



Advisor Sentiment Index: Advisor Sentiment Holds Steady

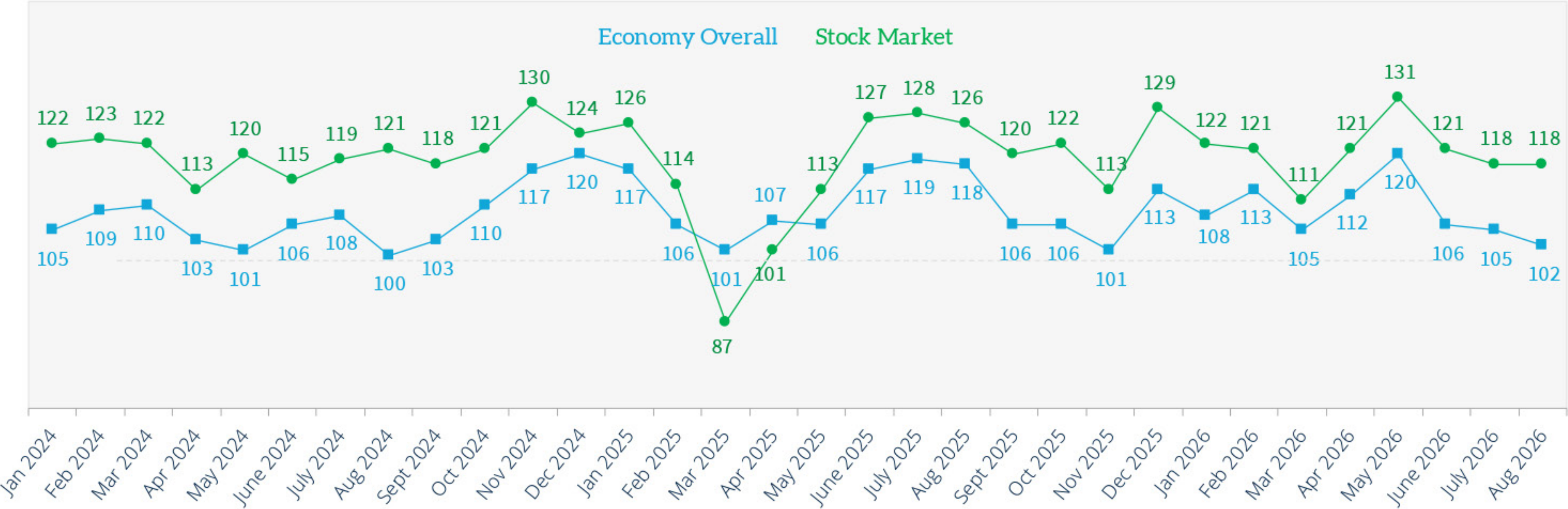
Section 1.

Advisor Sentiment Indices



Advisor Sentiment Indices

While confidence in the economy overall dropped slightly in August 2026, confidence in the stock market remained stable.



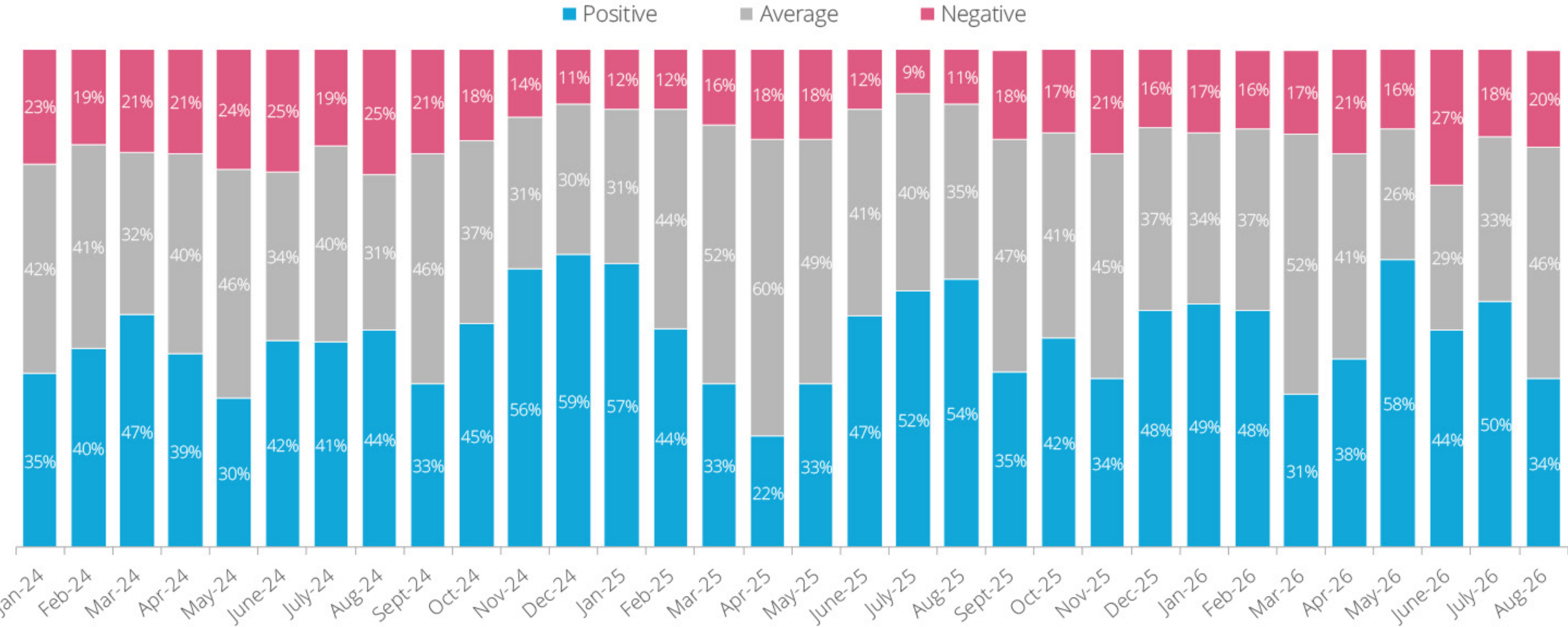
Analyst note: Indices can range from a low of 0 (extreme negative sentiment), to a high of 200 (extreme positive sentiment), with 100 as middle/neutral.

Section 2.

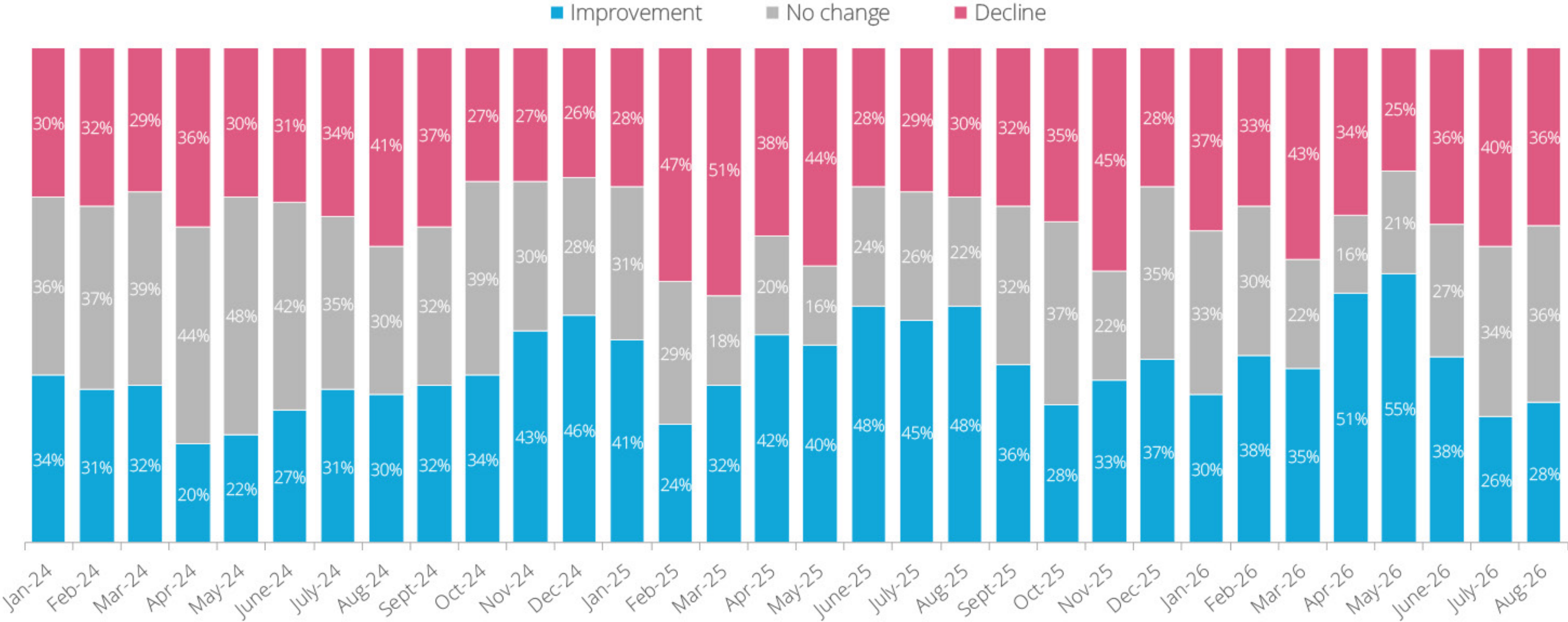
Trends: Health of the Economy



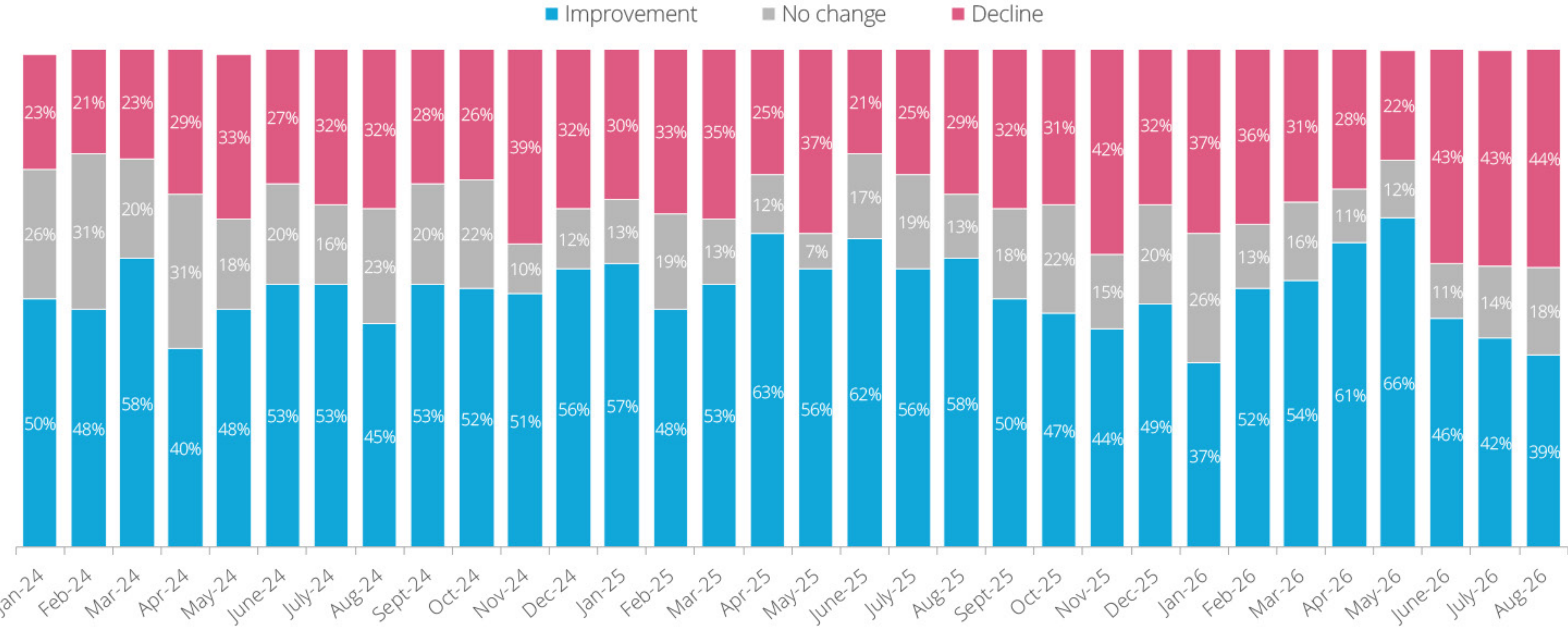
Current State of the Economy Overall Over Time



Anticipated Change in Overall Economy: 6-Month Window



Anticipated Change in Overall Economy: 12-Month Window

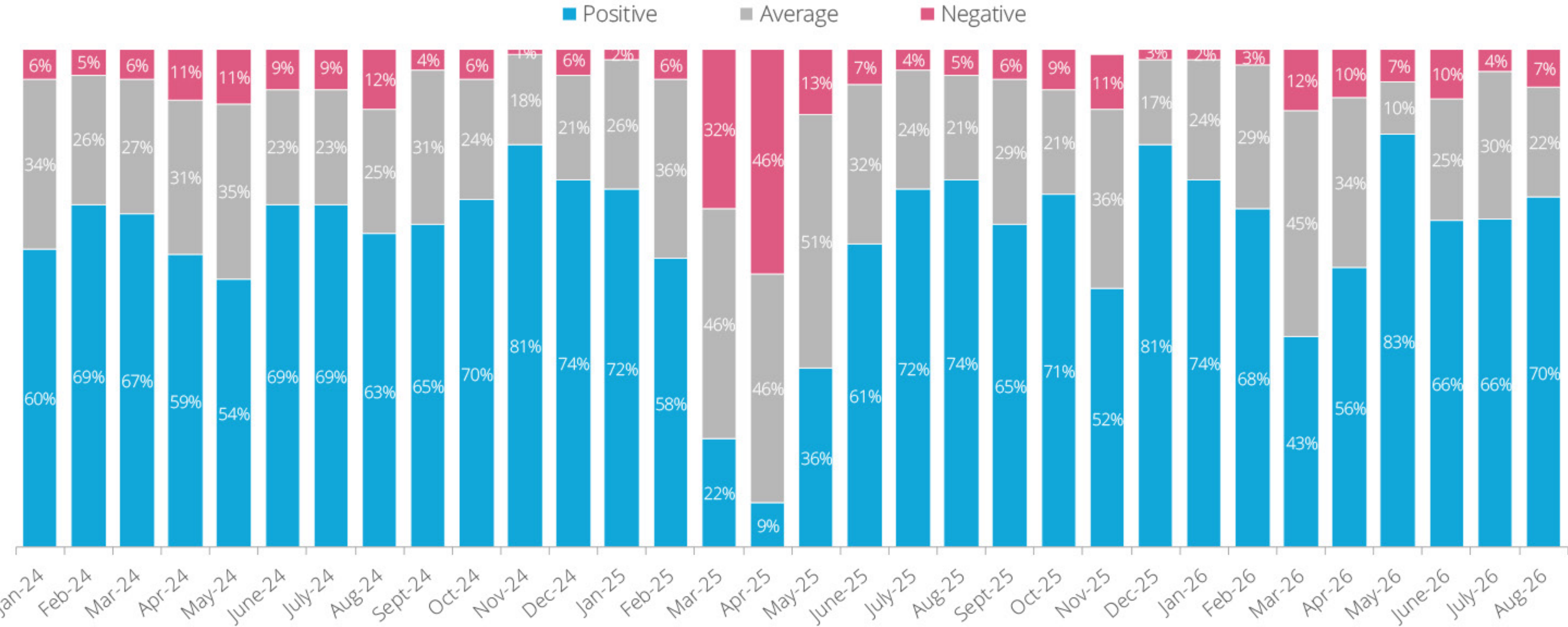


Section 3.

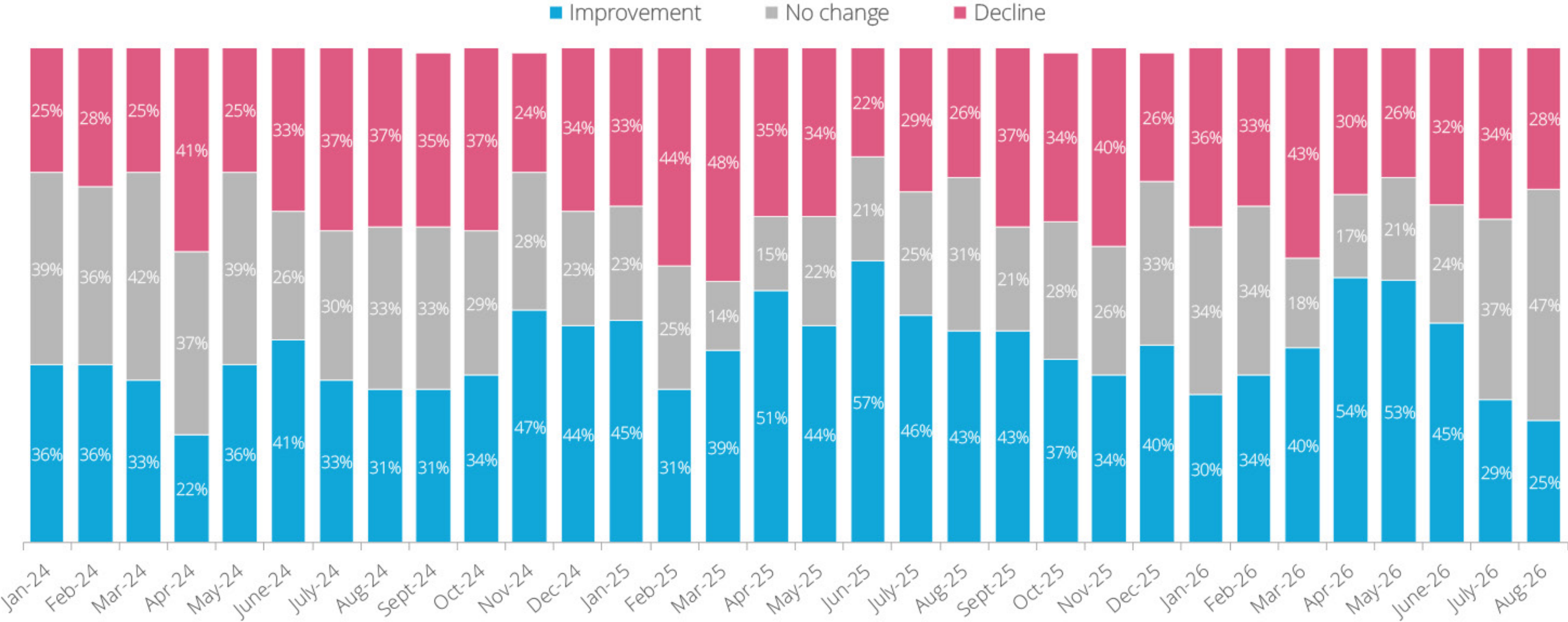
Trends: Health of the Stock Market



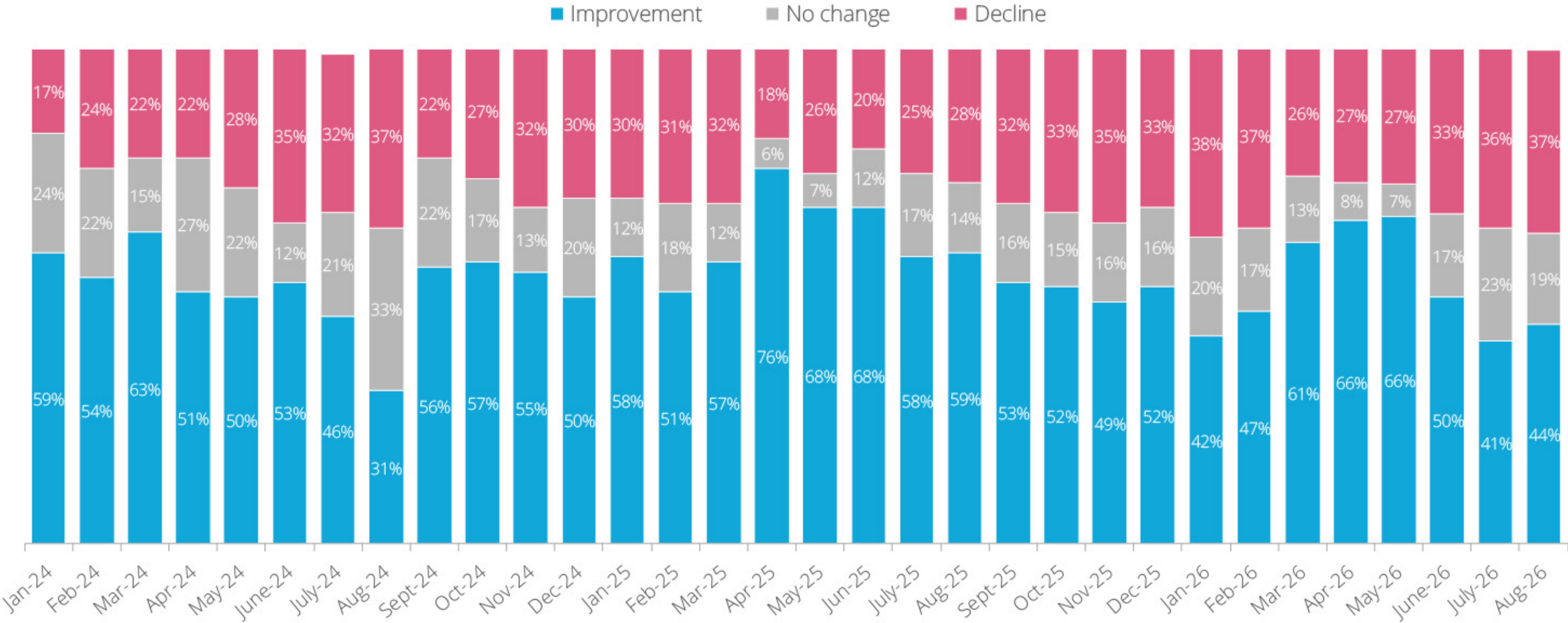
Current State of the Stock Market Over Time



Anticipated Change in Stock Market: 6-Month Window



Anticipated Change in Stock Market: 12-Month Window



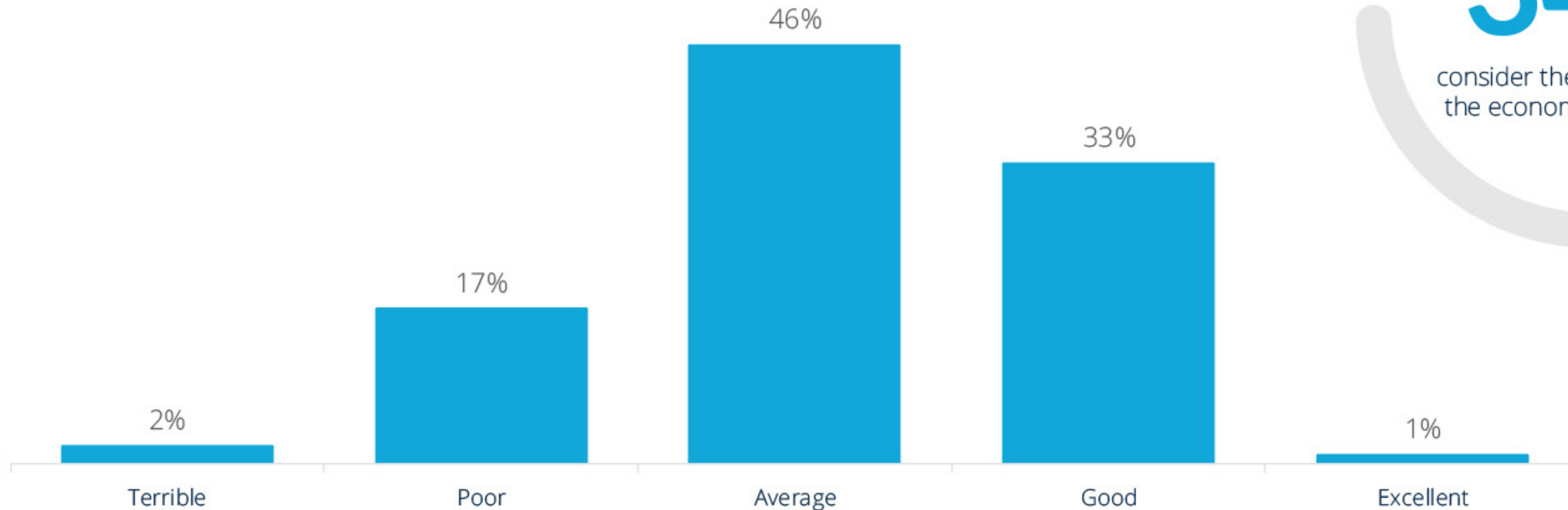
Section 4.

Detailed Findings



Current State of the Economy Overall

A third of all respondents (34%) consider the current state of the economy to be positive. Almost half (46%) consider it average.



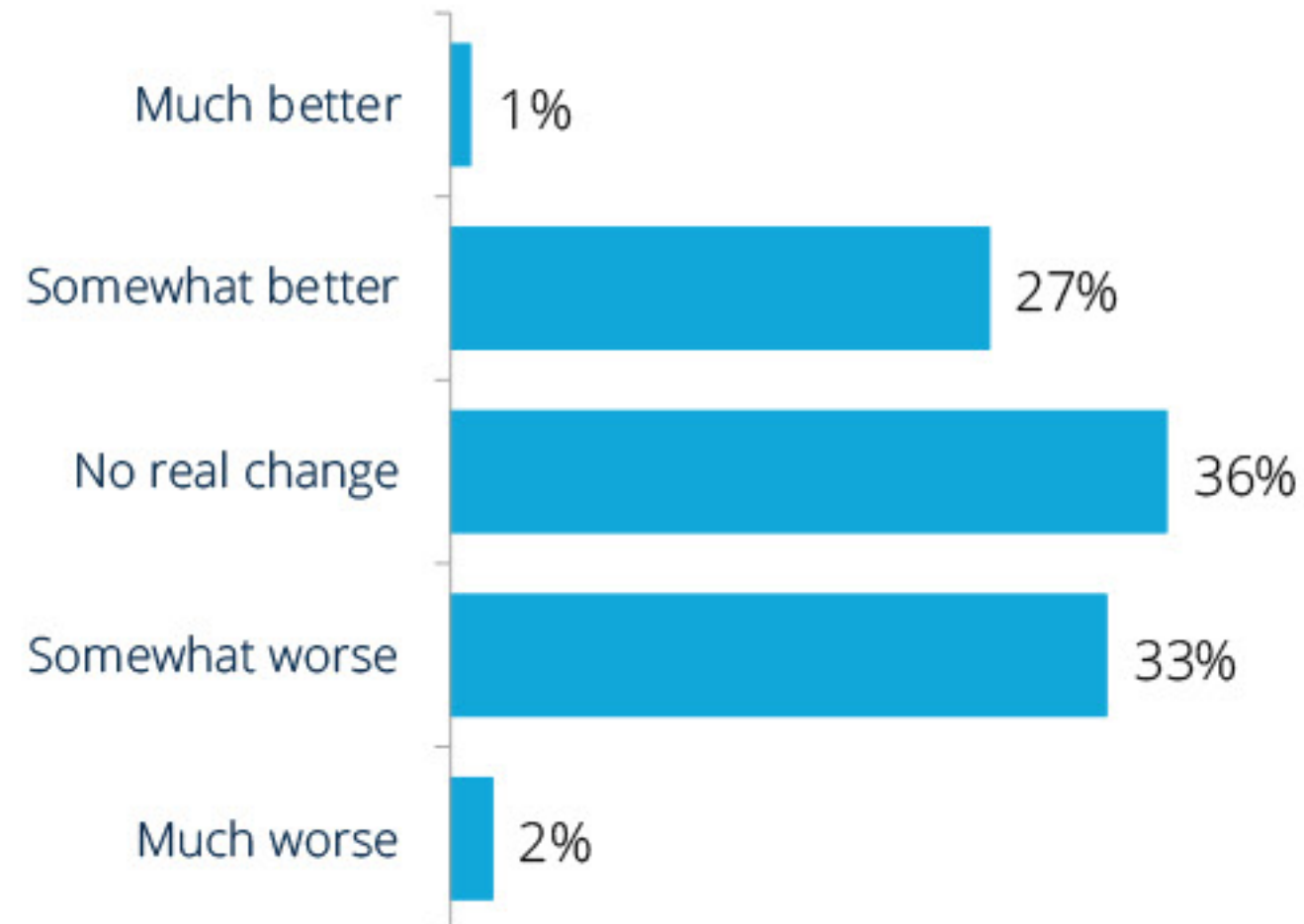
Question: How would you characterize the current state/health of the economy overall?
Base: All respondents (n=100).

Expected Change in the State of the Economy

Six months from now, 28% of respondents expect an improvement in the state of the economy, and 35% expect a decline. This division holds looking forward twelve months, with 39% expecting an improvement and 44% expecting a decline.

Six Months from Now

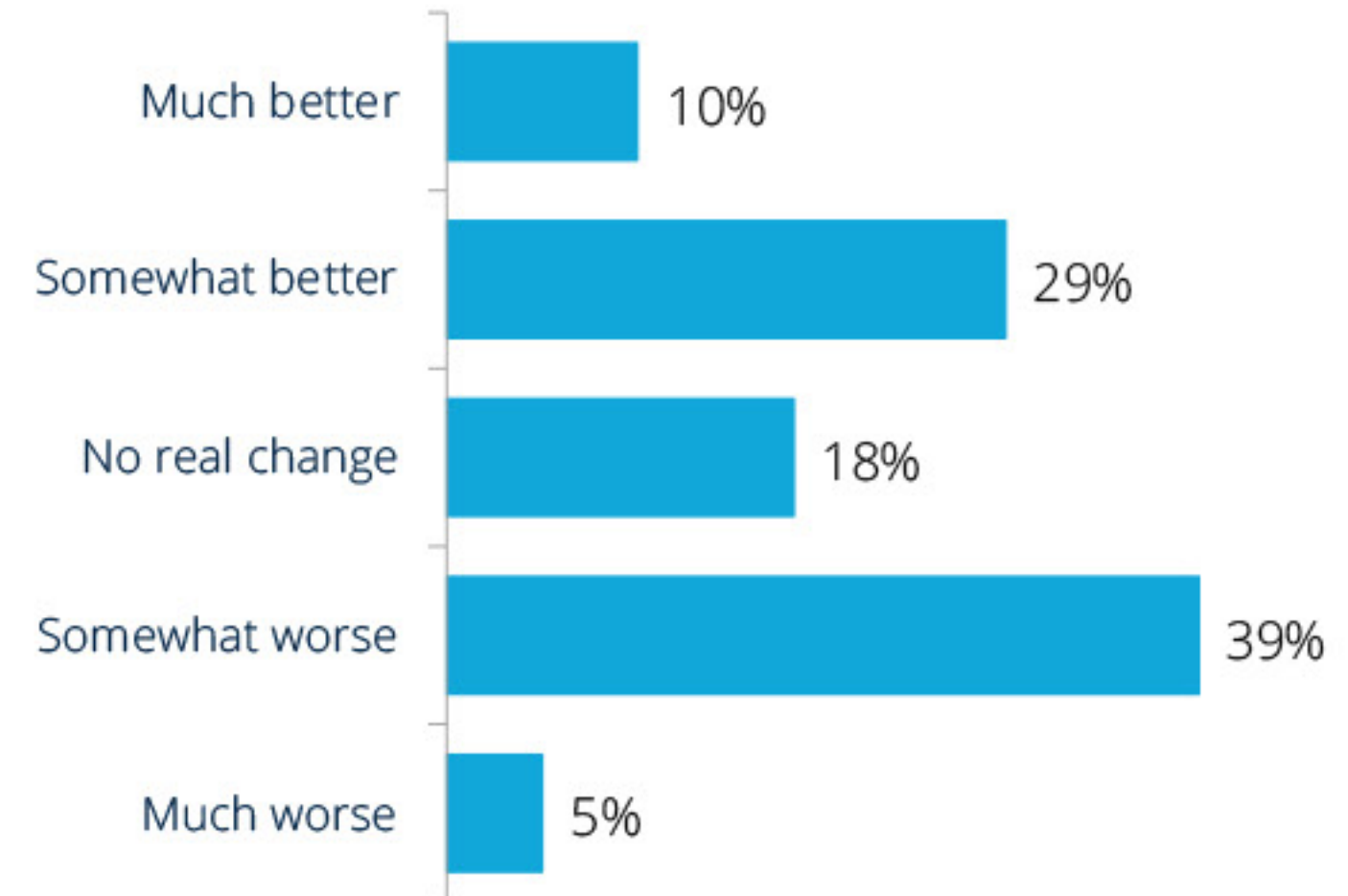
Net Improvement: 28%
Net Decline: 35%



Question: Relative to today, how do you expect the state/health of the economy to change 6 months from now?
Base: All respondents (n=100).

Twelve Months from Now

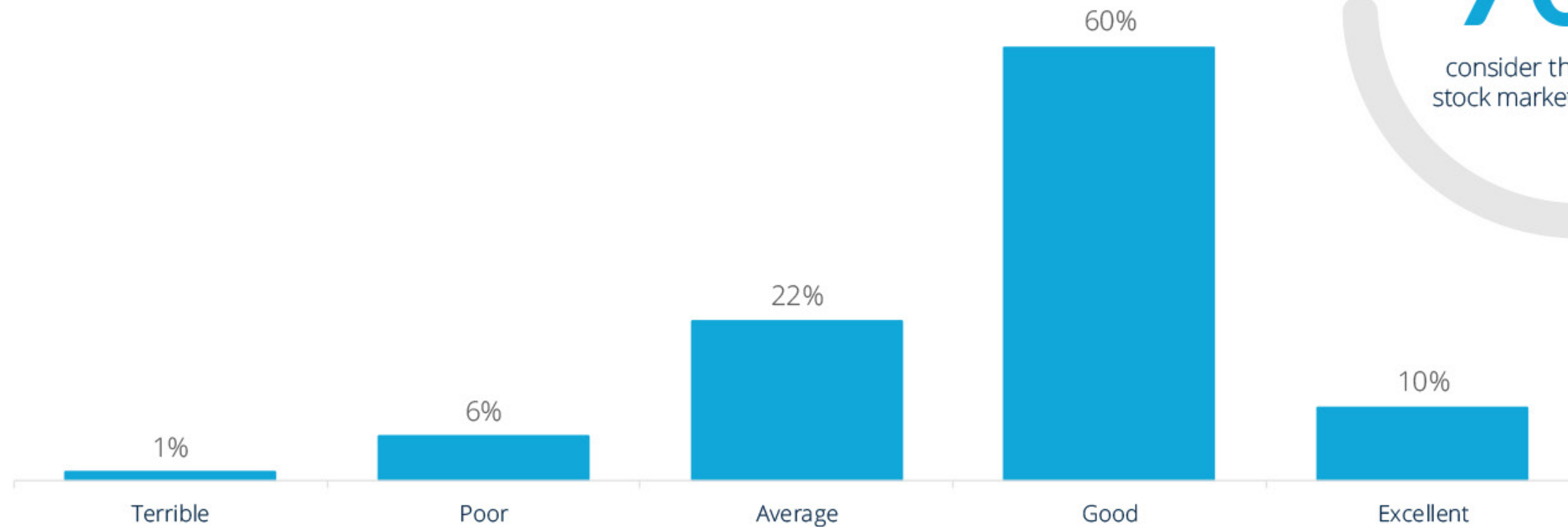
Net Improvement: 39%
Net Decline: 44%



Question: Relative to today, how do you expect the state/health of the economy to change 12 months from now?
Base: All respondents (n=100).

Current State of the Stock Market

A decisive majority of respondents (70%) consider the current state of the stock market to be positive, with just 7% expressing a negative view.



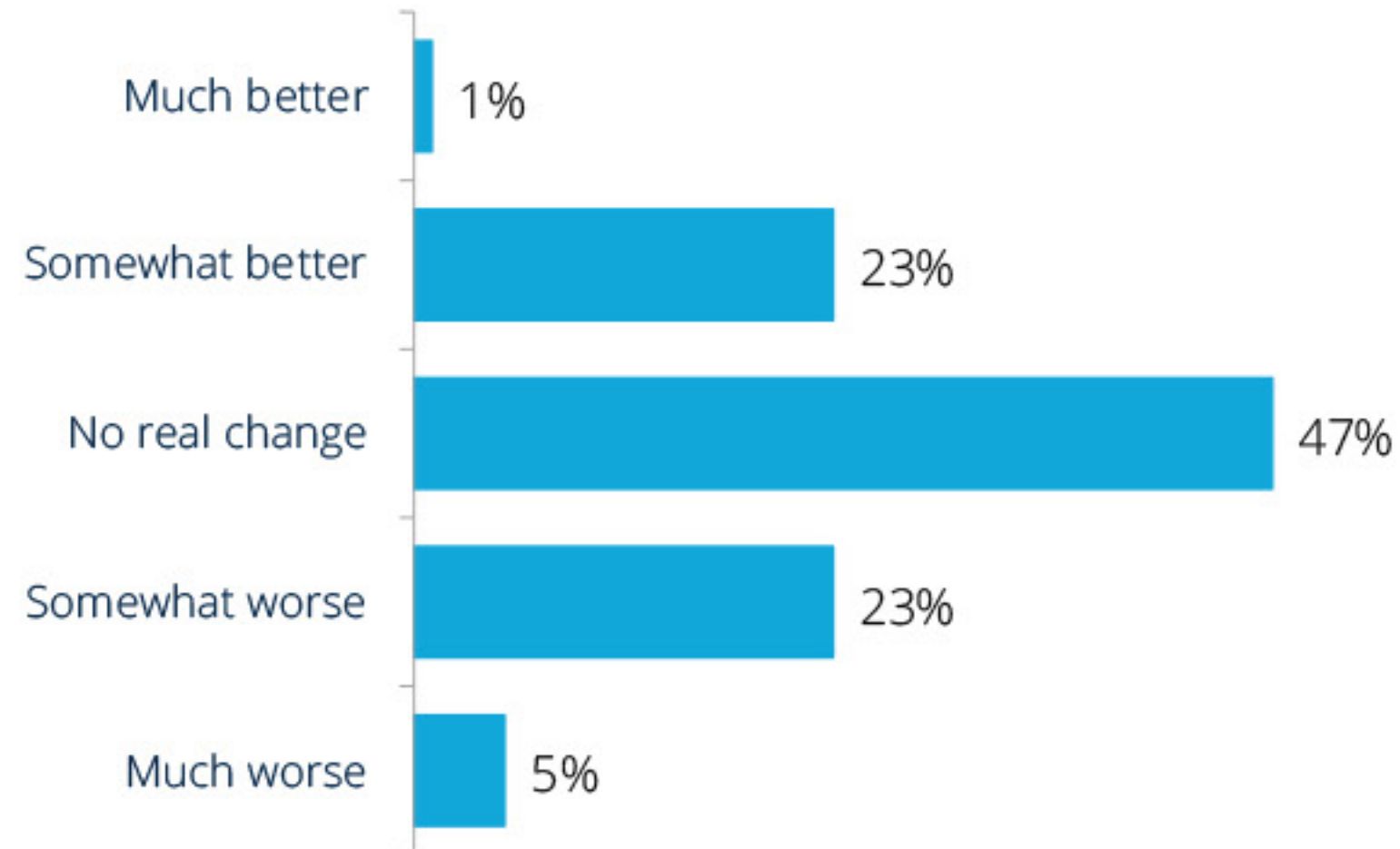
Question: How would you characterize the current state/health of the stock market?
Base: All respondents (n=100).

Expected Change in the State of the Stock Market

Looking forward six months from now, respondents are most likely to expect stability from the stock market (47%). Respondents are more optimistic looking forward 12 months, with 45% expecting an improvement, and 37% expecting a decline.

Six Months from Now

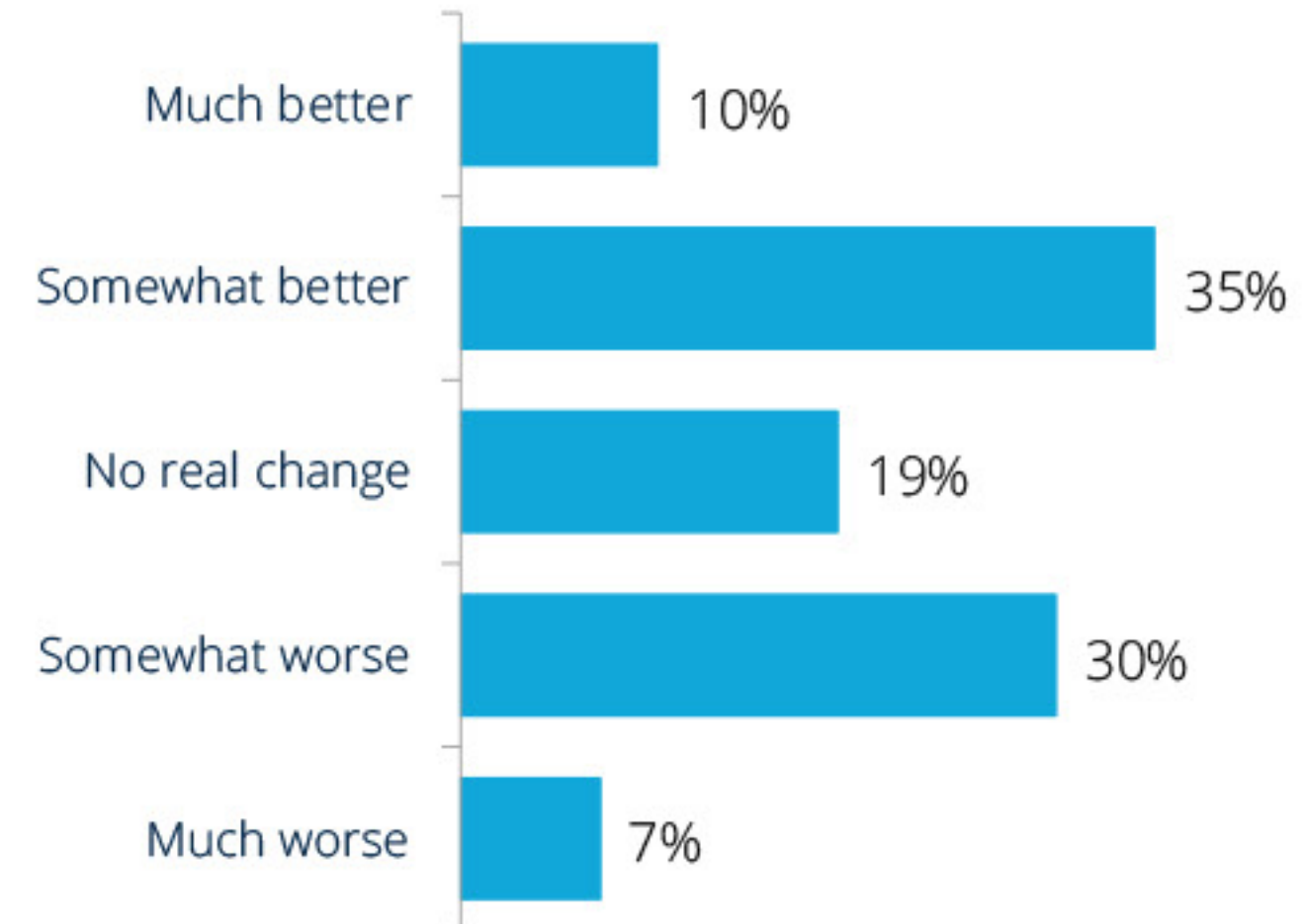
Net Improvement: 24%
Net Decline: 28%



Question: Relative to today, how do you expect the state/health of the stock market to change 6 months from now?
Base: All respondents (n=100).

Twelve Months from Now

Net Improvement: 45%
Net Decline: 37%



Question: Relative to today, how do you expect the state/health of the stock market to change 12 months from now?
Base: All respondents (n=100).

Section 5. Respondent Commentary



Commentary on State of the Economy & Stock Market

Overall, advisors see continued market opportunity, but question whether current strength is sustainable amid inflation, elevated valuations, geopolitical risk and mounting pressure on consumers.

- 1. Market strength tempered by valuation and correction concerns:** Several advisors acknowledge strong returns, record highs and continued investment opportunities, with some expecting equities to move modestly higher. At the same time, there is considerable concern that valuations are stretched, stock prices are inflated or the market is overlooking negative economic signals, raising expectations that a correction may eventually be necessary.
- 2. Inflation, interest rates and debt remain significant vulnerabilities:** Persistent inflation is one of the clearest economic concerns, particularly as higher energy costs threaten to put additional pressure on consumers and discretionary spending. Advisors also point to rising yields, the possibility of higher interest rates and the nation's growing debt burden as risks that could eventually weigh on both economic growth and financial markets.
- 3. Geopolitical uncertainty and energy prices are clouding the outlook:** Conflict in the Middle East - and its effect on oil and gasoline prices - features prominently in advisors' assessments of near-term economic health. Several believe conditions could improve materially as geopolitical tensions ease and oil prices retreat, potentially helping inflation and interest rates, while continued conflict could produce the opposite effect.
- 4. A disconnect between market performance and household economic health:** A recurring concern is that strong financial markets and aggregate economic indicators do not necessarily reflect the experience of many Americans. Advisors cite affordability pressures, housing and employment challenges, wealth inequality and consumers being squeezed by rising prices, suggesting that the economy may appear healthier at the macro level than it feels at the household level.
- 5. AI offers upside, while political and policy uncertainty add risk:** Advisors see AI, data centers and related investment as meaningful sources of growth and market opportunity, although some question whether that boom can offset broader economic headwinds. At the same time, political interference, tariffs, government policy and broader political uncertainty are viewed as potential sources of volatility, higher costs and economic disruption.