



The IPPR Commission on Economic Justice

Unfair and In Need of Reform

Public attitudes to the UK economy

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The IPPR Commission on Economic Justice

The IPPR Commission on Economic Justice is a landmark initiative to rethink economic policy for post-Brexit Britain.

Launched in November 2016, the Commission brings together leading figures from across society – from business and trade unions, civil society organisations and academia – to examine the challenges facing the UK economy and make practical recommendations for reform.

The Commission has undertaken a wide-ranging programme of research and policy consultation on issues including industrial strategy, macroeconomic policy, taxation, work and labour markets, wealth and ownership, sub-national economic policy and technological change. Through a major programme of communications, events and stakeholder engagement it aims to contribute to both public debate and public policy on the economy. Non-partisan, it has been welcomed by both government and opposition parties.

The Commission's Interim Report, *Time for Change: A New Vision for the British Economy*, was published in September 2017. Its Final Report was published in autumn 2018.

www.ippr.org/cej



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NOTE

The Commission publishes discussion papers to contribute to debate on issues of major importance. These discussion papers should not be taken to represent the collective views of the Commission or the views of individual Commissioners, or the organisations with which they are affiliated. They reflect only the views of their named authors. The Commission welcomes responses and reactions to them.

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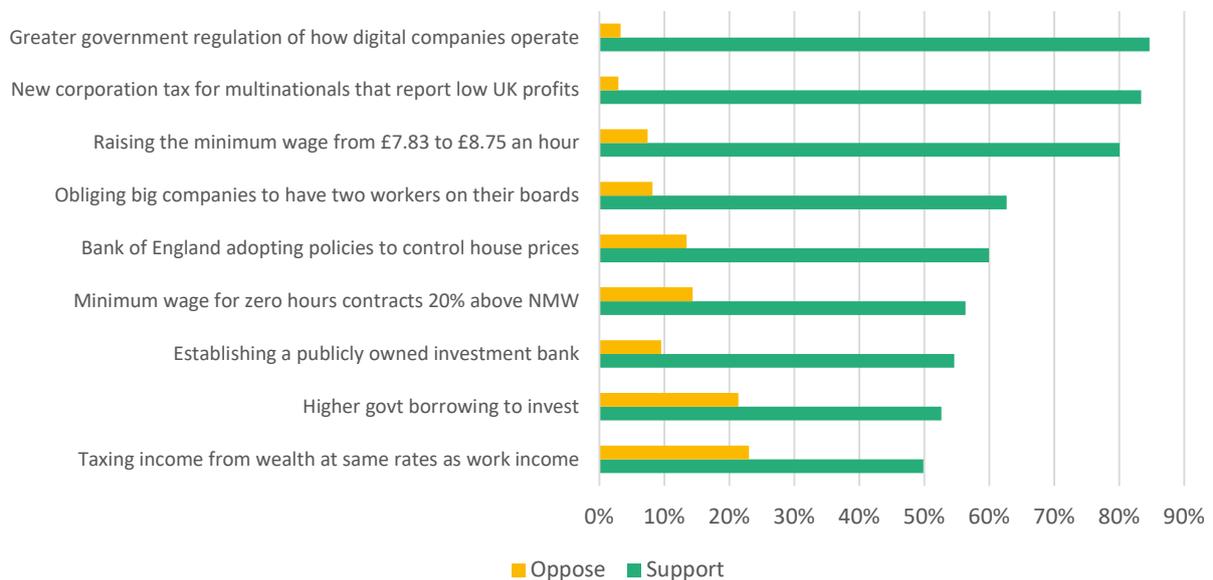
Summary

A new opinion poll by Sky Data, carried out for the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR), has found strong support for all the major policy proposals recommended by the IPPR Commission on Economic Justice in its final report.

At least 80 per cent of the public support greater regulation of the major digital companies such as Google and Facebook; would like to see a new corporation tax on multinational companies; and support raising the minimum wage to the 'real living wage'.

At least 50 per cent of people support having workers on company boards; asking the Bank of England to control house price inflation; establishing a National Investment Bank; raising public investment through borrowing; and raising taxes on income from wealth to the same level as taxes on income from work.

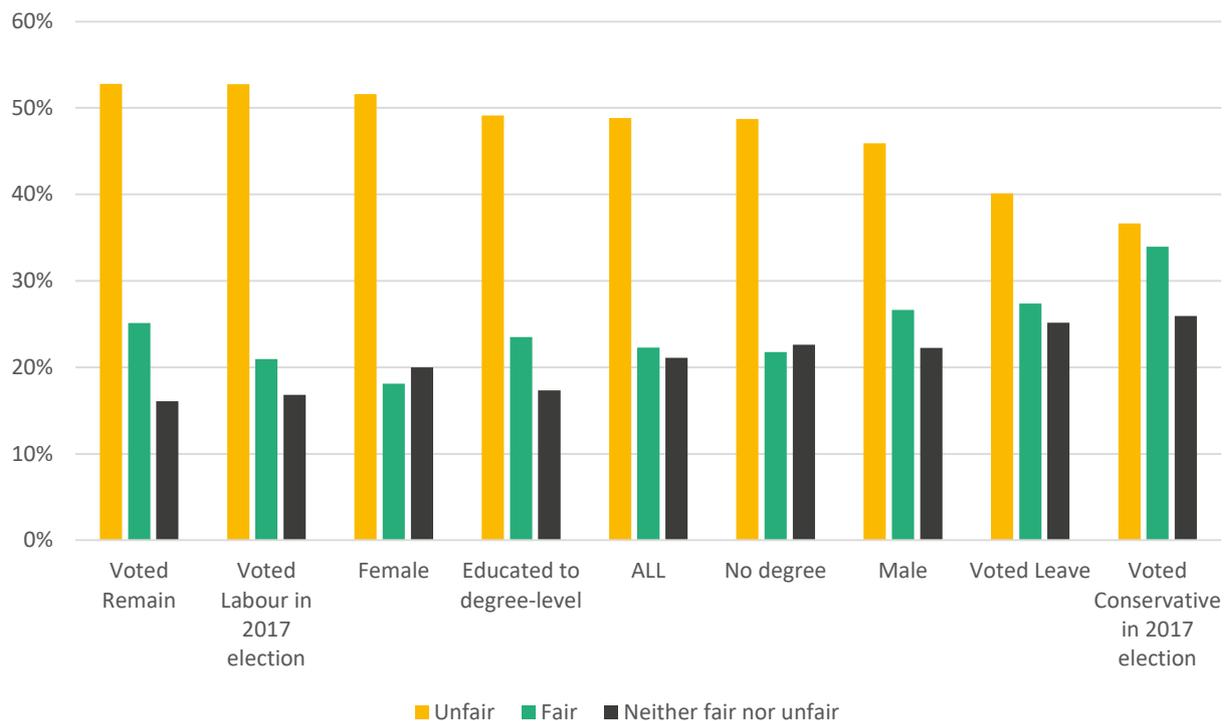
Would you support or oppose the following policies?



Source: IPPR analysis of Sky Data poll

Asked whether the economy works in a fair way or not, many more people (49 per cent) believe that it works unfairly than fairly (22 per cent). 53 per cent of people believe the economy has become more unfair over the last decade, compared with just 10 per cent who believe it has become more fair. There is little difference on this between the views of Remain and Leave voters.

Would you describe the way the economy works as fair or unfair?¹



Source: IPPR analysis of Sky Data poll

The poll asked a representative sample of 1,330 British adults its views on a number of aspects of the economy, and gauged support for some of the policies the Commission recommends.

Among its other findings were:

- Younger age groups are most likely to believe that the economy is unfair: 64 per cent of under-35s think the economy works in an unfair way, and 72 per cent think it has become more unfair over the last decade.
- The vast majority of the British public (83 per cent) thinks the economy works well for those born into wealthy families; 74 per cent think it doesn't work well for those born into poverty.
- 53 per cent of people think the economy works well for people in the South of England; only 11 per cent think it works for those outside the South.

Some policies – such as the introduction of a new corporation tax to tackle avoidance by multinationals, or new regulation of the digital platform companies – attract near-universal support. Others – such as the increasing of taxes on income from wealth to match those on income from work – attract more of a mix of views. But it is clear that across the political spectrum, across age groups, and across levels of education, there is support for the economic policies the Commission proposes to achieve prosperity and justice together.

¹ The 'fair' total reported here is the sum of 'fairly fair' and 'very fair' responses; the 'unfair' total is the sum of 'fairly unfair' and 'very unfair' responses.

Introduction

The IPPR Commission on Economic Justice argues that the economy does not work well for most people. IPPR wanted to understand the degree to which this was felt by the UK population, and how perceptions varied by age, political views, education, and gender. We were also keen to test some of the core arguments made in the Commission's final report *Prosperity and Justice* with the public, and to gauge support for the policies it recommends.

To that end, IPPR commissioned Sky Data to conduct a nationally representative poll of 1,330 members of the British public. The poll, which was conducted online between 17 and 20 August 2018, included questions to gauge perceptions of how well the economy works currently. It also asked respondents whether they would support or oppose a selection of policies that the Commission recommends.

This report summarises the key results of the poll. The complete list of questions asked is provided in the Annex, and the full results, including weighted and unweighted sample sizes, are available at: <http://www.ippr.org/research/publications/unfair-and-in-need-of-reform>.

Sky Data is a member of the British Polling Council and abides by its rules.

1. Is the economy fair?

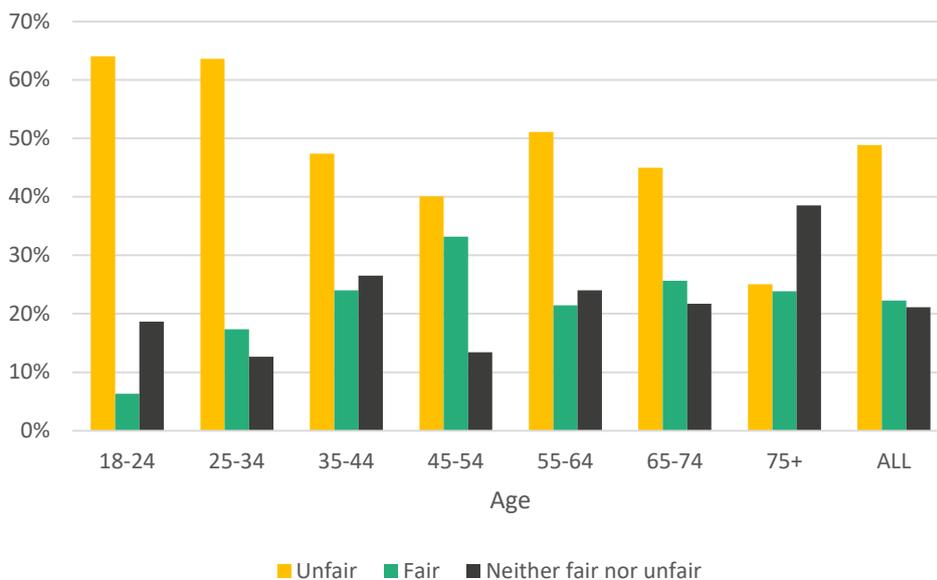
The survey asked respondents several questions to find out whether they believe that the economy works in a fair or an unfair way, both in general terms and for specific groups.

The first question asked was: *Would you describe the way the UK economy works as fair or unfair?*

Across the population, 49 per cent of people would describe the way the economy works as unfair to some degree (i.e. either 'very unfair' or 'fairly unfair')² – with 15 per cent believing it to be very unfair. Only 22 per cent said they believe the way the economy works is fair, with 21 per cent saying it is 'neither fair nor unfair'. Younger age groups were particularly likely to see the economy as being unfair: 64 per cent of 18–34 year olds were of that view, versus 42 per cent of the over-55s.

Figure 1.1: Belief that the economy does not work in a fair way is more prevalent among younger age groups

Would you describe the way the economy works as fair or unfair?



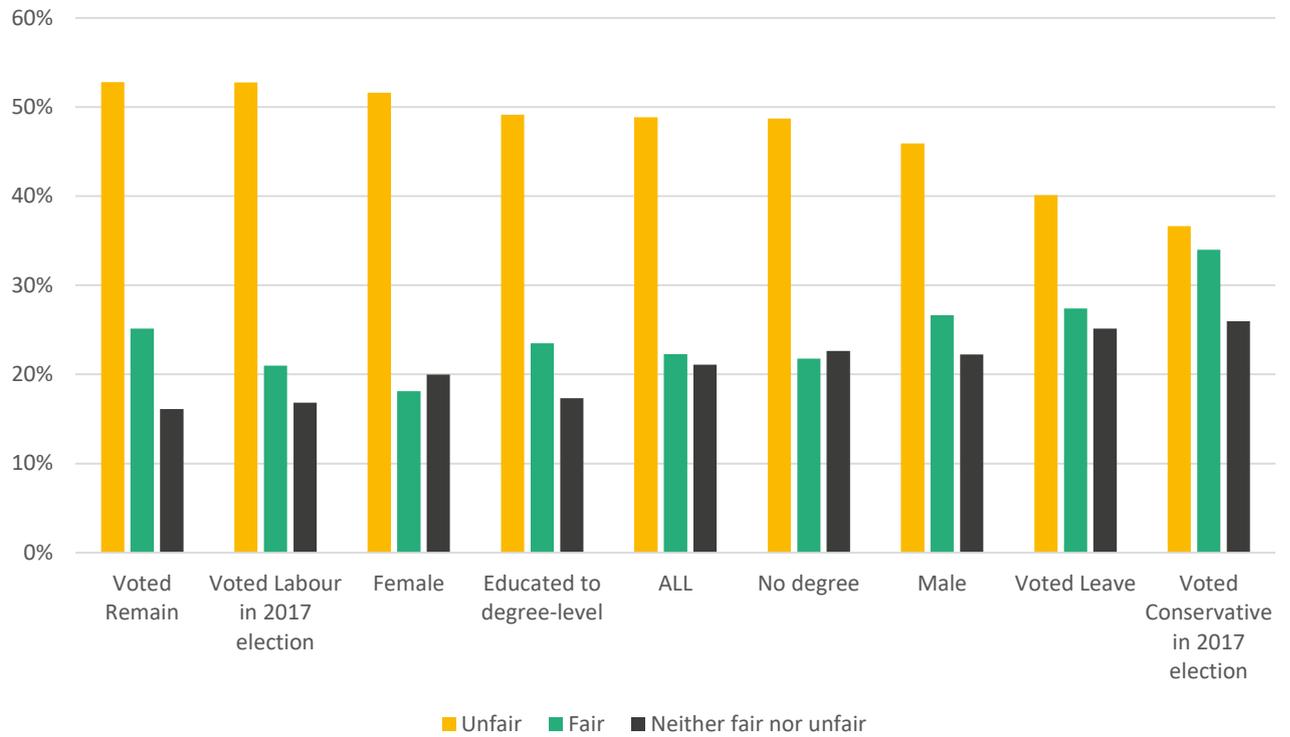
Source: IPPR analysis of Sky Data poll

Disaggregating the data by education level, gender, political affiliation and how people voted in the EU referendum reveals that the sense that the economy isn't fair is widely shared. Labour voters are more likely than any other group to believe the economy is unfair; Conservative voters are more likely than any other group to believe it is fair.

² All questions were asked as multiple-choice, with no free text responses. For full details of all questions and response options, see Annex.

Figure 1.2: The perception that the economy is unfair is most prevalent among Remain voters, Labour voters and women

Would you describe the way the economy works as fair or unfair?³



Source: IPPR analysis of Sky Data poll

³ The 'fair' total reported here is the sum of 'fairly fair' and 'very fair' responses; the 'unfair' total is the sum of 'fairly unfair' and 'very unfair' responses.

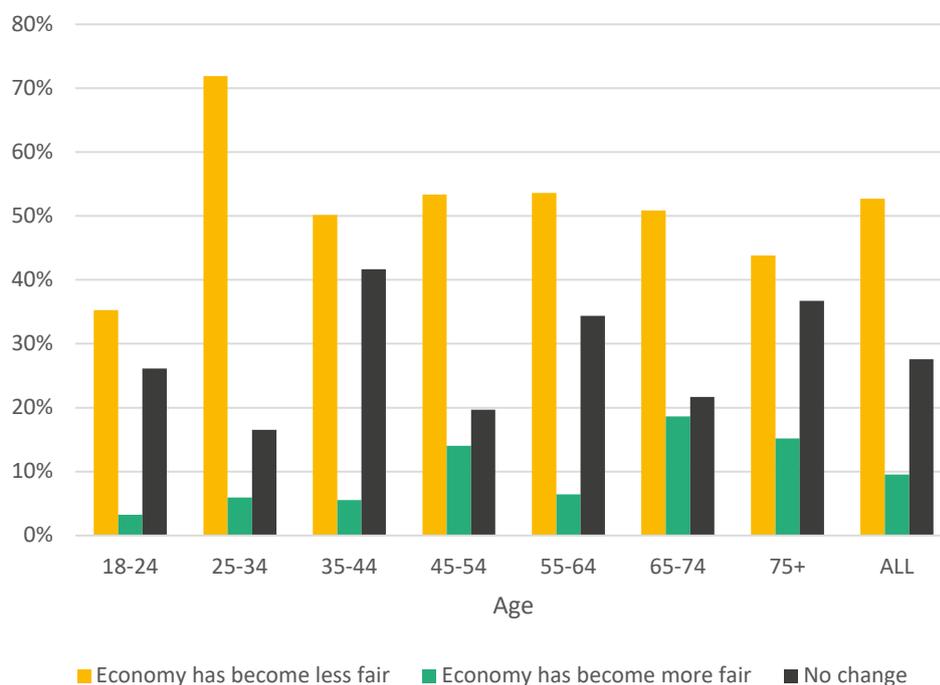
2. Is the economy changing for the better, or the worse?

Respondents were asked: *Do you think the way the UK economy works has become more or less fair over the last decade, or has there been no change?*

Across the population, more than half – 53 per cent – thought the economy had become less fair over the last 10 years. This belief was most prevalent in the 25–34 age group: 72 per cent of this group thought the economy was less fair now than it was a decade ago.

Figure 2.1: Across all age groups, more people believe the economy has become less fair over the last decade, than think it has become fairer

*Do you think the way the UK economy works has become more or less fair over the last decade, or has there been no change?**



Source: IPPR analysis of Sky Data poll

Very few people – 10 per cent overall – reported that they thought the economy had become fairer over the past decade. Older age groups were most likely to report an improvement, but not in much greater numbers than younger groups: 13 per cent of over-55s, for example, thought the economy had become more fair, against 5 per cent of those aged 18–34.

Older people were also more likely to report that little had changed one way or the other: 30 per cent of those aged 35–55, and 31 per cent of those aged over 55, thought the economy was about as fair now as it had been 10 years ago, compared with 20 per cent of 18–34 year olds.

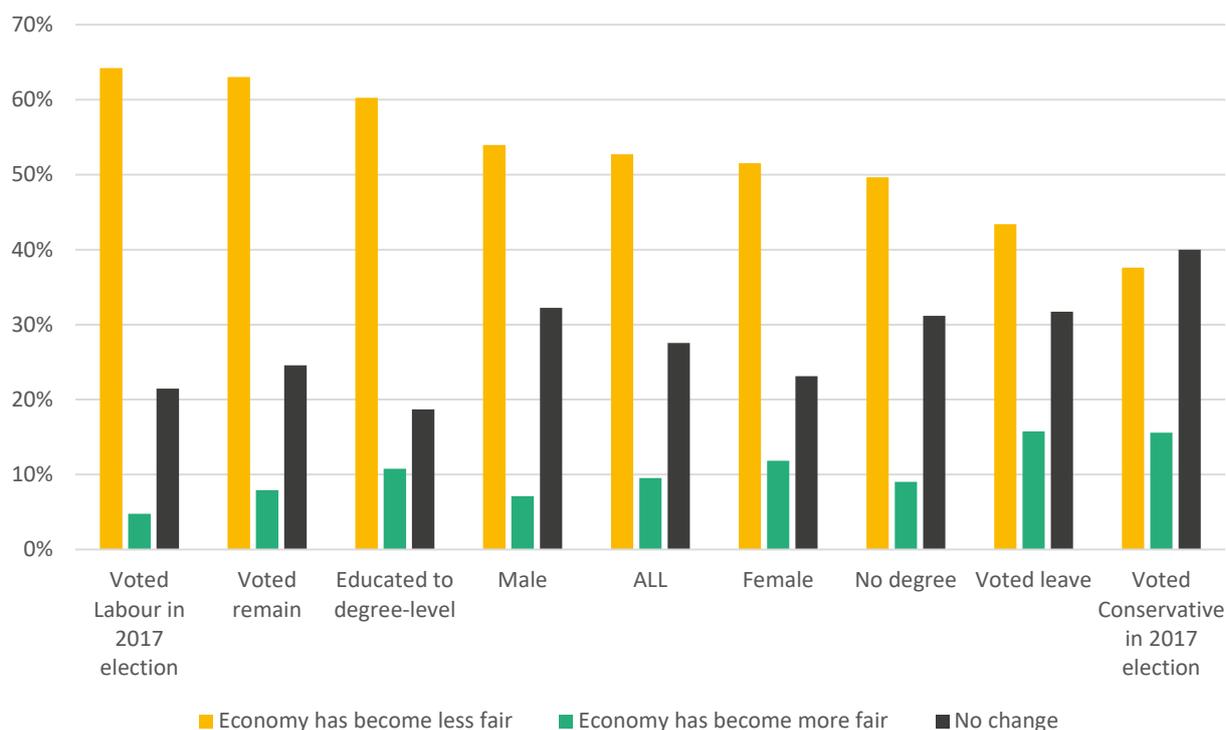
Remain voters were much more likely to report that the economy had become less fair, as were those educated to degree level, and Labour voters. Men and women felt similarly

* The 'less fair' total reported here is the sum of 'slightly less fair' and 'much less fair' responses; the 'more fair' total is the sum of 'much more fair' and 'slightly more fair' responses.

negatively though, with 54 per cent and 52 per cent respectively feeling that the economy had become less fair over the past decade.

Figure 2.2: Those who voted Remain, those educated to degree level, and Labour voters, were most likely of all groups to believe that the economy had become less fair over the past decade

Do you think the way the UK economy works has become more or less fair over the last decade, or has there been no change?⁵



Source: IPPR analysis of Sky Data poll

⁵ The 'less fair' total reported here is the sum of 'slightly less fair' and 'much less fair' responses; the 'more fair' total is the sum of 'much more fair' and 'slightly more fair' responses.

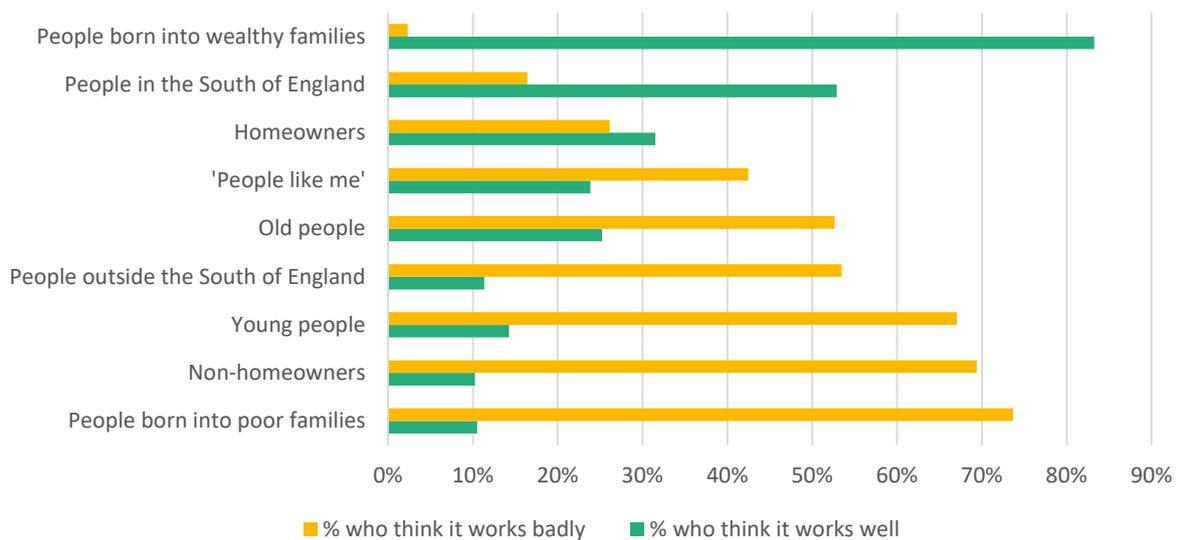
3. How well does the economy work for different groups in society?

Respondents were asked whether they thought the economy worked well or badly for a variety of groups in society, including ‘people like me’ (a grouping they were free to interpret how they wished). Question 3 in the Annex sets out the questions asked in full.

Taking the responses of the population as a whole, unsurprisingly most people think the economy works well for people born into wealthy families, and badly for those born into poor families. People in the South of England, and homeowners, are also thought to be served well by the economy, while people outside the South, non-homeowners, and young people, are all thought to be served poorly.

Figure 3.1: The majority of the population thinks the economy works for the wealthy, and doesn’t work for the poor

How well do you think the economy works for...⁶



Source: IPPR analysis of Sky Data poll

Perceptions of whether the economy works well

...for ‘people like me’

The data suggests that the extent to which people believe the economy works well for people similar to themselves is extremely variable. Overall, 24 per cent of respondents believe the economy works well (‘very well’ or ‘fairly well’) for people like them, and 42 per cent that it works badly (‘very badly’ or ‘fairly badly’). Younger people are much more likely to report a belief that the economy works badly for people like them, as are Labour voters, women, and those without a degree-level education. Other the other hand, older

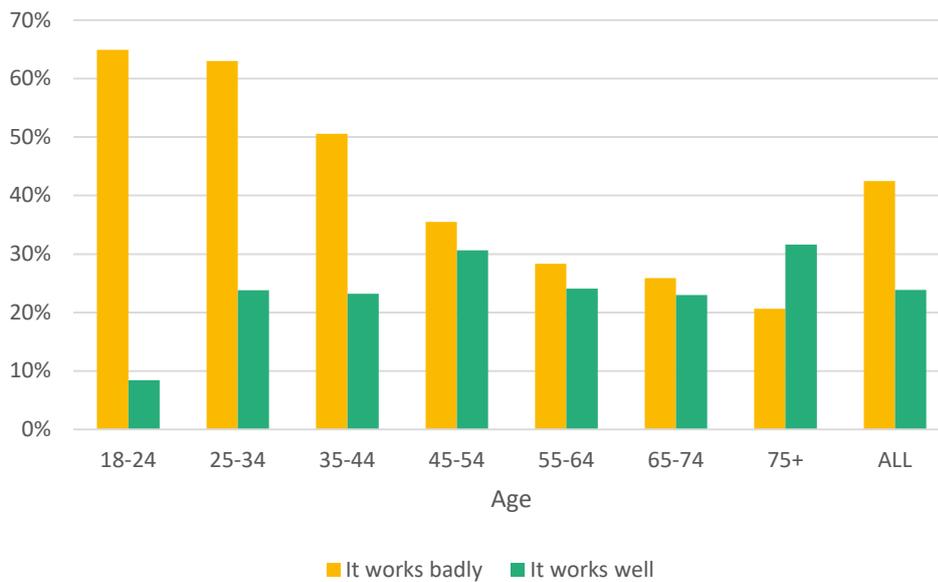
⁶ For all charts in this chapter, the totals are calculated as follows: the percentage who think the economy works badly is the sum of ‘fairly badly’ and ‘very badly’ responses; the percentage who think it works well is the sum of the ‘fairly well’ and ‘very well’ responses. See Annex for the question in full.

people, Conservative voters, and those with a university degree, are more positive about how well the economy works for people similar to themselves.

There is little difference between people who voted Remain in the EU referendum, and those who voted Leave: 37 per cent of Leave voters, and 38 per cent of Remain voters, feel the economy works badly to some degree for people like them.

Figure 3.2: Younger people much more likely than older people to believe the economy doesn't work for 'people like me'

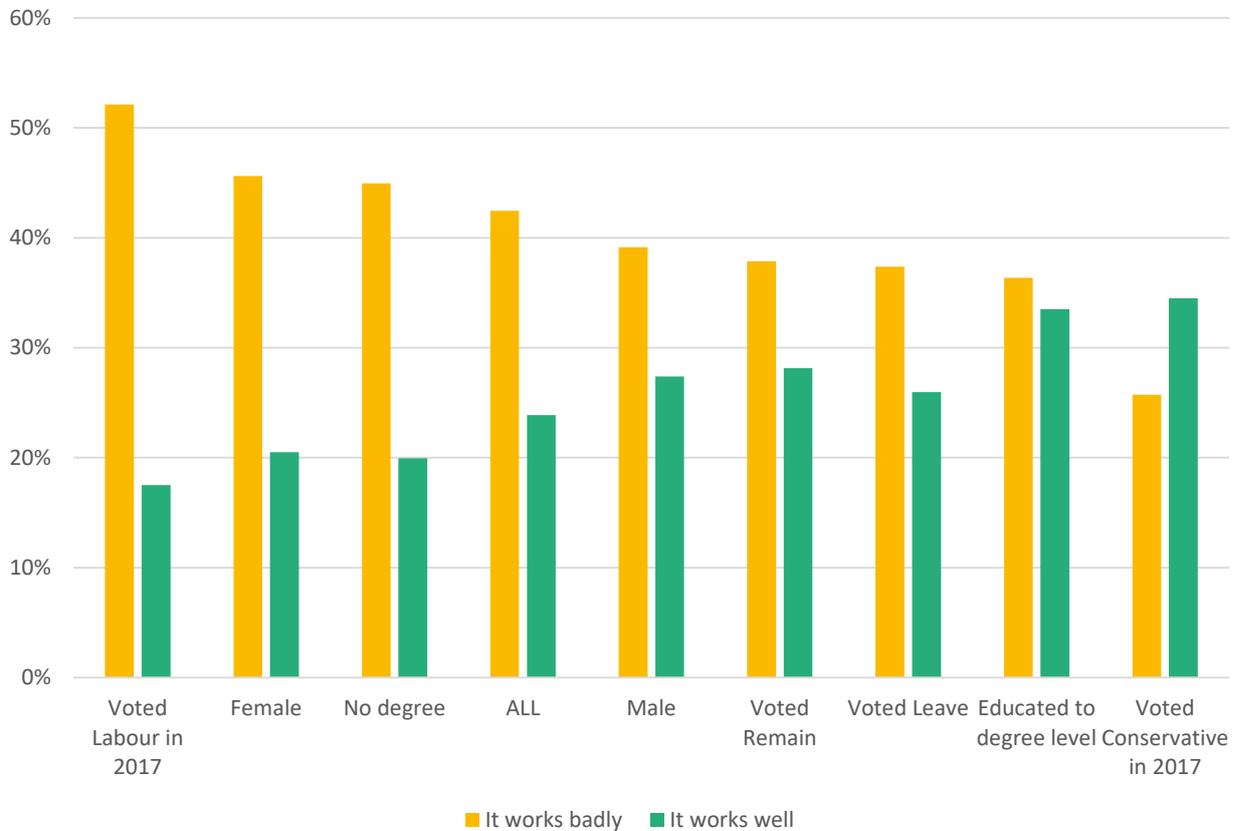
Do you think the economy works well or badly for 'people like me'?



Source: IPPR analysis of Sky Data poll

Figure 3.3: Groups most likely to report that the economy does not work well for ‘people like me’ are Labour voters, women, and those without a degree

Do you think the economy works well or badly for ‘people like me’?⁷



Source: IPPR analysis of Sky Data poll

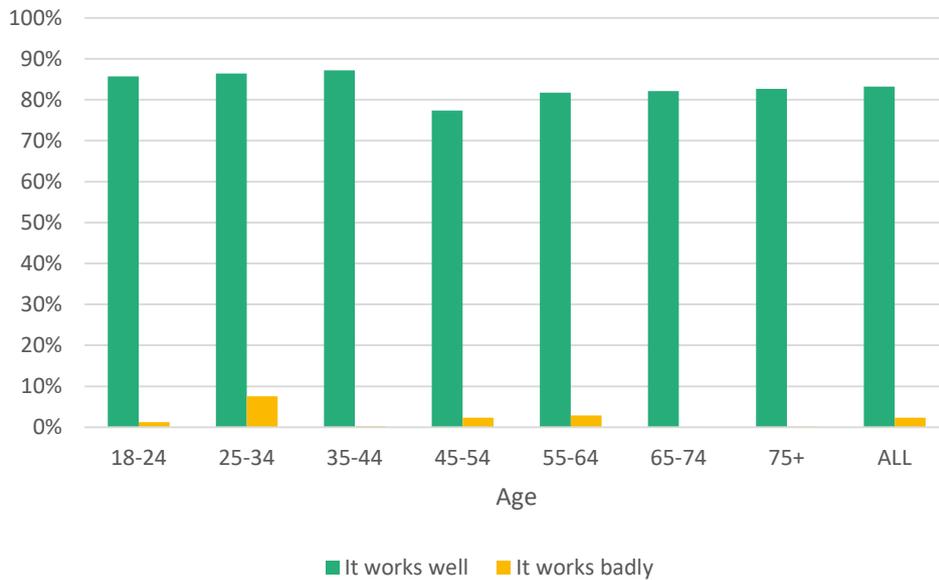
...for people born into wealthy families

The overwhelming majority of people feel that the economy works well for those born into wealth: 83 per cent of people believe the economy works well (i.e. either ‘fairly well’ or ‘very well’) for that group, with 58 per cent believing it works ‘very well’ for them. Only 2 per cent of people think the economy doesn’t work well for those born into wealthy families.

⁷ As before, the percentage who think the economy works badly is the sum of ‘fairly badly’ and ‘very badly’ responses; the percentage who think it works well is the sum of the ‘fairly well’ and ‘very well’ responses. See Annex for the question in full.

Figure 3.4: Under-45s believe in greatest numbers that the economy works well for those born into wealthy families

Do you think the economy works well or badly for people born into wealthy families?⁸



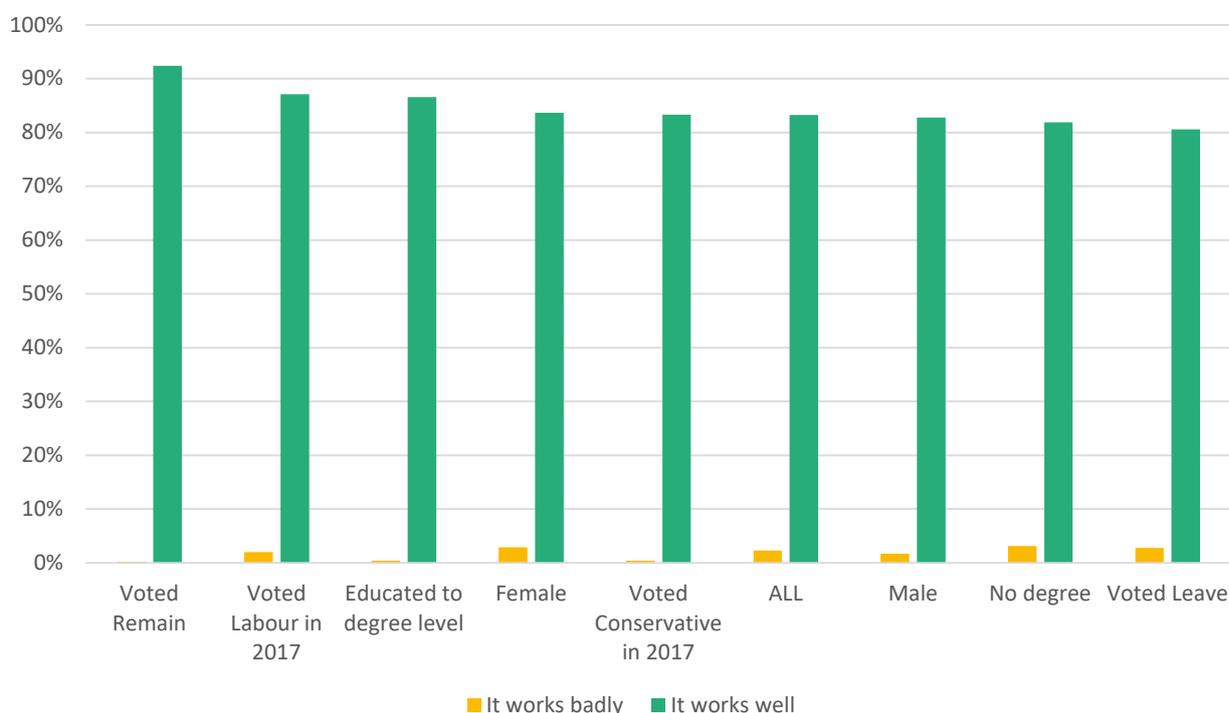
Source: IPPR analysis of Sky Data poll

The results are not particularly different for men and women, by level of education, by age, or by how people voted in the last election. However, Remain voters (92 per cent) are more likely to report that the economy works well for people born into wealthy families than Leave voters (81 per cent).

⁸ As before, the percentage who think the economy works badly is the sum of 'fairly badly' and 'very badly' responses; the percentage who think it works well is the sum of the 'fairly well' and 'very well' responses. See Annex for the question in full.

Figure 3.5: A sense that the economy works well for those born into wealthy families is pervasive

Do you think the economy works well or badly for people born into wealthy families?



Source: IPPR analysis of Sky Data poll

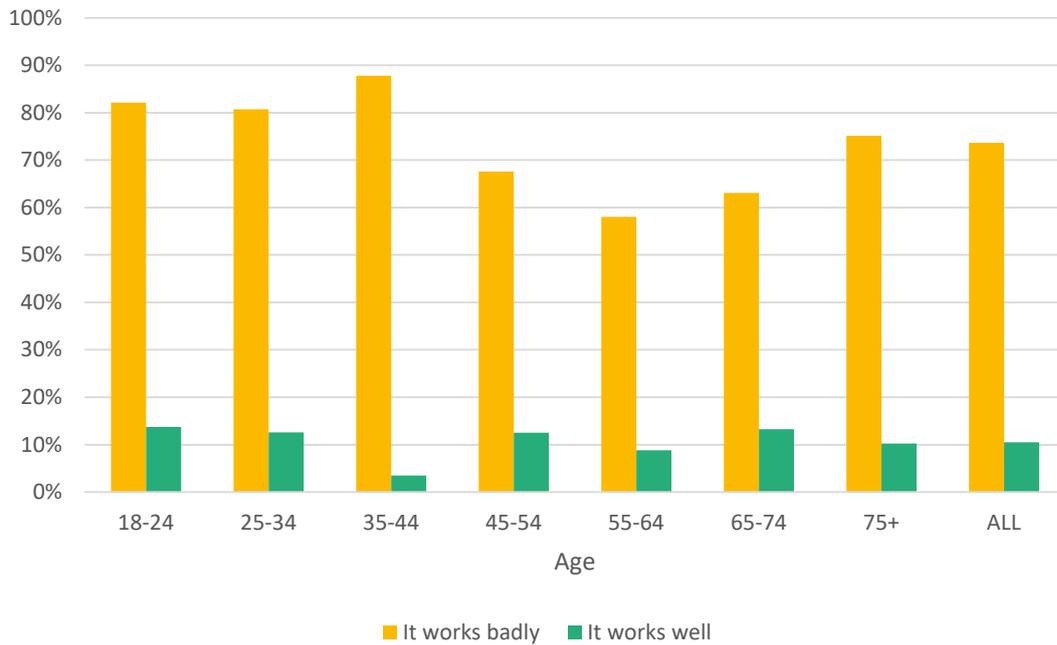
...for people born into poor families

The results are more varied when it comes to people’s judgements of how well the economy works for those born into poor families.

Cutting the data by age suggests that younger cohorts are much more sceptical about how well the economy works for the poorest: 65 per cent of those aged 18–24 think the economy works ‘very badly’ for those born into poor families, versus only 28 per cent of those aged over 55.

Figure 3.6: No age group thinks the economy works well for people from poor backgrounds, but younger age groups are more likely to believe it works badly

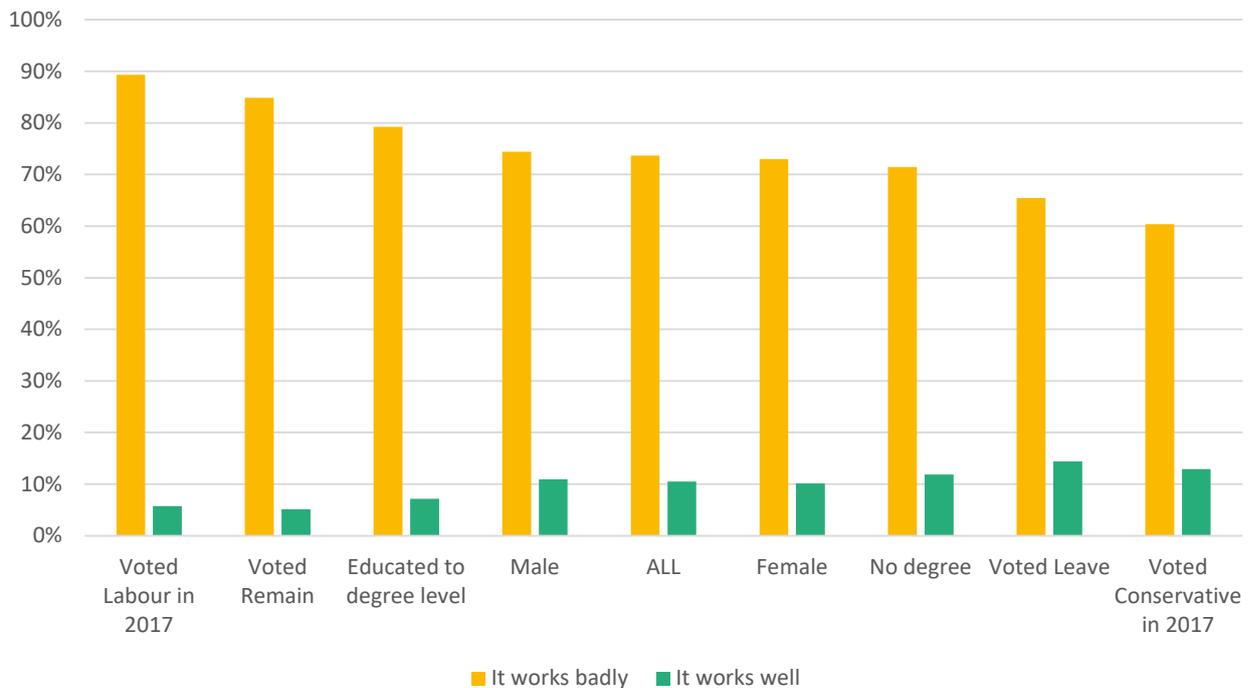
Do you think the economy works well or badly for people born into poor families?



Source: IPPR analysis of Sky Data poll

Figure 3.7: The majority of all groups believe that the economy does not work well for poor people

Do you think the economy works well or badly for people born into poor families?



Source: IPPR analysis of Sky Data poll

4. The balance of power in the economy

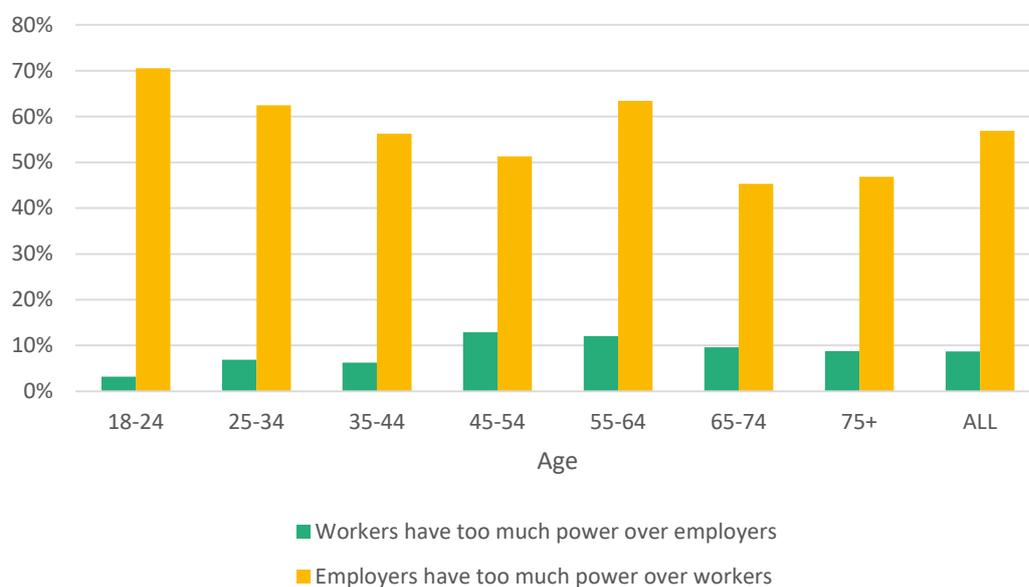
The Commission's final report argues that in today's more fragmented labour market there is now an excessive imbalance of power between employers and workers, and this is one of the causes of the stagnation of wages despite near-full-employment.

Respondents were therefore asked whether they thought workers have too much power over employers; whether employers have too much power over workers; or whether the balance of power between the two groups is about right. They were then asked how they thought the balance of power had changed in recent years, and whether trade unions should be more or less involved in pay negotiations. See questions 4, 5 and 6 in the Annex for more detail.

Across the population, more people believe the balance of power is tipped too far in the favour of employers than in favour of workers. Overall, 57 per cent of people think employers have too much power (either 'slightly too much' power or 'far too much' power) over workers, while only 9 per cent think workers have too much power over employers. A substantial minority of people – 28 per cent – think the balance of power is about right, however.

Figure 4.1: Younger cohorts are more likely to believe employers have too much power over workers – although it was the prevailing view across all age groups

In general, which of these comes closest to your views?⁹



Source: IPPR analysis of Sky Data poll

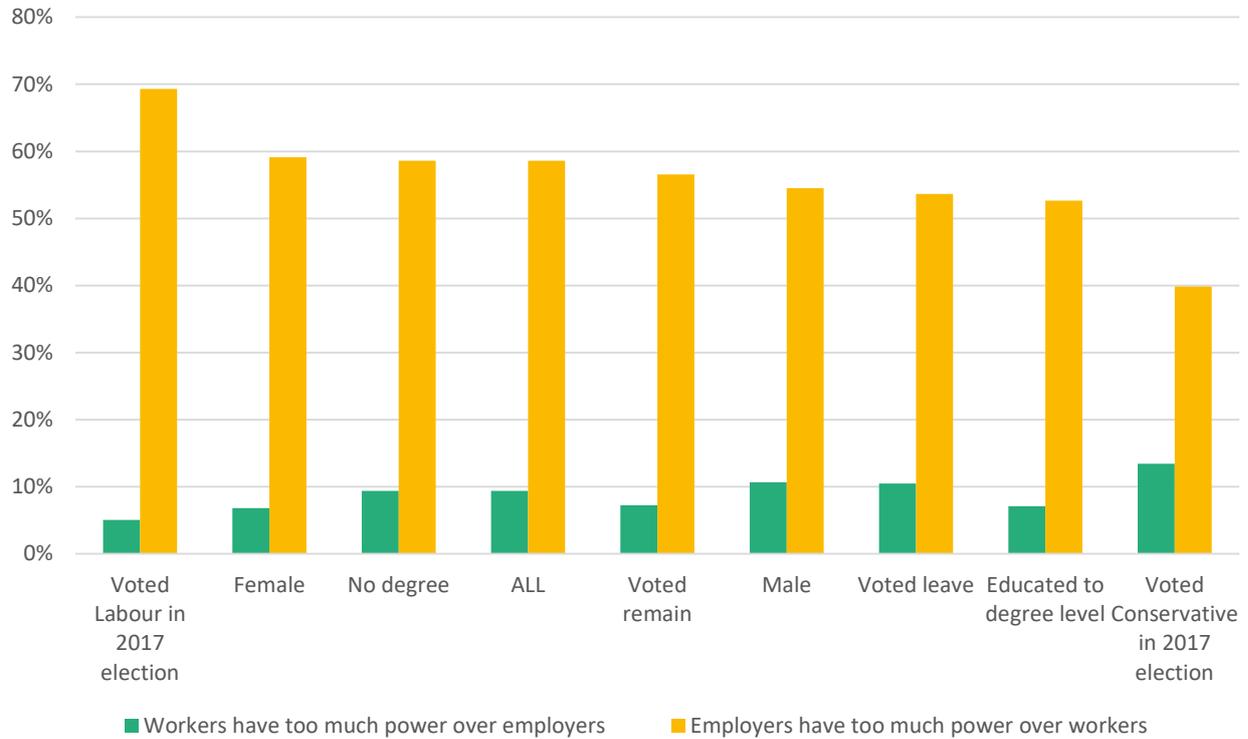
The biggest divergence is between those who voted Labour in the 2017 election (who tend to think employers have too much power over workers), and those who voted

⁹ For this figure, and figure 4.2, the total percentage reporting that 'workers have too much power over employers' is the sum of those who responded that workers have 'slightly too much' power and those who responded that workers have 'far too much' power over employers. The percentage reporting that 'employers have too much power over workers' is the sum of those who responded that employers have 'slightly too much' power, and those who responded that employers have 'far too much' power over workers.

Conservative (who are much more likely than other groups to think the balance of power is about right). But the split of views is in general similar across all groups.

Figure 4.2: Most groups tend to believe employers have too much power – only for Conservative voters was this not the majority view

In general, which of these comes closest to your views?

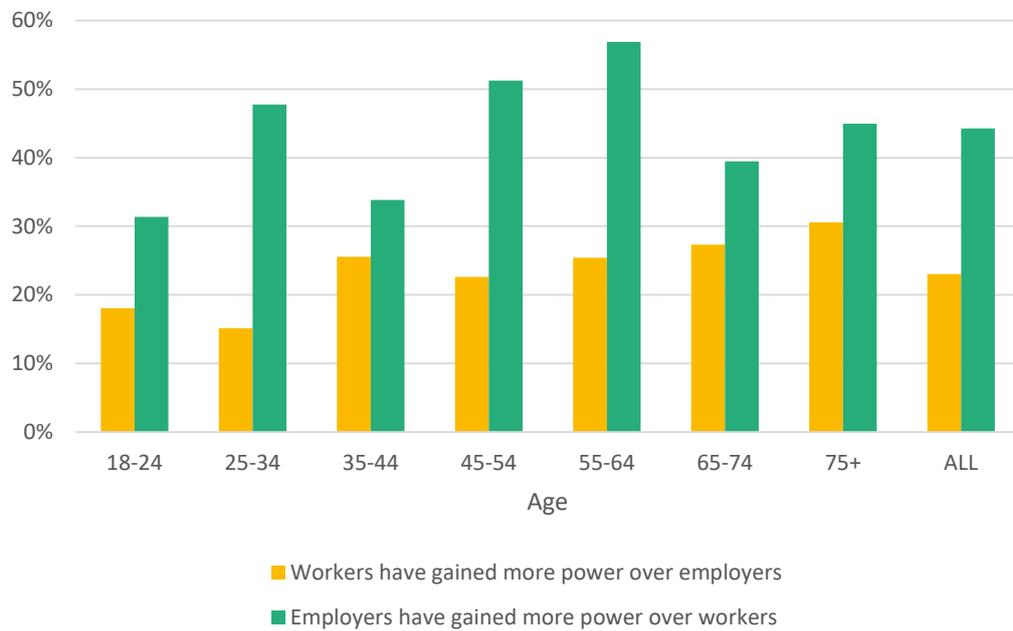


Source: IPPR analysis of Sky Data poll

The Commission argues that in recent years, the rise of insecure work and continuing decline of union membership has changed the balance of power in favour of employers. The polling results suggest that the public senses this change: among all age groups, more people believe the balance has tipped in favour of employers than workers. Looking by characteristic, only among Conservative voters was the prevailing view that workers had gained more power over employers than the other way round of late.

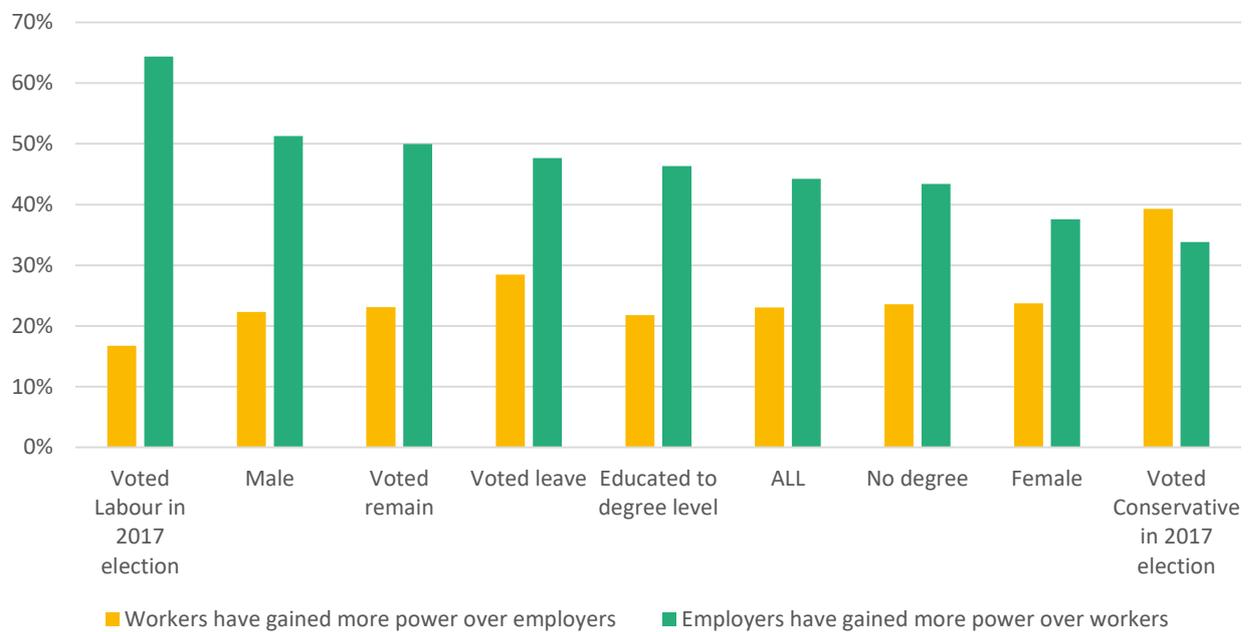
Charts 4.3 and 4.4: More people feel the balance of power has moved favour of employers than workers in recent years

Over recent years, do you think...?¹⁰



Source: IPPR analysis of Sky Data poll

In recent years, do you think...?



Source: IPPR analysis of Sky Data poll

¹⁰ For this chart, and chart 15, the total percentage reporting that 'workers have gained power over employers' is the sum of those who responded that workers have gained 'slightly more' power and those who responded that workers have 'much more' power over employers. The percentage reporting that 'employers have gained power over workers' is the sum of those who responded that employers have gained 'slightly more' power, and those who responded that employers have gained 'much more' power over workers.

5. Which policy proposals do the public support?

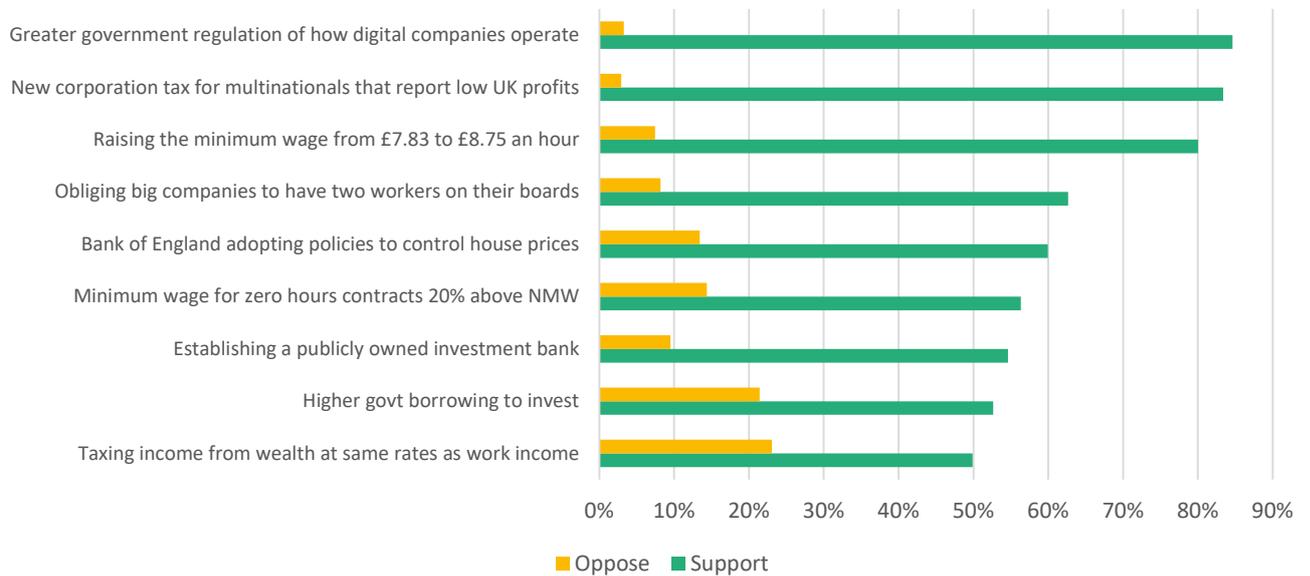
In its final report *Prosperity and Justice*, the IPPR Commission on Economic Justice makes a large number of policy recommendations. We asked for views about a number of the larger and perhaps more controversial ones:

- Raising public investment by £15 billion pa, funded by public borrowing
- Establishing a National Investment Bank to invest in infrastructure and businesses, capitalised at £20 billion
- Raising the minimum wage from £7.83 (outside London) to the ‘real living wage’ of £8.75 an hour
- Increasing by 20 per cent the minimum wage for zero hours contracts and other uncontracted hours
- Obliging large companies to have at least two workers on their company boards
- Regulating near-monopoly digital companies in some of their activities as utilities, analogous to those for broadcasters and mobile phone providers
- Raising taxes on income from wealth (such as capital gains, dividends and inheritance) to the same rates as income from work
- Giving the Bank of England the mandate to control house price inflation
- Introducing a ‘Minimum Alternative Corporation Tax’ on multinational companies consistently reporting zero or low profits in the UK

Across the population as a whole, all of these policies recommended by the Commission attract strong support. Support is strongest for the recommendation that the major digital companies, such as Facebook and Google, should follow rules set by government on how they operate, in the same way that broadcasters and mobile phone providers must: 85 per cent of people would support such a change, while only 3 per cent would oppose it. At the other end of the scale, opinions were more divided on whether income earned on wealth should be taxed at the same rates as employment income – but 50 per cent of the public still express support for it, with only 23 per cent opposed.

Figure 5.1: All the Commission’s major policy proposals are supported by a majority of people

Would you support or oppose the following policies?



Source: IPPR analysis of Sky Data poll

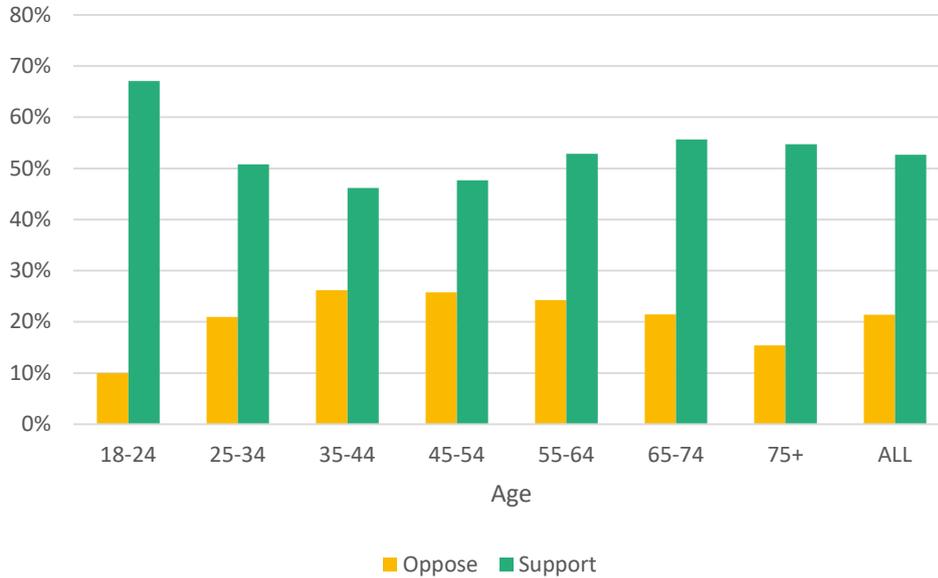
Higher government borrowing for investment in schools, hospitals and infrastructure

Overall, 53 per cent of the population would support increased government borrowing in order to pay for investment in education, health, and infrastructure such as transport and telecommunications. Twenty-one per cent are opposed, while 23 per cent have no strong feelings either way.

The most supportive age groups are the under-25s, and the over-55s, although for all groups, more people are supportive than not.

Figure 5.2: Across all age groups, more people support than oppose higher public borrowing for investment purposes

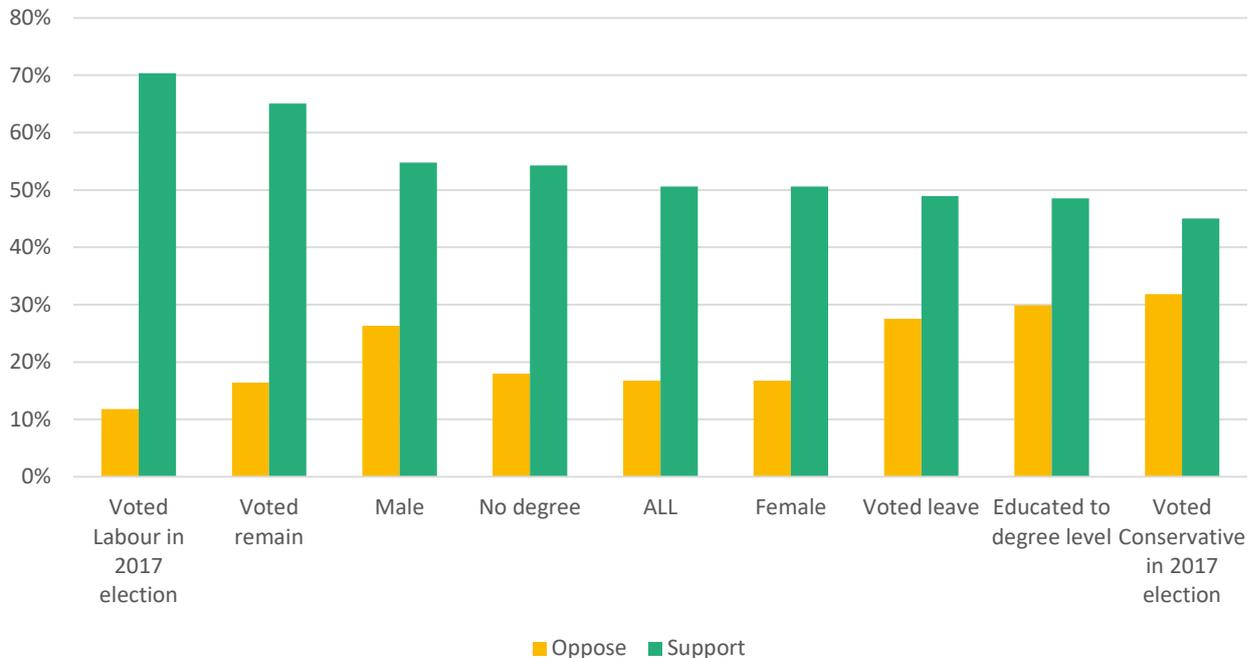
Would you support or oppose increasing government borrowing to pay for higher investment in health, education and infrastructure (such as transport and telecommunications)?



Source: IPPR analysis of Sky Data poll

Figure 5.3: Support for higher public borrowing to invest is strongest among Labour voters and those who voted Remain

Would you support or oppose increasing government borrowing to pay for higher investment in health, education and infrastructure (such as transport and telecommunications)?



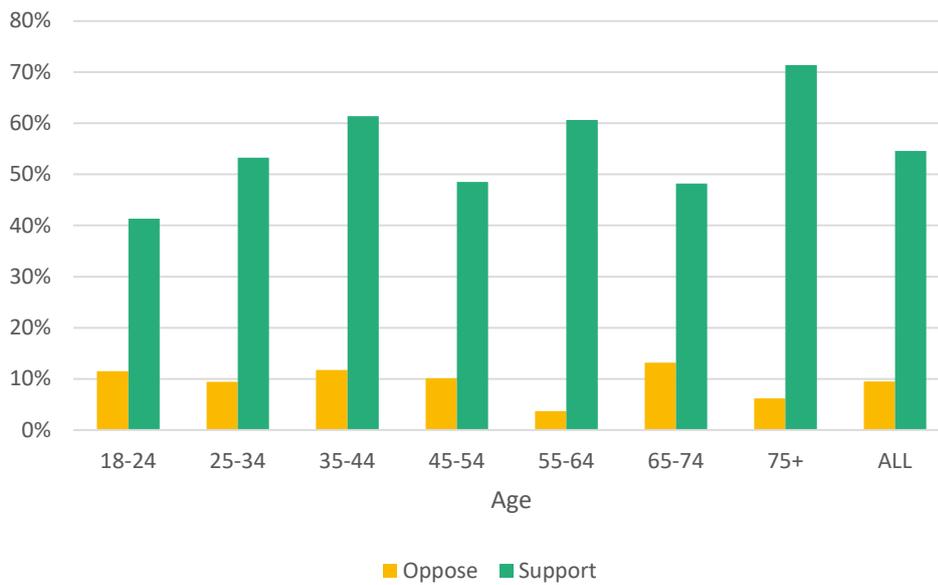
Source: IPPR analysis of Sky Data poll

The creation of a publicly-owned national investment bank

A majority of people – 55 per cent – are supportive of the idea of creating a publicly-owned investment bank with the goals of boosting overall investment in infrastructure, and providing capital to growing businesses that would otherwise struggle to get finance. A relatively large fraction of the population (36 per cent) either doesn't know whether it supports or opposes the idea, or has no strong views either way, while outright opposition to the idea is relatively small, at 9 per cent of the population.

Figure 5.4: A majority support a publicly owned investment bank

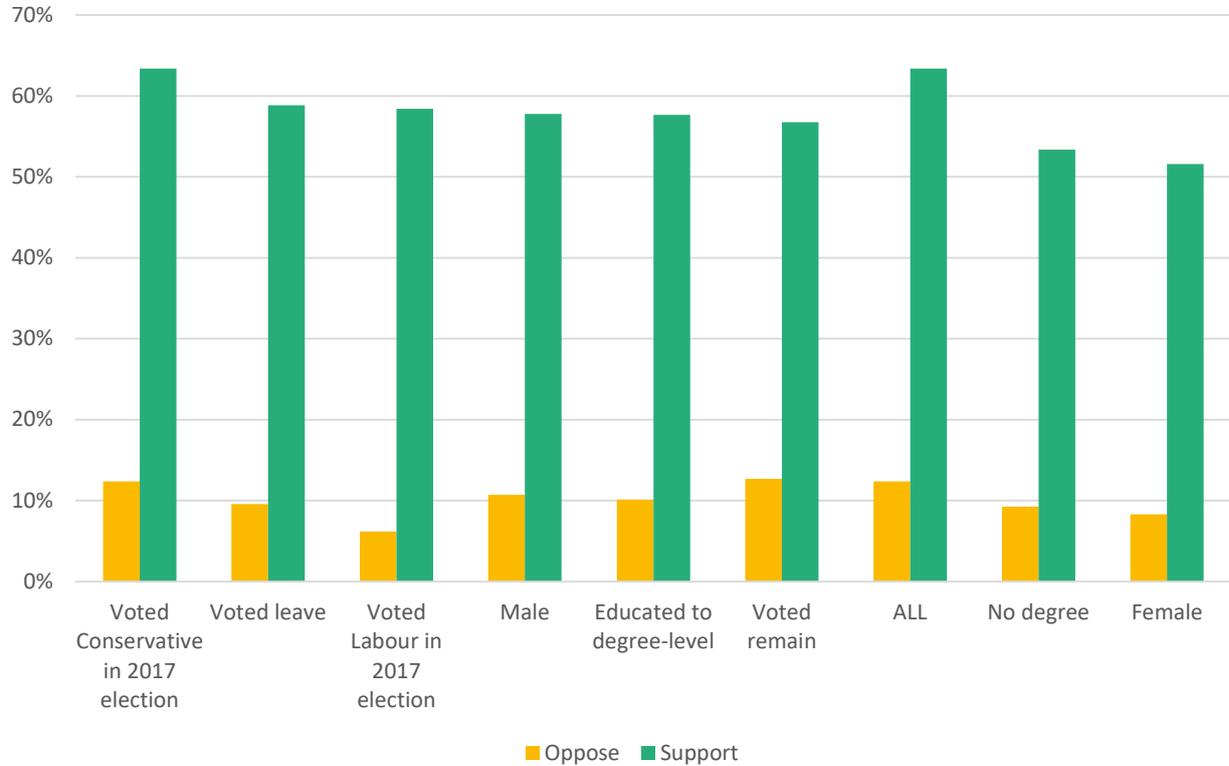
Would you support or oppose establishing a publicly owned investment bank to invest in infrastructure and growing businesses which struggle to get finance, at an initial cost of £20 billion?



Source: IPPR analysis of Sky Data poll

Figure 5.5: Conservative voters, and those who voted leave, express strongest support for a national investment bank

Would you support or oppose establishing a publicly-owned investment bank to invest in infrastructure and growing businesses which struggle to get finance, at an initial cost of £20 billion?



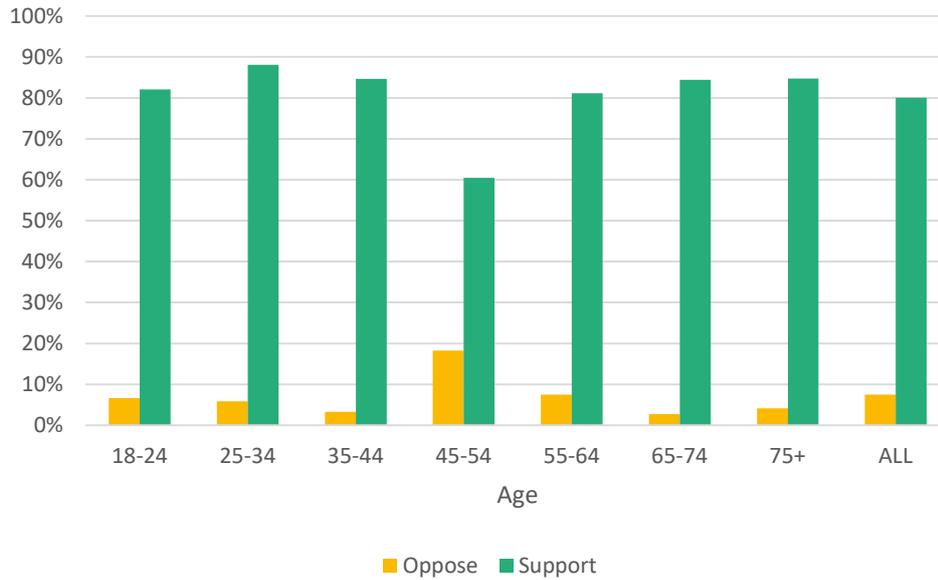
Source: IPPR analysis of Sky Data poll

Raising the national minimum wage

Support for a higher minimum wage exceeded 70 per cent of the population for all age cohorts – with the notable exception of the 45-54 age group. Overall, 80 per cent of the population supported the idea, with only 7 per cent opposed.

Figure 5.6: There is very large support for a higher minimum wage among all age groups

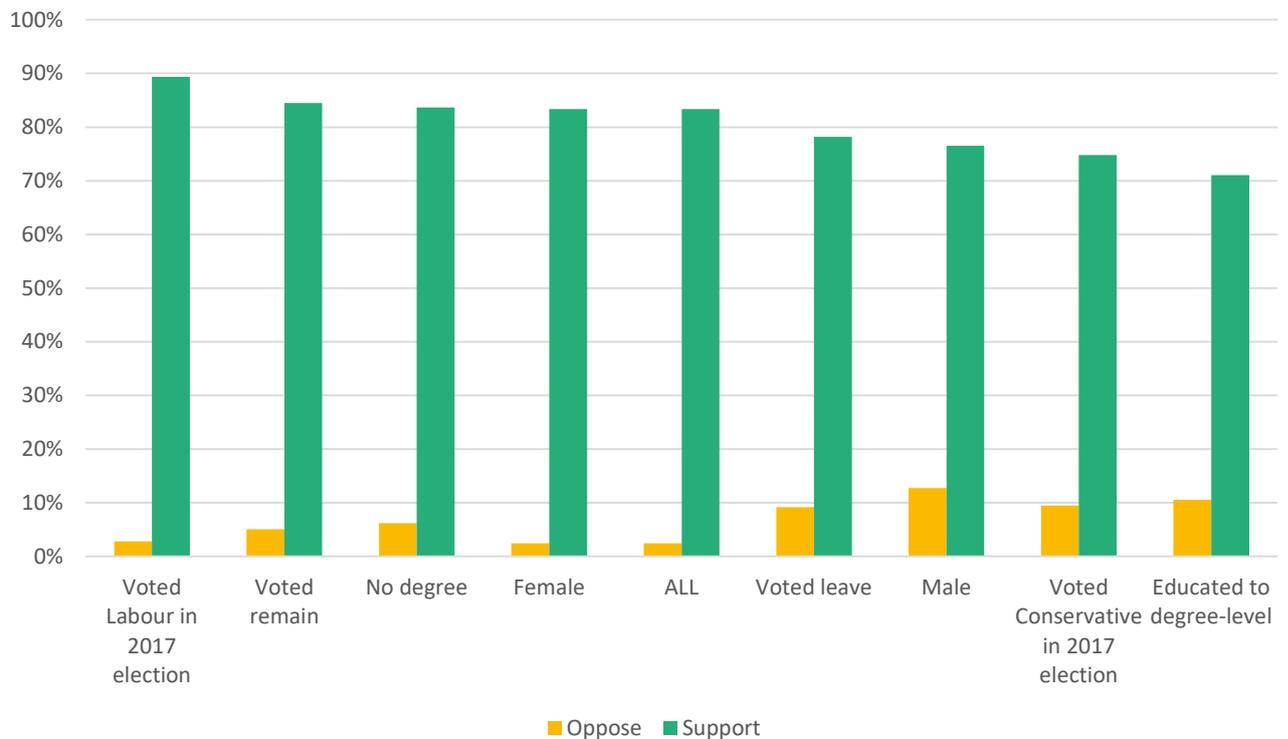
Would you support or oppose raising the minimum wage from £7.83 to £8.75 an hour?



Source: IPPR analysis of Sky Data poll

Figure 5.7: Labour voters, remain voters, and those without a degree, are most likely to support a higher minimum wage

Would you support or oppose raising the minimum wage from £7.83 to £8.75 an hour?



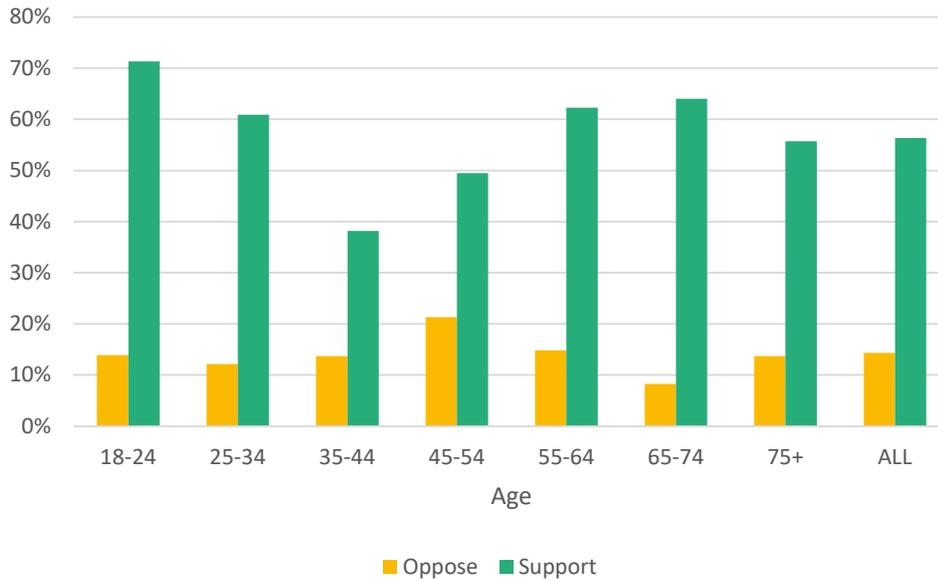
Source: IPPR analysis of Sky Data poll

Introducing a minimum wage for zero-hours contracts 20 per cent higher than the standard minimum wage

Support was strongest for the introduction of a higher minimum wage for those employed under less secure, zero-hours contracts among the under-35s and the over-55s, although for all groups, support outweighed opposition.

Figure 5.8: There is strong support among most age groups for a higher minimum wage for those on zero hours contracts

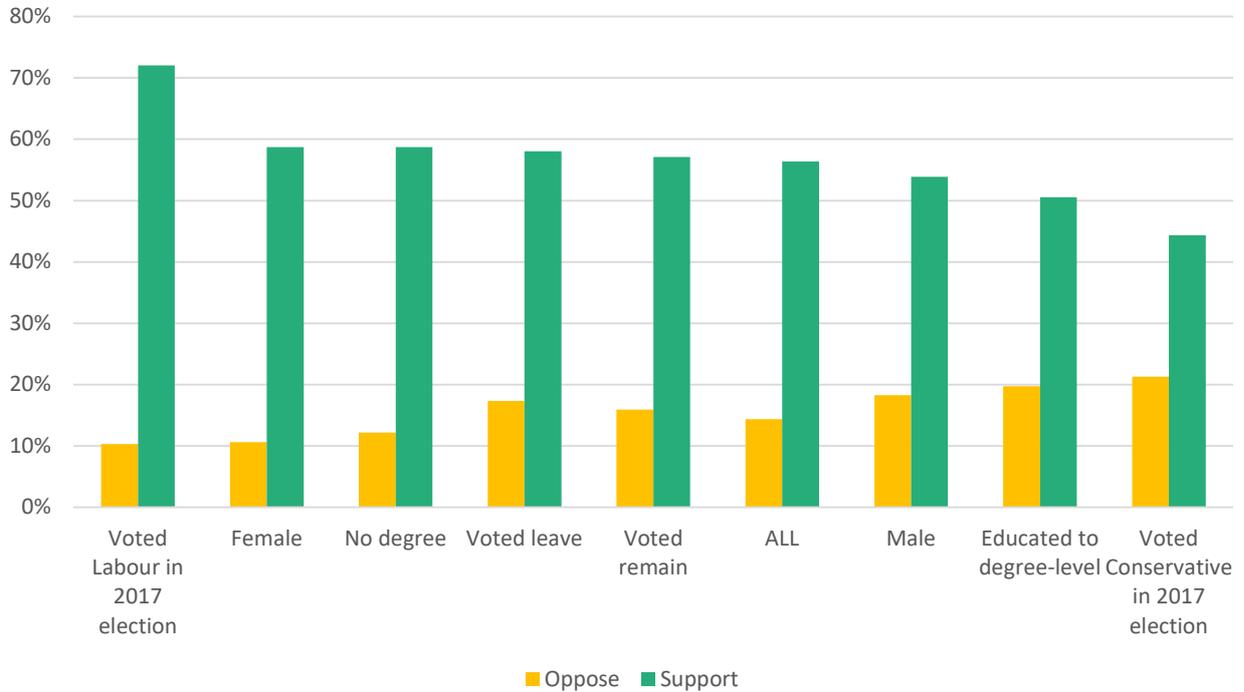
Would you support or oppose raising the minimum wage for zero hours contracts to 20 per cent above the standard minimum wage?



Source: IPPR analysis of Sky Data poll

Figure 5.9: Labour voters, women, and those without a degree, express strongest support for a higher minimum wage for those on zero-hours contracts

Would you support or oppose raising the minimum wage for zero hours contracts to 20 per cent above the standard minimum wage?

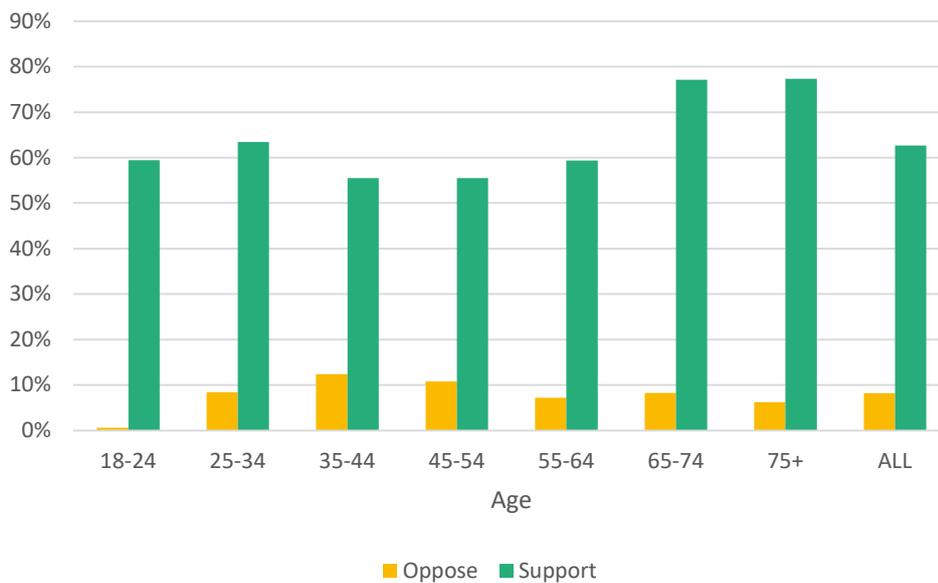


Source: IPPR analysis of Sky Data poll

Obliging companies with more than 250 workers to have at least two workers on their company boards

Figure 5.10: There is strong support for workers on company boards among all age groups

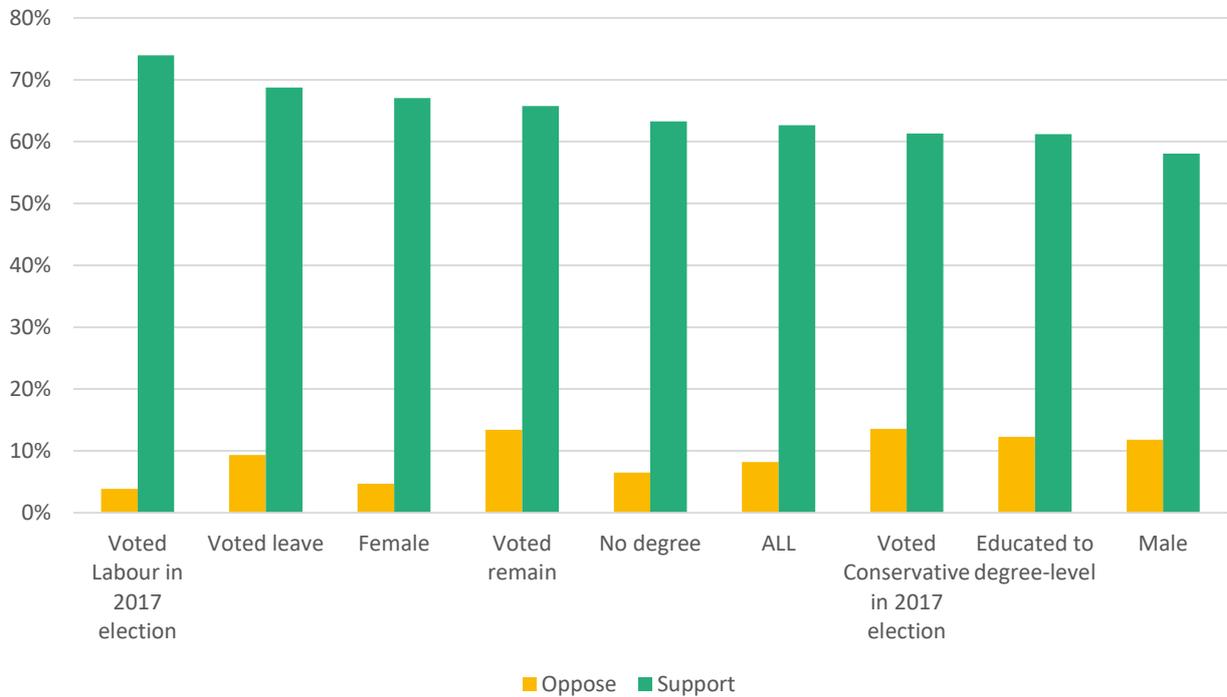
Would you support or oppose obliging companies with more than 250 workers to have at least two workers on their company boards?



Source: IPPR analysis of Sky Data poll

Figure 5.11: Support for workers on company boards is high among all groups, but highest among Labour voters, Leave voters, and women

Would you support or oppose obliging companies with more than 250 workers to have at least two workers on their company boards?

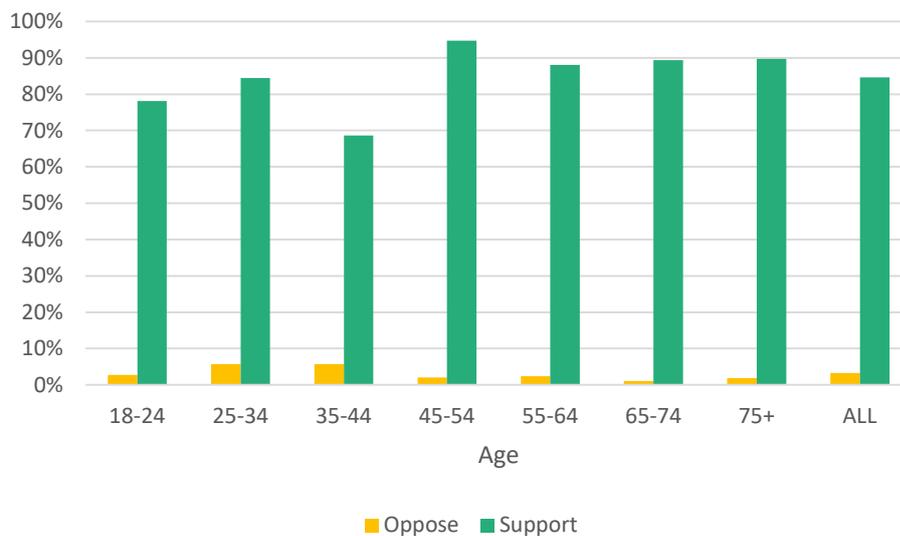


Source: IPPR analysis of Sky Data poll

Requiring the digital companies to follow rules set by government, analogous to those for broadcasters and mobile phone providers

Figure 5.12: There is very strong support for greater government regulation of digital platform companies among all age groups

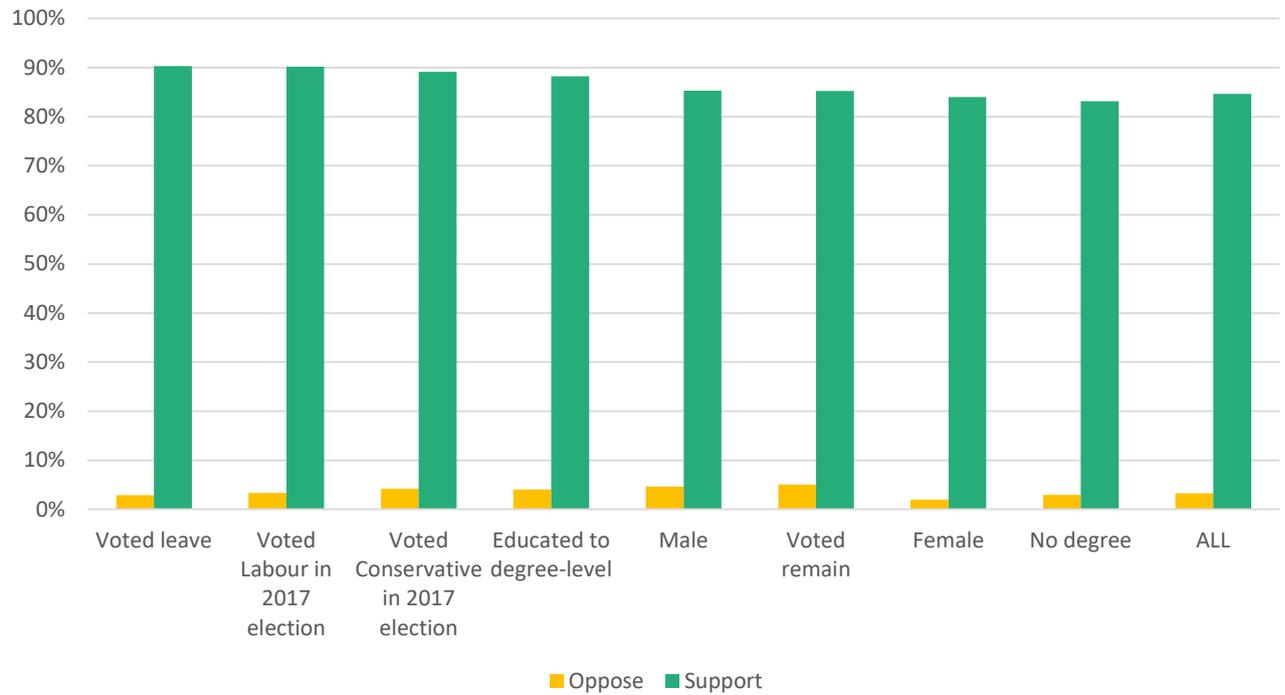
Would you support or oppose requiring the major digital companies such as Google and Facebook to follow rules set by government on how they operate, in the same way that broadcasters and mobile phone providers must?



Source: IPPR analysis of Sky Data poll

Figure 5.13: Support for regulation of digital platform companies is high among all societal groups

Would you support or oppose requiring the major digital companies such as Google and Facebook to follow rules set by government on how they operate, in the same way that broadcasters and mobile phone providers must?

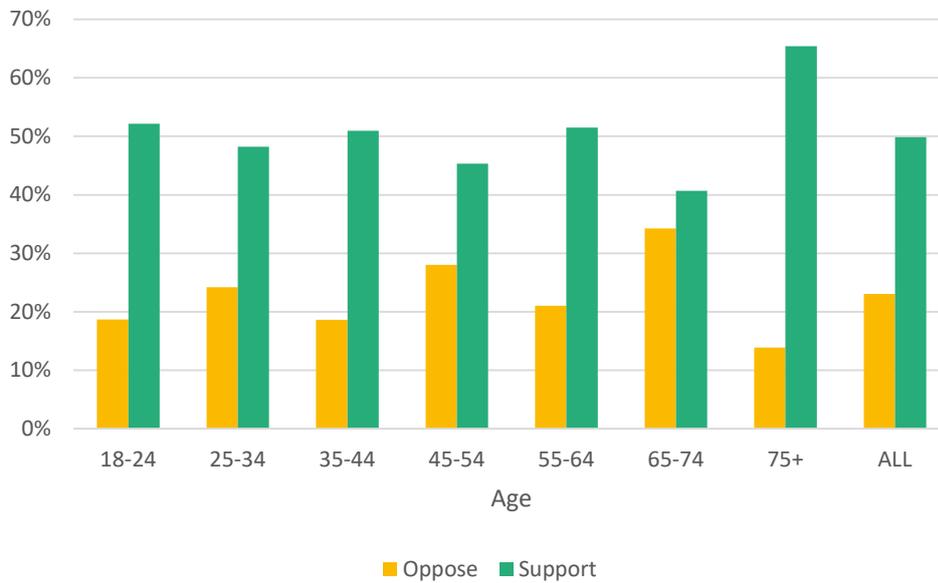


Source: IPPR analysis of Sky Data poll

Taxing income from wealth the same as income from work

Figure 5.14: Support for raising taxes on income from wealth is supported by all age groups, though there is considerable opposition among the 65–74 age group

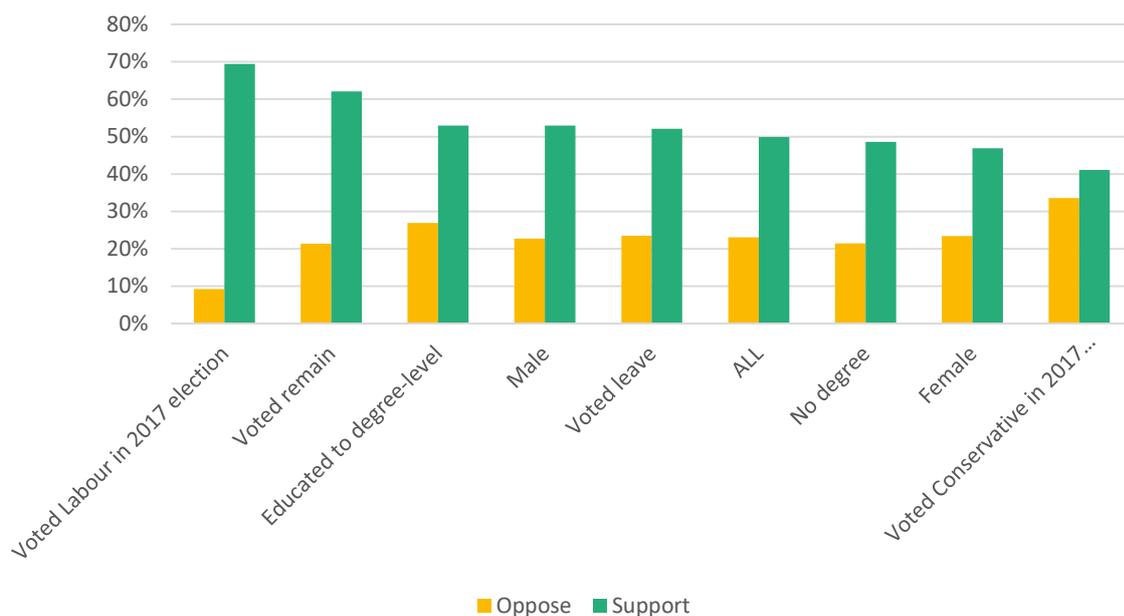
Would you support or oppose raising the rates of tax paid on the income which people make from owning wealth (for example in company dividends, or the profit when you sell something that has increased in value since you bought it) to the same rates as those paid on income people make from work?



Source: IPPR analysis of Sky Data poll

Figure 5.15: Opposition to the idea of raising tax on income from wealth is highest among Conservative voters, and lowest among Labour voters

Would you support or oppose raising the rates of tax paid on the income which people make from owning wealth (for example in company dividends, or the profit when you sell something that has increased in value since you bought it) to the same rates as those paid on income people make from work?

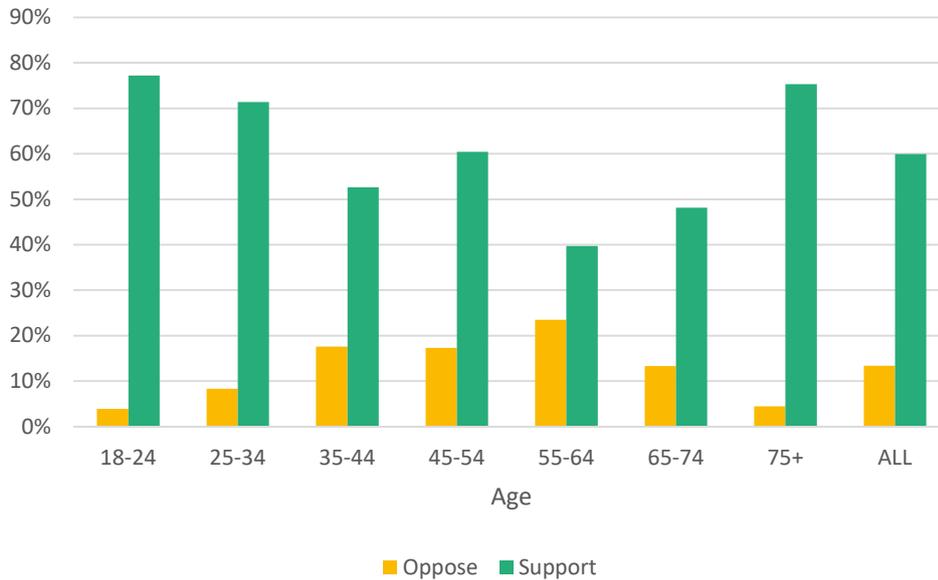


Source: IPPR analysis of Sky Data poll

Asking the Bank of England to adopt policies to keep house prices from rising

Figure 5.16: Asking the Bank of England to seek to control house price inflation is strongly supported amongst all age groups

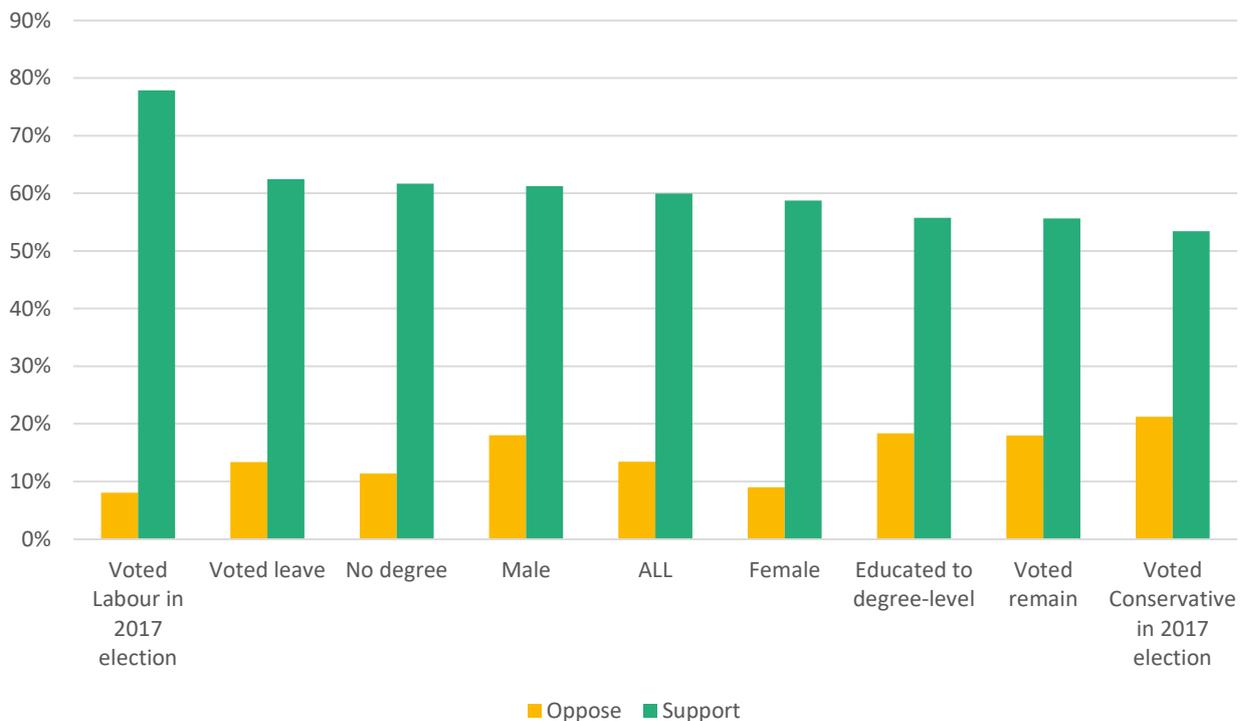
Would you support or oppose asking the Bank of England to adopt policies to keep house prices from rising?



Source: IPPR analysis of Sky Data poll

Figure 5.17: Labour voters support the bank of England seeking to control house price inflation in the largest numbers, although all groups are broadly supportive

Would you support or oppose asking the Bank of England to adopt policies to keep house prices from rising?

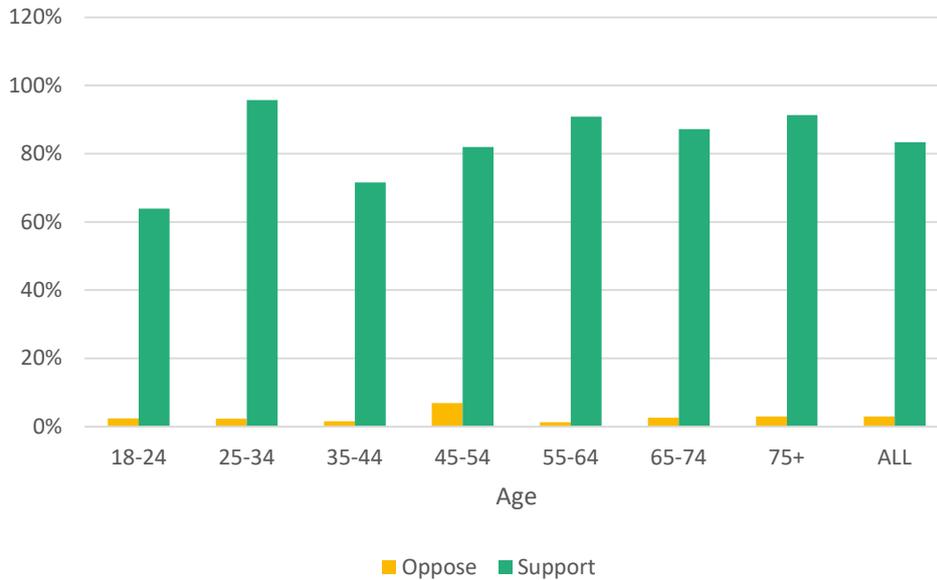


Source: IPPR analysis of Sky Data poll

Introducing a new corporation tax for multinational companies that misleadingly report zero or very low profits in the UK

Figure 5.18: Support for a new corporation tax to tackle avoidance by multinationals is very high across all age groups

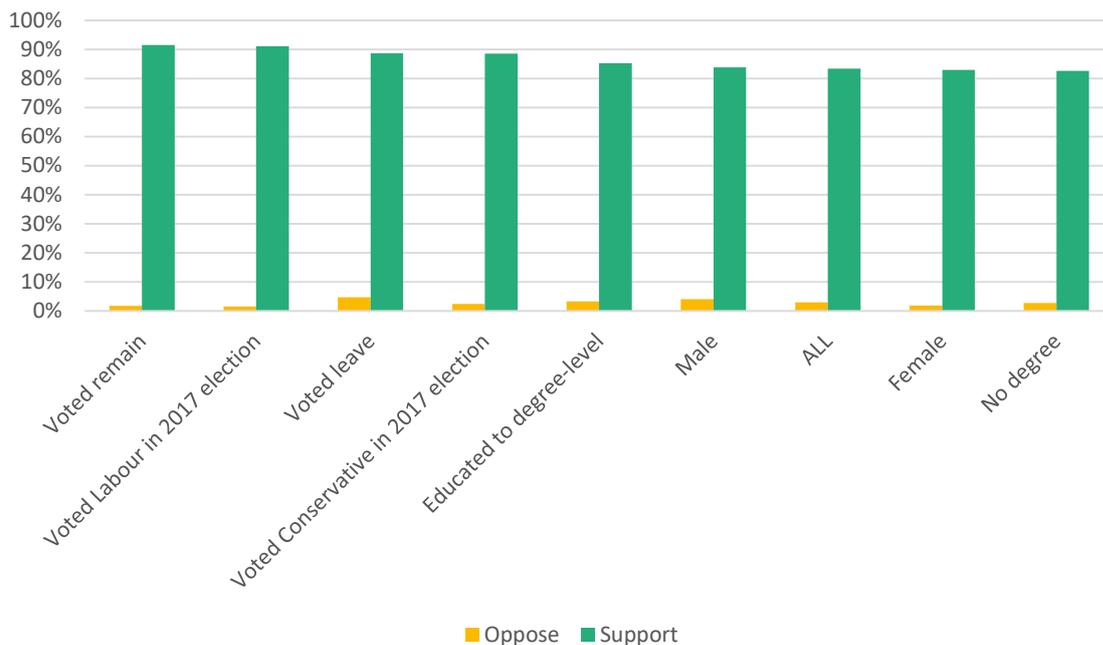
Would you support or oppose introducing a new corporation tax for multinational companies that misleadingly report zero or very low profits in the UK?



Source: IPPR analysis of Sky Data poll

Figure 5.19: Support for a new corporation tax to tackle avoidance by multinationals is very high across all voter groups

Would you support or oppose introducing a new corporation tax for multinational companies that misleadingly report zero or very low profits in the UK?



Source: IPPR analysis of Sky Data poll

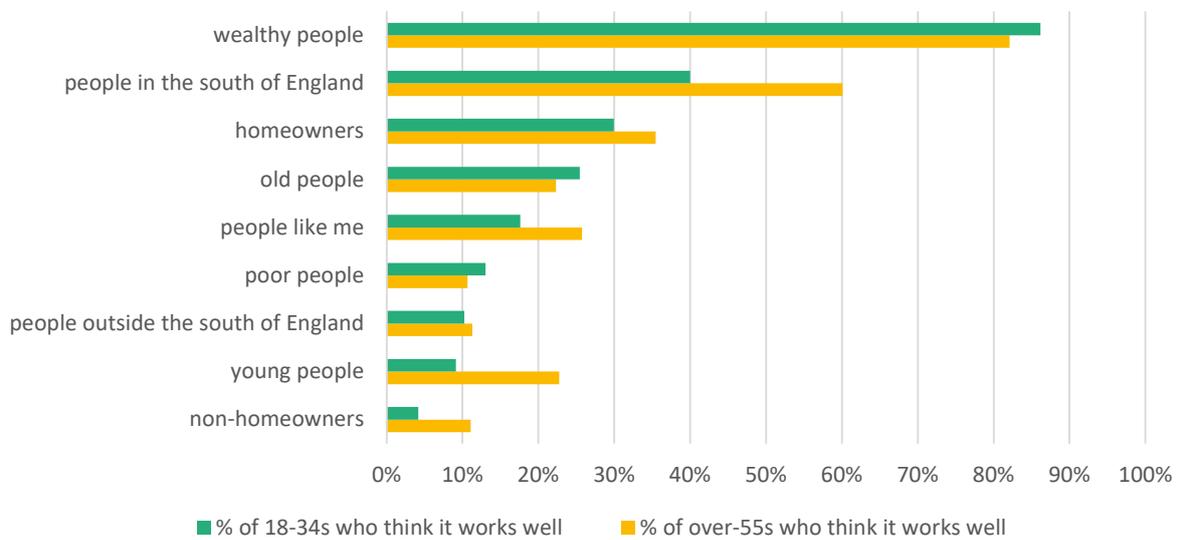
6. How do views vary across different kinds of voters?

Younger and older voters

Broadly speaking younger and older cohorts have a similar level of belief that the economy works well for different members of the population. There are two notable exceptions to this: young people are much less inclined to think that those living in the south are served well by the economy; and the younger age cohort is also much less likely to believe that the economy works well for ‘young people’.

Figure 6.1: Younger and older people are in broad agreement about whether the economy works well for different groups – although younger people much less convinced that it works well for those in the South of England, for young people and for non-home-owners

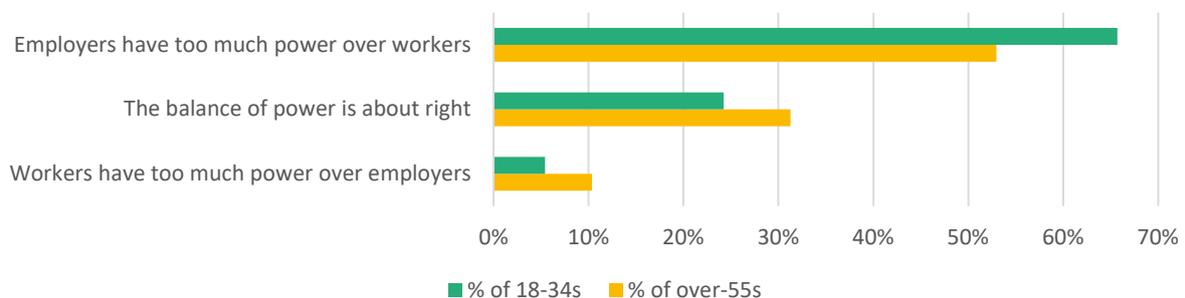
How well do you think the economy works for...



Source: IPPR analysis of Sky Data poll

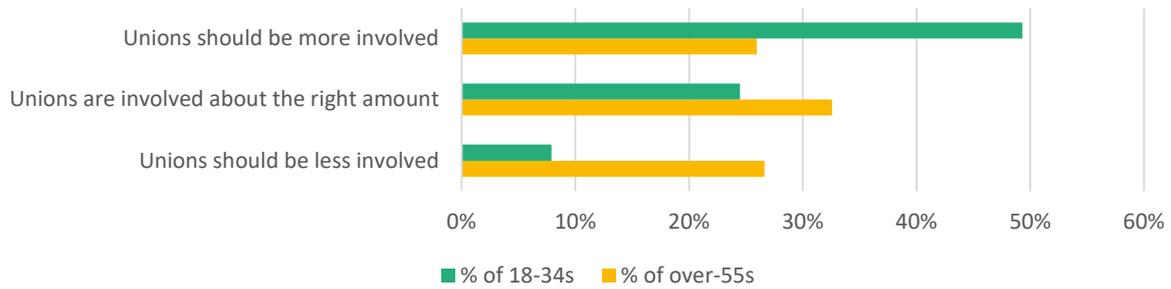
Figures 6.2 and 6.3: Younger cohorts are more likely to believe that employers have too much power, and relatedly, they support more union involvement more strongly than older generations

Which of these comes closest to your views?



Source: IPPR analysis of Sky Data poll

Should unions be more involved in pay negotiations, less involved, or are they involved about the right amount?

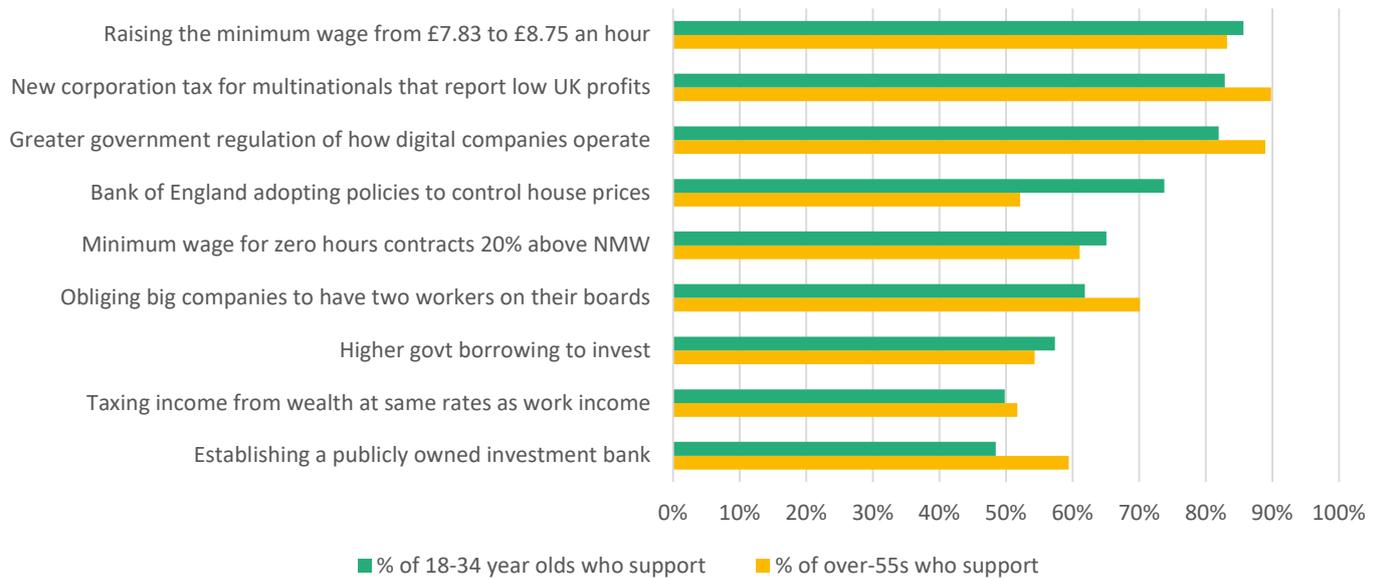


Source: IPPR analysis of Sky Data poll

Support for the Commission’s policy ideas is similarly strong across both cohorts. Younger people are more likely to support policies to stem rising house prices, however, while older people are more supportive of the idea of a national investment bank.

Figure 6.4: Support for the IPPR Commission’s policy proposals is similarly strong across younger and older cohorts

Would you support...



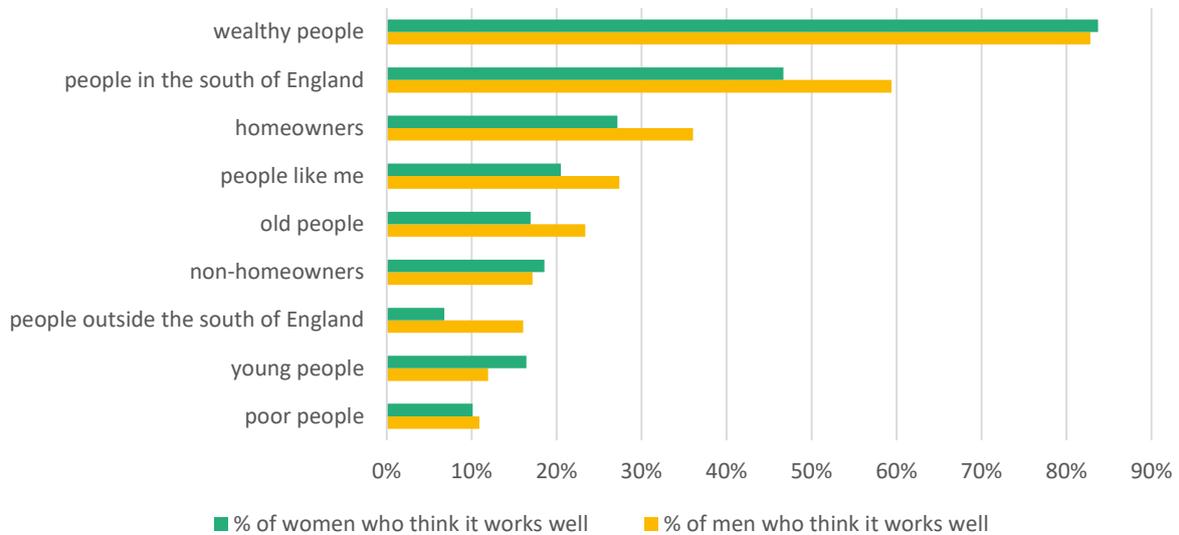
Source: IPPR analysis of Sky Data poll

Men and women

Men and women are in broad agreement about which groups the economy works well for, and which it doesn't. For a number of groups in society, however – particularly people in the South, homeowners and 'people like me' – more men than women believe the economy works well.

Figure 6.5: Women are less likely than men to believe that the economy works well for most groups

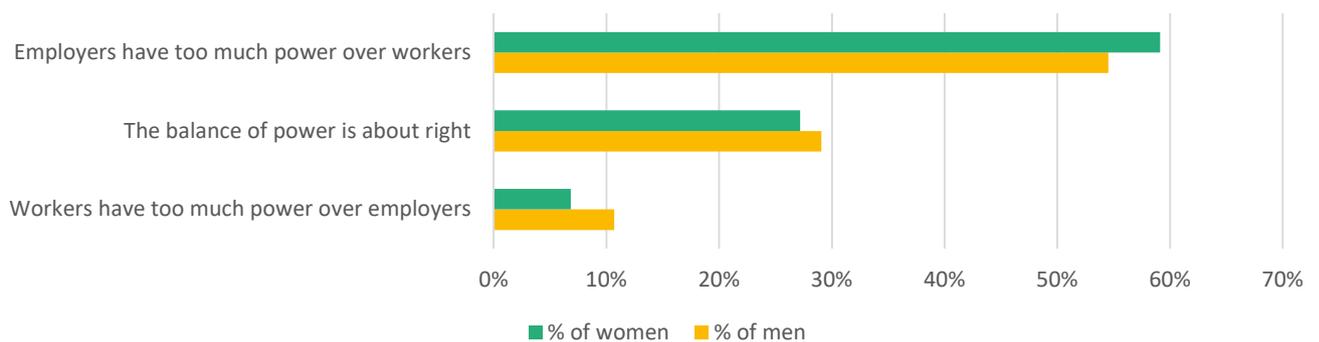
How well do you think the economy works for...



Source: IPPR analysis of Sky Data poll

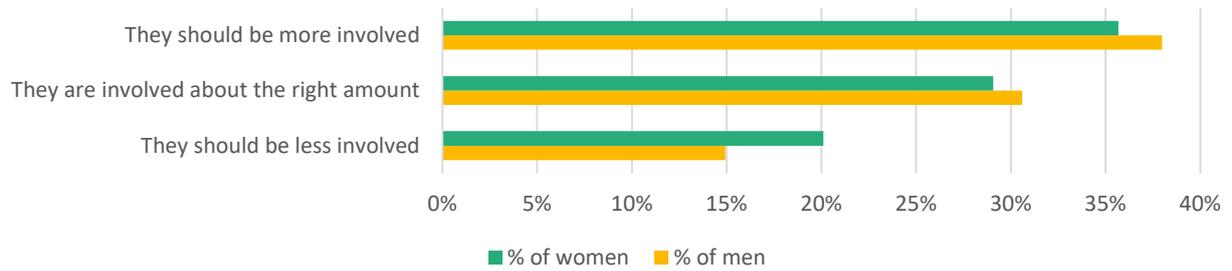
Figures 6.6 and 6.7: There is little difference between women's and men's views on employer power, and unionisation – although more men would like to see more union involvement

Which of these comes closest to your views?



Source: IPPR analysis of Sky Data poll

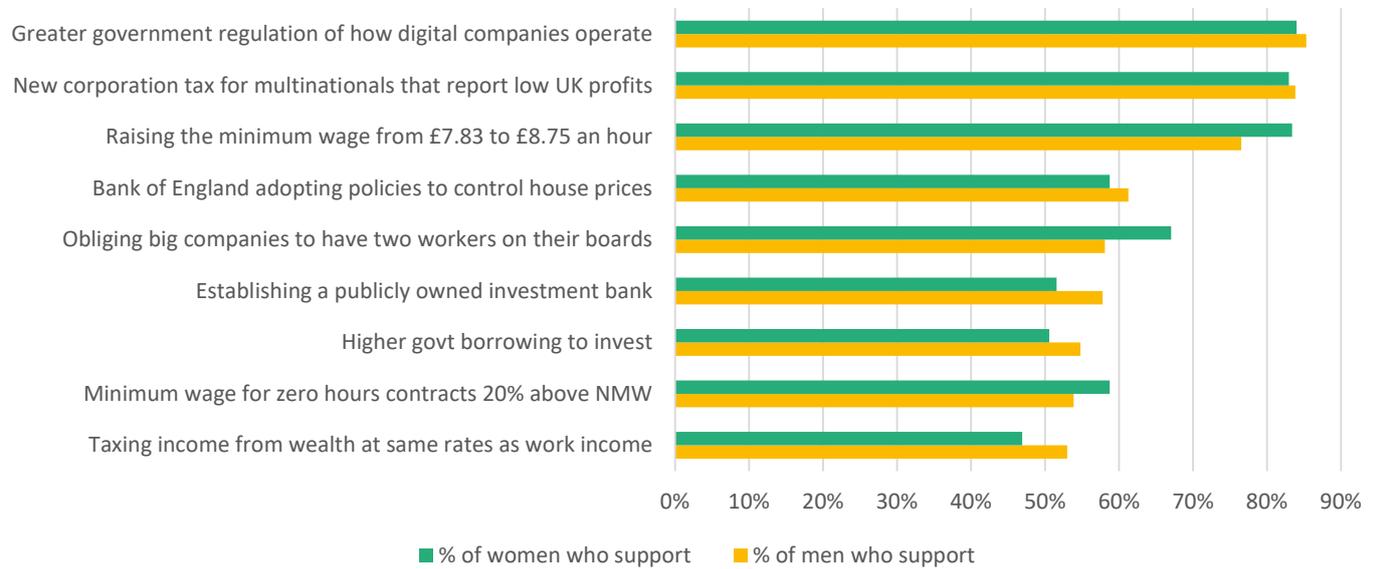
Should unions be more involved in pay negotiations, less involved, or are they involved about the right amount?



Source: IPPR analysis of Sky Data poll

Figure 6.8: Support for the IPPR Commission’s policy proposals is similarly from both men and women

Would you support...



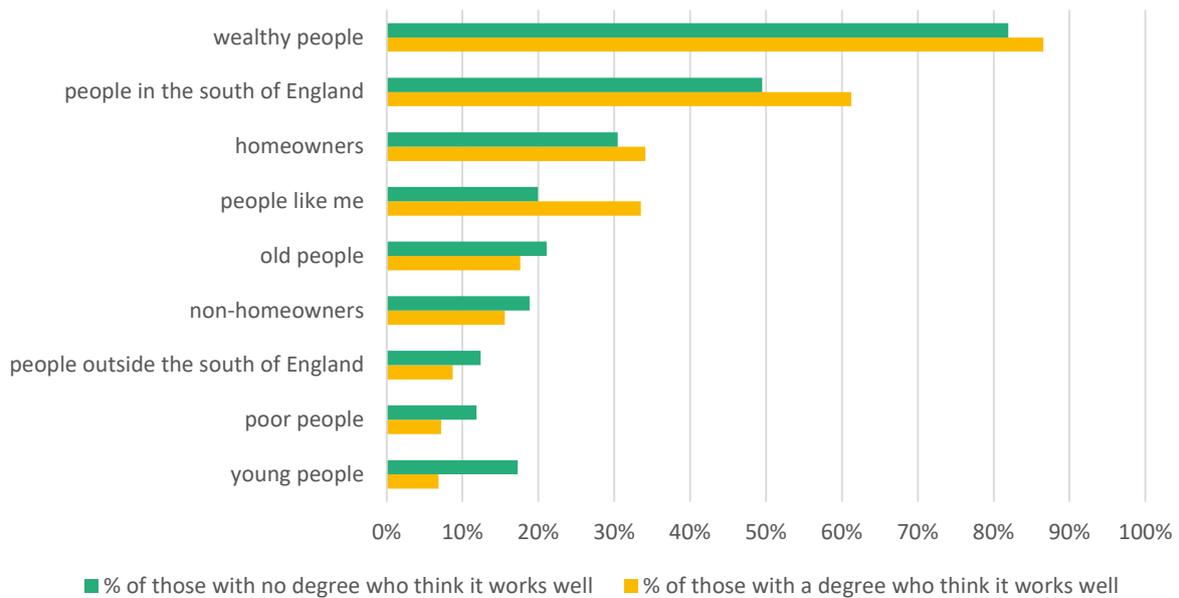
Source: IPPR analysis of Sky Data poll

Education level

Among those with a degree-level education, the belief was more widely held that people in the South of England are served well by the economy. People with a degree were also more likely to report that the economy worked well for people like them.

Figure 6.9: People with a degree more likely to believe economy works well for ‘people like me’ than those without

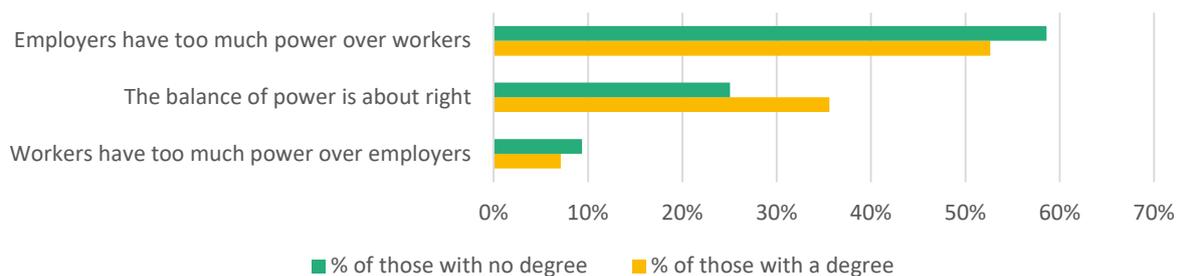
How well do you think the economy works for...



Source: IPPR analysis of Sky Data poll

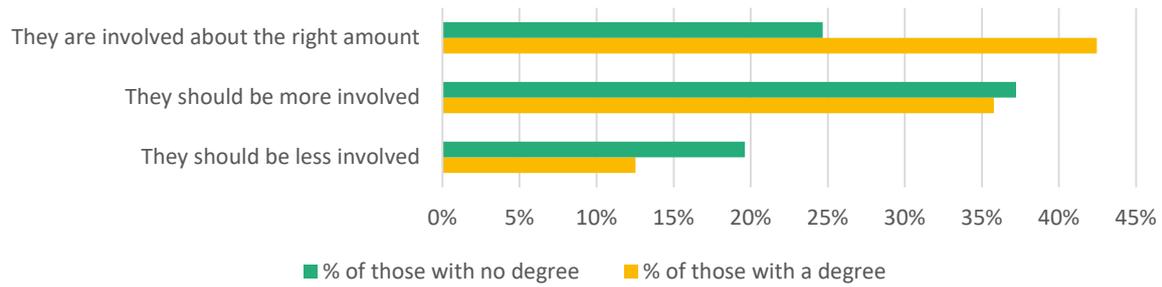
Figures 6.10 and 6.11: People with a degree-level education are more likely to feel the balance of power between workers and employers is about right, and to see the current levels of union involvement in pay negotiations as about right too

Which of these comes closest to your views?



Source: IPPR analysis of Sky Data poll

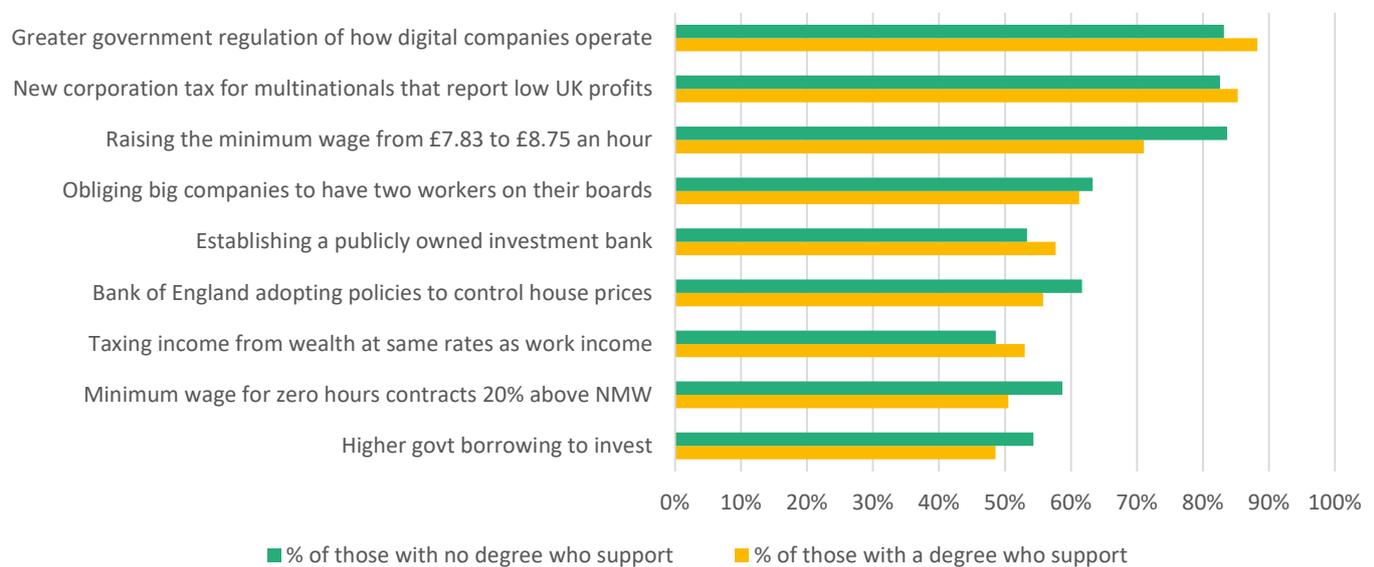
Should unions be more involved in pay negotiations, less involved, or are they involved about the right amount?



Source: IPPR analysis of Sky Data poll

Figure 6.12: Support for the IPPR Commission’s policy proposals is similarly high among those with a degree, and those without

Would you support...



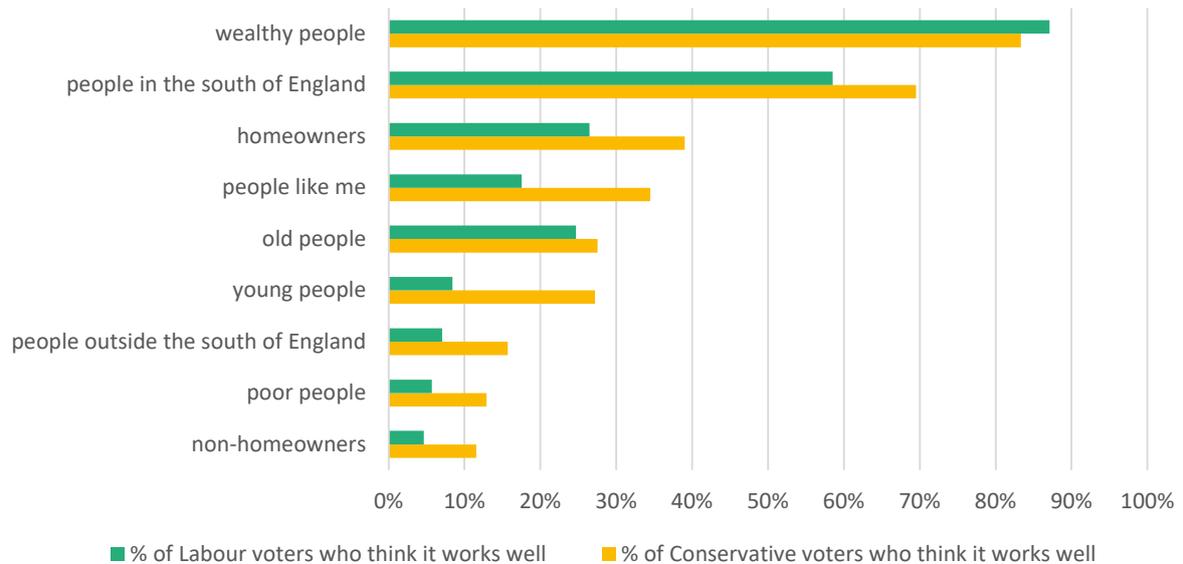
Source: IPPR analysis of Sky Data poll

Conservative and Labour voters

Conservative voters tend to believe in larger numbers that the economy serves different groups well, but the differences are particularly large when it comes to ‘people like me’ and young people.

Figure 6.13: Conservative voters are more positive than Labour voters about whether the economy works well for different groups in society

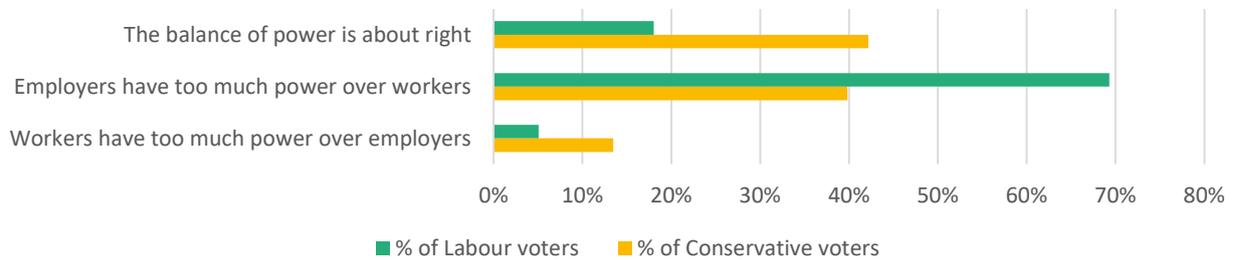
How well do you think the economy works for...



Source: IPPR analysis of Sky Data poll

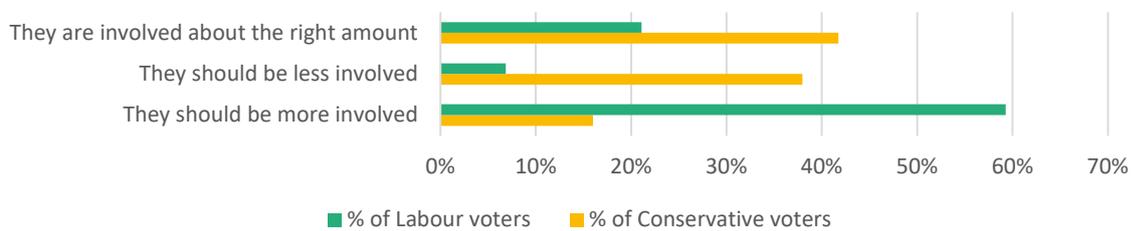
Figures 6.14 and 6.15: Conservative and Labour voters feel very differently about worker and employer power, and about the desirability of more union involvement – Labour voters would like more involvement

Which of these comes closest to your views?



Source: IPPR analysis of Sky Data poll

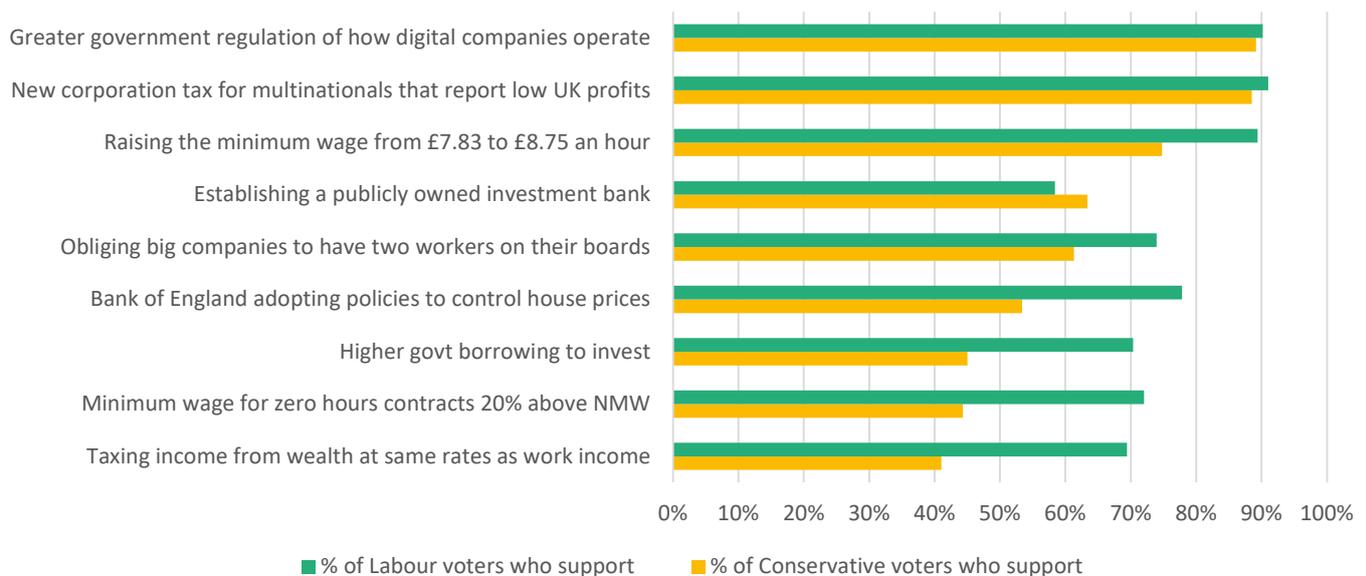
Should unions be more involved in pay negotiations, less involved, or are they involved about the right amount?



Source: IPPR analysis of Sky Data poll

Figure 6.16: Labour and Conservative voters alike are supportive of the IPPR Commission’s policy proposals, but for a number of policies, Labour voter support is higher

Would you support...

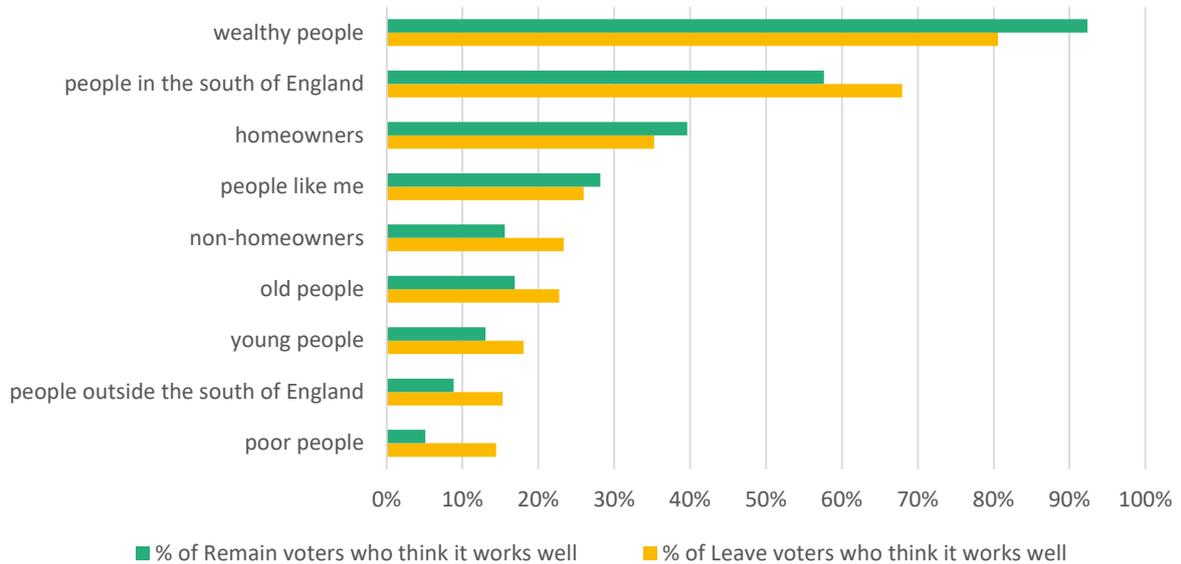


Source: IPPR analysis of Sky Data poll

Remain voters and Leave voters

Figure 6.17: Remain and Leave voters agree that the economy works well for the wealthy, and badly for the poorest – but for several groups in society, Leave voters are more likely to believe it works well

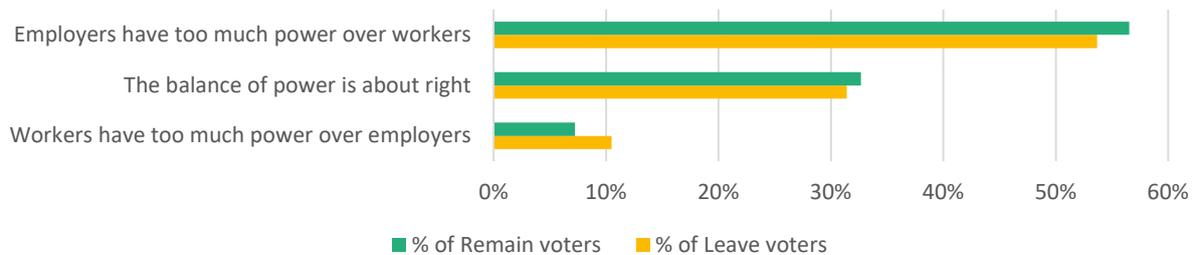
How well do you think the economy works for...



Source: IPPR analysis of Sky Data poll

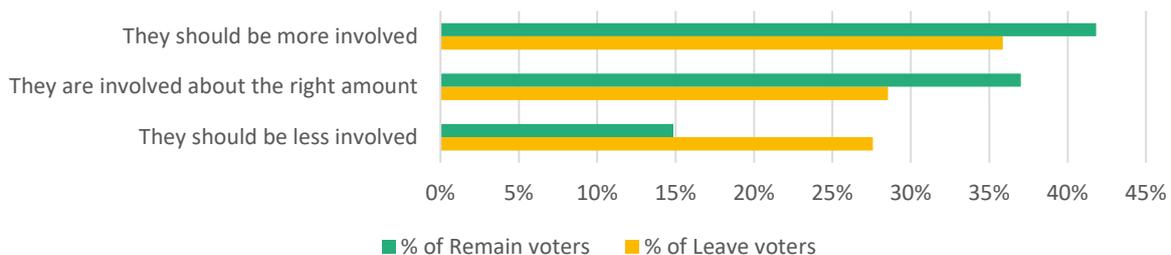
Figure 6.18 and 6.19: Leave and Remain voters have similar views on the balance of power between workers and employers – but Leavers want less union involvement in pay negotiations

Which of these comes closest to your views?



Source: IPPR analysis of Sky Data poll

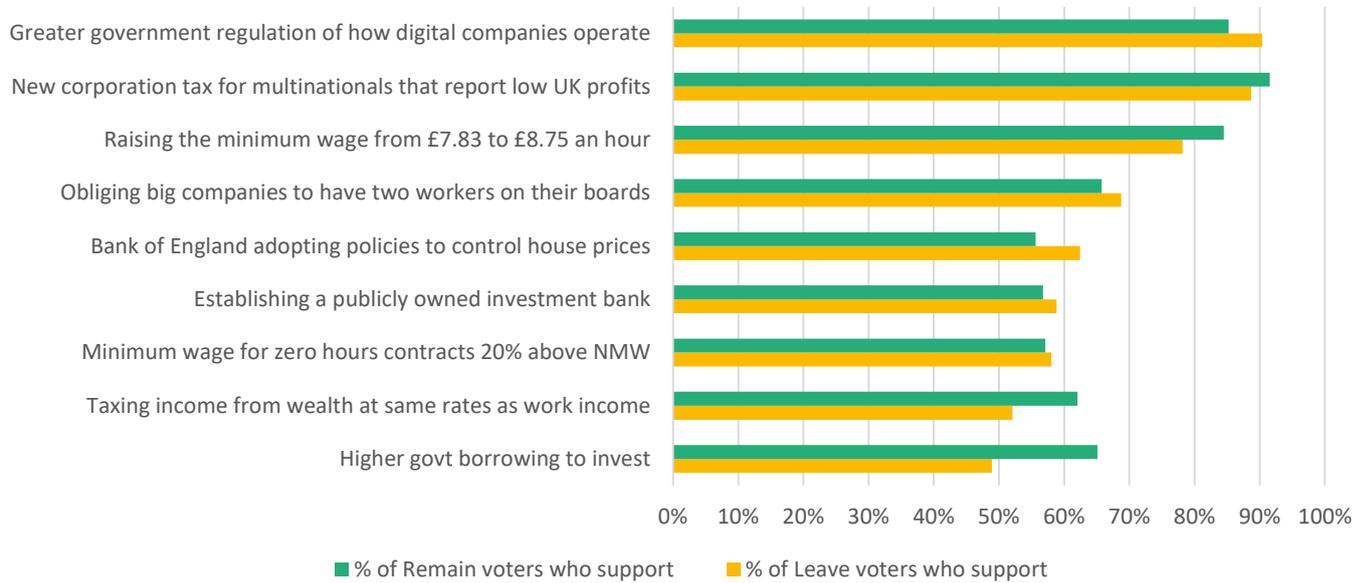
Should unions be more involved in pay negotiations, less involved, or are they involved about the right amount?



Source: IPPR analysis of Sky Data poll

Figure 6.20: In general, levels of support for the IPPR Commission’s policy proposals are similar among Remain and Leave voters

Would you support...



Source: IPPR analysis of Sky Data poll

Conclusion

Our polling evidence suggests that many more people believe that the UK economy works unfairly than believe it works fairly, and most believe it has become less fair over the past decade. Large majorities believe that the economy works to the benefit of those born into wealth, and does not work well for those born into poverty.

Our polling found widespread public support for all of the major policy proposals of the IPPR Commission on Economic Justice. Some policies – such as the introduction of a new corporation tax to tackle avoidance by multinationals, or new regulation of the digital platform companies – attract near-universal support. Others – such as the increasing of taxes on income from wealth to match those on income from work – attract more of a mix of views. But it is clear that across the political spectrum, across age groups, and across levels of education, there is support for the economic policies the Commission proposes to achieve prosperity and justice together.

Annex: The polling questions asked

1. Would you describe the way the UK economy works as fair or unfair?

Responses available:

- *Very fair*
- *Fairly fair*
- *Neither fair nor unfair*
- *Fairly unfair*
- *Very unfair*
- *Don't know*

2. Do you think the way the UK economy works has become more or less fair over the last decade, or has there been no change?

Responses available:

- *Much more fair*
- *Slightly more fair*
- *No change*
- *Slightly less fair*
- *Much less fair*
- *Don't know*

3. For each of the following, please indicate if you think the UK economy works well or badly for them?

- People like me
- People born into wealthy families
- People born into families which are neither wealthy nor poor
- People born into poor families
- Homeowners
- People who do not own a home
- Older people
- Younger people
- People in the south of England
- People outside of the south of England

Responses available:

- *Very well*
- *Fairly well*
- *Neither well nor badly*
- *Fairly badly*
- *Very badly*
- *Don't know*

4. In general, which of these comes closest to your views?

Responses available:

- Employers have far too much power over workers*
- Employers have slightly too much power over workers*
- The balance of power between employers and workers is about right*
- Workers have slightly too much power over employers*
- Workers have far too much power over employers*
- Don't know*

5. Over recent years, do you think...?

Responses available:

- Employers have gained much more power over workers*
- Employers have gained slightly more power over workers*
- There has been no change in the balance of power between employers and workers*
- Workers have gained slightly more power over employers*
- Workers have gained much more power over employers*
- Don't know*

6. Do you think trade unions should be more or less involved in negotiating workers' pay and conditions, or are they currently involved about the right amount?

Responses available:

- Much more*
- Slightly more*
- About right*
- Slightly less*
- Much less*
- Don't know*

7. Would you support or oppose the following policies?

- Increase government borrowing to pay for higher investment in health, education and infrastructure (such as transport and telecommunications)
- Establishing a publicly owned investment bank to invest in infrastructure and growing businesses which struggle to get finance, at an initial cost of £20 billion
- Raise the minimum wage from £7.83 to £8.75 an hour
- Raise the minimum wage for zero hours contracts to 20 per cent above the standard minimum wage
- Oblige companies with more than 250 workers to have at least two workers on their company boards
- Requiring the major digital companies such as Google and Facebook to follow rules set by government on how they operate, in the same way that broadcasters and mobile phone providers must
- Raising the rates of tax paid on the income which people make from owning wealth (for example in company dividends, or the profit when you sell something that has increased in value since you bought it) to the same rates as those paid on income people make from work?

- Ask the Bank of England to adopt policies to keep house prices from rising
- Introduce a new corporation tax for multinational companies that misleadingly report zero or very low profits in the UK

Responses available:

- *Strongly support*
- *Tend to support*
- *Neither support nor oppose*
- *Tend to oppose*
- *Strongly oppose*
- *Don't know*

About IPPR

IPPR, the Institute for Public Policy Research, is the UK's leading progressive think tank. We are an independent charitable organisation with our main offices in London. IPPR North, IPPR's dedicated think tank for the North of England, operates out of offices in Manchester and Newcastle, and IPPR Scotland, our dedicated think tank for Scotland, is based in Edinburgh.

Our purpose is to conduct and promote research into, and the education of the public in, the economic, social and political sciences, science and technology, the voluntary sector and social enterprise, public services, and industry and commerce.

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