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Tuesday, June 3rd

Trump Tariffs and Economy: A Guide for Advocates



Credit: Shutterstock/Valery Evlakhov

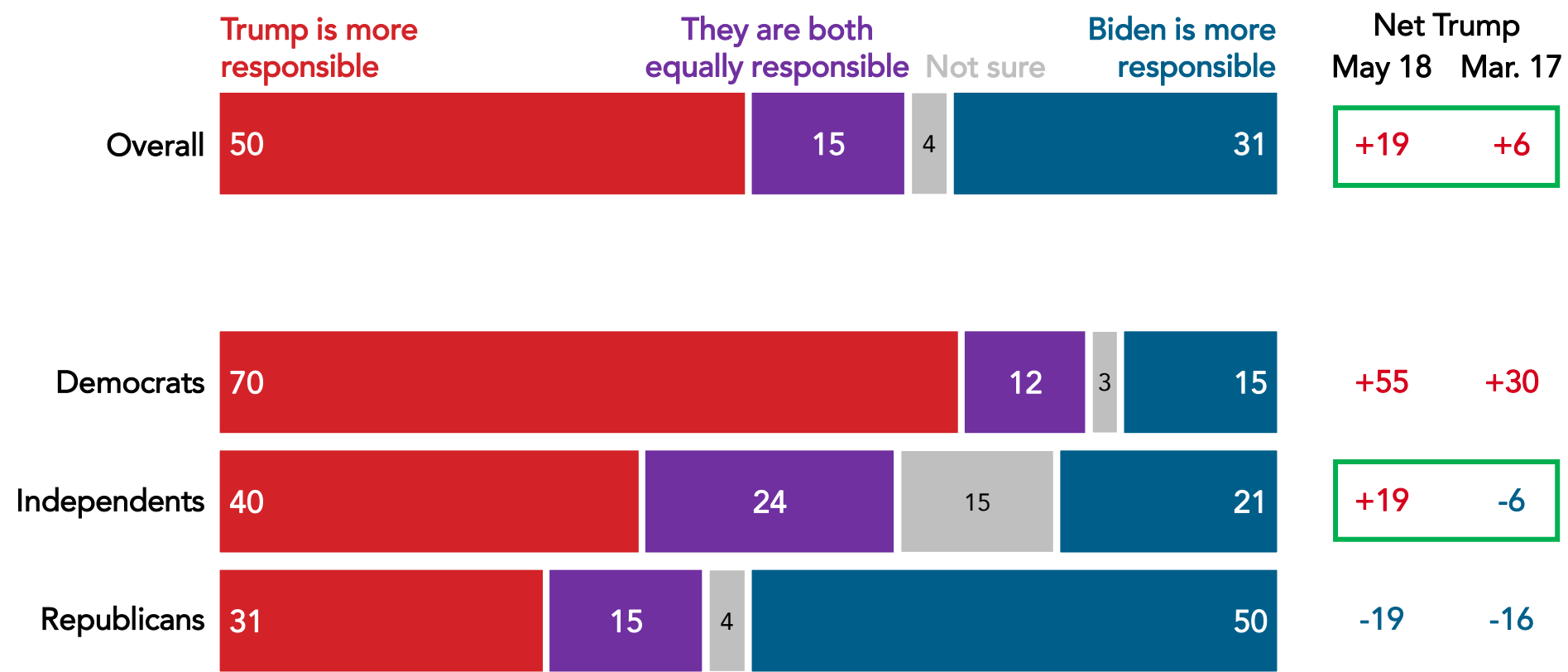
Key Takeaways:

- Americans increasingly see Trump as more responsible for the current state of the economy than Biden, and majorities continue to say their costs are rising.
- The biggest pain points for Americans on the economy right now include limiting recreational activities, not being able to save up money, and cutting back on the purchasing of daily goods like groceries.
- Public opinion on tariffs remains sour in the face of changing details and the daily news cycle around the issue.

Trump Is Increasingly Seen As Responsible for the Economy

In March, pre-Trump’s Liberation Day, Americans were more divided: now, Americans overall (from net +6 Trump more responsible in March to net +19 now) and independents (from net -6 in March to net +19) increasingly see Trump as more responsible.

Do you think Donald Trump or Joe Biden is more responsible for the current state of the economy?



Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted May 15-May 18, 2025. For more info, visit navigatortresearch.org.

Americans Describe the Economy As More Volatile and Uncertain Than Stable

Two in three Americans say the economy is volatile and uncertain, rather than stable (67% each). Majorities of independents and non-MAGA Republicans* say the economy is both volatile (58% and 78% respectively) and uncertain (71% and 57%) rather than stable.

[Split Sample] Do you think the economy is currently stable or **volatile**?



Annual Household Income



[Split Sample] Do you think the economy is currently stable or **uncertain**?

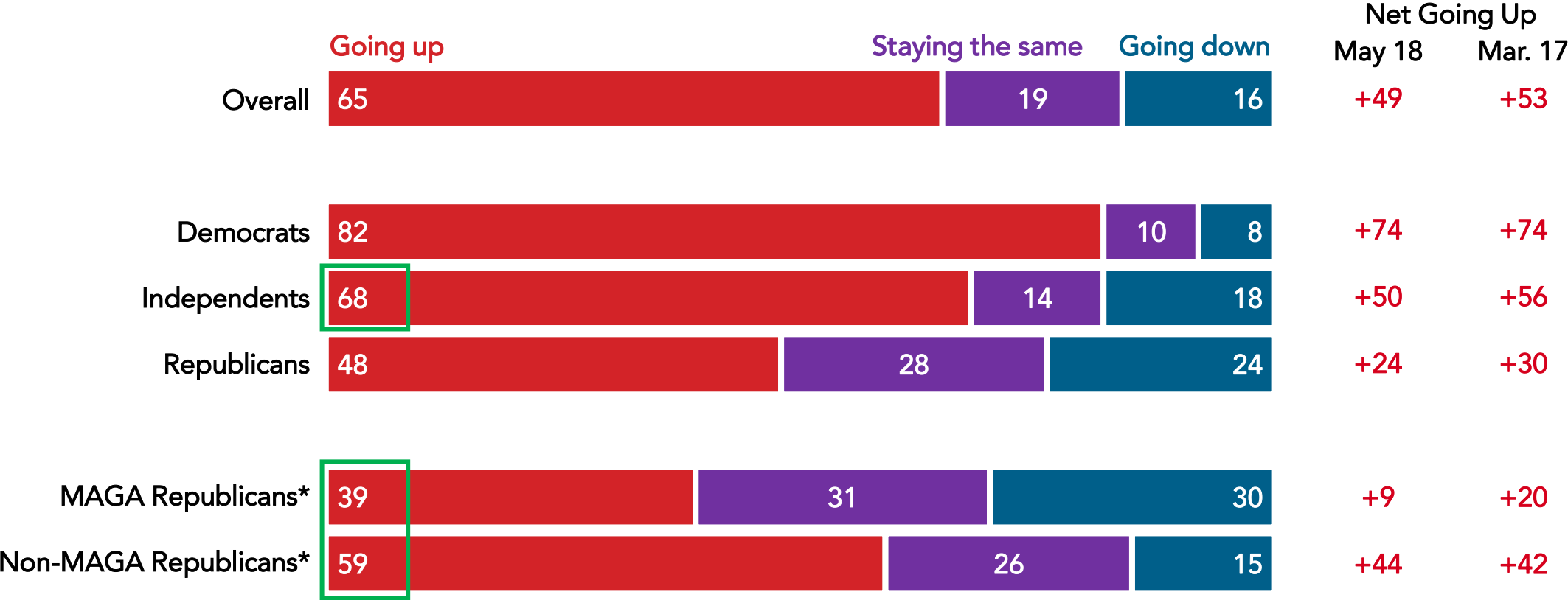


*"MAGA Republicans" are Republicans who identify as "a supporter of the MAGA movement" on a separate question, while "non-MAGA Republicans" are Republicans who do not consider themselves supporters of the MAGA movement or are not sure.
Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted May 15-May 18, 2025.
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Two in Three Continue to Say Their Costs Are Going Up

Two in three independents (68%) and 59% of non-MAGA Republicans* say their costs are going up, as do a plurality of MAGA Republicans* (39%).

Do you think your costs generally are going up, going down, or staying the same?

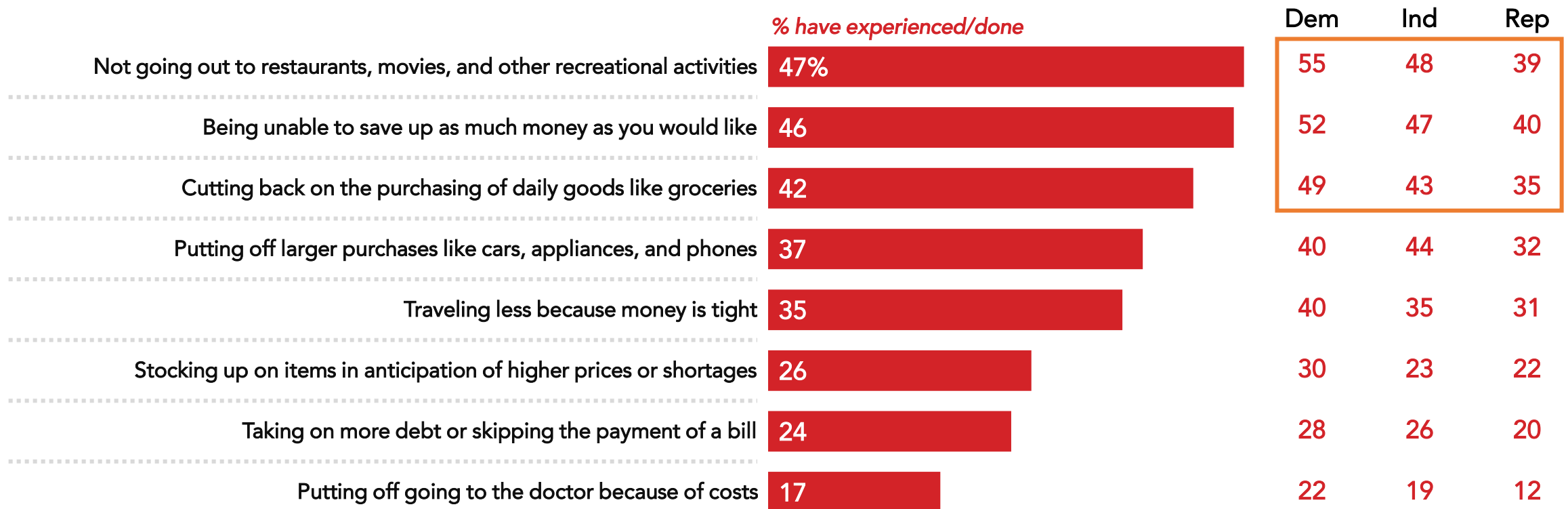


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Nearly Half Say They Are Not Going Out or Saving Up Money, Cutting Back on Groceries

At least two in five independents say they are not going out to recreational activities, are unable to save up money, are cutting back on the purchasing of daily goods like groceries, and are putting off large purchases.

Thinking more about the economy, have you experienced or done any of the following over the last month?

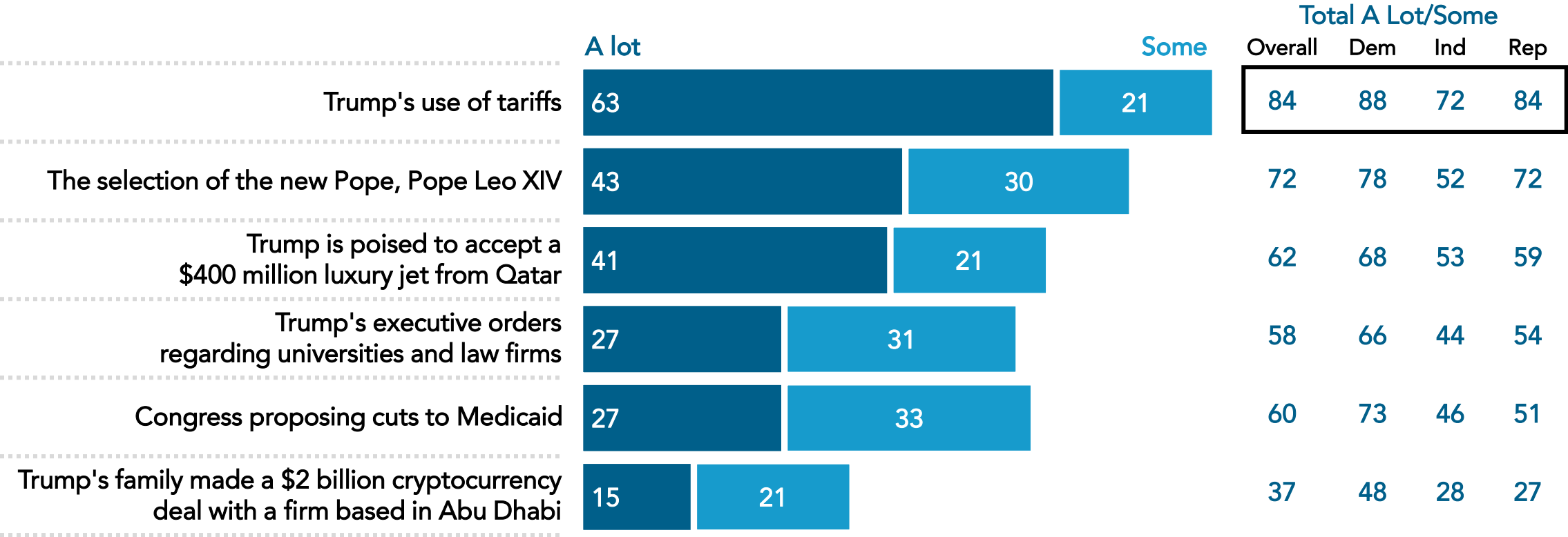


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Tariffs Continue to Dominate the News Conversation Around Trump

Nearly two in three Americans (63%) say they have heard “a lot” about Trump’s use of tariffs, and 84% say “a lot” or “some.”

Please indicate how much you have seen, read, or heard about each one.

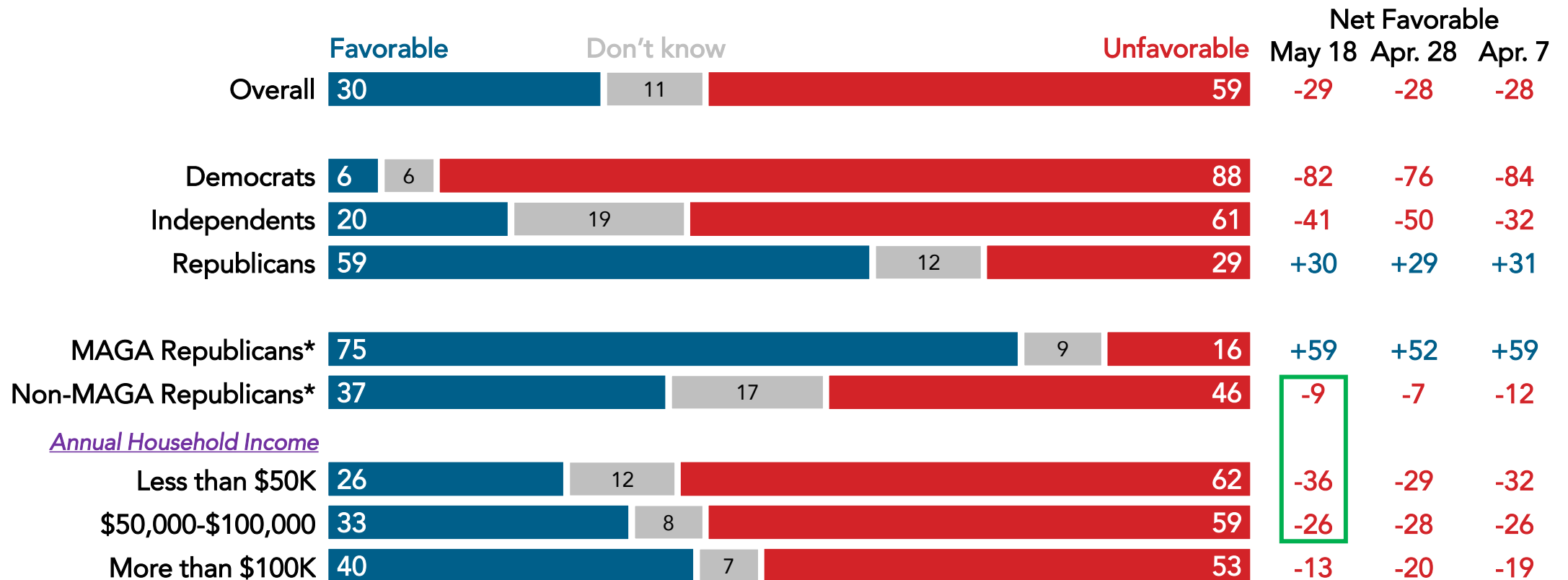


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Tariffs Remain Broadly Unpopular

A majority of Americans (59%) are unfavorable towards tariffs, with Americans earning less than \$100,000 in annual household income viewing tariffs more negatively than those earning above \$100,000 a year.

Please indicate how favorable or unfavorable you are to: Tariffs.

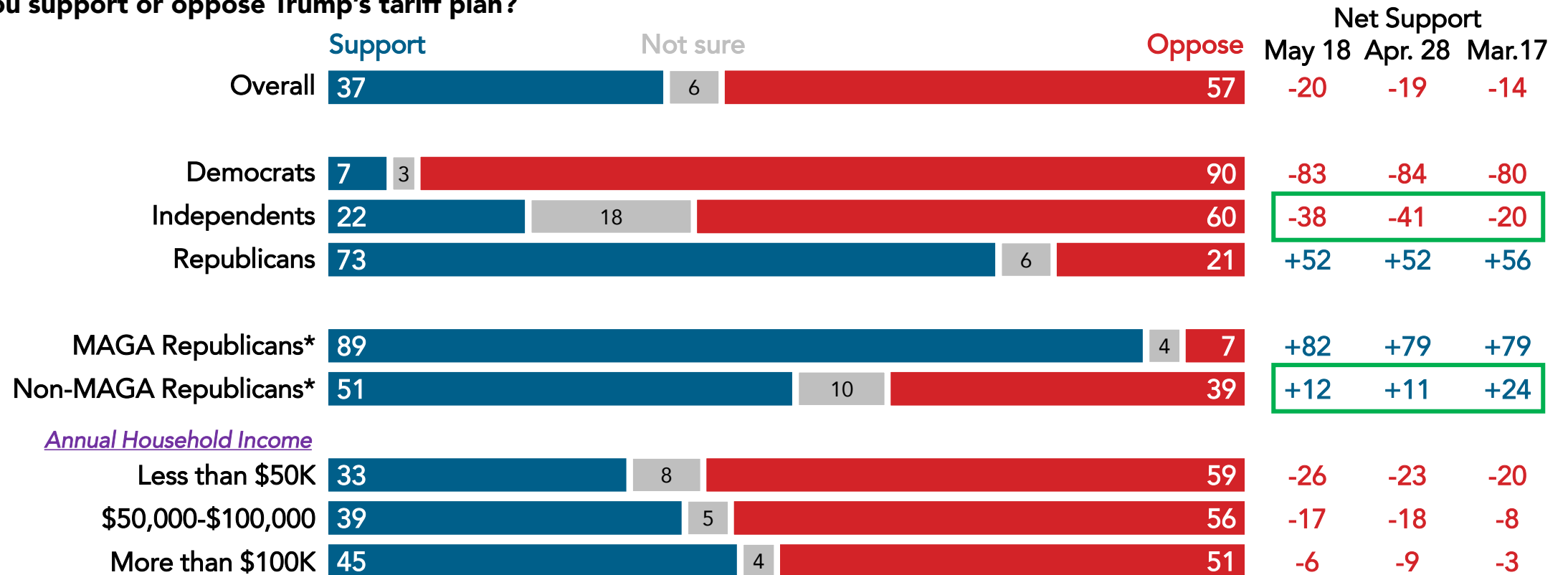


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Trump's Tariff Plan Remains Unpopular in the Face of the President's Regular Tinkering With the Details

Increasing shares of independents (from net -20 support in March to net -38 now) and non-MAGA Republicans* (from net +24 to net +12) now oppose Trump's tariff plan.

Do you support or oppose Trump's tariff plan?



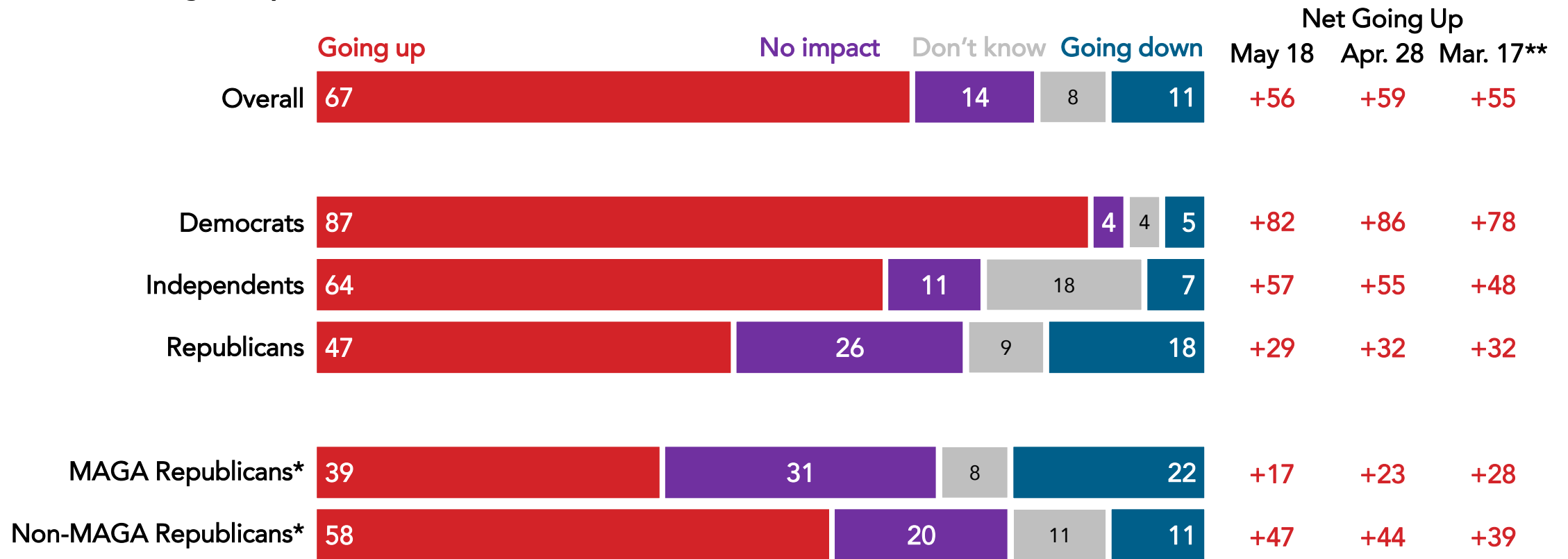
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Two in Three Continue to Say Trump's Tariffs Are Raising Costs

A majority of independents (64%) and non-MAGA Republicans* (58%) say their costs are going up due to Trump's tariffs, as do a plurality of MAGA Republicans* (39%).

When it comes to Trump's tariff policy, what do you think is happening? Is his tariff policy making the cost of things you buy go up, go down, or is it having no impact?

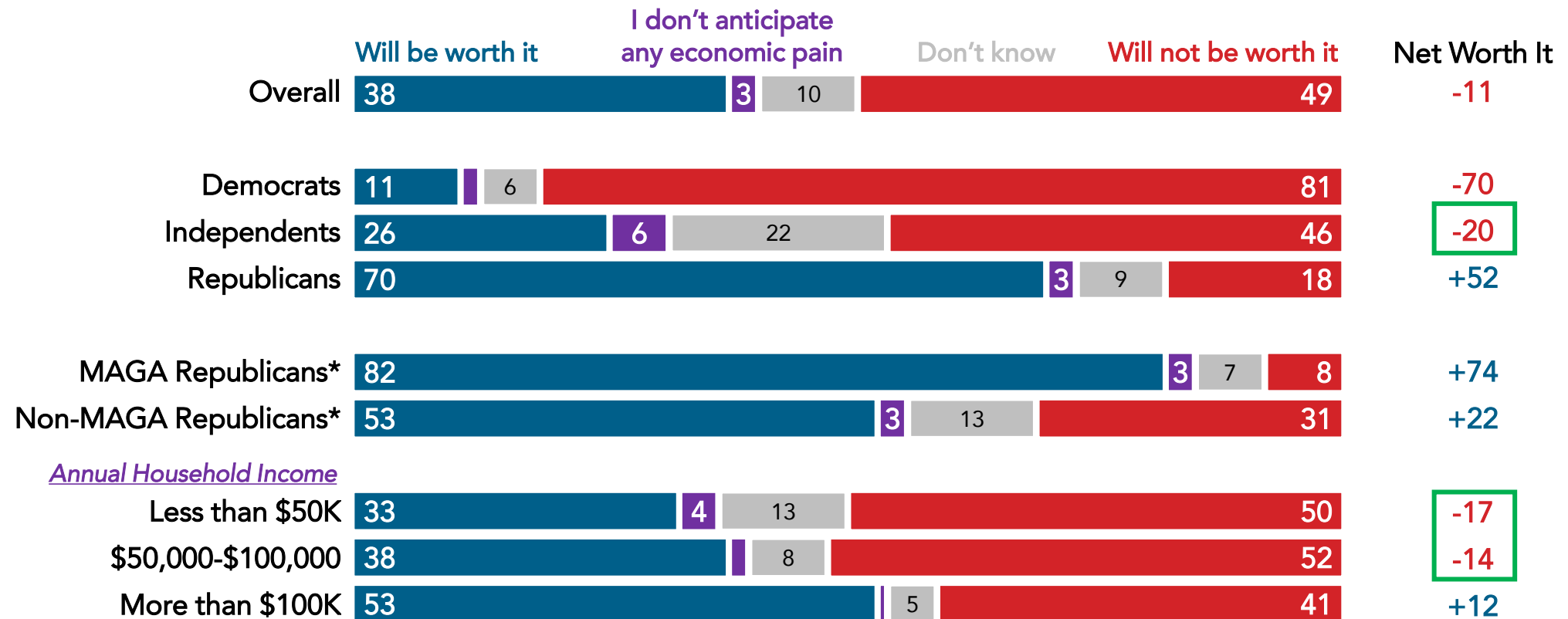


*"MAGA Republicans" are Republicans who identify as "a supporter of the MAGA movement" on a separate question, while "non-MAGA Republicans" are Republicans who do not consider themselves supporters of the MAGA movement or are not sure. **Question text read "Regardless of how much you know about tariffs...If new tariffs were put in place, what do you think is most likely to happen? Would it make the cost of things you buy go up, go down, or would it have no impact?" Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted May 15-May 18, 2025. For more info, visit navigatortorresearch.org.

Nearly Half Say Economic Pain From Trump's Tariffs Will Not Be Worth It, Even in the Long Run

Nearly half of independents (46%) say it will not be worth it, as do nearly a third of non-MAGA Republicans* (31%).

Do you think any economic pain caused by tariffs will be worth it in the long run?



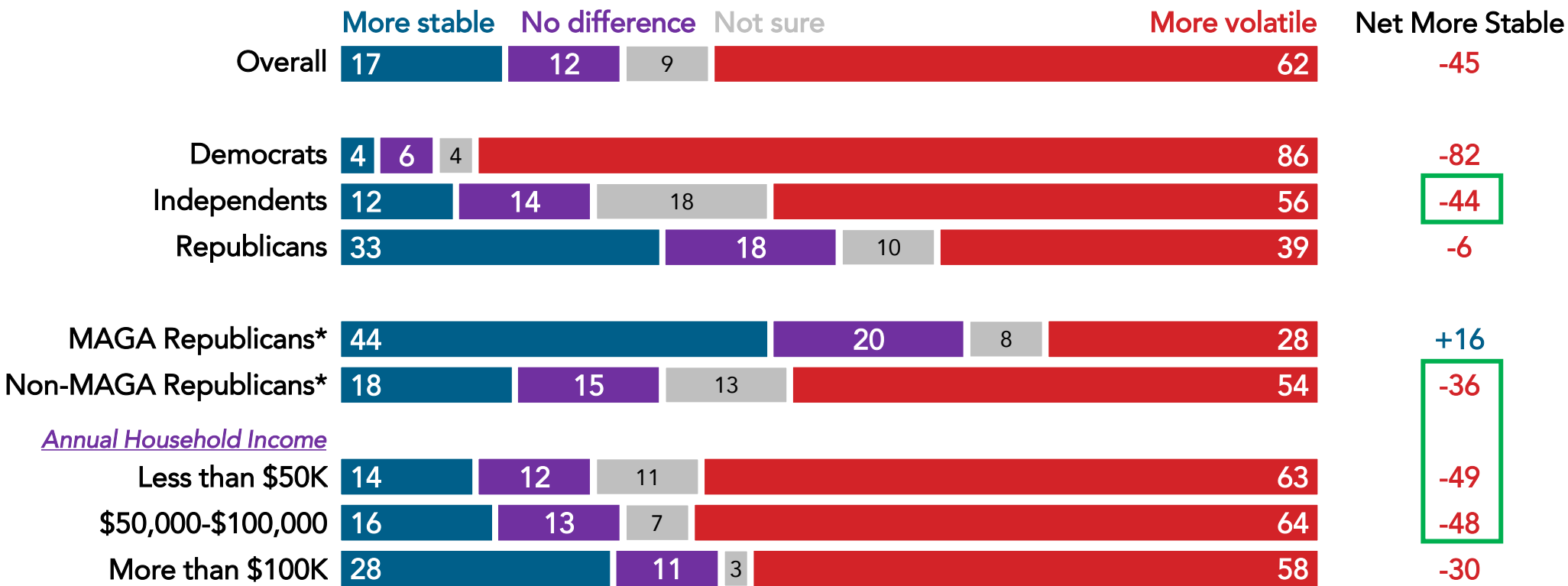
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Nearly Two in Three Say Trump's Tariffs Are Making the Economy More Volatile

A majority of independents (56%) and Americans earning less than \$100,000 in annual household income (63%) say Trump's tariffs are making the economy more volatile.

Do you think Trump's tariff policies have made the economy more stable, more volatile, or have made no difference?

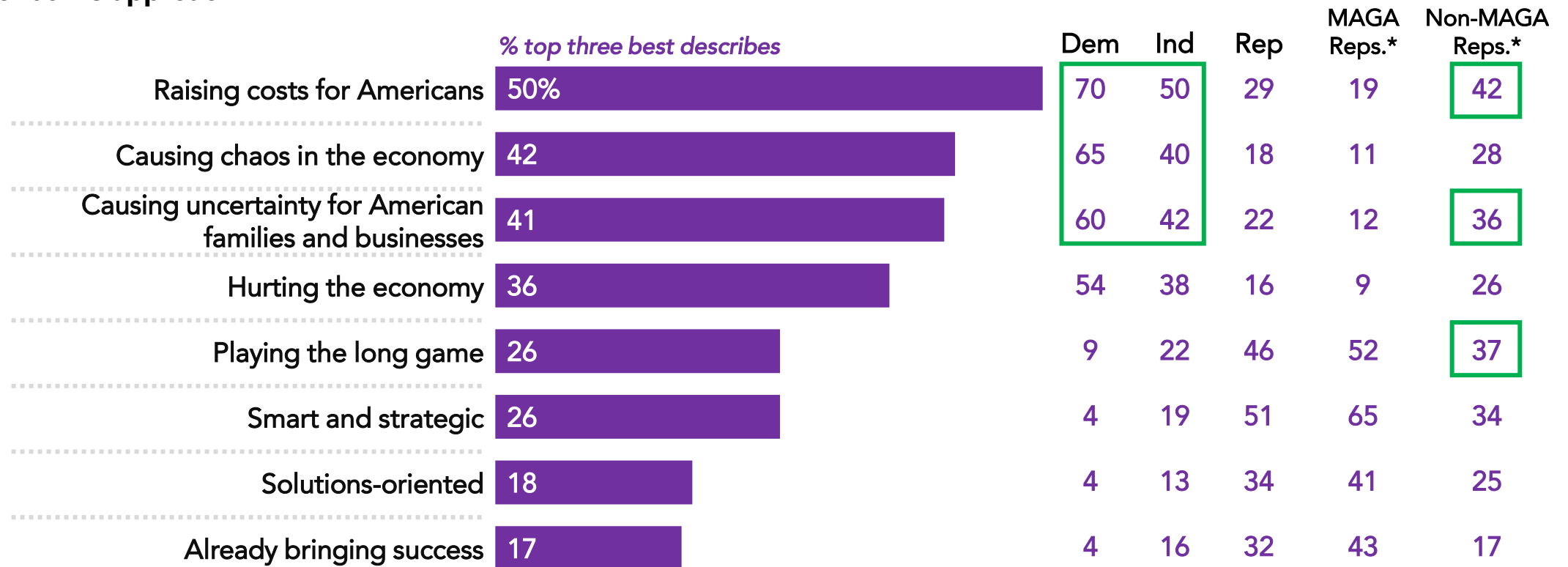


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Raising Costs, Causing Chaos and Uncertainty Best Descriptors of Trump's Approach To Tariffs

Among non-MAGA Republicans*, Trump raising costs, causing uncertainty, and playing the long game best describe his approach.

Below are some words and phrases some may use to describe Donald Trump's approach to tariffs. Please select up to THREE that best describe his approach.



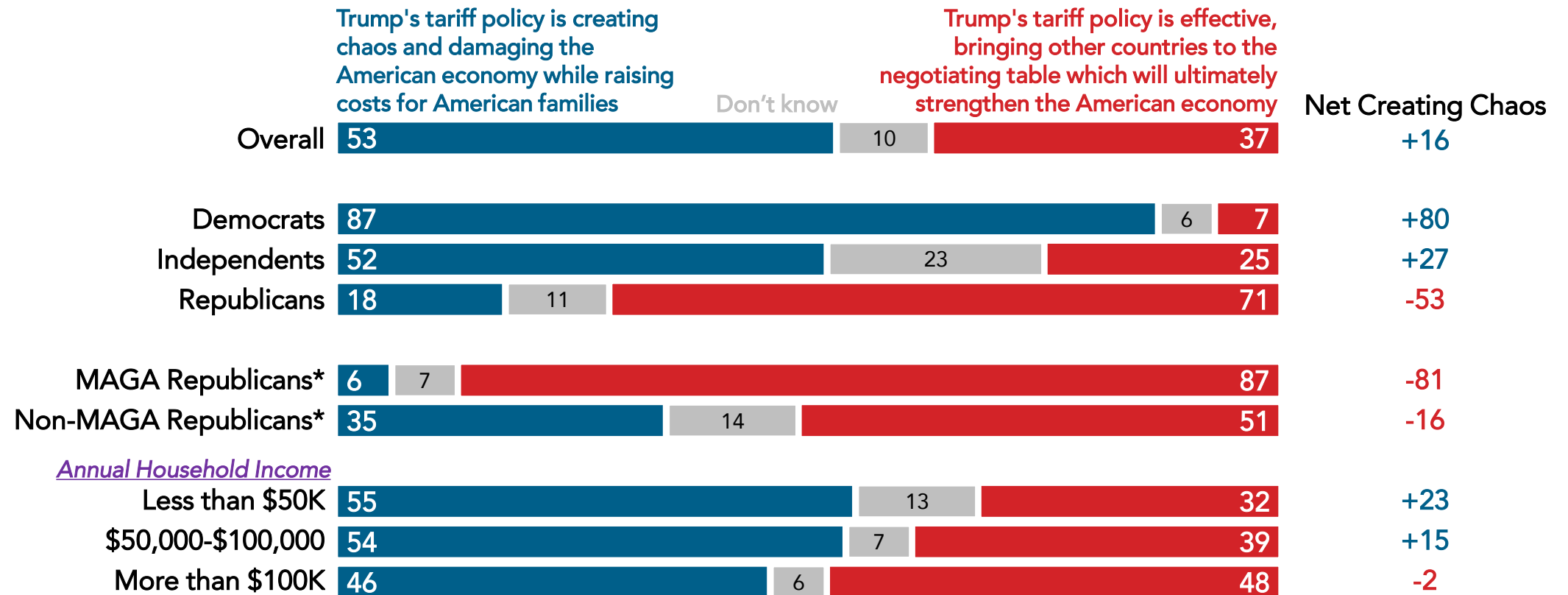
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A Simple Argument About Damage to the Economy and Higher Costs Easily Beats Back Trump's Side of the Debate

Majorities of Americans overall (53%) and of independents (52%) say that Trump's tariff policy is creating chaos and causing damage.

Which side do you agree with more?



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About Navigator

In a world where the news cycle is the length of a tweet, our leaders often lack the real-time public-sentiment analysis to shape the best approaches to talking about the issues that matter the most. Navigator is designed to act as a consistent, flexible, responsive tool to inform policy debates by conducting research and reliable guidance to inform allies, elected leaders, and the press. Navigator is a project led by pollsters from Global Strategy Group and GBAO along with an advisory committee, including: Jessica Floyd, The Hub Project; Christina Reynolds; Mike Podhorzer; Jesse Ferguson, progressive strategist; Navin Nayak, Center for American Progress Action Fund; Stephanie Valencia, EquisLabs; and Melanie Newman, Planned Parenthood Action Fund.

About the Study

Global Strategy Group conducted a public opinion survey among a sample of 1,000 registered voters from May 15-May 18, 2025. 100 additional interviews were conducted among Hispanic voters. 76 additional interviews were conducted among Asian American and Pacific Islander voters. 100 additional interviews were conducted among African American voters. 100 additional interviews were conducted among independent voters. The survey was conducted online, recruiting respondents from an opt-in online panel vendor. Respondents were verified against a voter file and special care was taken to ensure the demographic composition of our sample matched that of the national registered voter population across a variety of demographic variables. The margin of error for the full sample at the 95 percent level of confidence is +/- 3.1 percentage points. The margin of error for subgroups varies and is higher.

For Press inquiries contact:

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<http://navigatorresearch.org>

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