

# FRENCH PEOPLE AND NUCLEAR ENERGY: KNOWLEDGE AND PERCEPTIONS

Summary of results

June 2021



orano

# Methodology



## Data collection

Survey conducted via Internet **from May 3 to 6, 2021.**



## Sample

Sample of **1,500 people**, representative of the French population aged **18 and over.**

The representativeness of the sample was guaranteed by the quota sampling method applied to the following variables: sex, age, profession of the person surveyed, region and category of agglomeration.



## Comparative data

The comparative data is taken from an earlier survey conducted for Orano in April 2019, with a representative sample of 2,400 French people surveyed by telephone.

# PERCEPTION OF NUCLEAR ENERGY: GENERAL KNOWLEDGE, PERCEIVED ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES

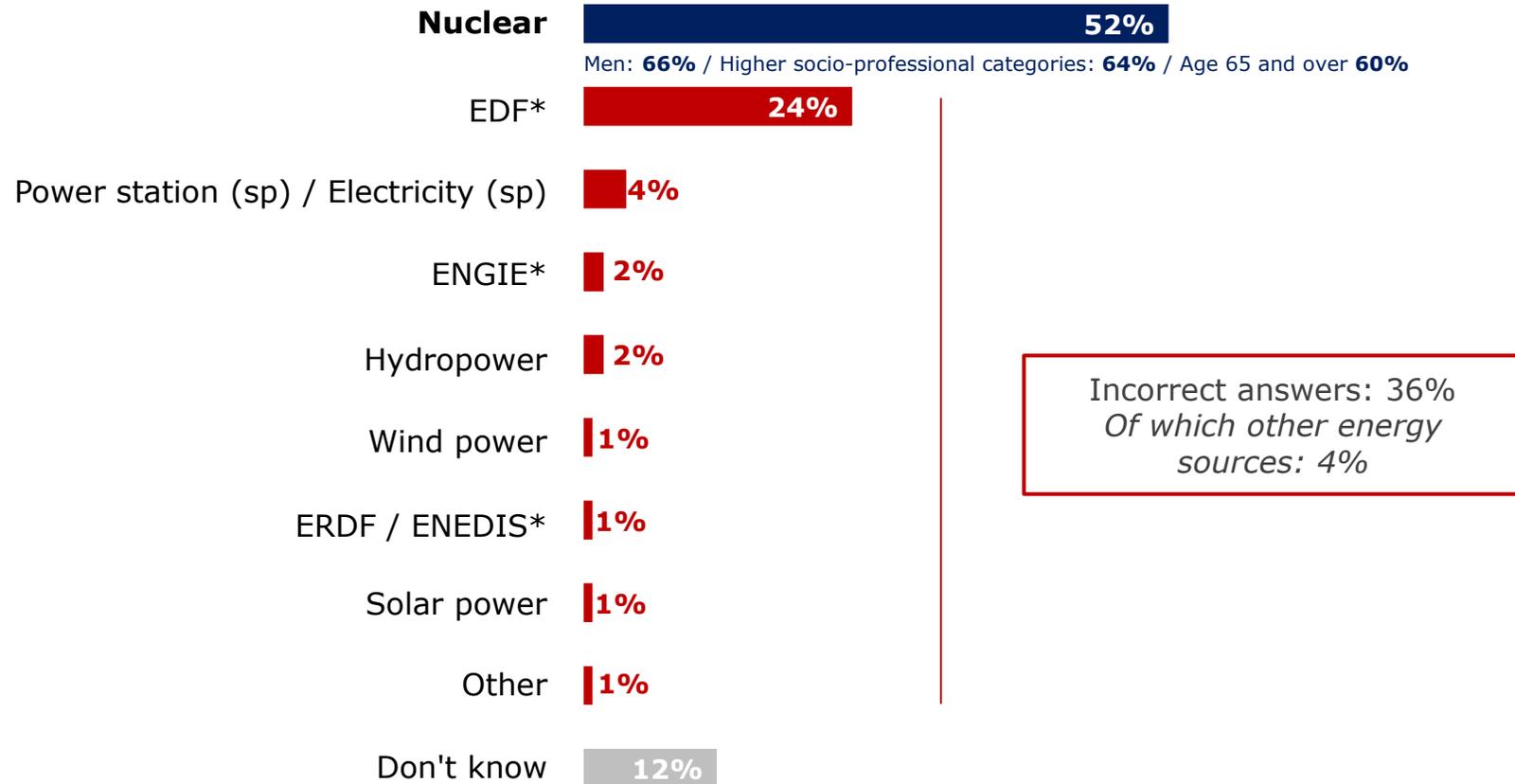
# 01

# French people pretty clearly identify nuclear energy as the primary source of electricity in France, but there is some confusion between the notions of energy and supplier

Q1. In your view, what is the primary source of electricity in France? *Open question, spontaneous answers*

Base: all participants (1,500 respondents)

## New question



\* French industries

# French people still slightly underestimate the percentage of nuclear-generated electricity in France

Q3. Electricity may come from several sources: it may be generated by nuclear, thermal, solar, wind or hydroelectric power, or be produced from biomass. In your view, what is the percentage of nuclear-generated electricity in France today? *Open question, spontaneous answers*

Base: all participants (1,500 respondents)

On average, **French people estimate** the percentage of nuclear-generated electricity to be

**62%**

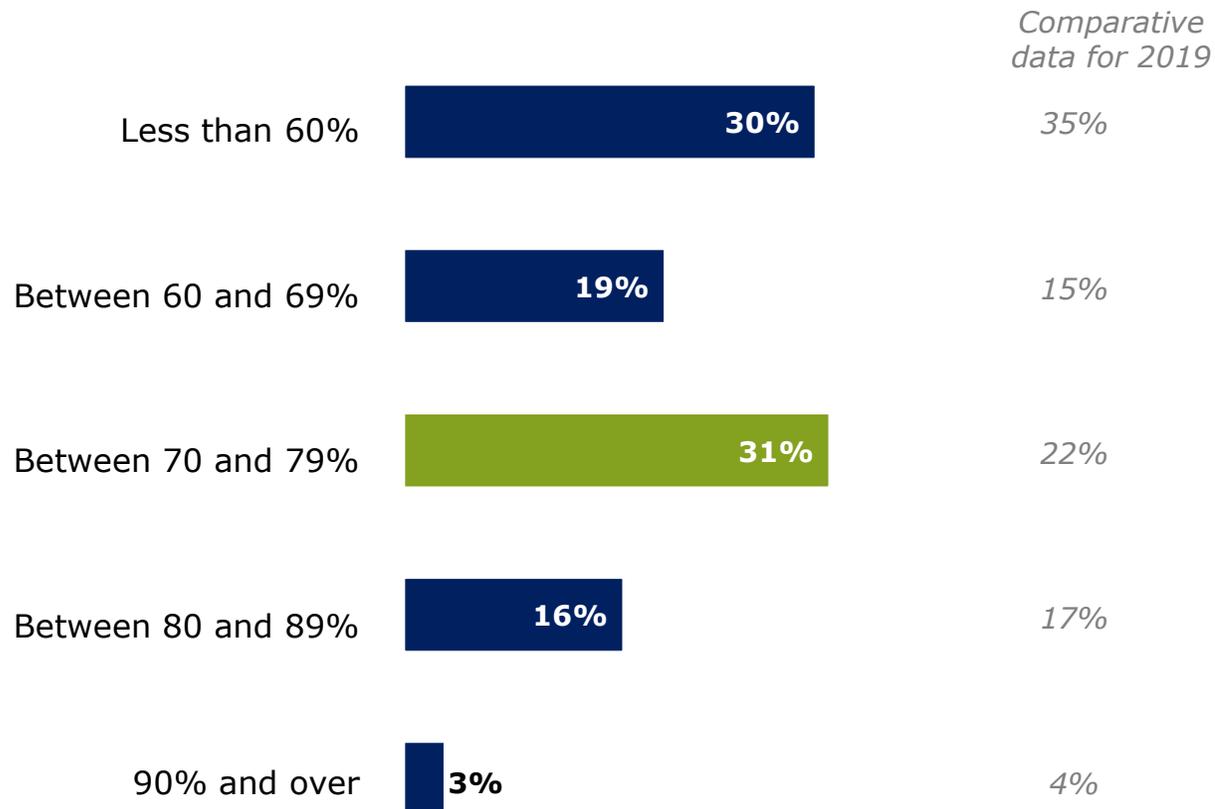
(2019 : 59%)



*In detail:*

Men **65%** / Higher socio-professional categories **64%**

**Nuclear energy accounts for 71%\* of French electricity production.**



Don't know: 1%

Don't know: 7%

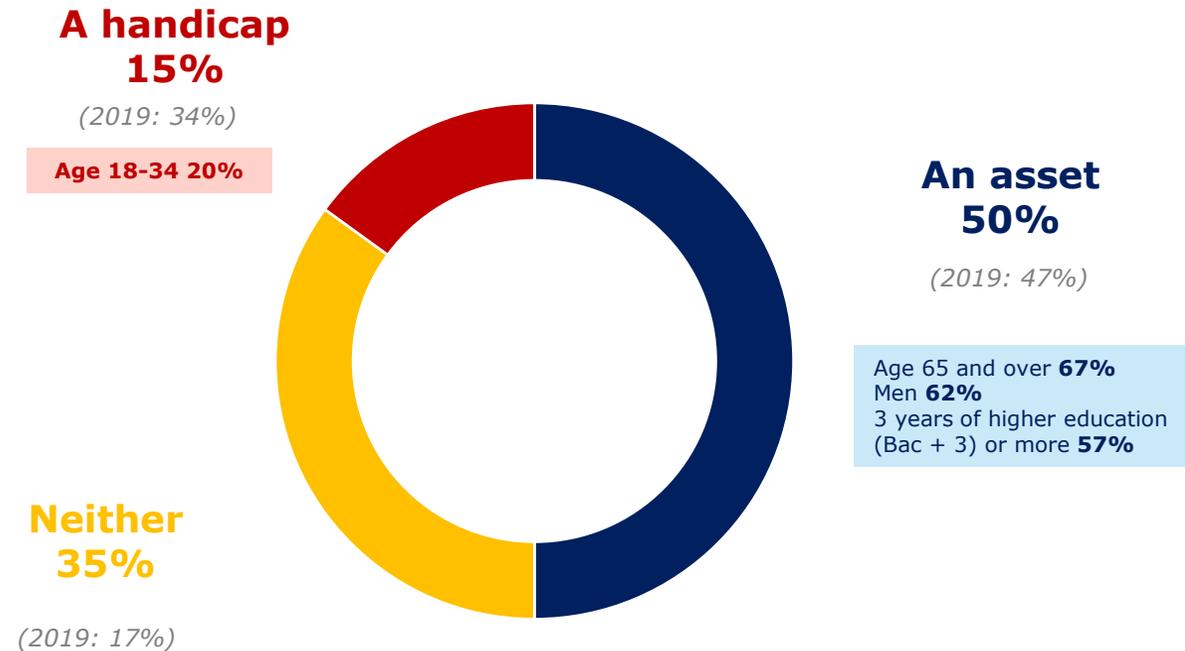
\*Source: French electricity transmission system operator RTE – Electricity Report 2019 <https://www.edf.fr/groupe-edf/espaces-dedies/l-energie-de-a-a-z/tout-sur-l-energie/produire-de-l-electricite/le-nucleaire-en-chiffres>

# Nuclear energy is still considered to be an asset for France by half of French people

Q2. In general, which of the following would you say nuclear energy is for France?

Base: all participants (1,500 respondents)

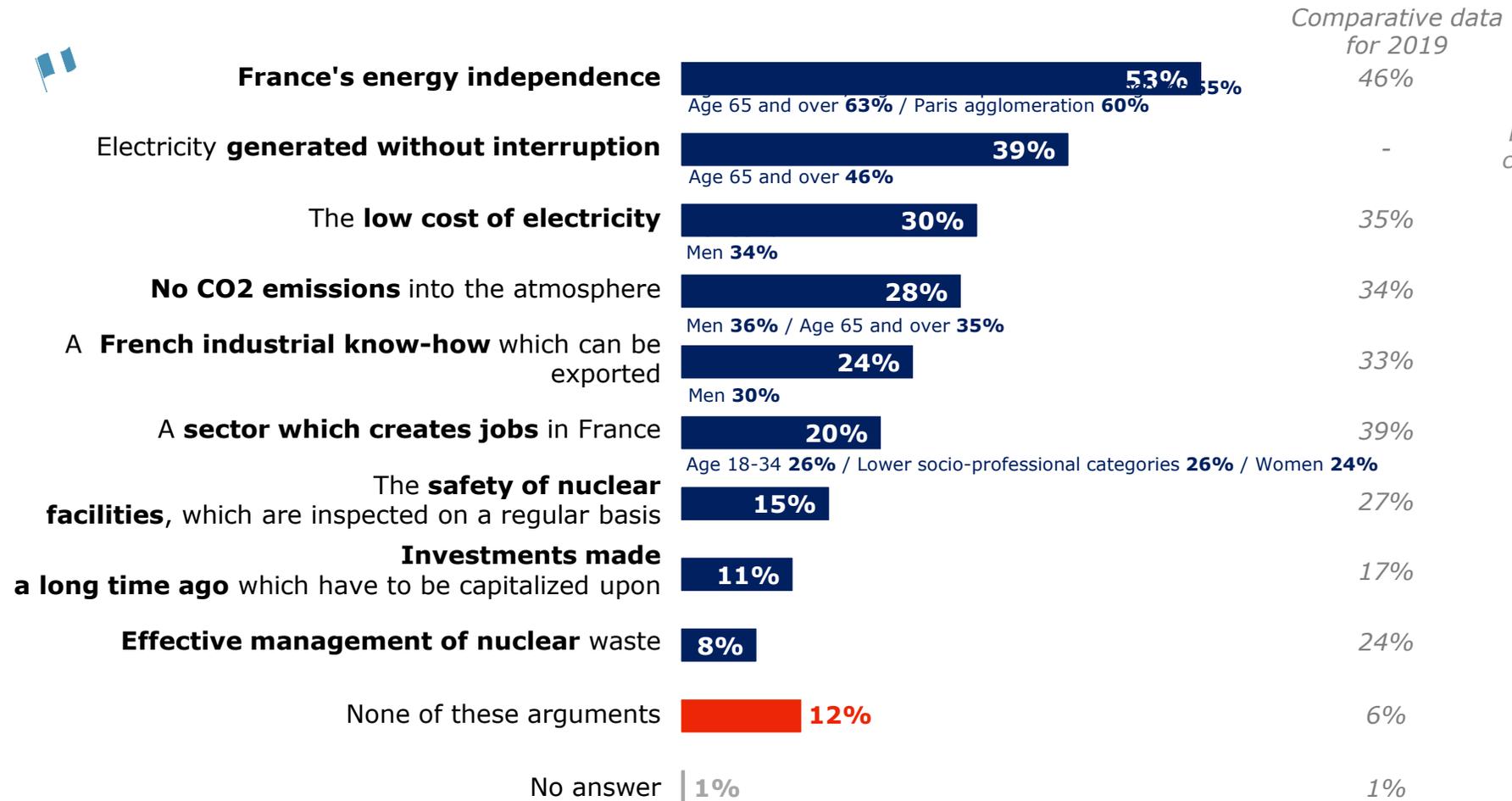
WORTHY OF NOTE



# France's energy independence is still considered to be the most convincing argument, along with the fact that electricity can be generated without interruption

Q9. Of the following arguments in favor of nuclear energy, which are the three which you personally find most convincing?

Base: all participants (1,500 respondents)



**WORTHY OF NOTE**

(as an item has been added, the comparative data for the previous year is to be analyzed with caution)

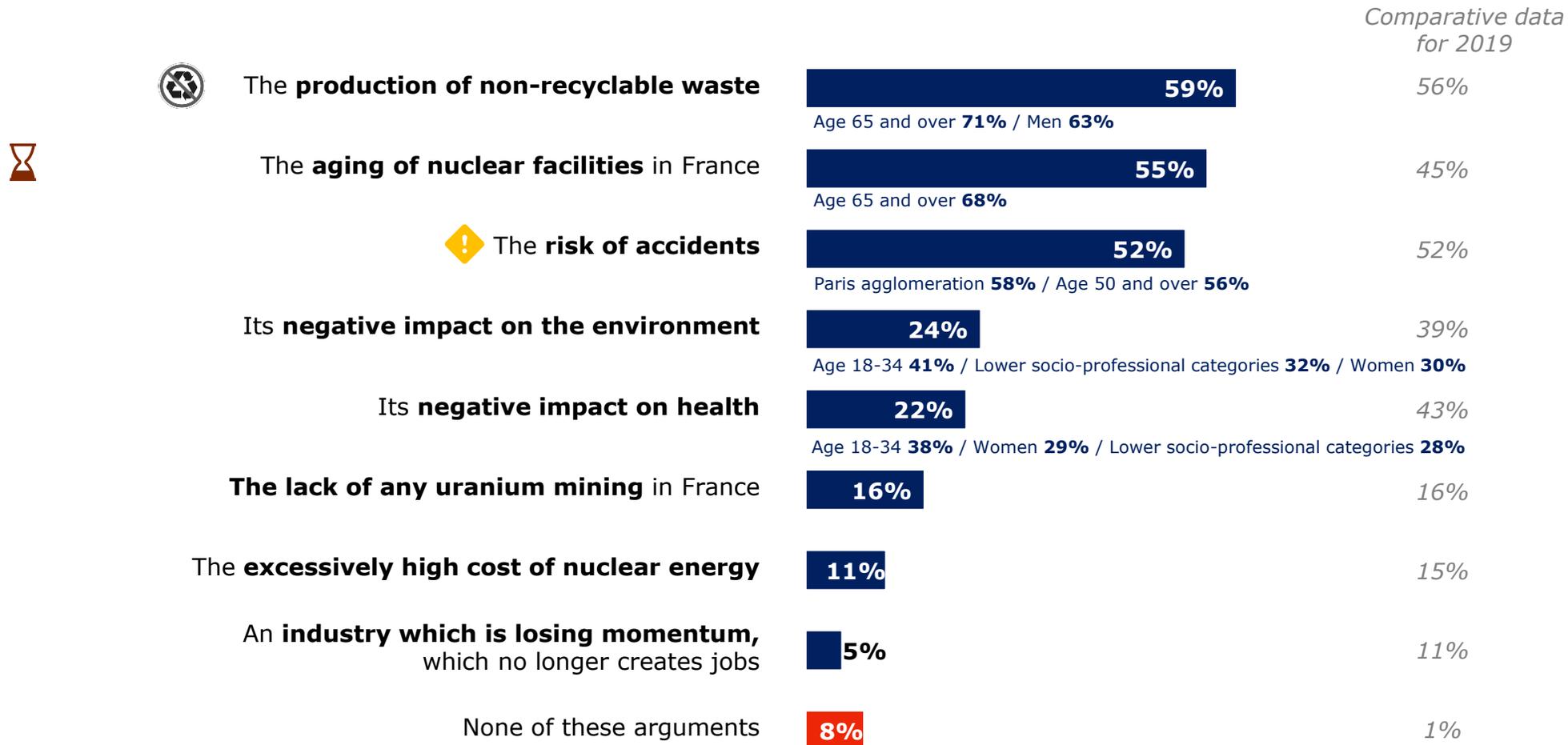
Total greater than 100% as three answers were possible

# Waste is still the main perceived negative argument against nuclear energy; the argument of aging nuclear facilities is gaining ground

Q10. Of the following arguments against nuclear energy, which are the three which you personally find most convincing?

Base: all participants (1,500 respondents)

WORTHY OF NOTE



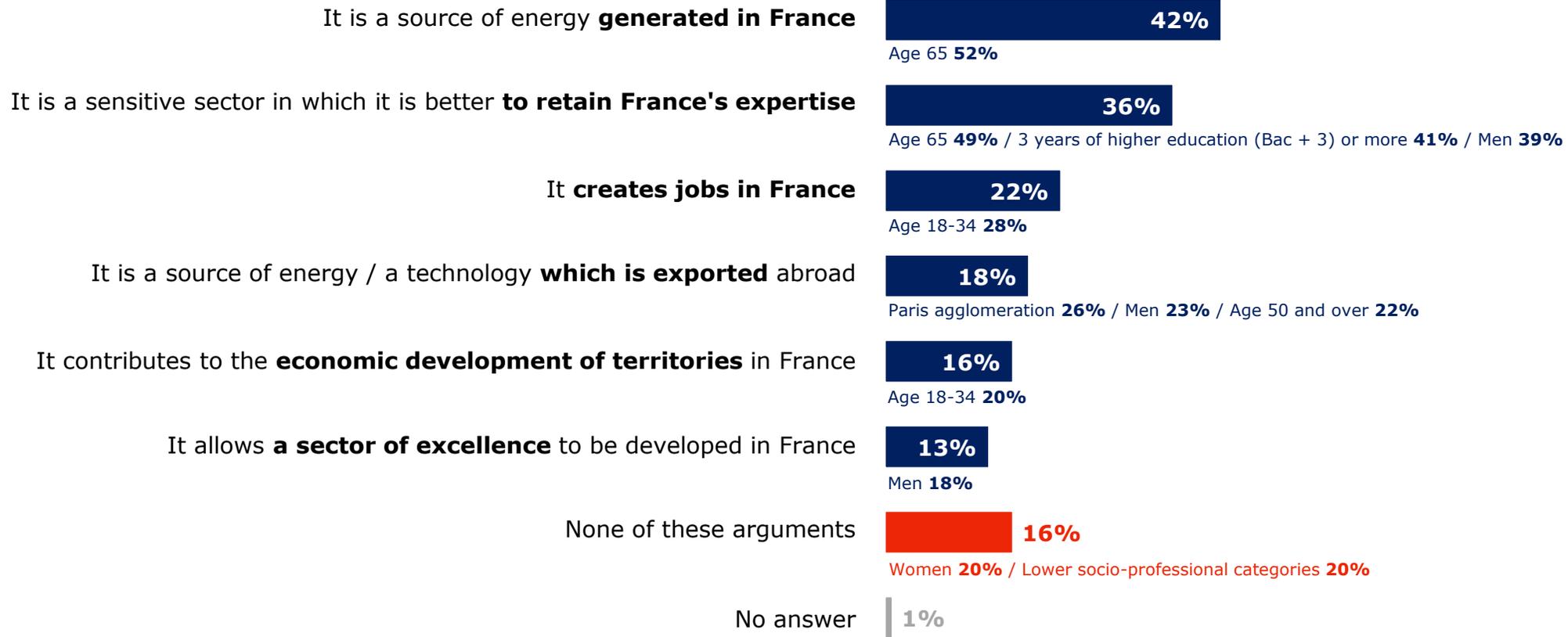
Total greater than 100% as three answers were possible

# When talking about France's independence and nuclear energy, French people are most convinced by the argument of production in France and expertise in a sensitive sector

**Q11. Of the following arguments sometimes cited with regard to nuclear energy and France's independence, which ones seem to you to be the most important?**

Base: all participants (1,500 respondents)

## **New question**



Total greater than 100% as two answers were possible

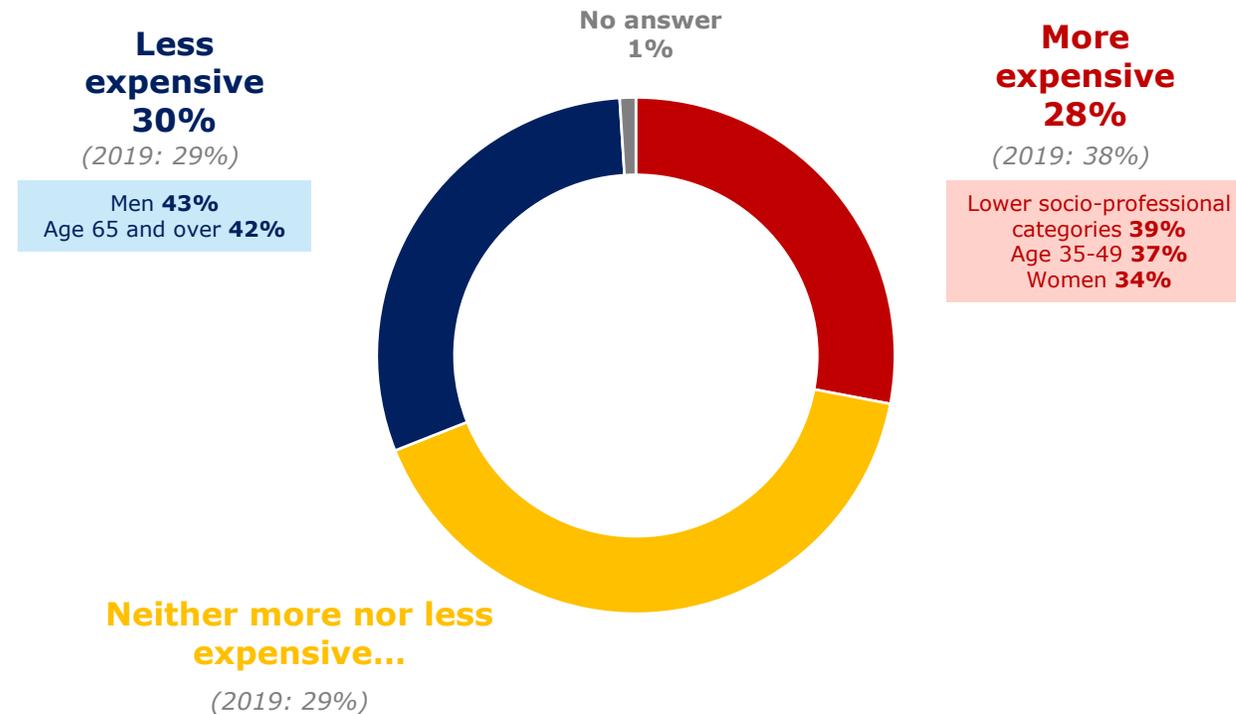
# THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF NUCLEAR ENERGY

# 02

# French people are still very divided on the cost of electricity in France compared to in other European countries: one in three think that it is less expensive

**Q8. Overall, would you say that electricity generated in France is more, less or neither more nor less expensive than that produced in other European countries?**

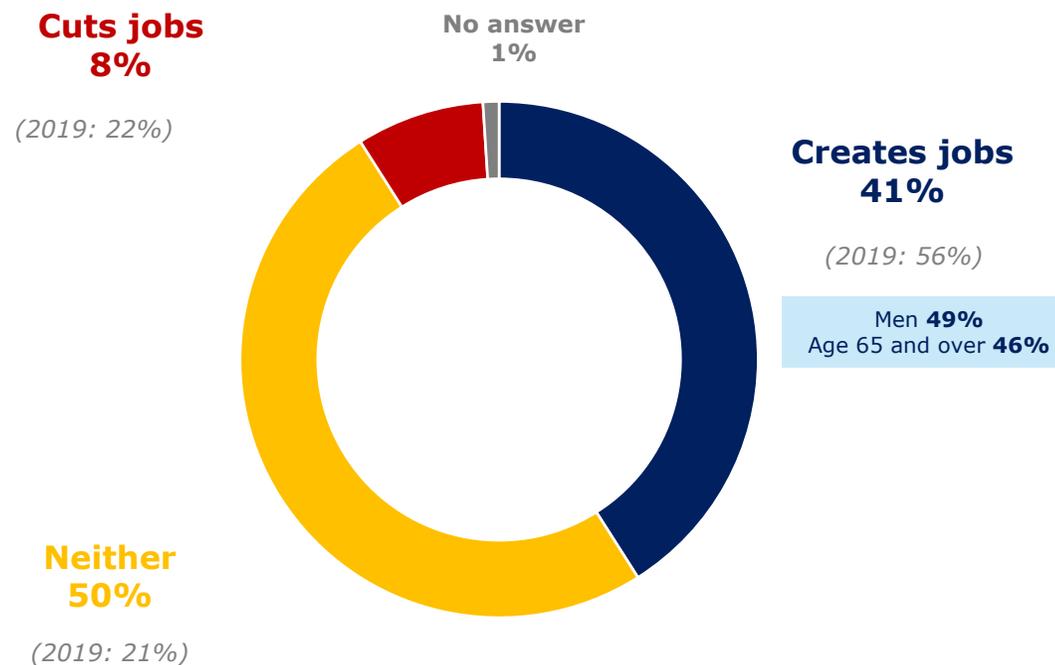
Base: all participants (1,500 respondents)



# The nuclear industry is still perceived as a sector which creates more jobs than it cuts

Q16. In your view, is the nuclear industry a sector in France which...

Base: all participants (1,500 respondents)

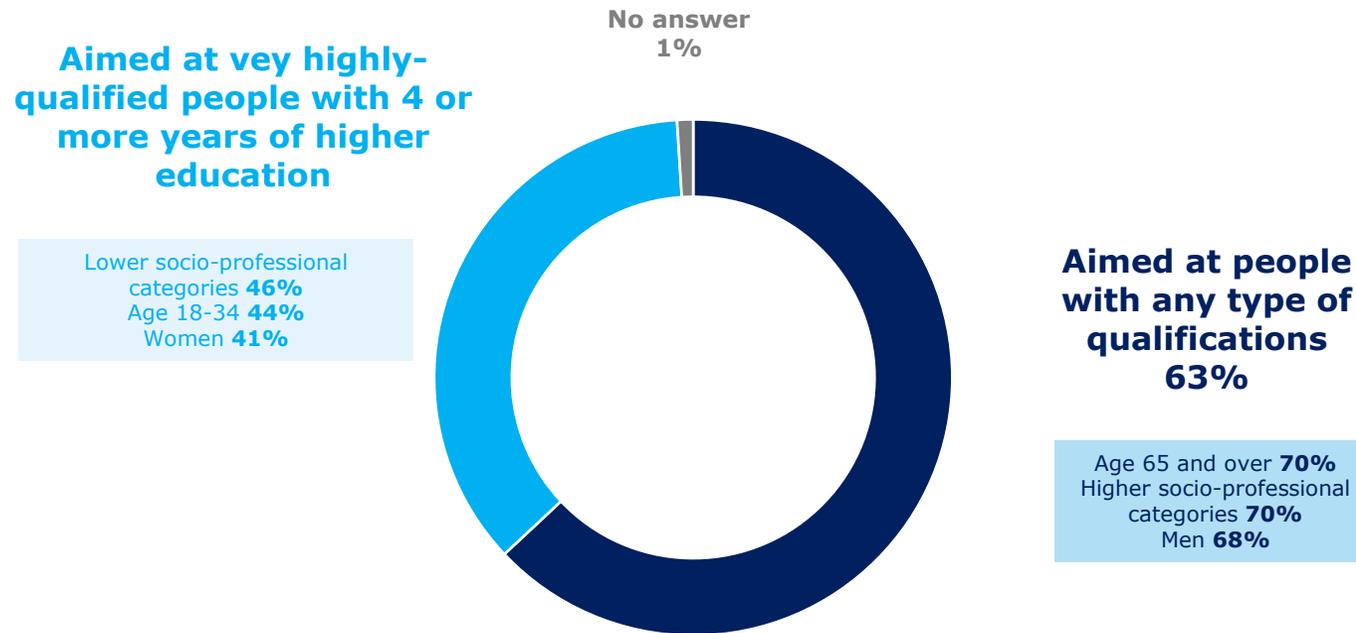


# For the last majority of French people, the jobs offered by the nuclear sector are aimed at people with any type of qualifications

Q17. In your view, are the jobs offered by the nuclear sector...

Base: all participants (1,500 respondents)

## **New question**



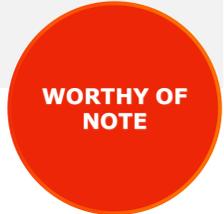
# NUCLEAR ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

# 03

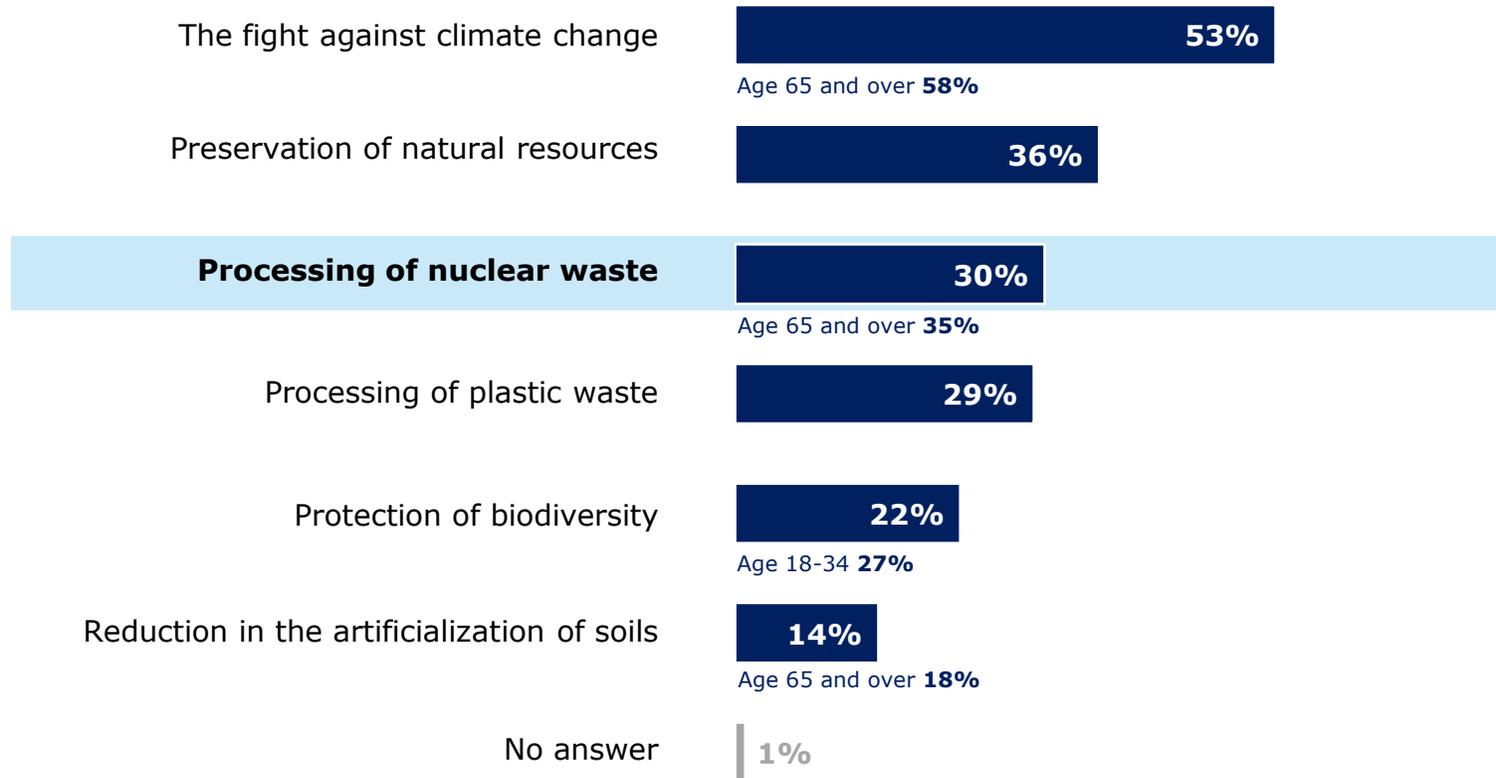
# Most French people are of the view that the main environmental challenge for future generations will be the fight against climate change

Q20. In your view, which of the following elements are the main challenges with which future generations will be confronted in the field of the environment?

Base: all participants (1,500 respondents)



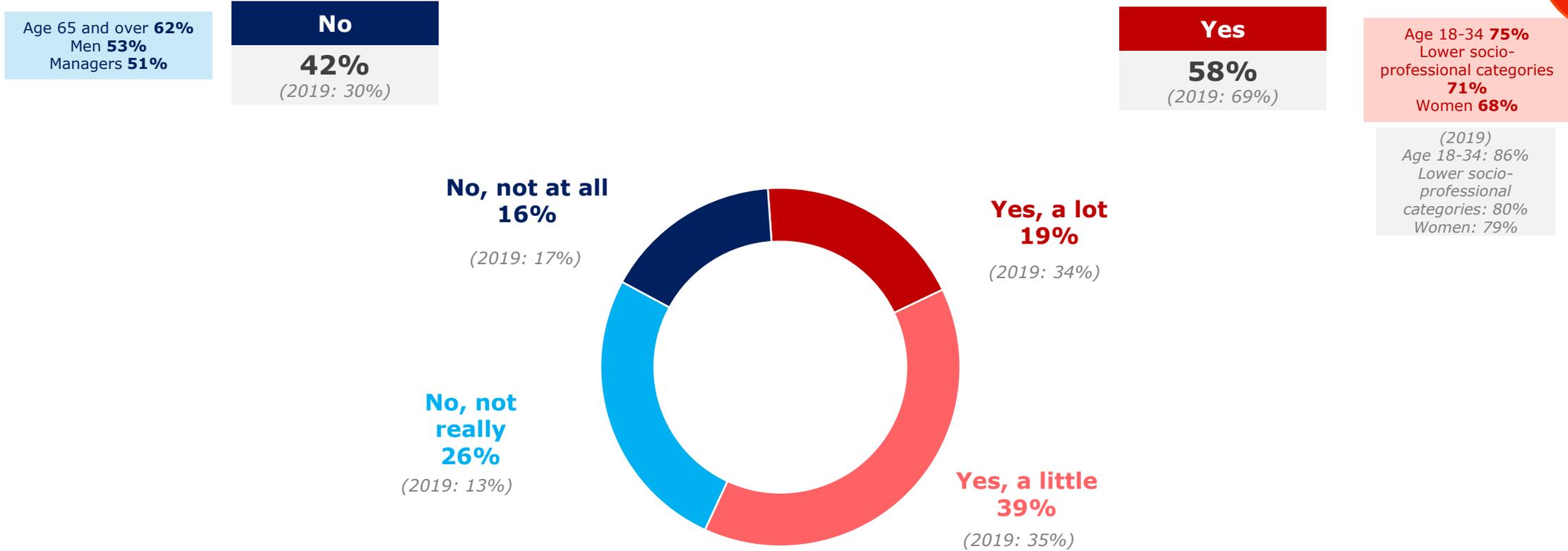
## New question



# The majority of French people still think that nuclear energy contributes to greenhouse gases production and climate change, but this proportion has been falling since 2019

**Q4. In your view, does nuclear energy contribute to the production of greenhouse gases (CO2) and climate change?**

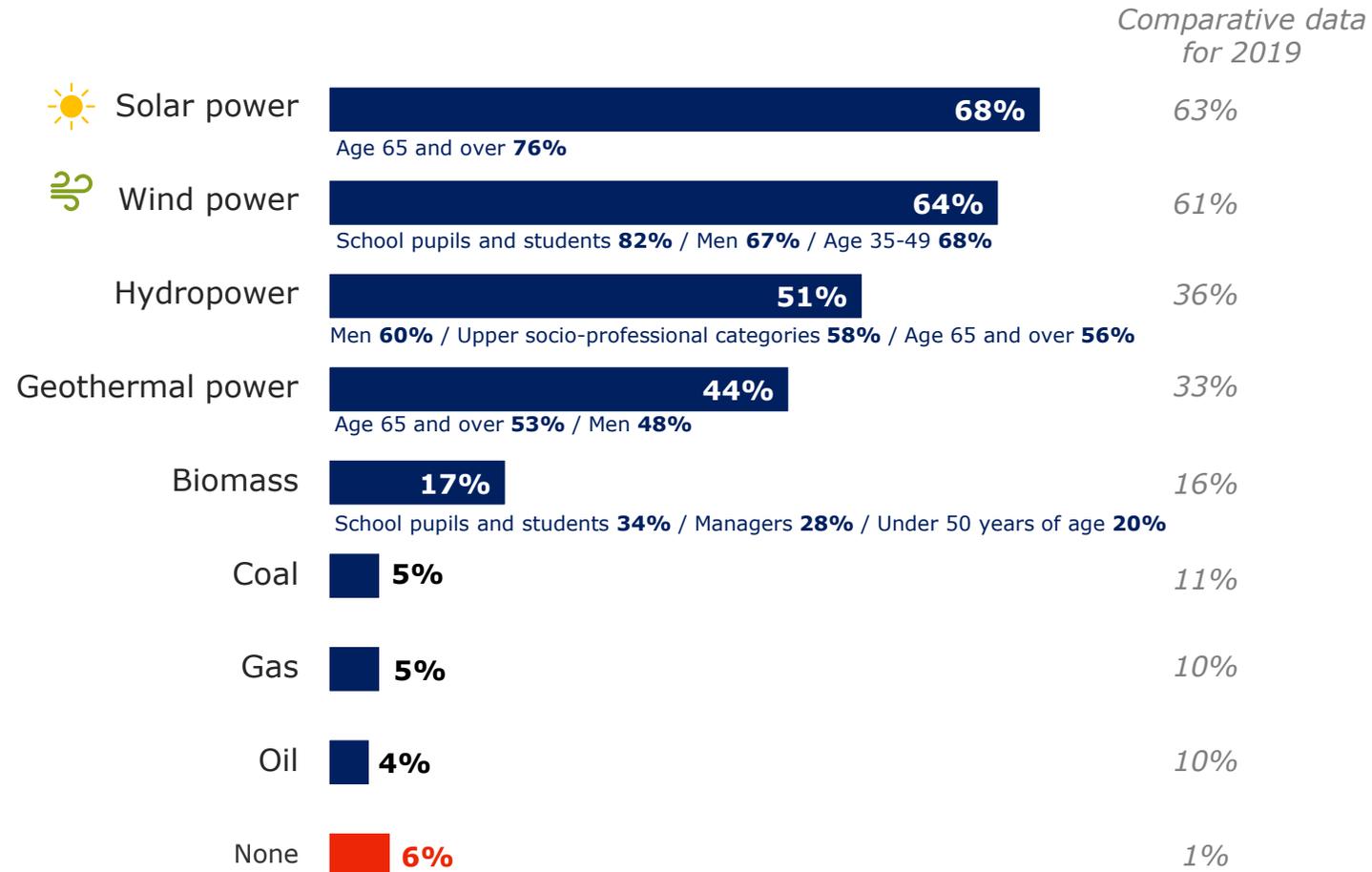
Base: all participants (1,500 respondents)



# Solar and wind power are still the two sources of energy which are perceived as making less of a contribution to greenhouse gases production than nuclear energy

**Q5. In your view, which of the following sources of energy make less of a contribution to greenhouse gases production than nuclear energy?**

Base: all participants (1,500 respondents)



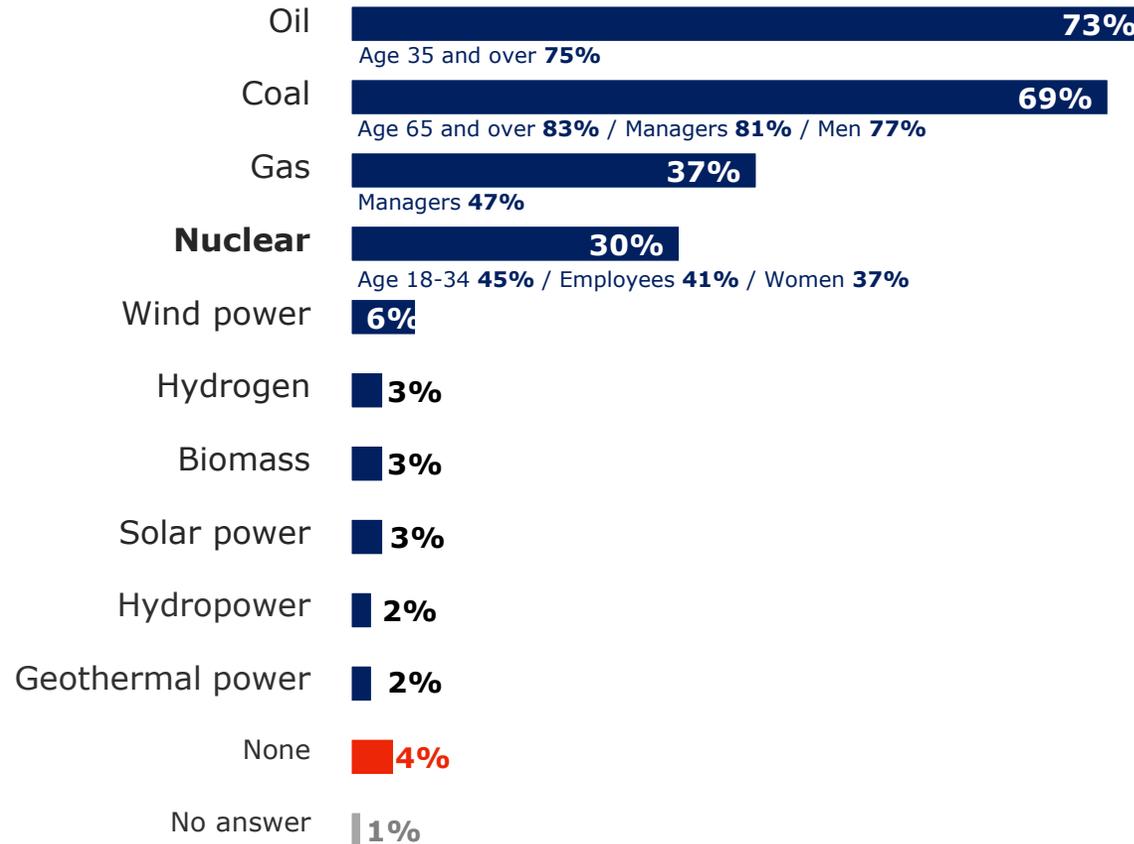
Total greater than 100% as several answers were possible

# Oil and coal are the sources of energy which are perceived as having the greatest negative impact on biodiversity...

Q6. In your view, which sources of energy have the greatest negative impact on biodiversity?

Base: all participants (1,500 respondents)

## **New question**



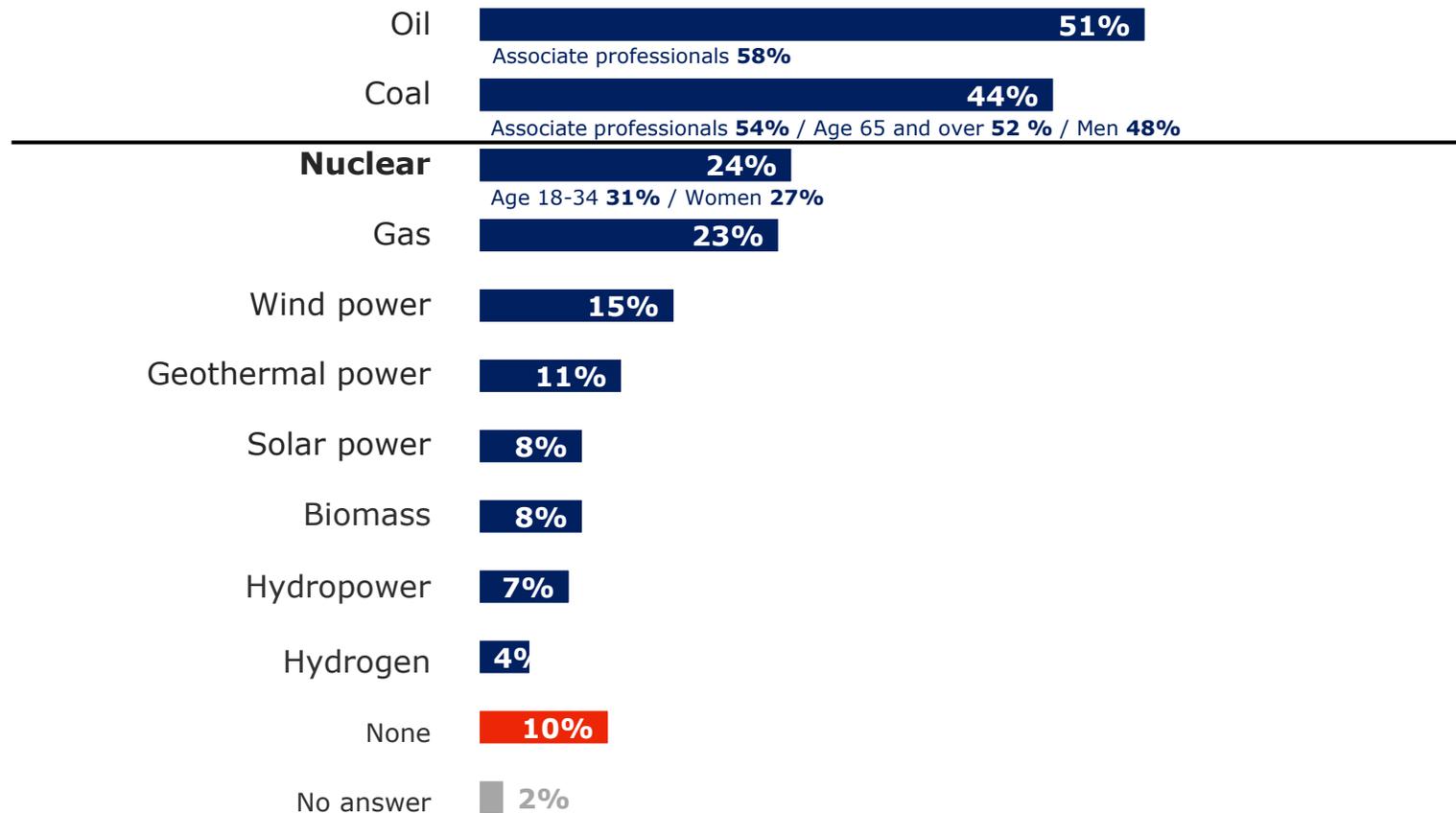
Total greater than 100% as three answers were possible

## ... but also on the artificialization of soils

**Q7. In your view, what are the sources of energy which have the greatest negative impact on the artificialization of soils (that is, transforming natural, agricultural or forest land to assign it to urban or transport functions: residential dwellings, public infrastructure, roads, etc.)?**

Base: all participants (1,500 respondents)

### **New question**



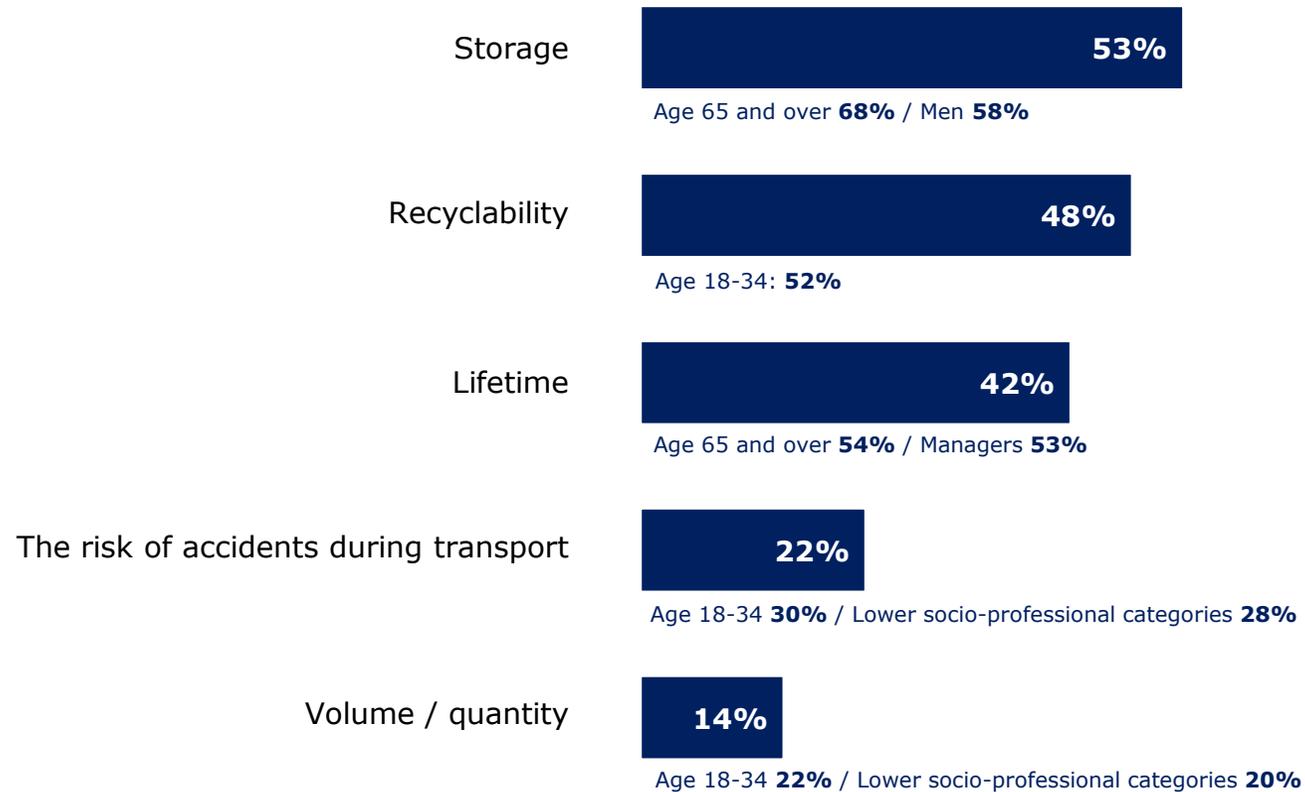
Total greater than 100% as three answers were possible

# For a majority of French people, the main difficulty associated with nuclear waste is related to the issue of storage

Q12. In your view, what are the main difficulties associated with nuclear waste?

Base: all participants (1,500 respondents)

## ***New question***



Total greater than 100% as two answers were possible

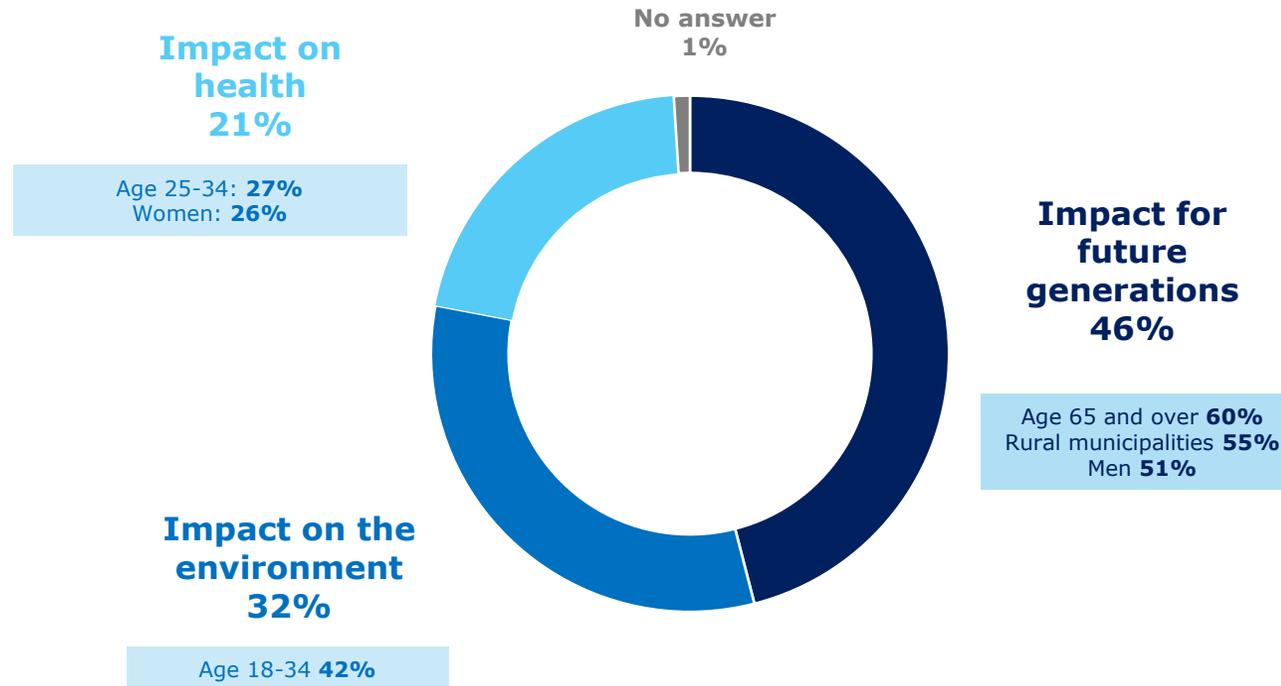
# Concern related mainly to the impact of nuclear waste for future generations

Q13. Which of the following is the subject of most concern for you about nuclear waste?

Base: all participants (1,500 respondents)



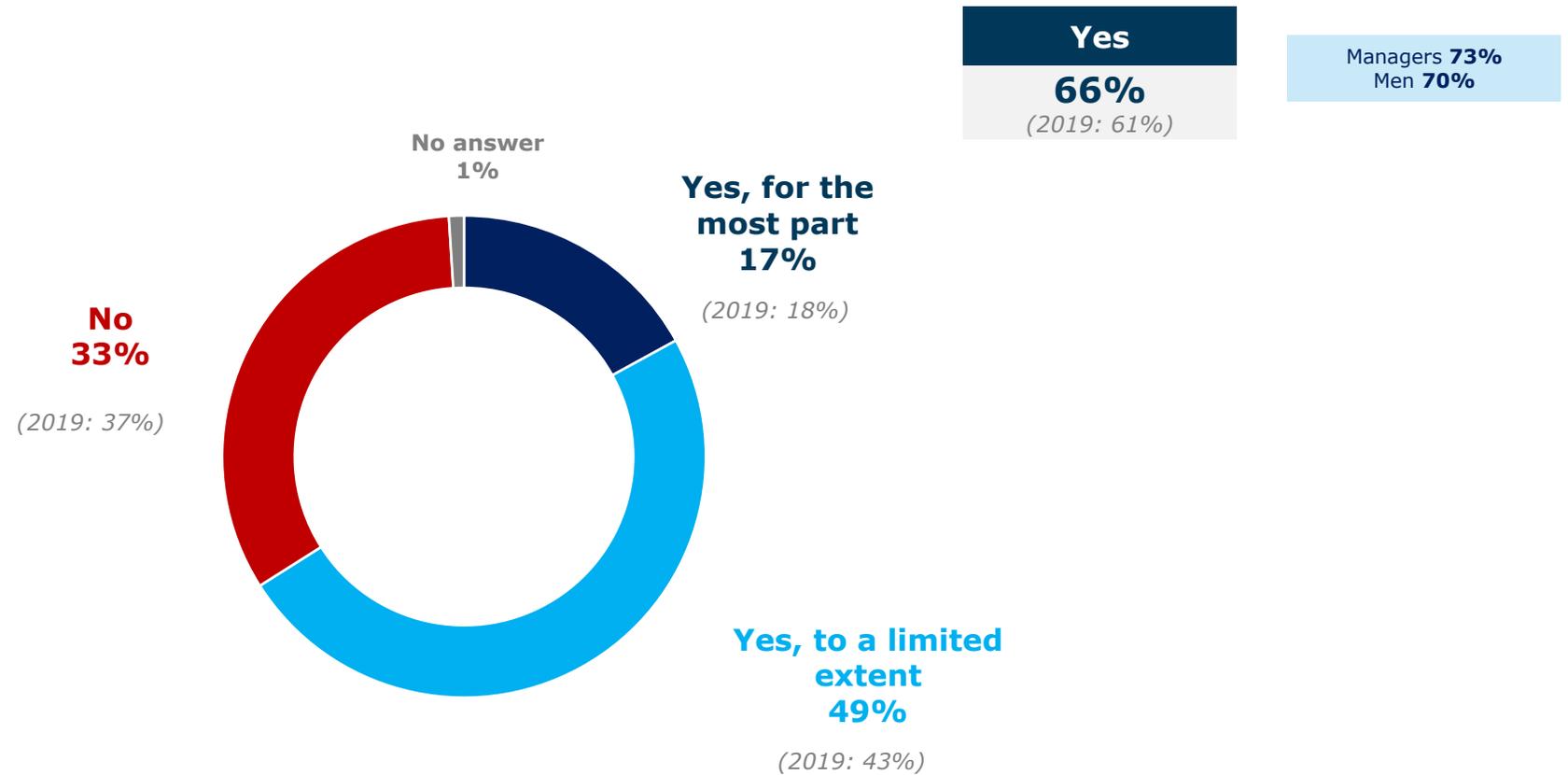
**New question**



# Two-thirds of the French public think that the fuel used in power plants to produce electricity can be recycled, a score which is up slightly compared to 2019

Q14. In your view, can the fuel used in power plants to produce electricity be recycled?

Base: all participants (1,500 respondents)

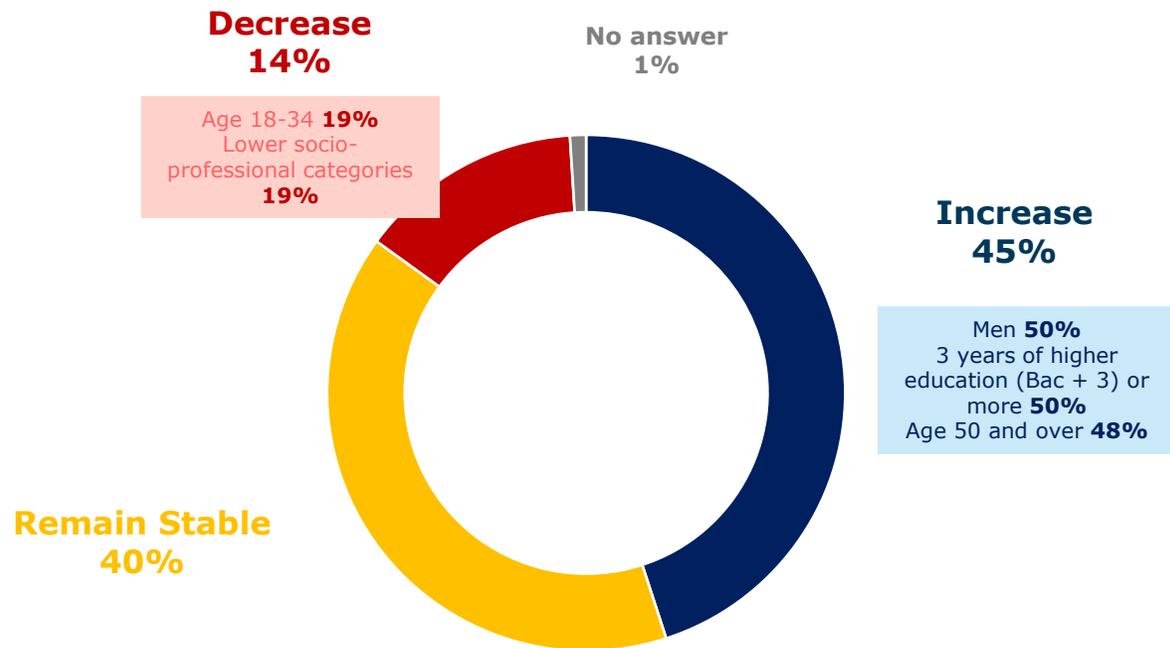


# French people divided on how the recycling of nuclear fuel will change in the future: nearly half of them expect an improvement

Q15. In your view, in the years to come, the share of nuclear fuel that will be able to be recycled is rather going to...

Base: all participants (1,500 respondents)

## **New question**



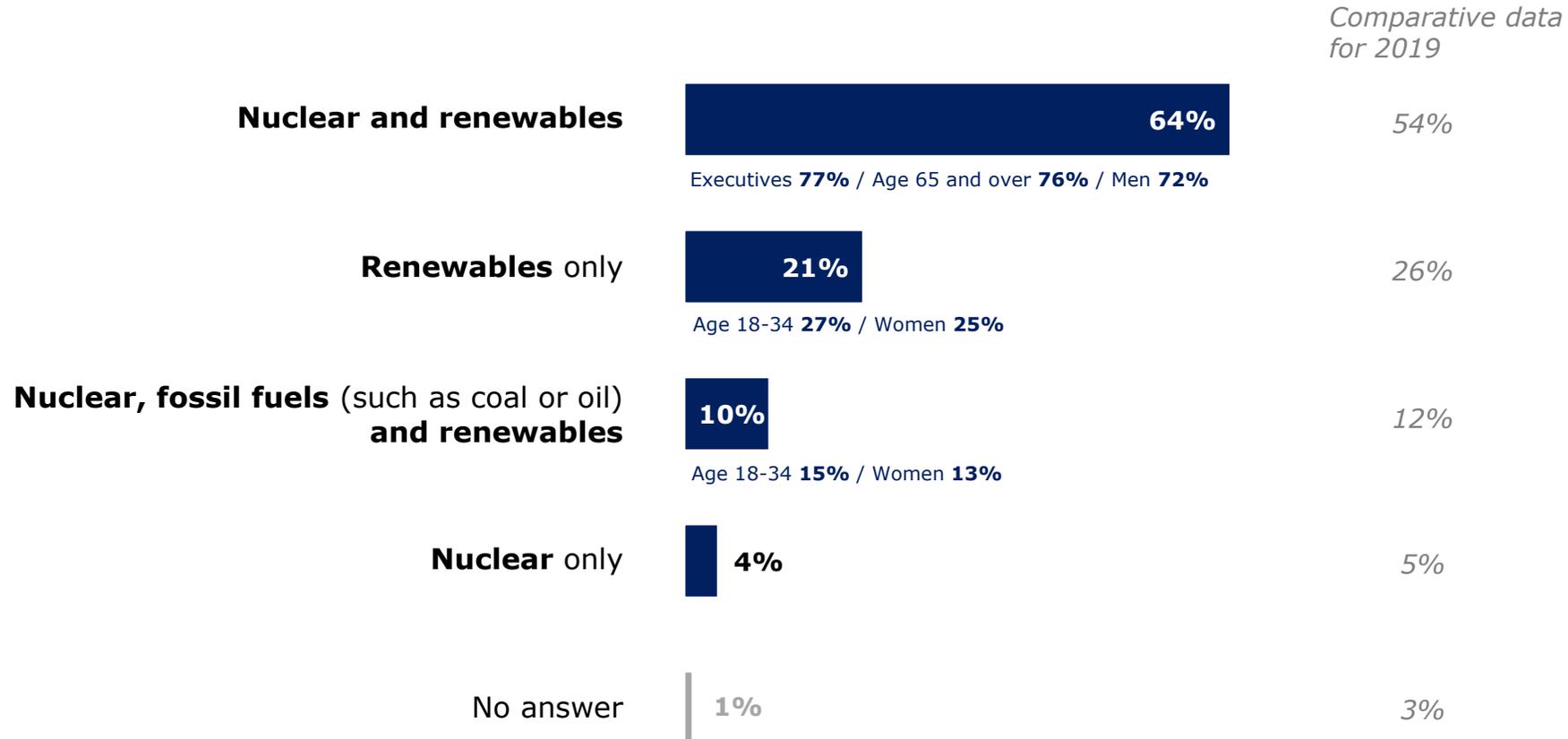
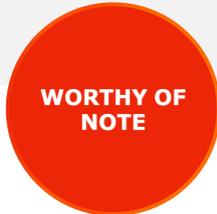
# THE FUTURE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY

# 04

# Nearly two-thirds of French people think there is plan to generate energy from a combination of nuclear and renewable energies, a figure that is up compared to 2019

**Q19. In November 2018, the French government defined the main directions to be taken concerning the generation of electricity in France over the decades to come. To your knowledge, are there plans to generate electricity from the following energy sources ...**

*Base: all participants (1,500 respondents)*



# As in 2019, only a minority of French people expect there to be a decrease in the use of nuclear energy, whether in France or abroad

Q18. In the future, do you think that the use of nuclear energy is going to...

Base: all participants (1,500 respondents)

