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Thursday, October 8th

Trump's War With Iran:
Foreign Conflict, Gas
Prices, and the Economy



Credit: Shutterstock/macondofotografici

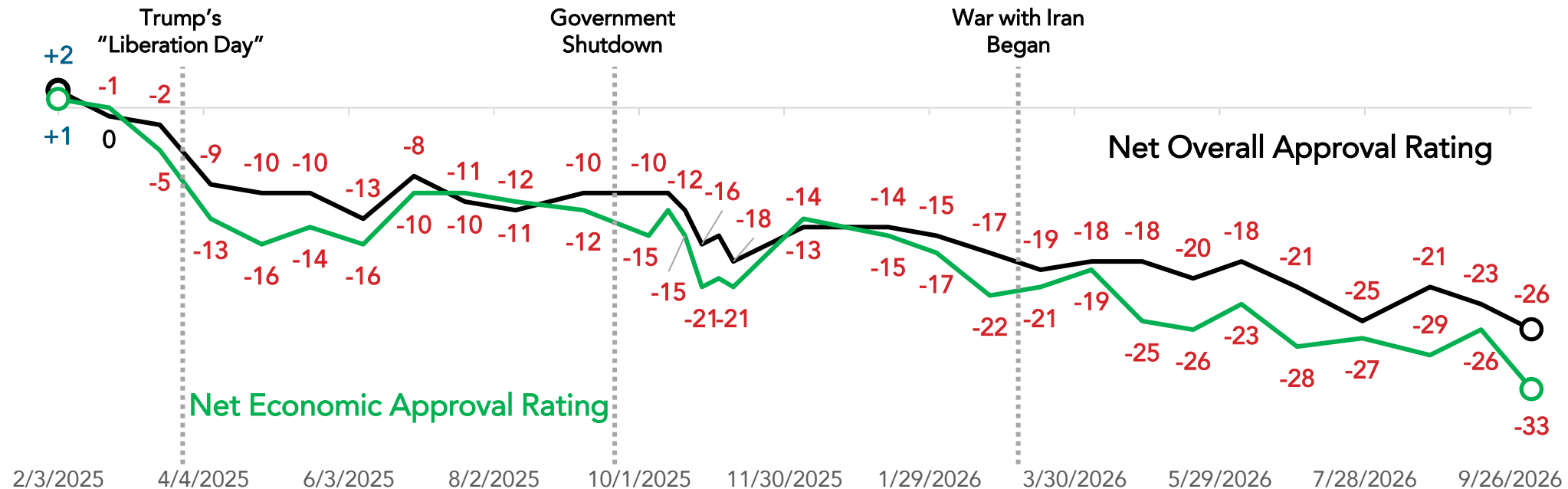
Key Takeaways:

- As the war with Iran continues for its seventh month, Trump's overall and economic approval ratings have fallen to record lows in Navigator tracking.
- One in four 2024 Trump voters now regret their vote – also a record high.
- The war with Iran – and its impact on gas prices – dominates the negative news around Trump.
- The war is compounding Americans' economic pain, particularly at the gas pump: three in four feel negatively about the economy, and four in five say gas prices are getting worse, while Trump earns dismal ratings on both gas prices and inflation.
- The war with Iran is unpopular: half oppose U.S. military action, a majority say the war has not been worth it, and Americans increasingly say Trump lacks clear goals and a timeline. Few believe the U.S. is currently winning.

As the War With Iran Continues, Trump's Approval Ratings Overall and on the Economy Continue to Hit New Lows

Both Trump's overall approval rating (net -26 approve) and his economic approval rating (net -33) are at their lowest point in Navigator tracking.

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president/**the economy**?

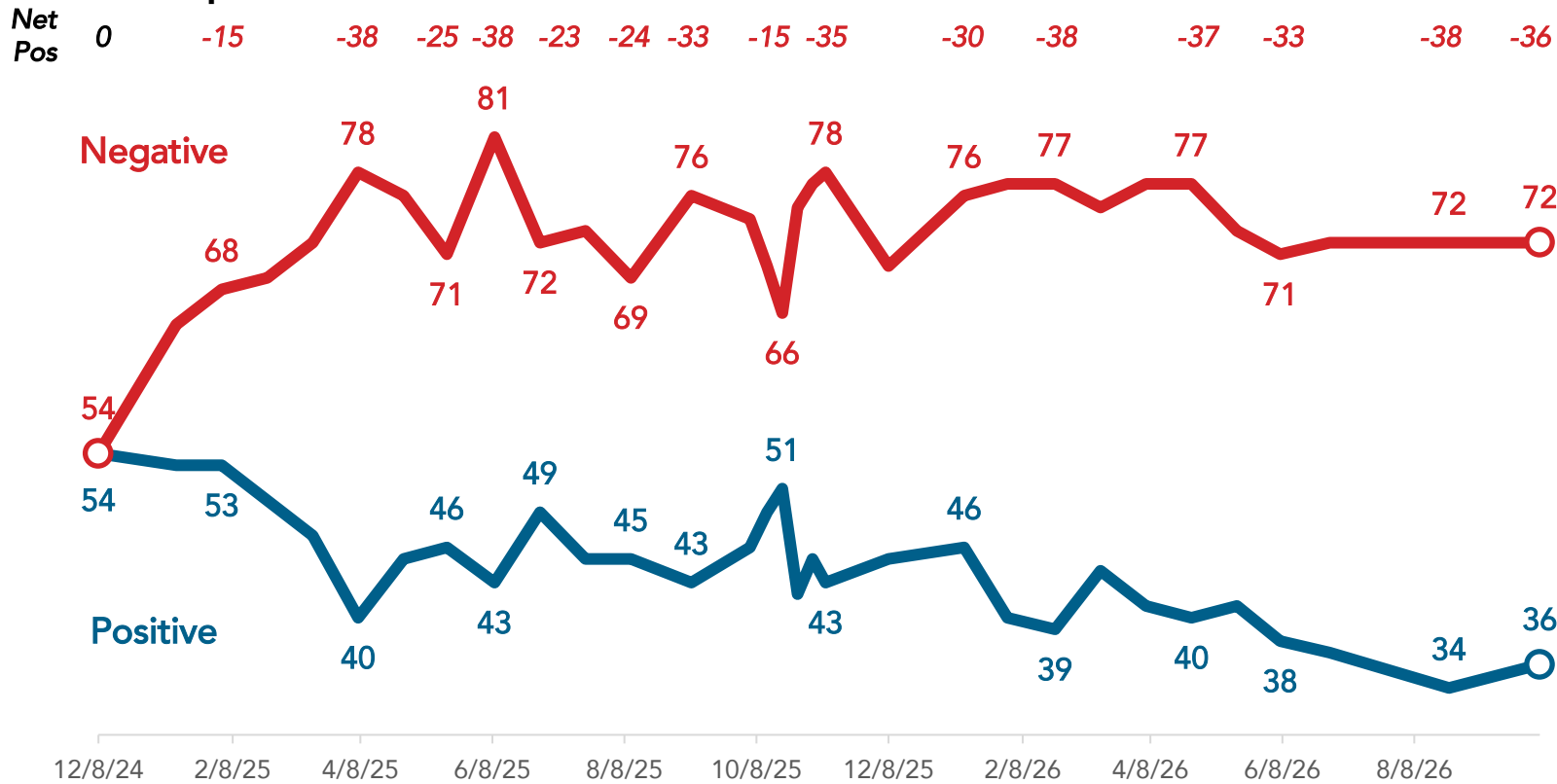


Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted October 1-October 5, 2026. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

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The Prevailing Story on Trump Remains a Flailing Economy and the War With Iran

Over the past few days, has what you have seen, read, or heard recently about Donald Trump been:



[If hearing negative/mixed information] In a few words, what **negative** things have you seen, read, or heard recently about Donald Trump?



"Continuing failed war policy, failed economic policy, and failed immigration policy."

"That he is focusing too much on the war with Iran and not focusing enough on things in the US."

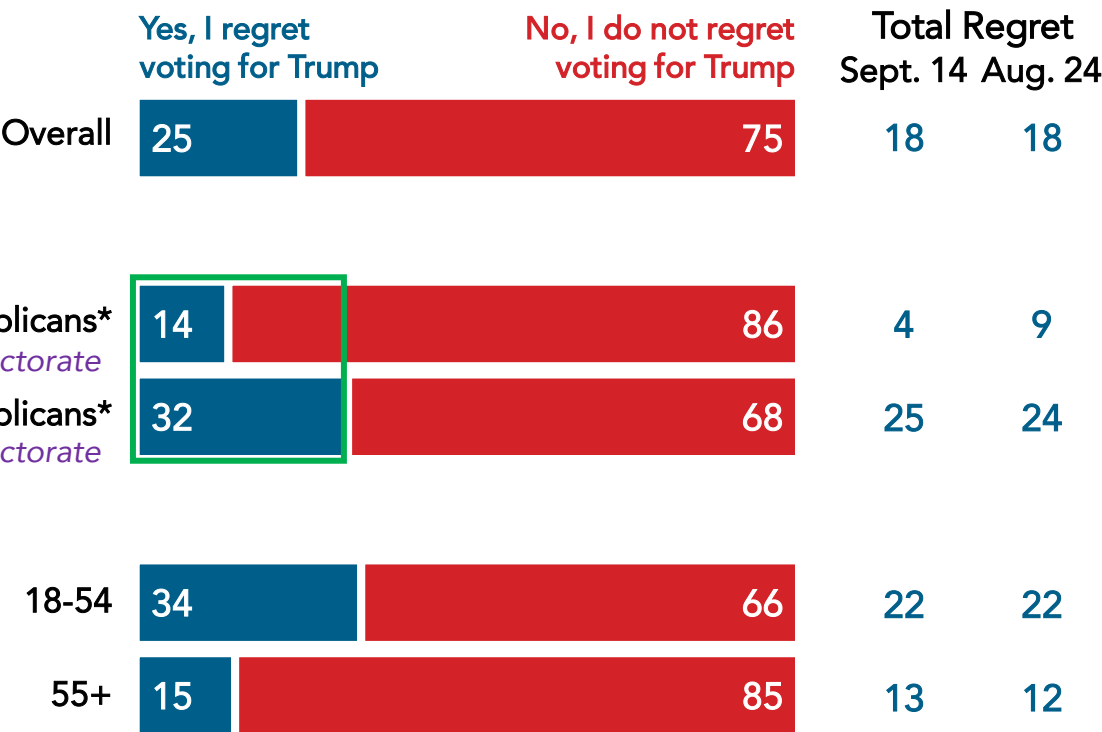
"The gas prices are too high, and inflation has not really been reduced."

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One in Four Regret Voting for Trump in 2024, the Highest in Navigator Tracking – Including a Third of Non-MAGA GOP

[If 2024 Trump voter] You indicated you voted for Donald Trump in 2024. Do you regret voting for Donald Trump?



[Sept. 14: If voted for Trump and regret voting for him] You indicated you regret voting for Donald Trump in 2024. What makes you say that?



"I feel that **he is not handling the economy situation** very well."

"He is **not focused on the issues that need his attention especially the economy**. He is more focused on putting his name on things."

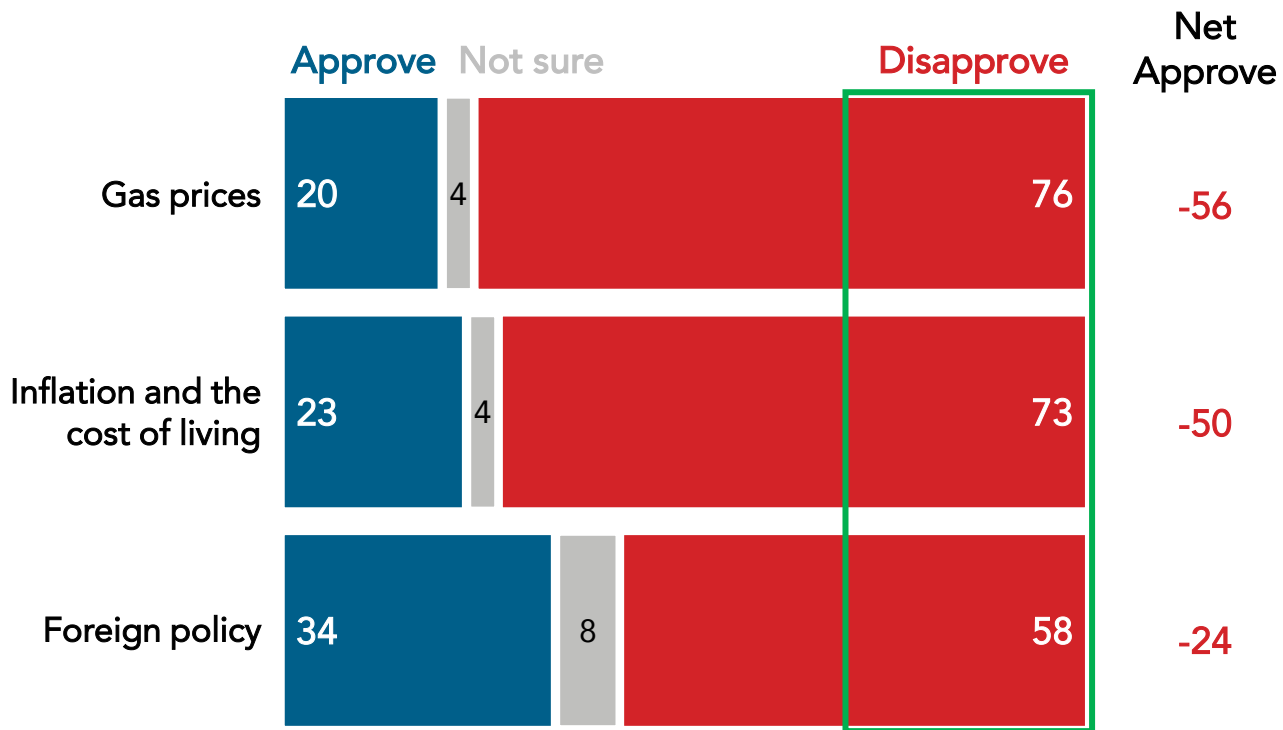
"He said we would not have war. **Now we're in a war that's affecting the economy**. Gas prices, food, everything is going up. This is not what I voted for."

*"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 surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted October 1-October 5, 2026. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

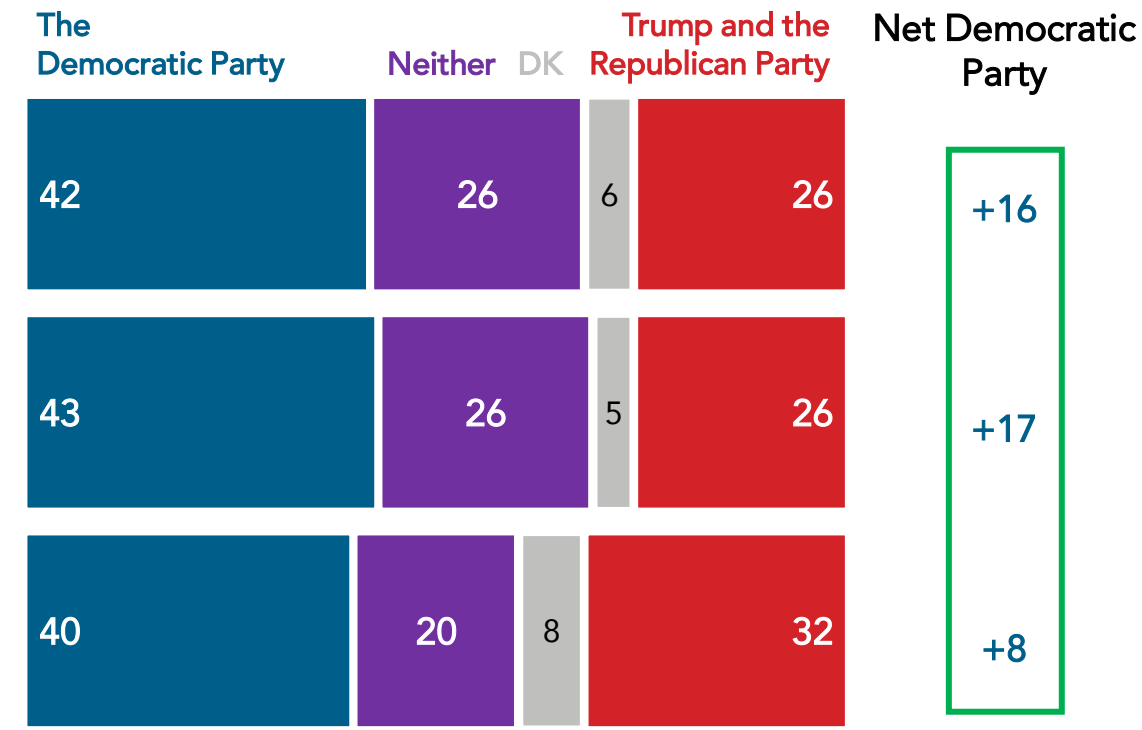
Trump's Approval Ratings on Gas Prices and Inflation Are Overwhelmingly Negative; Democrats Have a Trust Advantage

A plurality of Americans trust the Democratic Party more to handle gas prices (net +16 trust the Democratic Party more) and inflation and the cost of living (net +17), as three in four disapprove of Trump's handling of each issue (76% and 73%, respectively).

Please indicate whether you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling each one.



Below is a list of issues. Please indicate who you personally trust more to handle each one.



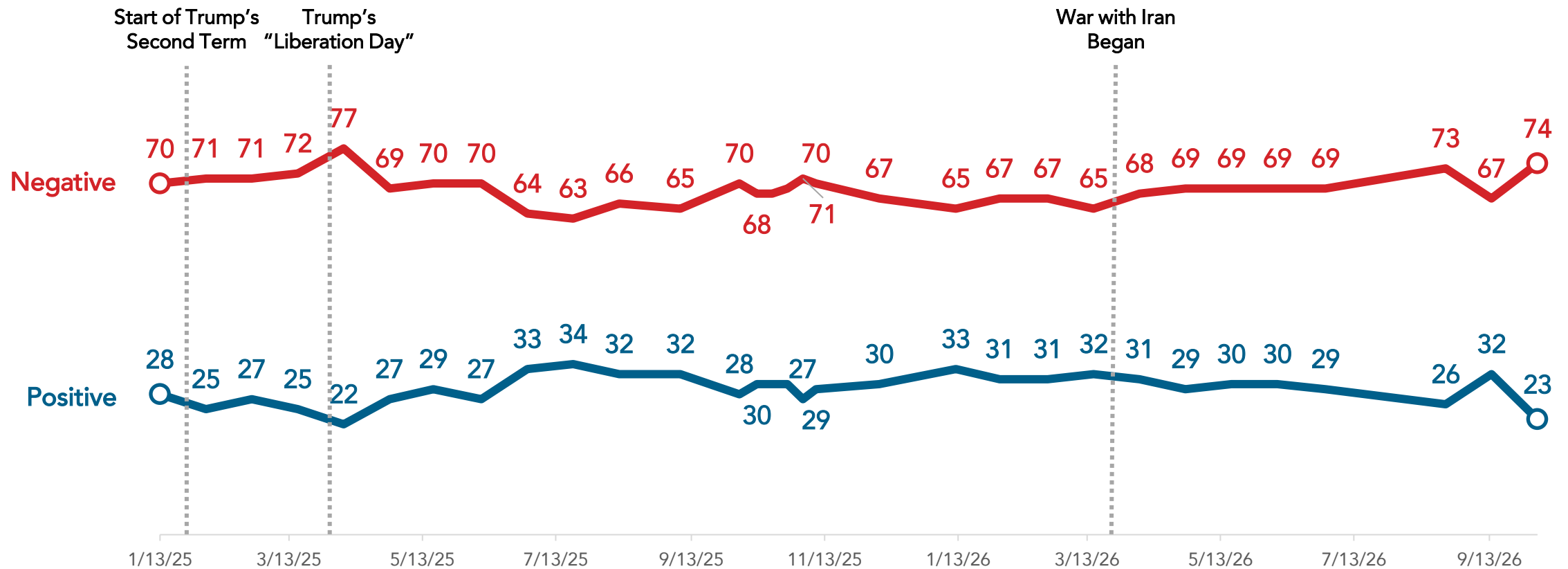
Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted October 1-October 5, 2026. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

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Americans Remain Widely Pessimistic on the Economy

The only time Americans were more negative on the economy since Trump came back into office was immediately following so-called "Liberation Day."

How would you rate the state of the U.S. economy today?

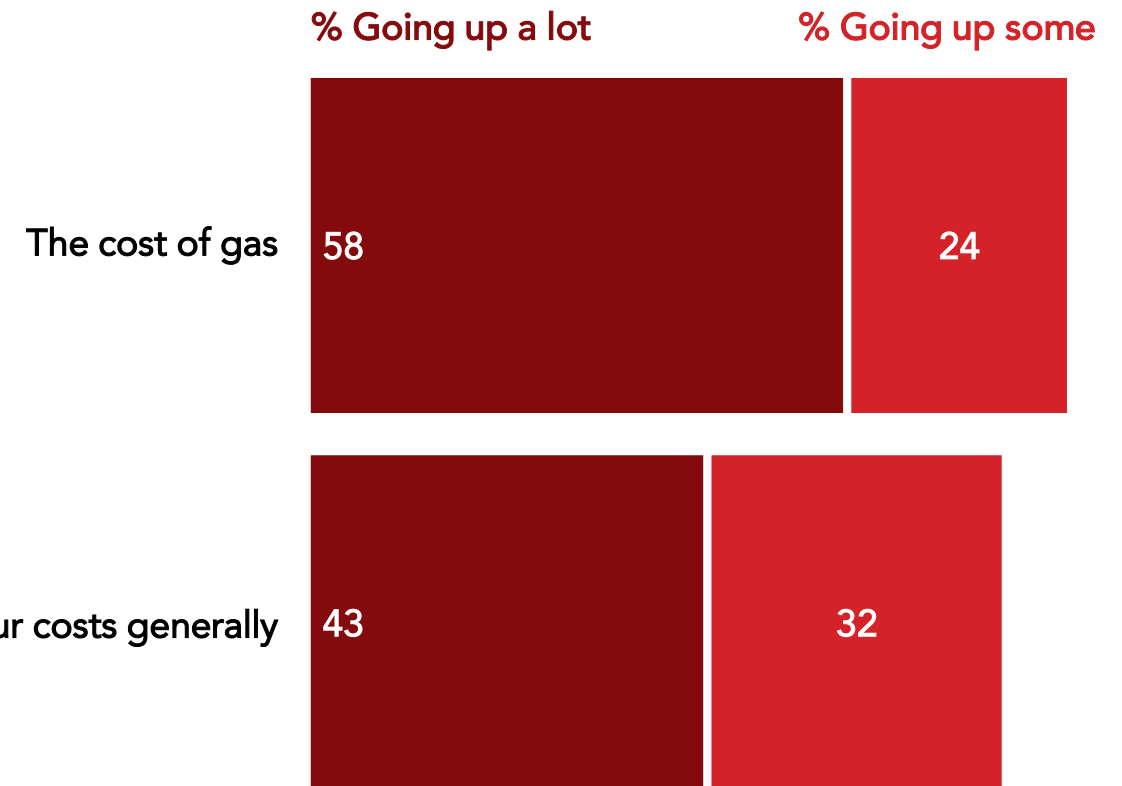
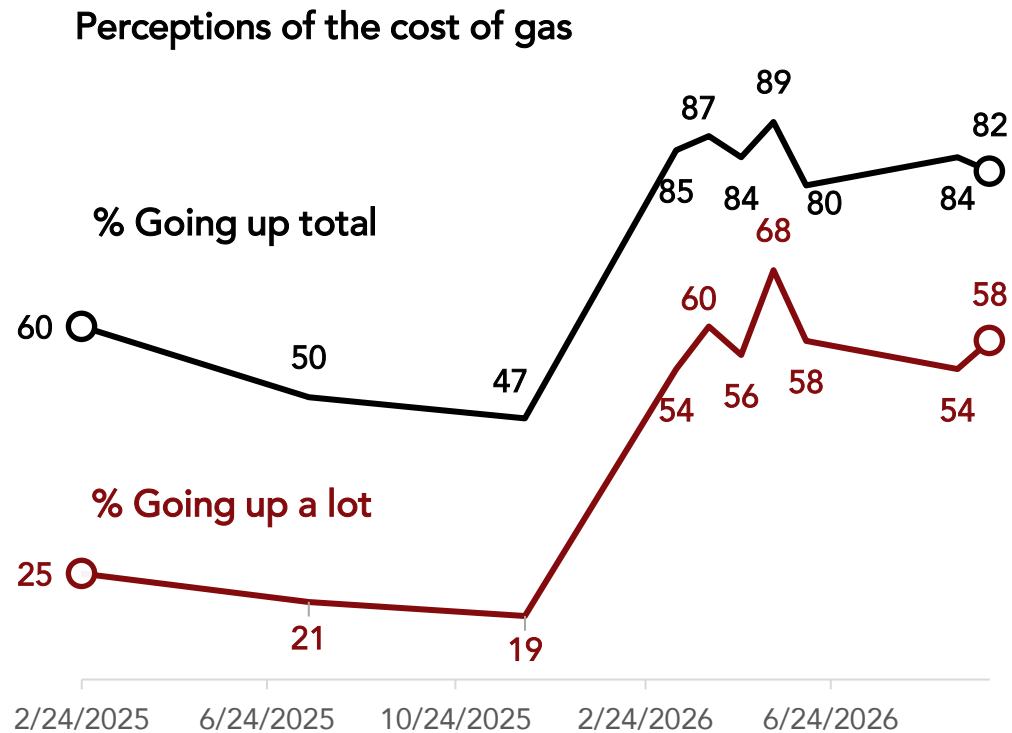


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Americans Continue to Feel Pain at the Pump

Four in five Americans say the cost of gas is going up (82% going up), including 58% who say the cost of gas is going up “a lot.”

Please indicate, for each one, whether you feel like those costs are going up, going down, or staying the same.

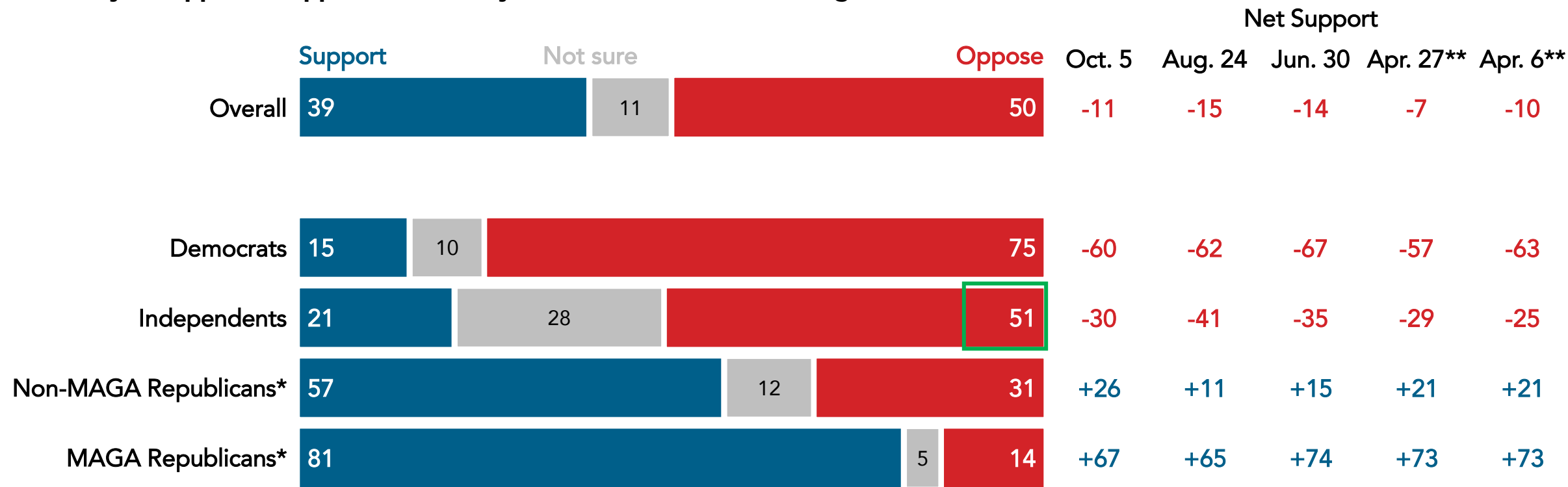


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Opposition Holds Steady as Half of Americans Oppose War With Iran

Half of independents continue to oppose the military actions the U.S. has taken against Iran (51% oppose).

Do you support or oppose the military actions the U.S. has taken against Iran?

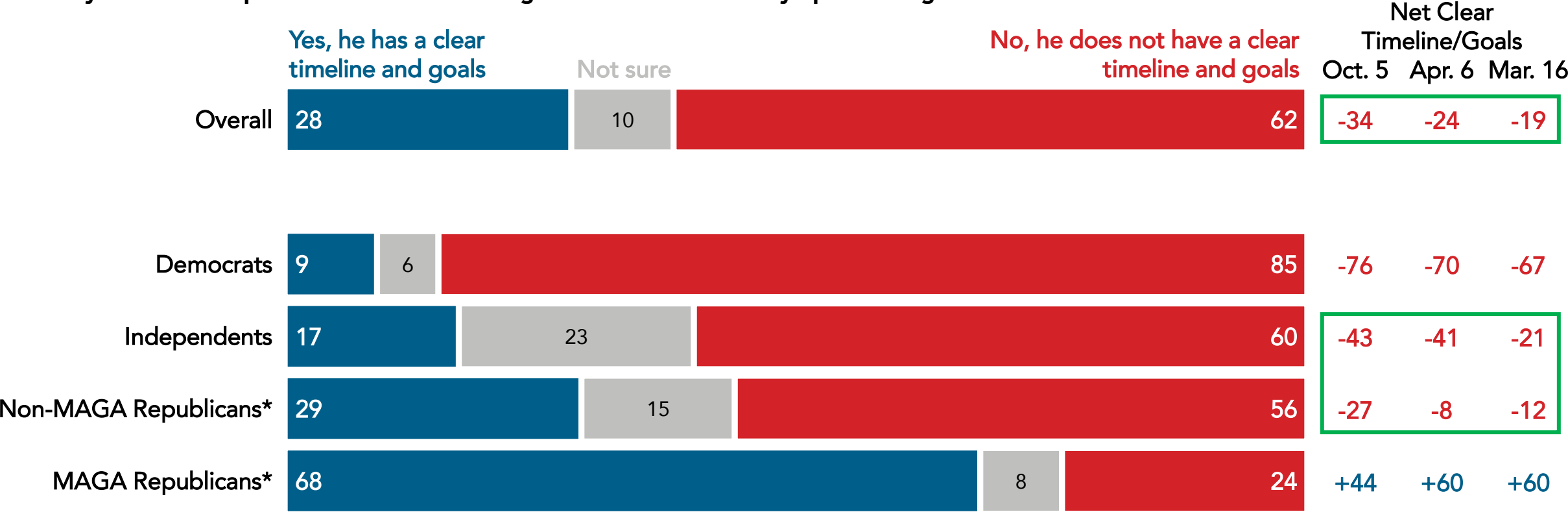


*"MAGA Republicans" are Republicans who identify as "a supporter of the MAGA movement" on a separate question, while "non-MAGA Republicans" are Republicans who do not consider themselves supporters of the MAGA movement or are not sure. **Previous question text read: "Do you support or oppose the U.S. taking military action against Iran?" Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted October 1-October 5, 2026. For more info, visit navigatortorresearch.org.

Few Say Trump Has a Clear Timeline or Goals When It Comes to the War With Iran

Since March, Americans have become less certain that Trump has a clear timeline and goals for the military operation against Iran (from net -19 clear timeline/goals in March to net -34 now).

Do you think Trump has a clear timeline and goals for the U.S. military operation against Iran?

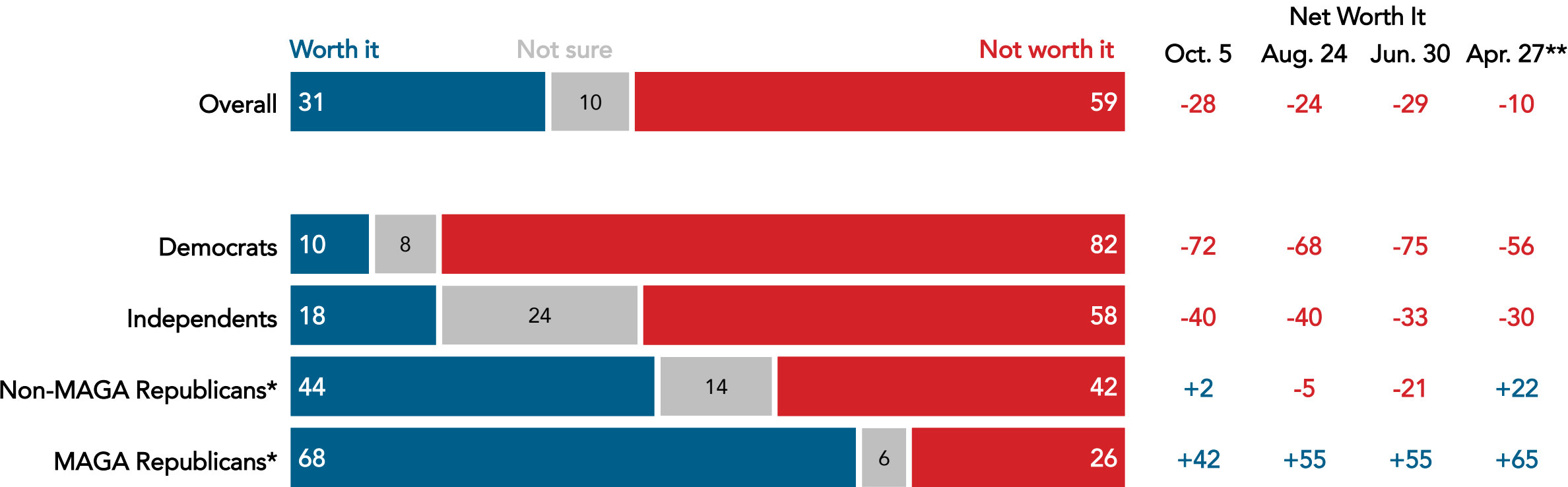


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Three in Five Say the War With Iran Has Not Been Worth It

Americans continue to say the war has not been worth it, including a majority of independents (58%) and two in five non-MAGA Republicans* (42%).

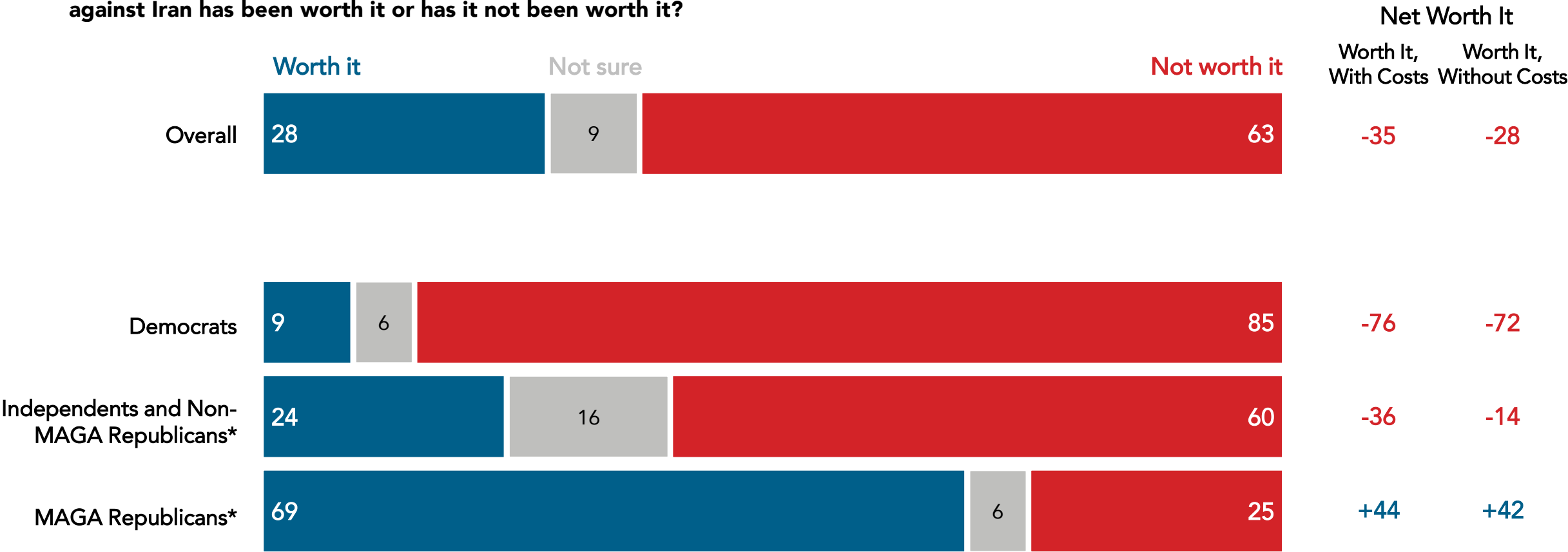
Do you think the U.S. military operation against Iran has been worth it or has it not been worth it?



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Showing the Cost of the War – and What’s Been Cut – Increases the Share of Those Who Say the War Has Not Been Worth It

(Split Sample) As you may know, the U.S. military estimates **America has spent more than \$43 billion on the war with Iran, while the Trump administration has cut billions of dollars from Medicaid, healthcare, and SNAP.** Knowing this, again, do you think the U.S. military operation against Iran has been worth it or has it not been worth it?

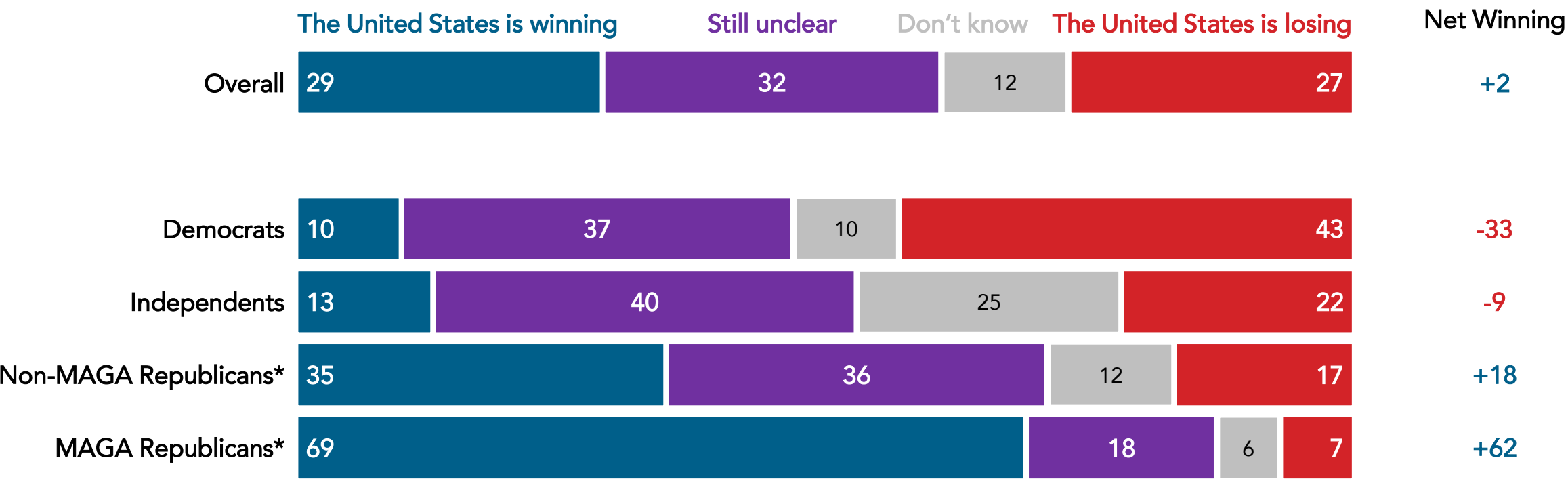


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Few Americans Believe That the U.S. Is Currently Winning the War With Iran

Fewer than one in three Americans believe the U.S. is winning the war with Iran (29%), including only 13% of independents and 35% of non-MAGA Republicans*.

Thinking about the war with Iran, which of the following comes closest to your view?



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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.

About the Study

Global Strategy Group conducted a public opinion survey among a sample of 1,000 registered voters from October 1-October 5, 2026. 100 additional interviews were conducted among Hispanic voters. 100 additional interviews were conducted among African American voters. 75 additional interviews were conducted among Asian American and Pacific Islander 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.

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To learn more about Navigator:

<http://navigatorresearch.org>

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