Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

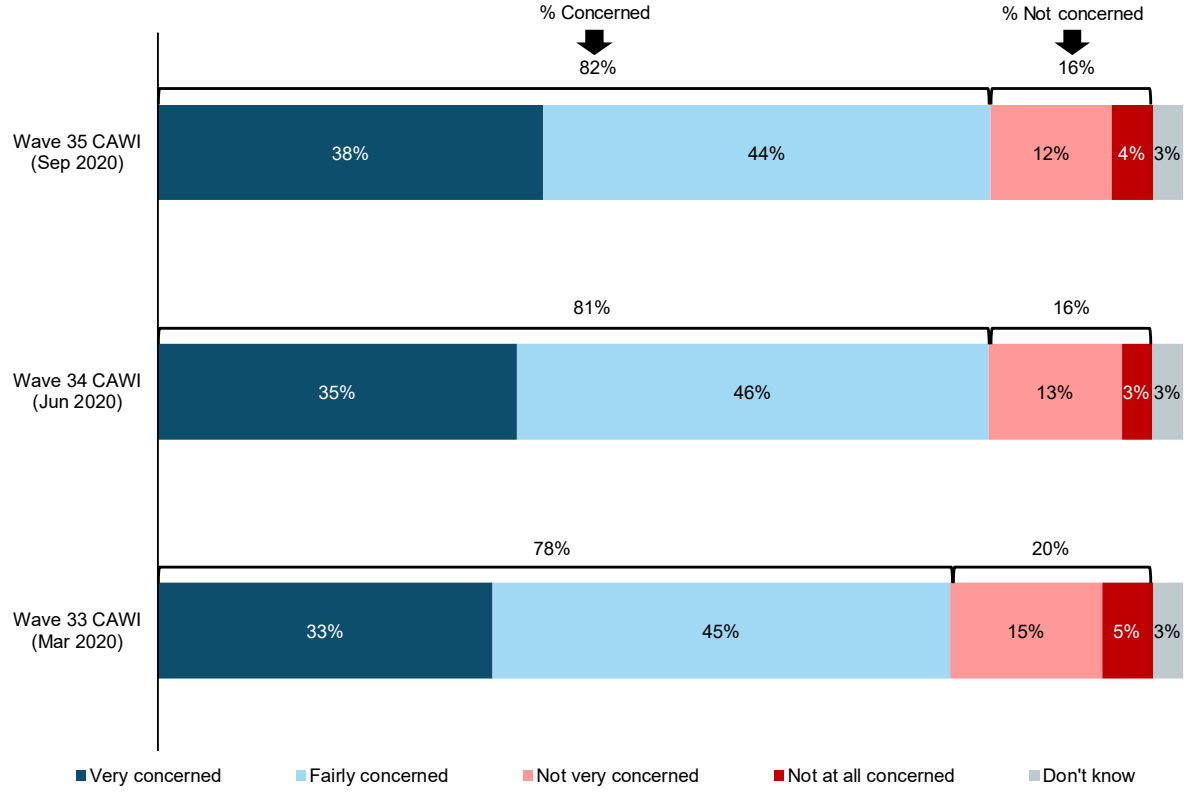
# BEIS Public Attitudes Tracker (September 2020, Wave 35, UK)

**12th November 2020** **Official Statistics**

The September 2020 wave of the tracker covered various topics relating to energy and employment including energy sources, energy in the home and workers' rights, as well as the quarterly questions asked in each wave. In September 2020:

- A third of people (34%) supported the UK developing fusion technology and 5% opposed it.
- Three quarters of people (74%) were aware of EPC ratings, with 6% knowing the exact EPC rating for their home.
- Just over eight in ten (82%) said they were either very concerned (38%) or fairly concerned (44%) about climate change (Figure 1).

**Figure 1: Concern about climate change (based on all people), March to September 2020**




Please refer to Figure 4 for base size and question details.

**What you need to know about these statistics:** Face-to-face fieldwork was suspended halfway through the March wave of the tracker (wave 33) due to Covid-19. The remaining data collection for wave 33 was carried out using the Kantar online omnibus survey, which was also used in June and September (wave 34 and wave 35). This report presents results for September together with results from questions also asked online in June and/or March. These online results should not be compared with face-to-face results from previous waves due to selection and measurement effects. See the Technical Notes for details.

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# Contents

# Executive summary

The key findings for the September 2020 wave of the tracker are presented below. Please note that all questions are based on the surveys carried out on Kantar's online omnibus in September 2020, and in June 2020 and March 2020 where relevant. **Results are not comparable with earlier face-to-face waves**.

**Net Zero**

- In September 2020, two thirds of people (66%) were aware of the concept of Net Zero, a continued increase from June 2020 (63%) and March 2020 (52%).

**Climate Change**

- Eight in ten people (82%) in September 2020 were either very concerned (38%) or fairly concerned (44%) about climate change. The level of overall concern about climate change has remained stable since June 2020 but increased slightly from March 2020 (78%).

**Renewable energy**

- The proportion of people who supported renewable energy was 80%. Just 3% of people opposed it.
- The majority of the public supported each of the renewable energy sources included in the tracker in September 2020: solar (85%), wave and tidal (79%), off-shore wind (77%), on-shore wind (73%); and biomass (68%).

**Shale Gas**

- The proportion of people who had any awareness of fracking in September 2020 was 89%.
- Over a third of people (36%) opposed fracking and around a quarter (24%) supported it. Opposition has remained stable since June 2020 but has decreased from March 2020 (42%).

**Radioactive Waste**

- In September 2020, over half of the public (55%) had some awareness of how the UK currently manages its radioactive waste.
- Just under half (48%) had some awareness of the UK's plans to dispose of radioactive waste in Geological Disposal Facilities.

**Small Modular Reactors**

- The proportion of people who had any awareness of small modular reactors was 30%.

**Decommissioning Oil and Gas**

- The proportion of people who had any awareness of decommissioning offshore oil and gas infrastructure was 69%.

**Fusion Energy**

- In September 2020, a new set of questions was introduced to the tracker to understand public awareness and support for fusion energy. Half of the public (50%) were aware of fusion energy.
- A third of people (34%) supported the UK developing fusion technology. Just 5% of people opposed it.

**Insulation**

- The most commonly installed insulation measures in September 2020 were double glazing (79%) and loft insulation or top-up loft insulation (66%).
- Less than half had installed cavity wall insulation (46%), underfloor insulation (17%), or solid wall insulation (7%).

**Energy Performance Certificates**

- Three quarters of people (74%) were aware of EPC ratings, with 6% knowing the exact EPC rating for their home.
- Two in ten people (19%) said they had seen the section on the EPC which recommended how they could improve the energy of their home.
- Of those who had seen the EPC guidance for their homes, almost two in ten (18%) had made changes to their home directly because of it. This equates to 3% of all people.

**Energy Standards for Rental Properties**

- The proportion of people who had some knowledge of minimum energy standards for rental properties was 43%.

**Workers' Rights**

- Almost six in ten (58%) of those employed or on maternity/paternity/unpaid leave knew either a lot (16%) or a fair amount (42%) about their employment rights at work in September 2020.
- A third (32%) of people employed, on maternity/paternity/unpaid leave, or who had been employed in the last two years had experienced at least one problem at work.
- Of those who had experienced a problem with their employer since March 2020, seven in ten (71%) believed at least one of the problems they had experienced was either definitely (42%) or probably (29%) to do with coronavirus.

# Introduction

The Public Attitudes Tracker (PAT) survey covers public attitudes towards Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) policies such as energy, climate change, consumer rights, artificial intelligence and workers' rights. The survey began in March 2012 and runs four times a year. Questions on issues where attitudes are expected to shift more quickly or to be affected by seasonal changes are repeated quarterly; other questions are asked annually. The tracker is regularly reviewed to ensure that the data continue to offer valuable insight.

Until March 2020 (wave 33) the survey was conducted using in-home interviews conducted via the Kantar UK face-to-face Omnibus. However, fieldwork in March 2020 stopped early due to the outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the UK, and the associated lockdown measures. The findings from wave 33, based on a truncated face-to-face sample, were published in May 2020.[1] A parallel version of wave 33 was also conducted by web on the Kantar online omnibus. The purpose of this was to test and compare alternative methodologies with a view to deciding on the best approach for future waves, while lockdown restrictions remain in place.

At the point of publication, face-to-face survey fieldwork largely remains paused in the UK. Therefore, data for wave 35 were also collected using the Kantar online omnibus. Fieldwork ran from 2 September and 8 September with a representative sample of 4,033 adults (16 and over) in the UK.

This report provides selected headline findings and highlights statistically significant differences at the 95% level for questions which were asked on the three waves where the Kantar online omnibus was used:

- Wave 35 (September 2020)
- Wave 34 (June 2020)
- Wave 33 (March 2020)

Statistically significant differences at the 95% level are also made between subgroups for wave 35.

It should be noted that any change in methodology can lead to both selection effects (that is differences due to the different sampling methods employed) and measurement effects (that is differences due to the different interview modes). Although attempts have been made to reduce the selection effects between the online and face-to-face approaches (see Technical Notes), the **CAWI[2] results from wave 35, wave 34 and wave 33 should not be directly compared with face-to-face results from previous waves**. For this reason, we have not made any direct comparisons with longer-term tracking measures collected via the original face-to-face surveys.

It should also be noted that fieldwork for wave 33 and wave 34 took place during the COVID-19 lockdown period and wave 35 took place while restrictions were still in place. It is unclear

[1] The March 2020 (wave 33) report can be found here: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/884028/BEIS_PAT_W33_-_Key_findings_Final_.pdf

[2] Computer-assisted web interviewing

what effect the COVID-19 outbreak and associated media coverage during fieldwork may have had on public behaviours, attitudes and perceptions towards the topics in this report. This is a further reason why comparisons with earlier face-to-face waves should be avoided.

The factors described above should be taken into consideration when interpreting these results.

Further information on the methodology used and the steps taken to minimise the risk of sample bias and adapt the questionnaire for CAWI can be found in the Technical Notes.

Alongside this report we have also provided PDF crosstabulations for the current wave.[3] This includes demographic and key question sub-group comparisons for all questions. These are also available in Excel.

The wave 35 questionnaire covered the following topics:

- Net Zero
- Climate change
- Renewable energy
- Shale Gas
- Nuclear Fusion
- Radioactive Waste
- Small Modular Reactors
- Decommissioning
- Insulation
- Energy Performance Certificates
- Energy Standards for Rental Properties
- Workers' Rights

[3] This data is available for wave 33, upon request.

# Headline findings

In this report all findings are based on the online survey version of wave 35 and findings are compared with wave 34 and the online version of wave 33 for questions which were asked in all three waves. Topics asked in all three waves include:

- Net Zero
- Renewables
- Shale gas
- Climate change

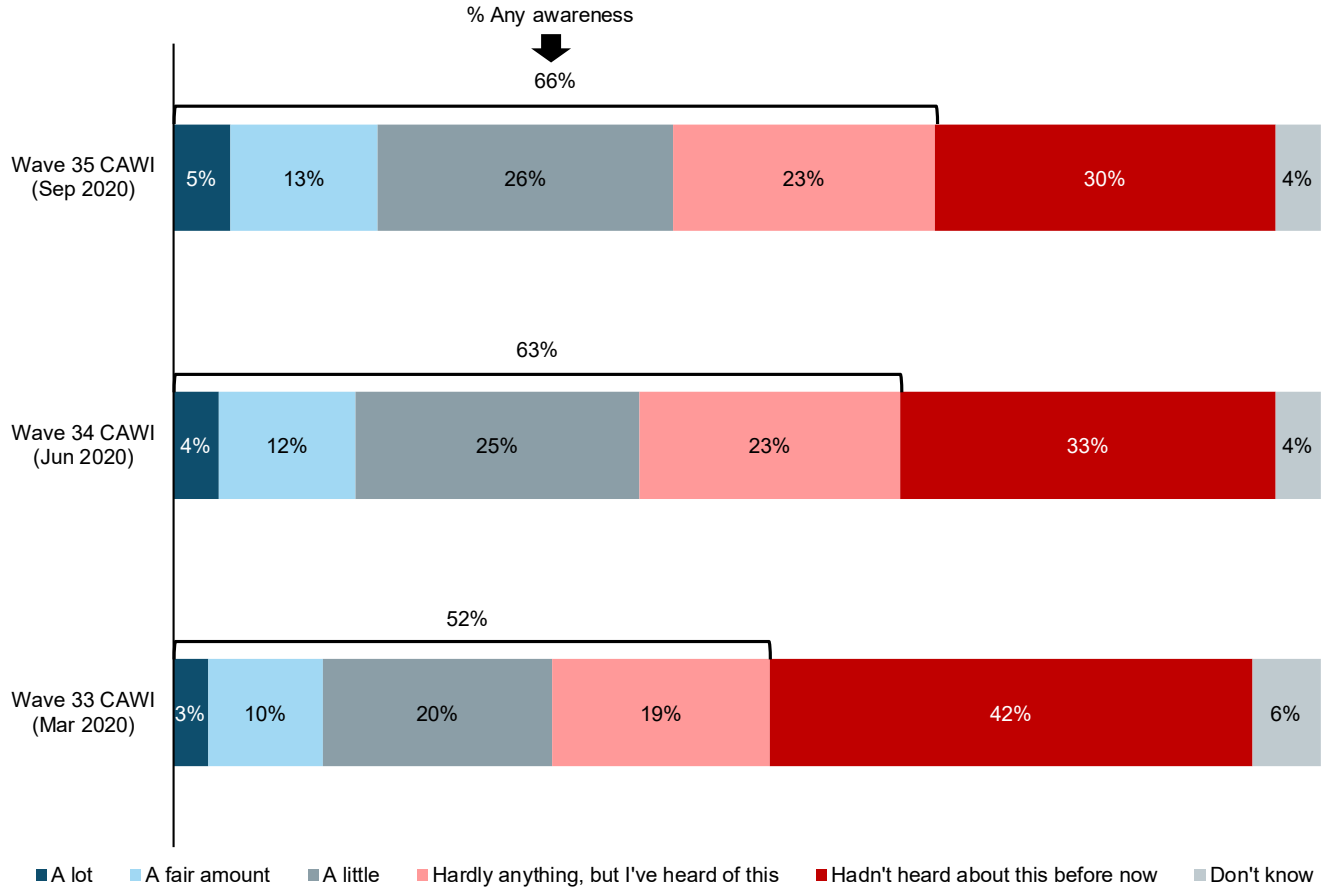
Comparisons with earlier waves conducted using face-to-face methods should be avoided as the results are not fully compatible (see Introduction and Technical Notes).

# Net Zero

In June 2019 the government announced a new target which will require the UK to bring all greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050. A new question was introduced to the tracker in March 2020 to understand the public's awareness of the concept of "Net Zero".

In September 2020, 66% of the public were aware of the concept of "Net Zero", a continued increase from 63% in June 2020 and 52% in March 2020 (Figure 2). Although most of the public said they were aware of "Net Zero", only 5% knew a lot about it. A further 26% knew a little about it, and 13% a fair amount. Almost one in four (23%) knew hardly anything about "Net Zero" but had heard of it before.

**Figure 2: Awareness of the concept of "Net Zero" (based on all people), March 2020 to September 2020***



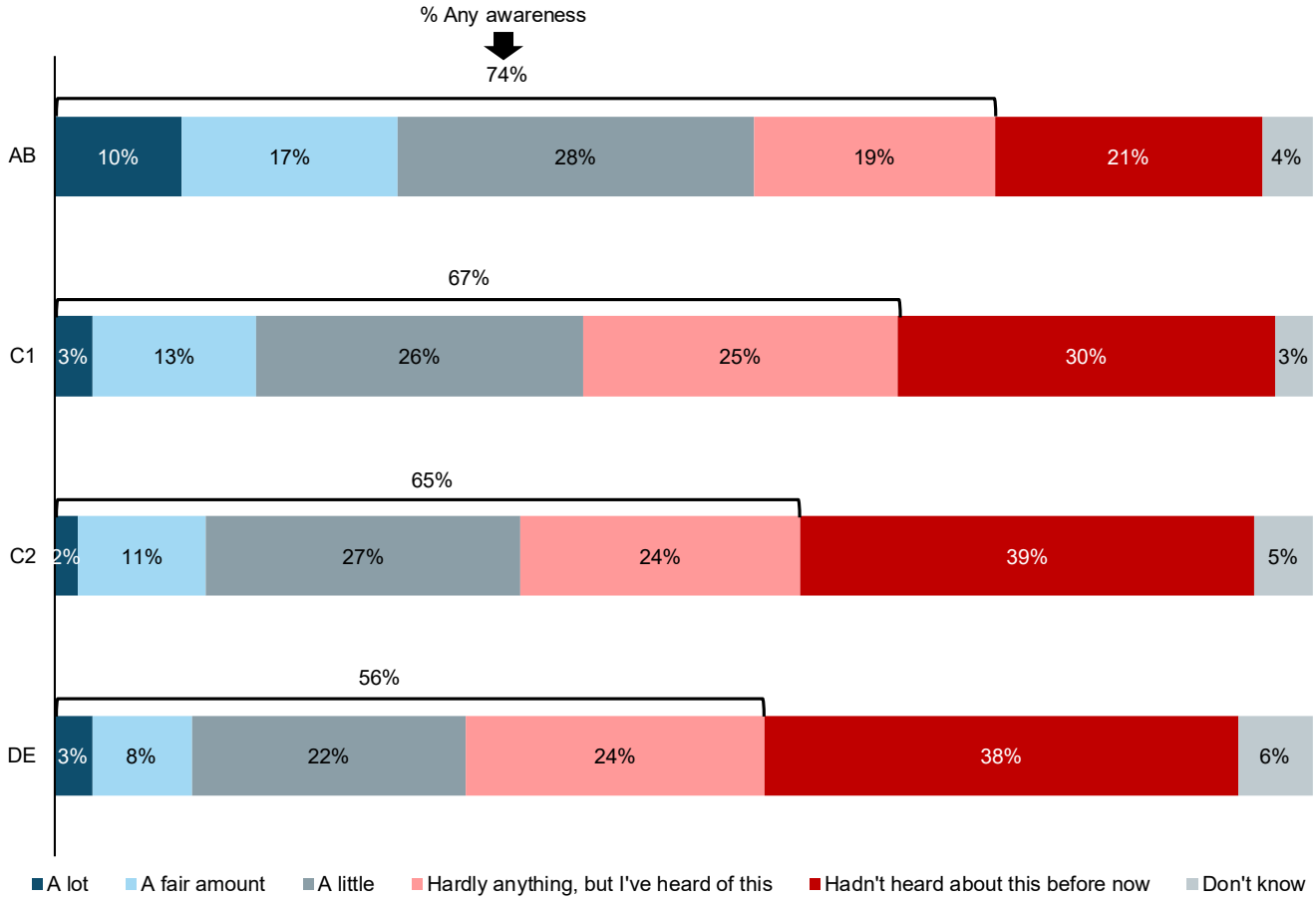

Q220. The Government promotes the concept of 'Net Zero'. Before today, how much, if anything, did you know about this concept?

Base: All wave respondents – September (4,033); June 2020 (4,011); March 2020 (2,544). (Asked Quarterly).

*All questions are based on the surveys carried out on Kantar's online omnibus in September 2020, and June 2020 and March 2020 where applicable. Results are not comparable with earlier face to face waves, so no such comparisons are made in this report (see Technical Notes).

Men (78%, compared with 55% of women) and those in social grades AB (74%, compared with 56% of those in social grades DE) were most likely to have at least some awareness of "Net Zero" in September 2020 (Figure 3; Table 14).

**Figure 3: Awareness of the concept of "Net Zero", by social grade (based on all people), September 2020***




Q220. The Government promotes the concept of 'Net Zero'. Before today, how much, if anything, did you know about this concept?

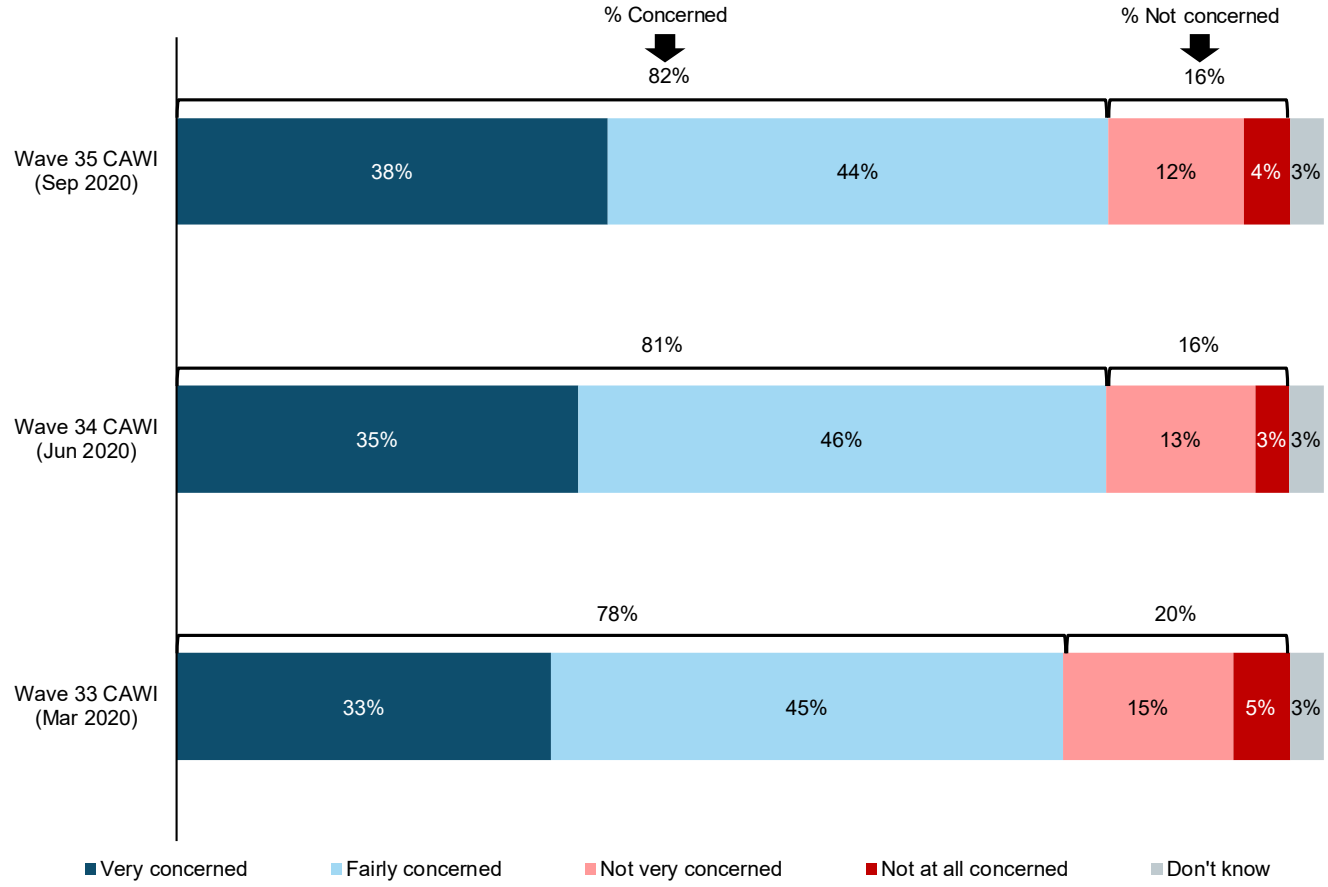
Base: All wave 35 respondents (September 2020) – AB (1,306); C1 (1,222); C2 (594); DE (911).

*All questions are based on the surveys carried out on Kantar's online omnibus in September 2020, and June 2020 and March 2020 where applicable. Results are not comparable with earlier face to face waves, so no such comparisons are made in this report (see Technical Notes).

# Climate change

In September 2020, 82% of the public said they were concerned about climate change (Figure 4). This figure has remained stable since June 2020, but has increased slightly from March 2020 (78%).

**Figure 4: Concern about climate change (based on all people), March 2020 to September 2020***




Q21. How concerned, if at all, are you about current climate change, sometimes referred to as 'global warming'?

Base: All wave respondents – September 2020 (4,033); June 2020 (4,011); March 2020 (2,544). (Asked Quarterly).

*All questions are based on the surveys carried out on Kantar's online omnibus in September 2020, and June 2020 and March 2020 where applicable. Results are not comparable with earlier face to face waves, so no such comparisons are made in this report (see Technical Notes).

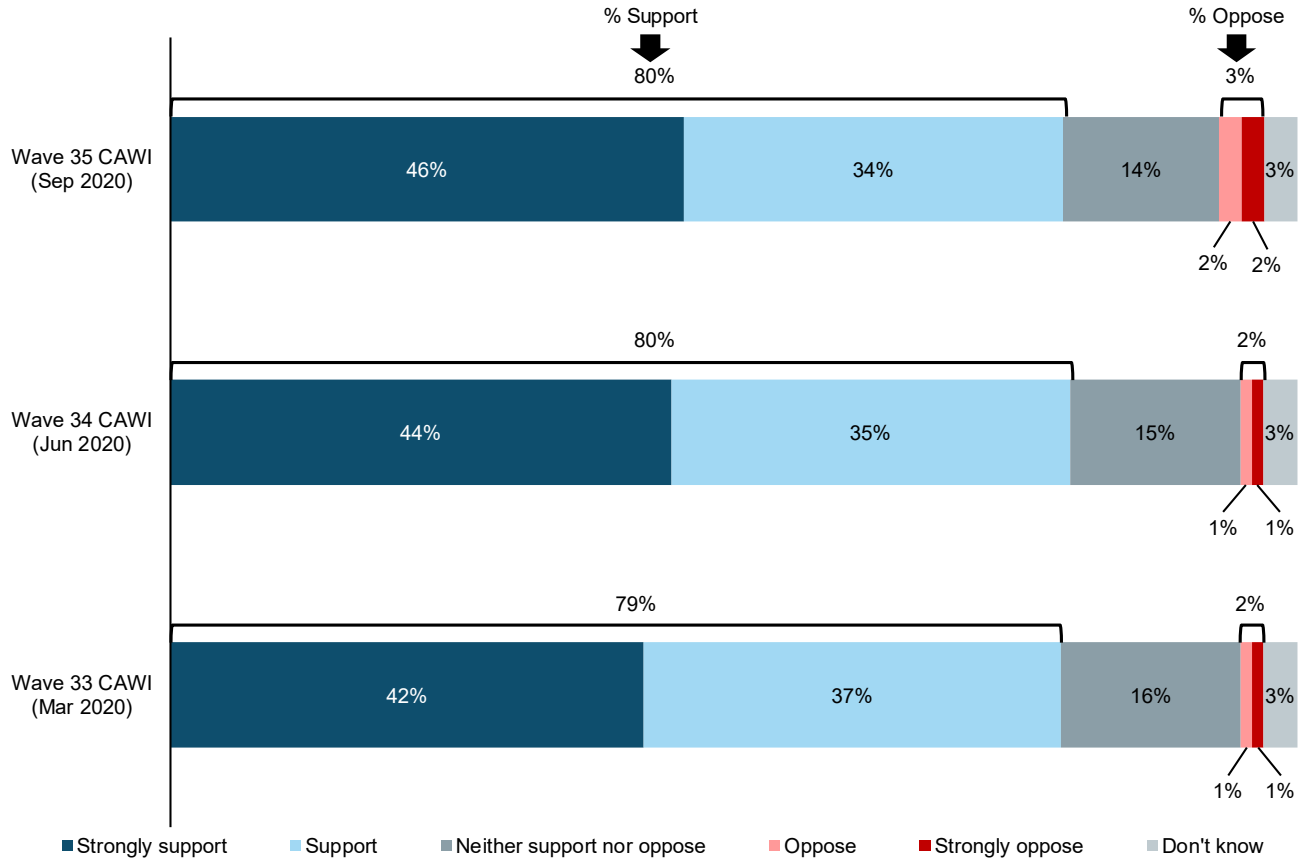
Women (85%, compared with 78% of men) and those in social grades AB (84%, compared with 78% in social grades DE) were more likely to say they were concerned about climate change (Table 13).

# Energy infrastructure

## Renewables

In September 2020, 80% of the public said that they supported the use of renewable energy (Figure 5). This is consistent with the findings observed in June 2020 and March 2020 (79%). Opposition to the use of renewables remained low at 3%.

**Figure 5: Support for renewable energy (based on all people), March 2020 to September 2020***




Q3. The next question is about renewable energy. This covers a number of different forms, including wind power, solar energy and biomass. Do you support or oppose the use of renewable energy for providing our electricity, fuel and heat?

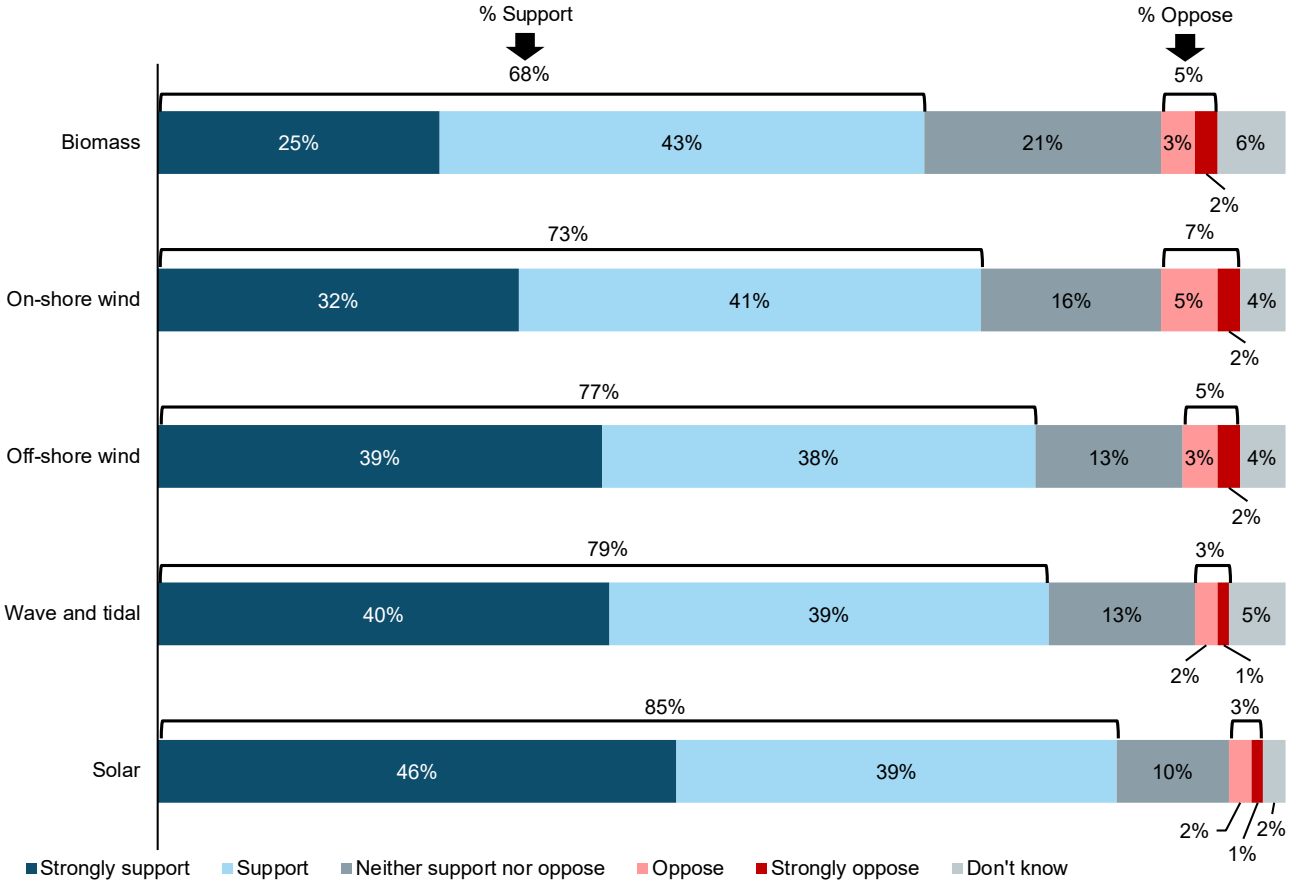
Base: All wave respondents – September (4,033); June 2020 (4,011); March 2020 (2,544). (Asked quarterly).

*All questions are based on the surveys carried out on Kantar's online omnibus in September 2020, and June 2020 and March 2020 where applicable. Results are not comparable with earlier face to face waves, so no such comparisons are made in this report (see Technical Notes).

Those in social groups AB (87%, compared with 70% in social groups DE) and those who are concerned about climate change (85%, compared with 60% who are not concerned about climate change) were more likely to support the use of renewable energy (Table 1).

Levels of support remained high for each of the five renewable energy developments (Figure 6). Support was highest for solar (85%), wave and tidal (79%, up from 75% in March 2020) and off-shore wind (77%). Just over seven in ten (73%) supported on-shore wind, a slight increase from 69% in March 2020. Just under seven in ten (68%) supported biomass. Opposition levels remained between 3% and 7% for all renewable energy developments.

**Figure 6: Whether support or oppose renewable energy developments (based on all people), September 2020***




Q13. Generally speaking, do you support or oppose the use of the following renewable energy developments?

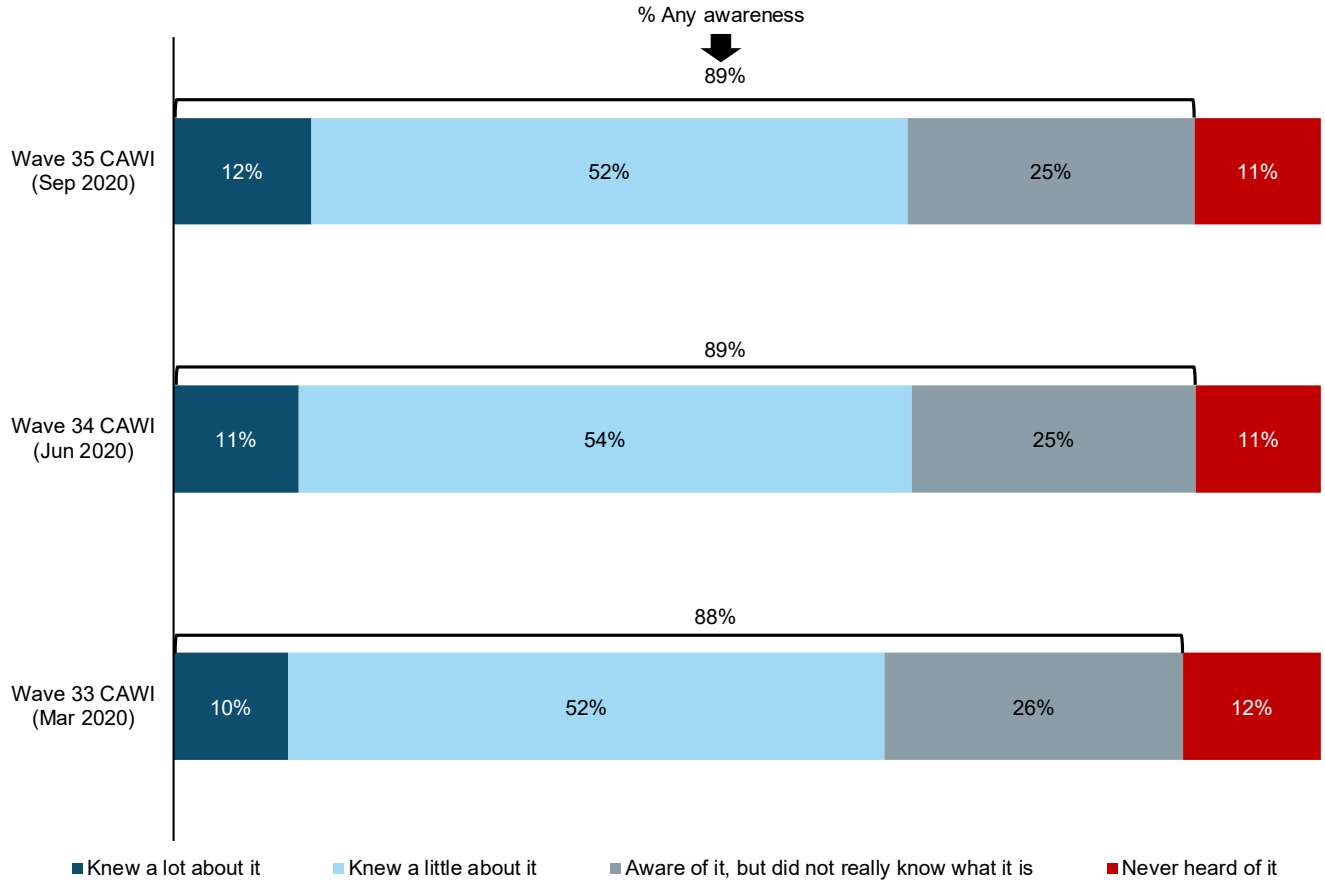
Base: All wave 35 respondents – September (4,033).

*All questions are based on the surveys carried out on Kantar's online omnibus in September 2020, and June 2020 and March 2020 where applicable. Results are not comparable with earlier face to face waves, so no such comparisons are made in this report (see Technical Notes).

## Shale gas

In September 2020, the majority of the public (89%) had at least some awareness of hydraulic fracturing for shale gas, otherwise known as 'fracking' (Figure 7). Just over one in ten (12%) said they knew a lot about fracking, with just over a half (52%) saying they knew a little. One in ten (11%) had never heard of fracking. These findings have remained stable since March 2020 when the question was first asked online.

**Figure 7: Awareness of fracking (based on all people), March 2020 to September 2020***




Q15a. Before today, how much, if anything, did you know about hydraulic fracturing for shale gas, otherwise known as 'fracking'?

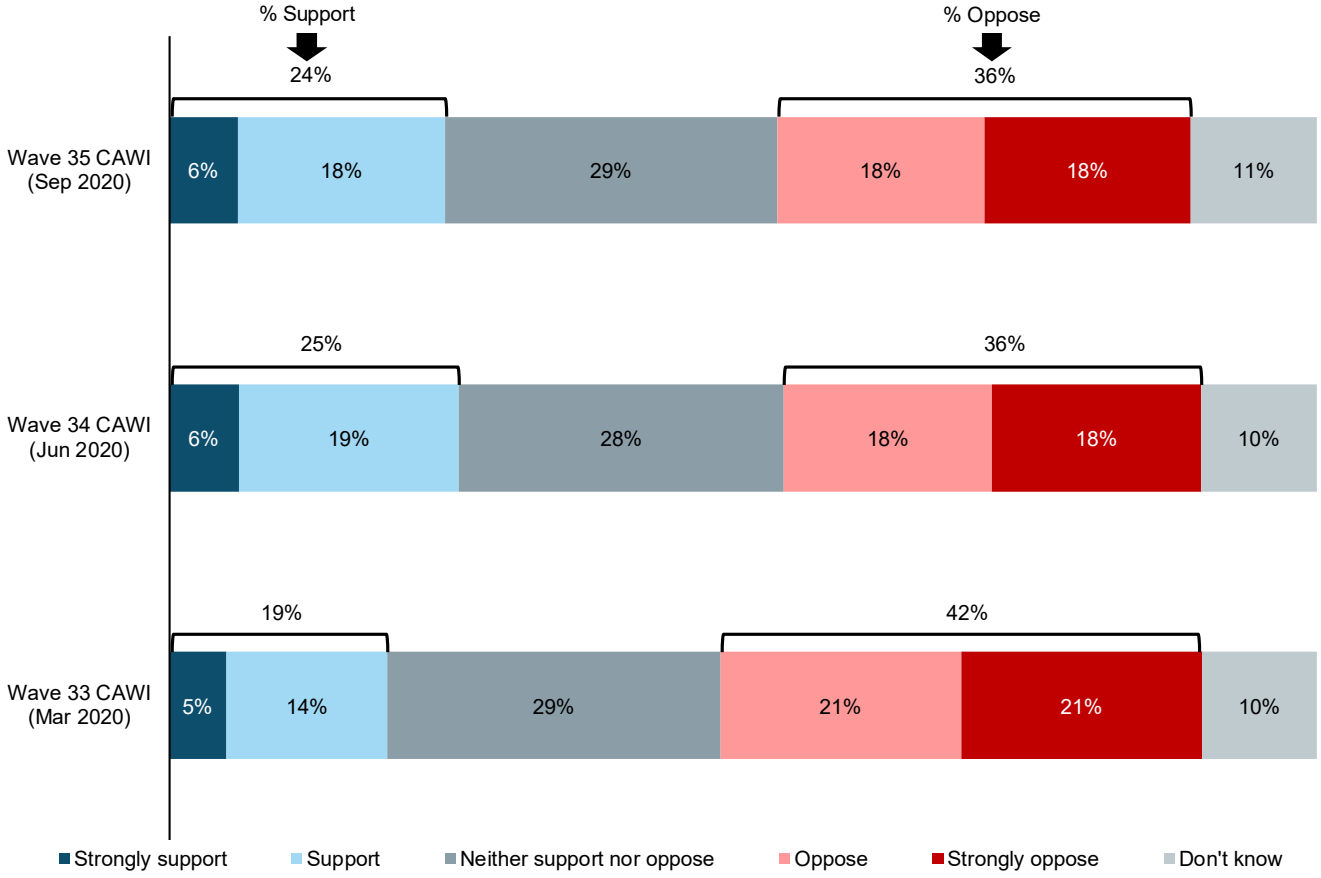
Base: All wave respondents – September 2020 (4,033); June 2020 (4,011); March 2020 (2,544). (Asked Annually).

*All questions are based on the surveys carried out on Kantar's online omnibus in September 2020, and June 2020 and March 2020 where applicable. Results are not comparable with earlier face to face waves, so no such comparisons are made in this report (see Technical Notes).

Men (93%, compared with 85% of women) and older people (96% of those aged 65 and over, compared with 82% of those aged 16 to 24) were more likely to report at least some awareness of fracking in September 2020 (Table 8). These findings are consistent with previous online waves.

In September 2020, a quarter of the public (24%) supported fracking. This figure has remained stable over the last quarter (June 2020), but has increased since March 2020 (19%). Under four in ten (36%) opposed fracking. A further three in ten (29%) reported that they neither supported nor opposed fracking. These findings are consistent with those observed in June 2020 (Figure 8).

**Figure 8: Support for fracking (based on all people), March 2020 to September 2020***




Q15b. From what you know, or have heard about, extracting shale gas to generate the UK's heat and electricity, do you support or oppose its use?

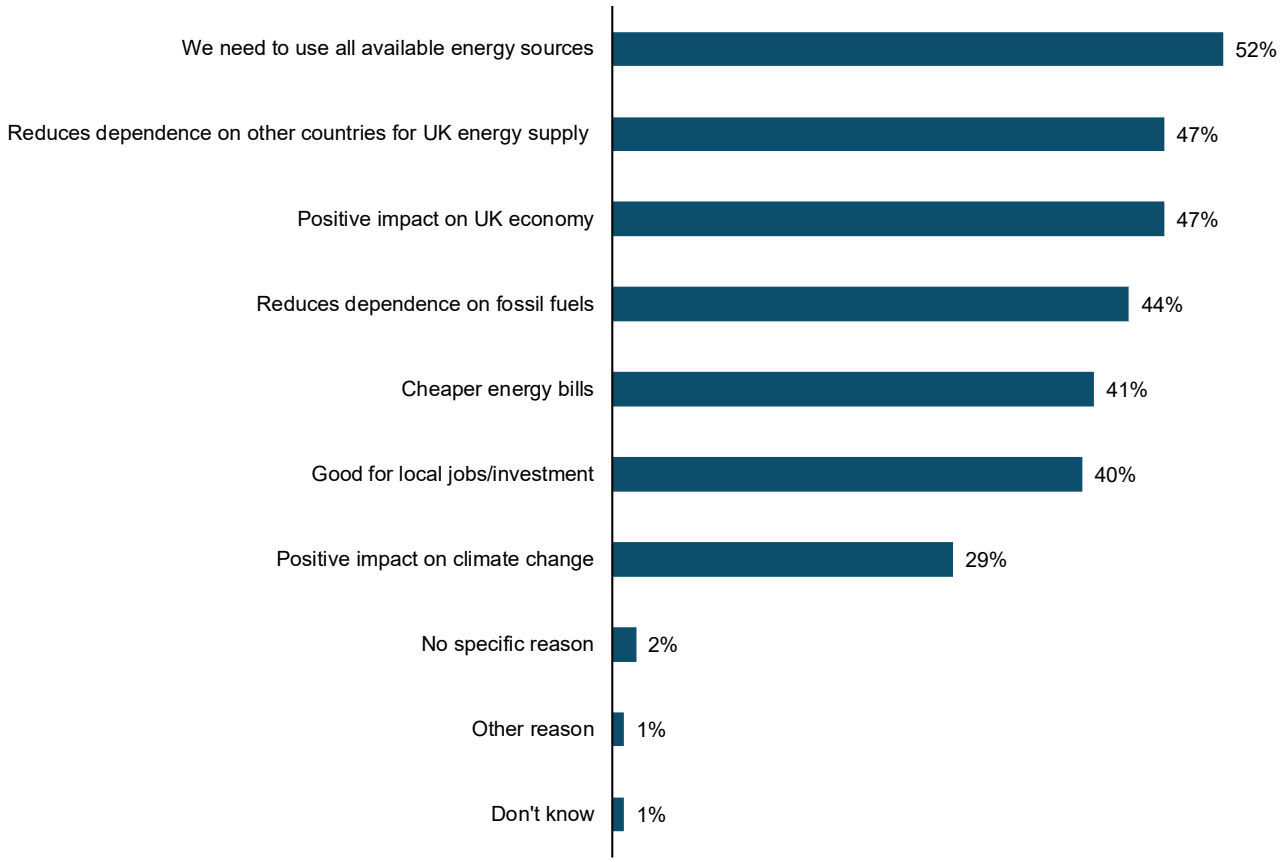
Base: All wave respondents – September 2020 (4,033); June 2020 (4,011); March 2020 (2,544).

*All questions are based on the surveys carried out on Kantar's online omnibus in June 2020 and/or March 2020. Results are not comparable with earlier face to face waves, so no such comparisons are made in this report (see Technical Notes).

Support for fracking was higher among men (31%, compared with 17% of women) and those in social grades AB (30%, compared with 20% in social grades DE). Opposition to fracking was highest among those with greater knowledge of it. Almost half (47%) of those who reported knowing either "a lot" or "a little" about fracking opposed it (compared with 27% who supported it) (Table 9).

People were asked why they supported or opposed fracking.[4] In September 2020 the most common reasons for supporting fracking were the need to use all available energy sources (52%), reducing dependence on other countries for the UK's energy supply (47%) and the positive impact of fracking on the UK economy (47%) (Figure 9).

**Figure 9: Reasons for supporting fracking (based on all who support using shale gas), September 2020***




Q15c) You said that you support hydraulic fracturing for shale gas, otherwise known as fracking. Why is this?

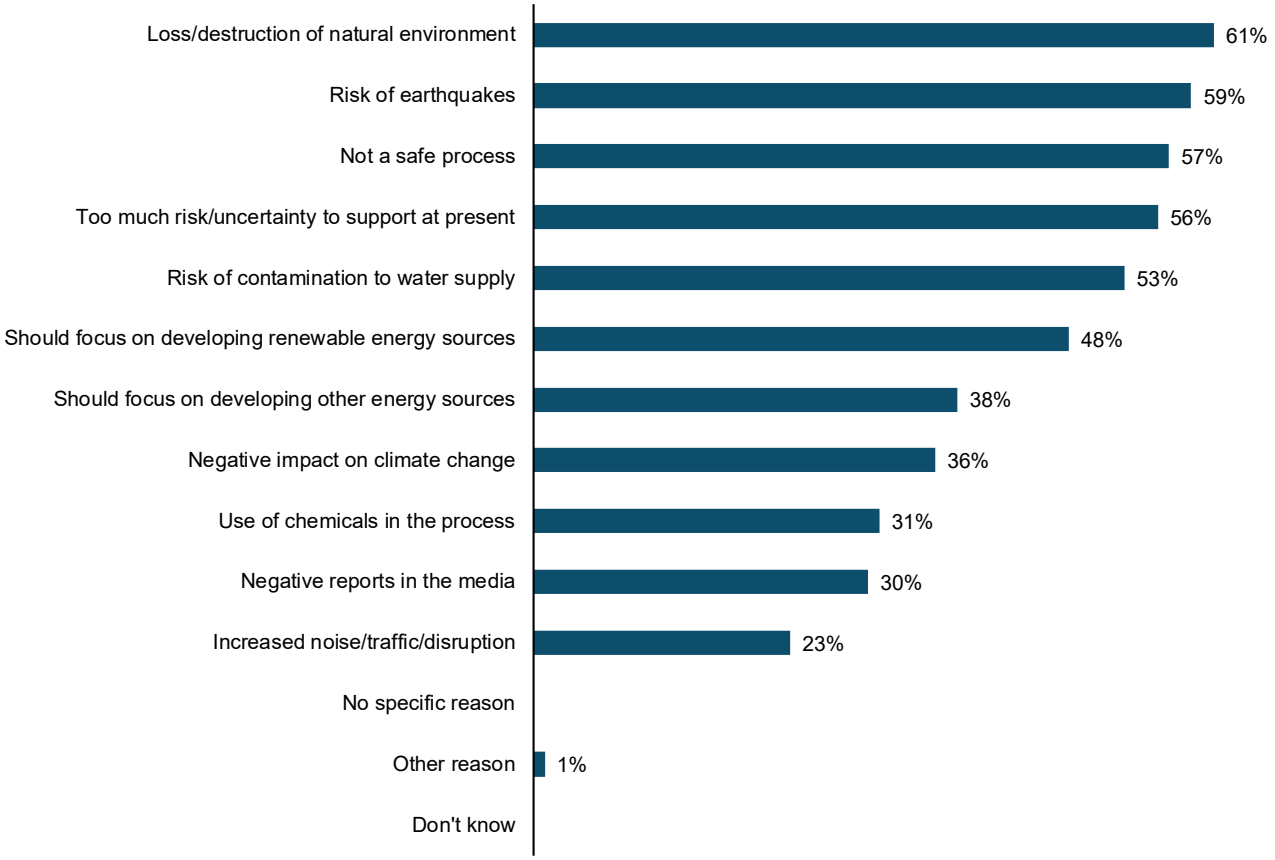
Base: All wave respondents who support using shale gas – September 2020 (1,024). (Asked Quarterly).

*All questions are based on the surveys carried out on Kantar's online omnibus in September 2020, and June 2020 and March 2020 where applicable. Results are not comparable with earlier face to face waves, so no such comparisons are made in this report (see Technical Notes).

[4] The questions are asked spontaneously when the survey is conducted using a face-to-face approach, whereas an answer list was presented to respondents for the online survey.

The most common reasons for opposing fracking in September 2020 were the loss and destruction caused to natural environment (61%), concern about the risk of earthquakes (59%), concern that fracking is not a safe process (57%) and because there is too much risk and uncertainty (56%) (Figure 10).

**Figure 10: Reasons for opposing fracking (based on all who oppose using shale gas), September 2020***




Q15d) You said that you oppose hydraulic fracturing for shale gas, otherwise known as fracking. Why is this?

Base: All wave respondents who oppose using shale gas – September 2020 (1,466). (Asked Quarterly).

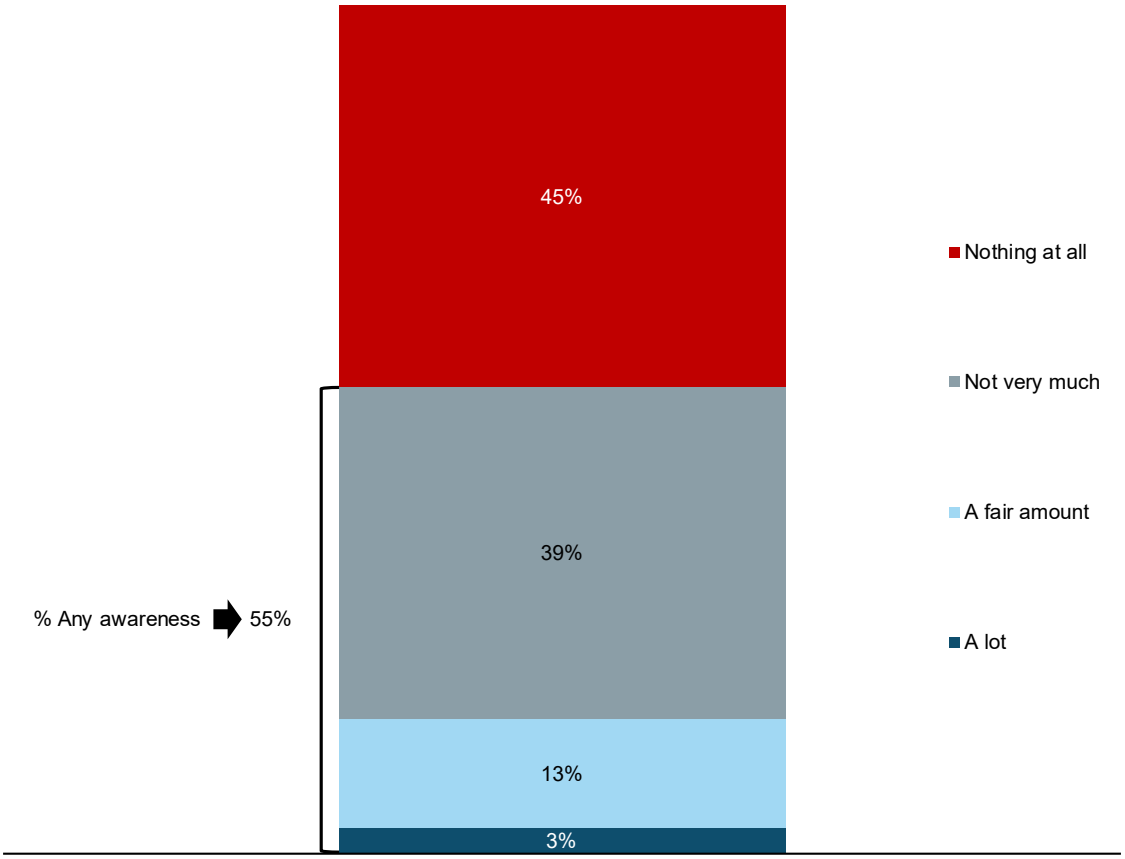
*All questions are based on the surveys carried out on Kantar's online omnibus in September 2020, and June 2020 and March 2020 where applicable. Results are not comparable with earlier face to face waves, so no such comparisons are made in this report (see Technical Notes).

The main reason for neither supporting nor opposing fracking in September 2020 was not knowing enough about it (46%).

## Radioactive waste

In September 2020, over half (55%) of the public said they had at least some awareness of how the UK currently manages radioactive waste (Figure 11) but only 3% said that they knew a lot about it. A further 13% said they knew a little about it, and 39% not very much.

**Figure 11: Awareness of how the UK currently manages radioactive waste (based on all people), September 2020***




Q26a) How much, if anything, do you know about the way the UK currently manages radioactive waste?

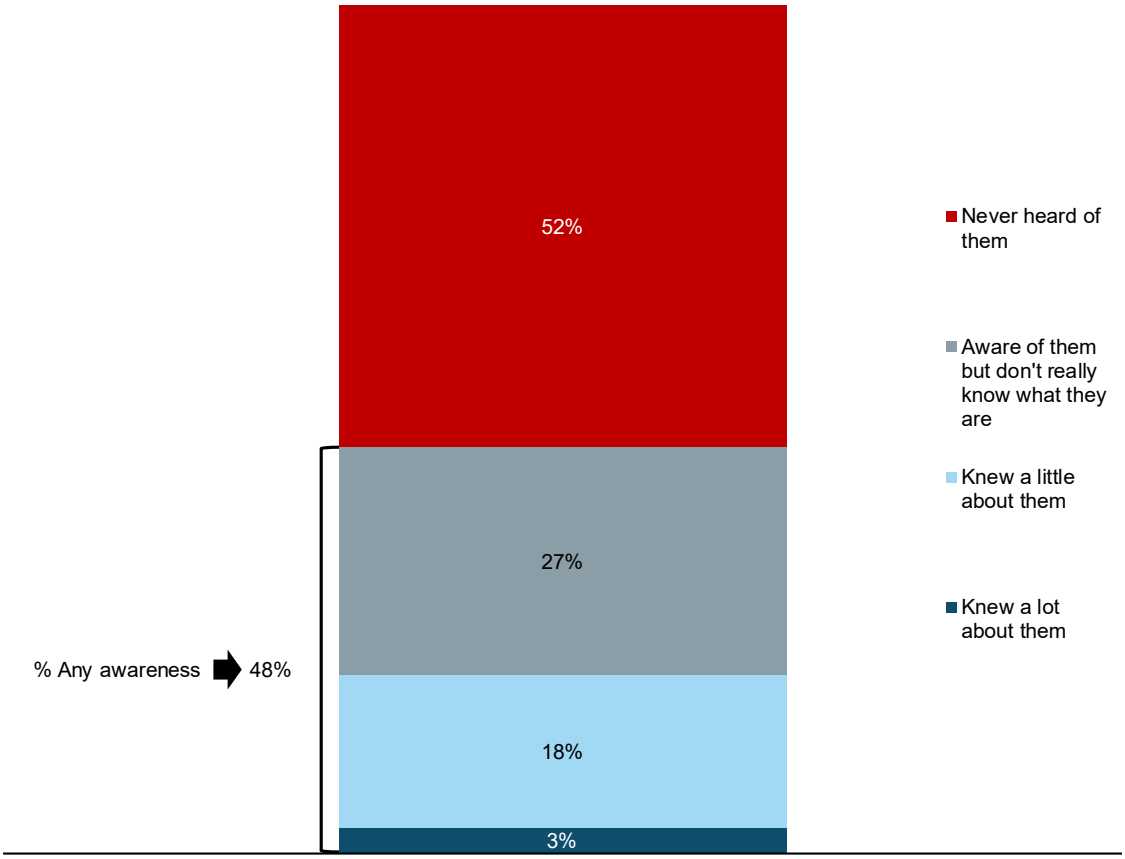
Base: All wave 35 respondents – September 2020 (4,033). (Asked Annually).

*All questions are based on the surveys carried out on Kantar's online omnibus in September 2020, and June 2020 and March 2020 where applicable. Results are not comparable with earlier face to face waves, so no such comparisons are made in this report (see Technical Notes).

Men (62%, compared with 47% of women) and those in younger age groups (64% of those aged 16 to 34, compared with 44% of those aged 45 to 54) were more likely to have some awareness of how radioactive waste is managed.

In September 2020, 48% of the public said they were aware of the UK's plans to dispose of radioactive waste in Geological Disposal Facilities (GDF), with 3% saying they knew a lot about them. A further 18% said they knew a little about them, and 27% not very much. Just over half (52%) said they had never heard of GDF (Figure 12).

**Figure 12: Awareness of the UK's plans to dispose of radioactive waste in Geological Disposal Facilities (based on all people), September 2020***




Q26b) Before today, how much, if anything, did you know about the UK's plans to dispose of radioactive waste in Geological Disposal Facilities in the UK?

Base: All wave 35 respondents – September 2020 (4,033). (Asked Annually).

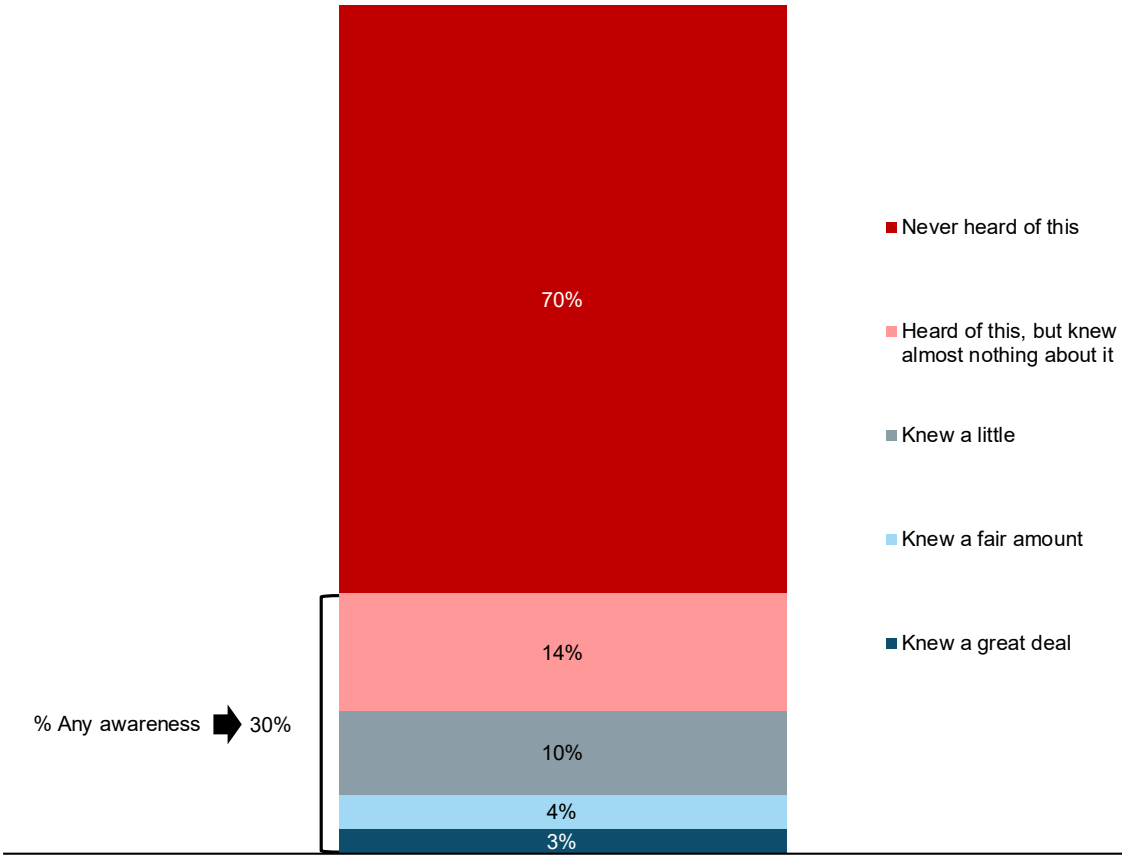
*All questions are based on the surveys carried out on Kantar's online omnibus in September 2020, and June 2020 and March 2020 where applicable. Results are not comparable with earlier face to face waves, so no such comparisons are made in this report (see Technical Notes).

Men (58%, compared with 38% of women) and those in social grades AB (57%, compared with 42% in social grades DE) were more likely to be aware of the plans to use GDF.

## Small modular reactors

In September 2020, three in ten (30%) said they were aware of small modular reactors, with 3% saying they knew a great deal, 4% a fair amount and 10% a little. A further 14% had heard of small modular reactions but knew almost nothing about it. Conversely, seven in ten (70%) said they had never heard of small modular reactors (Figure 13).

**Figure 13: Awareness of small modular reactors (based on all people), September 2020***




Q160. Before today, how much, if anything, did you know about Small Modular Reactors?

Base: All wave respondents – September 2020 (4,033). (Asked Annually).

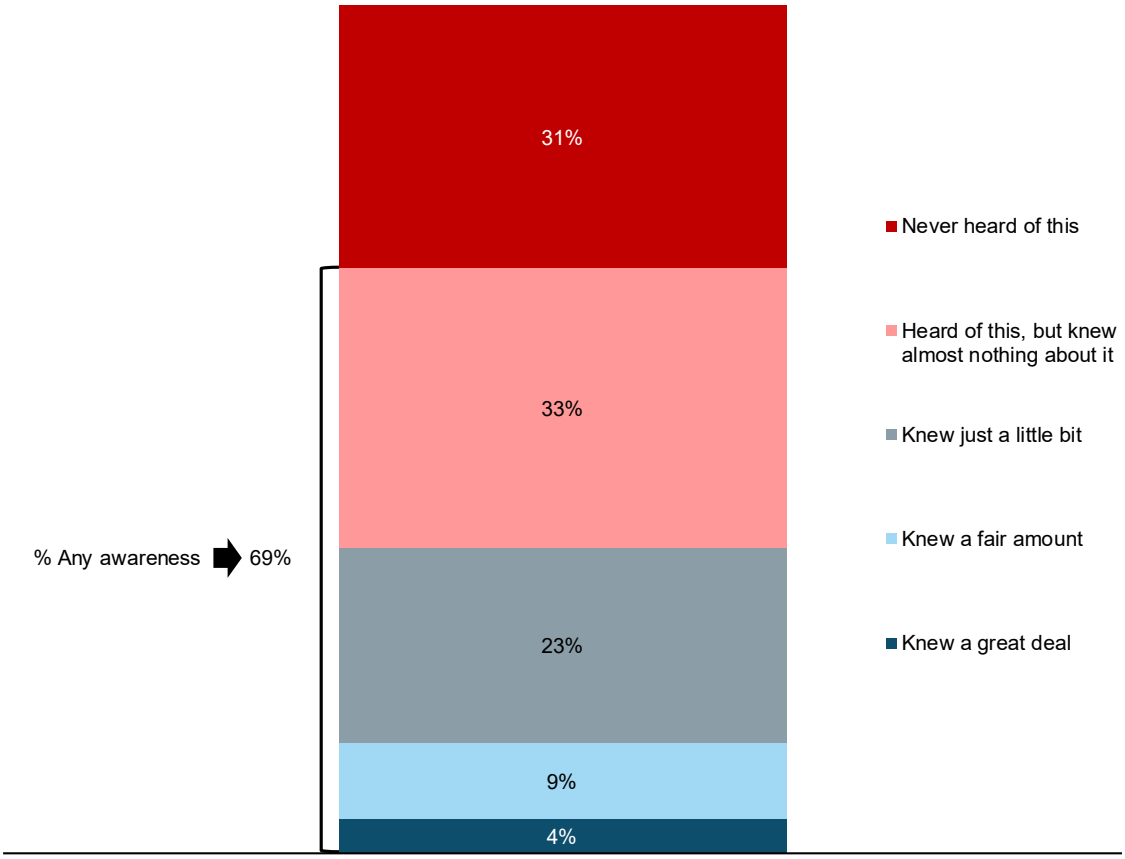
*All questions are based on the surveys carried out on Kantar's online omnibus in September 2020, and June 2020 and March 2020 where applicable. Results are not comparable with earlier face to face waves, so no such comparisons are made in this report (see Technical Notes).

Men (38%, compared with 23% of women), those aged 16 to 34 (46%, compared with a high of 36% for any other age group) and those in social grades AB (37%, compared with a high of 31% for any other social grade) were most likely to have at least some awareness of small modular reactors (Table 45).

## Decommissioning oil and gas

In September 2020, seven in ten (69%) said they had some awareness of decommissioning offshore oil and gas infrastructure. Only 4% said they knew a great deal about it, 9% a fair amount and 23% a little. One in three (33%) claimed to have heard of decommissioning offshore oil and gas infrastructure but knew nothing more about it. Three in ten (31%) had never heard of it (Figure 14).

**Figure 14: Awareness of decommissioning offshore oil and gas infrastructure (based on all people), September 2020***




Q170. Before today, how much, if anything do you know about decommissioning offshore oil and gas infrastructure?

Base: All wave respondents – September 2020 (4,033). (Asked Annually).

*All questions are based on the surveys carried out on Kantar's online omnibus in September 2020, and June 2020 and March 2020 where applicable. Results are not comparable with earlier face to face waves, so no such comparisons are made in this report (see Technical Notes).

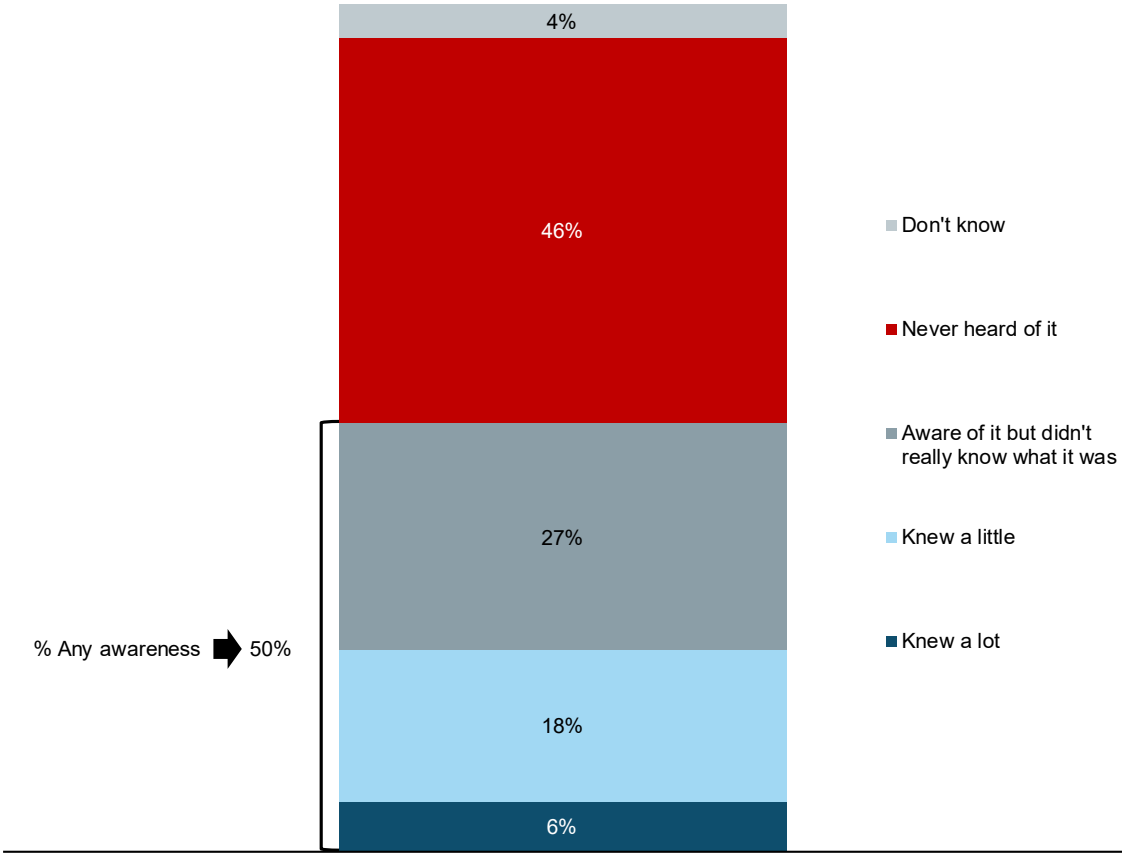
Men (77%, compared with 61% of women) and those in social grades AB (75%, compared with 63% of those in social grades DE) were most likely to have at least some awareness of decommissioning offshore oil and gas infrastructure (Table 46).

## Fusion Energy

In September 2020, a new set of questions was introduced to the tracker to understand public awareness and support for fusion energy. People were first asked how much they knew about fusion energy. In the survey, fusion energy was described as follows: "Fusion energy is an experimental technology that works by fusing together atoms in order to release energy".

In September 2020, half (50%) of the public had at least some awareness of fusion energy (Figure 15). This comprised 6% who said they knew a lot about fusion energy, 18% who say they knew a little about it, and 27% who were aware of it but did not really know what it was.

**Figure 15: Awareness of fusion energy (based on all people), September 2020***



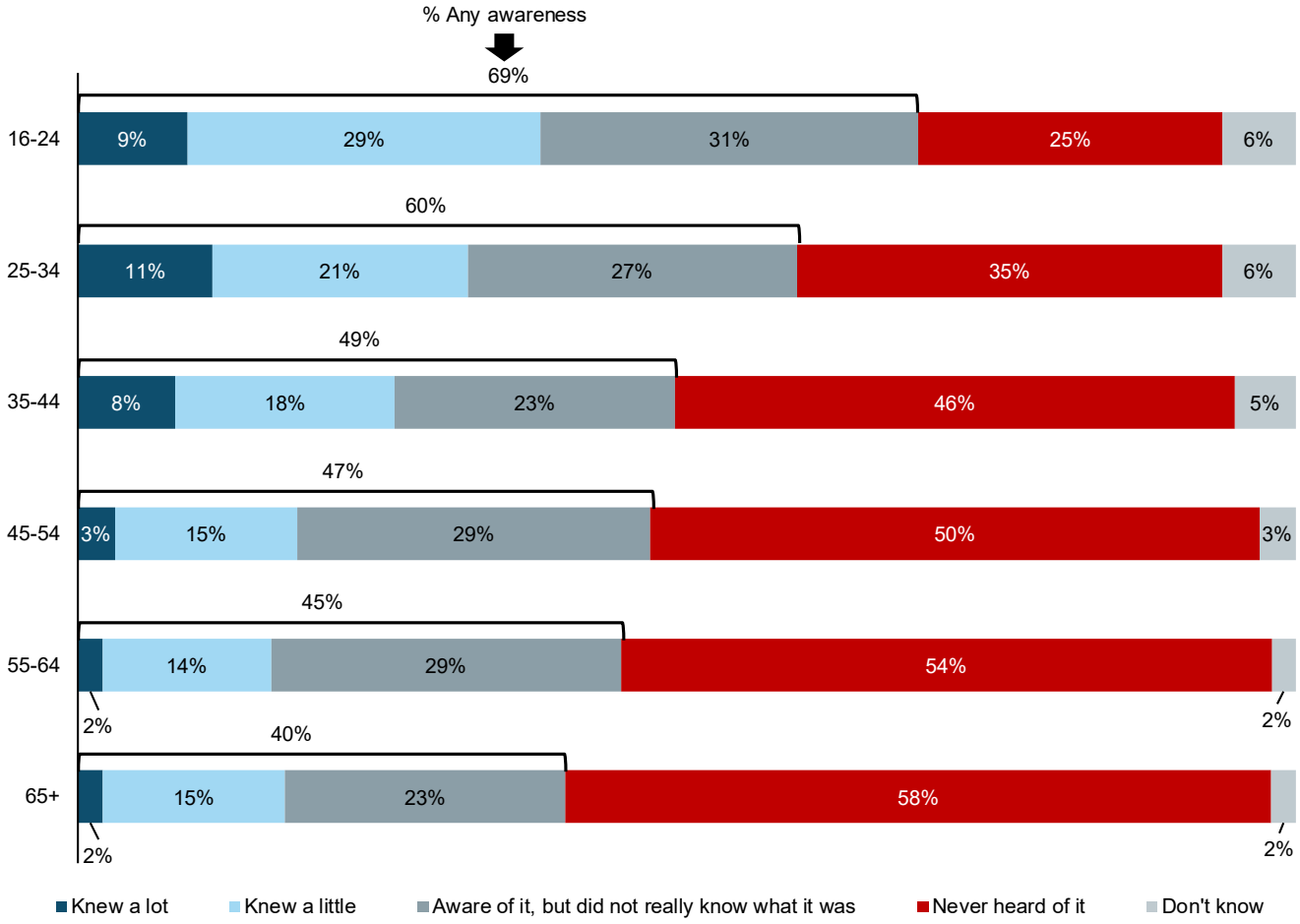

Q230. Before today, how much did you know about fusion energy?

Base: All wave respondents – September 2020 (4,033). (Asked Annually).

*All questions are based on the surveys carried out on Kantar's online omnibus in September 2020, and June 2020 and March 2020 where applicable. Results are not comparable with earlier face to face waves, so no such comparisons are made in this report (see Technical Notes).

Those more likely to be aware of fusion energy included men (63%, compared 38% of women), those aged 16 to 24 (69%, compared with 40% of those aged 65 and over, Figure 16) and those in social grades AB (62%, compared with 38% of those in social grades DE) (Table 47).

**Figure 16: Awareness of fusion energy, by age (based on all people), September 2020***



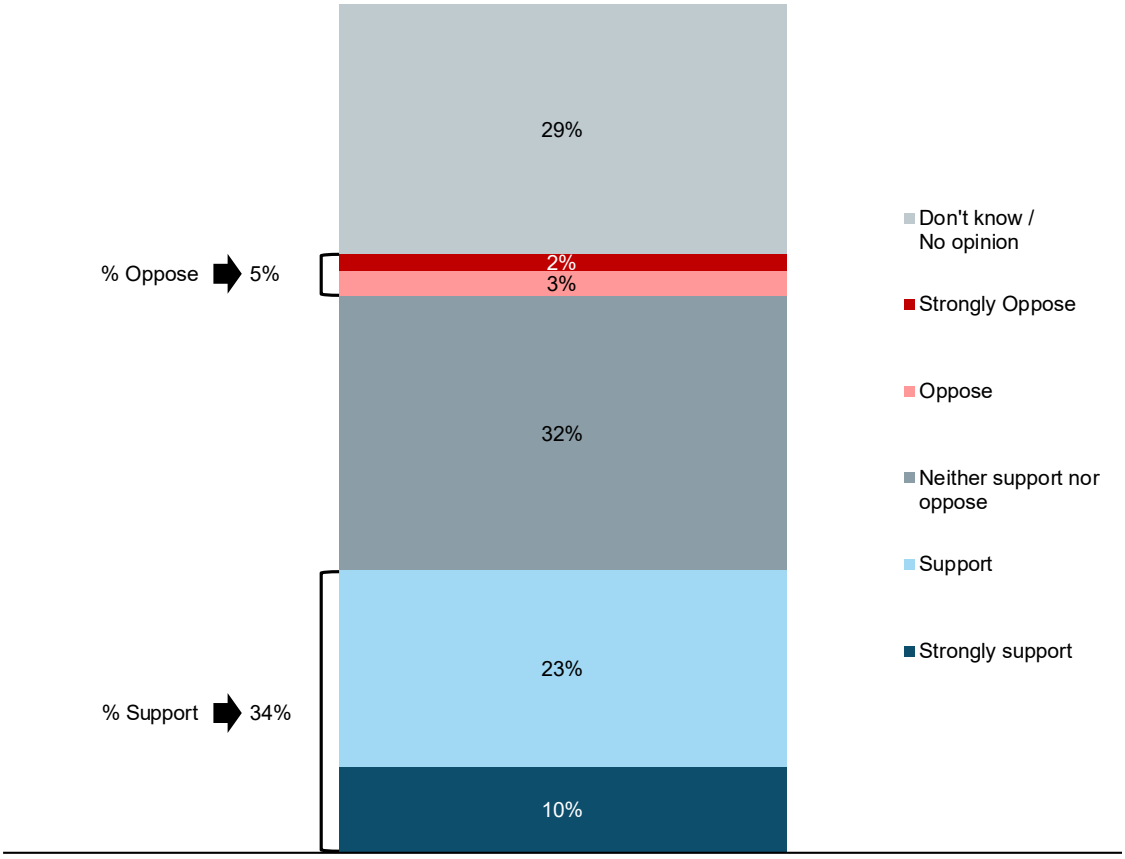

Q230. Before today, how much did you know about fusion energy?

Base: All wave respondents (September 2020) – 16-24 (589); 25-34 (705); 35-44 (654); 45-54 (705); 55-64 (630); 65+ (750).

*All questions are based on the surveys carried out on Kantar's online omnibus in September 2020, and June 2020 and March 2020 where applicable. Results are not comparable with earlier face to face waves, so no such comparisons are made in this report (see Technical Notes).

When asked whether they support or oppose fusion energy, the majority (61%) neither supported nor opposed fusion energy (32%) or did not know whether they supported it (29%) (Figure 17). This uncertainty is likely to reflect the low overall awareness and knowledge of fusion energy. On balance, where an opinion was provided, there was more support than opposition to fusion energy (Figure 17). Around a third (34%) said they supported fusion energy, with 10% strongly supporting and it a further 23% supporting it. Opposition to fusion energy was low. Only 5% opposed fusion energy (3% opposed and 2% strongly opposed).

**Figure 17: Support for fusion energy (based on all people), September 2020***




Q231. From what you know, or have heard about fusion energy, do you support or oppose the UK developing this technology?

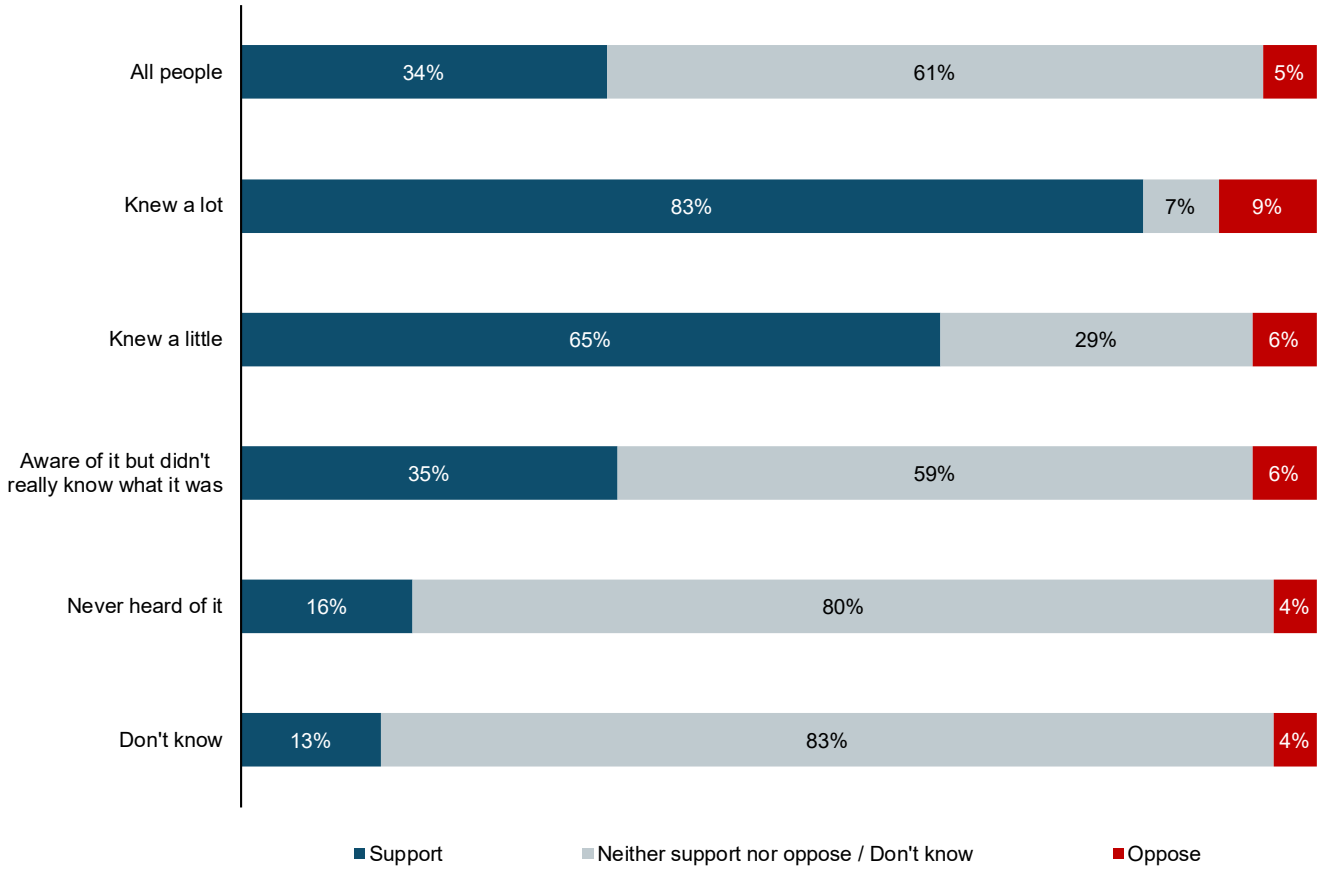
Base: All wave respondents – September 2020 (4,033). (Asked Annually).

*All questions are based on the surveys carried out on Kantar's online omnibus in September 2020, and June 2020 and March 2020 where applicable. Results are not comparable with earlier face to face waves, so no such comparisons are made in this report (see Technical Notes).

Men (45%, compared with 23% of women) and those in social grades AB (42%, compared with 21% of those in social grades DE) were more likely to support fusion energy (Table 48).

Those who had greater knowledge of fusion energy were more likely to support than oppose it. Over eight in ten (83%) of those who knew a lot about energy supported it, compared with 9% who opposed it (Figure 18). Those with less knowledge about fusion energy were much more likely to say they neither supported nor opposed it.

**Figure 18: Levels of support of fusion energy, by levels of fusion knowledge (based on all people), September 2020***




Q230. Before today, how much did you know about fusion energy? / Q231. From what you know, or have heard about fusion energy, do you support or oppose the UK developing this technology?

Base: All wave respondents (September 2020) – All people (4,033); Knew a lot (307); Knew a little (775); Aware of it but didn't really know what it was (1,050); Never heard of it (1,718); Don't know (183).

*All questions are based on the surveys carried out on Kantar's online omnibus in September 2020, and June 2020 and March 2020 where applicable. Results are not comparable with earlier face to face waves, so no such comparisons are made in this report (see Technical Notes).

# Home energy efficiency and insulation

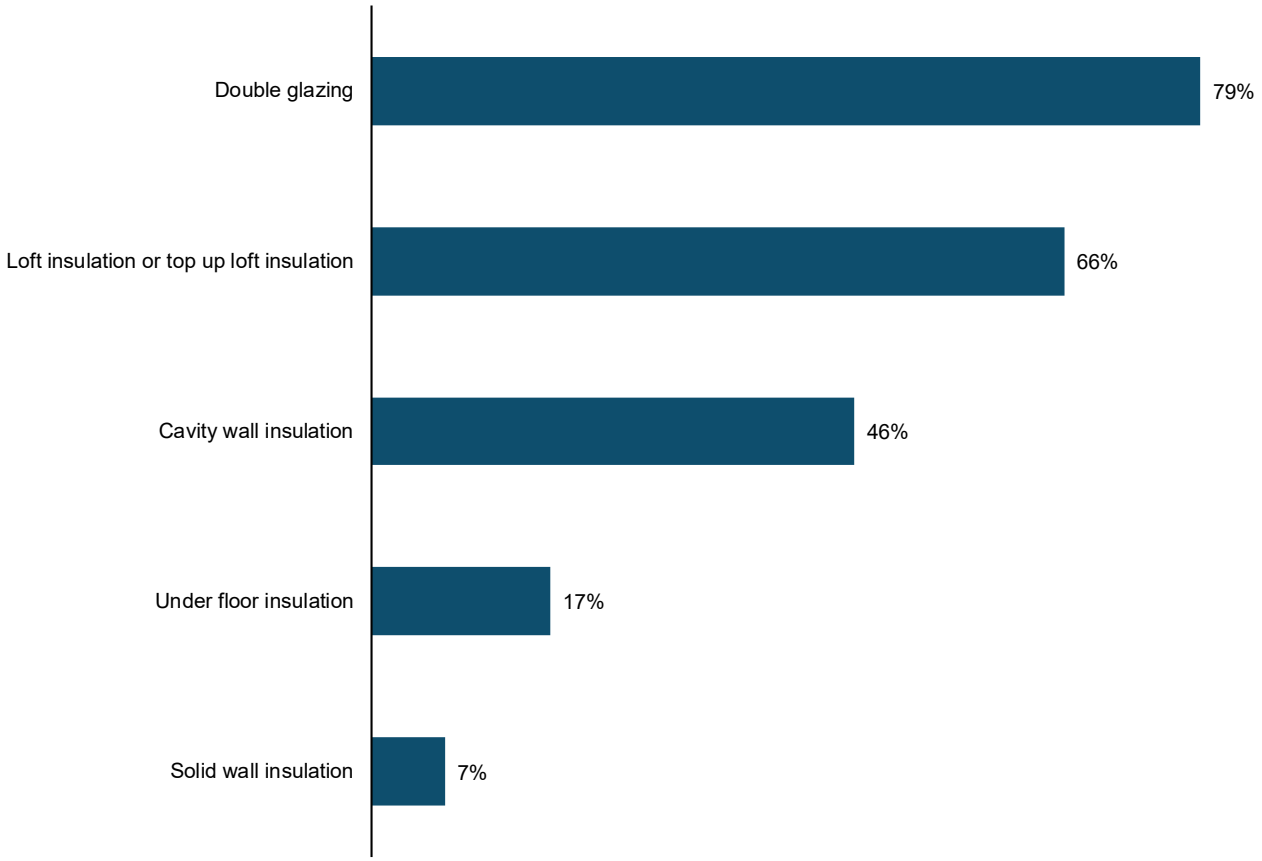
## Insulation

In September 2020, the public were asked whether any of the following types of insulation had been installed in their home:

- Loft insulation or top-up loft insulation
- Double glazing
- Cavity wall insulation
- Solid wall insulation
- Under floor insulation[5]

The most commonly installed measures were double glazing (79%) and loft insulation or top-up loft insulation (66%) (Figure 19). Just under half (46%) had installed cavity wall insulation. Smaller proportions had installed under floor insulation (17%) and solid wall insulation (7%).

**Figure 19: Whether insulation measures have been installed in household (based on all people[+]), September 2020***




Q5NEW. Thinking [first/next] about [X], has this been installed in this home, even if not by you or your household?

Base for all measures apart from solid wall insulation: All wave respondents – September 2020 (4,033). (Asked Annually).

[5] The filtrating for the questions was changed in September 2020.

[+] Base for solid wall insulation: All wave respondents apart from those who had already said they had installed cavity wall insulation or were in the process of doing this and that they had already installed or were in the process of doing this – September 2020 (2,758)

*All questions are based on the surveys carried out on Kantar's online omnibus in September 2020, and June 2020 and March 2020 where applicable. Results are not comparable with earlier face to face waves, so no such comparisons are made in this report (see Technical Notes).

More than four in ten people (45%) had three or more of these measures installed in their home. A further 26% had two measures installed, and 16% one measure installed. A little over one in ten (13%) did not have any of these insulation measures installed.

In September 2020, awareness of, and interest in solid wall insulation and under floor insulation was much lower compared with the other insulation measures. For solid wall insulation, 11% of all adults had not heard of it, 15% had not thought about installing it and 5% did not want to install it. For under floor insulation, a slightly smaller proportion had not heard of it (7%), 20% hadn't thought about doing this, and 6% did not want to install it (Table 15).

Most of those who had more than one insulation measure installed in their home had them installed separately (80%). One in ten (11%) had all measures installed at the same time and 8% had some installed at the same time and some at other times (Table 26).

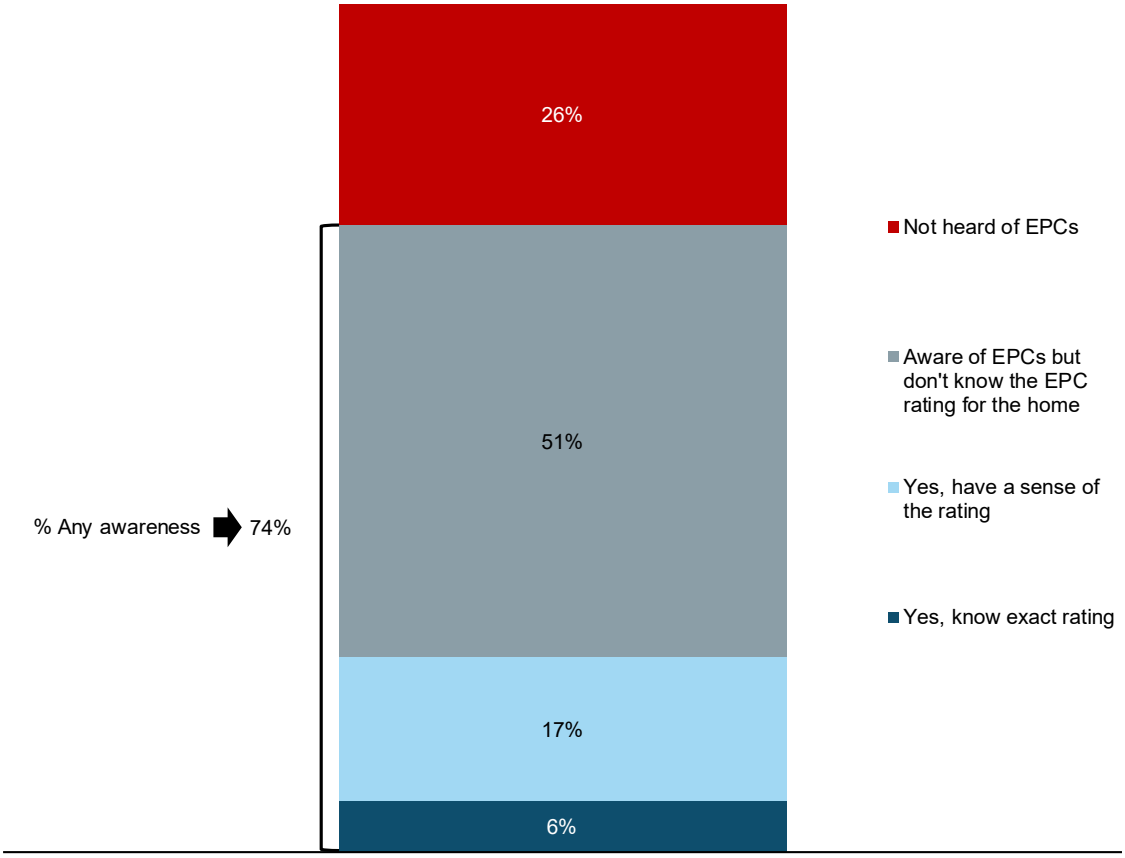
For each insulation measure, all who had thought about installing but had not done so were asked why they had not installed the measures (Table 27). This question was asked separately for each measure. In each case, the most common reason for not installing insulation measures was that it would be too expensive to install (27% for loft insulation or top up loft insulation, 48% for double glazing, 26% for cavity wall insulation, 29% for solid wall insulation and 38% for under floor insulation).

## Energy performance certificates (EPCs)

In September 2020, people were asked questions to assess awareness of energy performance certificates (EPCs) and their ratings, and recollection and usefulness of recommendations in EPCs.

Three quarters (74%) of the public were aware of EPCs, with half (51%) saying they were aware of EPCs but didn't know the rating for their home. Just 6% knew the exact rating of their EPC, with a further 17% having a sense of the rating for their home. A quarter (26%) of the public had not heard of EPCs (Figure 20).

**Figure 20: Awareness of EPCs (based on all people), September 2020***




Q24a. Do you know what the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating for your home is?

All wave respondents – September 2020 (4,033). (Asked Annually).

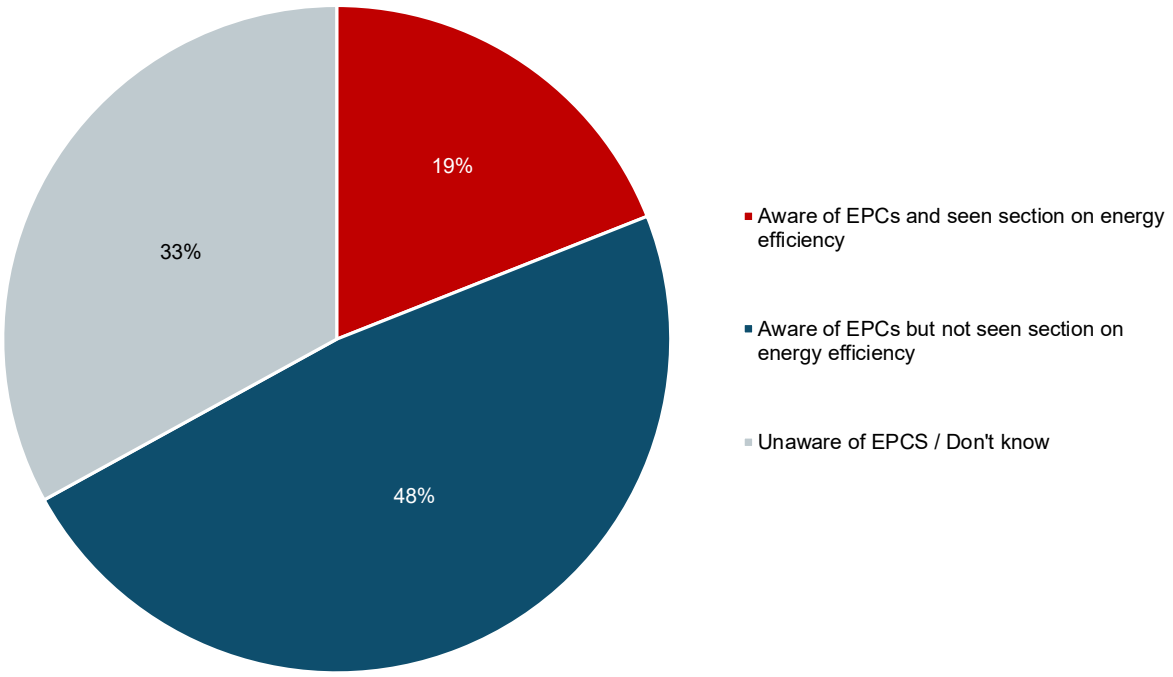
*All questions are based on the surveys carried out on Kantar's online omnibus in September 2020, and June 2020 and March 2020 where applicable. Results are not comparable with earlier face to face waves, so no such comparisons are made in this report (see Technical Notes).

Homeowners and private renters were more likely than social renters to be aware of EPCs (79% and 76%, compared with 49%, respectively). Homeowners were also more likely to know the exact rating of their EPC (8%, compared with 3% of private renters and 2% of social renters) (Table 33).

Those who were aware of EPCs were asked whether they had seen a section on the EPC which recommended how they could improve the energy efficiency of their home. The figures presented below are based on the whole population.[6]

Two in ten (19%) of all people said they recalled seeing this section. Just under a half (48%) of all people had not seen it (Figure 21).

**Figure 21: Whether recall seeing section on EPC which recommended how to improve the energy efficiency of your home (based on all people), September 2020***




Q24b. Do you recall seeing a section on your Energy Performance Certificate which recommended how you could improve the energy efficiency of your home?

All wave respondents – September 2020 (4,033). (Asked Annually).

*All questions are based on the surveys carried out on Kantar's online omnibus in September 2020, and June 2020 and March 2020 where applicable. Results are not comparable with earlier face to face waves, so no such comparisons are made in this report (see Technical Notes).

As with overall awareness of EPCs, homeowners were more likely to recall having seen a section in the EPC on how to make their home more energy efficient. Two in ten homeowners

[6] Those who were not asked this question are included in the 'unaware of EPCs' category.

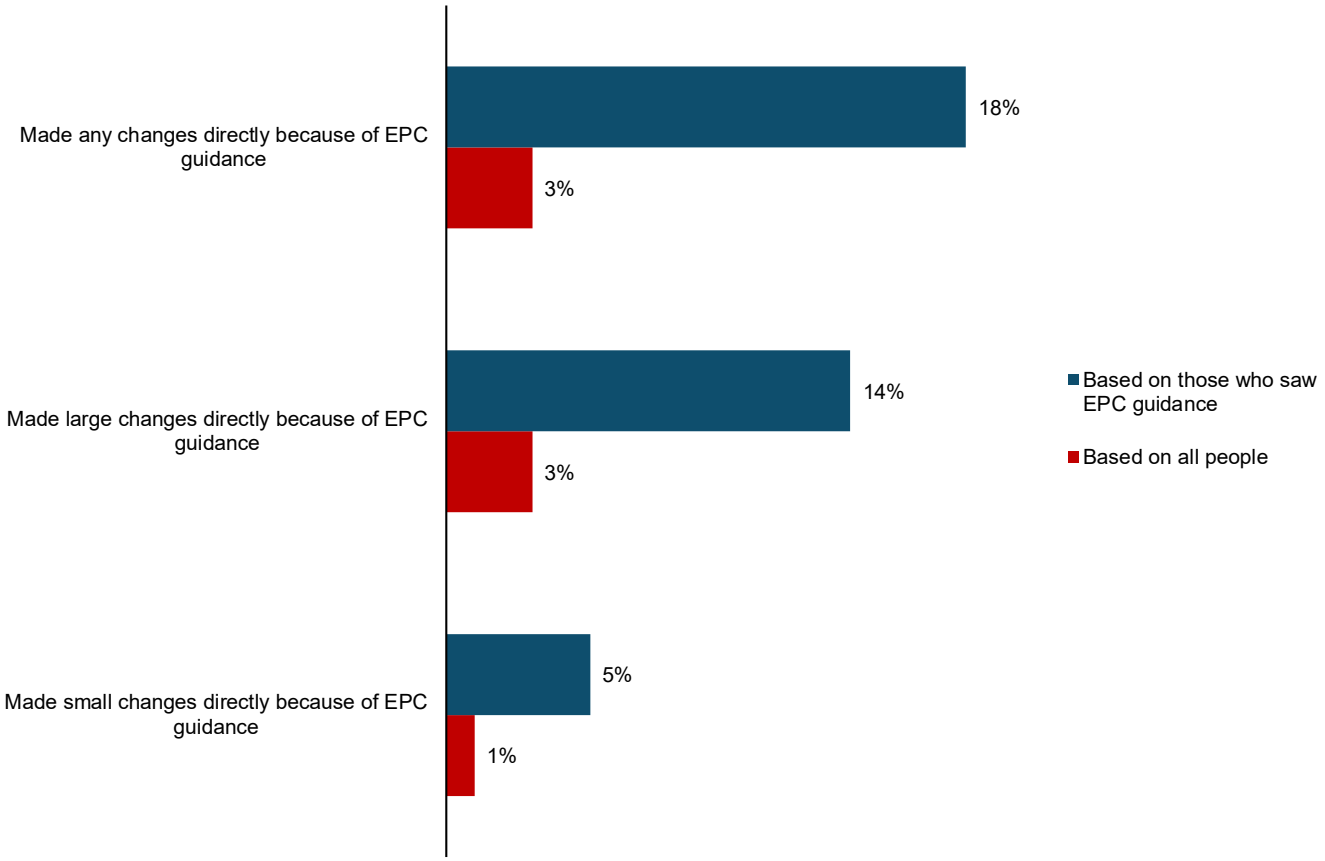
(22%) said they had seen this, compared with 17% of private renters and 8% of social renters (Table 35).

Those who recalled seeing the section in their EPC on energy efficiency were asked whether they had made large or small changes to their home based on these recommendations. Where changes had been made, a clarification question was asked to confirm whether the changes had been made directly because of the guidance in the EPC, or if they would have made the changes anyway.

Based only on those who said they saw the guidance in the EPC on how to make their home more energy efficient, 18% said they had made changes directly because of this guidance. This comprised 14% who said they made large changes and 5% who said they had made small changes. (Figure 22; Table 39)

This equates to 3% of the whole population (3% large changes and 1% small changes (Figure 22; Table 38).

**Figure 22: Whether made changes to home directly because of guidance included in EPC (based on those who saw EPC guidance / based on all people), September 2020***




Q24c_1. Now think about the recommendations you saw on your Energy Performance Certificate on how you could improve the energy efficiency of your home. Did you make any changes to your home based on these recommendations? Please select all that apply.

Q24c_2. And did you make these changes…

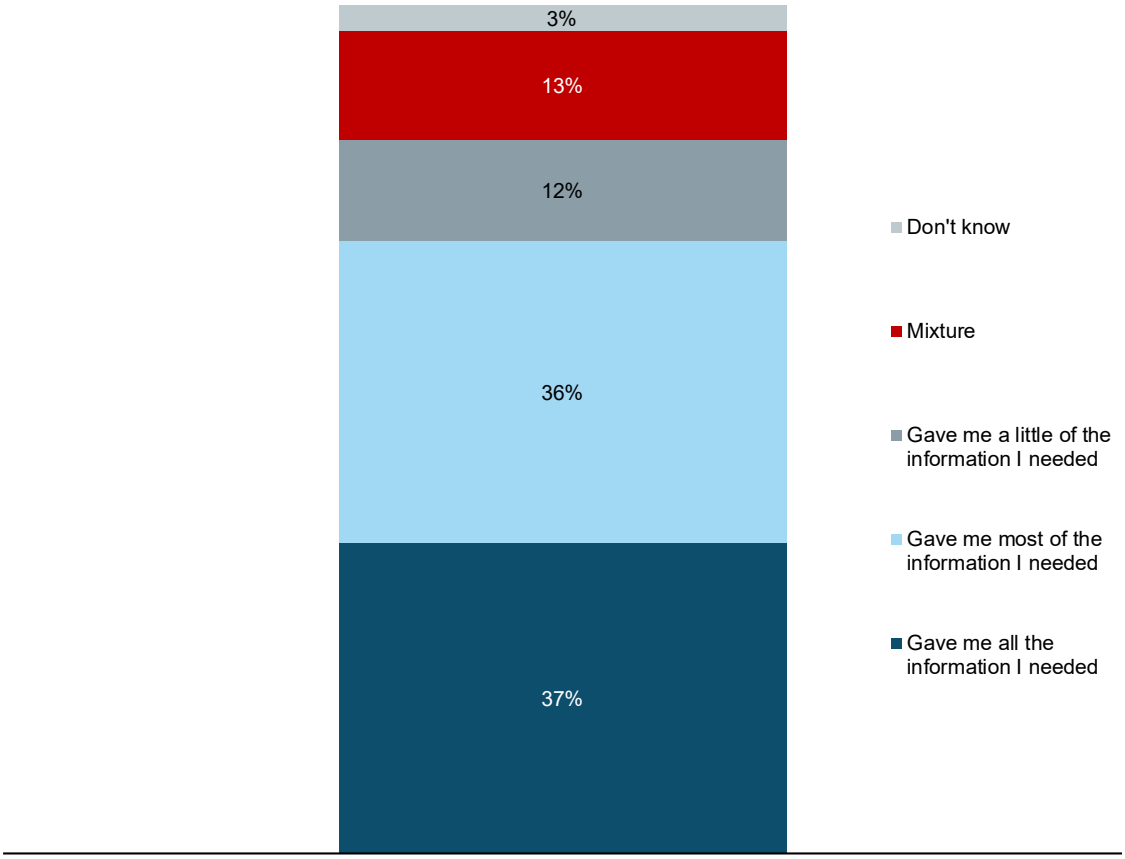
Base: Those who saw EPC guidance (644) / All wave respondents (4,033) – September 2020. (Asked Annually).

*All questions are based on the surveys carried out on Kantar's online omnibus in September 2020, and June 2020 and March 2020 where applicable. Results are not comparable with earlier face to face waves, so no such comparisons are made in this report (see Technical Notes).

Those who made changes to their home because of the recommendations in the EPC were asked the extent to which the EPC gave them the information they needed to go ahead with the changes.

Just under four in ten (37%) of this subgroup said that the EPC gave them all the information they needed, with a similar proportion saying it gave them most of the information needed (36%) (Figure 23). Just over one in ten (12%) said the EPC only gave them a little of the information they needed.

**Figure 23: Extent to which recommendations in EPC informed you about what was needed to go ahead with changes to home (based on all who made change to their home based on EPC recommendations, September 2020**




Q24c_3. To what extent did the recommendations on the Energy Performance Certificate inform you about what was needed to go ahead with the changes you made?

Bases: All who made any changes to home (directly and indirectly) based on EPC recommendations (644) – September 2019. (Asked Annually).

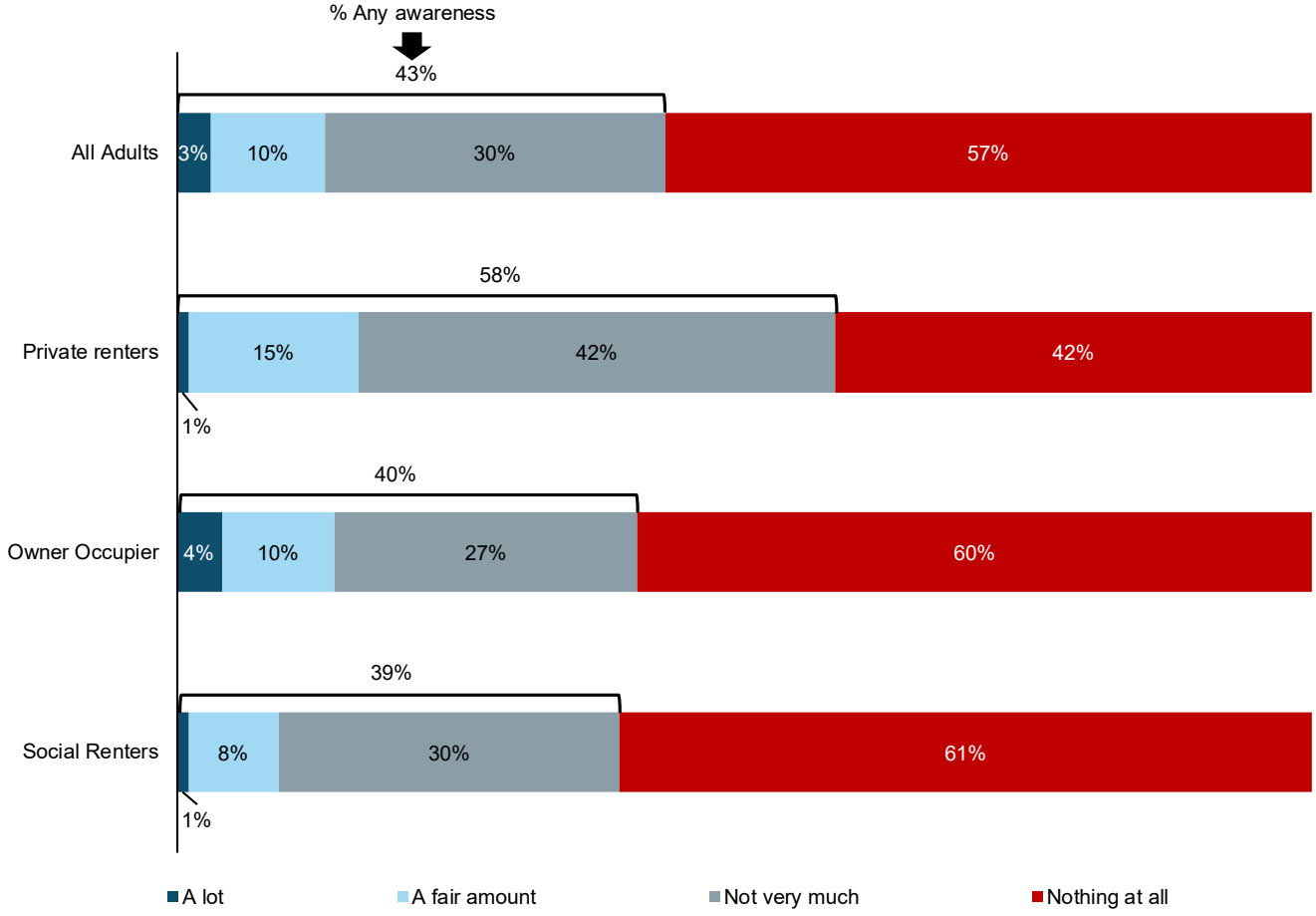
*All questions are based on the surveys carried out on Kantar's online omnibus in September 2020, and June 2020 and March 2020 where applicable. Results are not comparable with earlier face to face waves, so no such comparisons are made in this report (see Technical Notes).

## Energy standards for rental properties

In September 2020, people were asked how much, if anything, they knew about the minimum energy standards for rental properties.

Just over four in ten (43%) had at least some awareness of the minimum energy standards for rental properties, with 3% saying they knew a lot, 10% a little and 30% not very much. Just under six in ten (57%) of people said they knew nothing at all about the minimum energy standards for rental properties. Awareness was higher among private renters (58%) compared with owner occupiers and social renters (40% and 39%, respectively) (Figure 24; Table 41).

**Figure 24: Knowledge about minimum energy standards for rental properties, by tenure (based on all people), September 2020***




Q140. How much, if anything, do you know about the minimum energy standards for rental properties?

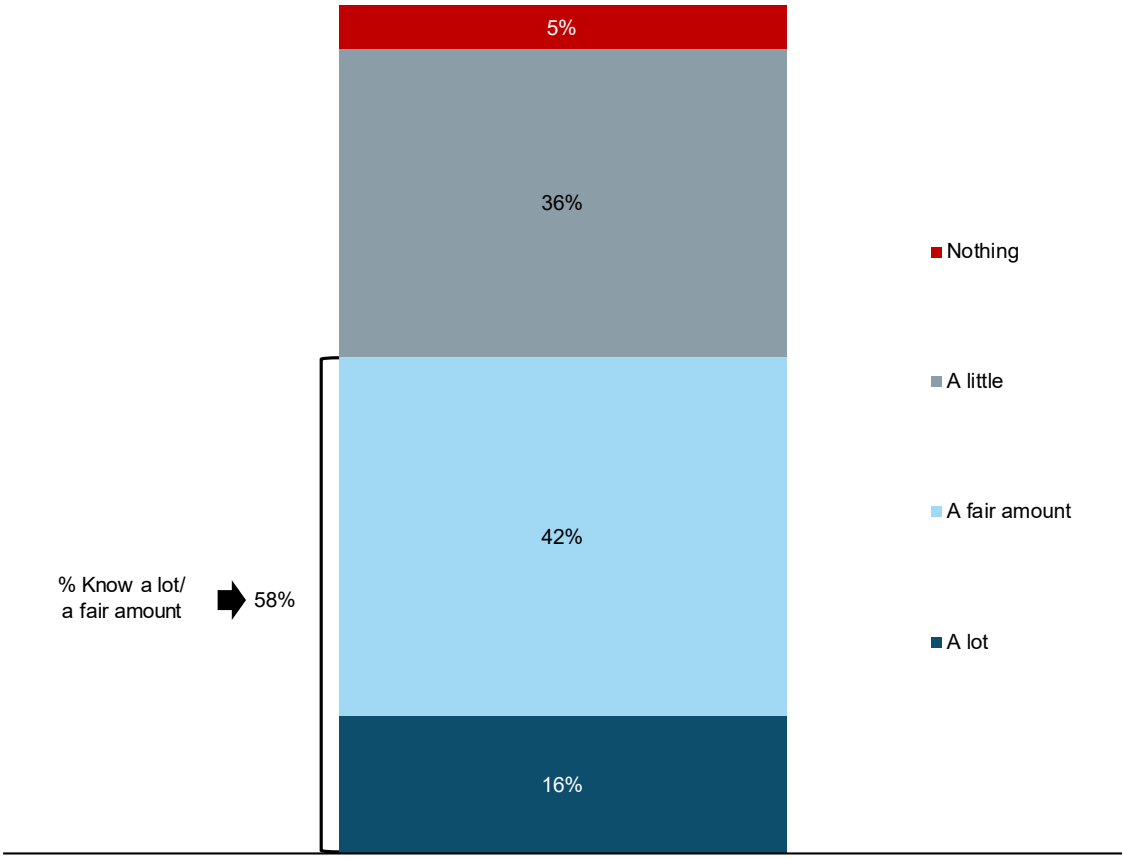
Base: Private renters (650); Owner occupiers (2685); Social renters (577) / All wave respondents (4,033) – September 2020. (Asked Annually).

*All questions are based on the surveys carried out on Kantar's online omnibus in June 2020 and/or March 2020. Results are not comparable with earlier face to face waves, so no such comparisons are made in this report (see Technical Notes).

# Questions on workers' rights

In September 2020, those who were employed were asked about whether they knew about their employment rights at work. Six in ten (58%) said they knew a lot (16%) or a fair amount (42%). A further 36% said they knew a little. Only 5% said they did not know anything about their employment rights at work (Figure 25).

**Figure 25: Knowledge about employment rights at work (based on those who are employed or on leave), September 2020***




Q154. How much would you say you know about your employment rights at work?

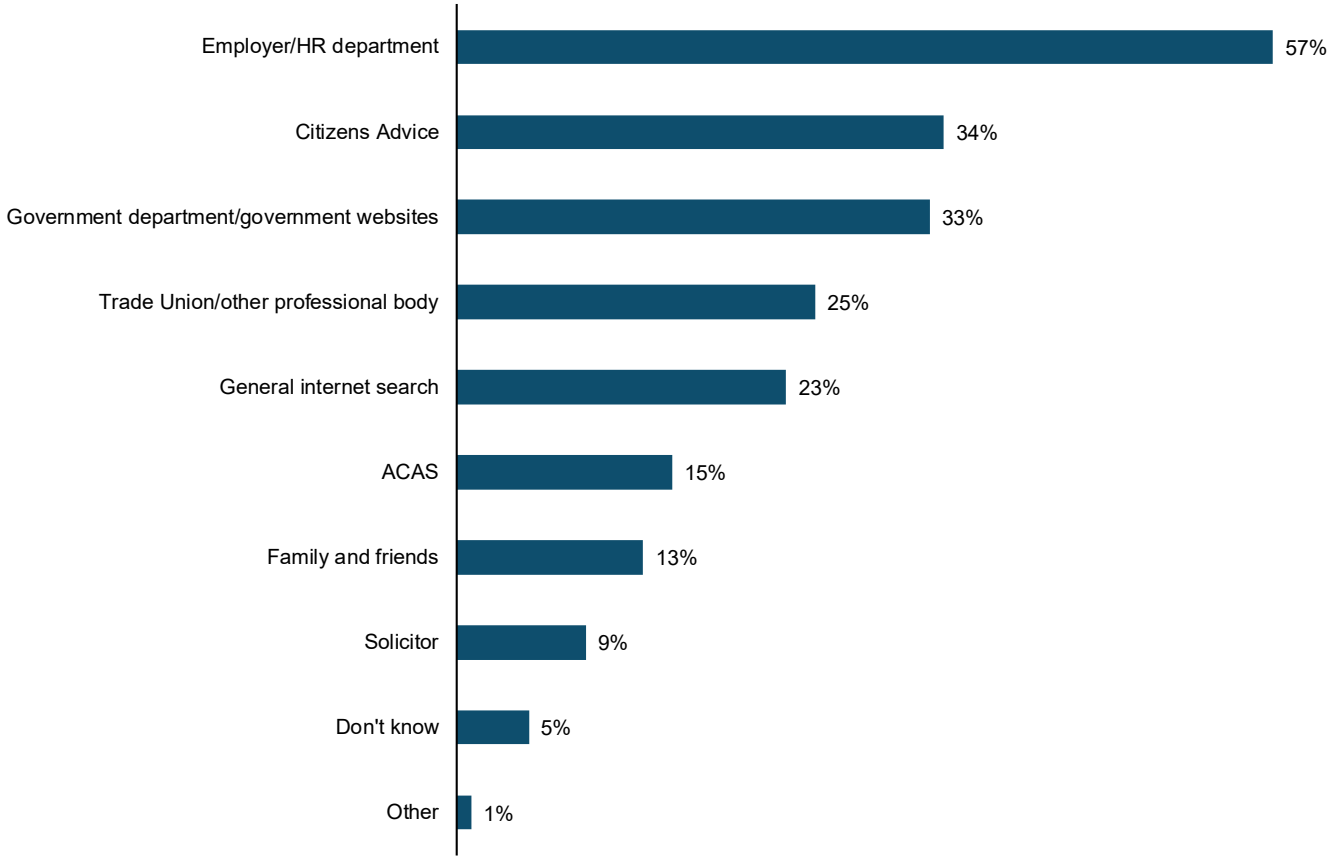
Base: All who are employed or are on leave – September 2020 (2,105). (Asked Annually).

*All questions are based on the surveys carried out on Kantar's online omnibus in June 2020 and/or March 2020. Results are not comparable with earlier face to face waves, so no such comparisons are made in this report (see Technical Notes).

Those in social grades AB were more likely to know a lot or a fair amount about their employment rights (68%, compared with 51% of those in social grades C2DE) (Table 55).

A further question was asked to find out the sources employees would use to get information on their employment rights at work. When prompted with a list, the most common sources mentioned were their employer or human resources department (57%), Citizens Advice (34%), a government department or government website (33%), a Trade Union or other professional body (25%), and a general internet search (23%) (Figure 26).

**Figure 26: Sources that would be used to get information on employment rights at work (based on those who are employed or on leave), September 2020***



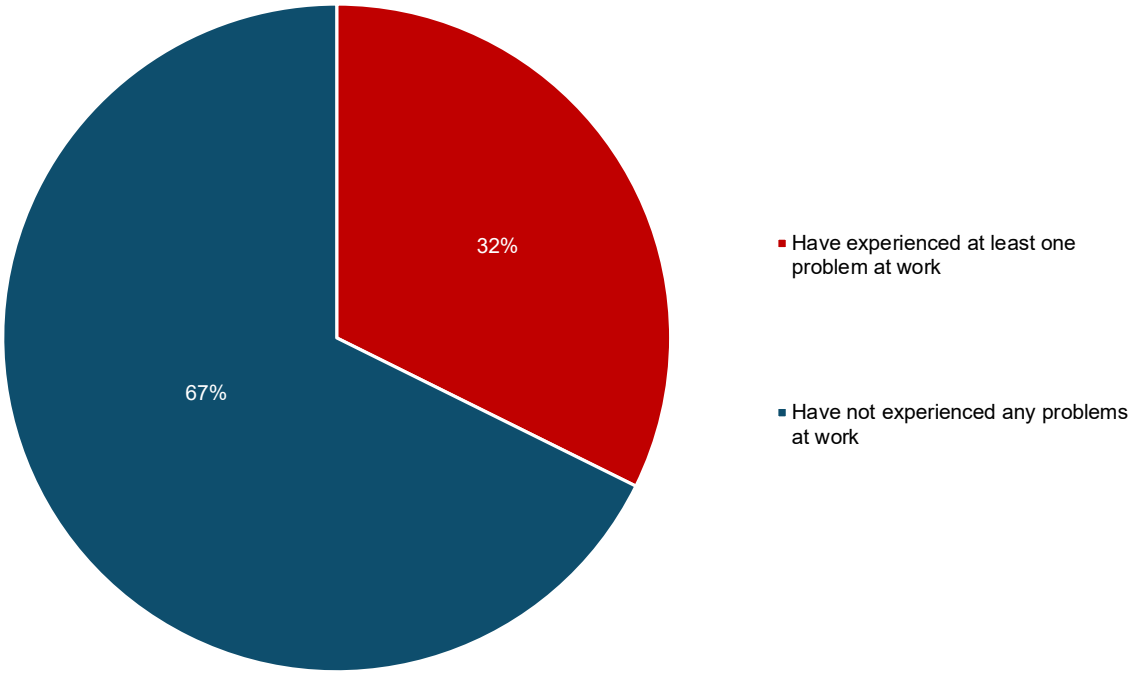

Q155. If you needed to find information about your employment rights at work, where would you find this?

Base: All who are employed or are on leave – September 2020 (2,105). (Asked Annually).

*All questions are based on the surveys carried out on Kantar's online omnibus in June 2020 and/or March 2020. Results are not comparable with earlier face to face waves, so no such comparisons are made in this report (see Technical Notes).

Those that were employed, on maternity/paternity/unpaid leave or had been employed in the last two years were asked if they had experienced any problems at work related to employment rights in the last two years. Just over three in ten (32%) had experienced at least one problem at work in the last two years, with just under two in ten (18%) having experienced three or more problems (Figure 27; Table 61).

**Figure 27: Whether had any problem to do with employment rights at work in the last two years (based on those who are employed, on leave or have worked as an employee in the last two years), September 2020***




Q157/Q158/Q159. In the last two years, have you personally had a problem to do with your employment rights at work in any of these areas?

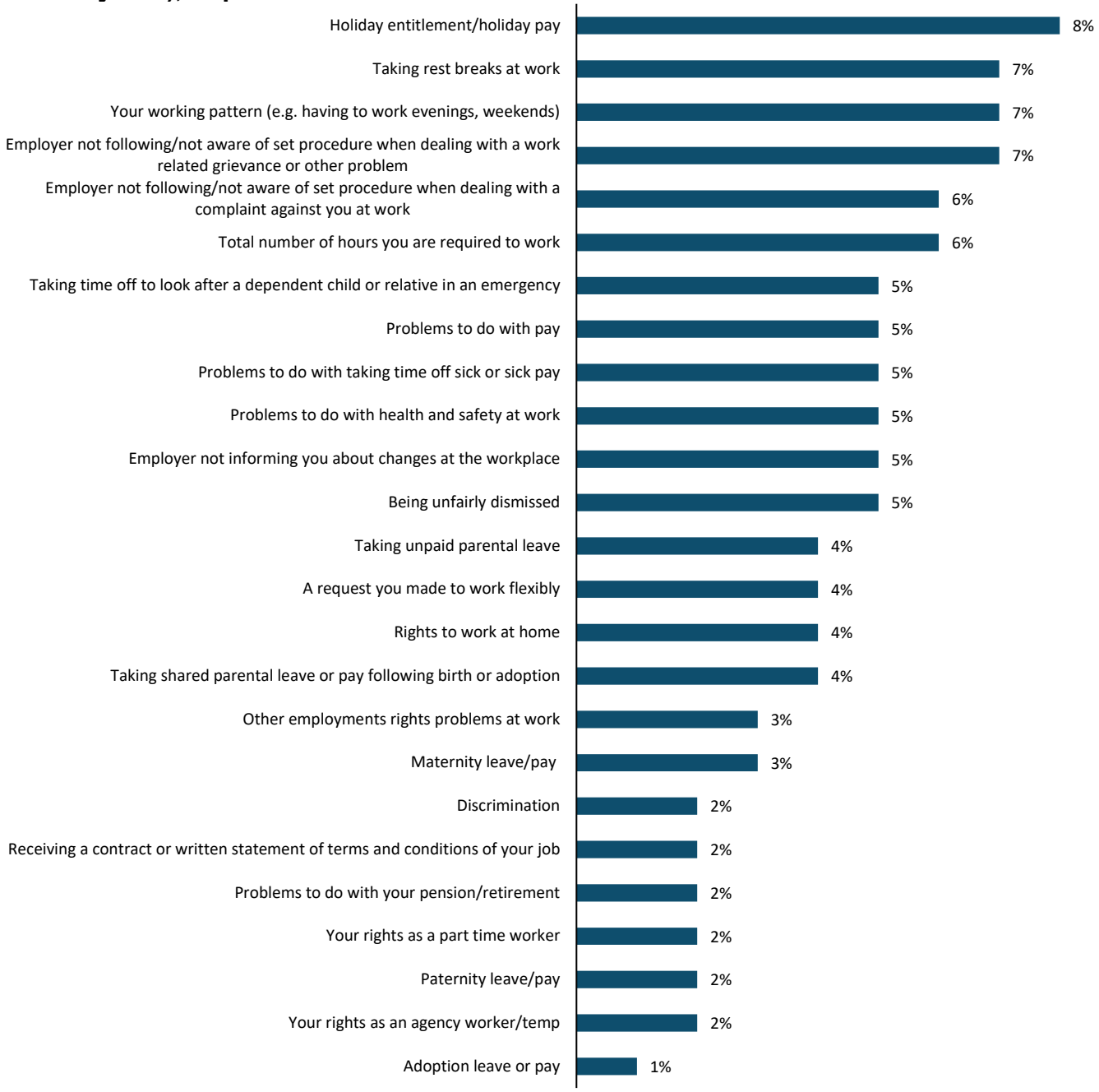
Base: All who are employed, are on leave or who have worked as an employee in the last two years - September 2020 (2,548).

*All questions are based on the surveys carried out on Kantar's online omnibus in June 2020 and/or March 2020. Results are not comparable with earlier face to face waves, so no such comparisons are made in this report (see Technical Notes).

Those more likely to have experienced an employment problem included younger people (54% of those aged 16 to 24, compared with 16% among those aged 55 and over) and people in non-permanent work (58%, compared with 27% of people in permanent work. Additionally, those living in a household where someone has a long-standing disability or illness were more likely to have experienced a problem (50%, compared with 28% of those without anyone with a long-standing illness or disability in the household) (Table 61).

The most common type of employment-related work issue in the last two years was problems to do with holiday entitlement or holiday pay (8%) (Figure 28). Other commonly cited reasons related to taking rest breaks at work, working patterns, and employers not following or not being aware of set procedure when dealing with work-related grievances (all 7%).

**Figure 28: Problems to do with employment rights experienced at work in the last two years (based on those who are employed, on leave or have worked as an employee in the last two years), September 2020***




Q157/Q158/Q159. In the last two years, have you personally had a problem to do with your employment rights at work in any of these areas?

Base: All who are employed, are on leave, or who have worked as an employee in the last two years - September 2020 (2,548).

*All questions are based on the surveys carried out on Kantar's online omnibus in June 2020 and/or March 2020. Results are not comparable with earlier face to face waves, so no such comparisons are made in this report (see Technical Notes).

Those who had experienced a problem with their employer in the past two years were asked whether any of those problems had occurred since March 2020, that is broadly since the start of the period of coronavirus restrictions. Just under four in ten (37%) said that at least one of the problems they had experienced at work had occurred since March 2020 (Table 62).

Those who said they had experienced a problem since March 2020 were then asked whether any of those problems were related in any way to the coronavirus outbreak. Seven in ten believed at least one of the problems they had experienced was definitely (42%) or probably (29%) related to the coronavirus outbreak. Just over one in ten (13%) said the problems were probably not related to the outbreak, and 16% said they were not related to the outbreak (Table 63). This equated to 8% of those employed currently or in the last two years (including those on leave), who believed at least one problem they experienced was definitely (5%) or probably (3%) related to the outbreak. A further 1% said their problems were probably not related to the outbreak, and 2% said the problems they had experienced were not related to the outbreak.

# Technical information

## Technical notes

This report provides selected headline findings and highlights statistically significant differences at the 95% level for the three waves where the Kantar online omnibus was used:

- Wave 35 (September 2020)
- Wave 34 (June 2020)
- Wave 33 (March 2020)

Statistically significant differences at the 95% level are also made between subgroups for wave 35.

Percentages included on charts in this report may not add up to 100% due to rounding, the exclusion of some categories (e.g. 'Don't know' and 'Refused') and the option for more than one response to be selected at some questions. Similarly, percentages based on aggregating categories (for example 'strongly support' and 'support') may not always reflect the sum of the individual answer categories.

This report is not an exhaustive overview of the findings. Please refer to the accompanying Excel dataset and PDF/Excel cross tabulation tables for the current wave and wave 34, along with the wave 33 (web) Excel dataset to see full responses to all survey questions.

Until March 2020 (wave 33) the survey was conducted using in-home interviews conducted via the Kantar UK face-to-face Omnibus. However, fieldwork in March 2020 stopped early due to the outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the UK, and the associated lockdown measures. The findings from wave 33, based on a truncated face-to-face sample, were published in May 2020.[7] A parallel version of wave 33 was also conducted by web on the Kantar online omnibus. The purpose of this was to test and compare alternative methodologies with a view to deciding on the best approach for future waves, while lockdown restrictions remain in place.

At the point of publication, face-to-face survey fieldwork largely remains paused in the UK. Therefore, data for wave 35 were also collected using the Kantar online omnibus. Web-based fieldwork for wave 35 ran from 2 September and 8 September with a representative sample of 4,033 adults (16 and over) in the UK.

The Kantar online omnibus primarily uses the Kantar online access panel as the sample source. The Kantar panel is part of an association of quality-conscious panel providers that work together to fulfil sample requirements that cannot be met by a single provider within the required timescales. For this survey the Kantar panel was supplemented with Lucid, which has been vetted by Kantar as reputable and offering high-quality sample. Those who had also taken part in wave 34 and wave 33 were exempt from taking part at wave 35. This was to prevent panel conditioning which presents a risk to survey measurement as respondents may answering differently purely as a result of having answered the same questions in prior

[7] The March 2020 (wave 33) report can be found here: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/884028/BEIS_PAT_W33_-_Key_findings_Final_.pdf

waves.[8] The representativeness of the data was controlled through sample design, fieldwork quotas and post-fieldwork weighting. Quotas were set by age and gender and the sample was pre-stratified by region. Data were weighted for the following characteristics: sex, age, social grade, region, tenure, property type, main way the property is heated and whether there is someone with a long-standing illness or disability in the household. Results included here are based on data which have been weighted to reflect the UK population aged 16+.

Using online access panels to source sample brings a number of benefits. These include allowing for data collection while social distancing measures are in place, speed, cost-efficiency, and in helping to minimise social desirability bias (as there is no interviewer present). However, it is important to flag that there are some potential downsides to this approach as well:

- There is a risk that online panellists are not representative of the general population:
    - People volunteer to join online access panels and this approach may therefore be particularly prone to self-selection bias
    - Online panel surveys exclude the off-line population

With this type of sample, the accuracy of estimates is conditional on the assumption that the combined effects of sampling, fieldwork protocols, quota application, and weighting have successfully eradicated biasing selection effects on the data. However, this assumption is untestable without substantial – and impractical – expenditure on collecting benchmark data using a random probability sampling approach.

The steps we have taken to minimise the risk of bias are as follows:

- The panel uses a diverse set of recruitment sources and a variety of recruitment methods. This includes opt-in email, co-registration, e-newsletter campaigns, and traditional banner placements.
- The sample was stratified by region before it was drawn. This helped to ensure that the final sample reflected, as far as possible, the regional profile of the general population.
- Quotas were set to compensate for known biases in online panels. Younger people and men are generally under-represented on online panels, so we set an interlocking quota by age and gender.
- Weighting was applied to ensure that the demographic profile of our sample matched the profile of the general population.

The weighting matrix for the face-to-face surveys includes age by gender, region, social grade, and housing tenure. With this standard weighting applied there remained some large differences between the profile of the online sample and the profile recently achieved using face-to-face data collection. For this reason, it was decided to add the following variables to the weighting matrix – property type, main way the property is heated and whether there is someone with a long-standing illness or disability in the household. The online sample was weighted to match the profile achieved in recent waves of the face-to-face survey.

[8] For example, a respondent may have said that they have no awareness of shale gas at wave 34, but may feel they have an idea of what shale gas is at wave 35 solely because they answered a question on it at that wave 34.

The variables included in the weighting matrix (and the source of the benchmark statistics) were as follows:

- Age by Gender - ONS Mid-Year Population Estimates 2019
- Region (former Government Office Region) - ONS Mid-Year Population Estimates 2019
- Social Grade – Kantar TGI (Jan 19 - Dec 19)
- Housing tenure – ONS Annual Population Survey (Jan 19 - Dec 19)
- Property type (waves 30 to 33 of the face-to-face PAT survey)
- Main way property is heated (waves 30 to 33 of the face-to-face PAT survey)
- Long-standing illness or disability in the household (waves 30 to 33 of the face-to-face PAT survey)

It should be noted that the weighting only corrects for observed bias (for the set of variables included in the weighting matrix) and there is a risk of unobserved bias. Furthermore, the raking algorithm used for the weighting only ensures that the sample margins match the population margins. There is no guarantee that the weights will correct for bias in the relationship between the variables.

## Comparisons with previous waves using face-to-face data collection.

It should be noted that any change in methodology can lead to both selection effects (that is differences due to the different sampling methods employed) and measurement effects (that is differences due to the different interview modes). Although attempts have been made to reduce the selection effects between the online and face-to-face approaches, the online results from wave 35, wave 34 and wave 33 should not be directly compared with face-to-face results from previous waves. For this reason, we have not made any direct comparisons with longer-term tracking measures collected via the original face-to-face surveys.

When it comes to **measurement effects**, differences in results could be caused by a number of factors (see below). Measurement effects cannot be ameliorated by weighting, although it is sometimes possible to estimate their direction and scale and (at least partially) account for them in analysis.

Some examples of measurement effects:

- Face-to-face and telephone interviewers can provide motivation or clarification when required; this cannot truly be replicated online.
- People who would not disclose sensitive personal information or socially undesirable opinions/behaviours to an interviewer may be more willing to provide this information online.
- Where a response scale is used (e.g. running from “strongly agree” to “strongly disagree”), interview respondents are generally more likely to select a ‘strong’ response – at either end of the scale – than they would if they were completing the survey online.
- For logistical reasons, the questionnaire has to be adapted slightly for each mode and this can affect measurement:

- Long questions or response lists are not suitable for smartphone presentation and will need to be edited in some cases.
- Unprompted questions ('do not show screen') have to be converted into prompted versions for online presentation which will limit compatibility.
- Presentation of "don't know" answer codes: In CAPI and CATI these are usually collected as spontaneous codes, i.e. the interviewer will only select these if the respondent mentions it. However, on CAWI these codes have to be available more obviously for respondents (though they can be 'hidden' in the initial presentation).

While an attempt was made to adapt the existing PAT questions for a CAWI setting, inevitably some of the differences outlined above remained.

It should also be noted that fieldwork for wave 33 and wave 34 took place during the COVID-19 lockdown period and wave 35 took place while restrictions were still in place. It is unclear what effect the COVID-19 outbreak and associated media coverage during fieldwork may have had on public behaviours, attitudes and perceptions towards the topics in this report. This is a further reason why comparisons with earlier face-to-face waves should be avoided.

# Fieldwork dates and sample sizes

| Wave | Fieldwork dates | Sample sizes |
|---|---|---|
| Wave 1 (Mar 2012) | 21 to 25 March 2012 | 2,121 |
| Wave 2 (Jun 2012) | 27 June to 1 July 2012 | 2,100 |
| Wave 3 (Sep 2012) | 26 to 30 September 2012 | 2,118 |
| Wave 4 (Dec 2012) | 12 December 2012 to 2 January 2013 | 2,107 |
| Wave 5 (Mar 2013) | 27 to 31 March 2013 | 2,051 |
| Wave 6 (Jul 2013) | 3 to 7 July 2013 | 2,124 |
| Wave 7 (Sep 2013) | 25 to 29 September 2013 | 2,103 |
| Wave 8 (Dec 2013) | 11 to 15 December 2013 | 2,110 |
| Wave 9 (Mar 2014) | 26 to 30 March 2014 | 2,040 |
| Wave 10 (Jun 2014) | 25 to 29 June 2014 | 2,087 |
| Wave 11 (Sep 2014) | 24 to 28 September 2014 | 2,103 |
| Wave 12 (Dec 2014) | 10 December 2014 to 8 January 2015 | 2,119 |
| Wave 13 (Mar 2015) | 18 to 29 March 2015 | 1,981 |
| Wave 14 (Jun 2015) | 24 to 28 June 2015 | 2,118 |
| Wave 15 (Sep 2015) | 23 to 27 September 2015 | 2,121 |
| Wave 16 (Dec 2015) | 9 to 13 December 2015 | 2,121 |
| Wave 17 (Mar 2016) | 23 to 27 March 2016 | 2,105 |
| Wave 18 (Jun 2016) | 29 June to 3 July 2016 | 2,114 |

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|---|---|---|
| Wave 19 (Sep 2016) | 28 September to 2 October 2016 | 2,080 |
| Wave 20 (Dec 2016) | 14 to 18 December 2016 | 2,138 |
| Wave 21 (Mar 2017) | 29 March to 2 April 2017 | 2,180 |
| Wave 22 (Jun 2017) | 30 June to 4 July 2017 | 2,097 |
| Wave 23 (Sep 2017) | 27 September to 1 October 2017 | 2,105 |
| Wave 24 (Dec 2017) | 13 to 17 December 2017 | 2,078 |
| Wave 25 (Mar 2018) | 28 March to 6 April 2018 | 2,102 |
| Wave 26 (Jul 2018) | 11 to 17 July 2018 | 4,268[9] |
| Wave 27 (Sep 2018) | 19 to 30 September 2018 | 4,258 |
| Wave 28 (Dec 2018) | 5 to 16 December 2018 | 4,273 |
| Wave 29 (Mar 2019) | 13 to 24 March 2019 | 4,224 |
| Wave 30 (Jun 2019) | 5 to 16 June 2019 | 4,231 |
| Wave 31 (Sep 2019) | 11 to 22 September 2019 | 4,201 |
| Wave 32 (Dec 2019) | 4 to 22 December 2019 | 4,212 |
| Wave 33 (Mar 2020) | 11 to 17 March 2020 | 1,851 |
| Wave 33 CAWI (Mar 2020) | 3 April to 7 April 2020 | 2,544 |
| Wave 34 CAWI (Jun 2020) | 4 June to 9 June 2020 | 4,011 |
| Wave 35 CAWI (Sep 2020) | 2 to 8 September 2020 | 4,033 |

[9] The sample size increased to c. 4,200 from Wave 26 (July 2018) onwards to allow greater scope for regional analysis.

# Definitions

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| **Base** | The number of people answering a survey question. |
| **CAWI** | Computer-assisted web interviewing. |
| **Climate change** | Long-term shift in the planet's weather patterns and rising average global temperatures. |
| **Cognitive testing** | An in-depth interviewing method to determine the reliability and validity of survey questions. |
| **Decommissioning** | The process of removing or withdrawing an oil field from service when it has reached the end of its life. This includes removal of the physical infrastructure that has been used to extract the oil and gas. |
| **Energy performance certificates** | A certificate for a property that provides an energy rating from A (most efficient) to G (least efficient) and is valid for 10 years. |
| **Energy infrastructure** | A term used to capture a range of different energy sources that are covered by the survey and the interconnections between them. This includes a range of renewable sources (on-shore and off-shore wind, solar, wave and tidal, and biomass), nuclear, shale gas, and carbon capture and storage as well as the pipeline and other interconnectors between them. |
| **Fieldwork** | The period where face-to-face or online interviews are conducted. |
| **Fusion energy** | An experimental technology that works by fusing together atoms in order to release energy. The UK is exploring whether this technology could be used to generate zero carbon electricity. |
| **Geological disposal facilities** | Deep underground facilities for the permanent disposal of highly radioactive waste. |
| **Net Zero** | Net zero means that the UK's total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions would be equal to or less than the emissions the UK removed from the environment. This can be achieved by a combination of emission reduction and emission removal.<br>The new Net Zero target was announced by the government in June 2019, which requires the UK to bring all greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050. |
| **Omnibus survey** | A method of quantitative survey research where data on a wide variety of subjects submitted by a range of funders is collected during the same interview. |
| **Radioactive waste** | Items that have no further use and are a source of harmful radiation. |
| **Quotas** | A target number of interviews for a certain characteristic during survey fieldwork (e.g. age). |

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| **Random location quota sampling** | A form of quota sampling that combines elements of random sampling and quota sampling. Once a random sample is drawn, interviewers are tasked with interviewing a range of sub-groups across different timing patterns based on a pre-agreed number of respondents. |
| **Representativeness** | Similarity of the sample profile to benchmark population statistics, such as the Office for National Statistics mid-year population estimates. |
| **Sample size** | The number of people included in the sample (a subset of the population). |
| **Shale gas and fracking** | Shale gas is natural gas found in shale, a non-porous rock which does not allow the gas to escape. Hydraulic fracturing or "fracking" is a process of pumping water at high pressure into shale to create narrow fractures which allow the gas to be released and captured. The gas can then be used for electricity and heating. |
| **Social grade** | Social grade is a classification system based on occupation. It contains the following categories:<br><br>A: Higher managerial, administrative and professional<br>B: Intermediate managerial, administrative and professional<br>C1: Supervisory, clerical and junior managerial, administrative and professional<br>C2: Skilled manual workers<br>D: Semi-skilled and unskilled manual workers<br>E: State pensioners, casual and lowest grade workers, unemployed with state benefits only |
| **Statistical significance** | A statistical test to determine whether relationships observed between two survey variables are likely to exist in the population from which the sample is drawn. We only report on findings that are statistically significant at the 95% level. |
| **Survey outputs** | The key deliverables from the survey. This includes:<br><br>A key finding report, presenting summary headline findings from September 2019.<br><br>Summary tables (Excel), showing trends across all waves of the tracker.<br><br>An Excel dataset containing questionnaire variables, demographic variables and derived variables for further analysis. An SPSS version of the dataset is available upon request.<br><br>Excel label data (CSV), containing labels for all variables.<br><br>Excel numeric data (CSV), containing numeric values for all variables.<br><br>Cross tabulation tables (PDF and Excel) for the current wave, including demographic and key question sub-group comparisons for all questions. |
| **Weighting** | An adjustment made to the data to ensure that survey results are representative of the target population (in this case, all UK adults). |

# Further information

## Future updates to these statistics

Results from the Public Attitudes Tracker are published quarterly. The next release is scheduled to be published in February 2021. Note that not all Tracker questions are included in each wave.

## Revisions policy

The BEIS statistical revisions policy sets out the revisions policy for these statistics, which has been developed in accordance with the UK Statistics Authority Code of Practice for Statistics.

## Related Statistics

There are various other surveys which seek the general public's opinion on topics related to those covered by the BEIS Public Attitudes Tracker. These include:

Public Attitudes to Science

A collection of studies looking at the UK public's attitudes to science, scientists and science policy.

Public attitudes towards transport

The department for transport publishes a wide range of reports on the public's attitude to various modes of transport.

Biannual Public Attitudes Tracker - Food Standards Agency

This survey monitors changes in consumer attitudes to food-related issues in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The English Housing Survey

The English Housing Survey is a continuous national survey commissioned by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). It collects information about people's housing circumstances and the condition and energy efficiency of housing in England. There are some waves of the PAT which cover similar topics such as the number of households with condensing boilers.

BEIS also publishes a wealth of energy statistics which provide context for the attitude data collected by the PAT. These are available on the Statistics at BEIS website.

# Uses of these statistics

These statistics are used by BEIS to guide BEIS policy, by many academics in their related studies, by ministers and by the general public. Some examples on the uses of previous waves of the PAT include

- Monitoring attitudes towards fracking by policy makers, the media and local groups to understand how this is changing over time and the reasons why people support or oppose it.
- Understanding public awareness of key BEIS policies such as the concept of clean growth.
- Monitoring public attitudes to climate change and government policies associated with this and understanding how concern varies between demographic groups.
- Understanding public acceptability of different renewable energy sources which contribute to the government's aim to reduce the dependence on fossil fuels.

# User engagement

Users are encouraged to provide comments and feedback on how these statistics are used and how well they meet user needs. Comments on any issues relating to this statistical release are welcomed and should be sent to: BEISPAT@beis.gov.uk.

The BEIS statement on statistical public engagement and data standards sets out the department's commitments on public engagement and data standards as outlined by the Code of Practice for Statistics.

# Pre-release access to statistics

Some ministers and officials receive access to these statistics up to 24 hours before release. Details of the arrangements for doing this and a list of the ministers and officials that receive pre-release access to these statistics can be found in the BEIS statement of compliance with the Pre-Release Access to Official Statistics Order 2008.

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This publication is available from: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/public-attitudes-tracking-survey

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