

Public Opinion in Lebanon

Findings from Arab Barometer Wave 7

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About Arab Barometer

- ▶ Arab Barometer is a nonpartisan research network that provides insight into the social, political, and economic attitudes and values of ordinary citizens across the Arab world
- ▶ Arab Barometer is the longest standing and largest repository of publicly available data on ordinary citizens' views in MENA
- ▶ Arab Barometer's mission:
 1. Track attitudes & behavior
 2. Build institutional capacity
 3. Disseminate knowledge about ordinary citizens living in MENA

About the survey

- ▶ Nationally representative survey of 2,400 Lebanese citizens ages 18 and above
- ▶ Conducted in-person (face-to-face) in the respondent's place of residence
- ▶ Area probability sample
- ▶ Complex survey design stratified by governorate, urbanity, & sect
- ▶ Fielded from 16 December 2021 to 8 February 2022
- ▶ Fieldwork conducted Statistics Lebanon

Key findings wave 7

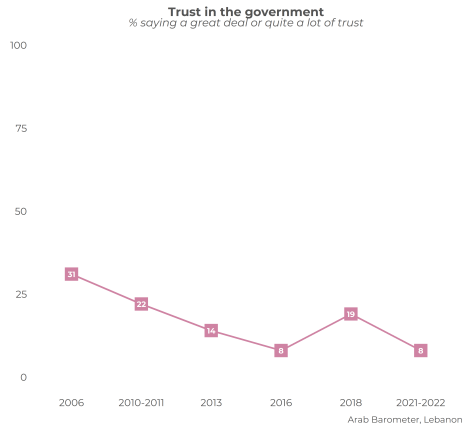
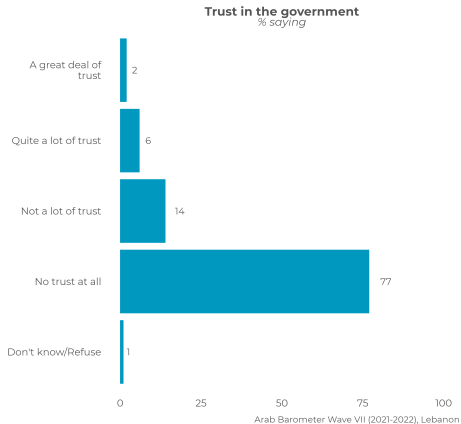
- ▶ Trust in political actors is extremely low and has fallen over the last decade with the notable exception of the LAF.
- ▶ The economy & corruption are seen as the country's biggest problems while there is wide concern about growing inequality.
- ▶ Lebanese want the government to lower the cost of living, create jobs, & increase spending on subsidies.
- ▶ Citizens say the political system needs major change & want it now.
- ▶ Although Lebanese continue to think democracy is the best system, fewer think it is the only viable system and frustration with democracy is increasing.
- ▶ Lebanese say that freedoms are guaranteed, but levels are below previous years.
- ▶ Lebanese youth desire to emigrate, though only a minority considers an undocumented migration.

Key findings wave 7 (continued)

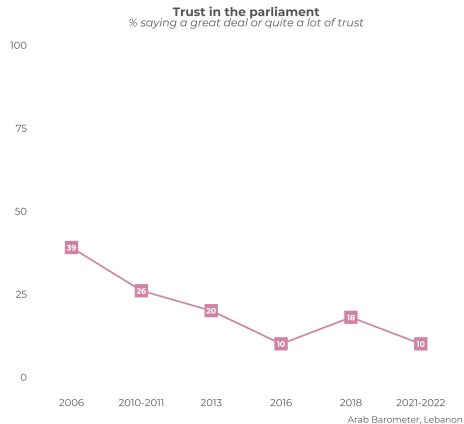
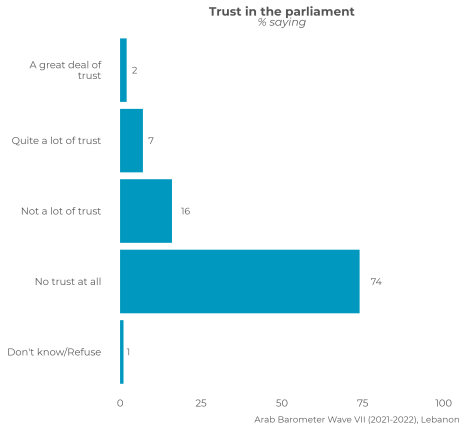
- ▶ Lebanese support equal roles for women in public & private life and support is growing.
- ▶ The environment is seen as a problem but awareness is low.
- ▶ China is viewed more favorably than the U.S., especially among Shias.
- ▶ Lebanese are equally likely to want closer economic ties with the U.S. & China, but perceive the U.S. as a greater economic threat.
- ▶ A third have positive views of the Biden administration, but more than half view U.S. assistance favorably.
- ▶ Few say Biden's policies are better than Trump's and most want U.S. foreign policy to focus on economic development & security.
- ▶ Saudi Arabia is more favored than Iran while France is the most popular country among major foreign powers.

Views of Political Actors

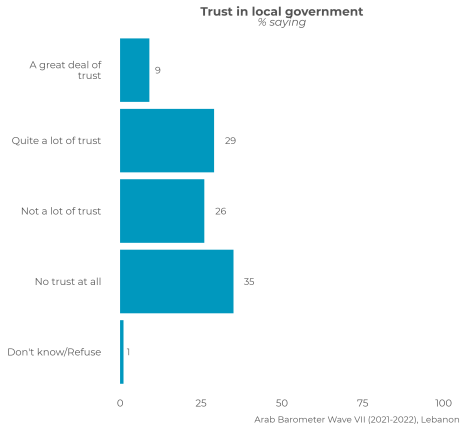
Trust in government



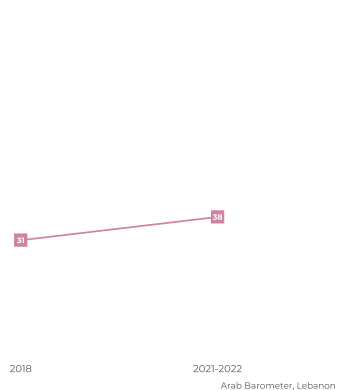
Trust in parliament



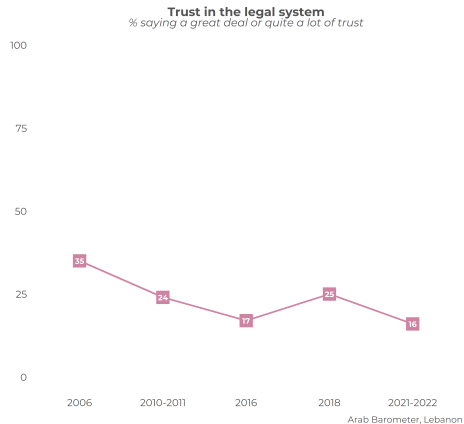
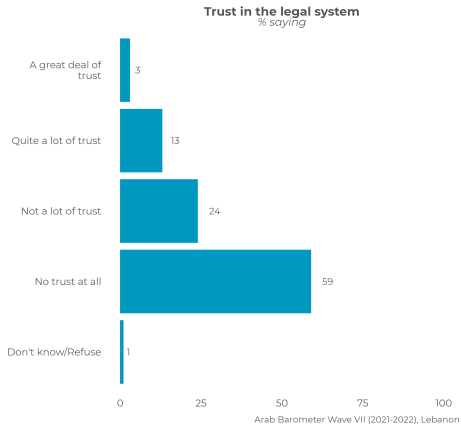
Trust in local government



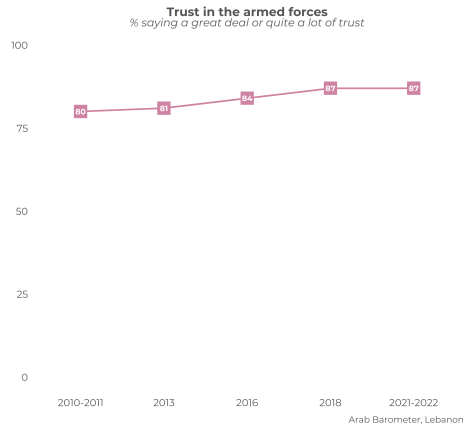
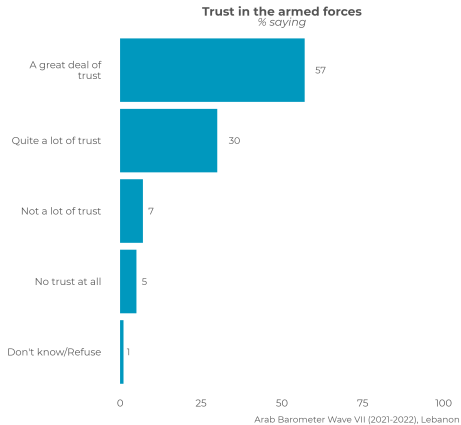
Trust in local government
% saying a great deal or quite a lot of trust



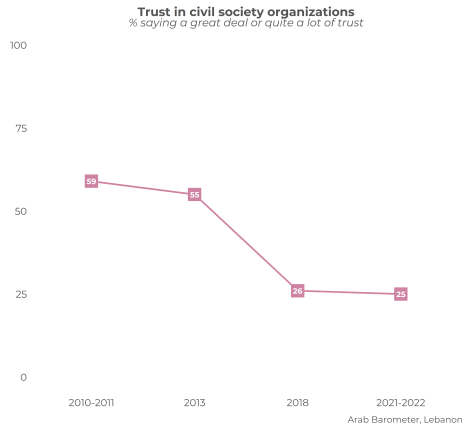
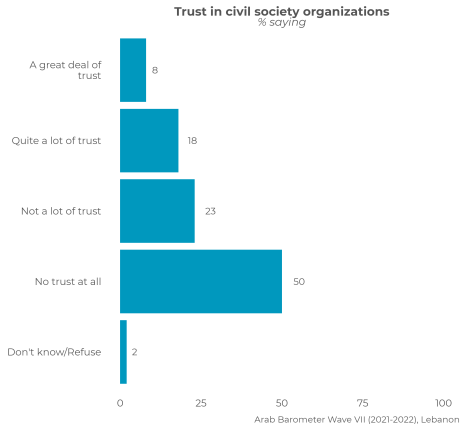
Trust in legal system



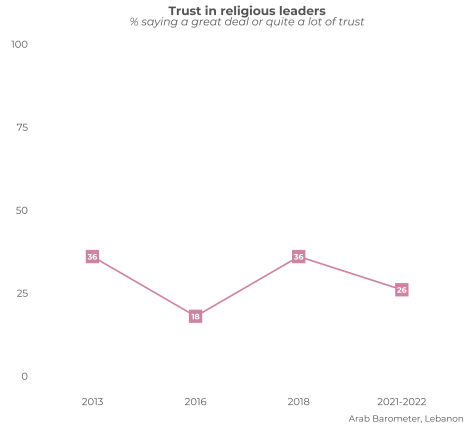
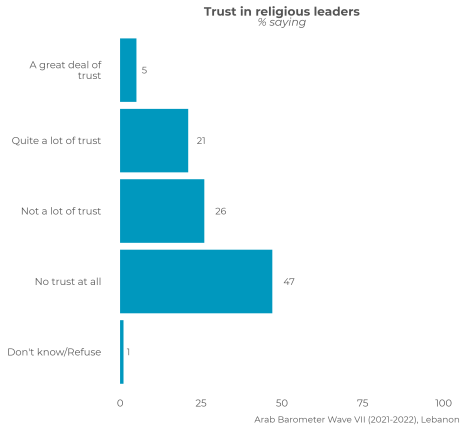
Trust in the Lebanese Armed Forces



Trust in civil society

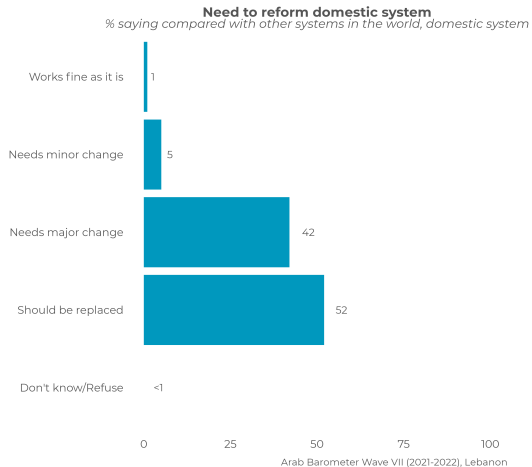


Trust in religious leaders

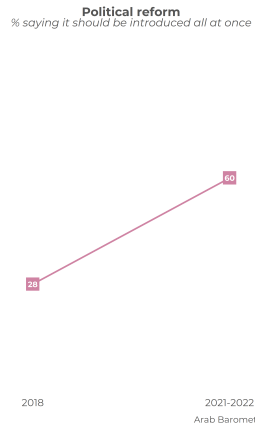
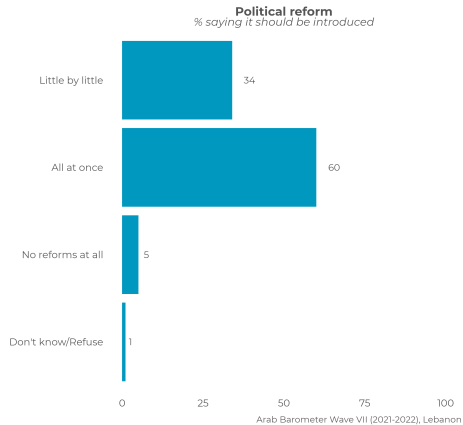


The Political System

Demand for radical change



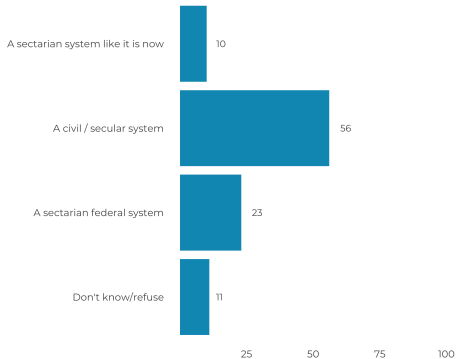
Demand for immediate reforms



Preferred system of governance

Preferred system of governance in Lebanon

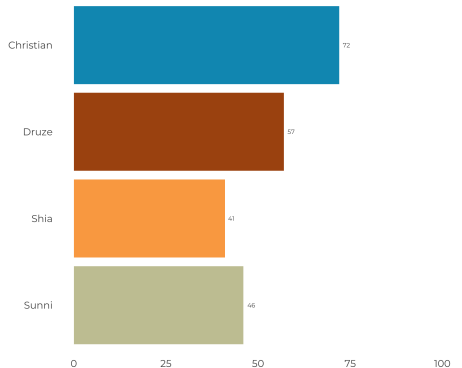
% saying



Arab Barometer Wave VI Part I (September-October 2020), Lebanon

Preferred system of governance in Lebanon

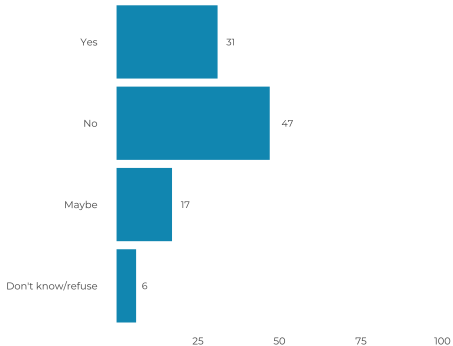
% saying a civil/secular system by sect



Arab Barometer Wave VI Part I (July-October 2020), Lebanon

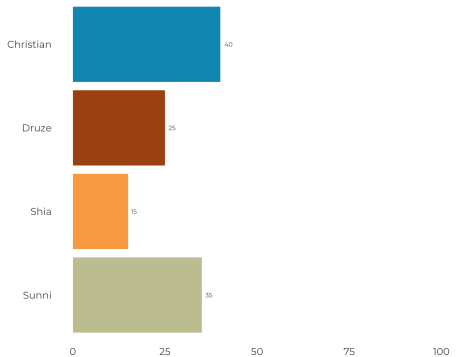
Authority positions historically occupied by one's sect should be available to all sects

Authority positions historically occupied by one's sect should be available to all sects
% saying



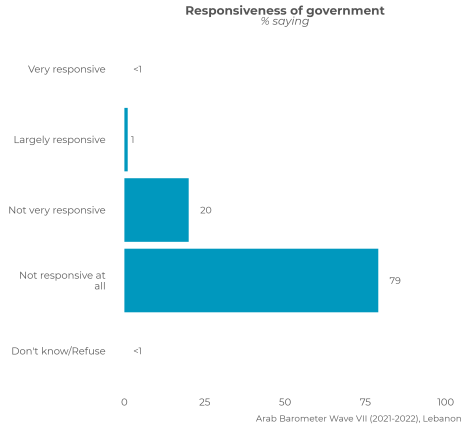
Arab Barometer Wave VI Part I (September-October 2020), Lebanon

Authority positions historically occupied by one's sect should be available to all sects
% saying yes by sect

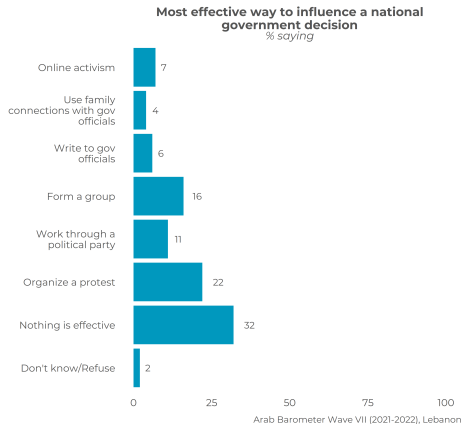


Arab Barometer Wave VI Part I (July-October 2020), Lebanon

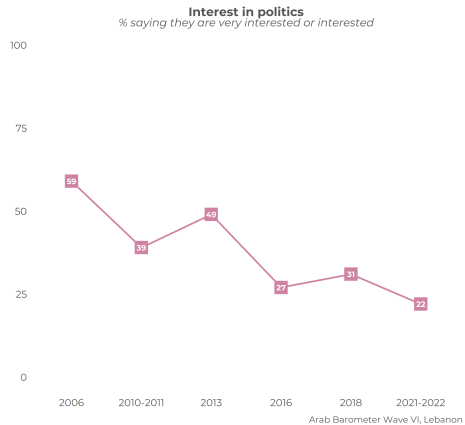
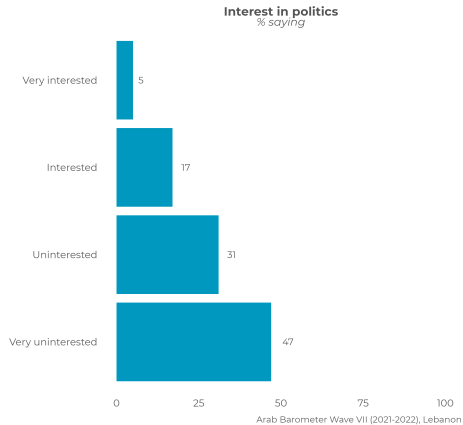
Government responsiveness



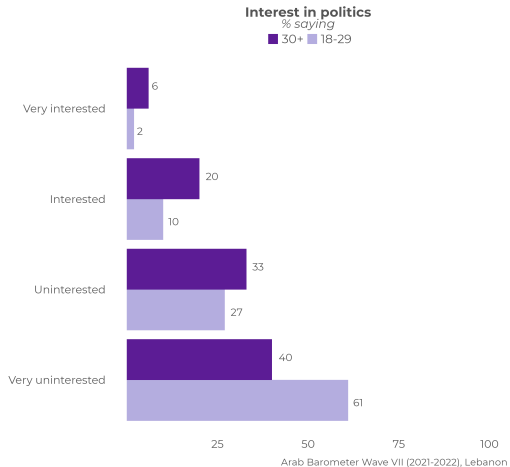
Best way to influence the government



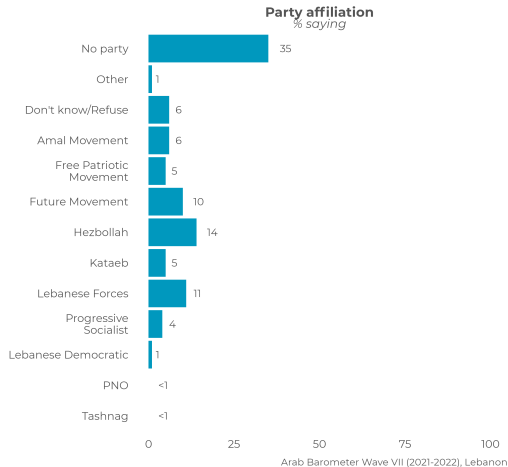
Interest in politics



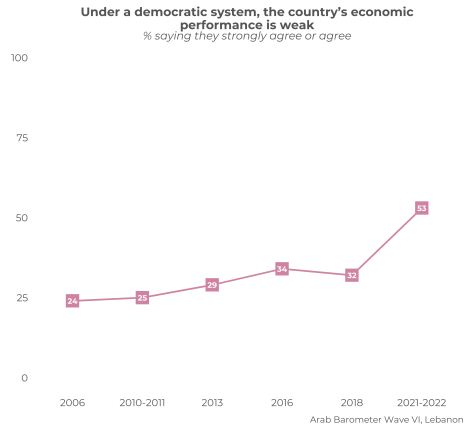
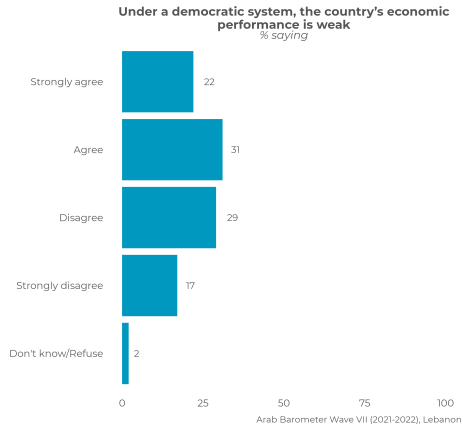
Interest in politics by age



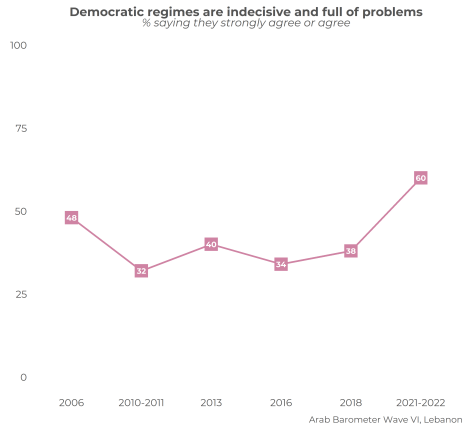
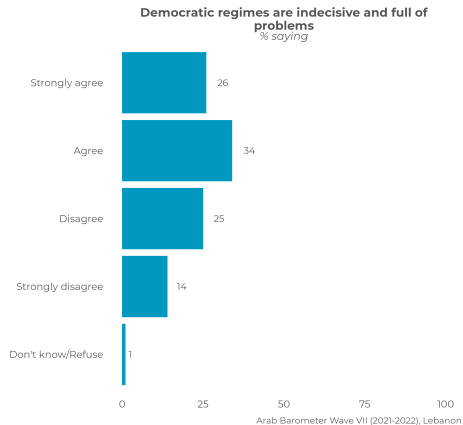
Party support



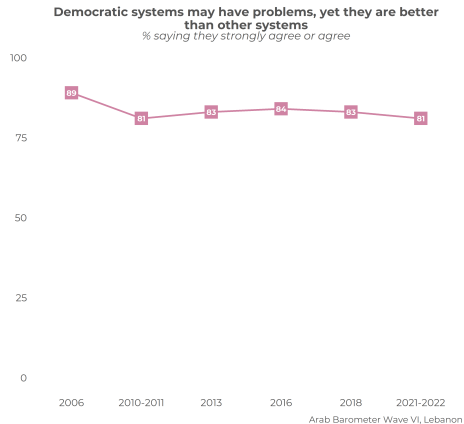
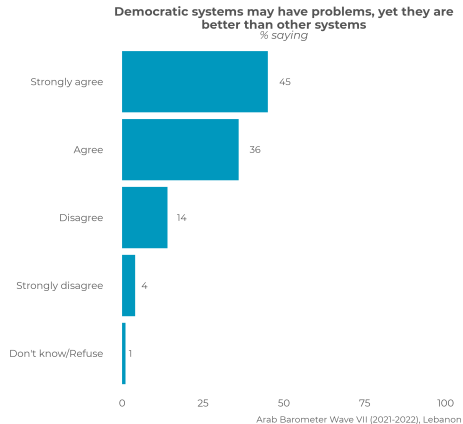
Democracy is bad for the economy



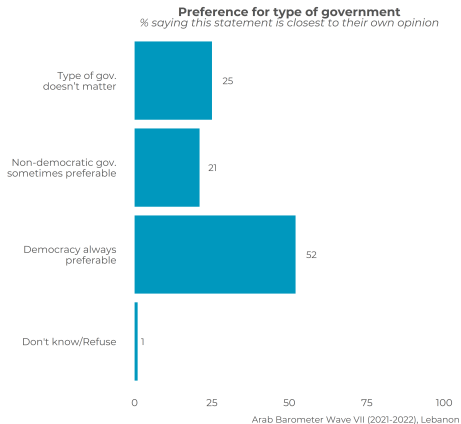
Democracy is indecisive



Democracy is the best system

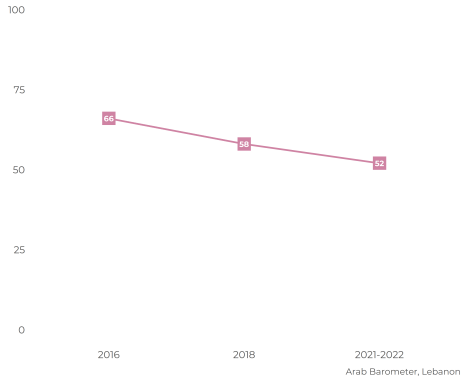


Democracy is the only viable system



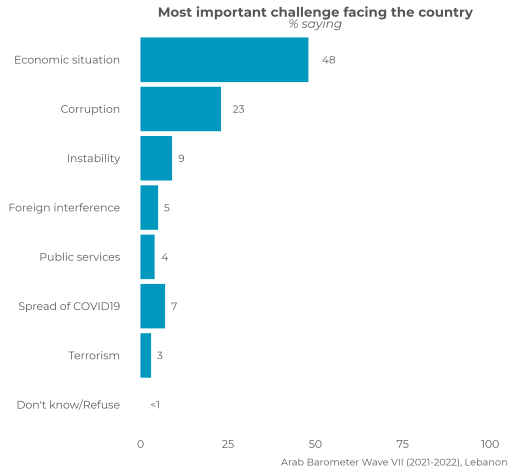
Democracy is always preferable to any other kind of government

% saying this statement is closest to their own opinion



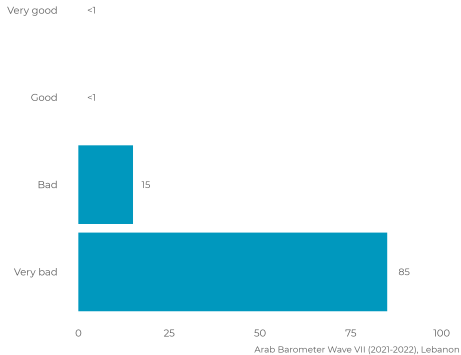
Lebanon's Challenges

Biggest challenge facing Lebanon

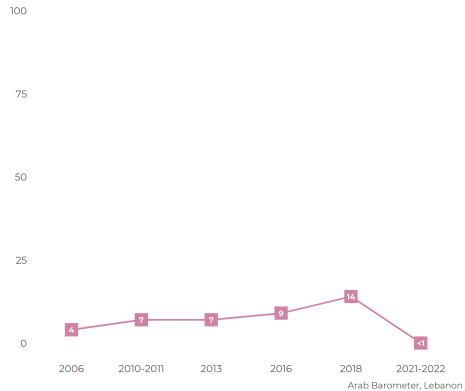


State of the economy

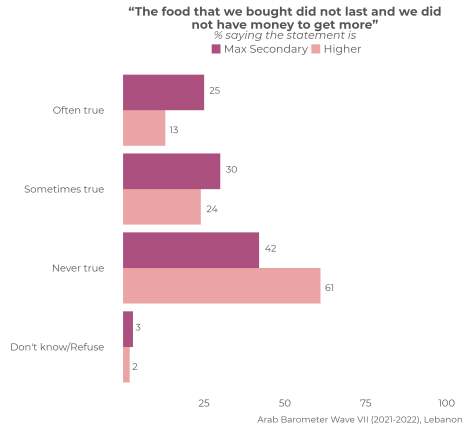
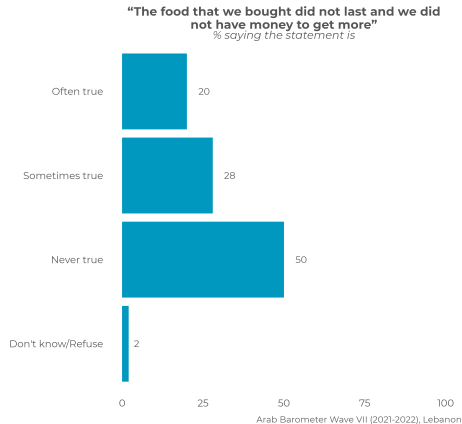
Current economic situation in the country
% saying very good or good



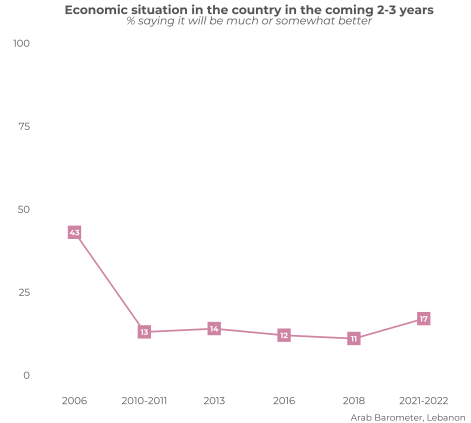
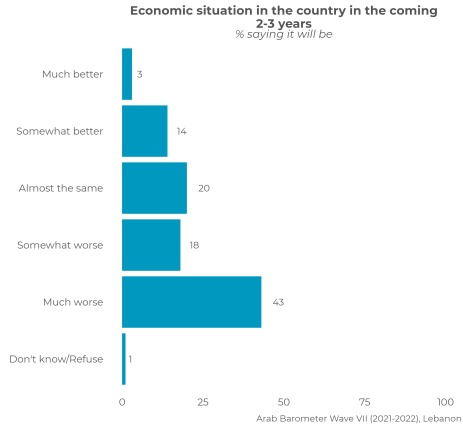
Current economic situation in the country
% saying very good or good



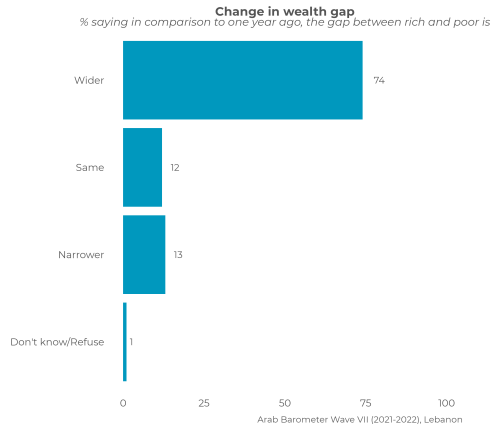
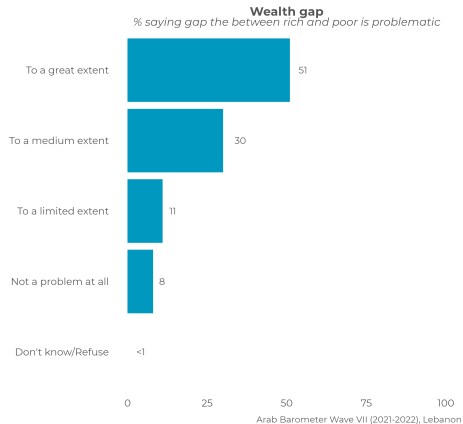
Fear of not having money for food



Economic optimism

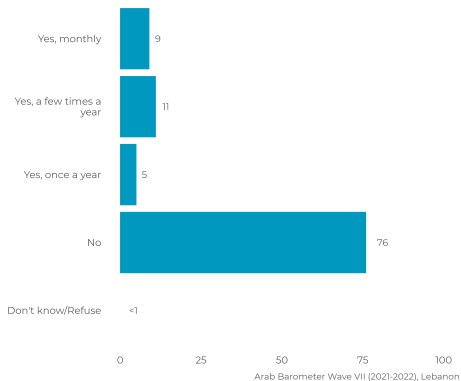


Wealth gap is a problem & is growing



Receiving remittances

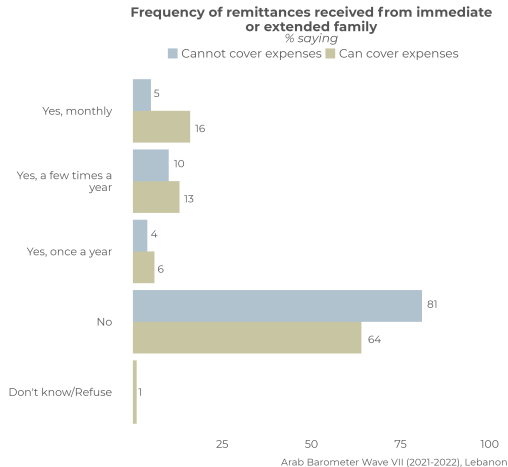
Frequency of remittances received from immediate or extended family
% saying



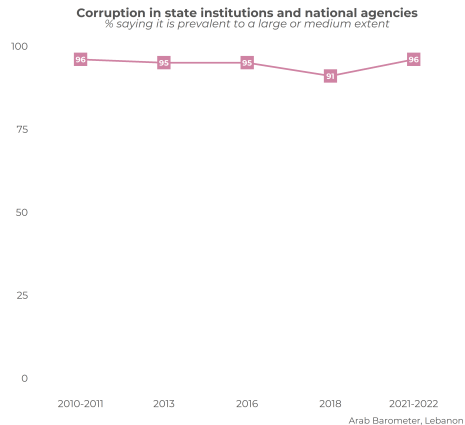
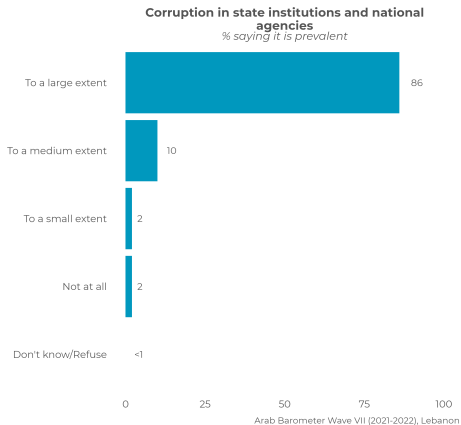
Receiving remittances
% saying at least once a year



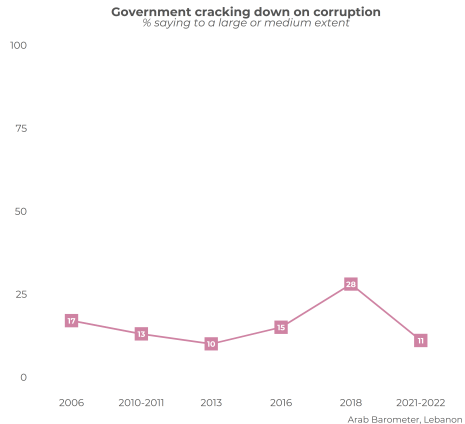
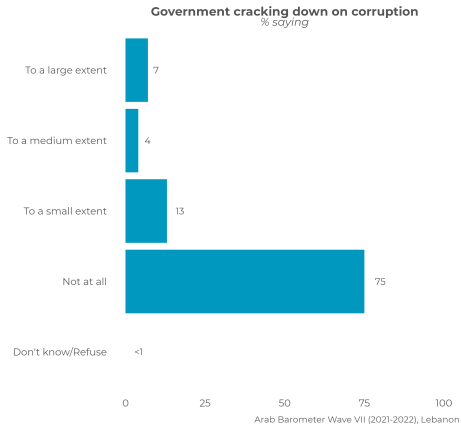
Receiving remittances by income



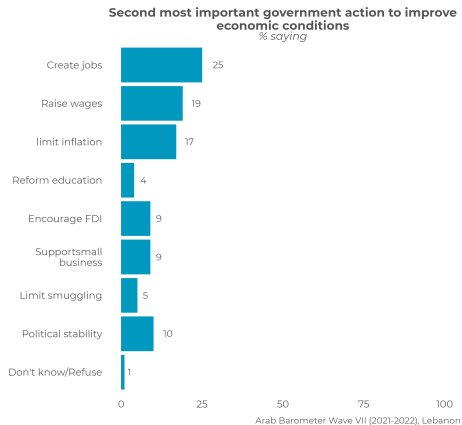
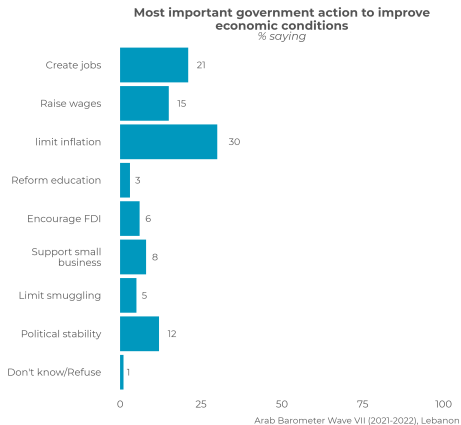
Corruption remains a major problem



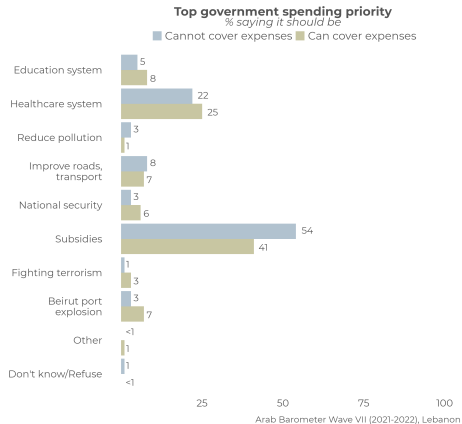
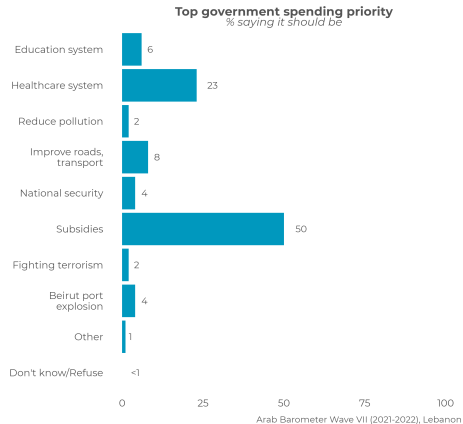
Little belief the government is tackling corruption



Best way to resolve economic challenges

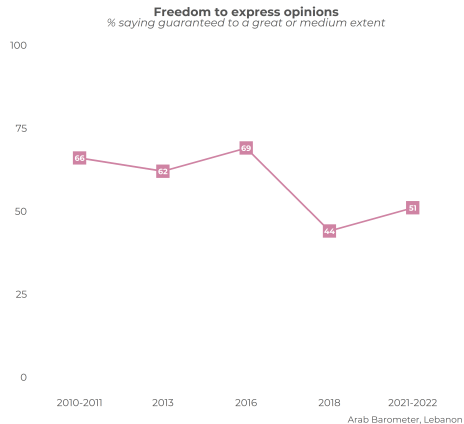
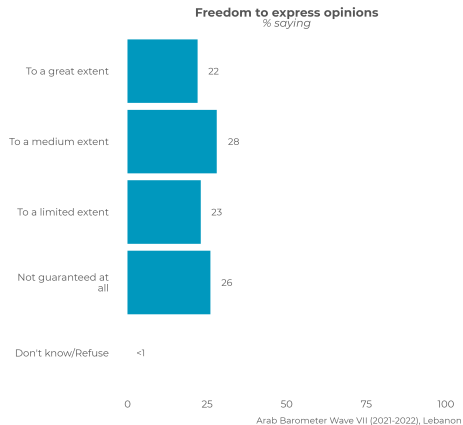


Spending priorities for the government

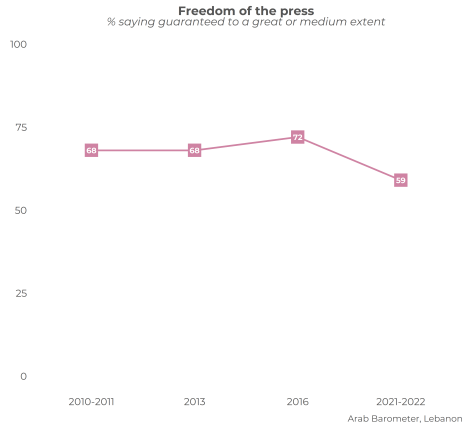
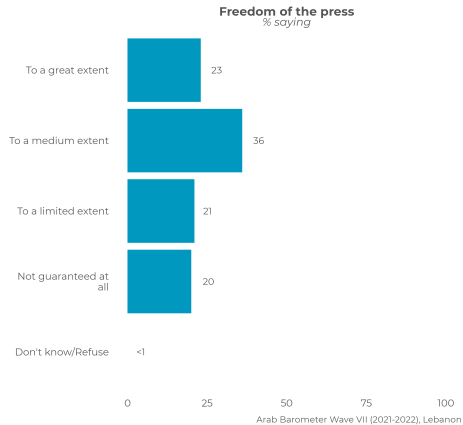


Freedoms

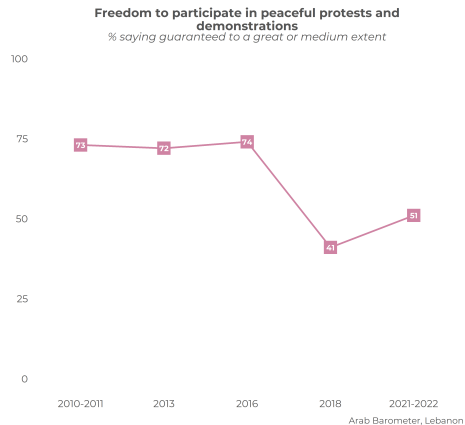
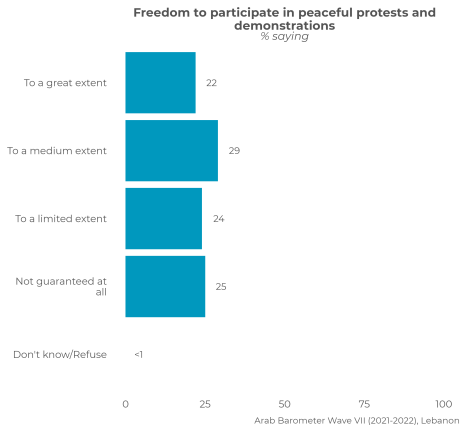
Freedom of expression



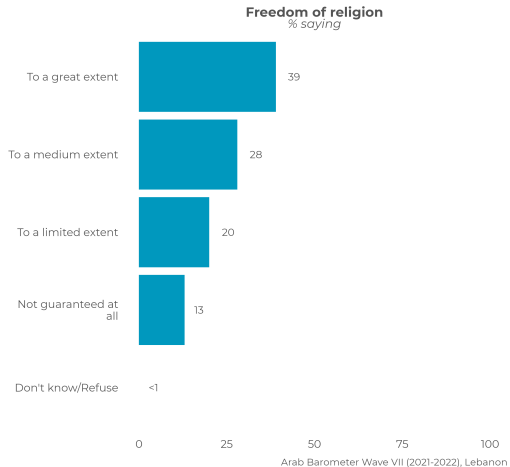
Freedom of the press



Freedom to protest

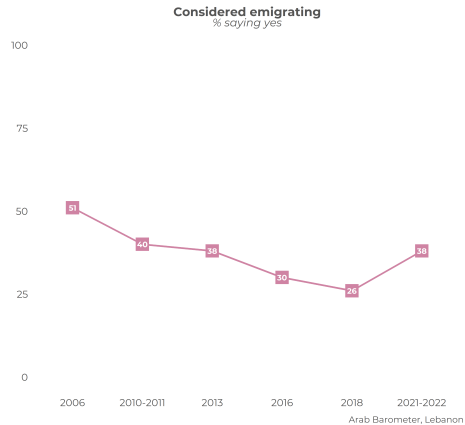
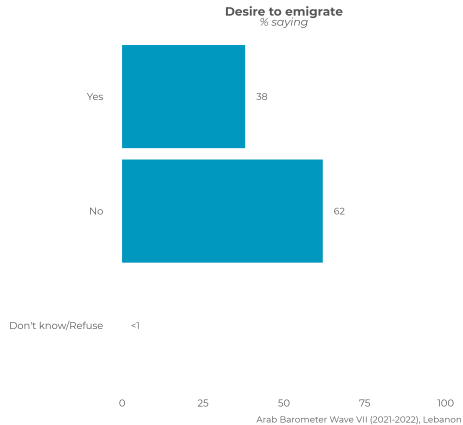


Freedom of religion

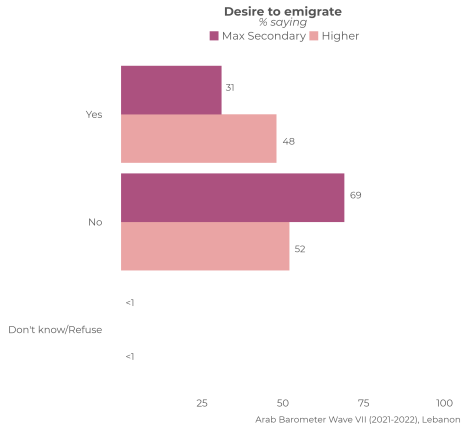
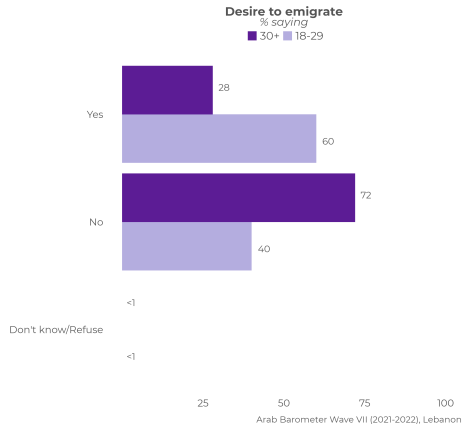


Migration

Desire to emigrate

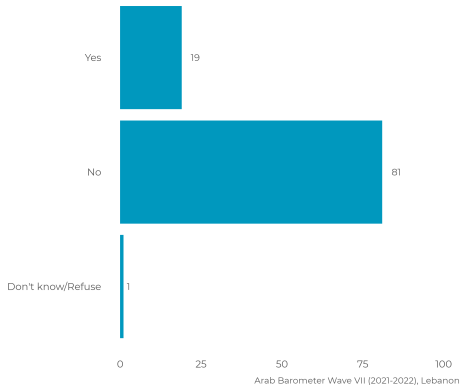


Desire to emigrate by age and education

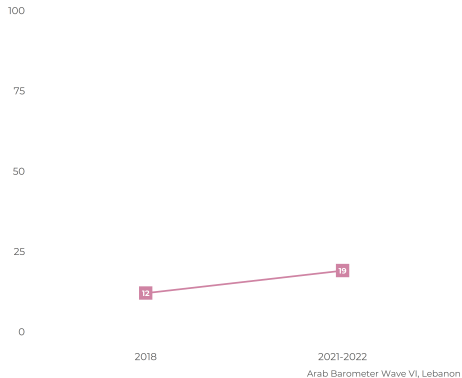


Undocumented migration

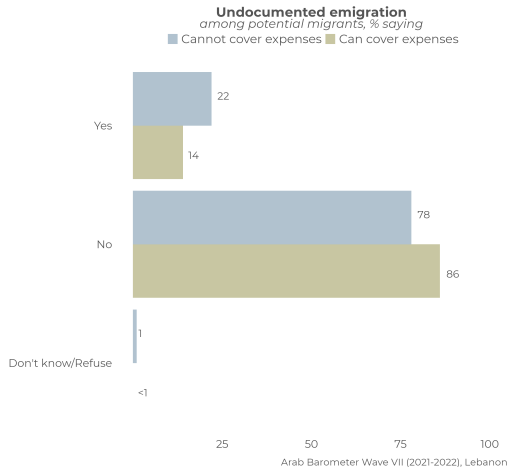
Undocumented emigration
among potential migrants, % saying



Undocumented emigration
*among potential emigrants, % saying they would leave without
the required papers*

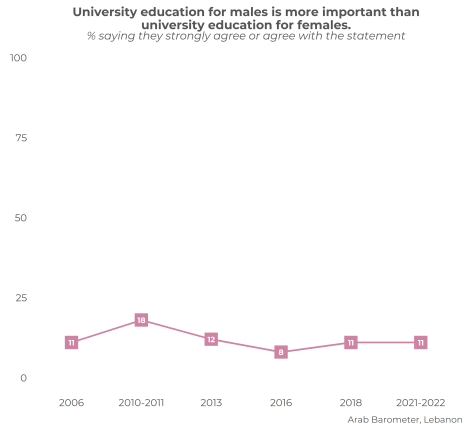
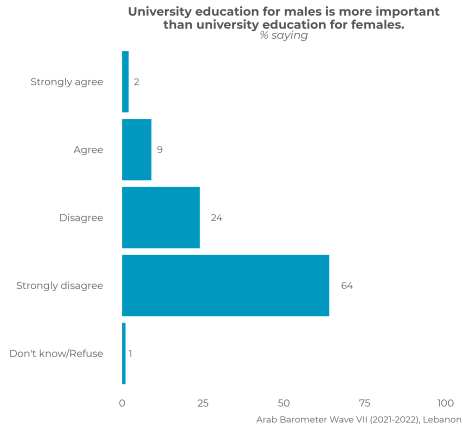


Undocumented migration by income

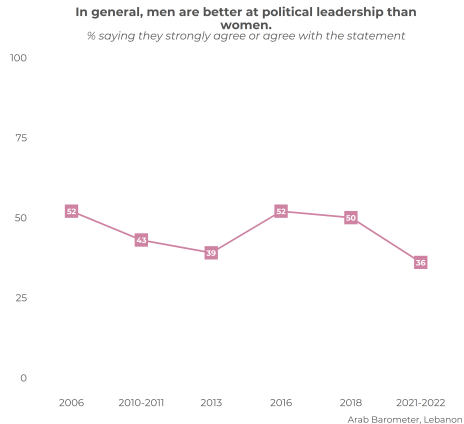
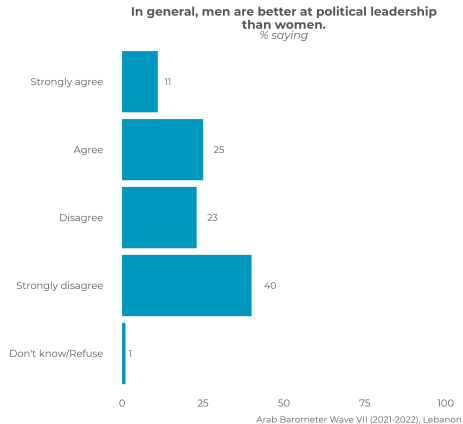


Gender

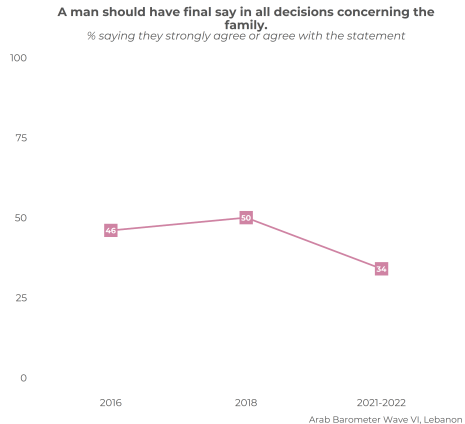
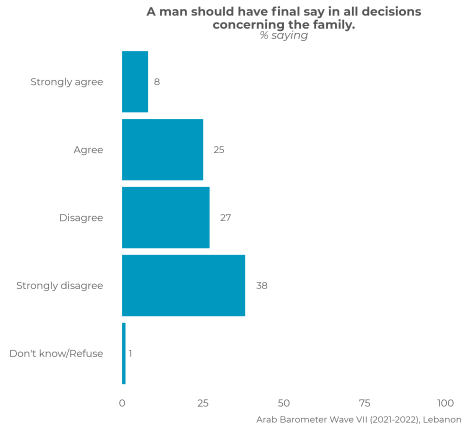
Women's right to education



Women as political leaders



Men as head of household

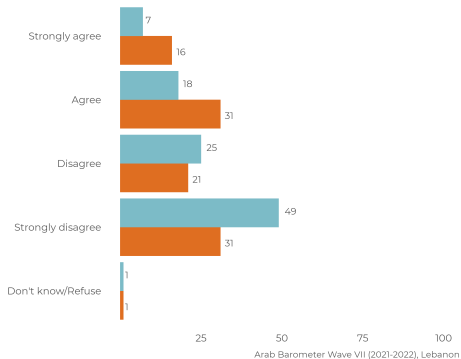


Differences by gender

In general, men are better at political leadership than women.

% saying

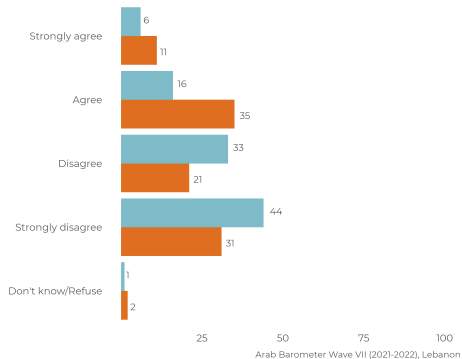
Female Male



A man should have final say in all decisions concerning the family.

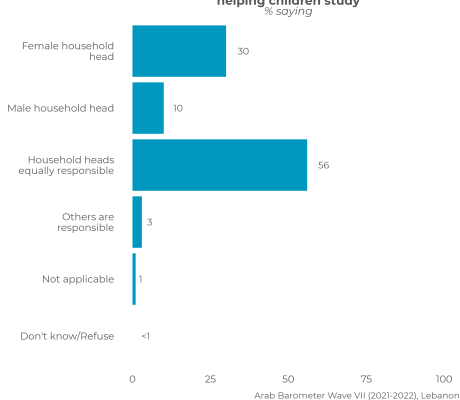
% saying

Female Male

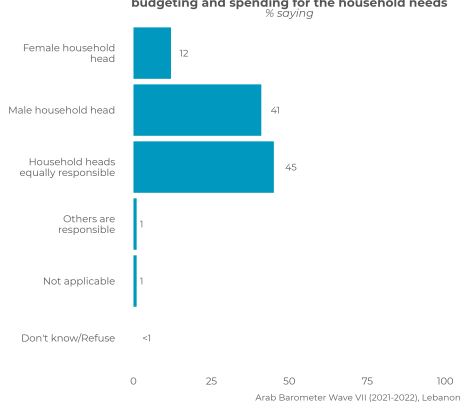


Gender roles in the household

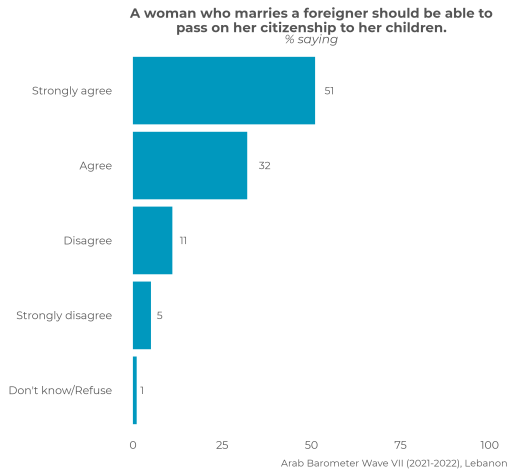
Household member who should be responsible for helping children study



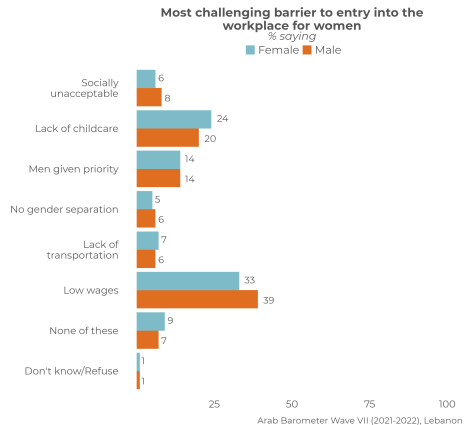
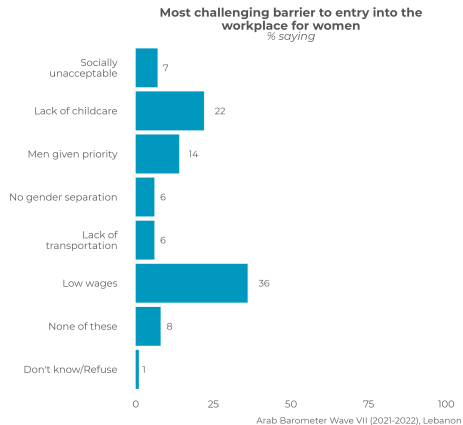
Household member who should be responsible for budgeting and spending for the household needs



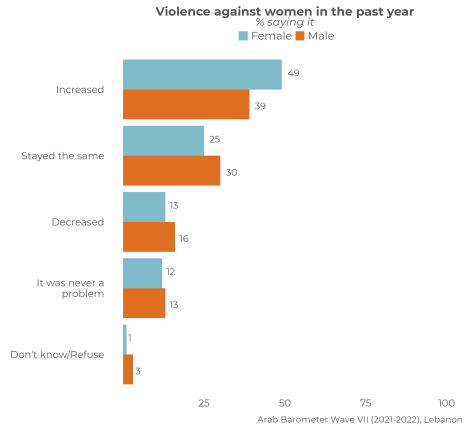
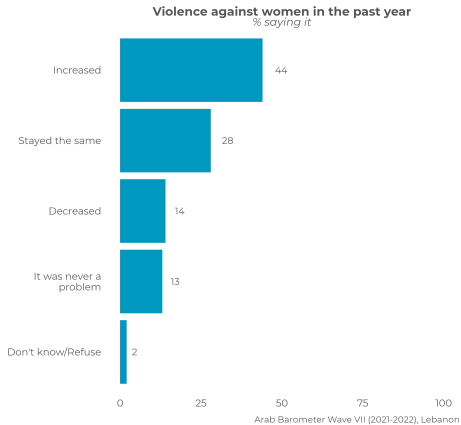
Passing citizenship to children of women married to foreigners



Barriers to women's employment



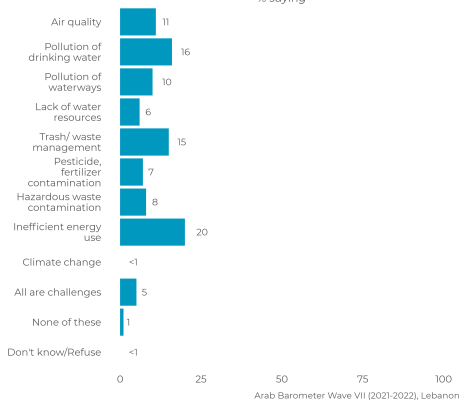
Gender-based violence



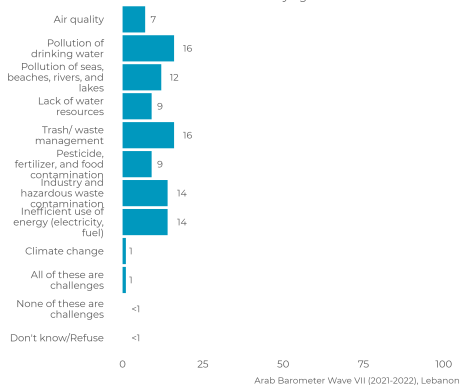
The Environment

Environmental concerns

Biggest environmental challenge facing the country
% saying

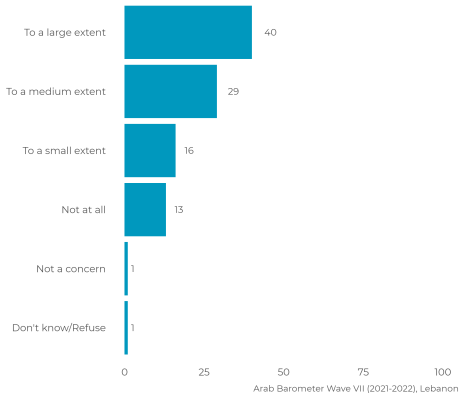


Second biggest environmental challenge facing the country
% saying

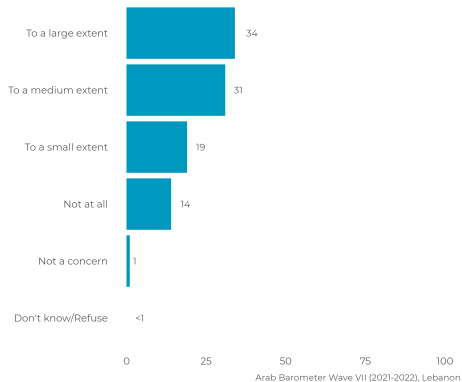


Factors in environmental issues

Lack of environmental awareness among citizens
% saying this contributes to environmental challenges

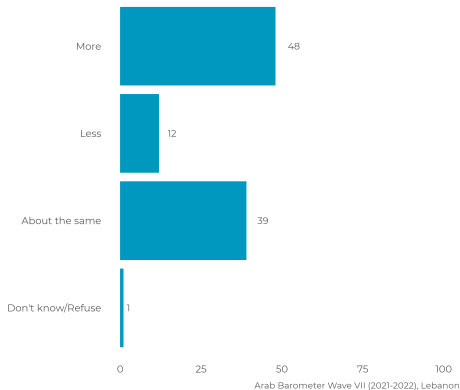


Lack of environmental initiatives or spending by the government
% saying this contributes to environmental challenges

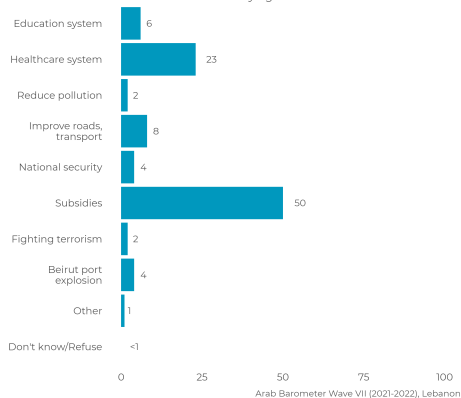


Environment is seen as important but relatively low priority

National government addressing climate change
% saying government should be doing

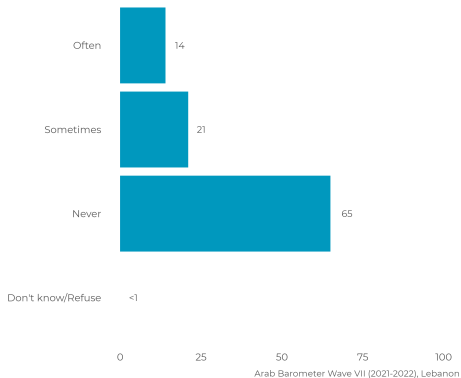


Top government spending priority
% saying it should be

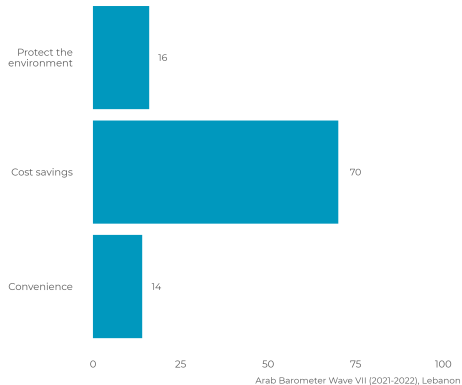


Environmental consciousness is low

Recycling: Reusing plastic or glass bottles to put water in the fridge
% saying

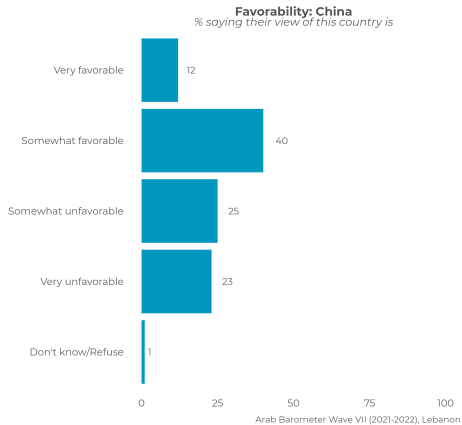
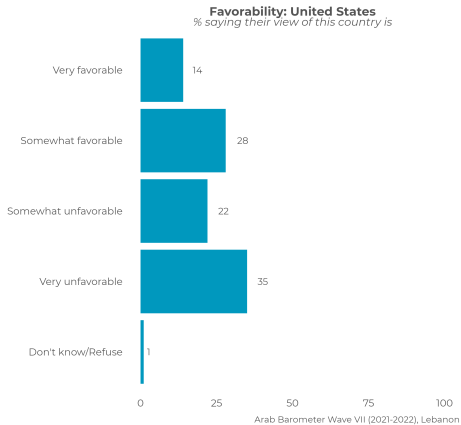


Reason for recycling plastic or glass bottles
% saying

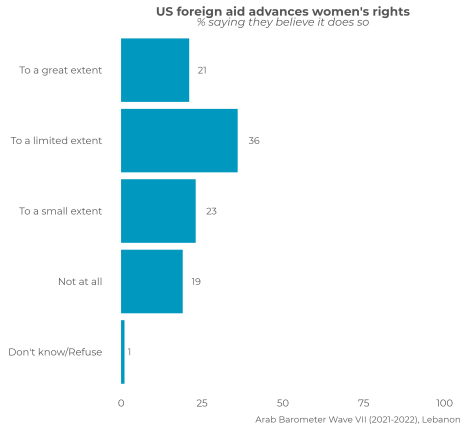
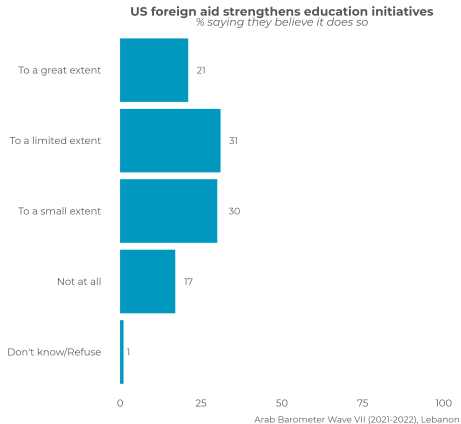


Views of Global Powers

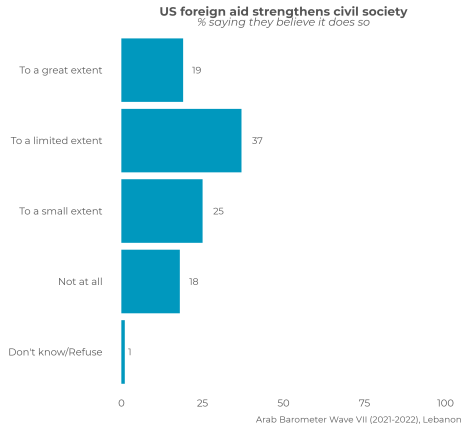
Views of the U.S. & China



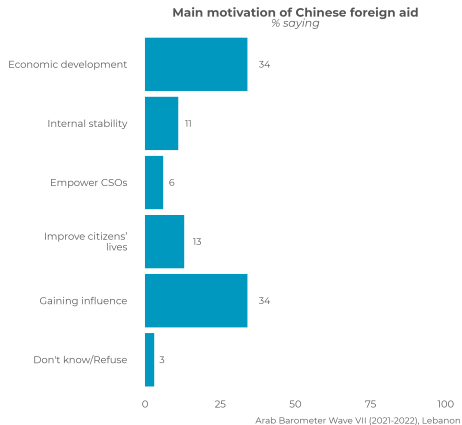
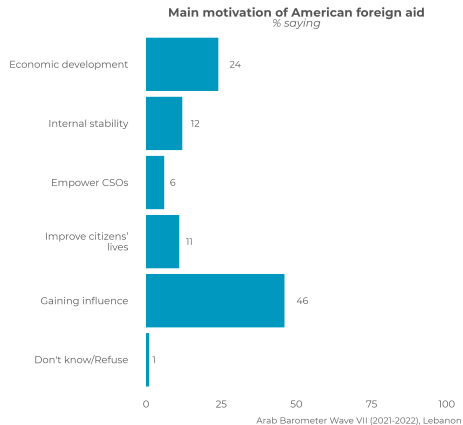
Views of foreign assistance from the U.S.



Views of foreign assistance from the U.S.

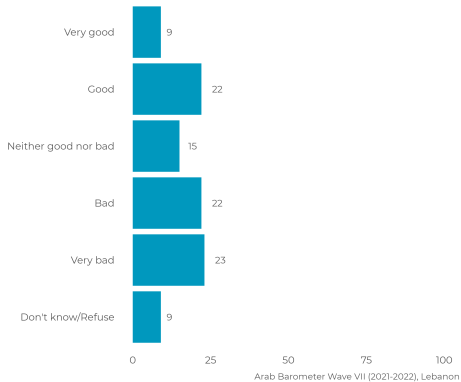


Motivation for foreign assistance from the U.S. & China

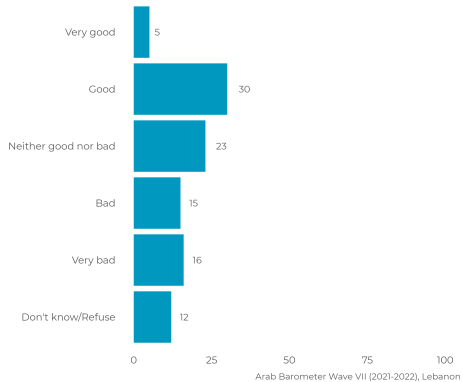


Views of Biden vs. Xi

**American President Joseph Biden's foreign policy
toward MENA**
% saying it is

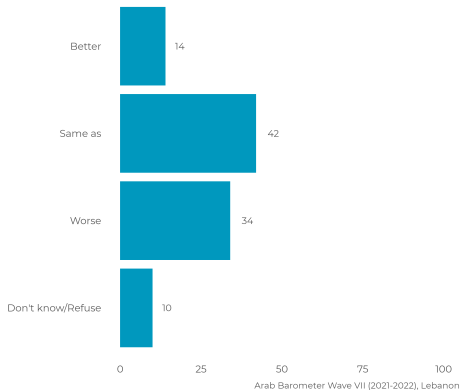


**Chinese President Xi Jinping's foreign policy
toward MENA**
% saying it is

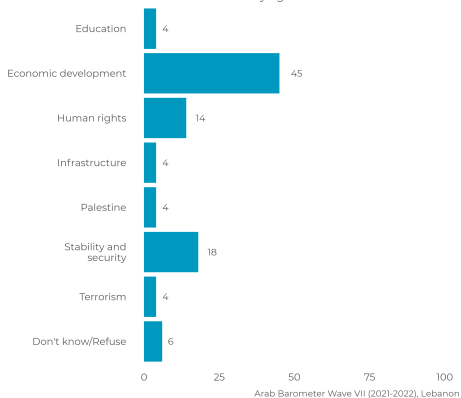


Views of and priorities for the Biden Administration

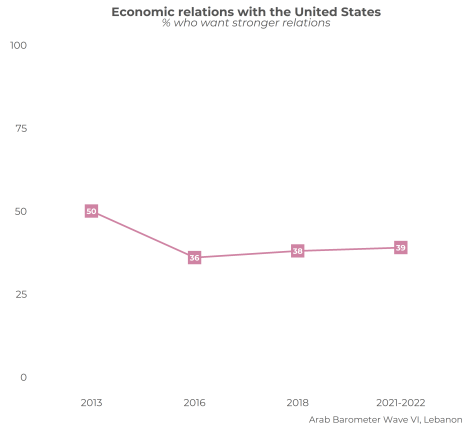
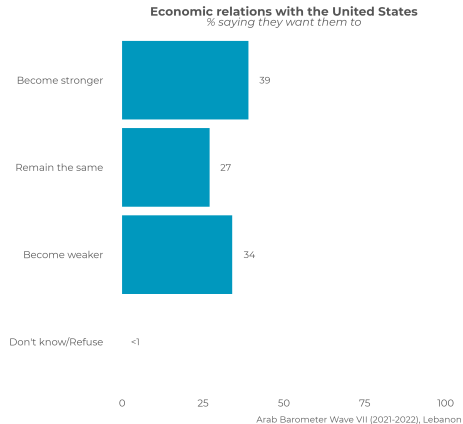
Biden's vs. Trump's policies in MENA
% saying Biden's policies are



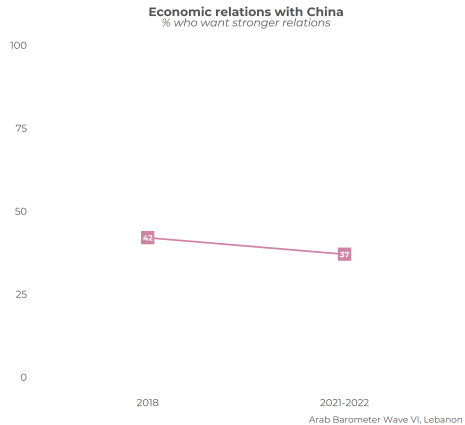
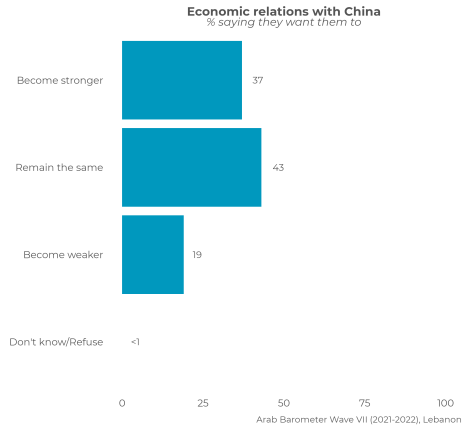
Biden Administration's top priority in MENA
% saying it should be



Economic ties with the U.S.

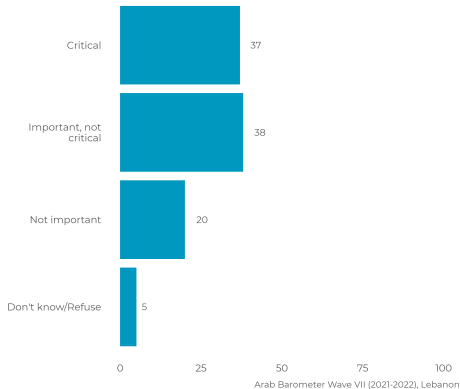


Economic ties with China

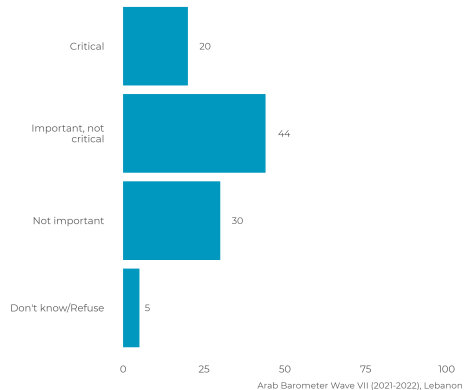


Economic threat from the U.S. vs. China

Development of the United States's economic power
% saying the threat is

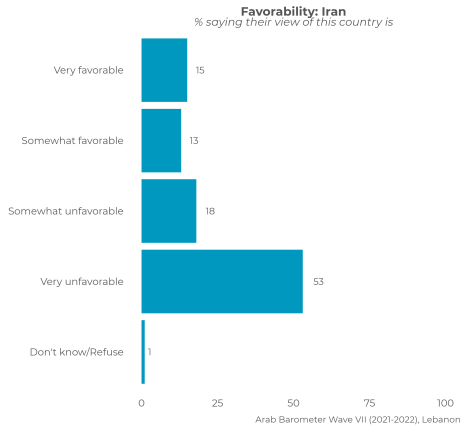
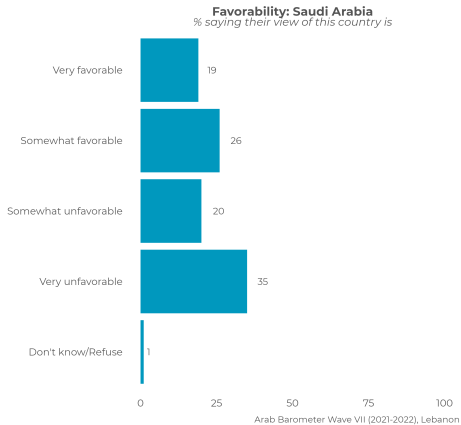


Development of China's economic power
% saying the threat is

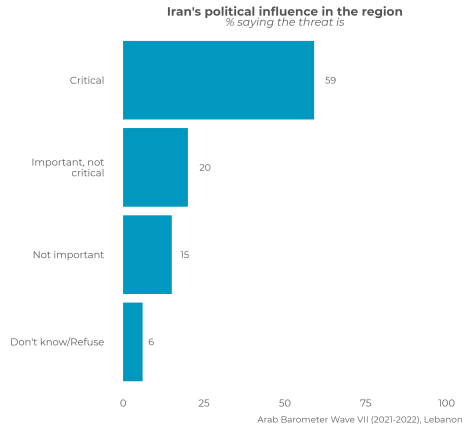
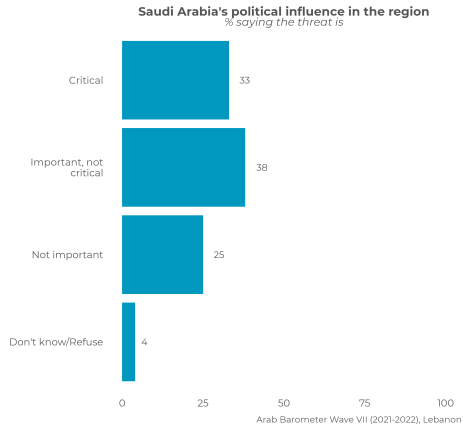


Regional Powers

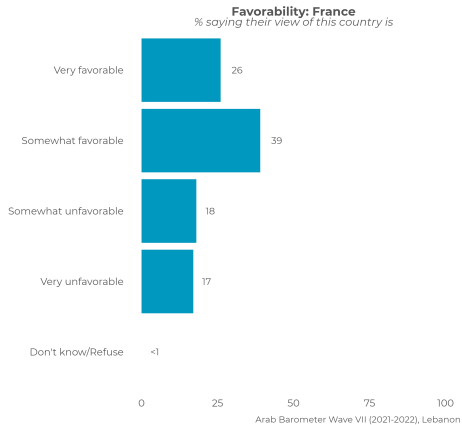
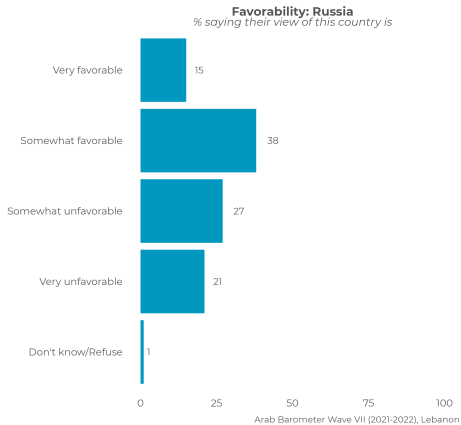
Views of Saudi Arabia & Iran



Perceived threats of Saudi Arabia vs. Iran



Views of Russia & France





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