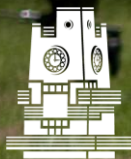


# UTokyo ROLES Survey

## SAFER

(Security, Alliance, and Foreign Engagement Research project)

Mar 2026



東大先端研

Research Center for  
Advanced Science and Technology  
The University of Tokyo

# ROLES

# UTokyo ROLES Survey – Mar. 2026

Security, Alliance, and Foreign Engagement Research (SAFER) project

Authors: GOROKU, Tsuyoshi\*, Takeshi IIDA\*\*, Ichiro KAJI†, Yu KOIZUMI†, and Ryo NAKAI†

\* Nishogakusha University, \*\* Doshisha University, † The University of Tokyo

Publisher: RCAST Open Laboratory for Emergence Strategies (ROLES),  
Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology (RCAST),  
The University of Tokyo, Japan.



東京大学 先端科学技術研究センター  
Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology  
The University of Tokyo



Issued in March 3rd, 2026

<https://roles.rcast.u-tokyo.ac.jp> / X: @roles\_hq / FB: @roleshq

This survey was financially supported by the Grants-in-Aids Kakenhi 24K00220 (“Public Preferences on Security Policy and Voting Behavior”), PI: Takeshi IIDA.  
Cover photo: AFP/Aflo Intern: Kotone MURAI The color scheme of this report references the UK government agency's color diversity guidelines.

---

## **Aim and Scope of this Survey:**

The primary purpose of this survey, which began in August 2024, is to elucidate how people perceive Japan's diplomacy, national security, and the international situation surrounding Japan. The media have conducted similar surveys on these themes in the past. Nonetheless, the questions were often limited in scope and conducted sporadically. Thus, they were not necessarily designed to capture long-term trends. Our survey aims to understand the public's perceptions amid the rapidly changing international environment surrounding Japan. Further, it seeks to examine them from a long-term perspective while comparing them with similar surveys conducted in other countries to achieve a deeper understanding.

## **On our 4th Survey:**

There were some changes in the Japanese public's overall perception of diplomatic and security issues, amidst changes in the Prime Minister of Japan. Notable shifts are evident in relations with the United States: the proportion of respondents who view Japan–U.S. relations as favorable, as well as those who support Japanese government foreign and security policy, increased. Trust in U.S. military intervention has remained relatively stable. There continues to be a sense of unease about the security environment against the backdrop of perceived threats to China, Russia, and North Korea. Opposition to the use of force, Japan's own nuclear development, and the deployment of nuclear weapons by the United States remains high.

This wave report includes the distribution of opinions by voting party as an appendix.

**Past Survey:** (<https://roles.rcast.u-tokyo.ac.jp/en/publications?team=208>)

---

## Methodology

Survey Title: UTokyo ROLES Survey – SAFER (Security, Alliance, and Foreign Engagement Research)

Survey Period: February 9-12, 2026

Sample Size: N=2146

Margin of Errors: 2.11% (Confidence level 95%)

Survey Mode: CAWI (Computer-Assisted Web Interviewing)

Population: Japanese citizens aged 18 -79.

Sampling Method (Quota sampling):

Stratification: Stratified by sex, age group, and region\* of residence based on census data.

\* 7 regions; Hokkaido/Tohoku, Kanto, Chubu, Kinki, Chugoku, Shikoku, and Kyushu/Okinawa

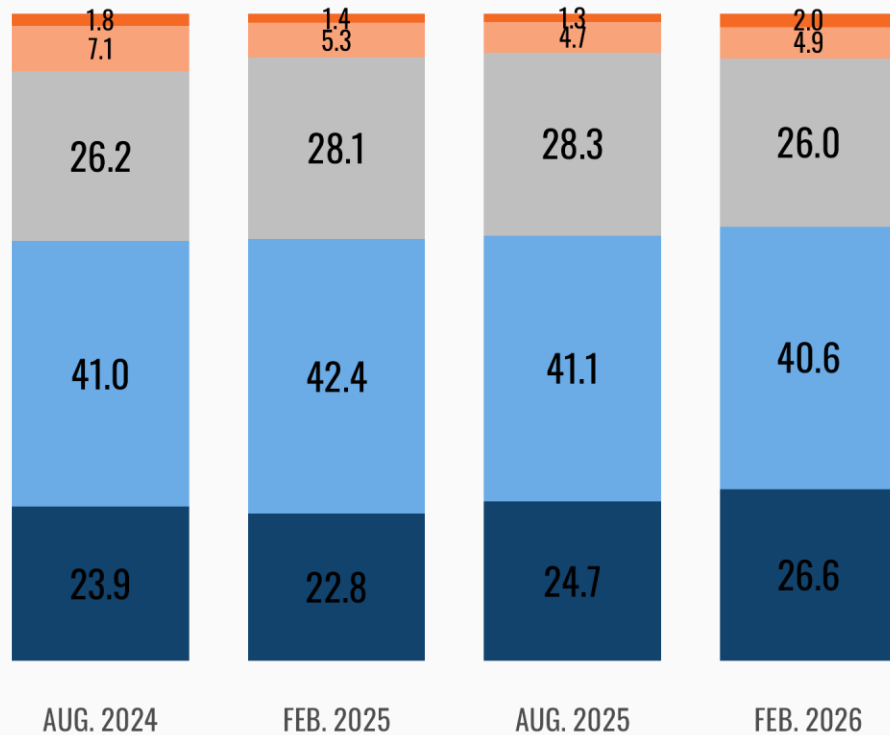
Sample: Distributed to registered monitors of Rakuten Insight, Inc. via Survey Research Center, Co.,LTD.

This survey was approved by the IRB - The Ethics Review Expert Committee, The University of Tokyo (Review No. 23-363).

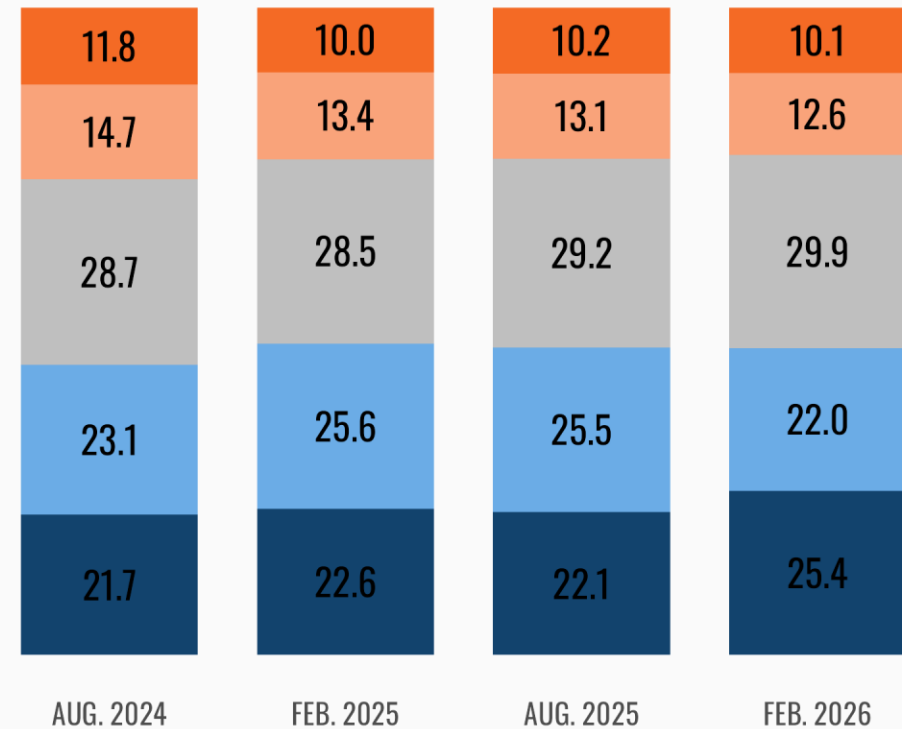
# Survey Results

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? (%) n = 2146

I'M CONCERNED ABOUT JAPAN'S SECURITY



JAPAN SHOULD NOT USE FORCE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES



Agree
  Somewhat agree
  Neither agree nor disagree
  Somewhat disagree
  Disagree

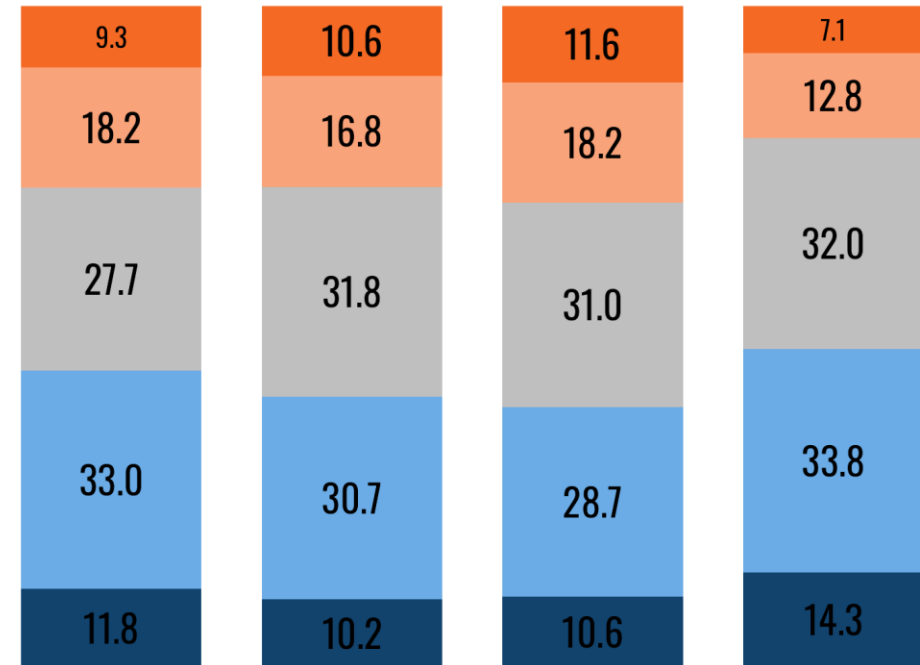
- 65% of respondents expressed concern about Japan's security.
- Over 45% of respondents think that force should not be used under any circumstances.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? (%) n = 2146

JAPAN SHOULD INCREASE DEFENSE SPENDING



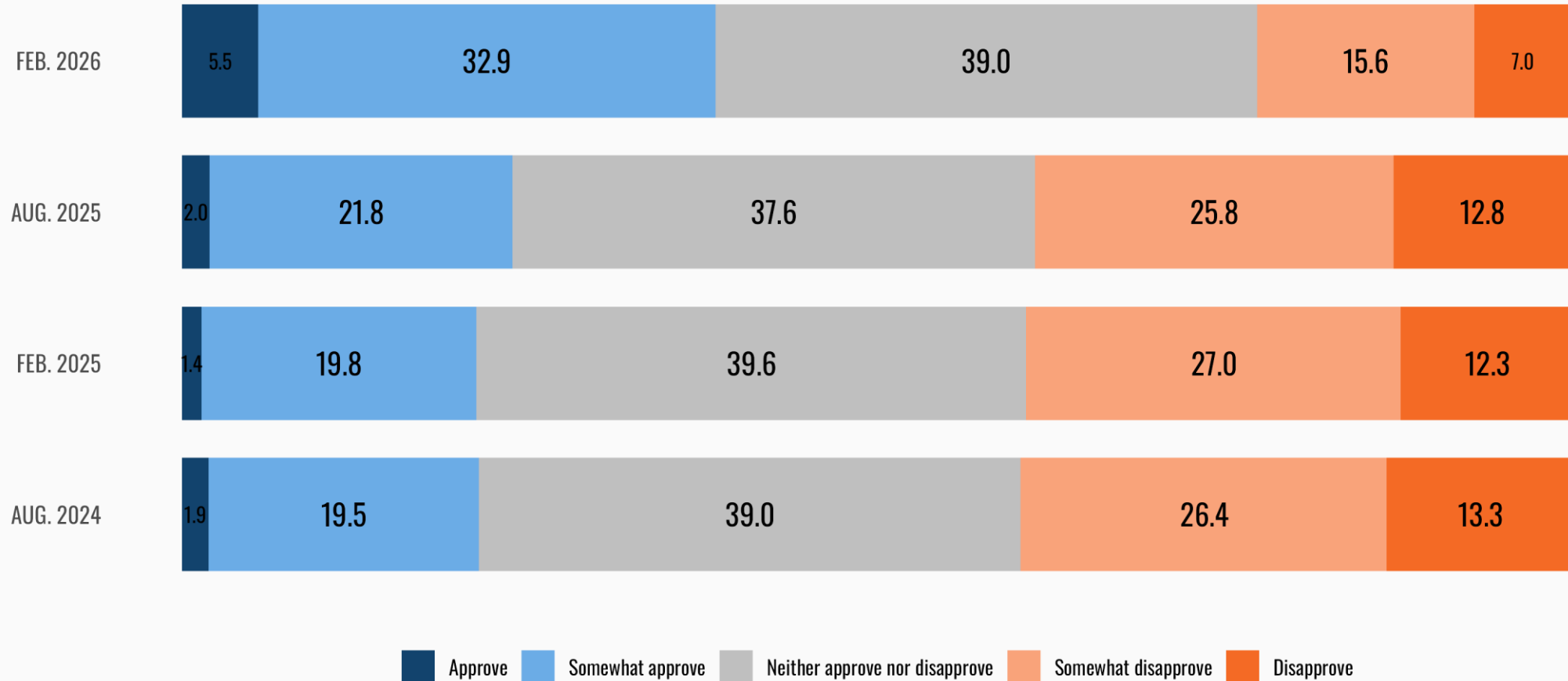
U.S. NUCLEAR WEAPONS MAKE JAPAN MORE SECURE AND SAFE



Agree
  Somewhat agree
  Neither agree nor disagree
  Somewhat disagree
  Disagree

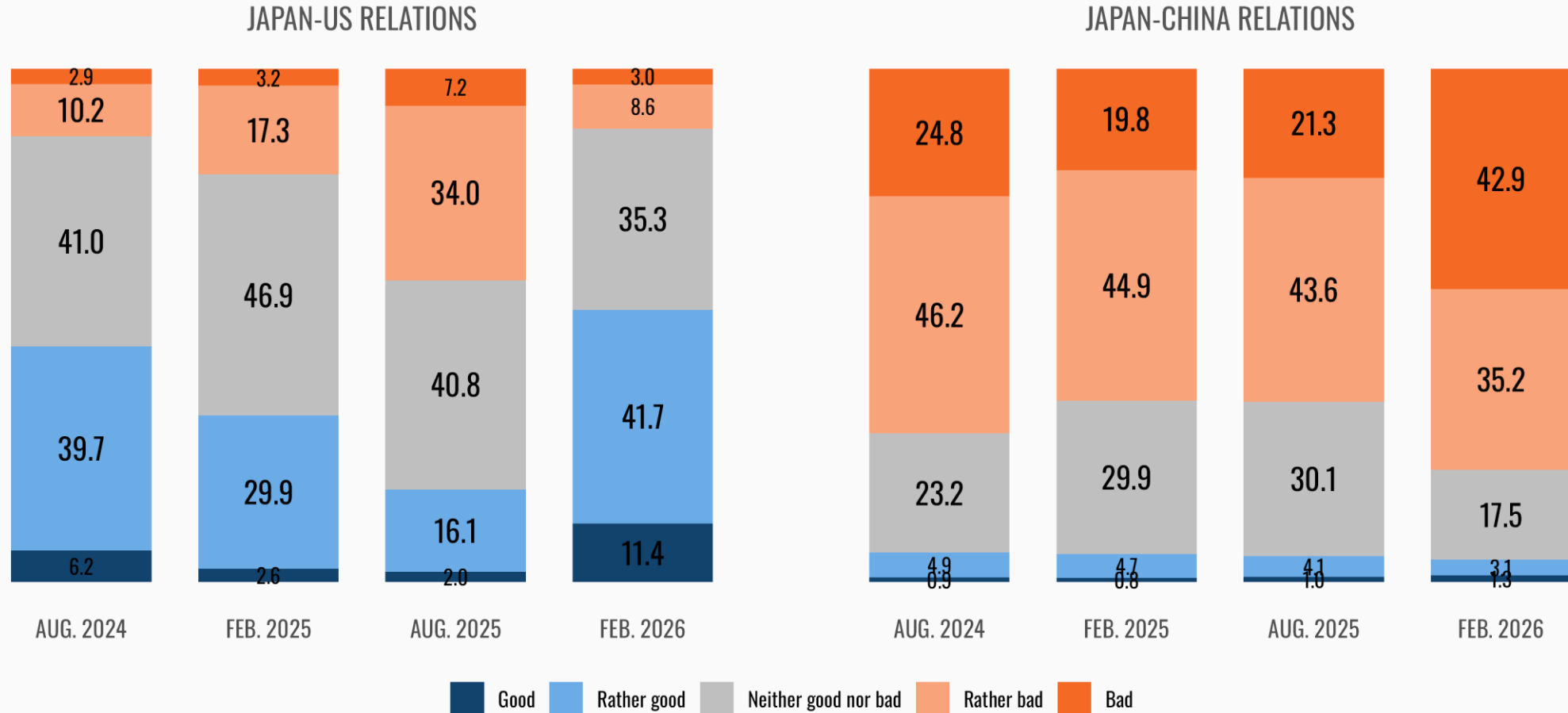
- Those who favor an increase in defense spending are twice as likely as those who are against it
- Those who believe Japan's security is protected by the U.S. "nuclear umbrella" have outweighed those who do not.

Do you approve or disapprove of how the current Japanese government handles foreign and security issues in general? (%) n = 2146



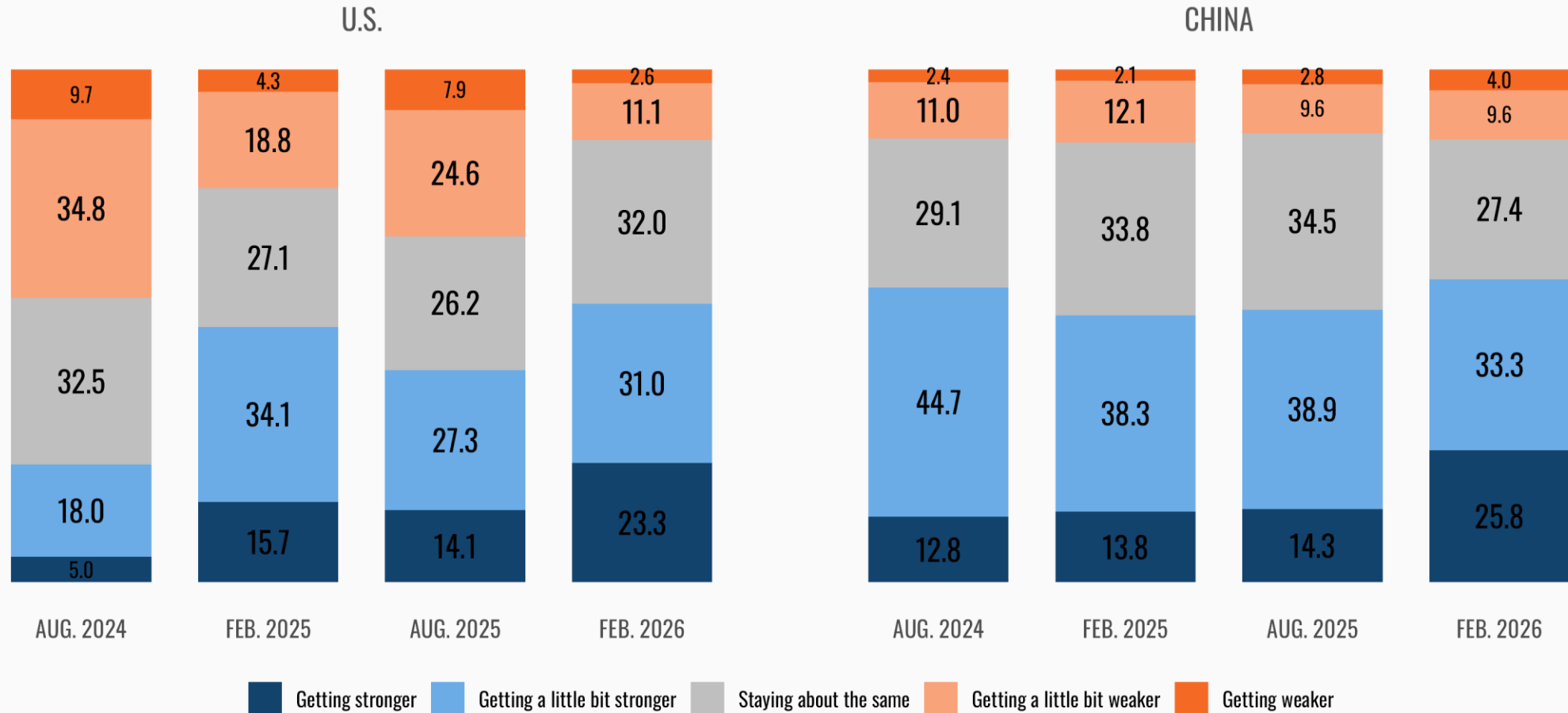
➤ There are more people who are in favor of the current administration's handling of foreign policy and security issues.

Do you think the current Japan-U.S. and Japan-China relations are good or bad? (%) n = 2146



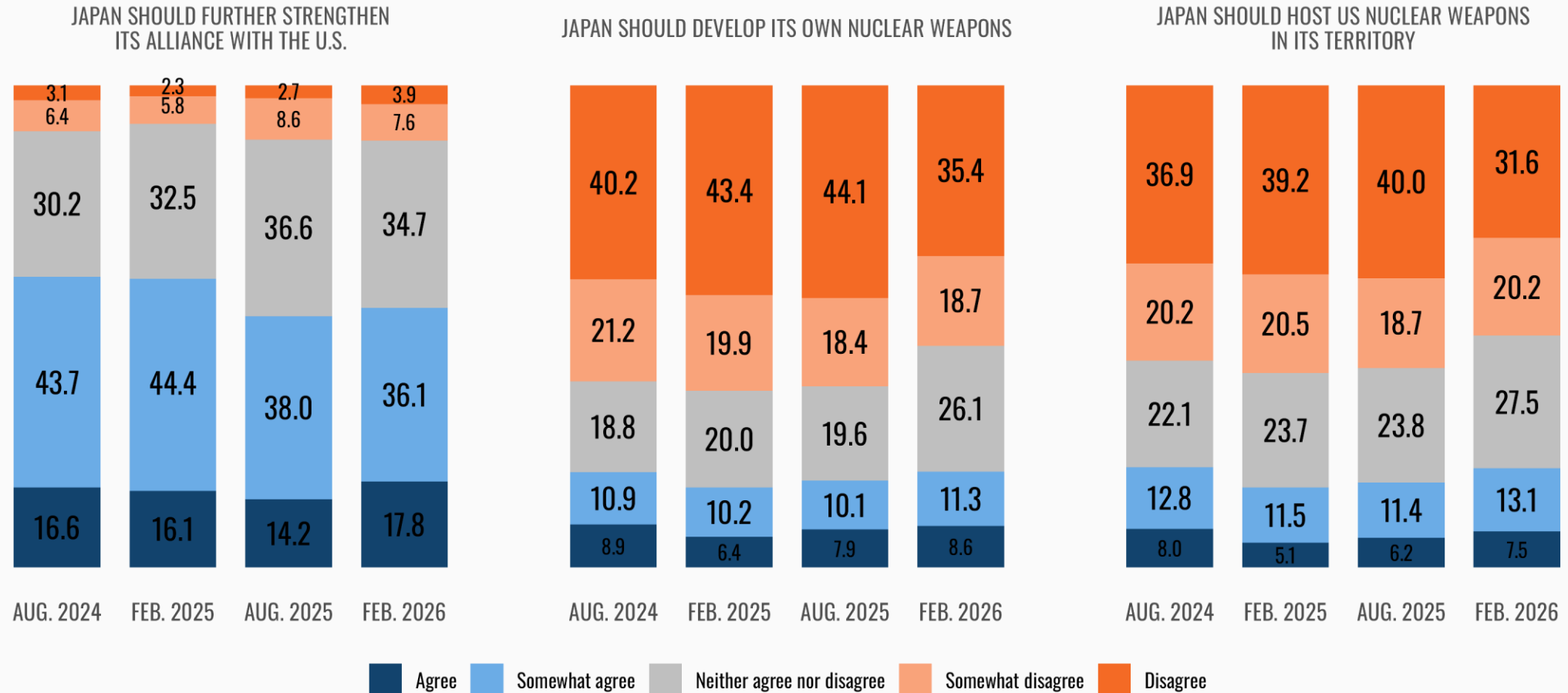
- The percentage of respondents who view Japan-U.S. relations as favorable has raised over 50%.
- The majority view Japan-China relations as bad.

Do you think the U.S./China influence in the world is currently getting stronger or weaker? (%) n = 2146



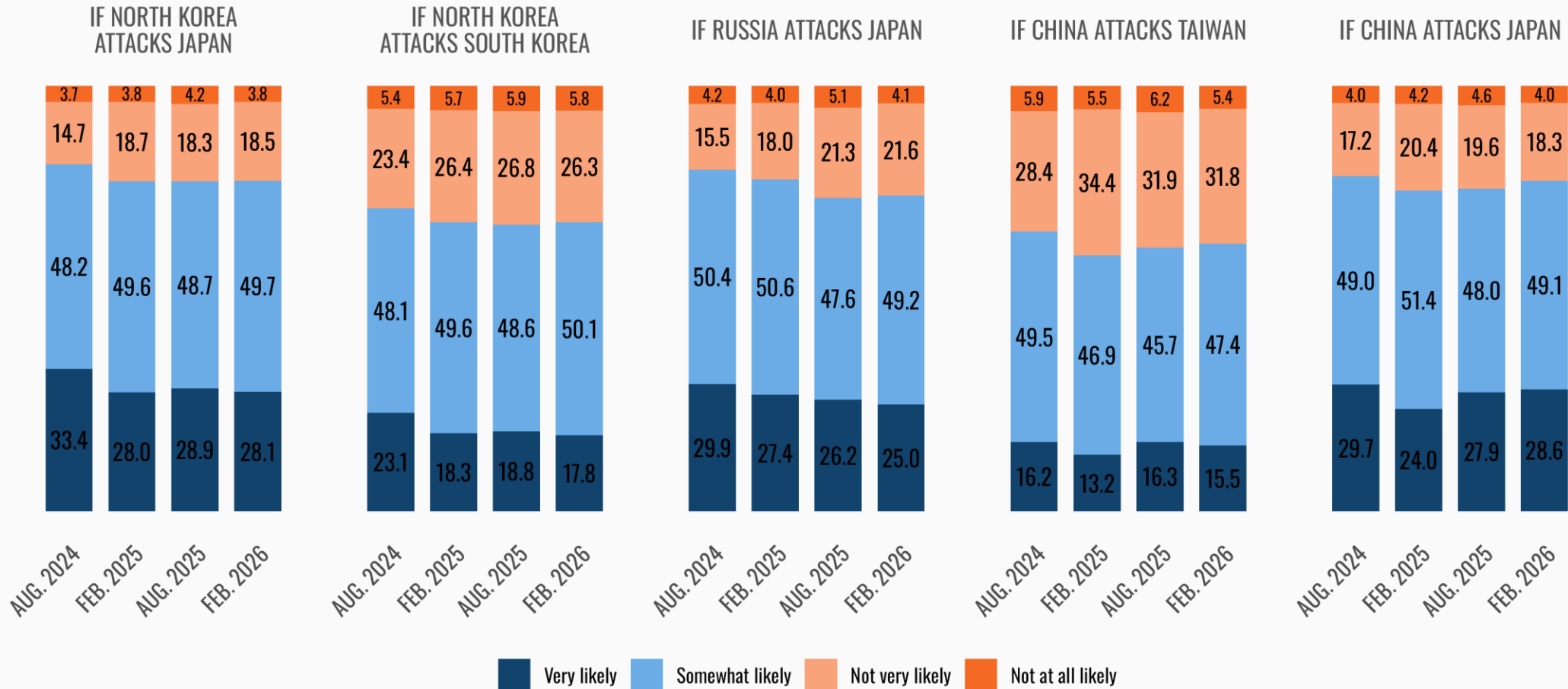
➤ The percentage of respondents who say that U.S. influence is growing stronger has increased since the last survey.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? (%) n = 2146



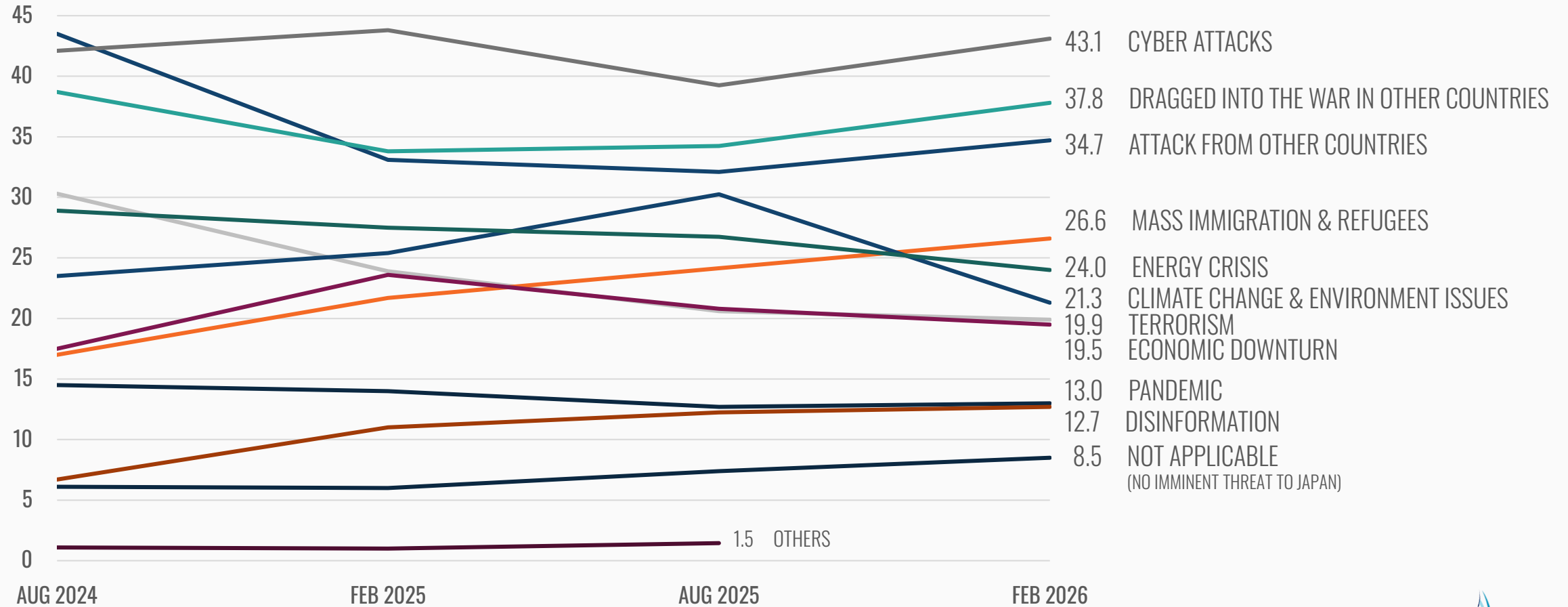
- More than 50 percent of respondents expressed reluctance or opposition to Japan developing its own nuclear weapons and to the deployment of U.S. nuclear weapons within Japan.

How likely do you think the U.S. would militarily intervene if the following circumstances happened? (%) n = 2146



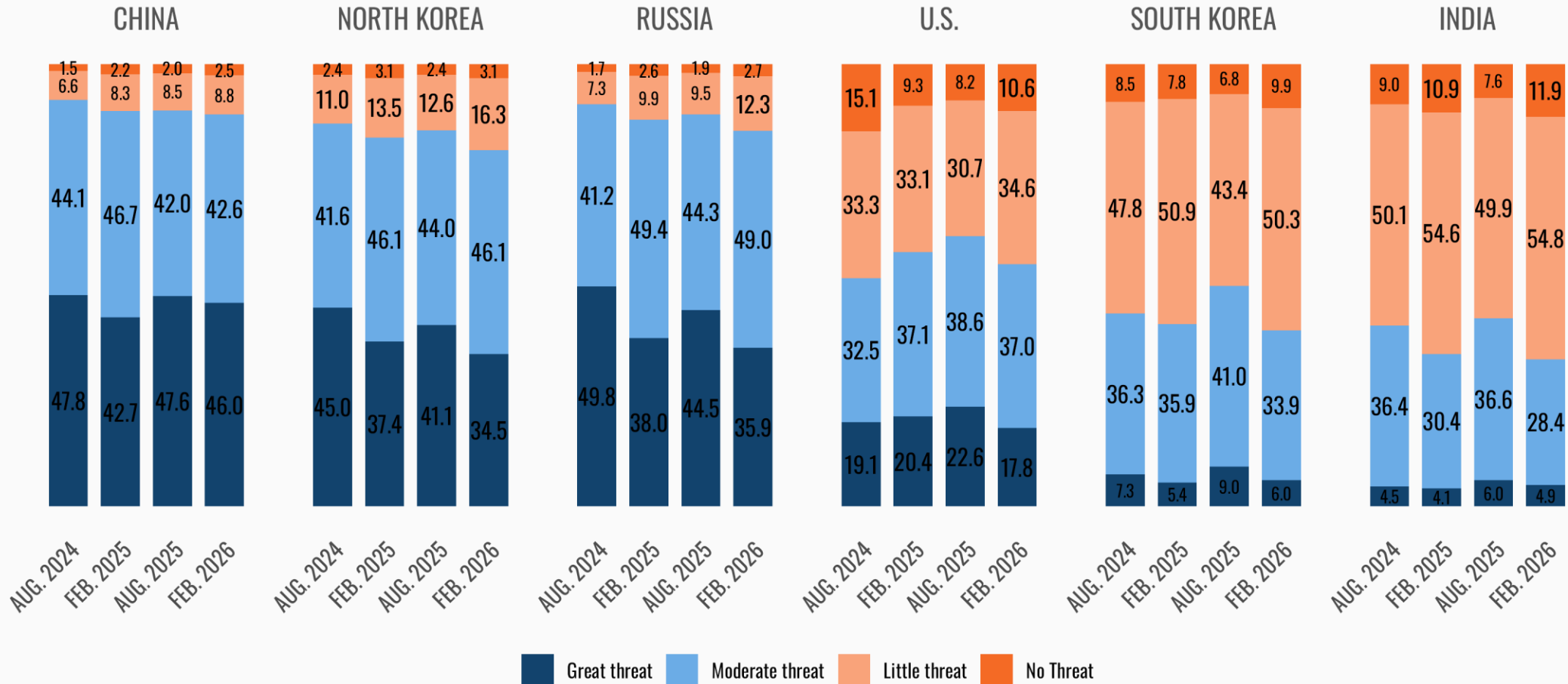
- The majority of respondents believe that the U.S. is likely to intervene militarily when North Korea, Russia, or China attacks Japan.

Please select three of the following options that you believe are imminent threats to Japan's security. (up to 3) (%) n = 2146



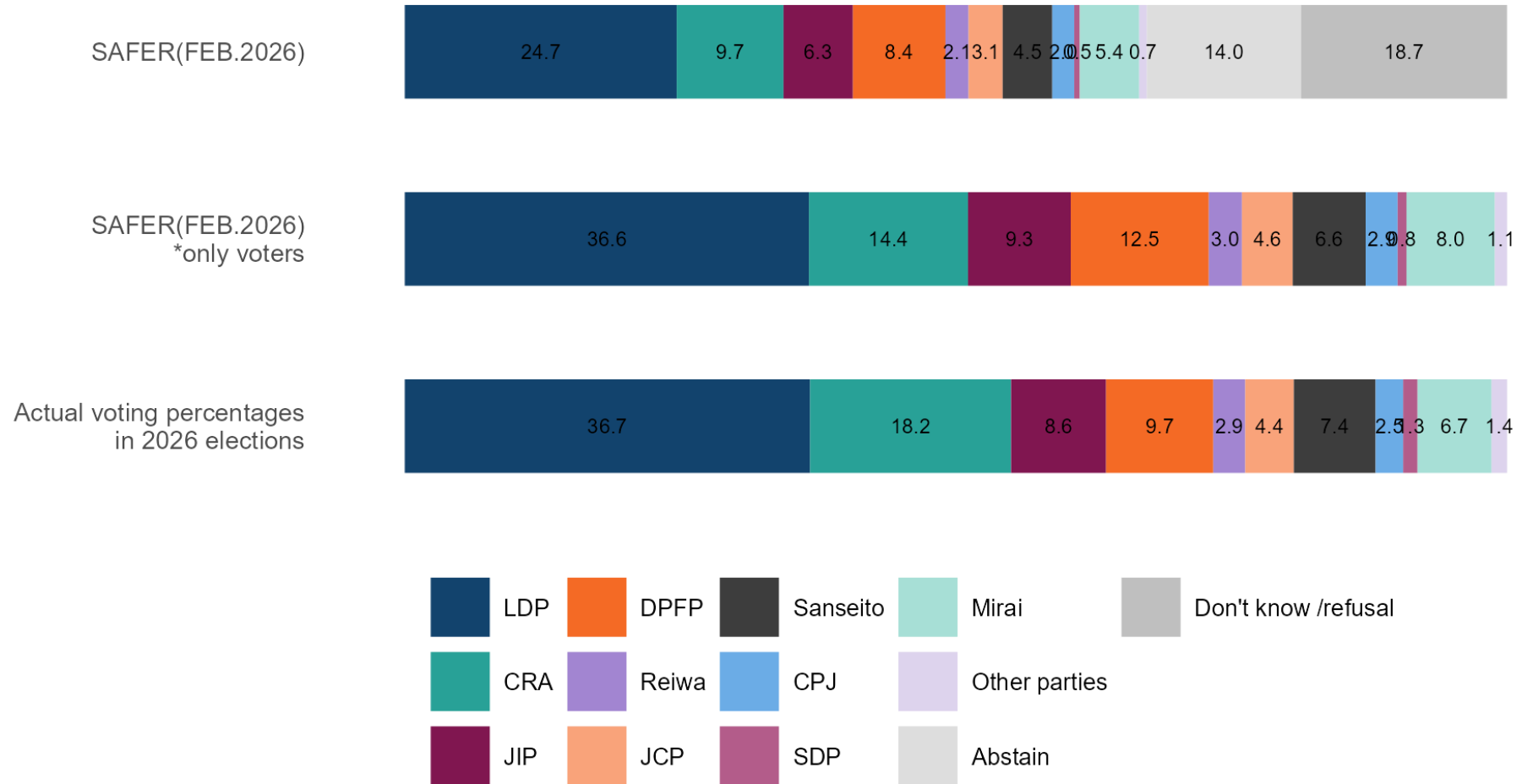
- The top three imminent threats to Japan's security remain unchanged.
- An increasing number of respondents view mass immigration and refugees as imminent threats.

To what extent do you think each of the following countries is a threat to Japan's security? (%) n = 2146



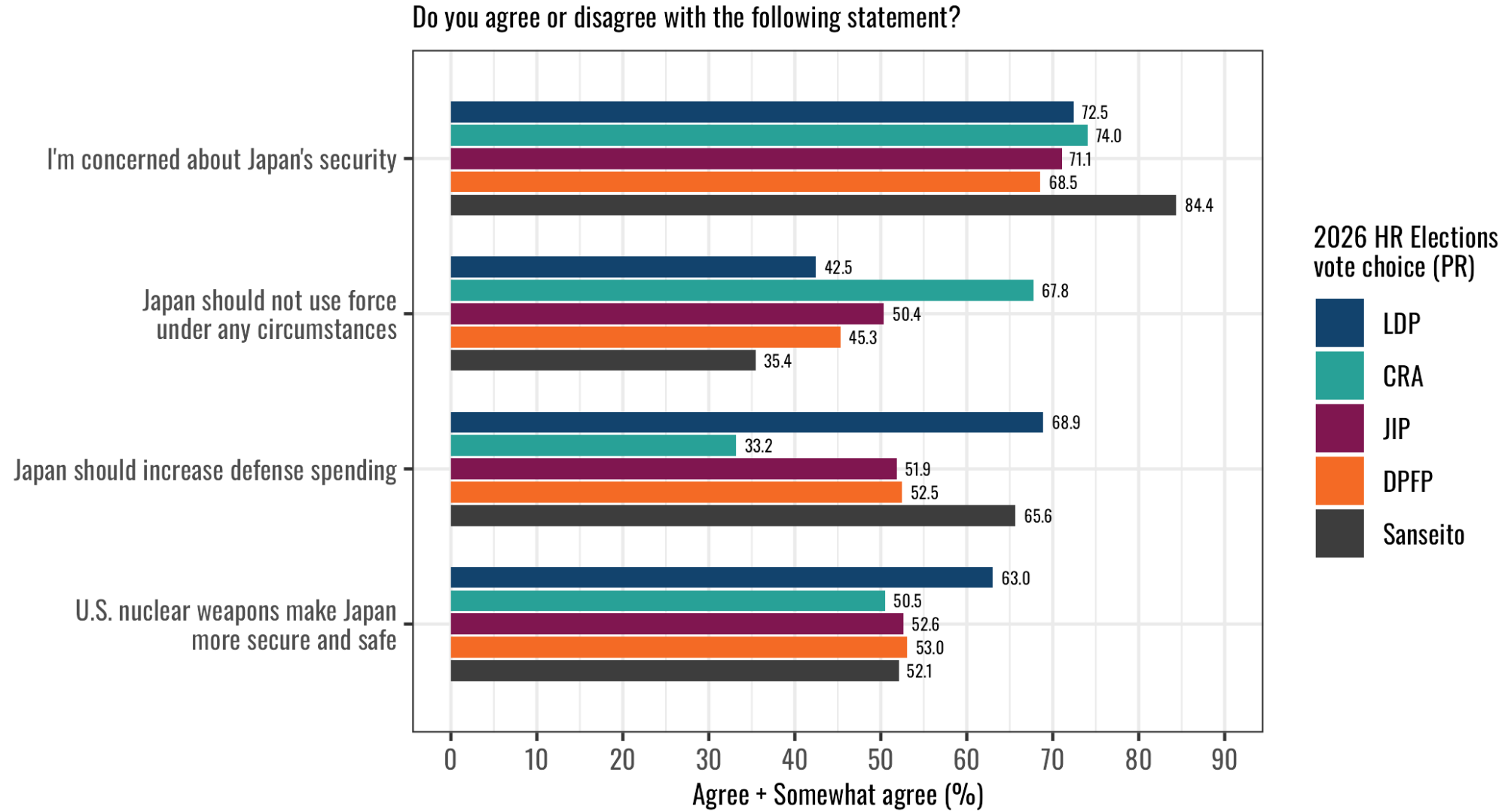
- A substantial number of respondents perceive China, Russia, and North Korea as threats to Japan's security. Furthermore, approximately half of the respondents view the U.S. as a threat.

# Appendix: Distribution of voting-party in the 2026 House of Representatives (HR) election (\* Proportional Representation (PR) district)



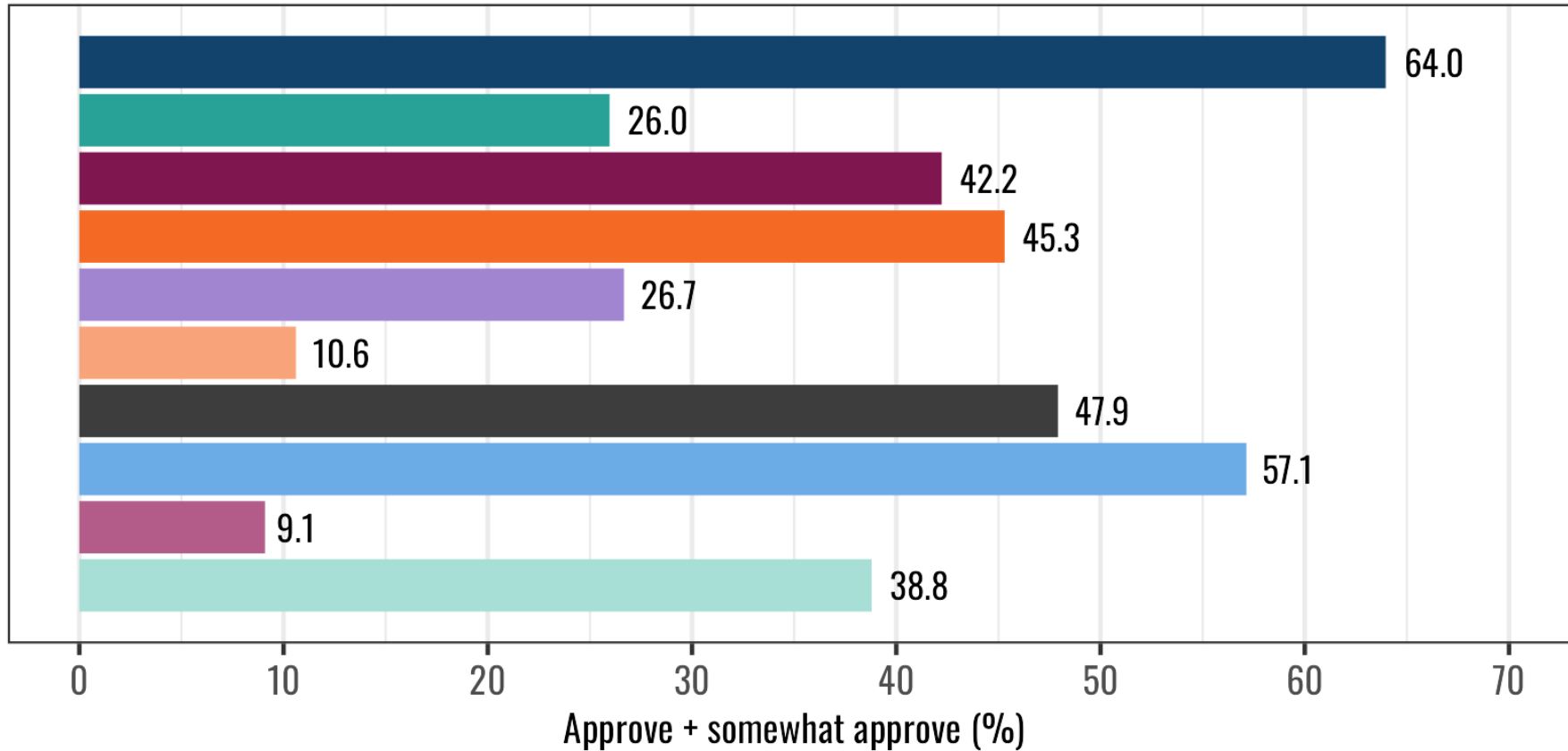
Note: LDP, Liberal Democratic Party; CRA, Centrist Reform Alliance; DPFP, Democratic Party for the People; JIP, Japan Innovation Party; JCP, Japan Communist Party; CPJ, Conservative Party of Japan; SDP, Social Democratic Party

# Appendix: Distribution of opinions by voting party in the 2026 HR election (in PR district)



Note: answer choice includes 'Neither'

Do you approve or disapprove of how the current Japanese government handles foreign and security issues in general?

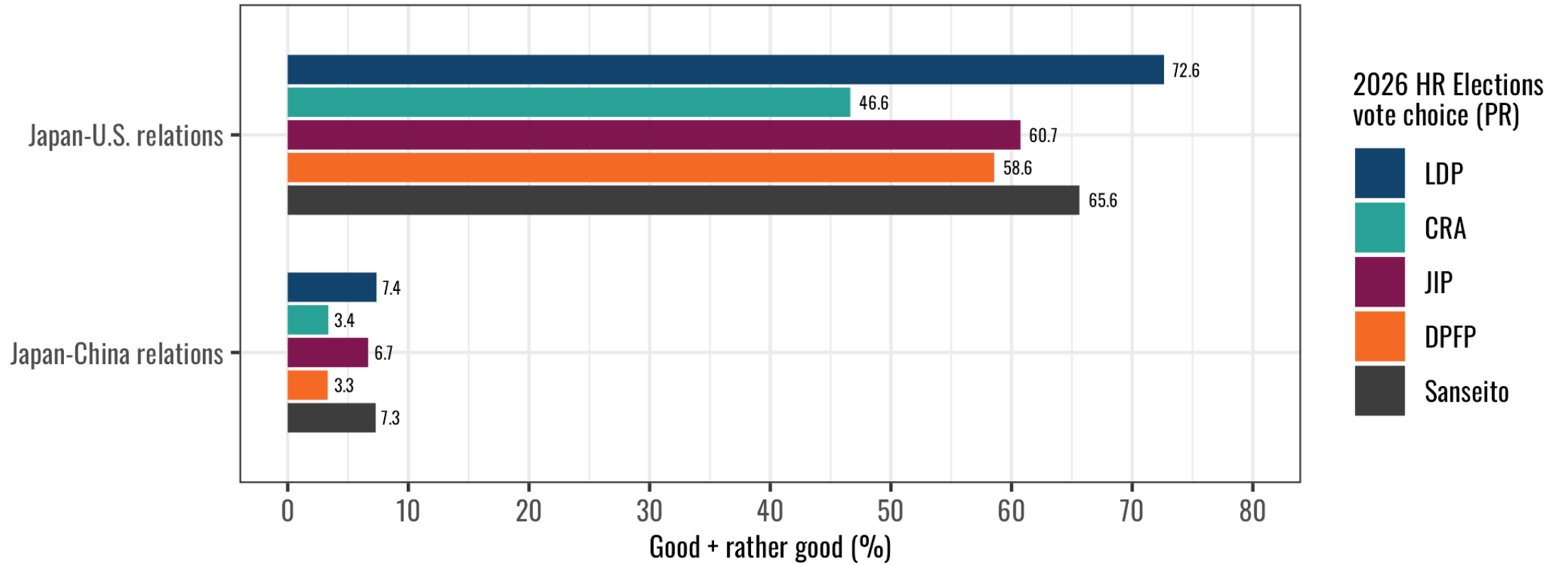


2026 HR Elections  
vote choice (PR)



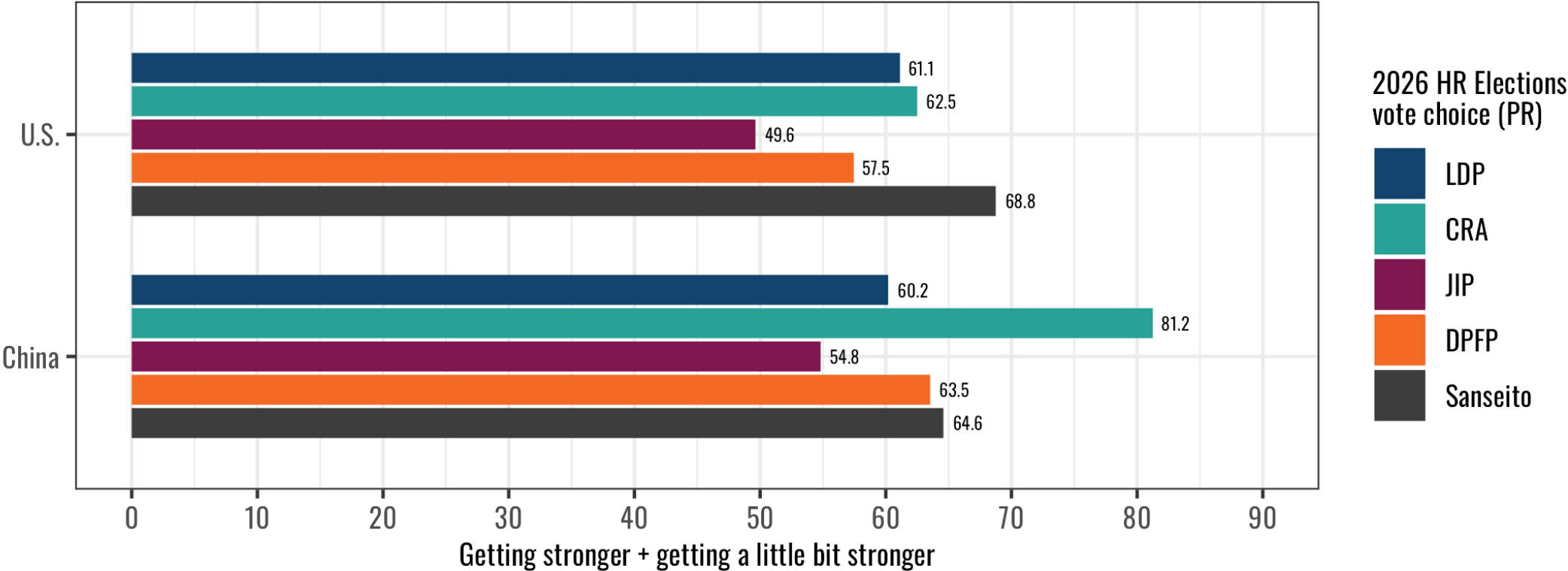
Note: answer choice includes 'Neither'

Do you think the current Japan-U.S. and Japan-China relations are good or bad?



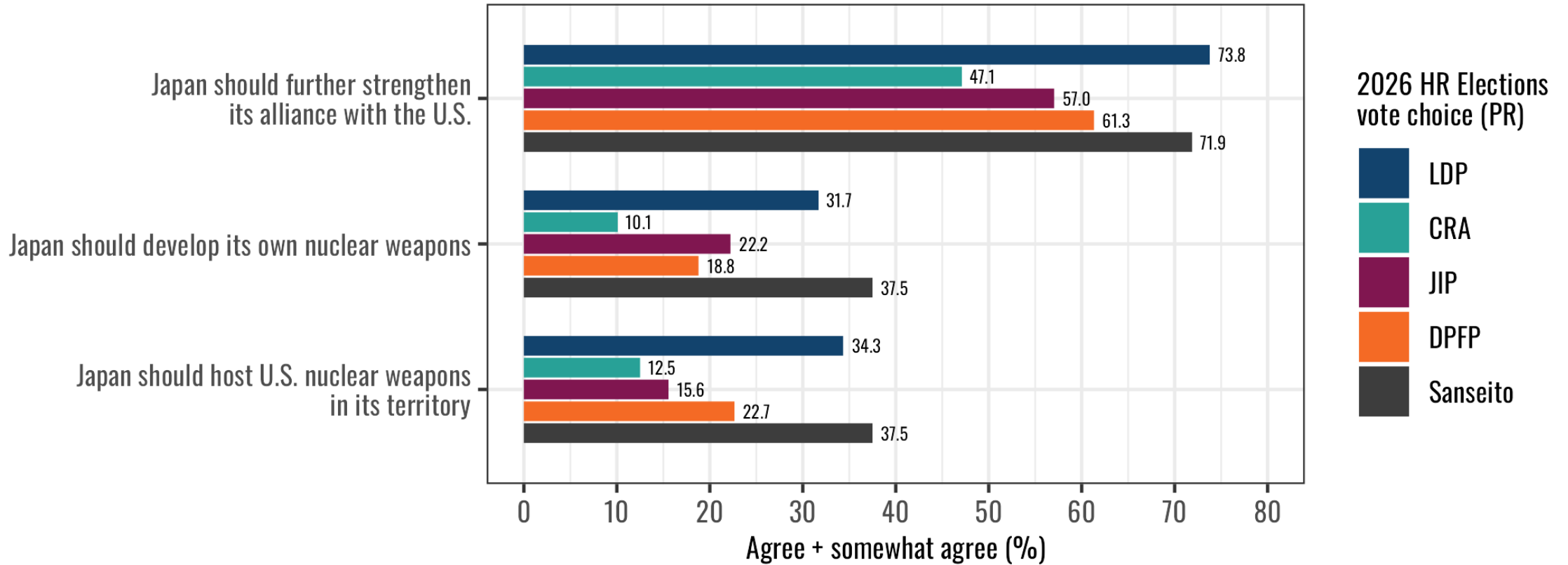
Note: answer choice includes 'Neither'

Do you think the U.S./China influence in the world is currently getting stronger or weaker?



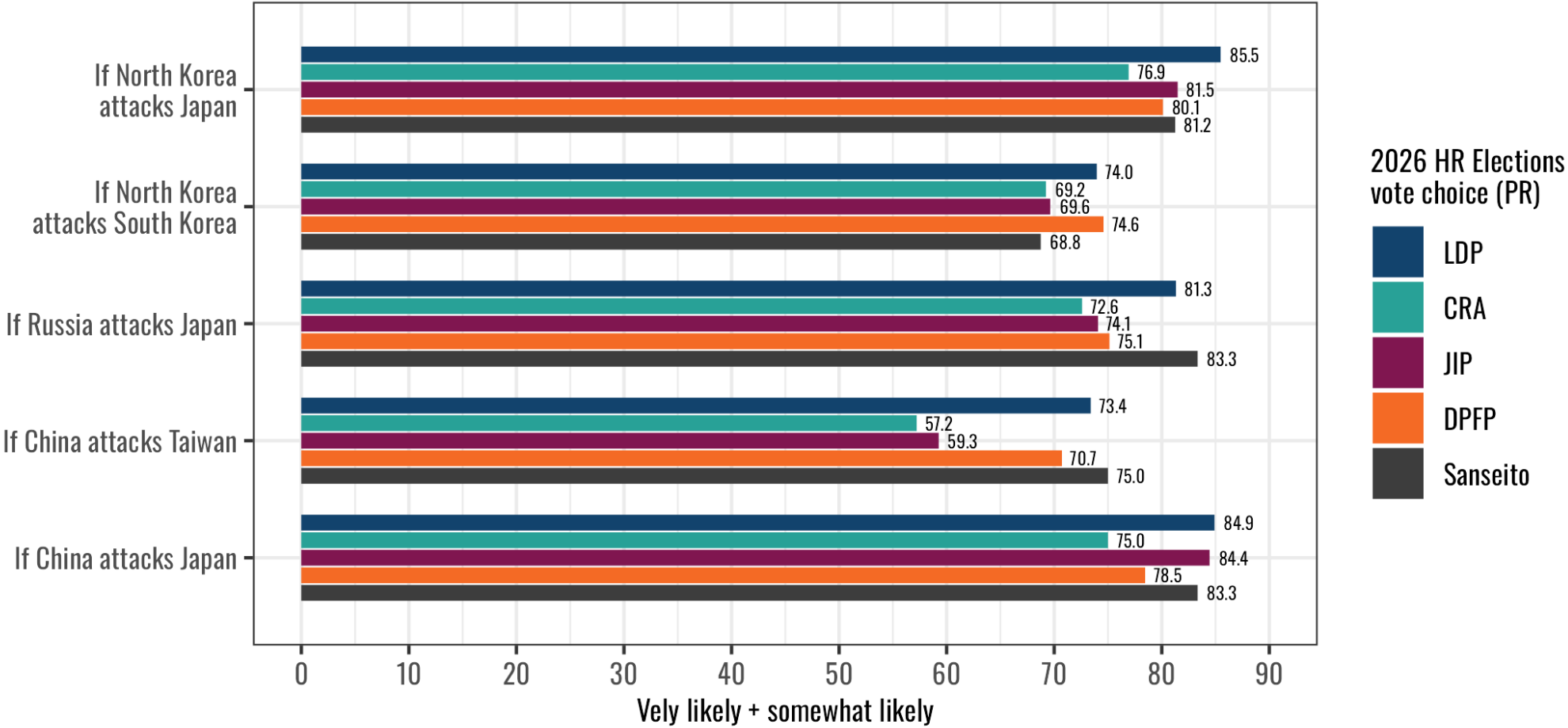
Note: answer choice includes 'Staying about the same'

### Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

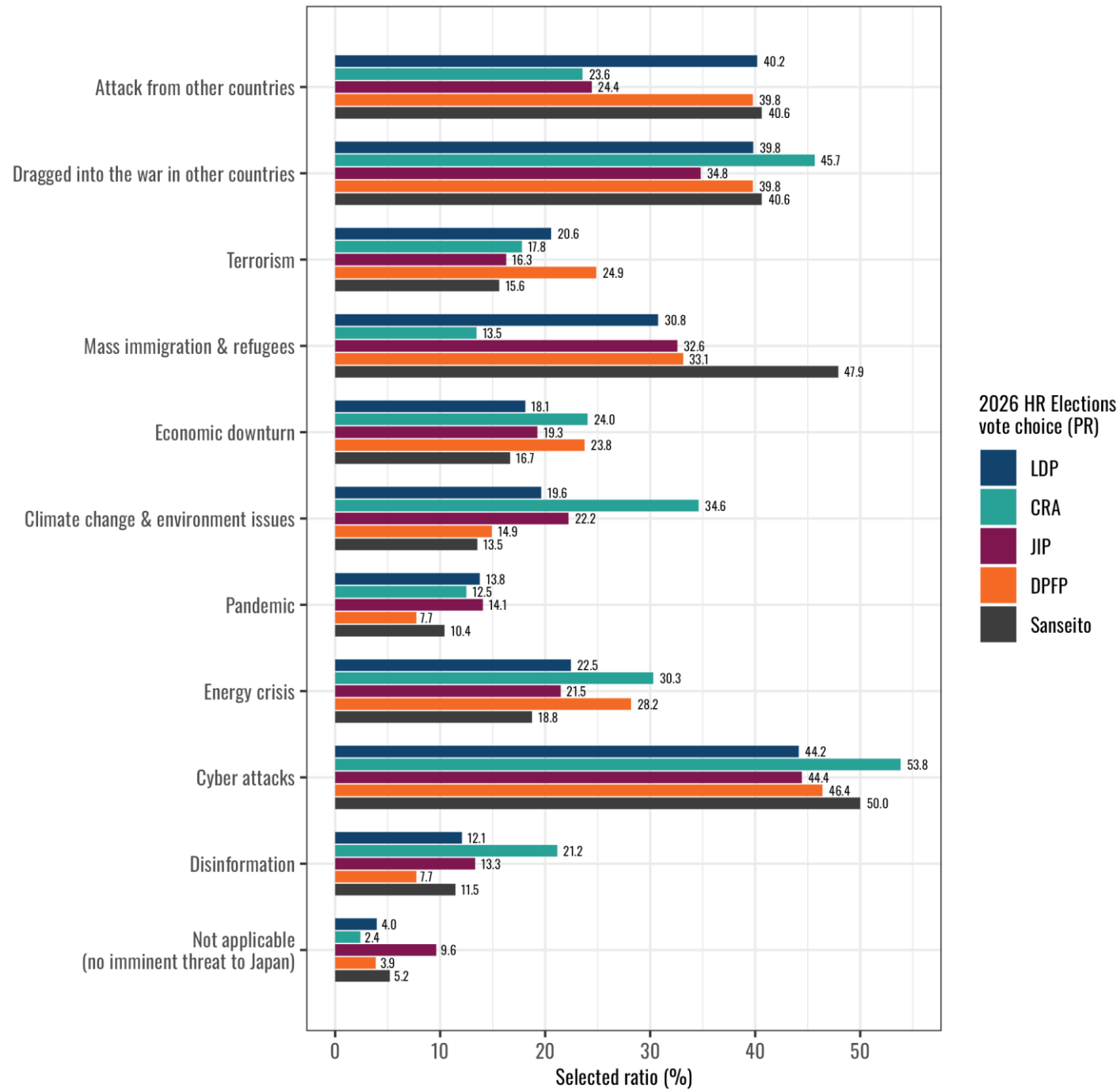


Note: answer choice includes 'Neither'

How likely do you think the U.S. would militarily intervene if the following circumstances happened?



Please select three of the following options that you believe are imminent threats to Japan's security. (up to 3)



To what extent do you think each of the following countries is a threat to Japan's security?

