

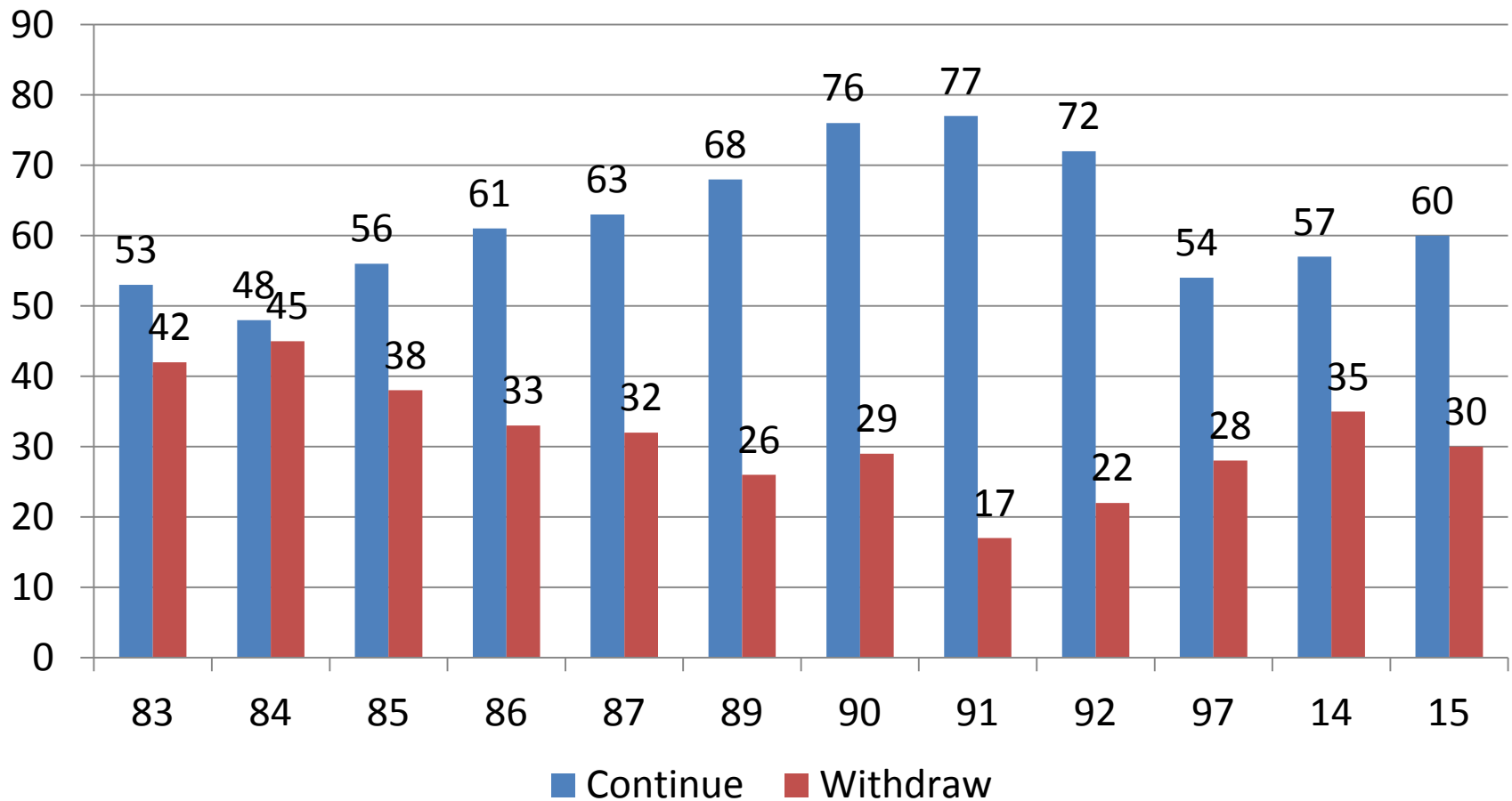
How Deep and Distinctive is Britain's Euroscepticism?

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www.whatukthinks.org/eu

Should Britain 'continue' as an EU member or 'withdraw'?

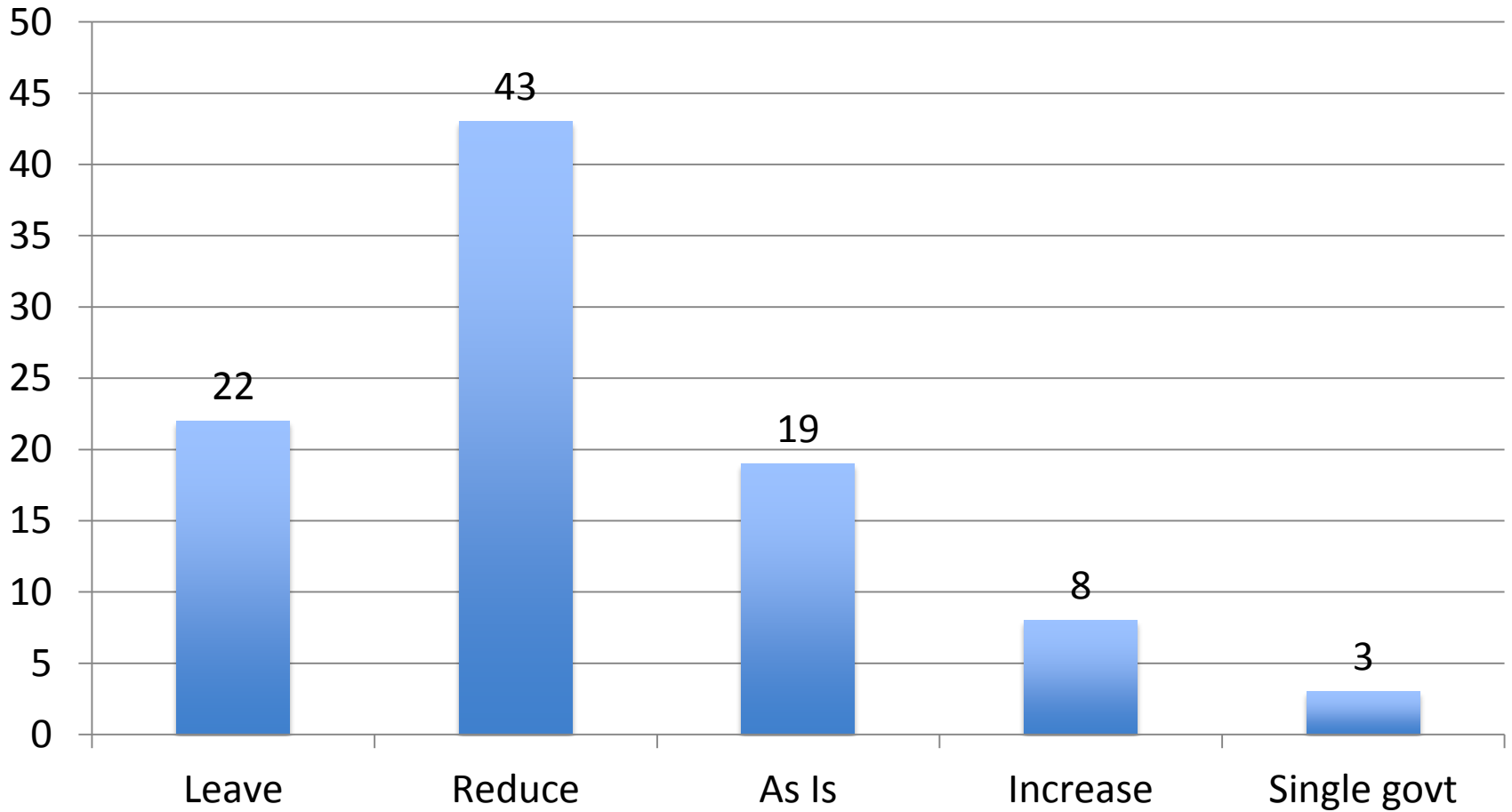


Source: British Social Attitudes

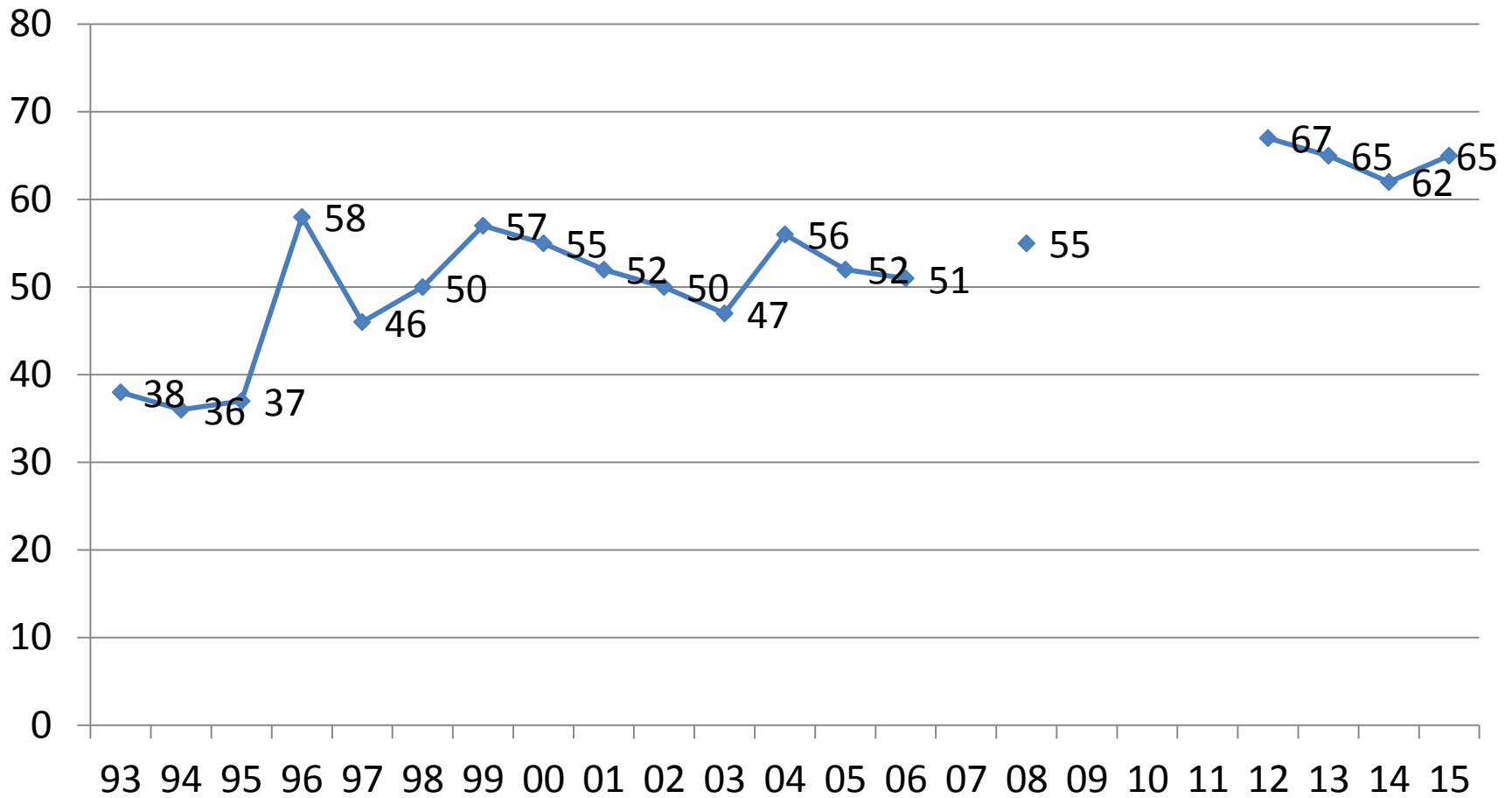
A More Nuanced Question

- Do you think Britain's long-term policy should be...
- ... to leave the European Union,
- to stay in the EU and try to reduce the EU's powers,
- to leave things as they are,
- to stay in the EU and try to increase the EU's powers,
- or, to work for the formation of a single European government?

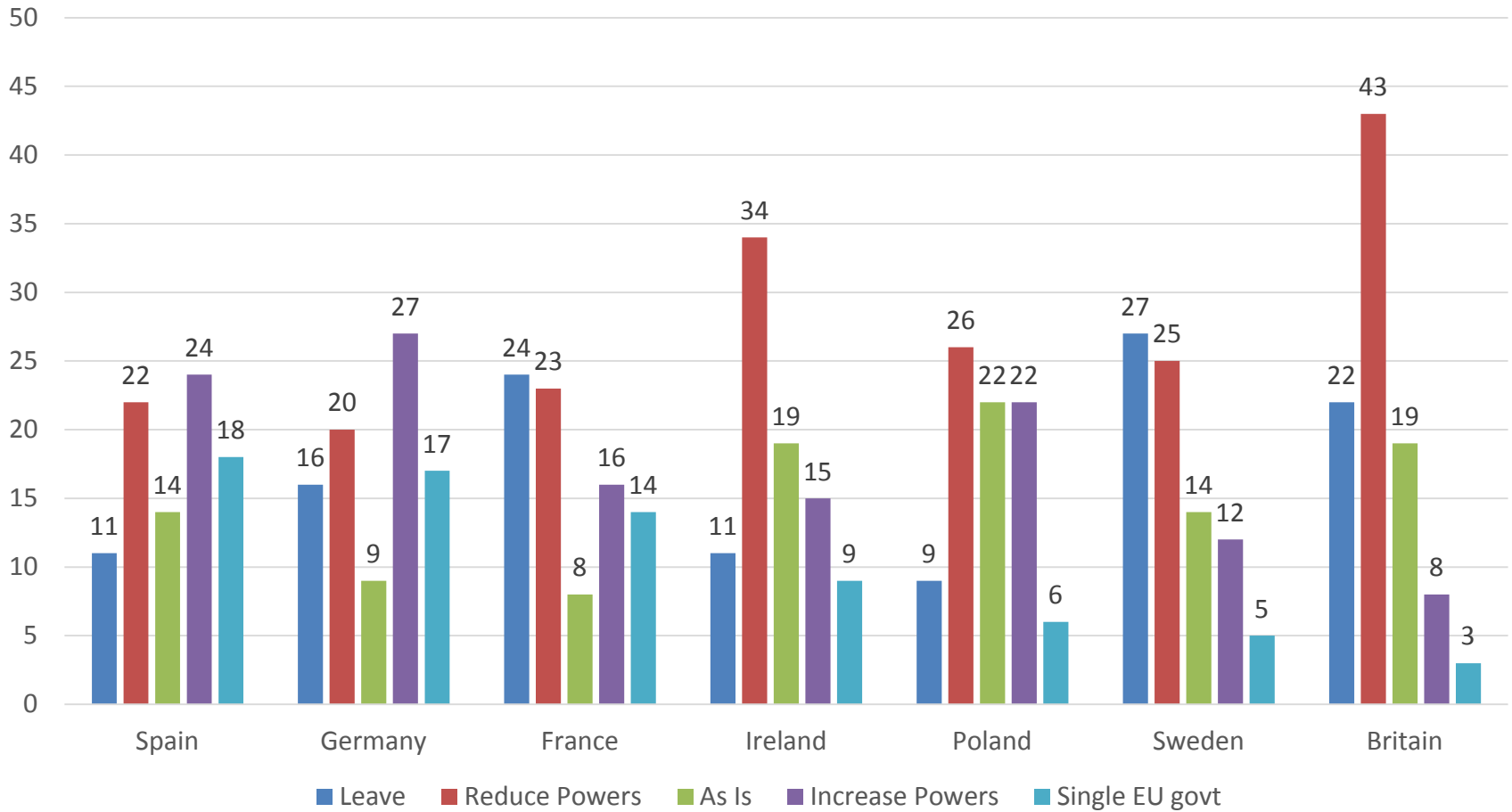
Widespread Scepticism



The Rise of Euroscepticism

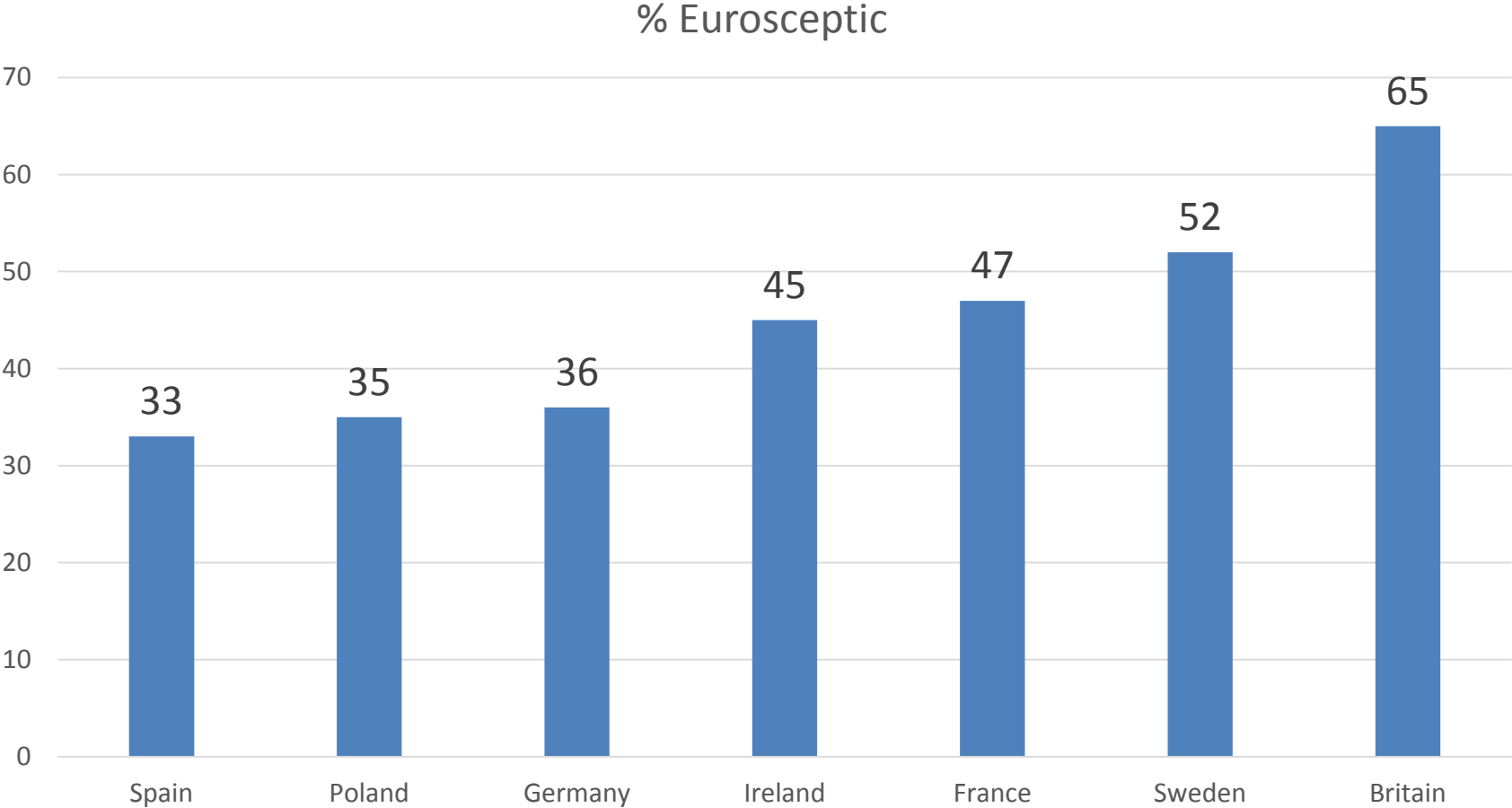


How Britain Compares - 1



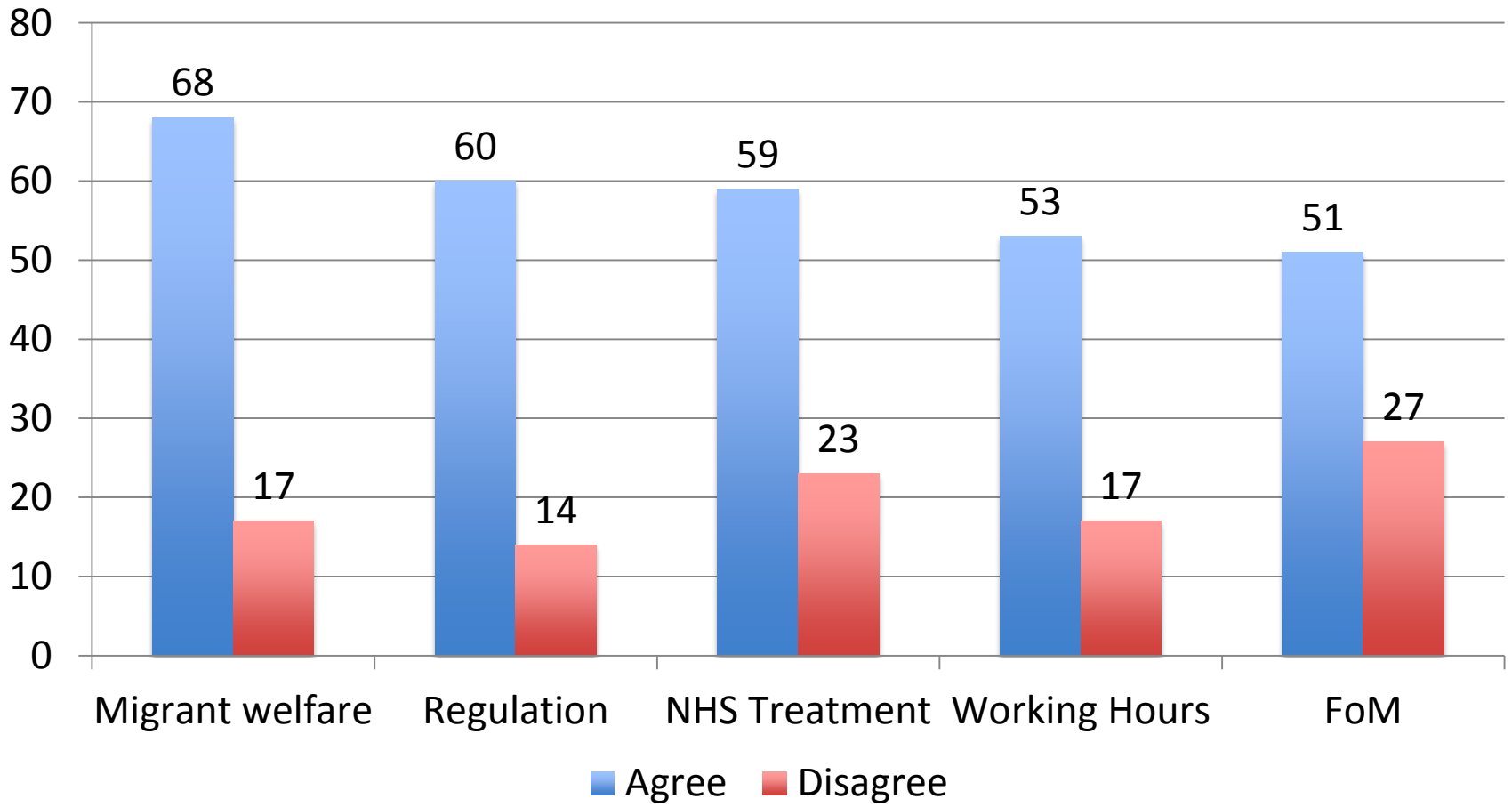
Source: BSA/AqMen

How Britain Compares - 2

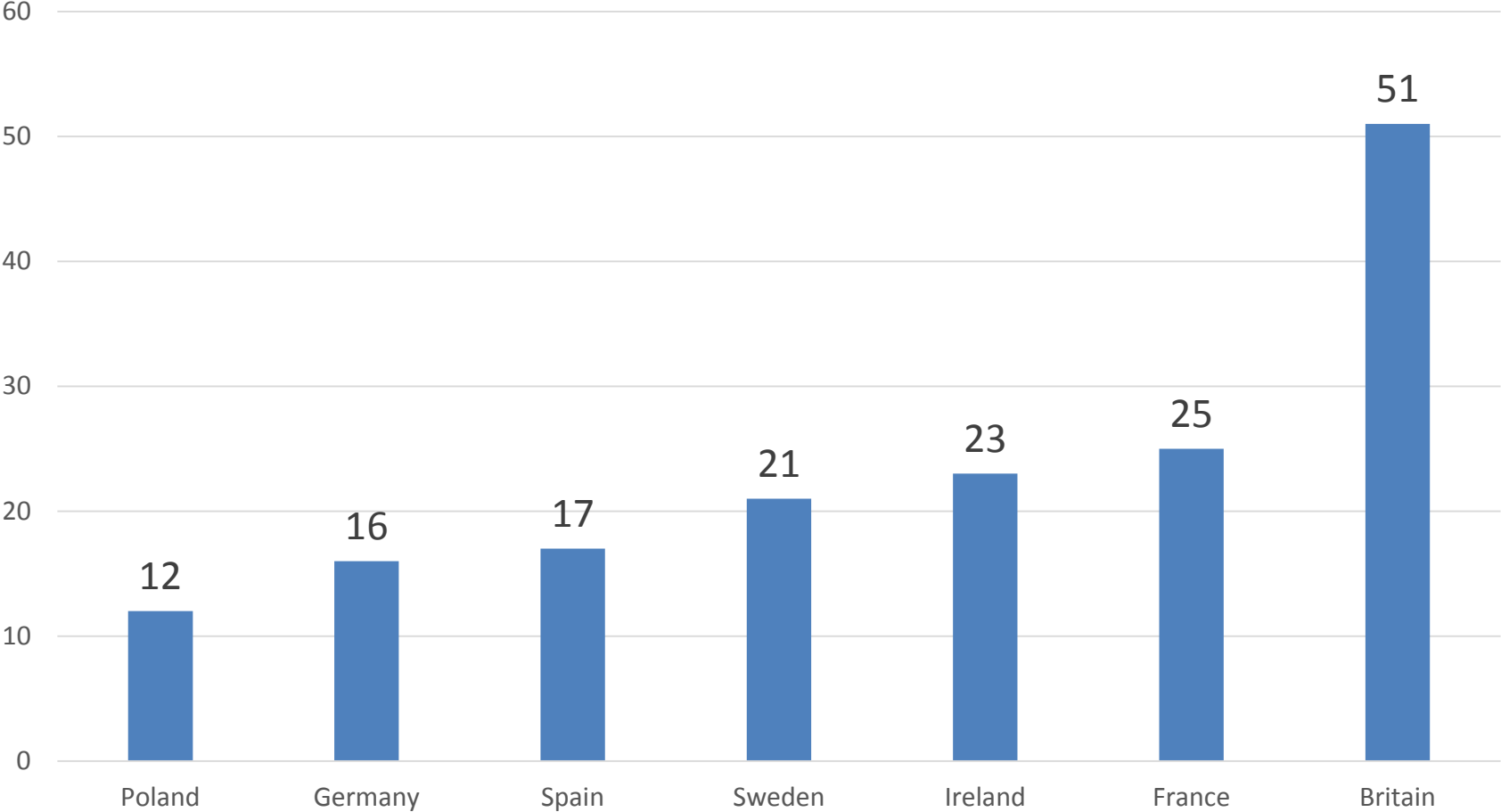


Source: BSA/AqMen

Reduce/Stop/End EU Rules

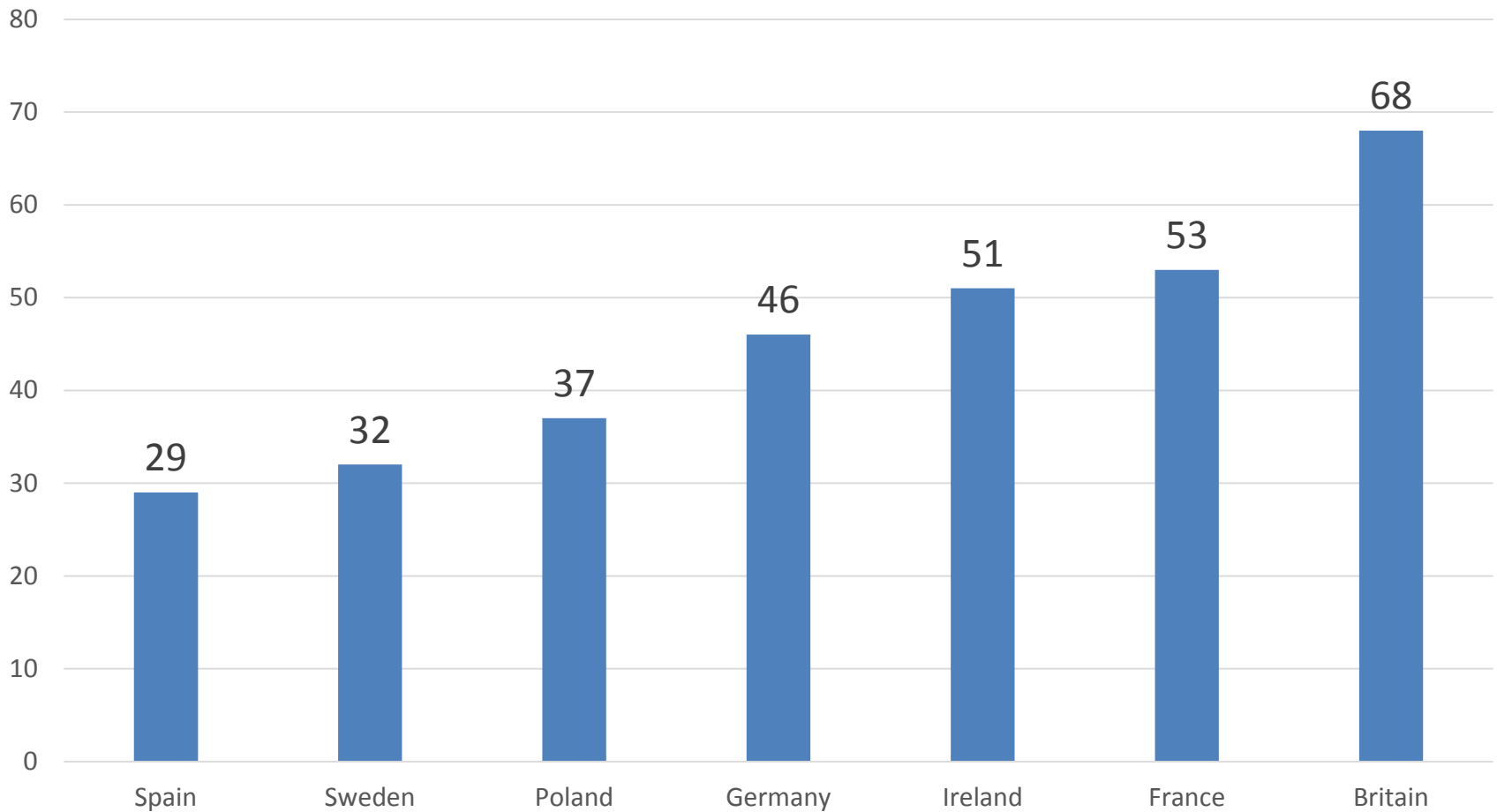


How Britain Compares on Ending Free Movement



Source: BSA/AqMen

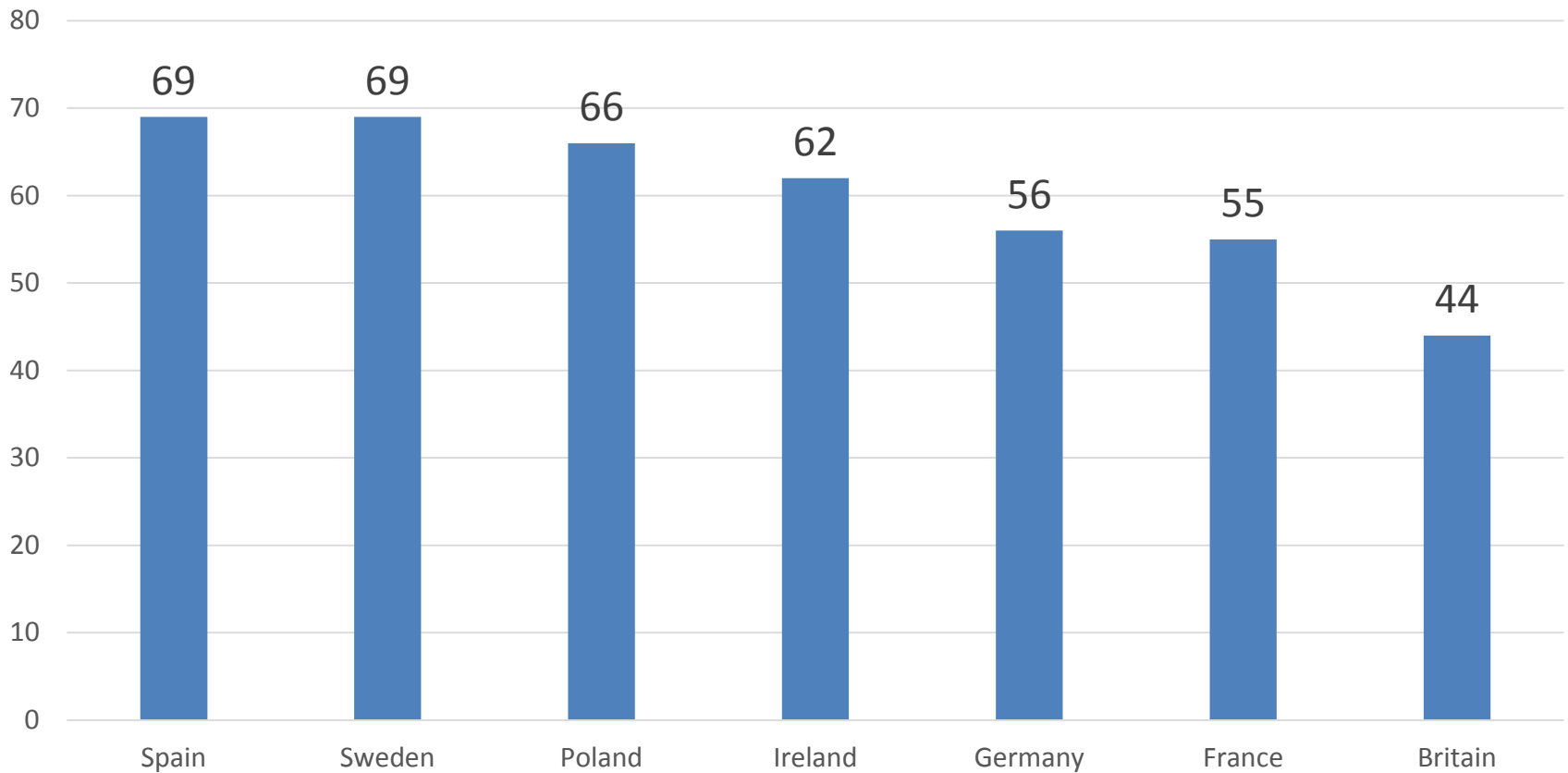
How Britain Compares on Reducing Welfare Benefits for Migrants



Source: BSA/AqMen

On EU Migrants Receiving Welfare

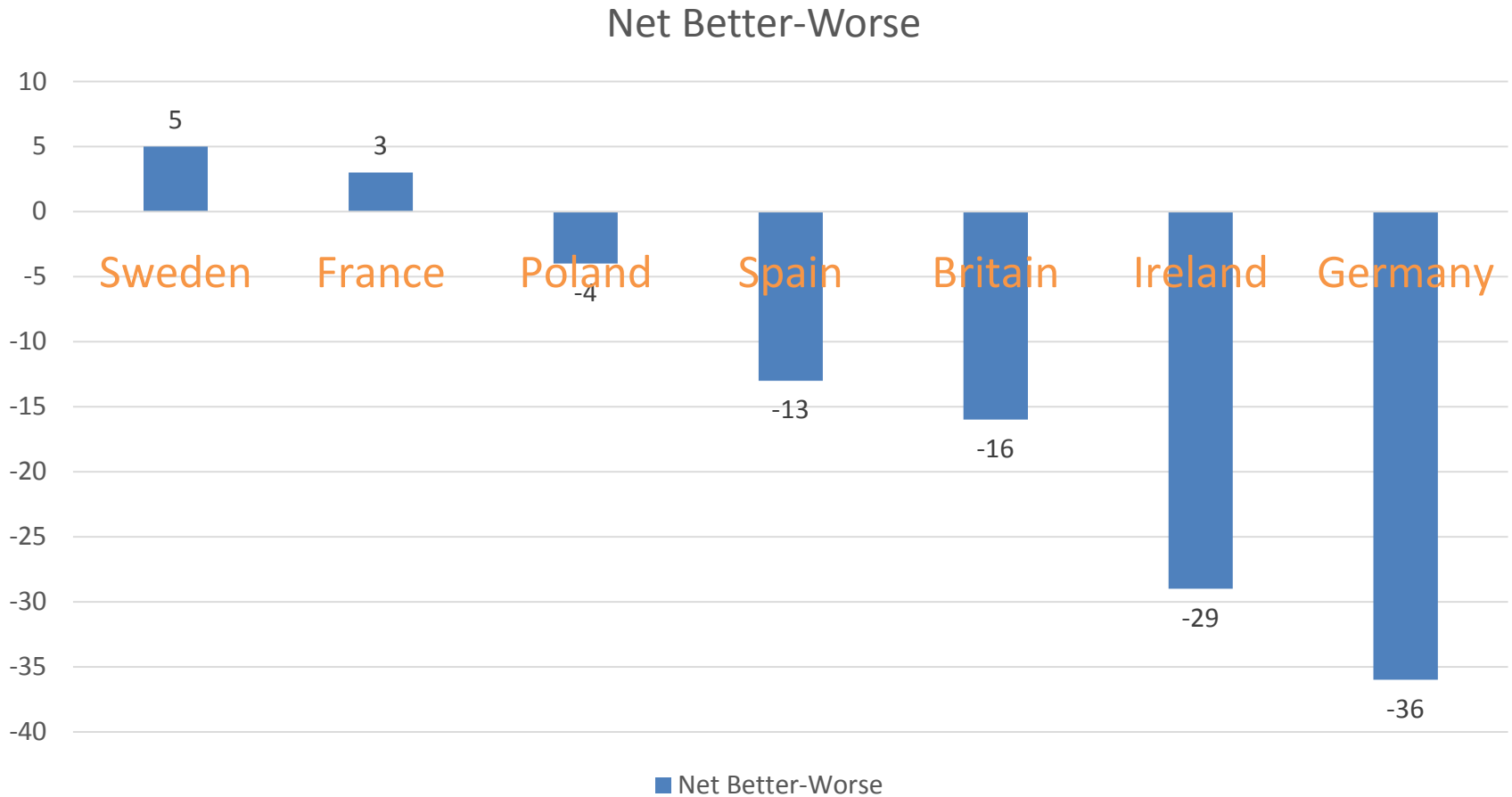
% after a year or less



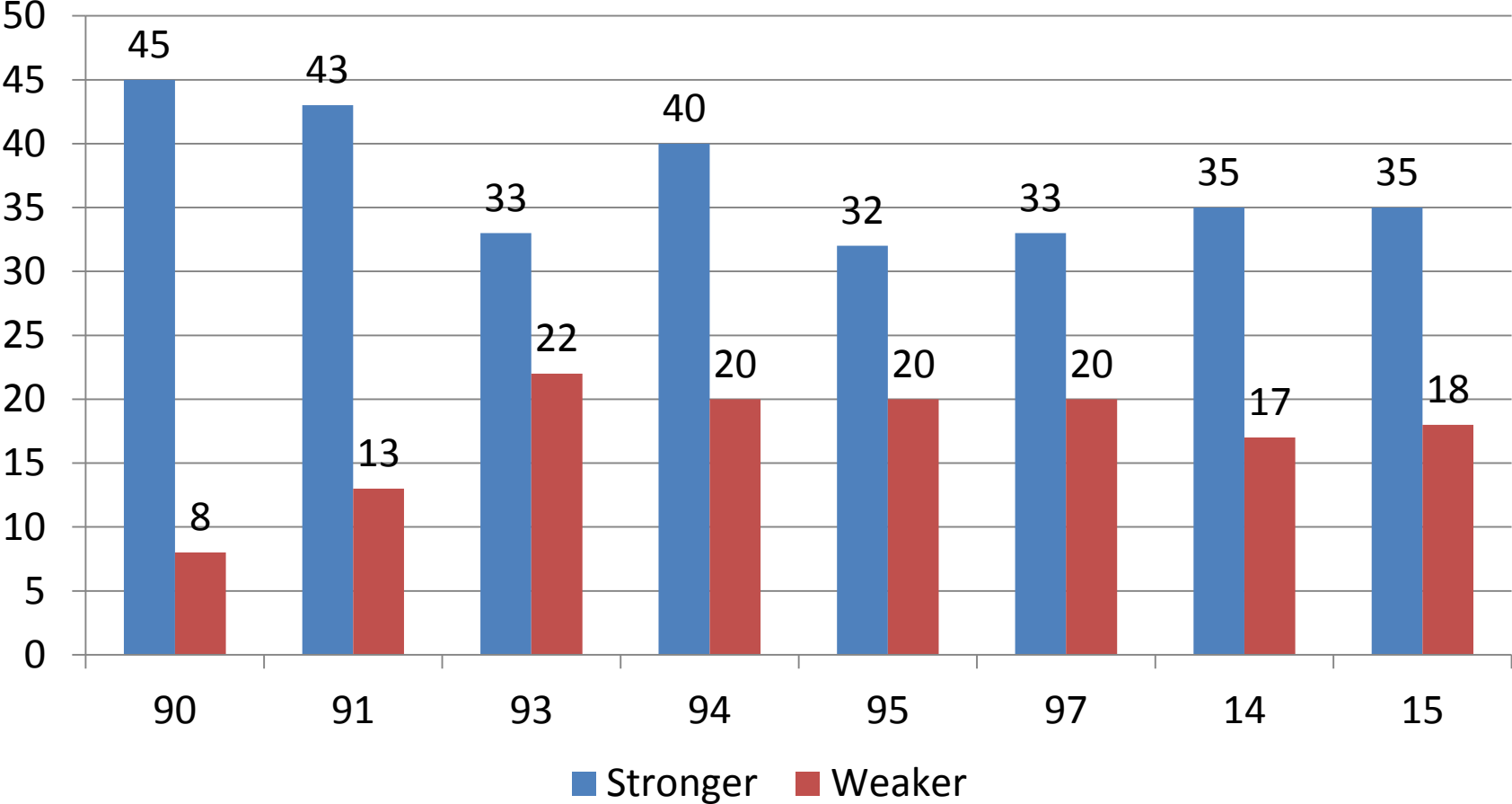
The Perceived Consequences of Leaving

| | 'Better' | No Difference | 'Worse' |
|--------------|----------|---------------|---------|
| Immigration | 57 | 31 | 9 |
| Unemployment | 24 | 46 | 25 |
| Economy | 24 | 31 | 40 |
| Influence | 17 | 44 | 36 |

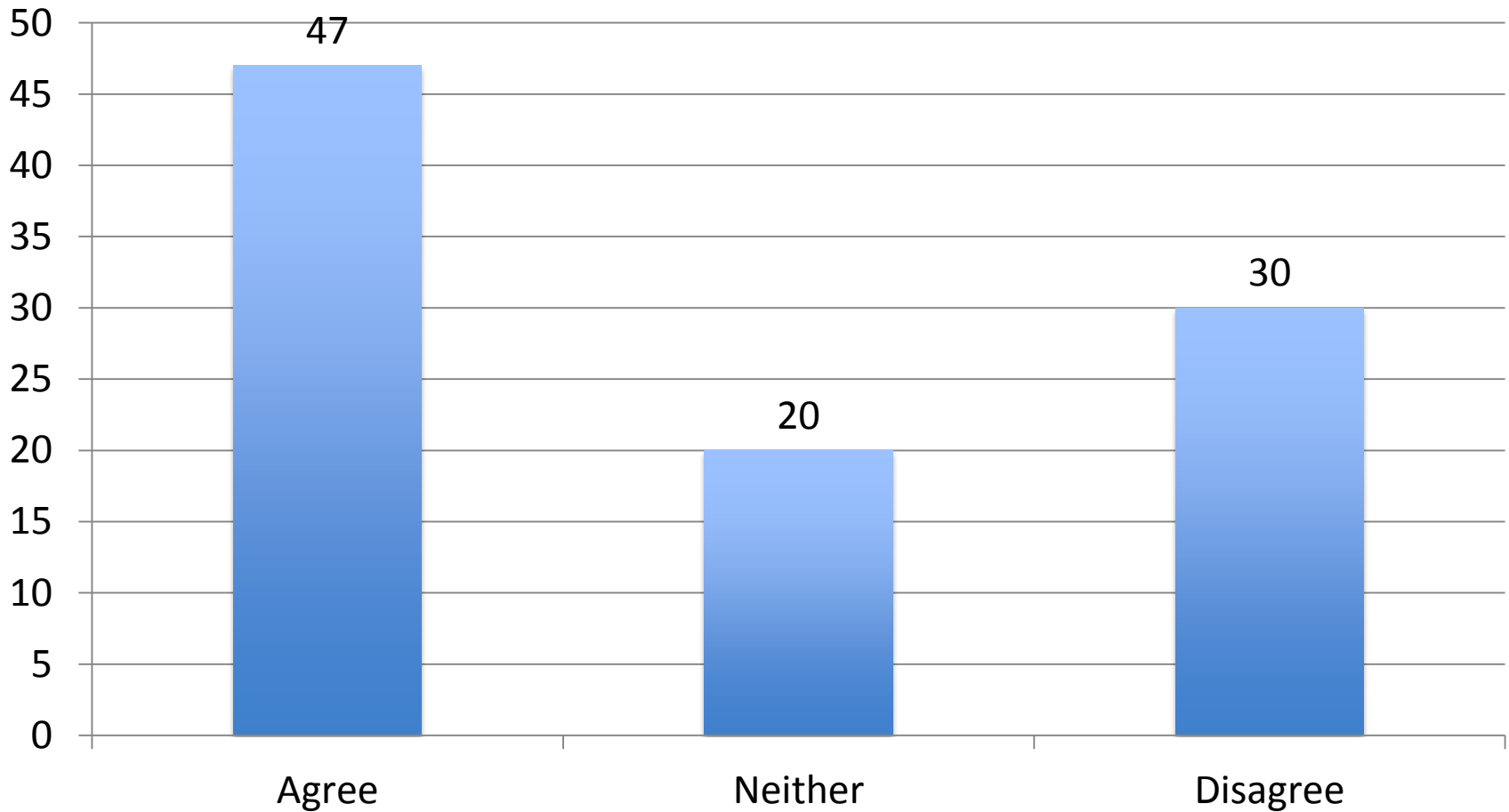
Much of Rest of EU More Optimistic About Economic Consequences of Brexit!



Perceived Economic Consequences of Stronger EU Links



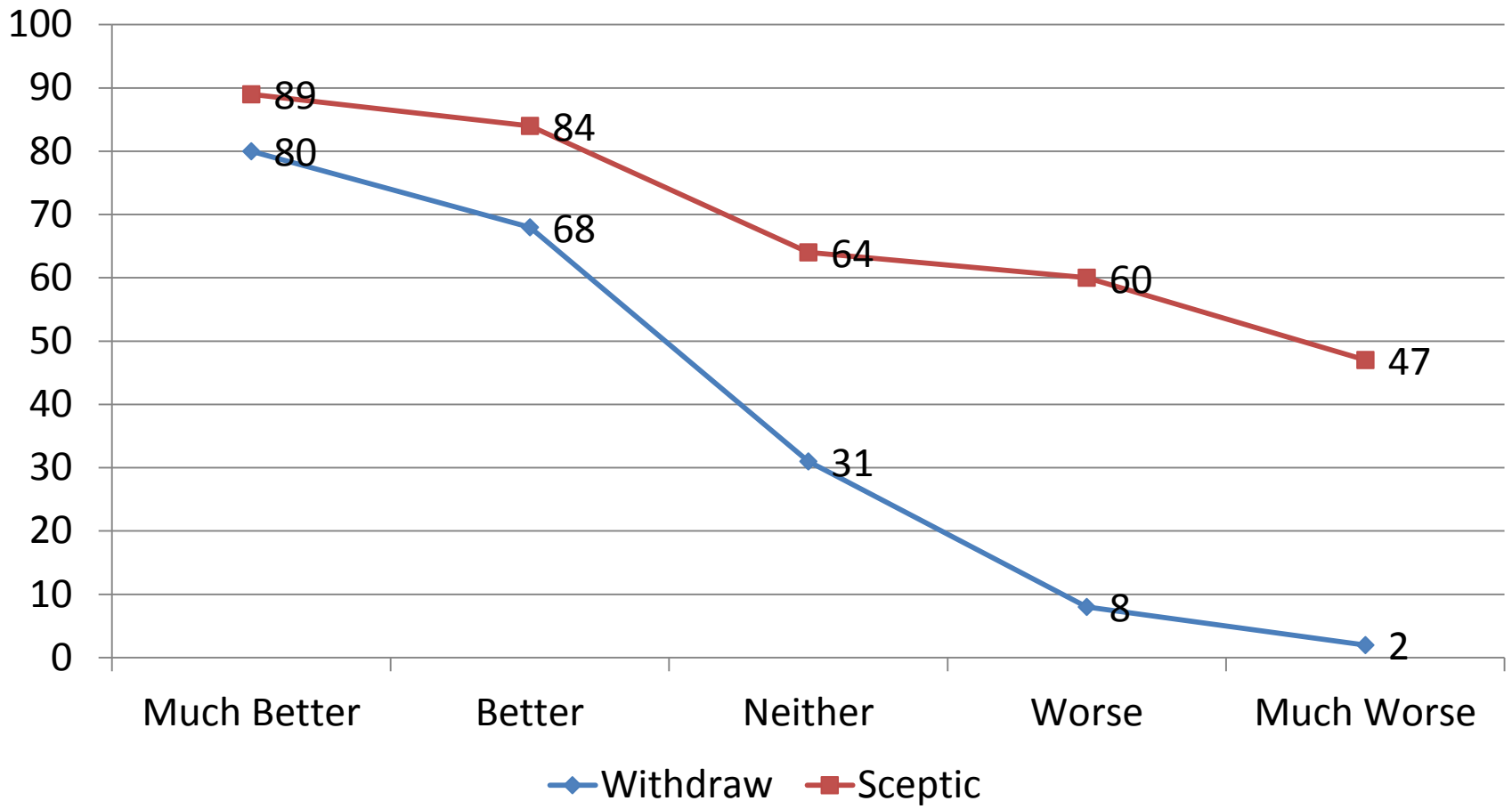
Is the EU Undermining Britain's Distinctive Identity?



What Matters?

- Withdraw vs. Continue
 - Identity Undermined *
 - Economy If Leave *
 - Economy Stronger Links
 - Immigration If Leave
 - European Identity
- Sceptic vs. Europhile
 - Identity Undermined *
 - Immigration If Leave
 - Con/UKIP supporter
 - Economy Stronger Links
 - European Identity

The Importance of Economic Evaluations



Cultural Concern Alone Insufficient

| % withdraw | EU Undermines Identity | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Economy If Leave | Agree | Neither/Disagree |
| Better | 82 | 35 |
| Neither/Worse | 40 | 3 |

Conclusions

- Euroscepticism in Britain is both deep and wide, stronger than in the rest of the EU, and fed by 'cultural concern' (and low/weak European identity)
- But it is only likely to become converted into support for leaving if it is thought the economy would be better if Britain left
- To date, GB voters are not inclined to the view that the economy would be better (unlike some in the rest of the EU!)

Implications

- Leave need to win the economic case for exiting the EU
- Remain have to persuade voters the economic benefits are worth the price of the constraints and 'meddling' that come from Brussels
- Neither has an easy task!