



2026 NATIONAL RISKS PUBLIC SURVEY

National Security Threats

May 2026



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BACKGROUND & METHODOLOGY





Research objectives – National security threats

This is the fourth survey the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet has commissioned to understand public perceptions of national risks (including both national security threats and significant hazards). While previous surveys focused more on national security threats, the scope has been broadened to include significant hazards. The survey explores:

- New Zealanders' awareness of national risks, including the public's perceived likelihood of these over the short (next 12 months) and long term (next 10 years)
- Public confidence in government agencies' abilities to protect and respond to these threats and hazards
- Opportunities to build confidence, share information, and better engage the public

Survey findings inform the work of the Hazard Risk Board (HRB) and the National Security Board (NSB), the National Security Strategy's Programme of Action, and where relevant, other key initiatives, e.g. Catastrophic Event Planning.

This research report presents results from the fourth round of surveying (2026) and compares findings to results from the previous surveys (where applicable).

This report provides information across a nationally representative sample of 1,000 people, in relation to:

- What 'national security' means to New Zealanders and which threats they see as most likely – now (next 12 months) and in the future (next 10 years)
- The level of confidence New Zealanders have in the government's ability to manage threats and what the government can do to build confidence
- What information New Zealanders would like to receive on threats

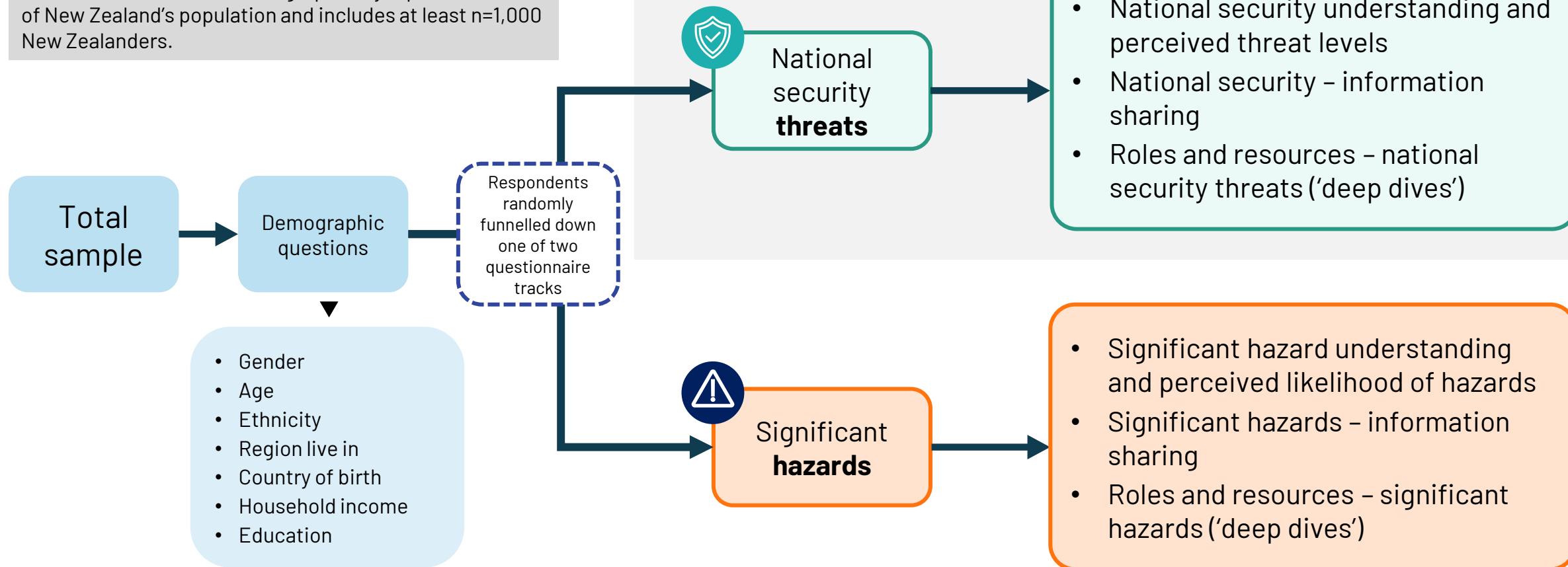




2026 national risks public survey questionnaire flow

Note: The survey was split into the two tracks (threats and hazards) in 2024.

Each of these tracks is demographically representative of New Zealand's population and includes at least n=1,000 New Zealanders.





Methodology – National security threats



Fieldwork dates

15th February 2026–15th March 2026



Methodology

Online interviews (self-completion). Respondents were recruited from Ipsos & Ipsos partner panels



Weighting

The data was weighted to match NZ population for region, ethnicity & gender



Sample achieved

n=1,000

*Notes

- Statistically significantly **higher/lower** figures are reported at 95% confidence.
- We calculate the precision of Ipsos online polls using a credibility interval with a poll of 1,000 accurate to +/- 3.5 percentage points.
- Where results do not sum to 100 or the 'difference' appears to be +/-1 more/less than the actual, this may be due to rounding, multiple responses, or the exclusion of 'don't know' or 'not stated' responses.
- Throughout the main report, demographic differences are shown amongst the demographic groups that have a base size larger than n=50. In the subgroup analysis section, demographic differences are shown amongst the demographic groups with a base size larger than n=30.
- See Appendix 2 for further details on panels.
- For ease of navigation, click on the required section on the contents slide; to return to the contents slide, click on the 'threat' icon at the top of each section divider slide.

Context: What was making the news during fieldwork

It is likely that news reporting at the time of the survey, particularly related to the conflict in Iran, impacted responses.

Of note: The conflict in Iran began on 27th February 2026 & remained prominent in news cycles for the remainder of fieldwork. (Fieldwork ran from 15th February to 15th March). 17% of respondents (n=172) completed the survey on or after 28th February 2026.

AI and privacy: Commissioner signs on to global statement on 'potential harms'

8:53 pm on 24 February 2026

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 **Nik Dirga**, Digital Explainer Editor
✉ nik.dirga@rnz.co.nz

BUSINESS

One in two large businesses successfully attacked by cybercriminals in last year

5:00 am on 10 March 2026

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 **Nona Pelletier**, Senior Business Reporter
✉ nona.pelletier@rnz.co.nz

PACIFIC / COOK ISLANDS

Official documents reveal friction between NZ and Cook Islands over Russian vessels

11:05 am on 18 February 2026

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 **Kaya Selby**, RNZ Pacific journalist
✉ kaya.selby@rnz.co.nz

NEW ZEALAND / CRIME AND JUSTICE

Fight continues to stop Christchurch terrorist from giving evidence at inquest

10:43 am on 5 March 2026

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 **Tim Brown**, Senior Reporter
✉ tim.brown@rnz.co.nz

If Iran conflict shuts oil trading route, global economic chaos could follow

Tue, Mar 3

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Trump's latest fire and fury in Iran poses headache for NZ

The coalition's cautious response to US-led strikes on Iran has sparked criticism from some quarters, in another test of NZ diplomacy

 by **Sam Sachdeva** 02/03/2026

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World news | Artificial Intelligence

EU privacy investigation targets Musk's Grok chatbot over sexualized deepfake images

By **KELVIN CHAN** (AP Business Writer)
February 18, 2026 - 2:16am

Copy Link

NZ faces inflation risk as trade bottleneck widens amid Iran conflict

By Q+A Reporters | Sun, Mar 8

Sample information



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Note 1: % reported are weighted data, base sizes are unweighted.

Note 2: NETTs are derived by grouping responses. They count respondents who have selected any of the responses in the group.



TOTAL SAMPLE
1,000

ETHNICITY



		n=
NETT NZ European/ Pākehā	74%	747
NETT Māori	15%	147
NETT Pacific	7%	51
NETT Asian	18%	188
NETT Other	3%	28

REGION



		n=
Auckland	33%	341
Waikato	9%	82
Wellington	10%	110
Rest of North Island	22%	217
Canterbury	15%	149
Rest of South Island	10%	101

GENDER



		n=
Male	48%	483
Female	51%	510

COUNTRY OF BIRTH



		n=
New Zealand	72%	720
Outside of NZ	28%	280

HH INCOME



		n=
\$0k-\$50k	21%	211
\$50k-\$100k	27%	267
\$100k+	42%	422

AGE



		n=
18-29 years	20%	199
30-49 years	35%	363
50-64 years	23%	216
65+ years	22%	222

REGENCY OF MIGRATION

		n=
NETT New migrant (<7 years in NZ)	16%	45
NETT Established migrant (>7 years in NZ)	84%	234

URBAN vs RURAL



		n=
Urban	89%	893
Rural	11%	107

EDUCATION



		n=
NETT None + Levels 1-3	29%	290
NETT Levels 4-7	49%	495
NETT Levels 8-10	20%	205

EMPLOYMENT STATUS



		n=
Employed full-time	43%	426
Employed part-time	14%	144
Self-employed	7%	75
Not in employment	14%	134
Retired	18%	178
Student	4%	43

2025 Halifax International Security Forum

Ipsos's survey of citizens from 33 countries on behalf of the Halifax International Security Forum provides a useful point of comparison. These survey results are used throughout this report to understand New Zealand's results on a global scale.

A 30-market survey conducted by Ipsos on its Global Advisor online platform and, in India, on its IndiaBus platform. Ipsos interviewed a total of 23,586 adults aged 18 years and older in India; 18–74 in Canada, Republic of Ireland, Malaysia, New Zealand, South Africa, Türkiye, and the United States; 20–74 in Thailand; 21–74 in Indonesia and Singapore; and 16–74 in all other countries, between Friday, September 19 and Friday, October 3, 2025.

The sample consisted of approximately 2,000 individuals in Japan; 1,000 individuals each in Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, New Zealand, Spain, and the US; and 500 individuals each in Argentina, Belgium, Chile, Colombia, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Malaysia, Mexico, the Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Sweden, Thailand, and Türkiye. The sample in India consisted of approximately 2,200 individuals, of whom around 1,800 were interviewed face-to-face and 400 were interviewed online.

The data is weighted so each country's sample composition best reflects the demographic profile of the adult population according to the most recent census data.

The 'Global Country Average' used in this report reflects the average result for all the countries and markets where the survey was conducted. It has not been adjusted to the population size of each country or market and is not intended to suggest a total result. To find out more, visit Ipsos's [website](https://www.ipsos.com/en/halifax-report-2025)¹ or view the full report [here](https://www.ipsos.com/sites/default/files/ct/publication/documents/2025-11/ipsos-world-affairs-and-security-report-halifax-2025.pdf).²

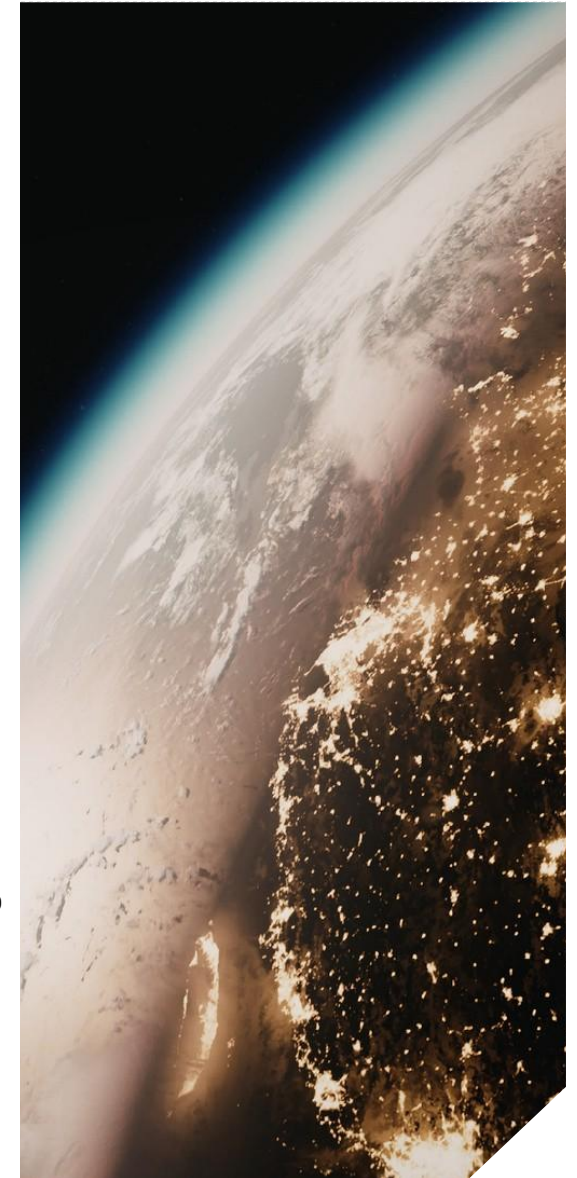
Where possible, we have used the Halifax Report results to compare NZ results with global country averages for perceived likelihood of national risks in the next 12 months.

<https://www.ipsos.com/en/halifax-report-2025>

<https://www.ipsos.com/sites/default/files/ct/publication/documents/2025-11/ipsos-world-affairs-and-security-report-halifax-2025.pdf>



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OVERALL FINDINGS SUMMARY



Overall findings: Perception of threats in the short & long term

- The proportion of New Zealanders (85%) who think the world has *become a more dangerous place over the last year* has increased since the 2024 survey (80%), and is higher than the global average* (79%).
- *Organised crime, hacking into information systems, and disinformation* continue to be New Zealanders' top-3 threats likely in the next 12 months. These have consistently trended upwards in this survey since 2022.
- There has been a significant increase in concerns about *breakdown in access to goods/services due to rising tensions* (72% vs 68%), *terrorist attack / violent extremism in NZ* (71% vs 64%), *disruption of critical infrastructure due to an attack* (68% vs 63%), and *other countries threatening NZ interests in the Pacific* (68% vs 61%) in the next 12 months.
- Compared to the global country average*, New Zealanders are significantly more likely to perceive *hacking into information systems, nuclear/biological/chemical attack, and terrorist attack / violent extremism in NZ* as likely threats in the next 12 months. *Personal safety/security of self/family violated* and *NZ involved in an armed conflict with another country* are lesser perceived threats compared to the global average*.
- When asked to consider the longer term (next 10 years), respondents chose *organised crime between NZ & another country, hacking into information systems, disinformation, and emerging technology* as the four highest-ranked threats (with 80%-83% mentions). These are also ranked in the top 4 for the shorter term. The threat of a *major maritime security incident* – a new addition to the survey in 2026 – is the #5 longer-term threat.
- With the exception of the top 5, the level of perceived likelihood for 12 of the remaining threats is significantly higher in the next 10 years than the next 12 months – Nuclear/biological/chemical attack being the exception.

***Note:** Global country average figures are taken from the Ipsos-Halifax World Affairs global survey conducted in October 2025 (n=18,077).

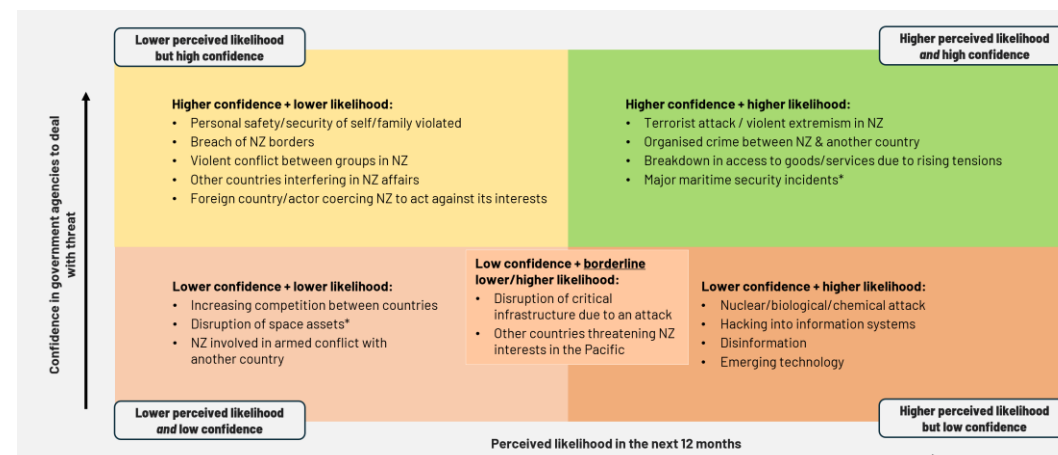




Overall findings: Perceptions of roles, responsibilities, information & resources

- As in previous years, only 20% of New Zealanders agree *New Zealand's national security agencies currently share enough information about national security with the public.*
- 62% of New Zealanders want *more information on national security threats* and over a third (35%) want to be *involved in public discussion on national security.* However, only a quarter of New Zealanders (25%) *know where to look for information on national security.*
- Confidence in government agencies' ability to protect and respond to the top-5 perceived threats has significantly decreased compared to 2024.
 - Across the full list of threats, confidence is highest for *major maritime security incidents, personal safety/security of self/family violated, and terrorist attack / violent extremism in NZ,* with 49%–52% being confident.
 - New Zealanders are least confident regarding *disruption of space assets, emerging technology, and nuclear/biological/chemical attack.*
- Consistent with previous rounds of the survey, a majority of New Zealanders view the NZ government and its agencies as having the **most responsibility** to protect against the three deep-dive threats: *other countries threatening NZ interests in the Pacific, major maritime security incidents, and breakdown in access to goods/services due to rising tensions.*
- The NZ public also sees the NZ government and its agencies as being the **most resourced** to protect New Zealand from these threats.

- In an analysis of the level of perceived likelihood of threat *versus* confidence in government agencies' abilities to respond:
 - Four threats have a higher perceived likelihood but lower relative confidence in government agencies' abilities: *nuclear/biological/chemical attack, hacking into information systems, disinformation, and emerging technology.*



Overall findings – National security threats deep dives

In 2026, we included ‘deep dives’ on *threat to New Zealand’s interests in the Pacific, major maritime security incidents & breakdown in access to critical goods/services*.

A majority of New Zealanders viewed the **NZ government and its agencies as having the most responsibility to respond to and protect against major threats to New Zealand’s interests in the Pacific, major maritime security incidents, and breakdown in access to critical goods/services**.



“Other country/countries threatening New Zealand interests in the Pacific region (e.g. establishing a foreign military base).”

Major threats to New Zealand’s interests in the Pacific

New Zealanders who perceived this as a very real threat in the next 12 months, cited increasing foreign activity in the region and knowledge or intuition that such events leading to such a threat may already be underway. A small proportion also note New Zealand’s vulnerability to foreign interference and coercion.

Perceived likelihood in next 12 months

9th out of 18 threats surveyed

Perceived likelihood in next 10 years

9th out of 18 threats surveyed



“Illegal or unauthorised activity in New Zealand waters by a country, company, or group—such as entering our waters without permission or taking resources like fish or minerals.”

Major maritime security incidents

New Zealanders who saw this as a very real threat in the next 12 months, cited an increase in criminal activity in NZ waters, the country’s small size leading to vulnerability to such a threat. Many also had the view that such incidents are already occurring or have occurred in the past.

Perceived likelihood in next 12 months

6th out of 18 threats surveyed

Perceived likelihood in next 10 years

5th out of 18 threats surveyed



“A breakdown in access to critical goods and services caused by rising tensions between countries (e.g. through restrictions on trade or other penalties).”

Breakdown in access to critical goods/services

New Zealanders who deemed this to be a very real threat in the next 12 months, cited the recent actions of the American government and growing tensions internationally. They also felt New Zealand was heavily reliant on trade with other countries for critical goods and services, making it vulnerable.

Perceived likelihood in next 12 months

7th out of 18 threats surveyed

Perceived likelihood in next 10 years

6th out of 18 threats surveyed



WHAT DOES 'NATIONAL SECURITY' MEAN TO NEW ZEALANDERS?



Key findings

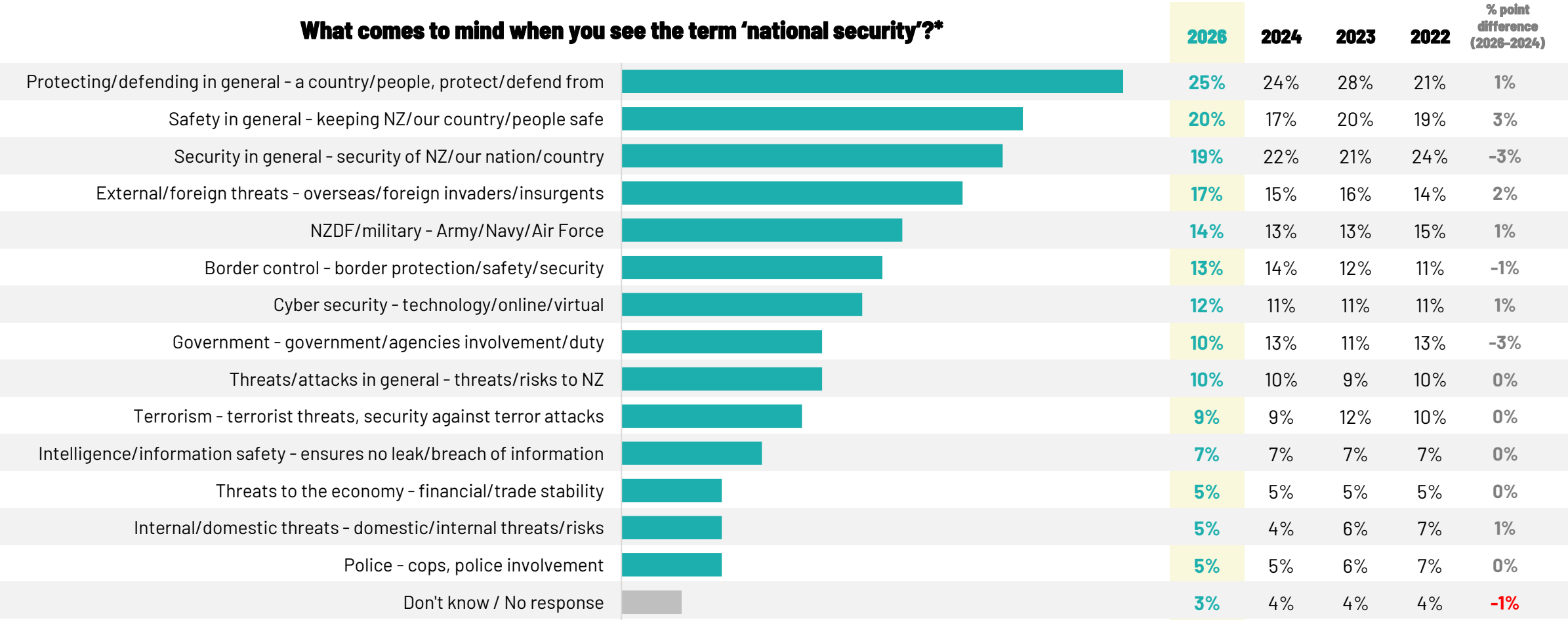
What does 'national security' mean to New Zealanders?

- As in previous surveys, most respondents have some concept of what 'national security' means to them, with only 3% stating they 'don't know':
 - The most commonly mentioned themes relate to *protection, general security, and safety*. These are followed by more specific concerns such as *external/foreign threats* and *border control*, as well as mentions of *NZDF & military*.
- Respondents were provided with a list of 18 national security threats (shown on screen one at a time, in a randomised order):
 - *Organised crime between NZ & another country* is considered the most likely threat to New Zealand in the next 12 months.
 - *Hacking into information systems, disinformation, emerging technology, and nuclear/biological attack* round out the top 5.
 - New Zealanders' views on the top-5 threats to New Zealand in the next 12 months remain unchanged compared to 2024.
- When considering the longer term (next 10 years), *nuclear/biological/chemical attack* is replaced in the top 5 by *major maritime security incidents*.
- *Major maritime security incidents* was added as a threat in 2026.
 - Concern was strong for the perceived threat, ranking #6 in perceived level of threat in the next 12 months.



What 'national security' means to New Zealanders

Most New Zealanders have some concept of the term 'national security' & interpret it as involving *protection & defence to keep New Zealand & its people safe*, followed by more specific concerns such as *external/foreign threats, border control & mentions of the NZDF & military*. Only 3% state they 'don't know'.



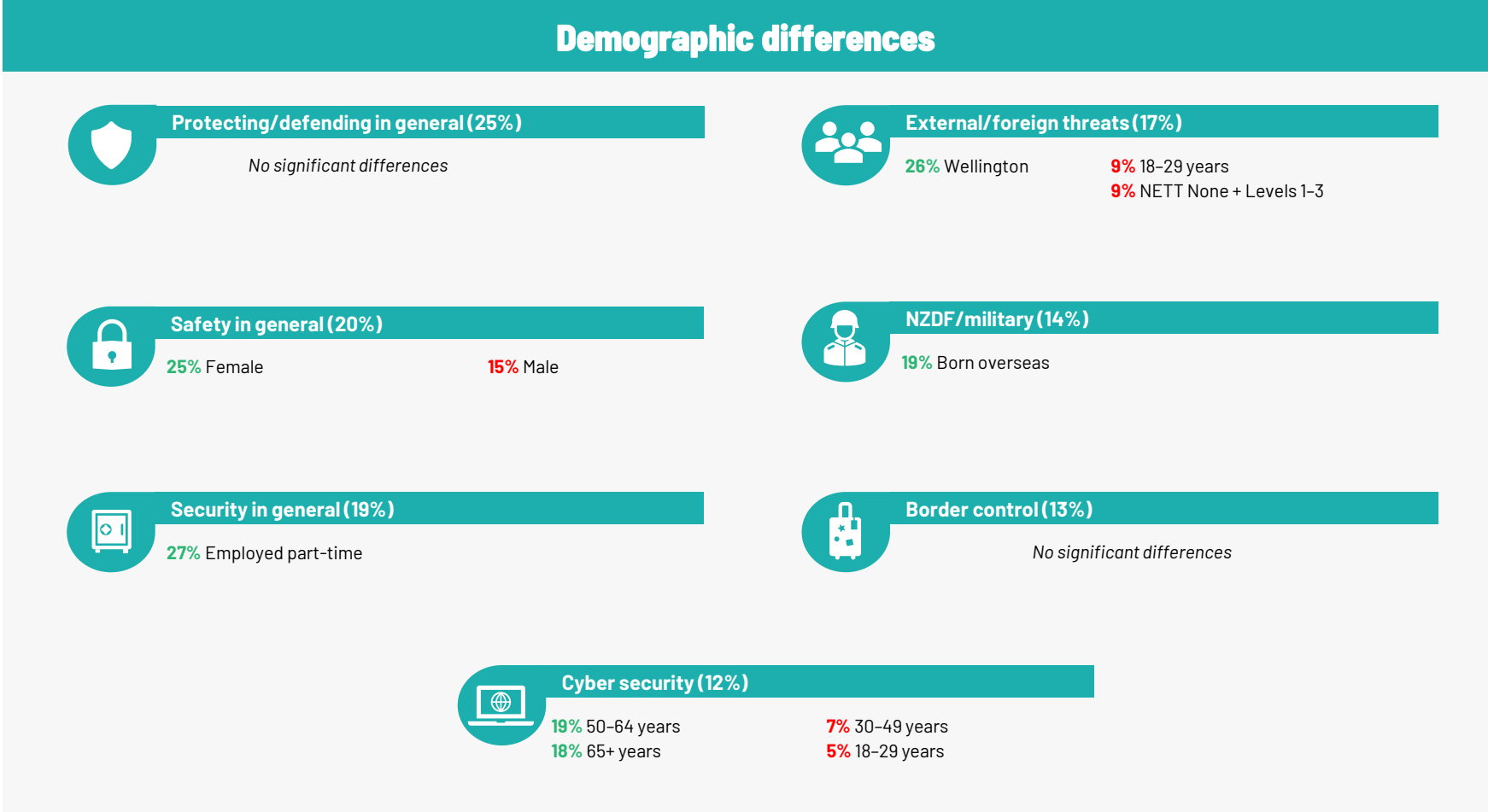
Q8: When you see the term 'National Security', what comes to mind?
Base: Total sample - 2026 (n=1,000), 2024 (n=1,172), 2023 (n=2,370), 2022 (n=1,148). Note: Responses less than 5% are not shown, except for 'Don't know / No response'.
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Green/red indicates statistically significantly higher/lower than 2024

Differences in how groups view 'national security' (I)



Statistically significant differences



Green/red indicates statistically significantly higher/lower than the total

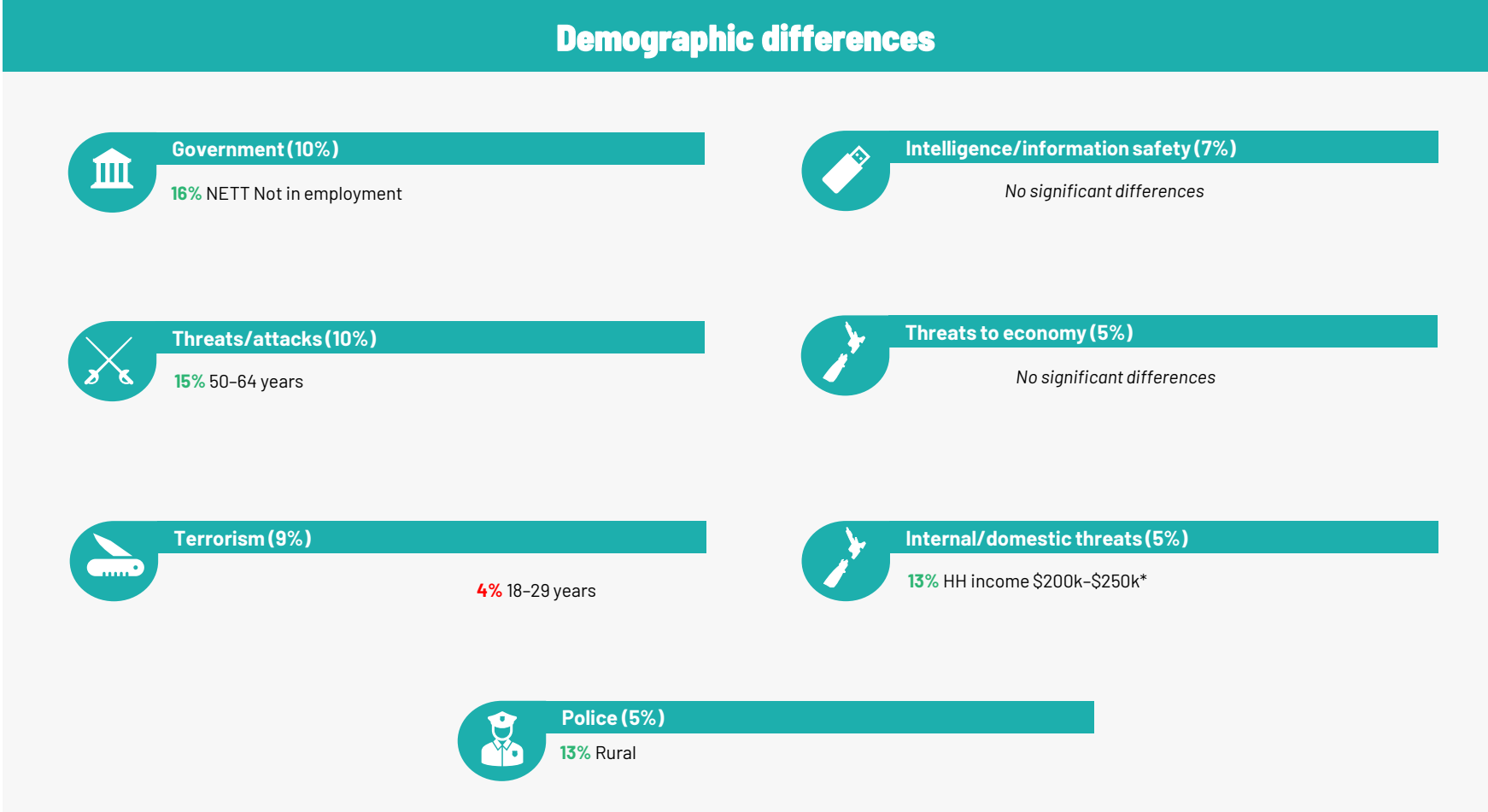
Q8: When you see the term 'National Security', what comes to mind?

Base: Total sample (n=1,000)

Differences in how groups view 'national security' (II)



Statistically significant differences



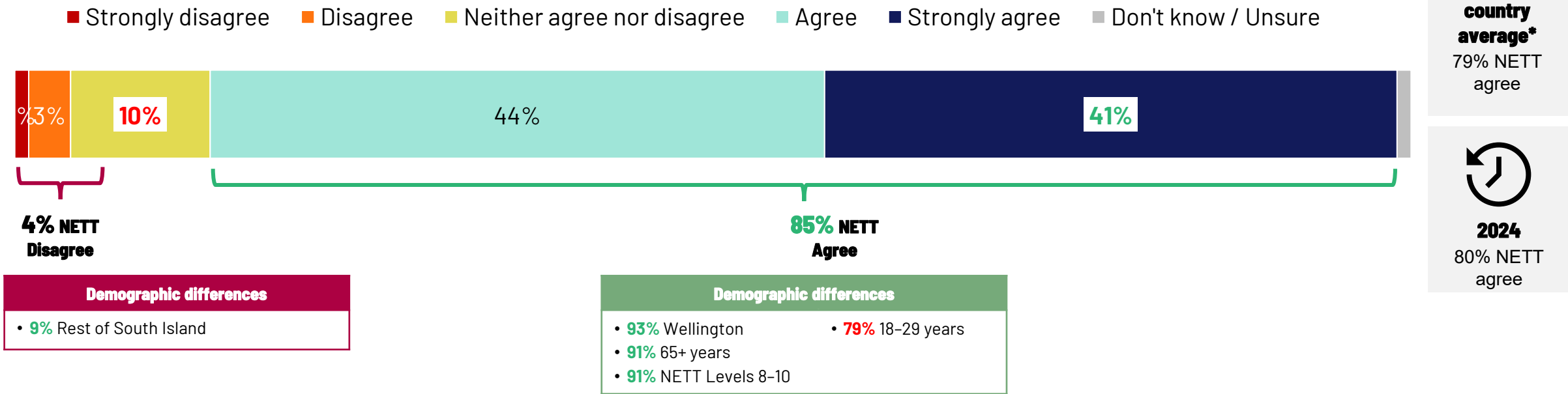
Green/red indicates statistically significantly higher/lower than the total

Q8: When you see the term 'National Security', what comes to mind?
Base: Total sample (n=1,000). *Caution: Low base size, results indicative only (50 ≤ n < 100).
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Perceived level of global danger

Since 2024, there has been an increase in agreement that *the world has become a more dangerous place over the last year*. Over 4 in 5 New Zealanders (85%) now hold this view – 5 % points higher than in 2024 & 6 % points higher than the latest global average*.

Over the last year I feel the world has become a more dangerous place



Q20: Thinking again about all the threats we have covered so far, do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?
Base: Total sample – 2026 (n=1,000), 2024 (n=1,172). **Green/red** indicates statistically significantly **higher / lower** than 2024/the total. ***Note:** Global country average figures are taken from the Ipsos–Halifax World Affairs global survey conducted in October 2025 (n=18,077) where applicable.

Full survey wording for 'national security threats'



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Respondents' views were sought on these 18 potential threats throughout the survey. The wording of each has been shortened to the bold text in the charts & tables that follow. The full wording used in the survey is as below:

- **Terrorist attack / violent extremism in NZ:** A terrorist attack or act of violent extremism taking place in New Zealand.
- **Violent conflict between groups in NZ:** A violent conflict breaking out between groups with different views in New Zealand.
- **NZ involved in armed conflict with another country:** New Zealand being involved in an armed conflict with another nation.
- **Personal safety/security of self/family violated:** The personal safety and security for you or your family members being violated.
- **Hacking into information systems:** Some person, organisation, or country hacking into either a public, private, or personal information system for criminal or espionage purposes.
- **Breach of NZ borders:** A breach of New Zealand's borders (including land, ocean, and/or airspace).
- **Disinformation*:** The spread of disinformation (deliberately sharing false information to mislead or cause harm) in New Zealand (e.g. about elections, armed conflict, climate change).
- **Organised crime between NZ & another country:** Organised crime (such as the illegal movement of money, drugs, or people) happening between New Zealand and another country.
- **Emerging technology:** New Zealand's and/or New Zealanders' security being affected by emerging technology (e.g. artificial intelligence, deep fakes, autonomous weapons).
- **Other countries interfering in NZ affairs:** Other country/ countries interfering in New Zealand's affairs (e.g. interference in general elections or relationships with other countries).
- **Disruption of critical infrastructure due to an attack:** Disruption of New Zealand's critical infrastructure (e.g. water, transport, energy, telecommunications) due to a malicious attack (e.g. cyber attack on transport system).
- **Foreign country/actor coercing NZ to act against its interests:** A foreign country or actor coercing New Zealand to act against its interests (e.g. by threatening an attack or to cut off trade links).
- **Nuclear/biological/chemical attack:** A nuclear, biological, or chemical attack taking place somewhere in the world.
- **Other countries threatening NZ interests in the Pacific:** Other country/countries threatening New Zealand interests in the Pacific region (e.g. establishing a foreign military base).
- **Breakdown in access to goods/services due to rising tensions:** A breakdown in access to critical goods and services caused by rising tensions between countries (e.g. through restrictions on trade or other penalties).
- **Increasing competition between countries:** Increasing competition between countries that negatively impacts how New Zealand protects its interests internationally and that may lead to military conflict.
- **Disruption of space assets**:** An attack on assets in space that New Zealanders use every day, like GPS or satellite internet.
- **Major maritime security incidents**:** Illegal or unauthorised activity in New Zealand waters by a country, company, or group – such as entering our waters without permission or taking resources like fish or minerals.

Some of this wording has changed over time – changes are set out on the next page.

*Note: In 2023, misinformation (as included in the 2022 survey) was changed to disinformation. This shift has potential impact on how respondents interpret and answer the question.

**Note: New threat added in 2026.

Wording changes made in 2026

- In 2026, *disinformation* updated its examples from ‘*vaccines, elections, climate change*’ to ‘*elections, armed conflict, climate change*’.
- 2 new threats were **added** in 2026:
 - *Disruption of space assets* was added to the answer options with the following description: ‘*An attack on assets in space that New Zealanders use every day, like GPS or satellite internet.*’
 - *Major maritime security incidents* was added to the answer options, with the following description: ‘*Illegal or unauthorised activity in New Zealand waters by a country, company, or group – such as entering our waters without permission or taking resources like fish or minerals.*’

Wording changes made in 2024

- *Breakdown in national infrastructure due to an attack* (as included in the 2023 survey) was **changed** to *disruption of critical infrastructure due to an attack*. The accompanying description **changed** from ‘*A breakdown in critical national infrastructure due to a malicious attack (e.g. cyber attack on transport system)*’ to ‘*Disruption of New Zealand’s critical infrastructure (e.g. water, transport, energy telecommunications) due to a malicious attack (e.g. cyber attack on transport system)*’ to improve clarity.
- ‘*Artificial intelligence*’ was **added** to the examples in the description of *emerging technology*.

Wording changes made in 2023

- *Misinformation* (as included in the 2022 survey) was **changed** to *disinformation*. This shift has potential impact on how respondents interpret and answer the question. This may impact the comparability of results up to 2022 to later years (2023 and beyond).

Short-term threats: Top 10 likely in the next 12 months

The top-3 most commonly perceived threats have remained the same since 2024. New Zealanders consider that *organised crime between NZ & another country, hacking into information systems & disinformation* are the threats most likely to occur in the next 12 months (‘somewhat/very real’).

Nine of the top-10 threats from 2024 remain in the top 10 in 2026. *Major maritime security incidents*, a new addition in the 2026 survey, is ranked #6 of 18.

Real threat of any of the following happening in the next 12 months...

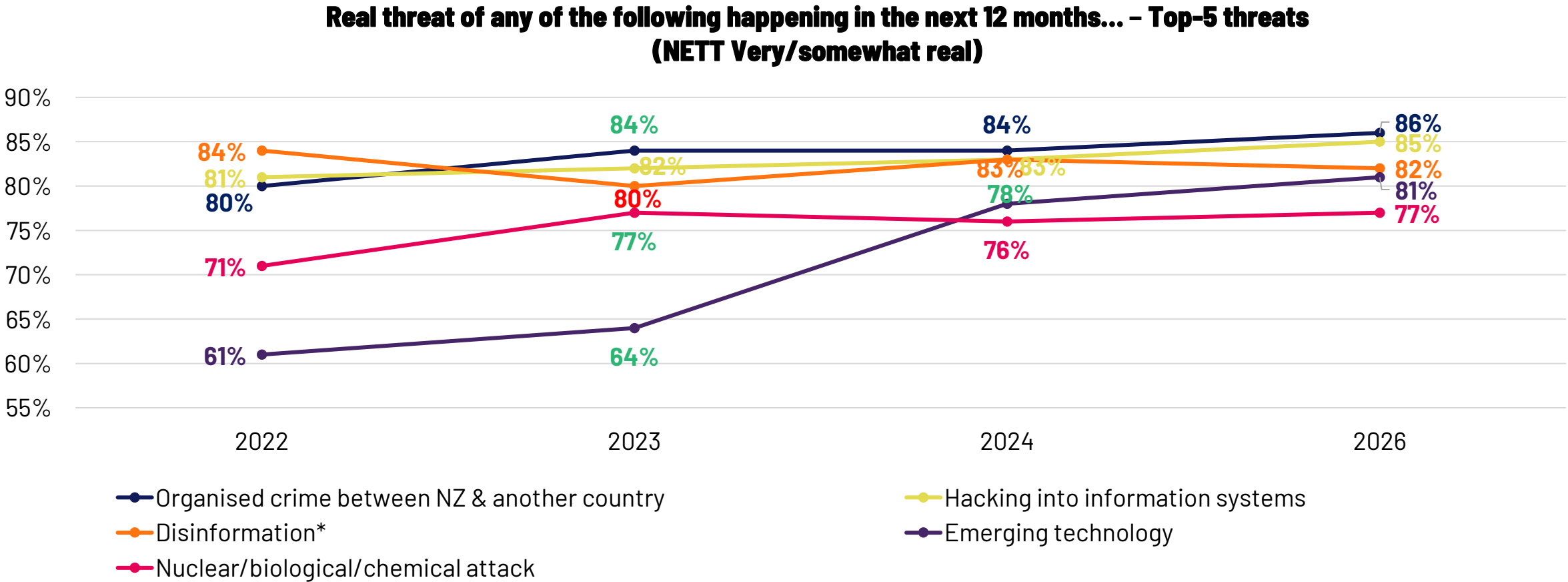
2026 rank		2024 rank	2026 rank		2024 rank
1	Organised crime between NZ & another country	#1	6	Major maritime security incidents**	–
2	Hacking into information systems	#2=	7	Breakdown in access to critical goods/ services due to rising tensions	#6
3	Disinformation*	#2=	8	Terrorist attack / violent extremism in NZ	#8
4	Emerging technology	#4	9=	Disruption of critical infrastructure due to an attack	#9
5	Nuclear/biological/chemical attack	#5	9=	Other countries threatening NZ interests in the Pacific	#10

Q9: How real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next 12 months?

Base: Total sample (n=1,000). *Note: In 2023, misinformation (as included in the 2022 survey) was changed to disinformation. This shift has potential impact on how respondents interpret and answer the question. **Note: New threat added in 2026.

Top-5 threats: Trends over time

Four out of the top-5 national security threats have been trending upward over time as ‘very/somewhat real’ perceived threats. (*Disinformation* has remained relatively stable.)



Q9: How real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next 12 months?
Base: Total sample – 2026 (n=1,000), 2024 (n=1,172), 2023 (n=2,370), 2022 (n=1,148). ***Note:** In 2023, misinformation (as included in the 2022 survey) was changed to disinformation. This shift has potential impact on how respondents interpret and answer the question.

All 18 threats (next 12 months): Ranking & comparison

There are some notable shifts in the threats outside of top 10 (‘very/somewhat real’). Compared to 2024, significantly more New Zealanders perceive that there is a real threat of a *terrorist attack / violent extremism in NZ* in the next 12 months. Compared to the global average[^], they are significantly more likely to be concerned about *hacking, nuclear/biological/chemical attacks & terrorist attacks*.

Real threat of any of the following happening in the next 12 months...		2026	2024	2023	2022	% point difference (2026-2024)	Global country average [^]
Organised crime between NZ & another country		86%	84%	84%	80%	+2%	-
Hacking into information systems		85%	83%	82%	81%	+2%	76%
Disinformation*		82%	83%	80%	84%	-1%	-
Emerging technology		81%	78%	64%	61%	+3%	-
Nuclear/biological/chemical attack		77%	76%	77%	71%	+1%	69%
Major maritime security incidents**		76%	-	-	-	-	-
Breakdown in access to goods/services due to rising tensions		72%	68%	69%	-	+4%	-
Terrorist attack / violent extremism in NZ		71%	64%	68%	71%	+7%	65%
Disruption of critical infrastructure due to an attack		68%	63%	69%	70%	+5%	-
Other countries threatening NZ interests in the Pacific		68%	61%	62%	47%	+7%	-
Violent conflict between groups in NZ		63%	65%	62%	71%	-2%	-
Disruption of space assets**		62%	-	-	-	-	-
Other countries interfering in NZ affairs		62%	53%	54%	50%	+9%	-
Increasing competition between countries		61%	59%	55%	-	+2%	-
Breach of NZ borders		56%	48%	49%	46%	+8%	-
Foreign country/actor coercing NZ to act against its interests		56%	48%	46%	43%	+8%	-
Personal safety/security of self/family violated		48%	47%	48%	43%	+1%	60%
NZ involved in armed conflict with another country		36%	39%	32%	29%	-3%	53%

Compared to global country average results, the perceived likelihood of *hacking into information systems, nuclear/biological/chemical attack, and terrorism* is higher in New Zealand.

Q9: How real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next 12 months?

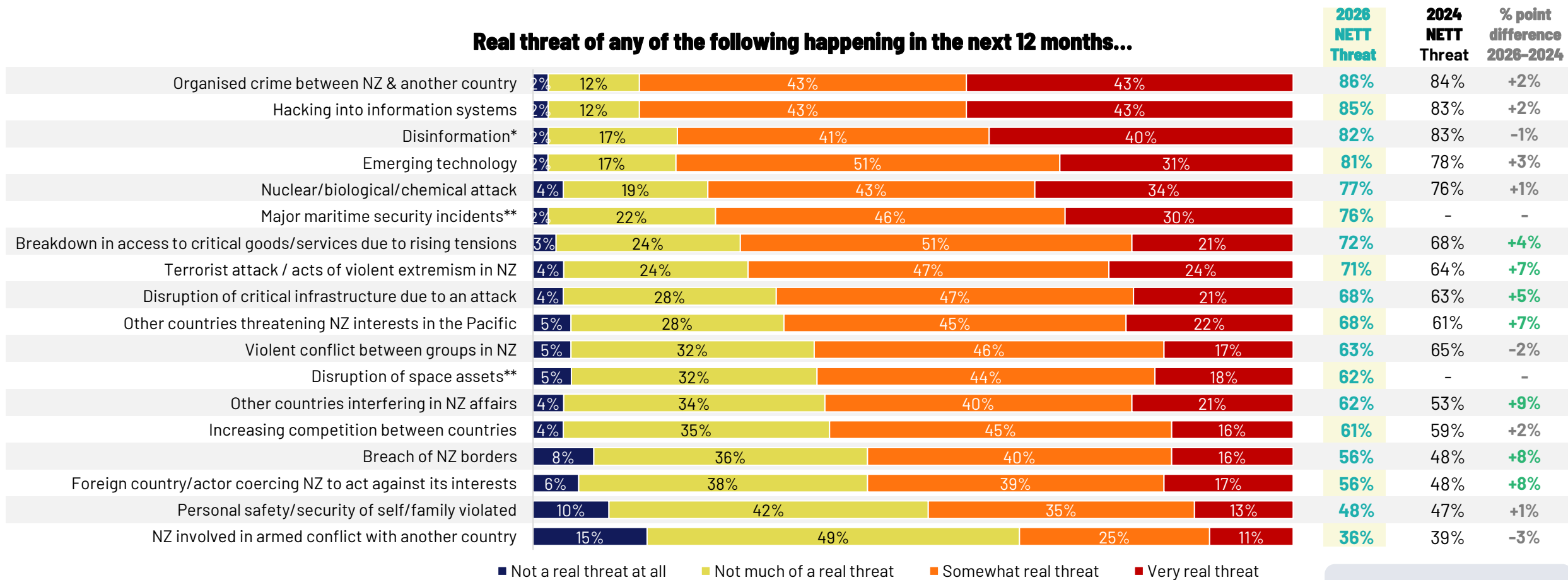
Base: Total sample – 2026 (n=1,000), 2024 (n=1,172), 2023 (n=2,370), 2022 (n=1,148). Note: Threats were presented one at a time on screen and randomised to reduce response order bias. *Note: In 2023, misinformation (as included in the 2022 survey) was changed to disinformation. This shift has potential impact on how respondents interpret and answer the question. **Note: New threat added in 2026. ^Note: Global country average figures are taken from the Ipsos-Halifax World Affairs global survey conducted in October 2025 (n=18,077) where applicable.

Figures represent top-2 box (% somewhat + very real threat)

Green/red indicates statistically significantly higher/lower than 2024
Green/orange indicates statistically significantly higher/lower than global country average

Perceived level of threats: Next 12 months

More than half of New Zealanders think that most national security threats are likely to happen in the next 12 months. Personal safety/security violations & armed conflict with other nations are seen as the least likely to occur.



Q9: How real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next 12 months?
Base: Total sample - 2026 (n=1,000), 2024 (n=1,172). Note: Threats were presented one at a time on screen and randomised to reduce response order bias. *Note: In 2023, misinformation (as included in the 2022 survey) was changed to disinformation. This shift has potential impact on how respondents interpret and answer the question. **Note: New threat added in 2026.

Green/red indicates statistically significantly higher/lower than 2024

NETT figures represent very + somewhat real threat

Differences in how groups view threats' likelihood (1)



Statistically significant differences

Demographic differences [Top-2 box: % Somewhat + very real threat]



Organised crime between NZ & another country (86%)

95% 65+ years
73% 18-29 years
68% Other ethnicity*



Hacking into information systems (85%)

95% Wellington
91% 50-64 years
91% 65+ years
79% Rest of SI (excl. CAN)
73% 18-29 years



Disinformation** (82%)

75% 18-29 years



Emerging technology (81%)

No significant differences



Nuclear/biological/chemical attack (77%)

86% 65+ years
71% Auckland
70% Born overseas
66% Asian



Major maritime security incidents^ (76%)

85% 65+ years
70% Born overseas
64% 18-29 years
64% Asian



Breakdown in access to critical goods/services (72%)

65% 18-29 years



Terrorist attacks / violent extremism in NZ (71%)

80% 65+ years
66% 30-49 years



Disruption of critical infrastructure due to an attack (68%)

59% 18-29 years



Other countries threatening NZ interests in the Pacific (68%)

78% 65+ years
57% NETT Not in employment



Green/red indicates statistically significantly higher/lower than the total

Q9: How real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next 12 months?

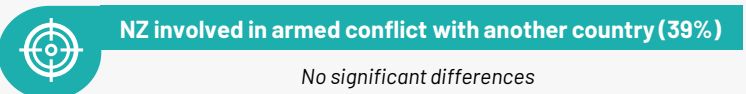
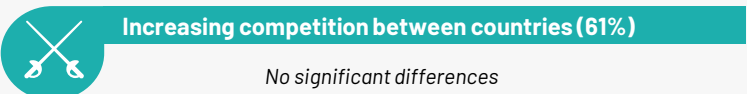
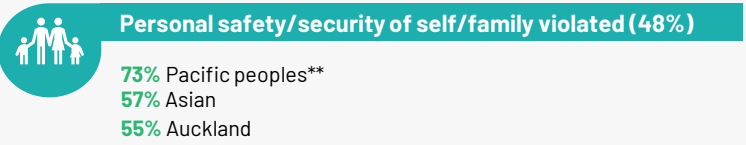
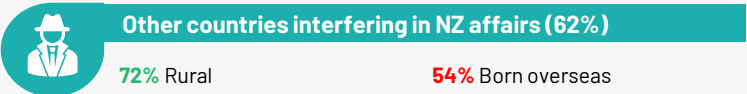
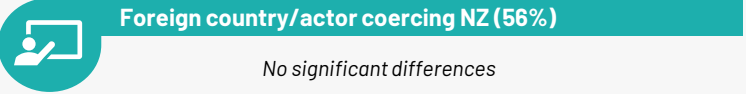
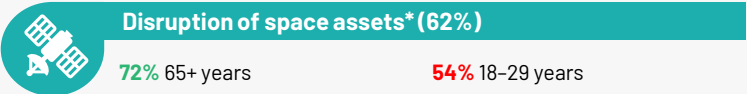
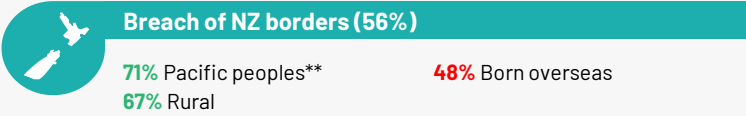
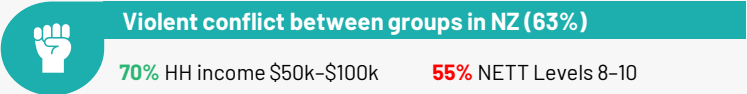
Base: Total sample (n=1,000). *CAUTION: Very low base size, results indicative only (n < 50). **Note: In 2023, misinformation (as included in the 2022 survey) was changed to disinformation. This shift has potential impact on how respondents interpret and answer the question. *Note: New threat added in 2026.

Differences in how groups view threats' likelihood (II)



Statistically significant differences

Demographic differences [Top-2 box: % Somewhat + very real threat]



Green/red indicates statistically significantly higher/lower than the total

Q9: How real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next 12 months?
Base: Total sample (n=1,000). *Note: New threat added in 2026. **CAUTION: Low base size, results indicative only (≤50 n <100).

Top-3 reasons for rating each threat as a 'very real threat'



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Organised crime between NZ & another country (n=96*)	Hacking into information systems (n=85*)	Disinformation** (n=94*)	Emerging technology (n=76*)	Nuclear/biological/chemical attack (n=84*)	Major maritime security incidents^ (n=77*)	Breakdown in access to critical goods/ services (n=77*)	Terrorist attack / violent extremism (n=74*)	Disruption of critical infrastructure due to an attack (n=74*)
Have already seen / from past experience / happening now (64%)	Have already seen / from past experience / happening now (71%)	Have already seen / from past experience / happening now (48%)	Technological advances (66%)	Growing tension overseas (42%)	Rise in criminal activity (31%)	US administration (36%)	Have already seen / from past experience / happening now (51%)	Have already seen / from past experience / happening now (49%)
Rise in criminal activities (49%)	Cyber crimes & attacks (51%)	Rise in scaremongering/ distorted uninformed views (44%)	Have already seen / from past experience / happening now (27%)	Current global events (20%)	NZ is small & vulnerable to attacks (28%)	Growing tensions overseas (25%)	Extreme fringe groups (17%)	Cyber crimes & attacks (43%)
NZ is small & vulnerable to attacks (11%)	Current global events (9%)	Use of social media / online platforms (29%)	Cyber crimes (23%)	Armed conflict overseas (20%)	Have already seen / from past experience / happening now (26%)	Dependent on trade with other countries (25%)	NZ is small & vulnerable to attacks (16%)	NZ is small & vulnerable to attacks (35%)
Other countries threatening NZ interests in the Pacific (n=73*)	Violent conflict between groups in NZ (n=72*)	Disruption of space assets^ (n=71*)	Other countries interfering in NZ affairs (n=74*)	Increasing competition between countries (n=70*)	Breach of NZ borders (n=70*)	Foreign country/actor coercing NZ to act against its interests (n=73*)	Personal safety/ security of self/family violated (n=69*)	NZ involved in armed conflict with another country (n=68*)
Foreign activity in the Pacific (58%)	Extreme fringe groups (30%)	NZ is small & vulnerable to attacks (23%)	Foreign interference & coercion (49%)	Growing tensions overseas (26%)	Rise in criminal activities (29%)	US administration (41%)	Rise in criminal activities (24%)	Growing tensions overseas (42%)
Have already seen / from past experience / happening now (44%)	NZ is small & vulnerable to attacks (23%)	It is a global issue (15%)	Have already seen / from past experience / happening now (25%)	NZ is small & vulnerable to attacks (24%)	Issues with border control (25%)	Foreign interference & coercion (38%)	General threat exists (21%)	Current global events (18%)
Foreign interference & coercion (8%)	Issues with NZ government (16%)	Cyber crimes & attacks (15%)	NZ is small & vulnerable to attacks (20%)	US administration (20%)	Have already seen / from past experience / happening now (18%)	Have already seen / from past experience / happening now (20%)	Cyber crimes & attacks (14%)	Armed conflict overseas (15%)

Q10: And why do you think there is a very real threat of the following happening in the next 12 months?

Base: Those who answered 'very real threat' at Q9. **Note:** These are the top-3 % reasons why each threat is likely to happen in the next 12 months. ***Caution:** Low base size, results indicative only (50 ≤ n < 100). ****Note:** In 2023, misinformation (as included in the 2022 survey) was changed to disinformation. This shift has potential impact on how respondents interpret and answer the question. **^Note:** New threat added in 2026.

Longer-term threats: Top 10 likely in the next 10 years

The top-3 perceived national security threats over the next 10 years include *organised crime between NZ & another country, hacking into information systems & emerging technology*. Major maritime incidents, a new threat added to the survey in 2026, is included within the top-5 most likely threats.

Real threat of any of the following happening in the next 10 years...

2026 rank		2024 rank	2026 rank		2024 rank
1=	Organised crime between NZ & another country	#2=	6=	Terrorist attack / violent extremism in NZ	#6=
1=	Hacking into information systems	#1	6=	Breakdown in access to goods/services due to rising tensions	#8
3	Emerging technology	#4	8	Nuclear/biological/chemical attack	#5
4	Disinformation*	#2=	9	Threats to NZ interests in the Pacific	#10
5	Major maritime security incidents**	-	10	Disruption of critical infrastructure due to an attack	#6=

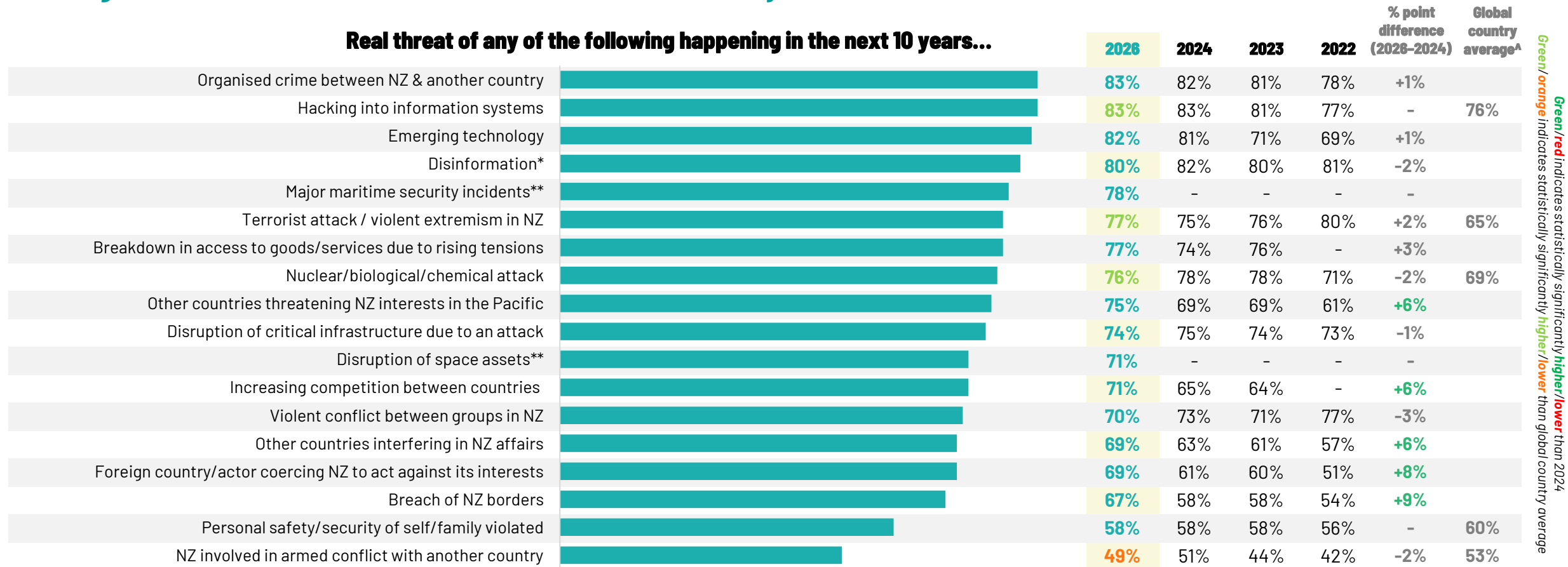
Q17: Thinking now about the future, how real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next 10 years?
Base: Total sample (n=1,000). ***Note:** In 2023, misinformation (as included in the 2022 survey) was changed to disinformation. This shift has potential impact on how respondents interpret and answer the question. ****Note:** New threat added in 2026.

All 18 threats (next 10 years): Ranking & comparison



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Since 2024, significantly more New Zealanders have become concerned about other countries threatening NZ interests in the Pacific, increasing competition between countries, other countries interfering in NZ affairs, foreign country/actor coercing NZ to act against its interests & breach of NZ borders in the next 10 years.



Q17: Thinking now about the future, how real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next 10 years?

Base: Total sample – 2026 (n=1,000), 2024 (n=1,172), 2023 (n=2,370), 2022 (n=1,148). **Note:** Threats were presented one at a time on screen and randomised to reduce response order bias. ***Note:** In 2023, misinformation (as included in the 2022 survey) was changed to disinformation. This shift has potential impact on how respondents interpret and answer the question. ****Note:** New threat added in 2026. **^ANote:** Global country average figures are taken from the Ipsos-Halifax World Affairs global survey conducted in October 2025 (n=18,077) where applicable. These figures represent how real respondents feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the **next 12 months**, whereas this question is about the **next 10 years**.

Figures represent top-2 box
(% somewhat + very real threat)

Short-term vs long-term threats: Top-5 comparison

The top-5 threats for short term (12 months) & long term (10 years) are similar. *Organised crime between NZ & another country* is considered the #1 most likely for both timeframes. Both top 5s include *hacking into information systems, disinformation & emerging technology*. The threats ranked #5 differ between timeframes.

Real threat of any of the following happening in the next 12 months / 10 years...

Position	Next 12 months		Next 10 years
1	Organised crime between NZ & another country	1=	Organised crime between NZ & another country
2	Hacking into information systems		Hacking into information systems
3	Disinformation*		Emerging technology
4	Emerging technology		Disinformation*
5	Nuclear/biological/chemical attack		Major maritime security incidents**

Q9: How real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next 12 months? / **Q17:** Thinking now about the future, how real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next 10 years?
Base: Total sample (n=1,000). **Note:** Threats were presented one at a time on screen and randomised to reduce response order bias. ***Note:** In 2023, misinformation (as included in the 2022 survey) was changed to disinformation. This shift has potential impact on how respondents interpret and answer the question. ****Note:** New threat added in 2026.

All 18 threats: Comparing short- & long-term ranking



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Most threats are seen as more likely for the long term (10 years) rather than short term (12 months). The biggest difference between timeframes is for personal safety, foreign countries coercing NZ to act against its interests, NZ being involved in armed conflict with another country & a breach of NZ borders – these are more likely to be viewed as long-term rather than short-term threats.

Real threat of any of the following happening in the next 10 years...



Green/red indicates statistically significantly higher/lower than next 12 months*

Q17: Thinking now about the future, how real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next 10 years? / Q9: How real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next 12 months?

Base: Total sample (n=1,000). Note: Threats were presented one at a time on screen and randomised to reduce response order bias. *Note: In 2023, misinformation (as included in the 2022 survey) was changed to disinformation. This shift has potential impact on how respondents interpret and answer the question. **Note: New threat added in 2026.



ROLES & RESOURCES

- **OTHER COUNTRIES THREATENING NZ INTERESTS IN THE PACIFIC**
- **MAJOR MARITIME SECURITY INCIDENTS**
- **BREAKDOWN IN ACCESS TO GOOD & SERVICES DUE TO RISING TENSIONS**



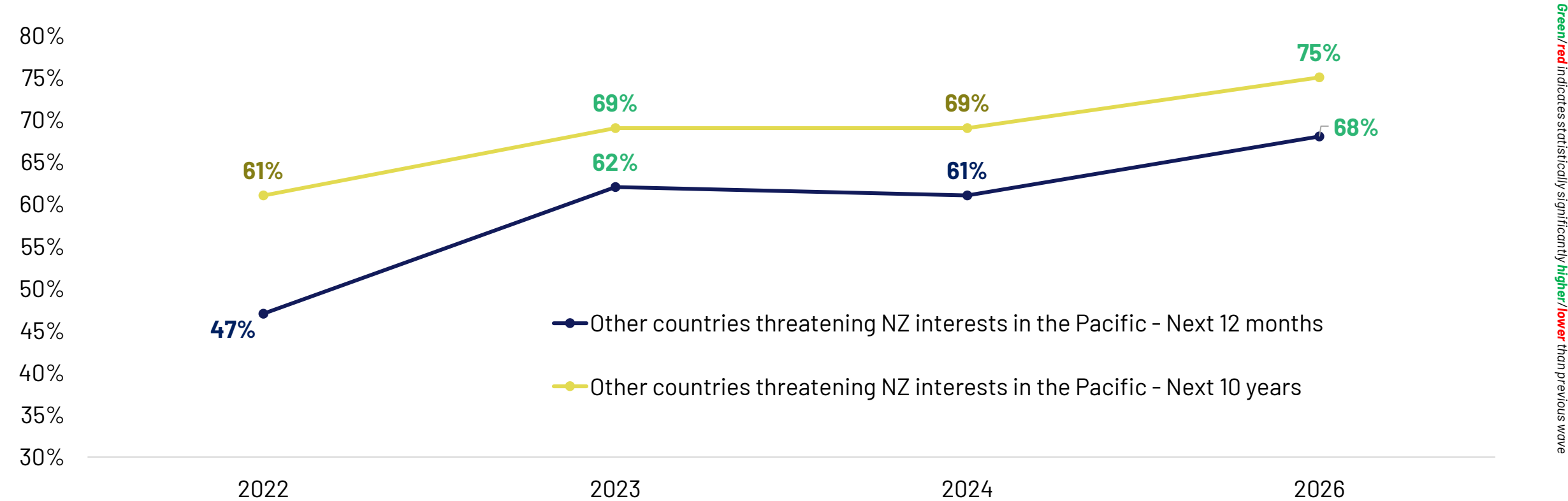
Key findings

- To understand views on the perceived roles and resources of different groups, we asked follow-up questions about three threats: *other countries threatening NZ interests in the Pacific, major maritime security incidents, and breakdown in access to goods/services due to rising tensions*. Each survey respondent was asked at random about one of these threat types.
- Consistent with previous rounds of the survey, a majority of New Zealanders view the *NZ government* and its *agencies* as having the **most responsibility** to protect against the threats. However, fewer New Zealanders believe these entities are **fully resourced** to do so.
- Across all three threats, the *NZ government* and its *agencies* are perceived to be the **most resourced** to protect New Zealand, with *local government* lagging behind *global organisations* and *NZ's foreign partners*. *NZ individuals, communities, and businesses* (both local and overseas) are seen to be the **least resourced** to protect against the three threats.
- Key reasons that respondents felt that threats were likely within the next 12 months related to *overseas tensions, having seen these threats before, and a sense that crime is on the rise*.





Concern regarding *threats to NZ interests in the Pacific* has been increasing over time, with 3 in 4 (75%) perceiving this as a real threat in the next 10 years & 68% seeing it as a ‘real/very real’ threat in the next 12 months. Both figures have increased significantly since 2024.



09: How real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next 12 months? / 017: Thinking now about the future, how real do you fee the threat is of any of the following happening in the next 10 years?

Base: Total sample – 2026 (n=1,000), 2024 (n=1,172), 2023 (n=2,370), 2022 (n=1,148)

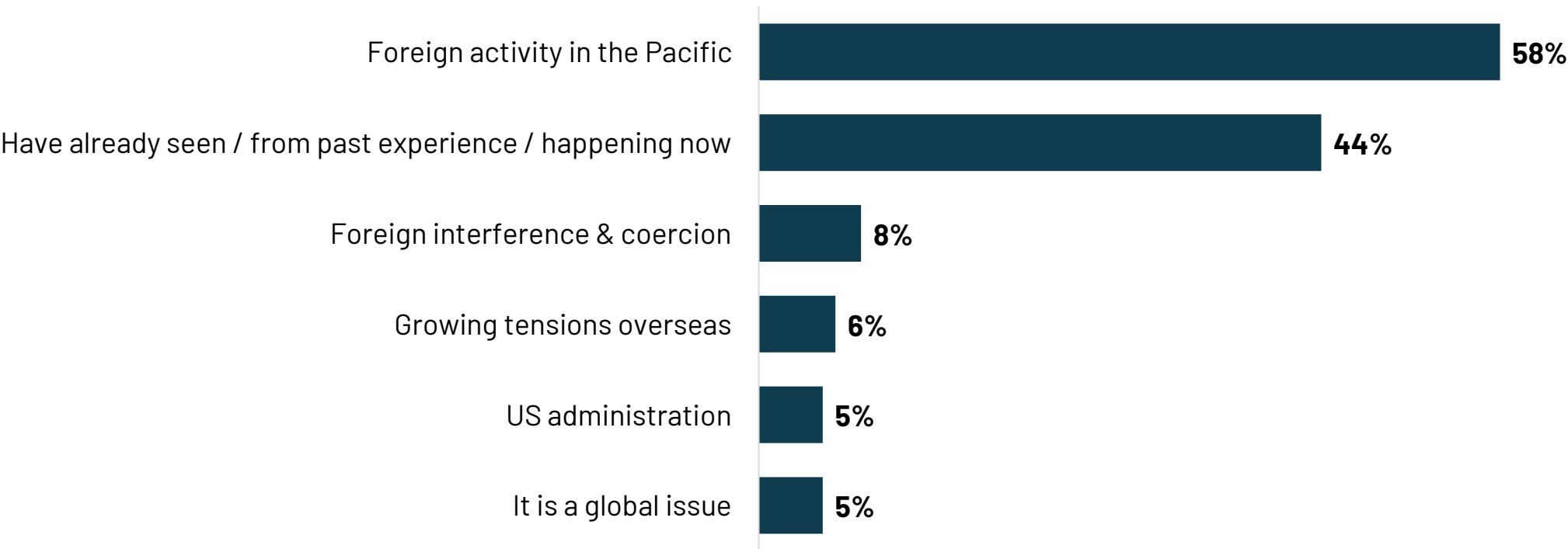
Threats to NZ interests in the Pacific: Why a ‘very real threat’



New Zealanders are primarily concerned about *other countries threatening NZ interests in the Pacific due to current & past foreign activity in the area.*



Reasons for a very real threat to NZ interests in the Pacific in the next 12 months



Green / red indicates statistically significantly higher / lower than 2024.

Q10: And why do you think there is a very real threat of the following happening in the next 12 months?
Base: Those who answered that other countries threatening NZ interests in the Pacific is a ‘very real threat’ (n=73*). **Note:** These are the top % reasons why other countries threatening NZ interests in the Pacific is likely to happen in the next 12 months. Reasons less than 5% not shown. ***Caution:** Low base size, results indicative only (50 ≤ n < 100).



Role to protect against: Threats to NZ interests in the Pacific

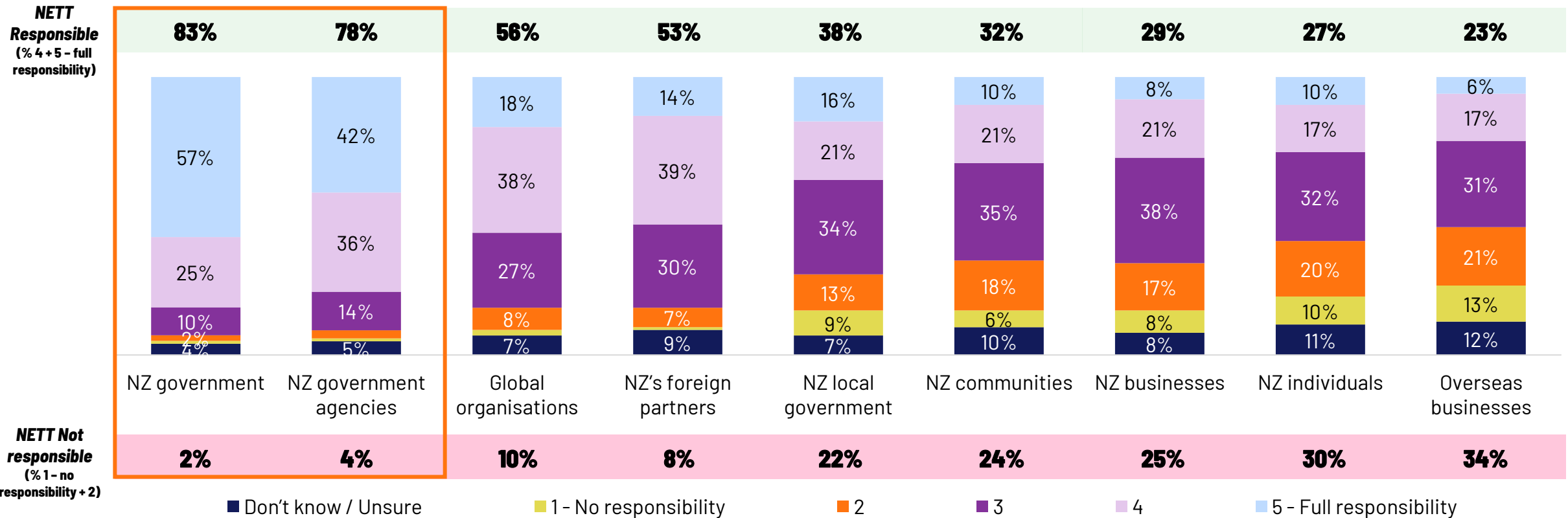


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The responsibility for protecting NZ & responding to other countries threatening NZ interests in the Pacific is viewed as primarily belonging to the *NZ government & its agencies*. More than half would like to see *global organisations & NZ's foreign partners* having some responsibility too.



How much responsibility does each of the following have to protect NZ and respond to other countries threatening NZ interests in the Pacific?



Q25: How much responsibility do you think each of the following have to protect New Zealand and respond a threat to New Zealand's interests in the Pacific?
Base: Respondents asked about other countries threatening NZ interests in the Pacific (n=334). Note: Due to rounding there are some differences (+/- 1%) between NETT figures and more detailed breakdown of results.



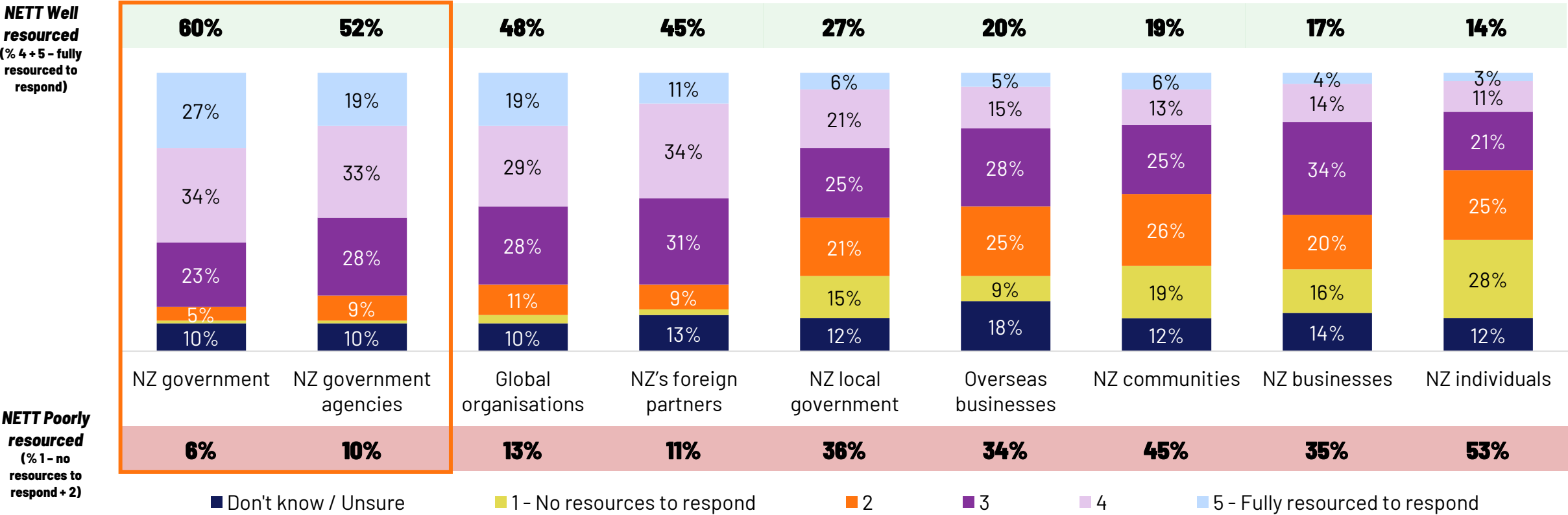
Tools & resources to protect against: Threats to NZ interests in the Pacific



The government is viewed as the most resourced to respond to other countries threatening NZ interests in the Pacific. NZ communities, businesses & individuals are seen as the least resourced.



Who has the tool and resources to protect NZ and respond to other countries threatening NZ interests in the Pacific?

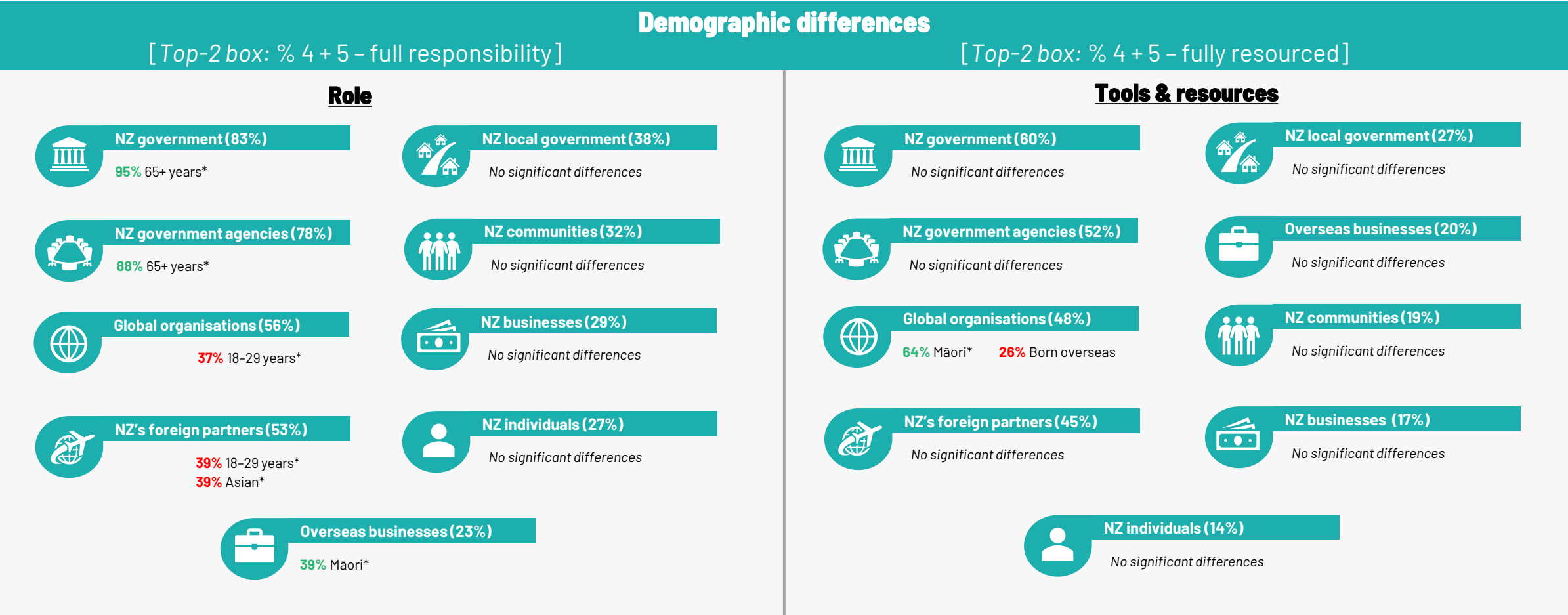


Q26: In your view, do each of the following have tools and resources to protect New Zealand and respond to a threat to New Zealand's interests in the Pacific?

Base: Respondents asked about other countries threatening NZ interests in the Pacific (n=334). Note: Due to rounding there are some differences (+/- 1%) between NETT figures and more detailed breakdown of results.



Statistically significant differences

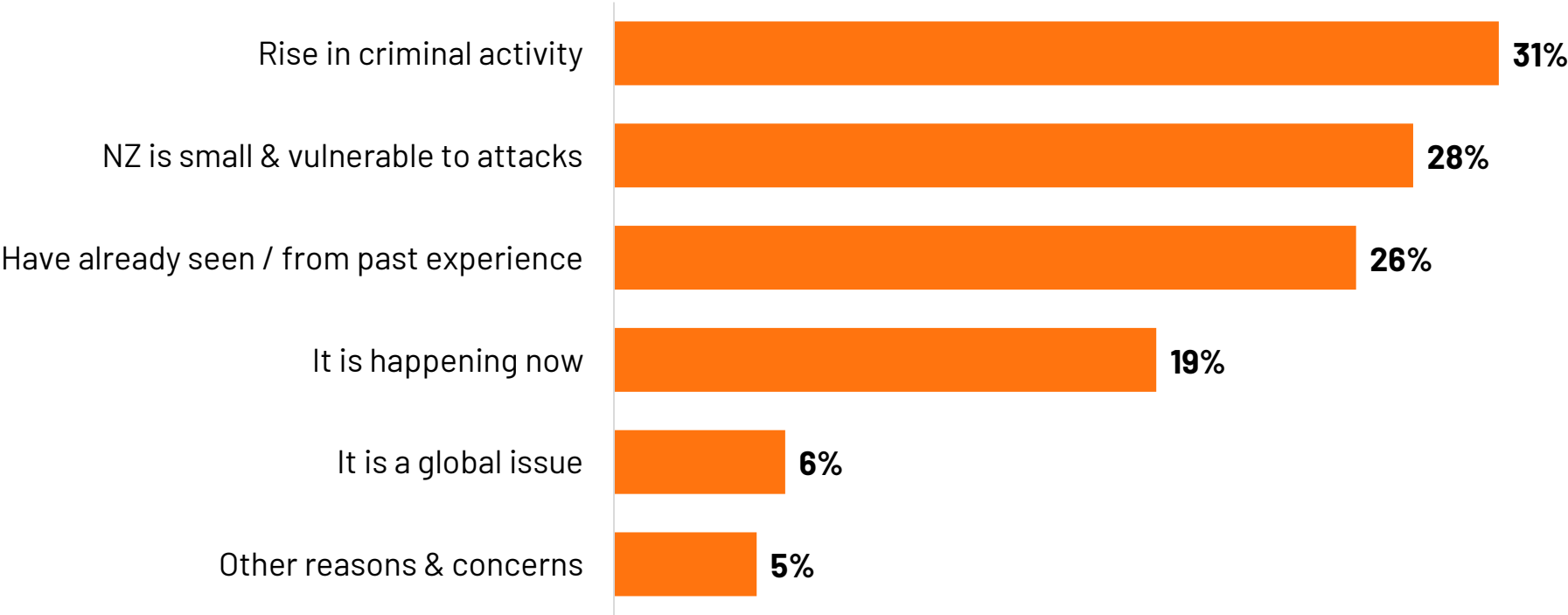


Major maritime security incidents: Why a ‘very real threat’

New Zealanders are concerned about major maritime security incidents mainly due to a *rise in illegal criminal activity*, *past experience*, as well as *New Zealand being a small country & more vulnerable to attacks*.



Reasons for a very real threat of *major maritime security incidents* happening in the next 12 months



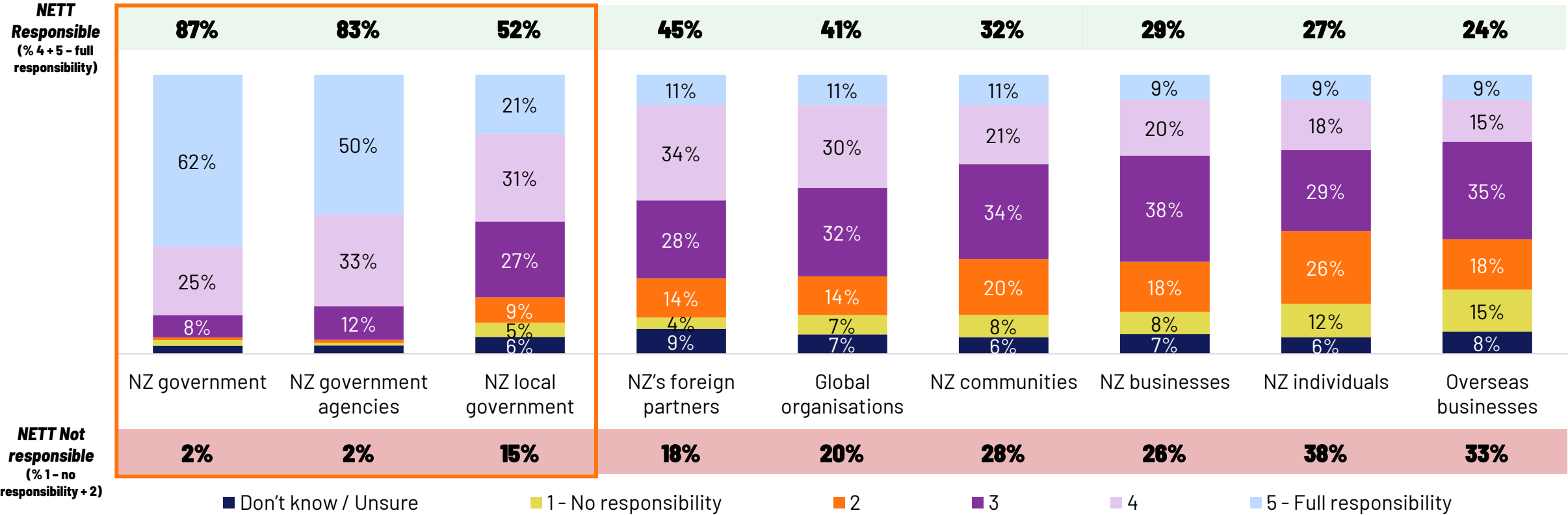
Q10: And why do you think there is a very real threat of the following happening in the next 12 months?
Base: Those who answered that major maritime security incidents is a ‘very real threat’ (n=77*). **Note 1:** These are the top % reasons why a major maritime security incident is likely to happen in the next 12 months. Reasons less than 5% not shown. **Note 2:** New threat added in 2026. ***Caution:** Low base size, results indicative only (50 ≤ n < 100).

Role to protect against: Major maritime security incidents

The central government & (to a lesser extent) the local government are seen to be the most responsible for protecting New Zealand against a major maritime security incident. Close to half (45%) also allocate some responsibility to NZ’s foreign partners.



How much responsibility does each of the following have to protect NZ and respond to major maritime security incidents?



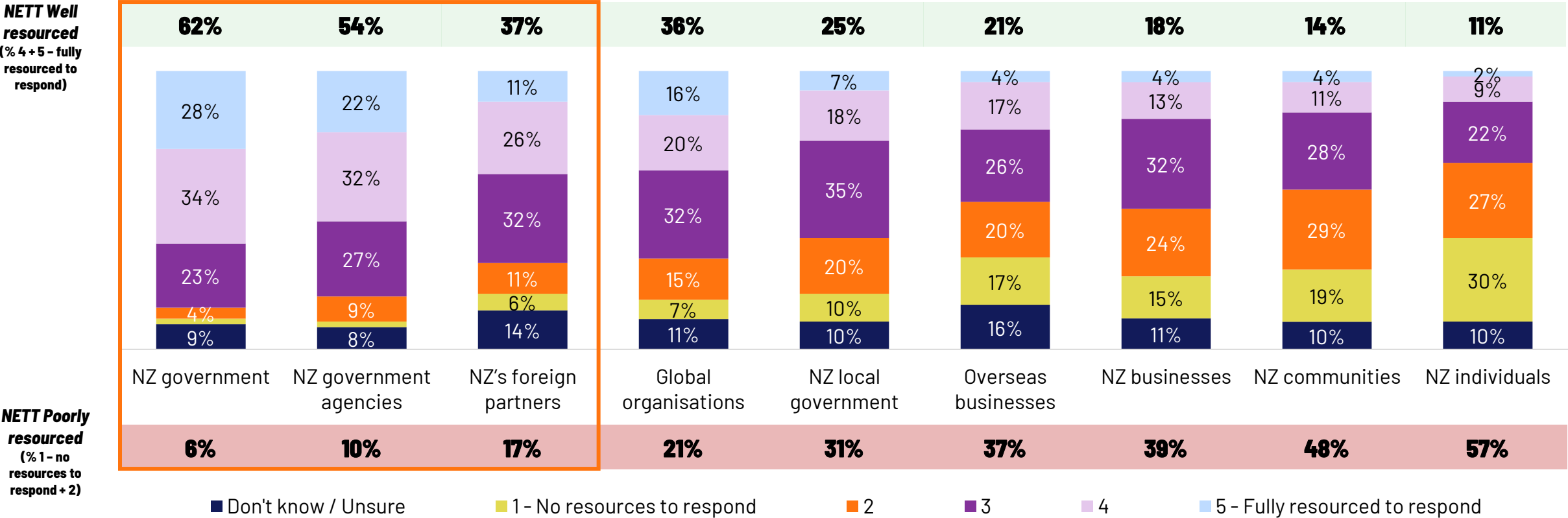
Q25: How much responsibility do you think each of the following have to protect New Zealand and respond to a major maritime security incident?
Base: Respondents asked about major maritime security incidents (n=334). **Note 1:** Due to rounding there are some differences (+/- 1%) between NETT figures and more detailed breakdown of results. **Note 2:** New threat added in 2026.

Tools & resources to protect against: Major maritime security incidents

In terms of resourcing to respond to major maritime security incidents, the *government & its agencies* are seen as the best placed to do so. Only 25% perceive *local government* as having the tools & resources to protect against this.



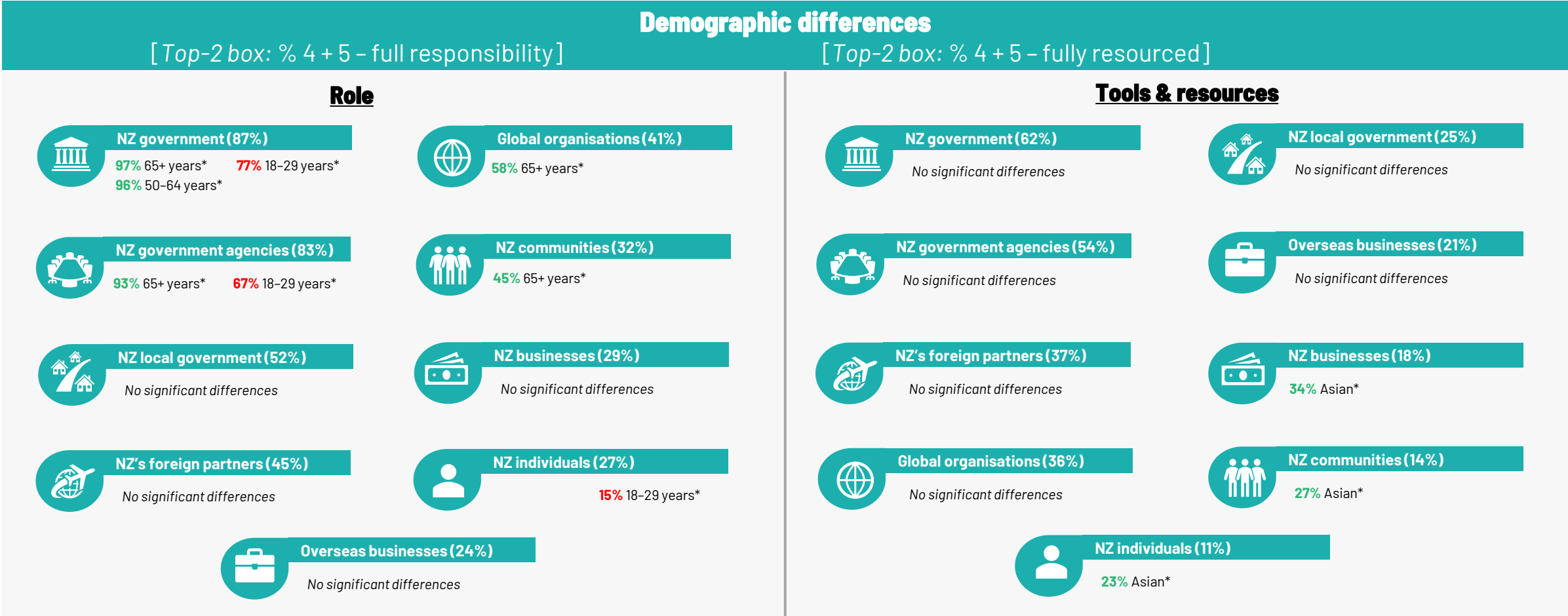
Who has the tool and resources to protect NZ and respond to major maritime security incidents?



Q26: In your view, do each of the following have tools and resources to protect New Zealand and respond to a major maritime security incident?
Base: Respondents asked about major maritime security incidents (n=334). Note 1: Due to rounding there are some differences (+/- 1%) between NETT figures and more detailed breakdown of results. Note 2: New threat added in 2026.



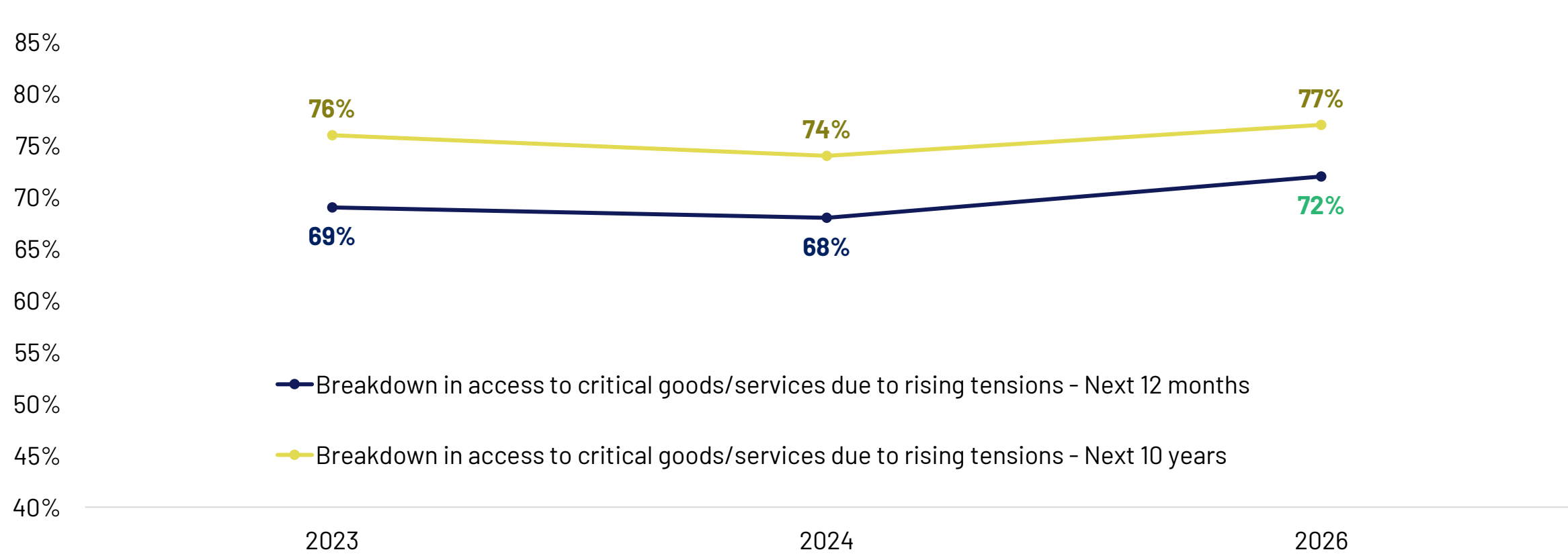
Statistically significant differences



Breakdown in access to goods/services: Perceived threat levels over time



While a *breakdown in access to goods/services due to rising tensions* is seen as more of a long-term concern, since 2024 there has been a significant increase (4 % points) in the feeling of its being a real threat in the next 12 months.



Green/red indicates statistically significantly higher/lower than the previous wave

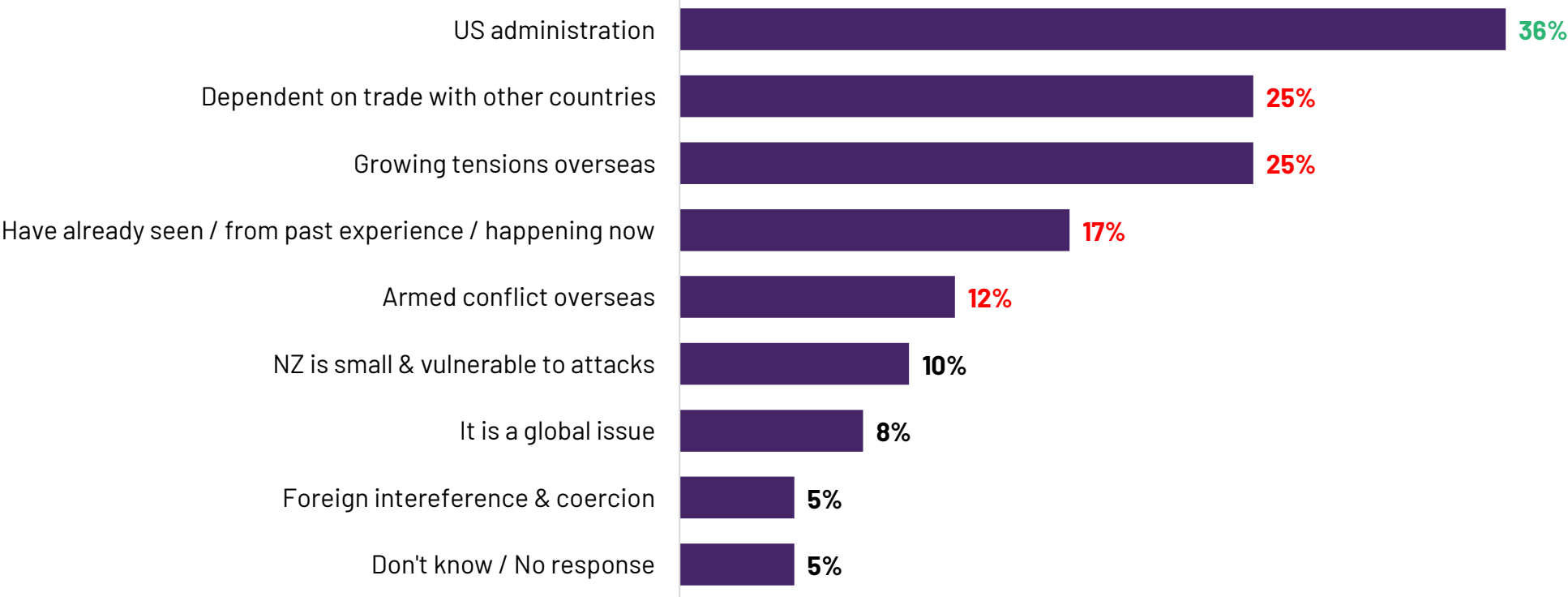
Q9: How real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next 12 months? / Q17: Thinking now about the future, how real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next 10 years?

Base: Total sample - 2026 (n=1,000), 2024 (n=1,172), 2023 (n=2,370)

The *US administration* is mentioned as the primary reason for a breakdown in access to goods/services due to rising tensions in the next 12 months.



Reasons for a very real threat of *breakdown in access to critical goods/ services* due to rising tensions happening in the next 12 months



Q10: And why do you think there is a *very real threat* of the following happening in the next 12 months?

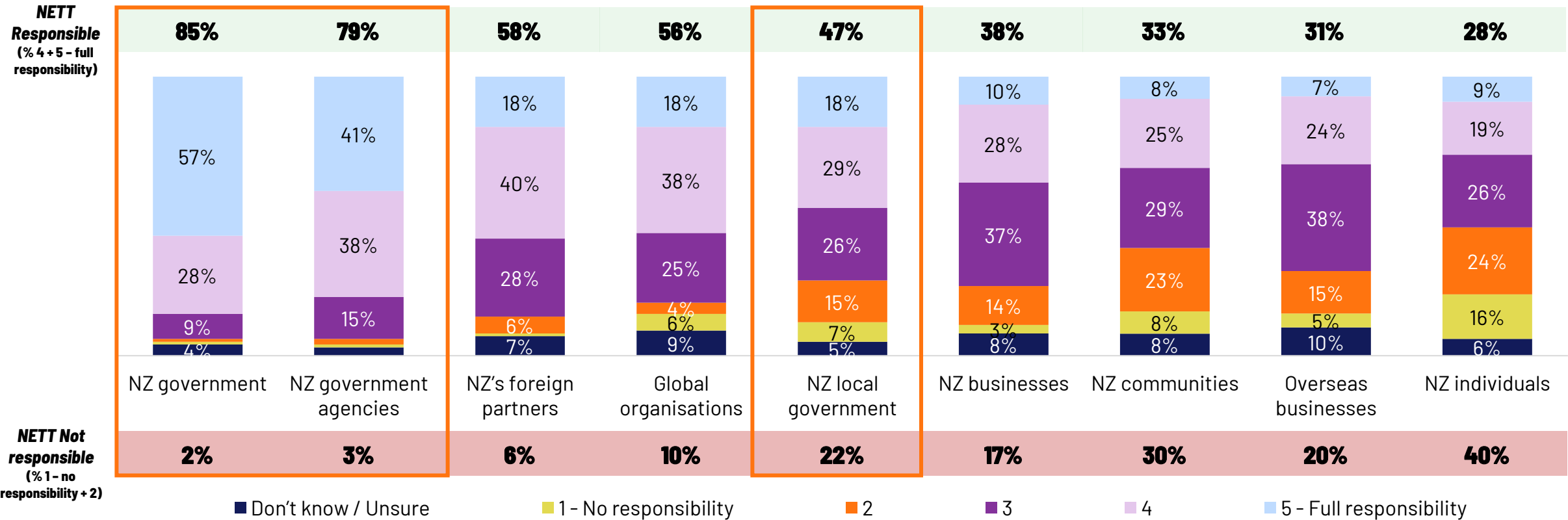
Base: Those who answered that breakdown in access to critical goods/services due to rising tensions is a 'very real threat' (n=77*). **Note:** These are the top % reasons why breakdown in access to critical goods/services due to rising tensions is likely to happen in the next 12 months. Reasons less than 5% not shown. ***Caution:** Low base size, results indicative only (50 ≤ n < 100).

Role to protect against: Breakdown in access to goods/services

The responsibility to protect against a breakdown in access to goods/services due to rising tensions is primarily placed in the hands of the central government & its agencies, although around half or more also view NZ’s foreign partners, global organisations & local government as responsible.



How much responsibility does each of the following have to protect NZ and respond to a breakdown in access to critical goods/services due to rising tensions?



Q25: How much responsibility do you think each of the following have to protect New Zealand and respond to a breakdown in access to goods/services?
Base: Respondents asked about breakdown in access to goods/service due to rising tensions (n=332). Note: Due to rounding there are some differences (+/- 1%) between NETT figures and more detailed breakdown of results.

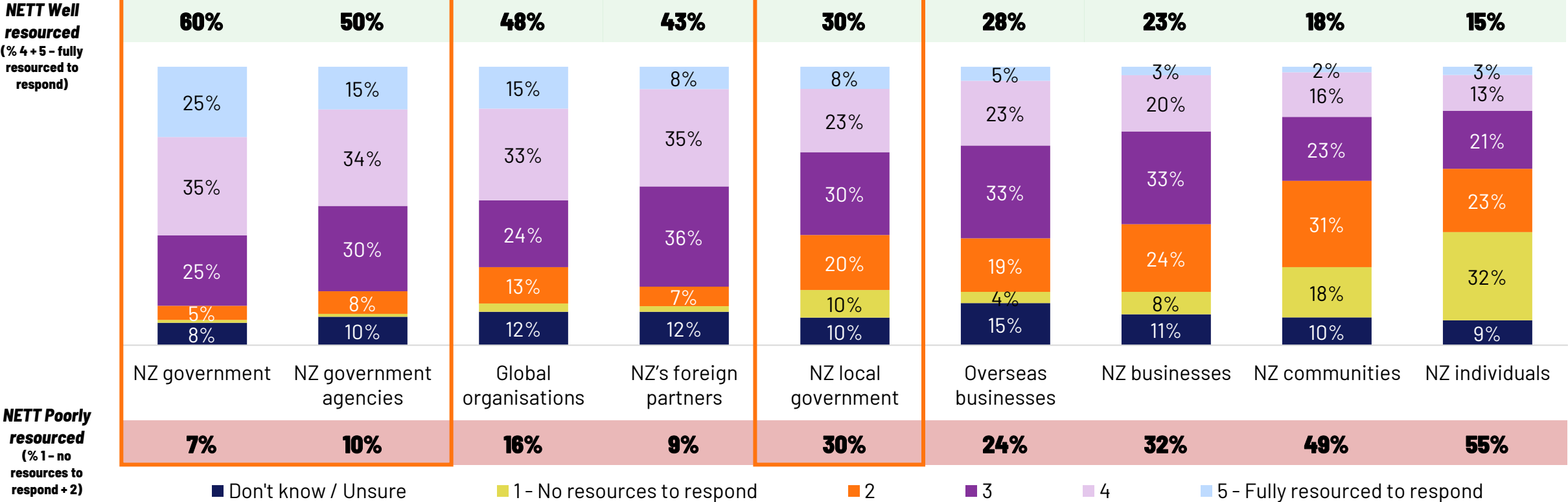
Tools & resources to protect against: Breakdown in access to goods/ services



The government, agencies & global organisations are seen to be best resourced to respond to a breakdown in access to goods/services due to rising tensions. Just over 1 in 5 (23%) believe that NZ businesses are equipped to do so.



Who has the tool and resources to protect NZ and respond to a breakdown in access to goods/services due to rising tensions?



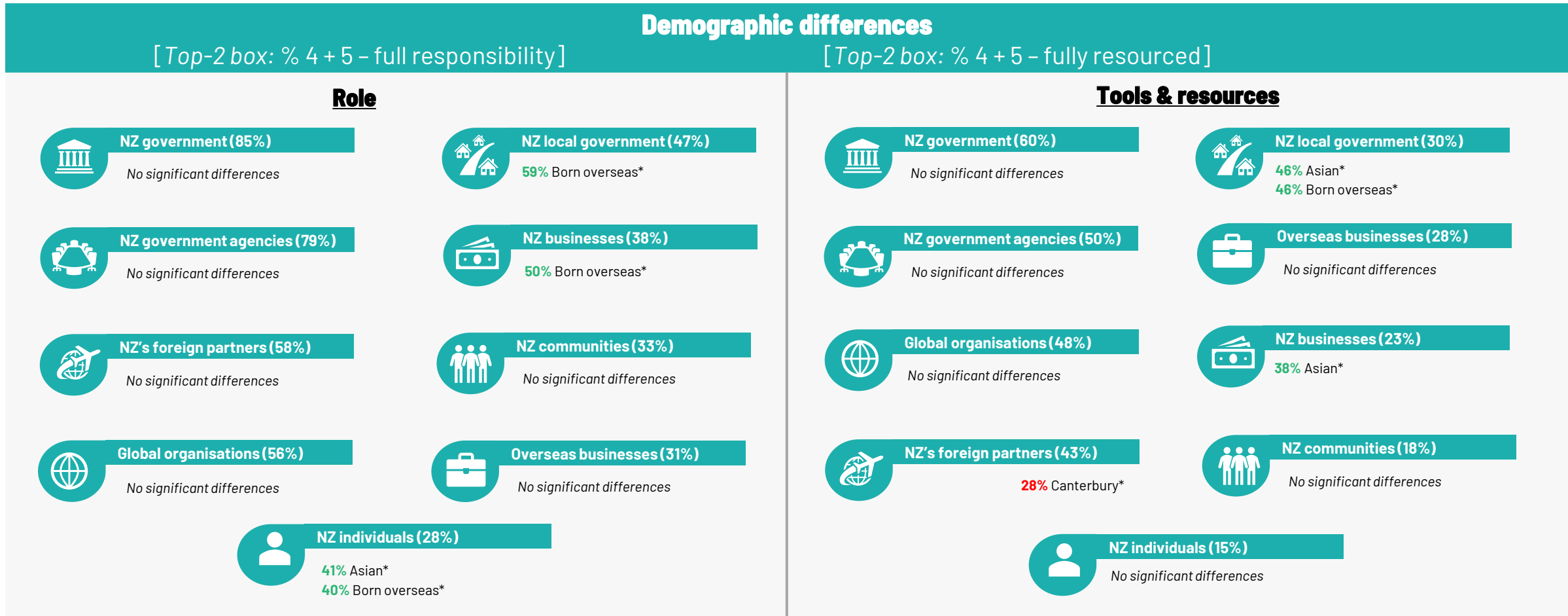
Q26: In your view, do each of the following have tools and resources to protect New Zealand and respond to a breakdown in access to goods/services?

Base: Respondents asked about breakdown in access to goods/services due to rising tensions (n=332). Note: Due to rounding there are some differences (+/- 1%) between NETT figures and more detailed breakdown of results.

Role/tools & resources to protect against: Breakdown in access to goods/services



Statistically significant differences



Q25: How much responsibility do you think each of the following have to protect New Zealand and respond to a breakdown in access to goods/services? / **Q26:** In your view, do each of the following have tools and resources to protect New Zealand and respond to a breakdown in access to goods/services?

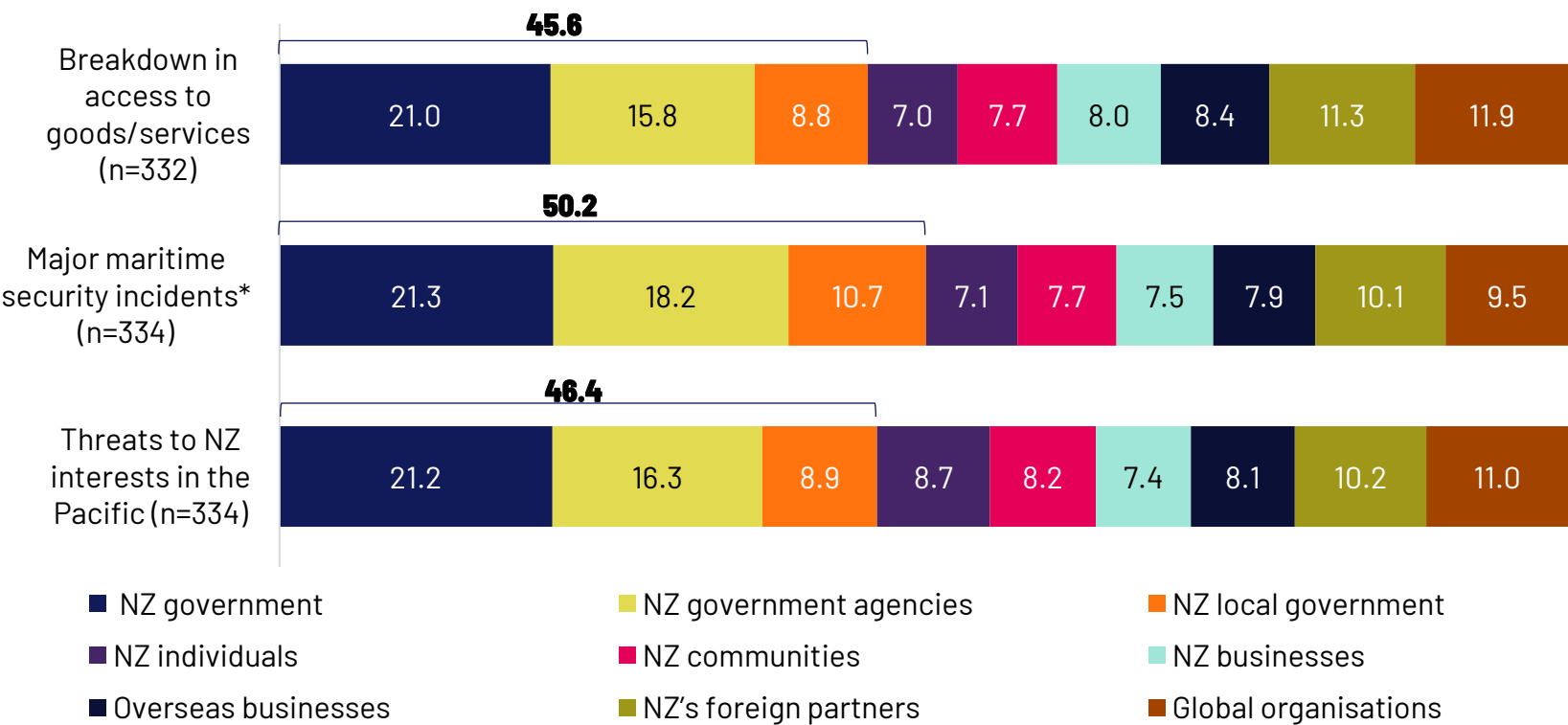
Base: Respondents asked about breakdown in access to goods/services due to rising tensions (n=332). ***CAUTION:** Low base size, results indicative only (50≤n<100).

Green/red indicates statistically significantly higher/lower than the total

Share of responsibility to respond – by threat

The NZ government, agencies & the local government are seen to be the most responsible for responding to *breakdown in access to goods/services due to rising tensions, major maritime security incidents & other countries threatening NZ interests in the Pacific.*

How much responsibility do you think each of the following have to protect New Zealand and respond to the threat of...?



This calculation is based on Ipsos’s approach to calculating a brand’s share of brand desire (awareness, closeness, and performance) in the market. While it was not designed for this purpose, running the analysis based on ranking and responsibility score allows us to estimate the share of ‘full responsibility’ in the same way.

To calculate the share of responsibility, we have looked at the level of responsibility assigned to each actor by each respondent, as well as the rank, by taking into account the amount of responsibility each respondent assigned to each actor in comparison to others.

As such, this a measure of ‘relative share’ based on the level of responsibility they assigned to an actor individually and how that compares to the responsibility they assigned to each of the other actors.

These details have been used to calculate a *relative share of ‘full responsibility’* by actor.

Q25: How much responsibility do you think each of the following have to protect New Zealand and respond to the threat of...?
Base: Respondents asked about countries threatening NZ interests in the Pacific (n=334), major maritime security incidents (n=334), breakdown in access to goods/services due to rising tensions (n=332). ***Note:** New threat added in 2026.



TRUST/CONFIDENCE & TRANSPARENCY



Key findings

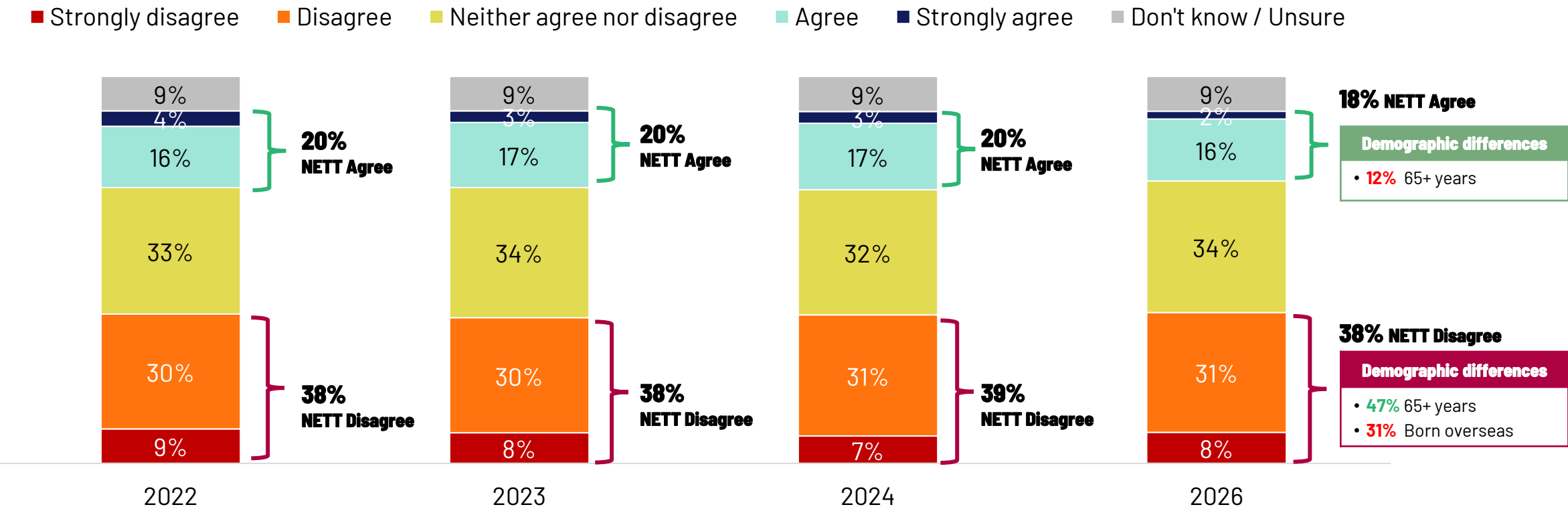
- **Only 1 in 5 believe New Zealand's national security agencies share enough information** about national security. Close to double that proportion state they **do not share enough**. This finding is consistent with previous rounds of the survey.
- **Confidence in government agencies'** ability to protect against or respond is **highest** for *major maritime security incidents, personal safety/security of self/family violated, terrorist attack / violent extremism in NZ, violent conflict between groups in NZ, and other countries interfering in NZ affairs*. Confidence is **lowest** for *disruption of space assets, emerging technology, and nuclear/biological/chemical attack*.
- **Confidence in government agencies'** ability to protect or respond has **decreased for 14 of the 18 threats surveyed** when compared to 2024's findings. The largest decrease in confidence is for *emerging technology*, the 4th most perceived threat facing New Zealanders. Confidence about the remaining top-5 threats has also significantly decreased this round and has been steadily trending downward since 2022.
- Areas where **likelihood** over the next 12 months is perceived to be the **highest** but **confidence** in government agencies' abilities is **relatively low**, include: *nuclear/biological/chemical attack, hacking into information systems, disinformation, emerging technology, disruption of critical infrastructure due to an attack, and other countries threatening NZ interests in the Pacific*.
- Perceptions of **how government agencies can build confidence in national security issues vary by threat**; however, *taking action / responding quickly* and *additional funding/financial assistance/resources* are the most commonly mentioned ways that government agencies can build confidence overall.



Sufficiency of information about national security threats

2 in 5 (38%) believe NZ national security agencies do not share enough information about national security threats with New Zealanders. This result has remained stable over the past 4 years. A similar proportion (43%) 'don't know / are undecided'.

NZ national security agencies currently share enough information about national security with New Zealanders



Q20: Thinking again about all the threats we have covered so far, do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?
Base: Total sample - 2026 (n=1,000), 2024 (n=1,172), 2023 (n=2,370), 2022 (n=1,148). Note: Due to rounding there are some differences (+/- 1%) between NETT figures and more detailed breakdown of results.

Green/red indicates statistically significantly higher/lower than the total

Confidence in government agencies: Top-10 threats

New Zealanders are most confident in government agencies’ ability to protect against & respond to *major maritime security incidents & personal safety/security of self/family violated*.

Confidence that NZ government agencies could provide appropriate levels of security and protection and respond effectively to in the next 12 months

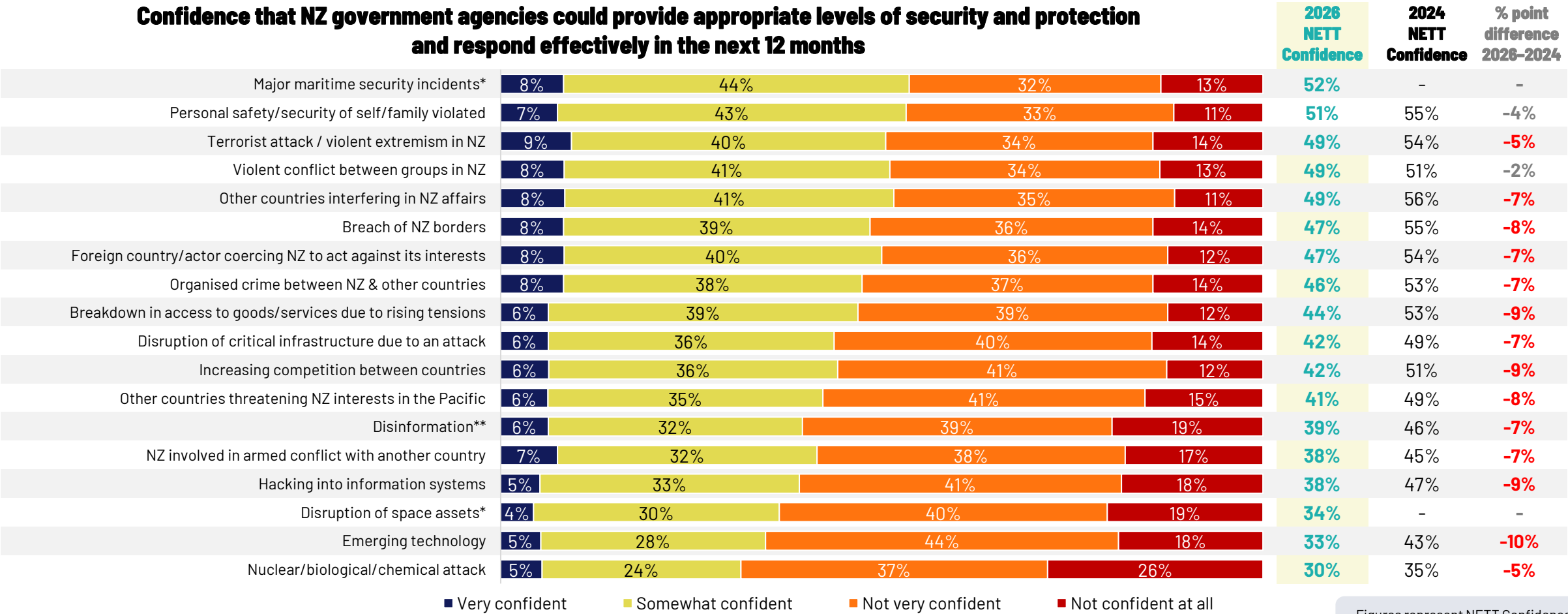
2026 rank		2024 rank	2026 rank		2024 rank
1	Major maritime security incidents*	-	5=	Breach of NZ borders	#3=
2	Personal safety/security of self/family violated	#4=	5=	Foreign country/actor coercing NZ to act against its interests	#5=
3=	Terrorist attack / violent extremism in NZ	#4=	6	Organised crime between NZ & another country	#7=
3=	Violent conflict between groups in NZ	#10=	7	Breakdown in access to goods/services due to rising tensions	#7=
3=	Other countries interfering in NZ affairs	#2	8=	Disruption of critical infrastructure due to an attack	#12=
			8=	Increasing competition between countries	#10=

Q11: If any of the following were to happen in the next 12 months, how confident are you that New Zealand’s government agencies could provide appropriate levels of security and protection and respond effectively to...

Base: Total sample – 2026 (n=1,000), 2024 (n=1,172). *Note: New threat added in 2026.

Confidence in government agencies: All 18 threats

Confidence in government agencies’ ability to protect NZ has significantly decreased for 14 of the 18 threats. Confidence in emerging technology has seen the largest decrease, dropping by 10 % points. Confidence about responding to a nuclear/biological/chemical attack is the lowest, with under 1 in 3 (30%) being ‘somewhat/very confident’.



Q11: If any of the following were to happen in the next 12 months, how confident are you that New Zealand’s government agencies could provide appropriate levels of security and protection and respond effectively to...

Base: Total sample – 2026 (n=1,000), 2024 (n=1,172). Note: Threats were presented one at a time on screen and randomised to reduce response order bias. *Note: New threat added in 2026. **Note: In 2023, misinformation (as included in the 2022 survey) was changed to disinformation. This shift has potential impact on how respondents interpret and answer the question.

Green/red indicates statistically significantly higher/lower than the total

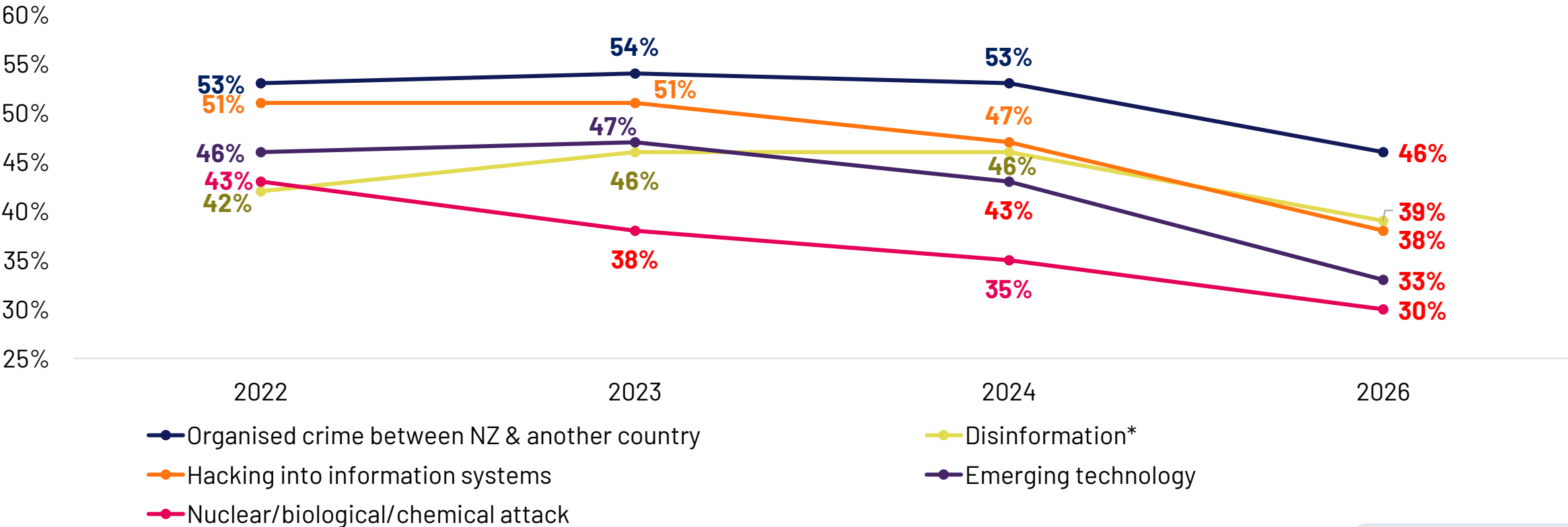
Confidence in government agencies: Top-5 threats over time



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Confidence in government agencies' ability to respond to & protect against the top-5 perceived threats in the short term has significantly decreased since 2024. Except for *disinformation*, it has consistently trended downward over the past 4 years.

Confidence that NZ government agencies could provide appropriate levels of security and protection and respond effectively in the next 12 months



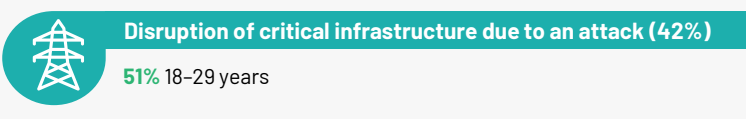
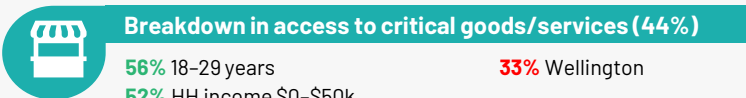
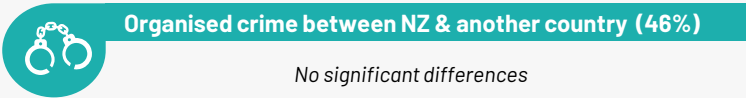
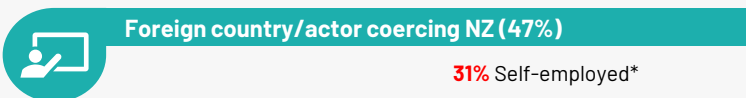
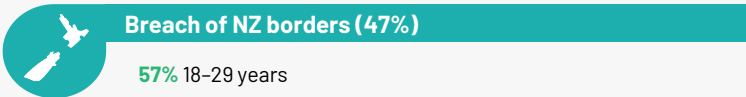
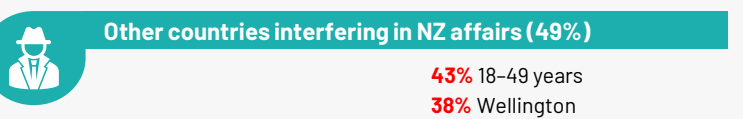
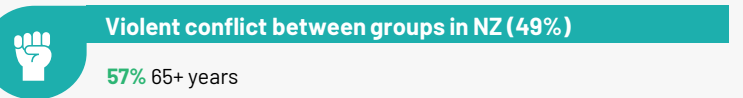
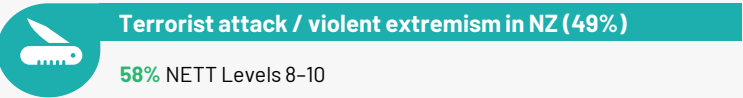
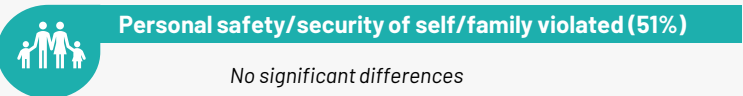
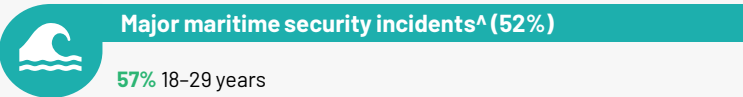
Q11: If any of the following were to happen in the next 12 months, how confident are you that New Zealand's government agencies could provide appropriate levels of security and protection and respond effectively to...
Base: Total sample - 2026 (n=1,000), 2024 (n=1,172), 2023 (n=2,370), 2022 (n=1,148). Note: Threats were presented one at a time on screen and randomised to reduce response order bias. *Note: In 2023, misinformation (as included in the 2022 survey) was changed to disinformation. This shift has potential impact on how respondents interpret and answer the question.

Figures represent NETT Confidence (% very + somewhat confident)

Green/red indicates statistically significantly higher/lower than the previous wave

Statistically significant differences

Demographic differences [Top-2 box: % Somewhat + very confident]



Green/red indicates statistically significantly higher/lower than the total

Q11: If any of the following were to happen in the next 12 months, how confident are you that New Zealand's government agencies could provide appropriate levels of security and protection and respond effectively to...

Base: Total sample (n=1,000). *CAUTION: Low base size, results indicative only (50 ≤ n < 100).



Statistically significant differences

Demographic differences [Top-2 box: % Somewhat + very confident]



Increasing competition between countries (42%)

57% Pacific peoples*
51% 18-29 years
31% Rest of SI (excl. CAN)



NZ involved in armed conflict with another country (38%)

26% Self-employed*



Other countries threatening NZ interests in the Pacific (41%)

53% 18-29 years
51% Asian



Hacking into information systems (38%)

49% 18-29 years
30% 65+ years



Disinformation* (39%)

No significant differences



Emerging technology (33%)

24% Wellington



Nuclear/biological/chemical attack (30%)

40% 18-29 years



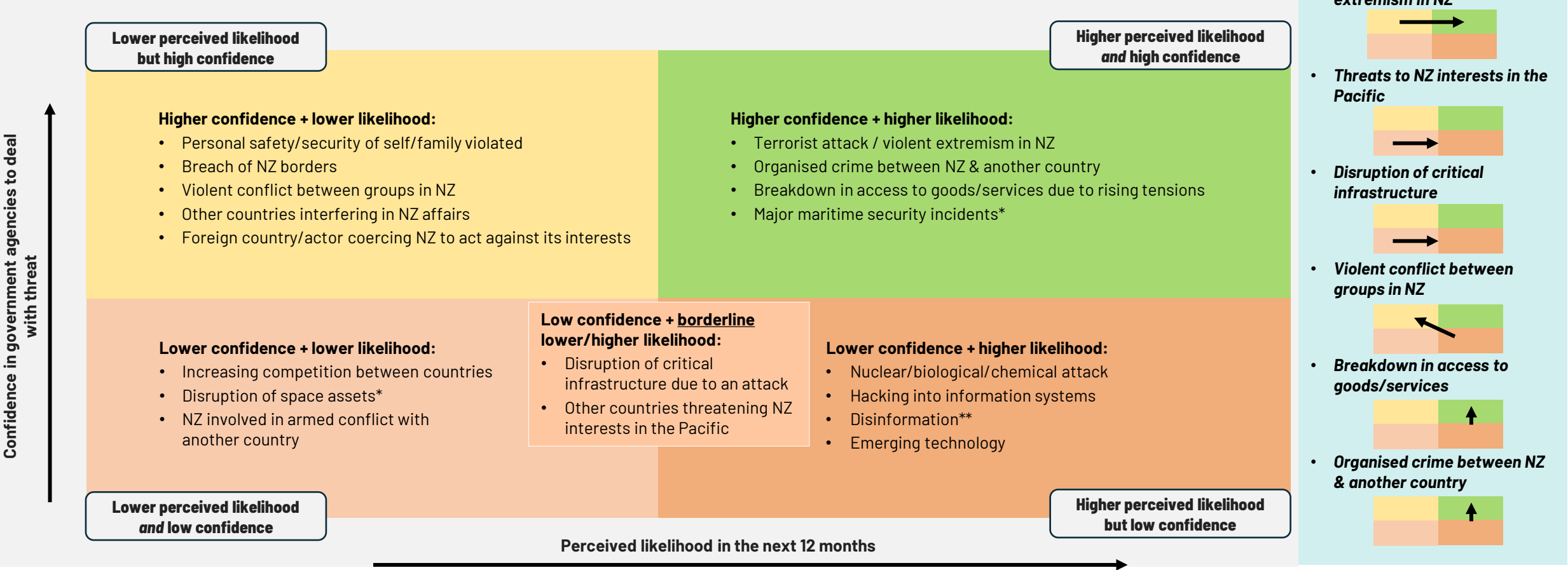
Green/red indicates statistically significantly higher/lower than the total

Q11: If any of the following were to happen in the next 12 months, how confident are you that New Zealand's government agencies could provide appropriate levels of security and protection and respond effectively to...

Base: Total sample (n=1,000). ***CAUTION:** Low base size, results indicative only (50 ≤ n < 100).

Confidence in government – by general level of threat

When the public’s confidence in government agencies is overlaid with perceived likelihood in the next 12 months, the threats with a high level of perceived likelihood & confidence in government’s abilities are *terrorist attacks, organised crime, breakdown in goods/services & major maritime security incidents*. There are 4 threats with high perceived likelihood & low confidence: *nuclear/ biological/chemical attack, hacking, disinformation & emerging technology*.



Q9: How real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next 12 months? / Q11: If any of the following were to happen in the next 12 months, how confident are you that New Zealand’s government agencies could provide appropriate levels of security and protection and respond effectively to...

Base: Total sample (n=1,000). *Note: New threat added in 2026. **Note: In 2023, misinformation (as included in the 2022 survey) was changed to disinformation. This shift has potential impact on how respondents interpret and answer the question.

How government agencies can build confidence (I)

Taking action / responding quickly & funding / financial assistance/resources are the two most commonly mentioned ways that government agencies can build confidence when it comes to national security threats. A small proportion feel NZ does not have the resources (13%) or they have no confidence in government (12%) to address the threats.

	Total	Terrorist attack / violent extremism in NZ	Violent conflict between groups in NZ	NZ involved in armed conflict with another country	Nuclear/ biological/ chemical attack	Personal safety/security of self/family violated	Hacking into information systems	Breach of NZ borders	Dis-information**	Organised crime between NZ & another country
Base (n=)	546	52*	51*	57*	81*	51*	51*	51*	56*	54*
Take action / quicker responses	15%	8%	7%	9%	4%	11%	13%	6%	19%	16%
Funding / financial assistance/resources	13%	4%	4%	19% ▲	5%	5%	14%	30% ▲	3%	15%
NZ is small/isolated / does not have the resources	13%	4%	2%	23%	14%	4%	4%	17%	0%	0%
International alliances/relationship	12%	2%	0%	14%	9%	0%	6%	4%	0%	3%
Have no confidence in government	12%	12%	10%	5%	1%	12%	4%	10%	14% ▲	8%
Laws/penalties/policies/protocols	11%	16%	9%	2%	0%	11%	6%	9%	3%	27%
NZDF/military	11%	5%	4%	23%	3%	0%	2%	39%	0%	4%
It is out of their control	11%	10%	7%	0%	15%	7%	13%	2%	9%	10%
Inform/communicate/educate	9%	2% ▼	4%	5%	10%	0%	9%	10%	14%	2%
Technology/cyber security	8%	0%	0%	4%	1%	4%	22%	4%	7%	0%
Nothing	7%	2%	5%	8%	8%	7%	0%	0%	7%	4%
DK/NR	18%	8%	10%	6%	10%	10%	16%	4%	7%	14%

Green/red indicates statistically significantly higher/lower than the total
▲ ▼ indicates statistically significantly higher/lower than 2024

Q12: And what could New Zealand's government agencies do to make you feel more confident in their security / protection against, or response to the following?
Base: Those who are 'not confident at all' in the government (n=546). Note: Responses less than 5% for the total are not shown. *CAUTION: Low base size, results indicative only (50≤n<100). **Note: In 2023, misinformation (as included in the 2022 survey) was changed to disinformation. This shift has potential impact on how respondents interpret and answer the question.



How government agencies can build confidence (II)

When focusing on the two new threats added to the survey in 2026, *taking action / responding quickly* was cited as the primary way to increase public confidence in the NZ government’s ability to protect against *major maritime security incidents*. *Forming international alliances/relationships* was most commonly reported to drive confidence in protecting against *disruption of space assets*.

	Total	Emerging technology	Other countries interfering in NZ affairs	Foreign country/actor coercing NZ to act against its interests	Disruption of critical infrastructure due to an attack	Other countries threatening NZ interests in Pacific	Breakdown in access to goods/services due to rising tensions	Increasing competition between countries	Disruption of space assets**	Major maritime security incidents**
Base (n=)	546	55*	51*	51*	55*	51*	52*	53*	57*	51*
Take action / quicker responses	15%	13%	18%	19%	3%	7%	10%	2%	3%	12%
Funding / financial assistance/resources	13%	14%	8%	4%	11%	6%	0%	2%	4%	4%
NZ is small/isolated / does not have the resources	13%	4%	4%	12%	7%	14%	2%	17%	12%	6%
International alliances/relationship	12%	8%	12%	14%	2%	16%	11%	13%	15%	8%
Have no confidence in government	12%	3%	15%	10%	15%▲	6%	6%	11%▲	2%	12%
Laws/penalties/policies/protocols	11%	9%	8%	2%	2%	0%	0%	0%	2%	10%
NZDF/military	11%	0%	4%	2%	4%	13%	5%	4%	2%	8%
It is out of their control	11%	7%	6%	4%	7%	2%	6%	3%	8%	8%
Inform/communicate/educate	9%	10%	4%	2%	4%	2%	5%	4%	8%	7%
Technology/cyber security	8%	21%	6%	2%	5%	0%	0%	0%	5%	6%
Nothing	7%	0%	4%	4%	2%	6%	0%	8%	9%	5%
DK/NR	18%	11%	11%	19%	17%	14%	15%	25%	22%	11%

Green/red indicates statistically significantly higher/lower than the total
▲/▼ indicates statistically significantly higher/lower than 2024

Q12: And what could New Zealand’s government agencies do to make you feel more confident in their security / protection against, or response to the following?
Base: Those who are ‘not confident at all’ in the government (n=546). Note: Responses less than 5% for the total are not shown. *CAUTION: Low base size, results indicative only (50≤ n <100). **Note: New threat added in 2026.



CURRENT & FUTURE ENGAGEMENT



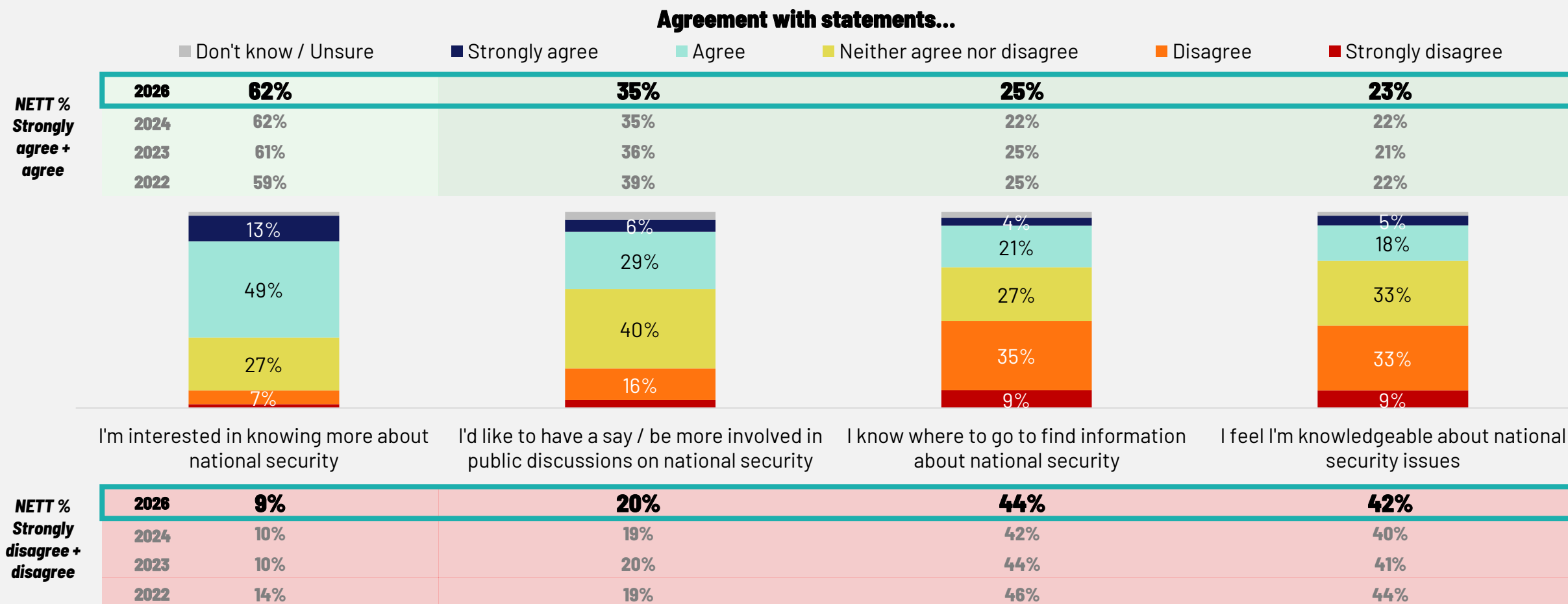


Key findings

- As with previous survey rounds, under 1 in 4 New Zealanders (23%) *feel knowledgeable about national security issues*. Additionally, awareness of information sources remains low, with 1 in 4 (25%) *knowing where to go to find information about national security*.
- 6 in 10 (62%) are interested in *finding out more* and over a third (35%) remain interested in *being involved in public discussion* on the topic.
- New Zealanders want more information on the threats they perceive as most likely to occur in the next 12 months.
- Compared to 2024 results, there has been a decrease in public interest in knowing more about *personal safety/security of self/family violated* and *violent conflict between groups in NZ*.
- When asked about preferred information types, New Zealanders want information from the government on its *plans & preparations, progress of government work programmes, policy documents, research reports, and future outlook*.
- There has been a significant decrease, this round, in New Zealanders' desire for some types of information: *how the public can prepare themselves in general and before, during, and after the threat*.



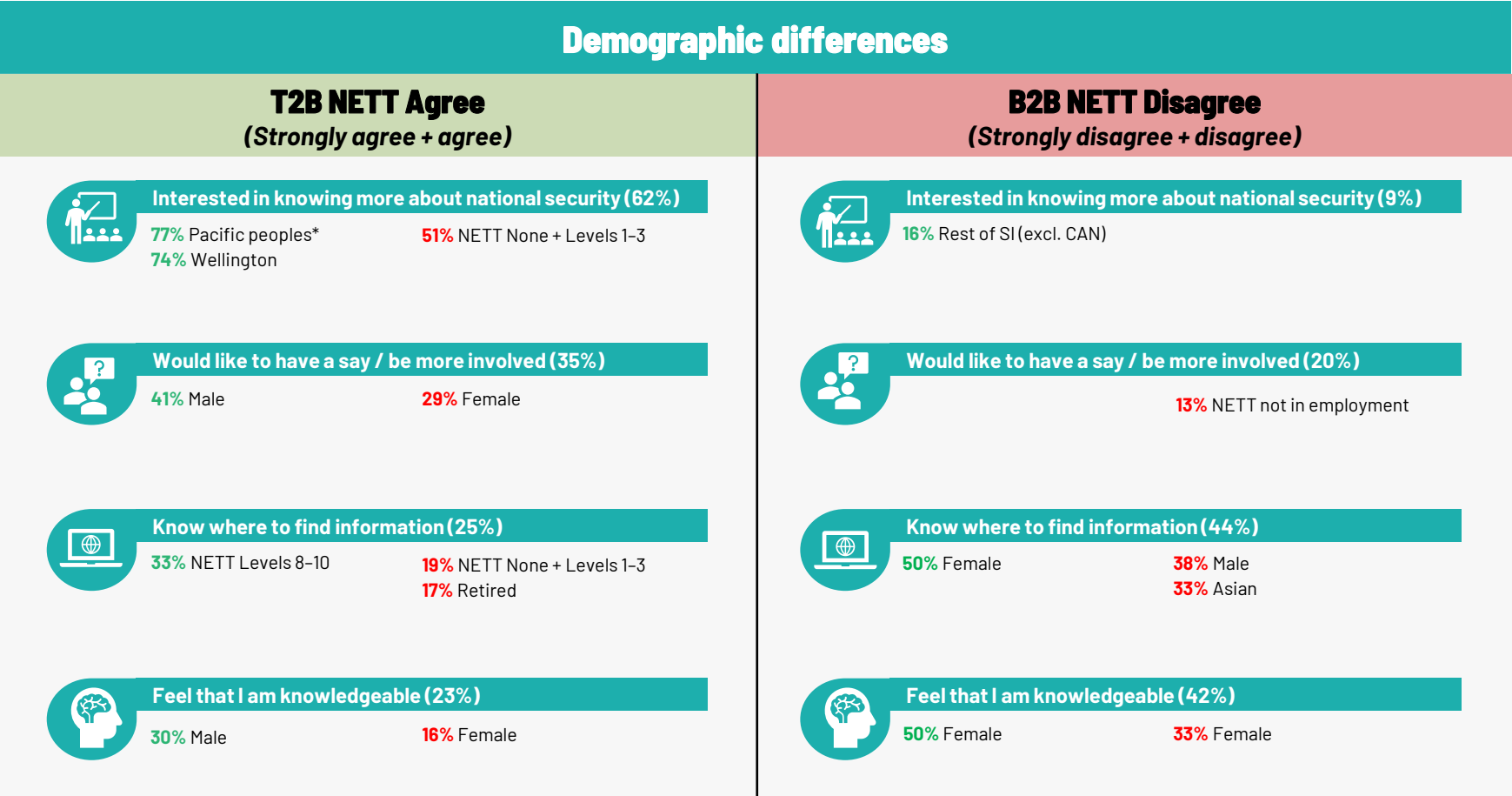
Public interest in knowing more about national security remains high at 62%. More than 4 in 10 New Zealanders don't feel knowledgeable about national security issues (42%) & don't know where to find this information (44%).



020: Thinking again about all the threats we have covered so far, do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

Base: Total sample – 2026 (n=1,000), 2024 (n=1,172), 2023 (n=2,370), 2022 (n=1,148). **Note:** Due to rounding there are some differences (+/- 1%) between NETT figures and more detailed breakdown of results.

Statistically significant differences



Green/red indicates statistically significantly higher/lower than the total

020: Thinking again about all the threats we have covered so far, do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

Base: Total sample (n=1,000). *CAUTION: Low base size, results indicative only (50 ≤ n < 100).

Security threats – New Zealanders' interest in knowing more



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Just under half of New Zealanders are interested in knowing more information on the full range of threats & significant hazards facing NZ, similar to 2024. Interest in knowing more about personal safety/security of self/family violated & violent conflicts between groups in NZ has decreased compared to 2024.

Interest in knowing more about the following threats...		2026	2024	2023	2022	% point difference (2026–2024)
Disinformation*		55%	58%	53%	52%	-3%
Disruption of critical infrastructure due to an attack		55%	54%	49%	45%	+1%
Emerging technology		55%	58%	50%	42%	-3%
Terrorist attack / violent extremism in NZ		52%	55%	56%	49%	-3%
Personal safety/security of self/family violated		50%	57%	57%	42%	-7%
Hacking into information systems		47%	50%	45%	41%	-3%
Information on the full range of threats & significant hazards facing NZ		47%	49%	-	-	-2%
Nuclear/biological/chemical attack		45%	48%	50%	33%	-3%
Other countries interfering in NZ affairs		45%	43%	44%	39%	+2%
Organised crime between NZ & another country		45%	48%	50%	41%	-3%
Breakdown in access to goods/services due to rising tensions		45%	49%	48%	-	-4%
Breach of NZ borders		45%	47%	47%	38%	-2%
Violent conflict between groups in NZ		42%	49%	50%	48%	-7%
Other countries threatening NZ interests in the Pacific		42%	44%	44%	35%	-2%
Major maritime security incidents**		42%	-	-	-	-
NZ involved in an armed conflict with another country		41%	44%	44%	37%	-3%
Foreign country/actor coercing NZ to act against its interests		41%	39%	39%	37%	+2%
Disruption of space assets**		41%	-	-	-	-
Increasing competition between countries		37%	39%	38%	-	-2%
Other, please specify		2%	2%	2%	1%	-

Green/red indicates statistically significantly higher/lower than 2024

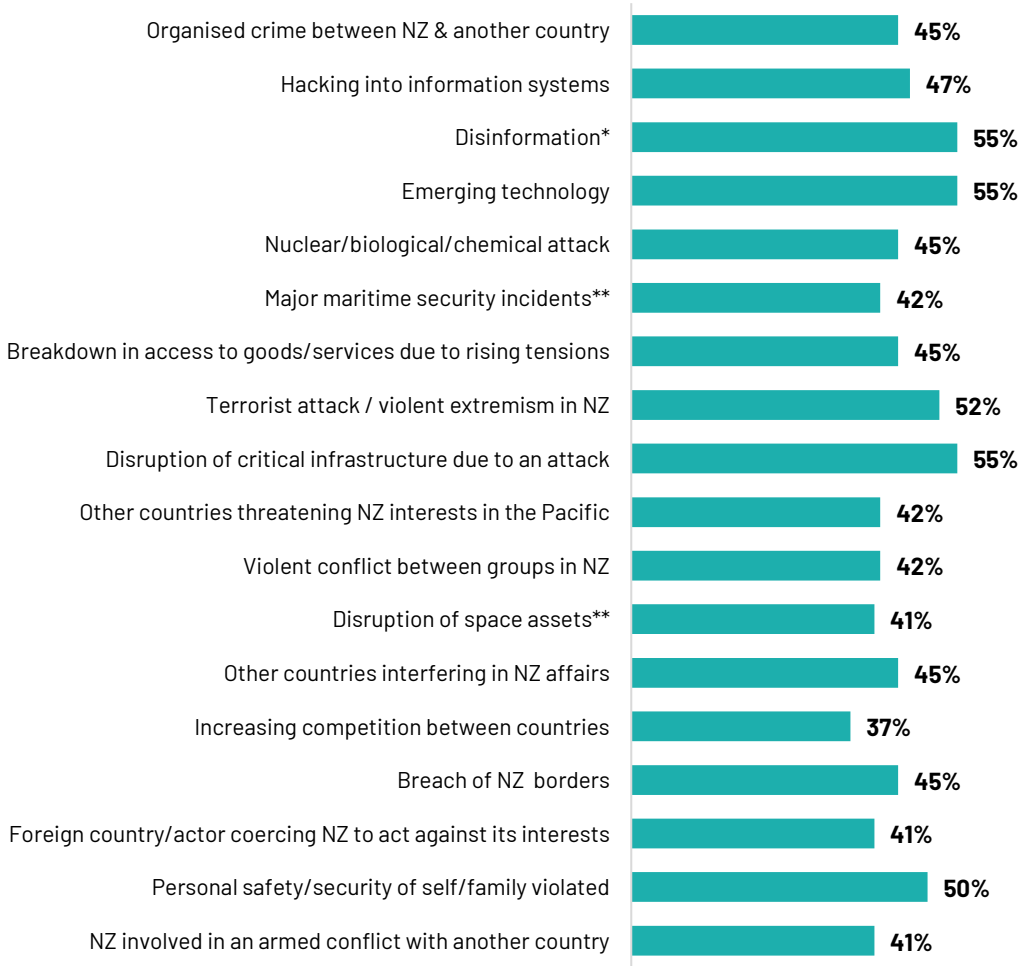
Q21: Which of the following threats are you interested in knowing more about?

Base: Those who indicated they were interested in knowing more about national security in Q20 – 2026 (n=613), 2024 (n=721), 2023 (n=1,444), 2022 (n=671). *Note: In 2023, misinformation (as included in the 2022 survey) was changed to disinformation. This shift has potential impact on how respondents interpret and answer the question. **Note: New threat added in 2026.

Seeking more information – by perceived level of threat

Threats interested in knowing more about...

ORDERED FROM HIGHEST TO LOWEST LEVEL OF PERCEIVED THREAT



Q21: Which of the following threats are you interested in knowing more about?

Base: Those who indicated they were interested in knowing more about national security in Q20 (n=613). **Note:** Breakdown in access to good/services due to rising tensions and disruption of space assets not shown due to lack of significant differences. ***Note:** In 2023, disinformation (as included in the 2022 survey) was changed to disinformation. This shift has potential impact on how respondents interpret and answer the question. ****Note:** New threat added in 2026. **CAUTION:** Low base size, results indicative only (50 ≤ n < 100).

Demographic differences



Organised crime (45%)

62% Retired 36% Employed full-time
60% 65+ years 33% 18-29 years



Hacking into information systems (47%)

66% Retired 39% Employed full-time
63% 65+ years 32% 18-29 years



Disinformation* (55%)

70% Retired 47% Employed full-time
67% 65+ years 43% 18-29 years



Emerging technology (55%)

70% Retired 46% Employed full-time
69% 65+ years 41% 18-29 years
39% NETT Rest of SI^



Nuclear/biological/chemical attack (45%)

60% Rural^



Major maritime security incidents** (42%)

62% 65+ years 33% 18-49 years
62% Rural^ 33% Employed full-time
54% Māori^ 23% 18-29 years
52% 50-64 years
53% HH income \$0-\$50k



Terrorist attack / violent extremism in NZ (52%)

41% 18-29 years



Disruption of critical infrastructure due to an attack (55%)

69% 65+ years 46% Employed full-time
68% Retired 43% 18-29 years



Other countries threatening NZ interests in the Pacific (42%)

66% Retired 34% Employed full-time
58% 65+ years 27% Asian
55% Rural* 25% 18-29 years



Violent conflict between groups in NZ (42%)

57% Retired 30% 18-29 years
54% 65+ years



Other countries interfering in NZ affairs (45%)

63% Retired 37% Employed full-time
61% Waikato^ 34% Asian
58% 65+ years 27% 18-29 years



Increasing competition between countries (37%)

47% 50-64 years



Breach of NZ borders (45%)

59% Rural^ 32% Asian
57% Canterbury^
56% 65+ years
55% Retired



Foreign country/actor coercing NZ to act against its interests (41%)

28% 18-29 years



Personal safety/security of self/family violated (50%)

65% Rural^ 35% 18-29 years
63% Retired
60% 65+ years
60% NETT Rest of NI



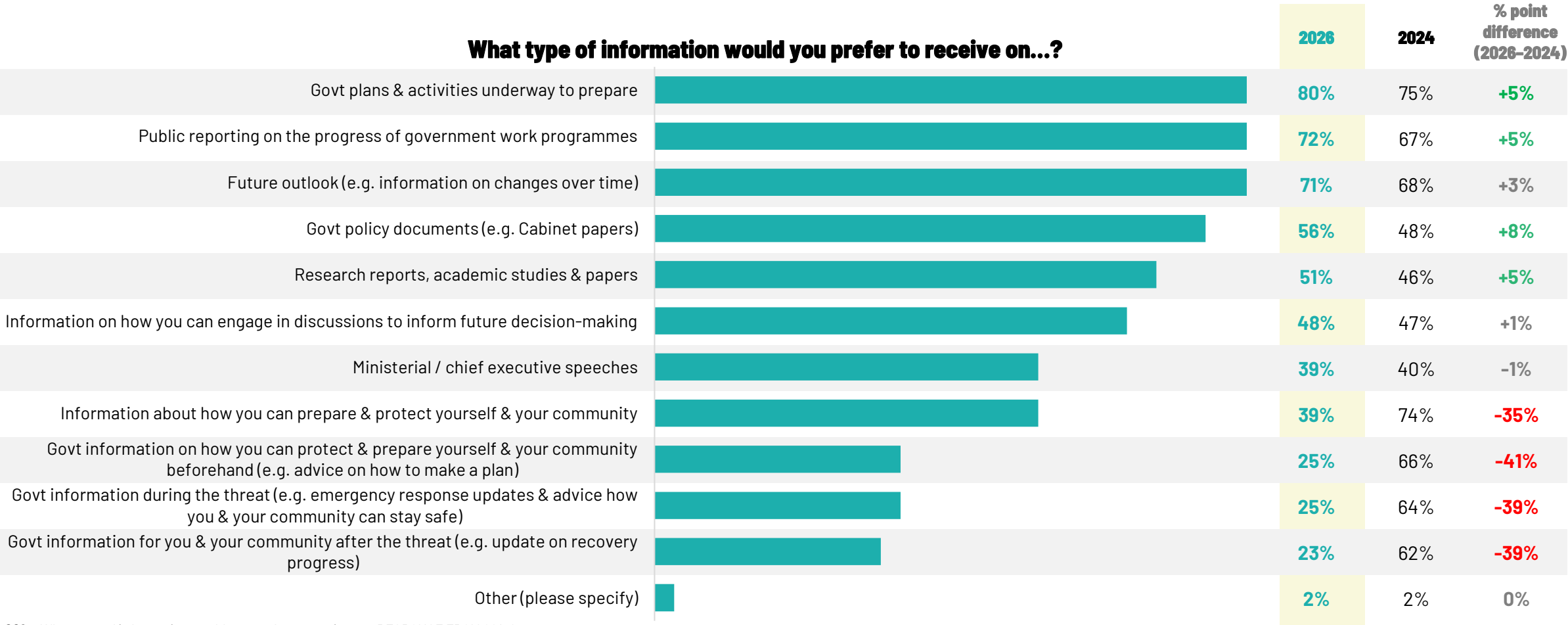
NZ involved in armed conflict with another country (41%)

53% Canterbury^

Green/red indicates statistically significantly higher/lower than the total

Preferred information types & topics

Overall, the public want information on the *government’s plans & activities underway to prepare for national security threats*. There have been increases in preference for *govt plans & activities underway to prepare, public reporting regarding the progress of the government’s work, government policy documents, research reports*.



Q21a: What type of information would you prefer to receive on <RESPONSE FROM Q21>?
Base: Those who indicated they were interested in knowing more about security threats in Q21 – 2026 (n=587), 2024 (n=694)
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Green/red indicates statistically significantly higher/lower than 2024

Security threats – Preferred information format (I)

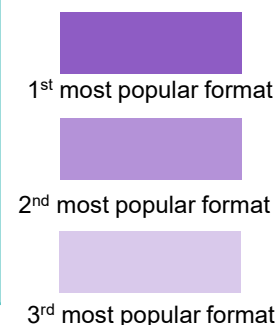


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The type of information New Zealanders would prefer to receive focus largely on government communications around *plans to prepare for the threat*. Government information on how you can protect yourself is preferred for *hacking*, while public reporting on the progress of government work programmes is preferred for *organised crime*.

	Terrorist attack / violent extremism in NZ	Violent conflict between groups in NZ	NZ involved in armed conflict with another country	Nuclear/ biological/ chemical attack	Personal safety/ security of self/family violated	Hacking into information systems	Breach of NZ borders	Dis-information*	Organised crime between NZ & another country
Base (n=)	92**	91**	92**	92**	90**	91**	91**	91**	90**
Future outlook (e.g. information on changes overtime)	44%	57%	61%	53%	53%	50%	63%	51%	49%
Government plans & preparation activities underway to prepare	60%	70%	66%	80%	63%	51%	67%	68%	60%
Information on how you can engage in discussions to inform future decision-making	27%	35%	34%	30%	35%	30%	41%	35%	30%
Public reporting on the progress of government work programmes	51%	58%	55%	59%	51%	51%	51%	63%	63%
Research reports, academic studies & papers on threat	34%	47%	27%	40%	25%	29%	32%	44%	36%
Government policy documents (e.g. Cabinet papers)	32%	44%	40%	39%	34%	34%	43%	51%	32%
Ministerial / chief executive speeches on threat	21%	34%	37%	25%	14%	25%	27%	27%	23%
Government information on how you can protect & prepare yourself & your community beforehand	50%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	63%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Government information during the threat	54%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	57%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Government information for you & your community after threat	60%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	51%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Information about how you can prepare & protect yourself & your community	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	70%	N/A	N/A	N/A	55%
Other	1%	2%	0%	1%	0%	0%	2%	2%	3%

Key:



Q21a: And what type of information would you prefer to receive on <RESPONSE FROM Q21>?

Base: Those who indicated they were interested in knowing more about significant threats in Q21 (n=587). ***Note:** In 2023, misinformation (as included in the 2022 survey) was changed to disinformation. This shift has potential impact on how respondents interpret and answer the question. ****CAUTION:** Low base size, results indicative only (50 ≤ n < 100).

Security threats – Preferred information format (II)

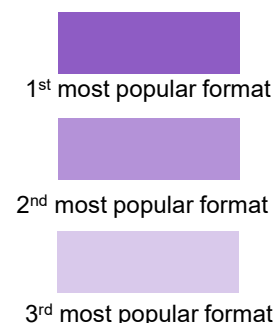


DEPARTMENT OF THE
PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET
TE TARI O TE PIRIMIA ME TE KOMITI MATUA

For foreign actors coercing NZ the public are interested in public reporting on the progress of government programmes.

	Emerging technology	Other countries interfering in NZ affairs	Foreign country/actor coercing NZ to act against its interests	Disruption of critical infrastructure due to an attack	Other countries threatening NZ interests in the Pacific	Breakdown in access to critical goods/ services	Increasing competition between countries	Disruption of space assets*	Major maritime security incidents*
Base (n=)	93**	91**	91**	94**	91**	91**	91**	91**	91**
Future outlook (e.g. information on changes overtime)	59%	48%	57%	42%	62%	55%	57%	50%	61%
Government plans & preparation activities underway to prepare	62%	71%	67%	60%	74%	71%	71%	71%	71%
Information on how you can engage in discussions to inform future decision-making	36%	35%	44%	24%	40%	30%	41%	37%	31%
Public reporting on the progress of government work programmes	49%	62%	69%	49%	60%	57%	58%	43%	60%
Research reports, academic studies & papers on threat	42%	38%	51%	27%	42%	35%	40%	36%	41%
Government policy documents (e.g. Cabinet papers)	33%	42%	47%	28%	41%	44%	45%	38%	33%
Ministerial / chief executive speeches on threat	21%	25%	37%	26%	32%	32%	40%	26%	25%
Government information on how you can protect & prepare yourself & your community beforehand	N/A	N/A	N/A	59%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Government information during the threat	N/A	N/A	N/A	59%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Government information for you & your community after threat	N/A	N/A	N/A	54%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Information about how you can prepare & protect yourself & your community	56%	49%	N/A	N/A	N/A	64%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other	1%	1%	2%	0%	3%	1%	1%	2%	1%

Key:



Q21a: And what type of information would you prefer to receive on <RESPONSE FROM Q21>?

Base: Those who indicated they were interested in knowing more about significant threats in Q21 (n=587). *Note: New threat added in 2026. **CAUTION: Low base size, results indicative only (50 ≤ n < 100).



KEY SUBGROUP ANALYSIS

- **NEW ZEALANDERS AGED 18–29 years**
- **MĀORI**
- **PACIFIC PEOPLES**
- **ASIAN**



Key subgroup analysis

- ❑ 18–29-year-olds, Māori, Pacific peoples, and Asians are demographic subgroups identified as significant and growing segments of the NZ population.
 - *18–29-year-olds*: More than 16.5% of New Zealanders are aged between 18 and 29 years.
 - *Māori*: Māori are the tāngata whenua (people of the land) / indigenous people of New Zealand and a partner with the British Crown under the Treaty of Waitangi / Te Tiriti o Waitangi; they comprise over 17% of the total population.
 - *Pacific peoples*: More than 9% of New Zealanders identify as Pacific peoples, and 60% of New Zealanders who identify as Pacific peoples were born in New Zealand.
 - *Asian*: More than 15% of New Zealanders identify as Asian and continue to remain a fast-growing segment of New Zealand's population.
- ❑ Focusing on these demographic subgroups provides valuable insights into the perspectives of these significant and growing segments of NZ society. These groups reflect the country's increasing ethnic diversity and, as such, understanding their perspectives is important for hearing and considering these perspectives in future decision-making processes.

- Statistically significantly **higher/lower** figures are reported at 95% confidence.
- Where results do not sum to 100 or the 'difference' appears to be +/-1 more/less than the actual, this may be due to rounding, multiple responses, or the exclusion of 'don't know' or 'not stated' responses.
- Demographic differences are shown amongst the demographic groups that have a base size larger than n=30. Sample sizes vary, we advise caution where the base size is lower than n=100.



Subgroup summary – 18–29 years



Subgroup summary

Of all age groups, New Zealanders under 30 years were the least likely (**79%** vs 85%) to feel *the world has become a more dangerous place*, while also being significantly more likely to ‘neither agree nor disagree’ (**15%** vs 10%).

They were significantly less likely to think *hacking into information systems* and *organised crime between NZ & another country* are real threats in the next 12 months and the next 10 years.

They were significantly less likely to hold some actors responsible for protecting against *countries threatening NZ interests in the Pacific*, *major maritime security incidents*, and *breakdown in access to goods/services due to rising tensions*. However, they do not indicate seeing any actors as significantly more responsible than others.

New Zealanders under 30 are significantly more confident in the ability of **government agencies** to protect against 9 of the 18 threats tested.



New Zealanders under 30 years* were less likely to hold **global organisations** (**37%** vs 56%) and **NZ’s foreign partners** (**39%** vs 53%) as responsible for protecting against *countries threatening NZ interests in the Pacific*.



New Zealanders under 30 years* were less likely to hold the **government** (**77%** vs 87%), **government agencies** (**67%** vs 83%), and **NZ individuals** (**15%** vs 27%) as responsible for protecting against *major maritime security incidents*. 71% viewed the **NZ government** as being well resourced to protect against *major maritime security incidents*, while only 48% felt the same for **government agencies** and 30% for **local government**.

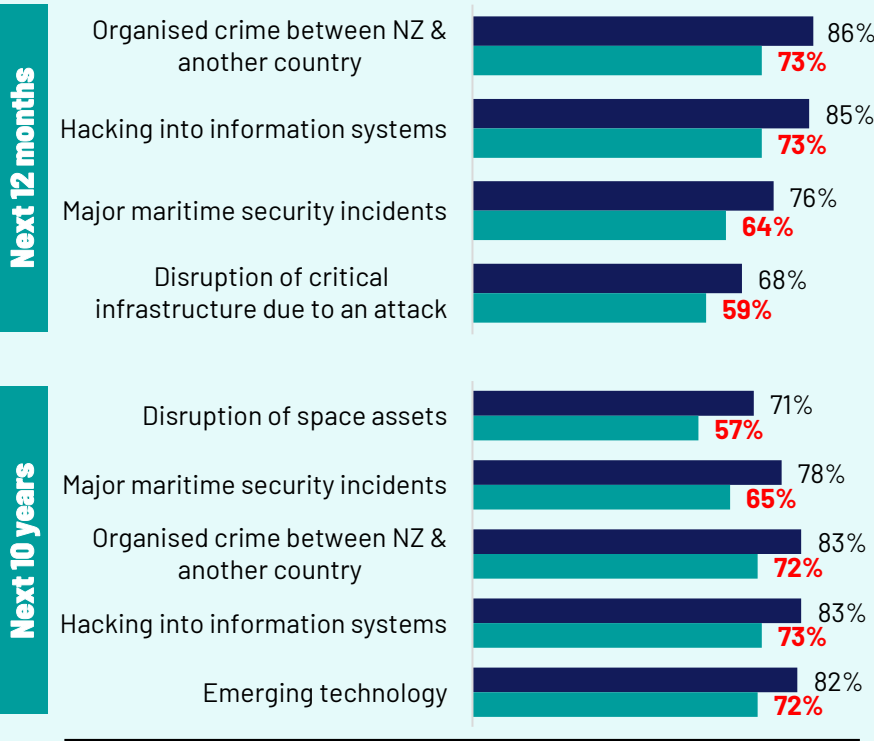


New Zealanders under 30 years* did not differ statistically from the total in their perceptions of which actors are responsible for protecting against *breakdown in access to goods/ services due to rising tensions*. They were less likely to view **individuals** as being poorly resourced to protect against this threat (**37%** vs 55%).

Likelihood of threats

18–29 years vs total (5 biggest differences displayed)

■ Total ■ 18–29 years



Confidence in government agencies



New Zealanders under 30 years were **more confident** that **agencies** can deal with *major maritime security incidents* (**62%** vs 52%), a *breach of NZ borders* (**57%** vs 47%), a *breakdown in access to goods/services due to rising tensions* (**56%** vs 44%), *other countries threatening NZ interests in the Pacific* (**53%** vs 41%), *disruption of critical infrastructure due to an attack* (**51%** vs 42%), *increasing competition between countries* (**51%** vs 42%), *hacking into information systems* (**49%** vs 38%), *disruption of space assets* (**43%** vs 34%), and *nuclear/biological/ chemical attack* (**40%** vs 30%).

Base: Total sample (n=1,000), 18–29 years – total (n=199), countries threatening NZ interests in the Pacific (n=67*), major maritime security incidents (n=70*), breakdown in access to goods/services due to rising tensions (n=62*)

Green/red indicates statistically significantly higher/lower than the total. *Caution: Low base size, results indicative only (≤50 n <100).



Subgroup summary

Māori were just as likely as the total population to be **informed** about **national security issues** and **aware of where to find information** about national security.

They were also equally likely to perceive threats as ‘real/very real’ for both 12 months and 10 years.

Māori were significantly more likely to hold **global organisations** responsible to protect against *major maritime security incidents* and *breakdown in access to goods/services due to rising tensions*.

They were also significantly more likely to think **global organisations** were well resourced to address *countries threatening NZ interests in the Pacific*.



Māori* were more likely to hold **overseas businesses** (**39%** vs 23%) as responsible for protecting against a threat to Pacific regional stability. They were more likely to view **global organisations** as being well resourced to protect against this threat (**64%** vs 48%).



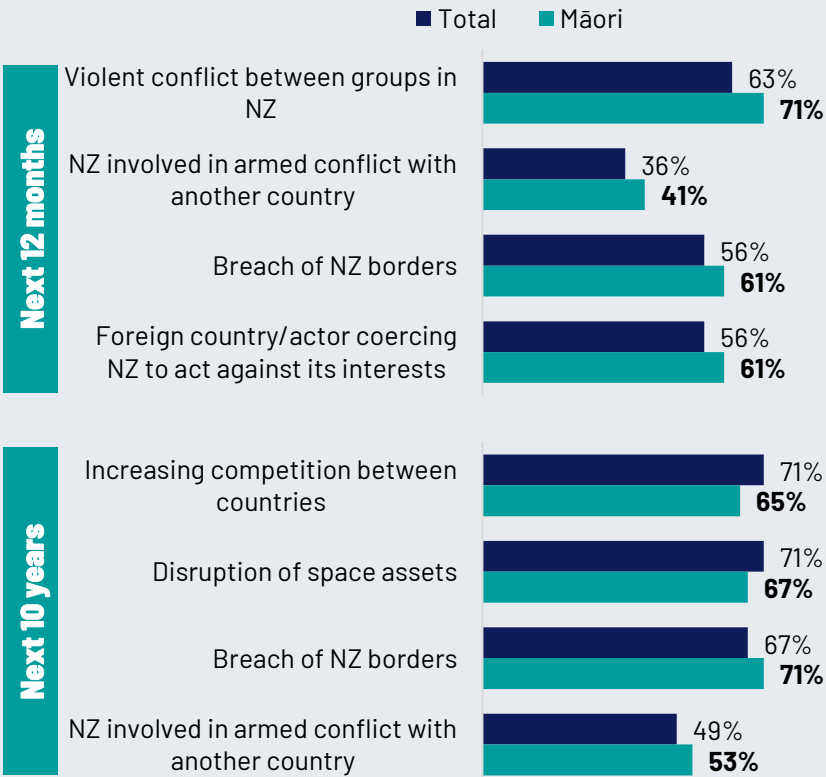
Māori** did not differ statistically from the total in their perceptions of which actors are responsible for protecting against major maritime security incidents. They were more likely though to view **global organisations** (**64%** vs 48%) as well resourced to protect against this threat.



Māori** were less likely to hold **NZ individuals** (**10%** vs 28%) as responsible for protecting against a breakdown in access to goods/services, and more likely to hold **global organisations** (**74%** vs 56%) as responsible. They did not differ significantly from the total in their perceptions of which actors have the tools and resources to protect against this threat.

Likelihood of threats

Māori vs total (biggest differences displayed)



Government information & confidence in agencies



Māori did not differ statistically from the total in their interest and knowledge in national security or confidence in agencies. Similarly to the total, close to 3 in 5 (57%) **agreed** that they are **interested in knowing more about national security**.

Subgroup summary – Pacific peoples



Subgroup summary

Pacific peoples* were significantly more likely to think that *personal safety/security of self/family being violated* and *breach of NZ borders* are real threats in the next 12 months.

They were significantly more likely to view *NZ involved in armed conflict with another country* as a long-term threat. They were also more likely to **want information** on *violent conflict between groups in NZ*, *NZ involved in an armed conflict with another country*, and *foreign country/actor coercing NZ to act against its interests*.

Pacific peoples* were more likely to be **interested in knowing more about national security** and were significantly more likely to be **confident in the government's** ability to protect against *increasing competition between countries*.

Note: The sample sizes of Pacific peoples who were asked about each of the three deep-dive threats are below n=30 and, as such, have not been reported on.



Pacific peoples* were significantly more likely to **want information** on *violent conflict between groups in NZ* (**59%** vs 42%), *NZ involved in armed conflict with another country* (**59%** vs 41%), and *foreign country/actor coercing NZ to act against its interests* (**58%** vs 41%).



Pacific peoples* were significantly more likely to prefer **government policy documents** (**81%** vs 56%) and **information on how they can engage in discussions to inform future decision-making** (**67%** vs 48%).

Likelihood of threats

Pacific peoples* vs total (biggest differences displayed)



Government information & confidence in agencies



Pacific peoples* were more likely to **agree** that they **are interested in knowing more about national security** (**77%** vs 62% total). They were also significantly more likely to be **confident in government agencies'** ability to protect against *increasing competition between countries* (**57%** vs 42%).

Base: Total sample (n=1,000), Pacific peoples – total (n=51*)

Green/red indicates statistically significantly higher/lower than the total. *Caution: Low base size, results indicative only (≤50 n <100).



Subgroup summary

Asians were significantly less likely to **not know where to find information on national security**.

They generally perceive a lower likelihood of threats occurring in the next 12 months and 10 years compared to the total population. They also express greater confidence **in government agencies'** ability to protect against *countries threatening NZ interests in the Pacific*.

Asians are less likely to view **NZ's foreign partners** as responsible for protecting against *countries threatening NZ interests in the Pacific*. They align with the general population on the role of various actors in *major maritime security incidents* but are more inclined to see **individuals** and **communities** as responsible for protecting against *breakdown in access to goods/services due to rising tensions*.



Asians* were less likely to hold **NZ's foreign partners** (**39%** vs 53%) as responsible for protecting against countries threatening NZ interests in the Pacific. They did not differ significantly from the total in their perceptions of which actors have the tools and resources to protect against this threat.



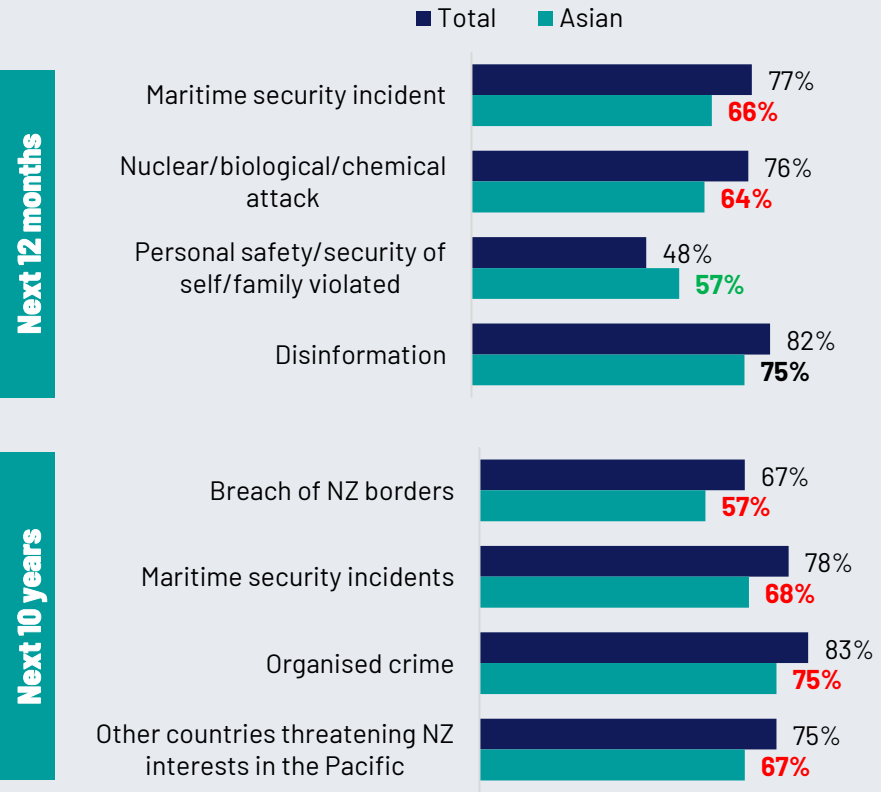
Asians* did not differ statistically from the total in their perceptions of which actors are responsible for protecting against major maritime security incidents. They were more likely to view **individuals** (**23%** vs 11%), **communities** (**27%** vs 14%), and **NZ businesses** (**34%** vs 18%) as being well resourced to protect against this threat.



Asians* were more likely to hold **NZ individuals** (**41%** vs 28%) as responsible for protecting against a breakdown in access to goods/services, and less likely to see **NZ communities** as having a low responsibility (**15%** vs 30%) in this regard. They were more likely to view **NZ businesses** (**38%** vs 23%) and **local government** (**46%** vs 30%) as being well resourced to protect against this threat.

Likelihood of threats

Asian vs total (biggest differences displayed)



Government information & confidence in agencies



Asians were less likely to **disagree** that they **know where to go to find information about national security** (**33%** vs 44% total). They were also more likely to be **confident** in **government agencies'** ability to protect against *countries threatening NZ interests in the Pacific* (**51%** vs 41% total).



APPENDIX 1

CHANGES TO DEEP DIVES SINCE 2024

Roles & resources: 3 different national security threats asked about in 2026

This year, the focus was on 3 different threats to understand the perceived role of different groups in responding to threats: *other countries threatening NZ interests in the Pacific, major maritime security incidents & breakdown in access to goods/services due to rising tensions*. Respondents who were assigned to answer questions in the 'threats track' were randomly selected to answer one of these threats for subsequent questions 25 & 26.

In 2024, respondents were asked about *emerging technology, disruption of critical infrastructure & increasing competition between countries*.

2024

Threat name	Definition
Emerging technology	New Zealand's and/or New Zealanders' security being affected by emerging technology (e.g. artificial intelligence, deep fakes, autonomous weapons)
Disruption of critical infrastructure	Disruption of New Zealand's critical infrastructure (e.g. water, transport, energy, telecommunications) due do a malicious attack (e.g. cyber attack on transport system)
Increasing competition between countries	Increasing competition between countries that negatively impacts how New Zealand protects its interests internationally and that may lead to military conflict

2026

Threat name	Definition
Other countries threatening NZ interests in the Pacific	Other country/countries threatening New Zealand interests in the Pacific region (e.g. establishing a foreign military base)
Major maritime security incidents*	Illegal or unauthorised activity in New Zealand waters by a country, company, or group – such as entering our waters without permission or taking resources like fish or minerals
Breakdown in access to goods/services due to rising tensions	A breakdown in access to critical goods and services caused by rising tensions between countries (e.g. through restrictions on trade or other penalties)

*Note: New threat added in 2026.



APPENDIX 2

PANEL DETAILS



Methodology

Interviews were conducted online (self-completion). Respondents were recruited from Ipsos, Ipsos-partner panels & river sampling.

The purpose of this research is to help the national security sector understand New Zealanders' attitudes and opinions relating to national security risks, challenges, and opportunities. In order to achieve this objective, we conducted an online survey using a sample of respondents from both research panels and non-panel sample sources (river sampling).

Panel respondents are recruited from actively managed research panels (not a just lists or databases of individuals). They are people who have volunteered to take part in market research surveys. The panels are created and managed for long-term use and access, and extensively profiled to efficiently target respondents.

This research used a blend of reputable online panels (Ipsos iSay and Consumer Link), which ensures better representation and reach than a single source.

River sampling was also used to recruit respondents who are not members of online panels, which is particularly useful for harder-to-reach demographics (e.g. young males). It uses in-app rewards to encourage respondents to take part in surveys. River sampling recruits respondents in real time from in-app- and in-browser-based advertisements on gaming/social sites or reward and loyalty programme sites. Respondents are rewarded by the app/site from which they were recruited (for example, they may receive extra lives from a gaming site if recruited from a gaming site).

Blending panel suppliers and non-panel sources (river sampling) allowed us to reduce online panel biases by reaching people who are not online panel members. The sample comprised a blend of high-quality online panel samples (81%) and river sampling of non-panel sources (19%).

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