

Arab Barometer IX

Tunisia Report

February 2026

Executive summary

Six years after the election of President Kais Saied, public opinion in Tunisia has largely stabilized. Despite a series of protests at the time of the survey, Tunisians generally hold attitudes that are relatively similar to those recorded in the Arab Barometer survey conducted two years prior. On the whole, older Tunisians seem to be more satisfied with current conditions and more supportive of state institutions than their younger counterparts.

Although the economic situation continues to be regarded by Tunisians as the most important challenge facing the country, more people are rating the economy positively than ever recorded by any previous Arab Barometer survey of the country conducted since 2011. The positive evaluation of current economic conditions is coupled with similarly positive outlooks for the economic future. These more positive economic assessments appear to be driven primarily by older and less-educated Tunisians, while younger Tunisians remain comparatively more pessimistic. Despite that, Tunisians continue to struggle with economic hardships in their daily lives. Food insecurity, in the forms of actual or perceived inability to sustain supplies, affects the majority of the population. While there is some agreement on the key economic issues in Tunisia, there is less consensus on what needs to be done to improve conditions.

Public trust in key state institutions has improved as compared to recent years. More Tunisians are expressing greater trust in the government and the parliament than previously; a phenomenon observed in several countries during Arab Barometer's latest surveys. This trust, however, is more widespread among older generations, while youth remain more skeptical of state institutions in comparison. Civil society, in contrast, is not included in this wave of improving public image. Fewer Tunisians say they trust civil society organizations today than in 2023. Youth, however, are more likely than those who are older to express trust in civil society organizations, reversing the generational pattern observed with state institutions.

Positive views of the government are further reiterated in evaluations of government performance on key economic fronts. Tunisians are more satisfied with their government's efforts in creating jobs, reducing inequality, and combating inflation than they were in 2023. Notably, however, young and more educated citizens appear less convinced by the government's economic performance than their older and less educated counterparts. Simultaneously, evaluations of public services - including education, healthcare, trash collection, and the like - have remained unchanged in recent years. Tunisians see such services, specifically education and healthcare, as their preferred top spending priorities for the government, along with economic development. Across multiple issue areas, the survey findings reveal a consistent generational divide, with

older Tunisians expressing greater confidence in state institutions and current conditions, while younger Tunisians exhibit greater dissatisfaction and disengagement.

Against this backdrop, alarming numbers of Tunisian youth express their desire to leave the country. Western European countries, especially France, Italy, and Germany serve as the top preferred destinations for Tunisians looking to migrate. Significant proportions of those wanting to emigrate are willing to do so without proper documentation. This willingness to emigrate, particularly among young and well-educated Tunisians, should serve as a warning sign for the state given the potential for brain drain.

While the overwhelming majority of potential migrants point to economic reasons as their main motive for emigrating, it is likely that the shrinking public sphere is contributing to such desires of migration. Younger Tunisians, in particular, are growing increasingly disengaged from politics and community life. Small minorities of Tunisians express interest in politics or participation in civil society organizations, while a significant proportion doubts the role of civil society altogether.

Views of Tunisians on gender issues have not changed meaningfully over the last two years. There is widespread support for women's participation in political life, especially in the government and parliament. There is similar support for women's participation in the labor force; though Tunisian women face a multitude of barriers to employment and face harassment in the workplace once employed. However, perceptions of gender roles at home differ widely.

As for the environment, Tunisians are mainly concerned about water-related issues and sees clear impacts on their livelihoods. Climate change and natural disasters are also considered causes of concern. In response, Tunisians support macro-level measures but are less inclined to support individual-level actions to combat climate change and protect the environment.

Tunisians continue to support democracy although they have a broad definition of the concept. This stated support is accompanied by the belief that democracy's key attribute is the ability to fix the country's problems rather than more procedural definitions. The survey makes clear that Tunisians see democracy as a system that delivers basic rights and needs for people, rather than a mere procedure to choose one's leaders.

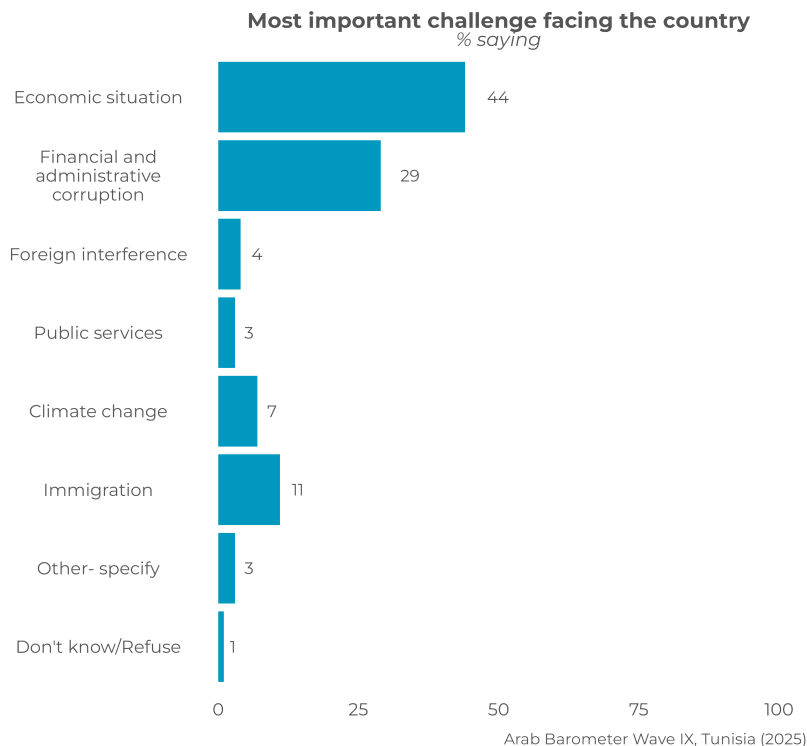
Views on international actors are deeply influenced by attitudes toward the war in Gaza. Support for states and leaders perceived to have supported Palestinians is clearly greater than for those that did not. The popularity of the United States has decreased since 2023 while Iran and its supreme leader are more widely supported. Regionally, Türkiye and Qatar, along with their leaders, are

more popular than their rivals in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

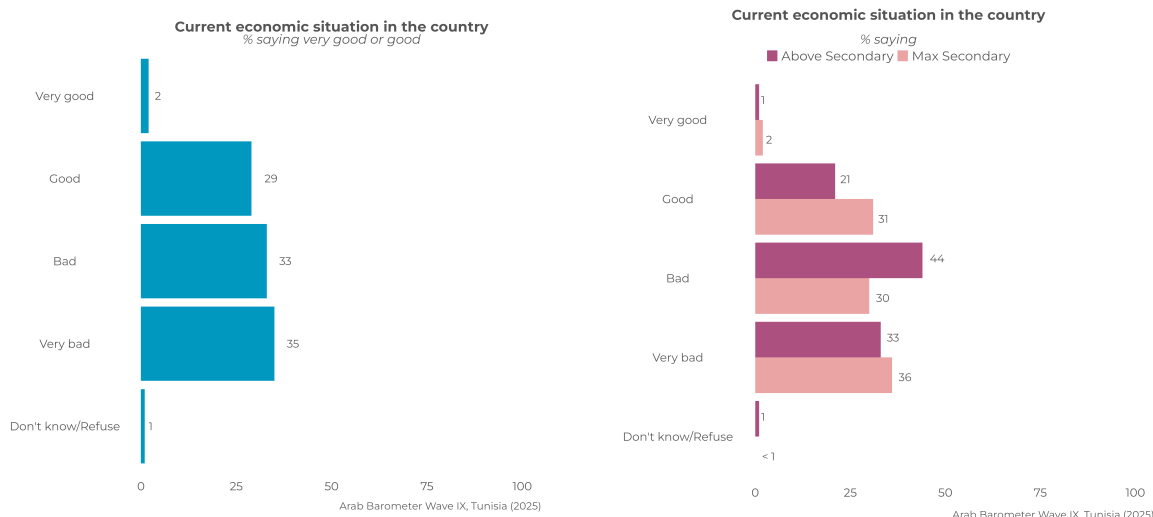
These are among the main findings of a nationally representative face-to-face survey conducted in Tunisia. The survey included 1,023 randomly selected citizens from across all governorates of Tunisia and was fielded from October 30 to November 30, 2025 using a multistage clustered sample. The margin of error for the reported results is ± 3 percentage points. The surveys are part of Arab Barometer's ninth wave. Additional information about the surveys can be found at www.arabbarometer.org.

Economy

Tunisians continue to be concerned about their economy. A plurality in Tunisia (44 percent) point to the economic situation as the most important challenge facing their country today. This level is relatively similar to two years ago when roughly half (49 percent) of people said the same. Notably, this view is more prevalent among women (50 percent) and those aged 30 or older (45 percent) than men (37 percent) and youth (33 percent).



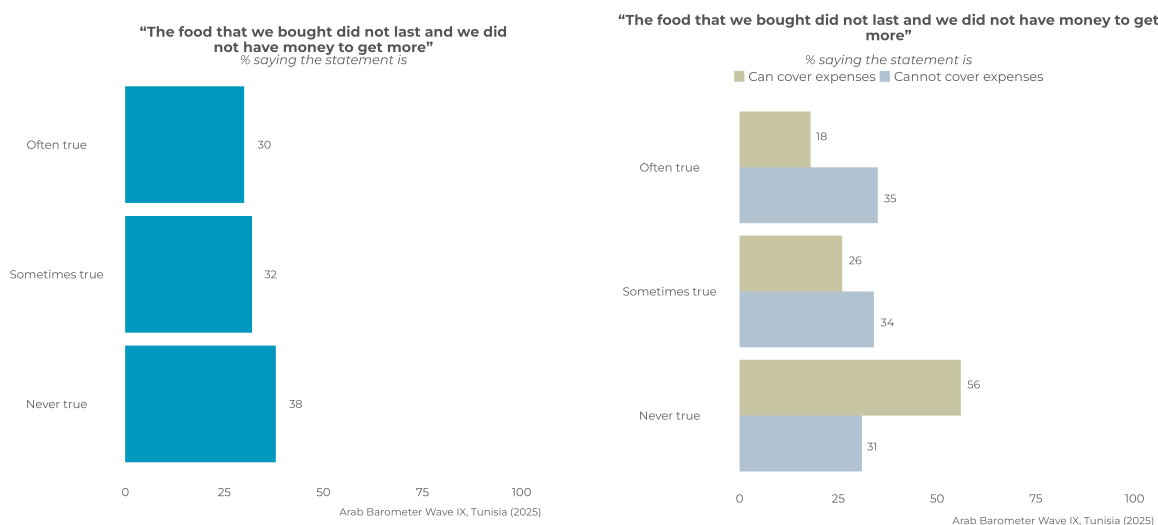
Evaluations of the current economic situation are more positive than the past decade, however. Today, three-in-ten (31 percent) Tunisians say the economic situation is very good or good. This number has nearly tripled over the past two years as only 11 percent shared positive views of the economy in 2023. In fact, this year's level is the highest ever recorded by Arab Barometer since it first started conducting surveys in Tunisia in 2011. It remains, though, the view of two thirds of the population that the current economic situation is bad (33 percent) or very bad (35 percent). The positive views are largely driven by less-educated (34 percent vs. 22 percent of those with higher education) and better-off (38 percent vs. 28 of those struggling to meet their needs) Tunisians.



Economic outlooks are largely positive with more than half (56 percent) saying they believe the economic situation will be much or somewhat better in the next few years. After declining between 2021 and 2023, hope in improving economic conditions seems to be on the rise again. As in the survey two years prior, older Tunisians are significantly more optimistic than their younger compatriots (60 percent vs. 42 percent). Only a quarter of people hold a negative view of their country's economy in the near future, saying it will be somewhat (10 percent) or much worse (14 percent) than it is currently.

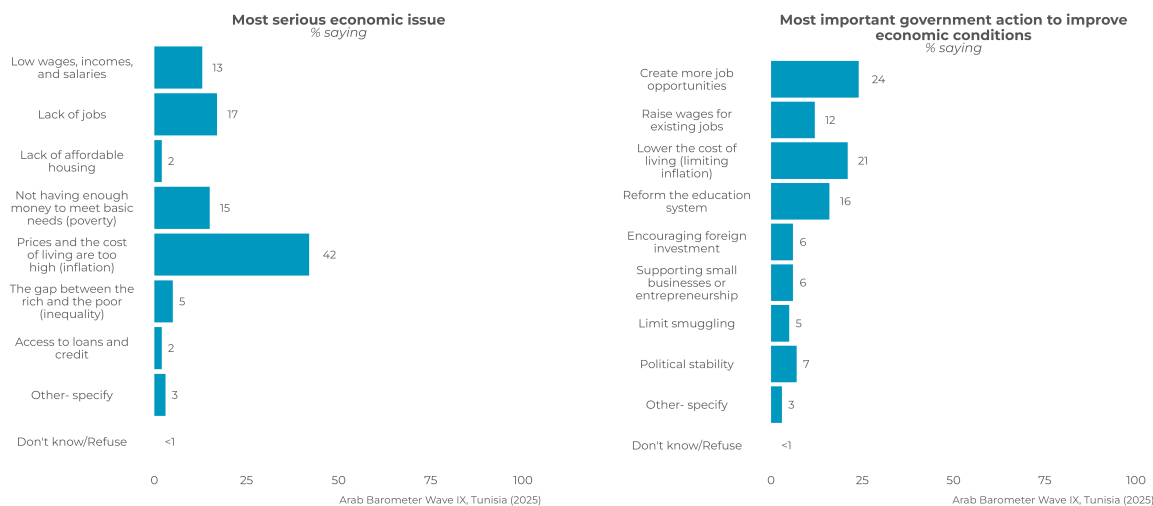
The improved public perceptions of the current state of economy and the optimism regarding the future does not translate into greater levels of economic security, however. Today, six-in-ten (62 percent) Tunisians say they have often or sometimes run out of food without having enough money to buy more. This level remains largely unchanged from 2023 when two thirds said the same. Yet, the issue of food insecurity is not limited to the less-fortunate segments of

society. A notable proportion of Tunisians (44 percent) who say they are generally able to cover their expenses say they have experienced this form of food insecurity over the past 30 days. Those struggling to meet their basic needs are more likely to experience this issue, however, with 69 percent of them saying it happened to them over the same period. Furthermore, six-in-ten Tunisians say they worry about having enough food to eat while a similar number (62 percent) mention their decision to eat only a few kinds of foods in response to economic hardships. Perhaps more significant is the percentage of those who say they had to skip a meal due to their lack of resources (49 percent).



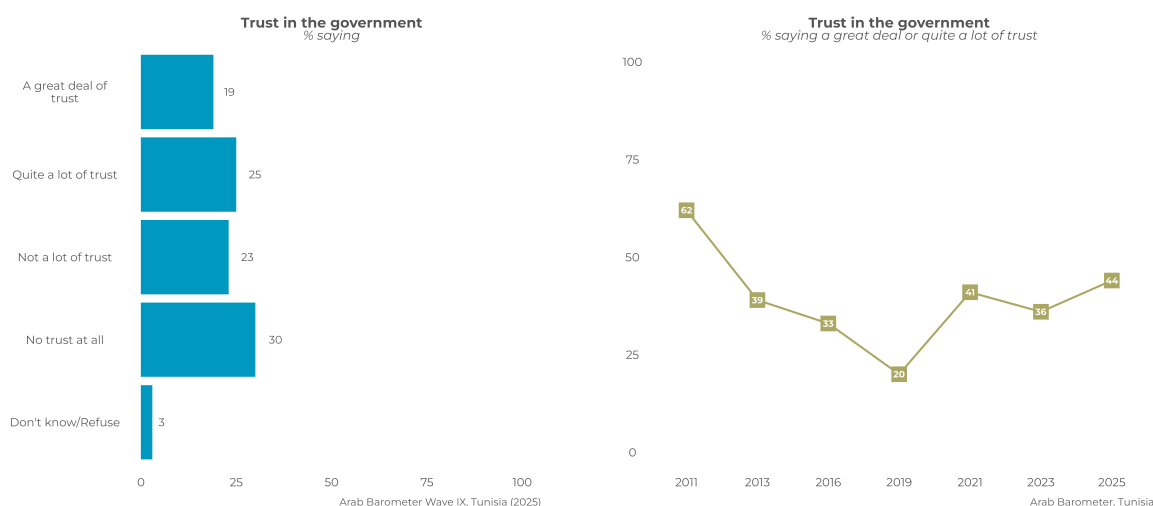
In light of these realities, it is not surprising that a clear plurality of Tunisians (42 percent) point to inflation as the most consequential economic issue they are facing. This is followed by smaller percentages citing unemployment (17 percent), poverty (15 percent), and low wages (13 percent).

When it comes to improving economic conditions, Tunisians hold differing perspectives. Asked what the most important government action to improve the economy should be, no more than a quarter of Tunisians agree on the top priority. While some want the government to focus on creating job opportunities (24 percent), a fifth (21 percent) say the government should work on lowering the cost of living and limit inflation. Smaller percentages point to reforming the education system (16 percent) and raising wages (12 percent).

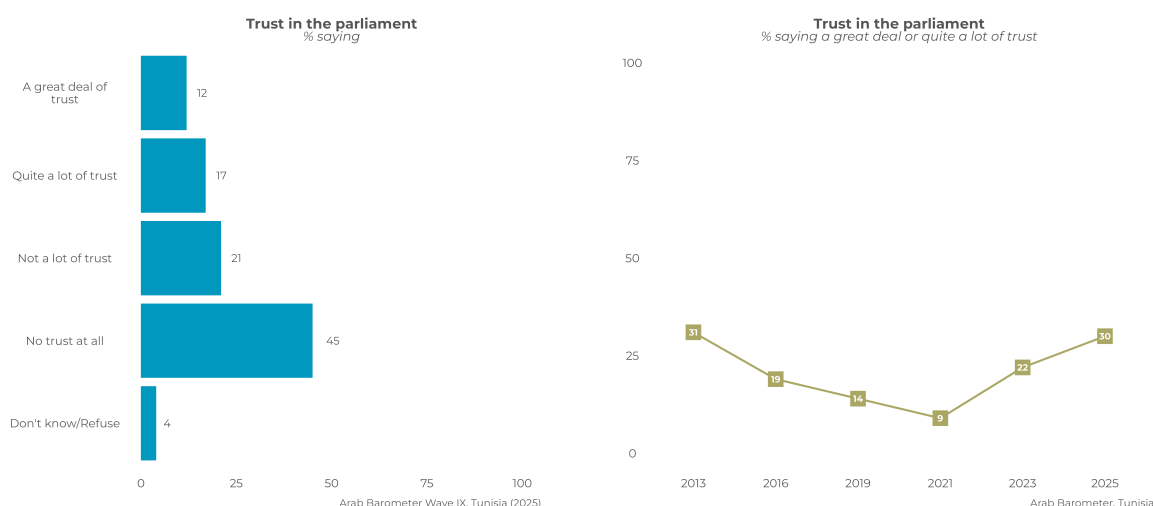


Trust in state institutions

Trust in the Tunisian state institutions is higher than it was prior to President Kais Said's election in 2019. Fewer than half (44 percent) of Tunisians say they have a great deal or quite a lot of trust in their government. This level is eight points higher than it was in 2023 (36 percent). It is also the highest in the years following the 2011 revolution. Older Tunisians are more likely to express trust in the government than youth by a margin of 13 points.



The parliament, however, enjoys the trust of fewer Tunisians. Only three-in-ten say they have a great deal or quite a lot of trust in their legislators. Notably, though, the Tunisian parliament has never enjoyed widespread support. In fact, the current level of trust matches the highest level recorded by Arab Barometer for the Tunisian parliament. In 2013, 31 percent of the population said they had confidence in their parliament. Since then, trust has been falling, but has been rising since 2021. Similar to trust in the government, older Tunisians are more likely to express trust in the parliament than their younger counterparts (32 percent vs. 21 percent). Also, those with a high school diploma at most tend to trust the parliament more than those with some higher education at least (31 percent vs. 23 percent).

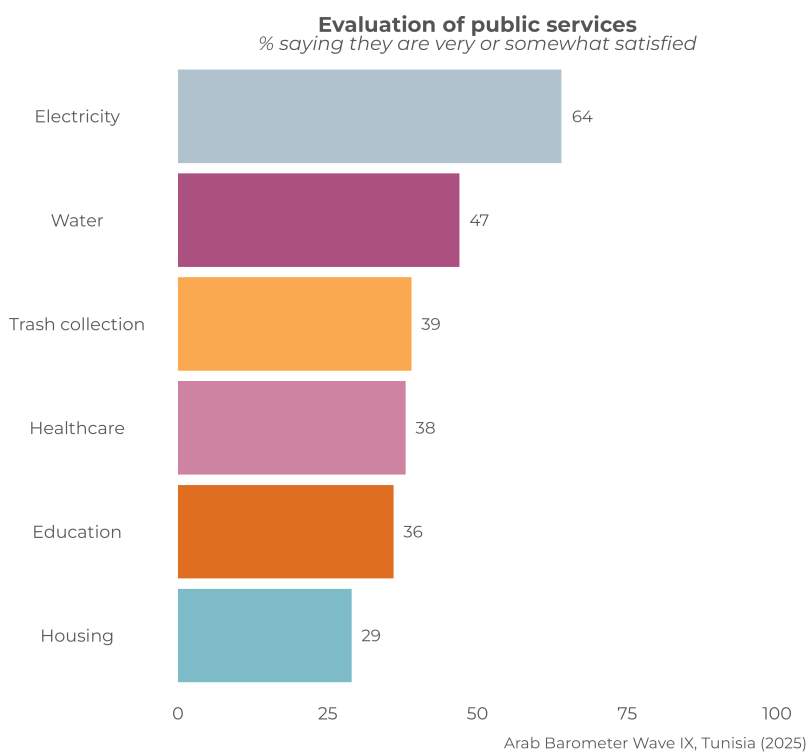


Unlike the government and parliament which have witnessed an increase in their public trust since 2023, civil society organizations have not enjoyed a resurgence in trust in Tunisia. Today, roughly a third of the population (35 percent) say they have a great deal or quite a lot of trust in civil society. This is down from 40 percent in 2023. The variation in trust by age points to an interesting phenomenon, however. While only a third (32 percent) of those aged 30 or older say they trust civil society organizations, half of Tunisian youth (49 percent) say the same. This likely reflects doubt from older generations regarding the utility of civil society in comparison to the enthusiasm and engagement of youth toward these groups.

Government performance

Evaluations of public services have remained largely unchanged over the past two years in Tunisia. Today, 36 percent of citizens express satisfaction with the

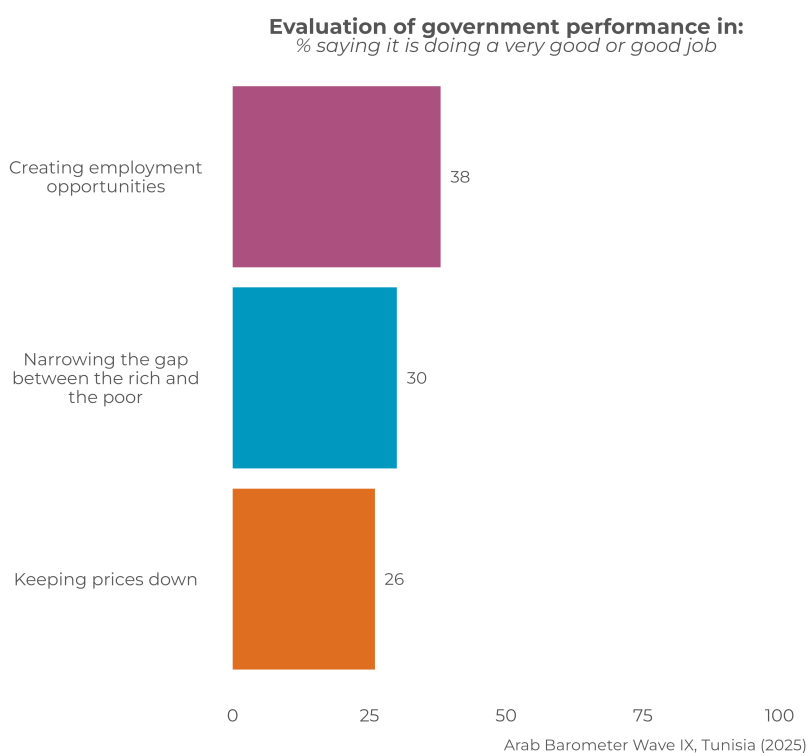
country's education system. In 2023, three-in-ten said the same. The education system ranks top (24 percent) when Tunisians are asked about priorities for government spending in the coming years. Notably, those with at most high school education are twice as likely to be satisfied with the current education system than their better-educated counterparts (41 percent vs. 19 percent). People with higher education may have higher expectations of the system, leading to less satisfaction with its current condition.



A similar proportion of the population say they are satisfied or completely satisfied with the healthcare system (38 percent). In terms of priorities, spending on healthcare is tied in second place with economic development as a fifth of Tunisians cite each as their top priority. Furthermore, four-in-ten (39 percent) express satisfaction with the trash collection services, a level unchanged from 2023 when 37 percent said the same. Just like in the case of the education system, Tunisians with higher level of education are less satisfied with their healthcare system and trash collection services by a margin of 14 and 15 points, respectively. This further suggests that differences in expectations lead to differences in evaluations.

Evaluation of water supply and electricity provision are more positive. Nearly two-thirds (64 percent) say they are satisfied or completely satisfied with electricity provision while 47 percent say the same about water supply.

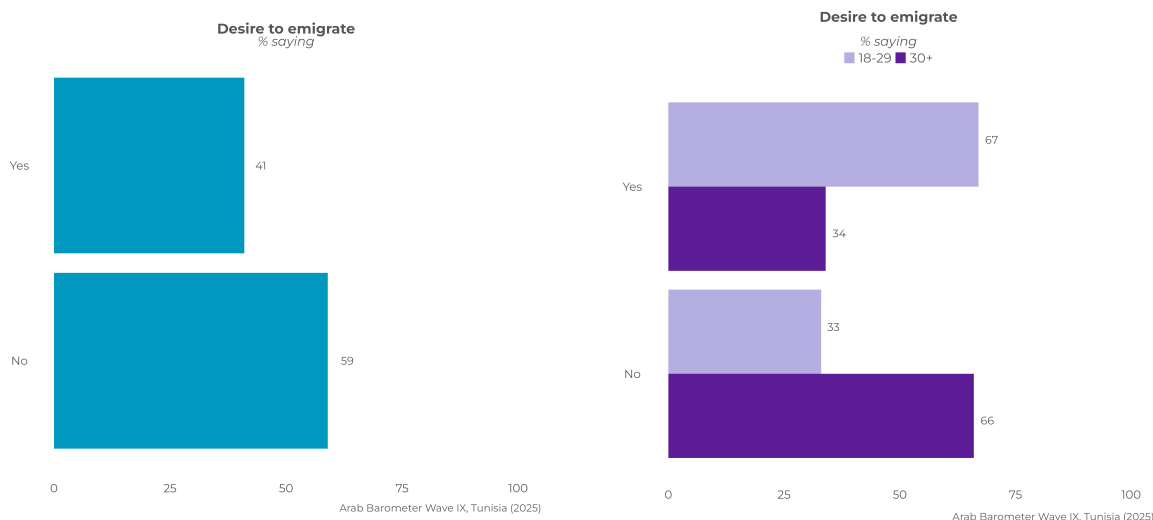
Although ratings of public services have remained similar to the 2023 levels, Tunisians evaluate the government's performance on economic issues more positively than they did two years ago. When it comes to job creation, roughly four-in-ten (38 percent) say the government is doing a good or very good job on that front. College-educated and young Tunisians are, however, less convinced of the performance. Still, by comparison, in 2023 only a fifth of Tunisians expressed positive views when asked about government performance in creating employment opportunities.



As for bridging the wealth gap, the positive rating is shared by 30 percent of Tunisians, up from 22 percent two years ago. This is especially important since roughly three quarters (73 percent) of the population think the gap between the rich and the poor in Tunisia is problematic. Moreover, a quarter (26 percent) believe the government is working well to keep prices down. This level has doubled over the past two years, with only 12 percent sharing the positive rating in 2023.

Migration

Today, four-in-ten (41 percent) Tunisians say they want to emigrate. Two thirds of youth (67 percent) express the desire to leave Tunisia compared to only a third (34 percent) of those aged 30 or older. College-educated citizens are also more likely to want to emigrate by a margin of ten percentage points than those with a secondary degree or less. Men are more likely to seek to leave their homeland than women (47 percent vs. 36 percent). The overwhelming majority of those wanting to leave the country cite economic conditions (78 percent) as a reason for leaving. Fewer than one-in-ten point to pursuing education (eight percent), corruption (eight percent), or other reasons, each.



Among those wanting to leave Tunisia, two-in-five say they are actually preparing to emigrate. Youth are almost twice as likely as their older counterparts to be taking steps towards leaving (58 percent vs. 31 percent).

Potential migrants from Tunisia primarily look to Western European countries as their preferred destination. France, which has historical ties with Tunisia and a large Tunisian diaspora, is the preferred destination for a third of potential migrants (34 percent), followed closely by Italy (27 percent) and Germany (24 percent).

Many people with the desire to emigrate are willing to do so without the proper documents; four-in-ten say so. Such levels have remained largely unchanged over the past four years, with 42 percent of potential migrants saying the same in 2023. This consideration is especially true for Tunisians with little or no education. Half of potential migrants with a secondary degree or less say they

are willing to emigrate without the required papers. By contrast, only 16 percent of the better-educated potential migrants share this sentiment. Similarly, men are almost twice as likely to say they would leave without documents than women (51 percent vs. 27 percent). It is possible that personal calculations for job prospects after migration plays a key role in such decisions.

Civic engagement

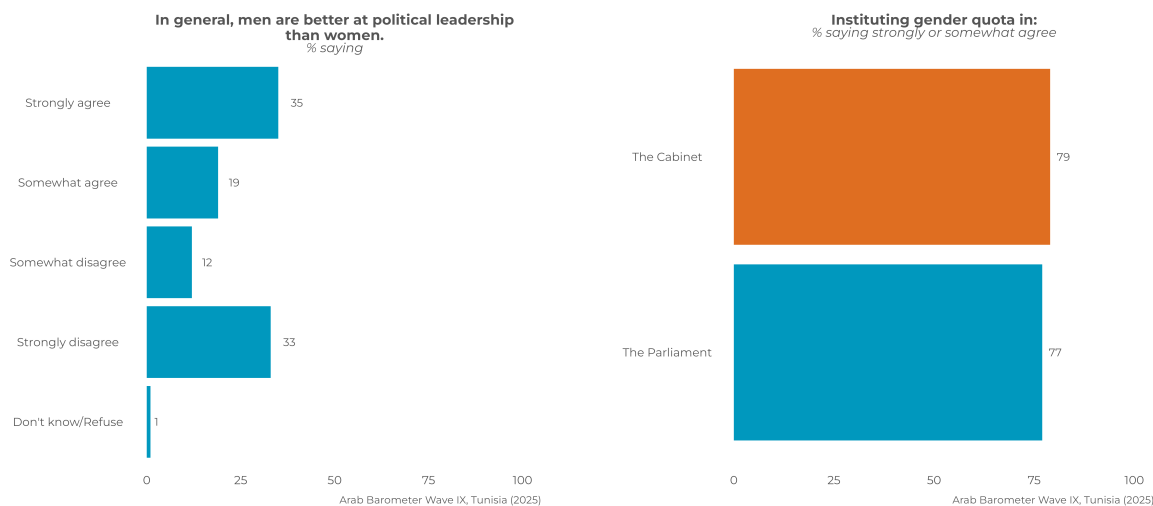
A decade and a half after the Jasmine Revolution of 2011, Tunisians are growing detached from, and disinterested in, politics. No more than a quarter (24 percent) of the population say they are interested or very interested in politics today. This level has remained steady since 2023 and represents the lowest level of political interest since 2011. Moreover, half of Tunisians (48 percent) say they are “very uninterested” in politics. Youth are less interested than older generations (17 percent vs. 27 percent). Women are also less interested than men by a margin of 12 percentage points; these levels have not changed since 2023.

This detachment from politics is further reflected in civic engagement. While half of Tunisians (51 percent) say they volunteer or support a cause, only four percent say they are members of a civic organization. Furthermore, three-in-ten say that civil society does not play a role in the country. This view is more prevalent among older people than youth (31 percent vs. 21 percent) and among men than women (36 percent vs. 24 percent).

Gender issues

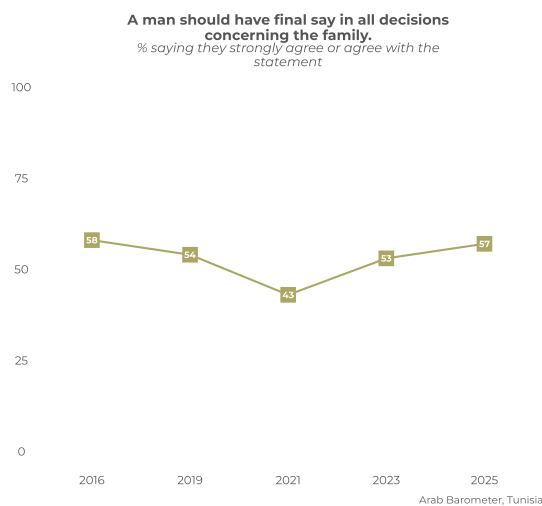
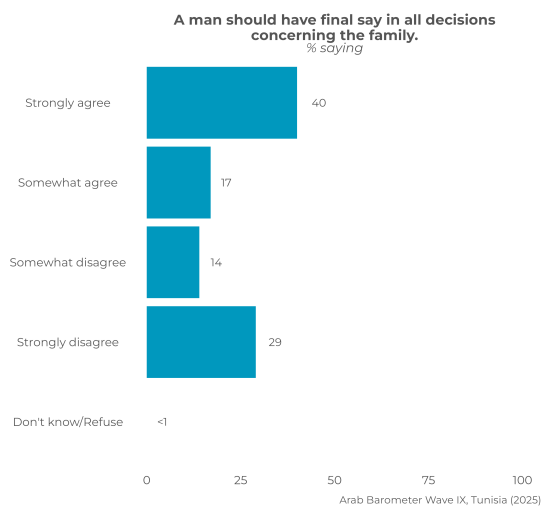
At least half of Tunisians (54 percent) think that men are generally better political leaders than women. A similar percentage of Tunisians said the same in 2023 (52 percent), which are also similar to the levels observed between 2013 and 2019. Unsurprisingly, men are more likely to hold such a view than women by a margin of 18 percentage points.

Nevertheless, Tunisians overwhelmingly support women’s engagement in politics. Three quarters (77 percent) say there should be a minimum number of parliamentary seats reserved for women while eight-in-ten (79 percent) say the same about cabinet positions. Older generations are more likely to support gender quotas in parliament (78 percent vs. 70 percent) and government (81 percent vs. 70 percent) than young Tunisians. Women are also more likely to support quotas than men by margins of 11 points in parliament and 12 points in government.



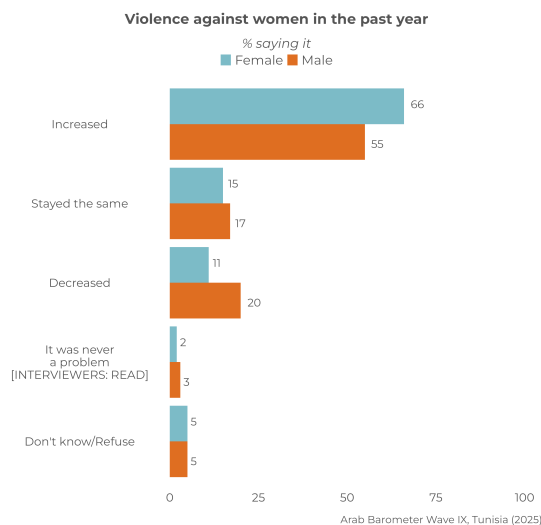
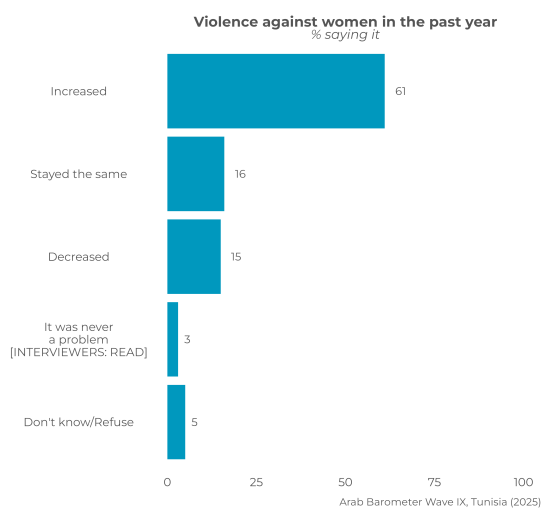
As for employment, the vast majority of Tunisians say that men and women should have equal work opportunities (84 percent). This level is similar to 2023 when 83 percent said the same. Women are again more likely to hold this position than men (91 percent vs. 77 percent). Tunisian women, however, are perceived to face a wider range of barriers to employment. Chief among these barriers is the lack of childcare options (24 percent), followed by the availability of employment opportunities (19 percent) and low wages (14 percent). Furthermore, harassment of women in the workplace is reportedly a common practice. Seven-in-ten (71 percent) say it is very or fairly widespread.

Gender roles at home are a source of more disagreements among Tunisians, however. More than half (57 percent) say that a man should have the final say in all family matters. This is up from 2021 when only 43 percent held this view, which was the lowest level ever recorded in Tunisia. It is, however, similar to the level in 2016 (58 percent). Perhaps unsurprisingly, seven-in-ten (71 percent) of Tunisian men say they have the final say at home; a view shared by fewer than half of women (47 percent). Notably, college-educated people are less likely to hold this view than those with no more than a high school education by a margin of 21 points (40 percent vs. 61 percent).



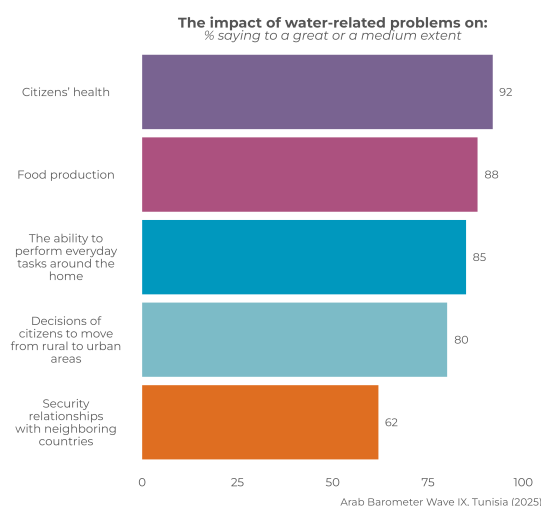
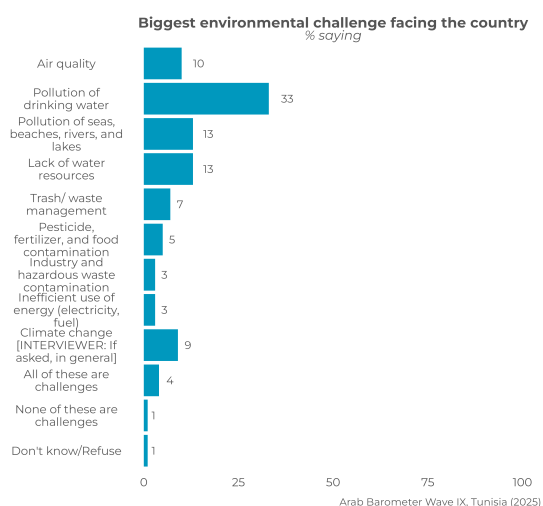
Roughly two thirds (64 percent) of Tunisians support the right for women to pass citizenship to their children if they marry a foreigner. In addition to women who are more supportive than men (71 percent vs. 57 percent), youth are more likely to hold this position than older Tunisians by a margin of 17 points. Those with more than a secondary degree are also more supportive of granting women this right than those with a secondary degree or less (75 percent vs. 61 percent).

Six-in-ten (61 percent) of Tunisians believe that violence against women has increased over the past year. This is a slight uptick from 54 percent in 2023, matching the 2021 levels when a similar 61 percent shared this grim view. Two thirds of women (66 percent) say violence has increased as compared to 55 percent of men. Women also face harassment often in the street, with 80 percent of Tunisians reporting such forms of harassment as very or fairly widespread. Fewer than a fifth (18 percent), however, believe women face such issues at home.



Environment

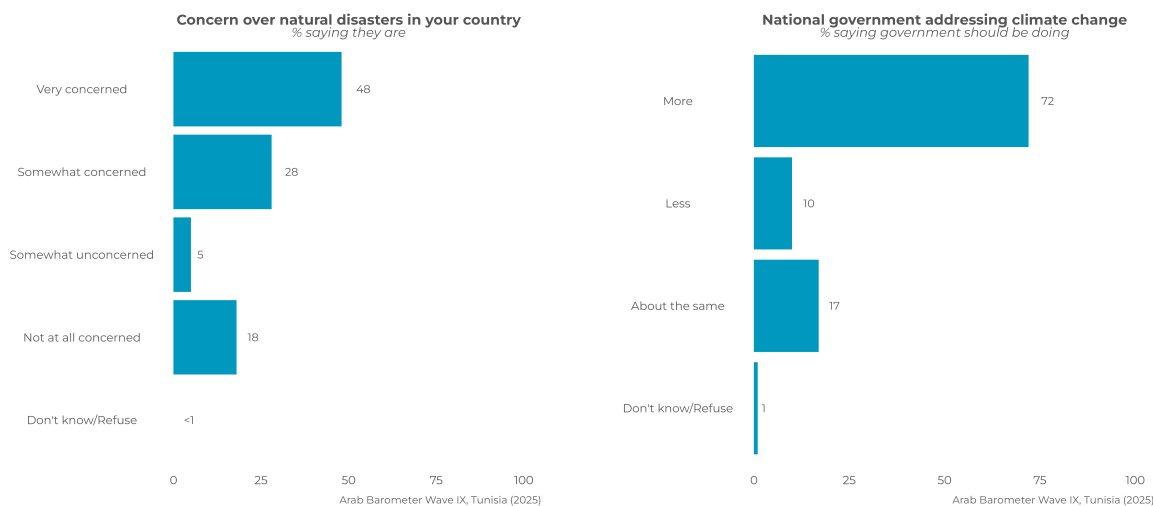
Citizens continue to regard water as the main source of concern for Tunisia's environment. Pollution of drinking water (33 percent), pollution of water bodies (13 percent), and lack of water resources (13 percent) top the list of environmental challenges facing the country. No more than one-in-ten Tunisians point to each of the other challenges, such as air quality (ten percent), climate change (nine percent), or waste management (seven percent).



Tunisians perceive the impact of water issues as central to their experiences. At least eight-in-ten say such water-related problems have impacted their daily lives. At home, 85 percent report experiencing issues performing household tasks as a result. Nine-in-ten (92 percent) say these water-related challenges have impacted people's health, while 88 percent say they have an impact on food production. An overwhelming majority (80 percent) attribute, if partially, the migration from rural areas to urban centers to these water-related issues. It is no surprise, thus, that more than half of Tunisians (57 percent) express concern about the possibility of being forced to relocate in the next few years due to the effects of climate change. At the state level, a majority see a connection between these issues and Tunisia's security relations with its neighbors (62 percent).

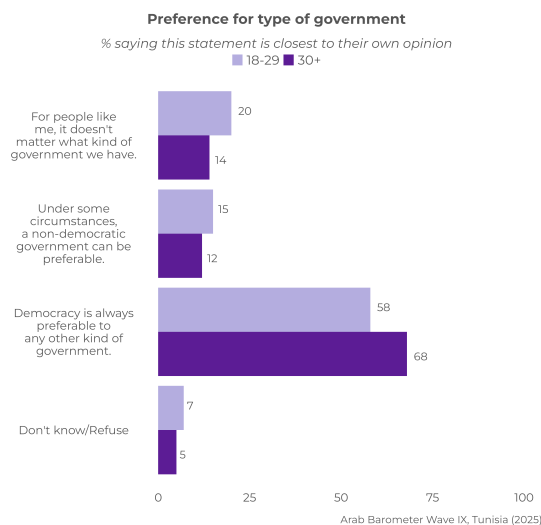
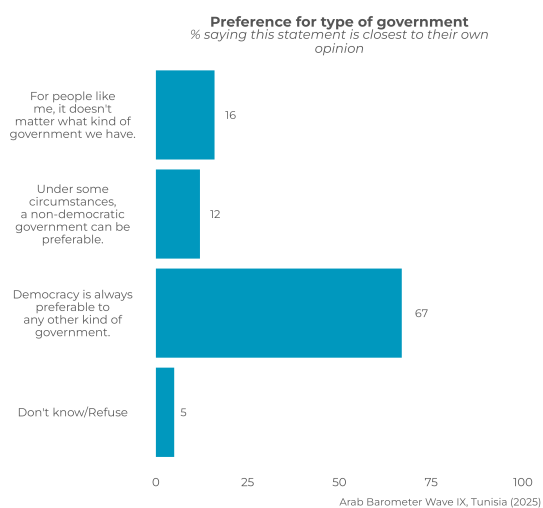
Half of Tunisians believe they are informed about climate change to a great or a medium extent. This is especially true for those with at least some college education (63 percent vs. 46 percent of the less-educated). Clear majorities hold their government (86 percent), private enterprises (83 percent), and fellow citizens (77 percent) responsible for addressing climate change.

With three-quarters (77 percent) expressing concern over natural disasters, it is no surprise that Tunisians want their government to do more to address climate change (72 percent). This level has remained unchanged since 2023 (73 percent). Perhaps surprisingly, older generations are more likely to support more government action in combating climate change than youth by a nine-point margin. Tunisians also overwhelmingly support more educational emphasis on climate change in schools (81 percent). In addition, support for certain environmental protection measures, including the development of alternative energy and the phasing out of fossil fuel use, is widespread. Tunisians are more reluctant to embrace changes to their personal lives, however. Reduction of energy use at home (34 percent), minimizing the use of plastic (41 percent), or switching to electric cars (27 percent) fail to garner the support of a majority in Tunisia.



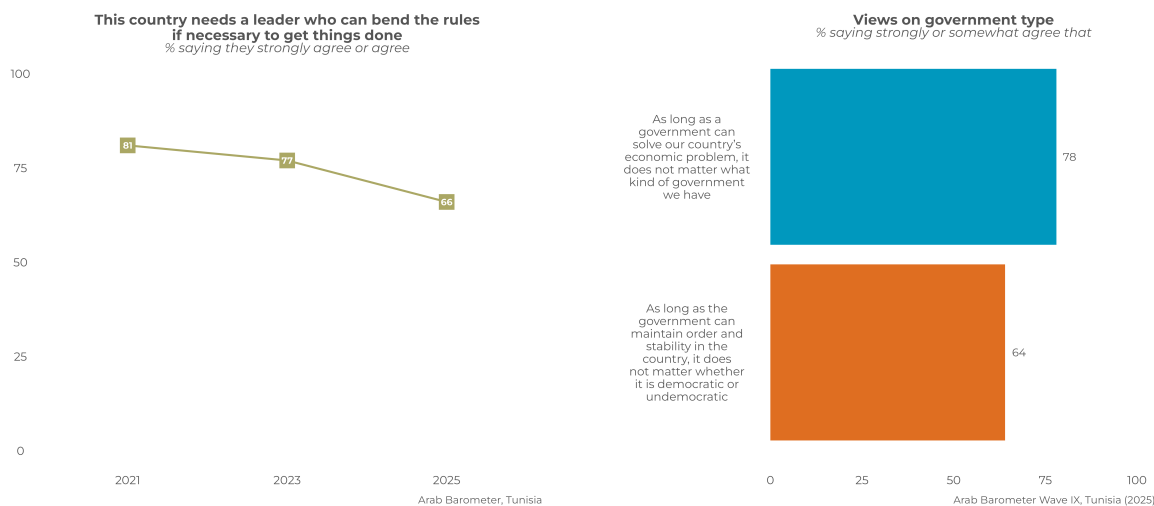
Democracy

The views of Tunisians on governance systems have largely remained stable in recent years. When asked about the preferred type of government, two thirds of Tunisians (67 percent) say that democracy is always preferable. This level has remained largely unchanged since 2019 (63 percent). While three-quarters of college-educated people hold this view, only 64 percent of their less-educated compatriots say the same. Notably, youth are less likely to say democracy is always preferable compared with older Tunisians by a margin of ten percentage points. At the same time, roughly one-in-ten (12 percent) of all Tunisians say that under certain conditions, a non-democratic system may be preferable while 16 percent say the type of government does not matter for them.



Despite robust support for democracy, there is also a clear sense that Tunisians expect results from their political system. A clear majority of Tunisians (78 percent) say that the type of government does not matter as long as it can solve the economic problems in the country. This is especially the view of older generations, among whom eight-in-ten (81 percent) hold this view, compared to 62 percent of youth.

Two thirds (66 percent) also think that their country needs a strong leader capable of bending rules as necessary to get things done. However, this level represents an 11-point decrease as compared to 2023 when 77 percent of people held such a view. Moreover, 64 percent of Tunisians say that as long as the government can maintain order and security, it does not matter what the type of government the country has. Two thirds of older Tunisians (66 percent) share this sentiment. Younger generations seem to be less convinced as only half (51 percent) of them say the same.



These views can be better understood by investigating Tunisians' understanding and definition of "democracy". When asked to choose a single primary pillar of democracy, Tunisians differ greatly. Three-in-ten (29 percent) cite the provision of basic necessities while a fifth (21 percent, each) point to absence of corruption and equality under the law. Personal safety from dangers ranks fourth with 14 percent. Free and fair elections are the least cited pillar of democracy at only five percent. These findings further reinforce the results from Arab Barometer's Wave VIII survey; Tunisians judge democracy on its outputs to a greater extent than its inputs.

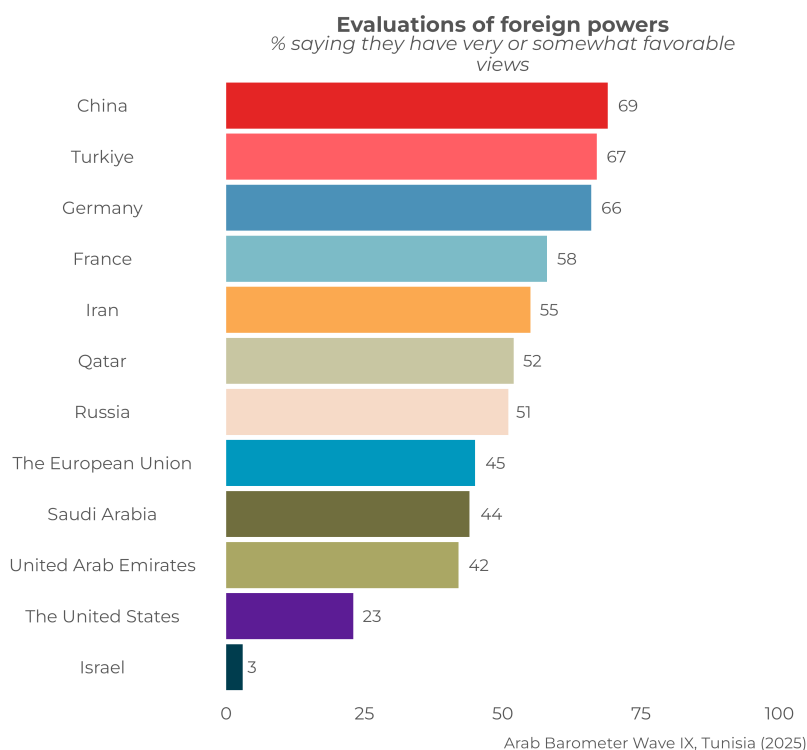
International relations

Tunisians are growing increasingly dissatisfied by Western powers. In 2023, Arab Barometer's Wave VIII survey in Tunisia spanned the period before and after October 7, which was a period of dramatic shifts in how those across MENA, including Tunisians, viewed foreign powers. The current survey is the first time Arab Barometer has surveyed Tunisia entirely after the tragic events of this day and Israel's subsequent war in Gaza.

A major shift has taken place in the case of the United States. No more than a quarter of the Tunisian people say they have a very or somewhat favorable view of the U.S. Three-in-five say they have a very unfavorable view. In 2021, a third of Tunisians expressed positive opinions toward this global superpower. The Gaza war slashed this sentiment, though. In the days immediately prior to October 7, Arab Barometer found 40 percent of Tunisians holding a favorable view of the U.S. However, twenty days after the event it was estimated that only

10 percent held such a view¹. While the current survey suggests views of the U.S. may have stabilized at about one-in-four, this is still a substantial drop from before. Notably, youth are 13 points more likely to hold a favorable view. Older Tunisians are significantly more inclined to rate the US negatively; while 64 percent of them say they have very unfavorable views, only 48 percent of youth say the same.

France continues to enjoy wide support among Tunisians. More than half (58 percent) rate the European power positively, up from 47 percent at the start of the war on Gaza. Likely, the difference with the U.S. may relate to France's recognition of the State of Palestine. Still, three-in-ten say they hold a very unfavorable view on France.



Two thirds (66 percent) perceive Germany in a positive way. This is especially true among Tunisian youth, three-quarters of whom (77 percent) say they hold favorable views of Germany as compared to 61 percent of their older counterparts. The European Union is favored by 45 percent of the population while

¹You can read more about these findings here.

roughly half say they hold somewhat (ten percent) or very (38 percent) unfavorable views of this broader organization.

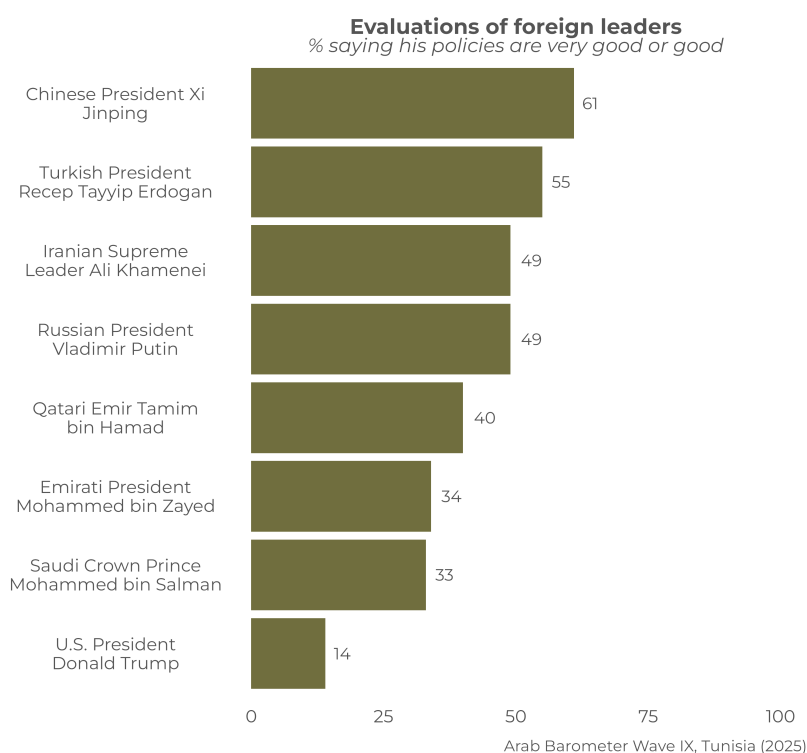
Russia's support declined from 60 percent in 2023 to 51 percent in 2025. This level remains higher, however, from the period prior to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The invasion does not seem to factor in Tunisians' perception of Russia. While three-in-five youth (59 percent) rate Russia positively, only half (48 percent) of their older compatriots hold similar views.

Among foreign powers, China enjoys the greatest public support in Tunisia. Seven-in-ten (69 percent) Tunisians say they hold very or somewhat favorable views. This level has remained unchanged in the past two years and is significantly higher than the 2021 level (50 percent).

Regionally, two-thirds (67 percent) rate Turkey positively, unchanged from 2023, while more than half (55 percent) share similar views on Iran. Fewer than half perceive Saudi Arabia (44 percent) and the United Arab Emirates (42 percent) favorably. Support for Qatar is greater with 52 percent saying they hold favorable views of the Gulf state.

Views of foreign leaders correlate closely with evaluations of their states. American President, Donald Trump, is the least liked among foreign leaders Tunisians are asked about in the questionnaire. No more than one-in-five (14 percent) say Trump's policies toward the region are good or very good. Rather, half of Tunisians (55 percent) say his policies are very bad, with an additional one-in-four (23 percent) rating them as bad. In terms of public support, Trump, however, does not fare worse than his predecessor, Joe Biden, who garnered the support of only 21 percent two years ago. Yet, when asked to compare the two directly, half of Tunisians say that Trump's policies are worse for the region than Biden's.

By contrast, China's Xi Jinping is popular in Tunisia. Three-in-five (61 percent) hold favorable views on the Chinese President. This level of popularity is higher than that of the Russian President, Vladimir Putin (49 percent); yet both leaders continue to grow more popular in Tunisia, given that roughly a third only expressed support for the two leaders in 2021.



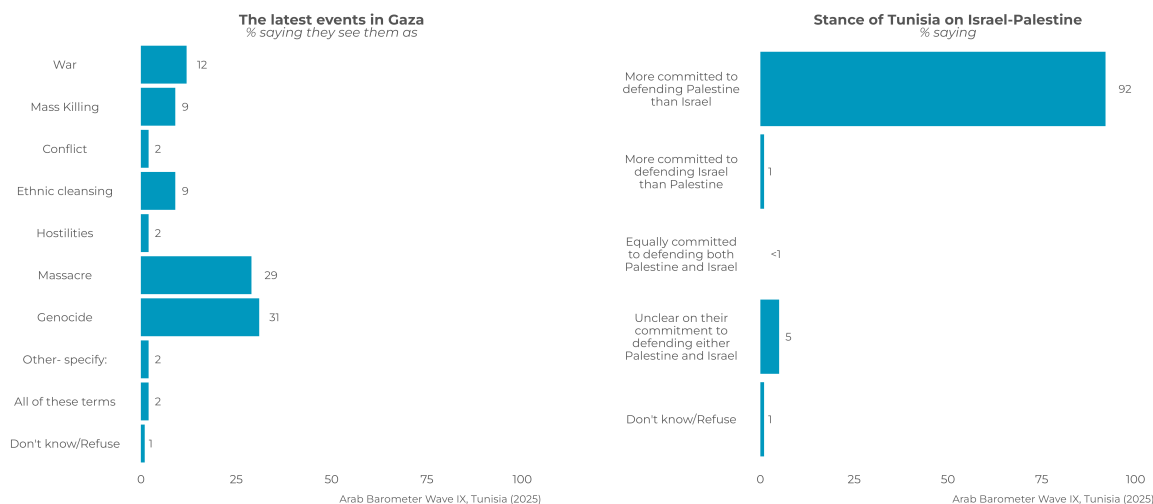
Among regional leaders, Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Türkiye is the most popular leader in Tunisia, with more than half (55 percent) saying his policies are good. Erdogan is trailed by the Iranian Supreme Leader, Ali Khamenei, who enjoys the approval of half the population (49 percent). It is likely that Iran's stance during the war on Gaza and its confrontation with Israel has translated into support for its leader. Khamenei's popularity grew significantly from 20 percent in 2021 to 32 percent in 2023, and finally to 49 percent in 2025. The Qatari Emir, Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, comes third with four-in-ten Tunisians saying his policy is very good or good toward the region.

Other key Gulf leaders are losing popular support in Tunisia. Today, only a third approve of Saudi Arabia's Mohammed bin Salman (33 percent) and the UAE's Mohammed bin Zayed (34 percent). This is significantly down from nearly a half in 2023 for the Saudi (49 percent) and the Emirati (45 percent) leaders.

Overall, these clear shifts in popular attitudes toward international actors show the extent to which the war on Gaza and its aftermath have impacted Tunisians' perceptions. Those who showed support for Palestinians, either materially or figuratively, are more popular than those who remained on the fence. This is especially true for regional leaders for whom expectations of solidarity are higher.

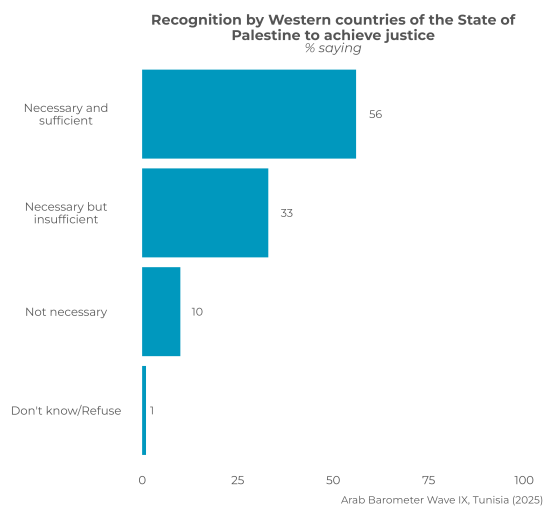
Views on the Gaza war

Tunisians are generally in agreement when it comes to their views and assessment of the war on Gaza. Roughly six-in-ten classify the post-October 7 violence as a genocide (31 percent) or a massacre (29 percent). Small minorities describe the events as war (12 percent), ethnic cleansing (nine percent), or mass killing (nine percent). (nine percent).



The overwhelming majority in Tunisia (92 percent) say their country is more committed to defending Palestine than Israel. A smaller majority (62 percent) say the same about Iran. In contrast, roughly two thirds of Tunisians (69 percent) believe that the United States is more committed to defending Israel than Palestine. These considerations are likely the driver of Iran's increased popularity and the U.S.' decline among the Tunisian public. Perceptions of the positions adopted by other global and regional powers toward the Palestine-Israel conflict are more divided, however.

The recognition of a Palestinian state is regarded by Tunisians as an important step forward for achieving justice for Palestinians. More than half (56 percent) say it is both necessary and sufficient that Western states recognize the State of Palestine. A third (33 percent) acknowledge the move is necessary but do not think it is enough to achieve justice, however. Only one-in-ten see such recognition as unnecessary.



Tunisians hold the states that have historically supported Israel responsible for the suffering of the Palestinian people. Three-quarters of citizens say that these states should be charged in the International Criminal Court with similar crimes as Israel (29 percent) or greater crimes (46 percent).

The Arab Plan to rebuild Gaza enjoys wide support in Tunisia with three-in-four saying they strongly (57 percent) or somewhat (19 percent) support the proposal. This suggests that Tunisians are supportive of deeper engagement with Gaza to help rebuild the country. Tunisians desire to support the Palestinian cause is also clear based on the fact many Tunisians say they have expressed solidarity with Gaza by following the news regularly (61 percent) and boycotting companies that support Israel (48 percent) among other less employed means of solidarity.



About Arab Barometer

Arab Barometer is the leading and most influential research network on public opinion in the Middle East and North Africa. We are nonprofit and nonpartisan, hosted at Princeton University and the University of Michigan.

Founded in 2006, we are the longest-standing research network that conducts rigorous and nationally representative public opinion surveys in the Arab world. We disseminate the findings through analyses and reports to deepen public conversations and facilitate data-driven solutions to the pressing problems facing ordinary citizens across MENA.

Our public opinion surveys give ordinary citizens a stronger voice, and our analysis, highlighting key demographic differences and changing trends, help comprehend MENA citizens' shifting views, attitudes, and behaviors.



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