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Barómetro de las Américas

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AmericasBarometer Brief: Ecuador 2016/17

In Depressed Times, Support for the Incumbent Slips While Support for Democracy Declines

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and Ecuador Study Coordinator

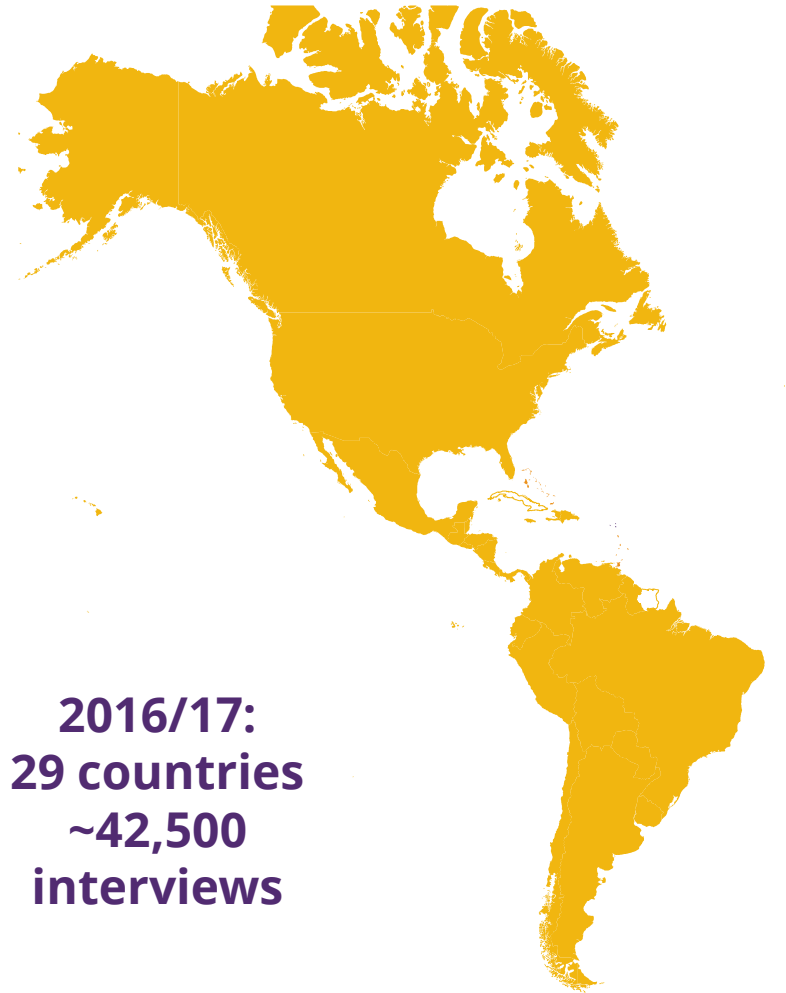
Dr. Elizabeth J. Zechmeister, LAPOP Director and
Cornelius Vanderbilt Professor of Political Science

May 2017



LAPOP's AmericasBarometer Surveys

- The only public opinion study that includes North, Central, and South America, plus broad coverage in the Caribbean
- Minimum 1,500 interviews per country
- Representative at the national and regional (i.e., stratum) level, both urban and rural
- Face-to-face interviews in 8+ languages
- Electronic questionnaire in all countries
- Multiple pretests



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National Survey Ecuador, 2016/17

Number of interviews:
1,512 (margin of error: $\pm 3\%$)

Fieldwork began:
November 8, 2016

Fieldwork ended:
January 5, 2017



Ecuador's National Sample: 51 selected municipalities (counties)



Ecuador's National Sample: 165 Blocks in Urban Areas



Ecuador's National Sample: 87 Blocks in Rural Areas



Image © 2014 DigitalGlobe

Google earth

Imagery Date: 1/28/2013 0°08'12.66" S 78°20'31.92" W elev 7987 ft eye alt 16414 ft

Part I.

Corruption, Crime, and the Economy

Key finding: Corruption remains high, crime & insecurity increased, while economic challenges and concerns have skyrocketed

Corruption victimization module

EXC2. Has a **police officer** asked you for a bribe in the last twelve months?

EXC6. In the last twelve months, did any **government employee** ask you for a bribe?

EXC11. In the last twelve months, did you have any official dealings in the **municipality**?

EXC13. In your **work**, have you been asked to pay a bribe in the last twelve months?

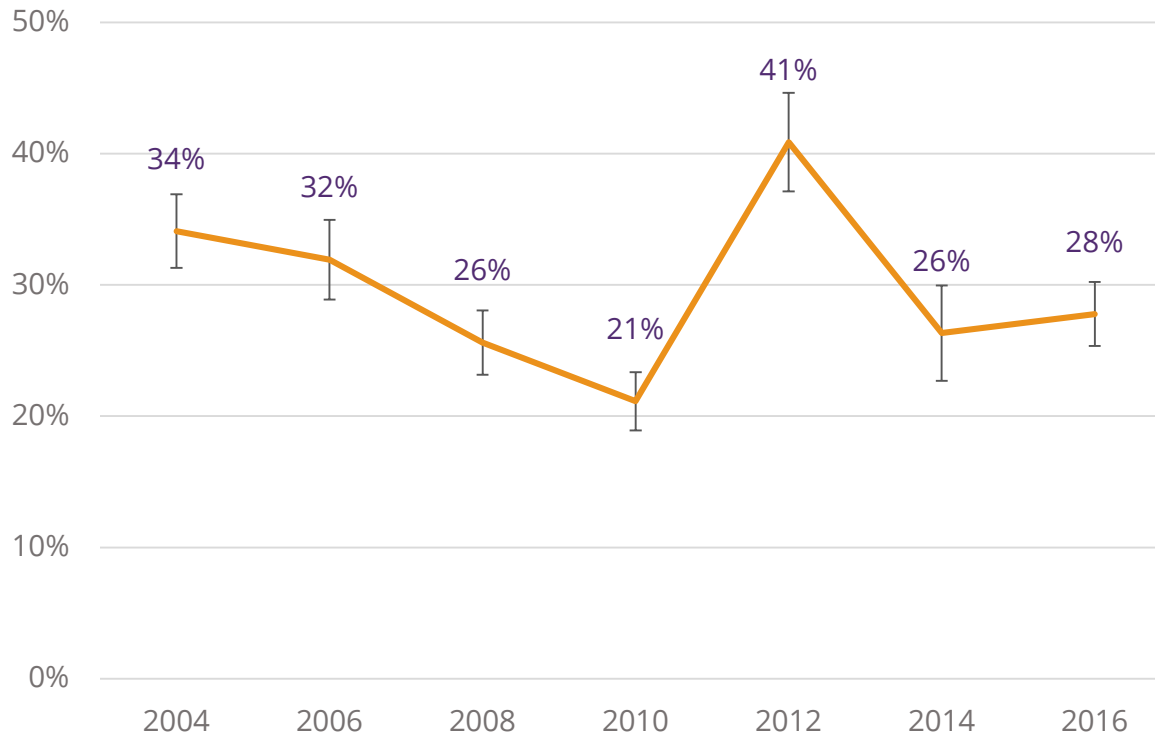
EXC14. Did you have to pay a bribe to **the courts** in the last twelve months?

EXC15. Have you used any public health services in the last twelve months?

EXC16. Have you had to pay a bribe **at school** in the last twelve months?

Corruption victimization remains high in 2016/17

Percentage Victimized by Corruption in the Last 12 Months in Ecuador

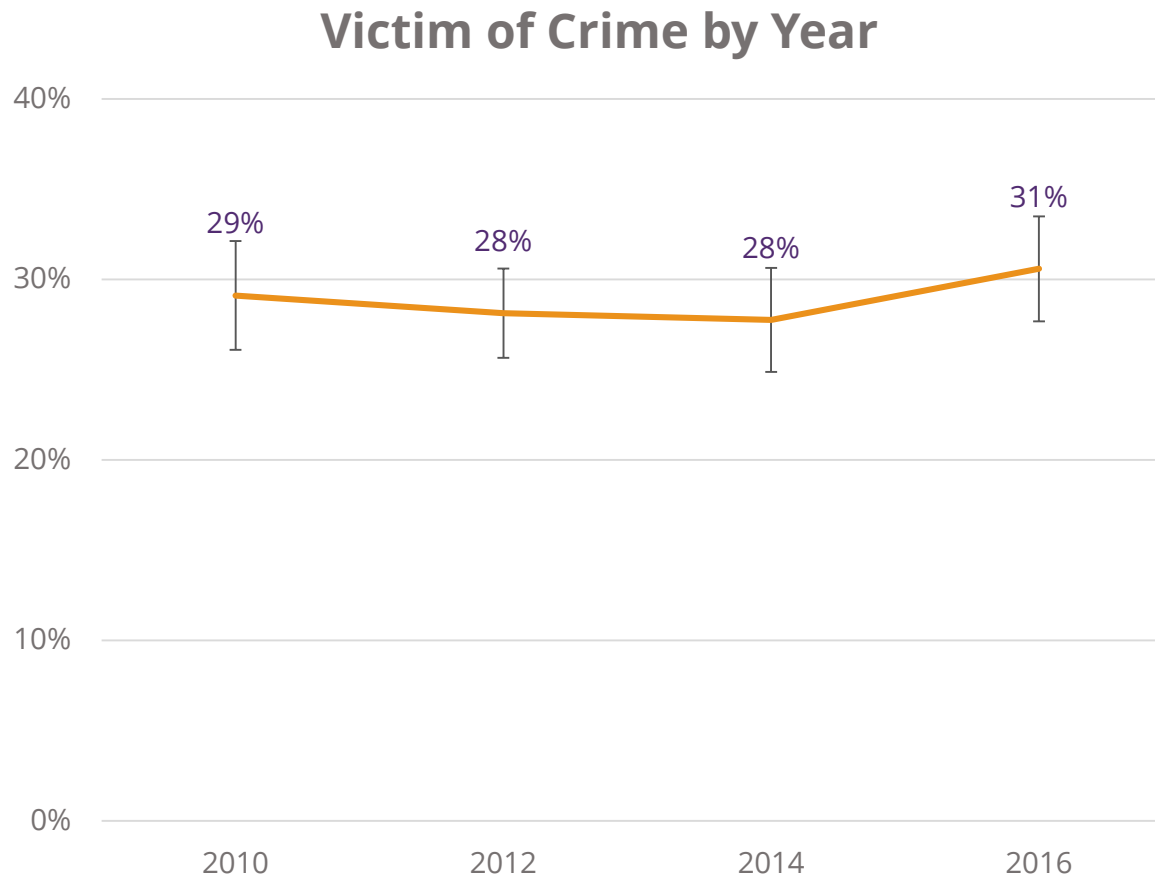


In comparison:

In the 2014 AmericasBarometer, only 4 LAC countries had corruption victimization rates \geq 28% (Mexico, Paraguay, Bolivia, and Haiti)

***Chart shows the percent who report having been the victim of one or more corruption (bribe) requests in the past year.**

Crime victimization remains high in 2016/17

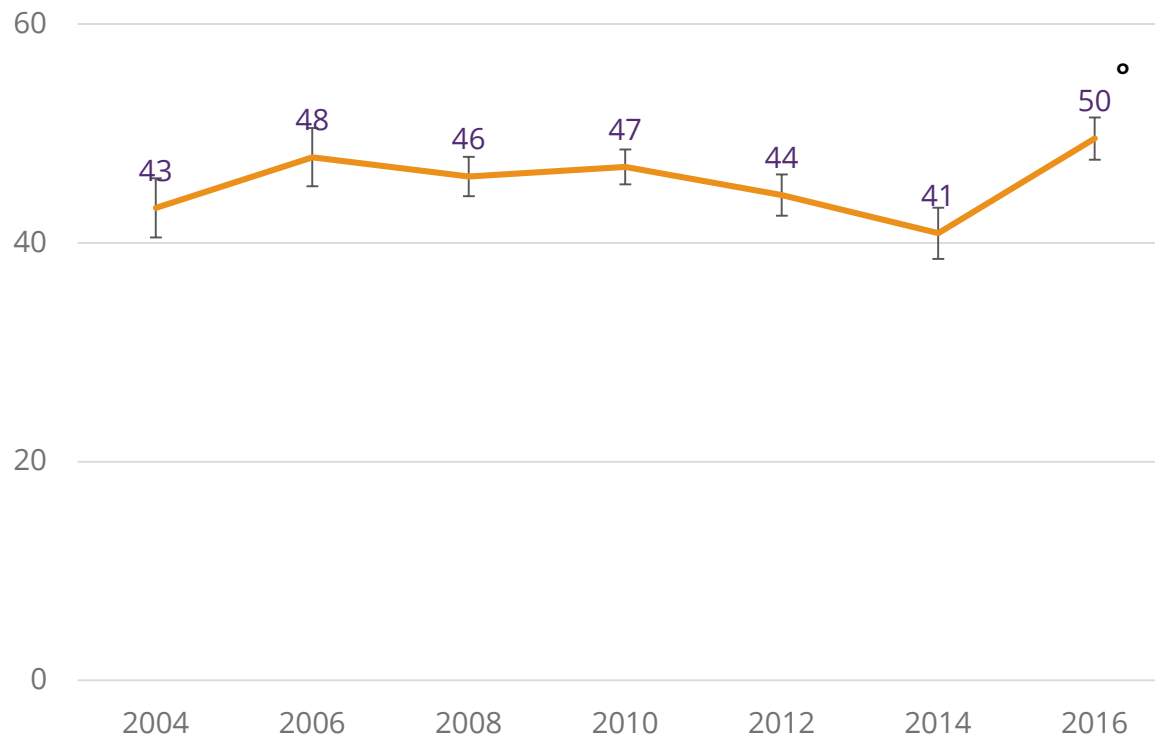


In comparison:
In 2014, the top-ranked country (Peru) had a victimization rate of 31% (Ecuador was ranked second, but tied with Peru in statistical terms)

VIC1EXT. Now, changing the subject, have you been a victim of any type of crime in the past 12 months? That is, have you been a victim of robbery, burglary, assault, fraud, blackmail, extortion, violent threats or any other type of crime in the past 12 months?

Fear of crime reached a new peak in 2016/17

Average Degrees of Insecurity in the Last 12 Months, Ecuador

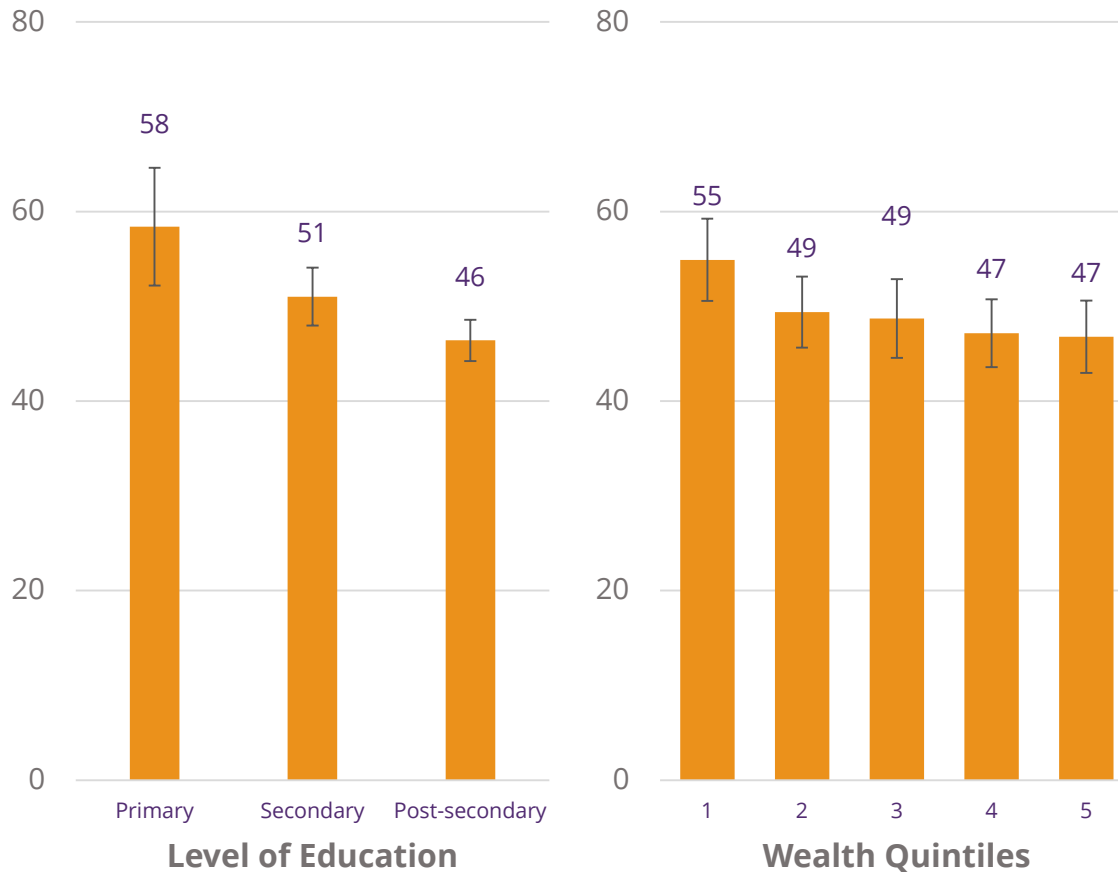


In comparison:

In 2014, 6 LAC countries had average fear of crime levels ≥ 50 degrees (Brazil, Mexico, Bolivia, the DR, Peru, & Venezuela)

AOJ11. Speaking of the neighborhood where you live and thinking of the possibility of being assaulted or robbed, do you feel very safe, somewhat safe, somewhat unsafe or very unsafe? (0) Very safe (33) Somewhat safe (66) Somewhat unsafe (100) Very unsafe [0-100 degrees]

Fear of crime in 2016/17 is higher among less educated and less wealthy individuals



There is also a gender divide: women fear crime more than men do

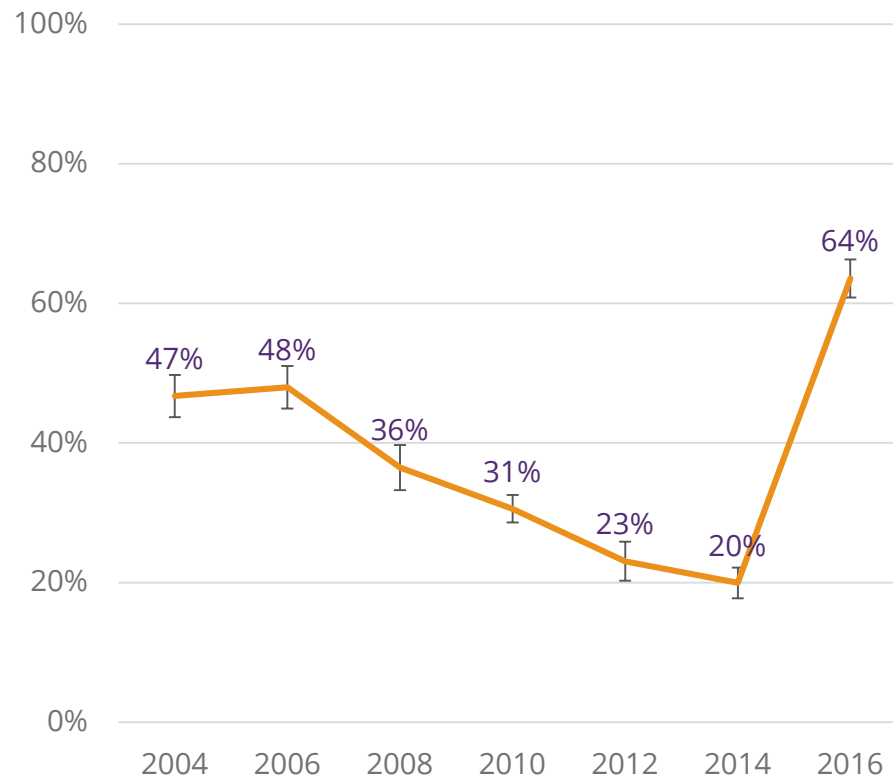
Nat'l average: 51°

People with no education excluded due to too few cases

AOJ11. Speaking of the neighborhood where you live and thinking of the possibility of being assaulted or robbed, do you feel very safe, somewhat safe, somewhat unsafe or very unsafe? (0) Very safe (33) Somewhat safe (66) Somewhat safe (100) Very unsafe

The percentage of Ecuadorians who think the national economy has worsened more than tripled in 2016/17

Percentage who believe the economy has worsened in the last 12 months in Ecuador

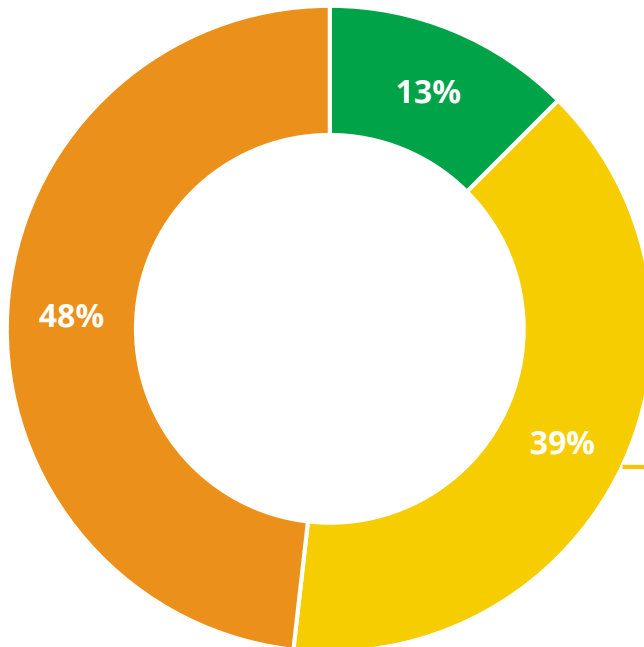


A similar strong, negative shift is found for perceptions of personal economic situation

SOCT2. Do you think that the country's current economic situation is better than, the same as or worse than it was 12 months ago?

In 2016/17, 48% of Ecuadorians reported that their income decreased in the same 2-year period

Household Income Over Last Two Years,
Ecuador 2016



■ Increased ■ Remained the same ■ Decreased

In comparison: In 2014, 52% reported that their income had remained the same

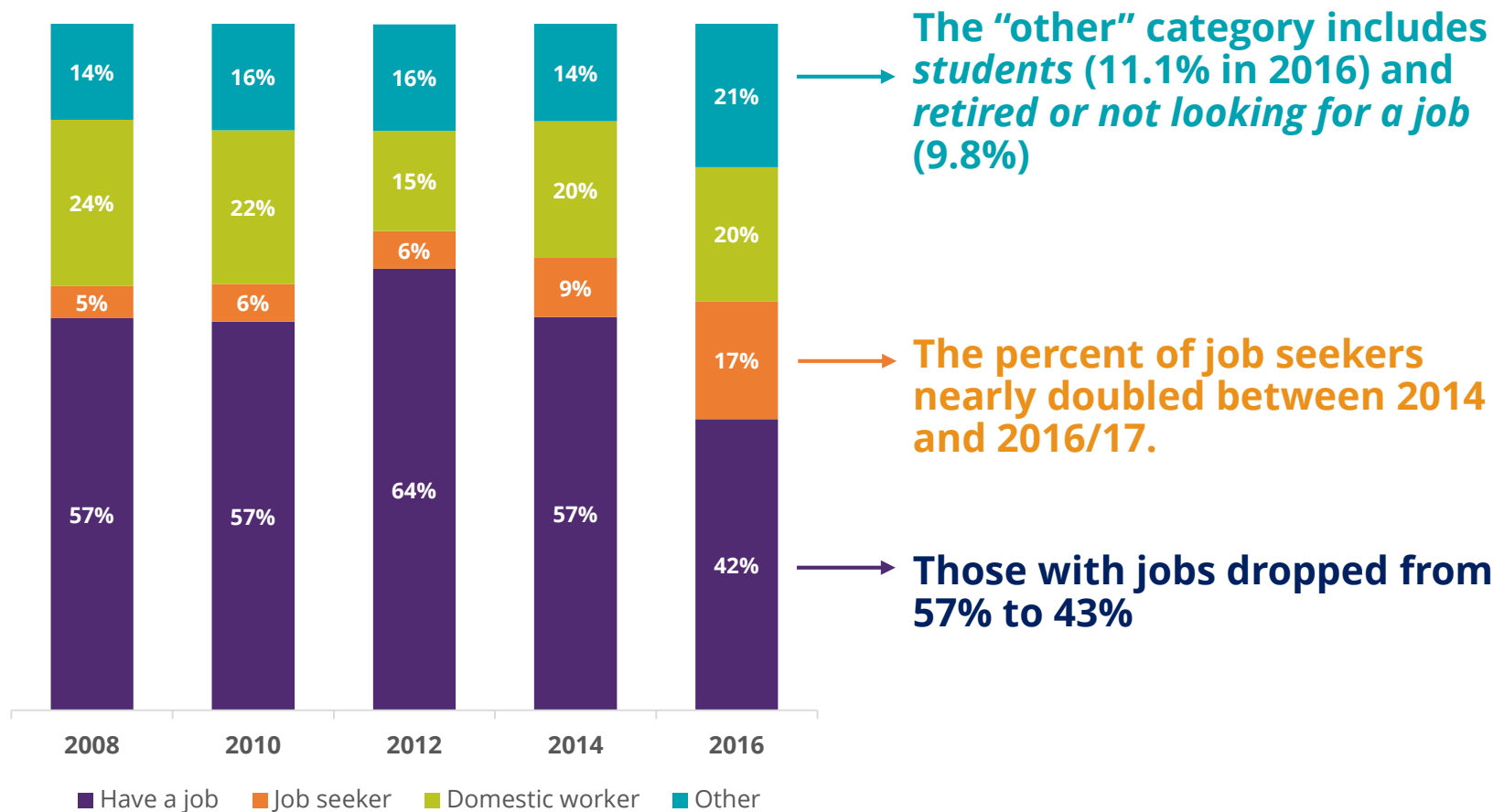
Q10E. Over the past two years, has the income of your household: Increased, remained the same, or decreased?

In 2016/17, 1 in 5 Ecuadorians report that their income is not enough and they are having a hard time



Q10D. The salary that you receive and total household income: (Option 4) Is not enough for you and you are having a hard time

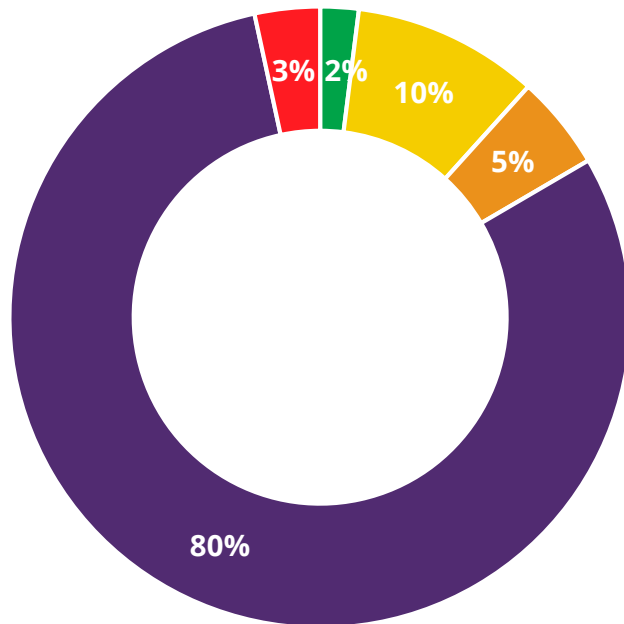
Fewer Ecuadorians have jobs and more are actively seeking employment in 2016



OCUP4A. How do you mainly spend your time? Are you currently:

4 out 5 Ecuadorians report the economy is the most serious problem in the country

Most Important Problem



The percentage of individuals in the “economy” category doubled between the 2014 and 2016/17 surveys

■ Basic Services ■ Others ■ Politics ■ Economy ■ Security

A4. In your opinion, what is the most serious problem faced by the country?

Part II.

Support for the Administration

Key finding: Public support for the political system and the out-going president decreased at the margins, laying the groundwork for a narrow Alianza PAIS victory in the April run-off election

Degrees of system support decreased in Ecuador in 2016/17

0-100 Index based on:

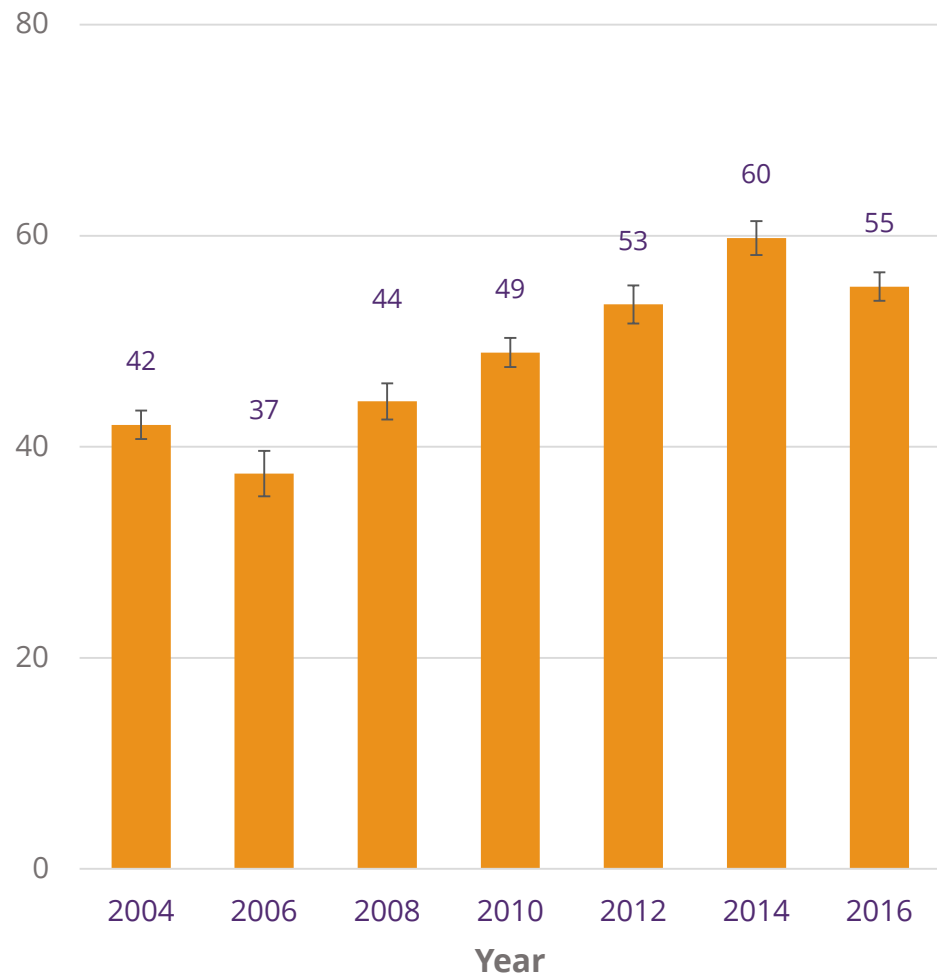
B1. To what extent do you think the courts in Ecuador guarantee a fair trial?

B2. To what extent do you think **respect the political institutions** of Ecuador?

B3. To what extent do you think that **citizens' basic rights are well protected by the political system** of Ecuador?

B4. To what extent **do you feel proud of living under the political system** of Ecuador?

B6. To what extent do you think that one should **support the political system** of Ecuador?



Degrees of tolerance for anti-system dissent increased in 2016/17

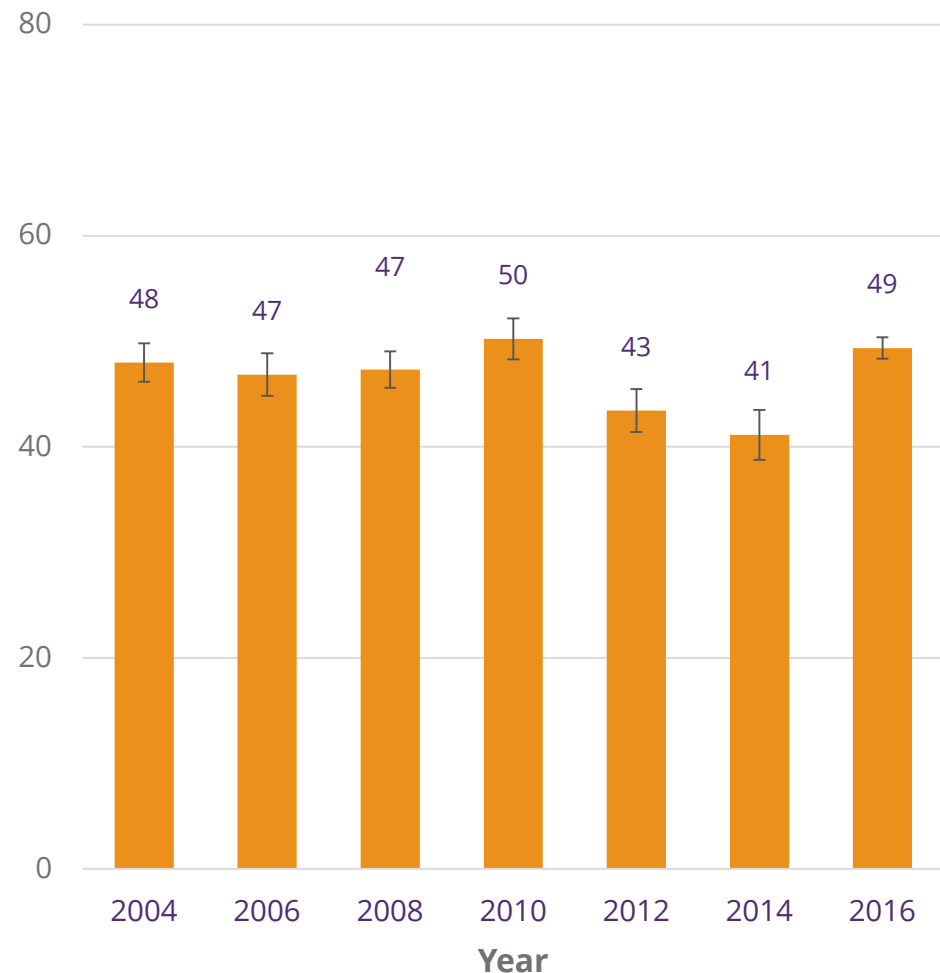
0-100 Index based on:

D1. There are people who only say bad things about the (country) form of government, not just the incumbent government but the system of government. How strongly do you approve or disapprove of such people's **right to vote**?

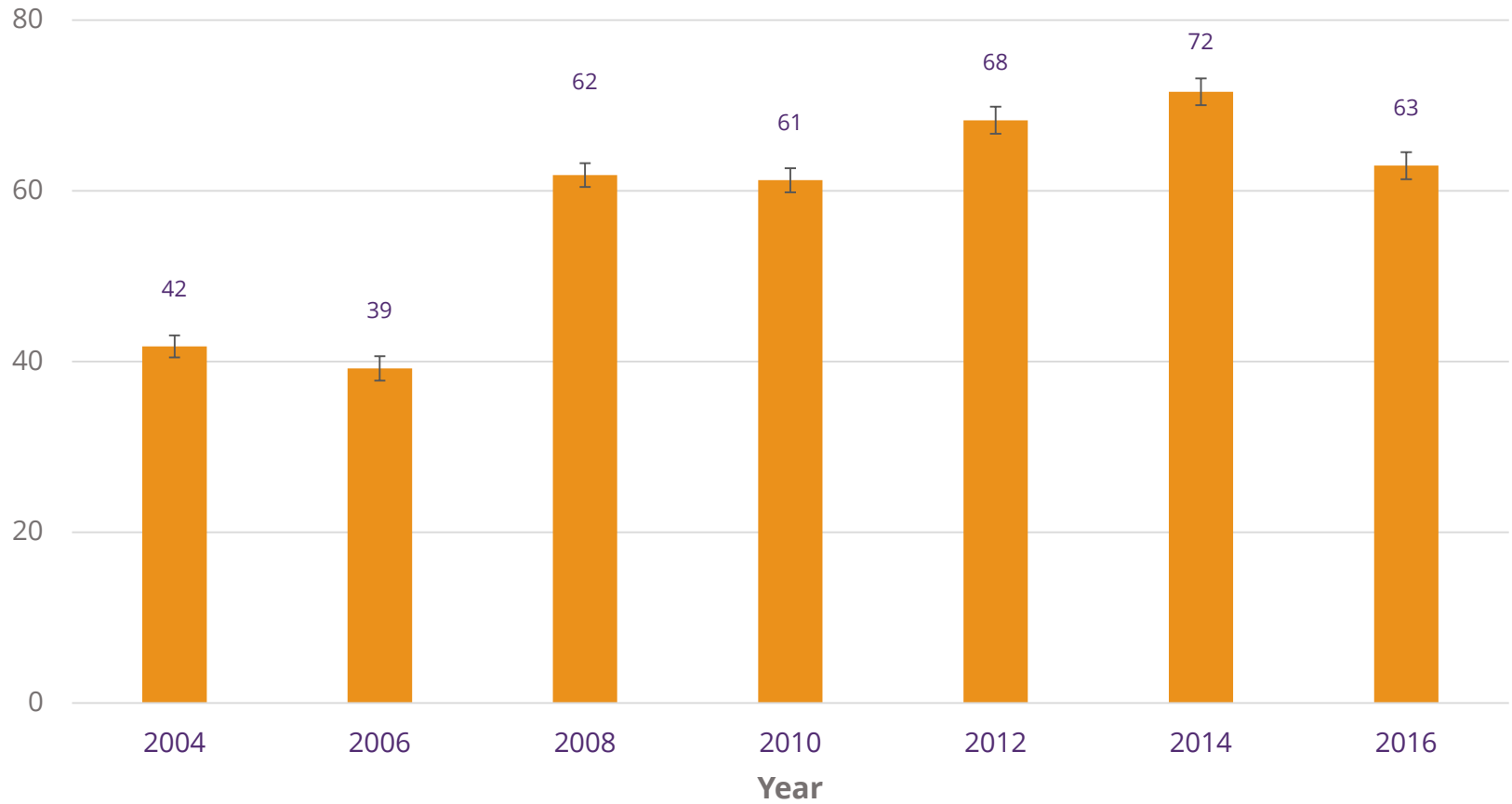
D2. How strongly do you approve or disapprove that such people be allowed to conduct **peaceful demonstrations** in order to express their views?

D3. Still thinking of those who only say bad things about the (country) form of government, how strongly do you approve or disapprove of such people being permitted **to run for public office**?

D4. How strongly do you approve or disapprove of such people appearing on television **to make speeches**?



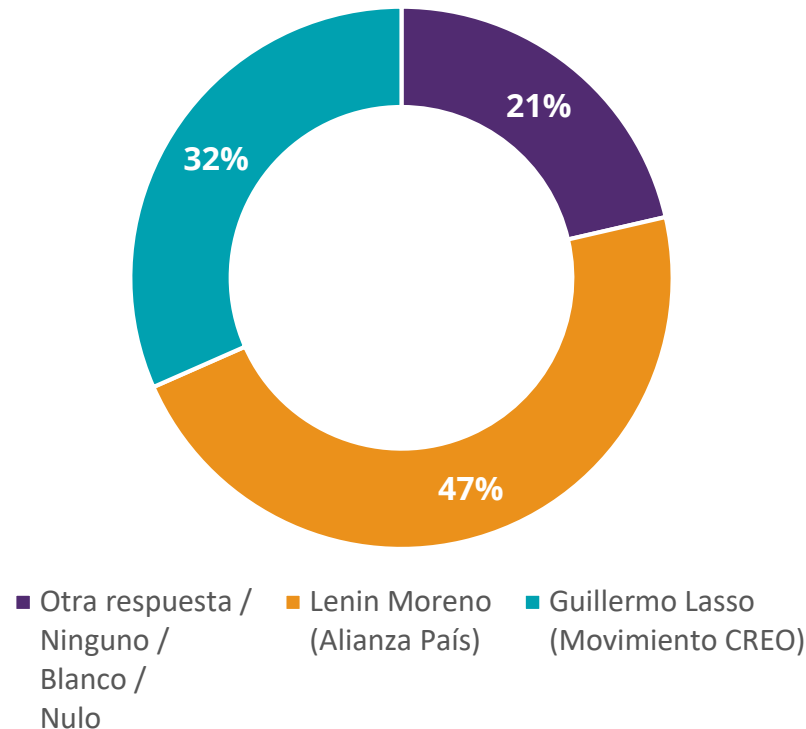
Correa's job approval ratings declined in 2016/17



M1. Speaking in general of the current administration, how would you rate the job performance of President Rafael Correa? (1) Very good (2) Good (3) Neither good nor bad (fair) (4) Bad (5) Very bad

The AmericasBarometer study anticipated a Moreno win

Experimento: Preferencias segunda
ronda presidencial



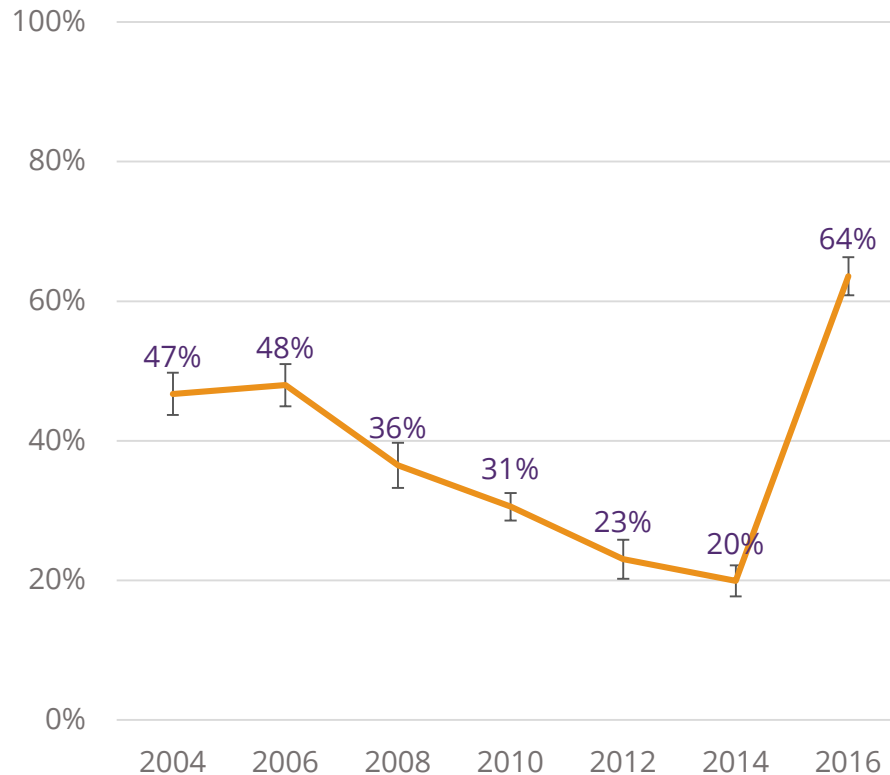
LAPOP asked individuals to report their preference between Moreno and 1 of 3 other candidates; respondents were randomly assigned to one of these pairings. Across all 3 scenarios, the results indicated that Moreno had greater support than his opponents.

High proportions declined to report, though, making election forecasts difficult.

Note that only 1 of the 3 experiment conditions is shown here.

How did the incumbent defy conventional wisdom?

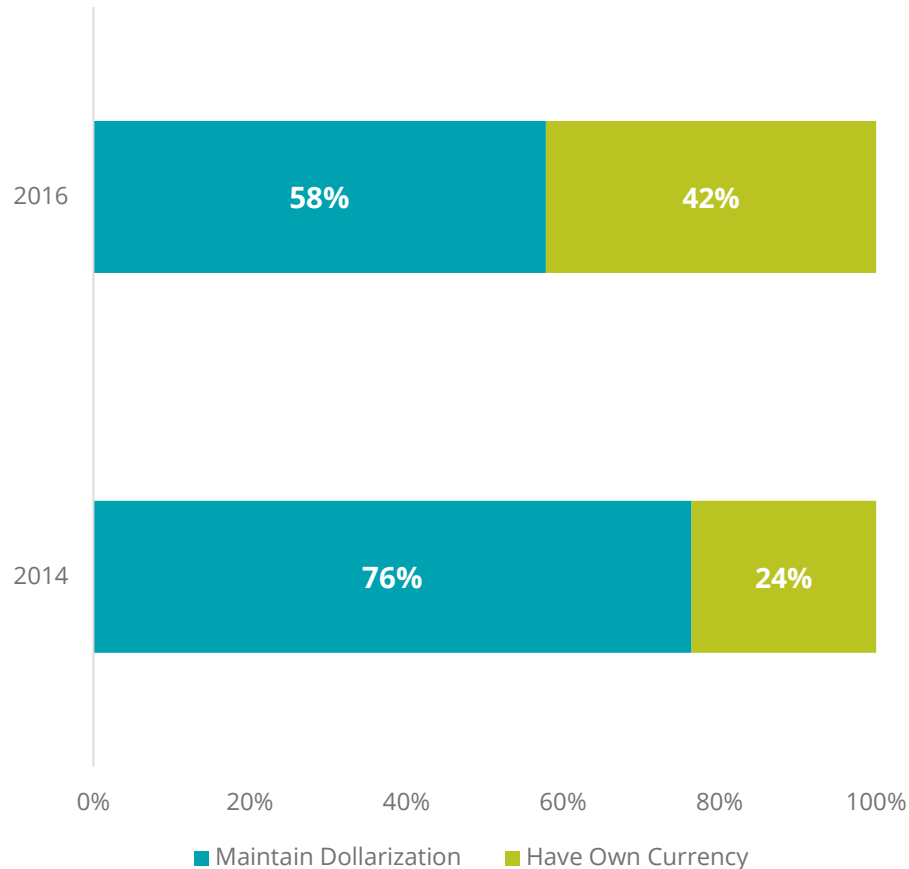
Percentage who believe the economy has worsened in the last 12 months in Ecuador



- [It's] the economy, stupid - James Carville

Answer 1: Voters are not purely myopic – they had a decade of improving economic evaluations

In 2014, $\frac{3}{4}$ of Ecuadorians wanted to maintain the U.S. Dollar as the legal tender. That number fell to 58% in 2016/17.



Answer 2: By framing economic woes as the fault of forces in the global economy, administrations can deflect blame

ECUDOLAR. Do you think the National Government should maintain dollarization, or should we have our own currency?

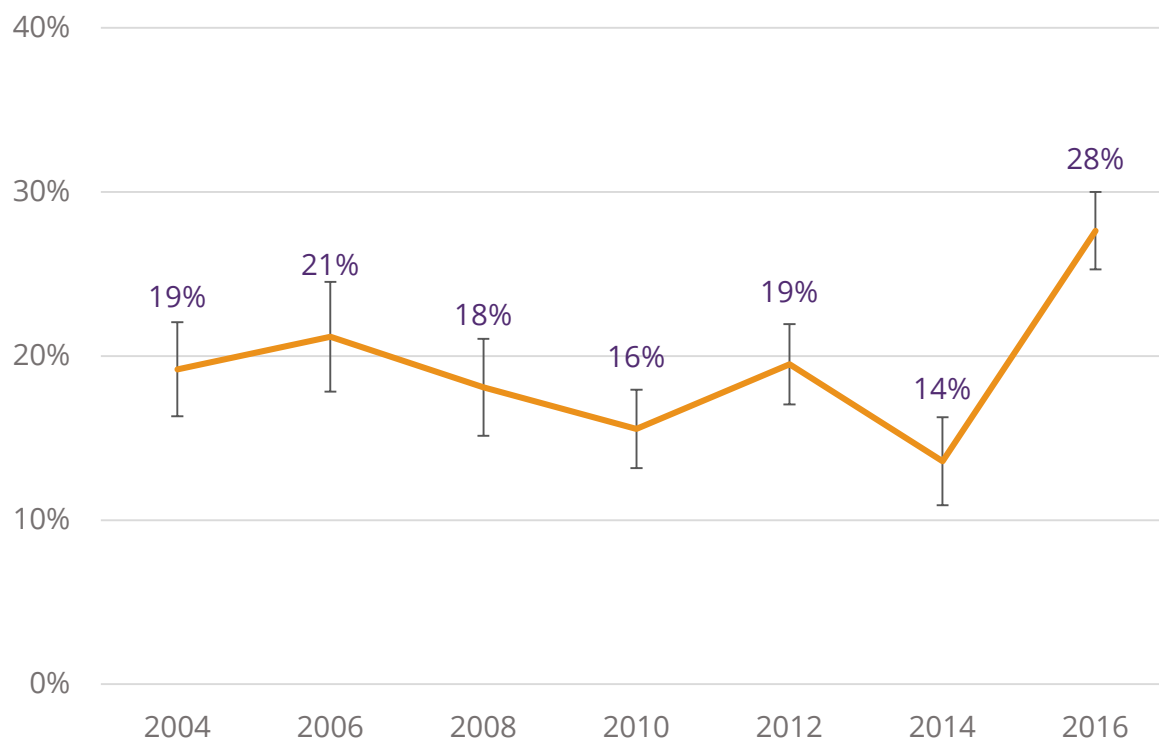
Part III.

A Crisis of Confidence in Democracy

Key finding: Tolerance for corruption has increased, while democratic satisfaction and support has decreased

More than 1 in every 4 Ecuadorians justifies paying a bribe

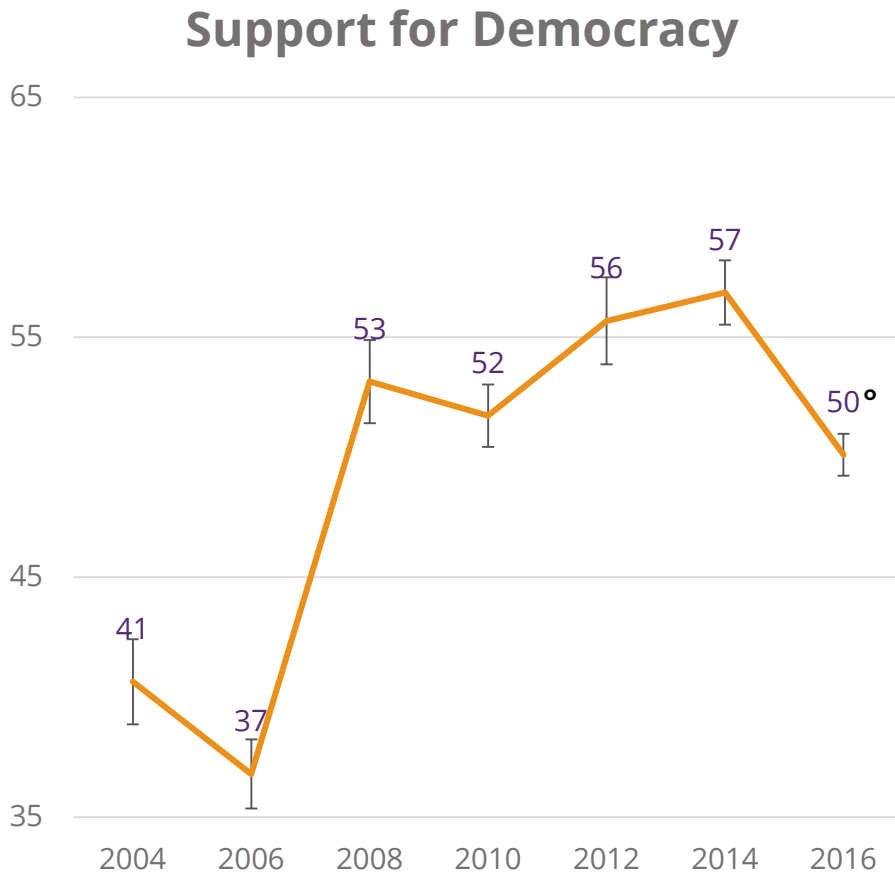
Is Paying a Bribe Justified? Ecuador
2016/17



Tolerance for corruption has doubled

EXC18. Do you think given the way things are, sometimes paying a bribe is justified? Charts shows percent who say "yes"

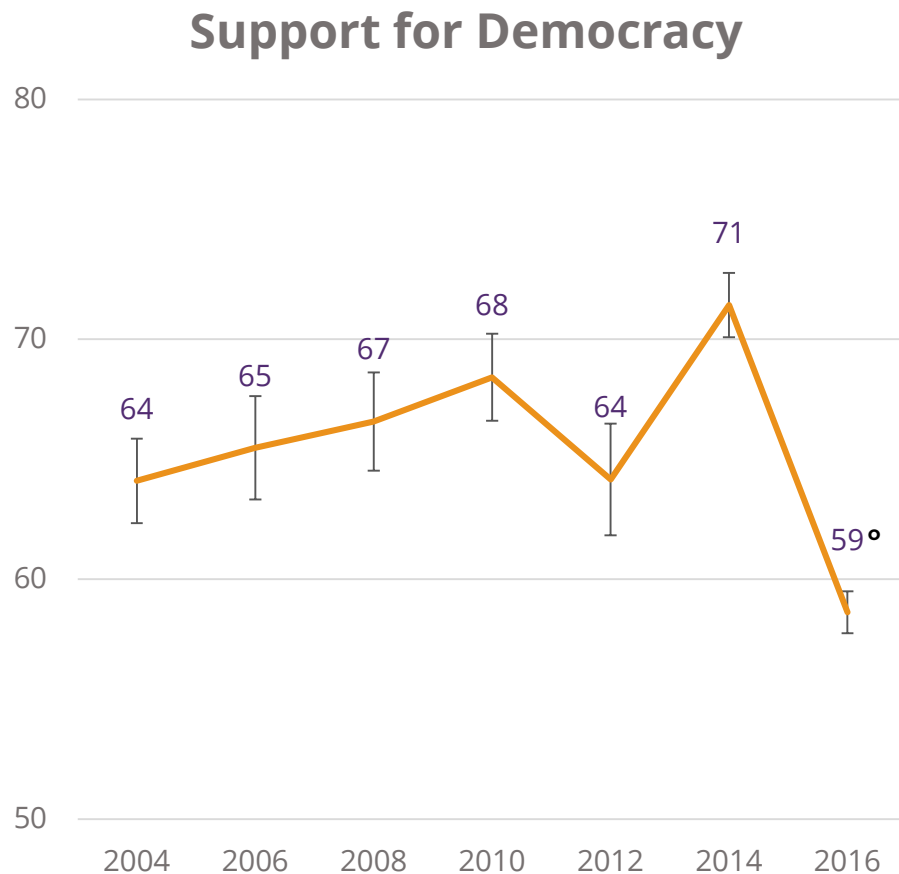
Degrees of satisfaction with the functioning of democracy decreased in Ecuador in 2016/17



Lowest level of satisfaction since Mr. Correa took office

PN4. In general, would you say that you are very satisfied, satisfied, dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the way democracy works in Ecuador? [0=Very dissatisfied 33=dissatisfied 66=satisfied 100=very satisfied]

Degrees of support for democracy dropped significantly



**Record low in
2016/17**

ING4. Changing the subject again, democracy may have problems, but it is better than any other form of government. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement? [Coded on to a 0-100 scale, to indicate degrees of support for democracy]

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