

# Public Opinion and Foreign Policy: Findings from the 2012 Edition of *Mexico, the Americas, and the World*



David Crow, Director  
*México, las Américas y el Mundo*  
[david.crow@cide.edu](mailto:david.crow@cide.edu)

Prepared for presentation at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars  
October 18, 2013



# 10 Years of *Mexico, the Americas, and the World*

- Biannual since 2004
- Data and reports **FREE!!!!!!**

<http://www.mexicoyelmundo.cide.edu>

- Public (N=2,400)
- Leaders (N=500)
  - 5 sectors: 1) business, 2) elected politicians, 3) appointed government officials, 3) civil society (unions, NGOs), 5) opinion leaders (journalists, academics)
- Regionally representative (North, Center, South)



# Questionnaire: Thematic Overview

- I. Interest in International Affairs
- II. Contact / Migration
- III. International Security
- IV. Identity
- V. Political Knowledge
- VI. Mexico's Foreign Policy / Role in the World
- VII. International System ("Rules of the Game")
- VIII. Relations with Latin America
- IX. Relations with U.S.
- X. Other Regions
- XI. Political Culture
- XII. Sociodemographic

<http://mexicoyelmundo.cide.edu>



# Survey Experiments

- Over 100 survey experiments
- Split samples
- Question stem (e.g., skilled vs. unskilled immigrants, advantages vs. disadvantages on liberalization)
- Scale experiments (e.g., 4-pt. vs. 7-pt., different categories for Likert-type items)
- Topics include identity, regional integration preferences, attitudes toward immigration/emigration, foreign policy preferences, etc.

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# 1. GENERAL ATTITUDES

## INTEREST, CONTACT, FOREIGN POLICY PRIORITIES

Report on 5<sup>th</sup> edition of Mexico, the Americas and the World 2012/2013

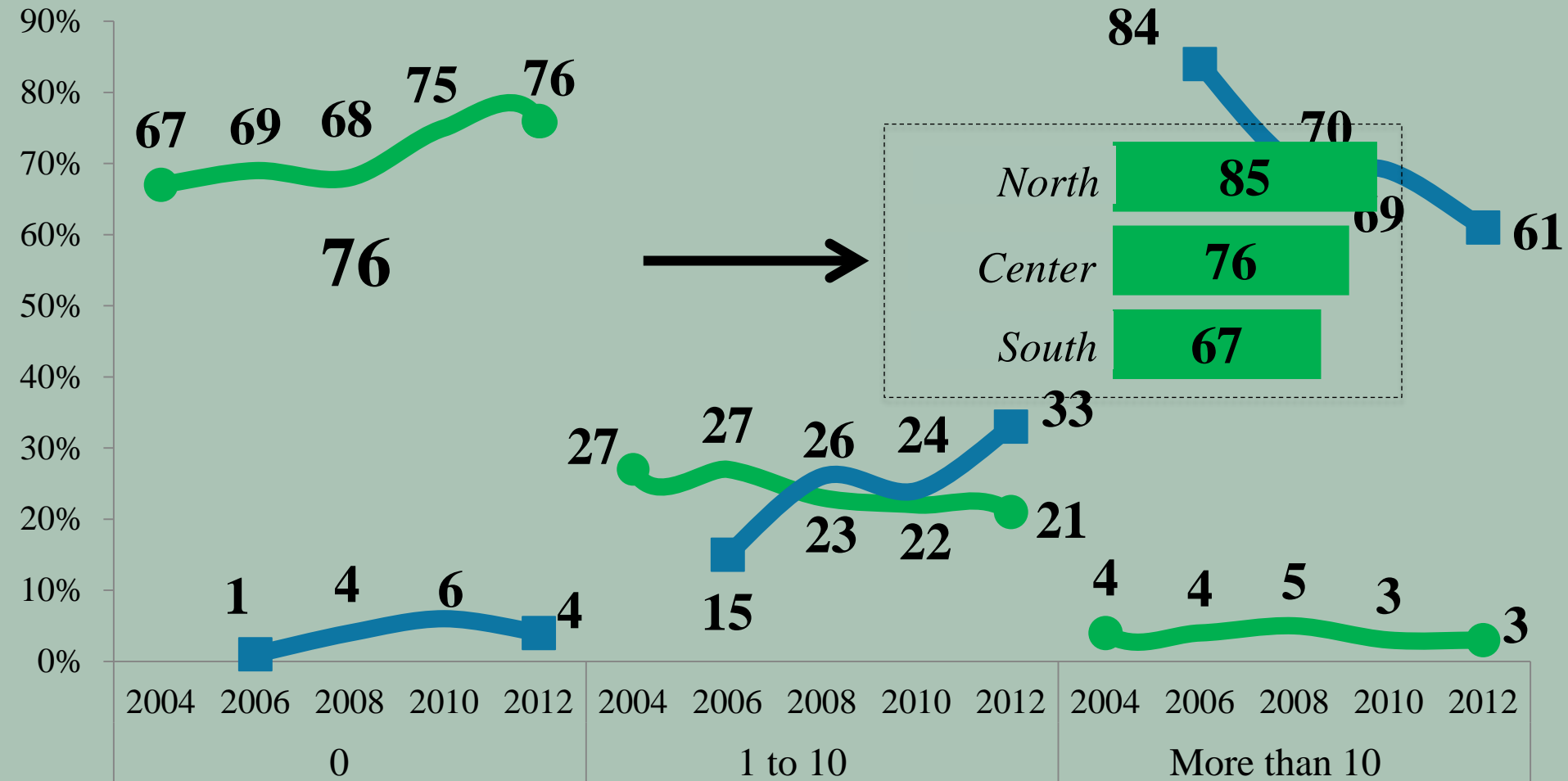
<http://mexicoyelmundo.cide.edu>

# International Contact / Trips Abroad

*Could you tell me how many times you have traveled outside Mexico, approximately?*

(%)

Public Leaders



The percentages of those who responded "Don't know" and "No answer" are not included.

# International Contact via Migration\*

(% of people that responded "yes")



\* Questions

a. Do you have any relatives living outside Mexico?

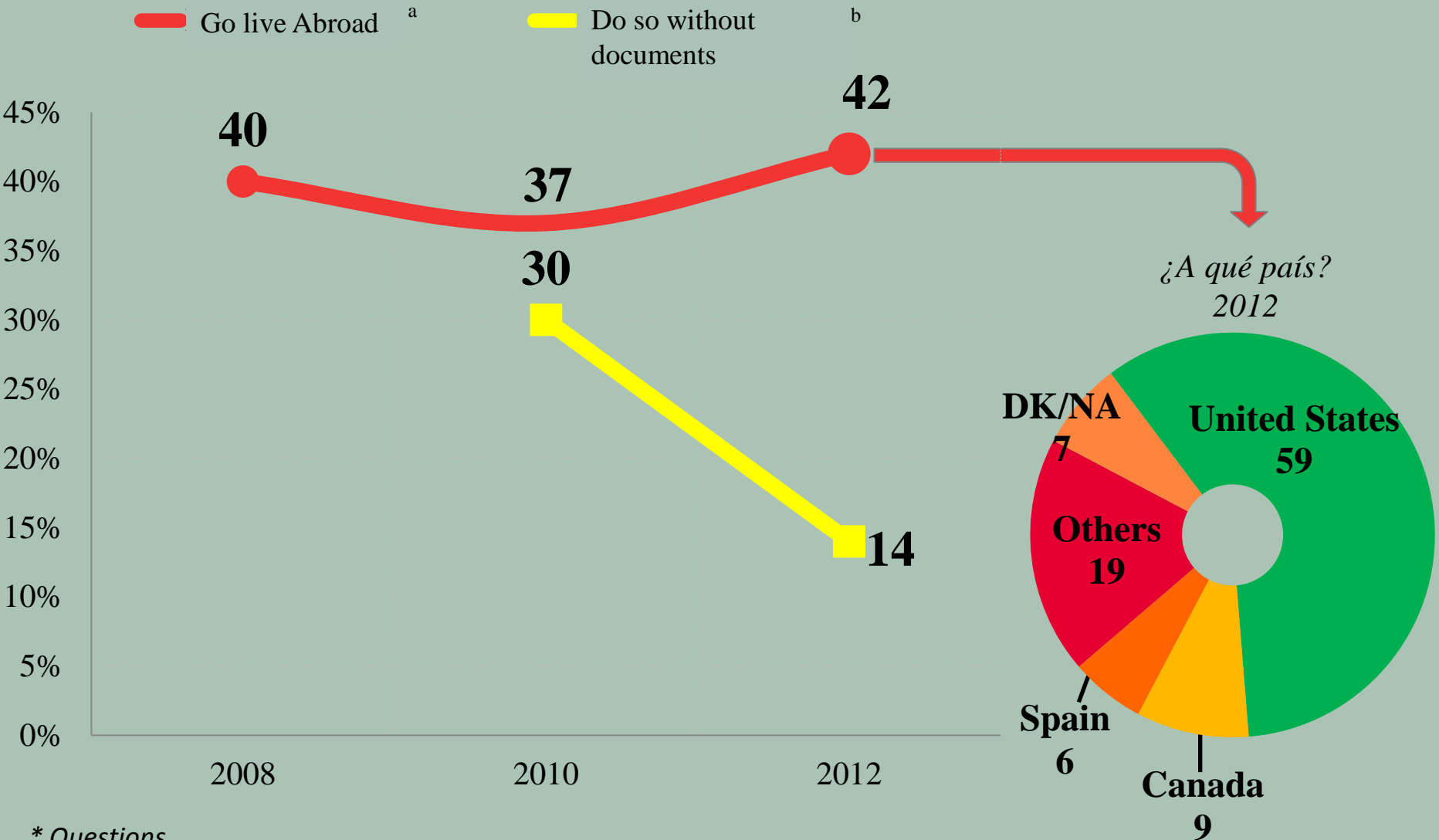
b. Do you have relatives that used to live in this household and now live outside Mexico?

c. Do you have contact with foreigners living in Mexico?

d. Do you or your family receive Money from relatives working abroad?

# Intent to Emigrate\*

(% of people who responded “yes”)



\* Questions

a. If you could, would you go to live outside Mexico?

b. Would you be willing to go live to another country without documents?

# International Threats

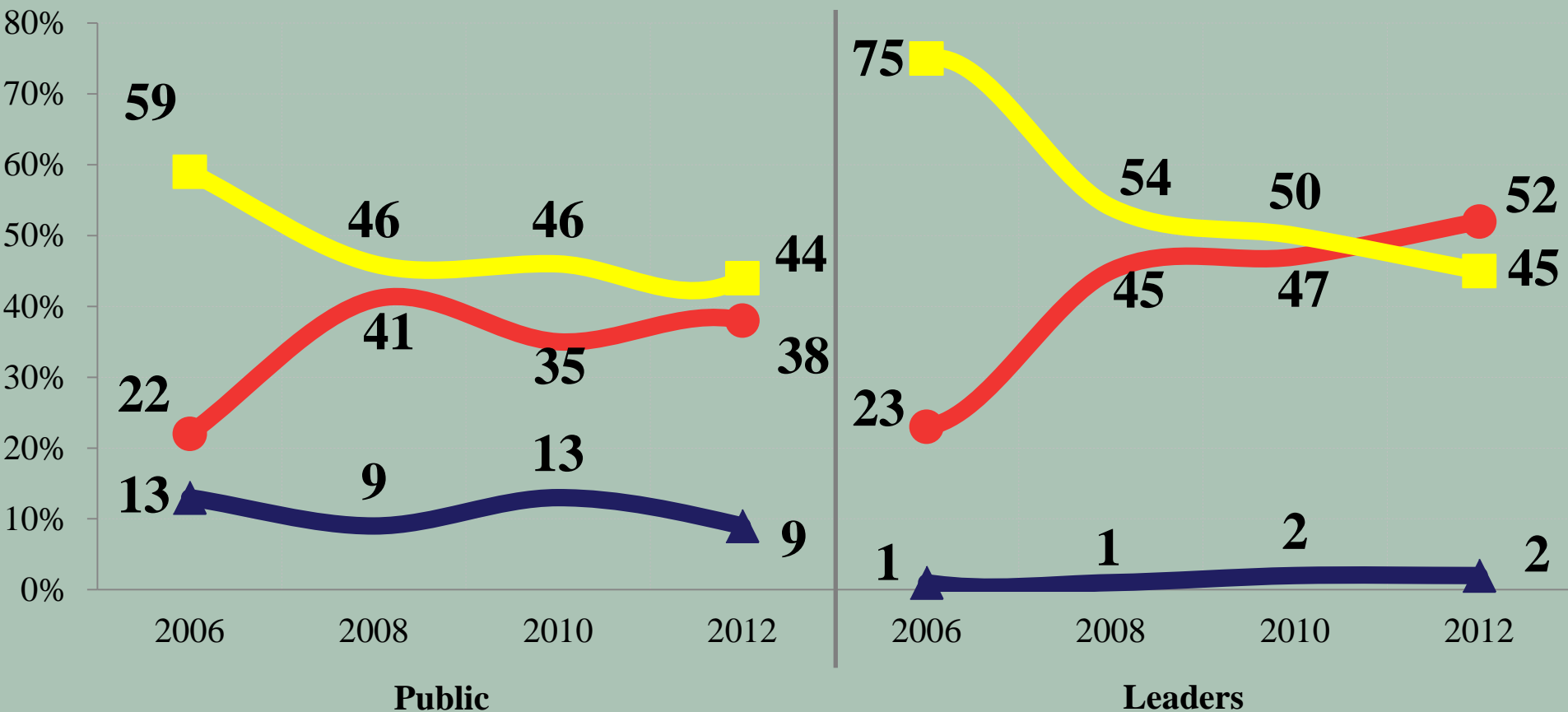
(% of "Very serious threat")



# Lack of Regional Leadership in Latin America

*Which of the following statements is closest to what you think about Mexico's role in Latin America?*

- Mexico should seek to be a leader in the region
- Mexico should participate along with other countries without trying to be a leader
- Mexico should stay out of most efforts of Latin American countries

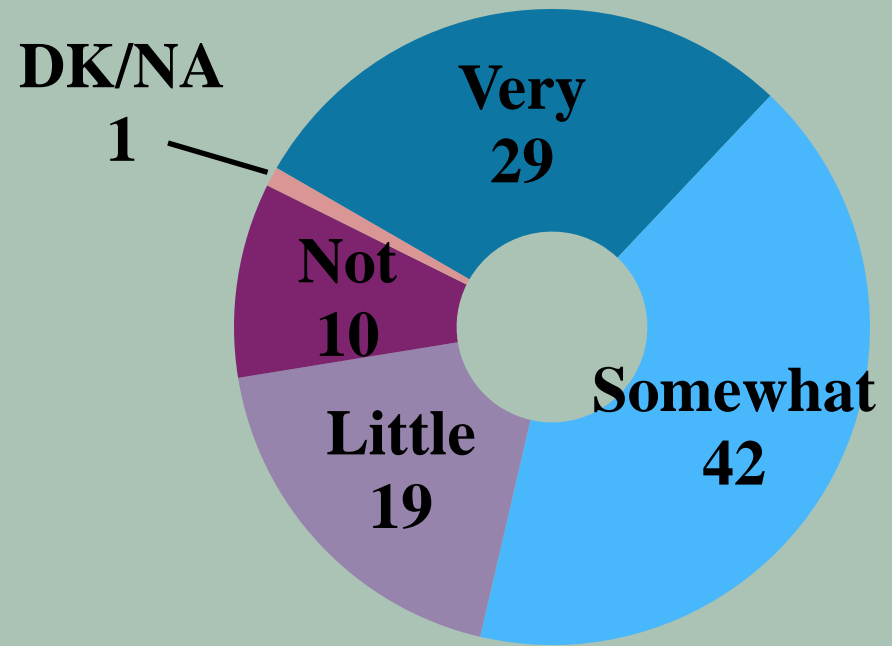
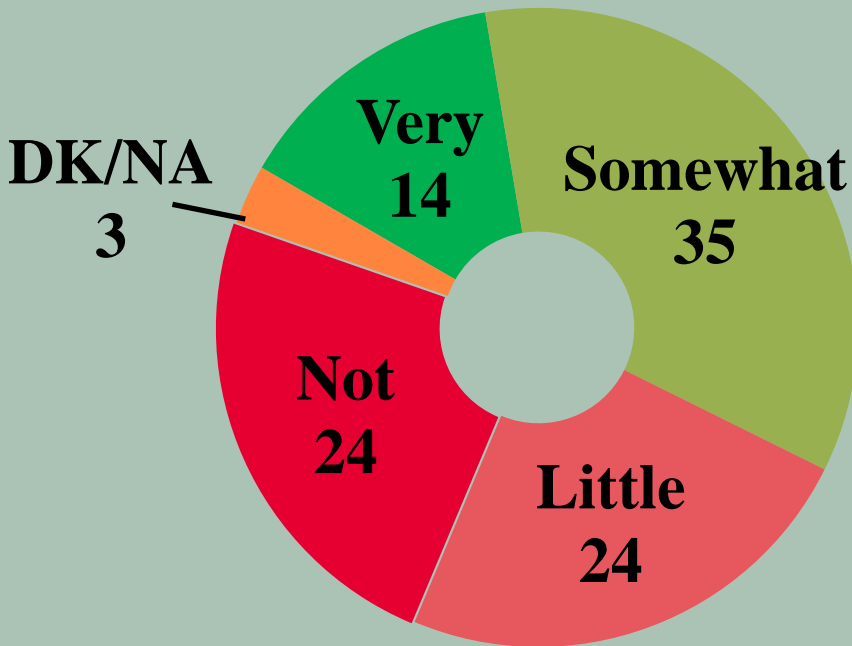


Does not include the percentages of "Don't know" and "No answer".

# Cooperation with Central America

*Taking into account the economic situation of our country, how much do you think Mexico should support with financial resources the development of the economies of the Central American countries?*

(%)

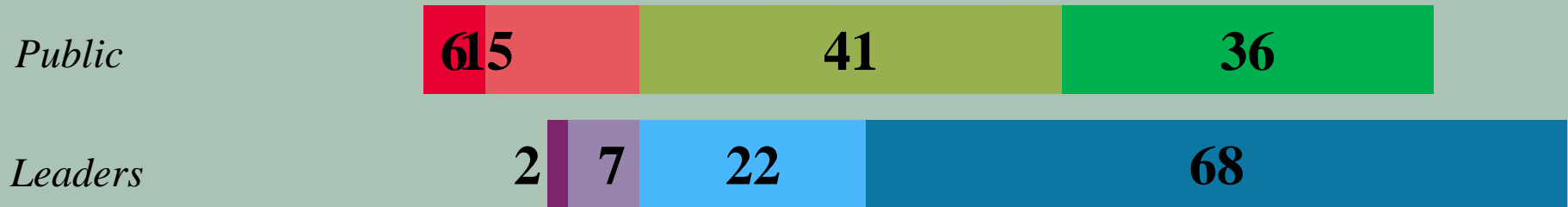


## **2. MEXICAN'S "LIBERAL" ORIENTATION TOWARDS INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AGENDA ...AND ITS LIMITS**

# Approval of FDI and Free Trade

*To what extent do you think that foreign investment benefits Mexico?*  
(%)

□ Not at all   □ A little   □ Somewhat   □ A lot

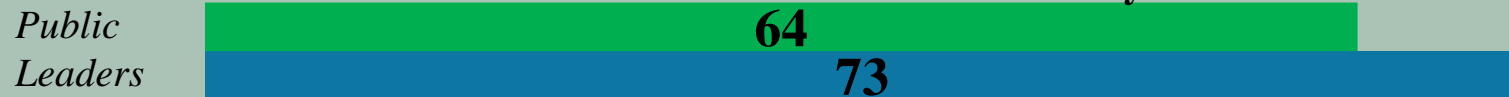


*In general, do you think that free trade is good or bad for...?*  
(% of “good”)

**The economy of developed countries**



**The national economy**



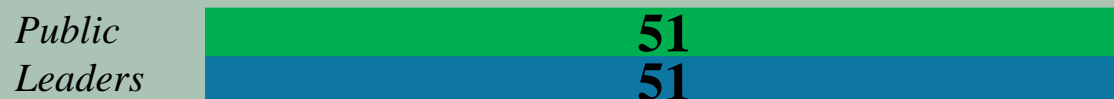
**Living standards of people like you**



**Mexican farming**



**The environment**



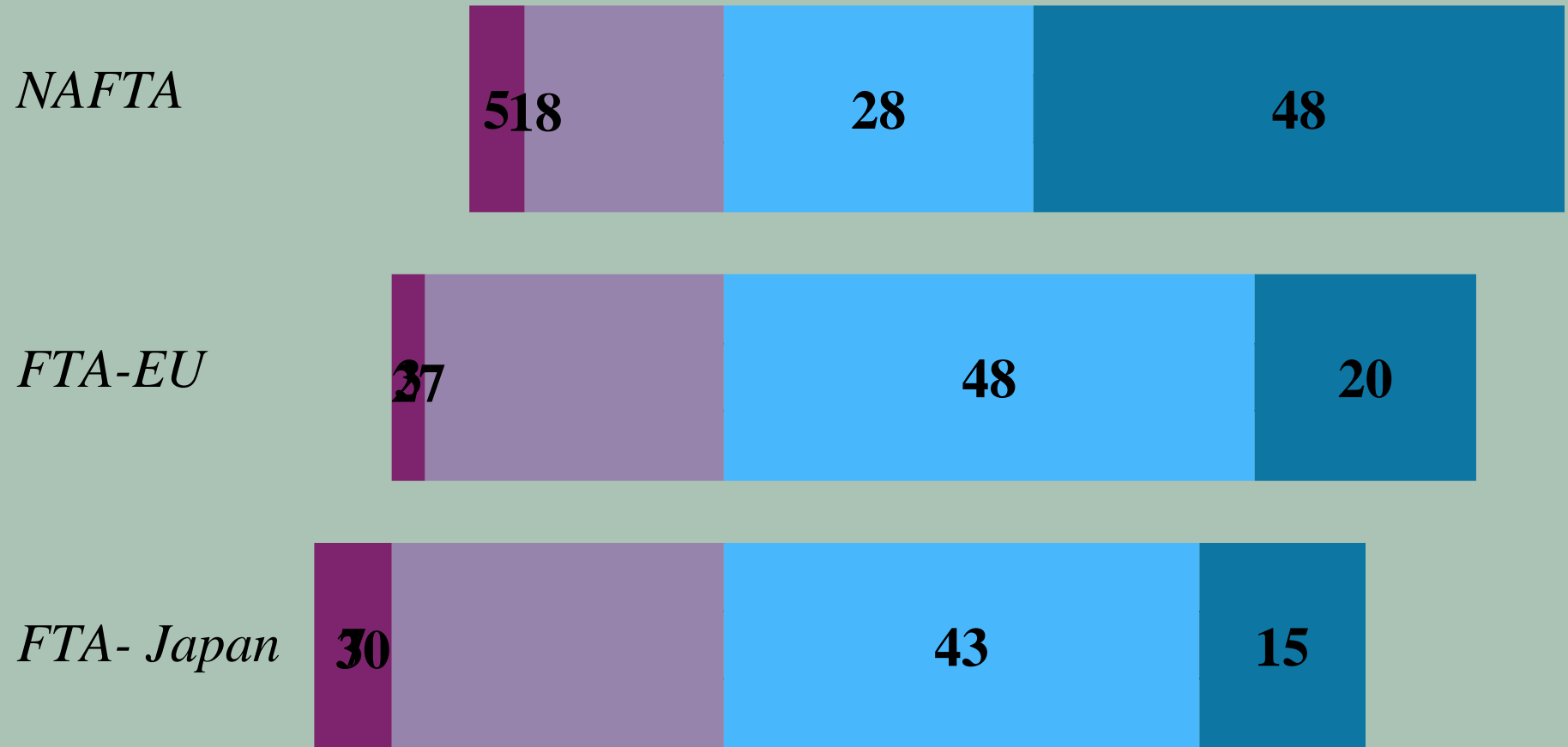
Does not include the percentages of “Depends”, “Don’t know” and “No answer”.

# Evaluation of Free Trade Agreements

*In your opinion, how much has Mexico benefited from the following economic agreements? Leaders*

(%)

Not at all   A little   Somewhat   A lot

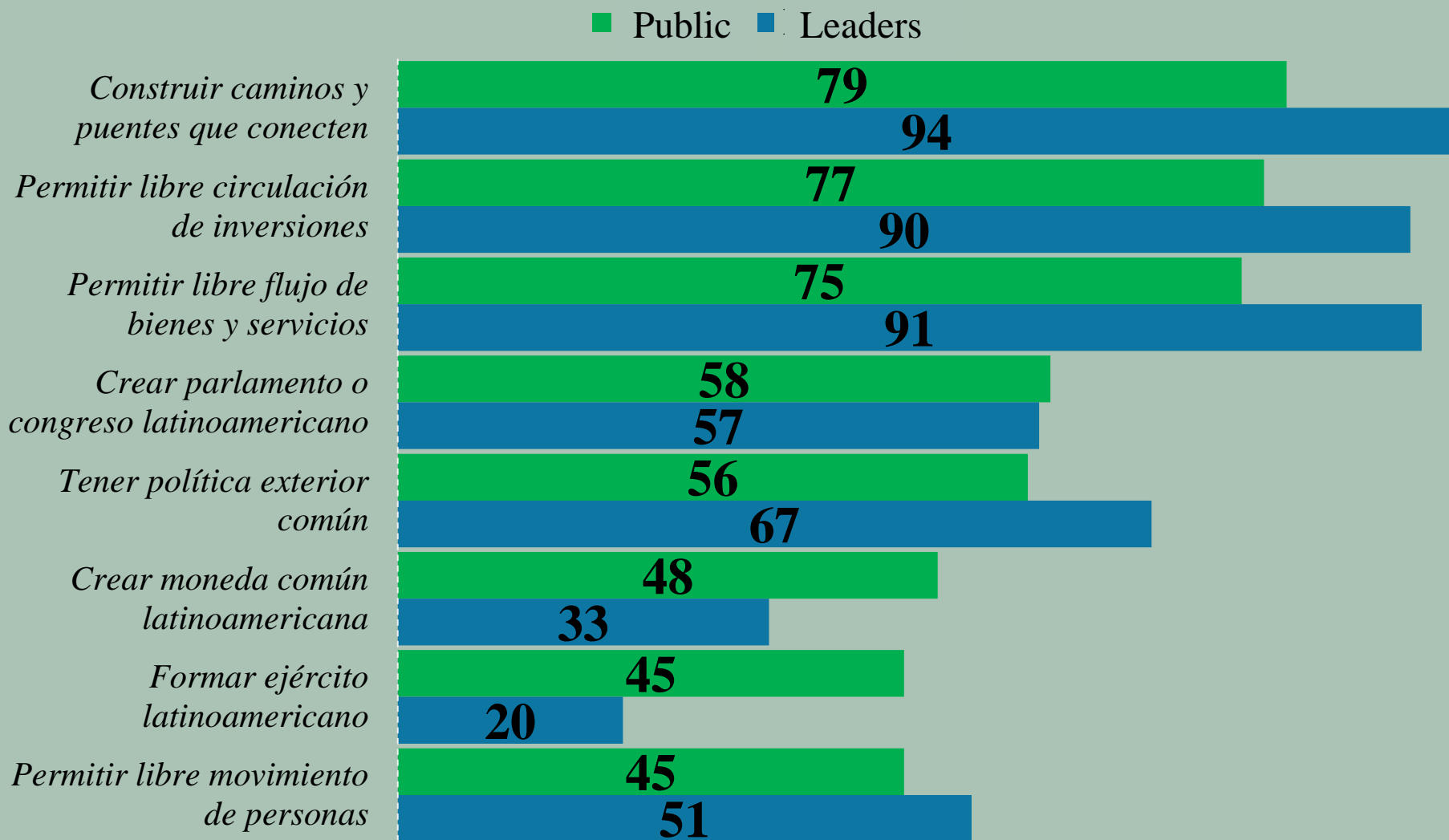


Does not include the percentages of "Don't know" and "No answer".

# Preference for a “North American Model of Integration”

*How much do you agree or disagree with the following actions being taken to favor Latin American integration?*

(% of “strongly agree” and “somewhat agree”)



Does not include the percentages of “Strongly disagree”, “Somewhat disagree”, “Don’t know” and “No answer”.

# But...Foreign Investment is NOT WELCOME in the energy sector

*In your opinion, should the Mexican government permit foreigners to invest*

**Electricity**

*in...?*

**Oil**

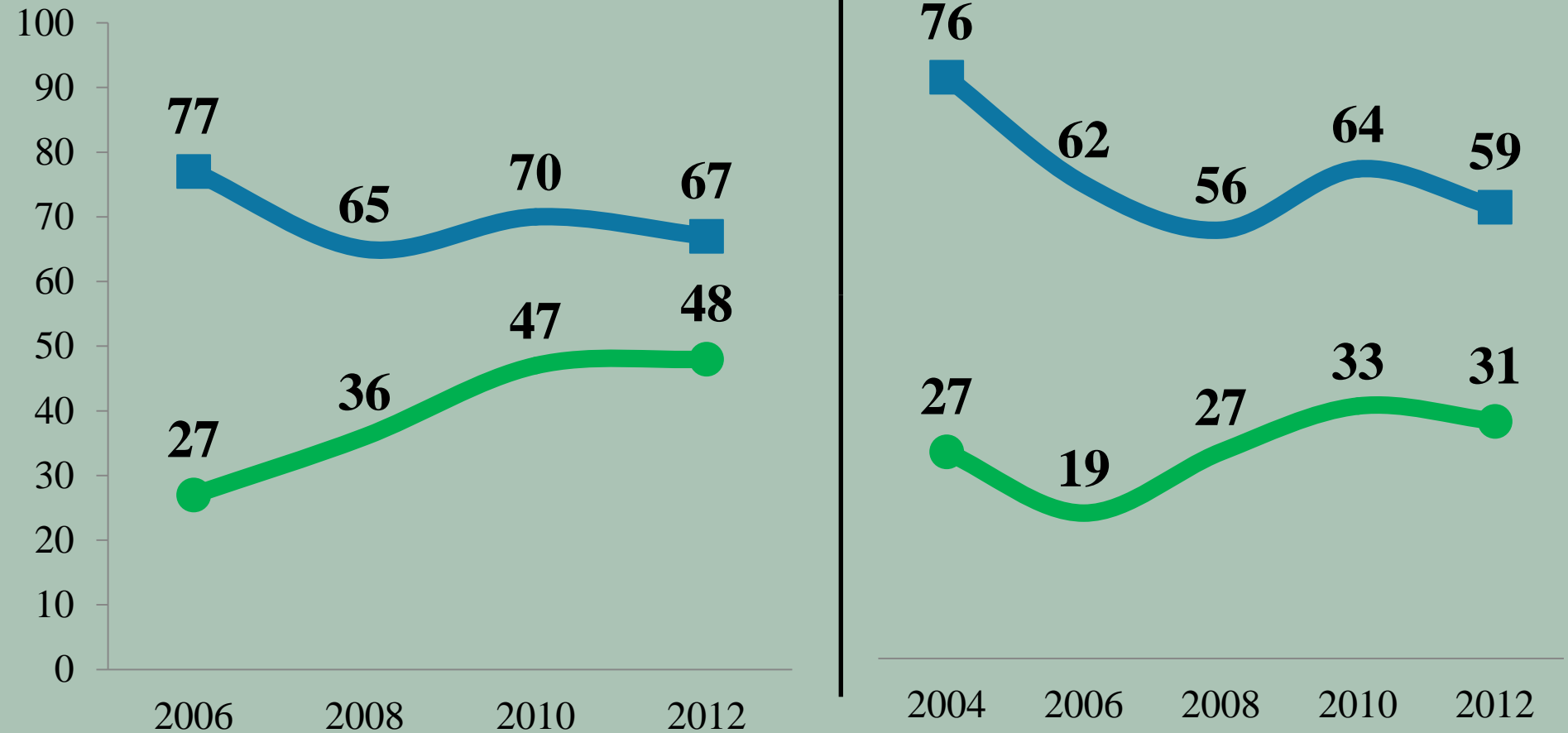
*(% of "yes")*



Public



Leaders



### **3. MEXICAN NATIONALISM AND IDENTITY TINTED BY PRAGMATISM**

# Adherence to National Identity

*What do you most closely identify with...?*  
(%)

*National*

*Local*

*Public*

**64**

34

*North*

**70**

29

*Center*

**69**

29

*South*

35

**63**

*Leaders*

**82**

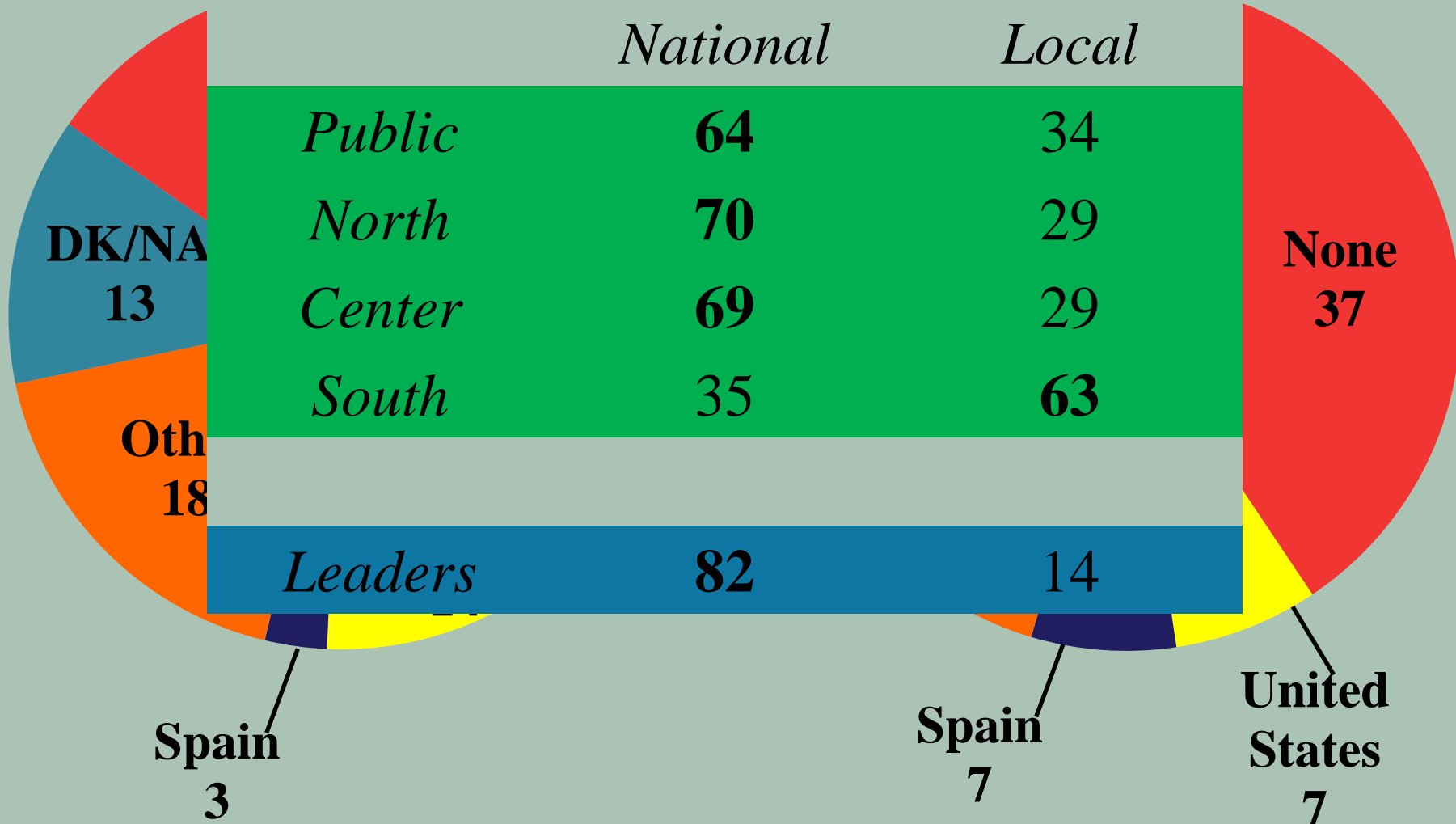
14

**None**  
**37**

**Spain**  
**3**

**Spain**  
**7**

**United States**  
**7**



# Cultural Openness to Foreign Ideas and Customs Reaching its Peak

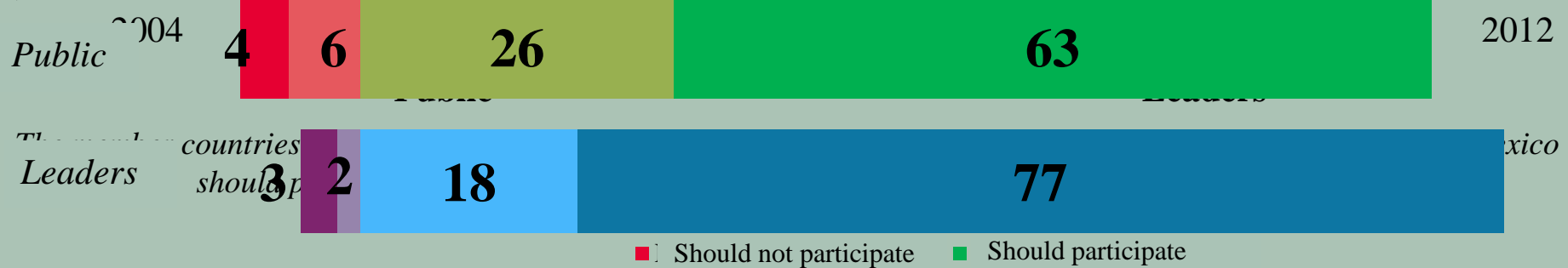
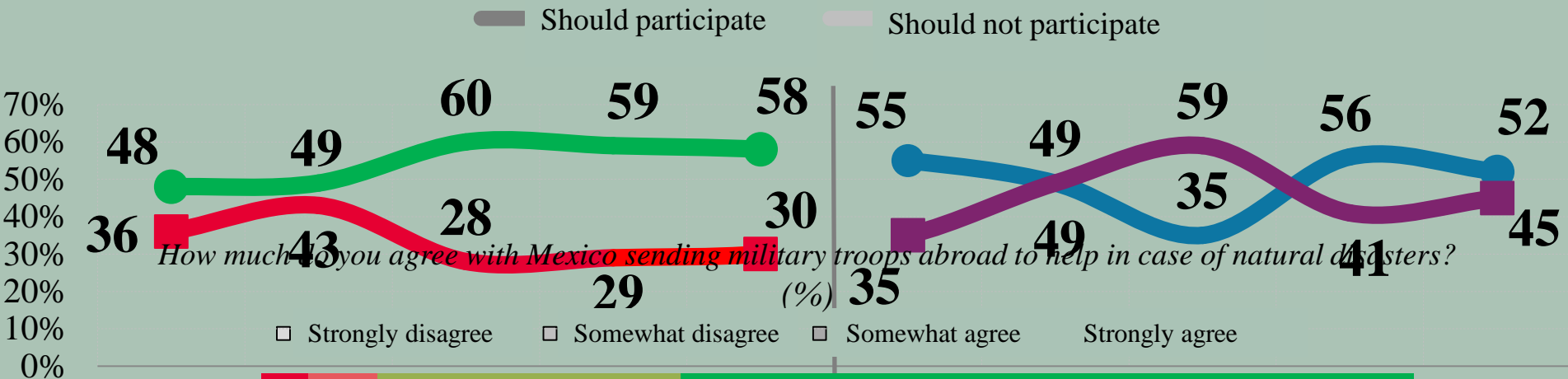
*Do you think is good or bad to disseminate the ideas and customs of other countries in Mexico?*  
(% of “good”)



Does not include percentages of “Bad”, “Depends”, “Don't know” and “No answer”.

# Peacekeeping Operations

*Tell me, if the UN asks member countries to participate in a military or police peacekeeping force, commonly known as blue helmets, being sent to some part of the world, what do you think Mexico should do?*  
(%)



Does not include the percentages of "Don't know" and "No answer".

# BUT...Supranational Identities are not Rooted in Geography

*Tell me, what do you most closely identity with...?*

(%)

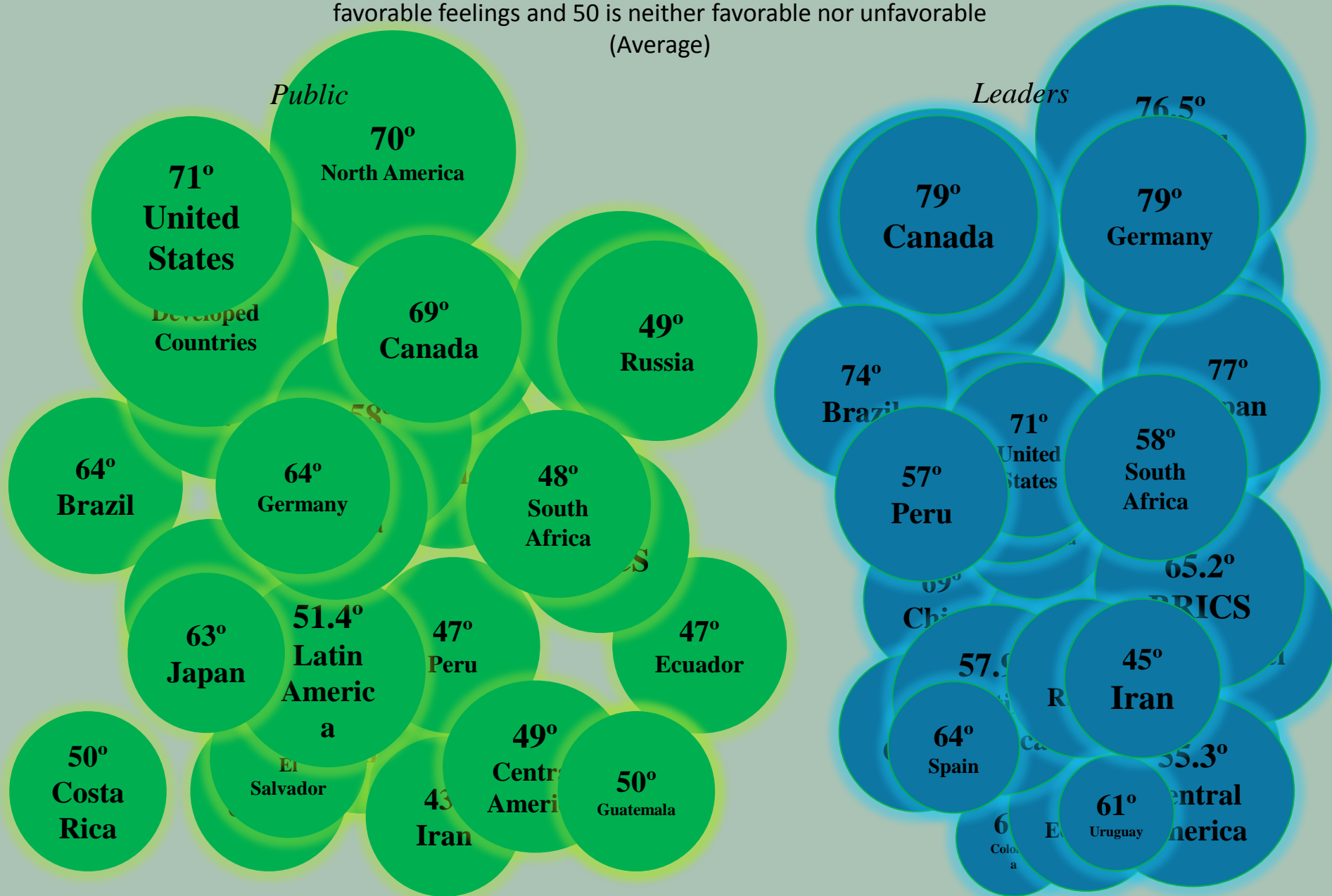


Does not include percentages of "Depends", "Don't know" and "No answer".

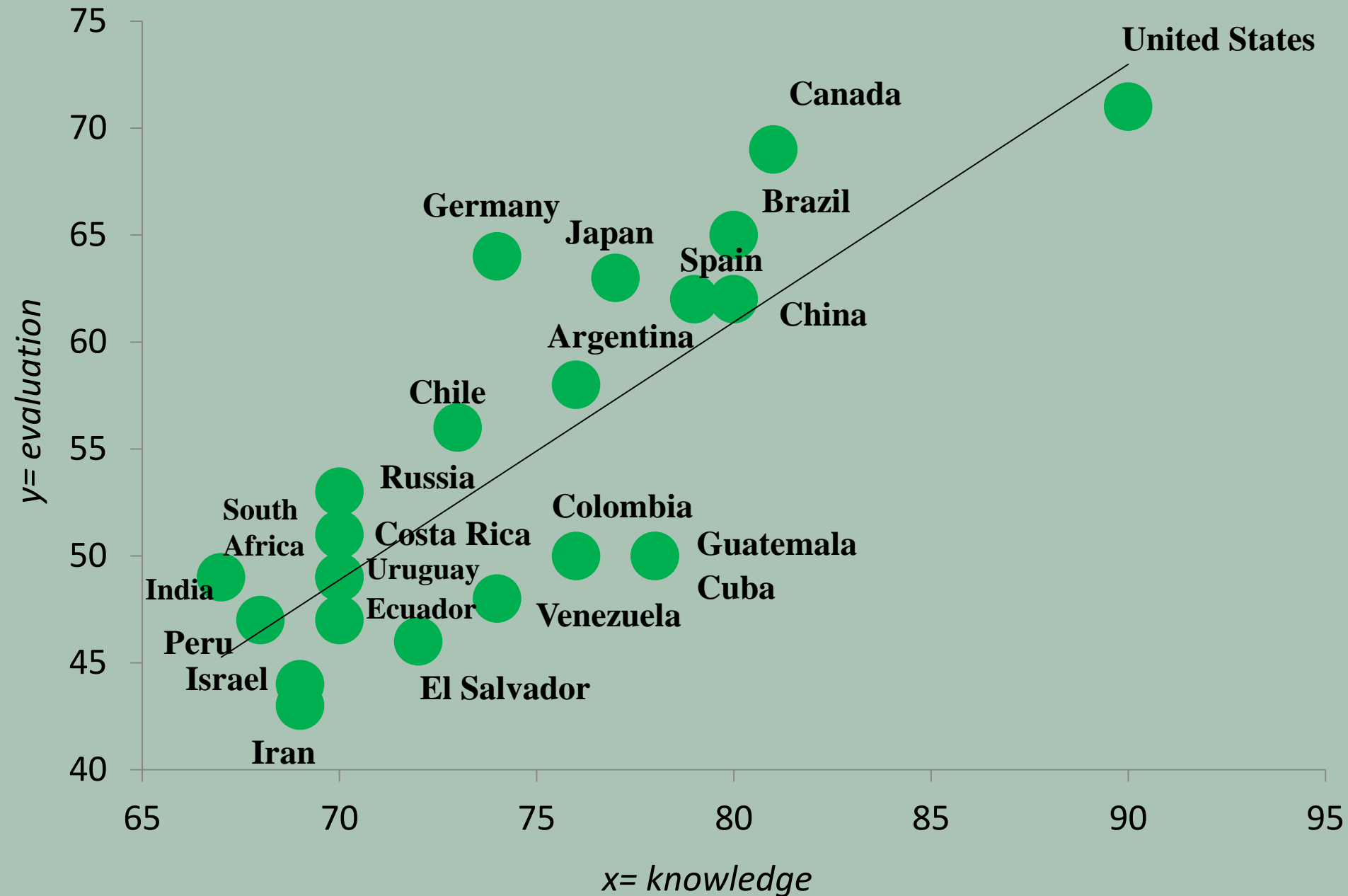
## 4. ALIGNMENTS, SYMPATHIES, ANTIPATHIES

# Evaluation of Countries

Now I would like you to measure your feelings towards some countries; 0 means a very unfavorable feelings, 100 is a very favorable feelings and 50 is neither favorable nor unfavorable  
(Average)



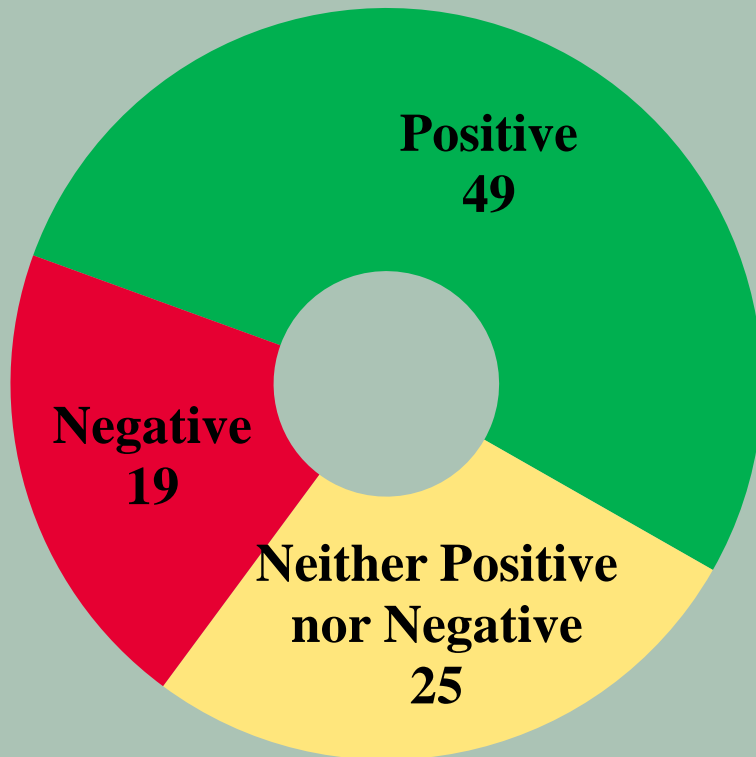
# Relation between Evaluation and Knowledge



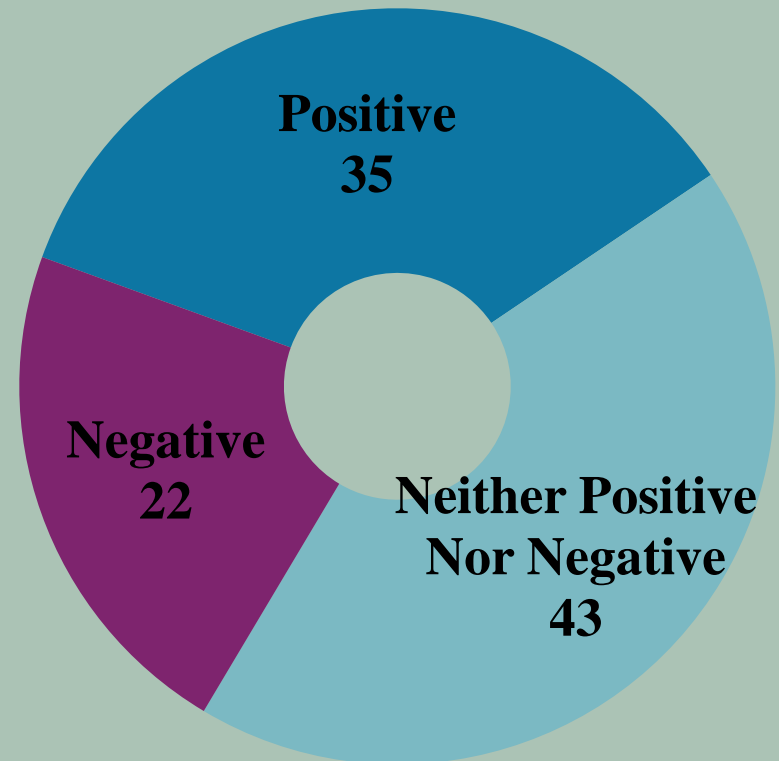
# The Influence of China in Mexico

*In general terms, how do you rate China's influence in Mexico?*  
(%)

**Public**



**Leaders**

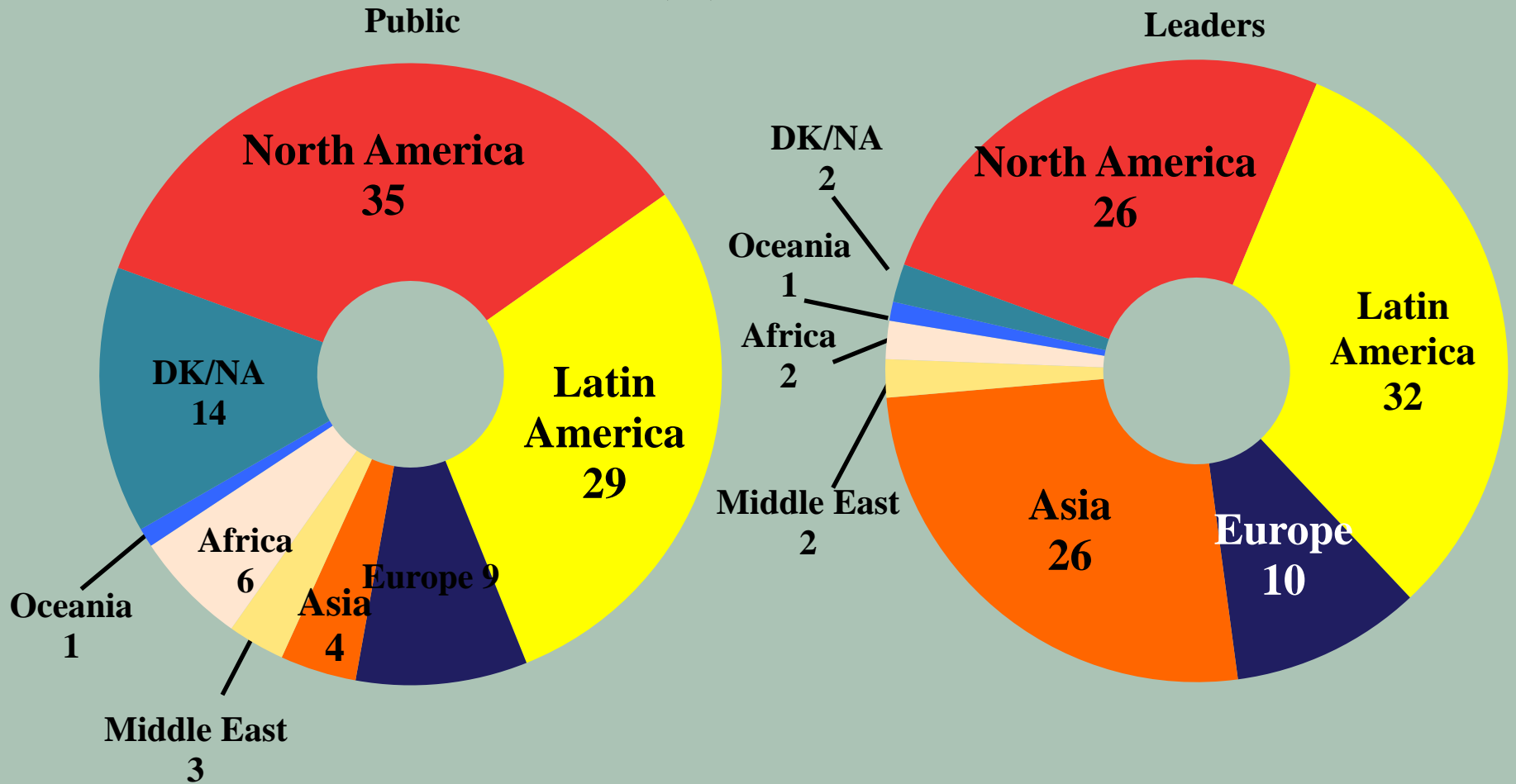


Positive is the sum of "Very positive" and "Positive".  
Negative is the sum of "Very negative" and "Negative".

# Regional Preferences

Tell me, what region of the world should Mexico pay more attention to?

(%)



# US Image has Improved: Feelings towards the United States

*Which of the following words best describes your feelings about the United States?*



# Proximity: Advantage or Problem?

*Tell me, what is more in line with what you think: for Mexico, being a neighbor of the United States/Centro America is more an advantage than a problem or more a problem than an advantage?*  
(%)

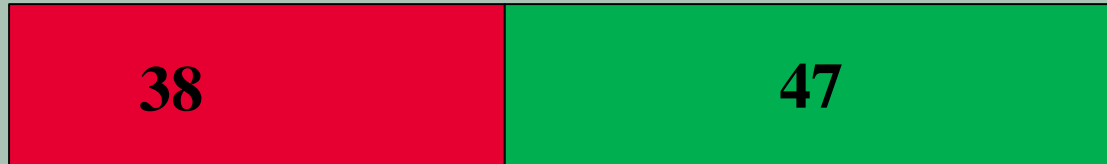
☐ More an advantage than a problem    ☐ More a problem than an advantage

## Public

*United States*

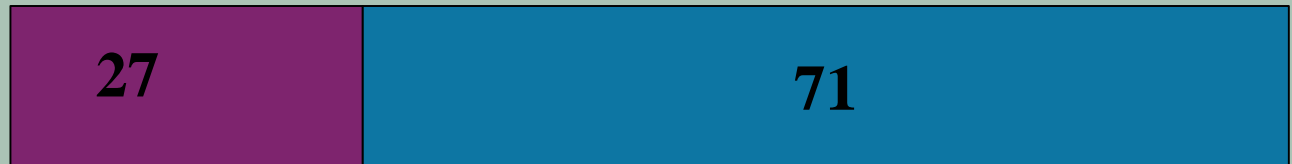


*Central America*

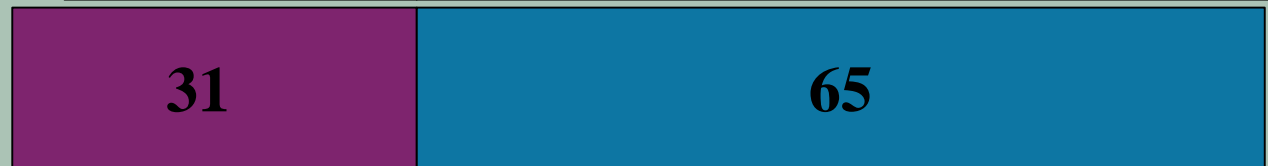


## Leaders

*United States*



*Central America*



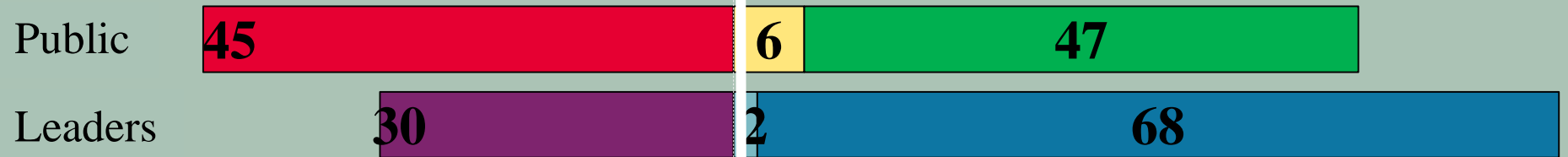
Does not include the percentages of “Don't know” and “No answer”.

# Support for Cooperation with the US on Security Issues

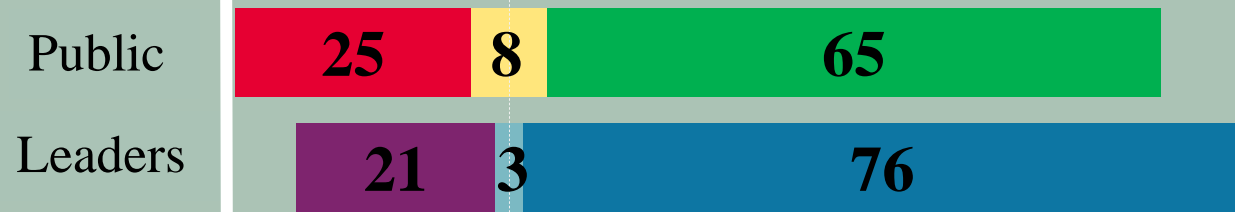
*Are you for or against Mexico's receiving financial aid from the United States to fight drug-trafficking and organized crime?*

(%)

□ Against □ Depends □ In favor



*And if in exchange, the United States asks to supervise the resources?*



*And if in return the United States asks to send agents to operate inside?*



Does not include percentages of "Don't know", and "No answer".

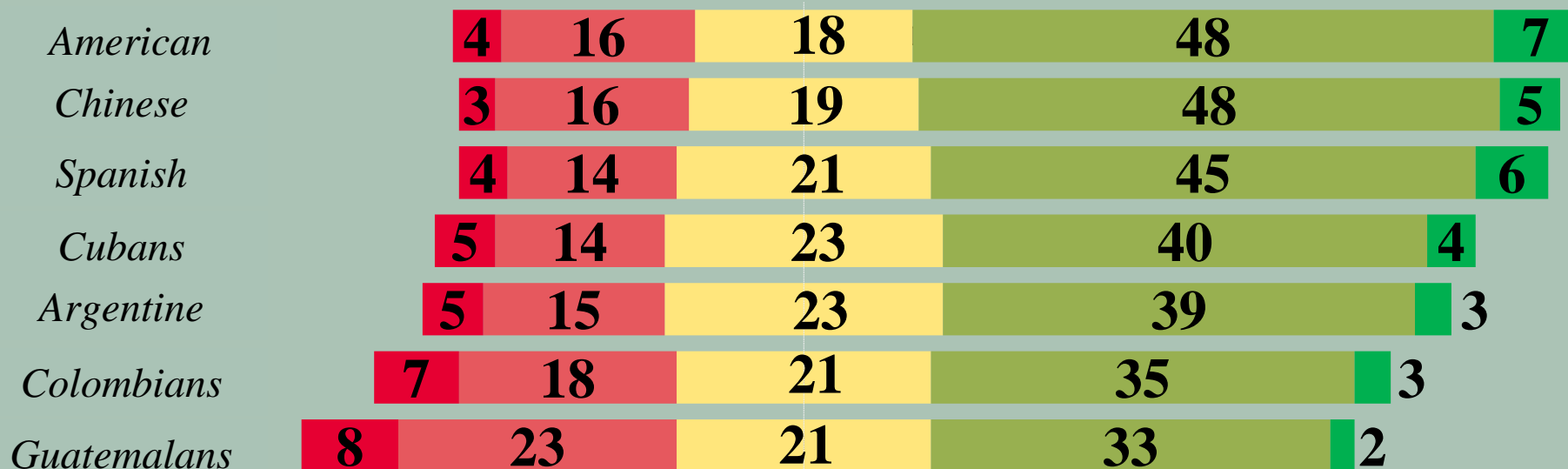
## **5. SOME PARADOXES AND CONTRADICTIONS ABOUT MIGRATION**

# Opinion of Foreigners varies by Origin

*Now, please tell me your opinion regarding the following groups of foreigners who live in Mexico. Is it very good, good, bad or very bad?*

*Public*  
(%)

□ Very bad □ Bad □ Neither □ Good □ Very good



*What is your general impression of Central American migrants in Mexico ?*

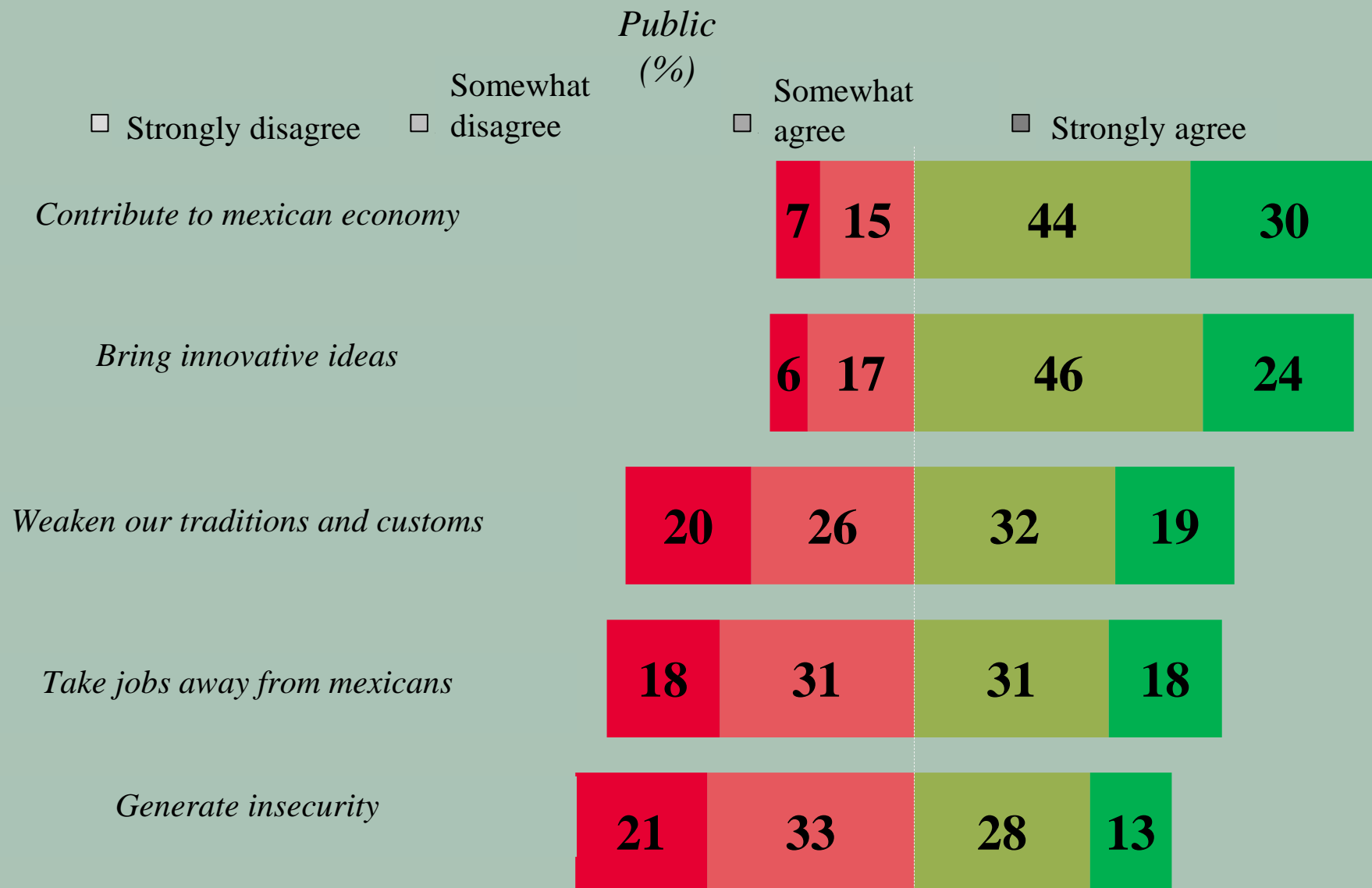
□ Very unfavorable □ Somewhat unfavorable □ Somewhat favorable □ Very favorable



Does not include the percentages of "Don't know" and "No answer".

# Attitudes towards Immigrants varies by Issue

*In general, how much do you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding foreigners living in Mexico? Foreigners who live in Mexico...*



Does not include percentages of “Don’t know”, and “No answer”.

# More Rigths for Mexicans Abroad than for Immigrants in Mexico

*How much do you agree or disagree with foreigners/mexicans who live in Mexico/abroad being allowed to...*

*Public (%)*

□ Strongly disagree

□ Somewhat disagree

□ Somewhat agree

□ Strongly agree

## Have access to public education

*Mexicans*

1

4

29

65

*Foreigners*

2

6

41

50

## Get a job under the same conditions as local citizens

*Mexicans*

1

6

27

65

*Foreigners*

4

10

40

44

## Bring their family to live with them

*Mexicans*

5

10

34

50

*Foreigners*

5

10

46

38

## Voting in the country of residence

*Mexicans*

9

13

29

45

*Foreigners*

19

18

31

30

Does not include percentages of "Don't know", and "No answer".

# Actions Against Undocumented Immigration

*And regardin the undocumented immigrants who come into Mexico, how much do you agree or disagree with each of the following measures that the Mexican government should take?*

(%)

□ Strongly disagree    □ Somewhat disagree    □ Somewhat agree    □ Strongly agree

## Having a temporary workers program



## Increasing border controls



## Deporting them to their country of origin



## Allowing them to enter without obstacles



## Building walls along the borders



Does not include percentages of "Don't know", and "No answer".

# Main Lessons

- Generally positive on liberalization ...
- ... except for oil
- Heart in Latin America, heads in North America
- Generally welcoming ...
- ... Latin Americans are worst evaluated
- Demand more for conationals abroad than willing to give immigrants in Mexico

## Notes on Methodology for the Public

<b>Target Population</b>	<i>Mexicans 18 years of age or older, living within the national territory</i>
<b>Sample Size</b>	<i>2,400 people</i>
<b>Data Collection Method</b>	<i>Face-to-face interviews conducted in the respondent's private home</i>
<b>Sampling Error</b>	<i>+/- 2.0% for the entire sample</i>
<b>Survey Date</b>	<i>August 18th to September 20th, 2012</i>

## Notes on Methodology for Leaders

<b>Target Population</b>	<i>Mexican Leaders with managerial or administrative positions in five sectors: governmental, political, private sector, media and academia, and Social, Civic and Non-Profit.</i>
<b>Sample Size</b>	<i>535 people</i>
<b>Data Collection Method</b>	<i>Personal interviews by telephone</i>
<b>Sampling Error</b>	<i>+/- 4.4% or the entire sample</i>
<b>Survey Date</b>	<i>July 16th to Oct 31th, 2012</i>