

# Publics See Trade as Good, But the Benefits Are Doubtful

**Bruce Stokes**

*Director, Global Economic Attitudes*

*Peterson Institute for International Economics 9/27/18*

# Pew Research Center

- **Established 1996**
- **Funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts, foundations**
- **Non-profit, non-partisan fact tank in Washington**
- **Research topics:**
  - U.S. politics**
  - Media and the news**
  - Social trends**
  - Religion**
  - Internet and technology**
  - Science**
  - Hispanics**
  - Global public opinion**
  - Migration**
- **[www.pewresearch.org](http://www.pewresearch.org)**

# Methodology

- **Survey conducted across 27 countries from May 14 to August 12, 2018, totaling 30,133 respondents**
- **Based on telephone and face-to-face interviews with nationally representative samples of adults 18 and older**
- **The margin of sampling error for the completed set of weighted data is  $\pm 2.8\%$  -  $\pm 5.1\%$**

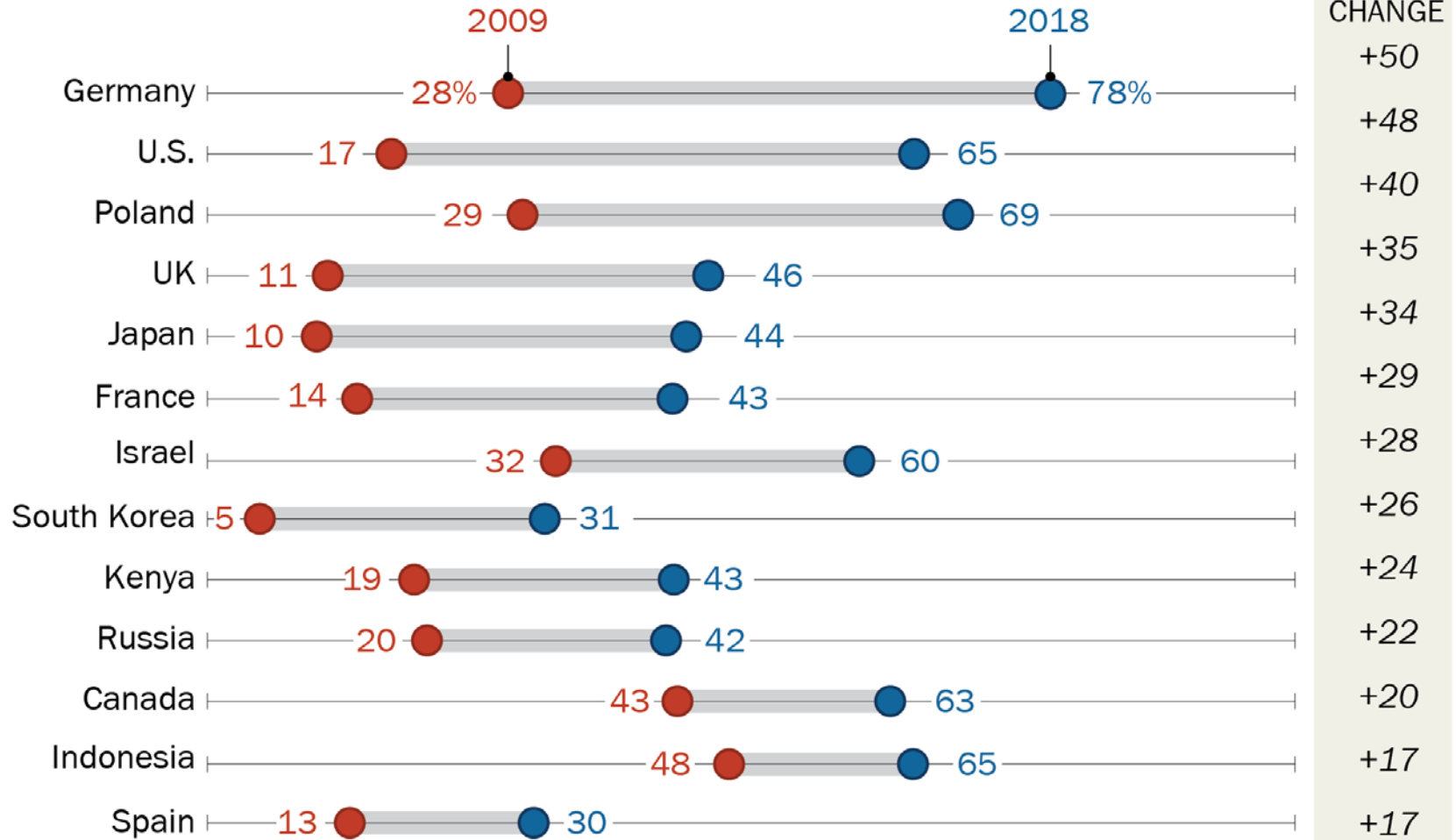
---

# OVERVIEW

---

# The Public's Economic Mood Has Improved Dramatically Since the Early Days of the Financial Crisis

*The current economic situation in our country is good*

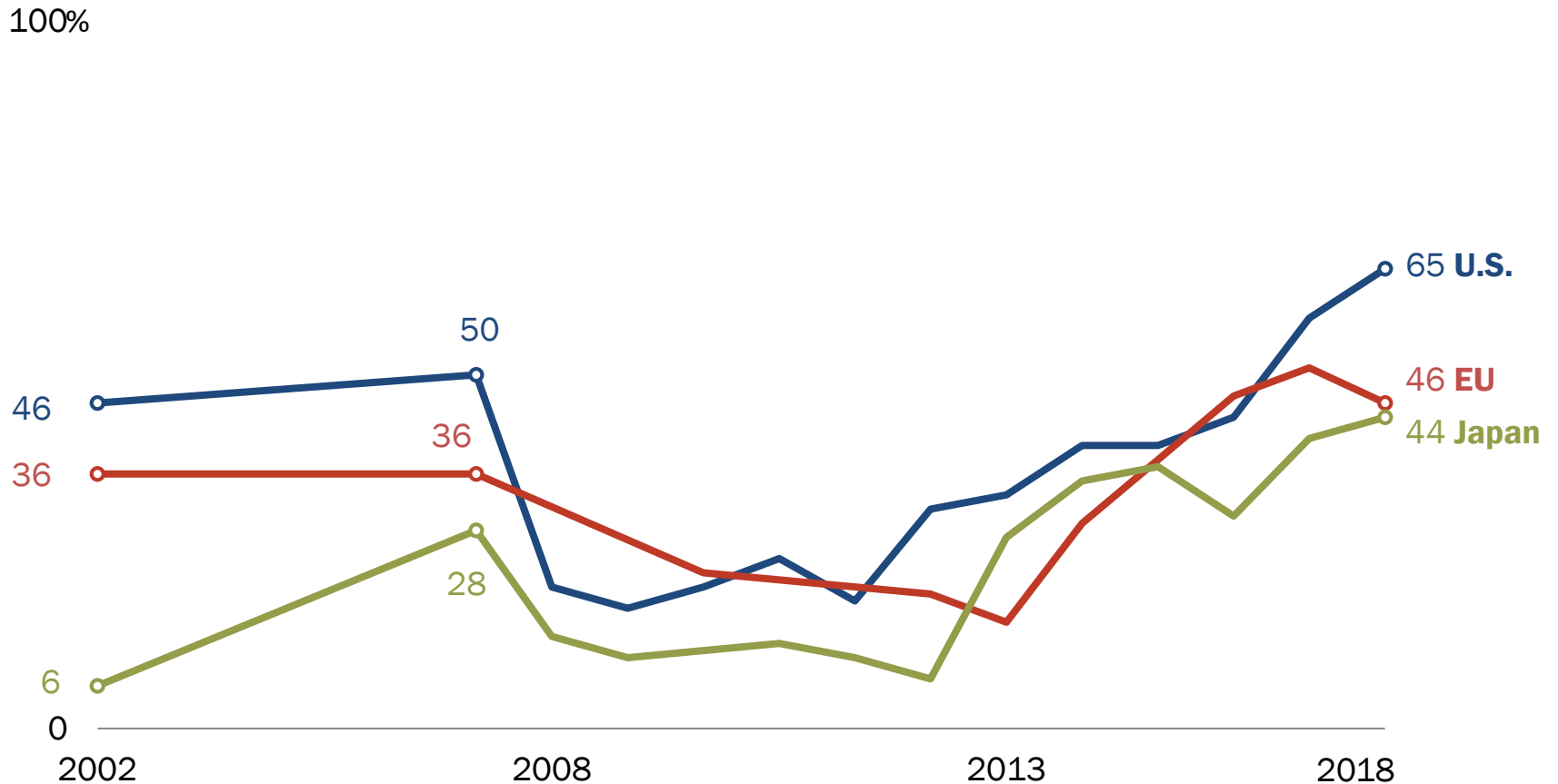


Source: Spring 2018 Global Attitudes Survey.

September 27, 2018

# And U.S., EU, Japanese Economic Sentiment Is Now More Positive Than at Any Time Since 2002

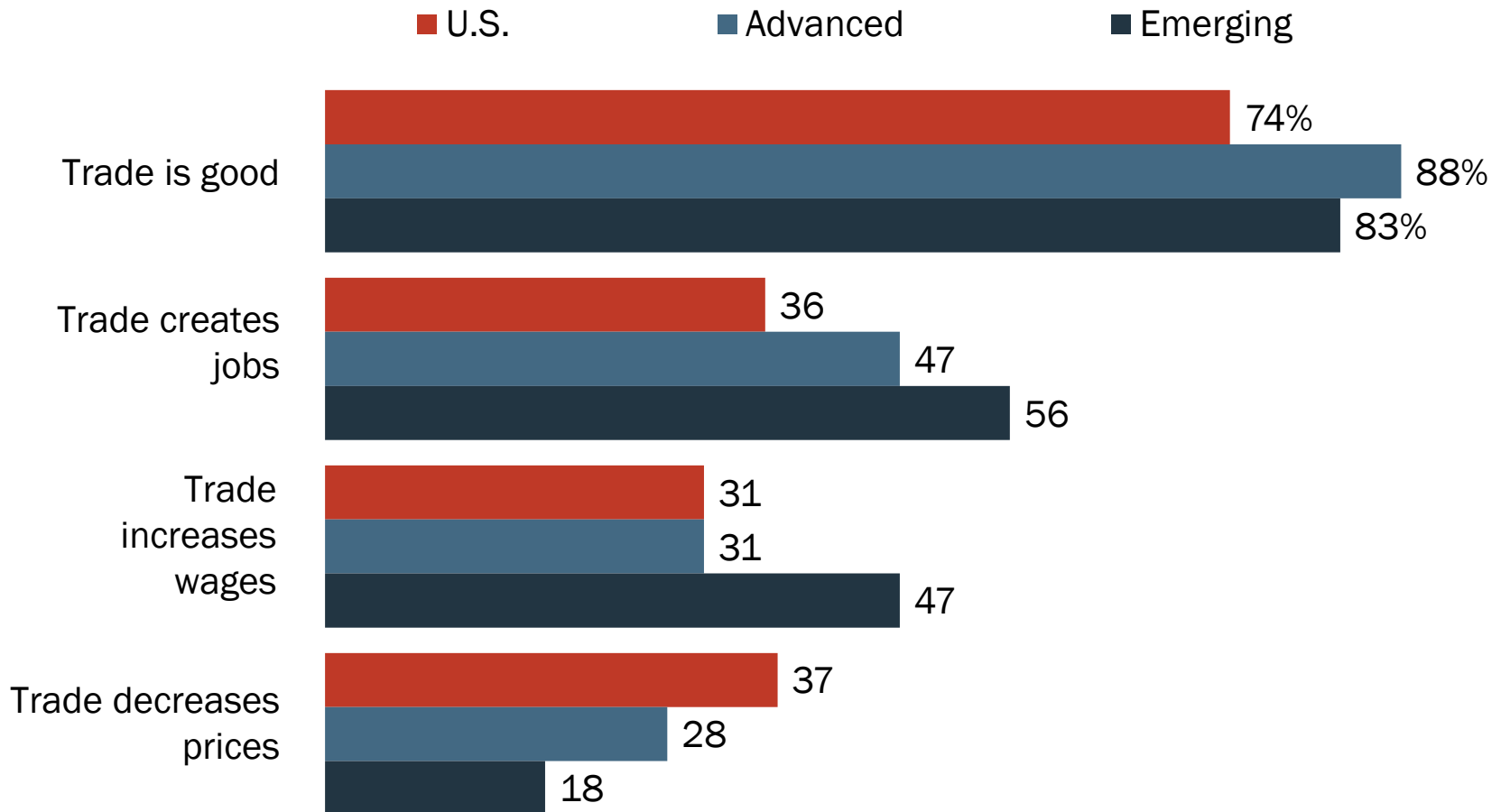
*The current economic situation in our country is good*



Note: EU median of France, Germany, Italy, Poland and the UK.

Source: Spring 2018 Global Attitudes Survey.

# Against That Economic Backdrop, International Publics Support Trade in Principle, But Many Still Doubt Its Benefits



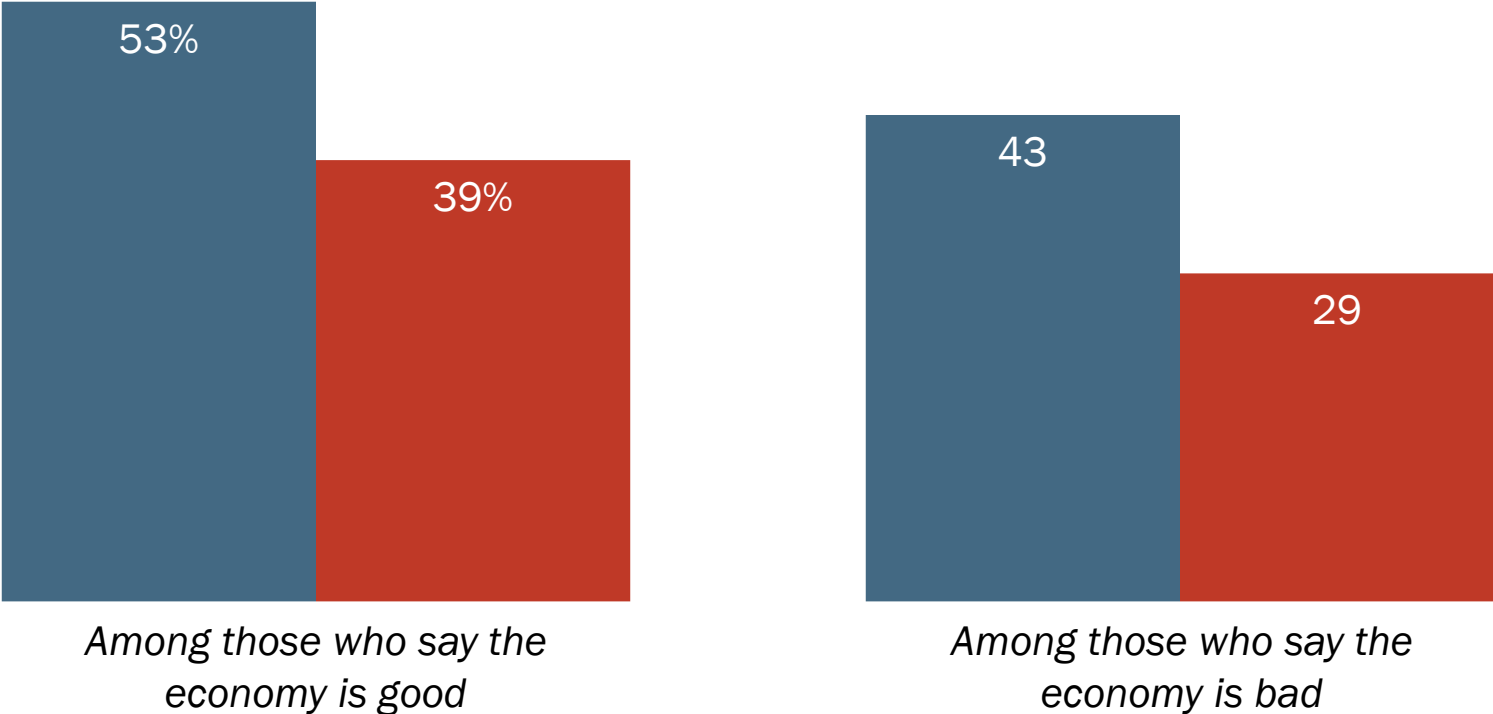
Note: Medians by country economic categorization. Advanced median excludes U.S.

Source: Spring 2018 Global Attitudes Survey.

# People Who Think Their Economy is Doing Well Are More Likely to Believe Trade Creates Jobs, Raises Wages

Trade with other countries ...

■ Creates jobs      ■ Increases wages



Note: Percentages are global medians based on 24 countries. Greece, Tunisia and Brazil not included in medians due to insufficient sample size.

Source: Spring 2018 Global Attitudes Survey.



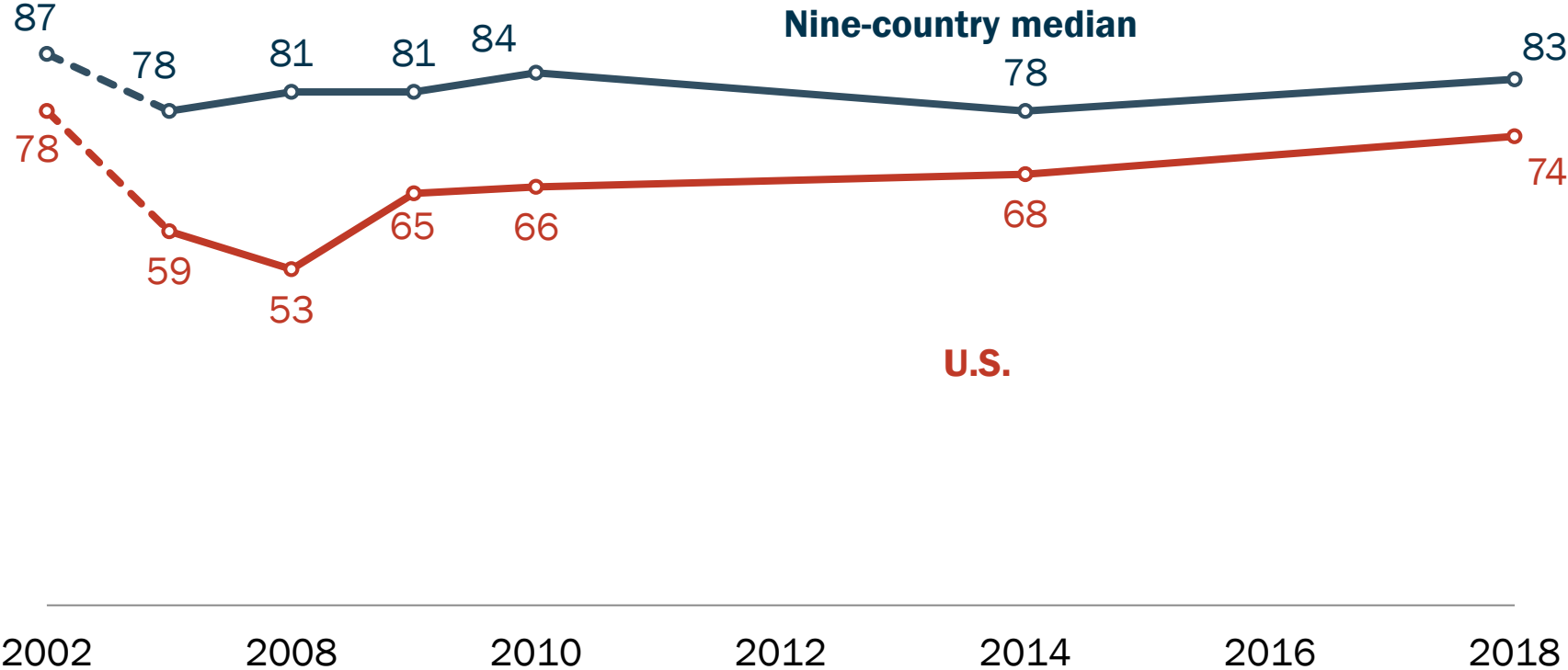
---

# **AMERICANS' VIEWS ON TRADE**

---

# Americans Less Convinced Than Others Trade is Good

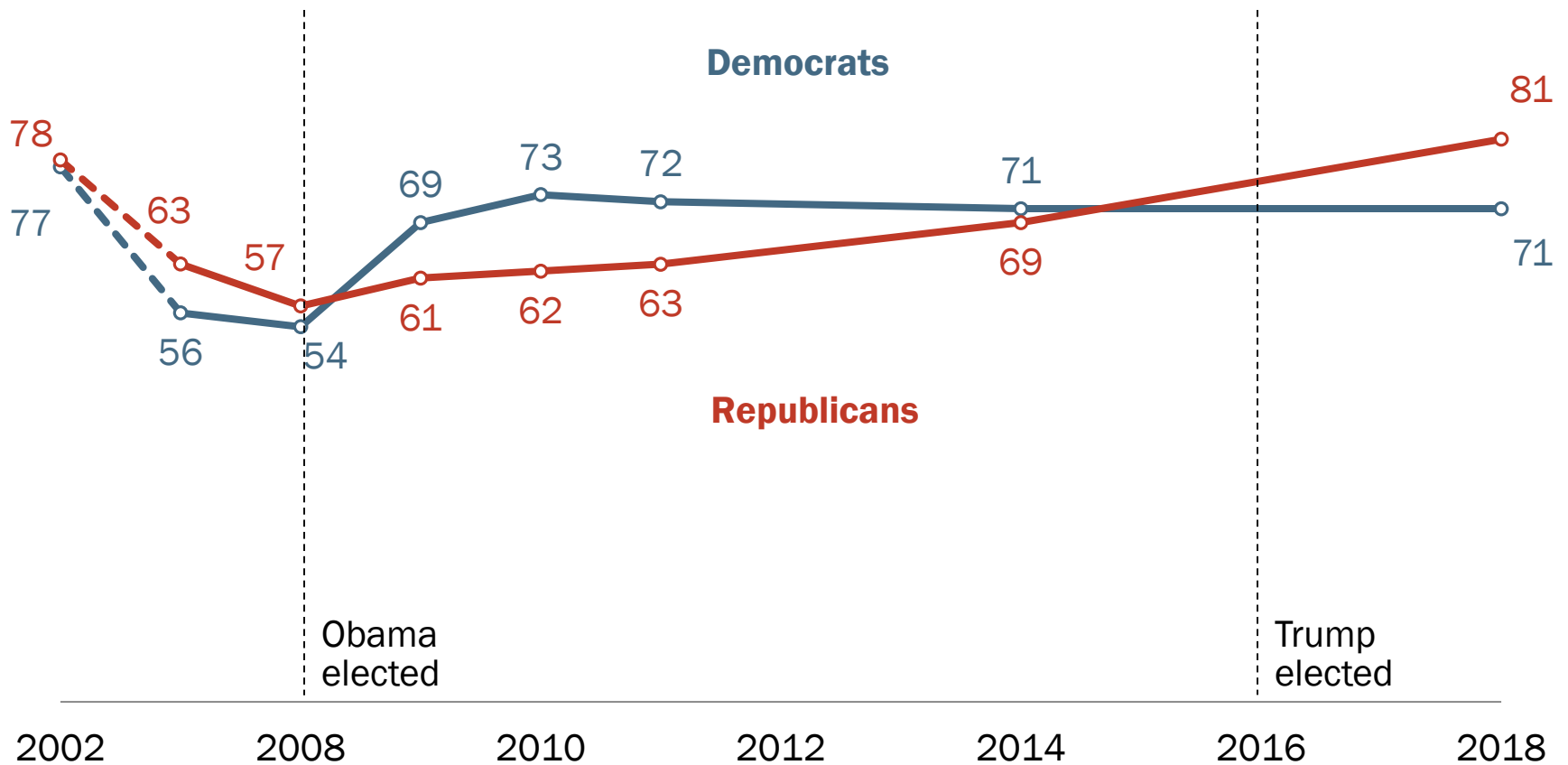
*Growing trade and business ties with other countries is a good thing for our country*



Note: Nine-country median based on Argentina, France, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Poland, Russia, South Korea and the UK.  
Source: Spring 2018 Global Attitudes Survey.

# Americans' Support for Trade Ticks Up When the Respondent's Party Holds the Presidency

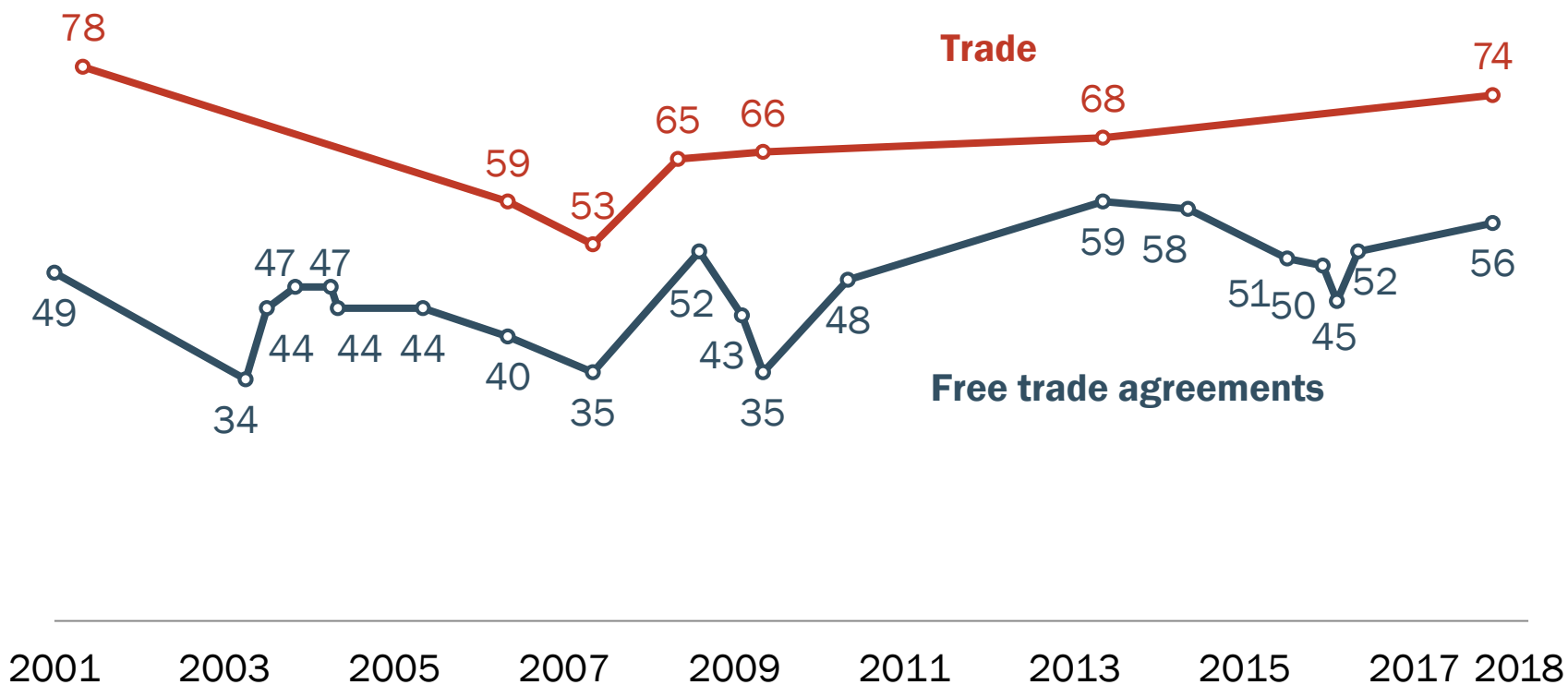
*Growing trade and business ties with other countries is a good thing for our country*



Source: Spring 2018 Global Attitudes Survey.

# Americans Have Consistently Felt Better About Trade Than About Trade Agreements

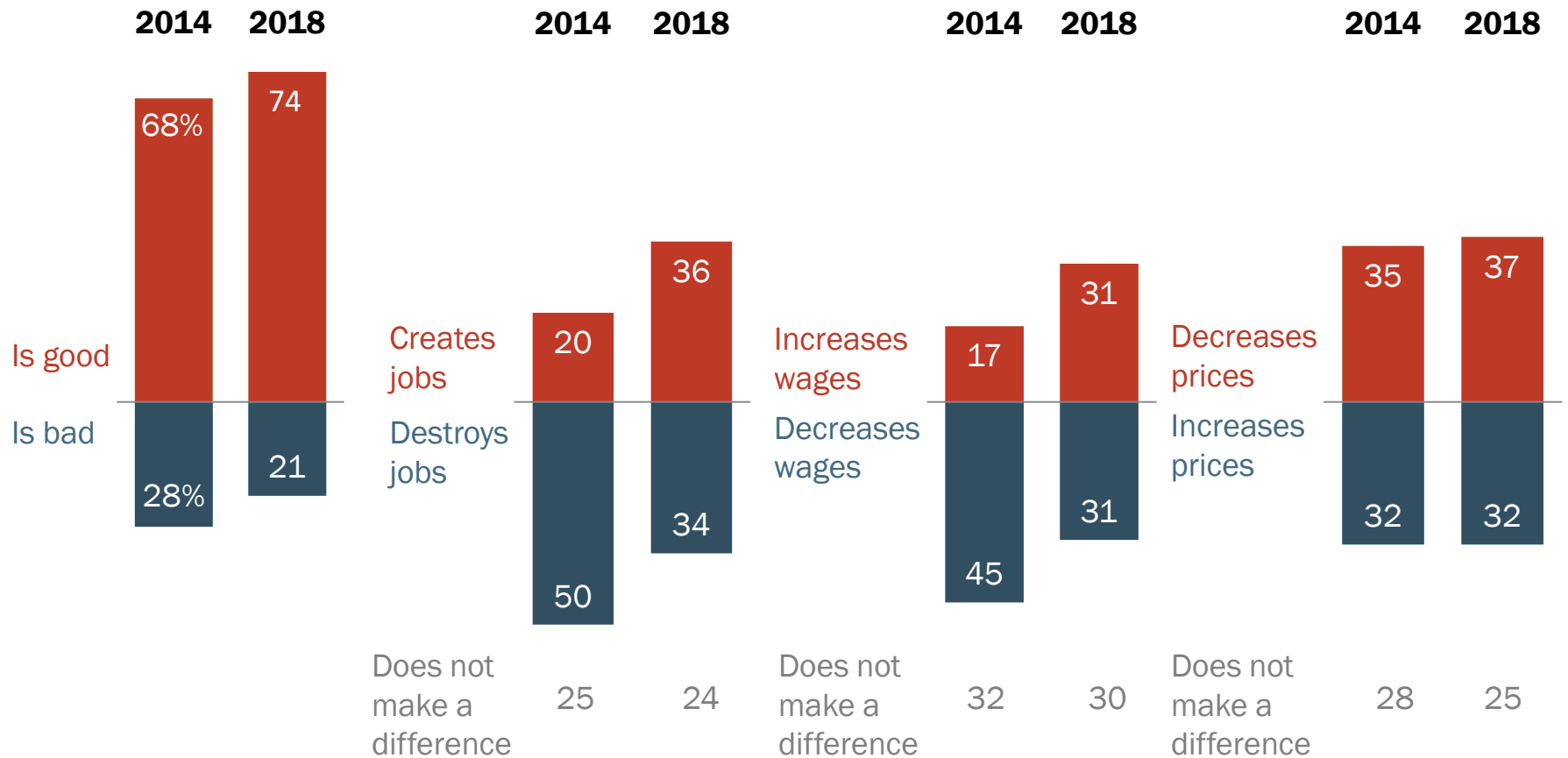
\_\_\_ is/are good for the U.S.



Source: Spring 2018 Global Attitudes Survey. "Free trade agreement" data from May 2018 Pew Research Center survey.

# Americans Are Twice as Likely to Believe Trade is Good for the U.S. as to Think It Creates Jobs or Raises Wages

Trade with other countries ...



Source: Spring 2018 Global Attitudes Survey.

# In 2018, Trade is Less Threatening to Many Americans

The growing trade and business ties between the U.S. and other countries is a ***bad*** thing for the U.S.

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>Change</b>
	%	%	
TOTAL	28	21	<b>-7</b>
18-29	22	14	<b>-8</b>
30-49	31	20	<b>-11</b>
50+	30	25	<b>-5</b>
HS or less	32	26	<b>-6</b>
Some college	29	21	<b>-8</b>
College +	23	14	<b>-9</b>
Rep/Lean Rep	28	16	<b>-12</b>
Dem/Lean Dem	26	24	<b>-2</b>

Note: Statistically significant changes in **bold**.

Source: Spring 2018 Global Attitudes Survey.

# And Fewer Americans Believe Trade Destroys Jobs

Trade with other countries leads to *job losses* in the U.S.

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>Change</b>
	%	%	
TOTAL	50	34	<b>-16</b>
Men	46	30	<b>-16</b>
Women	55	39	<b>-16</b>
18-29	43	30	<b>-13</b>
30-49	50	36	<b>-14</b>
50+	55	34	<b>-21</b>
Hispanic	37	21	<b>-16</b>
Black	59	42	<b>-17</b>
White	53	35	<b>-18</b>
Rep/Lean Rep	51	35	<b>-16</b>
Dem/Lean Dem	48	33	<b>-15</b>

Note: Statistically significant changes in **bold**.

Source: Spring 2018 Global Attitudes Survey.

# Men, Women, Young, Old, GOP and Dems Are Less Likely Than in the Past to Believe Trade Lowers Wages

Trade with other countries leads to a decrease in wages in the U.S.

	2014	2018	Change
	%	%	
TOTAL	45	31	<b>-14</b>
Men	43	30	<b>-13</b>
Women	48	33	<b>-15</b>
18-29	43	25	<b>-18</b>
30-49	44	35	<b>-9</b>
50+	48	32	<b>-16</b>
Hispanic	25	21	<b>-4</b>
Black	44	39	<b>-5</b>
White	50	32	<b>-18</b>
Rep/Lean Rep	42	31	<b>-11</b>
Dem/Lean Dem	46	31	<b>-15</b>

Note: Statistically significant changes in **bold**.

Source: Spring 2018 Global Attitudes Survey.



# In NAFTA, Americans Are Less Likely to be Supportive of Trade, but More Likely to Say It Lowers Prices

	<b>Trade is good</b>	<b>Trade increases wages</b>	<b>Trade creates jobs</b>	<b>Trade lowers prices</b>
	%	%	%	%
Canada	89	30	47	29
Mexico	79	27	35	21
U.S.	74	31	36	37

Source: Spring 2018 Global Attitudes Survey.

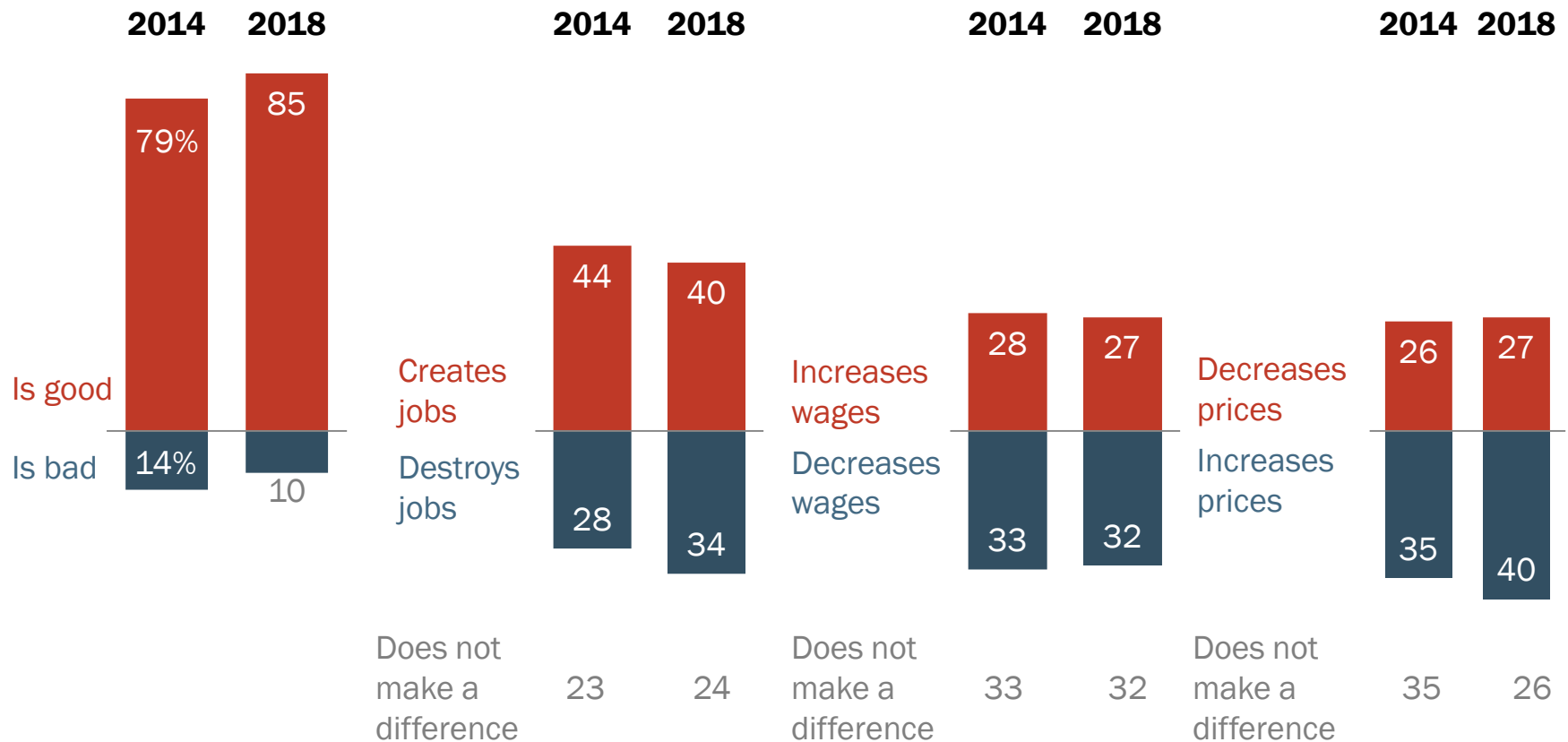
---

# **EUROPEANS' VIEWS ON TRADE**

---

# Europeans Say Trade is Good, but They Doubt it Boosts Wages or Decreases Prices

Trade with other countries ...



Note: European median based on countries surveyed in both 2014 and 2018: France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Poland, Spain, UK.

Source: 2018 Global Attitudes Survey.

# Italians Are the Most Wary of Trade Among Europeans

	<b>Trade is good</b>	<b>Trade creates jobs</b>	<b>Trade increases wages</b>	<b>Trade lowers prices</b>
	%	%	%	%
Netherlands	93	61	35	32
Spain	93	58	33	24
Sweden	93	56	36	53
Germany	89	38	27	32
UK	89	49	34	27
Hungary	85	49	38	28
Poland	85	61	52	21
France	83	32	13	35
Greece	82	41	20	28
<b>Italy</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>25</b>

Source: Spring 2018 Global Attitudes Survey.

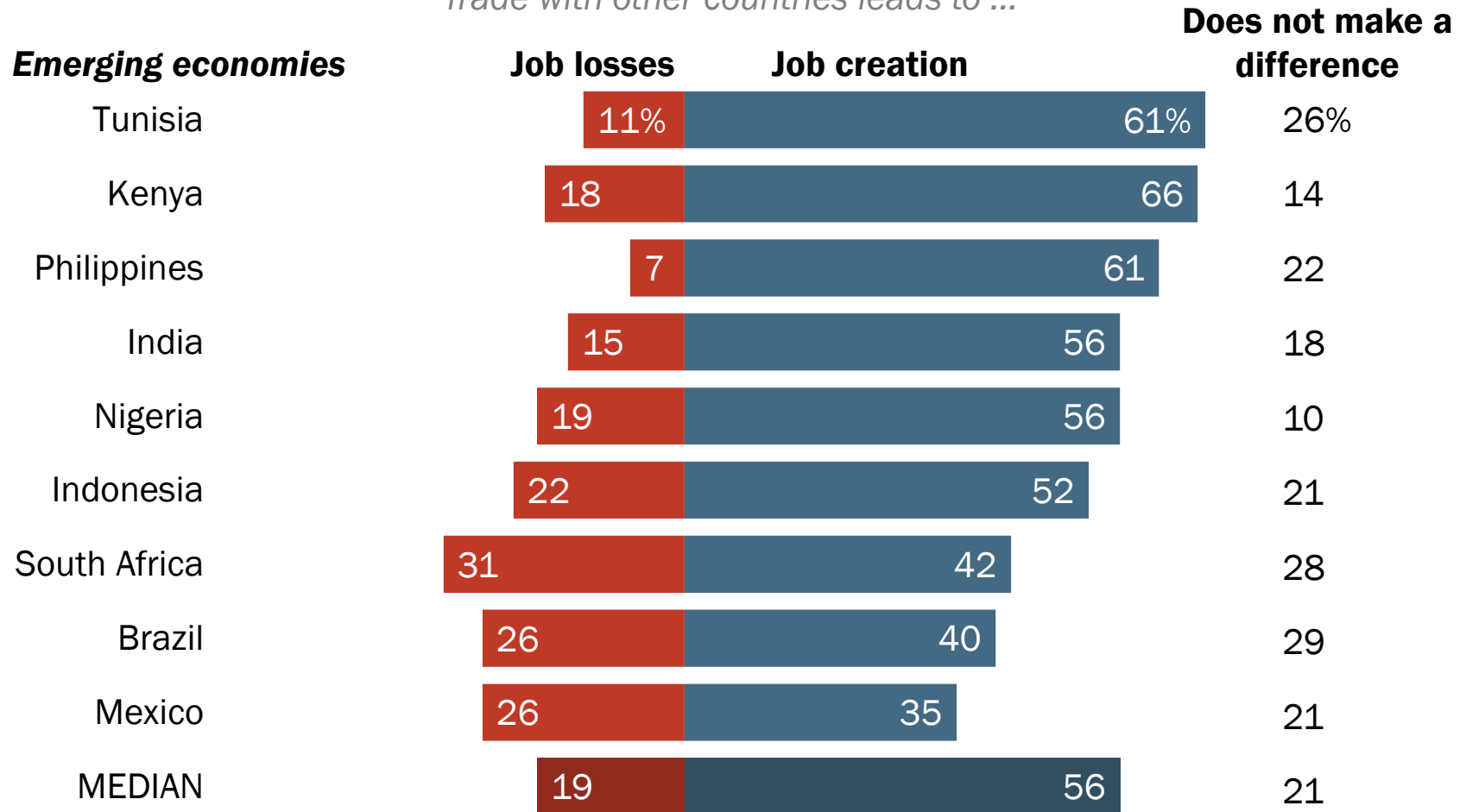
---

# **VIEWS ON TRADE AND JOBS**

---

# A Majority in Emerging Markets Say Trade Creates Jobs

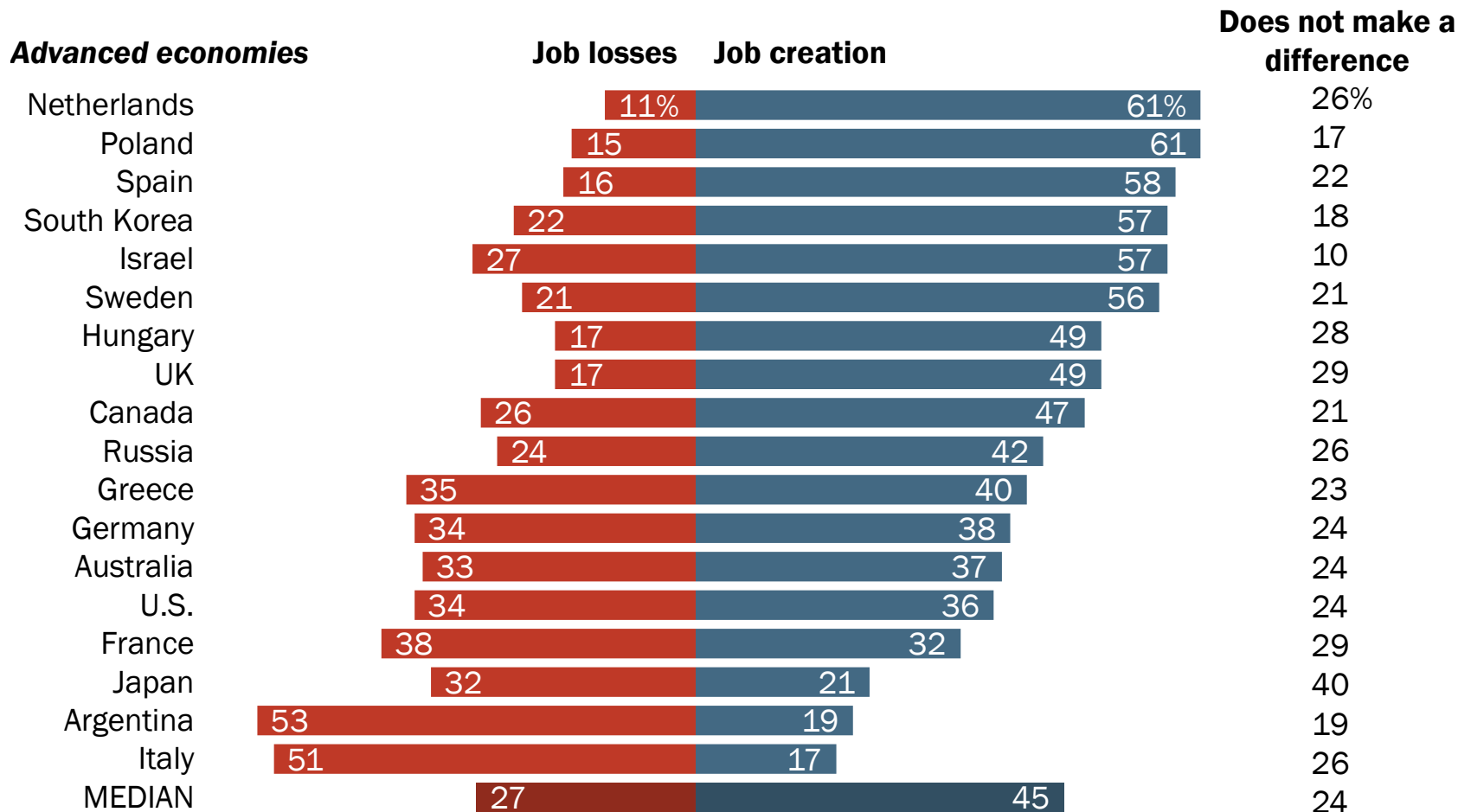
Trade with other countries leads to ...



Source: Spring 2018 Global Attitudes Survey.

# A Smaller Share in Advanced Economies Agree

Trade with other countries leads to ...



Source: Spring 2018 Global Attitudes Survey.

# Views on Trade/Jobs Have Shifted Up and Down Since 2014

Trade with other countries leads to *job creation*

	2014	2018	Change
	%	%	
U.S.	20	36	<b>+16</b>
Poland	51	61	<b>+10</b>
France	24	32	<b>+8</b>
India	49	56	<b>+7</b>
Japan	15	21	<b>+6</b>
Mexico	43	35	<b>-8</b>
Kenya	75	66	<b>-9</b>
Indonesia	63	52	<b>-11</b>
Brazil	56	40	<b>-16</b>
Tunisia	87	67	<b>-20</b>
Argentina	45	19	<b>-26</b>

Note: Only statistically significant changes shown.

Source: Spring 2018 Global Attitudes Survey.



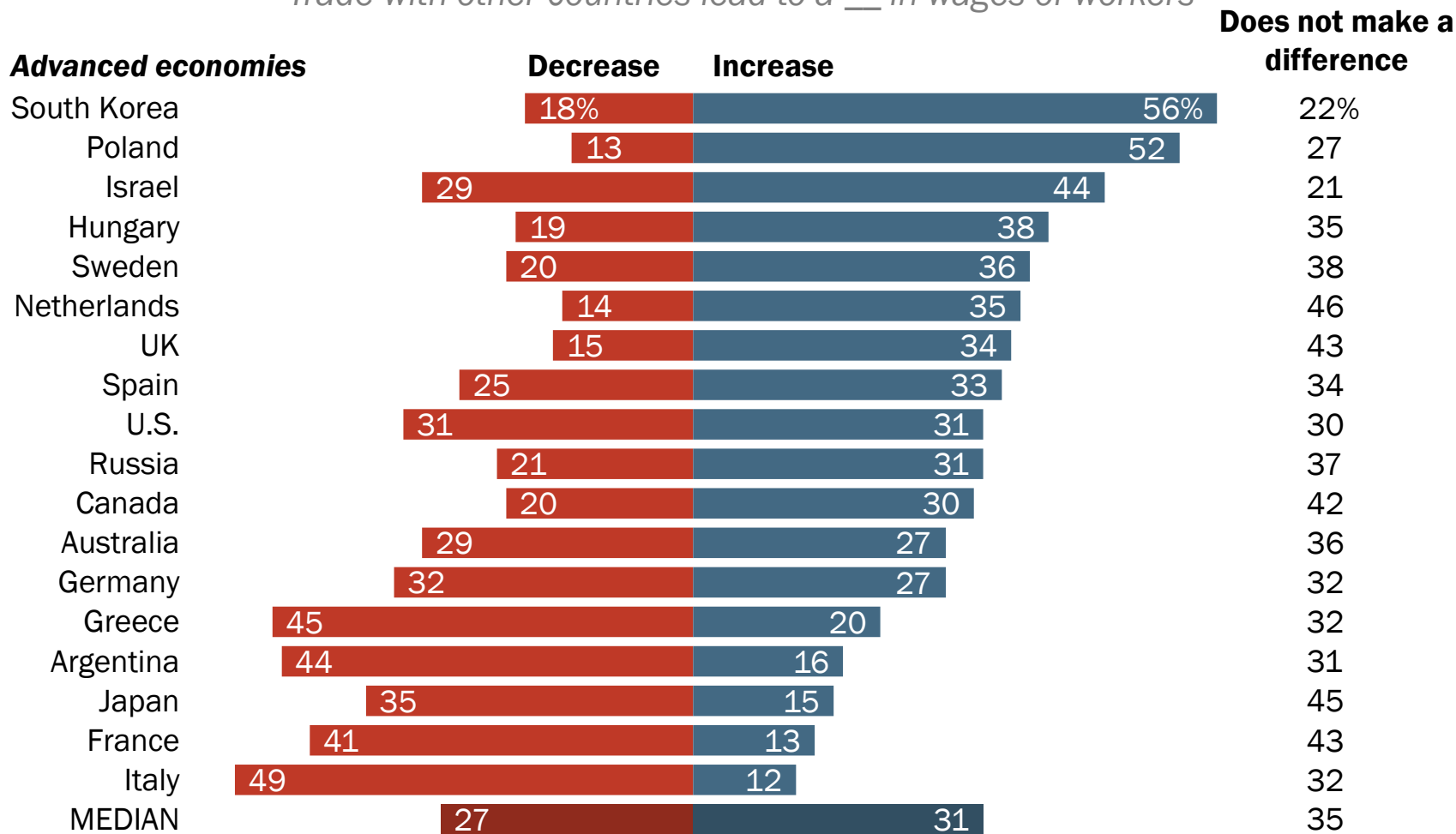
---

# **VIEWS ON TRADE AND WAGES**

---

# Advanced Economies Divided Over Trade's Impact on Wages

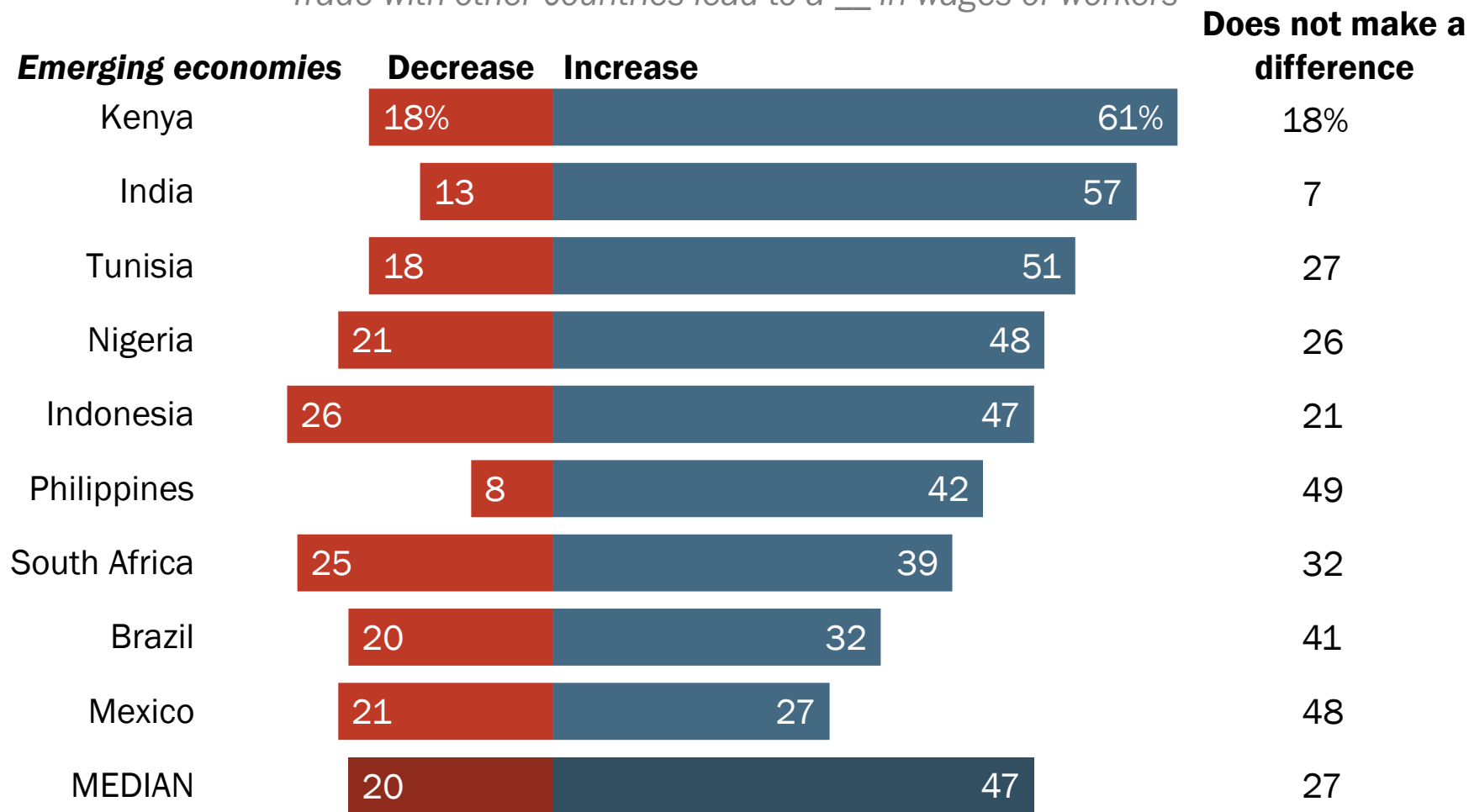
Trade with other countries lead to a \_\_\_ in wages of workers



Source: Spring 2018 Global Attitudes Survey.

# By Two-to-One, Emerging Markets Say Trade Boosts Wages

Trade with other countries lead to a \_\_\_ in wages of workers



Source: Spring 2018 Global Attitudes Survey.

# Views on Trade/Wages Have Changed Significantly in Some Countries

*Trade with other countries increases workers' wages*

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>Change</b>
	%	%	
Poland	38	52	<b>+14</b>
U.S.	17	31	<b>+14</b>
South Korea	45	56	<b>+11</b>
India	49	57	<b>+8</b>
South Africa	46	39	<b>-7</b>
Indonesia	56	47	<b>-9</b>
Brazil	44	32	<b>-12</b>
Argentina	29	16	<b>-13</b>
Tunisia	73	51	<b>-22</b>

Note: Only statistically significant changes shown.

Source: Spring 2018 Global Attitudes Survey.

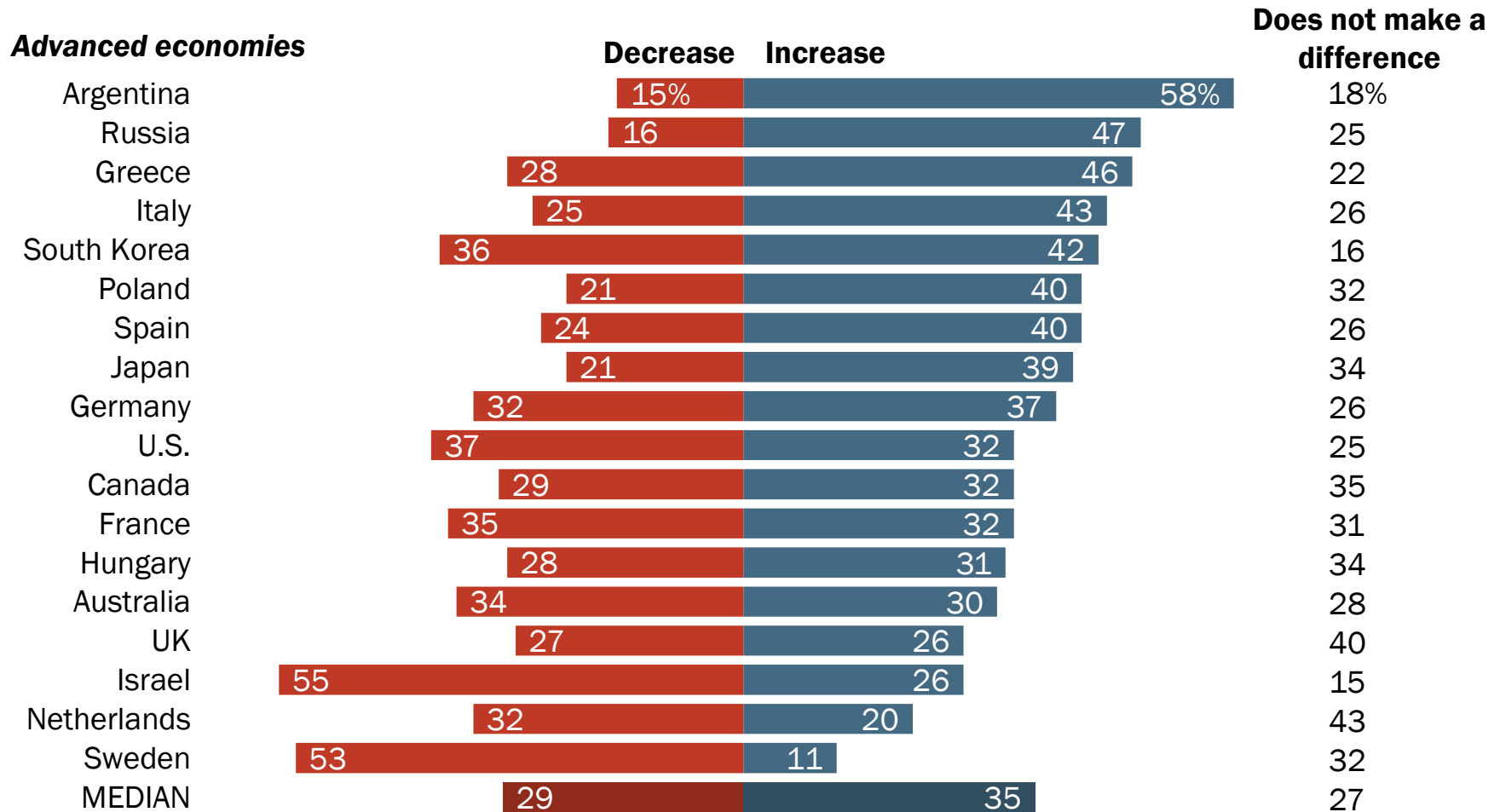
---

# **TRADE AND PRICES**

---

# Public in Advanced Economies Divided on Trade/Prices

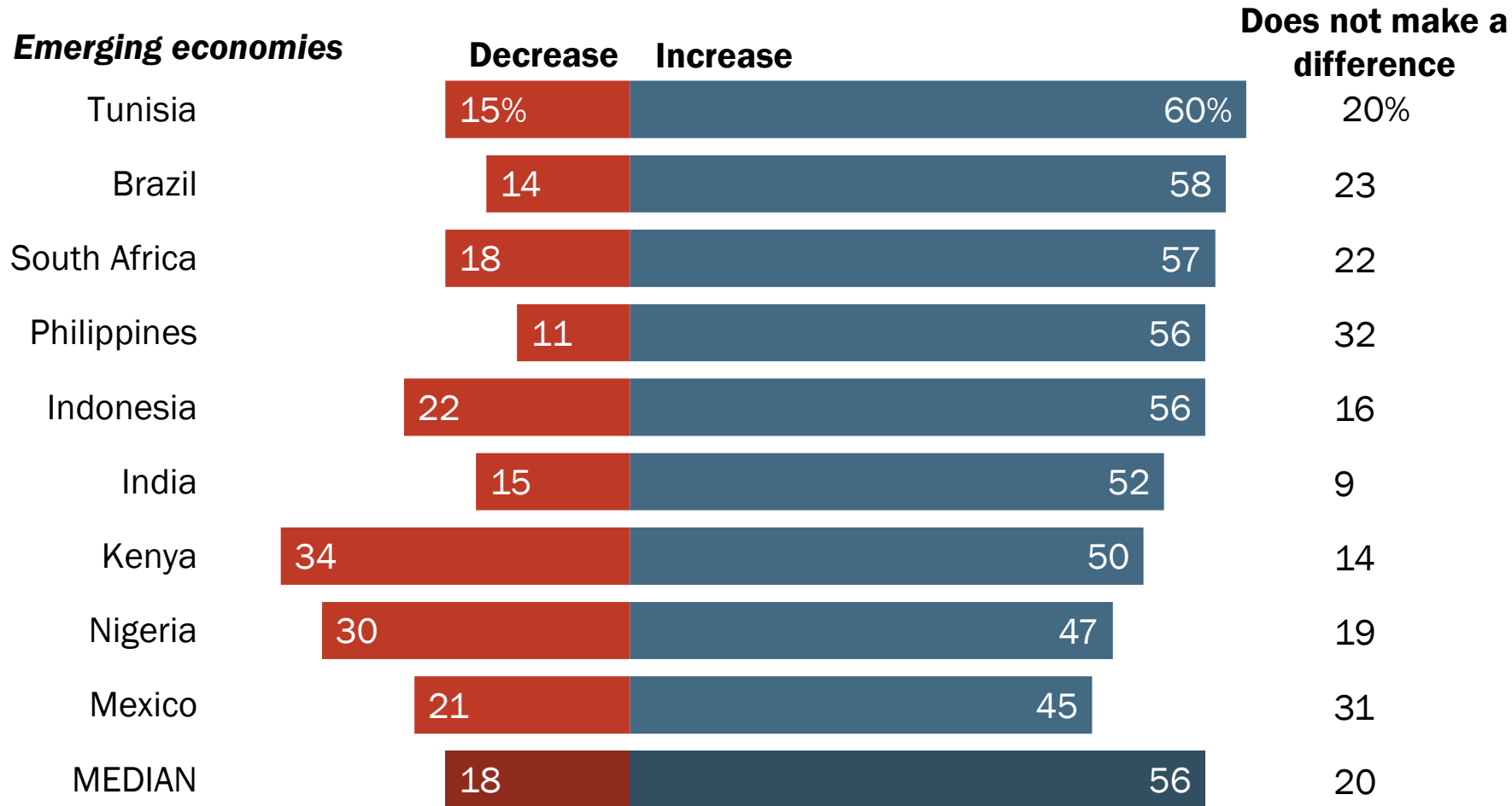
Trade with other countries lead to a \_\_ in the price of products sold



Source: Spring 2018 Global Attitudes Survey.

# In Emerging Markets Most Think Trade Raises Prices

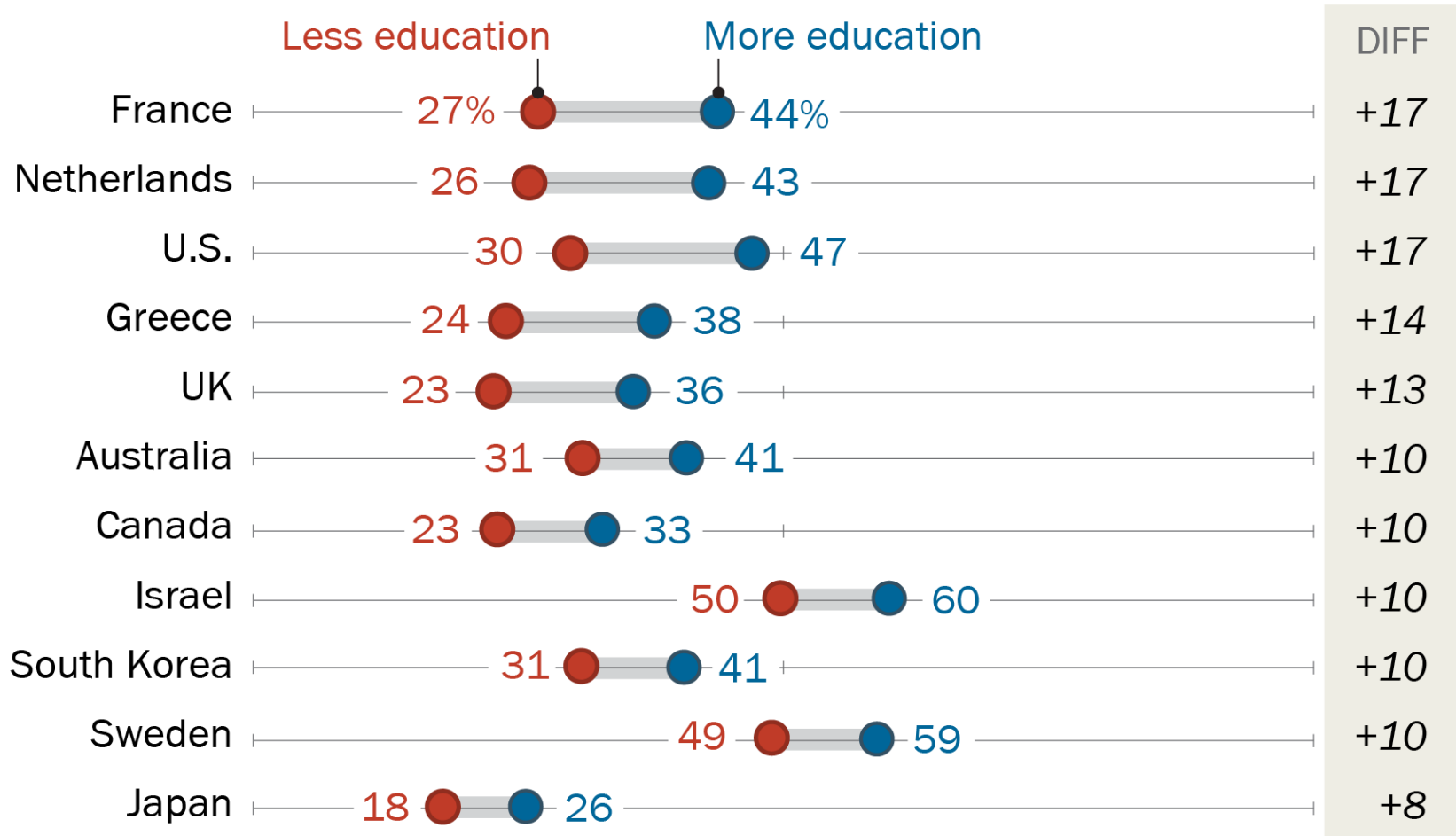
Trade with other countries lead to a \_\_ in the price of products sold



Source: Spring 2018 Global Attitudes Survey.

# College-educated Adults Are the Most Likely to Say Trade Lowers Prices

Trade with other countries decreases prices



Note: All differences are statistically significant.

Source: Spring 2018 Global Attitudes Survey.



**All Pew Research Center reports are  
available online at [www.pewresearch.org](http://www.pewresearch.org)**

**Bruce Stokes**

*Director, Global Economic Attitudes*

@bruceestokes