



Social Mobility
Commission

Social Mobility Barometer

Public attitudes to social mobility in the UK

December 2018

About the Commission

The Social Mobility Commission is an advisory non-departmental public body established under the Life Chances Act 2010 as modified by the Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016. It has a duty to assess progress in improving social mobility in the UK and to promote social mobility in England. It consists of thirteen commissioners and is supported by a small secretariat.

The Commission board comprises:

- Dame Martina Milburn (Chair)
- Alastair da Costa, Chair of Capital City College Group
- Farrah Storr, Editor-in-chief of Cosmopolitan
- Harvey Matthewson, Volunteer, and part-time Sales Assistant at Marks & Spencer
- Jessica Oghenegweke, Project co-ordinator at the Diana Award
- Jody Walker, Senior Vice President at TJX Europe (TK Maxx and Home Sense in the UK)
- Liz Williams, Group Director of Digital Society at BT
- Pippa Dunn, Founder of Broody, helping entrepreneurs and start ups
- Saeed Atcha, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Xplode magazine
- Sam Friedman, Associate Professor in Sociology at London School of Economics
- Sammy Wright, Vice Principal of Southmoor Academy, Sunderland
- Sandra Wallace, Managing Partner UK and Joint Managing Director Europe at DLA Piper
- Steven Cooper, most recently, Chief Executive Officer Barclaycard Business, moving to Chief Executive Officer C.Hoare & Co

The functions of the Commission include:

- Monitoring progress on improving social mobility.
- Providing published advice to ministers on matters relating to social mobility.
- Undertaking social mobility advocacy.

Social Mobility Commission
Sanctuary Buildings
20 Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BT
contact@socialmobilitycommission.gov.uk

Foreword

Social mobility is about helping everyone thrive and grasp opportunities. To know how we are doing on this we need to understand people's experiences and perceptions rather than just using official statistics.

The Social Mobility Barometer is a survey of over 5,000 people from across the nation. Last year it revealed a divided 'us and them' society and deep pessimism among the young. This year there is little difference with widespread concern that things are getting worse.

Forty per cent of respondents think it is getting harder for people from less advantaged backgrounds to move up in British society, almost twice as many as those who think it is becoming easier.

Nearly half of people (46 per cent) say that where you end up in society is largely determined by who your parents are – compared with a third (33 per cent) who say that everyone has a fair chance to get on regardless of their background.

It is typically younger generations who feel more acutely that background determines where you end up, with almost half (48 per cent) of 25-49 year olds agreeing with this statement compared with just over a third of those aged 65 and over.

This year we asked whether apprenticeships, university, or other post-school options provide the best progression route – and learnt that most people think apprenticeships offer better life chances than university. However, this varied by age with young people under 25 the least likely to see the value of apprenticeships.

We also asked who, if anyone, should be doing more to create opportunities. We found that 63 per cent of people feel that those who are 'just about managing' are not getting enough support from the Government.

We need to raise awareness about what social mobility means and how important it is to give those from disadvantaged backgrounds equal chances. Our latest Social Mobility Barometer shows that just 55 per cent of the public know what social mobility is, underlining the big task ahead*.

Surprisingly men are more likely than women to know what it means and older people more likely than the younger generation*. The findings will feed into the Commission's work, as we strive to widen our audience.

This is a wake-up call for government and the rest of society alike. That is why we are relaunching the Social Mobility Commission with a renewed focus on improving social mobility and driving real action across sectors. We hope that you will join us in our movement for change.



Dame Martina Milburn

Chair

**These results were taken from a separate smaller survey of 1656 GB adults. Fieldwork was conducted between 9th – 10th October 2018 for this survey.*

Top line findings

- Nearly half of people (46%) say that where you end up in society is largely determined by who your parents are – compared with a third (33%) who say that everyone has a fair chance to get on regardless of their background.
- 40% of people think that it is becoming harder for people from disadvantaged backgrounds to move up in society, with 44% of 25-49 year olds thinking that it is becoming harder.
- It is typically younger generations who feel more acutely that background determines where you end up, with almost half (48%) of 25-49 year olds agreeing with this statement compared with 38% of those aged 65 and over.
- There is a significant generational divide when it comes to feelings about living standards. When looking at their financial situation, just 30% of 18-24 year olds and 34% of 25-49 year olds say they are better off than their parents, compared to 71% of those aged 65+.
- Only a fifth (20%) of 18-24 year olds believe they have a better level of job security compared to their parents and only 18% say they have better job satisfaction.
- Just 22% of those aged 25-49 think their housing situation is better than their parents' compared to 60% of those aged 65.
- 75% say there is a large gap between social classes in Britain today – just 14% believe the gap is small. 30% believe this gap is 'very large'*.
- Three quarters of people (75%) say poorer people are less likely to go to a top university and 64% say they have less opportunity to get into a professional career.
- 63% of people feel that those who are 'just about managing' are not getting enough support from Government compared with 2% who say that they are getting too much support.
- Just 55% of people understand what the term social mobility means, with 18-24 year olds least likely to understand it, compared to older age groups*.
- Over half (52%) of people think that central government should be doing more on social mobility, and 36% think that employers should be doing more. Just 5% think enough is being done. People think that schools are best equipped to tackle social mobility (46% think this), followed by employers (37%) and central government (34%).
- 85% of those who identify as working class think that there is a large gap between social classes.
- People think that apprenticeships offer the best route to progression, more so than university. Older people are more likely to think that apprenticeships offer the best route, which could suggest support for life-long learning as a possible solution to social mobility barriers.

**These results were taken from a separate smaller survey of 1656 GB adults. Fieldwork was conducted between 9th – 10th October 2018 for this survey.*

Top line regional findings

- Nearly three quarters of people (73%) say there are ‘fairly or very’ large differences in opportunity depending on where you live in the country.
- Those living in North East and Northern Ireland (79%) are most likely to think that differences in opportunities exist.
- 44 per cent of those who moved from where they grew up say if they had stayed where they were, they would not have got the best opportunities in life.
- 57% of those that grew up in the North East think that they would not have had the best opportunities in life had they stayed there.
- 64% of people who grew up in and stayed in the North East say the opportunities for people to progress are poor compared to other parts of the country – compared to just 13% of Londoners.
- However, Londoners are more likely than people in other parts of Great Britain to feel worse off than their parents in terms of overall living standards, job security, and housing.
- 39% of Londoners feel their housing situation is worse than that of their parents, while only 26% feel it is better. In Scotland, these figures are almost reversed – with 41% of people feeling their housing is better than their parents’ and just 26% feeling it is worse.
- Of all areas of Great Britain, people in Scotland are the most likely to feel better off than their parents in terms of overall living standards.

Methodology

YouGov surveyed 5,520 UK Adults and fieldwork was conducted between 19th and 22nd March. The survey was carried out online and figures have been weighted and are representative of UK Adults aged 18+. YouGov ensured the survey was made representative based on several criteria.

- Age and Gender
- Political Attention
- Region
- Education Level
- General Election Vote in 2017
- EU Referendum Vote 2016

A supplemental survey of 1,656 GB Adults was conducted between 9th and 10th October 2018. The survey was carried out online and figures have been weighted and are representative of GB Adults aged 18+.

Report also draws on results from a survey conducted between 6th and 9th March 2017. Sample was 4,723 UK Adults. Figures weighted and representative of UK Adults aged 18+.

YouGov is a member of the British Polling Council.

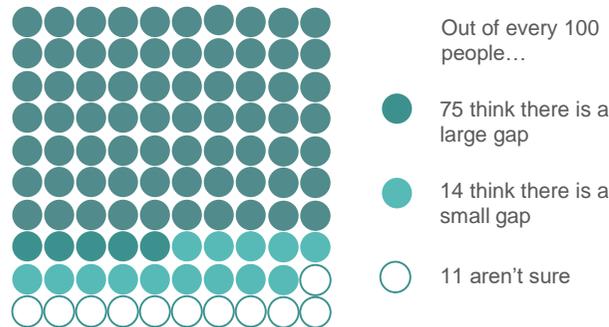
Three quarters of respondents think that there is a large gap between social classes in Britain

75% of respondents think that there is a large or very large gap between social classes in Britain today, in comparison to 14% who think that there is a small gap.

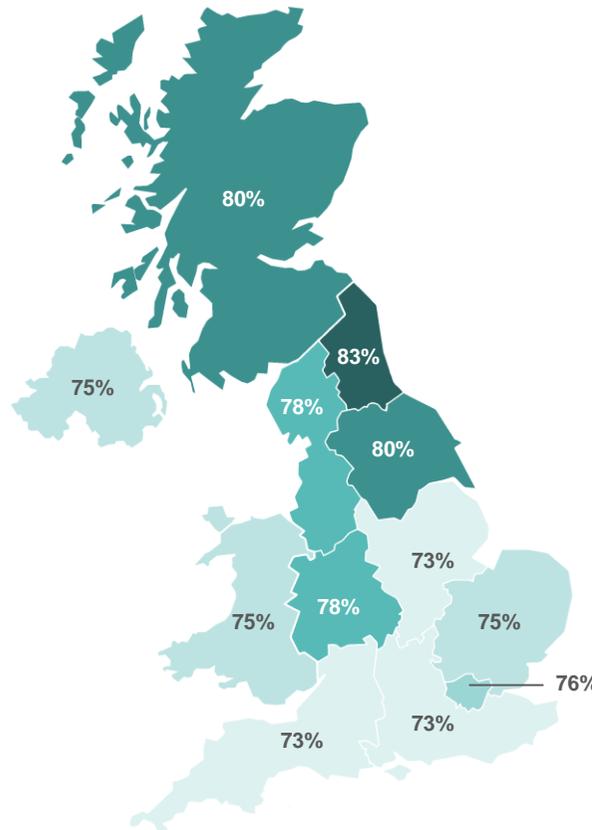
In the North East*, around five sixths of respondents (83%) think there is a large gap between social classes. Scotland and Yorkshire and the Humber have the next highest proportions (80%), whilst respondents in the South of England and East Midlands are least likely to say there is a large gap – though 73% of respondents in both areas still think the gap is large.

Those aged 65 and over are least likely to think that there is a large gap between social classes (68%), whilst those aged 50-64 are most likely to think there is a large gap (79%).

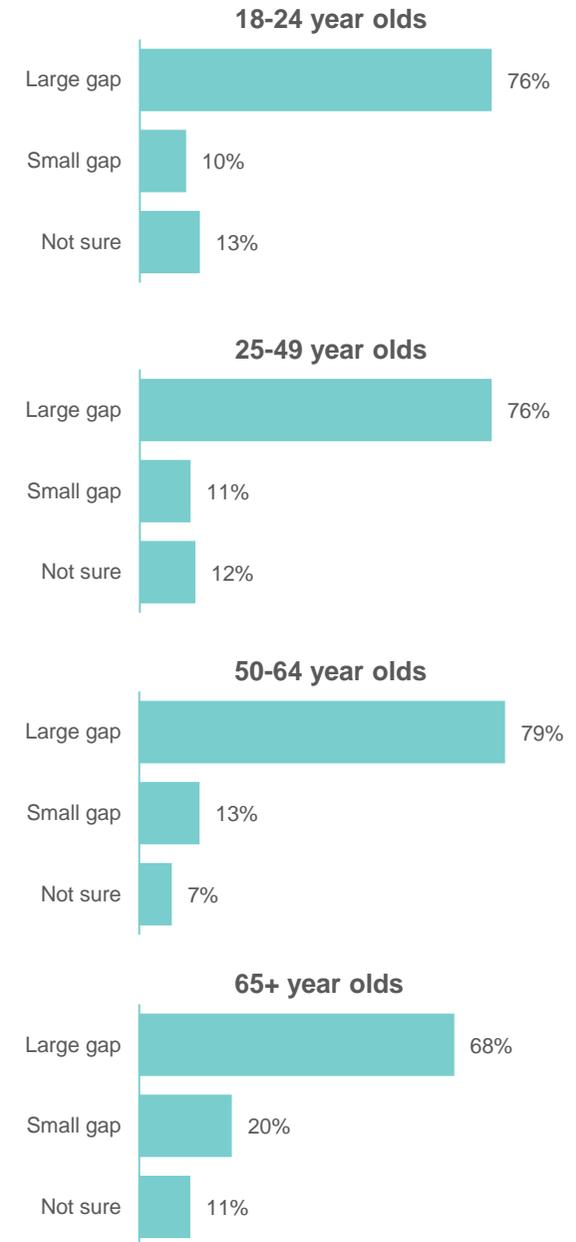
How large or small do you think the gap is between different social classes in Britain today?



Percentage of respondents that think there is a large gap between different social classes in Britain today (by region)*



How large or small do you think the gap is between different social classes in Britain today? (by age)

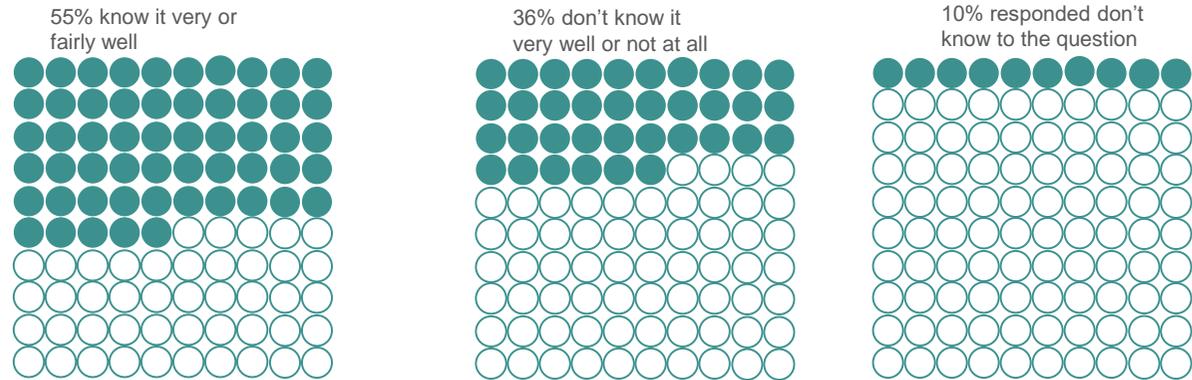


Sample size: 1656 GB Adults (18-24 n=152, 25-49 n=703, 50-64 n=415 and 65+ n=386); Fieldwork: 9th – 10th October 2018

*All regional results on this page: sample size: 5520 UK Adults (North East n=206, North West n=549, Yorkshire and the Humber n=458, East Midlands n=388, West Midlands n=452, East of England n=511, London n=536, South East n=724, South West n=485, Wales n=504, Scotland n=553, Northern Ireland n=154); Fieldwork: 19th – 22nd March 2018

Just over half of people understand what social mobility means

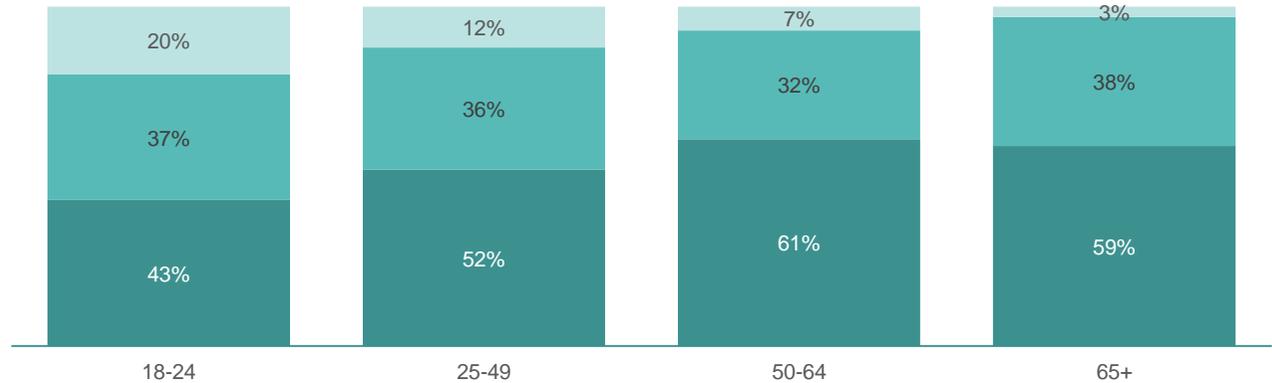
How well, if at all, do you know what the term “social mobility” means?



55% of people know what the term social mobility means well or fairly well, whilst 36% don't know if very well or at all.

Younger age groups are less likely to understand the term: just 43% of 18-24 year olds know what the term means, in comparison to 61% of 50-64 year olds.

How well, if at all, do you know what the term “social mobility” means (by age)?



Men are more likely to know what the term means: 57% of men understand the term very or fairly well, in comparison to 51% of women.

How well, if at all, do you know what the term “social mobility” means (by gender)?



Sample size: 1656 GB Adults (18-24 n=152, 25-49 n=703, 50-64 n=415 and 65+ n=386); Fieldwork: 9th – 10th October 2018

How your background impacts
where you end up

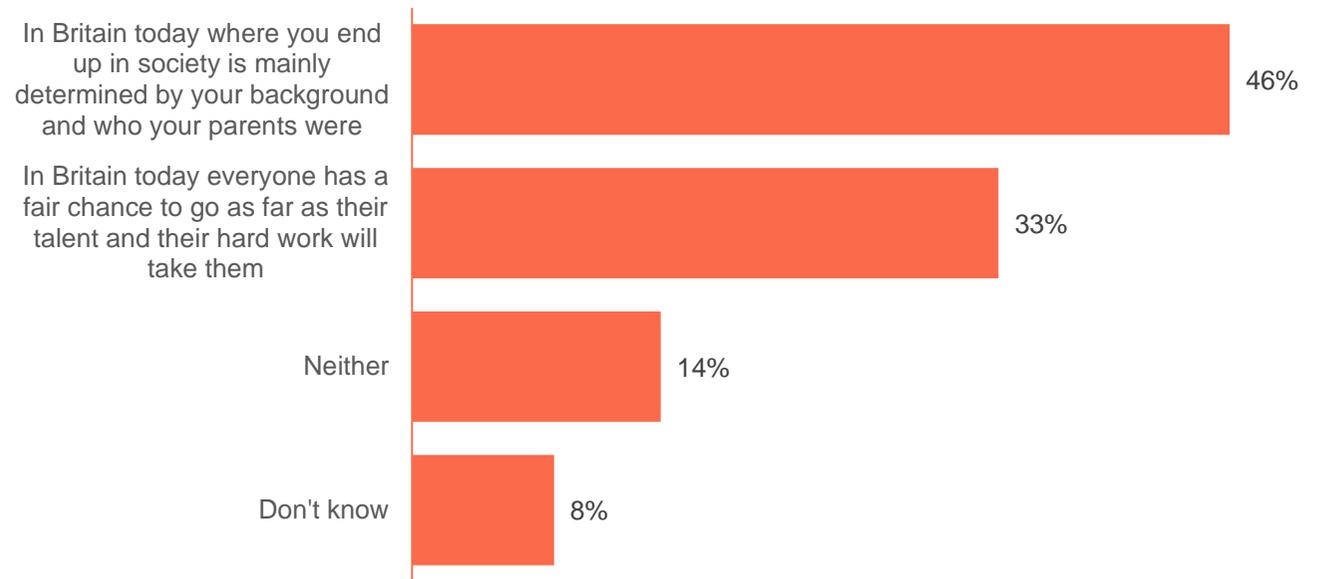
People feel that your background and parents determine where you end up in society

Nearly half of people (46%) say that where you end up in society is largely determined by who your parents are – compared with a third (33%) who say that everyone has a fair chance to get on regardless of their background.

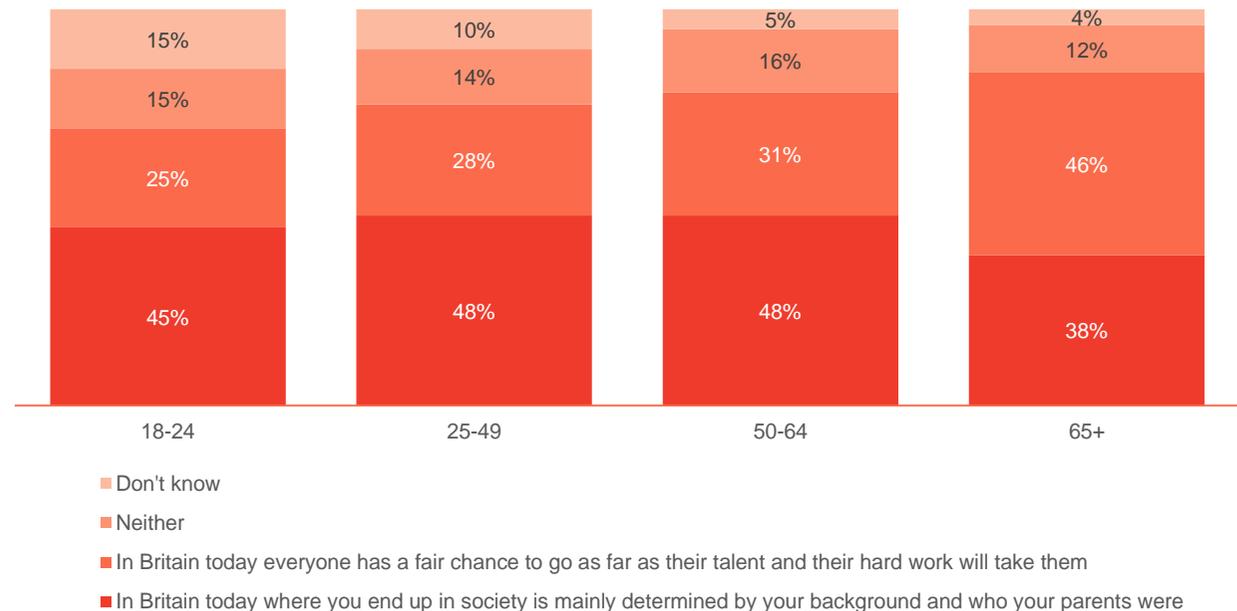
Just 25% of 18-24 year olds think that everyone has a fair chance to go as far as their talent and hard work will take them (the lowest figure of all age groups), in comparison to 46% of those age 65 and over.

People aged 65 or over are less likely to think that background determines life chances, 38% thinking this, in comparison to 45% of 18-24 year olds and 48% of 25-64 year olds.

Q. Which of the following best reflects your view?



Which of the following best reflects your view (by age)?



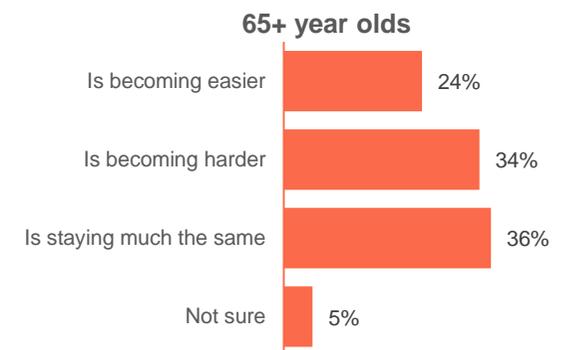
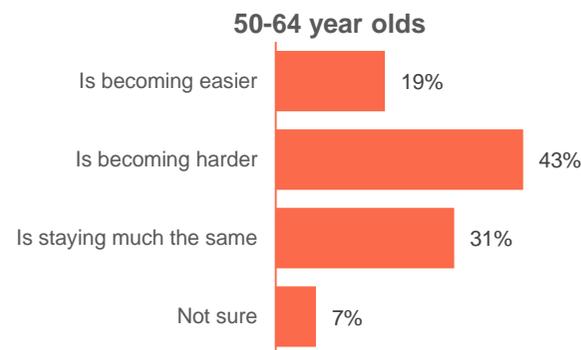
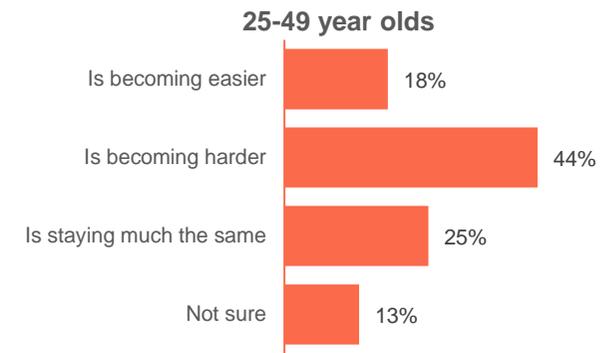
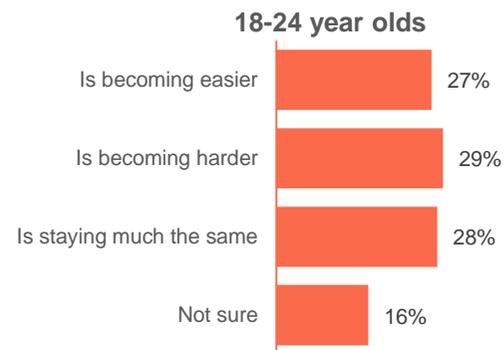
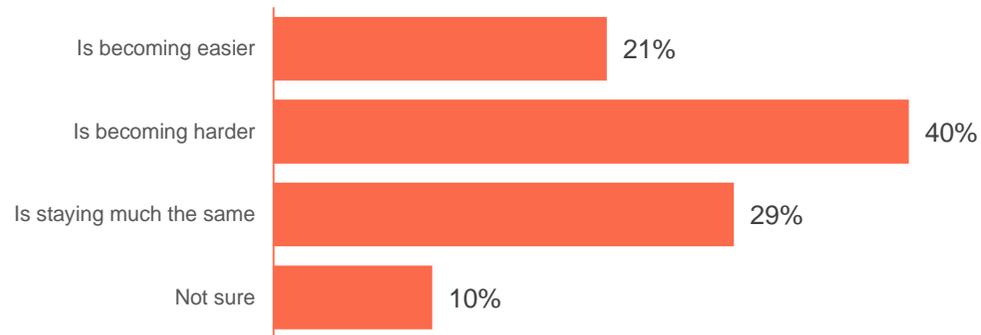
People think that social mobility is getting worse in Britain

People think that social mobility is getting worse in Britain: 40% of respondents think that it is getting harder for people from less advantaged backgrounds to move up in British society, almost twice as many as those who think it is becoming easier.

This is the case across all age groups. 25-49 year olds are most likely to think it is becoming harder for people from less advantaged backgrounds to move up in society, with 44% of them thinking this. Just 18% of this group think it is becoming easier.

By contrast, those aged 18-24 are the most optimistic on this measure of life chances. Just 29% of them thinking it is becoming harder, while 27% think it is becoming easier.

Q. Generally speaking, do you think it is becoming easier or harder for people from less advantaged backgrounds to move up in British society?



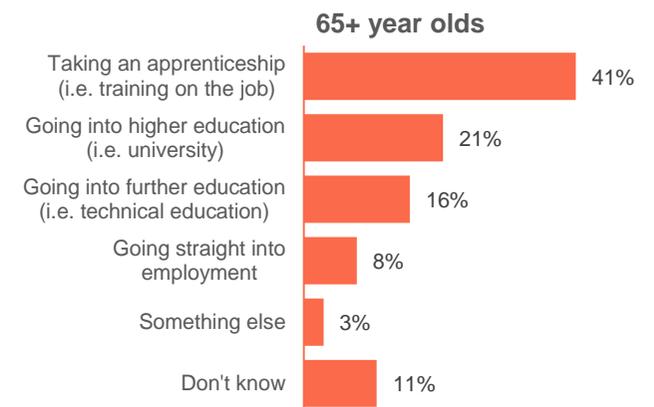
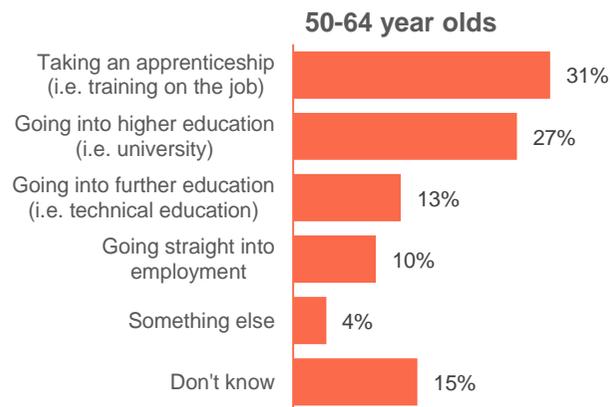
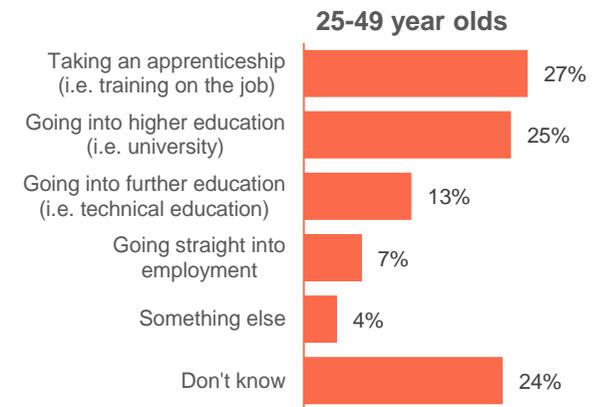
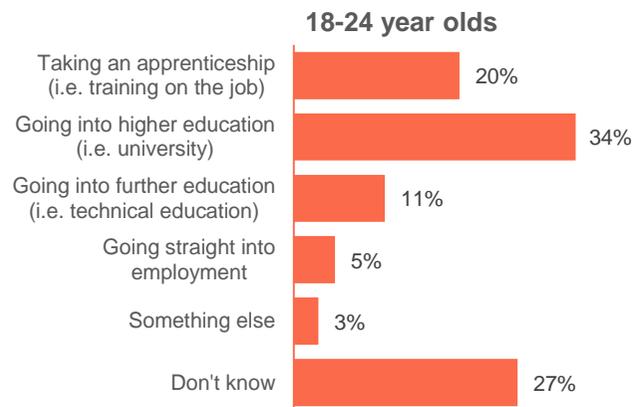
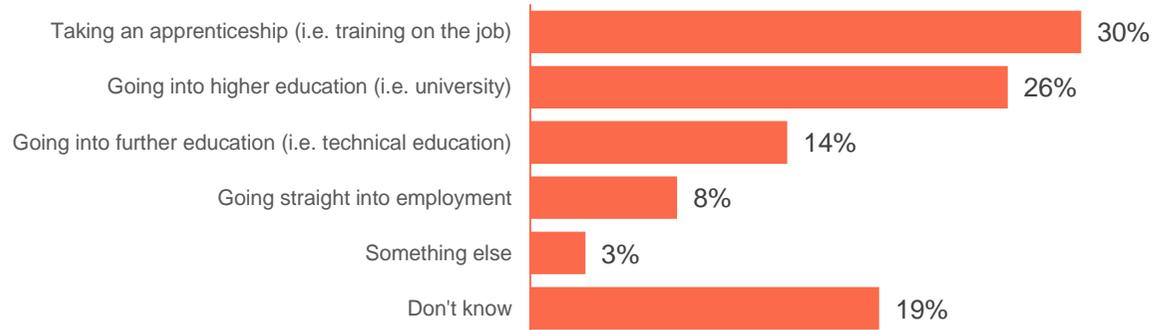
People think that apprenticeships are the best opportunity for progression

Respondents are more likely to think that taking an apprenticeship offers the best opportunity to progress in a young person's life or career than other routes, with 30% feeling that apprenticeships offer the best route. This compares to 26% of respondents thinking higher education offers the best route, 14% thinking further education, and just 8% thinking that starting work offers the best opportunity.

However, figures differ by age of respondent, with those aged 65+ being much more likely to suggest apprenticeships. Respondents aged 65+ selected apprenticeships around twice (41%) as much as the next highest category (higher education, 21%).

Conversely, those aged 18-24 were more likely to suggest higher education, with around one third suggesting this (34%) in comparison to 20% selecting apprenticeships.

Thinking about the period after a young person leaves school, which of these routes do you think offers the best opportunity to progress in their life or career?



Sample size: 5520 UK Adults (18-24 n=486, 25-49 n=2309, 50-64 n=1383 and 65+ n=1342); Fieldwork: 19th – 22nd March 2018

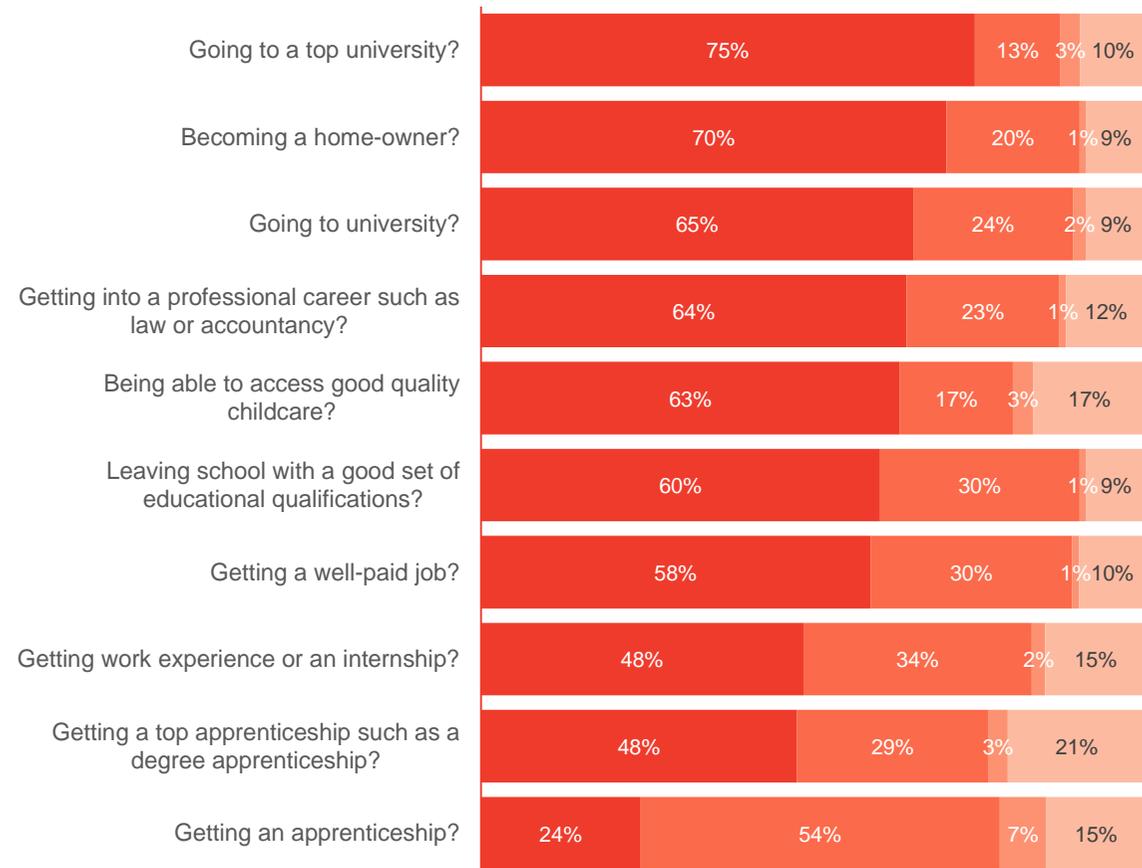
Three quarters of people think that poorer people have less opportunity to go to a top university

Three quarter of respondents feel that those from poor backgrounds have less opportunity to go to a top university.

A large majority of respondents feel that poorer people have less opportunity in most areas: 70% feel they have less opportunity to become a home owner; 60% feel they have less opportunity to leave school with good qualifications; and 58% feel they have less opportunity to get a well-paid job.

Only on access to apprenticeships did over half of respondents feel that there was equal opportunity, with 54% saying this.

Thinking about the opportunities that people from different backgrounds have in life, how do you think the opportunities open to people from poor backgrounds compare to those open to people from better off backgrounds in the following areas?



- People from poor backgrounds have less opportunity
- People have equal opportunities, regardless of background
- People from better off backgrounds have less opportunity
- Don't know

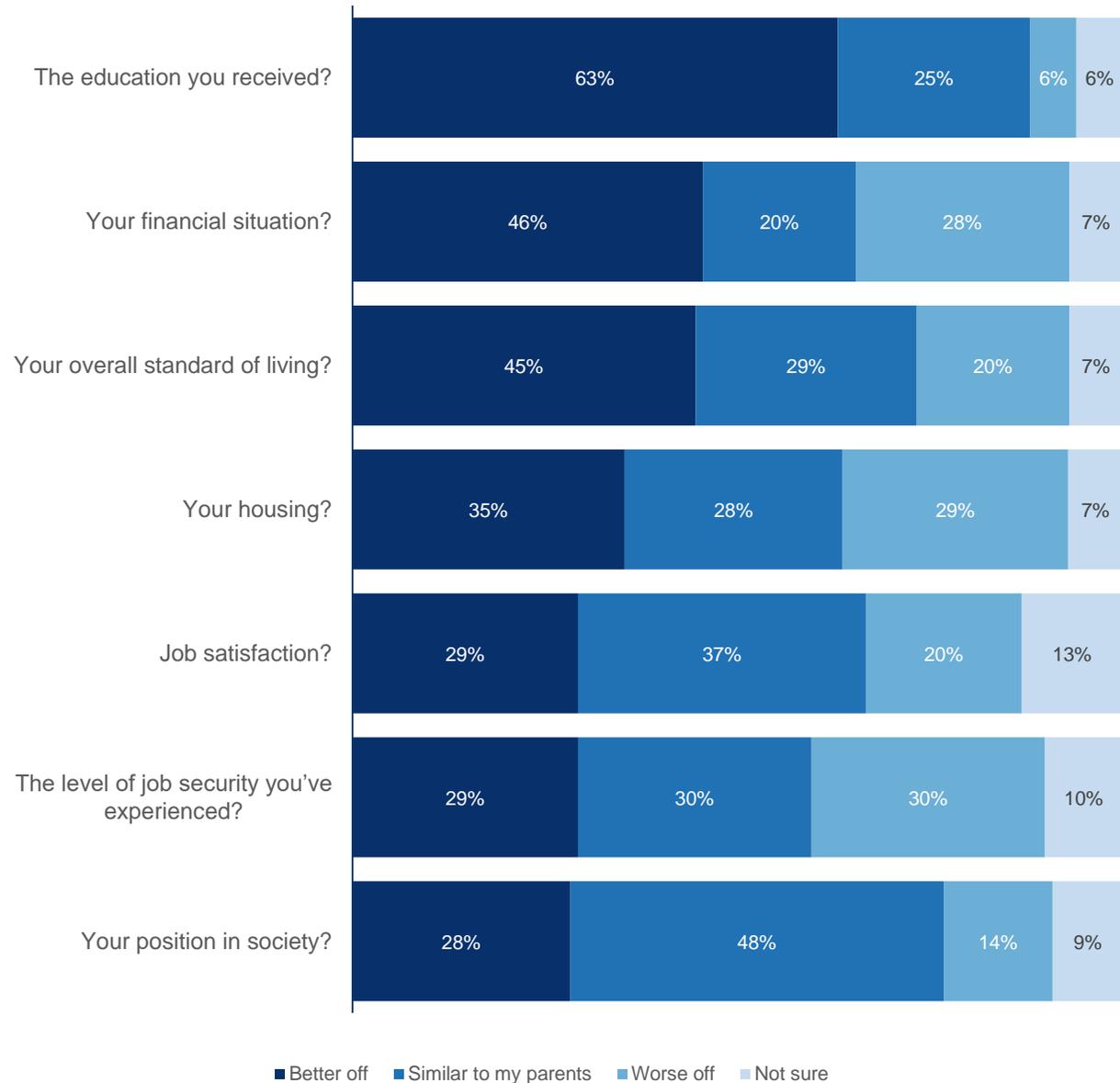
Are things better than they used to
be?

Most people think that their lives are better or similar to their parents' lives

People tend to think that they are better off than – or as well off as – their parents on most aspects of life, with 63% thinking that the education that they received was better than their parents.

However, this varies widely based on the aspect of life in question. Slightly more people think that their parents had better job security than them (30% vs 29%).

Do you think you've been better or worse off than your parents were in terms of...



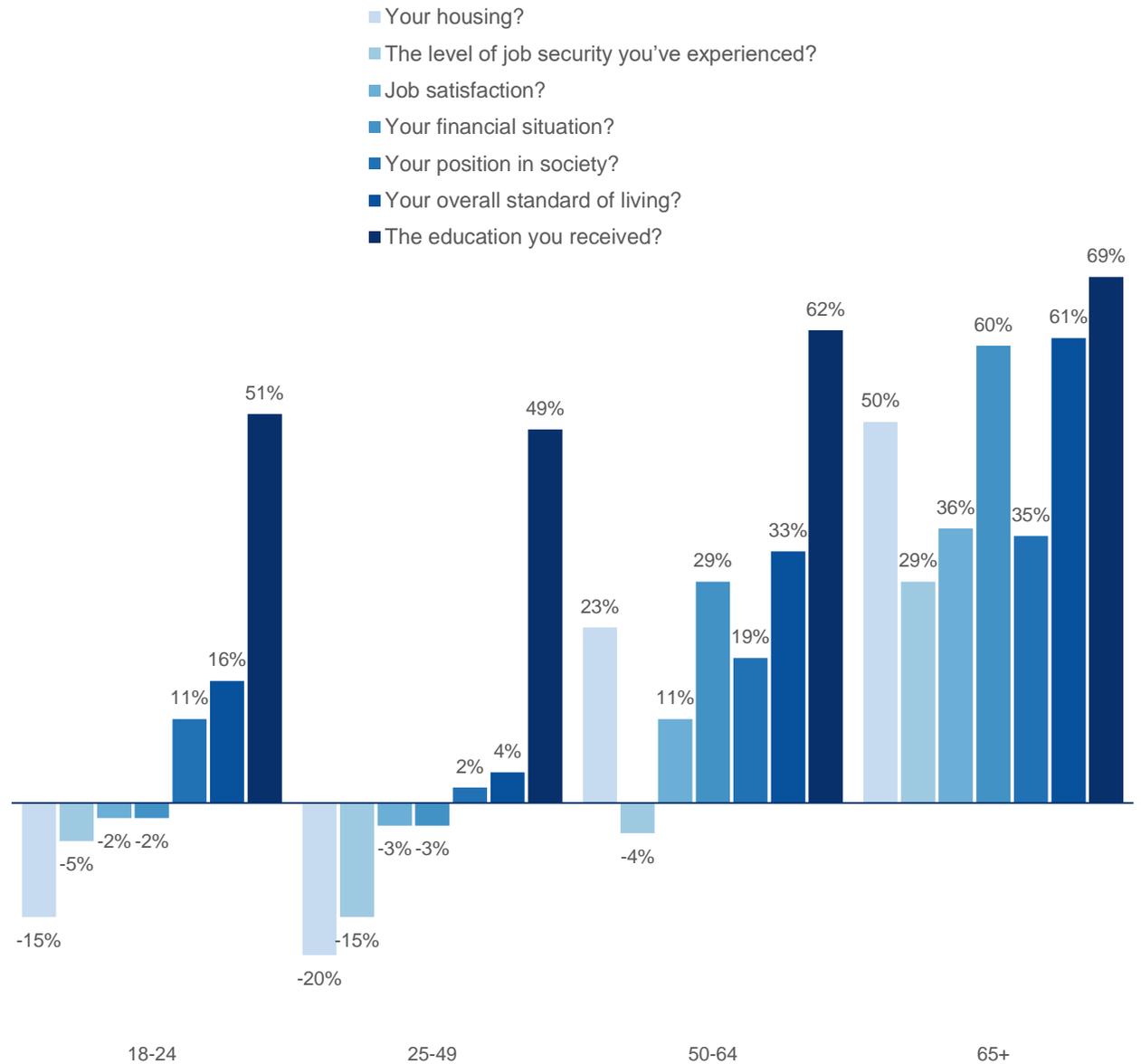
Younger generations are much less likely to think they are better off than their parents

Most people under 50 feel worse off than their parents in terms of their housing, job security, job satisfaction and personal finances (the negative bars).

By contrast, most of this under-50 group feel better off than their parents in terms of living standards, their position in society and education (the positive bars).

Even so, the younger age groups are far less likely than older generations to feel better off than their parents on any of our measures. Those aged 65 or over are about 3 times more positive about their position in society and almost 4 times more positive about their overall living standards than those aged 18-24.

Do you think you've been better or worse off than your parents were in terms of...?
(Net total 'better off' minus total 'worse off')



Londoners are more likely to feel worse off than their parents

Compared to the rest of Great Britain, people in London are more likely to feel worse off than their parents. This applies to overall living standards, housing, job security, and personal finances. On housing and job security, there are more Londoners who feel worse off than their parents than those who feel better off.

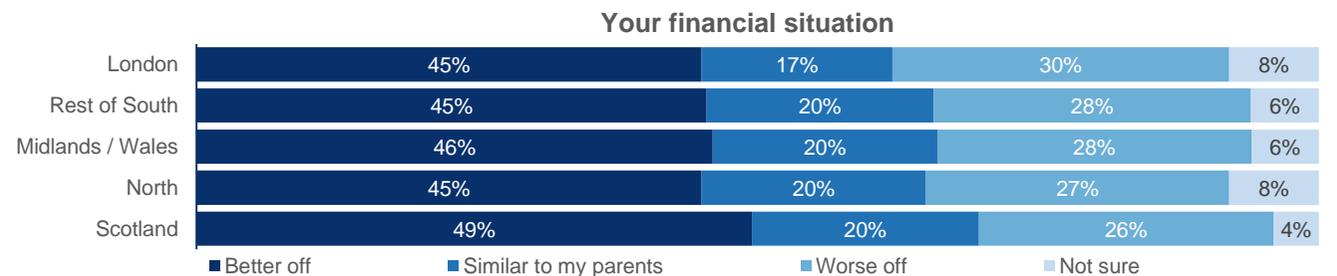
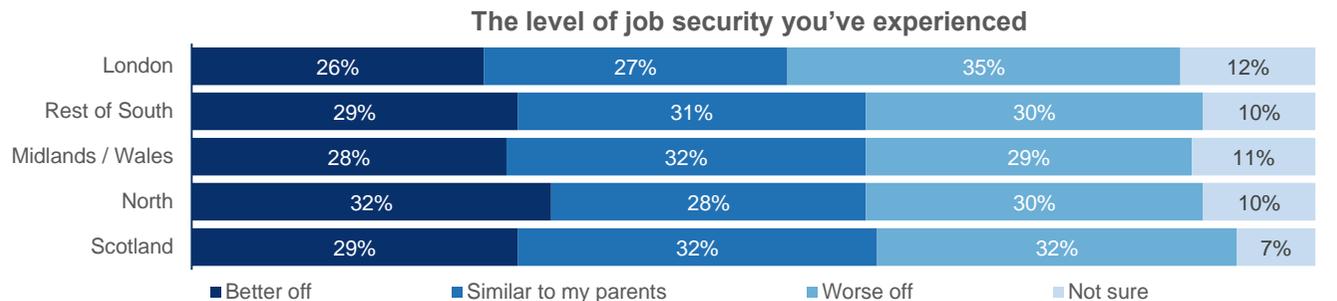
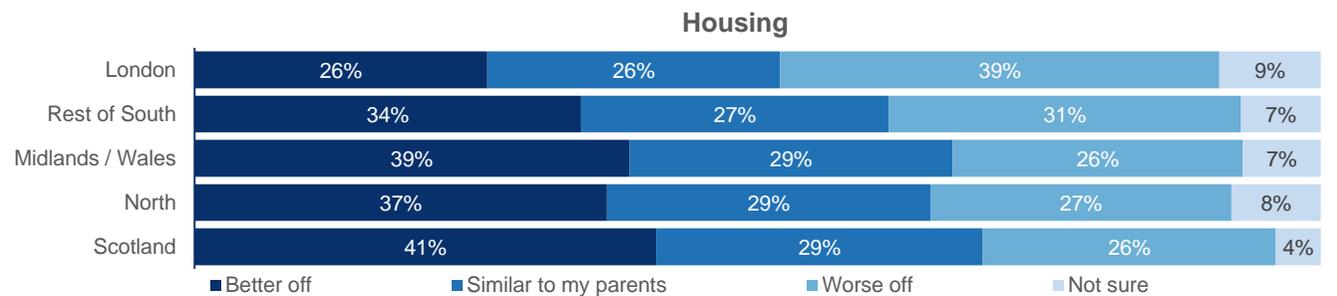
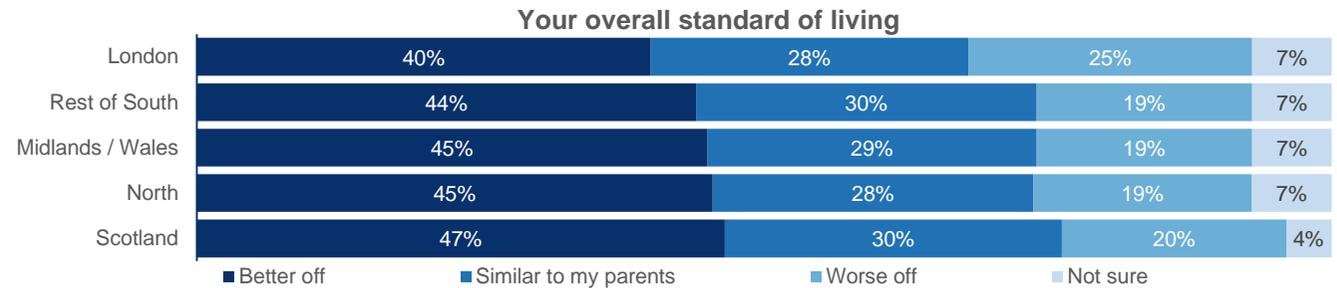
Compared to people in Scotland, Londoners are 7 percentage points less likely to feel better off than their parents on living standards.

Londoners fare the very worst on housing. Just 26% of Londoners think they are better off than their parents when it comes to housing, versus 41% of those in Scotland – a 15 percentage point difference.

On the positive end, people in Scotland are the most likely to say they are better off than their parents on overall living standards, housing and personal finances. People in the North tend to be most positive about their job security relative to their parents.

Otherwise, there is not much regional variation in whether people feel better or worse off than their parents.

Do you think you've been better or worse off than your parents were in terms of...



There is little regional variation in whether people feel better off than their parents on most measures

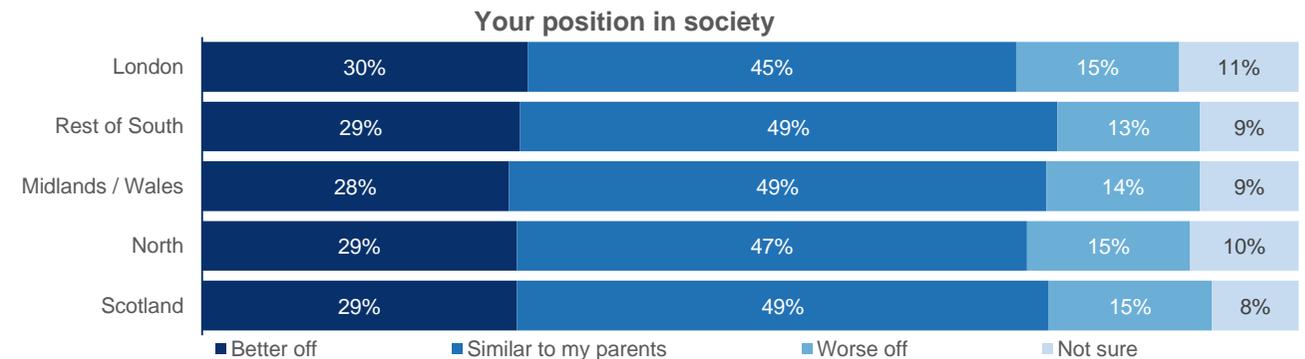
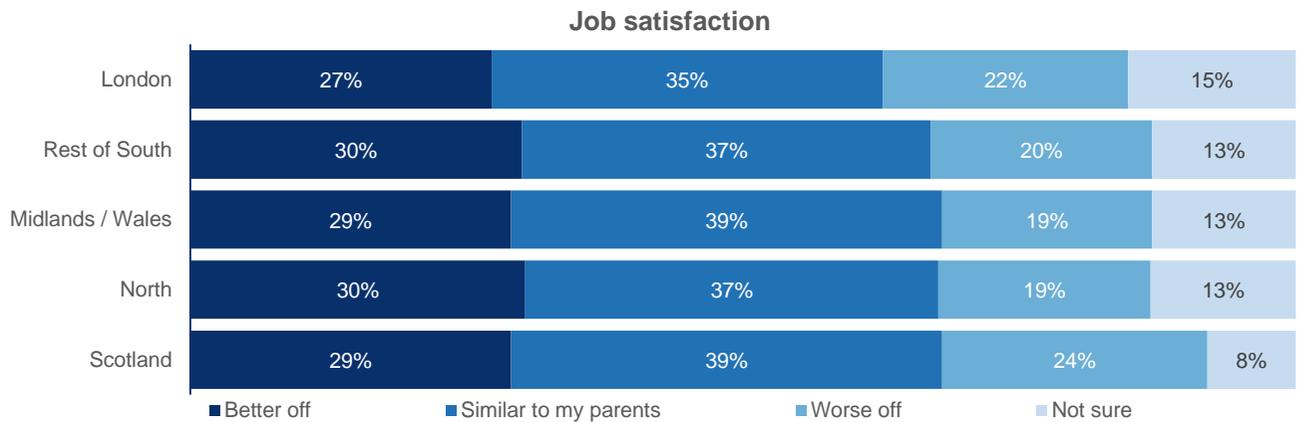
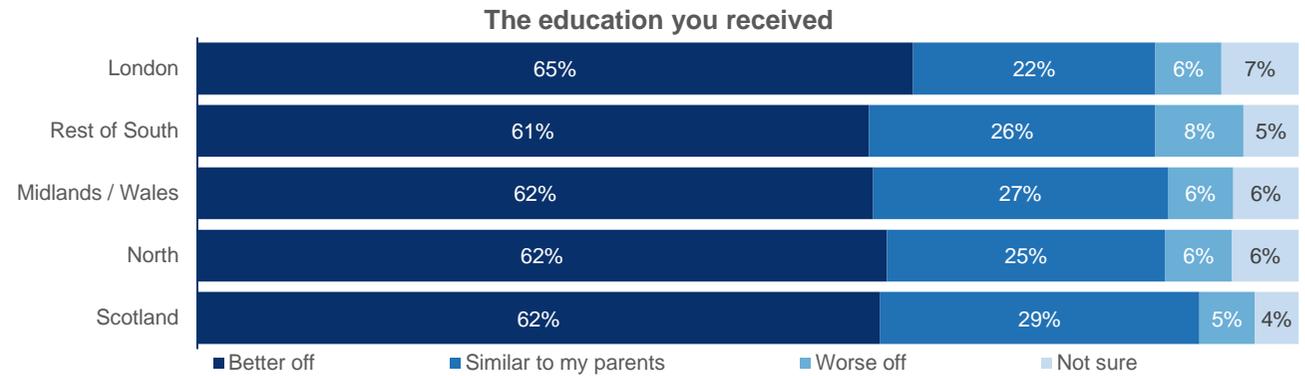
In terms of education, job satisfaction, or position in society, there is not much difference by region as to whether people feel better off than their parents.

Bucking other trends slightly, Londoners are marginally more likely than others to think they received better education than their parents – with 65% thinking they are better off, compared to 62% in most areas.

In terms of job satisfaction, those in Scotland are slightly more negative than people in other areas.

Otherwise there are few clear regional differences.

Do you think you've been better or worse off than your parents were in terms of...



Sample size: 5520 UK Adults (London n=536, Rest of South n=1720, Midlands/Wales n=1344, North n=1213 and Scotland n=553); Fieldwork: 19th – 22nd March 2018

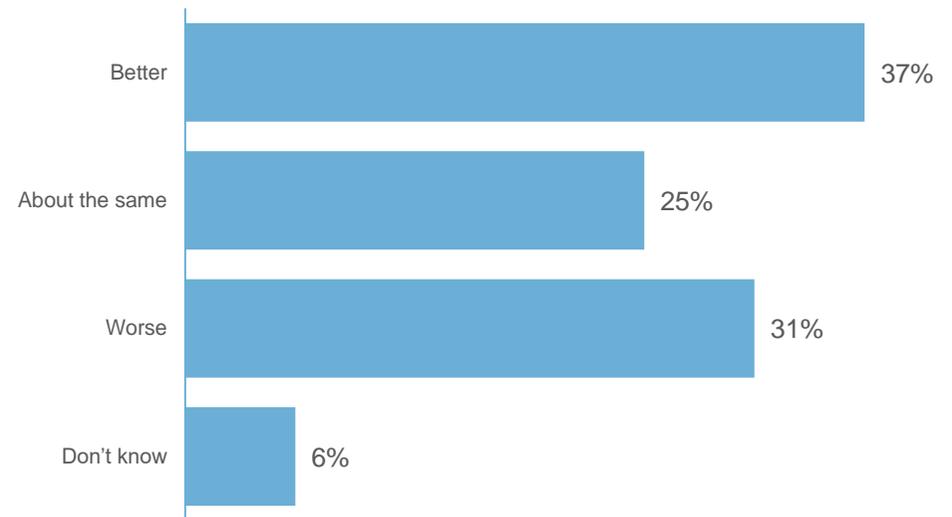
Less than 40% of individuals think that they are better off than 10 years ago

37% of individuals think that they are better off financially than they were 10 years ago, whilst 31% think that they are worse off.

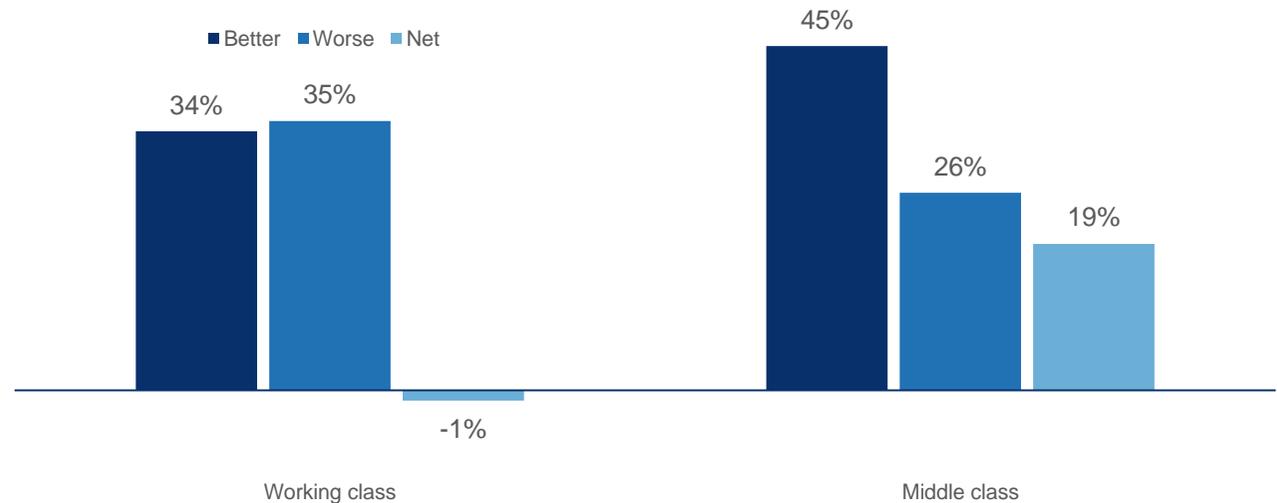
People who characterised themselves as working class were more likely to think that they are worse off, with 35% feeling that they are worse off and marginally fewer people feeling better off. By contrast, just 26% of people who characterised themselves as middle class thought that they were worse off.

Of those who described themselves as middle, the number who felt better off was 19 percentage points higher than the number of felt worse off, in comparison to the number who felt better off was 1 percentage point less than the number who felt worse off for those that described themselves as working class.

Generally speaking, would you say your current financial situation is better or worse than it was ten years ago or is it about the same?



Generally speaking, would you say your current financial situation is better or worse than it was ten years ago or is it about the same?



Sample size: 5520 UK Adults (Working class n=2557 and Middle class n=2031); Fieldwork: 19th – 22nd March 2018

Looking forward to future
generations

People think older generations had more opportunities to move up in society

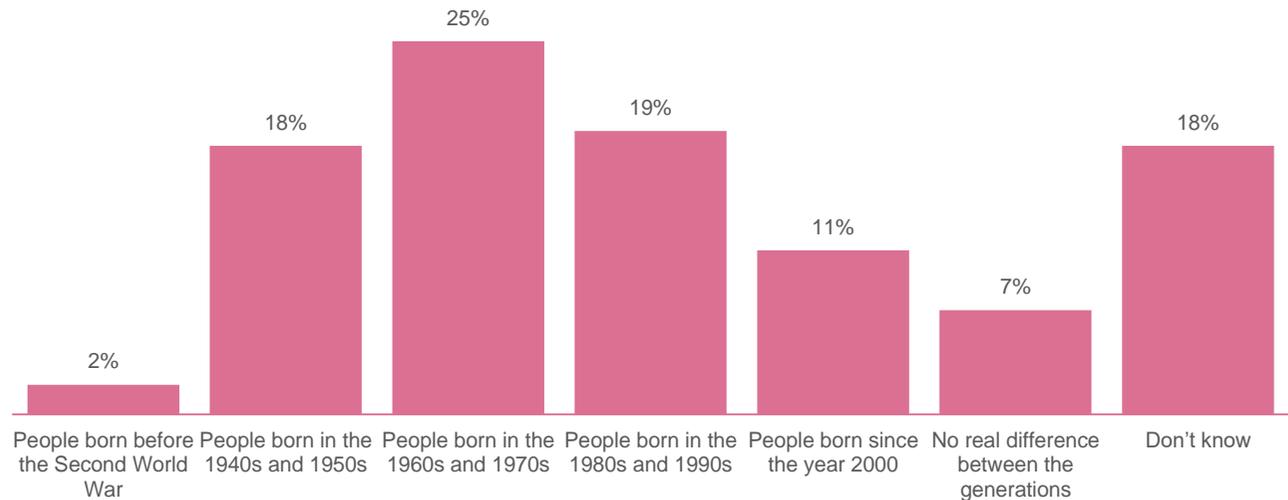
Overall, people think that those born between the 1940s and 1970s have had the best opportunities, while younger generations are missing out.

Most people think the 1960s-1970s generation had the most opportunity to move up in society, while just 11% of people think that the post-2000 generation will have the most opportunity to move up.

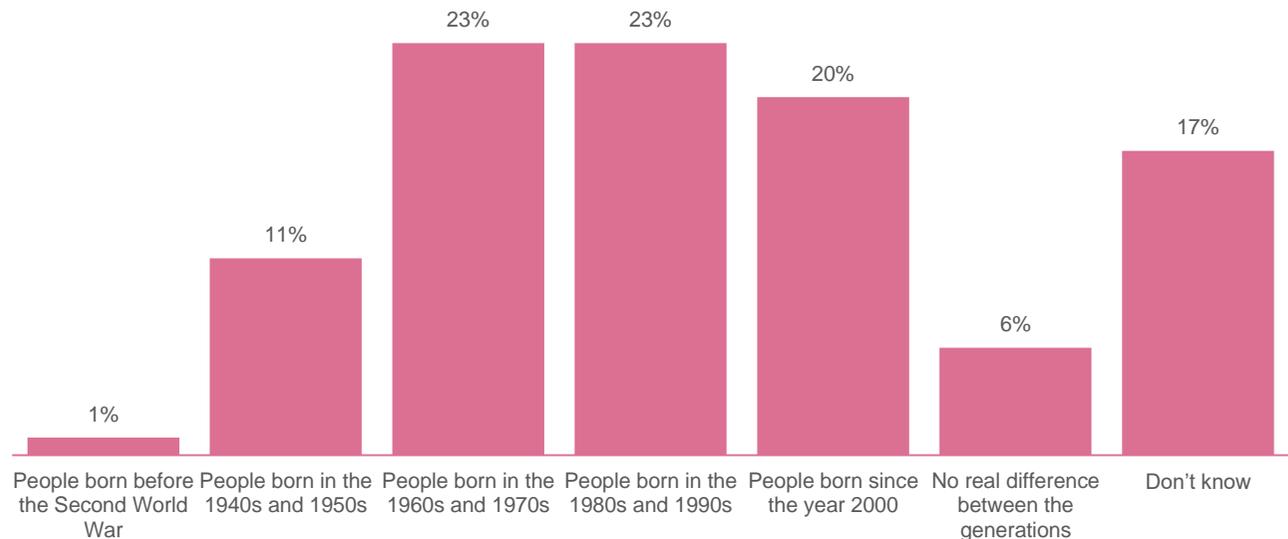
This is despite the fact that people think educational opportunities have been fairly equal across the generations. About a fifth of people think the post-2000 generation has had the best educational opportunities, while a similar number of people think this of the 1960s-1970s and 1980s-1990s generations.

This suggests that people blame other factors – such as housing or employment, rather than education – for making it harder for younger generations to move ahead in life.

Which generation do you think had/has most opportunity to move up in society?



Which generation do you think had/has the best educational opportunities?



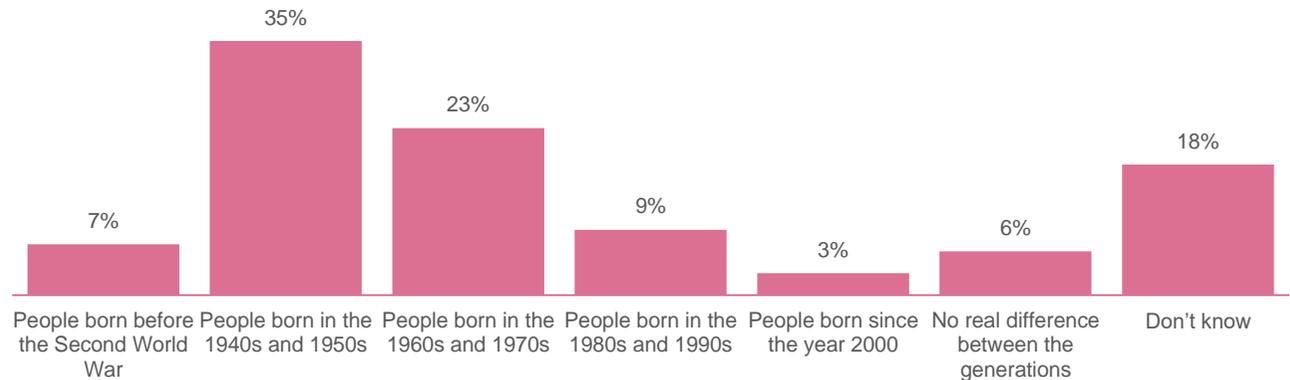
Responses suggest older generations had far better financial opportunities

People think that younger generations are less likely than previous generations to benefit from secure employment, housing, or personal finances.

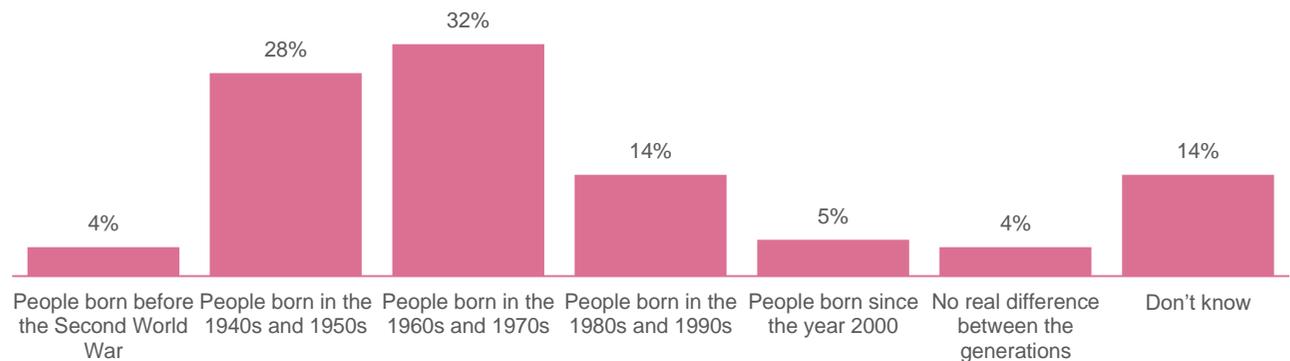
Around 60% of respondents think that those born in either the 1940s-1950s or the 1960s-1970s had the most job security and the best access to good housing. By contrast, a mere 3% of people think those born since the 2000s will have the best job security, and just 5% think they will have the best access to housing. People are also pessimistic about opportunities for those born in the 1980s-1990s, with only 9% thinking they have the most job security.

In terms of personal finances, the 1980s-1990s generation fare slightly better (18% think they have it best). That said, it is still the earlier post-war generations that are believed to have the most opportunities and those born after 2000 the least.

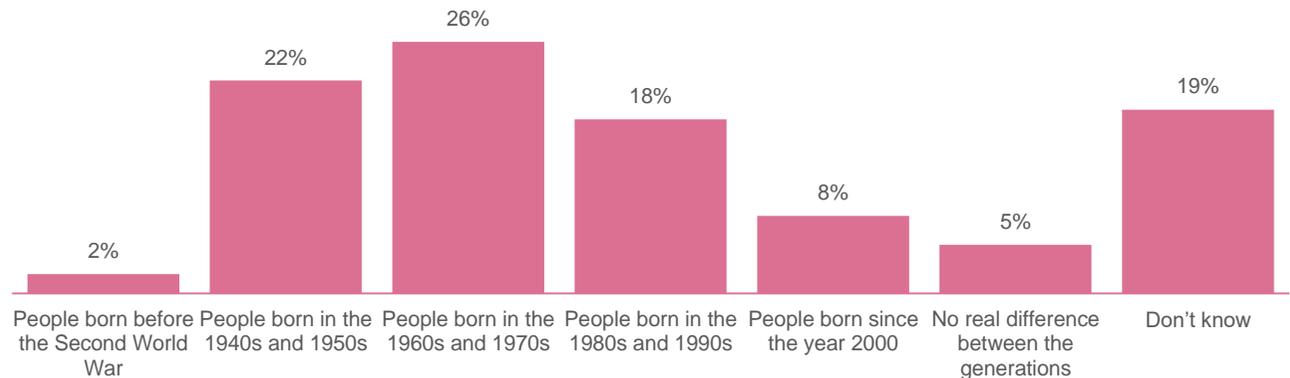
Which generation do you think had/has the most job security?



Which generation do you think was/is most able to access good housing?



Which generation do you think was/is in the best financial situation?



The generations fare more equally on measures of living standards and freedom

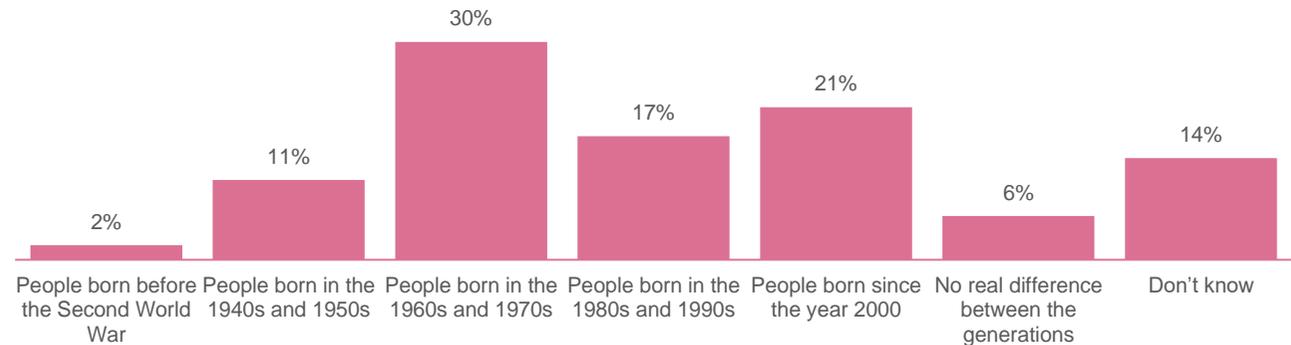
When it comes to freedom or overall standards of living, people are more likely to think the younger generation have it best – though most still think those born in the 1960s and 1970s had better opportunities.

21% of people think those born since the year 2000 will have the most freedom to do what they want in life, though this is still less than the 30% who believe the 1960s-1970s generation had the most freedom.

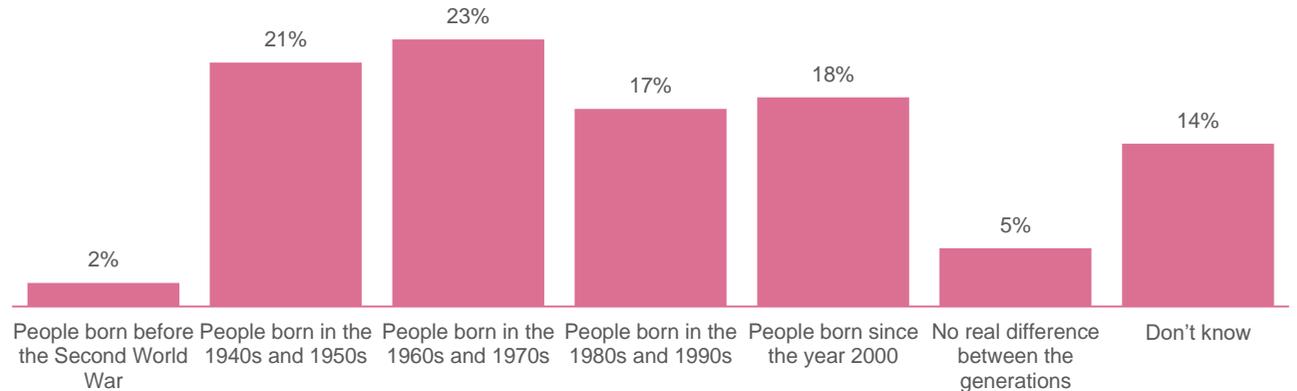
On living standards, answers were fairly evenly spread across each post-war generation, but with slightly higher response levels for those born before the 1980s.

On job satisfaction, though, younger generations appear to lose out dramatically – with just 3% of people thinking those born since the year 2000 will have the most job satisfaction.

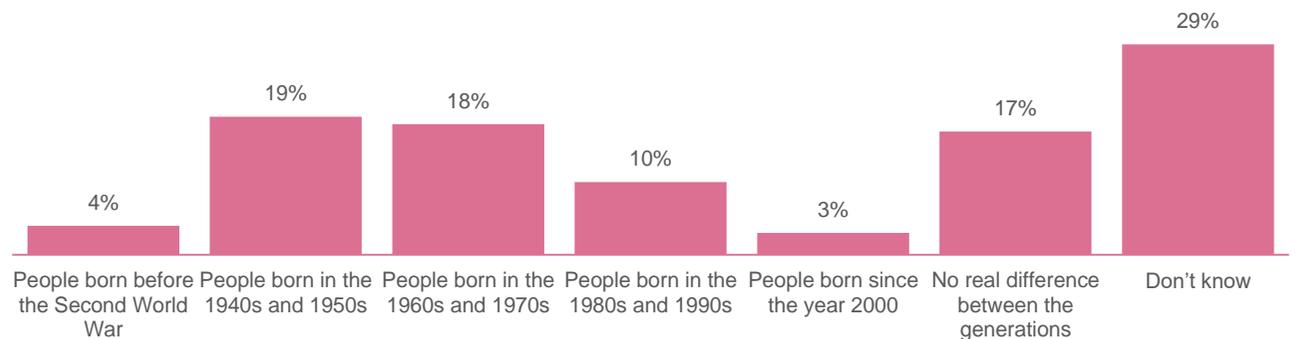
Which generation do you think had/has the most freedom to do what they wanted in life?



Which generation experienced/will experience the highest standard of living?



Which generation do you think had/has the most job satisfaction?



Just 15% of 18-24 year olds think that their generation has the most opportunity to move up in society

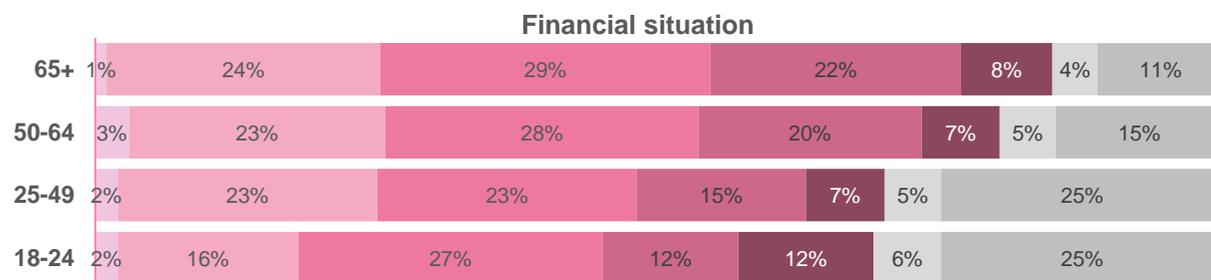
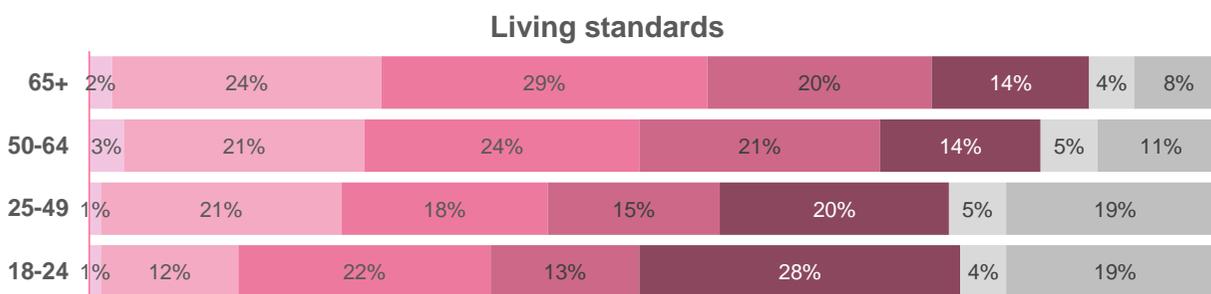
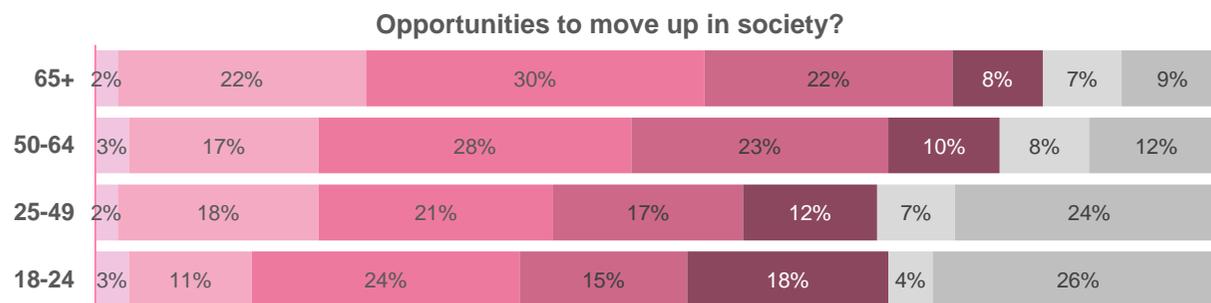
18-24 year olds are generally pessimistic about their own generation (born in the 1980s-1990s), but those over 50 do not seem as worried about the younger group's life chances.

Of 18-24 year olds, just 15% think that their generation (born 1980s-1990s) has the most opportunity to move up in society. Likewise, only 13% think their generation will have the best standard of living, and 12% think they will fare best in terms of personal finances.

By contrast, those over 50 are far more likely to think that 18-24 year olds have it best – with more than 20% to 23% thinking this. This perception gap could cause intergenerational friction.

That said, all age groups tend to think that older generations have had it better opportunities overall.

Which generation had/has the best opportunities in terms of...



- People born before the Second World War
- People born in the 1940s and 1950s
- People born in the 1960s and 1970s
- People born in the 1980s and 1990s
- People born since the year 2000
- No real difference between the generations

Social class and background

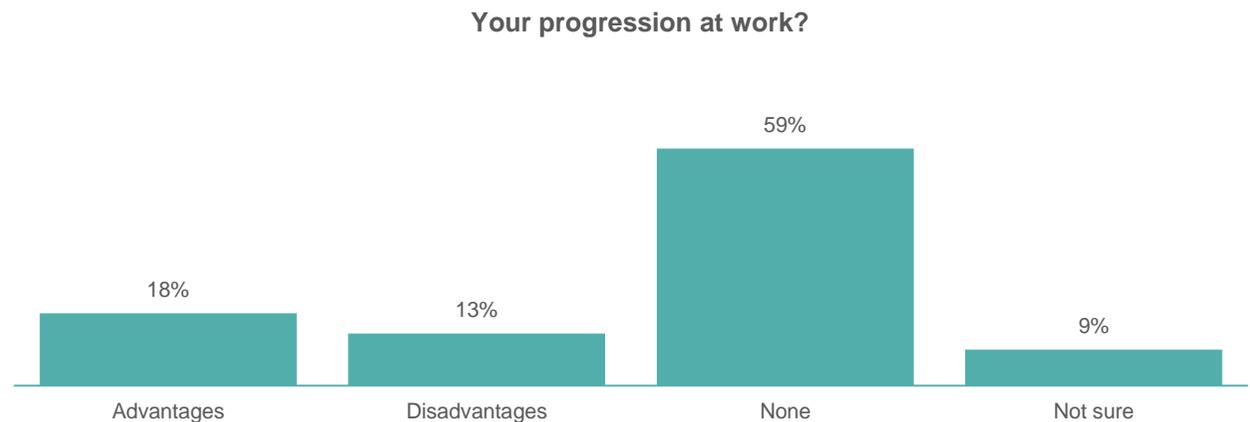
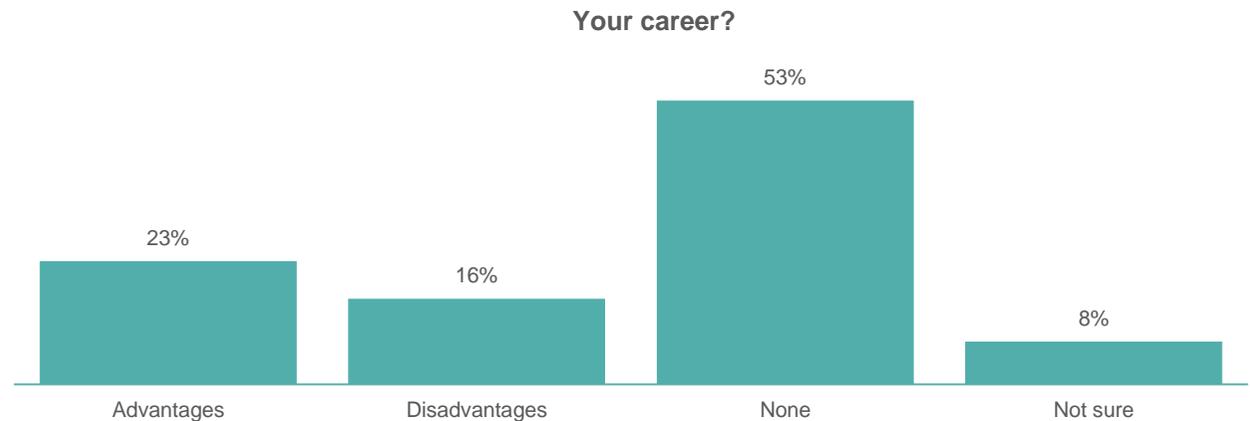
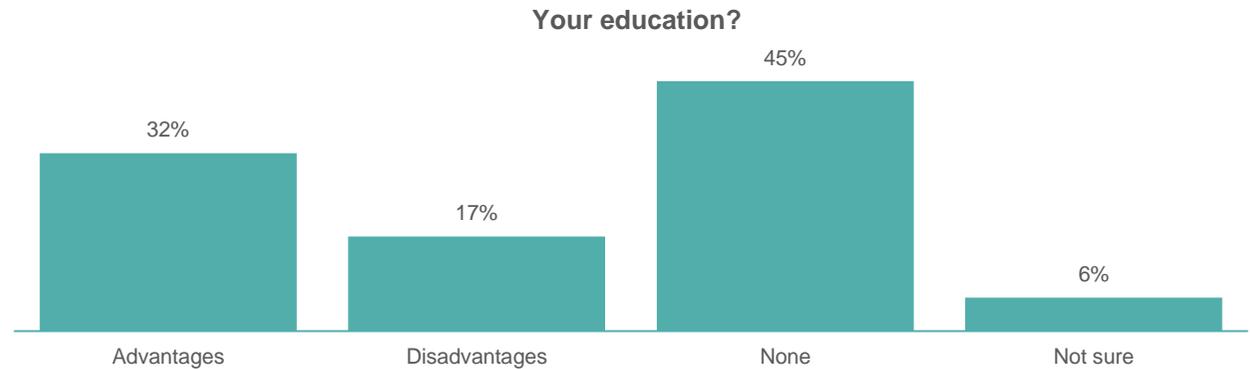
People don't generally think that their background has given them advantages...

People generally don't think that their family background has given them advantages in life, with 45 per cent feeling that it hasn't given them advantages or disadvantages in education, 53 per cent in their career and 59 per cent in their progression at work.

However, people are most likely to think that their family background has given them advantages in their education, with around one third (32 per cent) believing this to be the case, in comparison to 17 per cent that think it has disadvantaged them.

Similarly, more people think that it has given them advantages than disadvantages in their career and progression at work (7 percentage points more in their career and 5 percentage points more in their progression at work).

Thinking about your family background, do you think it gave you any advantages or disadvantages in...



Working class respondents were less likely to feel they had advantages in life

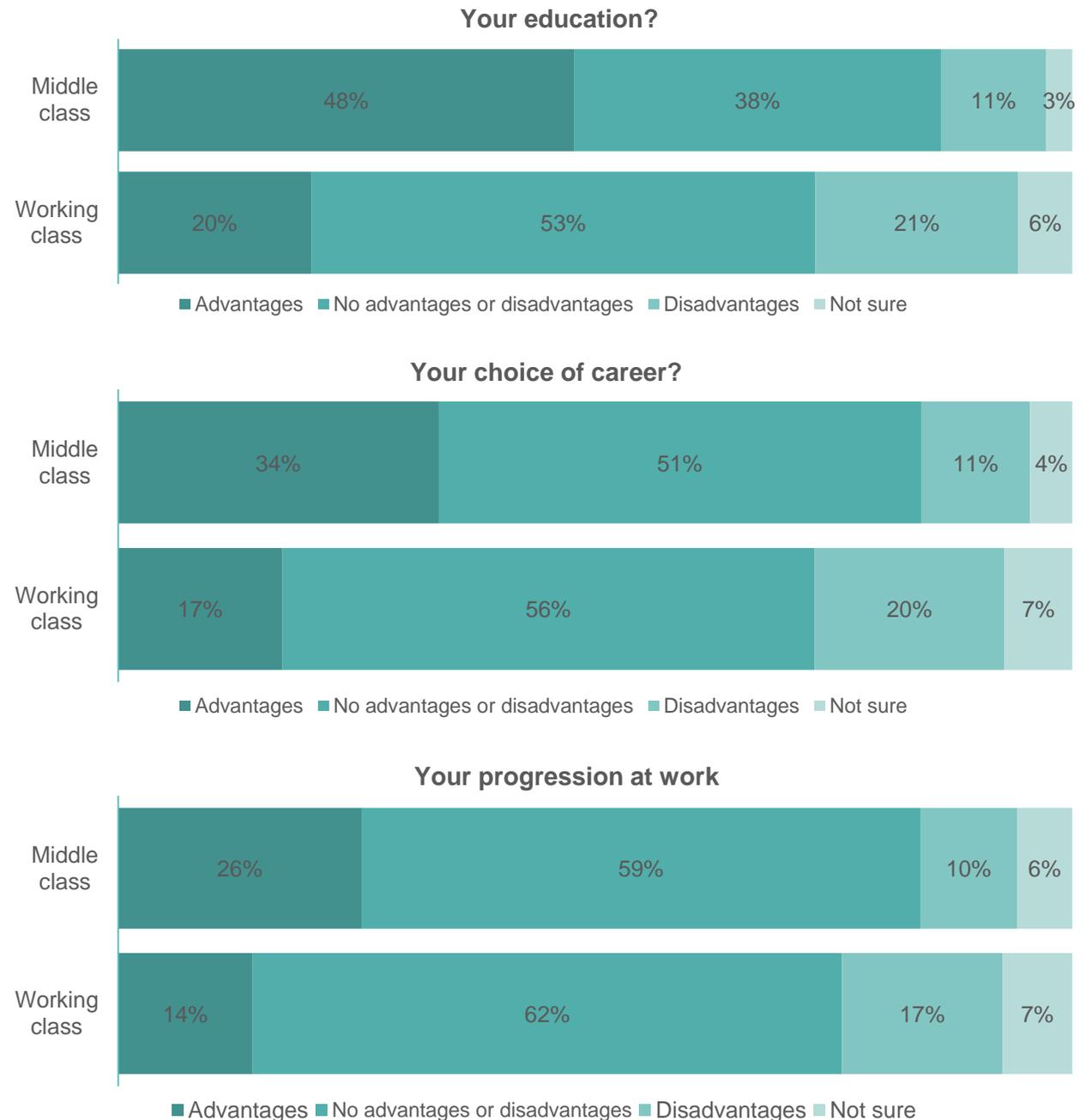
Respondents who classified themselves as working class were much less likely to feel that they have had advantages in life than their middle class counterparts.

20% of working class respondents felt that their background gave them advantages in their education, in comparison to almost one half (48%) of middle class respondents.

Working class respondents were 17 percentage points less likely to think that their background has given them advantages in their choice of career compared to middle class respondents (17% vs 34%).

Just 14% of working class respondents feel that their family background has given them advantages in progression at work, around one quarter (26%) of middle class respondents.

Thinking about your family background, do you think it gave you any advantages or disadvantages in...



Sample size: 5520 UK Adults (Working class n=2557 and Middle class n=2031); Fieldwork: 19th – 22nd March 2018

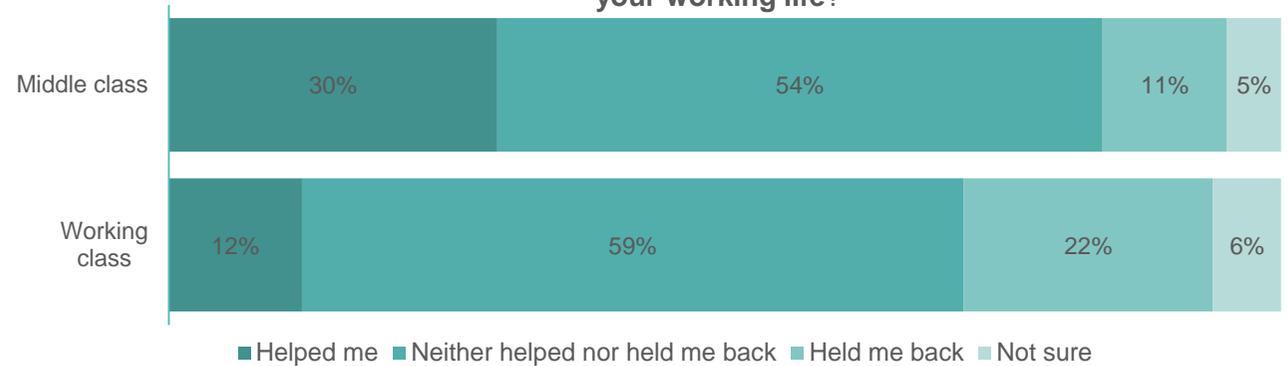
Just 12% of working class respondents feel that their background has helped them in work

Just 12% of respondents that classed themselves as working class felt that their social background helped them in life, 18 percentage points less than middle class respondents.

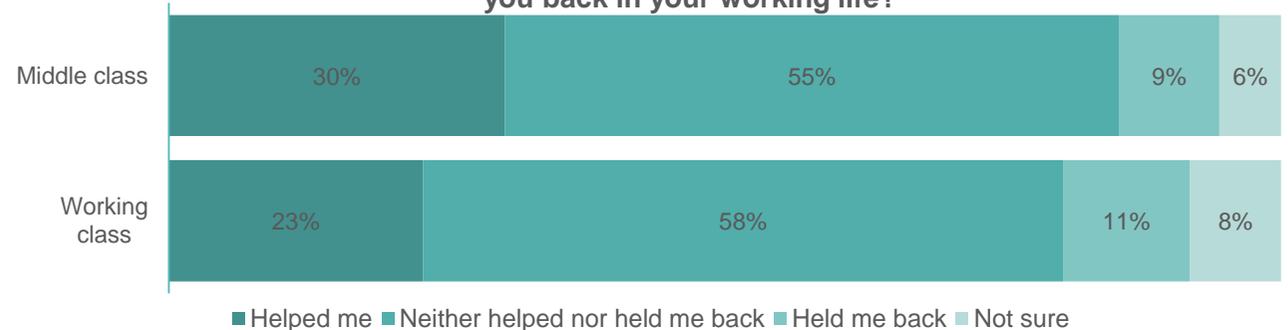
23% of working class respondents felt that their connections have helped them in their working lives, in comparison to 30% of middle class respondents.

Middle class respondents are more likely to feel that they can fit in with more affluent people: just 21% feel they have difficulty fitting in, in comparison to 36% of working class respondents.

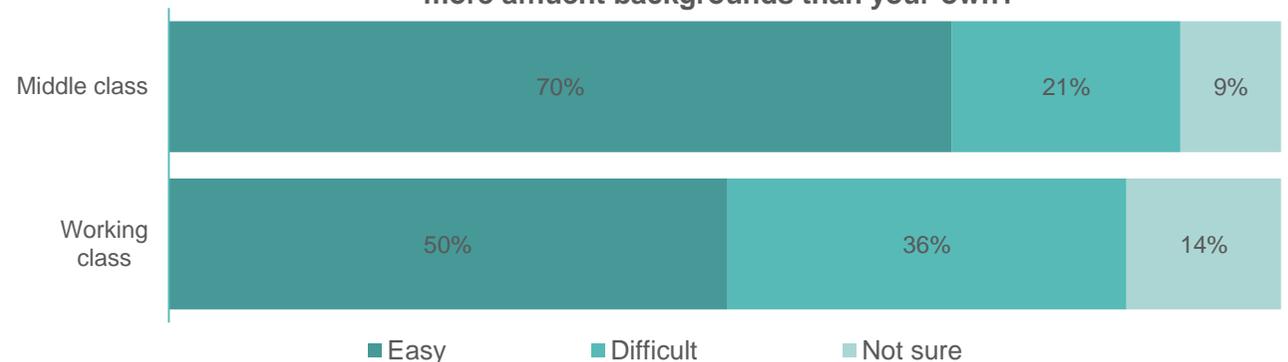
Do you think your social background has helped you or held you back in your working life?



Thinking about the contacts you have and the people you know. Do you think whether or not you have the right connections has helped you or held you back in your working life?



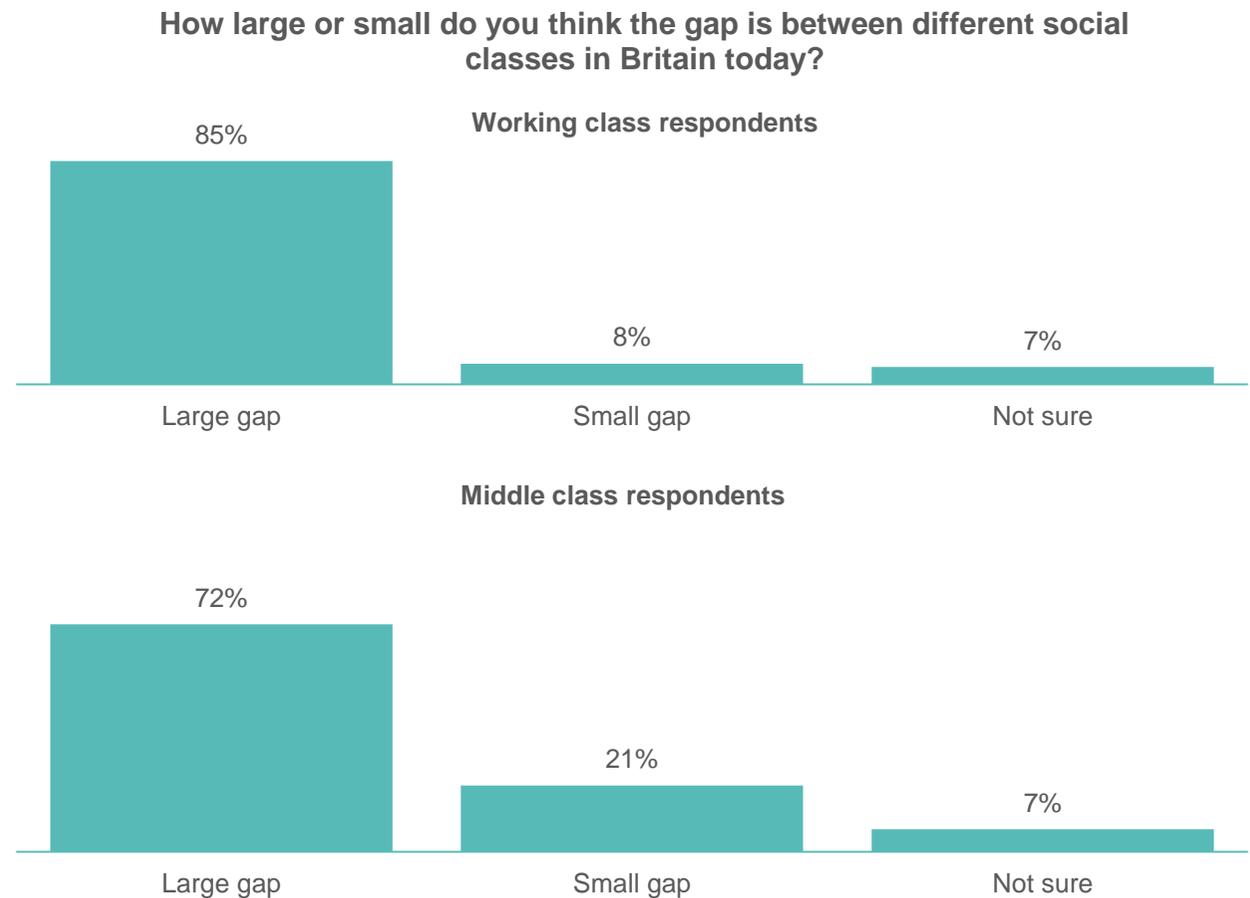
How easy or difficult do you find it to “fit in” around people who come from more affluent backgrounds than your own?



85% of working class people think there is a large gap between social classes

85% of people who identify as working class think that there is a large gap between social classes in Britain today, in comparison to 72% of people who identify as middle class.

Just 8% think of people who identify as working class say there is a small gap between social classes, compared to 21% of middle class people.



Sample size: 5520 UK Adults (Working class n=2557 and Middle class n=2031); Fieldwork: 19th – 22nd March 2018

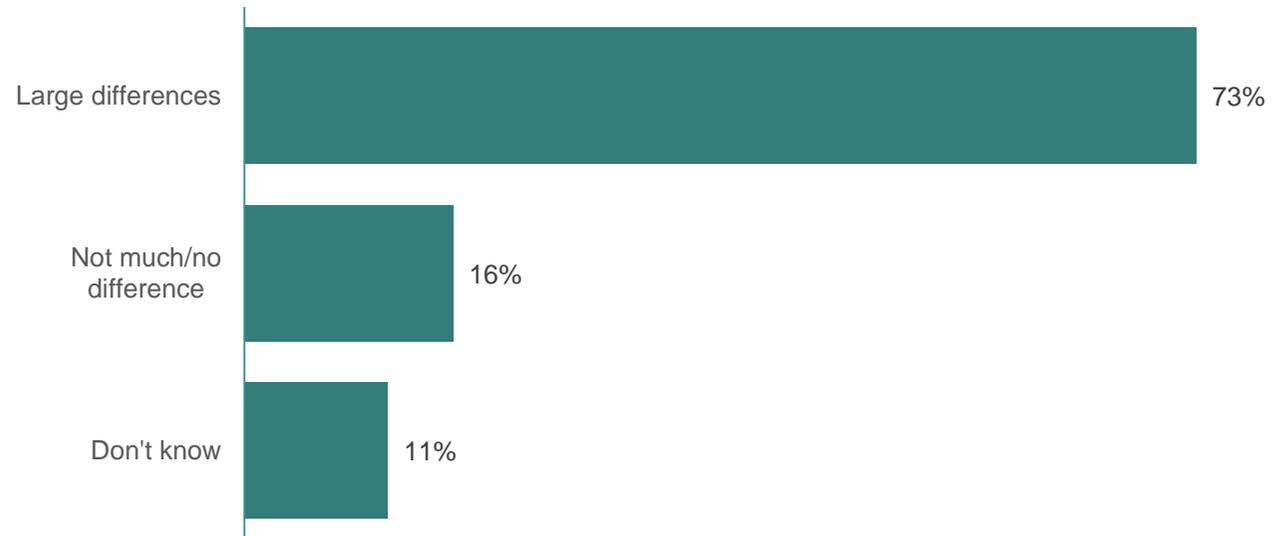
Regional differences

People think a geographic postcode lottery exists

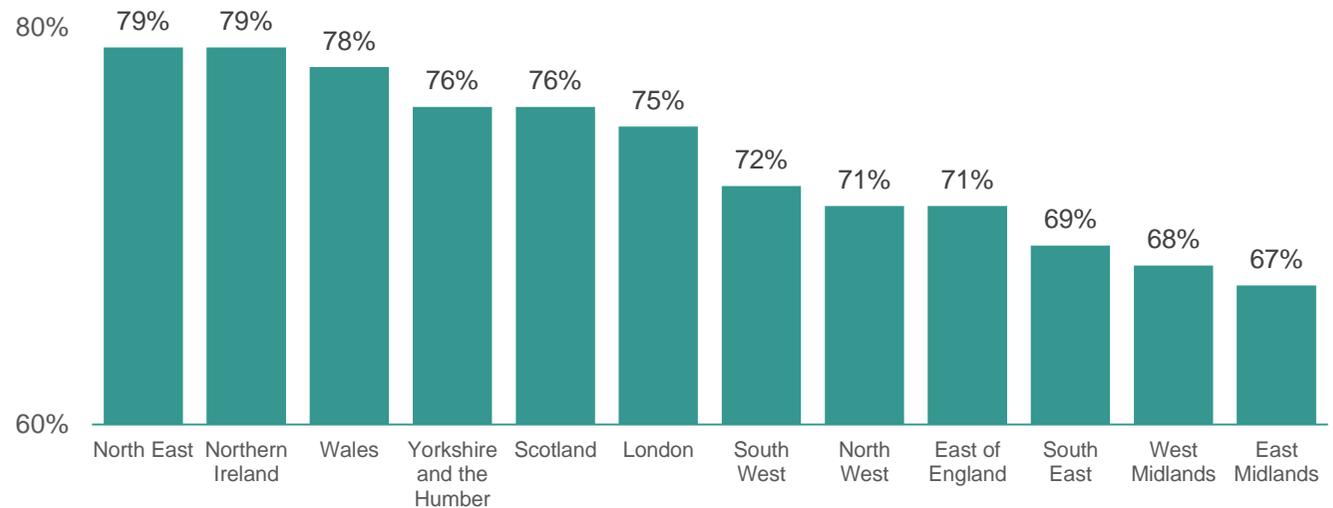
Almost three quarters of people (73%) believe that there is a very or fairly large difference in the opportunities available in different parts of Britain today, with only 16% saying that there is not much or no difference at all.

Those in the North East and Northern Ireland are most likely to say that there are large differences in opportunities in different parts of Britain today, whilst those in the Midlands and the South East are least likely to say that there are large differences.

How much difference, if any, do you think there is in the opportunities available in different parts of Britain today?



Percentage saying that there are large differences in the opportunities available, by region



Those that stayed in the North East are more pessimistic than those that moved

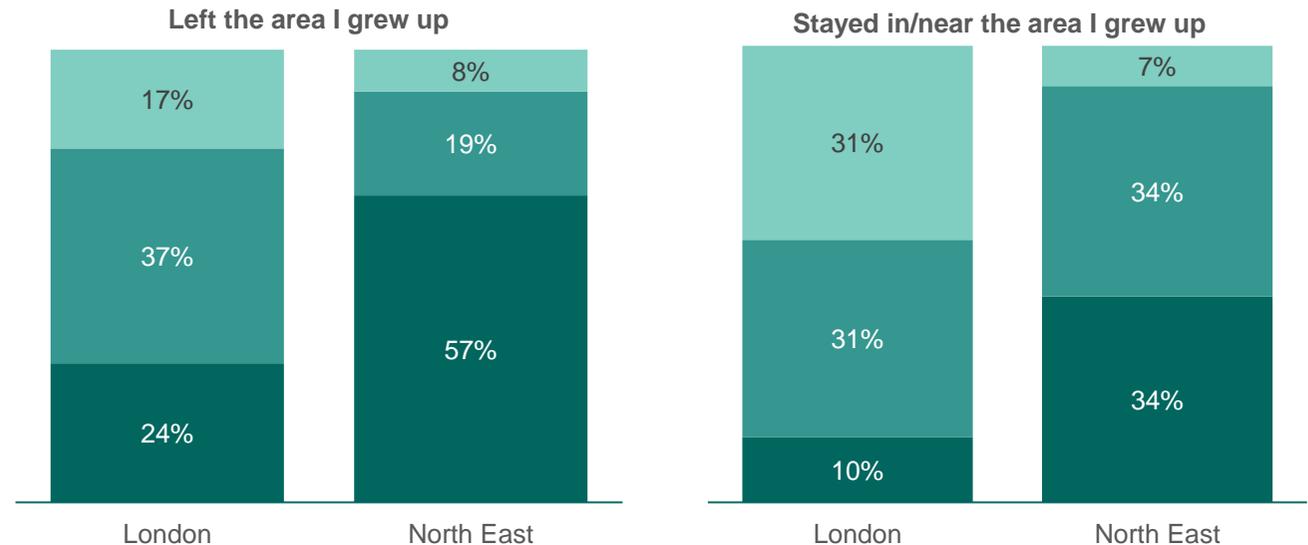
57% of people that moved away from the North East think that they would not have been as successful had they stayed in the North East. In comparison, just 24% of people that moved away from London think they would not have been as successful.

In comparison, just 7% of those that stayed in the North East think they would have had less success had they have moved away from the North East.

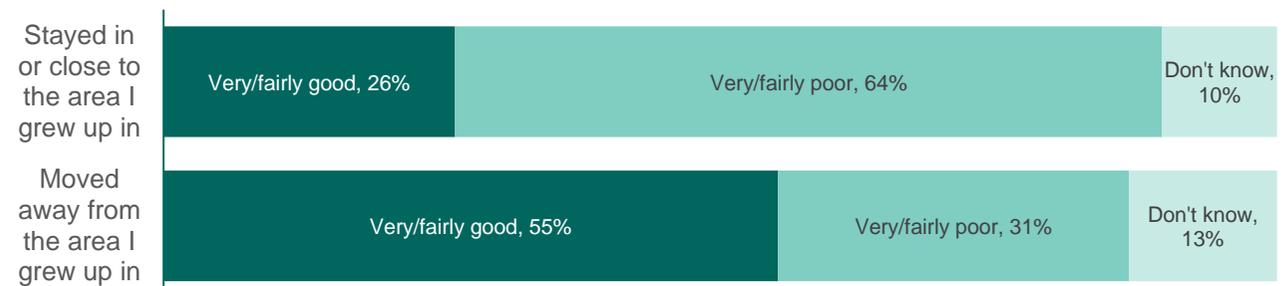
55% of individuals who moved away from the North East think there are good opportunities to progress in their area, compared to just 26% of those that stayed in the North East.

Which of the following best reflects your view? (Excluding 'not sure' responses)

- I would probably have had more success and more opportunities had I stayed in the area I grew up
- I could have had just as much success and as many opportunities had I stayed in the area I grew up in
- If I had stayed in the area I grew up I would not have been able to have as many opportunities or as much success in life
- I would probably have had more opportunities or success if I had moved
- I would probably have had as much success and as many opportunities had I moved
- I would probably have had less success and fewer opportunities had I moved



Thinking about the area you currently live in, compared to other parts of the United Kingdom do you think the opportunities available for people to progress are... [People who grew up in the North East]



Government support

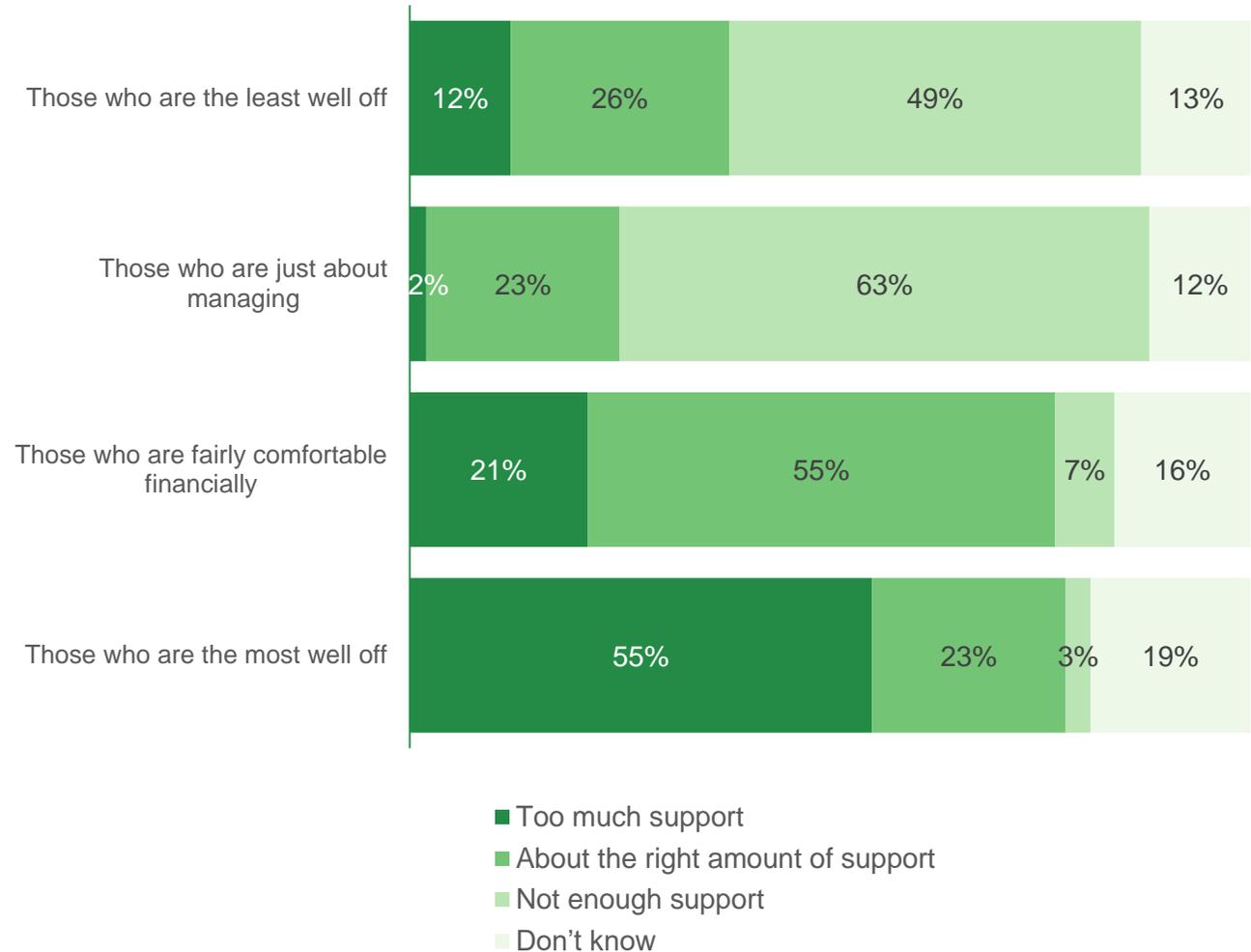
People think that government needs to do more for those at the bottom

Respondents were more supportive of those who are just about managing (JAMs) than those who are least well off with almost two thirds of respondents (63%) believe that those who are just about managing (JAMs) are not getting enough government support, whilst only 2% think that they are getting too much support.

This compares to 49% of respondents who believe that those who are least well off not getting enough support, with 12% believing that they get too much.

Around three quarters (76 per cent) of respondents feel that those who are fairly comfortable financially are either getting too much support or the right amount of support.

Thinking about different groups in society, generally speaking do you think each of the following get too much, not enough of about the right amount of support from the Government?

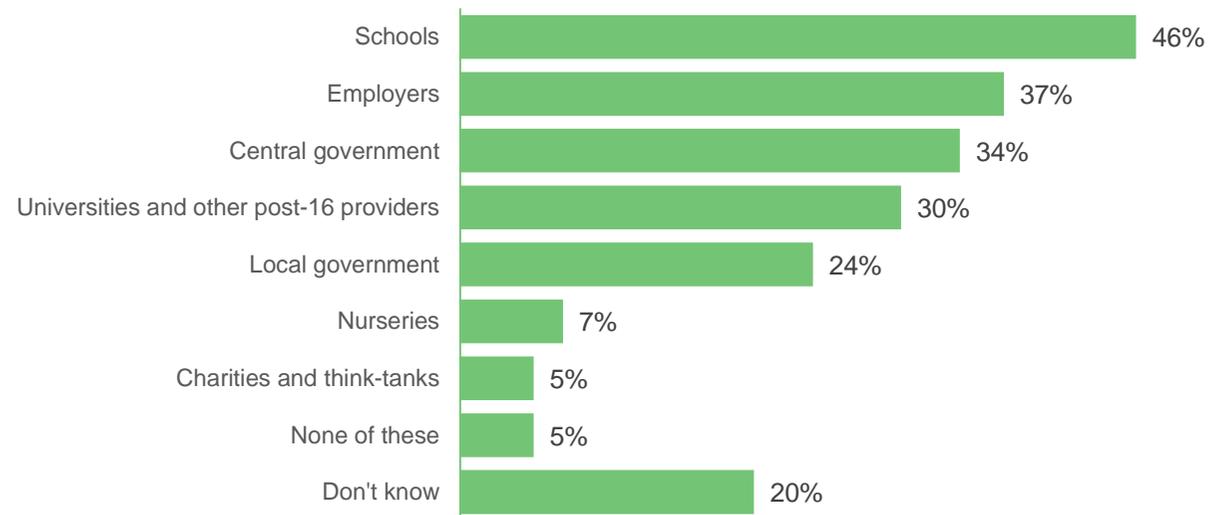


Over half of respondents think central government should be doing more on social mobility

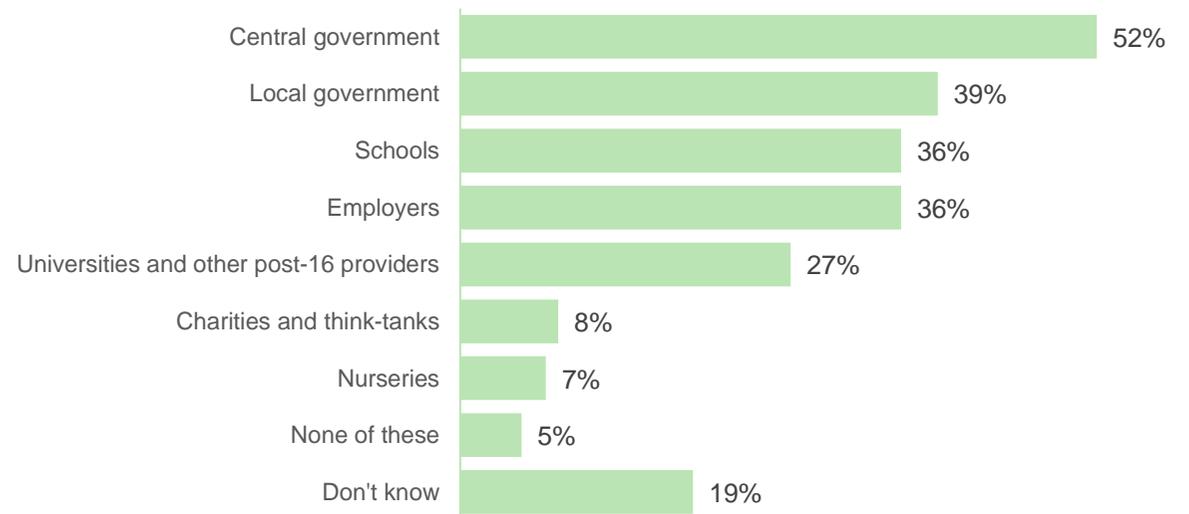
Over half of respondents (52%) think central government should be doing more to impact on social mobility, followed by local government (39%), schools and employers (36%). Just 5% think none of these should be doing more on social mobility.

However, almost half of respondents think schools are best equipped to have an impact on social mobility (46%), followed by employers (37%) and central government (34%).

Which of the following do you think is best equipped to have an impact on social mobility and ensure opportunity for all (including those from disadvantaged backgrounds)?



Which, if any, of the following do you think SHOULD be doing more to impact on social mobility and ensure opportunity for all (including those from disadvantaged backgrounds)?



Trends

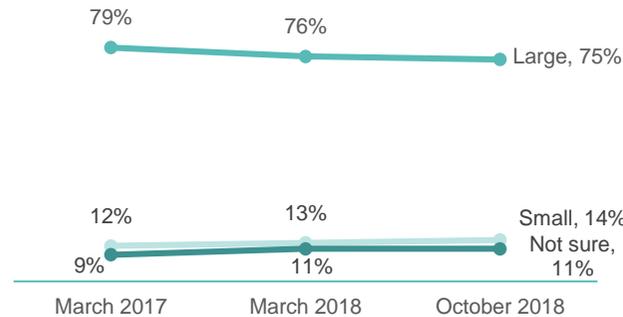
People feel more positively on some things than previously, but a largely negative view still pervades

There has been a slight fall in the percentage of people that think there is a large gap between people from different social classes since 2017, but 75 per cent still feel that there is a large gap.

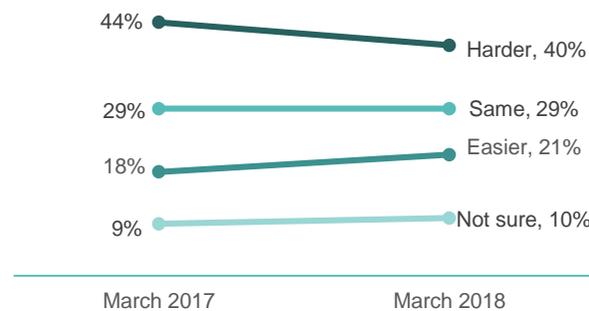
Similarly, there has been a 4 percentage point fall in the proportion of people that think it is harder for people from less advantaged to move up in British society (40 per cent), but this is still higher than the proportion that think it is the same (29 per cent) and easier (21 per cent).

There has been a slight fall in the proportion that think where you end up is mainly determined by your background or who your parents were (48 per cent to 46 per cent).

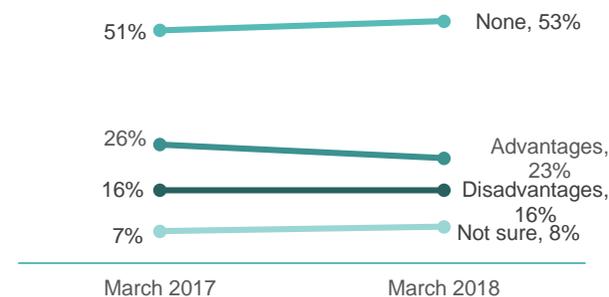
Percentage that think there is a gap is between different social classes in Britain today



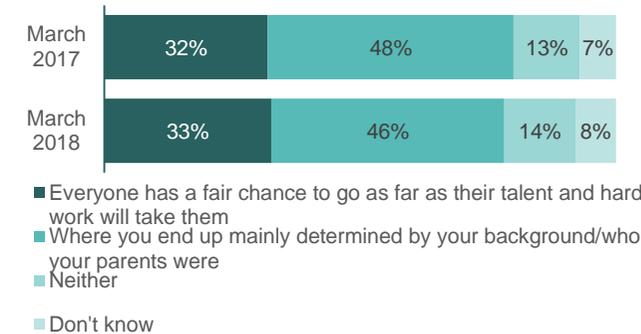
Is it becoming easier or harder for people from less advantaged backgrounds to move up in society?



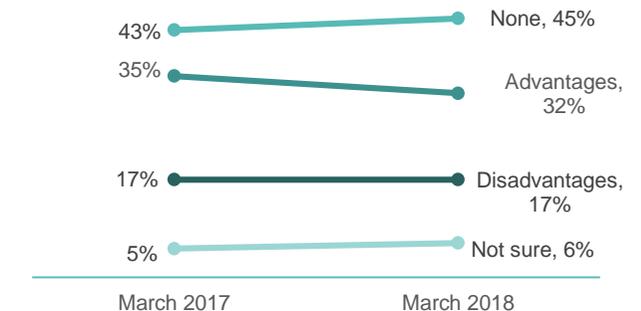
Do you think your family background gave you any advantages or disadvantages in your career?



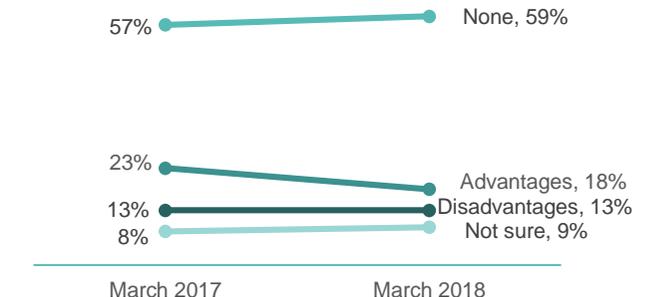
Which of the following best reflects your view?



Do you think your family background gave you any advantages or disadvantages in your education?



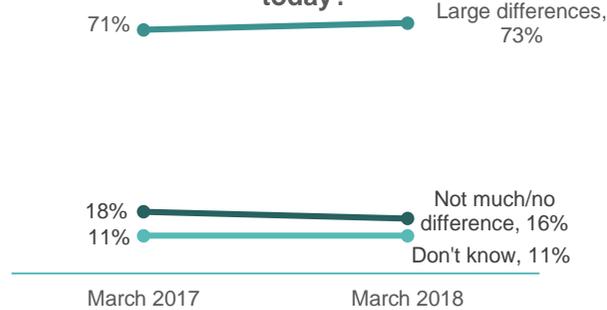
Do you think your family background gave you any advantages or disadvantages in your progression at work?



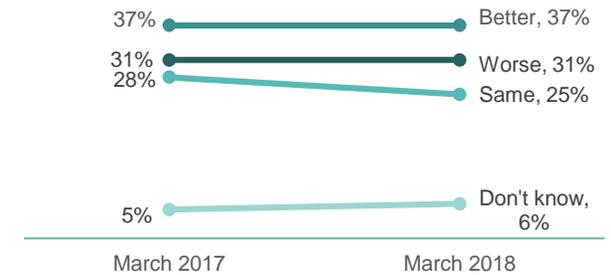
Sample size for March 2017: 4723 UK Adults. Fieldwork: 6th-9th March 2017. Sample size for March 2018: 5520 UK Adults. Fieldwork: 19th-22nd March 2018. Sample size for October 2018: 1656 GB Adults. Fieldwork: 9th-10th October 2018

There has been a slight increase in the percentage of people that think there are regional differences

How much difference, if any, do you think there is in the opportunities available in different parts of Britain today?



Would you say your current financial situation is better or worse than it was ten years ago or is it about the same?

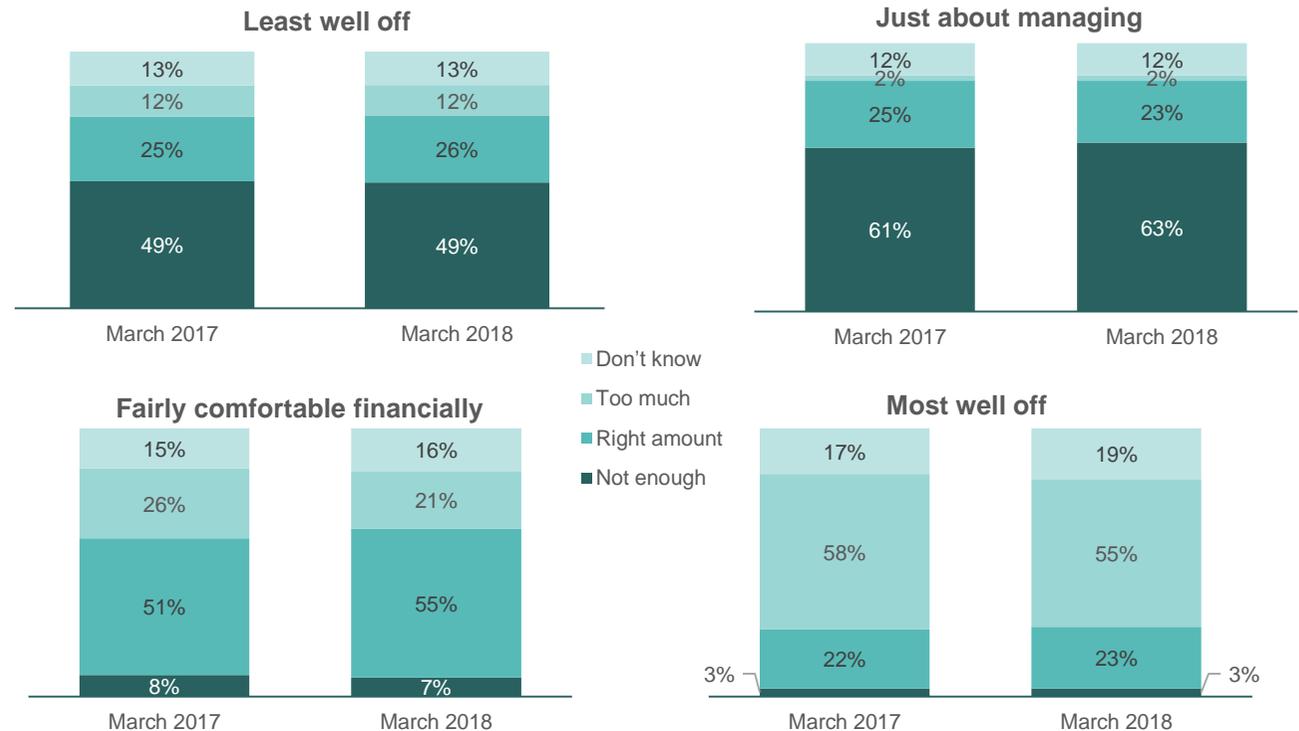


There has been a 2 percentage point increase in the proportion of people that think there is a large difference in the opportunities available in different parts of Britain today in the last year (71 per cent to 73 per cent).

There has been no change in the proportion of people that think that their financial situation is worse than it was 10 years ago (31 per cent). This is less than the percentage that think their situation is better (37 per cent, also unchanged).

There has been no change in the percentage of people that think the least well off don't have enough support (49 per cent) but there has been a slight increase in the number that think the 'just about managing' need more support (61 to 63 per cent).

Do you think those who are least well off get too much, not enough of about the right amount of support from the Government?



Sample size for March 2017: 4723 UK Adults. Fieldwork: 6th-9th March 2017. Sample size for March 2018: 5520 UK Adults. Fieldwork: 19th-22nd March 2018.



Social Mobility Commission

© Crown copyright 2018

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at the Social Mobility Commission, Sanctuary Buildings, 20 Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BT. Email: contact@socialmobilitycommission.gov.uk

This document is also available from our website at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/social-mobility-commission>