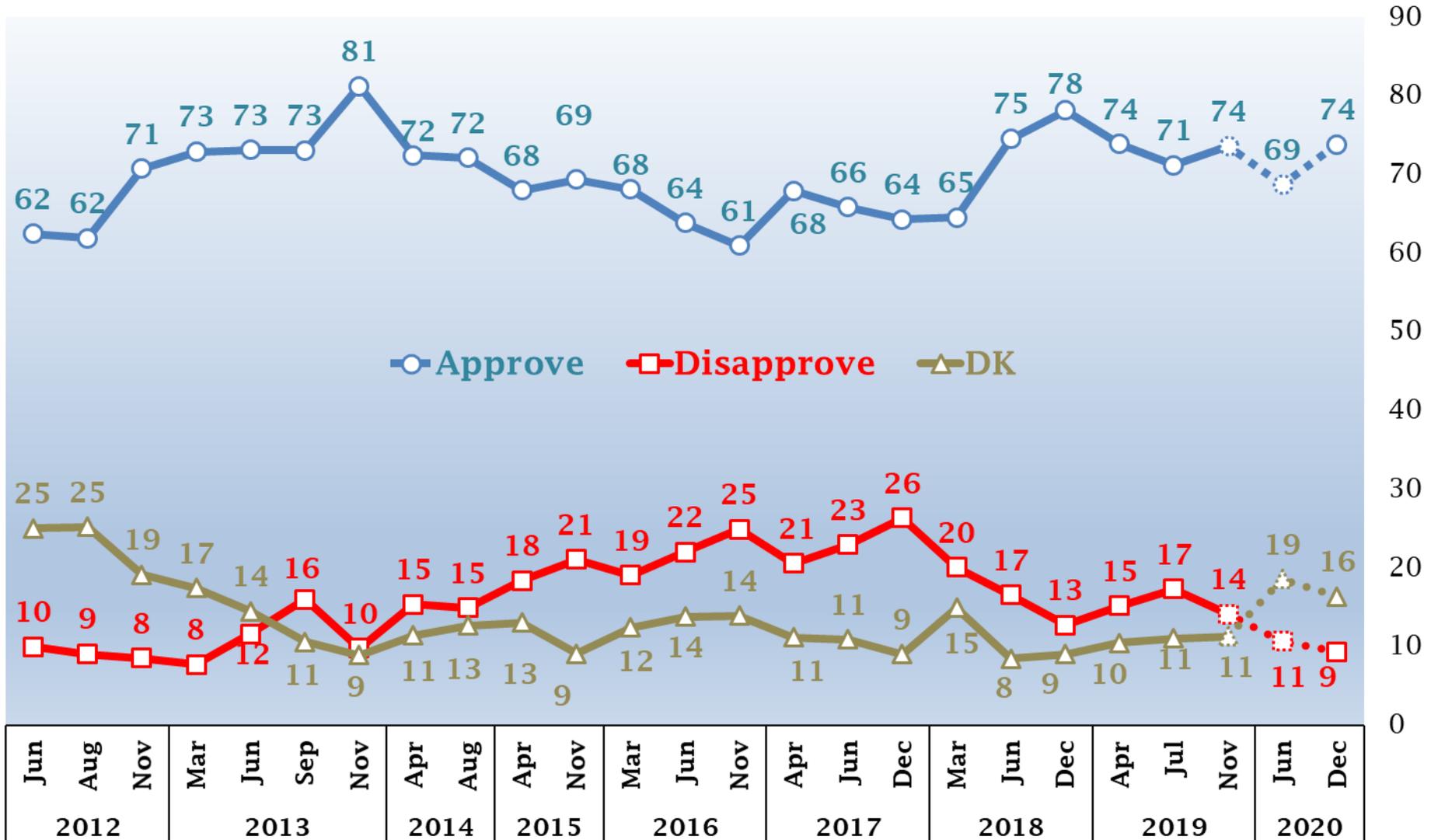
Do you approve or disapprove of Georgian government's stated goal to join the EU? (q12 X Settlement, Age, Party closest to you)



# NATO membership support

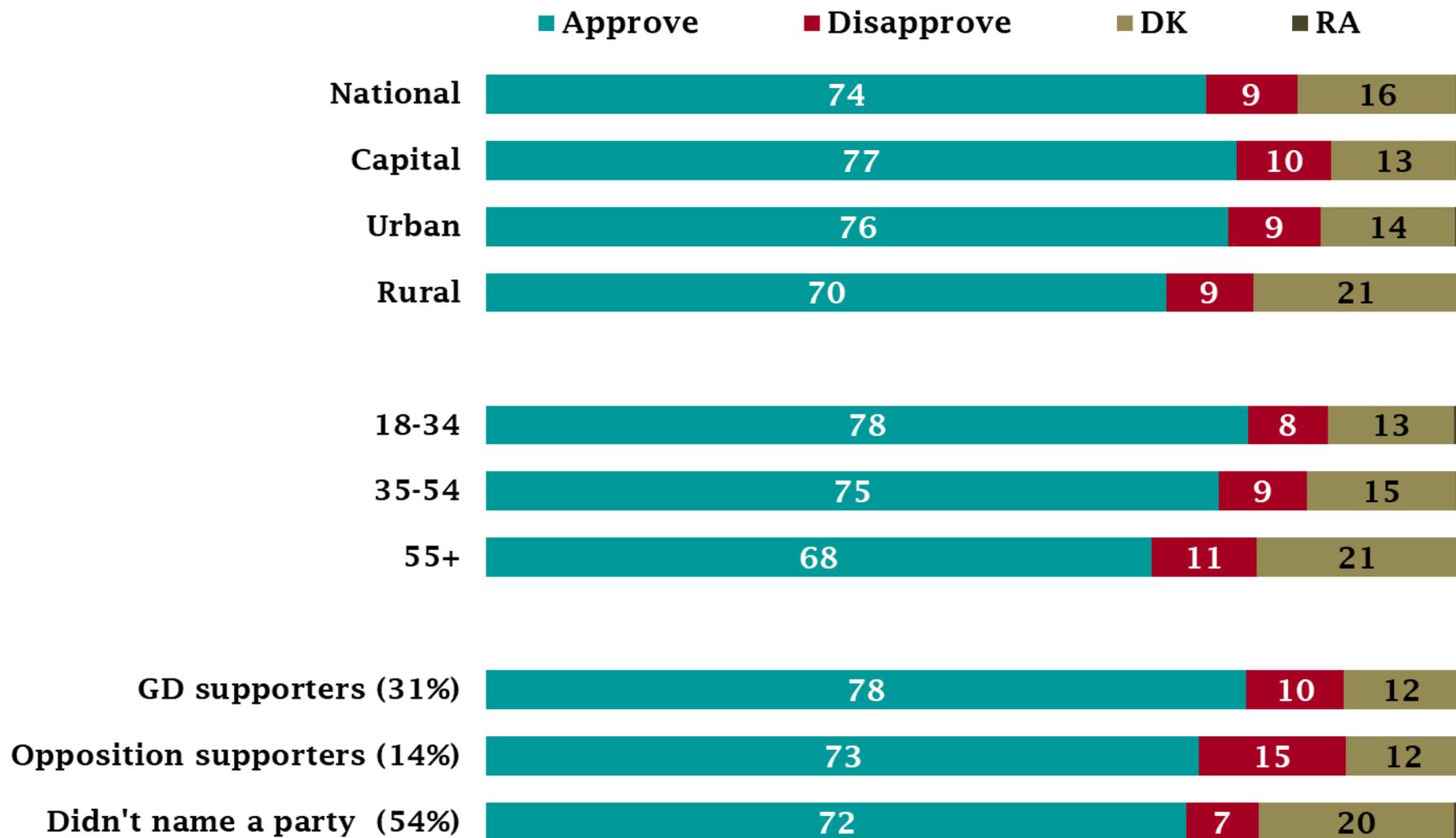
Do you approve or disapprove of Georgian government's stated goal to join the NATO? (q13)

\*Dashed line represents change in method from face-to-face to telephone



# NATO membership support

Do you approve or disapprove of Georgian government's stated goal to join the NATO? (q13 X Settlement, Age, Party closest to you)

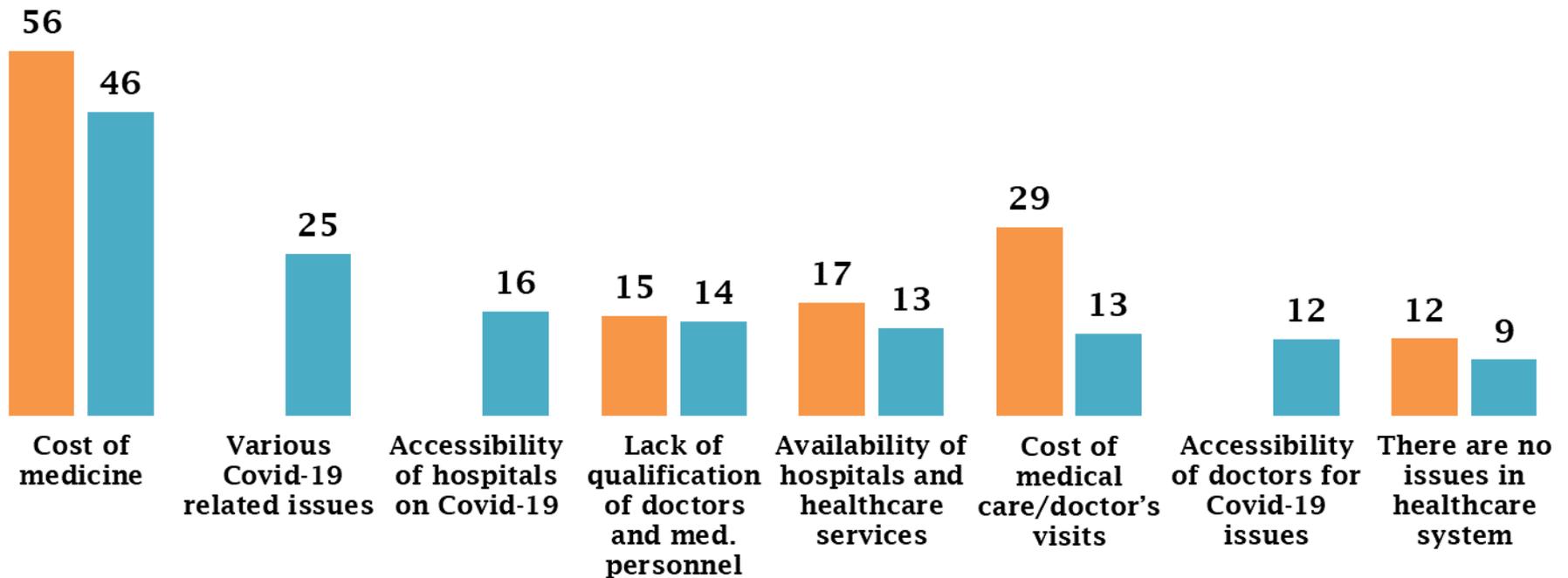


# Public Health and the Pandemic

# Healthcare issues

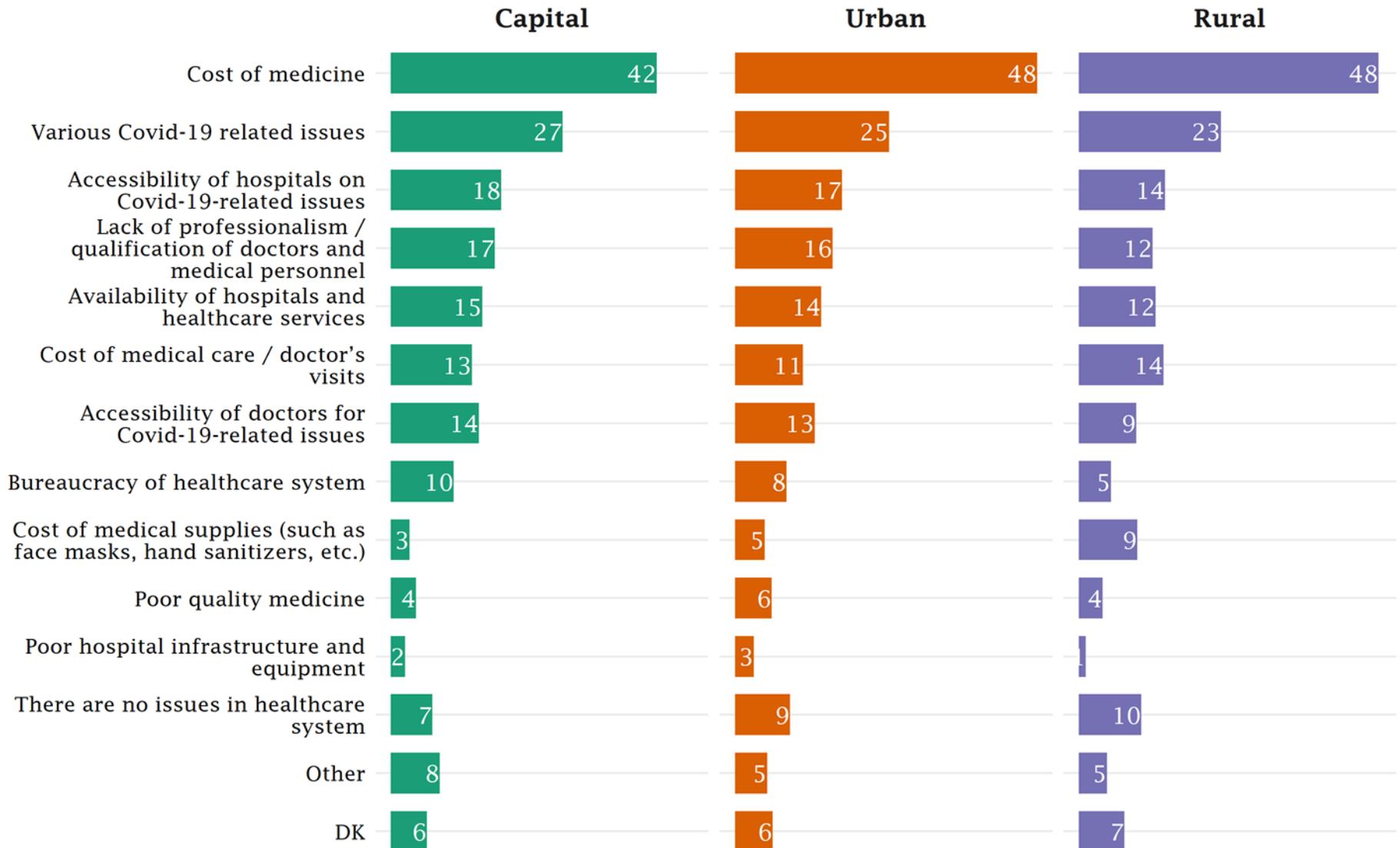
What is the biggest issue facing the healthcare system today? Up to three answers. Open Question (q10) Part 1

■ August 2020 ■ December 2020



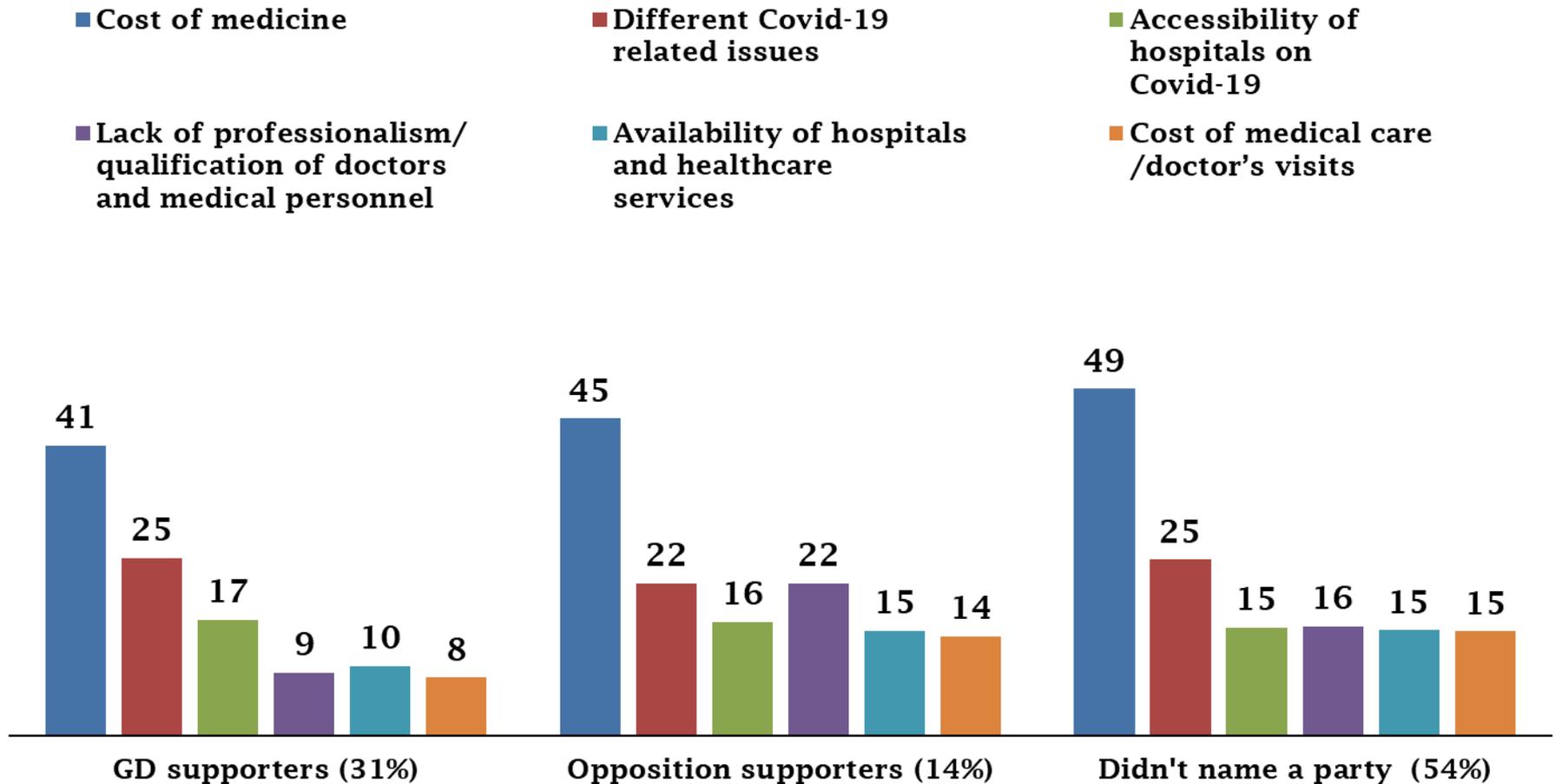
# Healthcare issues

What is the biggest issue facing the healthcare system today?  
Up to three answers. Open question (q10 X Settlement)



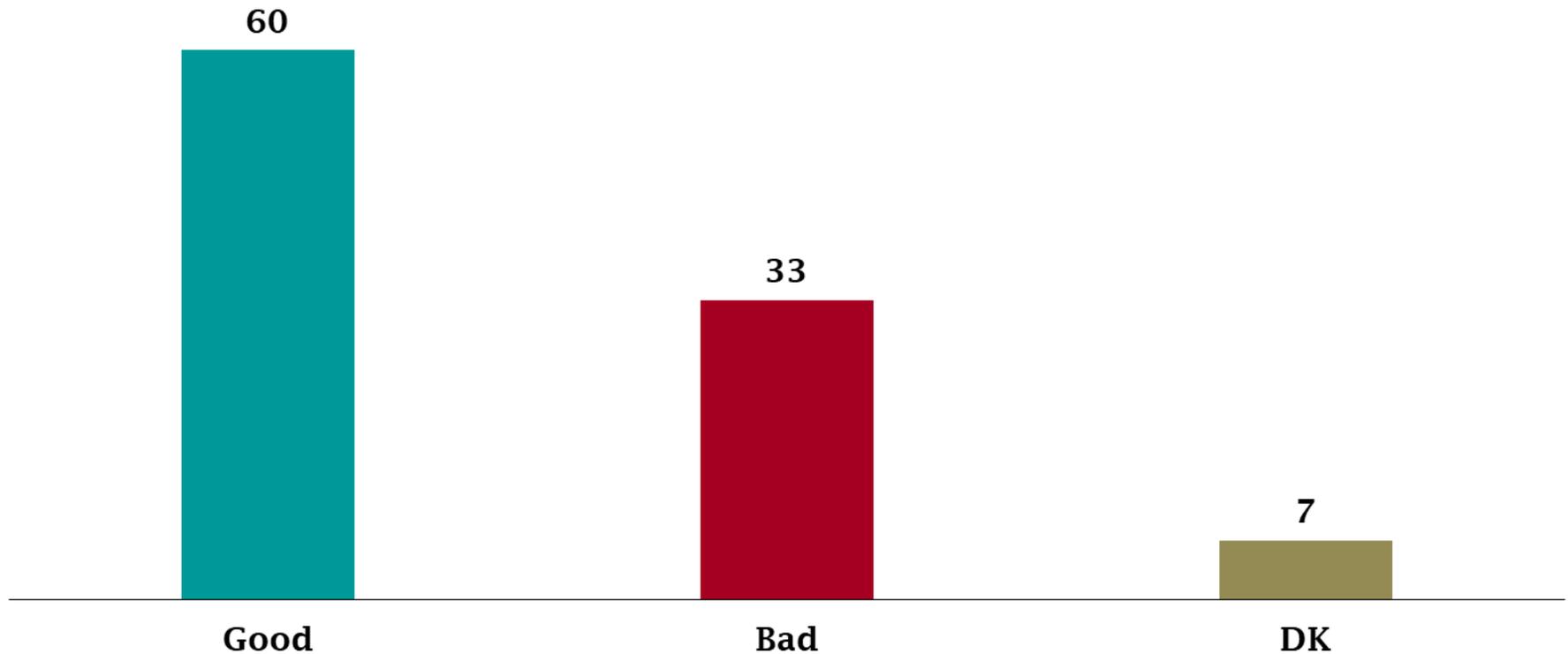
# Healthcare issues

What is the biggest issue facing the healthcare system today? Up to three answers. Open Question (q10 X Party closest to you) Part 1



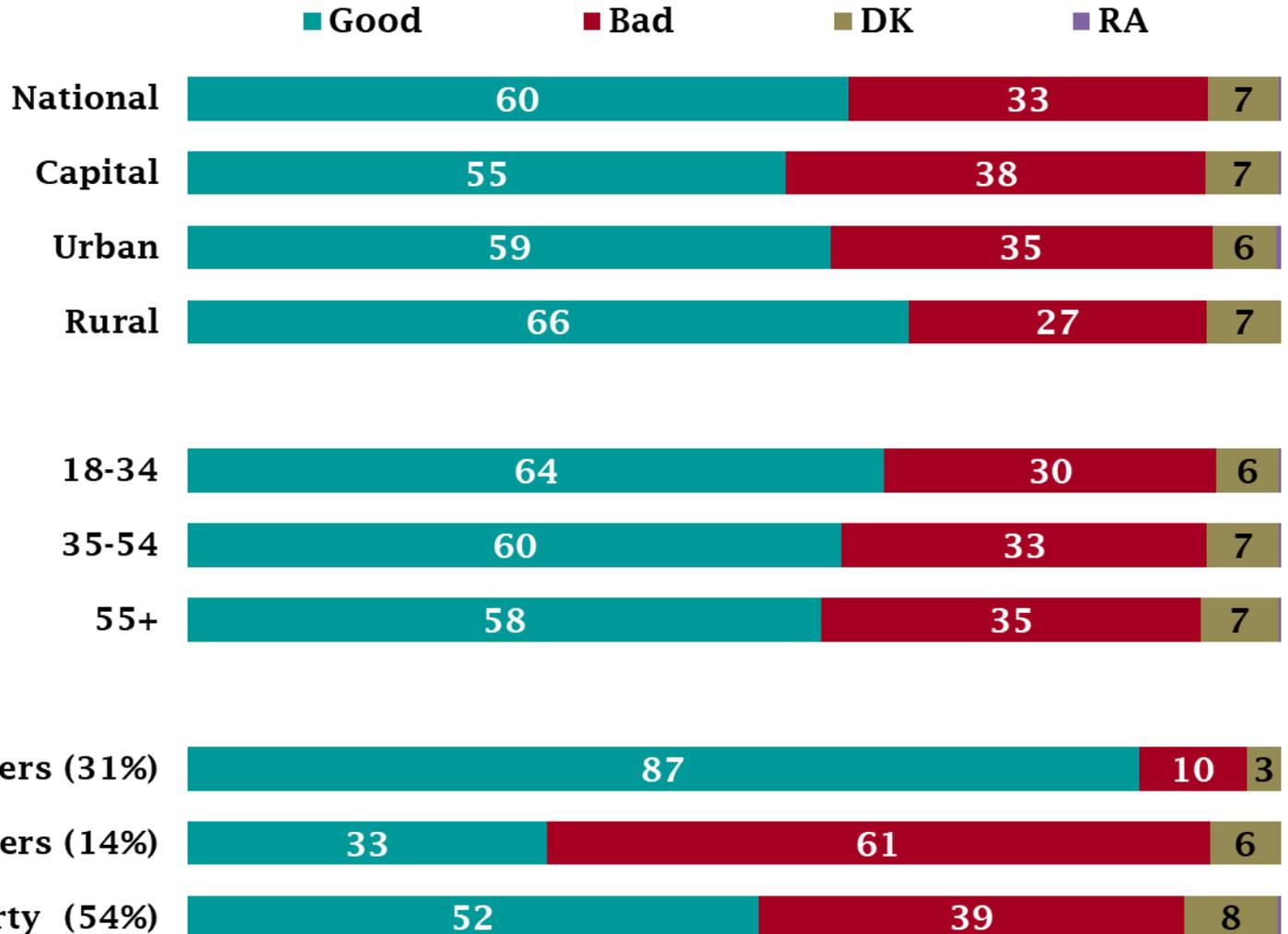
# Handling of Covid-19 pandemic

Overall, how would you rate the government's handling of Covid-19 pandemic? (q17)



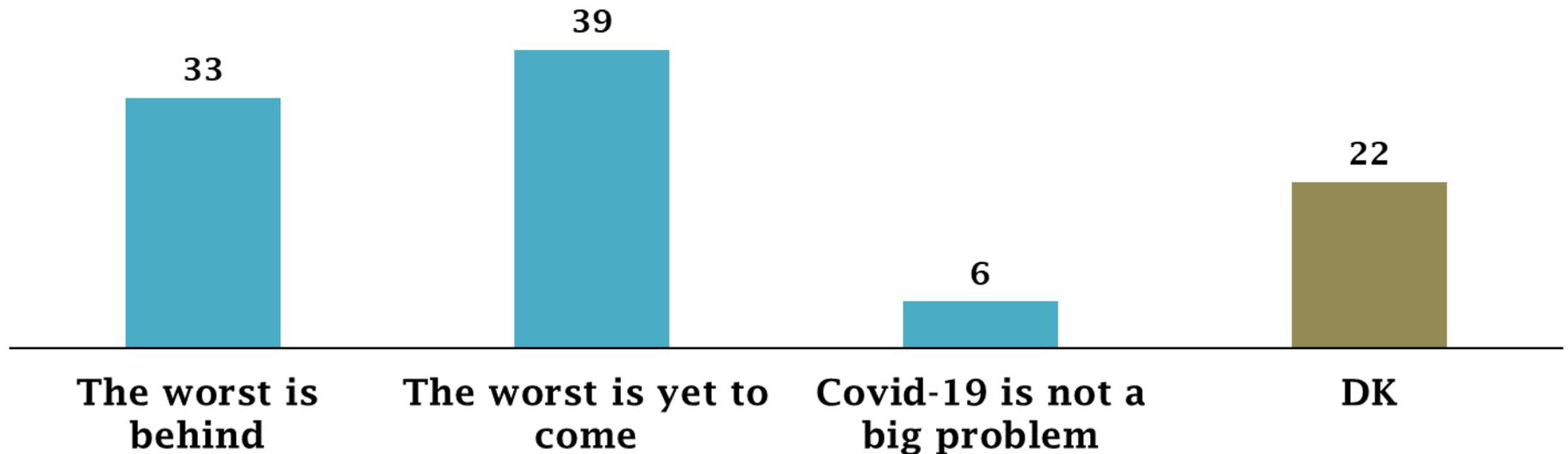
# Handling Covid-19 pandemic

Overall, how would you rate the government's handling of Covid-19 pandemic? (q17 X Settlement, Age, Party closest to you)



# Expectations around Covid-19 pandemic

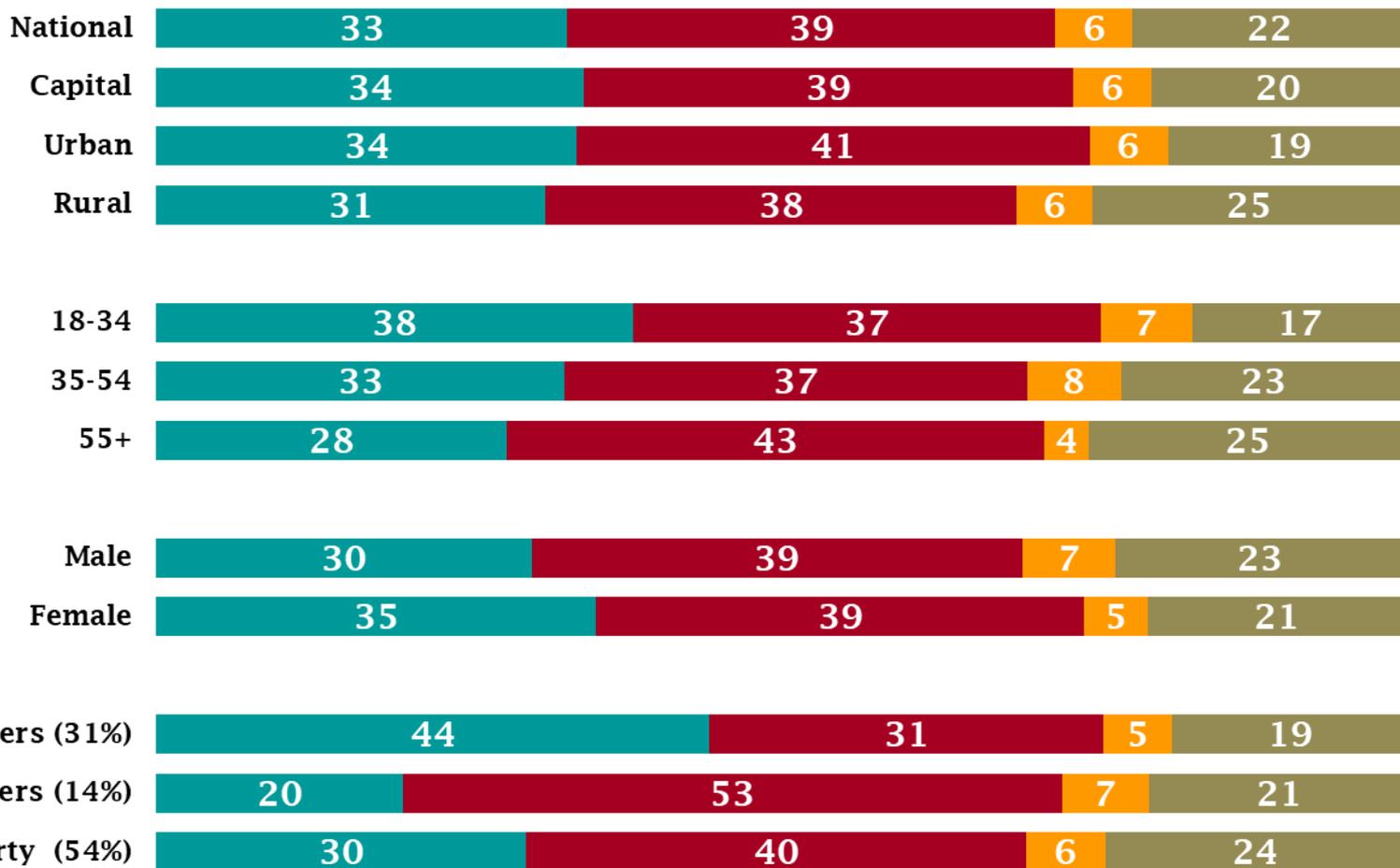
Which of the following best describes your feelings about Covid-19 pandemic in Georgia? (q18)



# Expectations around Covid-19

Which of the following best describes your feelings about Covid-19 pandemic in Georgia? (q18 X Settlement, Age, Gender, Party closest to you)

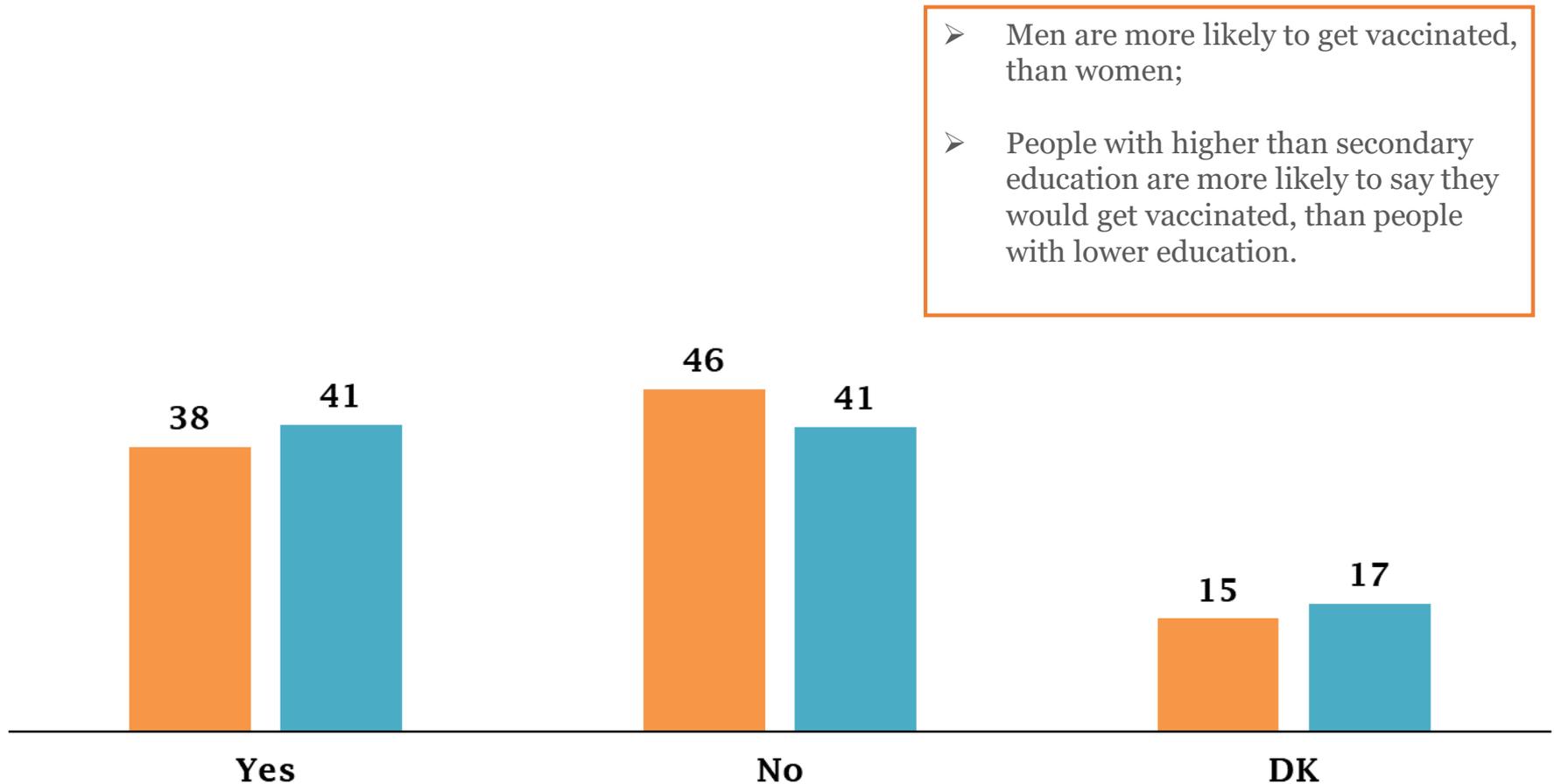
■ The worst is behind ■ The worst is yet to come ■ Covid-19 is not a big problem ■ DK



# Covid-19 vaccine

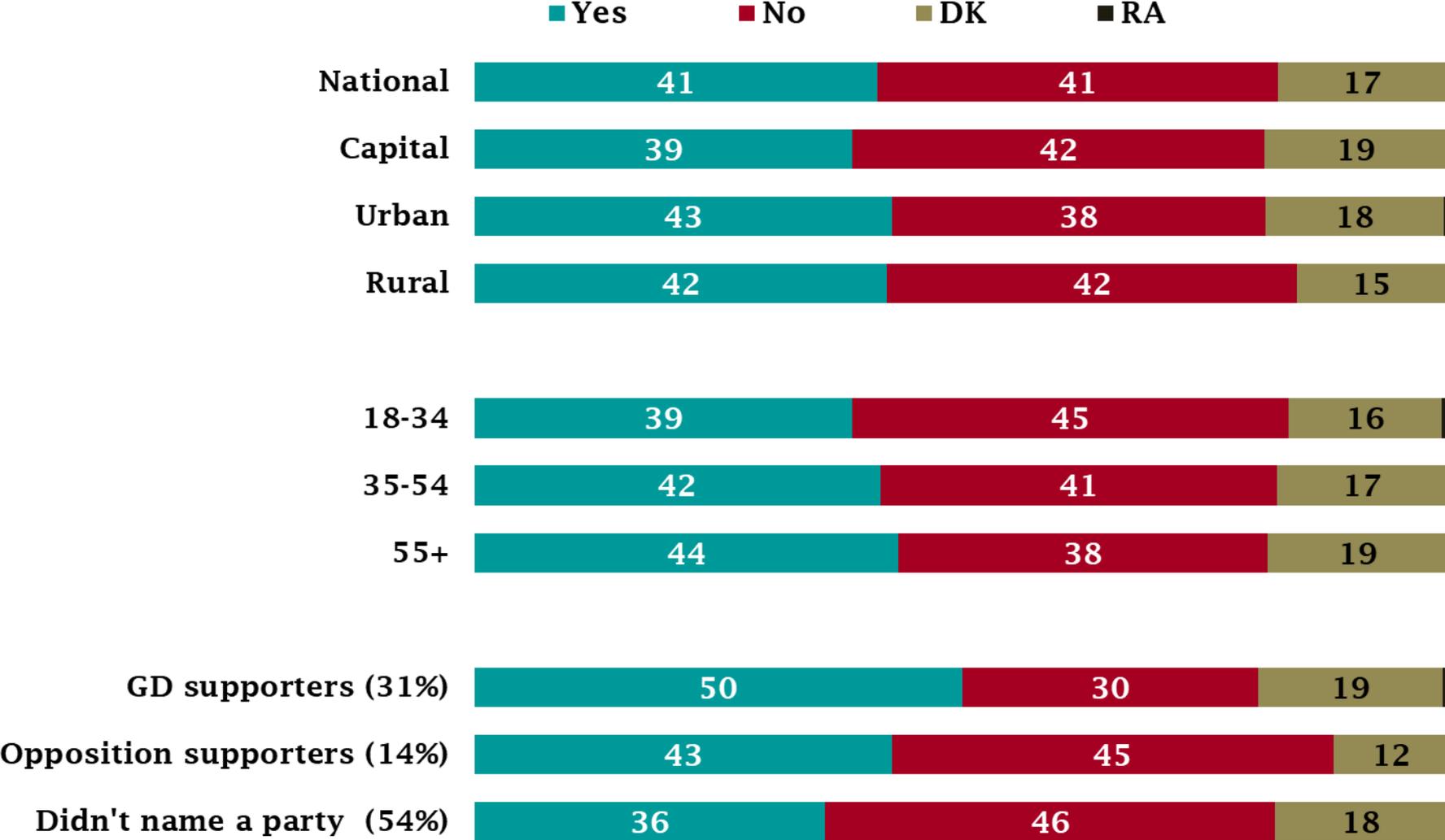
If the Coronavirus vaccine existed, would you vaccinate yourself and your kids? (q19)

■ June 2020 ■ December 2020



# Covid-19 vaccine

If the Coronavirus vaccine existed, would you vaccinate yourself and your kids? (q19 X Settlement, Age, Party closest to you)



# Being informed on Covid-19

Imagine you or your family member have the need, do you have enough information on: (q20)

■ Yes     ■ No     ■ DK     ■ RA

**How to get medical assistance regarding Covid-19? (Family doctor, hospitalization, emergency service)**



**How to treat Covid-19 at home?**



**Where to get a free / affordable test for Covid-19?**

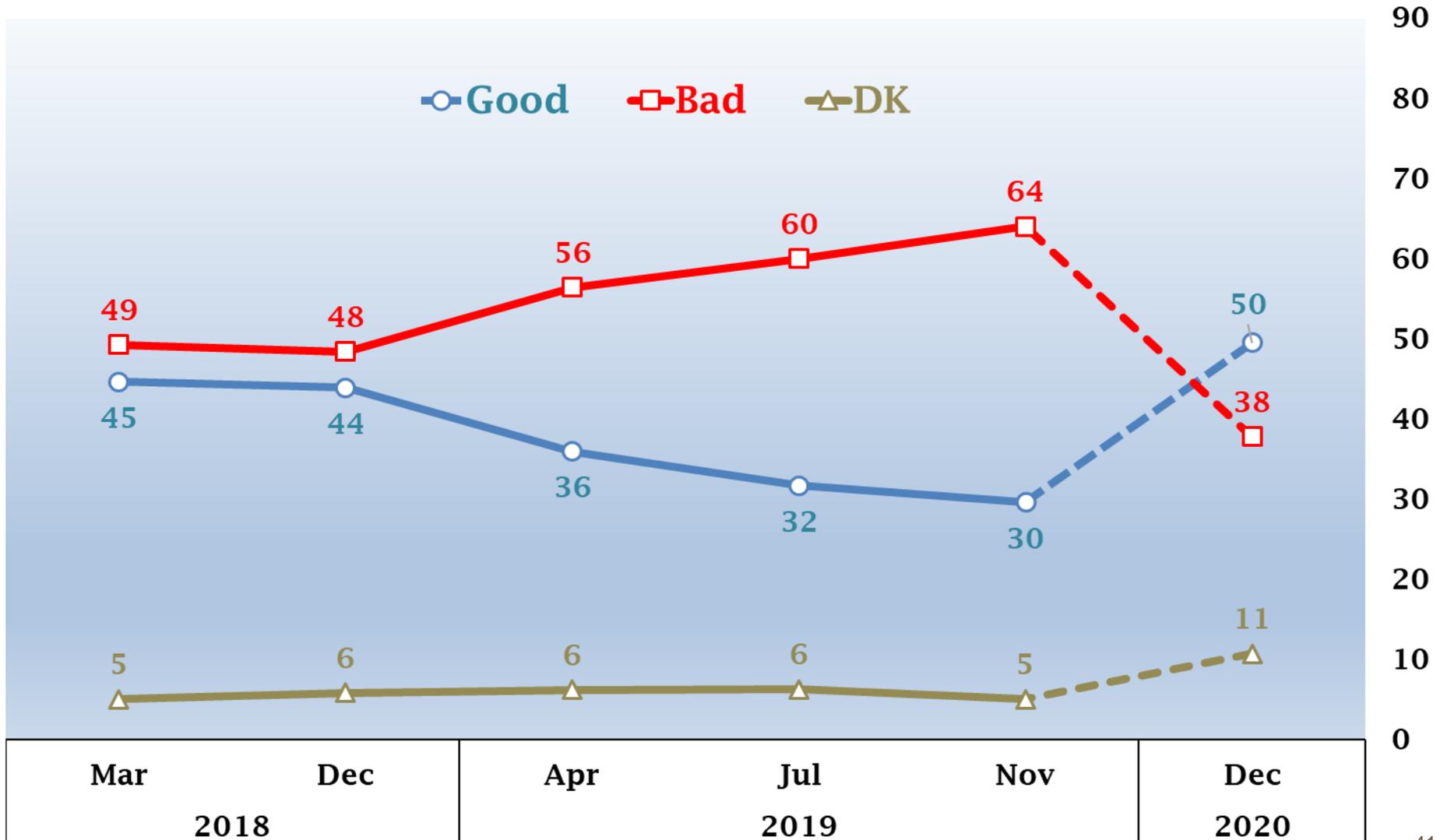


# Performance of Institutions

# Government performance

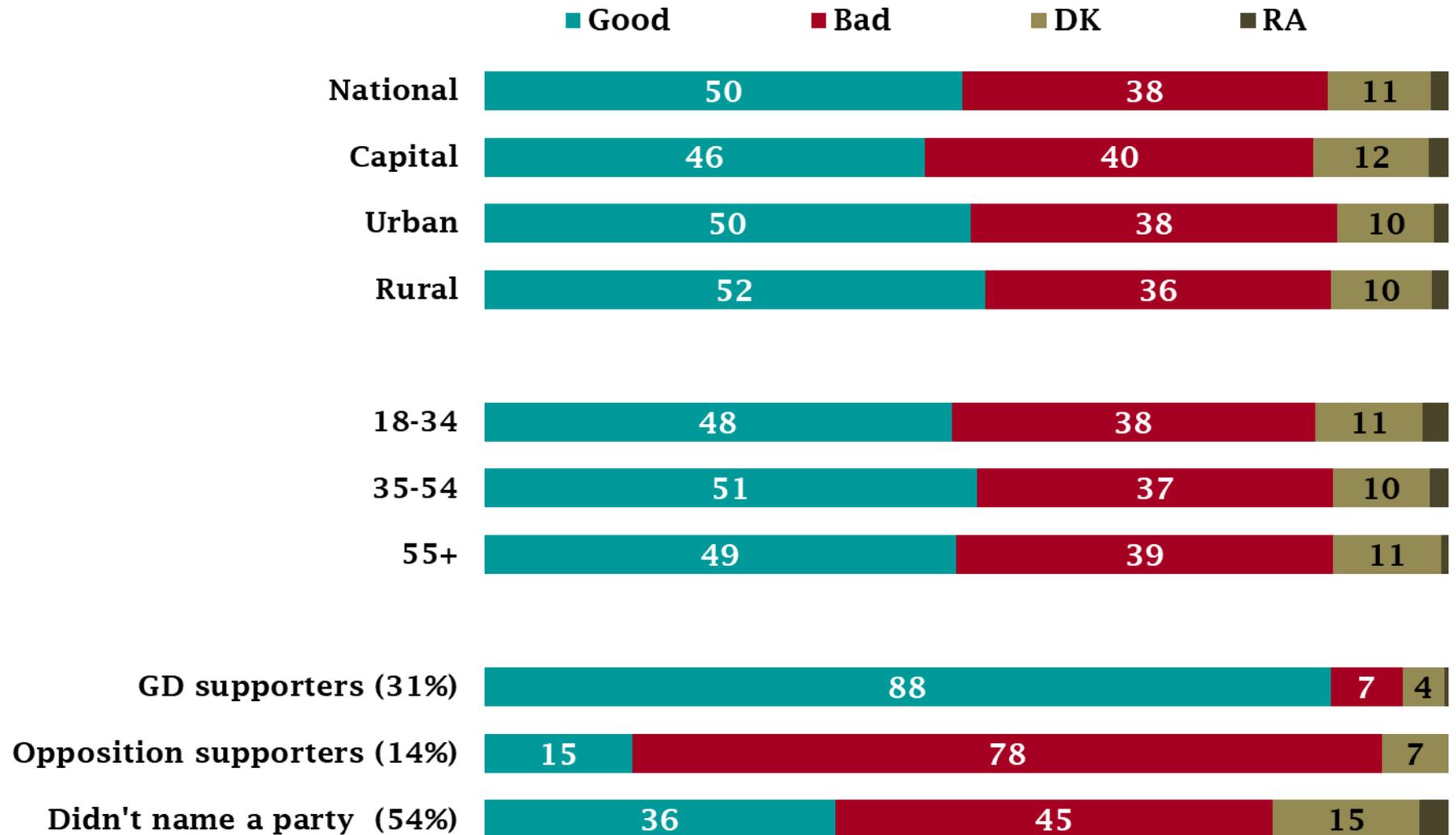
Please, tell me, how would you rate the performance of the current government? (q7)

\*Dashed line represents change in method from face-to-face to telephone



# Government performance

Please, tell me, how would you rate the performance of the current government? (q7 X Settlement, Age, Party closest to you)



# Performance of leaders and institutions

How would you rate the performance of ...? (q6)

■ Very good ■ Good ■ Average ■ Bad ■ Very bad ■ DK ■ RA

Prime Minister Giorgi Gakharia



Central Election Commission (CEC)



The Parliament



The President



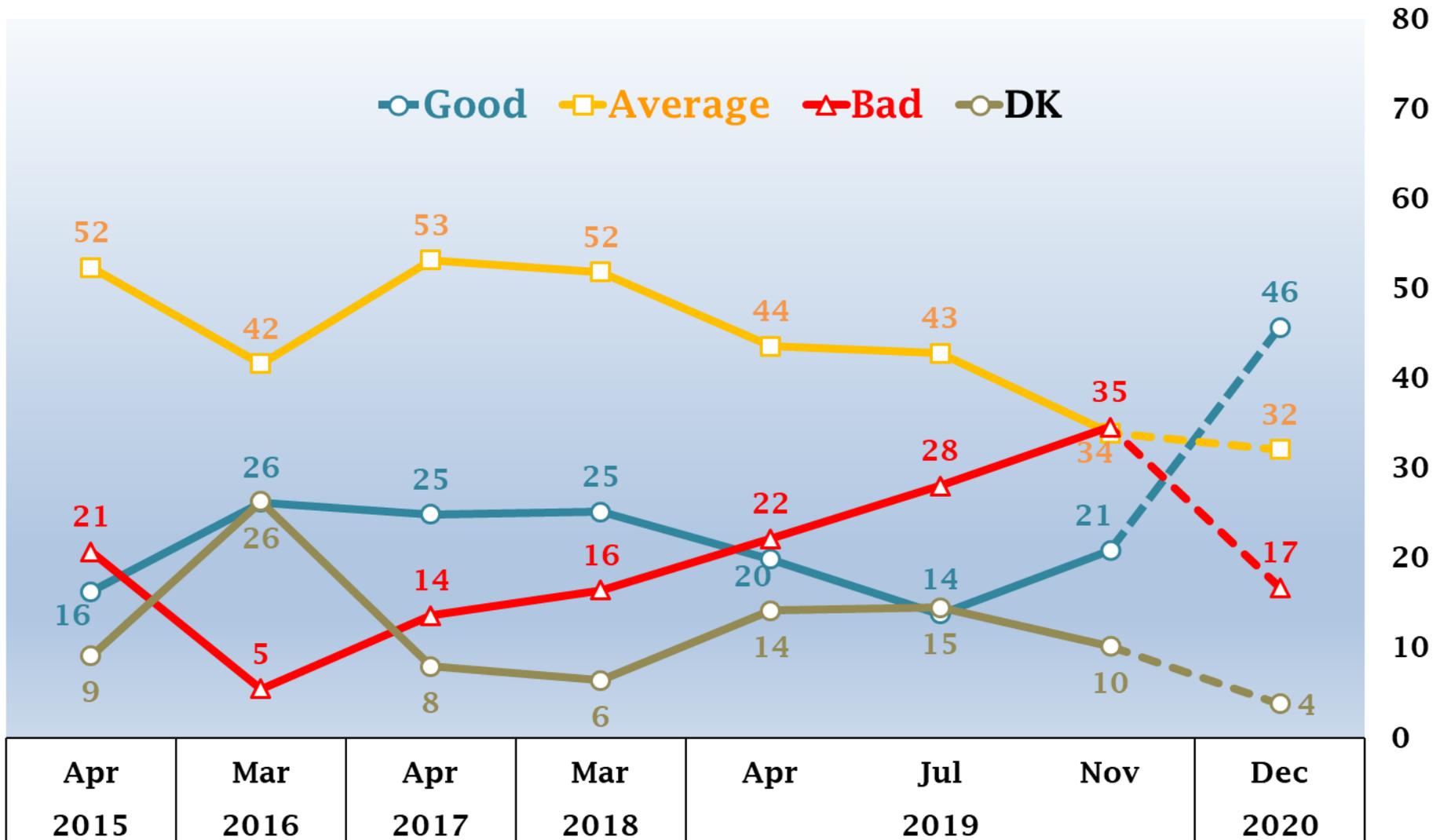
The Courts



# Performance of the Prime Minister

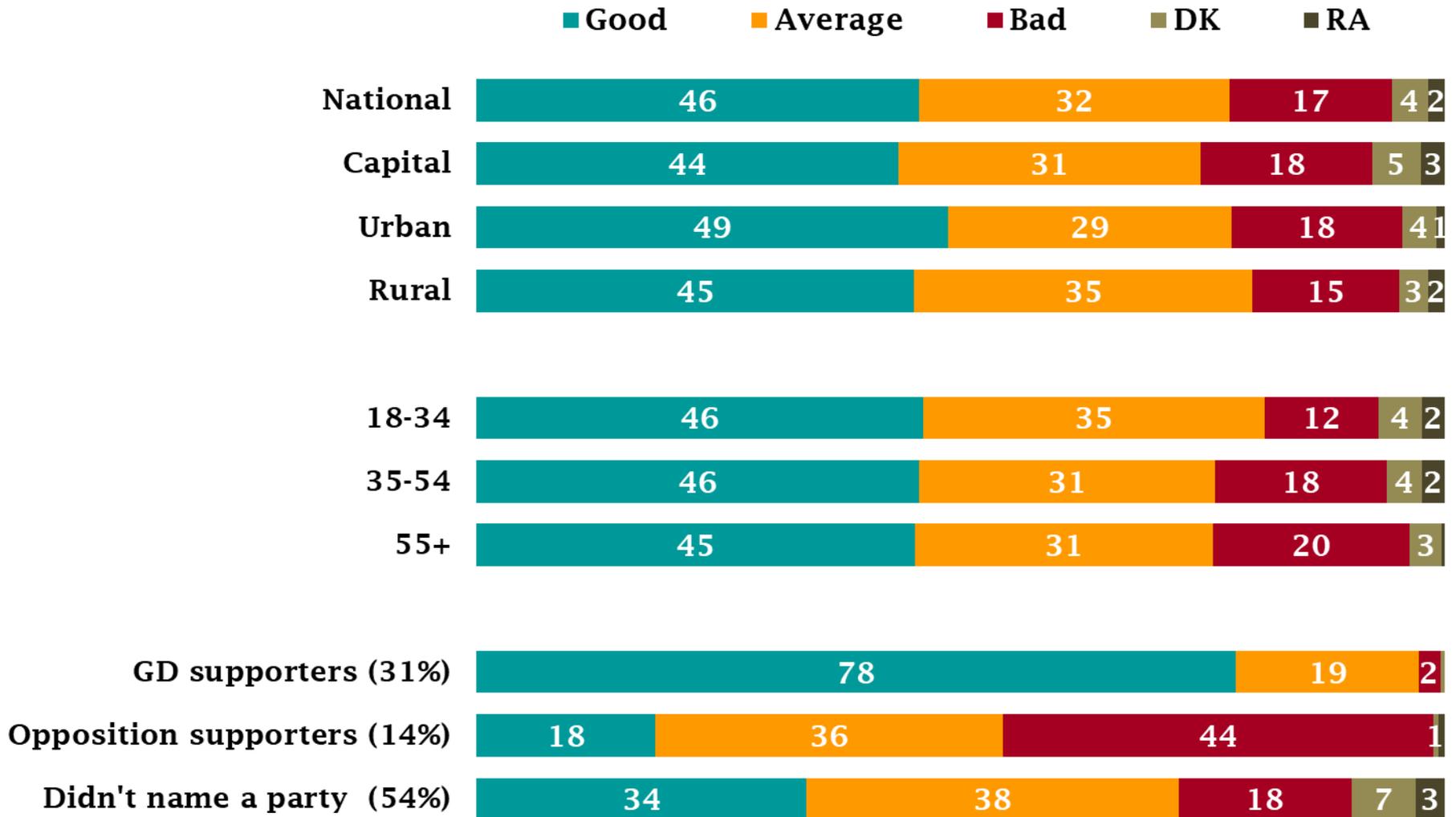
How would you rate the performance of the prime minister? (q6\_1)

\*Dashed line represents change in method from face-to-face to telephone



# Performance of the PM Giorgi Gakharia

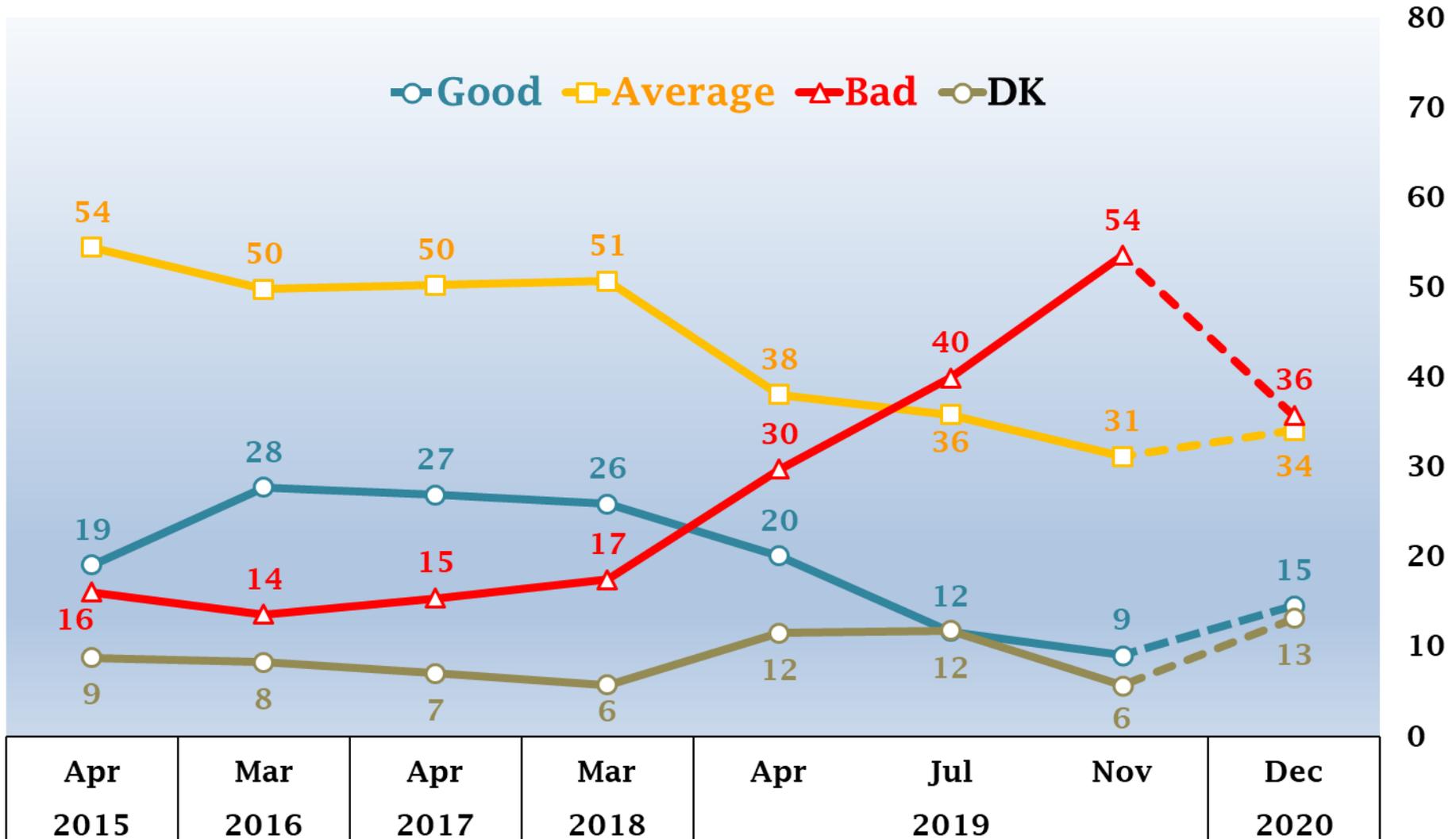
How would you rate the performance of the prime minister Giorgi Gakharia? (q6\_1 X Settlement, Age, Party closest to you)



# Performance of the President

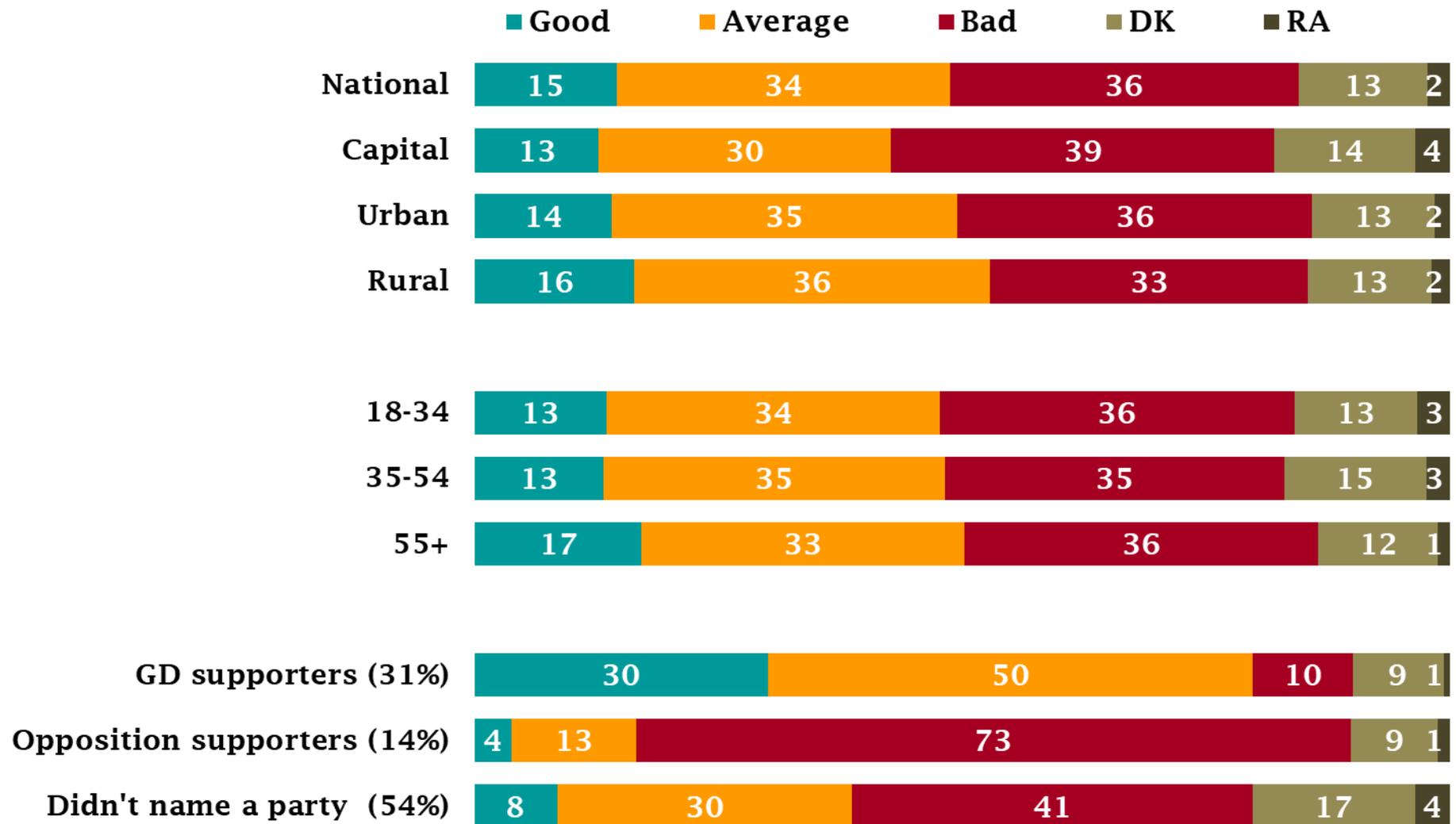
How would you rate the performance of the president? (q6\_2)

\*Dashed line represents change in method from face-to-face to telephone



# Performance of the president

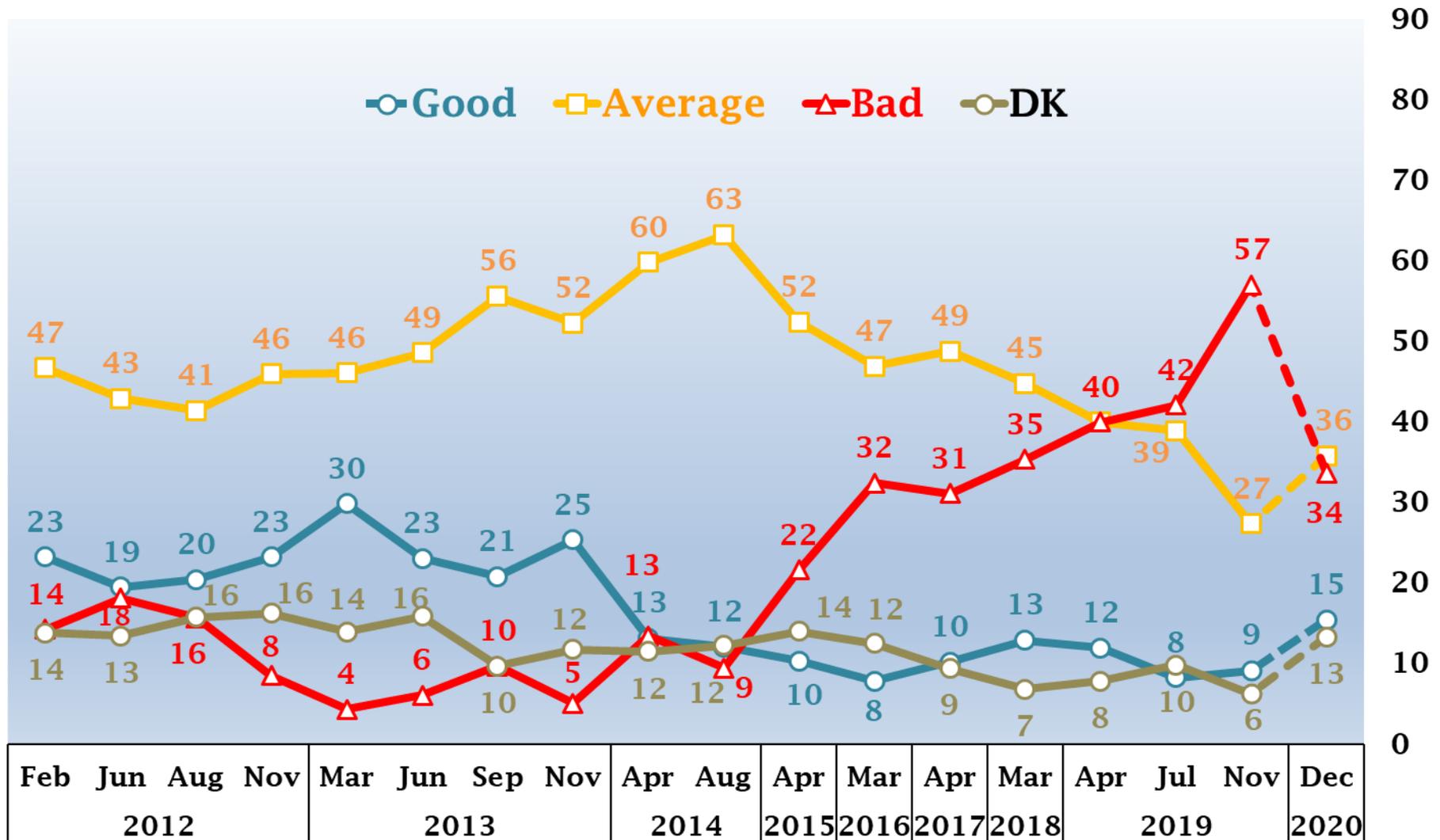
How would you rate the performance of the president Salome Zourabichvili? (q6\_2 X Settlement, Age, Party closest to you)



# Performance of the Parliament

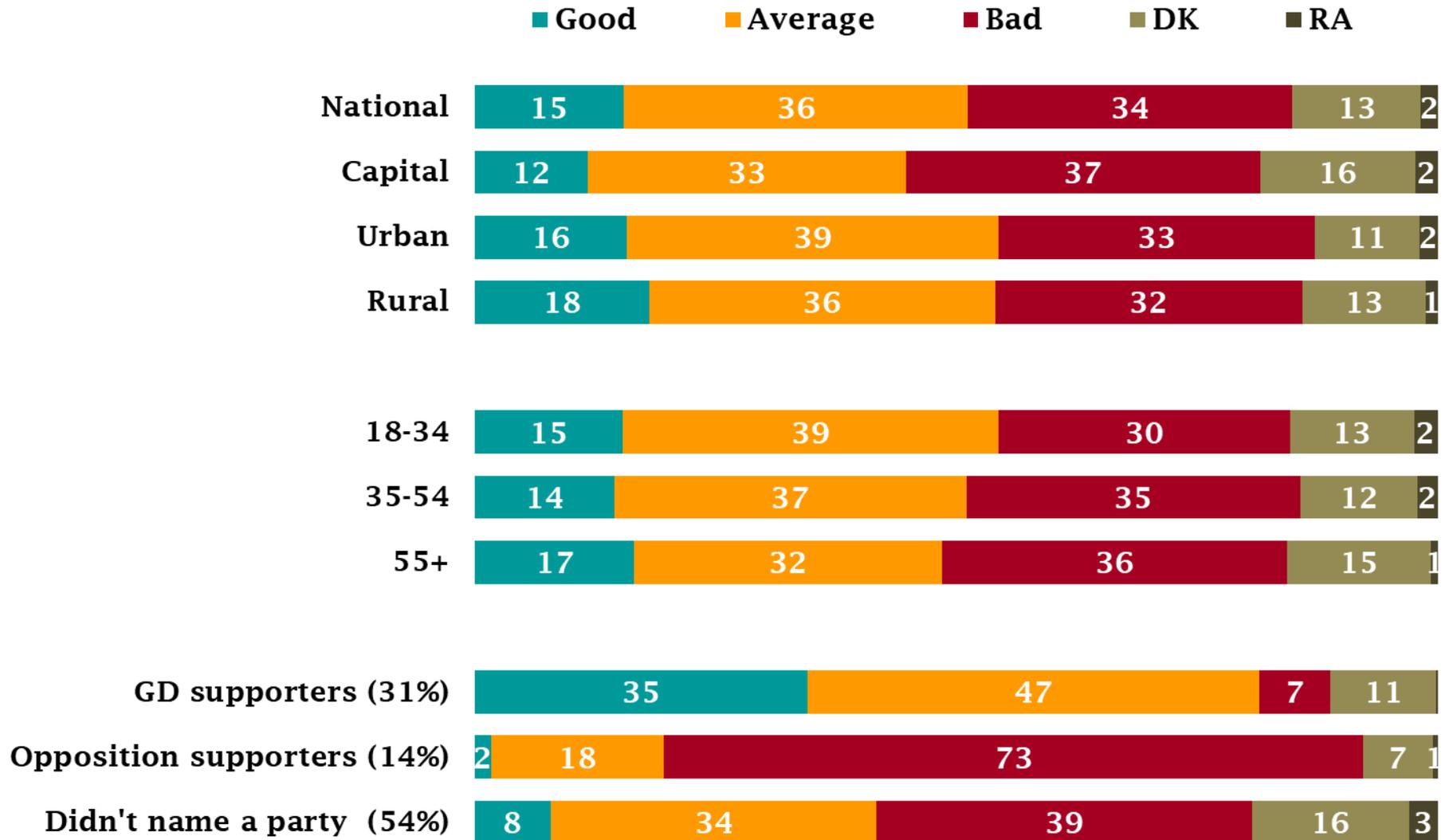
How would you rate the performance of the parliament? (q6\_3)

\*Dashed line represents change in method from face-to-face to telephone



# Performance of the parliament

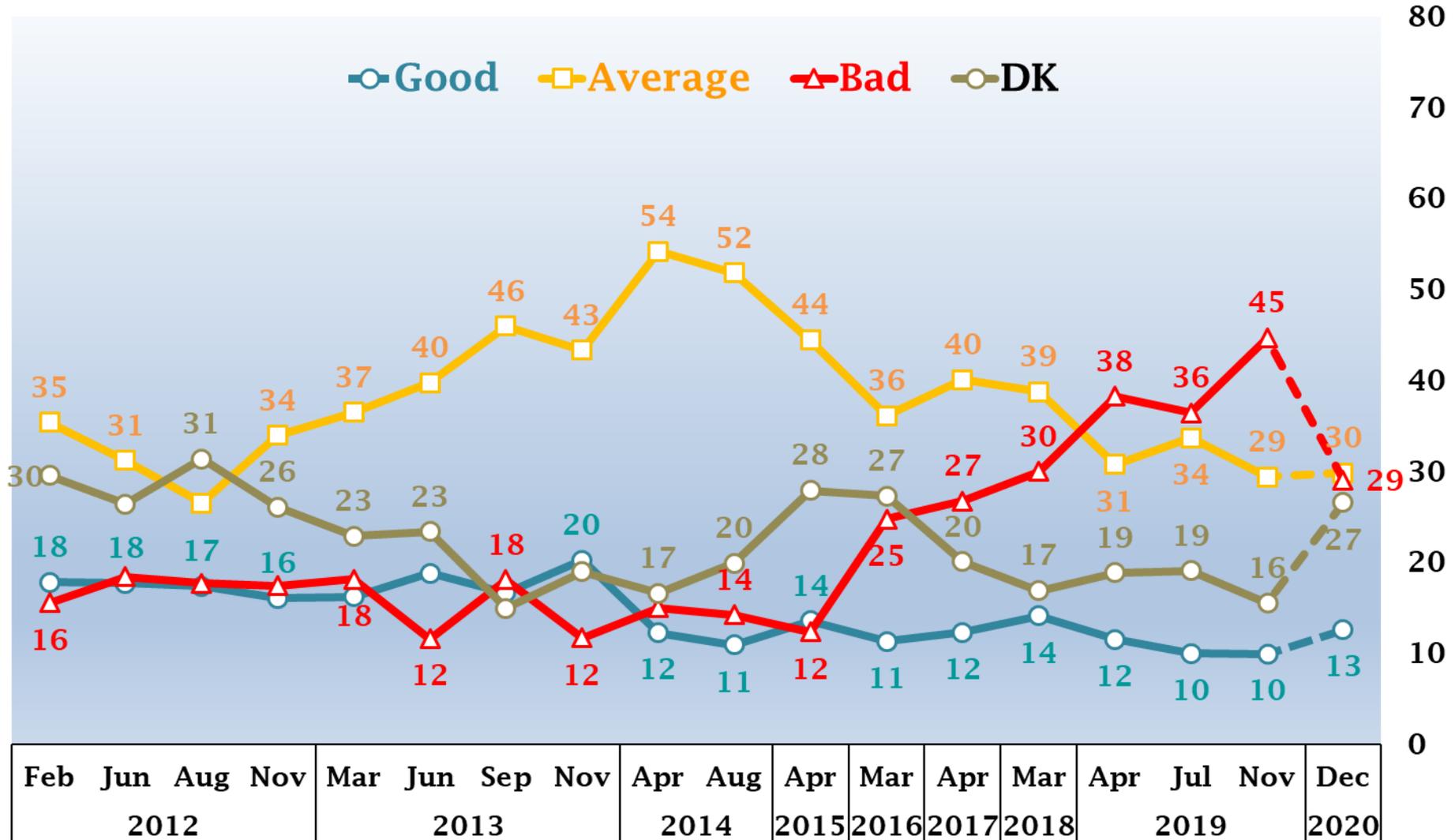
How would you rate the performance of the parliament?  
(q6\_3 X Settlement, Age, Party closest to you)



# Performance of courts

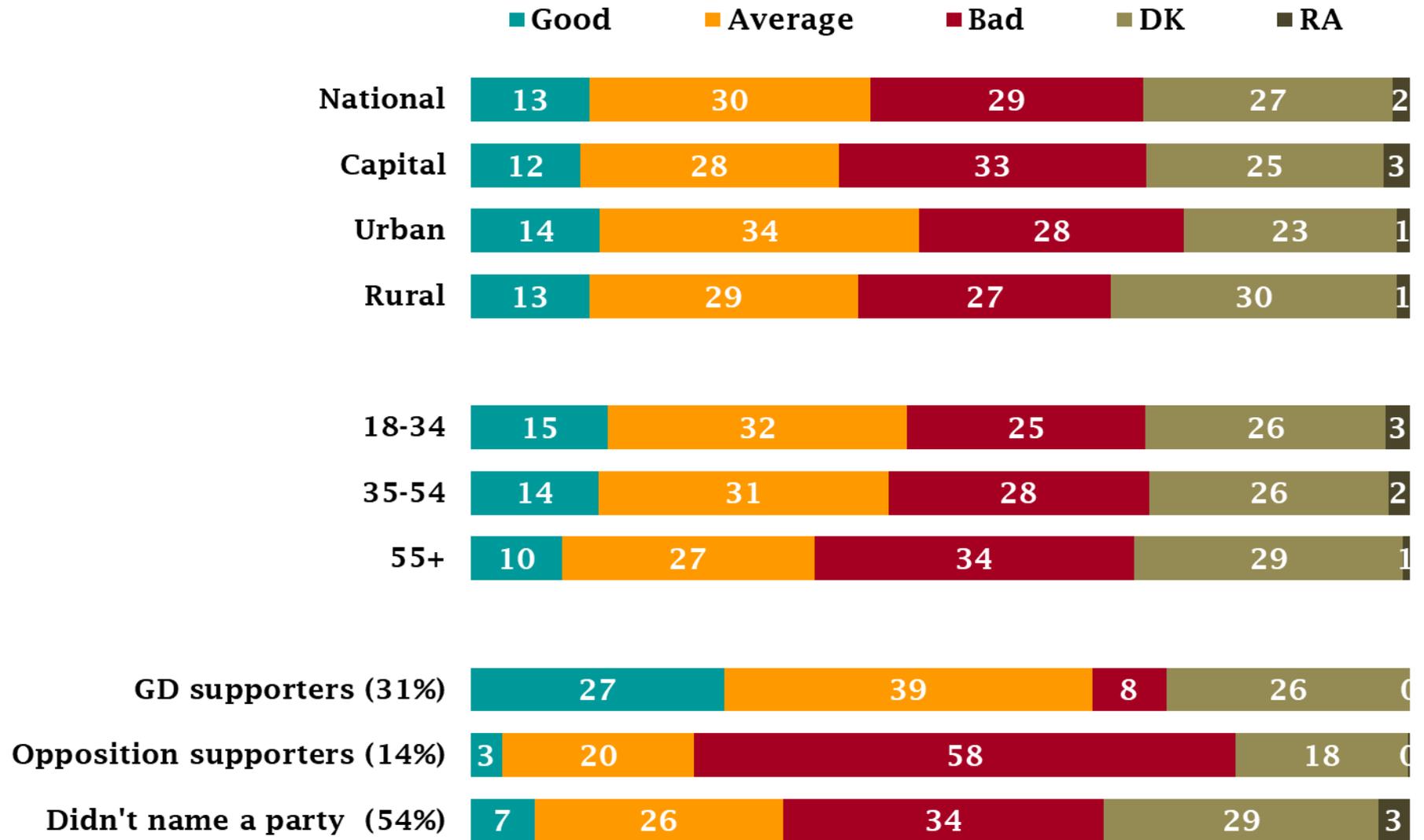
How would you rate the performance of the courts? (q6\_4)

\*Dashed line represents change in method from face-to-face to telephone



# Performance of the courts

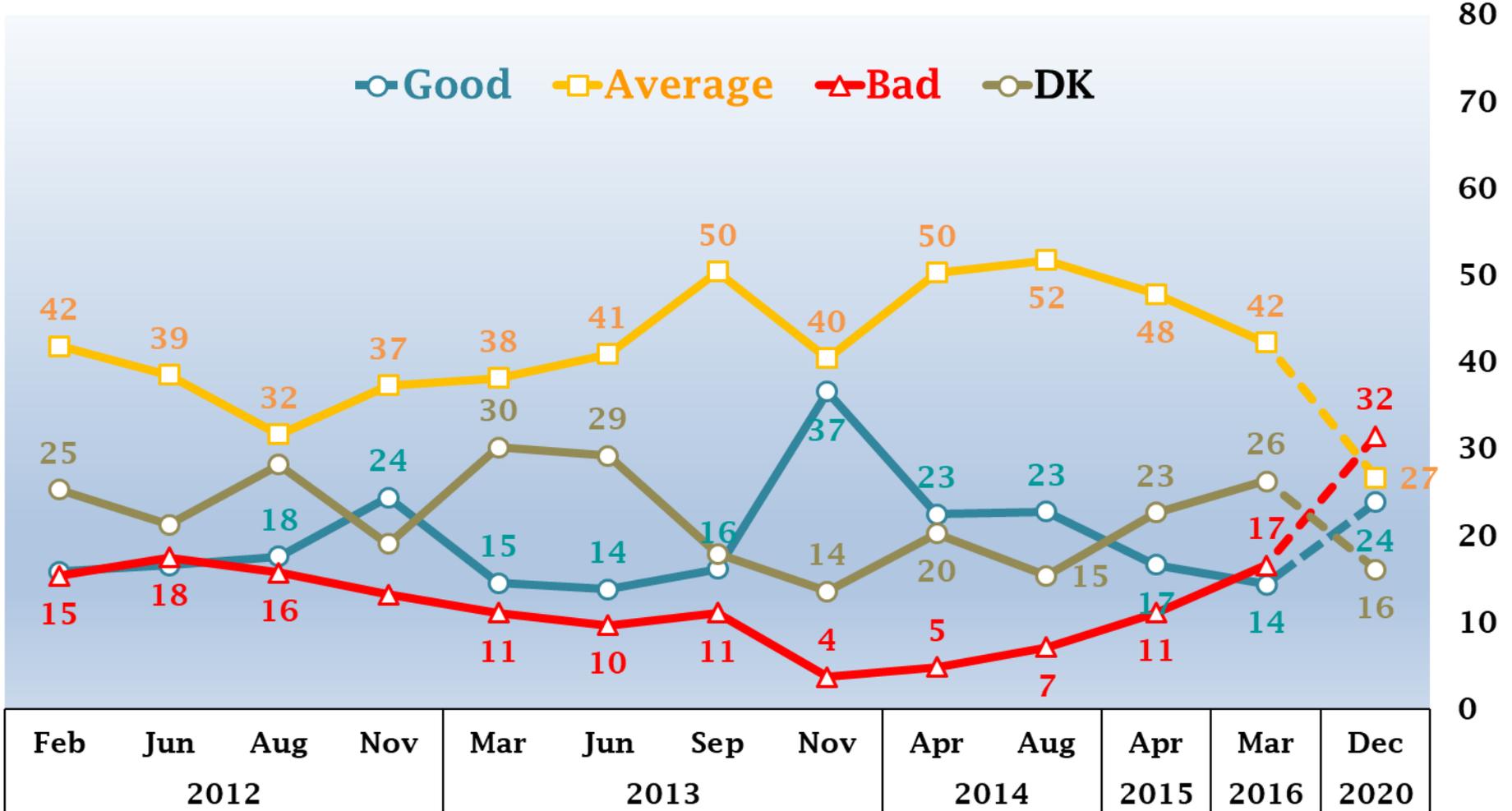
How would you rate the performance of the courts?  
(q6\_4 X Settlement, Age, Party closest to you)



# Performance of the Central Election Commission (CEC)

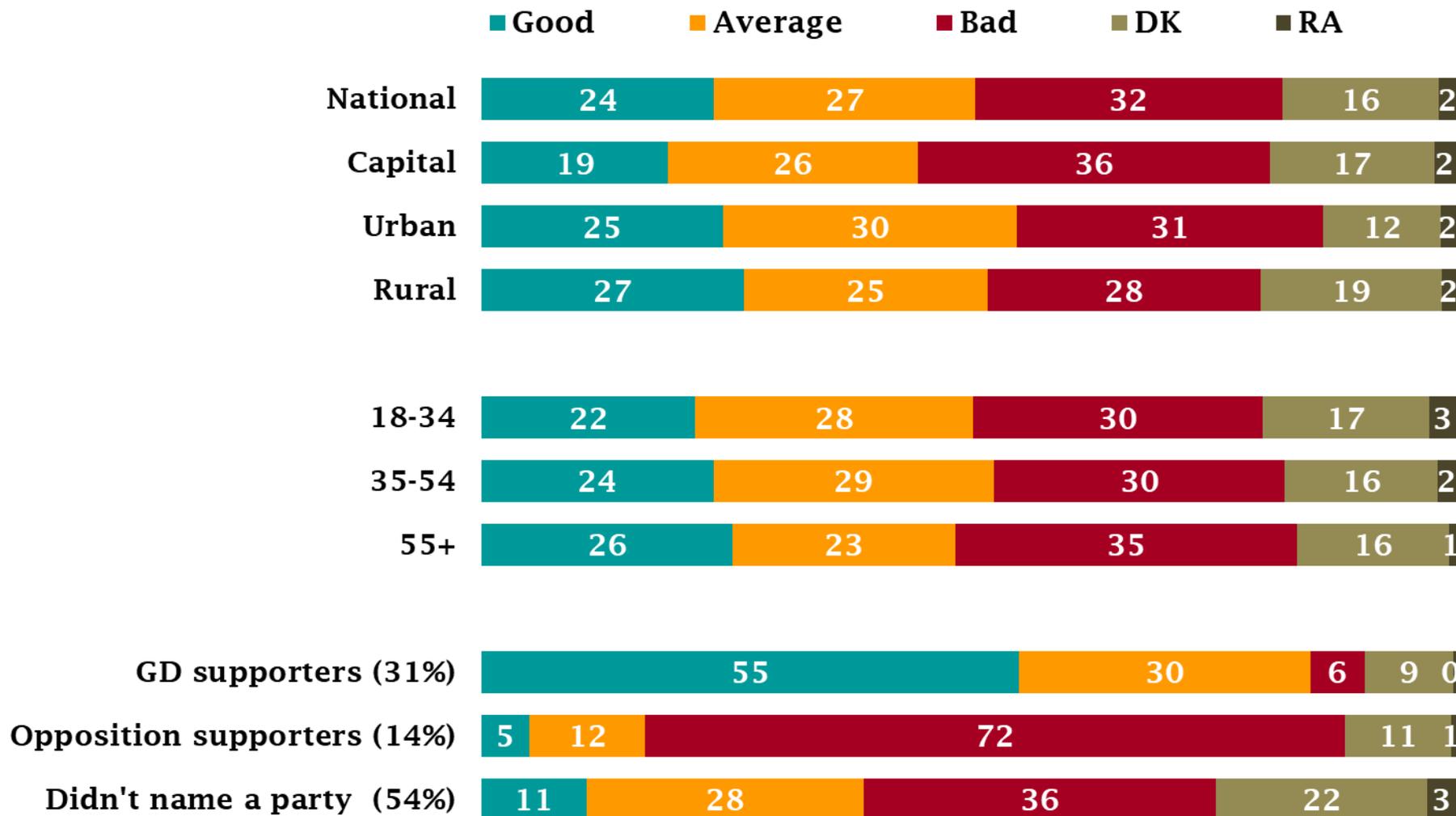
How would you rate the performance of the Central Election Commission (CEC)? (q6\_5)

\*Dashed line represents change in method from face-to-face to telephone



# Performance of the Central Election Commission (CEC)

How would you rate the performance of the Central Election Commission (CEC)? (q6\_5 X Settlement, Age, Party closest to you)



# Expectations Towards the New Parliament

# Attitudes towards the Parliament

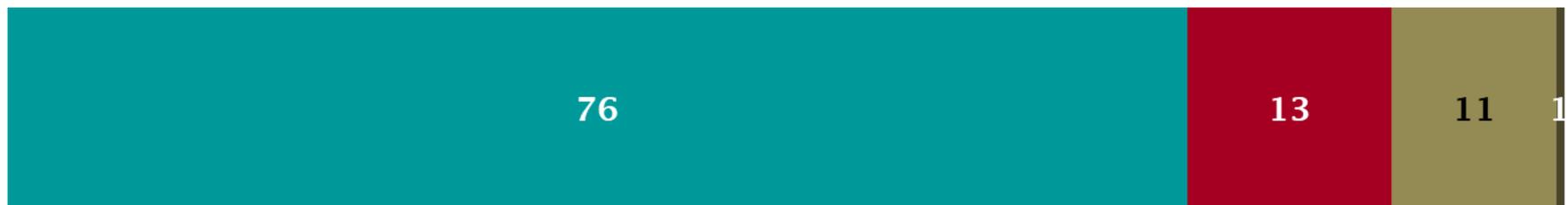
Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (q21)

■ Agree    ■ Disagree    ■ DK    ■ RA

In order for the new parliament to represent interests of people like me, it is important for all political parties to collaborate with each other



In order for the new parliament to represent interests of people like me, it is important that all elected political parties participate in the parliament

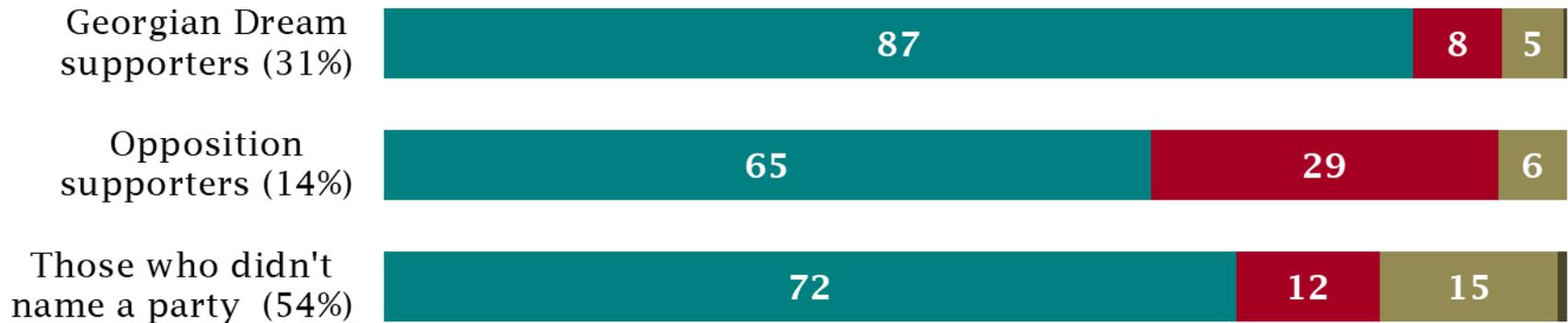


# Attitudes towards the Parliament

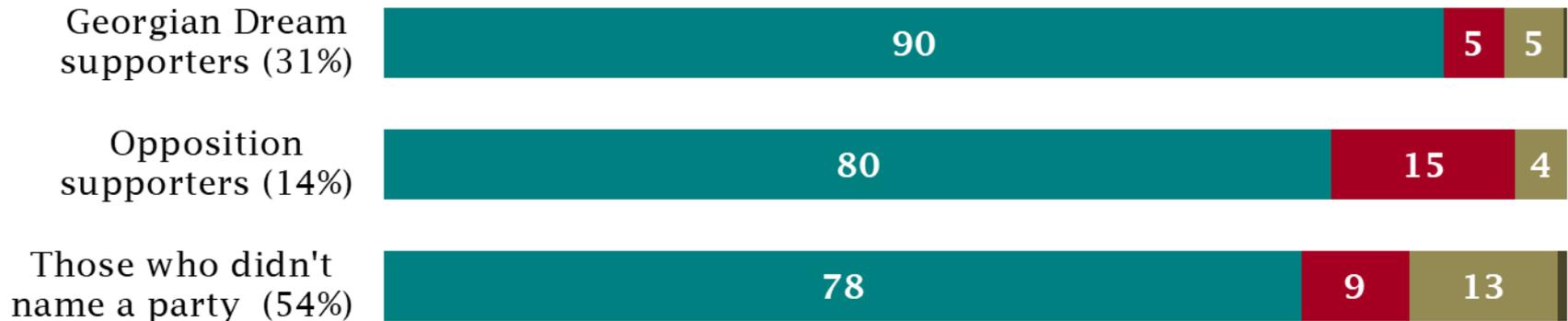
Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?  
(q21 X Party closest to you)

■ Agree ■ Disagree ■ DK ■ RA

**In order for the new parliament to represent interests of people like me, it is important that all elected political parties participate in the parliament**



**In order for the new parliament to represent interests of people like me, it is important for all political parties to collaborate with each other**



# Expectations towards the parliament

Thinking about the new parliament, what are your expectations about it?  
Do you agree or disagree that: (q22)

■ Agree ■ Disagree ■ DK ■ RA

The new parliament will work on issues that matter to me



New parliament will be more effective in overseeing the government



New parliament members will behave in ethical way



New parliament will engage CSOs more actively in the parliamentary work



New parliament will engage me/citizens like me more actively in parl. work

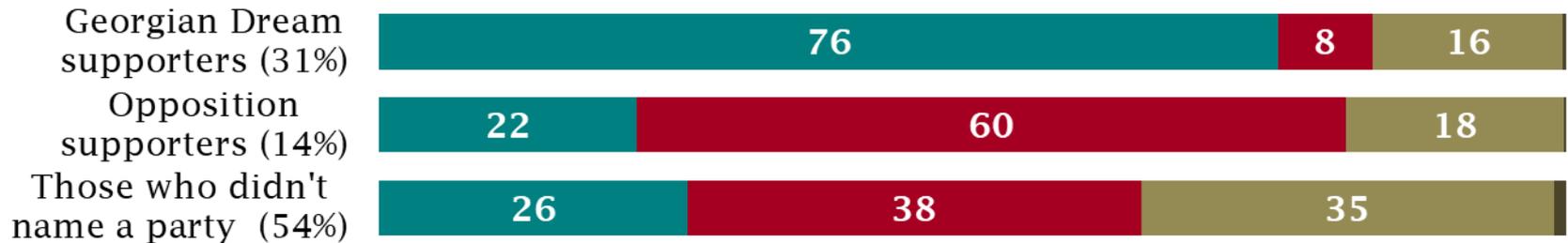


# Expectations towards the parliament

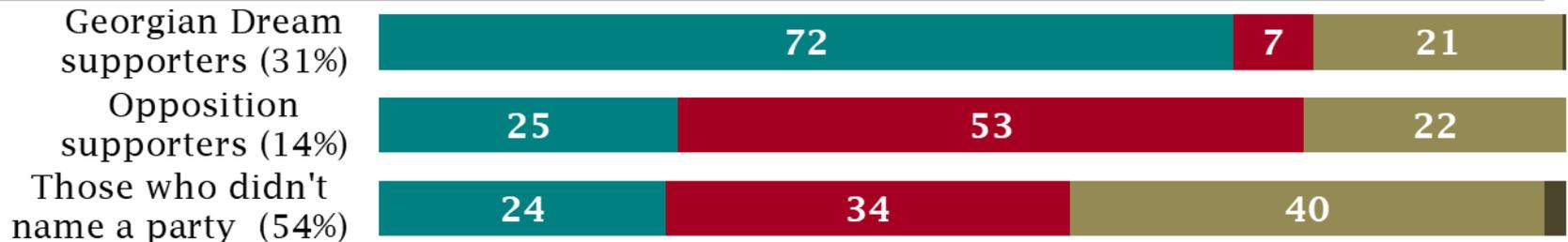
Thinking about the new parliament, what are your expectations about it? Do you agree or disagree that: (q22 X Party closest to you) Part 1

■ Agree ■ Disagree ■ DK ■ RA

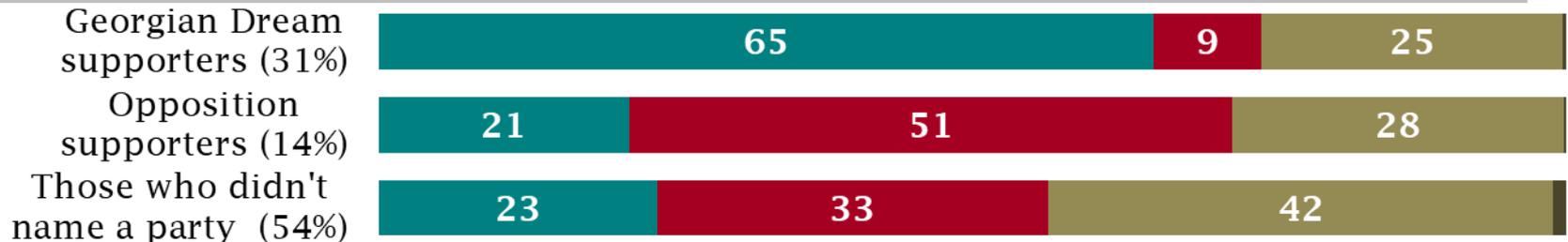
## The new parliament will work on issues that matter to me



## New parliament will be more effective in overseeing the government



## New parliament members will behave in ethical way



# Expectations towards the parliament

Thinking about the new parliament, what are your expectations about it?  
Do you agree or disagree that: (q22 X Party closest to you) Part 2

■ Agree ■ Disagree ■ DK ■ RA

## New parliament will engage CSOs more actively in the parliamentary work



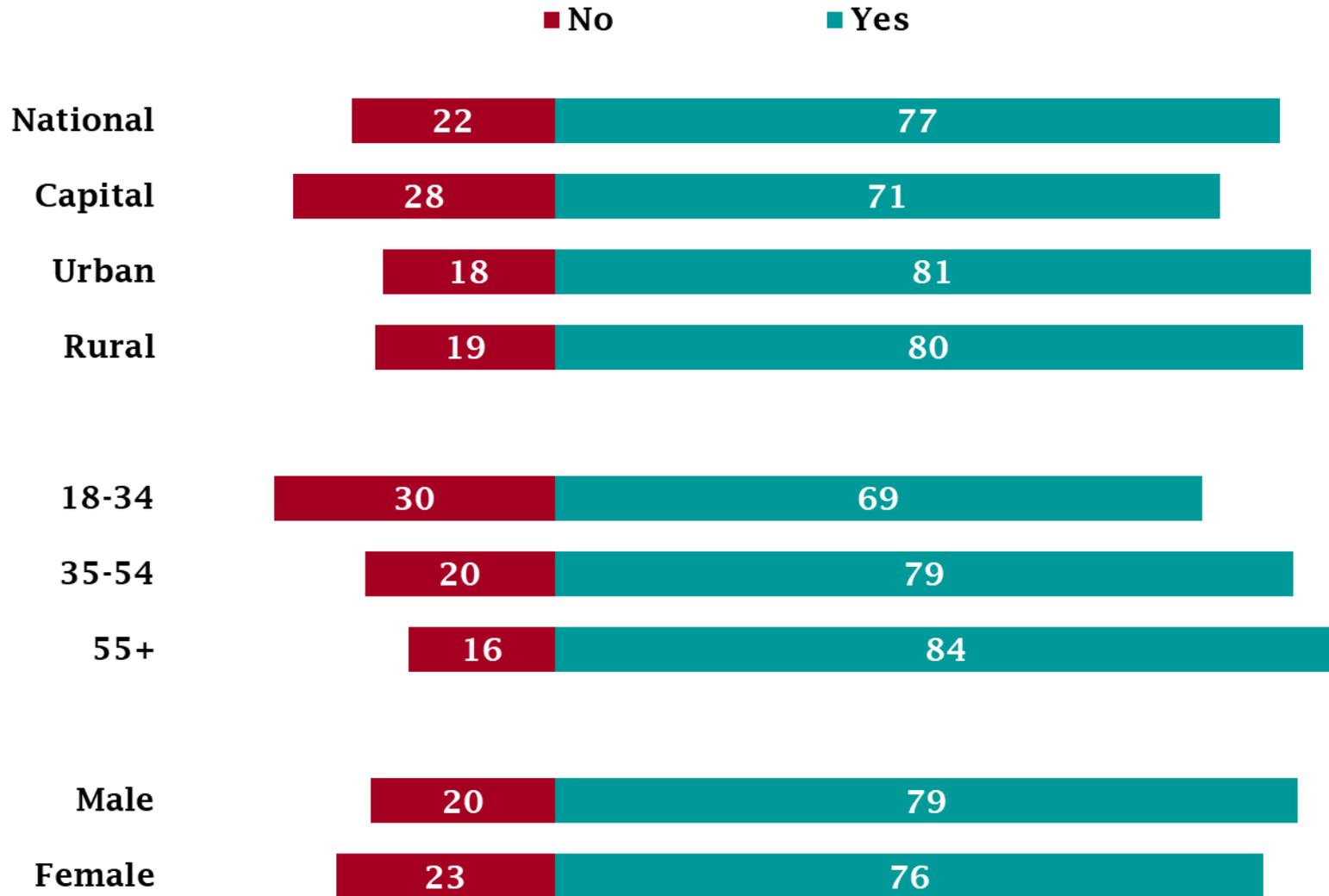
## New parliament will engage me/citizens like me more actively in parl. work



# Assessment of 2020 Elections

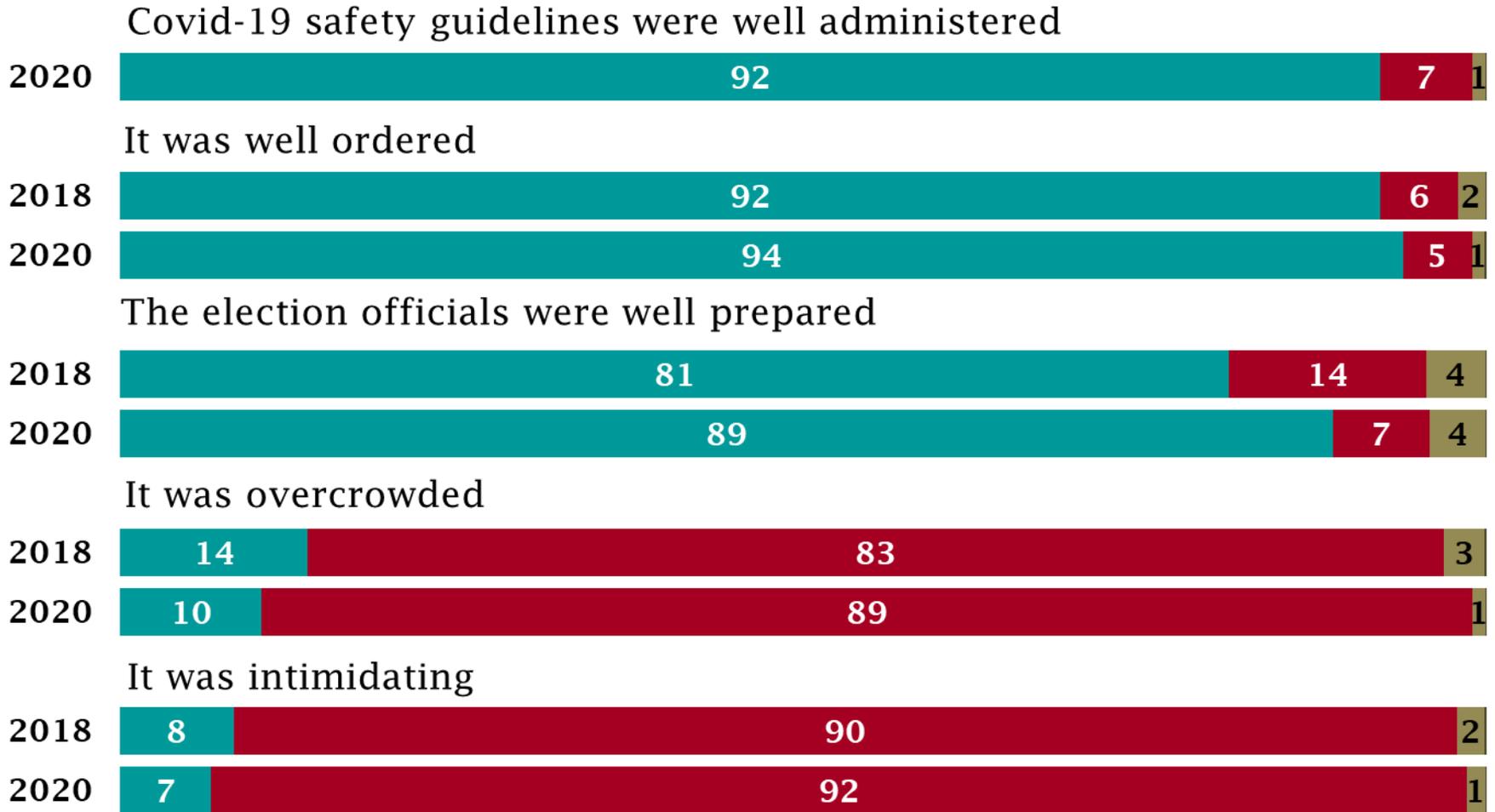
# Voter turnout

Did you vote in the first round of parliamentary elections held on October 31? (q14 X Settlement, Age, Gender)



# Polling station environment

Thinking back to the situation when you voted in the polling station/place, please say whether you agree or disagree with the following? (q15)

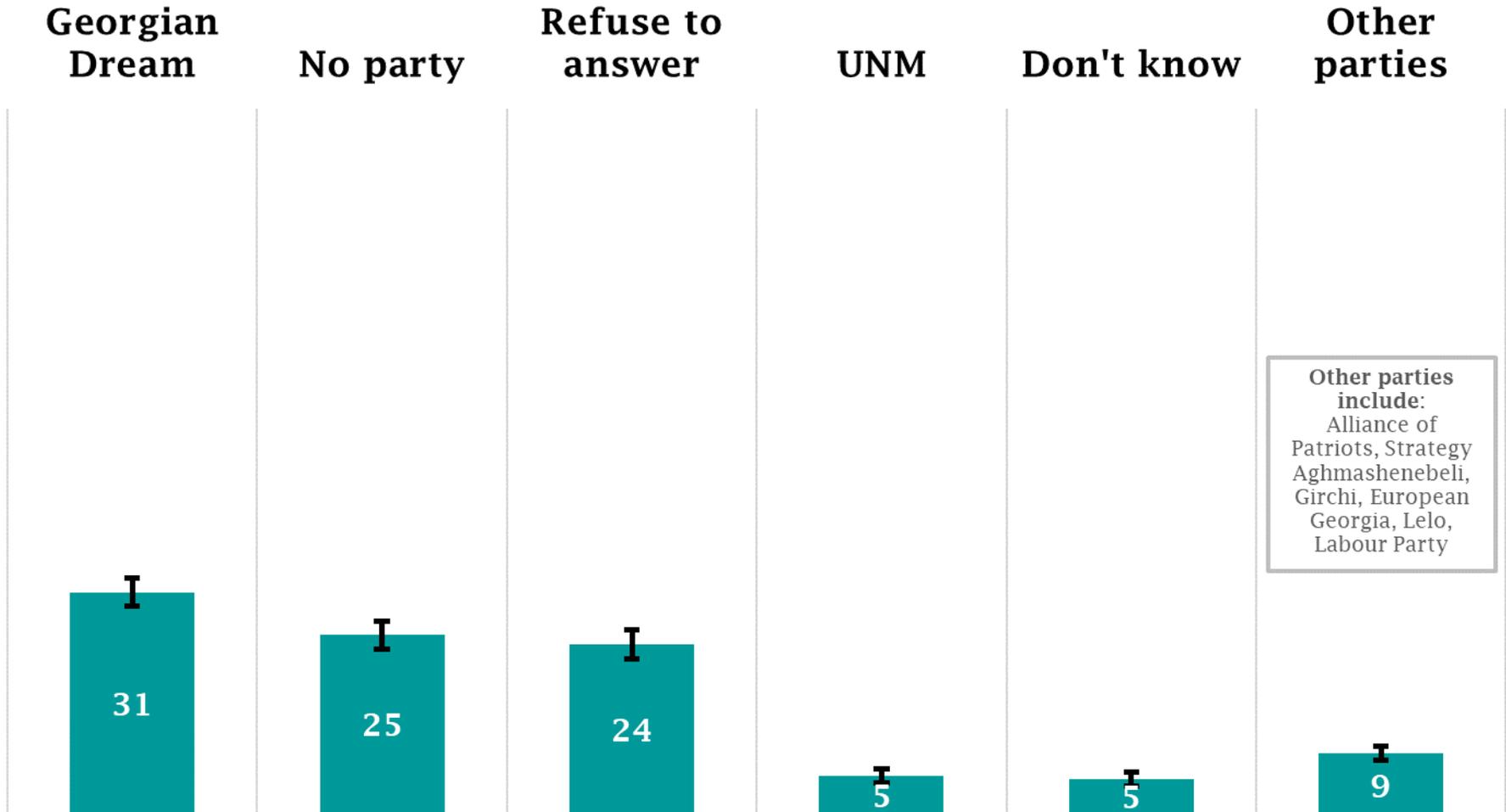


# Party Support

# Party support

Which party is closest to you? (q16)

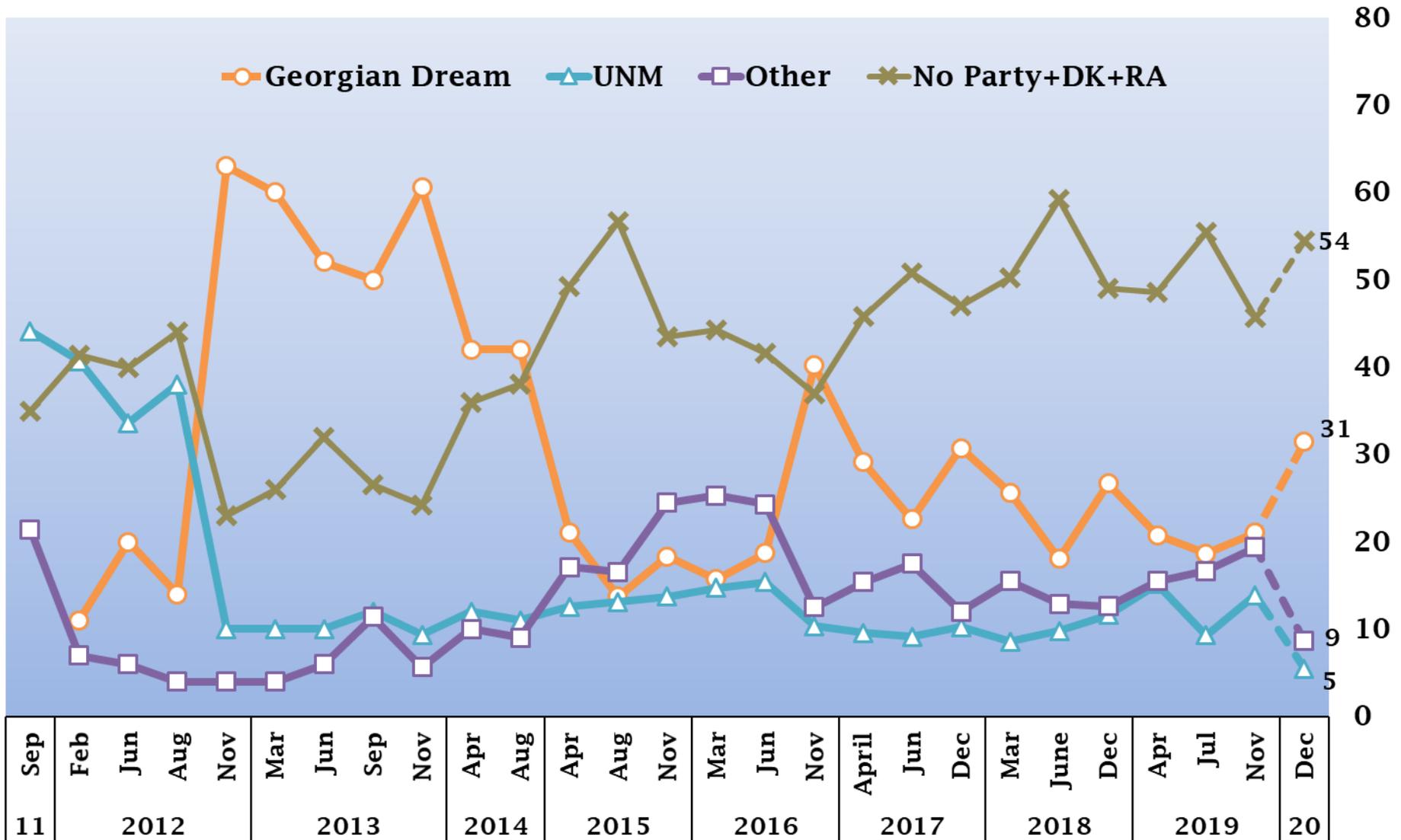
High Refuse to Answer could be explained by switch to telephone polling



# Party support

Which party is closest to you? (q16)

\*Dashed line represents change in method from face-to-face to telephone



# **NDI-CRRC POLLS AVAILABLE AT:**

→ [www.ndi.org/georgia-polls](http://www.ndi.org/georgia-polls)

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