

# Being Christian in Western Europe

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# About the Pew Research Center

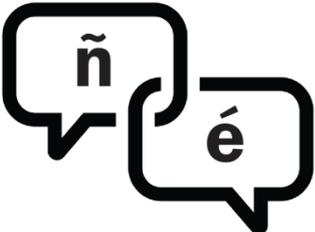
- Independent, nonprofit “fact tank” that informs the public about the issues, attitudes and trends shaping the world.
- Conducts
  - public opinion polling,
  - demographic research,
  - content analysis,
  - other data-driven social science research.
- Committed to meeting the highest methodological standards – and to exploring the newest frontiers of research.
- Generates a foundation of facts that enriches the public dialogue and supports sound decision-making.
- Does not take policy positions.
- Primarily funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts, named after the Pew family.

# About the survey

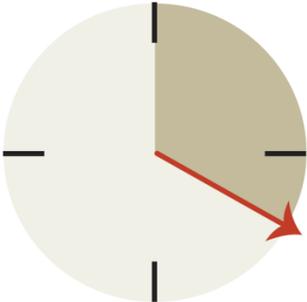
More than 24,000 people age 18 or older interviewed by telephone in 15 countries



Interviews conducted on mobile and landline telephones from April to August 2017 in 12 languages



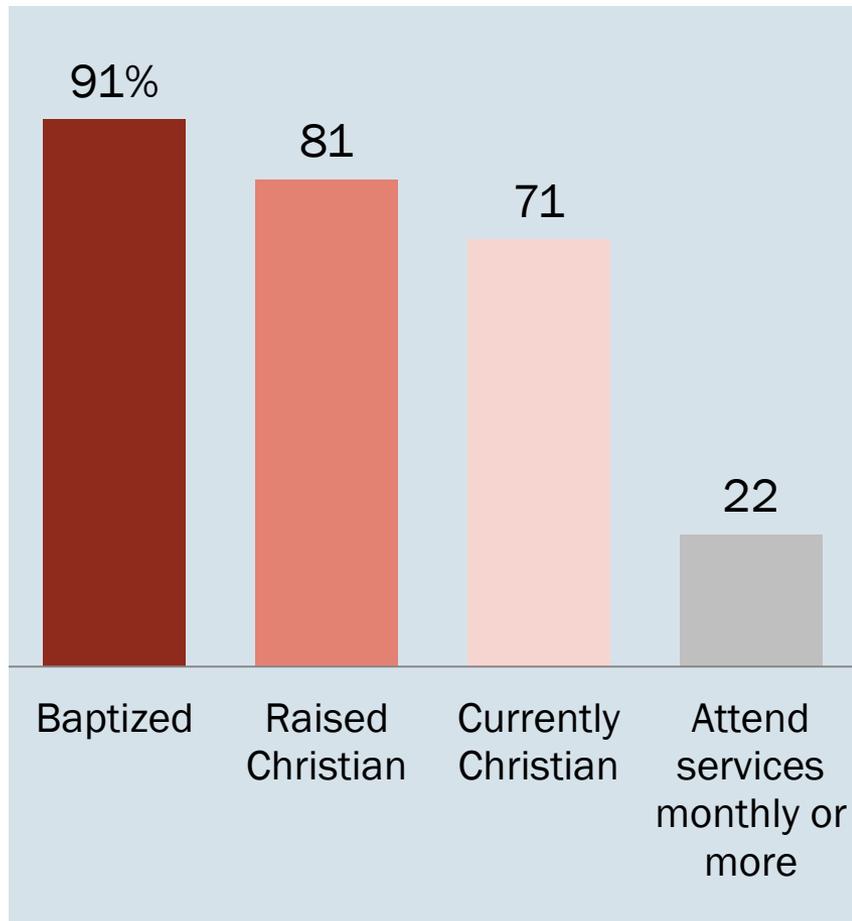
Average length of the interview was 20 minutes



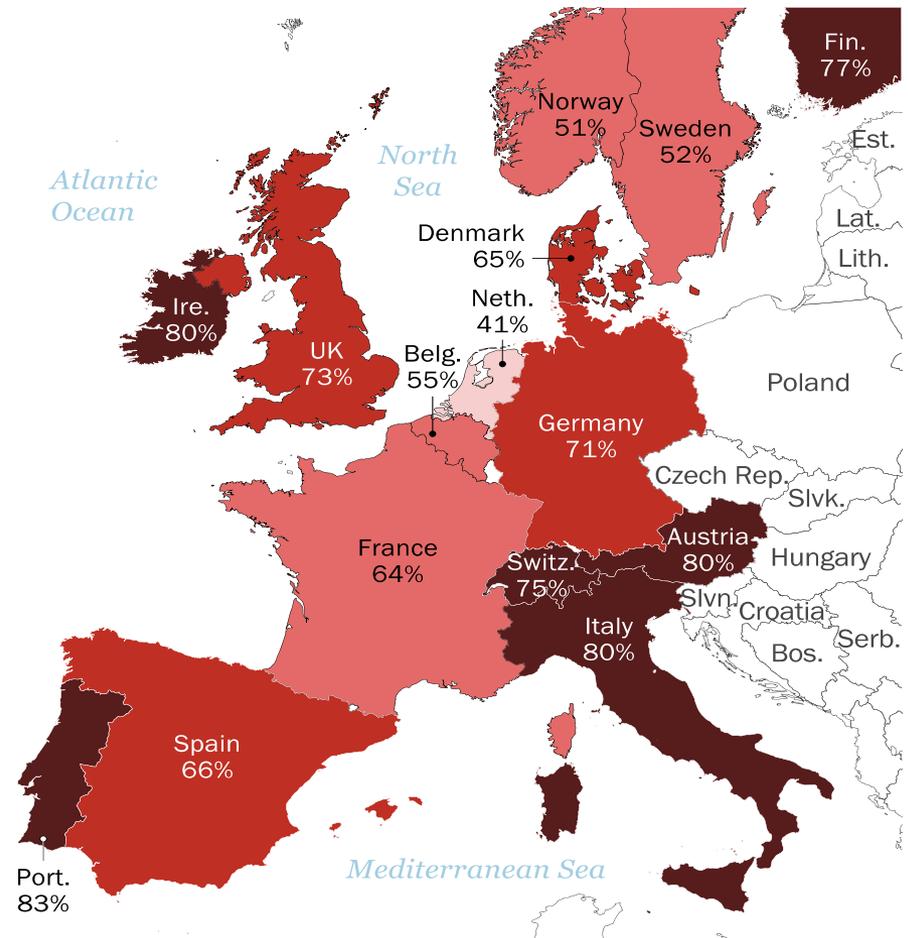
In each country, respondents selected through random sampling

# Secularization is evident in Western Europe but most people still identify as Christian

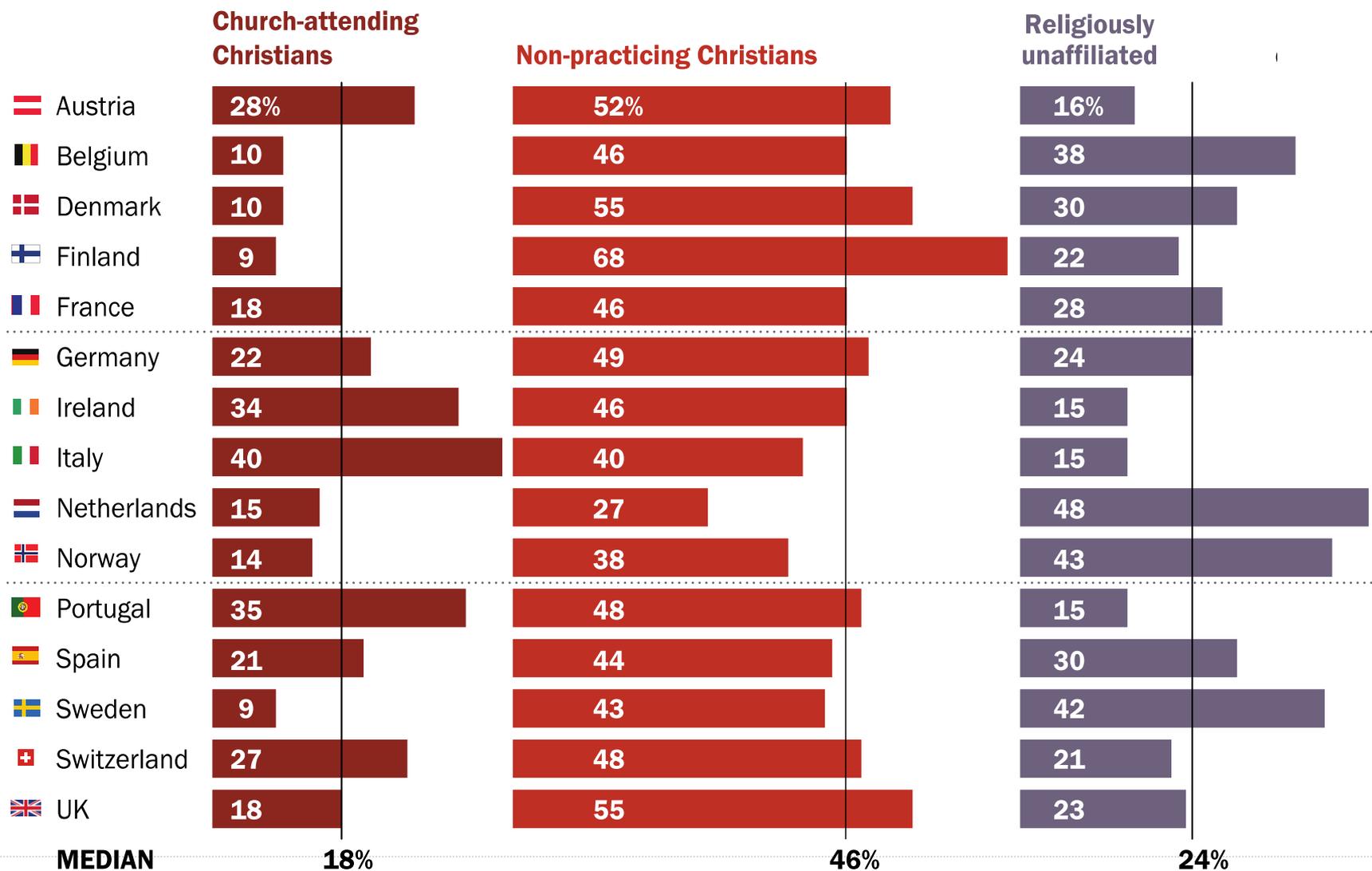
Across 15 countries, median % who



% who say they are Christian



# Non-practicing Christians are the largest group in most countries

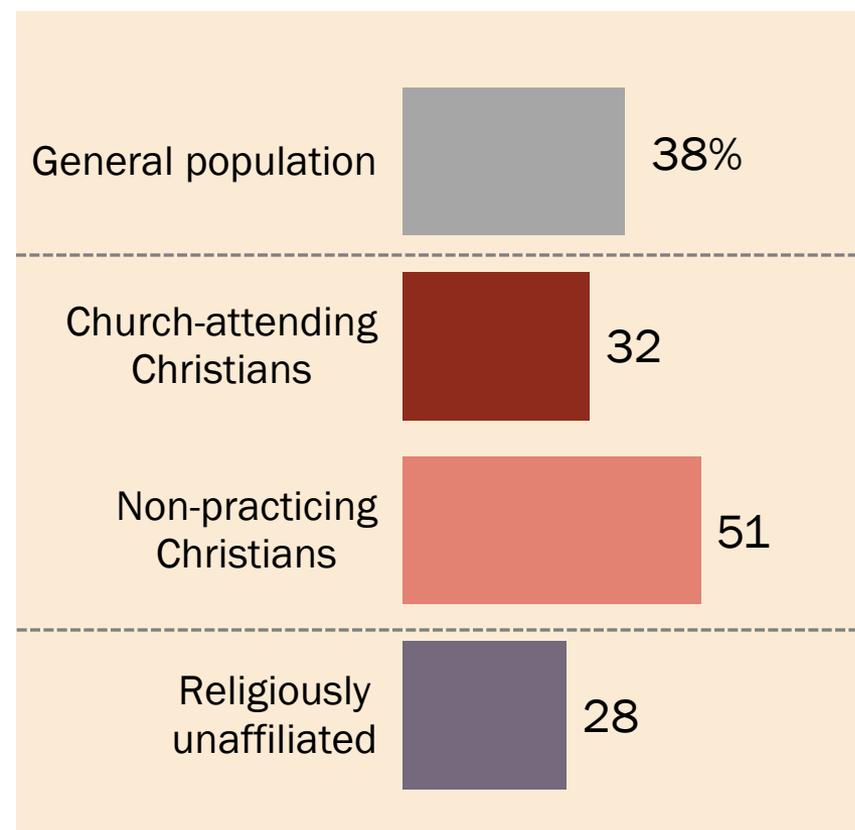
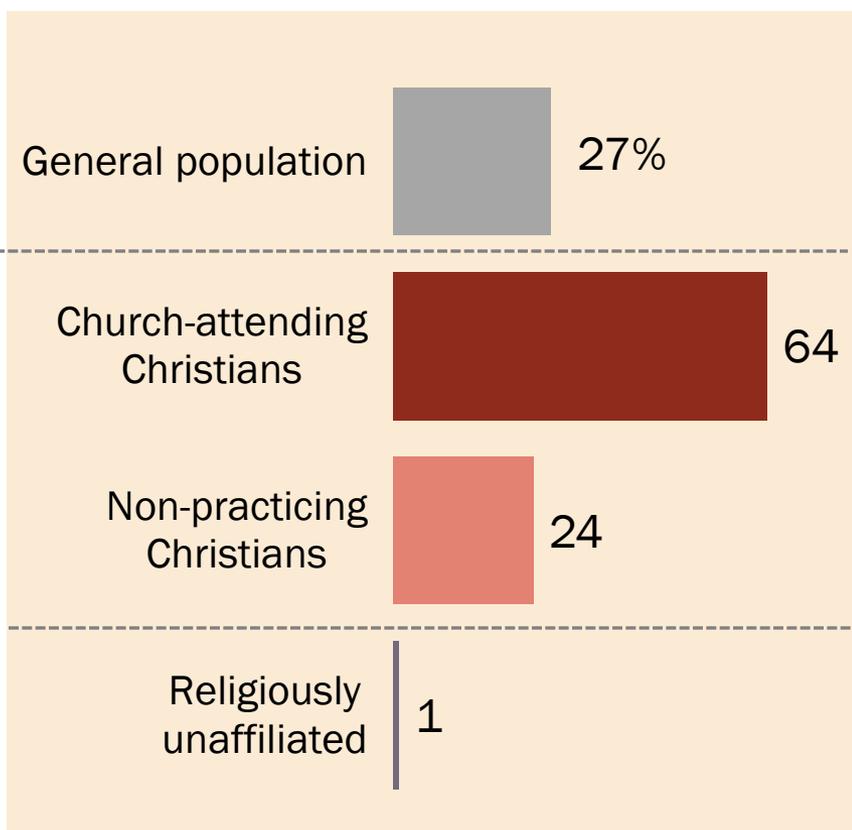


# Christian identity in Europe remains a marker of religious beliefs

Across 15 countries surveyed, median % who

*Believe in God as described in the Bible*

*Believe in some other higher power or spiritual force (non-biblical)*

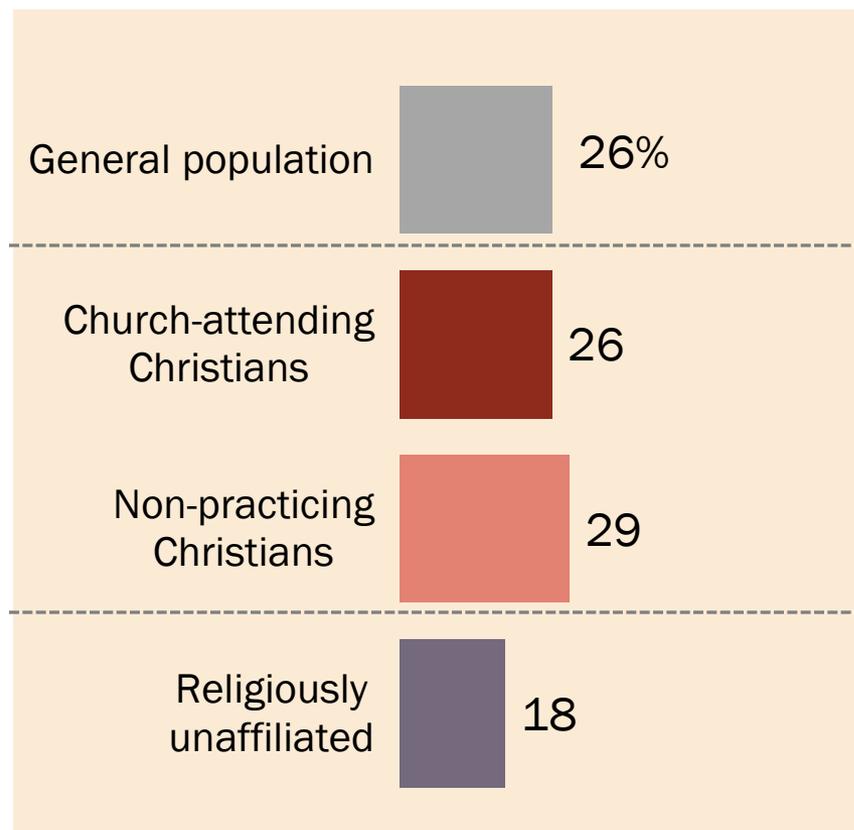
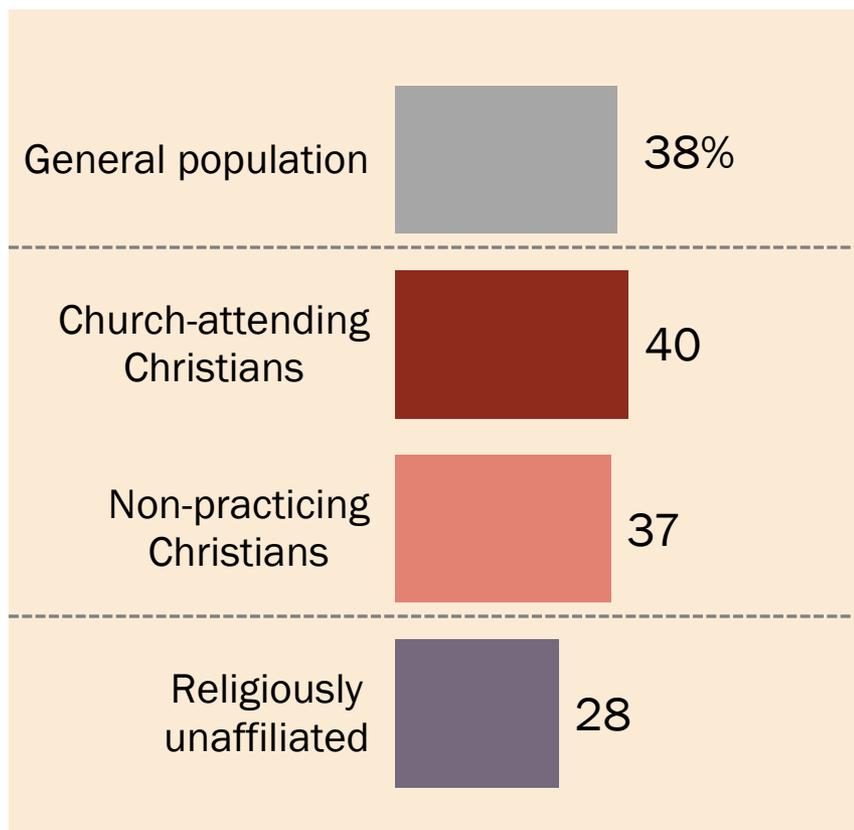


# Christians in Europe more likely than religiously unaffiliated to express negative views of immigrants

Across 15 countries surveyed, median % who

Say number of immigrants coming to country should be reduced

Say immigrants from the Middle East are NOT honest

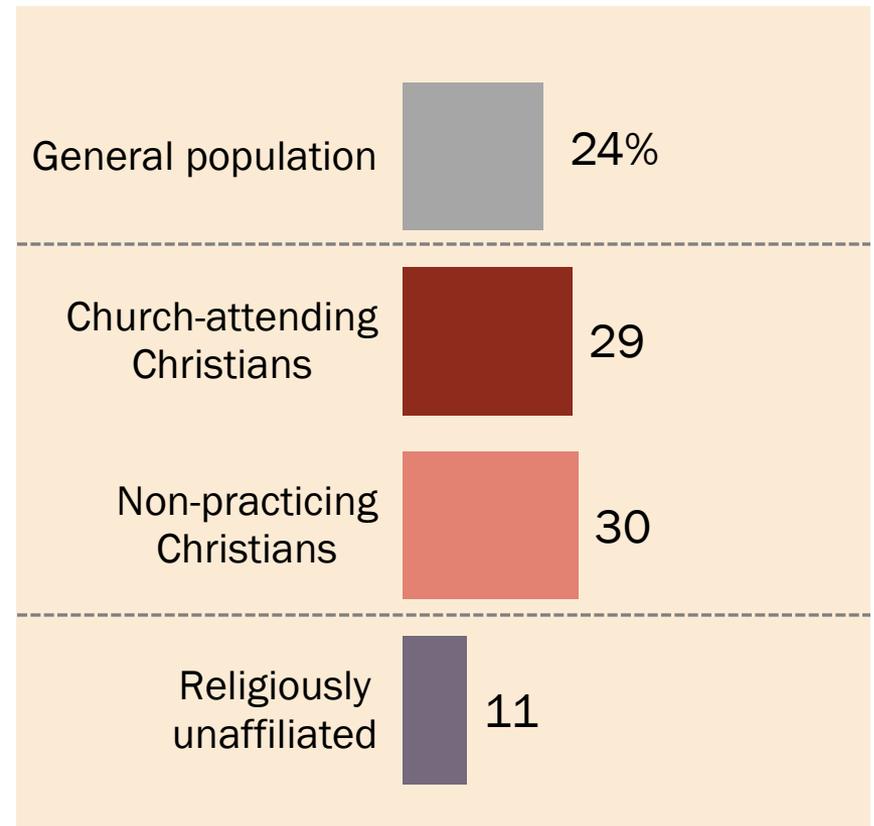
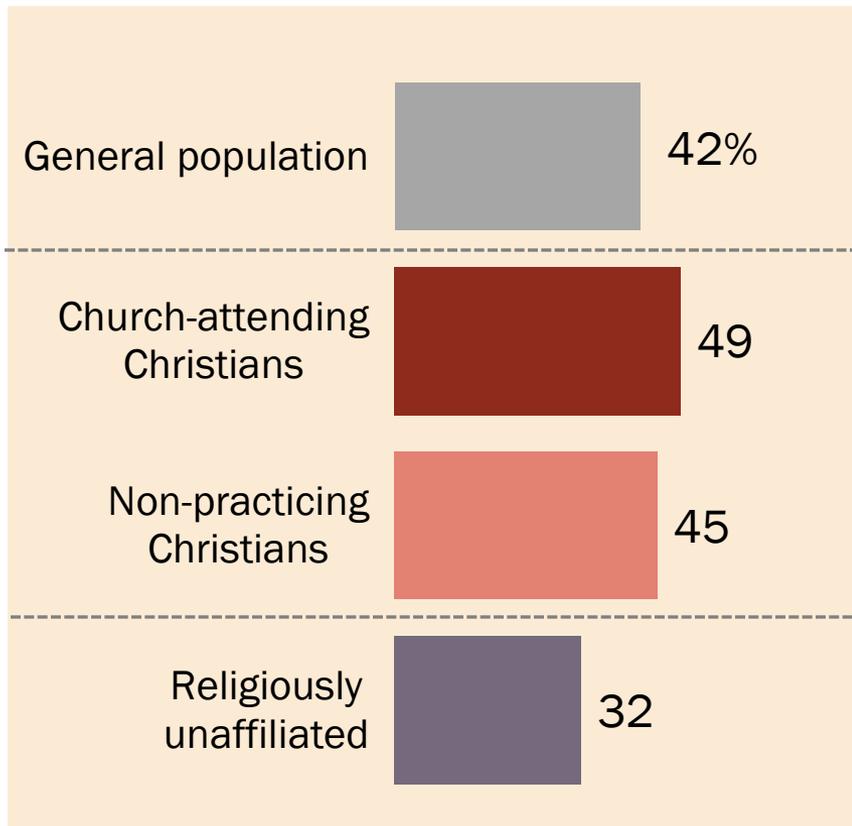


# Christians more likely than religiously unaffiliated adults to have negative views of Islam/Muslims

Across 15 countries, median % who

Say Islam is fundamentally incompatible with national culture and values

Are NOT willing to accept Muslims in their family



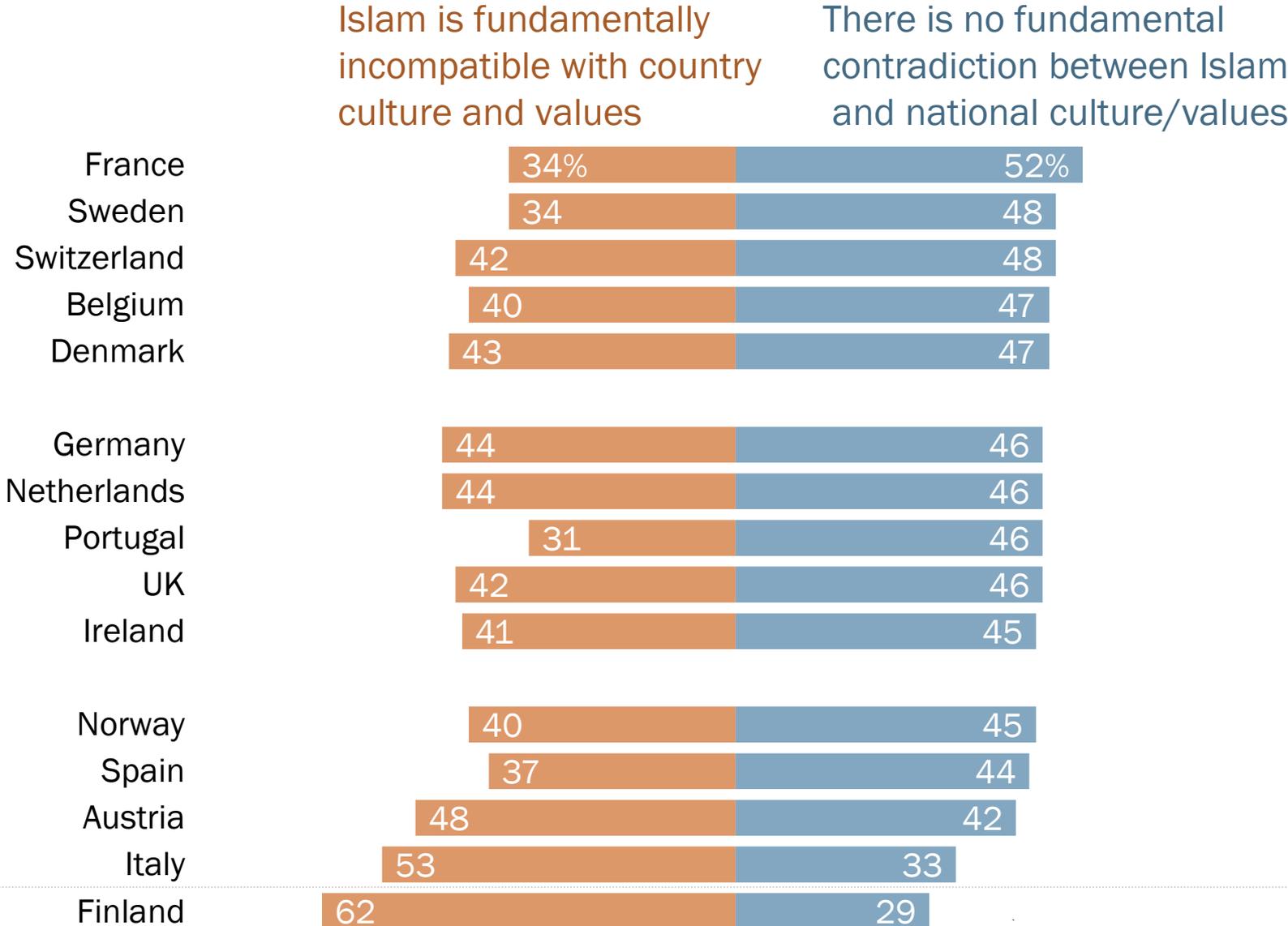
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# **ATTITUDES TOWARD RELIGIOUS MINORITIES**

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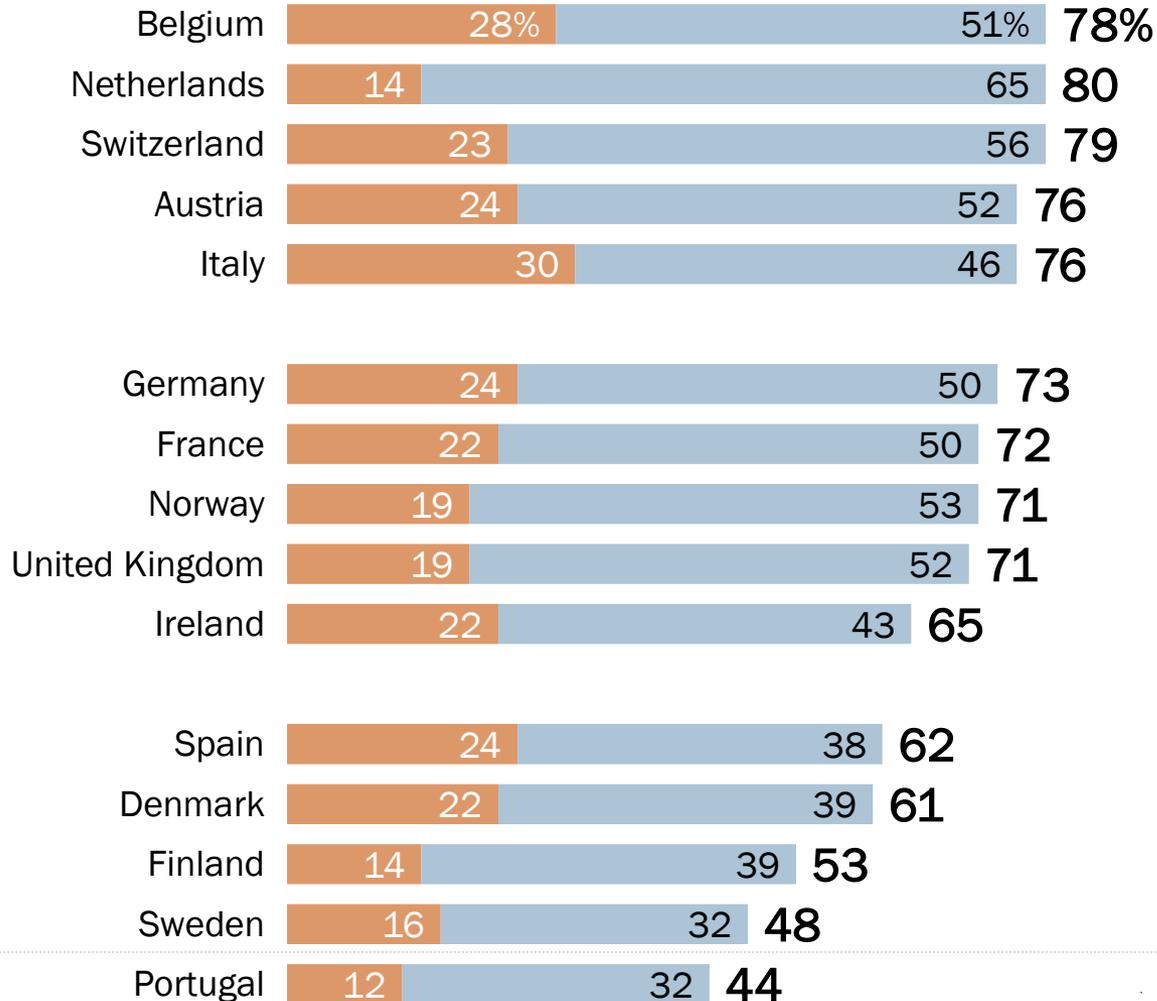
# Region divided over whether Islam is compatible with national culture/values



# Most people favor at least some restrictions on Muslim women's religious clothing

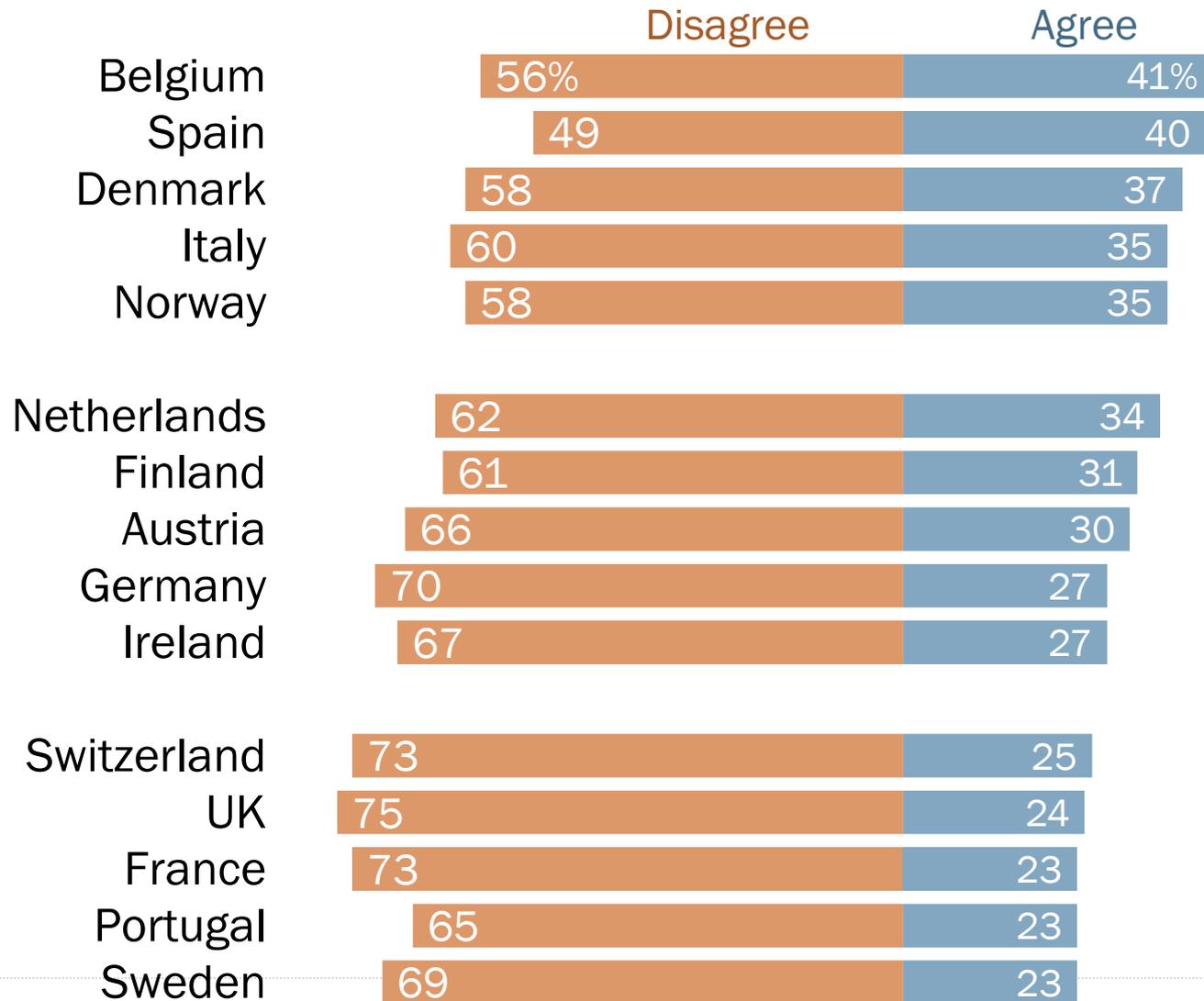
*% who favor*

■ No religious clothing ■ Restrictions on clothing that covers the face

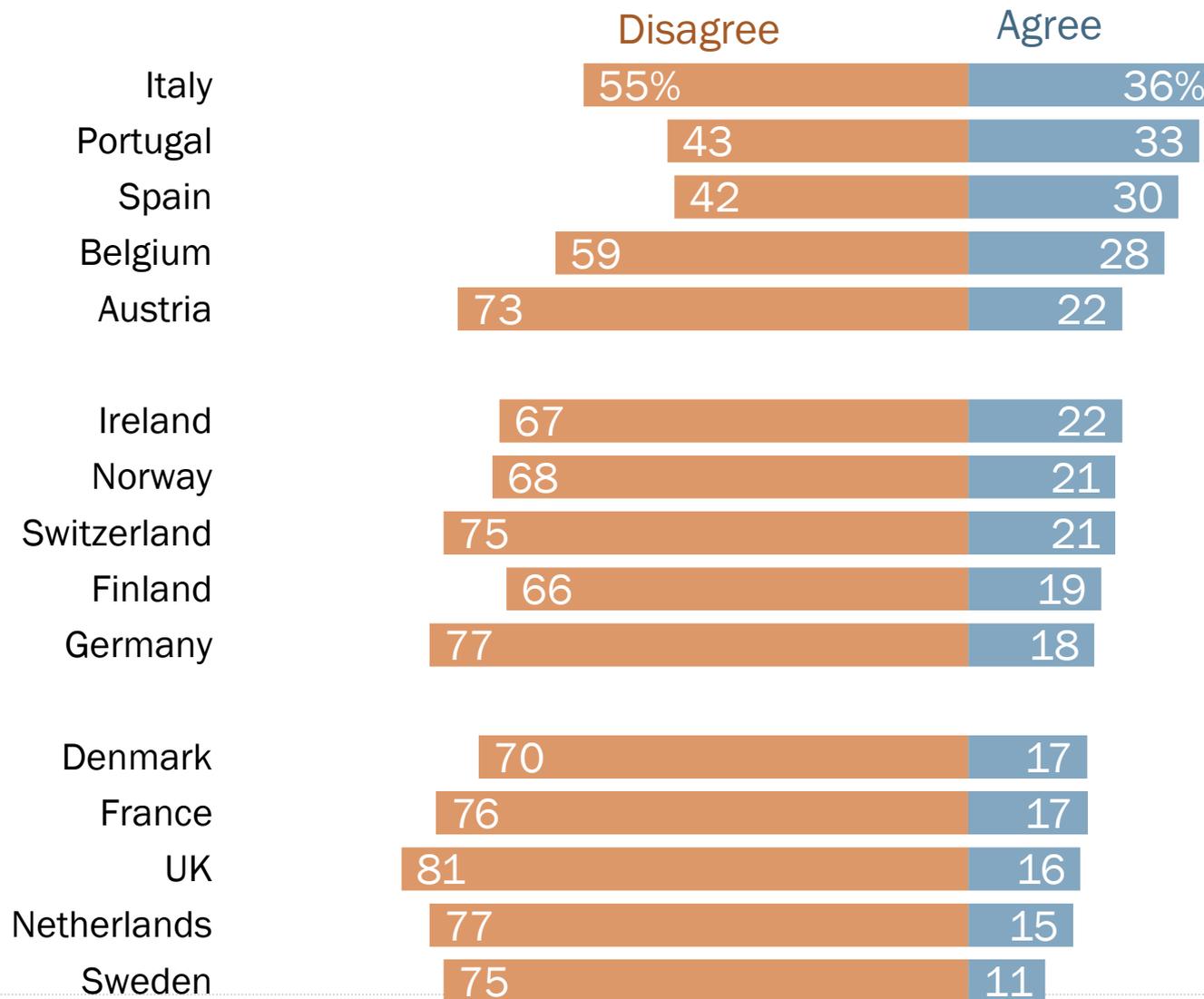


## Most disagree:

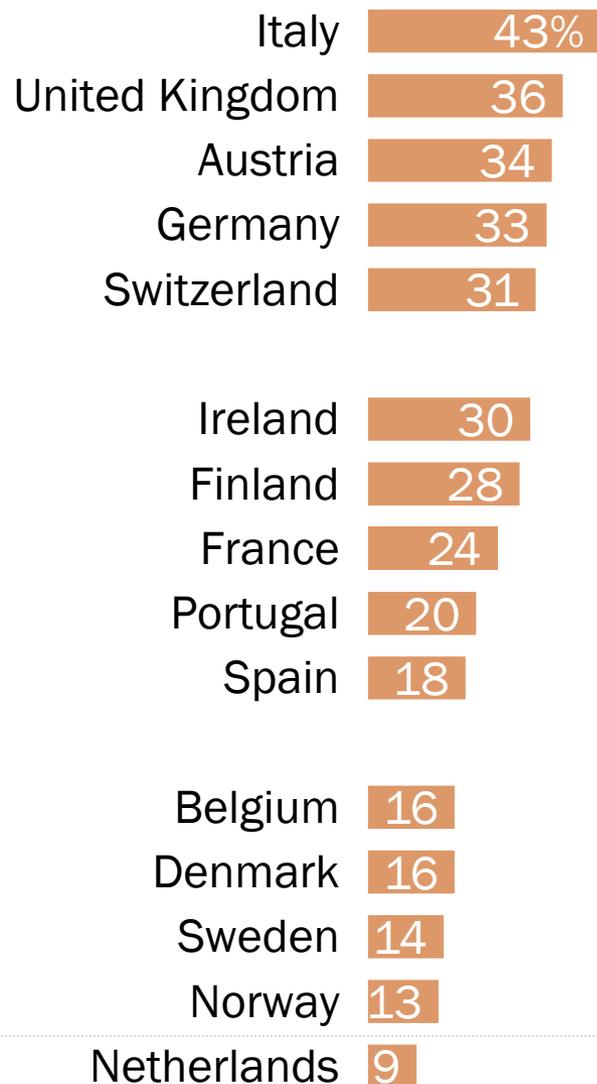
“In their hearts, Muslims want to impose their religious law on everyone else in [COUNTRY]”



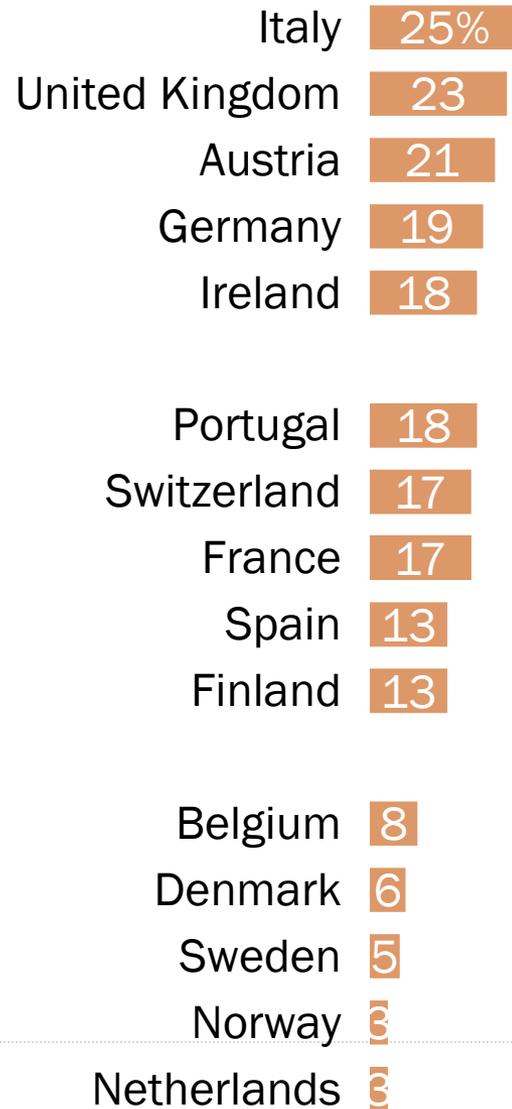
## Vast majorities disagree: “Jews always overstate how much they have suffered”



## Substantial minorities say they would NOT be willing to accept Muslims in their family



## Fewer people say they would NOT be willing to accept Jews in their family



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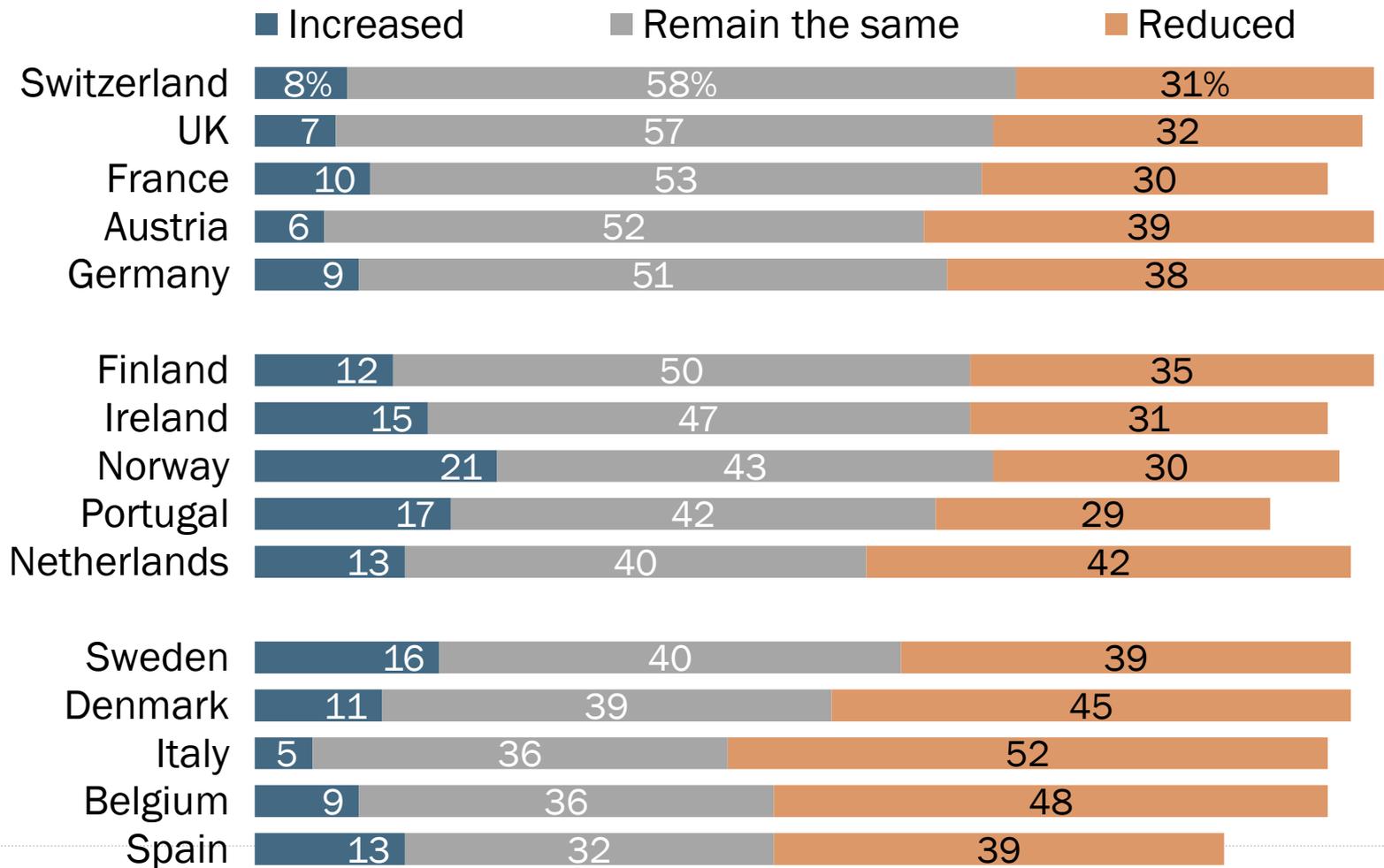
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# **ATTITUDES TOWARD IMMIGRATION**

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# In most countries, public opinion leans toward keeping immigration levels steady

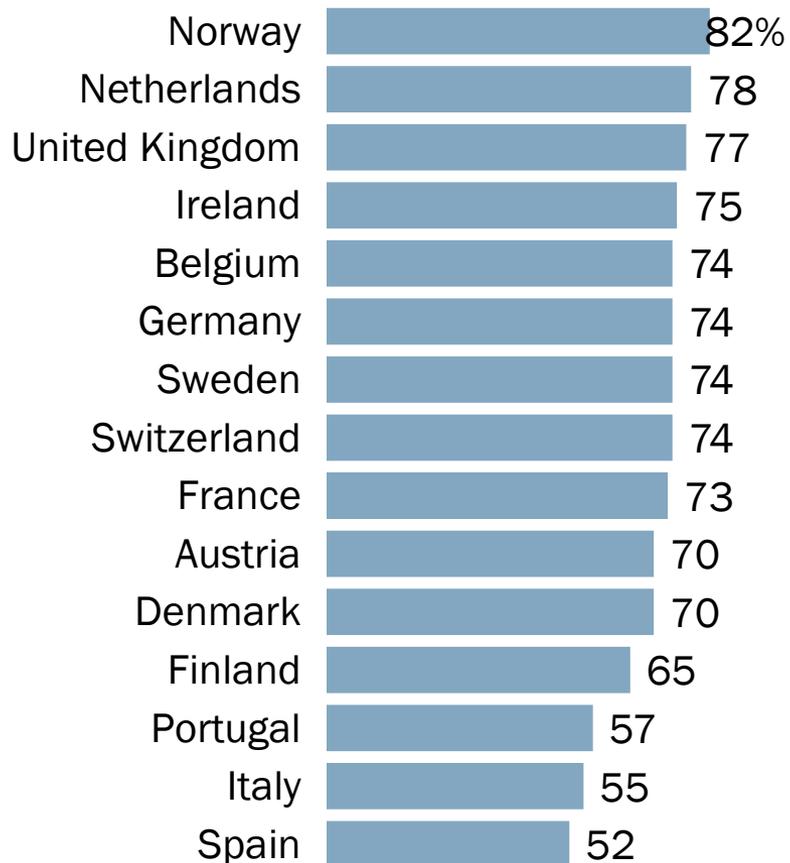
% who say the number of immigrants coming into their country should be ...



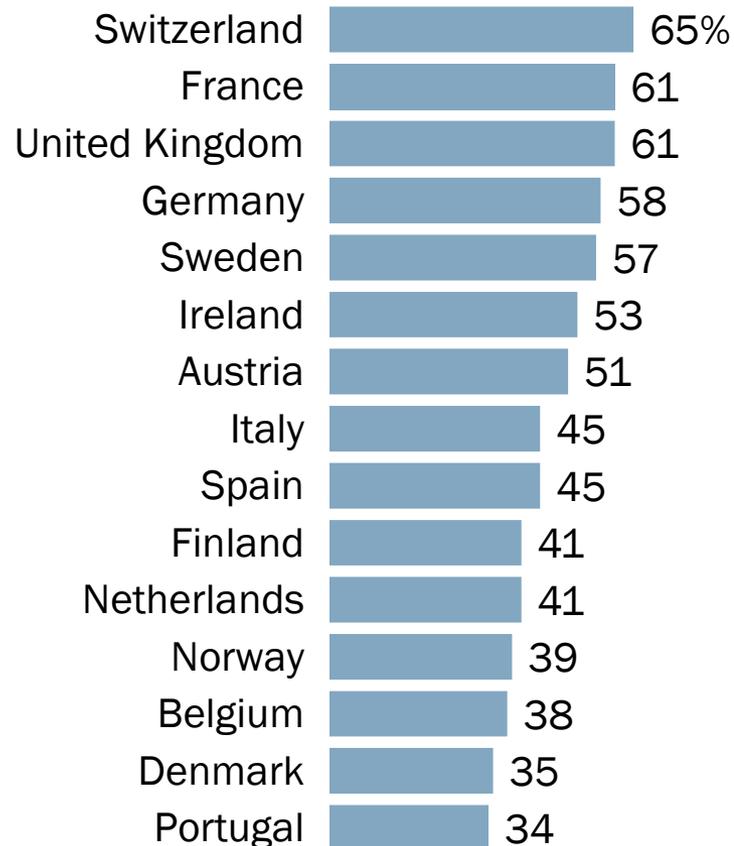
# More people see immigrants from Eastern Europe than Middle East as hardworking

*% who say immigrants from \_\_\_\_ are hardworking*

## Immigrants from Eastern Europe



## Immigrants from Middle East



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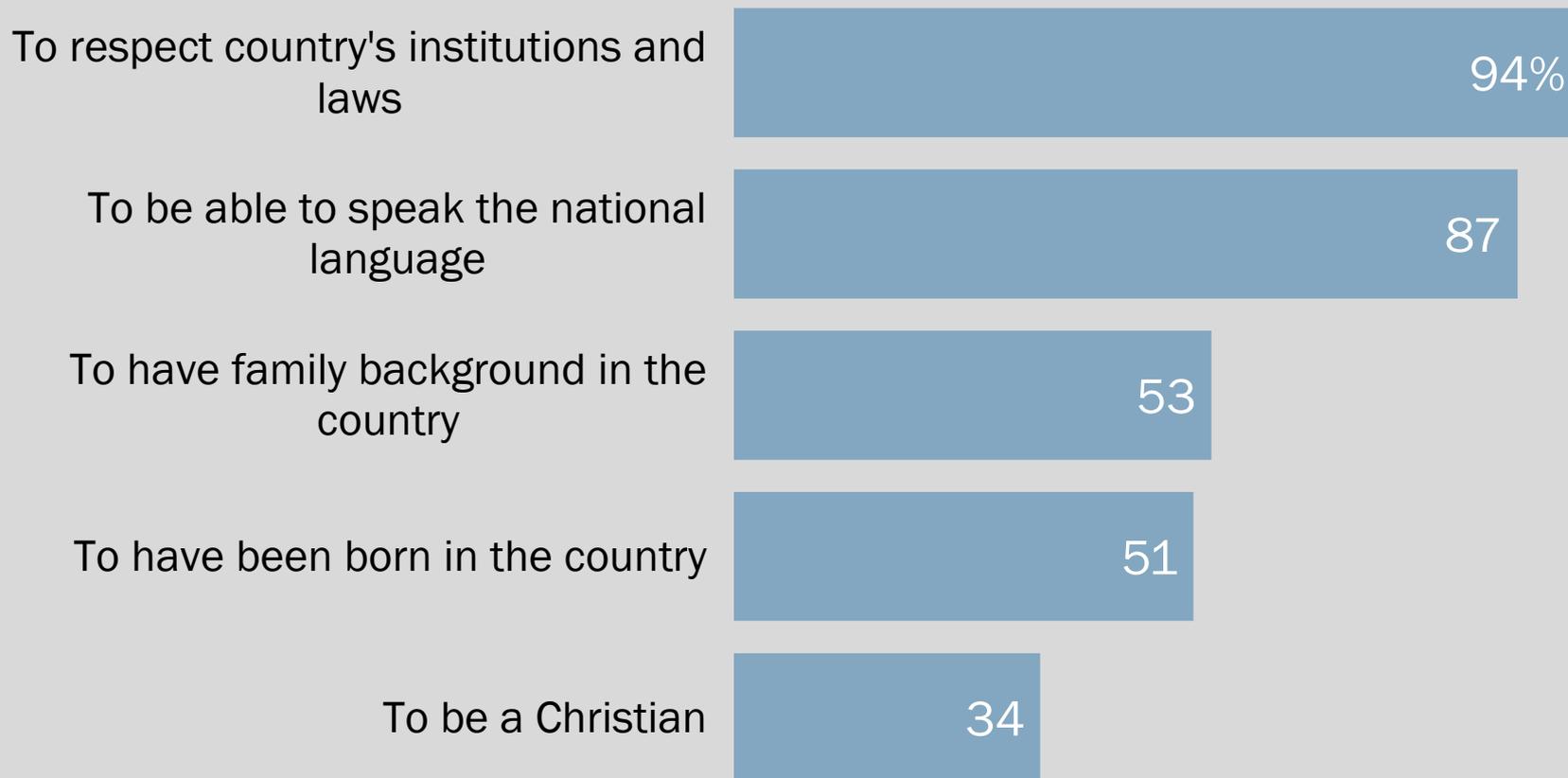
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# **NATIONALISM**

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# Most people see respecting the country's institutions and laws and speaking national language as important to national identity

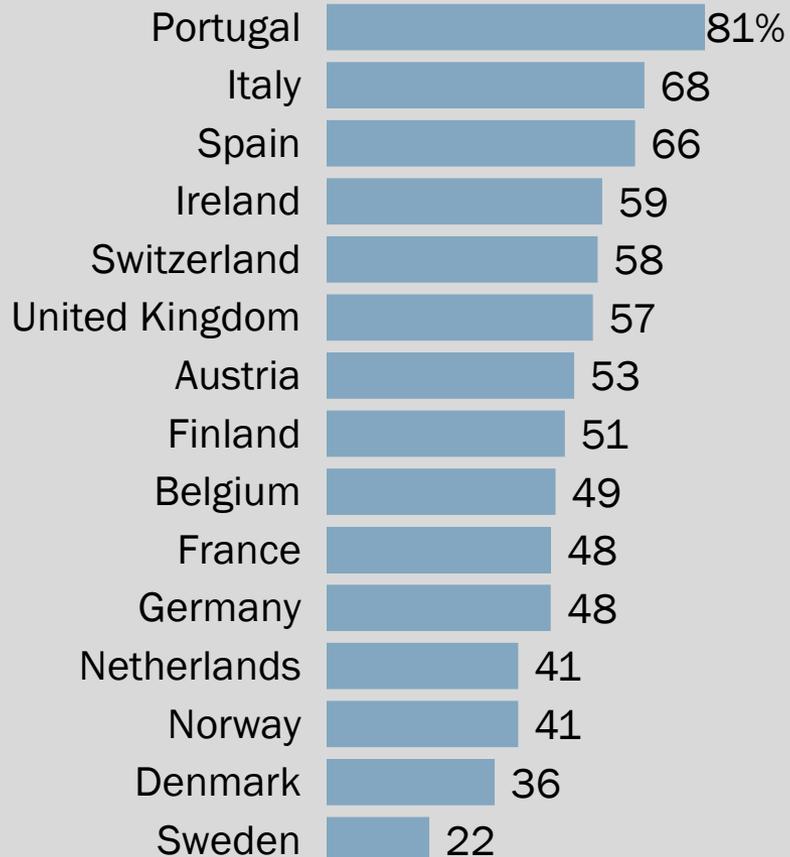
*% Across 15 countries, median % who say \_\_\_ is important to truly be a national of their country*



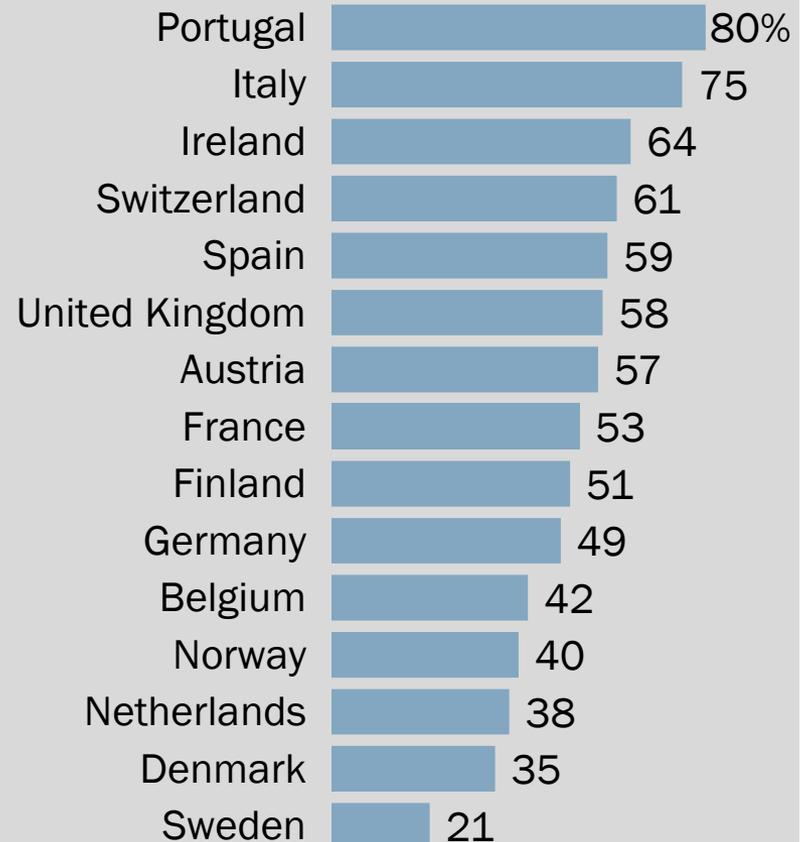
# Nativist views of national identity

*% who say being born in the country/having ancestry in the country is important to truly be a national of the country*

## Important to be born in the country

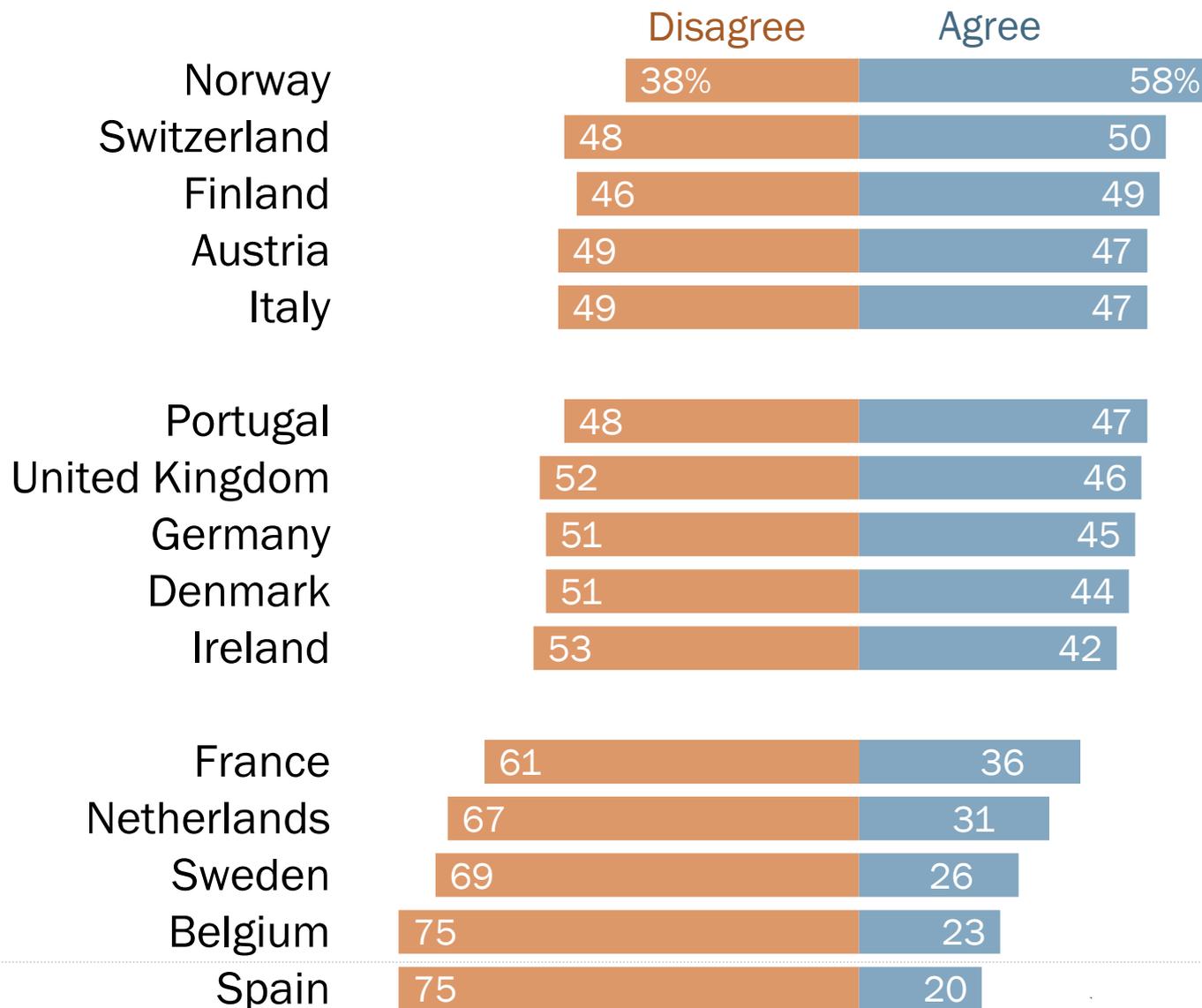


## Important to have family background in the country



## In many countries, people are split over whether their culture is superior to others

% who agree/disagree, "Our people are not perfect but our culture is superior to others"



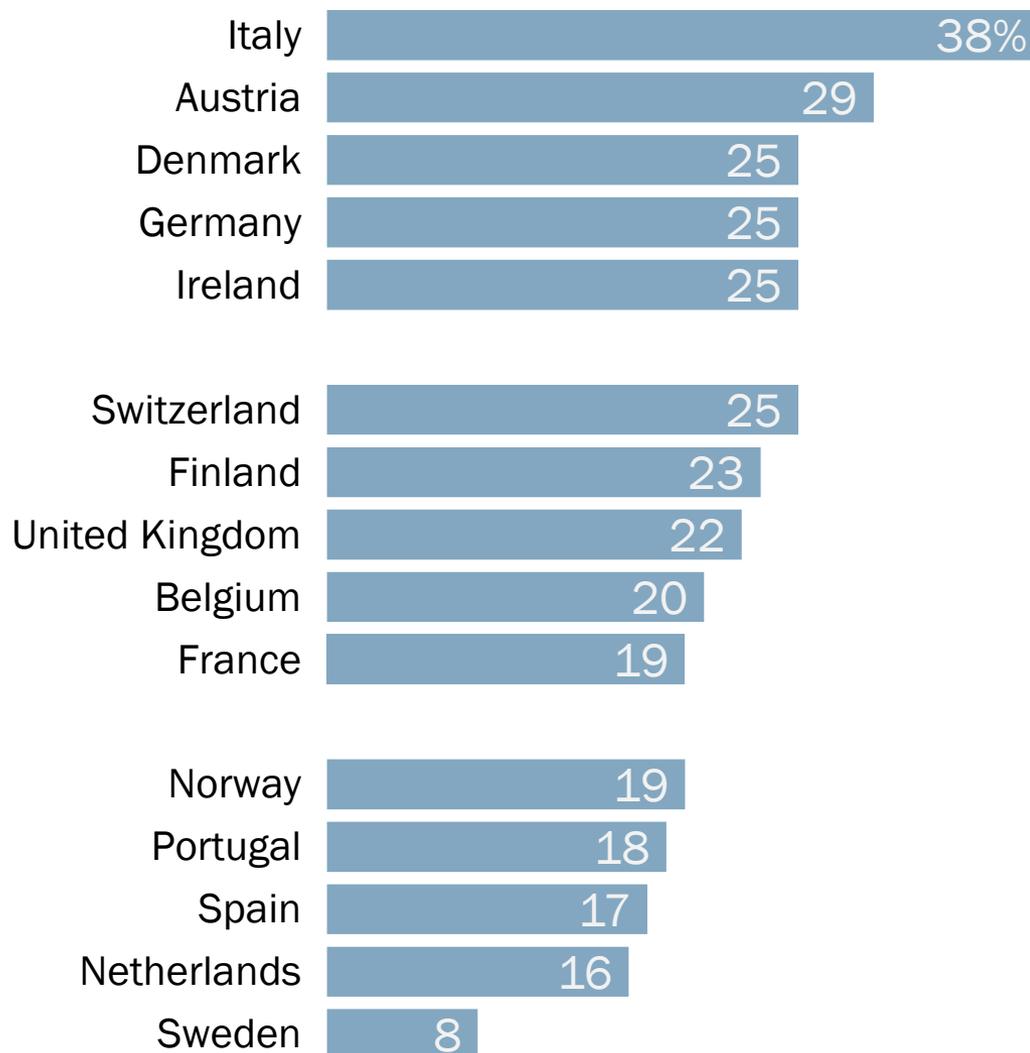
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**NATIONALISM, ANTI-IMMIGRATION, ANTI-MINORITY VIEWS  
(NIM)**

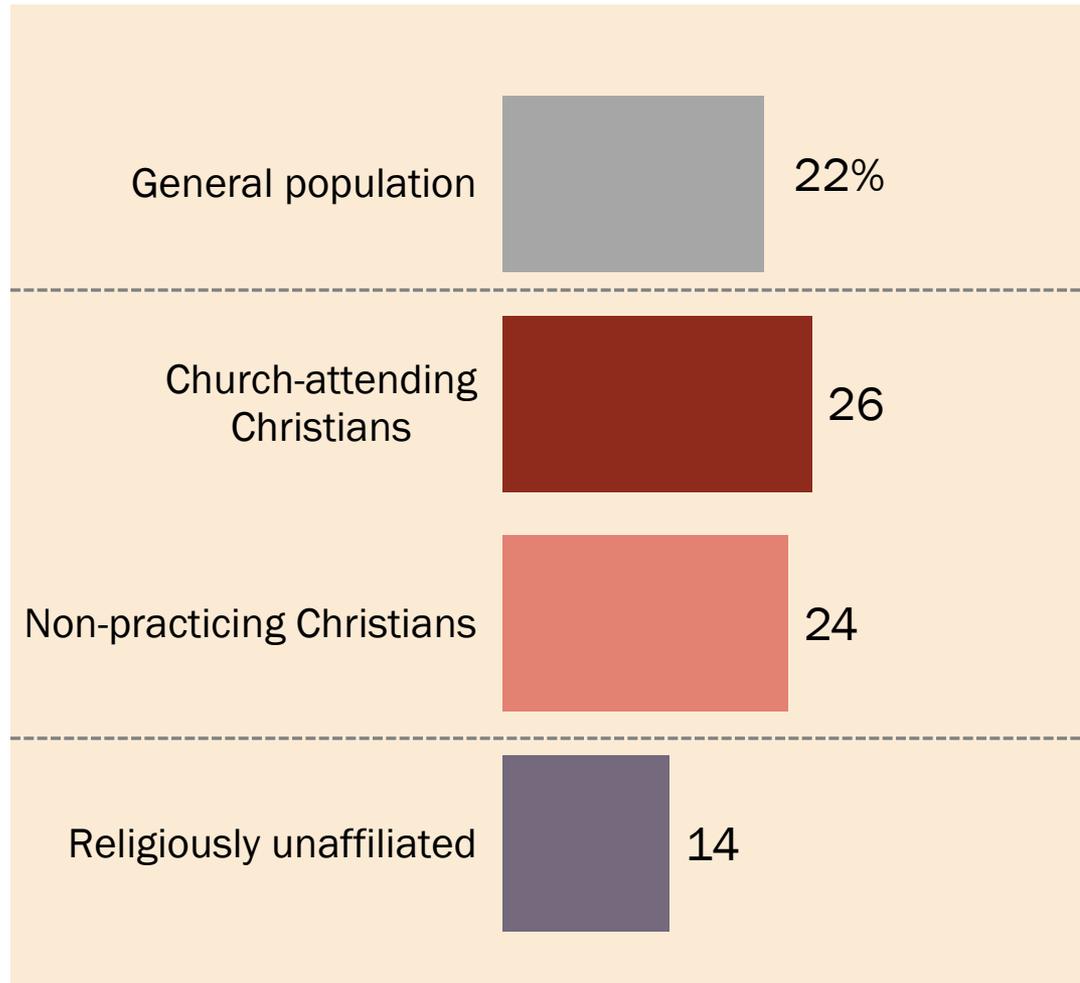
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## Share in each country who score higher than 5 on the 10-point index



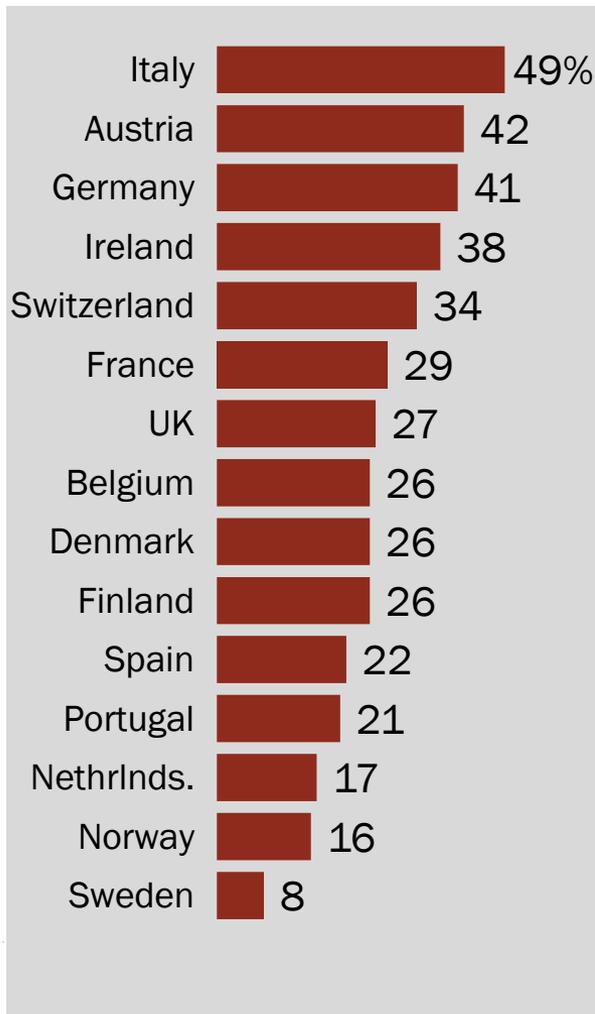
# Christians more likely than religiously unaffiliated adults to score above 5

*Across 15 countries surveyed, median % who score above 5 on the 10-point NIM*

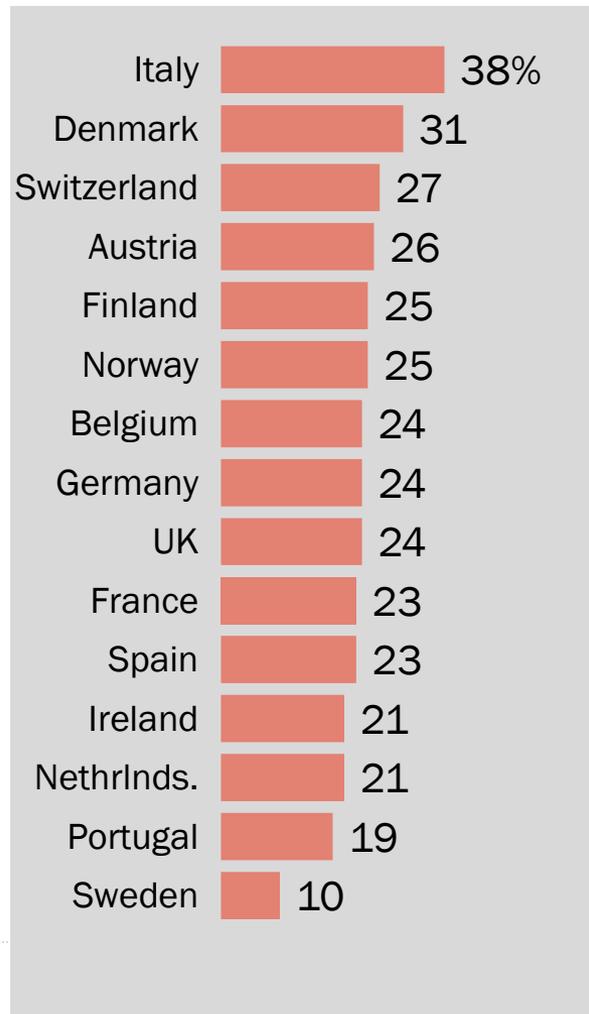


# Christians more likely than religiously unaffiliated adults to score above 5 on the 10-point NIM

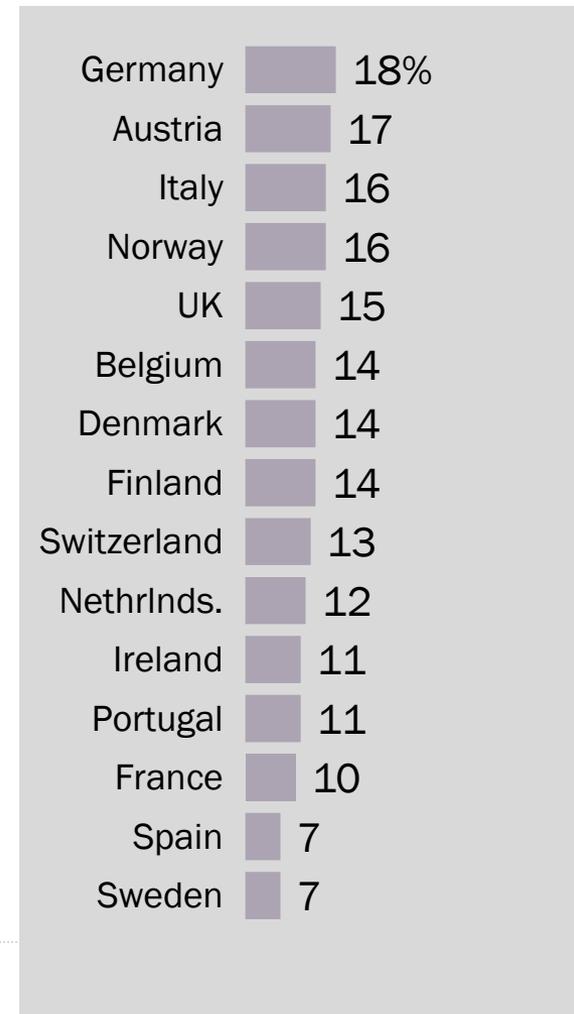
## Churchgoing Christians



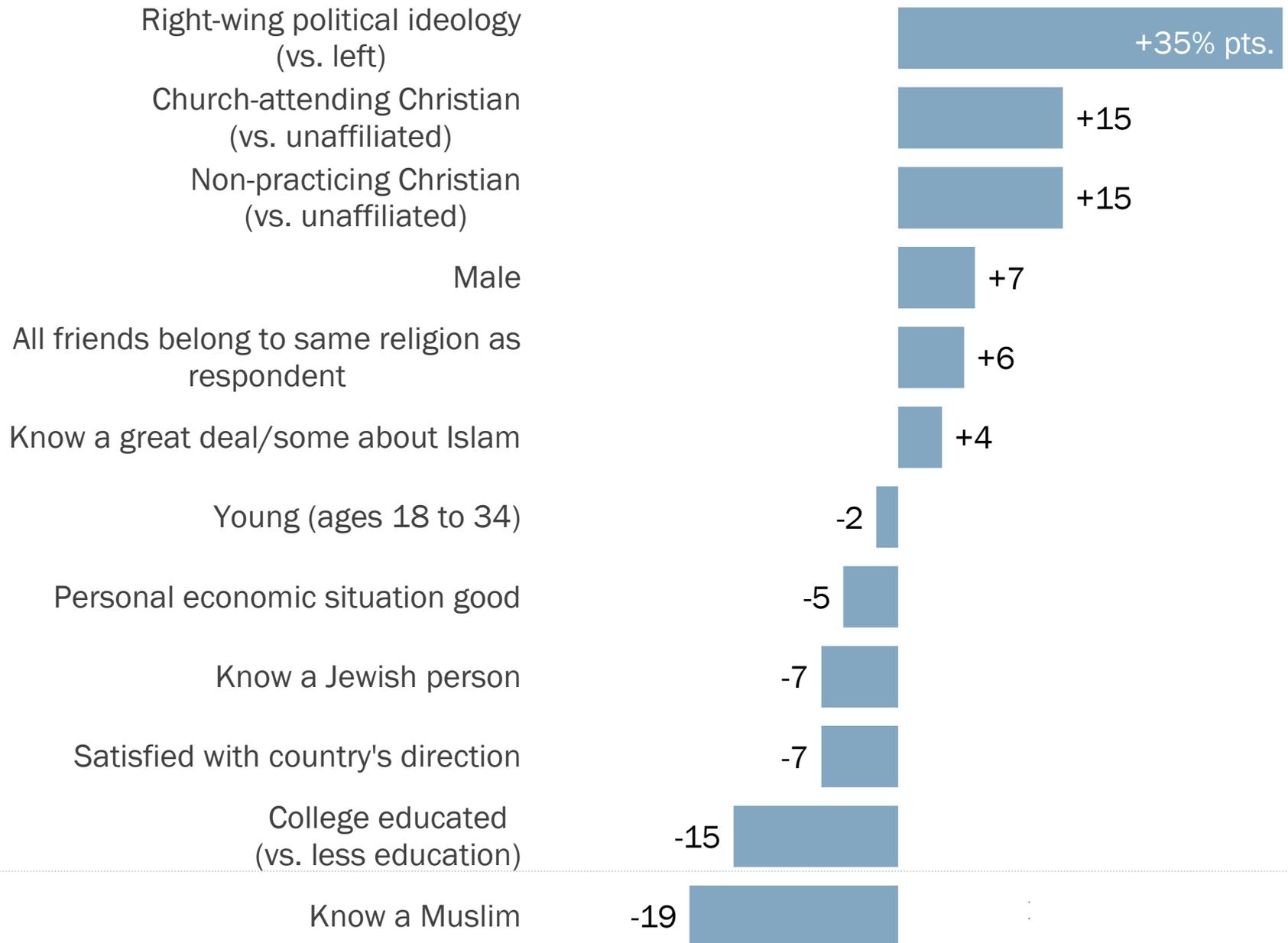
## Non-practicing Christians



## Religiously unaffiliated



## Factors associated with scoring above 5 on the 10-point NIM



**[www.pewresearch.org](http://www.pewresearch.org)**

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