



INFORMATION
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RESEARCH CONSULTANTS

Opinion Poll on Government Performance After 100 Days

14-28 February 2001

Sample Description

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- 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: 59.5 % for males compared to 40.5% for females.
- The respondents covered all age groups. Of the sample, 20.2% were aged 18 to 24, compared to 26.4% aged 25 to 34, 23.7% aged 35 to 44, 18.4% aged 45 to 54 and 11.3% over 55 years old.

Sample Description

- In terms of income, the majority of respondents (38.6%) earn an average of US\$500-US\$1,000 per month, compared to 28.2% who earn US\$200-US\$500, 15.8% between US\$1,000 and US\$1,500, and 8.4% between US\$1,500 and US\$2,000. Only 7% of those polled have a monthly income of less than US\$250, while 2% have earnings exceeding US\$2,000.
- As for the social standing, the survey reveals that the majority (62.8%) are qualified, compared to 33.4% unqualified, 2.4% widowed and 1.4% divorced.
-
- The education level of the respondents varied from elementary to higher education, including technical education. Those who had completed secondary education formed 33.1% of the sample, compared to 30.8% university graduates, and 23.2% who had completed intermediate education. As for those who had completed only elementary education, they formed 7.9% of the sample, while those with post-graduate degrees accounted for 3%, and 2% who have had technical training.

Sample Description

- The questionnaire was distributed to all professional sectors of high qualification, such as physicians 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.
- The poll compared the views of university students with those of the entire sample to expose the major differences. While the entire sample included 1,250 respondents, including 124 questionnaires for university students.
- 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

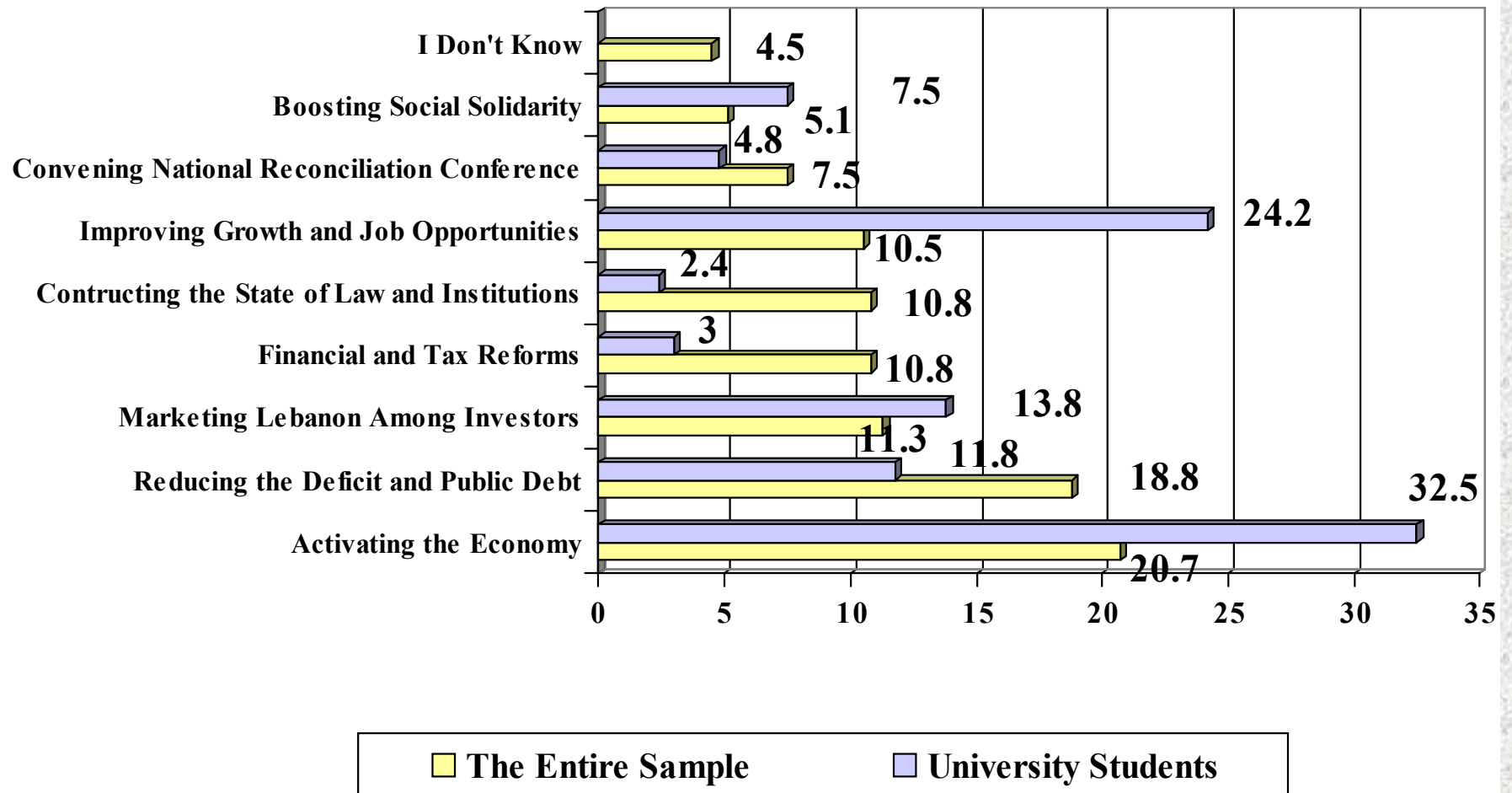
Activating economic growth topped the list of priorities being addressed by the government (20.7%), followed by reducing the deficit and public debt, then marketing Lebanon among investors. Significantly, 24.2% of university students believed the government was working to “improve economic growth rates and create job opportunities,” compared to only 10.5% of the general sample.

Of the general sample, 25% said the government is capable, to a limited extent, of carrying out its mission, compared to 22.1% who believed it is incapable of doing so. A relatively high proportion of Shiites (33.5%) and Maronites (28%) said the government has been unable to carry out its duties since it assumed office and until now.

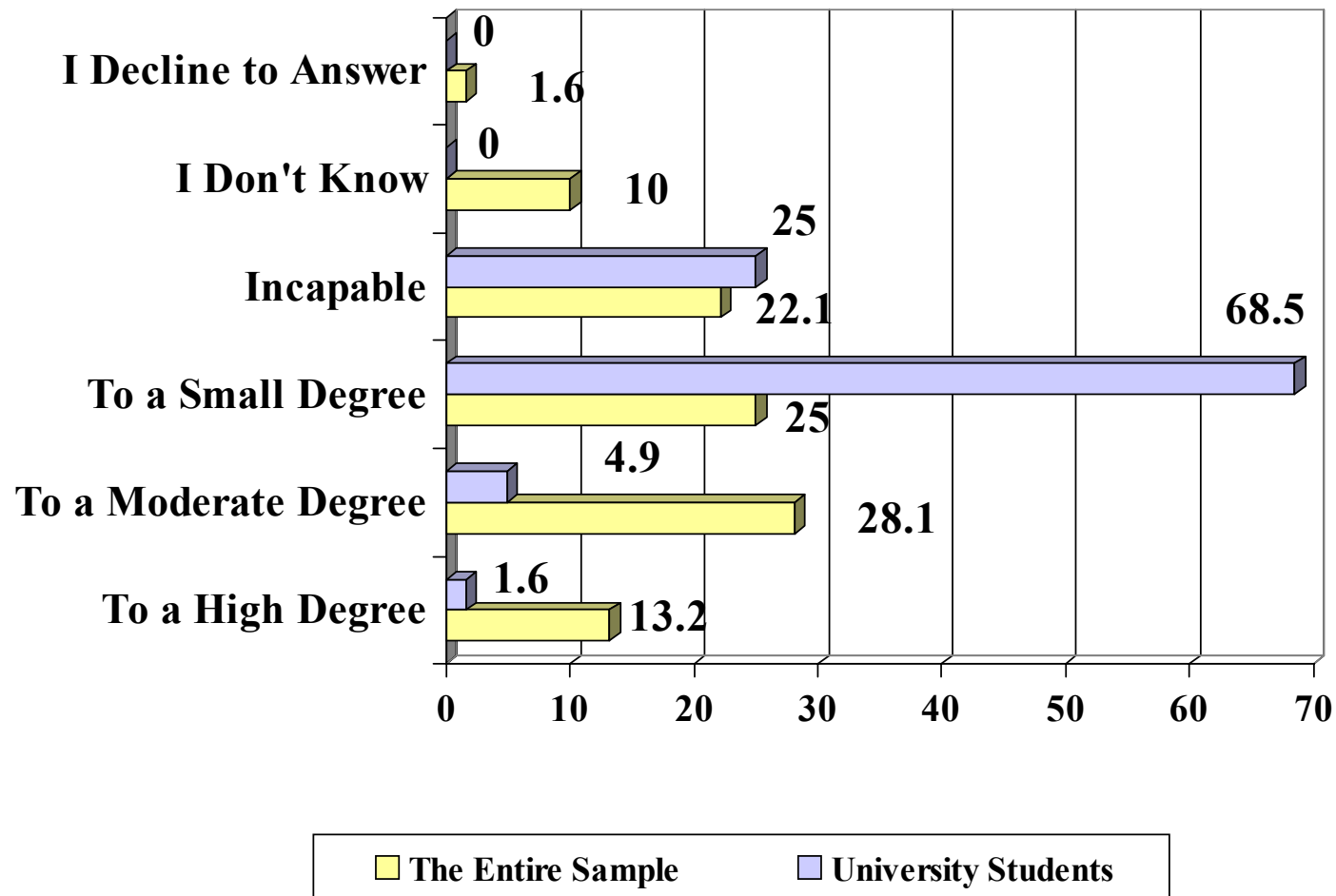
As for the most important government achievement to date, the results reflected pessimism among the respondents, with 45% saying it has so far achieved nothing, compared to 17.2% who noted the reduction of customs tariffs and 10.3% for lowering taxes.

The evaluation of the open-sky policy and the reduction of customs tariffs was “good,” with 52% and 72.1% respectively supporting these motions. But the support waned with regard to the government’s present handling of other issues, such as privatization of the electricity and telecommunications, 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 open-sky policy and reducing customs tariffs, but support declined when it came to other issues at stake.

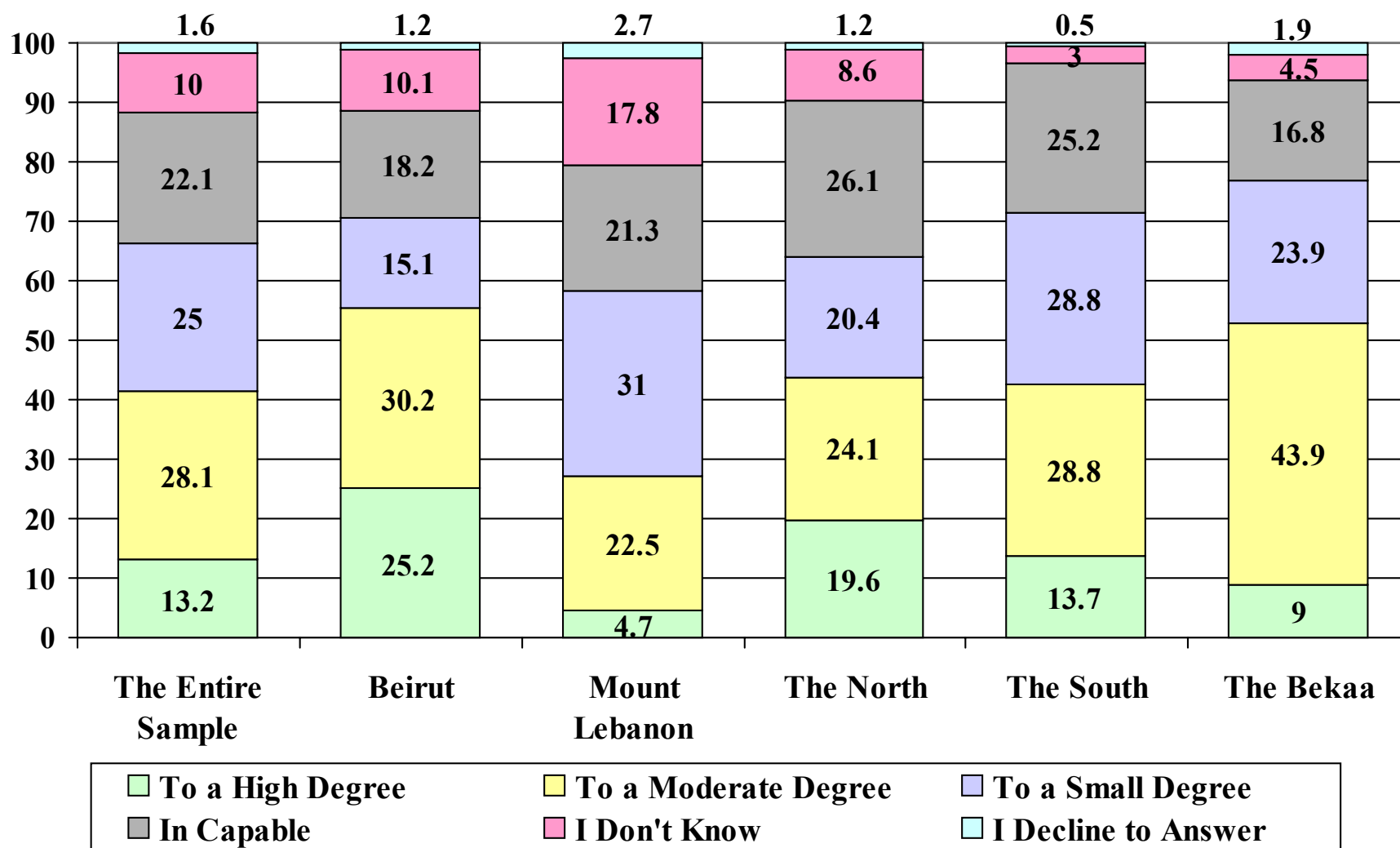
Identify the Three Priorities Which the Government has Decided to Tackle (%)



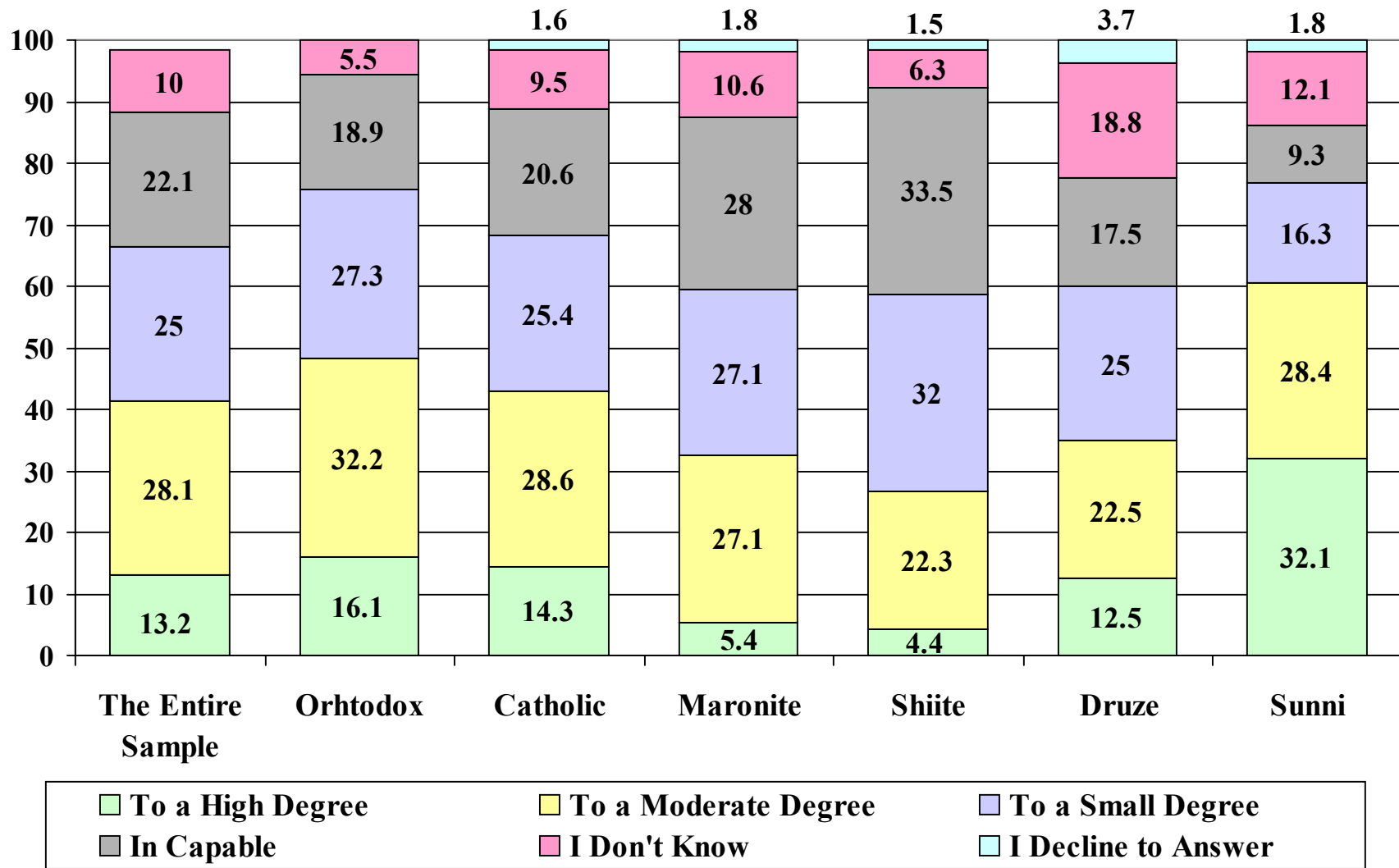
To What Degree do you think the Current Government has been able to Carry out its Mission since it Assumed Office and Until Now? (%)



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 the Province (Mohafazat)(%)

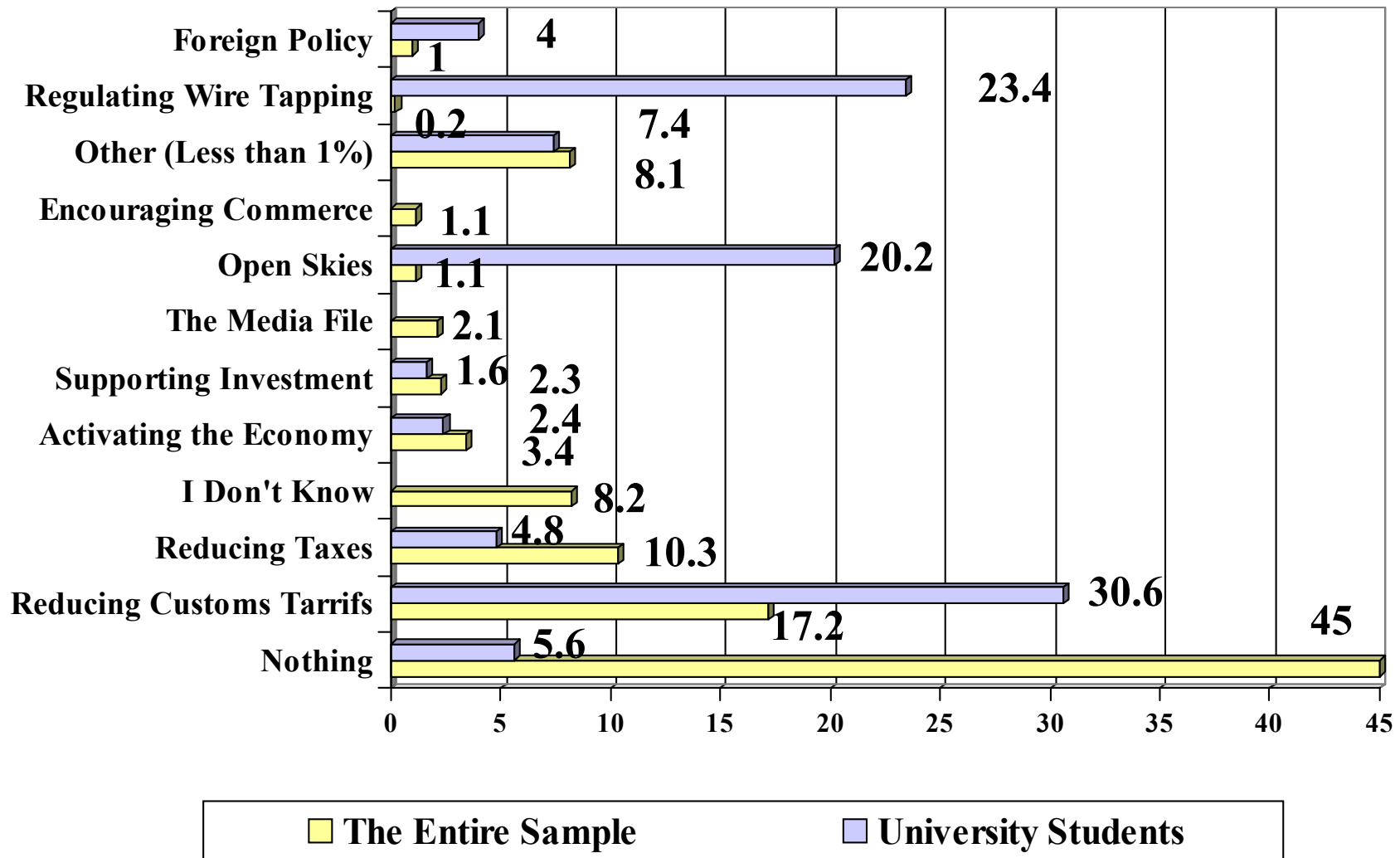


To What Degree do you think the Current Government has been able to Carry out its Mission since it Assumed Office and Until Now? According to Confession (%)

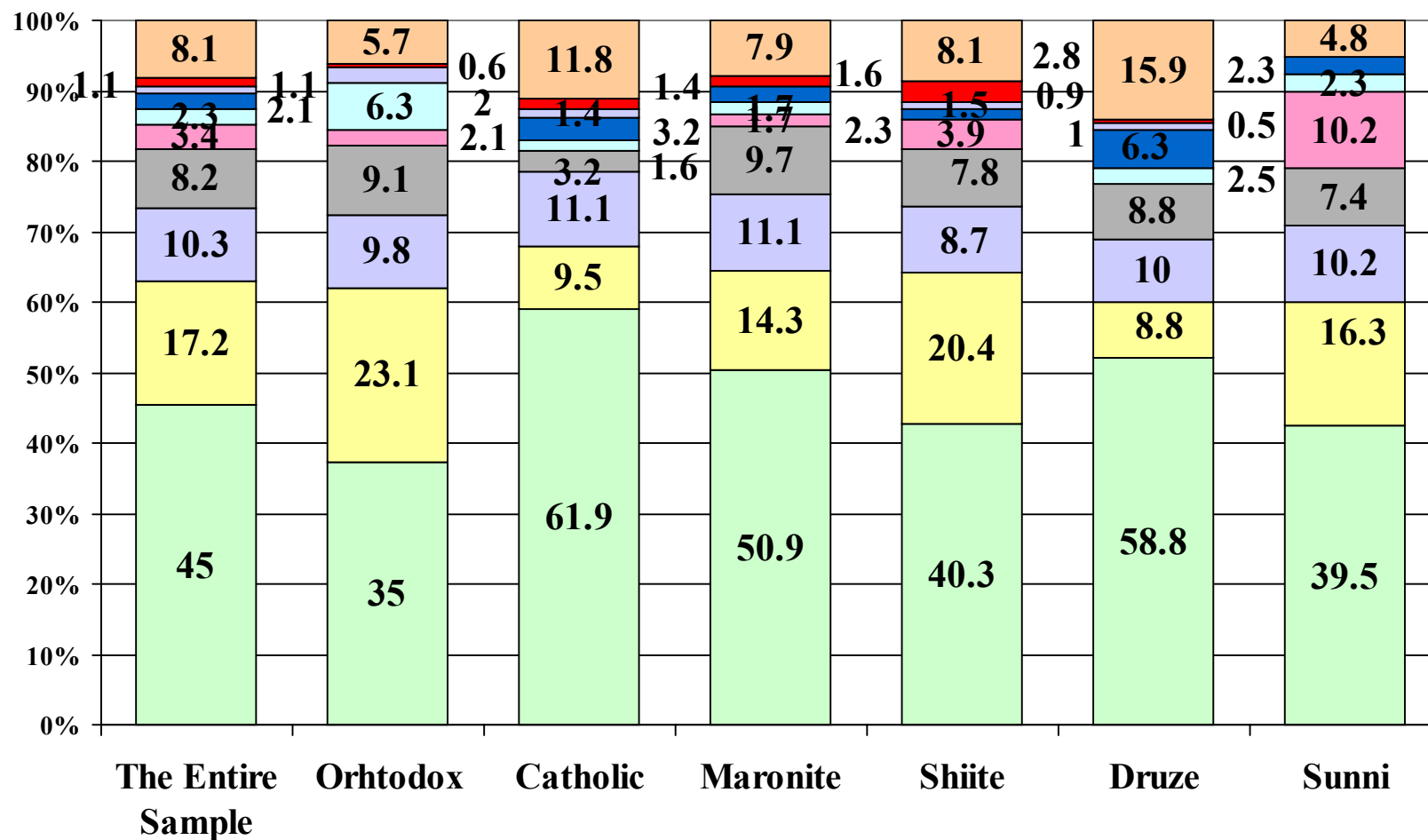


In Your Opinion, What is the Government's Most Important Achievement Until Now? (%)

Open-Ended Question

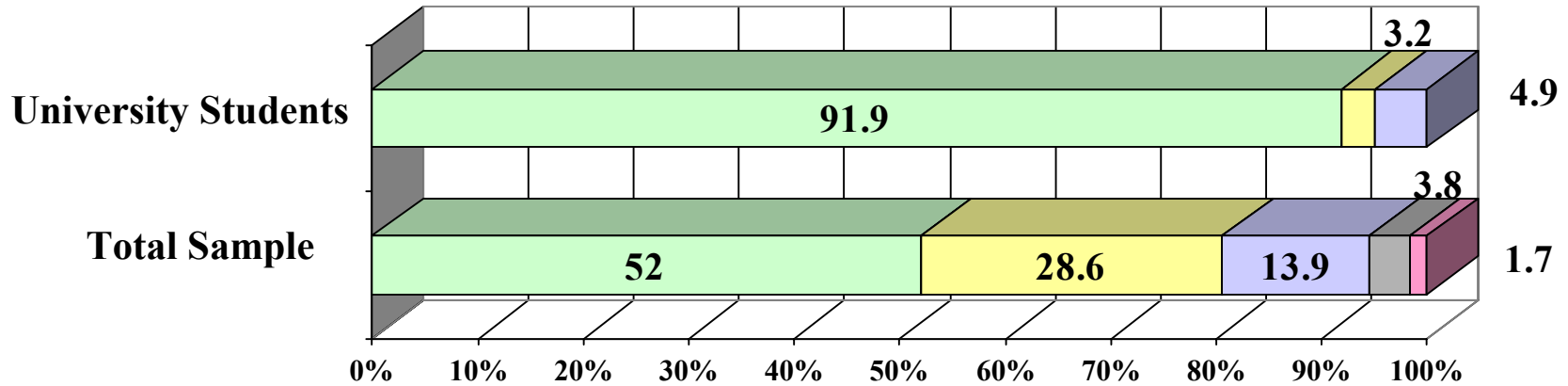


In Your Opinion, What is the Government's Most Important Achievement Until Now? According to Confession (%)

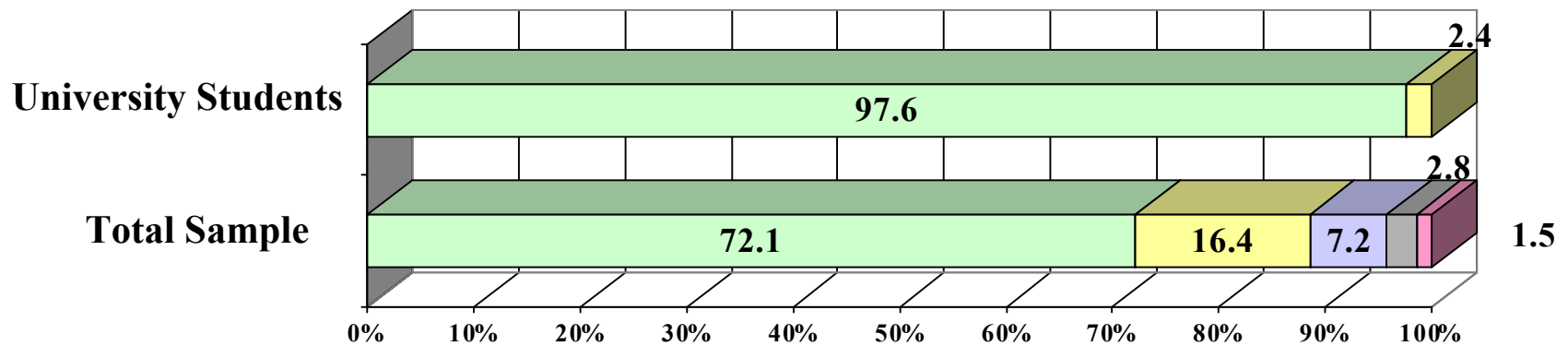


How do you Evaluate Government Performance Until Now in Handling the Following Issues? (%) 1/10

Open Sky Policy

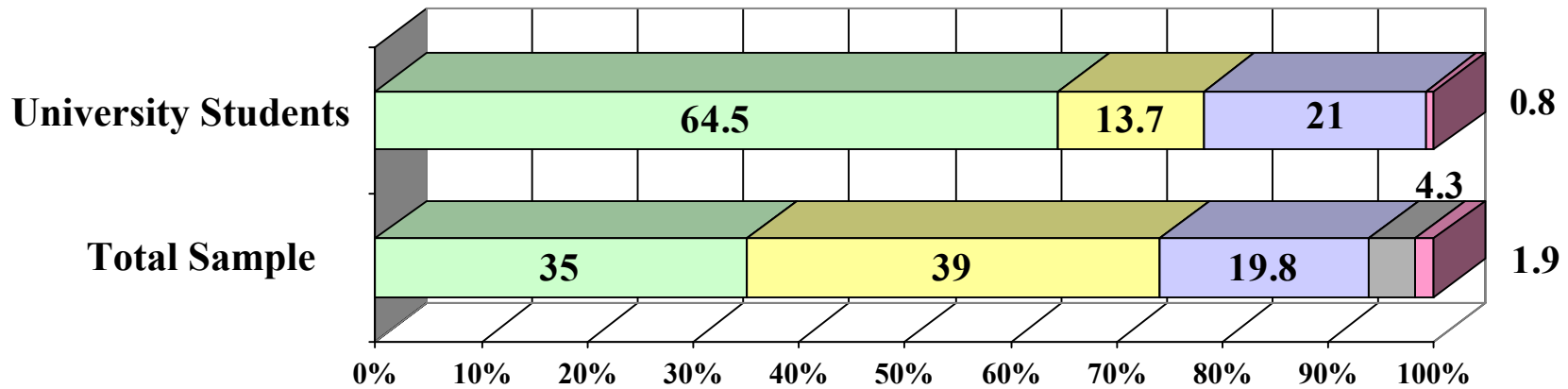


Reducing Customs Tarrifs

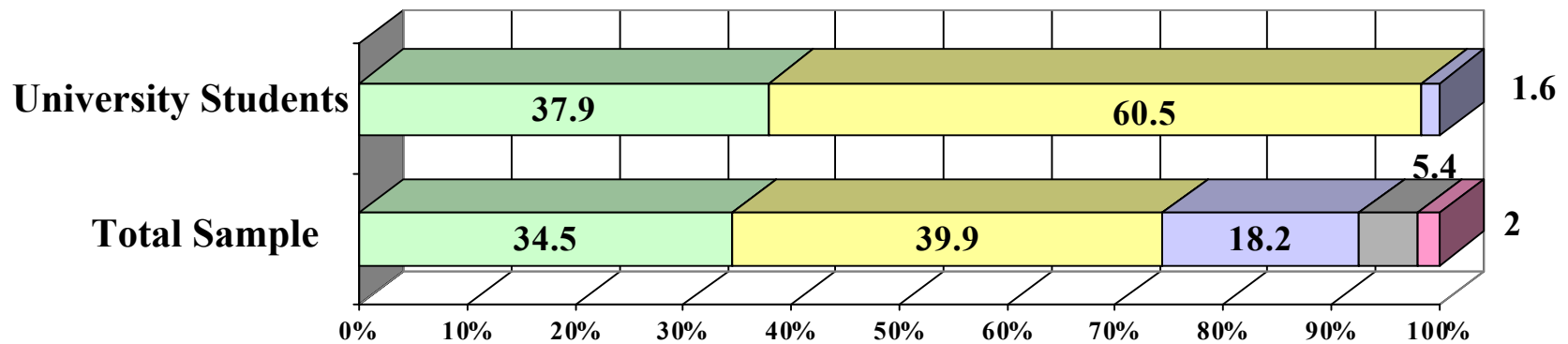


How do you Evaluate Government Performance Until Now in Handling the Following Issues? (%) 2/10

Privatization of the Electricity



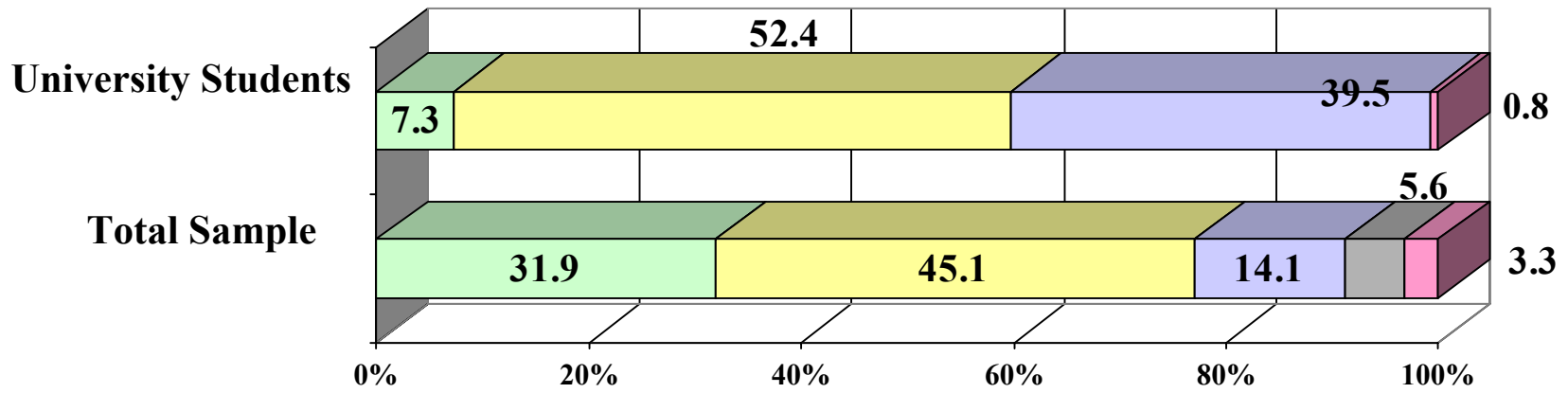
Privatization of Telecommunications



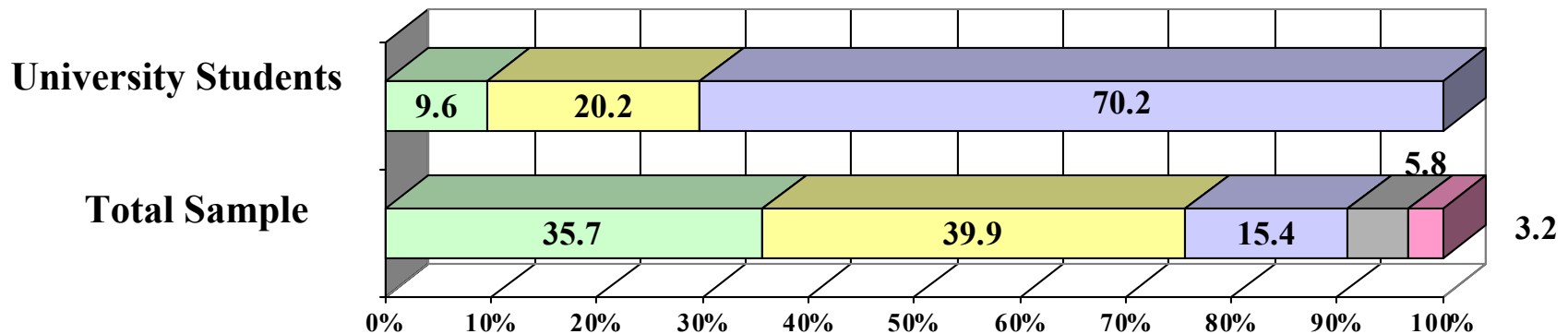
Good
 Bad
 I Don't Know
 Unconcerned
 I Decline to Answer

How do you Evaluate Government Performance Until Now in Handling the Following Issues? (%) 3/10

Uncovering the Fait of the Missing

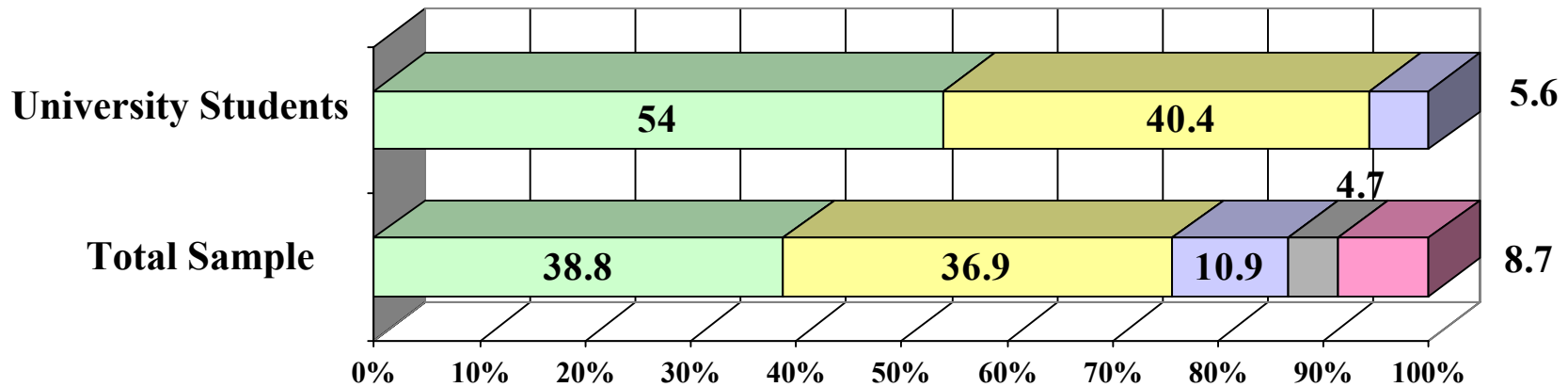


Liberating Prisoners Held by Israel

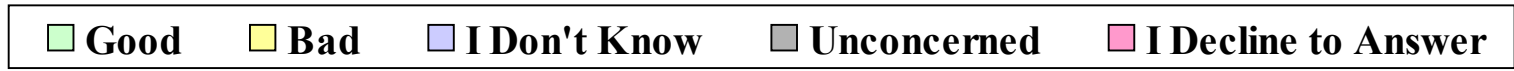
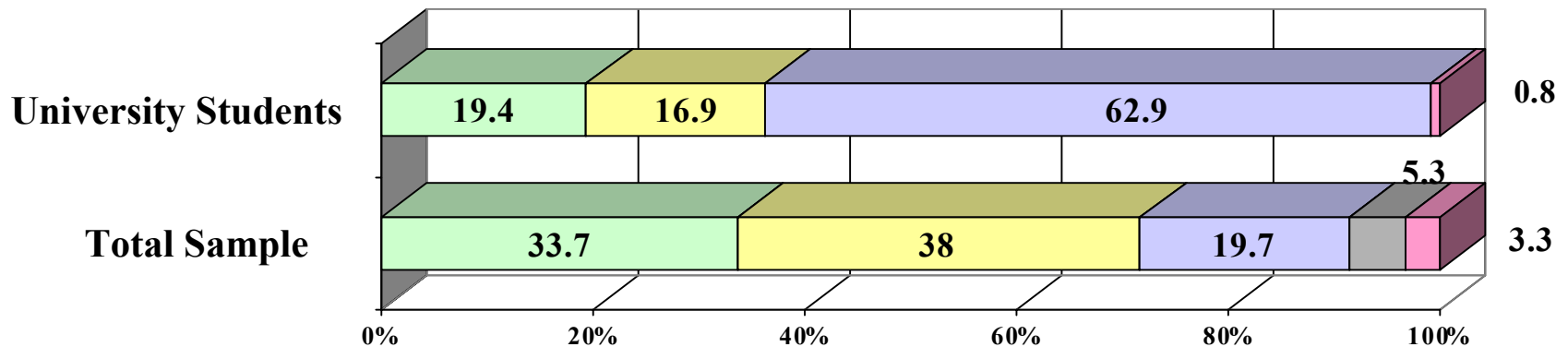


How do you Evaluate Government Performance Until Now in Handling the Following Issues? (%) 4/10

Lebanese Syrian Relations

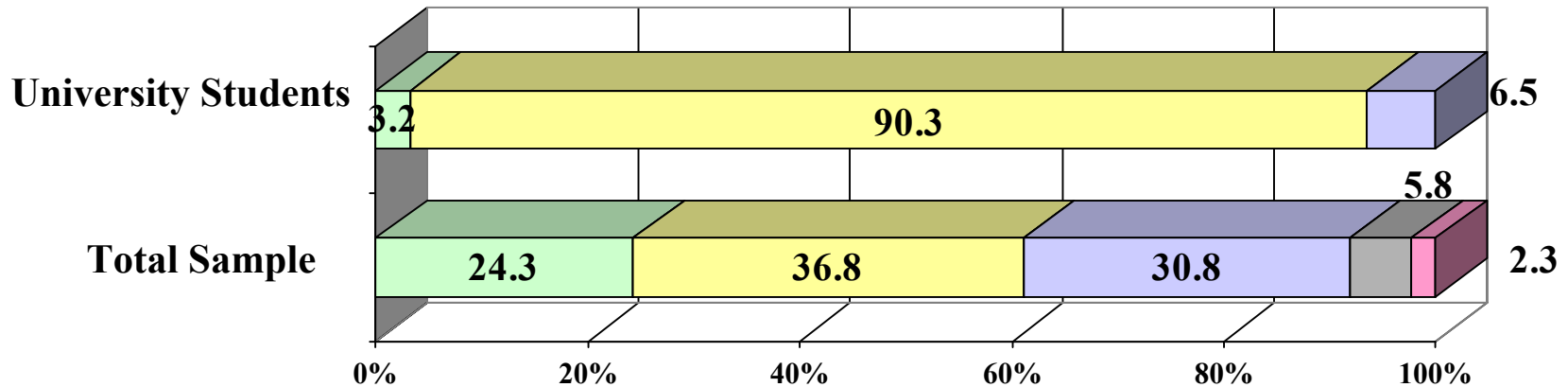


Recovering the Shebaa Farms

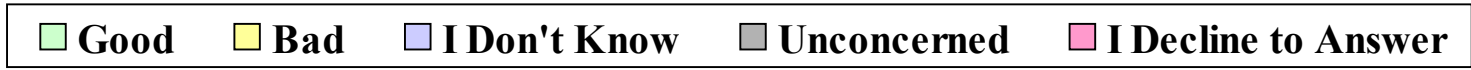
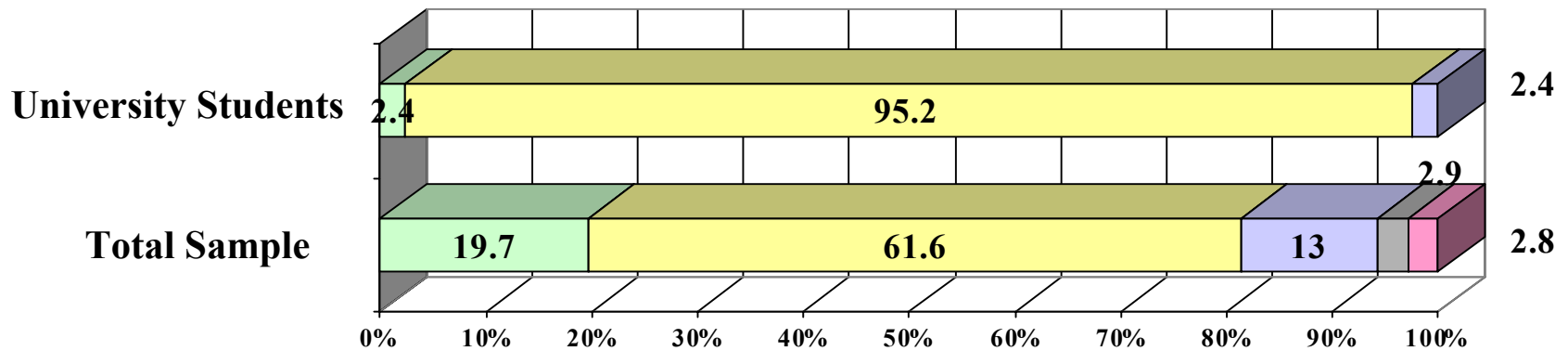


How do you Evaluate Government Performance Until Now in Handling the Following Issues? (%) 5/10

Coastal Property Law

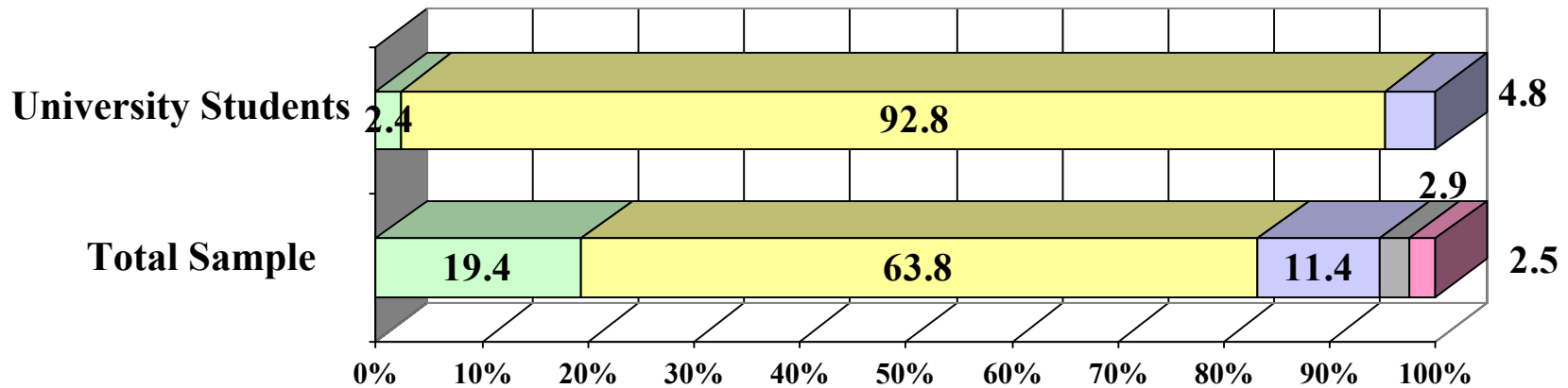


Combating Corruption and Nepotism

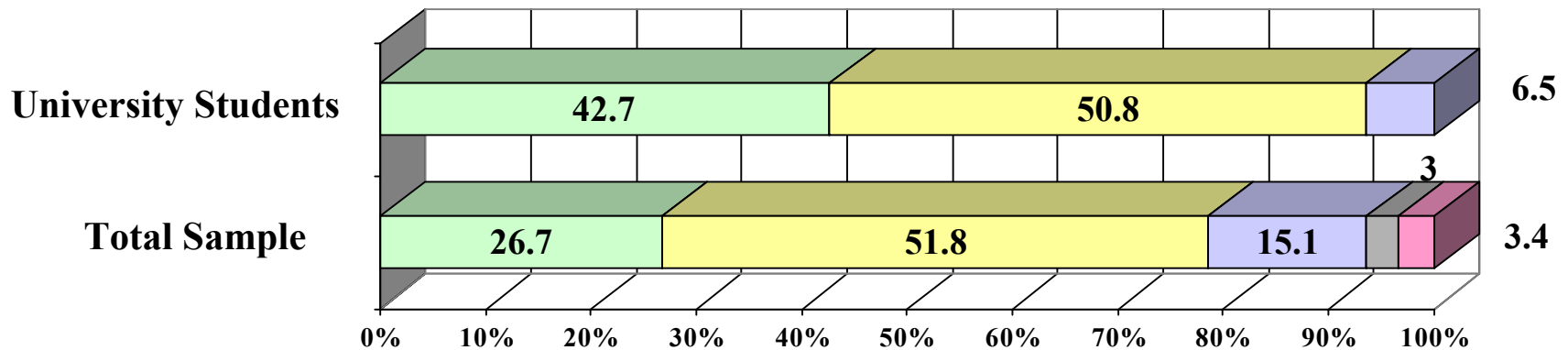


How do you Evaluate Government Performance Until Now in Handling the Following Issues? (%) 6/10

Administrative Reform

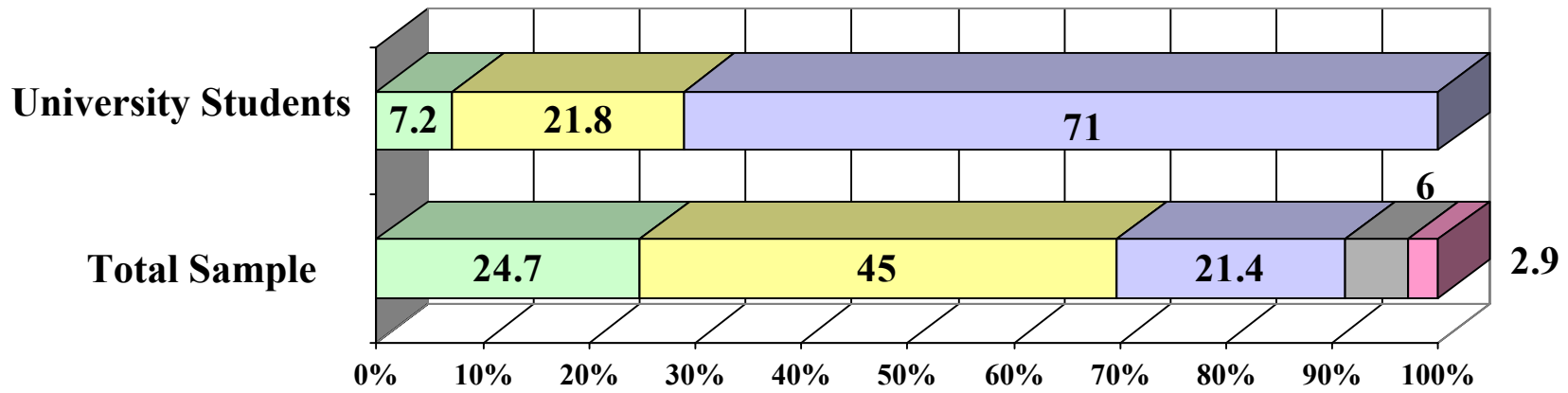


Protecting Liberties

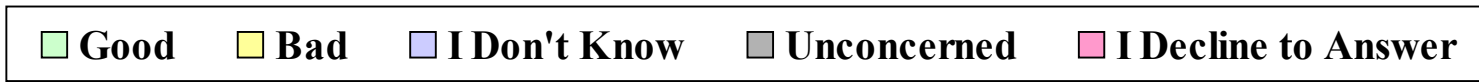
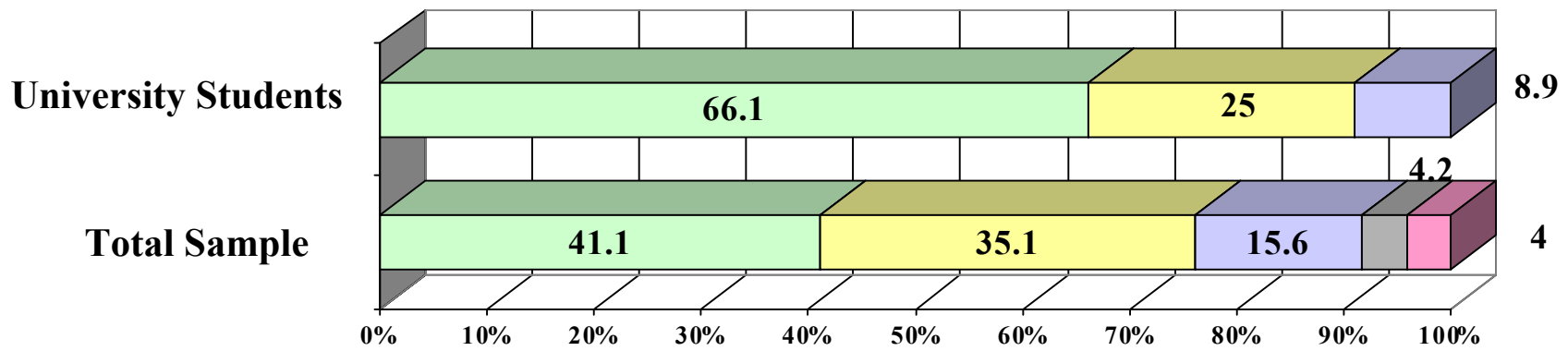


How do you Evaluate Government Performance Until Now in Handling the Following Issues? (%) 7/10

Formulating A New Election Law

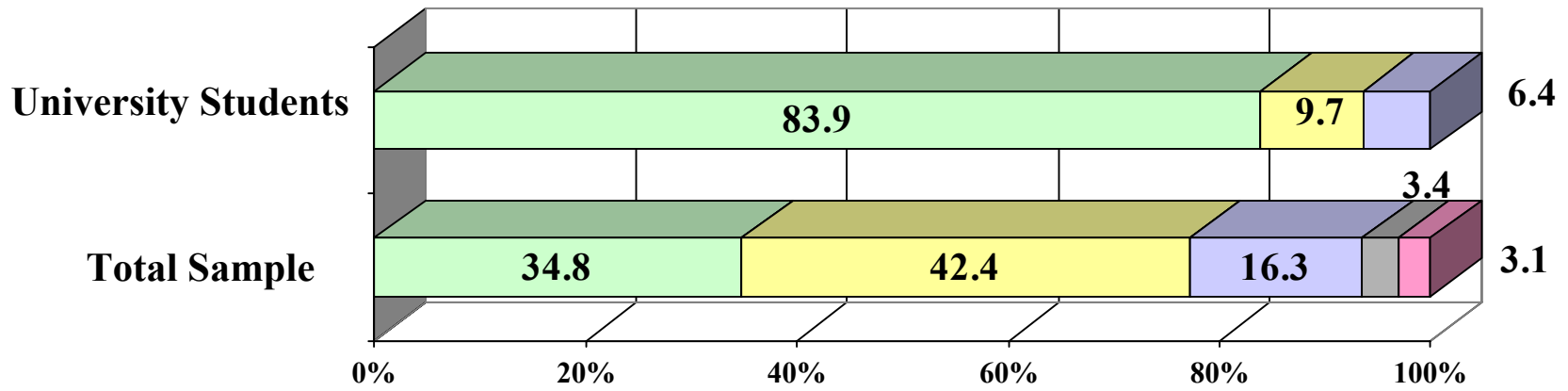


Settlement of Palestinians

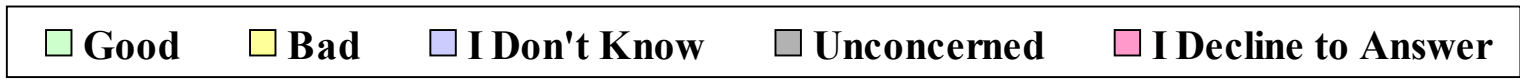
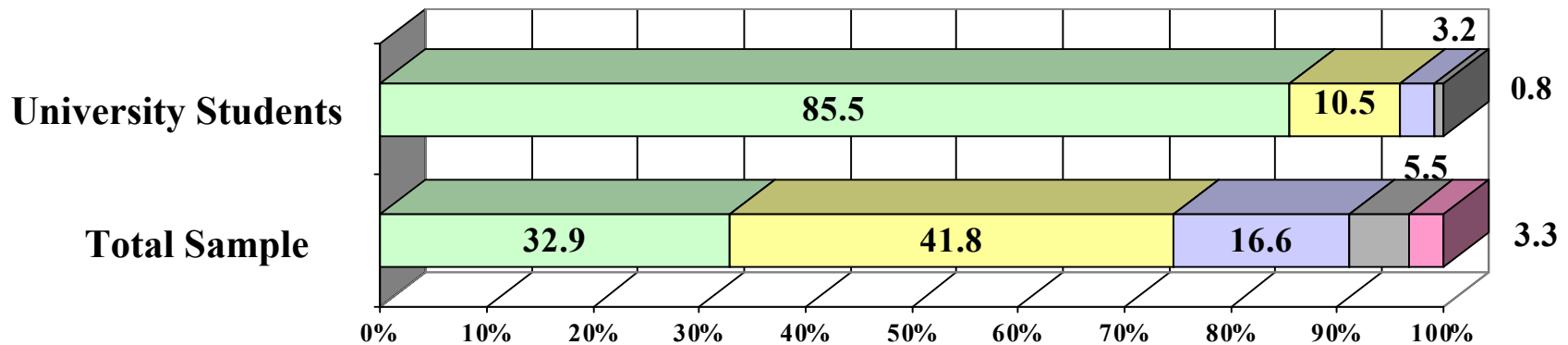


How do you Evaluate Government Performance Until Now in Handling the Following Issues? (%) 8/10

Reconstructing the Liberated South

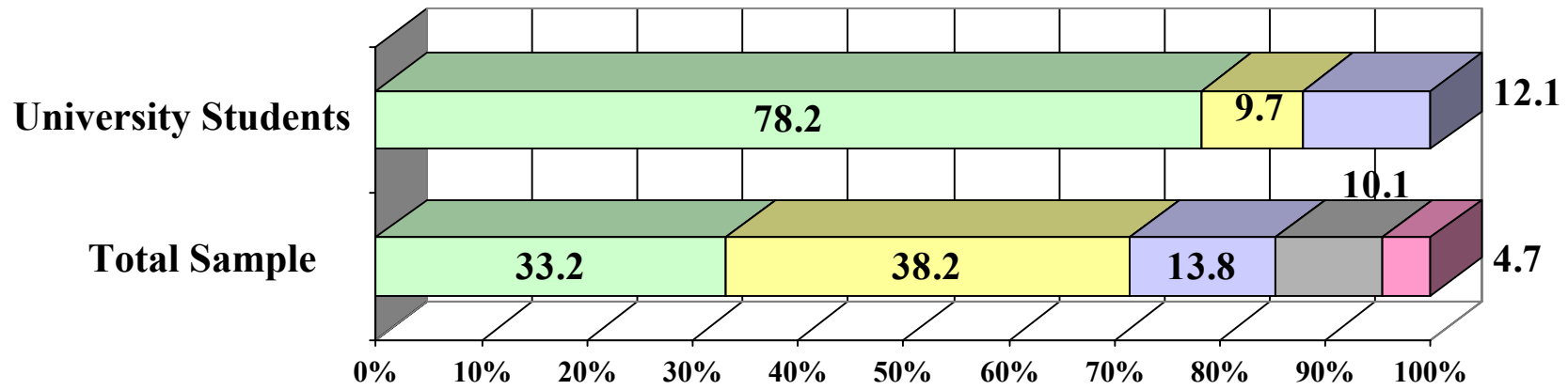


Wire Tapping Law

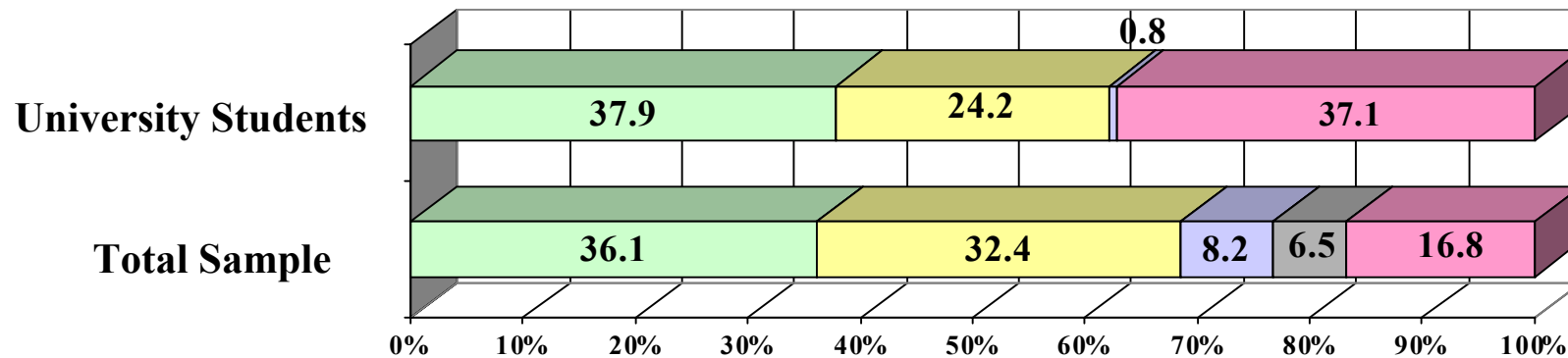


How do you Evaluate Government Performance Until Now in Handling the Following Issues? (%) 9/10

Capital Punishment



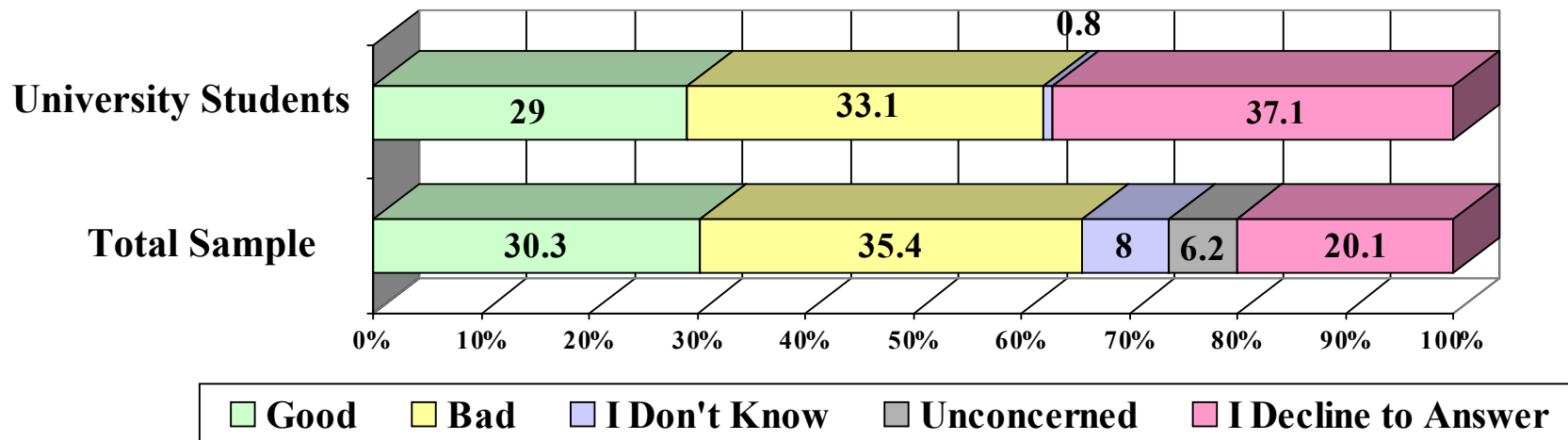
The Return of Aoun



Good
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 I Decline to Answer

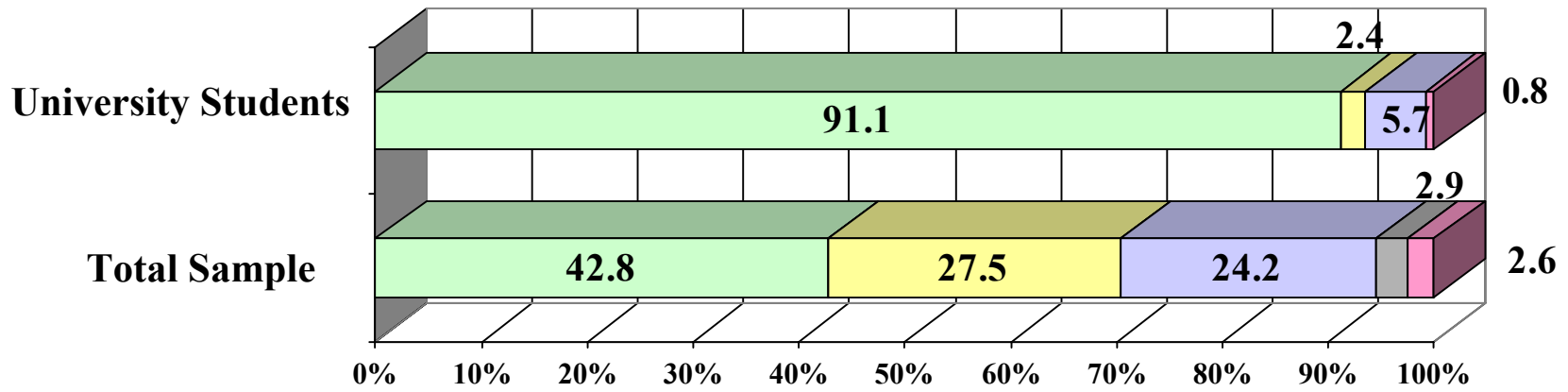
How do you Evaluate Government Performance Until Now in Handling the Following Issues? (%) 10/10

Amnesty for Jaajaa

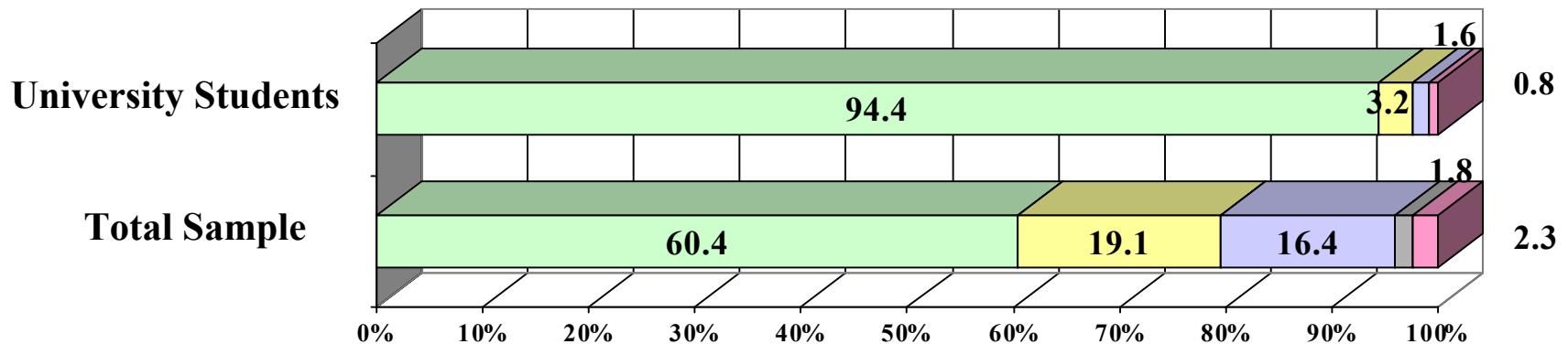


Do you Believe the Government will Succeed in Tackling the Following Issues? (%) 1/10

Open Sky Policy

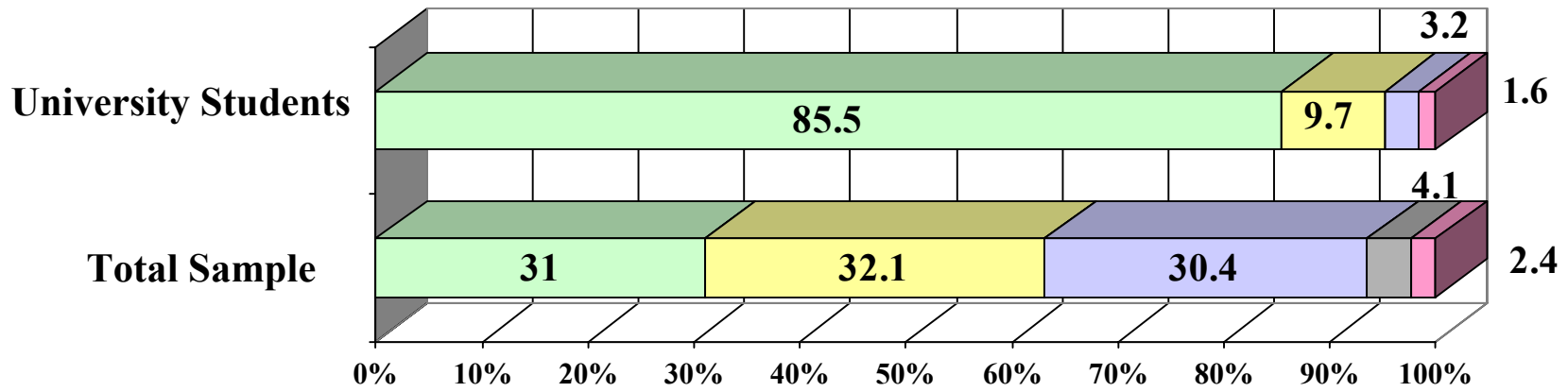


Reducing Customs Tarrifs

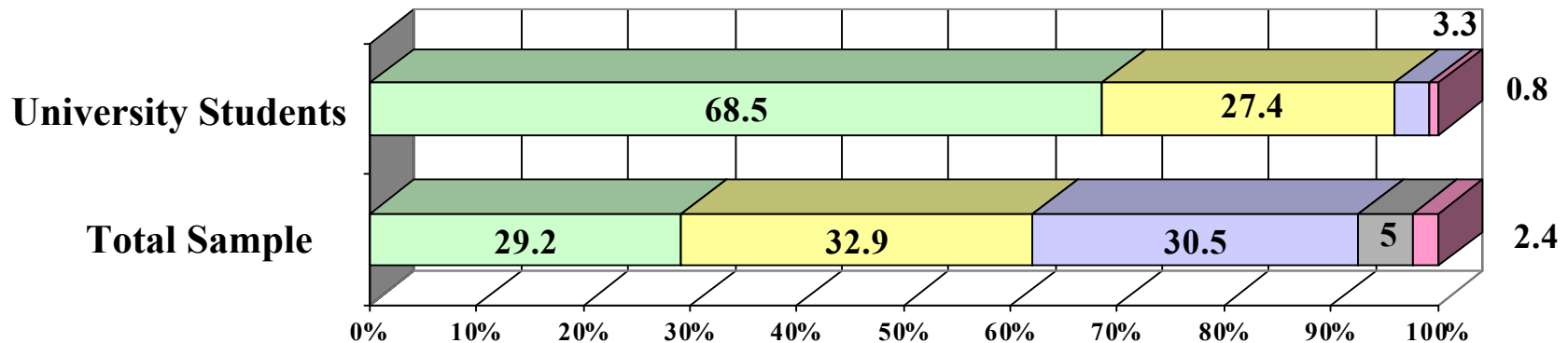


Do you Believe the Government will Succeed in Tackling the Following Issues? (%) 2/10

Privatization of the Electricity



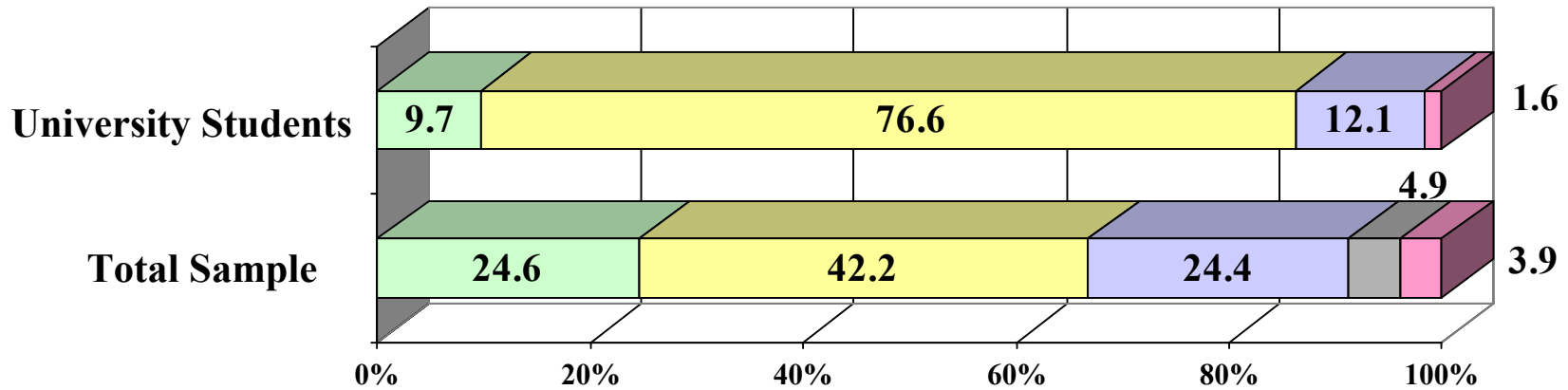
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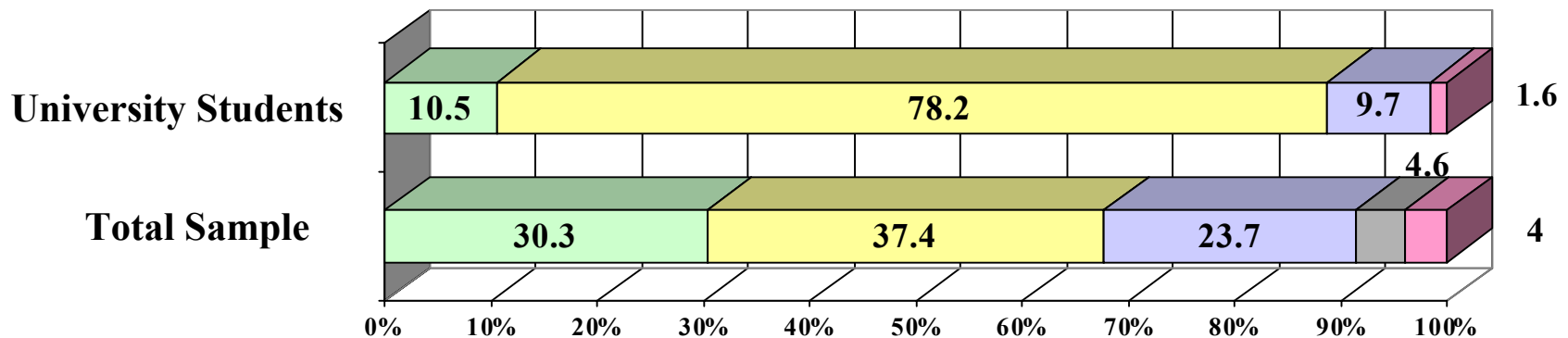
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Do you Believe the Government will Succeed in Tackling the Following Issues? (%) 3/10

Uncovering the Fate of the Missing



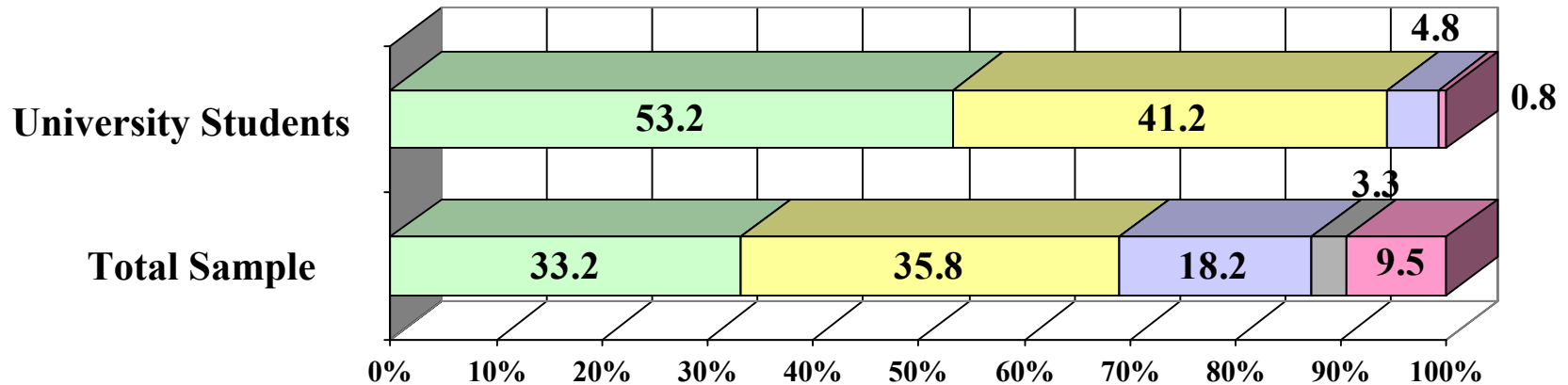
Liberating Prisoners Held by Israel



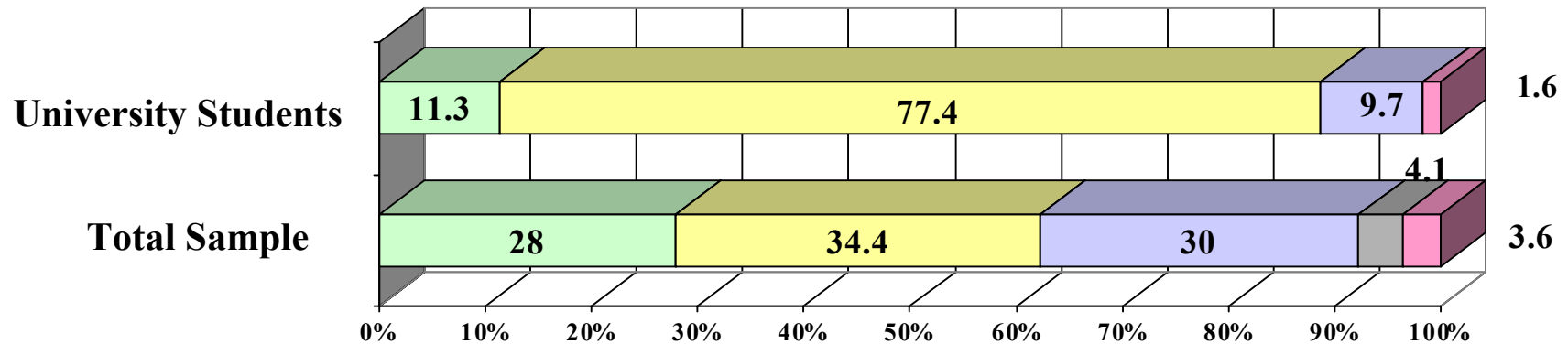
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Do you Believe the Government will Succeed in Tackling the Following Issues? (%) 4/10

Lebanese Syrian Relations



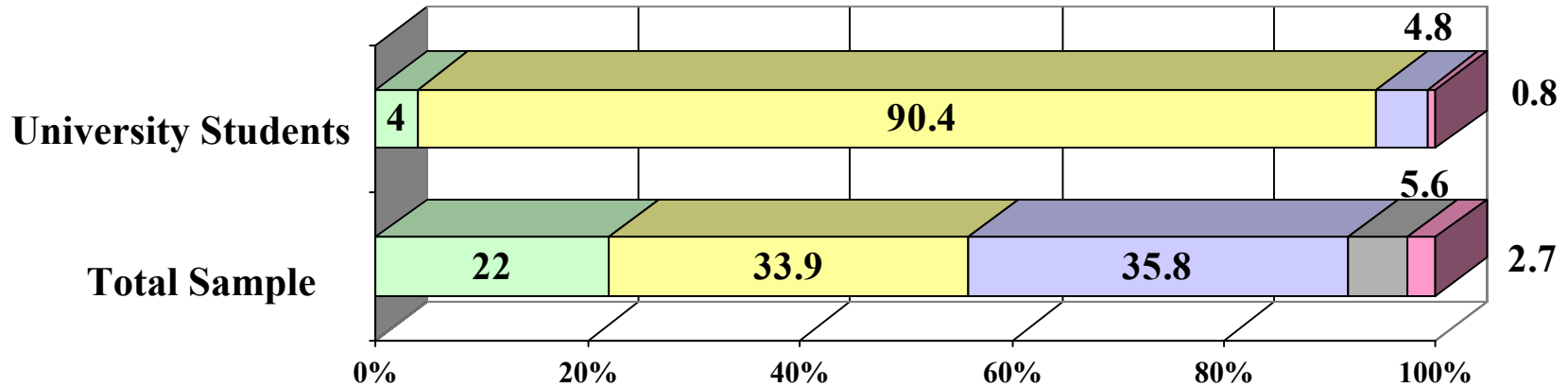
Recovering the Shebaa Farms



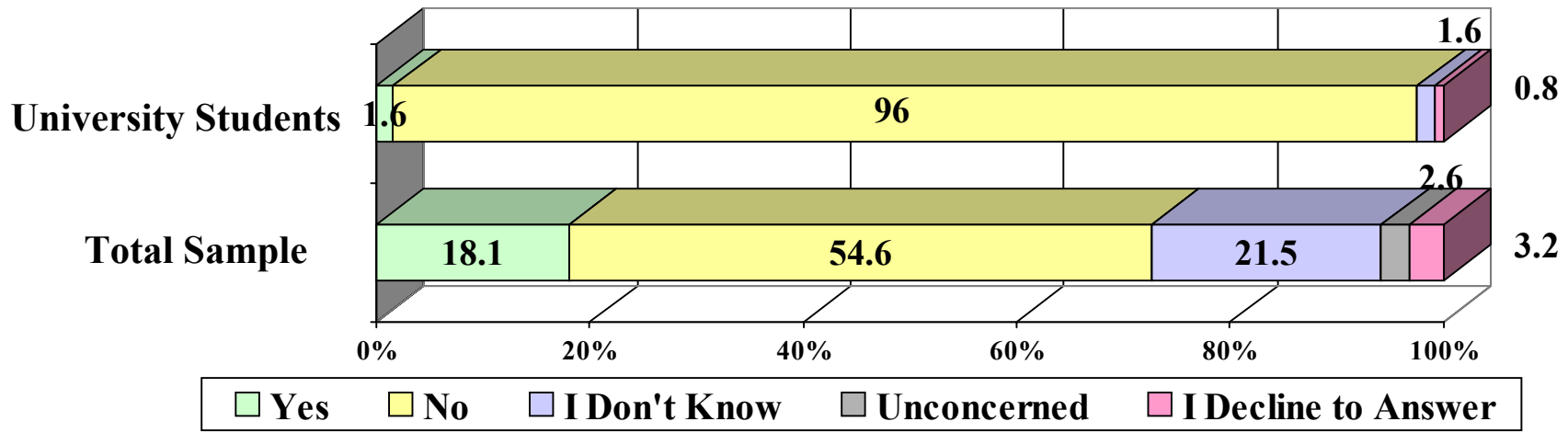
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Do you Believe the Government will Succeed in Tackling the Following Issues? (%)5/10

Coastal Property Law



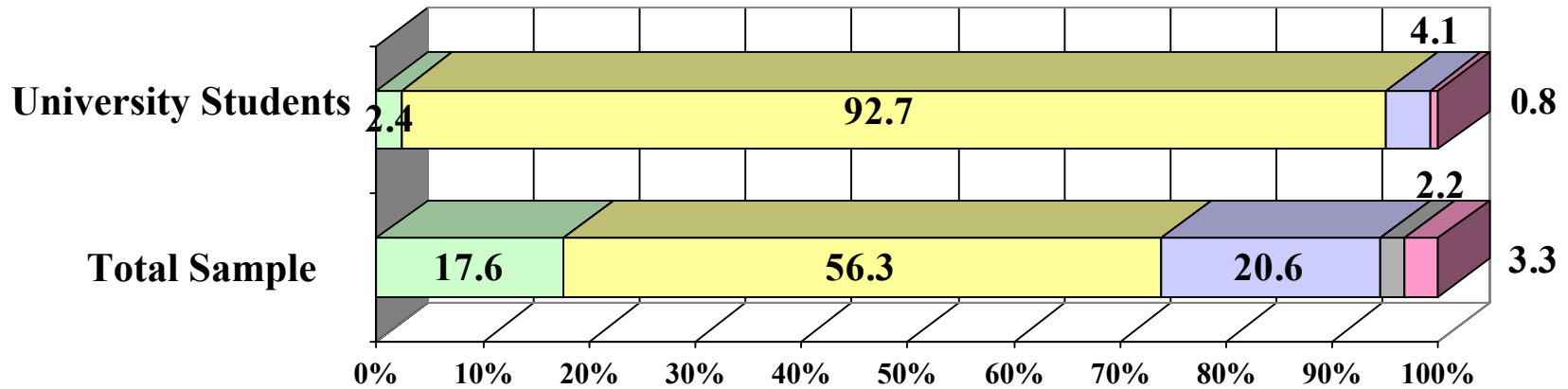
Combating Corruption and Nepotism



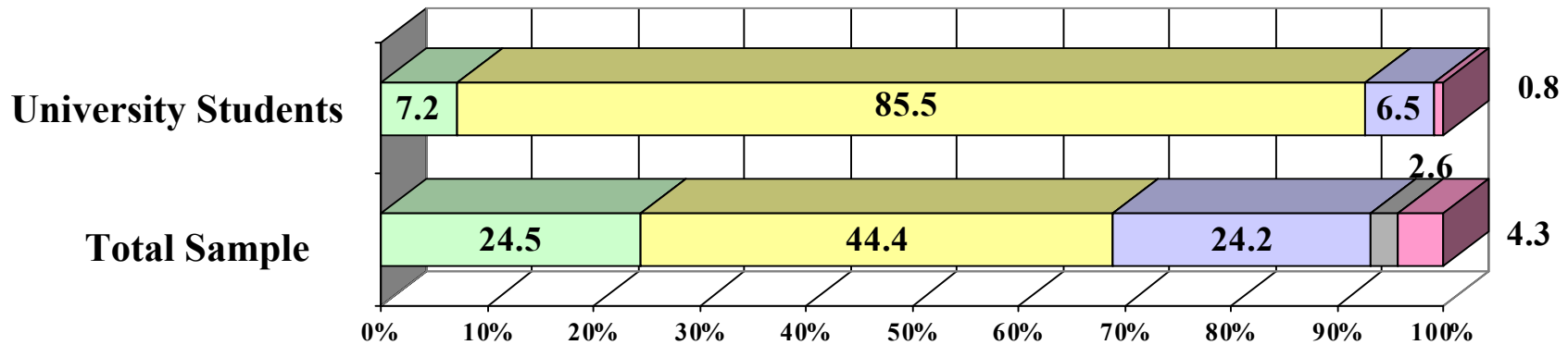
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Do you Believe the Government will Succeed in Tackling the Following Issues? (%) 6/10

Administrative Reform



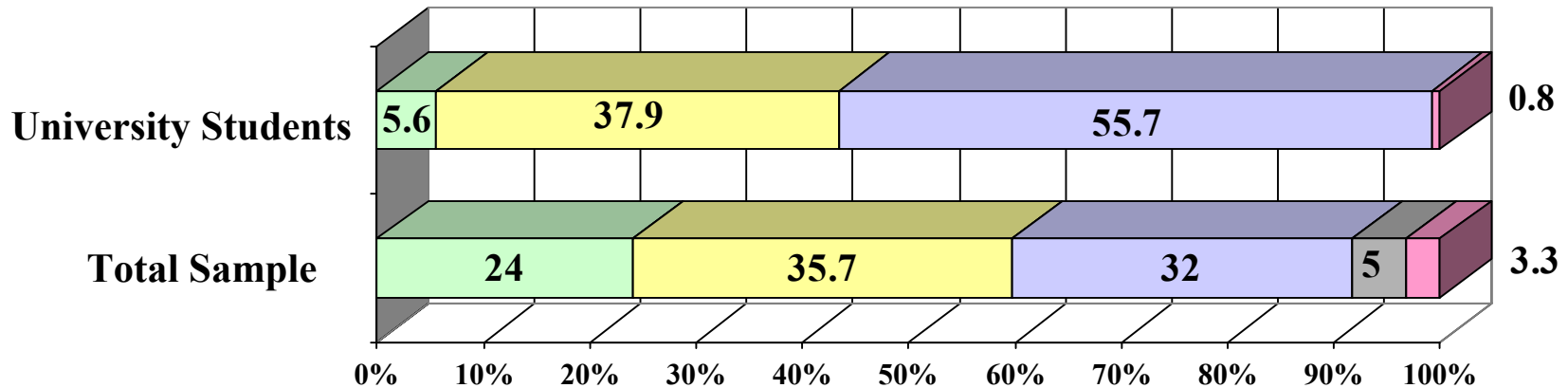
Protecting Liberties



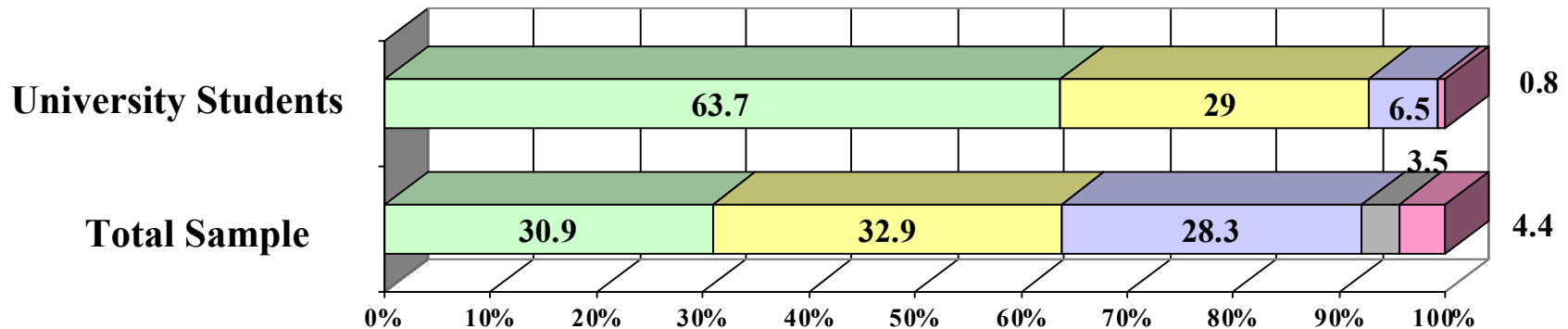
Yes
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Do you Believe the Government will Succeed in Tackling the Following Issues? (%) 7/10

Formulating A New Election Law



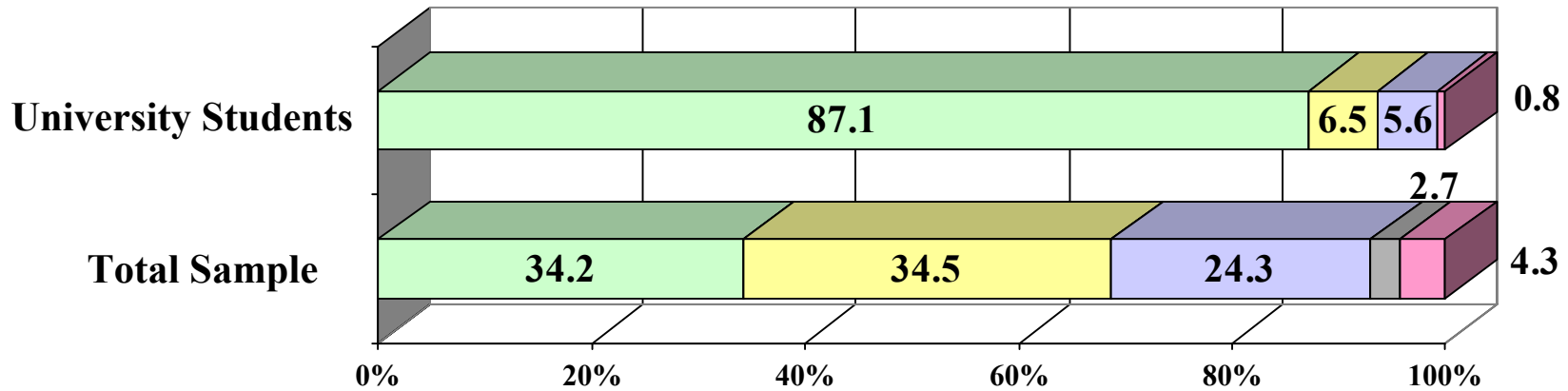
Settlement of Palestinians



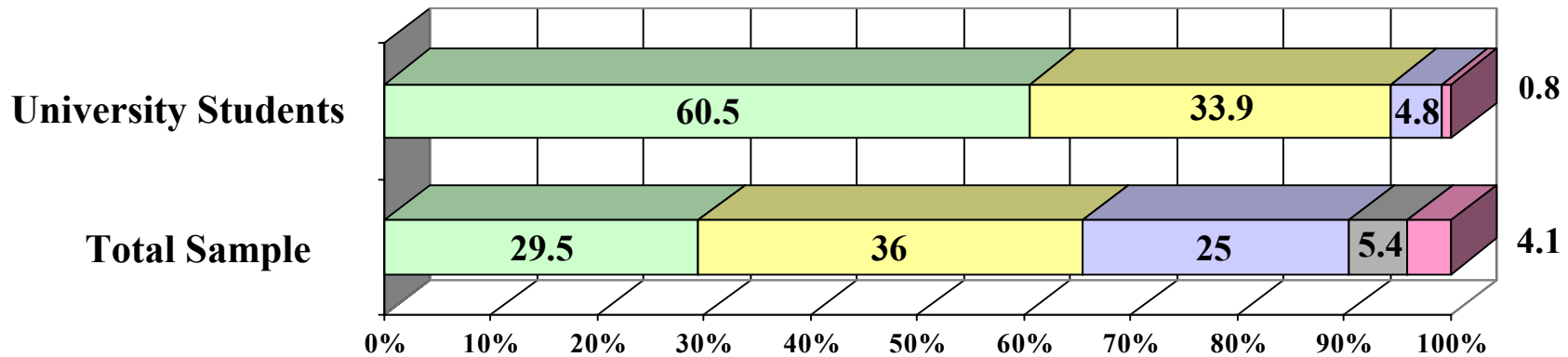
■ Yes
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Do you Believe the Government will Succeed in Tackling the Following Issues? (%) 8/10

Reconstructing the Liberated South



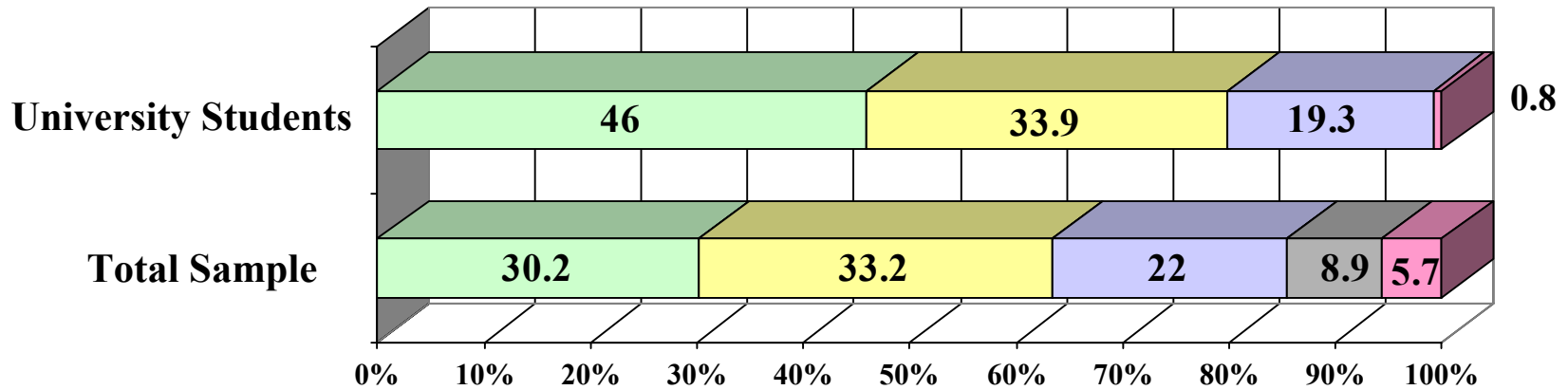
Wire Tapping Law



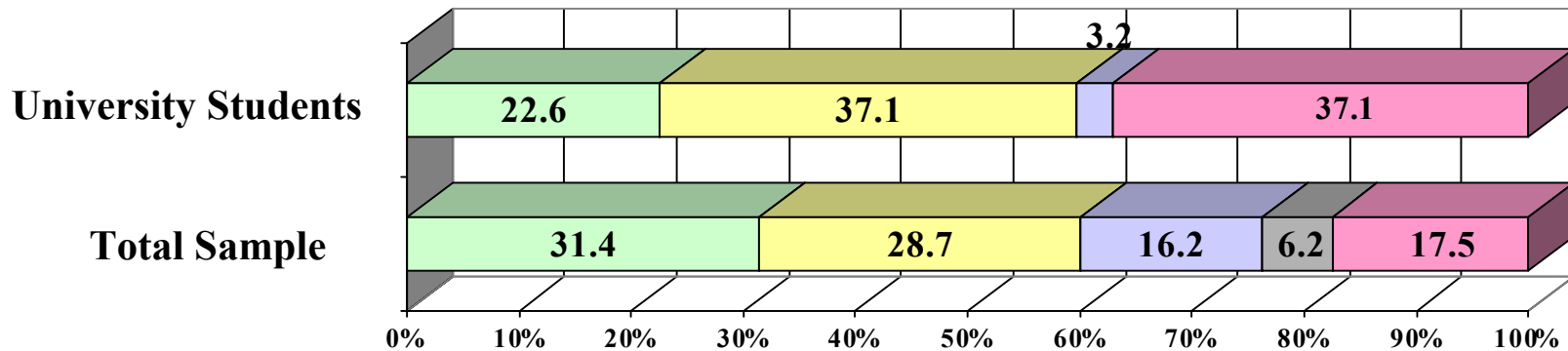
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Do you Believe the Government will Succeed in Tackling the Following Issues? (%) 9/10

Capital Punishment



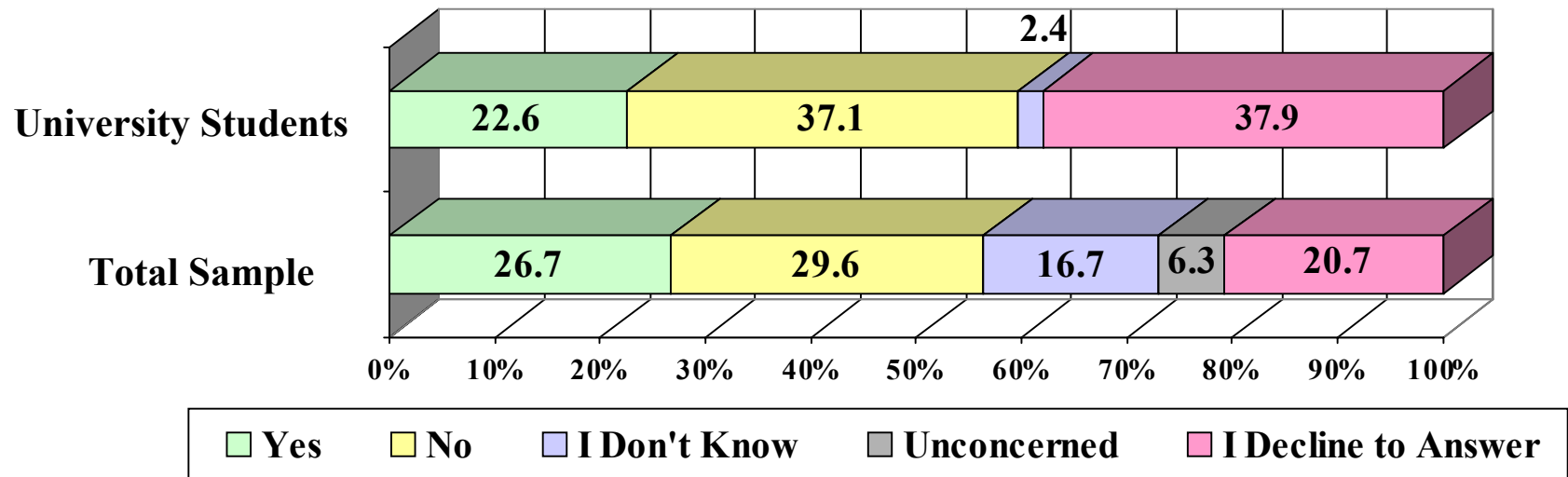
The Return of Aoun



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Do you Believe the Government will Succeed in Tackling the Following Issues? (%) 10/10

Amnesty for Jaajaa



The Prime Minister as Viewed by Citizens

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

Of those surveyed, 28.6 considered the current Prime Minister moderately successful in shouldering his duties since he assumed office until now. The highest percentage was among the Sunnis (39.1%), and the lowest percentages were among the Shiites (5.3%) and Maronites (7.2%).

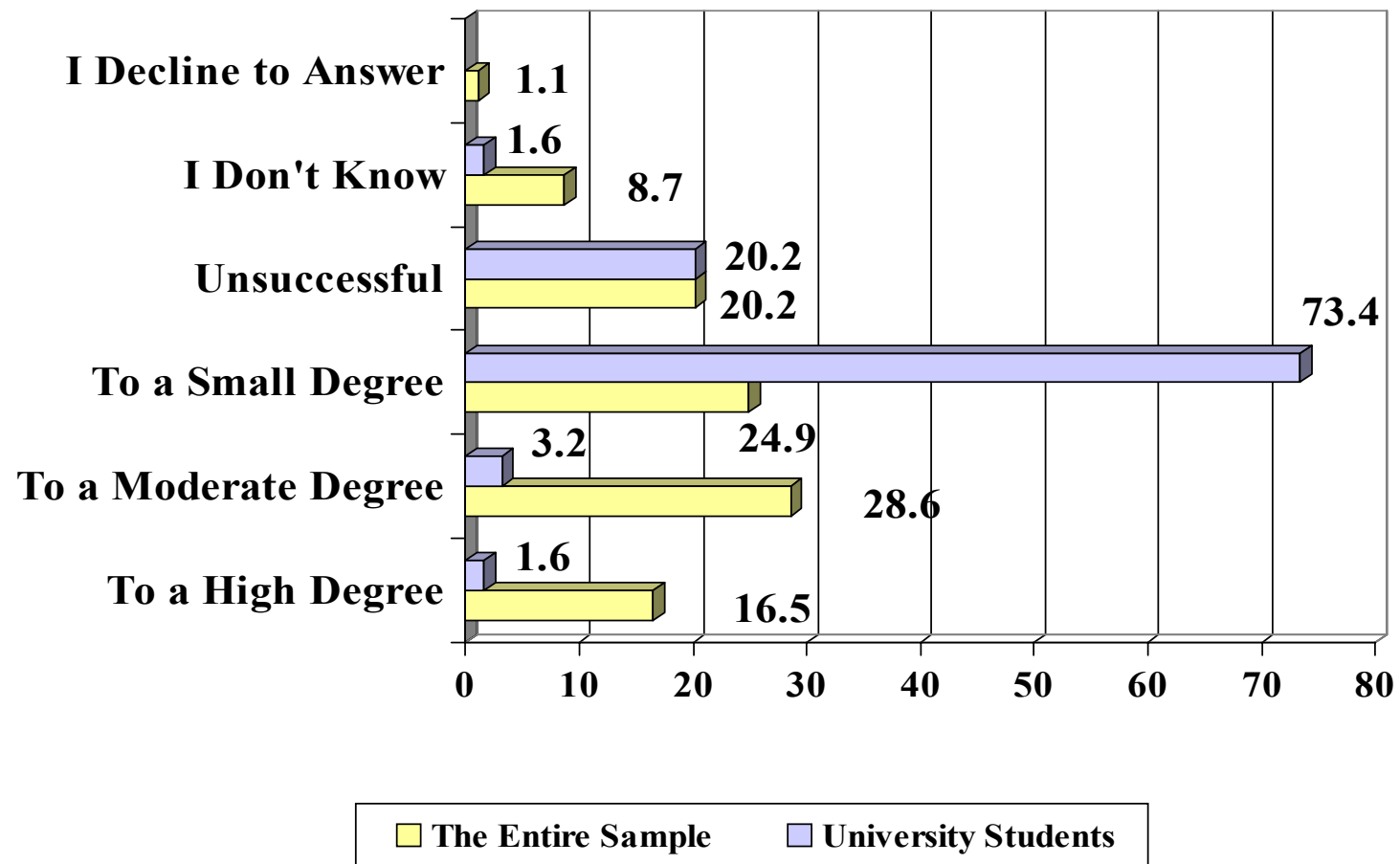
Whether the respondents believed Rafik Hariri was the best choice for Prime Minister, 53.9% responded affirmatively, 31.8% cited the absence of an alternative, and 25% his personal qualifications and abilities. The highest percentage of those who supported Hariri as the best choice was among the Sunnis (77.2%), compared to the lowest among Maronites (42%).

As for possible alternatives, 22.7% supported Salim Hoss, 16.4% Najib Mikati, and, significantly, 29.7% declined to name anyone for the post.

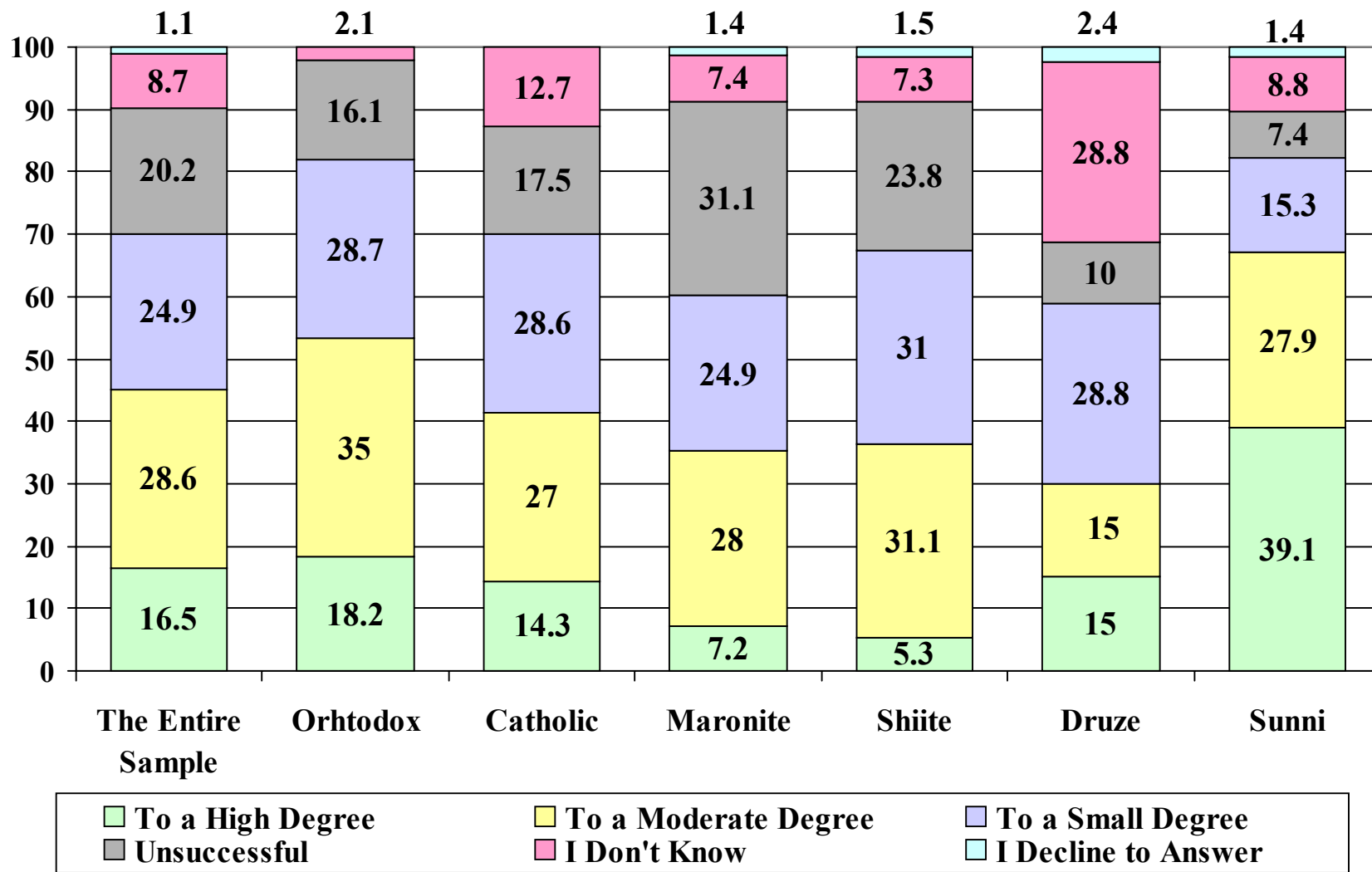
The Prime Minister as Viewed by Citizens (2/2)

Respondents were asked if they believed that pressures were being exerted on Hariri, 25.6% responded affirmatively, compared to 37.4% who said “no,” 34.9% said “I don’t know” and 2% “unconcerned.” As for the side that might be pressuring Hariri, the majority (40.2%) fingered “Syria,” followed by unspecified foreign powers (18.9%). The highest percentages of those who believed pressures were being applied were among Maronites and Shiites. The Catholics, Maronites and Druze 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? (%)

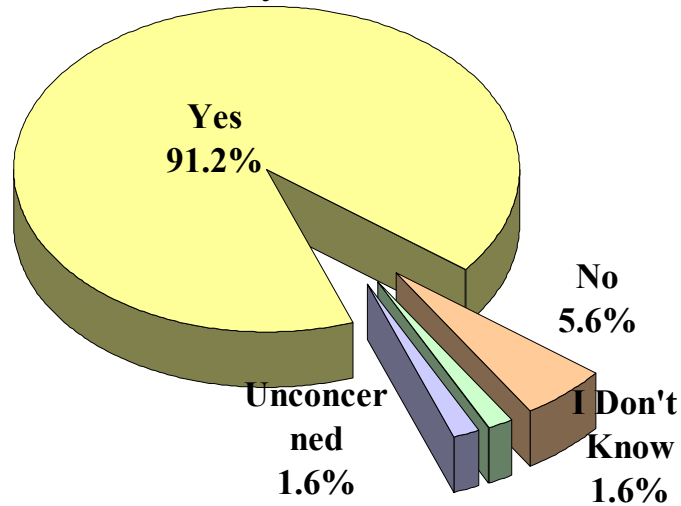


To What Degree do you Think the Prime Minister has Succeeded in his Post since he Assumed Office and Until Now? According to Confession (%)



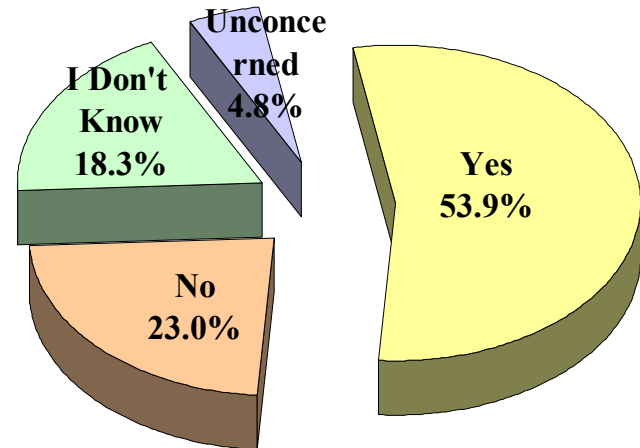
Do you Believe the Choice of Rafic Hariri for Prime Minister was the Best Option? (%)

:Base University Students

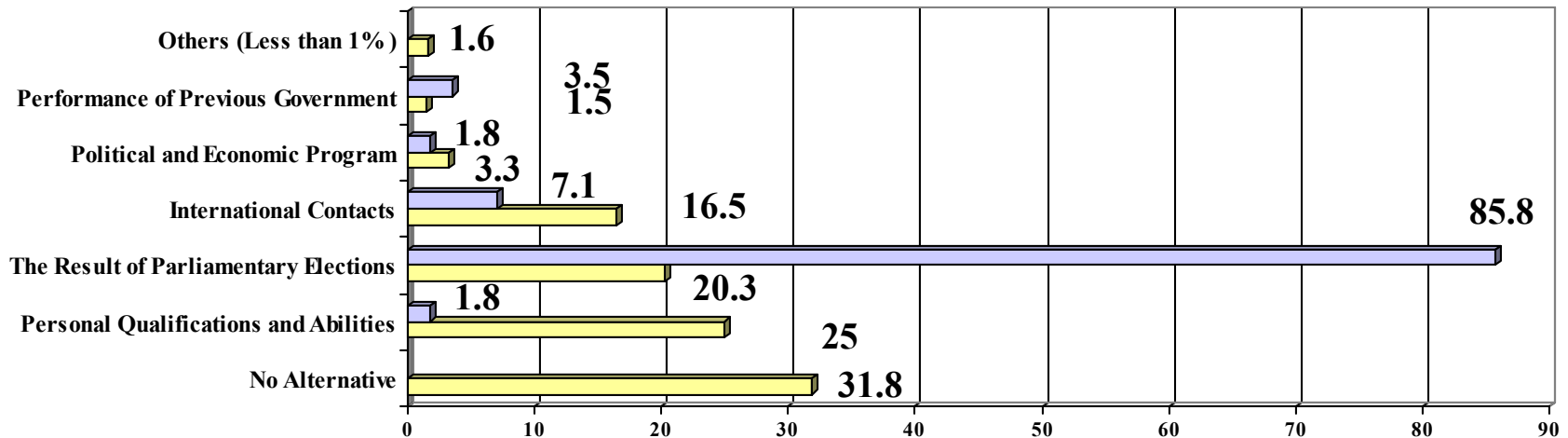


The Whole Sample

:Base



If Yes, Specify (%)



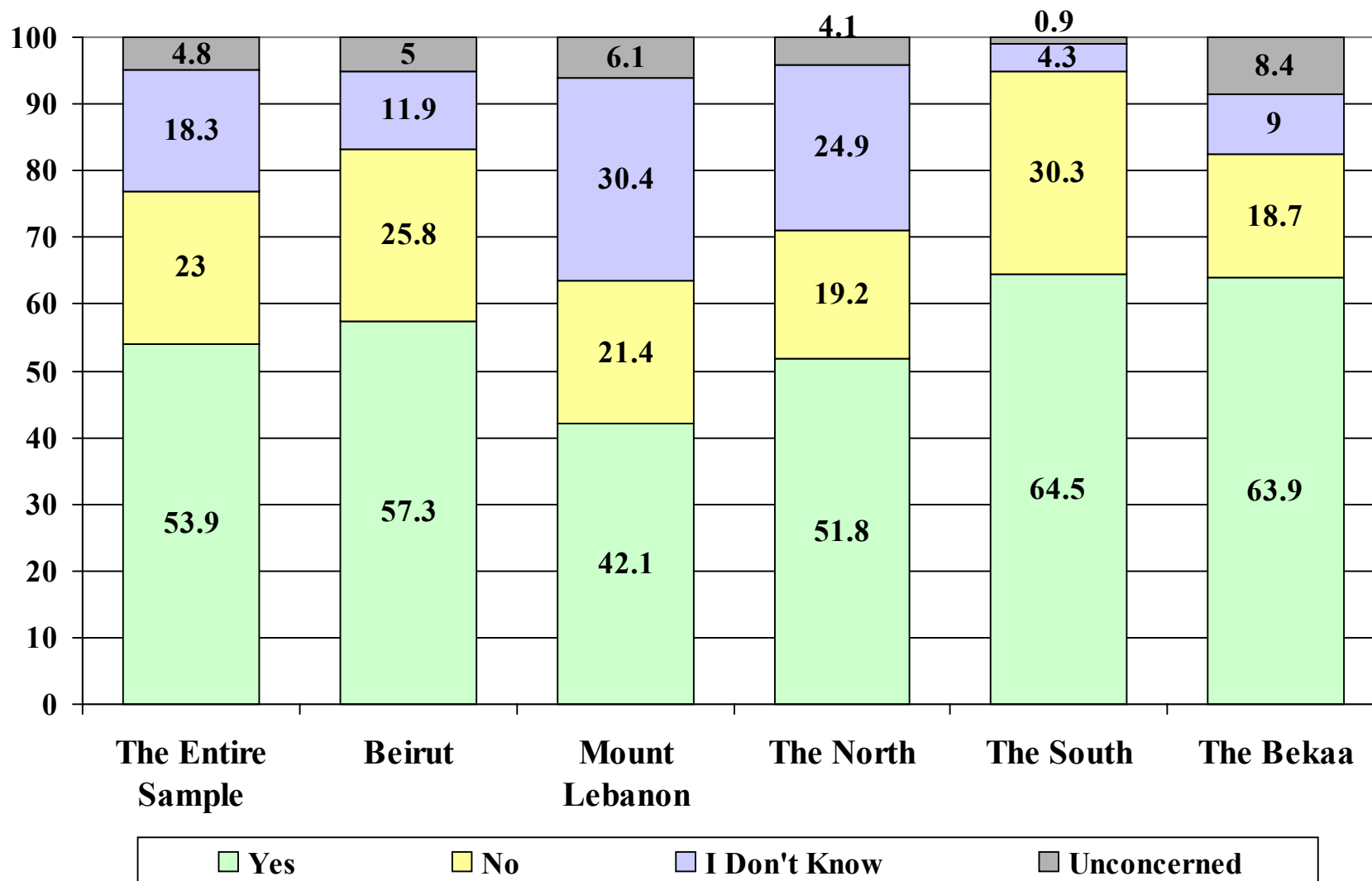
:Base

113 :Base

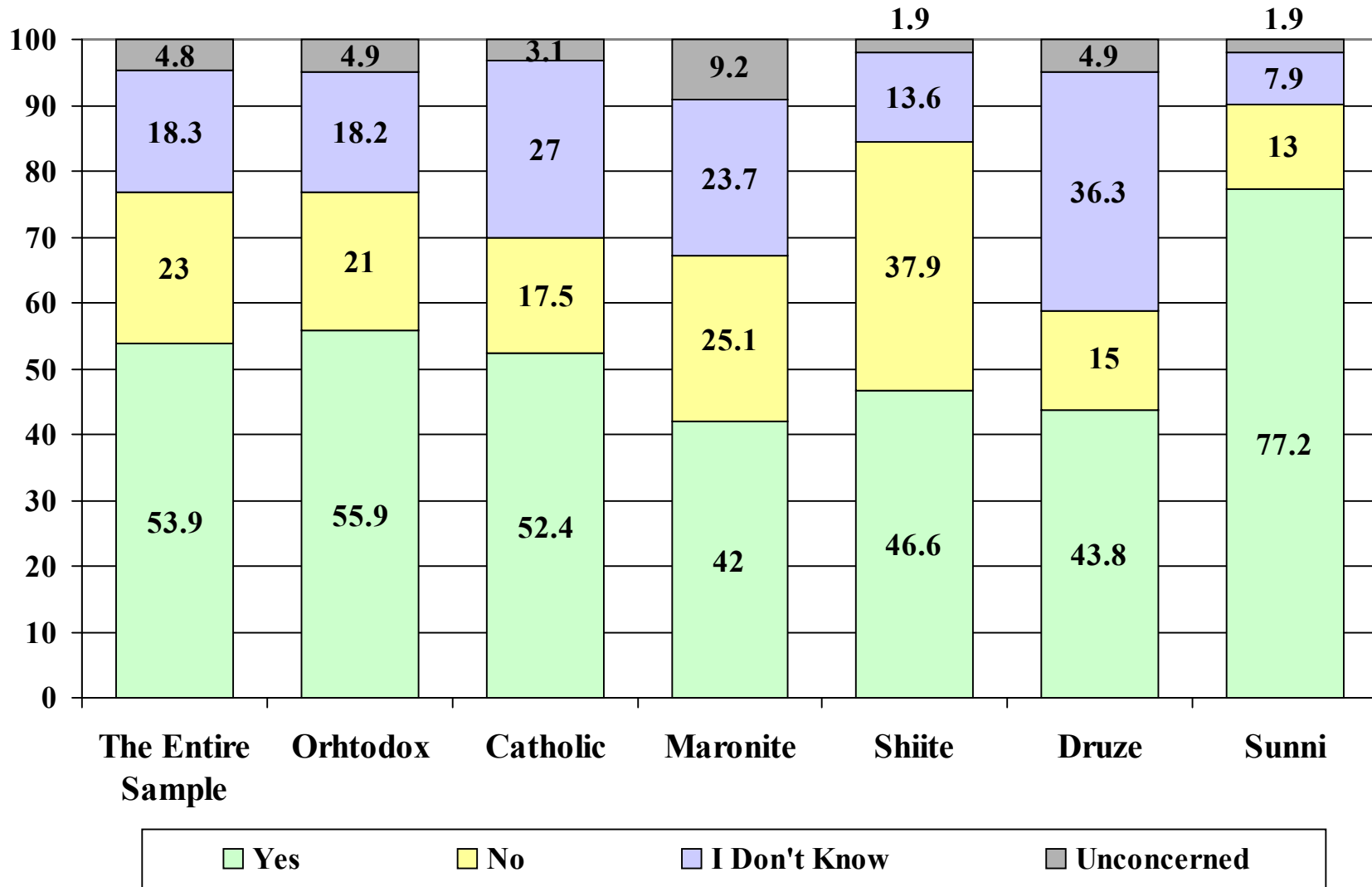
■ The Entire Sample

■ University Students

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

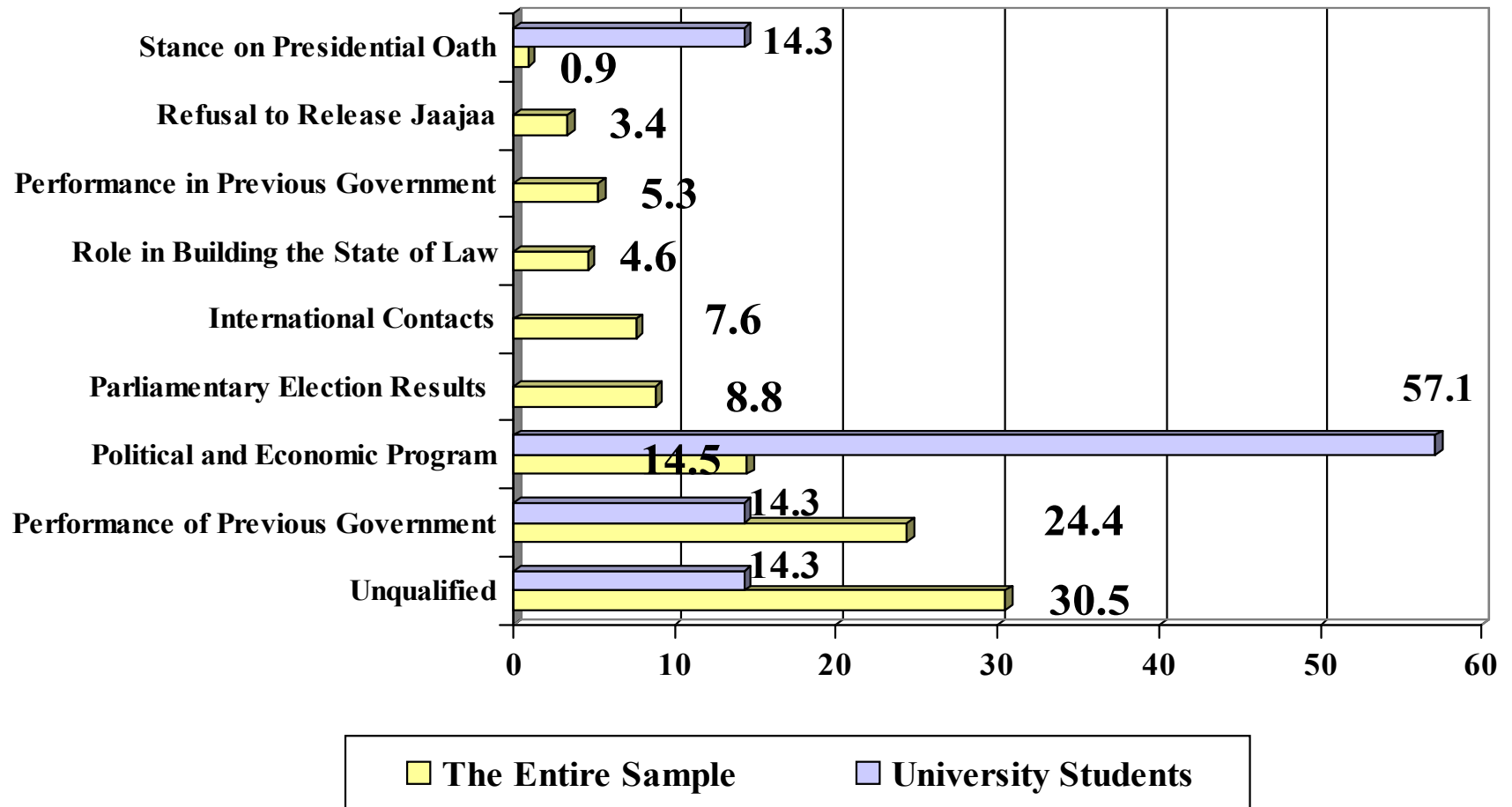


Do you Believe the Choice of Rafic Hariri for Prime Minister was the Best Option? According to Confession (%)



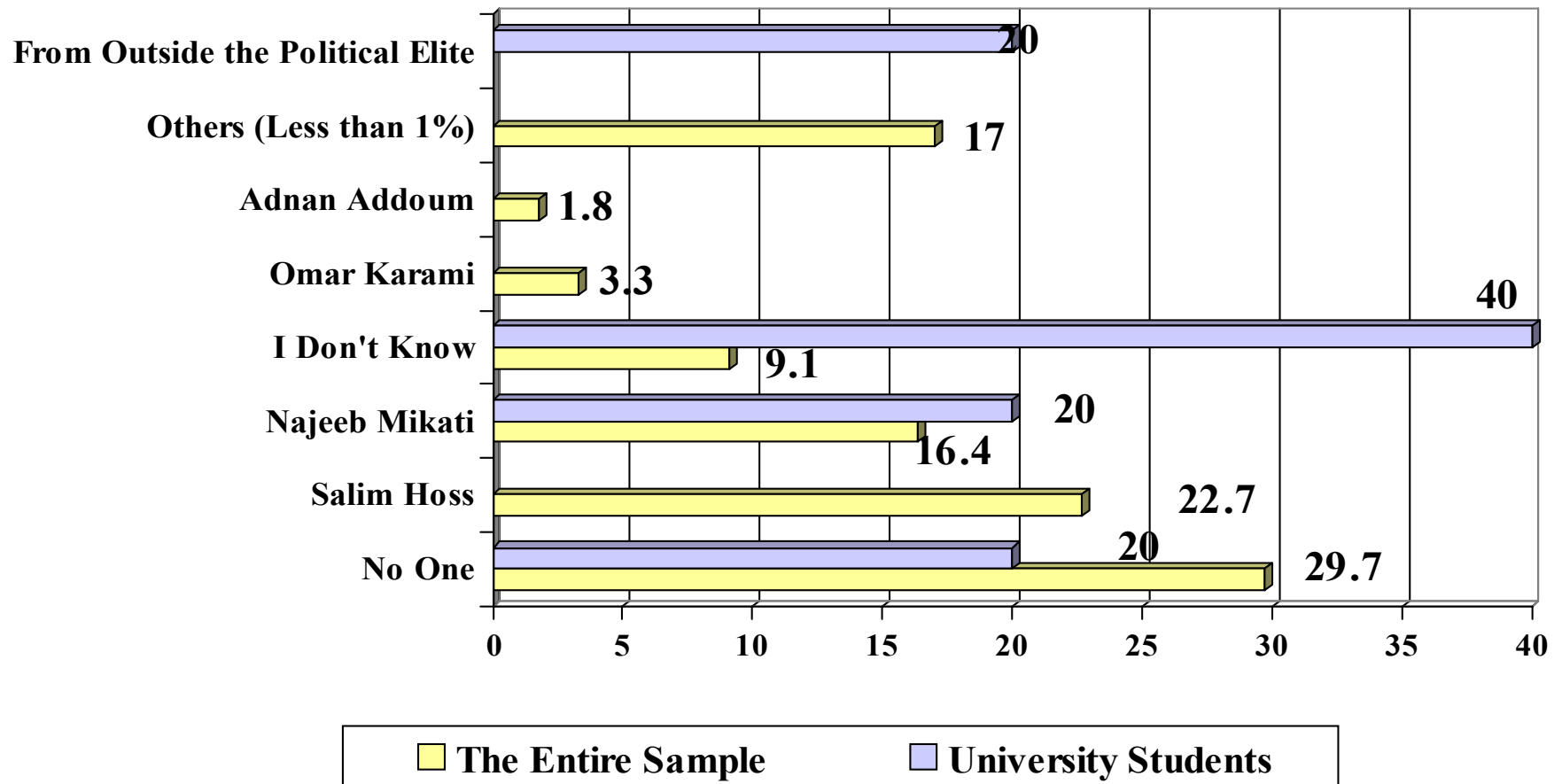
Was the Choice of Rafic Hariri for Prime Minister the Best Option? (%)

If No, Specify (%)

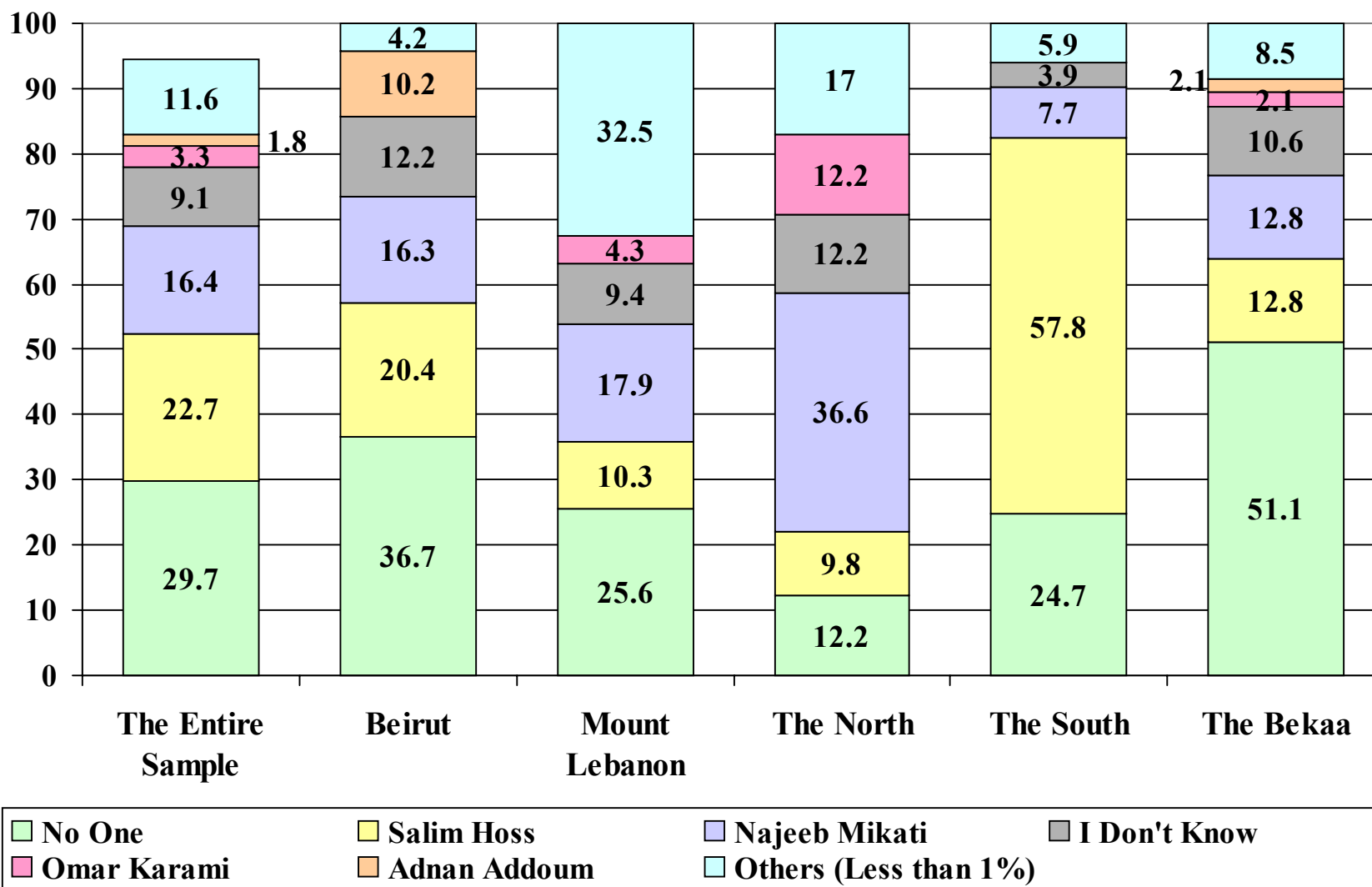


If Hariri was not the Best Option, who would you Prefer for Prime Minister? (%)

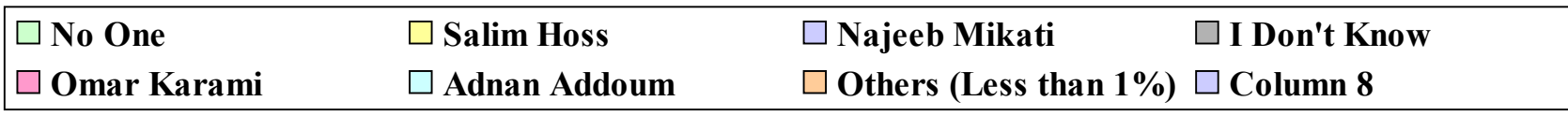
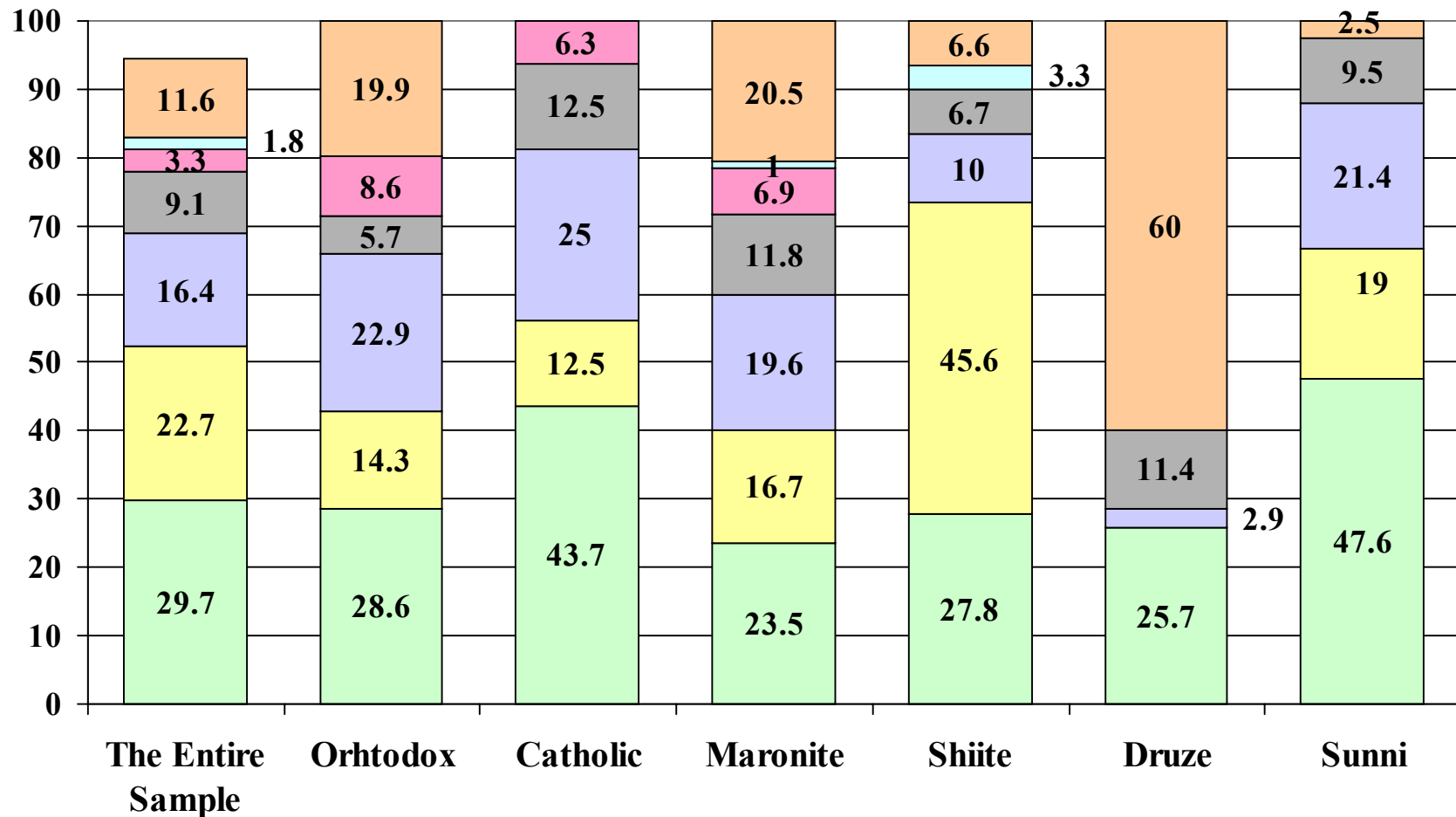
Open-Ended Question



If Hariri was not the Best Option, who would you Prefer for Prime Minister? According to Province (Mohafazat)(%)



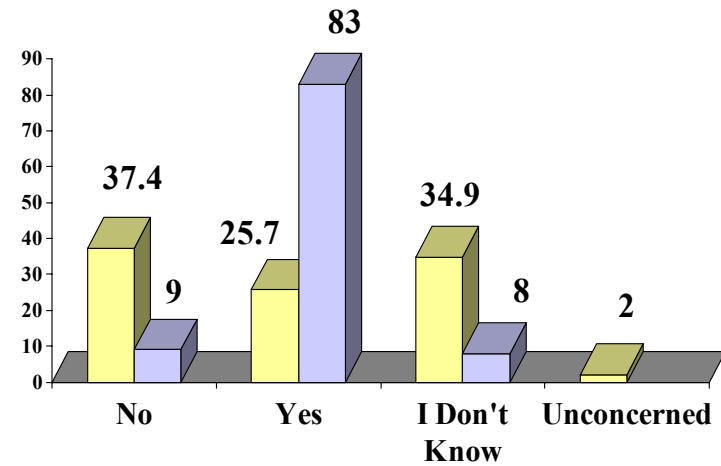
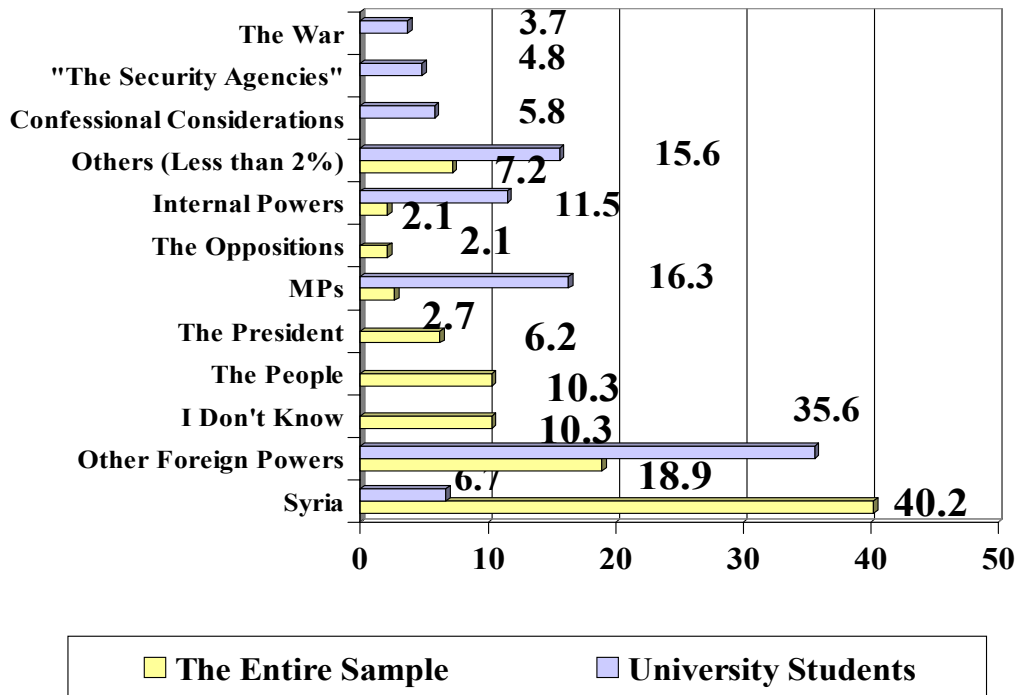
If Hariri was not the Best Option, who would you Prefer for Prime Minister? According to Confession (%)



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

Open-Ended Question

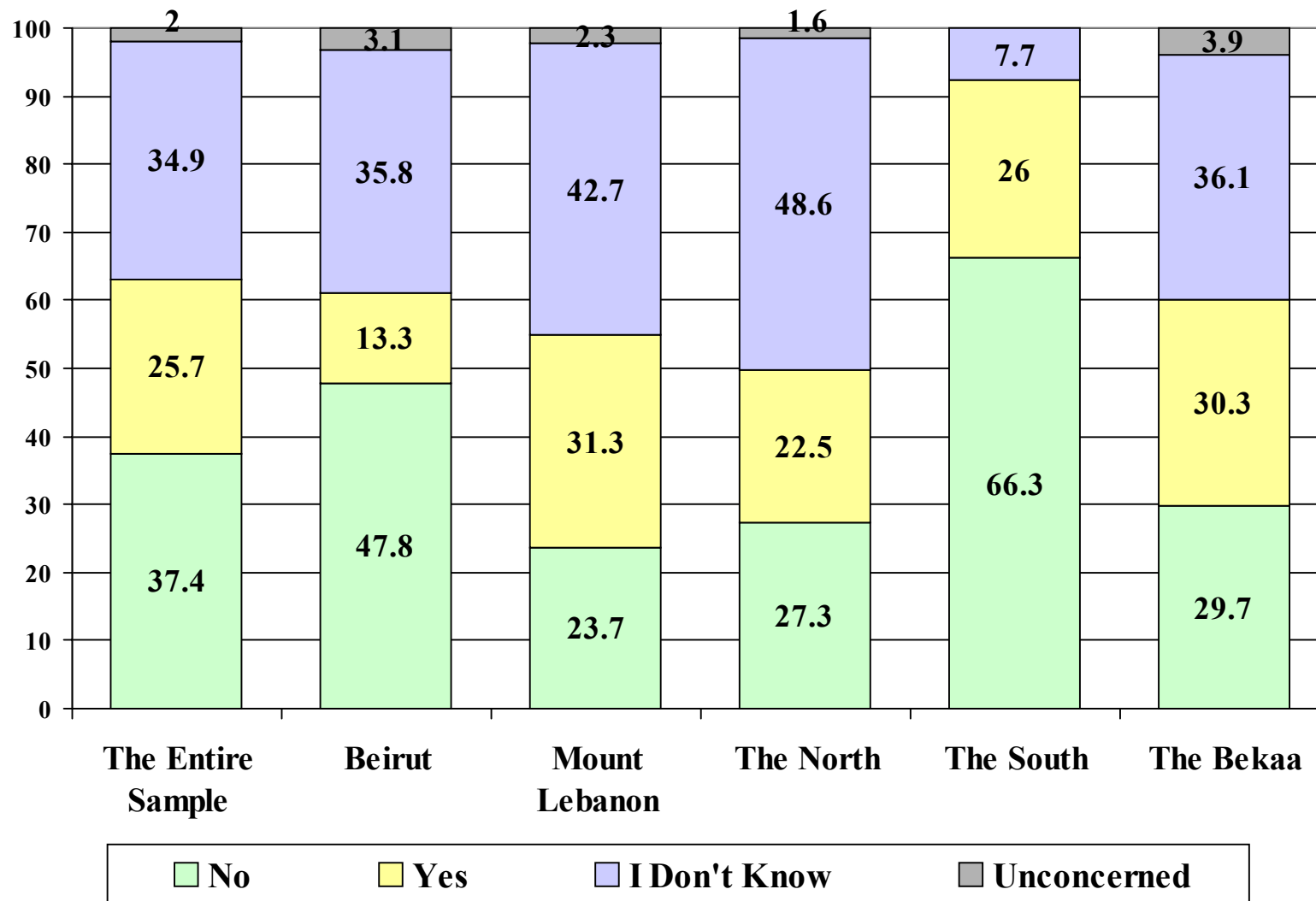
If Yes, Specify (%)



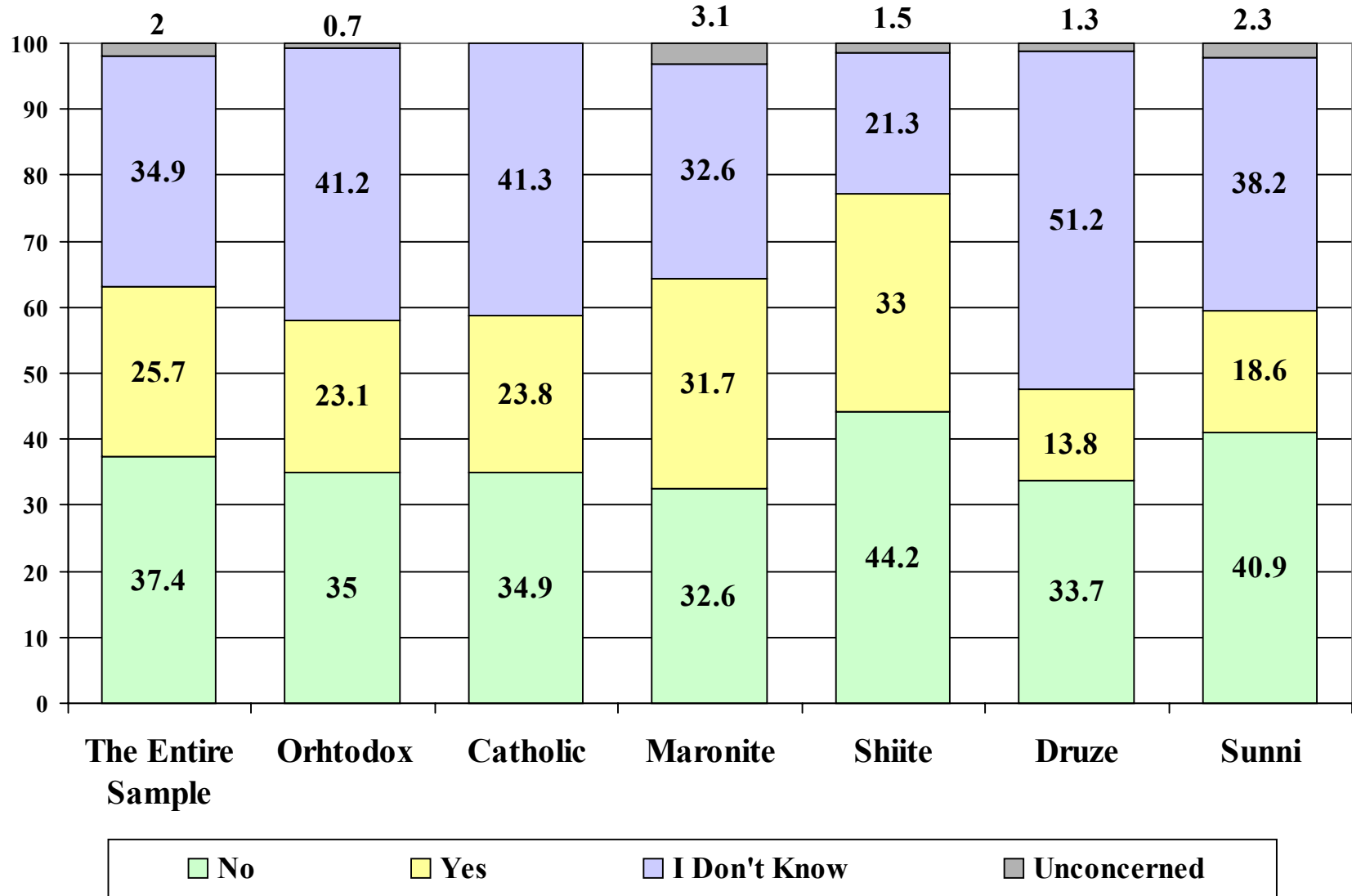
■ The Entire Sample
 ■ University Students



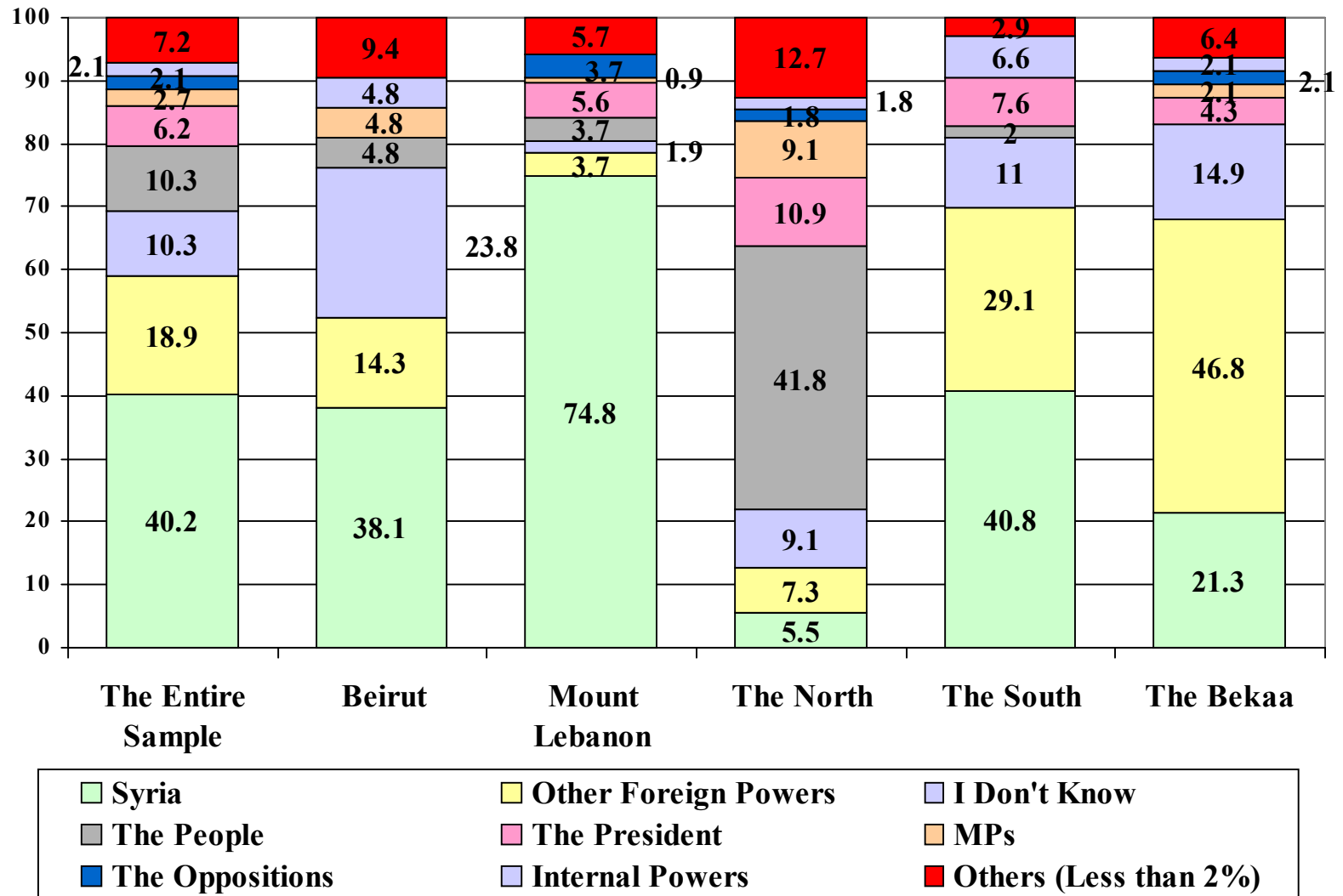
Do you Believe Prime Minister Hariri is Under Pressure? According to Province (Mohafazat) (%)



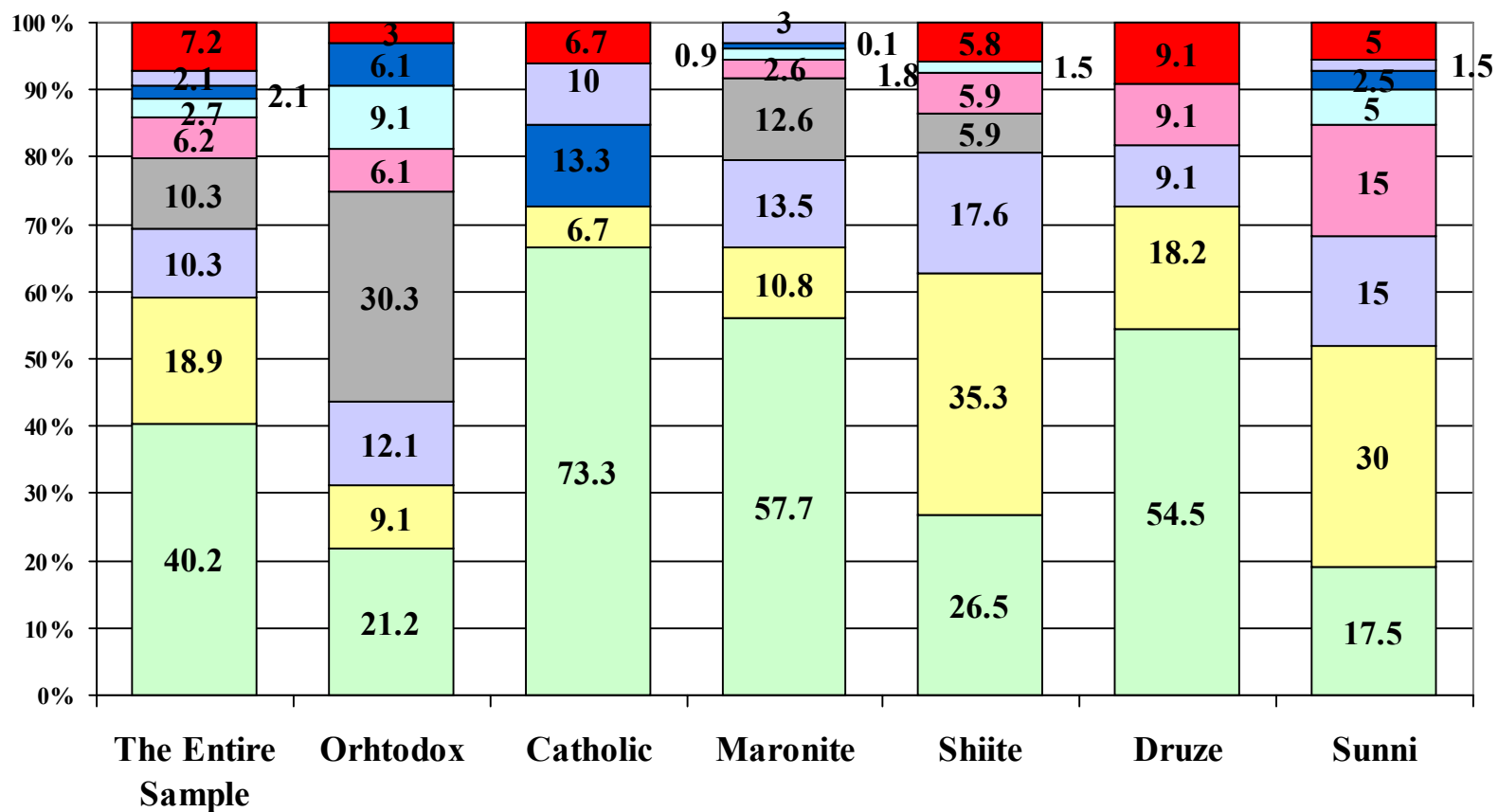
Do you Believe Prime Minister Hariri is Under Pressure? According to Confession (%)



Specify the Side Exerting the Pressure According to Province (Mohafazat) (%)



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 (17.6%) and those who declined to set a timetable (17.5%).

Only 35% of the respondents supported the government's strategy for curing the economic crisis, and they were mostly Sunnis (53.5%). Support was significantly weaker among the Catholics, Maronites and Druze.

For the majority of respondents (51%) waste and corruption topped the list of the reasons for the economic recession. The residues of the war came in second place, followed by the performance of the previous Hariri governments. The government's performance with regard to corruption and waste issues was classified as "poor" by 35% of the respondents, especially the Shiites and Maronites, respectively 48.5% and 42.3%, compared to 39% who classified the previous government's performance on this score as "poor." Also, 28.2% described the judicial authority's performance on the same subject as "poor."

Most of the respondents (43.7%) described as "similar" the current government's economic policies to those of its predecessor. The highest percentage of those who described the current government's policies as "worse" was among the Maronites (11.1%).

"Recovering embezzled or squandered funds" topped the respondents' choice for shoring up the fiscal budget with 53% supporting the proposal, followed by 14.1% for privatization, 10.4% for reforming the tax system, in addition to other means.

Accountability of the Current Government (2/2)

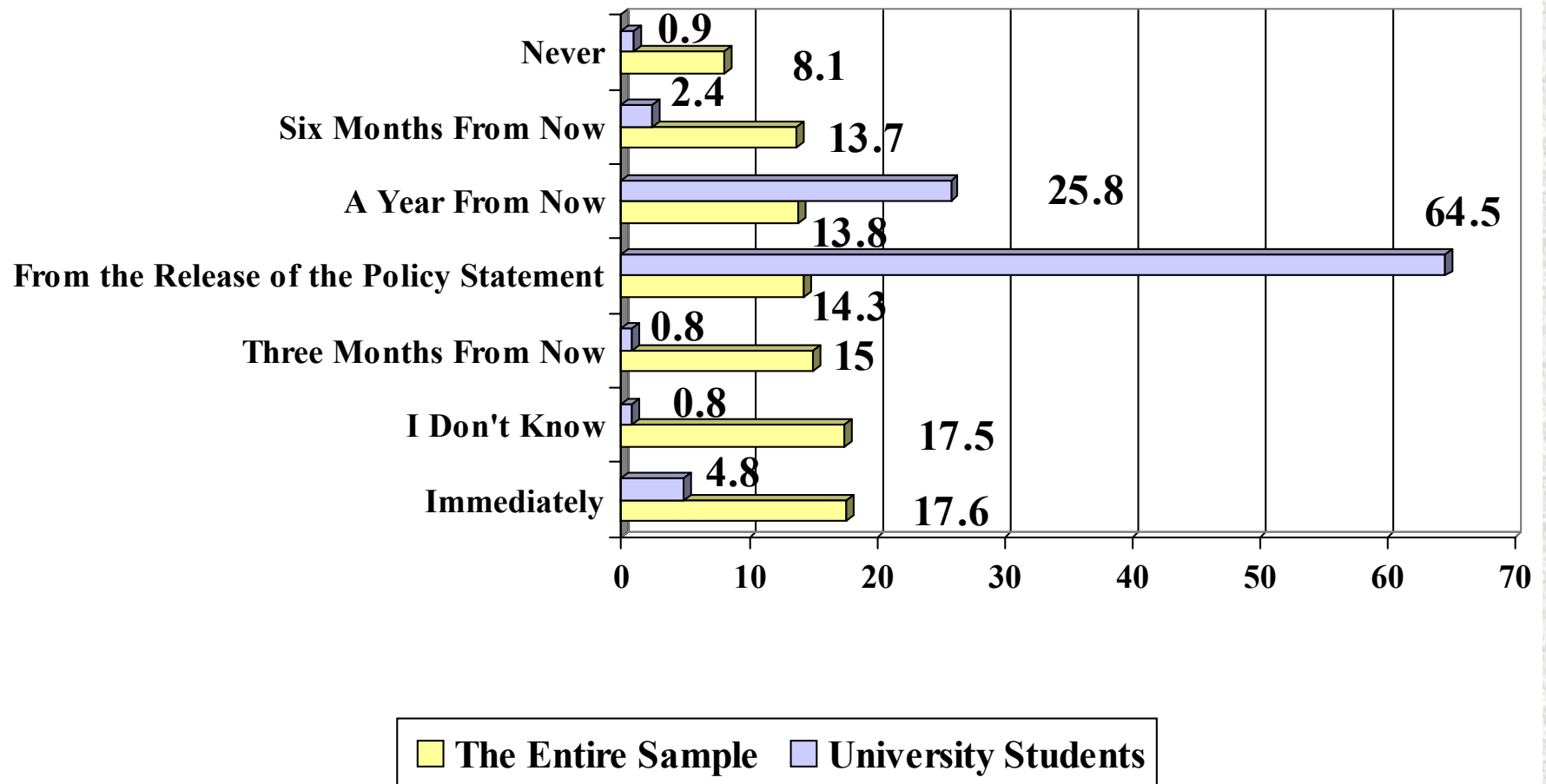
Of the respondents, 27.9% blamed foreign factors for the current economic conditions, 26.1% blamed intractable internal issues, 21.8% fingered the previous Hariri governments and 24.2% listed various other causes.

In response to a question on the expected duration of the current government's tenure, 61.5% could not make any prediction, selecting the "I don't know" option, followed by 16.8% who believed that it would last for a year, a further 10.1% for six months and 11.6% for various other periods.

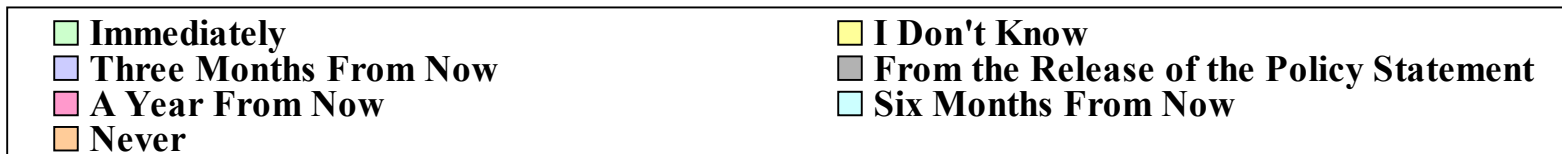
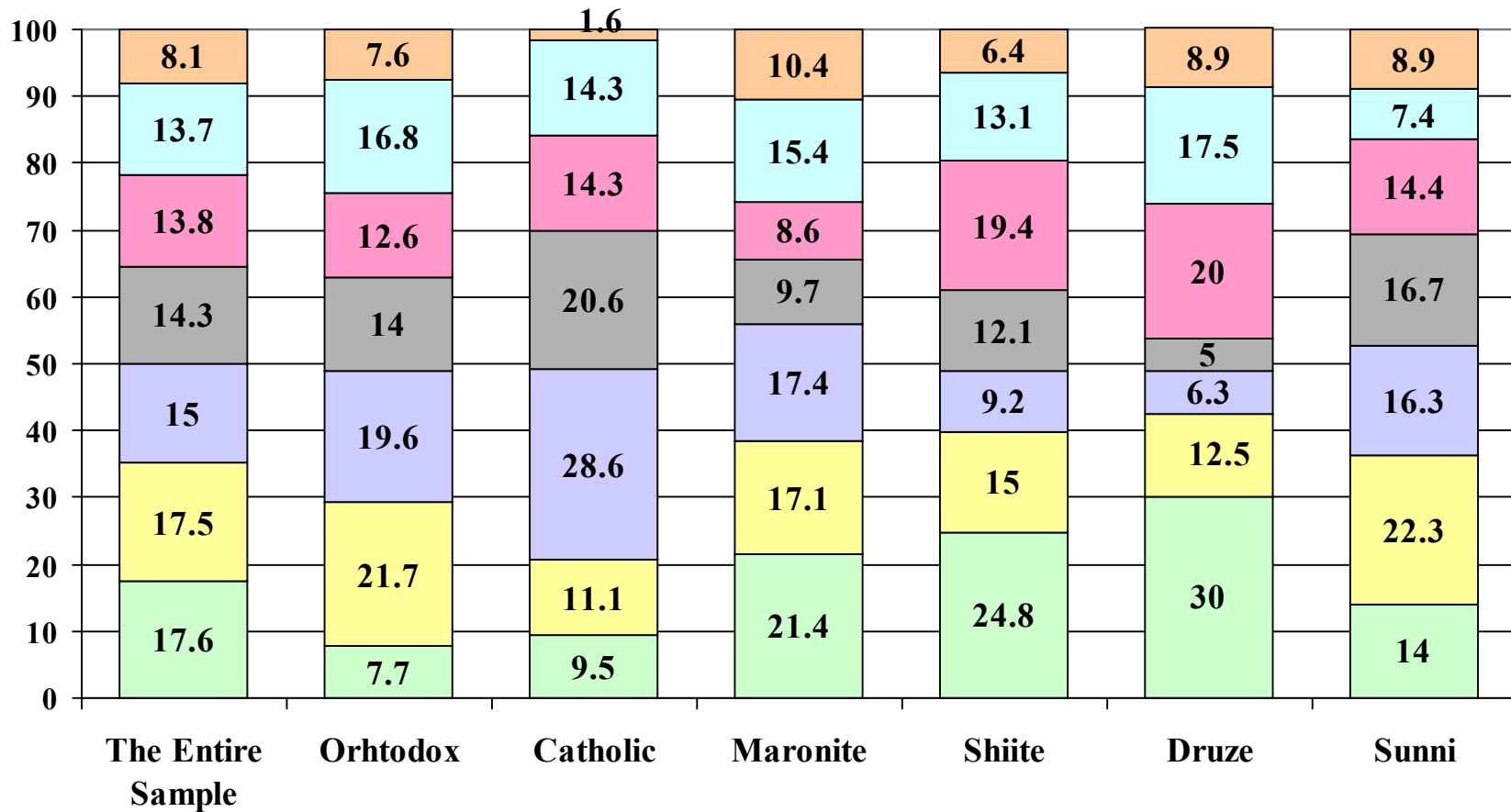
More than half of the respondents (56%) said their financial situation has remained unchanged since the current government took over, compared to 35.3% who said it had deteriorated. Only 8.6% of the respondents said their situation had improved financially, especially the Sunnis (15.8%).

Finally, more than a third of the respondents (32.6%) called on the government to improve economic conditions, followed by a 15% who said they would not make any demands as their opinions would change nothing, 11.6% called for improving and creating job opportunities. Also, 6.2% called for sustaining the current strategy and for serious actions to improve conditions, compared to 6.5% who urged fighting corruption.

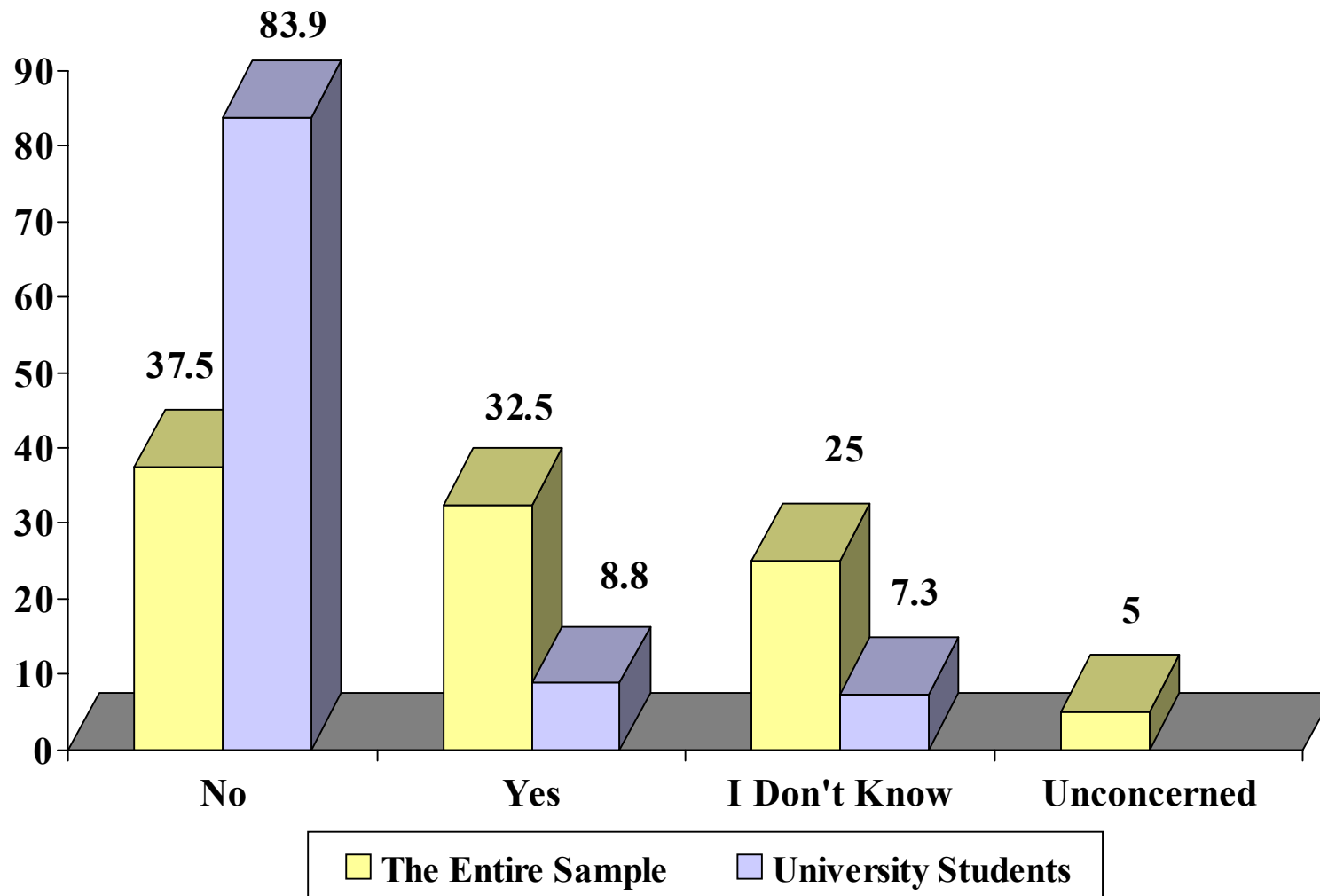
When Will You Start Judging the Government? (%)



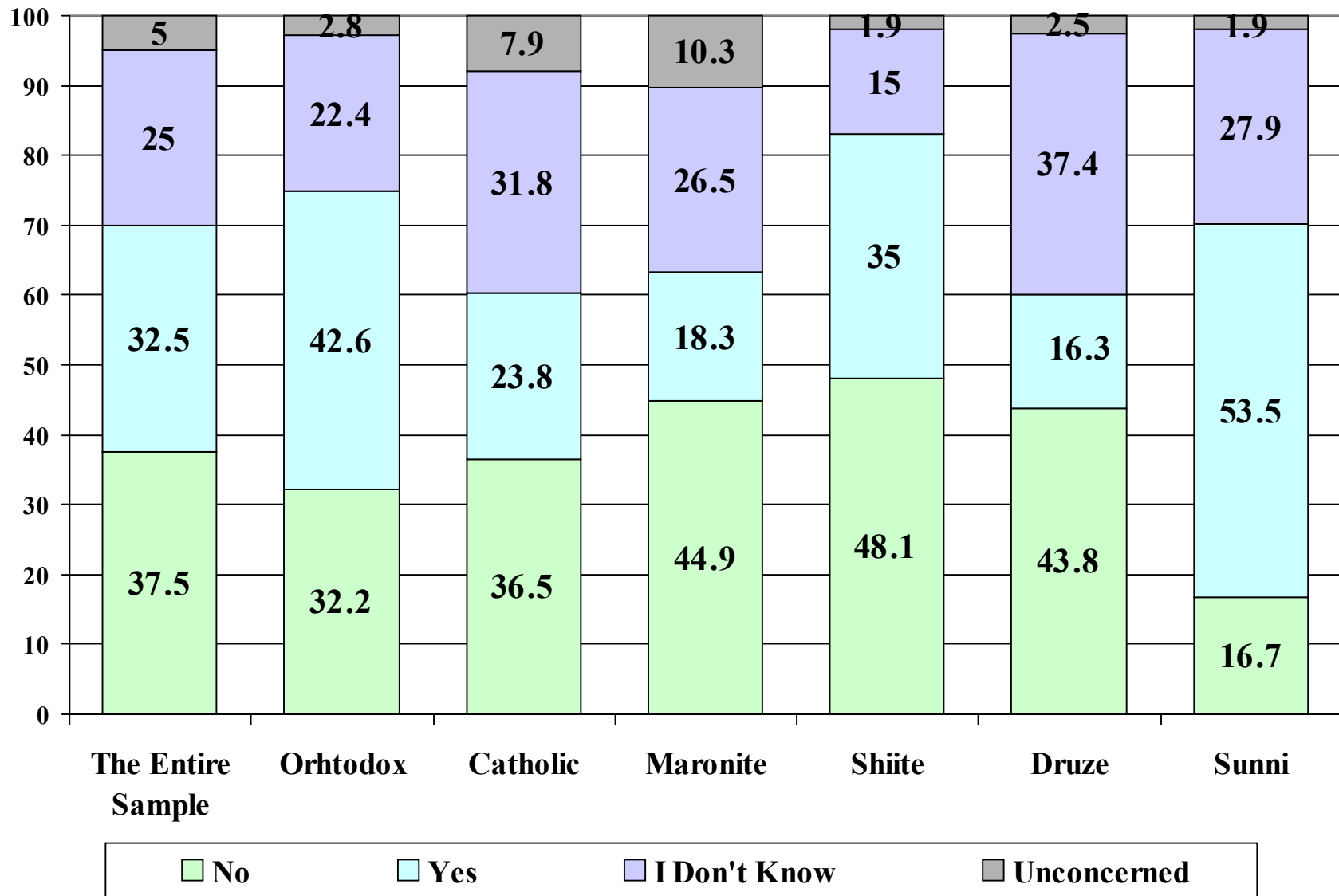
When Will You Start Judging the Government? According to Confession (%)



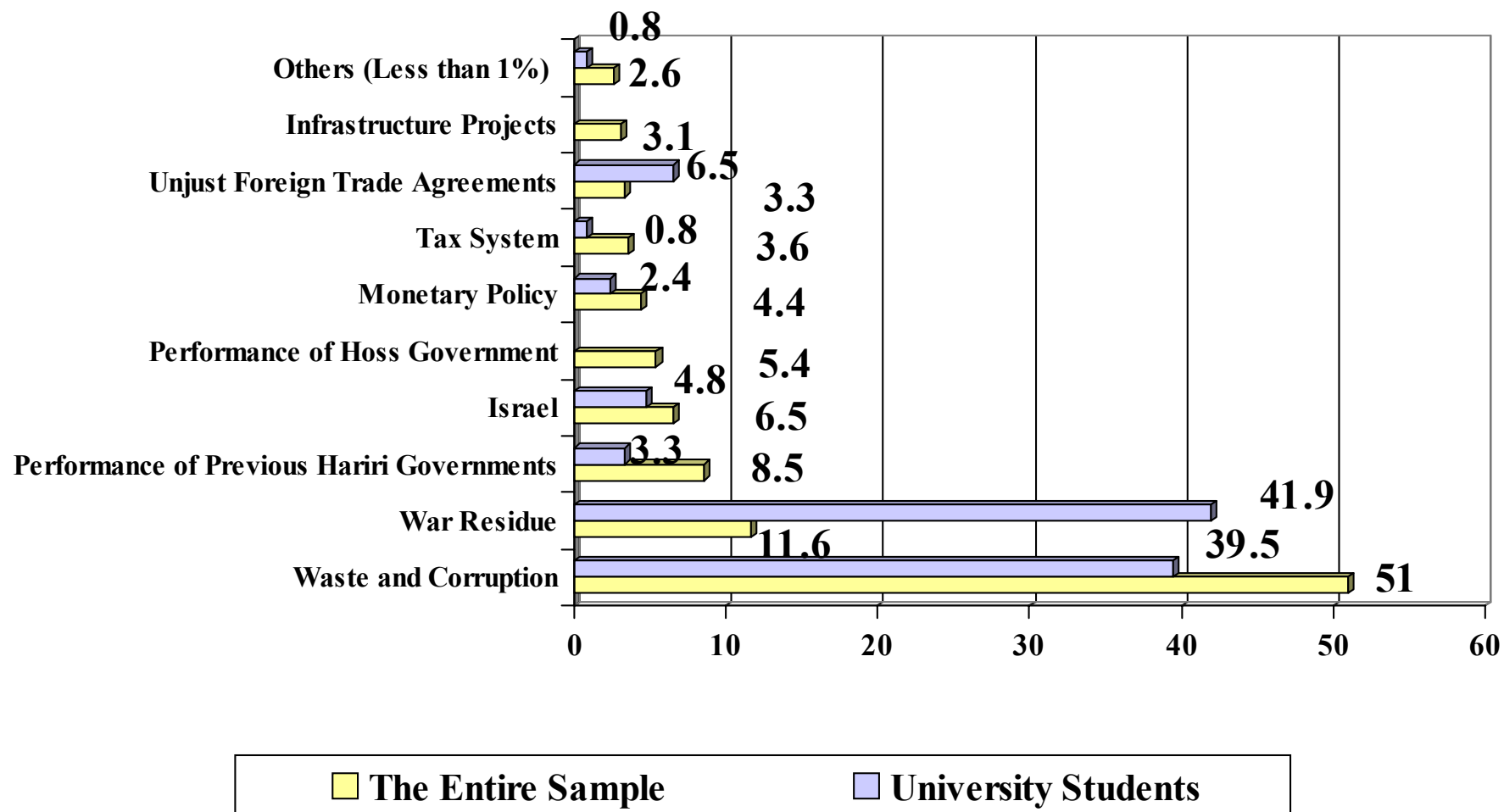
Do you Support the Government Policy for Tackling the Economic Crises? (%)



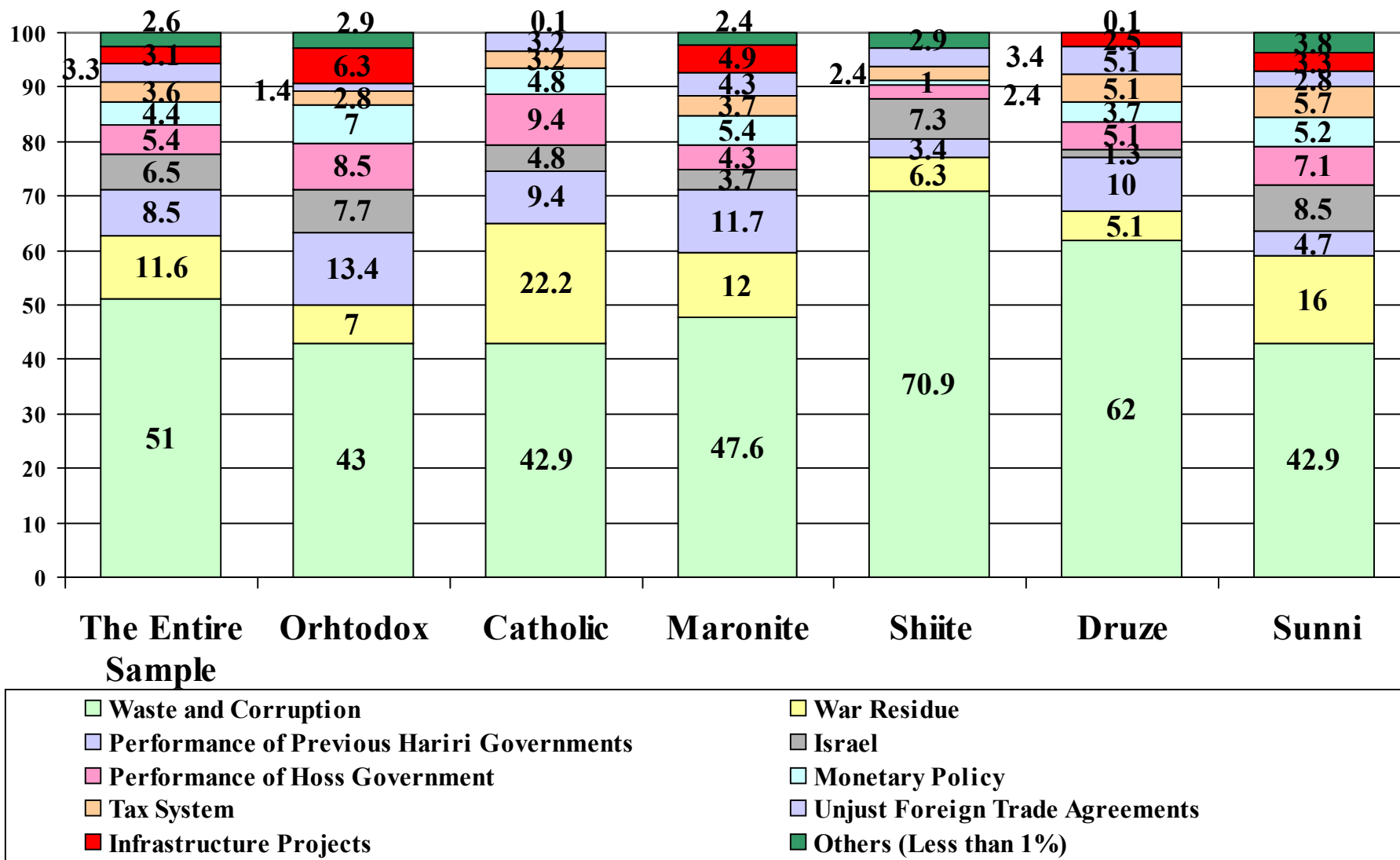
Do you Support the Government Policy for Tackling the Economic Crises? According to Confession (%)



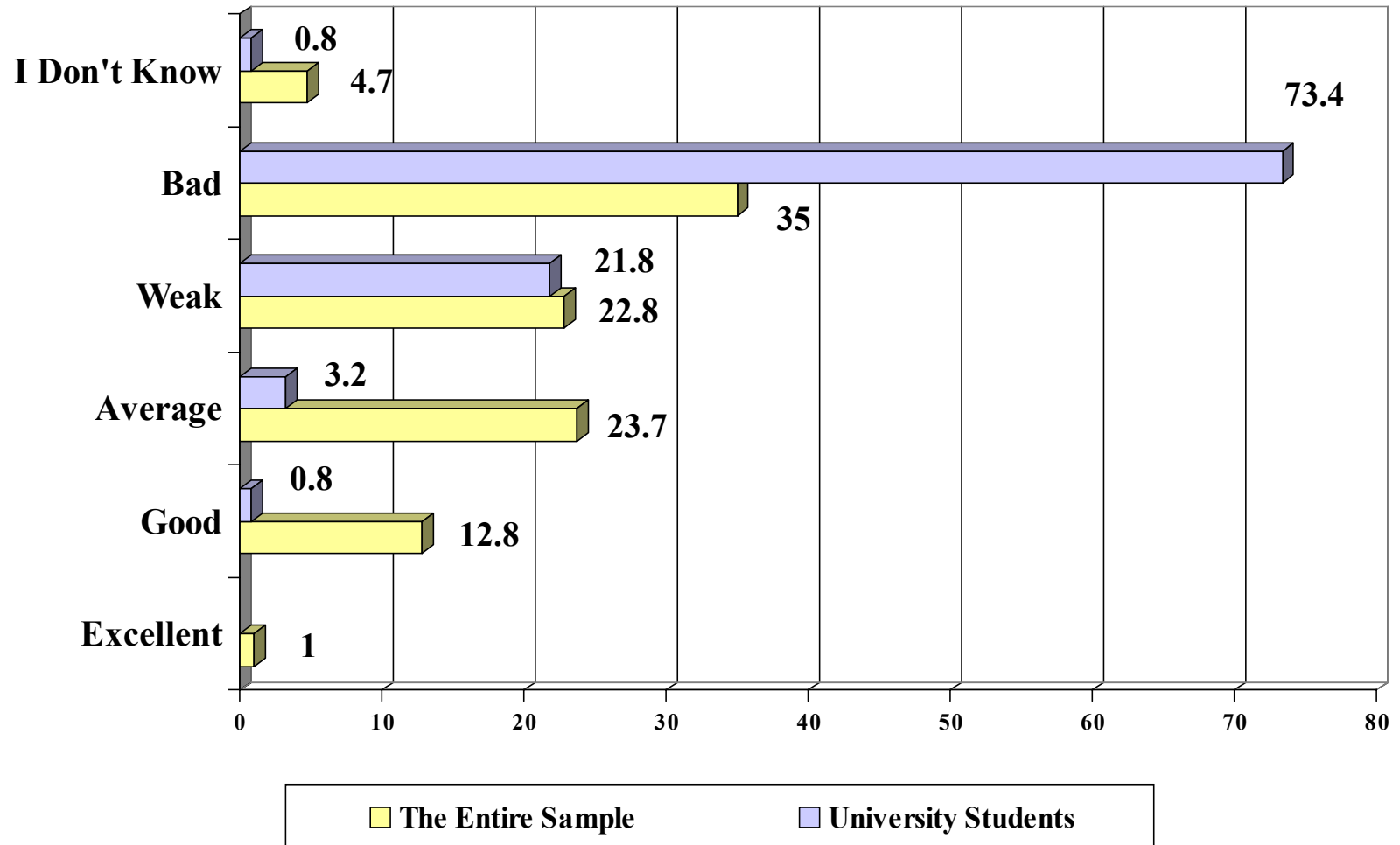
In your Opinion, What is the Main Cause for the Economic Crises? (%)



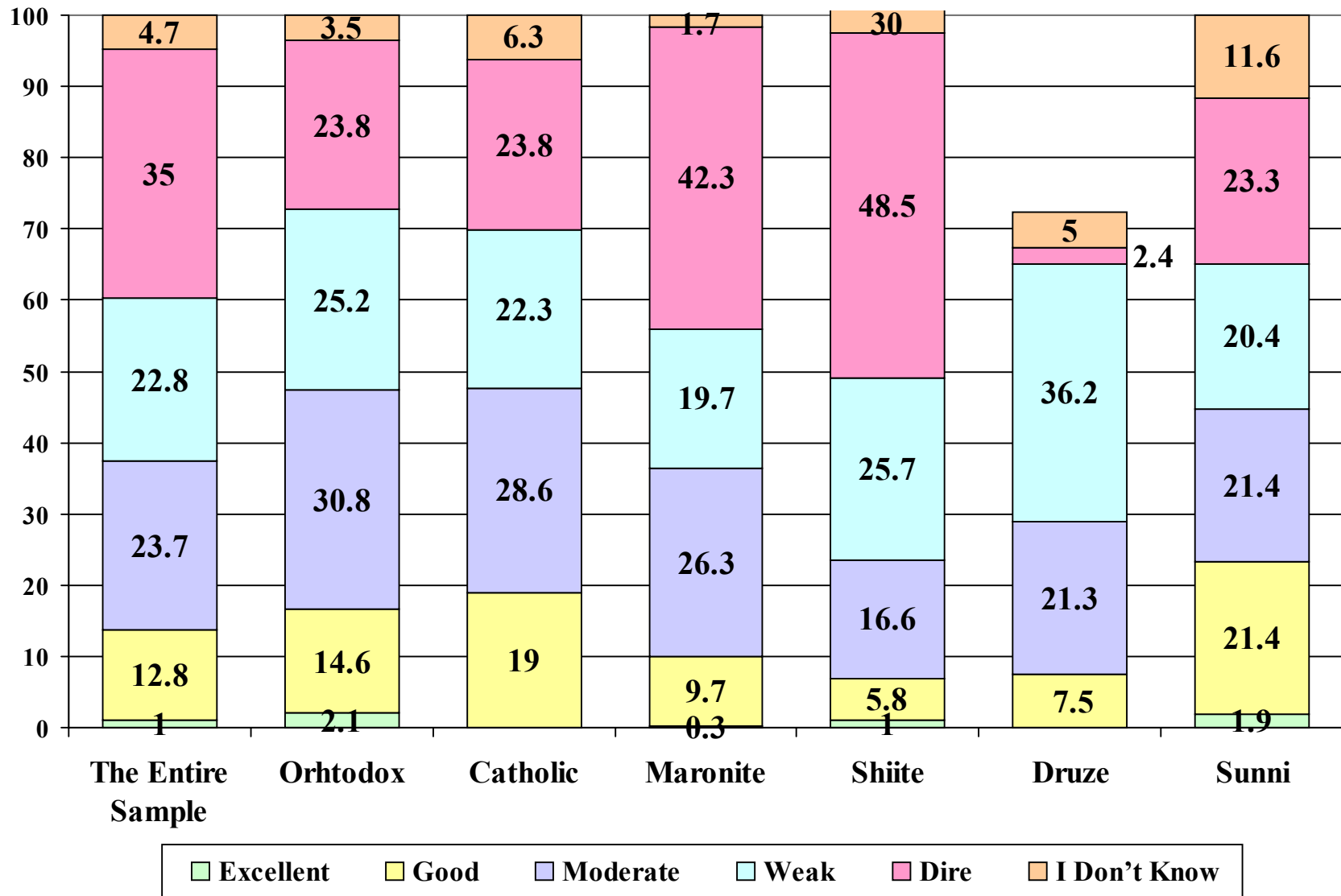
In your Opinion, What is the Main Cause for the Economic Crises? According to Confession (%)



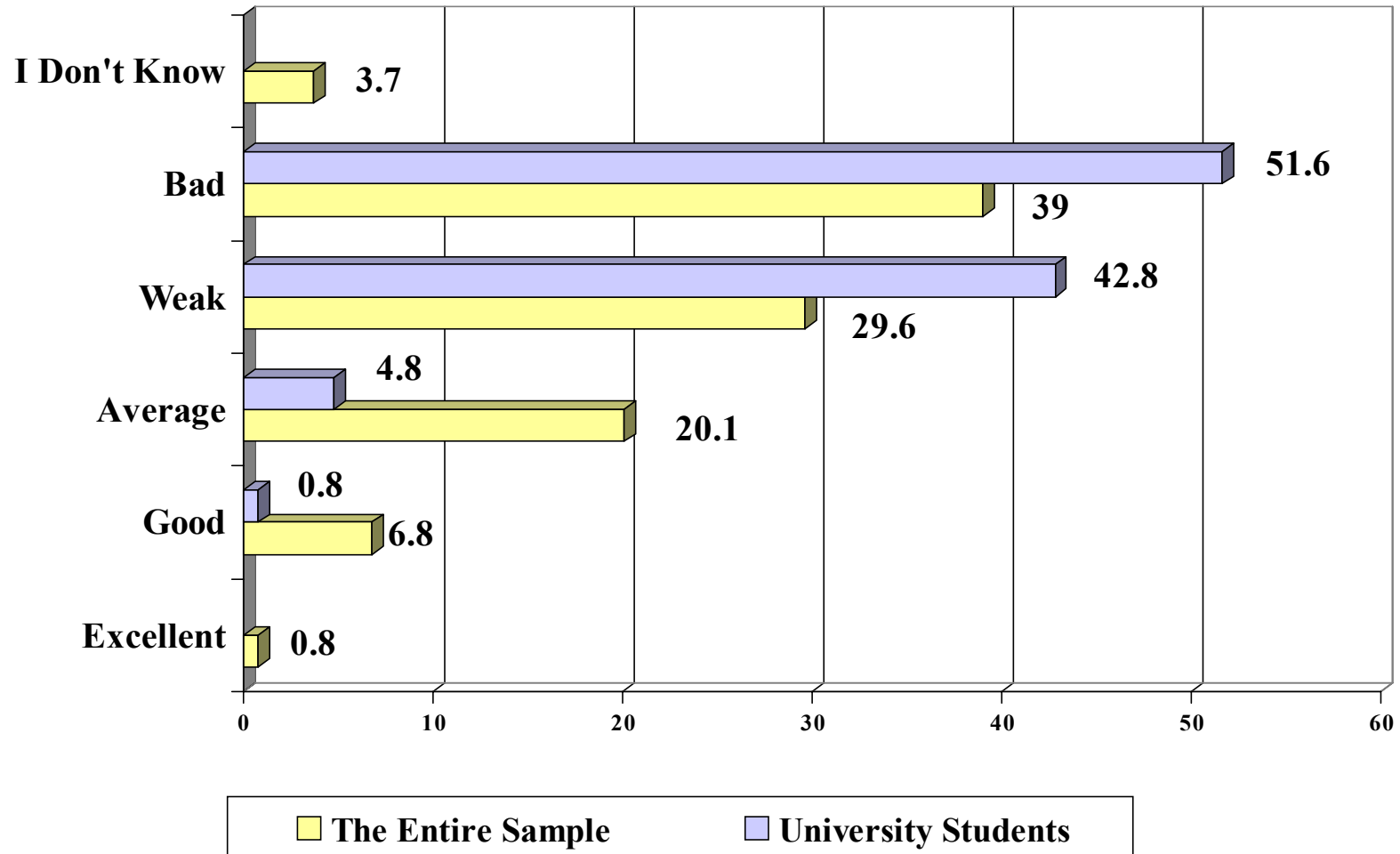
How do you Evaluate the Current Government Performance Regarding Waste and Corruption? (%)



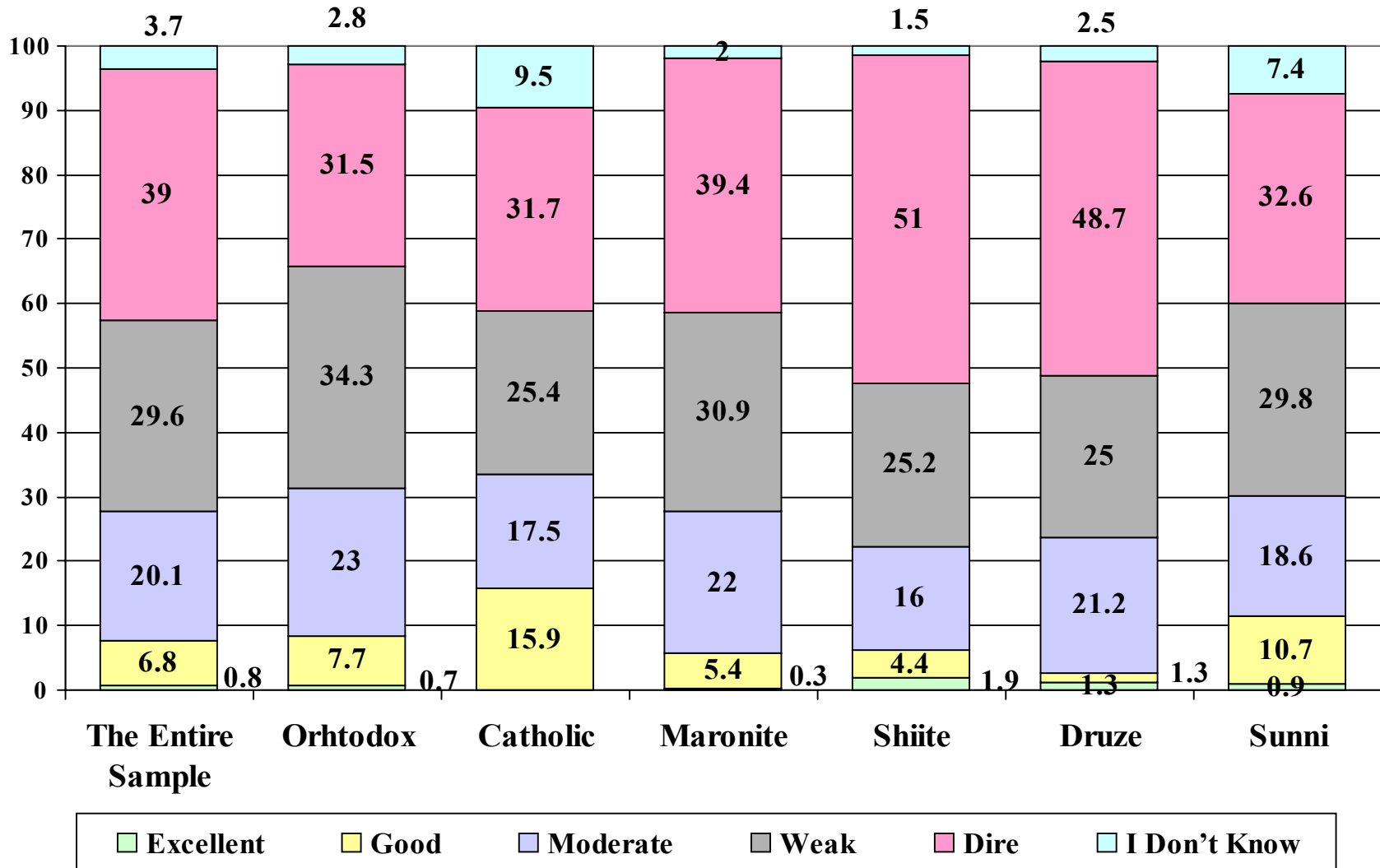
How do you Evaluate the Current Government Performance Regarding Waste and Corruption? According to Confession (%)



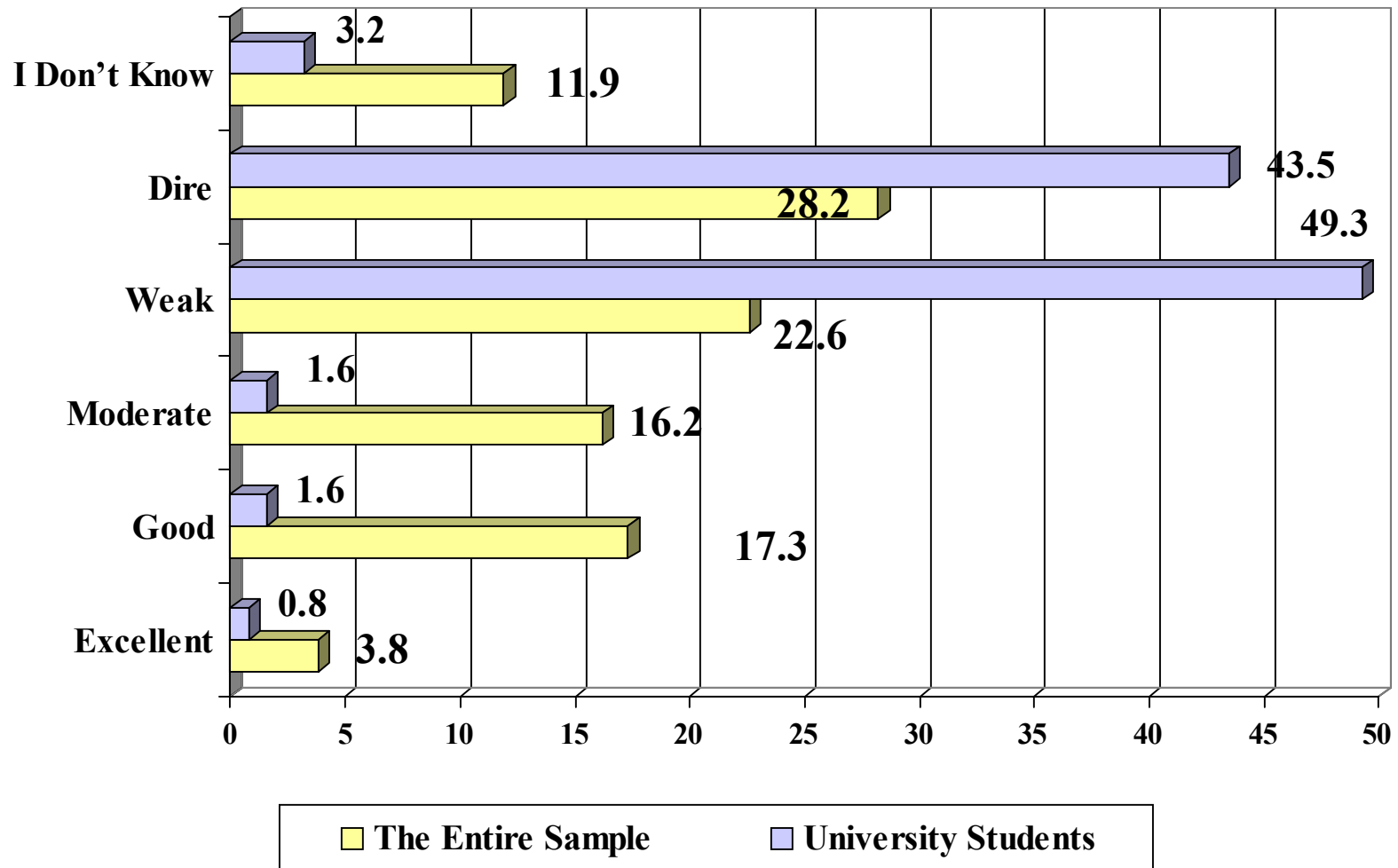
How do you Evaluate the Previous Government Performance Regarding Waste and Corruption? (%)



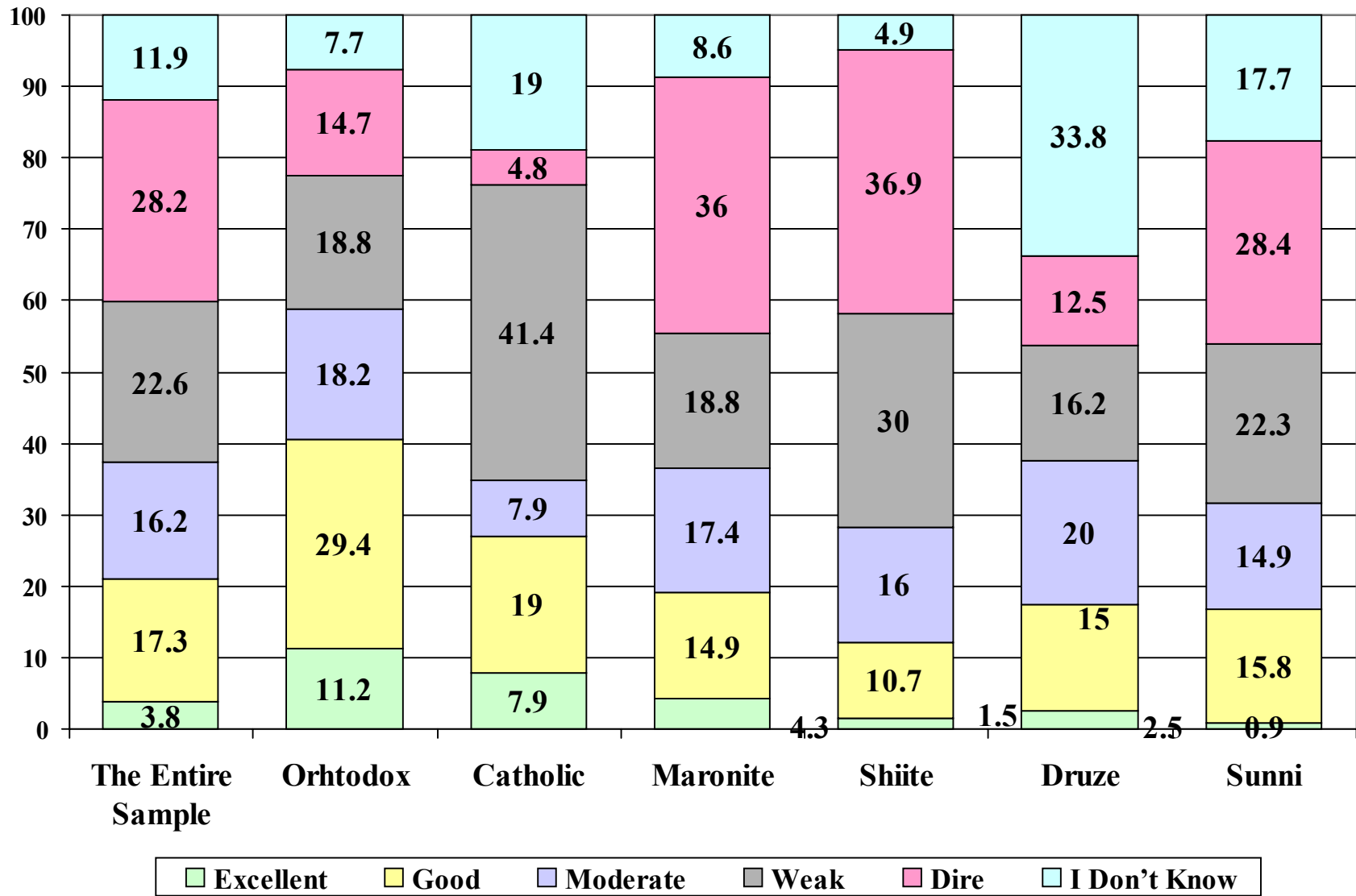
How do you Evaluate the Previous Government Performance Regarding Waste and Corruption? According to Confession (%)



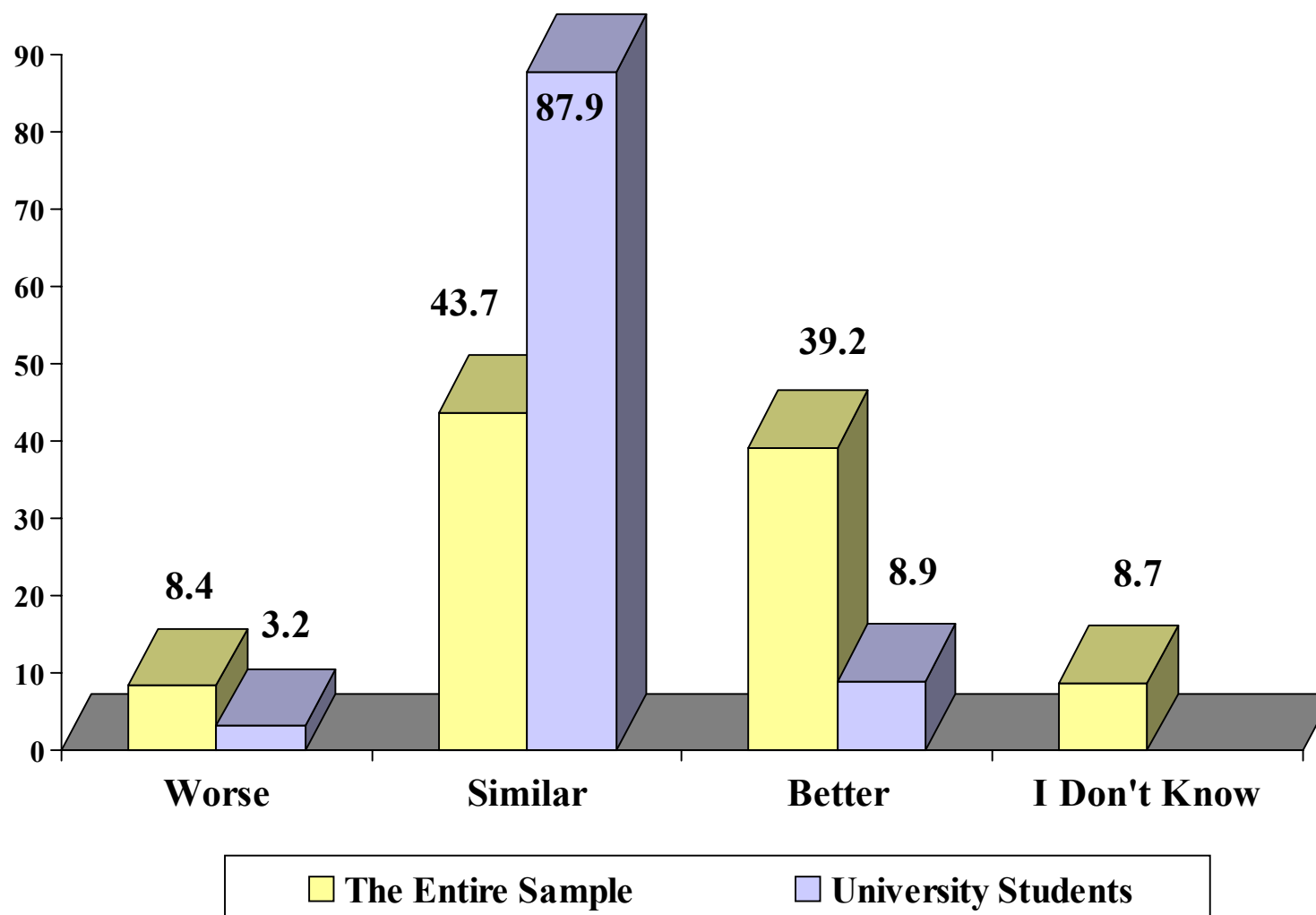
How do you Evaluate the Judicial Authority Performance Regarding Waste and Corruption? (%)



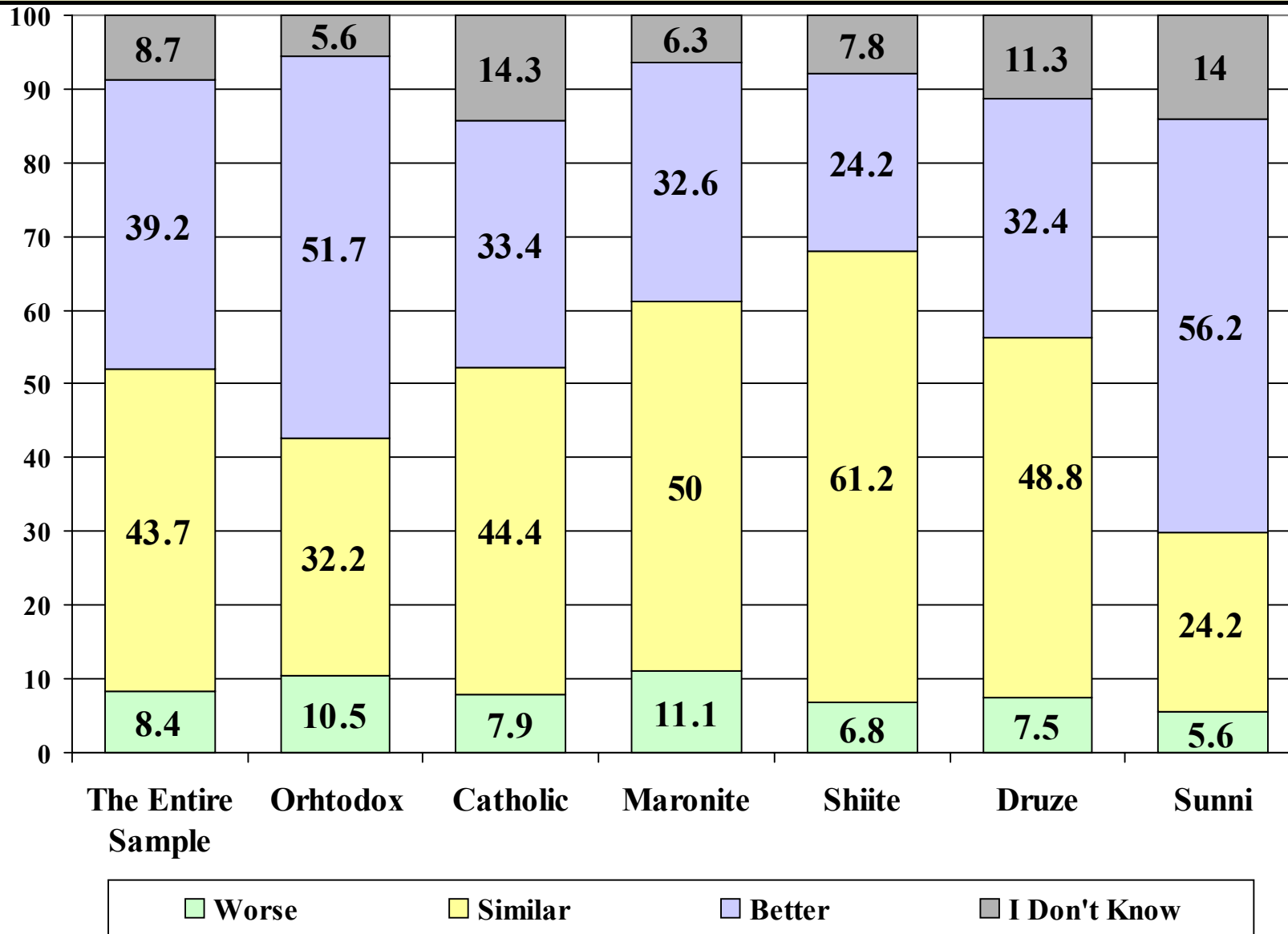
How do you Evaluate the Judicial Authority Performance Regarding Waste and Corruption? According to Confession (%)



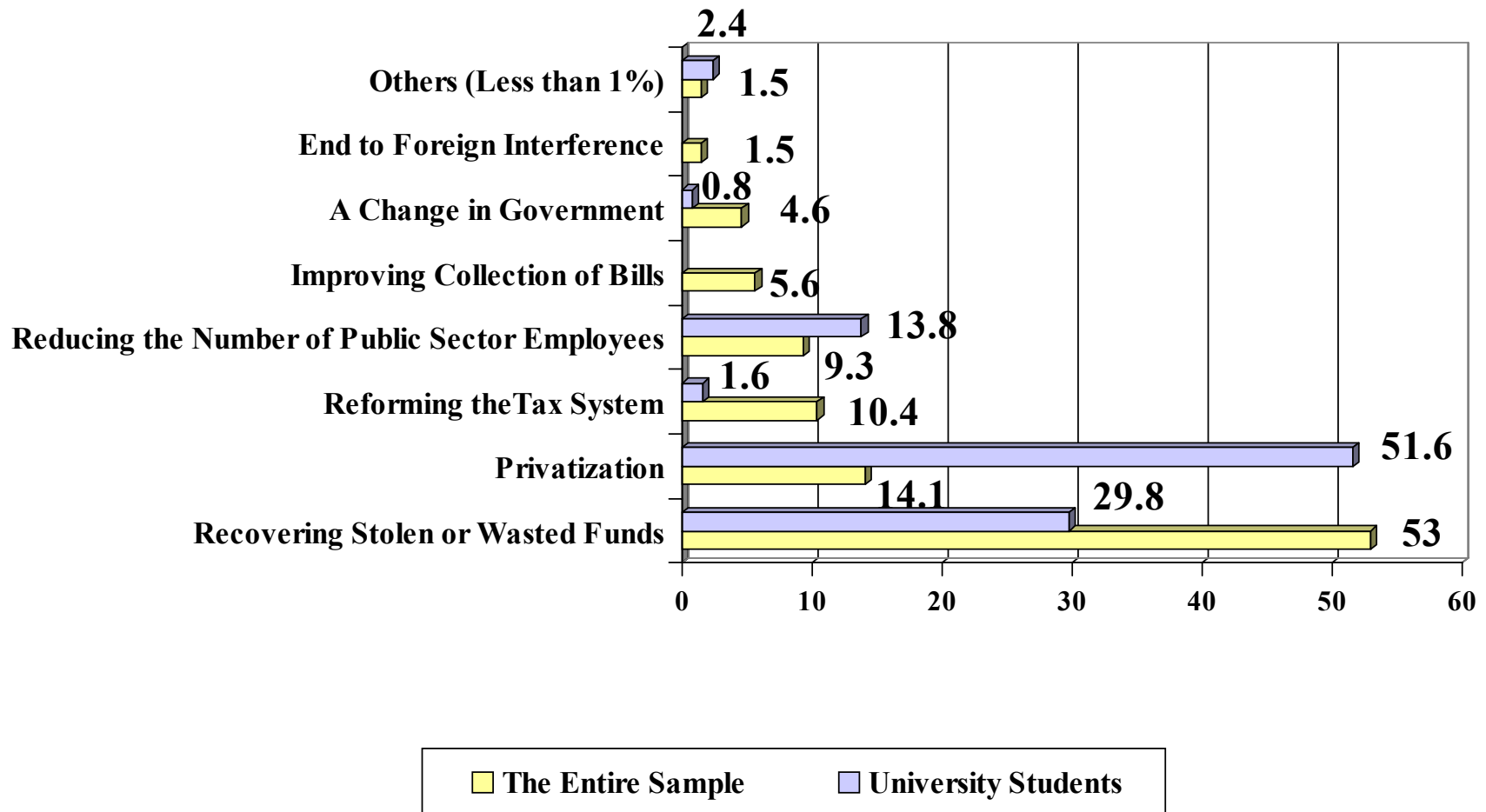
How do you Evaluate the Current Economic Policy Compared to the Previous Government Policies? (%)



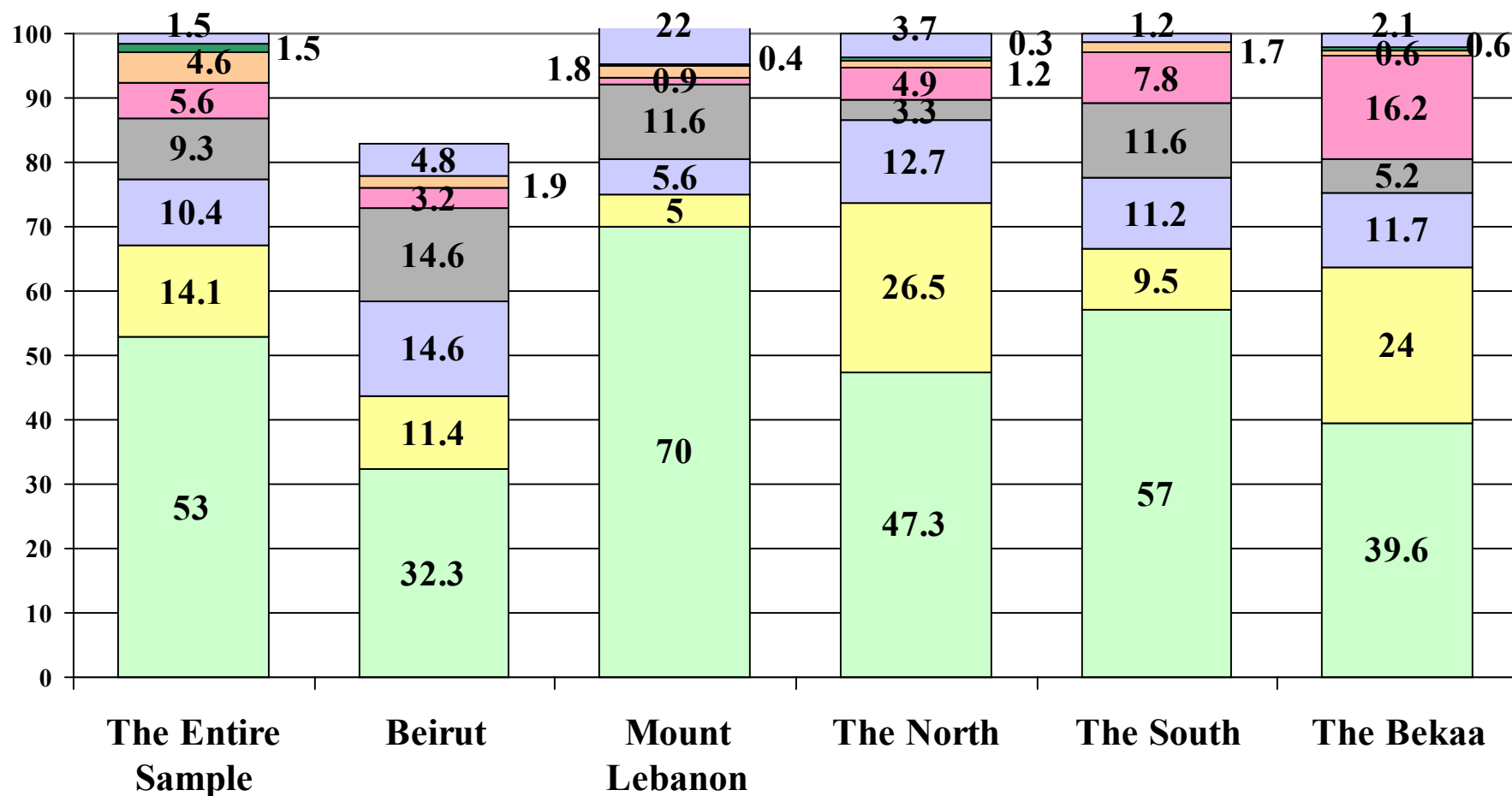
How do you Evaluate the Current Economic Policy Compared to the Previous Government Policies? According to Confession (%)



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

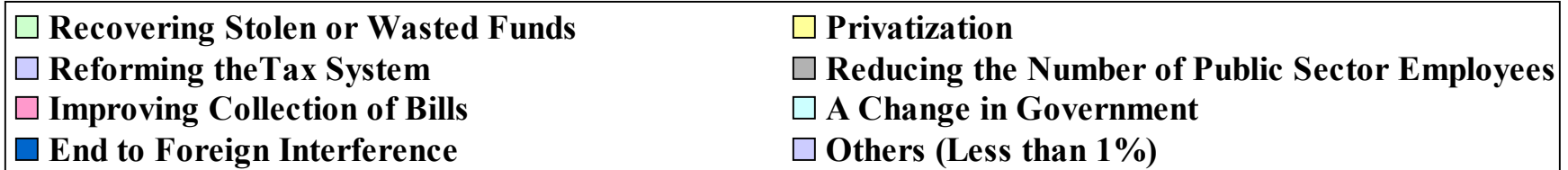
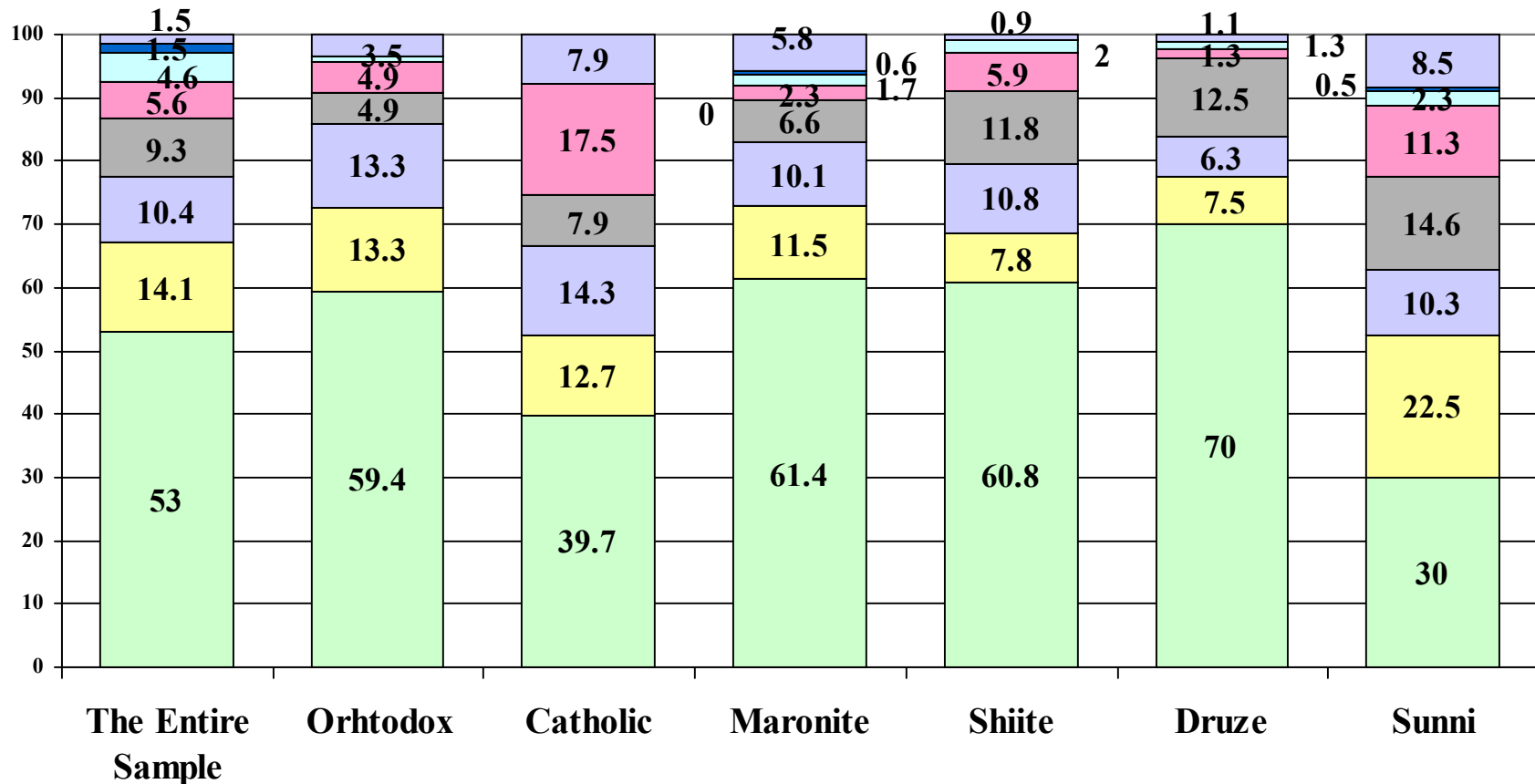


In Your Opinion, What is the Best Way to Reduce the Fiscal Deficit? According to Province (Mohafazat) (%)

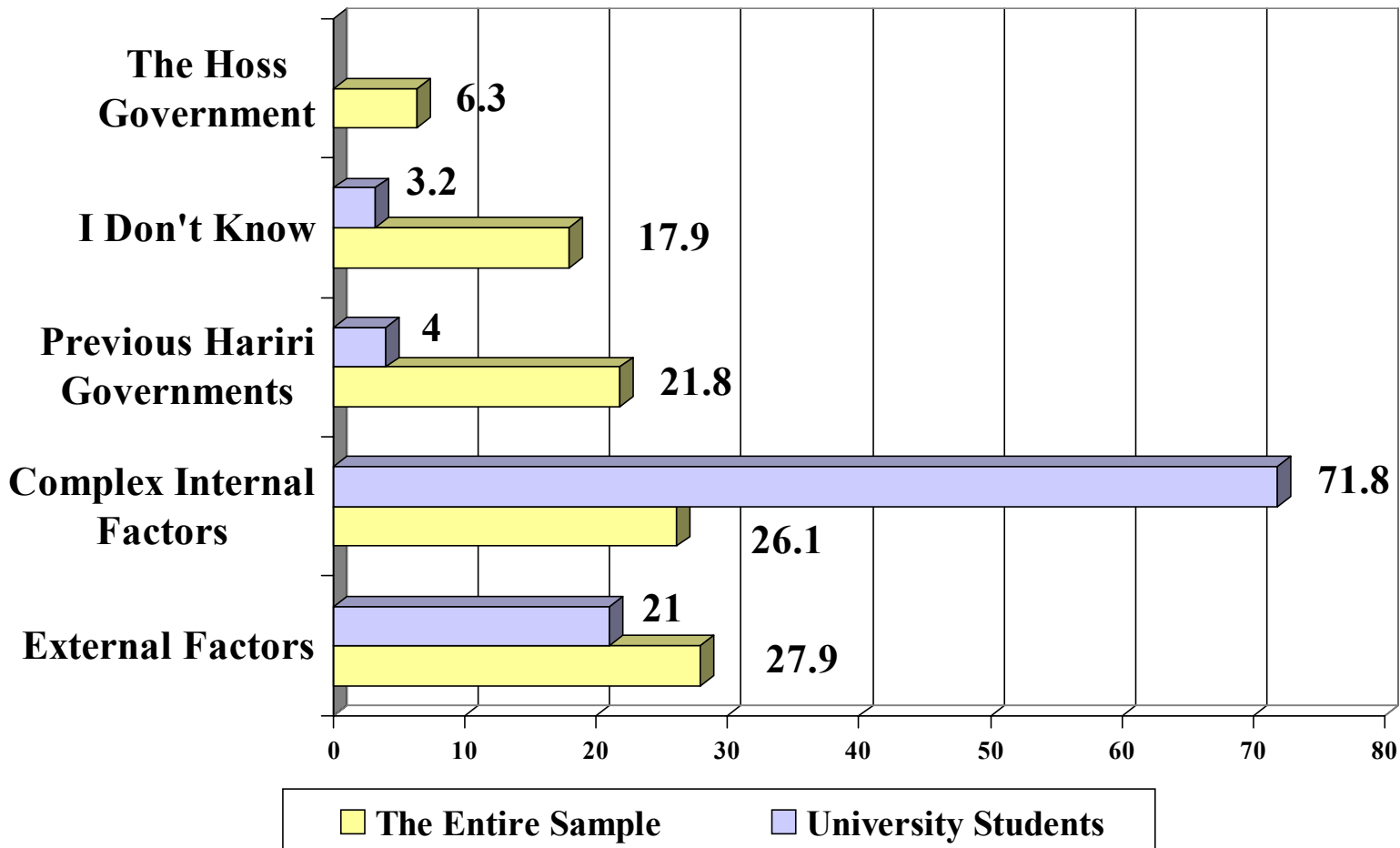


- Recovering Stolen or Wasted Funds
- Reforming the Tax System
- Improving Collection of Bills
- End to Foreign Interference
- Privatization
- Reducing the Number of Public Sector Employees
- A Change in Government
- Others (Less than 1%)

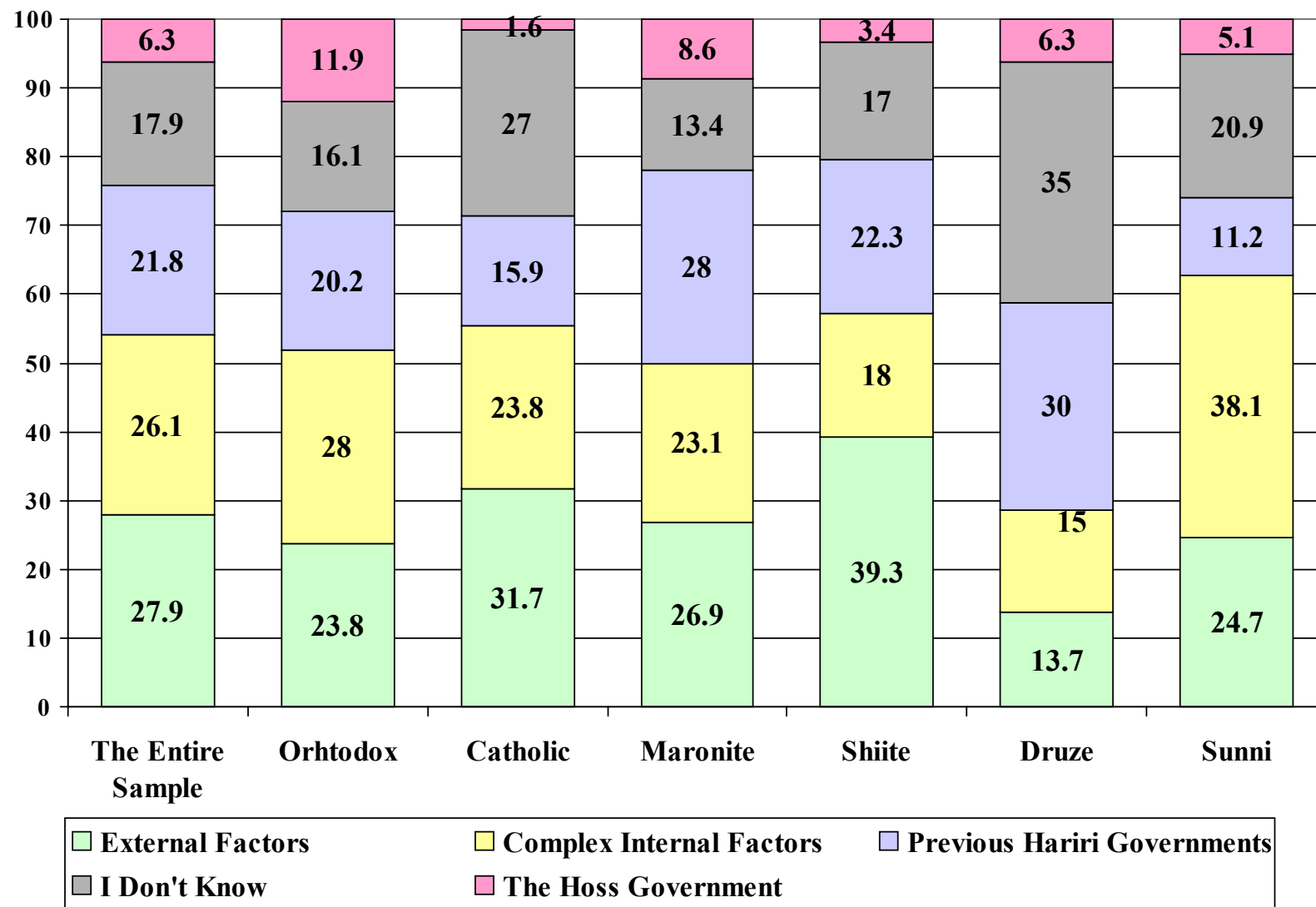
In Your Opinion, What is the Best Way to Reduce the Fiscal Deficit? According to Confession (%)



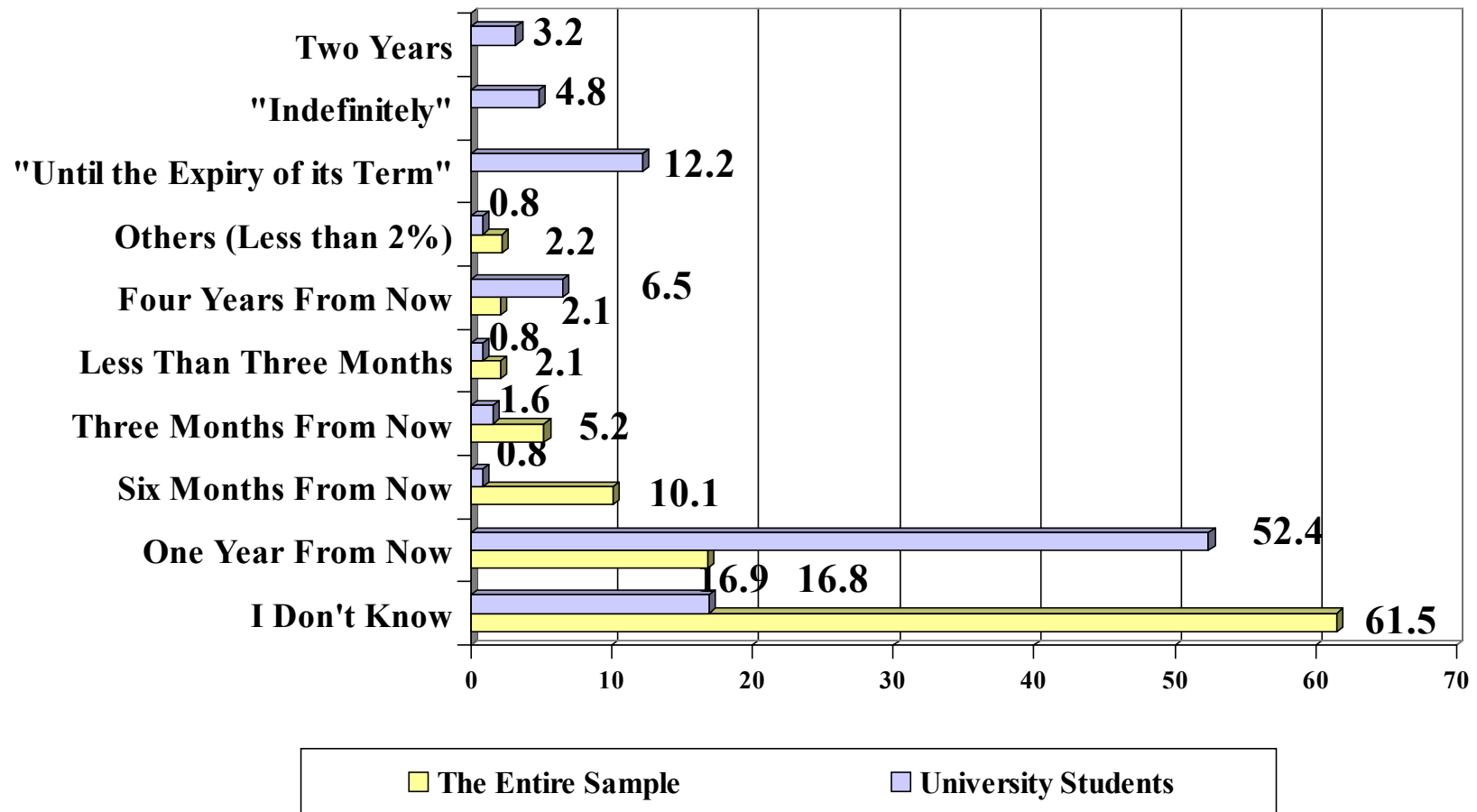
In Your Opinion, What was the Cause of the Current Economic Crisis in the Country? (%)



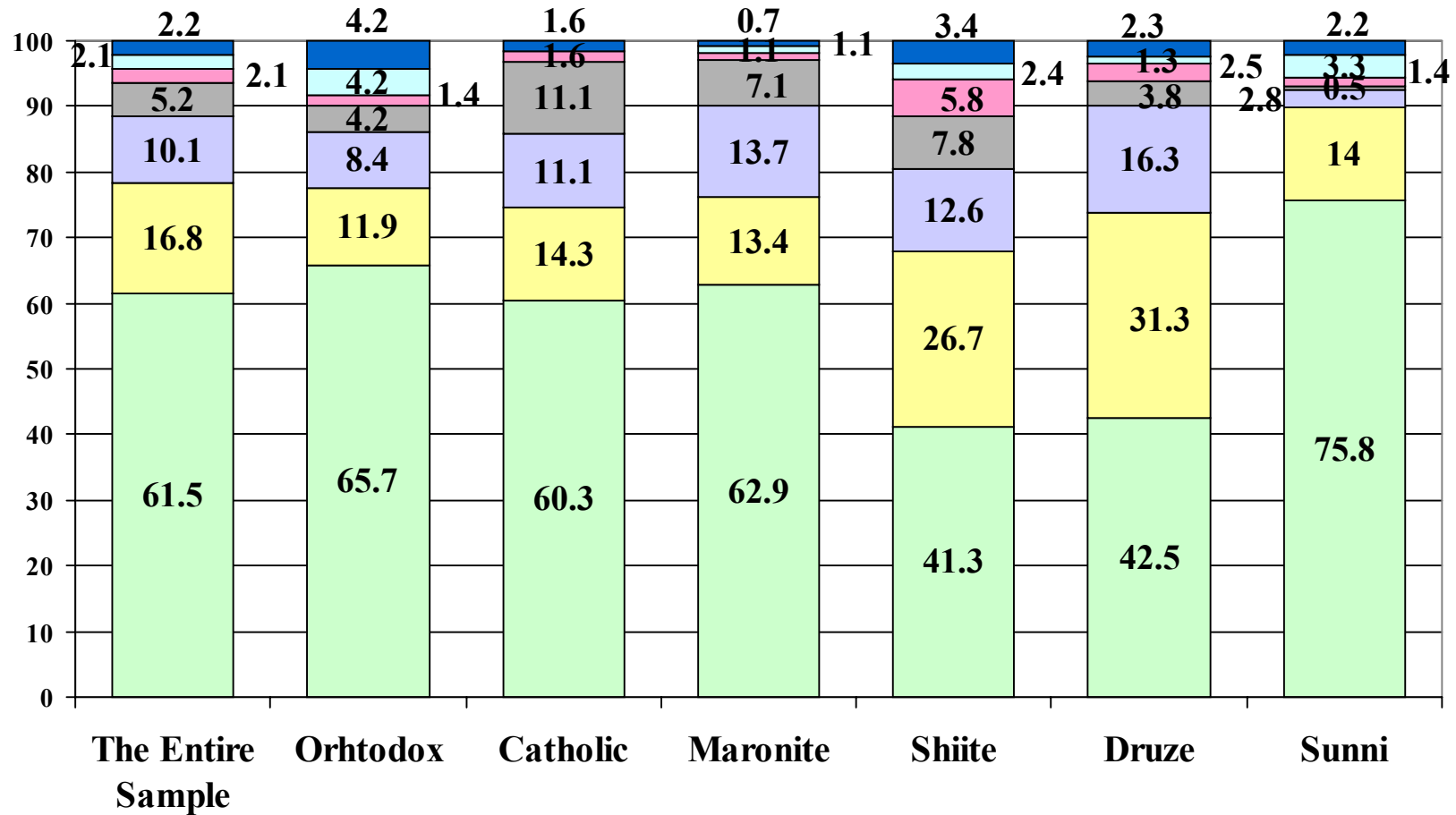
In Your Opinion, What was the Cause of the Current Economic Crisis in the Country? According to Confession (%)



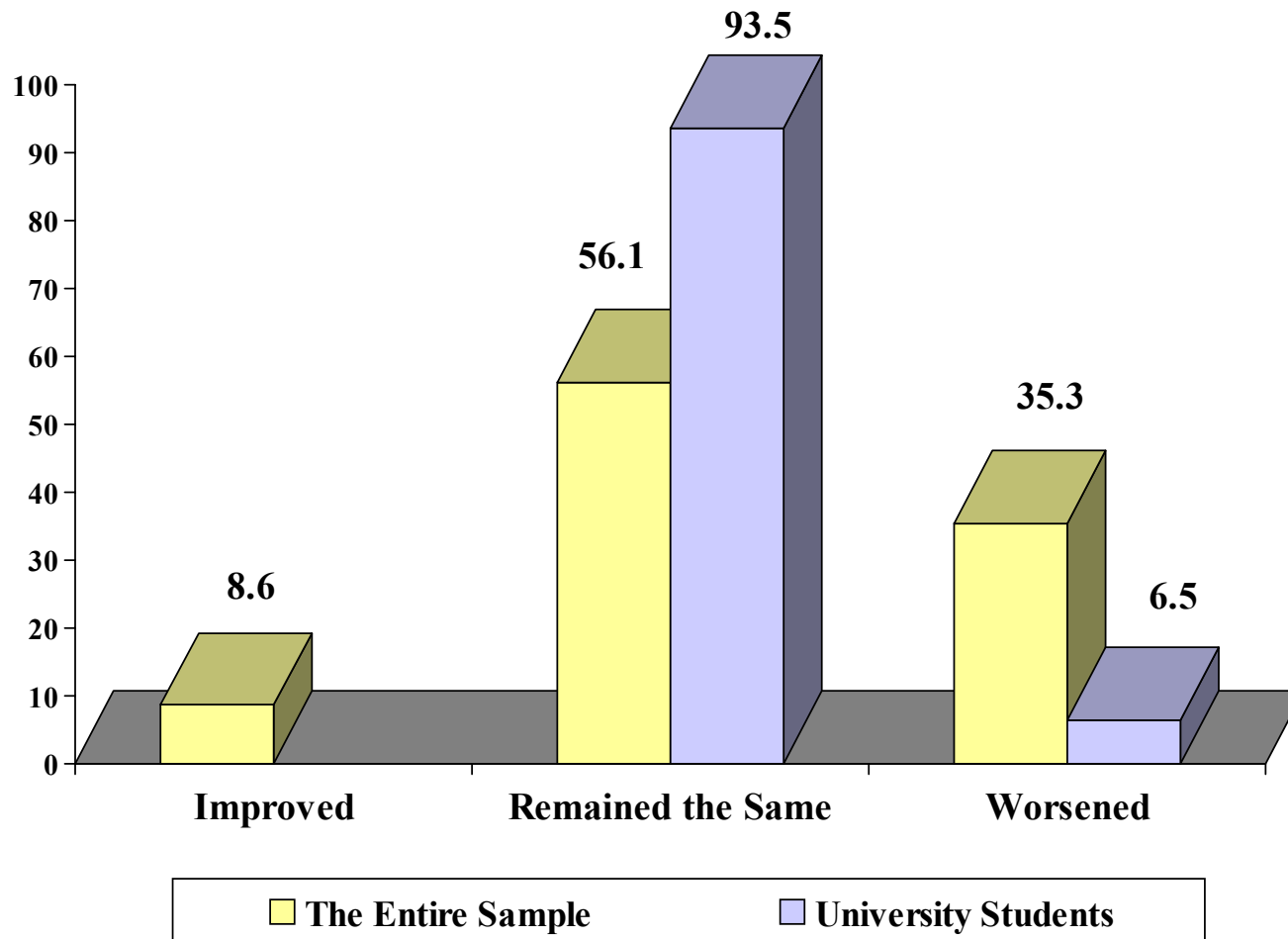
In Your Opinion, How will the Current Government Last? (%)



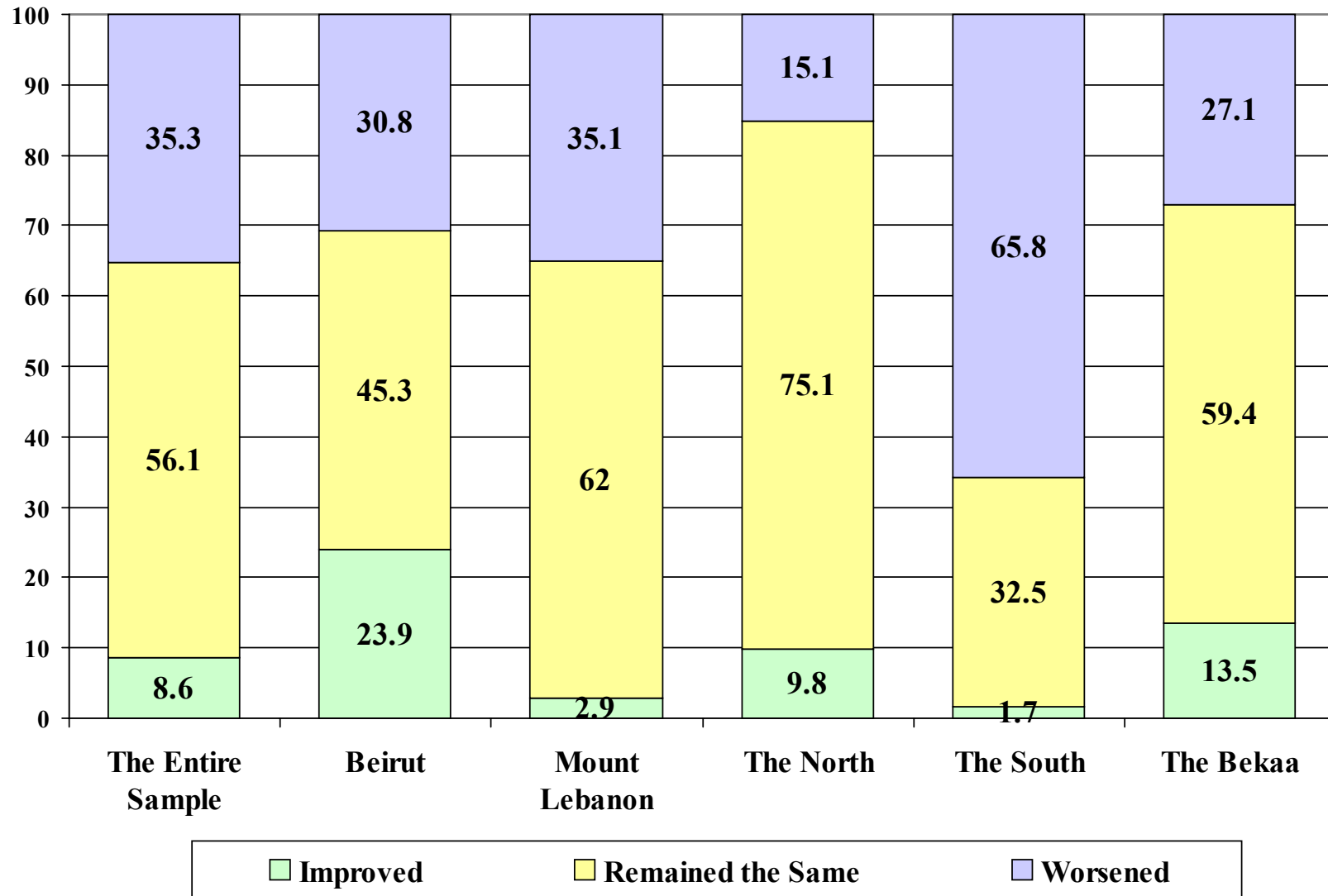
In Your Opinion, How will the Current Government Last? According to Confession (%)



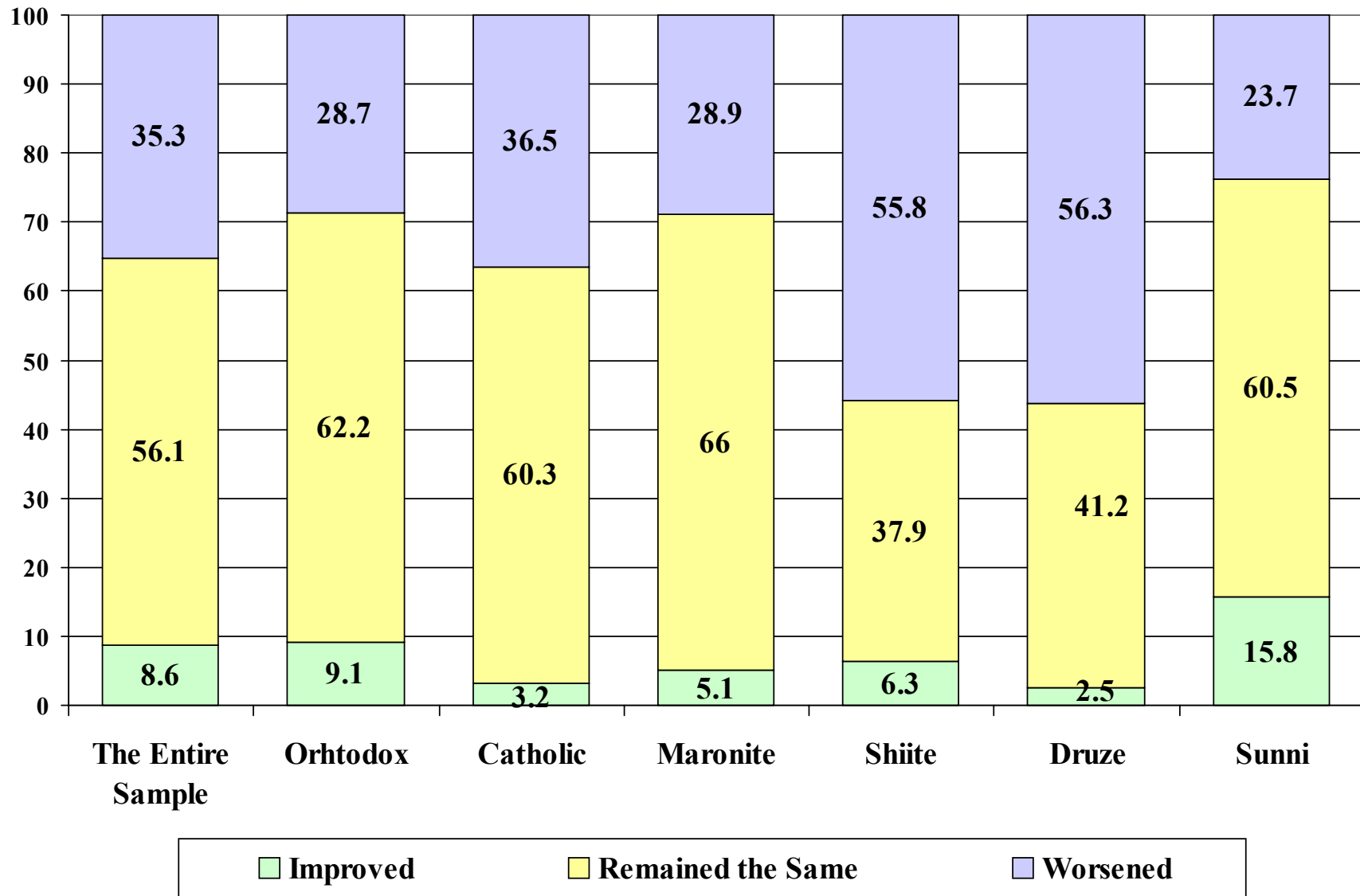
Since the Current Government Took Over, Your Financial Situation Has: (%)



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

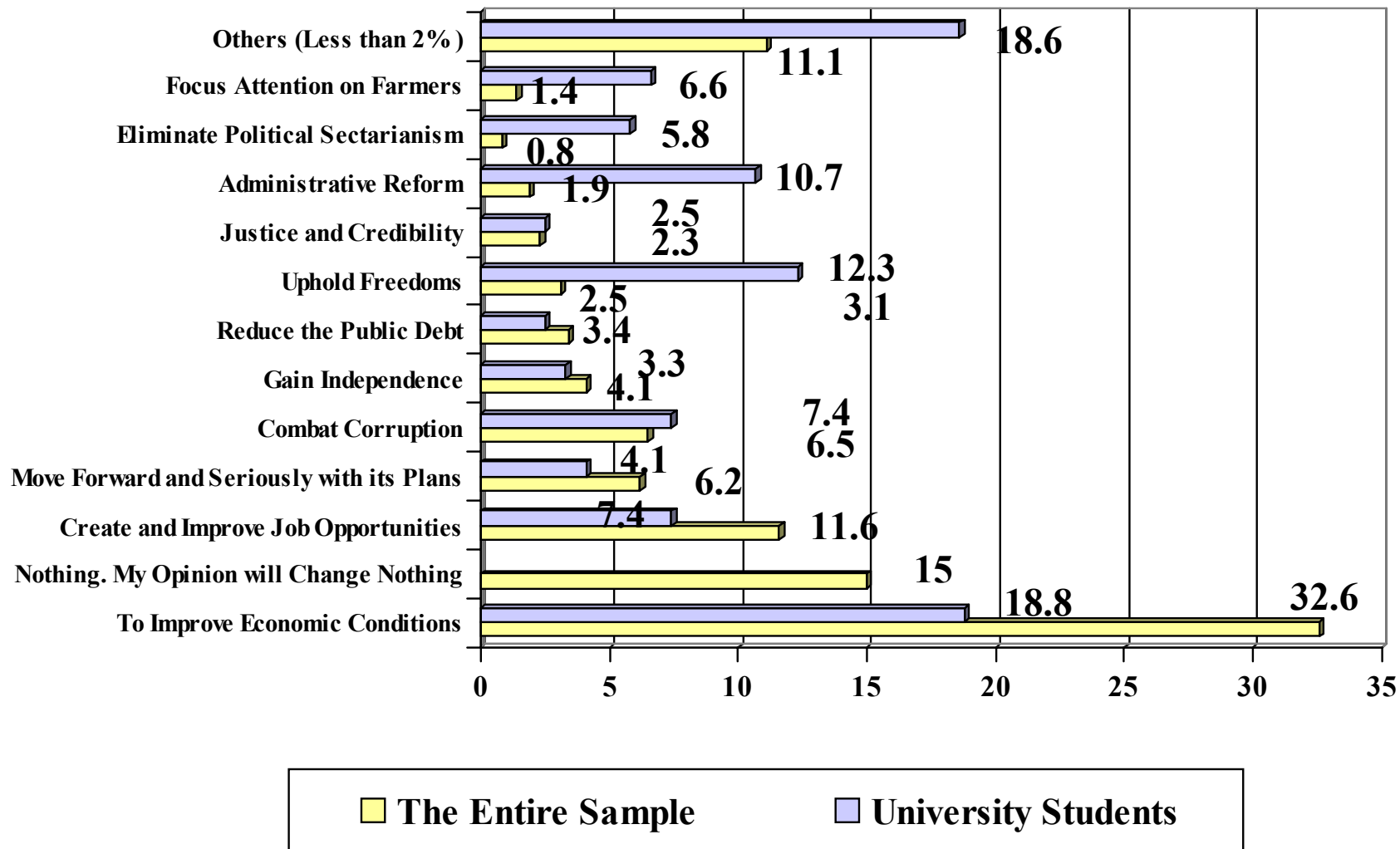


Since the Current Government Took Over, Your Financial Situation Has: According to Confession (%)



What do you Ask of the Current Government? (%)

Open-Ended Question



The Government Composition

The Government Composition

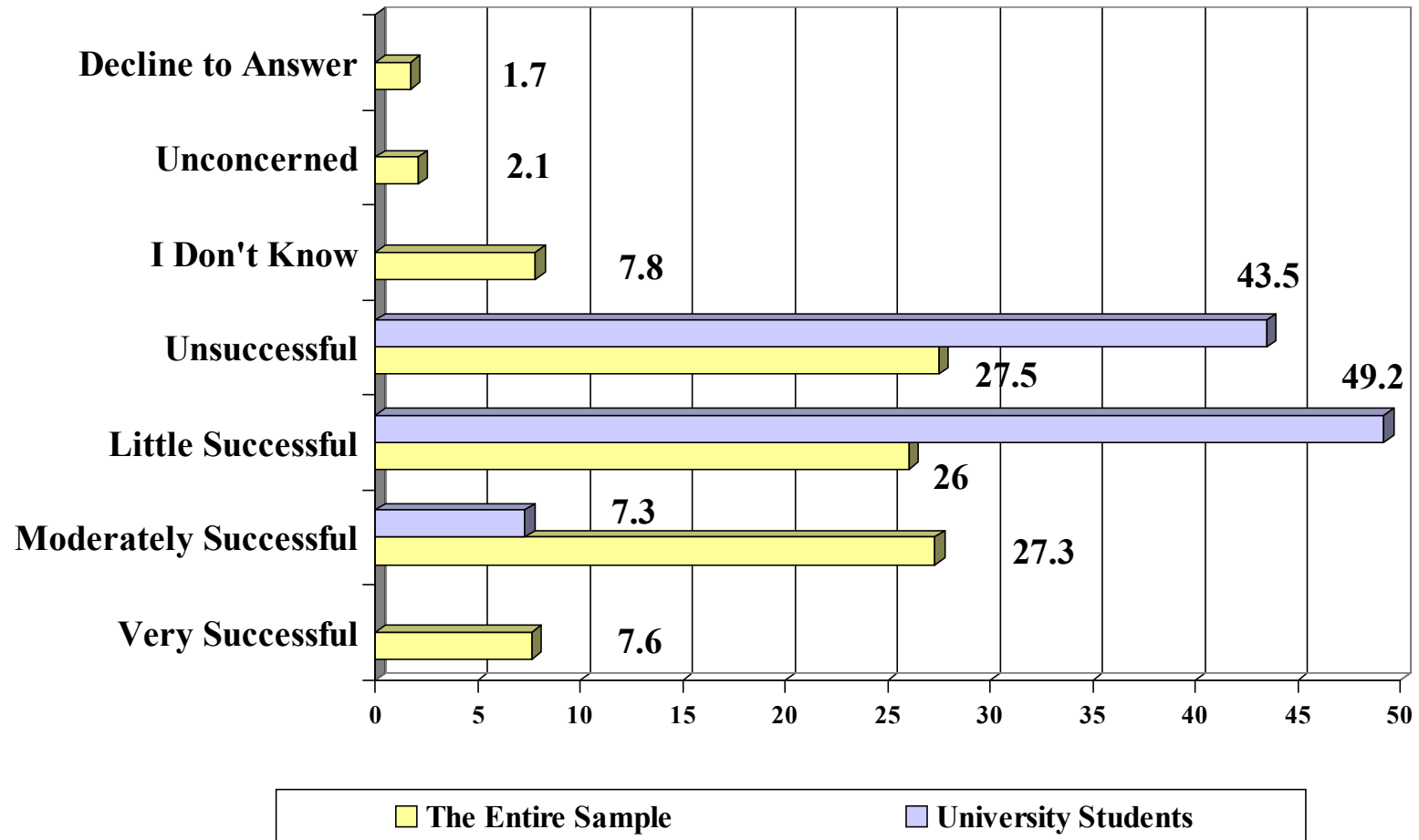
The percentages of those who believed the current government composition is unsuccessful, moderately successful or of little success were close, at respectively 27.5%, 27.3% and 26%. Those who believed it was highly success were limited to 7.6%.

As for those who classified unsuccessful, the reasons cited were foreign interventions (31.1%), the sectarian representation (23.4%), large size (21.5%), unqualified (14.7%) and disharmonious (6.7%).

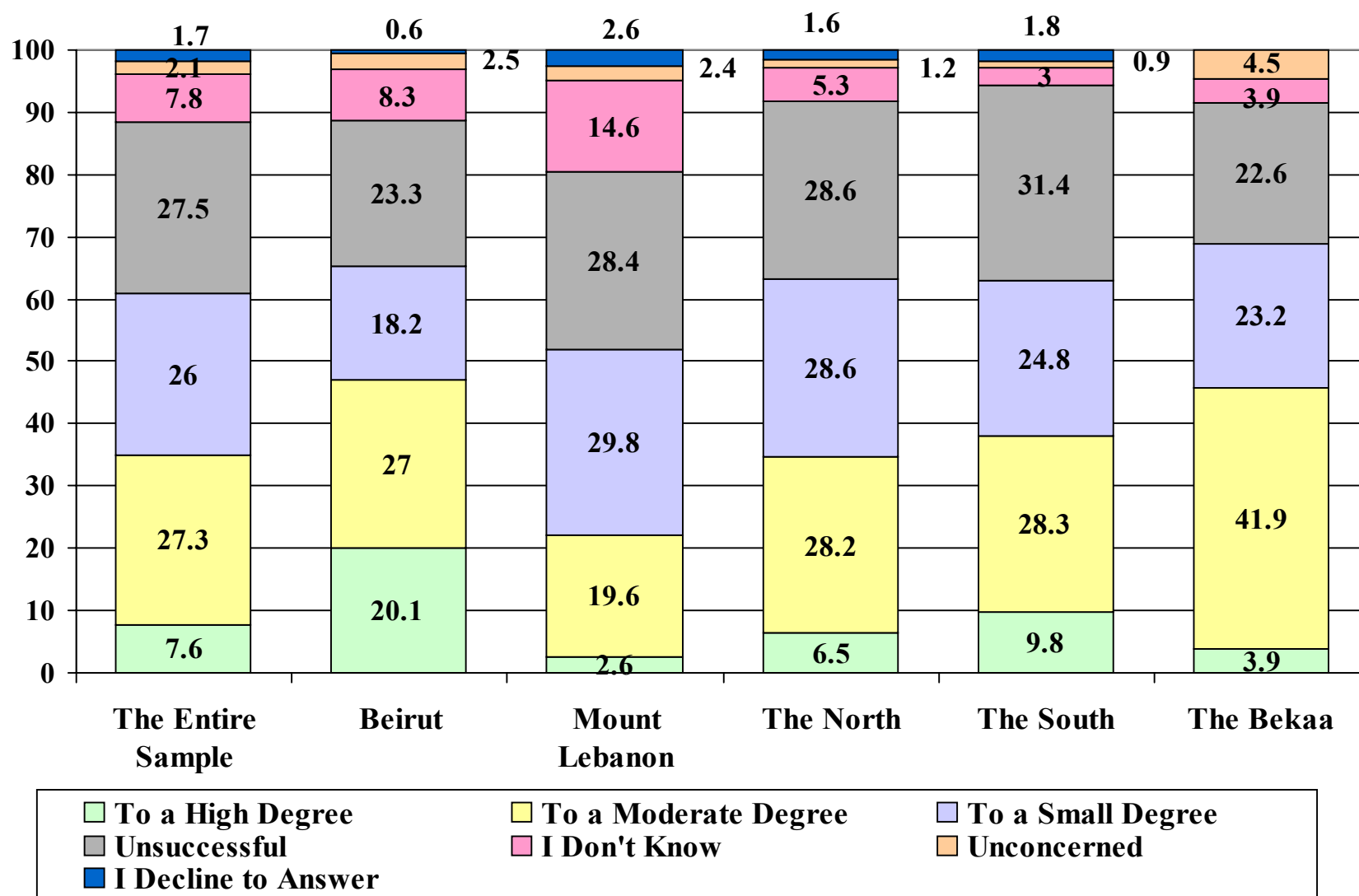
In terms of geographical distribution, respondents in the Beirut Province (Mohafaza) formed the highest percentage of those who classified the Cabinet composition as highly successful (20.1%), compared to only 2.6% in Mount Lebanon.

In terms of confessional distribution, the Sunnis took the lead (20%) in classifying the Cabinet composition as highly successful, with the percentage declining to reach the lowest levels of 3.2% among Catholics, followed by 3.1% among Maronites.

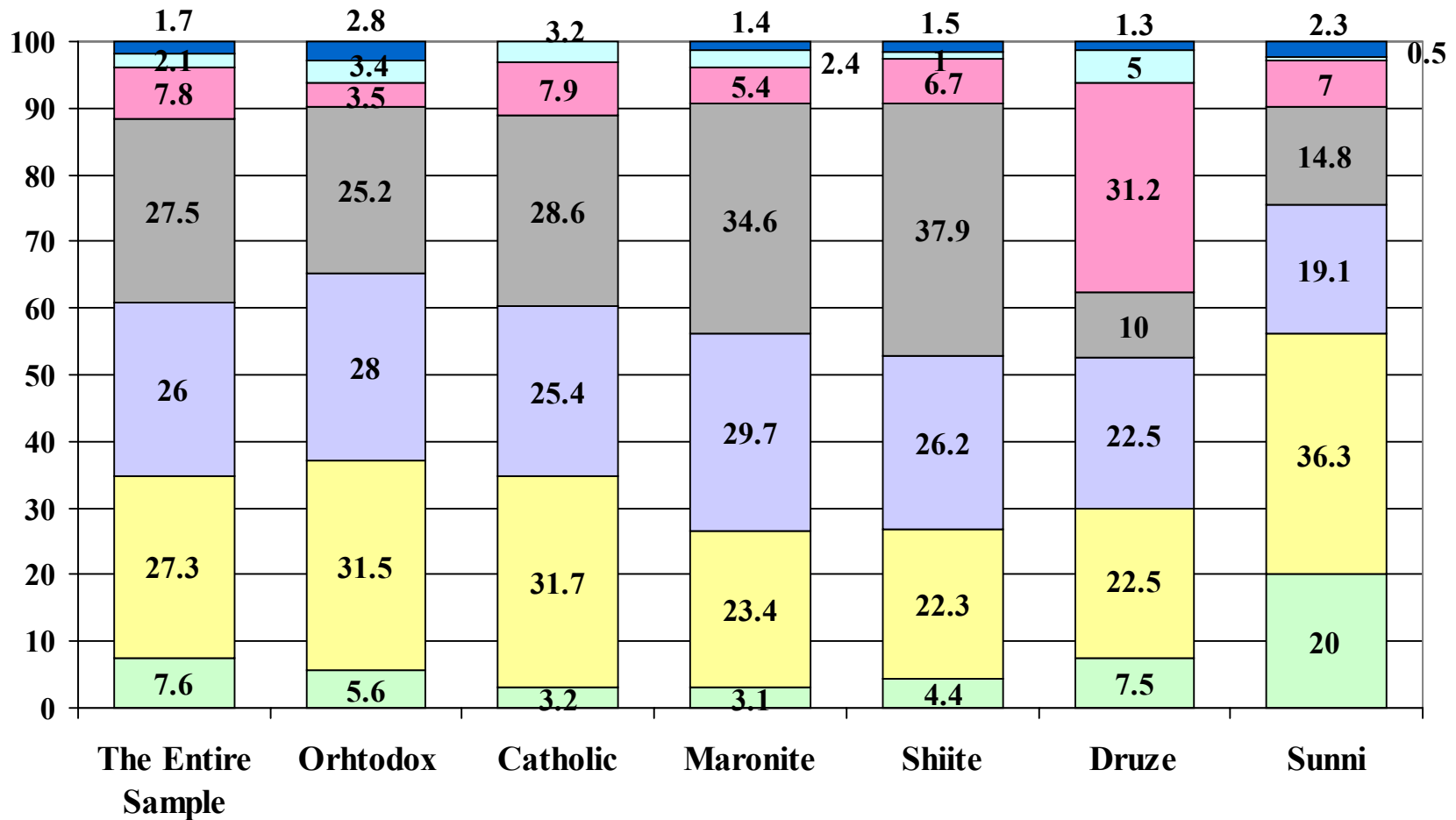
How do you Classify the Government Composition? (%)



How do you Classify the Government Composition? According to Province (%)

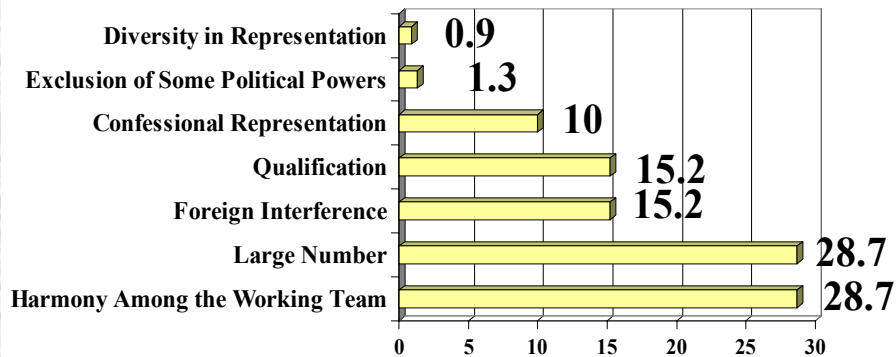


How do you Classify the Government Composition? According to Confession (%)

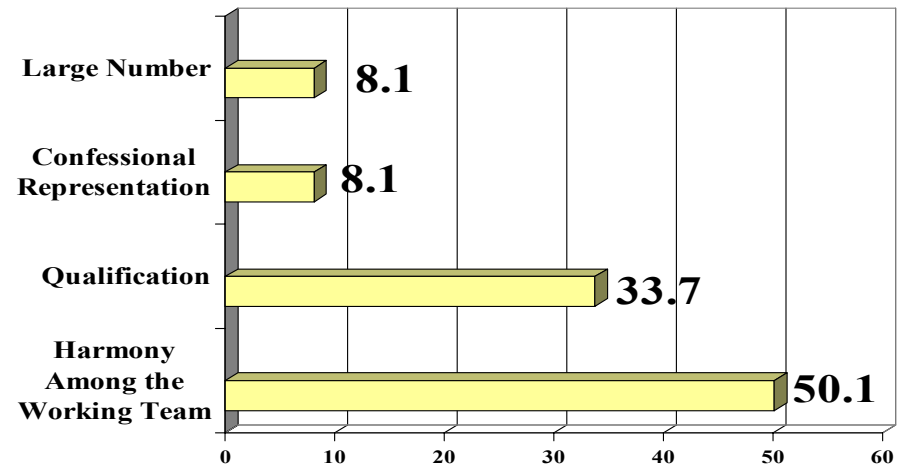


Why did you Describe the Cabinet Composition as you did? (%)

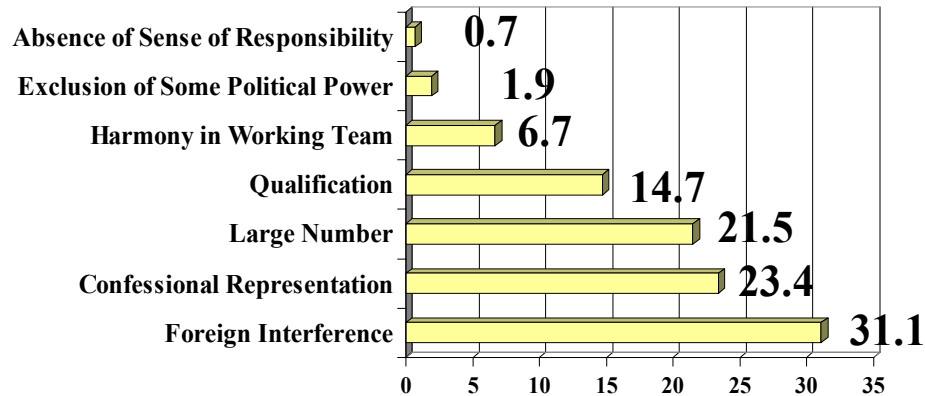
Moderately Successful, Specify (%)



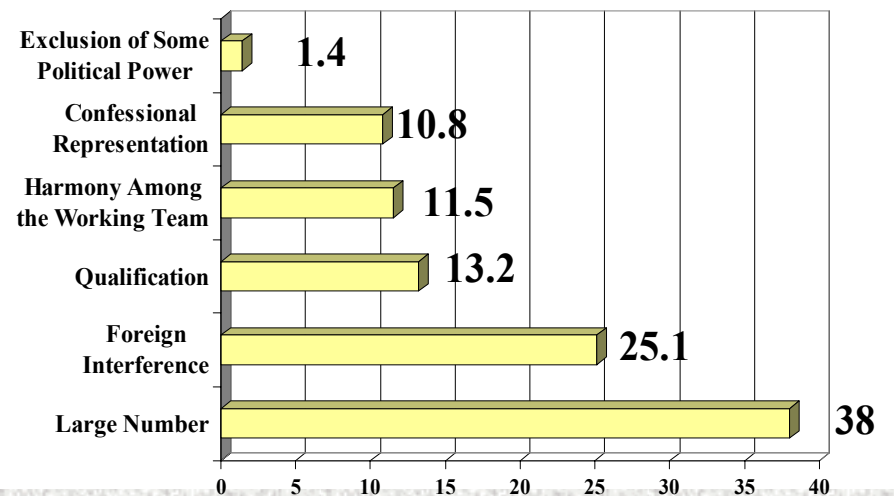
Successful to a High Degree, Specify (%)



Unsuccessful, Specify (%)



Modestly Successful, Specify (%)



Economic Conditions and the Future

Economic Conditions and The Future

About two-thirds of the respondents (61.5%) considered the economic conditions in Lebanon “bad,” compared to 21.8% weak and only 0.4% excellent.

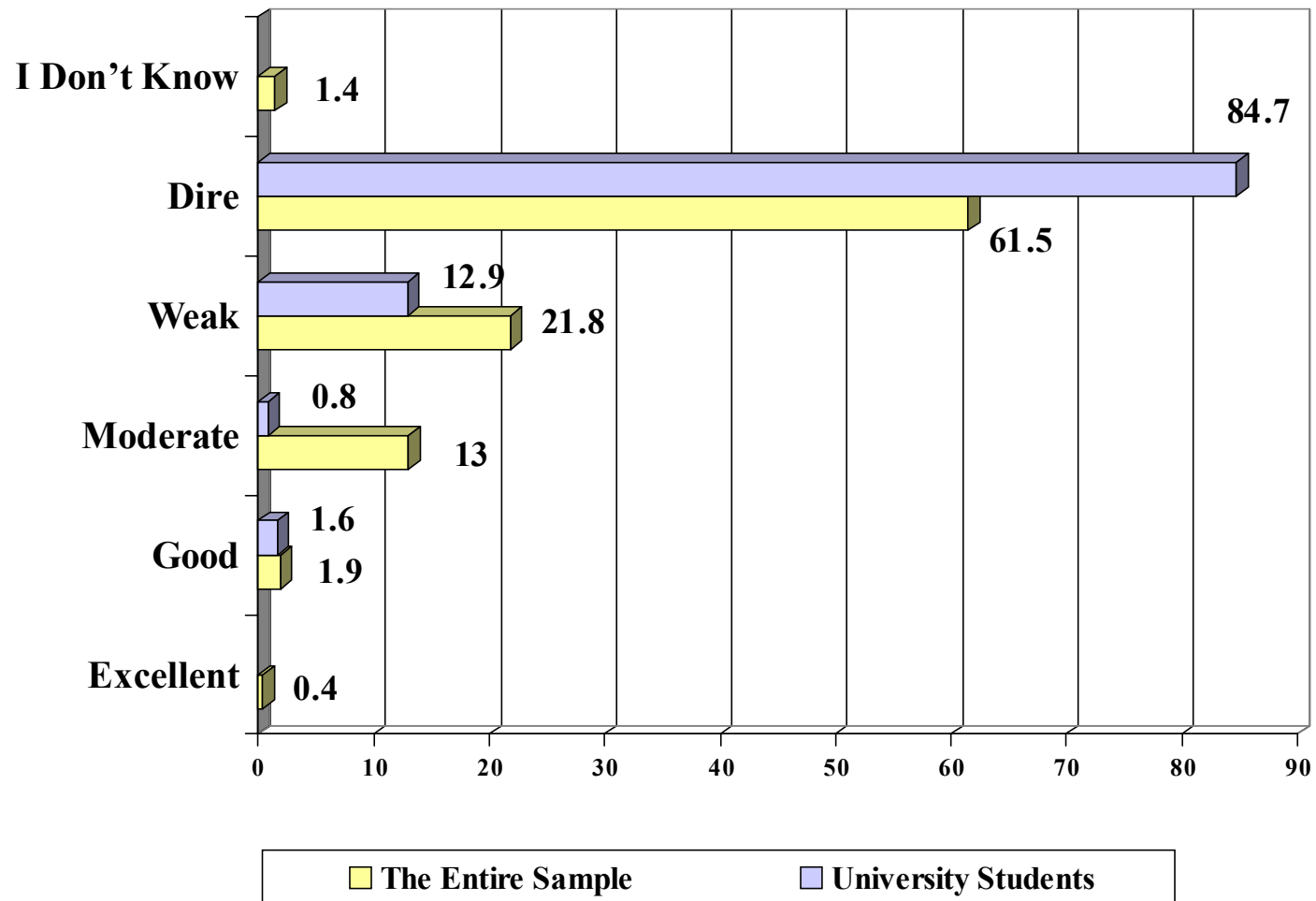
In terms of confessional distribution, Maronites (68.6%) and Shiites (67.5%) took the lead in the “bad” classification. These percentages dropped among Sunnis (54%) and Orthodox (49.7%).

The survey sought to gauge confidence in the future. The highest percentage of respondents (63.6%) felt there was no future, especially for their families, compared to only 15.7% who responded positively and 20.7% who declined comment. Orthodox and Sunni respondents formed the bulk of those who viewed the future with confidence and optimism, respectively 25.2% and 22.4 percent). The lowest proportions were among the Maronites (10.6%) and Catholics (9.5%).

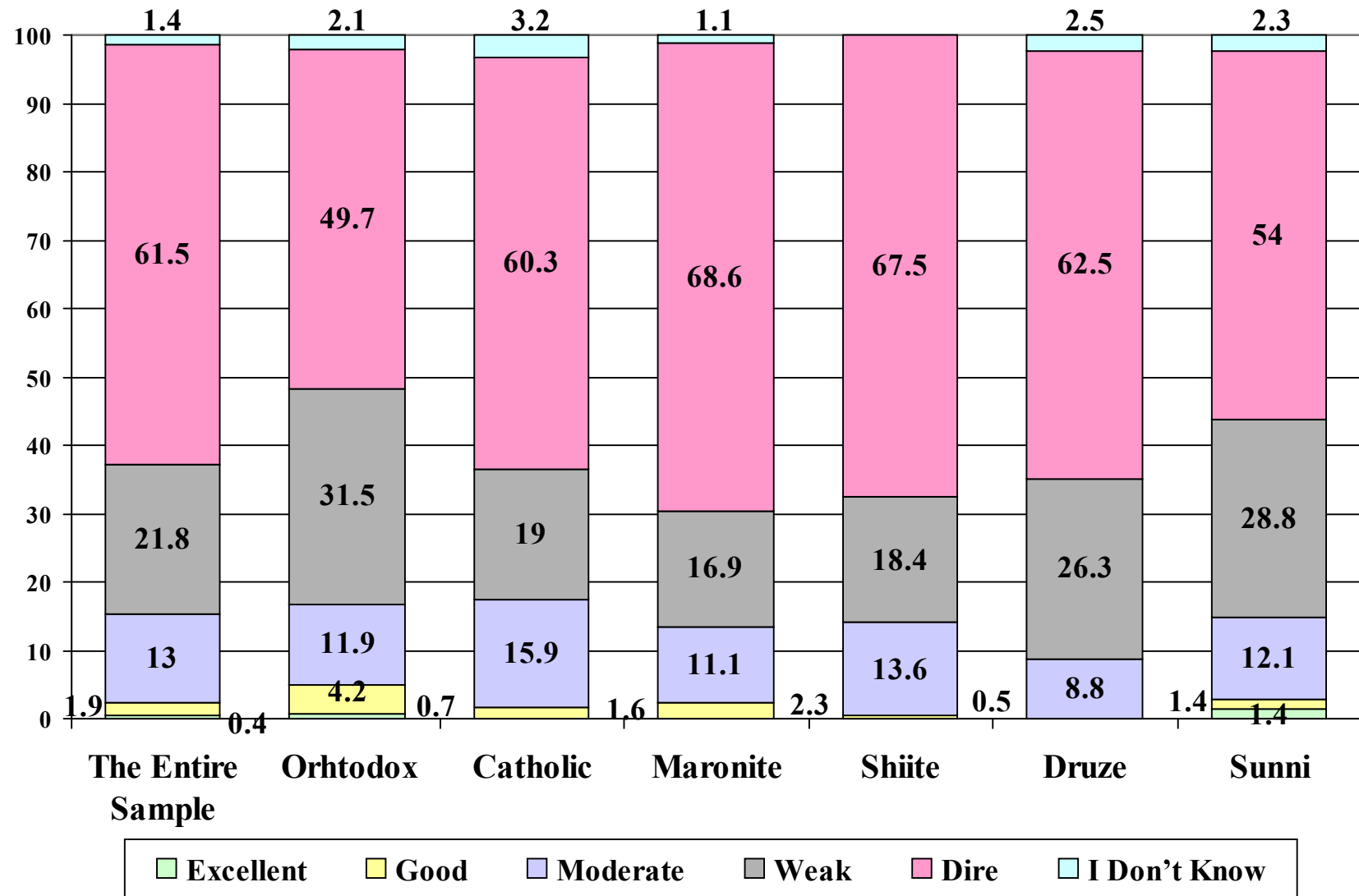
As for Sharon’s accession to power, 42% of the respondents predicted a worsening of conditions, compared to 28.5% who felt this would have neither a positive nor a negative impact.

Finally, 42.7% of the respondents acknowledged that at least one member of their family was awaiting immigration this year. The highest percentage was in Mount Lebanon (51.2%). In terms of confessional distribution, 54% were Catholics, 51.2% Druze and 46% Maronites.

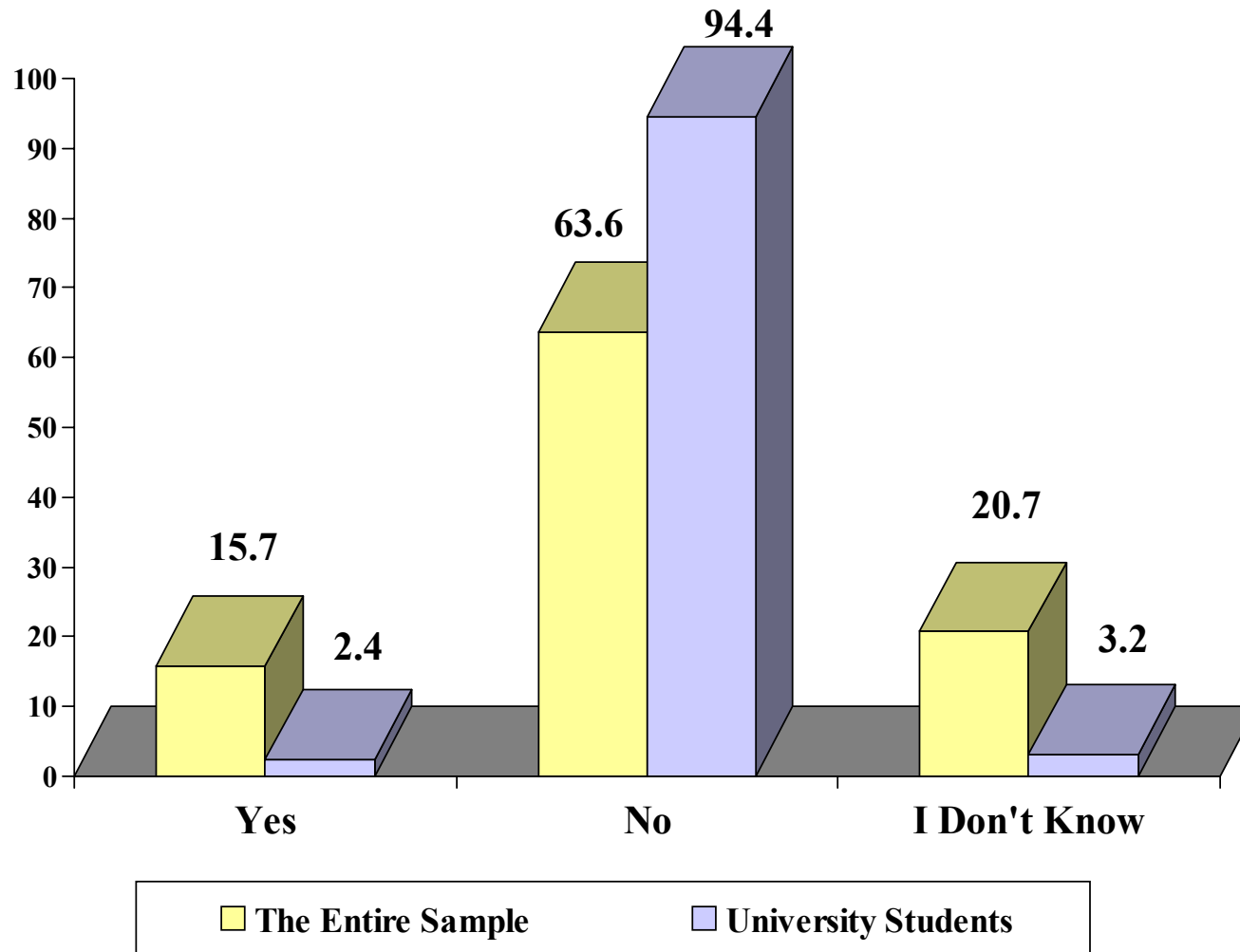
How do you Describe the Economic Situation in Lebanon? (%)



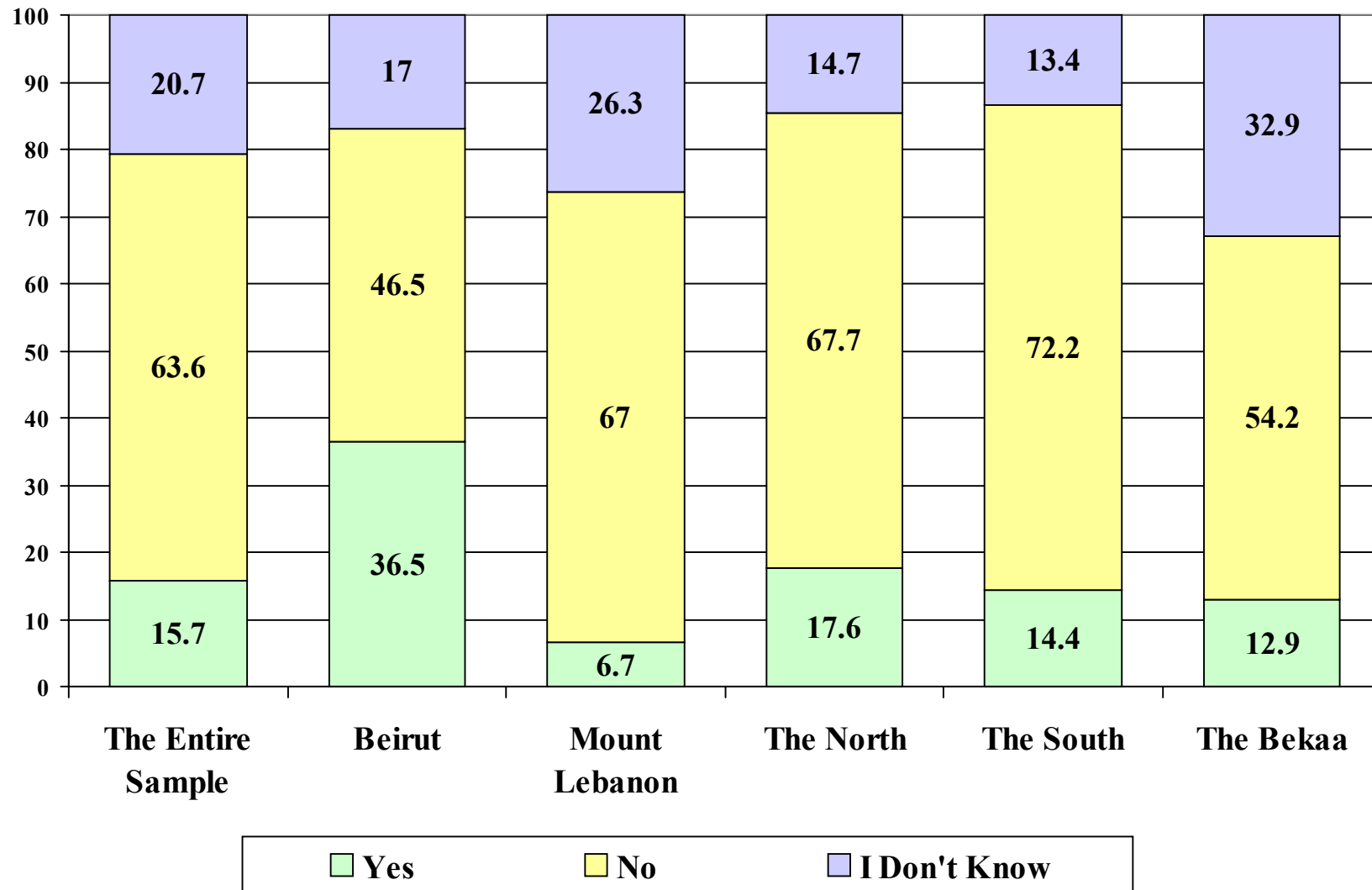
How do you Describe the Economic Situation in Lebanon? According to Confession (%)



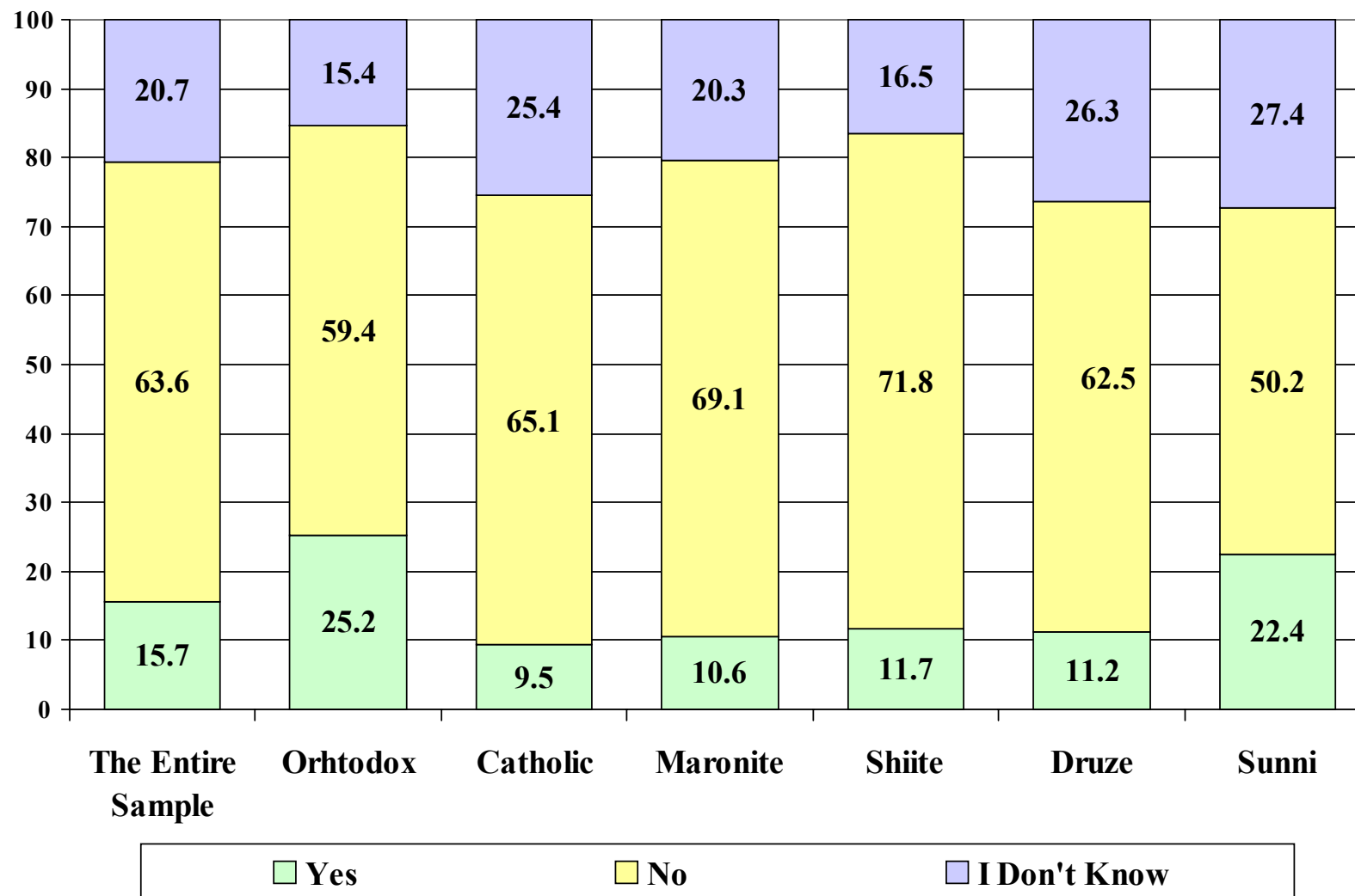
I Feel Confident in the Future of My Family: (%)



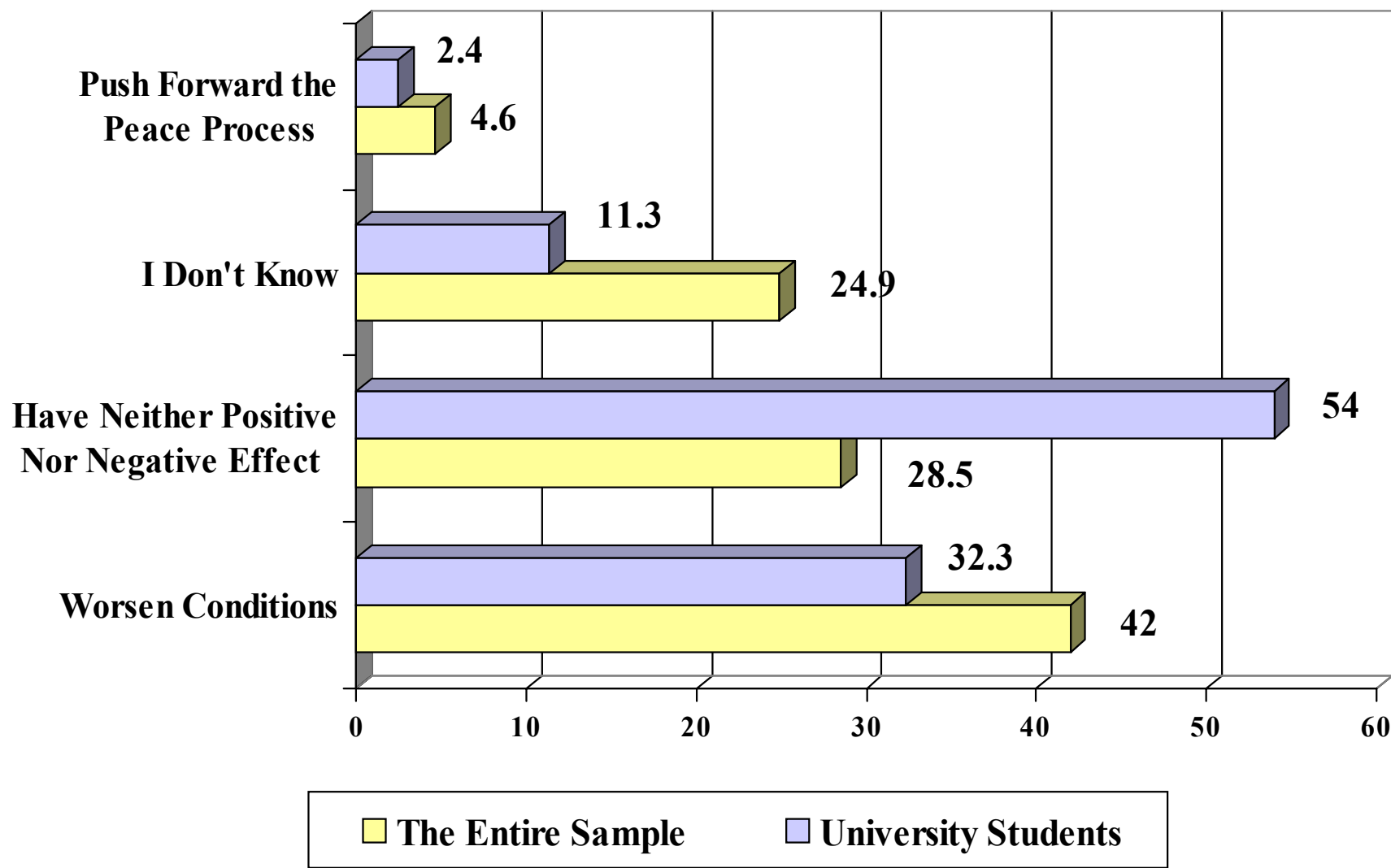
I Feel Confident in the Future of My Family: According to Province (Mohafazat) (%)



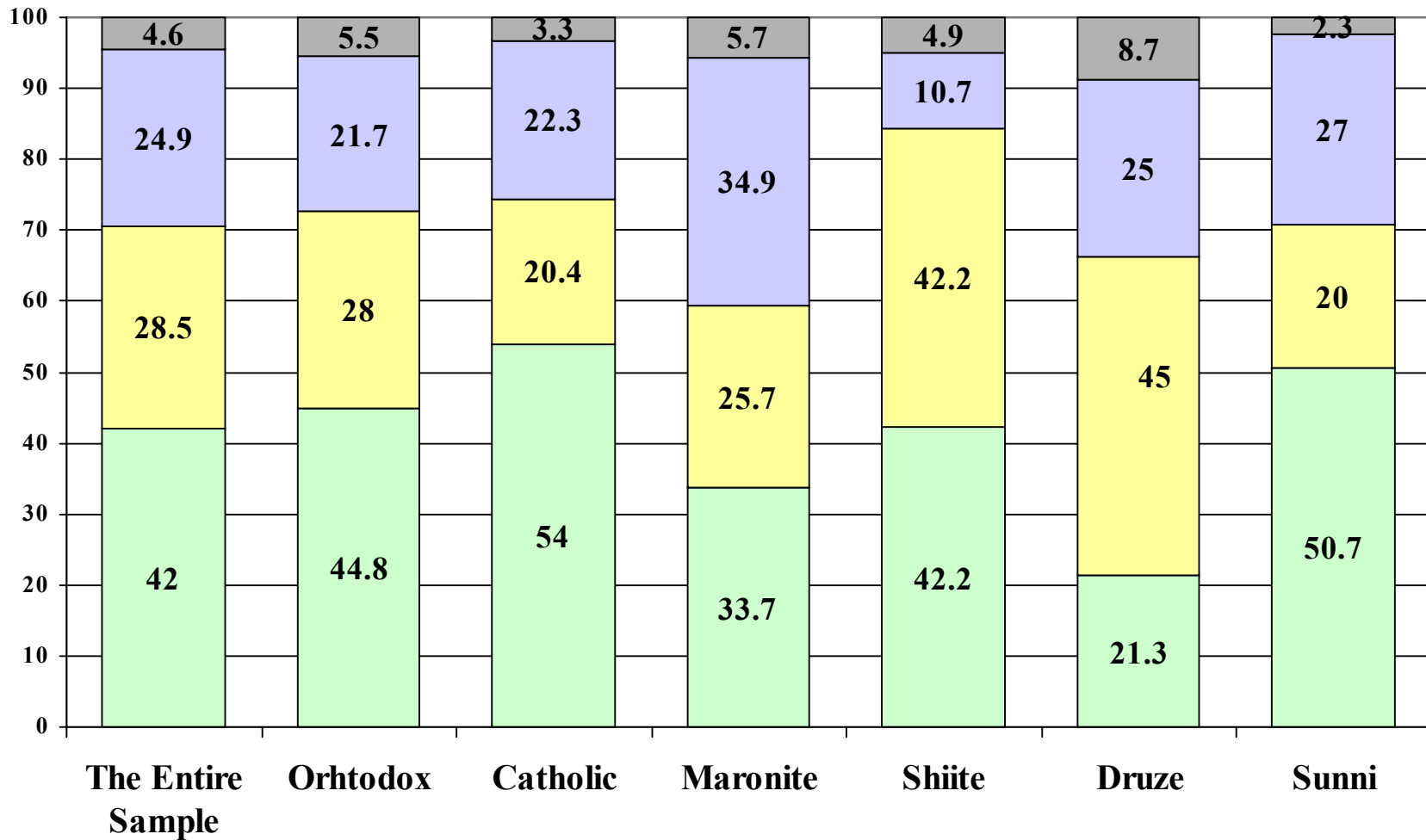
I Feel Confident in the Future of My Family: According to Confession (%)



Sharon's Rise to Power Will: (%)



Sharon's Rise to Power Will: According to Confession (%)



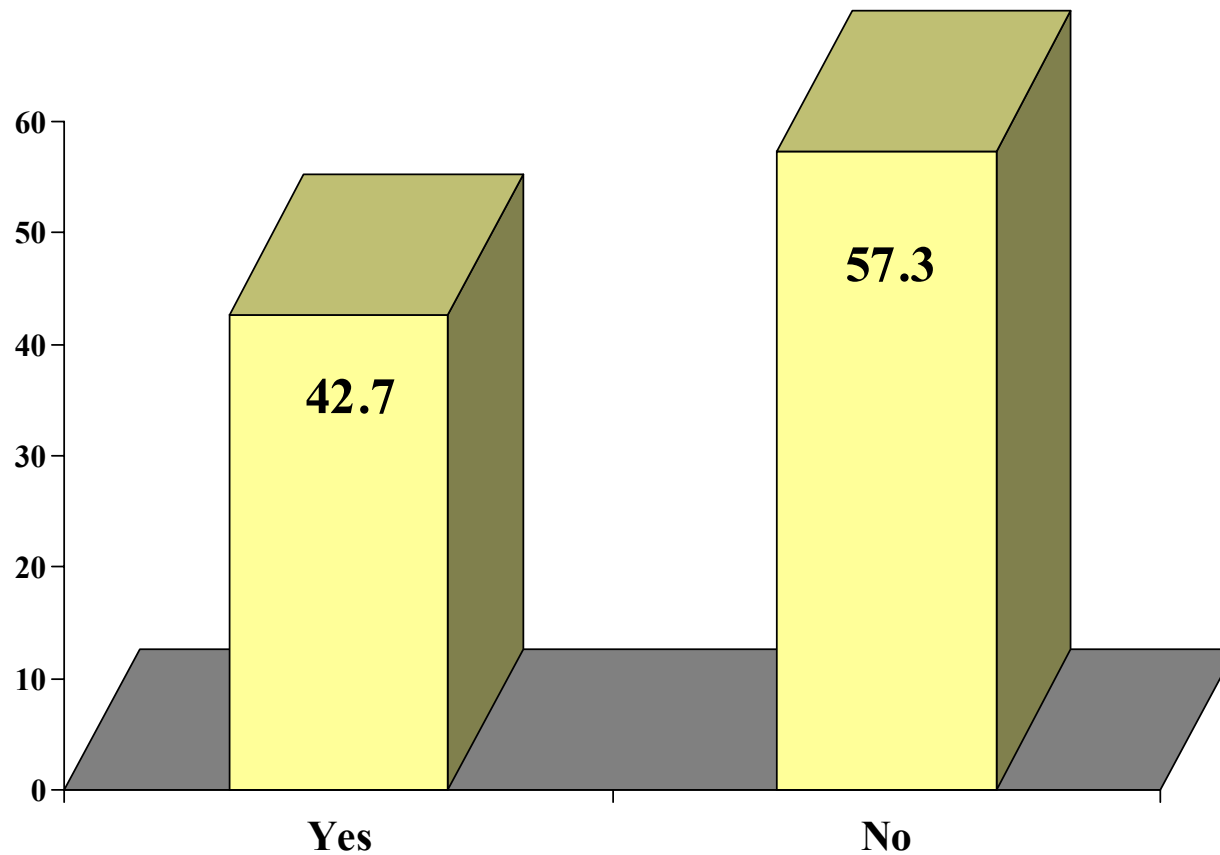
Worsen Conditions

I Don't Know

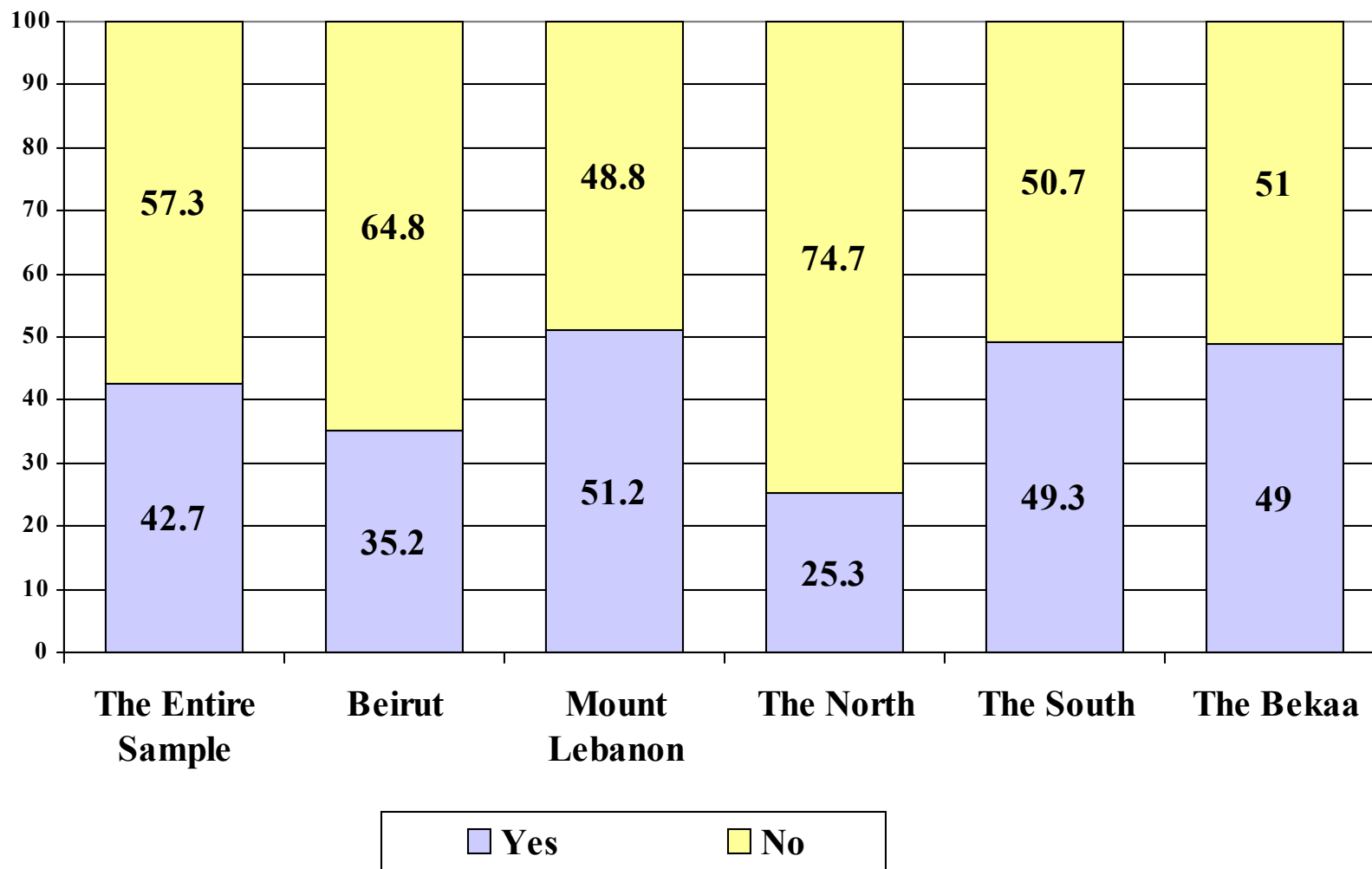
Have Neither Positive Nor Negative Effect

Push Forward the Peace Process

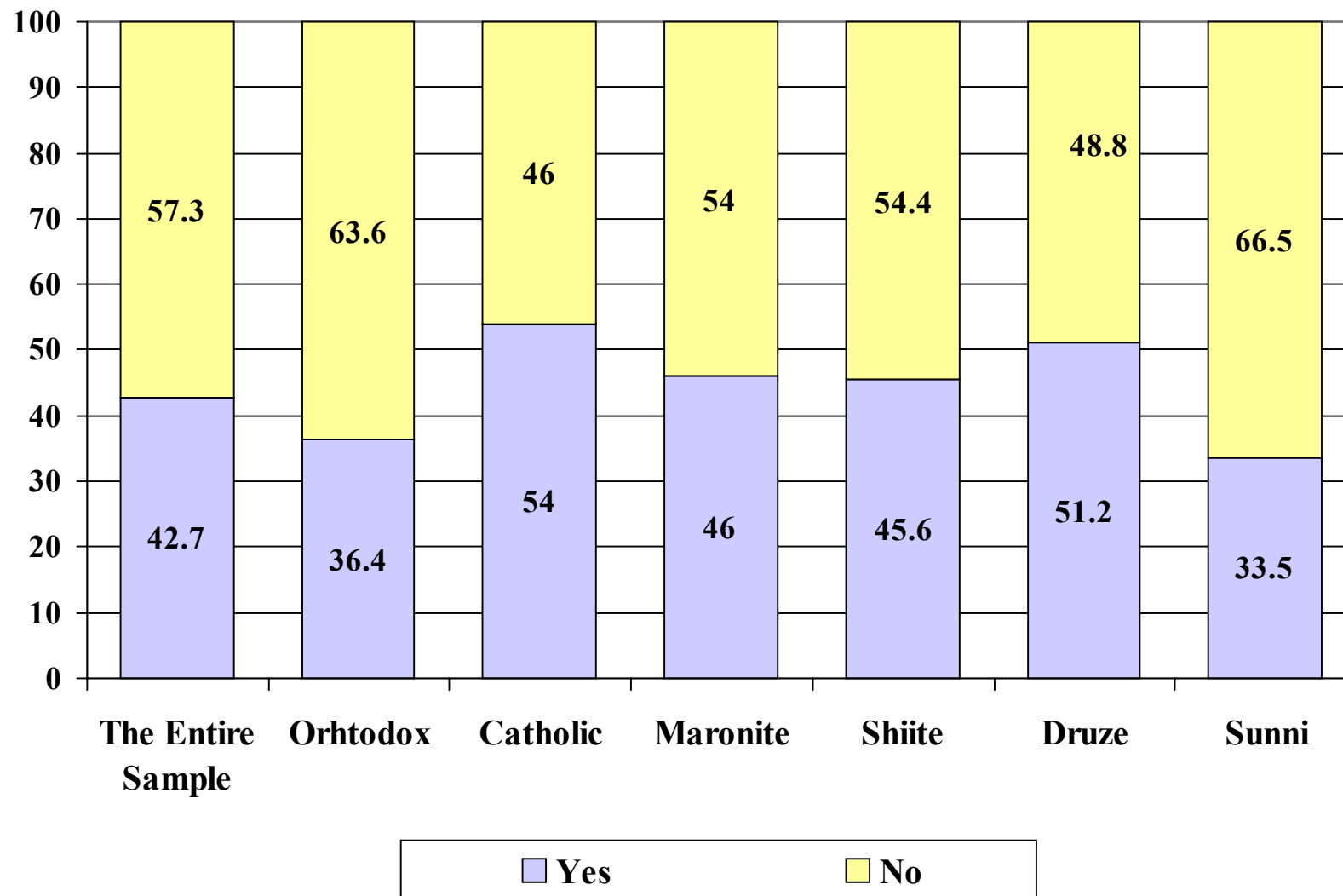
Is Any of Your Family Members Preparing for Immigration this Year? (%)



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



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





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