



Public attitudes to immigration

Evidence from the
British Future/Ipsos
Immigration Attitudes Tracker Survey:
Wave 16, Spring 2024

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British
Future...

About the Immigration Tracker Survey

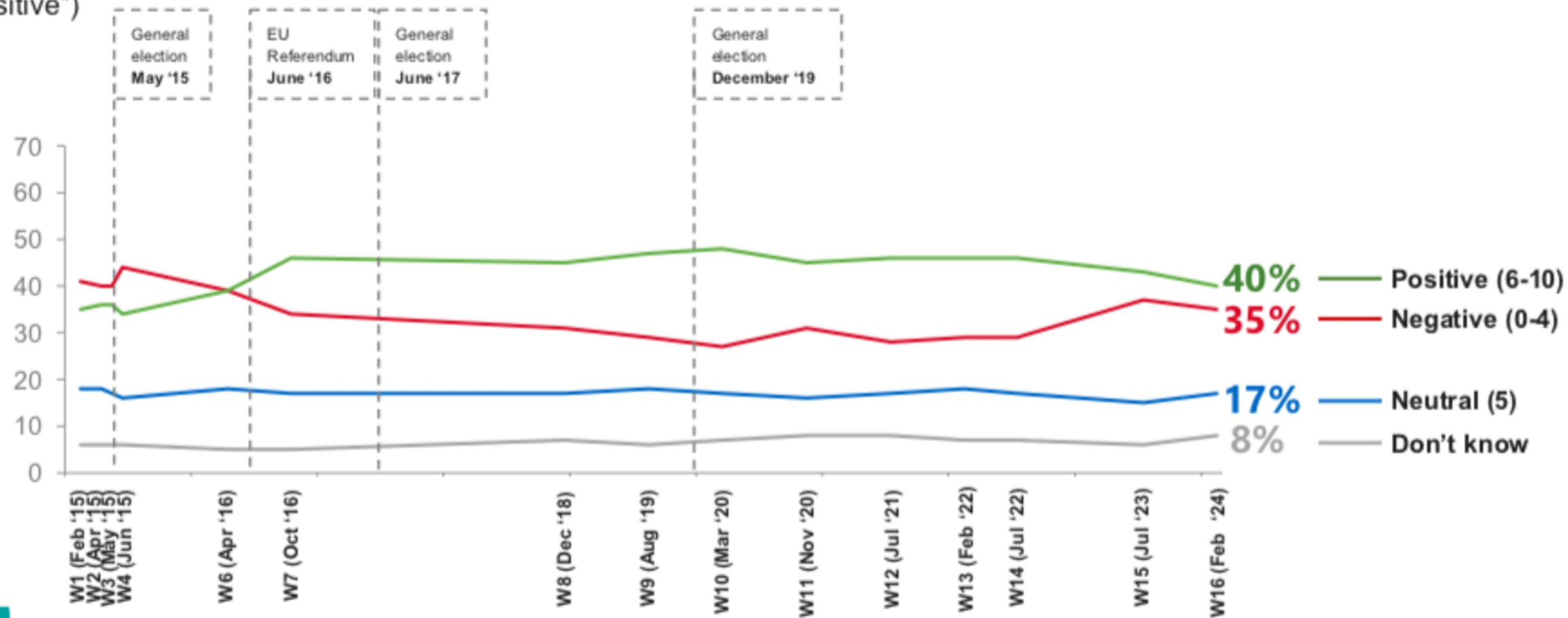
- 16 waves since 2015, GB wide
- Current sample 3,000 across GB, data weighted to reflect population
- Fieldwork dates were 17-28 February 2024. Delivered by Ipsos, funded by Unbound Philanthropy and Barrow Cadbury Trust
- Assessed overall attitudes to immigration, numbers, work, study, asylum, satisfaction with government handling of immigration.
- Voting behaviour/allegiance – party support, GE2019 vote and Leave/Remain vote.

General findings on immigration attitudes



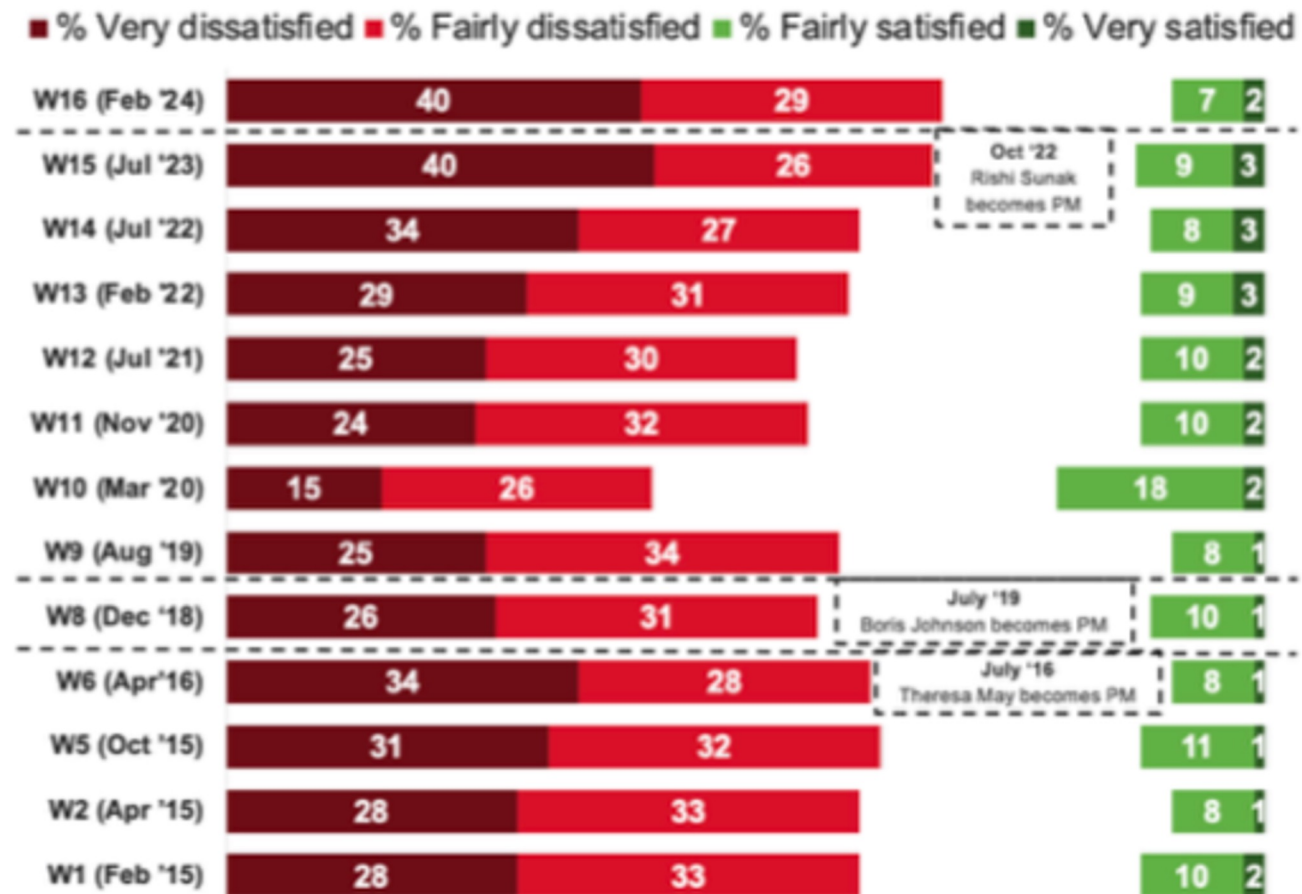
The proportion of people who think migration has had a positive impact on Britain has steadily decreased since July 2022, though more are still positive than negative

Q On a scale of 0 to 10, has migration had a positive or negative impact on Britain? (0 is "very negative", 10 is "very positive")



Record dissatisfaction with government handling of immigration

Figure 3.2: Dissatisfaction with the government on immigration is at the highest level in the tracker's history

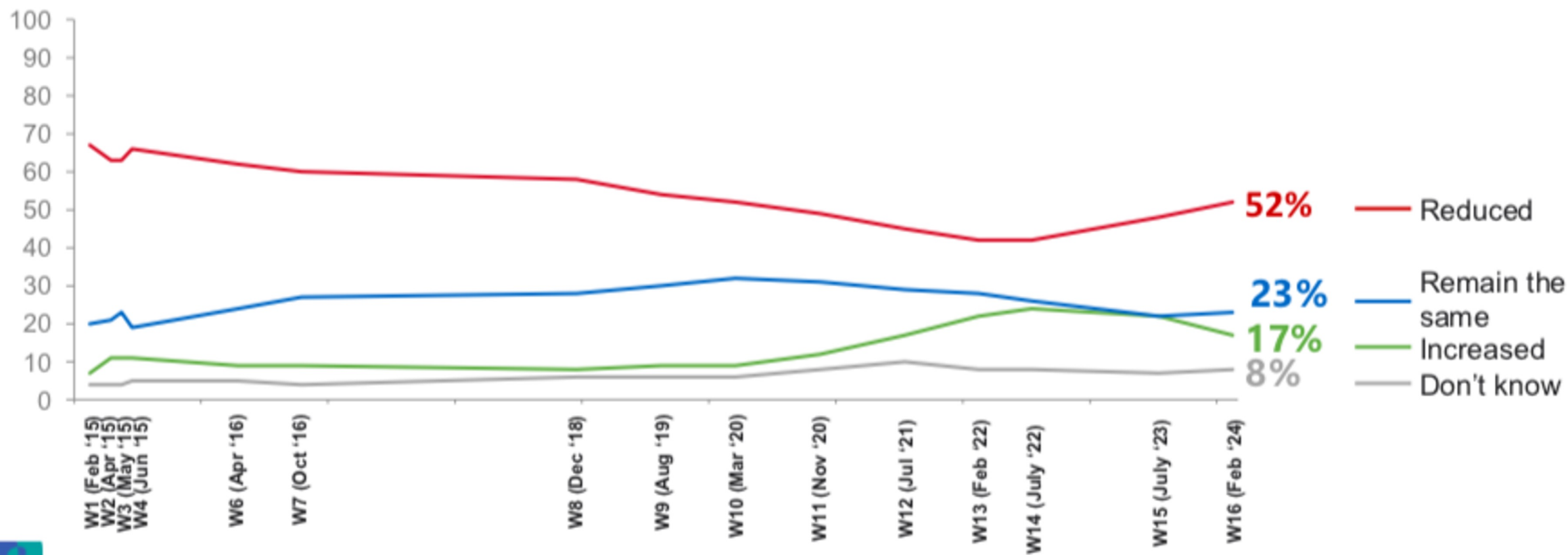


Why are people dissatisfied?

- Of those 69% who say they are dissatisfied, the number one reason people cite is 'not doing enough to stop channel crossings', chosen by 54%.
- Half of those dissatisfied (51%) say it's because 'immigration numbers are too high'.
- However 28% of those dissatisfied with the government on immigration say it's because of 'Creating a negative or fearful environment for migrants who live in Britain'.
- And for 25% the reason is 'not treating asylum seekers well.'

The proportion wanting to see a reduction in immigration has increased since 2022, with a majority now in support of reducing numbers.

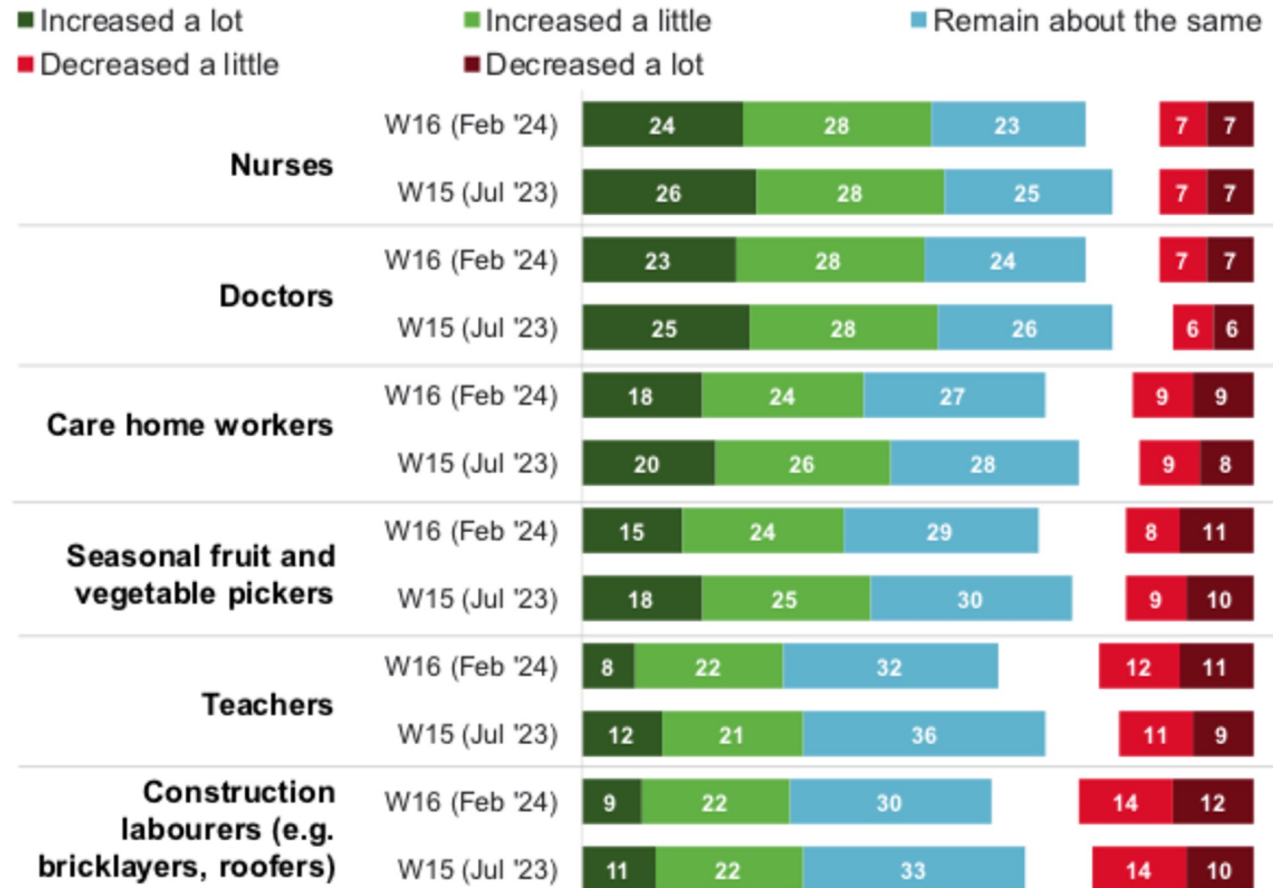
Q Do you think the number of immigrants coming to Britain nowadays should be increased a lot, increased a little, remain the same as it is, reduced a little, or reduced a lot?



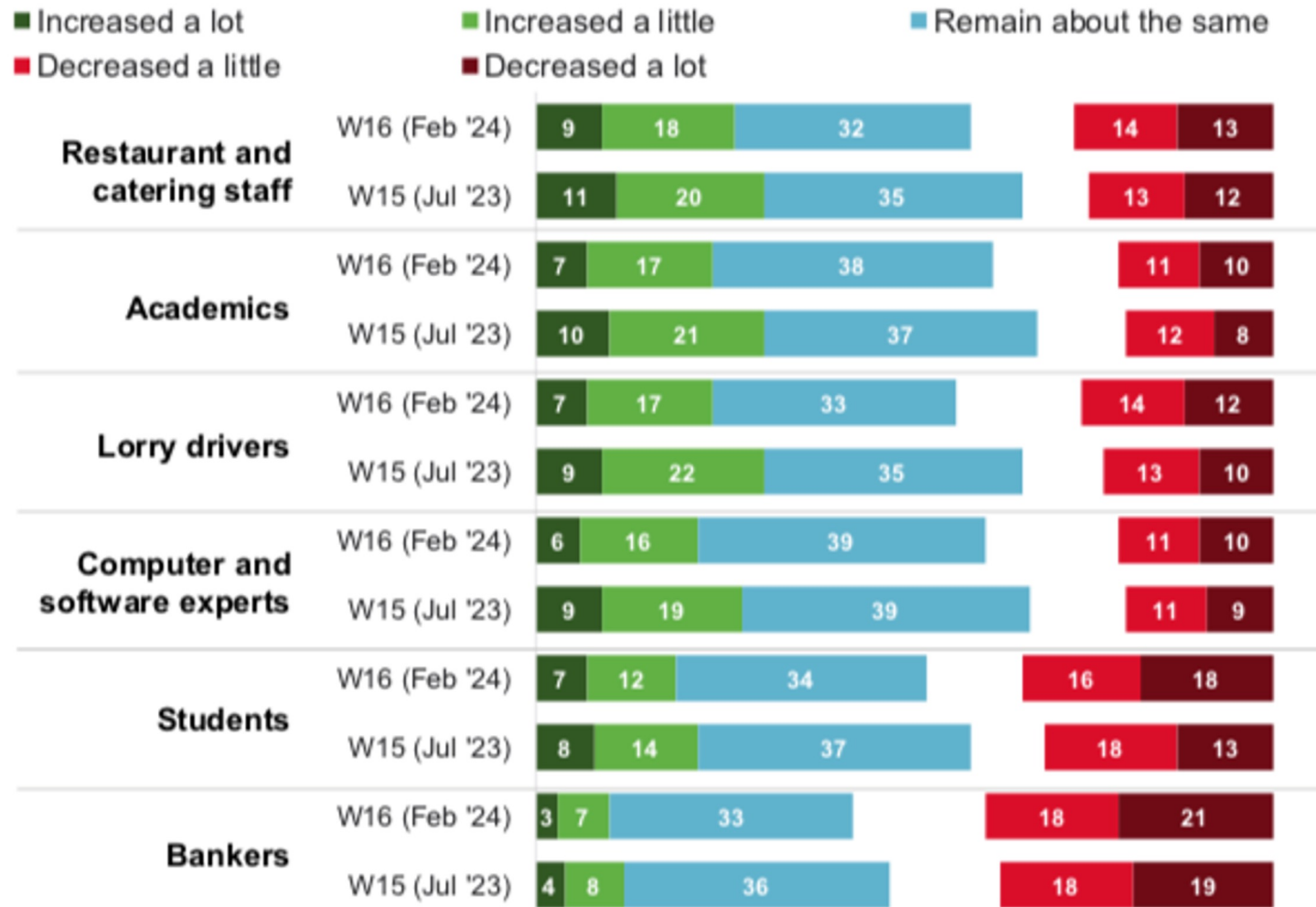
What migration would people cut?

Around half would like to see the number of migrants who are doctors or nurses to be increased, and four in ten would like to see more care home workers.

Q Would you prefer the number of migrants (from any country) from each of the below groups coming to live in the UK to be increased, reduced, or should it remain about the same?



Support for not reducing is higher than for 'reduce'

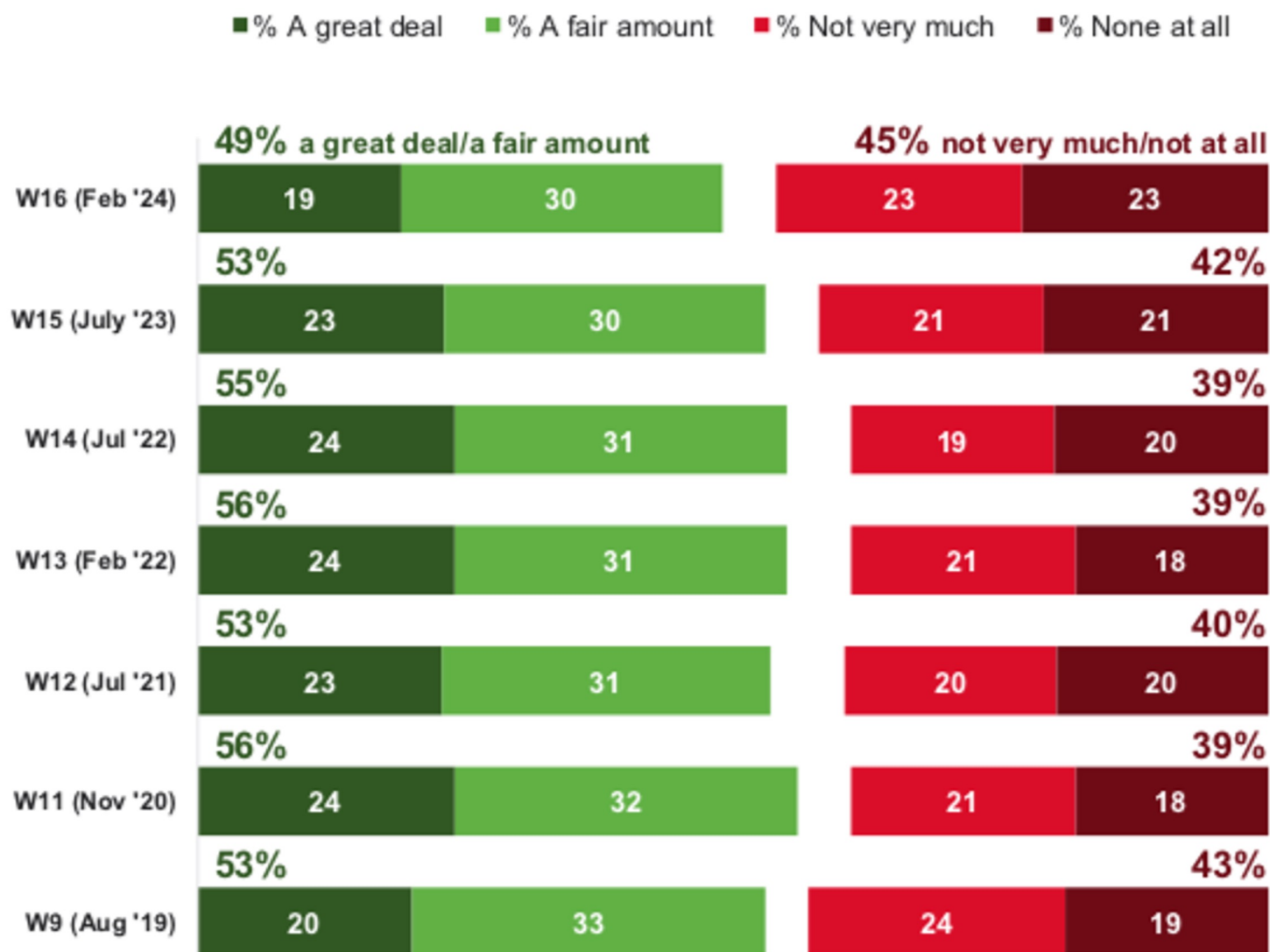


Refugees and asylum



Although half of people continue to have sympathy for migrants attempting to cross the English Channel, this proportion has decreased since 2022.

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



The Rwanda scheme

- 47% of the public supports the Rwanda scheme and 29% are opposed to it.
- Opinion is divided by politics:
- 75% support among Conservatives (and 10% opposition)
- 31% support among prospective Labour voters (and 47% opposition).



Rwanda: should we hear asylum claims here?

- We offered respondents three options:
- 32% chose the description of the actual Rwanda scheme: “Remove asylum seekers to Rwanda to claim asylum there, without first assessing the claim.”
- 25% preferred a different version: “Assess these asylum claims in the UK first, to only consider removals to Rwanda for those whose asylum claims fail”.
- A further quarter (26%) chose “Do not send anyone to Rwanda, regardless of how they arrived.”