

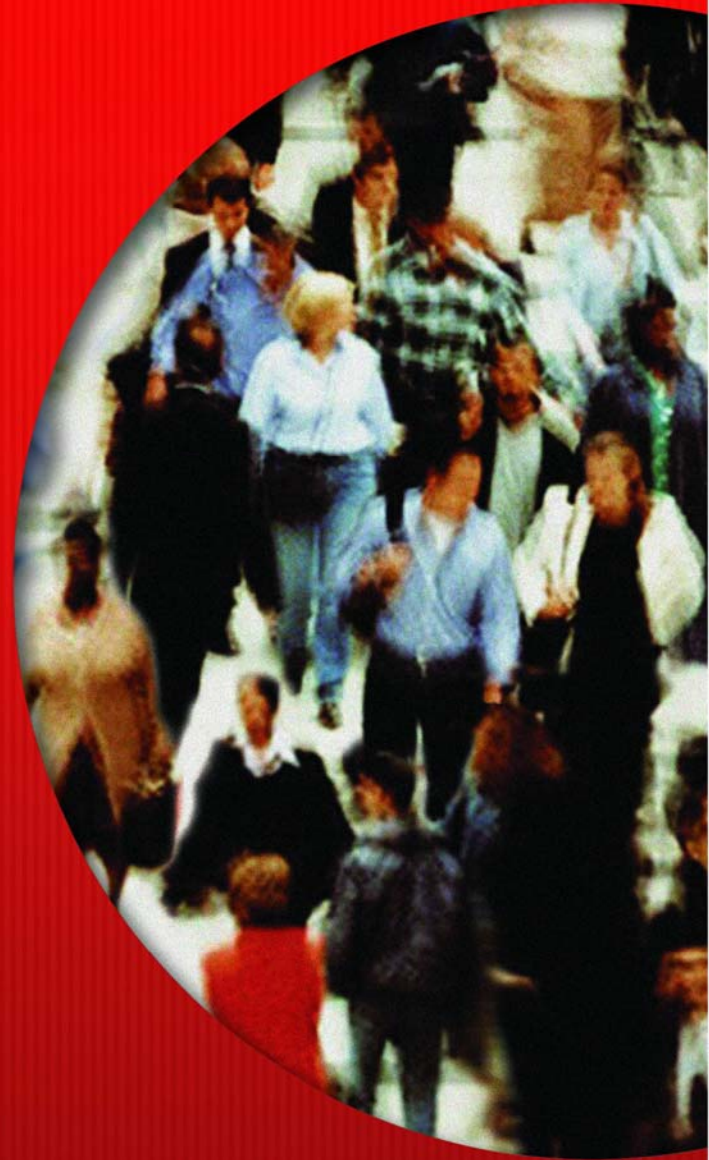


# Wave 1

## Top Line Report

October 2007

PART OF THE  
**SECURITY MONITOR**  
STUDY



## About the study:

Launched in the immediate aftermath of the September 11th terrorist attacks, The Security Monitor aims to better understand Canadians' perceptions of the broad spectrum of safety and security issues (e.g., terrorism, pandemics, environmental catastrophes, global conflict, crime, etc.). The study also examines the public's views of government responses to these issues.

Now in its seventh edition, The Security Monitor is the longest-running and most in-depth examination of the evolving safety and security landscape in Canada and has become one of the most relied upon sources for senior decision-makers tasked with guiding their organizations through what continues to be a rapidly changing environment.

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## Methodology:

The methodology for the 2007-8 Security Monitor study involves a total of nine waves of research. The results presented in this top line report are based on the following:

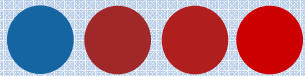
- A telephone survey completed with a stratified national random sample of 1,000 Canadians, aged 18 and over undertaken between October 17 and October 29, 2007.
  - The results are statistically weighted by age, gender and region to ensure that they are representative of the Canadian public aged 18 and over.
  - In some areas, the survey is designed to randomize questions in order to test differences in attitudes across various indicators as well as to minimize response burden. In some cases this means that questions are only posed to half the sample.
  - Findings from questions posed on full sample may be considered accurate within +/-3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. The margin of error for questions posed on a half sample is +/- 4.4 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

## Methodology (continued):

	Field dates	Sample	Margin of error
Wave 1	Oct. 17 – Oct. 29	1,000	+/-3.1 percentage points



# Government responses

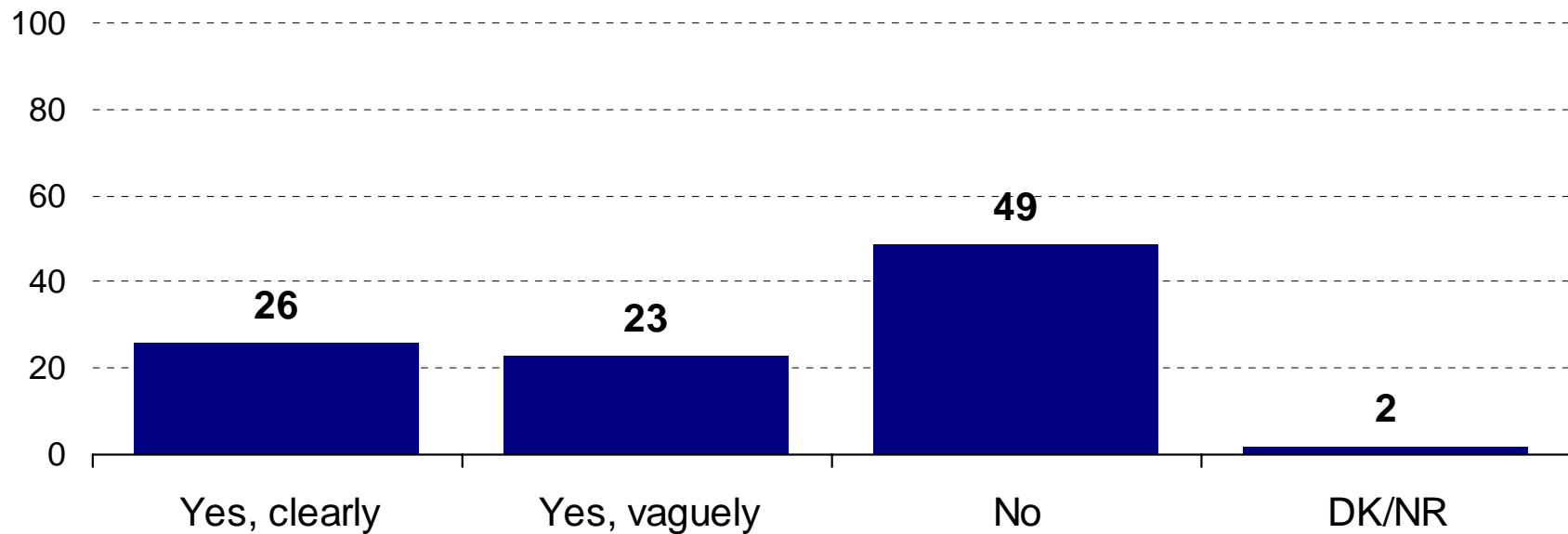


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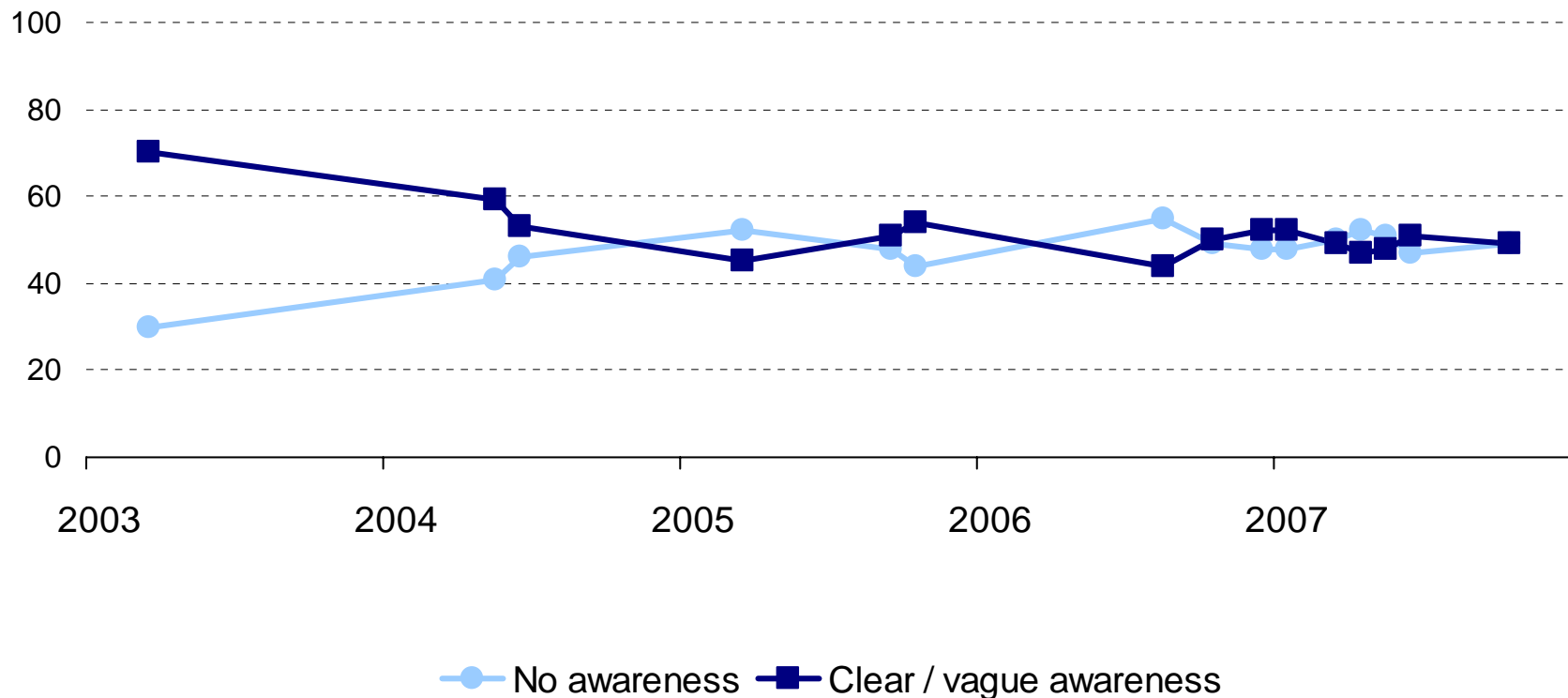
**Awareness of security measures:** The recent Speech from the Throne set out the broad goals and directions of the Government of Canada for the coming year. Although aspects of the Speech focused on tackling crime and strengthening security, fewer than half of Canadians recalls hearing about any actions the government has taken to improve public safety and security in the past year.

**Q.** Do you recall hearing about any actions that the Government of Canada has taken to improve public safety and security in the past year?



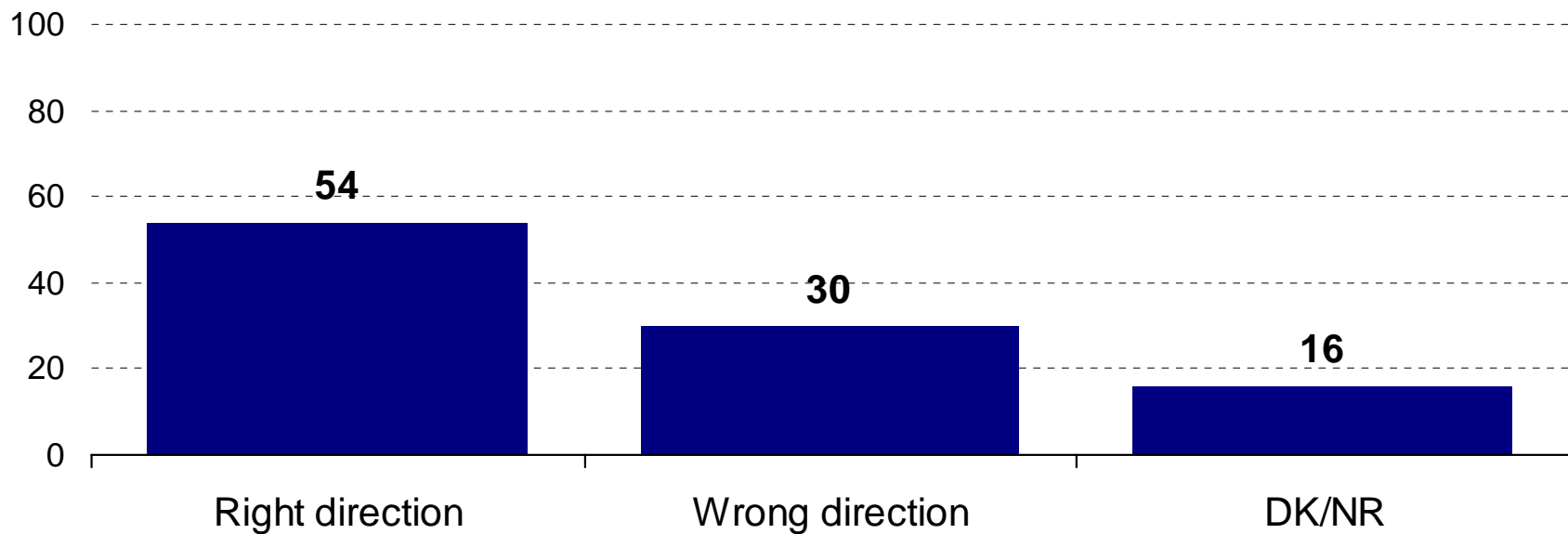
**Tracking awareness security measures:** Since tracking began, awareness levels have ranged from a high of 70 per cent in March 2003 to a low of 44 per cent in August 2005. For more than a year, the proportion of Canadians indicating awareness has hovered around the 50 per cent mark.

**Q.** Do you recall hearing about any actions that the Government of Canada has taken to improve public safety and security in the past year?



**Direction of Government on national security:** More than half of Canadians currently says that the government is moving in the right direction in terms of national security. Importantly, those aware of the measures the government has taken to improve security are particularly inclined to support the government's direction in this area (61 per cent).

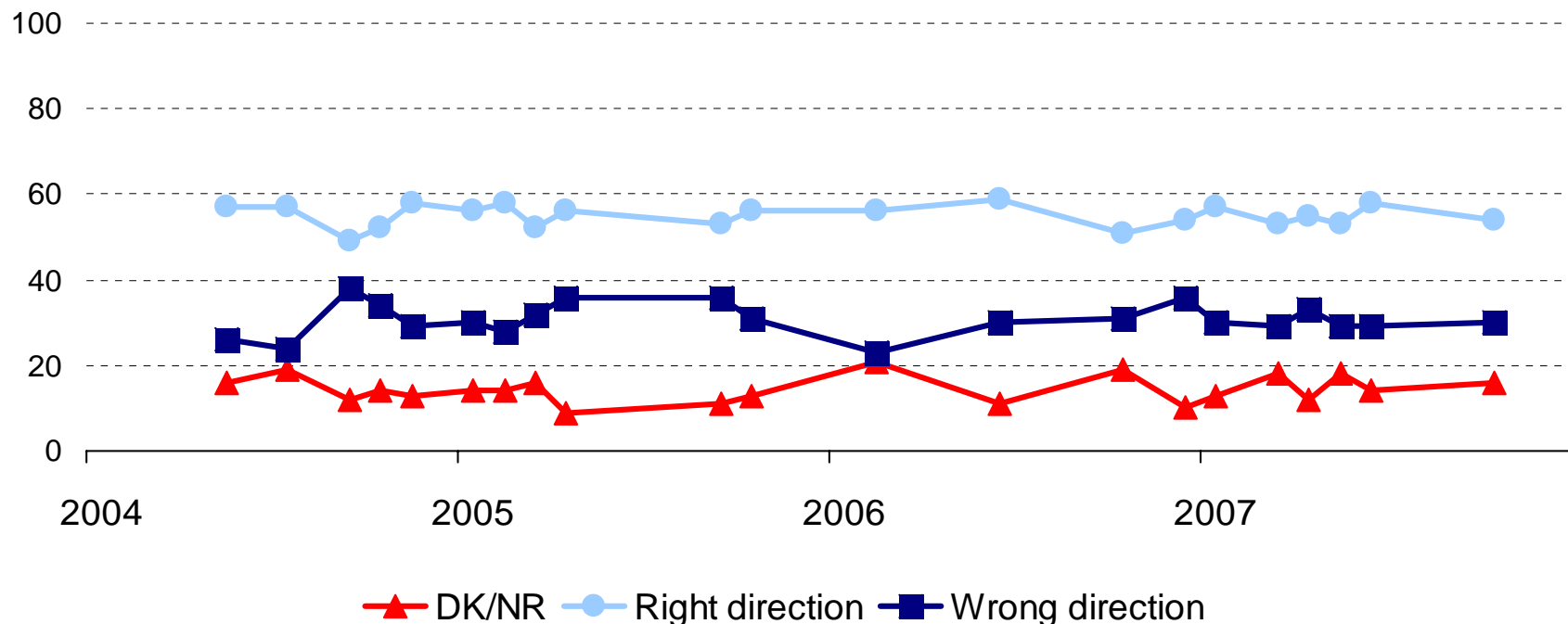
**Q.** All things considered, would you say that the Government of Canada is moving in the right direction or the wrong direction in terms of national security?





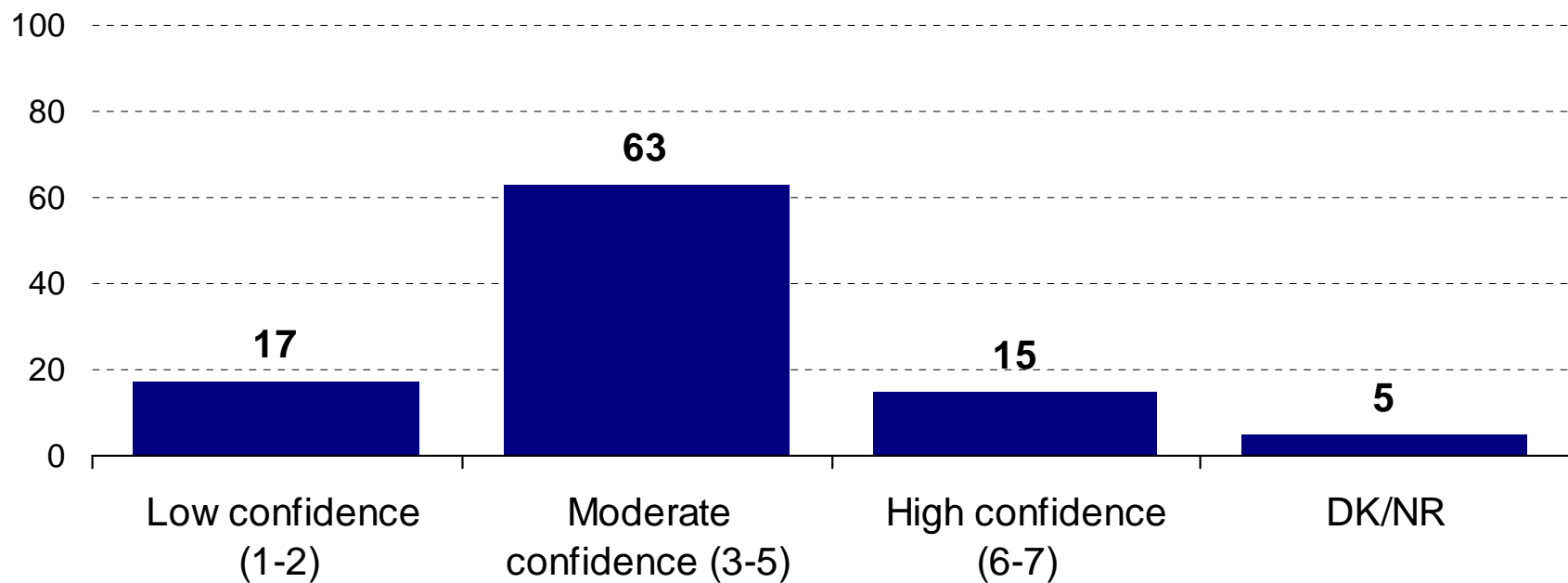
**Tracking direction of government on national security:** Although down slightly from June 2007 (- 4 points), support for government direction on national security remains in majority territory. In fact, there has only been one occasion since tracking began where the government has not received majority support on this indicator (i.e. 49 per cent indicated “right direction” in September 2004).

**Q.** All things considered, would you say that the Government of Canada is moving in the right direction or the wrong direction in terms of national security?



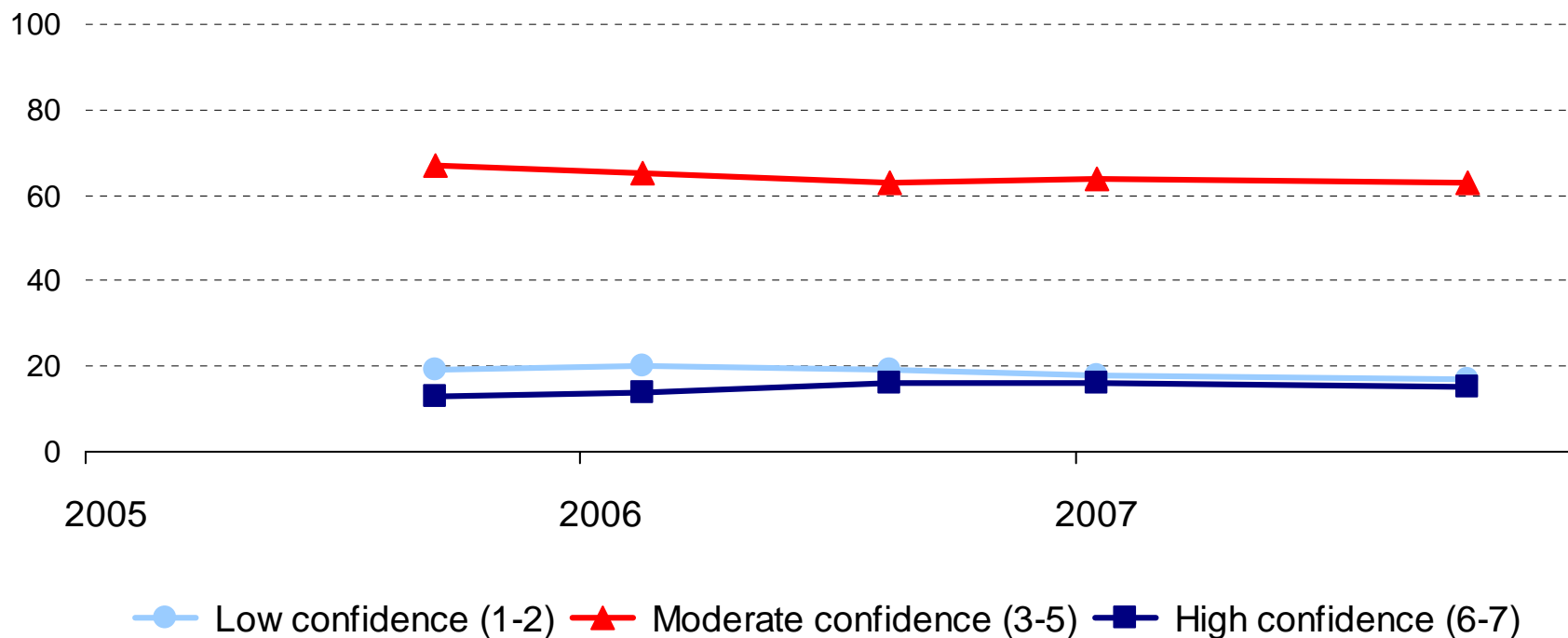
**Government response to a terrorist attack:** Canadians were also asked to rate their confidence in the Government of Canada across a number of different areas. When it comes to the Government's ability to respond to a terrorist attack, 2 in 3 express a moderate level of confidence. Those in favour of the direction on national security are more likely to accord higher confidence scores on this indicator.

**Q.** How much confidence do you have in the Government of Canada's ability to respond to a terrorist attack?



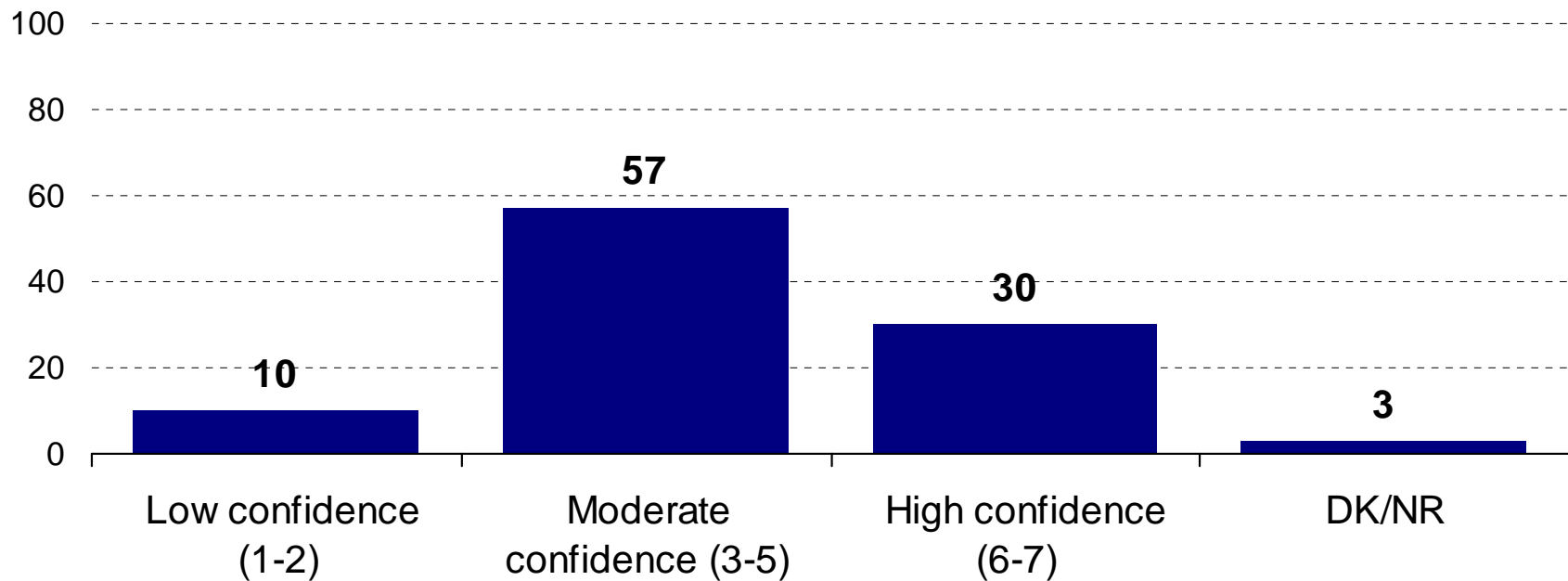
**Tracking government response to a terrorist attack:** Views on the Government's ability to respond to a terrorist attack have remained highly stable for the past 2 years, with a consistent two-thirds of Canadians rating their confidence as "moderate".

**Q.** How much confidence do you have in the Government of Canada's ability to respond to a terrorist attack?



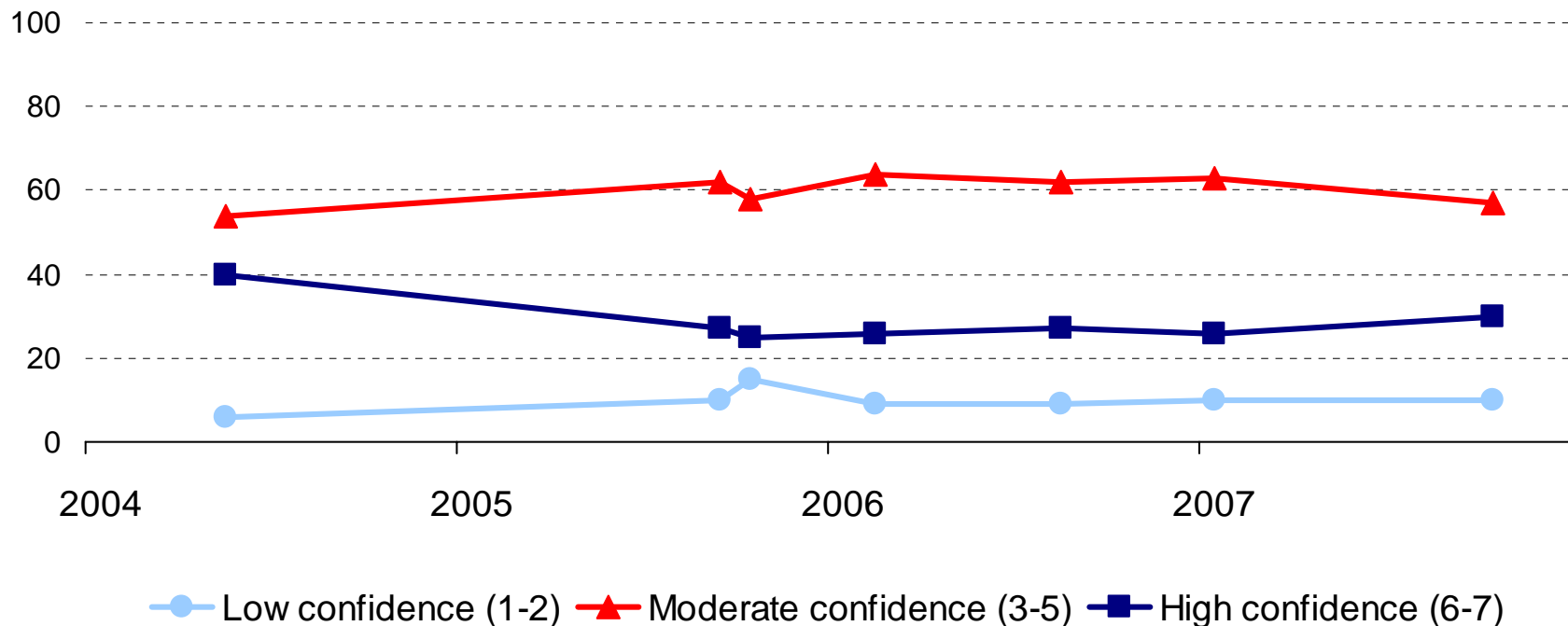
**Government response to natural disasters:** Confidence in the Government's ability to respond to weather-related disasters such as floods, forest fires, or hurricanes is rated somewhat lower, with just about 1 in 2 expressing a moderate level of confidence. Those in favour of the direction on national security are more likely to accord higher confidence scores on this indicator as well.

**Q.** How much confidence do you have in the Government of Canada's ability to respond to weather-related disasters such as floods, forest fires or hurricanes?



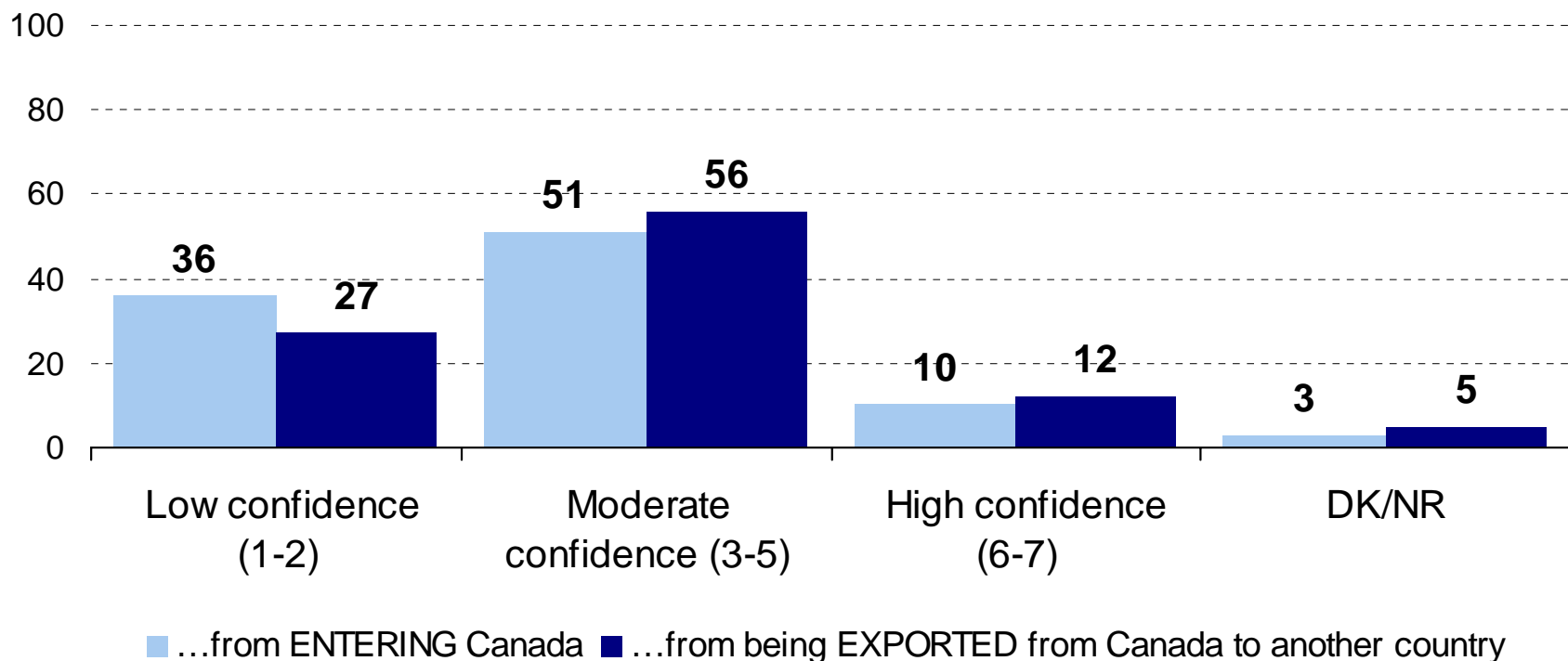
**Tracking government response to natural disasters:** While views on the Government's ability to respond to weather-related disasters have fluctuated somewhat over the past several years, a consistent majority of Canadians rates their confidence as "moderate".

**Q.** How much confidence do you have in the Government of Canada's ability to respond to weather-related disasters such as floods, forest fires or hurricanes?



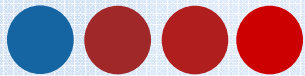
**Confidence in prevention of unwanted imports / exports:** About 1 in 2 Canadians is “moderately confident” that the Government of Canada is able to prevent illegal and contraband goods from flowing across the border. However, there is also about 1 in 3 that expresses a low level of confidence in the Government’s abilities in this area.

**Q.** How much confidence do you have in the Government of Canada's ability to prevent illegal or contraband goods such as drugs and guns ...?





# Security & Civil liberties

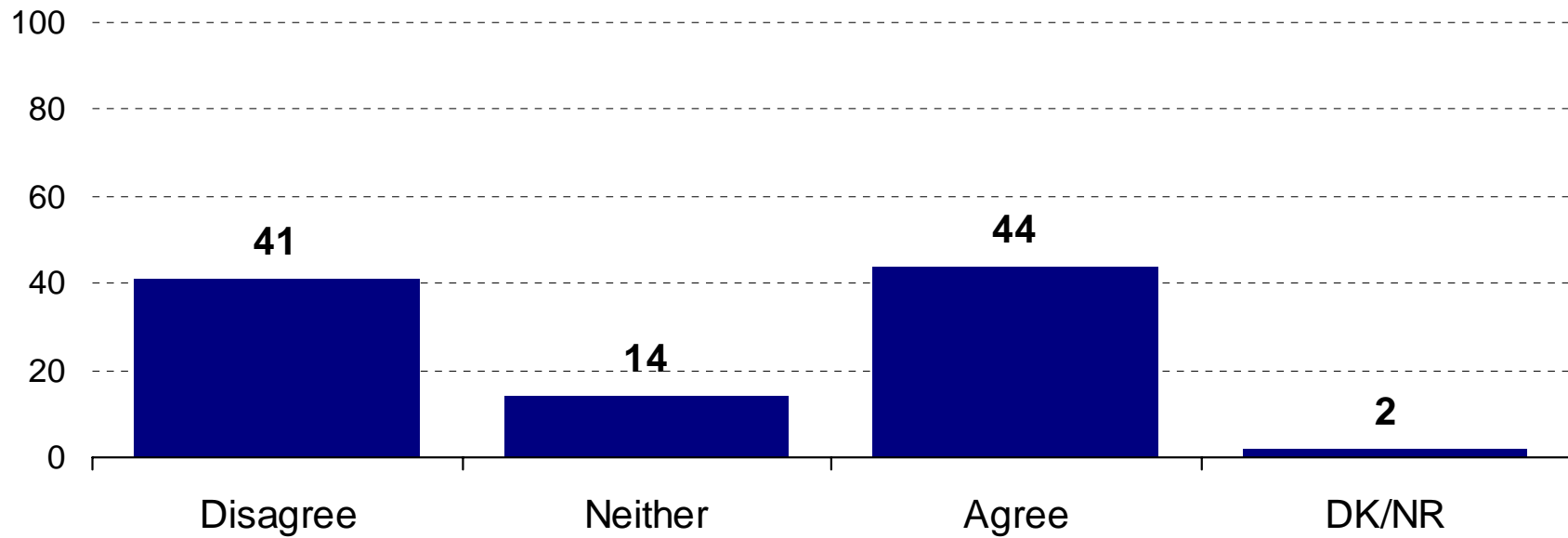


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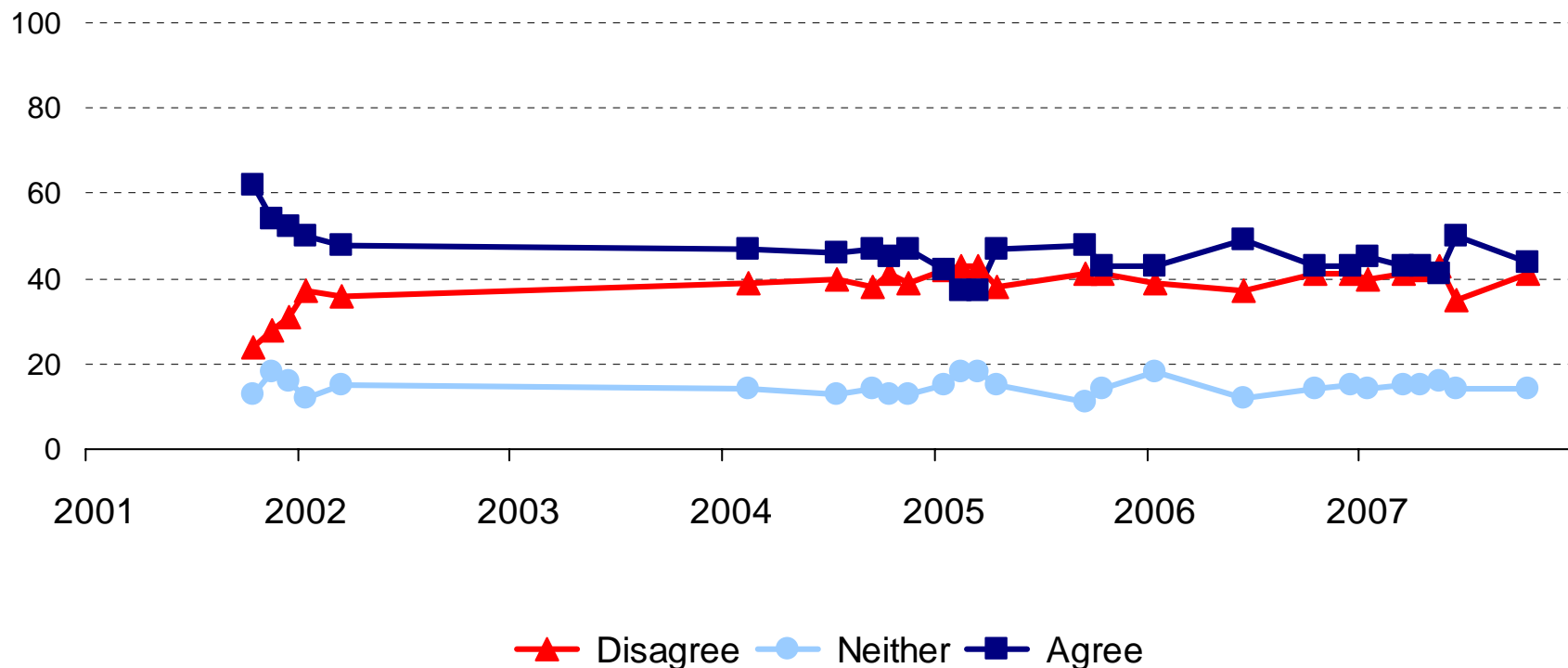
**Additional powers for police / intelligence agencies:** Canadians are almost completely divided on the issue of whether or not police and intelligence agencies should have more powers to ensure security if it means that their privacy may be compromised. Interestingly, there is a fairly significant gender difference on this issue: only 39 per cent of men support such enhanced powers compared to 48 per cent of women.

**Q.** Police and intelligence agencies should have more powers to ensure security even if it means Canadians have to give up some personal privacy safeguards.



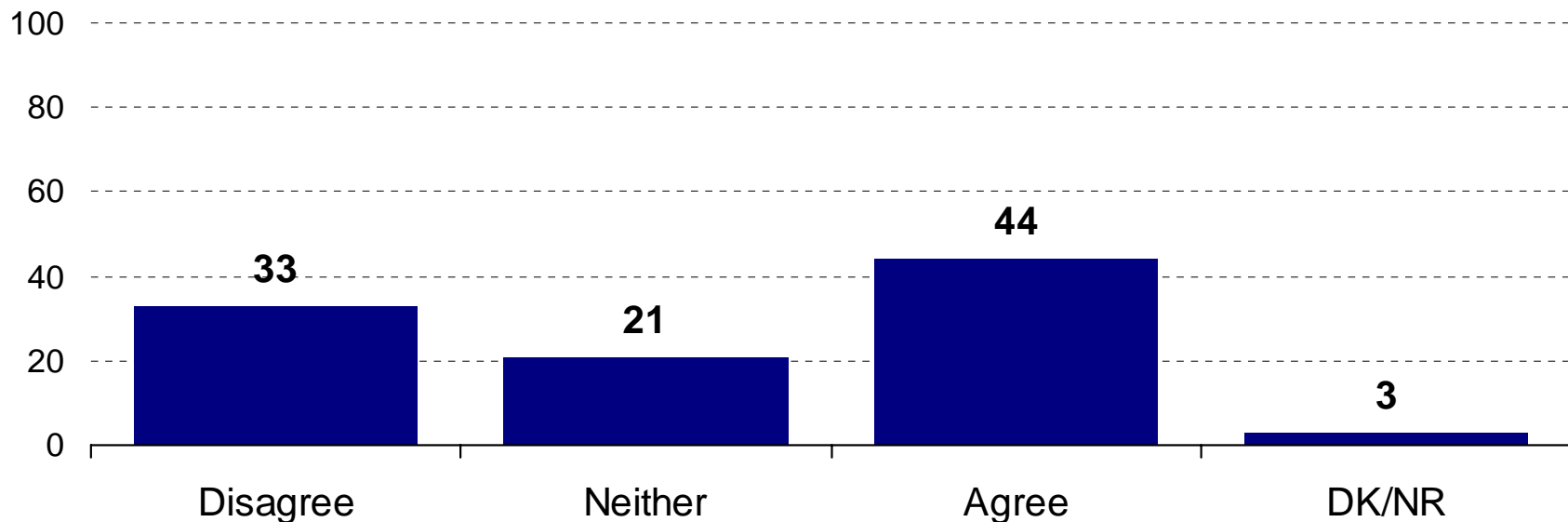
**Tracking additional powers for police / intelligence agencies:** There was a time immediately following the terrorist attacks of 9/11 when nearly 2 in 3 Canadians supported granting additional powers to security and / or intelligence agencies. As the trend line shows, however, support for these types of measures has declined significantly over the past six years to the point where today there is almost as much opposition to this idea as there is support.

**Q.** Police and intelligence agencies should have more powers to ensure security even if it means Canadians have to give up some personal privacy safeguards.



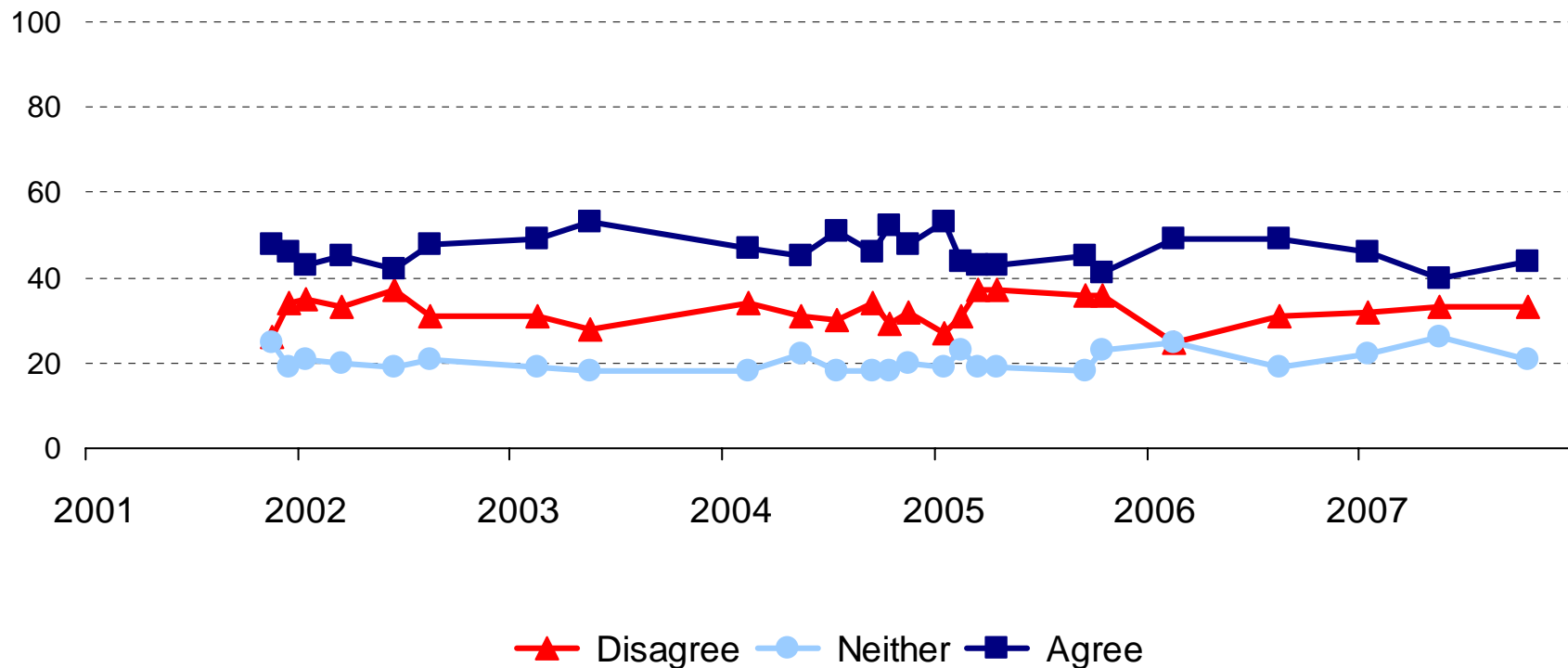
**Trust in the balancing of security and civil liberties:** Resistance to the enhancement of security powers at a potential cost to personal rights may be explained, at least in part, by the finding that Canadians are not entirely convinced that they can trust the Government of Canada to achieve a balance between these two goals. Interestingly, those in favour of the government's approach to security are more likely to place this kind of trust in the Government.

**Q.** I can trust the Government of Canada to strike the right balance of security and civil liberties.



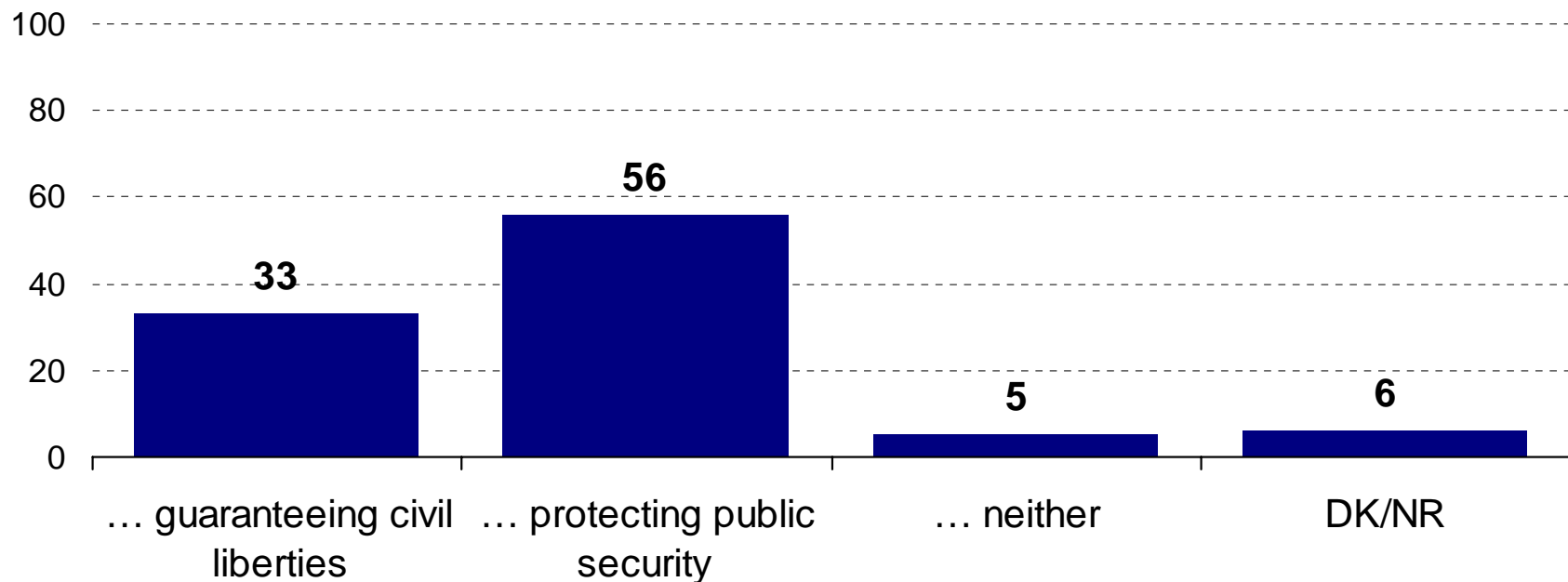
**Tracking trust in the balancing of security and civil liberties:** It is important to note that a plurality of Canadians has always leaned towards trusting the federal government in this area. While the proportion indicating trust in the government fell consistently throughout 2006 and into 2007, the most recent sounding shows some rebound on this issue (+ 4 percentage points since May 2007).

**Q.** I can trust the Government of Canada to strike the right balance of security and civil liberties.



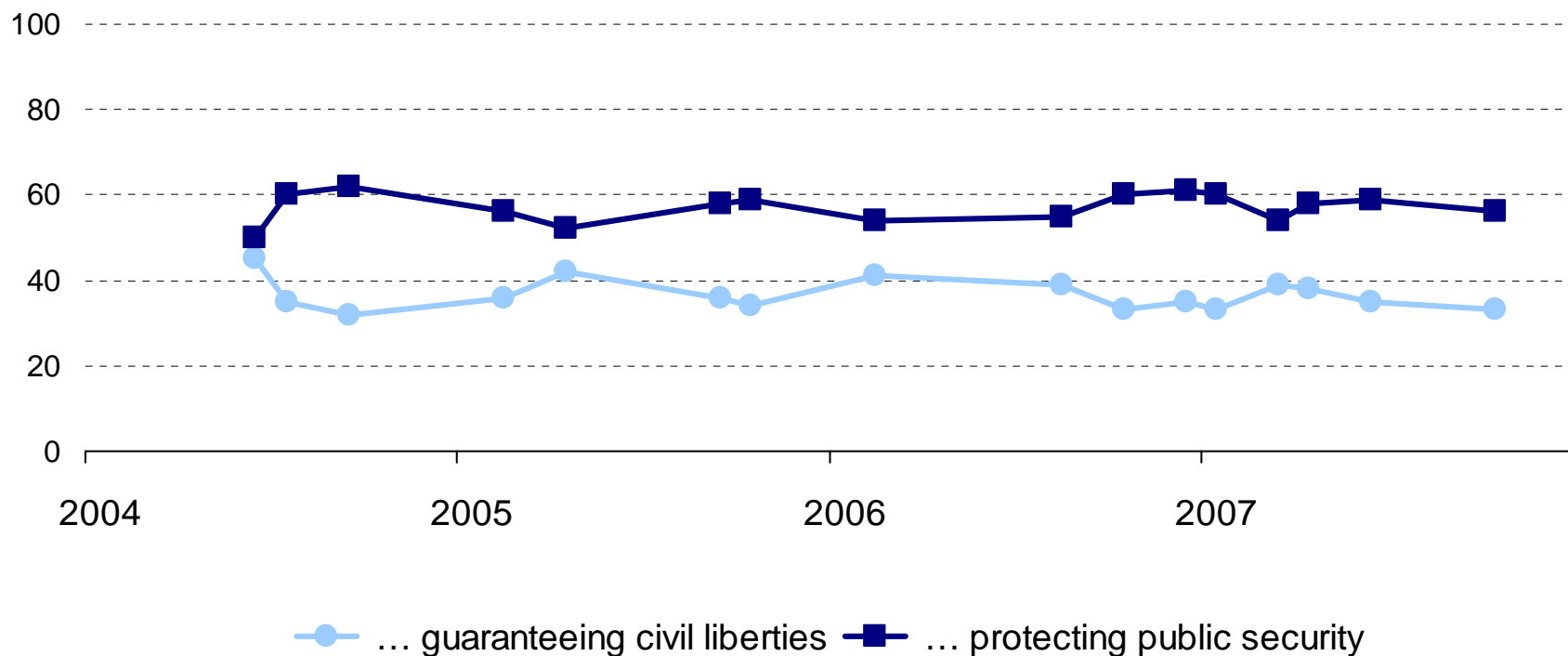
**Civil liberties vs. security trade-off:** While Canadians may not be entirely trusting of the government to find a balance between security and civil liberties, in a forced-choice situation, a majority nonetheless says they would prefer the government focus on the former rather than the latter. Across all of the examined demographic groups, youth are the only ones to express a clear preference for the civil liberties side of the equation (55 per cent).

**Q.** Recognizing that both are important in today's world, which of the following do you feel the Government of Canada should place the most emphasis on . . . or . . . ?



**Tracking the civil liberties vs. security trade-off:** The lean towards security has been a stable feature of the security landscape for several years. While there has been some fluctuation over time, the preference for security has consistently outweighed the preference for civil liberties – often by a margin of nearly 2 to 1.

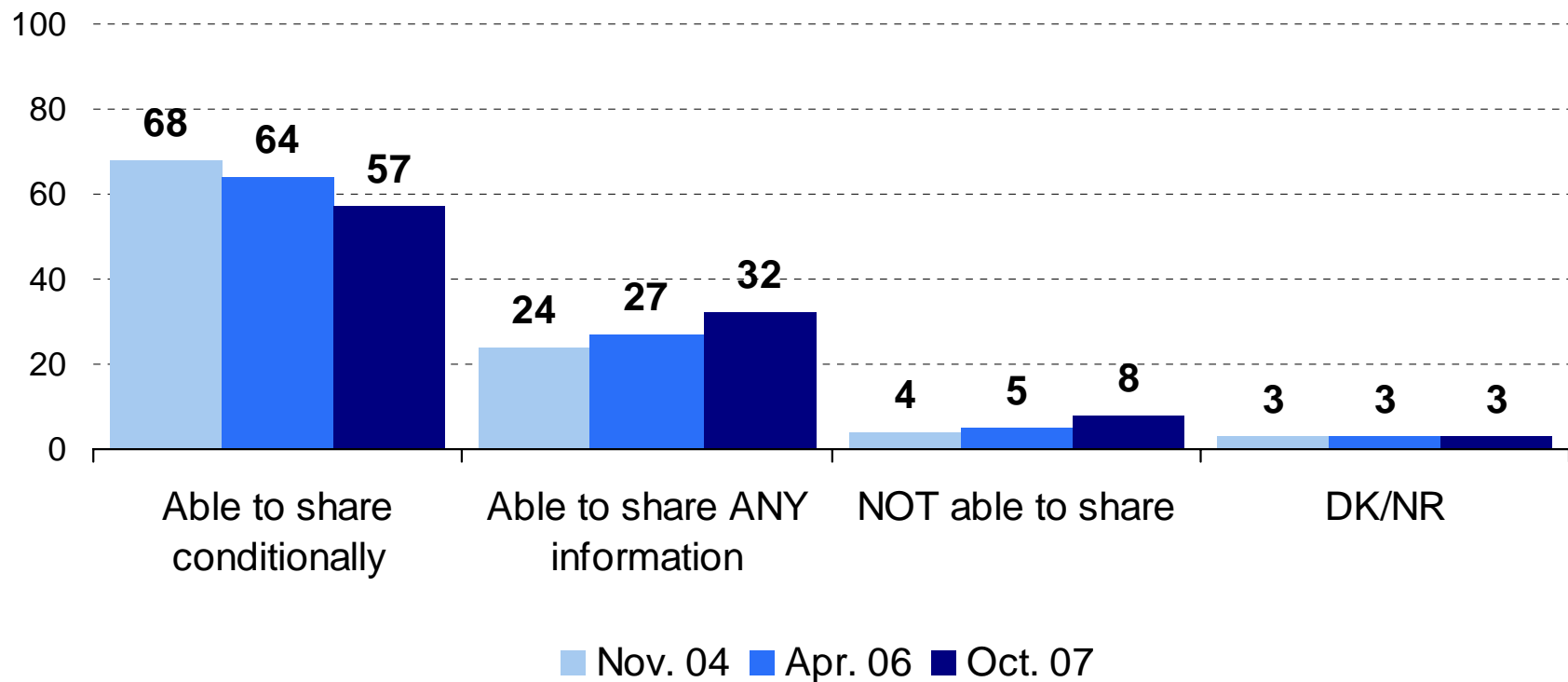
**Q.** Recognizing that both are important in today's world, which of the following do you feel the Government of Canada should place the most emphasis on . . . or . . . ?



## Information sharing practices between Canadian agencies:

Perceptions of how much information Canadian law enforcement agencies can share with one another have shifted somewhat over the past 3 years. While more than half still believes agencies can only share information under certain conditions, this is down 11 points. Correspondingly, 1 in 3 now believes agencies are able to share any information (up 8 points since 2004).

- Q.** As part of their practices in protecting against terrorism, crime and other security threats, law enforcement and security agencies say that they need to share the information they collect with other security agencies. Which of the following best describes the circumstances under which law enforcement and security agencies in Canada are allowed to share information with other Canadian law enforcement and security agencies?

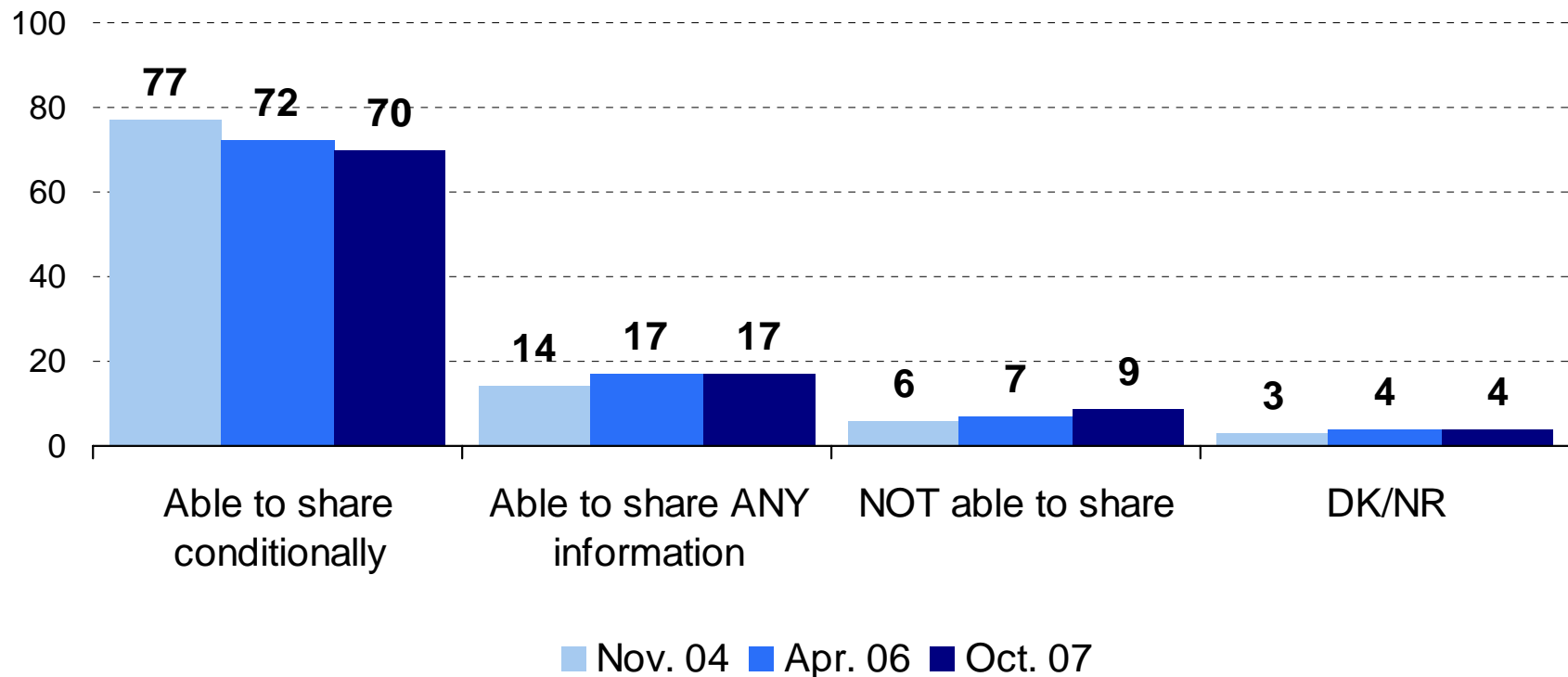




## Information sharing practices between international agencies:

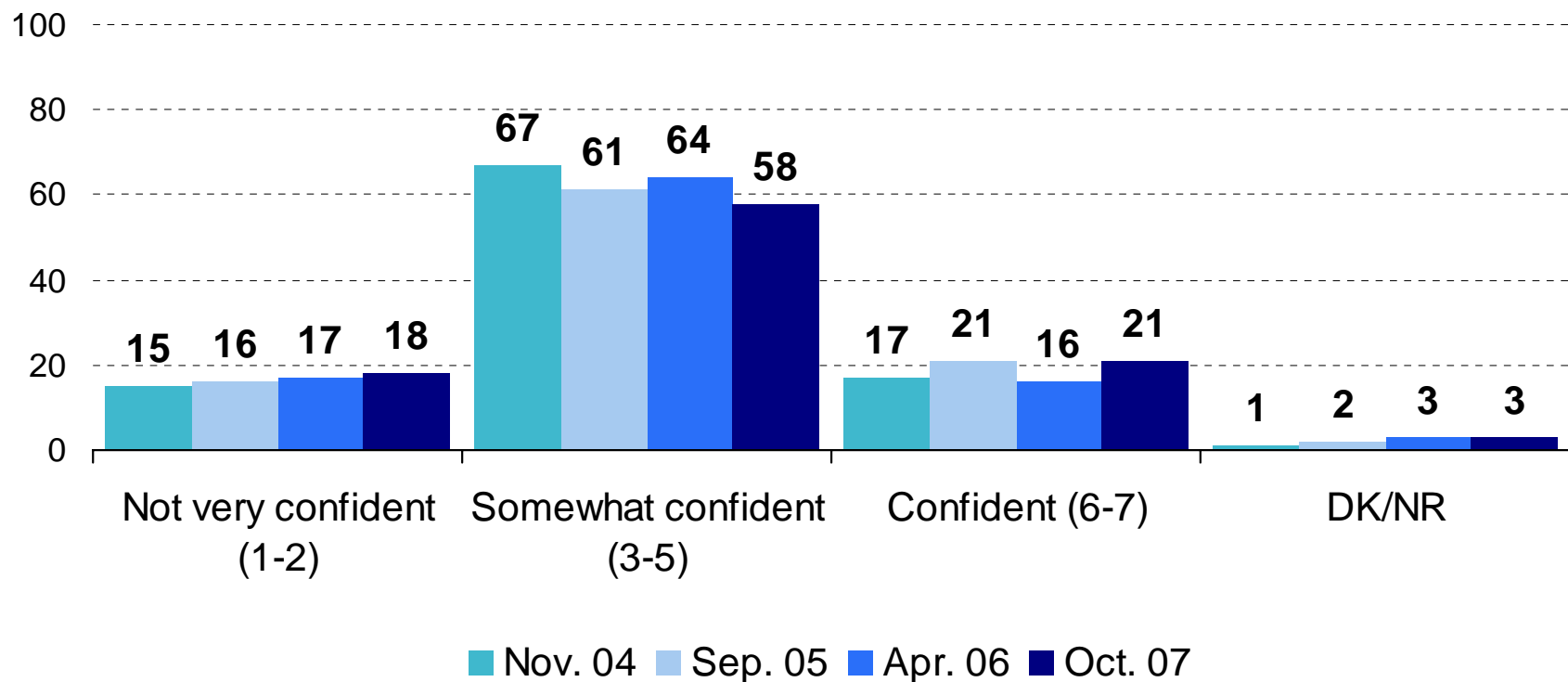
Although it remains the position of 7 in 10 Canadians, the understanding that conditions apply to the sharing of information between Canadian and international law enforcement agencies has receded somewhat (down 7 points since 2004). Fewer than 1 in 5, however, believes that these agencies can share any information.

**Q.** Which of the following best describes the circumstances under which law enforcement and security agencies in Canada are allowed to share the personal information they collect with law enforcement and security agencies AROUND THE WORLD (e.g., CIA, Interpol)?



**Confidence in adherence to privacy laws:** A majority of Canadians are “somewhat” confident that law enforcement and security agencies adhere to the privacy laws that dictate sharing of information, and an increasing number are fully confident that this is the case. Overall, fewer than 1 in 5 currently says – or have ever said – that they are “not very confident” in these agencies respect for privacy laws.

**Q:** In fact, law enforcement and security agencies in Canada are subject to privacy laws that place strict restrictions on the collection, storage and sharing of this information. How confident are you that law enforcement and security agencies in Canada adhere to these privacy laws?





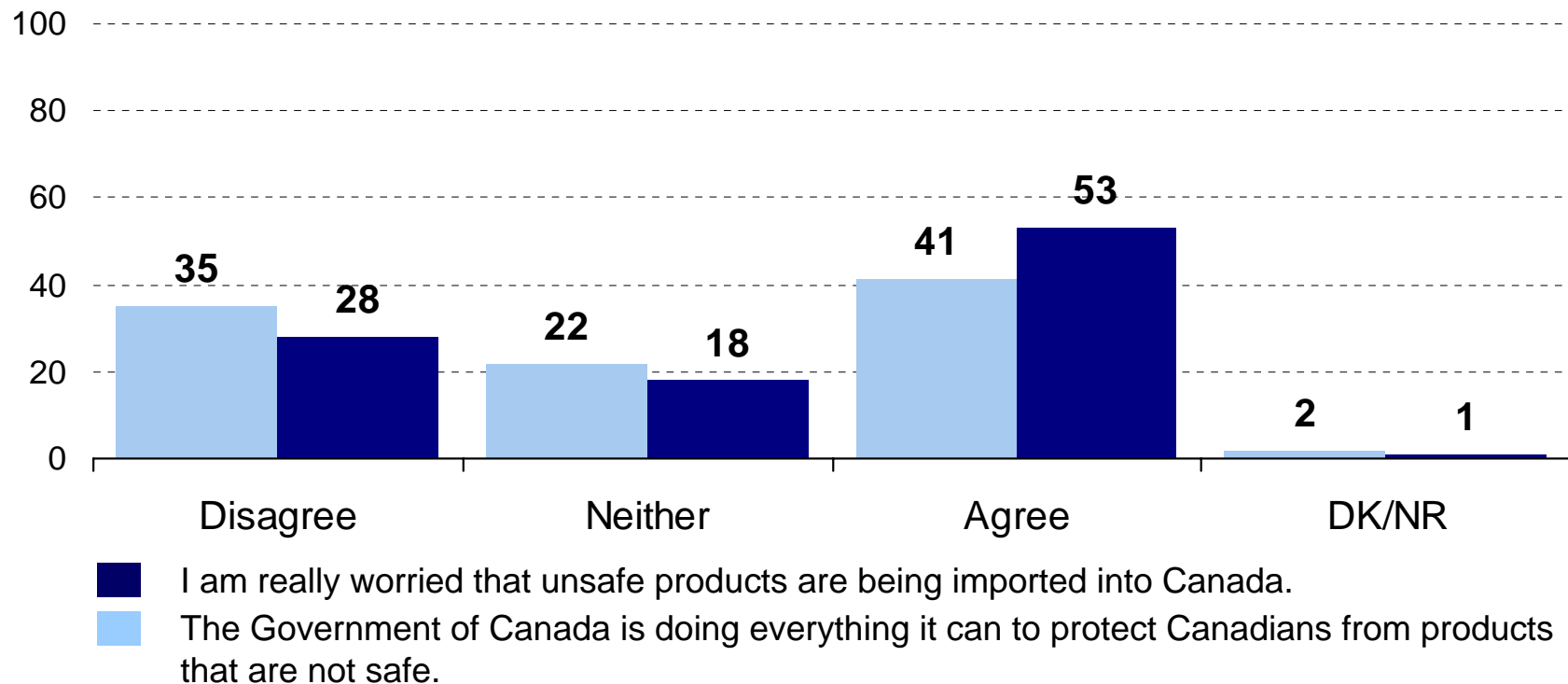
# Threat Perception



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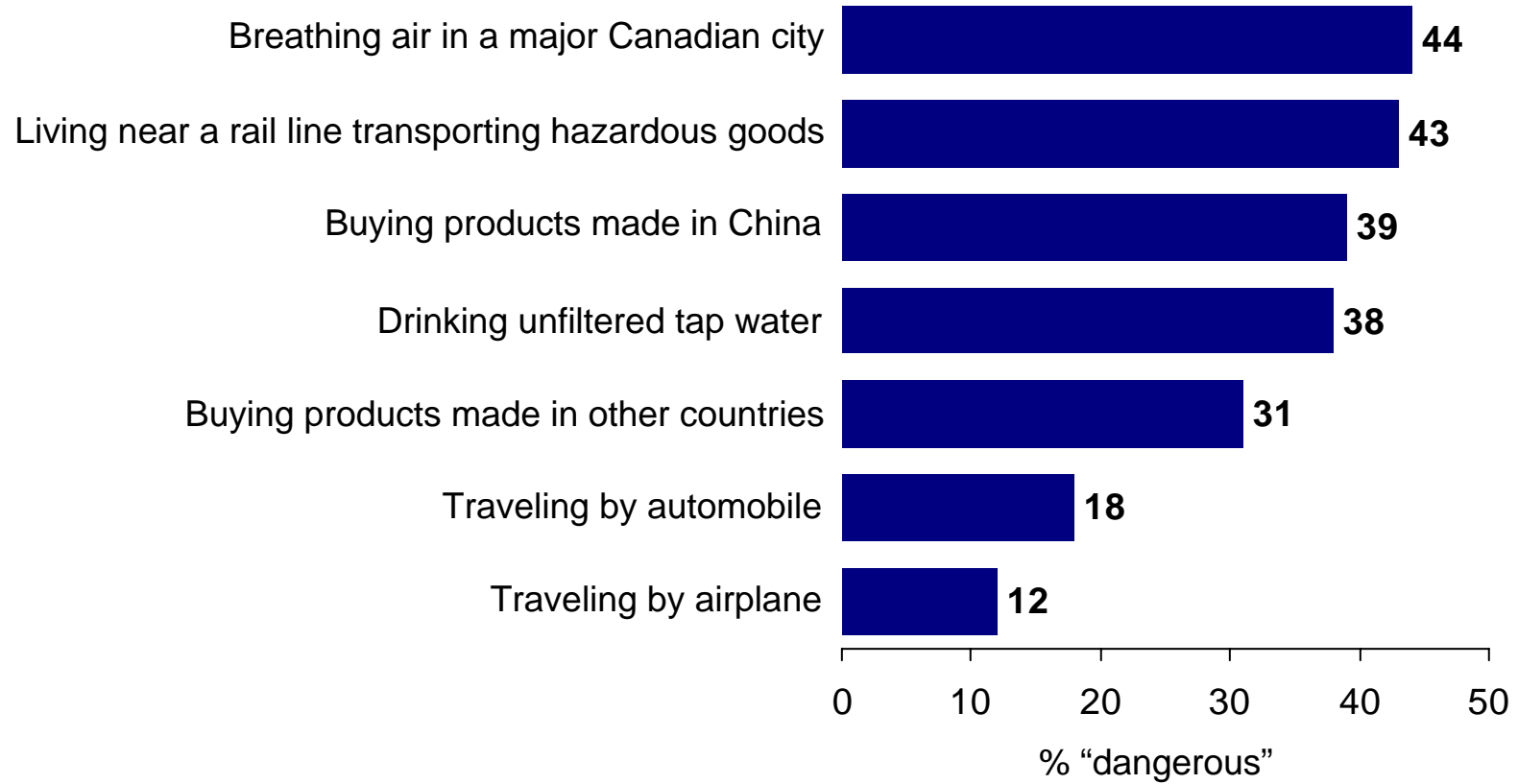
**Protecting Canadians from unsafe products:** The safety of products imported into Canada has been questioned on a number of occasions in recent months. Findings reveal that these concerns are resonating with the general public, with 1 in 2 saying they worry about unsafe products in this country. Moreover, fewer than half of Canadians believes that the government is doing everything possible to protect the public from unsafe products.

**Q.** Please rate the degree to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.



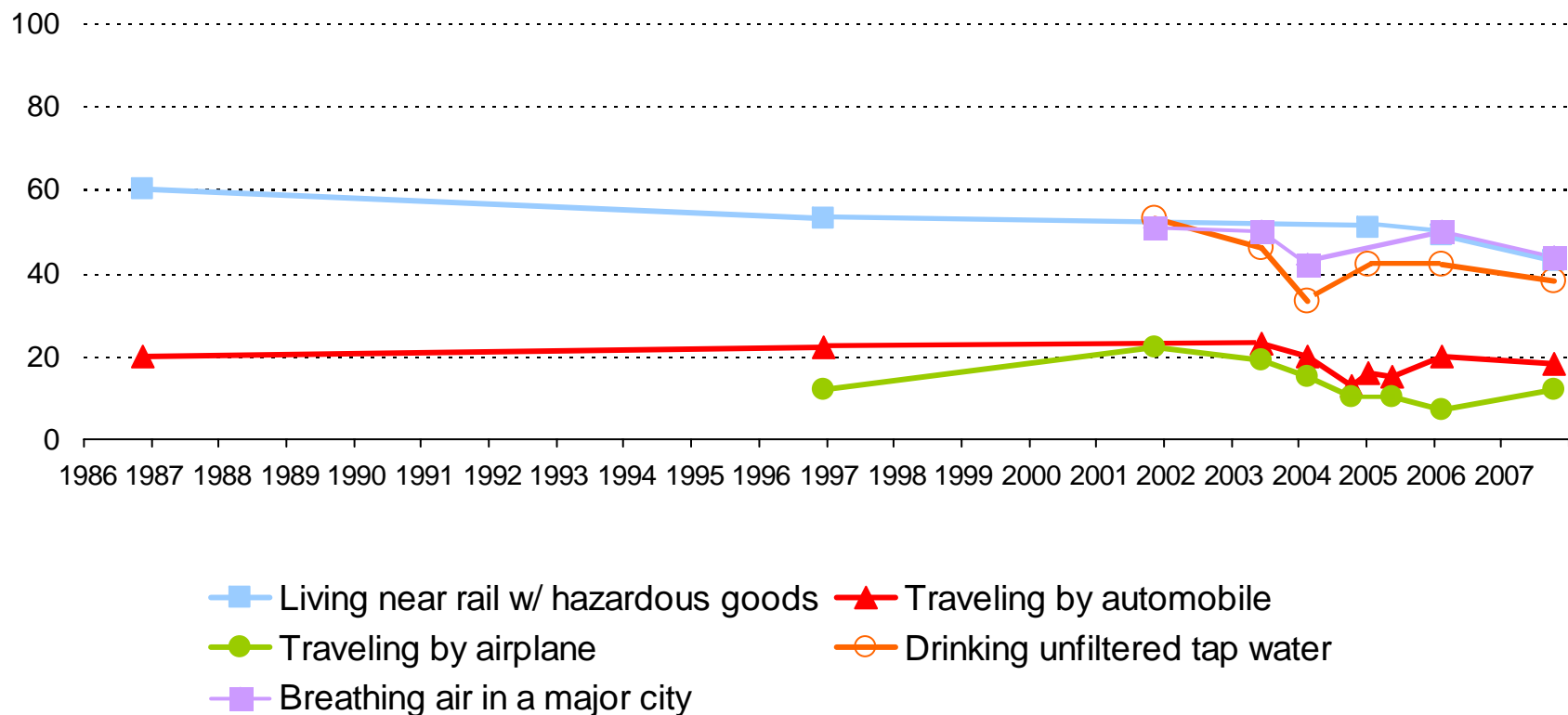
**Perceptions of risk:** When asked to consider the potential “dangerousness” of a number of commonplace situations, Canadians express the greatest levels of concern with environmental threats (e.g., air pollution, exposure to hazardous waste). Given the current debate over product safety, it is interesting to note that 1 in 3 thinks it is “dangerous” to buy products made in other countries and even more (2 in 5) feel this way about buying products from China in particular.

**Q.** There are a number of situations in which health and safety can be put at risk. I would like you to rate how you feel about the safety of the following items.



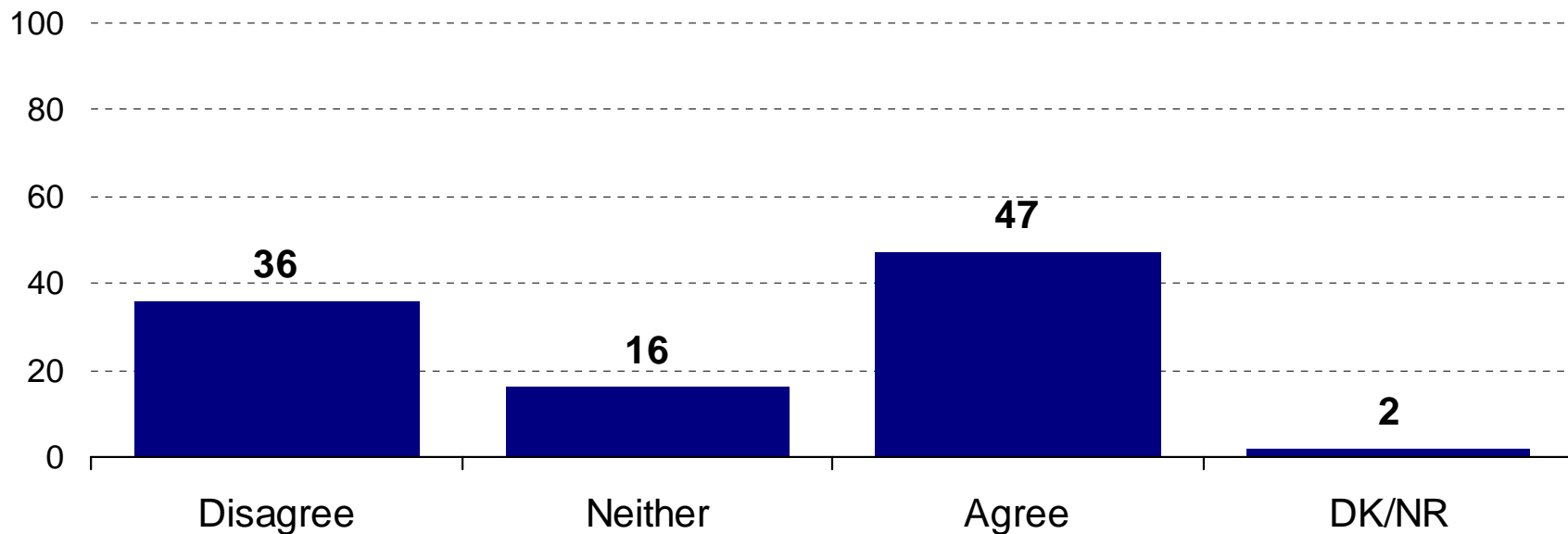
**Tracking perceptions of risk:** The perceived “dangerousness” of most indicators has declined over the past year – that is with the exception of traveling by airplane which, although it remains the least risky activity in the eyes of the Canadian public, has risen 5 points since 2006.

**Q.** There are a number of situations in which health and safety can be put at risk. I would like you to rate how you feel about the safety of the following items.



**Perceptions of the inevitability of a terrorist attack in Canada:** In addition the ordinary risks of their day-to-day lives, Canadians are also concerned about the potential for a terrorist attack in Canada. Today, almost 1 in 2 Canadians believes it is “just a matter of time” before there is a terrorist attack in this country.

**Q.** It's just a matter of time before there is a major terrorist attack on Canadian soil.

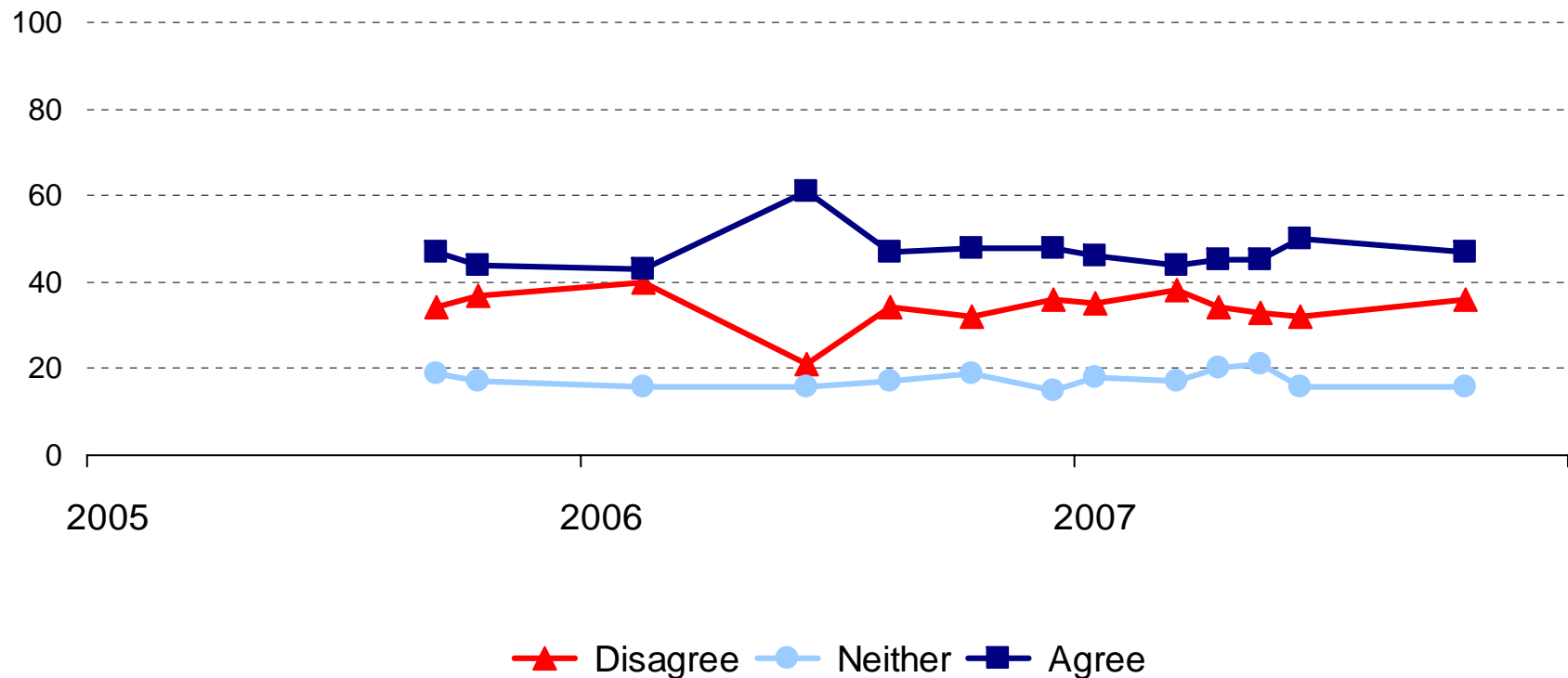




## Tracking perceptions of the inevitability of a terrorist attack in Canada:

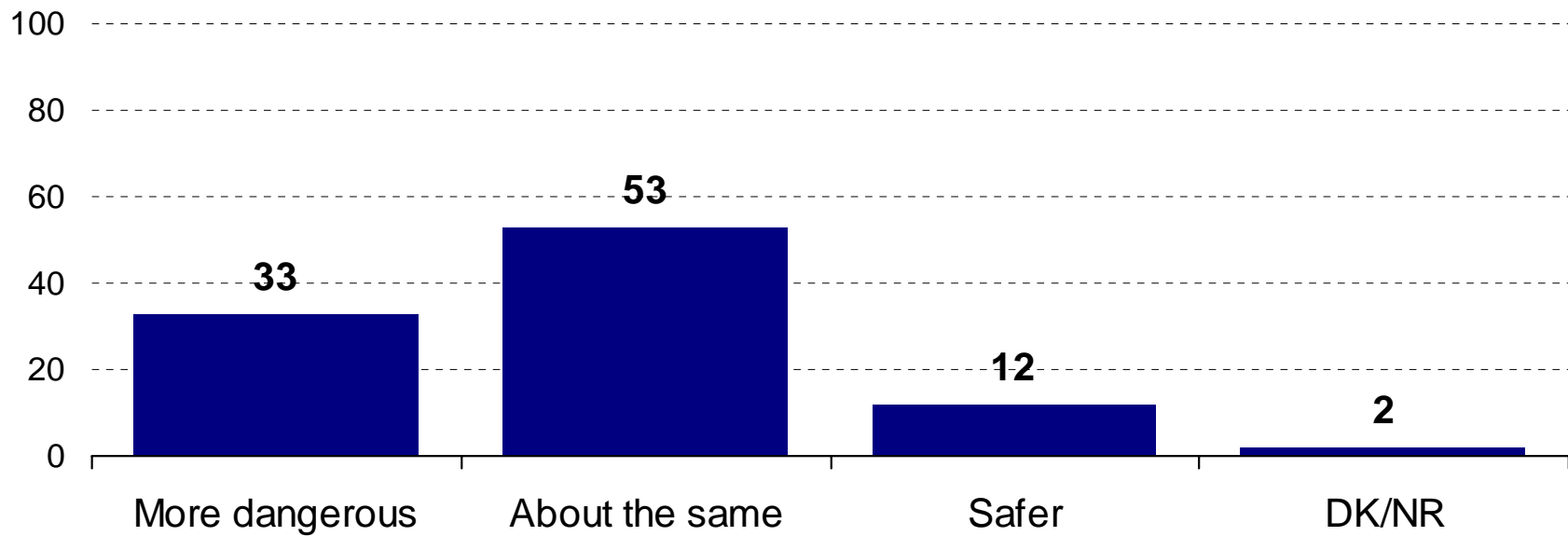
While there has been a great deal fluctuation on this indicator over the past two years, the belief that a terrorist attack in Canada is ultimately unavoidable has been – and continues to be – the position of at least a plurality of Canadians.

**Q.** It's just a matter of time before there is a major terrorist attack on Canadian soil.



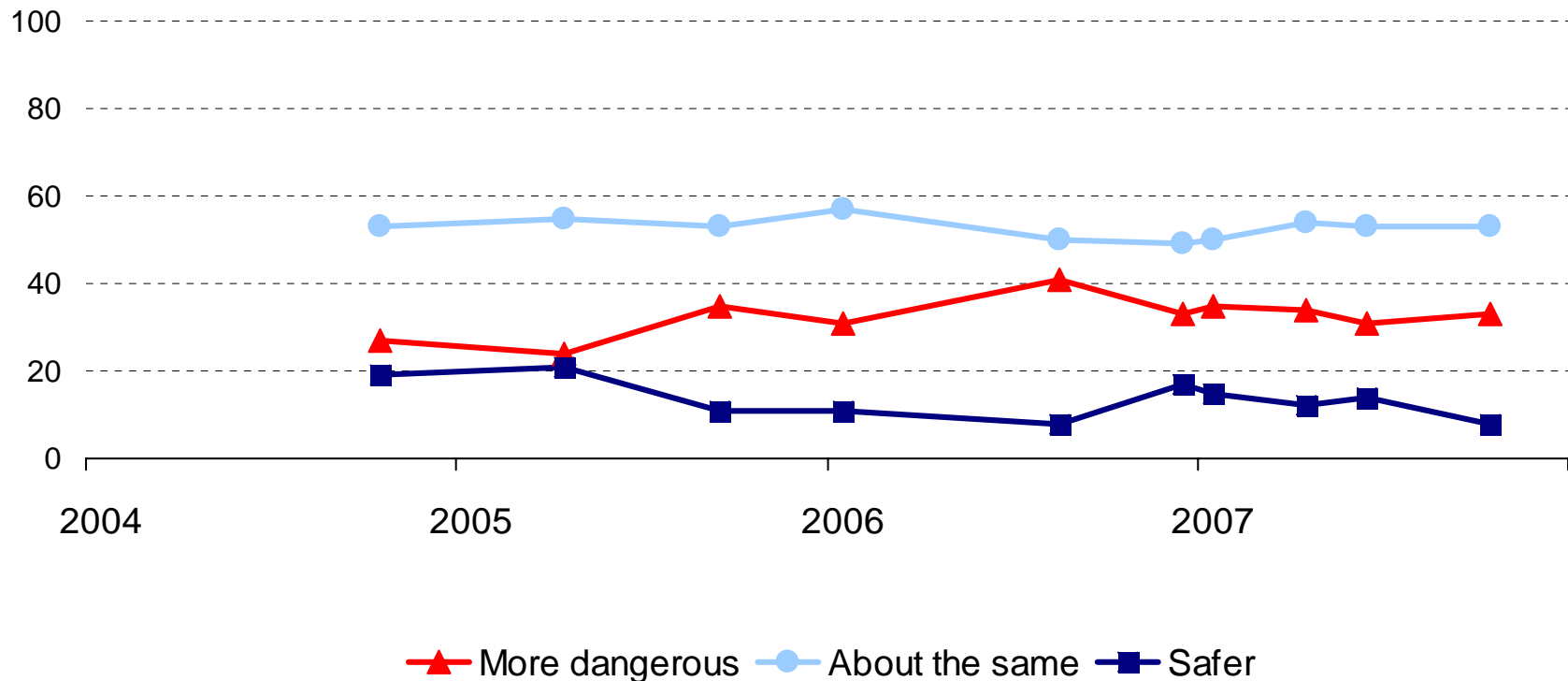
**Perceived safety / danger of Canada:** Despite of all the risks Canadians perceive in their daily lives, a majority of feels that Canada is at least as safe as it was 5 years ago and 1 in 10 even thinks it is “safer”. There is, however, also 1 in 3 that believes Canada has become “more dangerous” over this timeframe.

**Q.** From your own point of view, do you feel that, overall, Canada is safer, more dangerous, or about the same as it was five years ago?



**Perceived safety / danger of Canada:** The belief that Canada is unchanged from 5 years ago has consistently been the view of a majority of Canadians. There has, however, been some significant movement at the ends of the spectrum. While the proportions taking each of the opposing views had initially been fairly similar in size, the belief that Canada has become “more dangerous” currently outranks the view that it has become “safer” by a margin of nearly 4 to 1.

**Q.** From your own point of view, do you feel that, overall, Canada is safer, more dangerous, or about the same as it was five years ago?







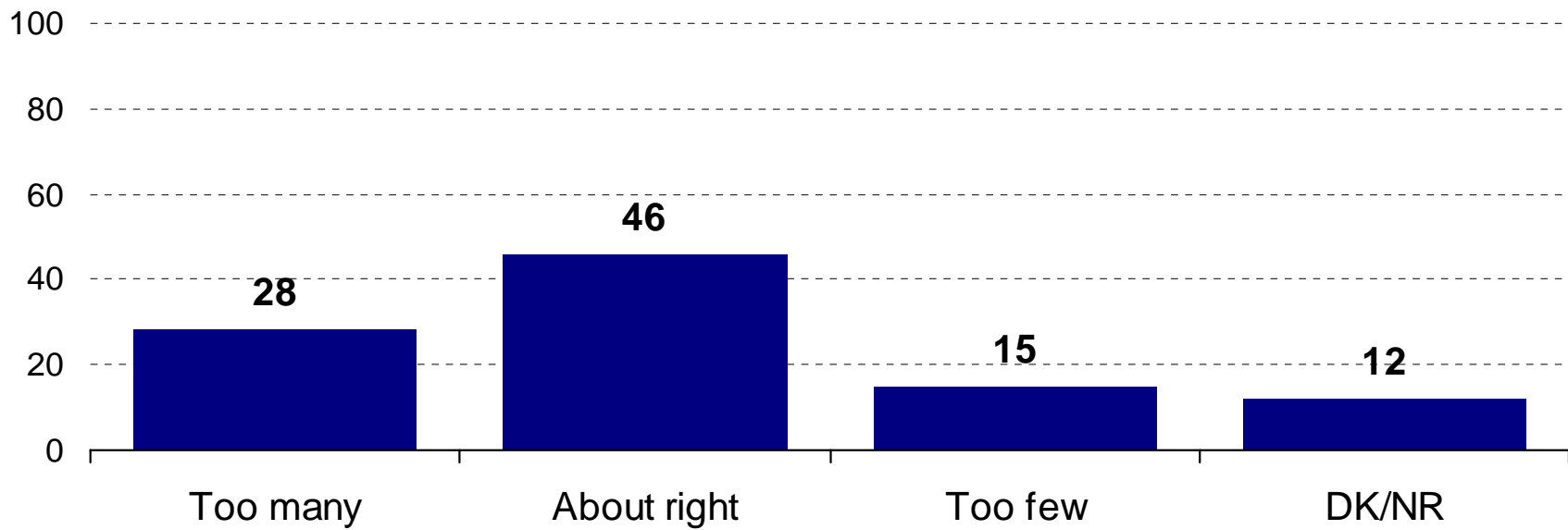
# Immigration & Cultural sensitivities



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**Attitudes towards immigration:** As Canada aims to become home to more than 250,000 new immigrants in 2008, we find a plurality of Canadians in support of the current rate of immigration. Canadians of higher socioeconomic standing are more likely to believe that the number of immigrants coming to Canada is “about right”.

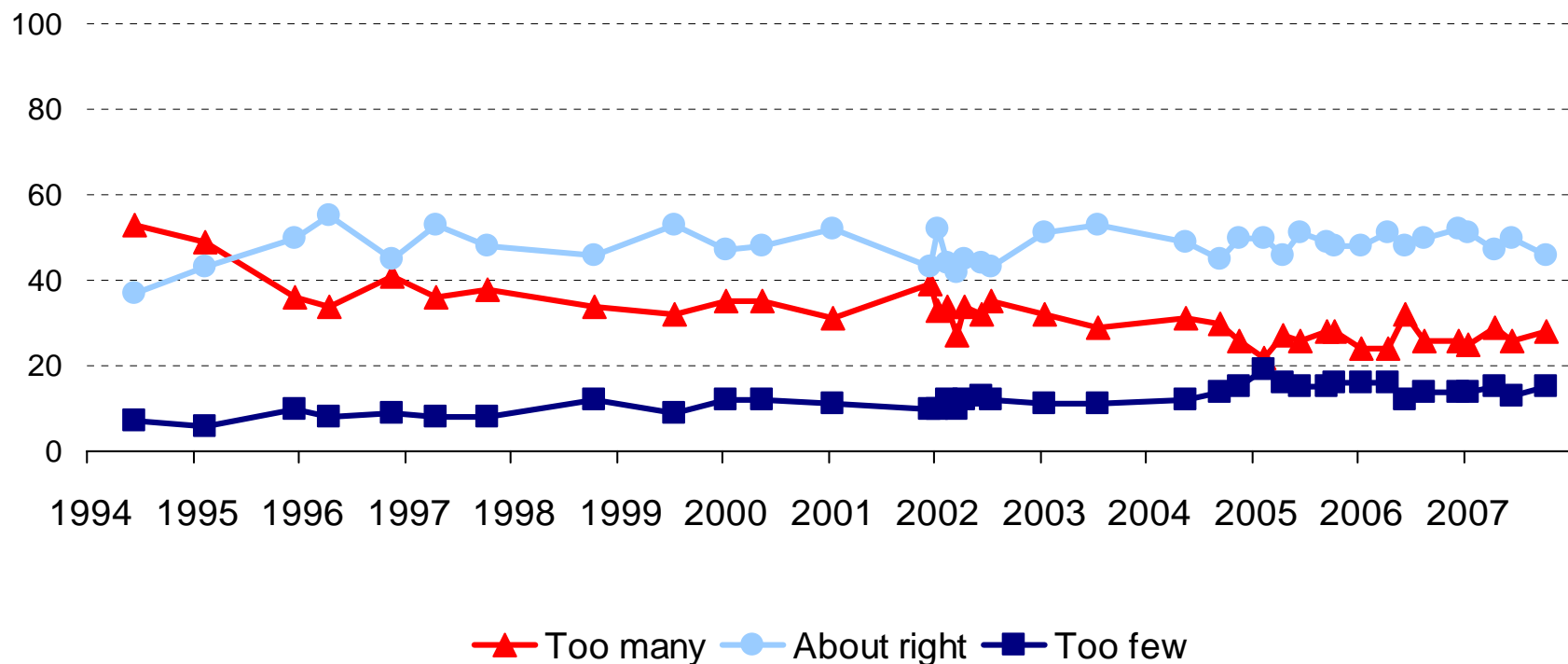
**Q.** In your opinion do you feel that there are too many, too few or about the right number of immigrants coming to Canada?





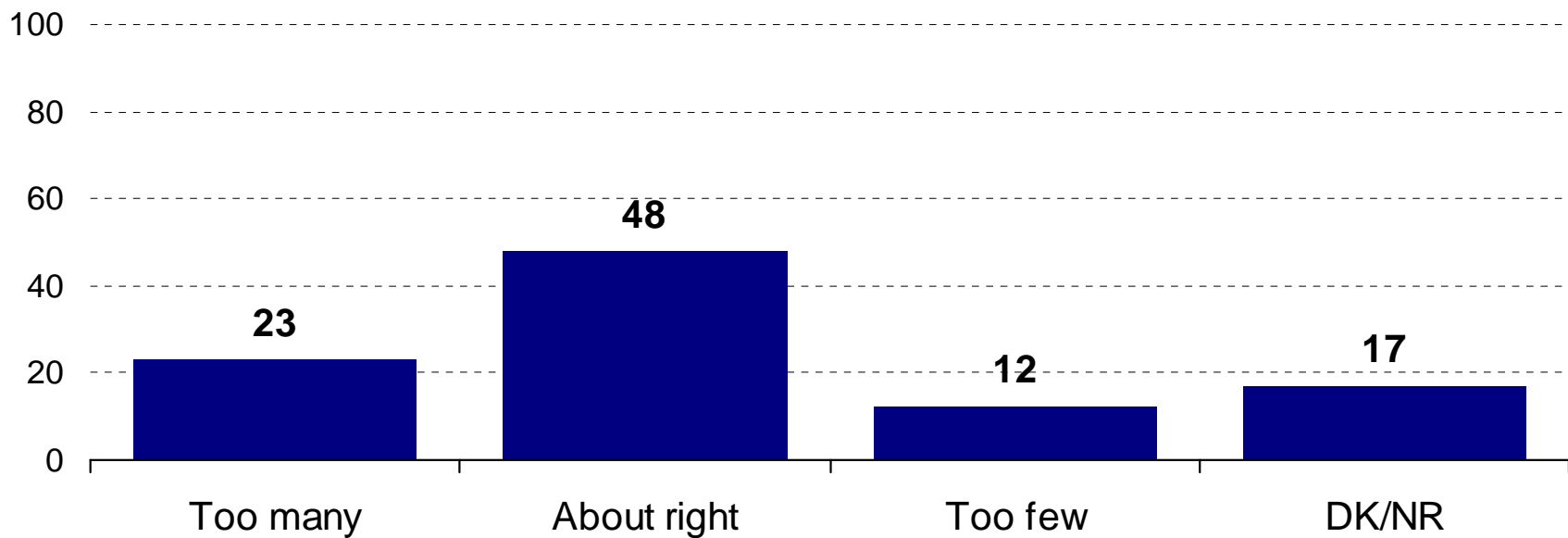
**Tracking attitudes towards immigration:** As recently as the middle of the last decade, a plurality of Canadians actually opposed the rate of immigration to this country. Views on this issues have softened, however, and for more than 10 years now, a plurality has consistently expressed support for the rate of immigration. Importantly, the view that there are “too few” immigrants has more than doubled over this same timeframe.

**Q.** In your opinion do you feel that there are too many, too few or about the right number of immigrants coming to Canada?



**Attitudes towards visible minority immigration:** As is the case with immigration in general, a strong plurality of Canadians is supportive of the current rate of visible minority immigration to Canada. Those living in Canada's urban centres are even more likely to favour this type of immigration (50 per cent vs. 39 per cent in rural Canada).

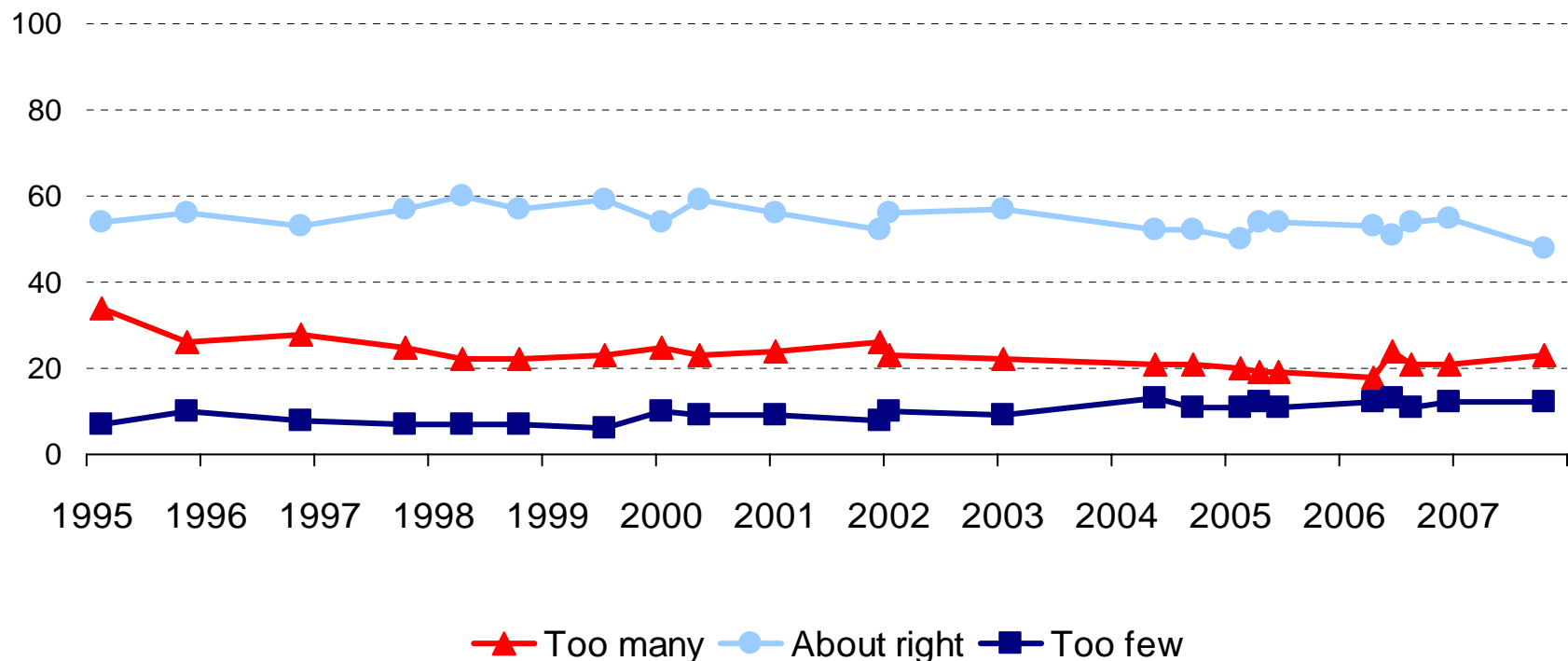
**Q.** Forgetting about the overall number of immigrants coming to Canada, of those who do come, would you say there are too many, too few or the right amount who are members of visible minorities?





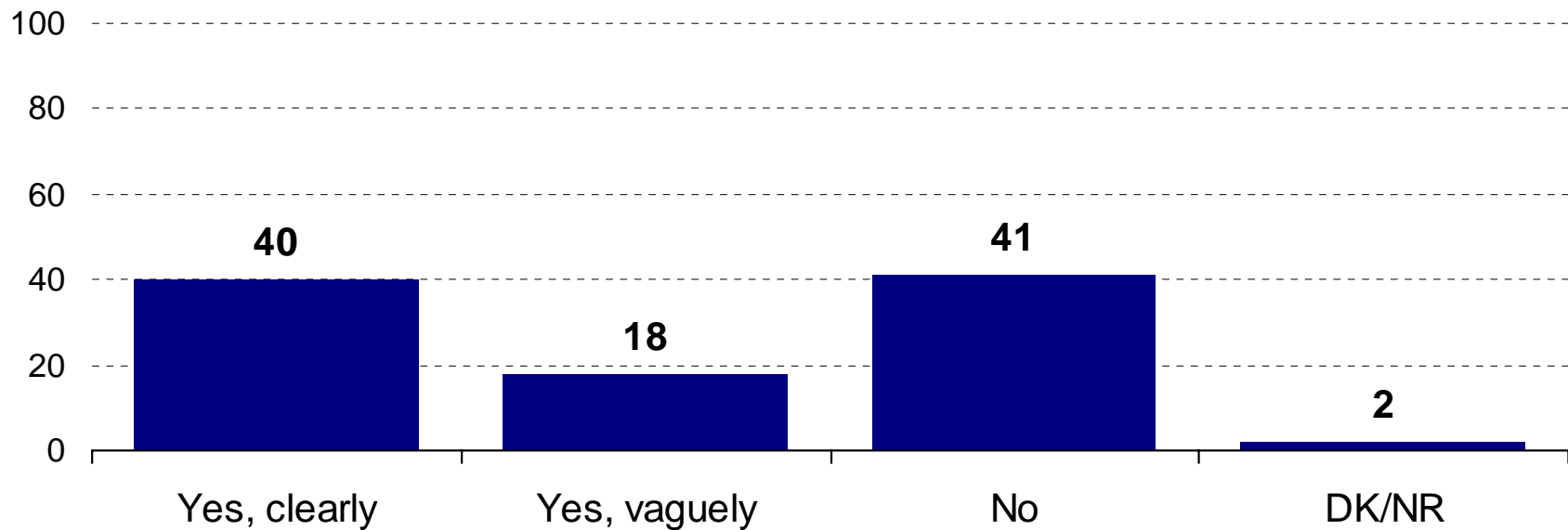
**Tracking attitudes towards visible minority immigration:** For more than 10 years now, at least half of Canadians have said that the number of visible minority immigrants coming to Canada is “about right” In this most recent sounding, however, we find that support has fallen more than 7 points over the past year and – for the first time since tracking began – now sits below 50 per cent.

**Q.** Forgetting about the overall number of immigrants coming to Canada, of those who do come, would you say there are too many, too few or the right amount who are members of visible minorities?



**Awareness of refugees in Canada:** With Canada accepting thousands of people who are unwilling or unable to return to their home countries yearly, it is not surprisingly to find that more than half of Canadians say they have heard something about refugees recently.

**Q.** Refugees are people who are forced to leave their home country to seek protection in another country. Have you seen, read or heard anything about refugees in Canada recently?



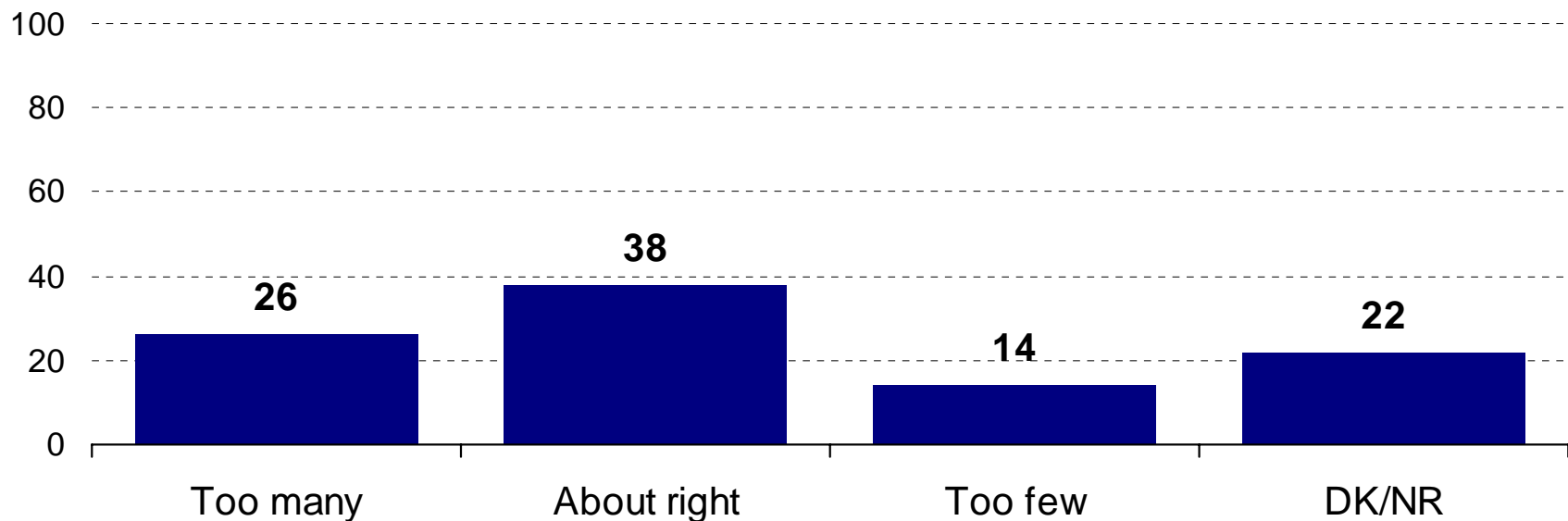
**Awareness of refugees in Canada (continued):** When asked what they had seen, read, or heard about refugees in Canada, a wide variety of answers are provided. Responses tend to relate to the refugee experience in general (e.g., fleeing their home countries and coming to Canada), although there is also some focus on problems related to refugees (e.g. deportation, illegitimate claims, etc.).

**Q.** What have you seen, read or heard?

	Oct. 07
Refugees in Canada (e.g., interaction, influx, numbers, difficulties)	<b>30</b>
Deportation of refugees	<b>13</b>
Refugees escaping poor conditions (e.g. war, conflict, poverty)	<b>10</b>
Illegitimate refugees	<b>6</b>
Problems with the refugee system (e.g. separating families, unfair deportation)	<b>5</b>
Refugees avoiding deportation	<b>4</b>
Increasing national border security	<b>3</b>
Government assistance to refugees	<b>3</b>
Application process	<b>2</b>
Other	<b>7</b>
DK/NR	<b>24</b>

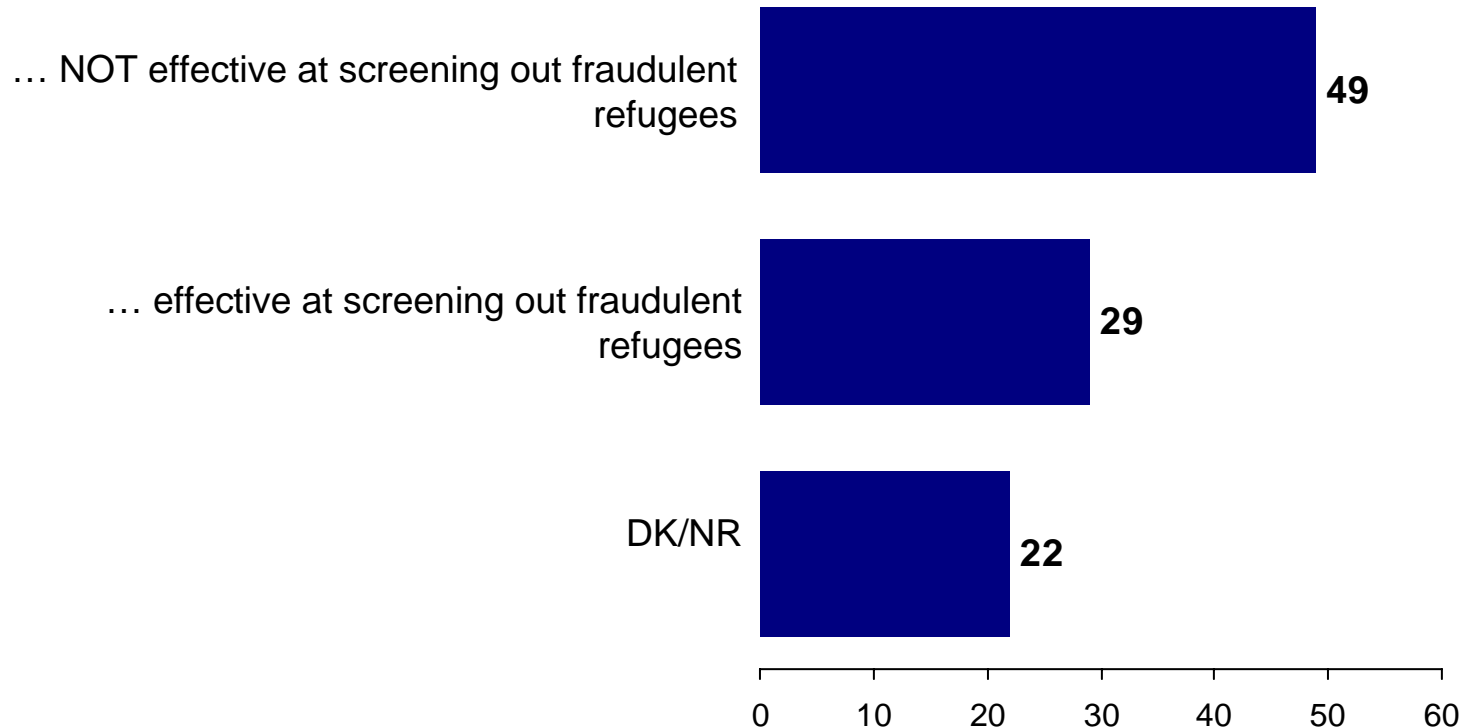
**Attitudes towards refugees:** Similar to attitudes towards immigration, a plurality of Canadians believes that the number of refugees coming to Canada is “about right”. It should be noted, however, that support is significantly lower (by about 10 percentage points) than those in support of the current rates of immigration.

**Q.** In your opinion do you feel that there are too many, too few or about the right number of refugees coming to Canada?



**Screening of refugees:** The slightly more mixed views regarding refugees may be at least partially explained by the fact that close to 1 in 2 Canadians feels that Canada's refugee system is not effective at screening out fraudulent refugee claimants.

**Q.** Every year, thousands of individuals apply for refugee status in Canada. In your opinion, would you say Canada's refugee system is . . .



**Sanctuary for failed refugee claimants:** Canadians are completely divided on the contentious issue what to do with failed refugee claimants seeking sanctuary in a place of worship: 46 per cent say it would be wrong for the authorities to remove, arrest, and deport these individuals and 45 per cent feel the government has every right to intervene in this situation.

**Q.** Which of the following statements is closest to your own point of view?

It would be wrong for government authorities to arrest failed refugee claimants who have sought sanctuary in a church or other place of worship

46

Government authorities have every right to arrest failed refugee claimants who have sought sanctuary in a church or other place of worship

45

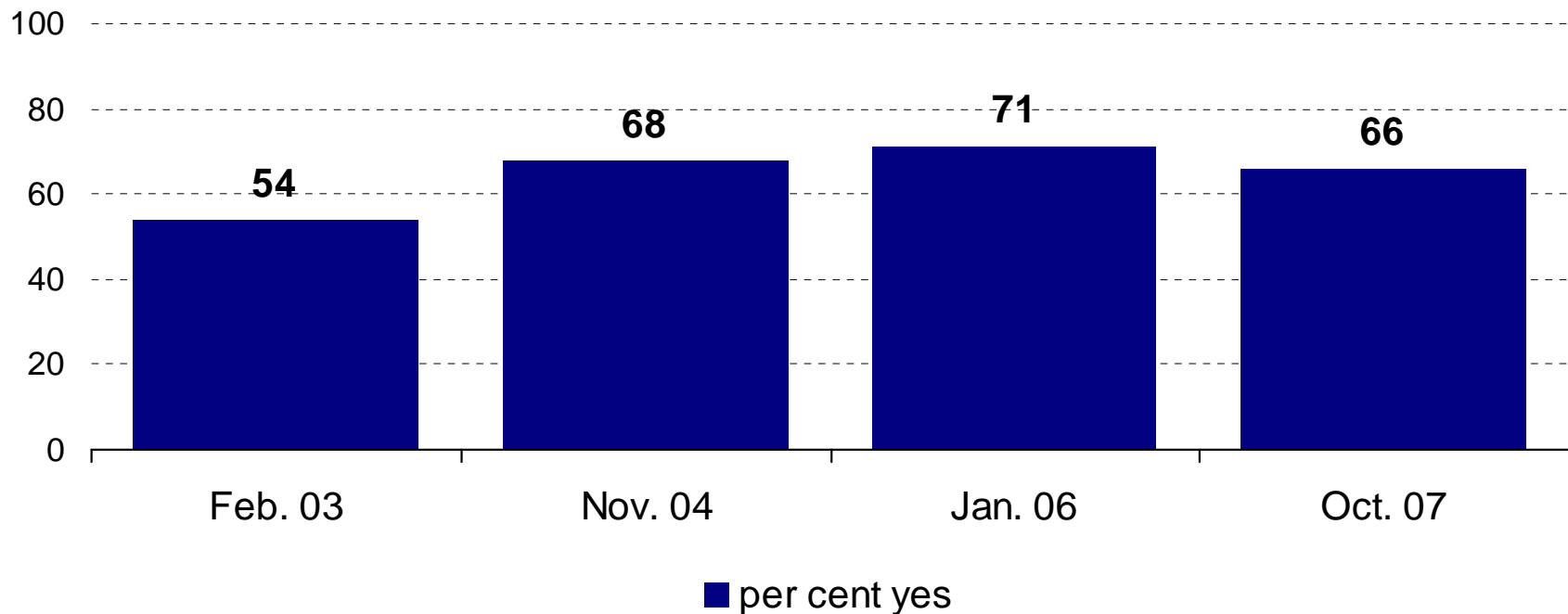
DK/NR

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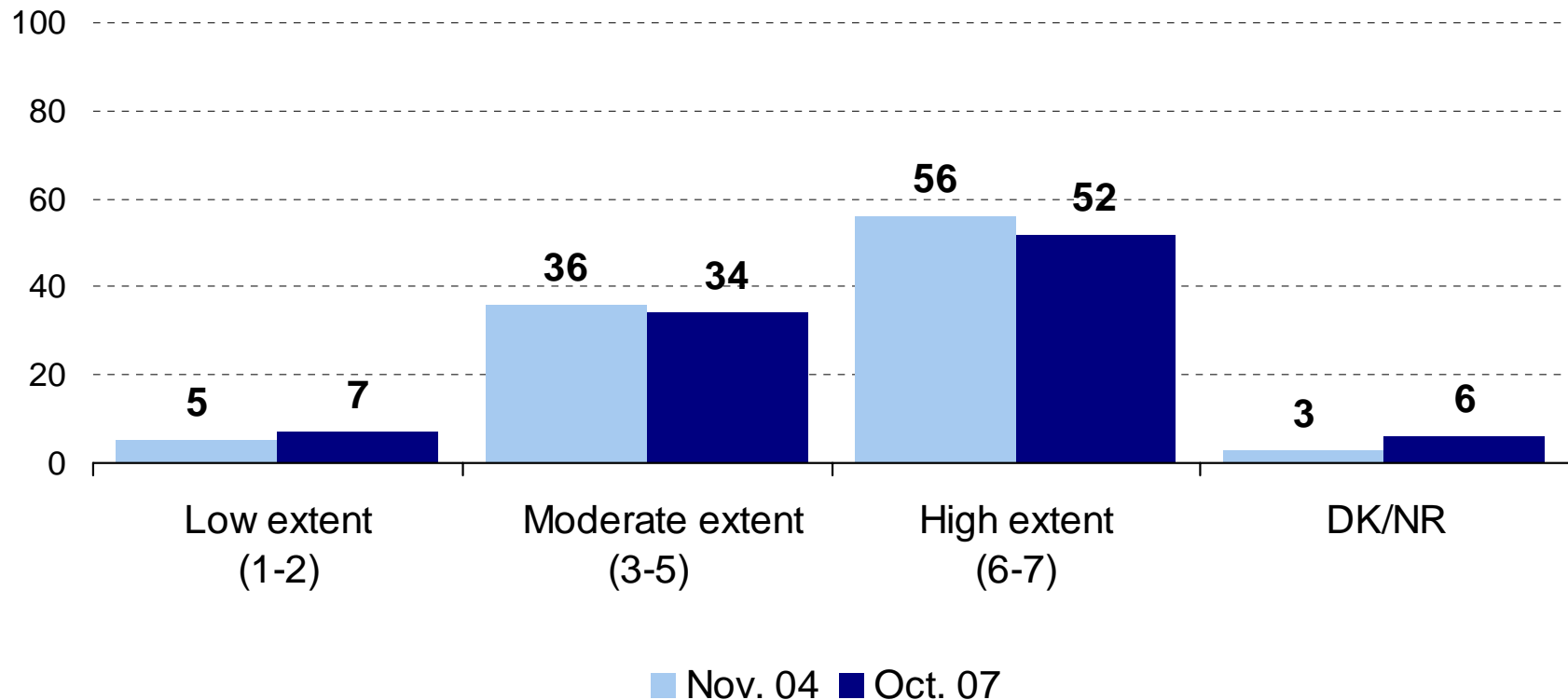
**Awareness of biometrics:** Field trials were recently conducted on the use of biometrics (e.g., fingerprint and facial recognition technology) in the processing of temporary visa applicants and refugees in Canada. Canadians' awareness of this technology is robust and has, until recently, been on an upward trajectory (up 12 per cent since 2003).

**Q.** Biometrics is the use of a person's permanent physical characteristics, such as eye or fingerprint patterns to verify their identity. Before this survey, have you ever read or heard about biometrics?



**Extent biometrics will reduce identity theft:** The general public is convinced of the potential benefits of this technology. Indeed, more than half believes that including biometric information in Canadian identity documents would reduce identity theft to a “high extent” and an additional 1 in 3 thinks this technology would be effective in this regard to a “moderate extent”. These views are virtually unchanged from nearly 3 years ago.

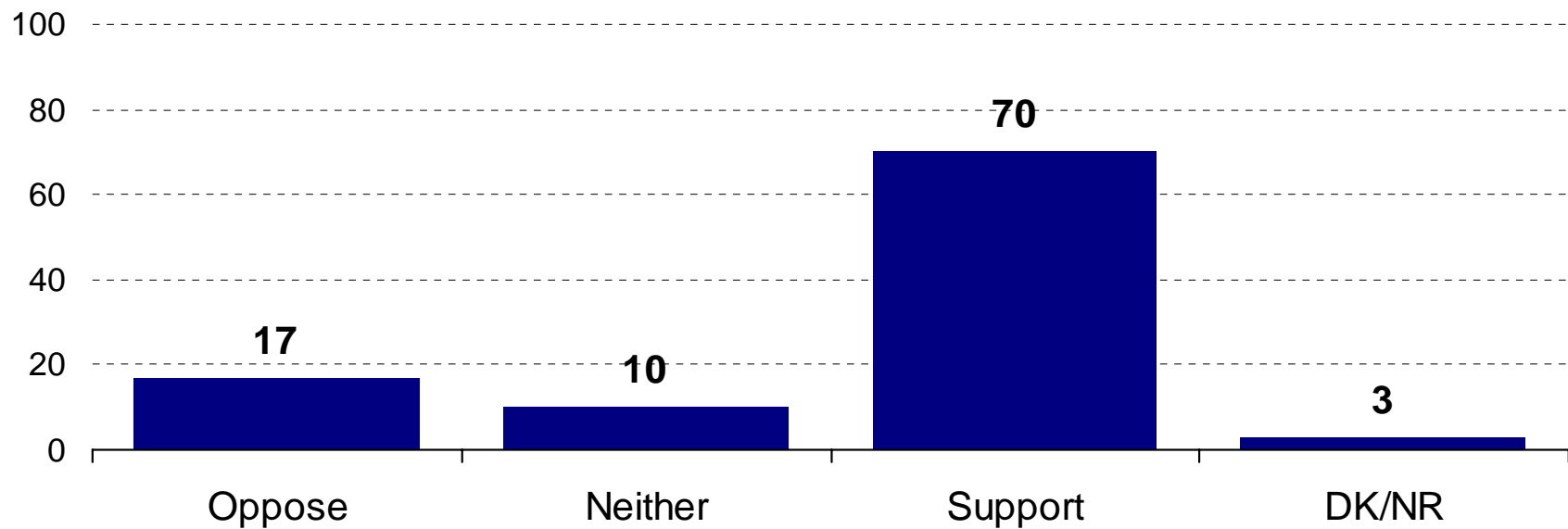
**Q.** To what extent do you think that including biometric information in Canadians' identity documents would reduce identity theft and make it harder for these documents to be duplicated?





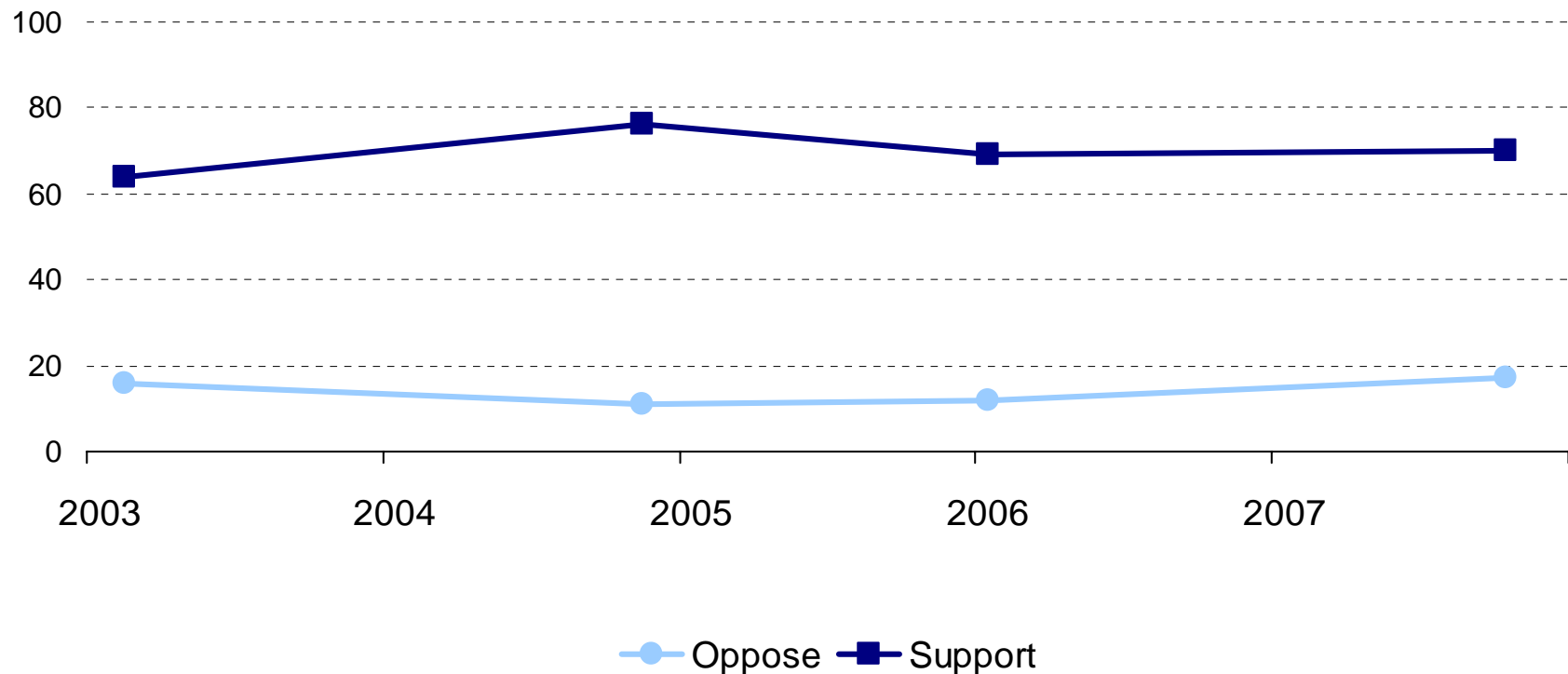
**Support for the use of biometrics to reduce identity fraud:** Given their overwhelmingly positive endorsement of the potential benefits of biometrics in reducing identity theft, it is not surprising to find a strong majority of Canadians (7 in 10) in support of this technology. Support is even greater among those who would prefer the government focus on protecting public security (74 per cent vs. 64 per cent preferring a civil liberties focus).

**Q:** Do you generally support or oppose the use of biometrics by the federal government as a way of reducing the fraudulent use of identification documents?



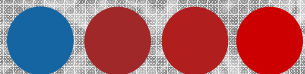
**Tracking support for the use of biometrics to reduce identity theft:** Since tracking began in 2003, support for the use of biometrics in identity documents has been strong, consistently outweighing opposition by a margin of at least 4 to 1.

**Q:** Do you generally support or oppose the use of biometrics by the federal government as a way of reducing the fraudulent use of identification documents?





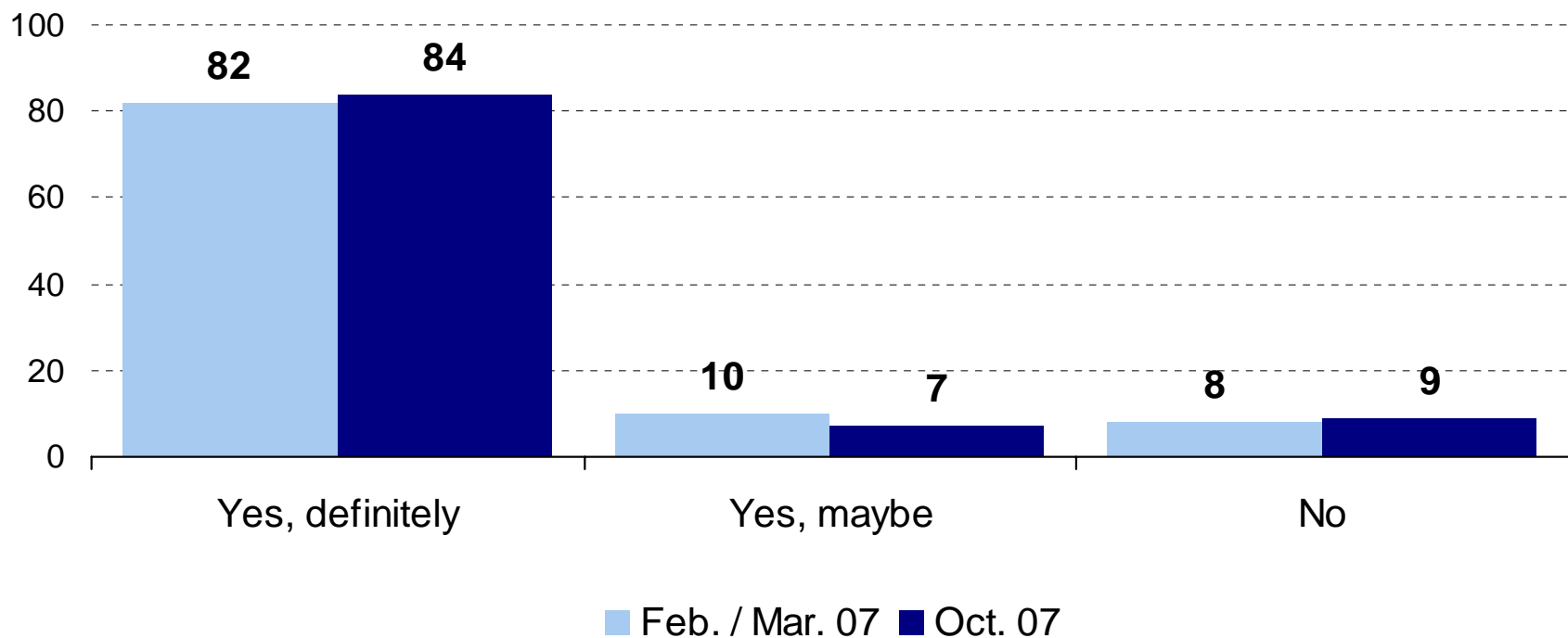
# Borders



SECURITY MONITOR 2007 | 2008

**Awareness of current WHTI requirements:** Most Canadians (9 in 10) are keenly aware of the requirements for travel to the United States introduced under the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI). In fact, awareness of the requirement to present a passport or another secure identity document when traveling to the U.S. by air has been widespread ever since the policy was introduced in January 2007.

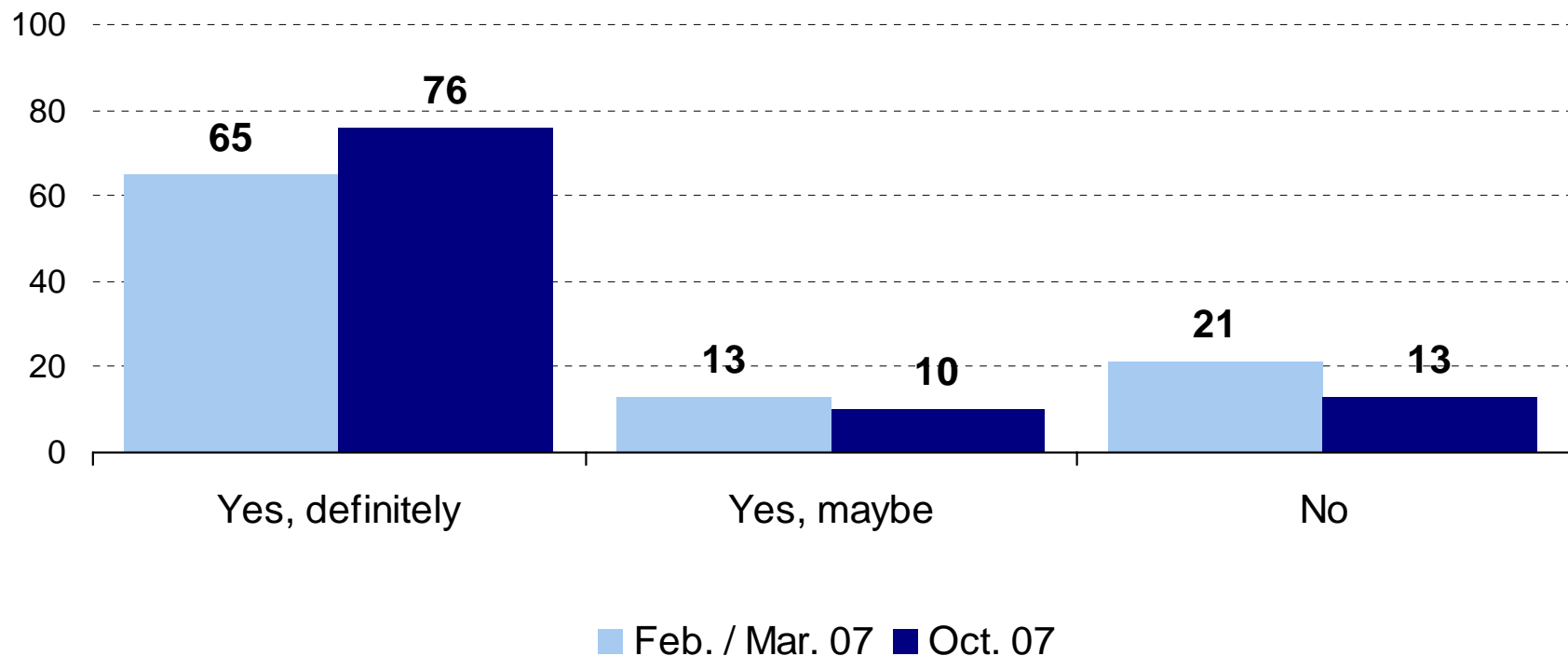
**Q:** Since January 23, 2007, the United States has required all travelers, including American and Canadian citizens, to present a valid passport or another secure identity document when flying into the United States. Before this survey, had you ever read or heard anything about this new requirement?\*



\* Note change in question wording from previous iterations

**Awareness of future WHTI requirements:** More than a year before the second phase of the policy is expected to take effect, 8 in 10 Canadians says they have also heard of the pending requirement to present a passport when entering the United States by any mode of transit. Awareness of the upcoming WHTI requirements has grown significantly over the past several months (+ 8 percentage points).

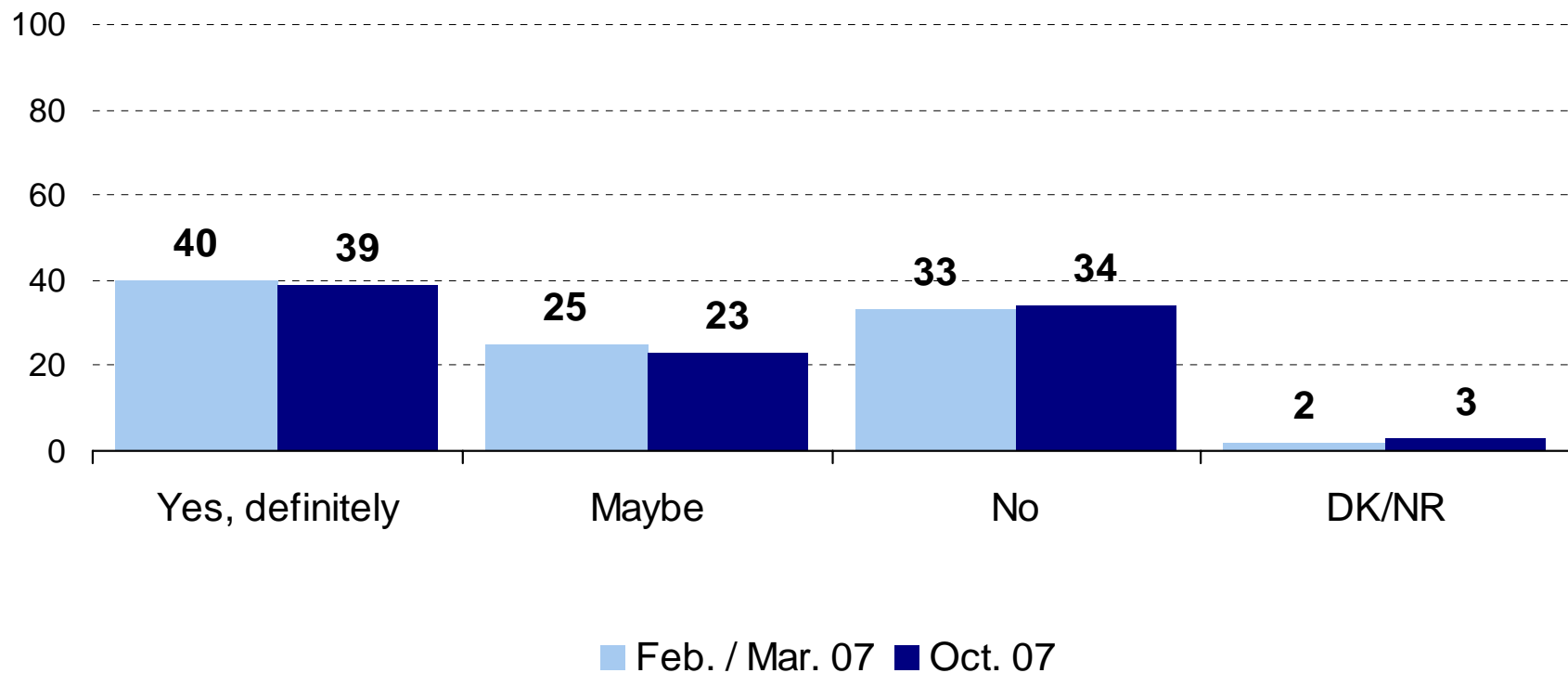
**Q:** As early as June 2008, all travellers entering the United States by any mode of transportation will have to present a valid passport or another secure identity document. Before this survey, had you ever read or heard anything about these new document requirements?



\* Note change in question wording from previous iterations

**Impact of WHTI requirements on border security:** Canadians continue to lean towards believing that these new document requirements will have their intended effect of improving security at the border. About 1 in 3, however, do not think that presenting a passport or another secure identity document will have a positive impact on border security.

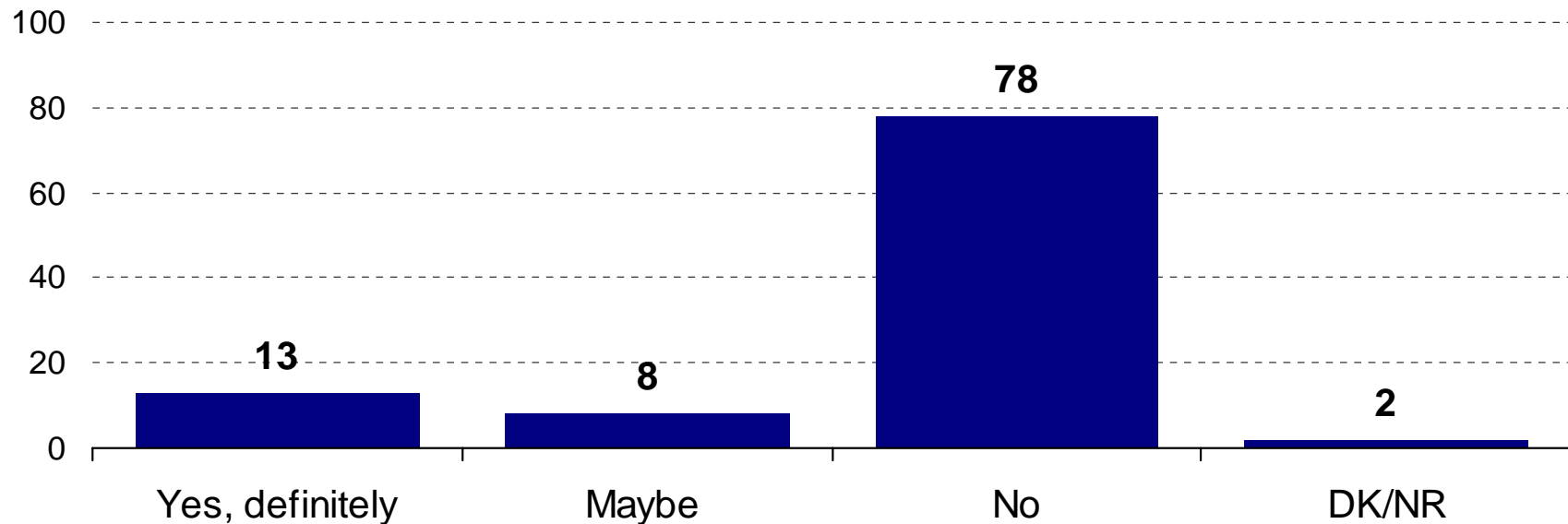
**Q:** Do you think that the requirement to present a valid passport or another secure identity document when entering the United States will improve border security?\*



\* Note change in question wording from previous iterations

**Impact of WHTI on plans to travel to the United States:** While a significant number of Canadians (about 1 in 5) says that the new WHTI requirements may discourage them traveling to the United States, a strong majority (3 in 4) indicates that their travel plans will not be affected.

**Q:** Will the requirement to present a valid passport or another secure identity document make you any less likely to travel to the United States for either business or pleasure reasons?\*

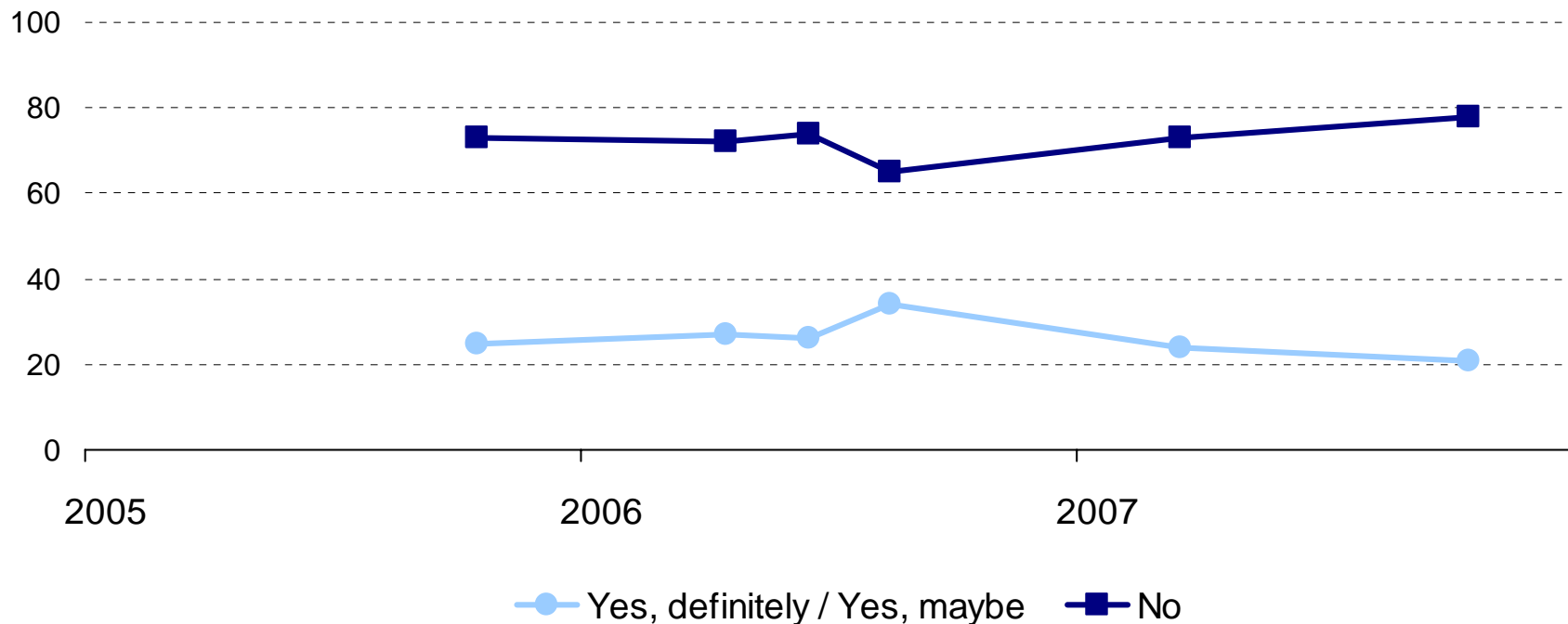


\* Note change in question wording from previous iterations



**Tracking impact of WHTI on plans to travel to the United States:** Even before the air component of the WHTI policy came into effect, most Canadians said the policy would not affect their plans to travel to the United States. Nearly 10 months after the implementation of the first phase, Canadians are even less likely to say that the WHTI requirements will discourage them from traveling to the U.S.

**Q:** Will the requirement to present a valid passport or another secure identity document make you any less likely to travel to the United States for either business or pleasure reasons?\*

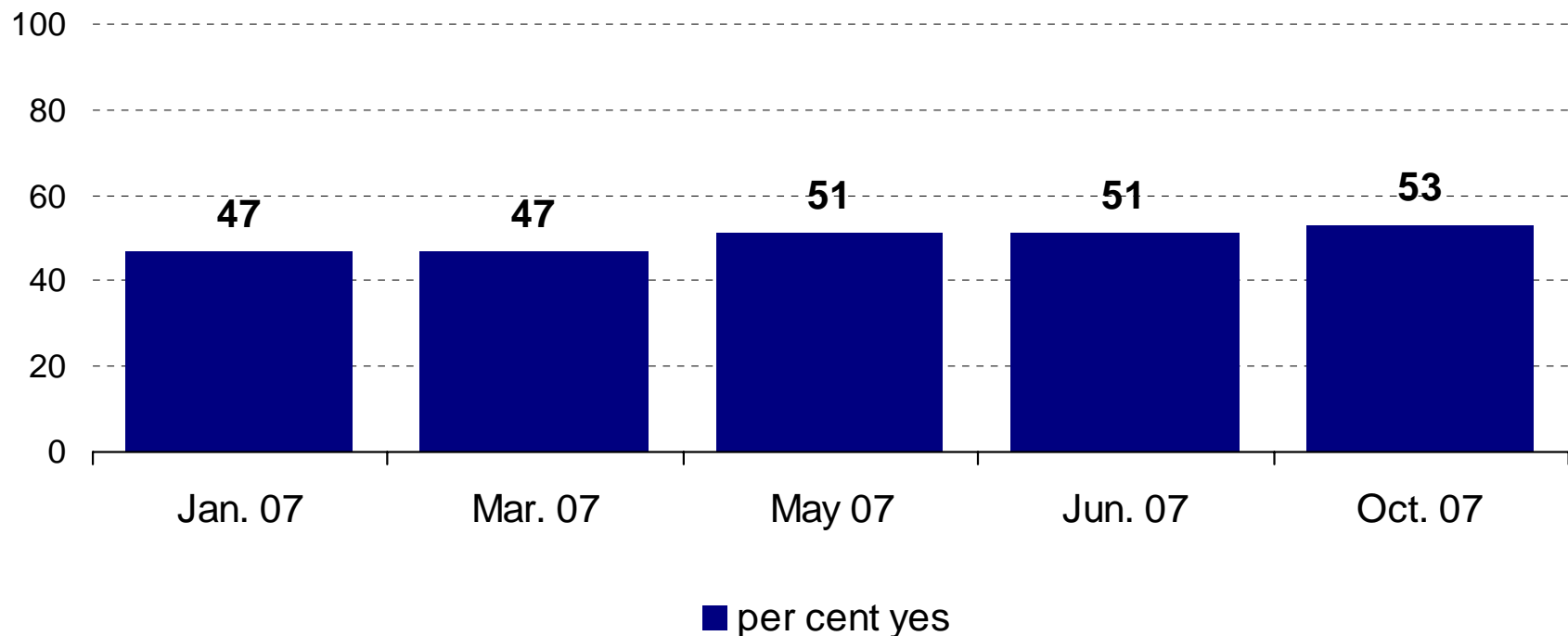


\* Note change in question wording from previous iterations



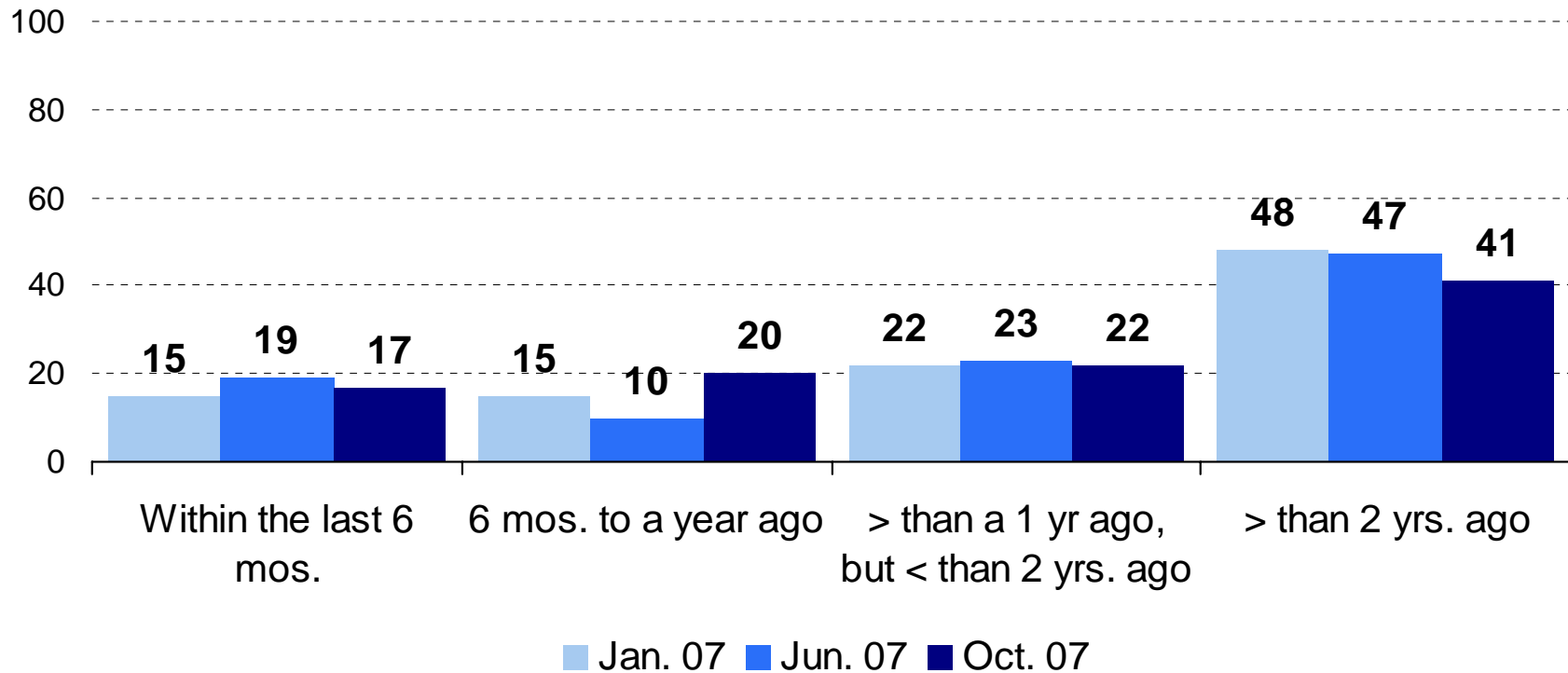
**Self-reported valid passport ownership:** Under the context of the WHTI, it has become increasingly important to monitor rates of passport ownership in Canada. Tracking reveals that the proportion of Canadians with a valid passport continues to climb (+ 6 percentage points in the past nine months). Higher income and education levels as well as awareness of the WHTI policies are all linked to greater rates of passport ownership.

**Q.** Do you have an up-to-date Canadian passport?



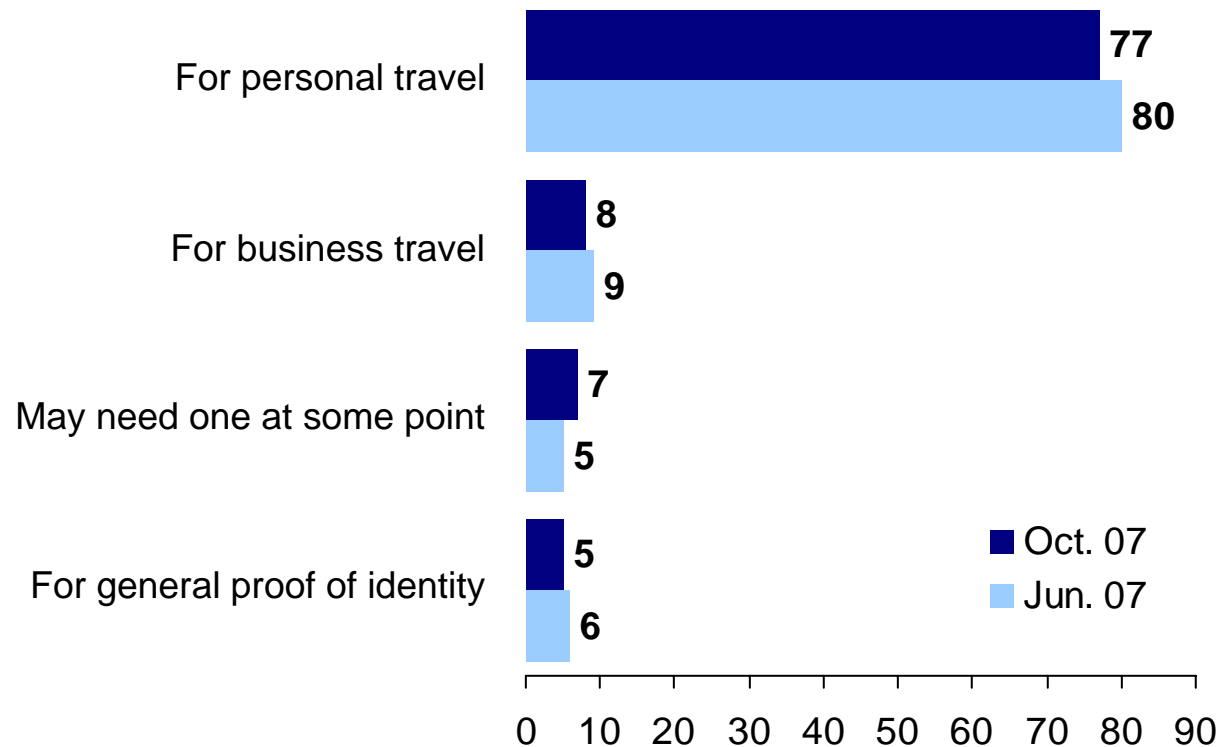
**Date of acquiring current passport:** A growing majority of Canadians has acquired their passport recently (i.e. within the past two years).

**Q.** When did you get this passport?



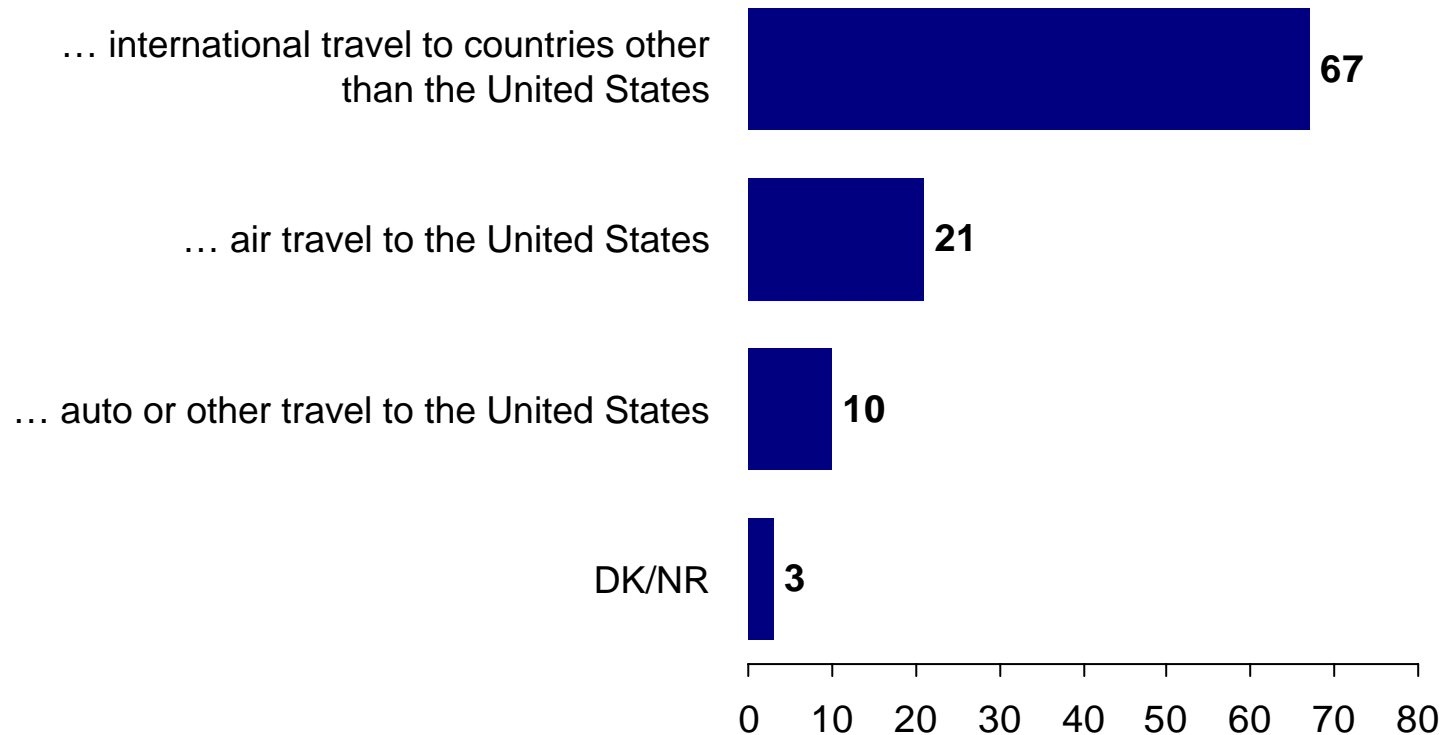
**Main reason for acquiring current passport:** Canadians continue to overwhelmingly indicate that they have acquired their passport for personal travel.

**Q.** Which of the following would you say is the main reason why you acquired a passport?



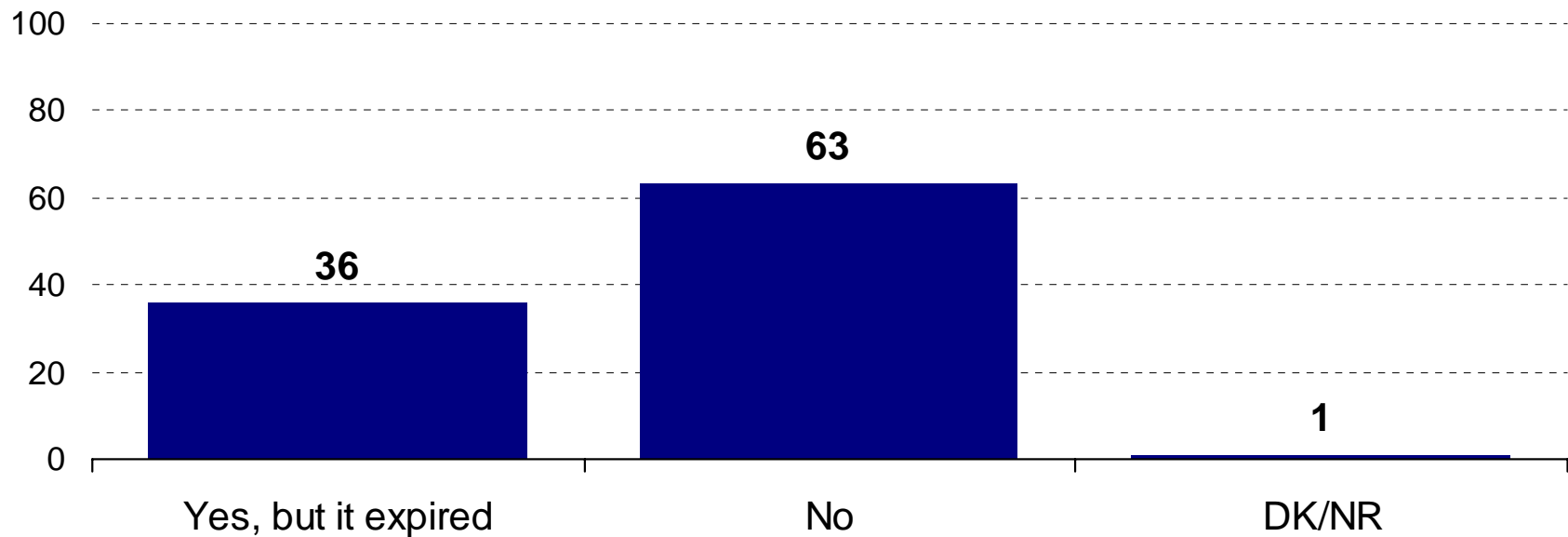
**Reason why passport was acquired for travel:** Those who say they acquired a passport for travel purposes (either personal or business), are most likely to have done so for international travel. About 1 in 3, however, says they obtained their passport for travel to the United States – once again underscoring the impact of the WHTI on Canadians.

**Q.** And would that be for . . . ?



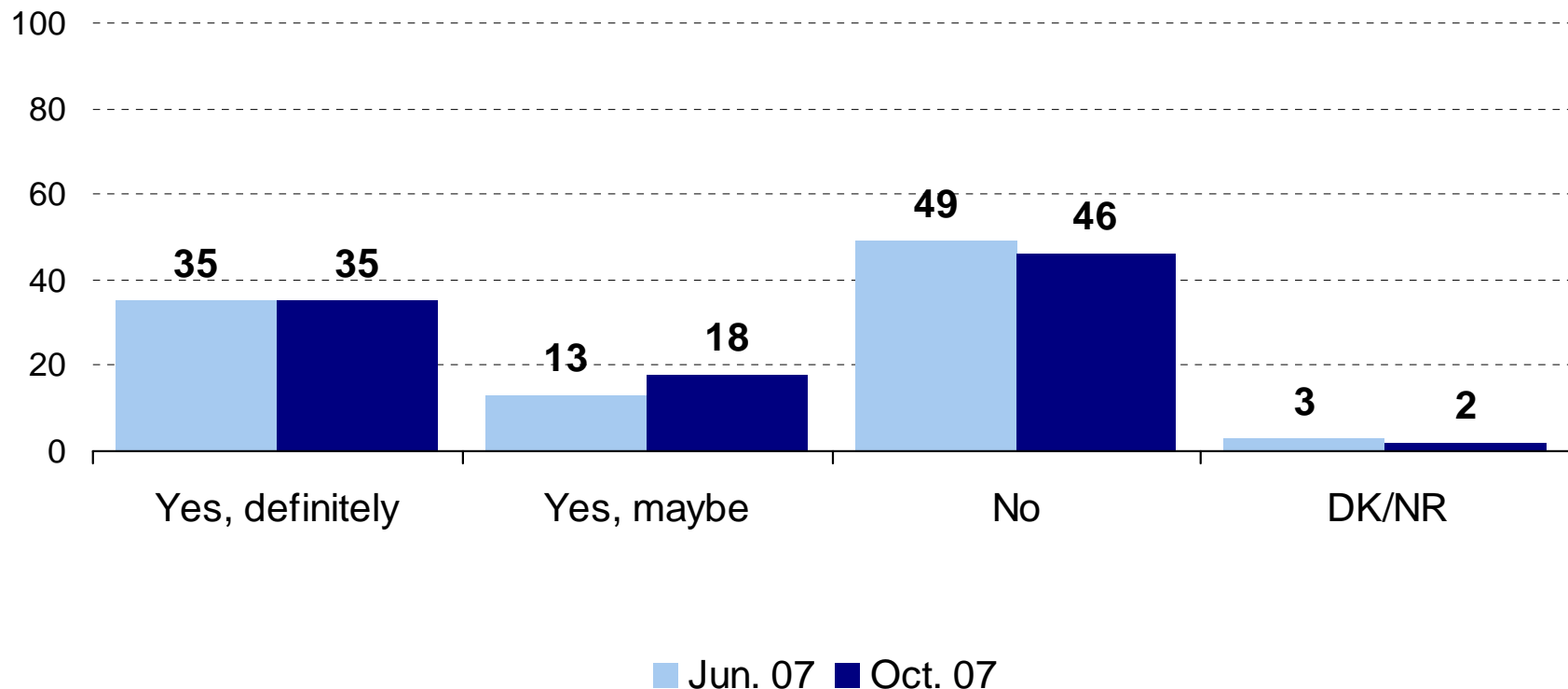
**Previous passport ownership:** For the other half of the population without a current Canadian passport, 1 in 3 indicates previously having had a passport (i.e. one they did not renew).

**Q.** Have you ever had a Canadian passport?



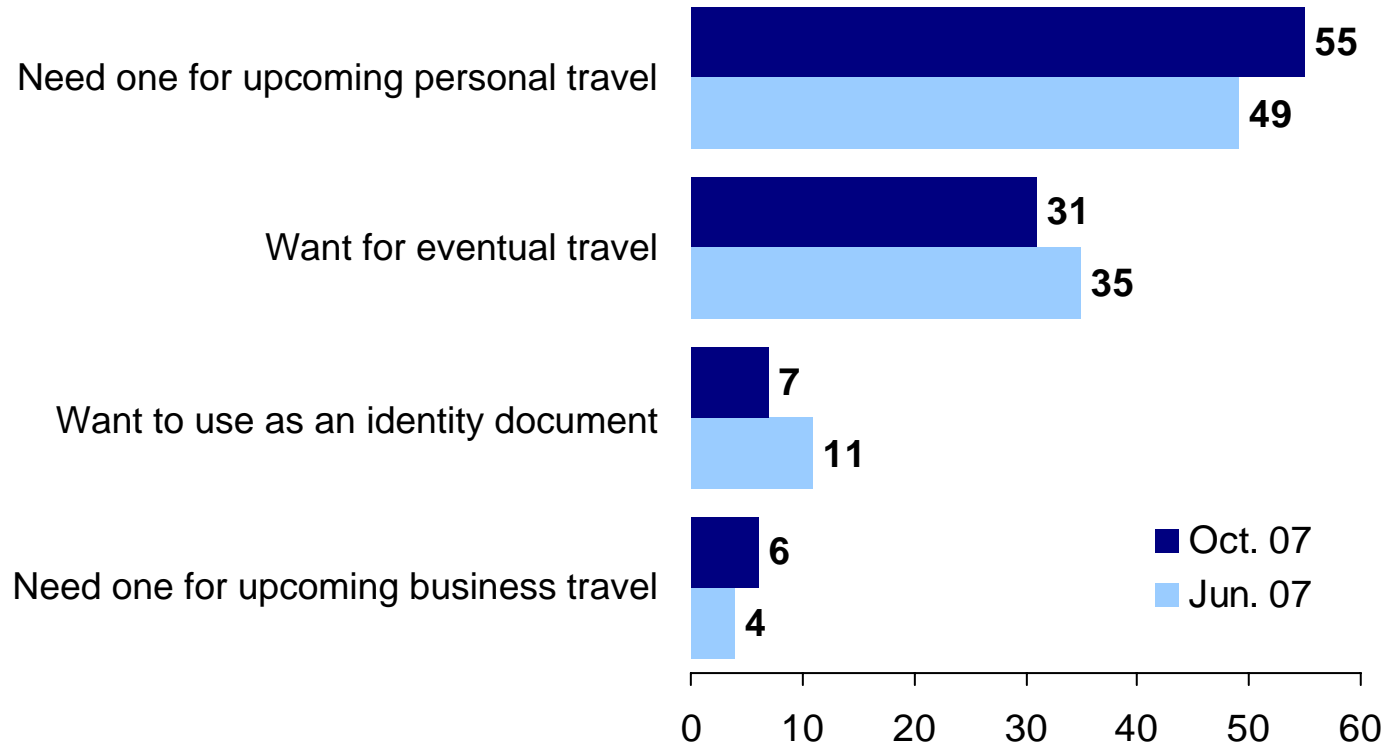
**Passport intentions:** A growing majority of Canadians without a current passport says that they intend to acquire one at some point over the next 12 months. Those who are aware of the current and the pending WHTI requirements are particularly likely to indicate that they intend to apply for a passport.

**Q.** And do you plan on getting a passport in the next 12 months?



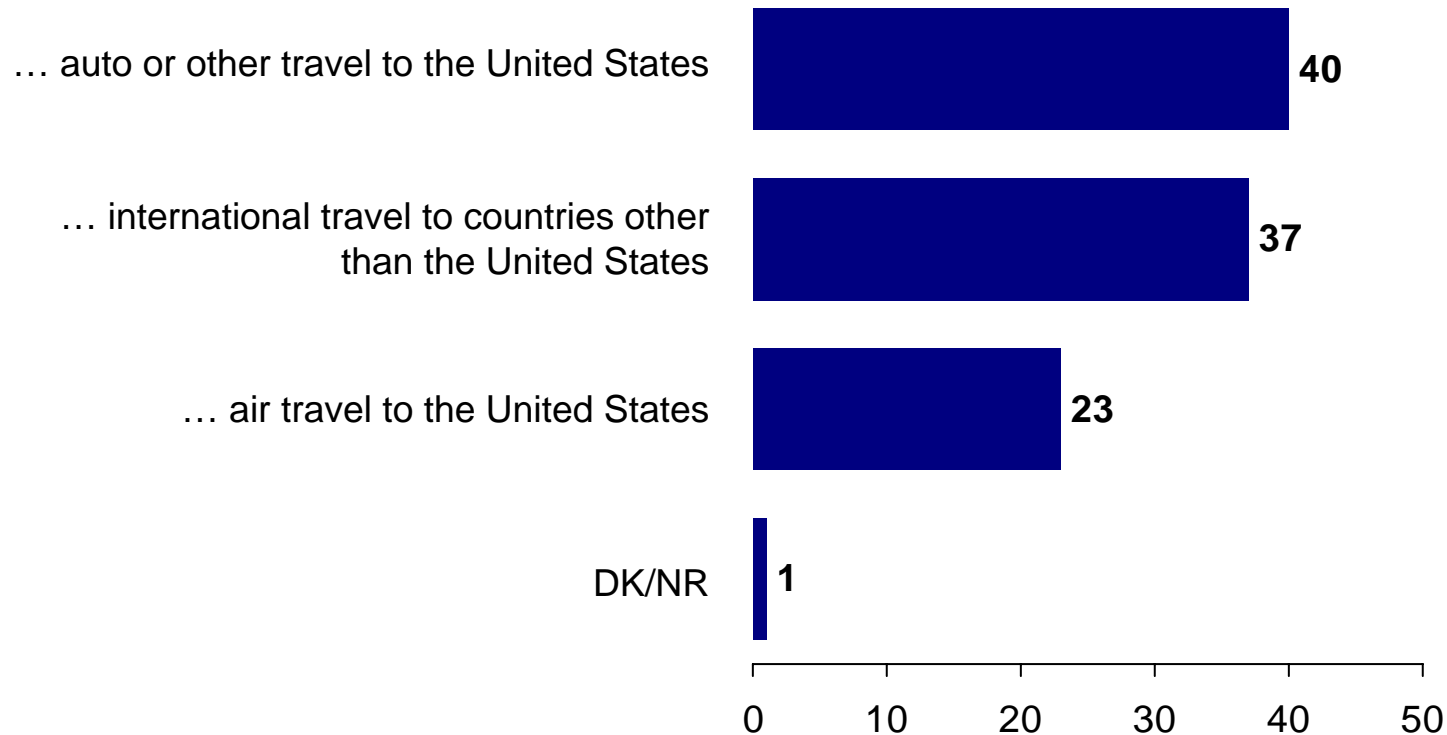
**Main reason for planning to acquire a passport:** As is the case for current passport holders, personal travel (either upcoming or eventual) continues to be the greatest motivator for obtaining a passport in the future.

**Q.** Which of the following would you say is the main reason why you plan on getting a passport?



**Reason why passport will be acquired for travel:** Travel to the United States (by car) is the strongest motivating factor for those acquiring a passport for travel reasons, but this is followed closely by international travel.

**Q.** And would that be for . . . ?\*



*\*Results should be interpreted with caution due small sample sizes*

SECURITY MONITOR 2007 | 2008 Base – Canadians who plan to obtain a passport for travel reasons; Oct. 07 n=142





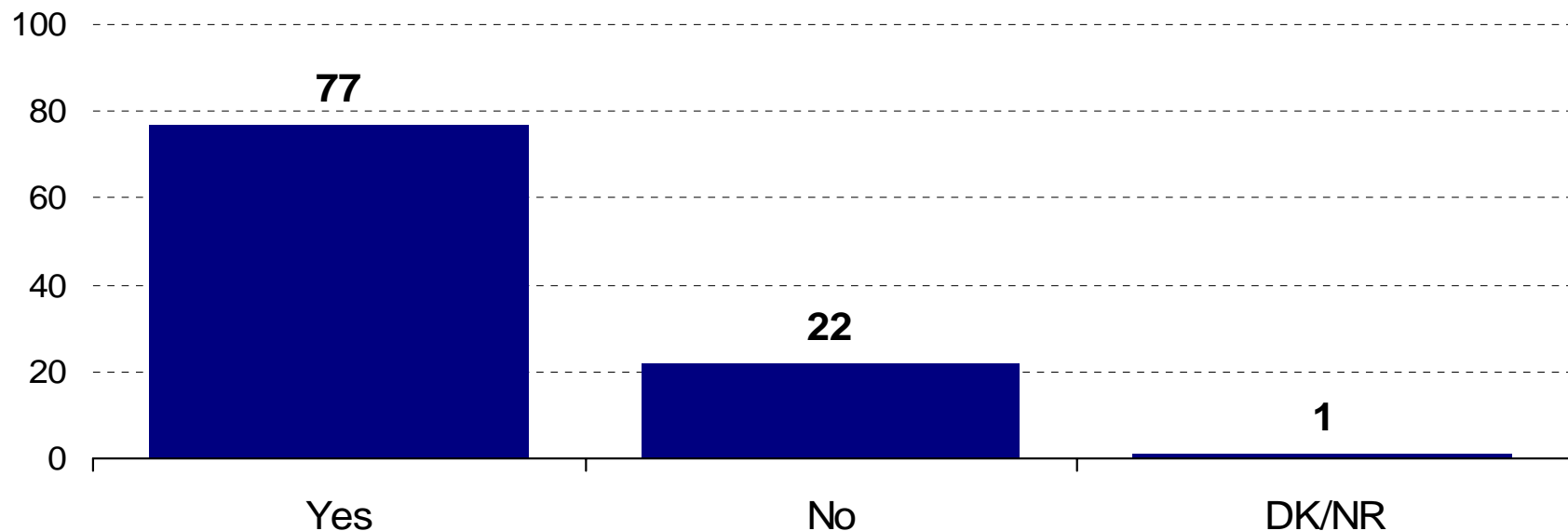
# Canada's role on the world stage



SECURITY MONITOR 2007 | 2008

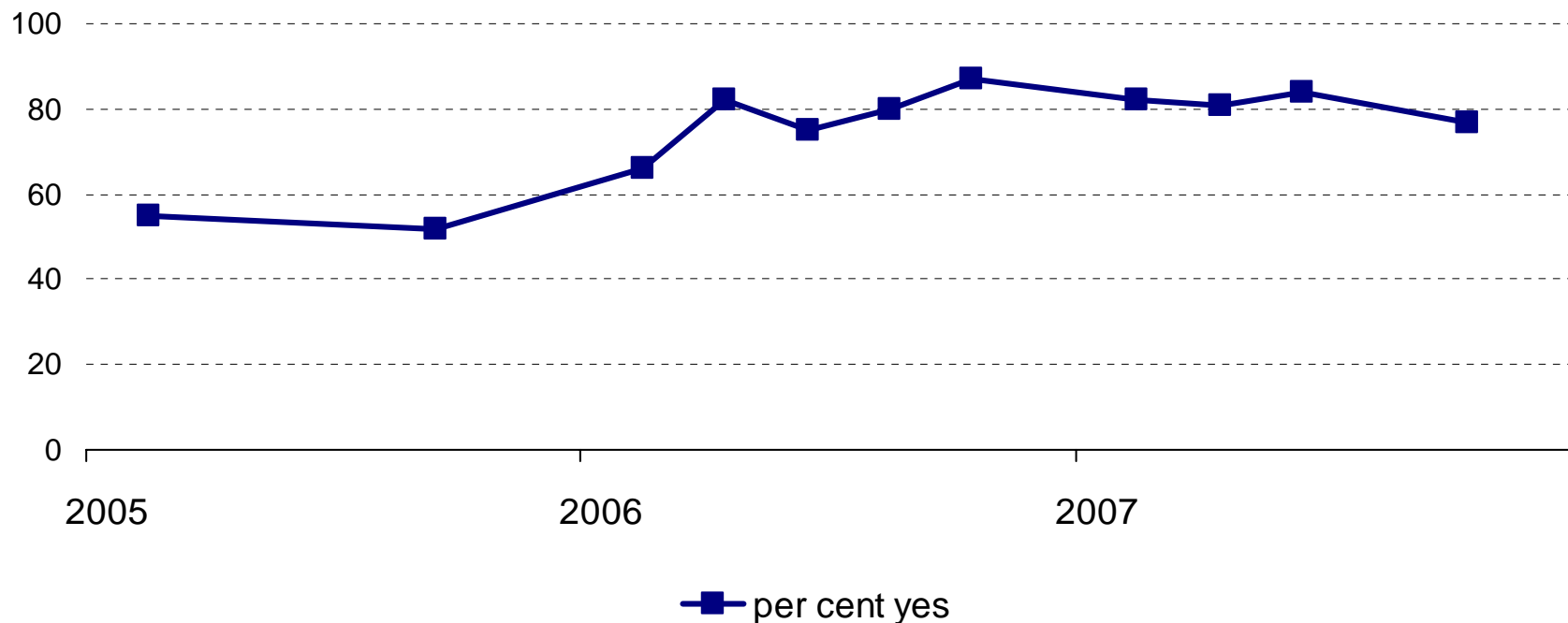
**Awareness of issues affecting the Canadian Forces:** The Canadian Forces is perhaps the most visible face of Canada on the world stage today. Not surprisingly, many Canadians (3 in 4) are paying close attention to the activities of their military.

**Q.** Have you recently read, seen or heard anything about the Canadian Forces?



**Tracking awareness of issues affecting the Canadian Forces:** Public awareness of issues affecting the Canadian Forces has increased significantly since tracking began in 2005 (+ 22 percentage points). It appears, however, that attention to these issues peaked in late 2006 when close to 9 in 10 reported an awareness of the CF.

**Q.** Have you recently read, seen or heard anything about the Canadian Forces?



**Awareness of specific issues:** For those aware of the activities of the Canadian Forces, the ongoing involvement in Afghanistan is the most top-of-mind. 1 in 3 also specifically mentions the casualties of Canadian soldiers in this country.

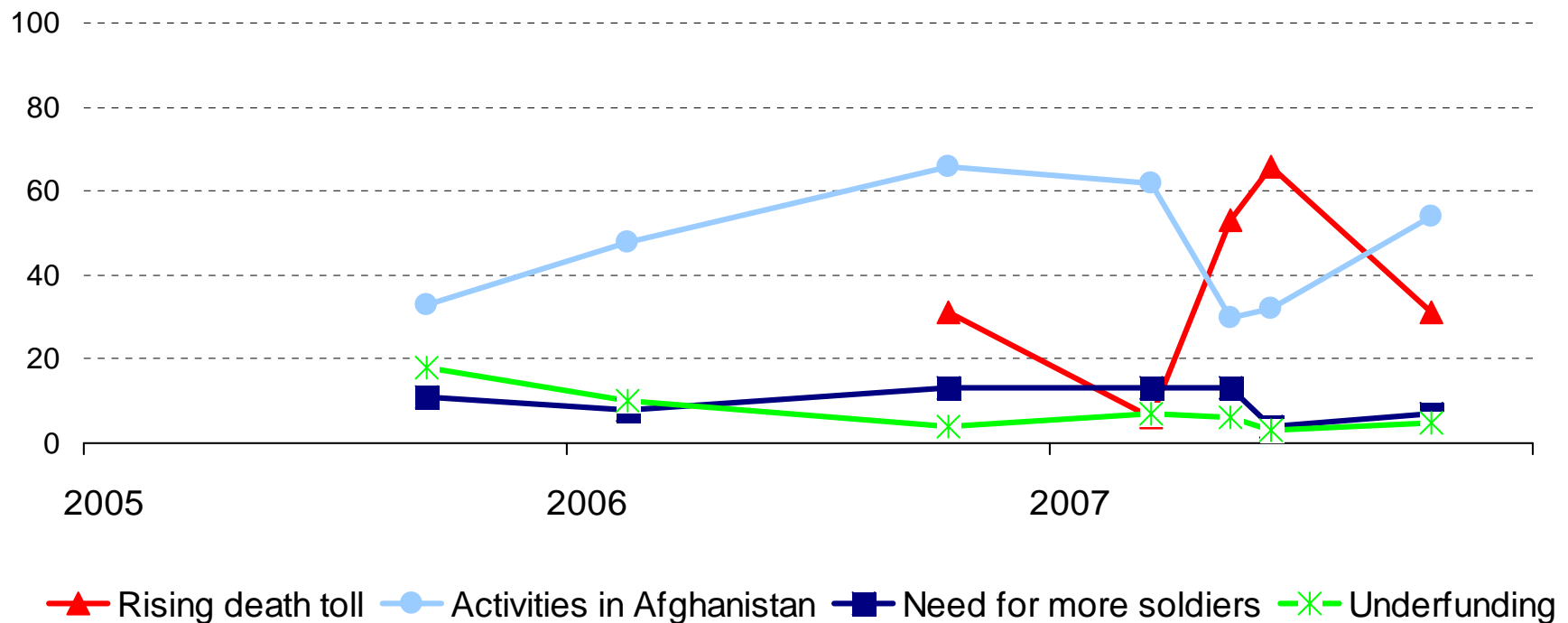
**Q.** What did you see, read or hear?

	Oct. 07
Activities in Afghanistan	54
Rising death toll / injuries	31
Debates about more troops in Afghanistan	13
Need for more soldiers	7
Under funding	5
Peacekeeping	5
Extending mission	4
Other*	21
DK/NR	3

\* Items in this category mentioned by 3 per cent or fewer include: Overall controversy and debate, recruitment efforts, equipment problems, more funding to military, media coverage (in general), training activities, the move away from peacekeeping, family members in the Canadian Forces, asserting sovereignty, monuments and memorials, General Hillier, and support for the troops (in general).

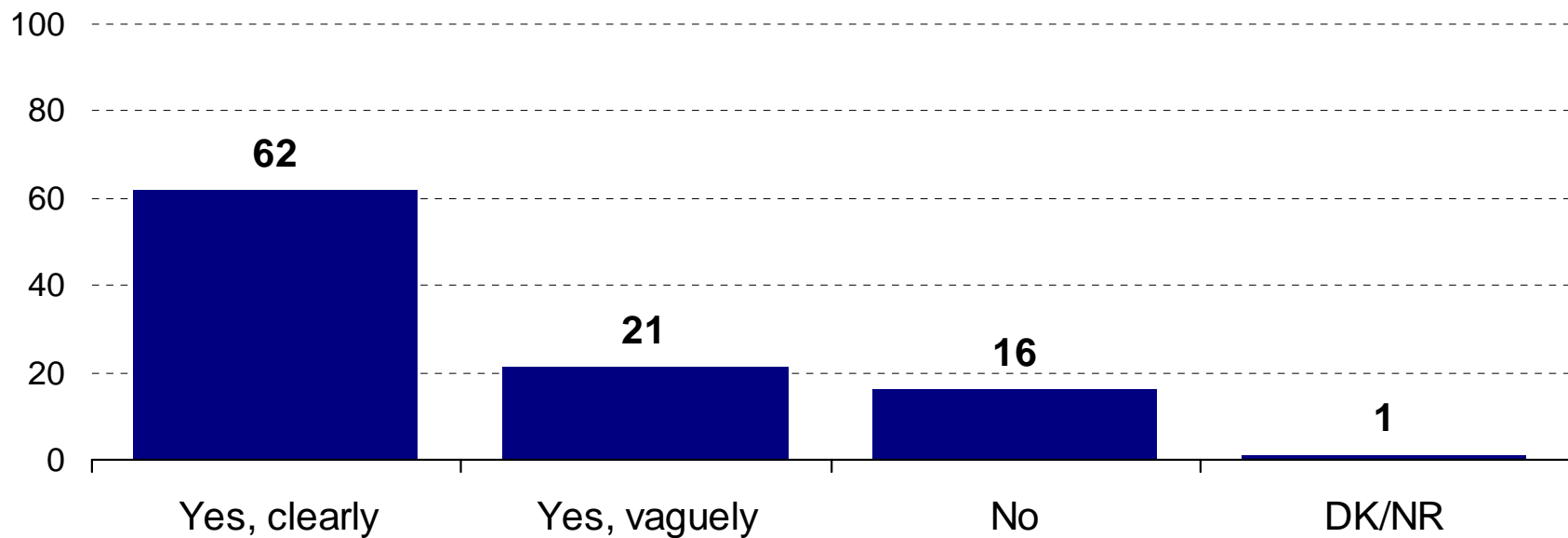
**Tracking top issues:** The rising death toll of Canadian soldiers overtook general activities in Afghanistan as the top issue on the minds of Canadians in early 2007. However, recent data shows that the Forces' activity in the Afghan region in general is again the most pressing issue for the Canadian public.

**Q.** What did you see, read or hear?



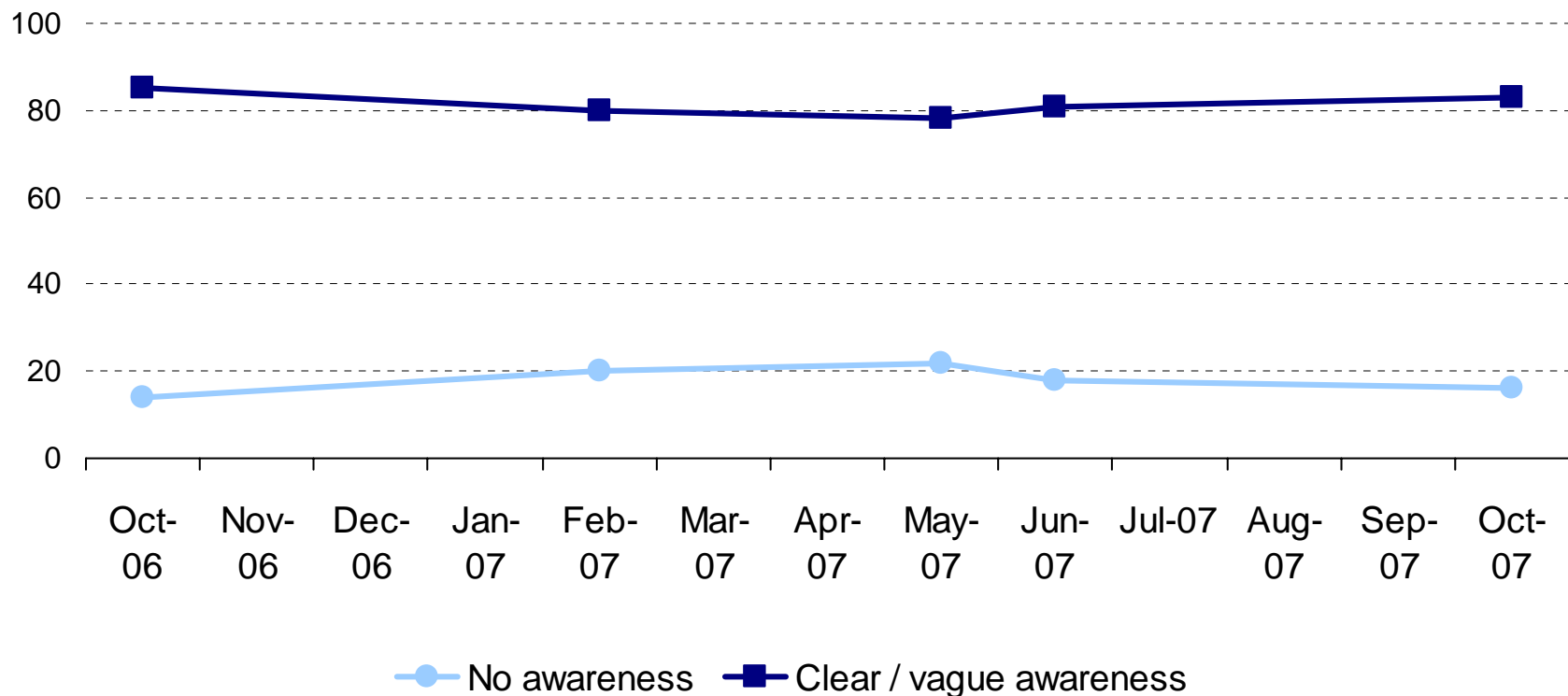
**Awareness of military operations in Afghanistan:** Given the high levels of attention devoted to issues affecting the Canadian Forces in general, it is not surprising to find that most Canadians have recently heard something about the military operations in Afghanistan. Awareness of the Afghan mission is higher among older and more educated Canadians.

**Q.** Over the past few weeks, do you recall hearing, reading, or seeing anything about Canada's military operations in Afghanistan?



**Tracking awareness of military operations in Afghanistan:** Awareness of the Afghanistan mission has remained fairly stable over the past year, with approximately 8 in 10 Canadians consistently indicating that they have recently heard about Canada's military operations in that country.

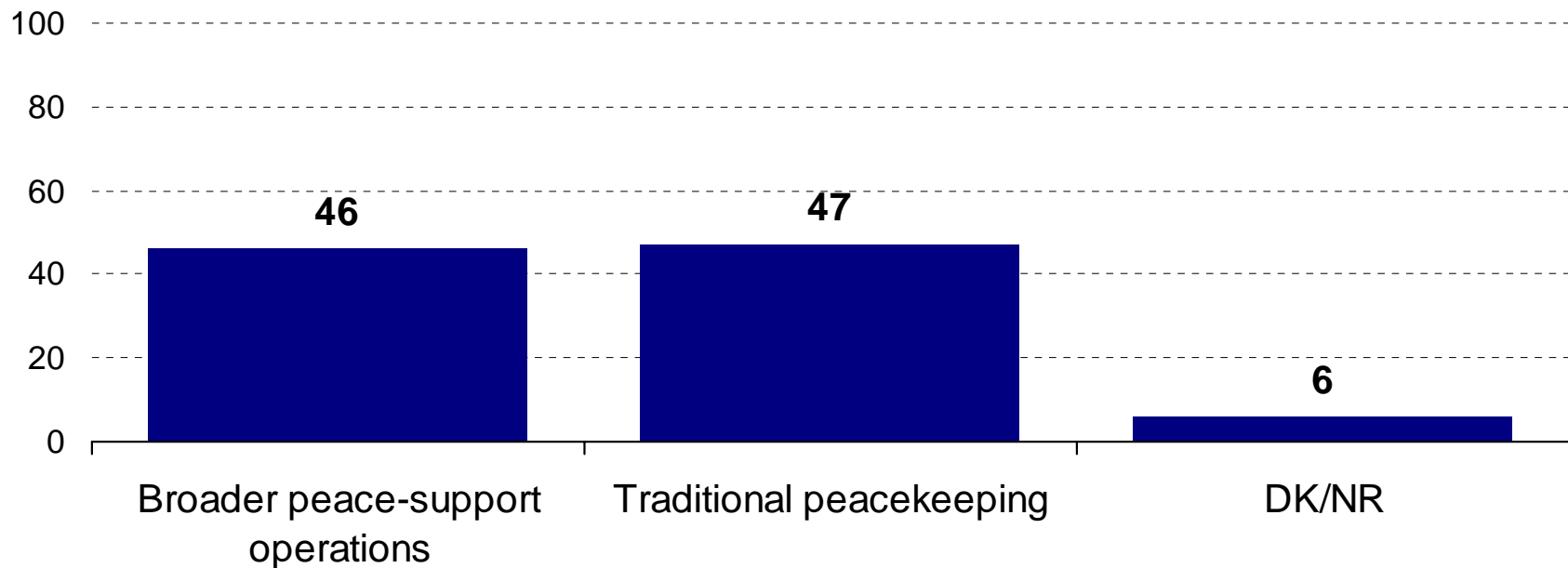
**Q.** Over the past few weeks, do you recall hearing, reading, or seeing anything about Canada's military operations in Afghanistan?





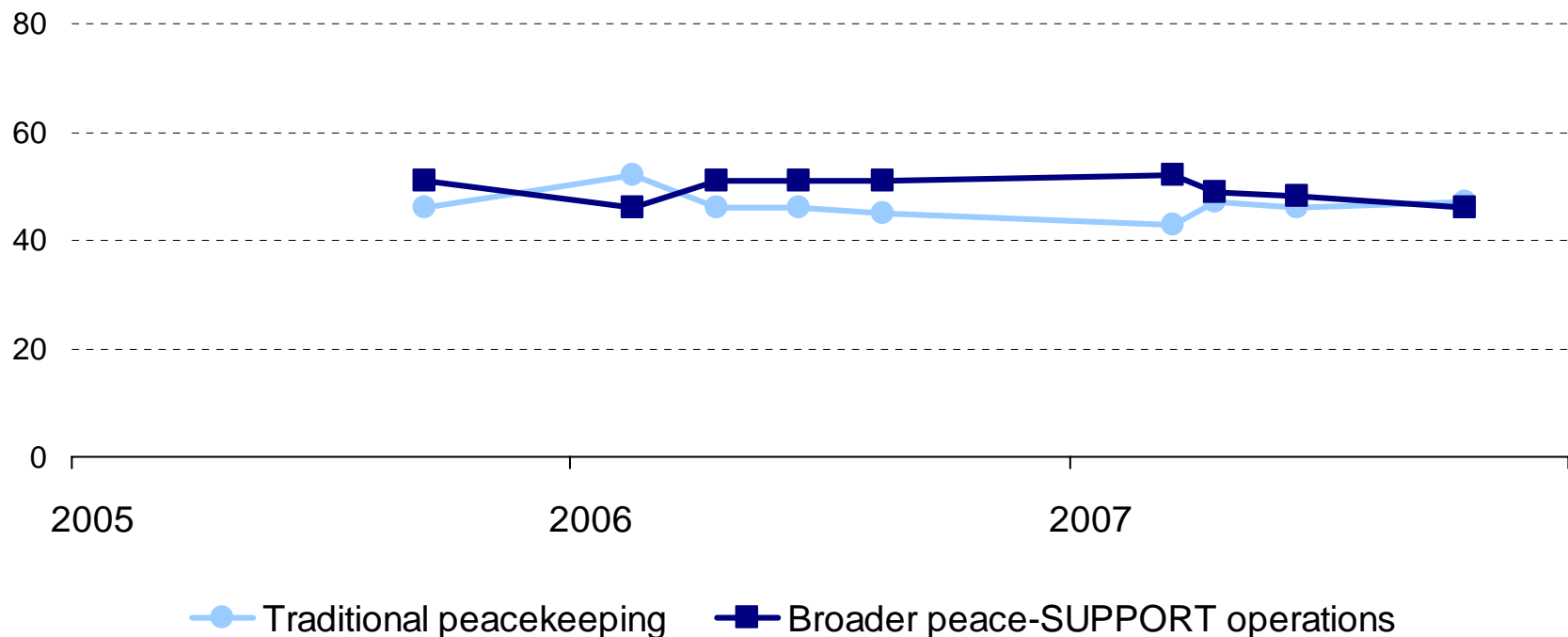
**Preferred role for the Canadian Forces:** While about half of Canadians prefers the current peace-support role in Afghanistan, the other half indicates a preference for peacekeeping. There are some fairly significant regional differences on this issue: a majority in Quebec (55 per cent) prefer a peacekeeping role, whereas majorities in Alberta (57 per cent) and the Prairies (63 per cent) prefer peace-support.

**Q.** Canadian Forces should: 1) participate in broader peace-support operations around the world which could involve both peacekeeping and, if necessary, non-traditional roles such as fighting alongside other allied troops to implement peace in a disputed area; or 2) only participate in traditional peacekeeping operations around the world that involve observation duties or monitoring a truce between two conflicting partners.



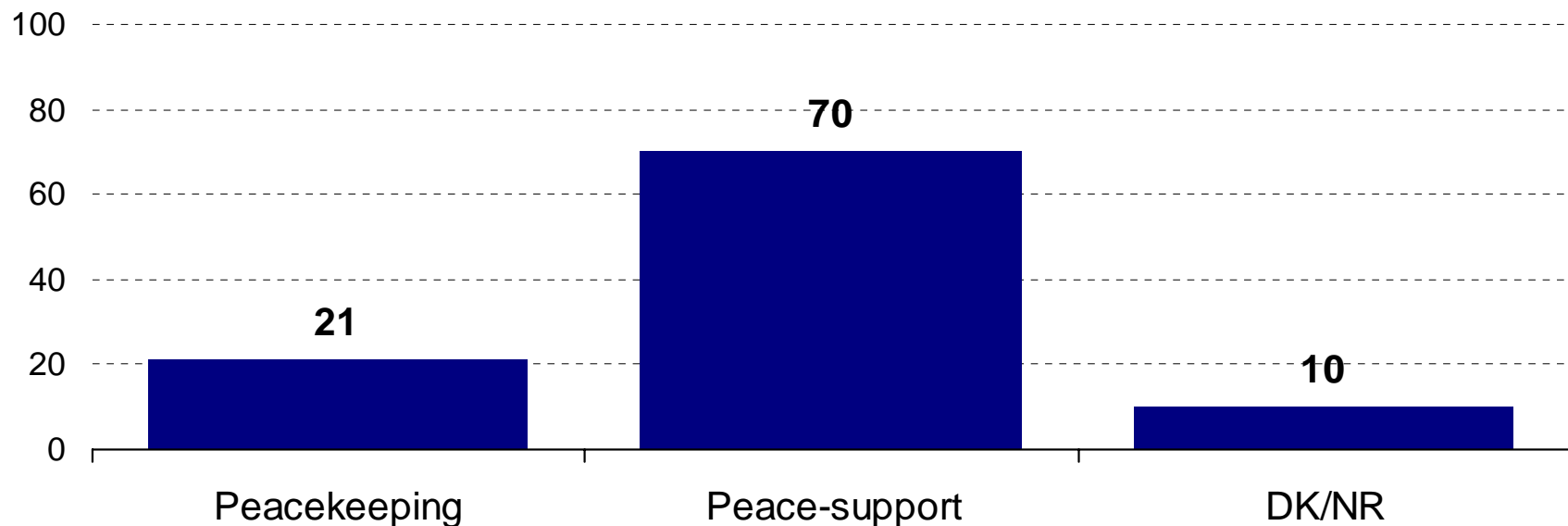
**Tracking preferred role for the Canadian Forces:** Starting in early 2006, slightly more Canadians began to think that the preferred role for the Canadian Forces in Afghanistan is as a part of broader peace-support operations. More recently, however, preference for this role has been declining and is now almost tied with a preference for the peacekeeping approach.

**Q.** Canadian Forces should: 1) participate in broader peace-support operations... or 2) only participate in traditional peacekeeping operations...



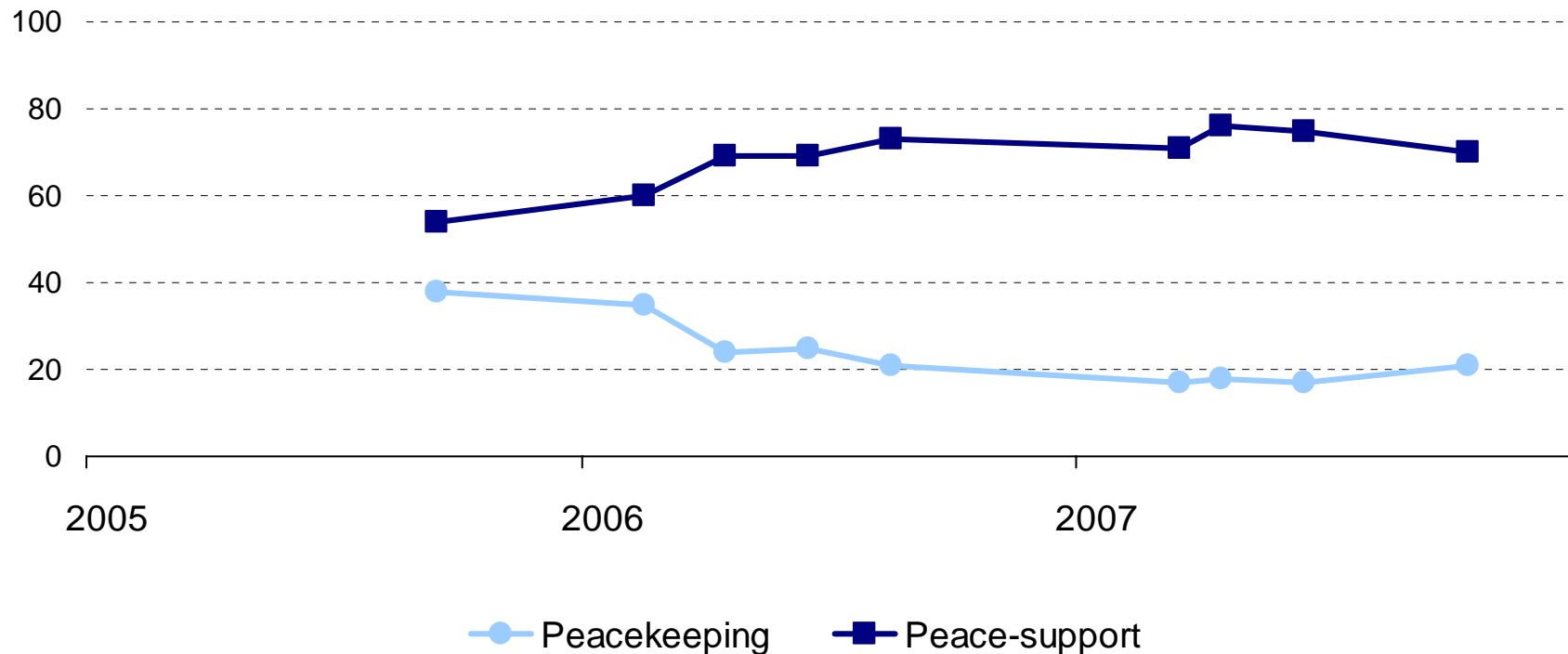
**Literacy on Afghanistan mission:** Despite being starkly divided in terms of their preferred role for the CF in Afghanistan, a majority of Canadians (7 in 10) understands the nature of the current mission. In fact, only 1 in 5 thinks the CF is involved in a peacekeeping mission. British Columbians are the most literate, with 8 in 10 recognizing the mission as peace-support.

**Q.** Based on what you know, do you think the Canadian Forces operation in Afghanistan is a traditional peacekeeping operation or is it a peace-support operation?



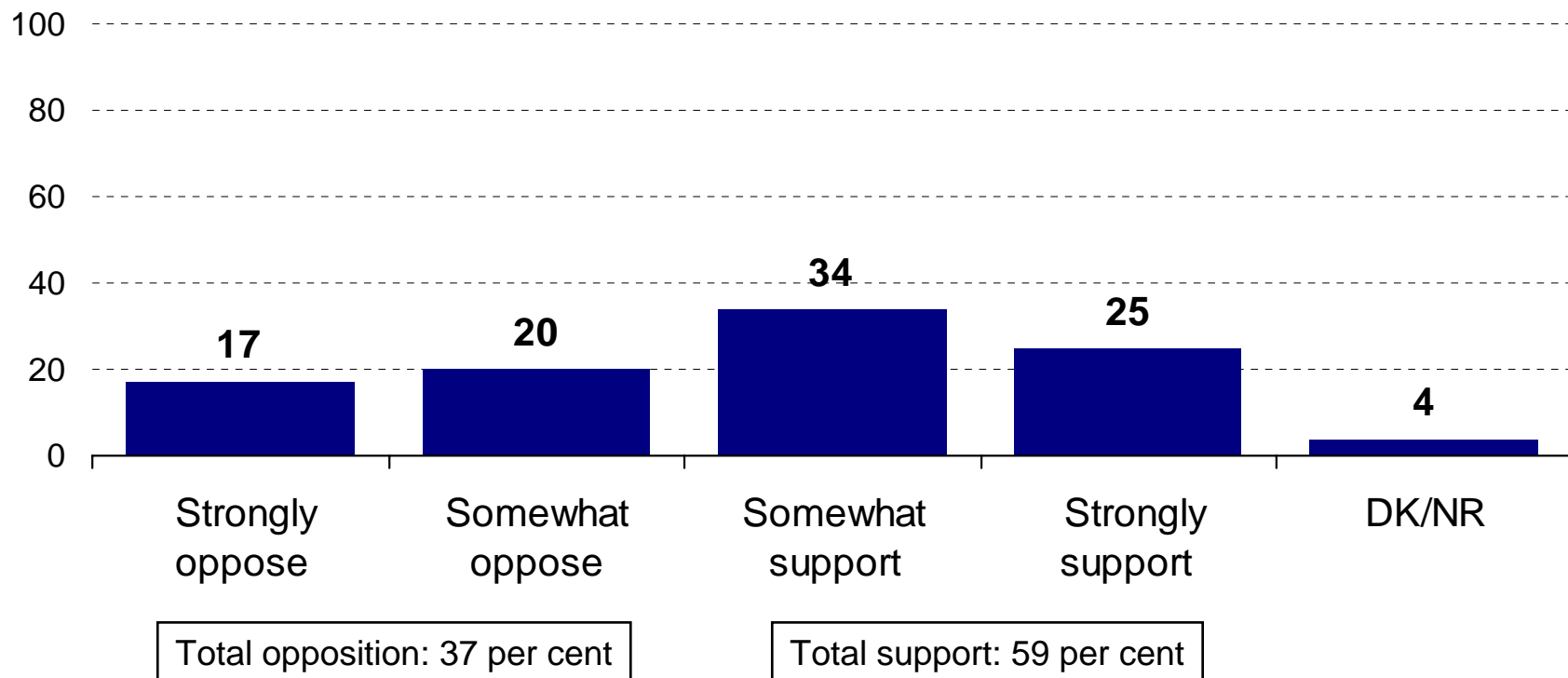
**Tracking literacy on Afghanistan mission:** The growing consensus among Canadians since 2005 is that the Canadian Forces is involved in a peace-support mission in Afghanistan. Most recently, however, there has been a slight increase in the view that the Canadian mission is one of peacekeeping (+ 4 percentage points since June 2007).

**Q.** Based on what you know, do you think the Canadian Forces operation in Afghanistan is a traditional peacekeeping operation or is it a peace-support operation?



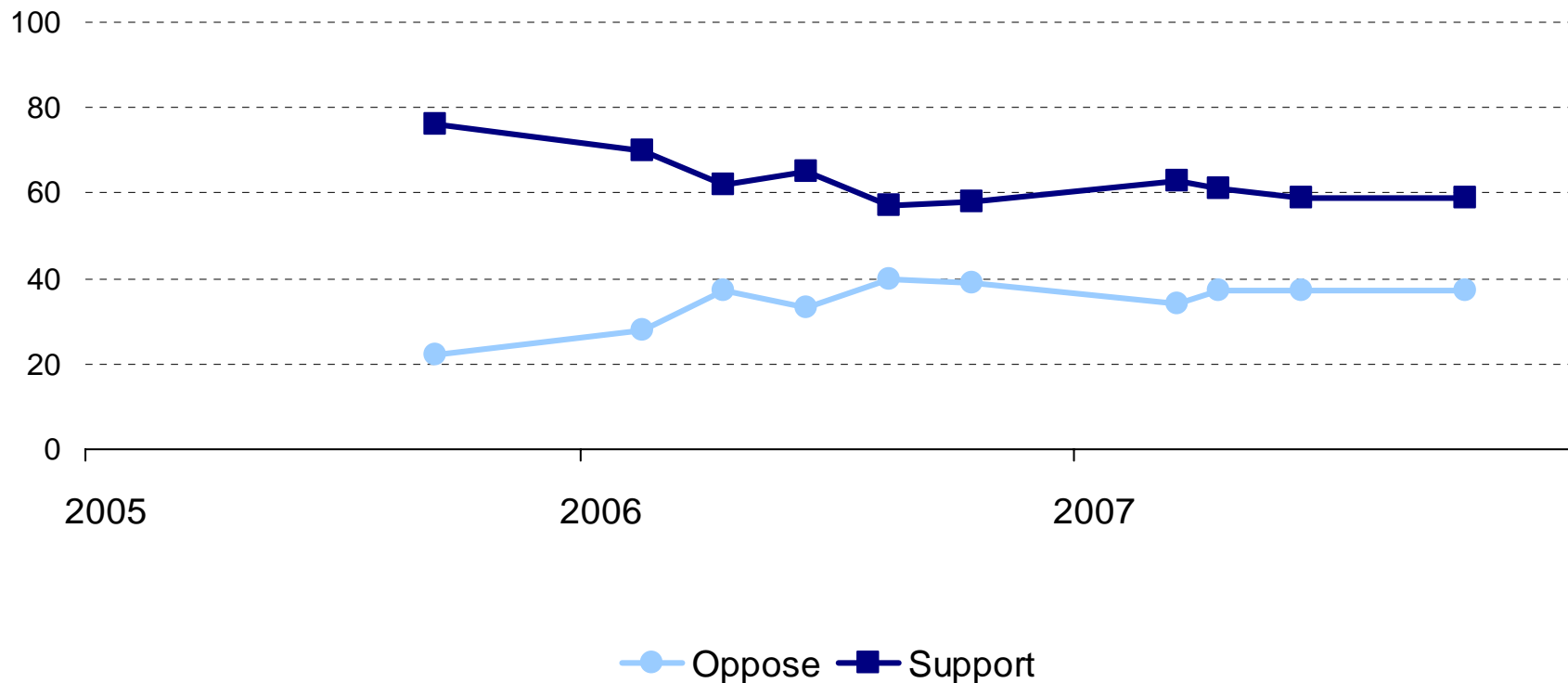
**Attitudes towards a peace-support role in Afghanistan:** Just over half of Canadians currently supports the peace-support role in Afghanistan and 1 in 3 opposes it. Views vary significantly across the country with residents of Western Canada most likely to support the mission (75 per cent in Alberta and 68 per cent in the Prairies) and residents of Quebec most likely to oppose it (52 per cent).

**Q.** Right now, the Canadian Forces are involved in a broader peace-SUPPORT operation in Afghanistan, helping to rebuild the country and maintain security with our troops fighting on the frontline if necessary. Would you say you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose these contributions?



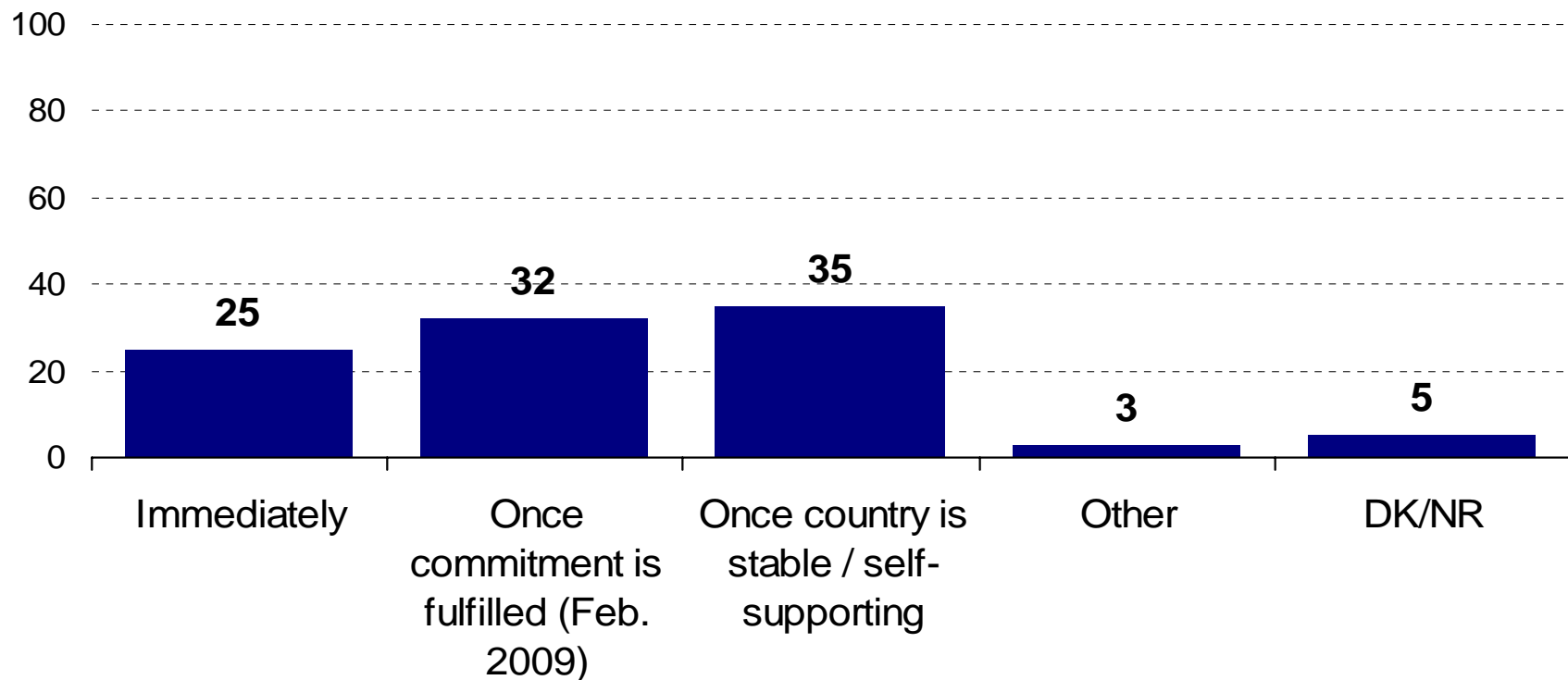
**Tracking attitudes towards a peace-support role in Afghanistan:** Since tracking began in late 2005, a majority of Canadians has supported the Canadian military's participation in Afghanistan. Over the past two years, however, support has declined significantly (-17 percentage points since September 2005), settling in the high 50s over the past summer.

**Q.** Right now, the Canadian Forces are involved in a broader peace-SUPPORT operation in Afghanistan, helping to rebuild the country and maintain security with our troops fighting on the frontline if necessary. Would you say you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose these contributions?



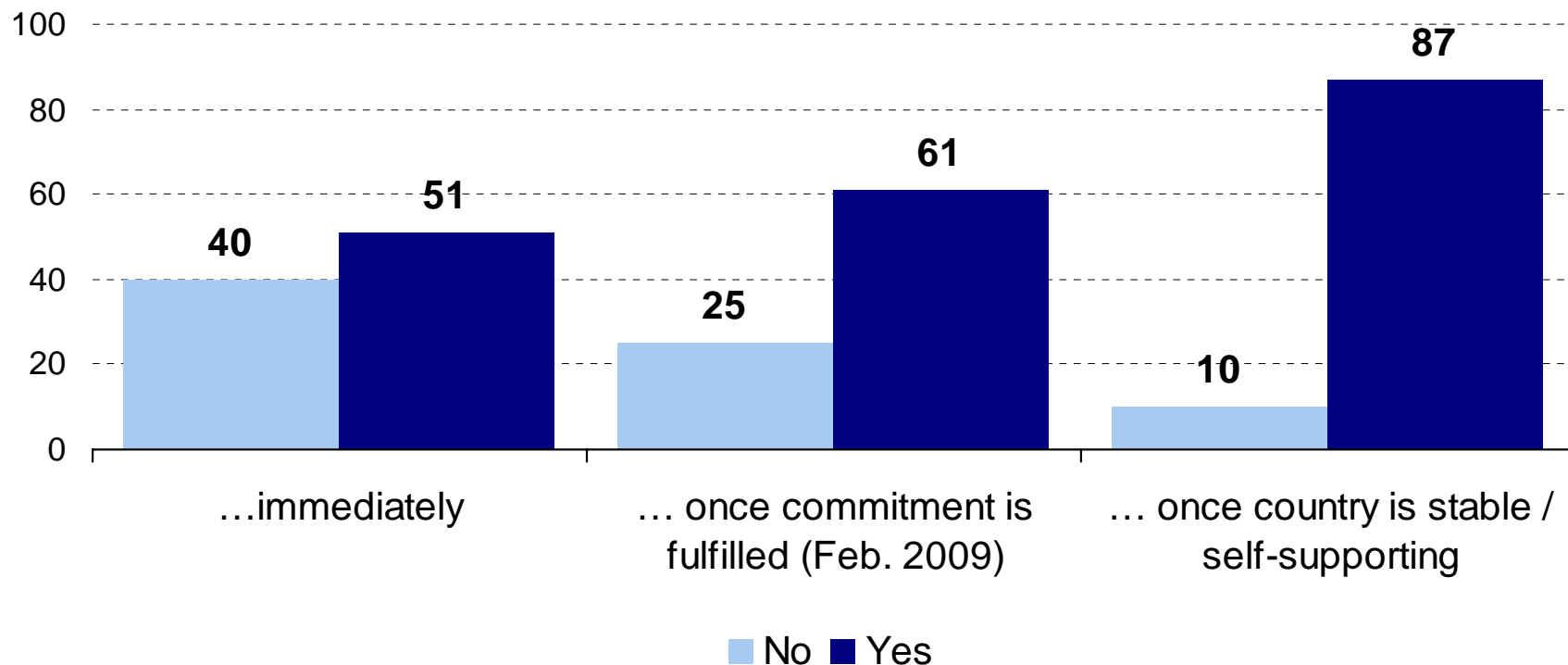
**Preferred timeframe for withdrawal:** Canadians are highly divided on the issue of when the Canadian Forces should withdraw from Afghanistan. A small proportion (1 in 4) thinks Canada should withdraw immediately, while the remainder is divided between either staying until our commitment is fulfilled (i.e. February 2009) or until the objectives of the mission are met (i.e. when Afghanistan is stable and self supporting country) .

**Q.** In your opinion, when should the Canadian Forces withdraw from Afghanistan?



**Perceived success of mission by preferred withdrawal date:** The perceived success or failure of the mission in Afghanistan appears contingent on Canadians preferred date of withdrawal. In the broadest sense, findings suggest that the longer the Canadian Forces remain in this country, the more likely the mission is to be judged a success.

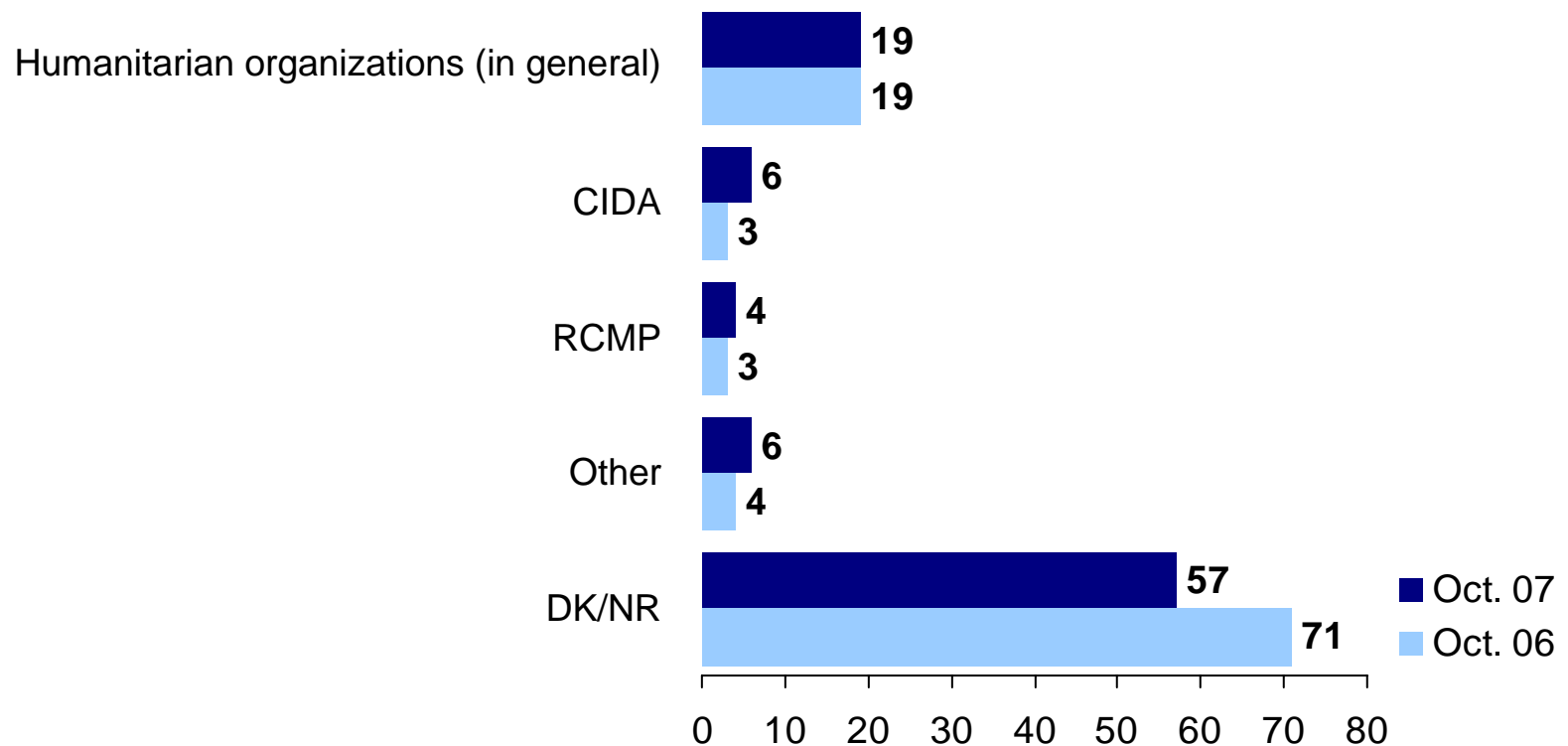
**Q.** And would you consider the Canadian Forces' operations in Afghanistan to be a success if they were to withdraw ... ?





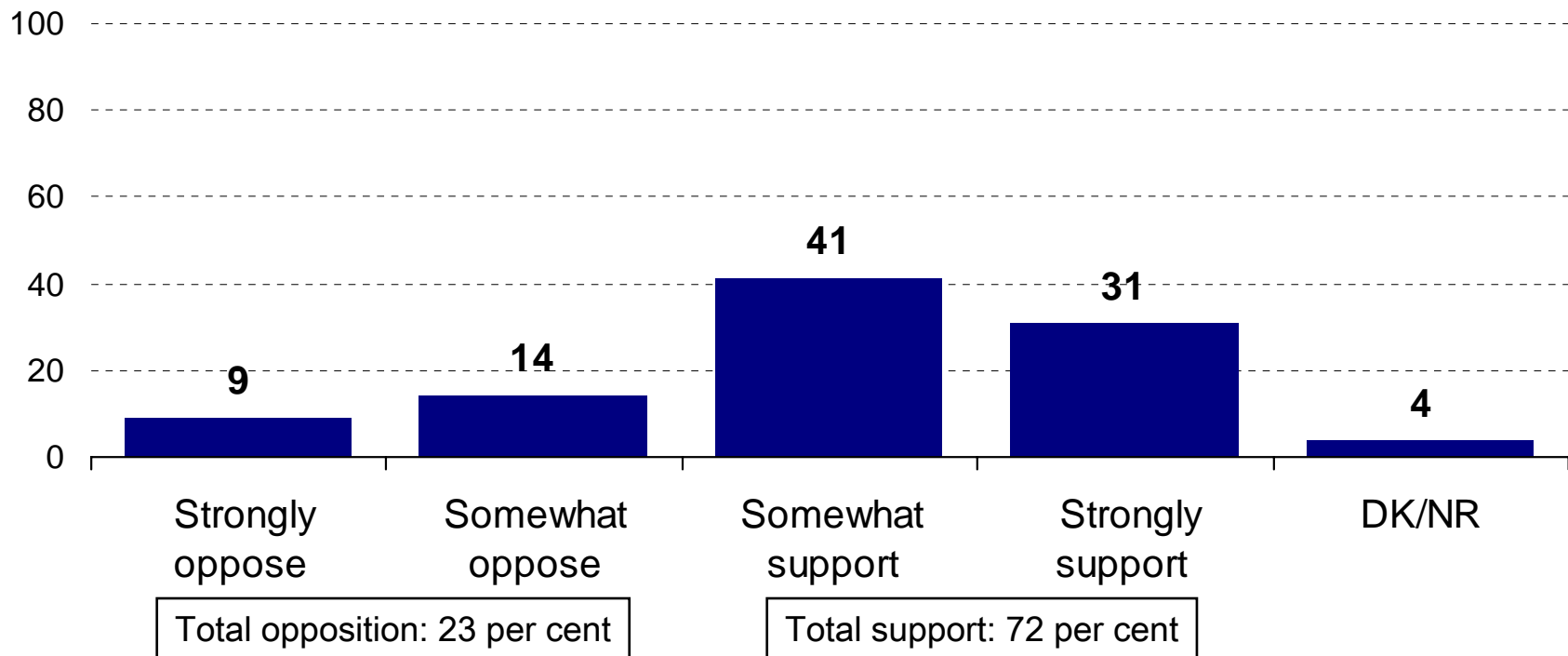
**Awareness of other Canadian agencies operating in Afghanistan:** Apart from the role played by the Canadian Forces, the general public in Canada continues to be largely unaware of the involvement of other Canadian organizations currently operating in Afghanistan. The RCMP and CIDA remain the only agencies recognized by name.

**Q.** Other than our military personnel, can you name any other Canadian agencies that are currently helping out with the reconstruction and stabilization efforts in Afghanistan?



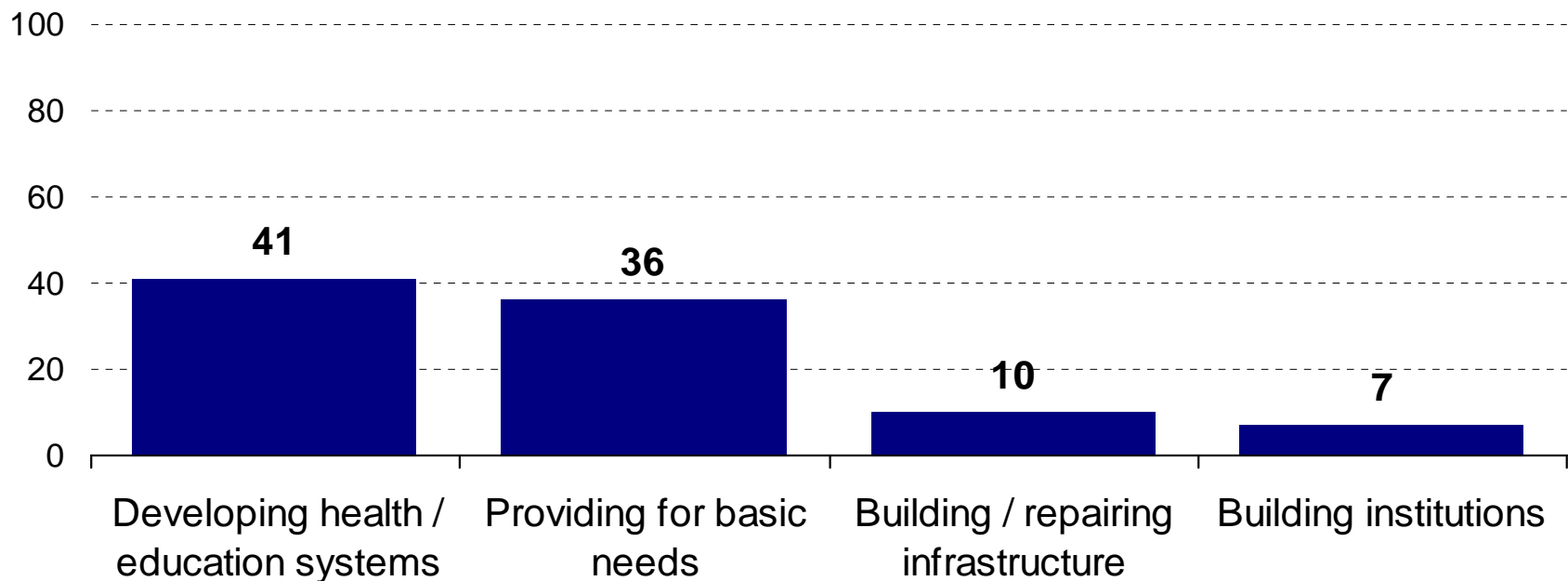
**Attitudes towards reconstruction and development role:** While few Canadians are aware of the extent to which Canada is involved in a non-military role in Afghanistan, 7 in 10 are supportive of this type of role. Interestingly, even half of those opposed to the current peace-support mission in Afghanistan supports Canada's involvement in the reconstruction and development of this country.

**Q.** In addition to having a military role in Afghanistan, Canada is also making investments in the long-term reconstruction and development of this country. Would you say you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose Canada making these types of contributions in Afghanistan?



**Priority for Canada's reconstruction and development role:** For most Canadians, the provision of basic needs and the development of health and education systems should take precedence in the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan. Building or repairing infrastructure and helping with the development of government institutions rank as much lower priorities.

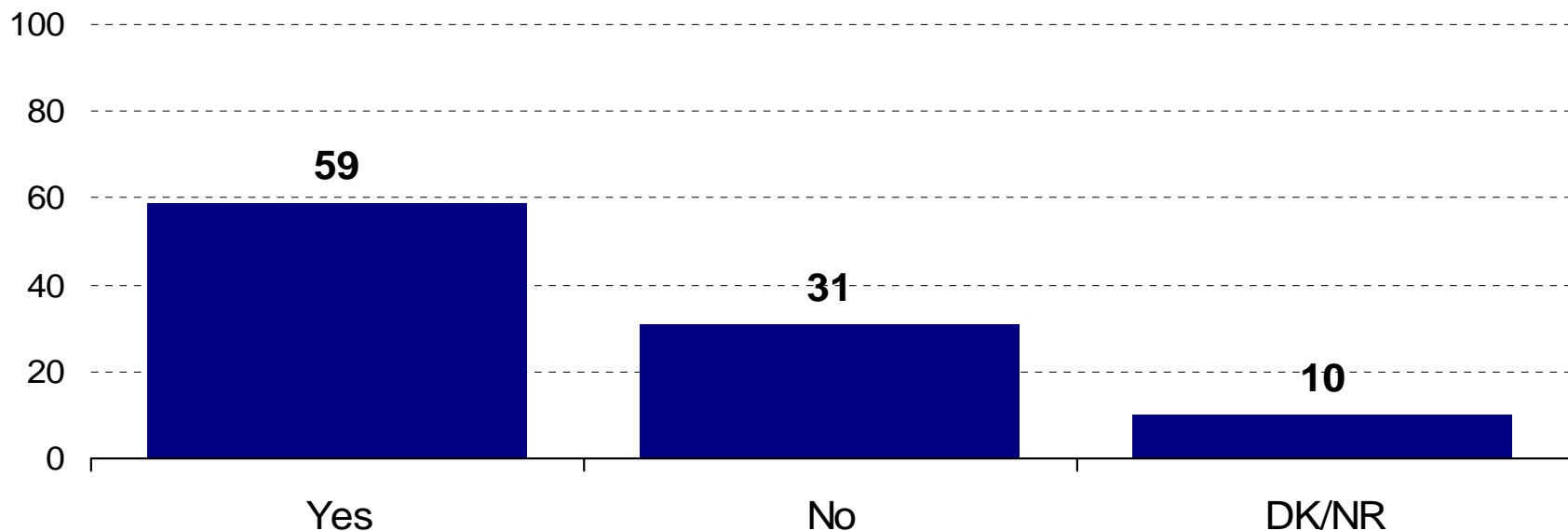
**Q.** Canada is investing in a number of areas to assist in the stabilization, development and reconstruction of Afghanistan. Which of the following do you think is the most important area for Canada to invest?



## Support for continued involvement in Afghanistan after CF withdrawal:

Even with the Canadian Forces currently scheduled to leave the country in early 2009, a majority believes that Canada should continue its involvement in the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan beyond the date of the military withdrawal. There is, however, about 1 in 3 that do not believe that the Canadian reconstruction should continue past this timeframe.

**Q.** The Canadian military is presently scheduled to remain in Afghanistan until February 2009. Do you think Canada should continue its involvement in the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan after the Canadian Forces leaves?







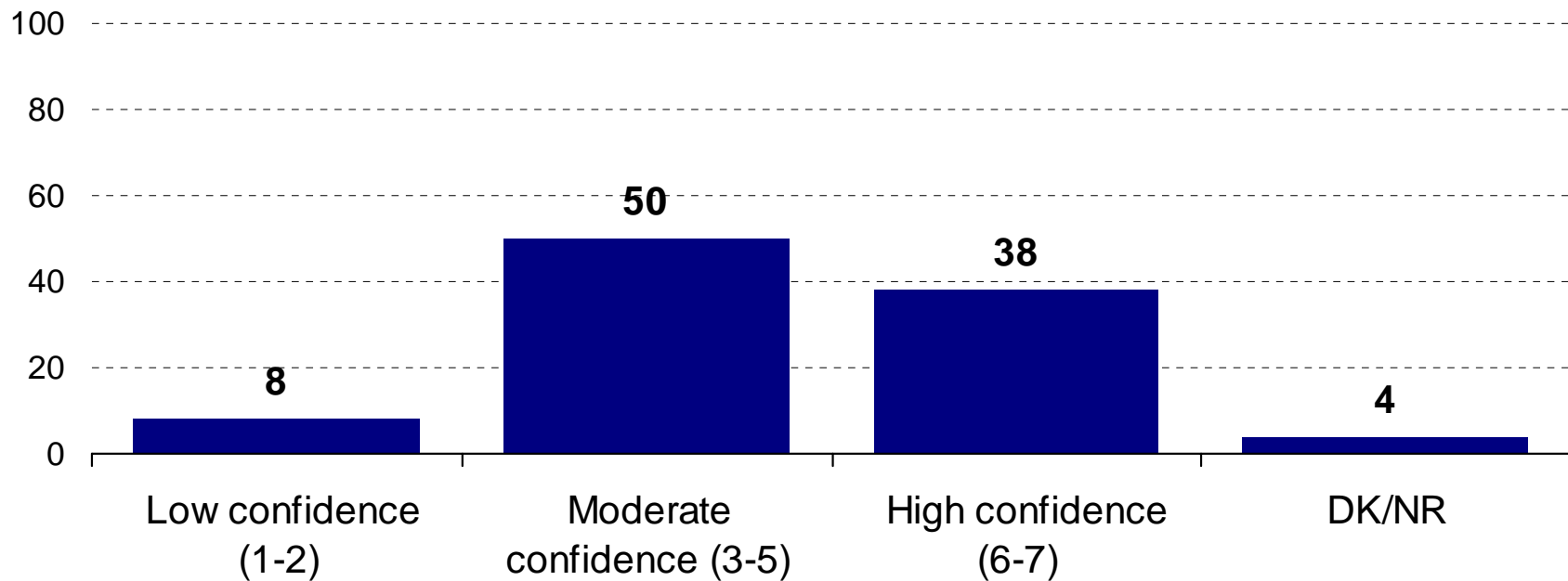
# Confidence in Agencies



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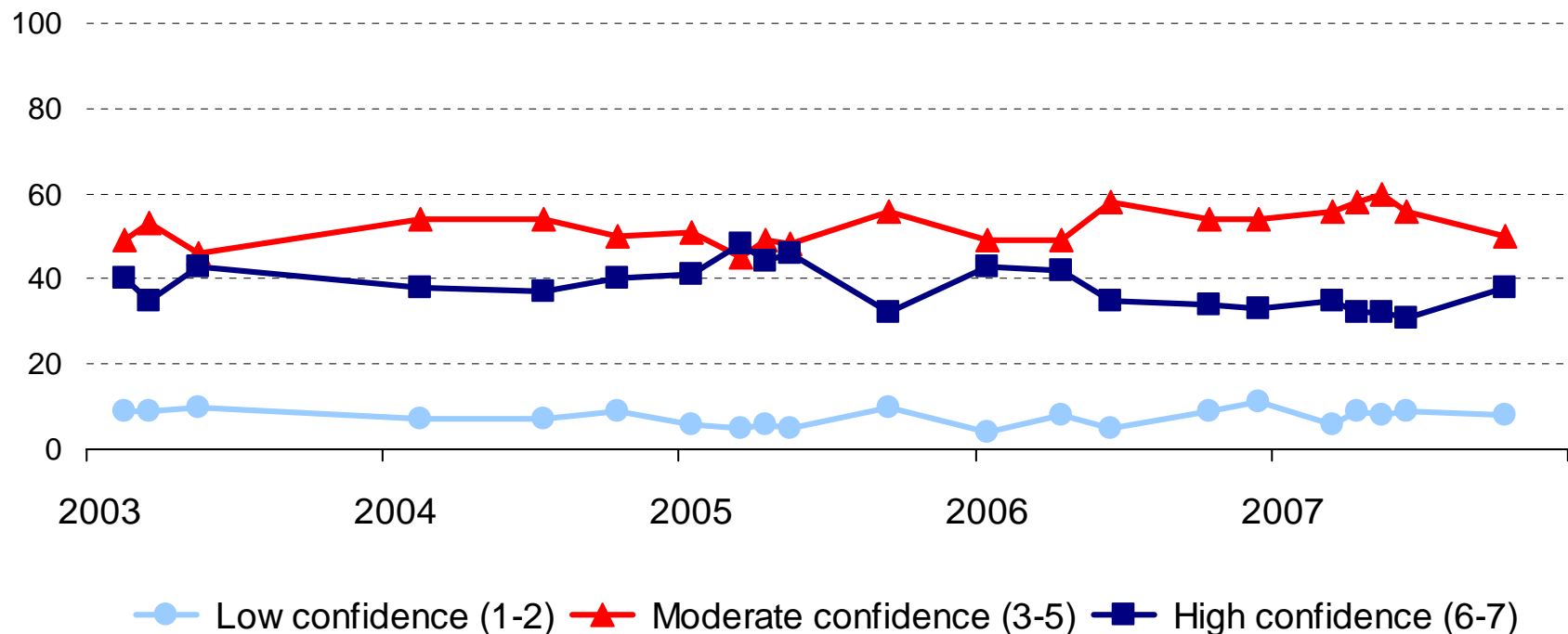
**Confidence in the RCMP:** While the RCMP has arguably just experienced one of the most difficult periods for the forces in recent history, most Canadians nonetheless express a moderate to high degree of confidence in their national police force. High levels of confidence in the RCMP are most prevalent in Alberta (50 per cent) and the Prairies (52 per cent), and least prevalent in Quebec (26 per cent).

**Q.** How much confidence do you have in the RCMP?



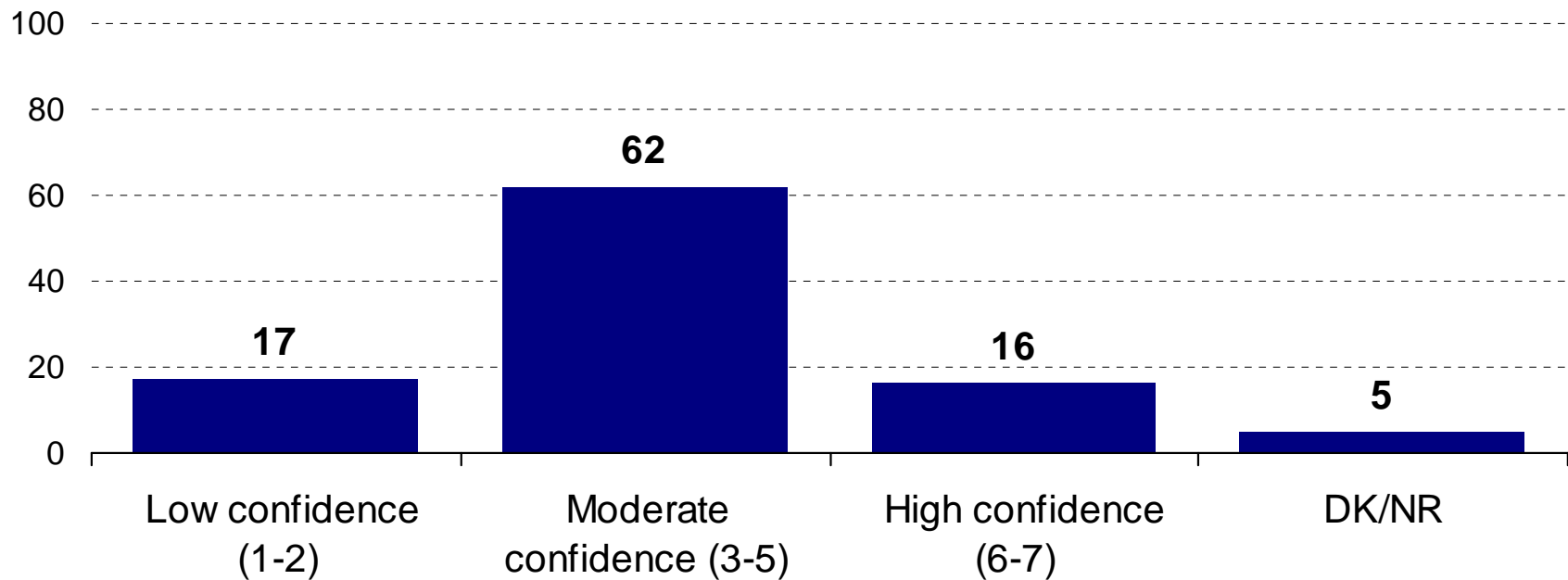
**Tracking confidence in the RCMP:** Canadians have consistently expressed a moderate to high level of confidence in the RCMP since tracking began in 2003. While confidence levels have fluctuated considerably over the past 4 years, it is important to point out that low confidence in the organization has rarely reached beyond 10 percentage points.

**Q.** How much confidence do you have in the RCMP?



**Confidence in Citizenship and Immigration Canada:** Confidence in Citizenship and Immigration Canada is “moderate” overall. In fact, fewer than 1 in 5 rates their confidence in the department lower or higher.

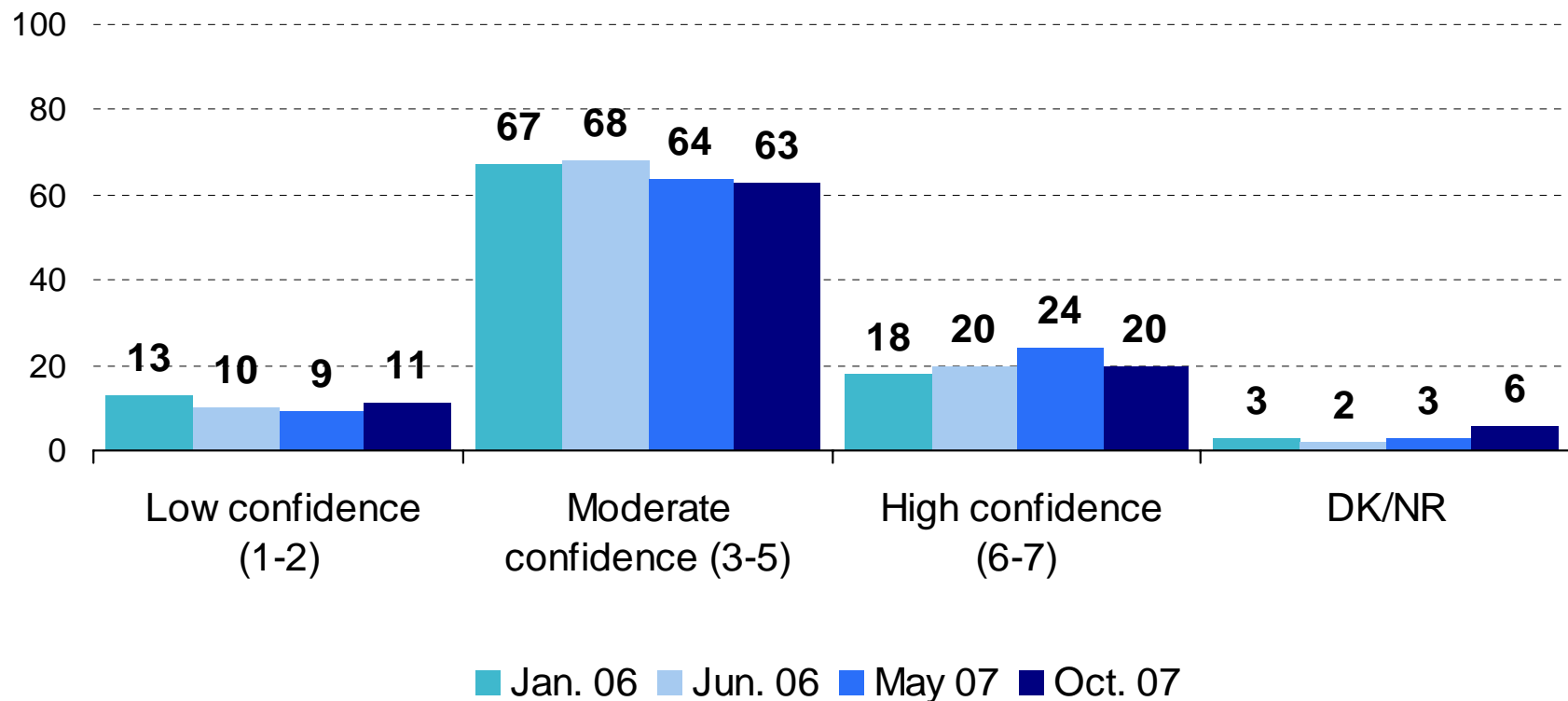
**Q.** How much confidence do you have in Citizenship and Immigration Canada, the federal government department responsible for admitting immigrants to Canada?





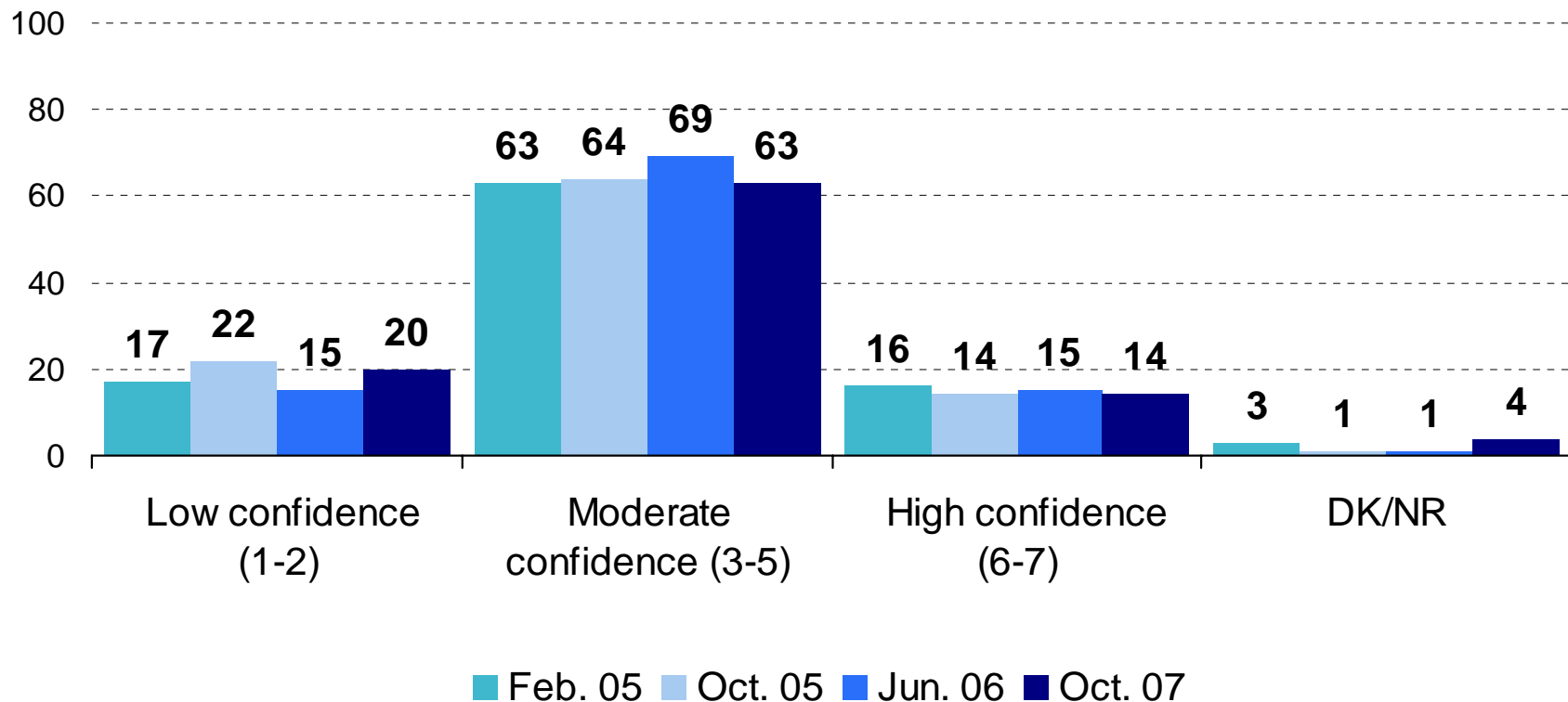
**Confidence in the CBSA:** Confidence in the Canadian Border Services Agency is “moderate”, although “high confidence” does outweigh “low confidence” by a margin of nearly 2 to 1. Views on this organization have been highly consistent for the past year.

**Q.** How much confidence do you have in the Canadian Border Services Agency, the organization responsible for managing, controlling, and securing Canada's borders?



**Confidence in Canada's border services officers:** Canadians also continue to express overall moderate levels of confidence in the CBSA's frontline workers, border services officers, in their role of preventing high-risk people and goods from entering the country.

**Q.** How much confidence do you have in the ability of Canadian border services officers to detect and stop the movement of high-risk people and goods into Canada?



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