LIAISON STRATÉGIES

Budget 2026

Before and after the budget

National Survey

November 10, 2026

With comparisons to Budget 2025

49% expect no personal benefit from the budget

49%

No positive difference to personal finances

Up from 38% before the budget. Another 35% see at least a possible benefit.

49%

Say the government spends too much

49% say the government spends too much, versus 51% before. About right rises to 30%.

63%

Opposition mostly playing politics

Up from 57% before the budget. Just 25% say opposition parties are responding responsibly.

On personal finances, 10% expect a significant difference, 25% maybe a small difference and 16% are unsure.

Survey method and comparisons

1,000

Canadians in each 2026 wave

±3.1

percentage points, 19/20

2026 fieldwork

Pre-budget: November 2–3
Post-budget: November 7–8

Historical benchmark

2025 fieldwork: November 1–3 and 7–8. Each wave interviewed 1,000 Canadians using IVR.

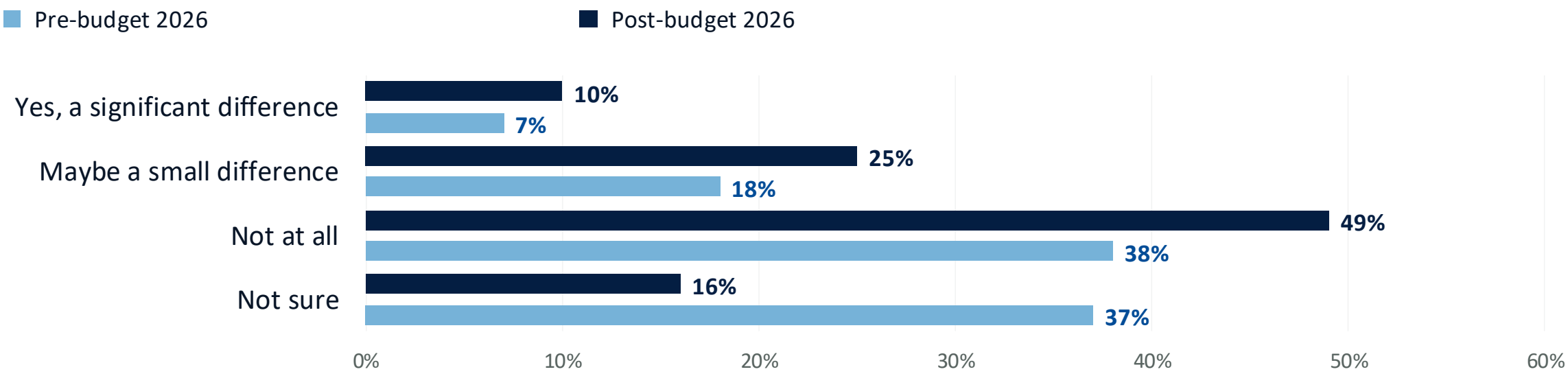
Sampling and weighting

Two separate random samples of Canadians aged 18+, using IVR and random digit dialling to landline and cellular networks.

Weighted by age, gender and region to 2021 Census targets. Subsample margins of error are higher.

49% expect no positive difference to their finances

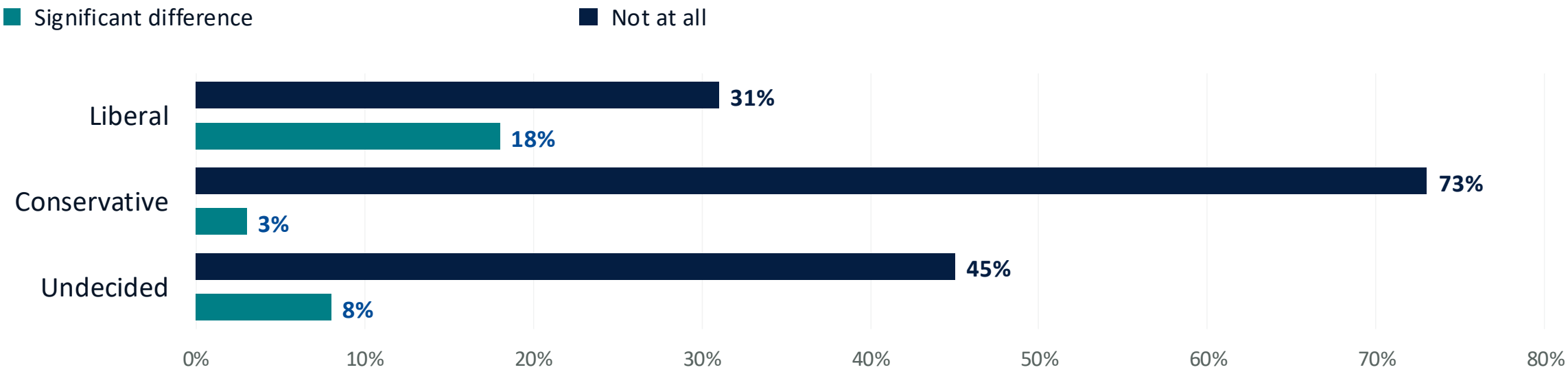
Do you think this budget will make a positive difference in your personal finances over the next year?



Possible benefit rises from 25% to 35%, and no benefit from 38% to 49%. Unsure falls from 37% to 16%.

Only 18% of Liberals expect a significant benefit

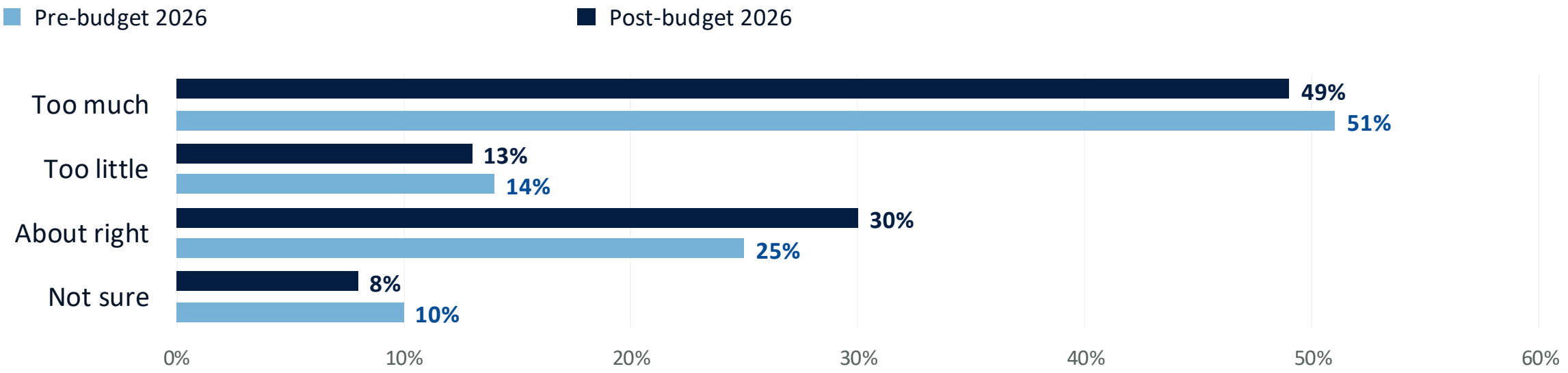
Do you think this budget will make a positive difference in your personal finances over the next year?



Post-budget 2026. Among Liberals, 33% say maybe a small difference and 18% are unsure. Complete party results appear in the appendix.

49% still say government spending is too high

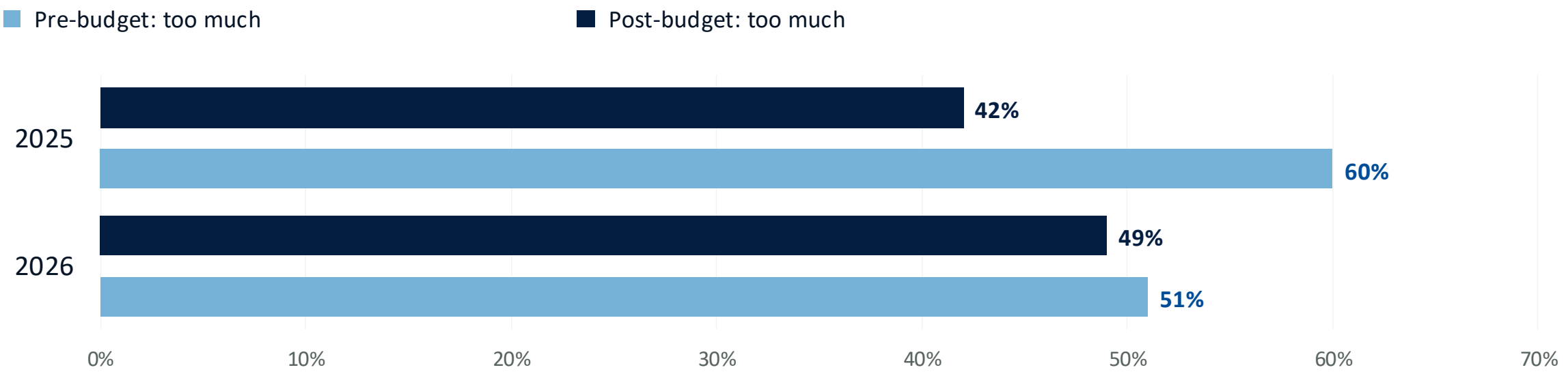
Overall, does it feel like the federal government is spending too much, too little, or about the right amount?



49% say spending is too high, compared with 30% who say about right and 13% who say too little.

Spending concern fell 18 points in 2025, two in 2026

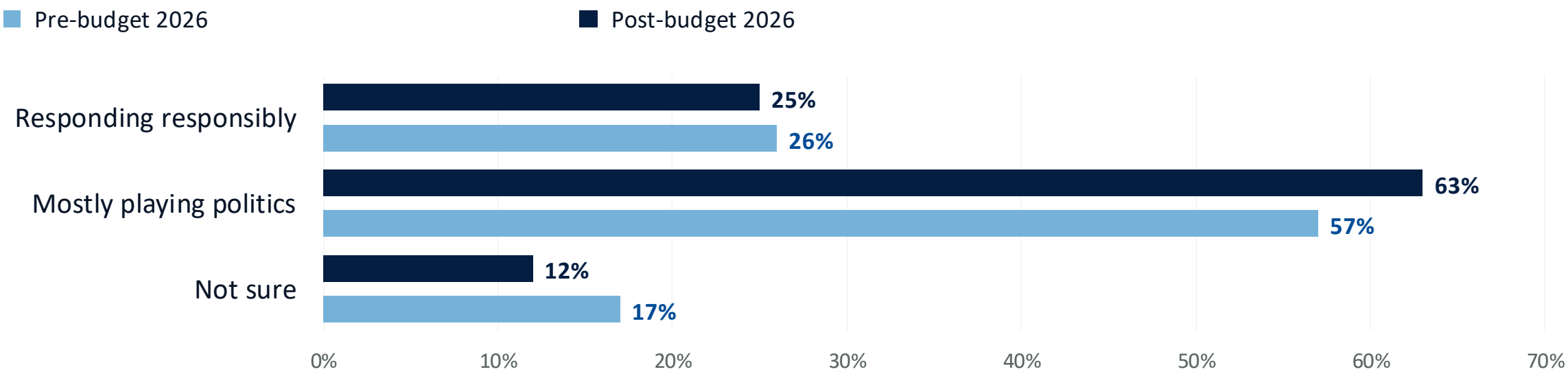
Overall, does it feel like the federal government is spending too much, too little, or about the right amount?



Spending concern starts lower in 2026: 51% before the budget, compared with 60% in 2025. Separate surveys in each year.

63% say opposition parties are playing politics

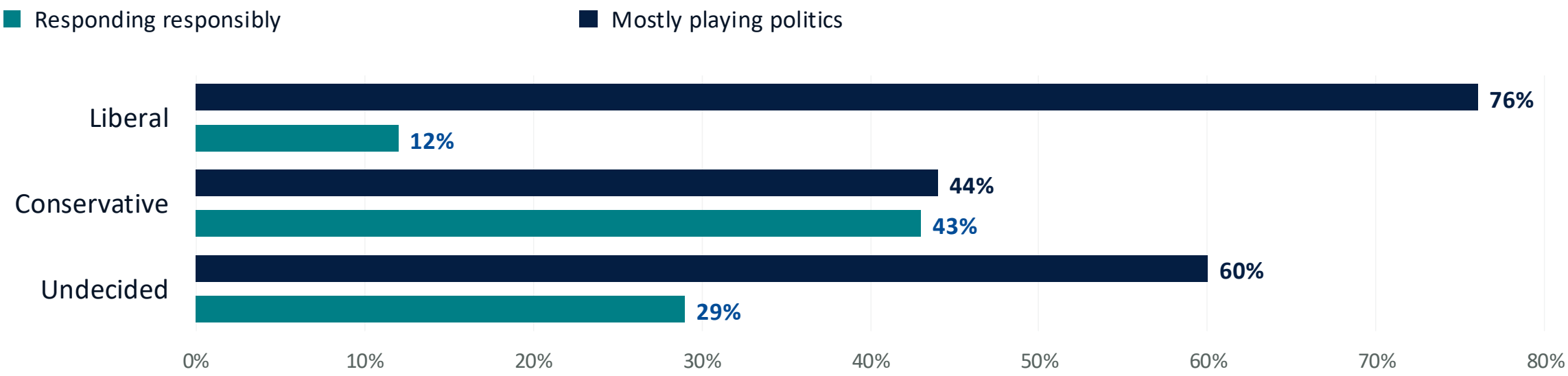
So far, do you think the opposition parties are responding responsibly to the budget, or mostly playing politics?



"Mostly playing politics" rises six points, while "responding responsibly" changes from 26% to 25%.

Conservative voters split on the opposition's response

So far, do you think the opposition parties are responding responsibly to the budget, or mostly playing politics?



Post-budget 2026. Not sure: Liberals 11%, Conservatives 13%, undecideds 11%. Conservatives split 43% responsible versus 44% playing politics.

Undecided voters question spending and opposition

Overall, does it feel like the federal government is spending too much, too little, or about the right amount?

54%

say the government spends too much

So far, do you think the opposition parties are responding responsibly to the budget, or mostly playing politics?

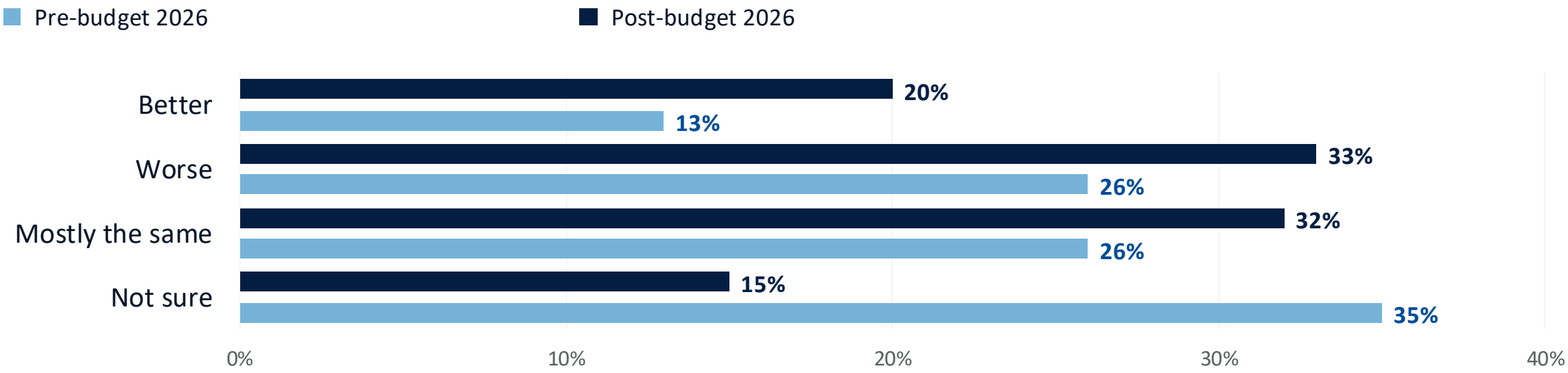
60%

say the opposition is mostly playing politics

Post-budget 2026, undecided voters n=101. Separate question results do not establish how the same individuals answered both items.

Both better and worse rise seven points

Based on what you've heard so far, do you think this year's budget will make Canada's financial situation better, worse, or mostly the same?



Better rises from 13% to 20%, while worse rises from 26% to 33%. The better-minus-worse gap stays at −13 points.

Liberals see more benefit, Conservatives more harm

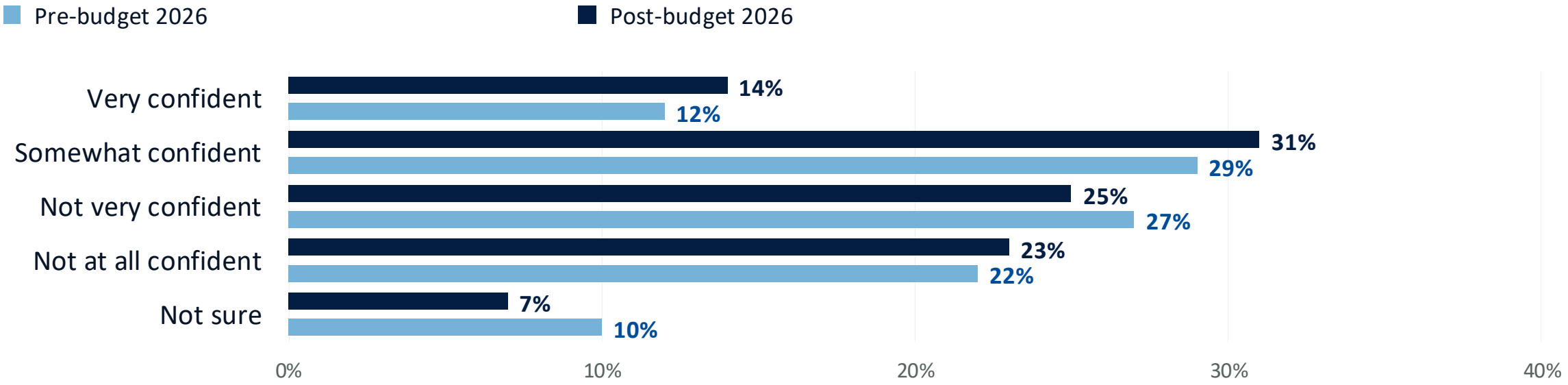
Based on what you've heard so far, do you think this year's budget will make Canada's financial situation better, worse, or mostly the same?

Voting intention	Better	Worse	Same	Not sure
Liberal	**33%**	**17%**	**33%**	**16%**
Conservative	**6%**	**57%**	**23%**	**14%**
NDP	**15%**	**31%**	**35%**	**19%**
BQ	**13%**	**27%**	**42%**	**17%**
Green/PPC/Other	**16%**	**41%**	**24%**	**19%**
Undecided	**20%**	**30%**	**42%**	**8%**

Post-budget 2026. Liberals: 33% better and 17% worse. Conservatives: 6% better and 57% worse. Small party bases warrant caution.

45% confident in long-term benefits, 48% not confident

Do you feel confident that government spending today will benefit people like you in the long run?



Very or somewhat confident totals 45%, up from 41%. Not very or not at all confident totals 48%, down from 49%.

67% of Liberals are confident in spending benefits

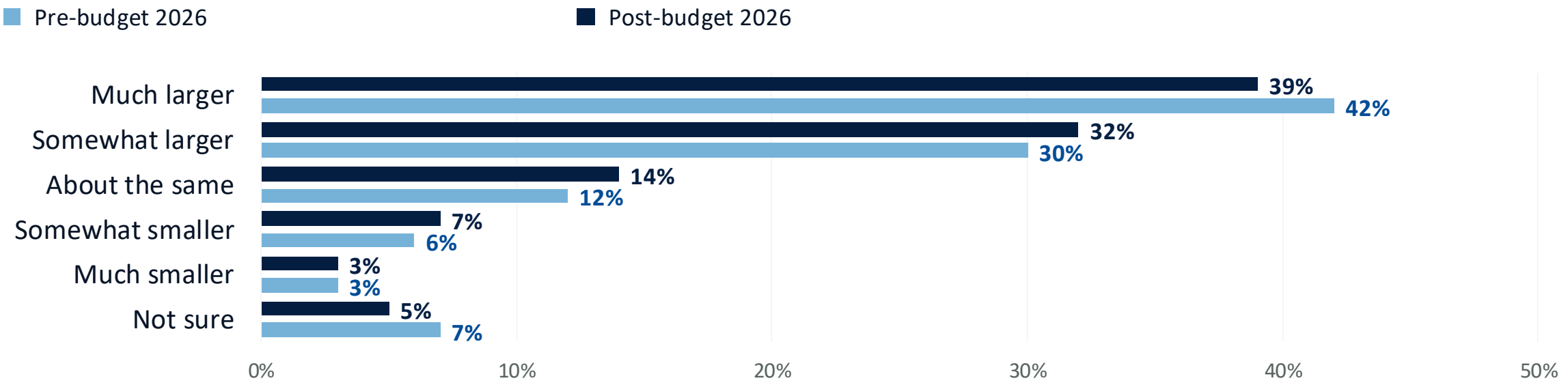
Post-budget 2026. Percent within each voting-intention group.

Voting intention	Spending too much	Confident in benefits
Liberal	**30%**	**67%**
Conservative	**73%**	**16%**
NDP	**47%**	**42%**
BQ	**56%**	**34%**
Green/PPC/Other	**54%**	**38%**
Undecided	**54%**	**46%**

Among Liberals, 67% expect long-term benefits from spending. Among Conservatives, 16% do. BQ n=52 and combined other parties n=37.

Seven in ten say the deficit is larger

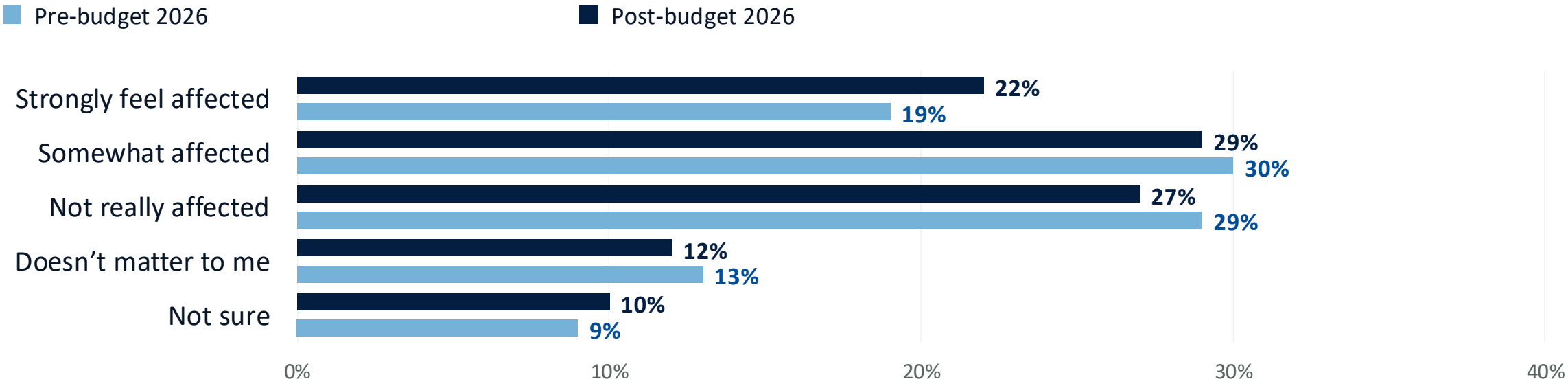
Pre: Compared to last year, do you expect the federal deficit to be…
Post: Compared to last year, is the federal deficit…



Larger totals 71% after the budget, versus 72% expected beforehand. The wording changes from expectation to assessment.

51% feel personally affected by the deficit

Do you personally feel affected by the federal deficit?



Strongly or somewhat affected totals 51%, compared with 49% before the budget. Strongly affected rises from 19% to 22%.

Negative economic moods remain the majority

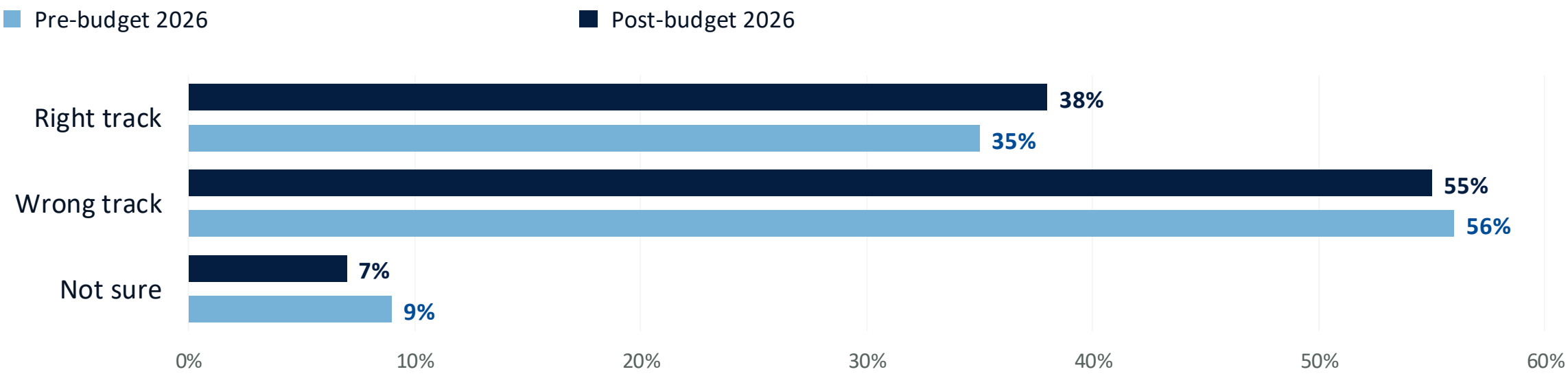
Thinking about the Canadian economy right now, what best describes your mood?

Mood	Pre-budget	Post-budget	Change
Optimistic	**8%**	**9%**	**+1**
Cautiously hopeful	**20%**	**22%**	**+2**
Worried	**28%**	**26%**	**-2**
Pessimistic	**18%**	**18%**	**0**
Angry or frustrated	**16%**	**17%**	**+1**
Indifferent	**5%**	**5%**	**0**
Not sure	**5%**	**3%**	**-2**

Worried, pessimistic or angry/frustrated totals 61%, versus 62% before. Optimistic or cautiously hopeful rises from 28% to 31%.

55% say Canada is on the wrong track

Is Canada on the right track or the wrong track?



Right track rises from 35% to 38%. Wrong track remains above half and changes by one point.

Spending views vary by region

Post-budget 2026. Percent within each region.

Region	Spending too much	No personal benefit	Wrong track
Atlantic	**42%**	**43%**	**52%**
Quebec	**47%**	**49%**	**53%**
Ontario	**48%**	**48%**	**53%**
Prairies	**59%**	**50%**	**57%**
Alberta	**55%**	**56%**	**65%**
British Columbia	**49%**	**47%**	**56%**

Regional differences are descriptive. Small unweighted samples include the Prairies (n=66) and Atlantic Canada (n=67).

Conservative voters split on the opposition's response

So far, do you think the opposition parties are responding responsibly to the budget, or mostly playing politics?

Voting intention	Responsible	Playing politics	Not sure
Liberal	**12%**	**76%**	**11%**
Conservative	**43%**	**44%**	**13%**
NDP	**26%**	**64%**	**10%**
BQ	**29%**	**58%**	**13%**
Green/PPC/Other	**8%**	**76%**	**16%**
Undecided	**29%**	**60%**	**11%**

Post-budget 2026. Conservatives: 43% responsible and 44% mostly playing politics, despite 73% saying the government spends too much.

73% of Conservatives expect no personal benefit

Do you think this budget will make a positive difference in your personal finances over the next year?

Voting intention	Significant	Maybe small	Not at all	Not sure
Liberal	18%	33%	31%	18%
Conservative	3%	12%	73%	12%
NDP	6%	27%	51%	15%
BQ	8%	25%	55%	11%
Green/PPC/Other	3%	22%	54%	21%
Undecided	8%	28%	45%	19%

Post-budget 2026. Liberals: 18% significant benefit, 33% maybe a small difference and 31% no benefit. BQ n=52 and combined other parties n=37.

Liberal and Conservative assessments both firm up

2026 results before and after the budget. Values are percentages within each group.

Measure	Liberal pre	Liberal post	Con. pre	Con. post
Canada’s finances better	**23%**	**33%**	**5%**	**6%**
Canada’s finances worse	**11%**	**17%**	**44%**	**57%**
Personal benefit possible[1]	**37%**	**51%**	**8%**	**15%**
No positive personal effect	**22%**	**31%**	**60%**	**73%**

[1] Significant or possible small benefit. Both groups become less unsure. Changing group composition can also affect comparisons.

Age and gender differences are smaller than party gaps

Post-budget 2026. Percent within each age or gender group.

Group	Spending too much	Confident in benefits	No personal benefit
Female	**49%**	**44%**	**51%**
Male	**50%**	**45%**	**48%**
18–34	**51%**	**42%**	**50%**
35–49	**51%**	**44%**	**51%**
50–64	**47%**	**47%**	**47%**
65+	**46%**	**47%**	**48%**

Possible personal benefit ranges from 33% among ages 18–34 to 37% among ages 50–64 and 65+. Other gender n=50, not displayed.

Uncertainty falls less, from a lower starting point

Share answering “Not sure” in each year’s national surveys.

Question	2025 pre	2025 post	2026 pre	2026 post
Canada’s financial situation	**50%**	**9%**	**35%**	**15%**
Positive difference to own finances	**54%**	**10%**	**37%**	**16%**

Post-budget personal benefit possible **39% in 2025 / 35% in 2026**

Both years use the same financial-impact questions. Differences between years cannot be attributed to the budgets alone.

More see a larger deficit than after Budget 2025

National post-budget percentages. The same measures appear in both years.

Measure	2025 post	2026 post
Deficit much or somewhat larger	**65%**	**71%**
Feel strongly or somewhat affected	**44%**	**51%**
Negative economic mood[1]	**57%**	**61%**
Budget worsens Canada’s finances	**36%**	**33%**
Positive personal difference possible[2]	**39%**	**35%**
Opposition mostly playing politics	**71%**	**63%**

[1] Worried, pessimistic or angry/frustrated. [2] Significant or possible small difference. Post-budget uncertainty is higher in 2026 on financial impacts.

Spending and economic outlook: 2025 and 2026

National percentages in each year’s pre- and post-budget surveys.

Measure	2025 pre	2025 post	2026 pre	2026 post
Spending too much	**60%**	**42%**	**51%**	**49%**
Confident in long-term benefits	**46%**	**47%**	**41%**	**45%**
Right track	**40%**	**44%**	**35%**	**38%**

“Too much” falls 18 points in 2025, versus two in 2026. Confidence rises one and four points respectively. These are descriptive comparisons.

Comparability and subgroup sizes

Question wording

The nine budget items appear in both years. The deficit item changes from “do you expect” before the budget to “is” after it.

Interpreting change

The surveys use separate random samples, not re-interviews. Small changes may reflect sampling variation. No causal effect is established.

2026 post-budget group	Unweighted n
Liberal / Conservative	**402 / 281**
NDP / BQ	**127 / 52**
Green, PPC and other / undecided	**37 / 101**
Atlantic / Prairies	**67 / 66**

Voting-intention groups reflect declared party preference. They do not measure a budget-driven change in vote share. Totals may differ from 100% due to rounding.

Contact

For questions about this survey or a briefing on the results

David Valentin, Principal

david@liaisonstrategies.ca
+1 514-913-5524
liaisonstrategies.ca