



bankenverband

Focus on Europe

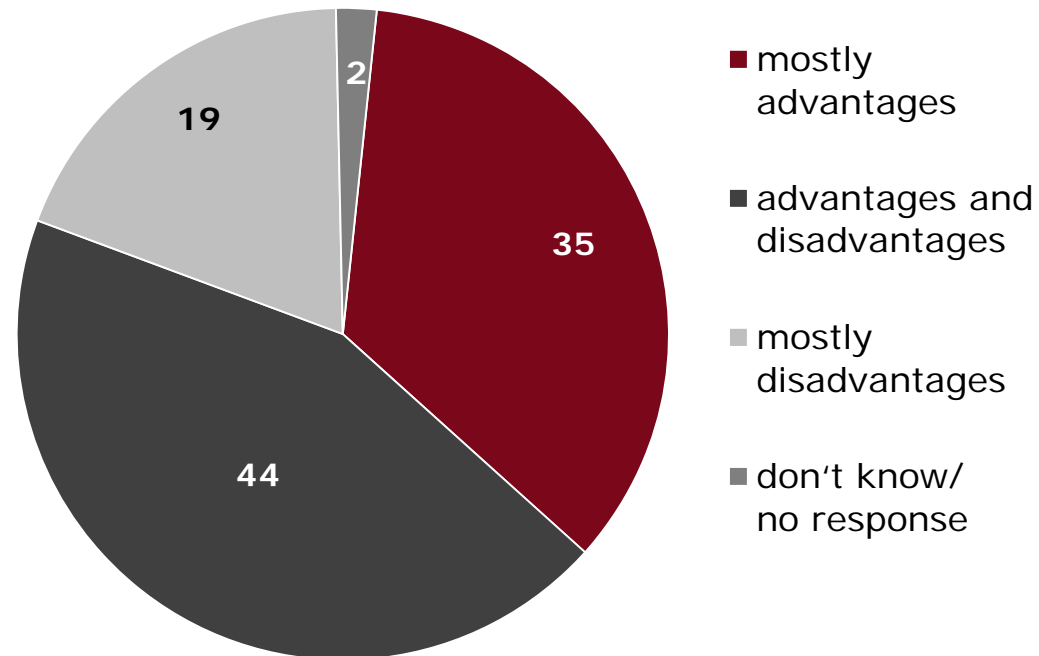
Results of a representative survey commissioned by the Association of German Banks ahead of the 20th German Banking Congress 2014

April 2014

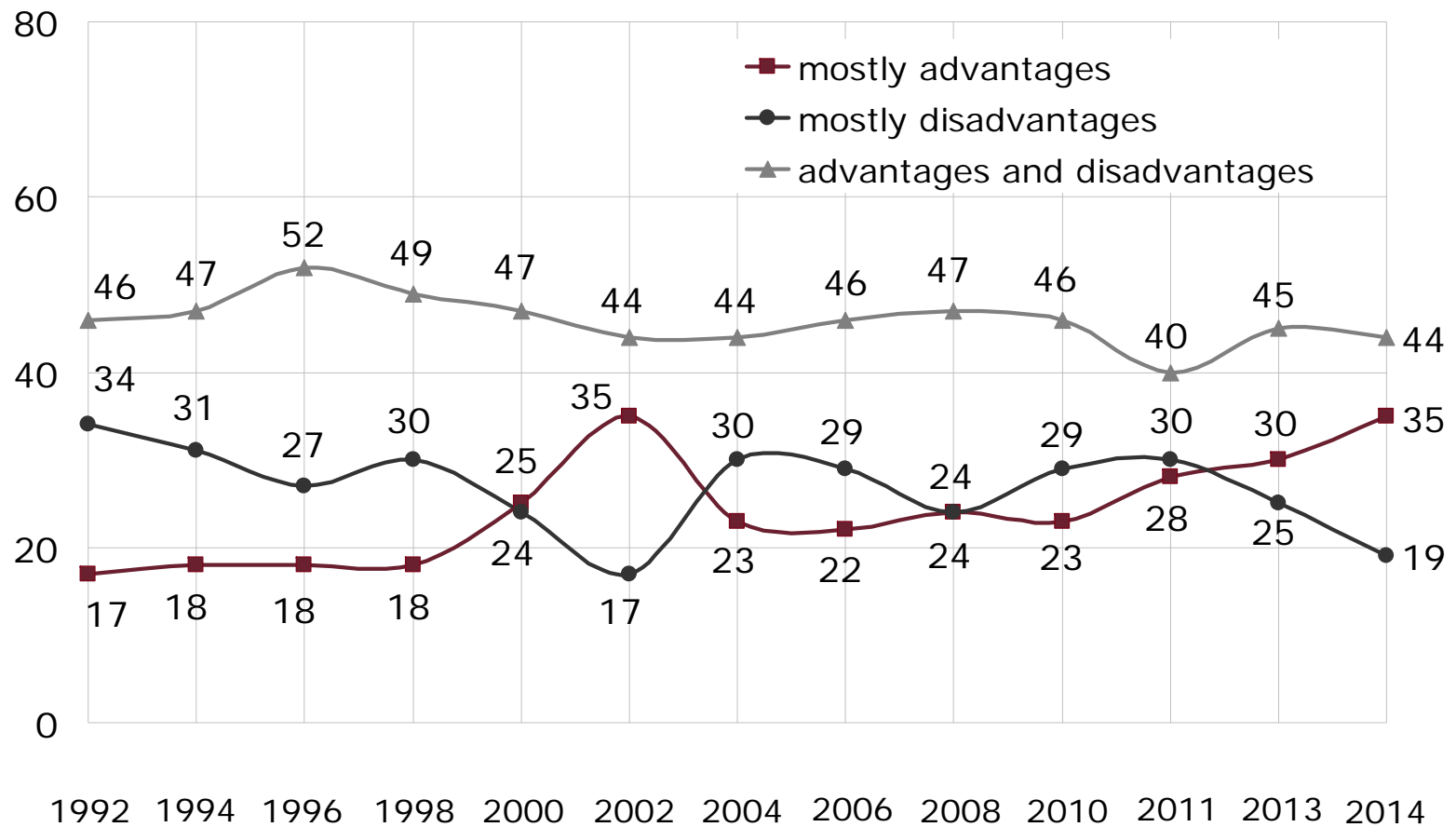
I. Stronger appreciation of the benefits of EU membership for Germany

European solidarity with the debt-laden eurozone countries in the form of loans and financial aid has not led in Germany to a negatively connoted “paymaster” image again. On the contrary, since 2010 the impression that Germany benefits from EU membership has grown steadily among citizens (from 23 to 35%), whereas the proportion of those who fear mostly disadvantages for the country has declined noticeably (from 29 to 19%). In addition, 87% believe that the EU is either “important” (54%) or “very important” (33%) for Germany’s economic development.

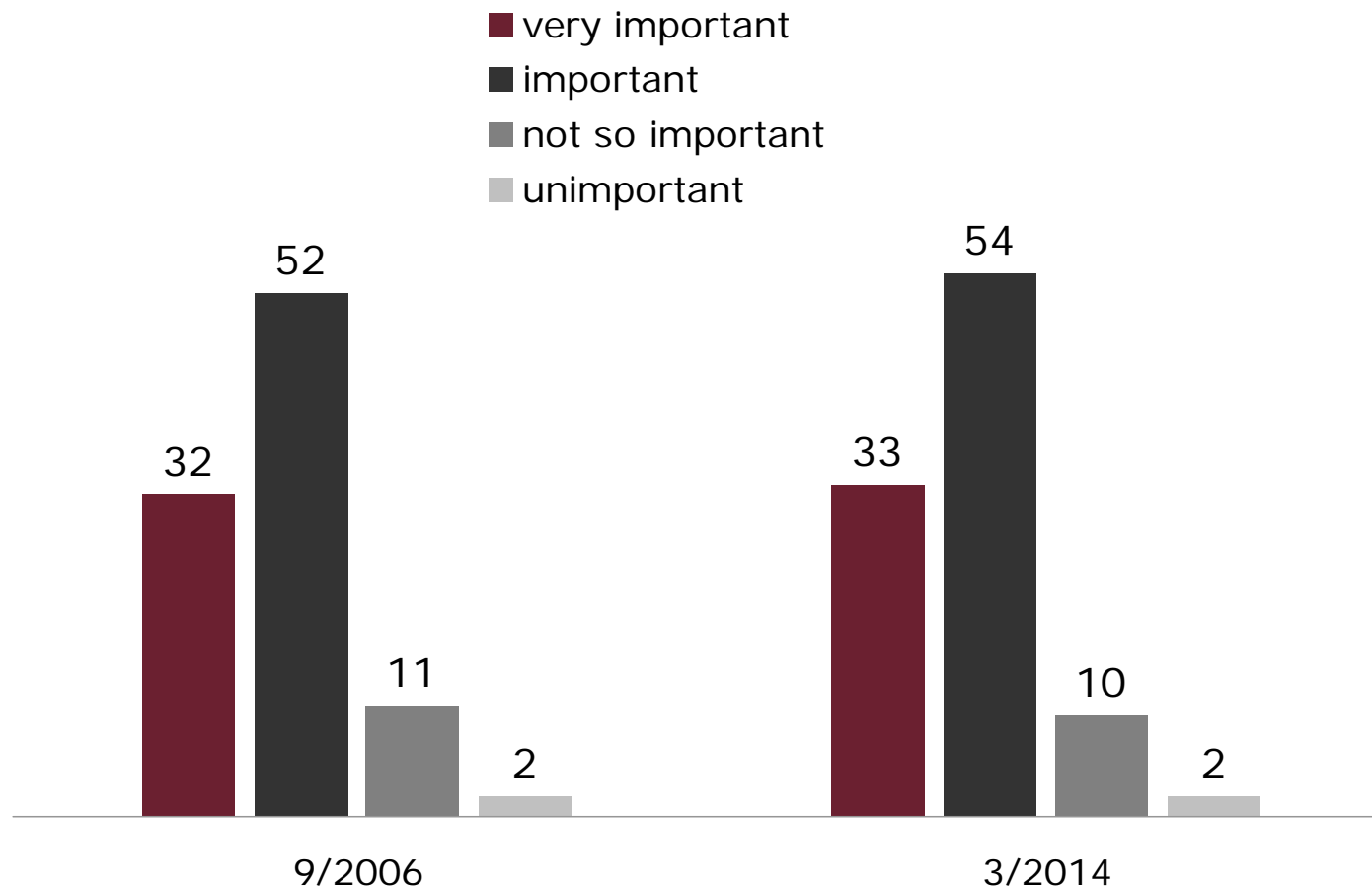
“For Germany, membership of the European Union brings ...”



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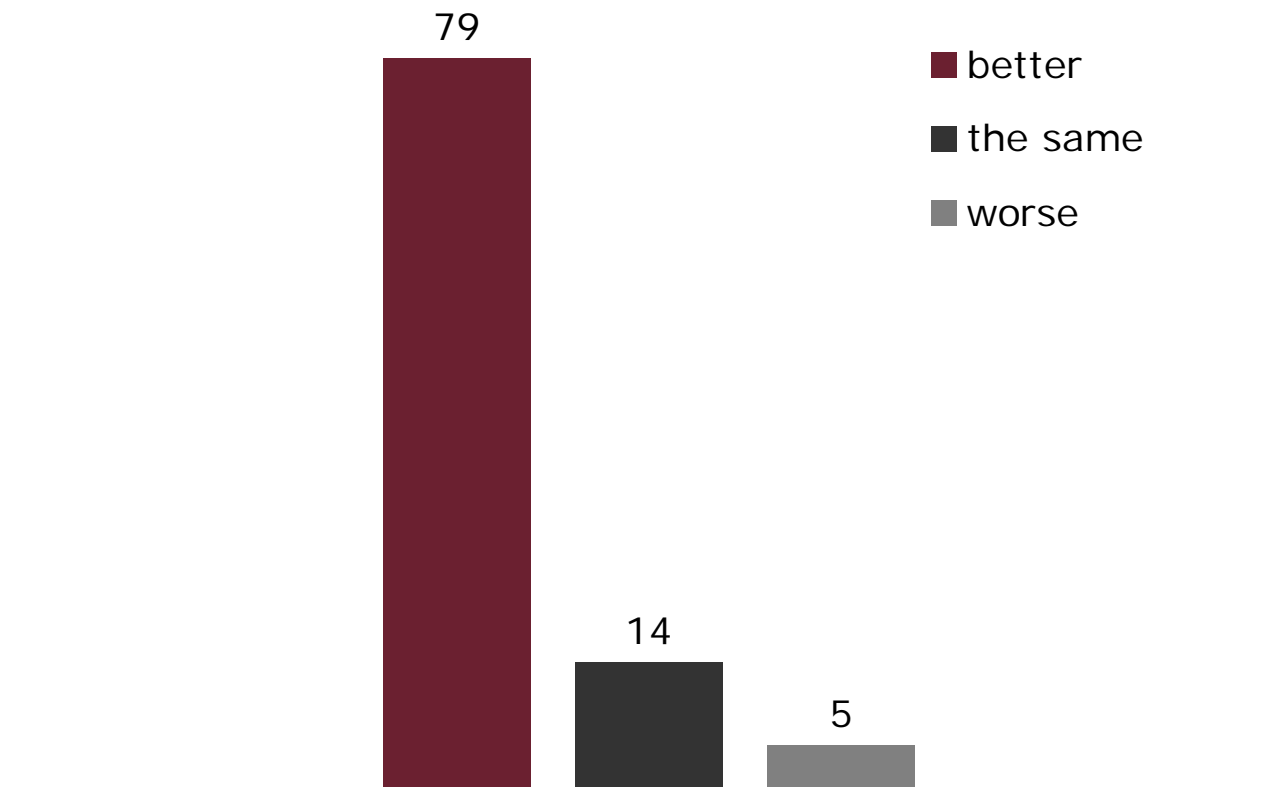
“For Germany’s economic development, the EU is ...”



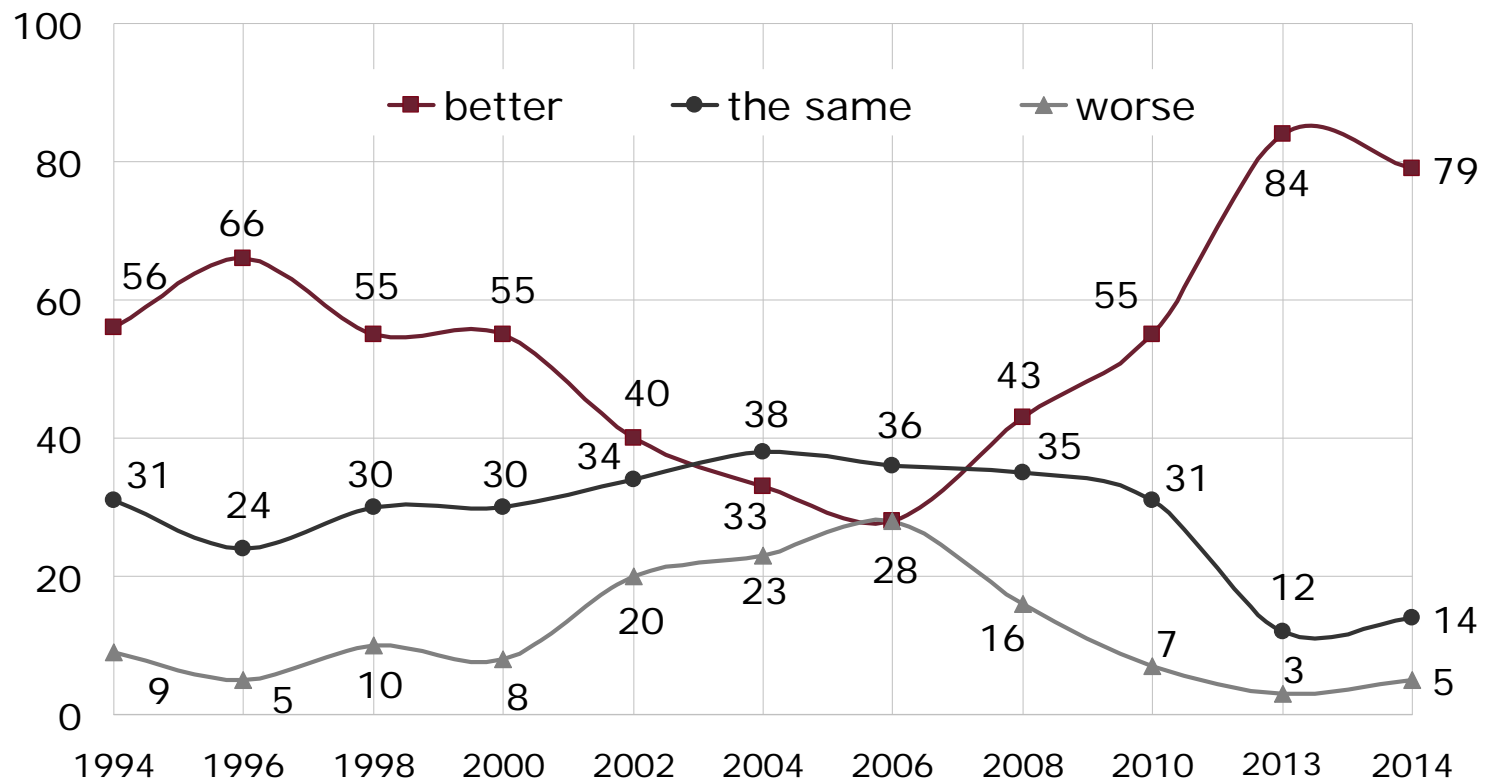
Germany has come through the crisis well

The financial crisis and the sovereign debt crisis have strengthened awareness that Germany is deeply embedded in the EU and also benefits economically as a result. Correspondingly, the great majority of citizens (79%) are also convinced that Germany is better-off economically than its western European neighbours. This reflects the view that the country has come through the crisis/crises relatively well. For the first time since the turn of the century, a majority of Germans therefore believe that policymakers have the ability to fix the country's economic problems.

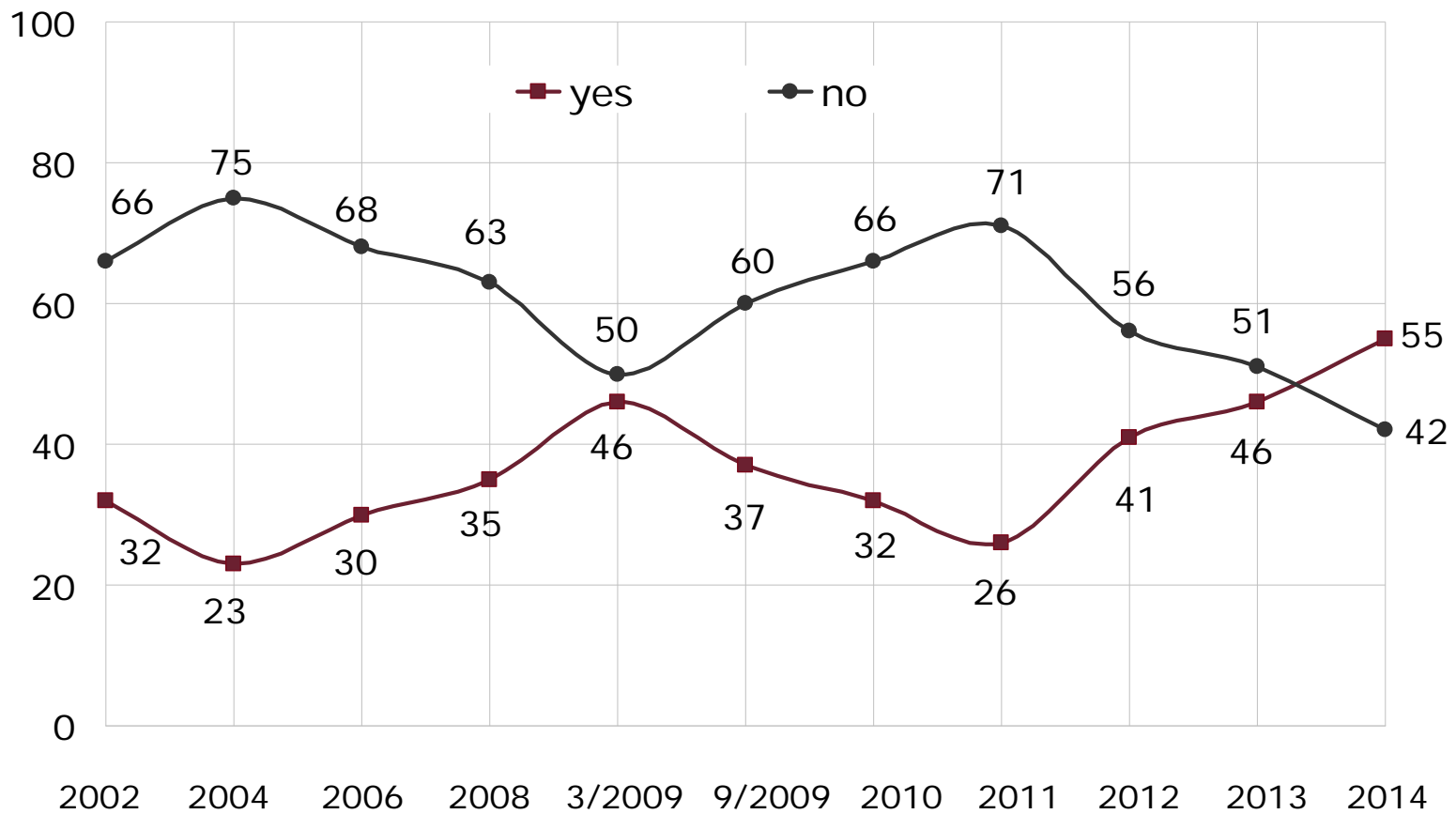
“Compared with its western European neighbours, Germany’s economic situation is ...”



“Compared with its western European neighbours, Germany’s economic situation is ...”



“Are policymakers able to fix the country’s economic problems?”

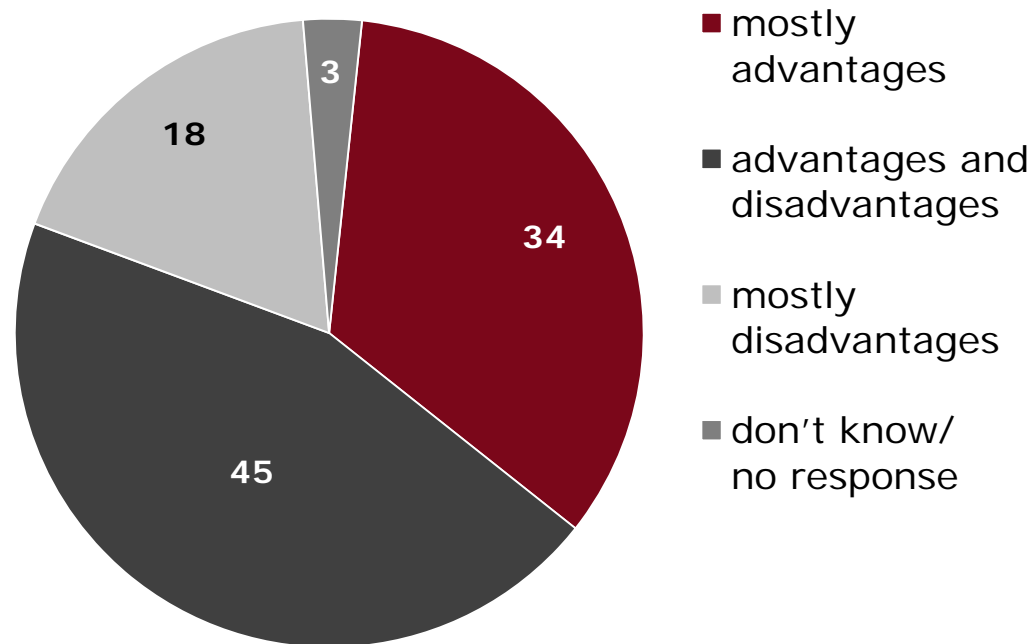


II.

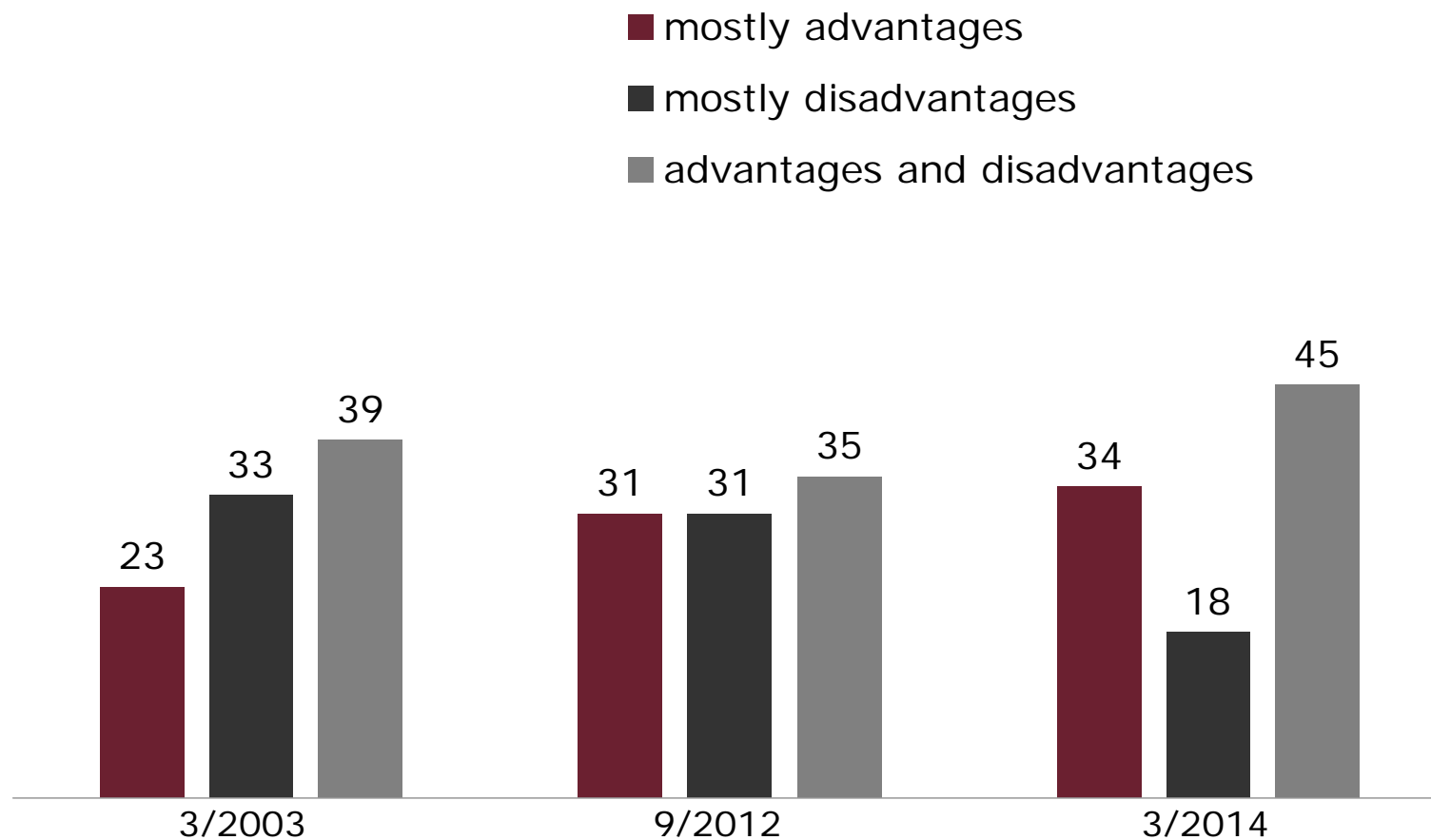
A feeling that the euro crisis has been overcome

Alongside a more positive perception of the EU, trust and confidence in the single European currency have also increased: only 18% of respondents (following 31% in 2012) currently believe that the euro brings mostly disadvantages for Germany. Two-thirds of citizens (66%) are of the opinion that the euro has (a) been a success so far and (b) will also be a success in the long term (in 2012, only 49% in both cases). In the eyes of citizens, the euro has evidently already passed the acid test.

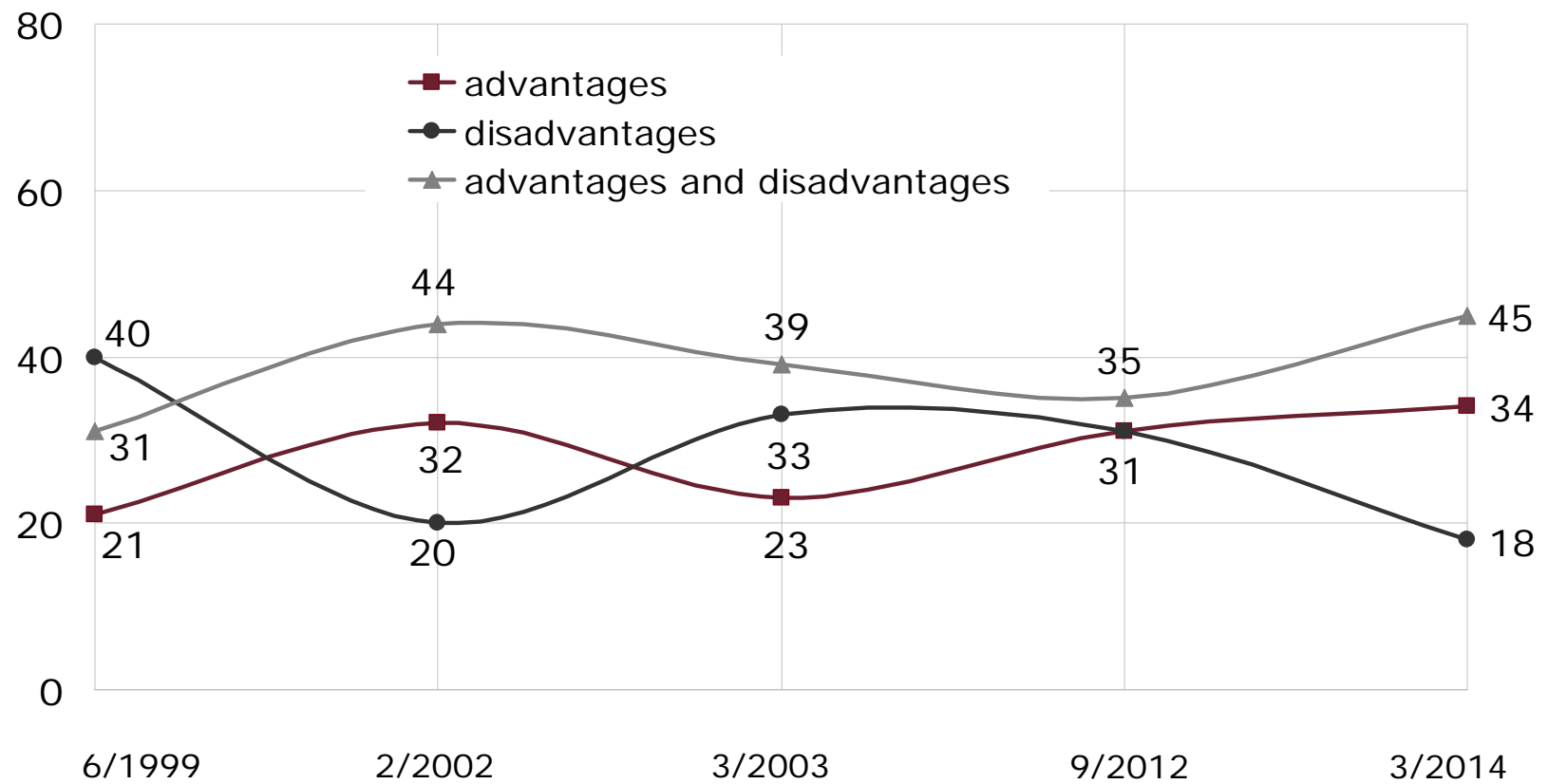
“For Germany, the euro brings as a whole ...”



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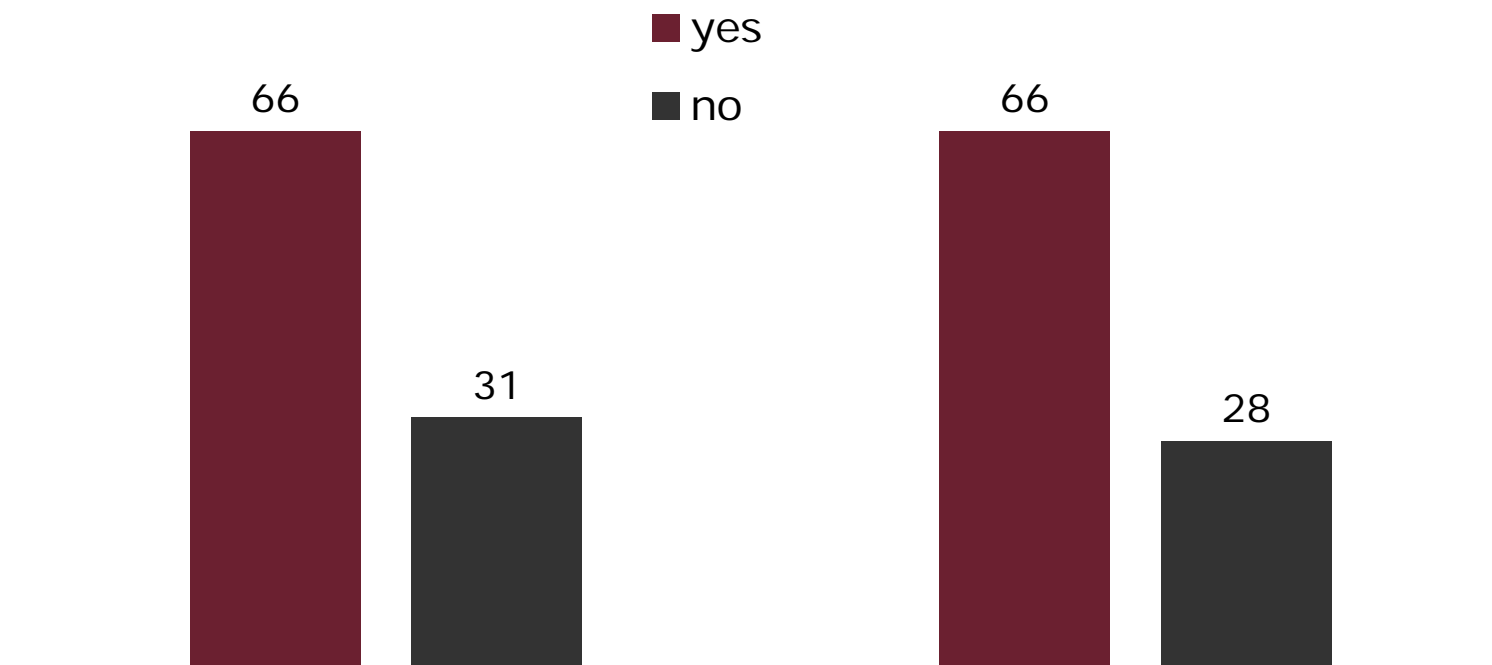
“For Germany, the euro brings as a whole ...”



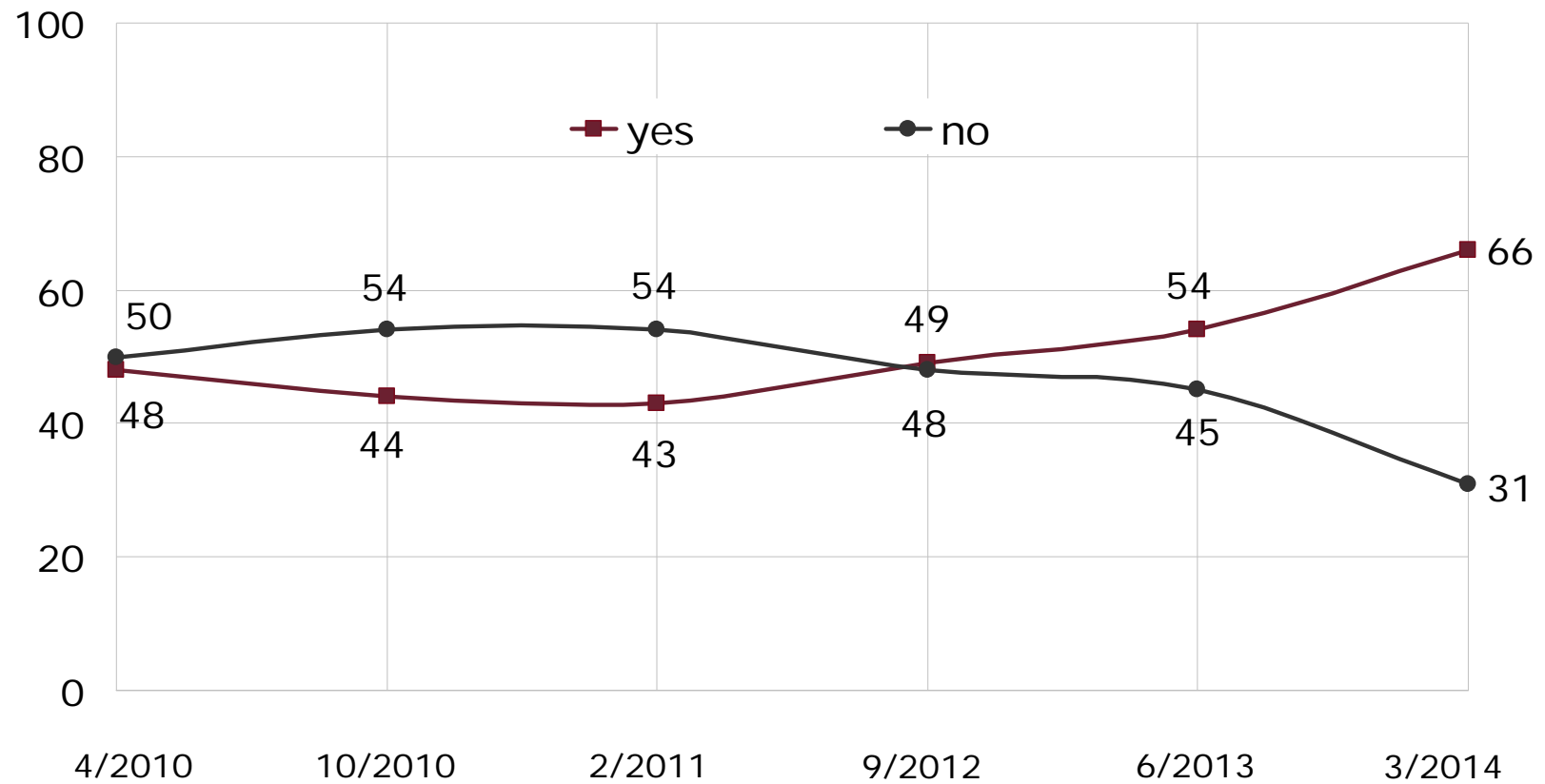
"The euro ..."

... has been a success so far

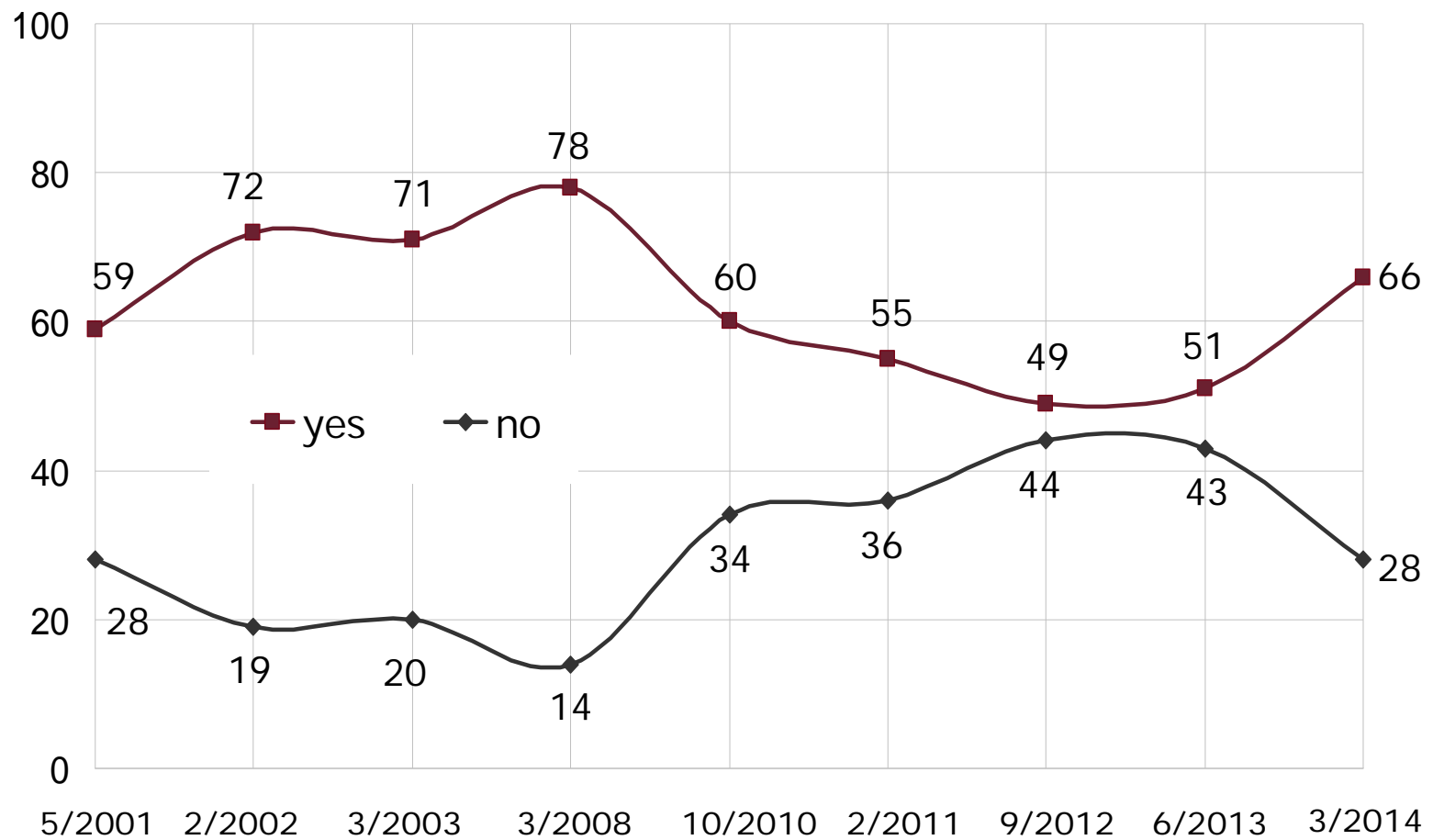
... will be a success in the long term



“The euro has been a success so far.”



“The euro will be a success in the long term.”

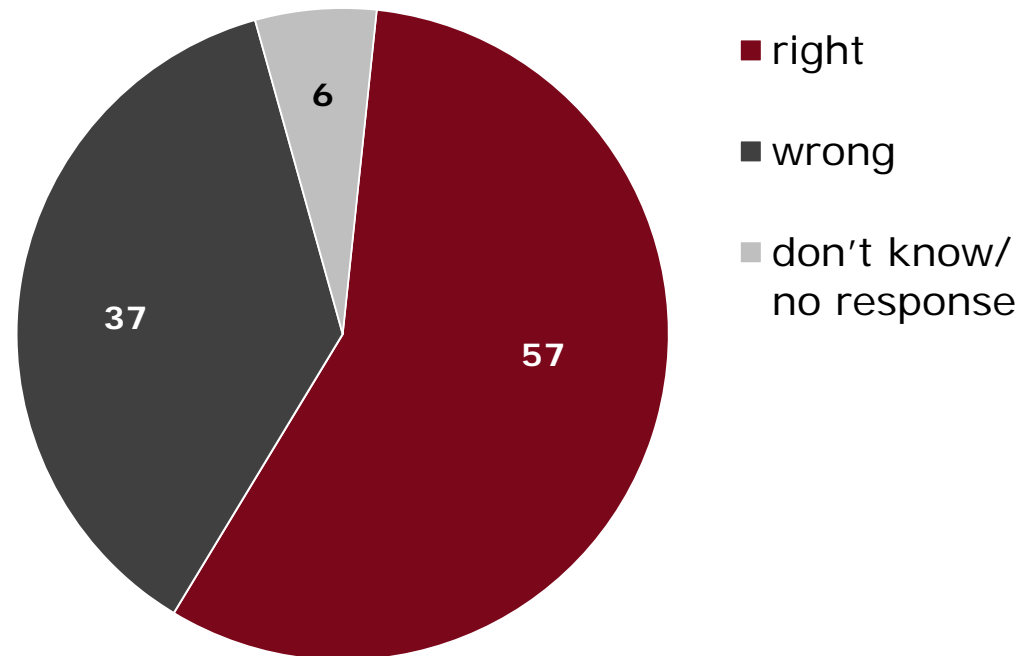


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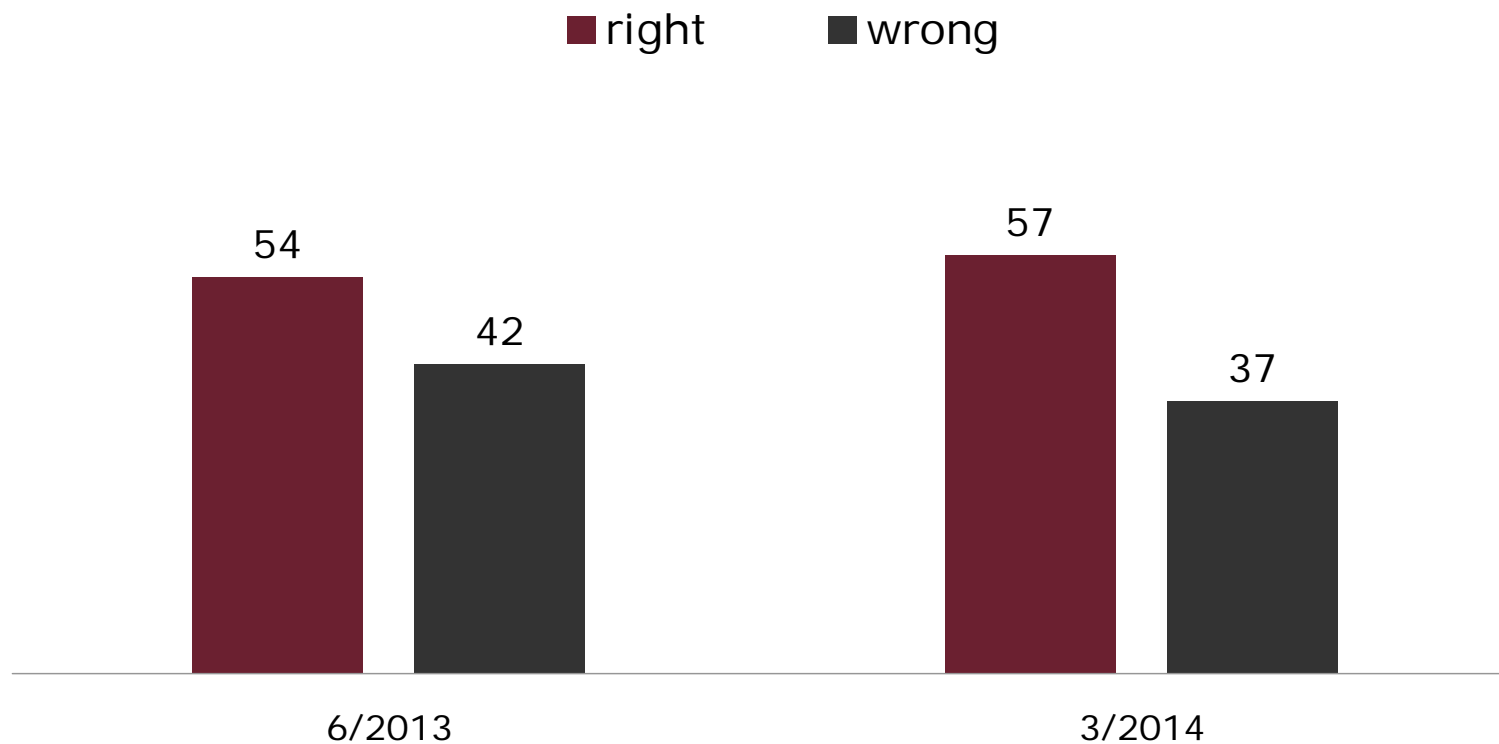
Majority for solidarity with the eurozone's crisis-hit countries

Nearly six out of ten respondents (57%) believe that it was right to save the debt-laden eurozone countries from insolvency by providing financial aid. Compared with summer 2013, this proportion has increased slightly again.

“Saving the crisis-hit eurozone countries from insolvency by providing financial aid was ...”



“Saving the crisis-hit eurozone countries from insolvency by providing financial aid was ...”



About the survey

Survey period:	7 – 11 March 2014
Sample:	995 respondents (German citizens) aged 18 and over
Survey method:	Computer-assisted telephone interviews (CATI)
Commissioned by:	Association of German Banks, Berlin
Current survey and 2013 survey:	GfK – Gesellschaft für Marktforschung, Nuremberg
Earlier surveys:	ipos – Institut für praxisorientierte Sozialforschung, Mannheim

The results of all surveys are representative of the eligible voting population in Germany. All results shown in per cent.

Percentage points short of 100 % accounted for by “don’t know”/no response.