



Scottish Public Spending Poll

Conducted by Ipsos MORI on behalf of BBC
Scotland

B B C Scotland

Ipsos MORI



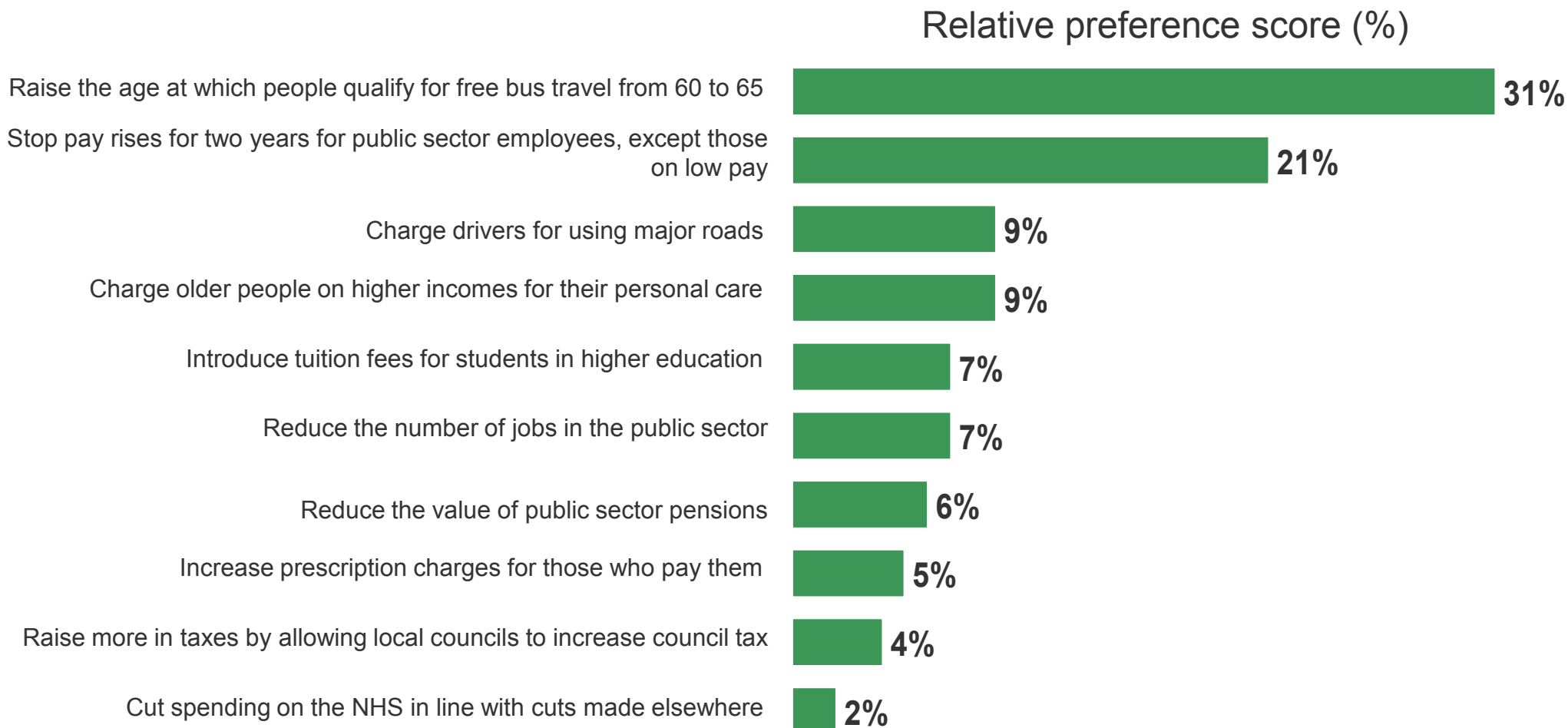
Public preferences for the Independent Budget Review recommendations

Public preferences for the Independent Budget Review recommendations – overall ranking

Rank	IBR recommendation	Est. savings
1	Raise the age at which people qualify for free bus travel from 60 to 65	£279m
2	Stop pay rises for two years for public sector employees, except those on low pay	£200m
3	Charge drivers for using major roads	-
4	Charge older people on higher incomes for their personal care	£119m-£647m
5	Introduce tuition fees for students in higher education	£200m p/a
6	Reduce the number of jobs in the public sector	£920m-£1.6bn
7	Reduce the value of public sector pensions	-
8	Increase prescription charges for those who pay them	£32m
9	Raise more in taxes by allowing local councils to increase the council tax	£490m
10	Cut spending on the NHS in line with cuts made elsewhere	Reduce cuts to other services

Public preferences for the Independent Budget Review recommendations

Q The Scottish Government will have to face difficult financial choices in the next few months. It will either have to spend less or raise more money through taxes and charges. For each of the following pairs of choices, I would like you to choose your preferred option.

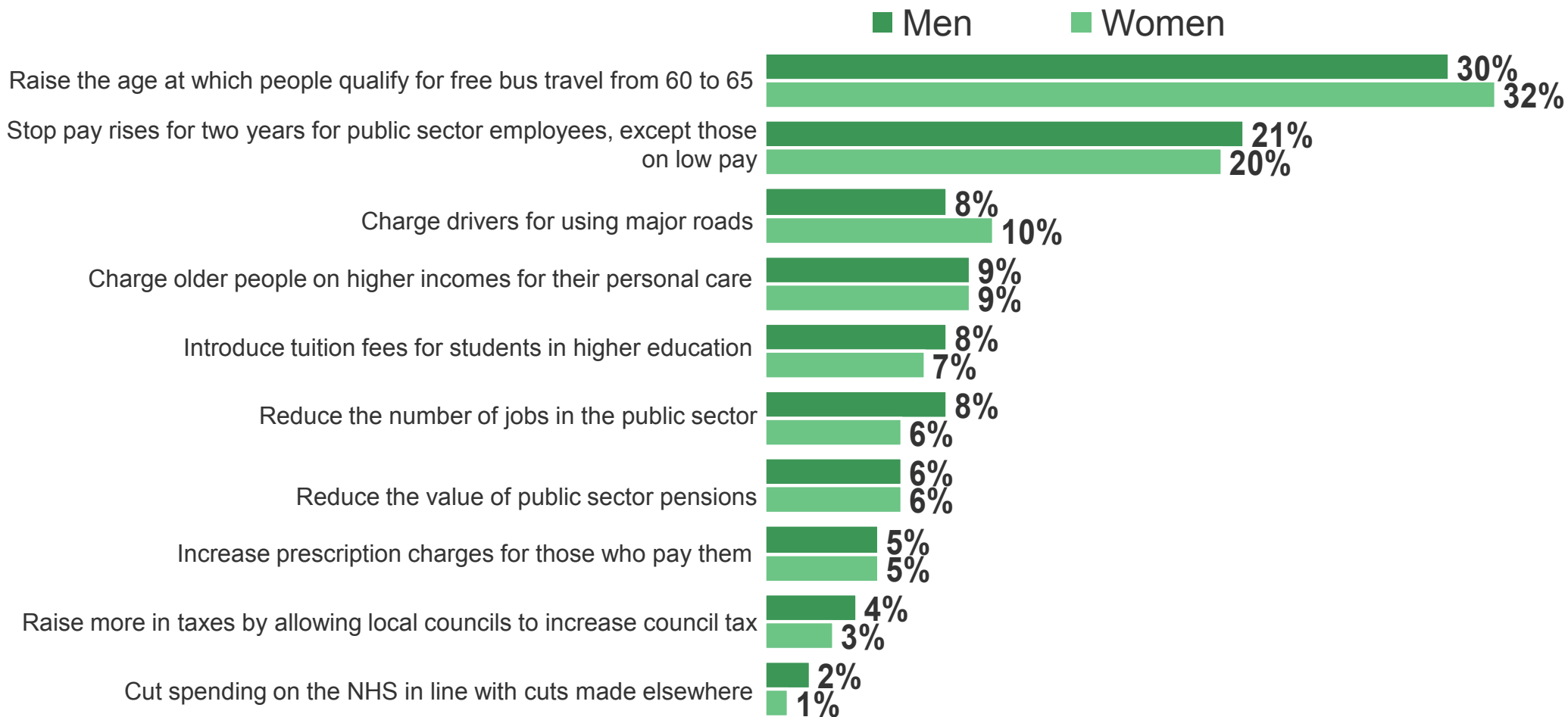


Base: 1,000 Scottish adults, 17th to 22nd September 2010

Source: Ipsos MORI

Public preferences for the Independent Budget Review recommendations by gender

Q The Scottish Government will have to face difficult financial choices in the next few months. It will either have to spend less or raise more money through taxes and charges. For each of the following pairs of choices, I would like you to choose your preferred option.

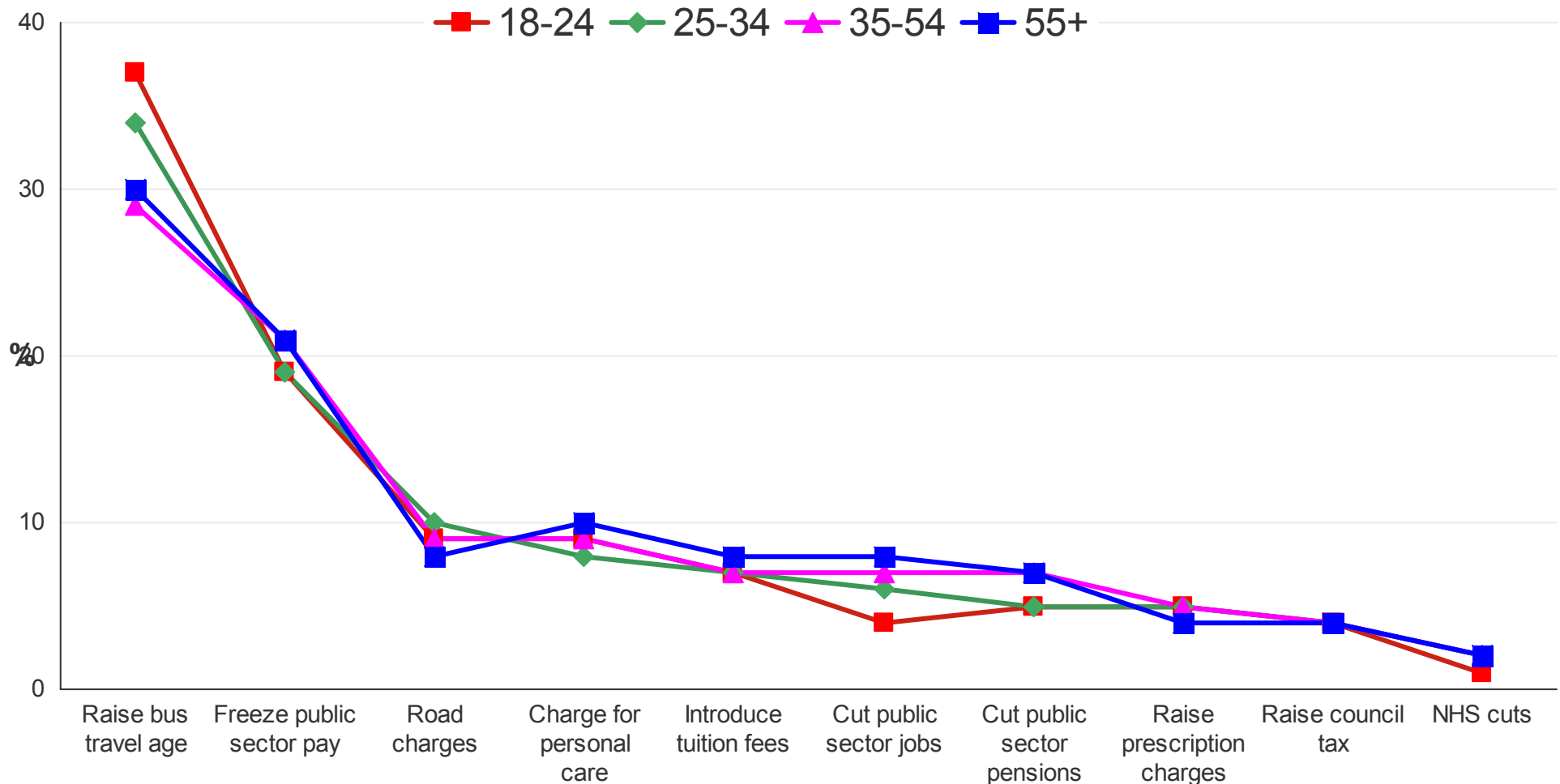


Base: 1,000 Scottish adults, 17th to 22nd September 2010

Source: Ipsos MORI

Public preferences for the Independent Budget Review recommendations by age

Q The Scottish Government will have to face difficult financial choices in the next few months. It will either have to spend less or raise more money through taxes and charges. For each of the following pairs of choices, I would like you to choose your preferred option.

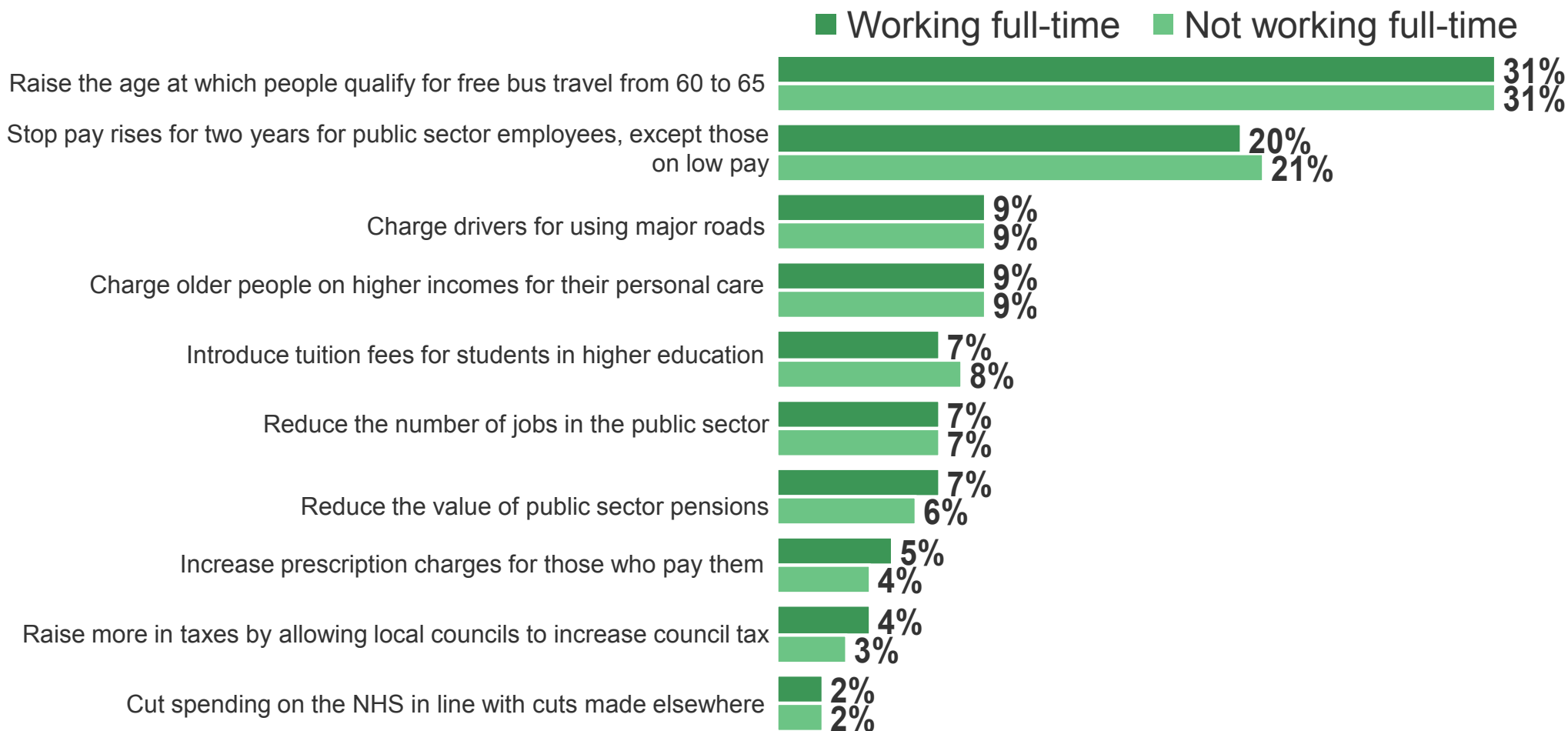


Base: 1,000 Scottish adults, 17th to 22nd September 2010. Each pairing presented to 200 respondents

Source: Ipsos MORI

Public preferences for the Independent Budget Review recommendations by working status

Q The Scottish Government will have to face difficult financial choices in the next few months. It will either have to spend less or raise more money through taxes and charges. For each of the following pairs of choices, I would like you to choose your preferred option.

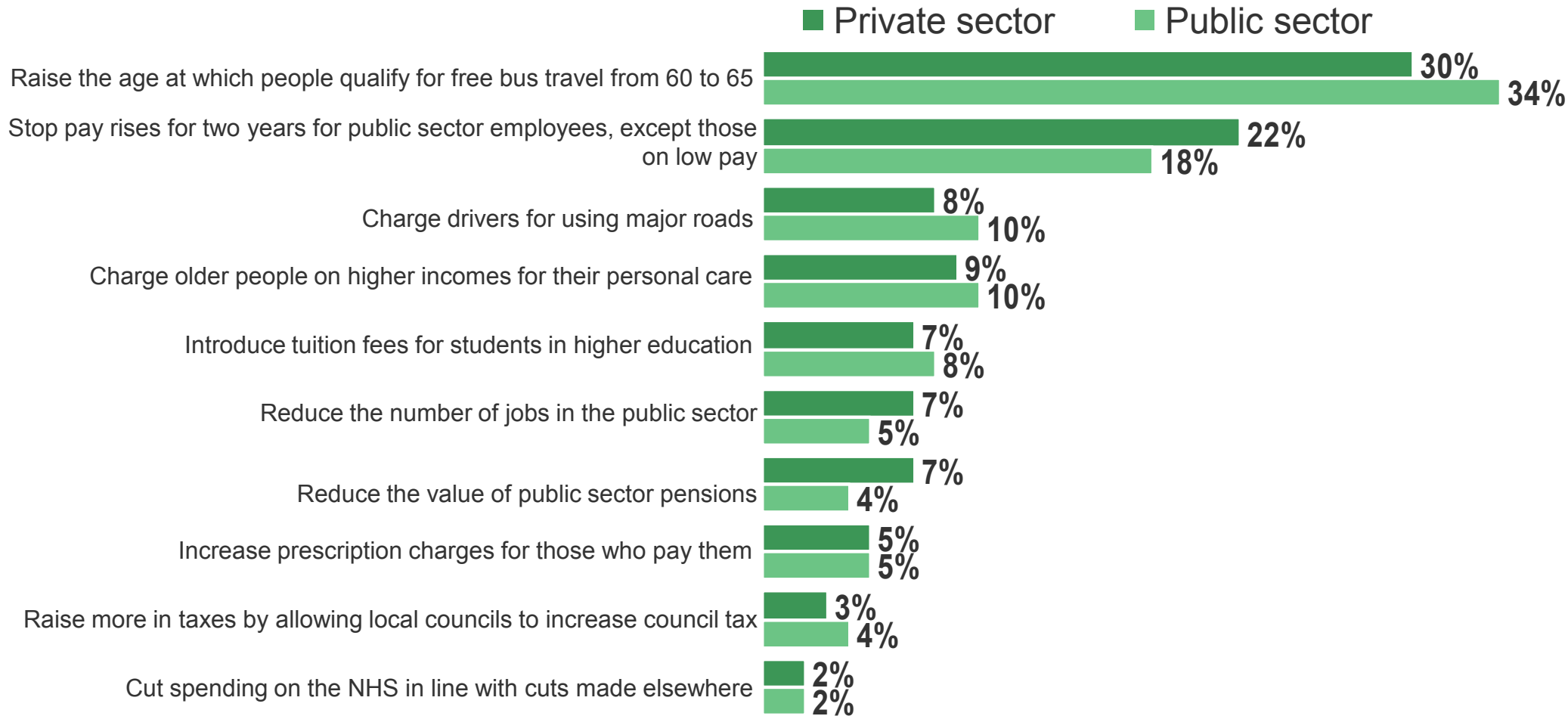


Base: 1,000 Scottish adults, 17th to 22nd September 2010

Source: Ipsos MORI

Public preferences for the Independent Budget Review recommendations by employment sector

Q The Scottish Government will have to face difficult financial choices in the next few months. It will either have to spend less or raise more money through taxes and charges. For each of the following pairs of choices, I would like you to choose your preferred option.



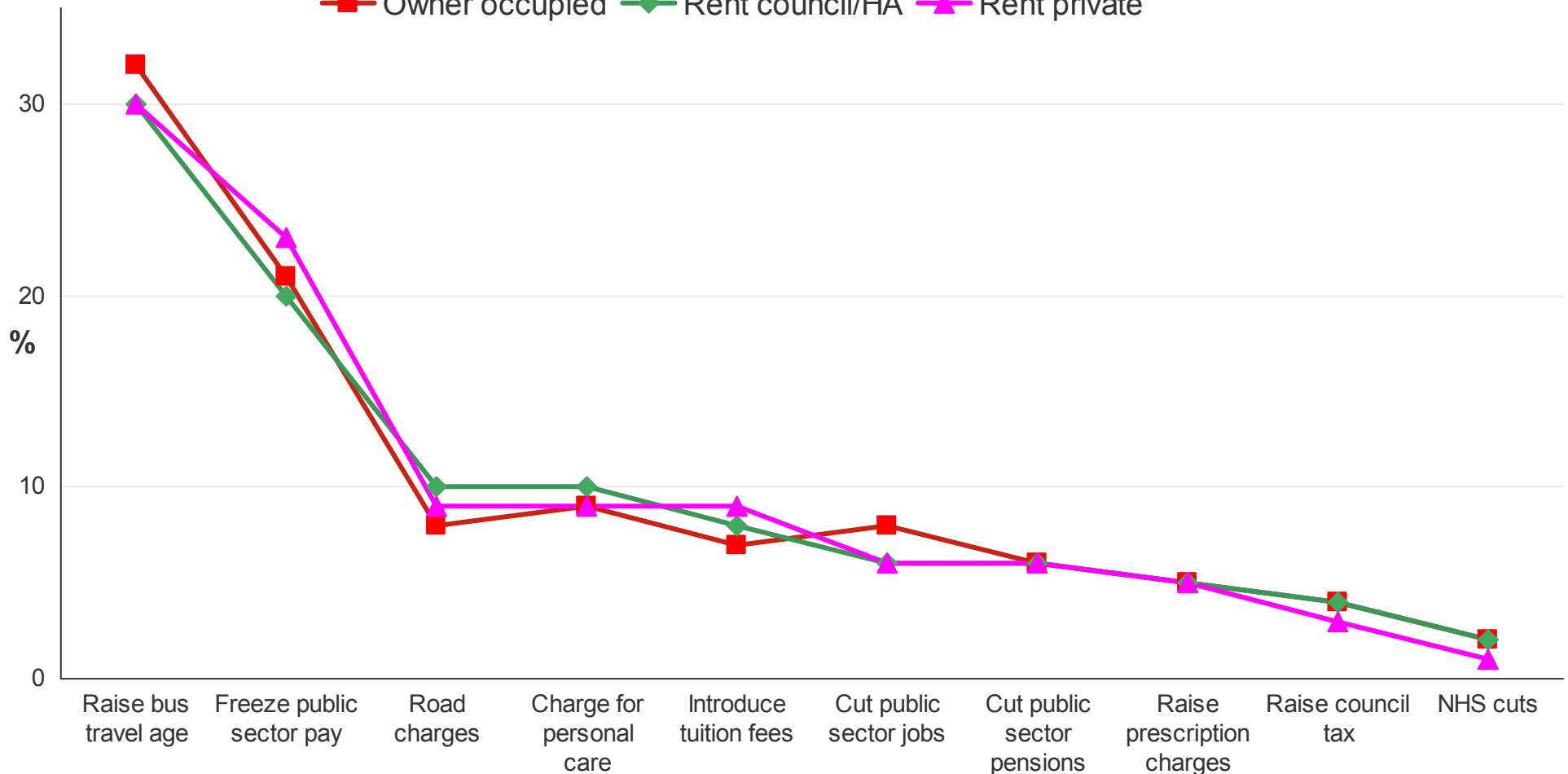
Base: 1,000 Scottish adults, 17th to 22nd September 2010

Source: Ipsos MORI

Public preferences for the Independent Budget Review recommendations – by tenure

Q The Scottish Government will have to face difficult financial choices in the next few months. It will either have to spend less or raise more money through taxes and charges. For each of the following pairs of choices, I would like you to choose your preferred option.

—■— Owner occupied —◆— Rent council/HA —▲— Rent private

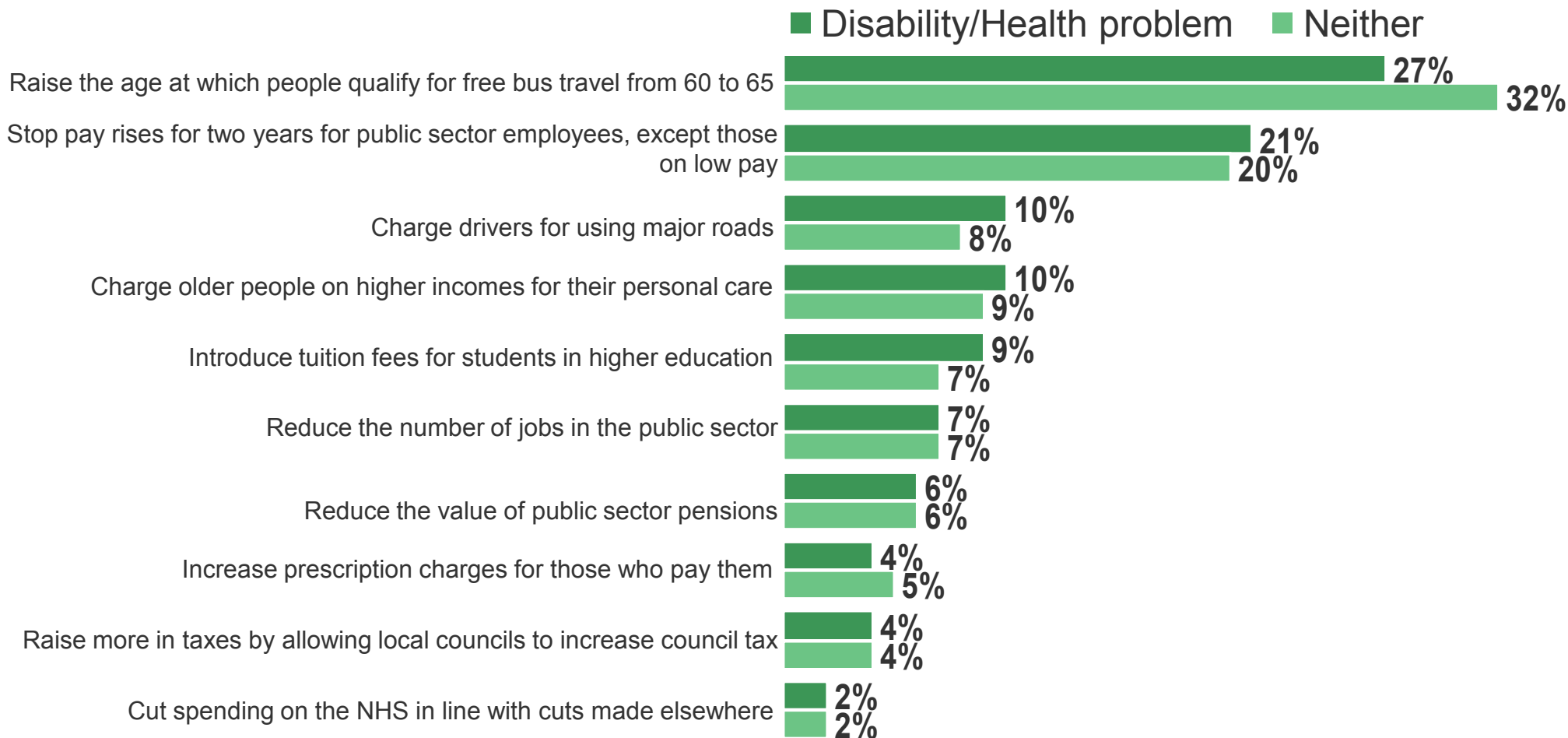


Base: 1,000 Scottish adults, 17th to 22nd September 2010. Each pairing presented to 200 respondents

Source: Ipsos MORI

Public preferences for the Independent Budget Review recommendations – by disability

Q The Scottish Government will have to face difficult financial choices in the next few months. It will either have to spend less or raise more money through taxes and charges. For each of the following pairs of choices, I would like you to choose your preferred option.

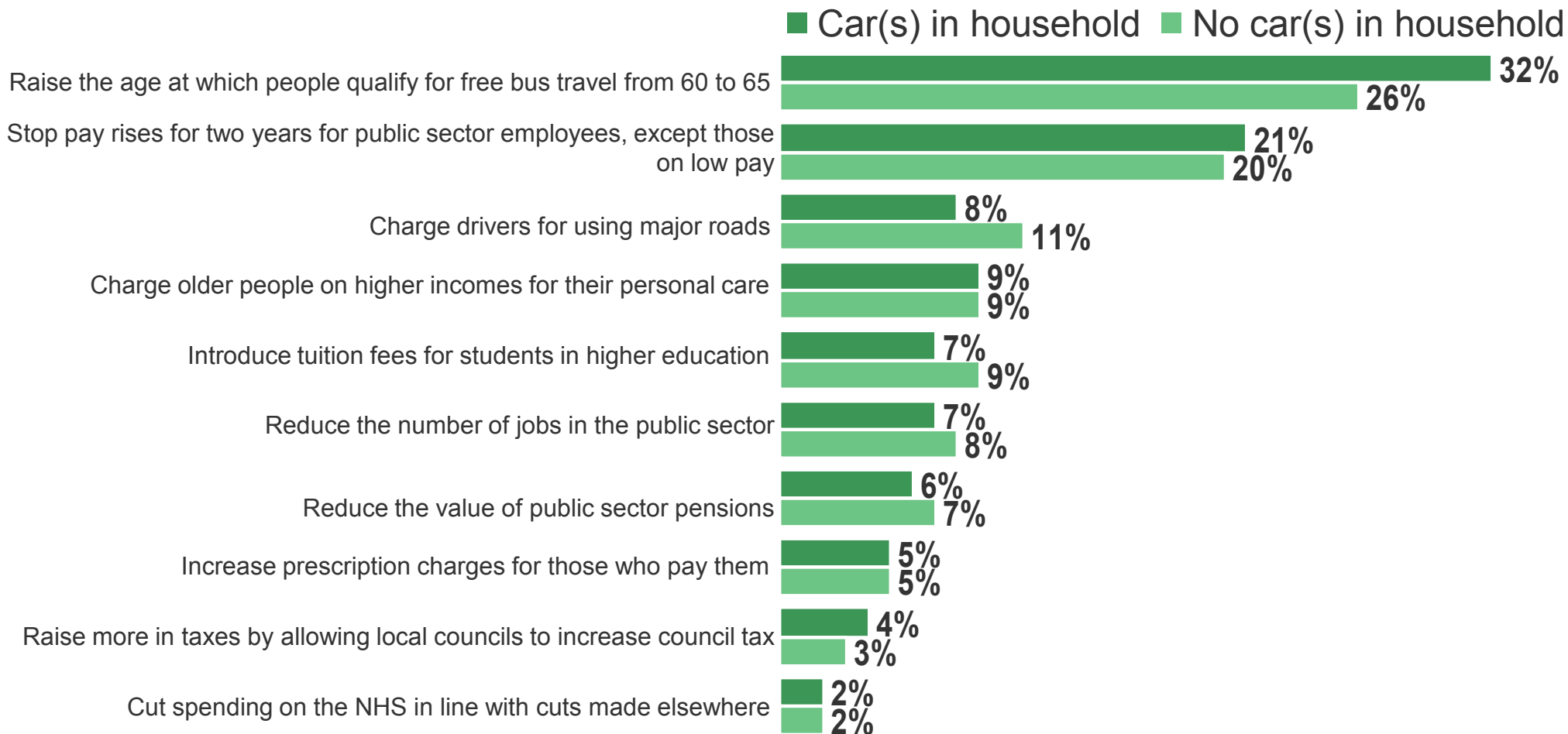


Base: 1,000 Scottish adults, 17th to 22nd September 2010

Source: Ipsos MORI

Public preferences for the Independent Budget Review recommendations – by car ownership

Q The Scottish Government will have to face difficult financial choices in the next few months. It will either have to spend less or raise more money through taxes and charges. For each of the following pairs of choices, I would like you to choose your preferred option.

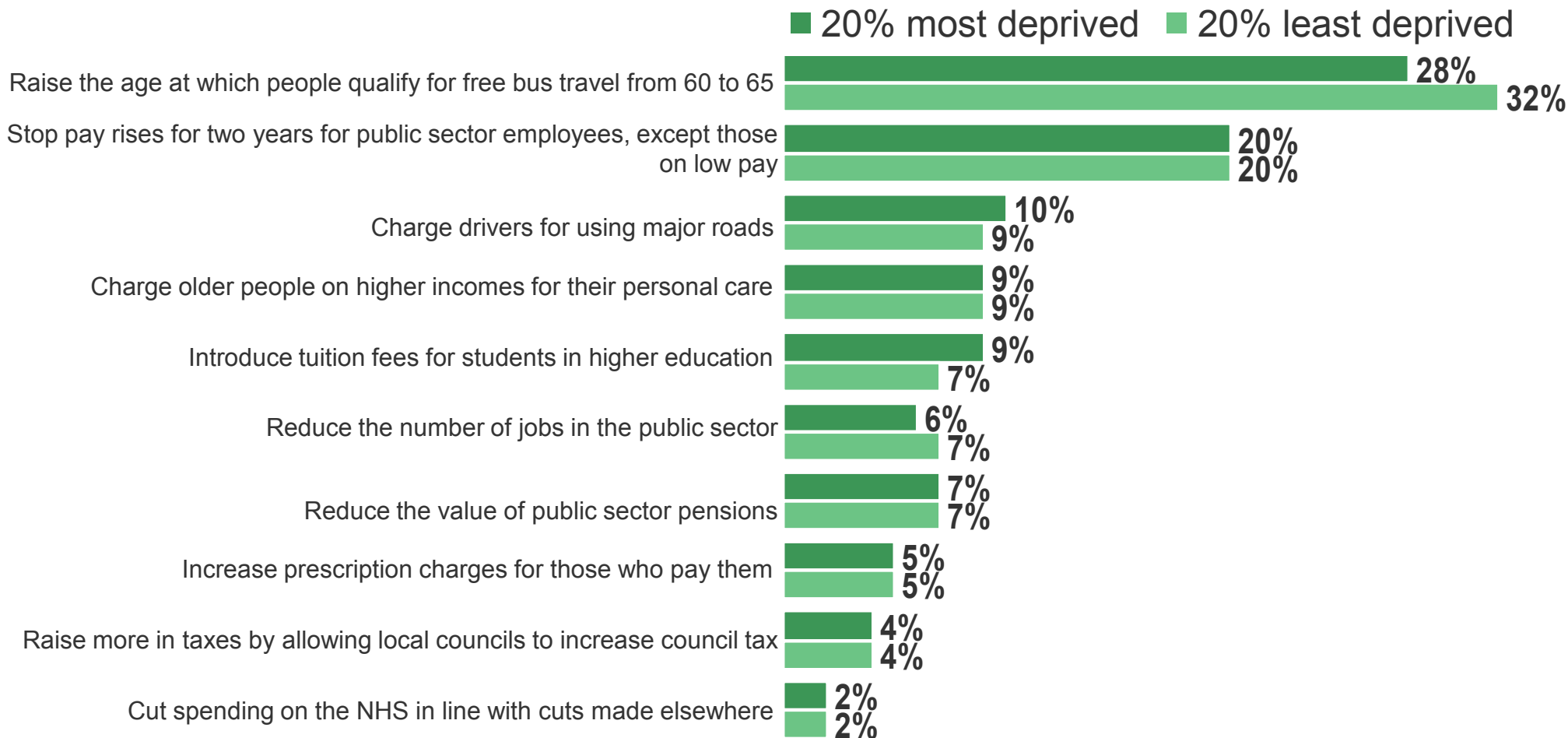


Base: 1,000 Scottish adults, 17th to 22nd September 2010

Source: Ipsos MORI

Public preferences for the Independent Budget Review recommendations – by deprivation

Q The Scottish Government will have to face difficult financial choices in the next few months. It will either have to spend less or raise more money through taxes and charges. For each of the following pairs of choices, I would like you to choose your preferred option.

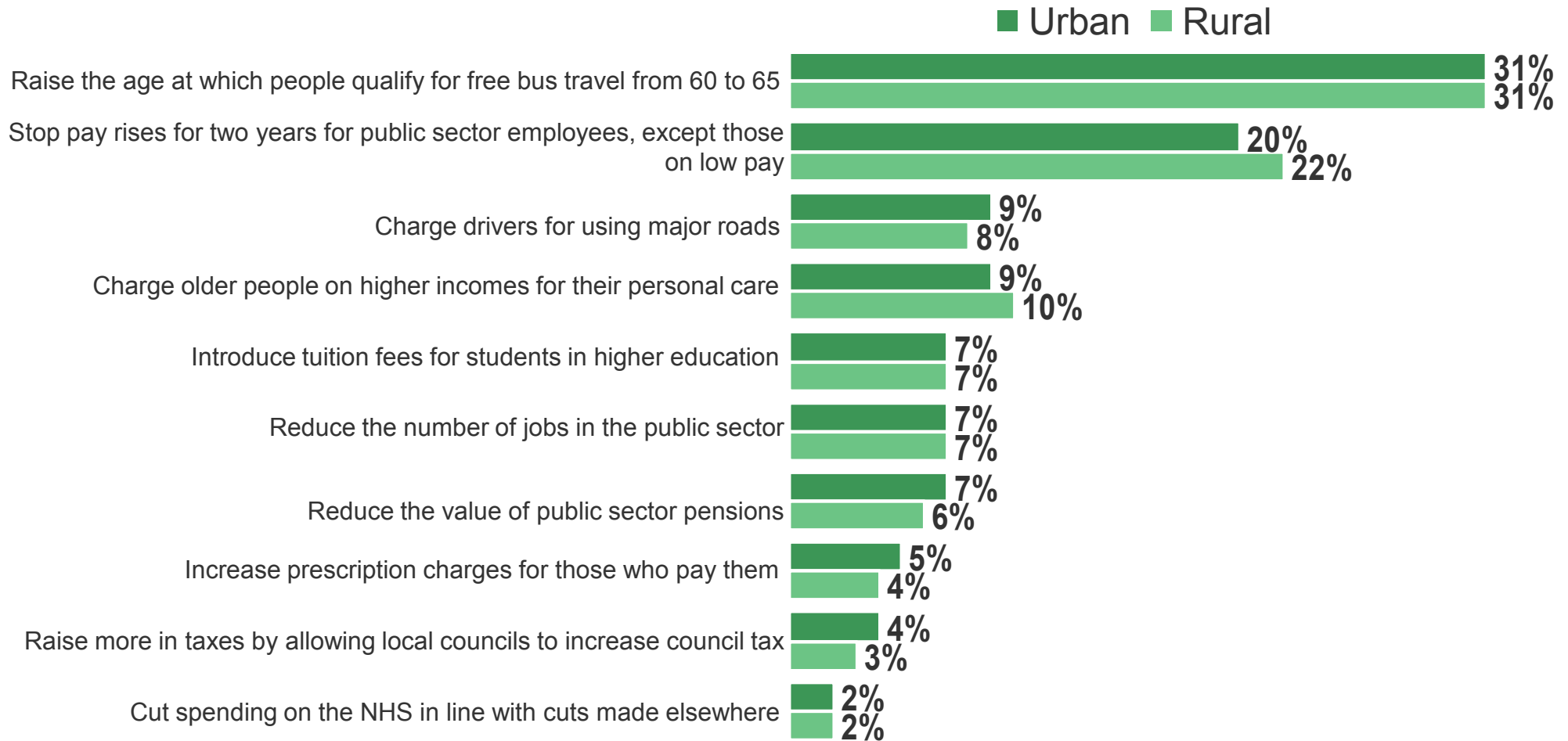


Base: 1,000 Scottish adults, 17th to 22nd September 2010

Source: Ipsos MORI

Public preferences for the Independent Budget Review recommendations – by urban/rural

Q The Scottish Government will have to face difficult financial choices in the next few months. It will either have to spend less or raise more money through taxes and charges. For each of the following pairs of choices, I would like you to choose your preferred option.

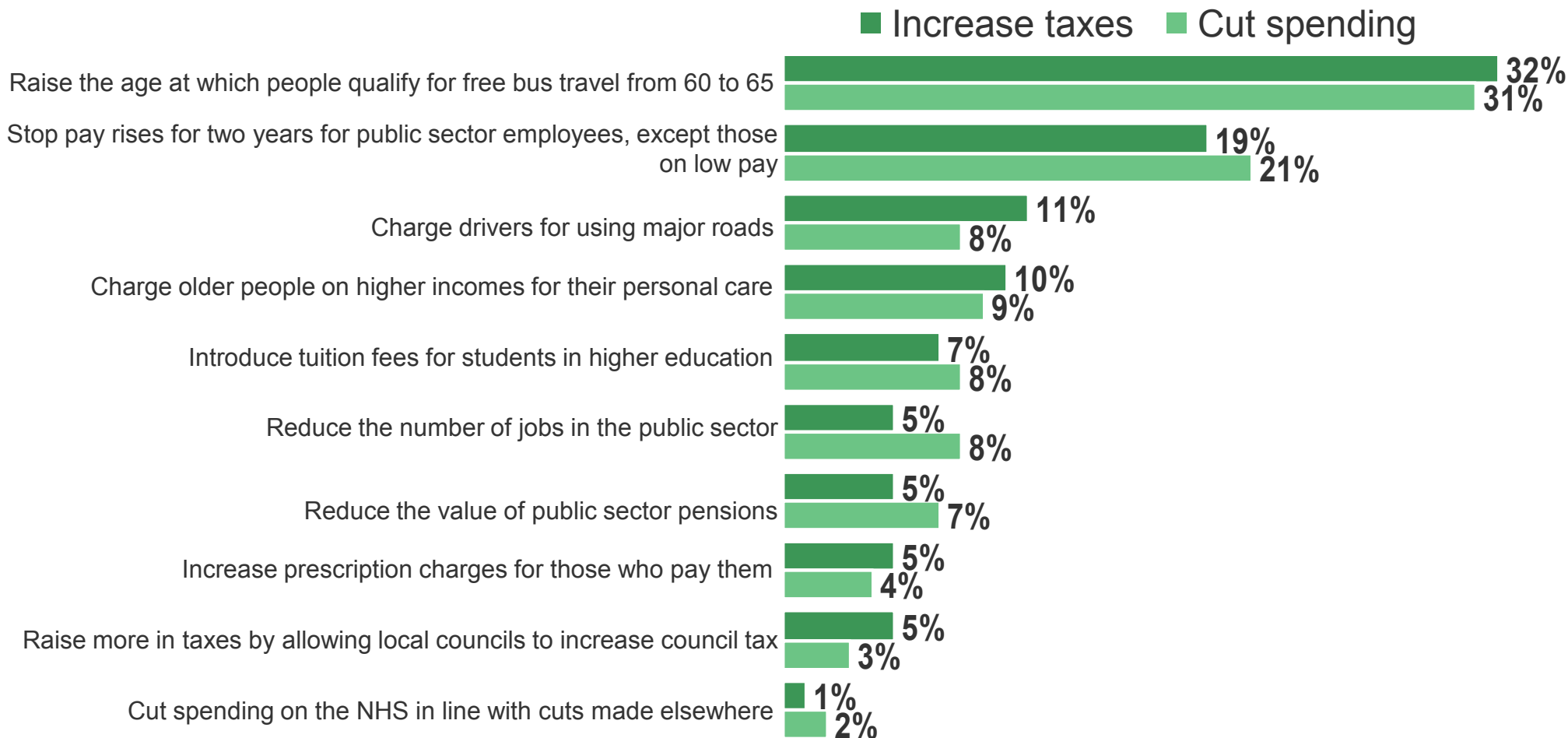


Base: 1,000 Scottish adults, 17th to 22nd September 2010

Source: Ipsos MORI

Public preferences for the Independent Budget Review recommendations – by Q4

Q The Scottish Government will have to face difficult financial choices in the next few months. It will either have to spend less or raise more money through taxes and charges. For each of the following pairs of choices, I would like you to choose your preferred option.

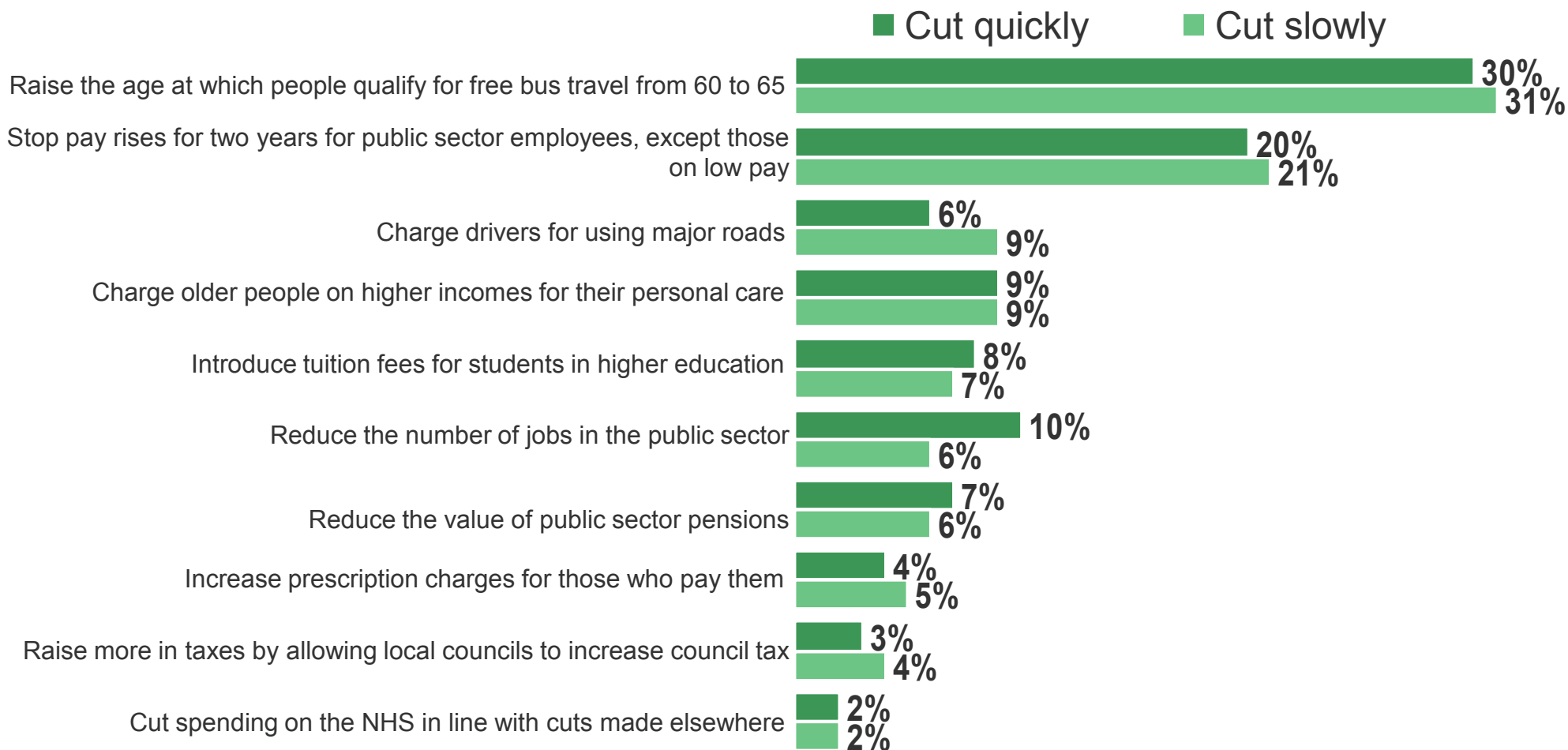


Base: 1,000 Scottish adults, 17th to 22nd September 2010

Source: Ipsos MORI

Public preferences for the Independent Budget Review recommendations – by Q5

Q The Scottish Government will have to face difficult financial choices in the next few months. It will either have to spend less or raise more money through taxes and charges. For each of the following pairs of choices, I would like you to choose your preferred option.

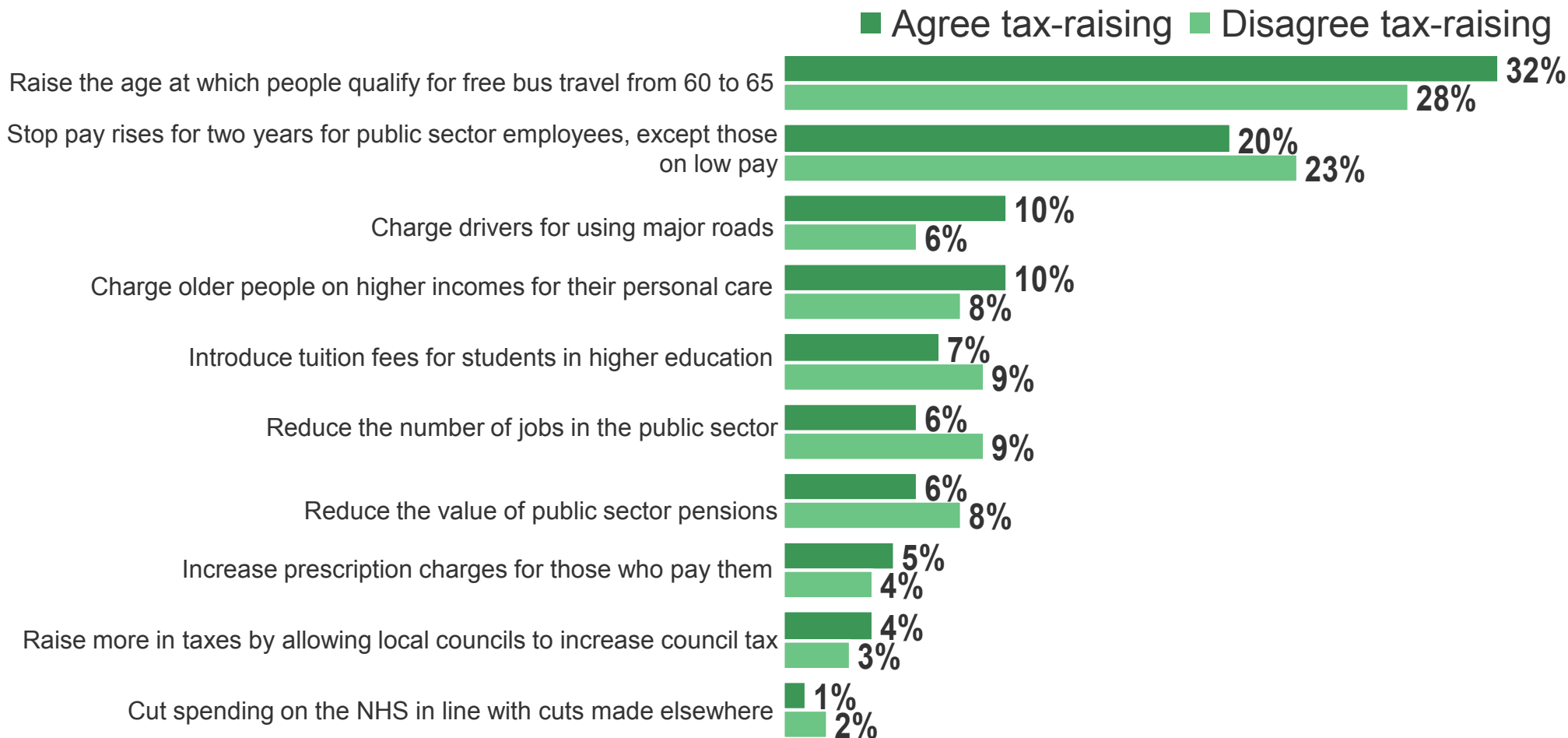


Base: 1,000 Scottish adults, 17th to 22nd September 2010

Source: Ipsos MORI

Public preferences for the Independent Budget Review recommendations – by Q6

Q The Scottish Government will have to face difficult financial choices in the next few months. It will either have to spend less or raise more money through taxes and charges. For each of the following pairs of choices, I would like you to choose your preferred option.

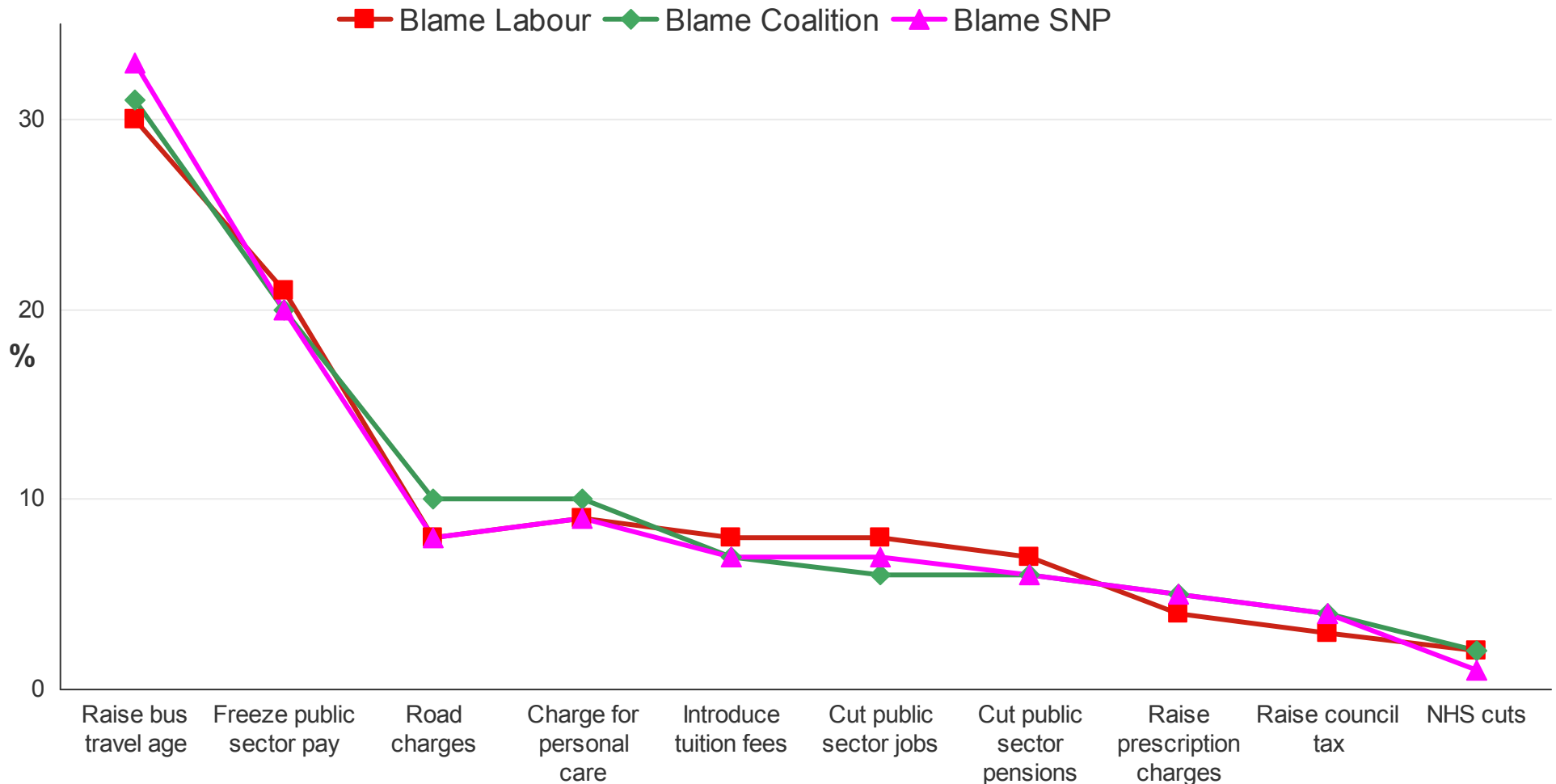


Base: 1,000 Scottish adults, 17th to 22nd September 2010

Source: Ipsos MORI

Public preferences for the Independent Budget Review recommendations – by Q7

Q The Scottish Government will have to face difficult financial choices in the next few months. It will either have to spend less or raise more money through taxes and charges. For each of the following pairs of choices, I would like you to choose your preferred option.



Base: 1,000 Scottish adults, 17th to 22nd September 2010. Each pairing presented to 200 respondents

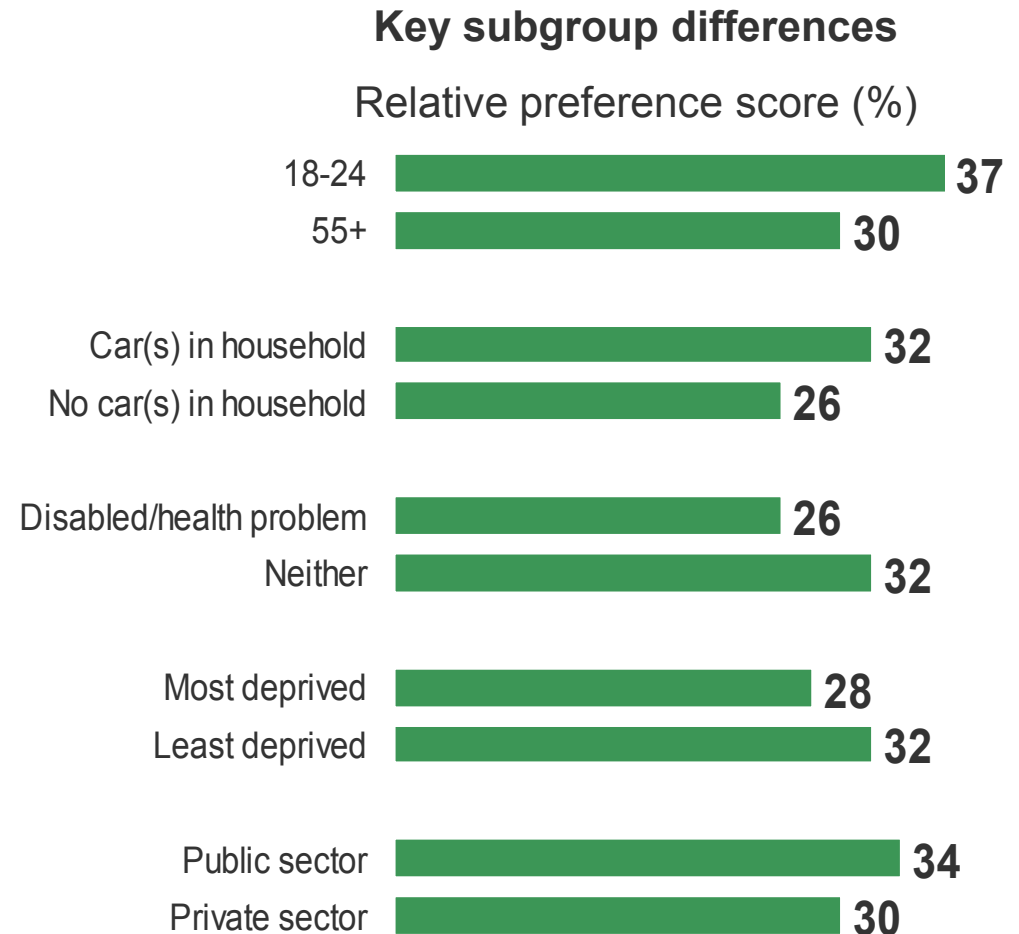
Source: Ipsos MORI

Analysis by option

Public preferences for the Independent Budget Review recommendations

Raise the age at which people qualify for free bus travel from 60 to 65

- Top ranked preference across all groups
- Top ranked preference for 52% of respondents



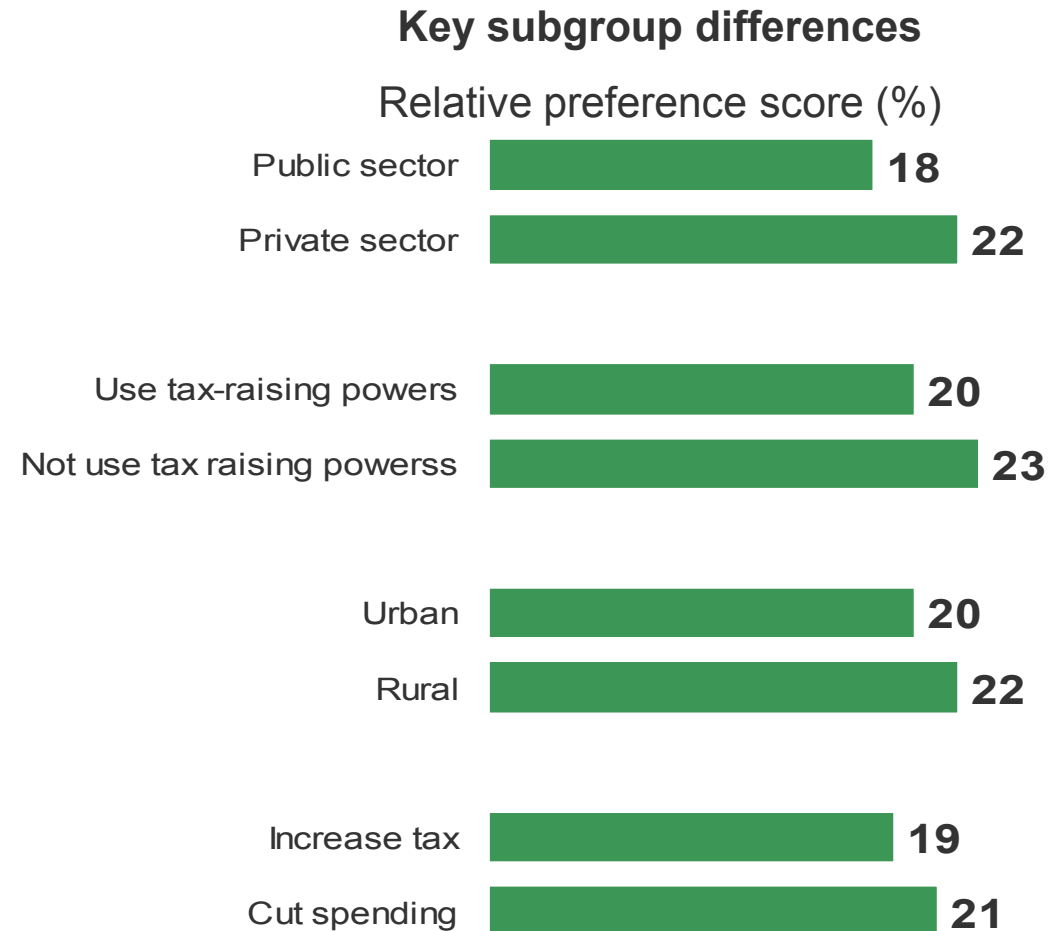
Base: 1,000 Scottish adults, 17th to 22nd September 2010.

Source: Ipsos MORI

Public preferences for the Independent Budget Review recommendations

Stop pay rises for two years for public sector employees, except those on low pay

- 2nd ranked preference across all groups
- Top ranked preference for 25% of respondents



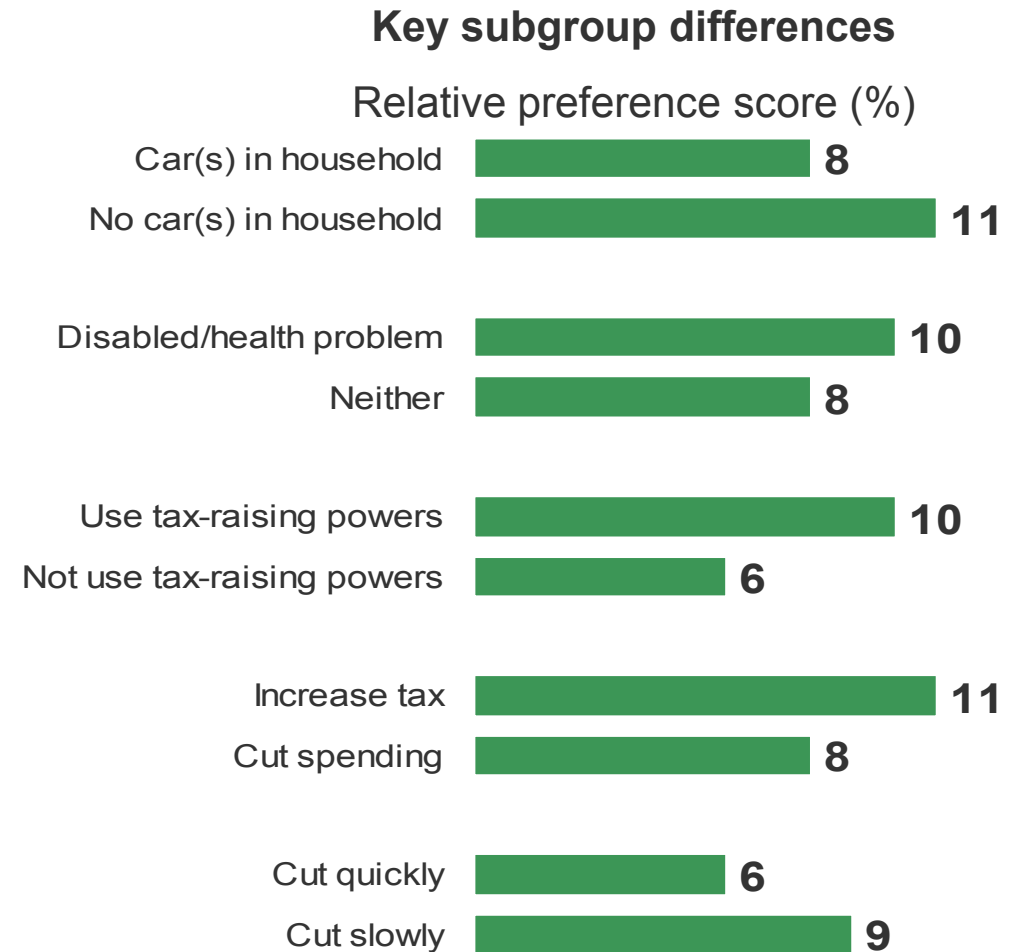
Base: 1,000 Scottish adults, 17th to 22nd September 2010.

Source: Ipsos MORI

Public preferences for the Independent Budget Review recommendations

Charge drivers for using major roads

- 3rd ranked preference overall but drops to 4th among drivers
- Top ranked preference for 9% of respondents



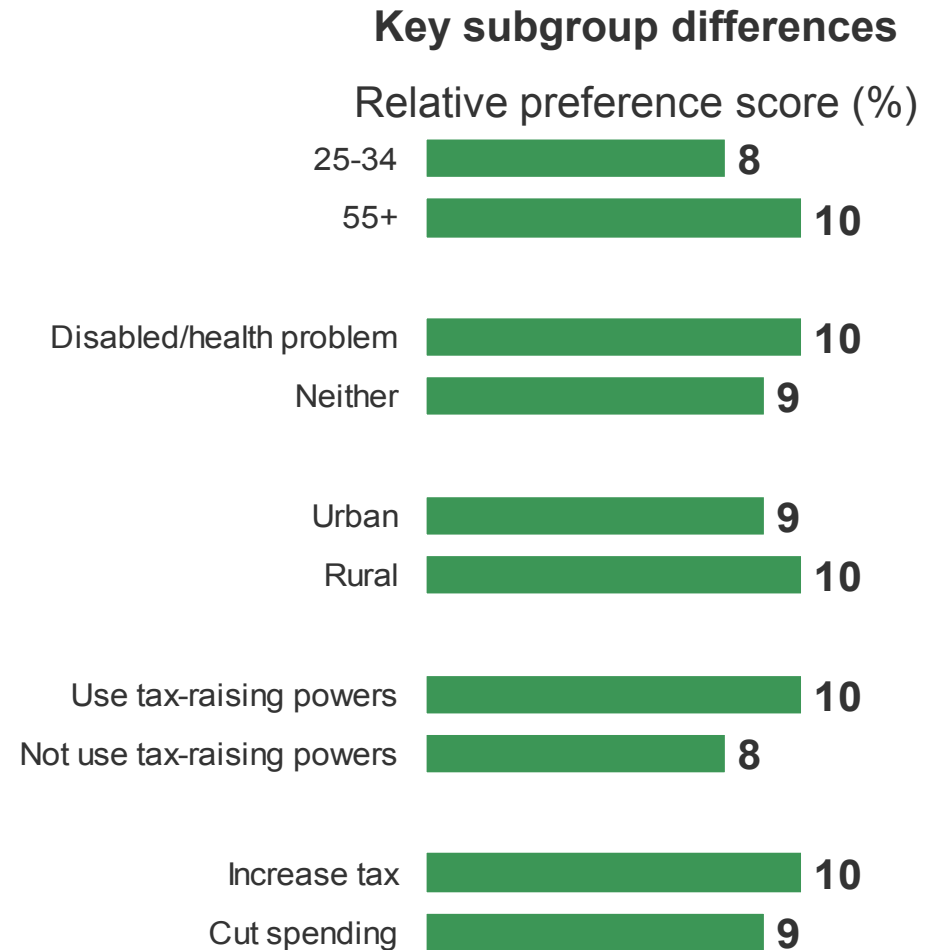
Base: 1,000 Scottish adults, 17th to 22nd September 2010.

Source: Ipsos MORI

Public preferences for the Independent Budget Review recommendations

Charge older people on higher incomes for their personal care

- Similar levels of preference across all groups
- Top ranked preference for 7% of respondents



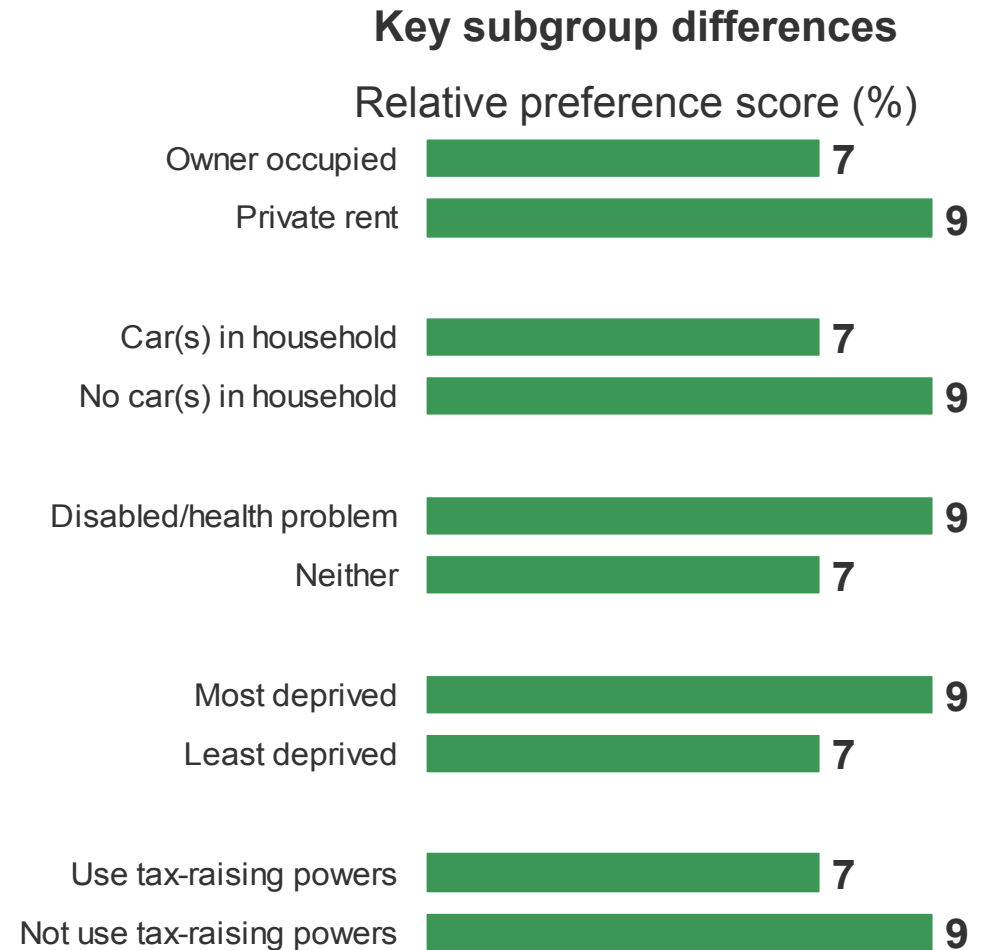
Base: 1,000 Scottish adults, 17th to 22nd September 2010.

Source: Ipsos MORI

Public preferences for the Independent Budget Review recommendations

Introduce tuition fees for students in higher education

- **Similar levels of preference across age groups**
- **Top ranked preference for 5% of respondents**



Base: 1,000 Scottish adults, 17th to 22nd September 2010.

Source: Ipsos MORI

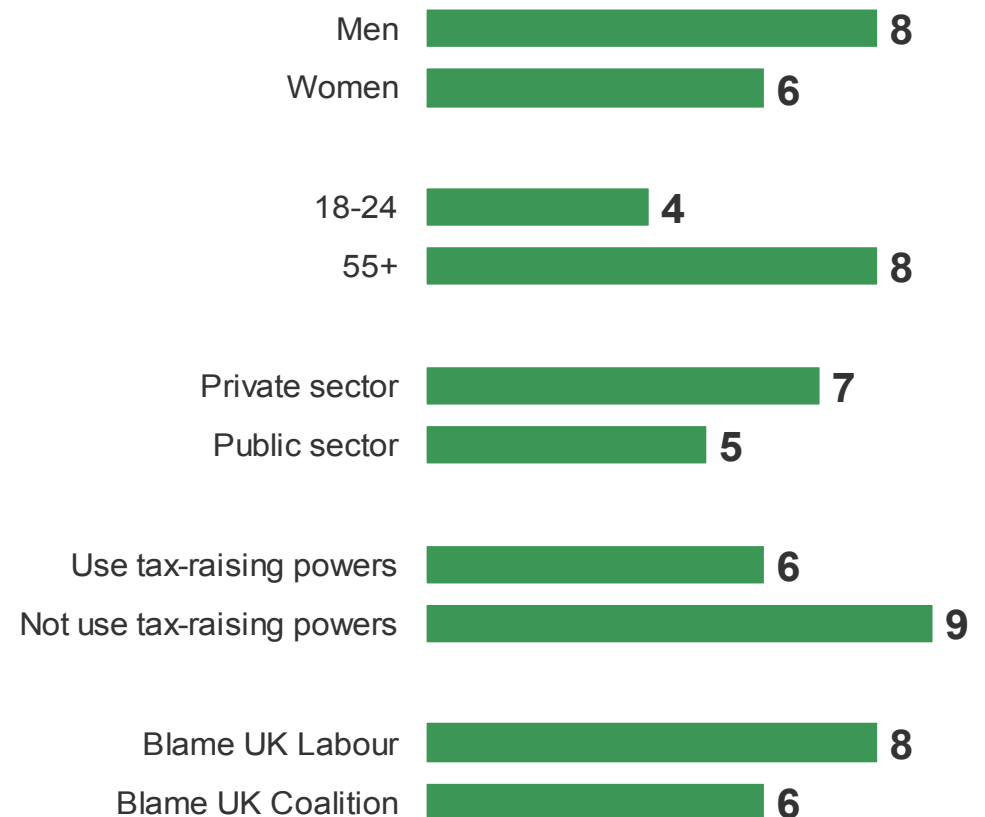
Public preferences for the Independent Budget Review recommendations

Reduce the number of jobs in the public sector

- Preference for this option is twice as strong among older people than younger people
- Top ranked preference for only 2% of respondents

Key subgroup differences

Relative preference score (%)



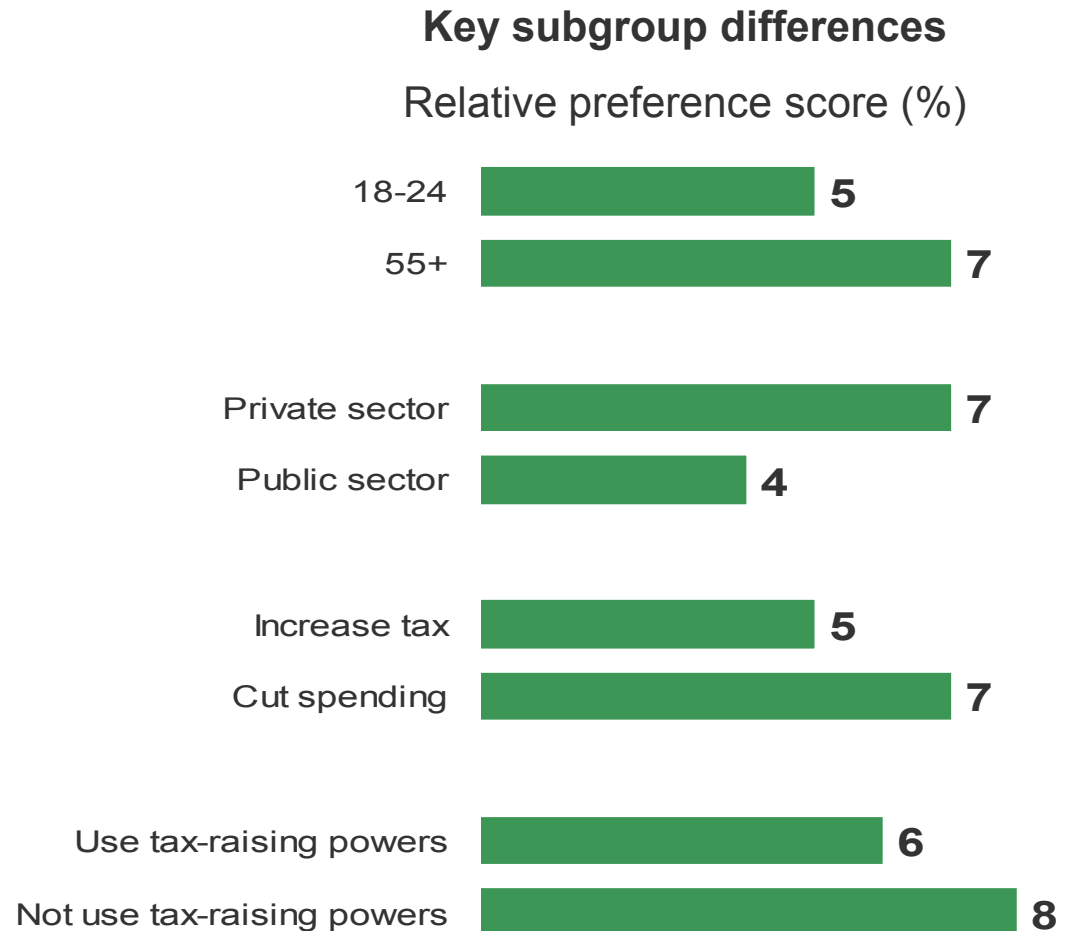
Base: 1,000 Scottish adults, 17th to 22nd September 2010.

Source: Ipsos MORI

Public preferences for the Independent Budget Review recommendations

Reduce the value of public sector pensions

- Ranked 7th overall but drops to 8th among public sector employees
- Top ranked preference for 1% of respondents



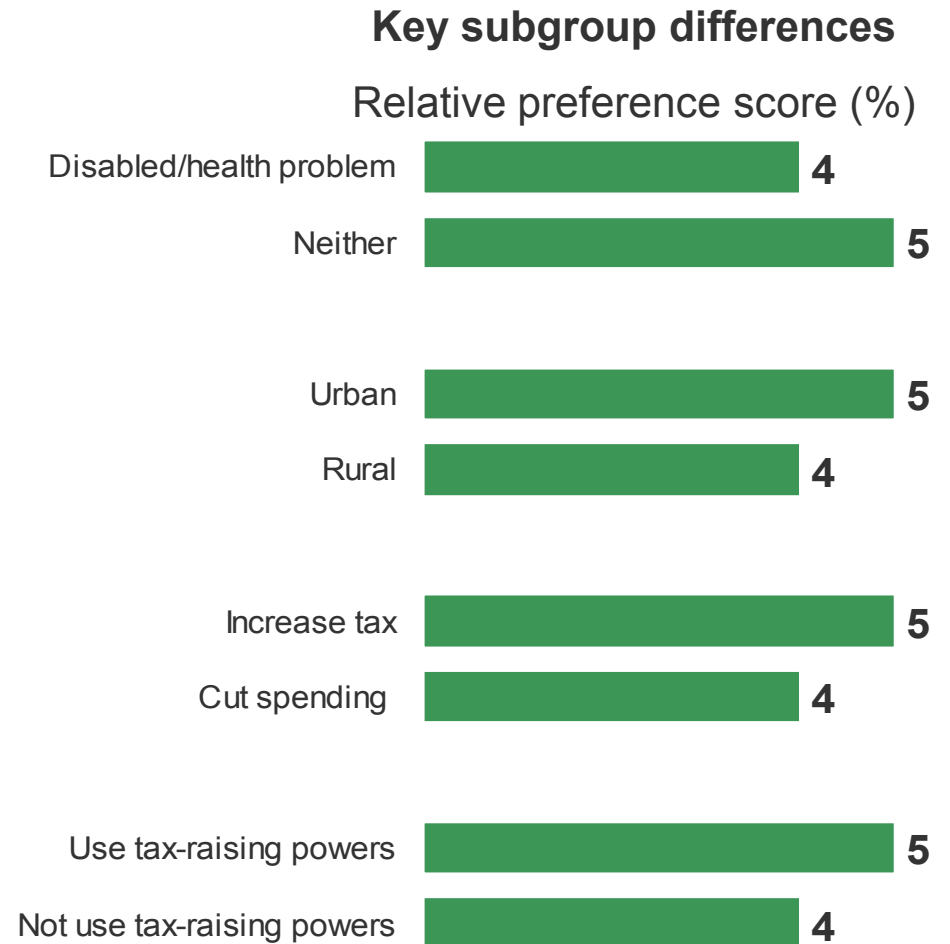
Base: 1,000 Scottish adults, 17th to 22nd September 2010.

Source: Ipsos MORI

Public preferences for the Independent Budget Review recommendations

Increase prescription charges for those who pay them

- **Similar level of preference across all groups**
- **No respondents ranked this option as their top preference**



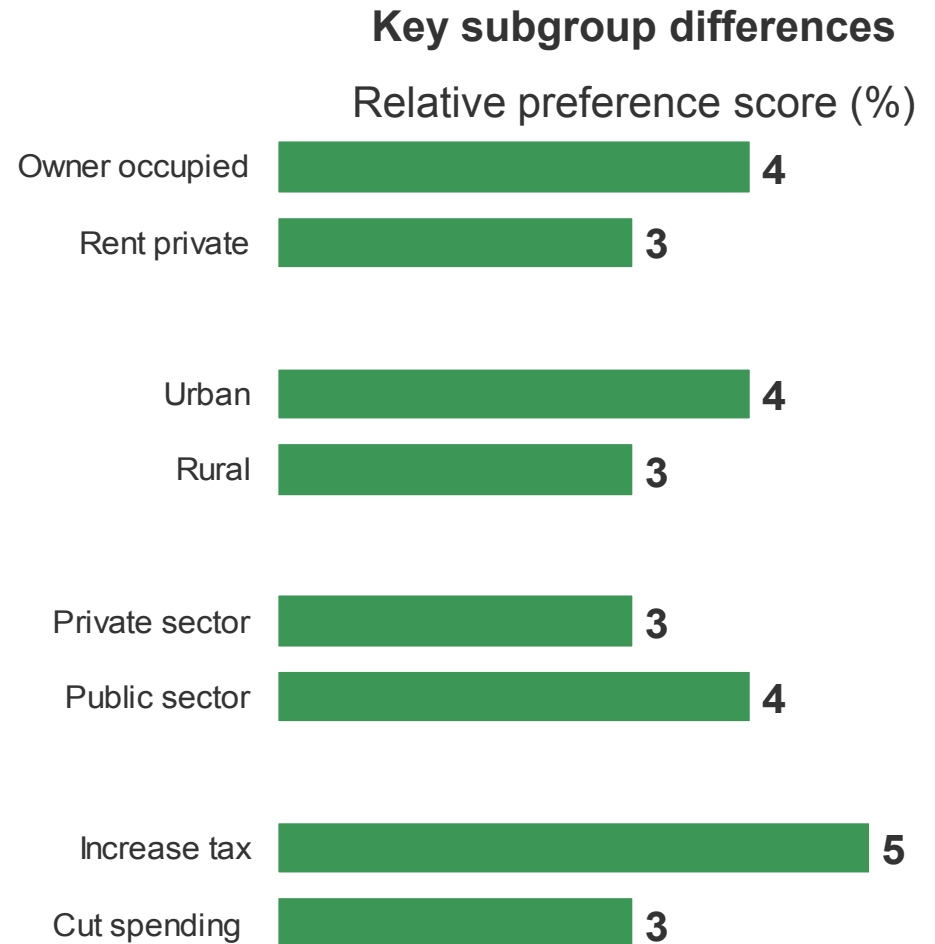
Base: 1,000 Scottish adults, 17th to 22nd September 2010.

Source: Ipsos MORI

Public preferences for the Independent Budget Review recommendations

Raise more in taxes by allowing local councils to increase the council tax

- **Similar level of preference across all groups**
- **No respondents ranked this option as their top preference**



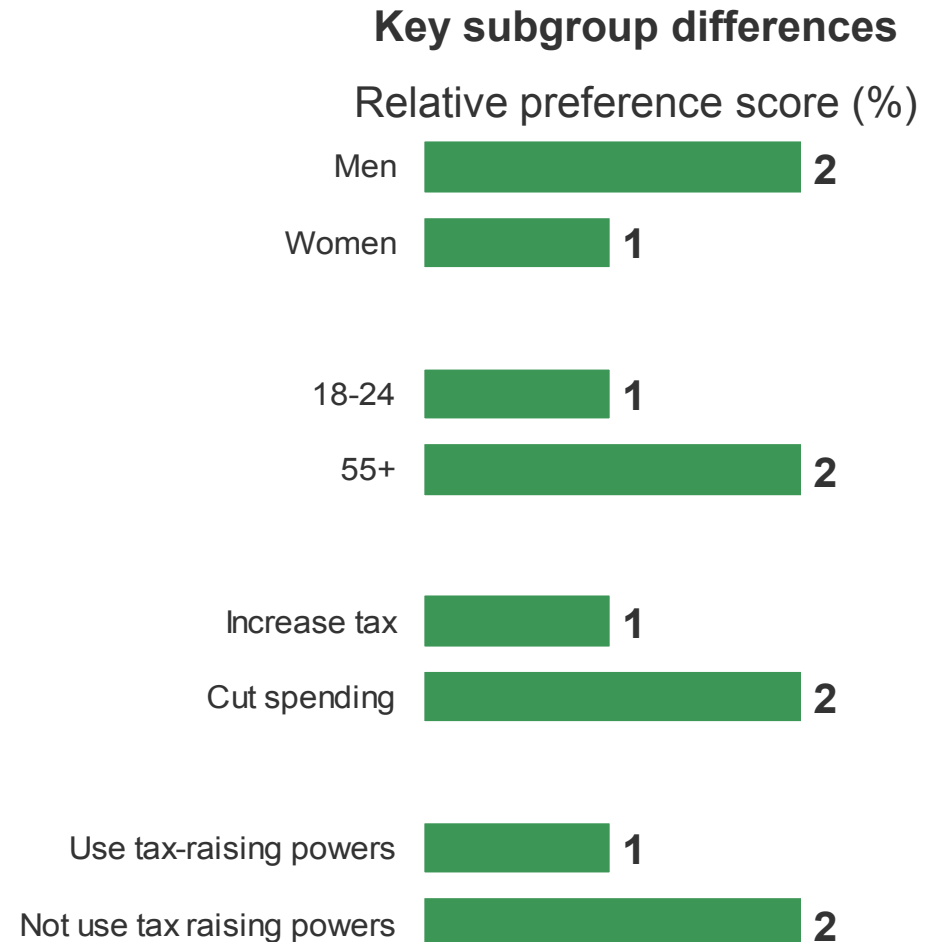
Base: 1,000 Scottish adults, 17th to 22nd September 2010.

Source: Ipsos MORI

Public preferences for the Independent Budget Review recommendations

Cut spending on the NHS in line with cuts made elsewhere

- Lowest ranked option across all groups
- No respondents ranked this option as their top preference



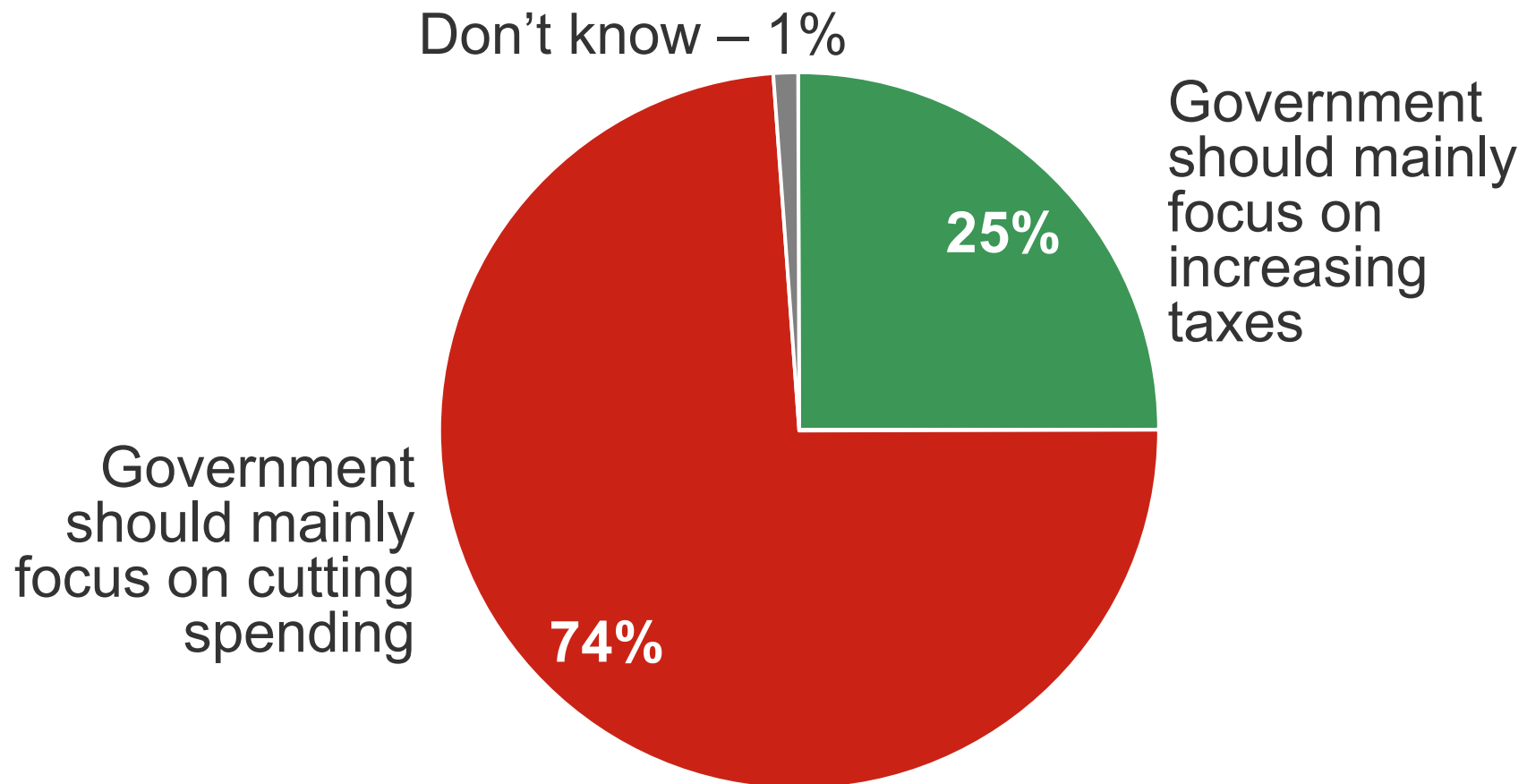
Base: 1,000 Scottish adults, 17th to 22nd September 2010.

Source: Ipsos MORI

Cut spending or increase taxes?

Cut spending or increase taxes?

Q Broadly speaking, which of the following comes closest to your view?



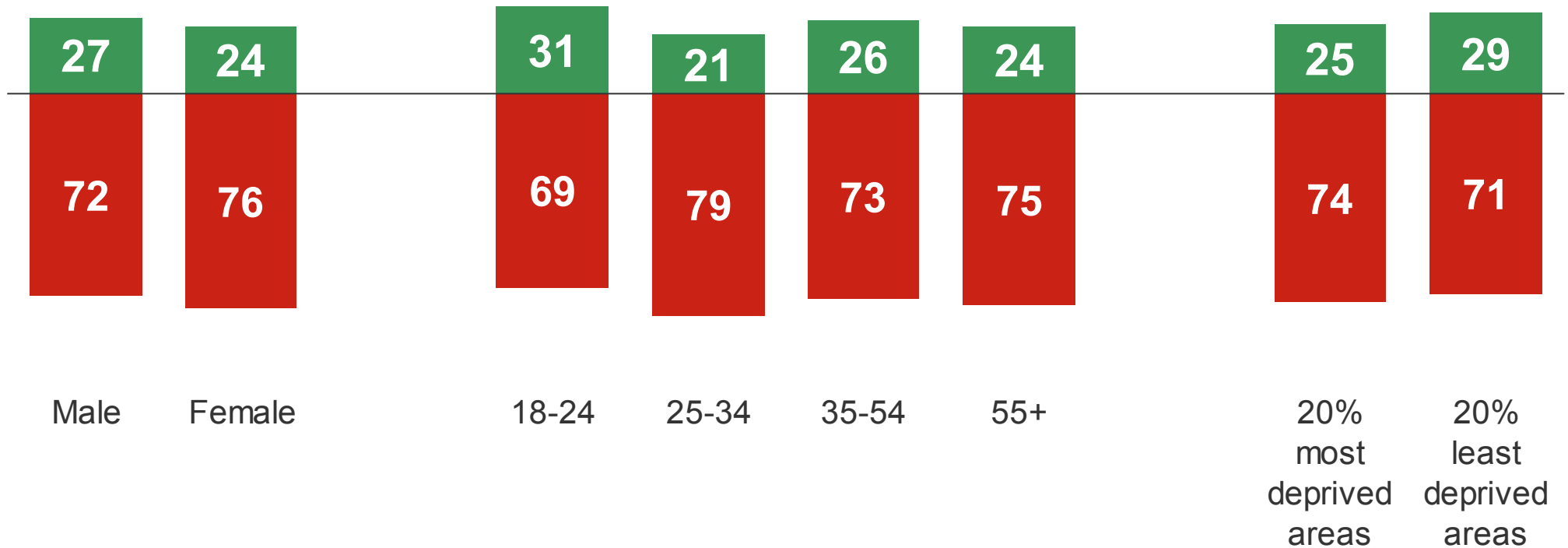
Base: 1,000 Scottish adults, 17th to 22nd September 2010

Source: Ipsos MORI

Cut spending or increase taxes?

Q Broadly speaking, which of the following comes closest to your view?

- % Government should mainly focus on cutting spending
- % Government should mainly focus on increasing taxes



Base: 1,000 Scottish adults, 17th to 22nd September 2010

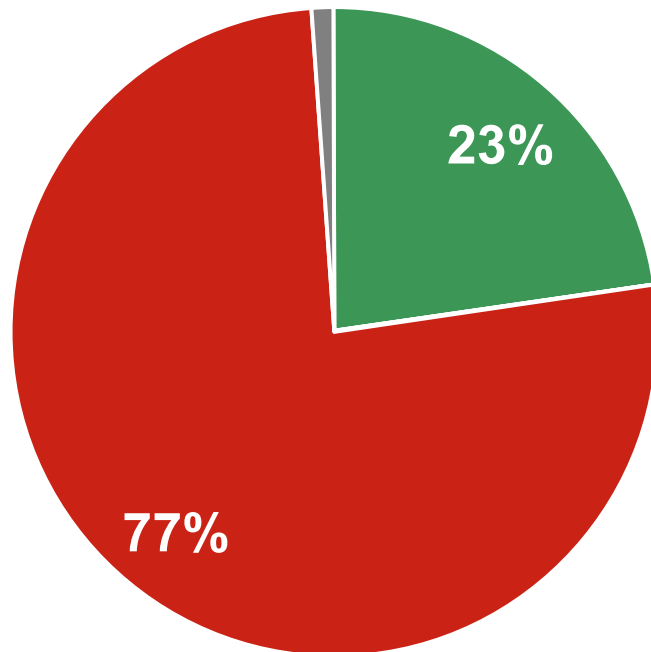
Source: Ipsos MORI

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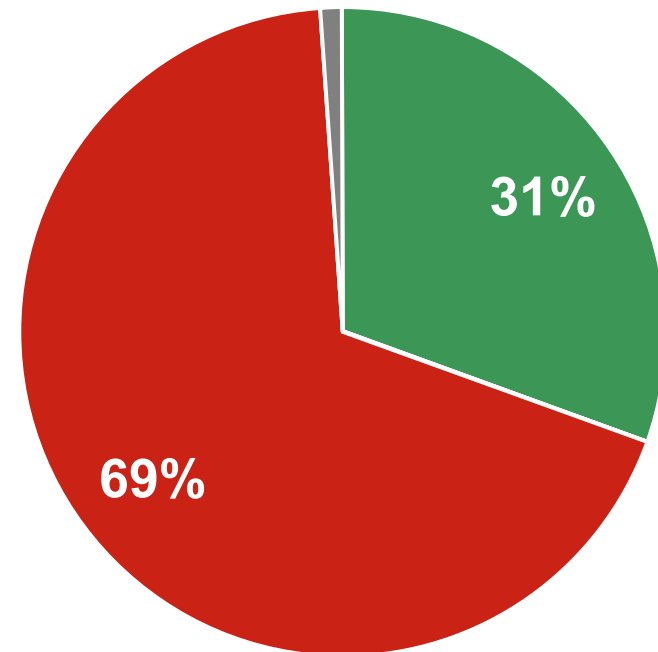
■ % Government should mainly focus on increasing taxes

Private sector workers



■ % Government should mainly focus on cutting spending

Public sector workers



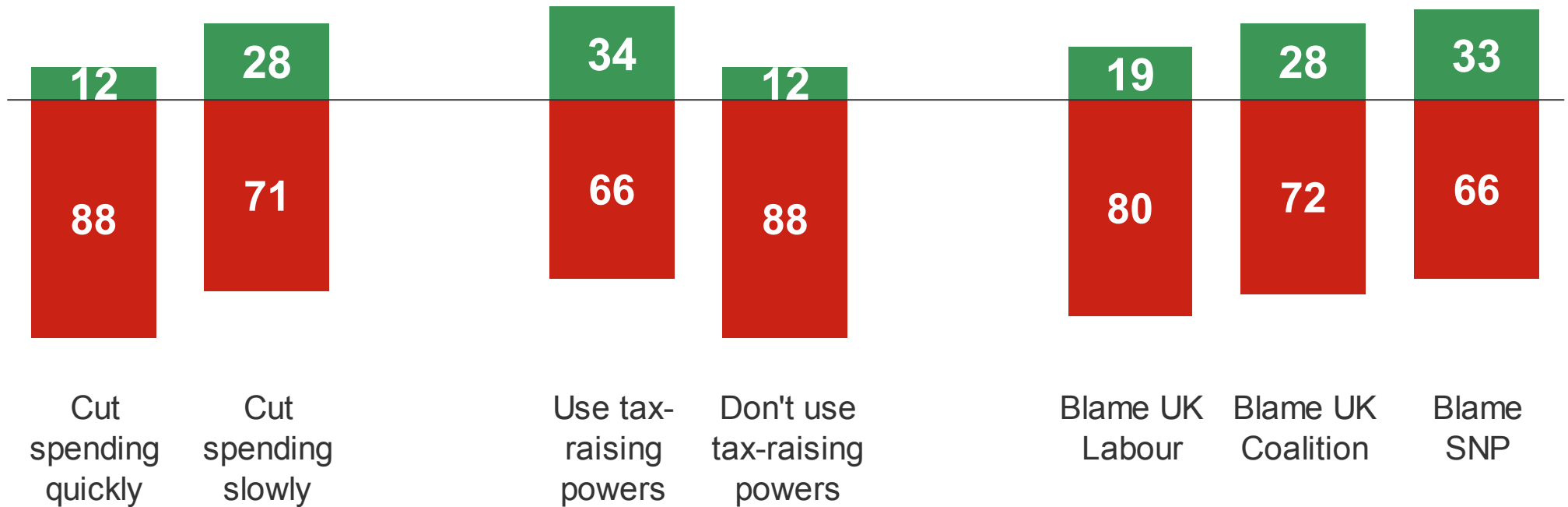
Base: 1,000 Scottish adults, 17th to 22nd September 2010

Source: Ipsos MORI

Cut spending or increase taxes?

Q Broadly speaking, which of the following comes closest to your view?

- % Government should mainly focus on cutting spending
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Base: 1,000 Scottish adults, 17th to 22nd September 2010

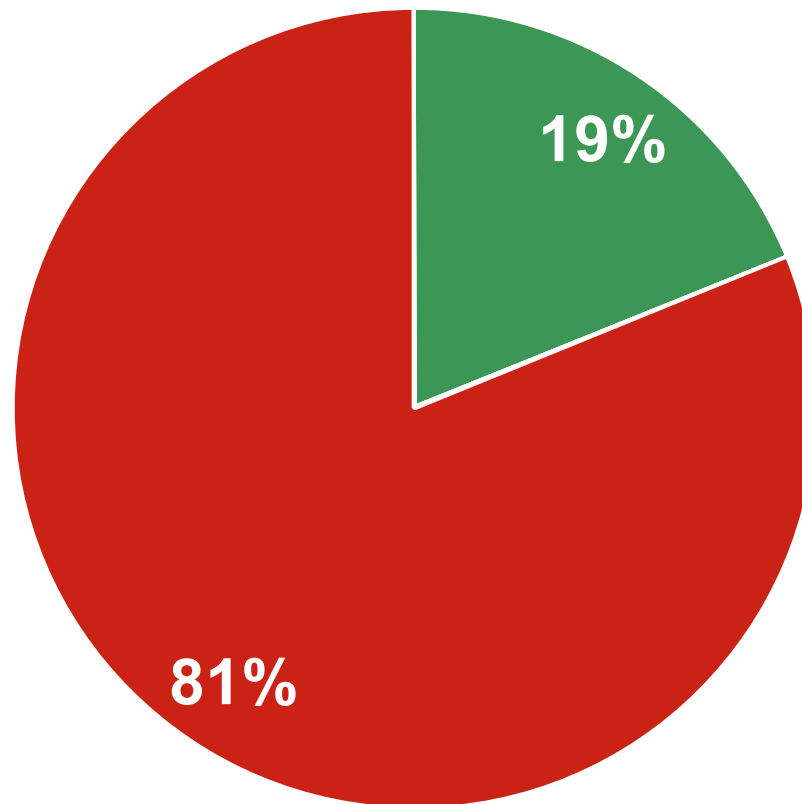
Source: Ipsos MORI

Cut spending quickly or slowly?

Cut spending quickly or slowly?

Q Which of these comes closest to your opinion about how the Government goes about reducing costs?

It is better to cut spending more slowly, to reduce the impact on public services and the economy



It is important to cut spending quickly even if it means immediate job losses, because it will be better for the economy in the long run

Base: 1,000 Scottish adults, 17th to 22nd September 2010

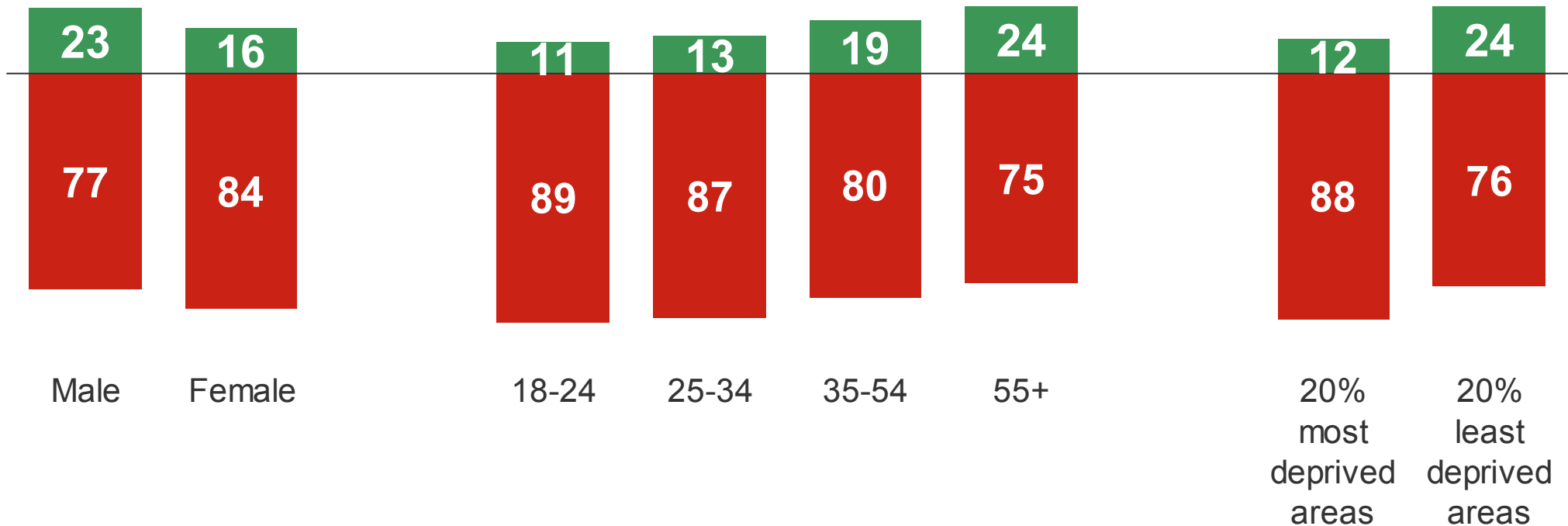
Source: Ipsos MORI

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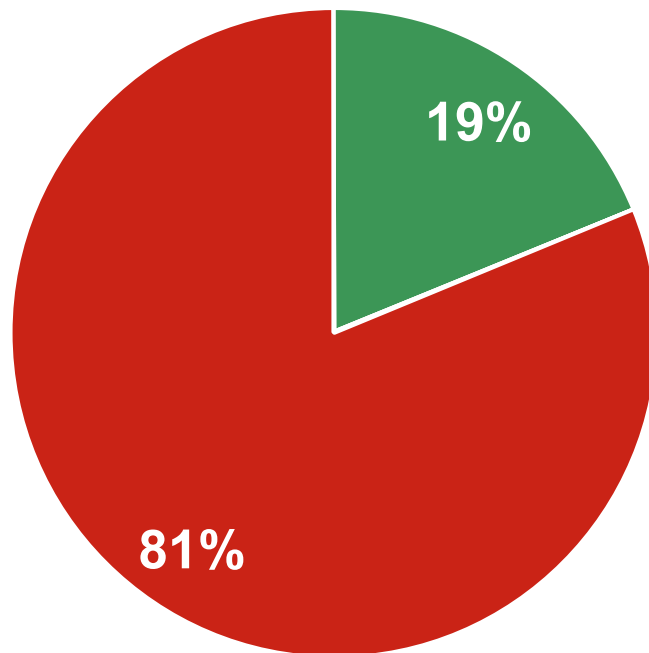
Source: Ipsos MORI

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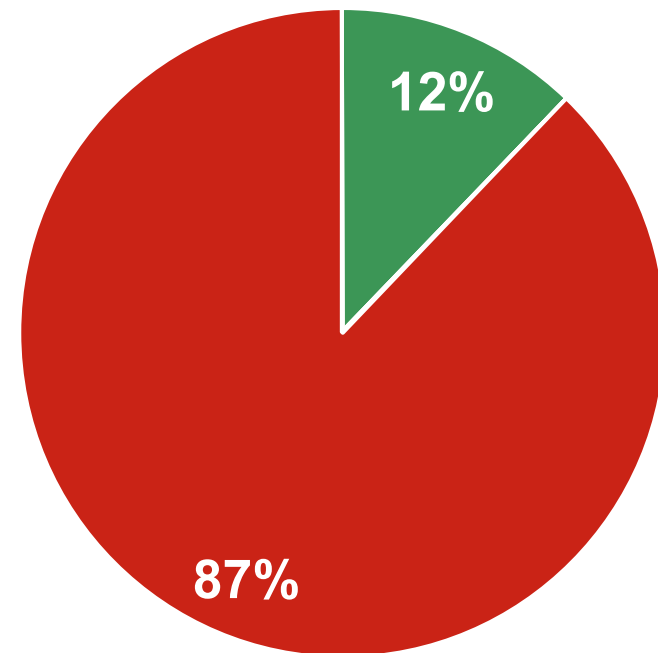
■ % It is important to cut spending quickly even if it means immediate job losses, because it will be better for the economy in the long run

Private sector workers



■ % It is better to cut spending more slowly, to reduce the impact on public services and the economy

Public sector workers



Base: 1,000 Scottish adults, 17th to 22nd September 2010

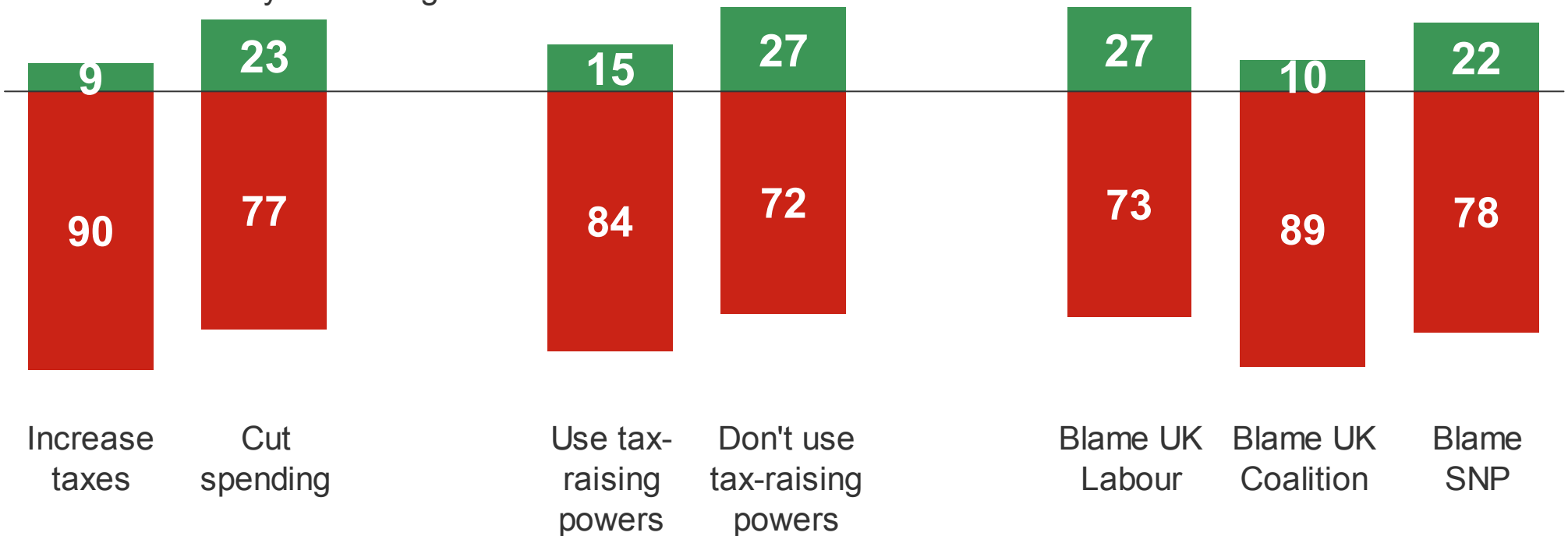
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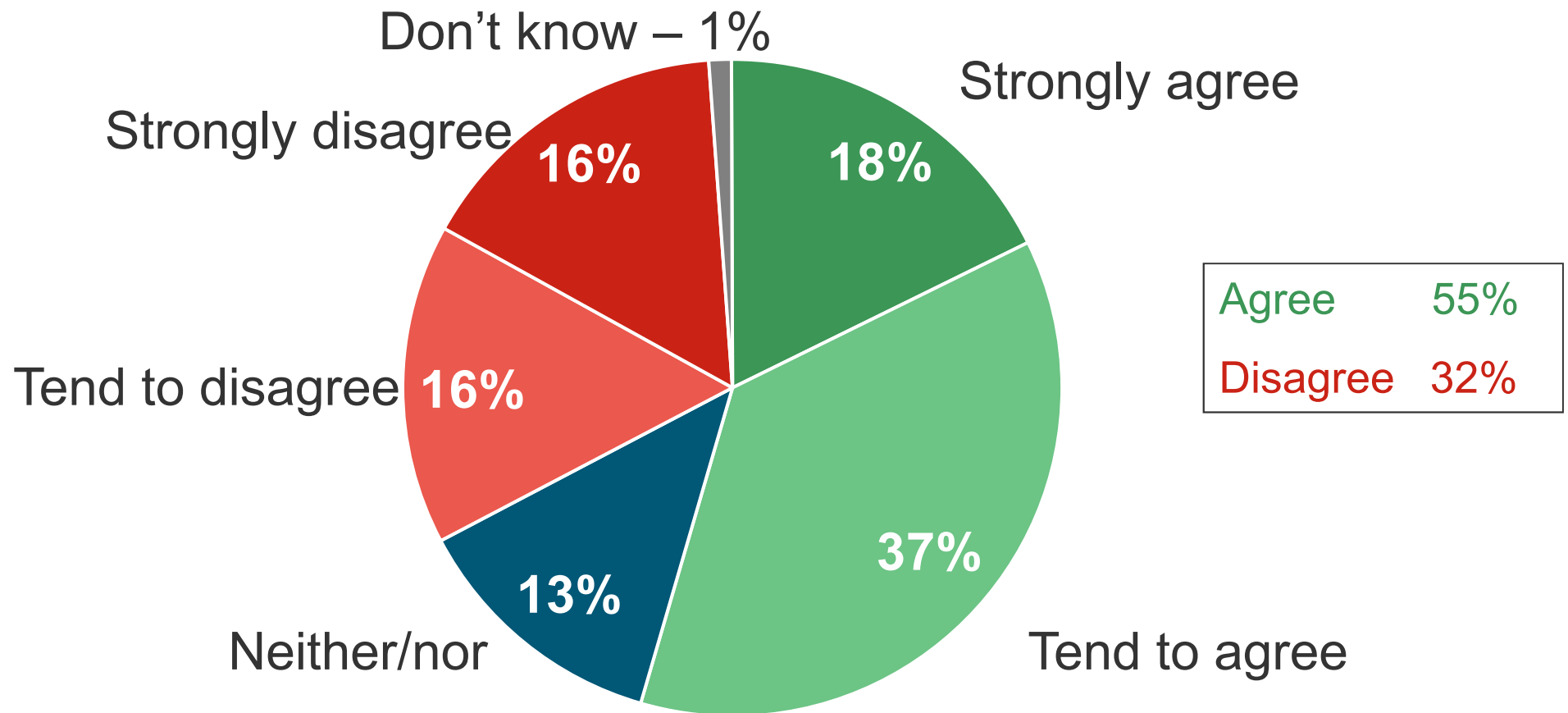
Base: 1,000 Scottish adults, 17th to 22nd September 2010

Source: Ipsos MORI

Should the Scottish Government use its tax-raising powers?

Use of tax-raising powers

Q The devolution settlement gave the Scottish Parliament the power to vary income tax by up to 3p in the pound. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "The Scottish Government should use its tax-raising powers in order to minimise spending cuts needed in Scotland."



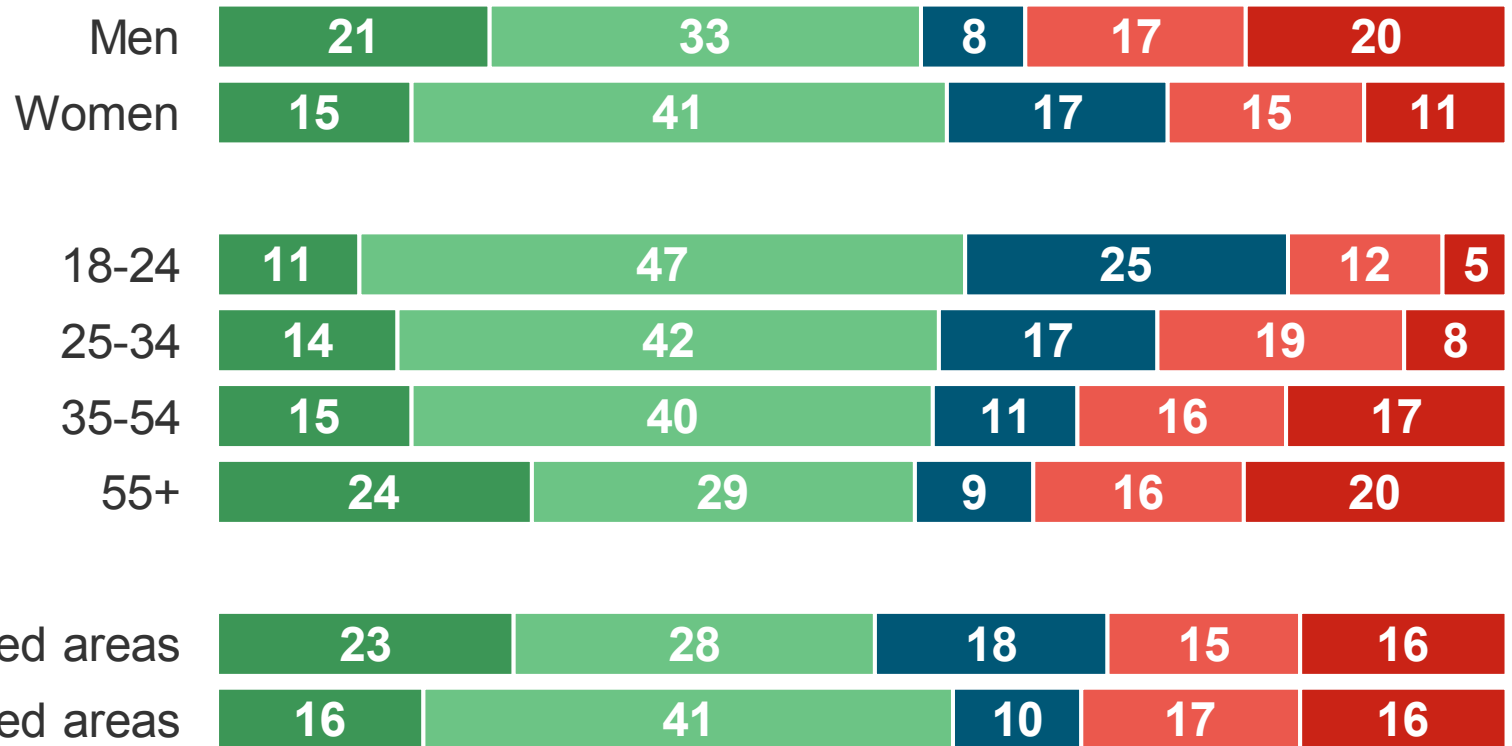
Base: 1,000 Scottish adults, 17th to 22nd September 2010

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■ % Strongly agree ■ % Tend to agree ■ % Neither / nor ■ % Tend to disagree ■ % Strongly disagree



Base: 1,000 Scottish adults, 17th to 22nd September 2010

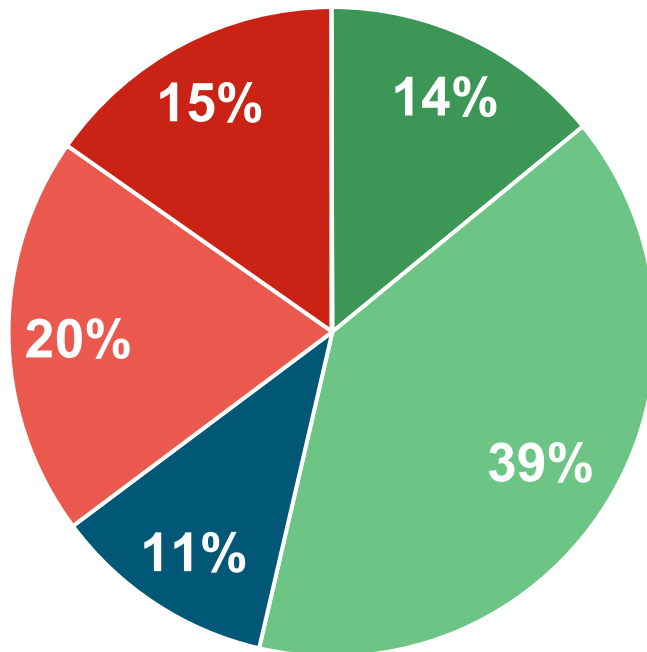
Source: Ipsos MORI

Use of tax-raising powers

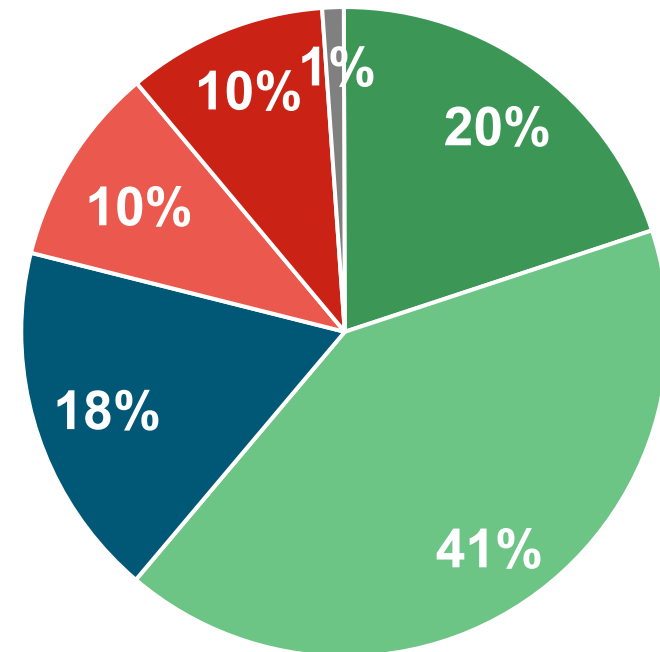
Q The devolution settlement gave the Scottish Parliament the power to vary income tax by up to 3p in the pound. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "The Scottish Government should use its tax-raising powers in order to minimise spending cuts needed in Scotland."

- % Strongly agree
- % Strongly disagree
- % Tend to agree
- % Tend to disagree
- % Neither / nor
- % Don't know

Private sector workers



Public sector workers



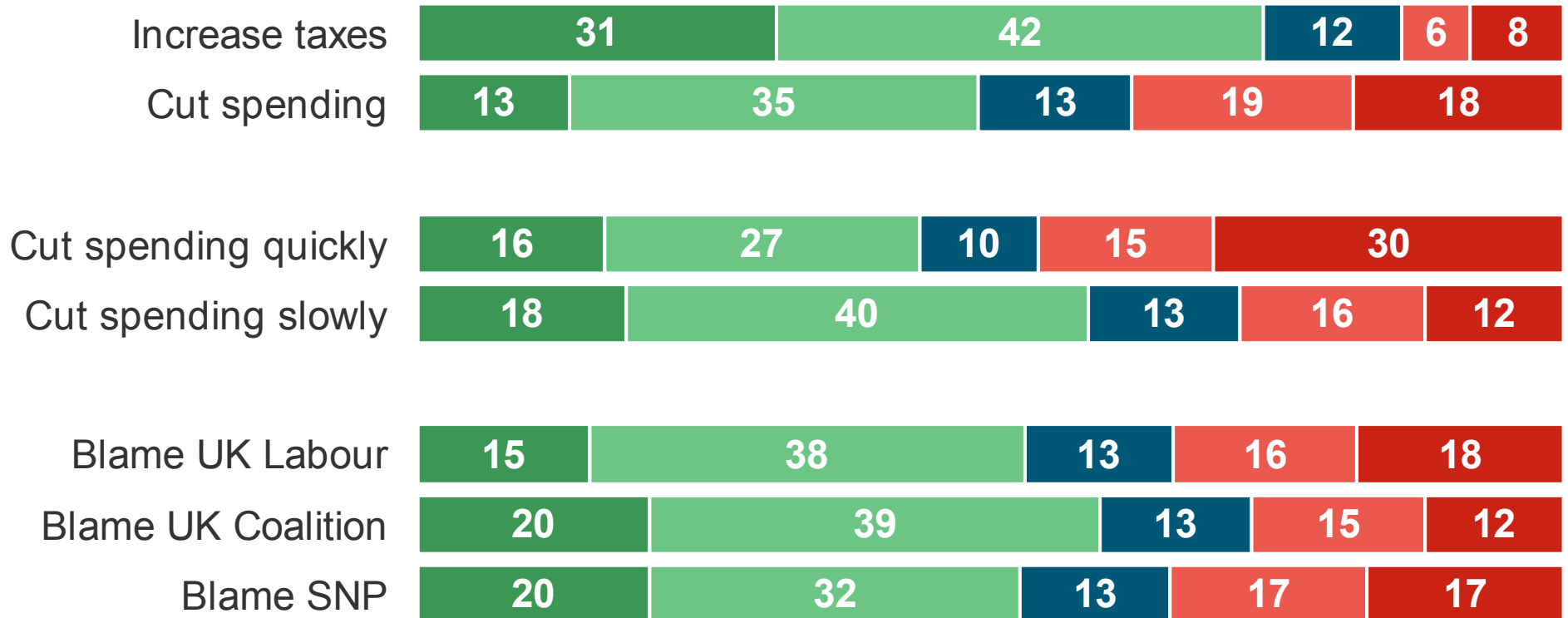
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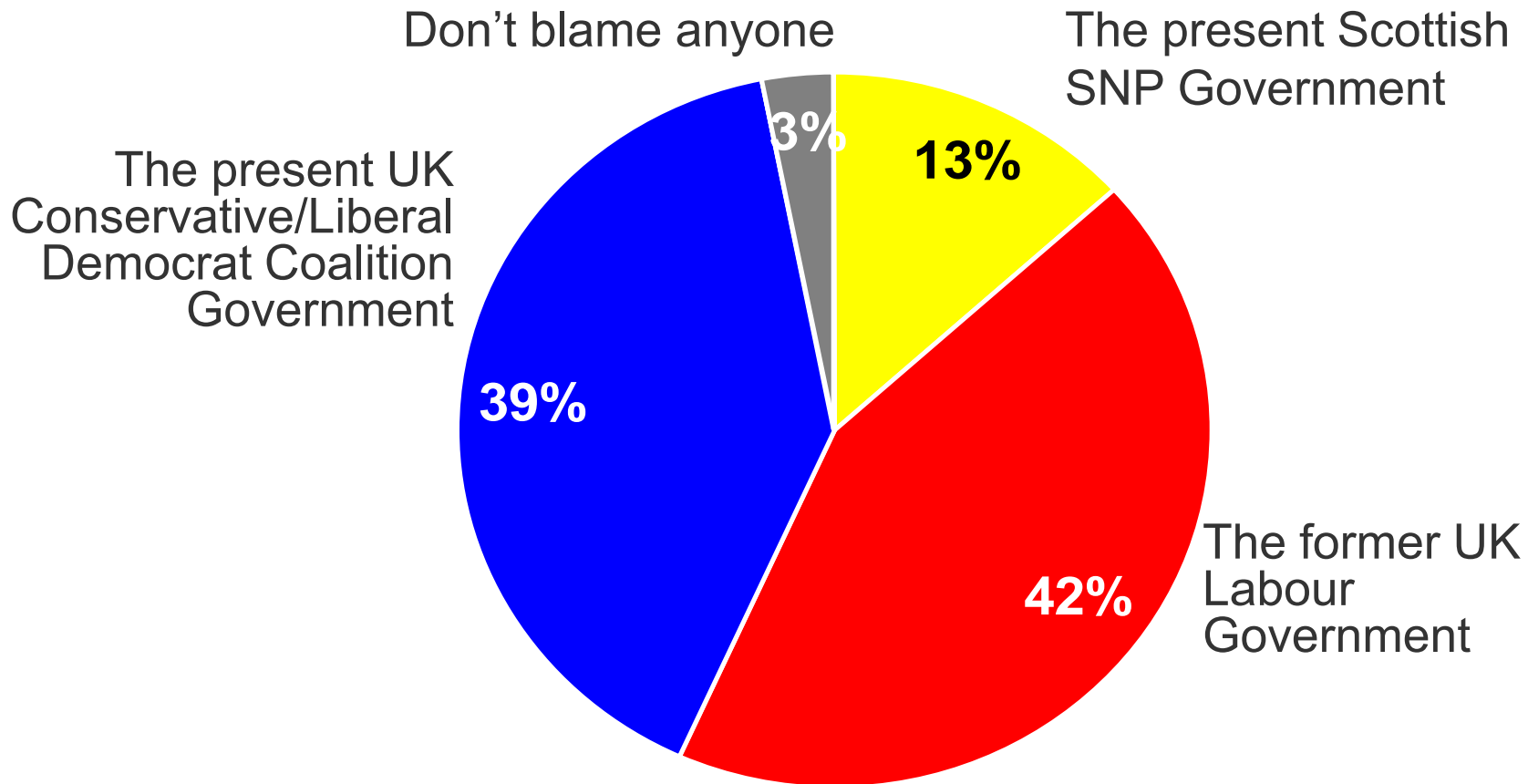
Base: 1,000 Scottish adults, 17th to 22nd September 2010

Source: Ipsos MORI

Who is most responsible for the spending cuts that are soon to be announced?

Who is to blame for the spending cuts?

Q. From the following, who do you think is most responsible for the spending cuts that are soon to be announced?



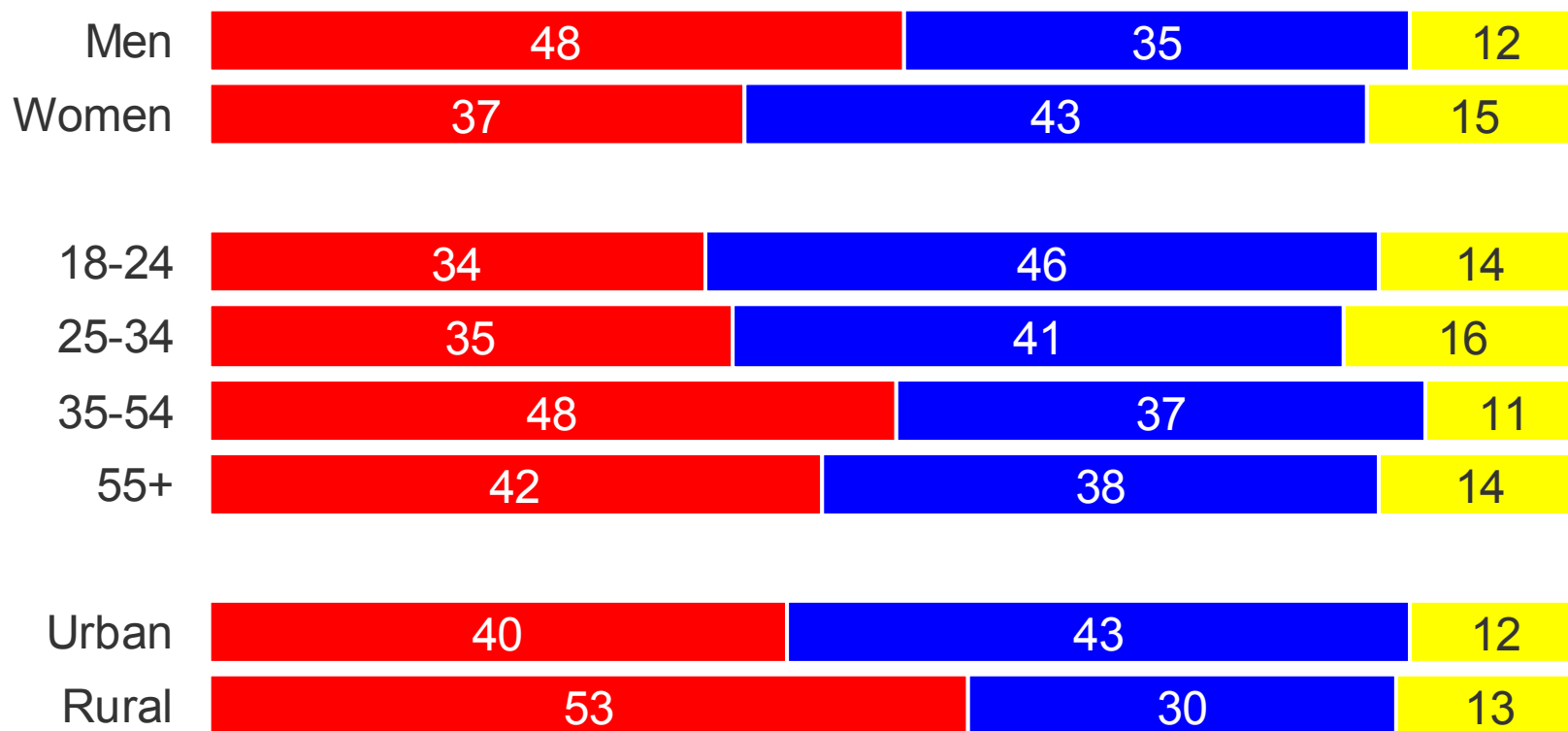
Base: 1,000 Scottish adults, 17th to 22nd September 2010

Source: Ipsos MORI

Who is to blame for the spending cuts?

Q. From the following, who do you think is most responsible for the spending cuts that are soon to be announced?

- % blaming former UK Labour Government
- % blaming present Coalition Government
- % blaming present SNP Scottish Government



Base: 1,000 Scottish adults, 17th to 22nd September 2010

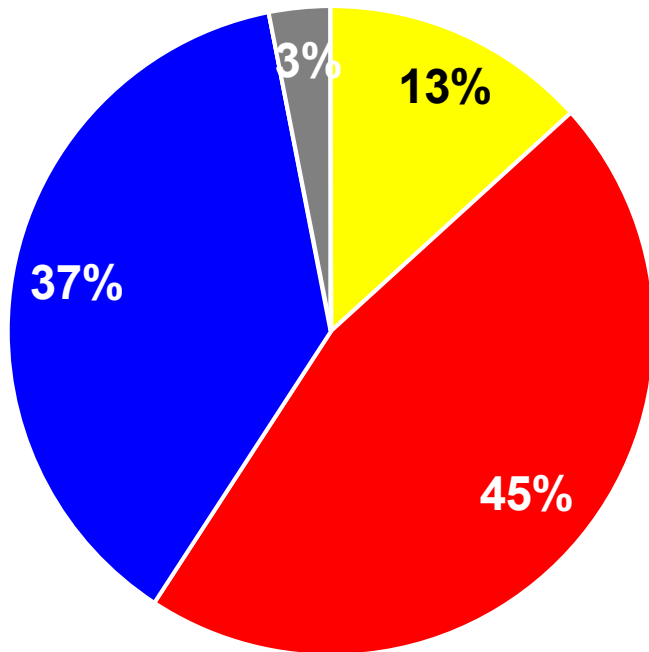
Source: Ipsos MORI

Who is to blame for the spending cuts?

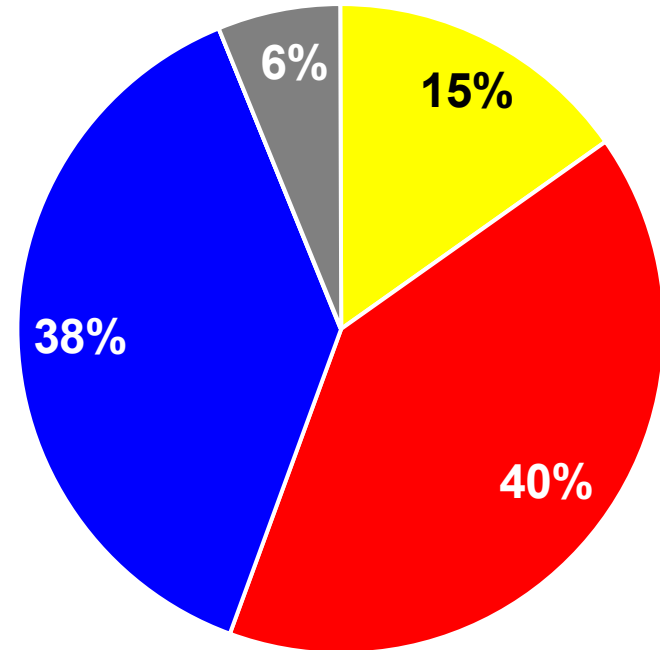
Q. From the following, who do you think is most responsible for the spending cuts that are soon to be announced?

- Present Scottish SNP Government
- Former UK Labour Government
- Present UK Conservative/Liberal Democrat Coalition Government
- Don't blame anyone

Private sector workers



Public sector workers



Base: 1,000 Scottish adults, 17th to 22nd September 2010

Source: Ipsos MORI

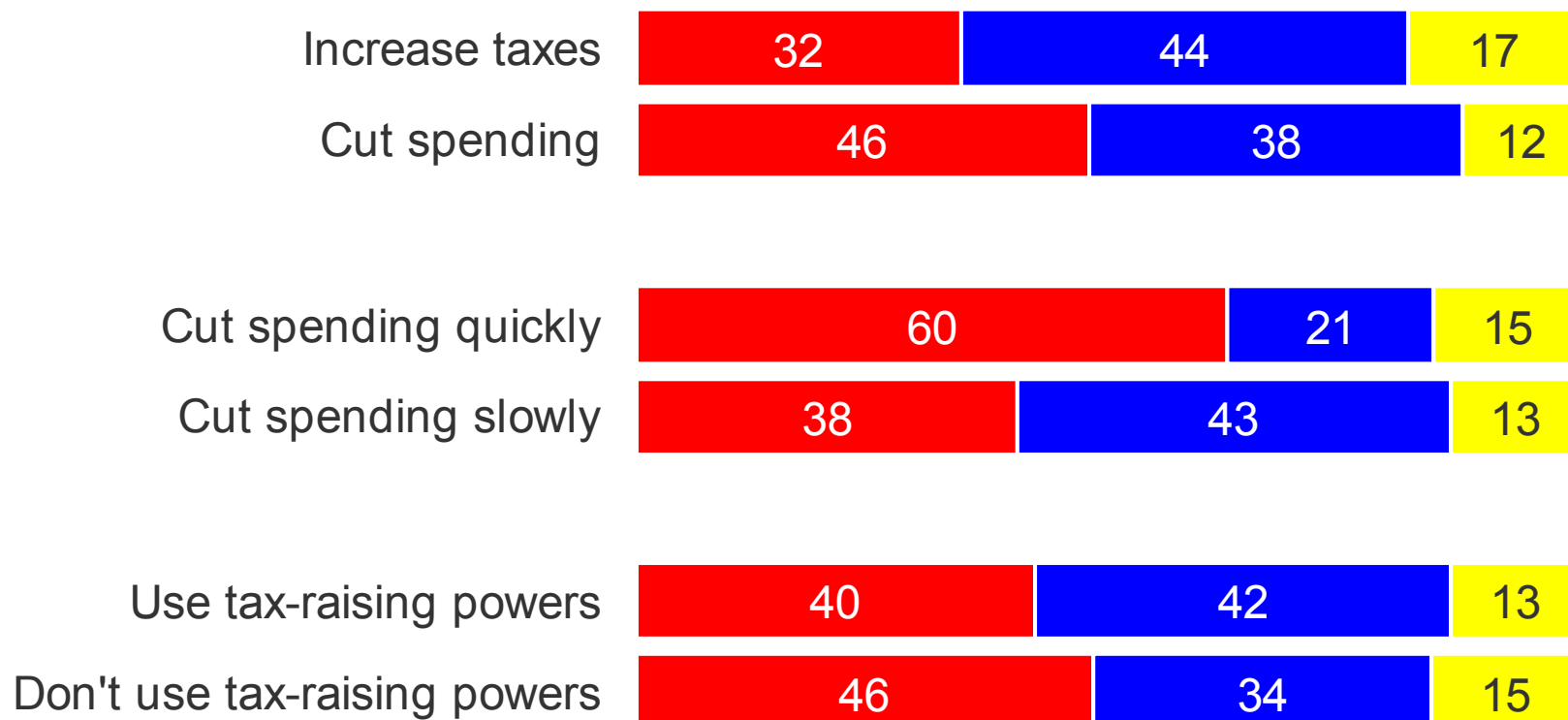
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