



Perspectives on
Issues, the
Economy,
Leadership and
Voting Intentions

PENANG STATE VOTER OPINION POLL

January 2008

Survey supported by
The New Straits Times Malaysia

Friedrich Naumann Stiftung



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STIFTUNG **FÜR DIE FREIHEIT**

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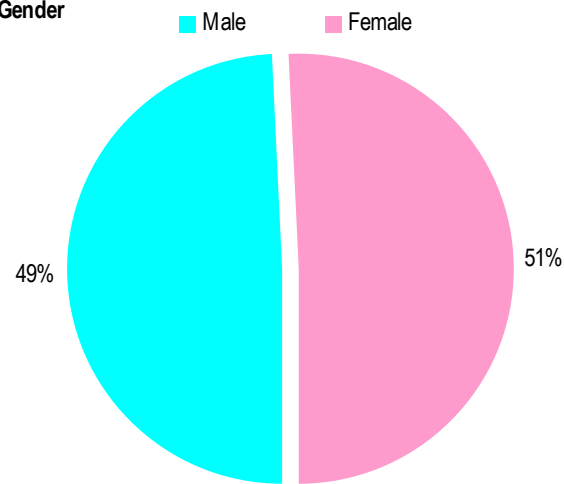
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Methodology

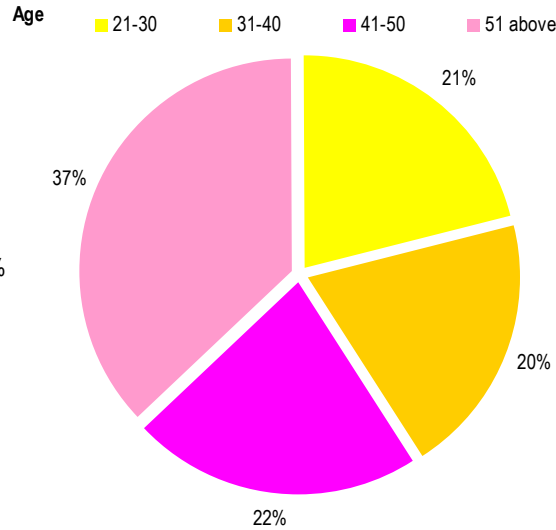
- 1,221 randomly selected respondents aged 21+ were interviewed via telephone for the survey
- Respondents were selected via random stratified sampling method along the lines of parliamentary district of residence, ethnicity, gender and age.
- Survey was carried out between 18th to 27th January 2008
- Survey margin of error estimated at $\pm 2.80\%$

Respondent Profile

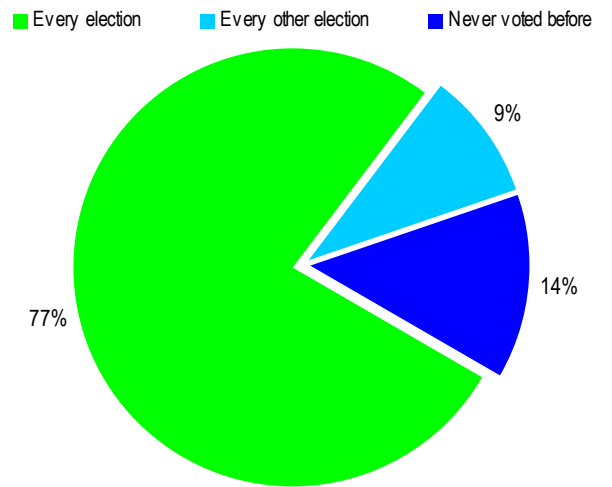
Gender



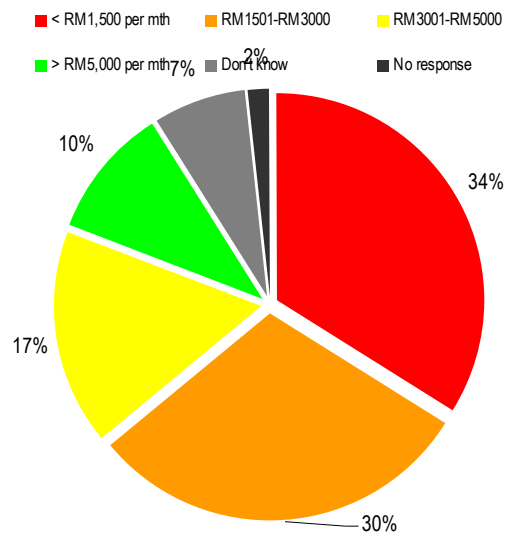
Age



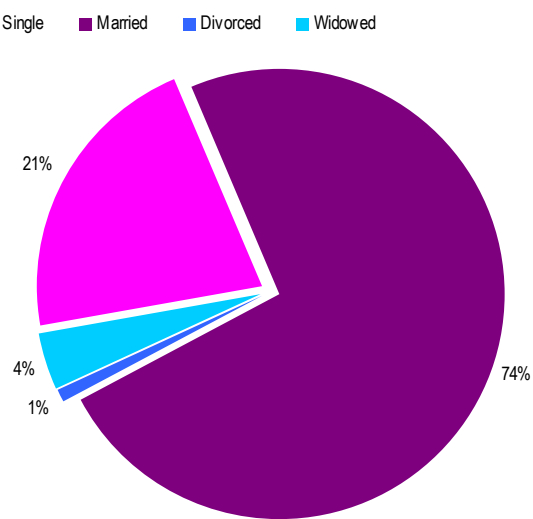
Voting status



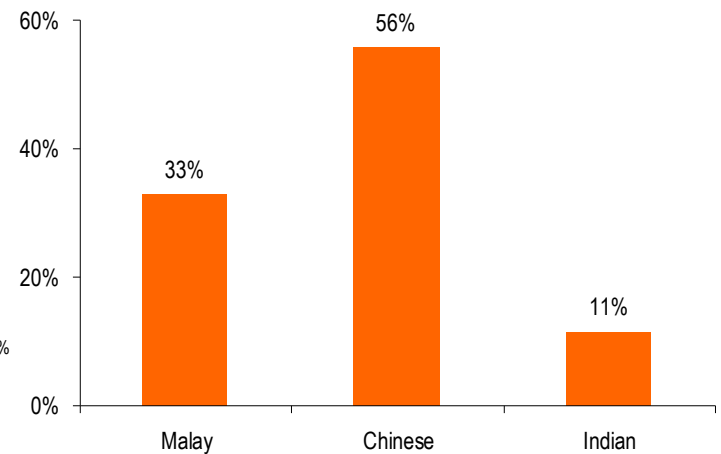
Total of household income



Marital status



Ethnicity



Respondent Profile

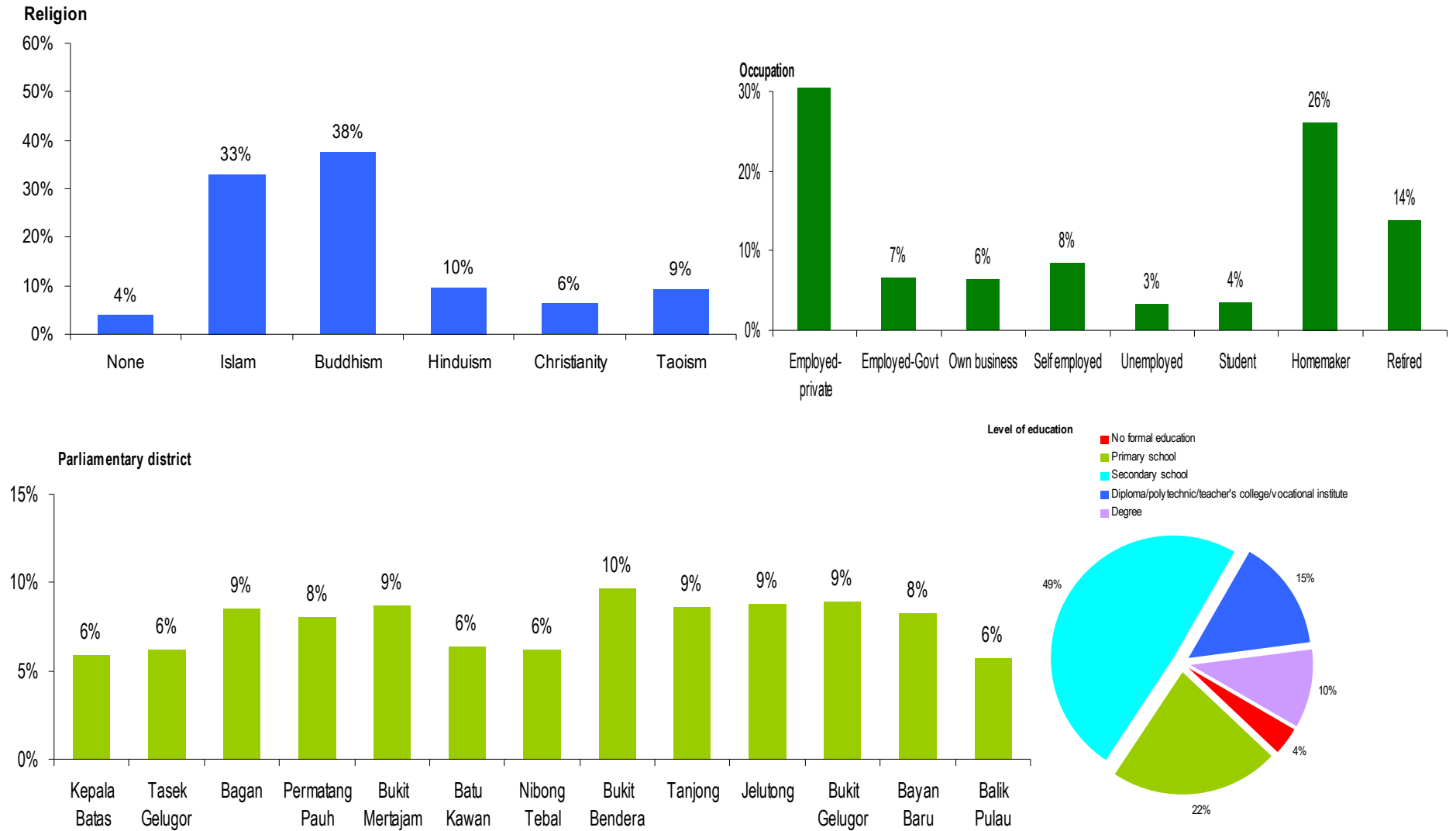


Chart 6

Methodology

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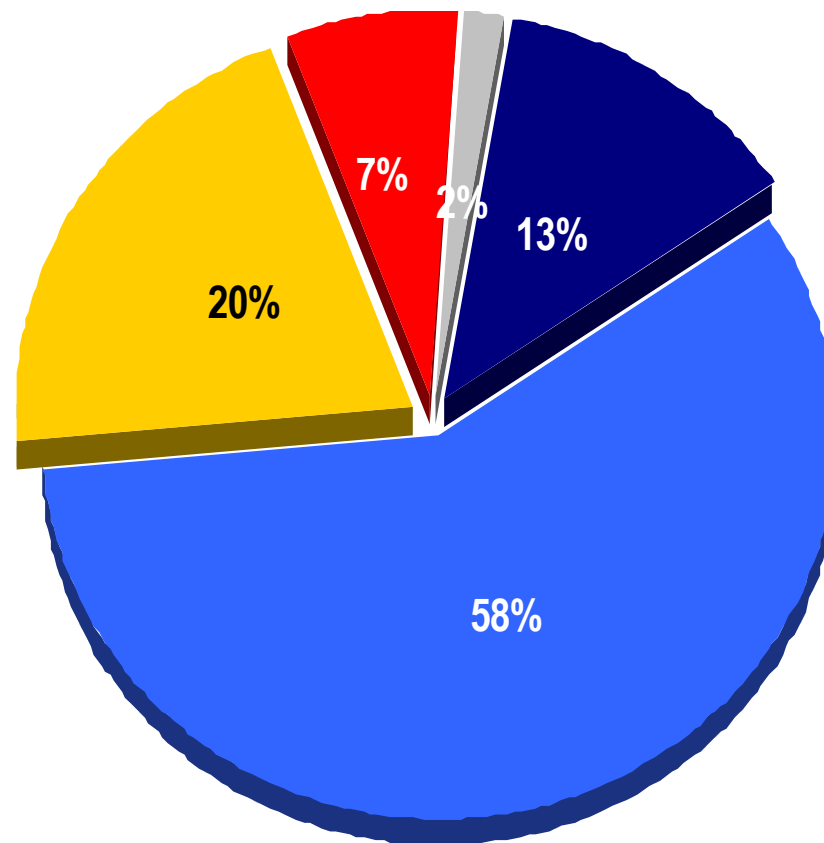
National & Local Issues

Overview, National and Local Issues

- ❖ Overall large majority remain satisfied with conditions in Penang, findings over time note the stability of this sentiment.
- ❖ Likewise across ethnic groups, national issues appear to not have serious impact on life among the public in the state
- ❖ However, top three issues are similar to that of national concerns and sit under the purview of federal bodies: rising prices, crime and ethnic issues (which have sprung into the foreground in the wake of the Hindraf demonstration)
- ❖ While inflation affects all communities, Indians were concern over ethnic equality and the Chinese with rising crime, Malays with crime against children (Sharlinie case) and social problems among the youth
- ❖ Public appeared satisfied only in response to authorities' action on crimes toward children but remain dissatisfied on the top five issues
- ❖ In their neighborhoods, voters are mostly concerned about crime, traffic and inflation
- ❖ Majority however are not satisfied with local and state government performance on these matters

Q1. Generally speaking, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the way things are going in Penang at present?

Very satisfied Somewhat satisfied Somewhat dissatisfied
Very dissatisfied Don't know



Satisfaction with condition of state across time

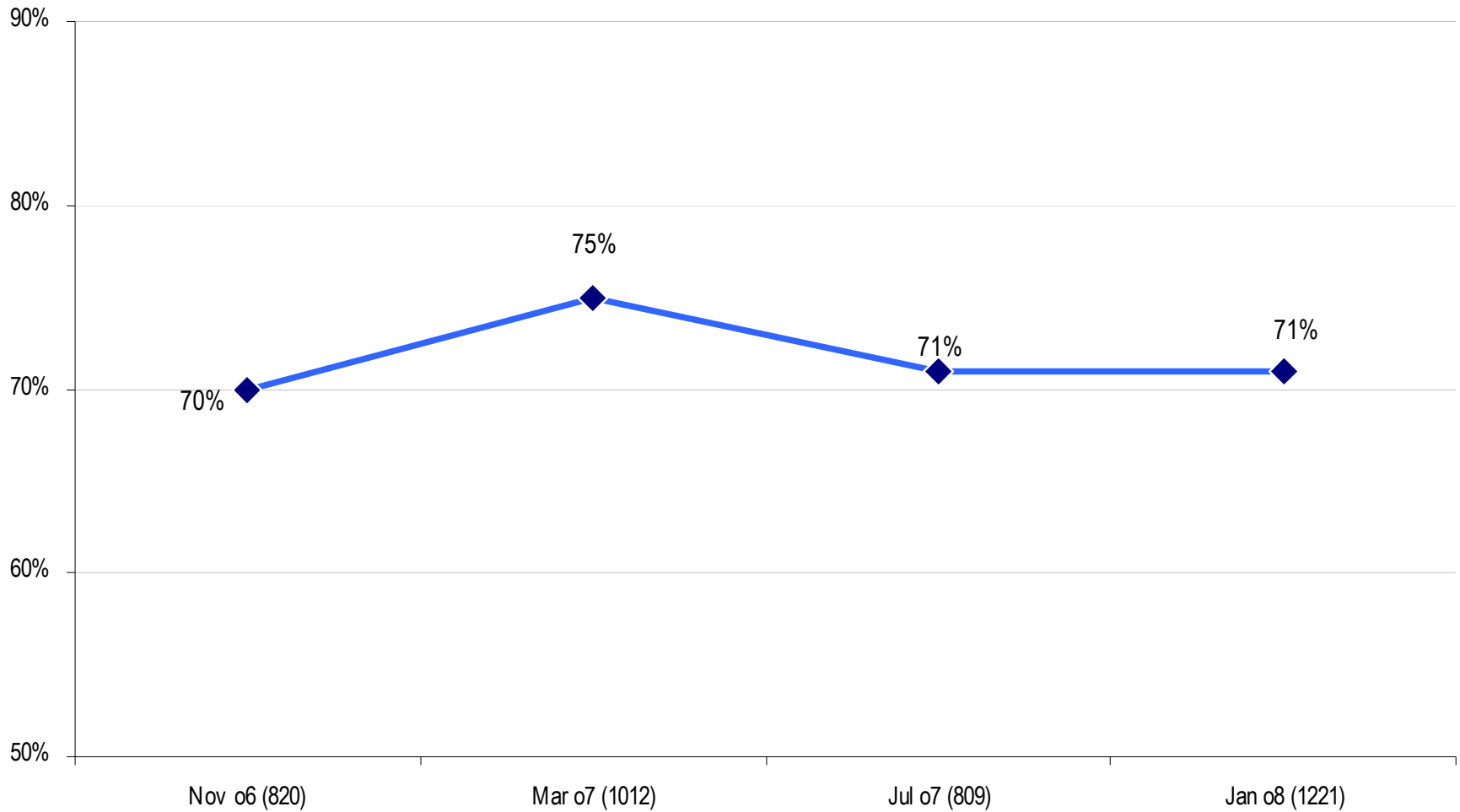
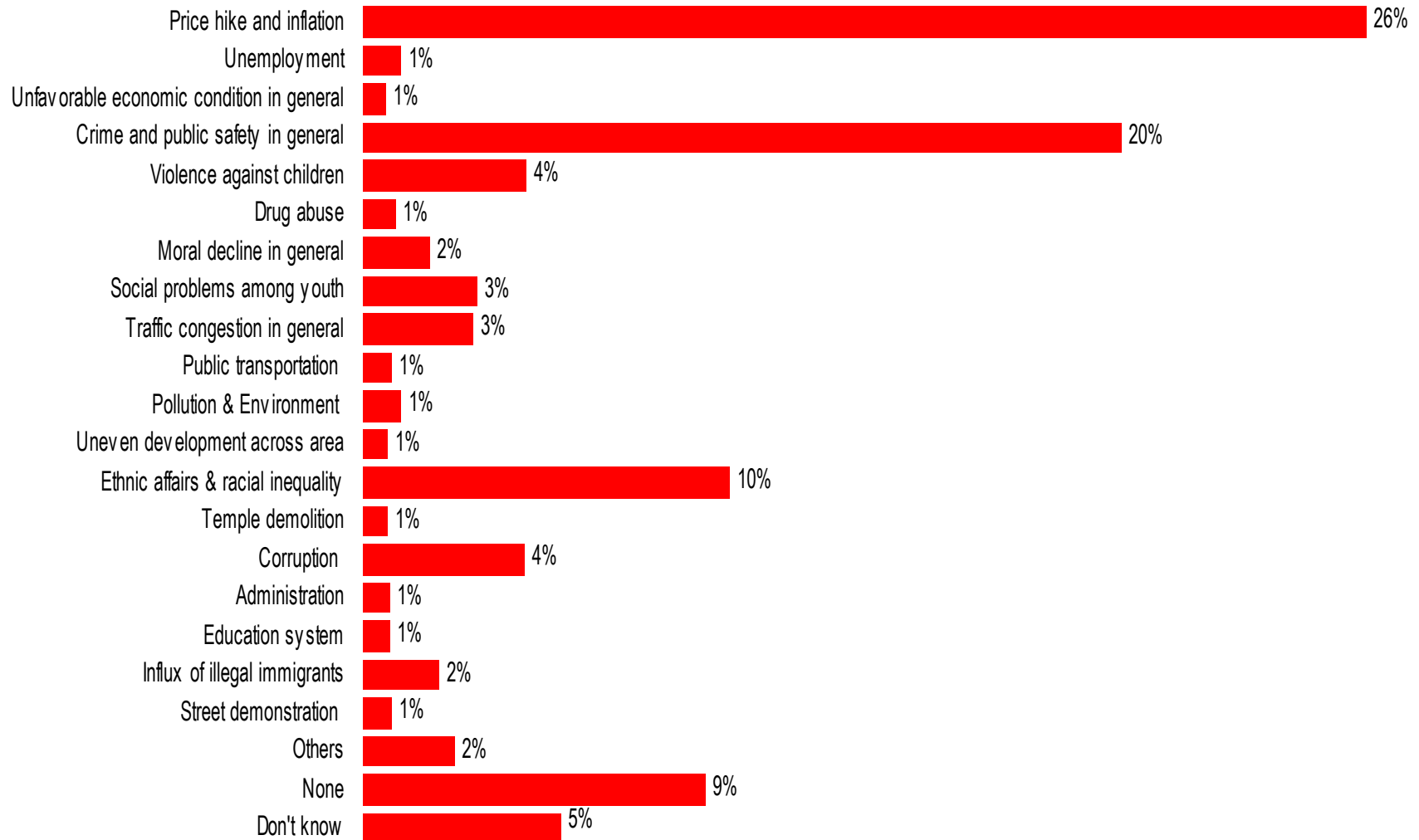


Chart 11

Q2. What in your view, is the most important problem in the country today?



Q2. What in your view, is the most important problem in the country today?

- Price hike and inflation
- Unfavorable economic condition in general
- Violence against children
- Moral decline in general
- Traffic congestion in general
- Pollution & Environment (e.g: rubbish / cleanliness)
- Ethnic affairs & racial inequality
- Corruption in general (e.g:national leader / civil servants)
- Education system
- Street demonstration (e.g: Hindraf)
- None
- Unemployment
- Crime and public safety in general
- Drug abuse
- Social problems among youth
- Public transportation (e.g: bad road system and conditions e.c.t)
- Uneven development across area
- Temple demolition
- Administration
- Influx of illegal immigrants
- Others
- Don't know

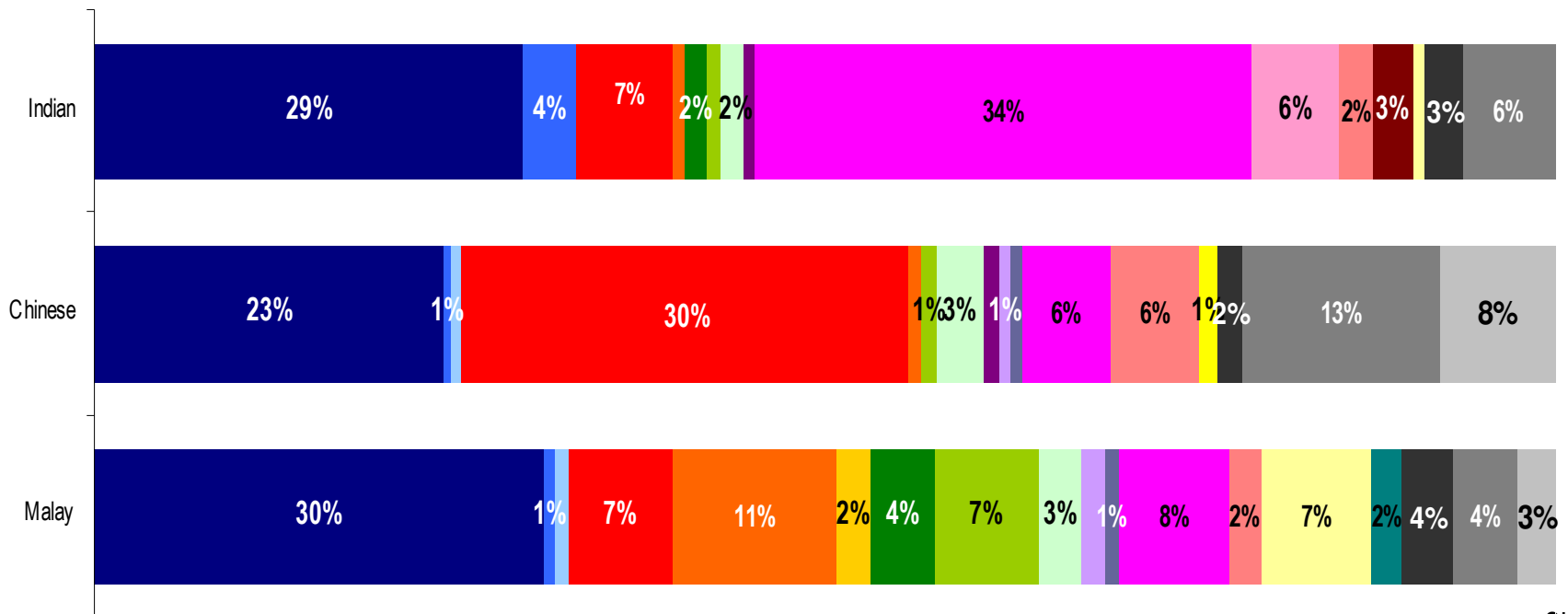


Chart 13

Top 5 national issues vs. Level of satisfaction for solution

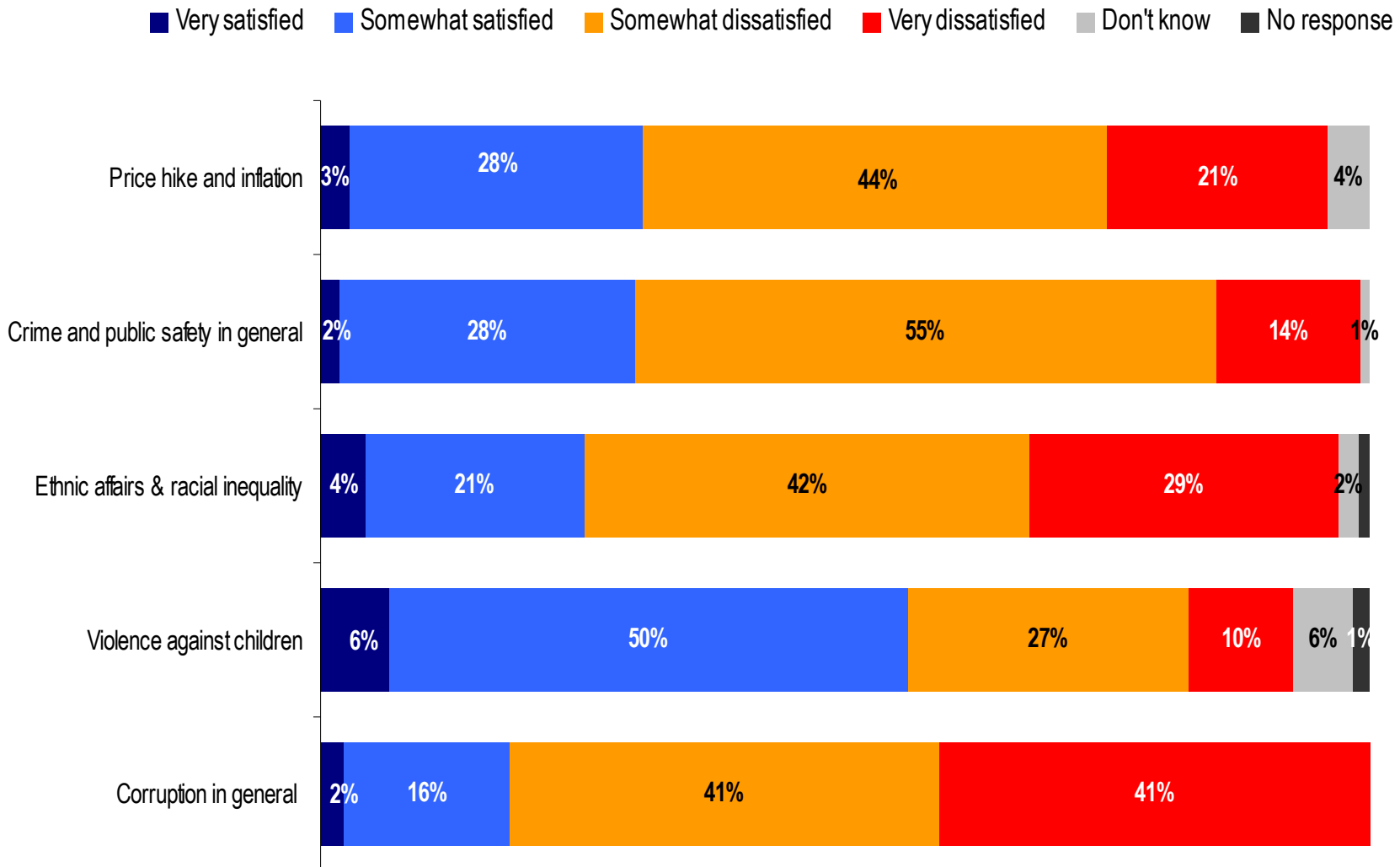


Chart 14

Q4. What in your view, is the most important problem that needs solving in your area?

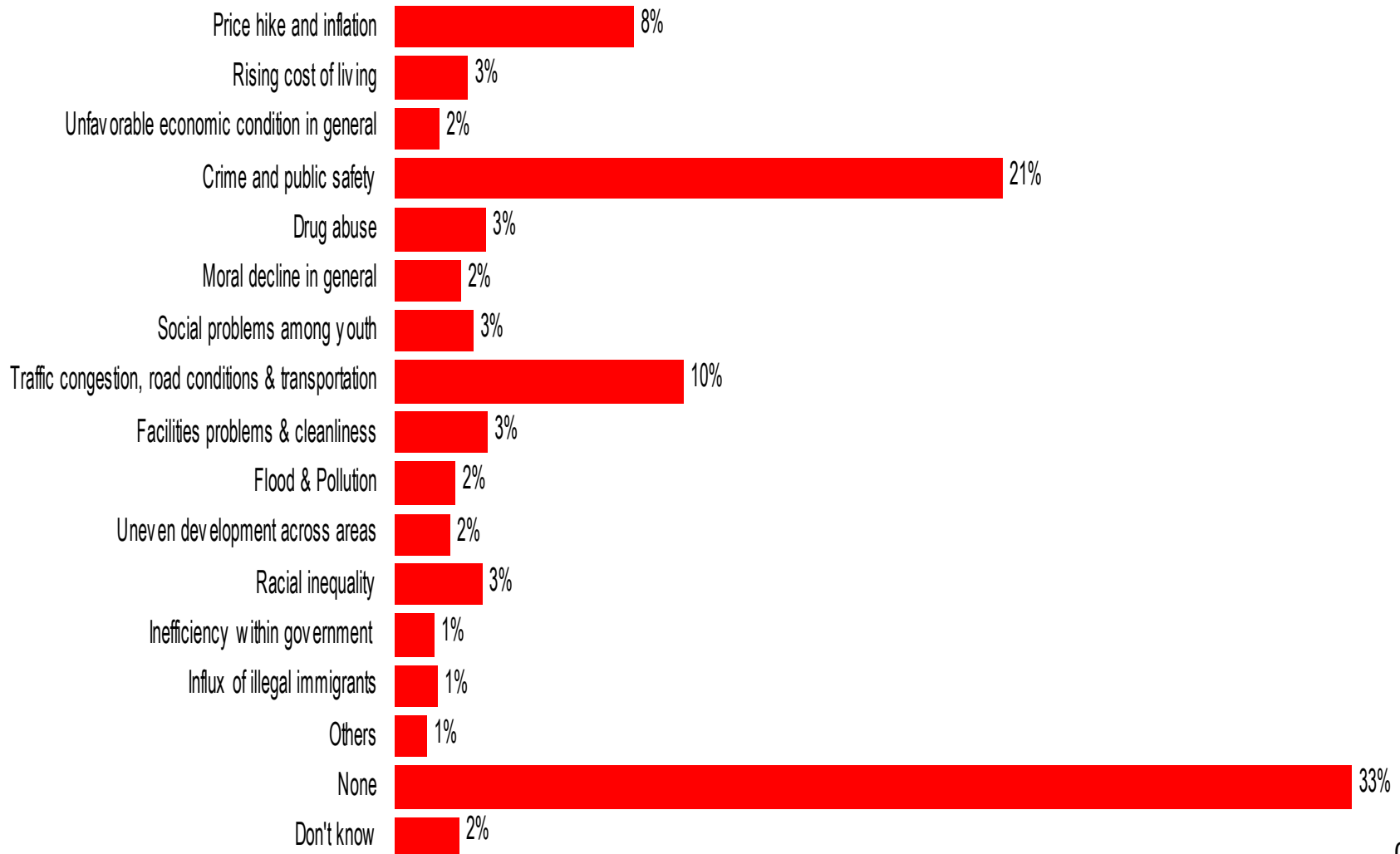


Chart 15

Top 5 local issues vs. Level of satisfaction with solution

■ Very satisfied
 ■ Somewhat satisfied
 ■ Somewhat dissatisfied
 ■ Very dissatisfied
 ■ Don't know
 ■ No response

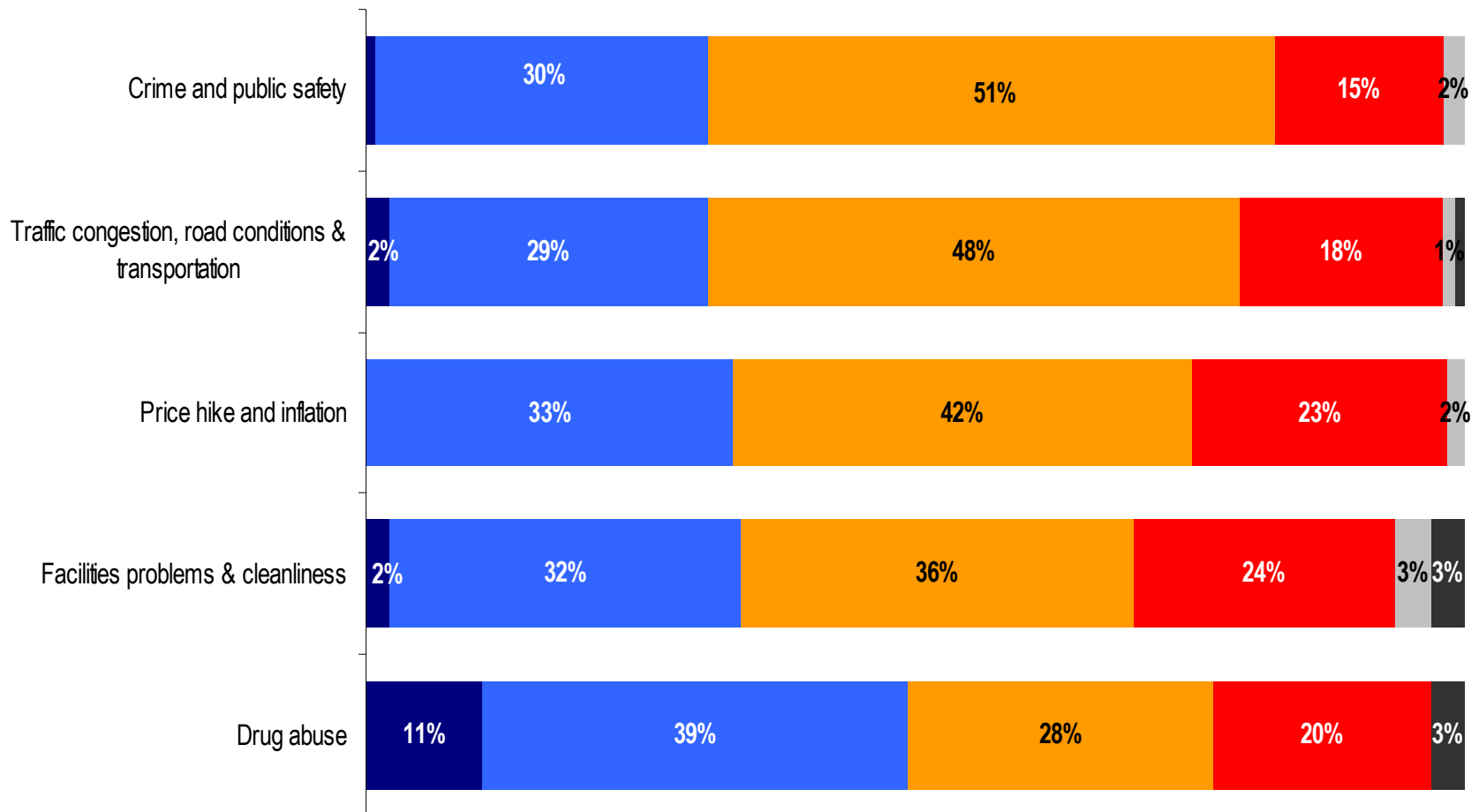
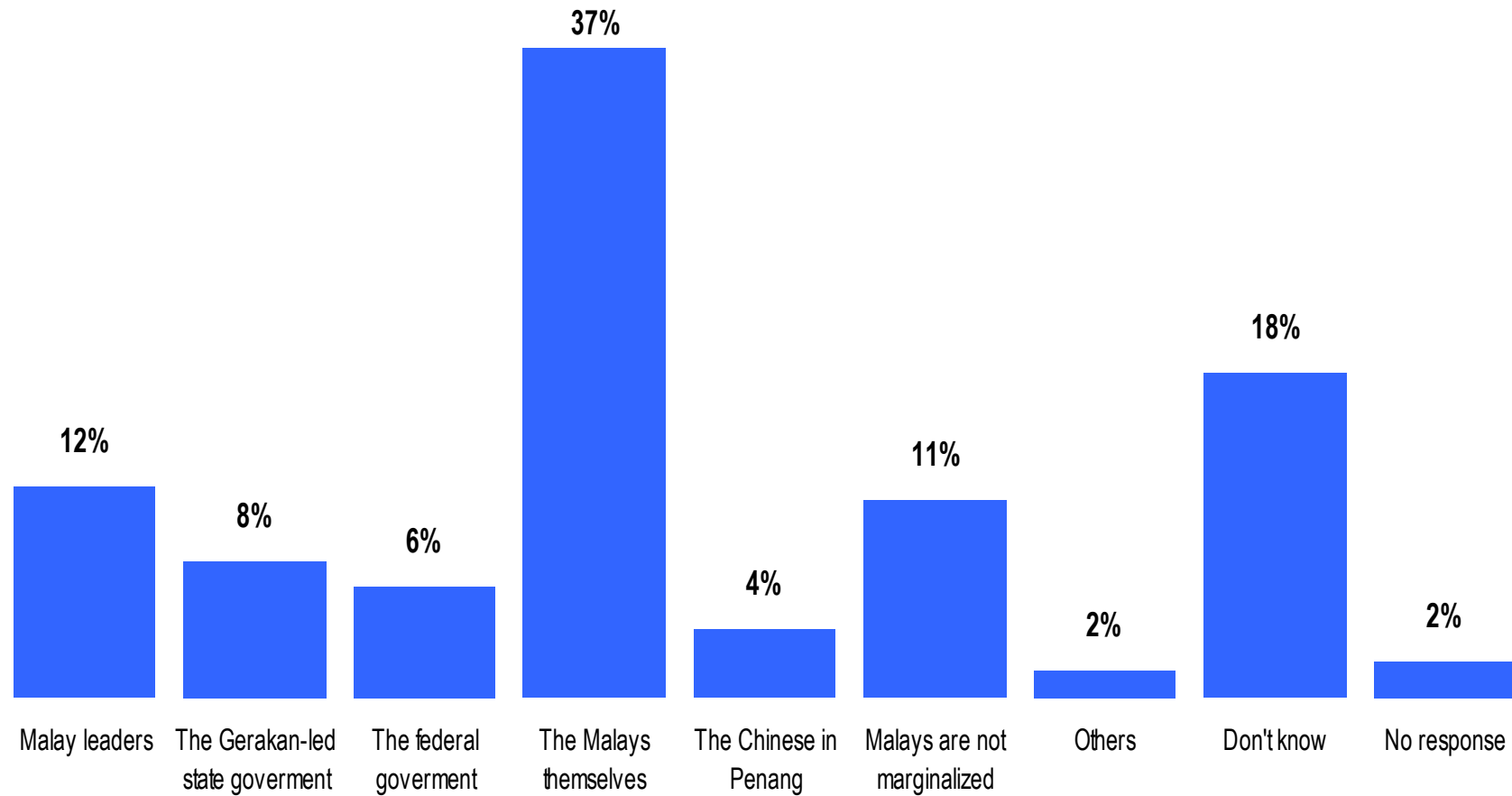


Chart 16

Q9. Recently there has been some media reports about the marginalization of Malays in Penang. In your view, who is mostly to blame for this problem?



Views on Malay marginalization across time

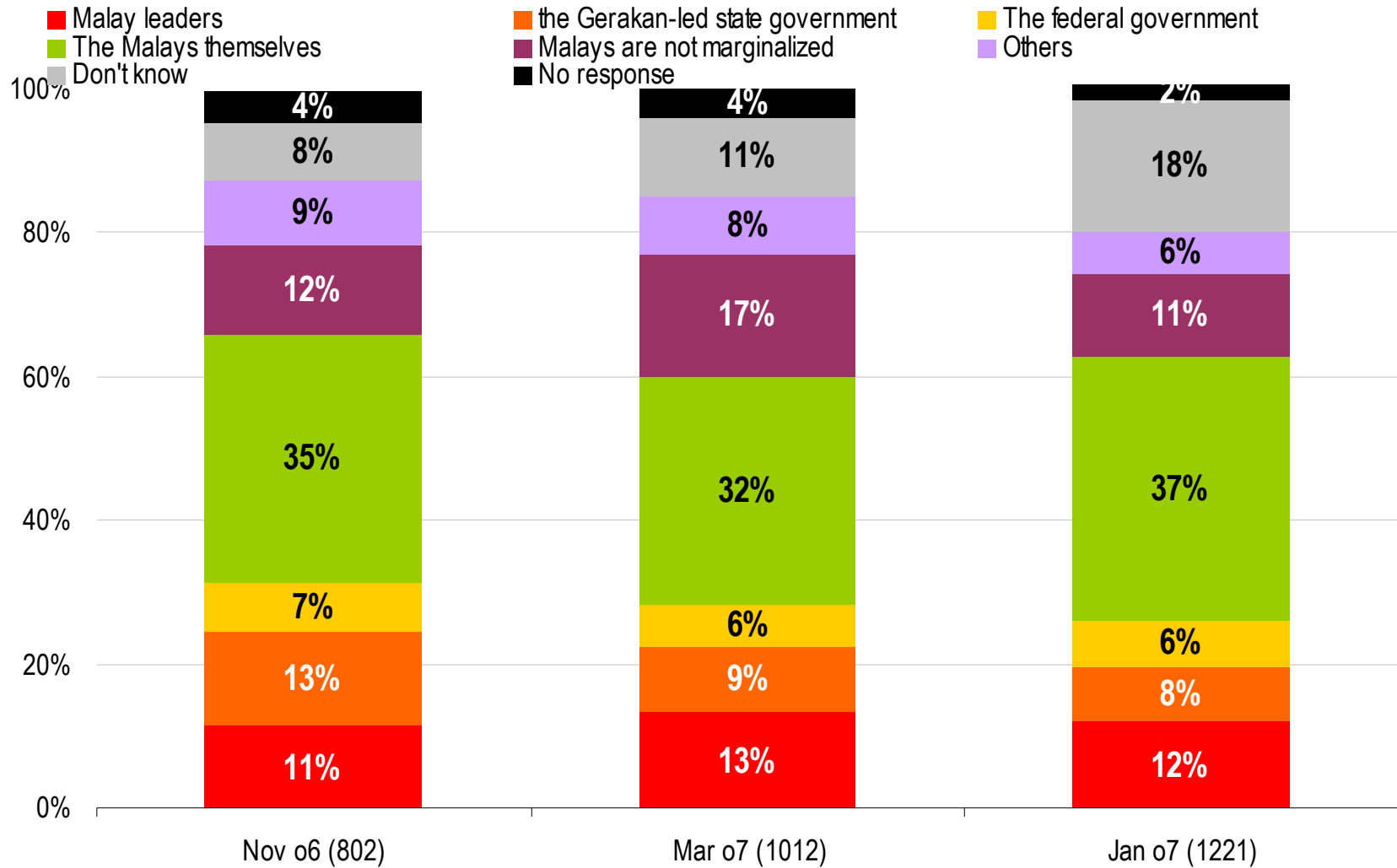


Chart 18

The Economy and Other Factors

Chart 19

Perceptions across Various Factors

- ❖ 12 factors were tested: voter sentiments were positive on:
 - Education
 - Public transportation
 - Quality of national leadership

- ❖ But sentiments on other factors were moderate to adverse:
 - Personal income, The economy in general , Treatment by government, Traffic
 - Social problems, Affordable housing, Prices, Crime, Corruption

- ❖ Overall, public sentiments have been in downtrend over items like prices and affordable housing but sentiments over public transport have improved – thanks to the introduction of Rapid Penang

- ❖ Sentiments over the economy was also subdued, and favorable only amongst a majority of Malay voters

- ❖ But more worryingly, sentiments over personal income appeared increasingly adverse

Q7. Can you tell me how favourable or unfavourable are things with respect to the following:

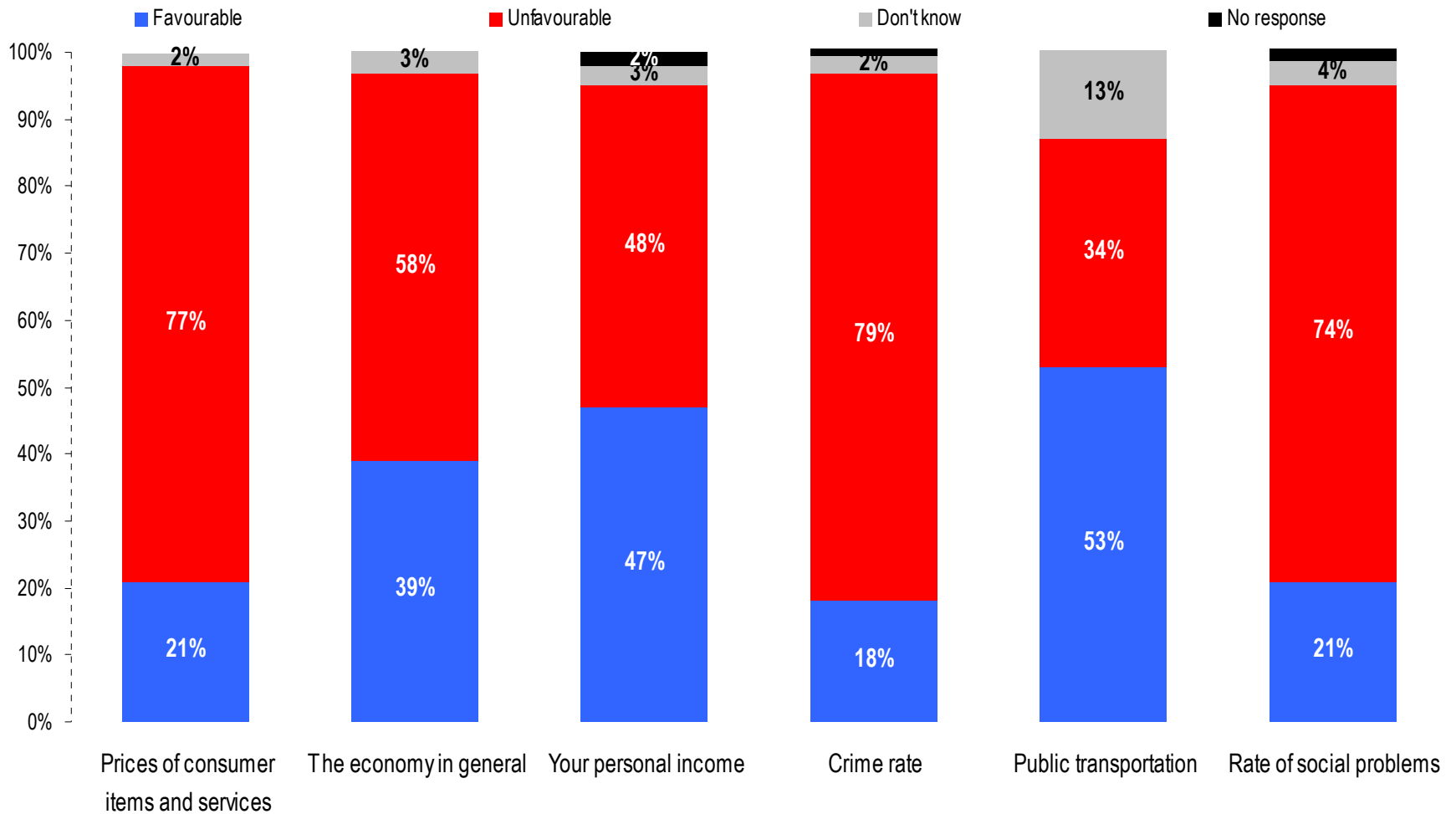


Chart 21

Q7. Can you tell me how favourable or unfavourable are things with respect to the following:

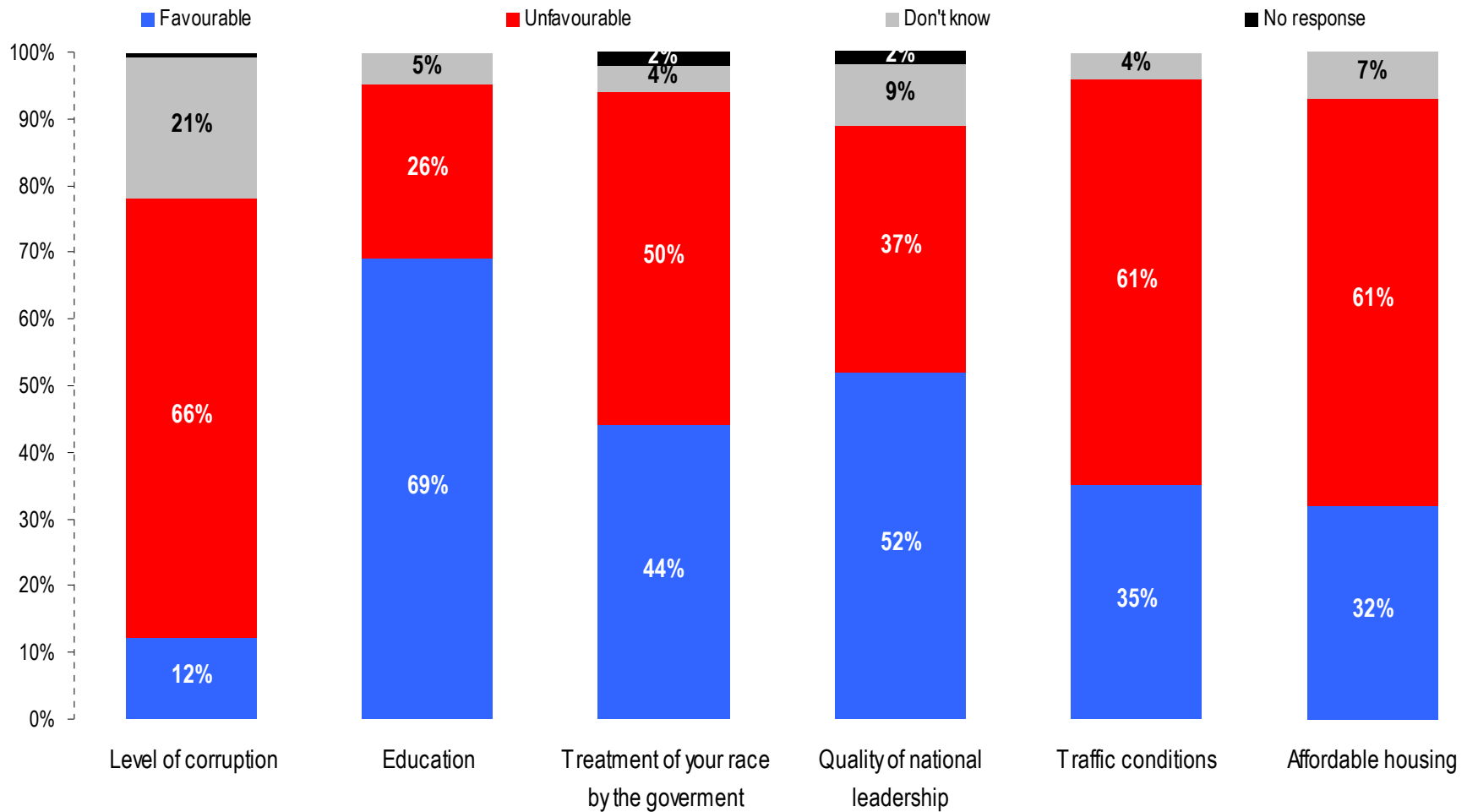


Chart 22

Favourability of prices of consumer items and services across time

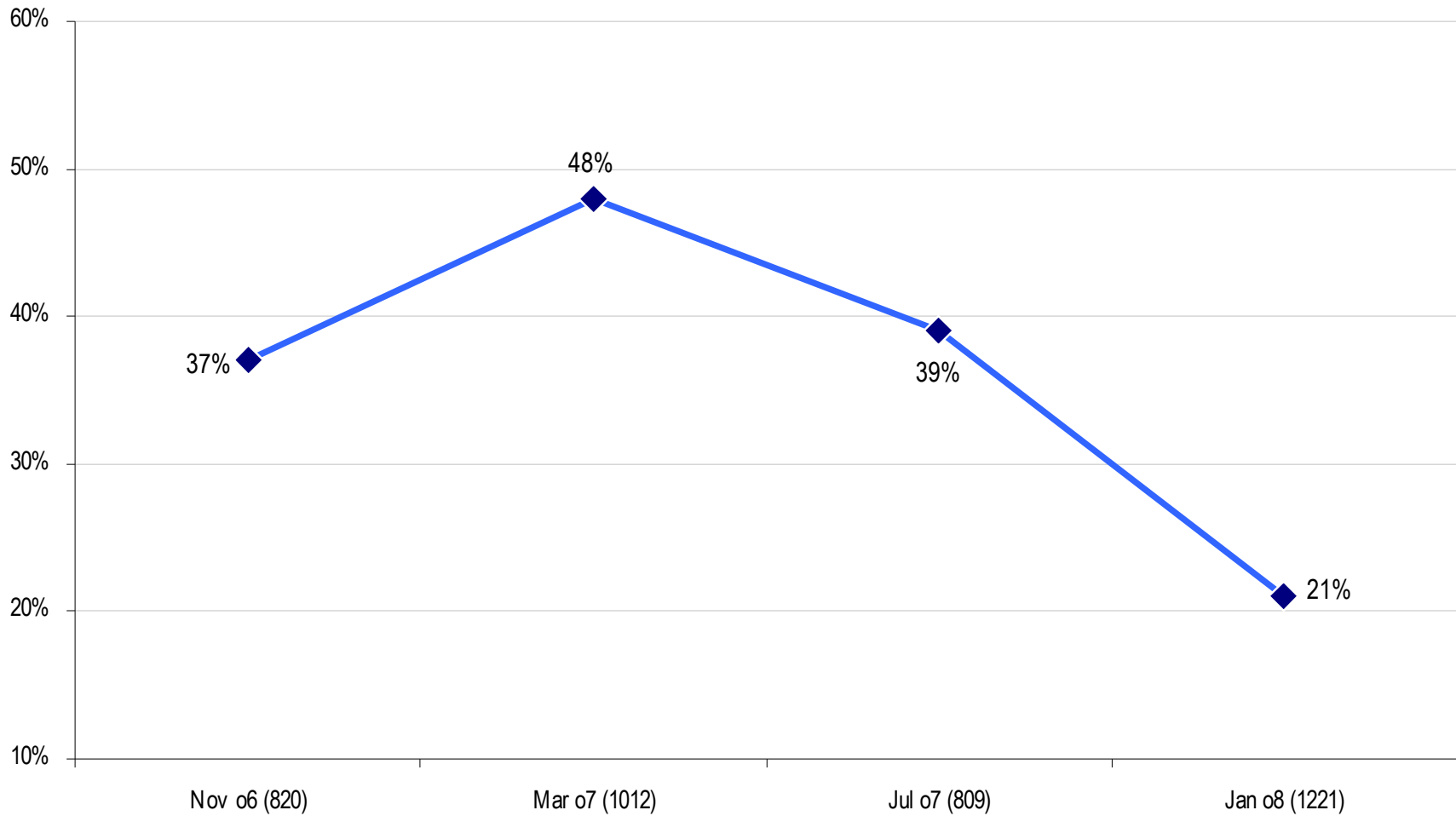
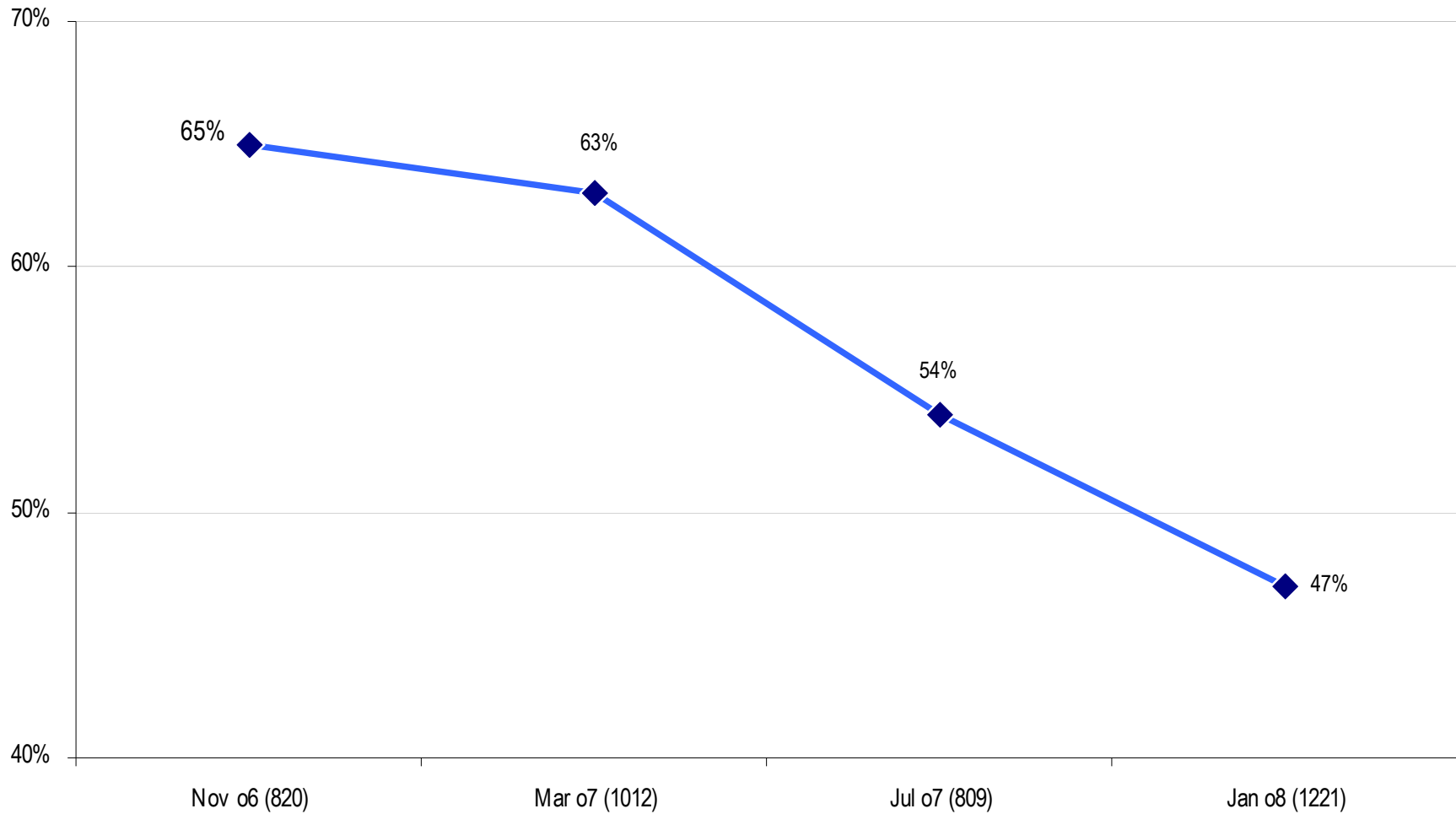


Chart 23

Favourability of personal income across time



Favourability of public transportation across time

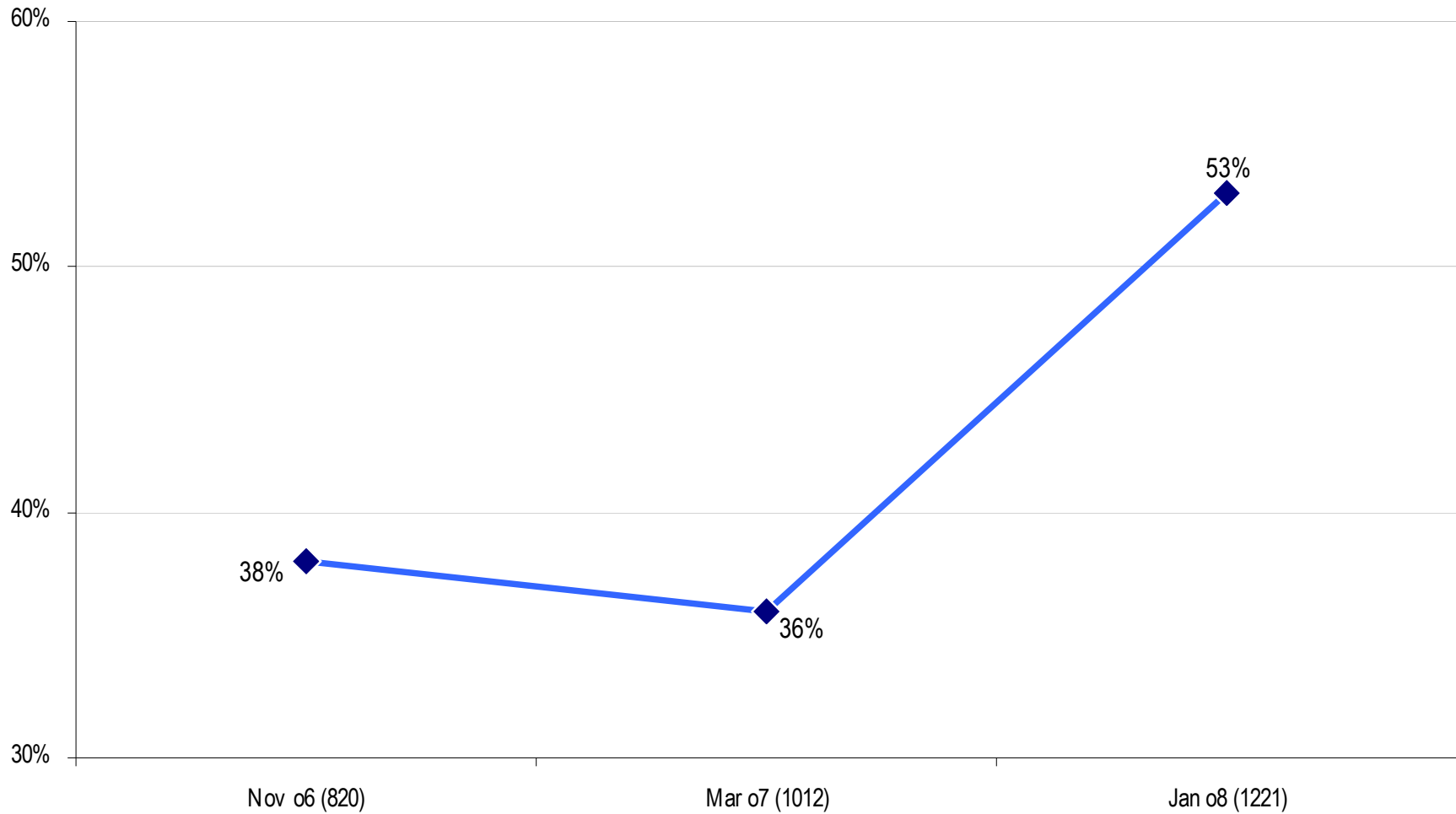
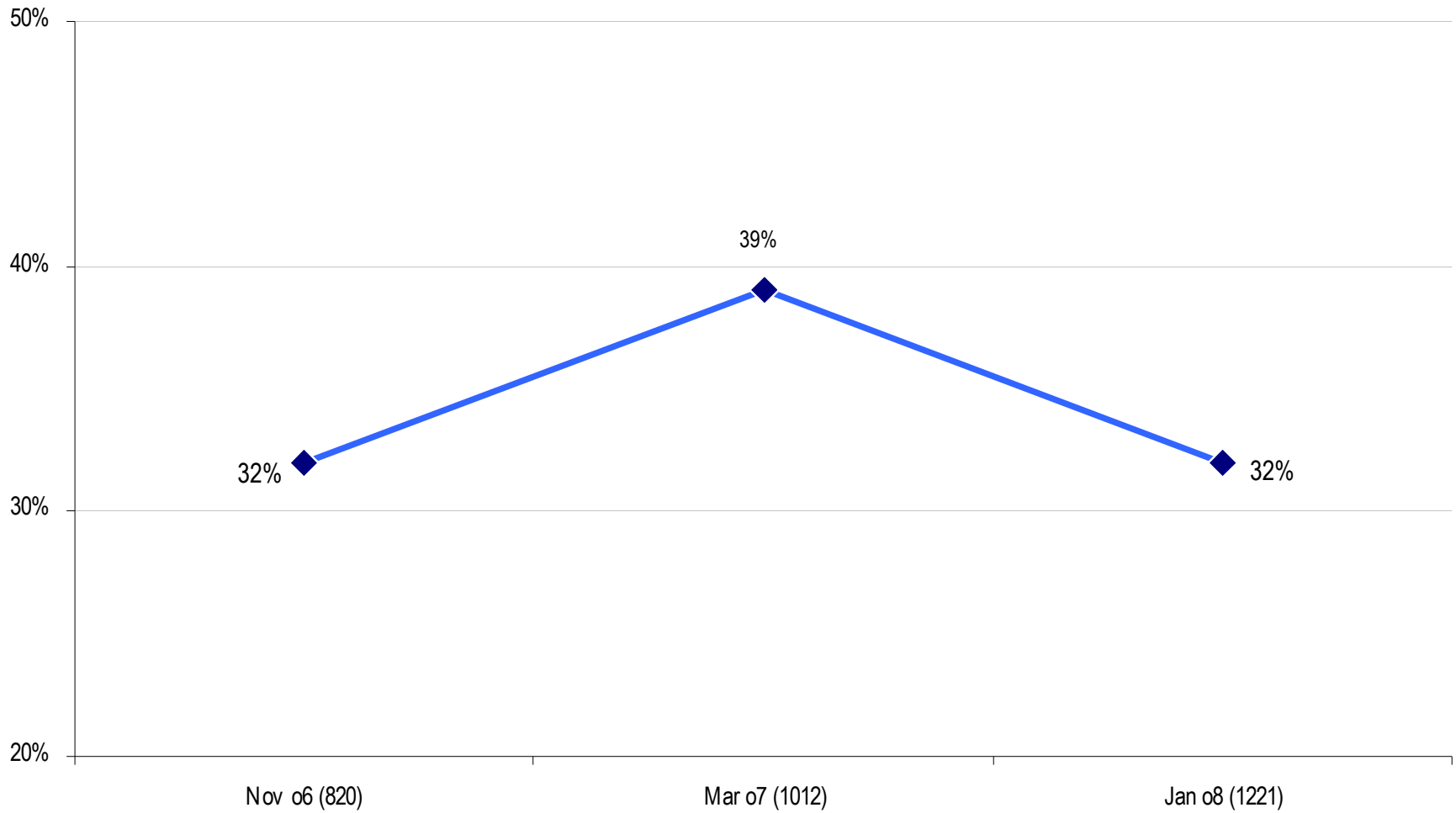


Chart 25

Favourability of property prices across time



Q8. How do you expect the economy to be one year from now? Would it...

- Strongly improve
- Somewhat improve
- Stay the same
- Somewhat decline
- Strongly decline
- Don't know
- No response

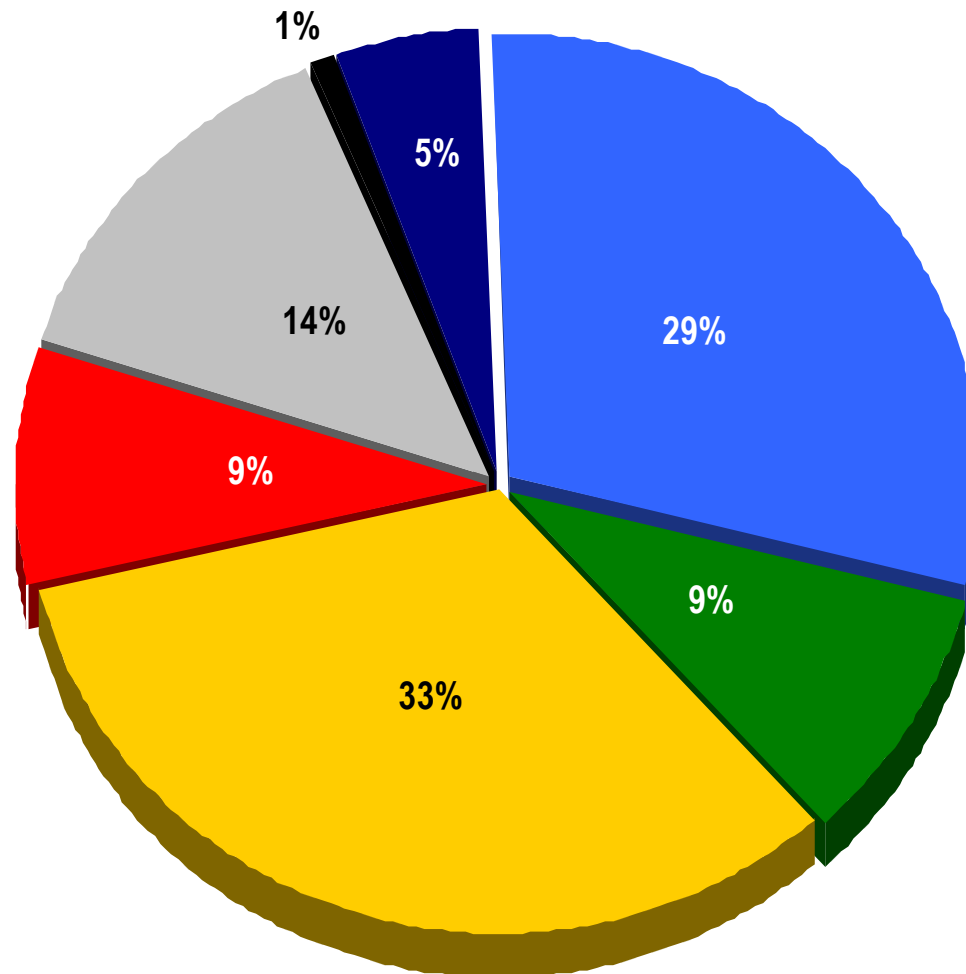


Chart 27

NCER & PGCC

NCER and PGCC

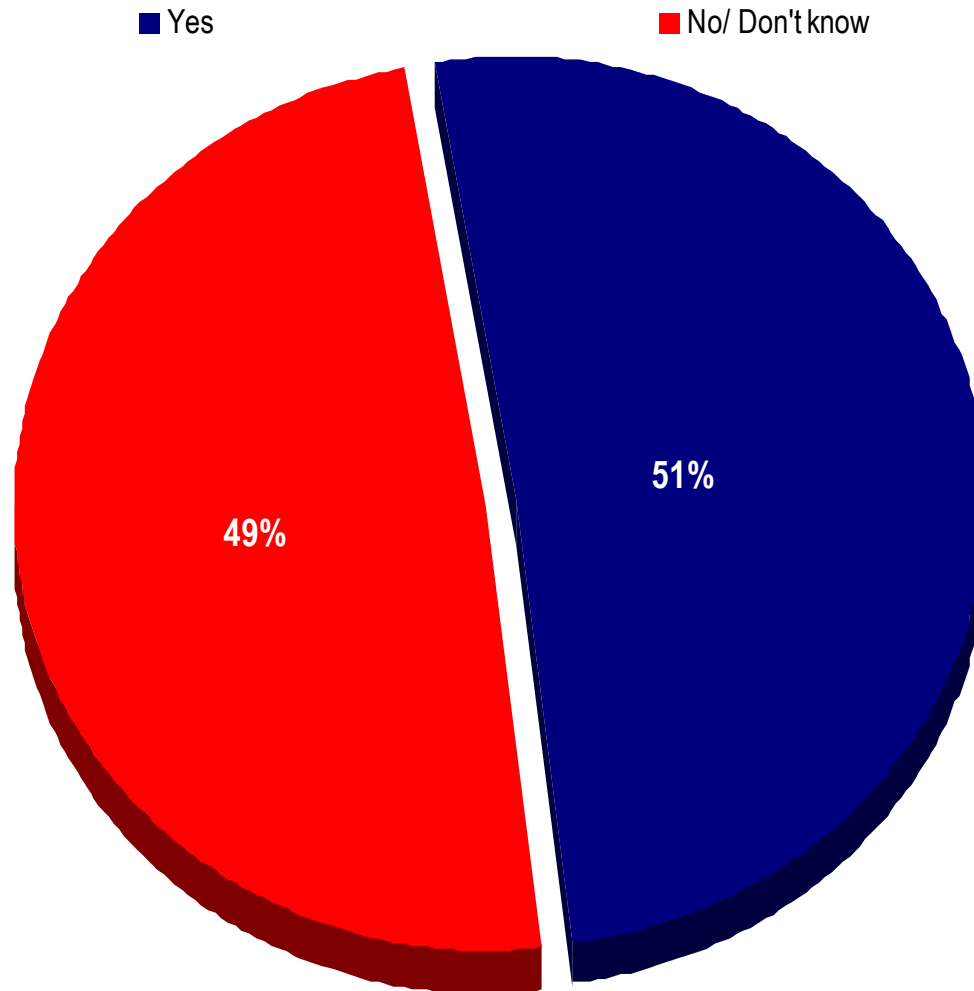
NCER

- ❖ Awareness of the NCER is moderate, only half of the public appears aware and mostly prevalent among Malays
- ❖ Accordingly, perceptions that the developments under NCER will benefit them personally were prominent only among Malay voters and subdued among Chinese and Indian voters
- ❖ Survey found that among Chinese who were aware, a larger proportion were inclined to feel that the NCER would not make a difference or would not benefit them than otherwise
- ❖ Sentiments among Indian voters were split

PGCC

- ❖ Awareness of PGCC was marginally higher at 54%, again, higher among Malay voters
- ❖ Majority of Malay voters were positive on PGCC but plurality of Chinese and Indian voters were negative on the development project

Q10. Do you know what is Northern Corridor Economic Region (NCER)?



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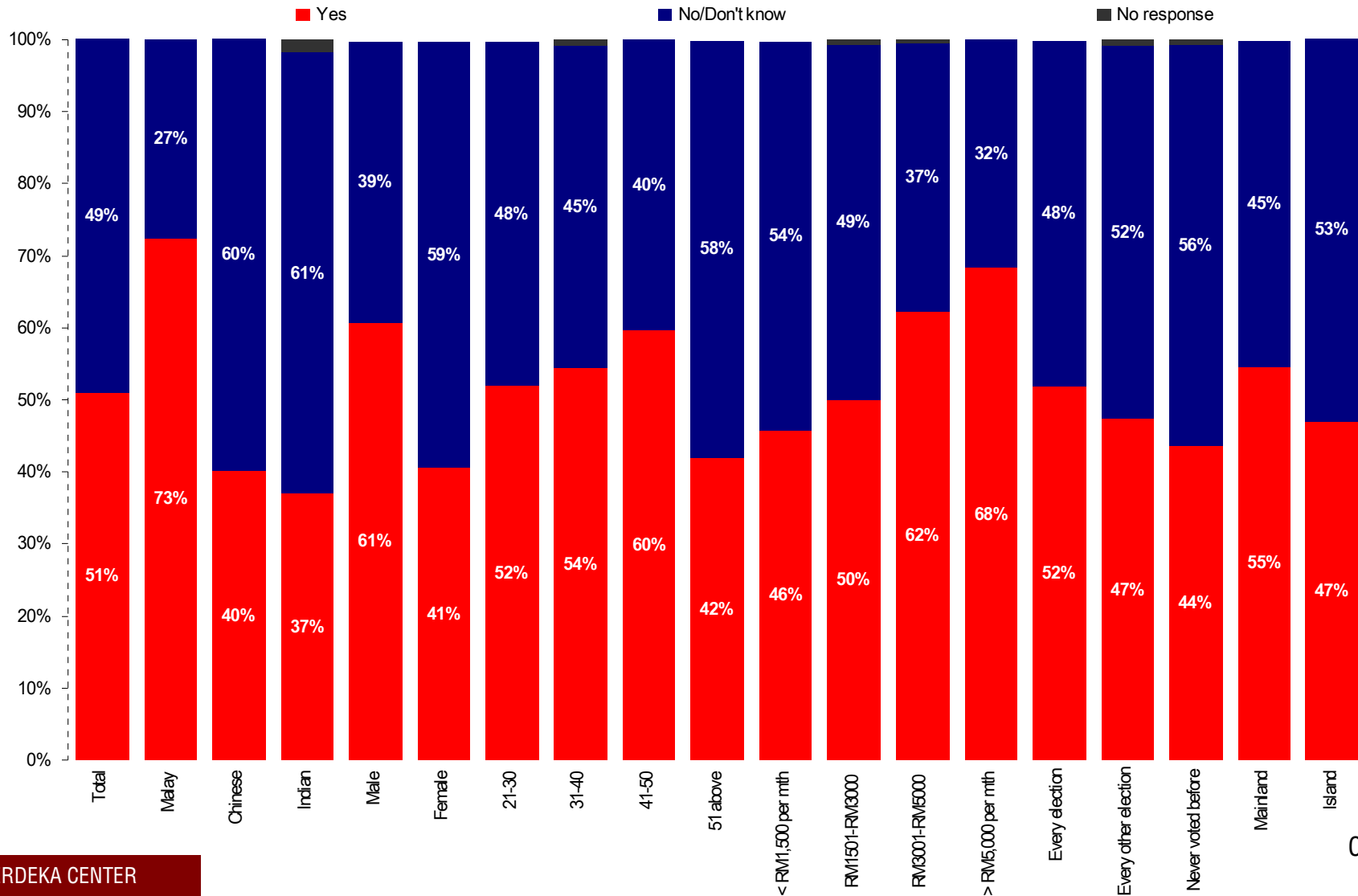
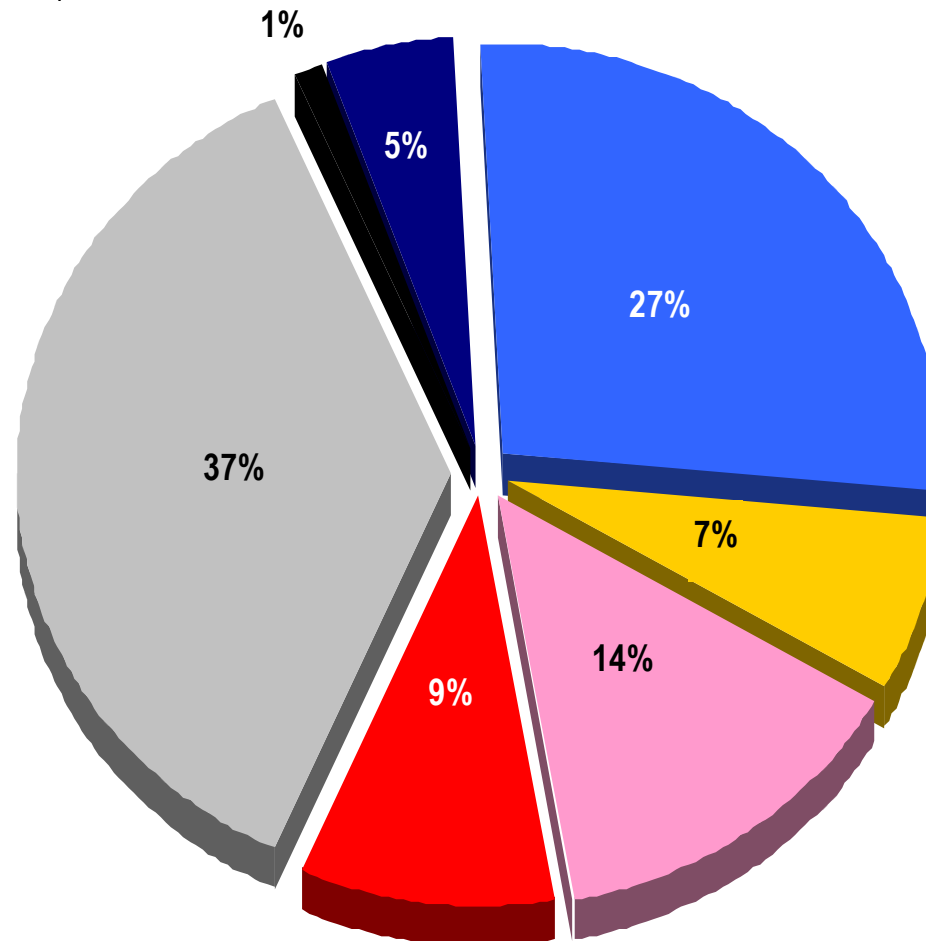


Chart 31

Q11. To what extent do you think development under NCER will benefit the standard of living and income of your family?

- Very beneficial
- Somewhat beneficial
- No difference
- Somewhat not beneficial
- Not beneficial at all
- Don't know
- No response



Q11. To what extent do you think development under NCER will benefit the standard of living and income of your family?

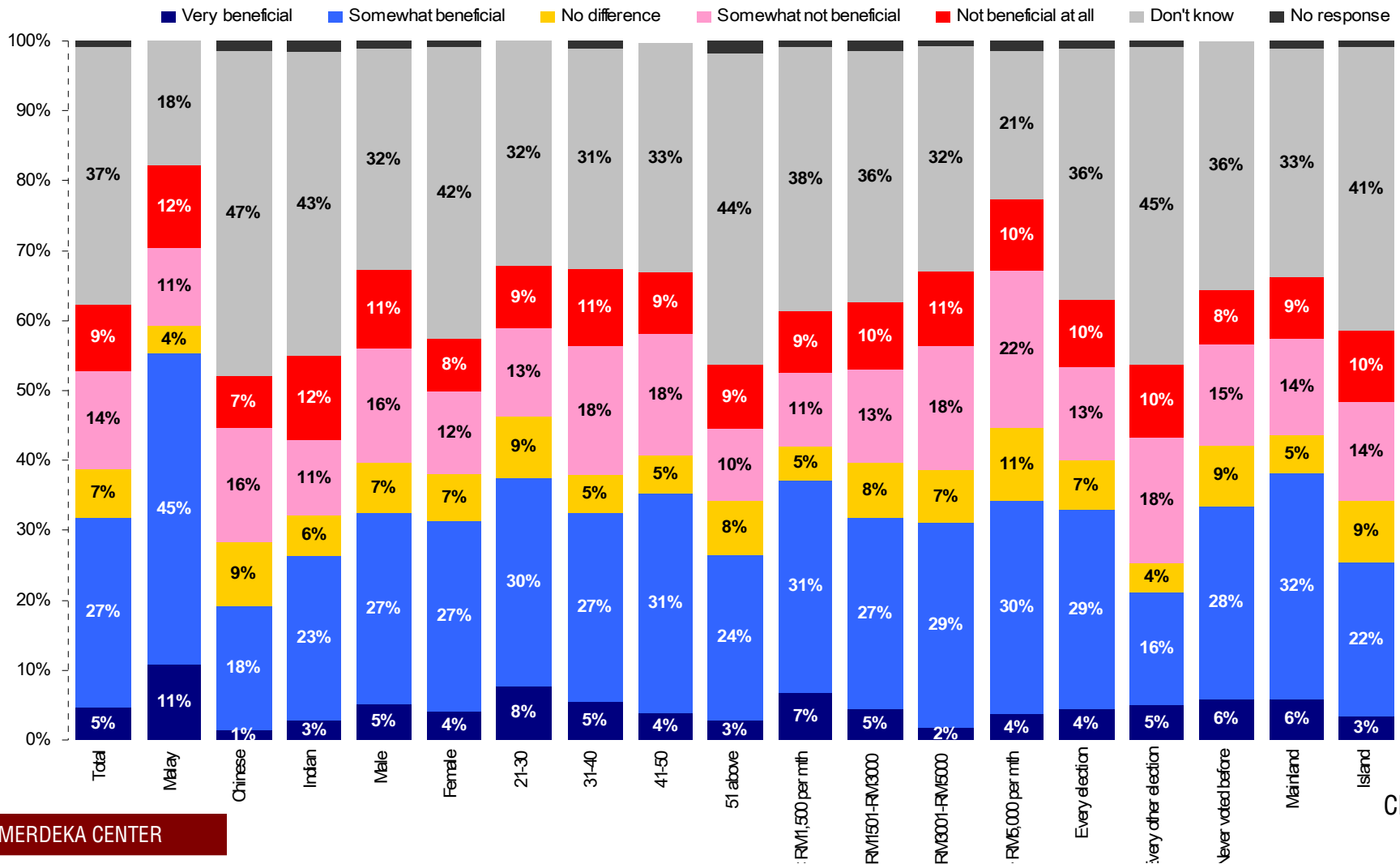


Chart 33

Q12. Some people say that the Penang Global City Center will worsen conditions in Georgetown while others say it will boost the local economy. Which one of the two views is closest to yours?

- Will worsen conditions in Georgetown
- Will boost the local economy
- Don't know
- No response

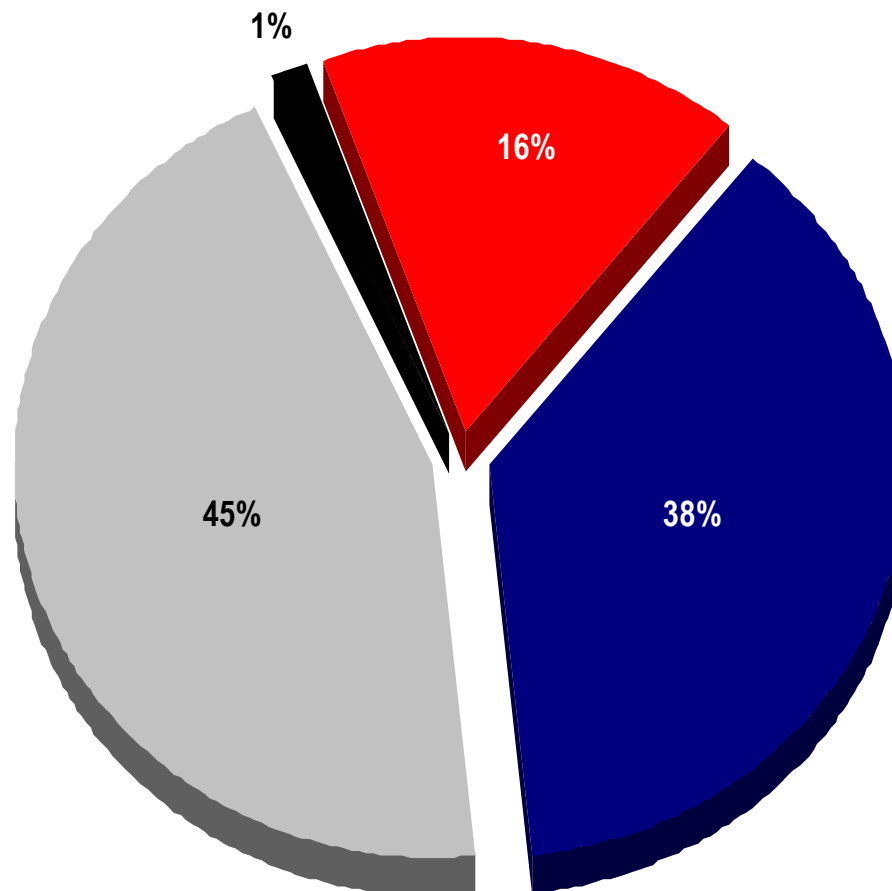


Chart 34

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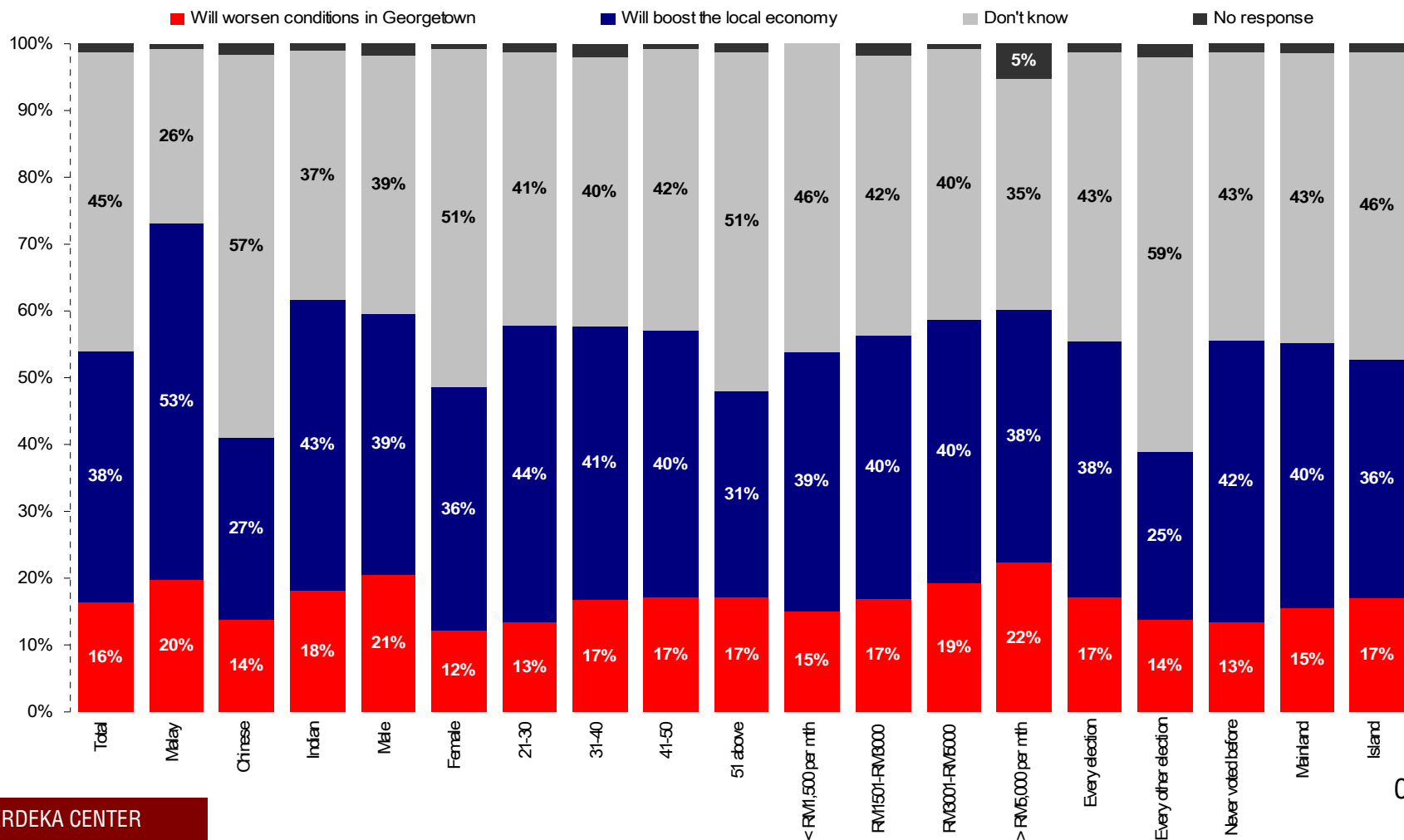


Chart 35

Perceptions of Elected Representatives

Q13. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the performance of the Member of Parliament in your area?

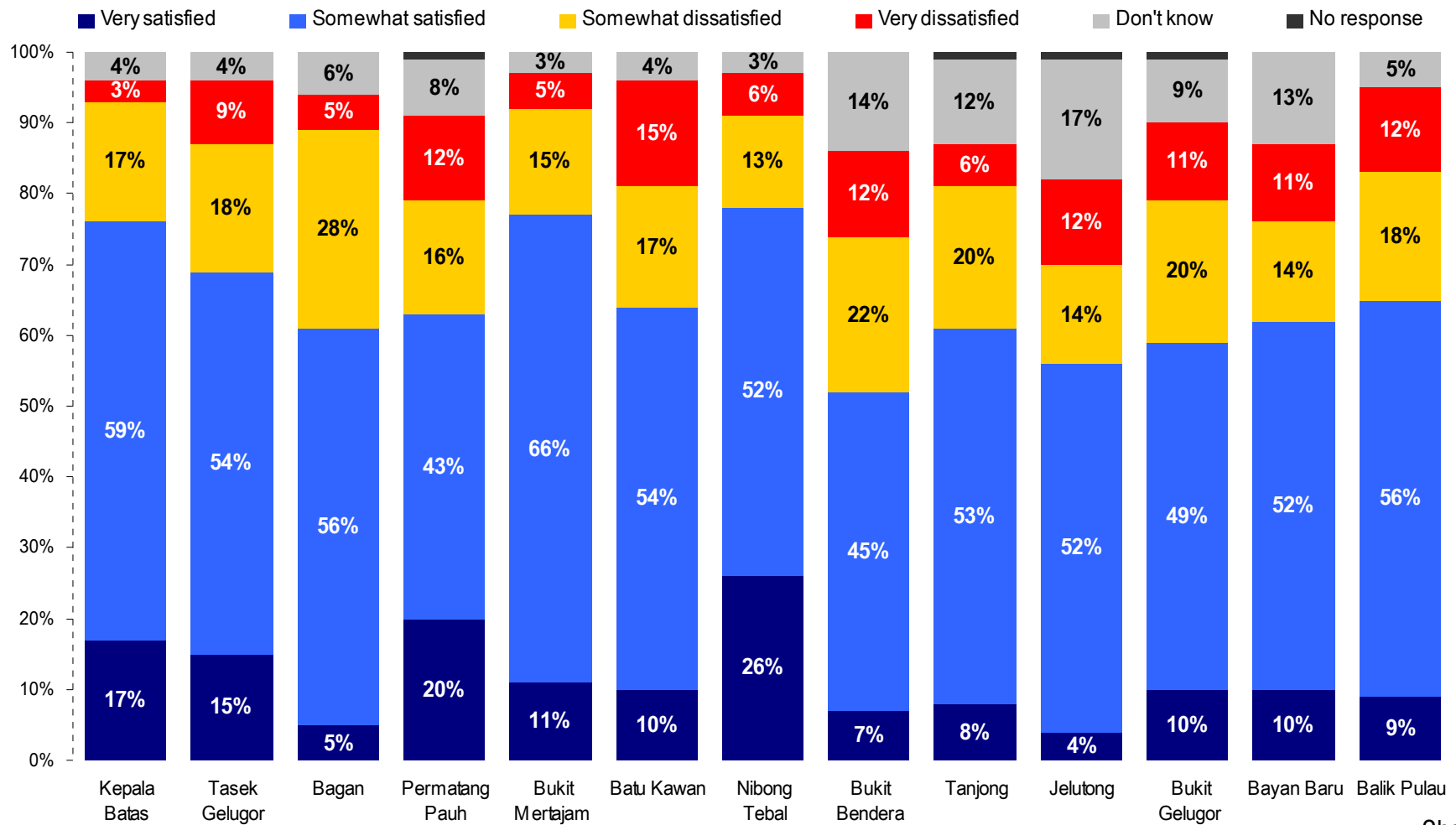


Chart 37

Satisfaction with performance of MP across time

Very satisfied Somewhat satisfied Somewhat dissatisfied Very dissatisfied Don't know No response

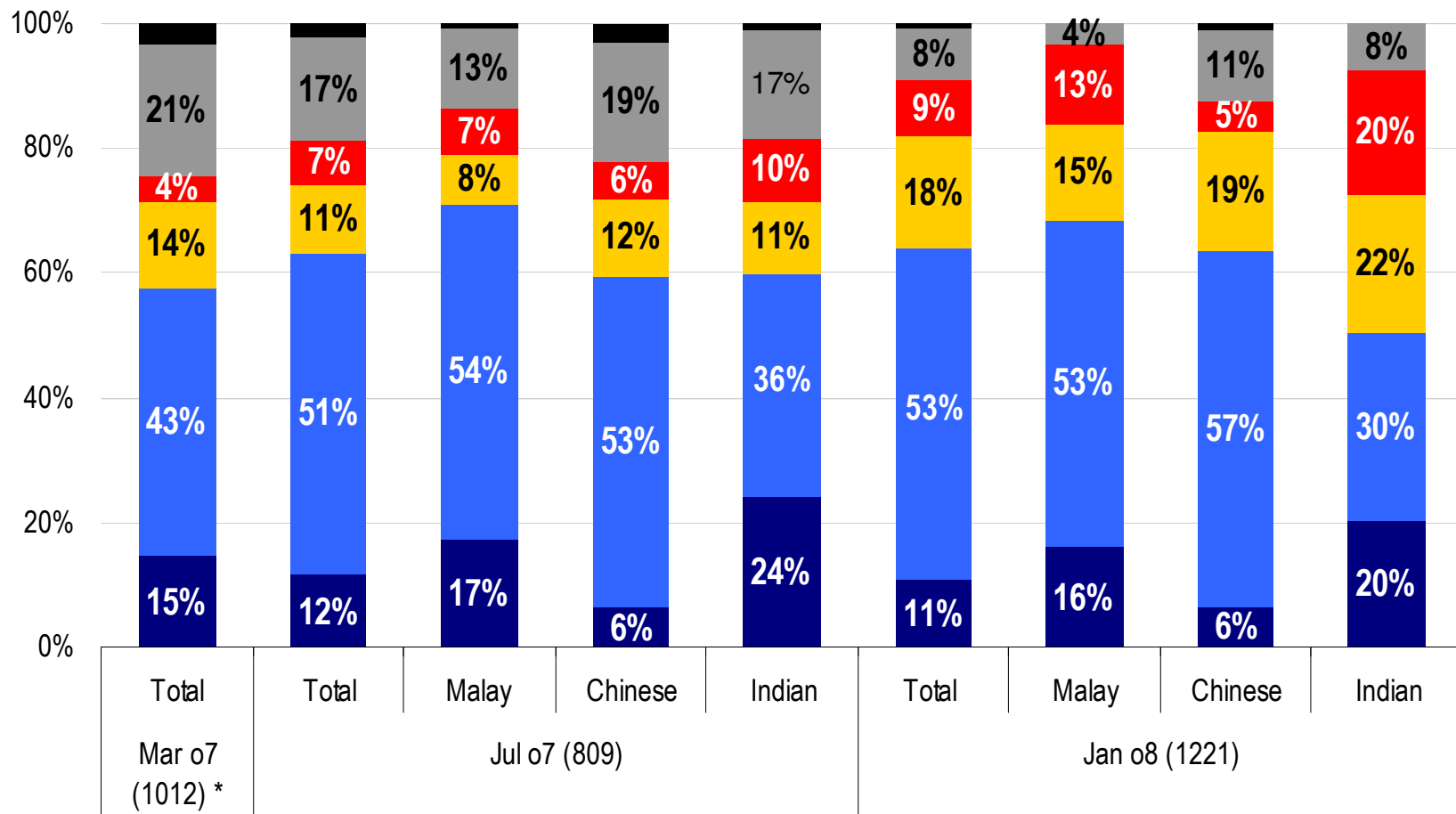


Chart 38

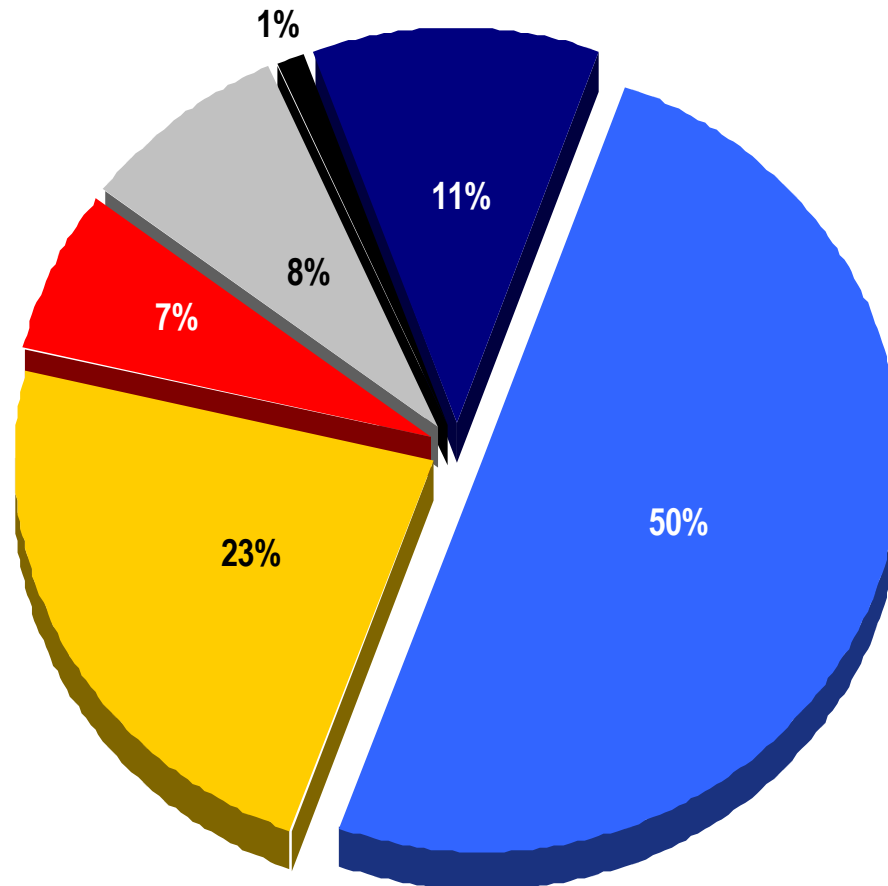
* Worded as "approval rating of MP"

Perceptions on State and National Leadership

- ❖ Dr. Koh Tsu Koon's approval rating appears stable over time
- ❖ But attitudes differ across ethnic groups – lower among Malays but higher among the Chinese
- ❖ Voters appeared uncertain on whether he should remain chief minister or enter federal politics

Q15. How strongly do you approve or disapprove of the way Dr. Koh Tsu Koon is performing his job as the chief minister of Penang?

■ Strongly approve ■ Somewhat approve ■ Somewhat disapprove
■ Strongly disapprove ■ Don't know ■ No response



Q15. How strongly do you approve or disapprove of the way Dr. Koh Tsu Koon is performing his job as the chief minister of Penang?

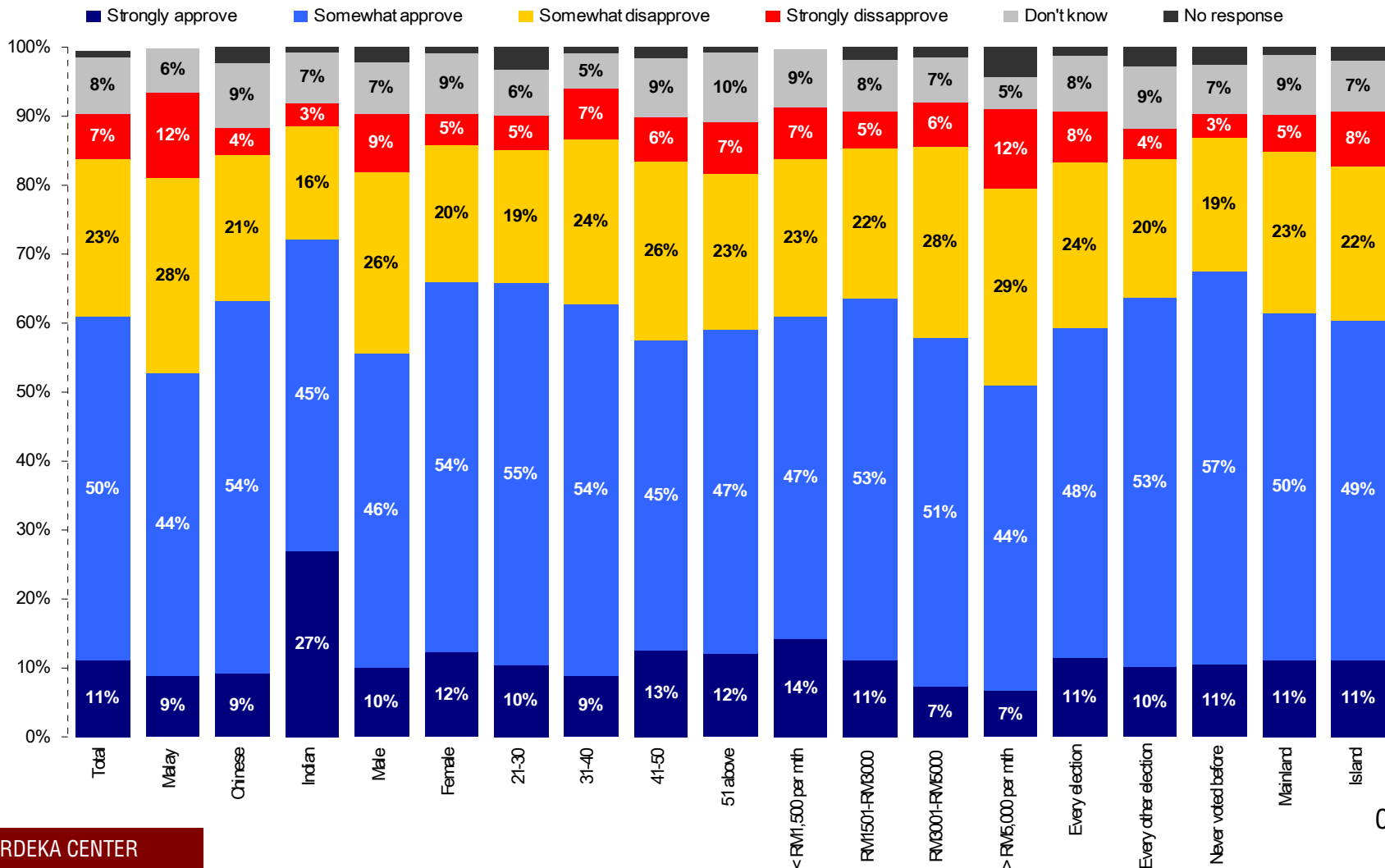


Chart 41

Dr. Koh Tsu Koon's approval rating across time

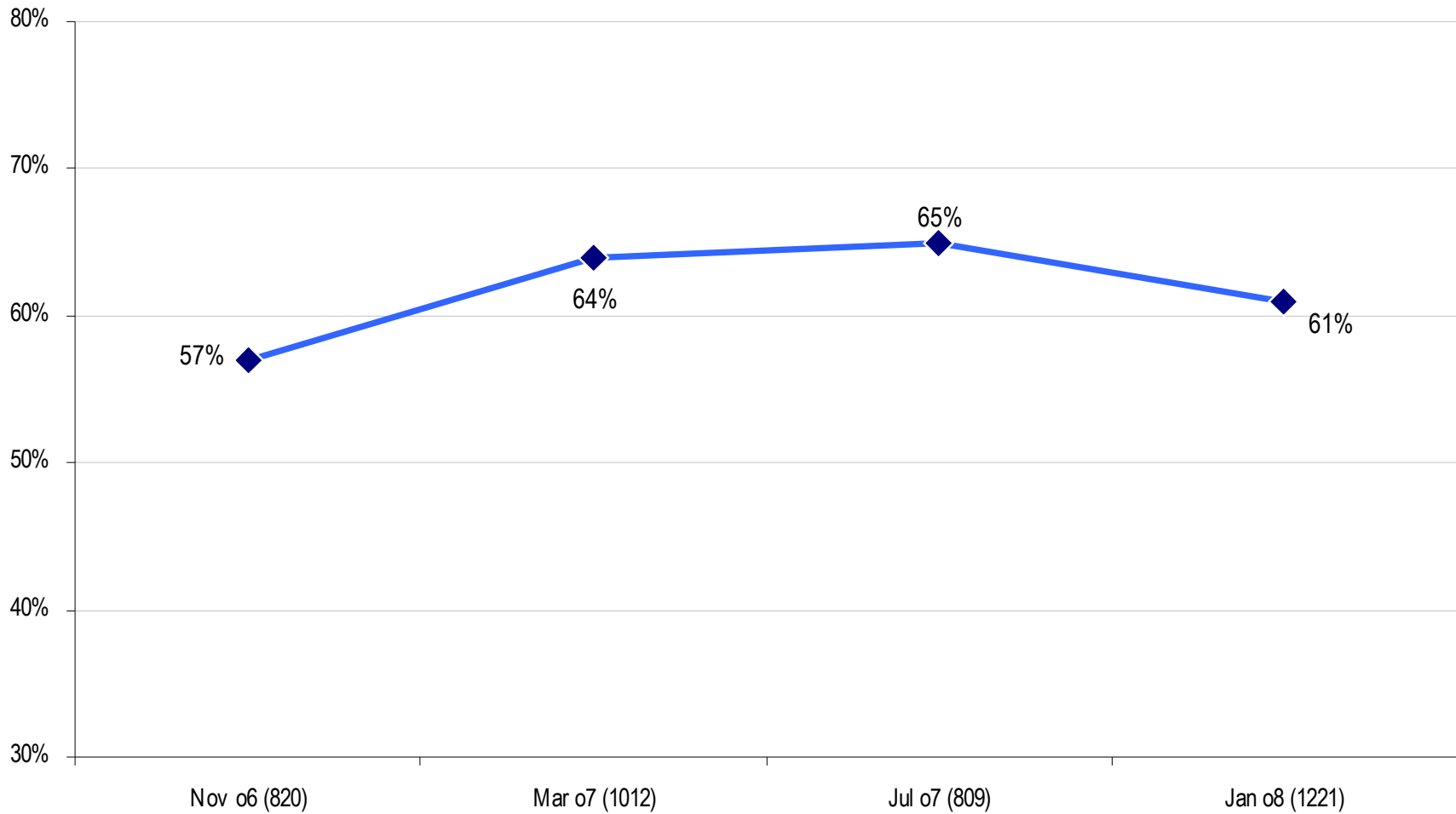
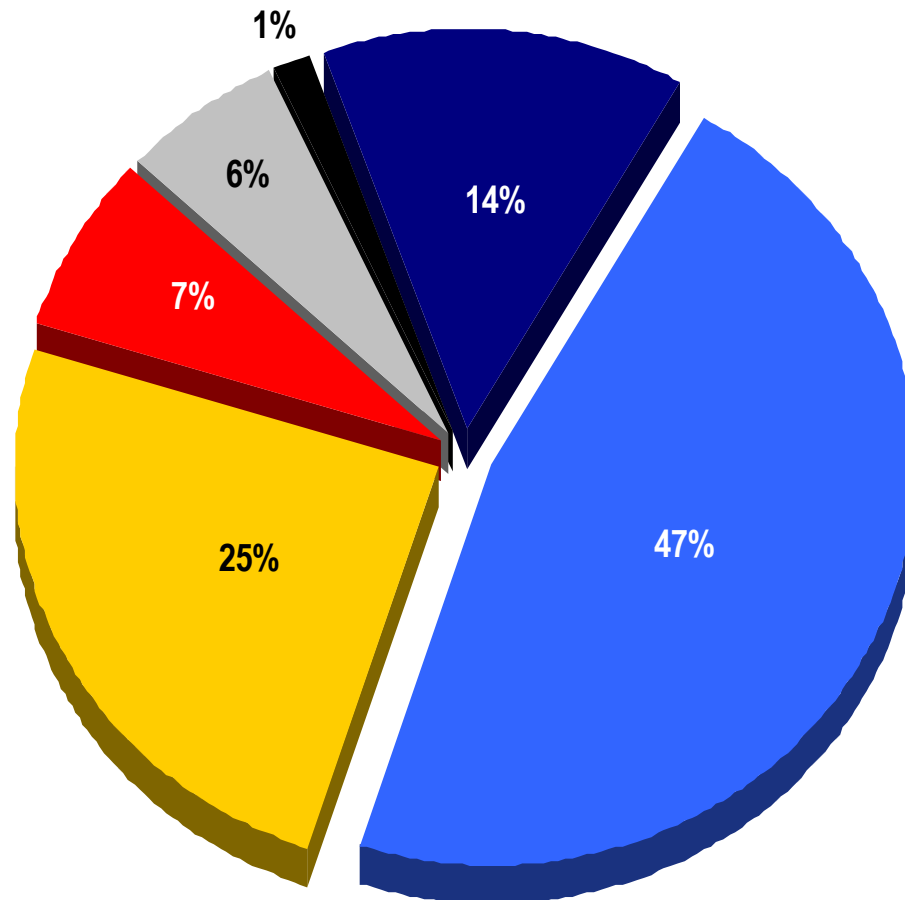


Chart 42

Q16. How strongly do you approve or disapprove of the way Abdullah Ahmad Badawi is performing his job as the prime minister?

- Strongly approve
- Somewhat approve
- Somewhat disapprove
- Strongly disapprove
- Don't know
- No response



Q16. How strongly do you approve or disapprove of the way Abdullah Ahmad Badawi is performing his job as the prime minister?

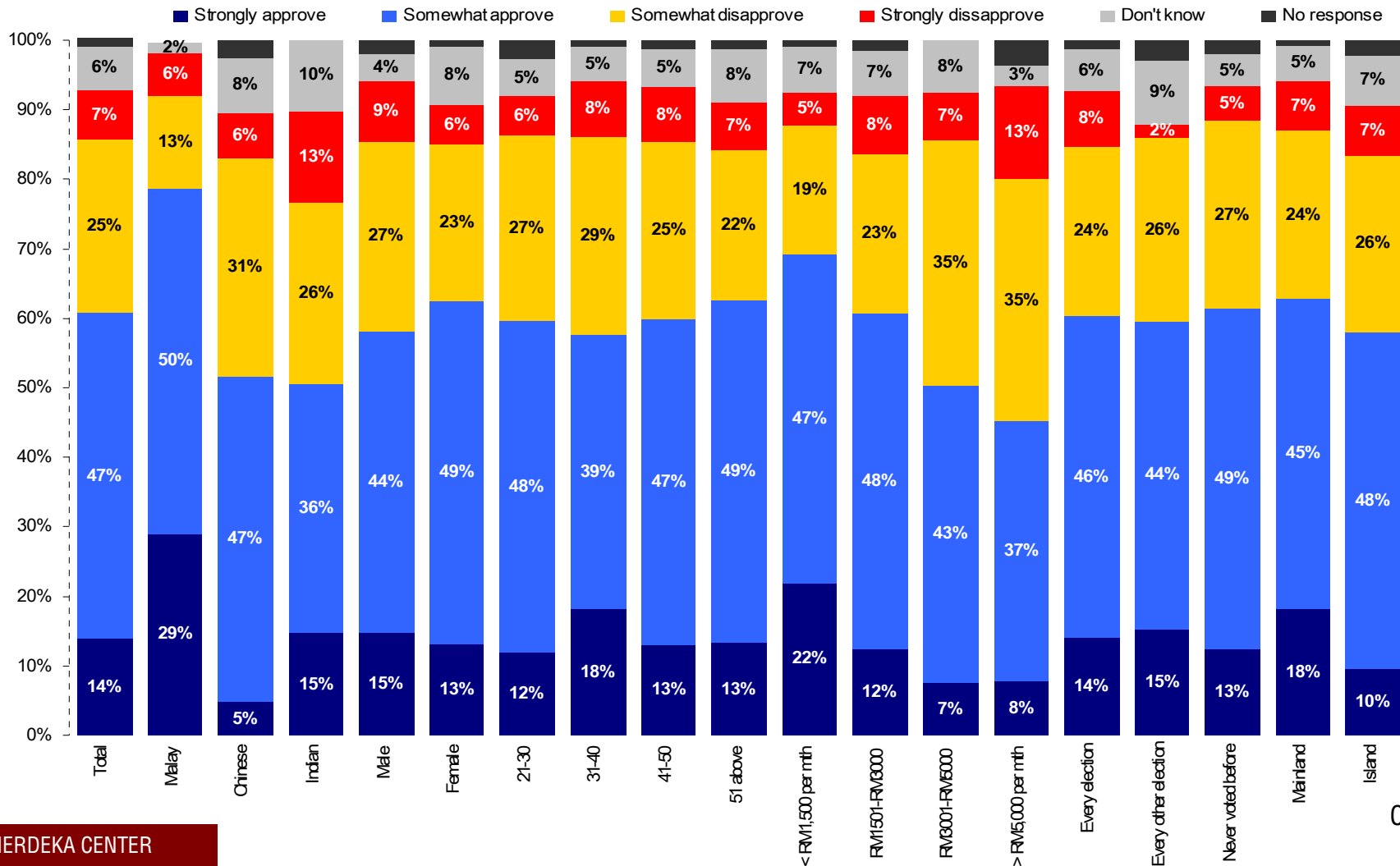


Chart 44

Abdullah's approval rating in Penang

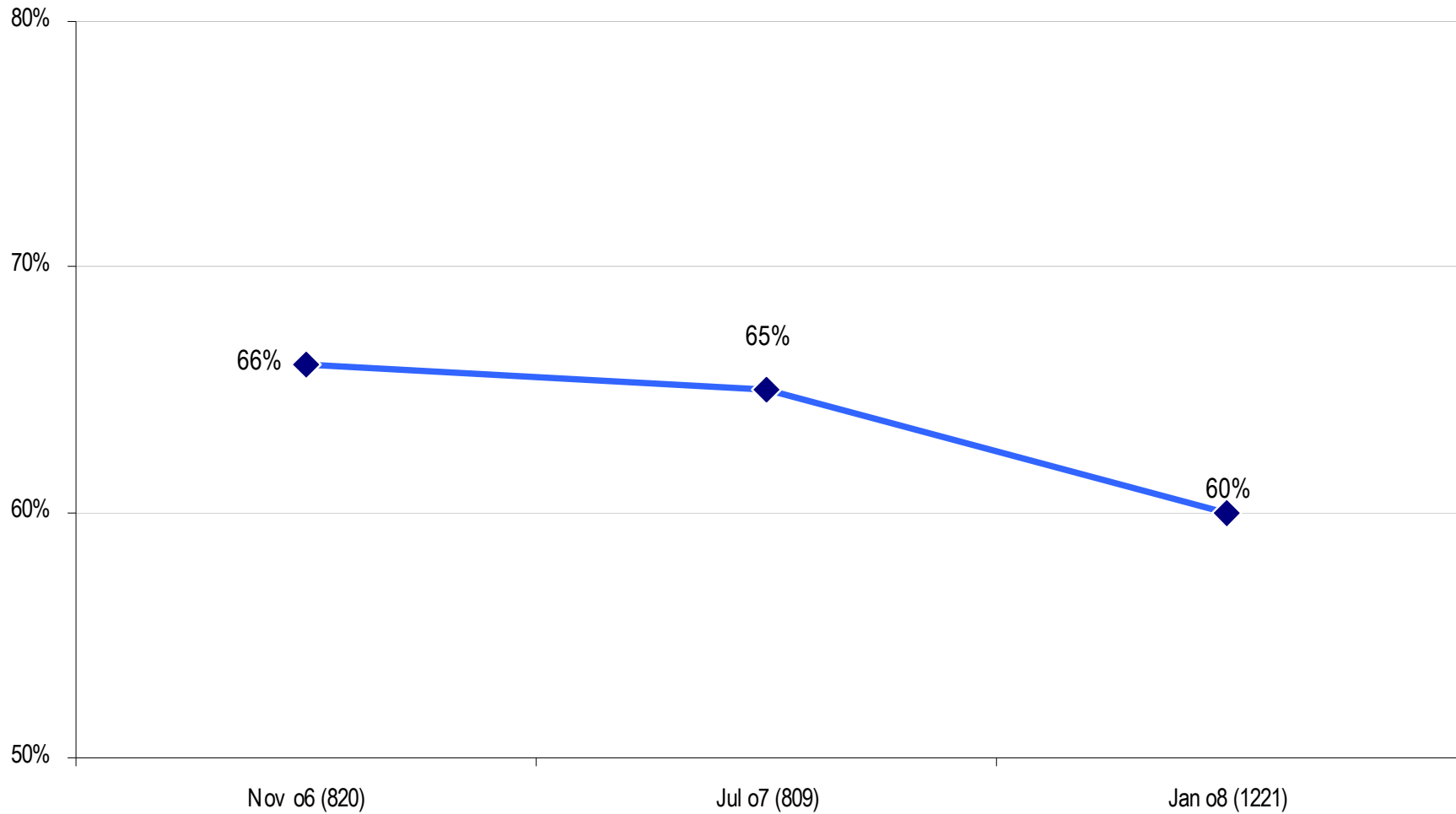
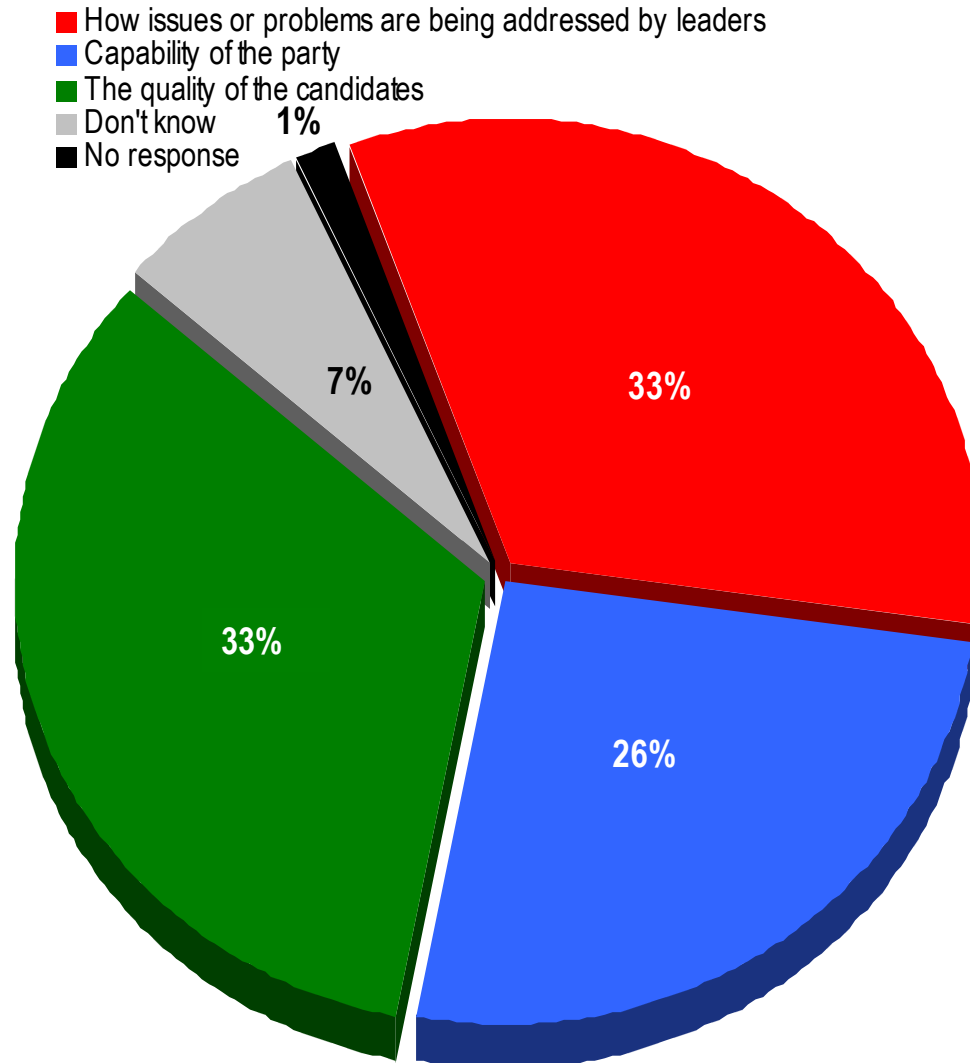


Chart 45

Views towards Elections

- ❖ Issues pertaining to the economy appeared most important among voters
- ❖ Crime issues factored prominently among the Chinese
- ❖ While issues pertaining to ethnic equality again factored significantly among Indian voters

Q23. Which is most important to you in an election?



Q6. Which one of the following is most important to you when voting during the next general elections?

- Economic related issues
- Crime and public safety
- Corruption
- Religious/ ethnic issues
- Local issues
- Social problems
- Don't know
- No response

