

# Residential Postal Tracker - Annual Report

Fieldwork: July 2022 - June 2023

This is a summary of findings from our residential postal tracker survey, focusing on the July 2022 – June 2023 results.

More details, including results data tabulations and technical reports can be found here:

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/research-and-data/data/statistics/stats23>

## Objective

The overall aim of the Residential Postal Tracker research is to accurately measure and assess usage and attitudes towards postal services among UK adults (aged 16+) and to understand their postal needs, access to services and reactions to potential changes in the postal services.

## Methodology

The Residential Postal Tracker is a continuous interviewing mixed-method (online and face-to-face) survey of postal users.

A strict quota sampling approach is taken to ensure representativity across nations, rurality, ages, gender and social grade.

Data is then weighted back to be nationally representative.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, face to face interviewing was paused until December 2022. From January 2023 face-to-face was included and is reported on. Differences due to methodology have been flagged.

Changes to the questionnaire were made in Q3 2022

## Fieldwork and Reporting Period

This document reports on yearly trends for data captured between July and June.

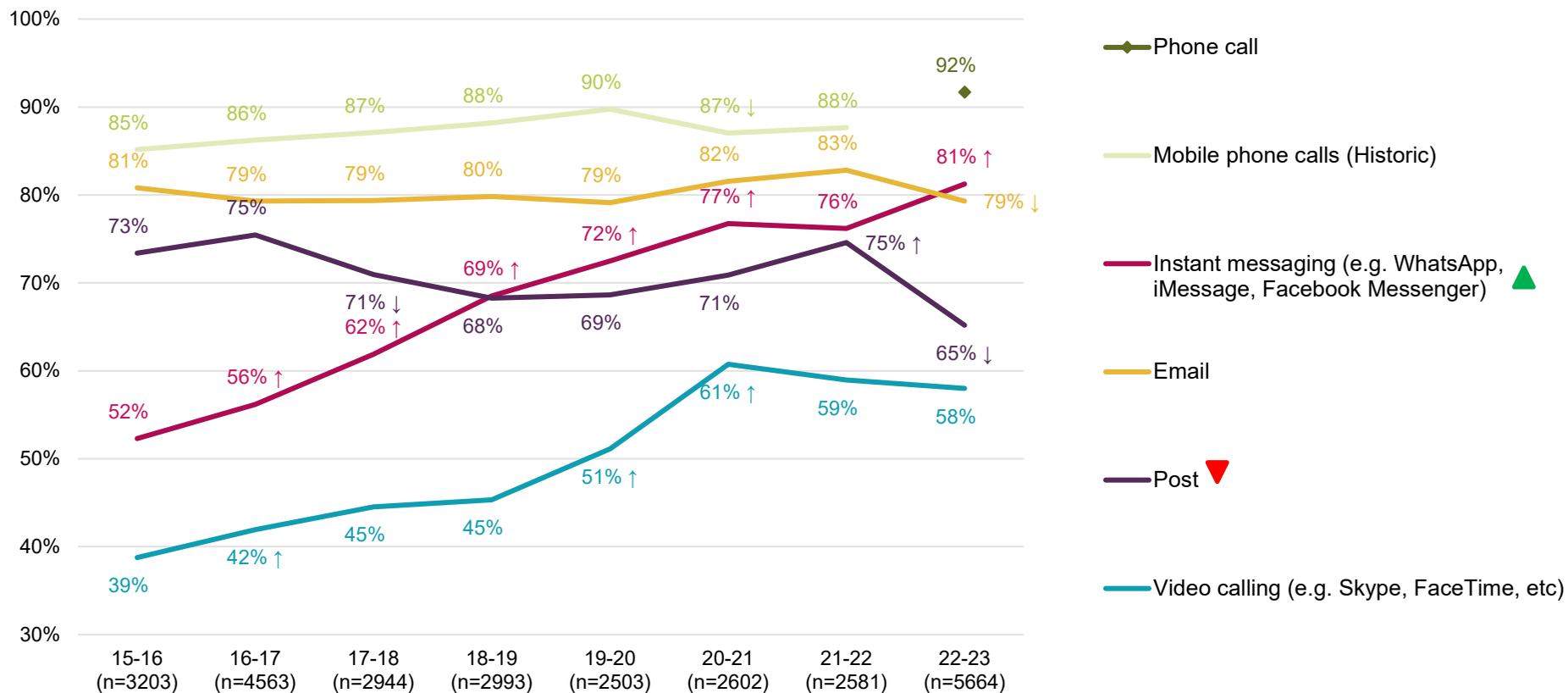
Specifically the report calls out significant changes between the year “July 2022 - June 2023” and the previous reporting period “July 2021 - June 2022”.

When data is split by quarters, these relate to calendar year (Q1: Jan-Mar, Q2: Apr-Jun, Q3: Jul-Sep, Q4: Oct-Dec). text

# Importance and usage of postal services

The stated importance of post as a method of communication with friends and family declined this year, as the importance of Instant messaging continues to increase

**Importance of channels to communicate with friends and family (NET Essential / Fairly important)**



Source: Residential Postal Tracker

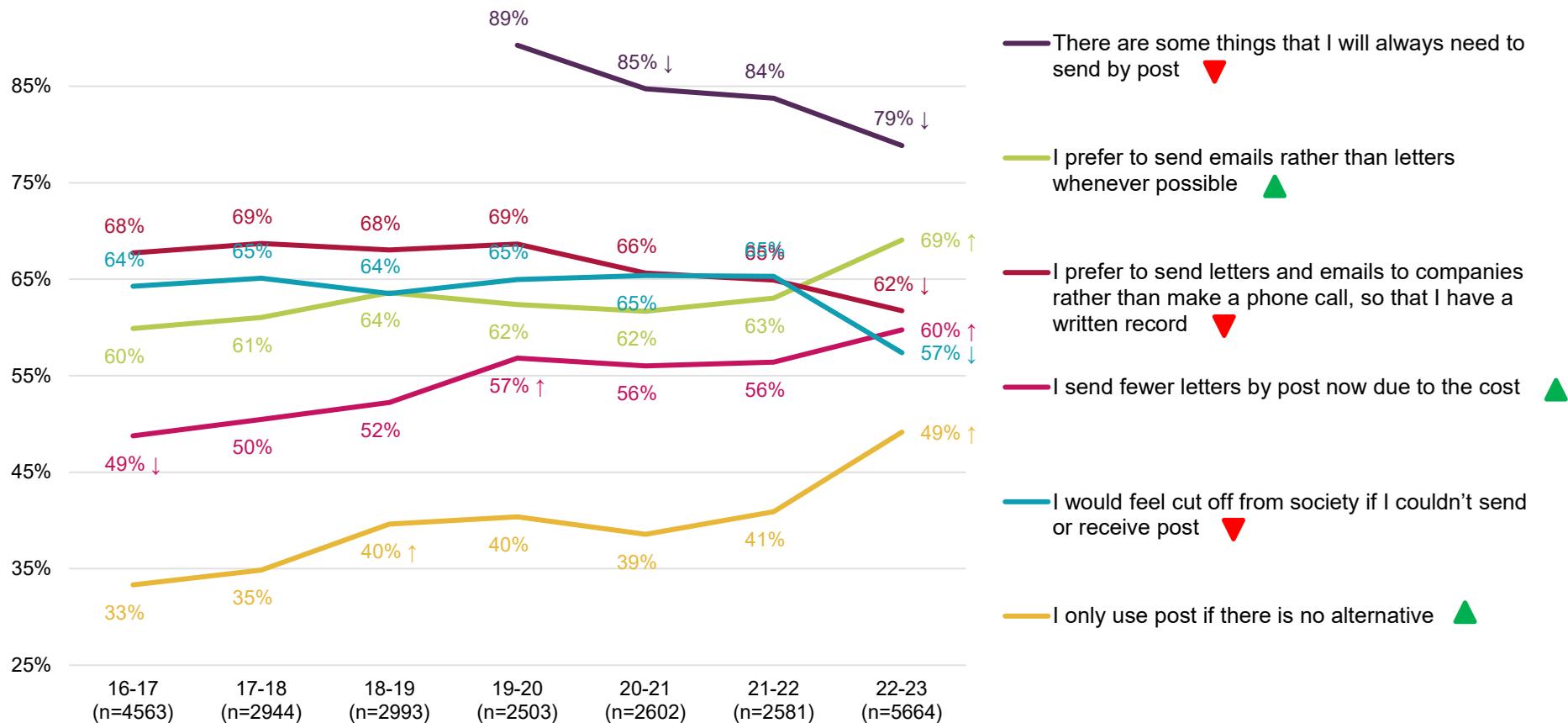
C4. Thinking about how you communicate with friends and family, how important to you are each of these channels of communication? Text Messages were Essential/Fairly Important to 88% and Social Media to 58% (not shown on chart).  
Base: All participants (on even months) - Sample size shown on chart

Arrows denote significant positive or negative change vs previous time period. Significance testing to 95%.

# Significantly more agree that they would prefer to send emails rather than letters when possible, half would only send via post if there's no alternative



## Attitudes to sending and receiving post (NET Strongly/Slightly agree)



Source: Residential Postal Tracker

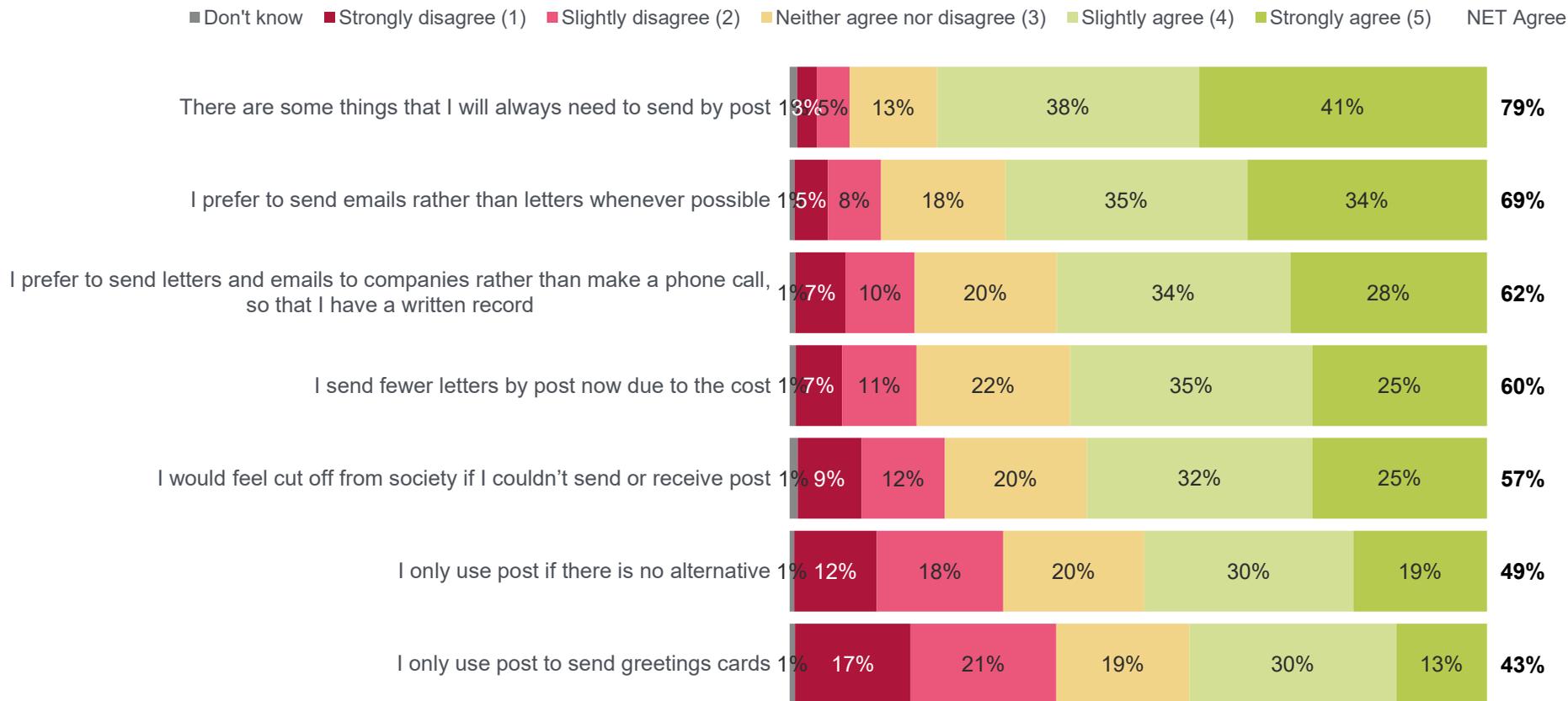
C3. Here are some statements that other people have made about sending and receiving post. To what extent do you agree or disagree with each one? - NET Agree

Base: All participants (on even months) - Sample size shown on chart

Arrows denote significant positive or negative change vs previous time period. Significance testing to 95%.

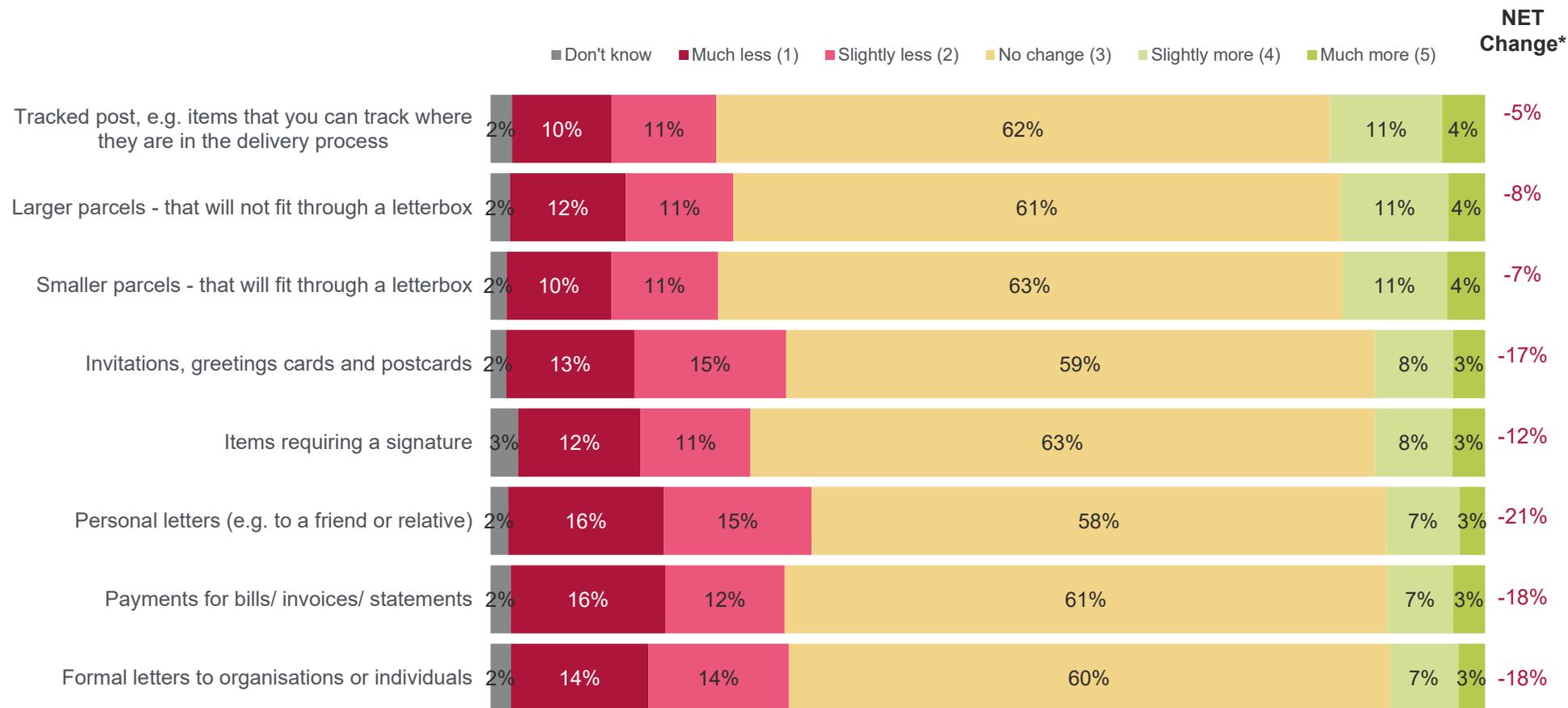
# The majority agree that there will always be some things that need to be sent by post

## Attitudes to sending and receiving post (Last year of data)



# Across all postage types, postal users believe they are sending less than they did 2 years ago

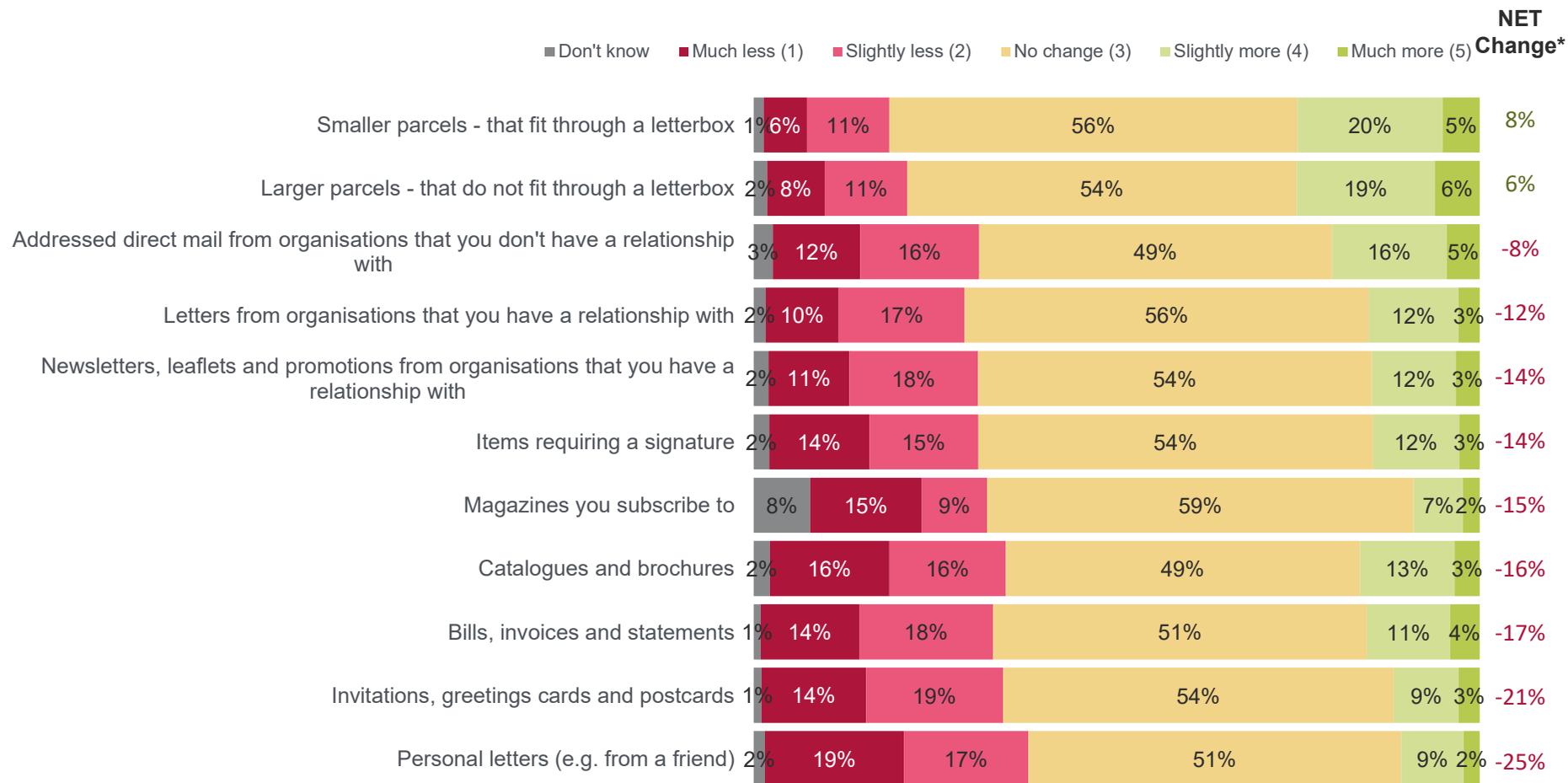
## Postage sending behaviour vs 2 years ago



\*NET Change= (Much more + Slightly more) – (Much less + Slightly less)

# Postal users perceive that in the last two years there has been a net decline in all types of letter post received

## Postage receiving behaviour vs 2 years ago (Last 4 quarters)



\*NET Change= (Much more + Slightly more) – (Much less + Slightly less)

Source: Residential Postal Tracker  
E2. Thinking about these different types of mail, would you say that you now receive them more or less often than two years ago? Or has there been no change?

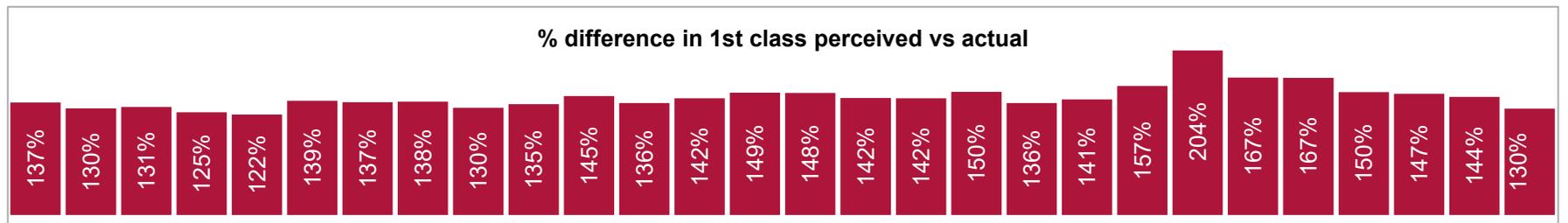
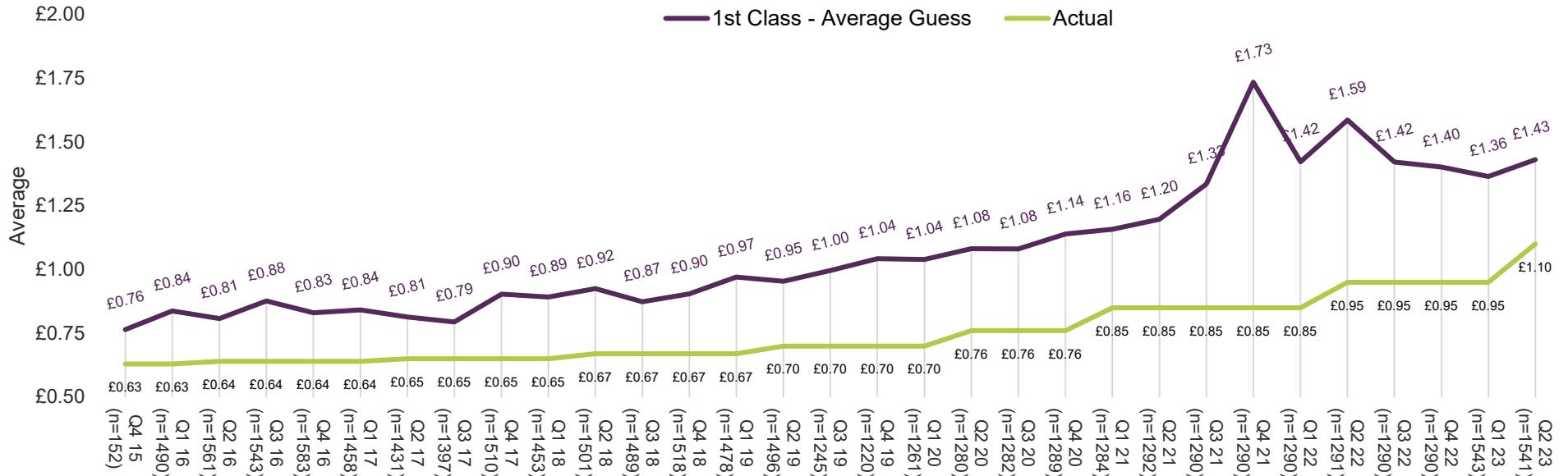
Base: All participants 2022-23 (n=5564)

Arrows denote significant positive or negative change vs previous time period. Significance testing to 95%.

# Letter price, value and affordability

# Average estimated cost of a 1<sup>st</sup> Class stamp is now around £1.40

## Estimated cost of a 1st class stamp



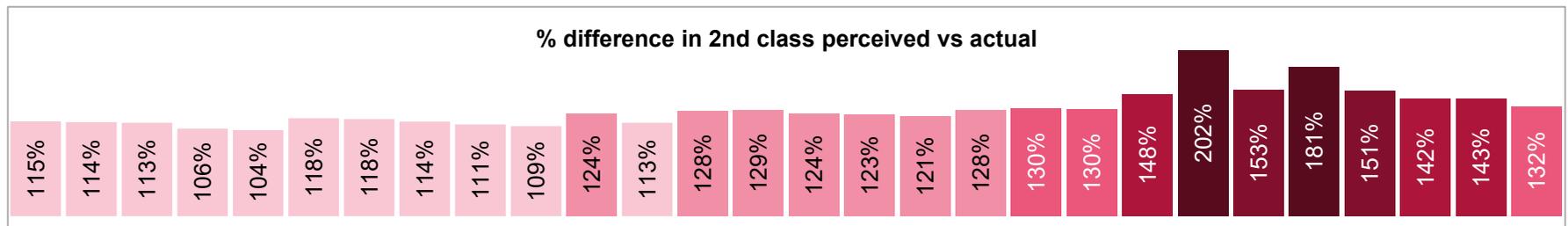
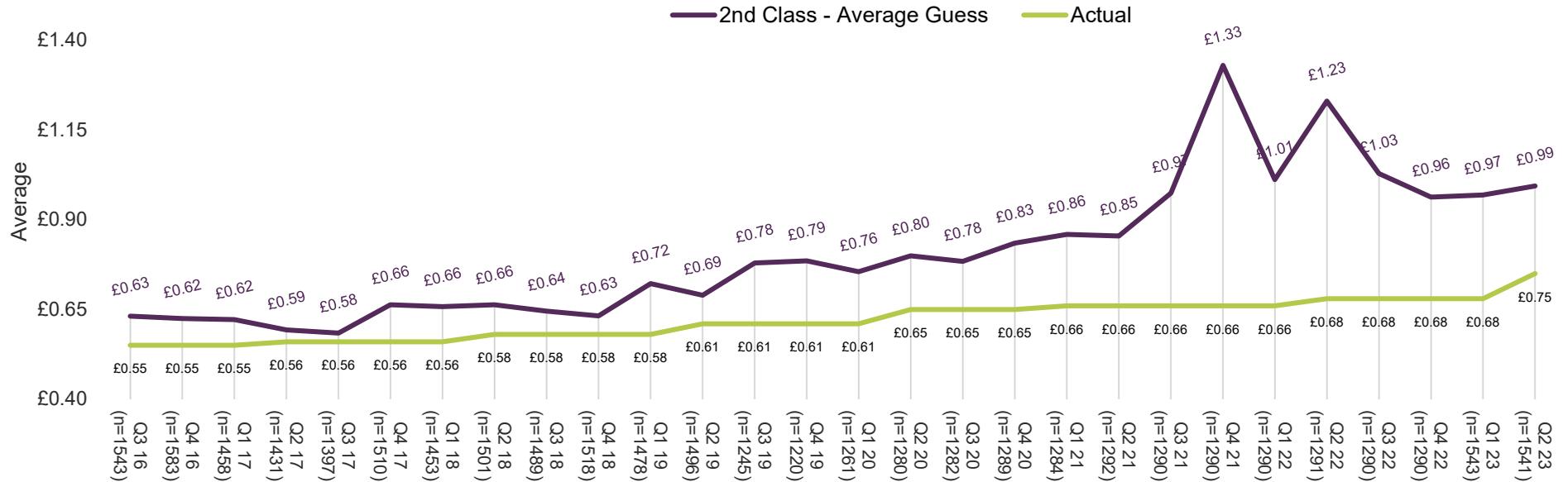
Source: Residential Postal Tracker  
 H3. (old QF2) Giving your best guess, how much do you think a first class stamp for a standard letter costs today?

Base: All participants - Sample size shown on chart

Arrows denote significant positive or negative change vs previous time period. Significance testing to 95%.

# Average estimated cost of a 2<sup>nd</sup> Class stamp is now around £1

## Estimated cost of a 2nd class stamp



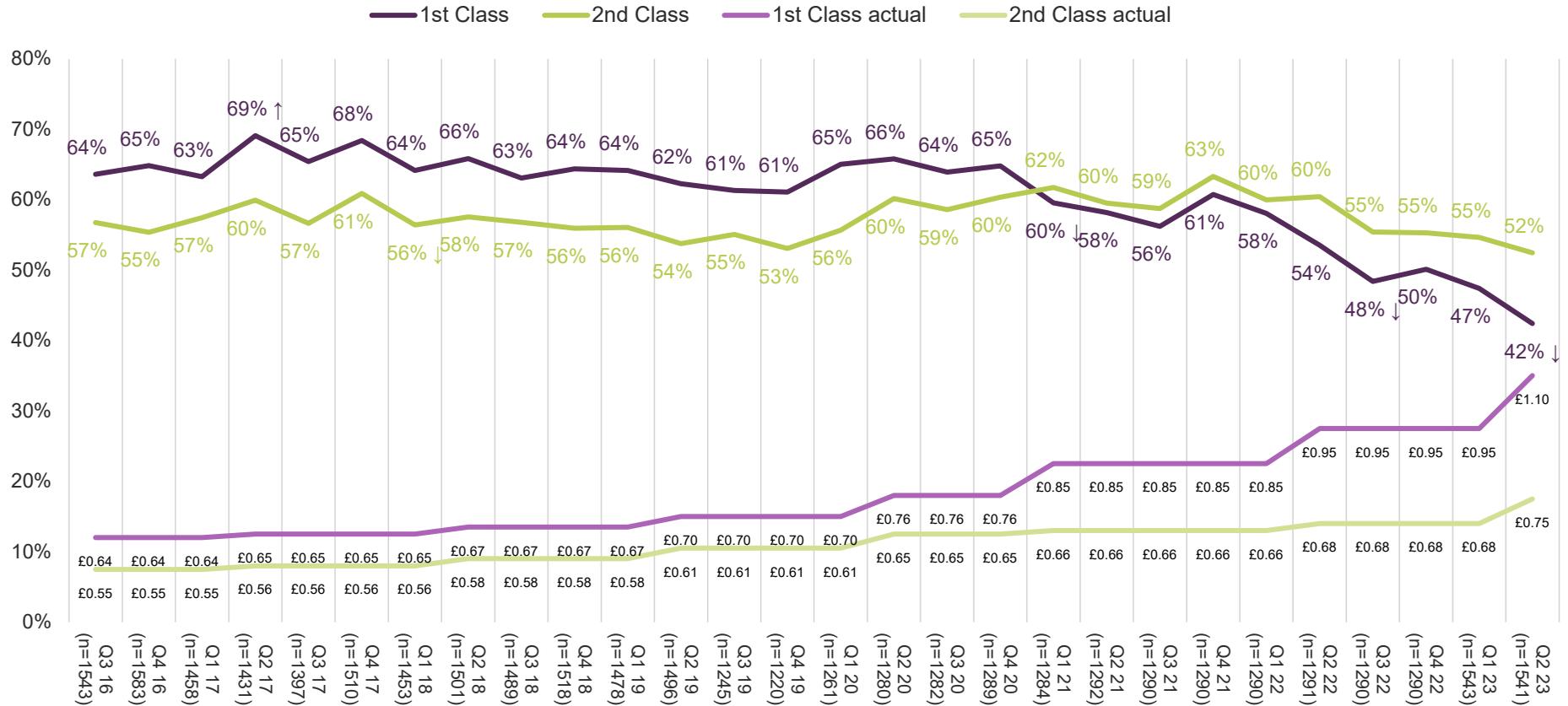
Source: Residential Postal Tracker  
 H4. (Old QF3) Giving your best guess, how much do you think a second class stamp for a standard letter costs today?

Base: All participants - Sample size shown on chart

Arrows denote significant positive or negative change vs previous time period. Significance testing to 95%.

# Perceptions of value for money continue to decline significantly, especially since 1<sup>st</sup> class stamps passed the £1 price point

## Value for Money (NET Good Value for Money)

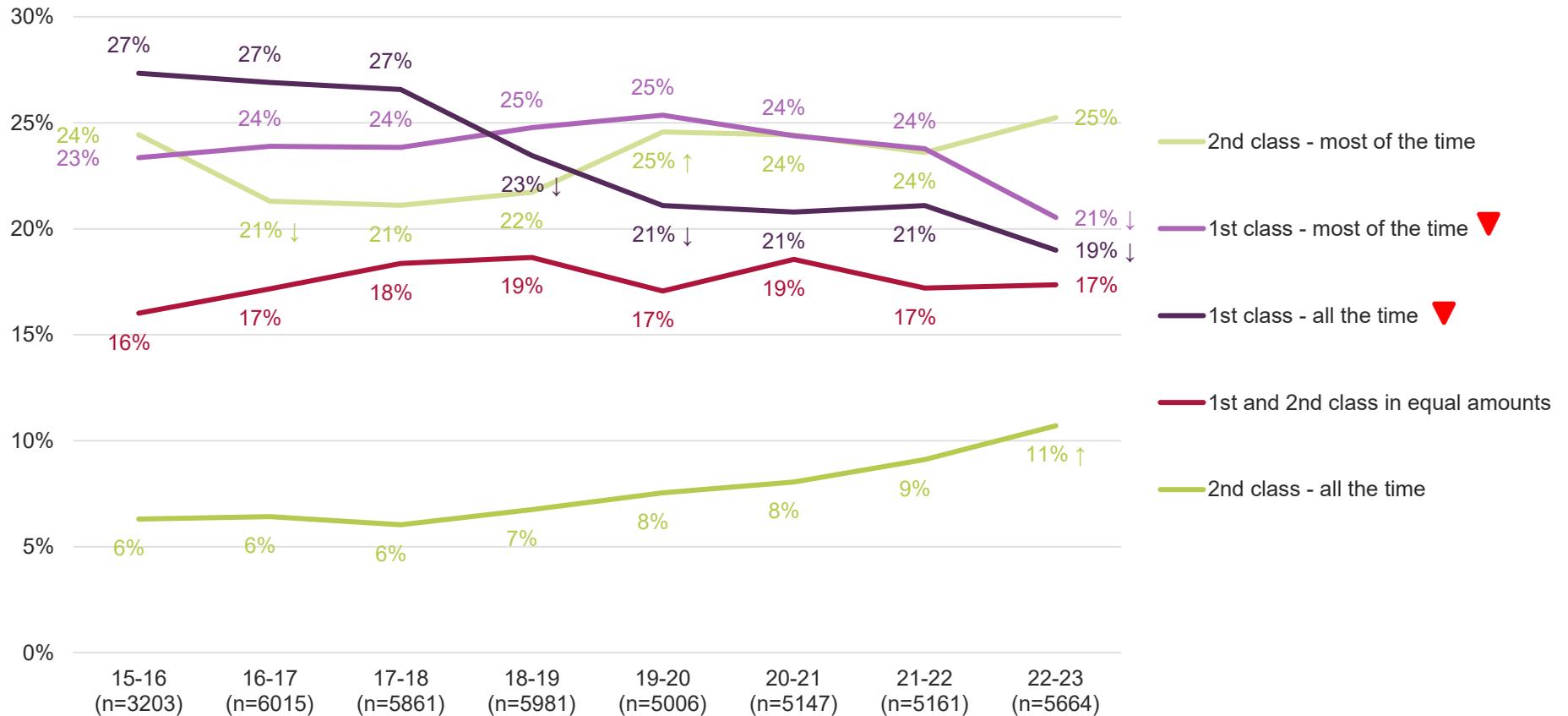


Source: Residential Postal Tracker. H5. (old QF4) We can tell you that a first class stamp for a standard letter currently costs [price]. How would you rate Royal Mail's first class service in terms of value for money? H6. (old QF5) We can tell you that a second class stamp for a standard letter currently costs [price]. How would you rate Royal Mail's second class service in terms of value for money?  
Base: All participants - Sample size shown on chart

Arrows denote significant positive or negative change vs previous time period. Significance testing to 95%.

Based on stated tendencies, postal users are now switching away from 1<sup>st</sup> class usage to 2<sup>nd</sup> class

Services used when sending letters or cards



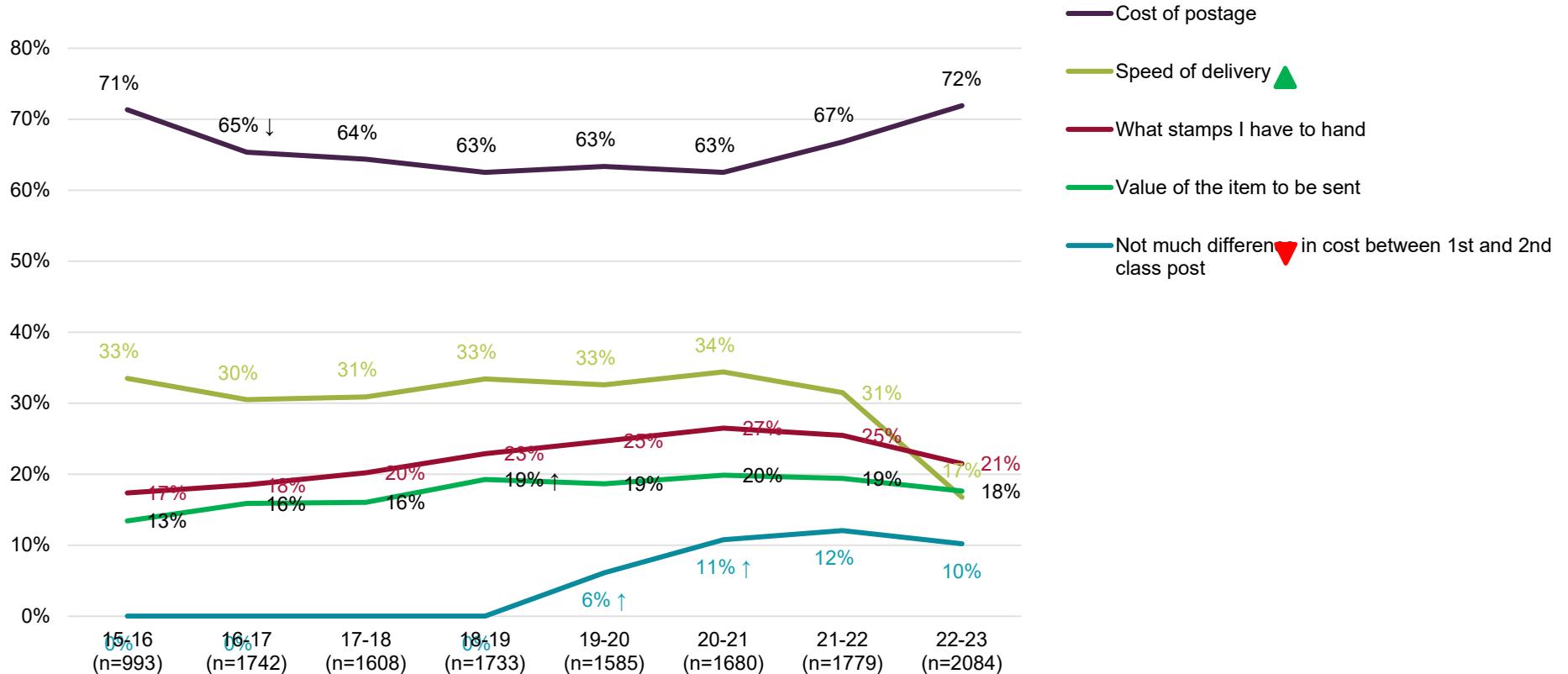
Source: Residential Postal Tracker  
H8. (old QF7) When sending letters or cards, which service do you tend to use?

Base: All participants - Sample size shown on chart

Arrows denote significant positive or negative change vs previous time period. Significance testing to 95%.

# Cost has increasingly become the reason for choosing to use 2<sup>nd</sup> class stamps all/most of the time

## Influences for using 2nd class stamps all/most of the time



Source: Residential Postal Tracker  
H9. (old QF9) Which, if any, of these describe your reasons for your choice of postage stamps when using them

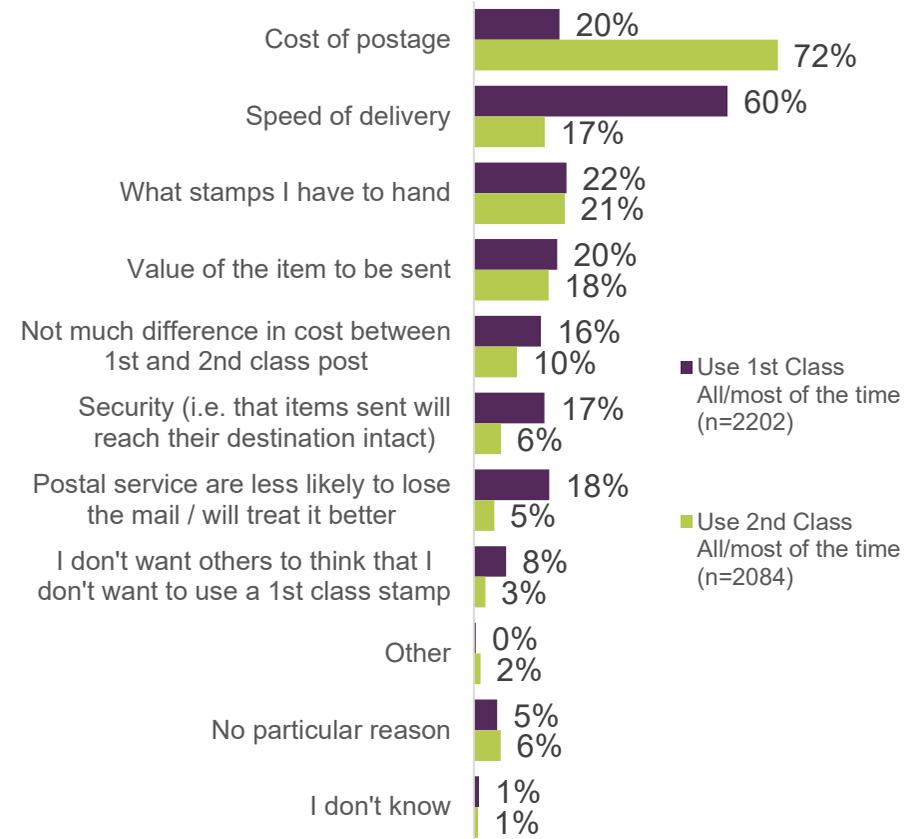
Base: Those using 2nd class all/most of the time - Sample sizes shown on chart, reasons given by less than 10% are not shown on the chart

Arrows denote significant positive or negative change vs previous time period. Significance testing to 95%.

# Those choosing to send via 1<sup>st</sup> class all/most of the time do so primarily for speed of delivery

## Influences for using either 1st or 2nd class stamps

■ Total reasons for choice of stamps



Source: Residential Postal Tracker H9. (old QF9) Which, if any, of these describe your reasons for your choice of postage stamps when using them?

Base: Those who purchased stamps

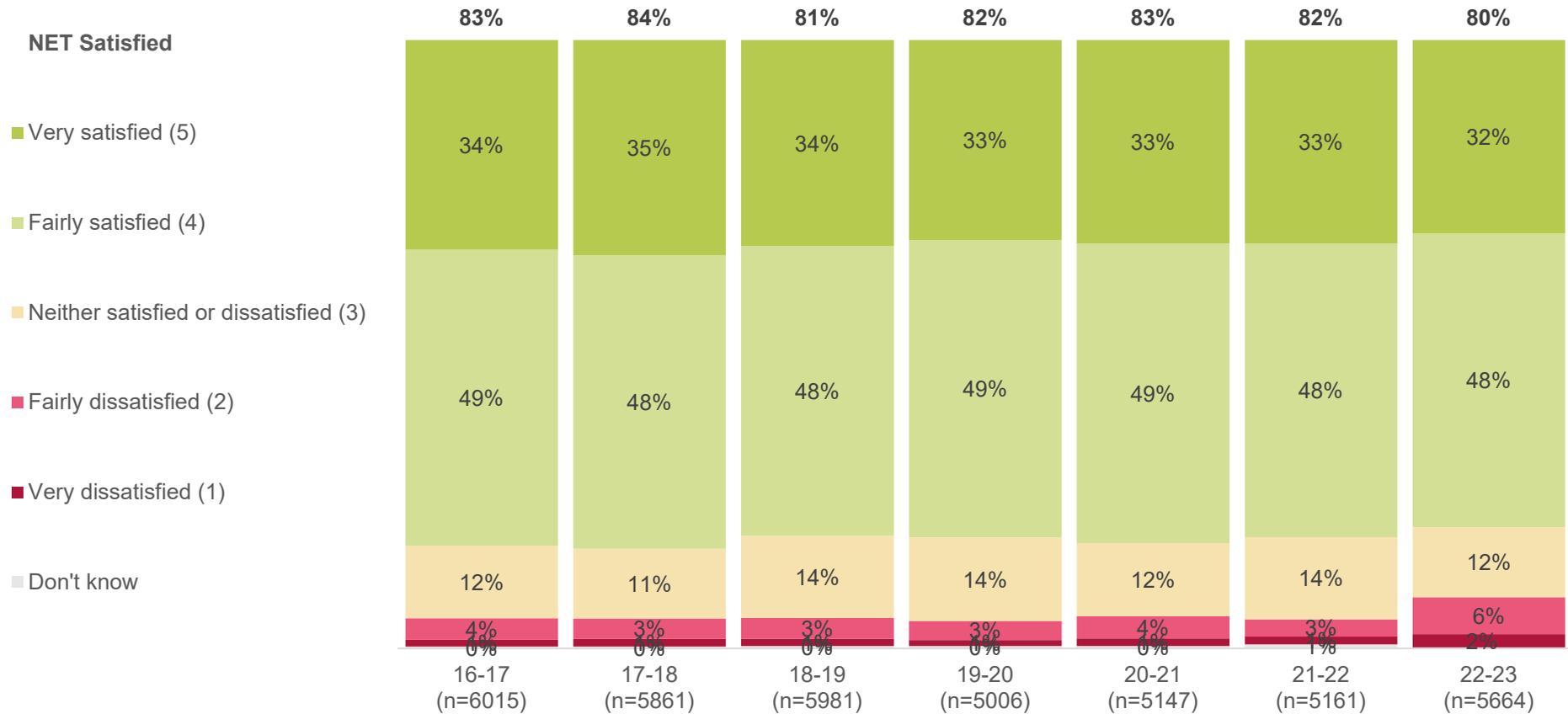
Arrows denote significant positive or negative change vs previous time period. Significance testing to 95%.

# Royal Mail satisfaction and letter complaints

# The majority of Royal Mail users are satisfied with the service, though dissatisfaction has started to grow



## Overall satisfaction with the Royal Mail



Source: Residential Postal Tracker  
 D2. (old QG5) How would you rate your overall satisfaction with Royal Mail?

Base: All participants - Sample size shown on chart

Arrows denote significant positive or negative change vs previous time period. Significance testing to 95%.

# While overall satisfaction with Royal Mail remains high, satisfaction with the cost of postage significantly drops by 14% points

## Satisfaction with Royal Mail's service elements

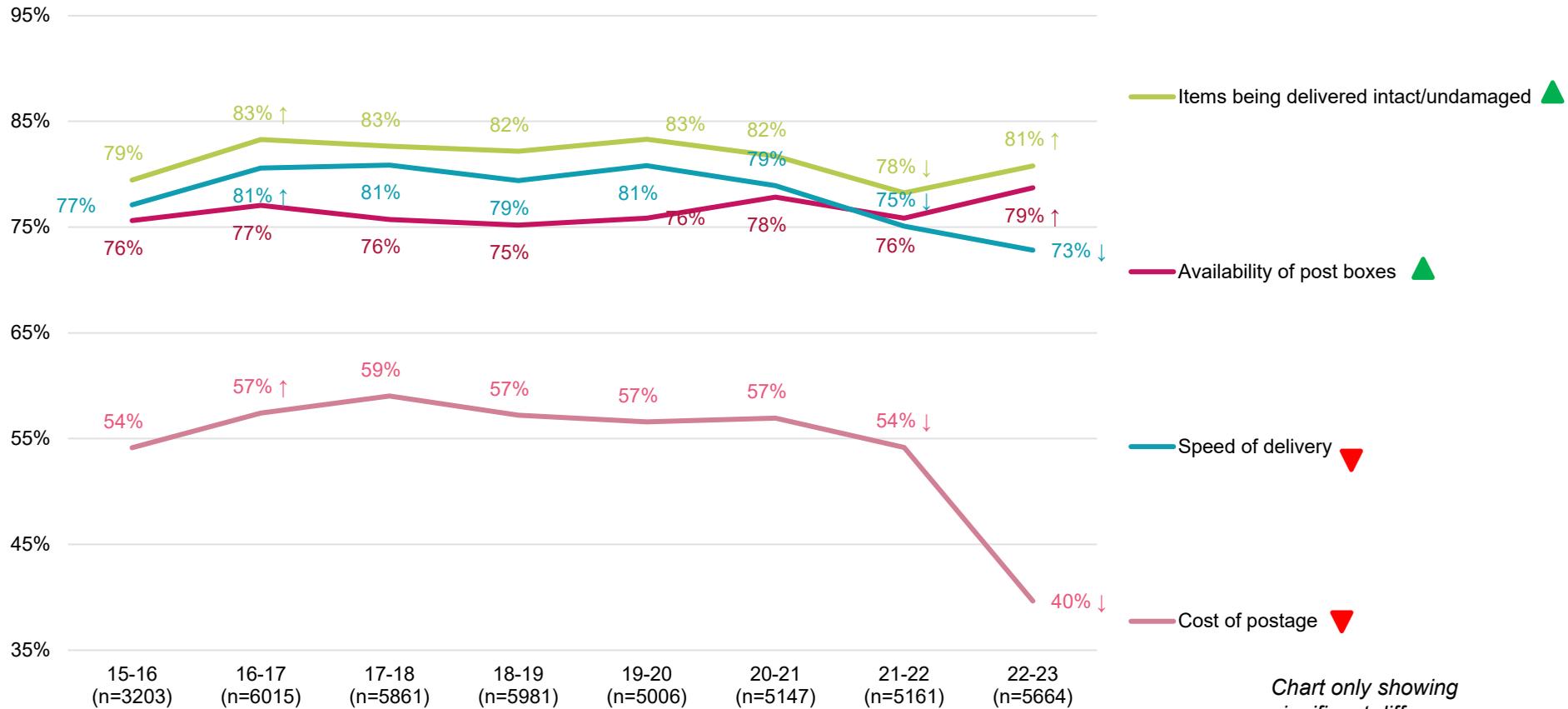
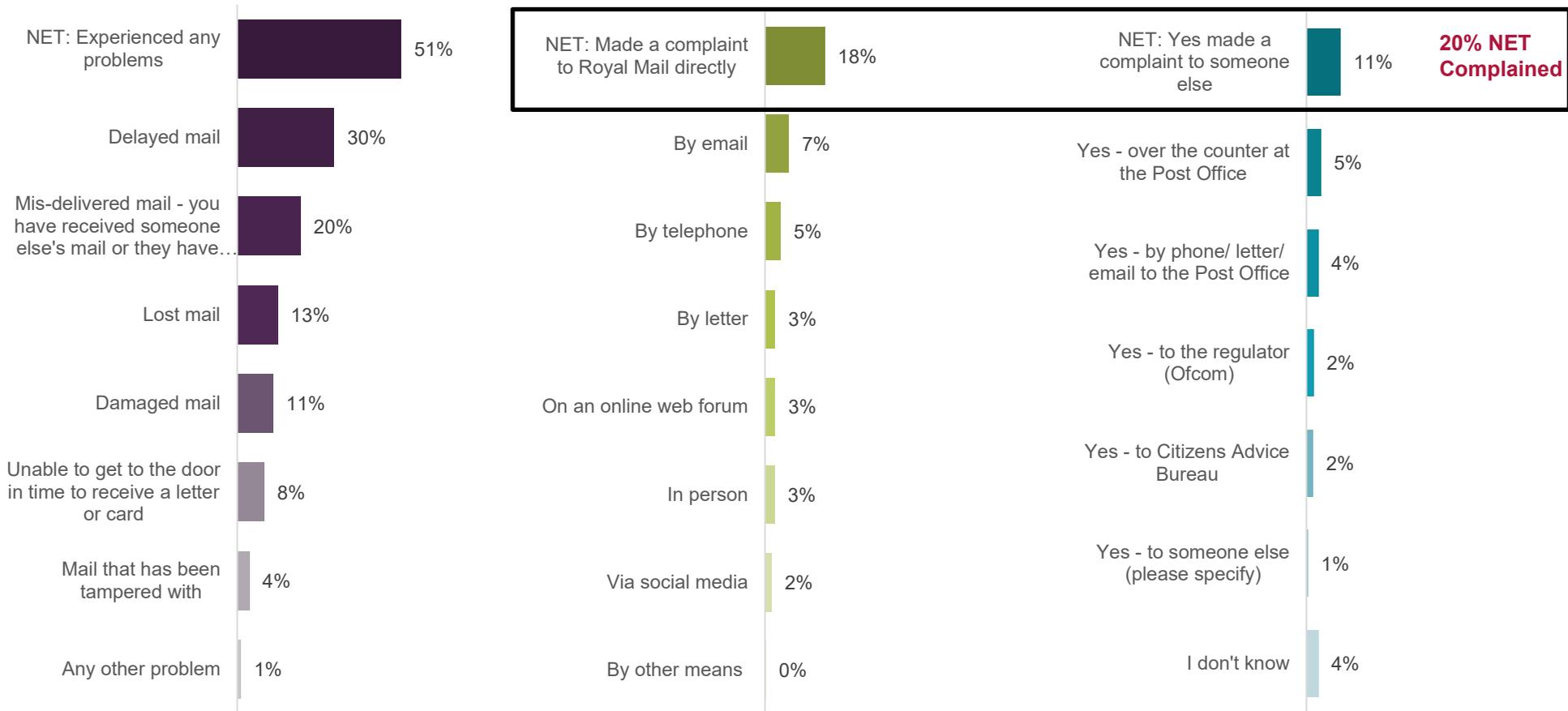


Chart only showing significant differences

# Half of postal users have experienced a problem with sending or receiving letters however only 18% have made a complaint to Royal Mail

## Incidence of Problems and Complaints with the Royal Mail – among all postal users



Source: Residential Postal Tracker. F1. In the last 12 months, have you experienced any of the following problems when sending or receiving letters or cards from the Royal Mail? F2. And in the last 12 months, have you made a complaint directly to Royal Mail about any letters or cards you've sent or received? F8. In the last 12 months, have you made a complaint to anyone else about any letters or cards you've sent or received from the Royal Mail?

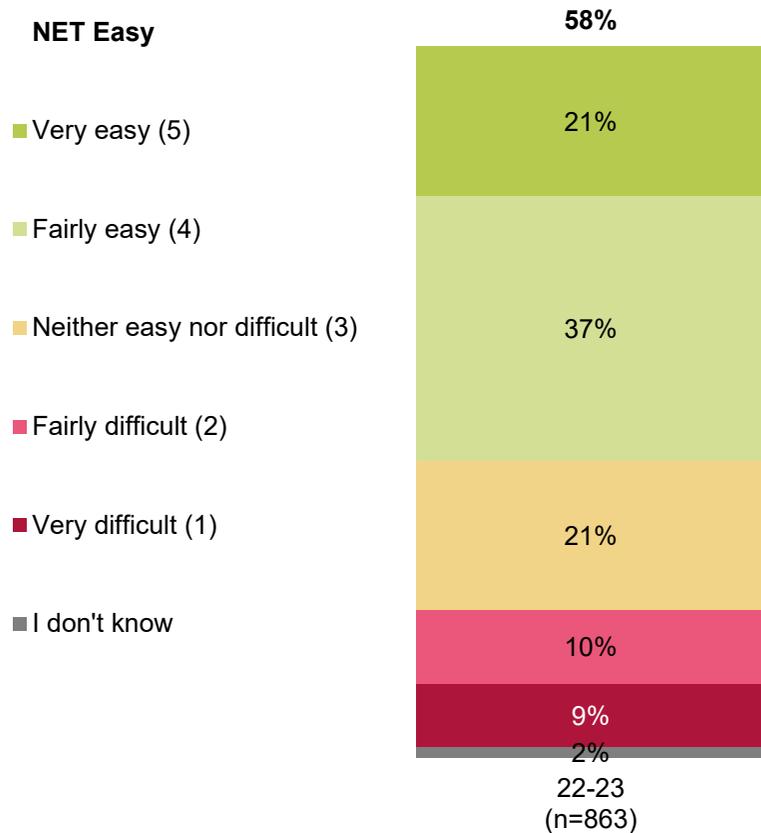
Base: All participants 2022-23 (n=5564)

Arrows denote significant positive or negative change vs previous time period. Significance testing to 95%.

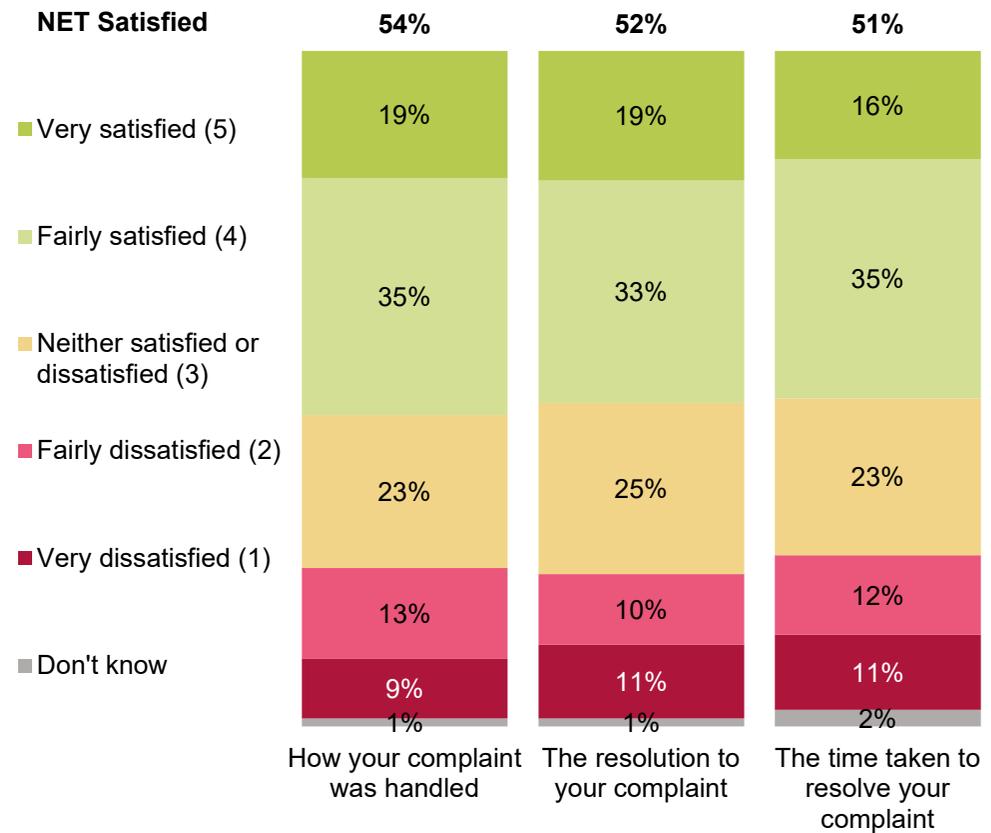
# Over half found the process of complaining and their resulting outcomes a satisfying experience but a significant proportion (20%) found it difficult

## Ease and Satisfaction

### Ease of complaining to the Royal Mail



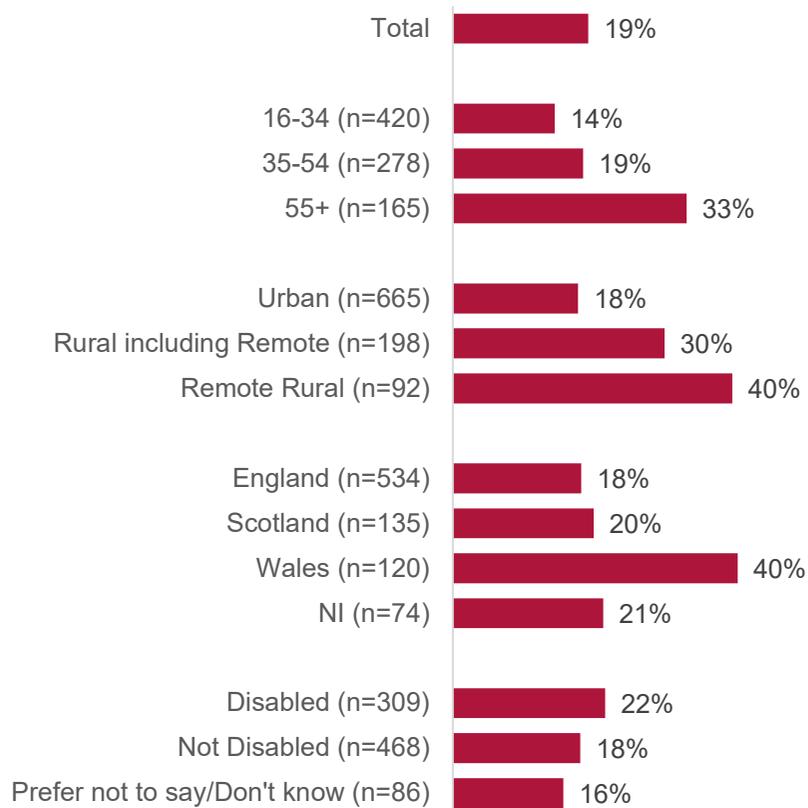
### Satisfaction with...



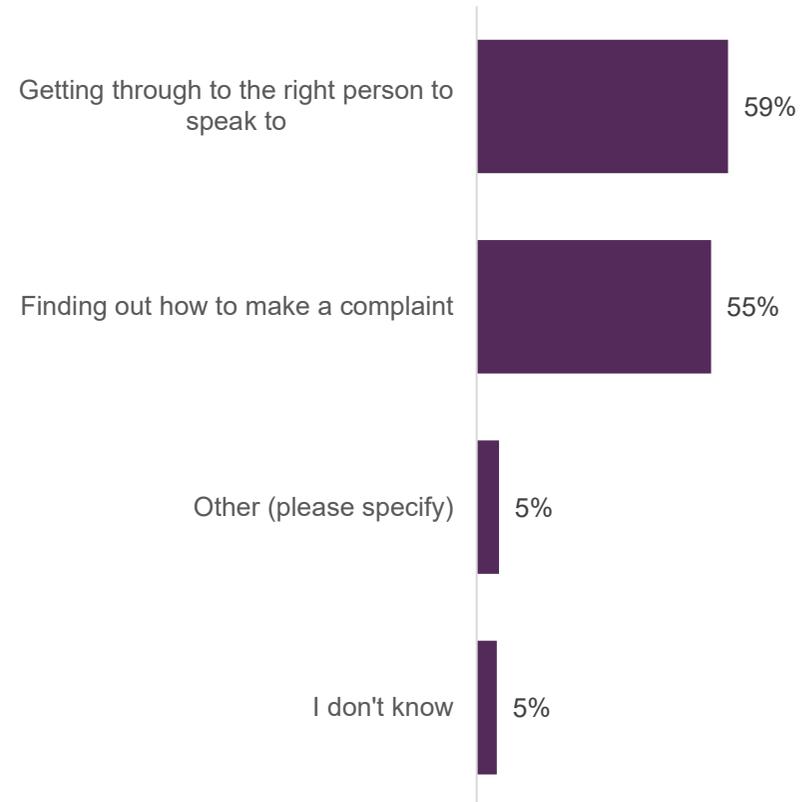
# Those more likely to find it difficult to complain are generally older and based in more rural locations

## Difficulties making complaints to the Royal Mail

**% NET Difficult to complain**



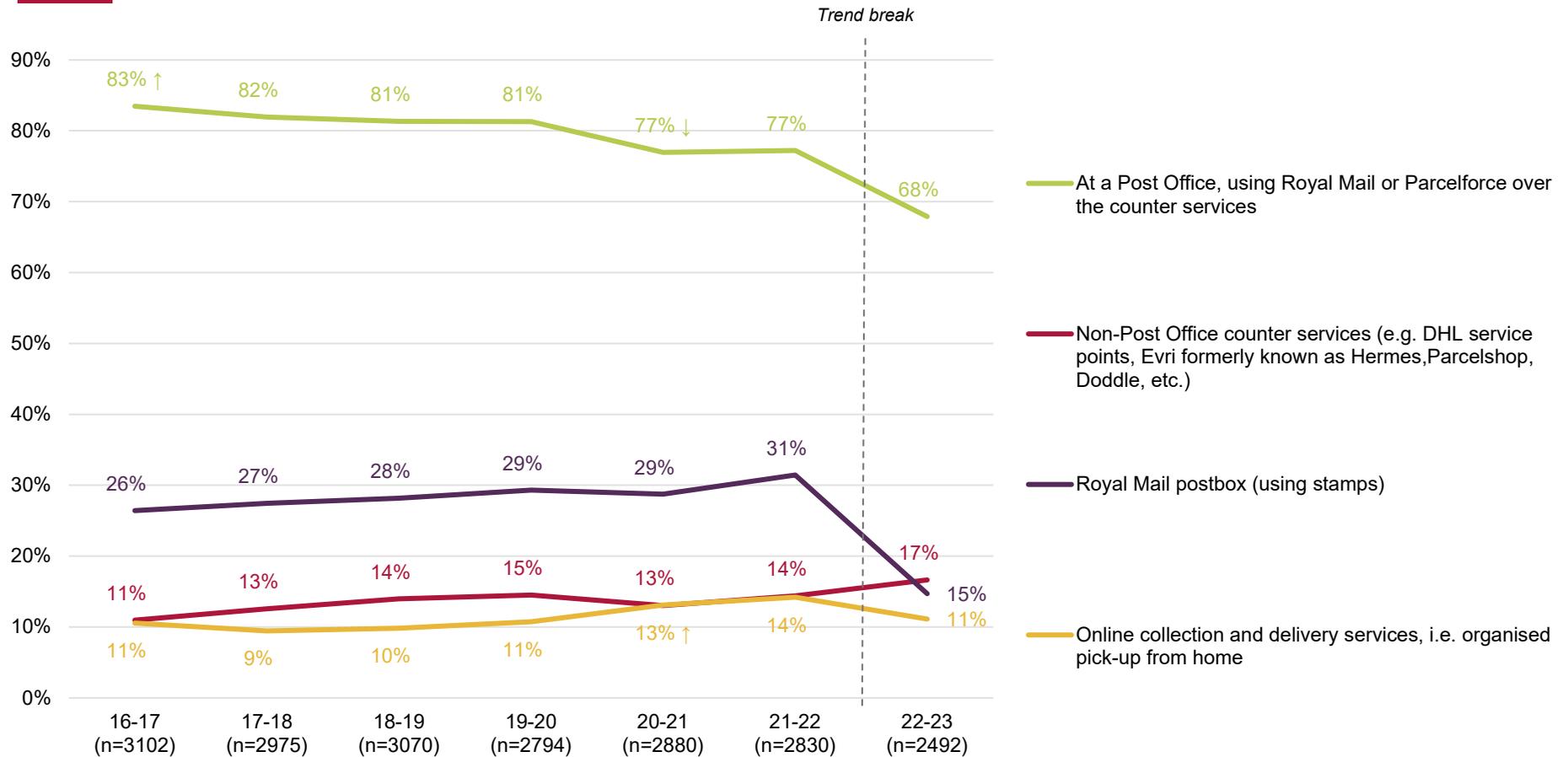
**What was difficult?**



# Parcel sending

# Parcel senders are less likely to be using Post Office or Royal Mail this year

## How parcels were sent



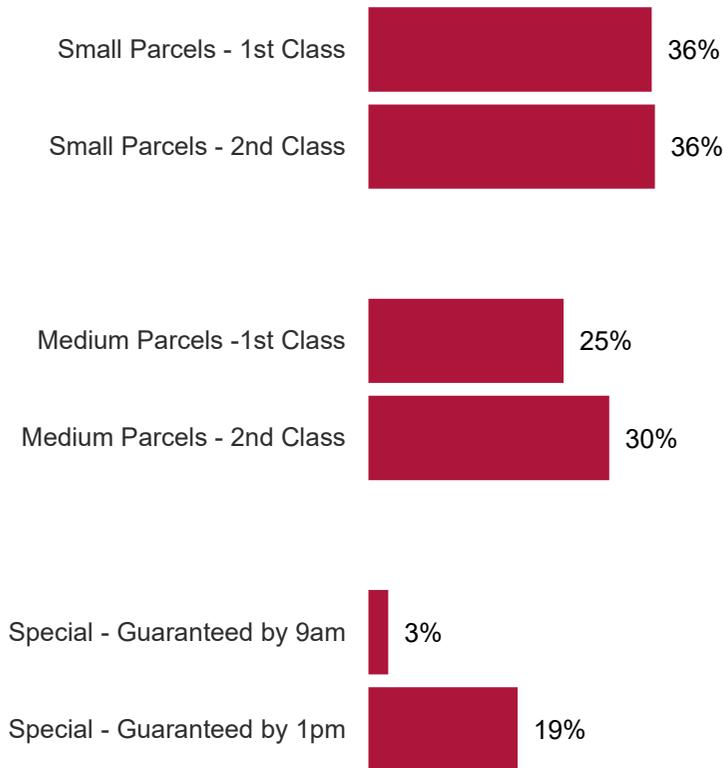
\*Note that in 2022-23 we included those sending items which need a signature/other important items.

# Royal Mail users are likely to choose 2<sup>nd</sup> Class options for sending medium parcels, while those using other providers state cost as a key reason

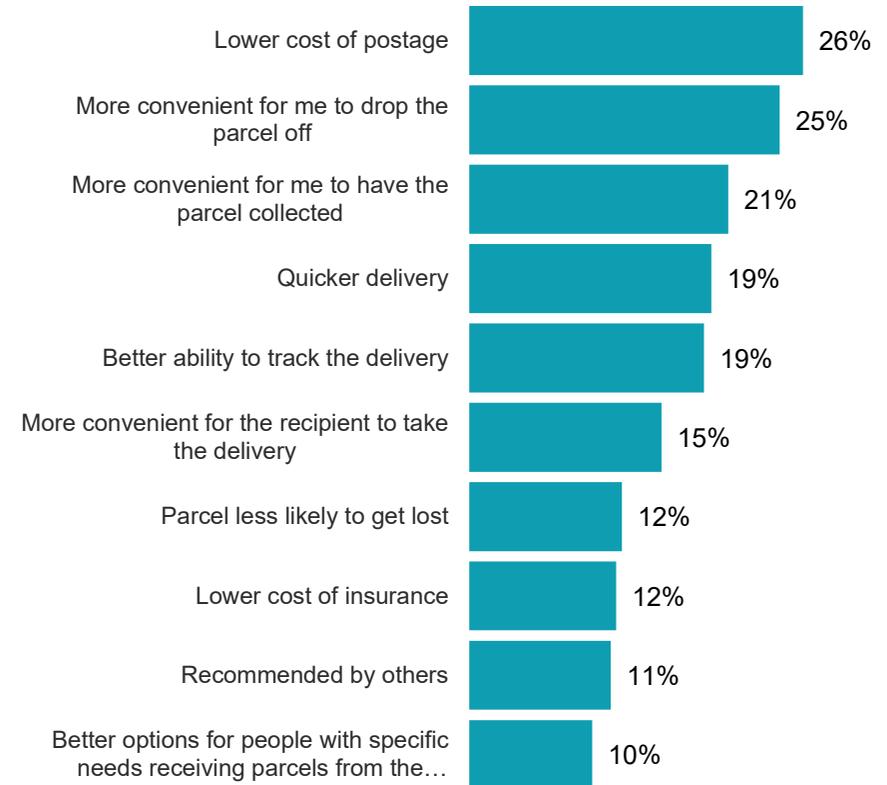


## Parcel sending options

**Royal Mail service used**



**Why chose a non-Royal Mail Provider**  
(Showing Top 10 reasons)



Source: Residential Postal Tracker

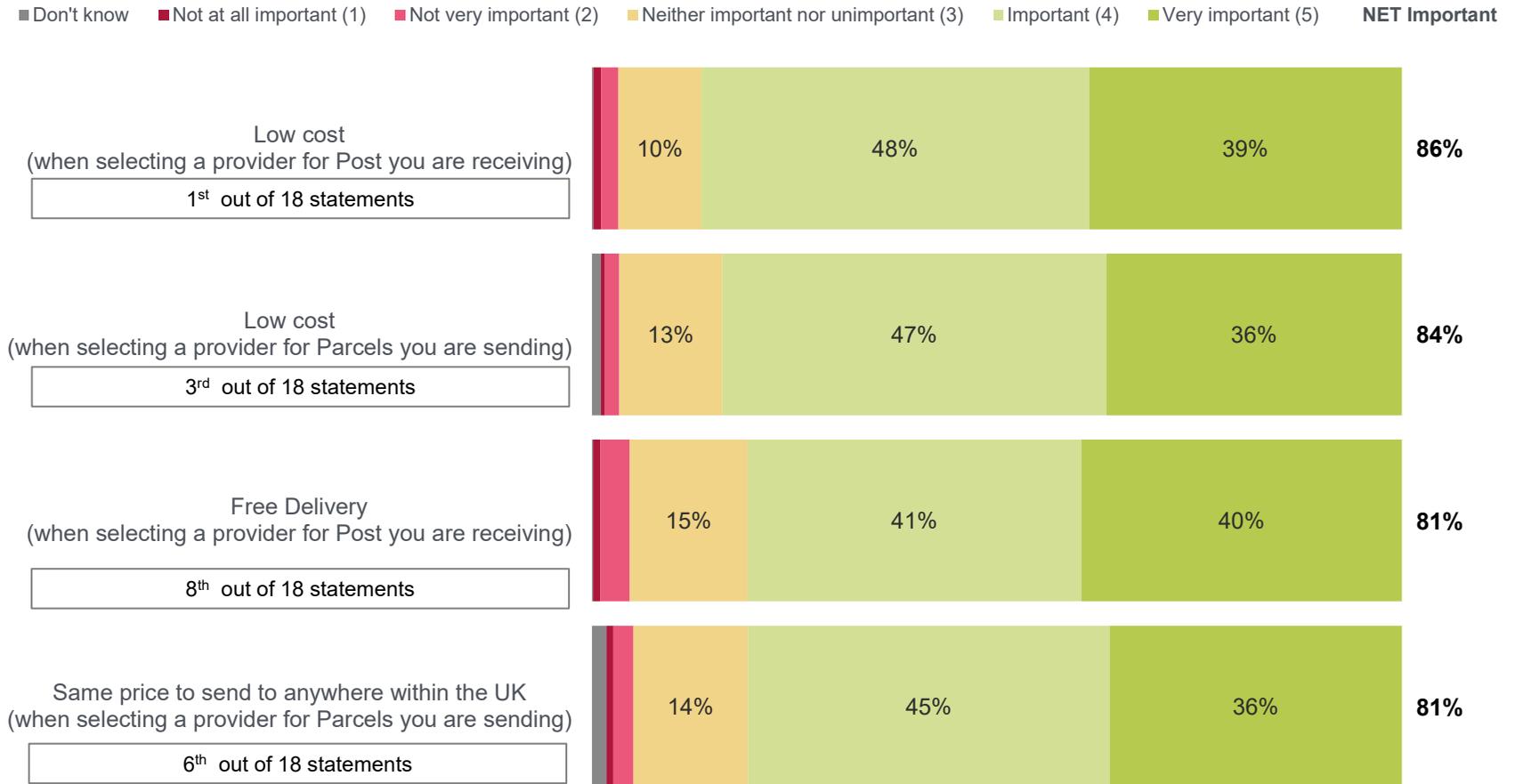
I4. (Old QD9) Which, if any of these Royal Mail products have you used to send parcels in the last month? I5. (Old QD7) And why did you [SHOW ONLY IF CODES 1 OR 2 SELECTED AT I3 – sometimes] choose not to use a postbox or Royal Mail / Parcelforce over the counter services at a Post Office to send your parcel/s?

Base: Those sending parcel post by Royal Mail (n=1967) Those sending via other means (n=734)

Arrows denote significant positive or negative change vs previous time period. Significance testing to 95%.

# Cost is usually one of the top 3 factors when considering which Postal provider to use

## Importance of cost when choosing providers



Ease of complaining among senders is highest among the smaller providers, satisfaction with complaints resolution also tends to be higher

### Provider Complaints Summary

	Royal Mail	Evri	Parcel-force	Amazon Logistics	Collect +	DPD	Yodel	UK Mail	DHL	UPS	FedEx	TNT	Other Postal Service
Used to send	53%	18%	12%	12%	8%	8%	8%	7%	7%	6%	6%	4%	3%
<i>among senders...</i>													
Experienced <b>ANY</b> problems	33%	36%	23%	29%	34%	31%	33%	38%	35%	38%	50%	53%	51%
Made a complaint to Provider	16%	26%	19%	28%	30%	31%	31%	36%	37%	37%	48%	53%	53%
<i>among those complaining...</i>													
Ease of making complaint (NET Easy)	67%	56%	73%	74%	70%	65%	64%	67%	68%	75%	76%	77%	68%

### Satisfaction with... (NET Satisfied)

How complaint was handled	66%	58%	71%	79%	73%	69%	81%	81%	73%	87%	77%	77%	74%
Resolution to your complaint	66%	55%	71%	75%	80%	65%	77%	68%	68%	72%	81%	72%	85%
Time taken to resolve complaint	64%	50%	79%	80%	70%	69%	84%	77%	68%	76%	75%	69%	80%

Source: Residential Postal Tracker. J2. In the last 12 months, have you experienced any of the following problems with the packets and parcels you've sent using [PROVIDER]? J3. And in the last 12 months, have you made a complaint directly to [PROVIDER] about any packets or parcels you've sent? J5. How easy or difficult did you find it to make a complaint about [PROVIDER]? J7. Thinking of [PROVIDER]'s response to your complaint, how satisfied were you with...

Bases vary per brand and by each section of the table above

 Arrows denote significant positive or negative change vs previous time period. Significance testing to 95%.

# Royal Mail Parcel senders are more likely to experience problems with Delayed Mail, senders with smaller providers face a wider array of issues

## Problems Experienced Summary

%	ANY Provider	Royal Mail	Evri	Parcel-force	Amazon Logistics	Collect +	DPD	Yodel	UK Mail	DHL	UPS	FedEx	TNT	Other Postal Service
<b>NET Used to send</b>	65%	53%	18%	12%	12%	8%	8%	8%	7%	7%	6%	6%	4%	3%
<b>NET Any Problems</b>	39%	33%	36%	23%	29%	34%	31%	33%	38%	35%	38%	50%	53%	51%
Delayed mail	24%	20%	15%	11%	10%	16%	12%	12%	15%	16%	10%	21%	16%	18%
Lost mail	14%	9%	12%	6%	7%	11%	6%	8%	7%	7%	8%	12%	15%	15%
Damaged mail	12%	7%	9%	5%	7%	7%	5%	8%	10%	7%	7%	9%	11%	11%
Mis-delivered mail	10%	6%	6%	3%	4%	8%	7%	6%	10%	10%	9%	13%	14%	10%
Didn't allow sufficient time to answer the door	9%	5%	5%	4%	5%	4%	7%	4%	3%	8%	8%	11%	10%	8%
Mail that has been tampered with	5%	2%	3%	2%	3%	5%	5%	4%	6%	4%	9%	5%	9%	6%
Any other problems	2%	1%	2%	0%	1%	1%	2%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%

Source: Residential Postal Tracker.

J2. In the last 12 months, have you experienced any of the following problems with the packets and parcels you've sent using [PROVIDER]?

Bases vary per brand and by each section of the table above

 Arrows denote significant positive or negative change vs previous time period. Significance testing to 95%.

# Sustainability

# Postal users are more likely to be willing to compromise on service than cost to deliver in a more sustainable way

## Compromises to be more sustainable

