

Advisor Sentiment Index:
Advisor Sentiment Rose in October

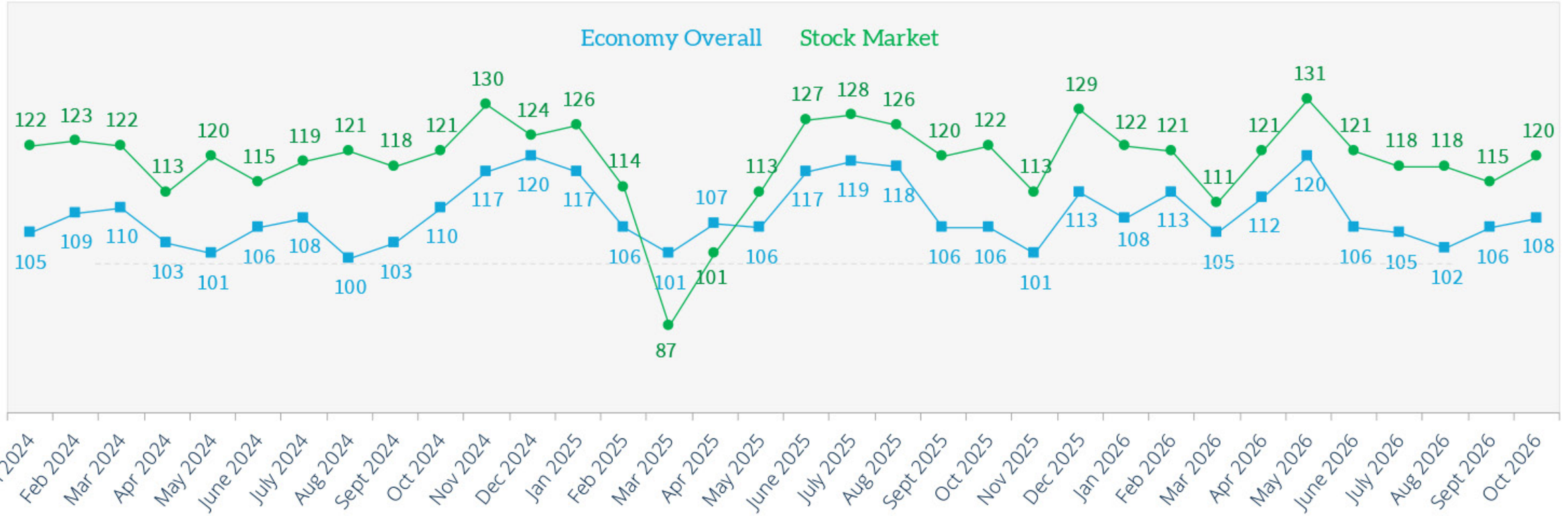
Section 1.

Advisor Sentiment Indices



Advisor Sentiment Indices

Confidence in both the economy overall and the stock market increased in October 2026.



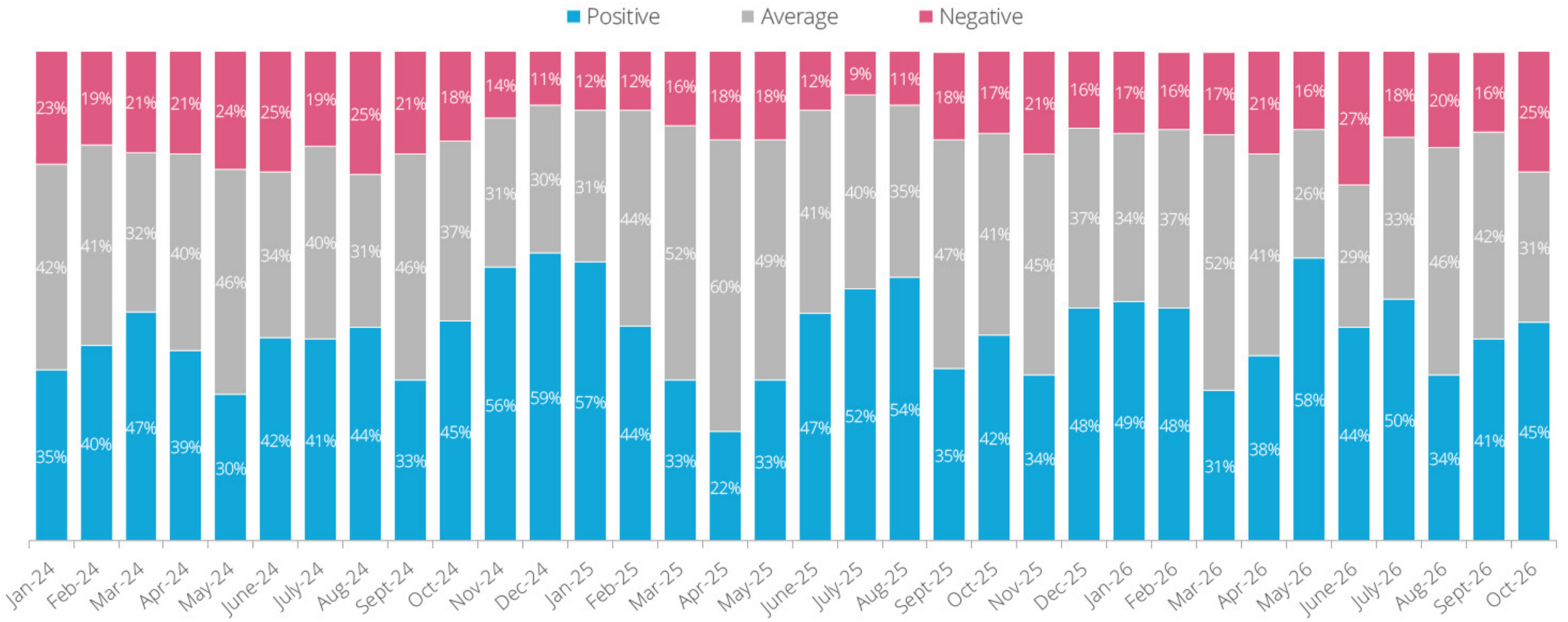
Analyst note: Indices can range from a low of 0 (extreme negative sentiment), to a high of 200 (extreme positive sentiment), with 100 as middle/neutral.

Section 2.

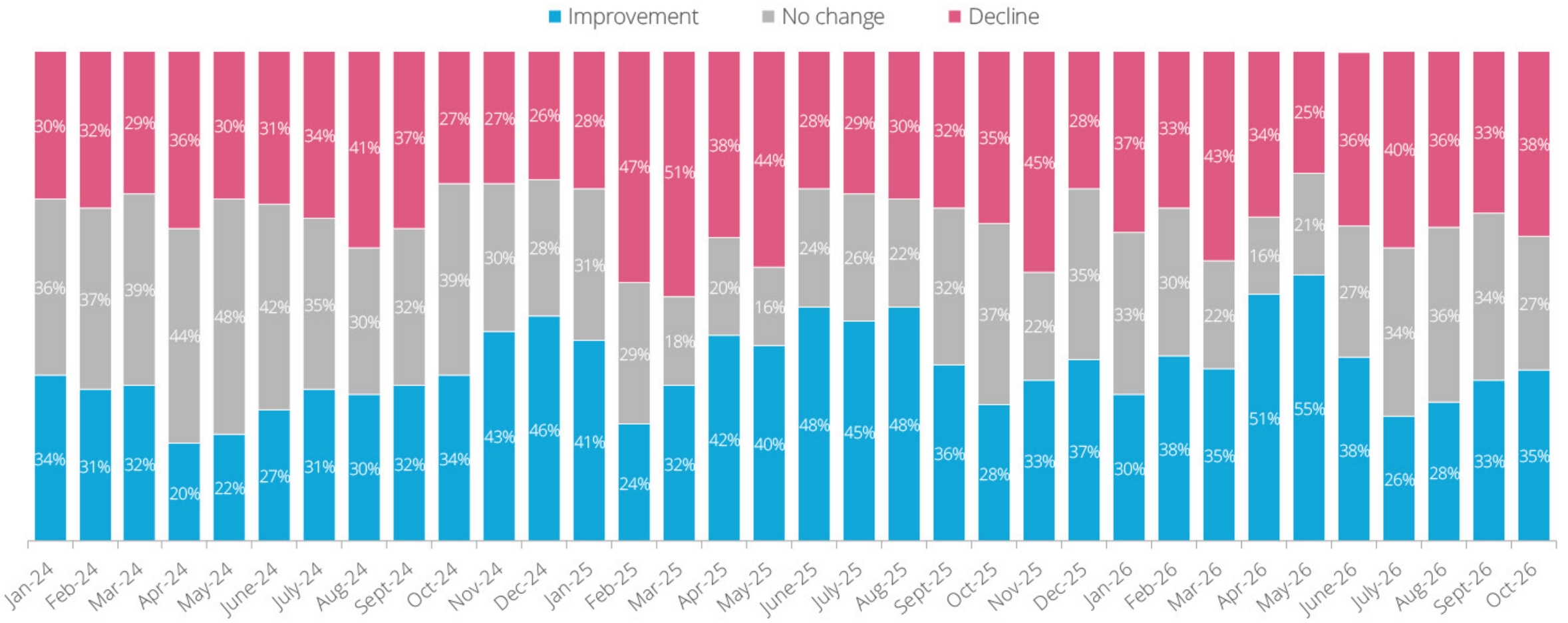
Trends: Health of the Economy



Current State of the Economy Overall Over Time

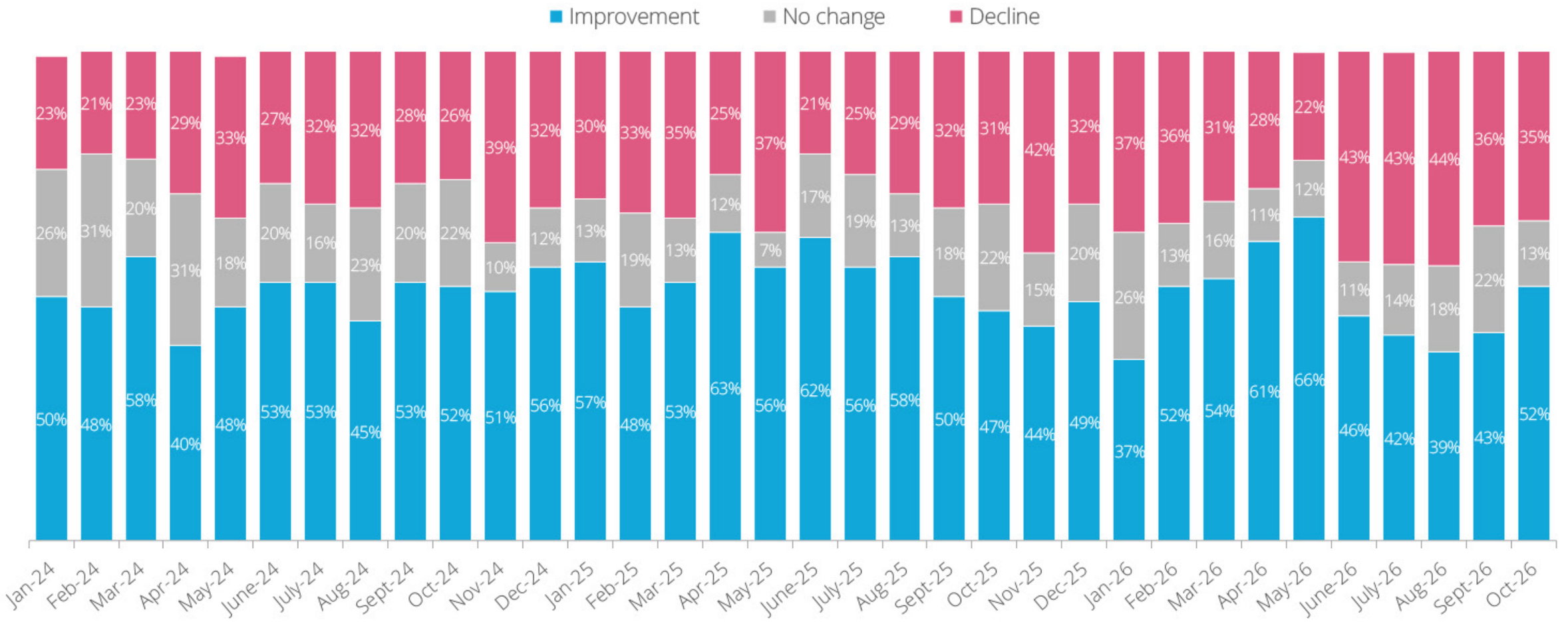


Anticipated Change in Overall Economy: 6-Month Window



Wealth Management

Anticipated Change in Overall Economy: 12-Month Window

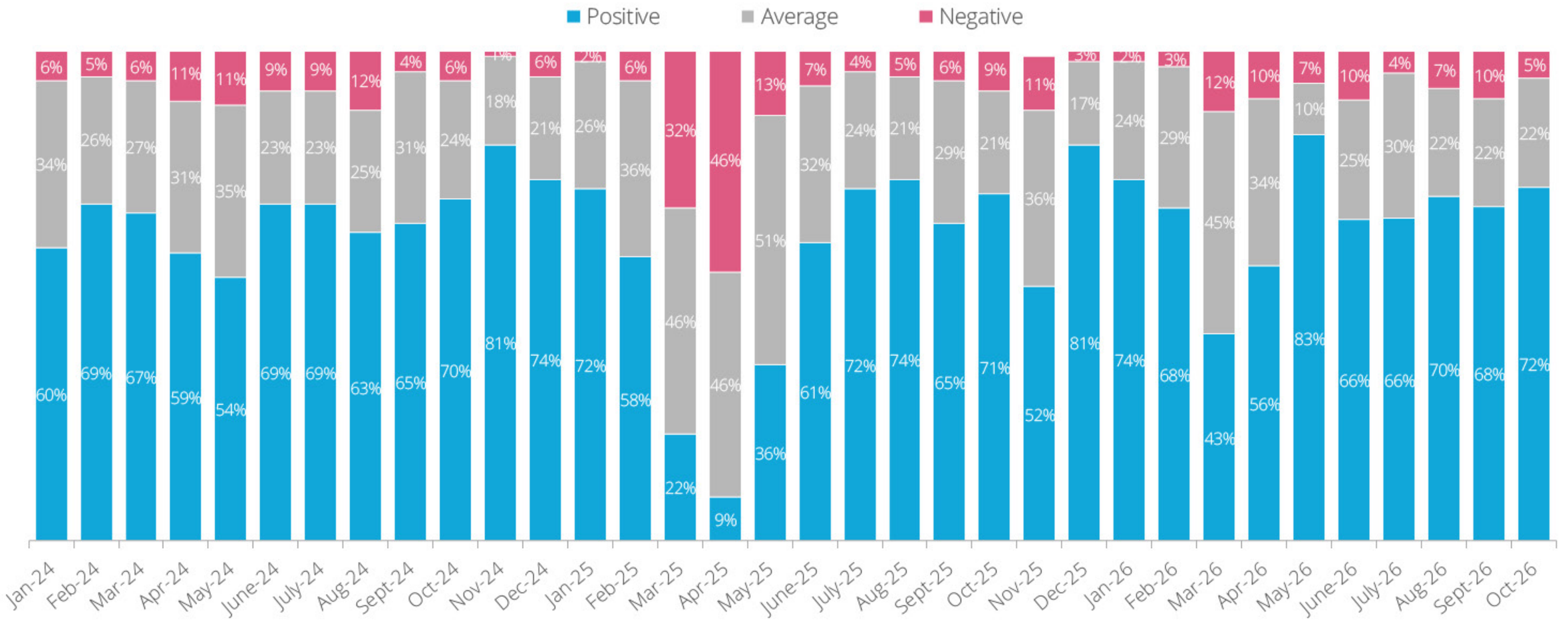


Section 3.

Trends: Health of the Stock Market

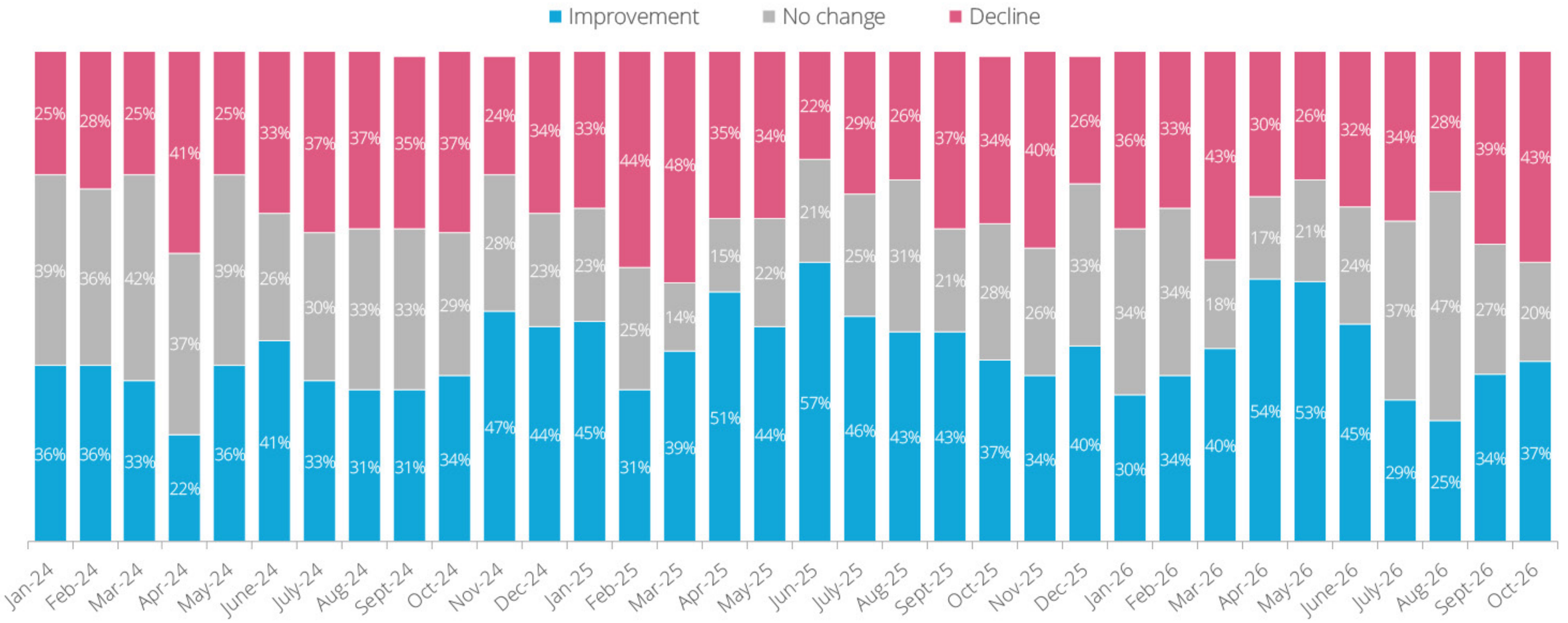


Current State of the Stock Market Over Time



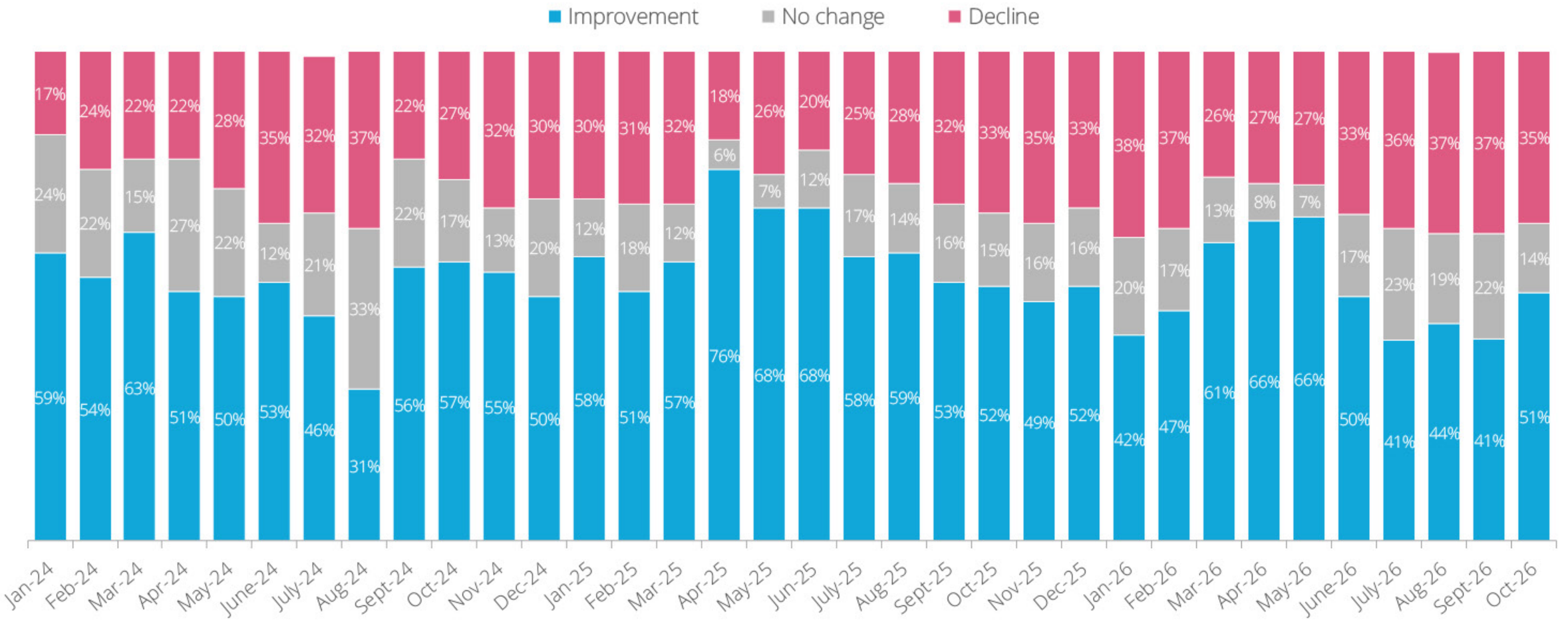
Wealth Management

Anticipated Change in Stock Market: 6-Month Window



Wealth Management

Anticipated Change in Stock Market: 12-Month Window



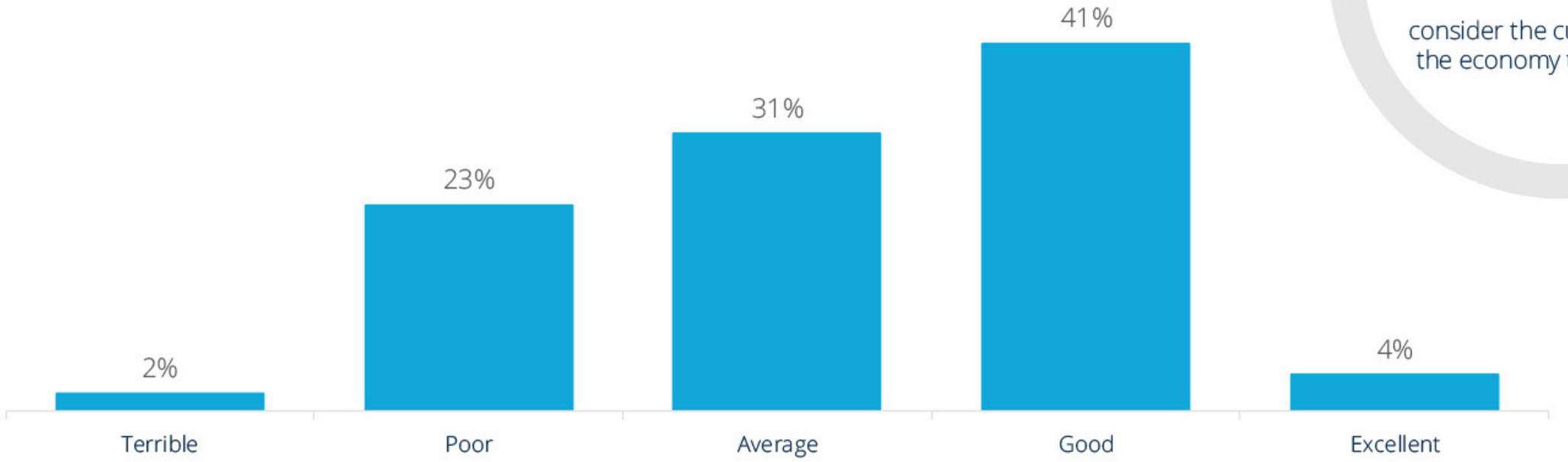
Wealth Management

Section 4.
Detailed Findings



Current State of the Economy Overall

While almost half of respondents (45%) consider the current state of the economy to be positive, one in four (25%) hold a negative view.





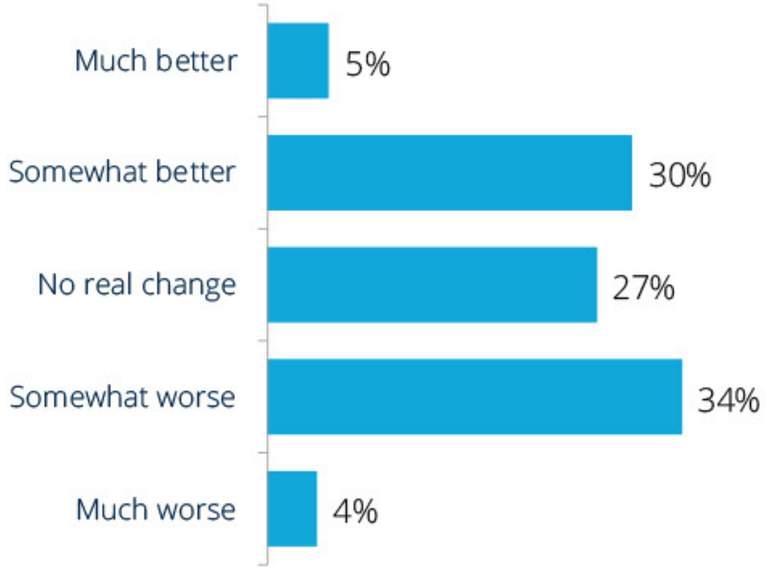
Question: How would you characterize the current state/health of the economy overall?
Base: All respondents (n=114).

Expected Change in the State of the Economy

Respondents are evenly divided on the state of the economy looking forward six months from: 35% expect an improvement; 38% expect a decline. Looking forward twelve months, half (52%) expect an improvement and 34% expecting a decline.

Six Months from Now

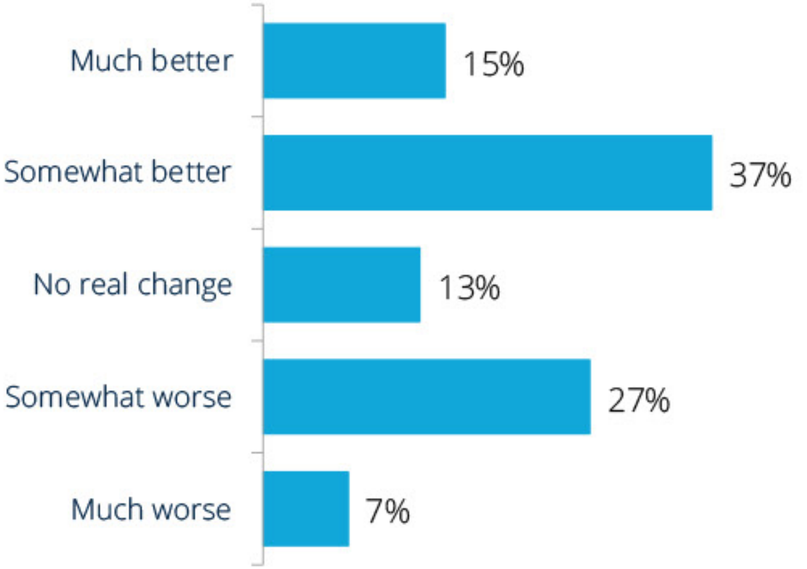
Net Improvement: 35%
Net Decline: 38%



Question: Relative to today, how do you expect the state/health of the economy to change 6 months from now?
Base: All respondents (n=114).

Twelve Months from Now

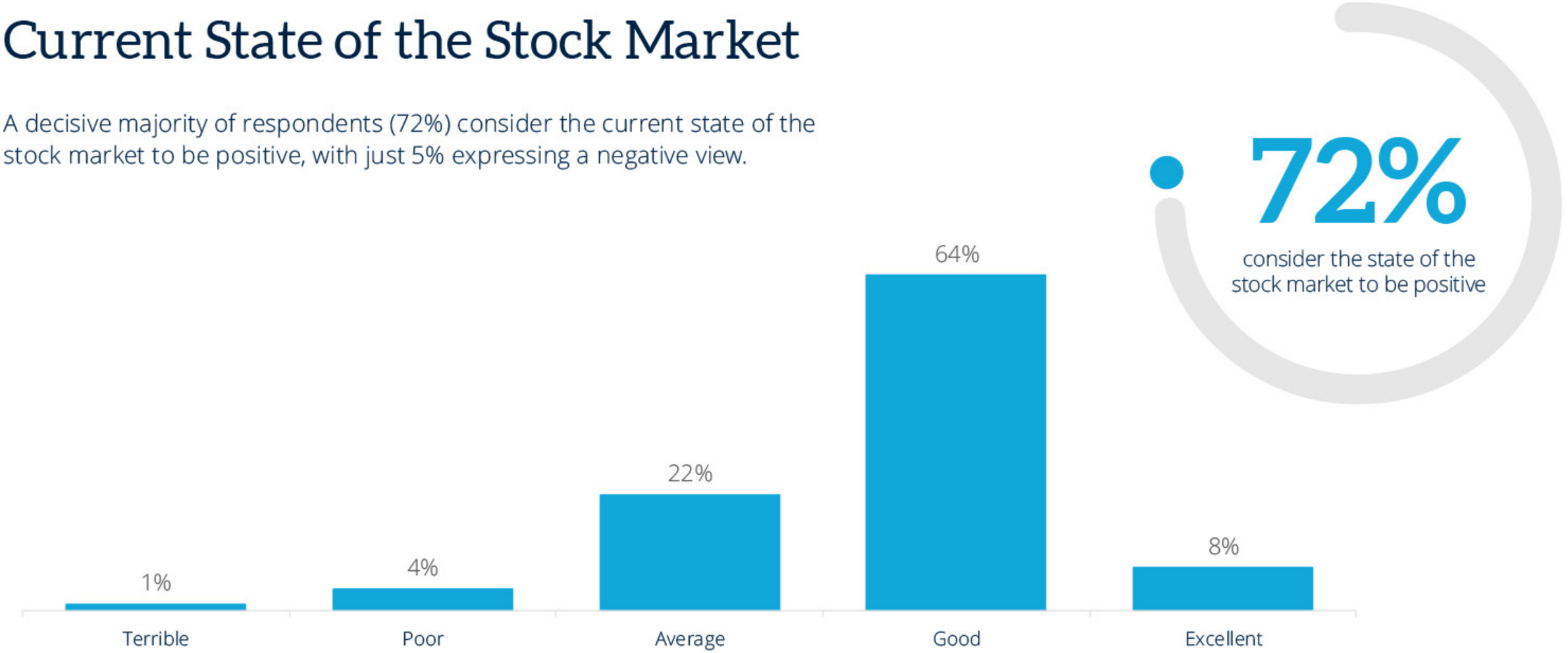
Net Improvement: 52%
Net Decline: 34%



Question: Relative to today, how do you expect the state/health of the economy to change 12 months from now?
Base: All respondents (n=114).

Current State of the Stock Market

A decisive majority of respondents (72%) consider the current state of the stock market to be positive, with just 5% expressing a negative view.



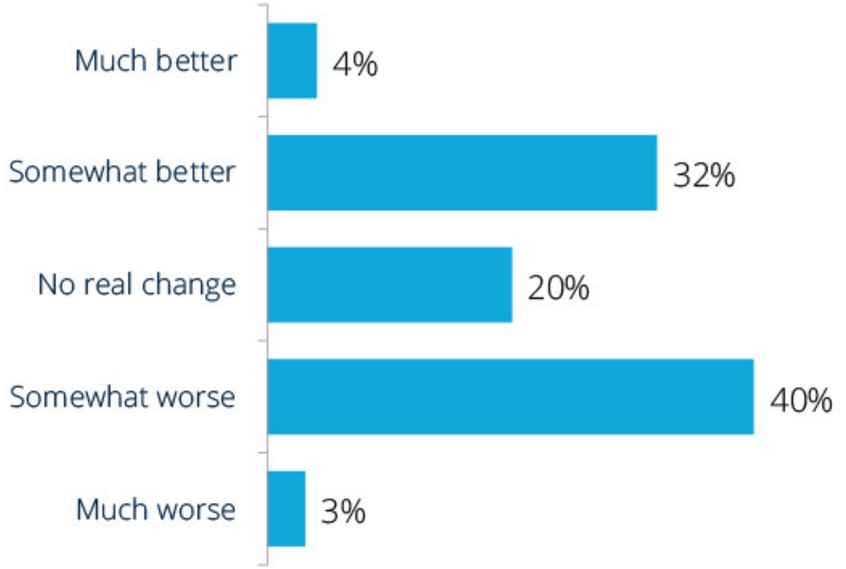
Question: How would you characterize the current state/health of the stock market?
Base: All respondents (n=114).

Expected Change in the State of the Stock Market

As with the overall economy, respondents are divided on the state of the stock market six months from now: 36% expect an improvement; 43% expect a decline. Looking forward 12 months, 51% expect an improvement, and 36% expect a decline.

Six Months from Now

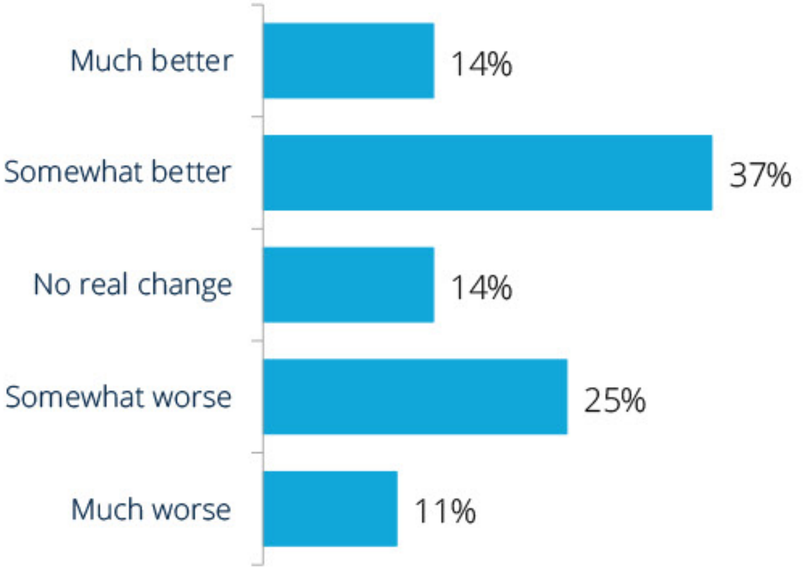
Net Improvement: 36%
Net Decline: 43%



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=114).

Twelve Months from Now

Net Improvement: 51%
Net Decline: 36%



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=114).

Section 5.

Respondent Commentary



Commentary on State of the Economy & Stock Market

Financial advisors express cautious optimism about the economy and stock market, tempered by concerns over persistent inflation, elevated valuations, and political uncertainty. While strong corporate earnings and AI-driven growth continue to support market performance, many see a widening disconnect between Wall Street's strength and the financial pressures facing everyday Americans.

1. **Inflation and Energy Costs Threaten Economic Growth:** Advisors frequently cite persistent inflation, elevated energy prices, and interest rate uncertainty as significant threats to economic stability. Many believe that easing geopolitical conflicts, particularly in Iran, and declining oil prices could help moderate inflation, enable Federal Reserve rate cuts, and support renewed economic growth.
2. **Strong Stock Market Performance Masks Underlying Vulnerabilities:** While advisors acknowledge strong corporate earnings, low unemployment, and resilient equity markets, many question whether current valuations are sustainable. Concerns center on an overreliance on a small number of mega-cap technology companies, excessive AI-related investment, and the potential for a market correction, although some believe continued innovation and earnings growth will support longer-term gains.
3. **A Growing Disconnect Between Wall Street and Main Street:** Several advisors highlight a widening gap between strong financial market performance and the economic realities facing average Americans. They describe a K-shaped economy in which wealthier households and investors continue to prosper while lower-income consumers struggle with inflation, household budget pressures, declining confidence, and slowing economic opportunities.
4. **Political and Geopolitical Uncertainty Fuels Market Volatility:** Advisors identify the upcoming midterm elections, government policies, tariffs, and international conflicts as important influences on economic and market direction. Opinions regarding the current administration are sharply divided, with some crediting pro-growth policies and deregulation for economic resilience while others express concern about trade policies, government spending, and political instability.
5. **Cautious Optimism Tempered by Expectations of Volatility:** Despite significant concerns, a segment of advisors remains optimistic about the economy's underlying strength, corporate profitability, and longer-term market prospects. However, many anticipate increased volatility, near-term corrections, or slower growth, suggesting that market selectivity, realistic expectations, and careful risk management will become increasingly important.