

# Covid-19 Monitor: Understanding public opinion on Covid-19 in Georgia



Kingdom of the Netherlands

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July 23, 2020.

# Today

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  - Attitudes
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  - Well being
  - Expectations
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# Methodology

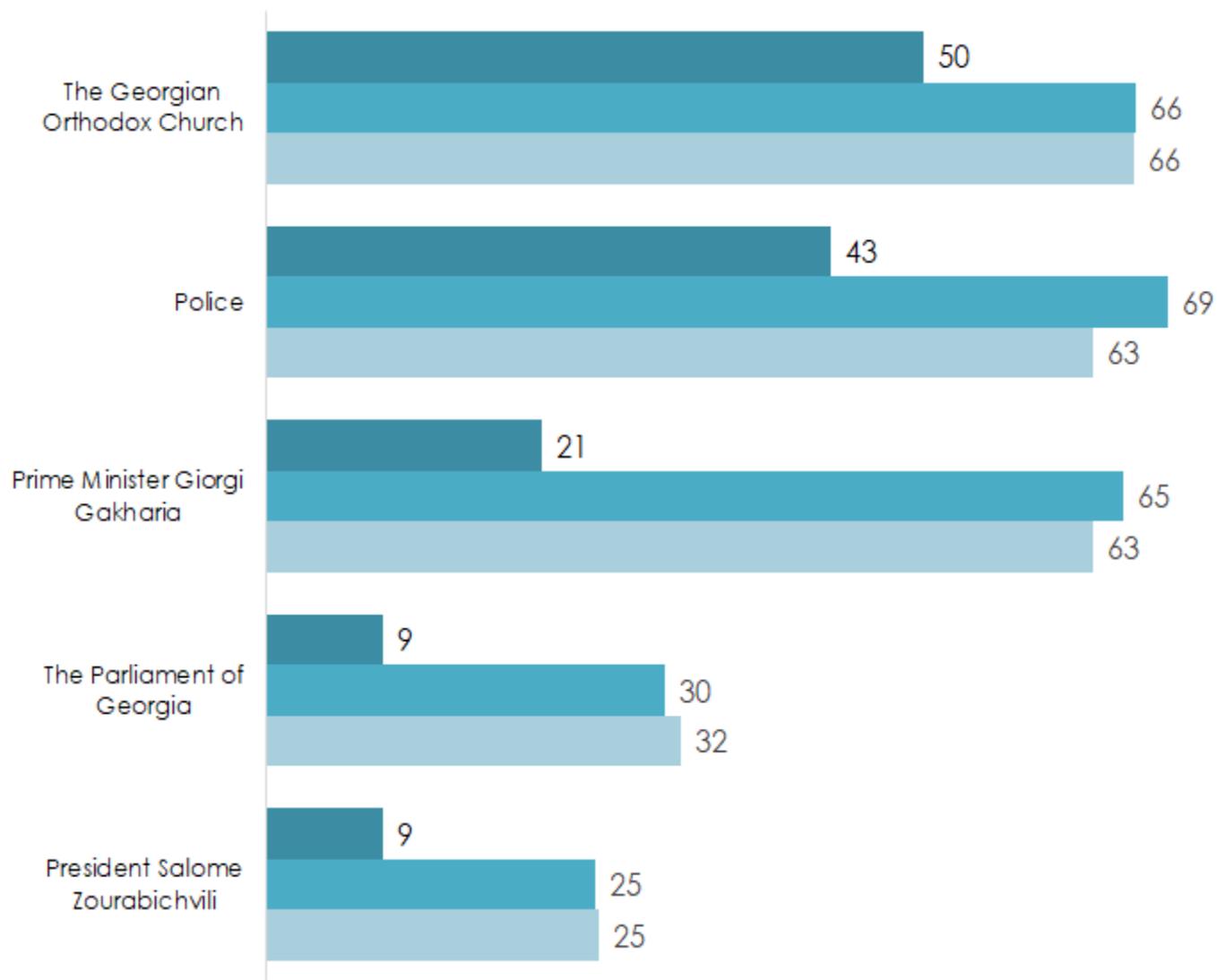
- Data was collected using the random digit dialing method in Georgian, Armenian, Azerbaijani, and Russian languages;
- Results are weighted using demographic information from the 2014 Georgian National Census adjusting on respondents' gender, age, ethnic identity, education, and residence.

Survey Wave	Fieldwork dates	Sample size	Margin of Error	Response Rate
1	April 29 - May 3	992	3.1%	42.1%
2	May 7 - May 10	1037	3.0%	40.5%
3	May 14 - May 17	1053	3.0%	38.6%
4	May 21 - May 23	1002	3.1%	38.8%
5	May 28 - May 31	1036	3.0%	35.1%
6	June 4 - June 6	1095	3.0%	37.0%

# Attitudes

## Assessing institutional performance well and very well by wave of the study (%)

■ NDI November/December 2019 ■ May 21 - May 23 ■ May 28 - May 31



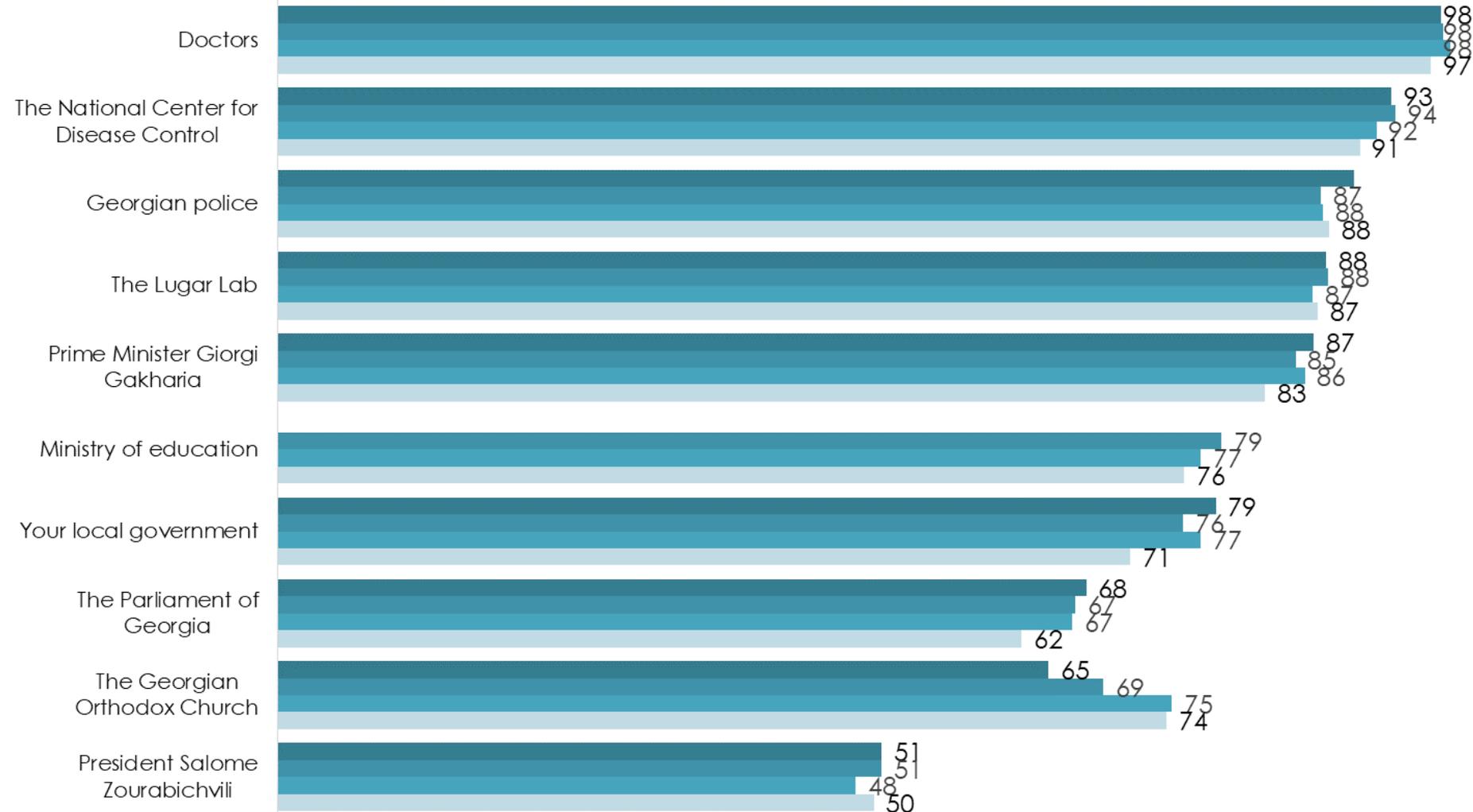
Institutional performance assessments increased significantly during the crisis, across all institutions measured.

The church gained, but occupies a relatively low position compared to prior to the crisis.

# Assessing institutional performance in response to coronavirus well and very well by wave of the study (%)

■ April 29 - May 3   ■ May 7 - May 10   ■ May 14 - May 17   ■ June 4 - June 6

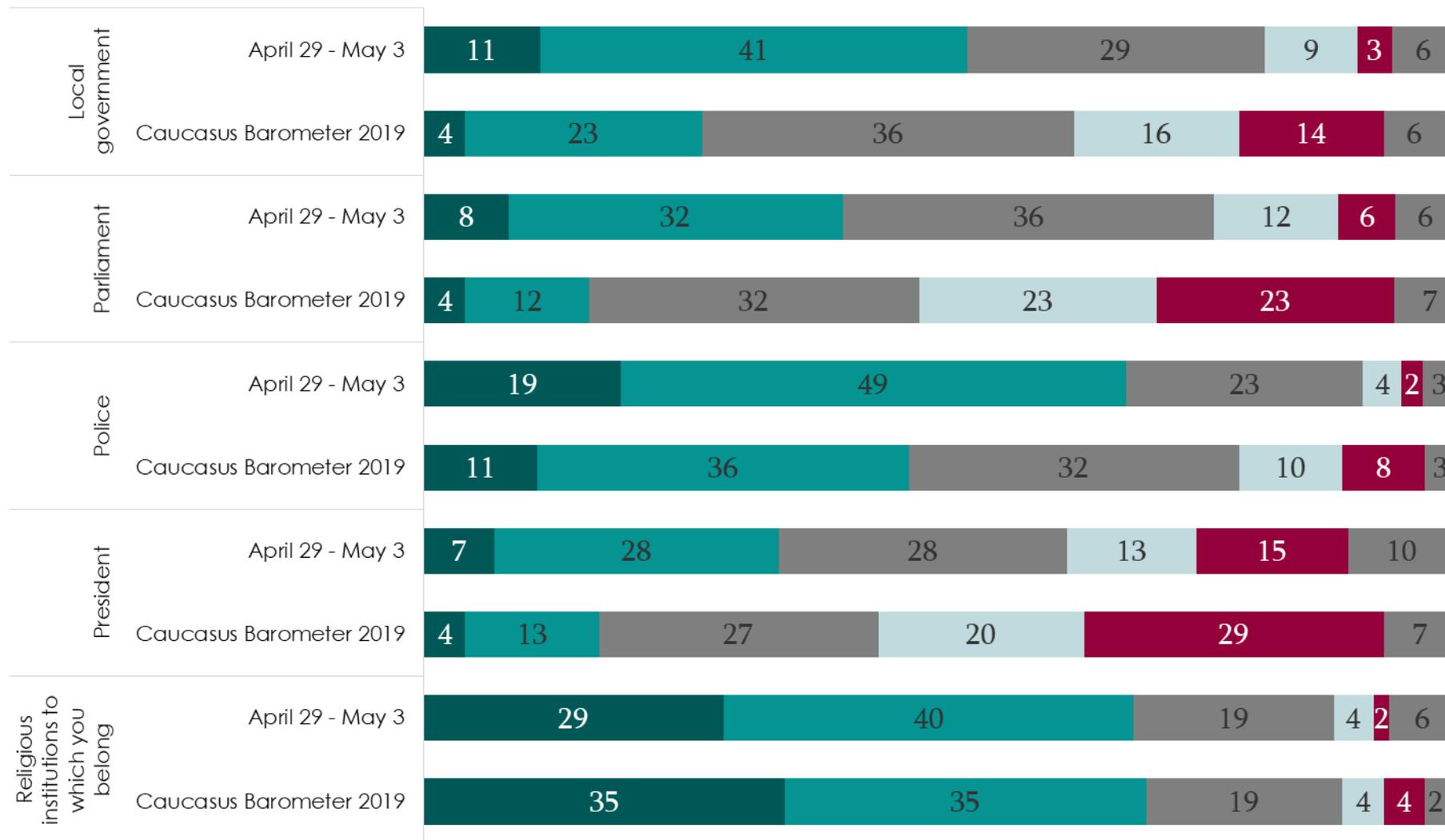
Attitudes towards Corona specific performance were also very high.



## Trust in institutions (Caucasus Barometer 2019 versus Corona Monitor Wave 1) (%)

■ Fully trust  
 ■ Rather trust  
 ■ Neither trust nor distrust  
 ■ Rather distrust  
 ■ Fully distrust  
 ■ DK/RA

There is a similar pattern, with large gains in trust in institutions, with the exception of trust in the Georgian Orthodox church, which was slightly down at the outset of early May.



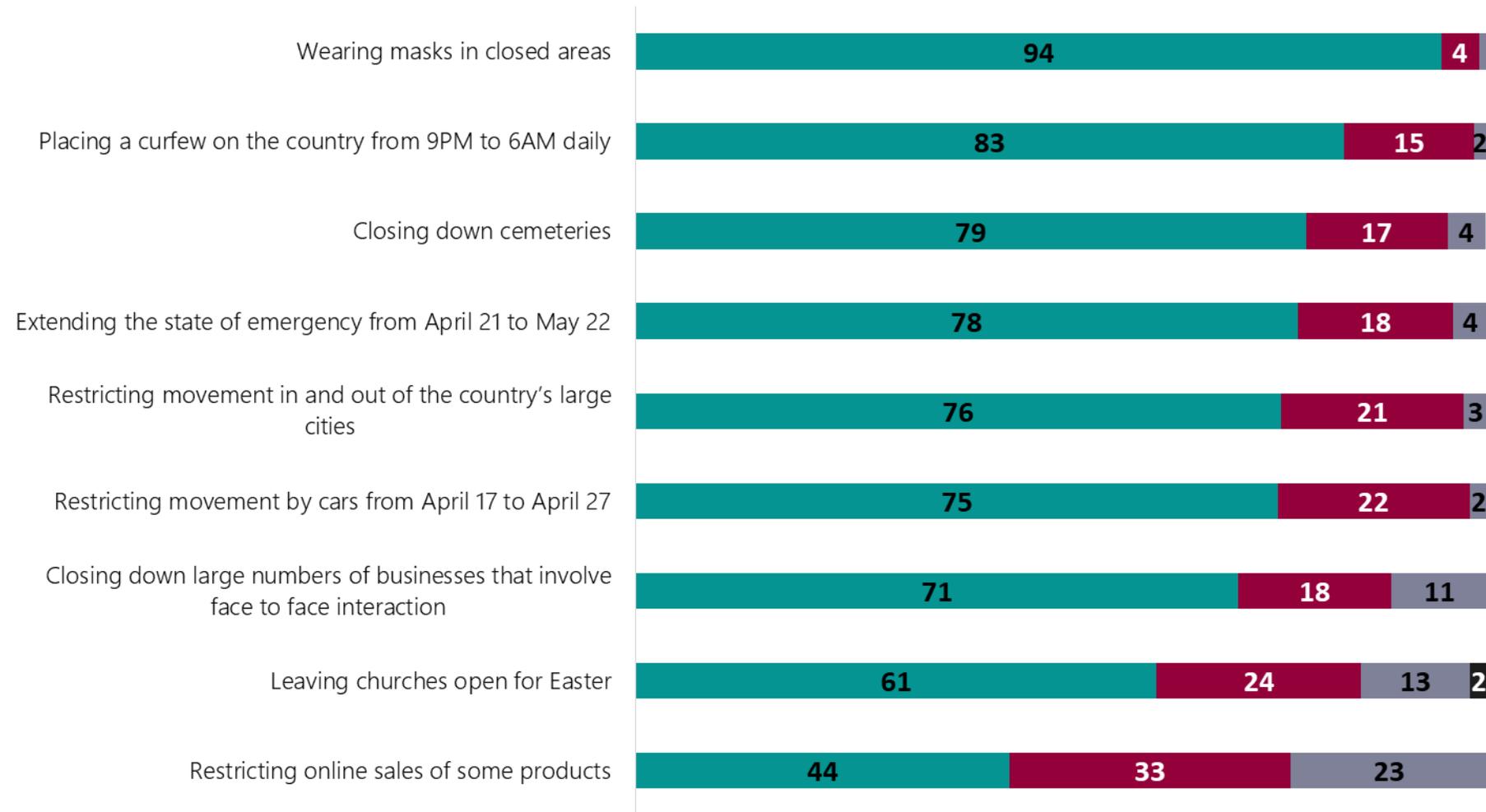


## Approval of different policies, wave 1 (%)

■ Approve ■ Disapprove ■ Don't know ■ Refuse to answer

Approval of policy was consistently high throughout the crisis.

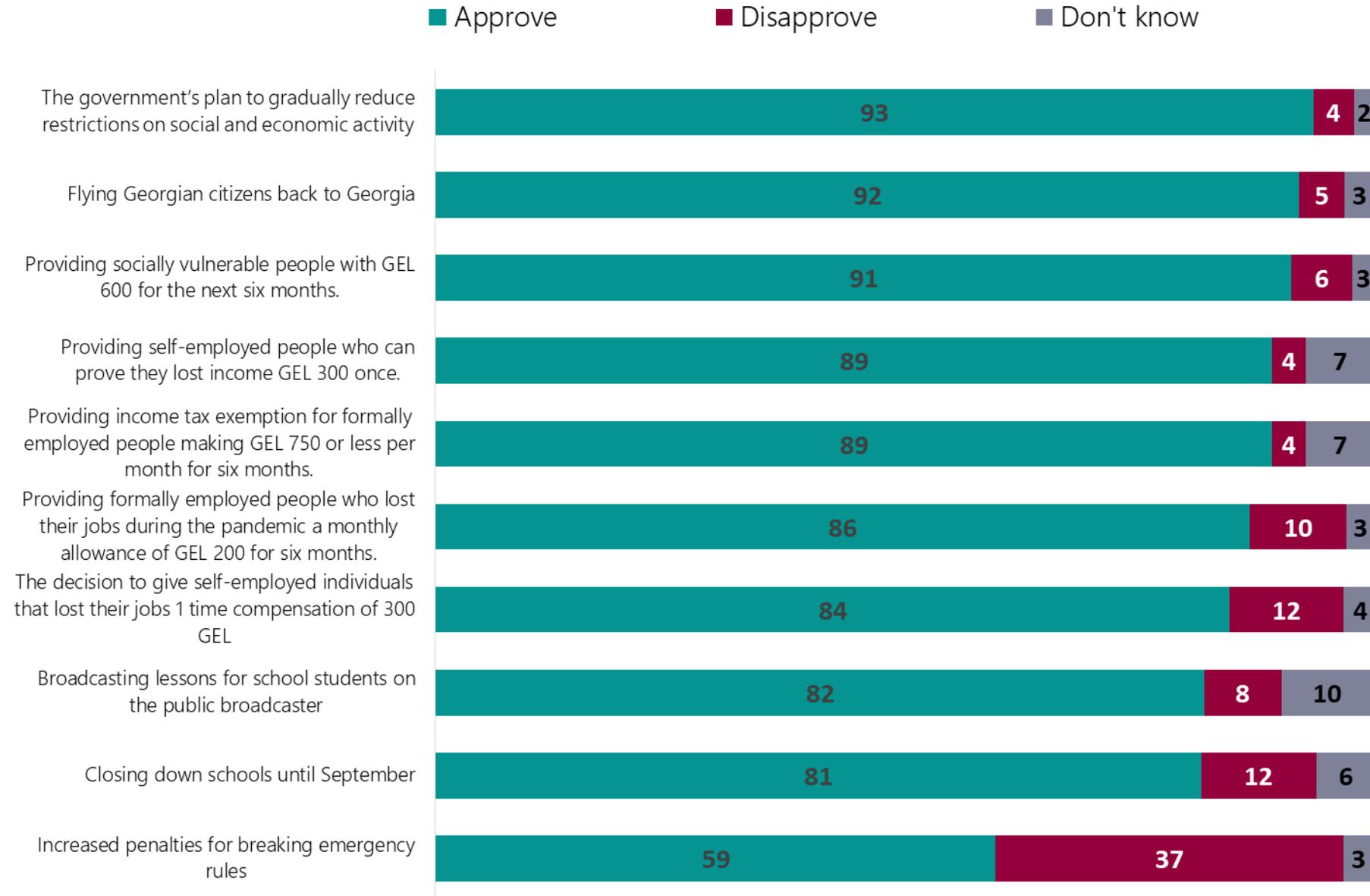
The least approved of policies included:



Approval of policy was consistently high throughout the crisis.

The least approved of policies included:

## Approval of different policies, wave 2 (%)



## Approval of different policies, wave 3 (%)

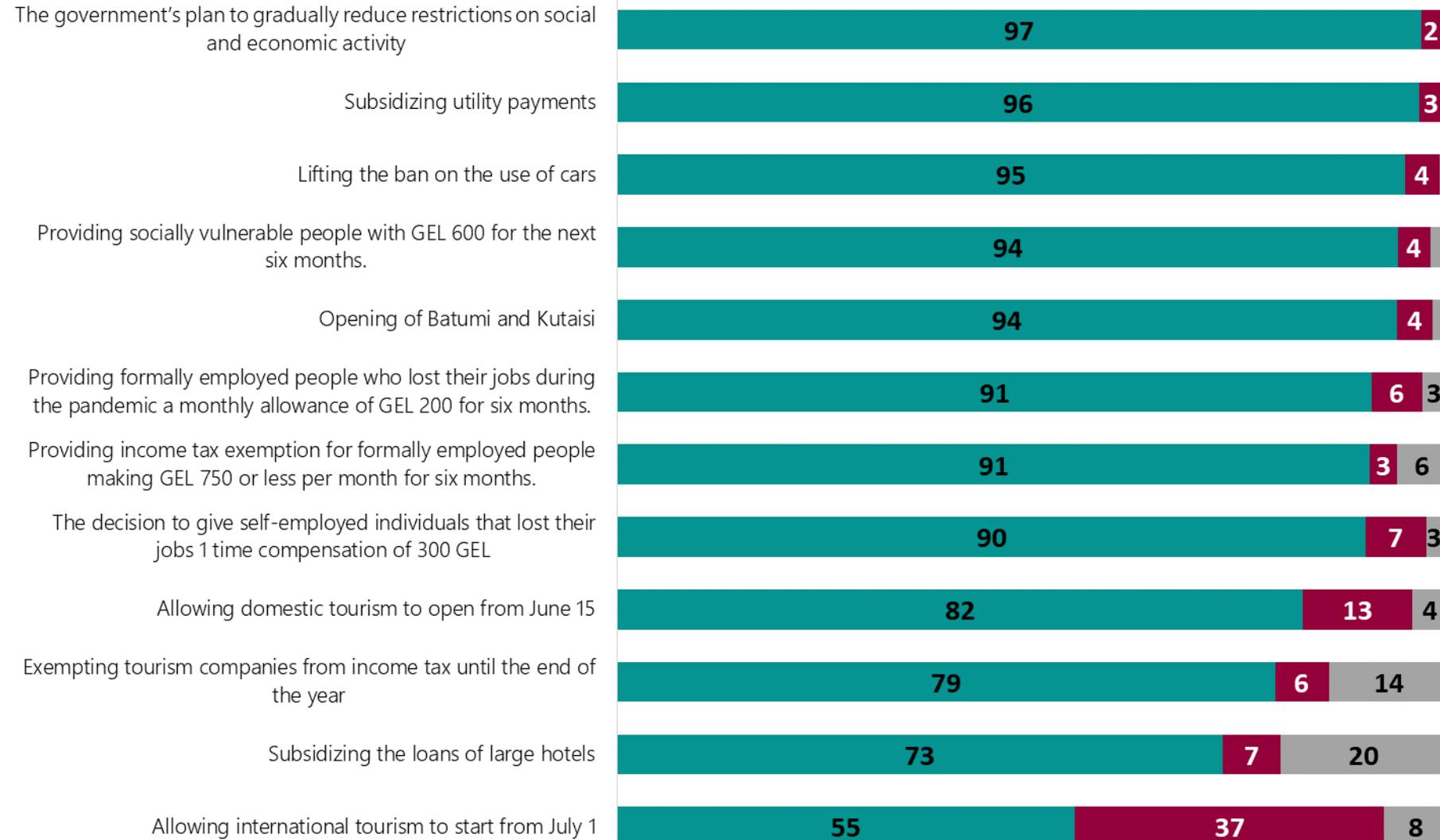
■ Approve

■ Disapprove

■ Don't know

Approval of policy was consistently high throughout the crisis.

The least approved of policies included:

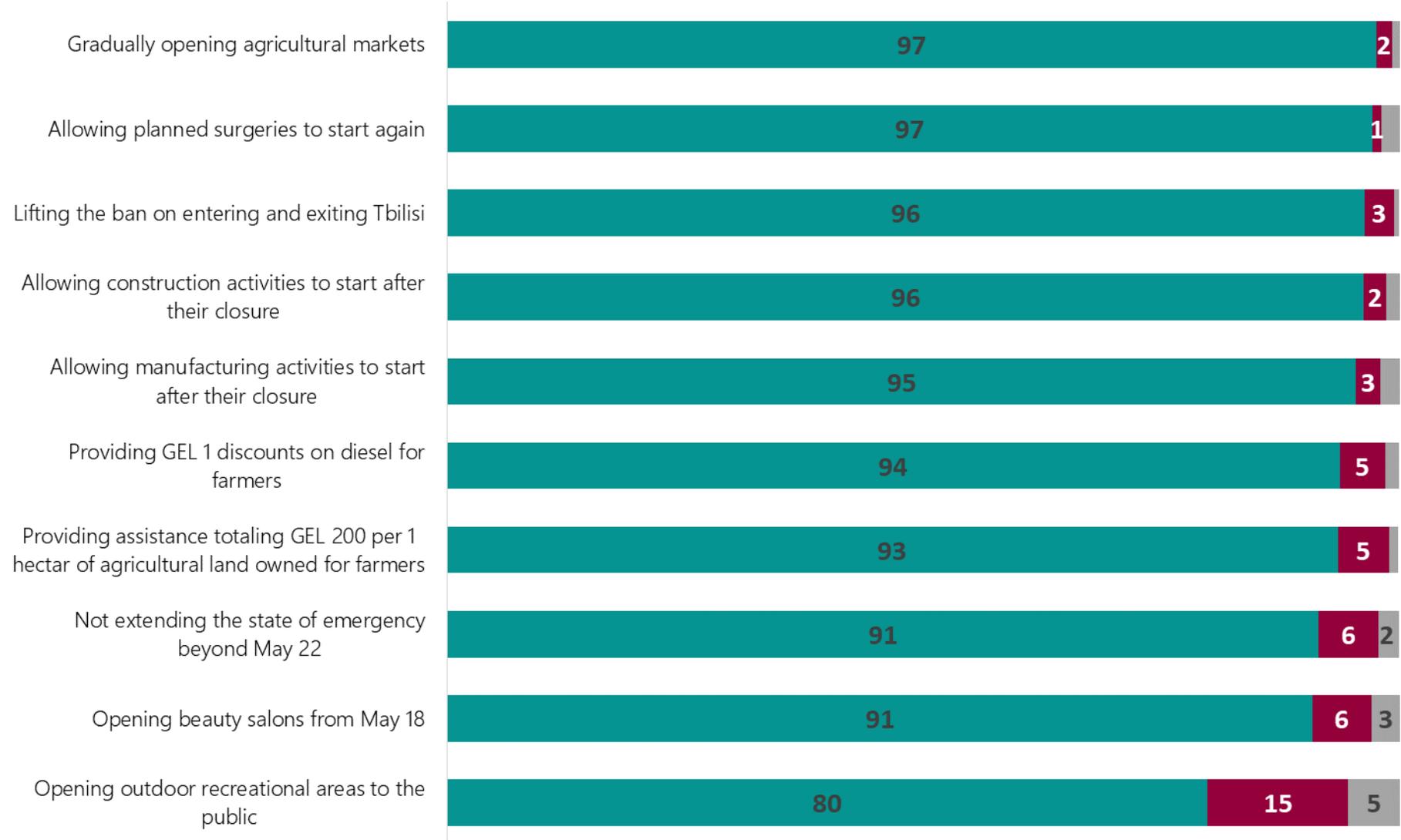


## Approval of different policies, wave 4 (%)

■ Approve      ■ Disapprove      ■ Don't know

Approval of policy was consistently high throughout the crisis.

The least approved of policies included:



Approval of policy was consistently high throughout the crisis.

The least approved of policies included:

## Approval of different policies, wave 5 (%)

■ Approve      ■ Disapprove      ■ Don't know

Lifting ban on limiting the number of people in cars (besides Taxi) to 3

93

6

Lifting the ban on gatherings of more than 3 people

93

7

End of curfew starting the 23rd of May

93

6

Limiting the number of people who can gather to 10, despite lifting the 3 person ban

78

19

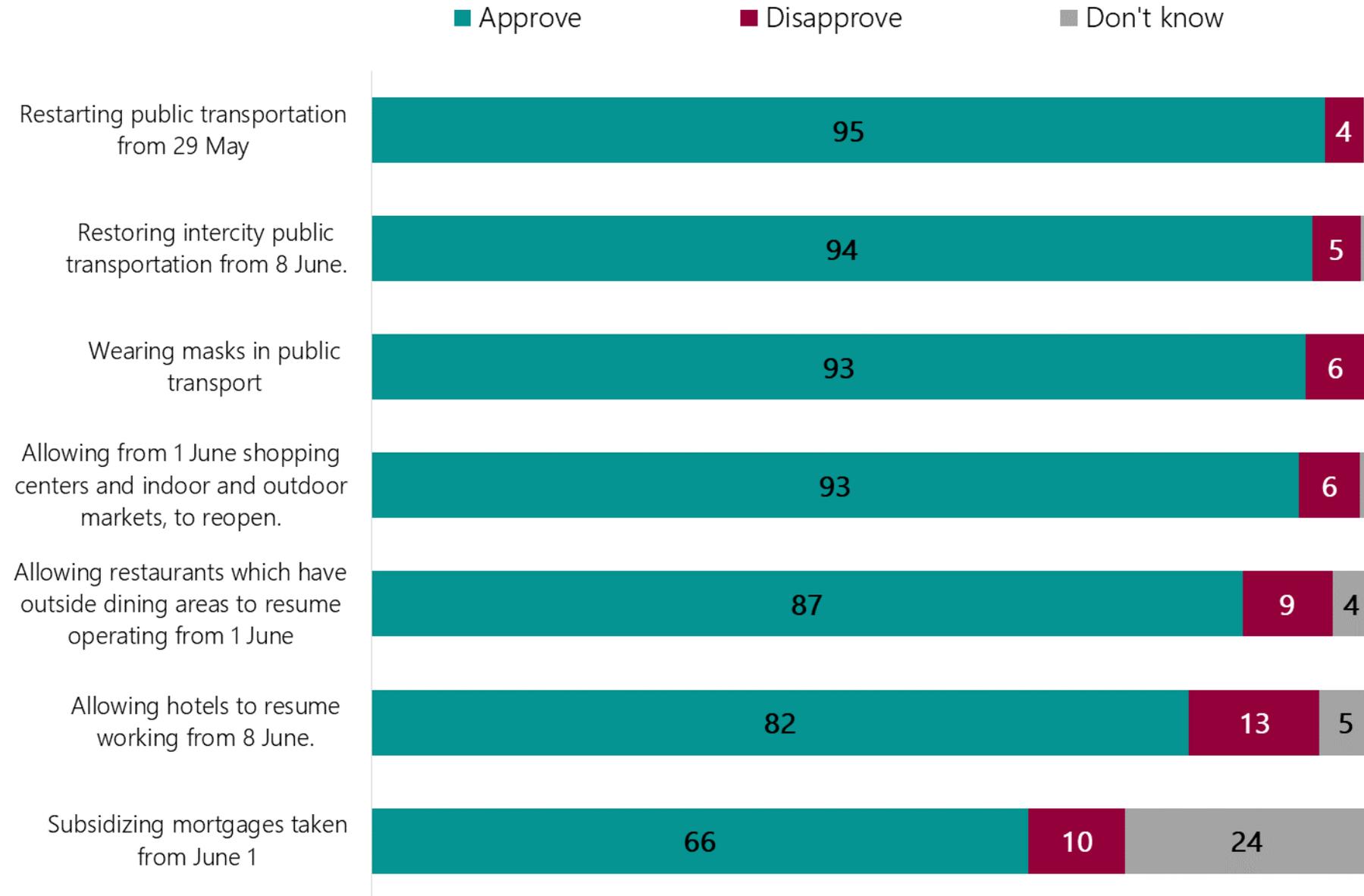
3



Approval of policy was consistently high throughout the crisis.

The least approved of policies included:

## Approval of different policies, wave 6 (%)

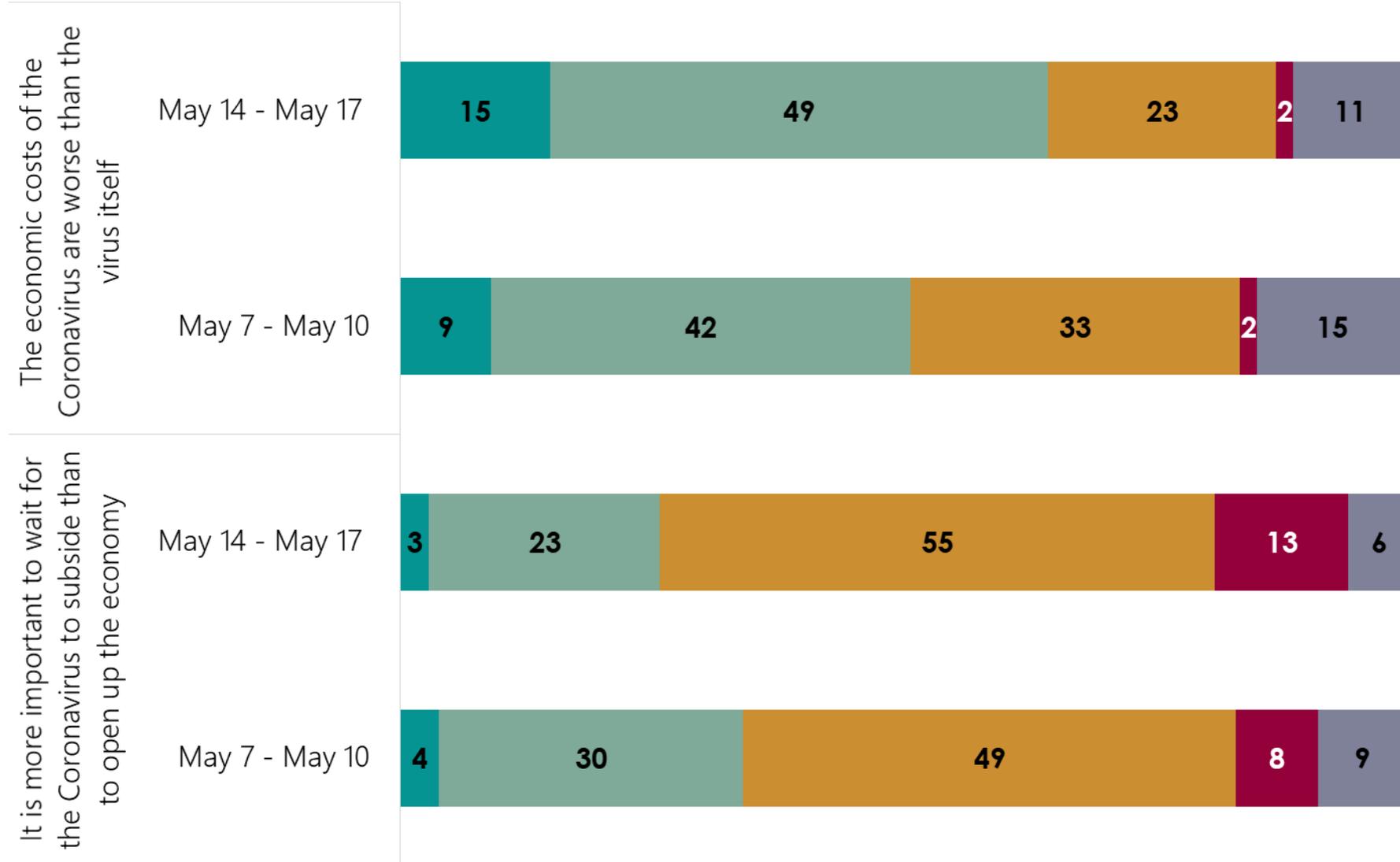


# Opening the economy versus letting the virus subside (%)

■ Strongly agree  
 ■ Agree  
 ■ Disagree  
 ■ Strongly disagree  
 ■ DK

People tended to favor opening the economy up instead of waiting for the virus to subside and this sentiment grew during the crisis

These views were more commonly held in Tbilisi than outside of it.



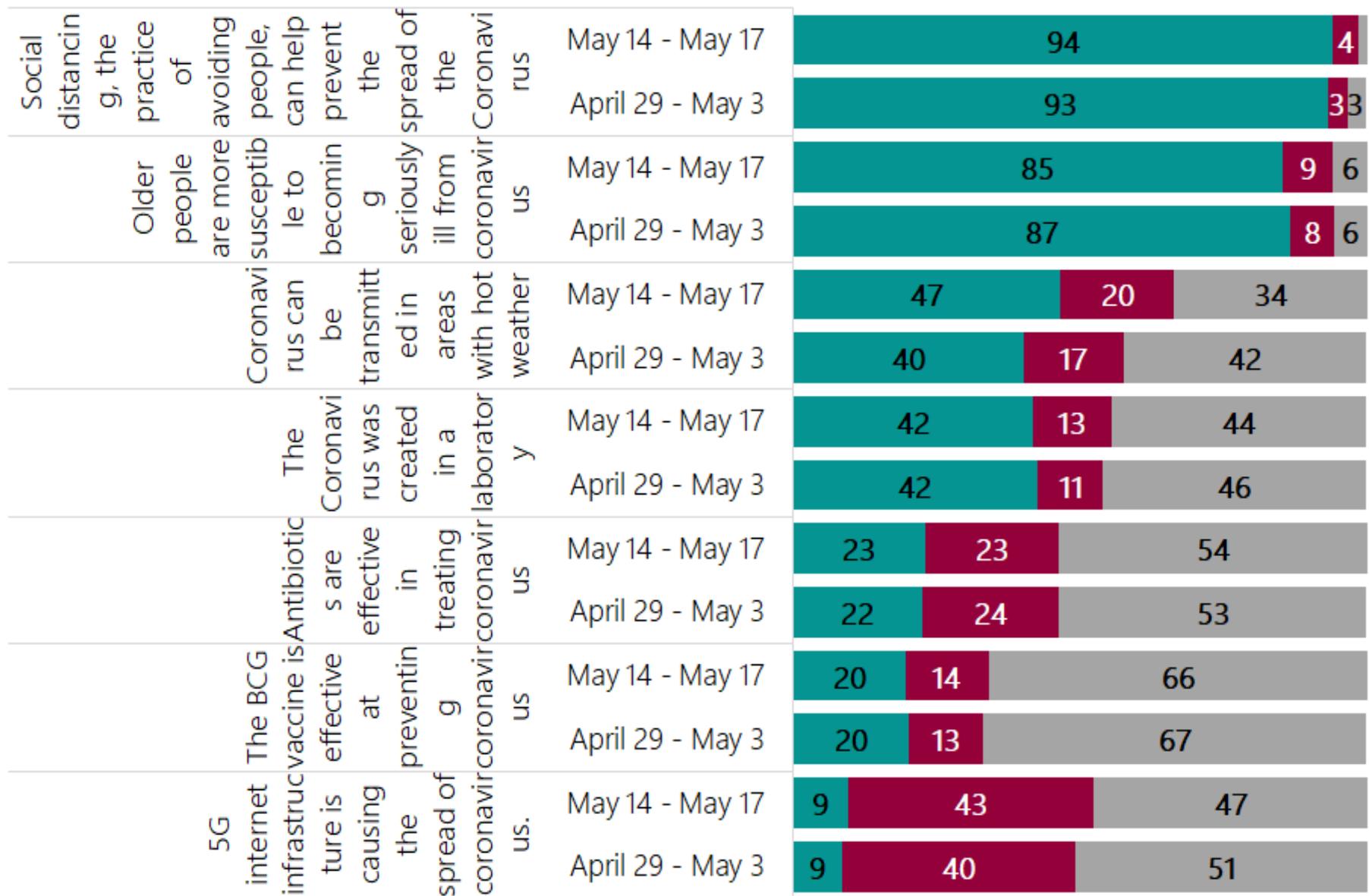


# Please tell me whether you think [the following statements] are true or false. (%)

■ True ■ False ■ Don't know

Misinformation was present in Georgia during the crisis as well as widespread uncertainty over many pieces of misinformation;

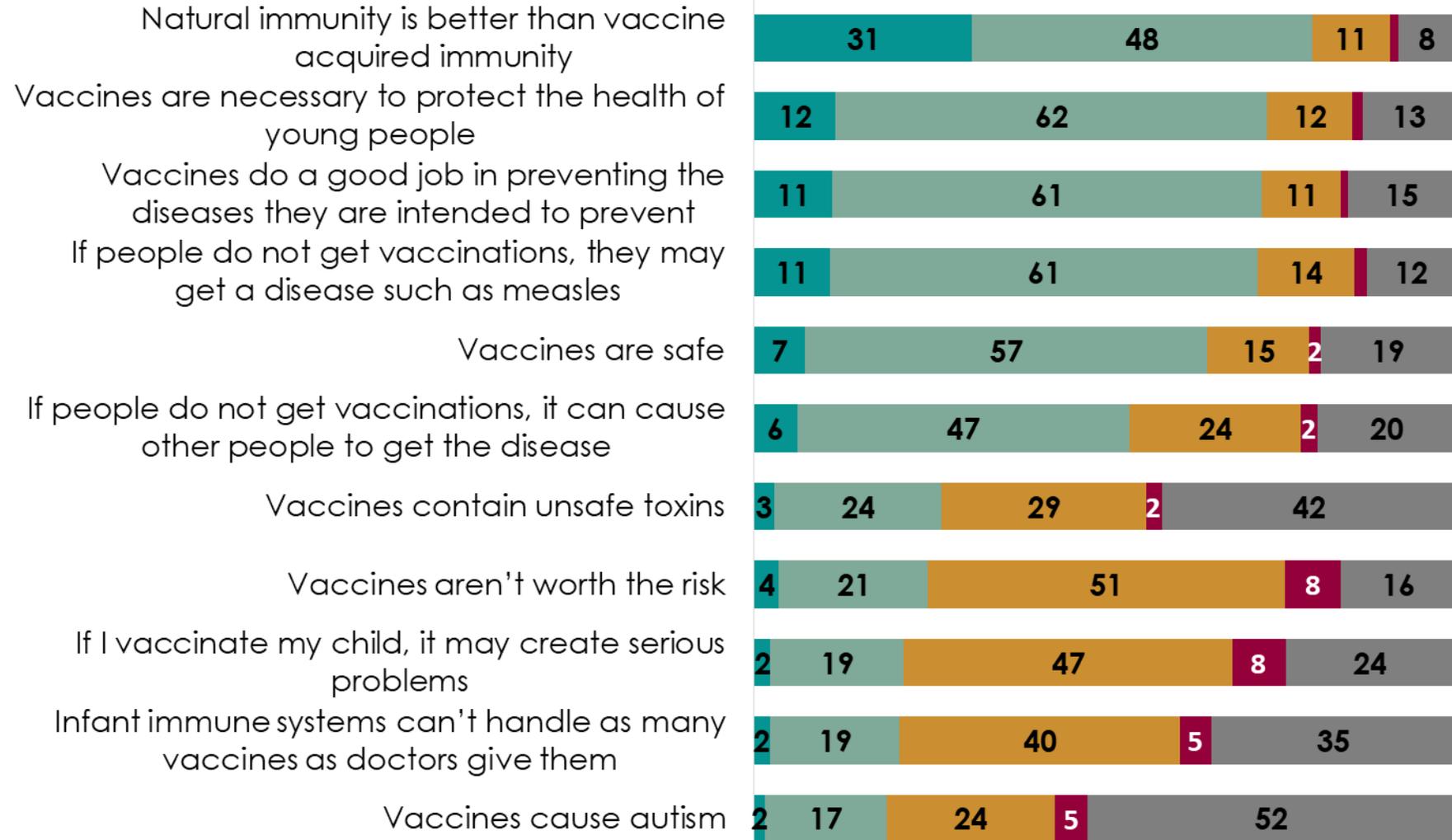
Most people thought they had seen some of form of misinformation during the crisis;



# Attitudes towards vaccines(%)

■ Strongly Agree  
 ■ Agree  
 ■ Disagree  
 ■ Strongly disagree  
 ■ DK

Misinformation about vaccines is widespread in Georgia

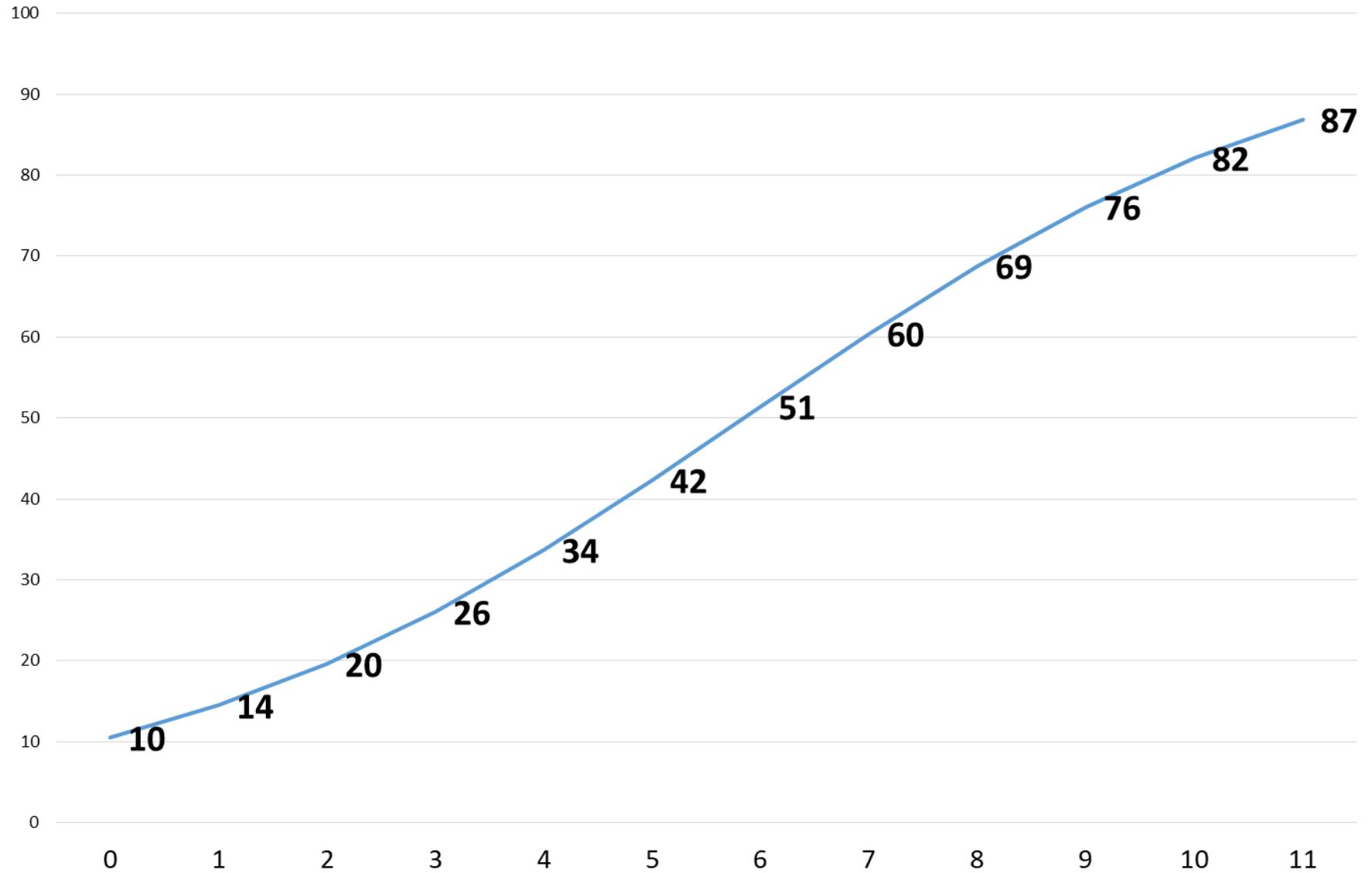




## Predicted probability of wanting to be vaccinated by score on vaccine attitude index (%)

Only 42% of the public would want a Covid 19 vaccine if available 6 months from now.

Uncertainty and belief in misinformation is strongly correlated with interest in getting a vaccine for Covid 19 if one were available 6 months from now.



## To what extent is it acceptable or unacceptable to ...? (%)

■ Totally acceptable  
 ■ Acceptable  
 ■ Unacceptable  
 ■ Totally unacceptable  
 ■ Don't know

The share of people that think democracy is preferable to any other form of government and those that think Georgia is a democracy increased during the crisis;

At the same time, support for democracy is not associated with support for democratic forms of governance.

that insofar as the government can solve the crisis successfully, it does not matter whether the decision-makers have an official position or not



for a country to have a strong and purposeful leader who decides for him/herself what needs to be done to pull the country out of the crisis



publicly criticize the government regarding over how to overcome the crisis



restrict the rights of citizens without asking parliament to bring the country out of the crisis



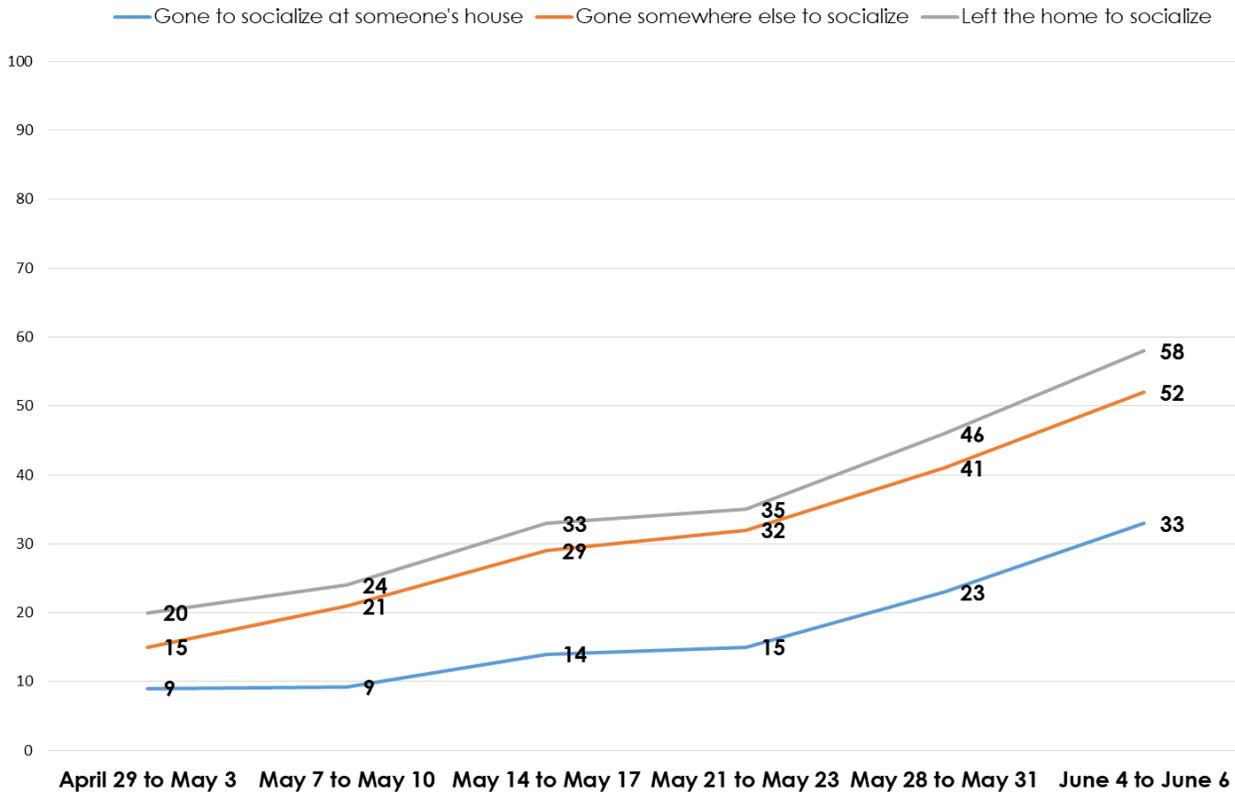
**Behavior**



Over the course of the crisis, people increasingly went out to socialize.

Men and young people were significantly more likely to go out to socialize during the state of emergency

Prevalence of socializing in Georgia (%)

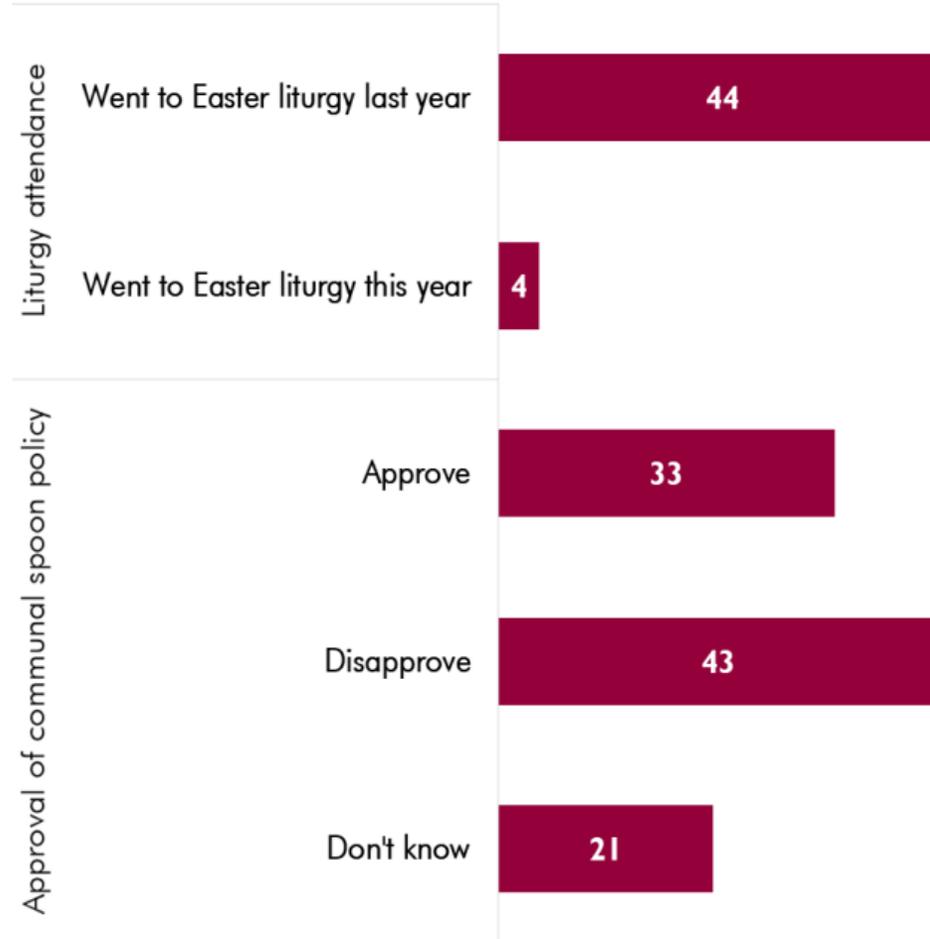


	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Lower level of education	Higher education
April 29 to May 03	27	13	29	18	13	19	22
May 07 to May 10	30	19	30	25	17	23	26
May 14 to 17	39	27	41	34	24	32	35
May 21 to May 23	45	27	44	38	24	32	41
May 28 to May 31	55	38	52	49	36	42	52
June 4 to June 6	70	48	70	64	41	56	63

Attendance at Easter Liturgy was approximately 91% lower than last year;

Orthodox Christians tended to disapprove of the church's communal spoon policy.

## Attitudes towards the communal spoon and Easter liturgy attendance(%)



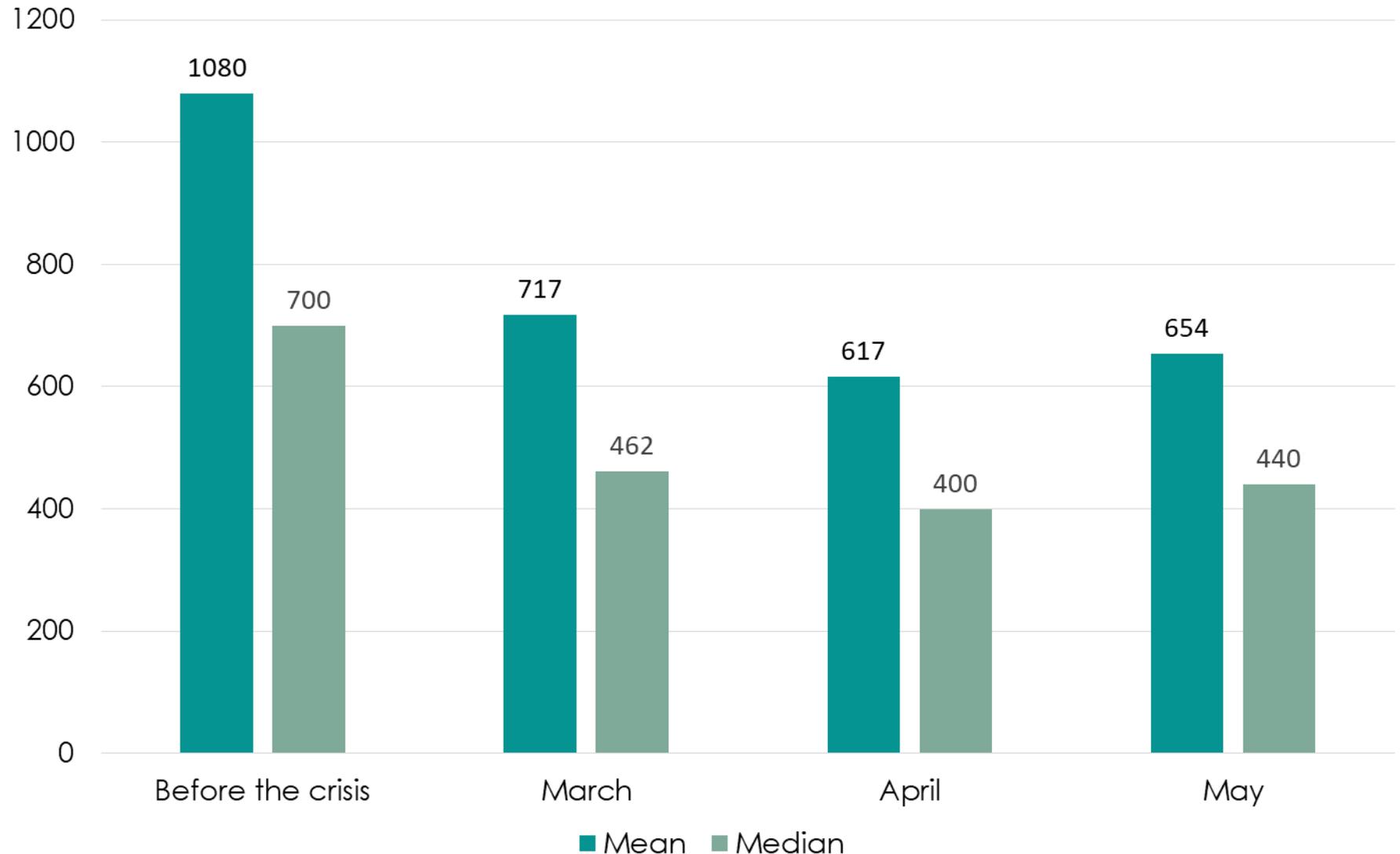
**Well being**

## Mean and median income prior to and during the crisis (post-tax, GEL)

Mean and median household incomes halved during the crisis;

The share of households that reported having no income increased from 0.5% prior to the crisis to 10% in April and 14% in May.

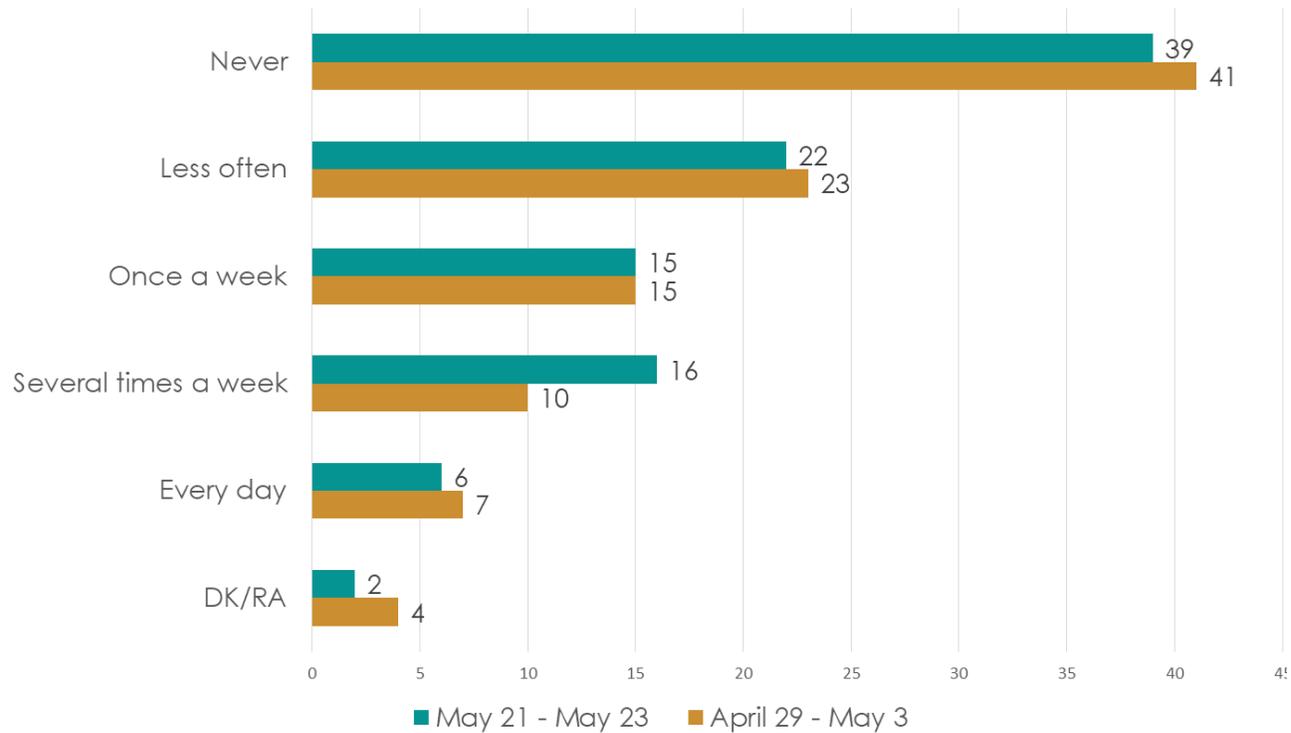
28% of the public lost a job during the crisis, however, half of those that lost a job have started working again.



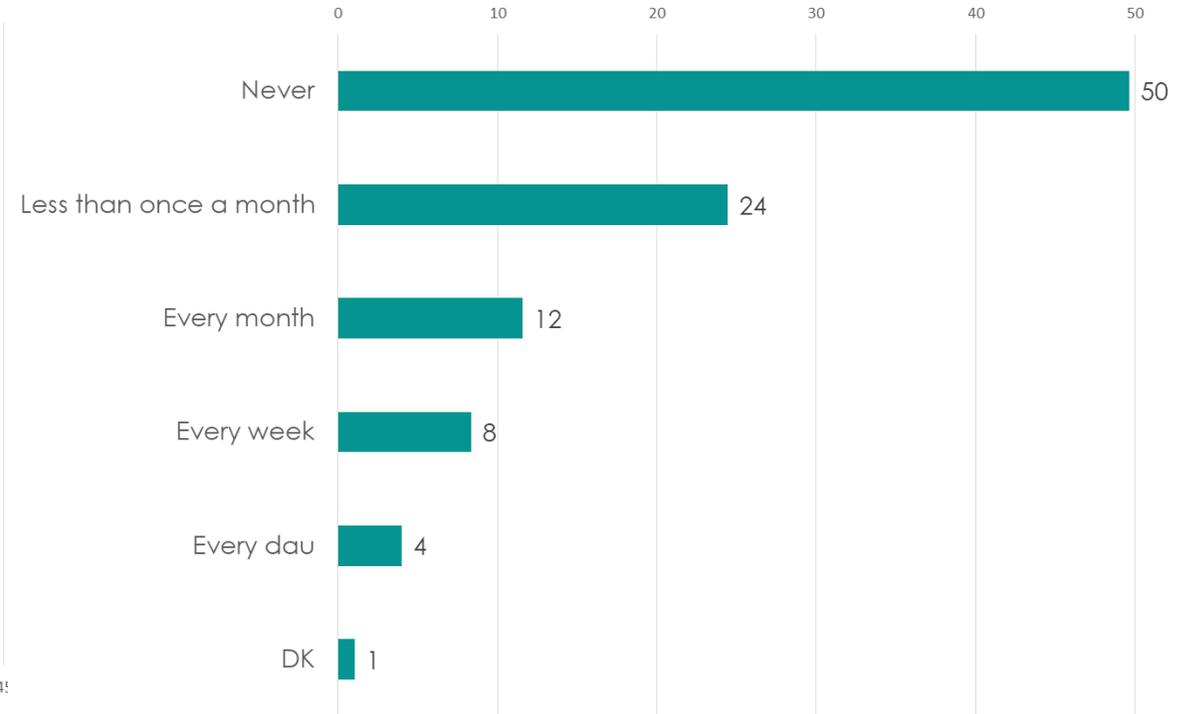


# Food insecurity increased during the crisis both in terms of extent of issues as well as intensity

How often did you experience trouble buying the food you and your family needed in the last month? (%)



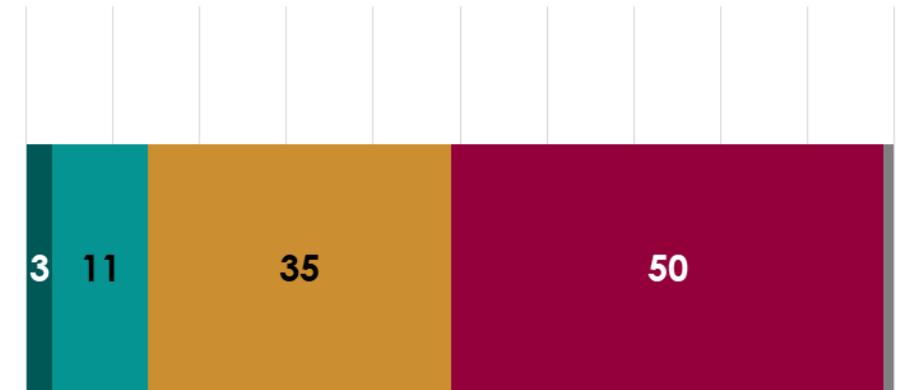
Speaking about the year before March, how often did you not have enough money to buy the food you or your family needed? (%)



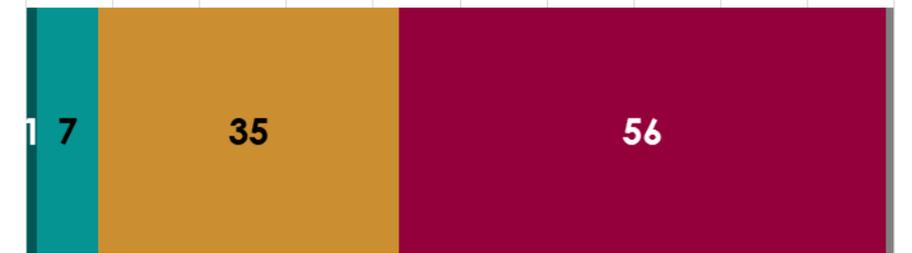
## Financial and health concerns (%)

Concerns about both financial and health concerns were common among the entire population

How worried are you that you or someone in your immediate family might become seriously ill from coronavirus (COVID-19)?



How worried are you about your household's finances in the next month?



■ Not worried at all ■ Not worried ■ Worried ■ Very worried ■ DK

# Expectations

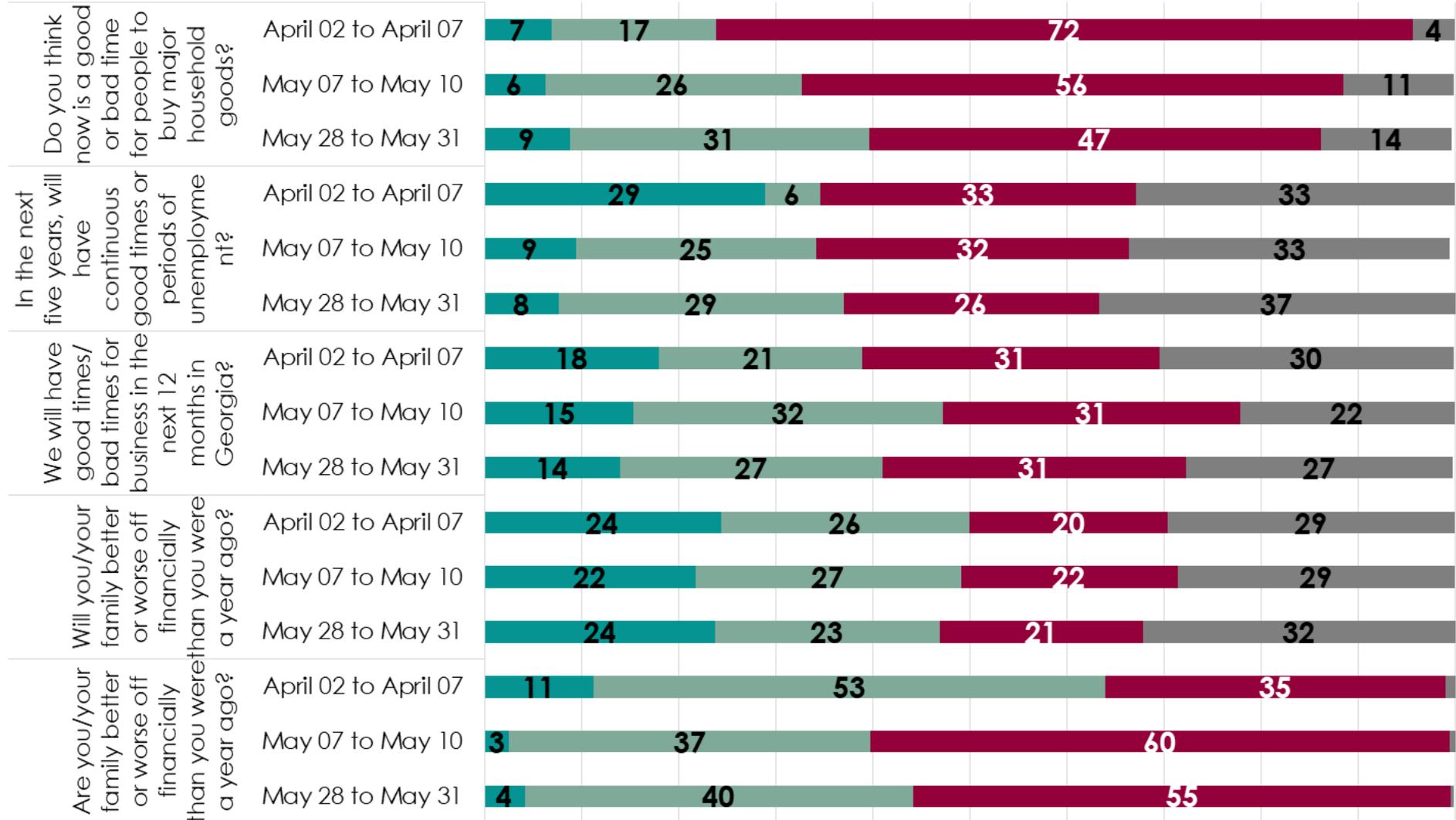


# Consumer confidence (%)

■ Positive response ■ Neutral response ■ Negative response ■ Don't know

Consumer confidence data suggests large declines in how well households are doing, but improvements in whether or not it's a good time to purchase durable goods.

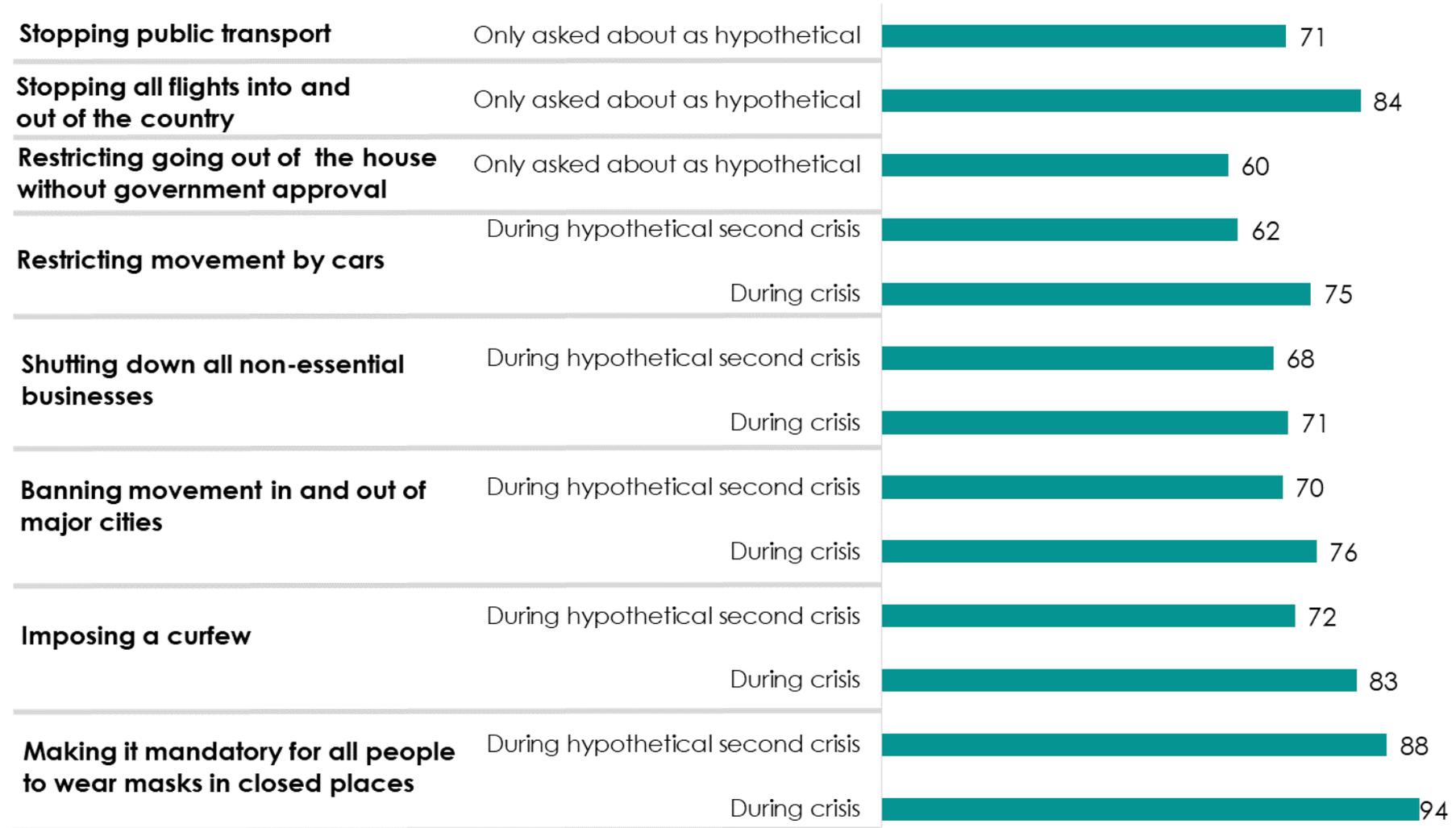
Despite this, there is widespread pessimism and uncertainty over the economic situation.



# Policy approval during crisis versus during potential second crisis (%)

In the event of a second outbreak of the crisis, people would be less supportive of re-introducing various measures than they were during the first outbreak of the virus;

Only a minority expect a second wave of the virus.



# Conclusions

# Attitudes

- Performance assessments and trust in institutions rose significantly during the crisis;
- Most people report encountering disinformation about the virus;
- Many though not a majority believe in different pieces of misinformation about the virus and uncertainty is widespread;
- Policy approval during the crisis was high;
- People tended towards favoring opening up the economy to caution regarding the epidemiological situation;
- Georgia has a clear problem with vaccine knowledge and attitudes;

# Behavior

- During the crisis, men and young people were more likely to be out socializing despite the need for social distancing;
- Only 4% of the public attended Easter Ceremonies and more Orthodox Christians disapproved than approved of the use of the communal spoon;

# Well being

- Household income halved during the crisis;
- The share of households reporting that they had no income rose over 10 fold during the crisis;
- A majority of the public experienced issues with food security during the crisis;
- Stress over both financial and epidemiological issues was wide spread;

# Expectations

- Consumer confidence is low;
- Only a minority expect there will be a second outbreak of Covid 19 in Georgia;
- Support for implementing the numerous policies the government carried out during the crisis in the event of a second outbreak would be lower.

**Thank you for your time.  
Questions?**

# In Georgia, we count



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