



INFORMATION
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RESEARCH CONSULTANTS

Opinion Poll on Government Performance After 200 Days

24-29 May 2001

Sample Description

Sample Description (1/3)

- The poll covered all Lebanese territory, with questionnaires proportionally distributed in the six Lebanese Provinces (Mohafazat).
- In terms of gender, the questionnaire was distributed as follows: 58.2 % for males compared to 41.8% for females.
- The respondents covered all age groups. Of the sample, 26.8% were aged 18 to 24, compared to 25.8% aged 25 to 34, 23% aged 35 to 44, 18.4% aged 45 to 54 and 8.4% over 55 years old.

Sample Description (2/3)

- In terms of income, the majority of respondents (37.2%) earn an average of US\$500-US\$1,000 per month, compared to 21.8% who earn US\$200-US\$500, 23.7% between US\$1,000 and US\$1,500, and 7.9% between US\$1,500 and US\$2,000. Only 1.9% of those polled have a monthly income of less than US\$250, while 7.4% have earnings exceeding US\$2,000.
- As for the social standing, the survey reveals that the majority (54.2%) are qualified, compared to 42.9% unqualified, 2% widowed and 0.9% divorced.
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- The education level of the respondents varied from elementary to higher education, including technical education. Those who had completed secondary education formed 28.6% of the sample, compared to 42.1% university graduates, and 19.4% who had completed intermediate education. As for those who had completed only elementary education, they formed 5% of the sample, while those with post-graduate degrees accounted for 2.3%, and 2.7% who have had technical training.

Sample Description (3/3)

- The questionnaire was distributed to all professional sectors of high qualification, such as doctors and university professors etc; median professions, such as bureaucrats; as well as employees of service sectors and merchants. It also covered farmers, professional and unprofessional laborers, military personnel, vehicle operators and drivers.
- It is worth noting that results of the Nabatiyeh Province (Mohafazat) were merged with those of South Lebanon. Also, the six main confessions were adopted as a gauge for comparison where applicable.

Present and Future Government Performance as Viewed By Citizens

Present and Future Government Performance as Viewed By Citizens

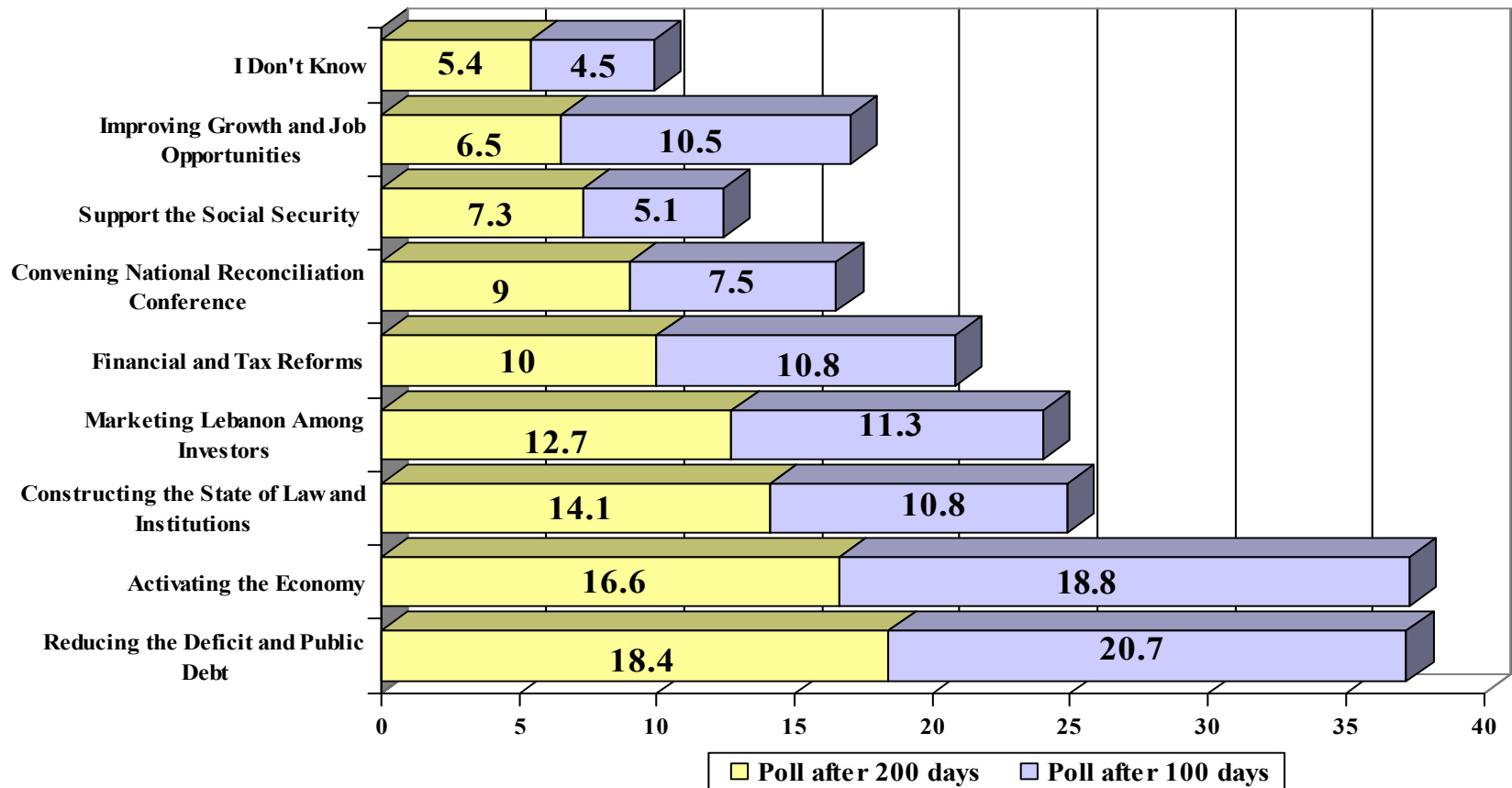
Reducing the deficit and public debt topped the list of priorities being addressed by the government (18.4%), followed by activating economic growth, then constructing the state of law and institutions.

Of the general sample, 32.2% said the government is capable, to a limited extent, of carrying out its mission, compared to 27.8% who believed it is incapable of doing so. A relatively high proportion of Maronites (38.9%) and Shiites (20.5%) said the government has been unable to carry out its duties since it assumed office and until now.

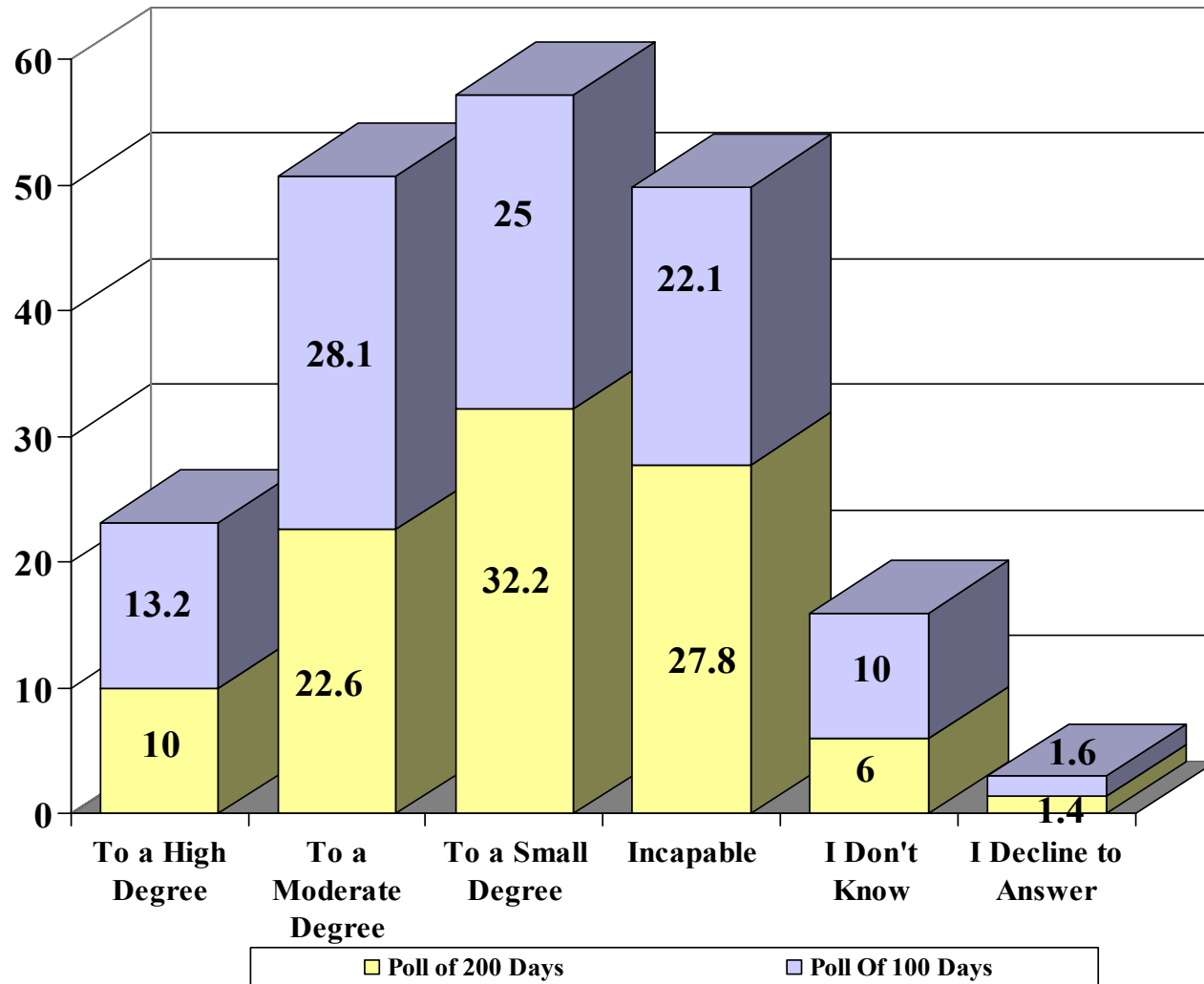
As for the most important government achievement to date, the results reflected pessimism among the respondents, with 35.4% saying it has so far achieved nothing, compared to 23.1% who said “I don’t know”, 11% who noted the reduction of customs tariffs and 5.8% for developing and reconstructing.

The evaluation of the reduction of customs tariffs and the was “good,” with 56.5% and 43.5% respectively supporting these motions. But the support waned with regard to the government’s present handling of other issues, such as the VAT, and combating corruption and favoritism (19.7%). As for the government’s ability to succeed in its strategy, a high proportion responded affirmatively with regard to the reducing customs tariffs and but support declined when it came to other issues at stake.

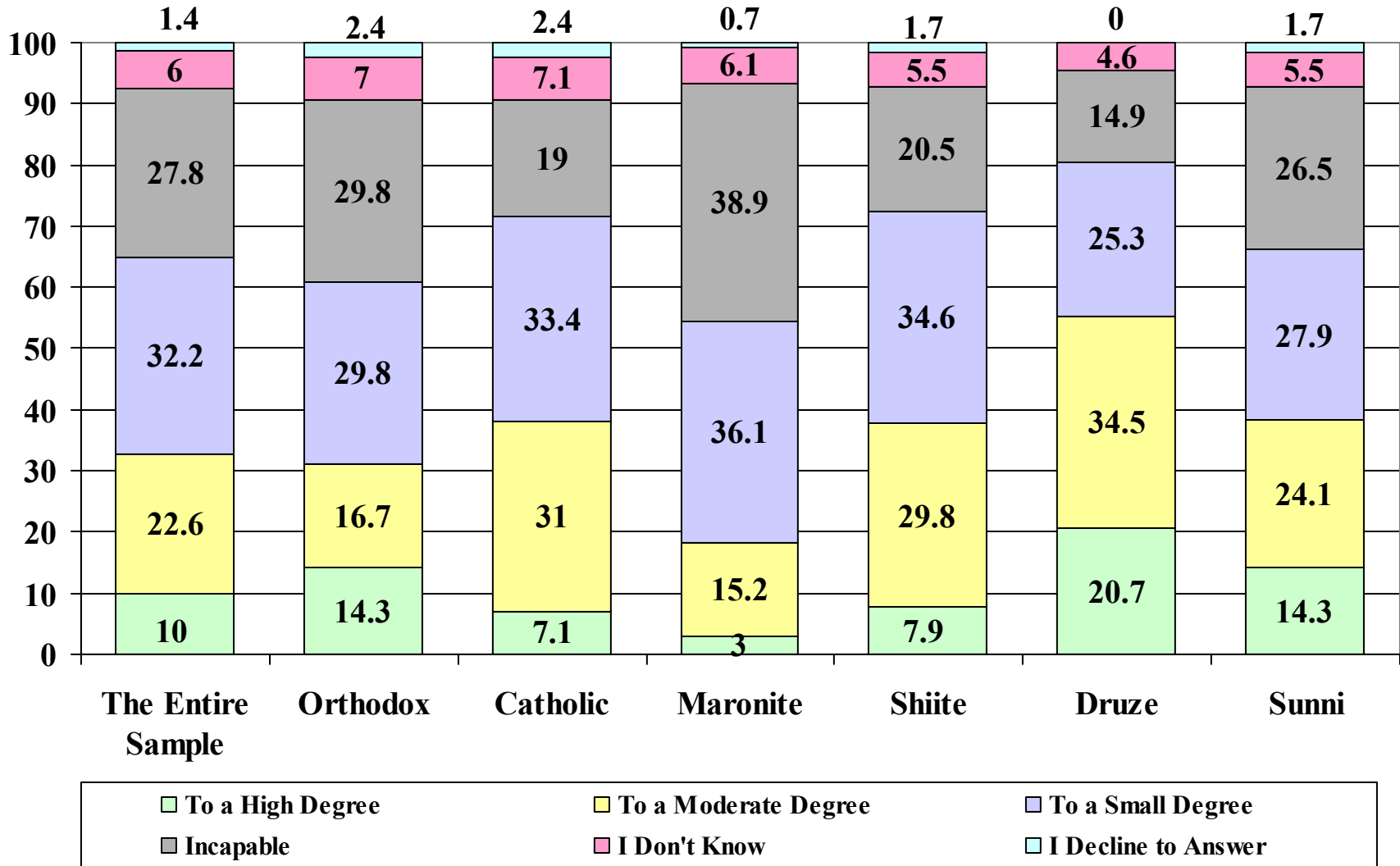
Identify the Three Priorities Which the Government has Decided to Tackle (%)



To What Degree do you think the Current Government has been able to Carry out its Mission since it Assumed Office and Until Now? (%)

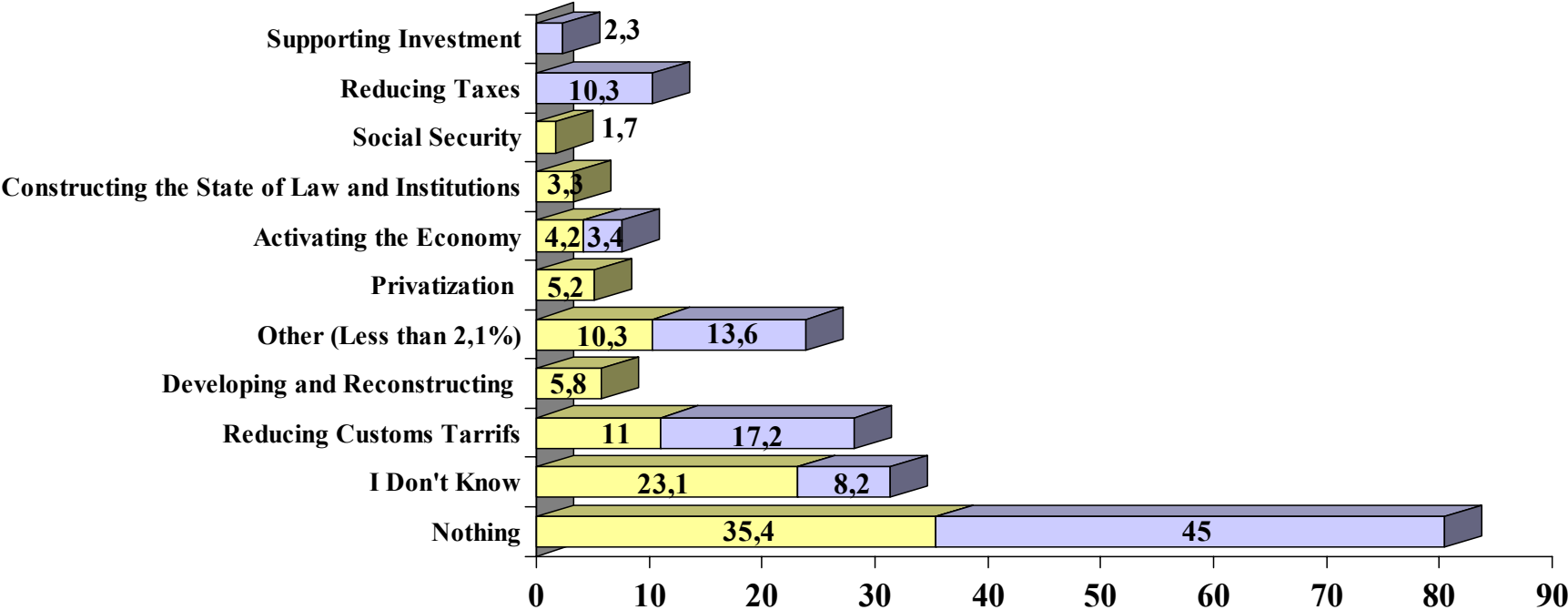


To What Degree do you think the Current Government has been able to Carry out its Mission since it Assumed Office and Until Now? According to Confession (%)

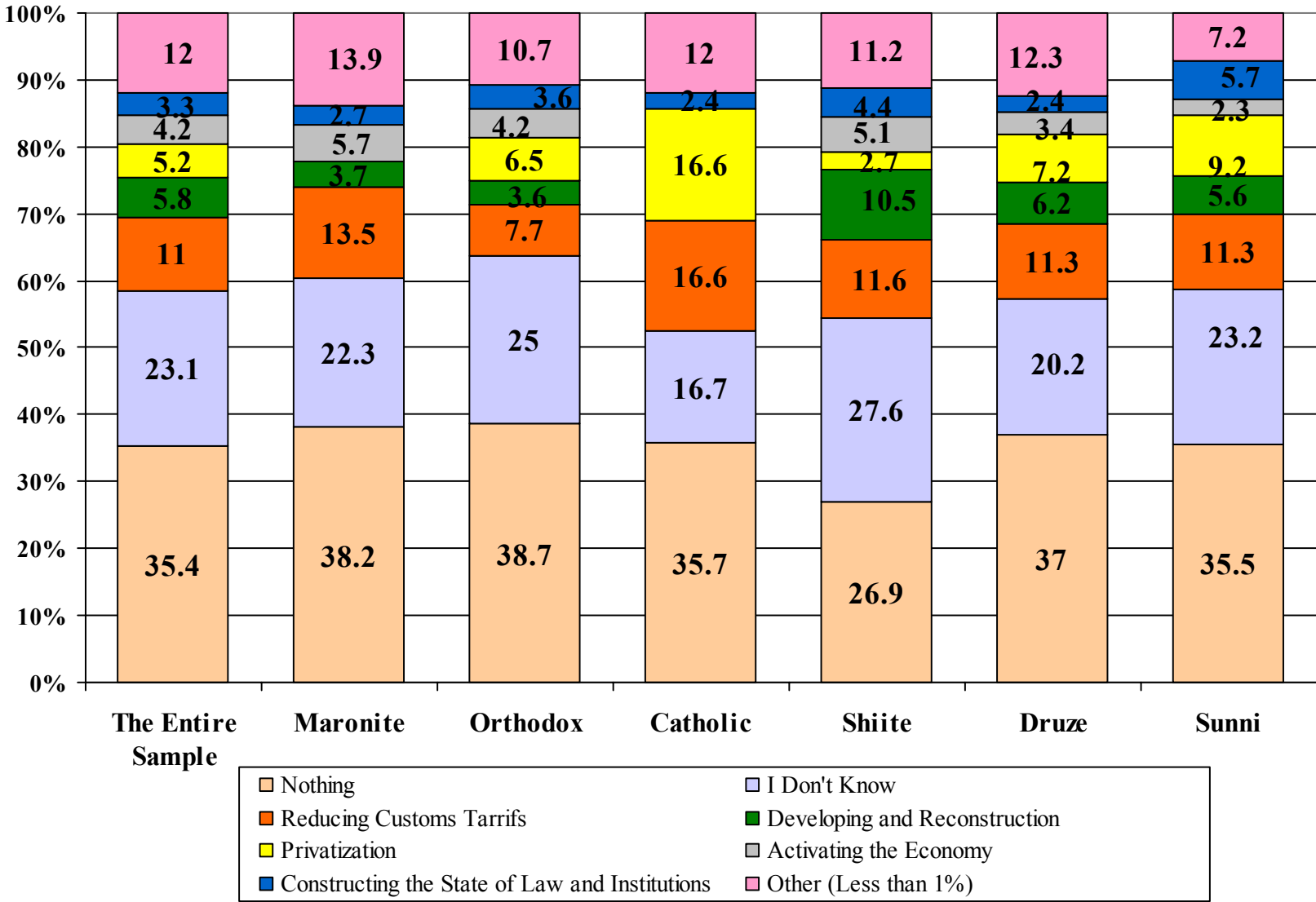


In Your Opinion, What is the Government's Most Important Achievement Until Now? (%)

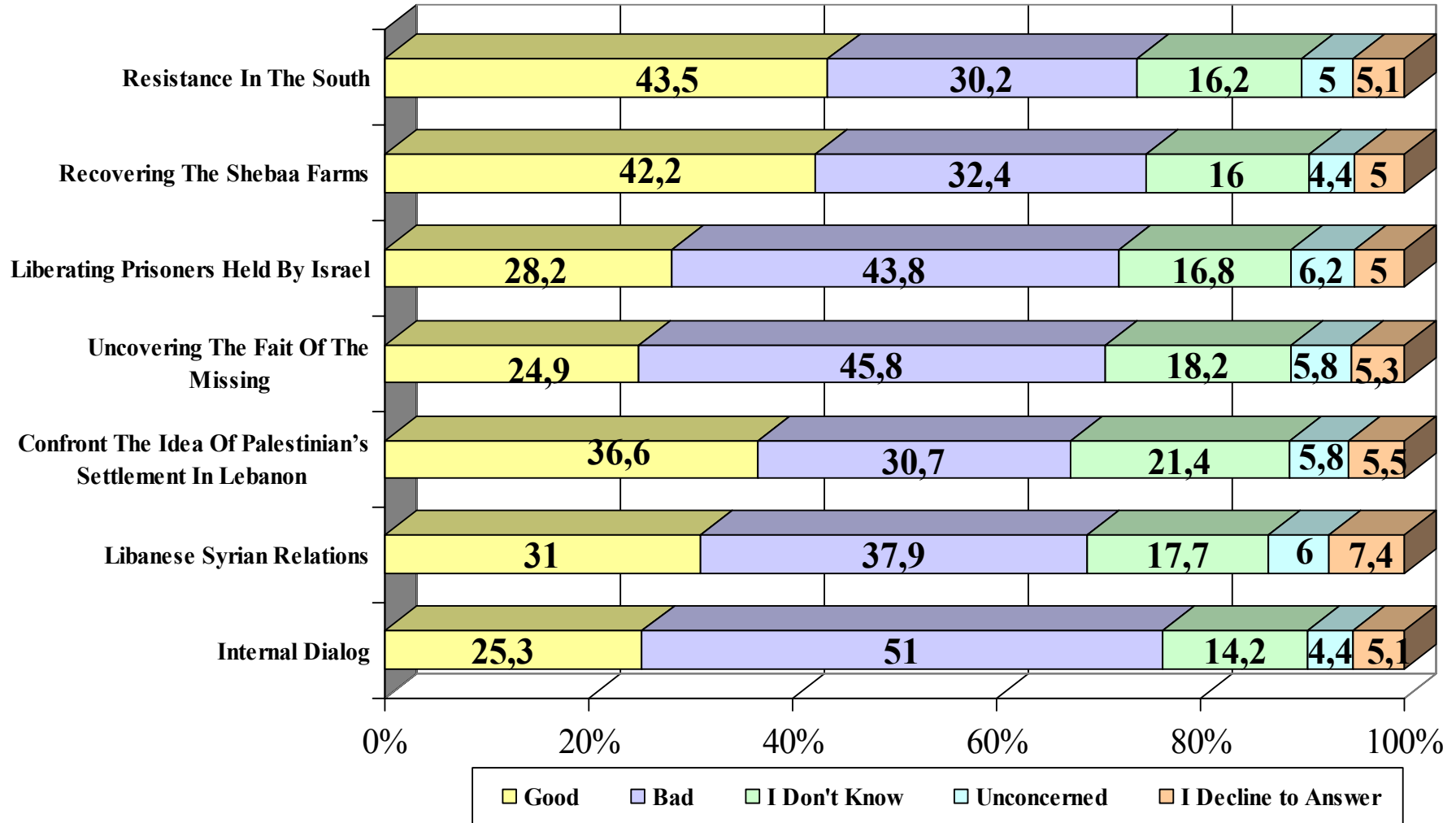
Open-Ended Question



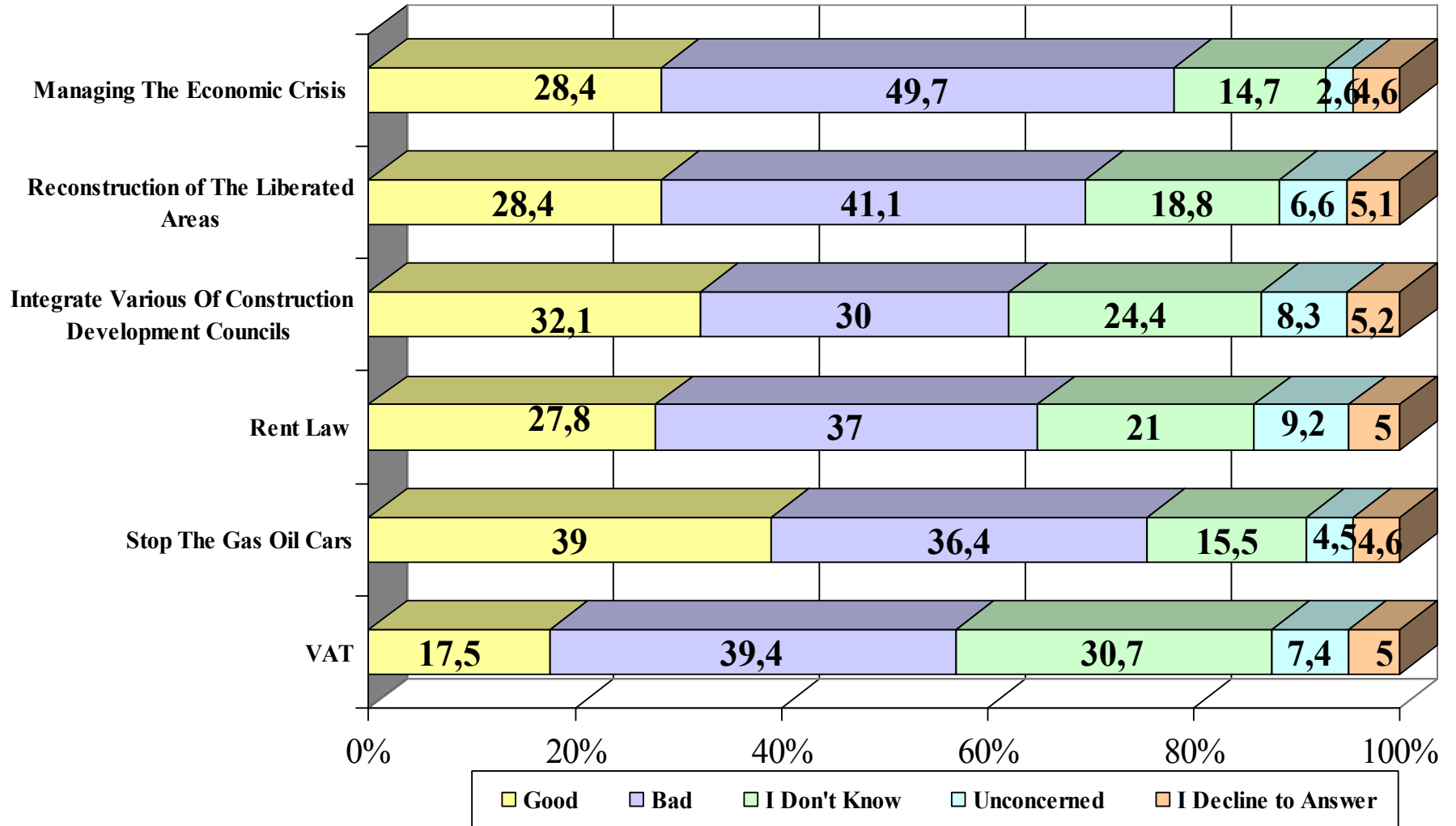
In Your Opinion, What is the Government's Most Important Achievement Until Now? According to Confession (%)



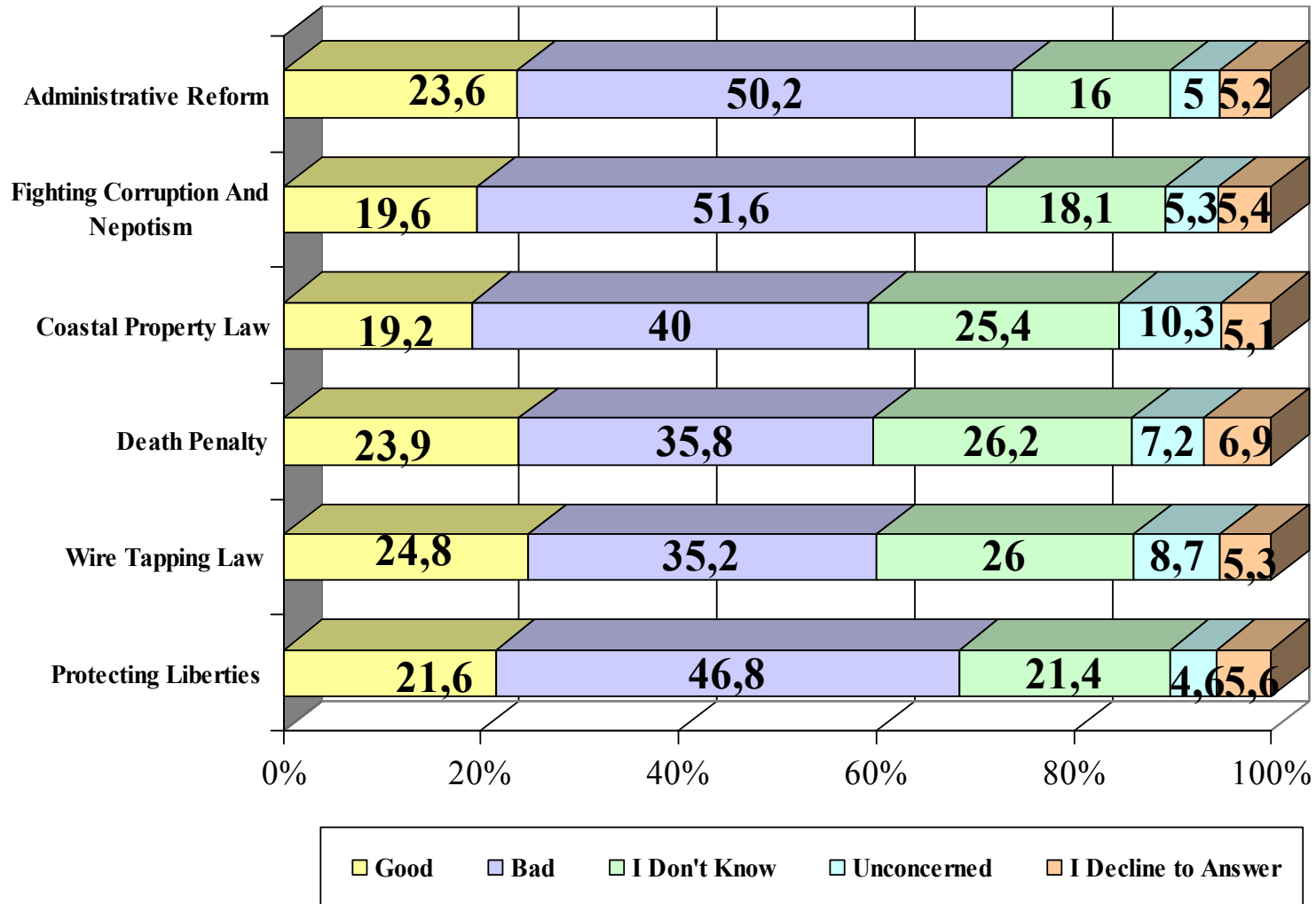
How do you Evaluate Government Performance Until Now in Handling the Following Issues? (%) 1/3



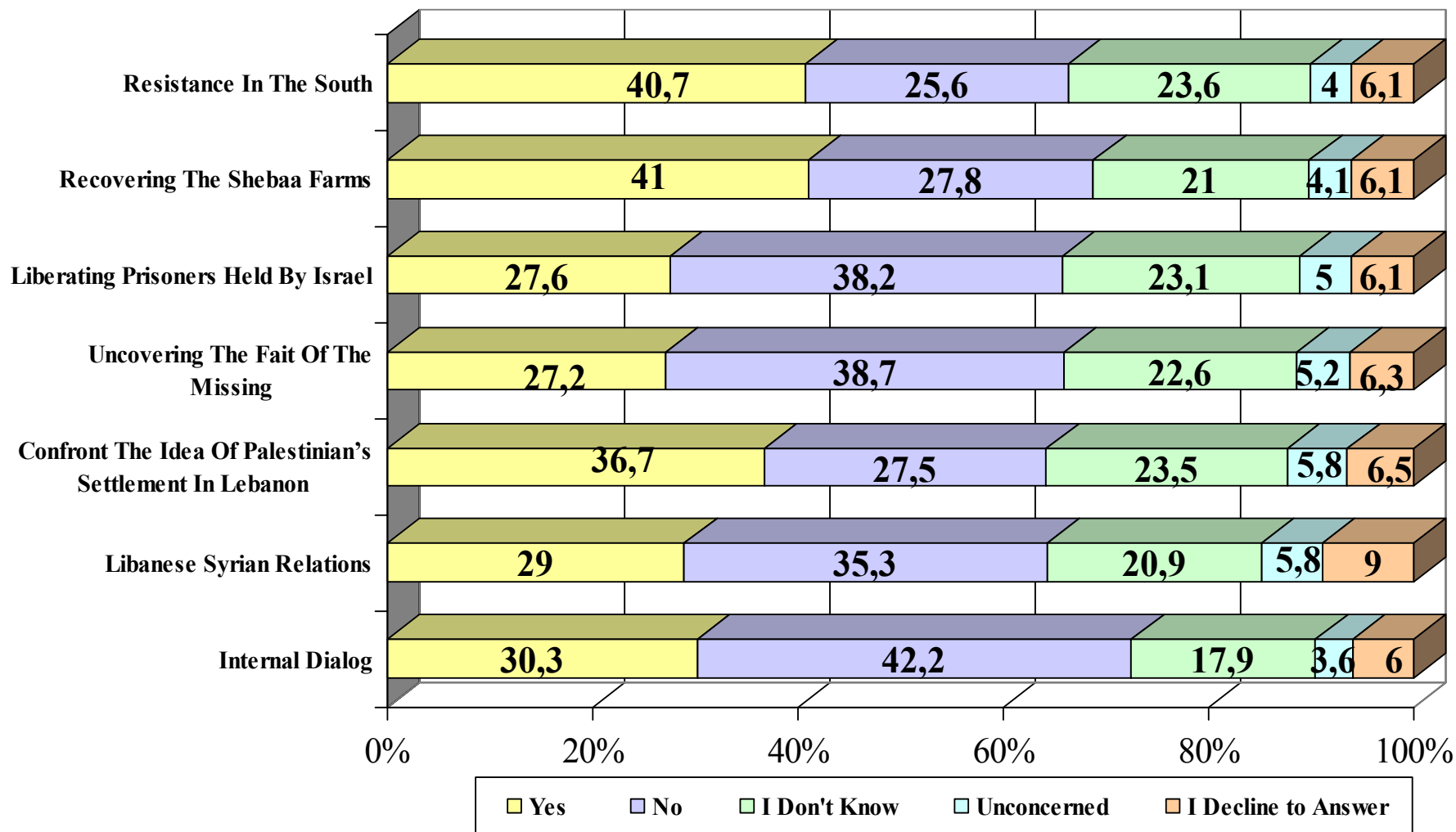
How do you Evaluate Government Performance Until Now in Handling the Following Issues? (%) 2/3



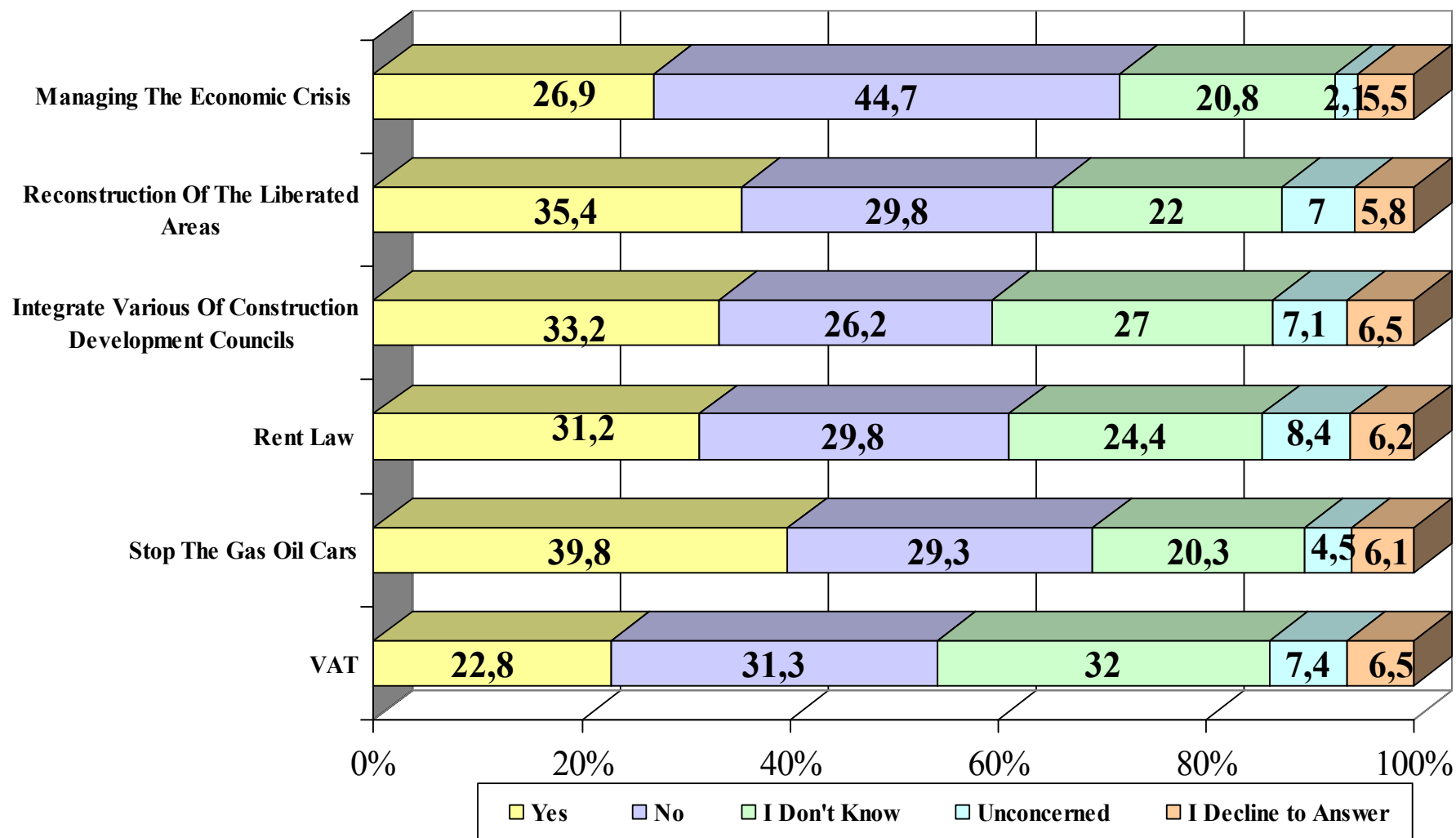
How do you Evaluate Government Performance Until Now in Handling the Following Issues? (%) 3/3



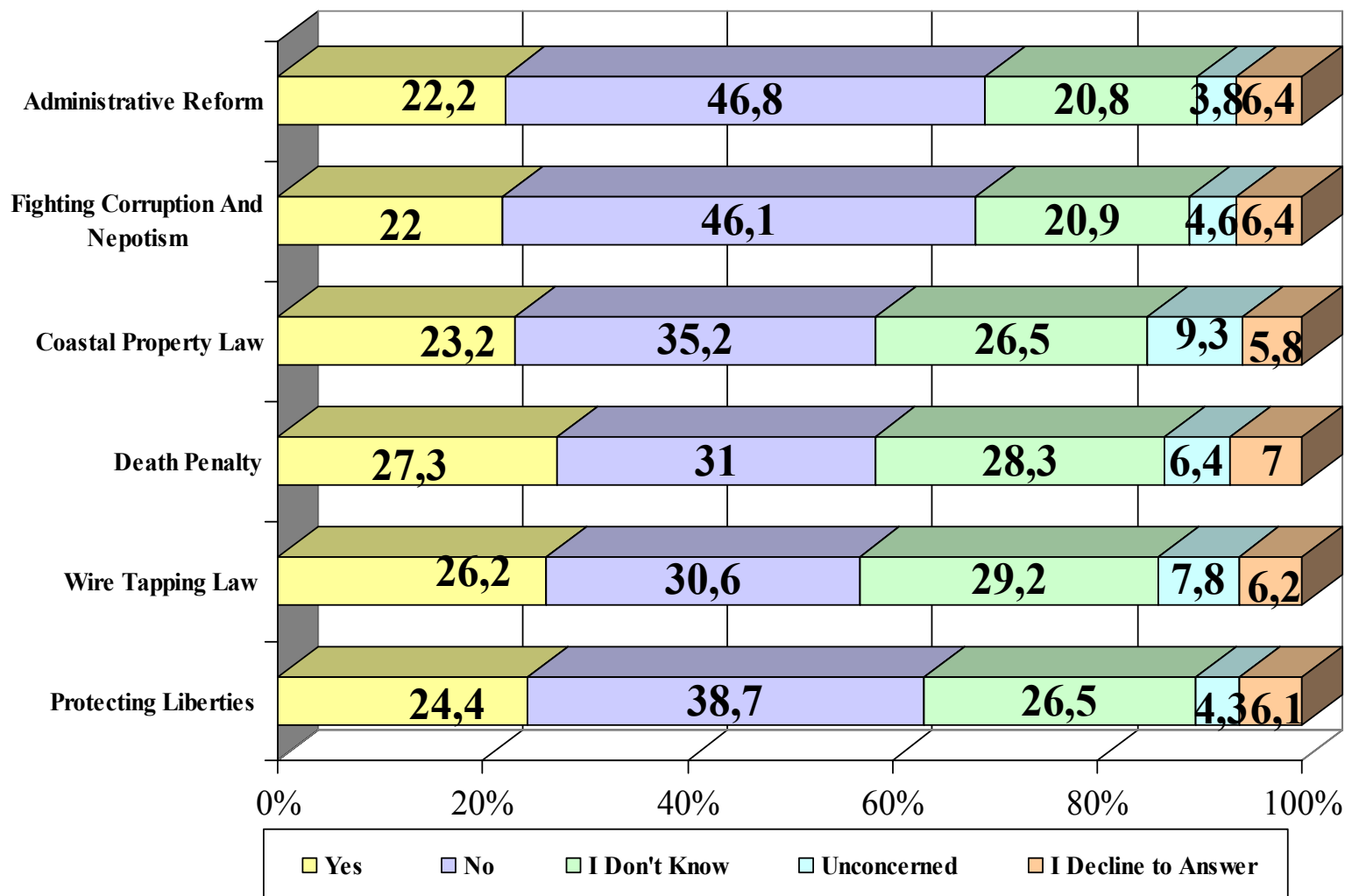
Do you Believe the Government will Succeed in Tackling the Following Issues? (%) 1/3



Do you Believe the Government will Succeed in Tackling the Following Issues? (%) 2/3



Do you Believe the Government will Succeed in Tackling the Following Issues? (%) 3/3



The Prime Minister as Viewed by Citizens

The Prime Minister as Viewed by Citizens (1/2)

Of those surveyed, 21.6 considered the current Prime Minister moderately successful in shouldering his duties since he assumed office until now (28.6% in 100 days poll results) . The highest percentage was among the Druze (36.8%) and the Sunnis (23.8%), and the lowest percentages were among the Maronites (12.2%).

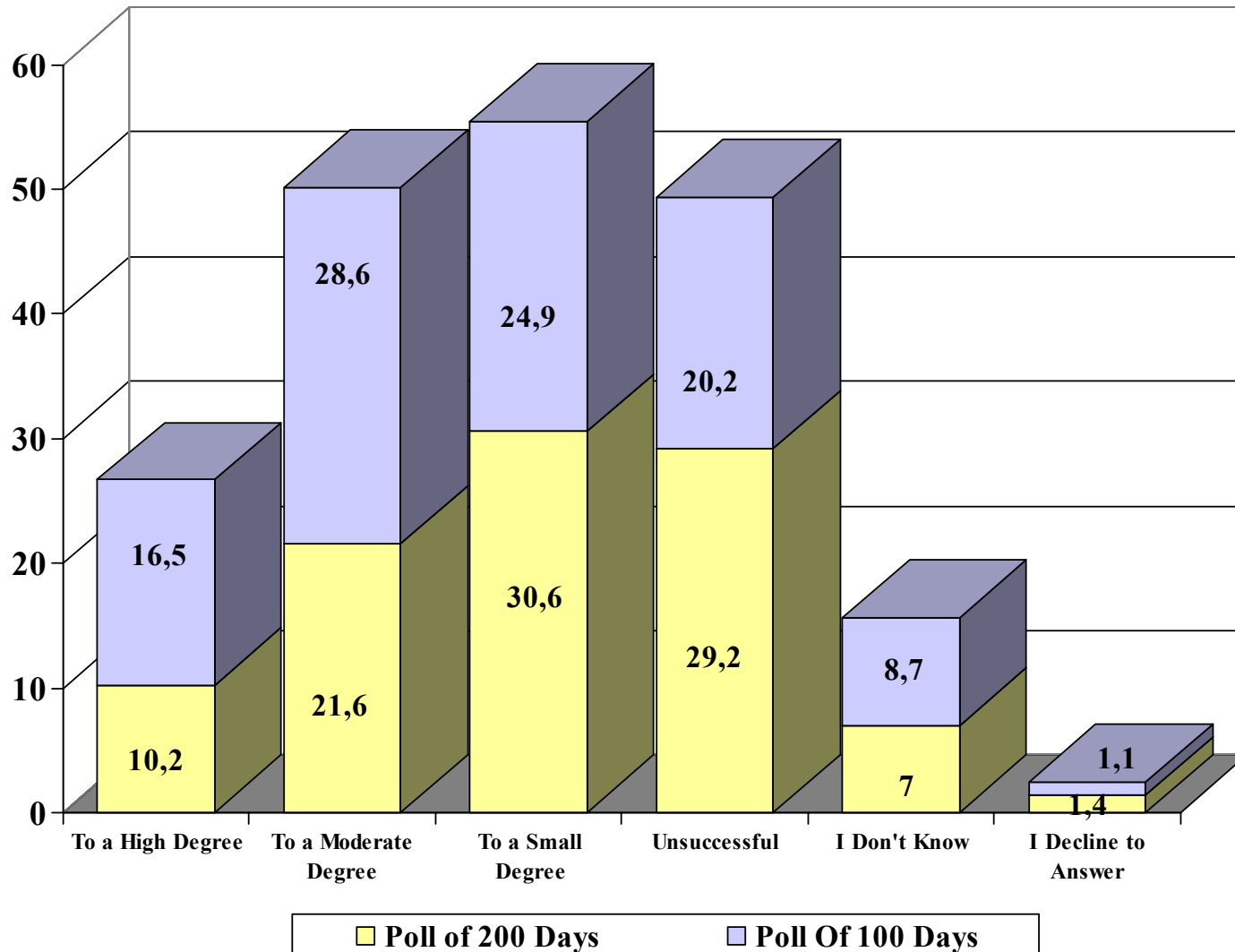
Whether the respondents believed Rafik Hariri was the best choice for Prime Minister, 59.9% responded affirmatively, 39% cited the absence of an alternative, and 34.7% his personal qualifications and abilities. The highest percentage of those who supported Hariri as the best choice was among the Druze (82.7%) and the Sunnis (67.5%), compared to the lowest among Maronites (47.3%).

As for possible alternatives, 17.7% supported Salim Hoss, 14.6% Najib Mikati, 13.6% Omar Karami, and, significantly, 43.5% declined to name anyone for the post.

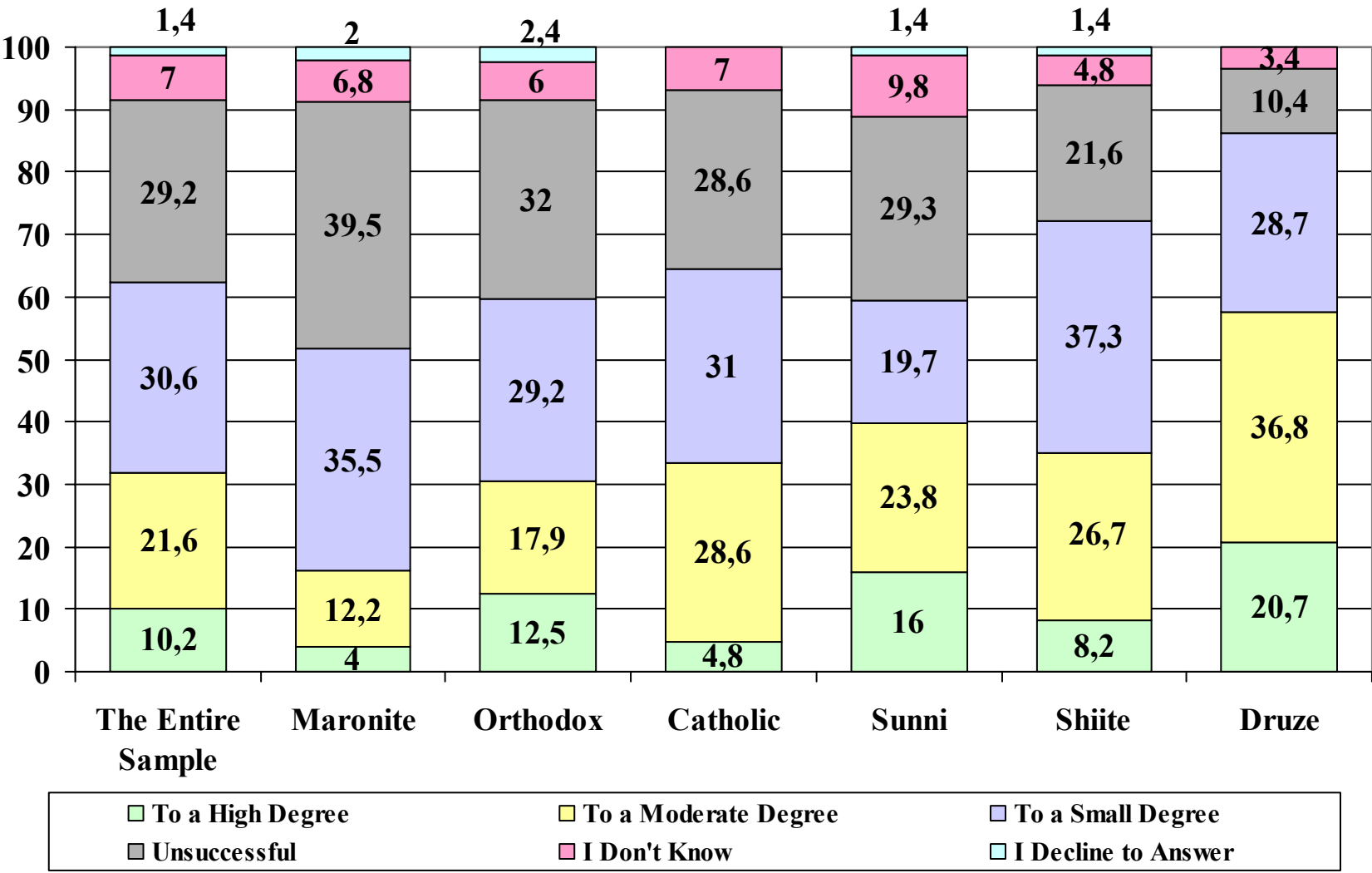
The Prime Minister as Viewed by Citizens (2/2)

Respondents were asked if they believed that pressures were being exerted on Hariri, 33.6% responded affirmatively, compared to 29.7% who said “no,” 31.6% said “I don’t know” and 5.1% “unconcerned.” As for the side that might be pressuring Hariri, the majority (31%) fingered “Syria,” followed by unspecified foreign powers (27.7%). The highest percentages of those who believed pressures were being applied were among Druze Maronites, and Shiites. The Maronites, Catholics and Shiites formed the majority of those who identified “Syria” as the side exercising pressuring on Premier Hariri.

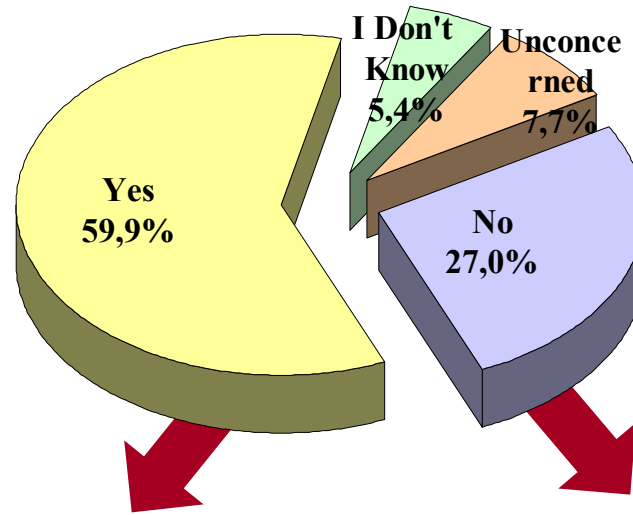
To What Degree do you Think the Prime Minister has Succeeded in his Post since he Assumed Office and Until Now? (%)



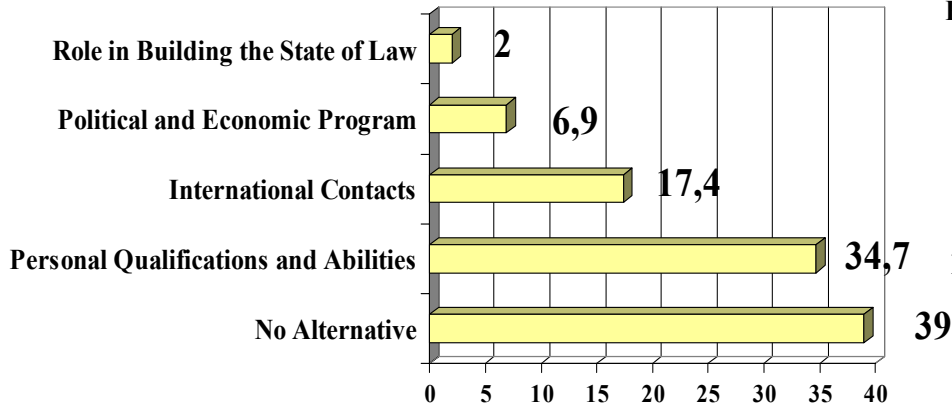
To What Degree do you Think the Prime Minister has Succeeded in his Post since he Assumed Office and Until Now? According to Confession (%)



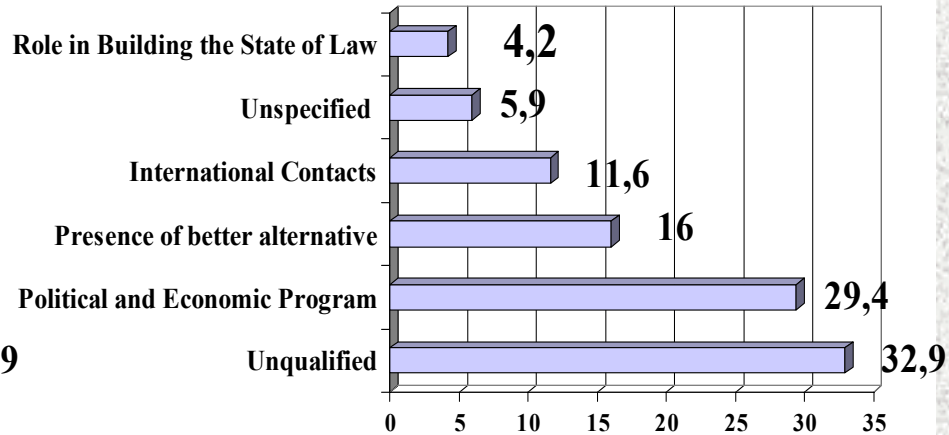
Do you Believe the Choice of Rafic Hariri for Prime Minister was the Best Option? (%)



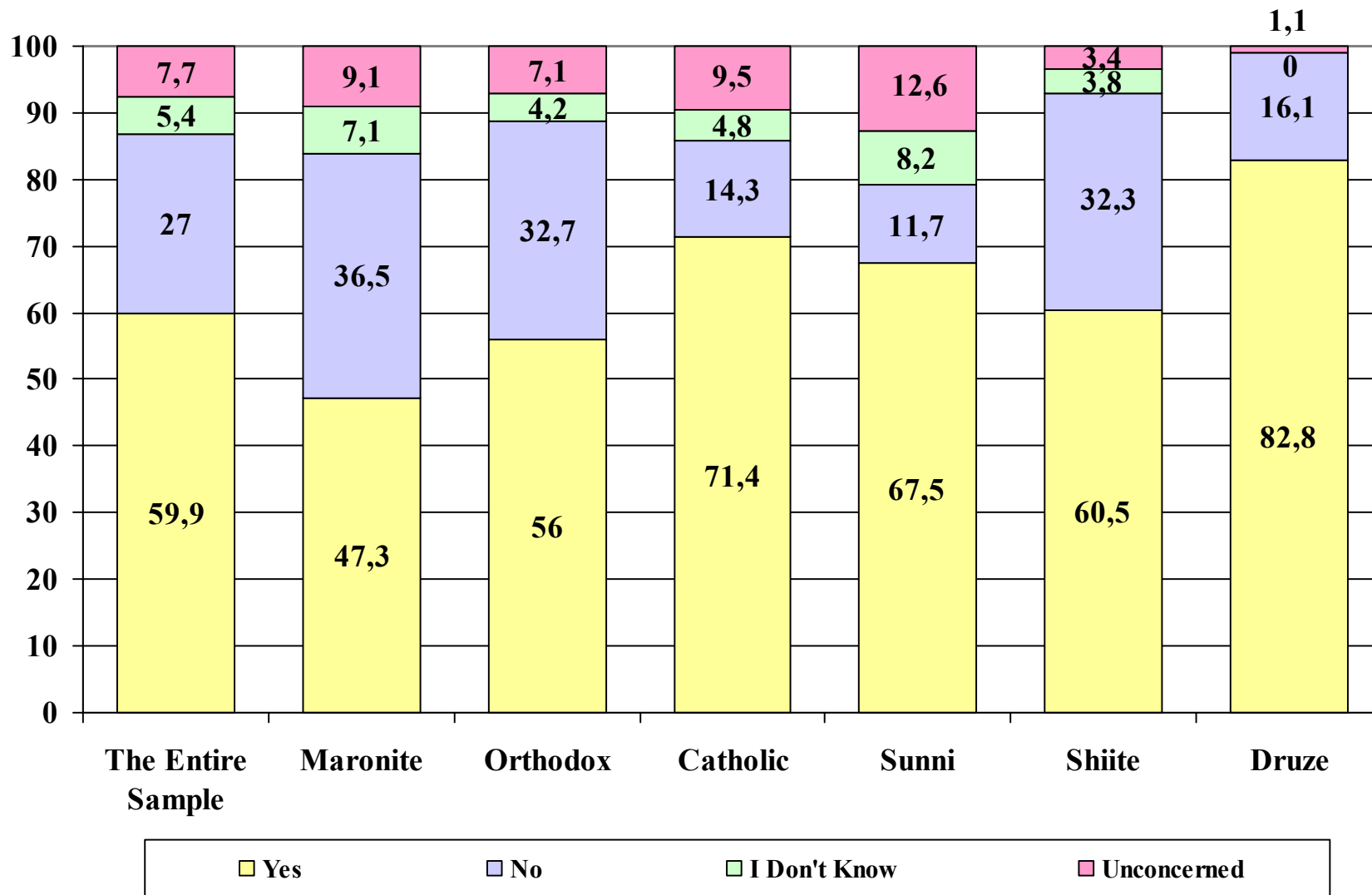
If Yes, Specify (%)



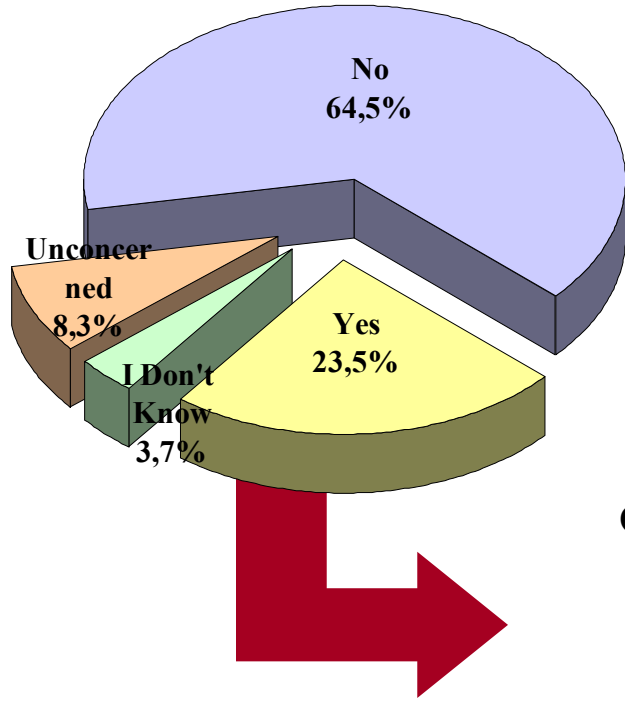
If No, Specify (%)



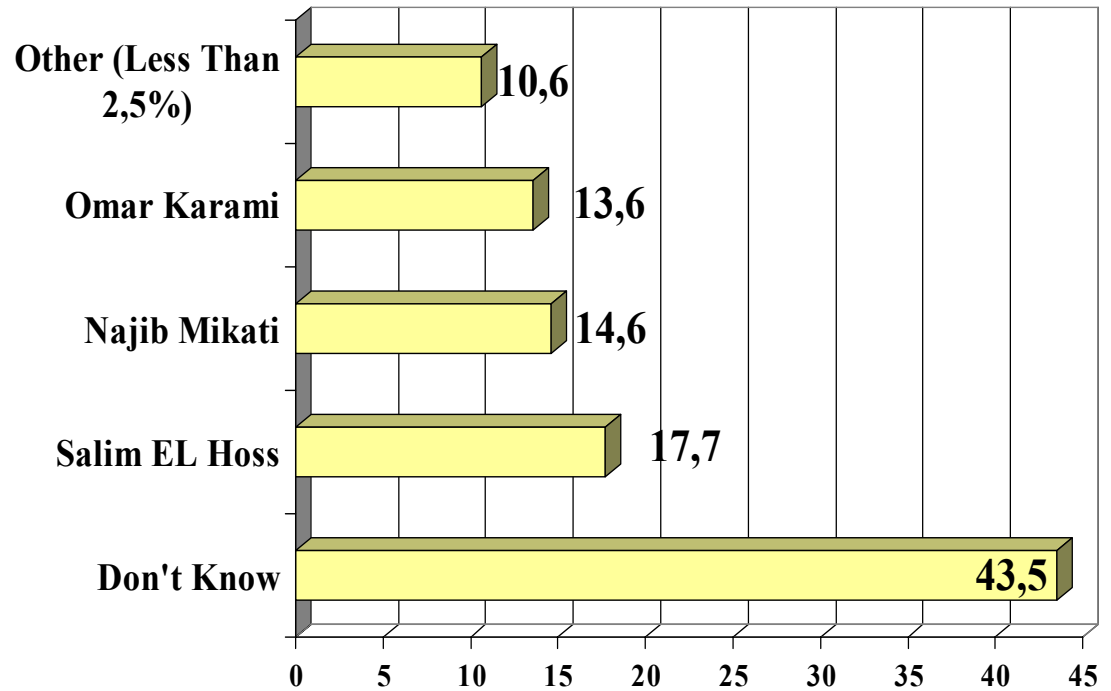
Do you Believe the Choice of Rafic Hariri for Prime Minister was the Best Option? According to Confession (%)



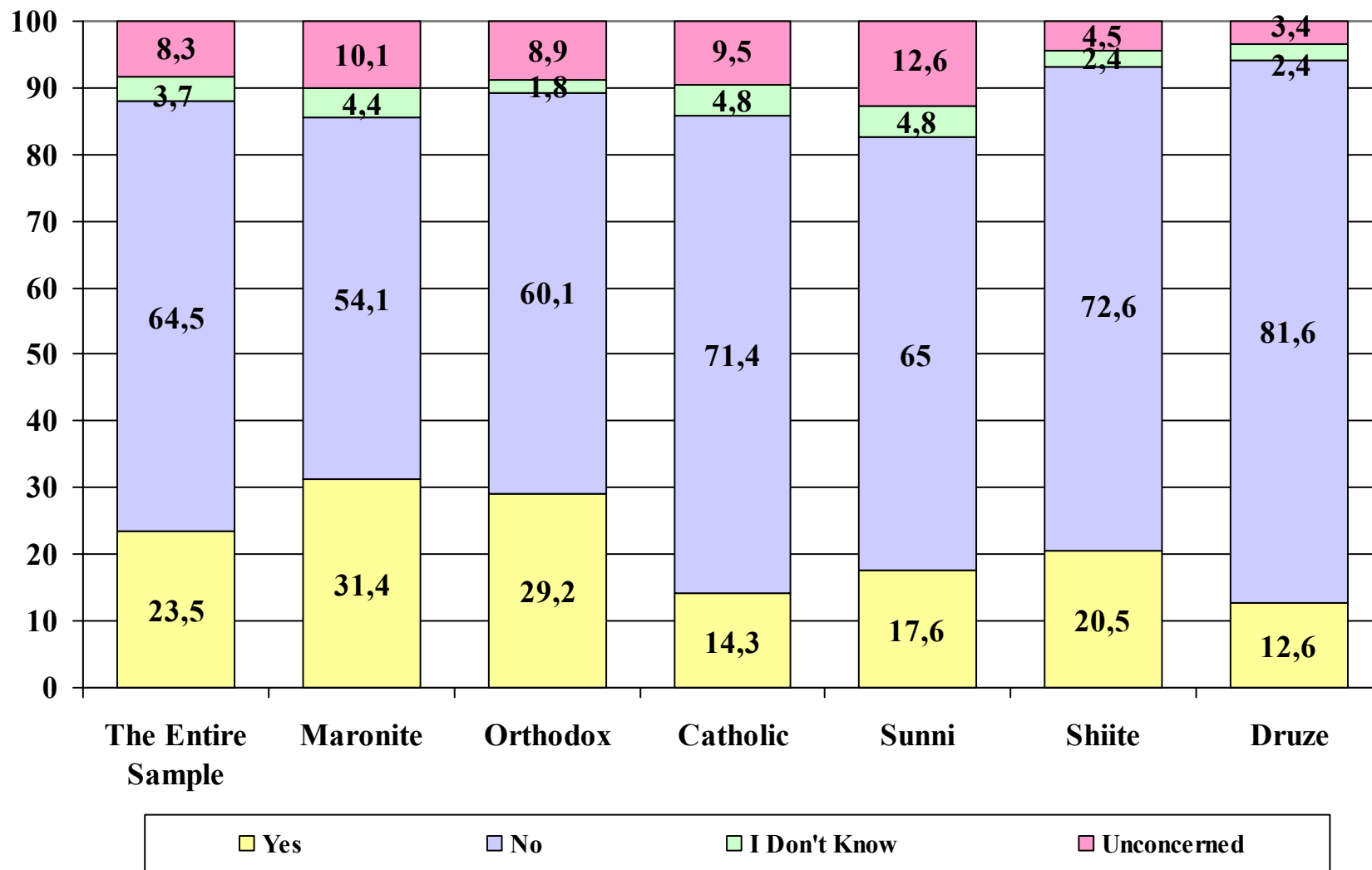
Do You Agree On The Alteration Of The Prime Minister? (%)



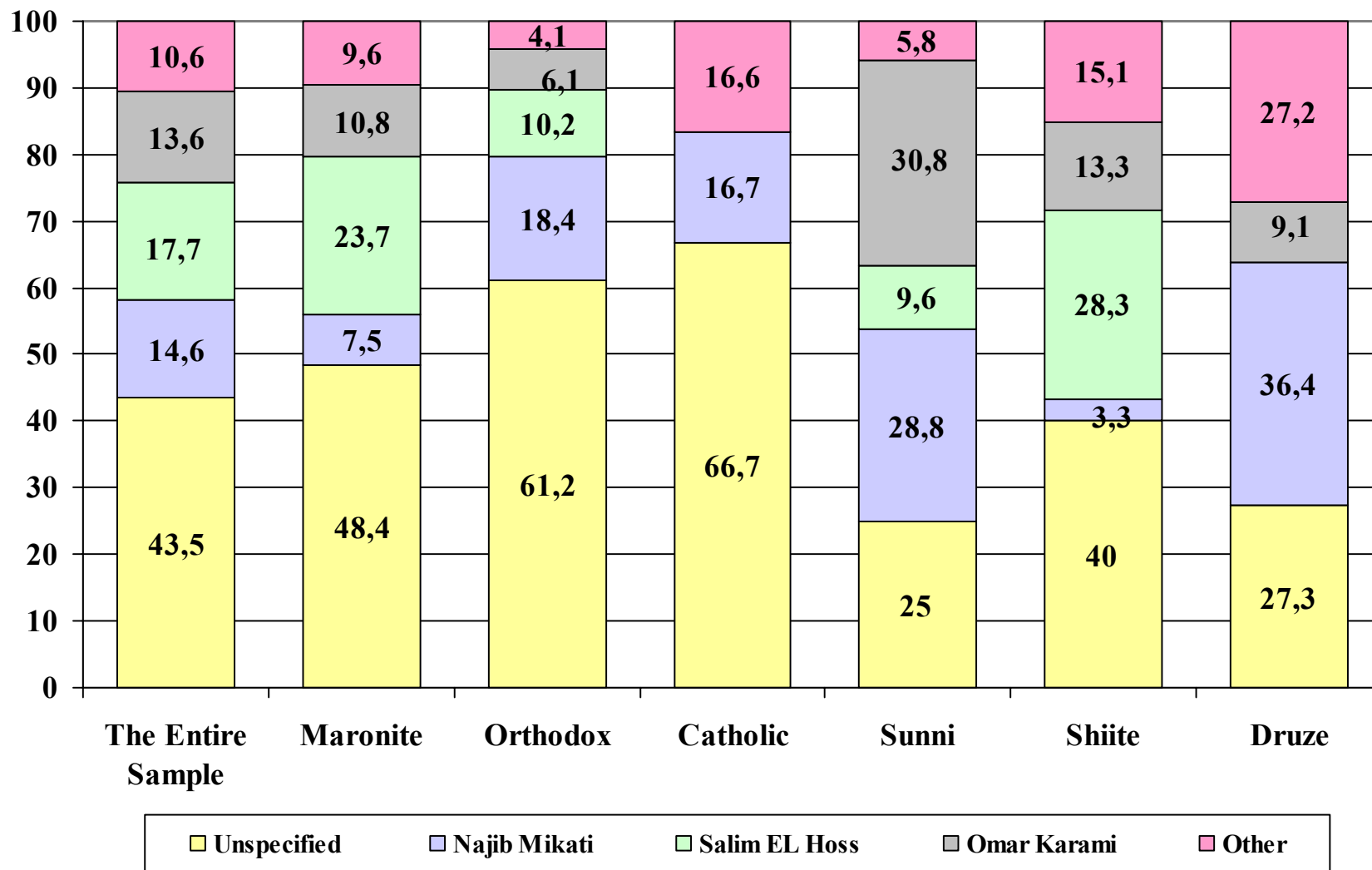
If Yes, Whom Do You Choose? (%)



Do You Agree On The Alteration Of The Prime Minister ? According to Confession (%)

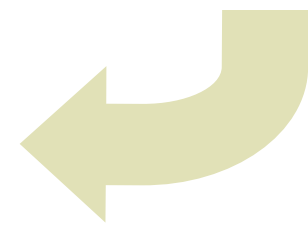
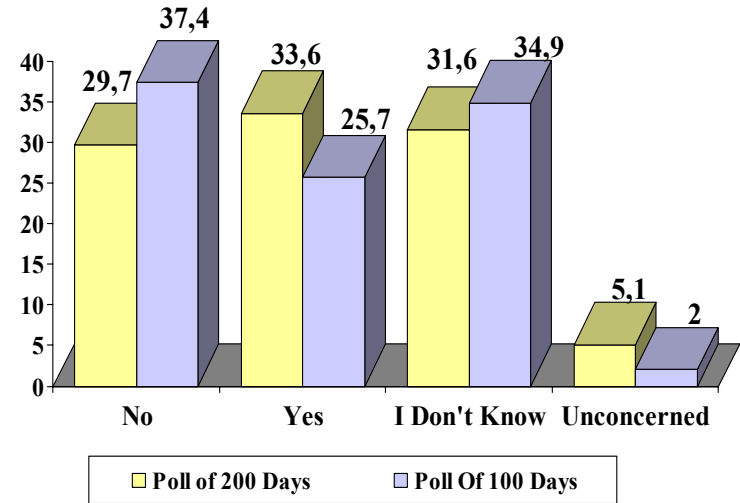
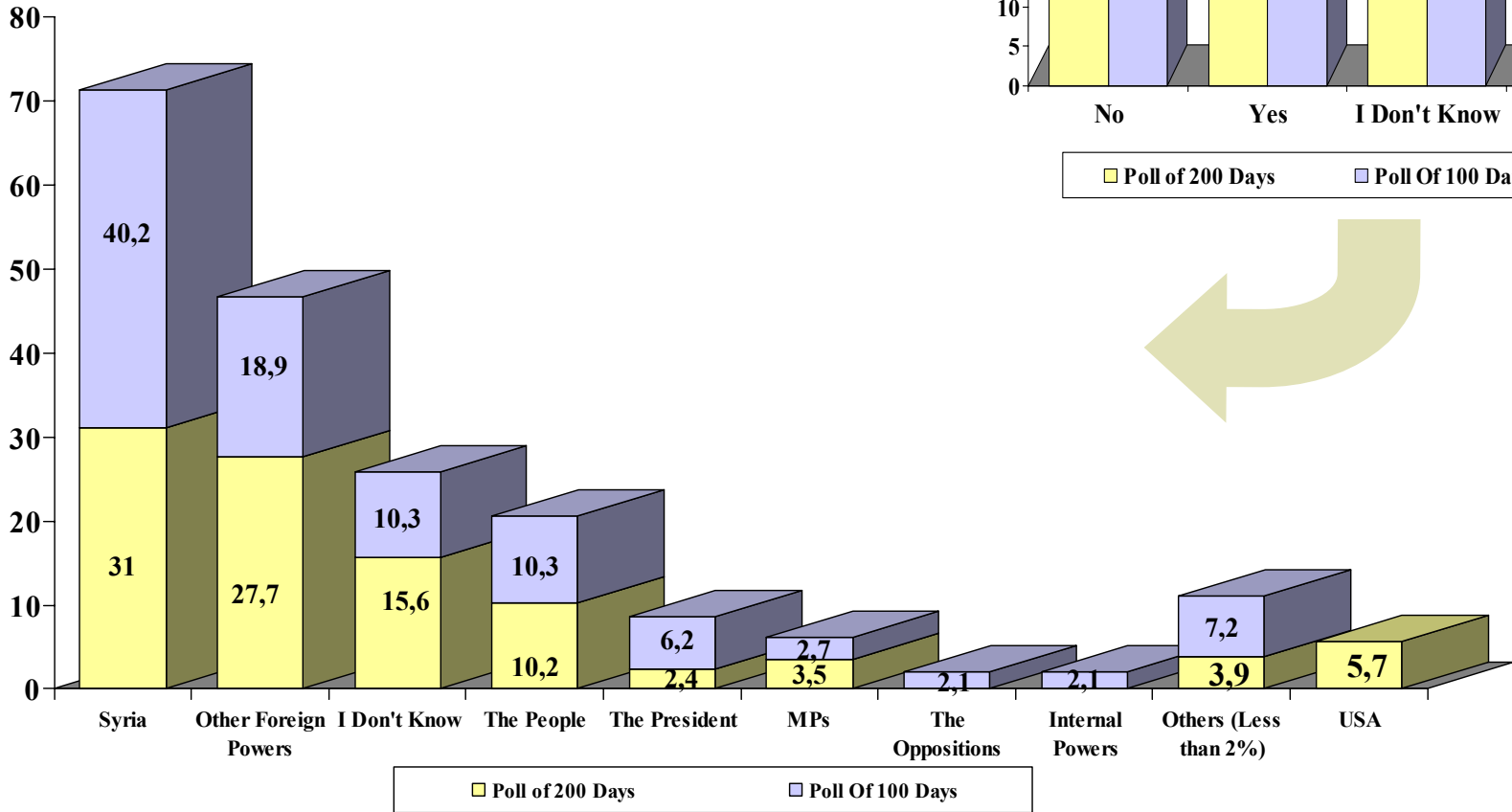


If You Agree On The Alteration Of The Prime Minister, Whom do You Choose? According to Confession (%)

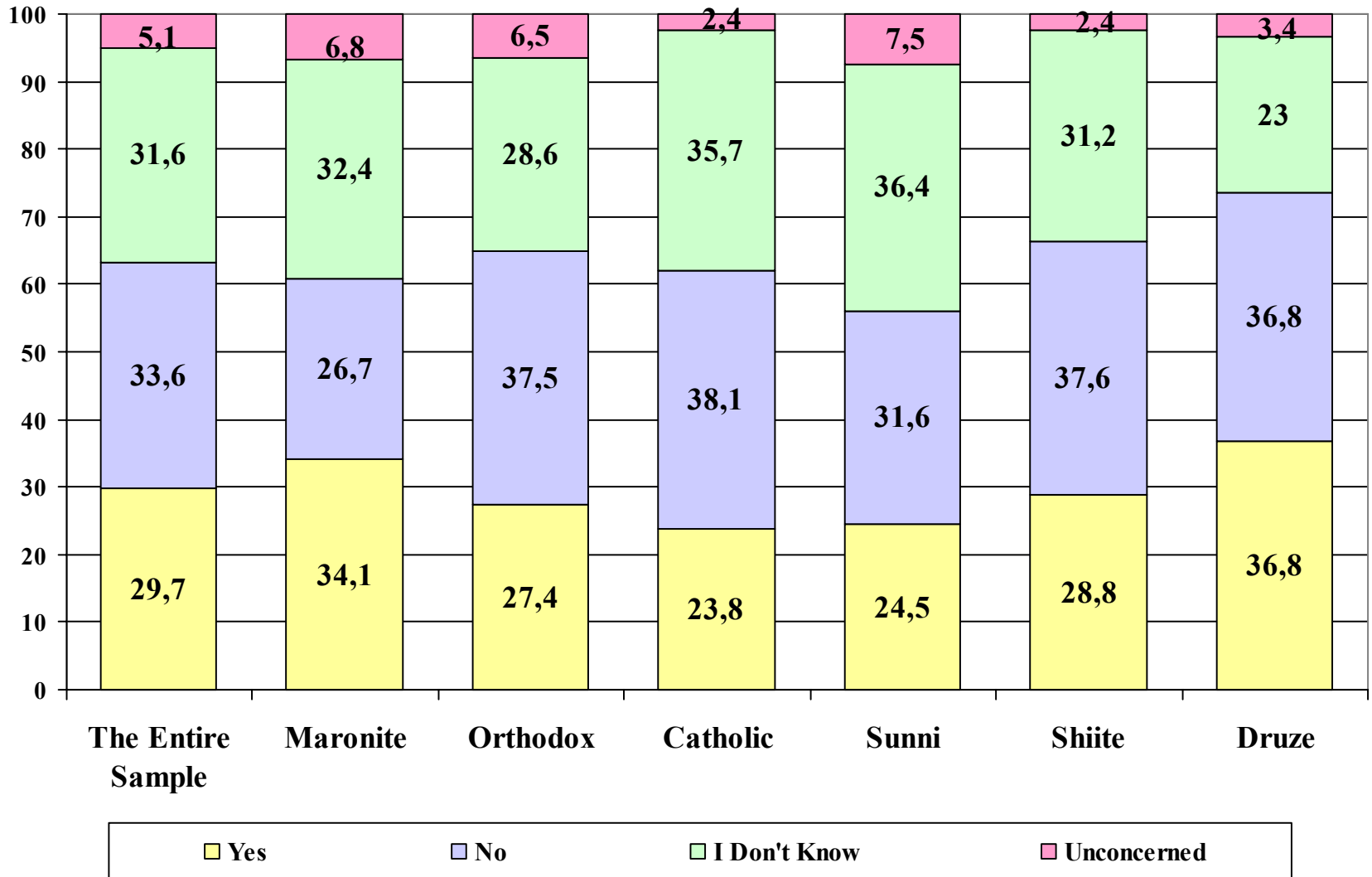


Do you Believe Prime Minister Hariri is Under Pressure? (%)

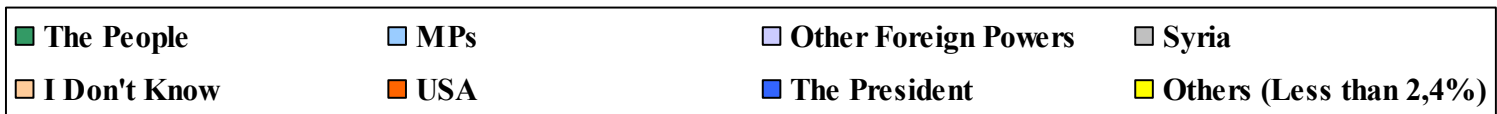
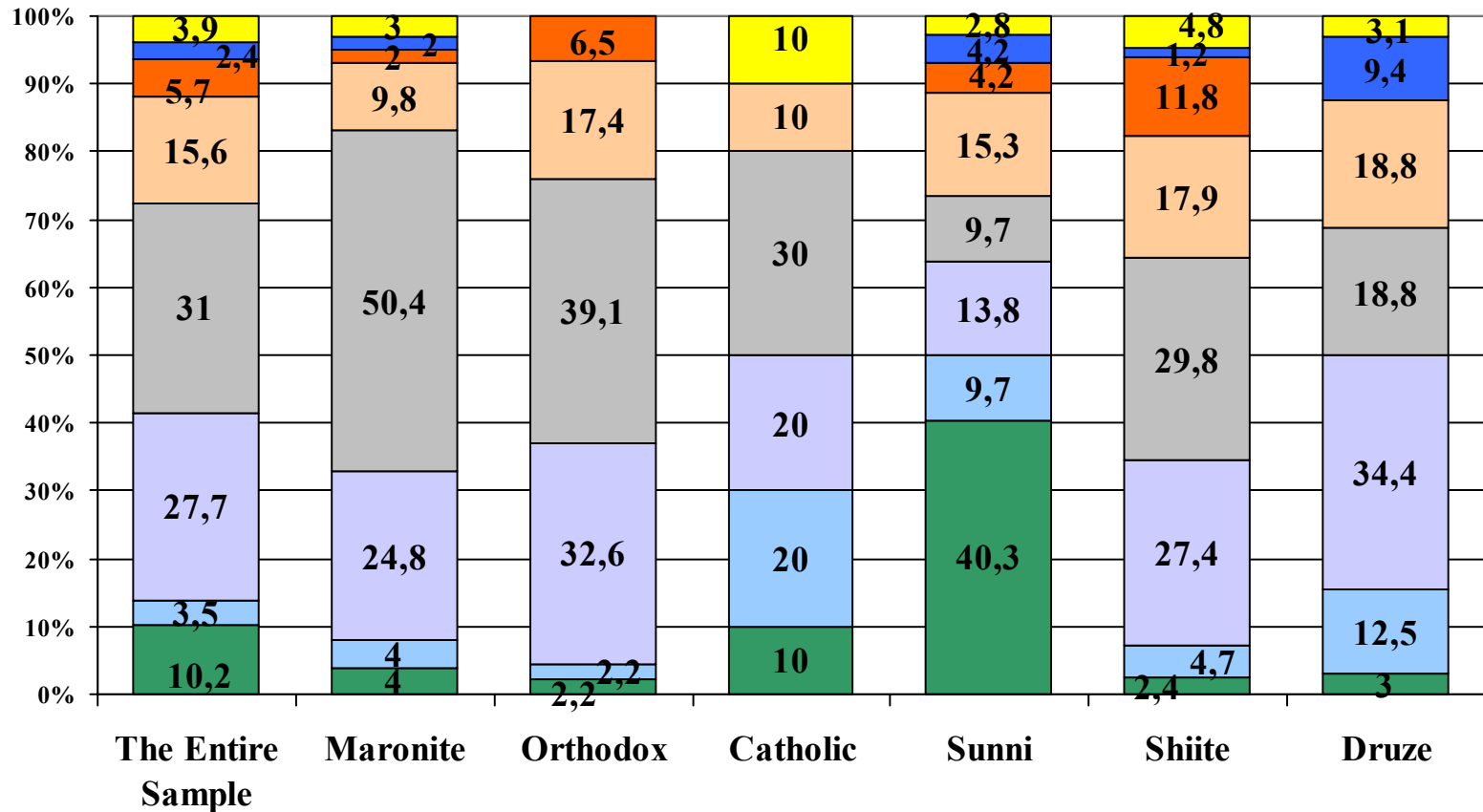
If Yes, Specify (%)



Do you Believe Prime Minister Hariri is Under Pressure? According to Confession (%)



Specify the Side Exerting the Pressure According to Confession (%)



Accountability of the Current Government

Accountability of the Current Government (1/2)

Results were similar with regard to those who said they would begin to hold the government accountable immediately (10.4%) and those who declined to set a timetable (17%).

Only 34% of the respondents supported the government's strategy for curing the economic crisis, and they were mostly Durze (59.8%) and Sunnis (40.8%). Support was significantly weaker among the Catholics and Maronites.

For the majority of respondents (39.9%) waste and corruption topped the list of the reasons for the economic recession. The performance of the previous Hariri governments came in second place, followed by the residues of the war . The government's performance with regard to corruption and waste issues was classified as "poor" by 34.2% of the respondents, especially the Maronites and Orthodox, respectively 43.6% and 41.1%.

"Recovering embezzled or squandered funds" topped the respondents' choice for shoring up the fiscal budget with 32.3% supporting the proposal, followed by 20.9% for privatization, 13.4% for reforming the tax system, in addition to other means.

Accountability of the Current Government (2/2)

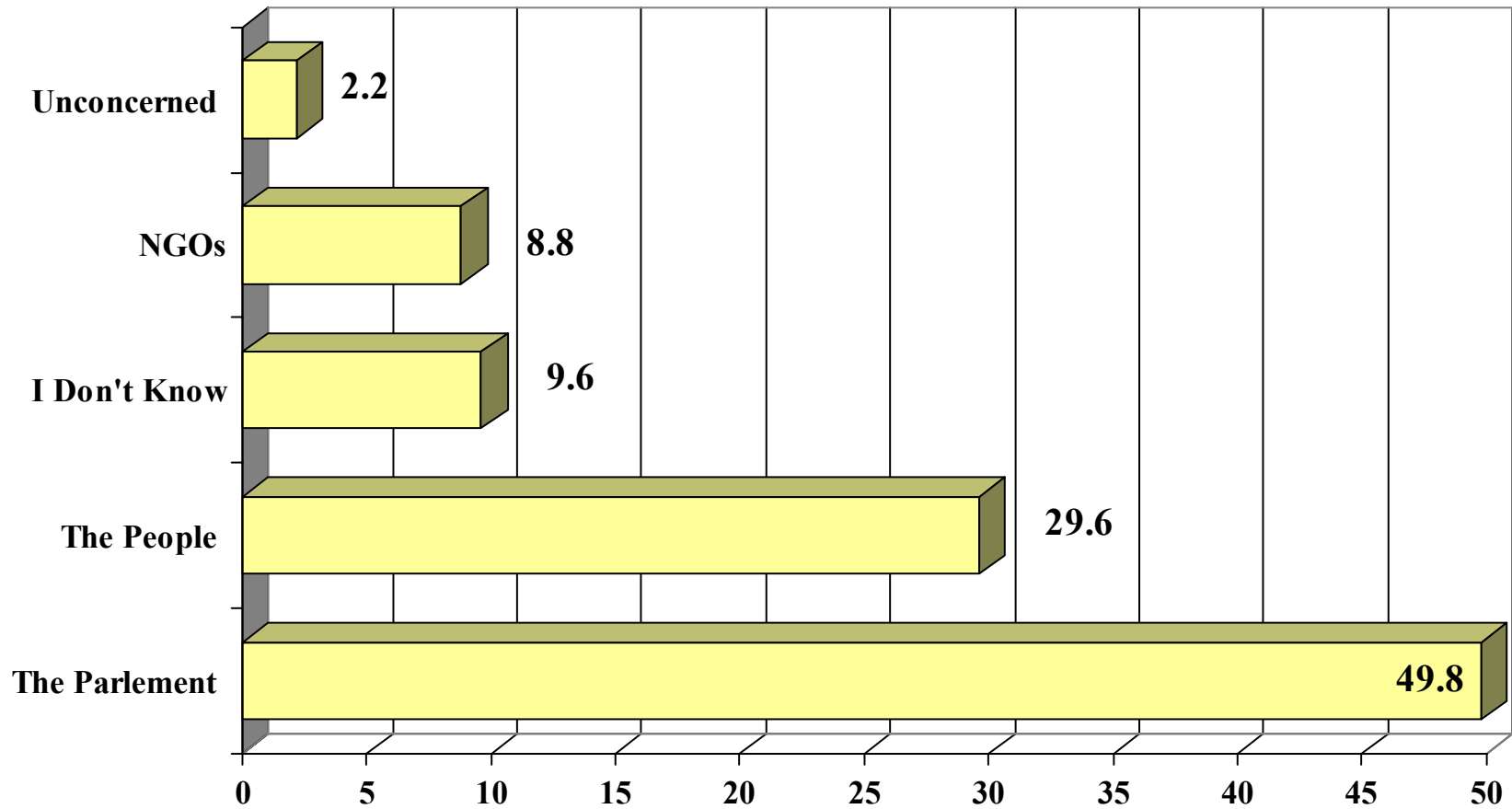
Of the respondents, 39.9% blamed foreign factors for the current economic conditions, 26.2% blamed intractable internal issues, 16.4% fingered the previous Hariri governments and 17.5% listed various other causes.

In response to a question on the expected duration of the current government's tenure, 51% could not make any prediction, selecting the "I don't know" option, followed by 18.9% who believed that it would last for a year, a further 17.9% for six months and 12.2% for various other periods.

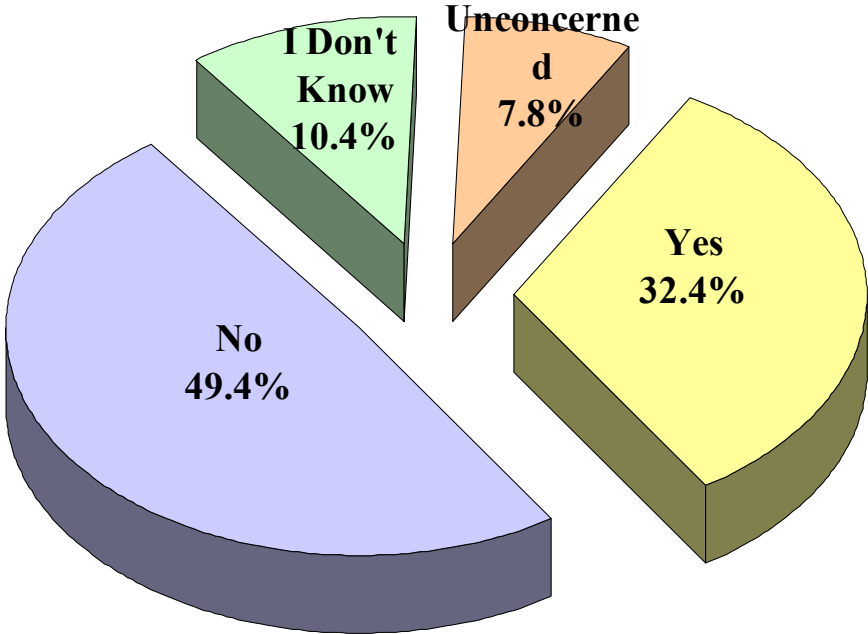
More than half of the respondents (52.4%) said their financial situation has remained unchanged since the current government took over, compared to 44.2% who said it had deteriorated. Only 3.4% of the respondents said their situation had improved financially, especially the Sunnis (6.1%).

In Your Opinion, How Should The Government Be Judged? (%)

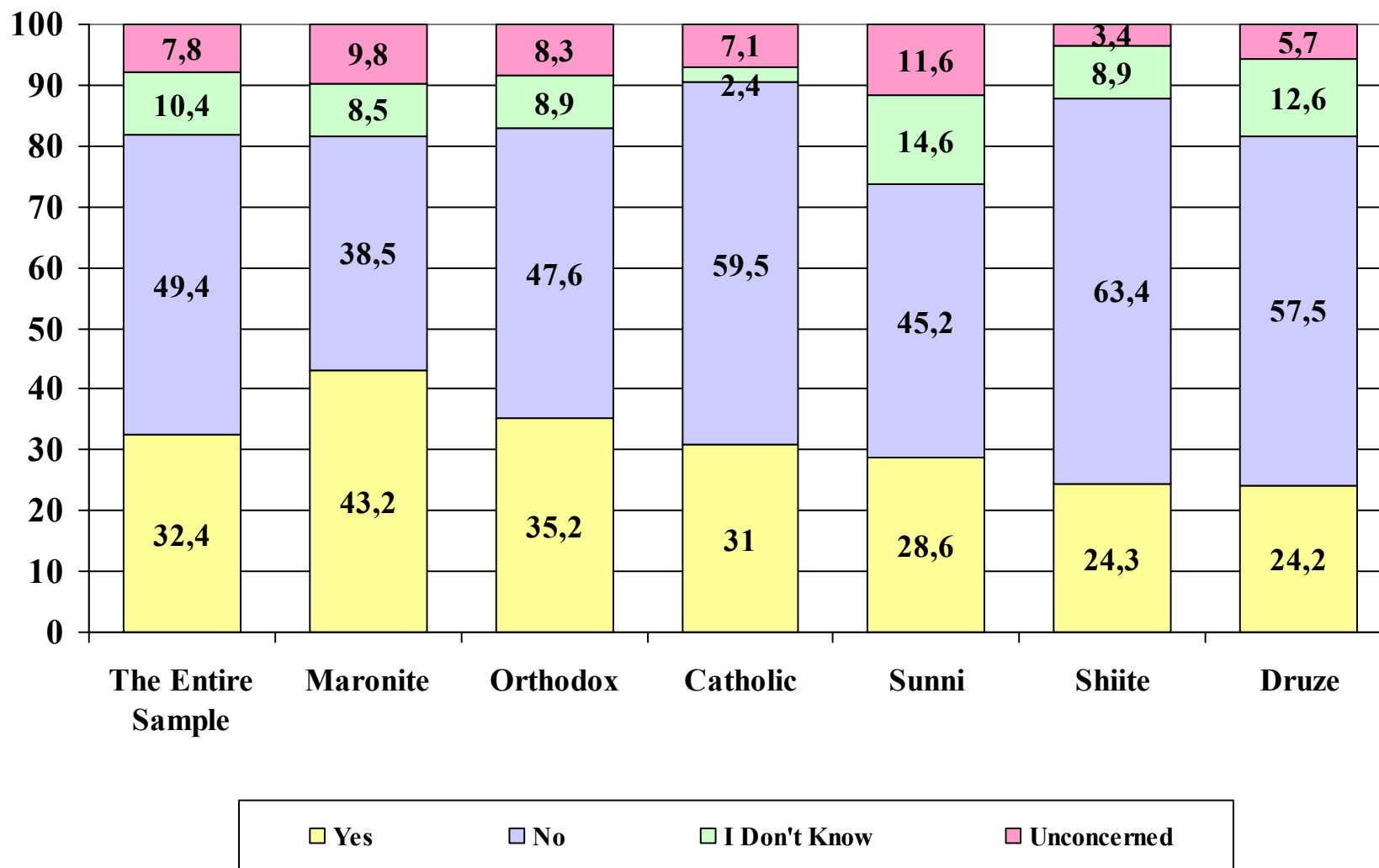
Through



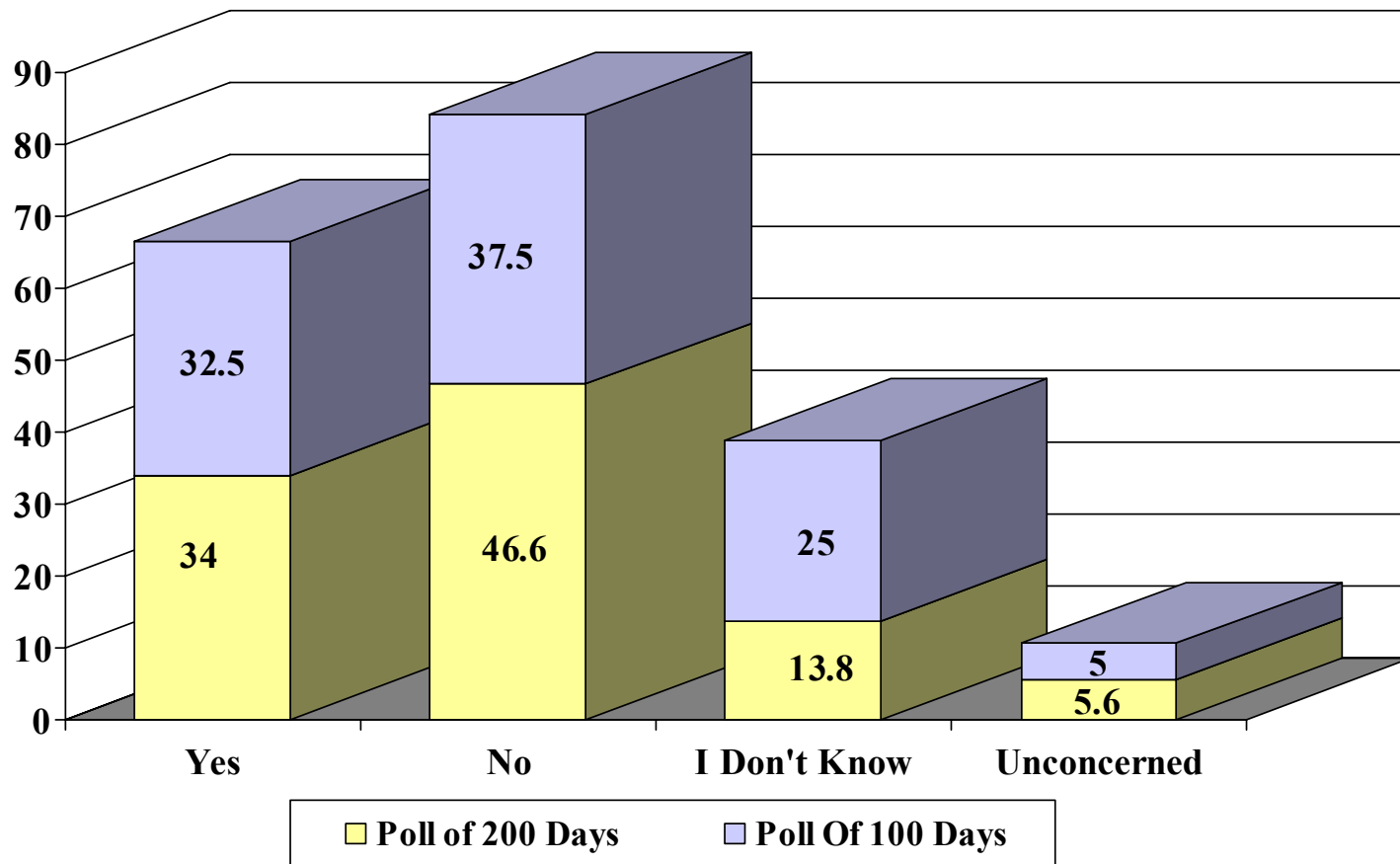
Do You Agree On The Alteration Of The Government? (%)



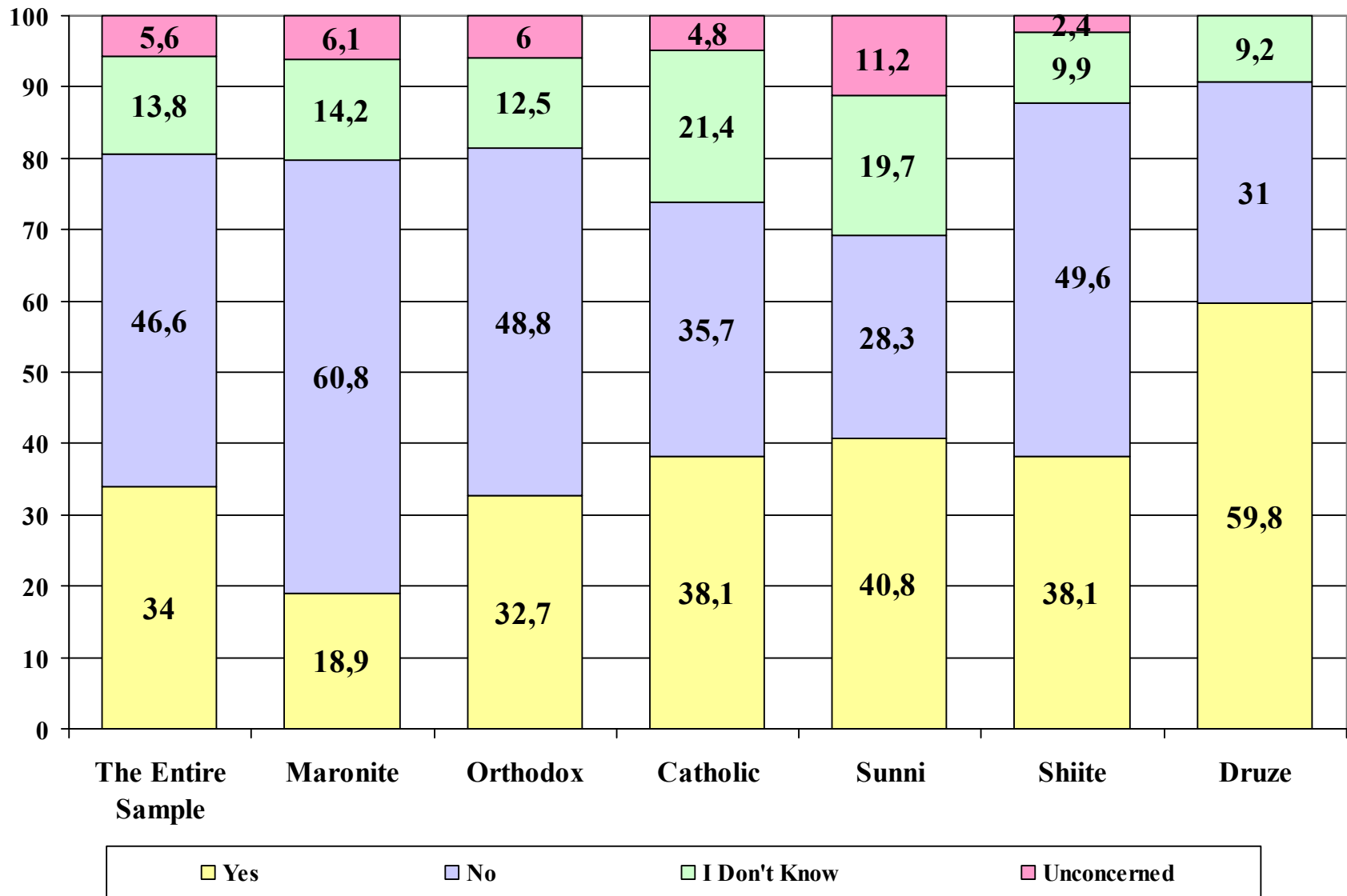
Do You Agree On The Alteration Of The Government? According to Confession (%)



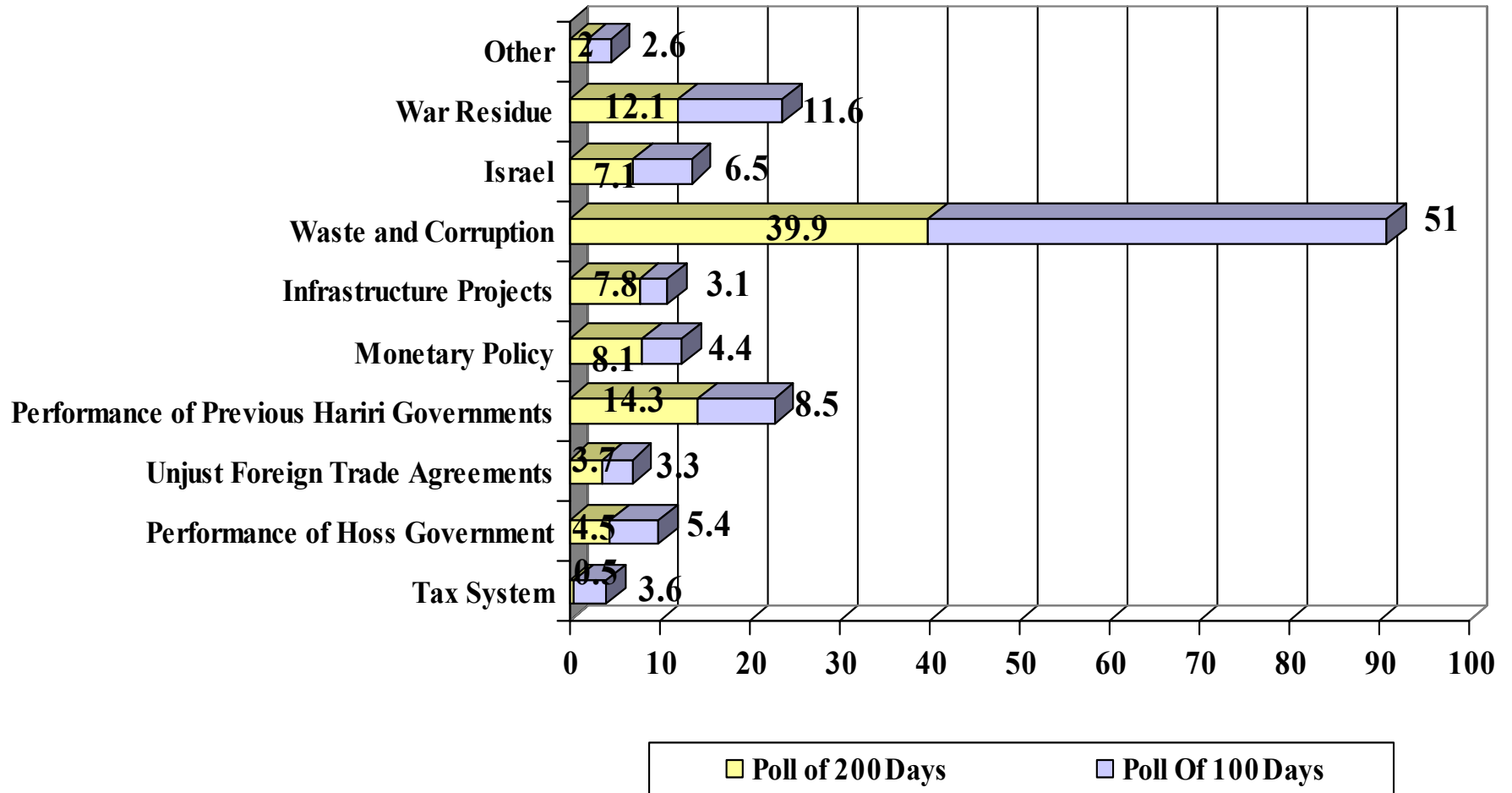
Do you Support the Government Policy for Tackling the Economic Crisis? (%)



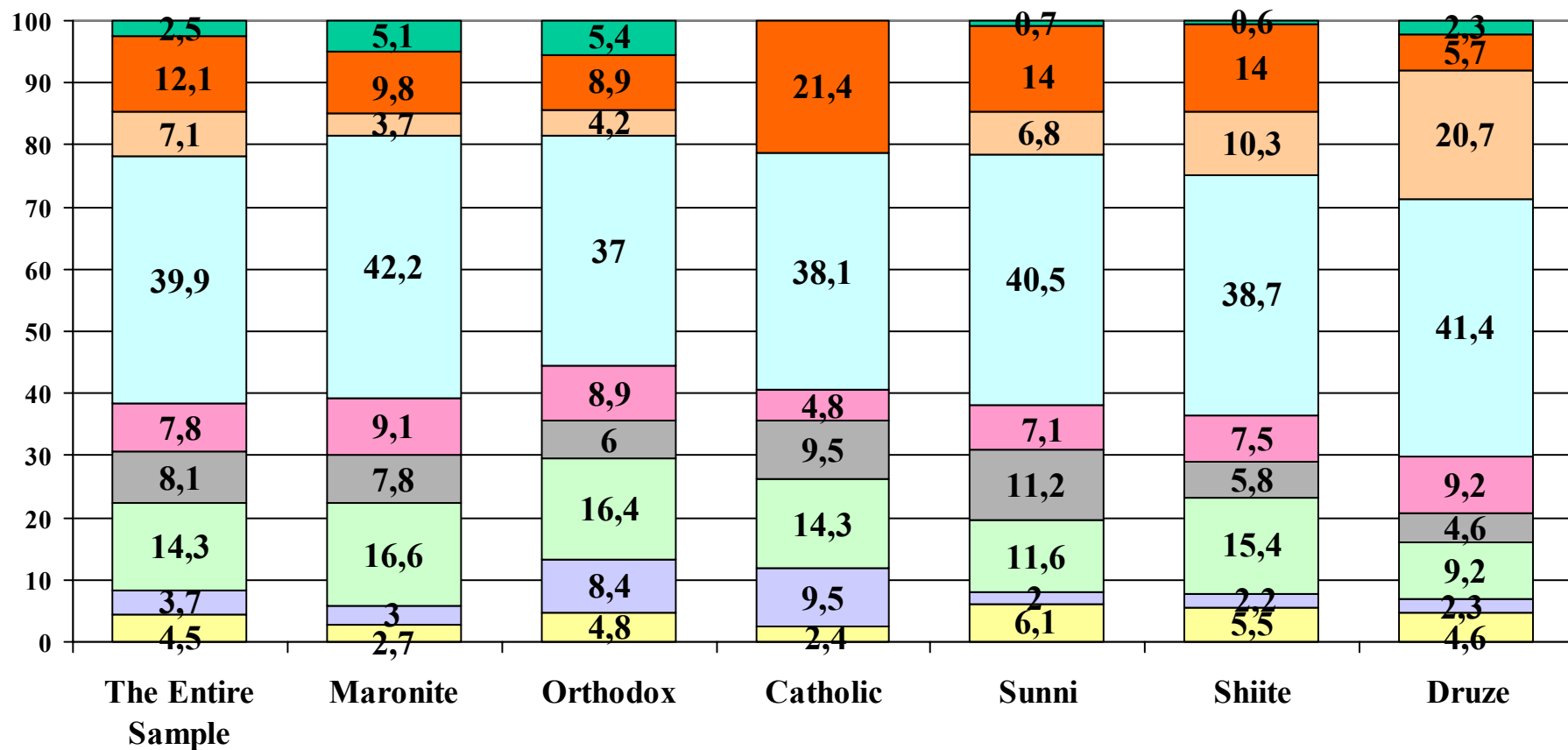
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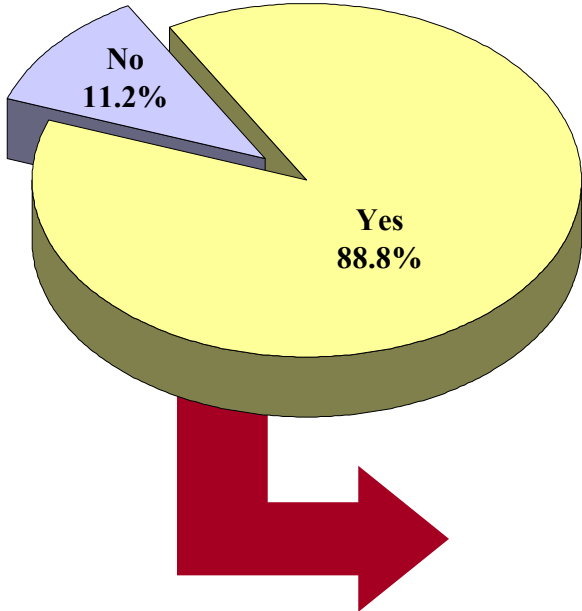
In your Opinion, What is the Main Cause for the Economic Crisis? (%)



In your Opinion, What is the Main Cause for the Economic Crisis? According to Confession (%)

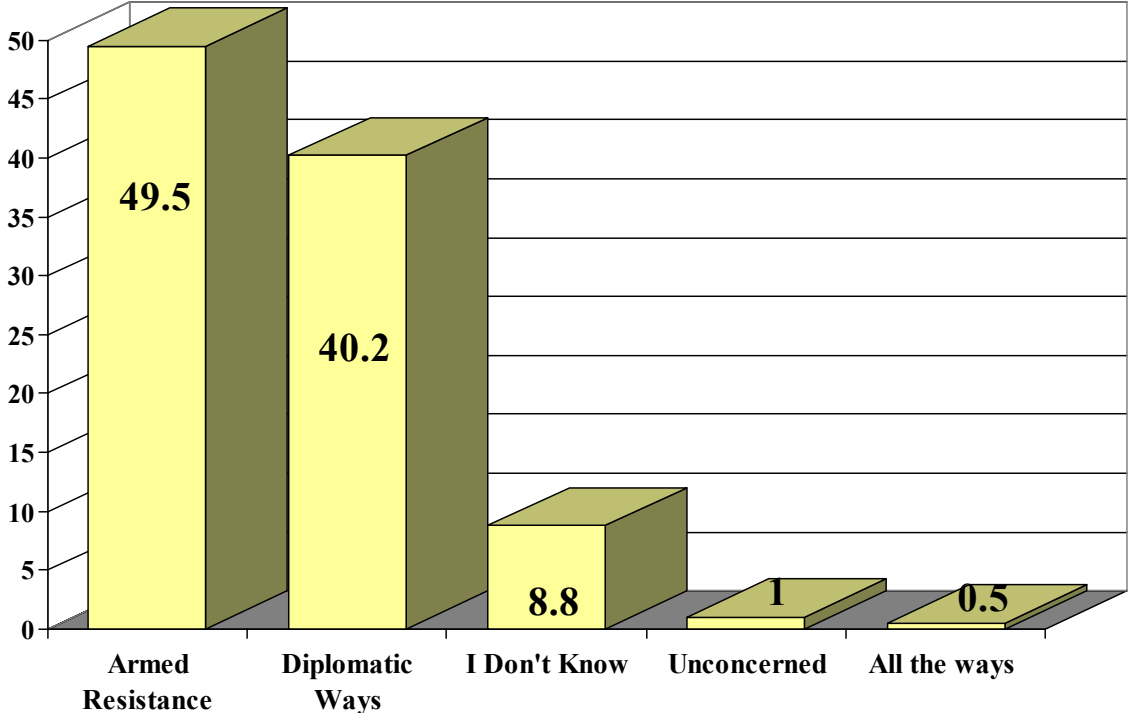


Do You Support The Recovering Of Shebaa Farms?(%)

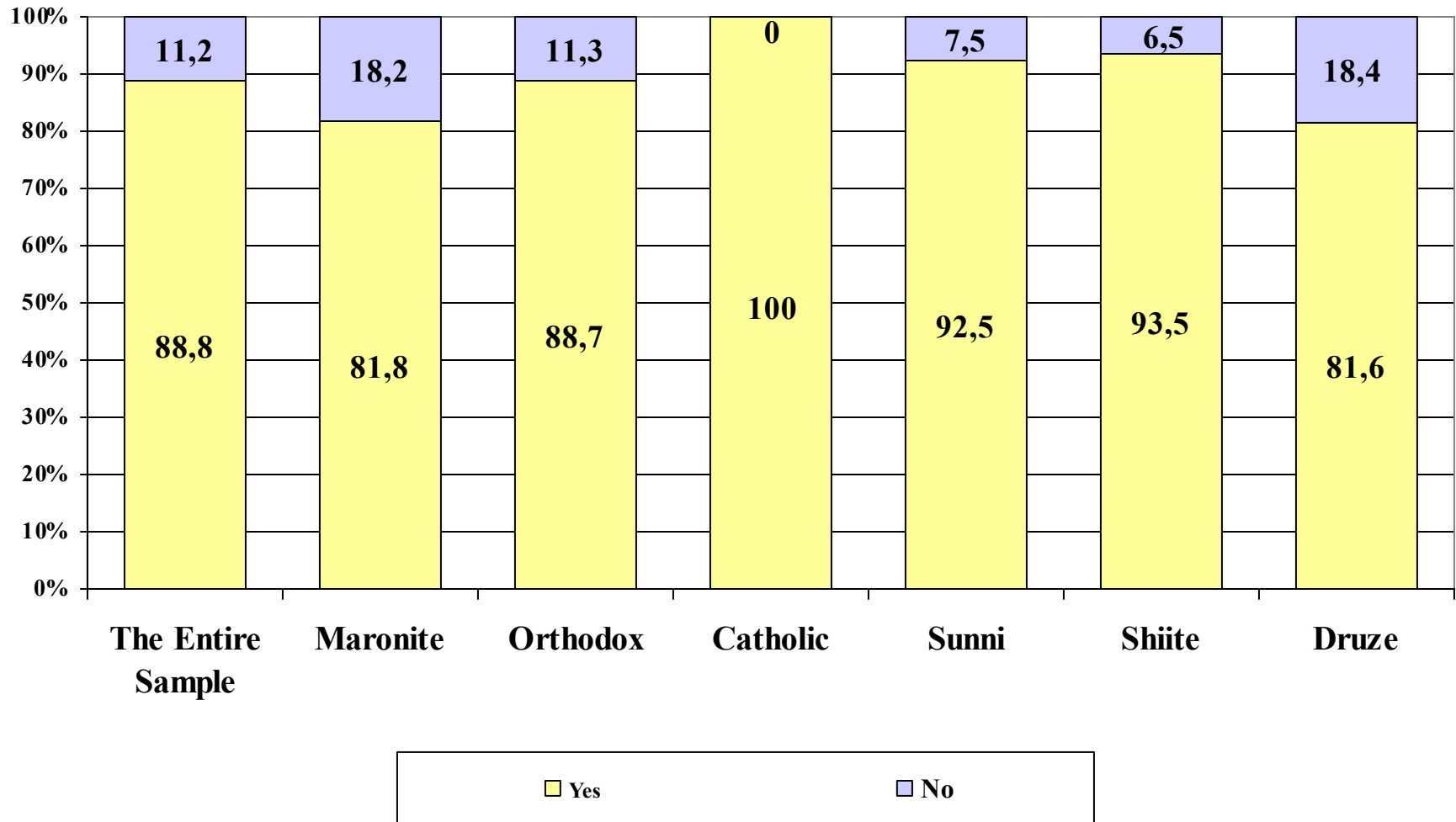


If Yes, Specify (%)

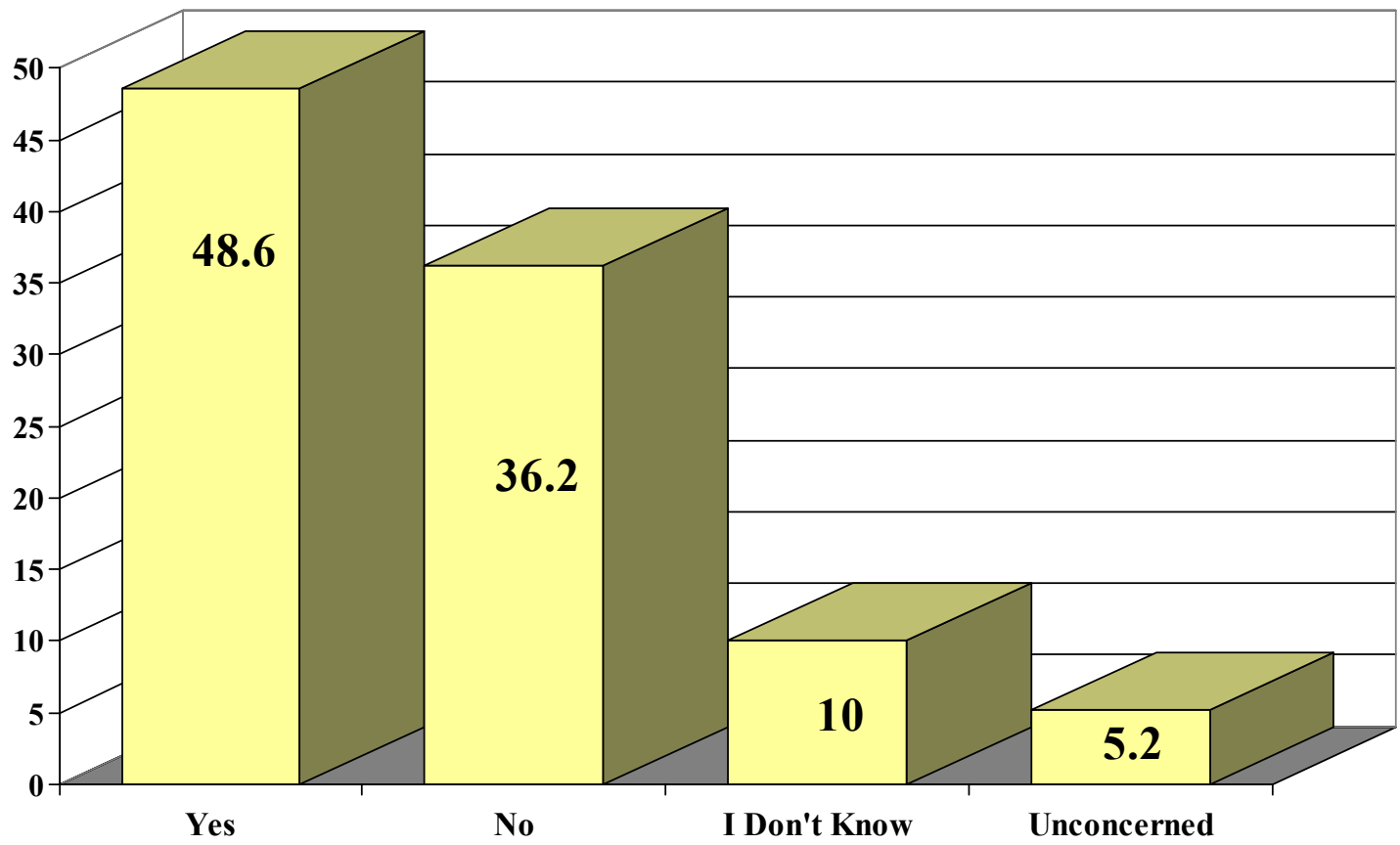
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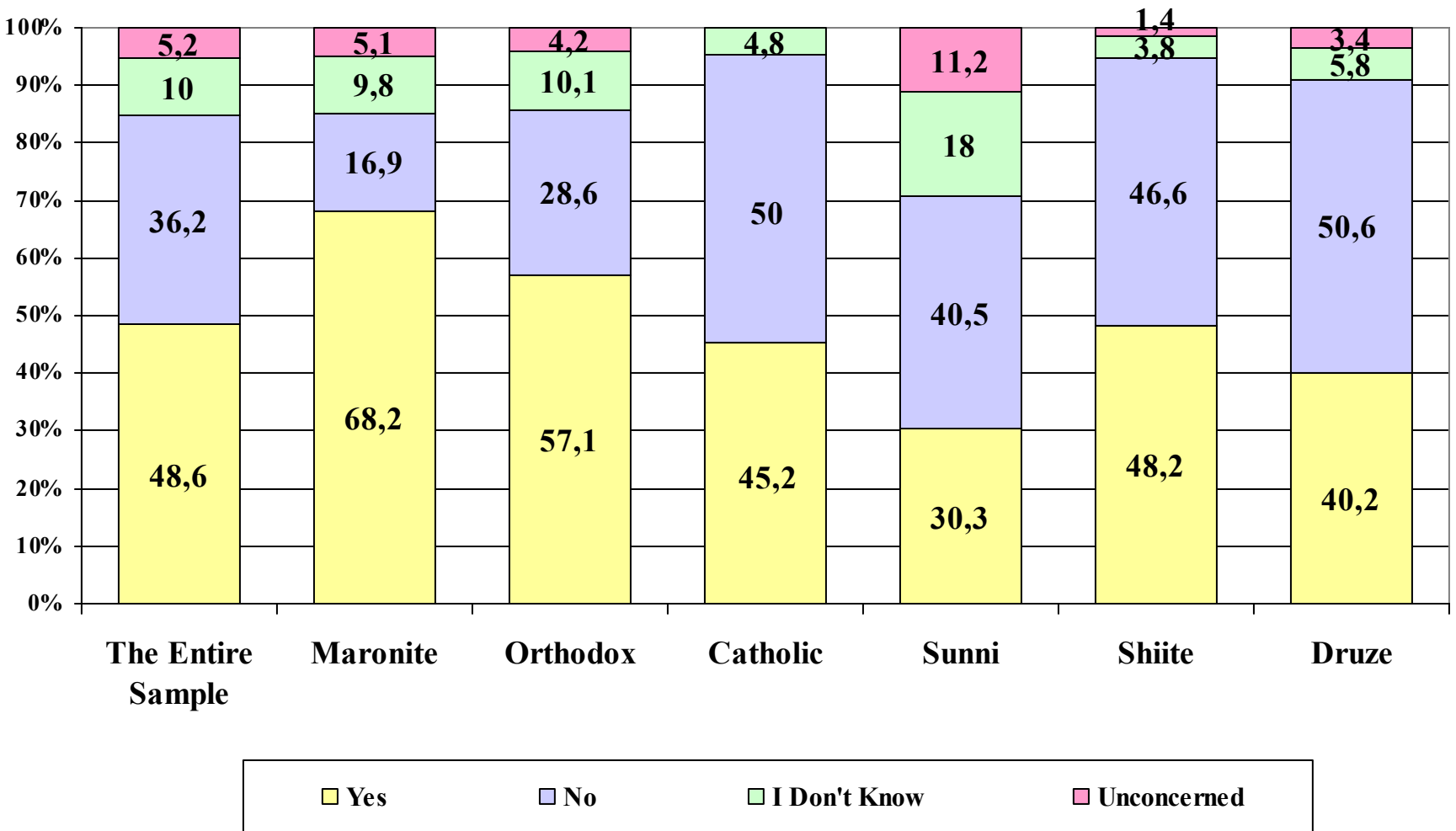
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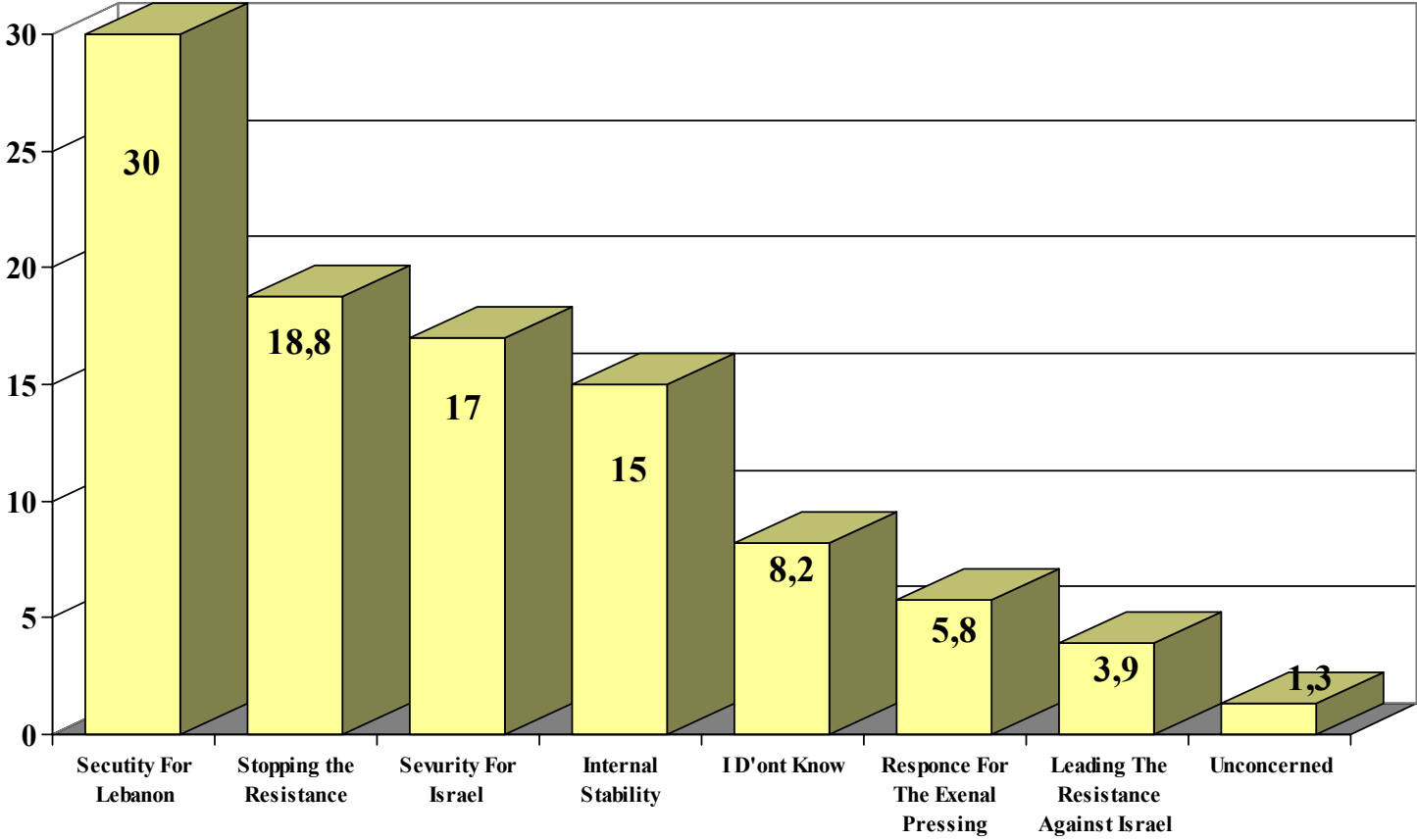
Do You Support Sending The Lebanese Army To The South? According to Confession (%)



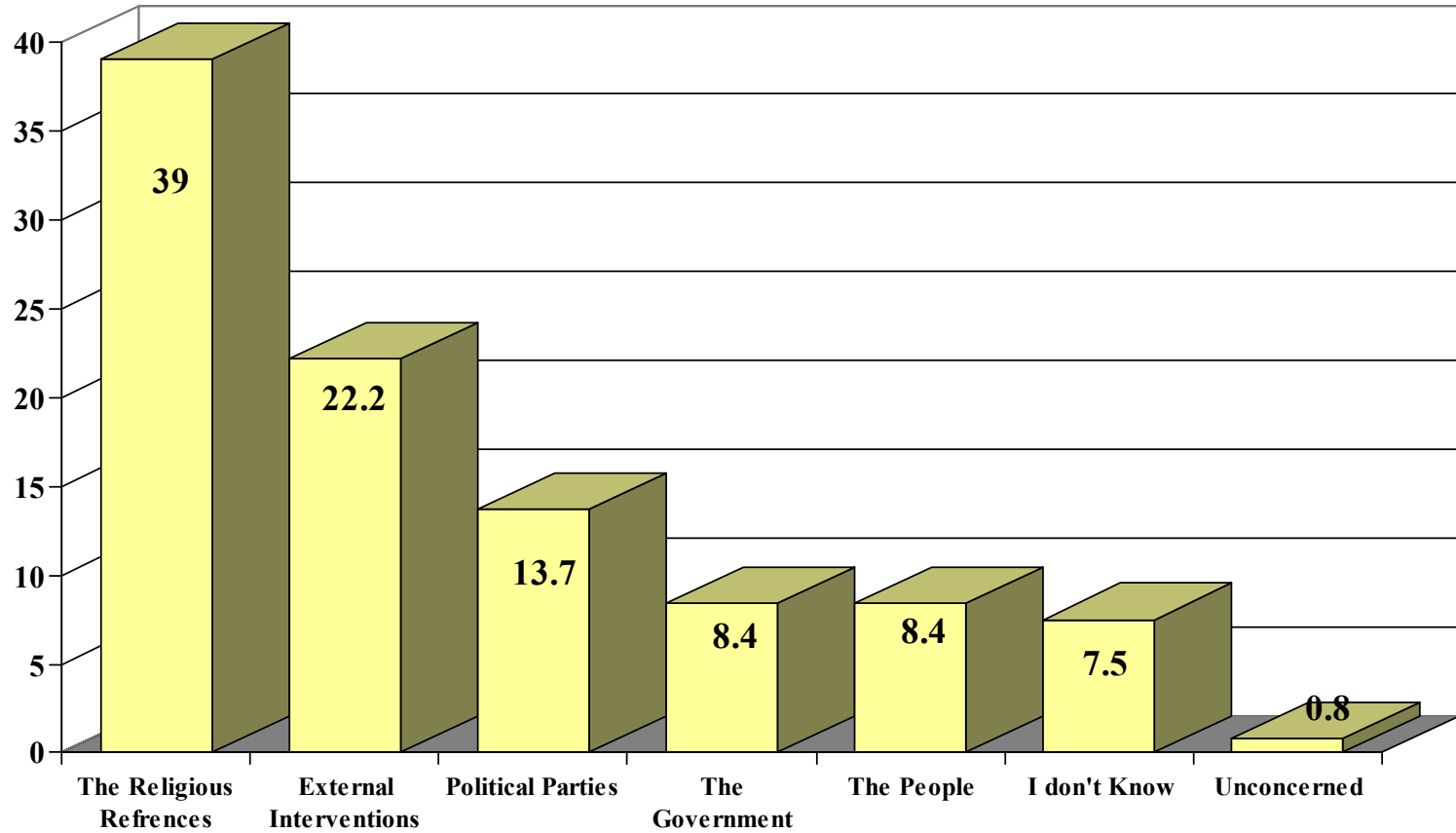
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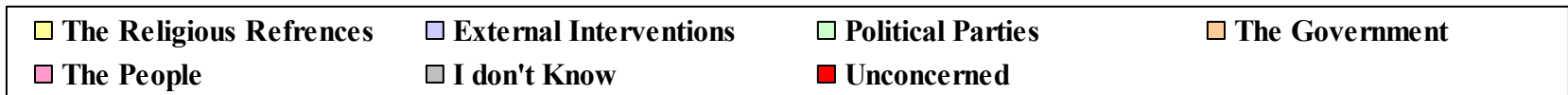
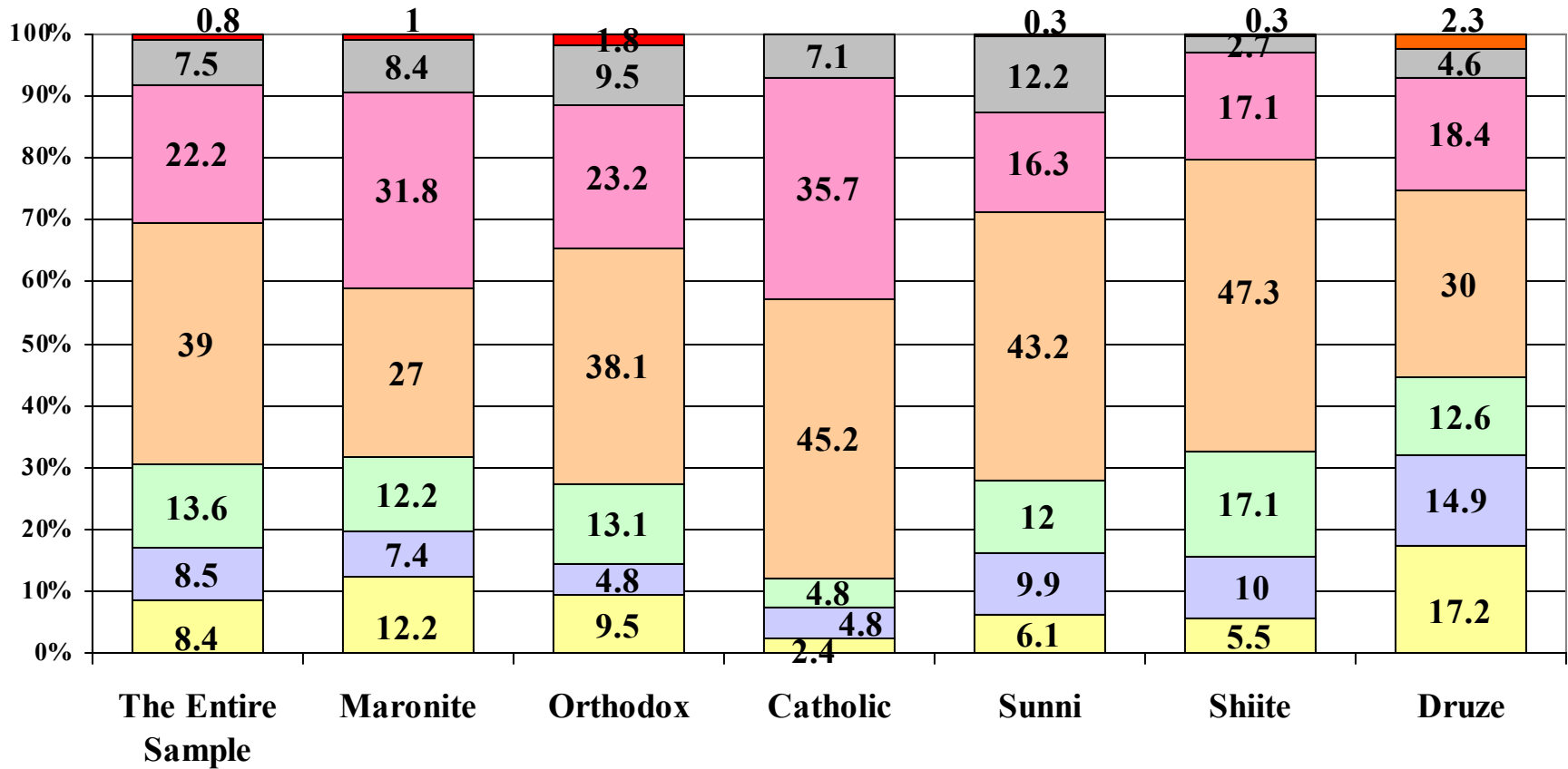
How do You Understand The Pressing to Send The Lebanese Army To The South? (%)



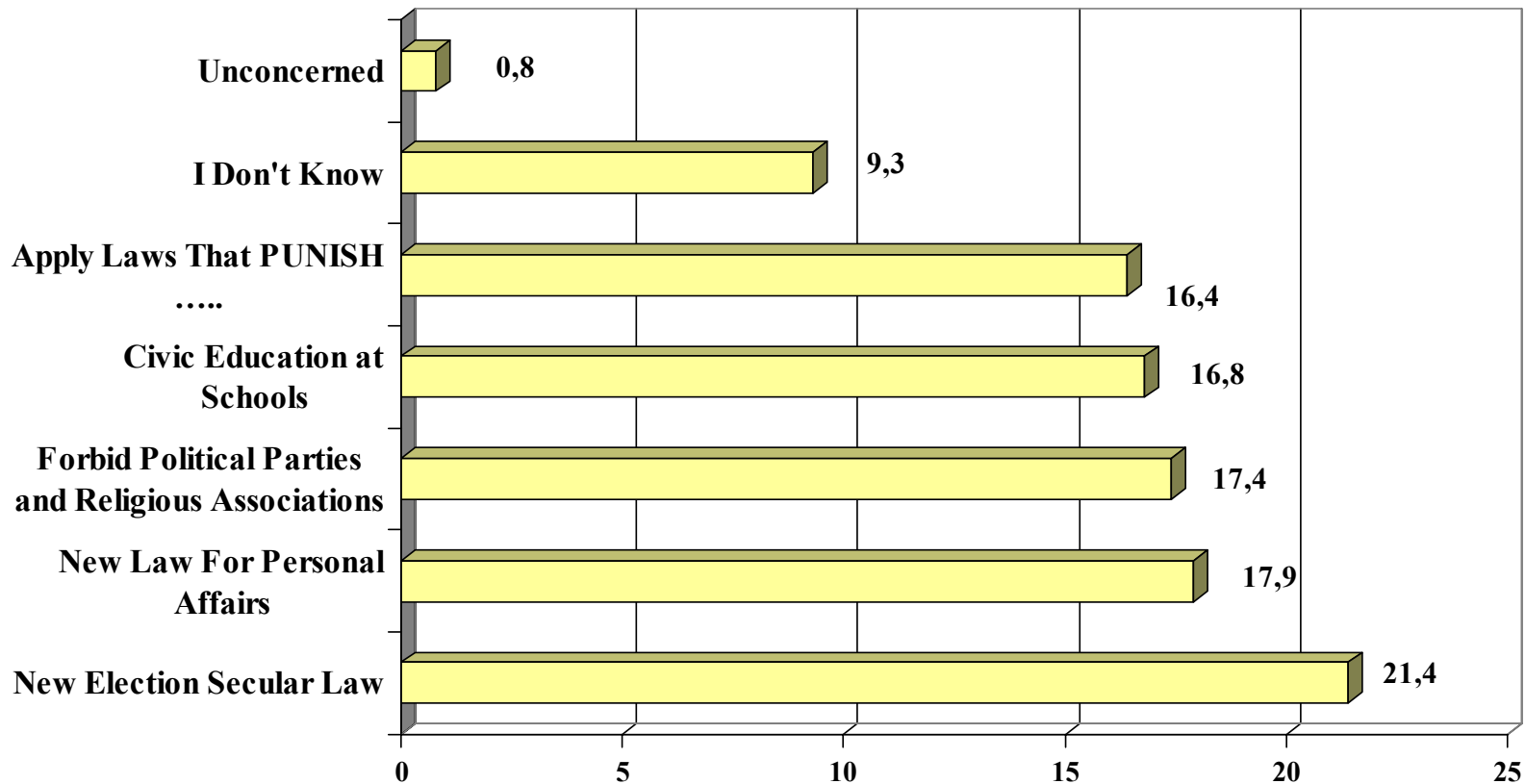
In Your Opinion, Who Is The Responsible For The Recent Vocal Confessional Prejudices And Feuds ? (%)



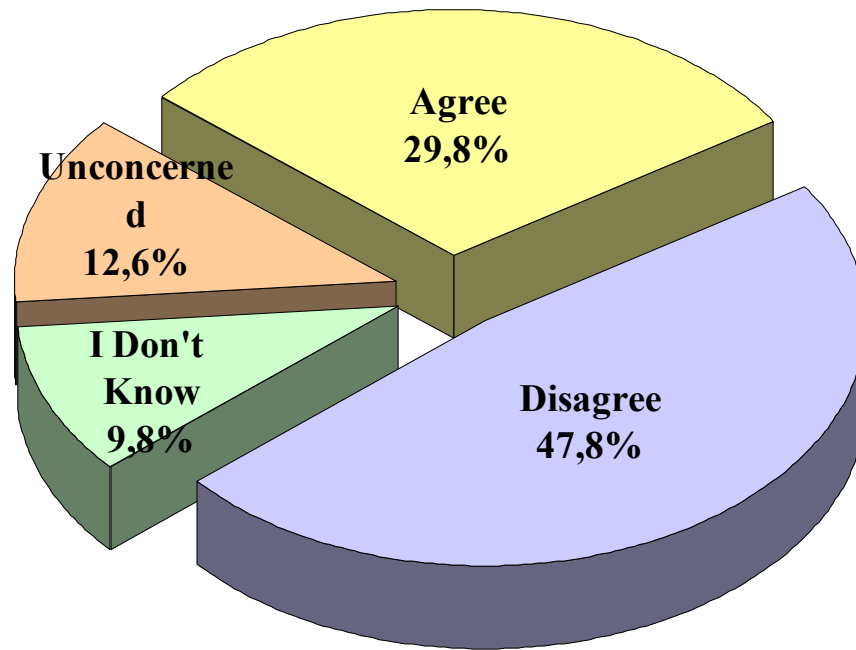
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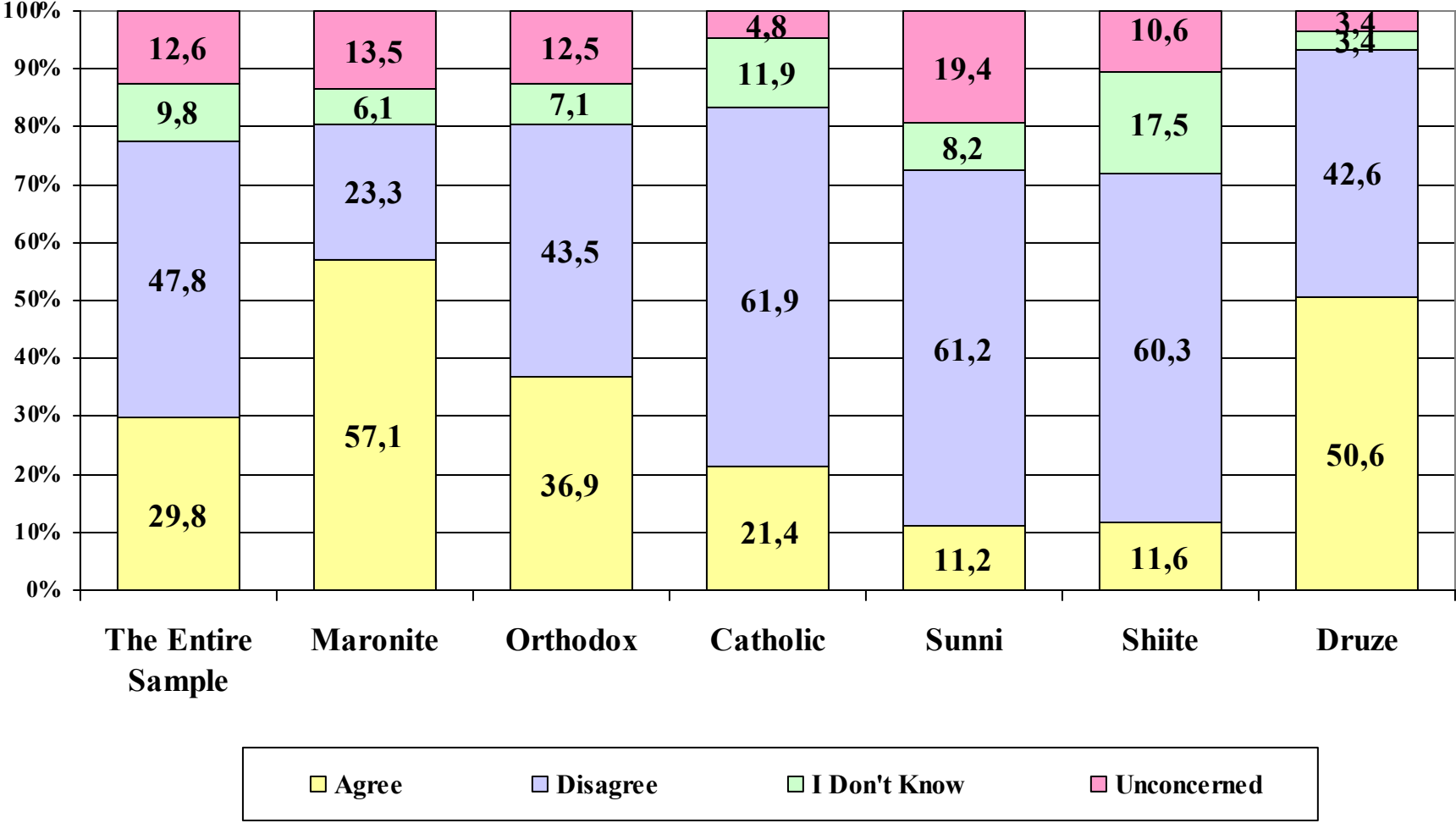
What Are Your Recommendations To The Government For Curbing The Recent Vocal Confessional Prejudices And Feuds ? (%)



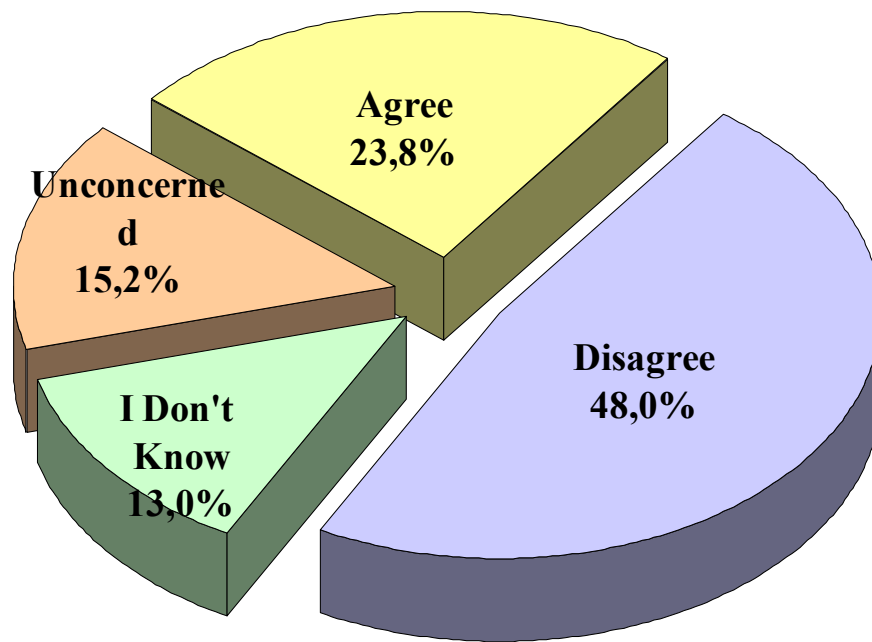
What's Your Position Towards "Kornet Chehwan" Document? (%)



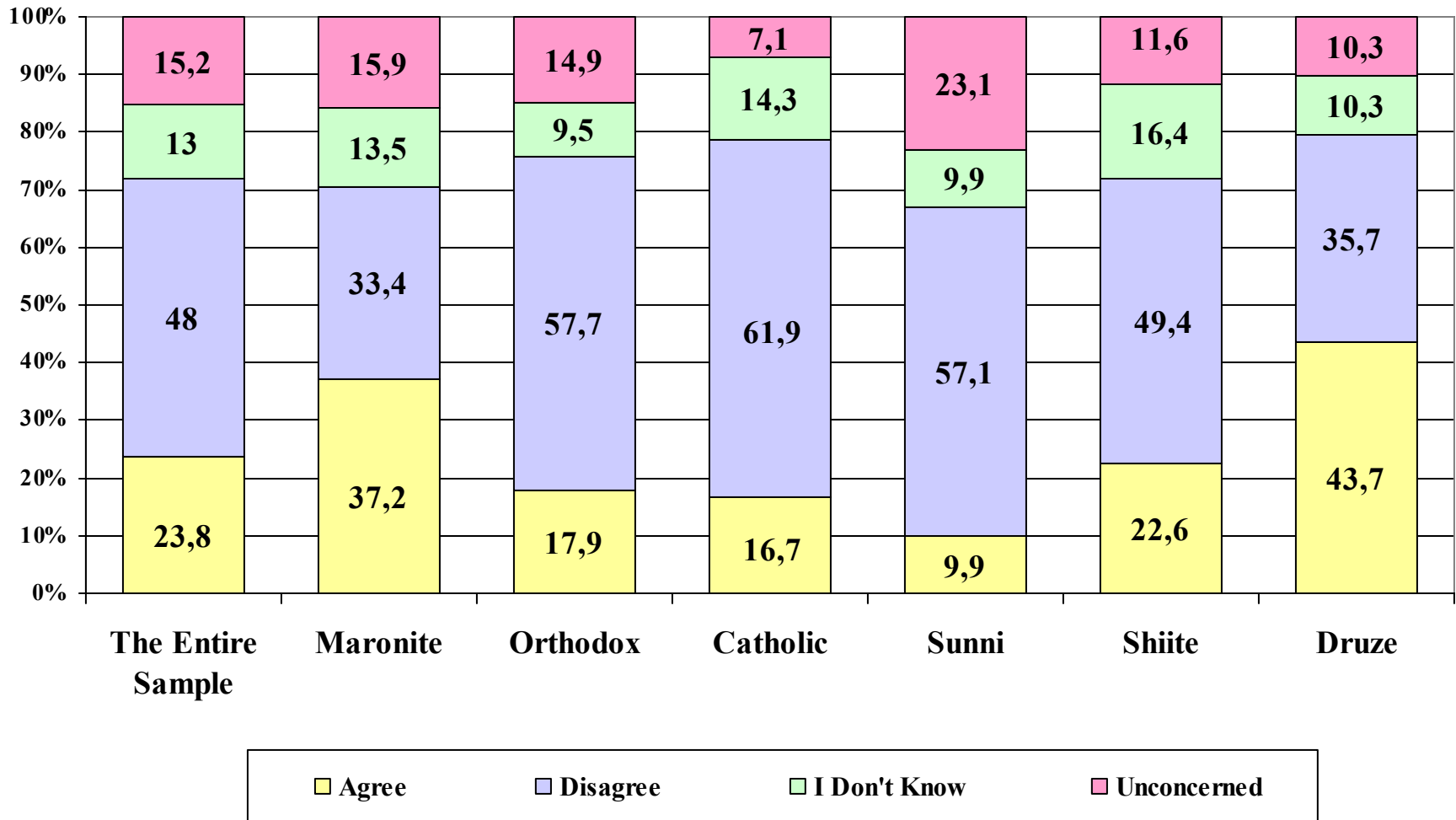
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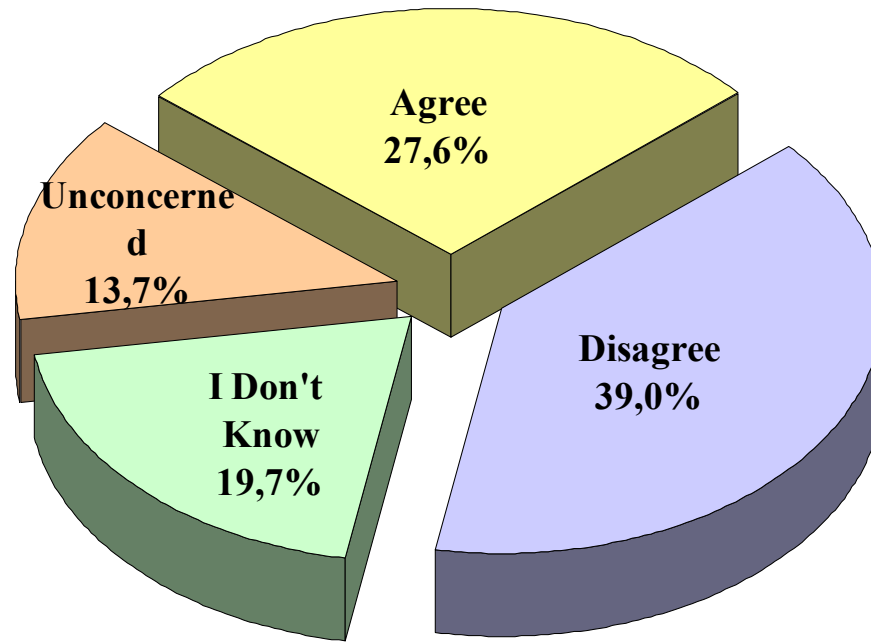
What's Your Position Towards Democratic Forum (Habib Sadek)? (%)



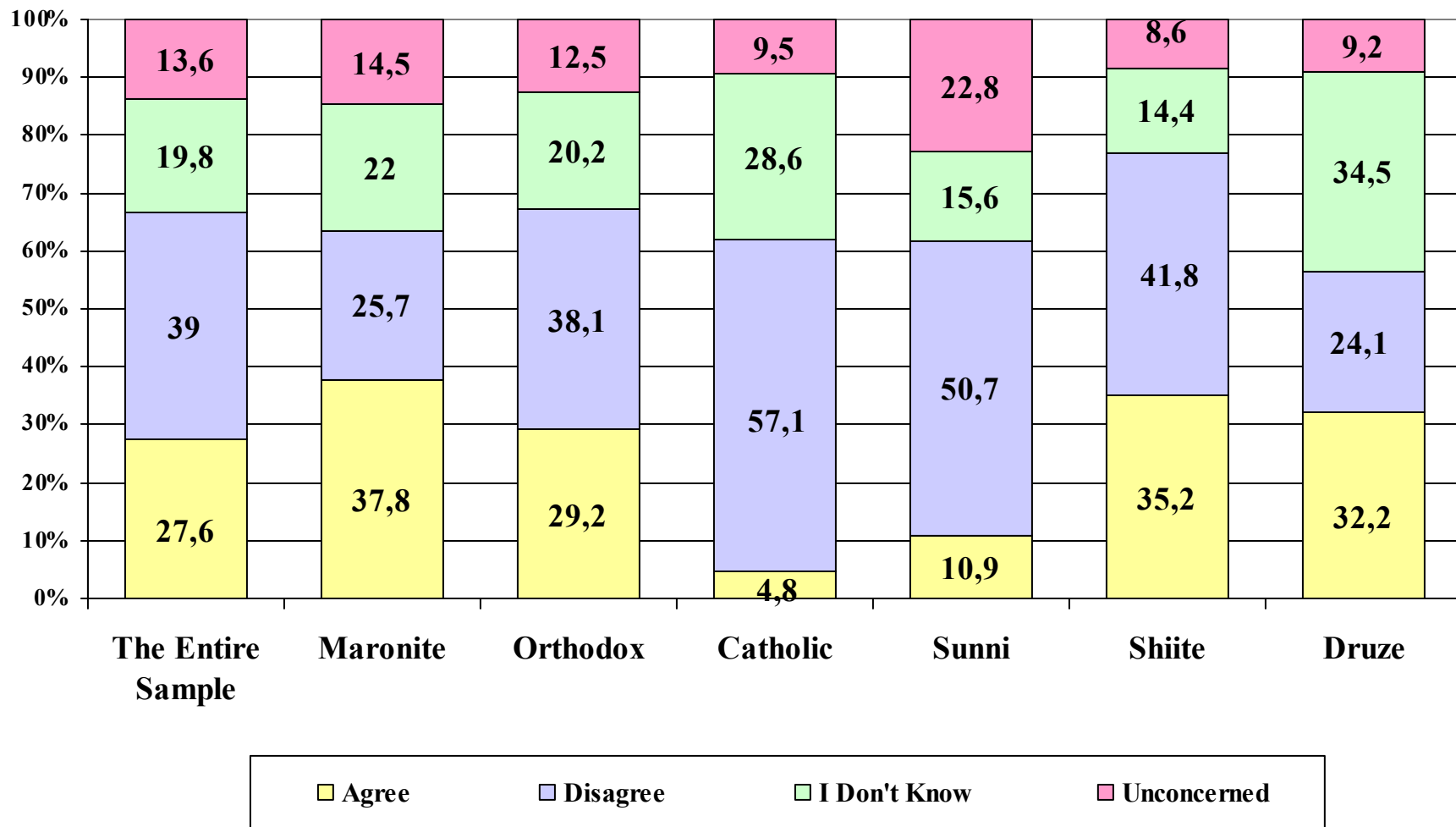
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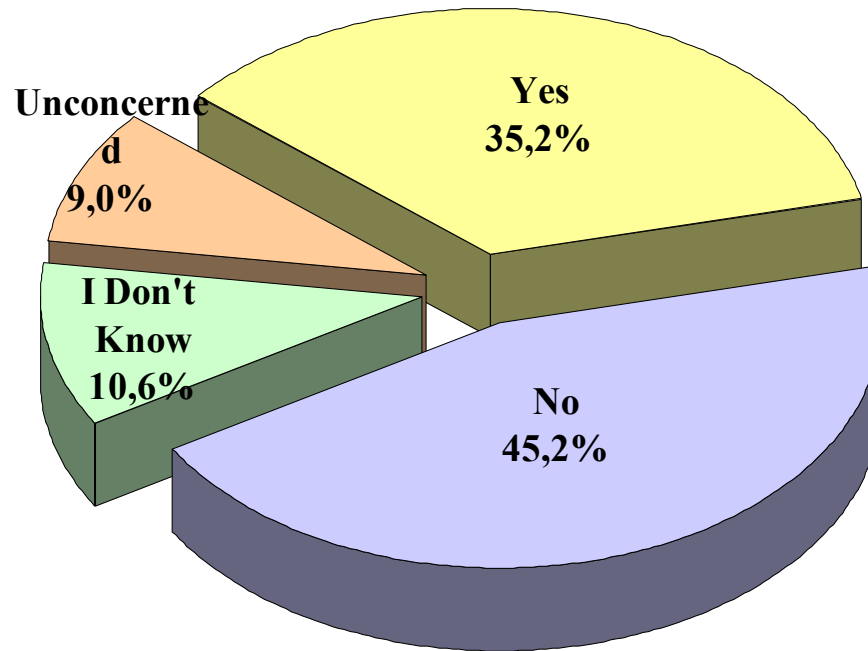
What's Your Position Towards "The National Coalition For Salvation" (Najah Wakim)? (%)



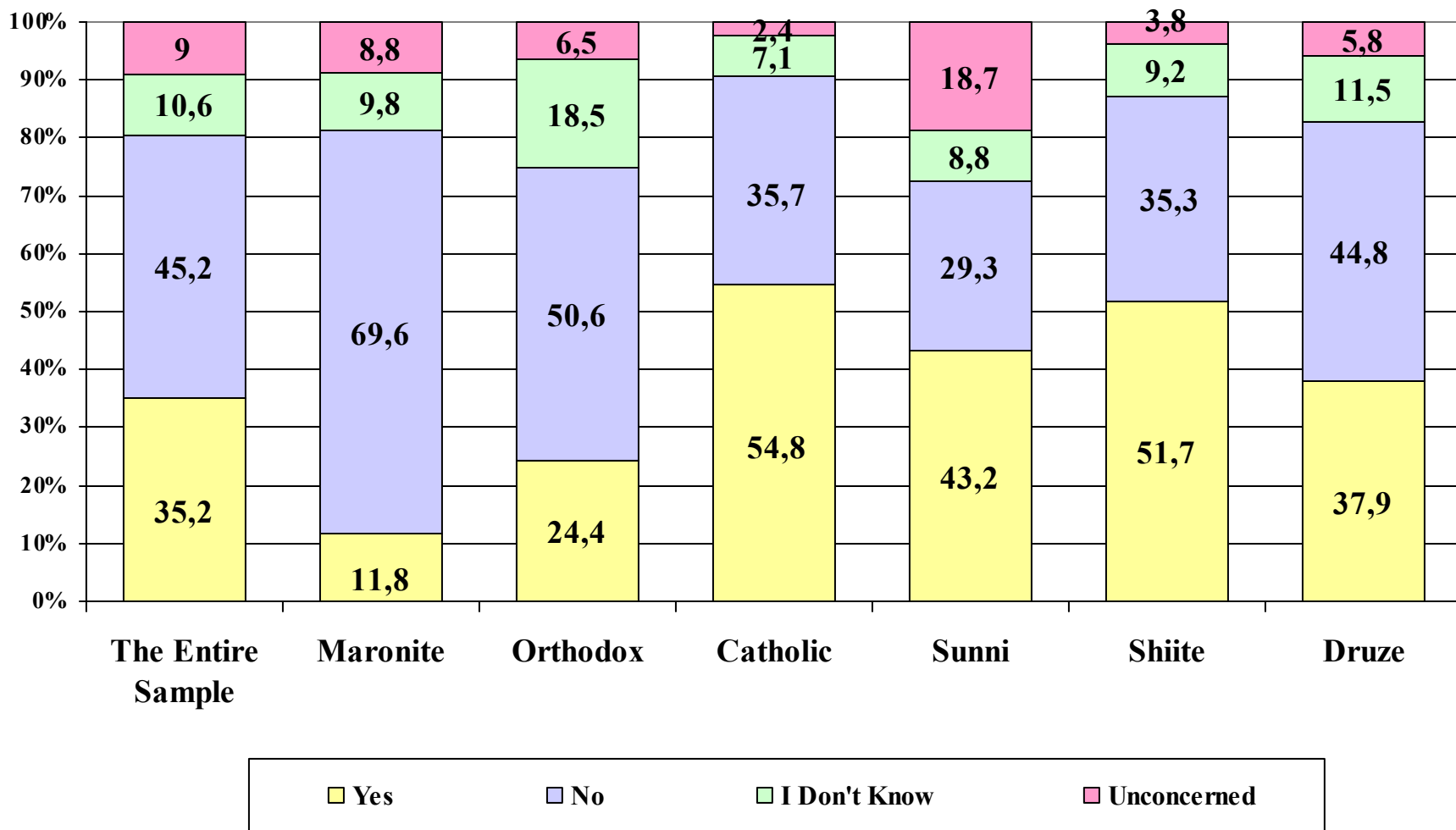
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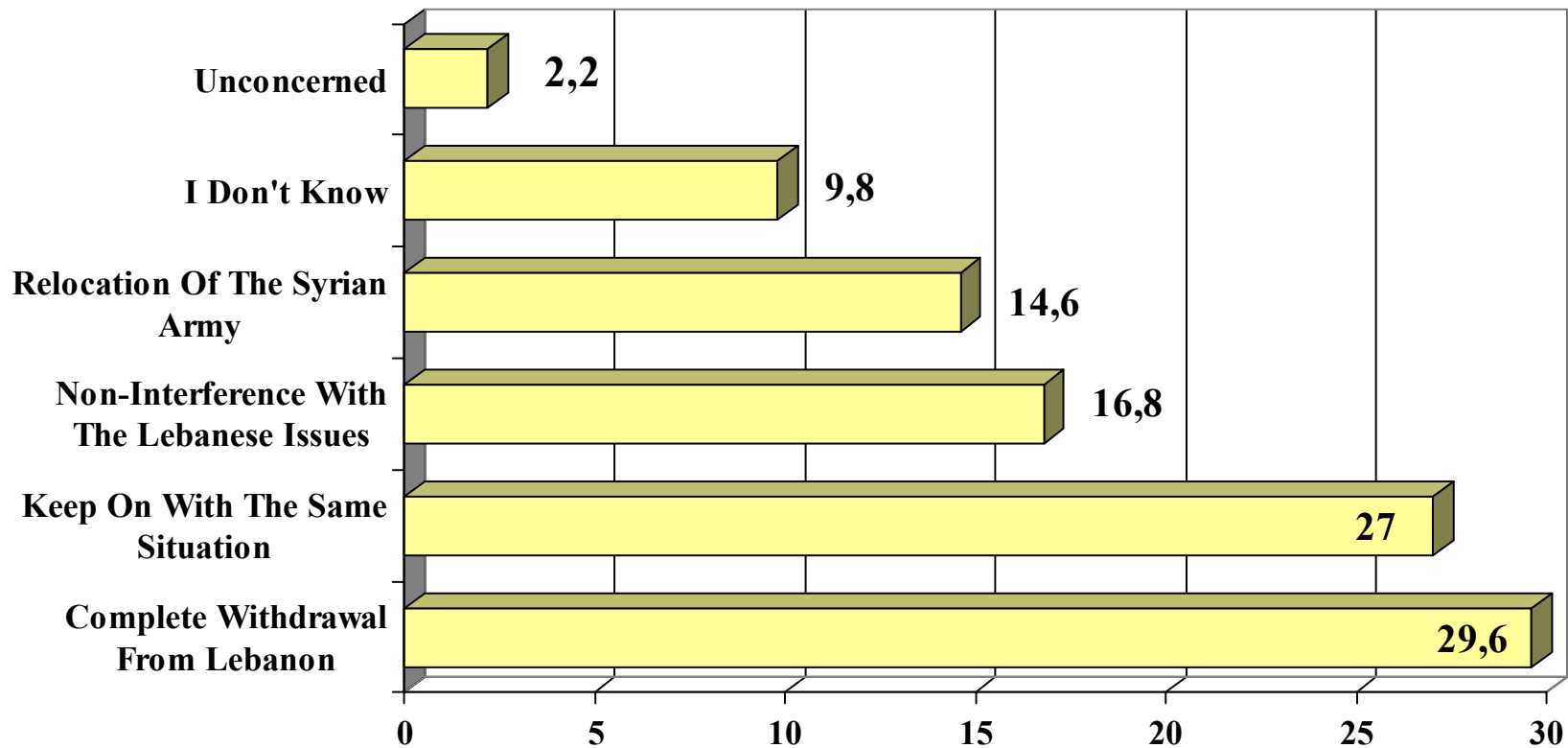
Do You Agree With The Government About The Syrians' Existence? (%)



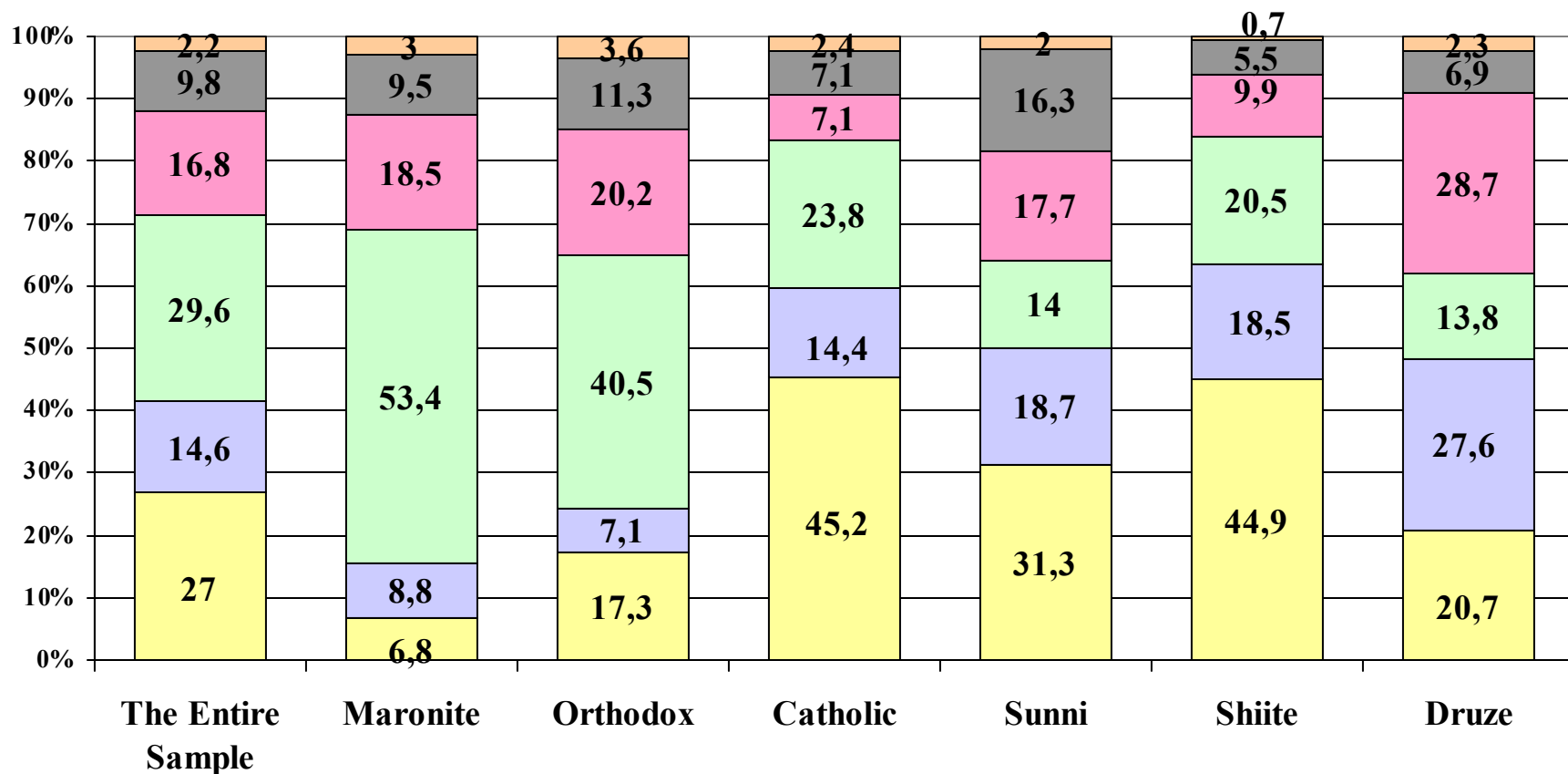
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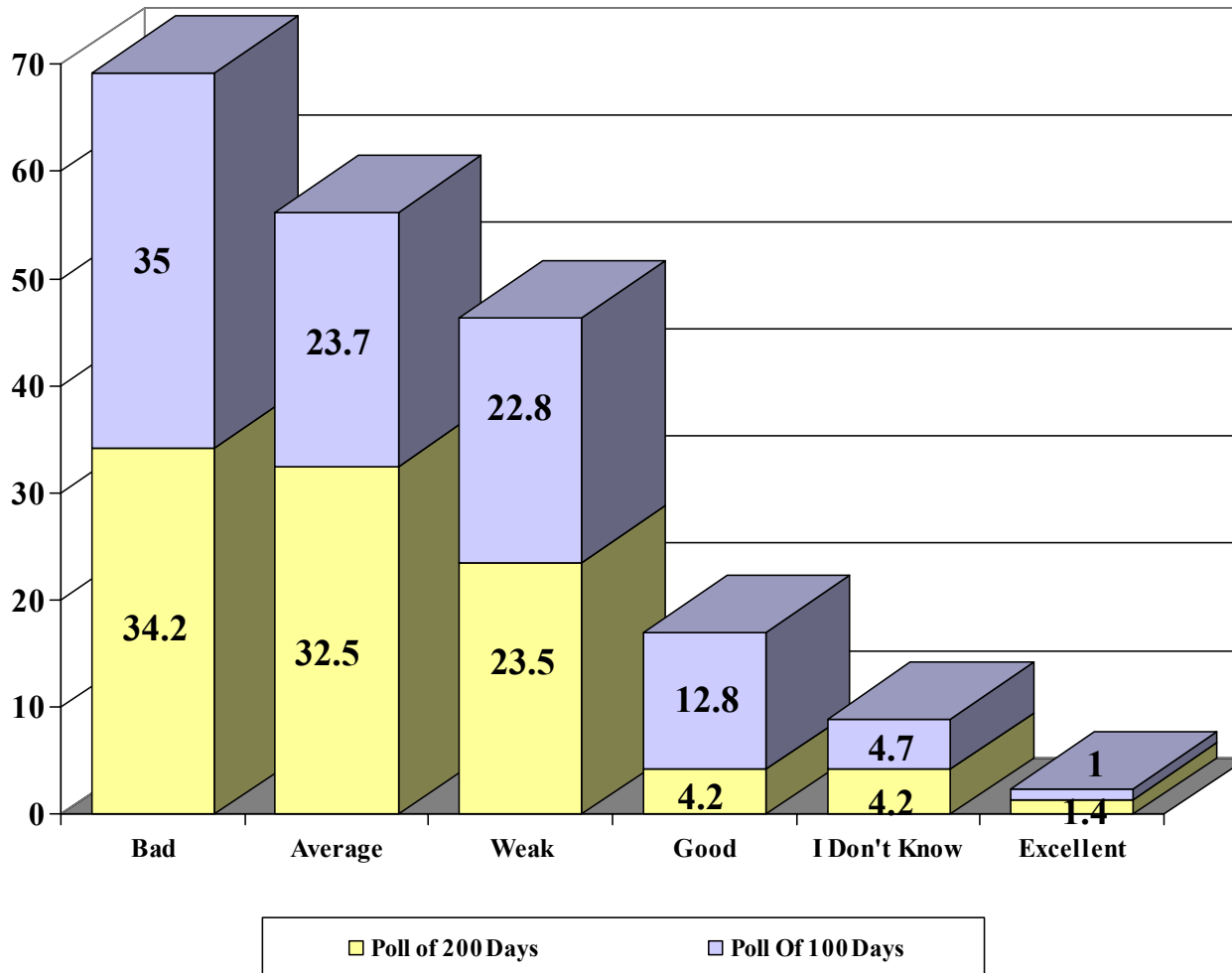
Regarding The Syrian Existence, Do You Prefer: (%)



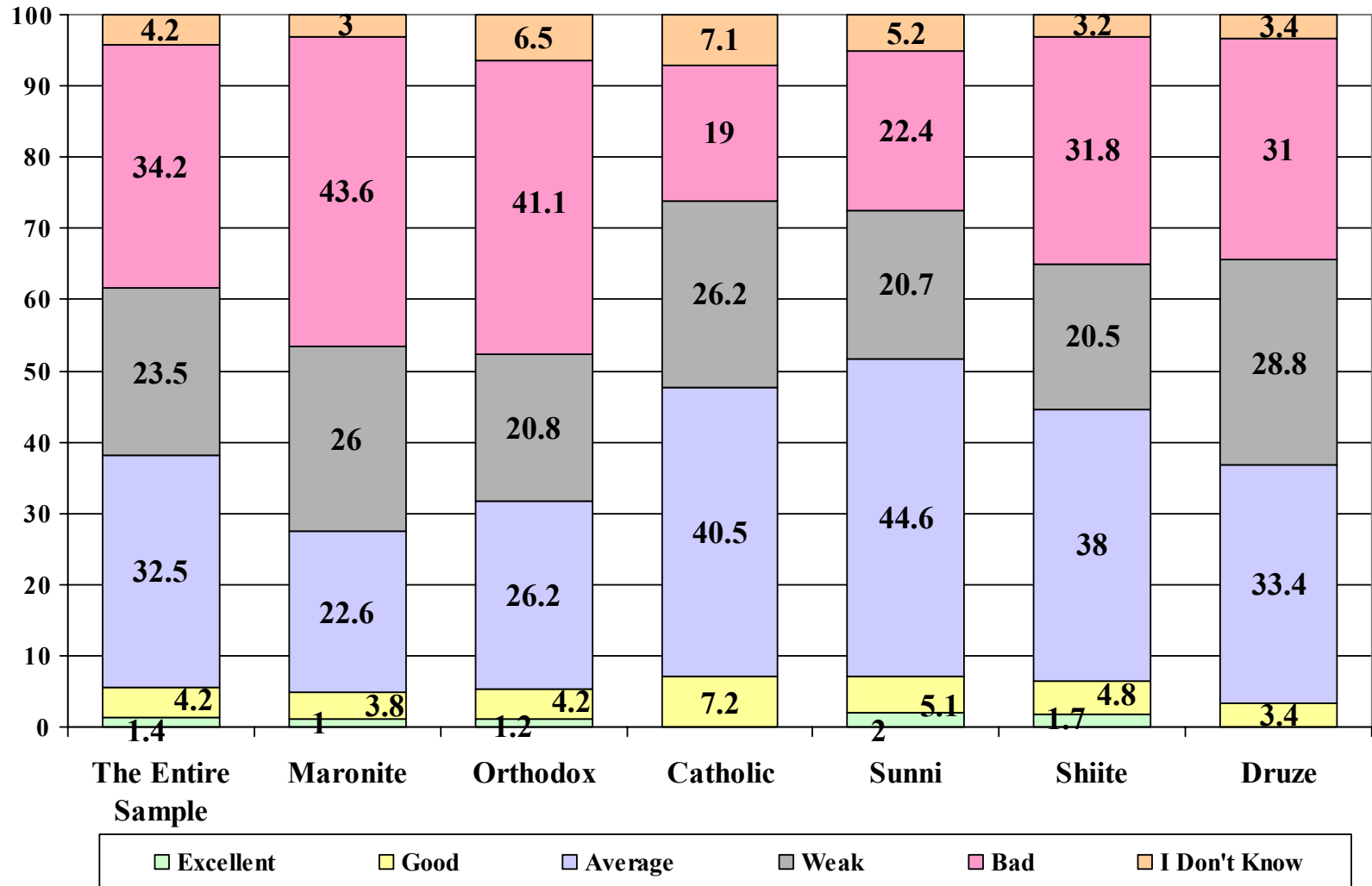
Regarding The Syrian Existence, Do You Prefer: (According to Confession) (%)



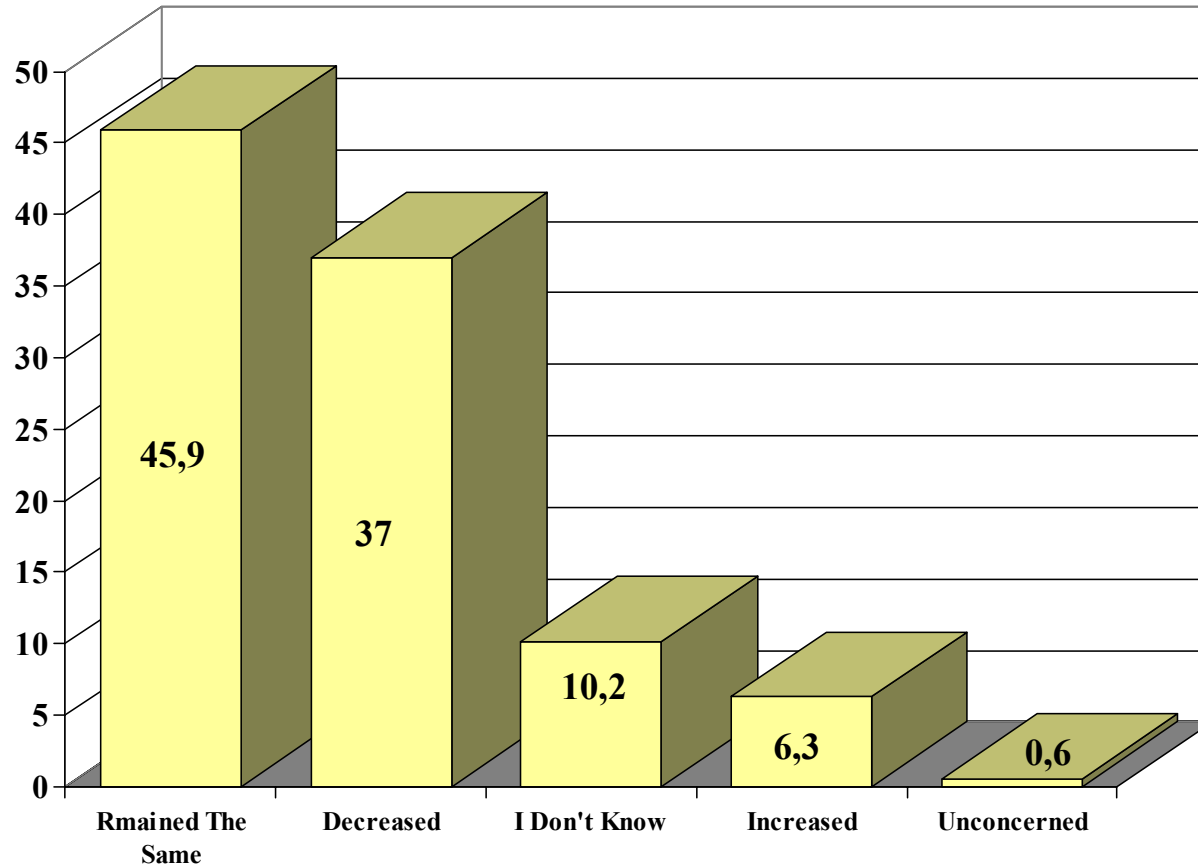
How do you Evaluate the Current Government Performance Regarding Waste and Corruption? ? (%)



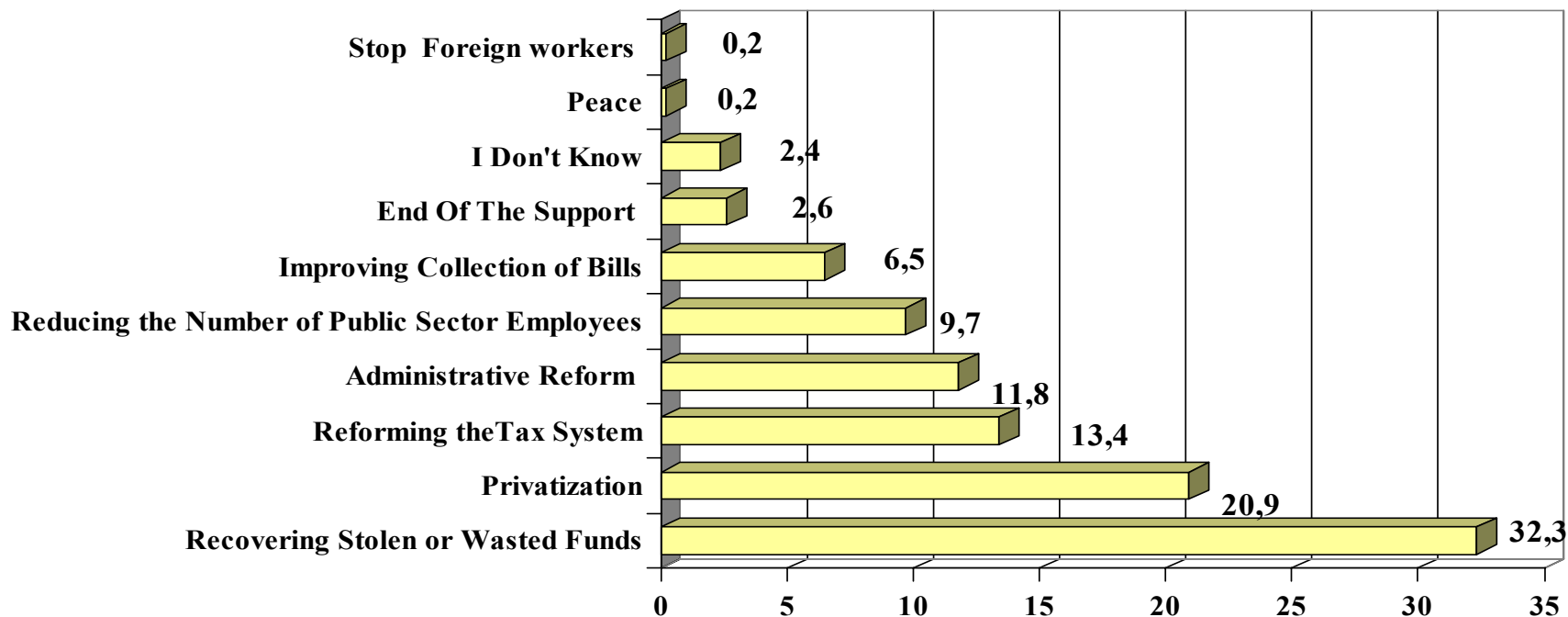
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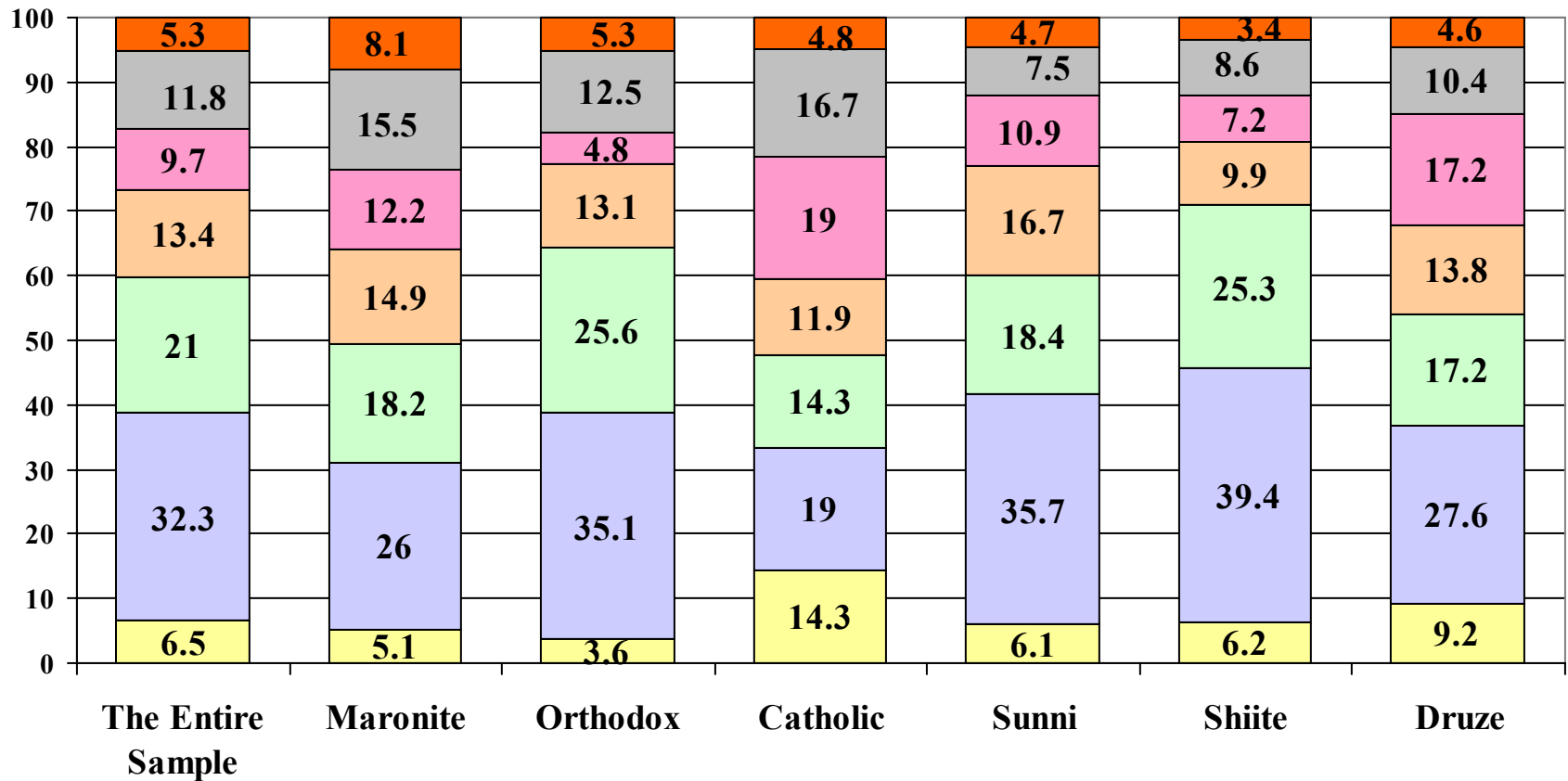
What Was The Effect of Customs Reduction On Prices? (%)



In Your Opinion, What is the Best Way to Reduce the Fiscal Deficit? (%)

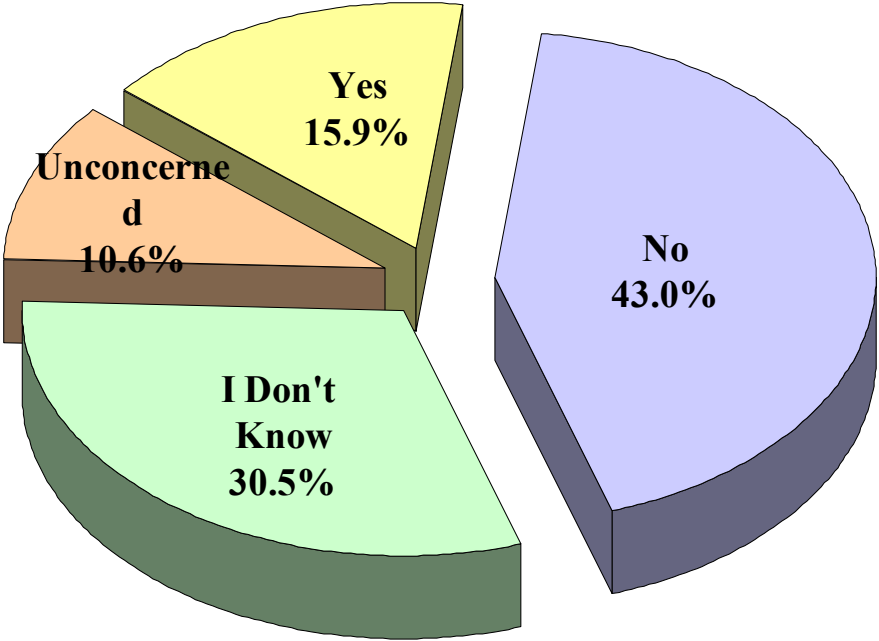


In Your Opinion, What is the Best Way to Reduce the Fiscal Deficit? According to Confession (%)

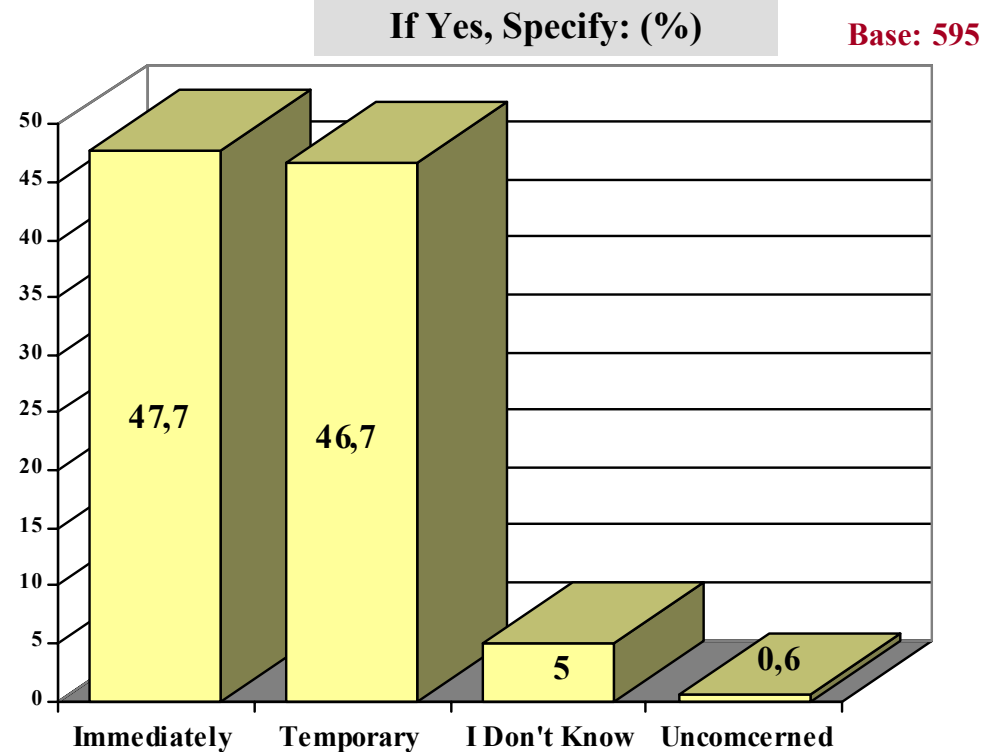
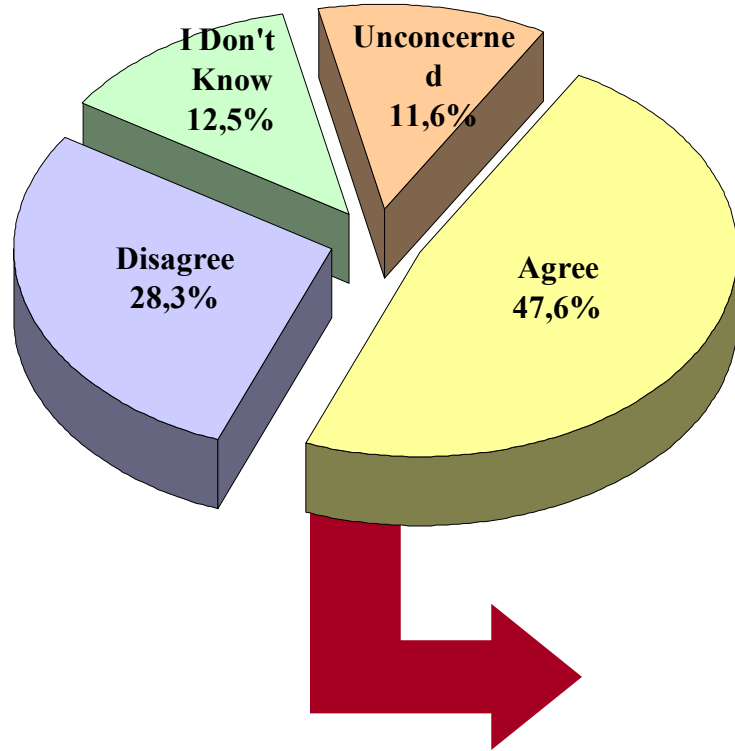


- Improving Collection of Bills
- Privatization
- Reducing the Number of Public Sector Employees
- Others (Less than 3,7%)
- Recovering Stolen or Wasted Funds
- Reforming the Tax System
- Administrative Reform

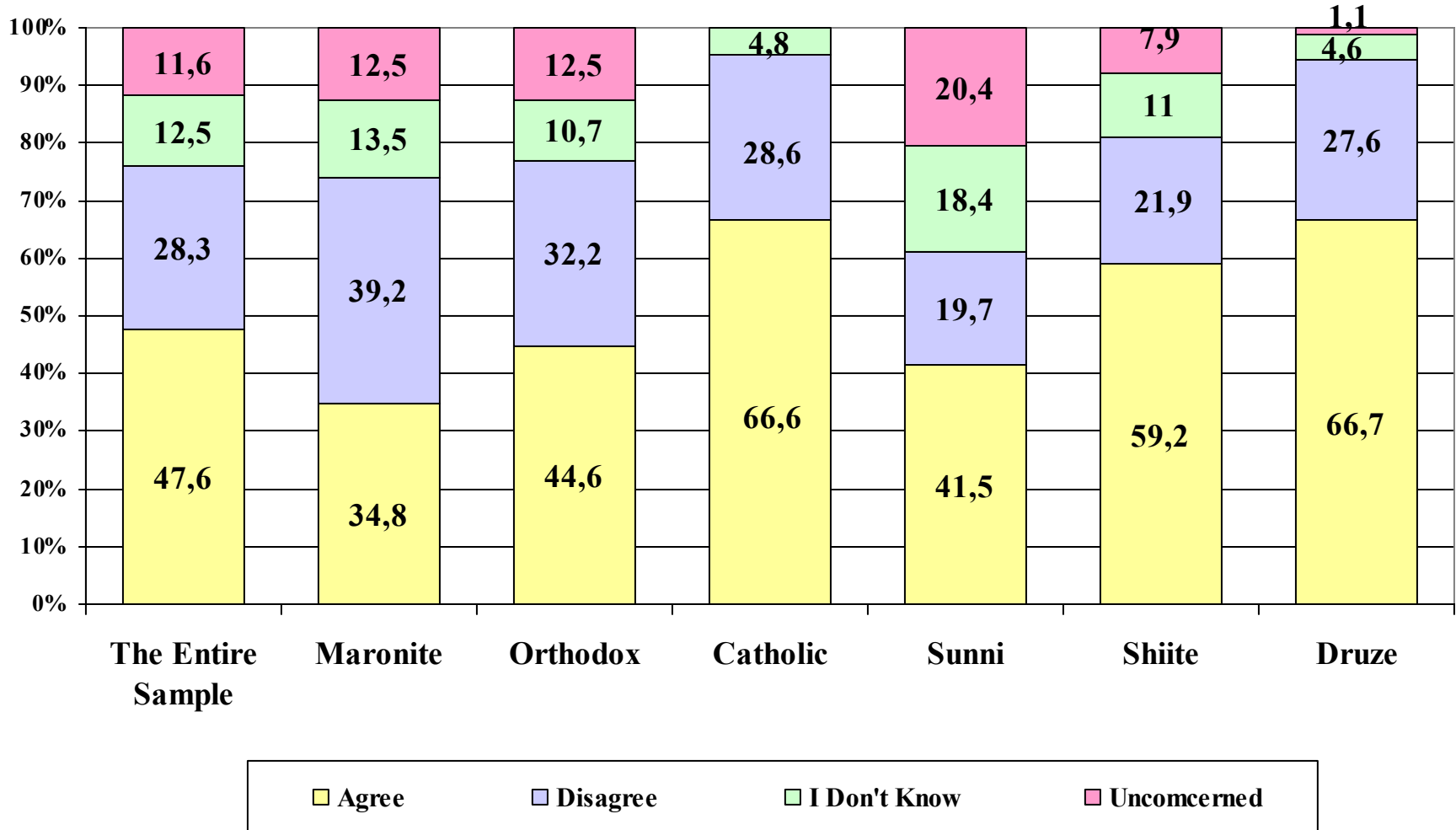
Do You Think That Internationals Companies Met Their Promise Of Providing Computer Programs To Students At Reduced Prices ? (%)



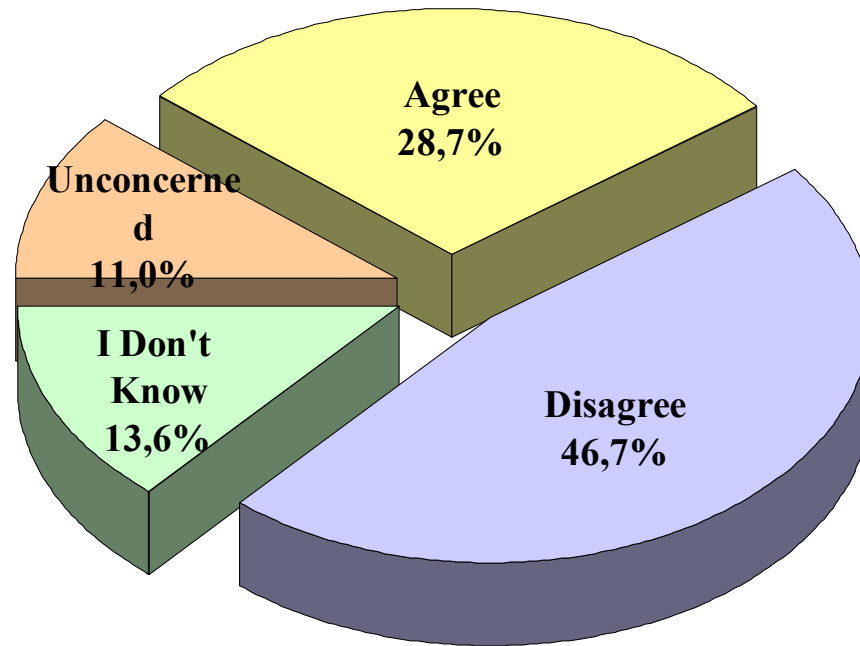
What's Your Position Towards The Unification Of The Branches Of The Lebanese University At Beirut And Mount-Lebanon? (%)



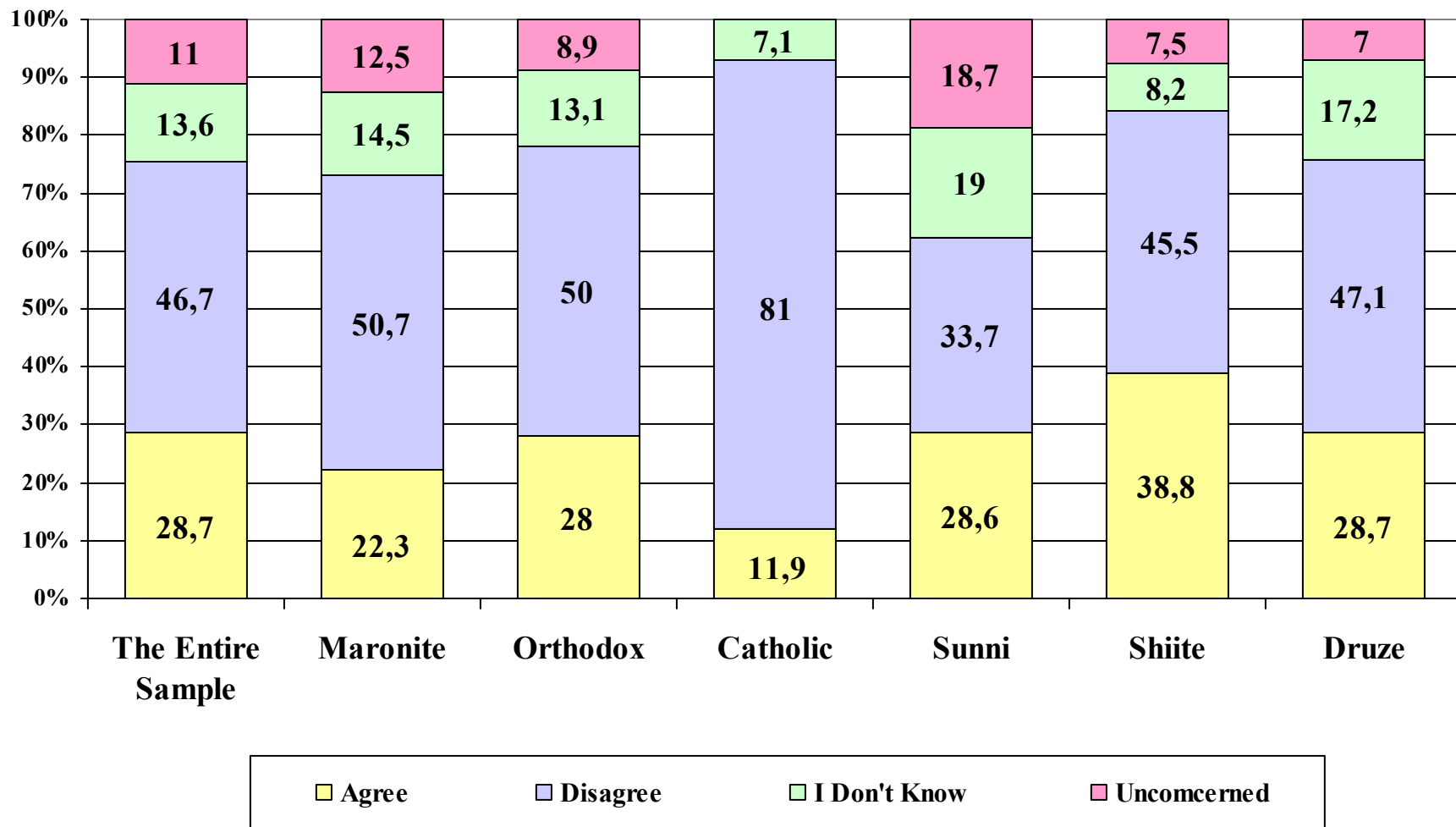
What's Your Position Towards The Unification Of The Branches Of The Lebanese University At Beirut And Mount-Lebanon? According to Confession (%)



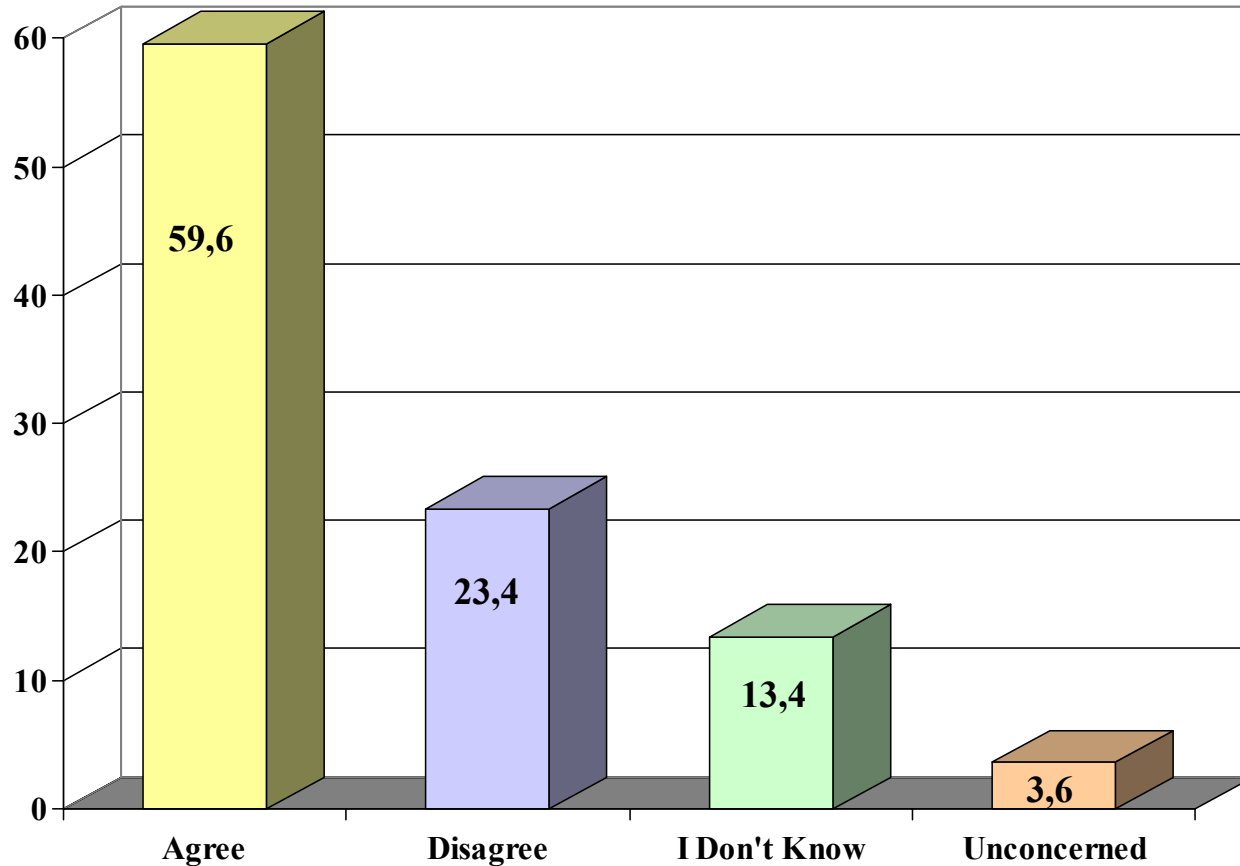
What's Your Position Towards The Unification Of The Various Branches Of The Lebanese University? (%)



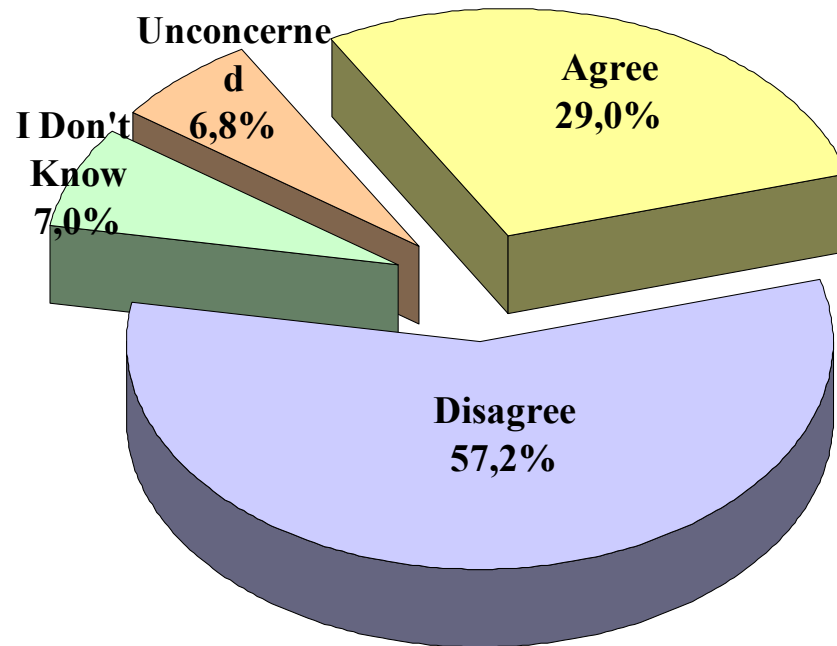
What's Your Position Towards The Unification Of The Various Branches Of The Lebanese University? According to Confession (%)



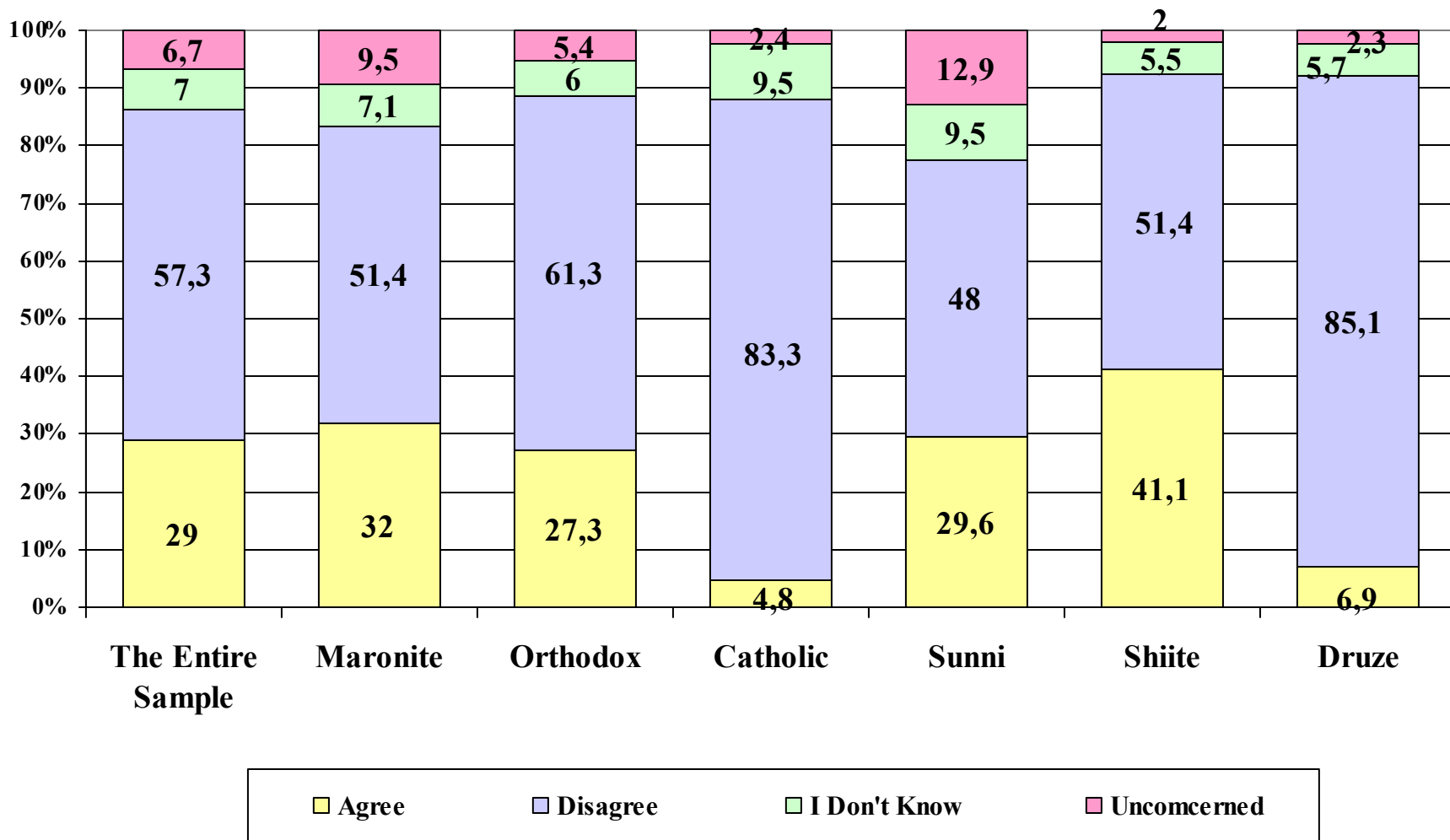
What's Your Position About A Unified Curriculum At Schools In Lebanon? (%)



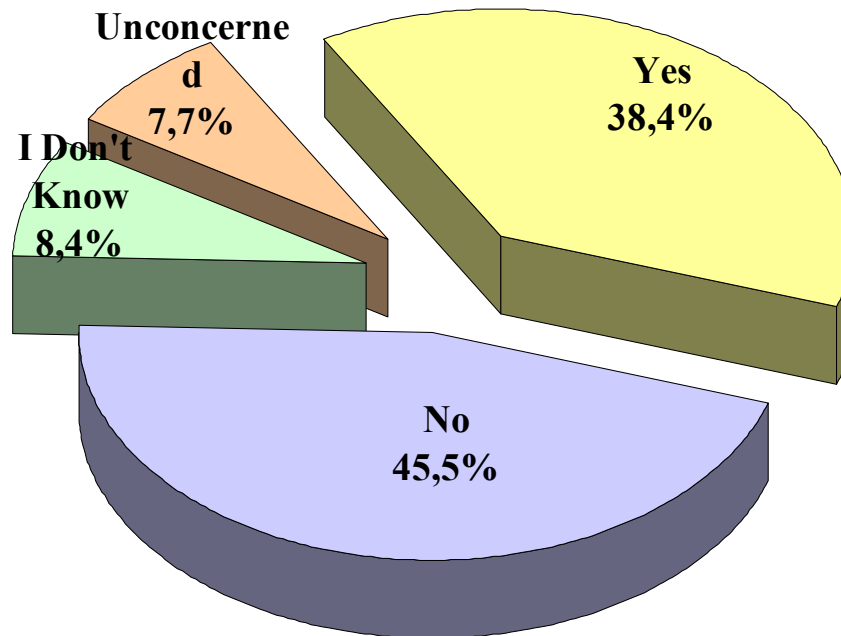
What's Your Position Towards Religions Courses At Public Schools? (%)



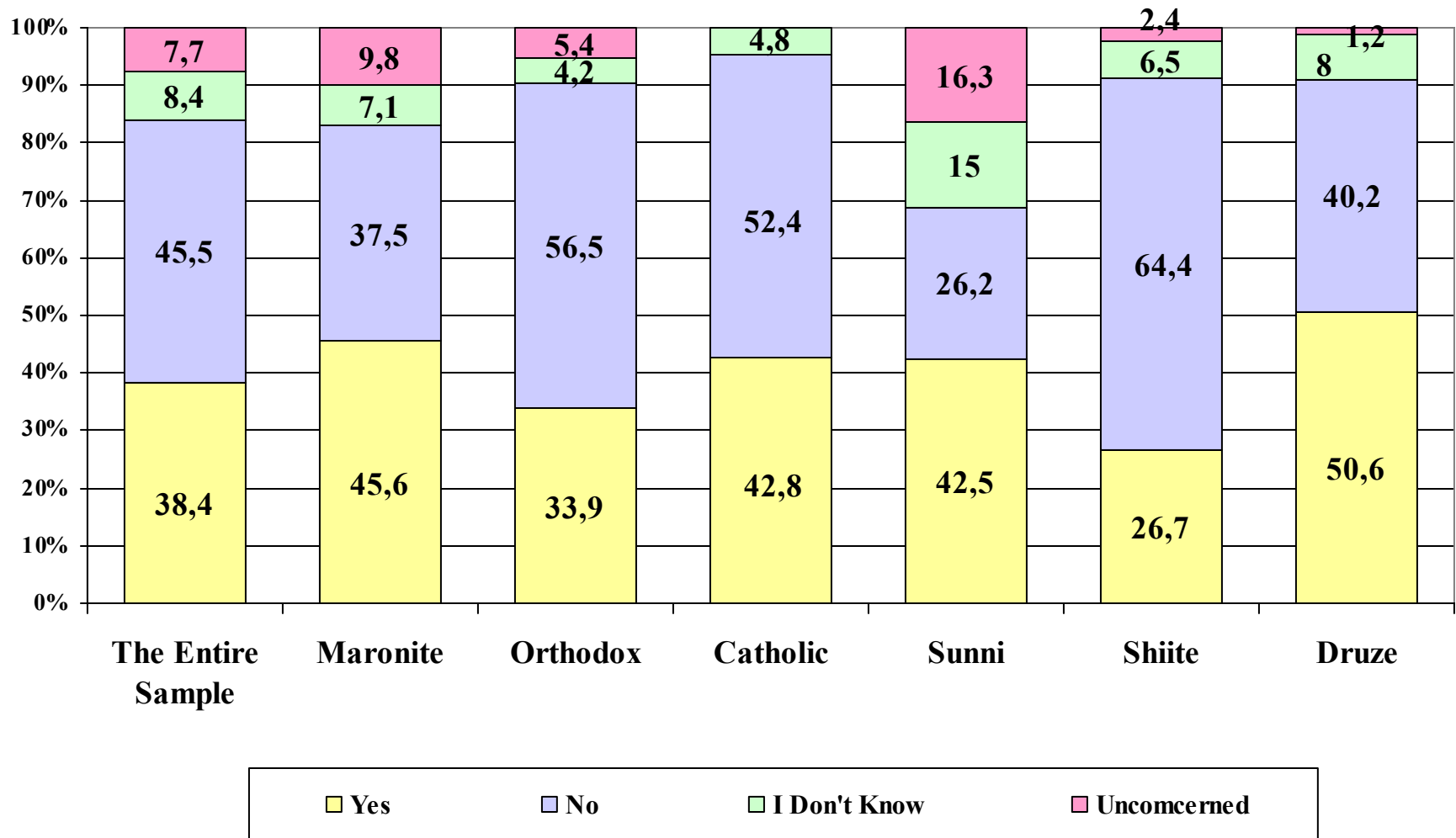
What's Your Position Towards Religions Courses At Public Schools? According to Confession (%)



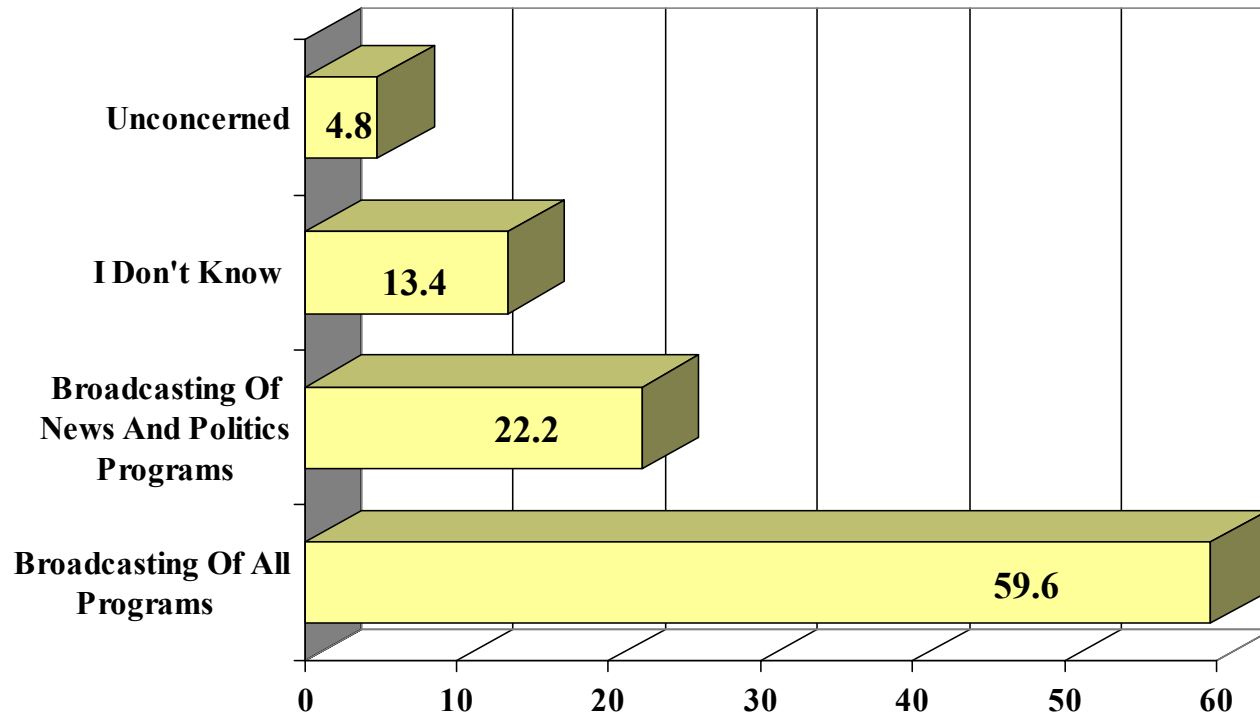
Do You Support The Government Decision To Close TL? (%)



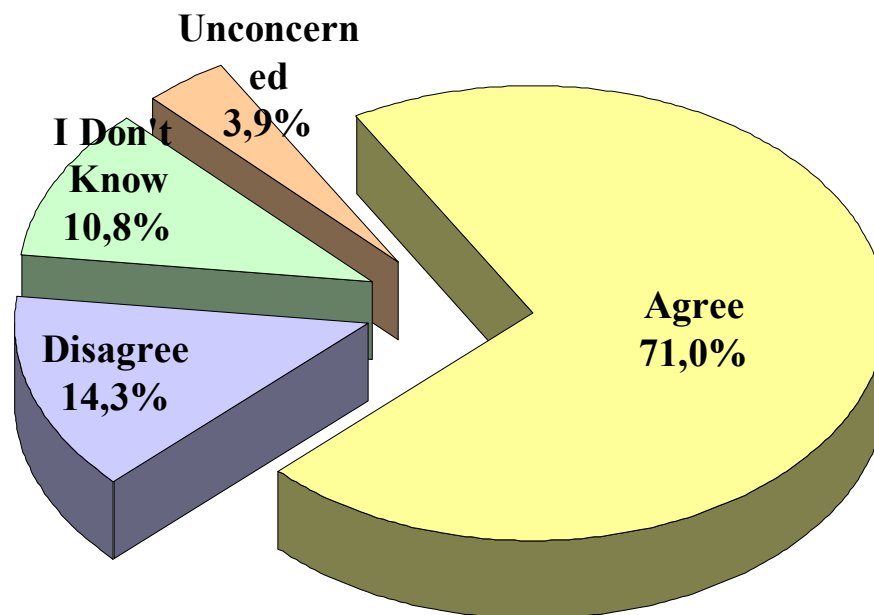
Do You Support The Government Decision To Close TL? According to Confession (%)



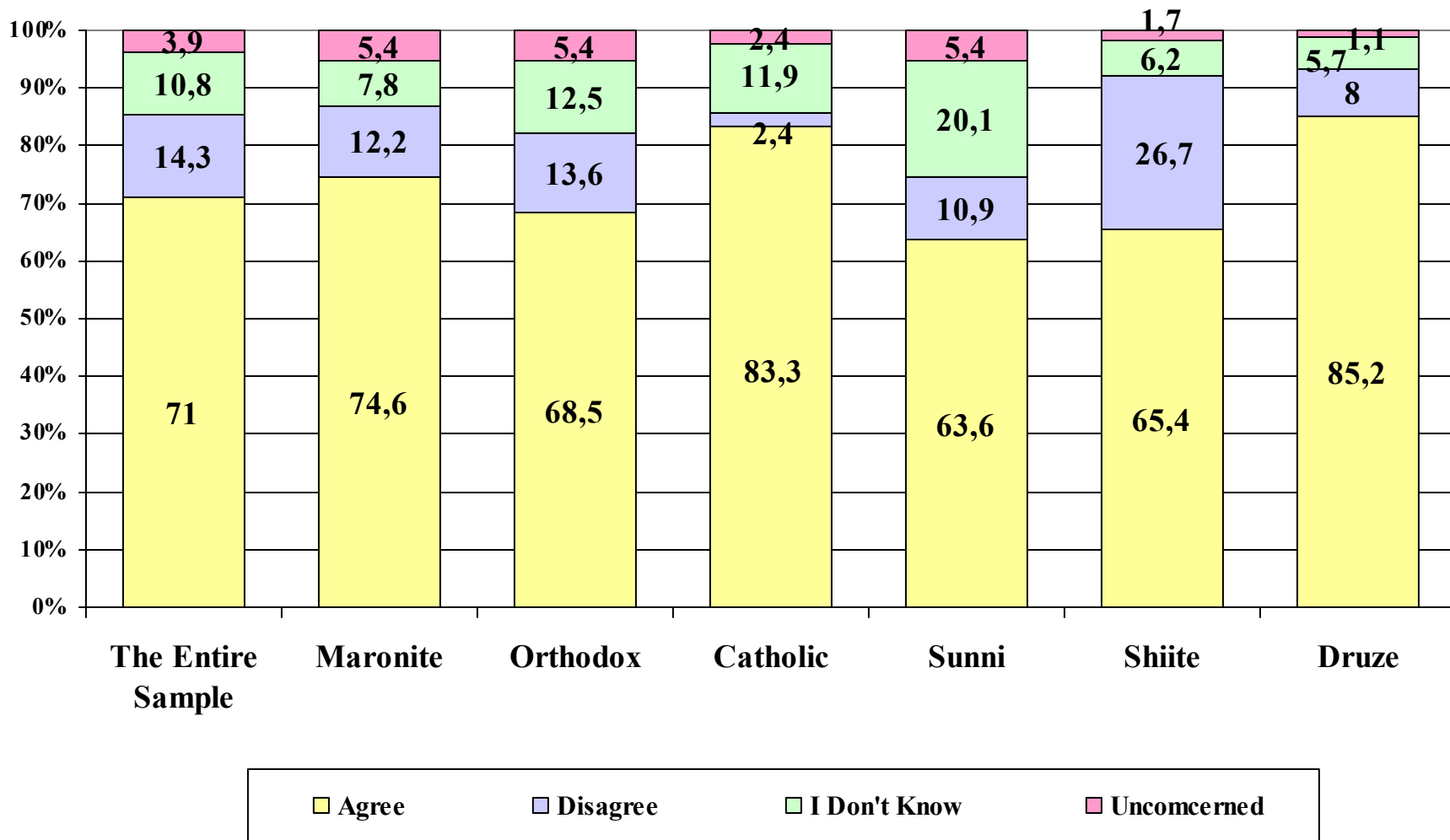
TL IS Going To Broadcast Again On 24 May, 2001. Do You Agree on Re-broadcasting Based On: (%)



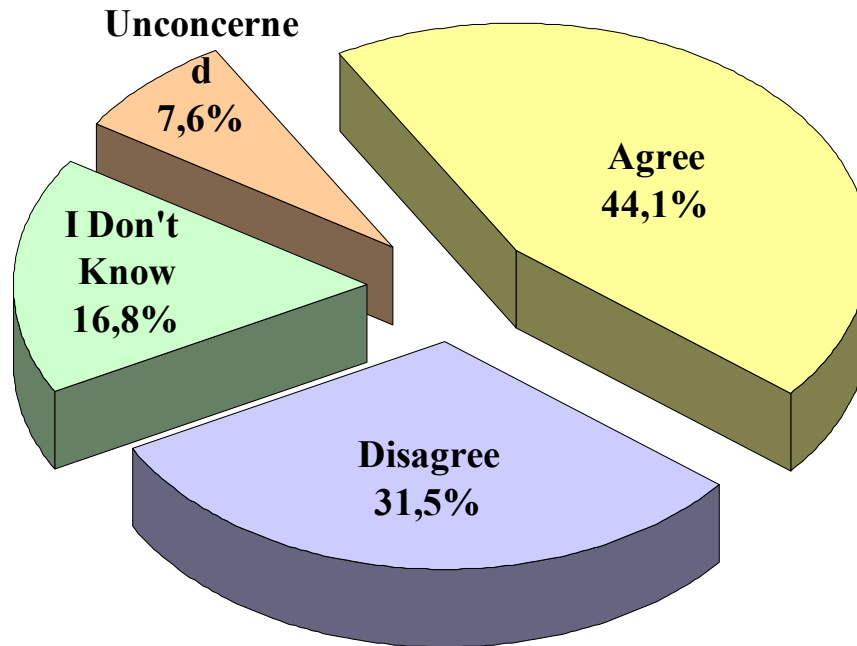
What's Your Position Towards Laying Off Civil Servants That Are Deemed Surplus? (%)



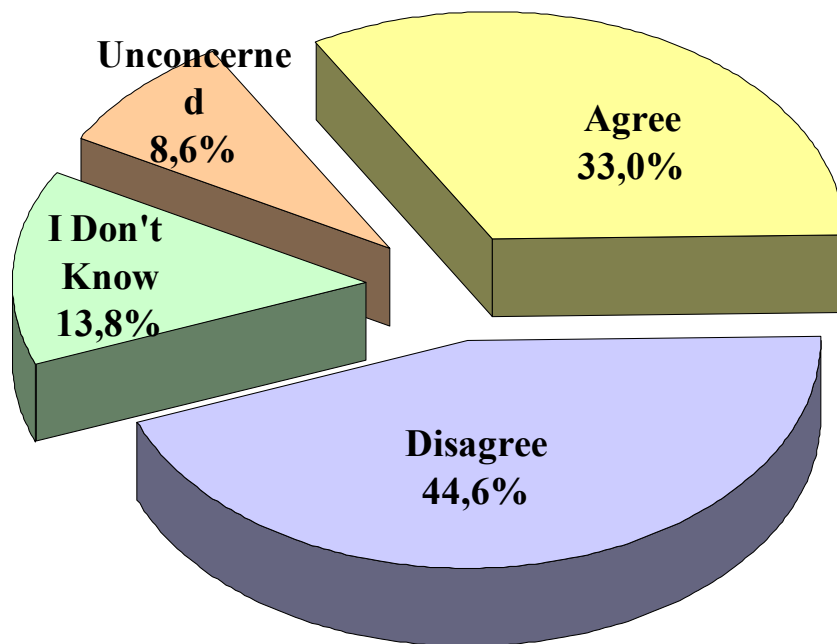
What's Your Position Towards Laying Off Civil Servants That Are Deemed Surplus? According to Confession (%)



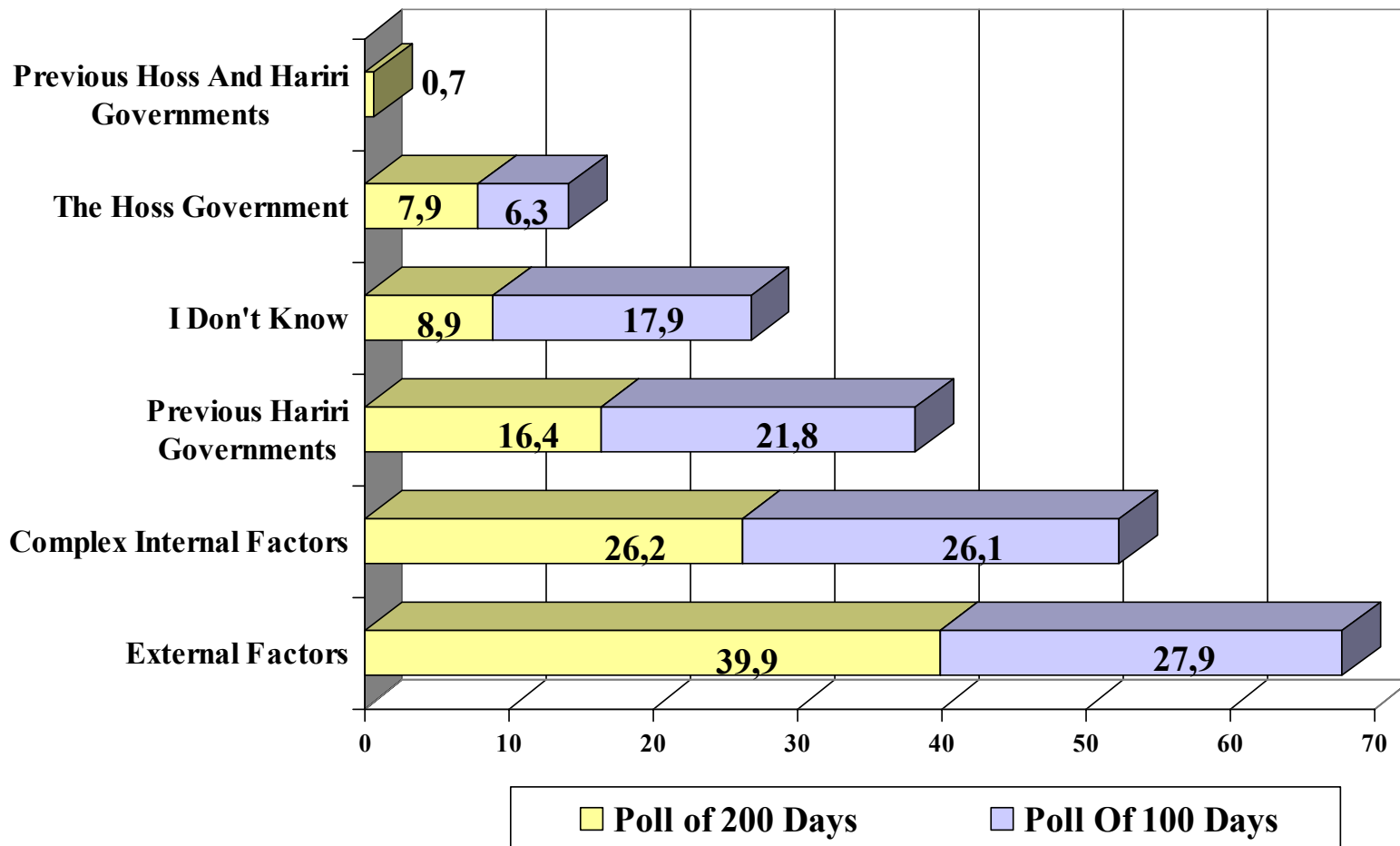
What's Your Position Towards Laying Off The Employees From The Middle East Air-Lines? (%)



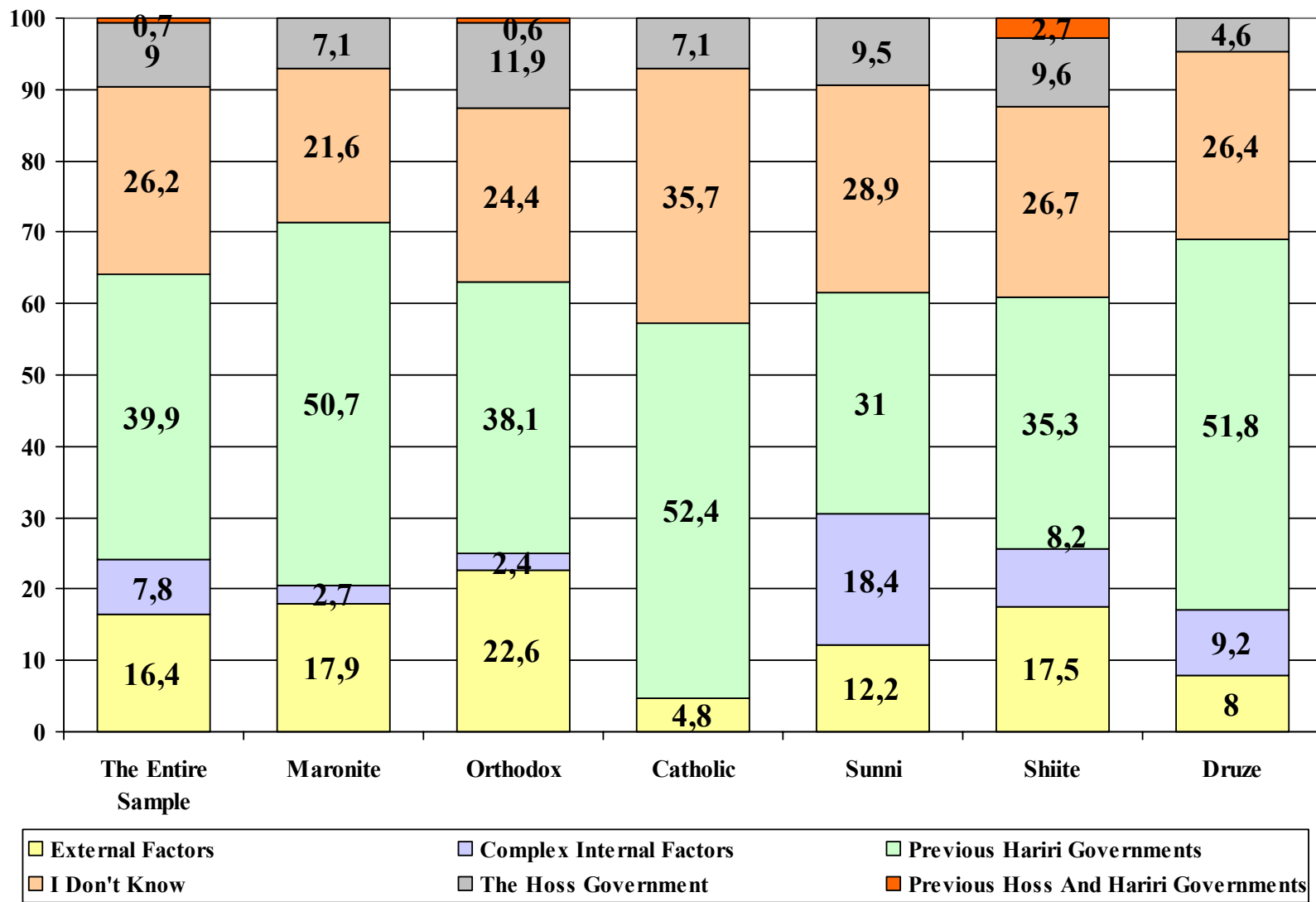
What's Your Position Towards The Government Decision Limiting Imports Of Cars To 1996 Models Onward ? (%)



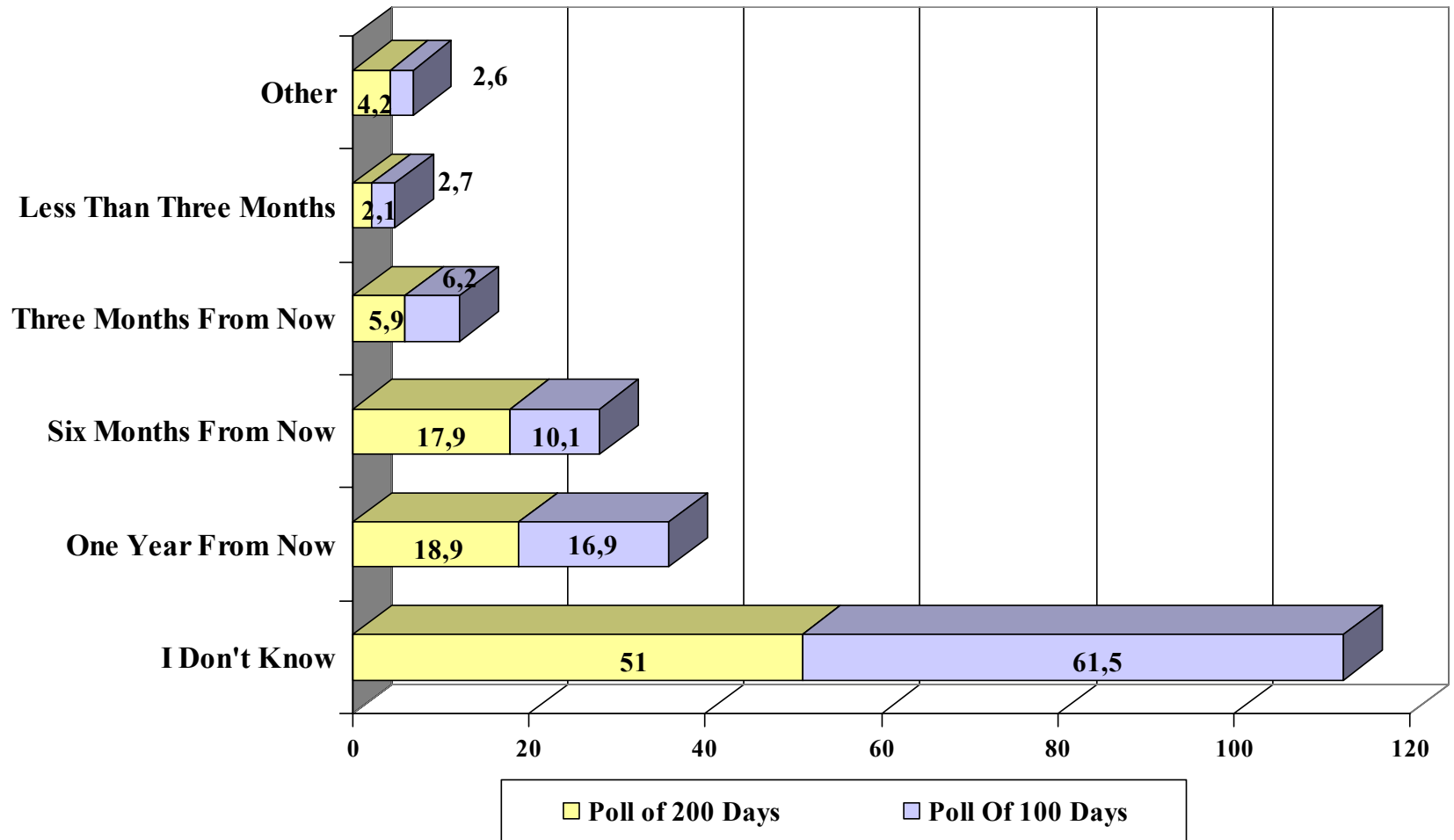
In Your Opinion, What Is The Cause of the Current Economic Crisis in the Country? (%)



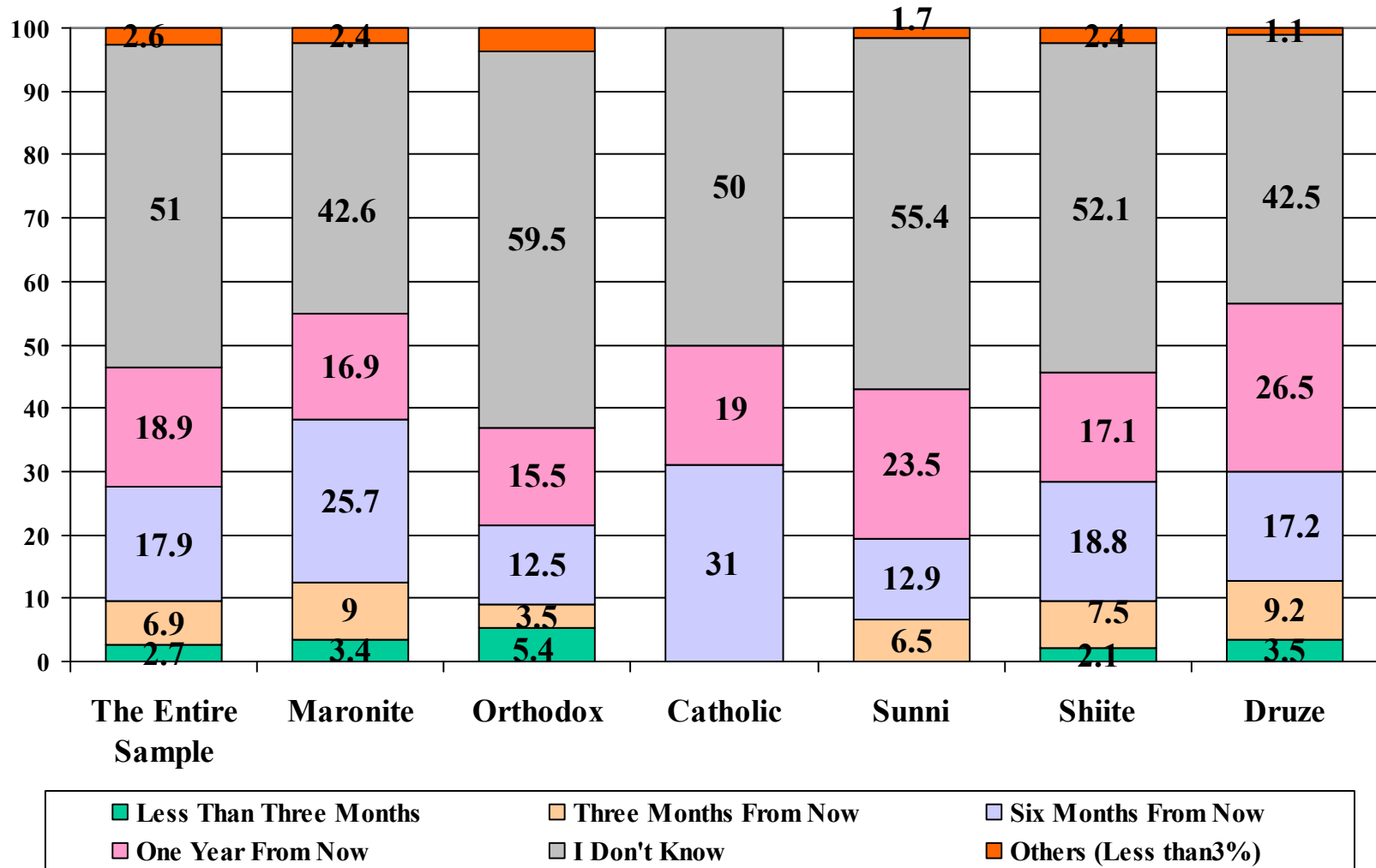
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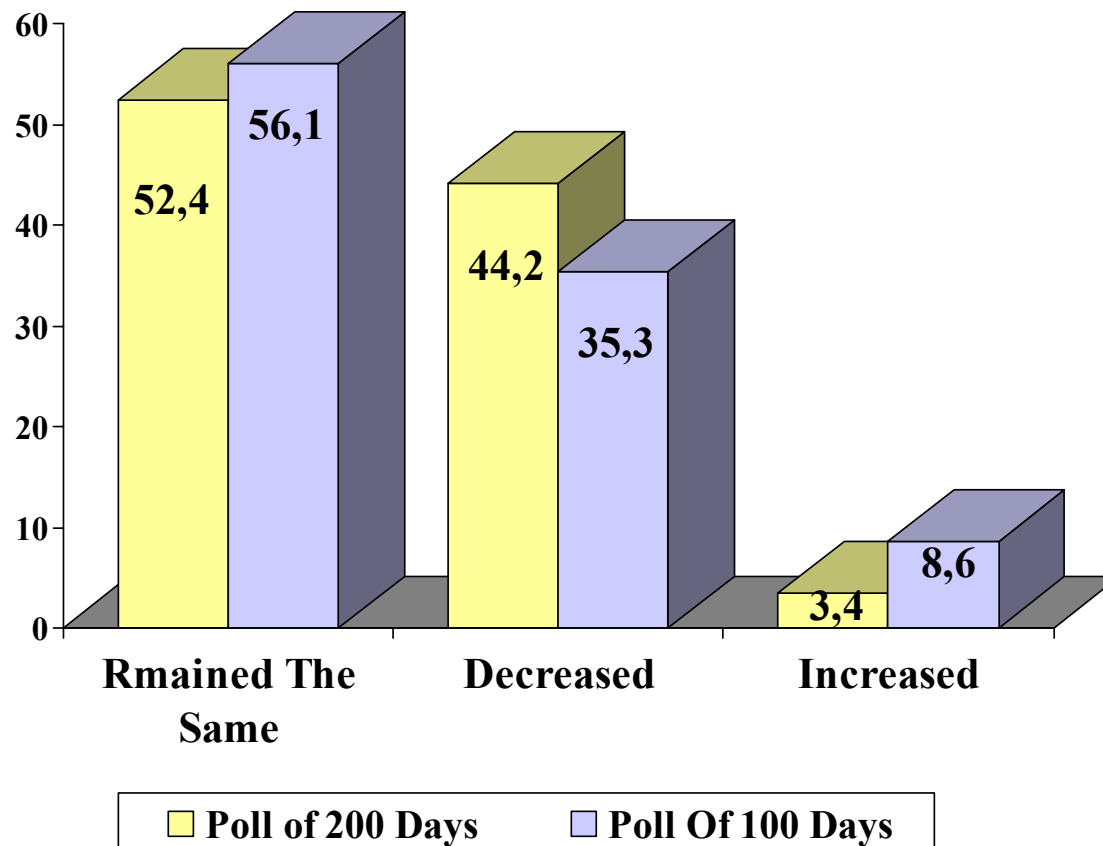
In Your Opinion, How Much Will the Current Government Last? (%)



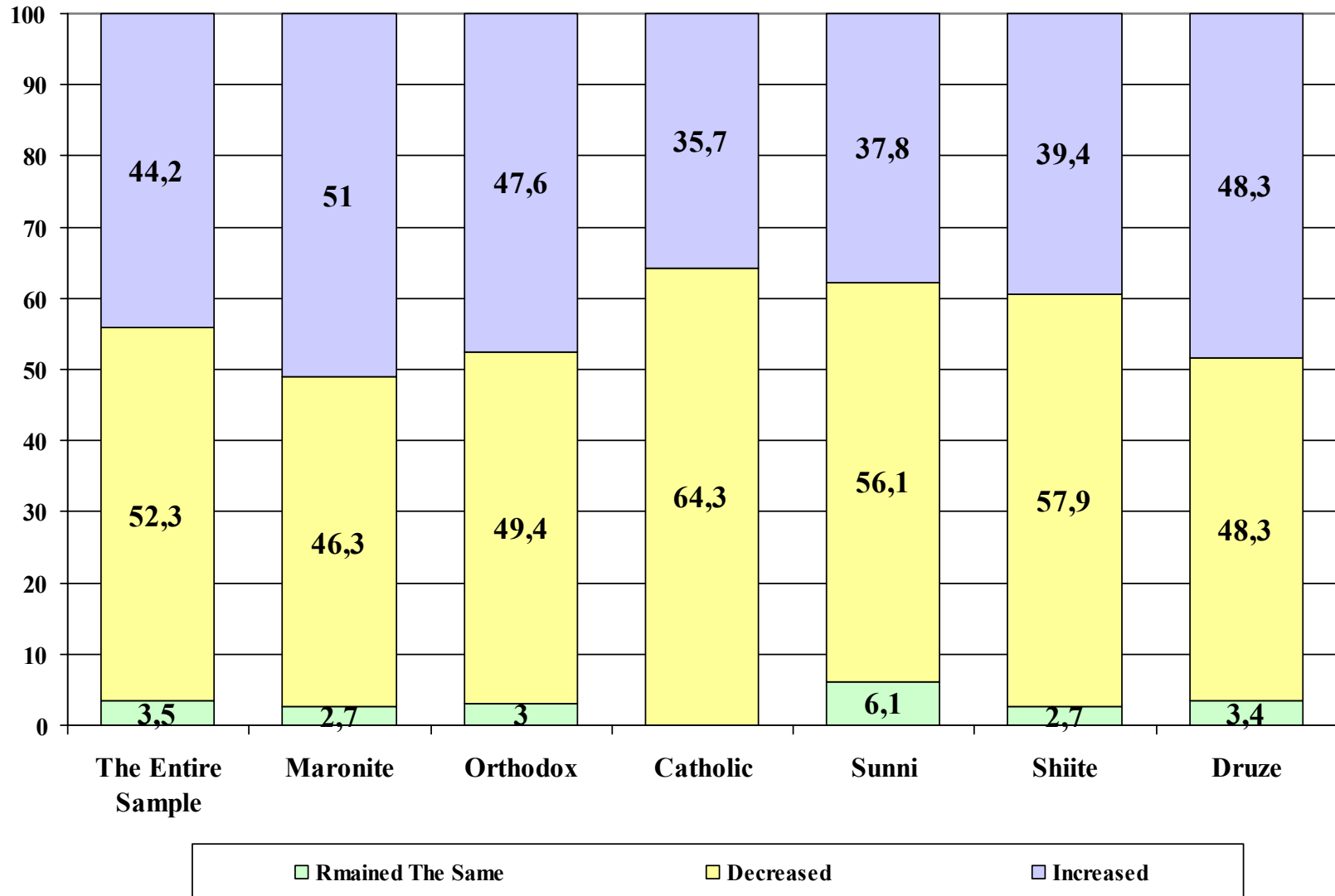
In Your Opinion, How Much Will the Current Government Last? According to Confession (%)



Since the Current Government Took Over, Your Financial Situation Has: (%)



Since the Current Government Took Over, Your Financial Situation Has: According to Confession (%)



Economic Conditions and the Future

Economic Conditions and The Future

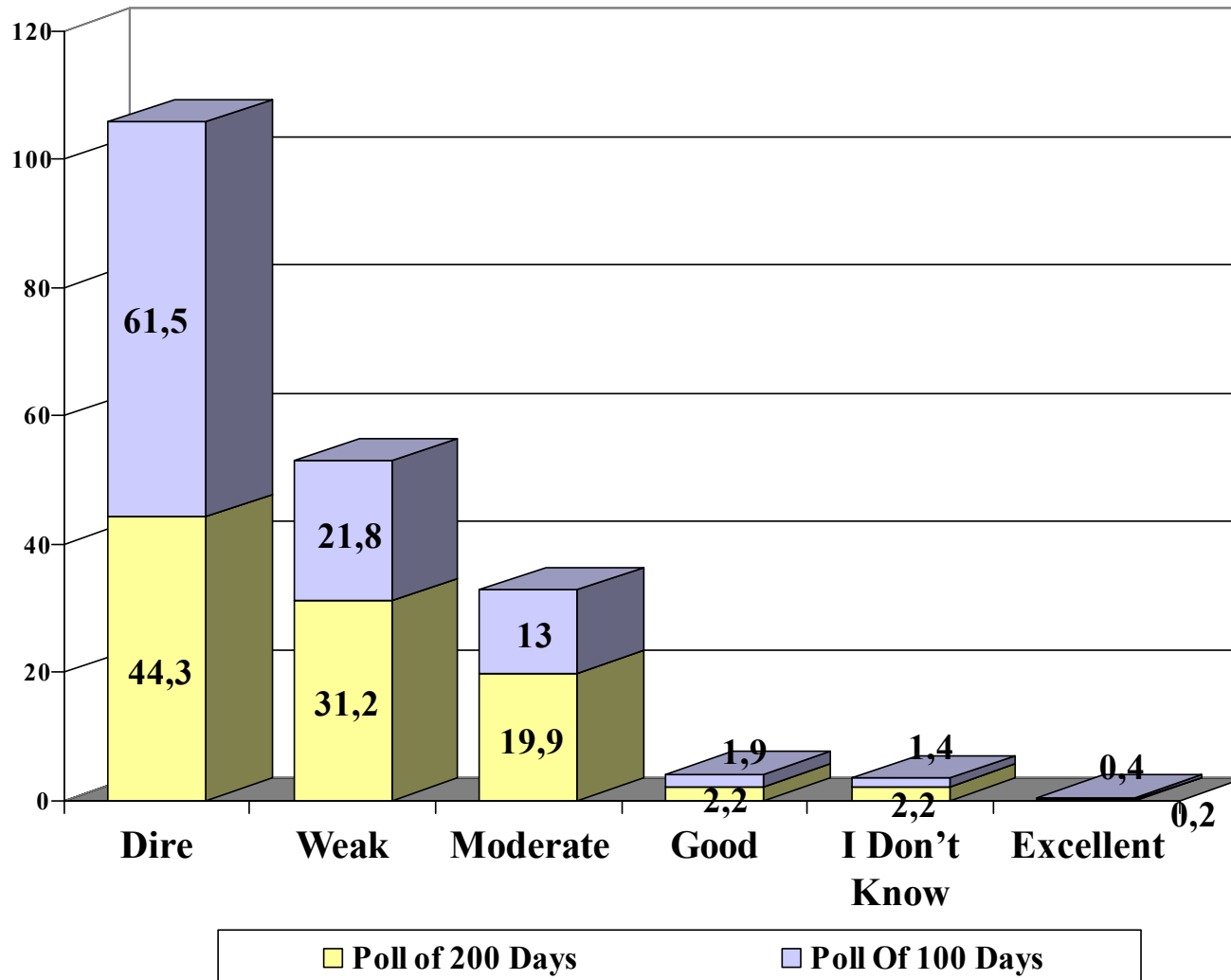
About two-thirds of the respondents (44.3%) considered the economic conditions in Lebanon “bad,” compared to 31.2% weak and only 0.2% excellent.

In terms of confessional distribution, Maronites (53.7%) and Orthodox (48.8%) took the lead in the “bad” classification. These percentages dropped among Sunnis (31.6%).

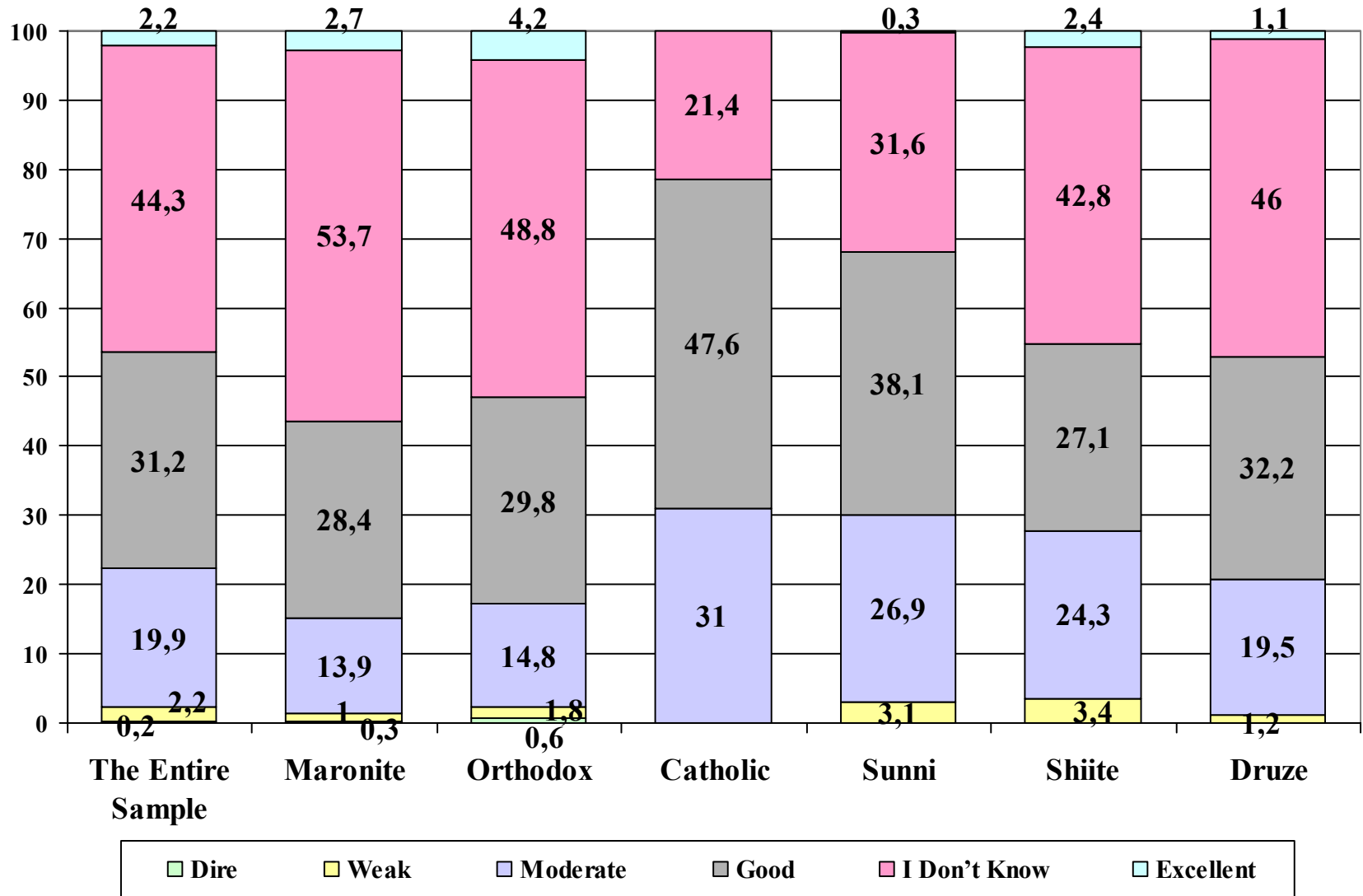
The survey sought to gauge confidence in the future. The highest percentage of respondents (61.7%) felt there was no future, especially for their families, compared to only 12.9% who responded positively and 25.4% who declined comment. Sunni respondents formed the bulk of those whose viewed the future with confidence and optimism, (26.5%). The lowest proportions were among the Catholics (2.4%).

Finally, 30.1% of the respondents acknowledged that at least one member of their family was awaiting immigration this year. The highest percentage was in Catholic respondents (41.7%).

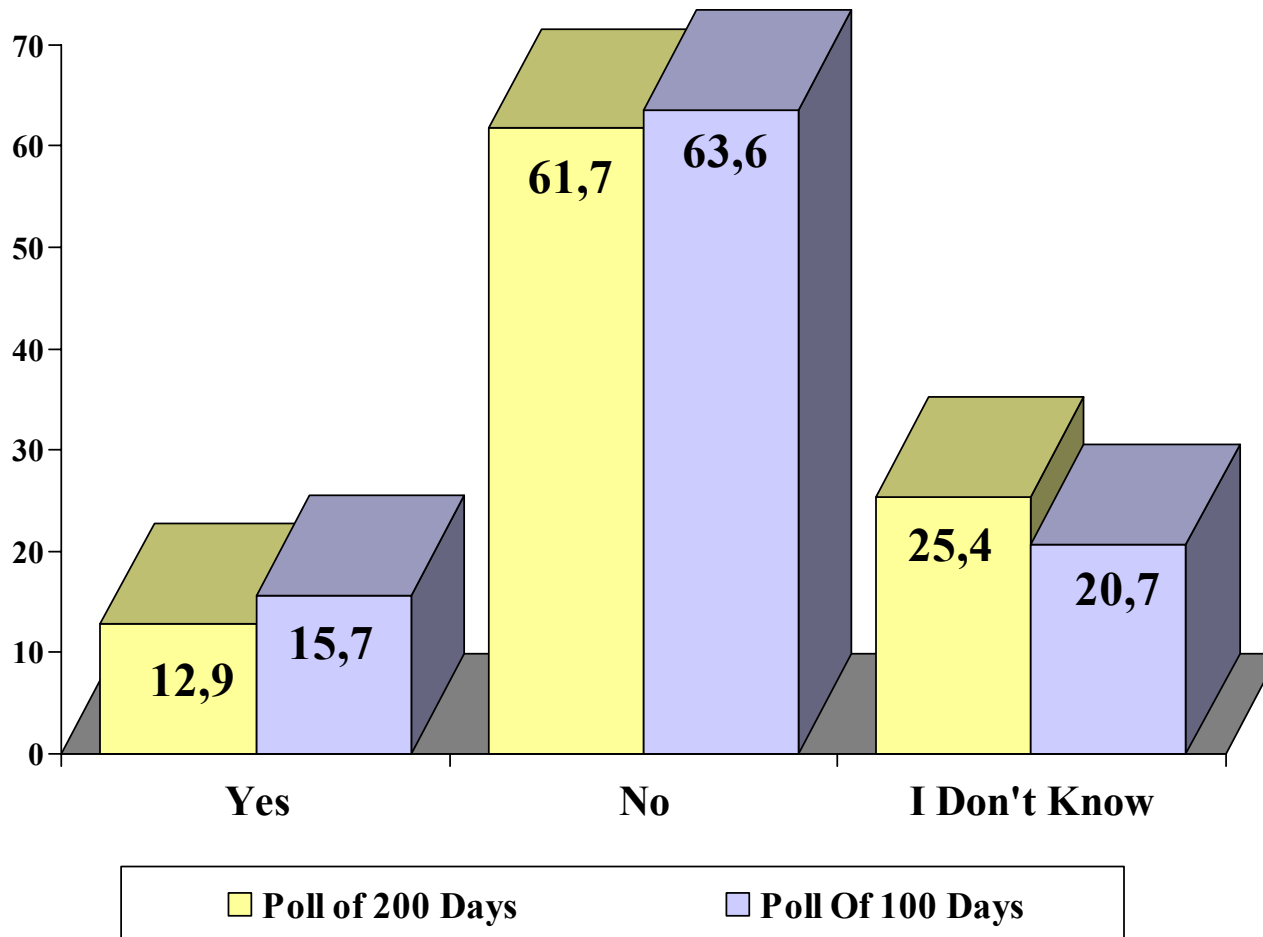
How do you Describe the Economic Situation in Lebanon? (%)



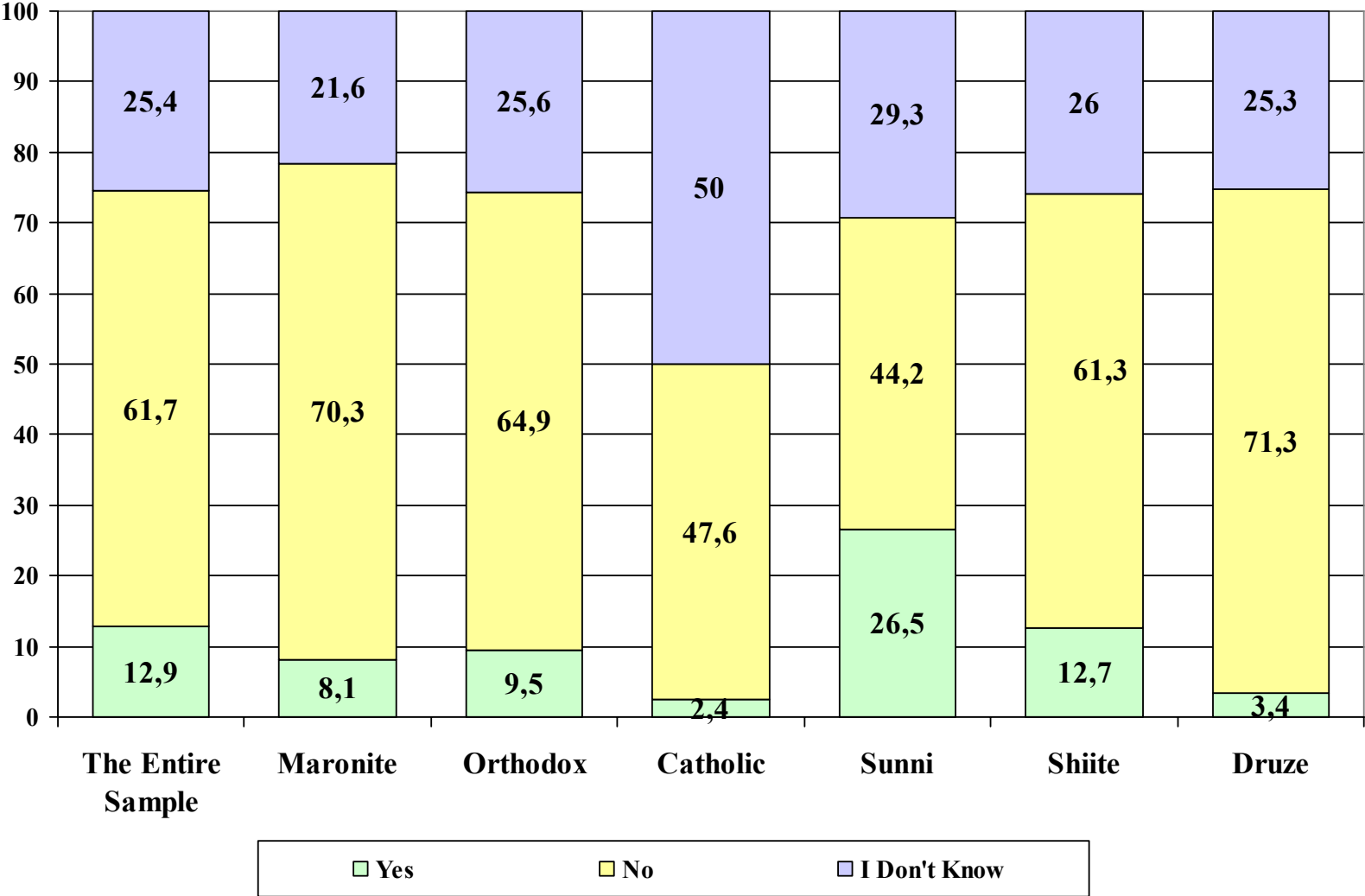
How do you Describe the Economic Situation in Lebanon? According to Confession (%)



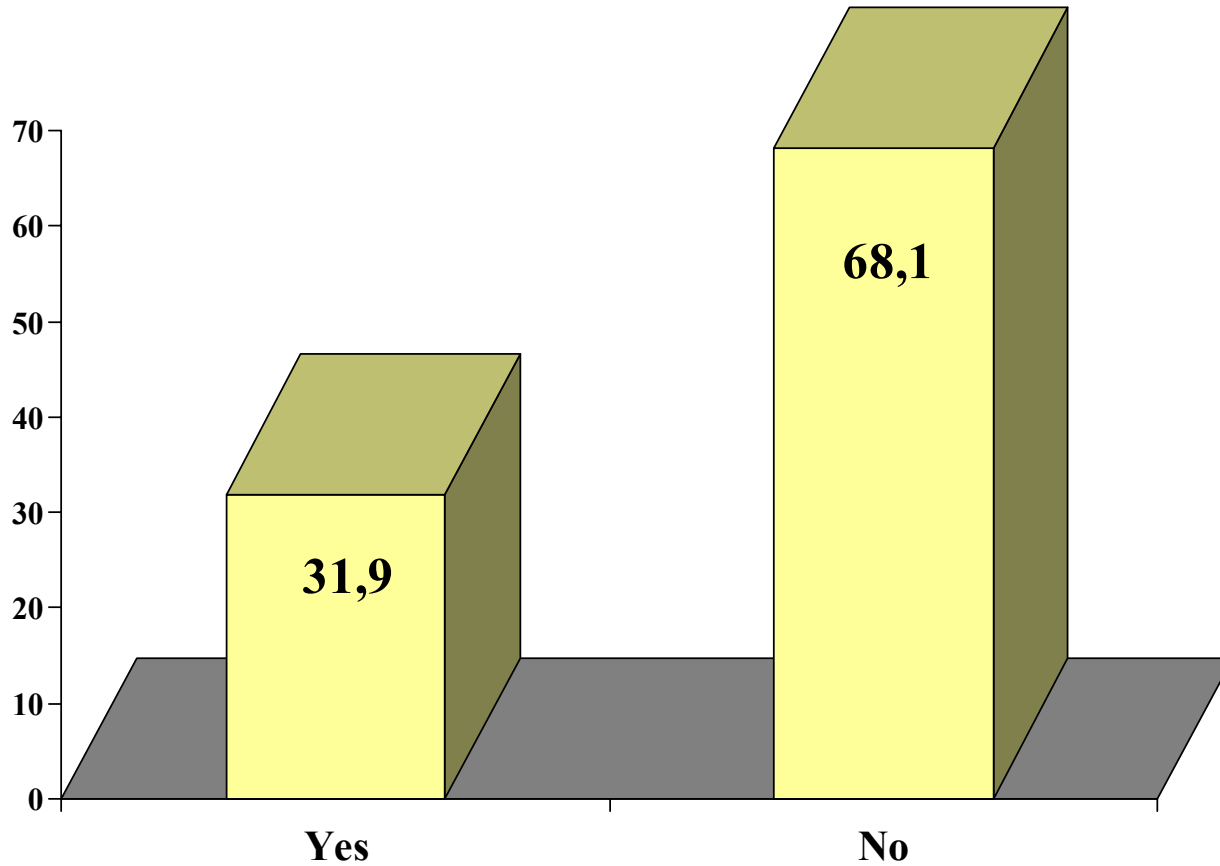
I Feel Confident in the Future of My Family: (%)



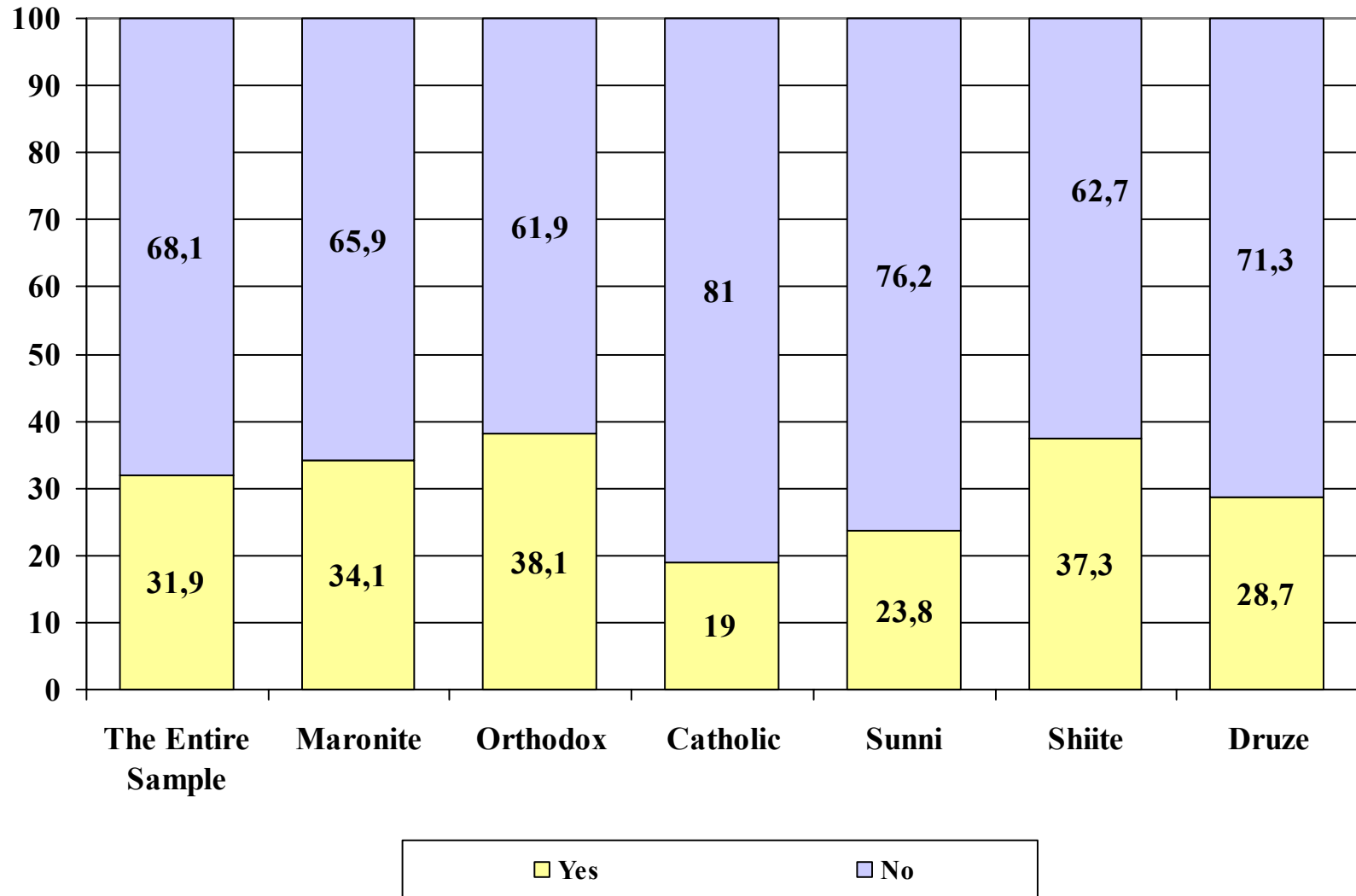
I Feel Confident in the Future of My Family: According to Confession (%)



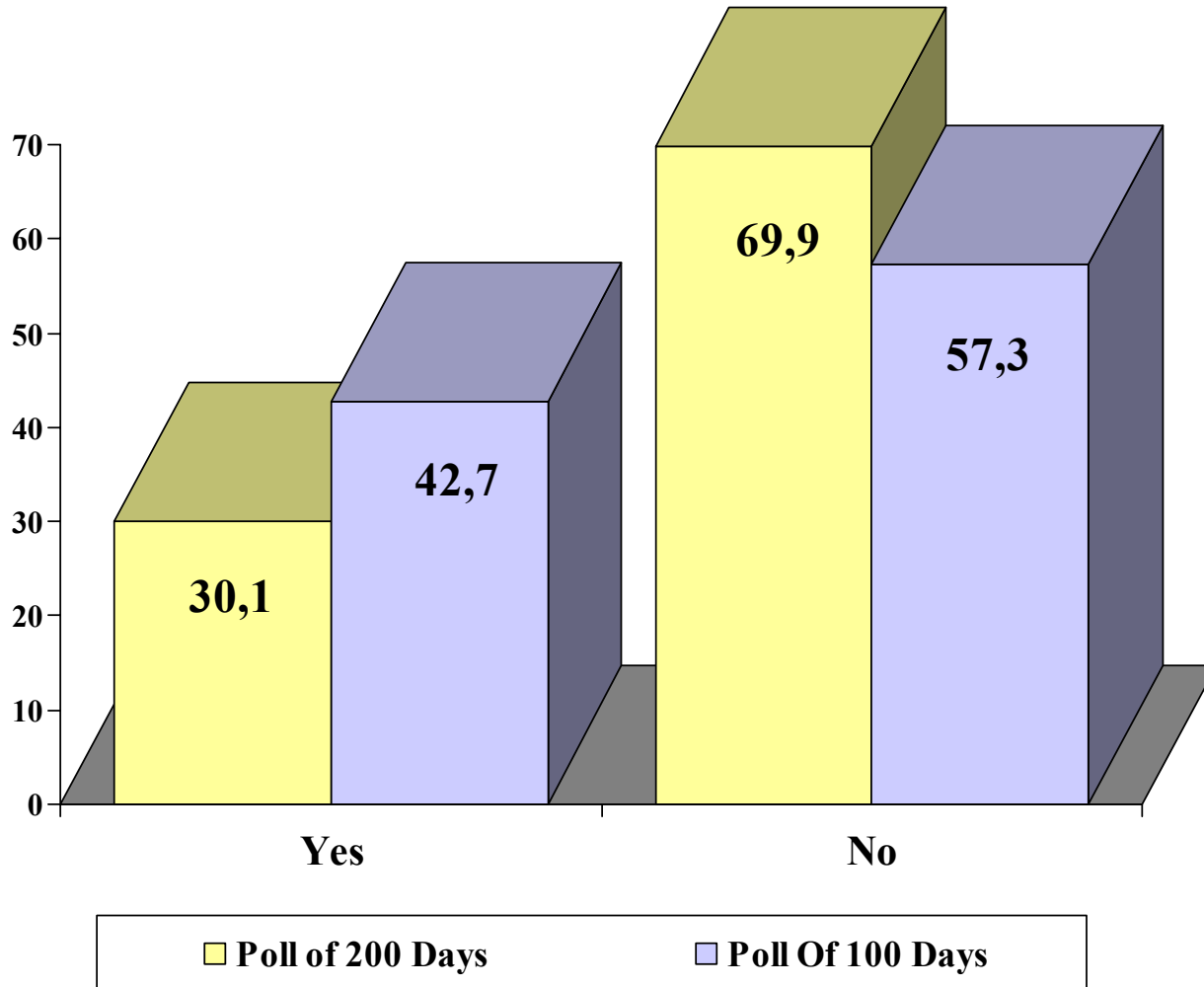
Did Any of Your Family Members Immigrate This Year? (%)



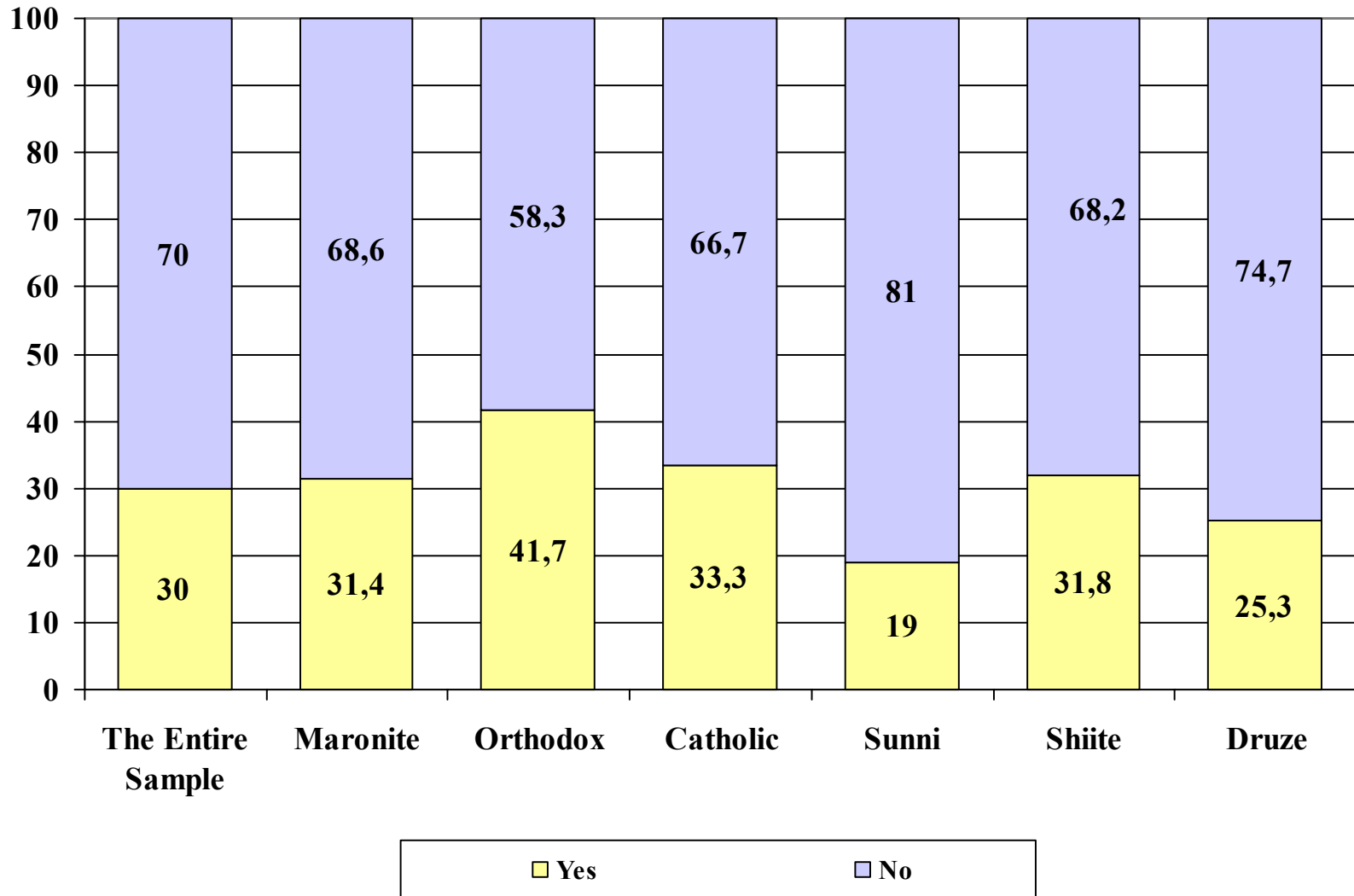
Did Any of Your Family Members Immigrate This Year? According to Confession (%)



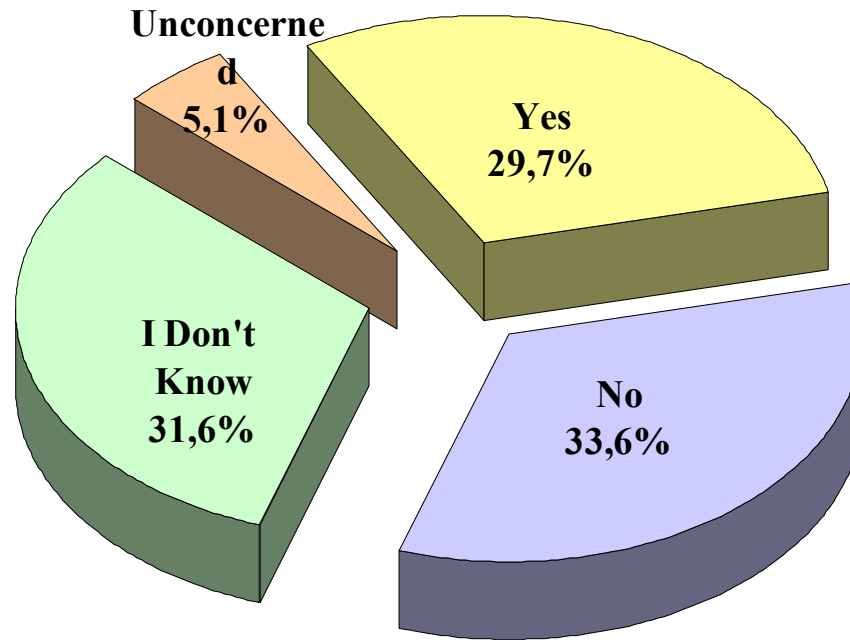
Is Any of Your Family Members Preparing for Immigration this Year? (%)



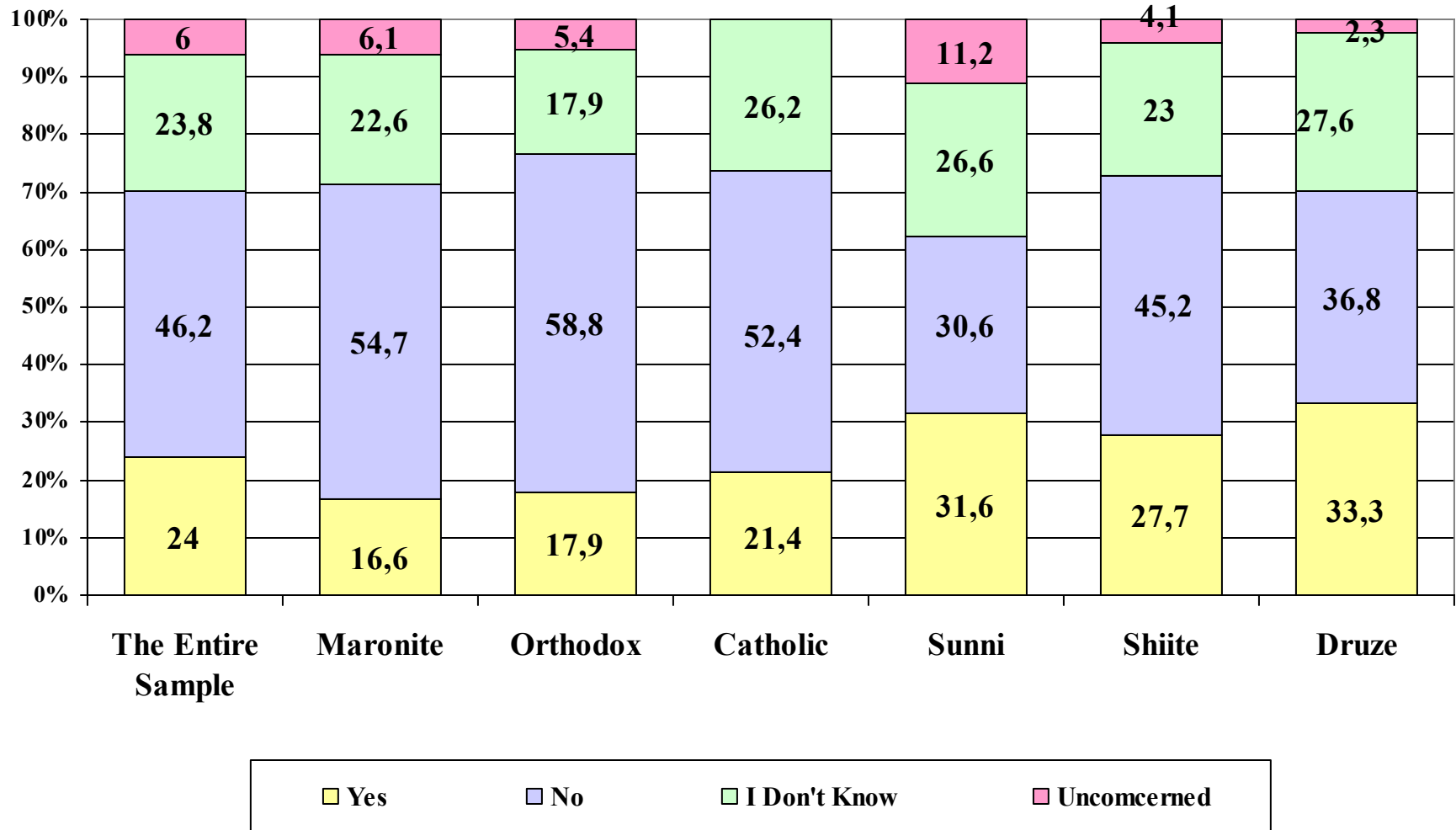
Is Any of Your Family Members Preparing for Immigration this Year? According to Confession (%)



The Prime Minister Has Visited Multiple Countries, Do You Think That These Visits Were Good For Lebanon? (%)



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Information International SAL

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