

POLITY

RESEARCH & CONSULTING



CEDA: Personal & National Priorities among Australia's people

Full report

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committee for economic development of australia

Introduction & background

The **Committee for Economic Development of Australia** is a highly respected, independent organisation, driving thought-leadership and policy debate regarding economic and social issues in Australia.

In partnership with member organisations, CEDA's mission is to:

- ▶ Lead debate in key public policy areas;
- ▶ Harness ideas from across business, politics, community and academia; and
- ▶ Influence policy-making through informed, non-partisan advocacy.

As part of a strategic revision, CEDA has recognised that many of the long-standing ways of thinking and talking about 'economic growth' no longer have currency with the general public. What is more, the population have largely become very cynical about 'government' and disengaged from politics and policy.

As such, CEDA has undertaken community research to understand key economic and social issues, particularly in terms of the most important personal and national priorities for Australia's people.

These findings reported here evaluate which areas have broad national and state-level importance for government policy focus, as well as areas which are more contentious or less important.



Methodology: Survey Approach

Survey method

Results presented in this report are based on an online survey of the Australian population (i.e. the “general community”), conducted between 29 March-12 April 2018.

- A general community sample of n=2991 was drawn from a professional market and social research panel, and was sampled and weighted to be representative of the Australian population by age, gender and residential location.
- For State & Territory breakouts in the general community, quotas were set for each sample group.
- The data is weighted to ABS population data (in terms of age, gender and location), based on the 2016 Census.

Accuracy

With a sample size of n=2991, the accuracy of the results of the general community sample is +/- 1.8% at the 95% confidence interval. This means, for example, that if the survey returns a result of 50%, there is 95% probability that the actual result will be between 48.2% and 51.2%.

State/Territory breakouts are associated with the following margins of error at the 95% confidence interval:

- ▶ NSW, Victoria (n=600 each) +/-4.0%
- ▶ QLD, WA, SA (n=400 each) +/-4.9%
- ▶ ACT, Tasmania (n=200 each) +/-6.9%
- ▶ NT (n=100) +/-9.8%

- Note: For some smaller demographic segments where n=less than 100, the margin of error will be greater.
- For full sample characteristics, see the Appendix at the end of this report.
- All percentage figures in this report are rounded. Accordingly, totals may not add up to 100%.

Methodology: MaxDiff Approach

MaxDiff method for Government Policy rankings

Results and rankings regarding the general public's priorities and expectations for Government policy were measured using two distinct MaxDiff survey questions. The first question asked people to rate a series of 30 different items, according to which was most important and which was least important to them personally. The second question asked people to rate another series of 30 different items, according to which were the most critical and least critical directions for Australia to take as a nation.

For each question, the MaxDiff method ensured each respondent saw a randomized selection of 5 items in iterative rotations, combining varied sets each time until all 30 had been shown in various combinations. Overall, each of the 30 items in each question was shown an equal number of times, across the full sample of n=2991.

In the report, analysis of these results are presented in two ways (see examples on next page, p.5):

- **Response percentage results** (%s) show the proportions of times each item was shown that it was selected as either most or least. Rankings of each item are then based on the nett % of these proportions (i.e Most% less Least%).
- **Average score results** then turn these % proportions into a relative importance score for each item, in relation to the other 29 items. For each respondent the total score for each question adds to 100. As there are 30 items for each of the MaxDiff questions, an item of average importance will score 3.3.

What the MaxDiff results mean: Response %s and Average scores

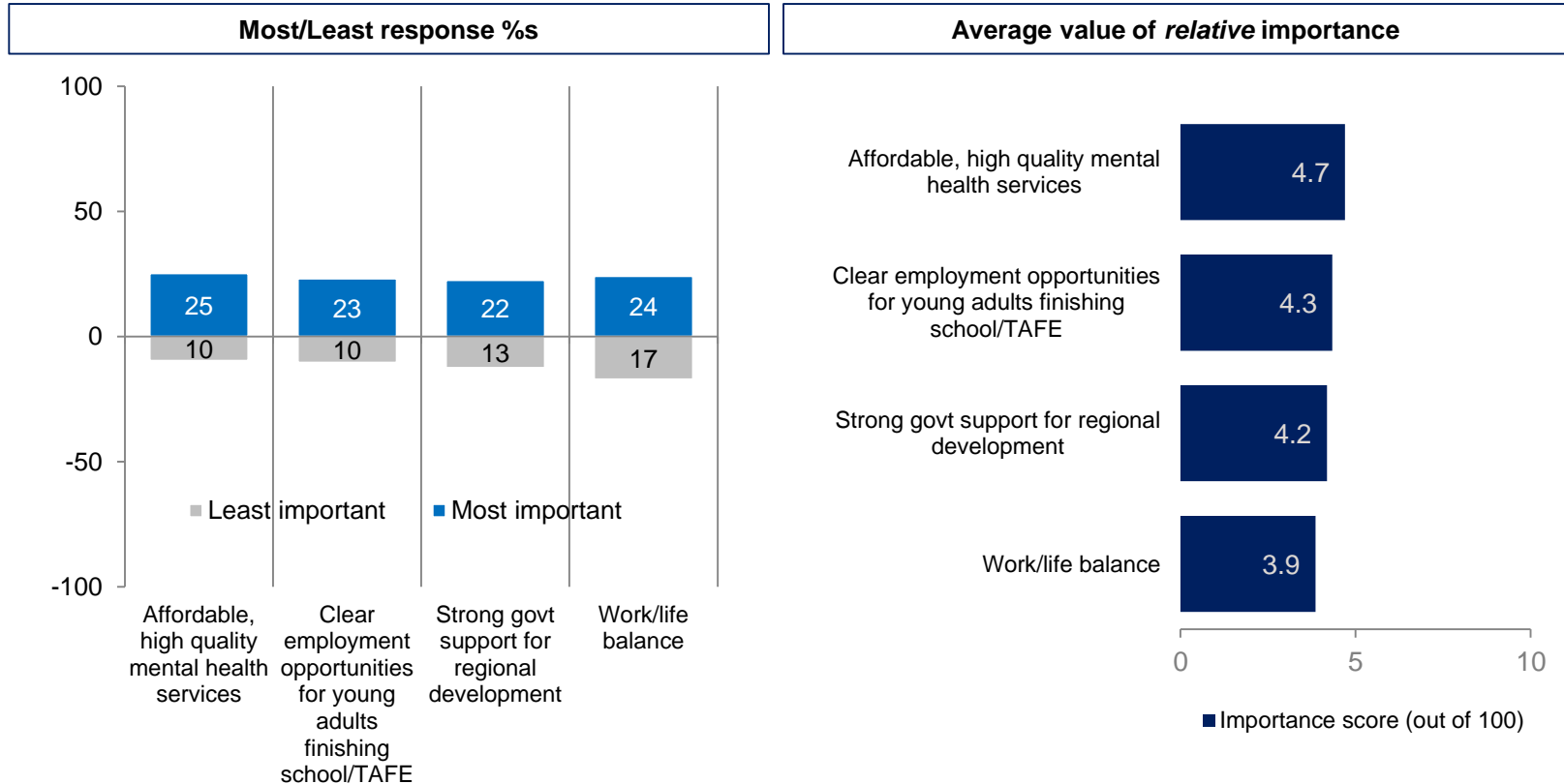
Each of the two analysis versions provide useful interpretations of the results:

- **Response percentage results** (%s) show how much each item is widely important (high most %), widely unimportant (high least %), divisive (high most AND least %s) or irrelevant (low most AND least %s), to the general public.
- **Average score results** provide a more robust view of the importance of each item, in the minds of Australians. With an average importance score of 3.3, any score above this is of "above-average" importance to people, while similarly anything below 3.3 is of lower importance. More significantly, the multiple of an average above 3.3 is a reflection of the relative importance. For example, any item (or group of items) with a score of 10 is effectively 3 times as important as an item (or group of items) of average importance.

Reporting – understanding the 'trade-offs' among policy options

The MaxDiff approach average score results have been primarily used to present results in this report, regarding the general public's sentiments and expectations for government policy directions and priorities. This is because the average score analysis is a more robust measurement of people's preferences, and also shows a more reliable view of **relative importance** in a trade-off scenario. Understanding the "trade-offs" people were prepared to make was a key study objective and key reason for using the MaxDiff.

Policy Priorities: MaxDiff results and rankings explained



Percentages (left chart above) represent the proportions of times each item was shown that it was selected as either most or least. Rankings are based on the nett % of these proportions (i.e Most% less Least%).

The importance score for each item (right chart above) has been calculated to show the *relative importance* of each item, based on how often it was selected most or least vis-à-vis its combinations with other items. Items of very high importance are taken to be those which score 4.5 or above.

Policy Priorities: MaxDiff results and rankings explained

MaxDiff method: Rationale and process for selecting Personal and National policy issues/items

For each of the MaxDiff survey questions, the series of 30 different items were developed in an iterative process between Polity and the CEDA management team. These items were selected to represent not only the breadth of potential key personal and national issues for people, but also to offer options that were both current and forward looking. The different items chosen were based on two main inputs:

- **Evidence from Polity's previous research.** Key public issues have been measured by Polity through a number of studies over the past 4-5 years, including both prompted and unprompted responses.
- **Economic and social experience and relevance gained from CEDA's work.** As an independent *apolitical* organization, CEDA has been providing thought leadership and policy perspectives on the economic and social issues affecting Australia for more than 50 years. As such, it has considerable understanding of key factors in these regards.

It should also be noted that, where relevant for specific items, each option encapsulated both 'quality' AND affordable access. This enabled respondents to select between options based on their focus, rather than choosing between quality and cost or availability. Polity's experience has shown the latter offers a false dichotomy in this regard: people want key services etc to be both of quality and accessible (in terms of cost and availability). This is because there's no use having quality if you can't access it, and there's no use having access if the quality is poor.

Interpreting the MaxDiff Average Scores: Personal and National priorities for Australia's people

Average scores are calculated out of 100, based on how often each respondent selected an item as most or least, *in relation* to all other items it was combined with in the survey. With 30 items to choose from in each scale, this means that each item had a nominal starting value (average score) of 3.3. Accordingly, importance scores indicate the relative importance as a multiple of the average 3.3. For example:

- ▶ An importance score of **9.0 is effectively 3x more important** to people, than an item of average importance (3.3)
- ▶ An importance score of 6.0 is effectively 2x more important to people, than an item of average importance (3.3)
- ▶ An importance score around 3.0 is an item of average importance (3.3)
- ▶ An importance score of **1.0 is effectively 3x less important** to people, than an item of average importance (3.3)

MaxDiff results: An effective understanding of policy options with high importance

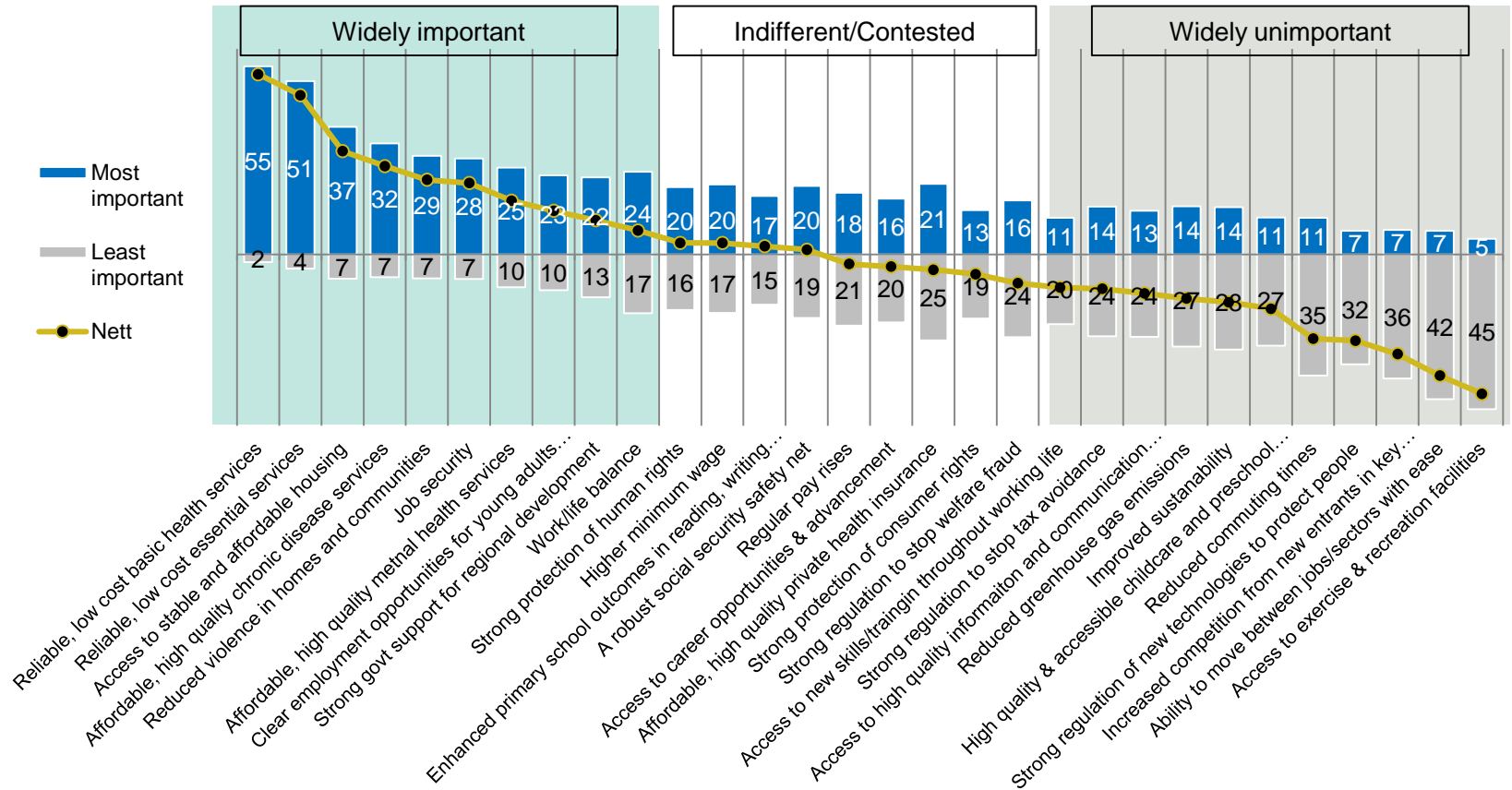
The MaxDiff approach is particularly effective for understanding key priorities for people. This is because in typical survey approaches, where respondents are asked to rate items individually, it's simply easy to say everything's important. In contrast, the MaxDiff approach *forces* choices between options. As such, above-average scores more effectively indicate high importance, as areas truly valued by people over other potential options.

Government Policy Analysis

Personal & National priorities for Australia's people

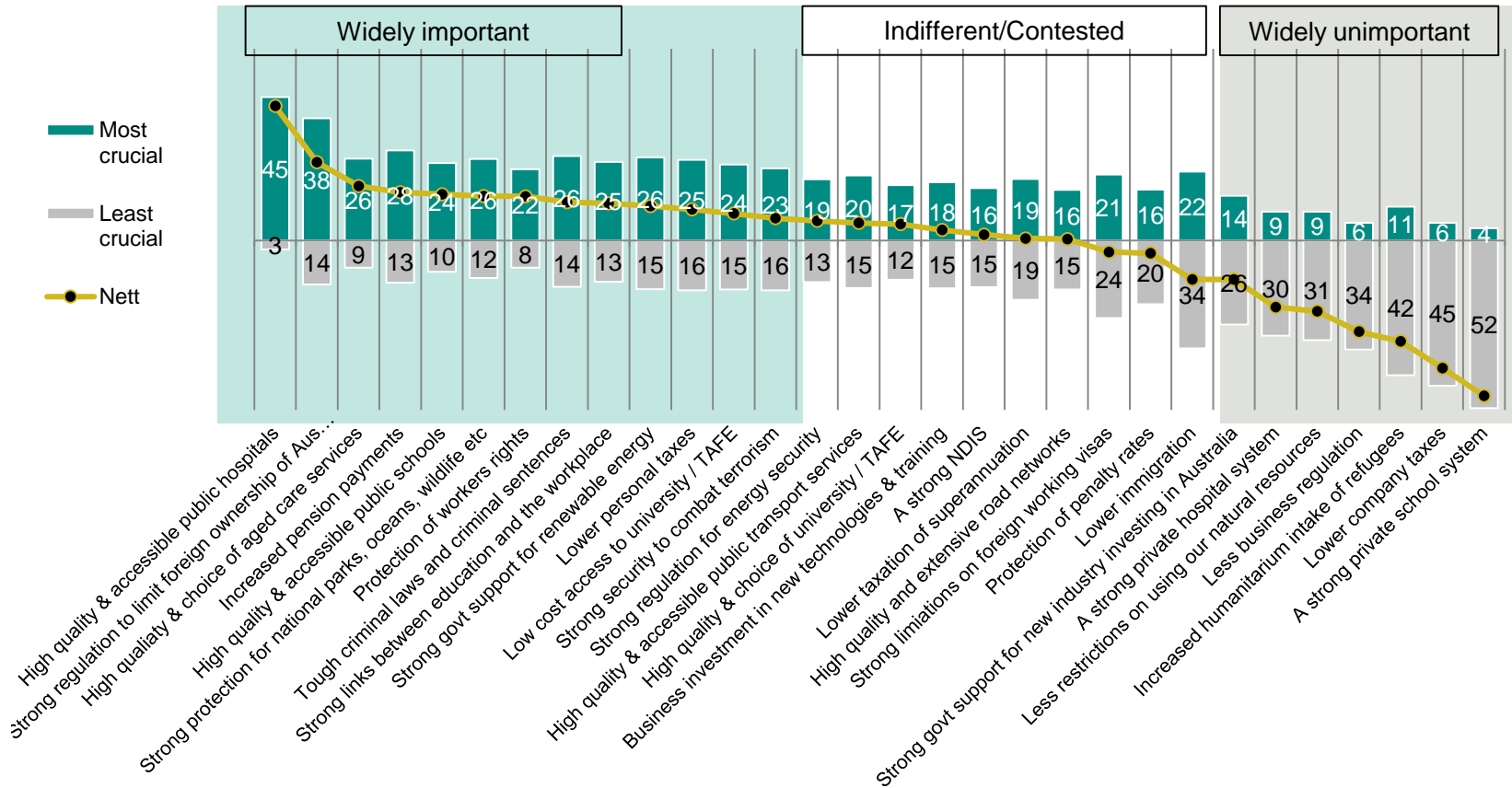
Personal issues: Overall response rates

In terms of personal issues, the Australian general public are most divided over access to affordable private health insurance and a robust social safety net.



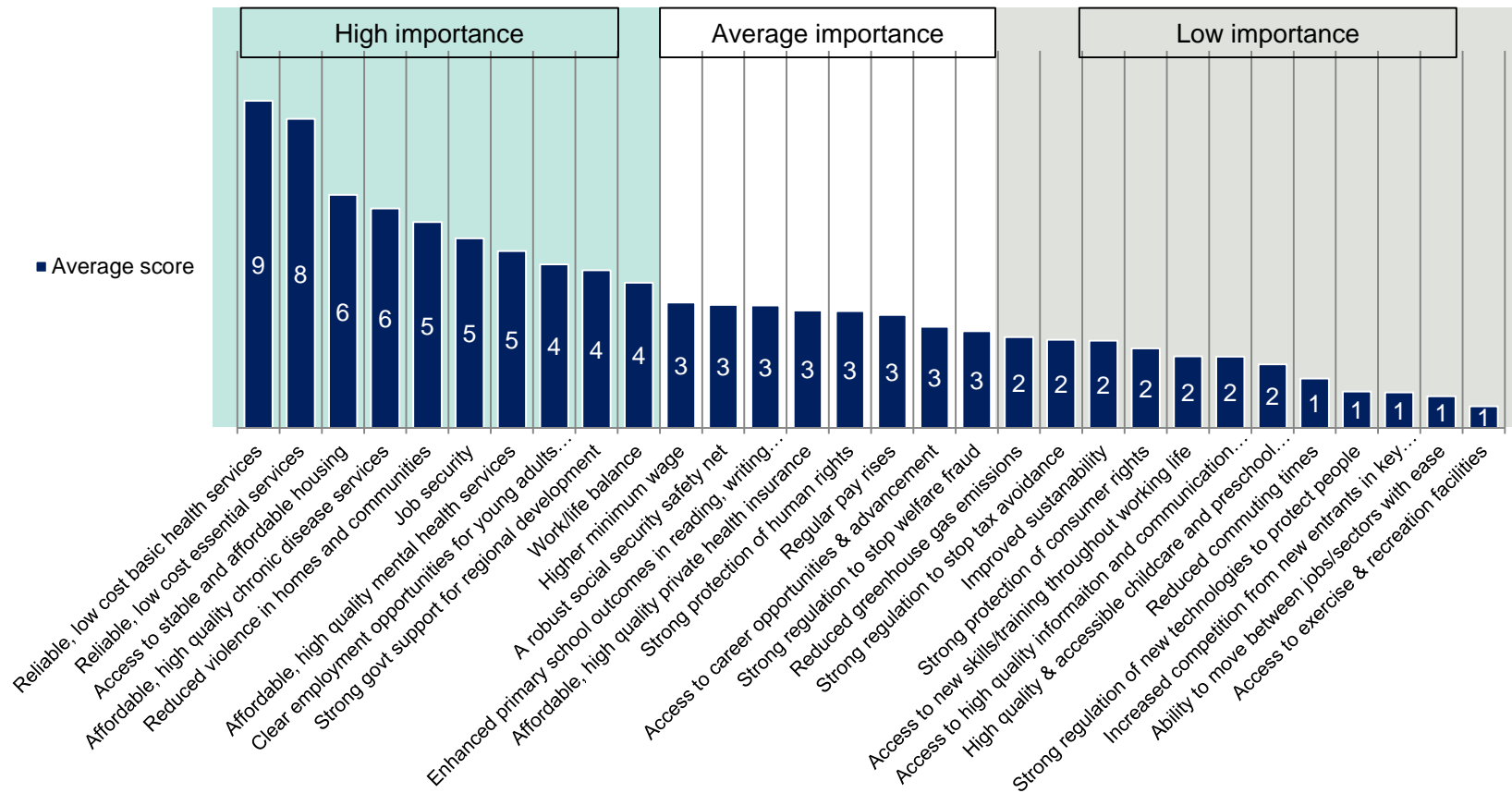
National issues: Overall response rates

In terms of national issues, the Australian general public are most divided over lower immigration and foreign working visas.



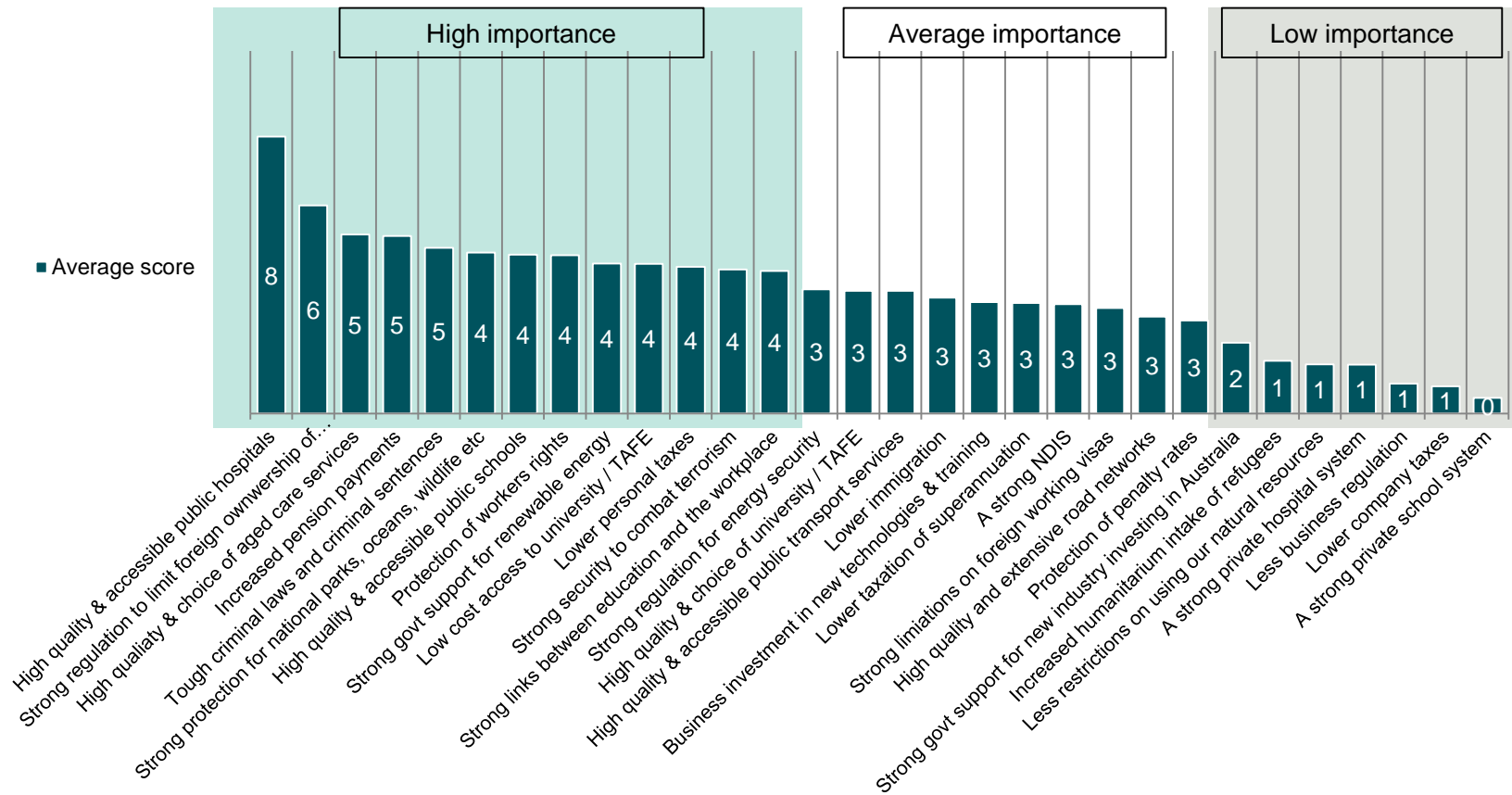
Personal issues: Relative importance scores

Nationwide, the top 7 personal priorities are: reliable and low cost basic health services and essential services, stable and affordable housing, quality chronic disease services, reduced violence, job security and quality mental health services (scores 4.5+).

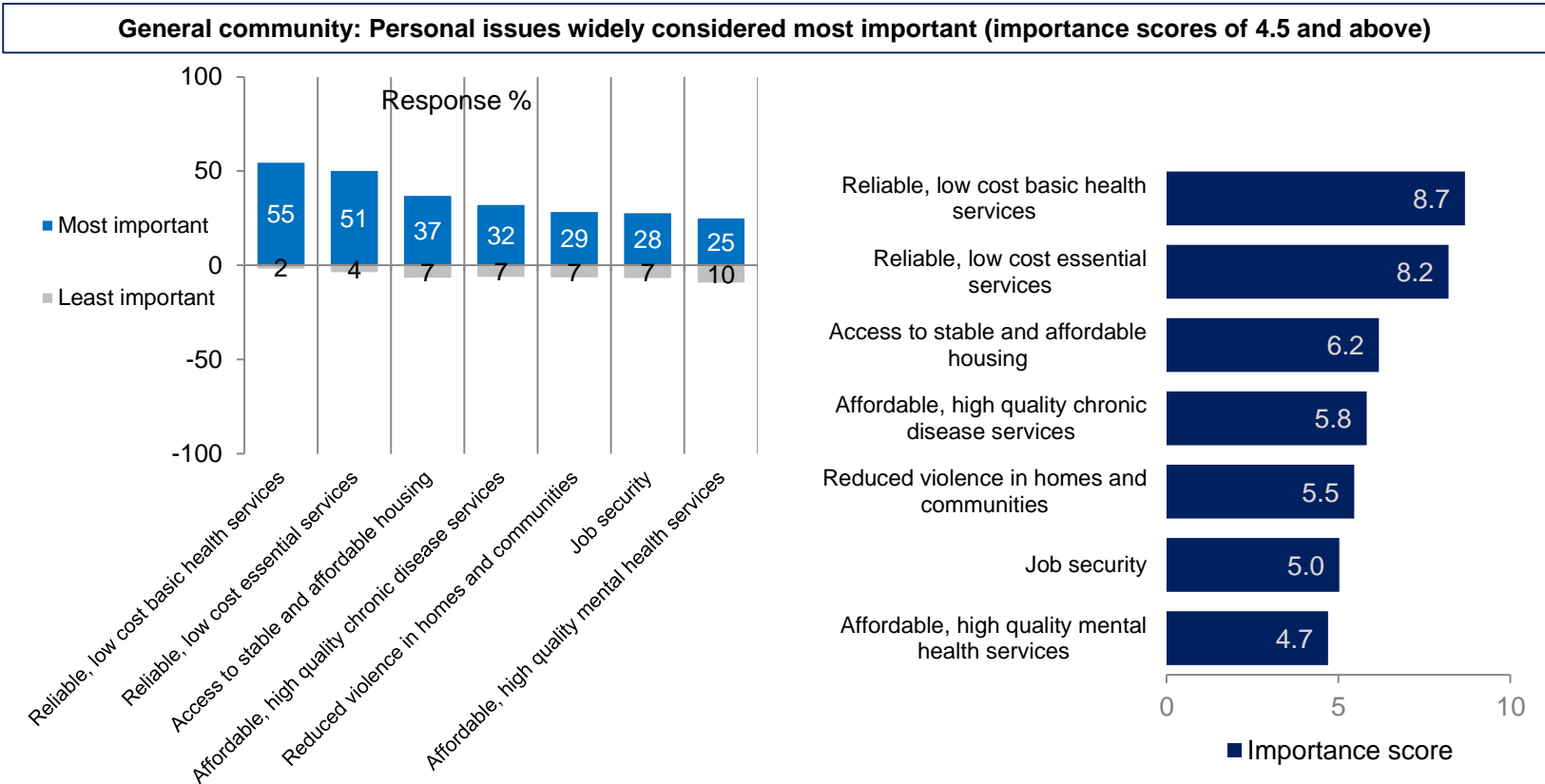


National issues: Relative importance scores

Nationwide, the top 5 national priorities are: quality public hospitals, limited foreign ownership of Australian assets, quality aged care services and increased pensions, and tough criminal laws (scores 4.5+).



Personal Issues: Most important areas for policy focus

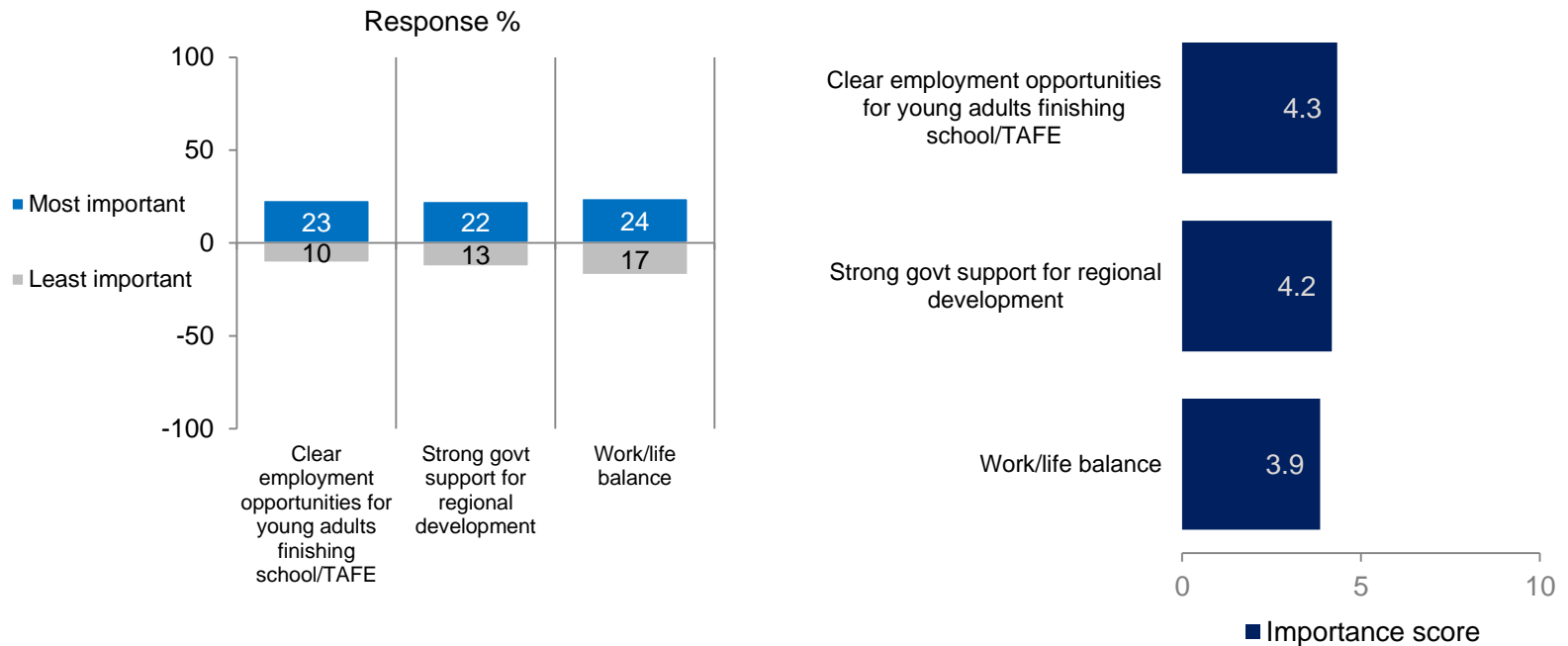


Reliable and low cost basic health services and essential services are the areas more Australians consider most important in their personal lives than any other. What is more, these two items are considered nearly three-times as important than an item of average importance.

Other areas of widespread importance include housing accessibility, chronic disease services, reduced violence, job security and mental health services.

Personal Issues: Secondary areas for policy focus

General community: Personal issues of secondary importance (importance scores of 3.6-4.4)

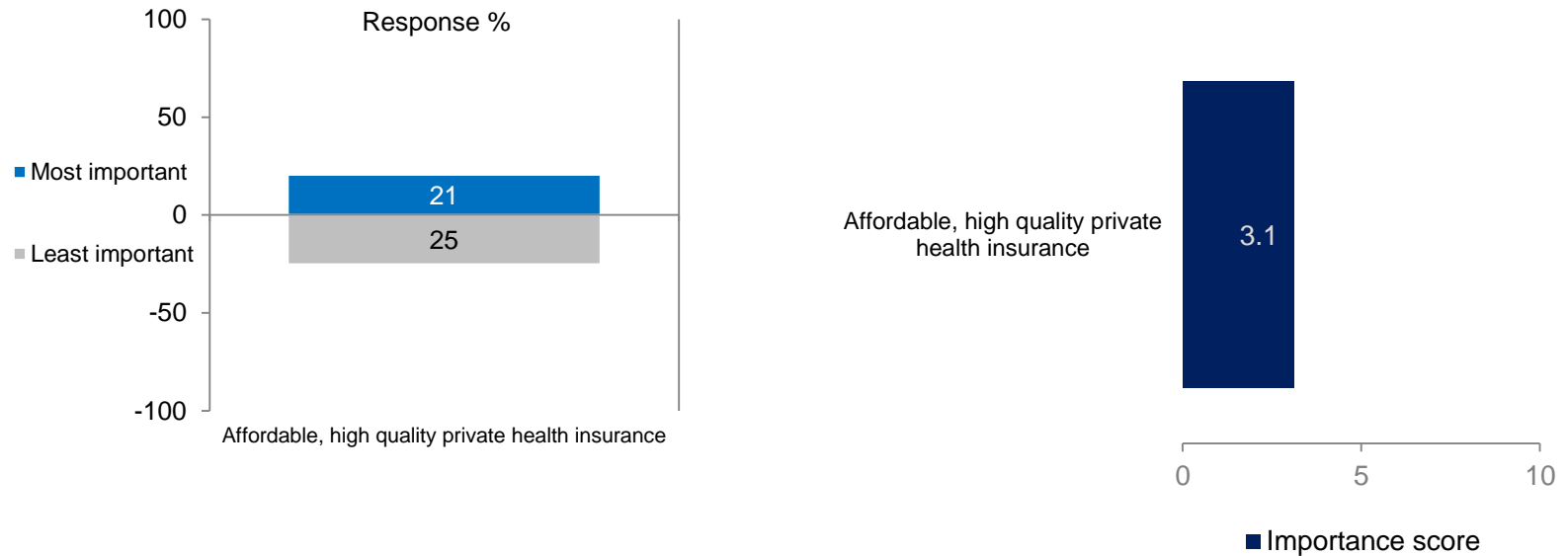


Other areas Australians consider above average importance in their personal lives include employment opportunities for young people, regional development and work-life balance.

These items all have importance scores above the average of 3.3.

Personal Issues: Contentious areas for policy focus

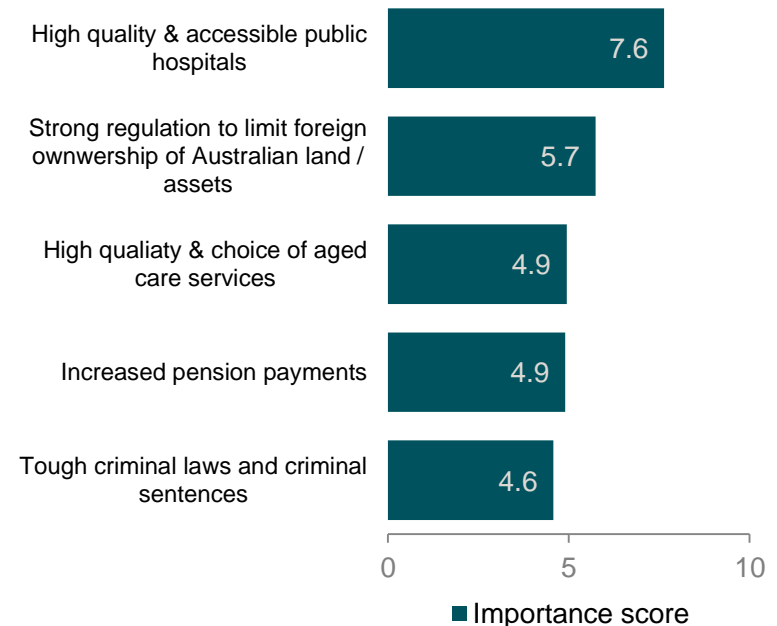
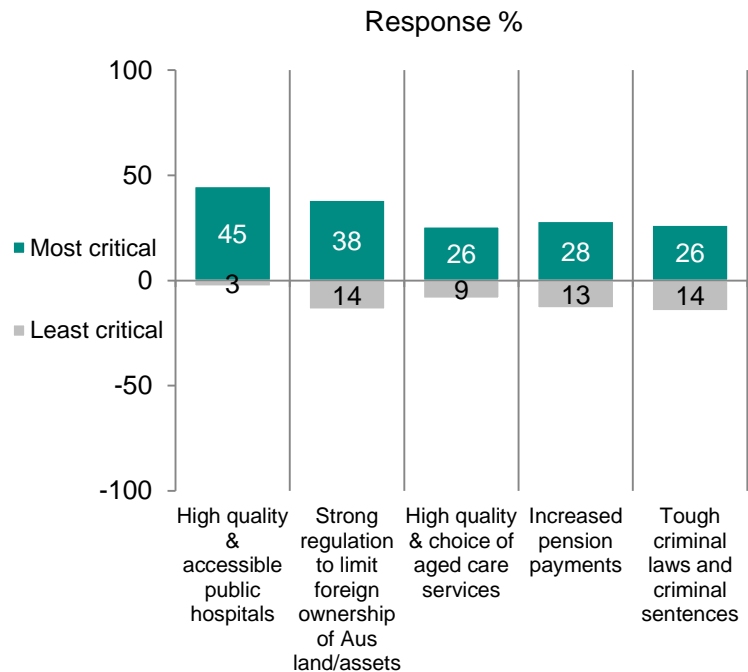
General community: Personal issues of divisive importance (Most and Least 20+%)



The area of contested importance in terms of personal lives regards access to private health insurance. However, this issue is of average importance only.

National Issues: Most critical areas for policy focus

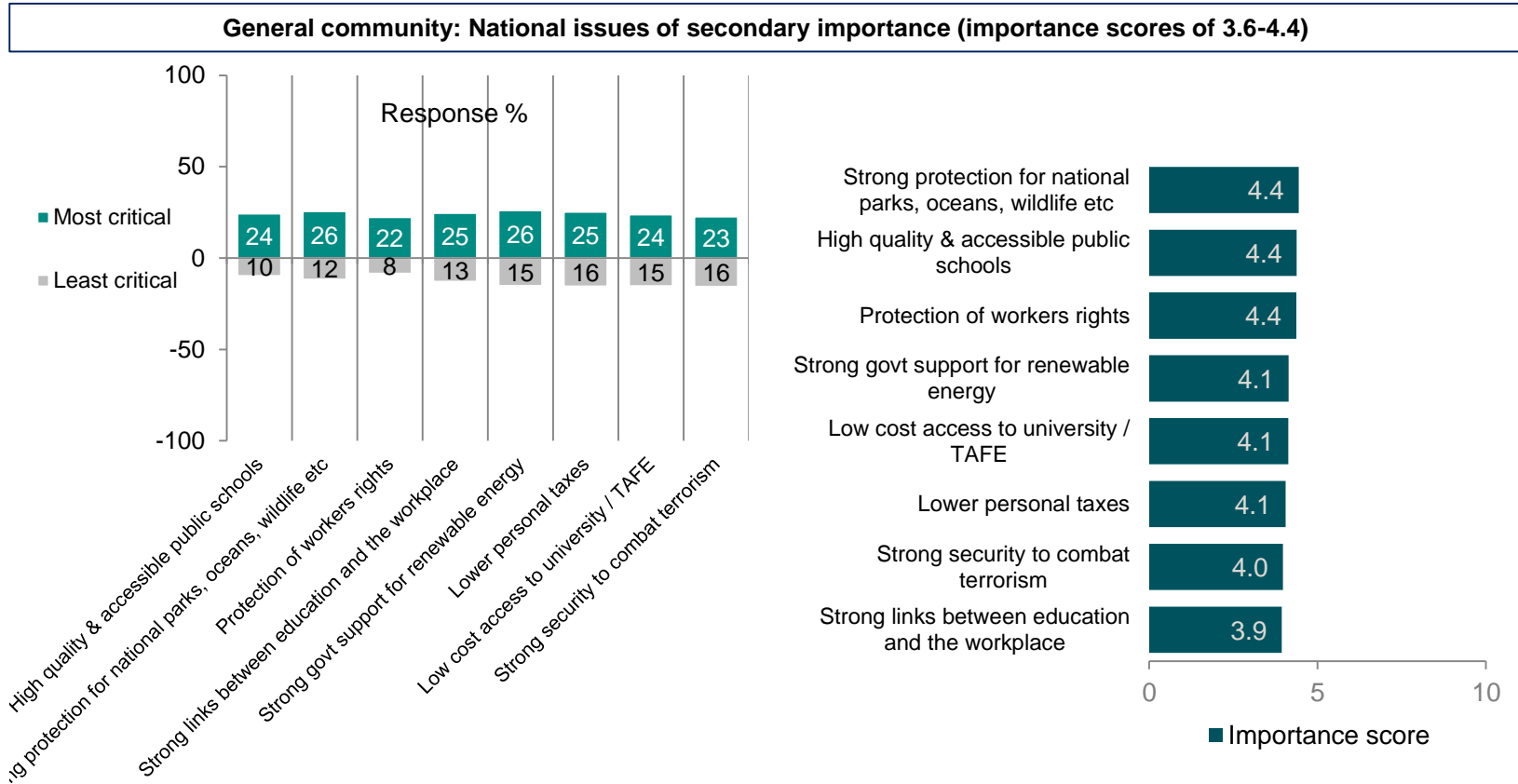
General community: National issues widely considered most critical (importance scores of 4.5 and above)



Accessible, high quality public hospital services and regulation to prevent foreign ownership of Australian land/assets are the directions more Australians consider most critical for the nation than any other. What is more, these two items are considered around twice as important than an item of average importance.

Other items of widespread importance include access to quality aged care services and increased pension payments, and tougher criminal laws.

National Issues: Secondary areas for policy focus



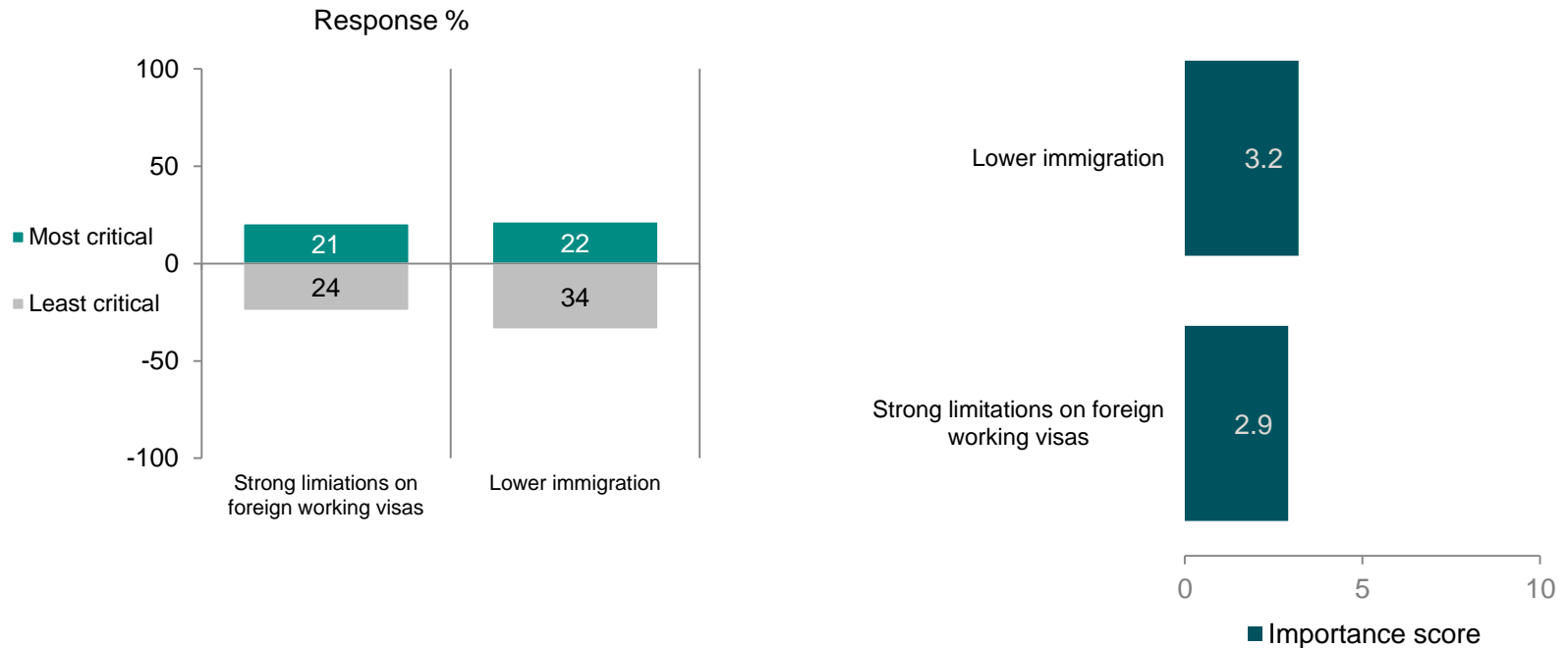
Key areas Australians also consider critical for the nation include protection of national parks, oceans and wildlife, access to quality public schools and protection of workers' rights.

Other items of above average importance include renewable energy, low cost tertiary education, lower personal taxes, terrorism security and strong links between education and jobs.

These items all have importance scores above the average of 3.3.

National Issues: Contentious areas for policy focus

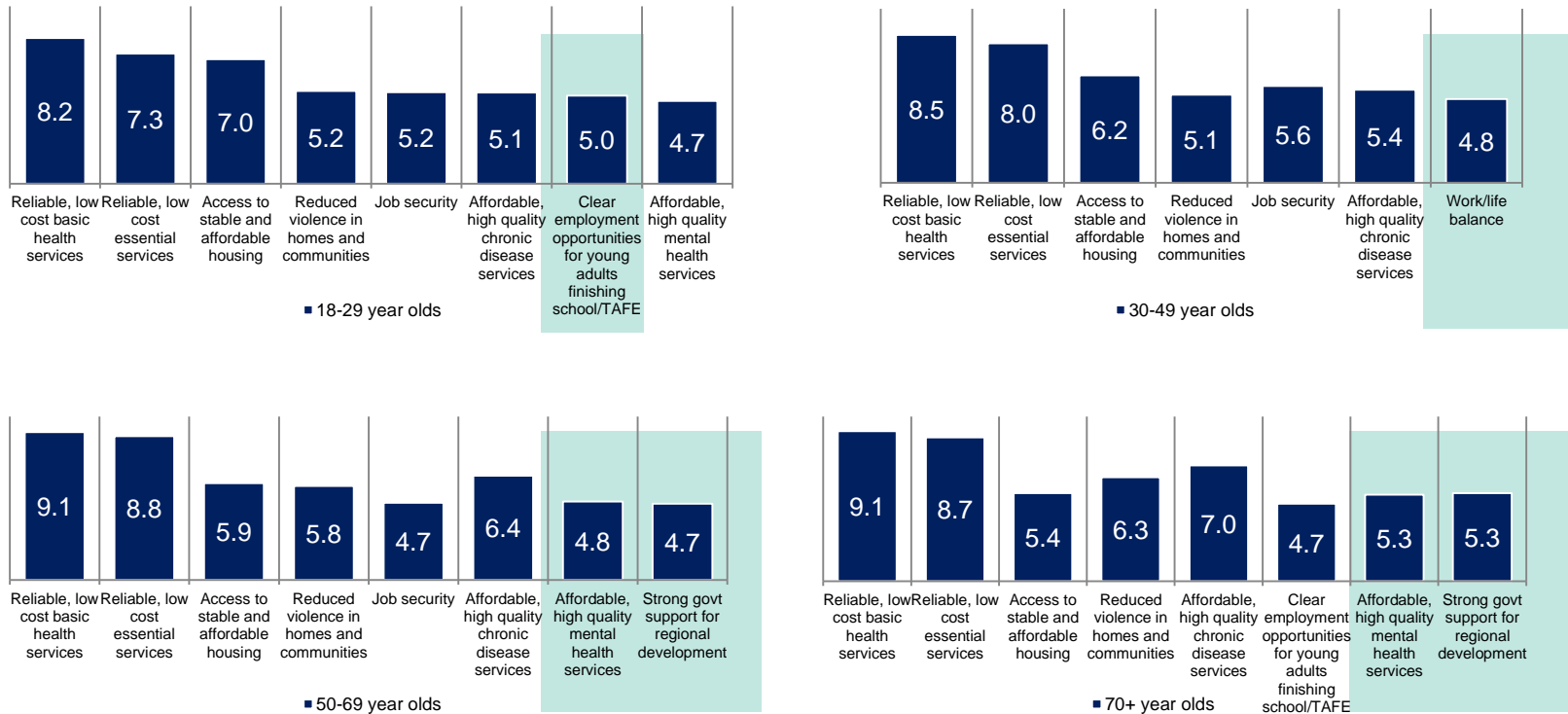
General community: National issues of divisive importance (Most and Least 20+%)



Contested issues for the nation include lower immigration and limitations on foreign working visas. However, these areas are of average importance and below average respectively.

Personal issues: Relative importance scores by age groups

General community age segments: Most important personal priorities (importance scores of 4.5 and above)

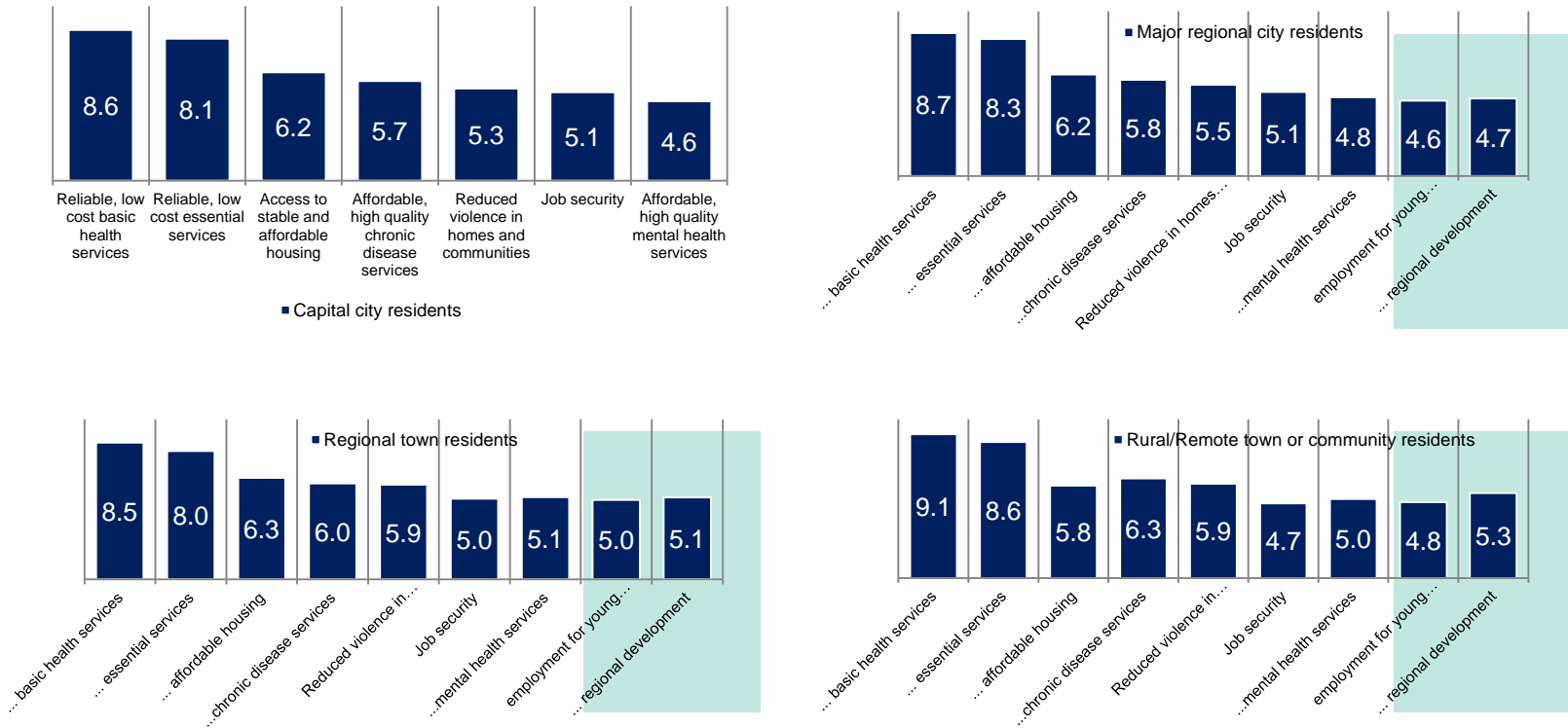


For younger people, clear job opportunities post-education are a priority, while for 30-49 year olds work/life balance has a greater importance, in line with many of this group being parents.

For older people, mental health services and regional development become higher priorities.

Personal issues: Relative importance scores by metro and regional groups

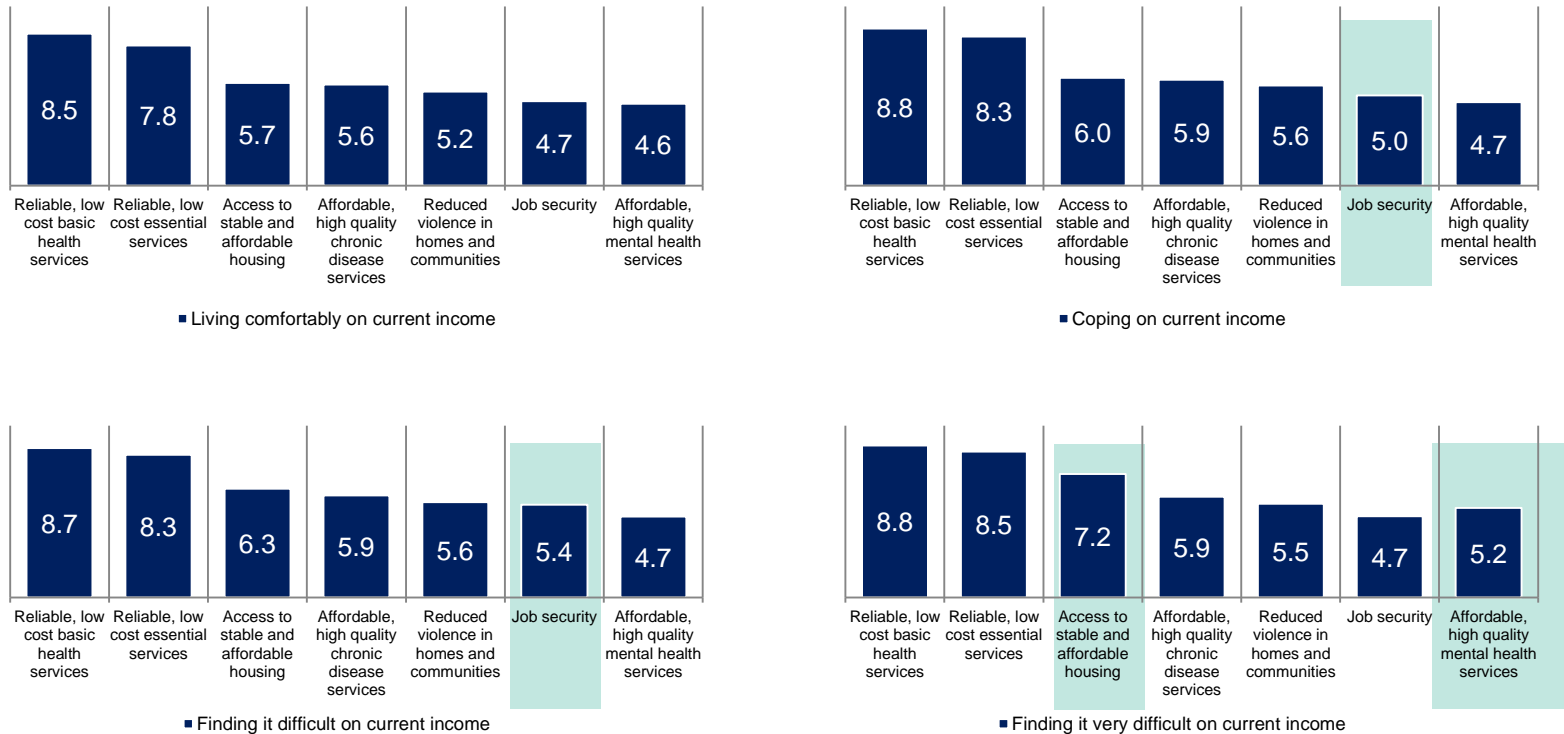
General community location segments: Most important personal priorities (importance scores of 4.5 and above)



Outside of capital cities, clear employment opportunities for young people and support for regional development are high personal priorities.

Personal issues: Relative importance scores by 'quality-of-life' groups

General community financial-status segments: Most important personal priorities (importance scores of 4.5 and above)

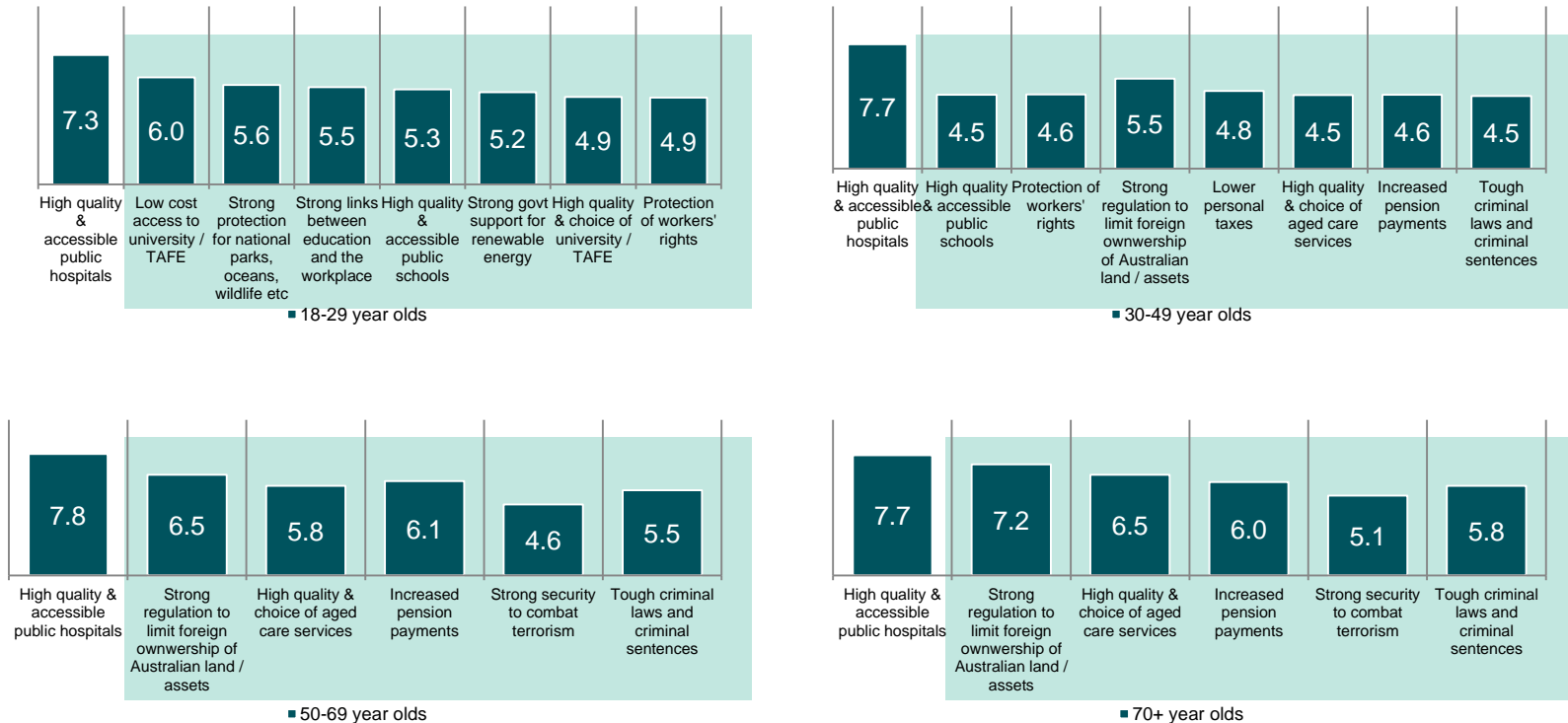


The top 6 personal priorities are consistent across the general public, regardless of financial situation.

However, for those finding life more difficult financially, job security, access to housing and mental health services all assume higher priorities.

National issues: Relative importance scores by age groups

General community age segments: Most critical national priorities (importance scores of 4.5 and above)

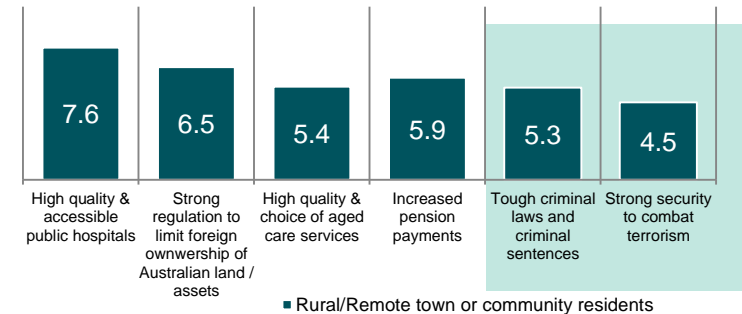
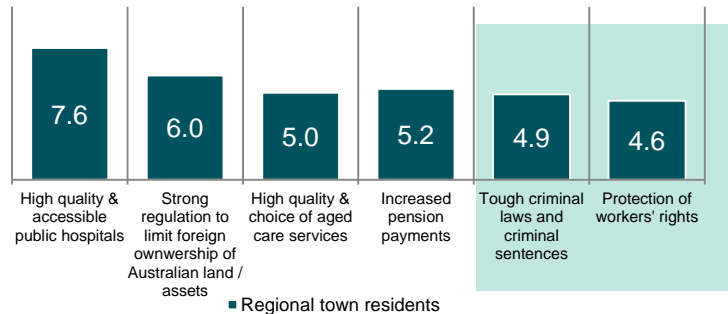


Across the different life-stages, national priorities change considerably. For younger people, education and the environment are highly important, while for 30-49 year olds public schools and workers' rights assume high importance.

For older people, aged care issues and protection from foreign ownership of Australian assets and terrorism are all highly important.

National issues: Relative importance scores by metro and regional groups

General community location segments: Most critical national priorities (importance scores of 4.5 and above)

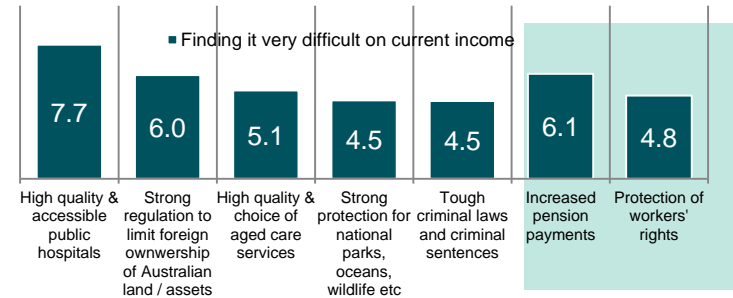
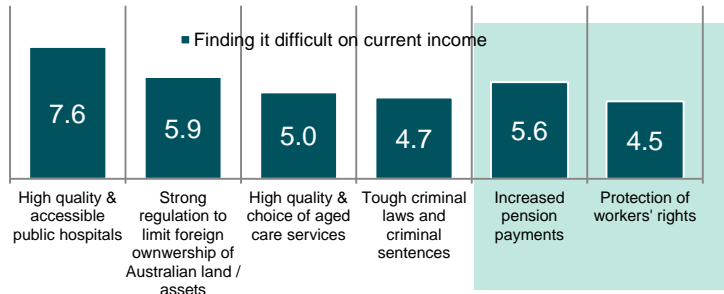
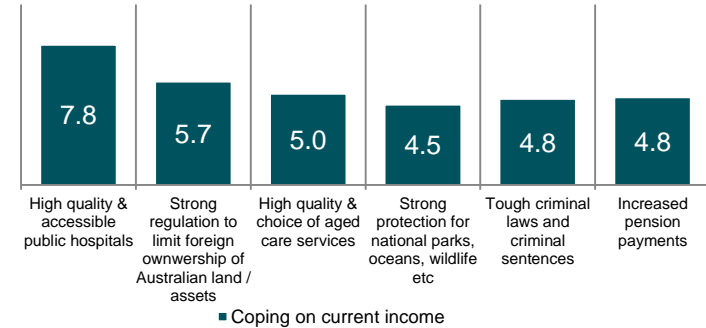
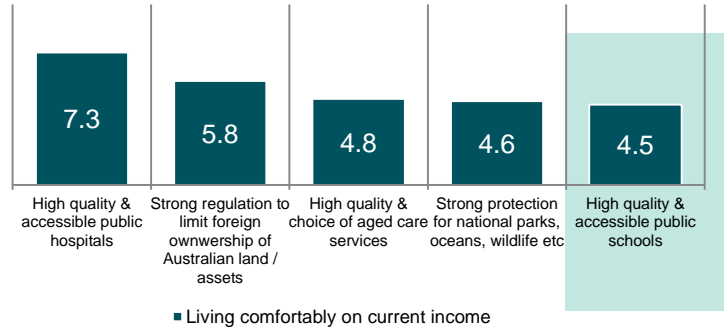


Aside from the top 4 national issues, capital city residents value high quality public schools, while regional city residents value protection of national parks and wildlife.

In smaller regional/remote areas, tough criminal laws, workers' rights and security from terrorism have higher importance.

National issues: Relative importance scores by 'quality-of-life' groups

General community financial-status segments: Most critical national priorities (importance scores of 4.5 and above)



For people living comfortably, quality public schools are a high priority.

For people finding life more difficult, increased pensions and protection of workers' rights are a high priority.

Other Survey Results

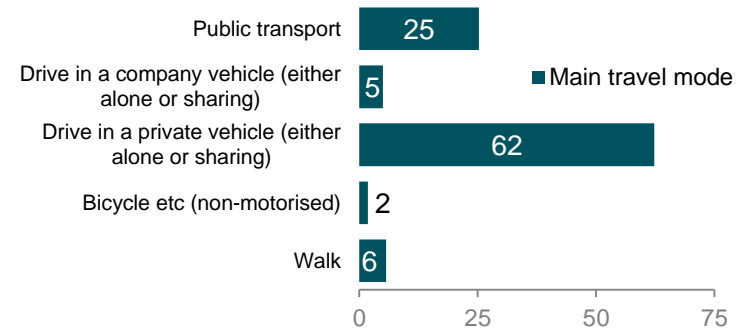
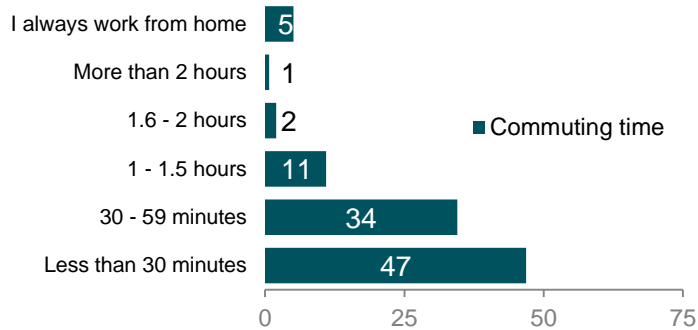
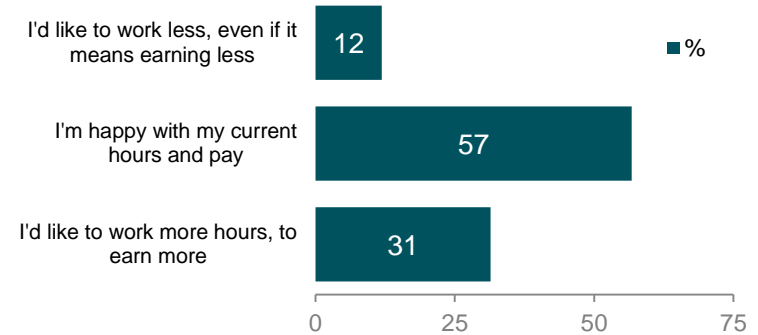
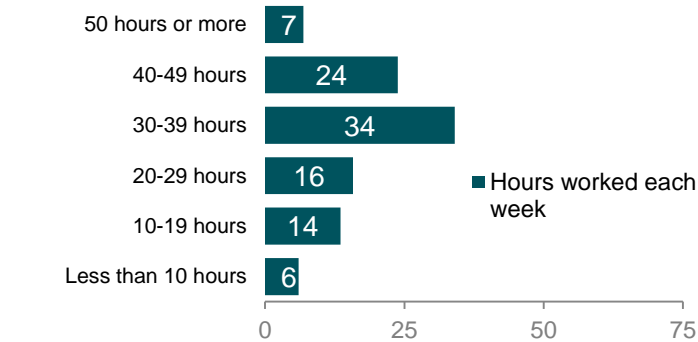
Employment, economic gain and the wealth gap

Employment

Work character, satisfaction & priorities

Work character

Employed respondents: Work characteristics

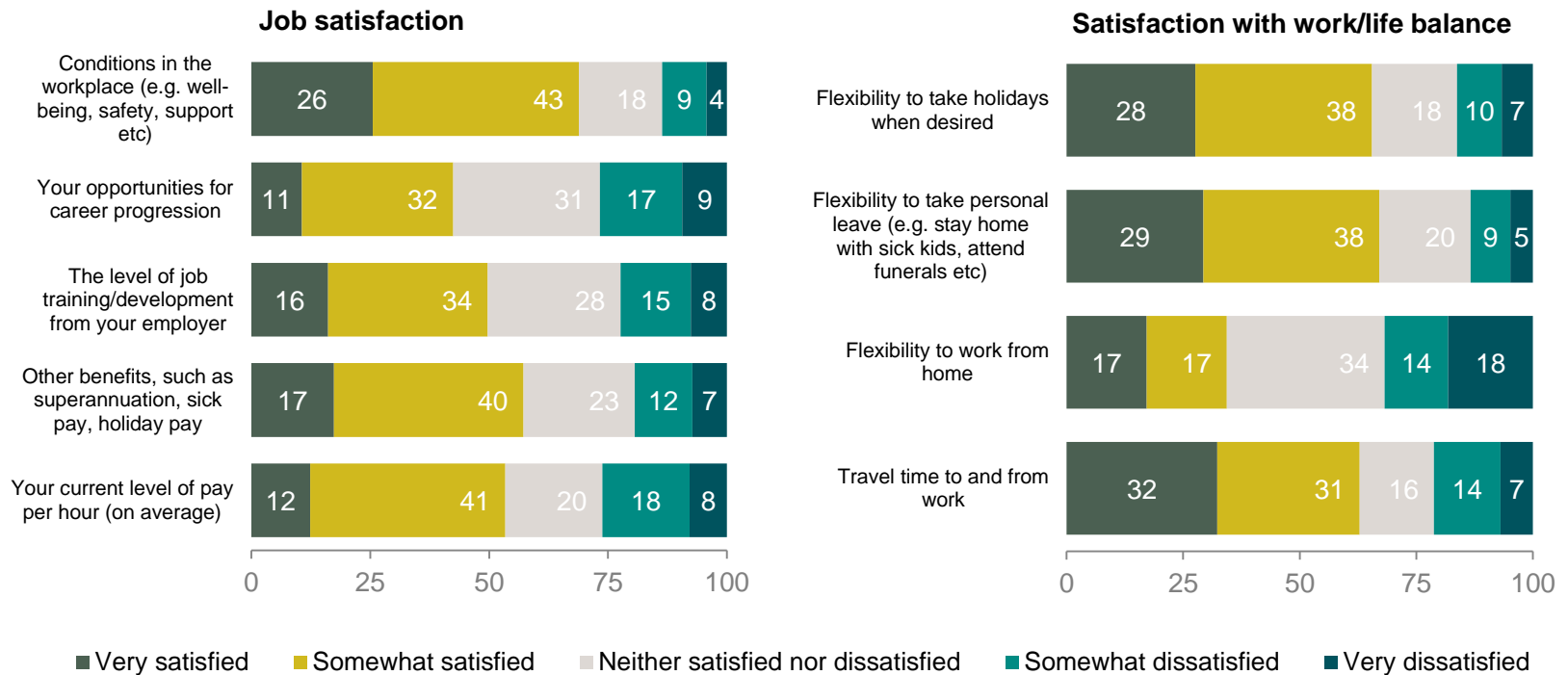


The majority of employees in the general community work 30 hours or more (65%) and are happy with their current hours and the commensurate pay (56%).

Most people also commute for less than 30 mins (47%) using mainly private vehicle transport (62%).

Work satisfaction

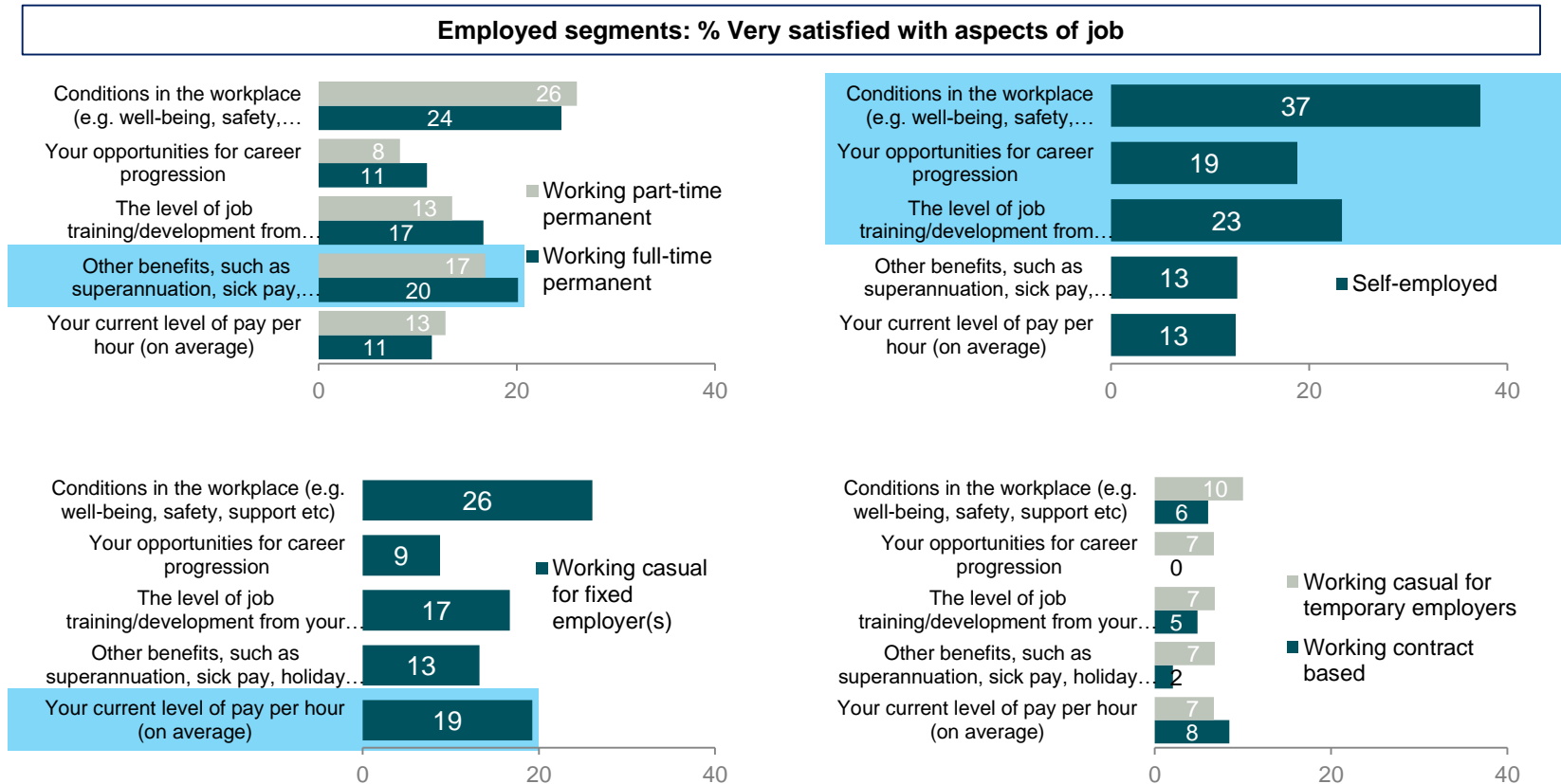
Employed respondents: Work satisfaction



Overall, more employees are satisfied with conditions in their workplace (69%) than with any other aspect of their job. Conversely, 1 in 4 employees (26%) are dissatisfied with their career opportunities and hourly pay rate.

In terms of work/life balance, employees are most likely to be dissatisfied with their flexibility to work from home (32%).

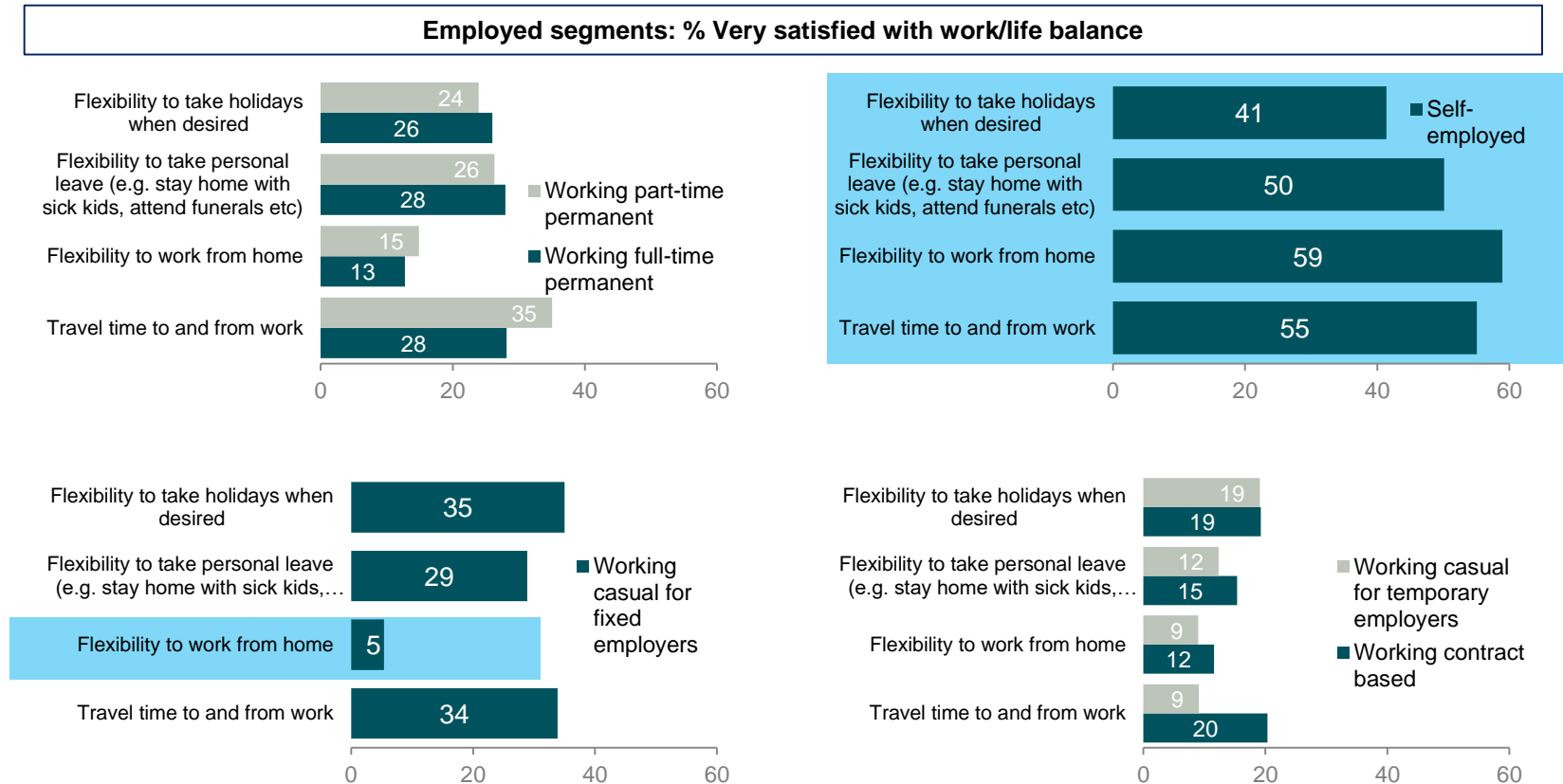
People working contract-based or casual for temporary employers have low job satisfaction



Permanent employees are most likely to be very satisfied with the benefits of their job (superannuation etc), while people working casually for fixed employers are most likely to be very satisfied with their hourly pay rate (19%). Self-employed people are most likely to be very satisfied with conditions in their workplace (37%).

Conversely, employees with the weakest job security are least likely to be very satisfied with any aspects of their job.

People working contract-based or casual for temporary employers have low work/life balance

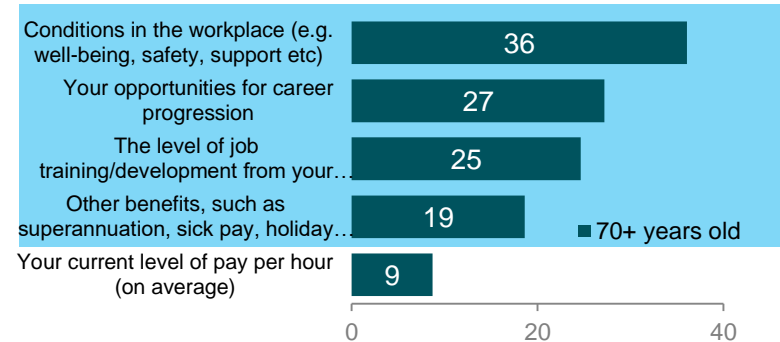
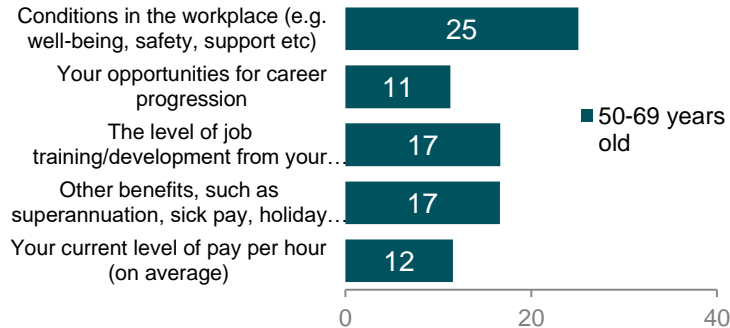
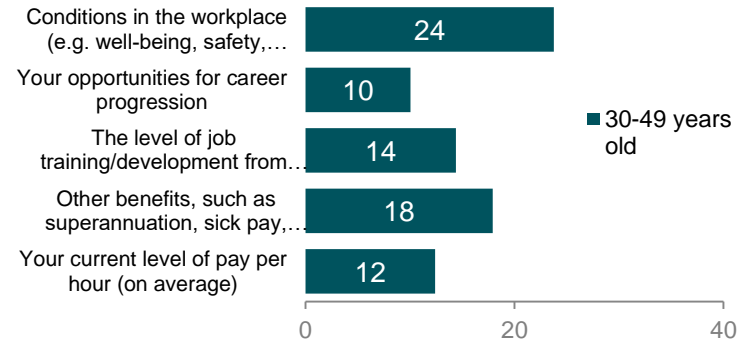
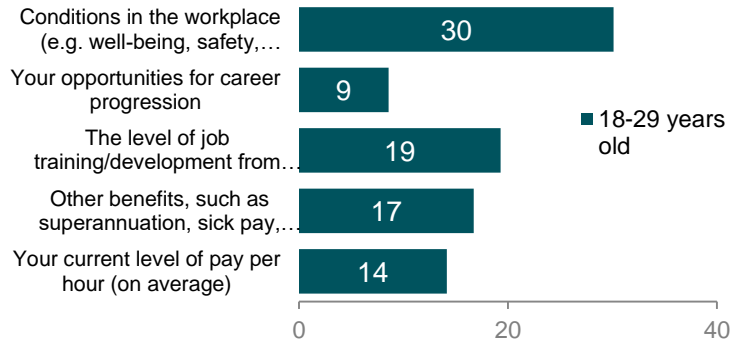


Self-employed people are most likely to be very satisfied with their work/life balance.

Conversely, employees with the weakest job security are least likely to be very satisfied with any aspects of their work/life balance.

People aged 70+ years old are most likely to be very satisfied with their job

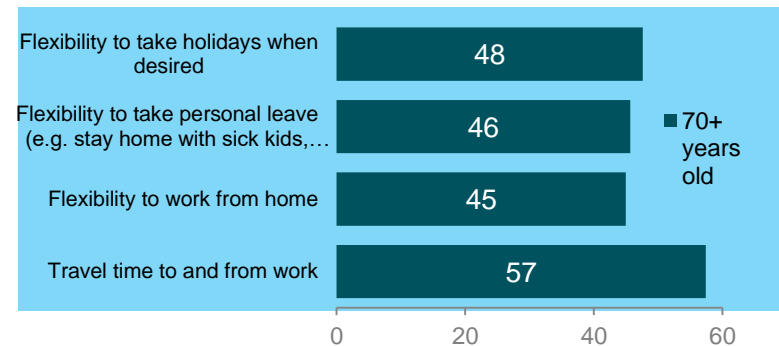
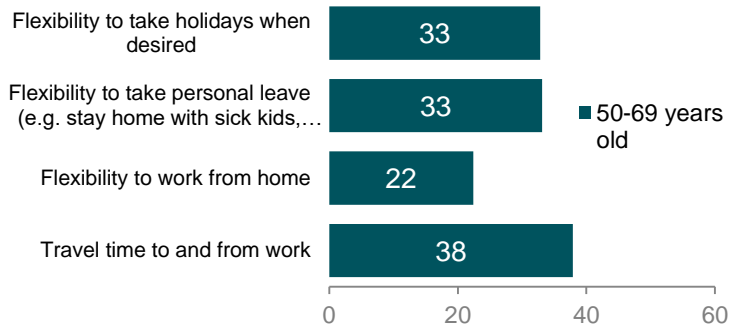
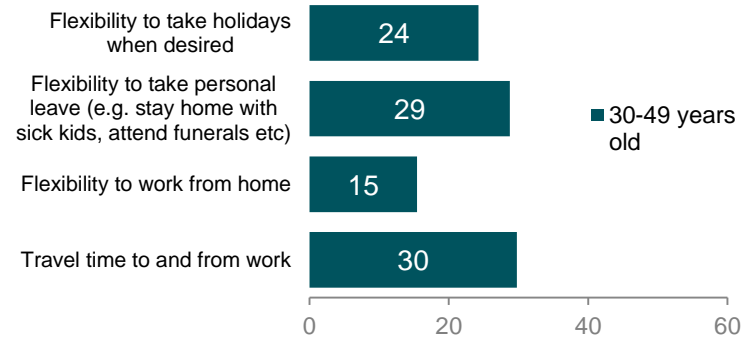
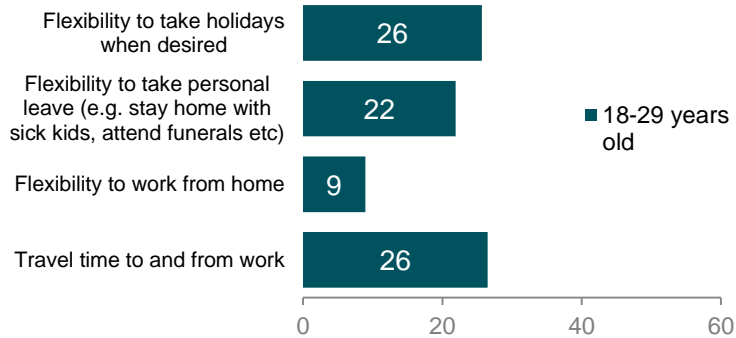
Employed age segments: % Very satisfied with aspects of job



People aged 70+ are most likely to be very satisfied with their opportunities for career progression and level of job training.

People aged 70+ years old are most likely to be very satisfied with their work/life balance

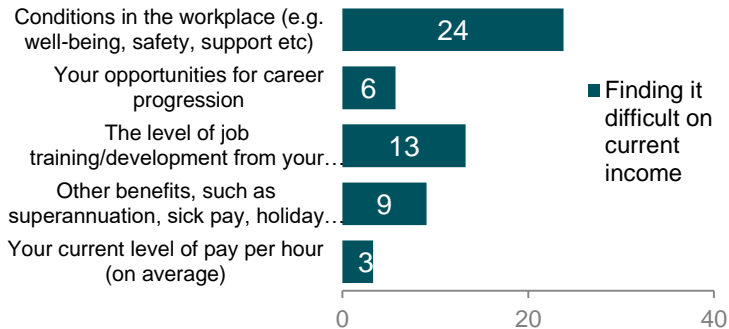
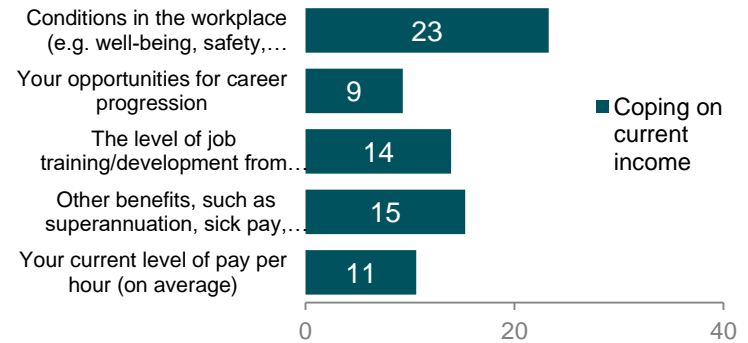
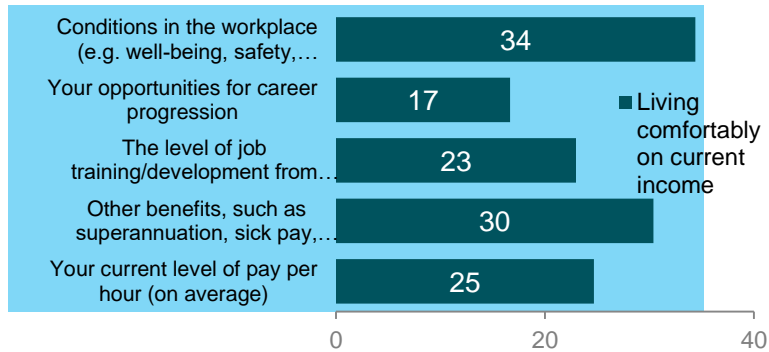
Employed age segments: % Very satisfied with work/life balance



Overall, younger people are less likely to be very satisfied with their work/life balance than older people.

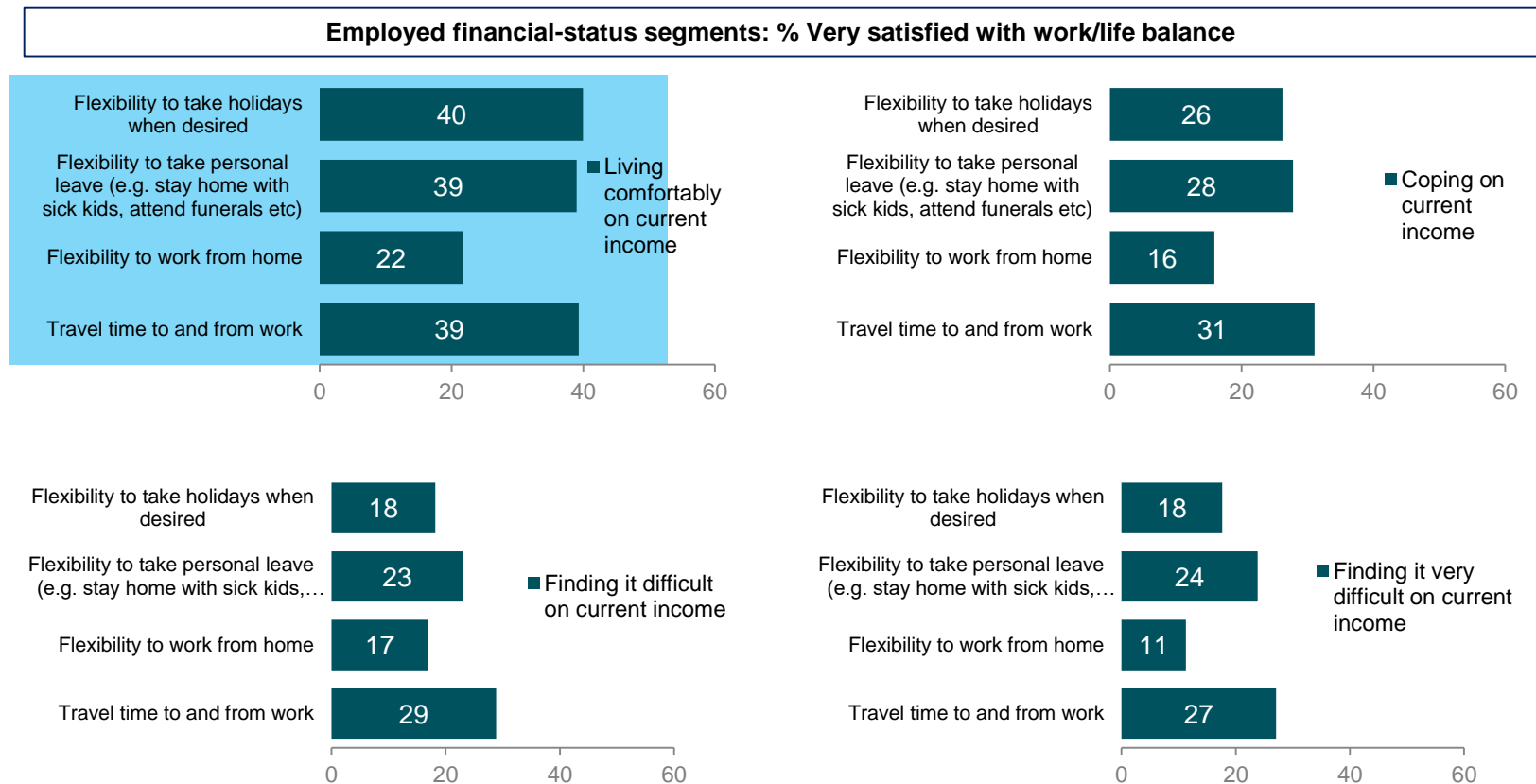
There is a strong correlation between quality of life and job satisfaction

Employed financial-status segments: % Very satisfied with aspects of job



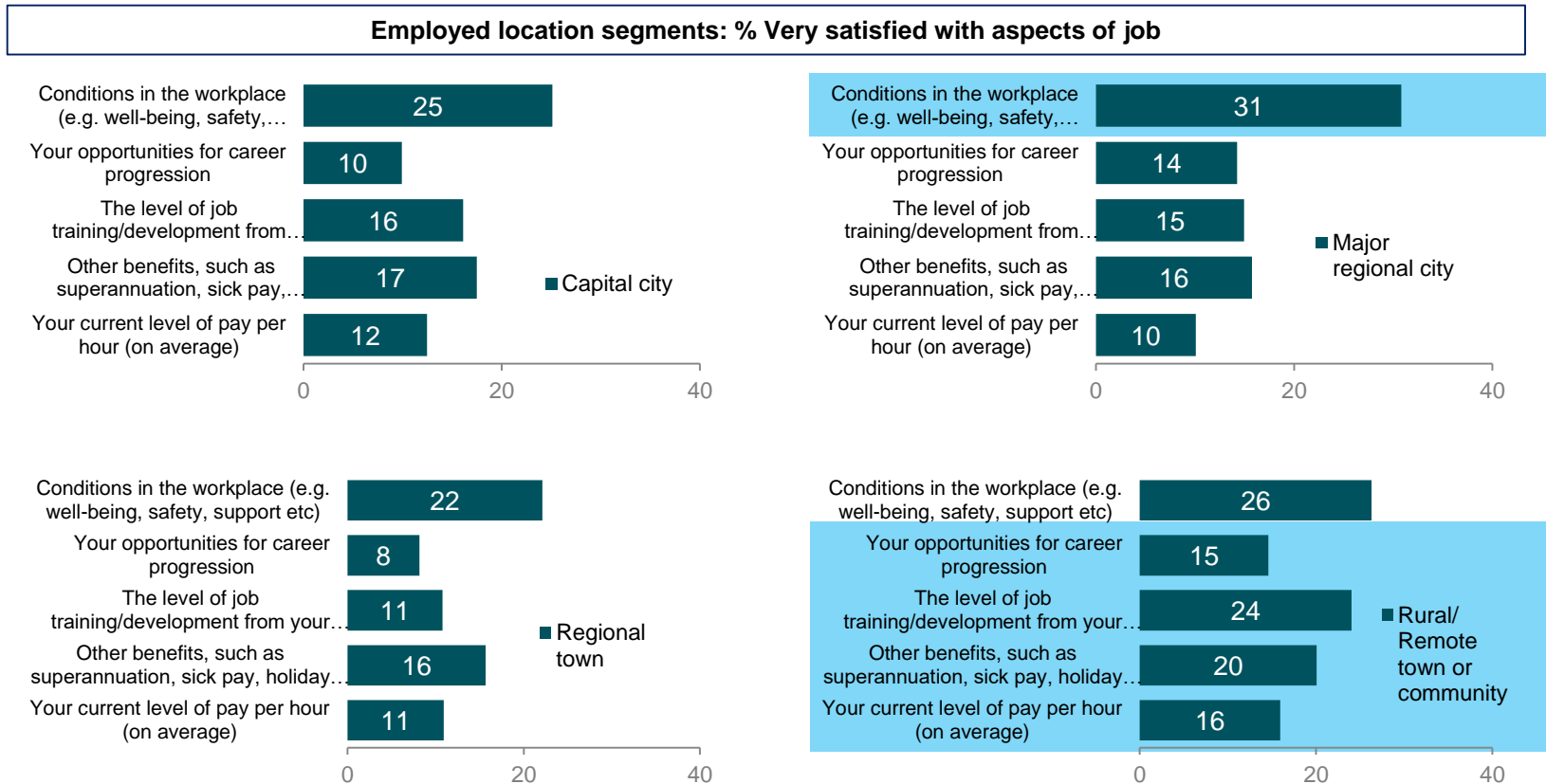
People with a high quality of life (living comfortably) are also most likely to be very satisfied with their job.

There is a strong correlation between quality of life and work/life balance



People with a high quality of life (living comfortably) are also most likely to be very satisfied with their work/life balance.

People working in rural/remote locations are most likely to be very satisfied with their job



Working residents of rural and remote locations are most likely to be very satisfied with key aspects of their job.

However, working residents of major regional cities are most likely to be very satisfied with conditions in their workplace (31%).

People working in rural/remote locations are most likely to be very satisfied with work/life balance

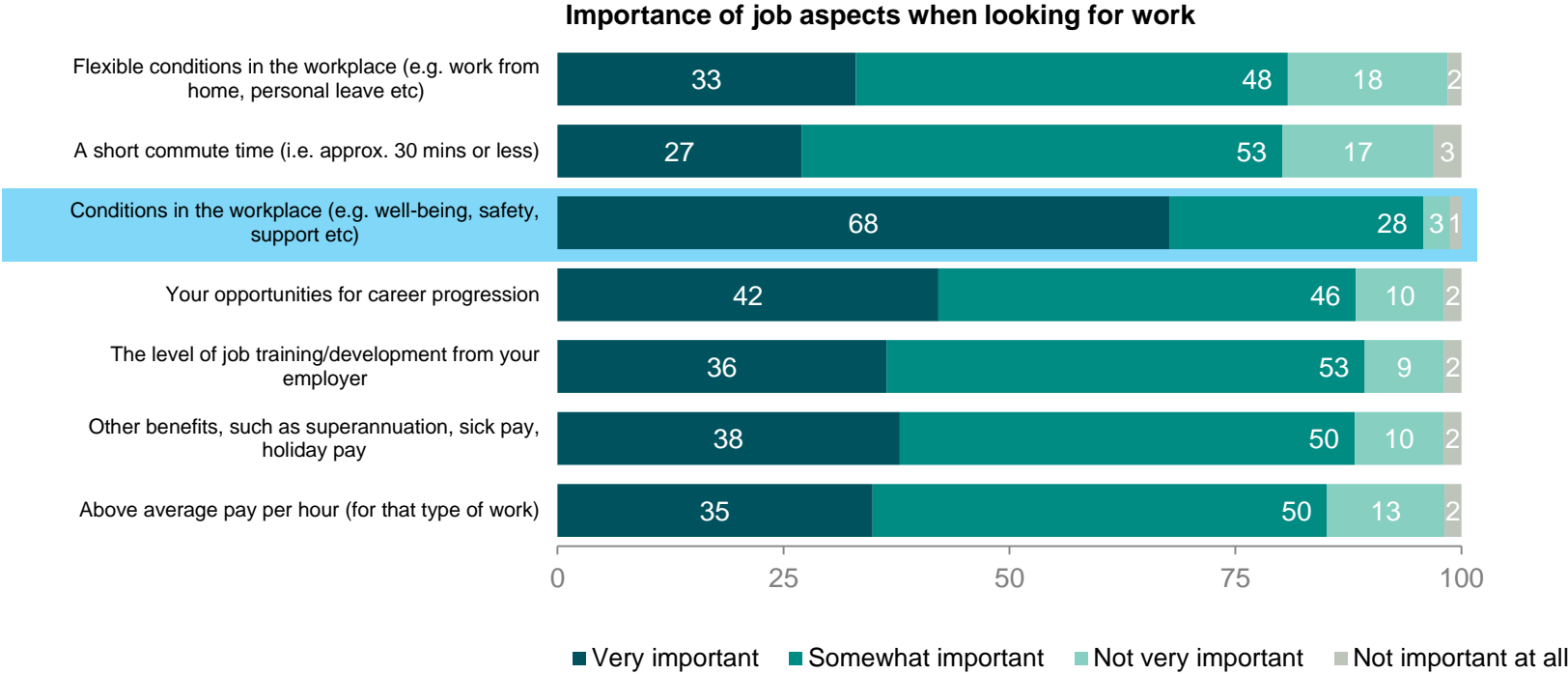
Employed location segments: % Very satisfied with work/life balance



Working residents of rural and remote locations are most likely to be very satisfied with their work/life balance. Working residents of regional towns are least likely to be very satisfied with flexibility to work from home (12%).

Conditions in the workplace are most important for job seekers

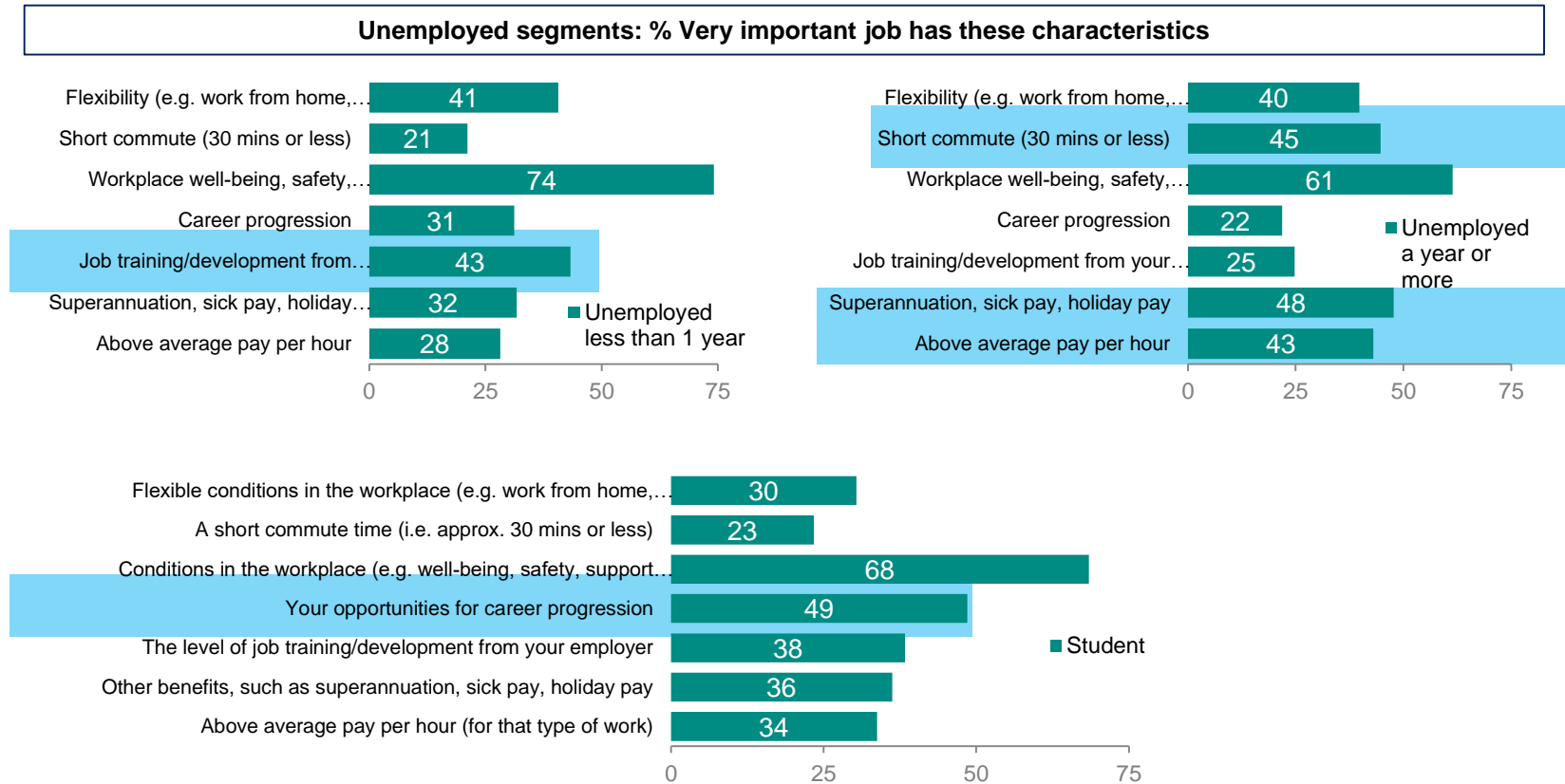
Unemployed respondents



For people currently out of work or studying, conditions in the workplace are the most important aspect of any future job they may take.

Conversely, the commute time of any potential job is the aspect where more people are willing to compromise.

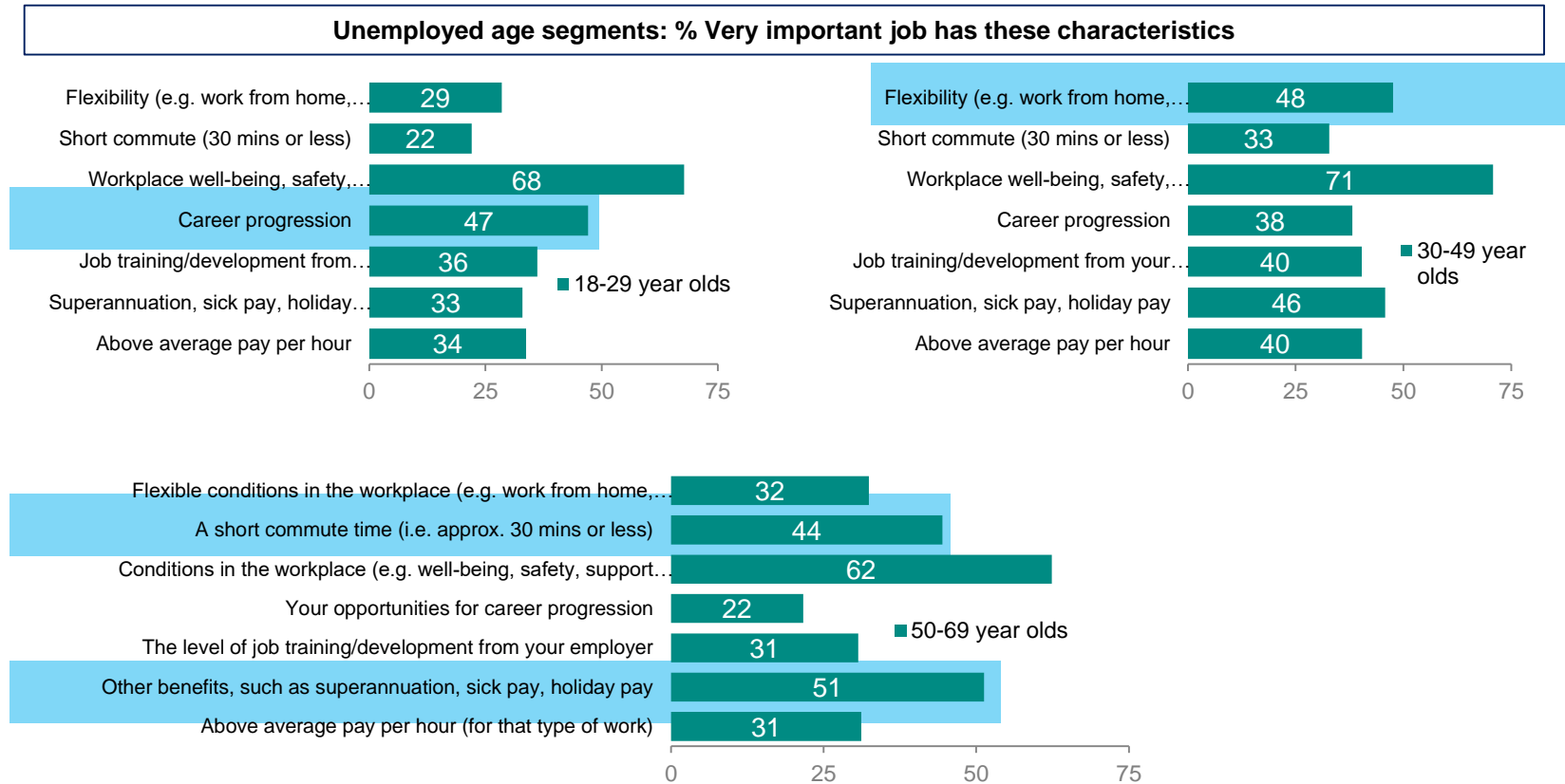
Workplace and job priorities



Aside from workplace conditions, short term unemployed people are most likely to be looking for on-the-job training and development, while longer-term unemployed are more concerned about commute time, hourly pay and other benefits.

Students are most likely to be also looking for jobs with career progression opportunities.

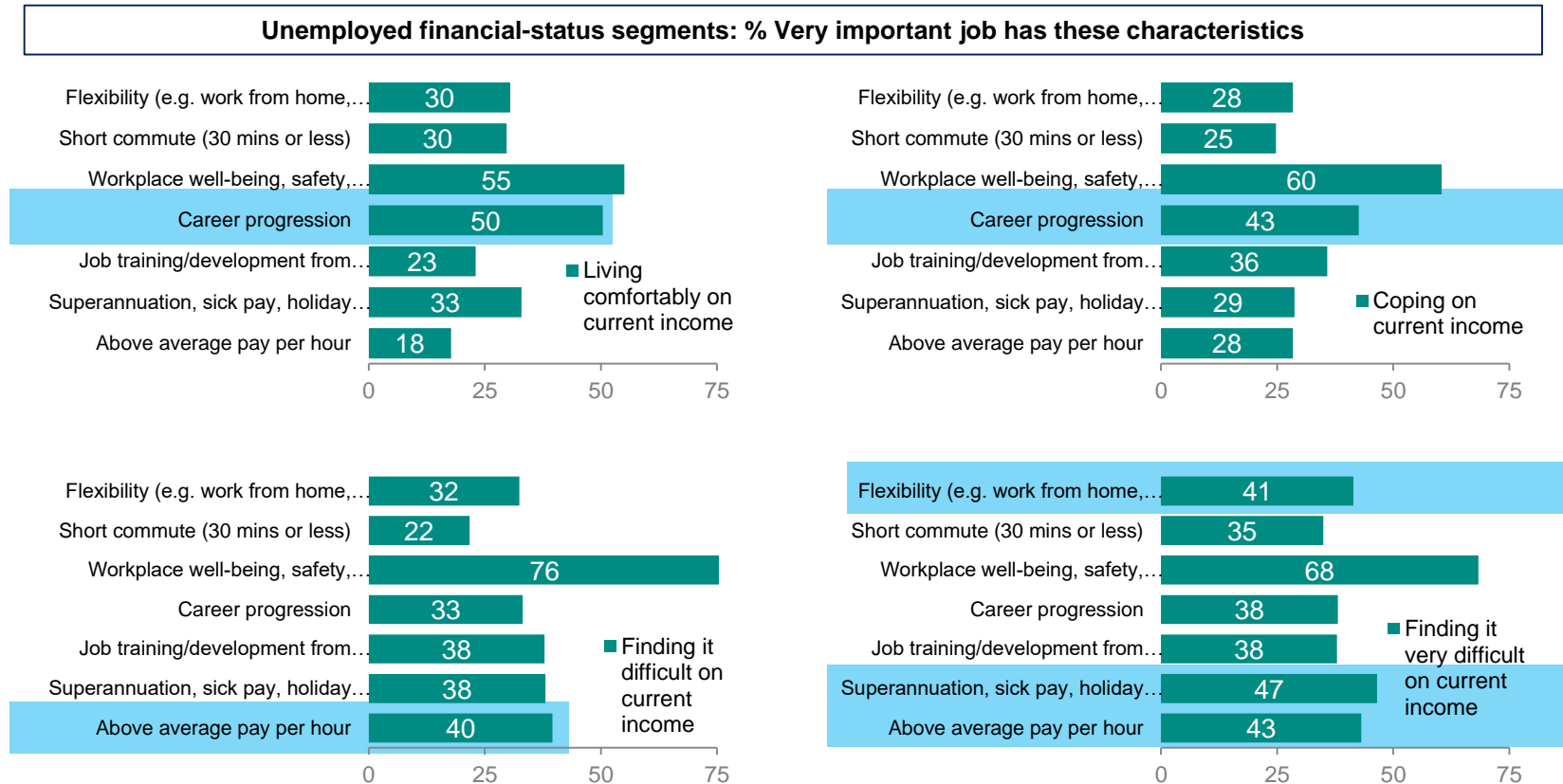
Workplace and job priorities



Aside from workplace conditions, career progression is a key aspect for any potential job for younger unemployed people (as with students). Conversely, for older people aged 50-69 years, a short commute and other job benefits are also very important (as with longer-term unemployed).

For people aged 30-49 years, flexibility is a very important aspect, in line with 1 in 3 of this group being parents.

Workplace and job priorities

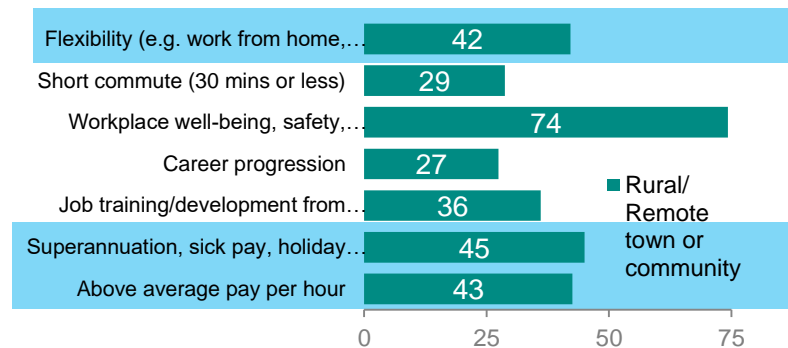
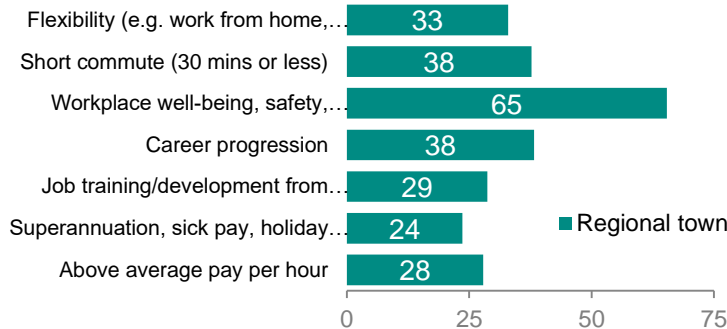
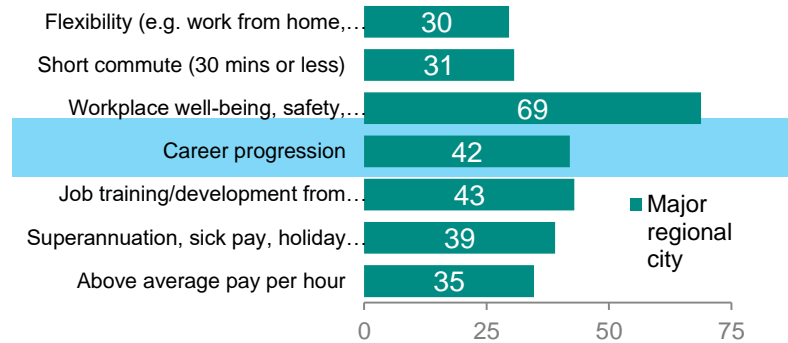
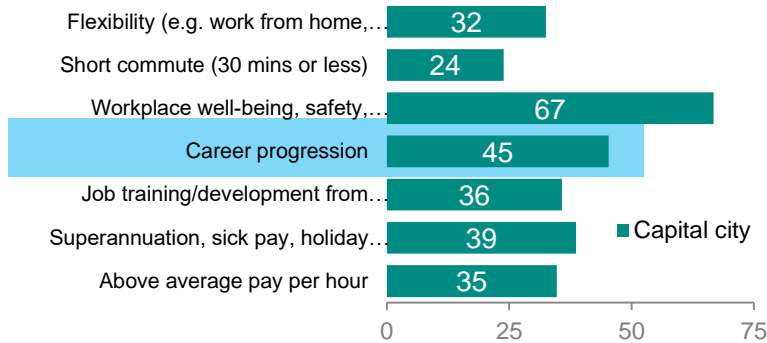


Aside from workplace conditions, career progression is a key aspect for any potential job for unemployed people with a higher quality of life. For people finding life more difficult, above average pay and other benefits are also very important.

What is more, for people finding life very difficult, flexibility is also very important, in line with around 1 in 4 of this group being single parents.

Workplace and job priorities

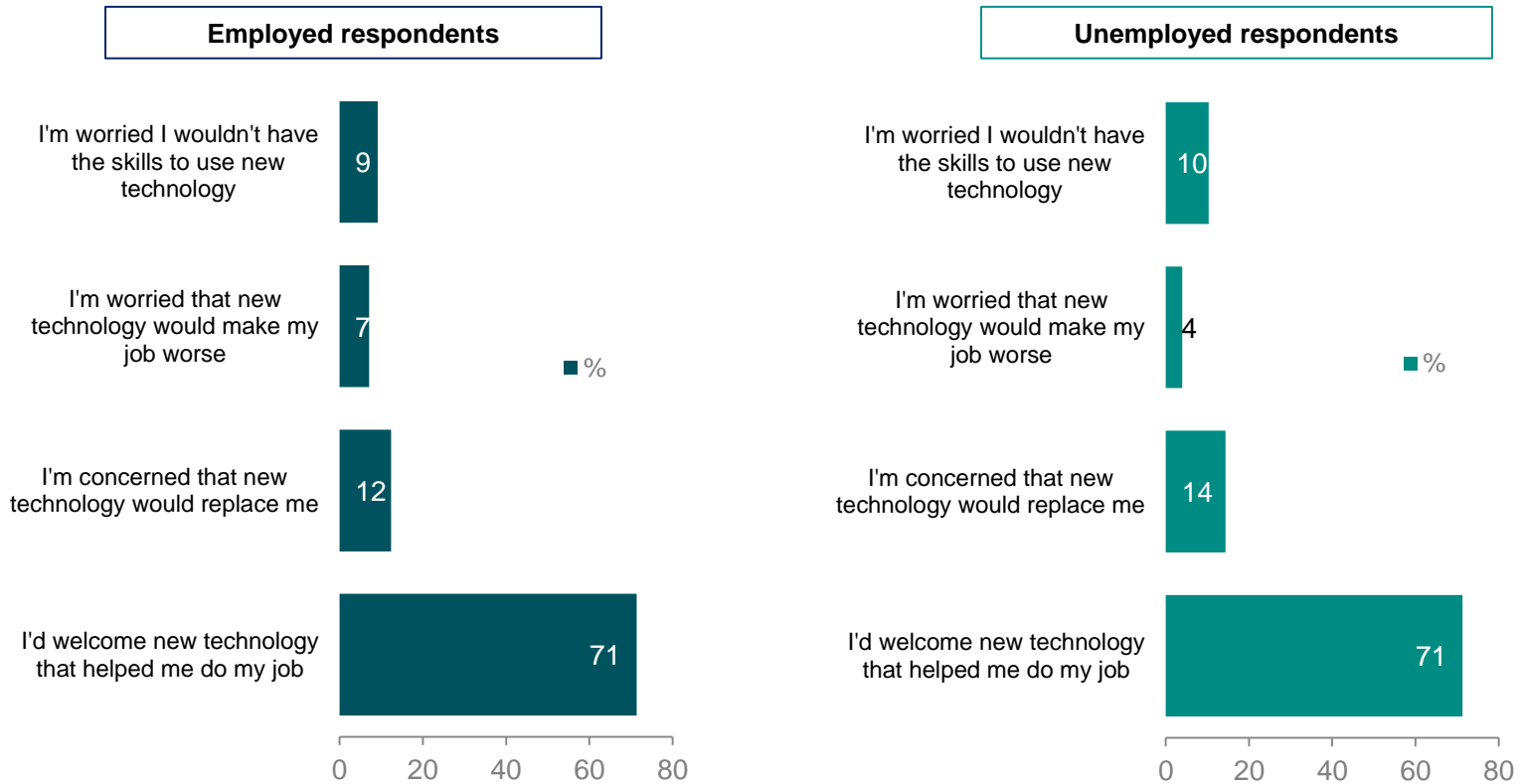
Unemployed location segments: % Very important job has these characteristics



Aside from workplace conditions, career progression is a key aspect of any potential job for unemployed people in metro locations.

For people living in rural and remote locations, flexibility is also very important, as are above-average pay rates and other benefits.

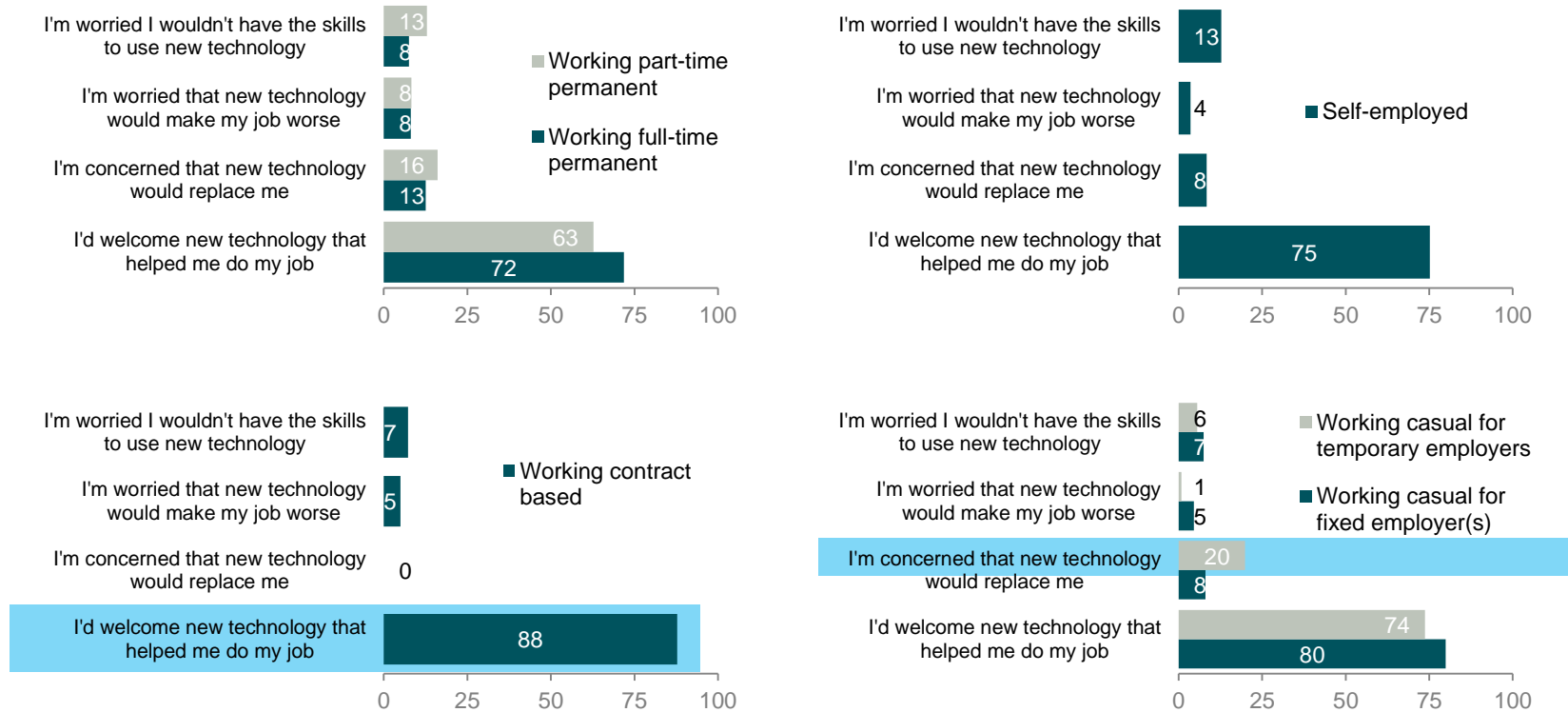
Technology and the workplace



The vast majority of people both employed and unemployed would welcome new technologies that helped them undertake their job.

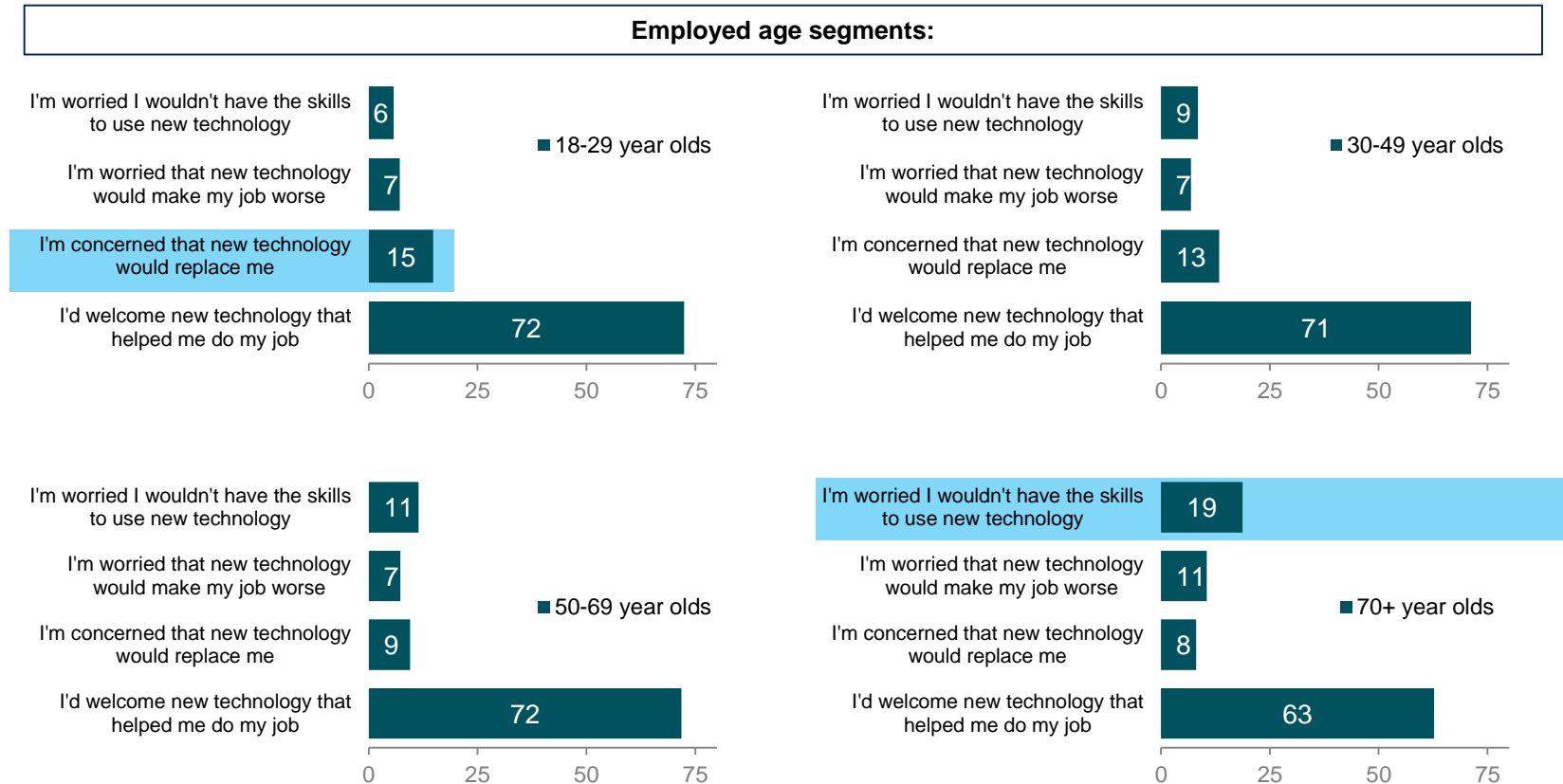
Technology and the workplace

Employed segments:



Contract-based employees are most likely to welcome new technology (88%), while those working casually for temporary employers are most likely to be worried technology might replace them (20%).

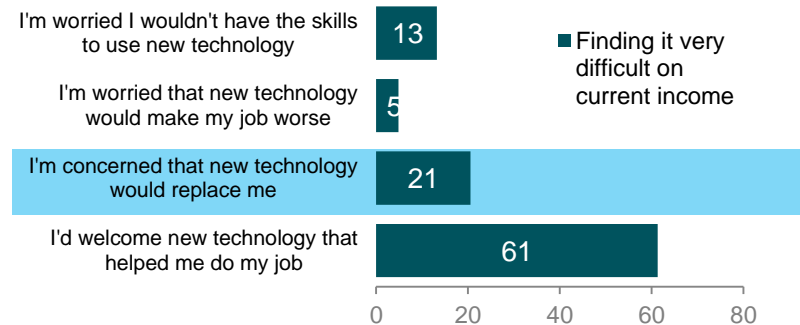
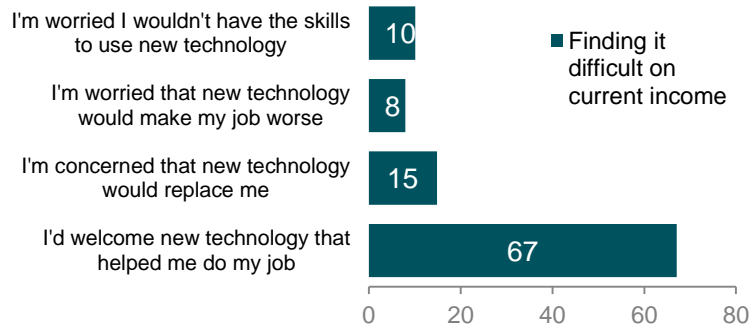
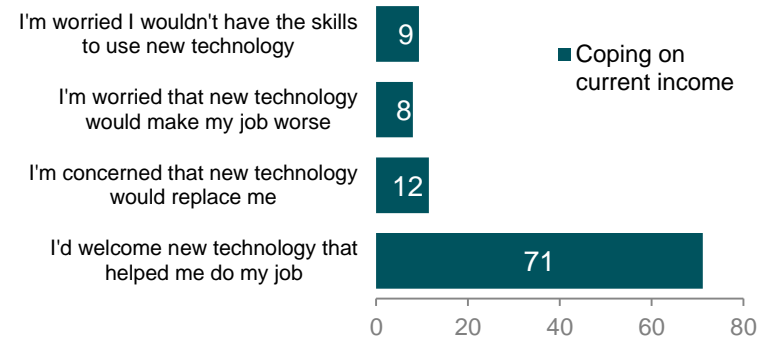
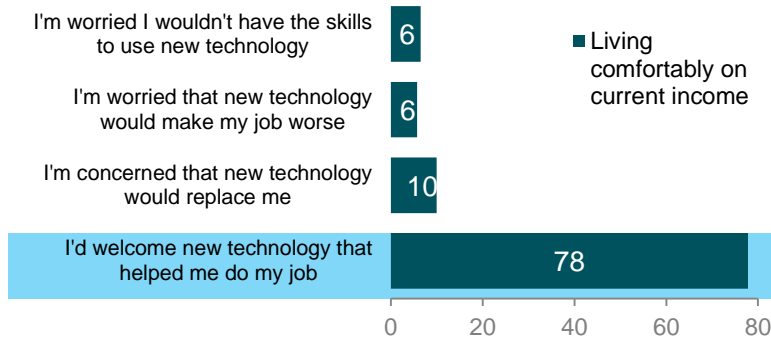
Technology and the workplace



Older workers are most likely to worry they won't have the skills to use new technology (19%), while those aged 18-29 years are most likely to be worried technology might replace them (15%).

Technology and the workplace

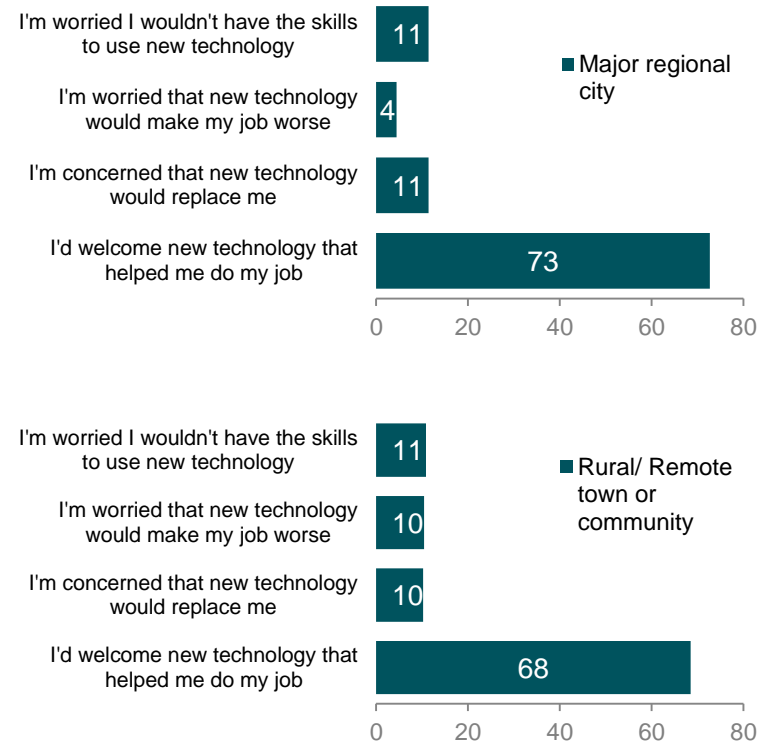
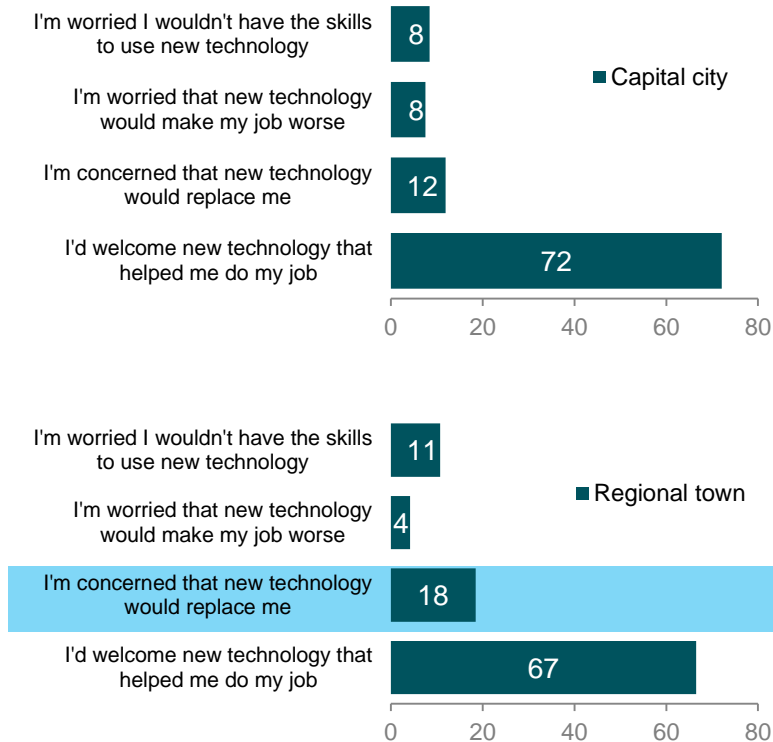
Employed financial-status segments:



Employees with a higher quality of life are most likely to welcome new technology (78%), while those finding things very difficult are most likely to be worried technology might replace them (21%).

Technology and the workplace

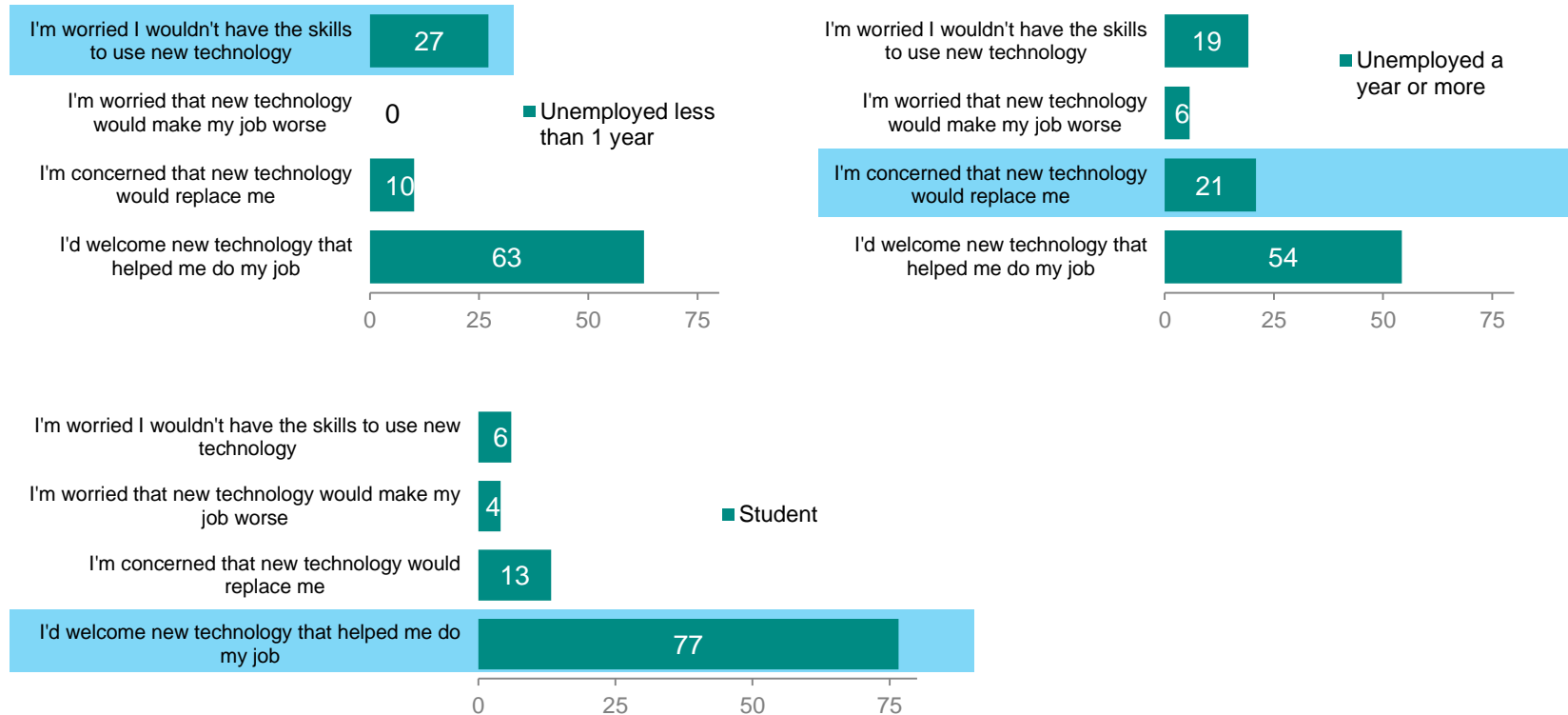
Employed location segments:



Employees in metro locations are most likely to welcome new technology, while those in regional towns are most likely to be worried technology might replace them (18%).

Technology and the workplace

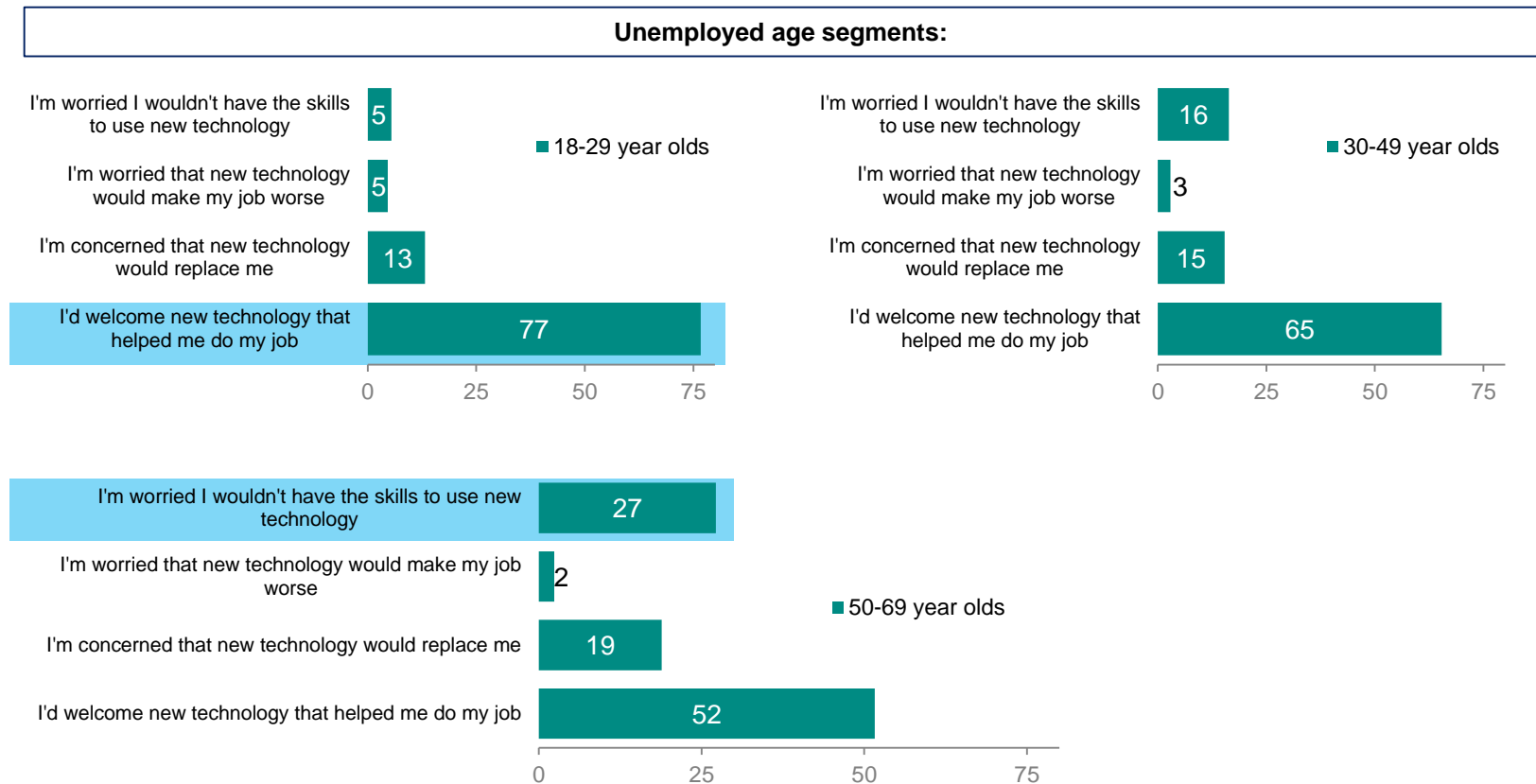
Unemployed segments:



Among people currently out of work, students are most likely to welcome new technology (77%), while longer-term unemployed people are most likely to be worried technology might replace them (21%).

Conversely, short-term unemployed people are more likely to be worried they won't have the skills (27%), in line with a likely concern they are falling behind from being out of work.

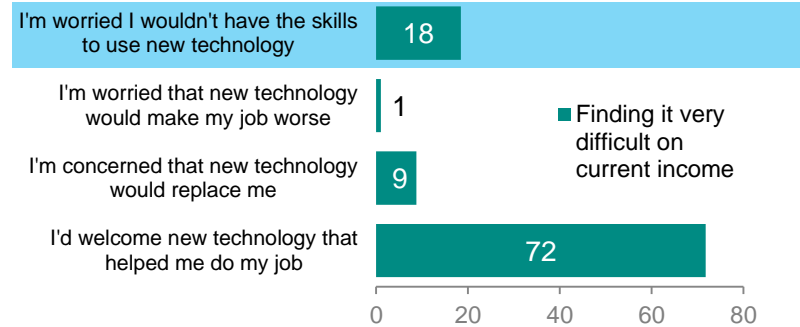
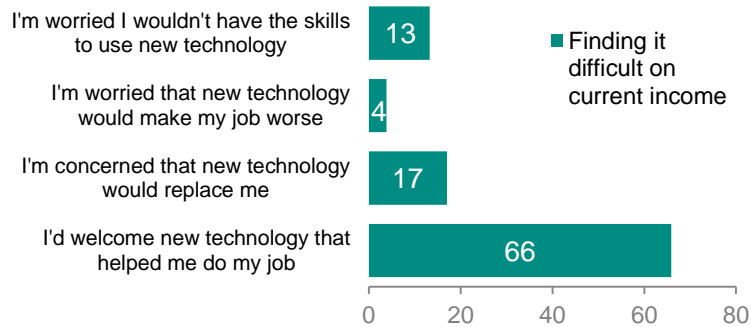
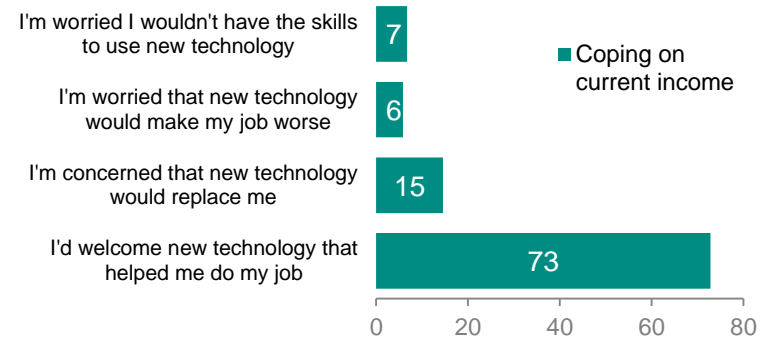
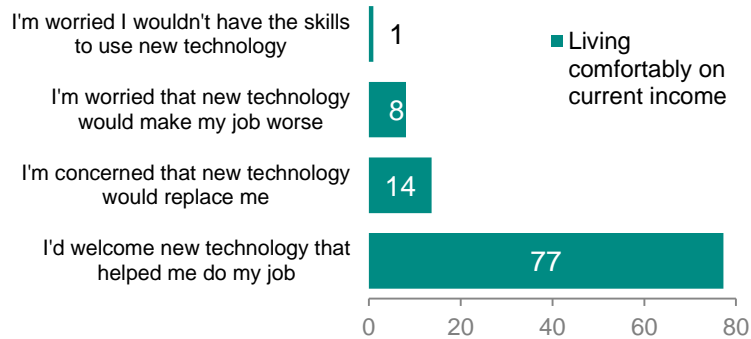
Technology and the workplace



Among people currently out of work, younger people (as with students) are most likely to welcome new technology (77%). Conversely, older unemployed people are more likely to be worried they won't have the skills (27%).

Technology and the workplace

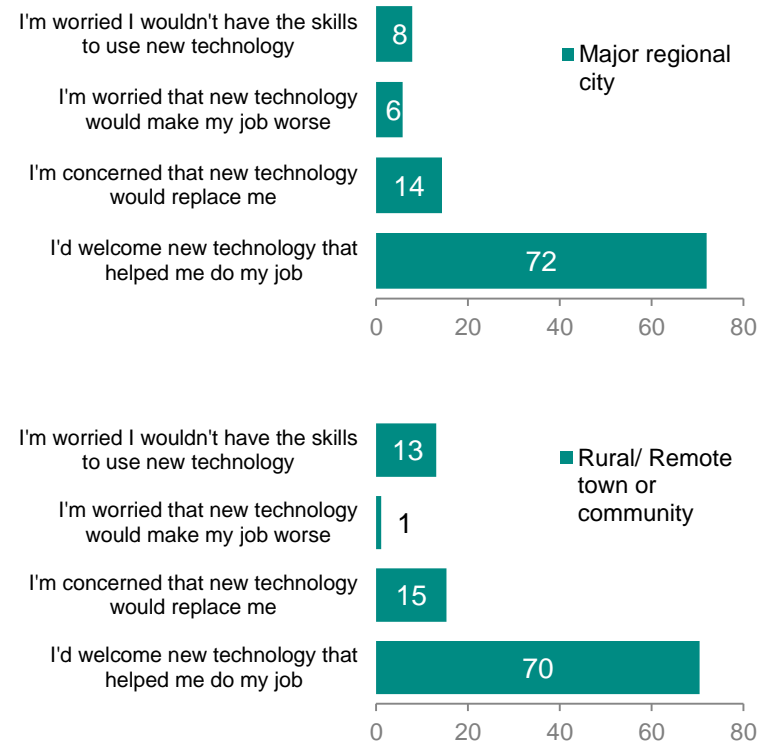
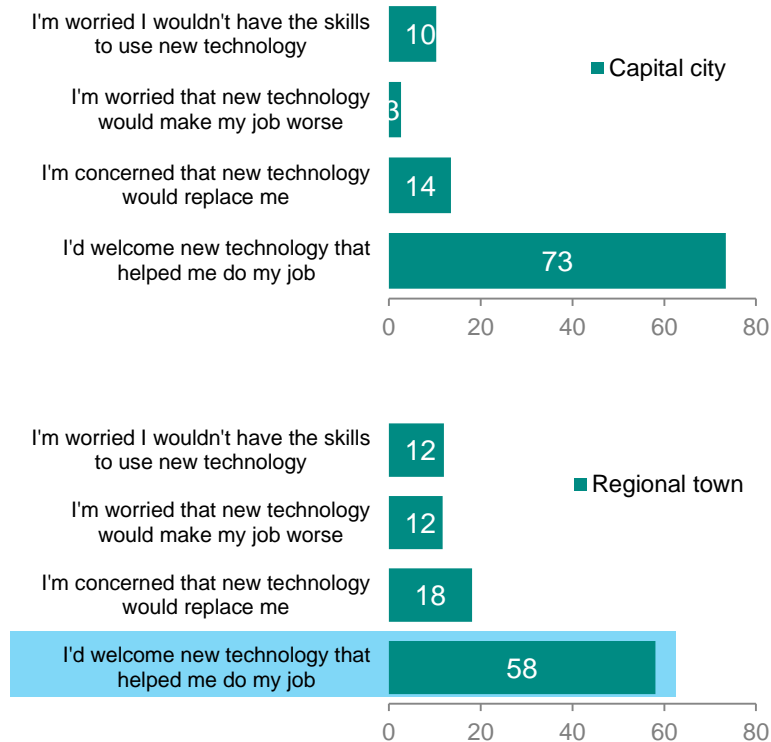
Unemployed financial-status segments:



Among people currently out of work, those who are finding life very difficult are more likely to be worried they won't have the skills to use new technology (18%).

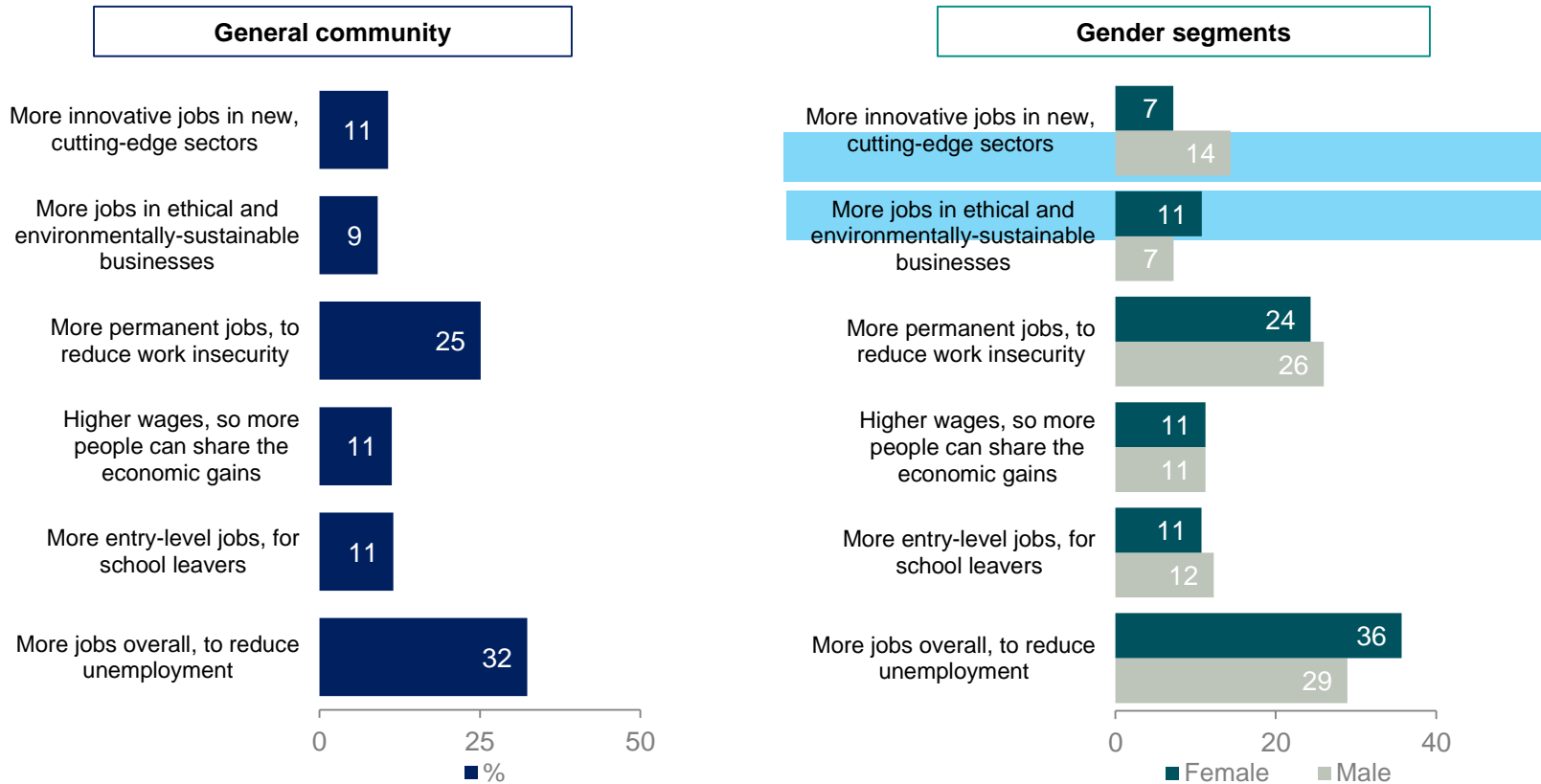
Technology and the workplace

Unemployed location segments:



Among people currently out of work, those living in regional towns are least likely to welcome new technology (58%).

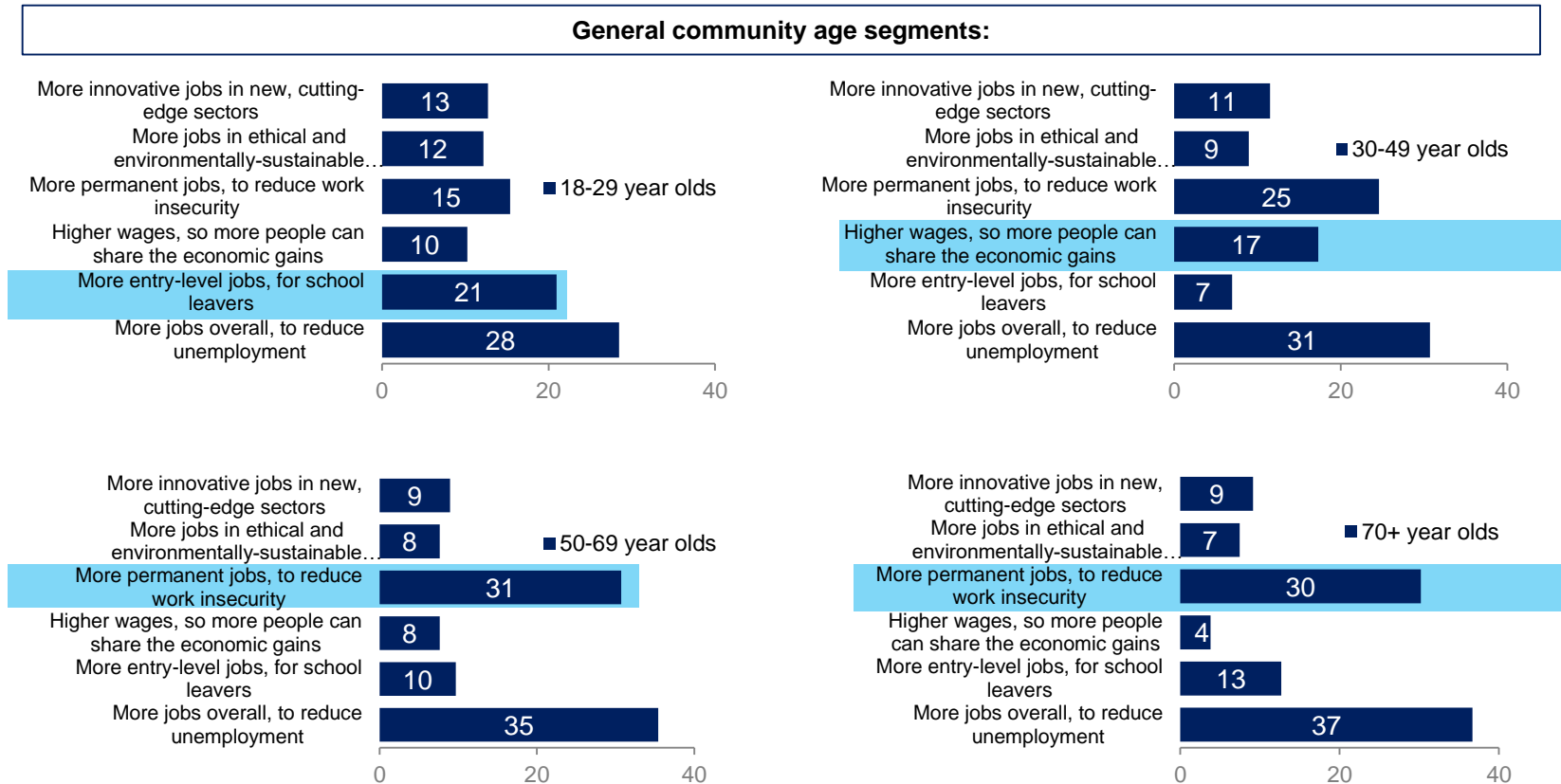
Employment imperatives: Job focus for the future?



Most people would like future employment to consist of more jobs overall (32%), especially women. There is also widespread desire for greater job security (25%).

In terms of key gender differences, men are more likely to be interested in innovative job creation, while women are more likely to be interested in ethical and sustainable workplaces.

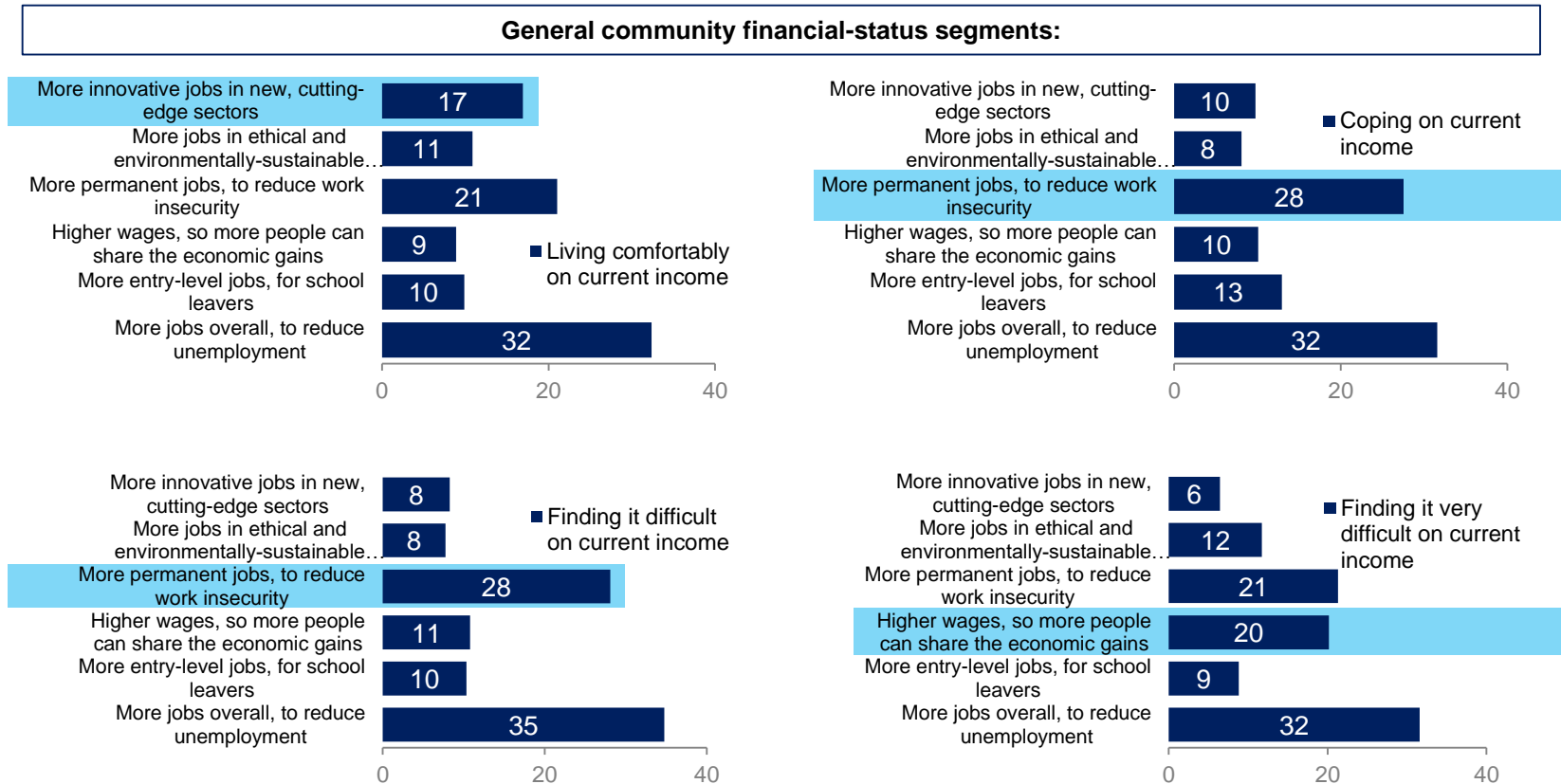
Employment imperatives



Aside from more jobs overall, younger people would also like future employment to offer more entry-level jobs (21%), while older people aged 50+ would prefer to see more permanent jobs.

Among 30-49 year olds, there is also desire for greater job security (25%) and higher wages (17%).

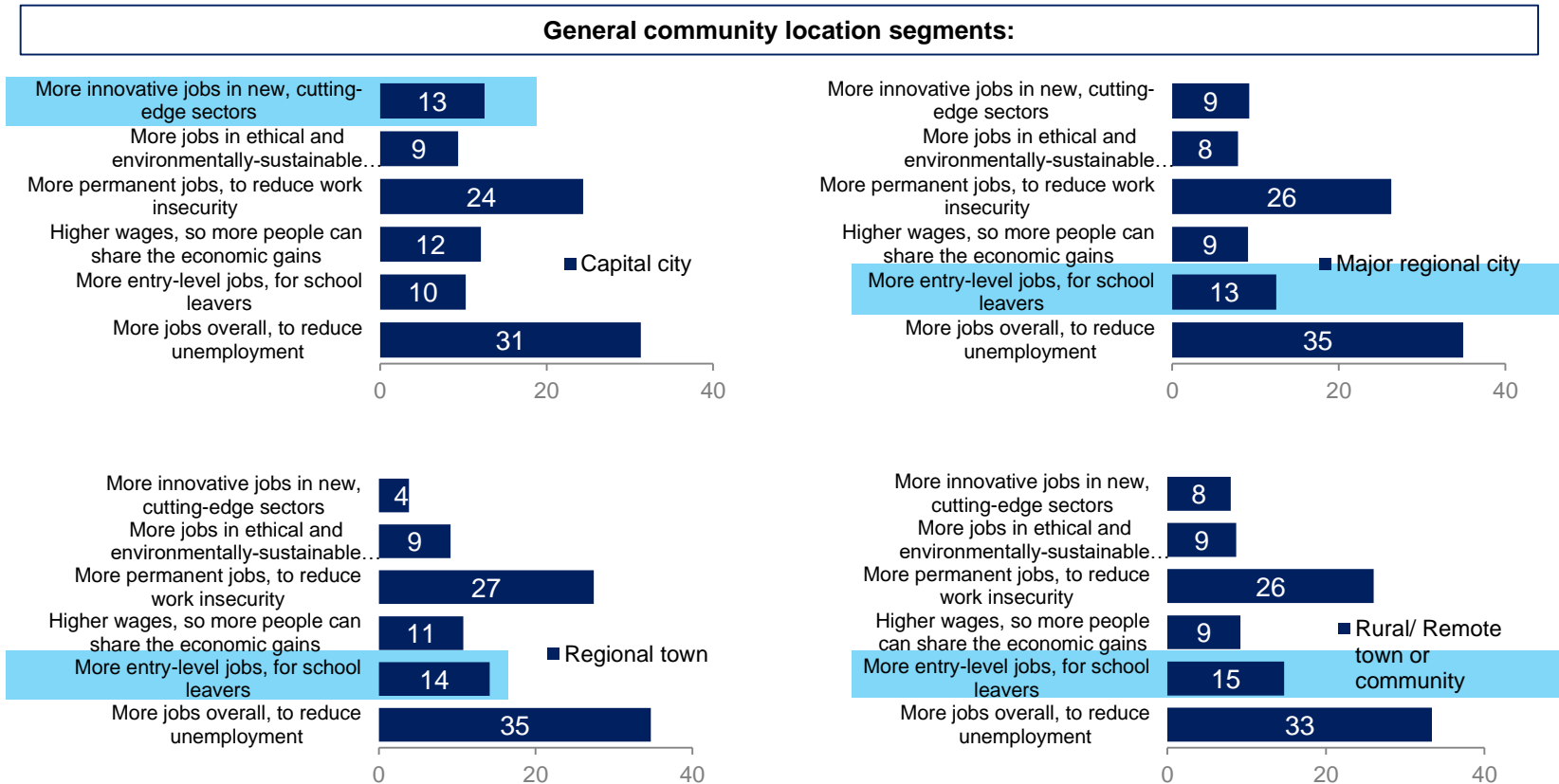
Employment imperatives



Aside from more jobs overall, people living comfortably would also like future employment to offer more innovative jobs (17%), while people who are just coping or finding life difficult would prefer to see more permanent jobs (28%).

For those finding life very difficult, there is an understandable desire for higher wages (20%).

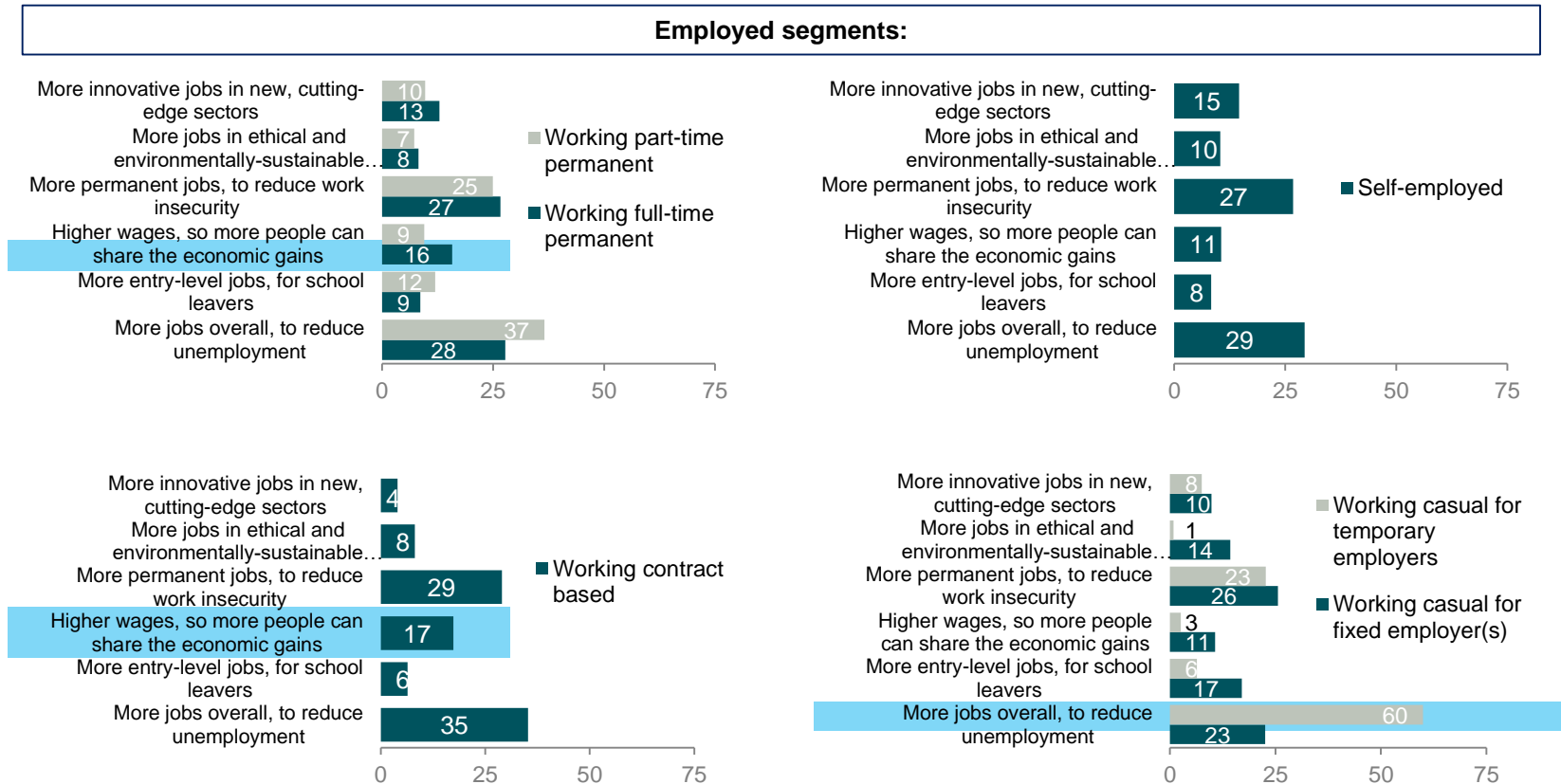
Employment imperatives



Aside from more jobs overall, people living in capital cities would also like future employment to offer more innovative jobs (13%).

For those living in more regional and rural locations, there is wider concern for entry-level jobs.

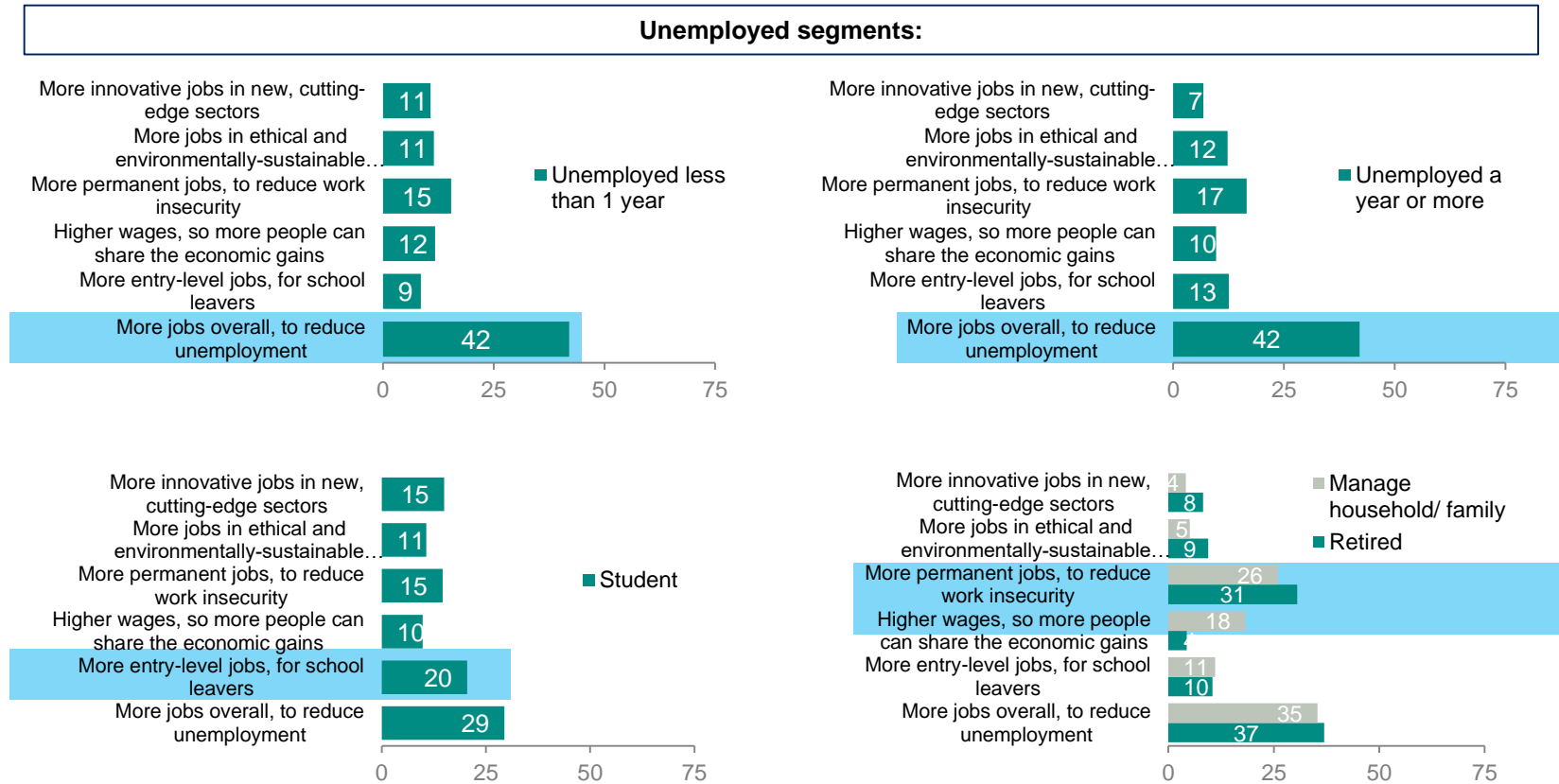
Employment imperatives



Aside from more jobs overall, people across all employment segments would also like future employment to offer more permanent jobs, to reduce concerns about work insecurity.

For people working part-time and contract-based, there is also desire for higher wages (16% & 17%). For people working casually for temporary employers, there is clear desire for more jobs overall (60%).

Employment imperatives



Aside from more jobs overall, students would also like future employment to offer more entry-level jobs (20%), in line with younger people.

For people managing the household, there is also desire for higher wages (18%) and more permanent jobs (26%). For retired people, there is also a preference for more permanent jobs (31%).

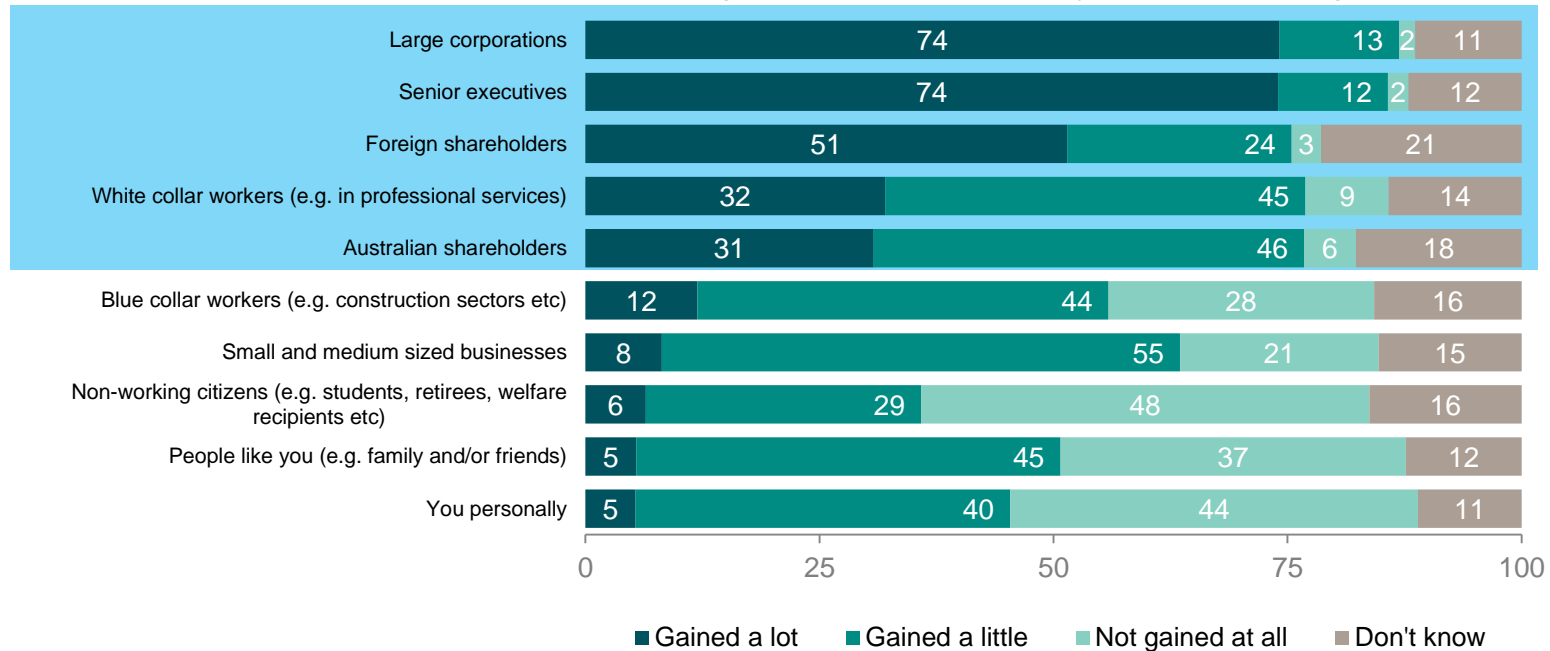
Perceptions of Economic Gain

Public views of 'economic growth' and Australia's uninterrupted economic performance

Economic winners & losers

General community

Who has gained from Australia's 26 years of economic growth?



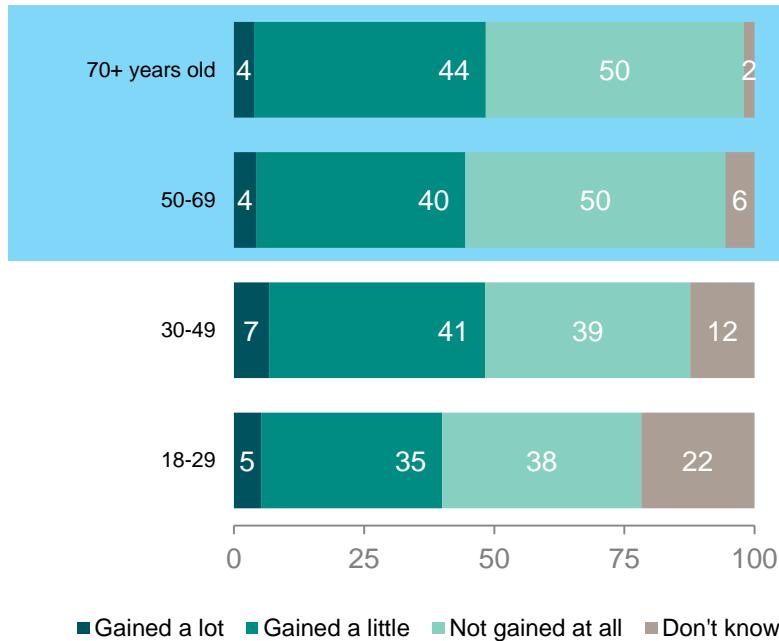
For the general public, large corporations and their senior executives and shareholders are the major winners from Australia's record period of economic growth.

Conversely, very few people think they personally or people like them have gained a lot (5%).

Economic winners & losers: Personal gain?

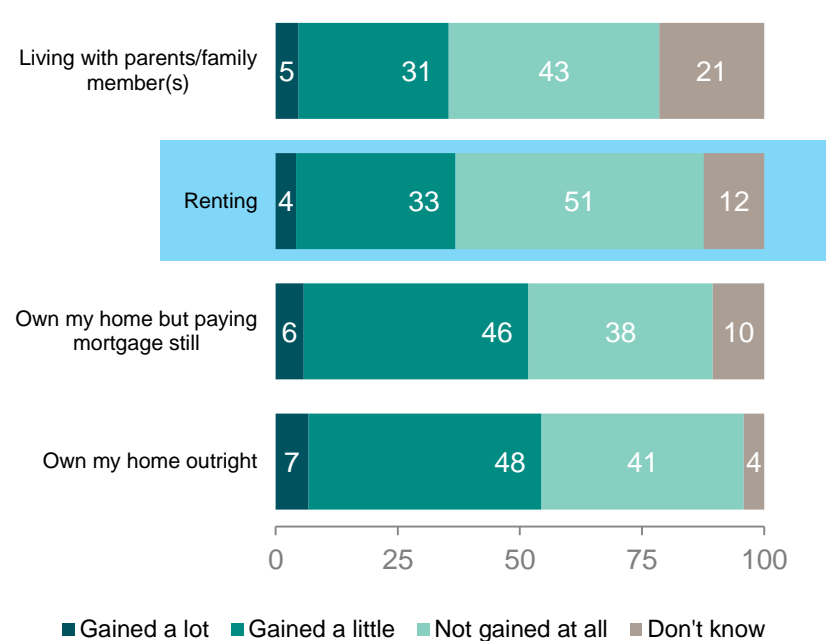
General community age segments

Have you gained personally?



General community home-status segments

Have you gained personally?



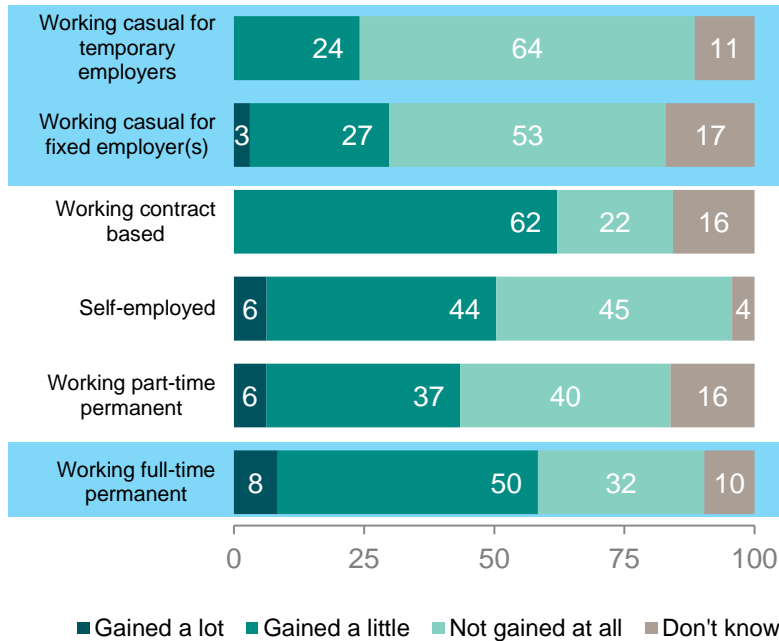
Interestingly, 1 in 2 older people – many among the widely-perceived successful baby-boomer generation – feel they've personally gained nothing from the past 26 years.

Similarly, people who are currently renting widely feel they've gained nothing at all (51%).

Economic winners & losers: Personal gain?

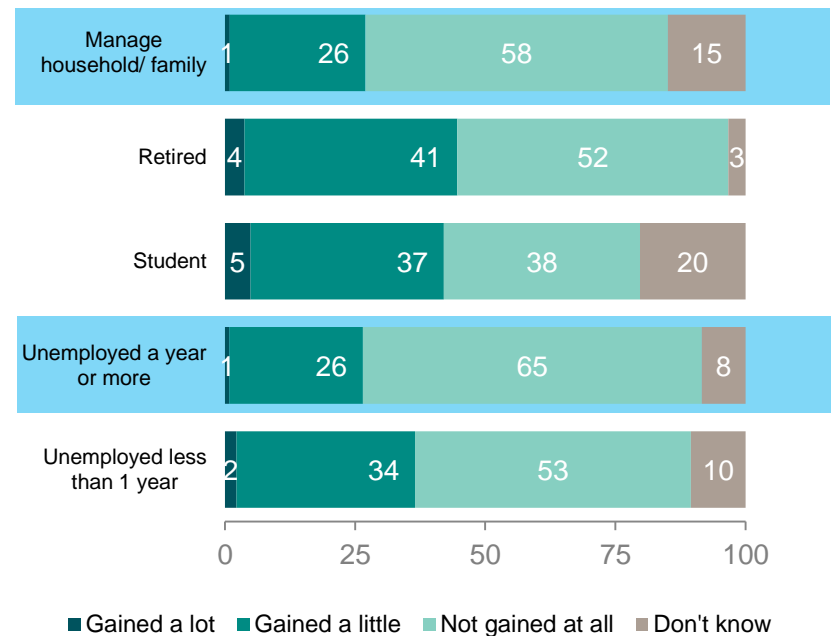
Employed segments

Have you gained personally?



Unemployed/not working segments

Have you gained personally?



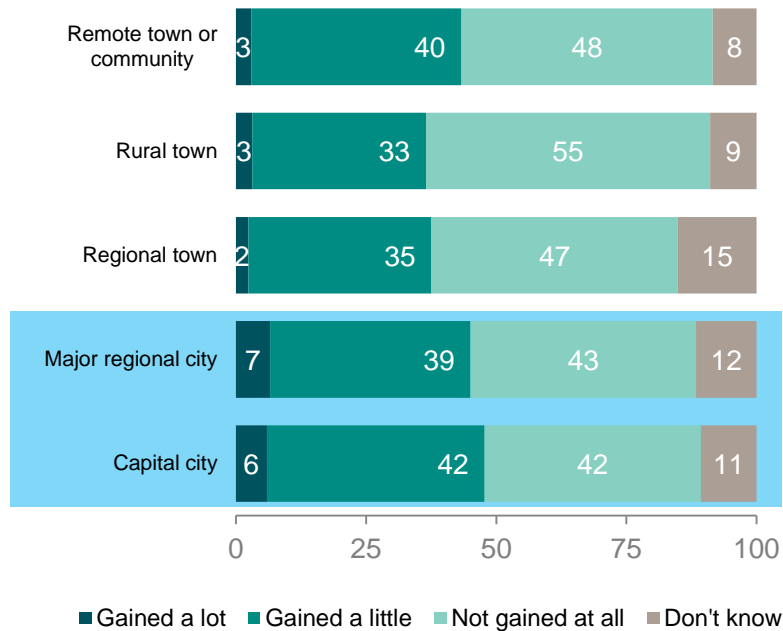
People currently working full time permanent are more likely to feel they've gained a lot (8%) than any other employment segment. Conversely, those working in casual employment are more likely to feel they've personally gained nothing from the past 26 years.

Similarly, people who are currently managing the household or have been out of work for a year or more widely feel they've gained nothing at all.

Economic winners & losers: Personal gain?

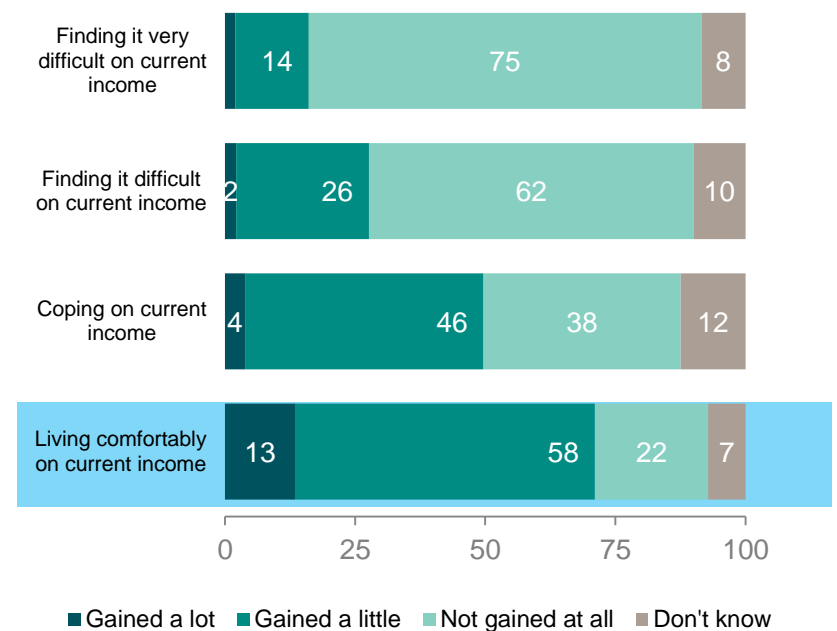
Location segments

Have you gained personally?



Financial-status segments

Have you gained personally?

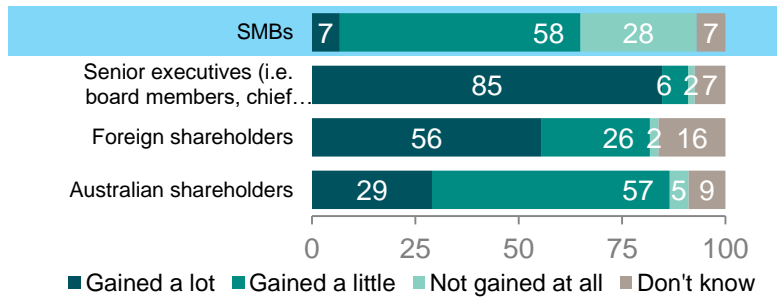


People currently living in metro locations are more likely to feel they've gained a lot than any other location segment. Conversely, those living in a rural town are most likely to feel they've personally gained nothing (55%) from the past 26 years. People who are currently living comfortably most widely feel they've gained (71%), including 13% who feel they've gained a lot. This contrasts with the vast majority of those finding life very difficult who feel they've gained nothing at all (75%).

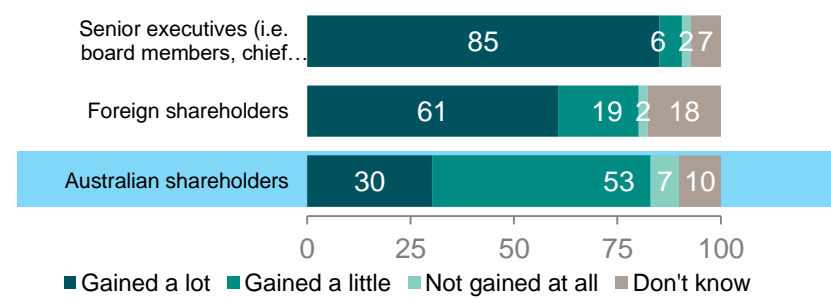
Economic winners & losers: Key insights

Who has gained from 26 years economic growth?

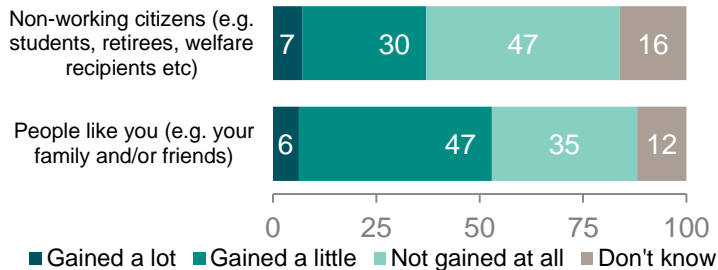
Views of Self-employed people:



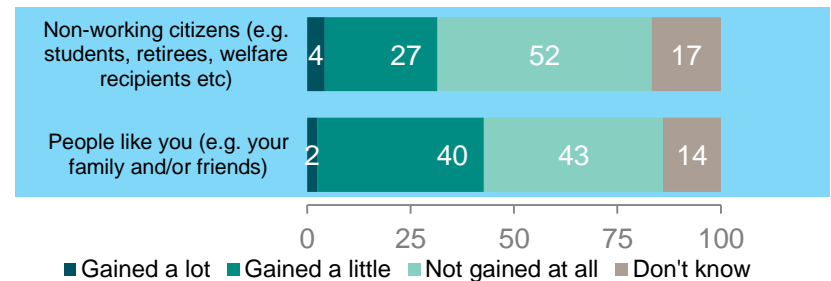
Views of Retirees:



Views of Metropolitan residents:



Views of Regional/Rural residents:



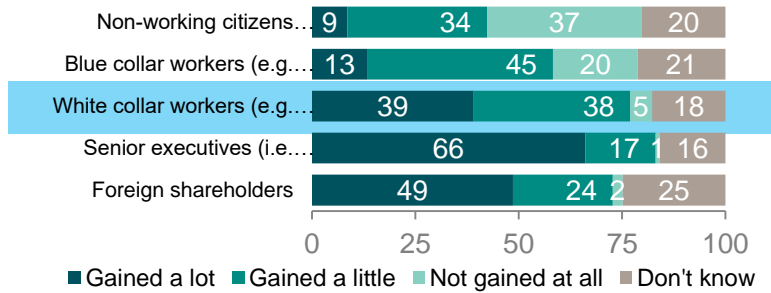
There is very little sense among self-employed people that small & medium sized businesses have gained a lot (7%), which may reflect how their own businesses haven't flourished. Similarly, only 1 in 3 retirees (30%) sees that Australian shareholders have gained a lot, which may reflect how their superannuation hasn't performed (or a lack of 'connection' between the two).

Residents in smaller regional/rural areas are more likely to see that non-working citizens and people like them have gained nothing at all, compared to people living in capital or major regional cities.

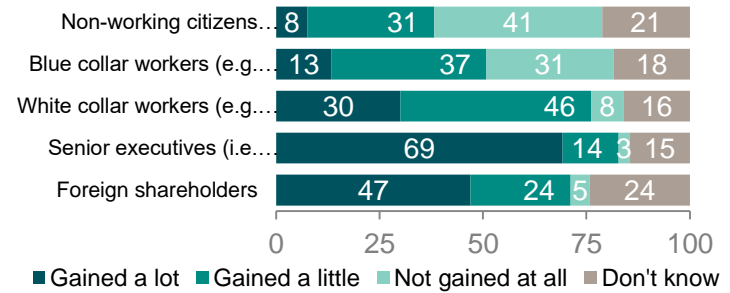
Economic winners & losers: Key insights

Who has gained from 26 years economic growth?

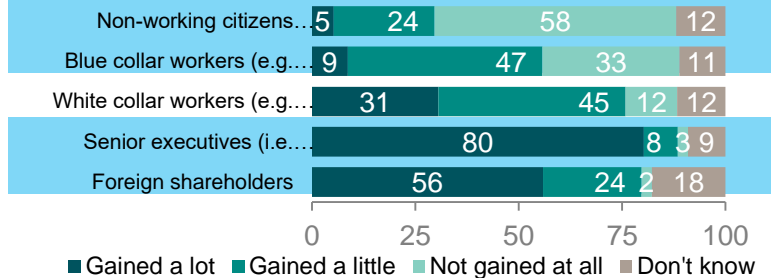
Views of 18-29 year olds:



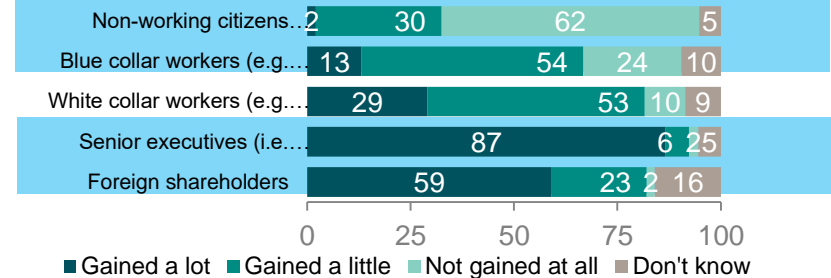
Views of 30-49 year olds:



Views of 50-69 year olds:



Views of 70+ year olds:



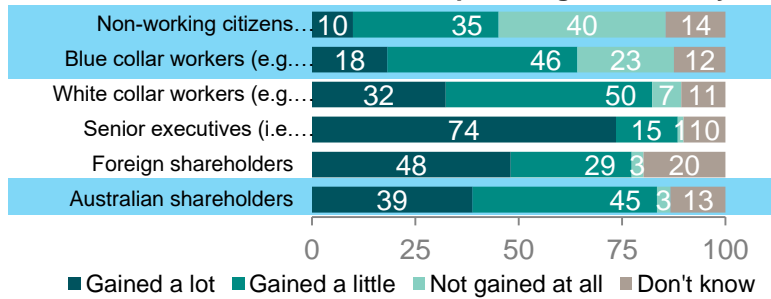
Young people are most likely to believe that white collar workers have gained a lot, compared to other age groups.

Conversely, older people are most likely to feel that senior execs and foreign shareholders have gained a lot, and to see that non-working citizens and blue collar workers have gained nothing at all.

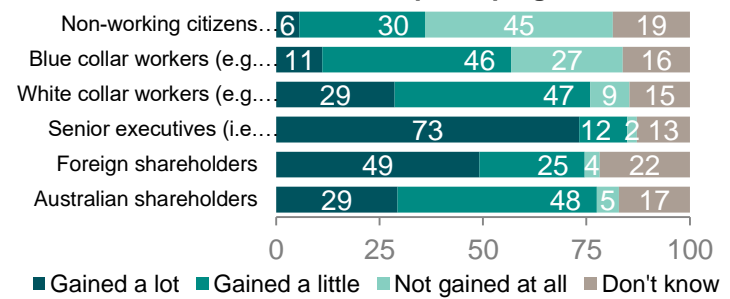
Economic winners & losers: Key insights

Who has gained from 26 years economic growth?

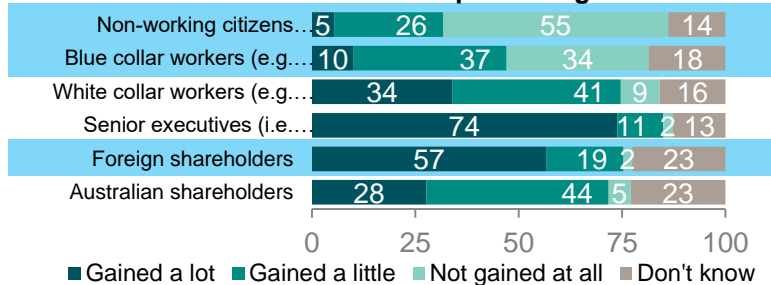
Views of People living comfortably:



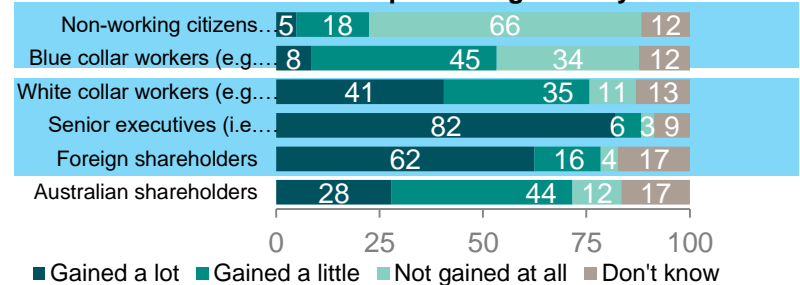
Views of People coping:



Views of People finding life difficult:



Views of People finding life very difficult:



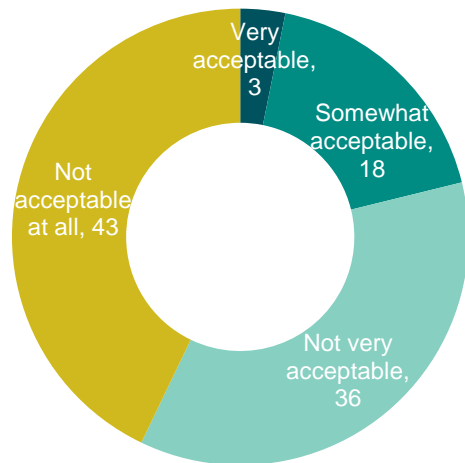
People currently living comfortably are most likely to see that Australian shareholders have gained a lot. They are also most likely to see non-working citizens and blue collar workers as having gained a lot, which may reflect a belief in 'trickle-down'.

Conversely, people finding life difficult are most likely to feel that foreign shareholders have gained a lot and to see that non-working citizens and blue collar workers have gained nothing at all. People finding life very difficult also more widely feel that white collar workers and senior execs have gained a lot.

The wealth gap in Australia

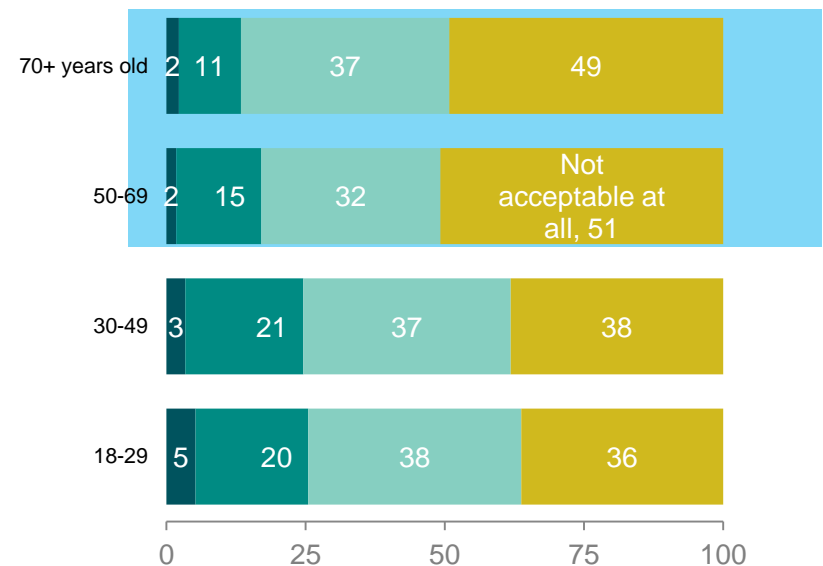
General community

Is the wealth gap acceptable or not?



Age segments

Is the wealth gap acceptable or not?



■ Very acceptable ■ Somewhat acceptable ■ Not very acceptable ■ Not acceptable at all

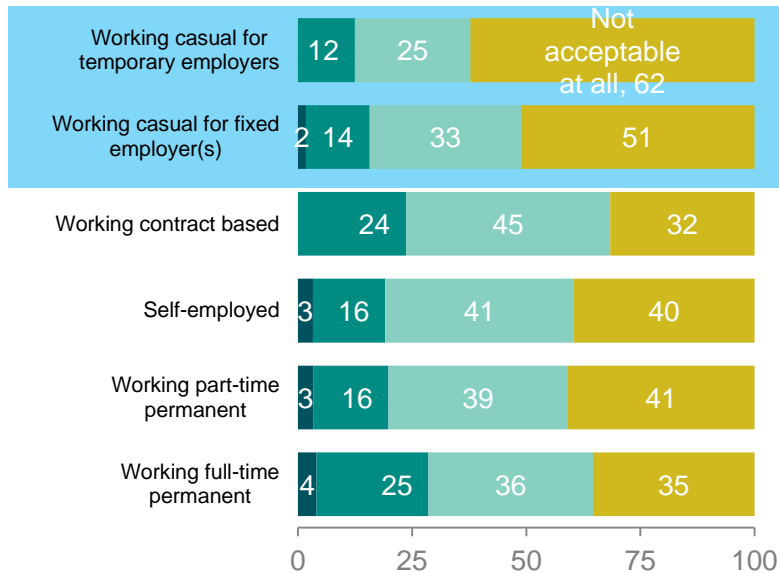
For the vast majority of people, the wealth gap that has appeared in Australia is an unacceptable consequence of economic growth. This sentiment is particularly widespread among older Australians aged 50+ years.

Conversely, 1 in 4 younger people are inclined to feel this consequence is acceptable.

The wealth gap in Australia

Employed segments

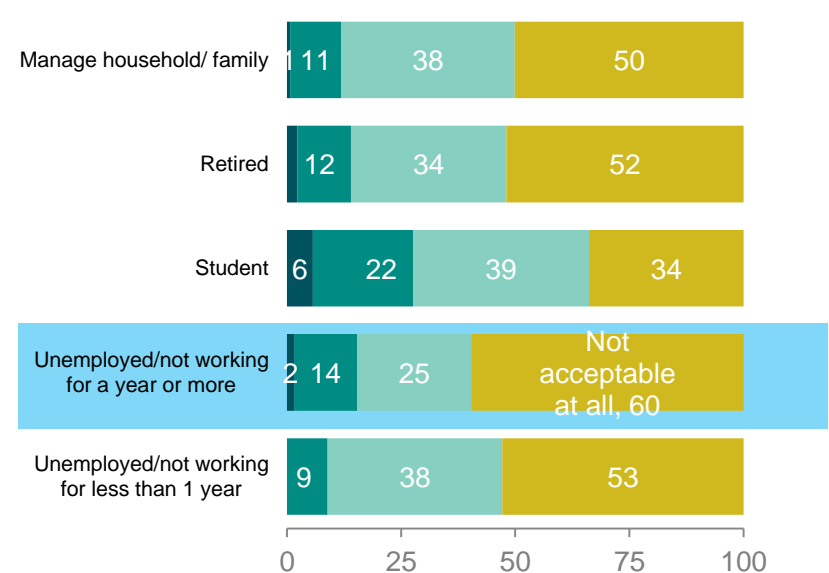
Is the wealth gap acceptable or not?



Very acceptable Somewhat acceptable Not very acceptable Not acceptable at all

Unemployed/not working segments

Is the wealth gap acceptable or not?



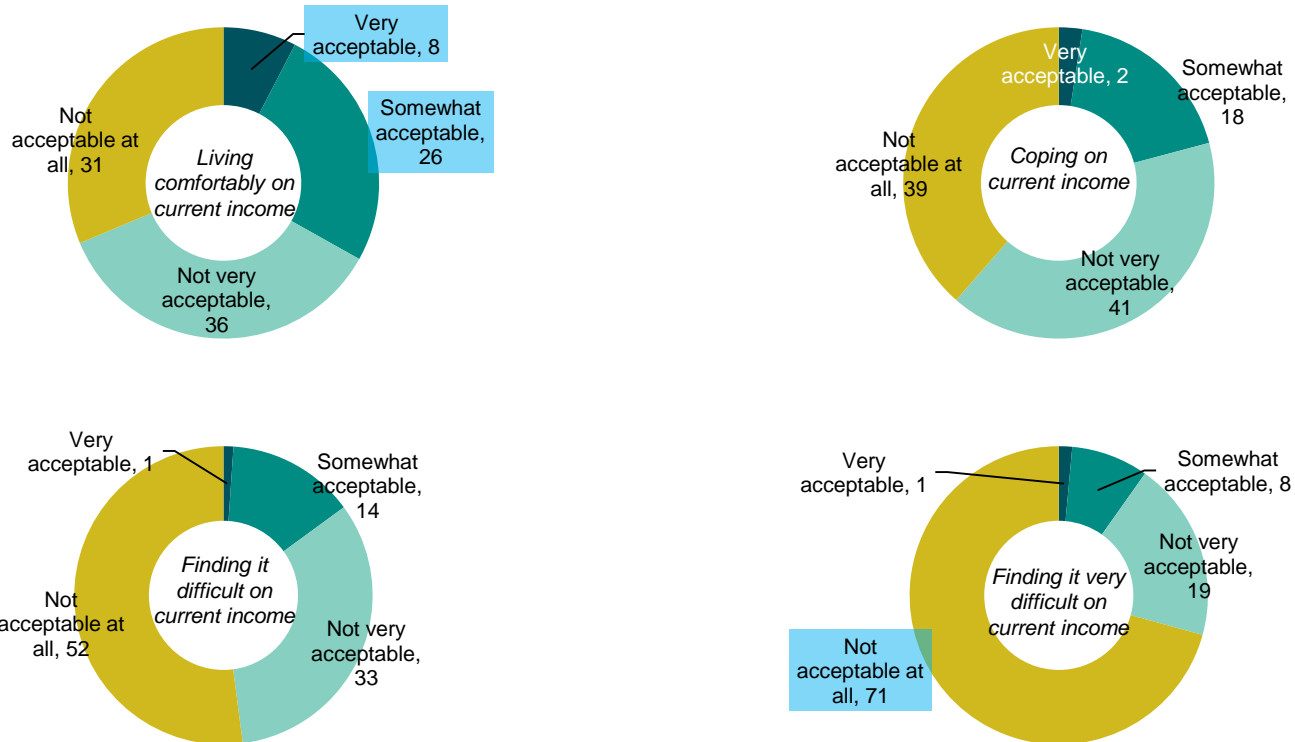
Very acceptable Somewhat acceptable Not very acceptable Not acceptable at all

For the majority of people currently working in casual positions or unemployed longer-term, the wealth gap that has appeared in Australia is not unacceptable at all.

Conversely, people with full-time permanent jobs and students are most likely to feel this consequence is acceptable.

The wealth gap in Australia

General community financial-status segments: Is the wealth gap acceptable or not?

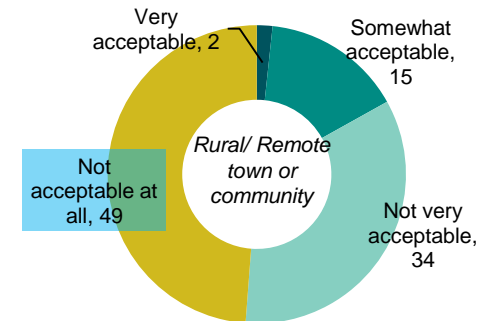
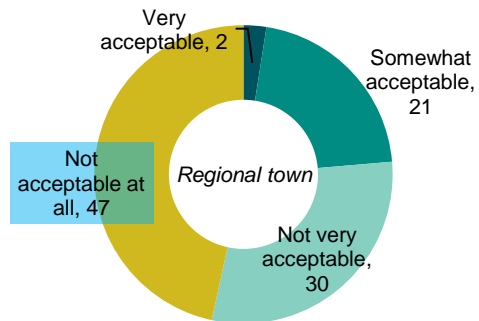
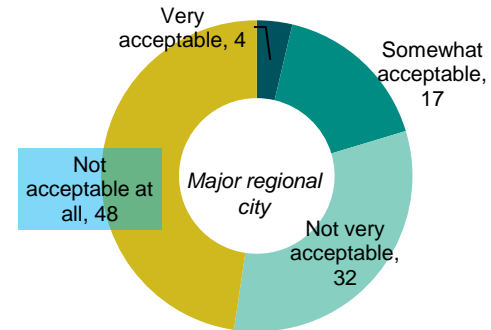
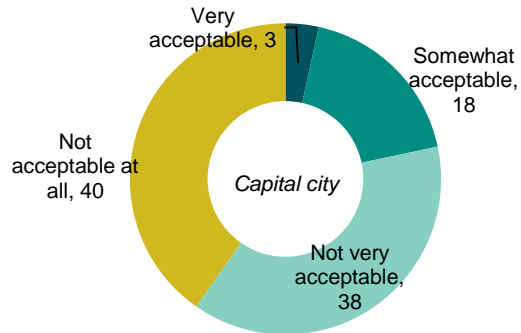


People with a higher quality of life are most likely to believe the wealth gap is acceptable (34%).

Conversely, people finding life very difficult financially are most likely to believe this consequence of economic growth is totally unacceptable (71%).

The wealth gap in Australia

General community location segments: Is the wealth gap acceptable or not?



People living in capital cities are least likely to believe the wealth gap is totally unacceptable (40%).

Appendix

Respondent profiles

Sample characteristics:

Gender and age	General population weighted %	General population (raw numbers)
Male	49%	1447
Female	51%	1544
18-19 years old	6%	180
20-29	15%	441
30-39	17%	531
40-49	19%	553
50-59	17%	529
60-69	13%	438
70+	13%	319

Main 'life-stage' age groups	General population weighted %	General population (raw numbers)
18-29 years old	21%	621
30-49	37%	1084
50-69	30%	967
70+	13%	319

General adult working population total sample size = 2991
Please note, percentages have been rounded and may not equal 100%

Sample characteristics:

State/Territory	General population weighted %	General population (raw numbers)
NSW	32%	616
VIC	25%	631
QLD	20%	411
WA	10%	406
SA	8%	405
TAS	2%	212
ACT	2%	209
NT	1%	101

Metro/Regional	General population weighted %	General population (raw numbers)
Capital city	65%	1938
Major regional city	13%	383
Regional town	10%	289
Rural town	7%	233
Remote town or community	4%	148

General adult working population total sample size = 2991
Please note, percentages have been rounded and may not equal 100%

Sample characteristics:

Employment status	General population weighted %	General population (raw numbers)
Working full-time permanent	30%	902
Working part-time permanent	12%	357
Self-employed (e.g. sole trader, partnership, small business owner etc)	6%	168
Working contract based	1%	41
Working casual for fixed employer(s) - e.g. bar work etc	5%	141
Working casual for temporary employers - e.g. the gig economy	1%	35
Unemployed/not working for less than 1 year	2%	48
Unemployed/not working for a year or more	3%	98
Student	12%	349
Retired	19%	559
Manage household/ family	7%	217
Other	3%	76

General population total sample size = 2991
Please note, percentages have been rounded and may not equal 100%

Sample characteristics:

Birth	General population weighted %	General population (raw numbers)
Born in Australia	70%	2140
Born overseas	30%	851
English-speaking at home/with friends	92%	2785
Non-English speaking at home/with friends	8%	206

Education	General population weighted %	General population (raw numbers)
Postgraduate degree	13%	364
Bachelor degree	23%	678
Graduate diploma or graduate certificate	6%	176
Advanced diploma or diploma	13%	368
Certificate I, II, III or IV	18%	574
Secondary education	26%	775
Primary education	1%	25
Other education	1%	31

General adult working population total sample size = 2991
Please note, percentages have been rounded and may not equal 100%

Sample characteristics:

Family arrangement	General population weighted %	General population (raw numbers)
Single with dependent children living at home	5%	164
Single without dependent children living at home	28%	834
Married/defacto with dependent children living at home	26%	771
Married/defacto without dependent children living at home	30%	918
Other	10%	304

Accommodation arrangement	General population weighted %	General population (raw numbers)
Own my home outright	25%	762
Own my home but paying mortgage still	29%	896
Renting (e.g. leaseholder or flat share or student campus etc)	30%	874
Living with parents/family member(s)	13%	377
Staying in temporary accommodation	1%	27
Other	2%	55

Sample characteristics:

Annual household income (before tax, excluding super)	General population weighted %	General population (raw numbers)
\$1 - \$19,999	7%	222
\$20,000 - \$29,999	9%	277
\$30,000 - \$49,999	16%	489
\$50,000 - \$69,999	12%	373
\$70,000 - \$89,999	10%	295
\$90,000 - \$119,999	13%	382
\$120,000 - \$149,999	8%	237
\$150,000 - \$249,999	8%	237
\$250,000 or more	1%	41
Don't know/ Prefer not to say	15%	438

Financial situation	General population weighted %	General population (raw numbers)
Living comfortably on current income	21%	643
Coping on current income	44%	1281
Finding it difficult on current income	20%	626
Finding it very difficult on current income	11%	330
Prefer not to say	4%	111

General adult working population total sample size = 2991
Ancestry percentages and numbers include multiple response counts

Sample characteristics:

Voting intention	General population weighted %	General population (raw numbers)
Labor Party	34%	1052
Liberal Party + The Nationals	31%	916
The Greens	11%	313
One Nation	7%	191
An independent candidate	9%	280
Some other party	8%	239

How certain are you to vote for that party?	General population weighted %	General population (raw numbers)
Very certain	37%	1127
Quite certain	39%	1170
Not very certain	18%	521
Not certain at all	6%	173

General adult working population total sample size = 2991
Please note, percentages have been rounded and may not equal 100%

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