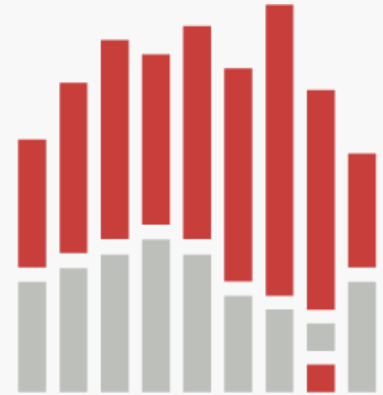

The Impact of the Global Financial Crisis on Australian Workers: Tracking Survey

Research report prepared for



October 2009

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Auspoll



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Introduction



Introduction

- This report presents the results of four questions tracking the attitudes of the Australian population. These questions aim to measure the level of concern about the Australian economy and working conditions, and were first asked as part of a larger AWU survey in January 2009.
- The two sets of questions were asked in separate surveys conducted online. The survey containing the first two questions (concern about the economy and expected impact on workers) was conducted between 6th - 8th October 2009 and that containing the second two questions (confidence in finding another job and government actions to save jobs) was conducted between 20th – 22nd October 2009.
- The overall sample size was 1500 for the first two questions and 1520 for the second two. Both samples were segmented and weighted to be nationally representative of Australia's working population by gender, age, location and family status (i.e. single/co-habiting, with kids/without kids).
- The accuracy of the results at an overall level is +/-2.5% at the 95% confidence interval. This means, for example, that if the survey returns a result of 50%, there will be a 95% chance that the actual result will be between 47.5% and 52.5%.
- Note: All percentage figures in this report are rounded. Accordingly, totals may not add up to 100%.



Executive Summary





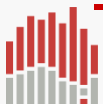
Levels of concern in the current economic climate are high, but have fallen since January

Australian workers are still concerned about the local economy, but less so than in January

- Concern about the state of the economy is still widespread across Australia, with around two thirds of Australians (67%) confirming this sentiment.
- However, the proportion of Australians concerned about the economy has fallen since January. In January, 77% were concerned about the economy.
- Women remain more concerned about the economy than men. 72% of women are concerned about the economy, but only 61% of men feel the same. In January, the figures were 80% of women and 74% of men.

Australian workers still have some concern about the impact of the financial crisis on their work

- Up to two fifths of Australians have some concern that their employment will be affected by the crisis.
- For example, around 4 out of 10 Australians are concerned that in the next 12 months they will face:
 - Reduced pay (44%),
 - Increased workload as a result of reduced staffing levels (40%), or
 - The loss of their job (40%)
- In January, the figures were 42%, 45% and 41%.
- **However, fewer people are very concerned compared to January**
- While total levels of concern are similar to January, the numbers who are *very* concerned are smaller.
- Most dramatically, 17% were very concerned about increased workload as a result of reduced staffing levels, down from 32% in January.
- 16% were very concerned about an unwanted reduction in working hours. This is down from 26% in January.





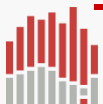
Concerns about finding another job and the need for government spending have remained constant since January

Australian workers are confident they could find another job, but not necessarily one that pays the same

- A majority (51%) of Australians are confident that they if they lost their job they could find another one.
- However, they are not as sure that they could find a similar job with equivalent pay and benefits, with only 41% saying they are confident of this.
- A greater number of people have become unsure about this question since January. Fewer people are saying they are confident, but fewer are also saying they are less confident.
- Older respondents are less confident than younger respondents. 55% of respondents under 30 are confident they could find another job, but only 34% of respondents aged 55 and over.

Australians still want the government to act to save Australian jobs

- A majority of Australians still support government action to maintain Australian jobs. 51% believe the government should spend money to support jobs even if it sends the budget into deficit. 79% believe the government should fund initiatives to encourage consumers to buy Australian, and 77% believe the government should support jobs by increasing funding for infrastructure projects.
- Support for these policies has remained roughly constant since January.
- There are no significant differences between metro and regional respondents.
- However, there are some gaps between the oldest and youngest categories of respondents, with under 30s being much more likely than over 55s to say they would relocate if they were offered assistance to do so (58% vs 40%).

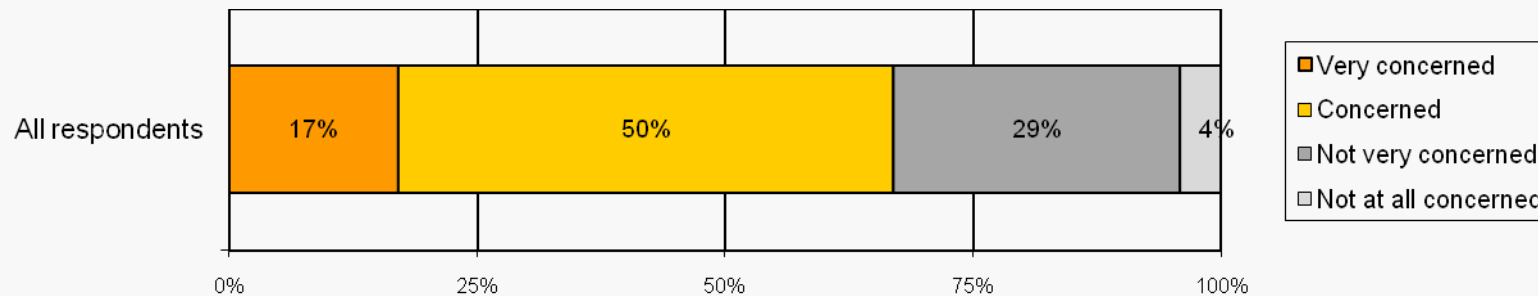
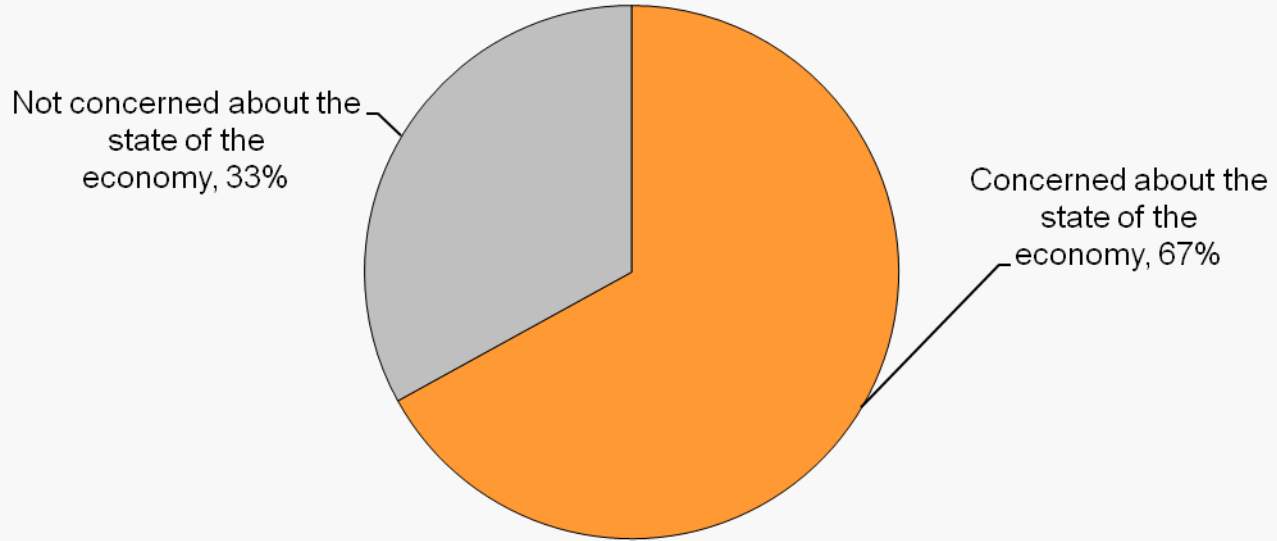


Level of concern and personal experiences in the current economic crisis



A large majority of Australians are still concerned about the state of the economy

All respondents - October

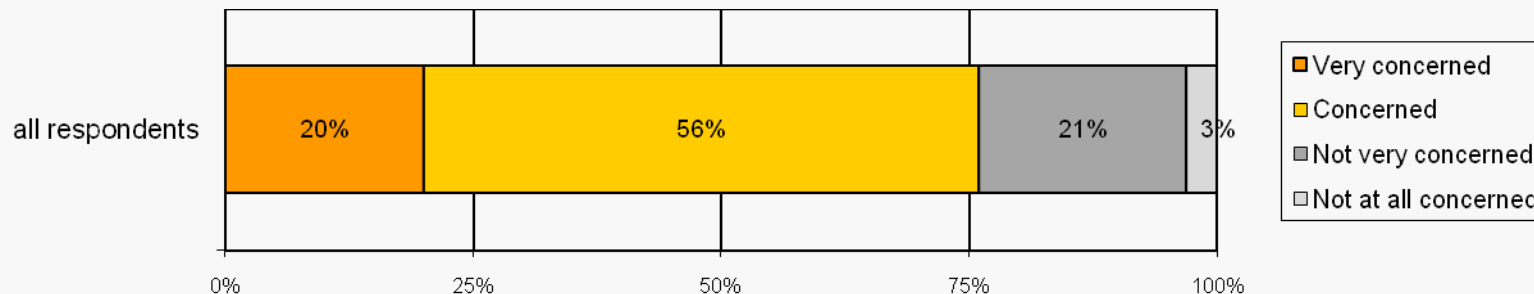
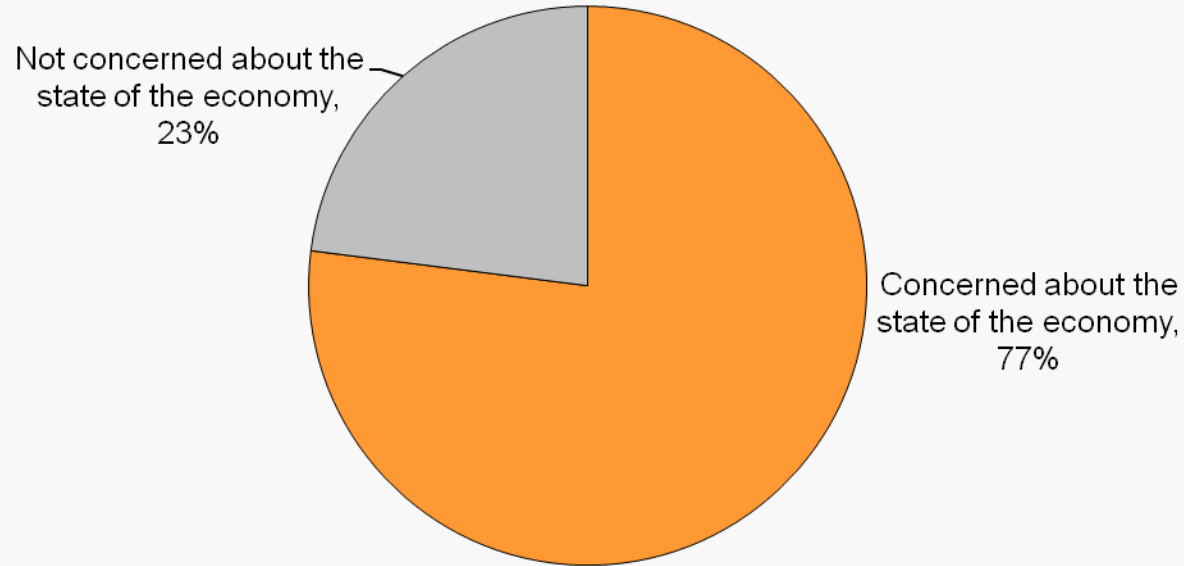


■ Around two thirds of respondents (67%) are concerned about the state of the Australian economy, and this result is reasonably consistent across all sub segments. Although only 17% are very concerned, half (50%) are concerned at some level.



However, Australians were more concerned about the state of the economy in January

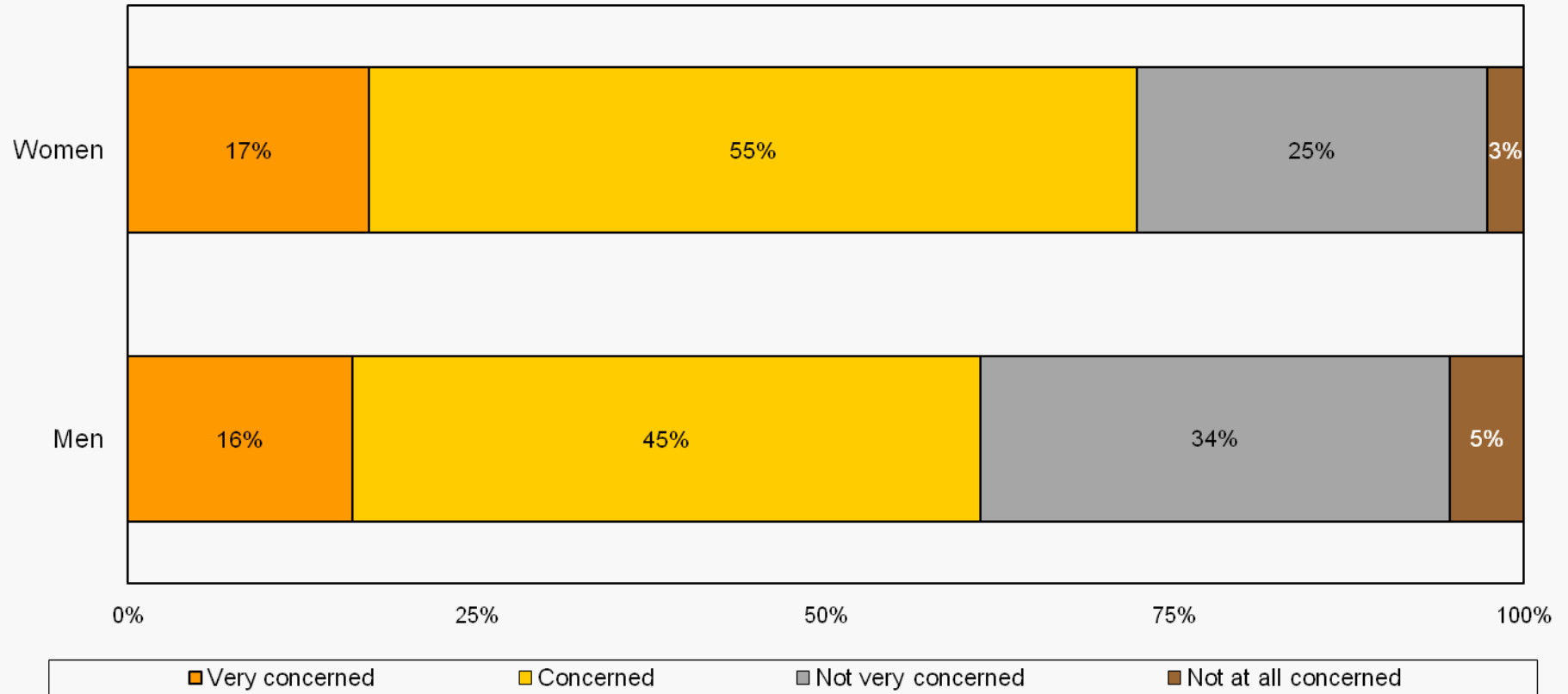
All respondents - January



■ **Around three quarters of respondents (77%) were concerned about the state of the Australian economy in January**, and this result is reasonably consistent across all sub segments. Although only 20% are very concerned, more than half (56%) are at least concerned at some level.

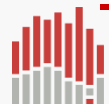
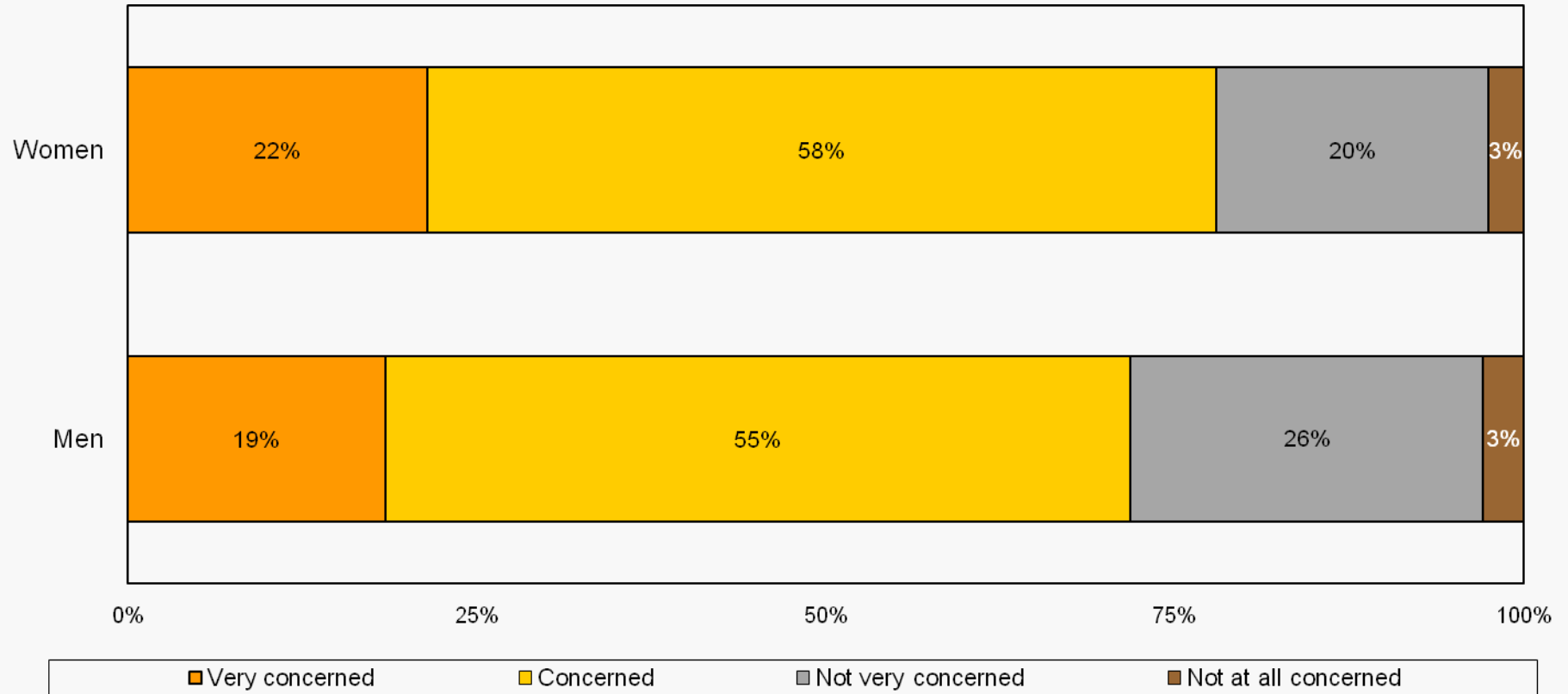


Women are more concerned about the economy than men





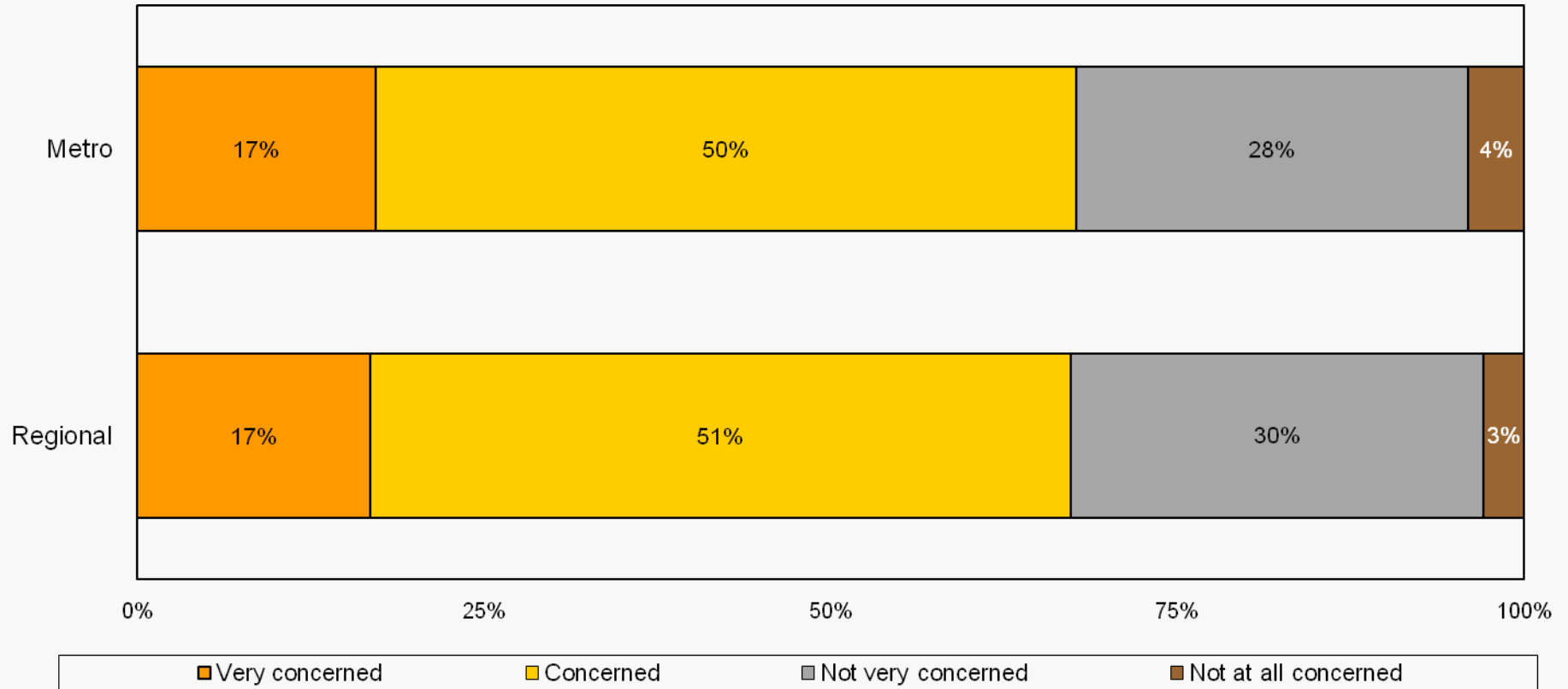
Women were also more concerned about the economy than men in January





Concern about the economy is almost equal in metropolitan and regional areas

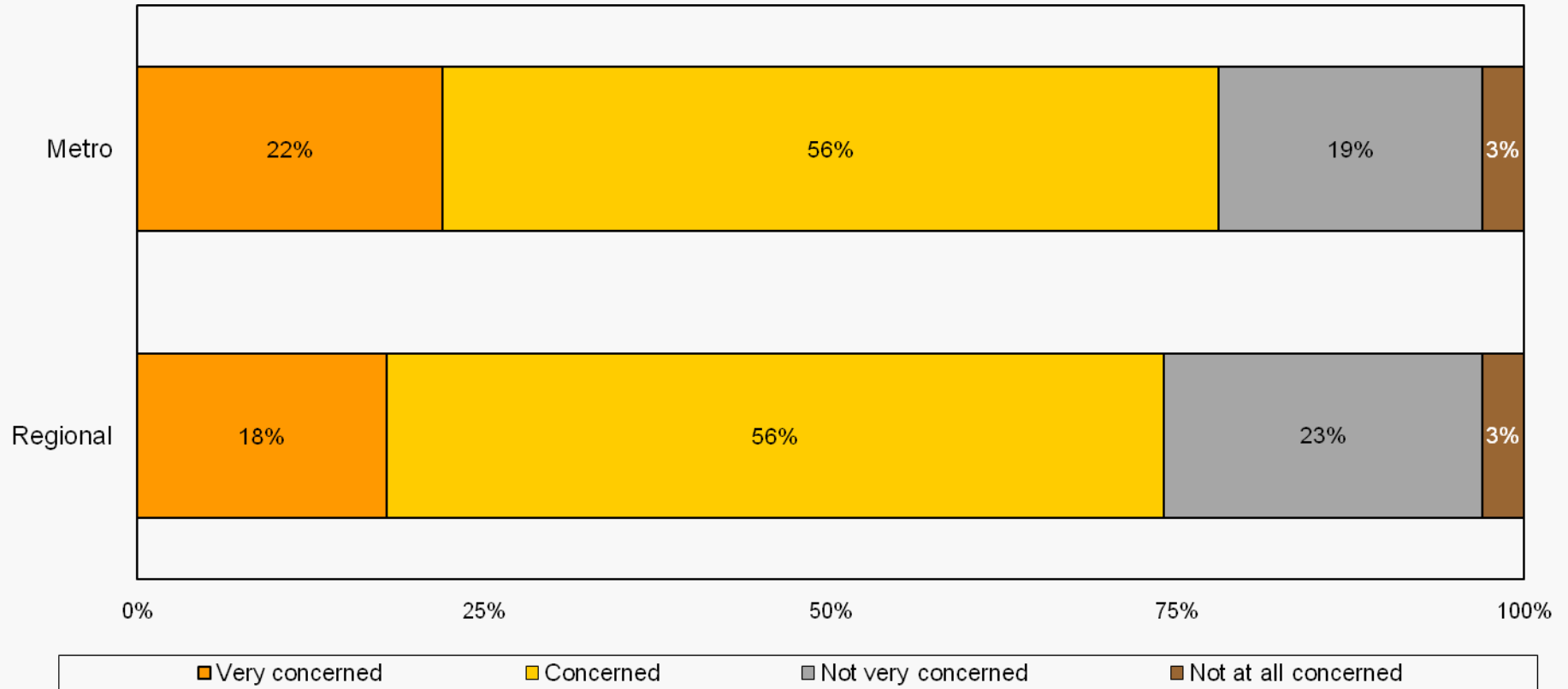
All respondents - October





In January metropolitan areas were slightly more concerned

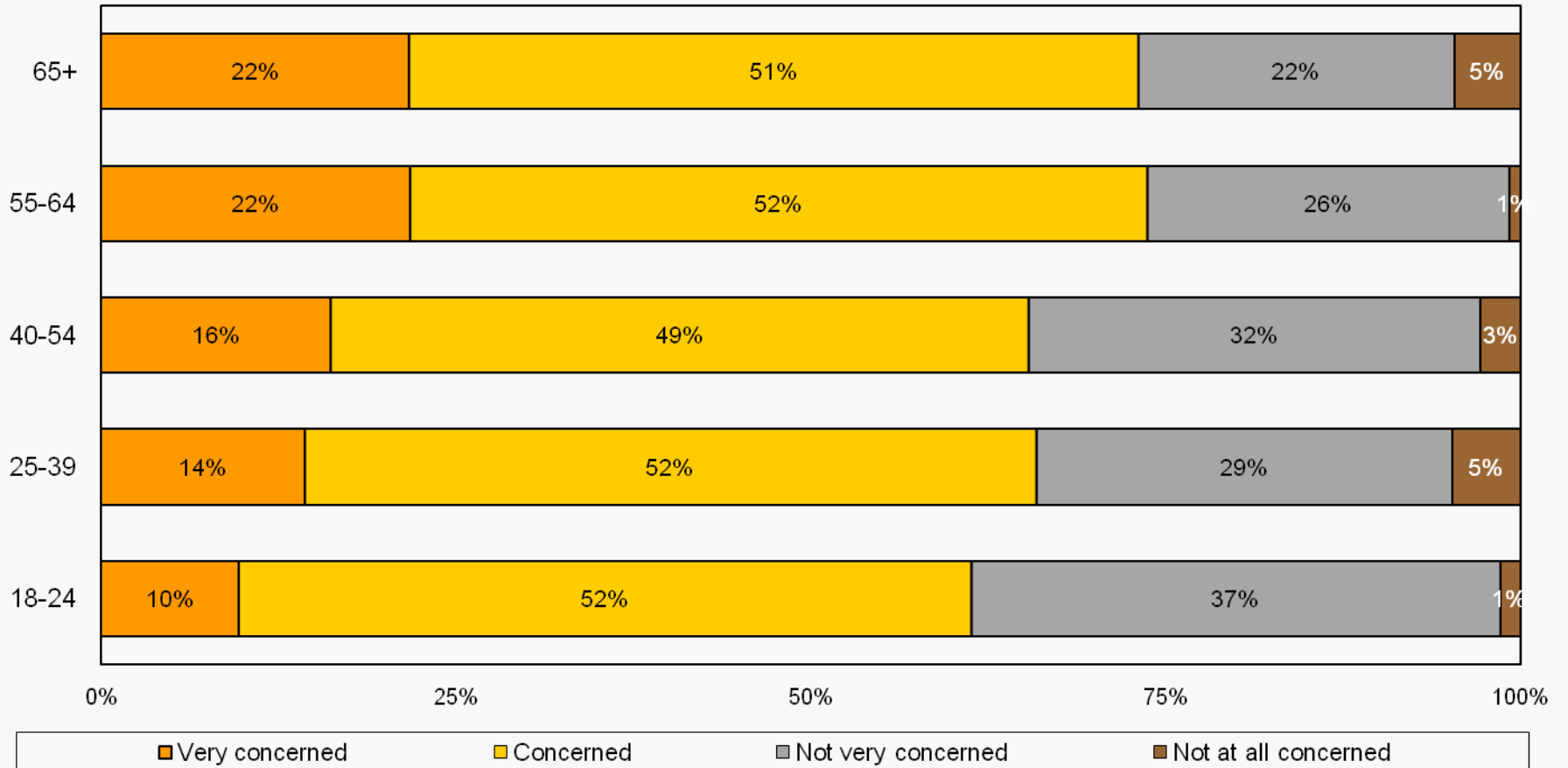
All respondents - January





Older people are more concerned about the economy

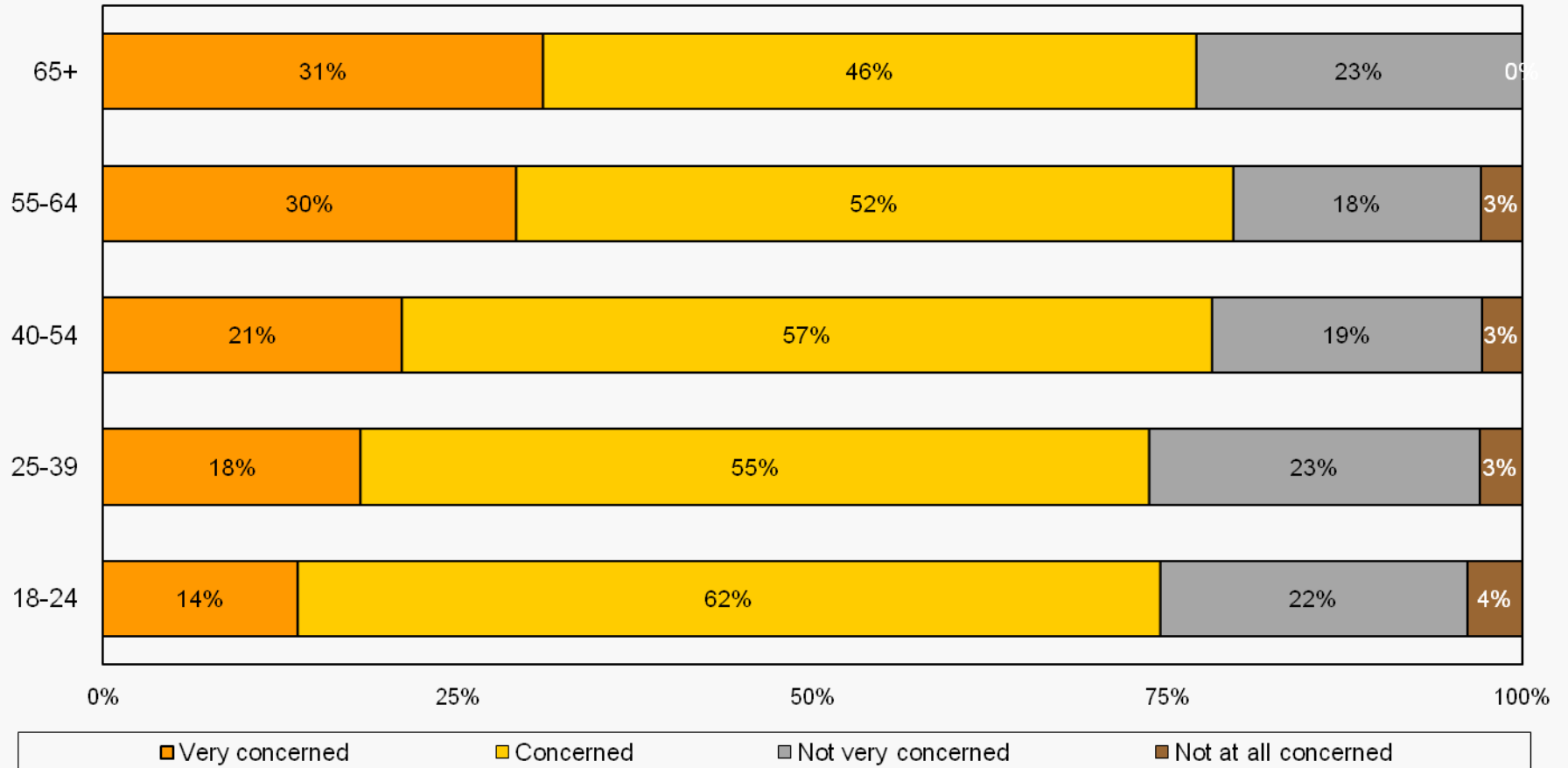
All respondents - October





This was also the case in January

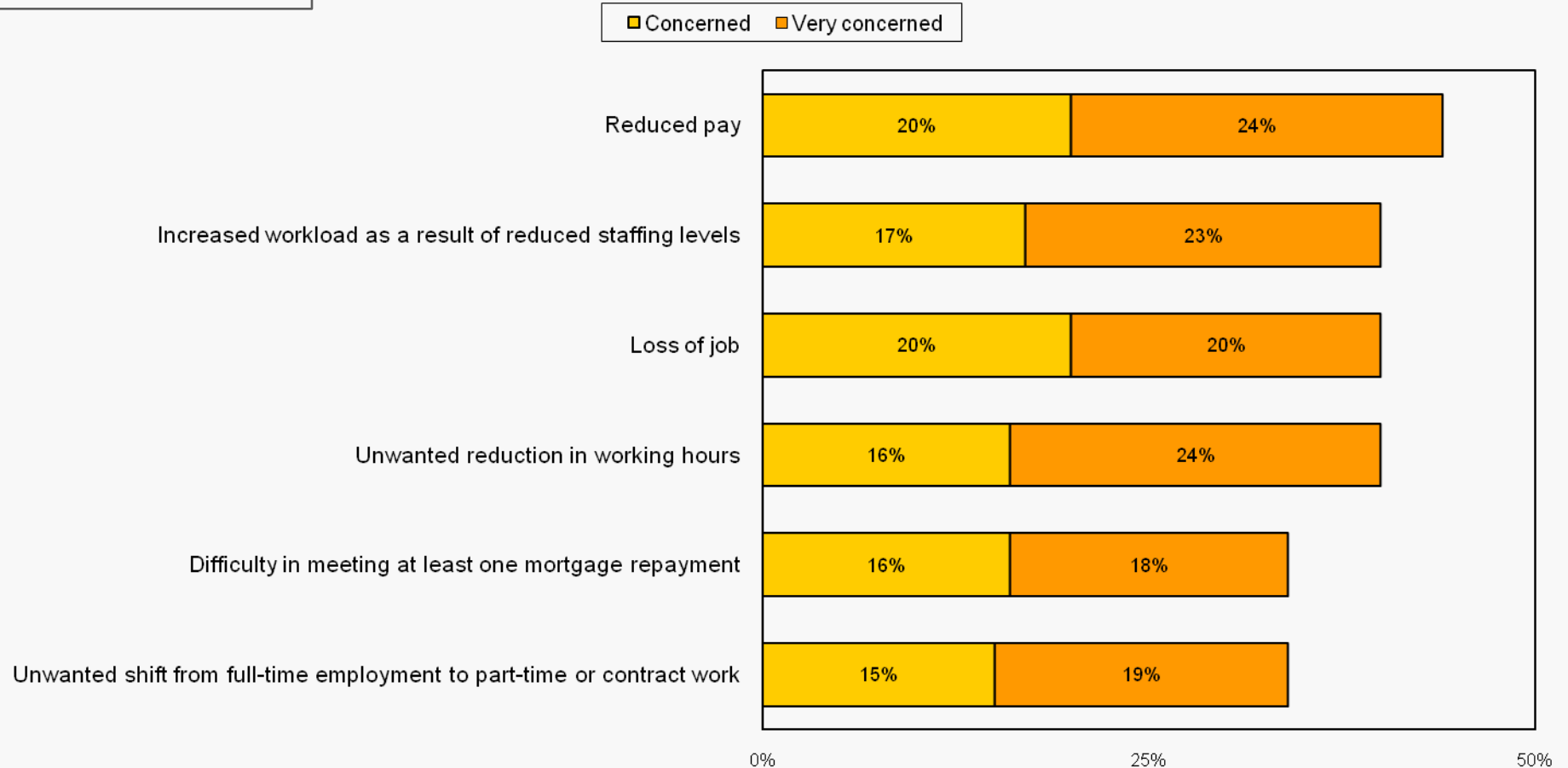
All respondents - January





Expected impacts on workers in the next 12 months

All respondents - October

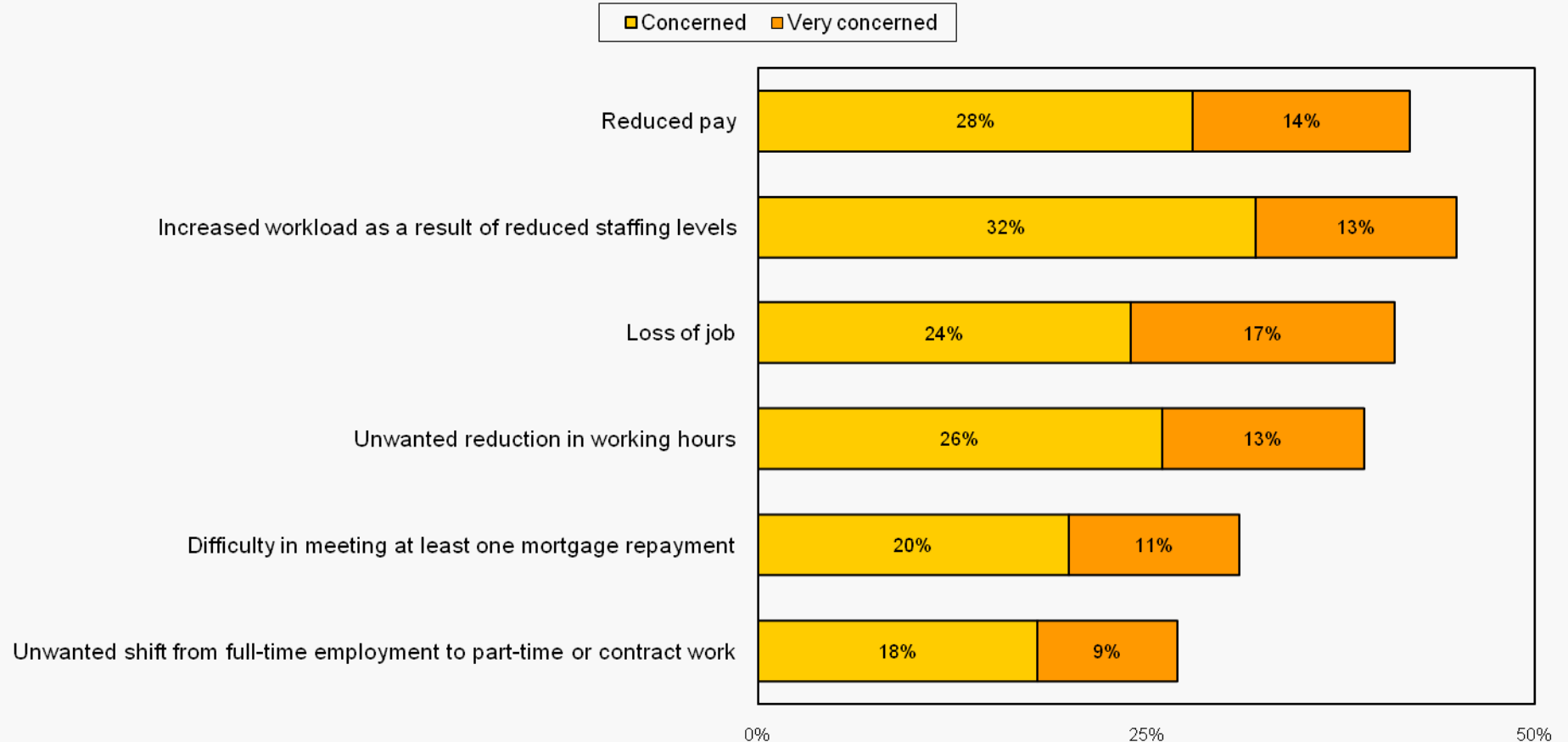


There are significant levels of concern about negative impacts during the next 12 months, particularly around increased workloads (45%), reduced pay (42%) and loss of job (41%). Worries about loss of job and reduced pay have the highest numbers of people who are very concerned (20%).

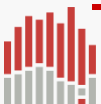


More people were *very* concerned about these impacts in January

All respondents - January



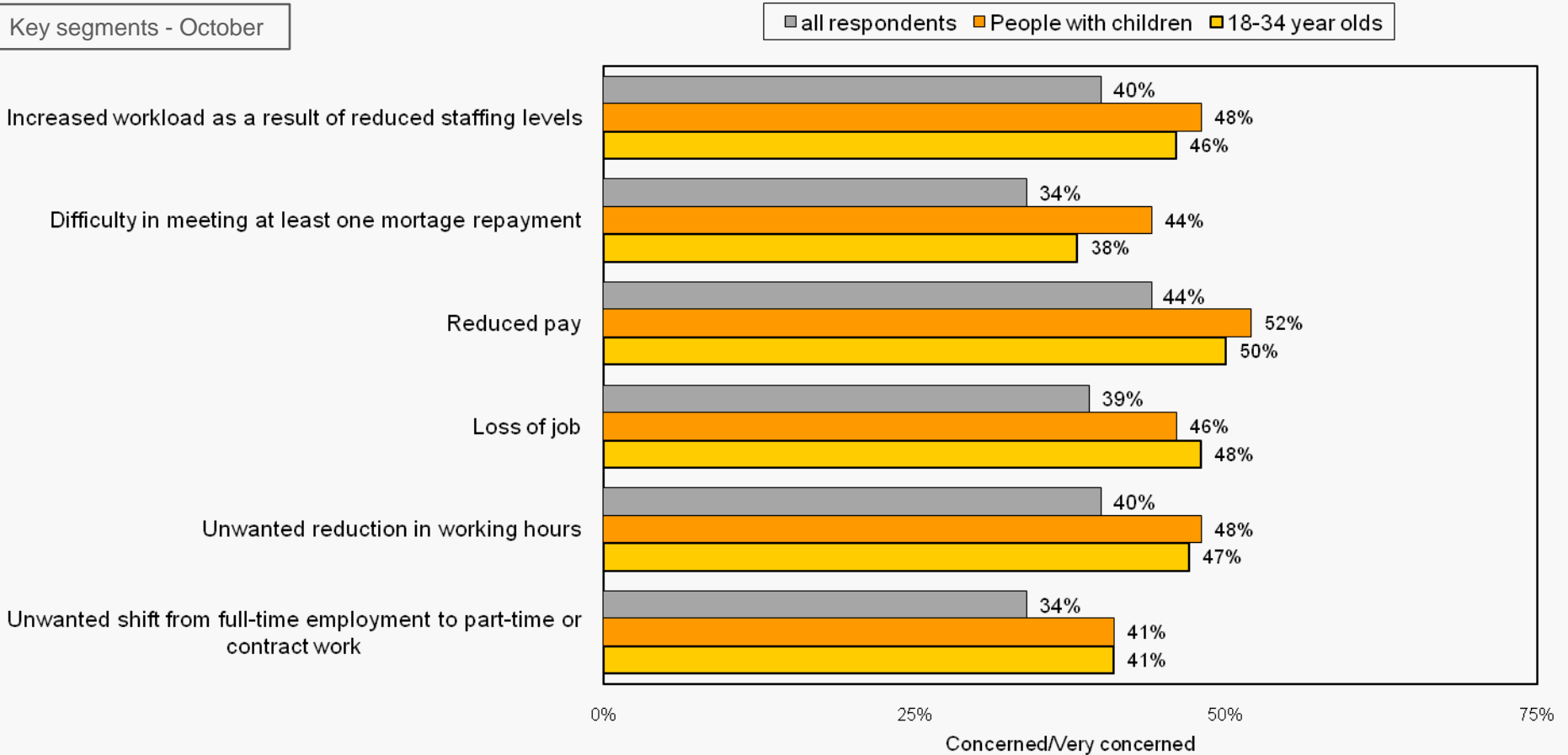
▪ In January there were significant levels of concern about negative impacts arising during the next 12 months, particularly around increased workloads (45%), reduced pay (42%) and loss of job (41%). Worries about job loss showed the highest numbers of people who were very concerned (17%).





18 to 34 year olds and people with children in the household are most concerned about these impacts

Key segments - October

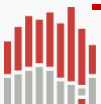
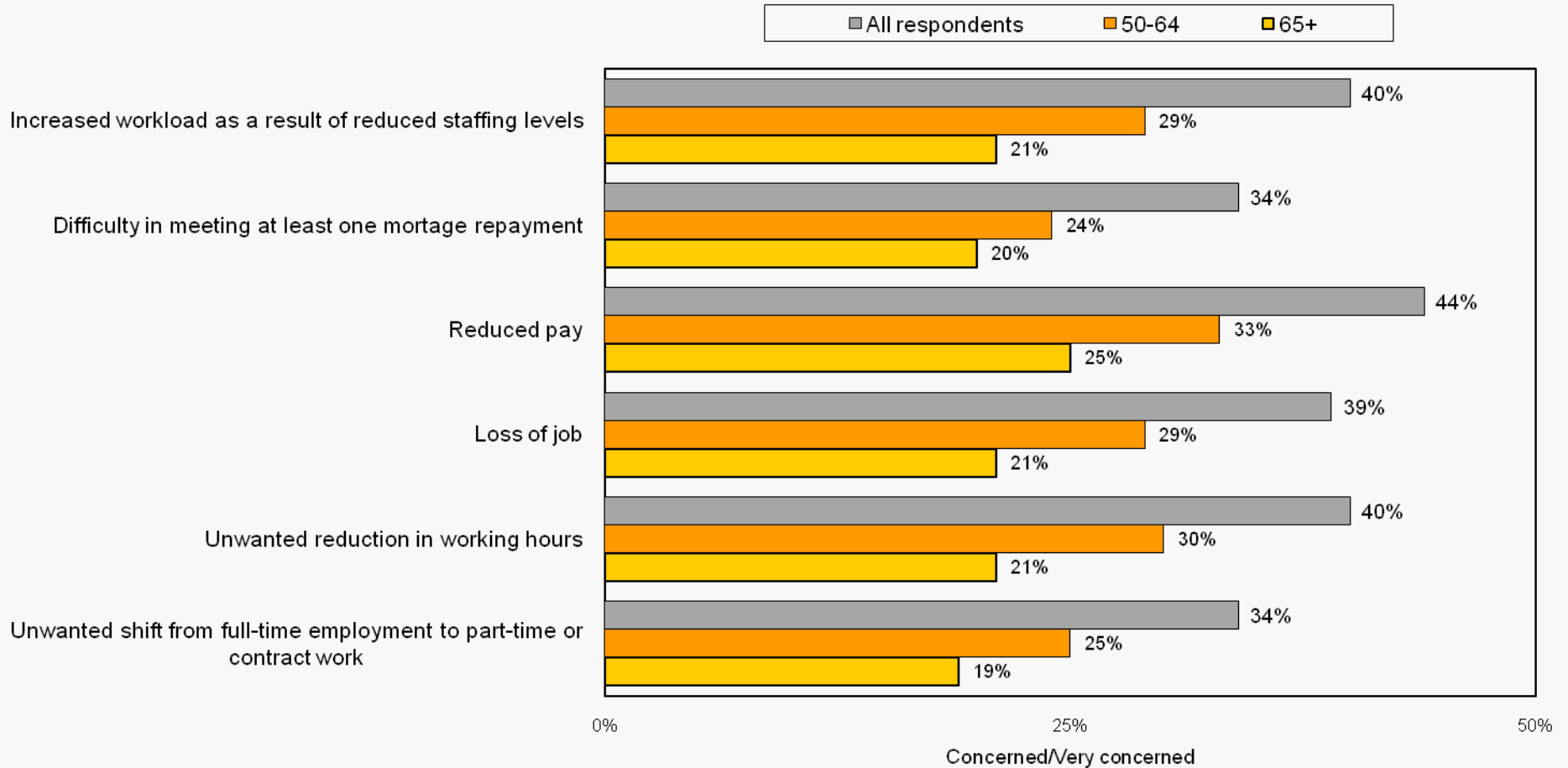


■ People with children and 18-34 year old Australians show the highest levels of concern about negative impacts arising during the next 12 months, particularly around unwanted reduction in working hours, reduction in pay and loss of job.



Older respondents are much less concerned about these impacts (largely because they are less likely to work)

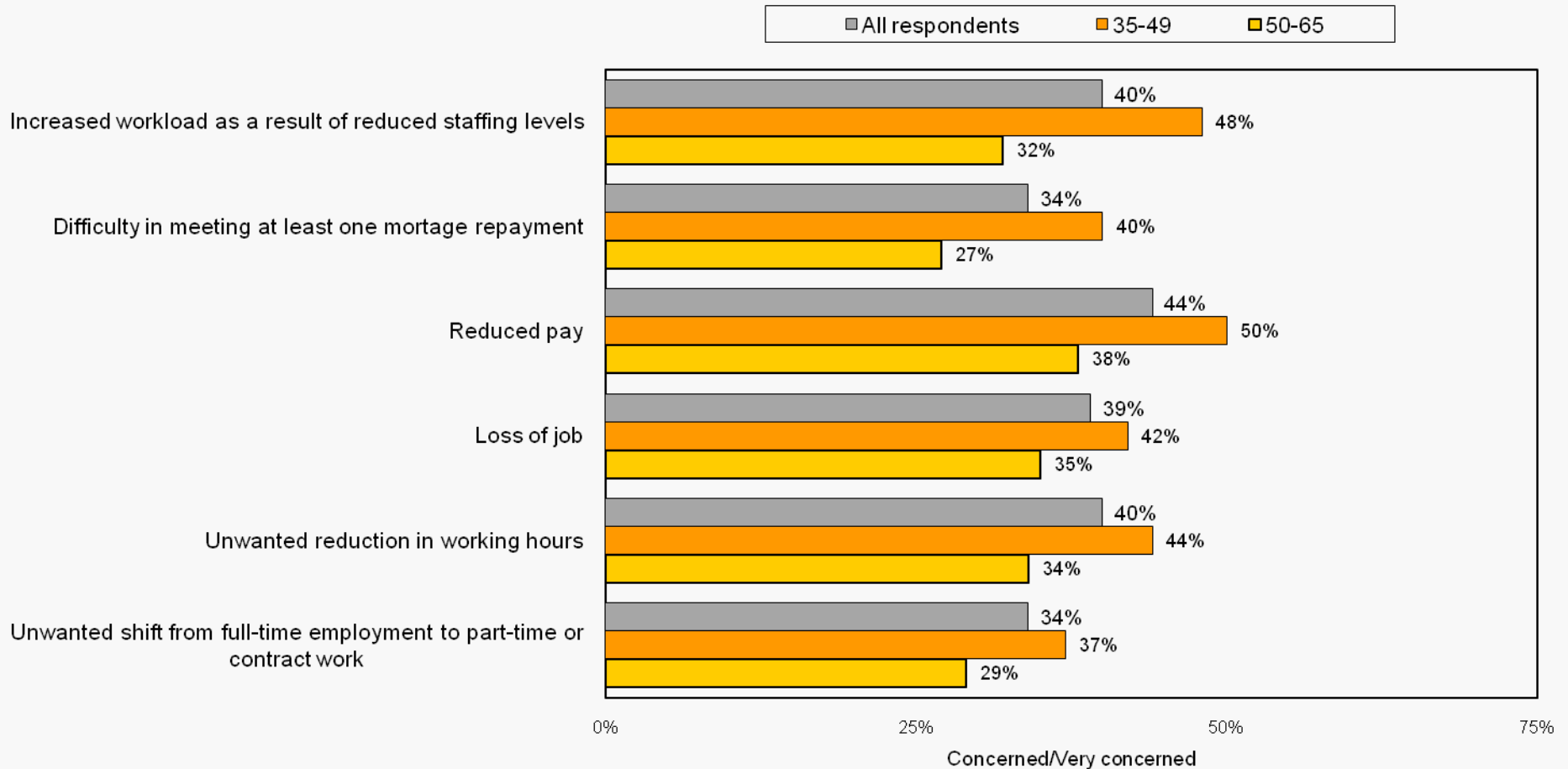
Key segments - October





Other age groups: people over 50 are less concerned, people between 35 and 50 are more concerned

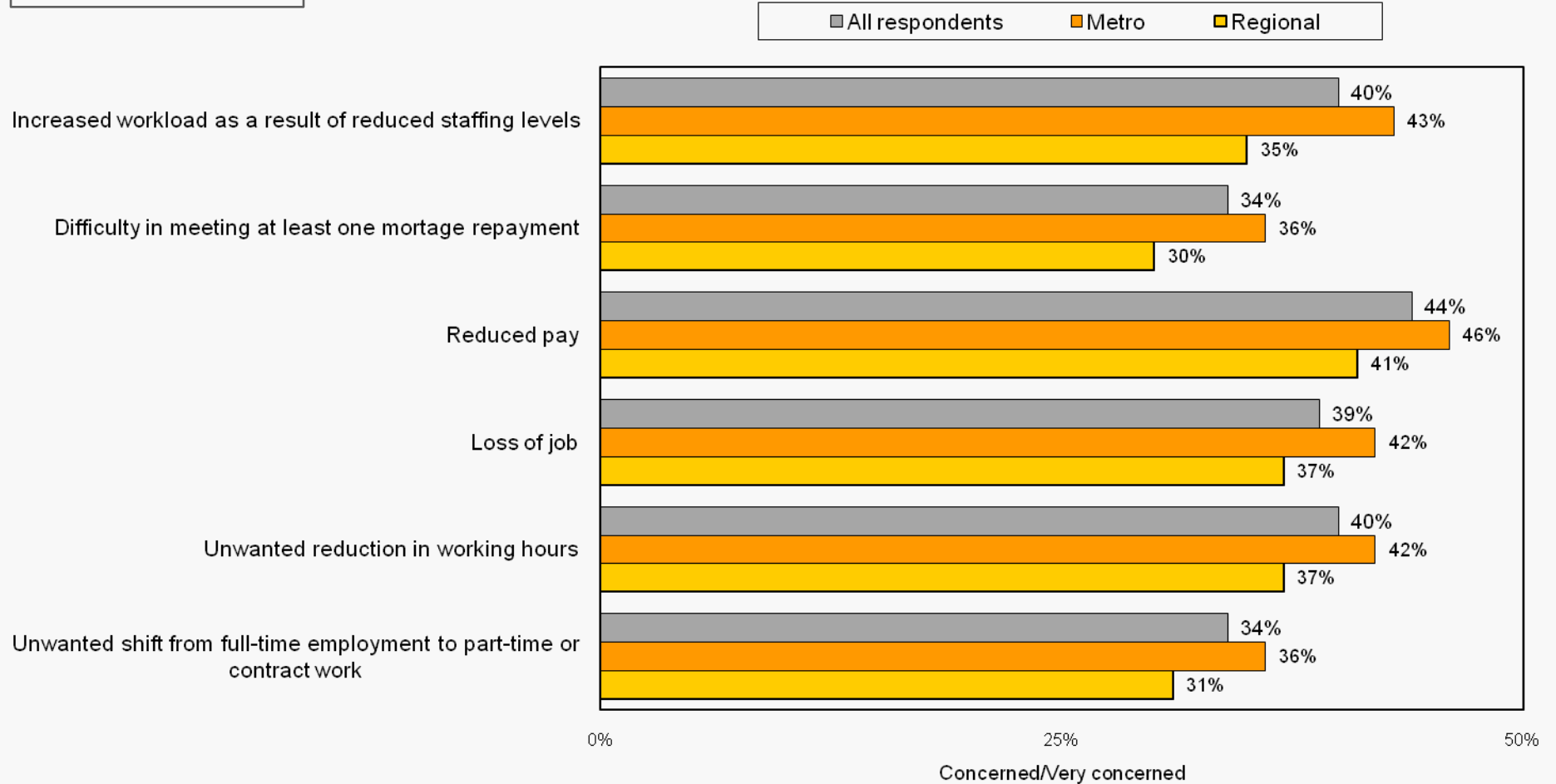
Key segments - October





Australians living in capital cities are somewhat more likely to be concerned about these impacts

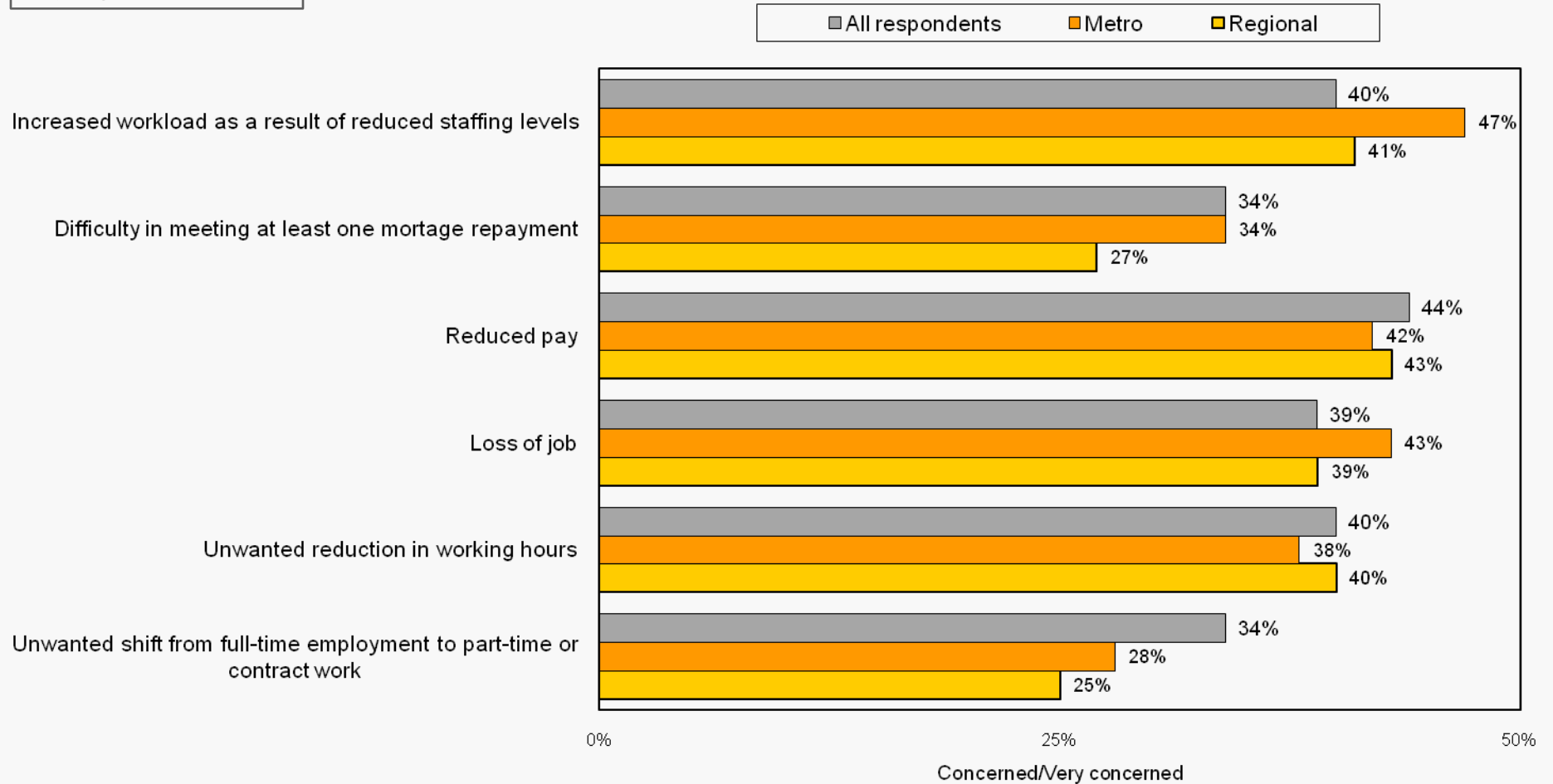
Key segments - October





The gap was more narrow in January

Key segments - January

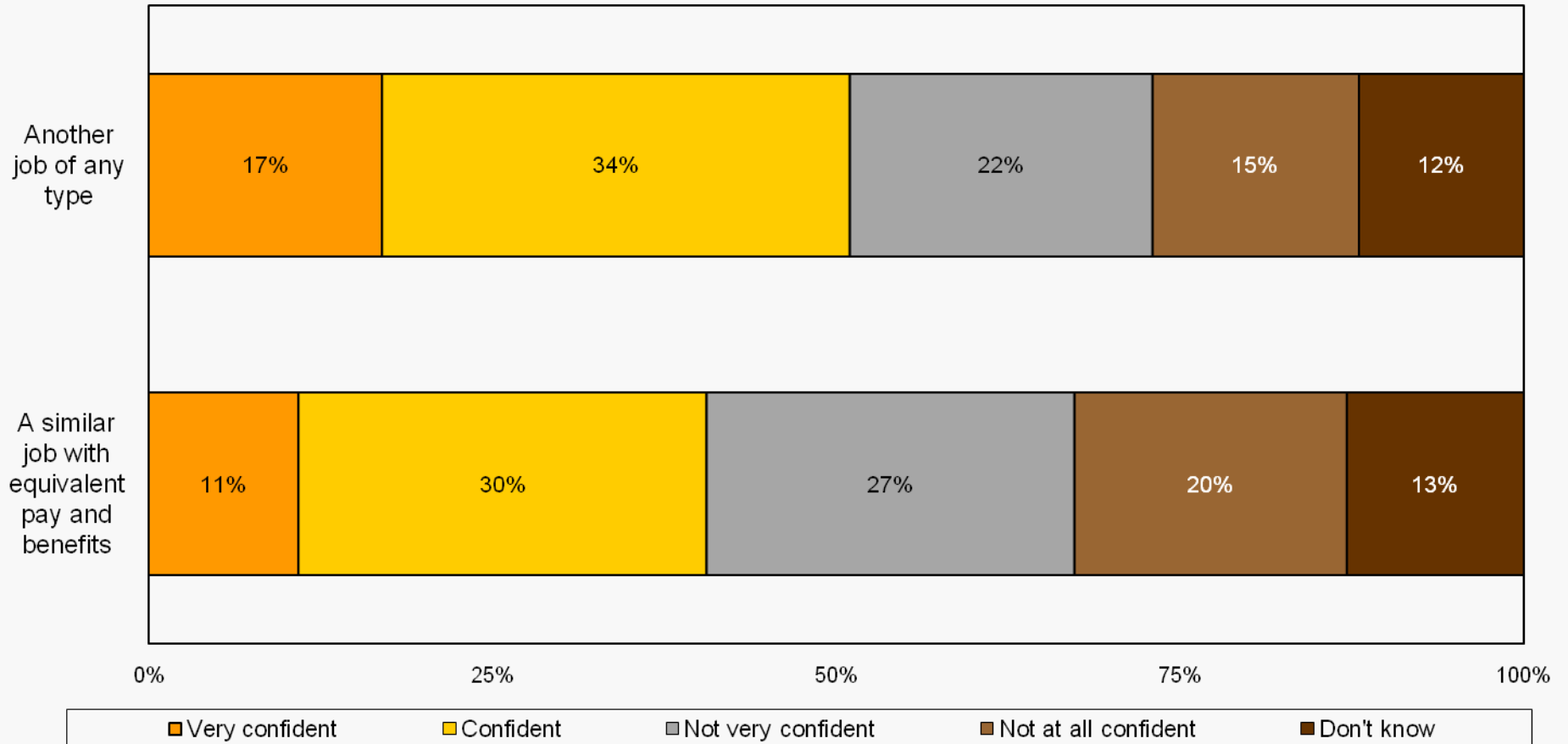


Finding another job in the current economic climate

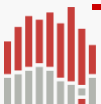


Most Australians are confident they could find another job, but not necessarily one equivalent to their current job

All respondents - October



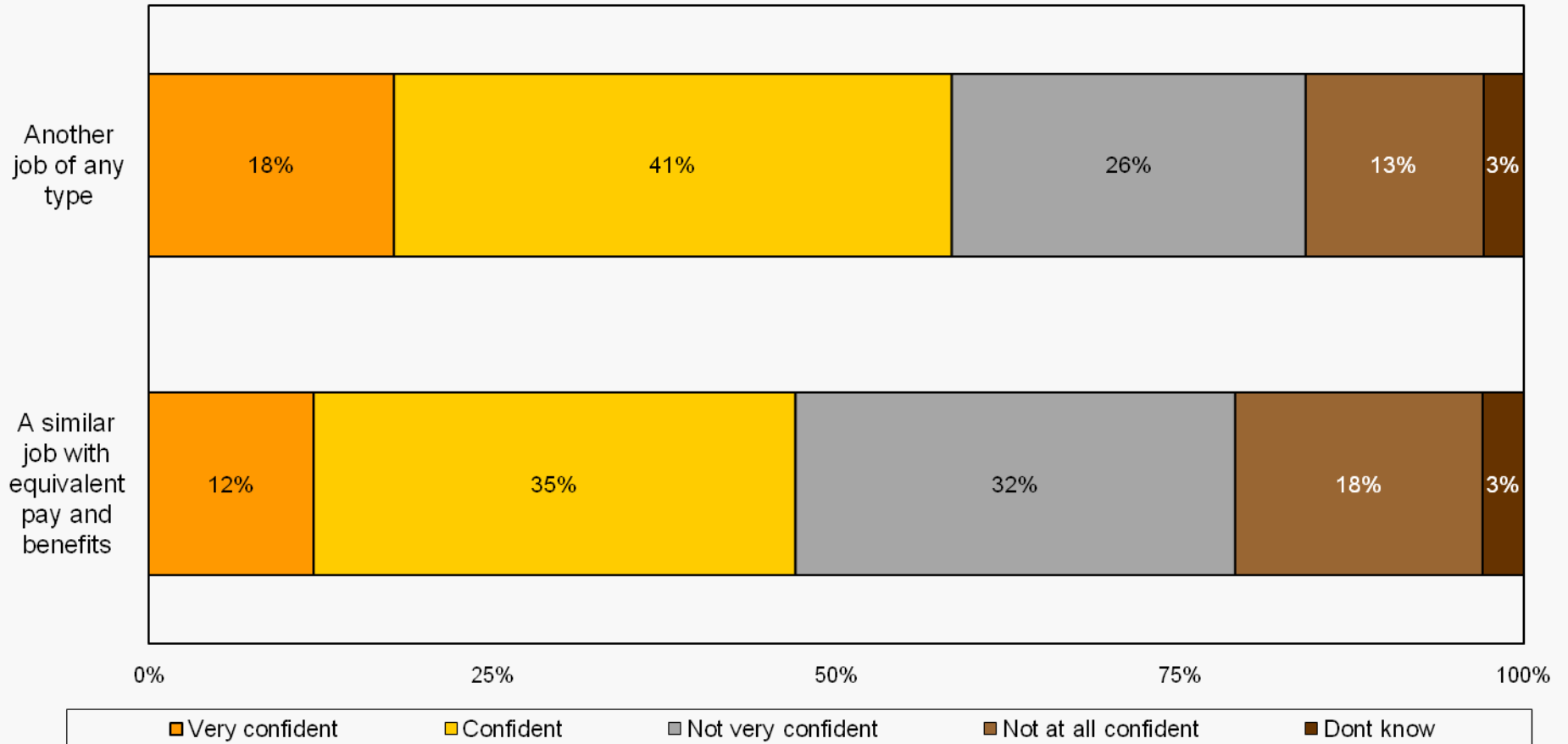
Q3 If you were to lose your job today, how confident are you that you would be able to find..?



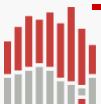


Australians were more polarised about this in January – fewer people were not sure

All respondents - January

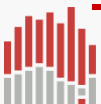
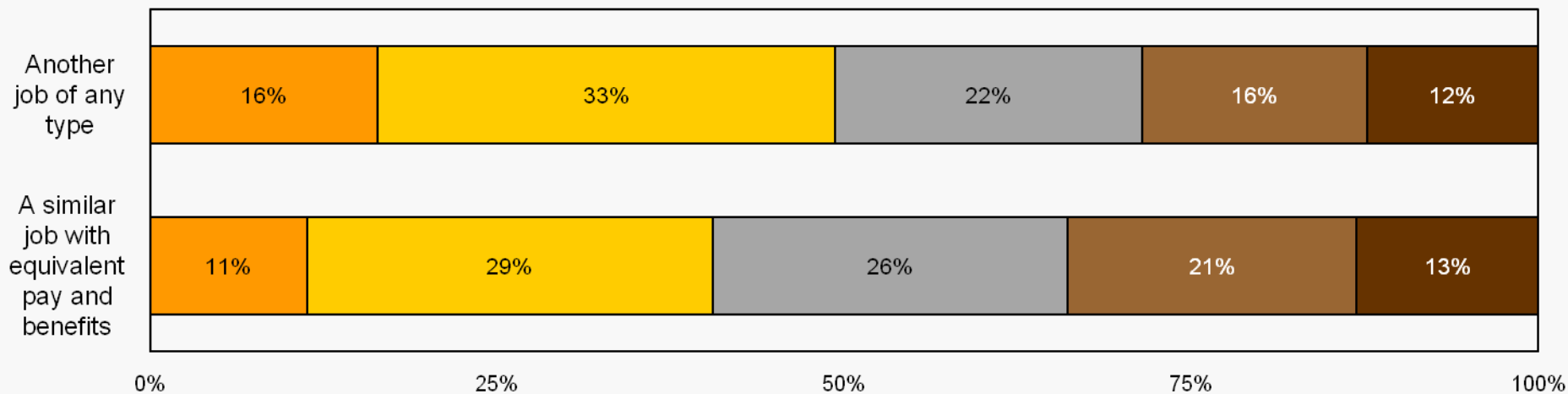
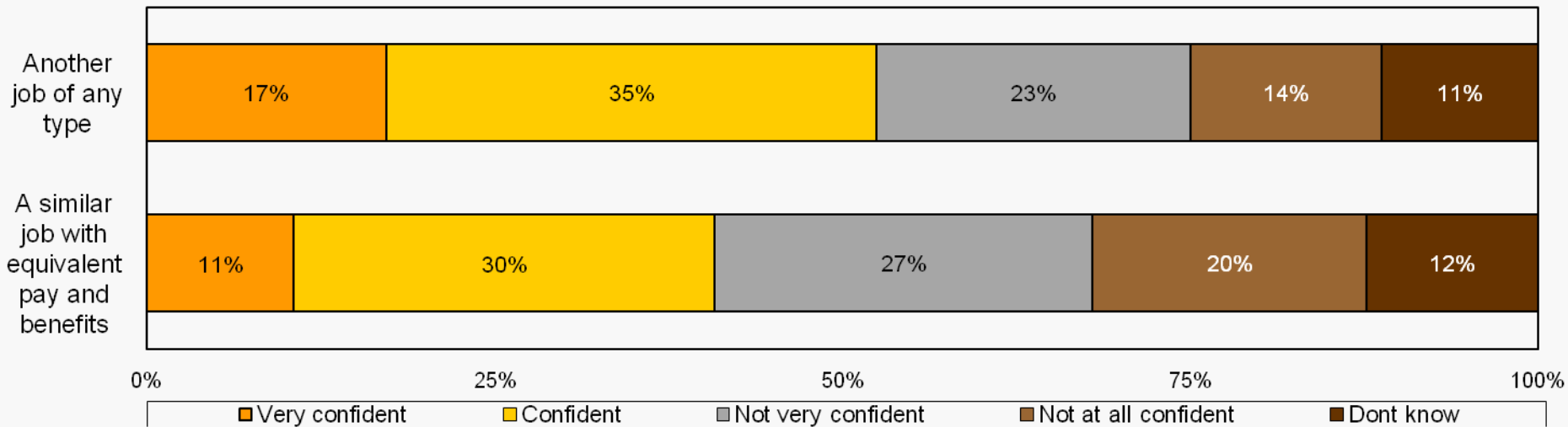


Q3 If you were to lose your job today, how confident are you that you would be able to..?



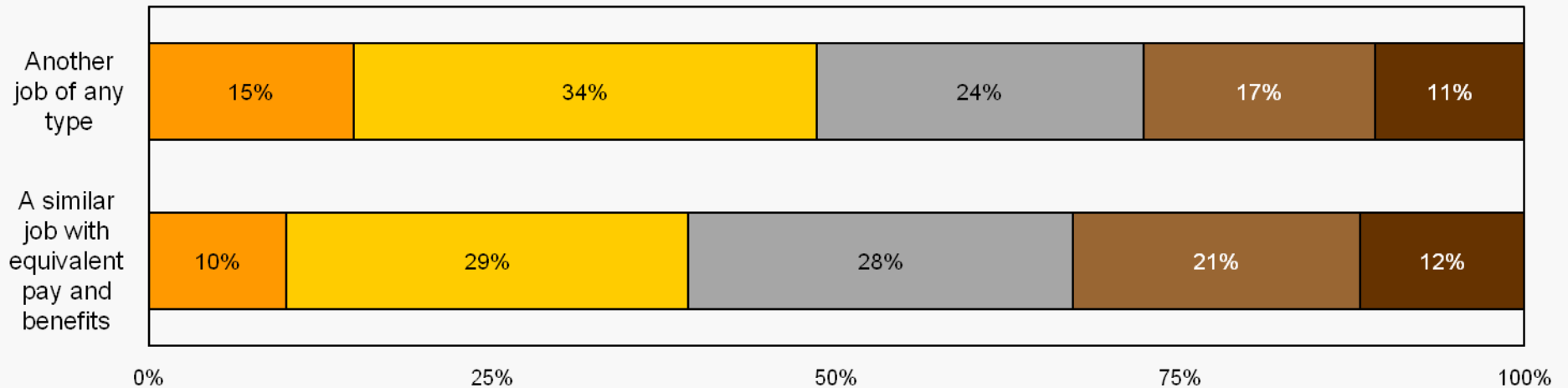
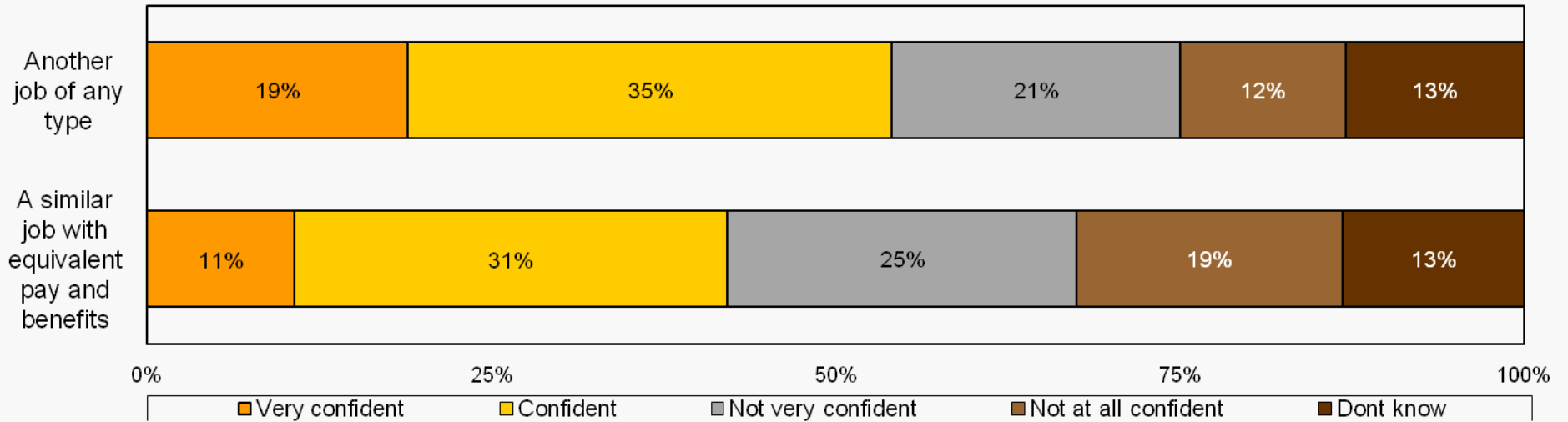


There are no real differences between metro (top) and regional (bottom) on this question

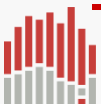




Or between men (top) and women (bottom)

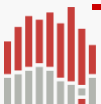
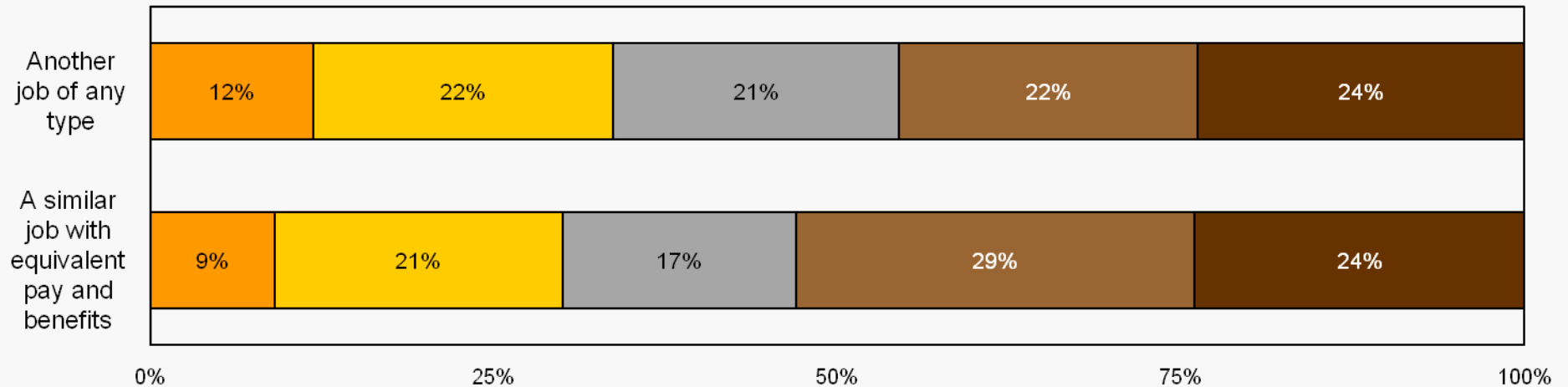
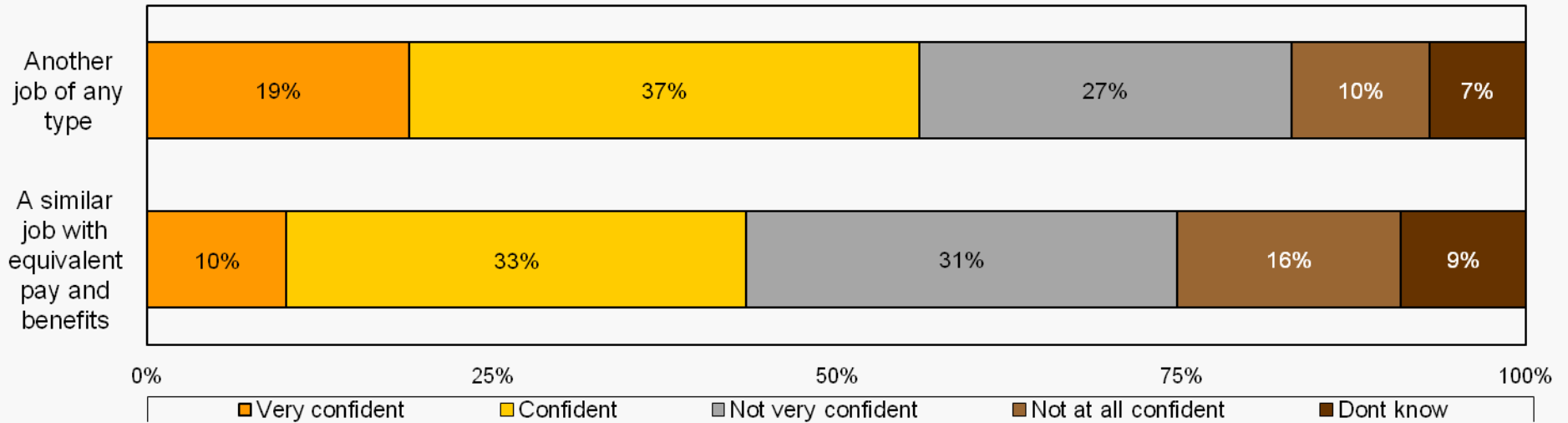


Q3 If you were to lose your job today, how confident are you that you would be able to..?





However, older respondents are less confident. Under 30s (top) are more confident than those aged over 55 (bottom)

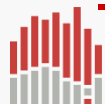
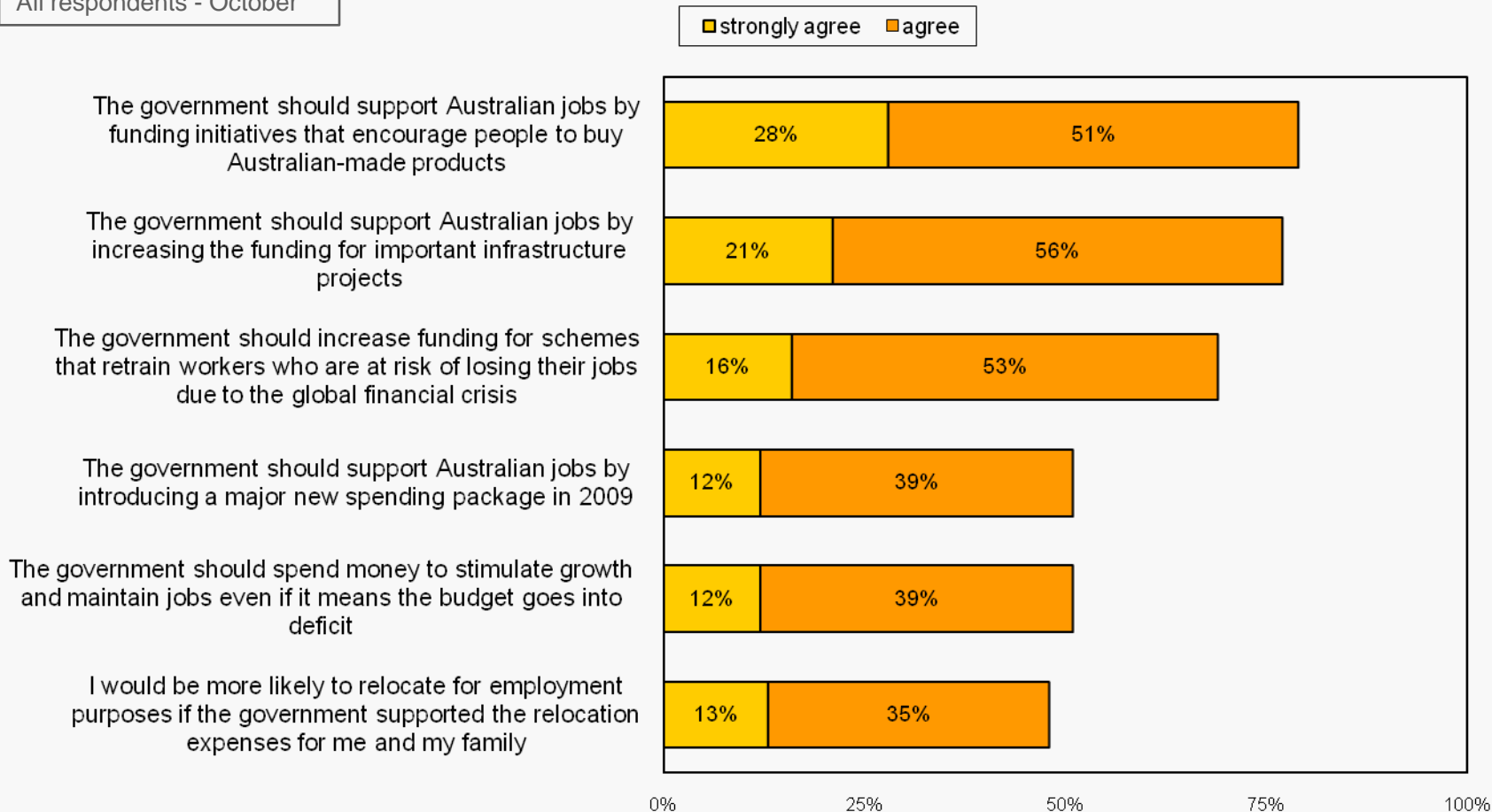


Government actions



Workers still expect the Government to act further and spend more to support jobs

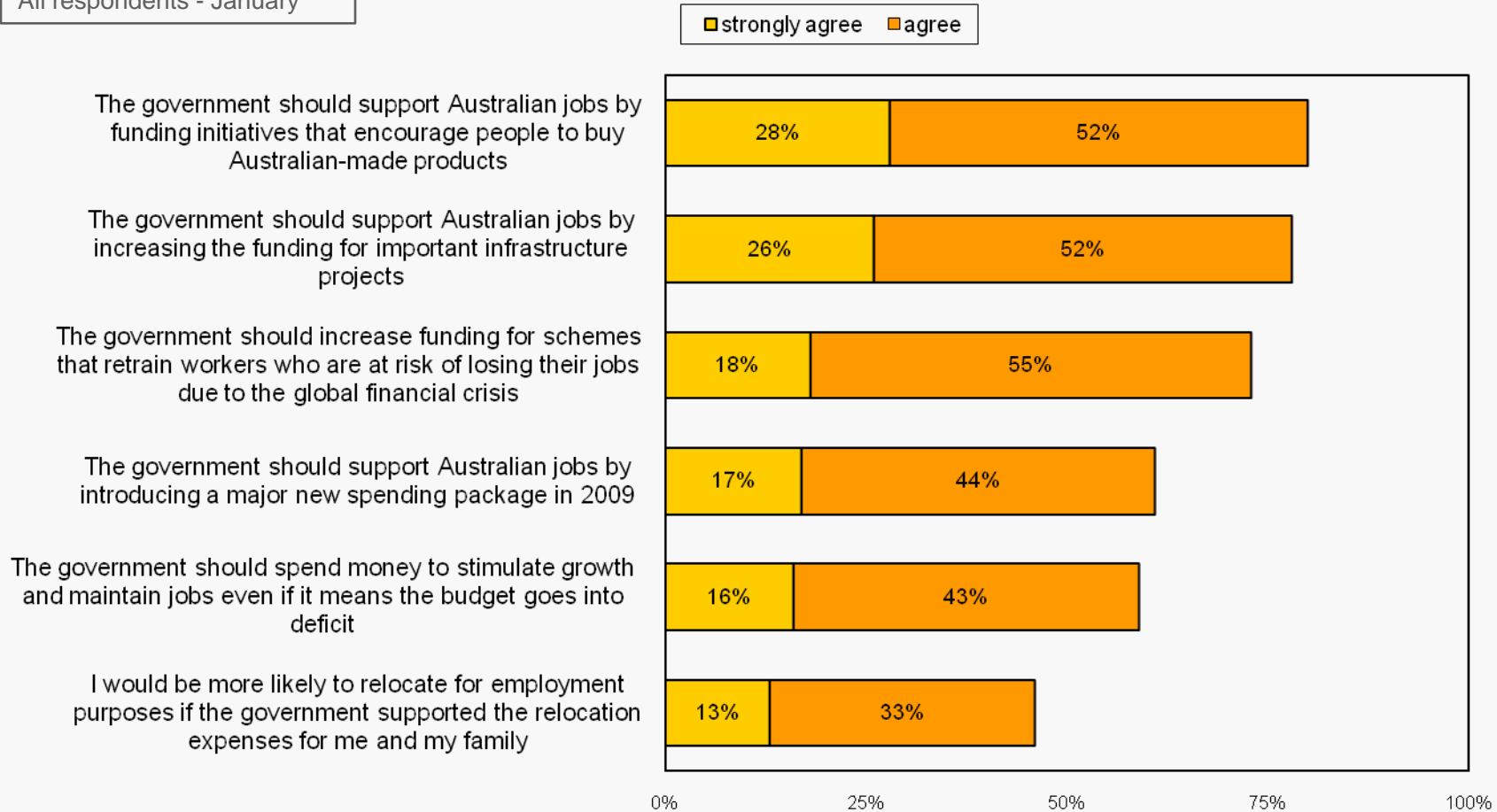
All respondents - October





...by about as much as in January

All respondents - January

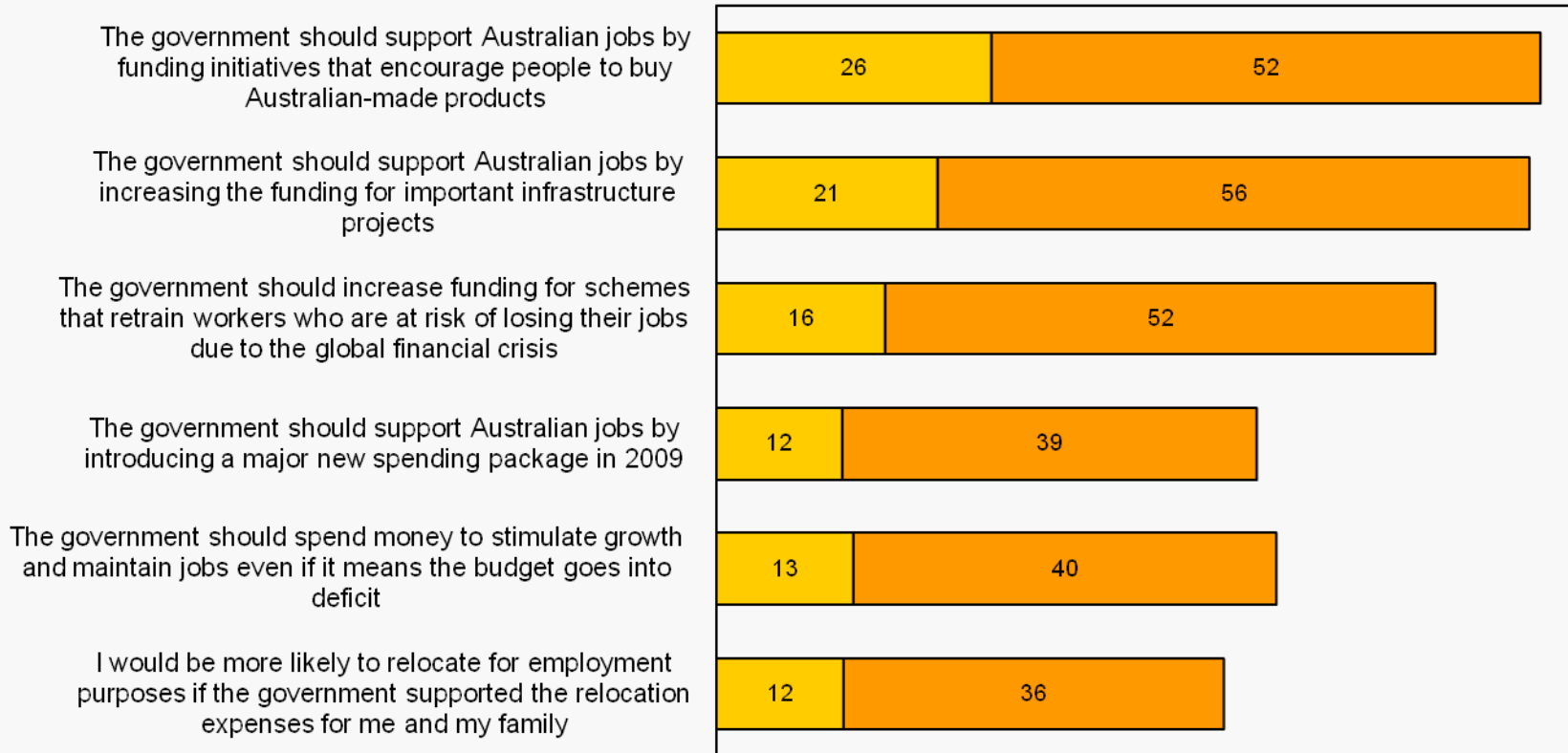




There is relatively little difference between metro...

Metro respondents - October

strongly agree agree

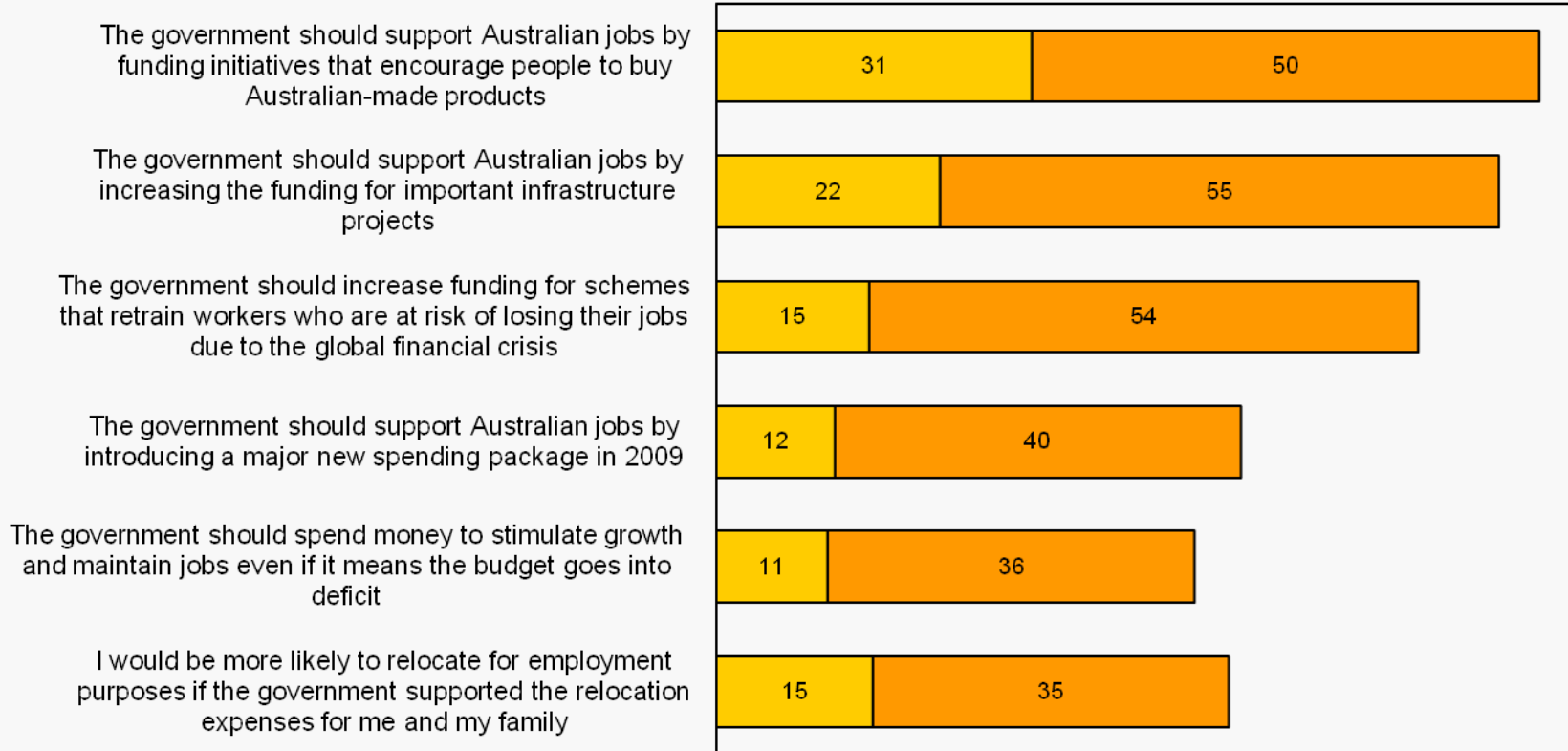




...and regional

Regional respondents - October

strongly agree agree

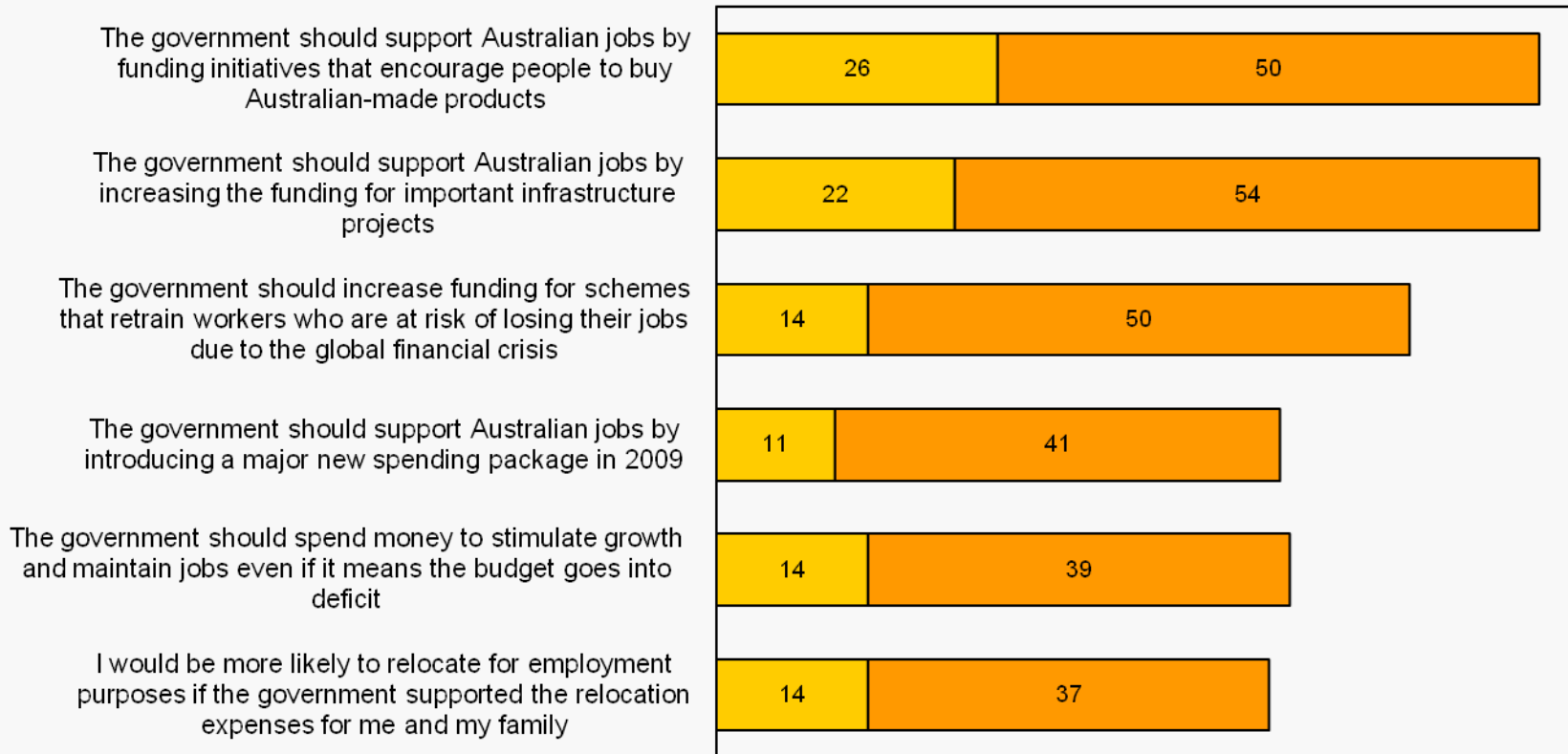




Men are less likely to support initiatives for buying Australian and funding for retraining workers...

Male respondents - October

strongly agree agree

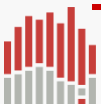
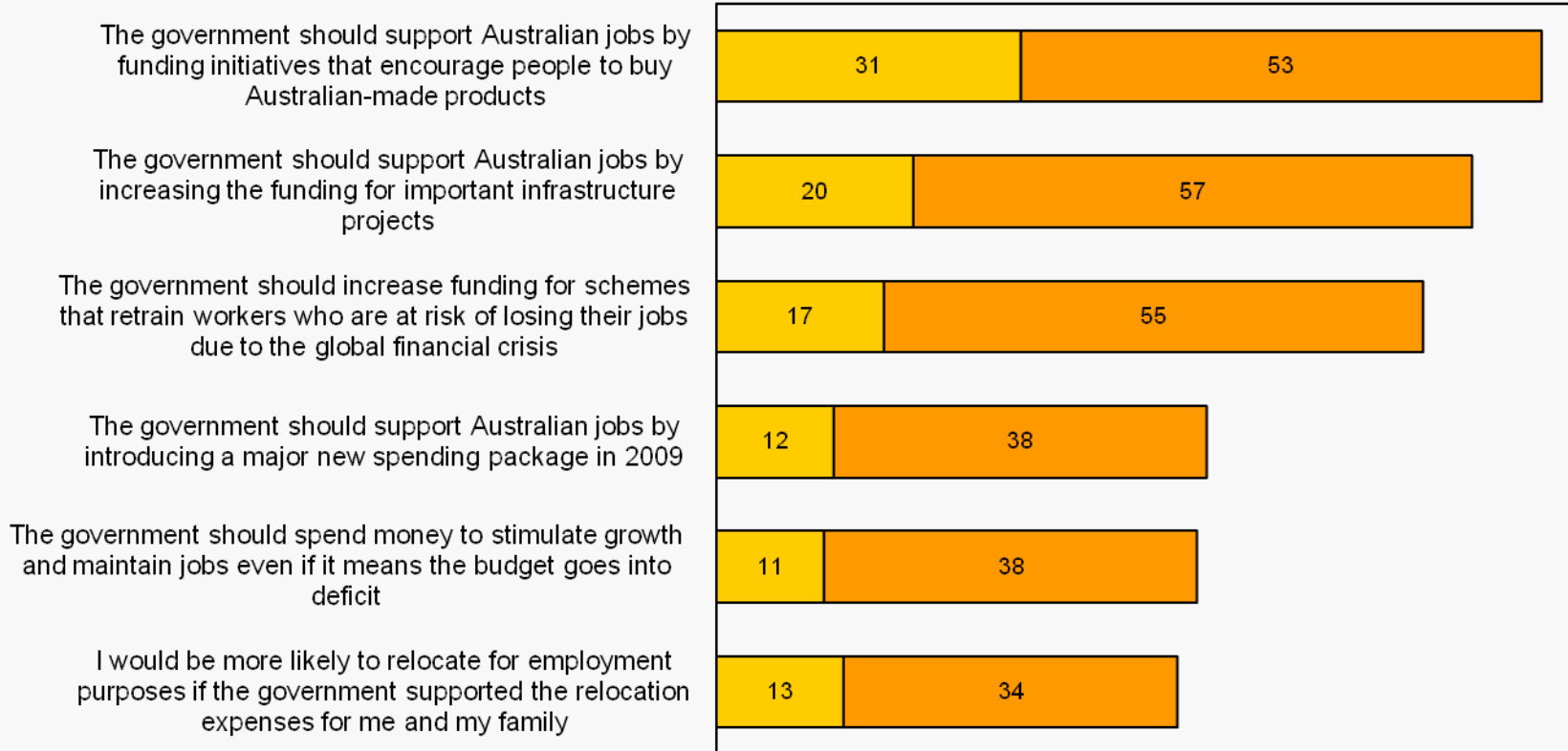




...than women are

Female respondents - October

strongly agree agree

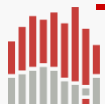
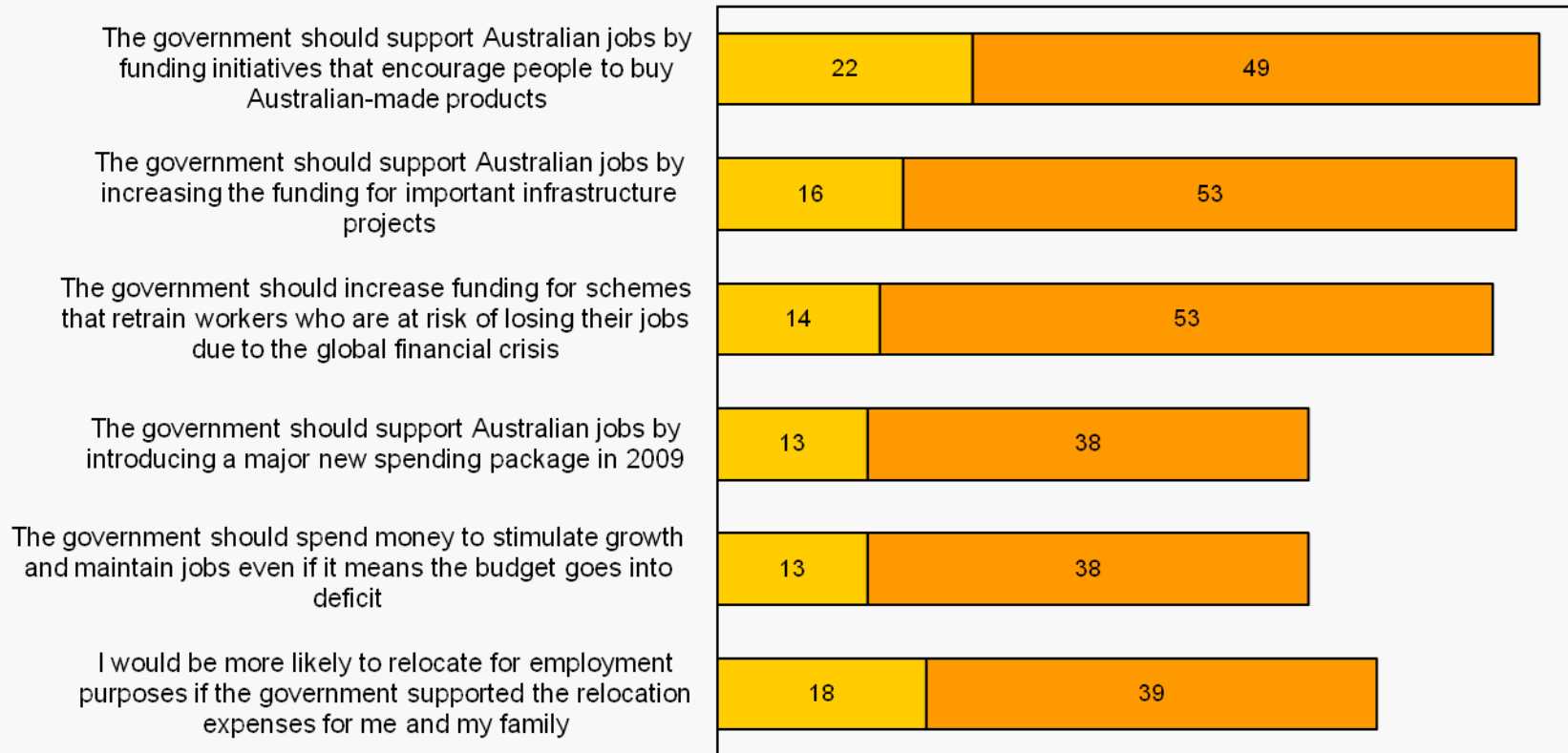




Younger respondents are more likely to relocate if they had support from the government

18-29 respondents - October

strongly agree agree

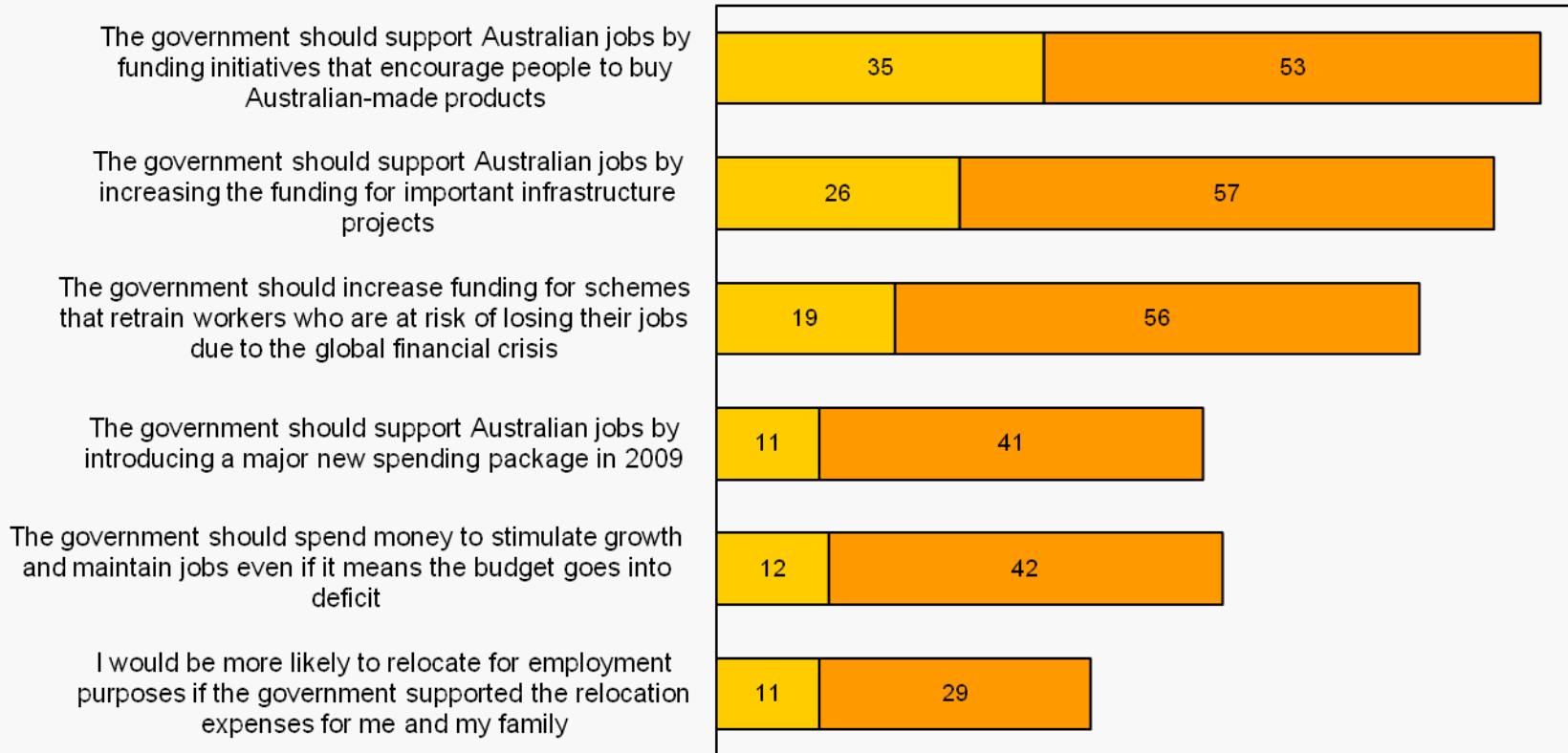




More older respondents agree that the government should protect Australian jobs (through infrastructure or buying Australian)

55+ respondents - October

strongly agree agree





Appendix – Respondent Profiles

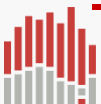
Questions 1 and 2



Age and Gender

Segment	Respondents
18 to 24	183
	12%
25 to 39	508
	34%
40 to 54	432
	29%
55 to 64	235
	16%
65+	142
	9%
Gender	
Male	732
	49%
Female	768
	51%

- Total respondents = 1500
- All figures are rounded. Accordingly, total percentages may not equal 100





Area of residence

Segment	Respondents
The inner city of a state capital city	248
	17%
The suburbs of a state capital city	734
	49%
Town or small city	368
	25%
Rural or country area	150
	10%

- Total respondents = 1500
- All figures are rounded. Accordingly, total percentages may not equal 100

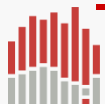




Family status

Segment	Respondents
Single without dependent children living at home	240
	16%
Married/de facto with dependent children living at home	526
	35%
Married/de facto without dependent children living at home	433
	29%
Mix of adults (no children under 18)	239
	16%
Other	62
	4%

- Total respondents = 1500
- All figures are rounded. Accordingly, total percentages may not equal 100

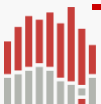




Employment status

Segment	Respondents
Currently in full time employment	557
	37%
Currently in part time employment	271
	18%
Currently not working/looking for work	103
	7%
Home duties	216
	14%
Student	94
	6%
Retired	259
	17%

- Total respondents = 1500
- All figures are rounded. Accordingly, total percentages may not equal 100





Education status

Segment	Respondents
School certificate or lower	230
	15%
Higher school certificate	326
	22%
TAFE, technical college or industry specific training	481
	32%
Undergraduate university	283
	19%
Postgraduate university	180
	12%

- Total respondents = 1500
- All figures are rounded. Accordingly, total percentages may not equal 100

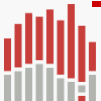




Personal total gross annual income

Segment	Respondents
\$1 - \$19,999	124
	8%
\$20,000 - \$39,999	235
	16%
\$40,000 - \$59,999	224
	16%
\$60,000 - \$79,999	198
	13%
80,000 - \$99,999	184
	12%
\$100,000+	291
	19%

- Total respondents = 1500. 224 respondents (15%) preferred not to state their income.
- All figures are rounded. Accordingly, total percentages may not equal 100





Appendix – Respondent Profiles

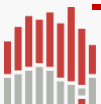
Questions 3 and 4



Age and Gender

Segment	Respondents
18 to 24	155
	10%
25 to 39	514
	34%
40 to 54	462
	30%
55 to 64	226
	15%
65+	163
	11%
Gender	
Male	766
	50%
Female	754
	50%

- Total respondents = 1520
- All figures are rounded. Accordingly, total percentages may not equal 100

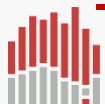




Area of residence

Segment	Respondents
The inner city of a state capital city	208
	14%
The suburbs of a state capital city	766
	50%
Town or small city	386
	25%
Rural or country area	160
	11%

- Total respondents = 1520
- All figures are rounded. Accordingly, total percentages may not equal 100





Family status

Segment	Respondents
Single without dependent children living at home	222
	15%
Married/de facto with dependent children living at home	529
	35%
Married/de facto without dependent children living at home	432
	28%
Mix of adults (no children under 18)	259
	17%
Other	78
	5%

- Total respondents = 1520
- All figures are rounded. Accordingly, total percentages may not equal 100

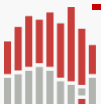




Employment status

Segment	Respondents
Currently in full time employment	598
	39%
Currently in part time employment	262
	17%
Currently not working/looking for work	110
	7%
Home duties	191
	13%
Student	96
	6%
Retired	263
	17%

- Total respondents = 1500
- All figures are rounded. Accordingly, total percentages may not equal 100

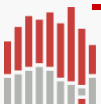




Education status

Segment	Respondents
School certificate or lower	251
	17%
Higher school certificate	355
	23%
TAFE, technical college or industry specific training	445
	29%
Undergraduate university	300
	20%
Postgraduate university	169
	11%

- Total respondents = 1520
- All figures are rounded. Accordingly, total percentages may not equal 100





Personal total gross annual income

Segment	Respondents
\$1 - \$19,999	114
	8%
\$20,000 - \$39,999	225
	15%
\$40,000 - \$59,999	249
	16%
\$60,000 - \$79,999	217
	14%
80,000 - \$99,999	186
	12%
\$100,000+	276
	18%

- Total respondents = 1520. 253 respondents (17%) preferred not to state their income.
- All figures are rounded. Accordingly, total percentages may not equal 100

