



Attitudes Toward Jews In Ten European Countries



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Methodology

- **First International Resources was commissioned by the Anti-Defamation League to research attitudes and opinions toward Jews in ten European countries.**
- **Our research focused on the attitudes of the general public in Austria, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Spain and the United Kingdom.**
- **Data results for each individual country were weighted based on age and gender. Weights were assigned to each gender/age group (e.g. males 18-34, females 18-34, males 35-54, etc.) within each country, based upon the distribution of these groups according to the demographic information available from the European Statistical Agency.**
- **In addition to the individual country results, we have compiled overall statistics which take into account the findings from the ten countries surveyed as a whole. These figures are combined results from our surveys, with each country's findings being weighted equally as one-tenth of the whole.**
- **Fieldwork was done by Ipsos-Reid Public Affairs, which conducted a total of 5,000 telephone interviews -- 500 in each of the ten countries -- among the general public between January 2, 2012 – January 31, 2012.**
- **Interviews were conducted in the native language of each of the countries and were completed by Ipsos-Reid Public Affairs.**
- **The margin of error for this study ranges from +/- 4.43 to +/- 4.85 depending on the specific country. The level of confidence is at 95%.**

Anti-Semitism in Europe

As with previous surveys, data from this latest 2012 European tracking poll indicates that significant percentages of European respondents continue to believe in some of the most pernicious anti-Semitic stereotypes.

Respondents across the continent were asked whether or not they thought the following four statements were “probably true” or “probably false.”

- 1) Jews are more loyal to Israel than to this country.
- 2) Jews have too much power in the business world.
- 3) Jews have too much power in international financial markets.
- 4) Jews still talk too much about what happened to them in the Holocaust.

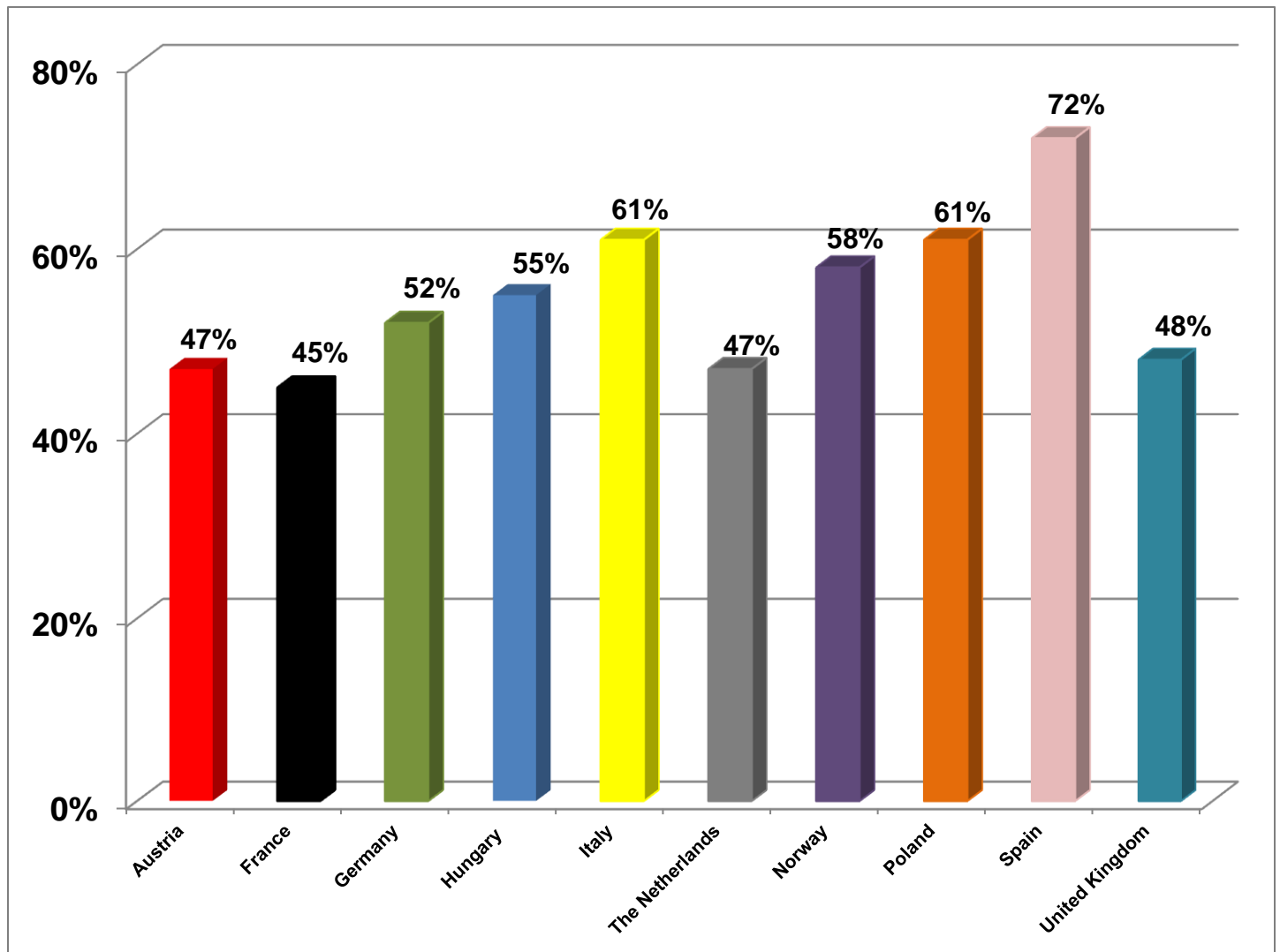
Respondents were also asked:

- ❖ Whether they agree or disagree with the statement that “Jews are responsible for the death of Christ.”

Finally, respondents were asked if their opinion of Jews was influenced by actions taken by the State of Israel and whether they believed the violence directed against European Jews was a result of anti-Jewish feelings or anti-Israel sentiment.

(1) Jews are more loyal to Israel than to this country.

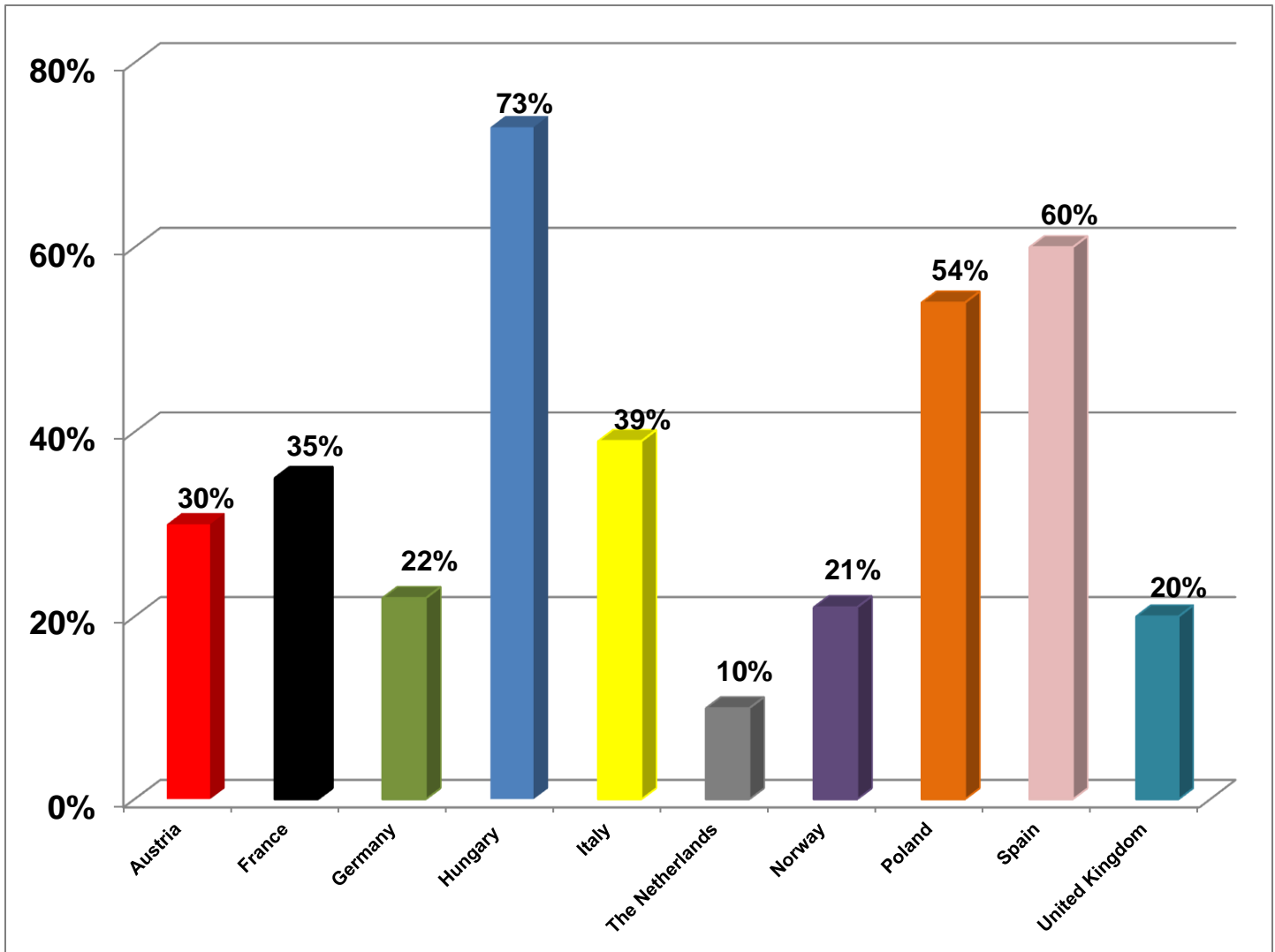
Percent responding “probably true”



- The data indicate that large percentages of Europeans continue to question the loyalty of their Jewish citizens.
- Overall, more than half of those surveyed in the ten countries, 55 percent, believe that Jews are more loyal to Israel than to their own country.
- Nearly three-quarters of Spanish respondents believe that this statement is “probably true.”

(2) Jews have too much power in the business world.

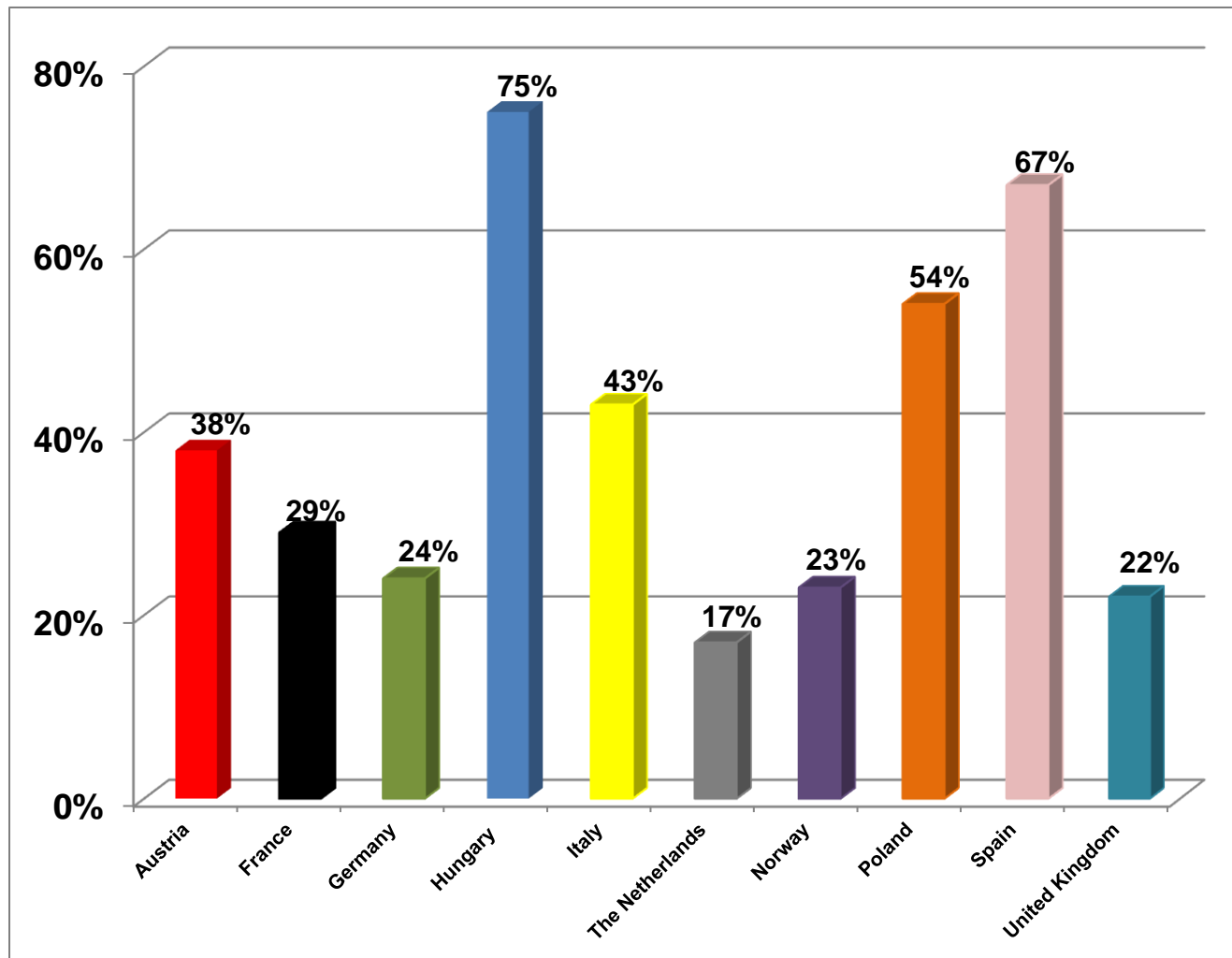
Percent responding “probably true”



- High levels of those surveyed across Europe continue to believe in the traditional anti-Jewish canard that “Jews have too much power in the business world.”
- Overall, 36 percent of all respondents believe this stereotype to be true.
- 73 percent of Hungarian respondents and a majority of those surveyed in Spain and Poland believe that “Jews have too much power in the business world.”

(3) Jews have too much power in international financial markets.

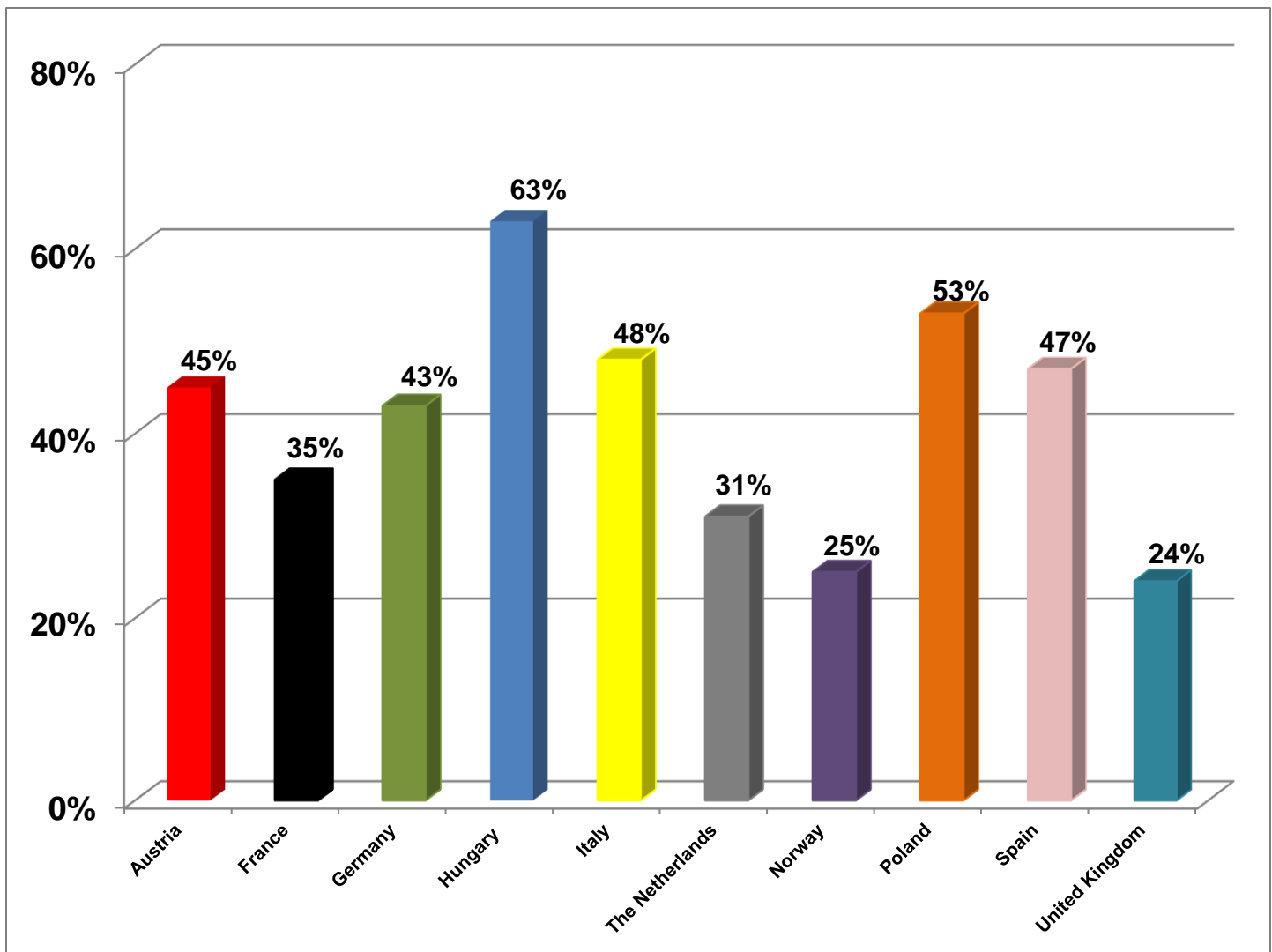
Percent responding “probably true”



- Similarly, respondents in the ten countries still adhere to the notion that “Jews have too much power in international financial markets.”
- Overall, 39 percent of those surveyed cling to the traditional stereotype that Jews exert too much influence over international financial markets.
- Three-quarters of those surveyed in Hungary and 67 percent of Spanish respondents believe the above statement to be “probably true.”

(4) Jews still talk too much about what happened to them in the Holocaust.

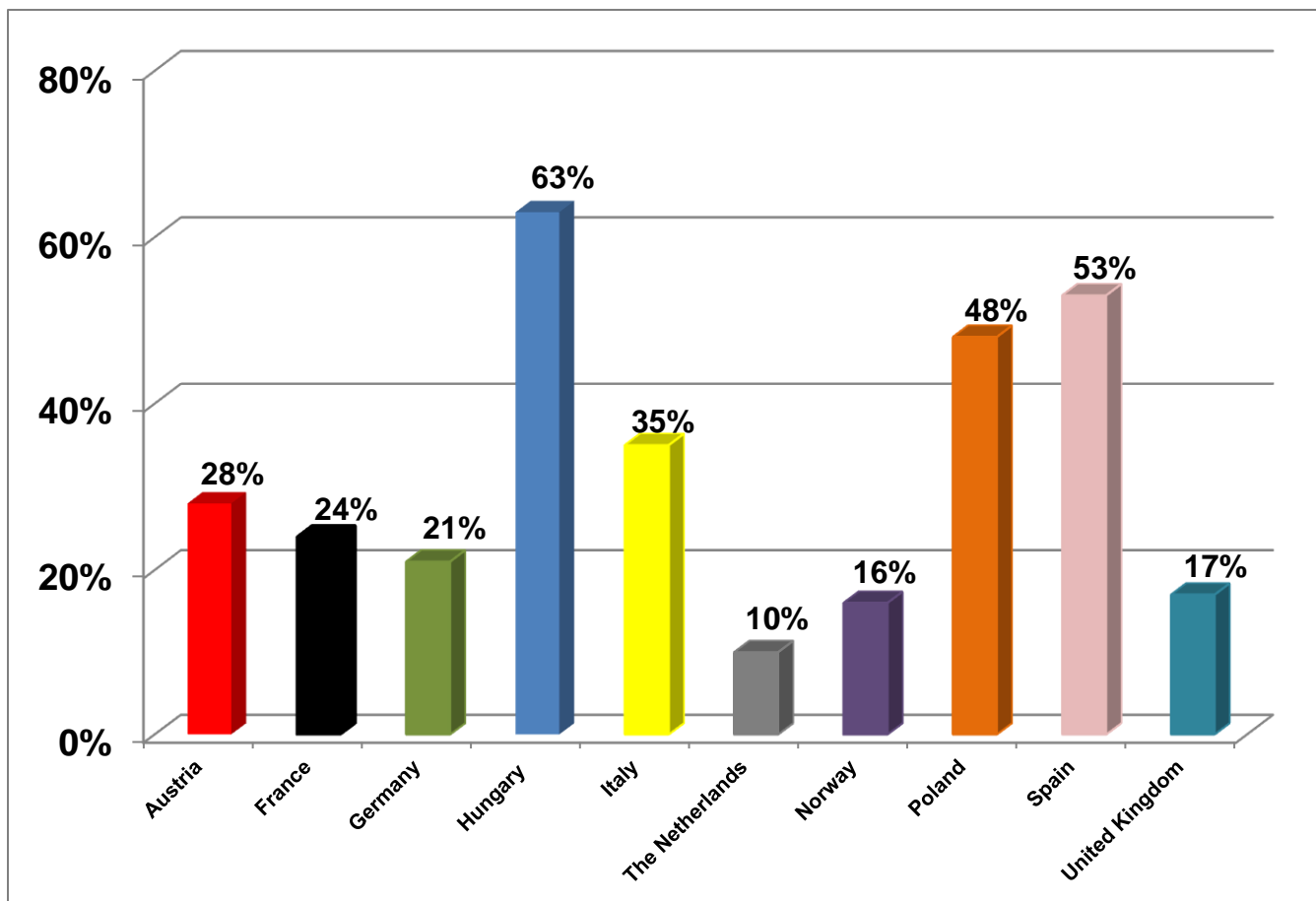
Percent responding “probably true”



- **Large percentages of respondents across Europe believe that Jews still talk too much about what happened to them in the Holocaust.**
- **Overall, 41 percent of those surveyed believe it is “probably true” that Jews still talk too much about the Holocaust.**

The following chart illustrates the percentage of those surveyed in each country who answered “probably true” to at least 3 of the following traditional anti-Semitic stereotypes:

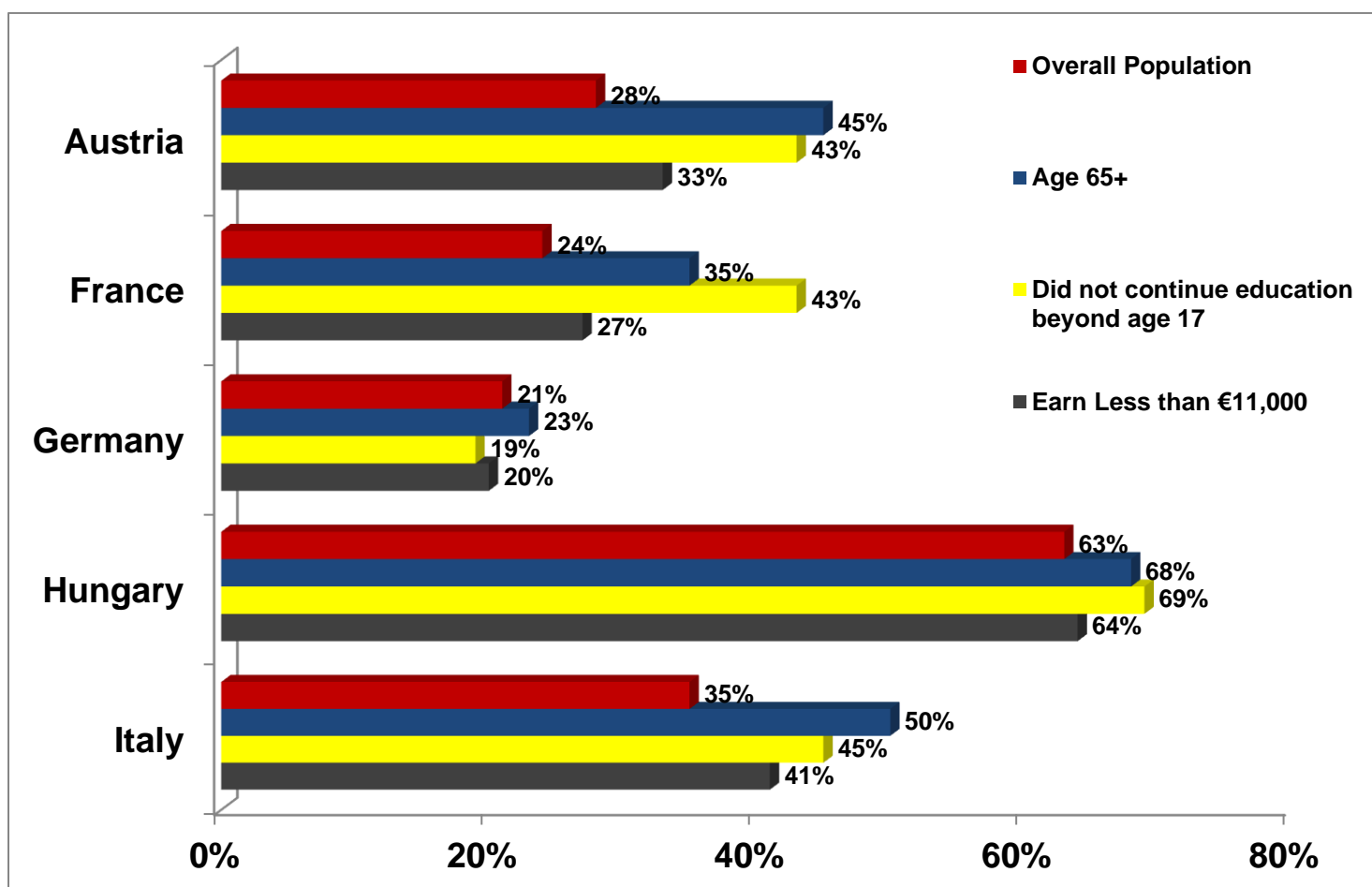
- 1) Jews are more loyal to Israel than to this country.
- 2) Jews have too much power in the business world.
- 3) Jews have too much power in international financial markets.
- 4) Jews still talk too much about what happened to them in the Holocaust



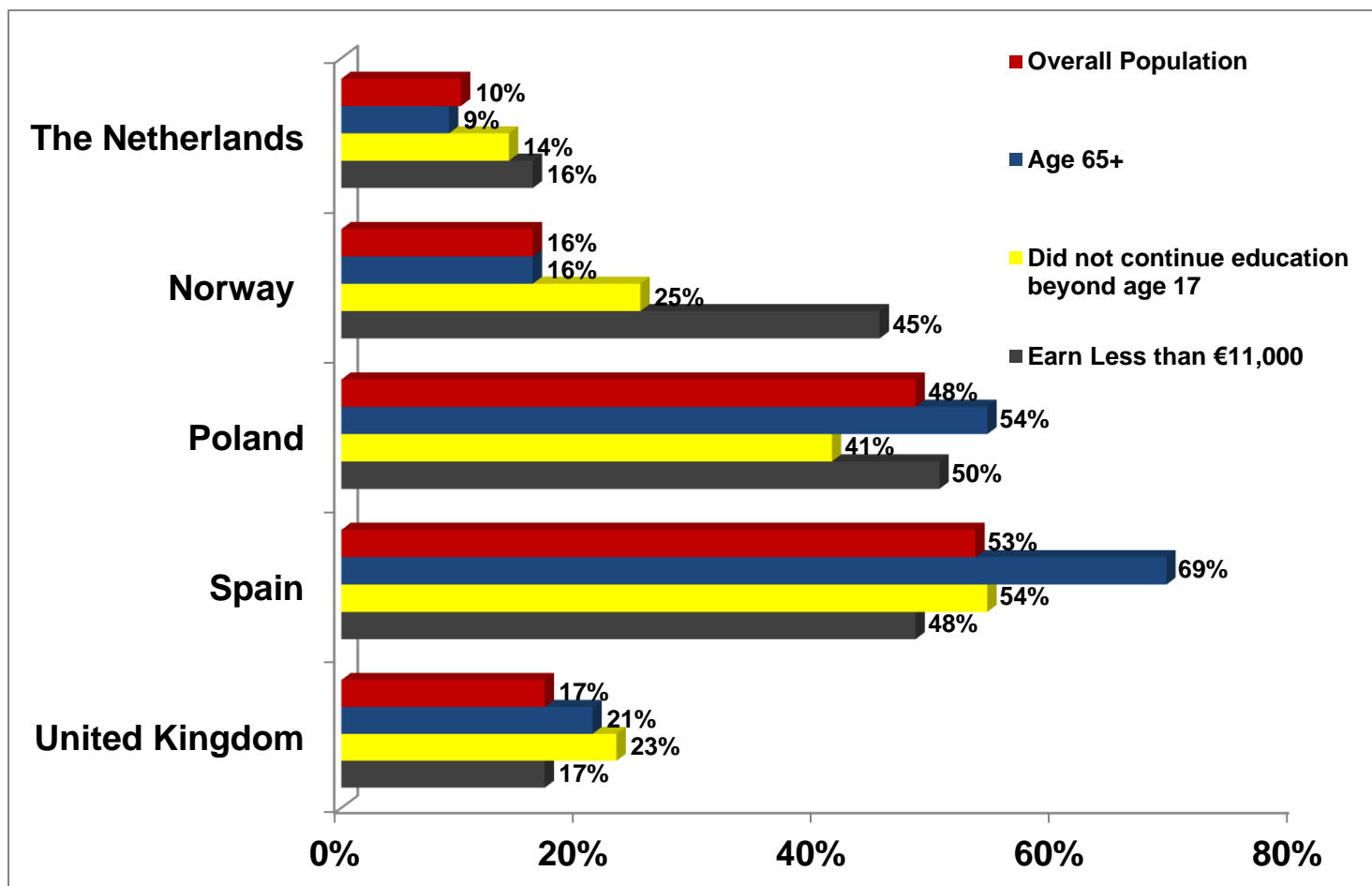
- Overall, nearly one-third of those surveyed, 31 percent, believe that at least three of the above statements are “probably true,” while 14 percent believe that all four are “probably true.”
- In fact, 31 percent of Hungarian respondents, 25 percent of Spanish respondents and 23 percent of Polish respondents believe that all four of the above statements are “probably true.”

- Moreover, the data indicate that age, education and income level are key factors in determining the likelihood of a respondent believing in the traditional anti-Semitic stereotypes tested.
- For the most part, those over the age of 65, those who did not continue their education beyond the age of 17 and those earning less than €11,000 per year are more likely than the rest of the population to agree with at least three of the four anti-Semitic characterizations presented in the survey.
- The following two tables illustrate this trend in the ten countries surveyed.

Percentage responding “probably true” to at least three of the four anti-Semitic stereotypes tested

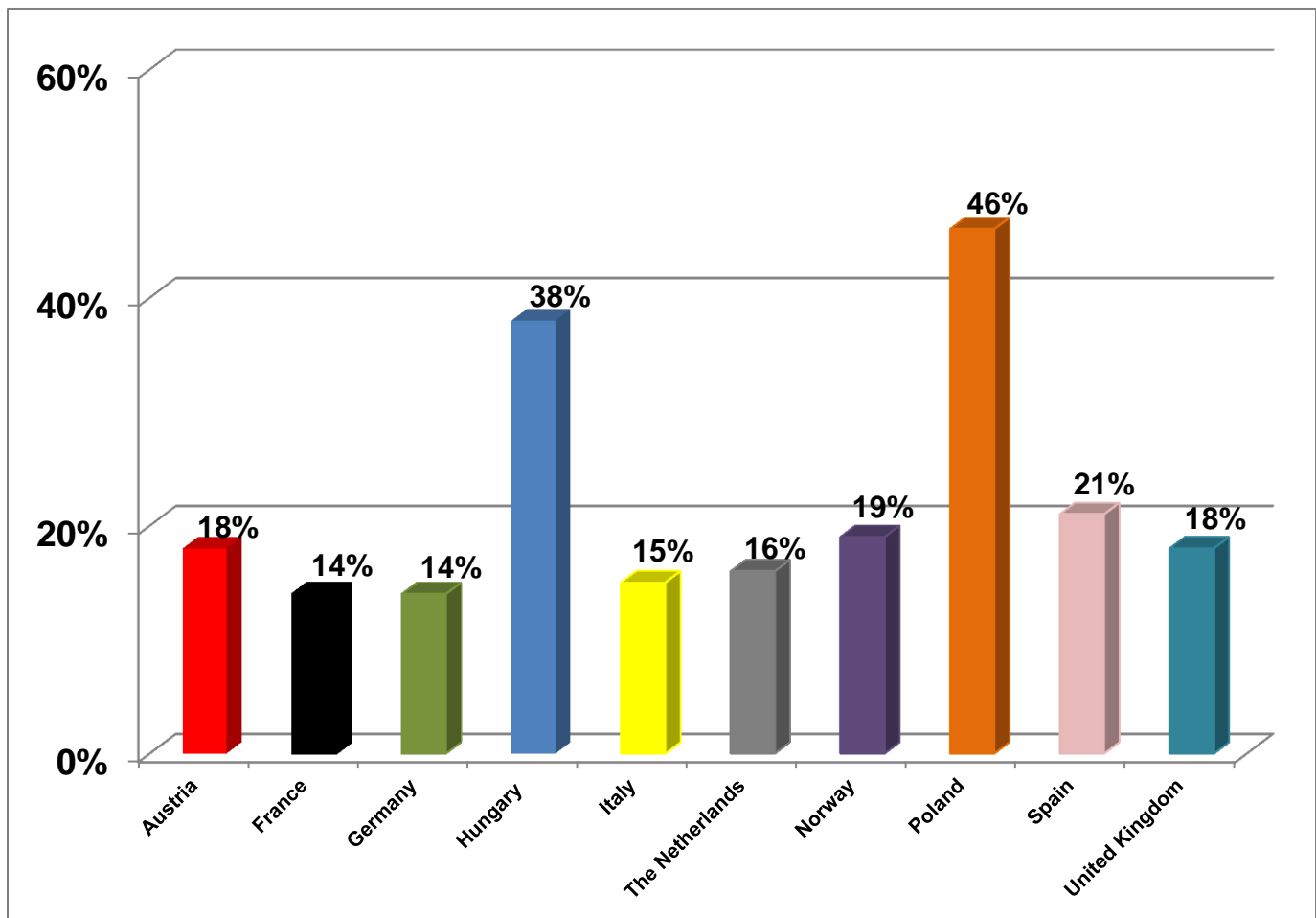


Percentage responding “probably true” to at least three of the four anti-Semitic stereotypes tested (cont’d)



(5) The Jews are responsible for the death of Christ.

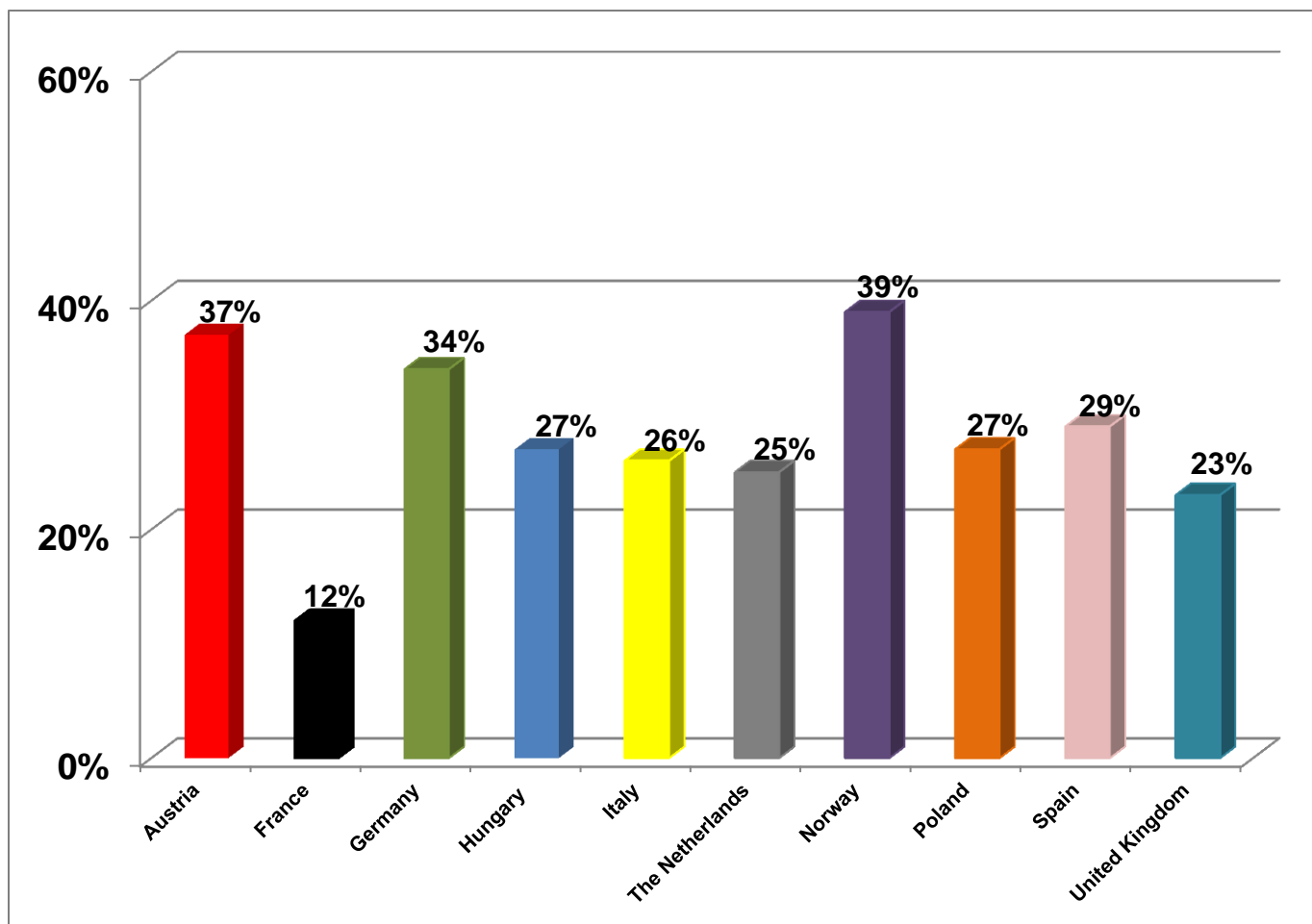
Percent responding “strongly agree” + “somewhat agree”



- Significant percentages of those surveyed across Europe continue to blame Jews for the death of Christ.
- Overall, 22 percent agree with the statement that “Jews are responsible for the death of Christ.”
- Nearly half of Polish respondents, 46 percent, agree with this statement -- the highest percentage among all of the countries surveyed.

(6a) Is your opinion of Jews influenced by actions taken by the State of Israel?

Percent responding “yes”

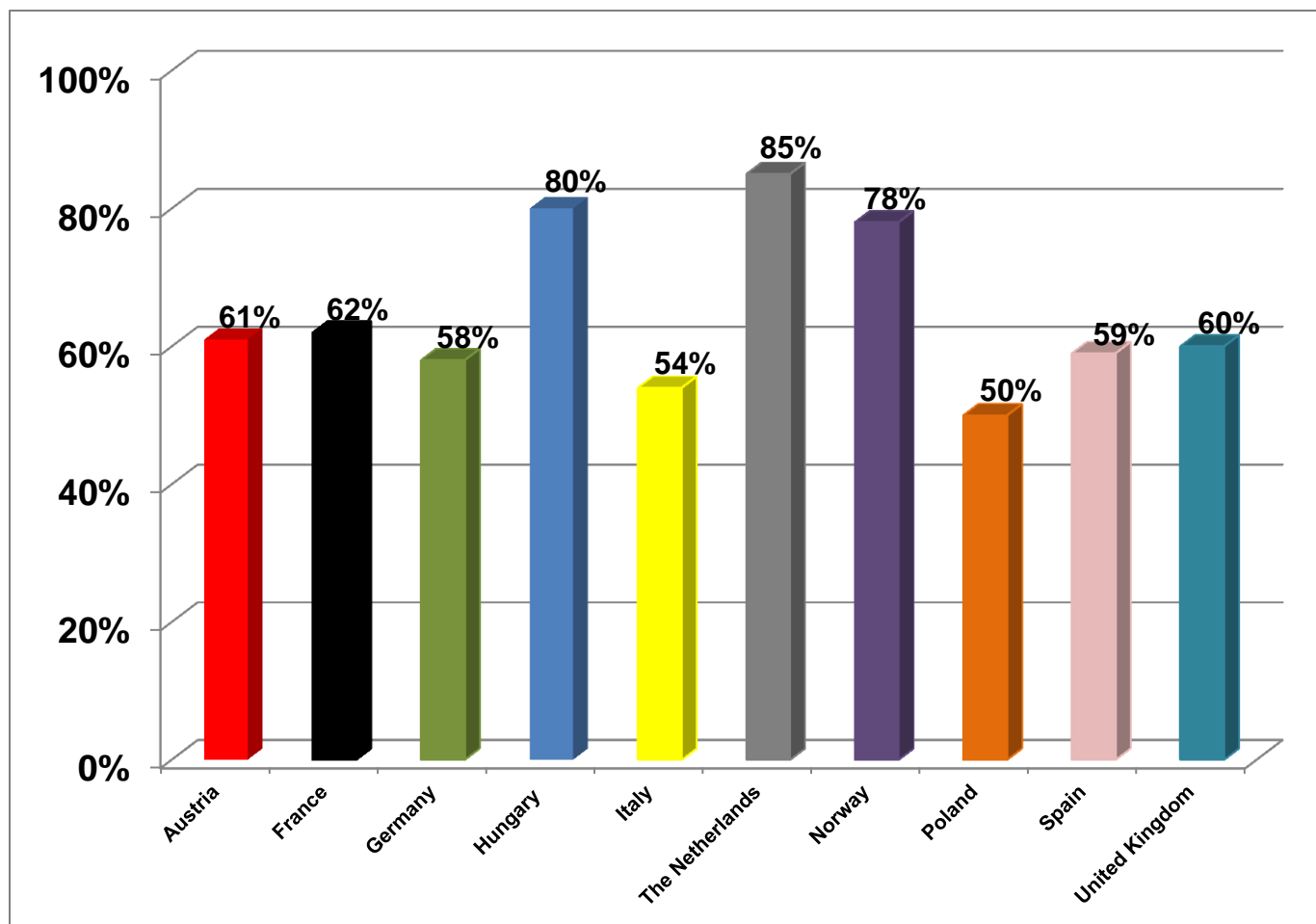


- Overall, 28 percent of those surveyed say that their opinion of Jews is influenced by the actions taken by the State of Israel.

Respondents who answered “yes” in the previous question were then asked the following question:

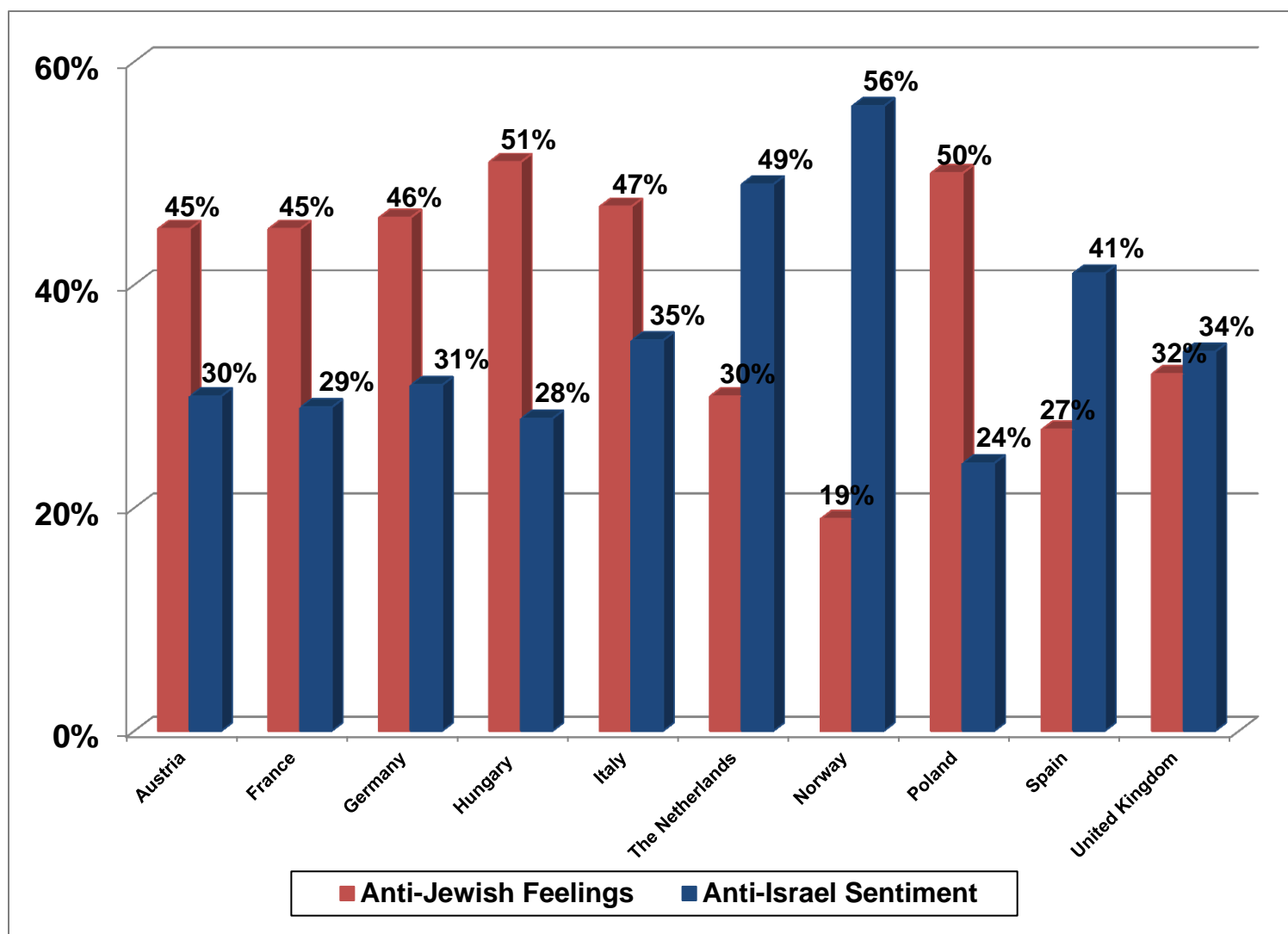
(6b) Is your opinion of Jews better or worse?

Percent responding “worse”



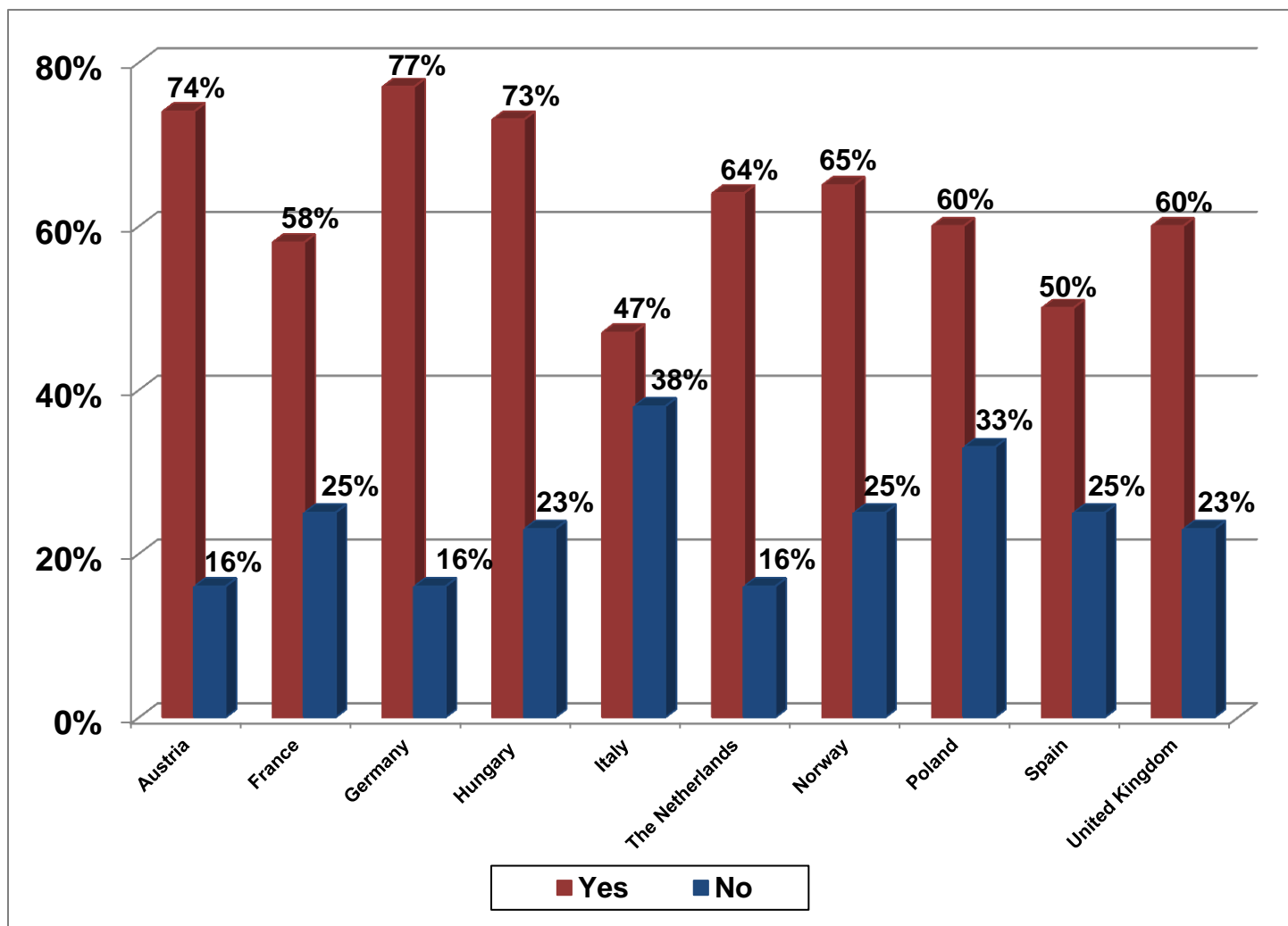
- Overall, of those respondents whose opinions are influenced, 65 percent say that their opinion of Jews is worse as a result of the actions taken by Israel.
- Respondents in the Netherlands (85 percent), Hungary (80 percent) and Norway (78 percent) are most likely to view Jews more negatively as a result of actions taken by the State of Israel.

(7) In your opinion, is the violence directed against Jews in (insert individual country name) a result of anti-Jewish feelings or a result of anti-Israel sentiment?



- Overall, 39 percent of those surveyed believe that the violence directed against Jews is a result of anti-Jewish feelings, while 36 percent believe it is a result of anti-Israel sentiment.
- Hungarian and Polish respondents are most likely to believe that anti-Jewish sentiment is the reason behind the violence directed against Jews in their two countries.
- Those surveyed in Norway and the Netherlands are most likely to cite anti-Israel sentiment as the main cause of violence against Jews.

8) Do you think your government is doing enough to ensure the safety and security of its Jewish citizens?



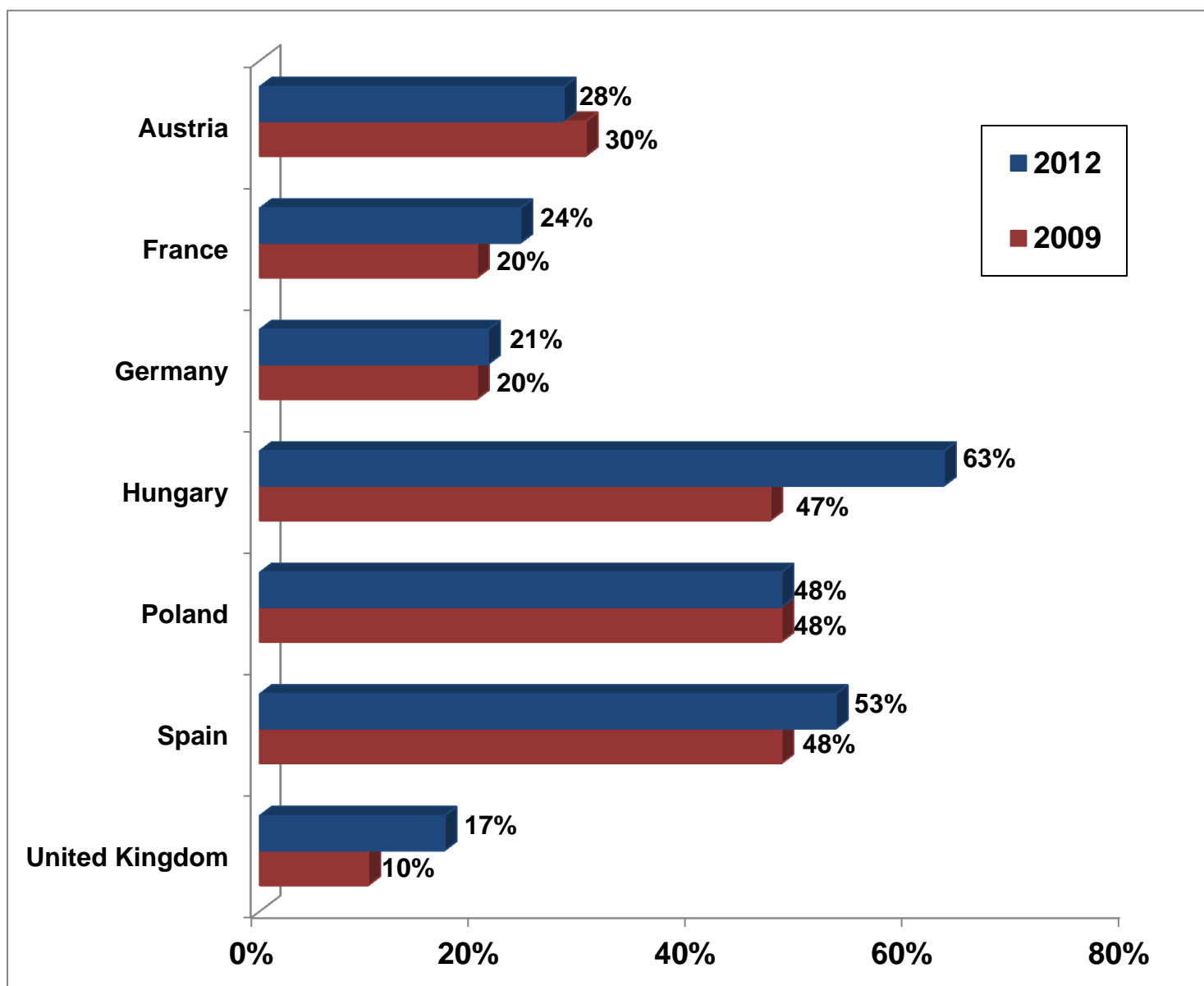
- Overall, 63 percent of respondents believe that their government is doing enough to ensure the safety and security of its Jewish citizens.
- German, Austrian and Hungarian respondents are most likely to think that their government is providing enough protection for its Jewish citizens.
- More than a third of Italian respondents, 38 percent, do not believe that their government is doing enough to ensure the safety of its Jewish citizenry.

Trends in Anti-Semitic Attitudes

In 2009, the Anti-Defamation League conducted similar surveys of attitudes toward Jews in seven of the ten countries surveyed in 2012. Those countries included Austria, France, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Spain and the United Kingdom. The following section compares results from the 2009 survey with results from the recently completed 2012 tracking survey where applicable.

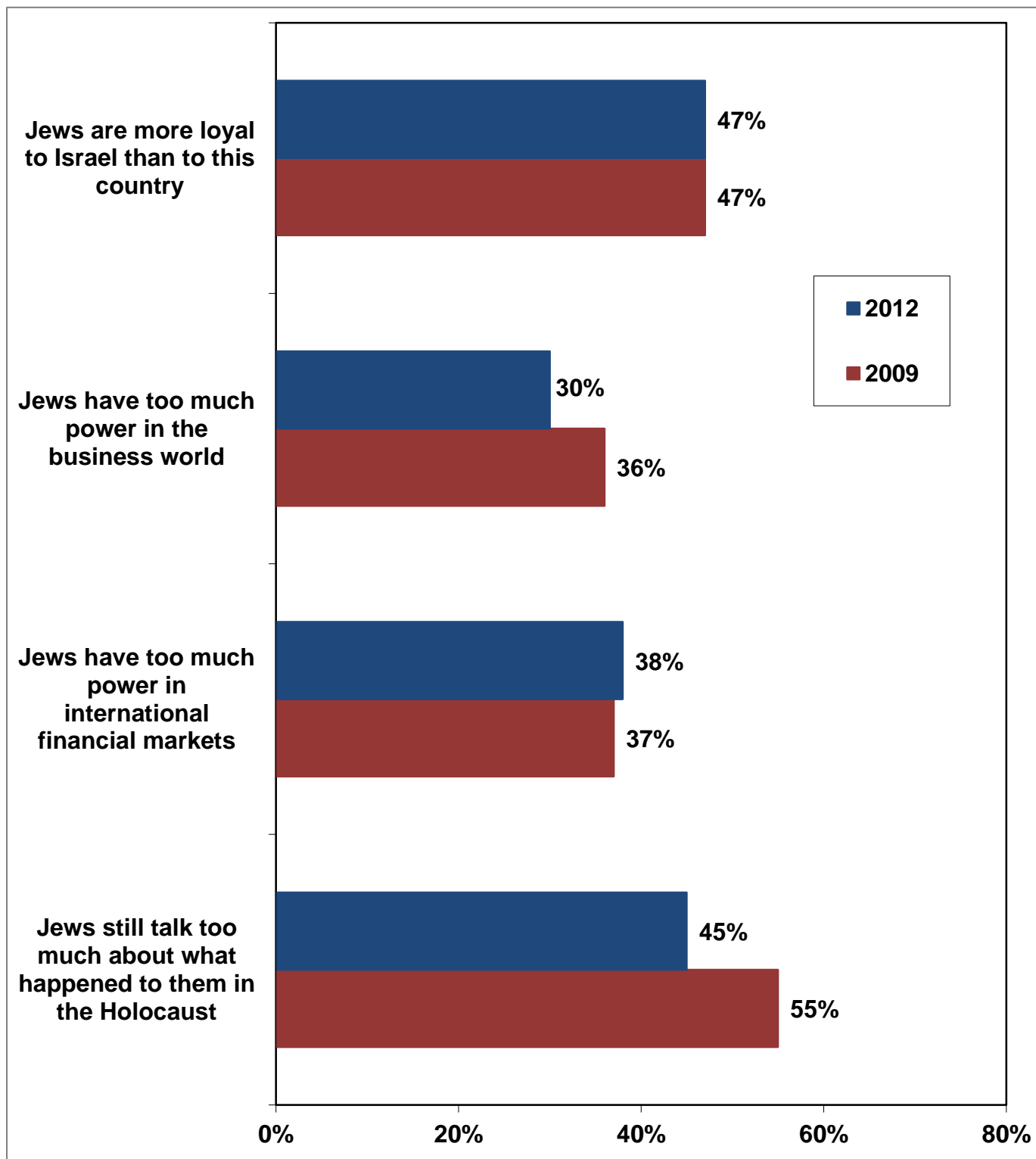
- A comparison with the 2009 survey indicates that, over the past few years, levels of anti-Semitism have increased most dramatically in Hungary, the United Kingdom and Spain.
- In fact, the number of those surveyed in the United Kingdom who now respond “probably true” to at least three of the four anti-Semitic stereotypes has increased by 70 percent.
- Austria was the only country in which there was a slight decline in the percentage of respondents who believe that at least three of the four anti-Semitic stereotypes are “probably true.”
- The percentage of those believing that “Jews are more loyal to Israel than to this country” has increased by 15 points in Hungary and 9 points in the United Kingdom.
- Since 2009, there has been a 16 point increase in the percentage of Hungarian respondents who believe that “Jews have too much power in international financial markets.” In fact, three-quarters of Hungarian respondents now believe this stereotype to be “probably true.”

The following chart illustrates the changes in the percentage of those surveyed in each country who answered “probably true” to at least 3 of the 4 traditional anti-Semitic stereotypes tested:



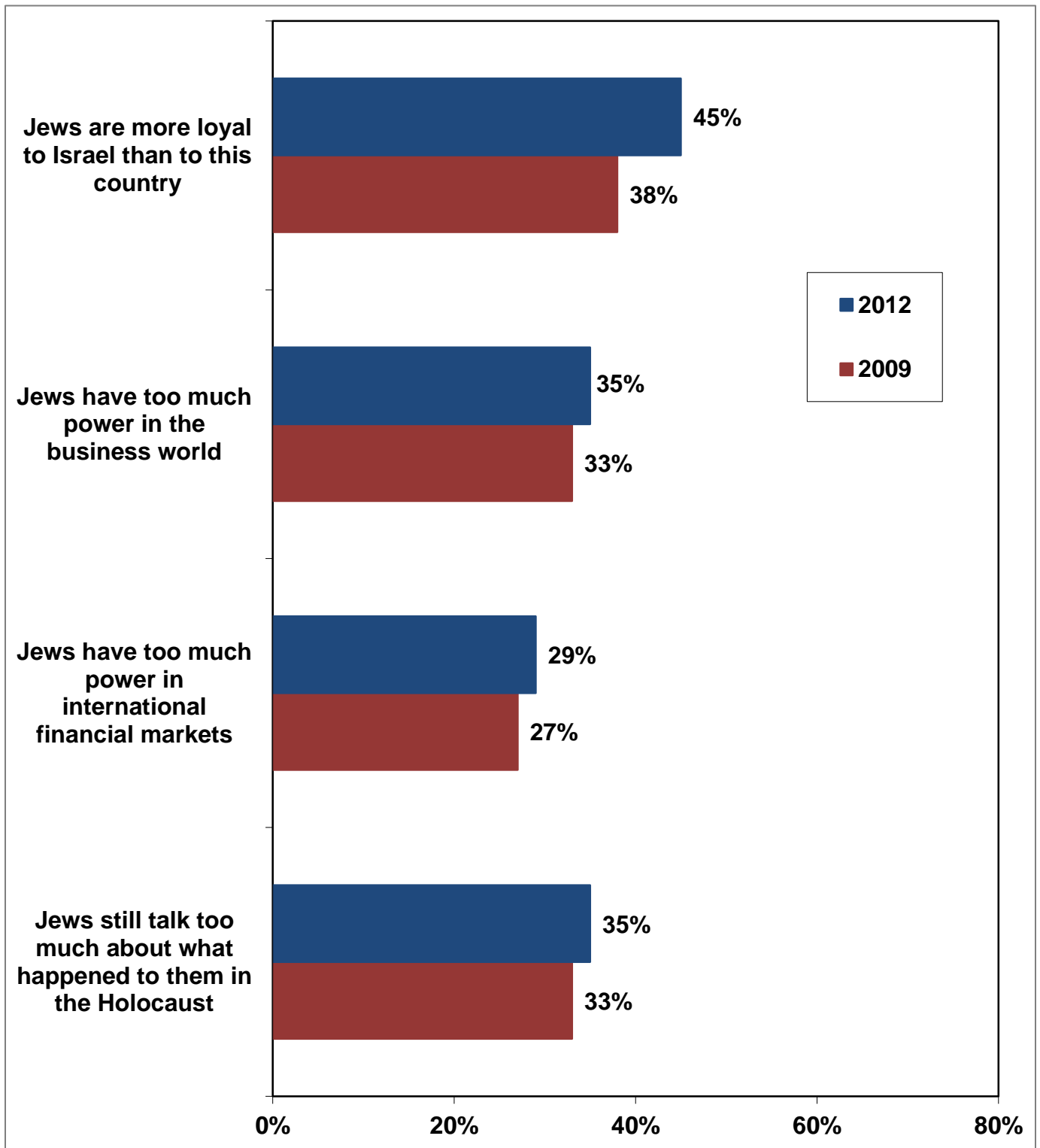
Austria

Percent responding “probably true” to each statement



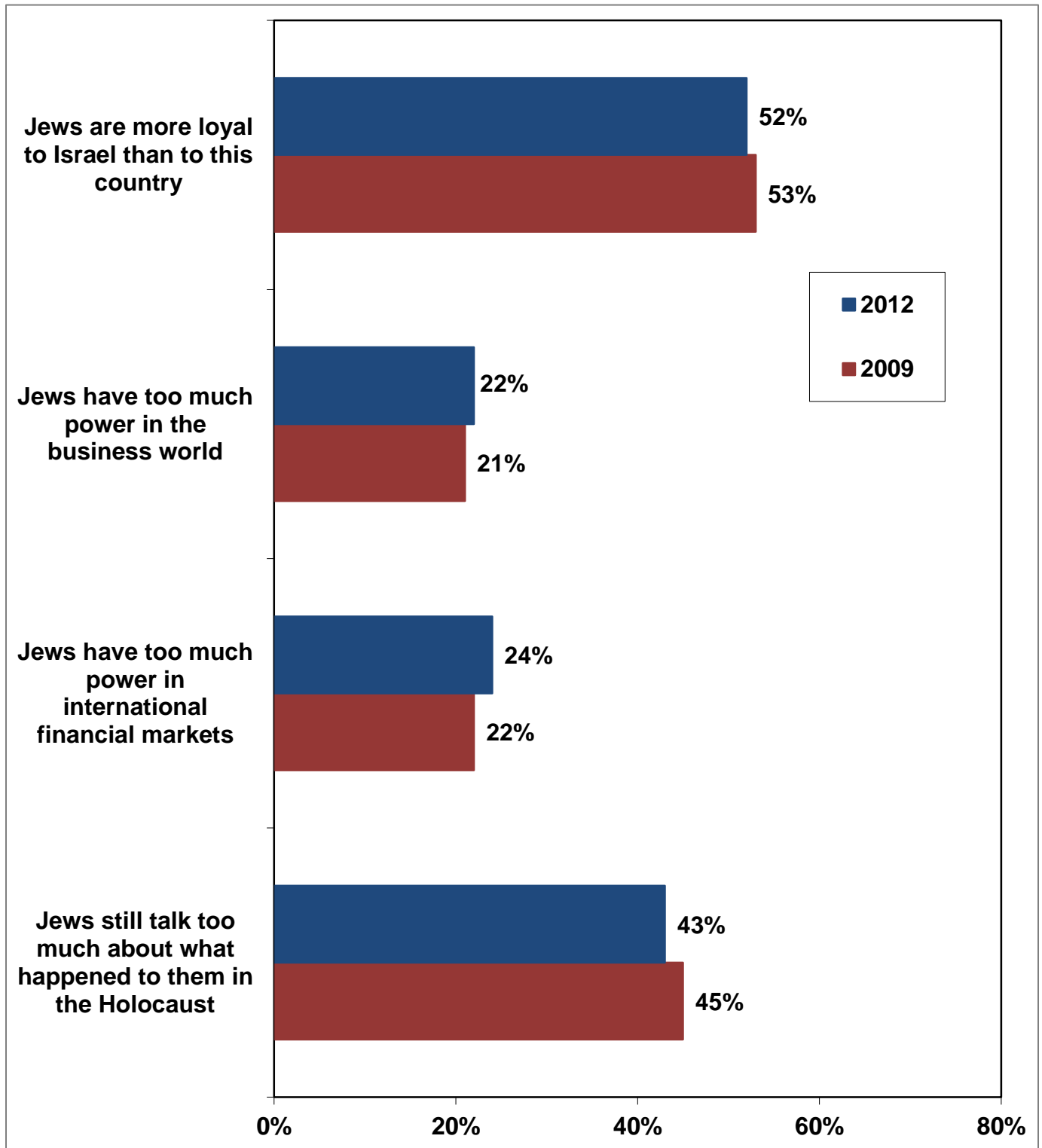
France

Percent responding "probably true" to each statement



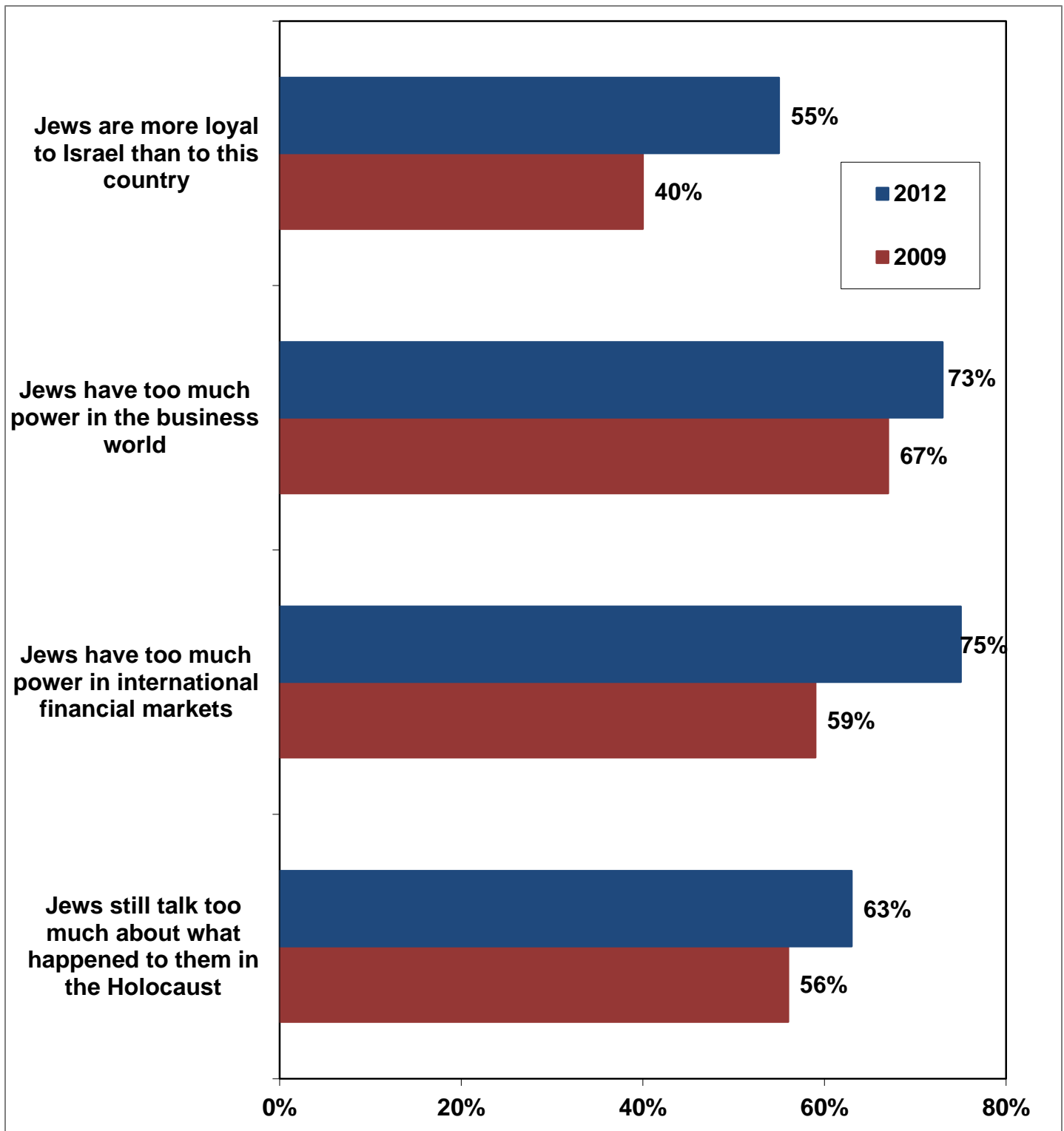
Germany

Percent responding "probably true" to each statement



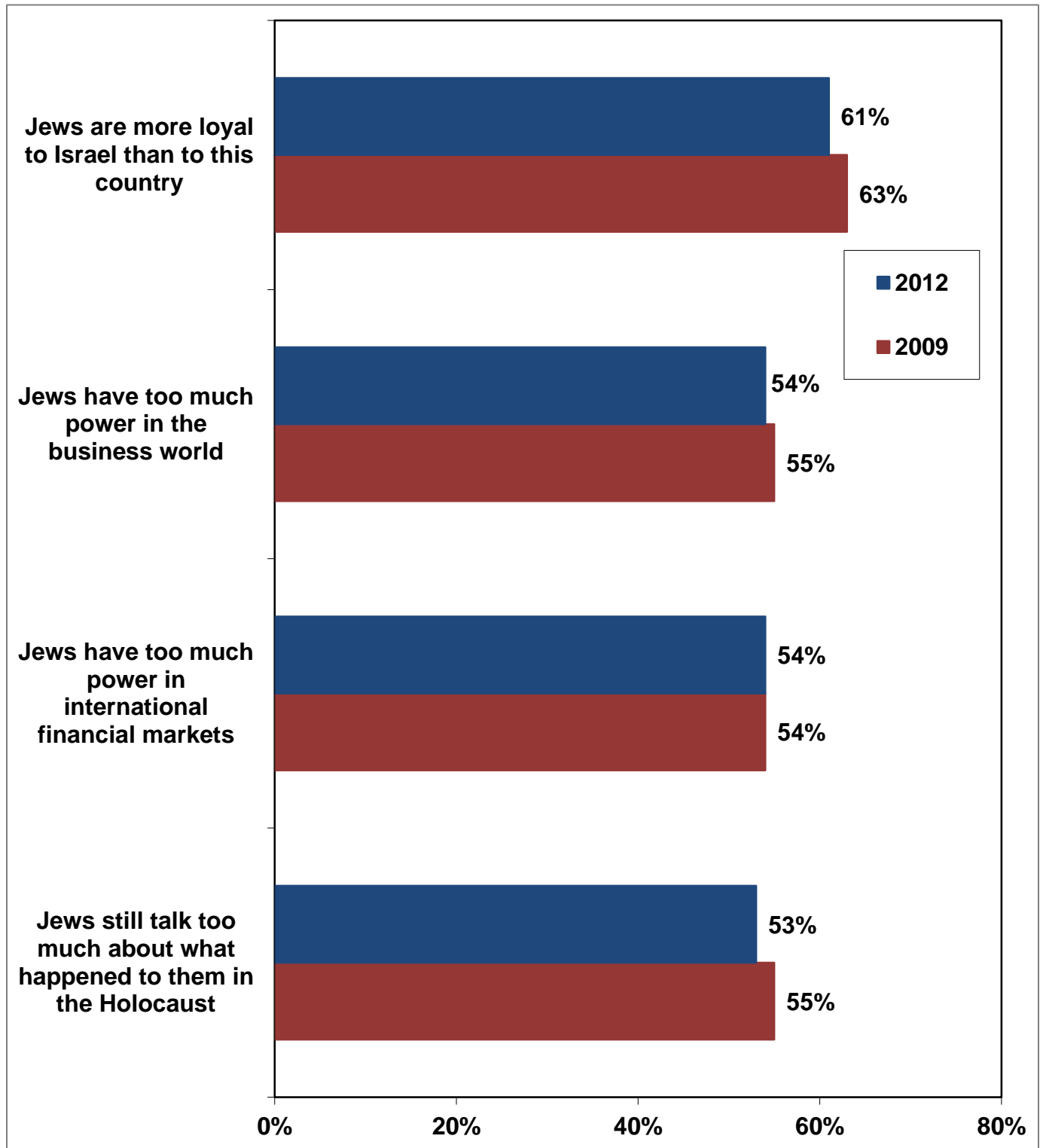
Hungary

Percent responding "probably true" to each statement



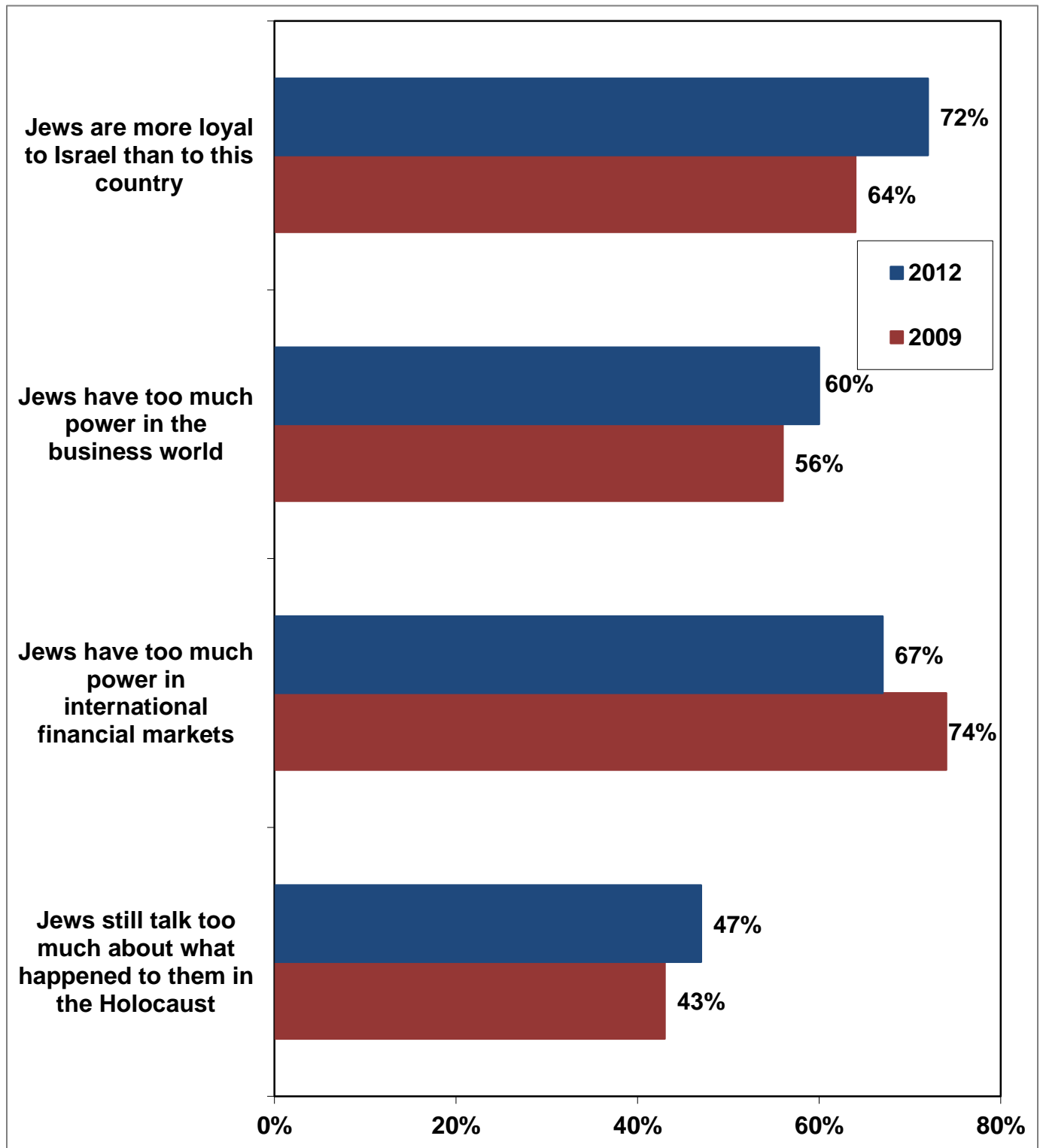
Poland

Percent responding “probably true” to each statement



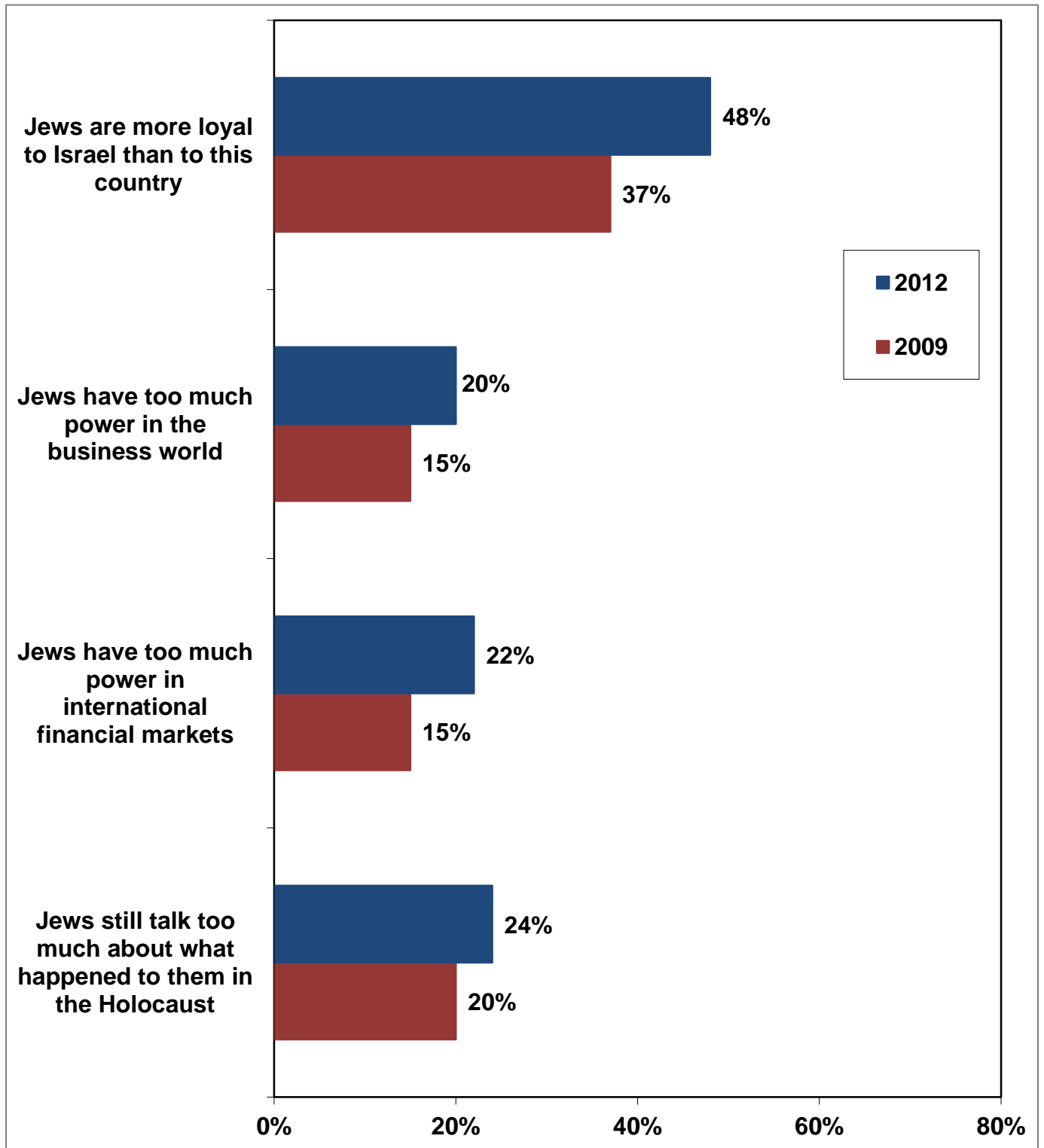
Spain

Percent responding "probably true" to each statement



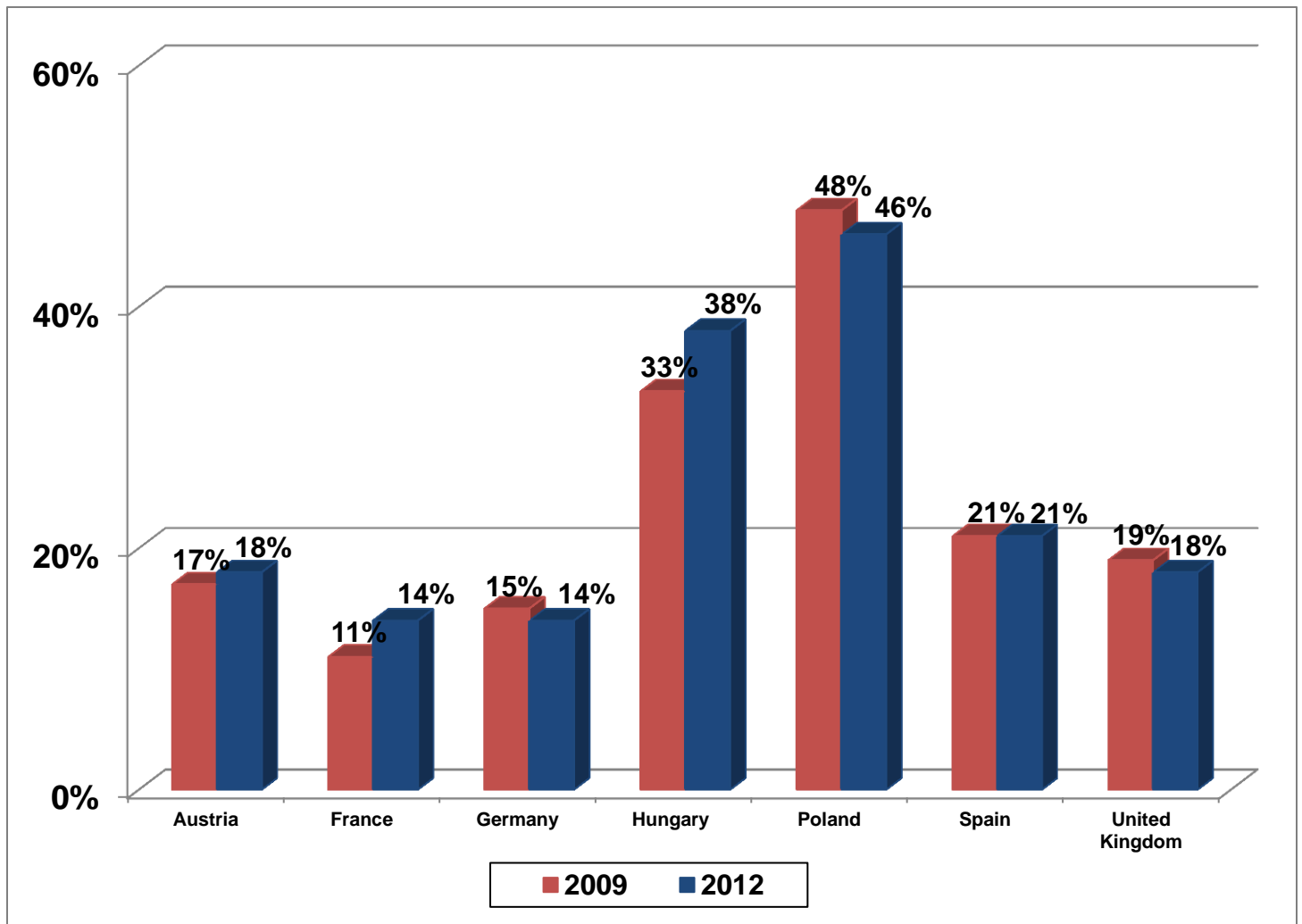
United Kingdom

Percent responding “probably true” to each statement



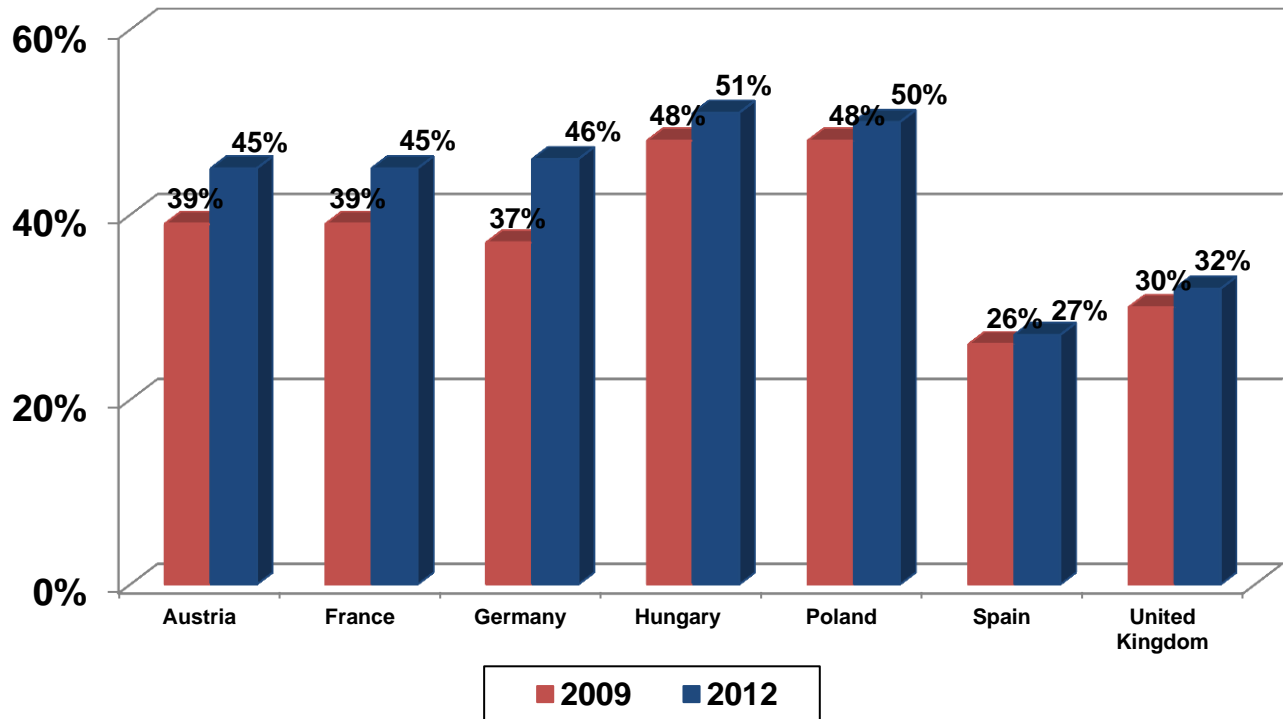
Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the following statement: "The Jews are responsible for the death of Christ."

Percent responding "strongly agree" + "somewhat agree"

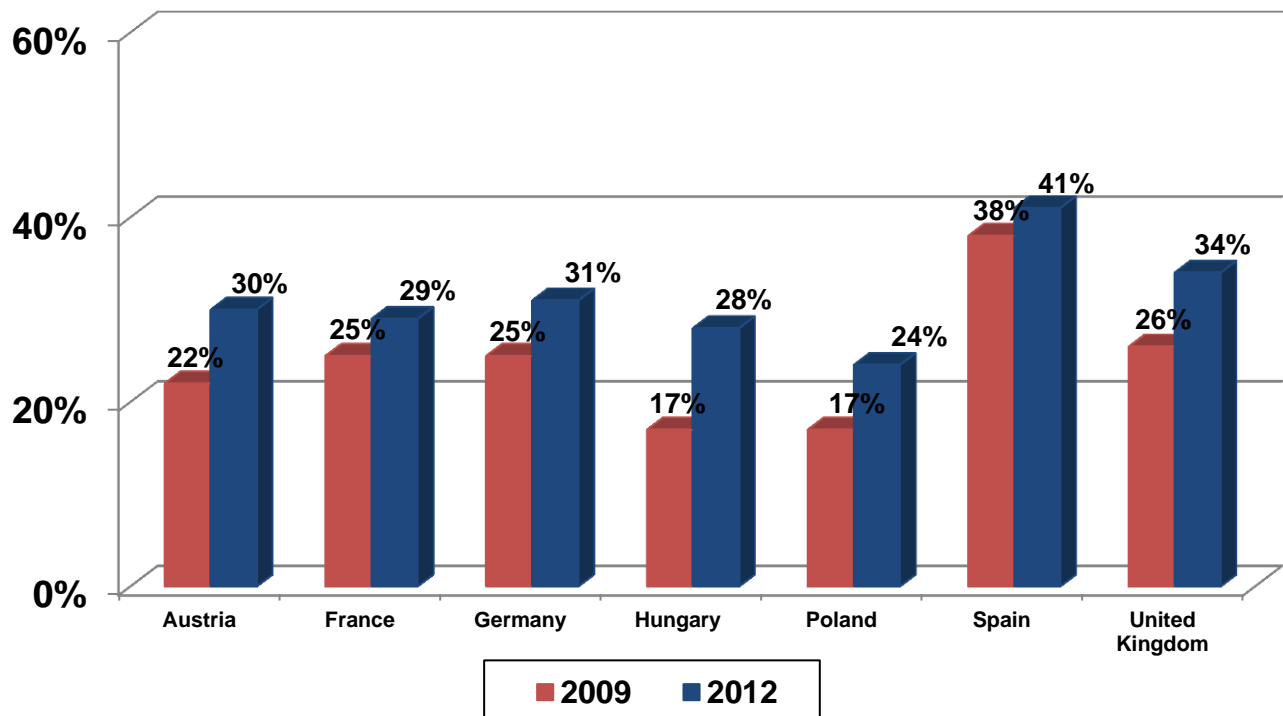


In your opinion, is the violence directed against European Jews a result of anti-Jewish feelings or a result of anti-Israel sentiment?

Percent responding “anti-Jewish feelings”

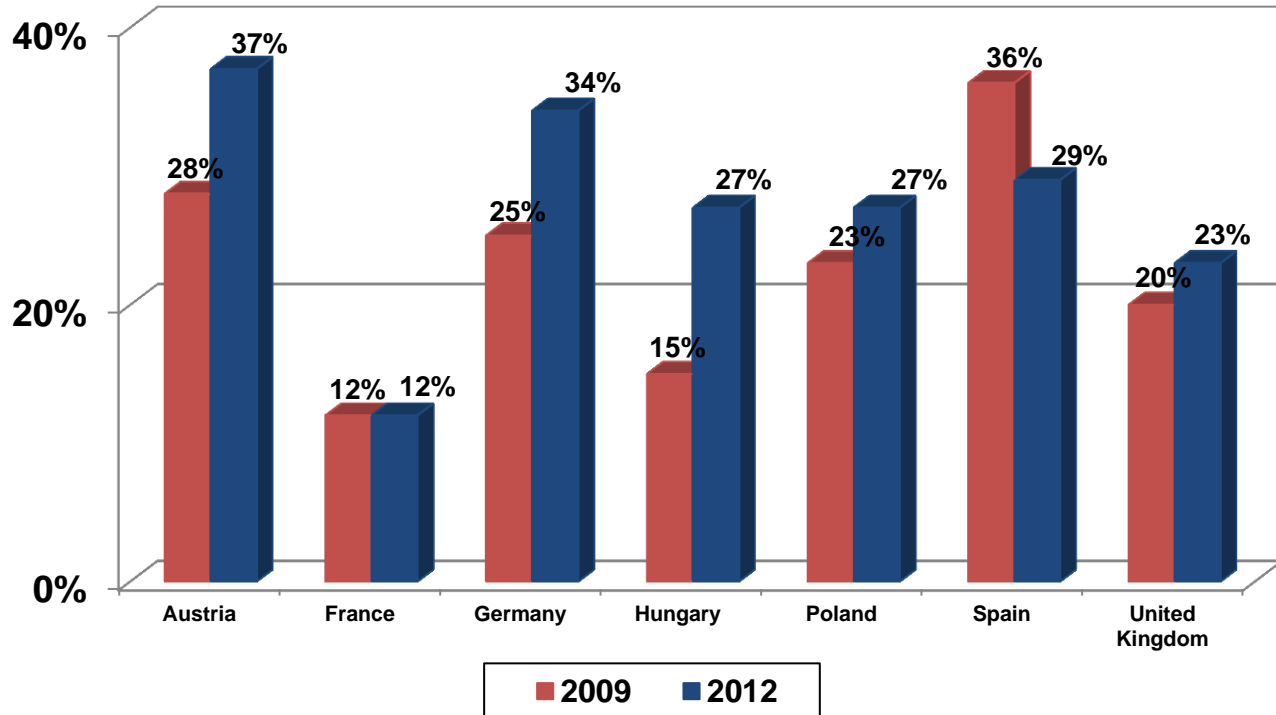


Percent responding “anti-Israel sentiment”



Is your opinion of Jews influenced by the actions taken by the State of Israel?

Percent responding "Yes"



Is your opinion of Jews better or worse?

Percent responding "worse" among those whose opinion of Jews is influenced by the actions taken by the State of Israel

