



KANTAR

COVID-19
Barometer
Global Report

Wave 9

May, 2021

Management Summary

Cultural, economic and emotional scars

The situation has eased but anxiety and caution remain very high

The effects are understood to be long term, with widespread pessimism about the economy and the future

Significant numbers of people have been touched by illness themselves or in their close circle, but the truth is virtually everyone has been affected.

Vaccination makes all the difference

The advent of the vaccine is transformative.

Governments successfully implementing the programme see significant approval of their handling of Covid-19

Although there is vaccine hesitancy, willingness to be vaccinated is high and strongly felt. Reasons for hesitancy suggest fear, distrust, misinformation and to some extent, a world view

Acceleration and Disruption

Throughout the pandemic Covid was seen to dramatically accelerate many trends that were already there – such as a wider digital economy, localism, concern with the environment, the cashless economy.

It also brought new habits of hygiene and scrutiny and some in how we live, which along with the accelerated trends, look likely to stay

Building confidence

Many people long for the ordinary texture of everyday life to reassert itself. But the world does not yet appear safe and there is caution about anything more.

Brands and businesses, particularly those with immersive aspects – shops and leisure – still need to show that they are safe and attractive. Brands can offer leadership and examples of good practice and innovation.

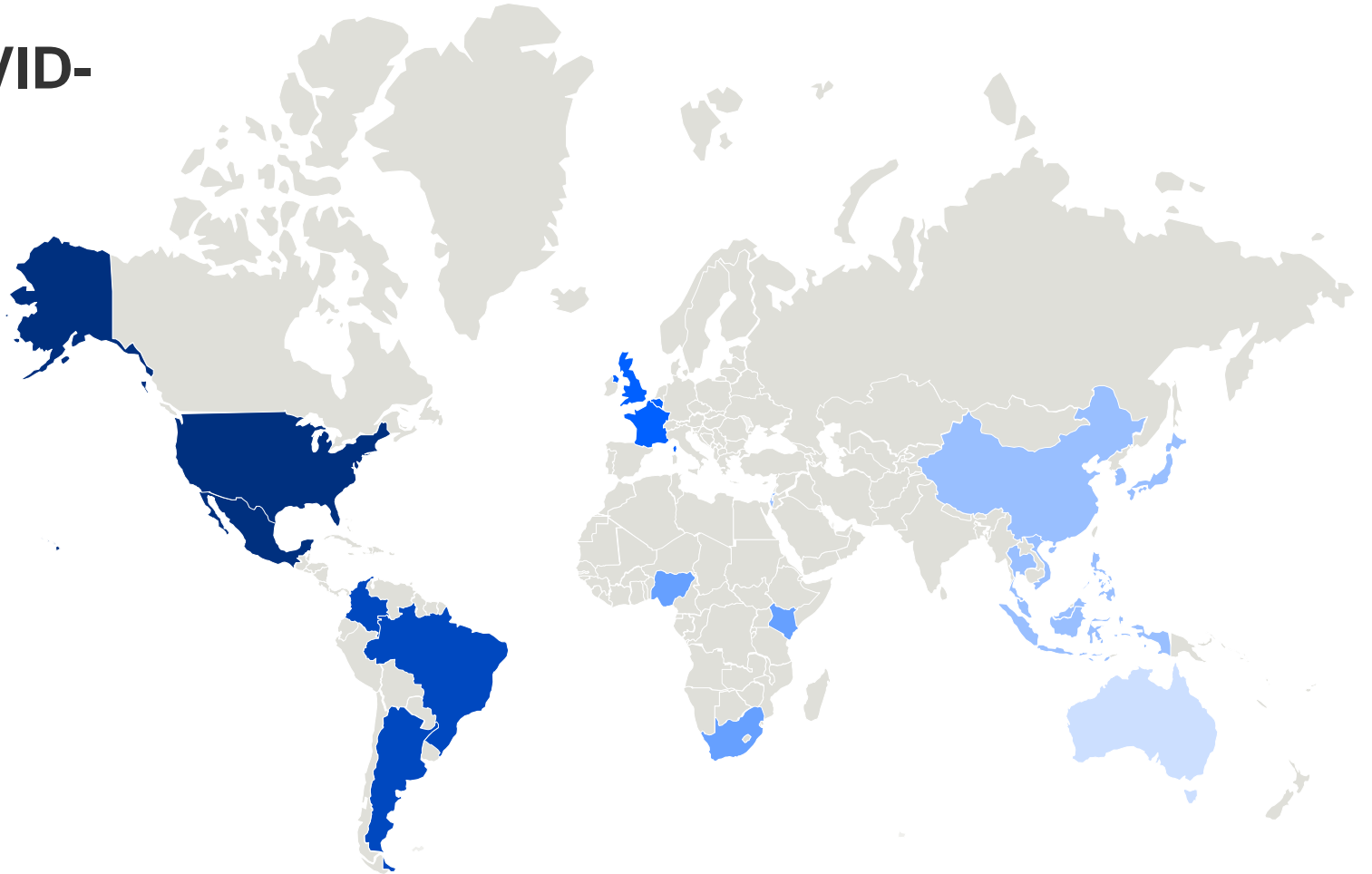
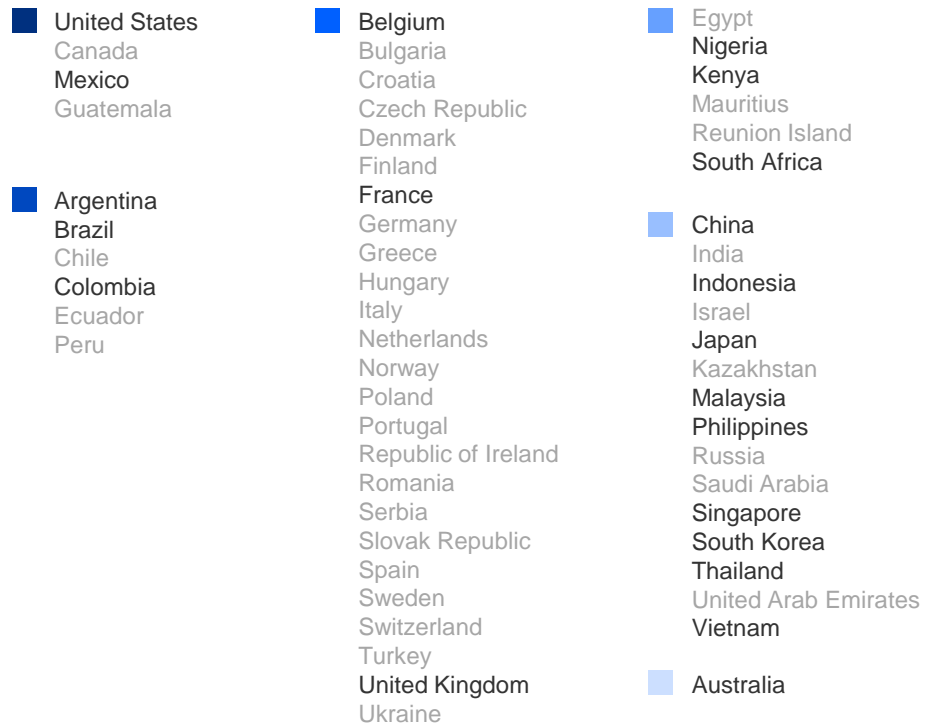
Contents

1	Setting the scene	4
2	Overall impact and concerns	9
3	Satisfaction with Government responses	17
4	Vaccination process	21
5	Changed behaviour	27
6	Looking forward and brand expectations	40
7	Country spotlights	45
	Brazil	
	UK	
8	Appendix	51

1

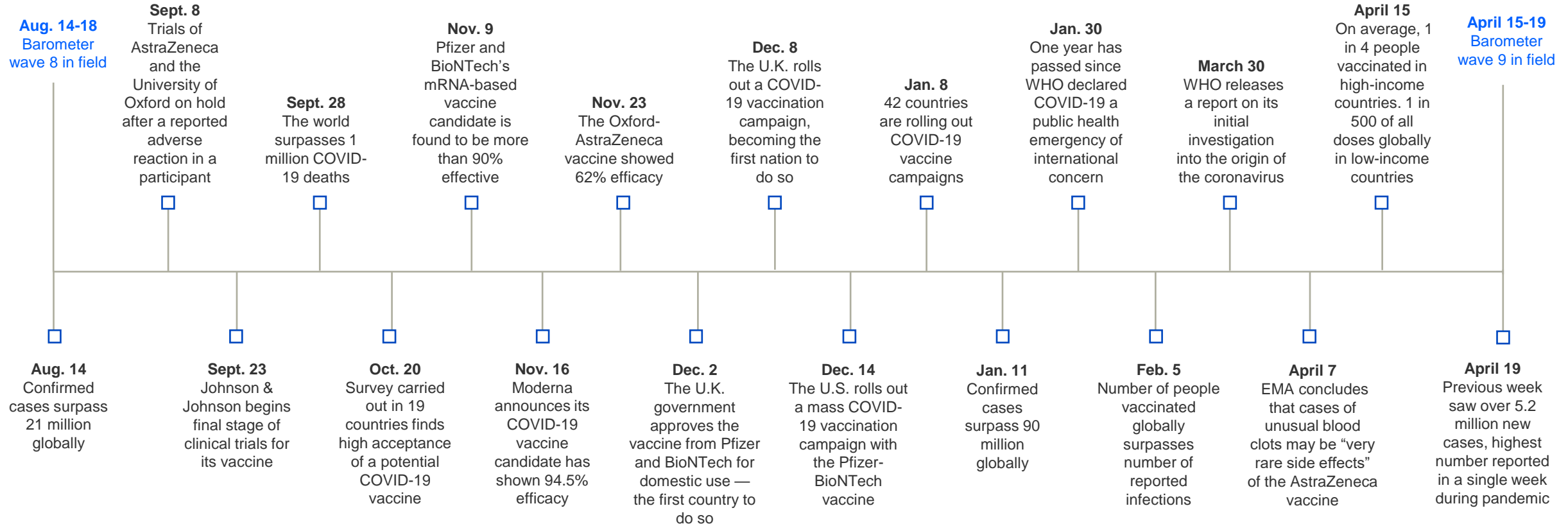
Setting the scene

Kantar's COVID-19 barometer continues to explore the marketing implications of COVID-19 and vaccinations against it

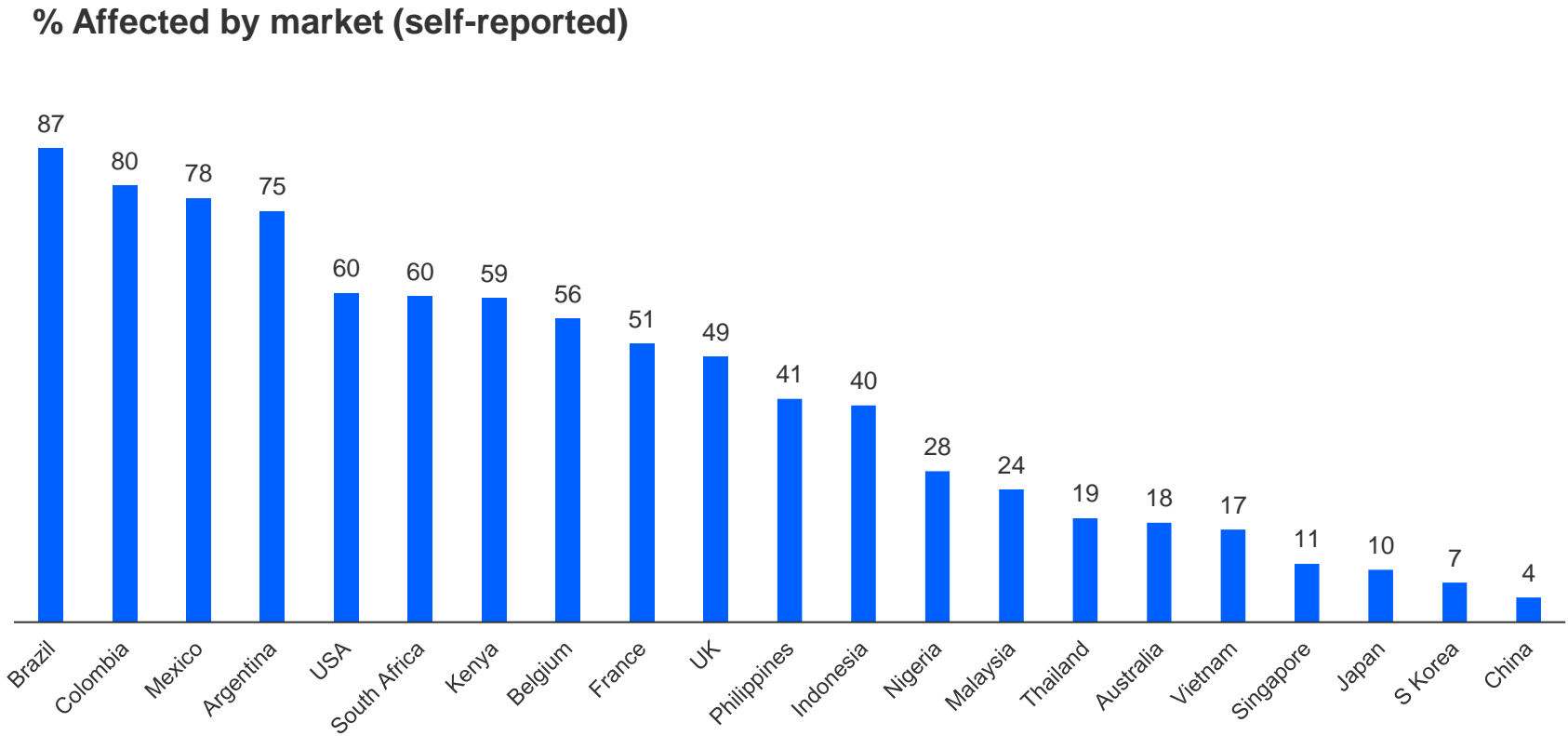
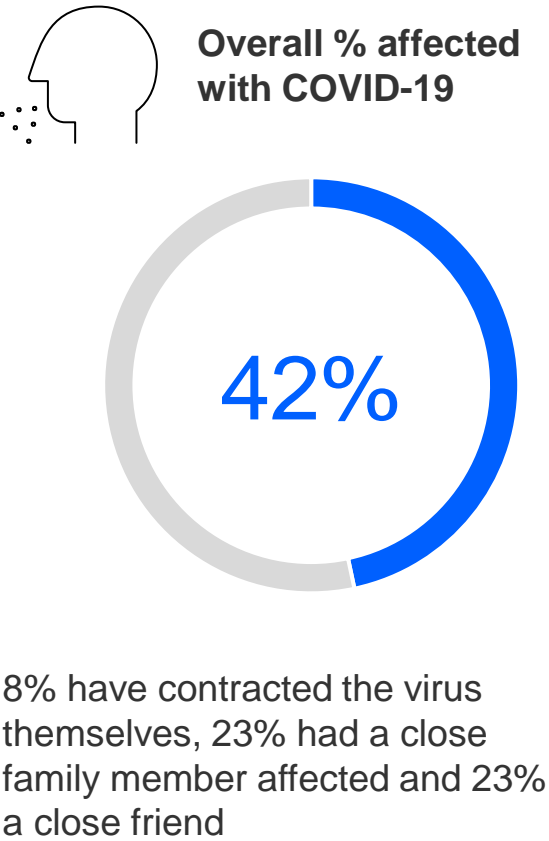


COVID-19 timeline – outlining the vaccination process

Over time data is compared to wave 3 (April 10-13 2020), as it has the same set of markets and is a year ago



In April 2021, 42% of consumers on a global level report that their close circle (self/ close family/ close friend) has been affected by COVID-19



Country groupings explore how recent rises or declines in number of cases and vaccination rates influence consumer sentiment and behaviour

With the arrival of vaccines, an end appears to be in sight as countries strive to recover from the pandemic. However, COVID-19 continues to ravage some populations and vaccine rollouts are faster in some countries than in others. We have therefore analysed the data across 3 clusters of countries based on numbers of new cases and vaccination rates.

	Still struggling	Improvers	Leaders
Description	<p>Countries where</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">— The number of new cases rose or did not decline in past 3 months <p>AND/OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">— The vaccination rate is 0-30 % of the population	<p>Countries where</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">— The number of new cases were stable, declining, or low in past 3 months <p>AND/OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">— The vaccination rate is 0-30 % of the population	<p>Countries where</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">— The number of new cases were stable, declining, or low in past 3 months <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">— The vaccination rate is >30 % of the population
Markets	Philippines, South Korea, Colombia, Malaysia, Japan, Thailand, Kenya, France, Argentina, Brazil	Mexico, South Africa, Indonesia, Australia, Nigeria, Vietnam, Belgium	UK, USA, Singapore

2

Overall impact and concerns

The situation may have eased in many places, but anxiety remains high

Even in markets where the virus has declined and the vaccination programme is going well, more than half remain concerned

Still struggling



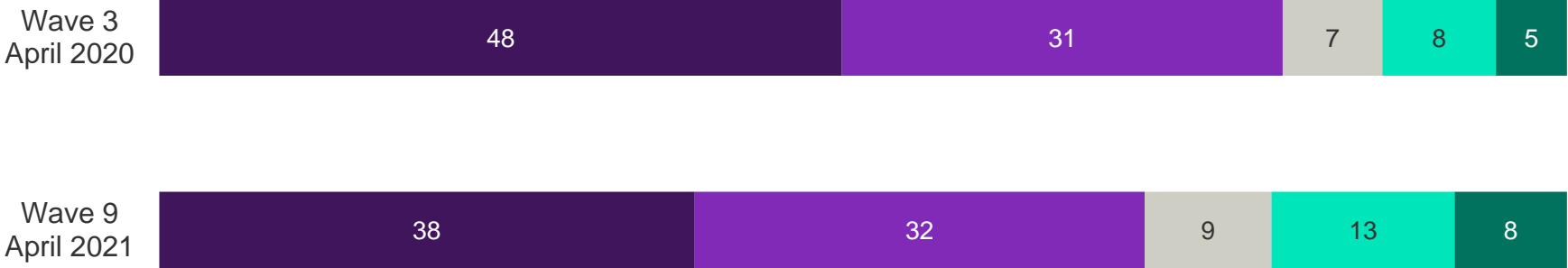
Improvers



Leaders



The current
coronavirus
situation
concerns me
hugely

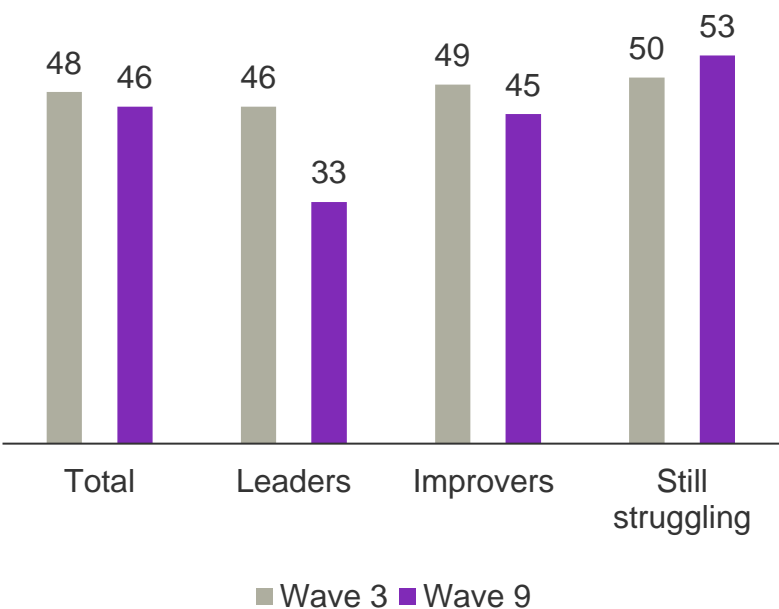


The
coronavirus
situation
doesn't
concern me
at all

Levels of concern around health are similar to a year ago; vigilance continues

Leader markets are dramatically less worried about their health, but even they are not letting their guard down; most still pay attention to public health and safety measures, just like the rest of the world

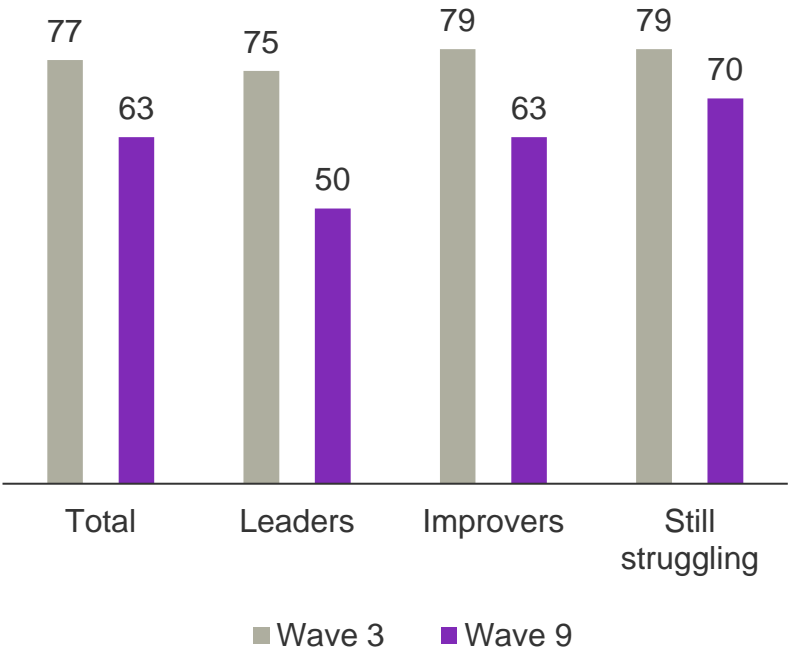
% I am worried about falling sick no matter how much I take care of myself



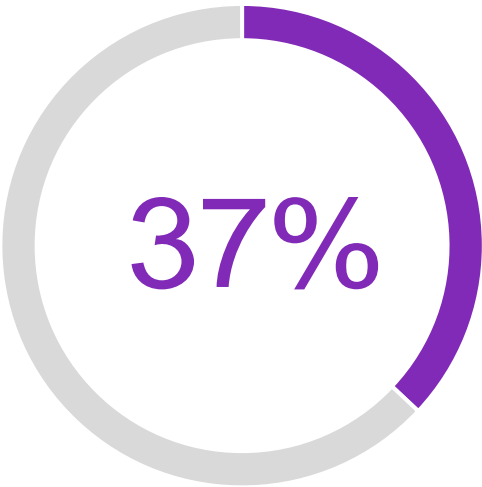
Most still feel the impact on their daily lives, though this has declined

China is far ahead of the curve but in Brazil, with high numbers of cases, over ¾ feel it day to day

% The current coronavirus pandemic is impacting my day to day life

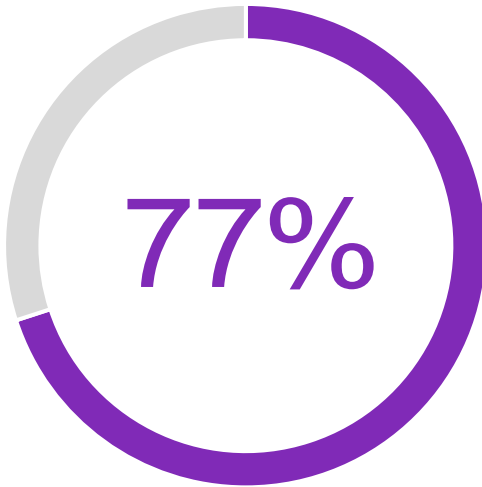


Massive improvement in China



Feels that the pandemic is impacting my day to day life (vs 71% a year ago)

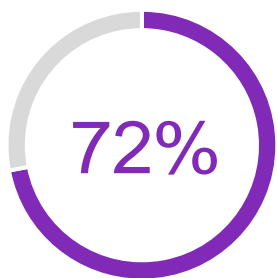
Brazilians feeling higher impact



Feels that the pandemic is impacting my day to day life (vs 73% a year ago)

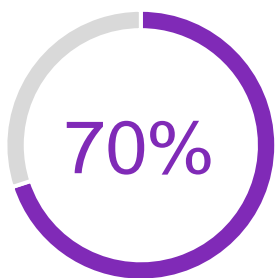
Most have felt the financial impact of COVID-19 personally and economic optimism is in short supply – the aftermath will be long term

Economic income impacts widely felt



either feel an impact on their income (54%) or expect this to happen (18%)

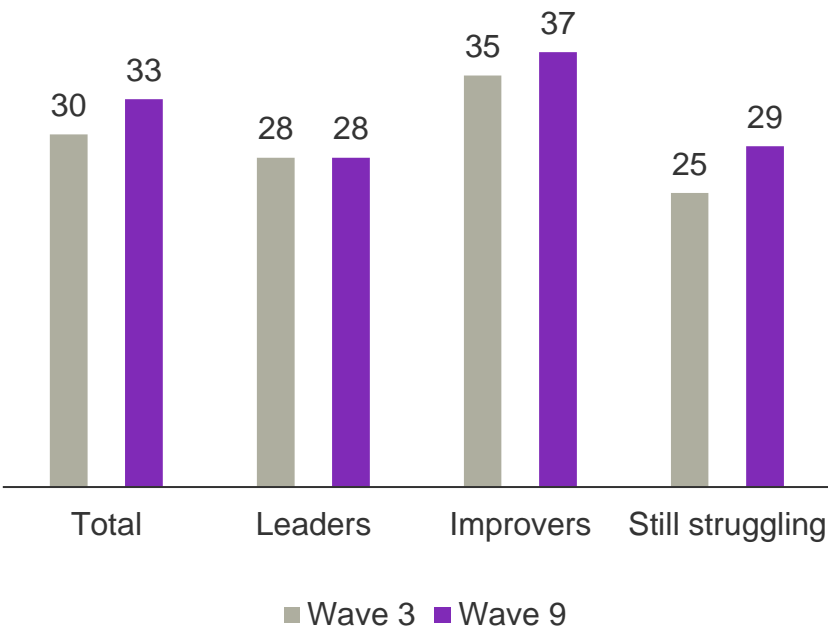
Price chasing is the #1 shopping habit



pay more attention to prices compared to before the pandemic

Most prevalent among young adults (18-34) and African, Latin American, Asian countries

% I believe the economy will recover quickly once the situation has died down

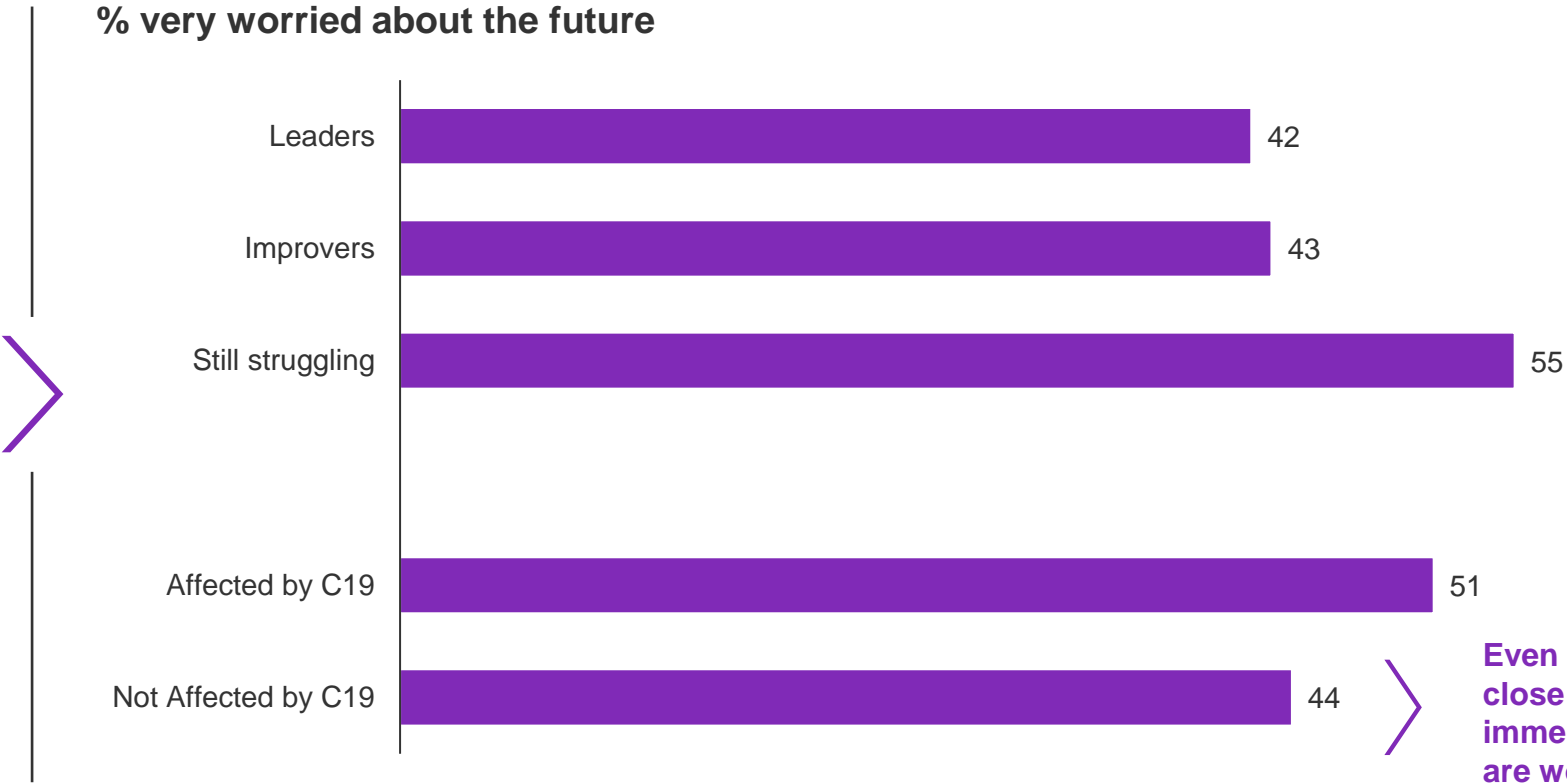


People are no more positive about the future than they were a year ago

Whether you came across the virus or not the outlook is gloomy, reinforcing that the impacts of COVID-19 go well beyond illness

47%

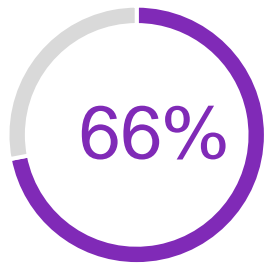
Are worried about the future versus 49% last year



Even those whose close circle (self/ close family/ close friend) was not immediately touched by the virus are worried about the future

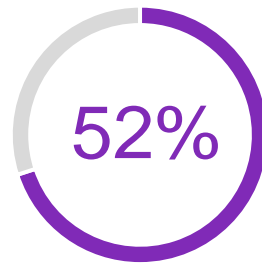
With continuing high visibility on top of all these very real impacts, it is not surprising that large numbers feel the effects on their mental health

News about the pandemic is highly noticeable



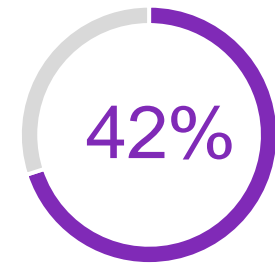
read, see, or hear news about the situation

People keep a close eye on COVID-19 casualties



check the numbers of new infections and deaths due to the virus

The situation also taking its toll on people's mental well-being



feels the situation impacts their mental health

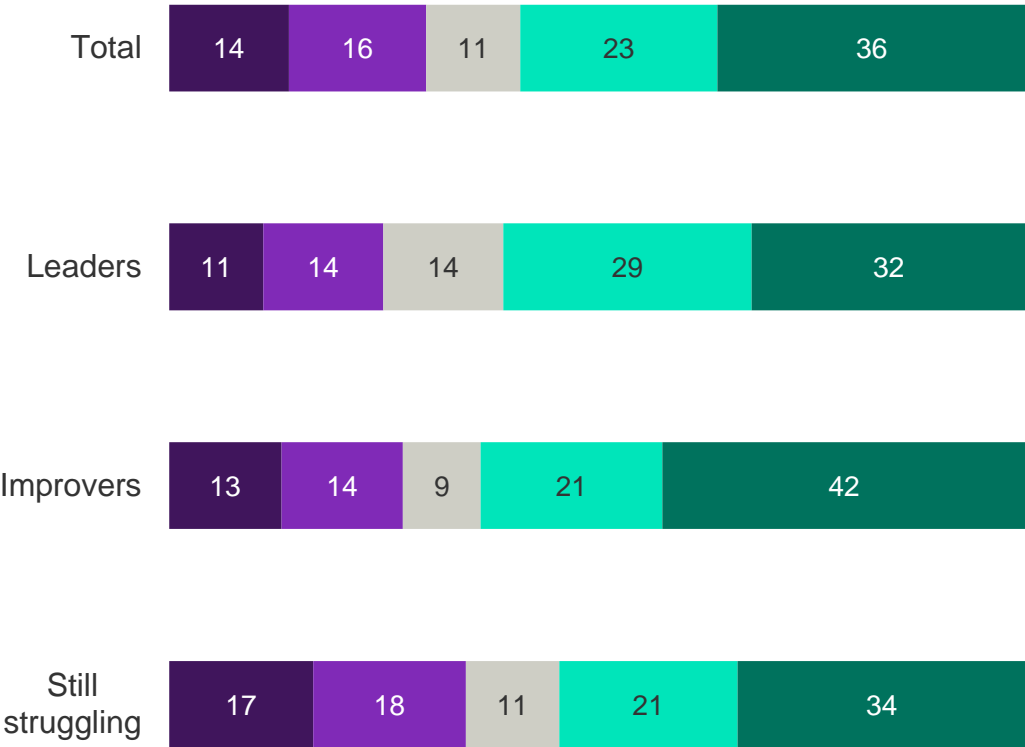
Less in Leader markets, but at least 1 out of 3 people still experience/do/feel this way in those countries

COVID-19: Depression in adults has more than doubled since before pandemic

Around one in five adults experienced symptoms compared with one in ten in the period before coronavirus took hold of the country.

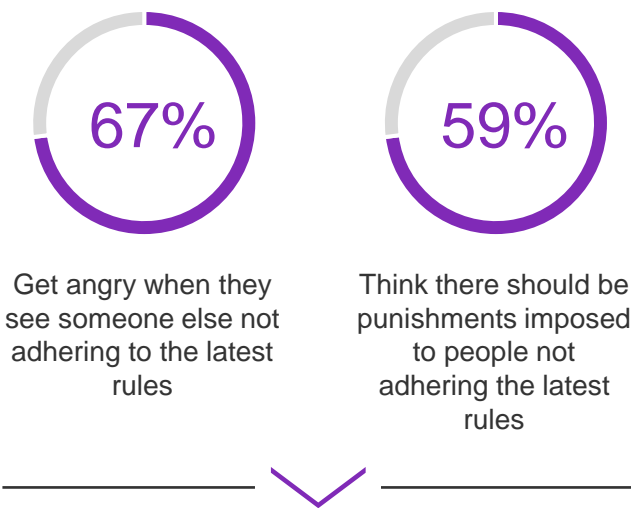
Ultimately, people have learned caution; they favour adherence to the rules, and condemn those not following them

This has been going on too long, you can't expect people to adhere to these rules anymore



We must all follow the rules until we get to the end of any significant risk

People view rule-breakers very negatively



Lowest in Leader markets, but even there 1 out of 2 people still feel this way

3

Satisfaction with
Government responses

There are genuine concerns about the performance of governments in dealing with this situation

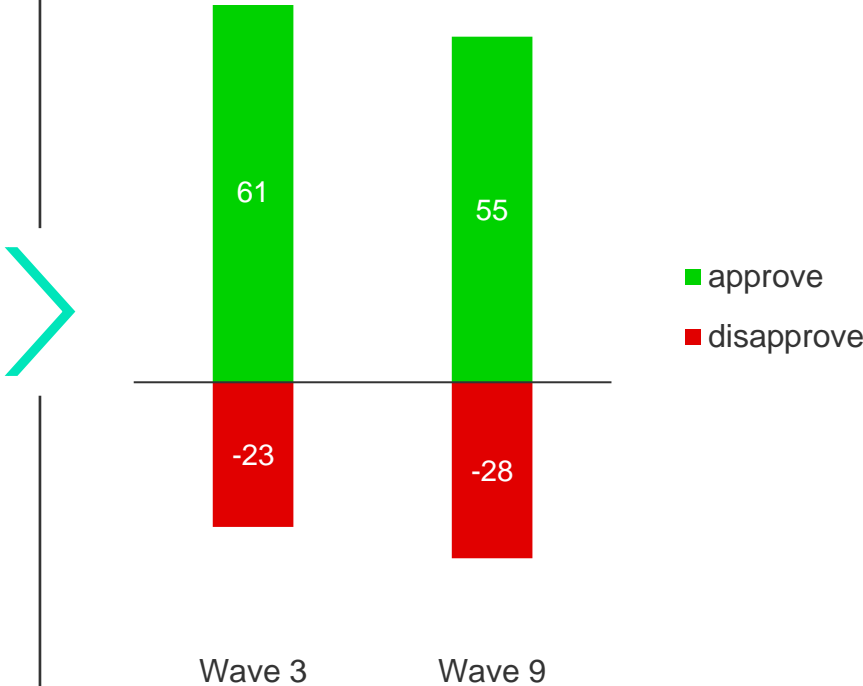
Polarized opinion about the government solving the crisis

48%

Think their government is doing all it can to reduce the crisis

(another 38% think their government is not doing enough: 14% are neutral)

Disapproval of government actions increased



This is mostly driven by Struggling markets, where government actions disapproval is high



Brazil
59%
(versus 38% in wave 3)



Colombia
44%
(versus 23% in wave 3)



Argentina
40%
(versus 13% in wave 3)



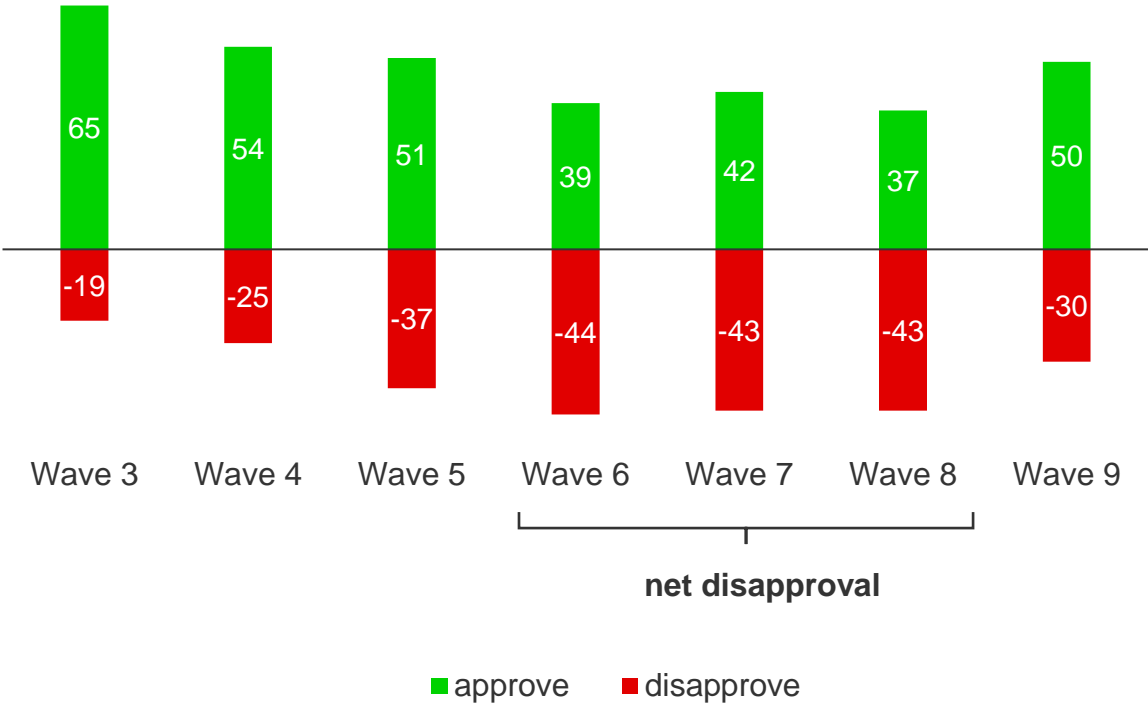
Belgium
43%
(versus 27% in wave 3)



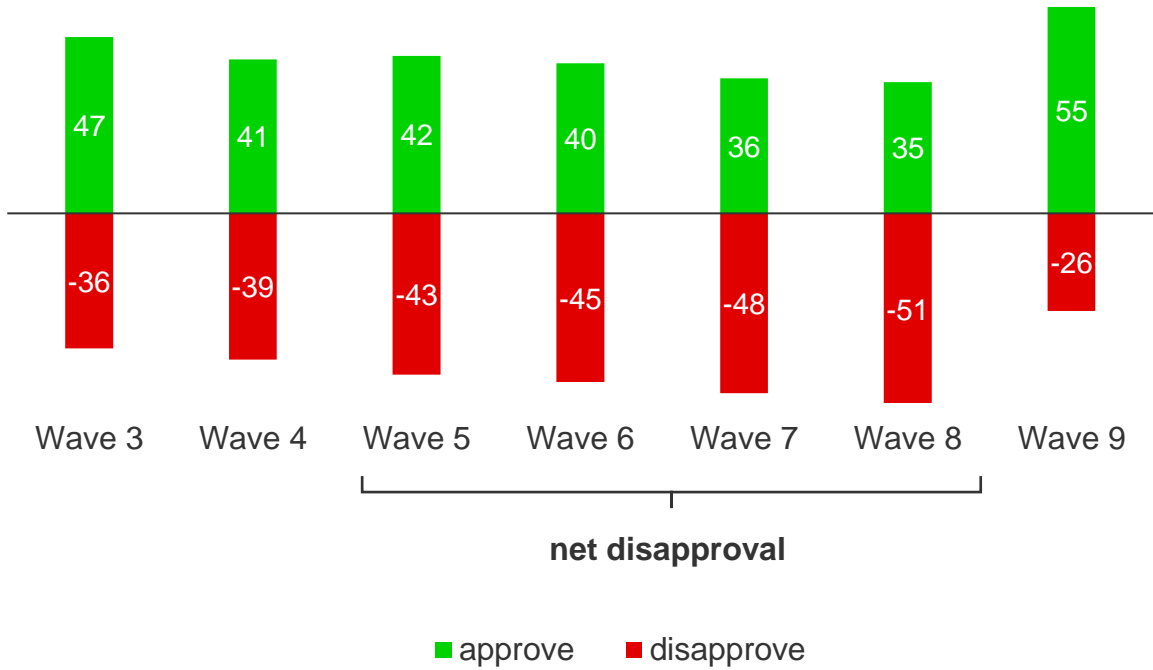
France
41%
(versus 41% in wave 3)

However, long standing net disapproval rates in the UK and US have been reversed as incidence declines and vaccine programmes progress

UK approval/disapproval of govt actions

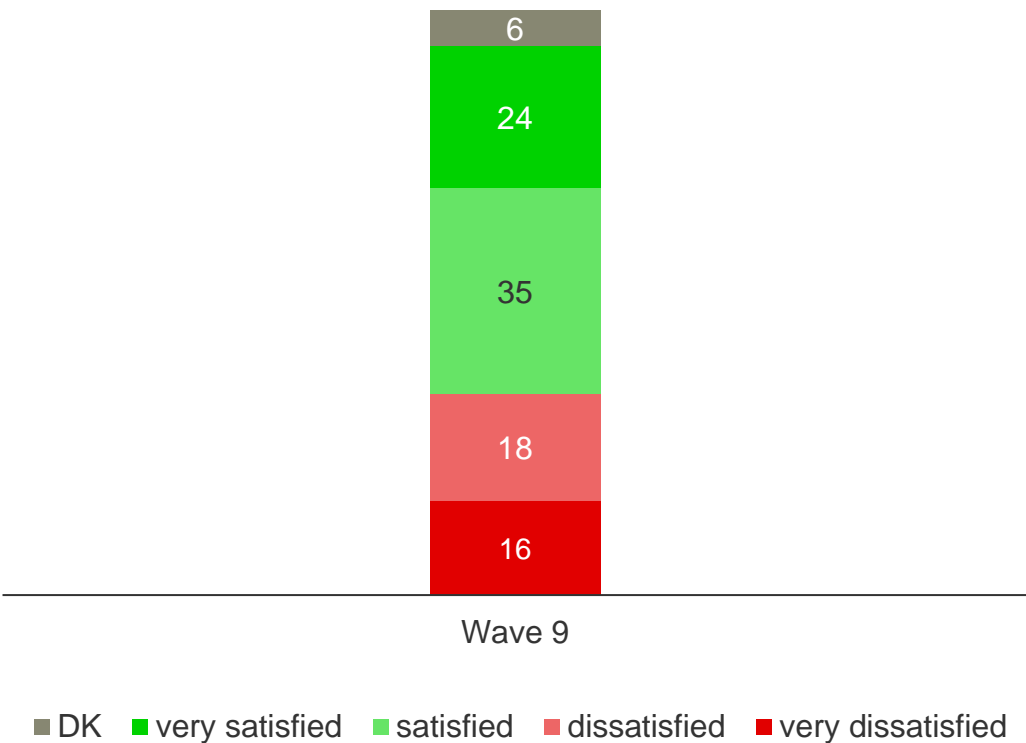


USA approval/disapproval of govt actions

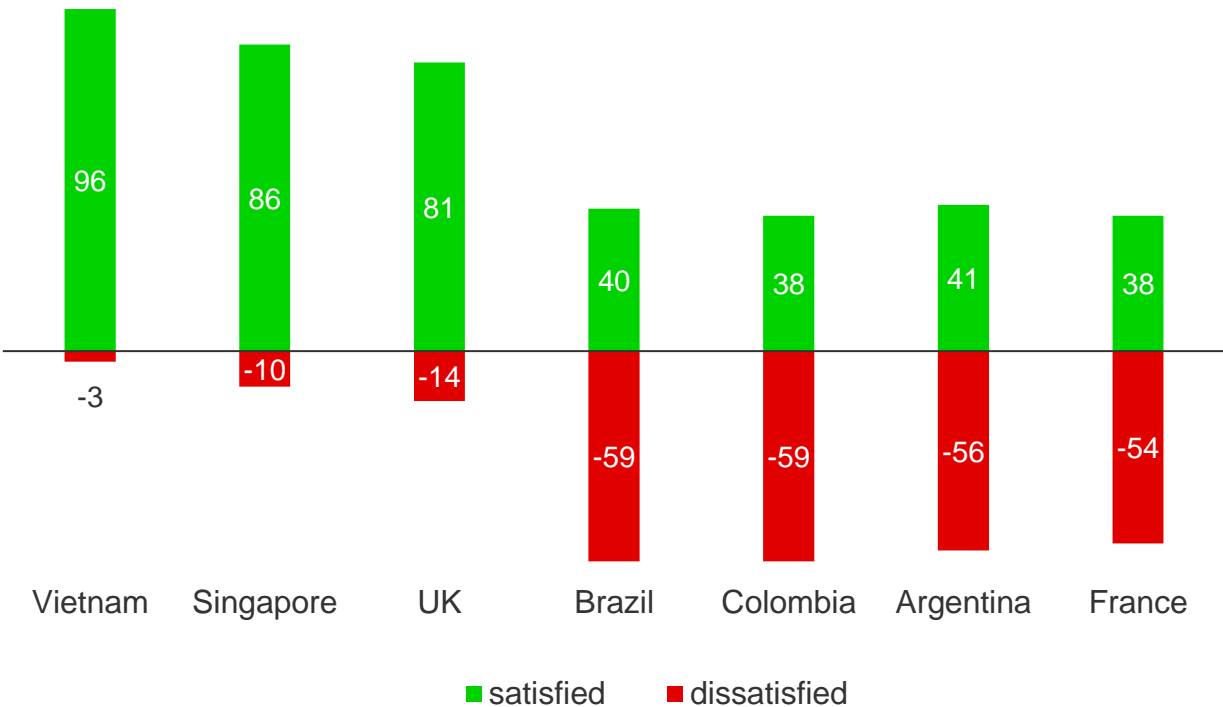


Satisfaction with vaccination campaign is positive though countries vary widely, with hard-hit Latin America most dissatisfied

Satisfaction about vaccination campaign



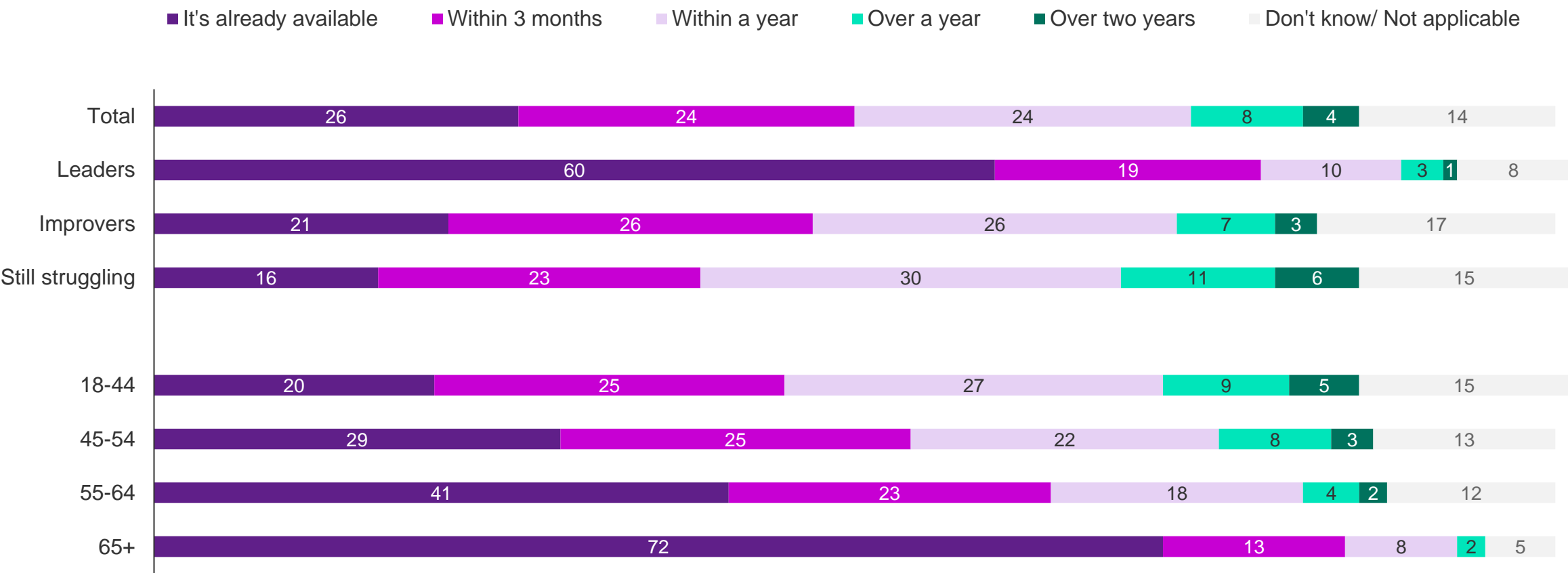
Markets specifically satisfied/dissatisfied about government vaccination campaign



4

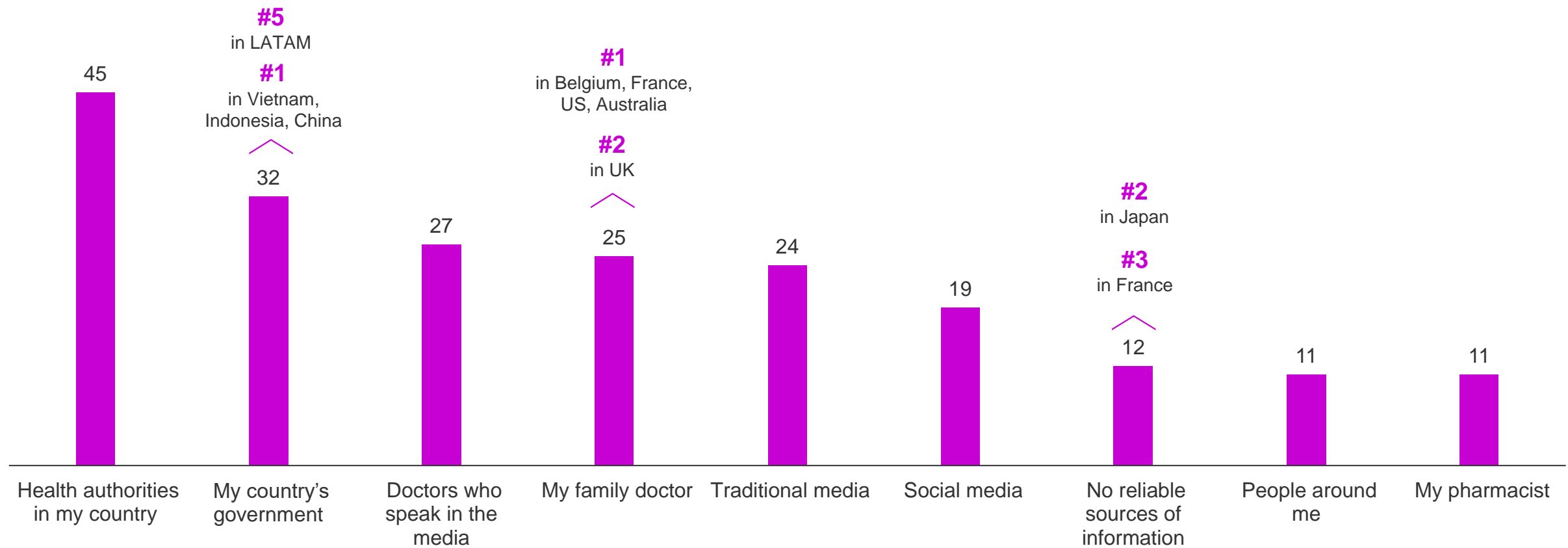
Vaccination process

Encouraging numbers have access to vaccination but this is unevenly distributed across countries. Age driven distribution strategies are clear

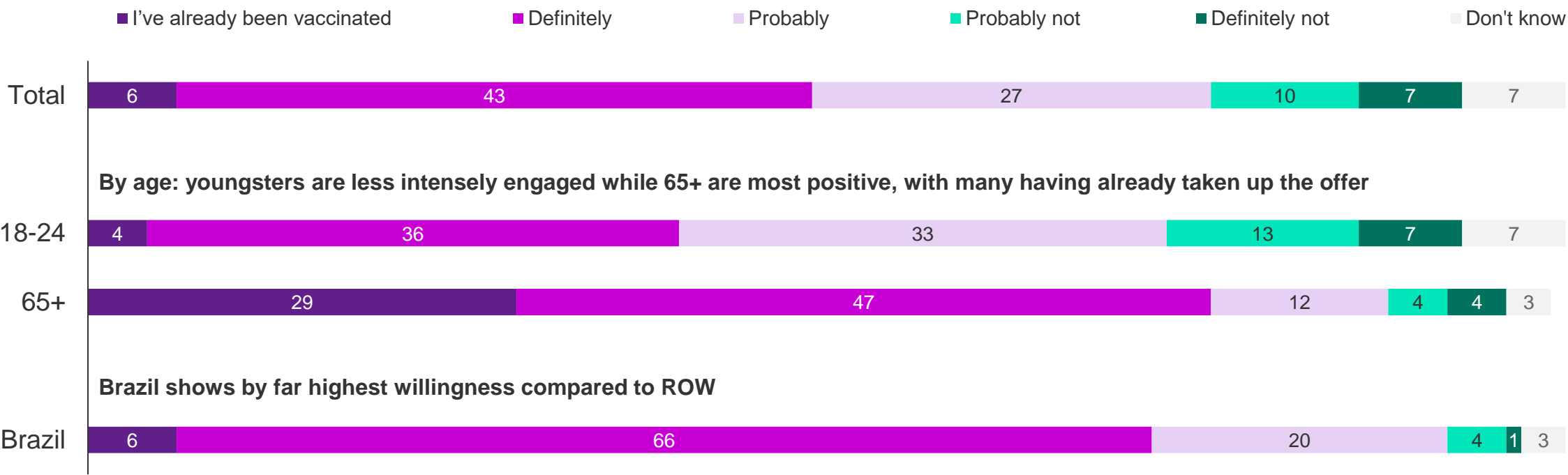


Official sources of information on the vaccine are viewed as most reliable

The same was true across many countries in early days of the pandemic when the main question was how to remain safe, suggesting a continuing need for authority, leadership and scale, as well as expertise



Willingness to get a vaccine is high, especially where risk is highest



By age: youngsters are less intensely engaged while 65+ are most positive, with many having already taken up the offer

Brazil shows by far highest willingness compared to ROW

Markets least willing to get the vaccine are France, Australia, South Africa, Japan & US (all probably/definitely not >20%)

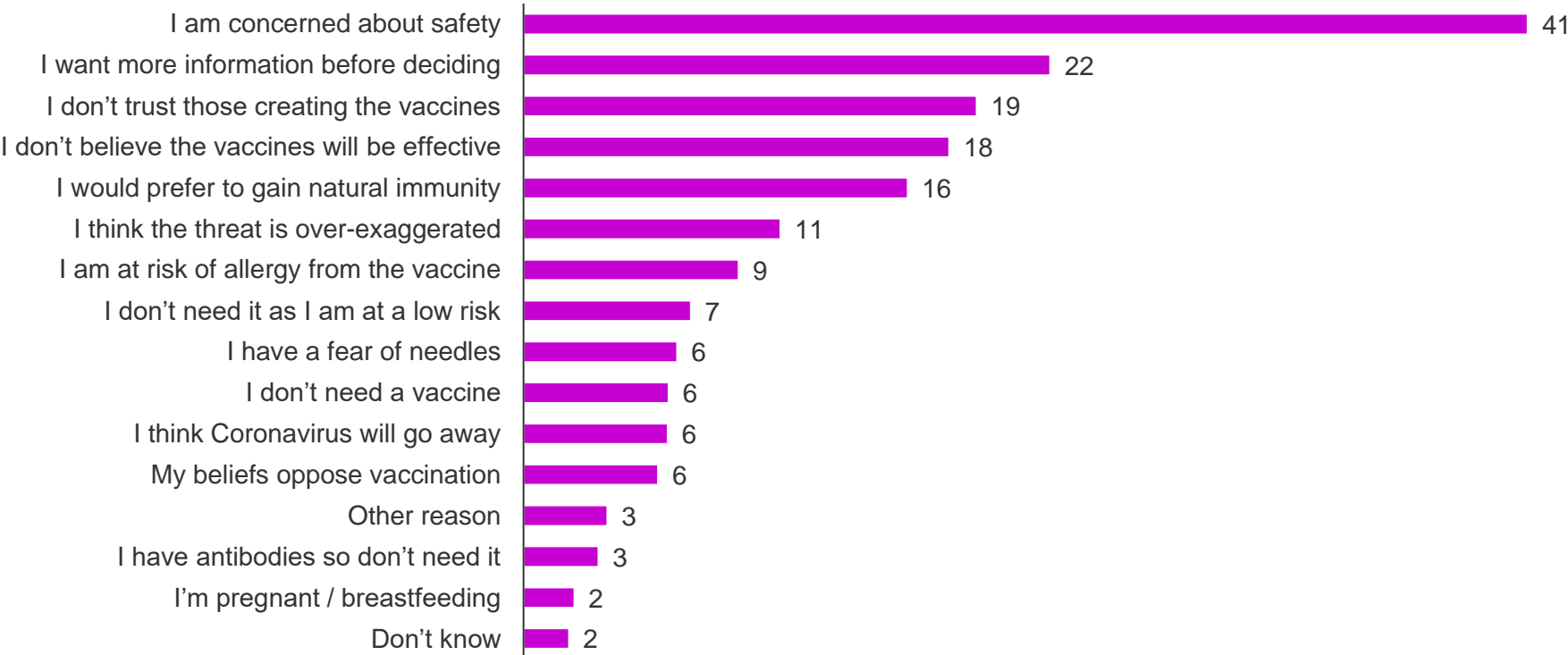
Reasons for not taking a vaccine show a mixture of physical fear, active distrust but also, aspects of your world view

17%

Doesn't want to get a vaccine when it's available



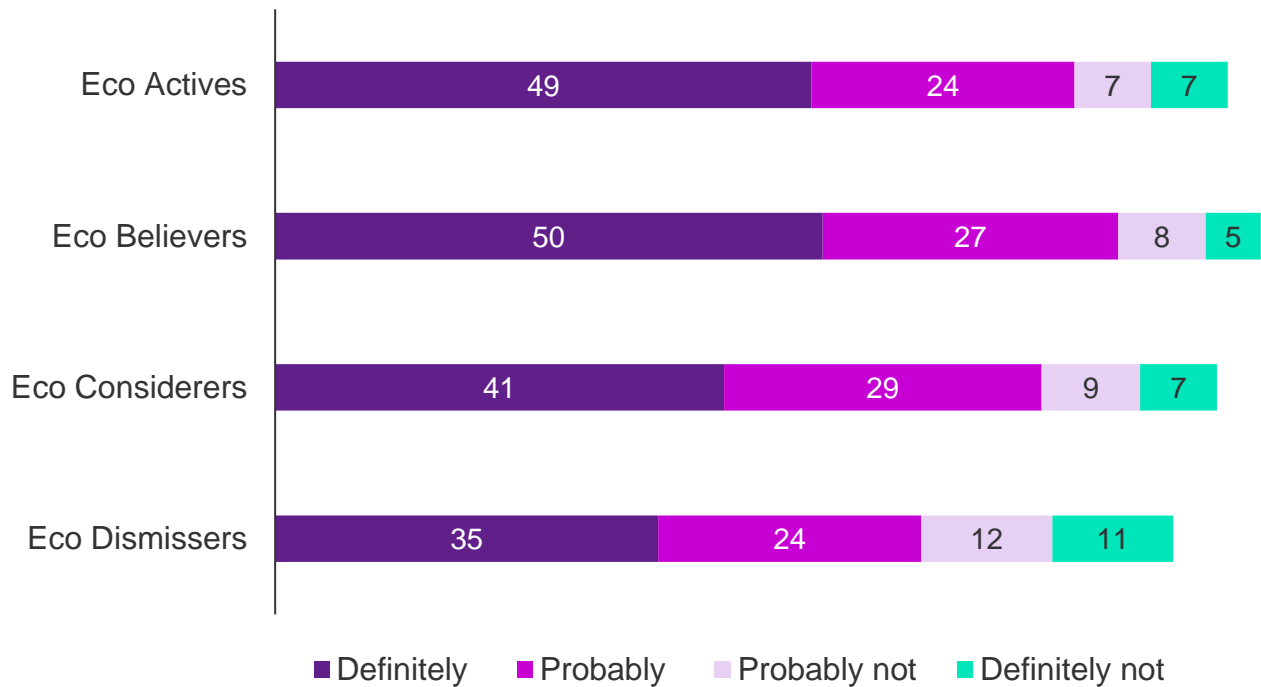
Reasons for not getting a vaccine



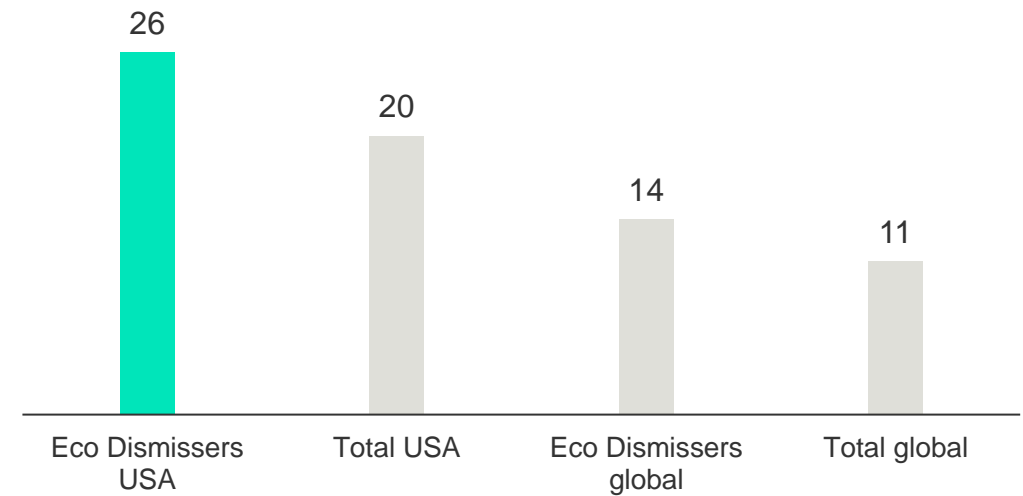
Lack of willingness is highest among Eco Dismissers - our most skeptical sustainability segment*

Like eco related topics, vaccination has been politicized in some places (example US)

% willingness to get the vaccine



% thinks the threat of COVID-19 is over-exaggerated



IDEAS
Millions Are Saying No to the Vaccines. What Are They Thinking?
Feelings about the vaccine are intertwined with feelings about the pandemic.
MAY 3, 2021

*explanation about the sustainability segmentation can be found in the appendix

5

Changed behaviour

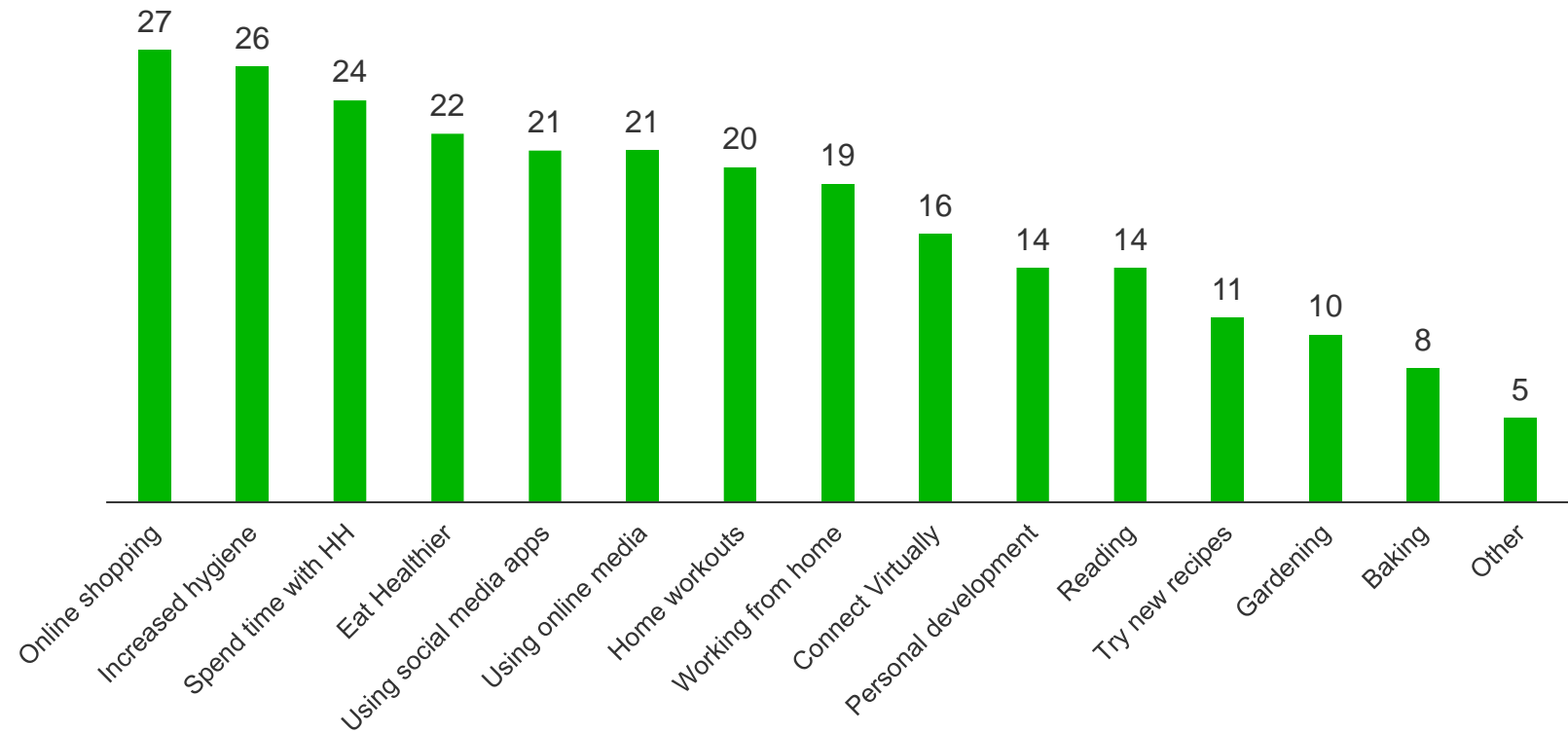
We had lots of good intentions, and some became reality

We have continued to shop online, increase our hygiene and spend time with people in our households

Behaviours most likely to maintain post lockdown (Top5, wave 5, May 2020*)

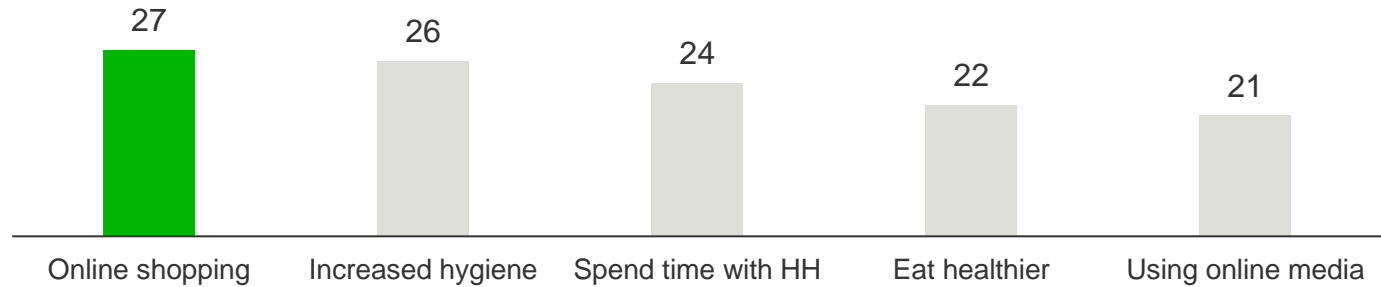
- 1. Increased hygiene
- 2. Eat healthier
- 3. Spending time with HH
- 4. Personal development
- 5. Online shopping
- 6. Using online media
- 7. Reading
- 8. Social media apps usage
- 9. Working from home
- 10. Try new recipes
- 11. Connecting virtually

Behaviours now doing more of compared to pre-pandemic (Top3, wave 9)

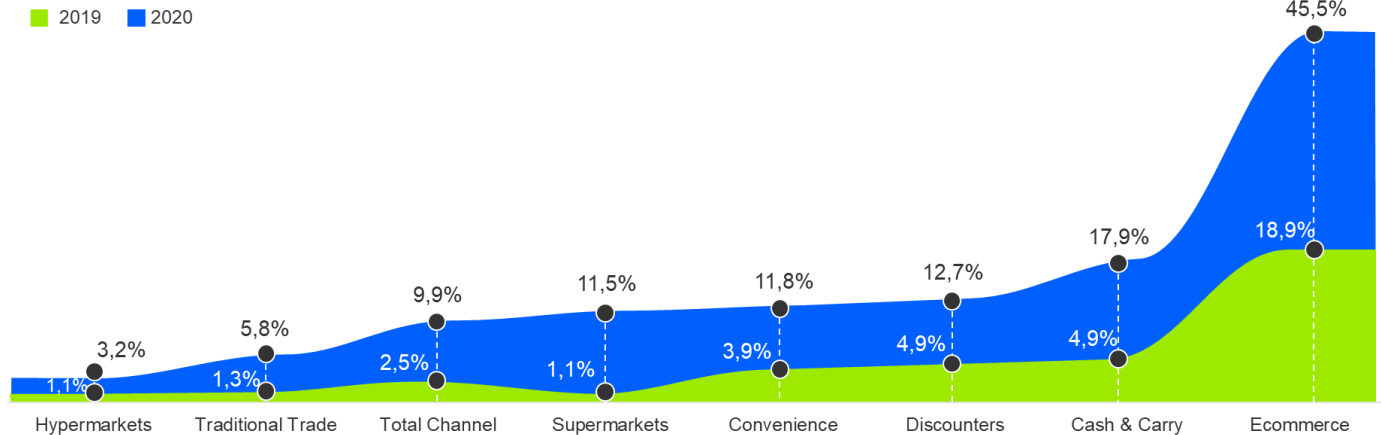


The pandemic accelerated online shopping

Online shopping is the #1 increased behaviour

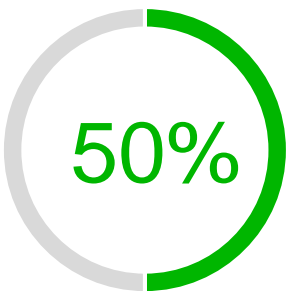


Resulting in ecommerce being the fastest-growing channel in 2020, more than doubling its growth rate from 2019

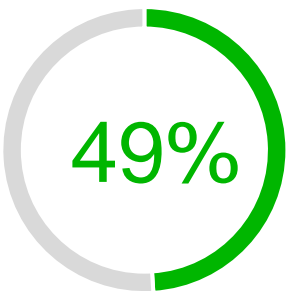


Source: Winning Omnichannel 2021 - FMCG 2019 & 2020 Global value annual growth

And we plan to continue to use new online stores and new brands



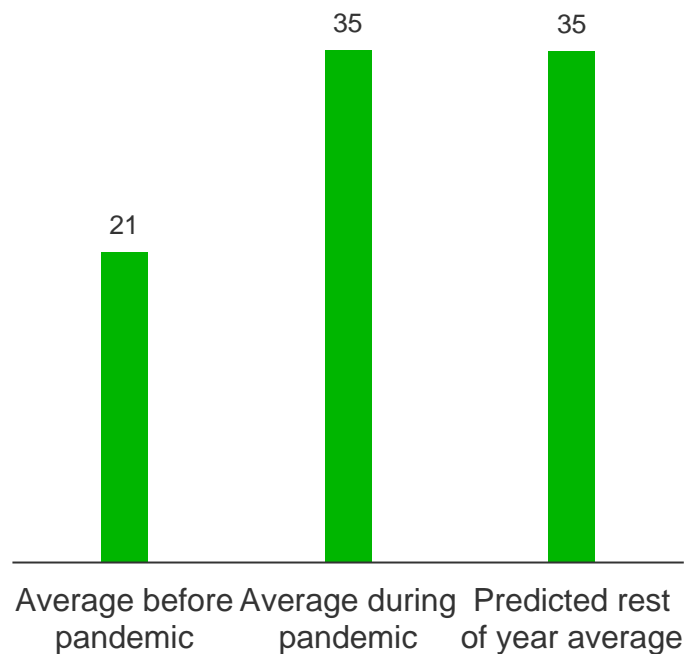
Found new online stores and will continue to use them



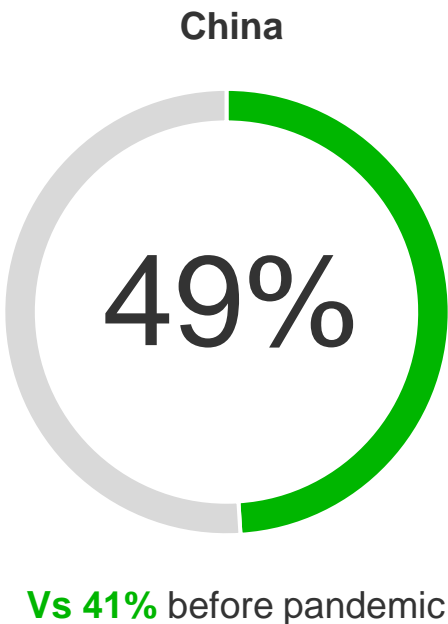
Tried different brands and will continue to buy them

People buy more groceries online, and will continue to do so

% of groceries bought online



Even China, the biggest e-commerce market, continued to grow



African and LATAM markets experienced the highest growth



Kenya
+23%
(43% vs 20% before pandemic)



Brazil
+20%
(37% vs 17% before pandemic)



Colombia
+20%
(39% vs 19% before pandemic)



Nigeria
+19%
(43% vs 24% before pandemic)

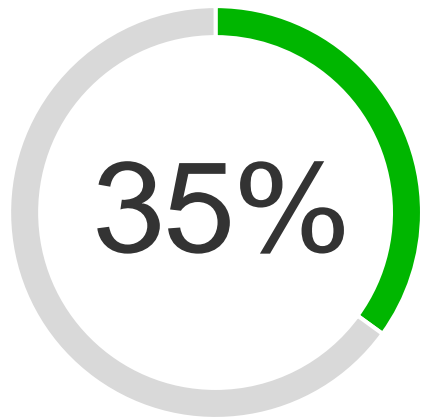


South Africa
+18%
(36% vs 18% before pandemic)

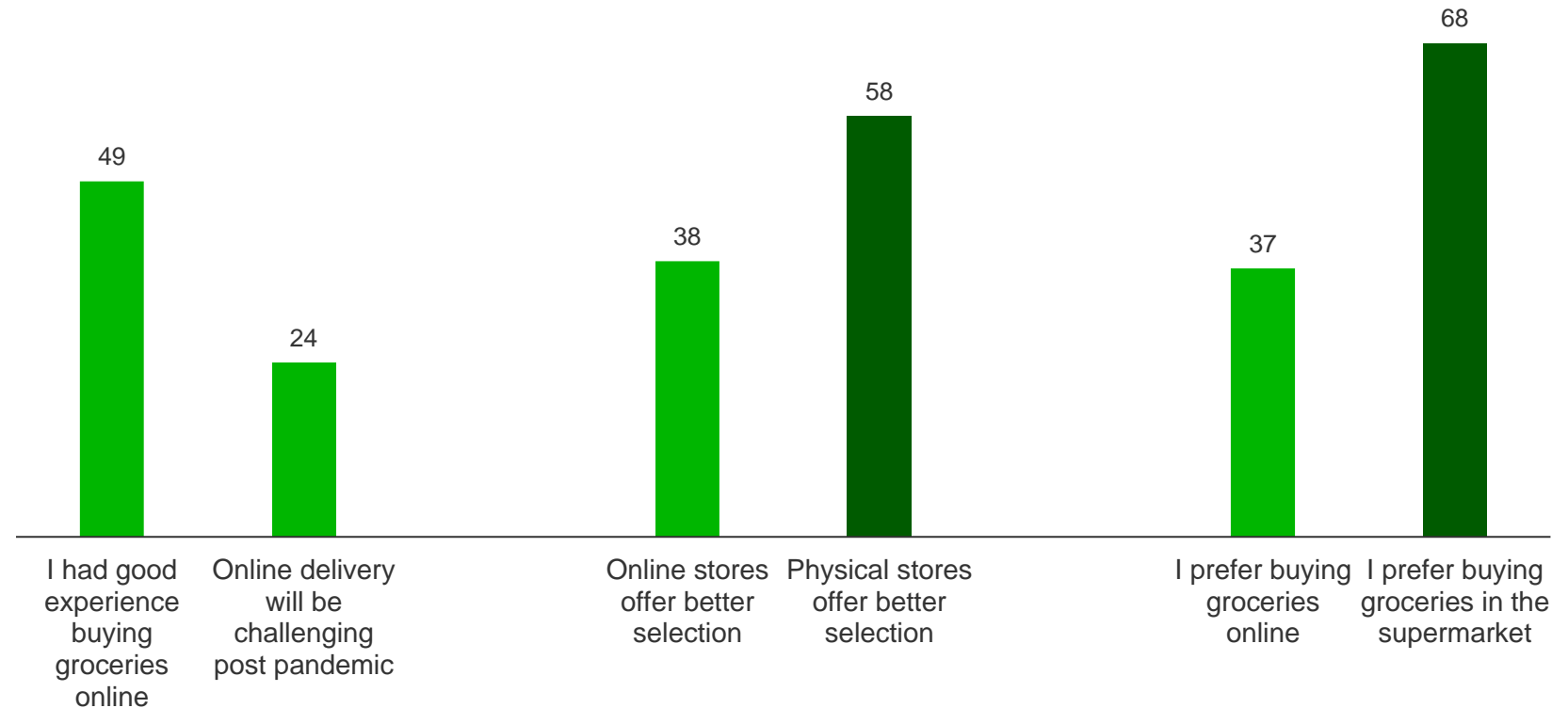
However, people still crave a 'real' shopping experience

Despite good online shopping experiences, people prefer buying from supermarkets

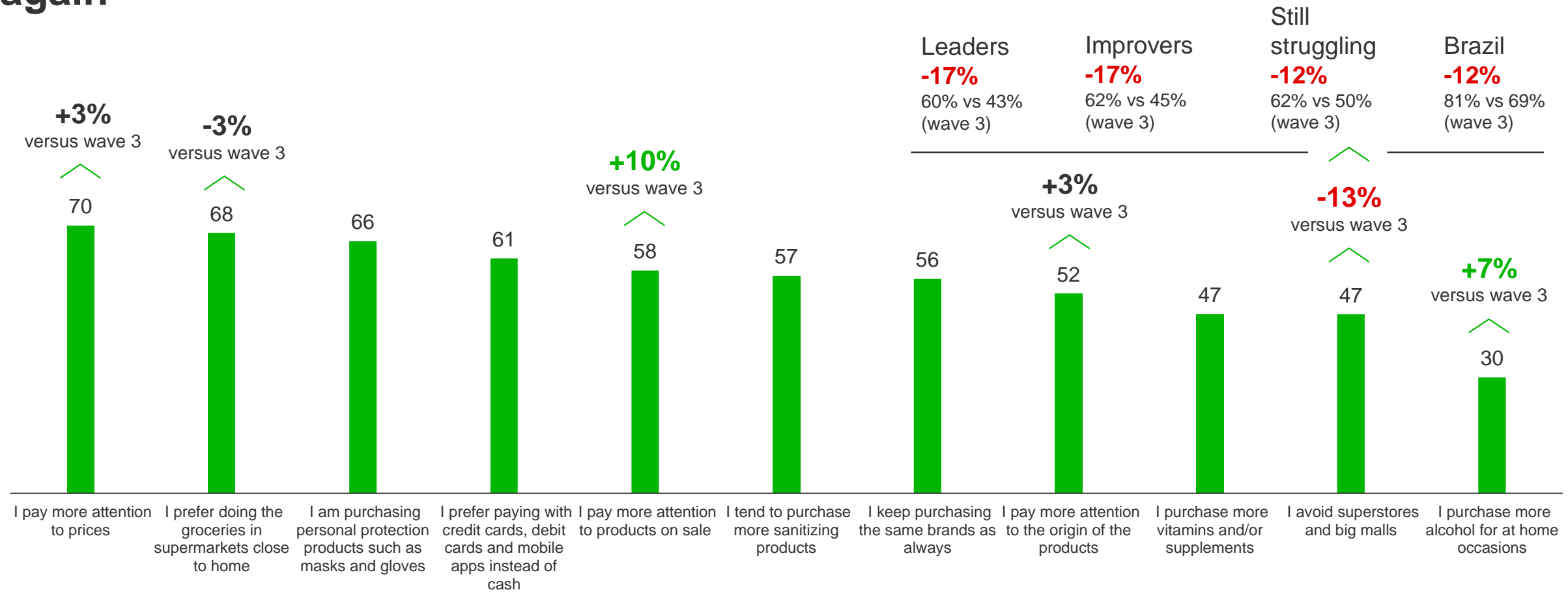
Shopping is the second most anticipated activity to do after restrictions are lifted (after haircuts)



Want to go shopping as soon as possible, once there are no more government restrictions



A significant drop in avoiding superstores and malls, even in Struggling markets, also points to a strong desire to experience real world shopping again

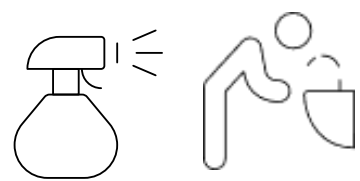


Increased hygiene is here to stay

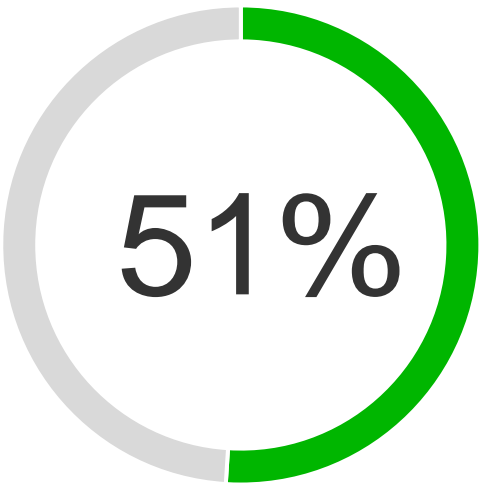
Increased hygiene is

#2

behaviour people are now doing more of compared to pre-pandemic

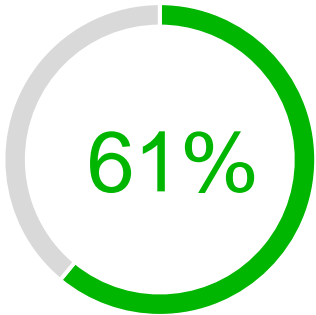


To feel safe to return to normal daily life

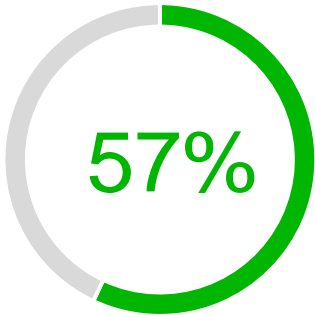


Of people need regular sterilization measures at places they go to

In comparison to pre-pandemic



Prefers non-cash payment and...



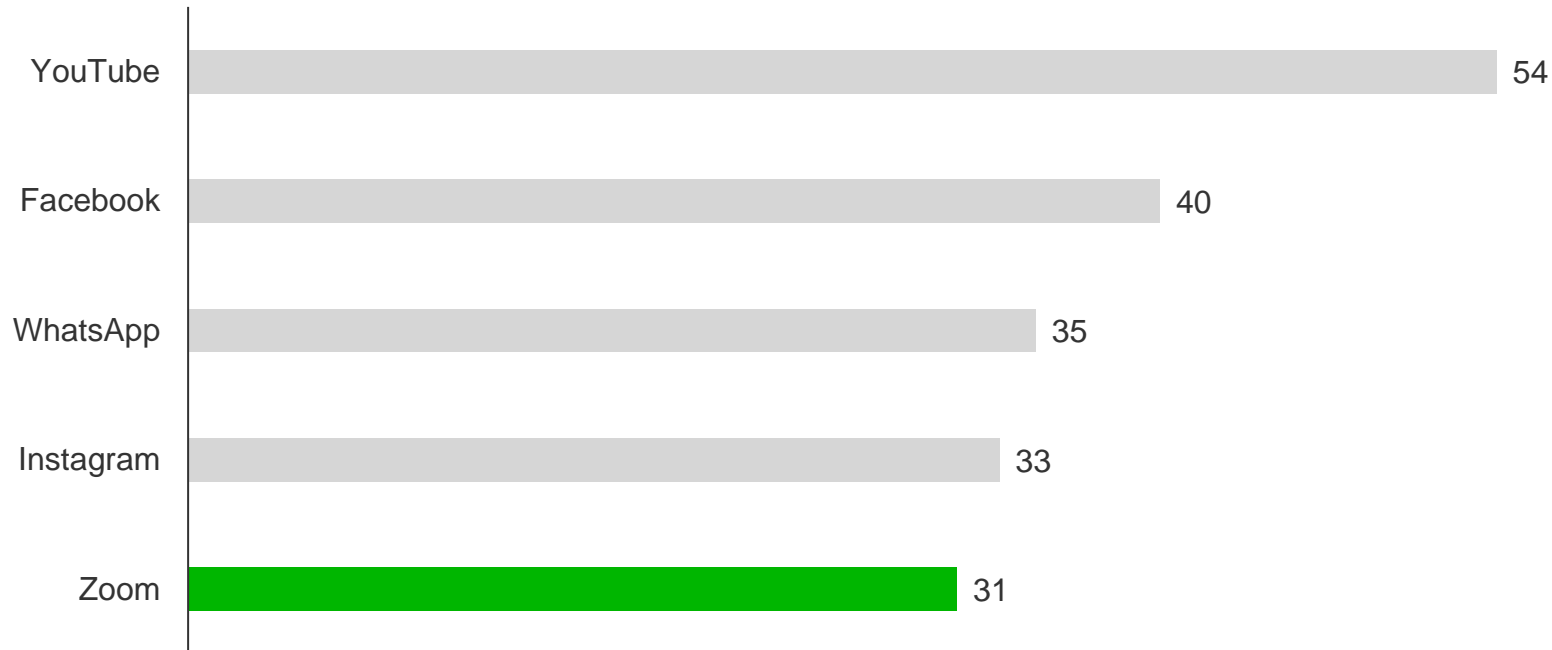
Purchases more sanitizing products

“The Homecare sector grew at 9.8. Increased demand was generated by an increased focus on hygiene and cleanliness combined with spending more time at home. This led to Bleaches and Household Cleaners growing 25% and 21%, respectively – two of only six categories which saw growth over 20%.”

Source: Winning Omnichannel 2021

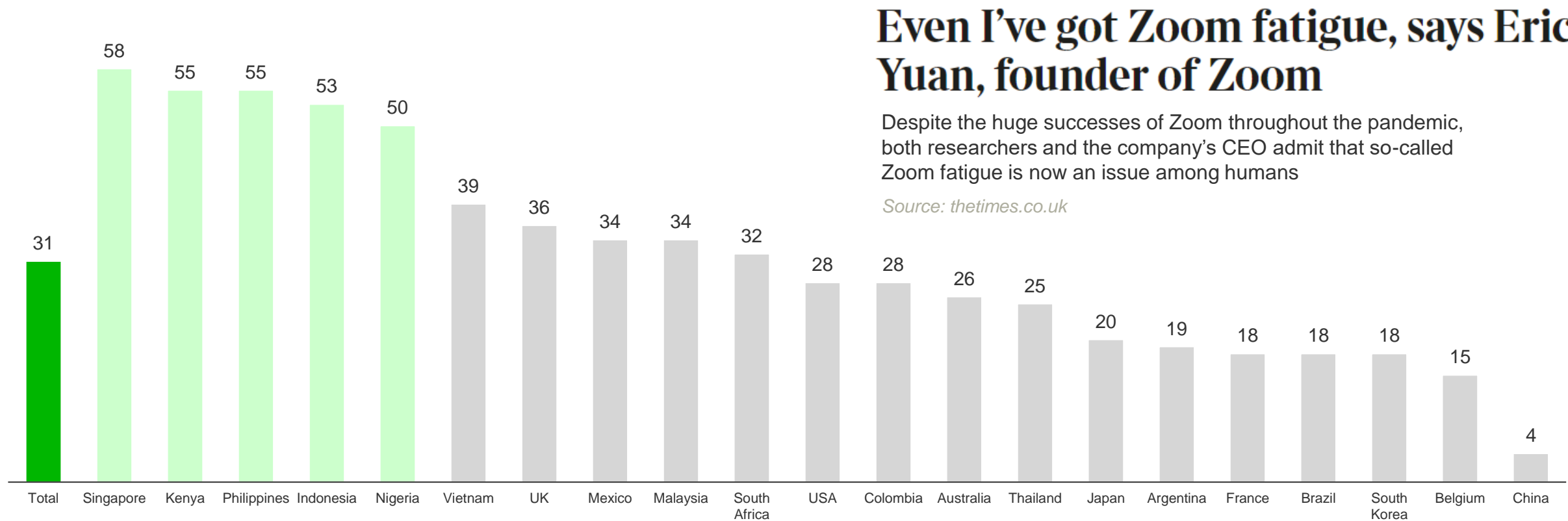
Zoom has entered the top 5 social networks and instant messaging systems that show a net usage growth compared to before the pandemic

Net usage score for Top 5



Though Zoom is used more now than before the pandemic across all markets, especially in multiple African and Asian countries its net growth is striking

Net usage score for Zoom across markets



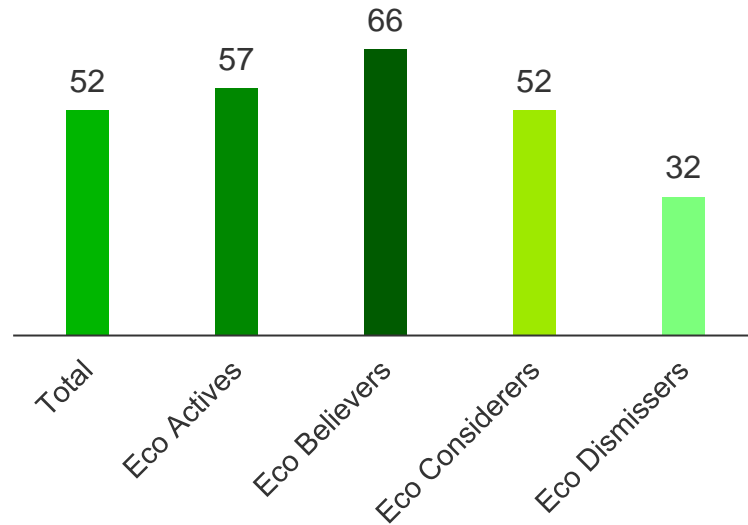
Even I've got Zoom fatigue, says Eric Yuan, founder of Zoom

Despite the huge successes of Zoom throughout the pandemic, both researchers and the company's CEO admit that so-called Zoom fatigue is now an issue among humans

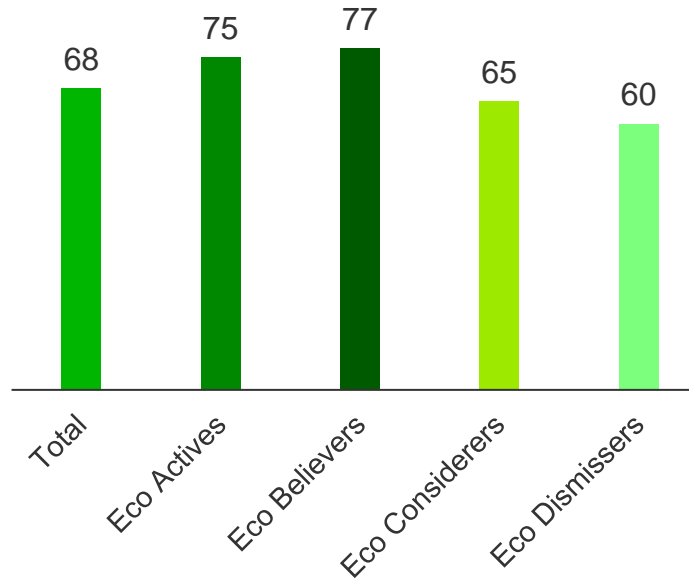
Source: [thetimes.co.uk](https://www.thetimes.co.uk)

Localism, already a strong trend, received a boost for a variety of reasons; this is even stronger among environmentally conscious people

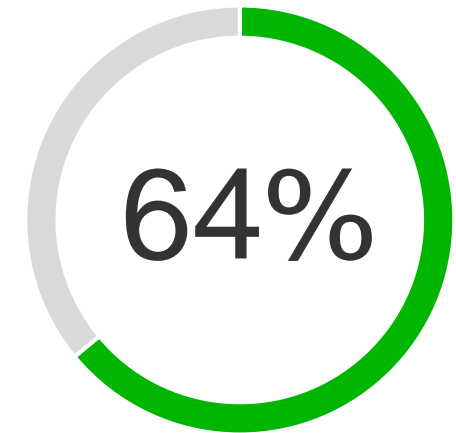
52% pays more attention to product origin now (compared to pre-pandemic)



68% now prefers supermarkets close to home (compared to pre-pandemic)



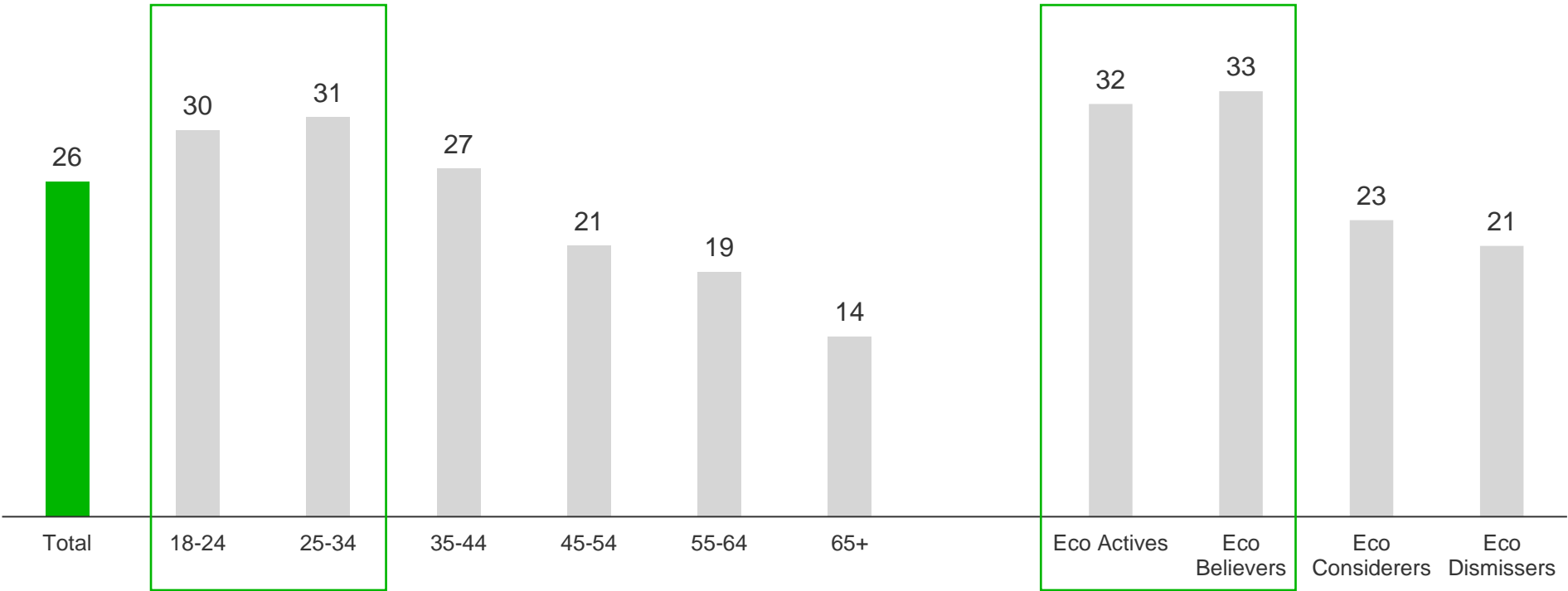
The majority of people think local stores are important for the community



This is most important for Actives and Believers (73%) and less so for considerers (60%) and dismissers (58%)

Environmentally conscious people and the young are much more likely to buy second hand now rebranded as ‘Vintage’

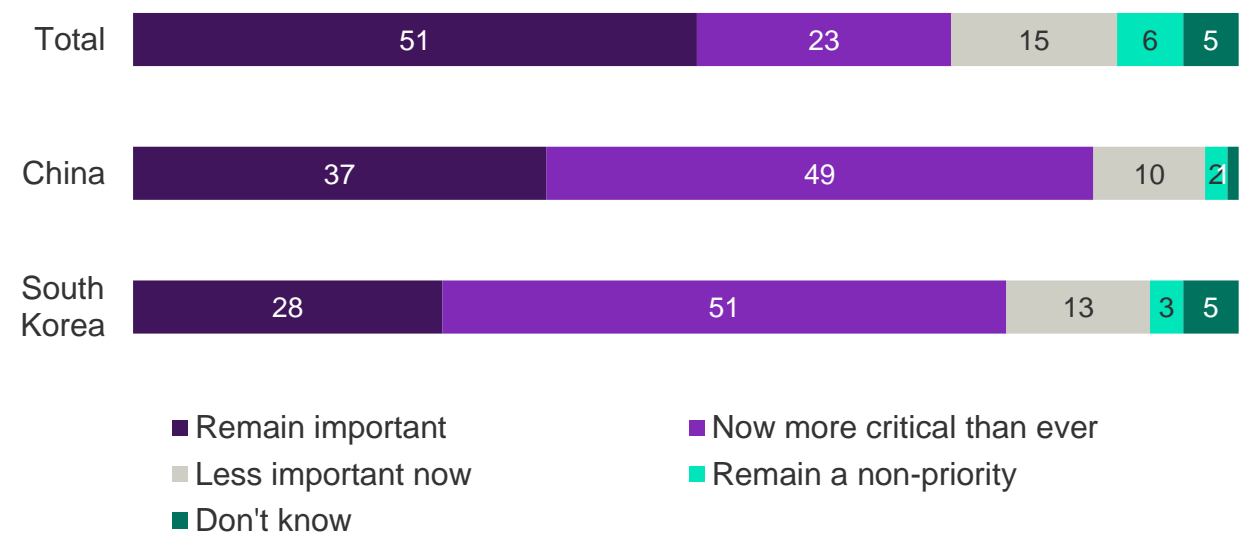
% regularly buying second-hand products



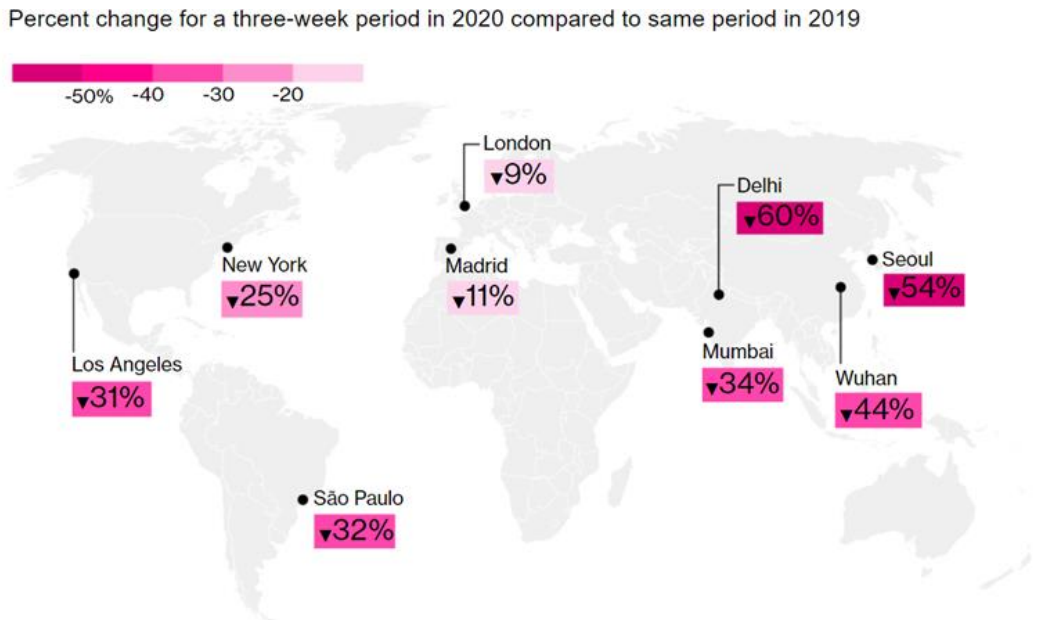
Concerns about environmental issues remain important during the pandemic

In China and South- Korea they're now more critical then ever, possibly related to the decrease in air pollution during lockdown

Has your opinion about environmental issues changed because of COVID-19?



Major cities see decrease in PM2.5 during COVID-19 lockdown

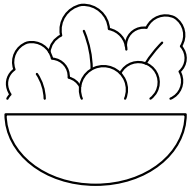


Use the sliders here to see how cities have transformed in lockdown

<https://news.sky.com/story/coronavirus-before-and-after-how-lockdown-has-changed-smog-filled-skylines-11976473>

Not all our good intentions will come true

“Quarantine 15” has become a common way to refer to weight gain during the COVID-19 pandemic



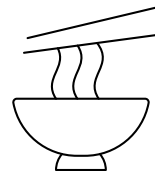
Wave 3 (April 2020)

63% tries to eat healthier during lockdown



Wave 5 (May 2020)

Eating healthier was the second most likely behaviour to maintain post lockdown



Wave 9 (April 2021)

Now 22% says they are eating more healthily compared to pre-pandemic

How Much Weight Did We Gain During Lockdowns? 2 Pounds a Month, Study Hints

Many Americans know they've put on weight during the pandemic, but it's been difficult for experts to detail the scope of the problem.

'The Covid 15?' If only — this is how much weight the average person actually gained during the pandemic

Last Updated: March 20, 2021 at 4:10 p.m. ET
First Published: March 12, 2021 at 12:48 p.m. ET

By Nicole Lyn Pesce

More than 2 in 5 adults packed on more pounds than they intended over the past year

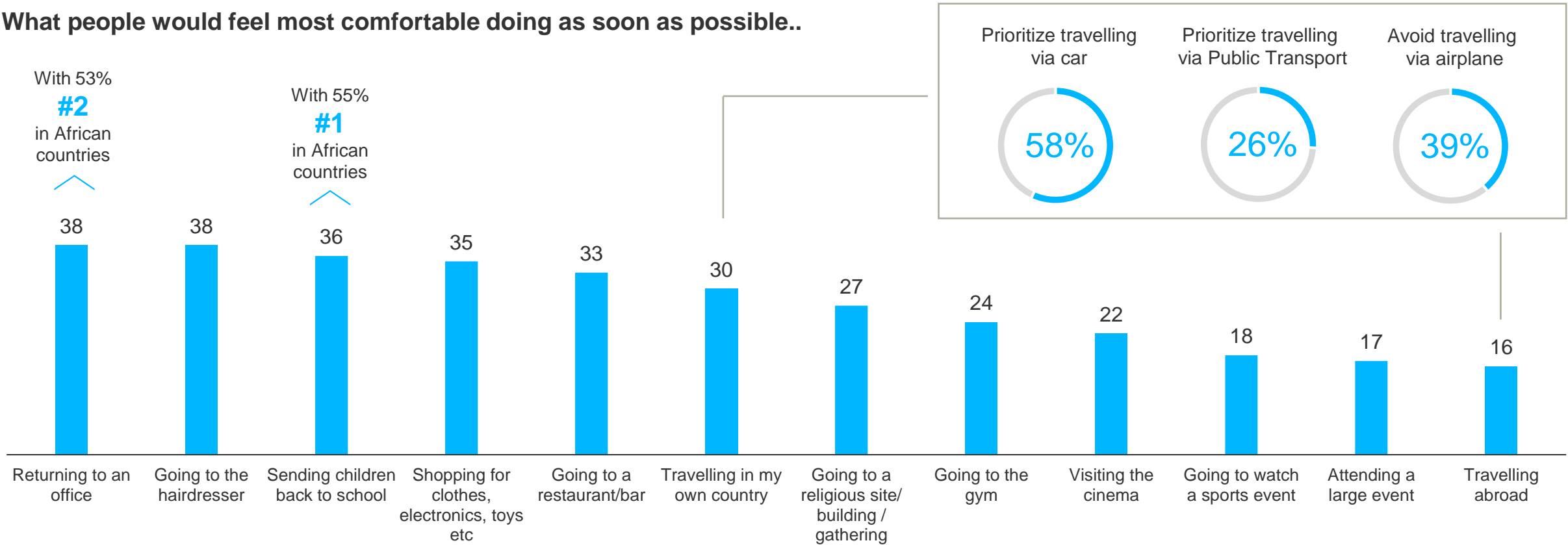
6

Looking forward and
brand expectations

People feel most comfortable returning to ordinary day-to-day activities

They are least comfortable with returning to activities that involve (large groups of) people outside their direct social circle and perhaps where they have less control

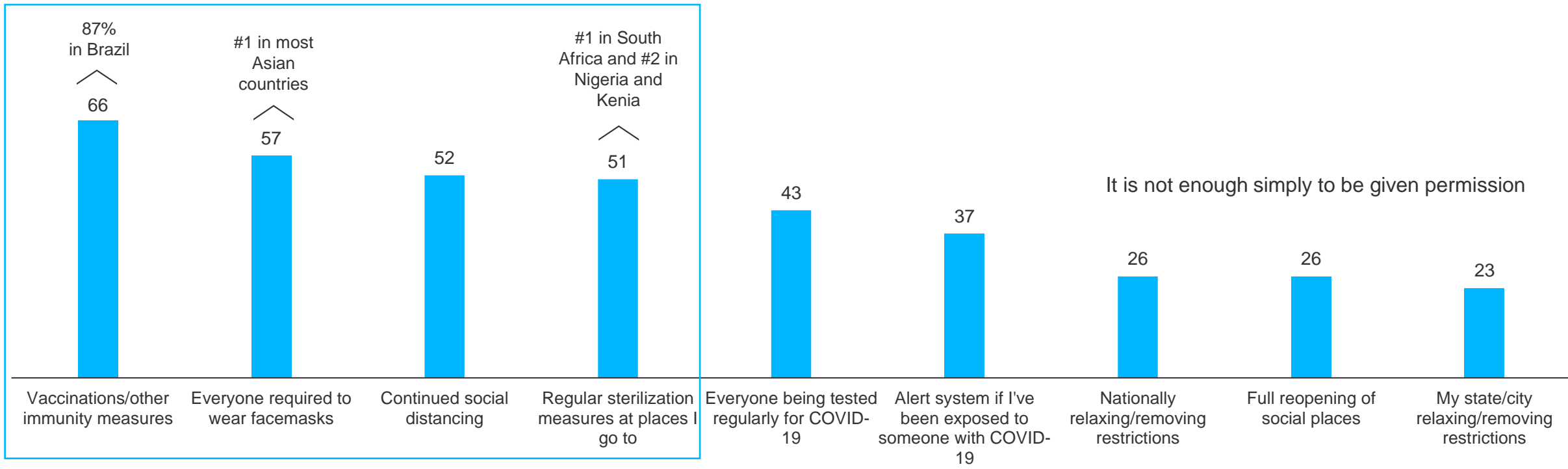
What people would feel most comfortable doing as soon as possible..



Vaccination is key but the visible precautions we adopted during the pandemic remain essential for a safe return to normal daily life

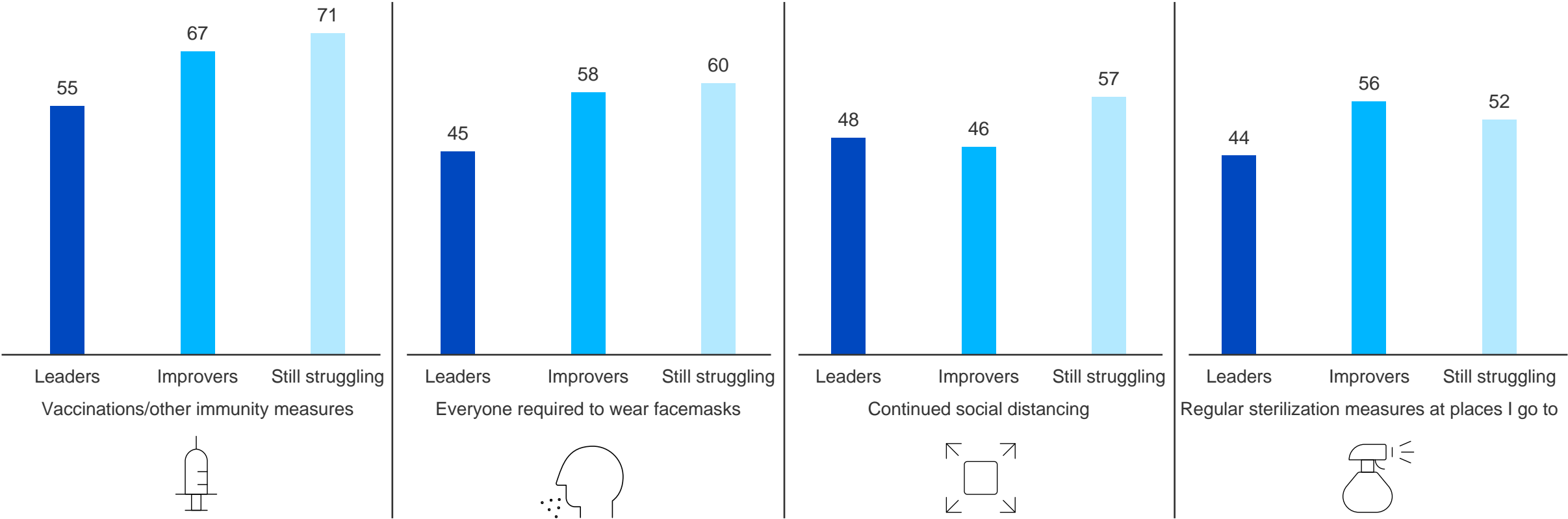
Evidence of safety measures will be even more critical for businesses with an experiential aspect, such as retail, travel and leisure

Which of the following would need to happen for you to feel safe to return to normal daily life?

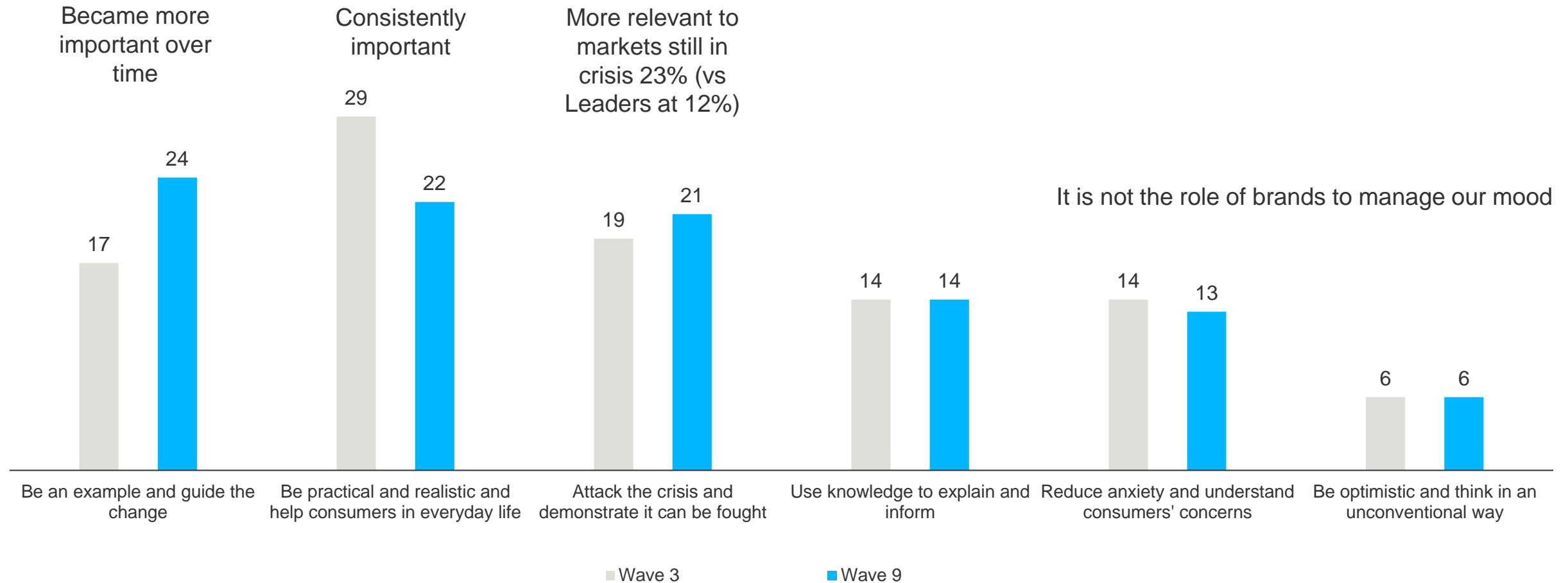


In Improving and Struggling countries, this tangible evidence of safety is even more important for return to normal daily life

Which of the following would need to happen for you to feel safe to return to normal daily life?



For brands, there is an opportunity to offer leadership by setting an example



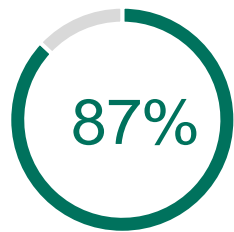
7

Country spotlights

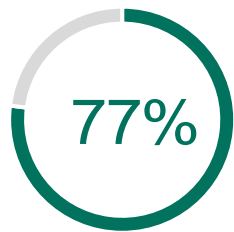
- Brazil
- UK



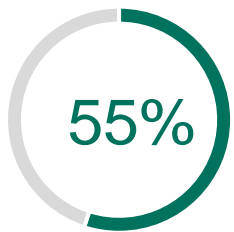
The COVID-19 situation in Brazil is severe: high levels of impact and concern are accompanied by both high involvement and fear



Affected by COVID-19 themselves, or someone close (vs. 42% total)



Experience **impact** of COVID-19 on **day-to-day life** (vs. 63% total)



Are very scared about the situation (vs. 31% total)

Check the numbers of new infections and deaths daily

33

44

Read, see, hear a lot of news about the latest situation

46

62

Actively try to avoid COVID-19 in conversations

19

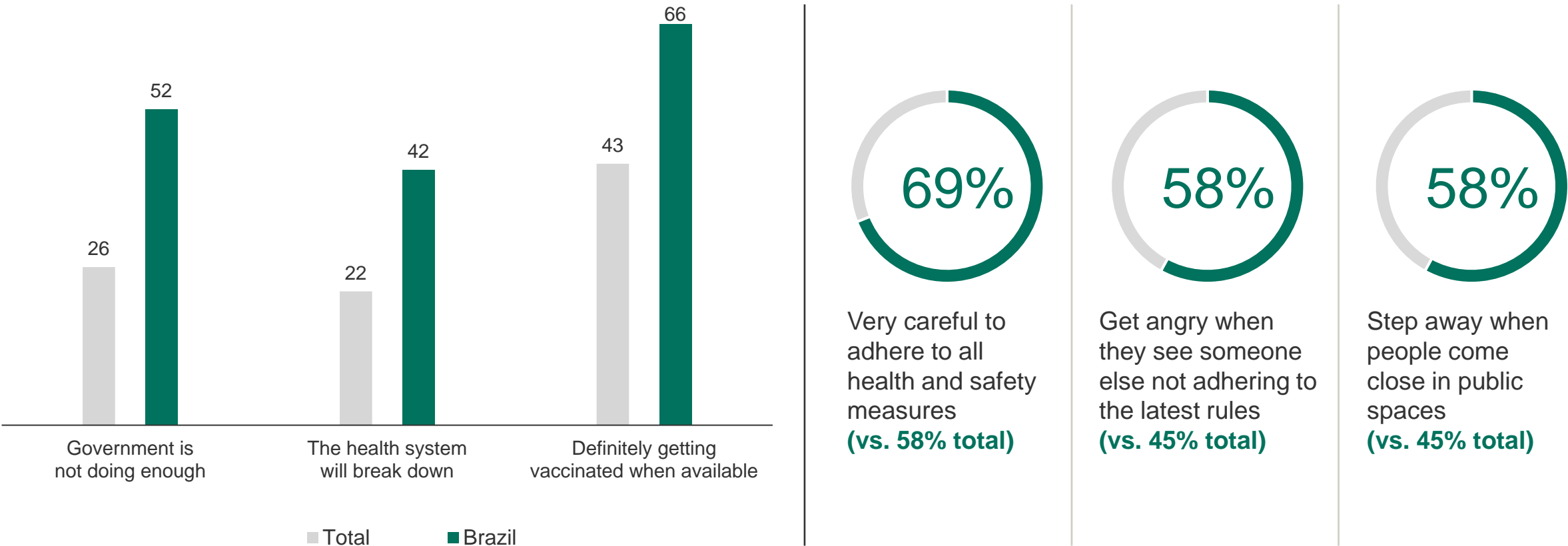
31

■ Total

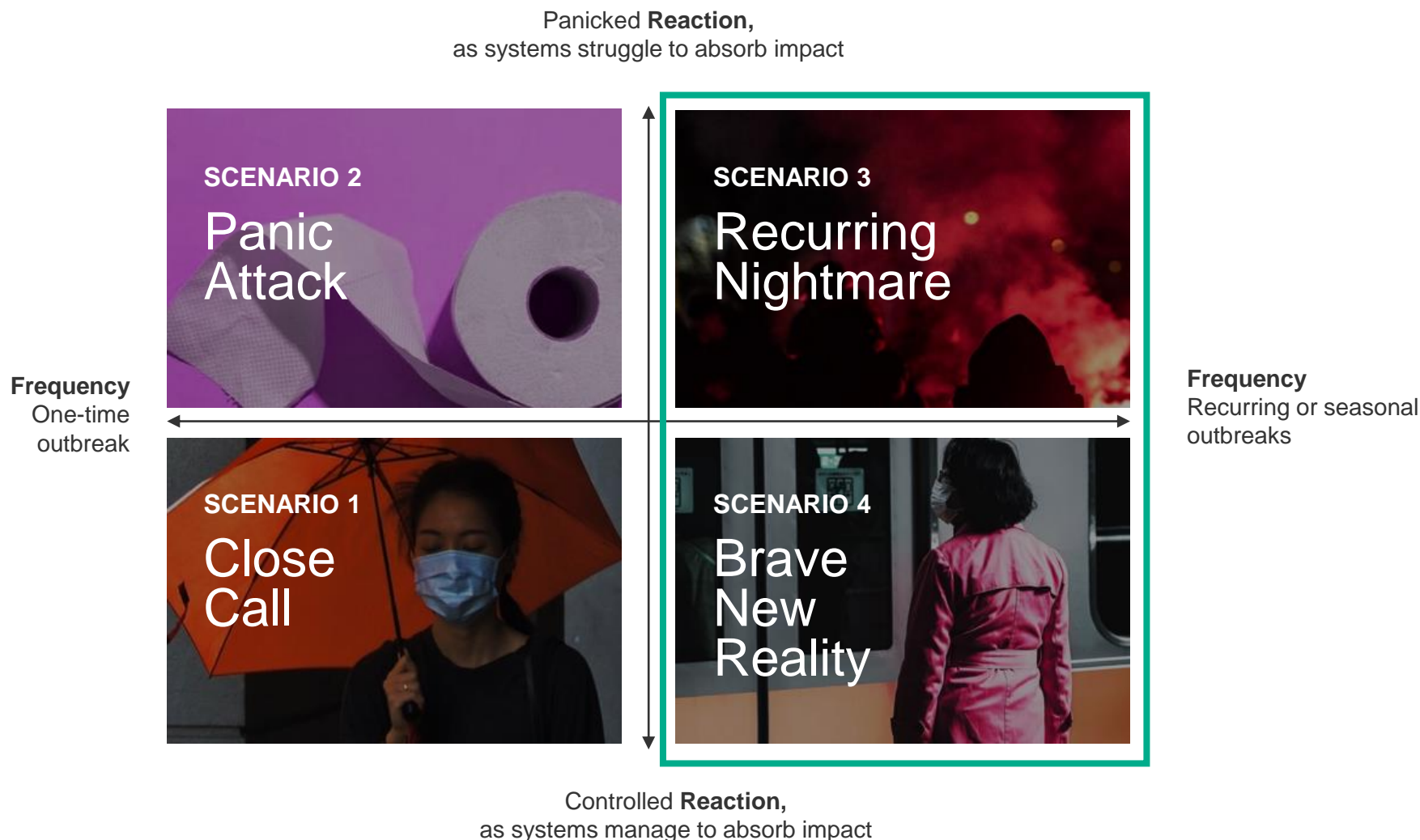
■ Brazil



A low opinion of government response and fear for the health system are accompanied by high vaccine favourability and careful personal behaviours



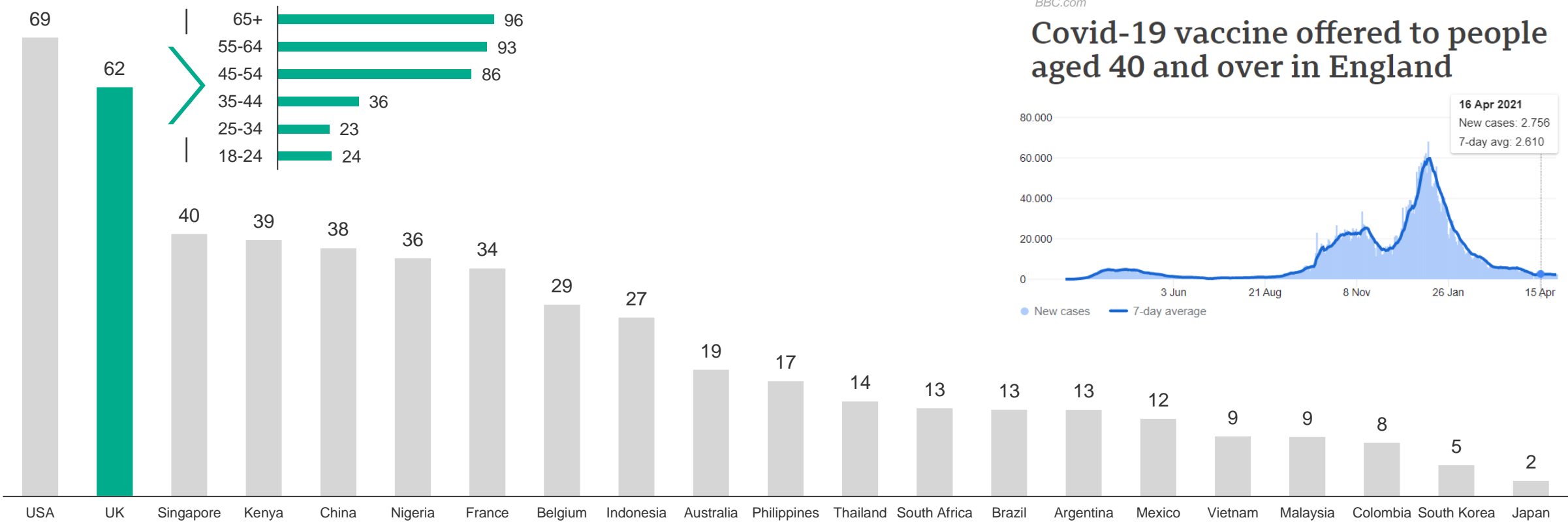
Brazil appears to be living the **Recurring Nightmare** scenario while the UK may have moved to **Brave New Reality**, through vaccination and lockdown





Vaccination programme in the UK is strong, with high and increasing availability (62%) and acceptance (85%) and a decline in vaccine hesitancy

95% of 50+ had been vaccinated by the time of our fieldwork

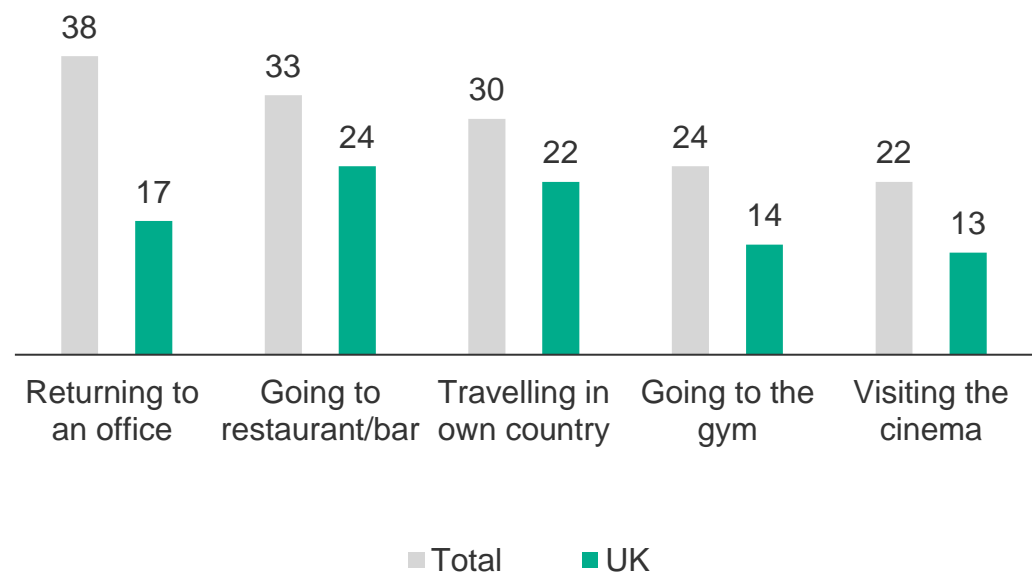




But despite a hugely successful vaccination programme, the British seem unusually reticent about returning to normal life very soon

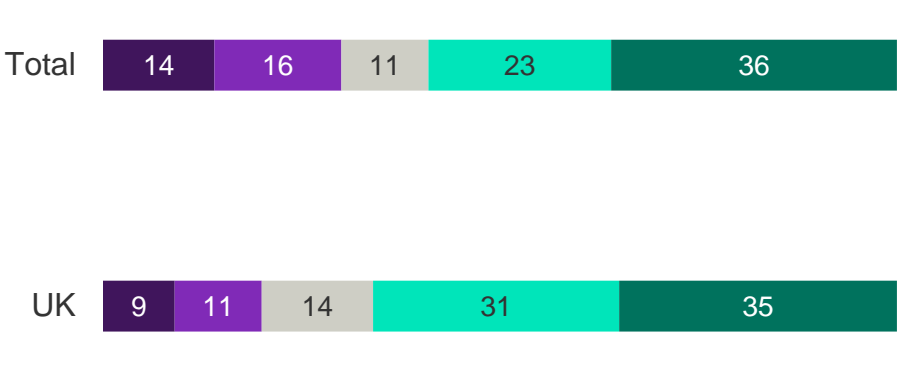
Are the British institutionalized? Or have we invested so much we don't want it to be in vain...

Britain's feel less comfortable returning to activities as soon as they can



They're more likely to follow the rules until the end

This has been going on too long, you can't expect people to adhere to these rules anymore

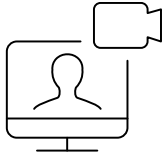


We must all follow the rules until we get to the end of any significant risk

8

Appendix

Research specifications

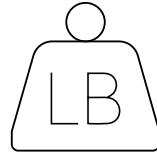


Fieldwork method

All data has been collected online

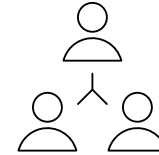
Fieldwork period:

- Wave 2: 27th-30th March 2020
- Wave 3: 10th-13th April 2020
- Wave 4: 24th-28th April 2020
- Wave 5: 22nd-27th May 2020
- Wave 6: 19th-23rd June 2020
- Wave 7: 17th-21st July 2020
- Wave 8: 14th-18th Aug 2020
- Wave 9: 15th-19th April 2021



Weighting

The data per country is nationally representative in terms of age, sex and region. Global averages represent the total of all countries, no weights are applied



Sample size

Wave 2: n=10,006
Wave 3: n=10,263
Wave 4: n=10,259
Wave 5: n=9,508

Wave 6: n=9,521
Wave 7: n=9,512
Wave 8: n=9,521
Wave 9: n=11,014

Markets included in this report:

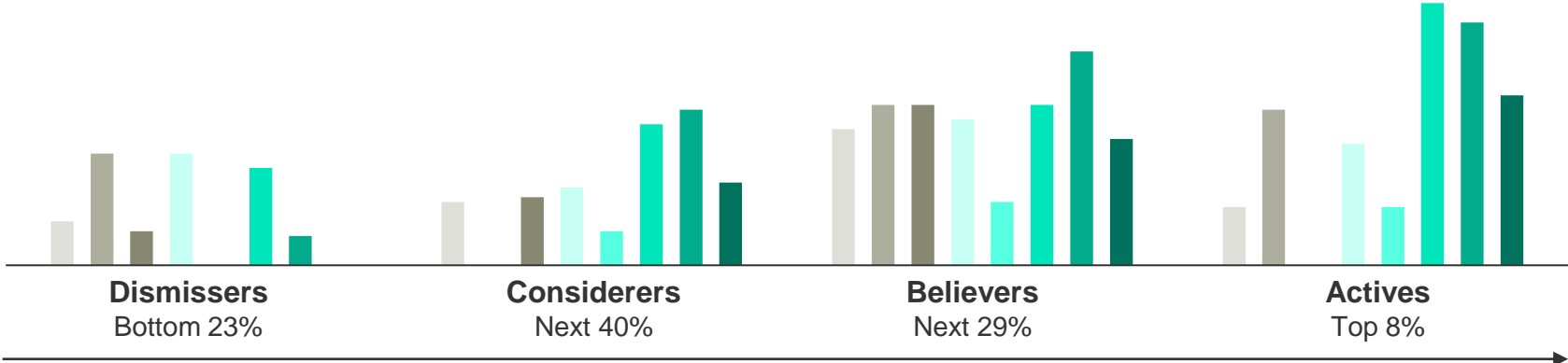
Philippines, South Korea, Colombia, Malaysia, Japan, Thailand, Kenya, France, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, South Africa, Indonesia, Australia, Nigeria, Vietnam, Belgium, UK, USA, Singapore

Per wave, per country we interviewed around n=500 consumers (for USA n=1,000)

Using Kantar’s validated sustainability classification, we group people according to their level of overall engagement toward sustainability

We cluster people in 4 groups: ‘Eco Actives’, ‘Eco Believers’, ‘Eco Considerers’ and ‘Eco Dismissers’ - according to their level of engagement and commitment toward sustainability. The group called “Actives” are most active, intrinsically motivated. ‘Believers’ are also very active, but seem to be more extrinsically motivated. ‘Considerers’ are less active and involved. ‘Dismissers’ are the least active and involved with sustainability.

Each respondent is assigned an overall sustainability engagement score according to their answers to a battery of statements related to sustainability (below). This score indicates their position on the sustainability attitudinal continuum relative to the rest of the sample.



- Clustering people in 4 groups according to their level of engagement toward sustainability
- I try to buy products with packaging made from recycled materials (Fully agree)
 - I try to buy products packaged in an environmentally friendly way (Fully agree)
 - I try to buy from companies whose workers are not discriminated against (Fully agree)
 - When buying products, I make sure that they are not packed in plastic (Always)
 - I feel that I can make a difference to the world around me through the choices I make and the actions I take (Strongly agree)
 - I see friends and family changing their behaviours to be more environmentally friendly (Strongly agree)
 - It's difficult to be more environmentally friendly because the products that are better for the environment are harder to find or more expensive (Strongly agree)
 - Buying sustainable products shows others who I am and what I believe in (Strongly agree)

Markets in wave 9

	Wave 1	Wave 2	Wave 3	Wave 4	Wave 5	Wave 6	Wave 7	Wave 8	Wave 9
	Mar. 14-19 2020	Mar. 27-30 2020	April 10-13 2020	April 24-27 2020	May 22-26 2020	June 19-23 2020	July 17-21 2020	Aug. 14-18 2020	April 15-19 2021
Argentina			X						X
Australia		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Belgium	X	X	X	X					X
Brazil	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
China	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Colombia			X						X
France	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Indonesia		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Japan		X	X	X					X
Kenya		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Malaysia		X	X	X					X
Mexico			X	X					X
Nigeria	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Philippines		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
South Korea	X	X	X	X					X
Singapore		X	X	X					X
South Africa	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Thailand		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
UK	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
USA	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Vietnam		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X