

2025 EAI Public Opinion Poll on East Asia: Overall Perception, United States, China, Japan, and North Korea



East Asia Institute

Survey Overview

	2024 EAI Public Opinion Poll on East Asia	2025 EAI Public Opinion Poll on East Asia
Population	Adults aged 18 and older	Adults aged 18 and older
Sampling frame	Hankook Research Politics and Society Panel (49,889 people)	Hankook Research Politics and Society Panel (approximately 70 thousand people)
Sampling method	Proportional selection by region, gender, and age (as of July 2024)	Proportional selection by region, gender, and age (as of April 2025)
Sample size	1,006	1,509
Sampling error	Assuming random sampling, the maximum allowable sampling error at the 95% confidence level is $\pm 3.1\%$.	Assuming random sampling, the maximum allowable sampling error at the 95% confidence level is $\pm 2.5\%$.
Survey method	Web survey	Web survey
Response rate	31.2% (among 3,220 people who requested, 1,006 people completed the survey)	22.5% (among 6,701 people who requested, 1,509 people completed the survey)
Survey date	2024. 8. 26. - 2024. 8. 28.	2025. 6. 4. - 2025. 6. 5.
Survey agency	Hankook Research Co. Ltd.	Hankook Research Co. Ltd.
Composition of respondents	<p>[Gender] Male 49.5%; Female 50.5%</p> <p>[Age] 18 to 29: 13.9% 30 to 39: 14.8% 40 to 49: 18.8% 50 to 59: 20.3% 60 to 60: 18.2% Over 70: 14.0%</p>	<p>[Gender] Male 49.6%; Female 50.4%</p> <p>[Age] 18 to 29: 15.3% 30 to 39: 15.0% 40 to 49: 17.4% 50 to 59: 19.5% 60 to 60: 17.8% Over 70: 15.1%</p>

I . General Perception of External Affairs

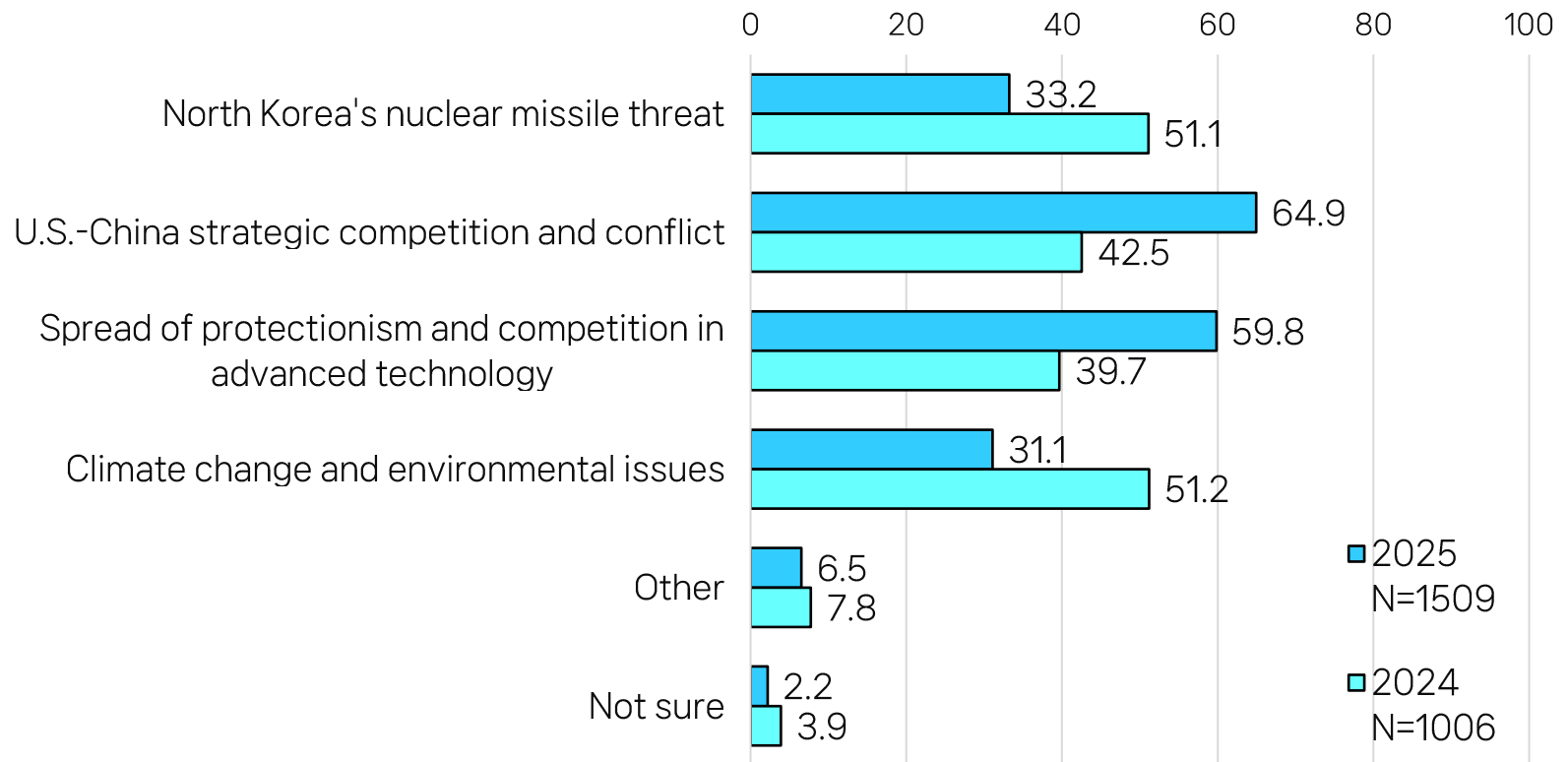
South Korea's Greatest Threats:

Shift from 'Climate and North Korea' to "U.S.-China Competition'

- When asked to rank the top two threats facing South Korea, “U.S.-China strategic competition and conflict” ranked first at 64.9%, followed by “spread of protectionism and competition in advanced technology” at 59.8%. These figures represent increases of 22.4%p and 20.1%p respectively compared to the 2024 survey.
- Meanwhile, “climate change and environmental issues,” which ranked first in the 2024 survey, fell to fourth place. “North Korea’s nuclear missile threat,” which ranked second, fell to third place. The reversal in the ranking of perceived major threats can be seen as a result of the public’s perception of changes such as trade pressure and tariff impositions by the Trump administration.
- When asked about the most important diplomatic relations for South Korea, ROK-U.S. relations ranked first by a wide margin, increasing by 15.6%p from the previous year (75.1% → 90.7%). Responses indicating the importance of ROK-China relations also increased from the previous year, while responses citing inter-Korean relations and ROK-Japan relations decreased.
- When asked about countries perceived as potential military threat to South Korea (multiple responses allowed), the results were the same as last year, with North Korea (90.0%), China (70.5%), Russia (40.7%), and Japan (30.1%) ranked in that order. The number of respondents who cited North Korea and China increased slightly, while the number of respondents who cited Russia and Japan decreased slightly.

Biggest Threats to South Korea

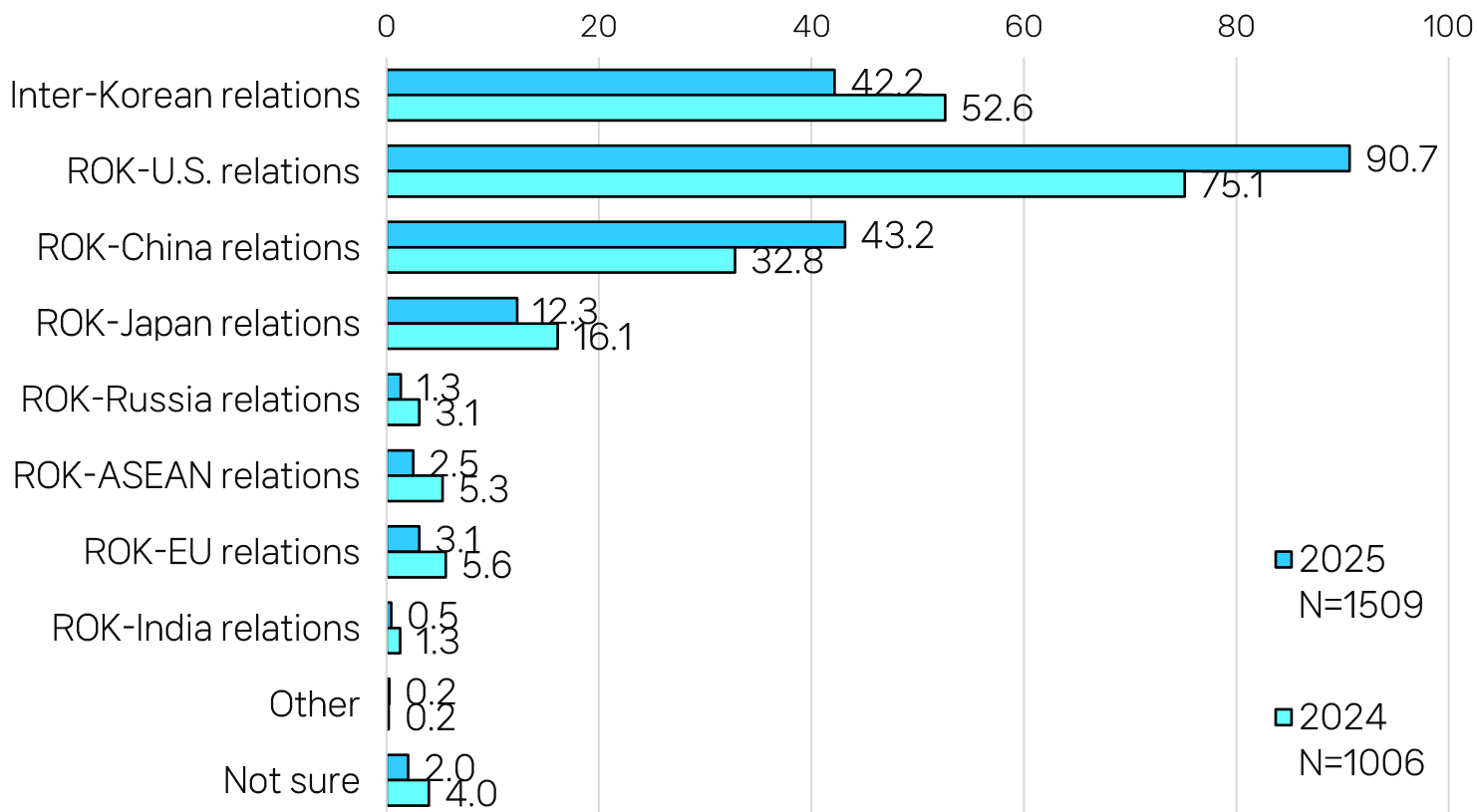
Q1. What do you think are the biggest threats facing South Korea? [Up to 2 responses] (%)



Most Important Diplomatic Relations

Q2. What do you think are the most important diplomatic relations for South Korea?
[Up to 2 responses]

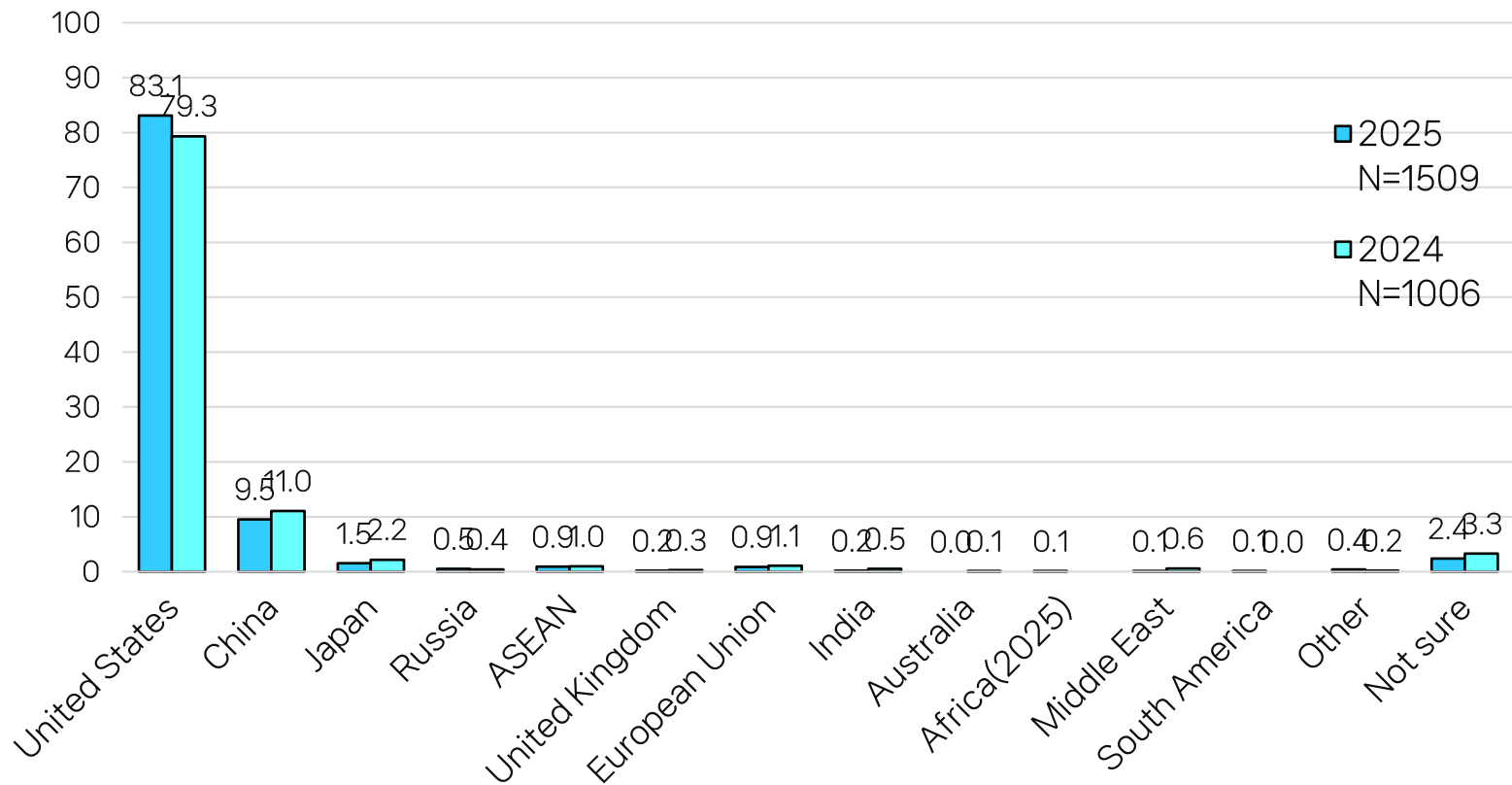
(%)



Most Important Country or Region

Q3. Which country or region do you think is most important to South Korea? [Single response]
(2024: Looking ahead, which country or region do you believe will hold
the most significant relationship with South Korea?)

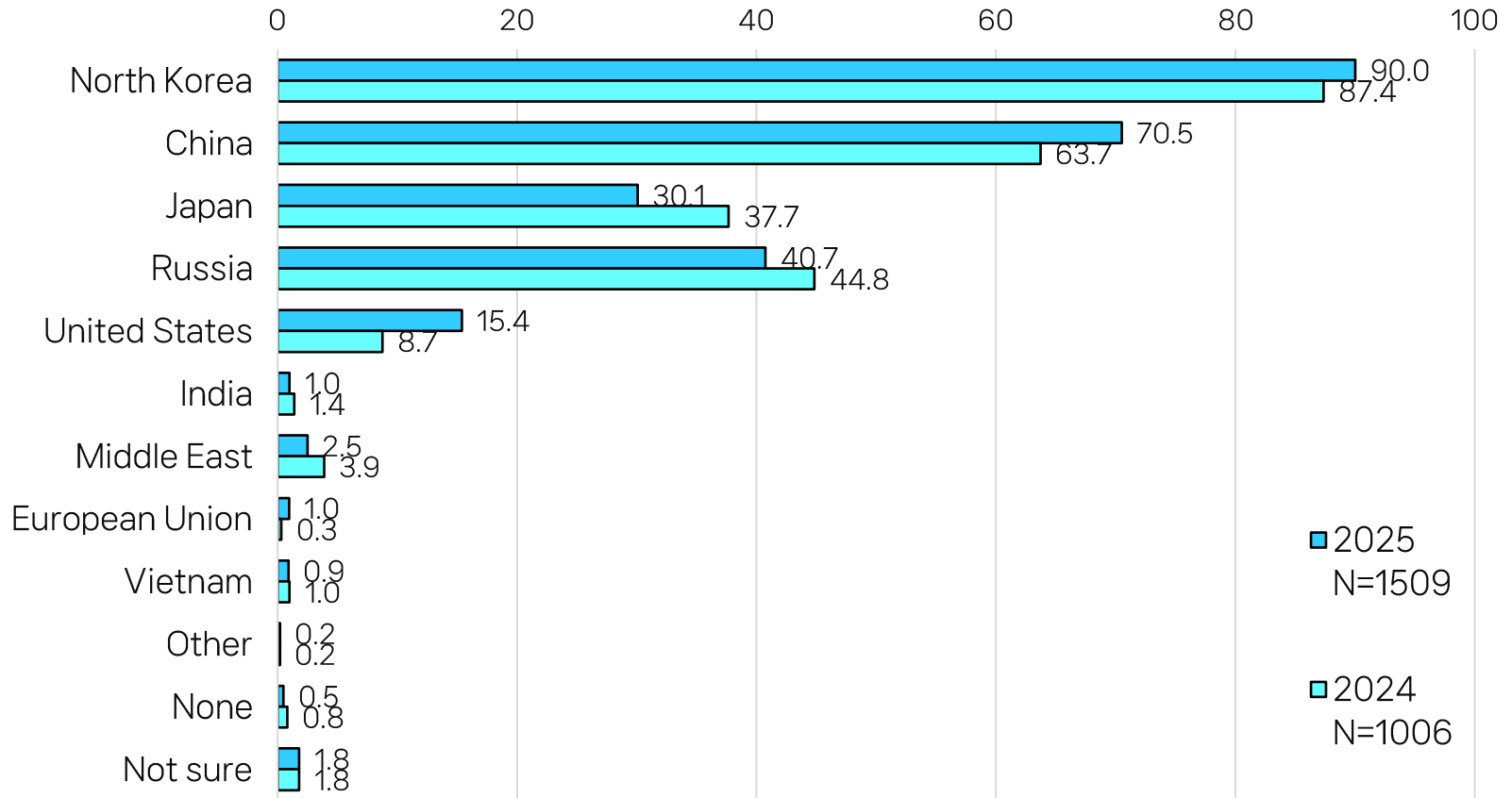
(%)



Perceived Military Threat by Country or Region

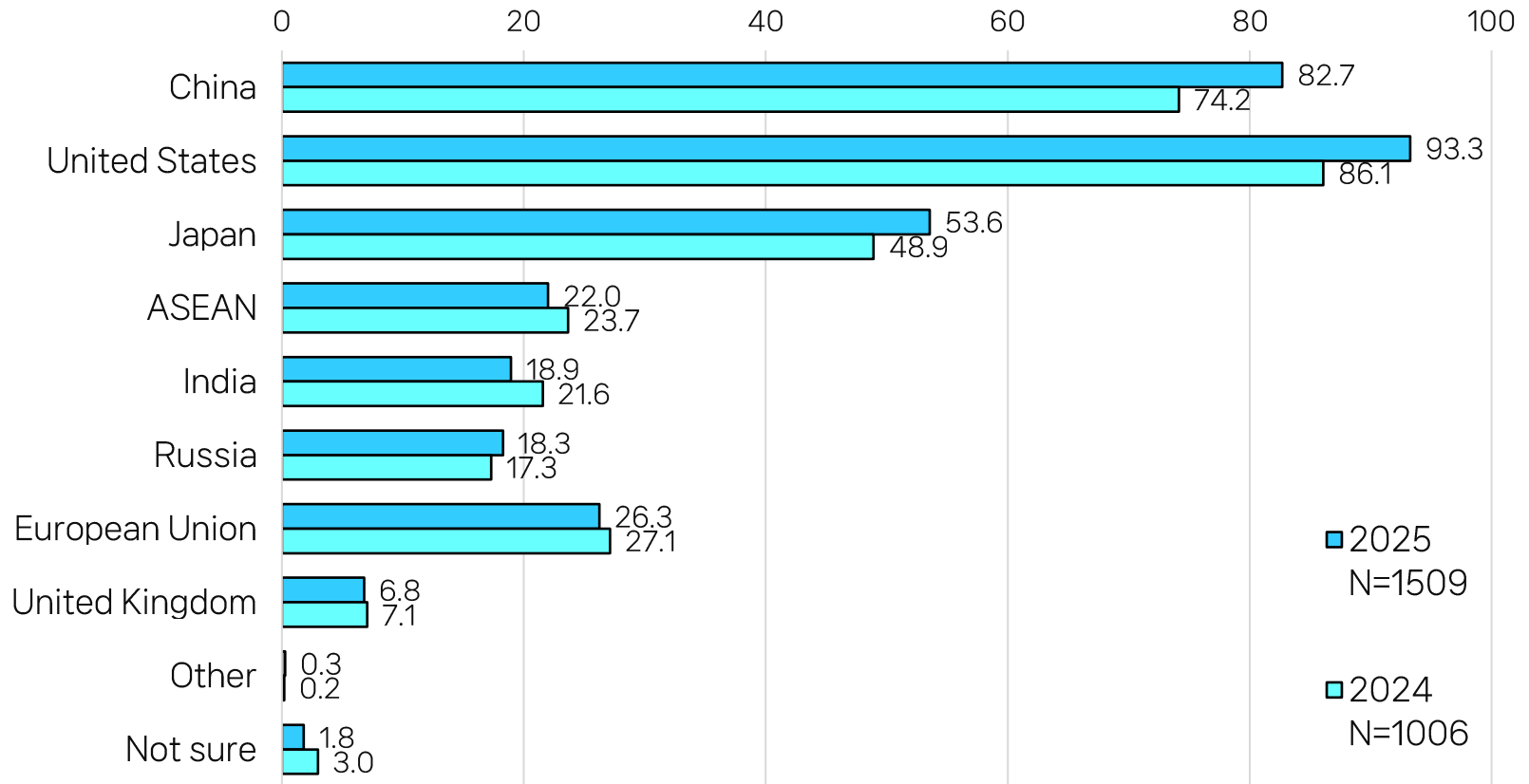
Q4. Which countries or regions do you perceive as potential military threat to South Korea?
[Select all that apply]

(%)



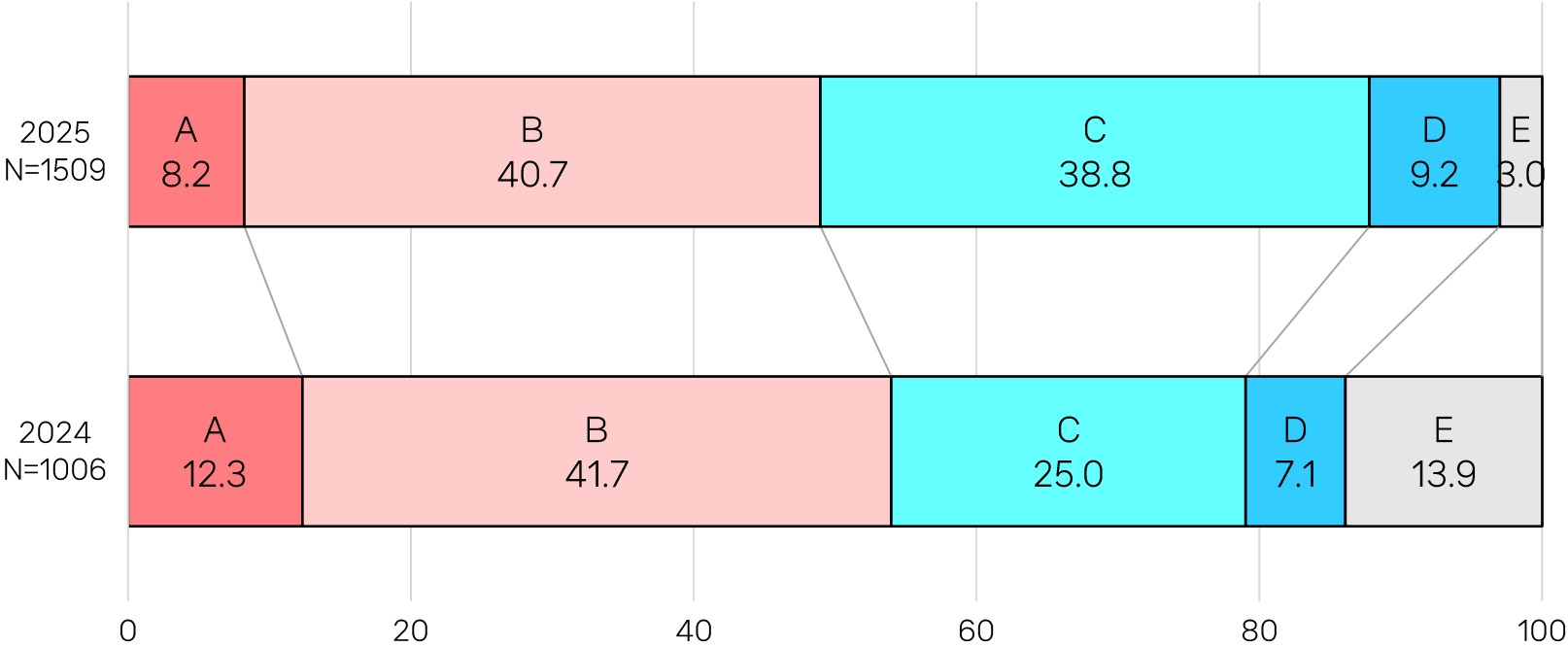
Economically Important Country or Region

Q5. Which countries or regions do you consider particularly important for South Korea in terms of economic relations? [Select all that apply] (%)



Prediction of the Future of South Korea

Q6. What do you think about the future of South Korea? (%)



A	B	C	D	E
Pessimistic	Somewhat pessimistic	Somewhat optimistic	Optimistic	Neither

II . Perception of the U.S. and ROK-U.S. Relations

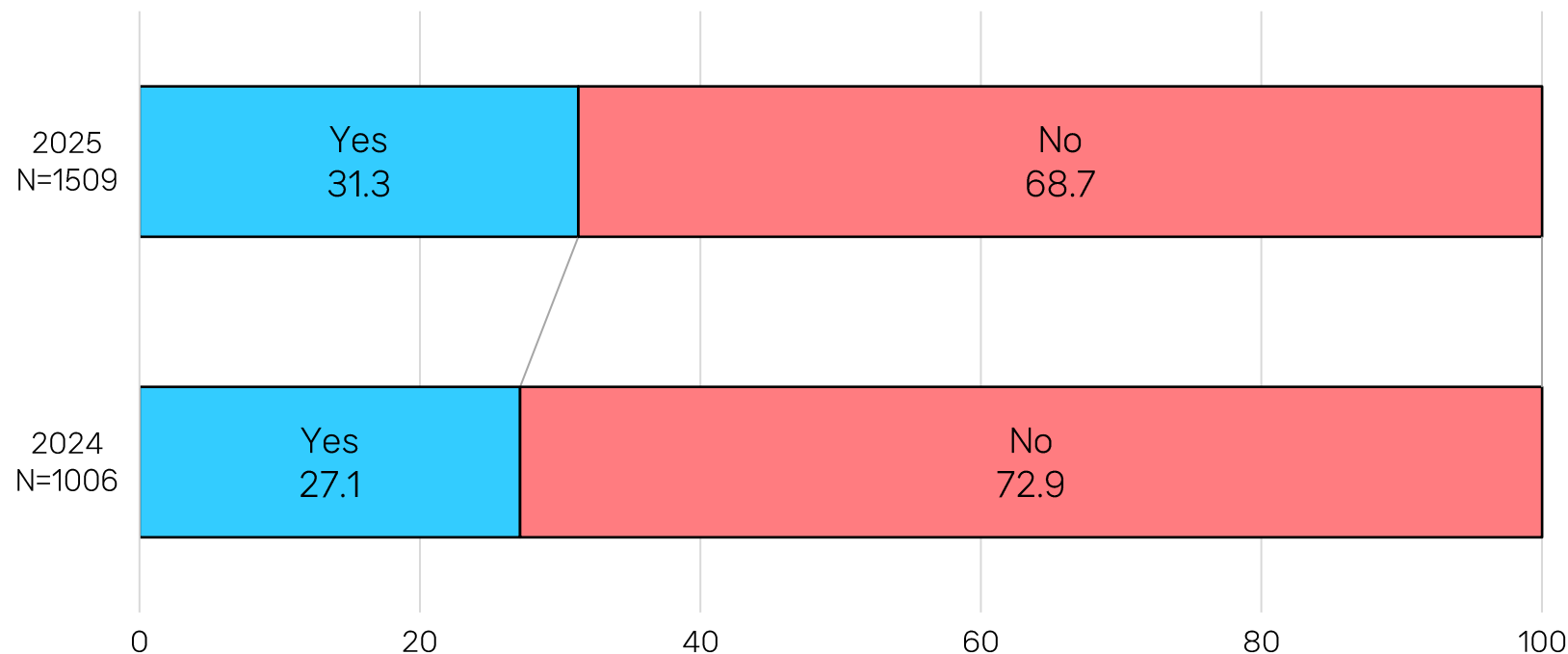
Increased Responses Indicating “Bad Relations” and “Distrust”

- 77.5% of respondents had a “favorable” or “somewhat favorable” impression of the United States.
- The reasons for their favorable impression included “the United States' role in maintaining international order” (48.2%) and “economic opportunities in the US market” (47.0%, up to second place). On the other hand, the most common reason for unfavorable impression was “coercive stand toward other countries in trade and tariffs” (79.9%, up to second place).
- 75.5% of respondents reported having a negative impression of President Trump, contrasting with last year's survey, in which only 17.1% had a negative impression of President Biden.
- 53.0% of respondents thought the current ROK–U.S. relations are “fair,” while 33.9% responded “bad,” an increase of 19.0%p from last year (14.9%).
- When asked whether the United States is a trustworthy partner of South Korea, 68.4% responded that it is trustworthy, more than twice as many as those who responded that it is not trustworthy (28.6%). However, the percentage of those who responded that it is trustworthy decreased by 4.7%p from last year (73.1%), while the percentage of those who responded not increased by 10.4%p from last year (18.2%).
- In the event of a military conflict in the Taiwan Strait involving U.S. intervention, 49.3% of respondents chose “humanitarian aid” as the maximum response from South Korea. Regarding the maximum role of U.S. forces in South Korea, many respondents believed that they should remain in South Korea, with 42.3% saying “rear support within the Korean Peninsula” and 29.5% saying “focus solely on deterring North Korea and defending South Korea.”

Experience of Visiting the United States

Q7. Have you ever visited the United States?

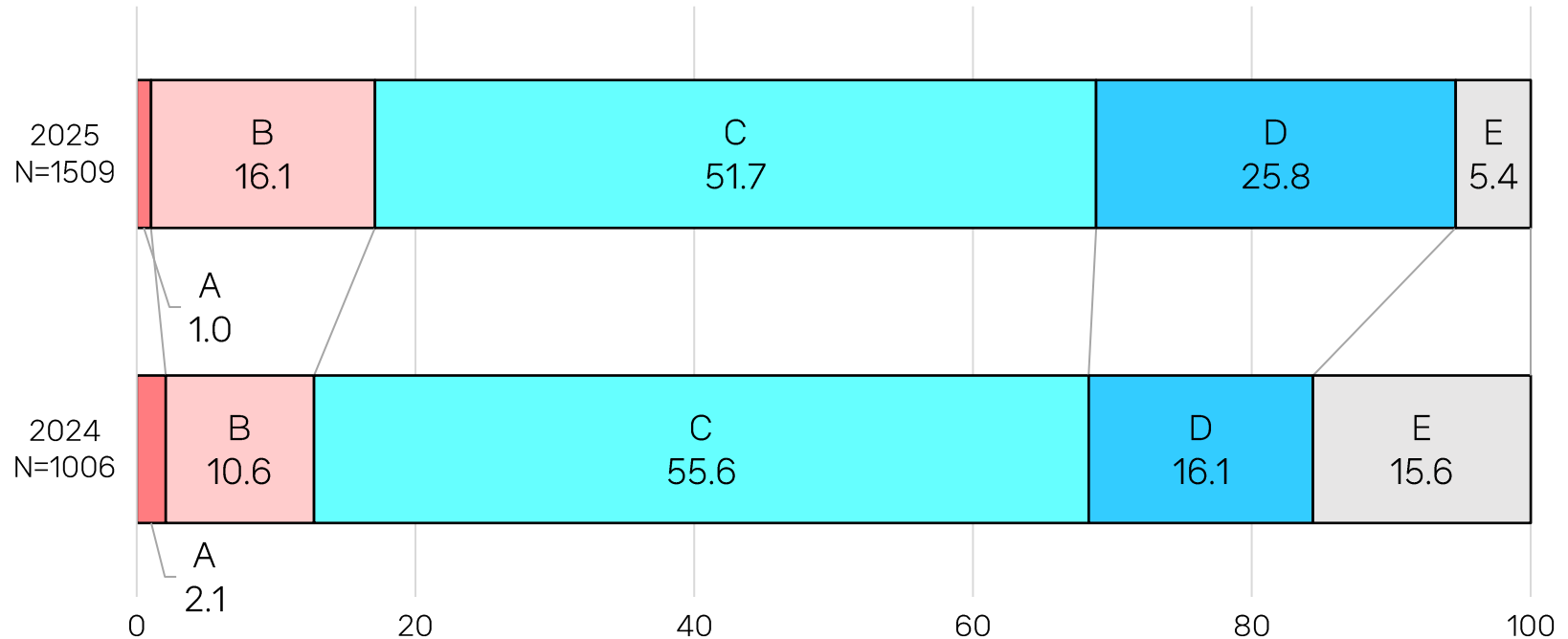
(%)



Impression of the United States

Q8. What is your impression of the United States?

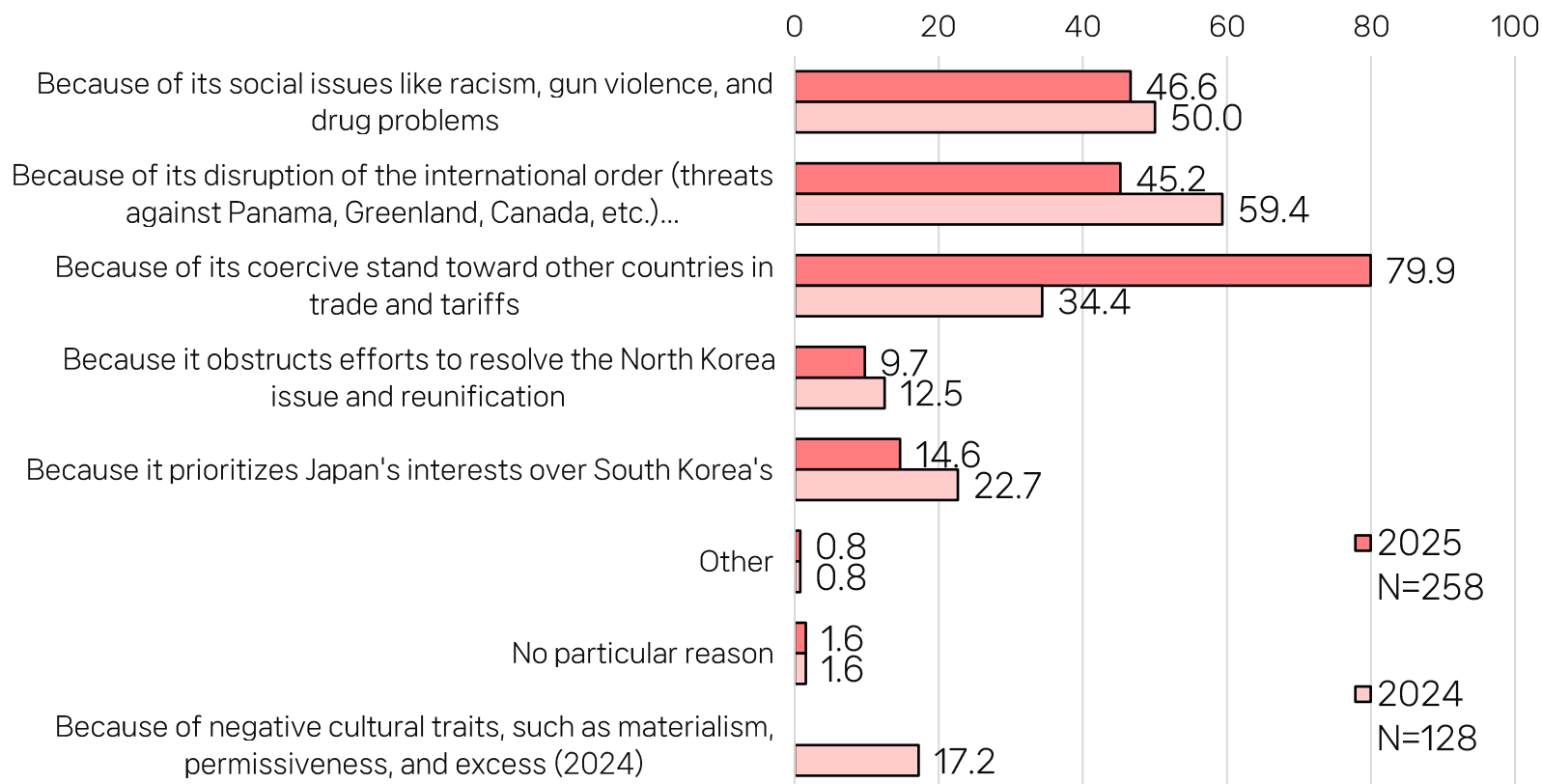
(%)



A	B	C	D	E
Unfavorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Somewhat favorable	Favorable	Neither

Reasons for Unfavorable Impressions of the U.S.

Q8-a. (Only those who answered “unfavorable” or “somewhat unfavorable” in Q8)
Why do you have an unfavorable impression of the United States? [Up to 2 responses] (%)

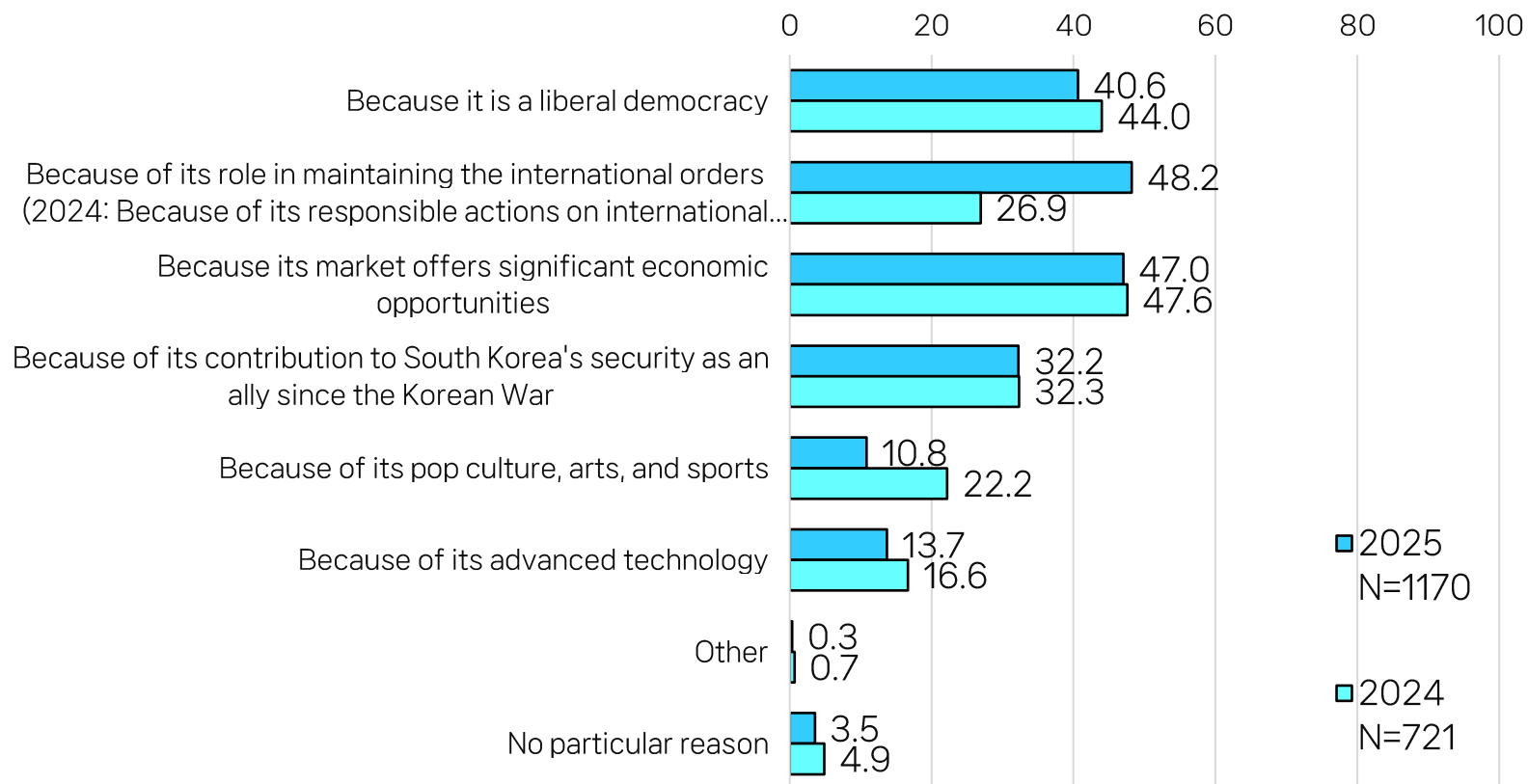


Reasons for Favorable Impressions of the U.S.

Q8-b. (Only those who answered "favorable" or "somewhat favorable" in Q8)

Why do you have a favorable impression of the United States? [Up to 2 responses]

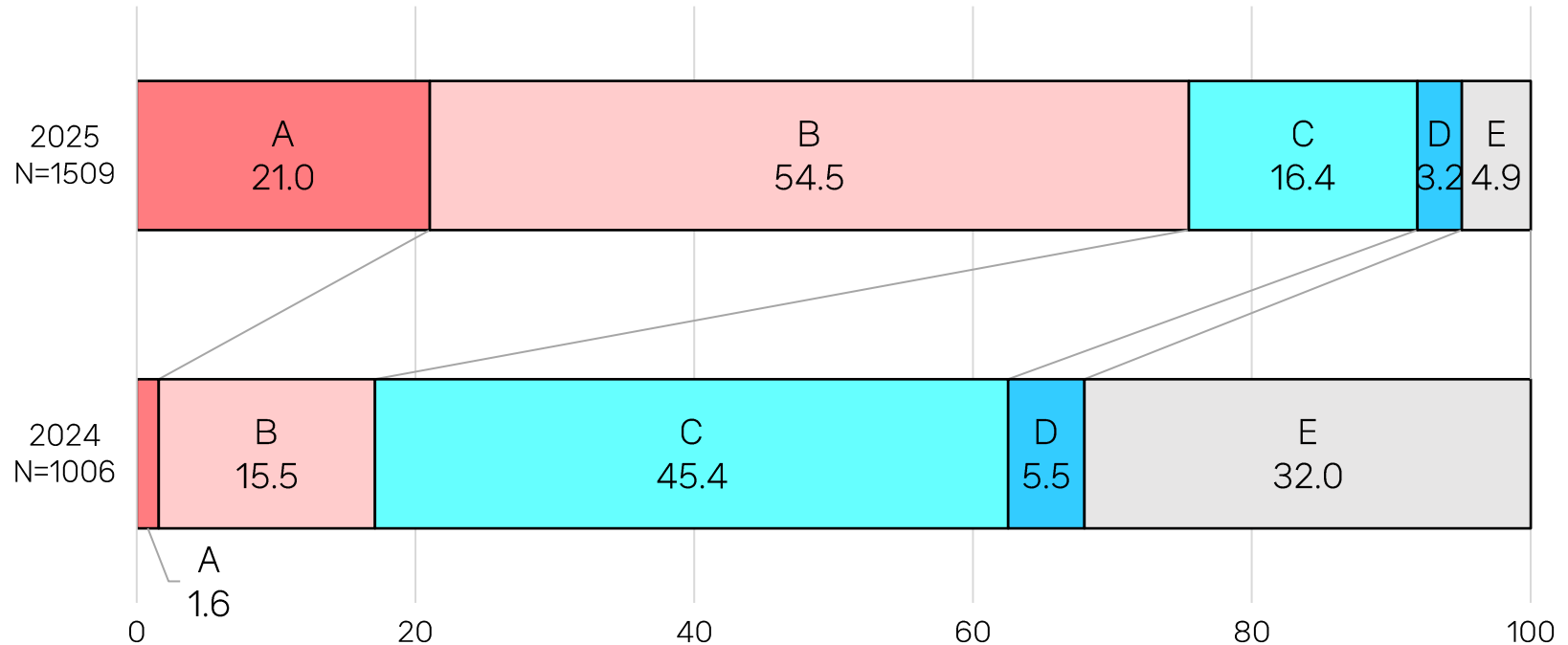
(%)



Impression of the U.S. President

Q12. What is your impression of Donald Trump, President of the United States?
(2024: Impression of President Joe Biden)

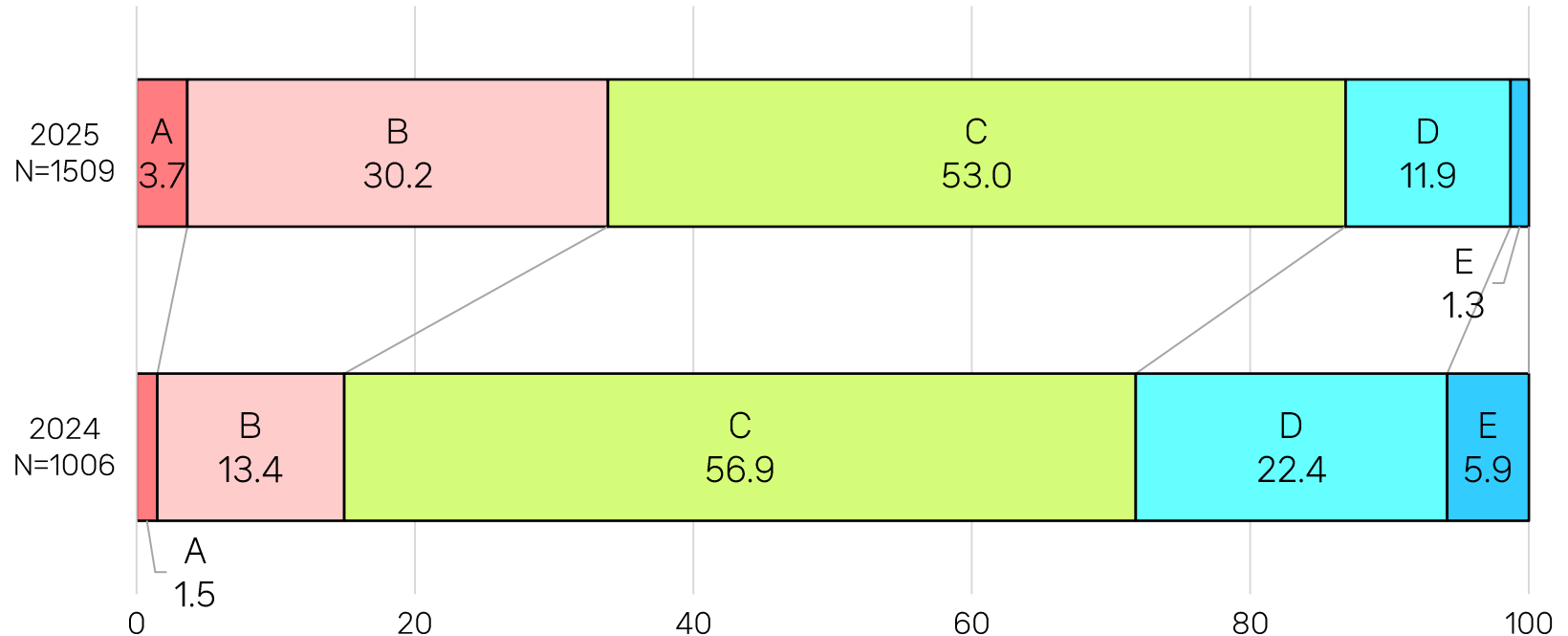
(%)



A	B	C	D	E
Very bad	Somewhat bad	Somewhat good	Very good	Neither

Current ROK-U.S. Relations

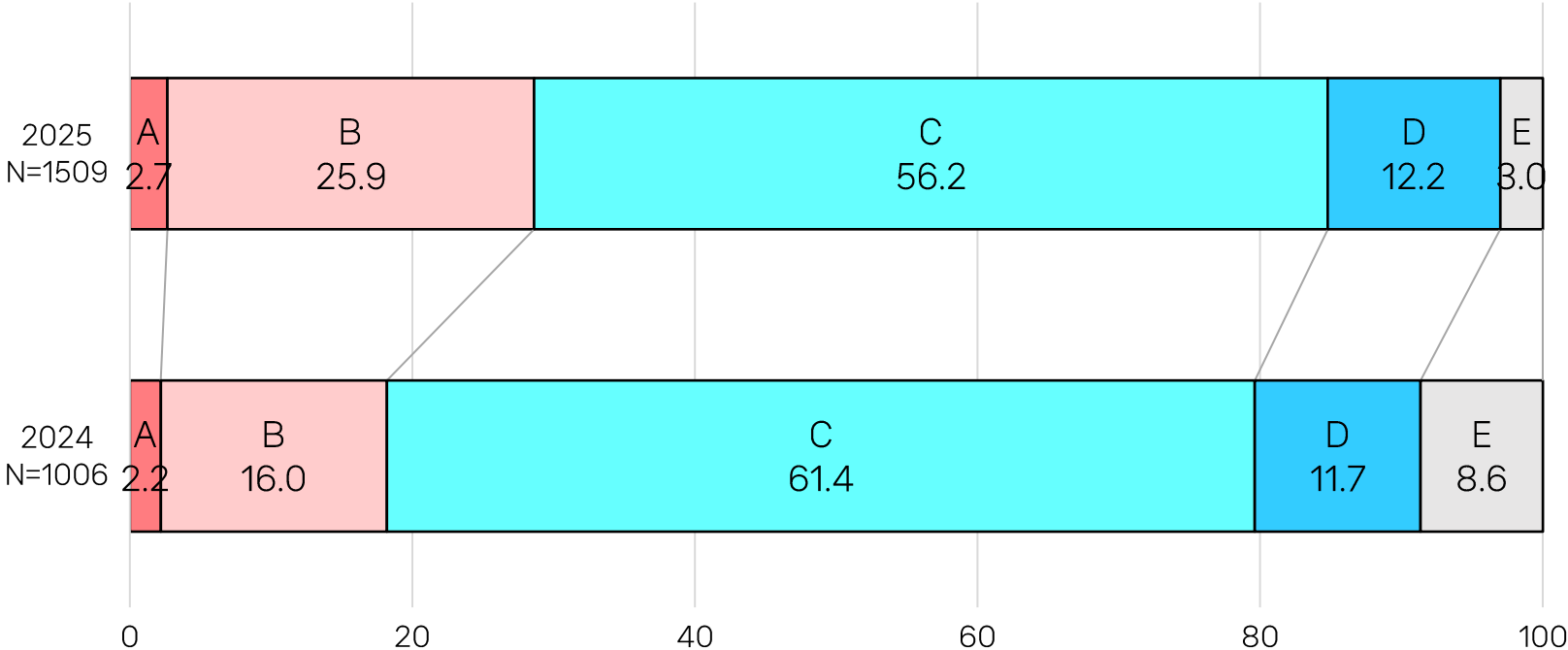
Q10. What do you think current relations between South Korea and the U.S. are like? (%)



A	B	C	D	E
Very bad	Somewhat bad	Fair	Somewhat good	Very good

Reliability of the United States

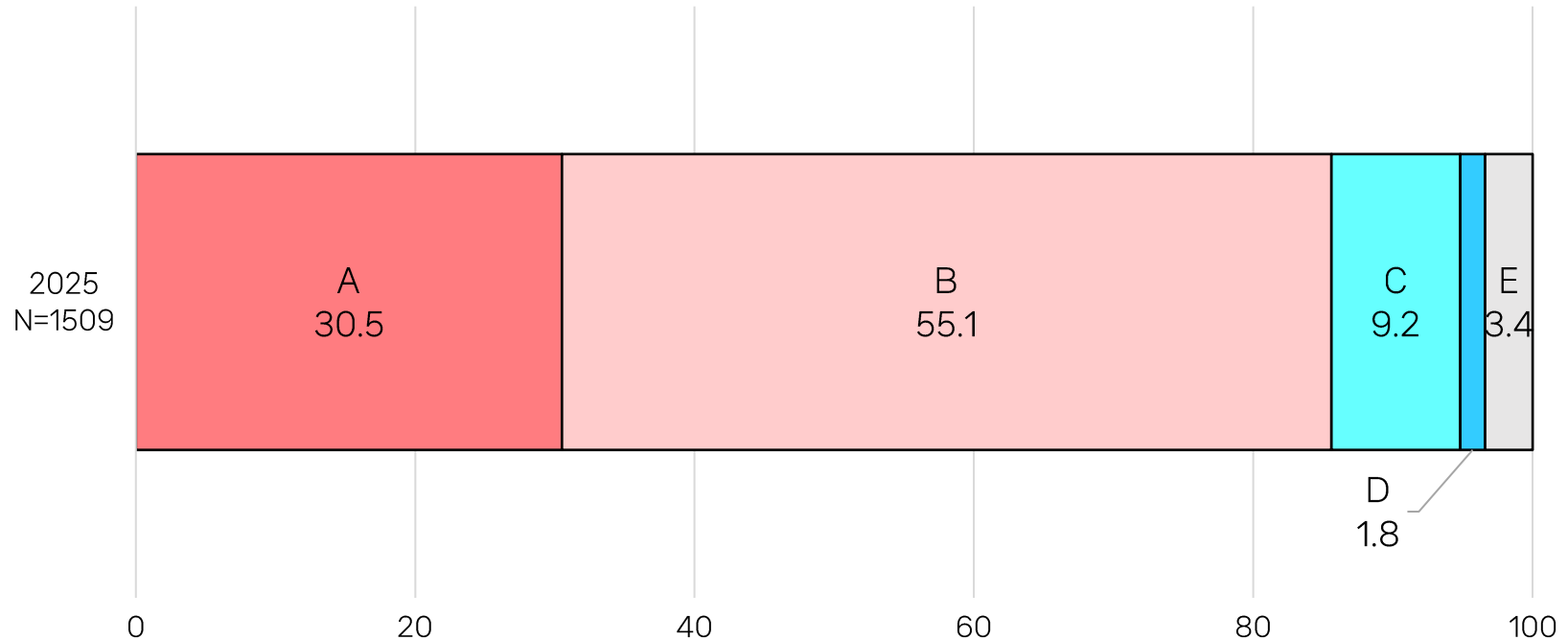
Q11. Do you think the United States is a trustworthy partner of South Korea? (%)



A	B	C	D	E
Definitely not	Not really	Somewhat	Definitely yes	Neither

Opinion on Trump Administration Imposing Tariffs

Q12. What is your opinion on the Trump administration's imposition of reciprocal tariffs, including those on South Korean exports such as steel, aluminum, and automobiles? (%)

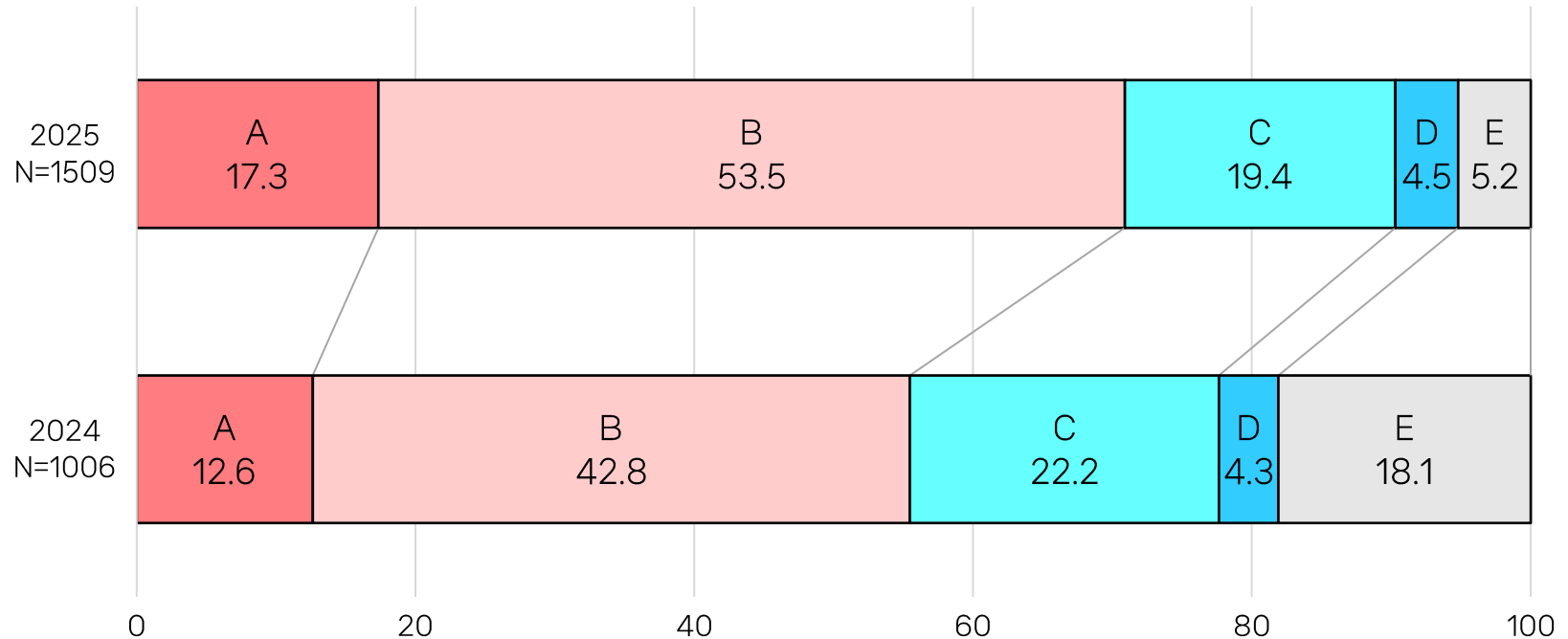


A	B	C	D	E
Strongly oppose	Somewhat oppose	Somewhat support	Strongly support	Neither

Opinion on the U.S. Limiting Economic Relations with China

Q13. What is your opinion on the United States restrictions on South Korea's and Japan's trade and investment relations with China?

(%)

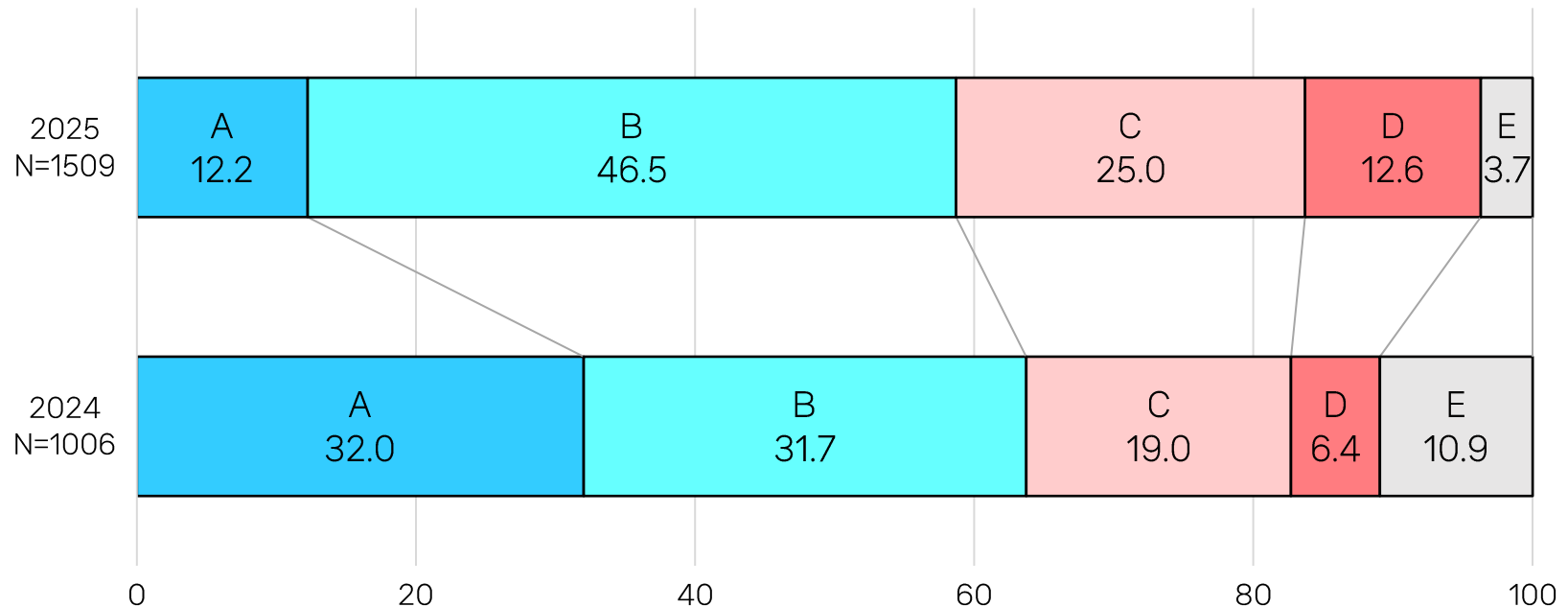


A	B	C	D	E
Strongly oppose	Somewhat oppose	Somewhat support	Strongly support	Neither

Economic Relations Between South Korea and the U.S.

Q14. Regarding the economic relations between South Korea and the United States, which of the following statements do you agree with more: A or B? (%)

A: The two economies are mutually complementary. / B: The two economies are mutually competitive.



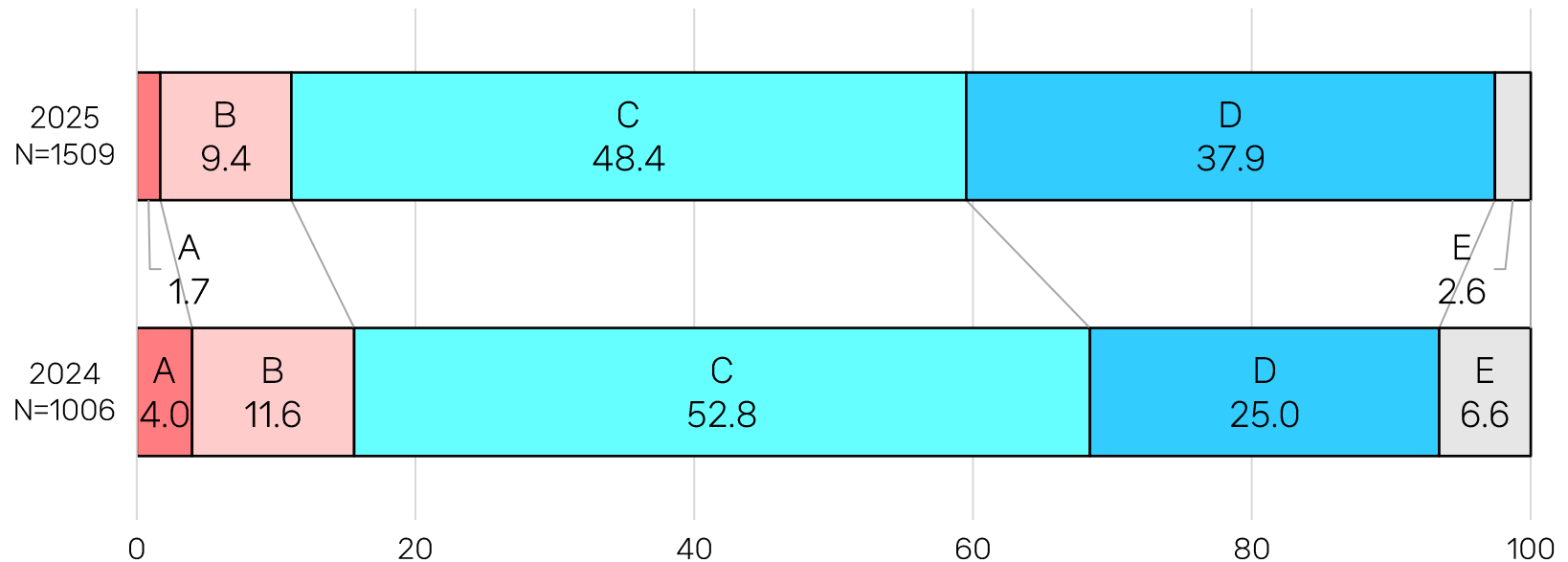
A	B	C	D	E
Closer to A	Somewhat closer to A	Somewhat closer to B	Closer to B	Neither

Role of the ROK-U.S. Alliance

Q15. Do you agree with the following statement, or not?

(%)

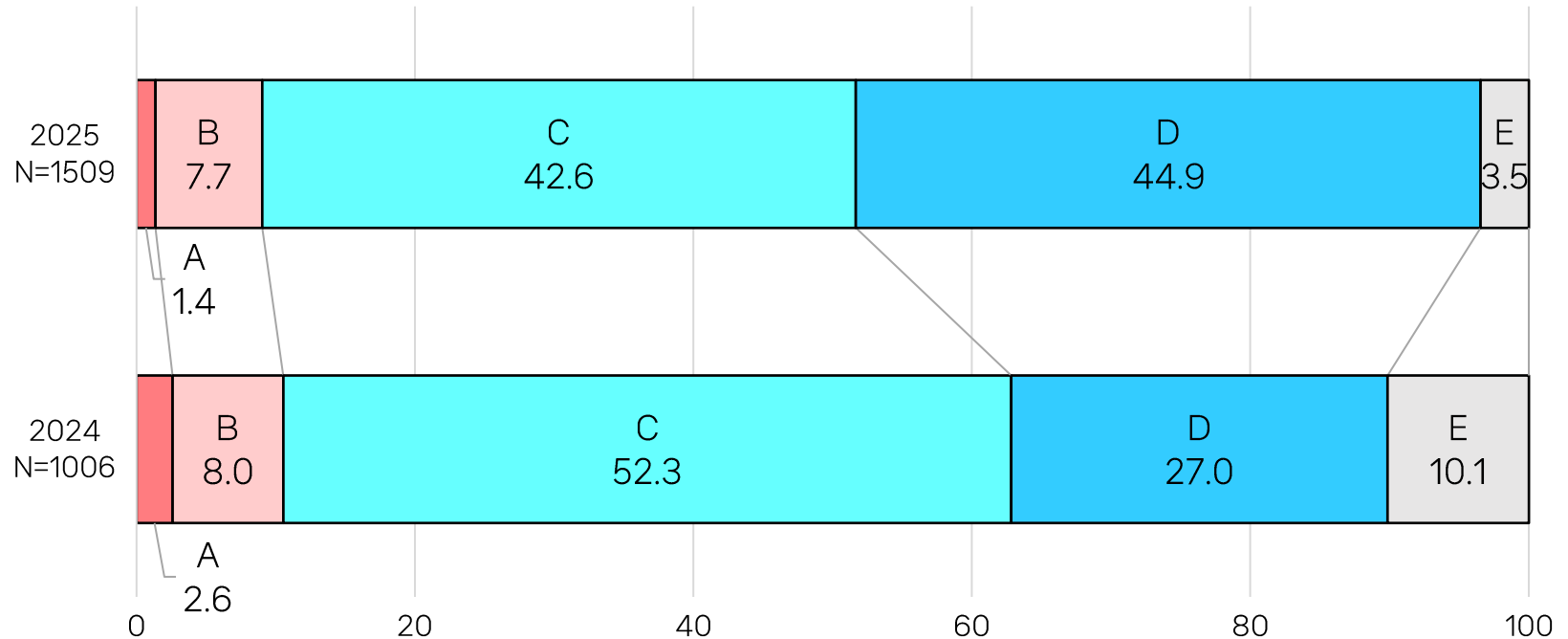
"The ROK-U.S. alliance should work to address regional and global issues, extending its scope beyond merely responding to the North Korean military threat."



A	B	C	D	E
Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	Neither

Importance of Taiwan Strait Conflict on South Korea

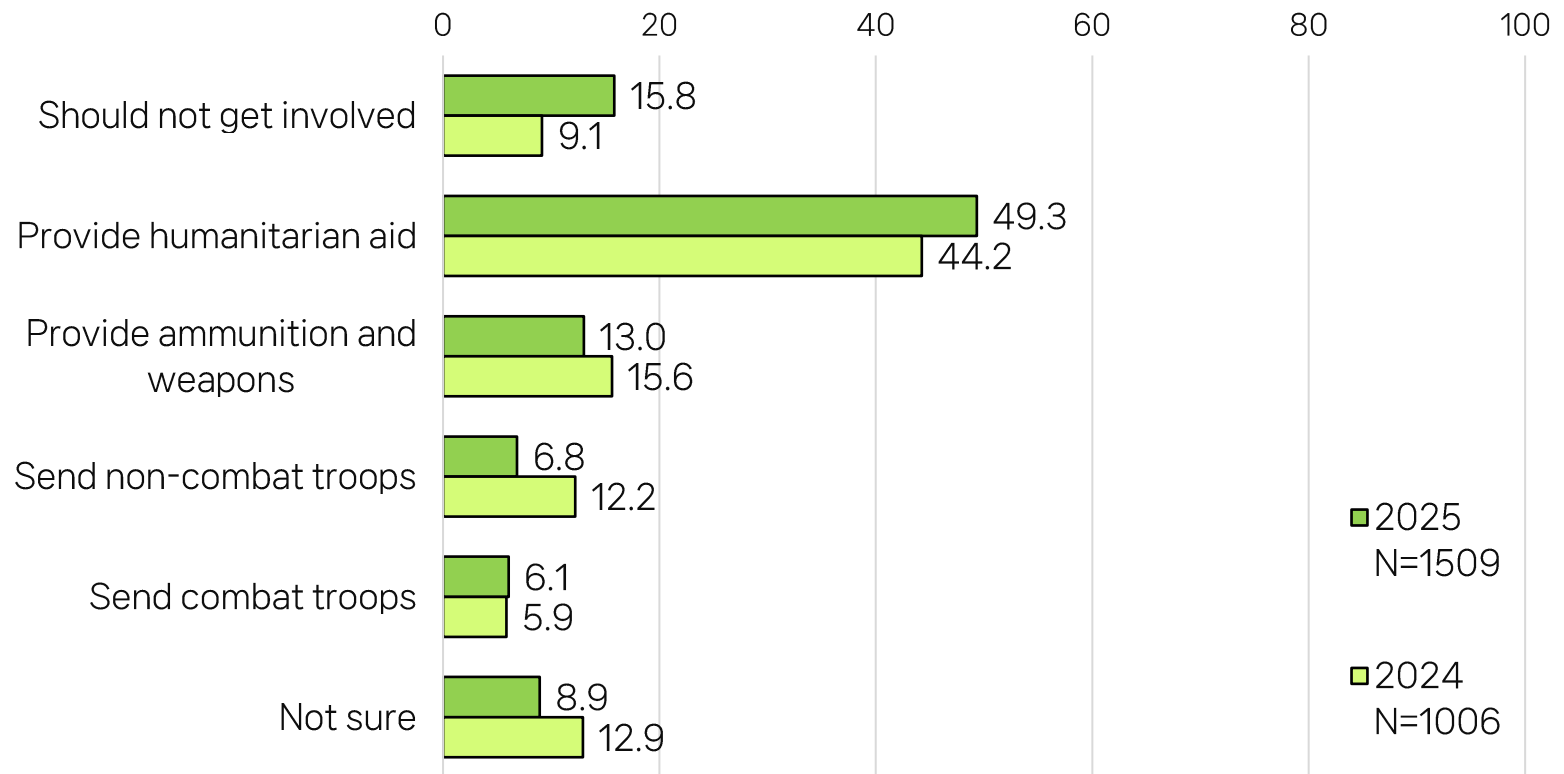
Q16. How important do you think tensions and conflicts in the Taiwan Strait are to South Korea's national interests? (%)



A	B	C	D	E
Unimportant	Somewhat unimportant	Somewhat important	Important	Neither

Response of South Korea on Taiwan Strait Conflict

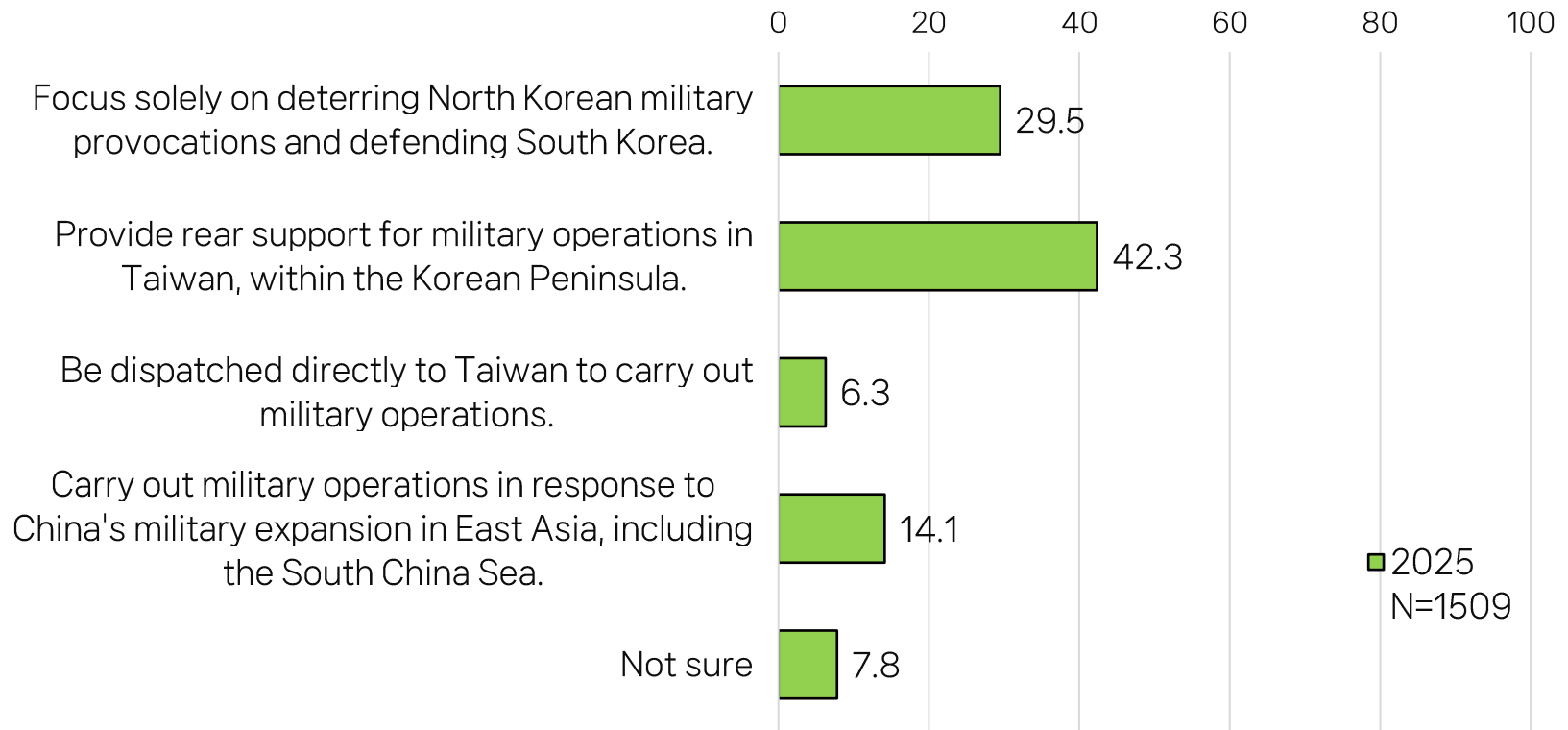
Q17. If a military conflict occurs in the Taiwan Strait and the U.S. intervenes militarily, to what extent do you think South Korea should respond? (%)



Role of USFK on Taiwan Strait Conflict

Q18. If a military conflict occurs in the Taiwan Strait, to what extent do you think U.S. Force Korea (USFK) should engage?

(%)



III . Perception of Japan and ROK-Japan Relations

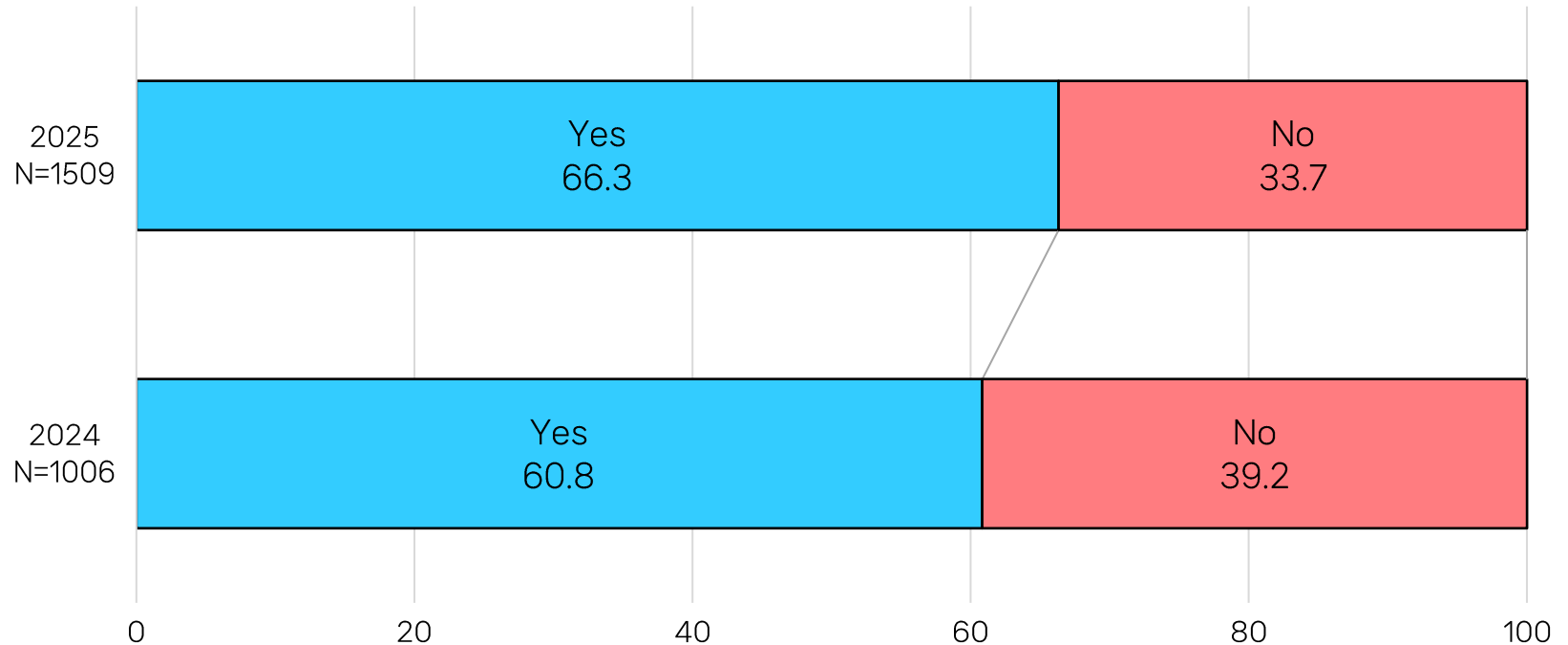
“Favorable Impression” 63.3%… Surpassed “Unfavorable” for the First Time

- 63.3% of respondents reported having a “favorable” or “somewhat favorable” impression of Japan, a sharp increase of 21.6%p from last year (41.7%). This marks the highest figure since the EAI began survey in 2013. It is also the first time that the percentage of positive impression has exceeded that of negative impression (30.6%).
- The main reasons for positive impressions included “kind and hard-working national character” (48.6%) and “eating culture and shopping” (31.2%), factors related to visiting Japan and interacting with Japanese people (up to the second reason). On the other hand, the main reasons for negative impressions were factors related to history and territory, such as “insufficient repentance of colonial history” (81.8%), “the Dokdo issue” (46.4%), and “unresolved historical issues on comfort women and forced labor” (34.2%, up to the second reason).
- When asked how they think current ROK-Japan relations, 56.3% responded “fair,” while 30.7% responded “bad,” a decrease of 6.4%p from the previous year (37.1%).
- Regarding the goals for the ROK-Japan relations on the 60th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations, “resolving historical issues between the two countries” (52.6%) and “restoring trust between the two countries” (48.7%) were ranked first and second, respectively, continuing from last year (up to the second priority).
- In questions evaluating the South Korean government’s proposal of a “third-party subrogation payment” to resolve the dispute over Wartime Forced Labor and their response to the UNESCO World Heritage listing of the Sado Mine, respondents who evaluated positively increased compared to the previous year.

Experience of Visiting Japan

Q19. Have you ever visited Japan?

(%)

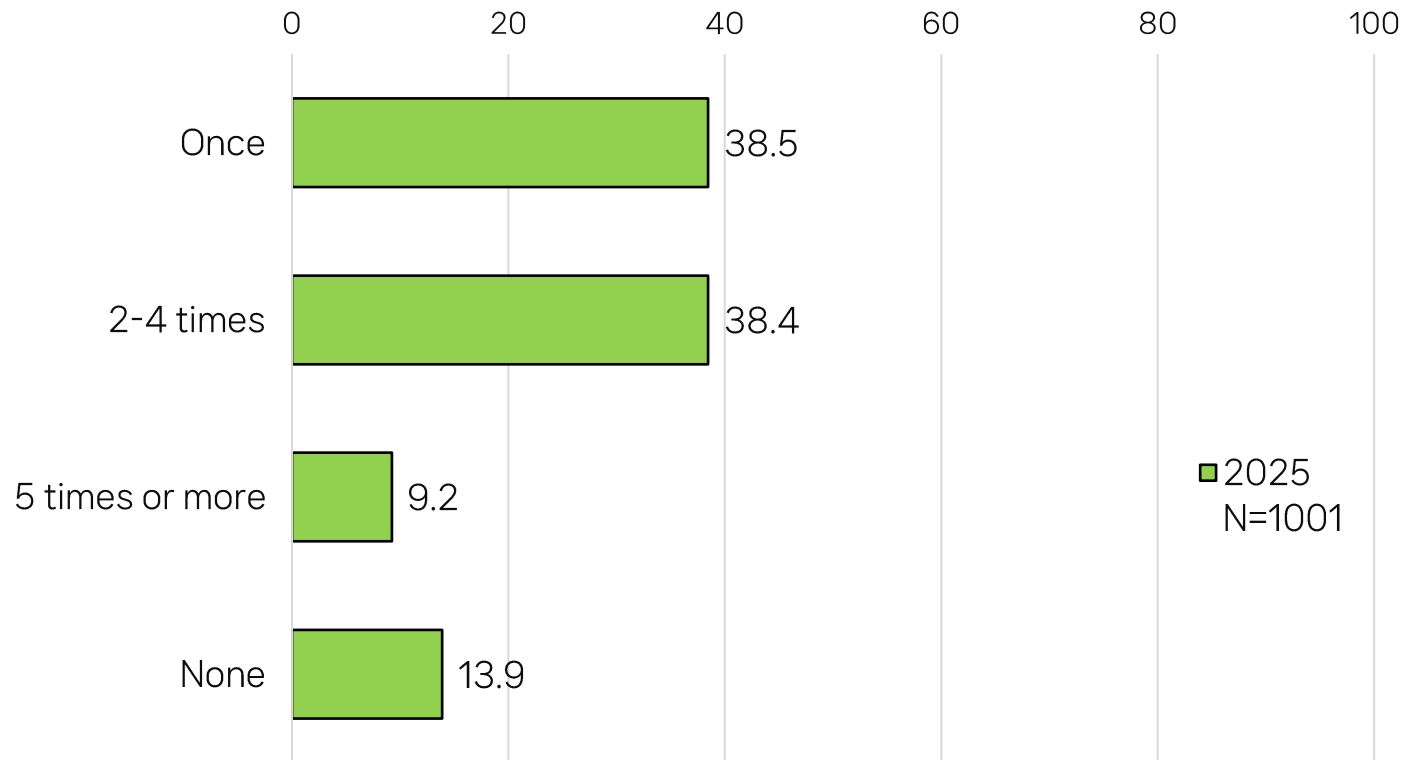


Number of Visits to Japan in the Past Five Years

Q19-a. (Only those who answered "Yes" in Q19)

How many times have you visited Japan in the past five years?

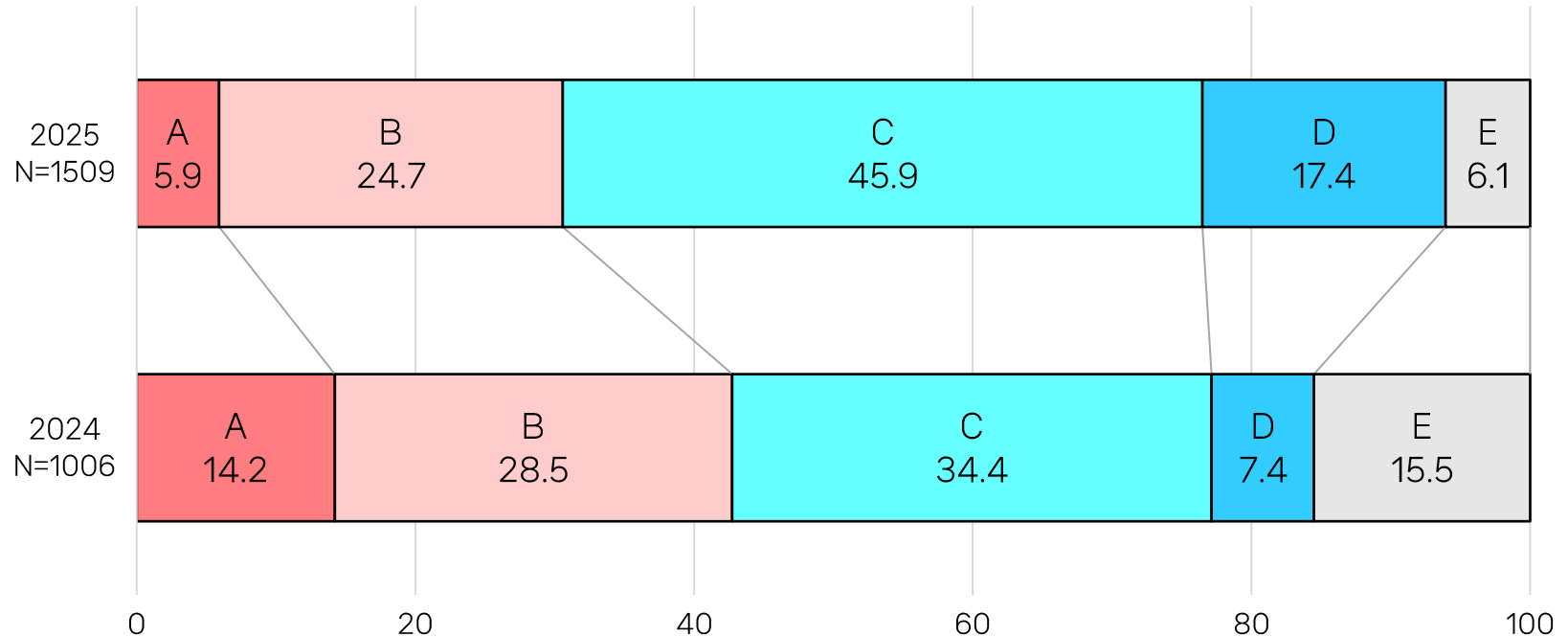
(%)



Impression of Japan

Q20. What is your impression of Japan?

(%)

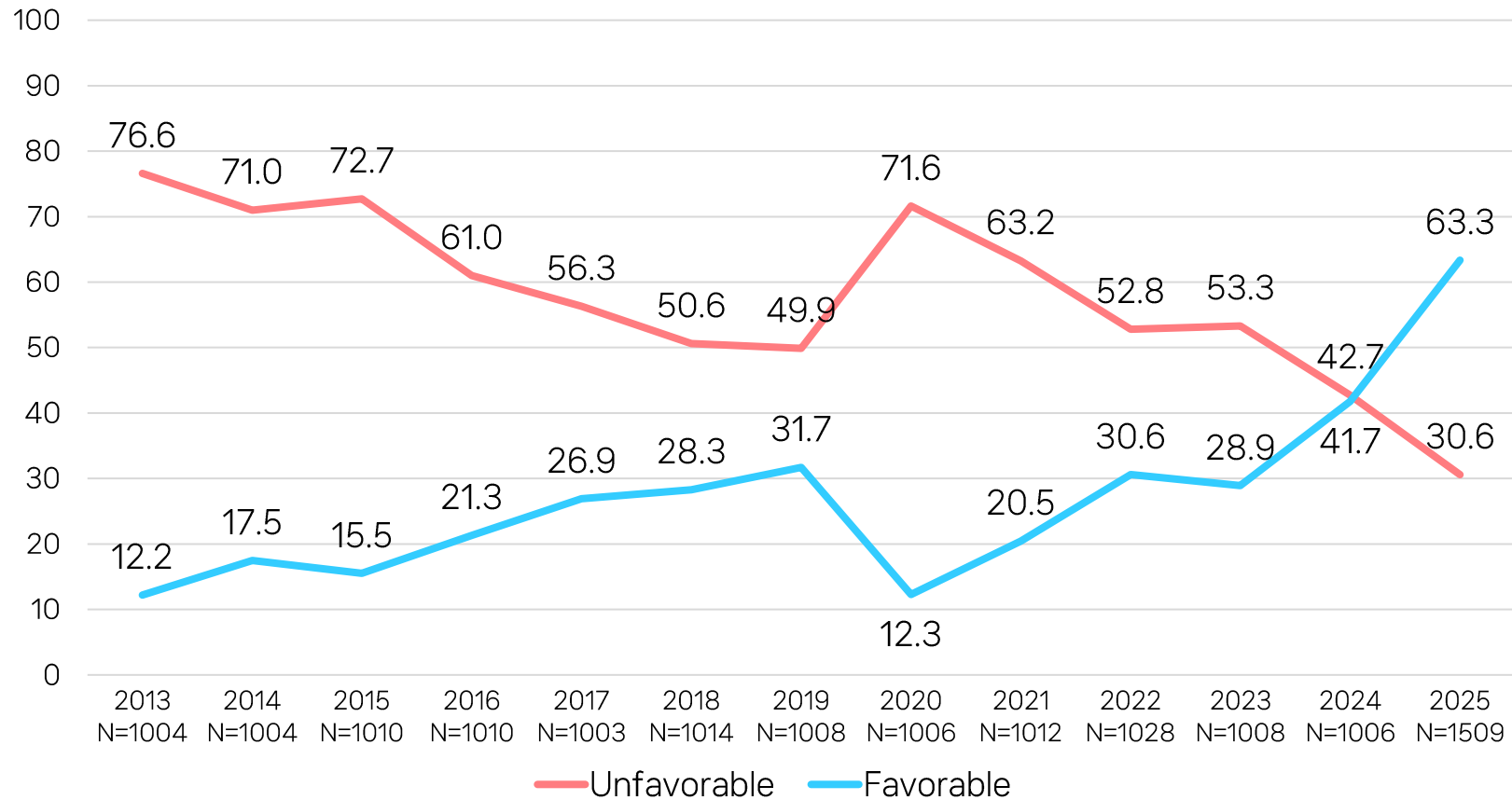


A	B	C	D	E
Unfavorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Somewhat favorable	Favorable	Neither

Impression of Japan (2013-2025)

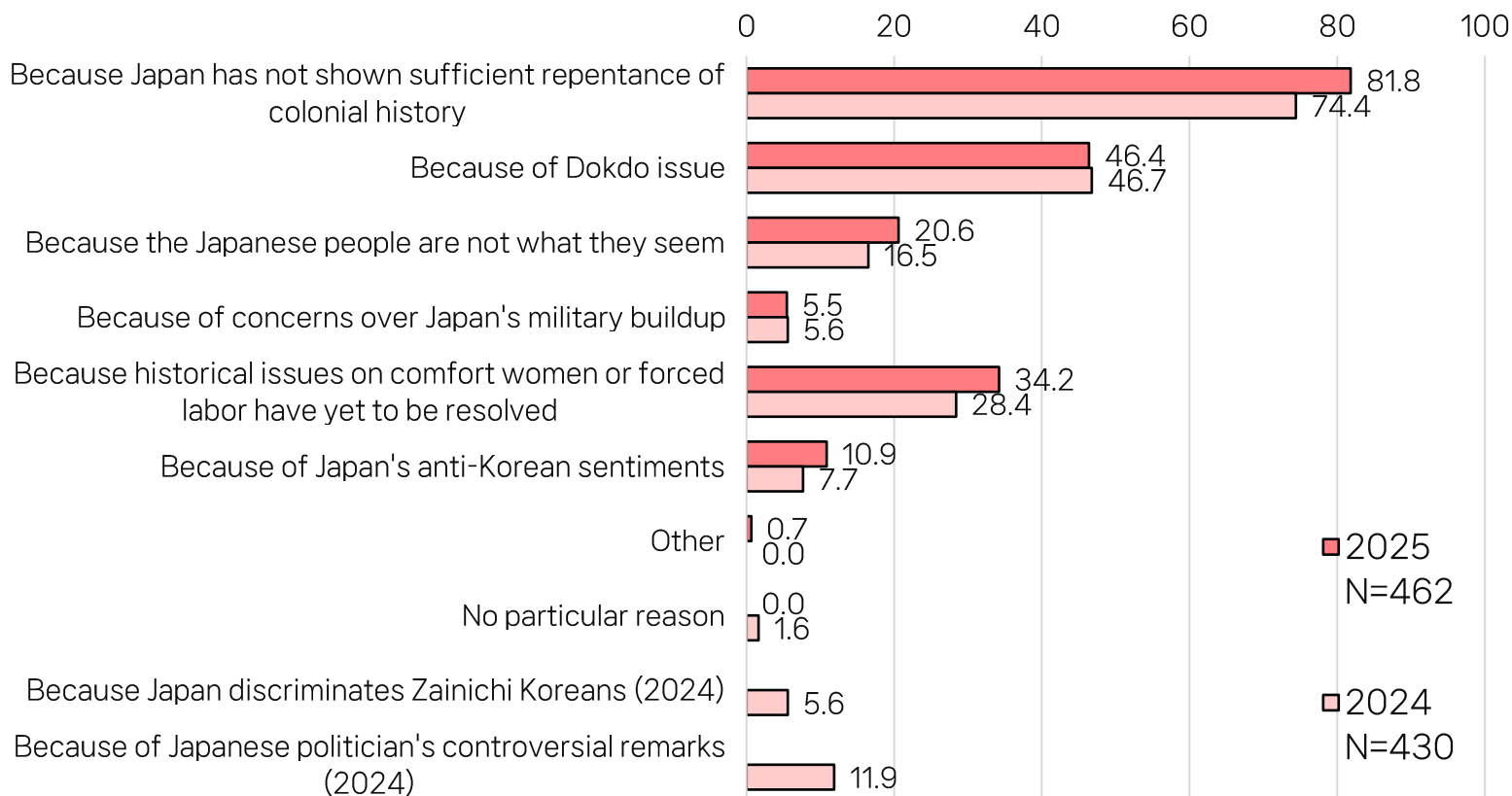
Q20. What is your impression of Japan?

(%)



Reasons for Unfavorable Impressions of Japan

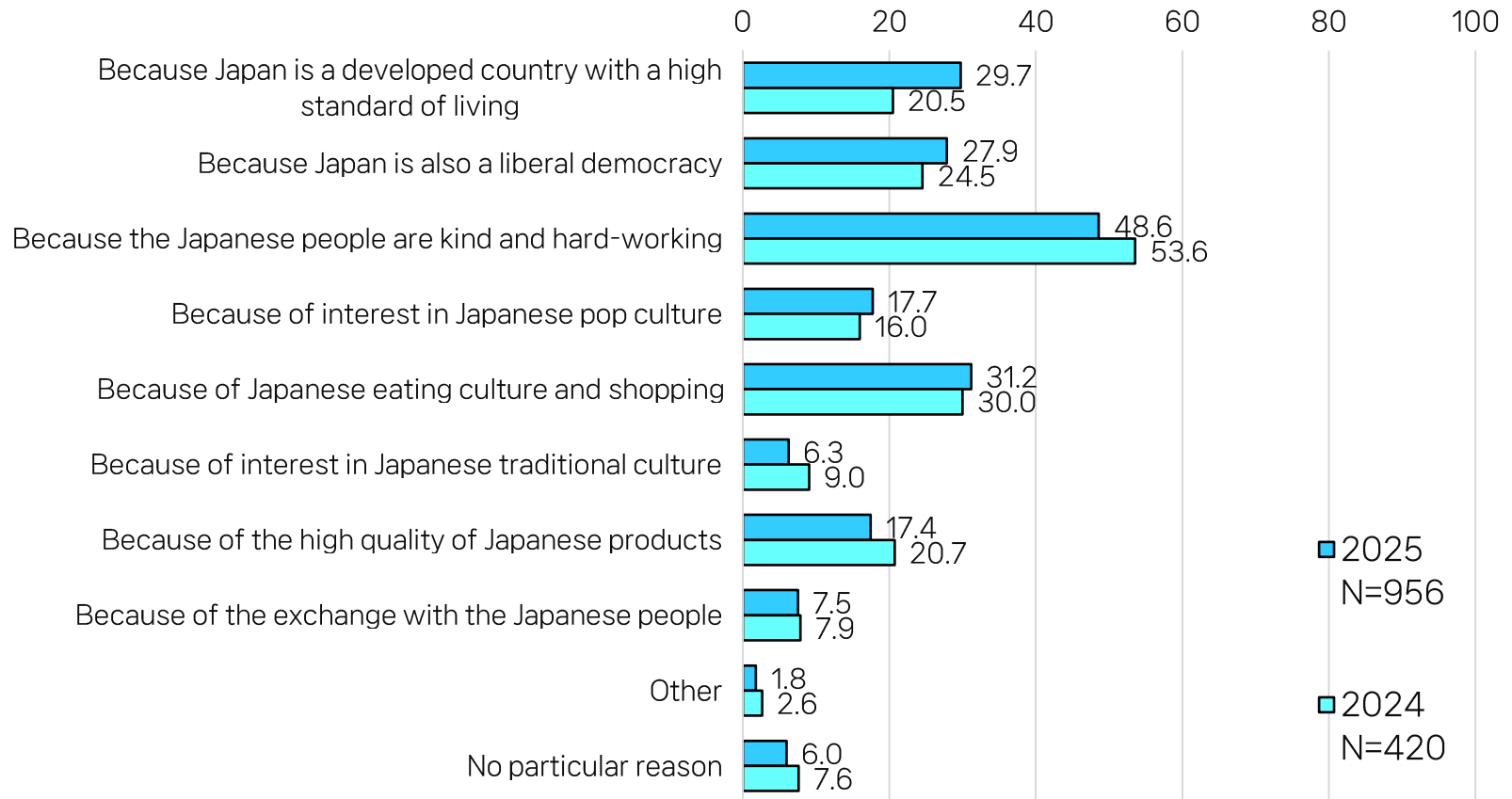
Q20-a. (Only those who answered "unfavorable" or "somewhat unfavorable" in Q20)
Why do you have an unfavorable impression of Japan? [Up to 2 responses] (%)



Reasons for Favorable Impressions of Japan

Q20-b. (Only those who answered "favorable" or "somewhat favorable" in Q20)
Why do you have a favorable impression of Japan? [Up to 2 responses]

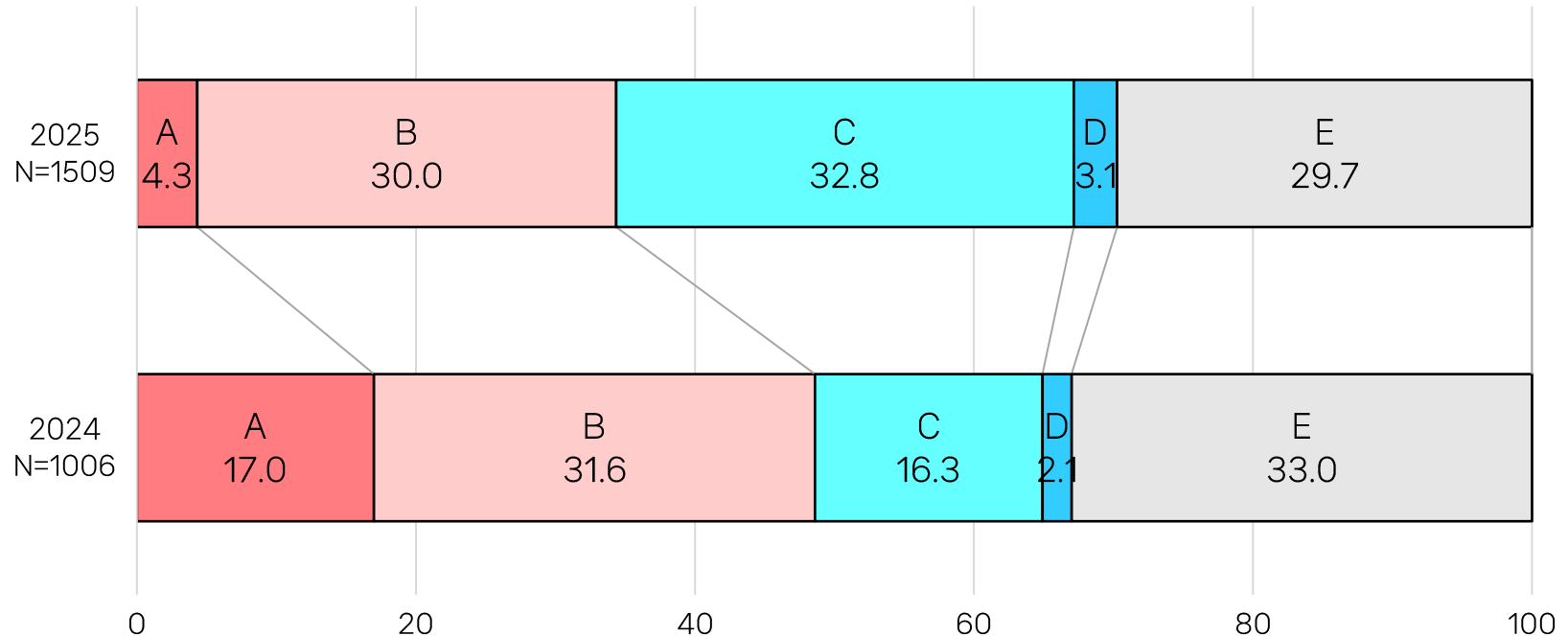
(%)



Impression of Japanese Prime Minister

Q21. What is your impression of Shigeru Ishiba, Prime Minister of Japan?
(2024: Impression of Prime Minister Fumio Kishida)

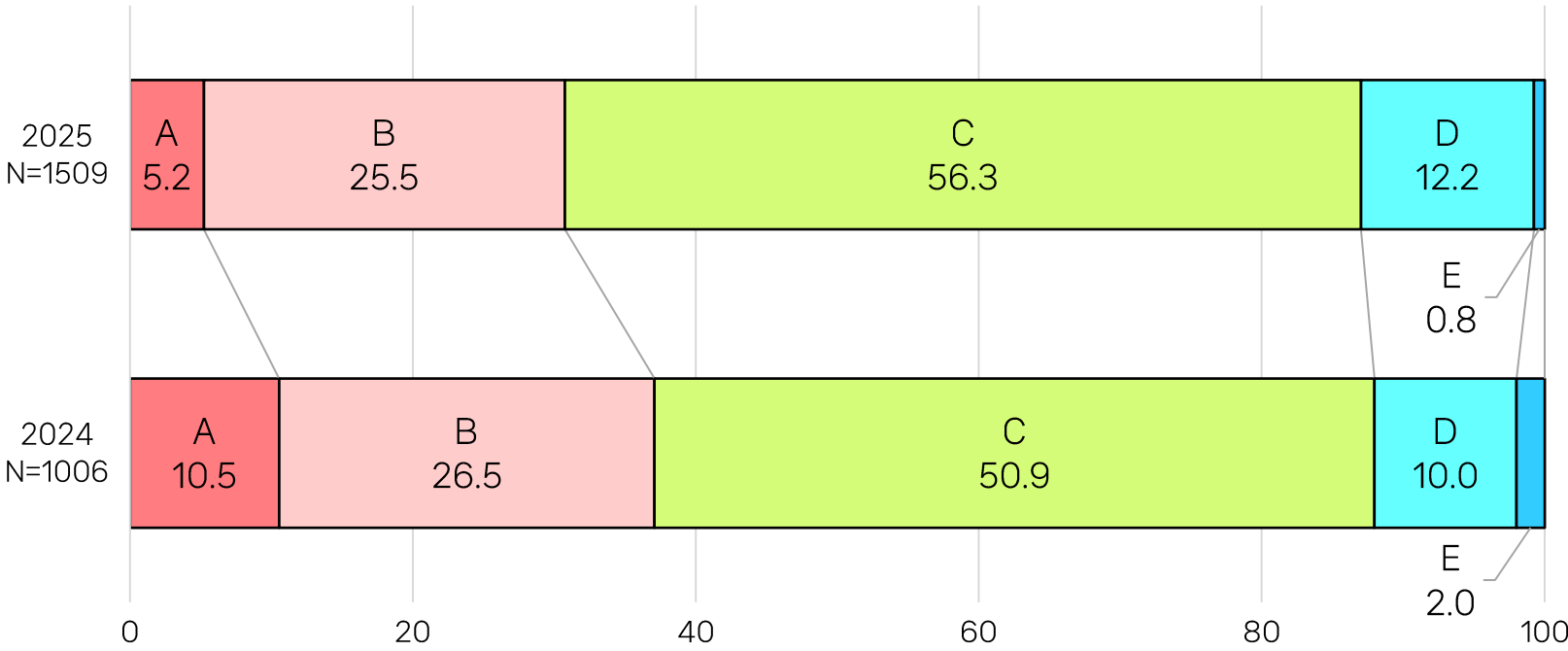
(%)



A	B	C	D	E
Very bad	Somewhat bad	Somewhat good	Very good	Neither

Current ROK-Japan Relations

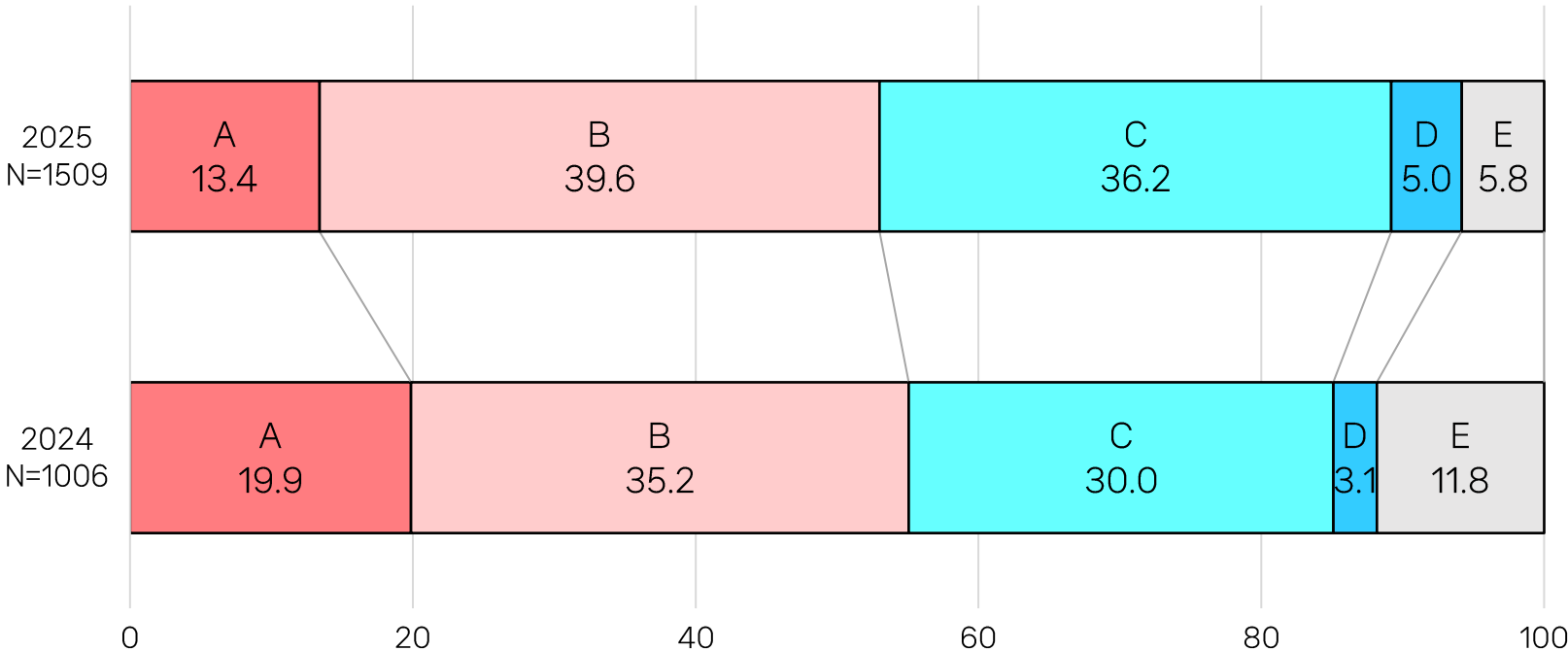
Q22. What do you think current relations between South Korea and Japan are like? (%)



A	B	C	D	E
Very bad	Somewhat bad	Fair	Somewhat good	Very good

Reliability of Japan

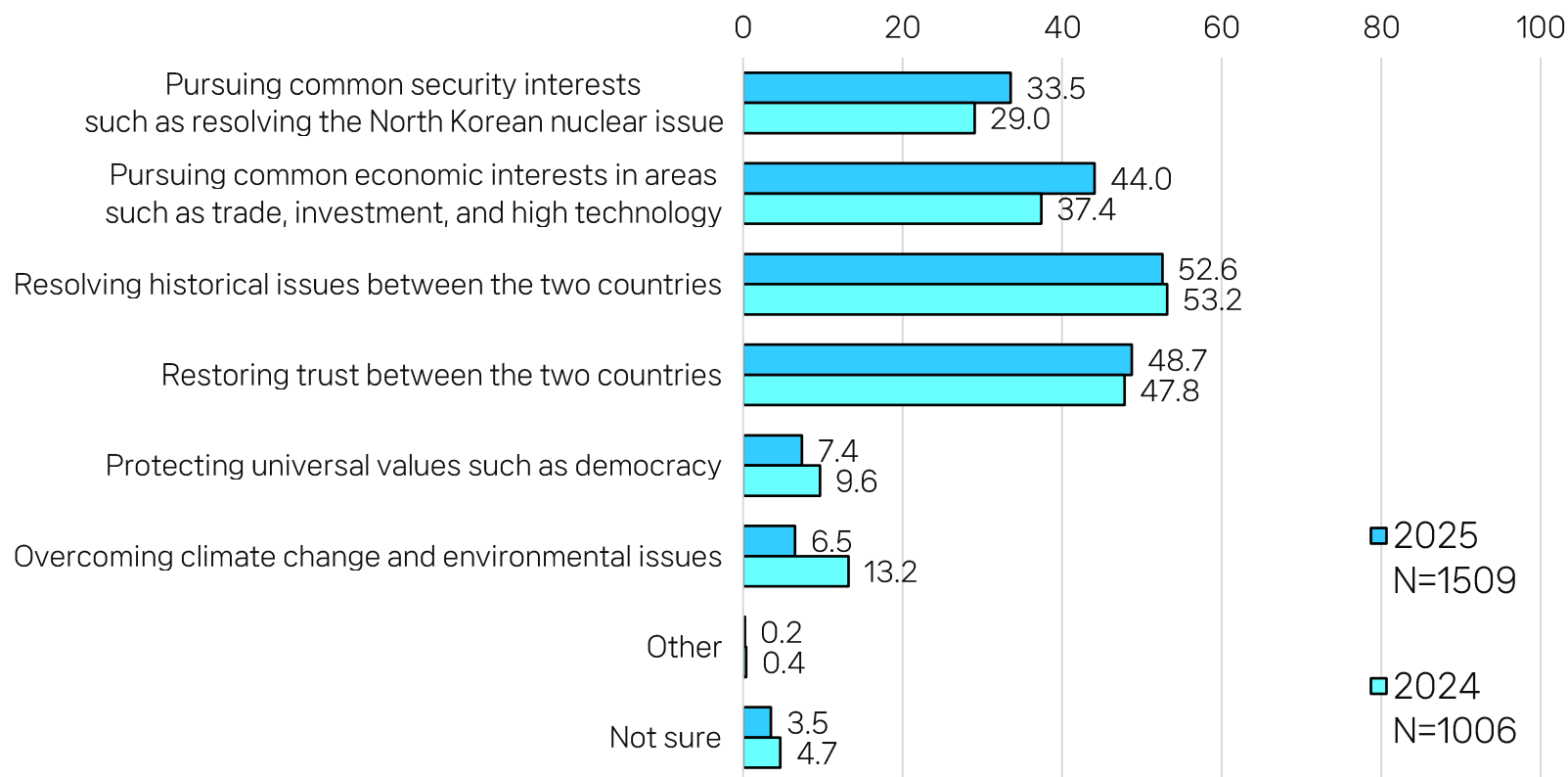
Q23. Do you think Japan is a trustworthy partner of South Korea? (%)



A	B	C	D	E
Definitely not	Not really	Somewhat	Definitely yes	Neither

Goals of ROK-Japan Relations

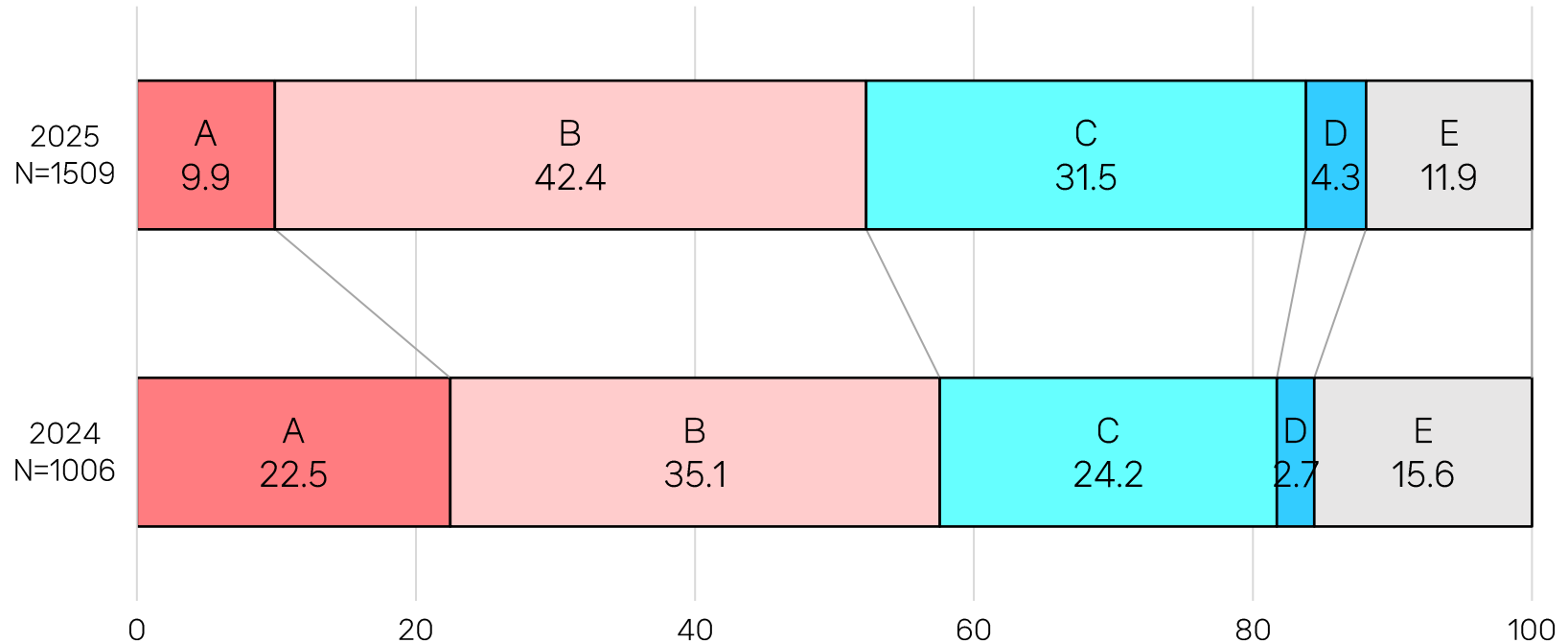
Q24. On the 60th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between South Korea and Japan, what goals do you think the ROK-Japan relations should aim for? (%)
[Up to 2 responses]



Japanese Government's Attitude Toward Mutual Relations

Q25. How do you evaluate the current Japanese government's attitude toward improving the ROK-Japan relations?

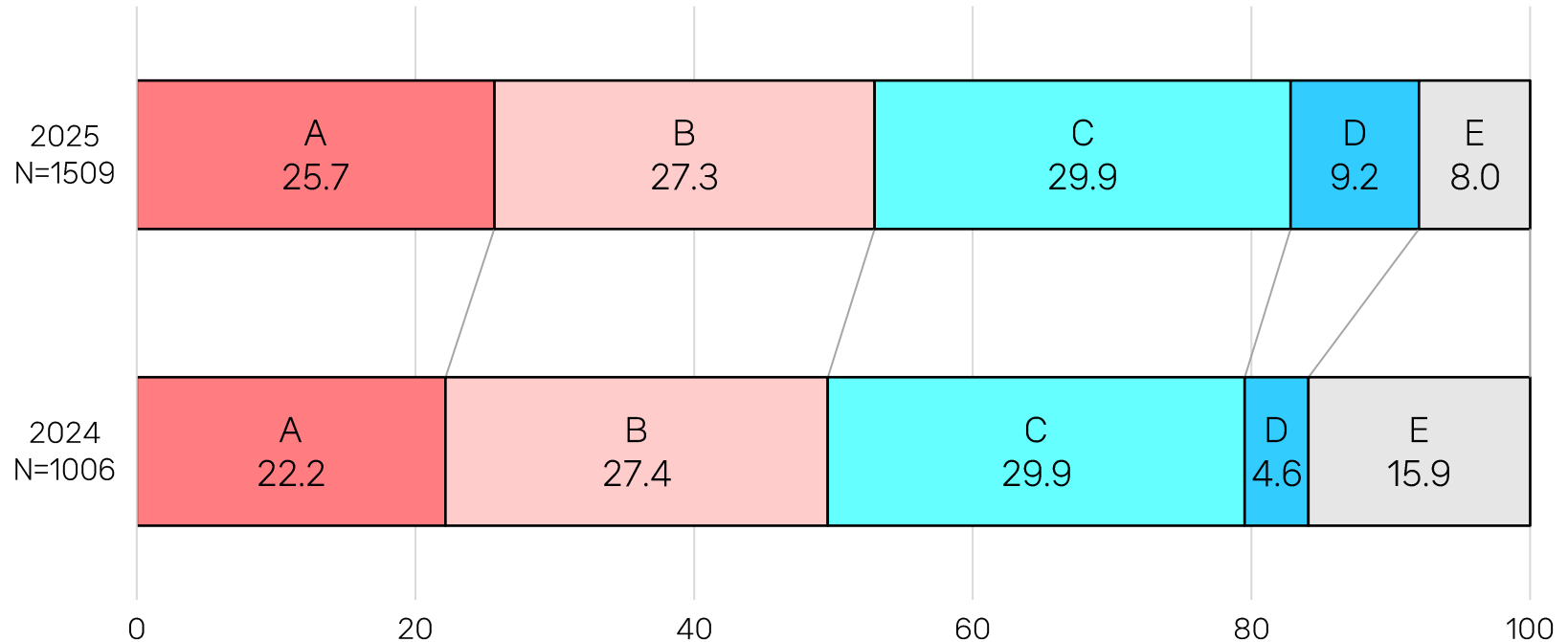
(%)



A	B	C	D	E
Very bad	Somewhat bad	Somewhat good	Very good	Neither

Yoon Suk Yeol Government's Attitude Toward Mutual Relations

Q26. How do you evaluate Yoon Suk Yeol government's attitude toward improving the ROK-Japan relations? (2024: current South Korean government's attitude) (%)

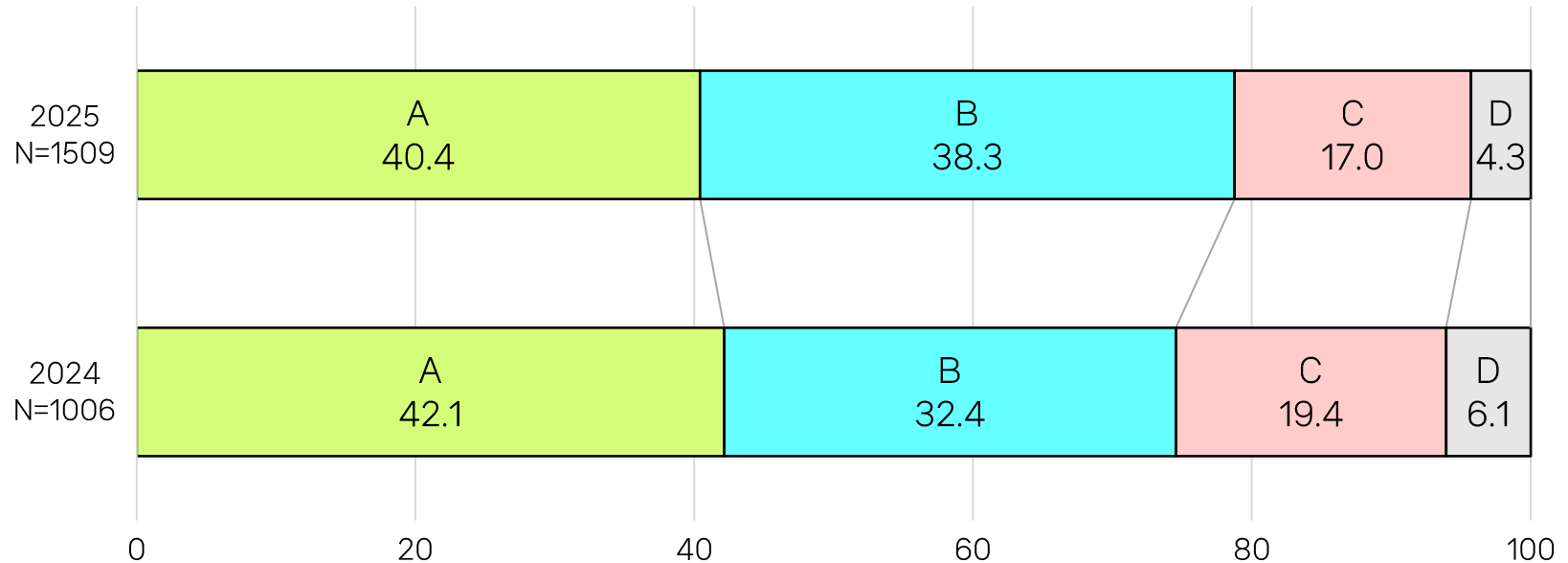


A	B	C	D	E
Very bad	Somewhat bad	Somewhat good	Very good	Neither

ROK-Japan Relations and the Historical Issues

Q27. What do you think about the ROK-Japan relations and the historical issues between them?

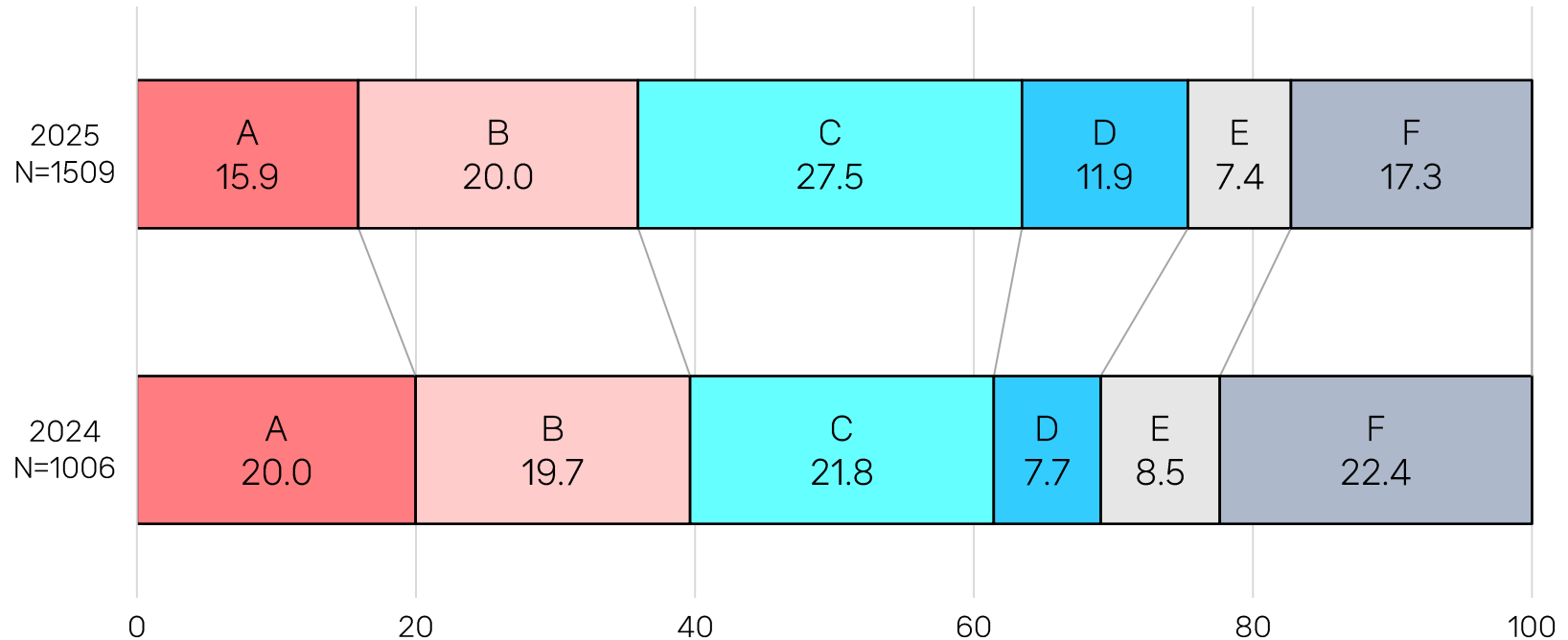
(%)



A	Without resolving historical issues, future-oriented cooperation between the two countries will be difficult.
B	If the two countries build a future-oriented cooperative relations, historical issues will gradually be resolved.
C	Historical issues will not be resolved, regardless of the cooperation between the two countries.
D	Not sure

Evaluation of the Third-party Subrogation Payment

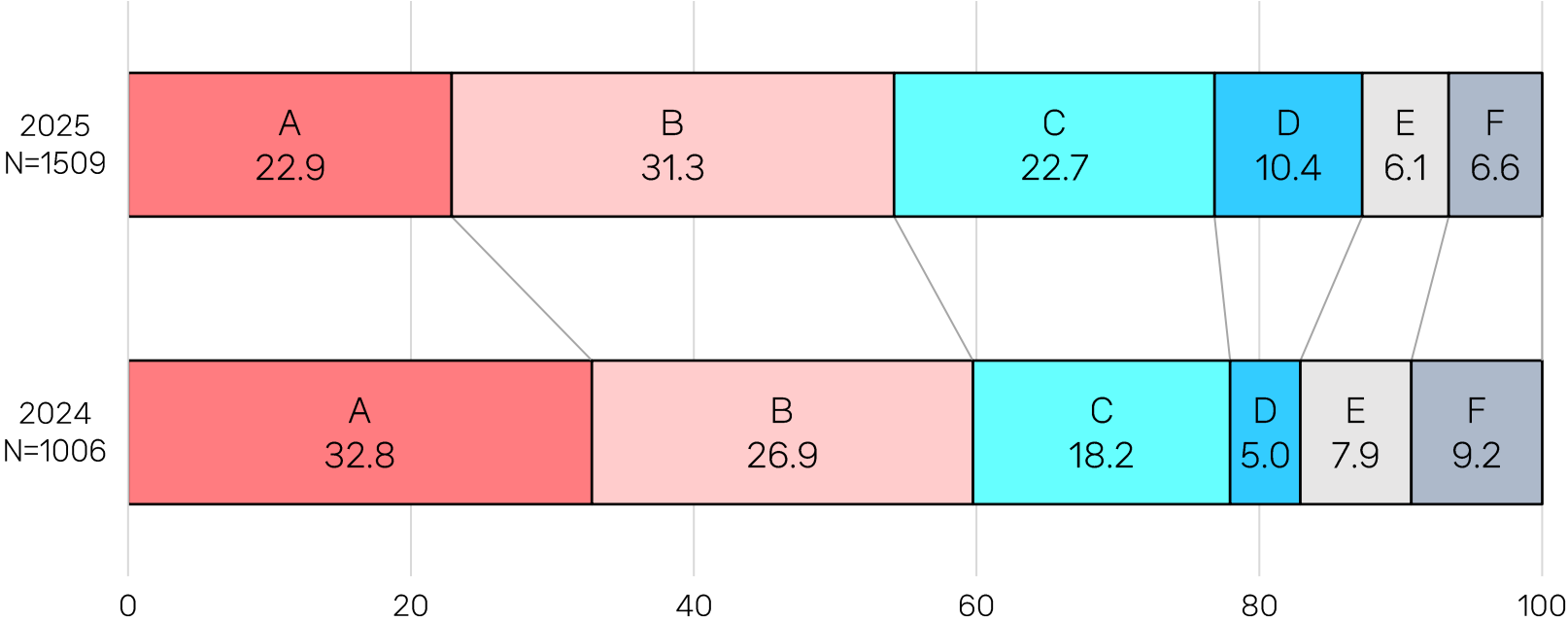
Q28. What do you think about the South Korean government's proposal of a "third-party subrogation payment" to resolve the dispute over Wartime Forced Labor? (%)



A	B	C	D	E	F
Very negative	Somewhat negative	Somewhat positive	Very positive	Neither	Do not know what the "third-party subrogation payment" is

ROK Government's Response to the Sado Mine Issue

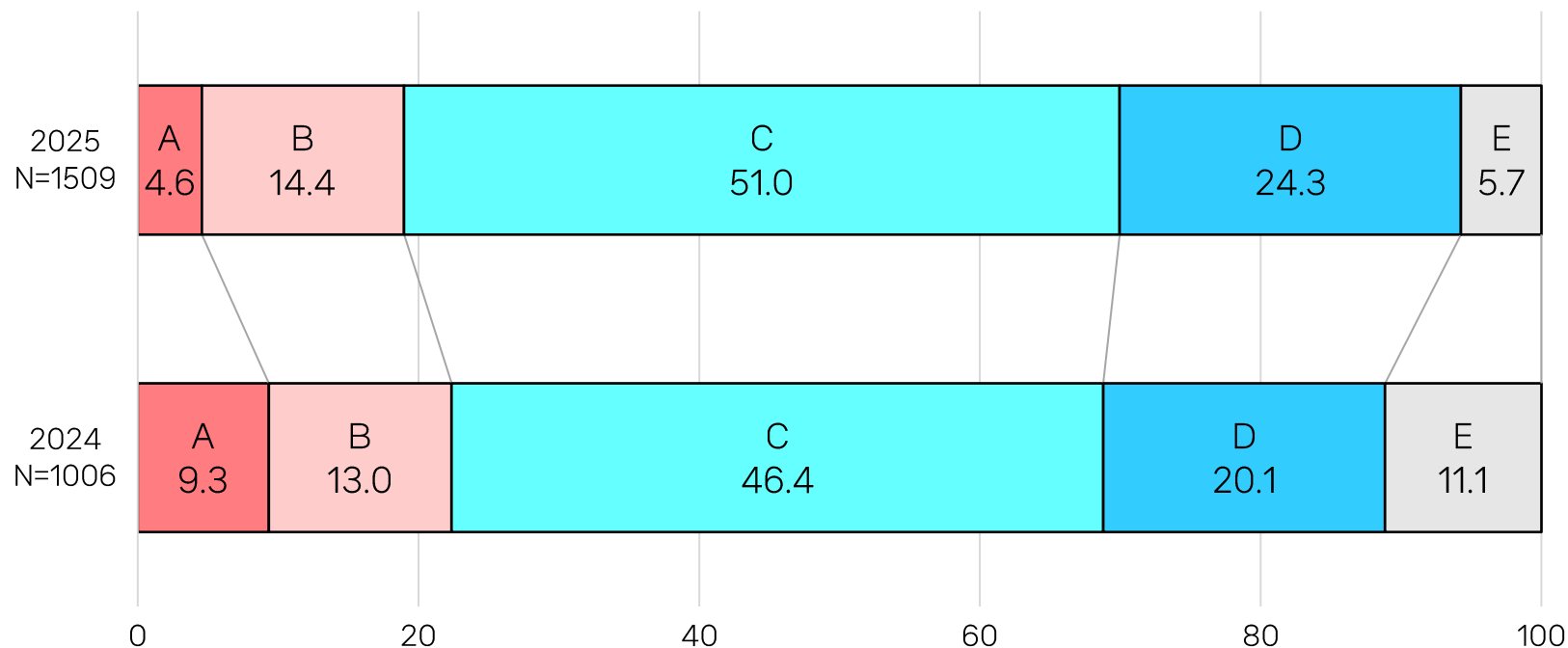
Q29. On July 27, 2024, the Sado Mine in Japan was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site. How do you evaluate the South Korean government's response during the negotiation process between the South Korean and Japanese governments to reflect the history of forced labor of Koreans at the Sado Mine during the Japanese colonial era? (%)



A	B	C	D	E	F
Very negative	Somewhat negative	Somewhat positive	Very positive	Neither	Do not know about the Sado Mine issue

Opinion on the ROK-US-Japan Trilateral Military Security Cooperation

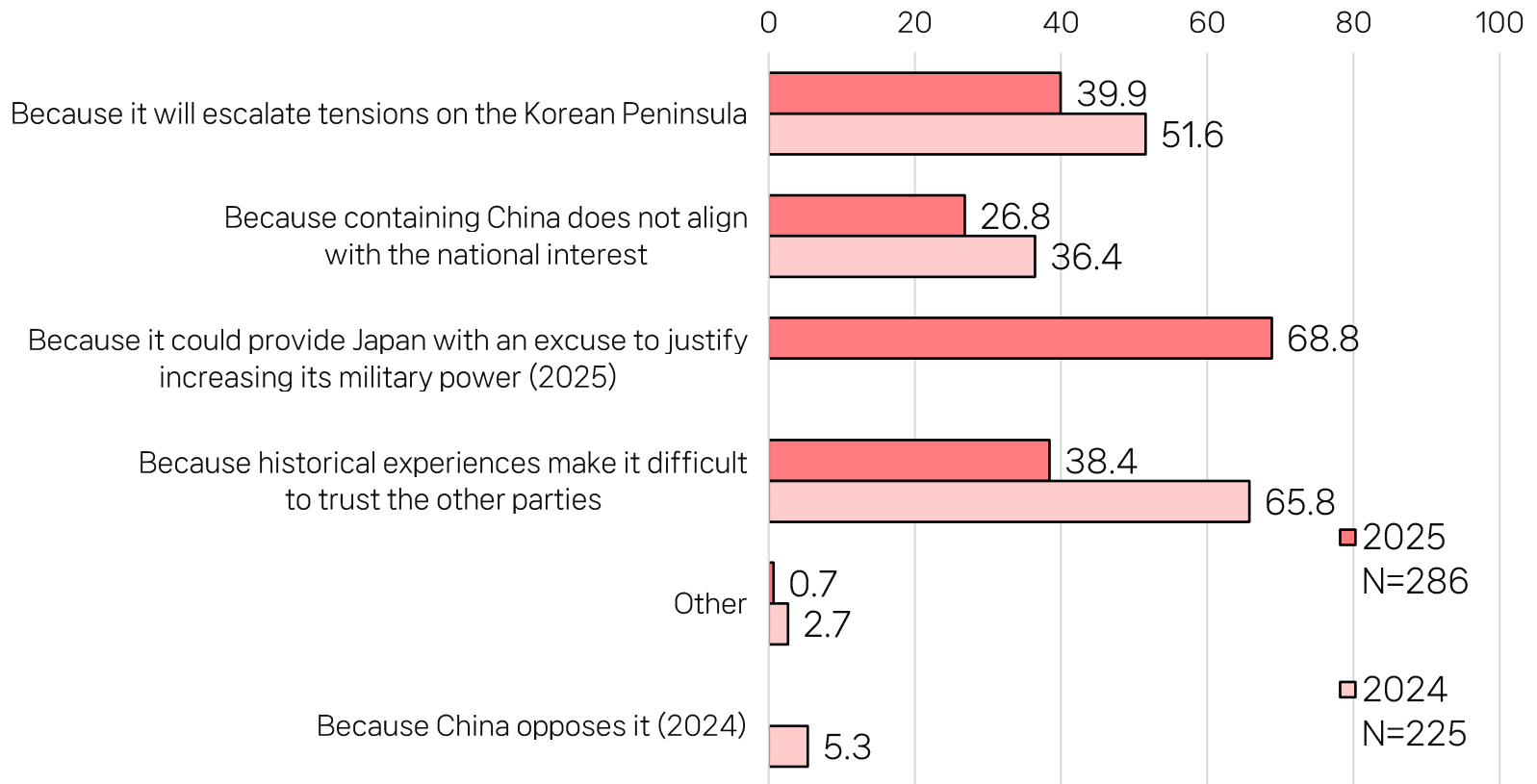
Q30. What is your opinion on the idea of strengthening trilateral military security cooperation between South Korea, the United States, and Japan? (%)



A	B	C	D	E
Very negative	Somewhat negative	Somewhat positive	Very positive	Neither

Reasons of the Negative Opinion on the ROK-US-Japan Trilateral Military Security Cooperation

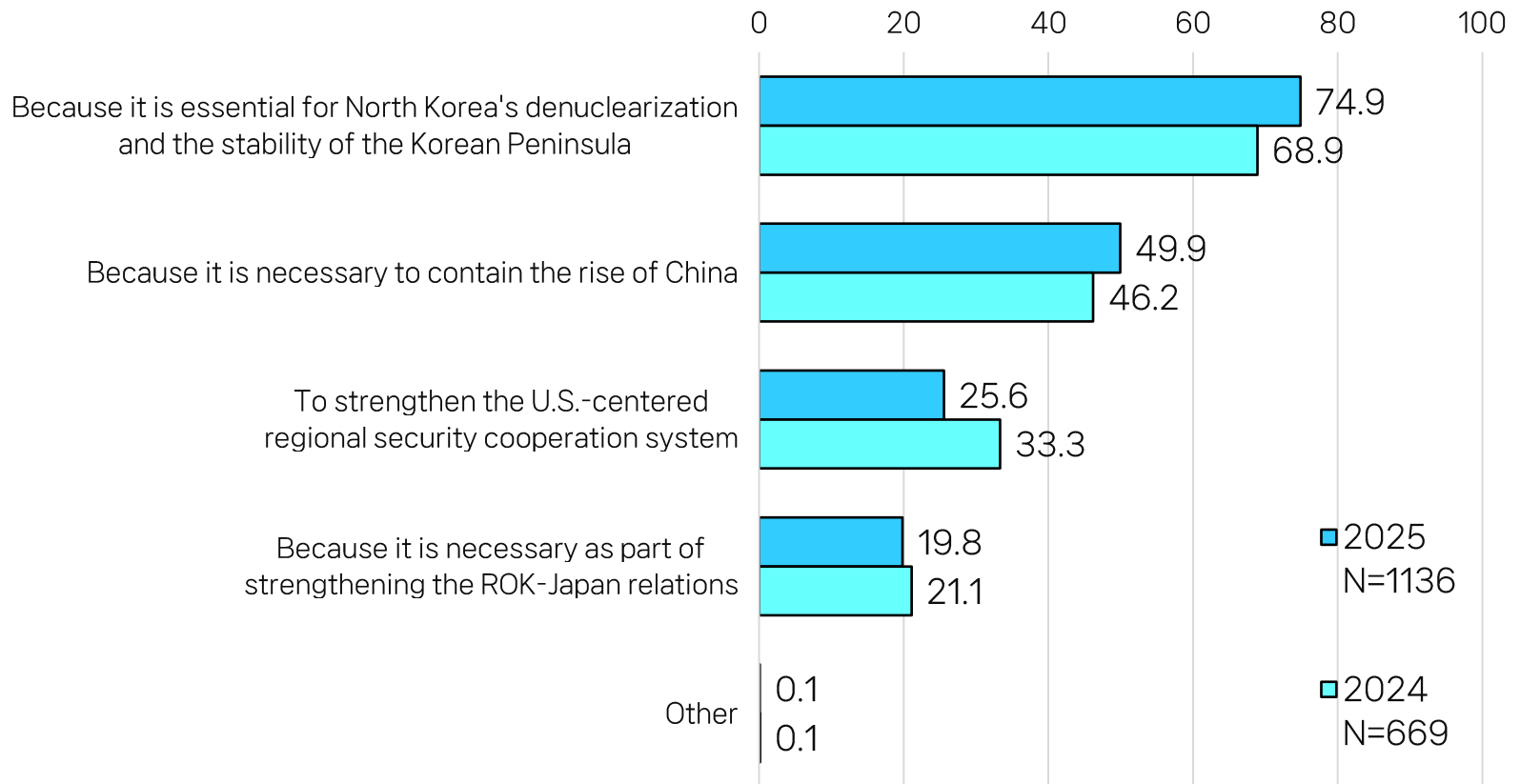
Q30-a. (Only those who answered "very negative" or "somewhat negative" in Q30)
What are the reasons for your negative opinion? [Multiple responses] (%)



Reasons of the Positive Opinion on the ROK-US-Japan Trilateral Military Security Cooperation

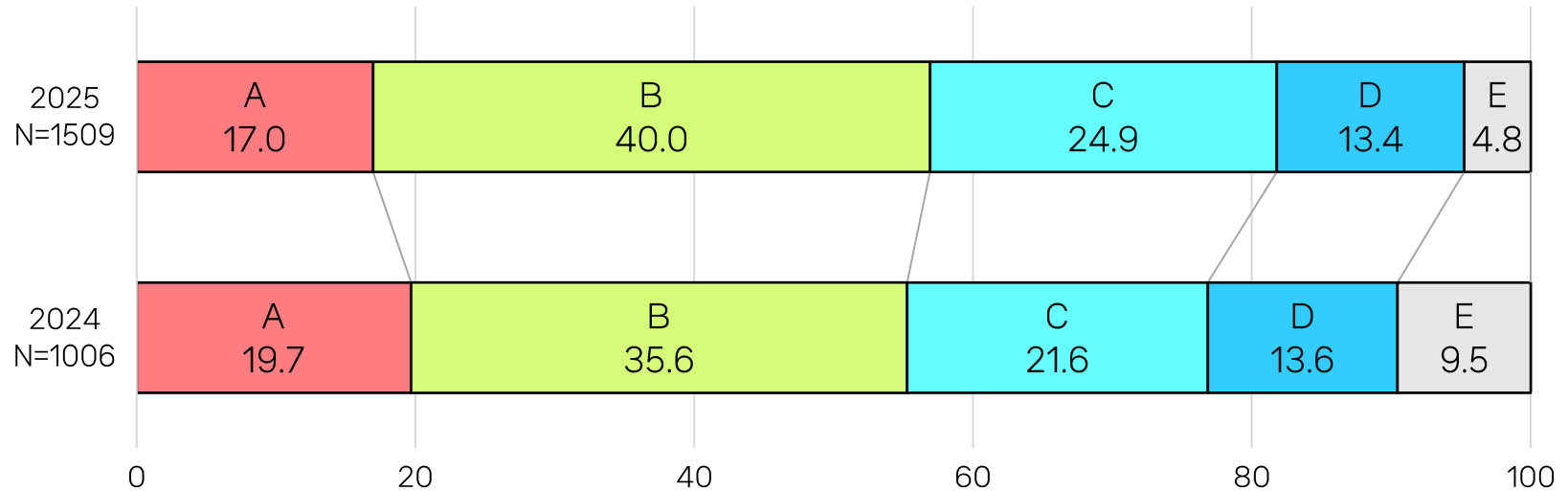
Q30-b. (Only those who answered "very positive" or "somewhat positive" in Q30)
What are the reasons for your positive opinion? [Multiple responses]

(%)



Direction of the ROK-Japan Security Cooperation in Response to North Korea

Q31. What do you think about the direction of the ROK-Japan security cooperation, in response to the rapidly increasing nuclear and missile threats by North Korea? (%)



A	Oppose the ROK-Japan security cooperation, even in response to North Korean nuclear issue.
B	Information sharing between South Korea and Japan is necessary to address North Korean military threats.
C	In addition to information sharing, a policy coordination body should be established for joint responses between South Korea and Japan.
D	South Korea and Japan should consider forming an alliance, even if only to respond to North Korea.
E	Not sure

IV. Perception on China and ROK-China Relations

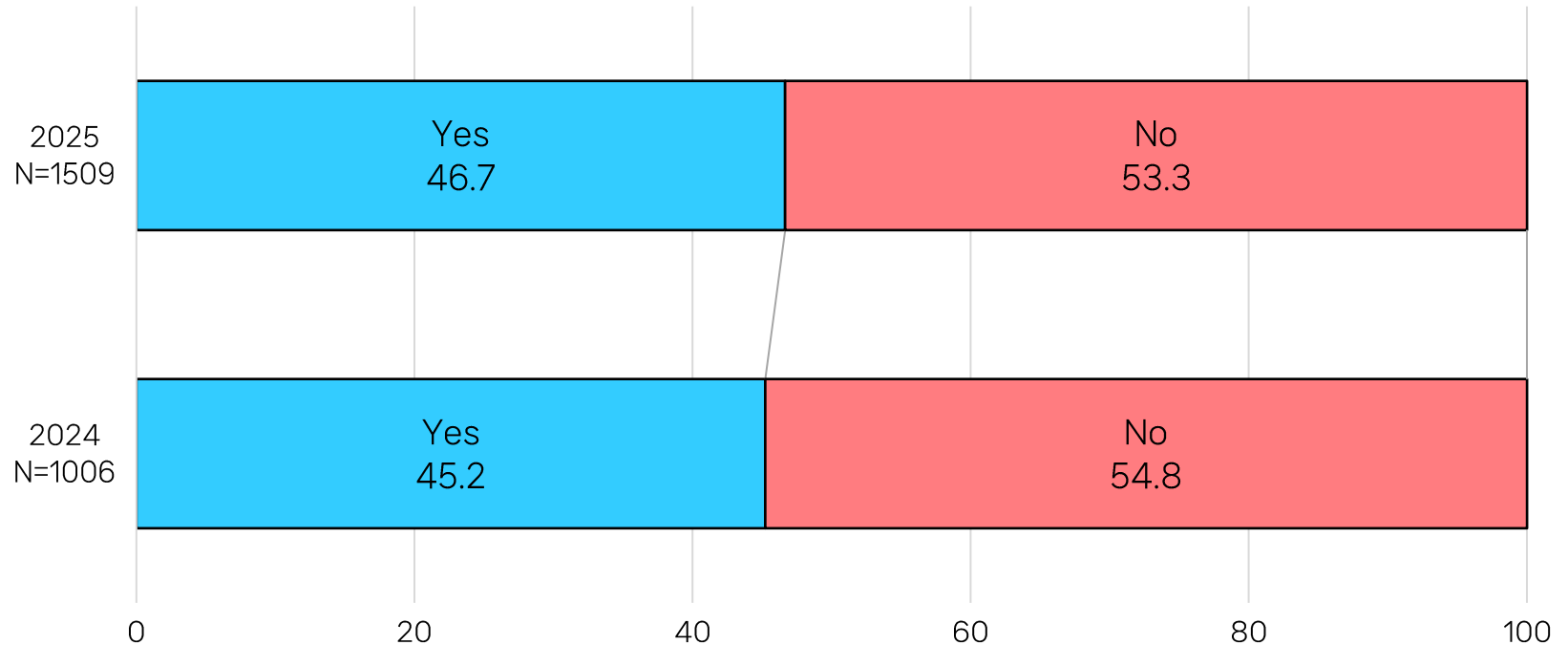
“Unfavorable Characteristic” vs. “Economic Opportunities”

- 66.3% of respondents have a “negative” or “somewhat negative” impression of China, more than double the number of respondents having a “positive” or “somewhat positive” impression (25.6%). Compared to 2024, the percentage of respondents who answered “neither” decreased, while both negative and positive impressions increased slightly.
- The main reason for the unfavorable impression was “because the national character and behavior are unappealing” at 58.1%, overwhelming other factors such as one-party dictatorship, economic coercion and retaliation (up to the second rank). The main reason for the favorable impression was “because China’s market offers significant economic opportunities” at 70.8%, overwhelming other factors such as sustained economic growth, culture and traditions (up to the second rank).
- 54.0% of respondents responded that current ROK-China relations are “bad,” which is a decrease of 6.1%p from the previous year (60.1%). 88.4% responded that ROK-China relations are important, indicating that public opinion recognizing the importance of mutual relations has continued over the past three years, regardless of negative public perception of China.
- The most concerning recent developments in China were “conflict with the United States” (26.8%), “coercive diplomacy against South Korea” (19.5%), and “passive attitude toward North Korean provocations and nuclear issues” (16.0%) (single response). In particular, “conflict with the United States” increased by 9.7 percentage points compared to the previous year (17.1%), showing a consistent perception with survey results that recognize US-China conflict as the biggest threat.
- A majority of respondents believe that China has a role to play in responding to North Korea's military provocations (84.1%) and that China's influence is important in the process of North Korea's denuclearization (88.3%), indicating public opinion that demands China's contribution to the North Korea issue.

Experience of Visiting China

Q32. Have you ever visited China?

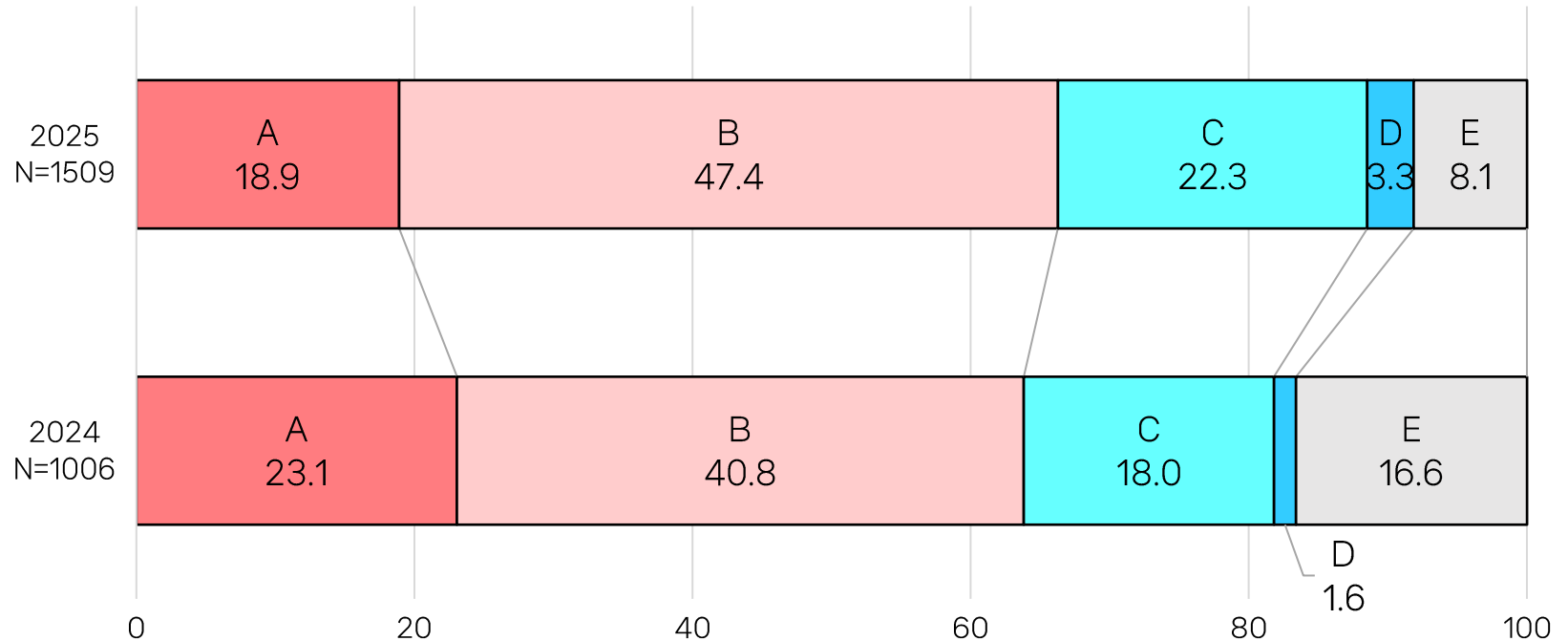
(%)



Impression of China

Q33. What is your impression of China?

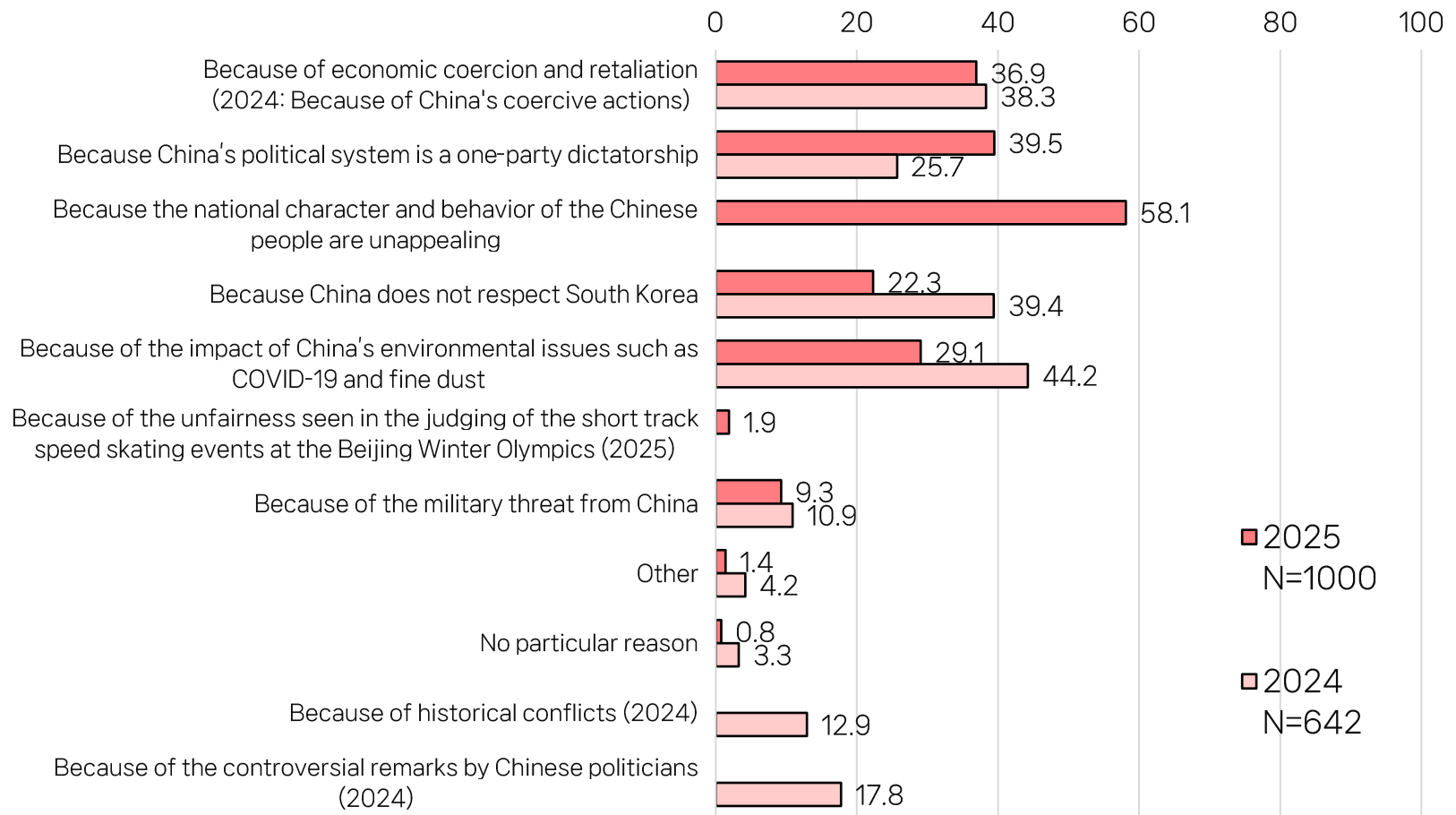
(%)



A	B	C	D	E
Unfavorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Somewhat favorable	Favorable	Neither

Reasons for Unfavorable Impressions of China

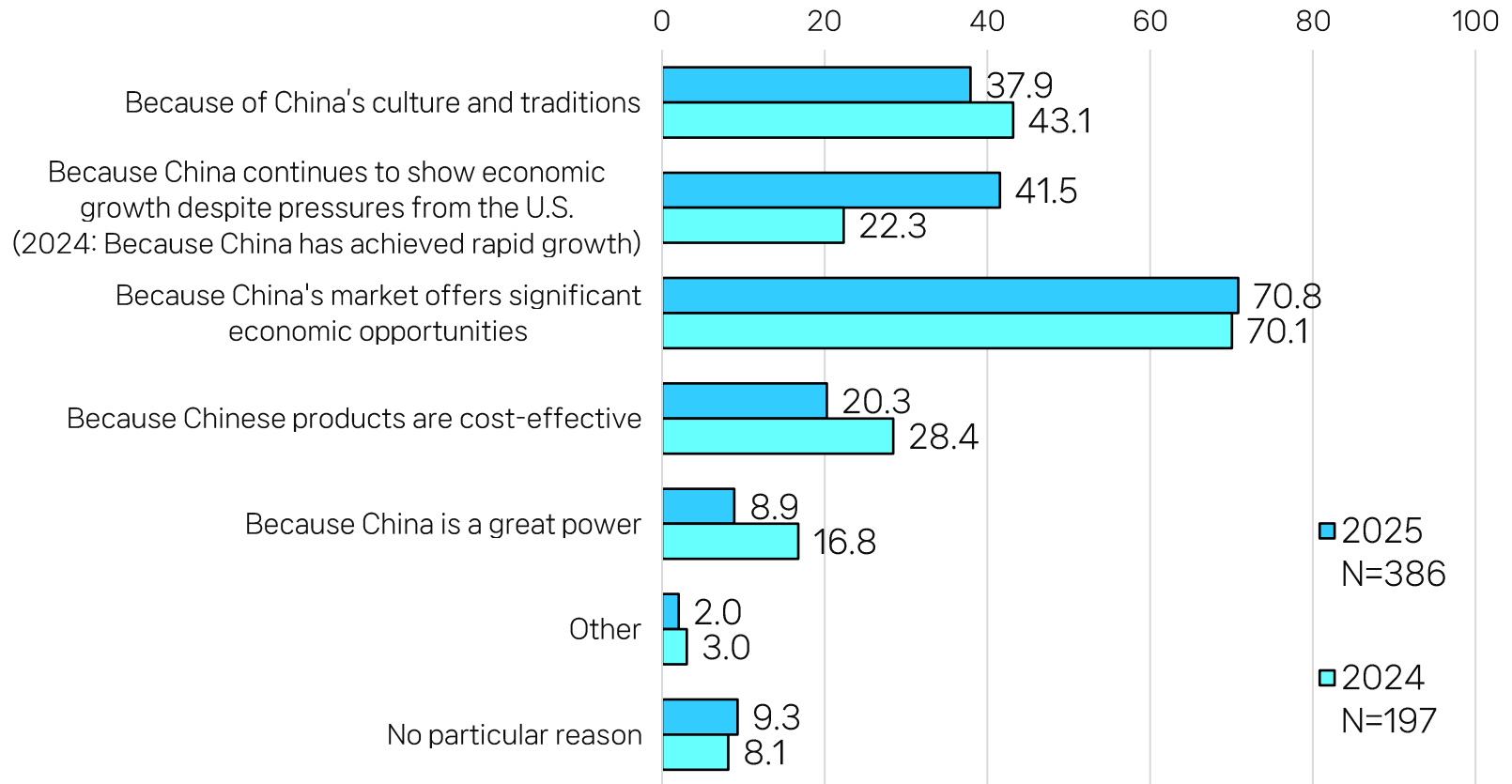
Q33-a. (Only those who answered “unfavorable” or “somewhat unfavorable” in Q33)
Why do you have an unfavorable impression of China? [Up to 2 responses] (%)



Reasons for Favorable Impressions of China

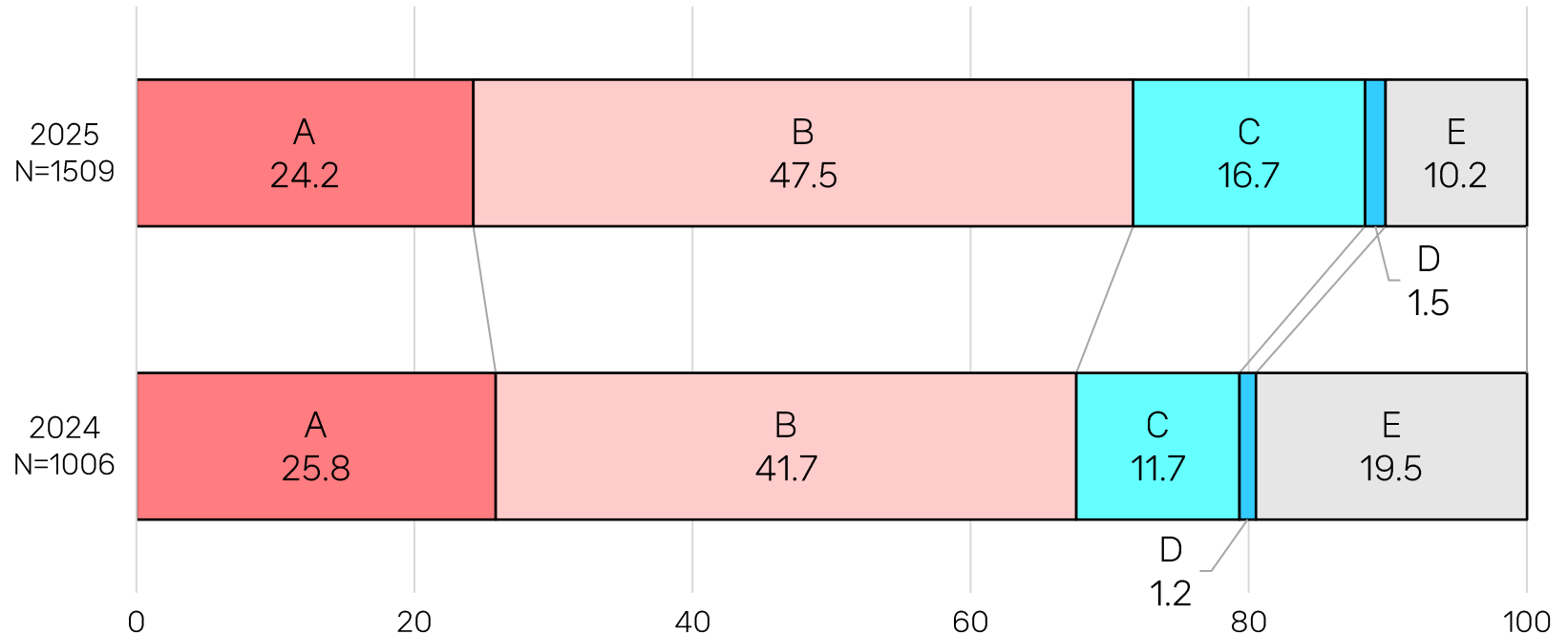
Q33-b. (Only those who answered "favorable" or "somewhat favorable" in Q33)
Why do you have a favorable impression of China? [Up to 2 responses]

(%)



Impression of PRC President

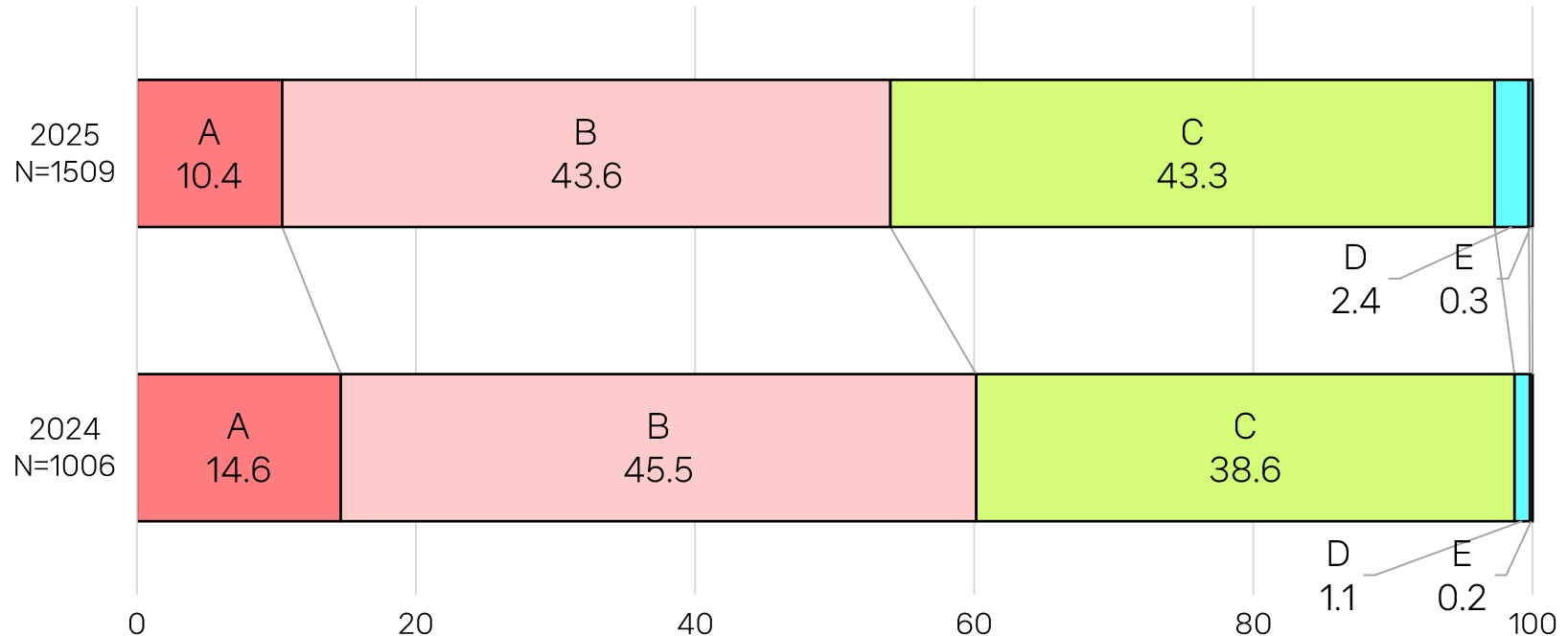
Q34. What is your impression of Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China? (%)



A	B	C	D	E
Very bad	Bad	Good	Very good	Neither

Current ROK-China Relations

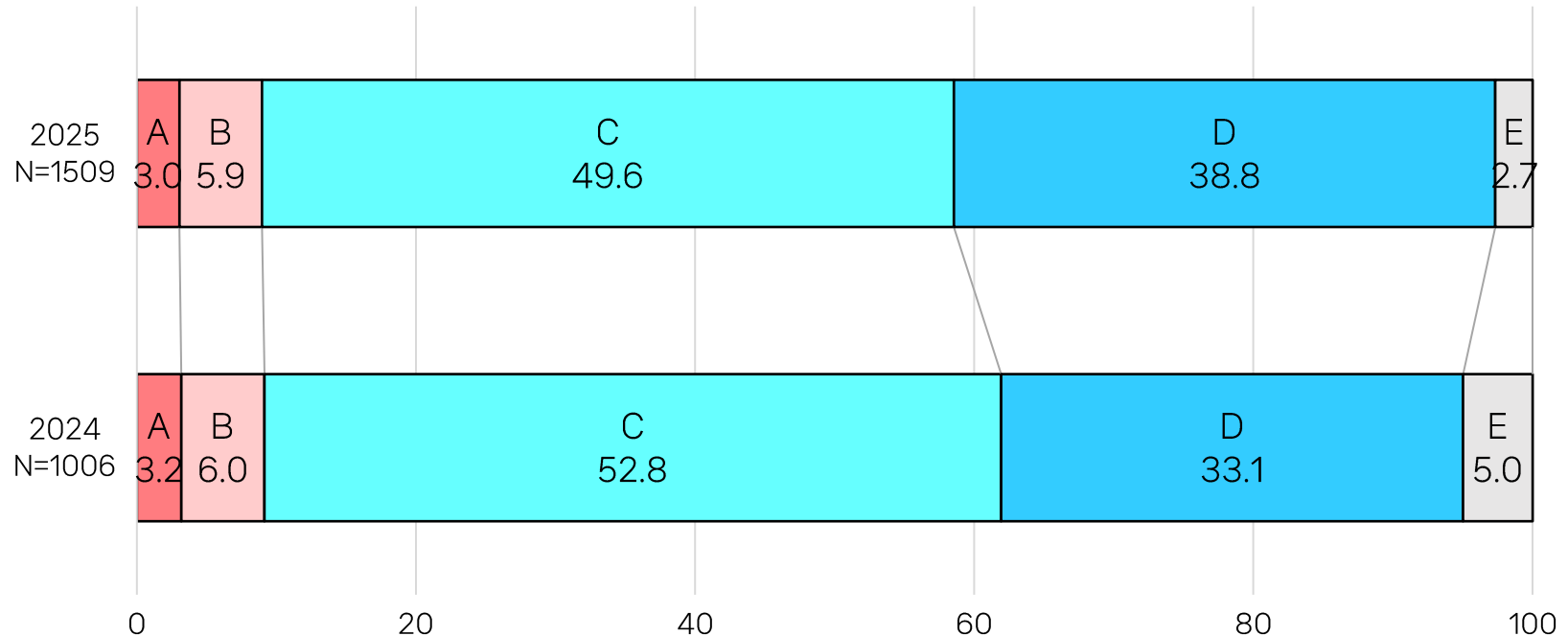
Q35. What do you think current relations between South Korea and China are like? (%)



A	B	C	D	E
Very bad	Somewhat bad	Fair	Somewhat good	Very good

Importance of the ROK-China Relations

Q36. Do you think the ROK-China relations are currently important to South Korea? (%)

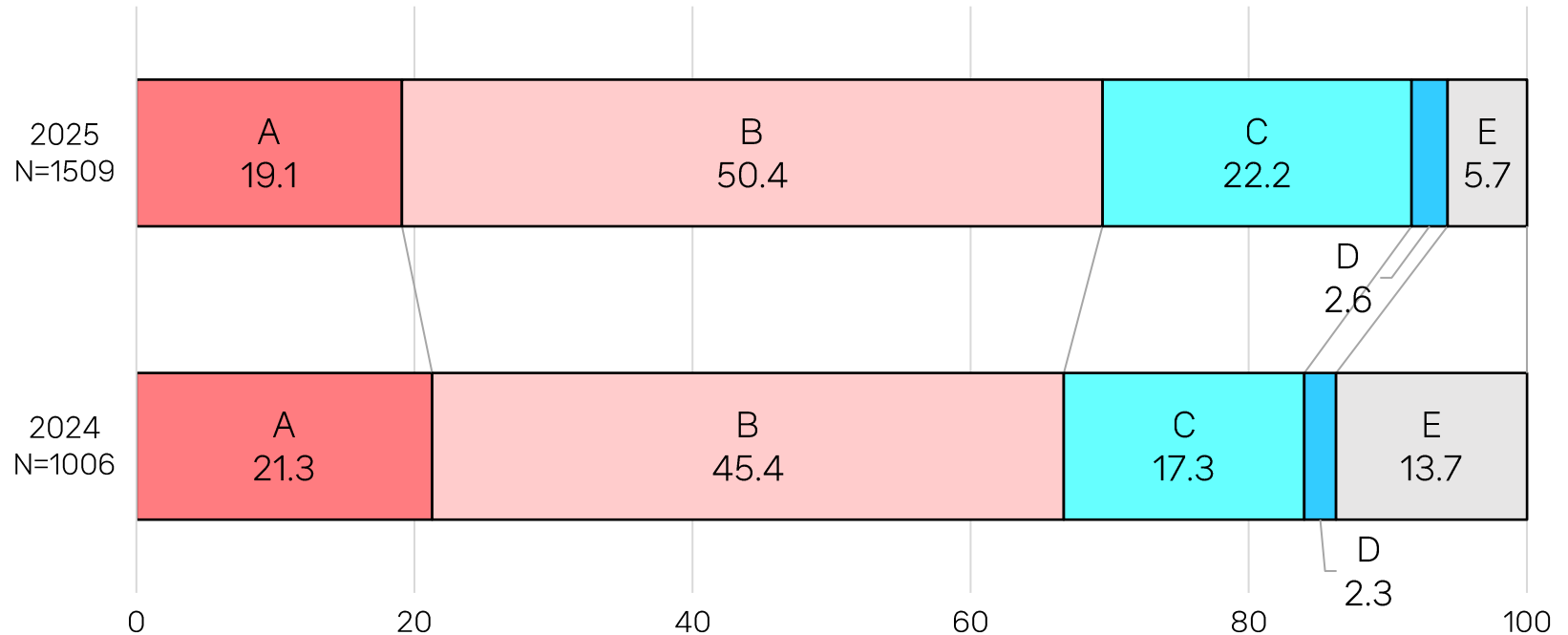


A	B	C	D	E
Not at all	Very little	Somewhat	To a great extent	Neither

Reliability of China

Q37. Do you think China is a trustworthy partner of South Korea?

(%)

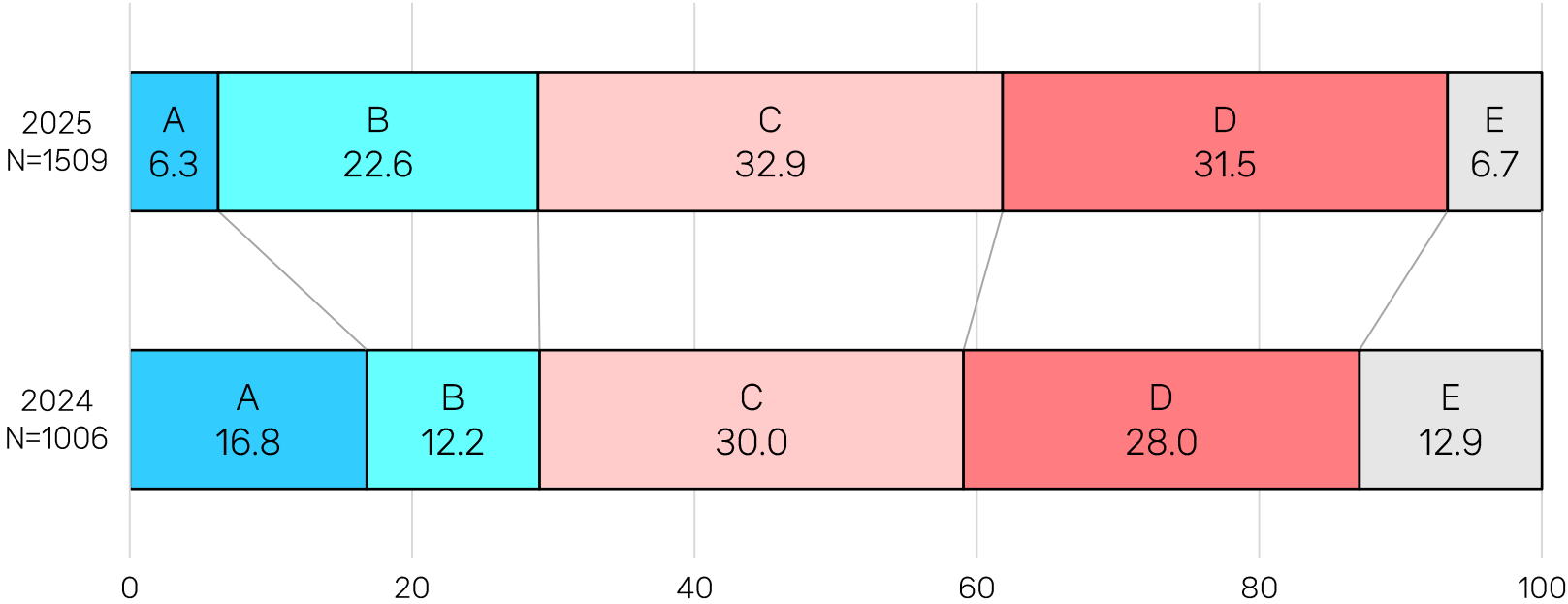


A	B	C	D	E
Definitely not	Not really	Somewhat	Definitely yes	Neither

Economic Relations Between South Korea and China

Q38. Regarding the economic relations between South Korea and China, which of the following statements do you agree with more: A or B? (%)

A: The two economies are mutually complementary. / B: The two economies are mutually competitive.

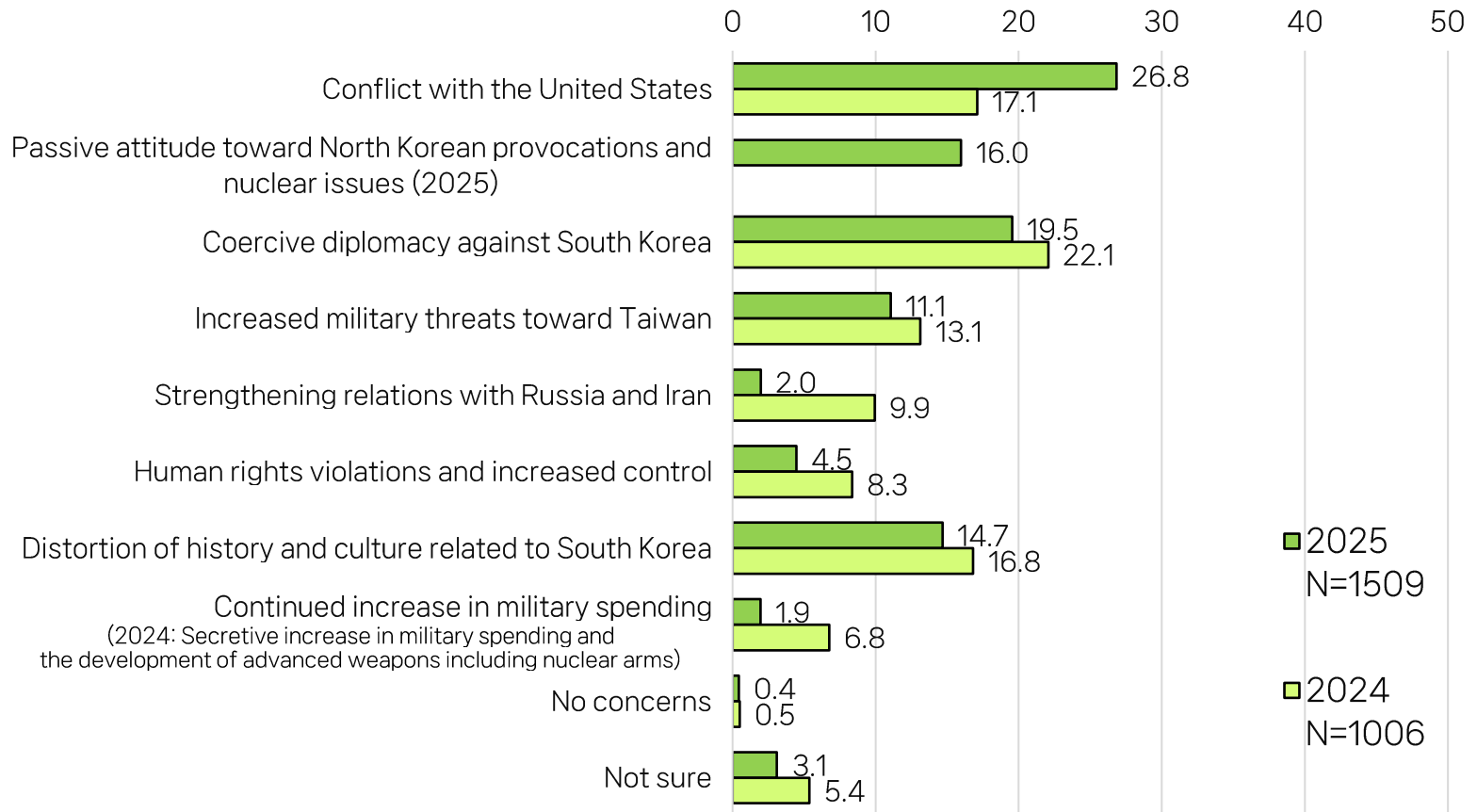


A	B	C	D	E
Closer to A	Somewhat closer to A	Somewhat closer to B	Closer to B	Neither

Concerns about the Recent Developments in China

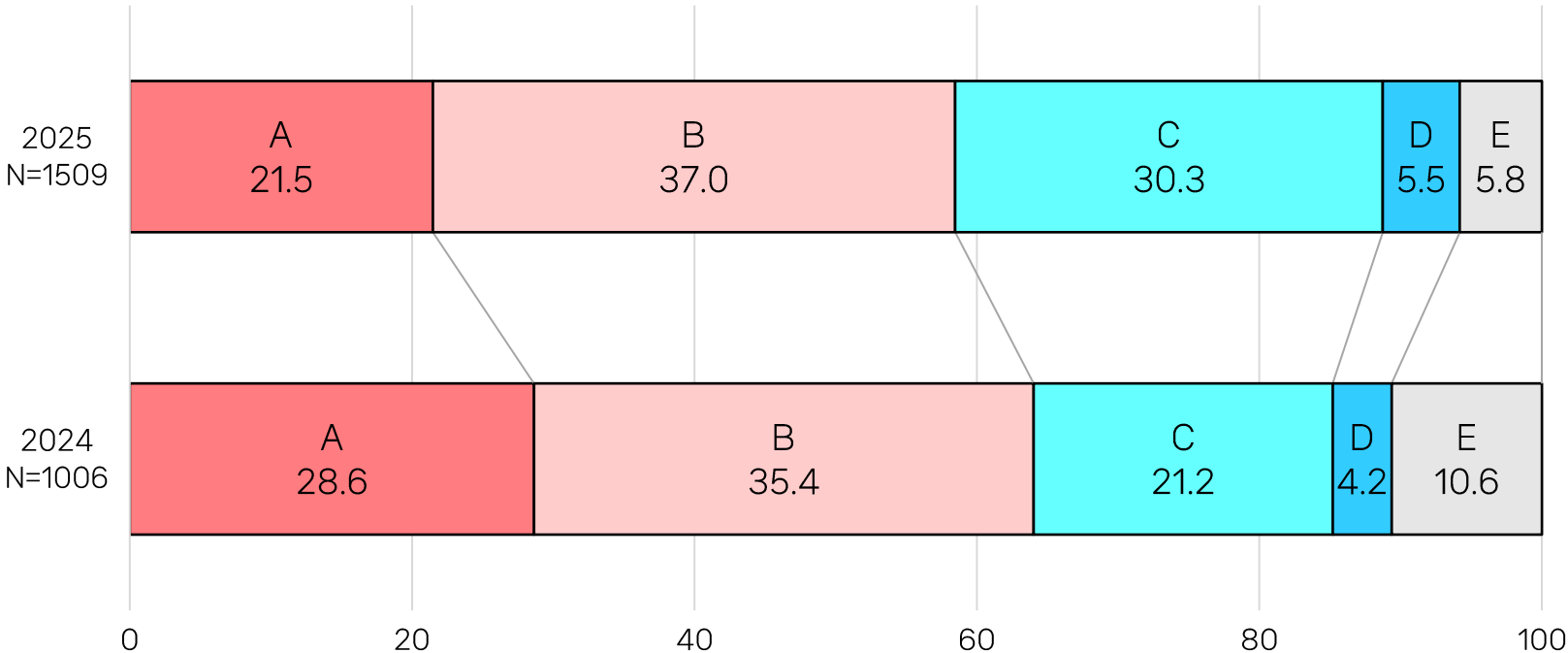
Q39. What concerns you the most about the recent developments in China?
[Single response]

(%)



Whether China Will Surpass the United States

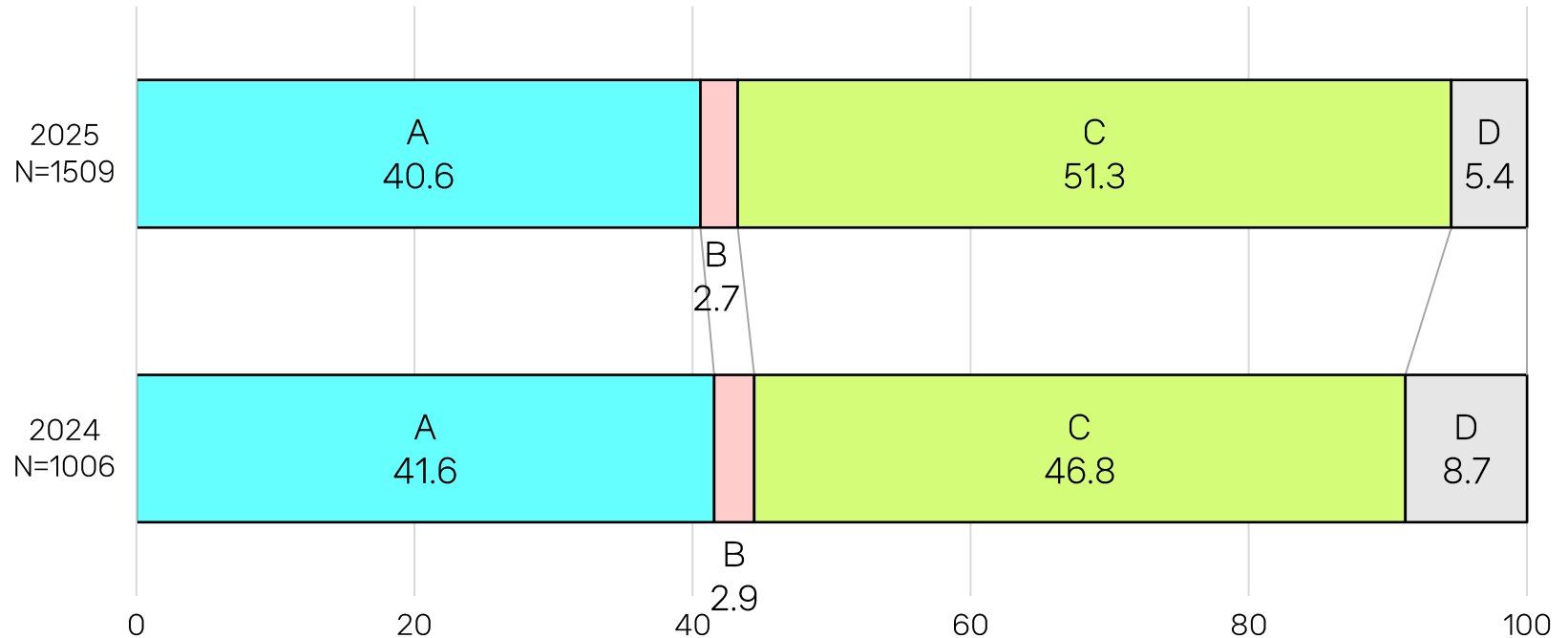
Q40. Do you believe China will surpass the United States and become a global leader in the near future? (%)



A	B	C	D	E
Definitely not	Unlikely	Likely	Definitely yes	Neither

South Korea's Position in U.S.-China Conflict

Q41. In the event of a serious U.S.-China conflict, what position should ROK adopt? (%)

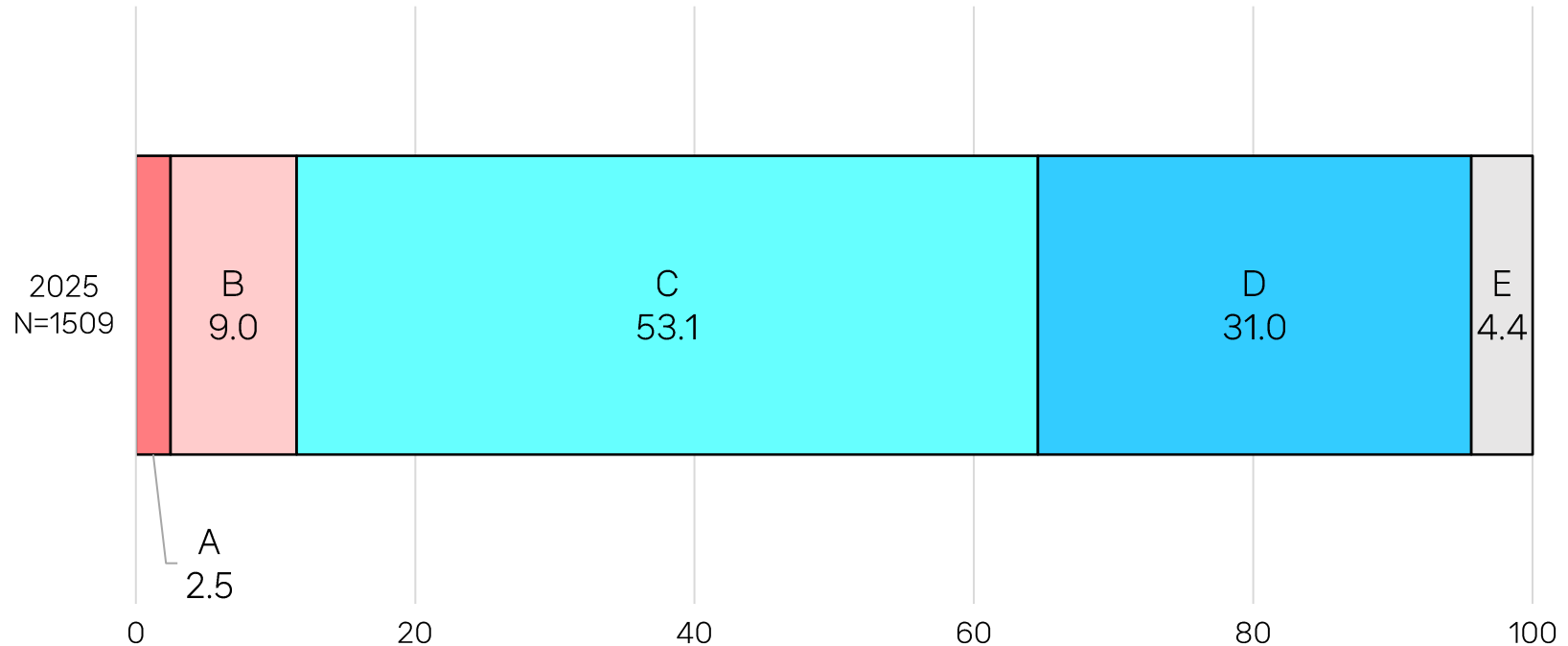


A	B	C	D
Support the United States	Support China	Remain Neutral	Not sure

China's Role in Responding to North Korea's Military Provocations

Q42. Do you think China has a role to play in responding to the military provocations of North Korea?

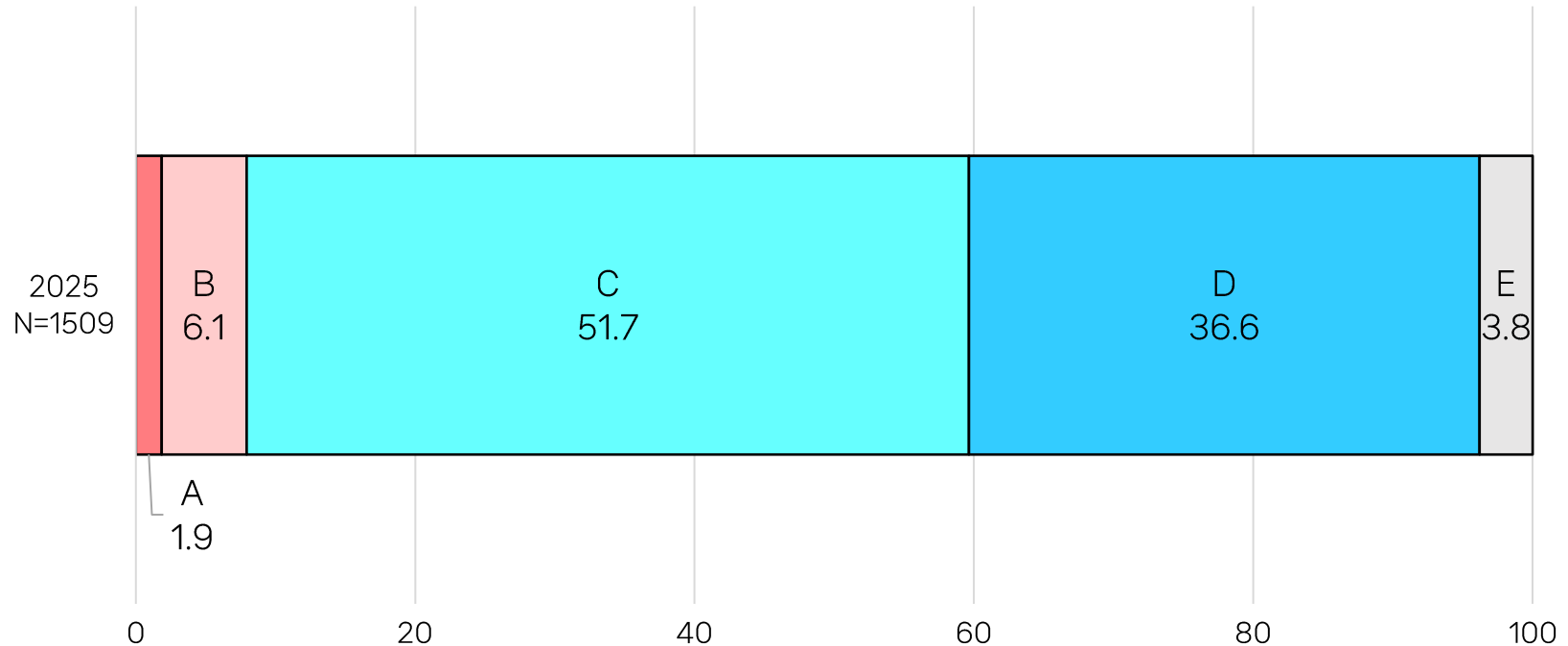
(%)



A	B	C	D	E
Definitely not	Unlikely	Likely	Definitely yes	Neither

China's Influence in North Korea's Denuclearization Process

Q43. How do you assess China's influence in North Korea's denuclearization process? (%)



A	B	C	D	E
Very unimportant	Somewhat unimportant	Somewhat important	Very important	Neither

V. Perception of North Korea and Inter-Korean Relations

Divided Opinion on Credibility of U.S. Extended Deterrence ...

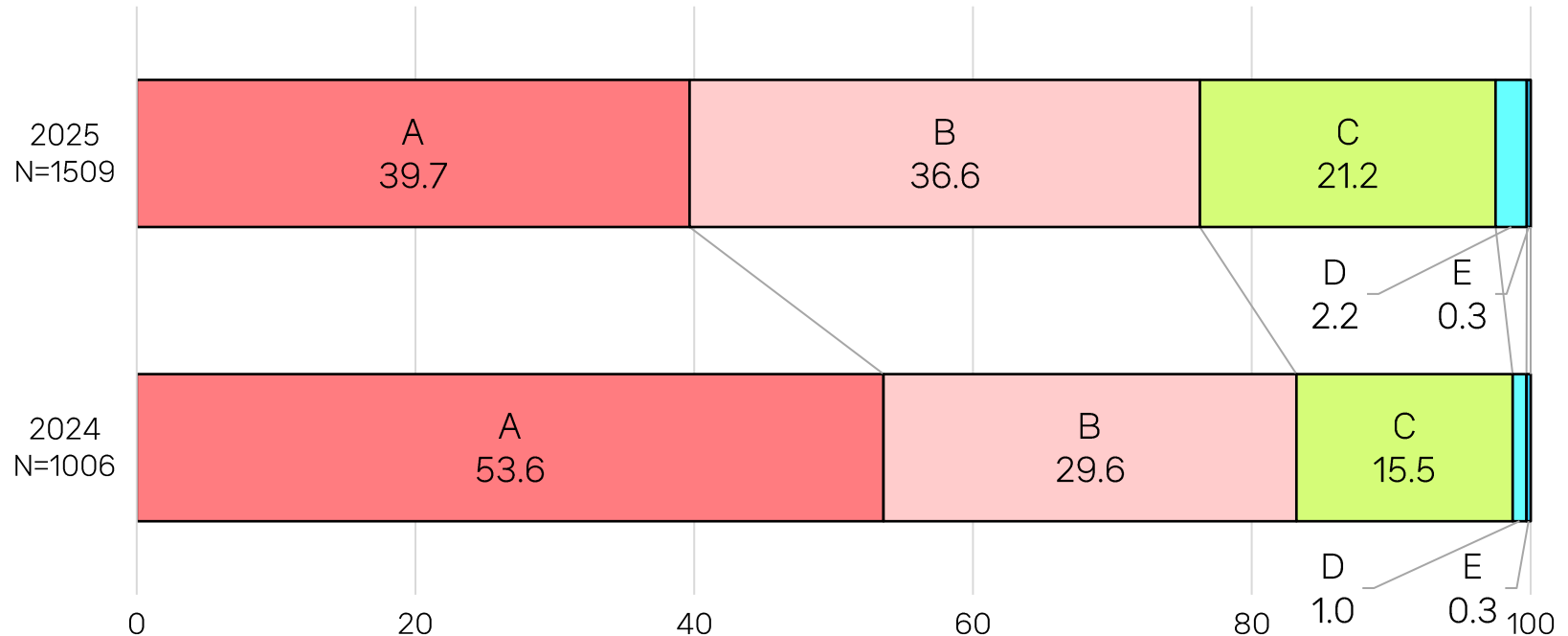
75.1% Support South Korea's Nuclear Armament

- 76.3% of respondents responded that current inter-Korean relations are “very bad” or “somewhat bad.” This figure is a 6.9%p decrease from the 2024 survey result of 83.2%, while the percentage of respondents who answered “fair” increased by 5.7%p (15.5% to 21.2%) over the same period.
- Regarding the outlook for inter-Korean relations in 10 years, 39.3% of respondents answered that “the current instability will continue,” which was the highest percentage for the second consecutive year. Meanwhile, the percentage of respondents who answered that “inter-Korean relations will improve” increased by 8.7%p from 22.5% to 31.2%.
- When asked whether the United States extended deterrence (nuclear umbrella) in response to North Korea's nuclear threat is sufficient, 52.6% disagreed, while 41.8% agreed. The gap between the two increased to 10.8%p from 6.2%p last year.
- When asked whether South Korea should go nuclear if North Korea does not abandon its nuclear weapons, 75.1% of respondents agreed, which is more than three times higher than the 19.9% who disagreed.
- Regarding the future of North Korea–Russia relations, a majority of respondents (59.4%) predicted that “North Korea will become closer to both Russia and China to the same degree.”

Current Inter-Korean Relations

Q44. What do you think current inter-Korean relations are like?

(%)

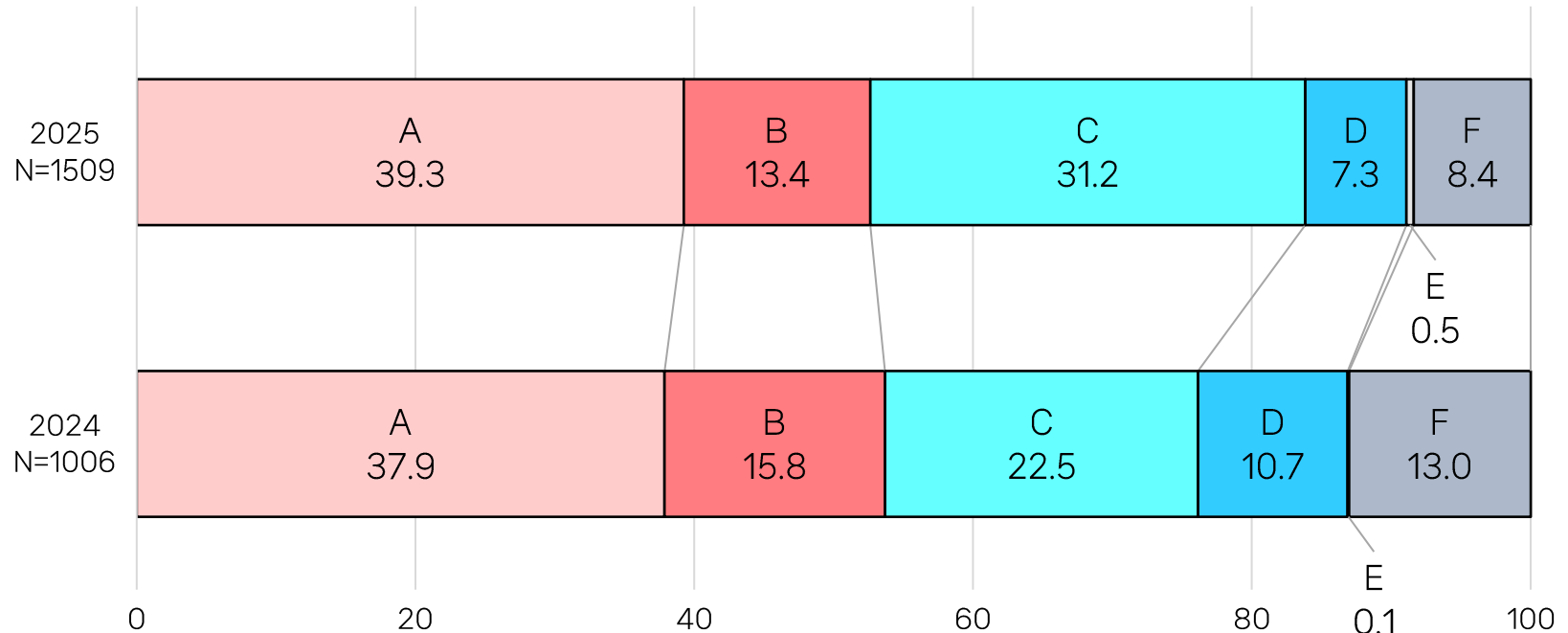


A	B	C	D	E
Very bad	Somewhat bad	Fair	Somewhat good	Very good

Future of Inter-Korean Relations

Q45. How do you envision inter-Korean relations ten years from now?
(2024: Situation on the Korean Peninsula ten years from now)

(%)



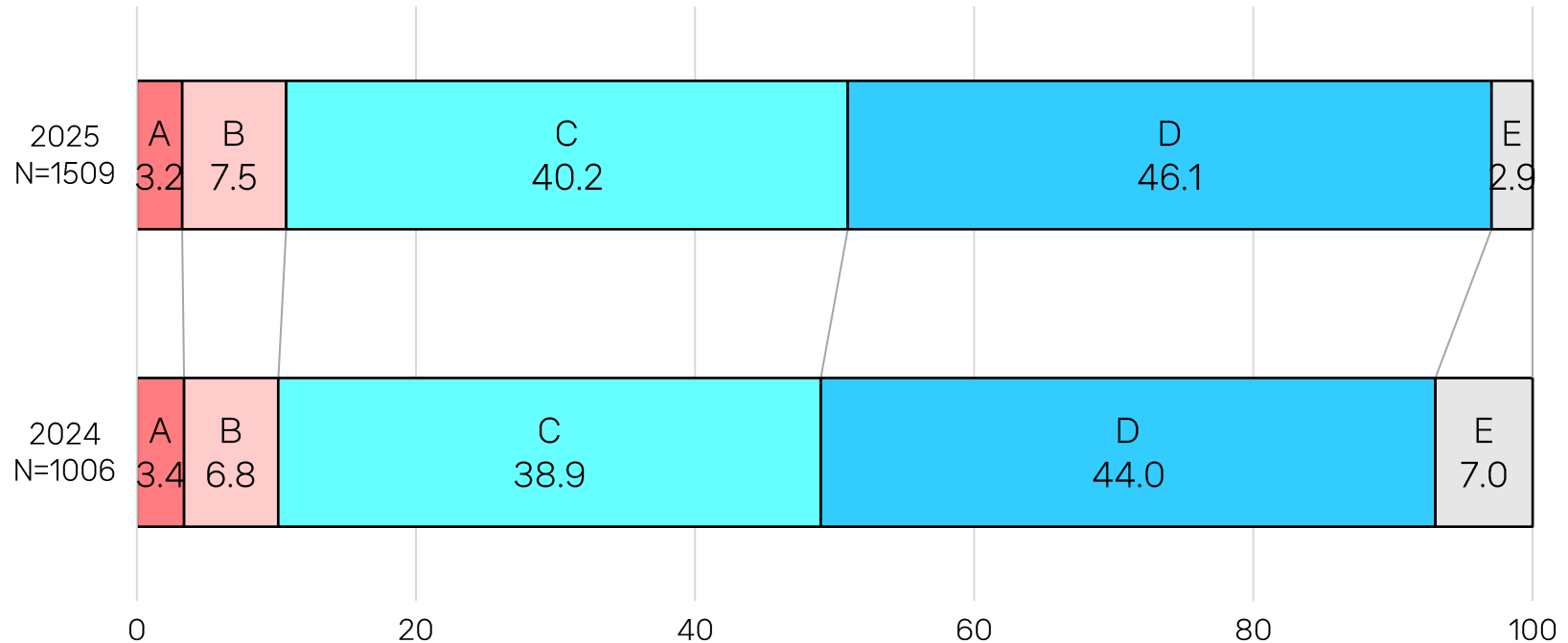
A	B	C	D	E	F
The current instability will continue	Inter-Korean tensions will deepen	Inter-Korean relations will improve	Possibility of inter-Korean reunification will increase	Other	Not sure

Opinion on Maintaining North Korea Denuclearization Goal

Q46. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

1) The goal of denuclearizing North Korea should be maintained.

(%)



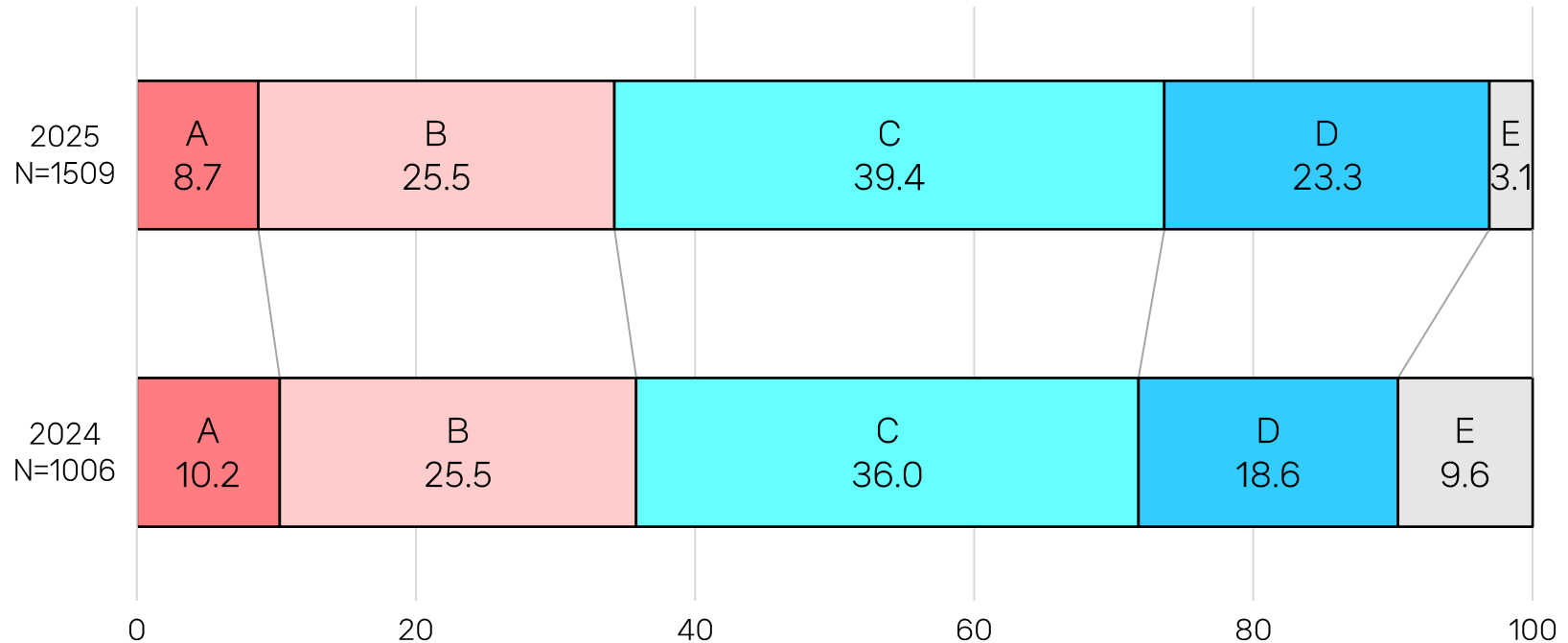
A	B	C	D	E
Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	Neither

Opinion on Possibility of North Korea Using Nuclear Weapons Preemptively

Q46. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

2) North Korea would use nuclear weapons preemptively against South Korea if necessary.

(%)



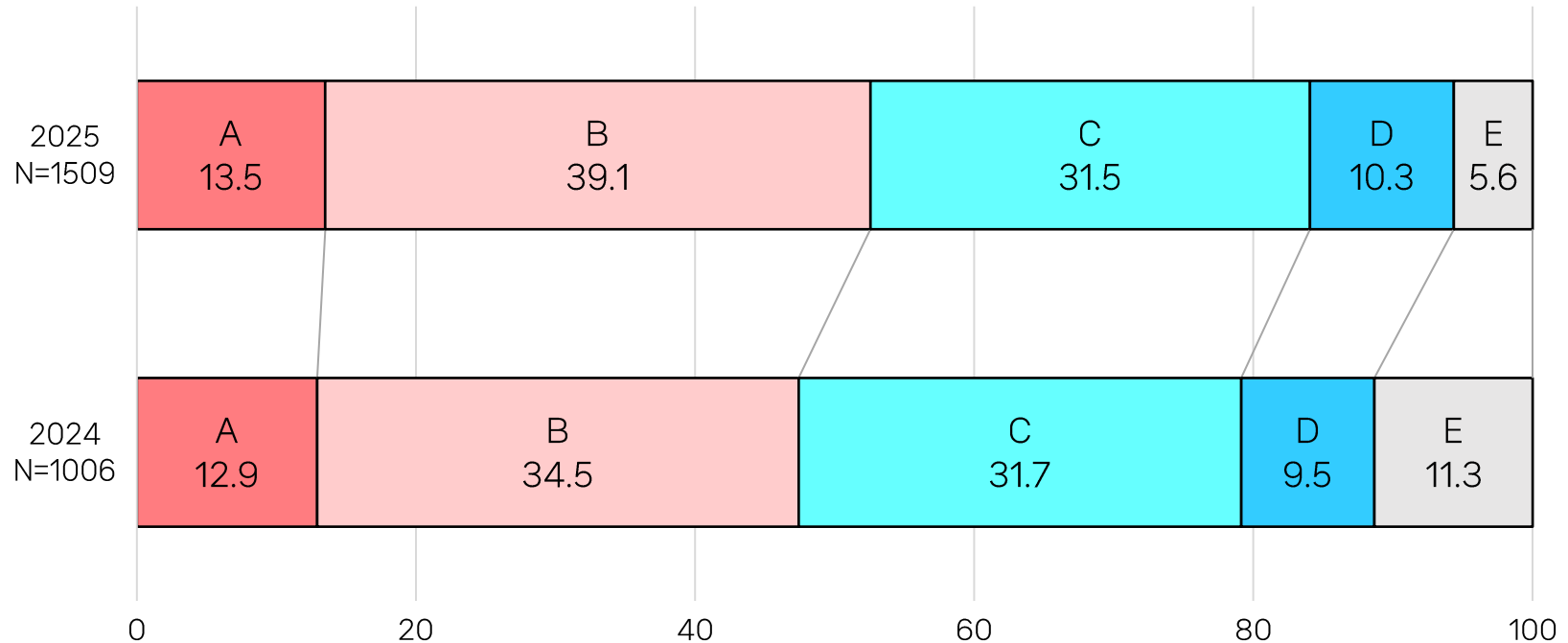
A	B	C	D	E
Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	Neither

Opinion on Sufficiency of the U.S. Extended Deterrence

Q46. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

3) U.S. extended deterrence is sufficient to counter the North Korean nuclear threat.

(%)

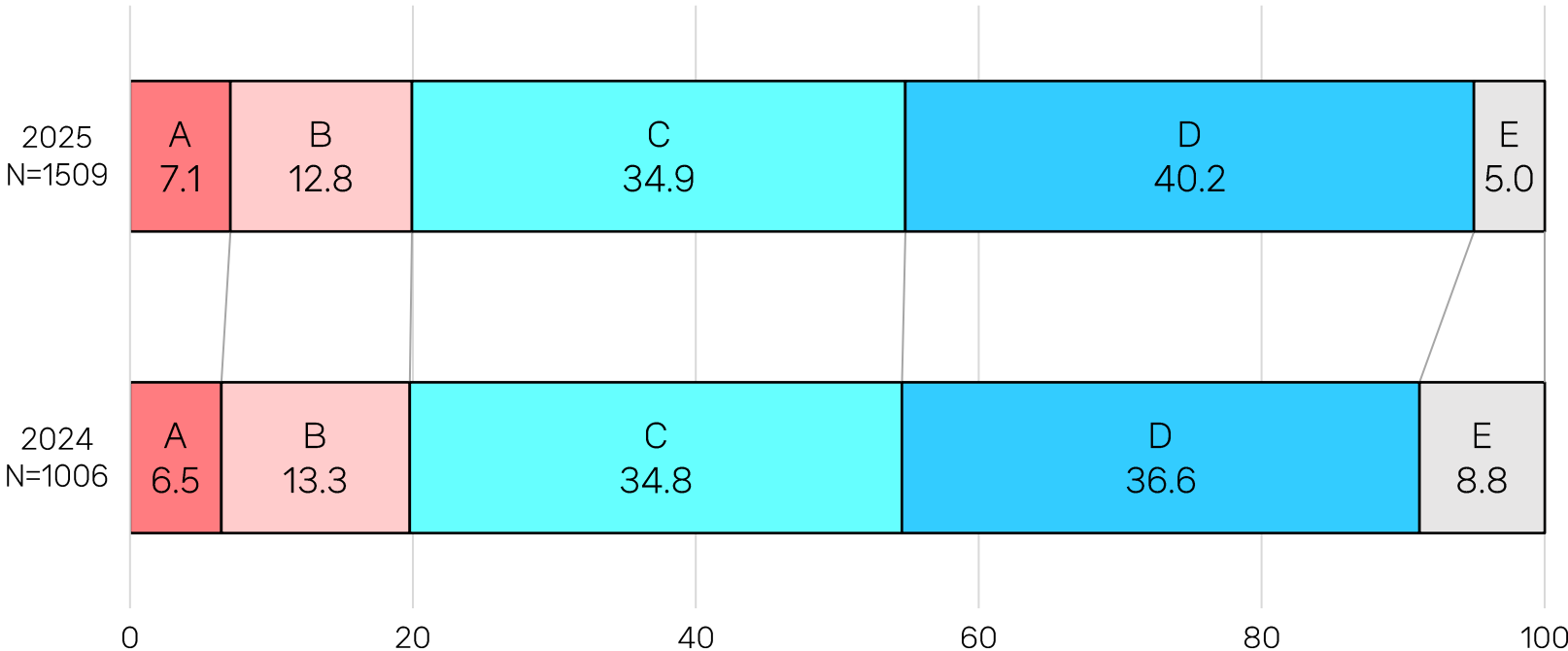


A	B	C	D	E
Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	Neither

Opinion on South Korea's Nuclear Armament

Q46. To what extent do you agree with the following statements? (%)

4) South Korea should go nuclear if North Korea does not abandon its nuclear weapons.

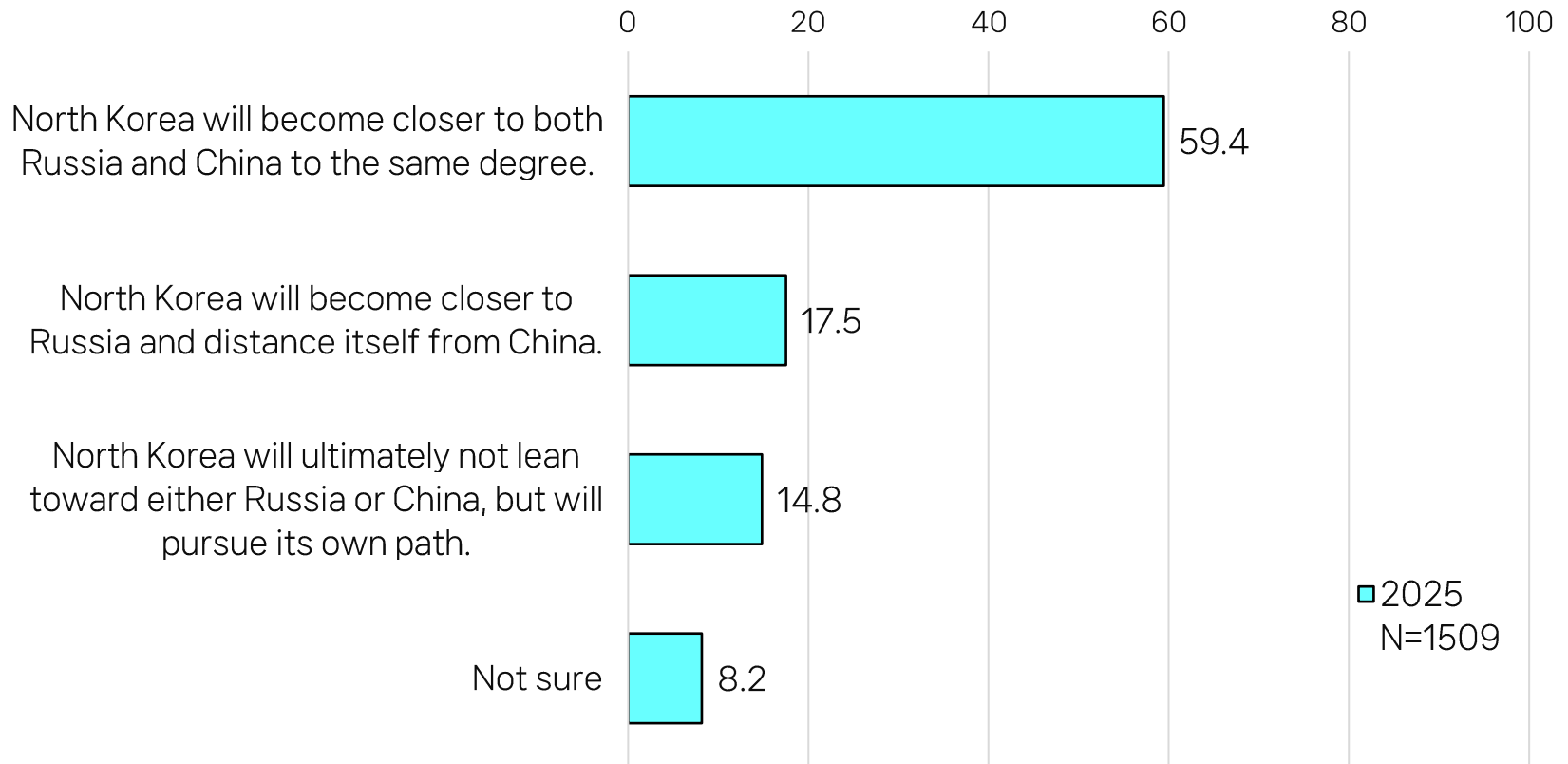


A	B	C	D	E
Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	Neither

Expectation on North Korea-Russia Relations

Q47. North Korea has signed a treaty with Russia for mutual military support and sent troops to the Russia-Ukraine war. What direction do you think North Korea-Russia relations will take?

(%)



VI. Foreign Policy and Relations of the New Government

“Economic Diplomacy” as Top Diplomatic Priority ...

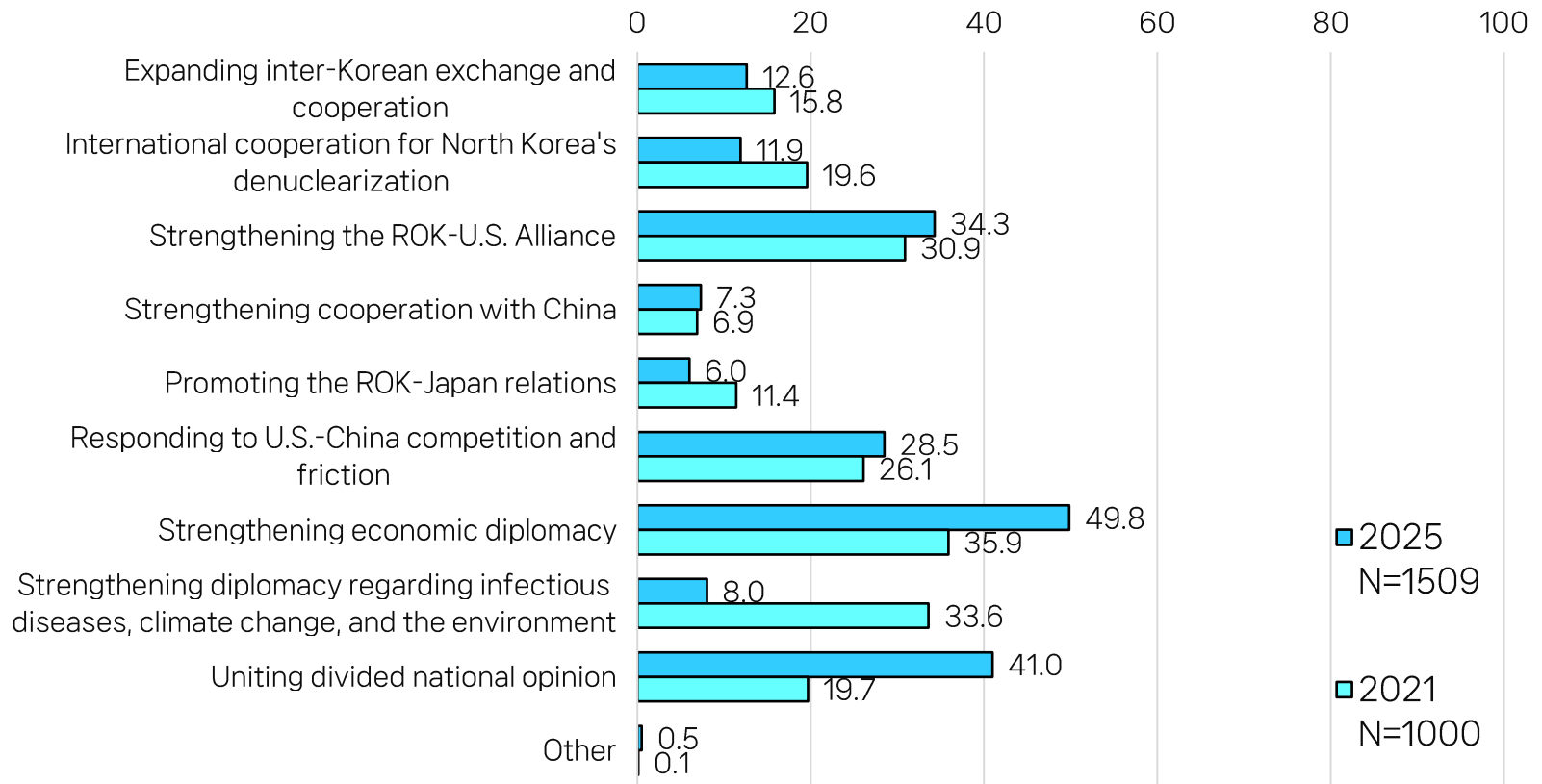
Over Half Anticipated “Relations with China and North Korea Will Improve”

- When asked to rank the new administration's top two foreign policy priorities, 49.8% of respondents cited “strengthening economic diplomacy,” the highest percentage since 2021. “Uniting divided national opinion” ranked second with 41.0%, more than double the figure in 2021 (19.7%). These were followed by “strengthening the ROK–US alliance” (34.3%) and “responding to U.S.–China competition and friction” (28.5%).
- Meanwhile, only 8.0% of respondents cited “strengthening diplomacy regarding infectious diseases, climate change, and the environment” as their priority, a significant decrease from 33.6% in 2021.
- When asked about the top policy priority to each major country, the United States ranked “Strengthening the ROK–U.S. Alliance” (36.6%) first, Japan ranked “Promoting future-oriented cooperation in areas such as economy, technology, security, and the environment” (49.6%) first, and China ranked “Expanding economic exchanges and cooperation in advanced technology” (33.9%) first.
- Concerning future relations under the new administration, 68.4% of respondents believed that ROK–China relations would improve, while 62.6% believed that inter-Korean relations would improve. Regarding ROK–U.S. relations, 49.9% believed they would improve, while 26.5% believed they would worsen. Regarding ROK–Japan relations, 31.9% of respondents believed they would improve, while 41.5% believed they would worsen, making it the only one of the four major countries where the outlook for deterioration outweighed the outlook for improvement.
- When asked whether they agreed with the new administration continuing the foreign policy direction promoted by the Yoon Suk Yeol administration, including strengthening the U.S. nuclear umbrella, strengthening ROK–U.S.–Japan security cooperation, and responding to North Korean provocations in a principled and proportional manner, the percentage of respondents who agreed with each stance exceeded those who disagreed, but did not reach a majority.

New Administration's Top Diplomatic Priority

Q48. What do you think should be the new administration's top diplomatic priority?
[Up to 2 responses] * [Comparison to the 2021 survey results](#)

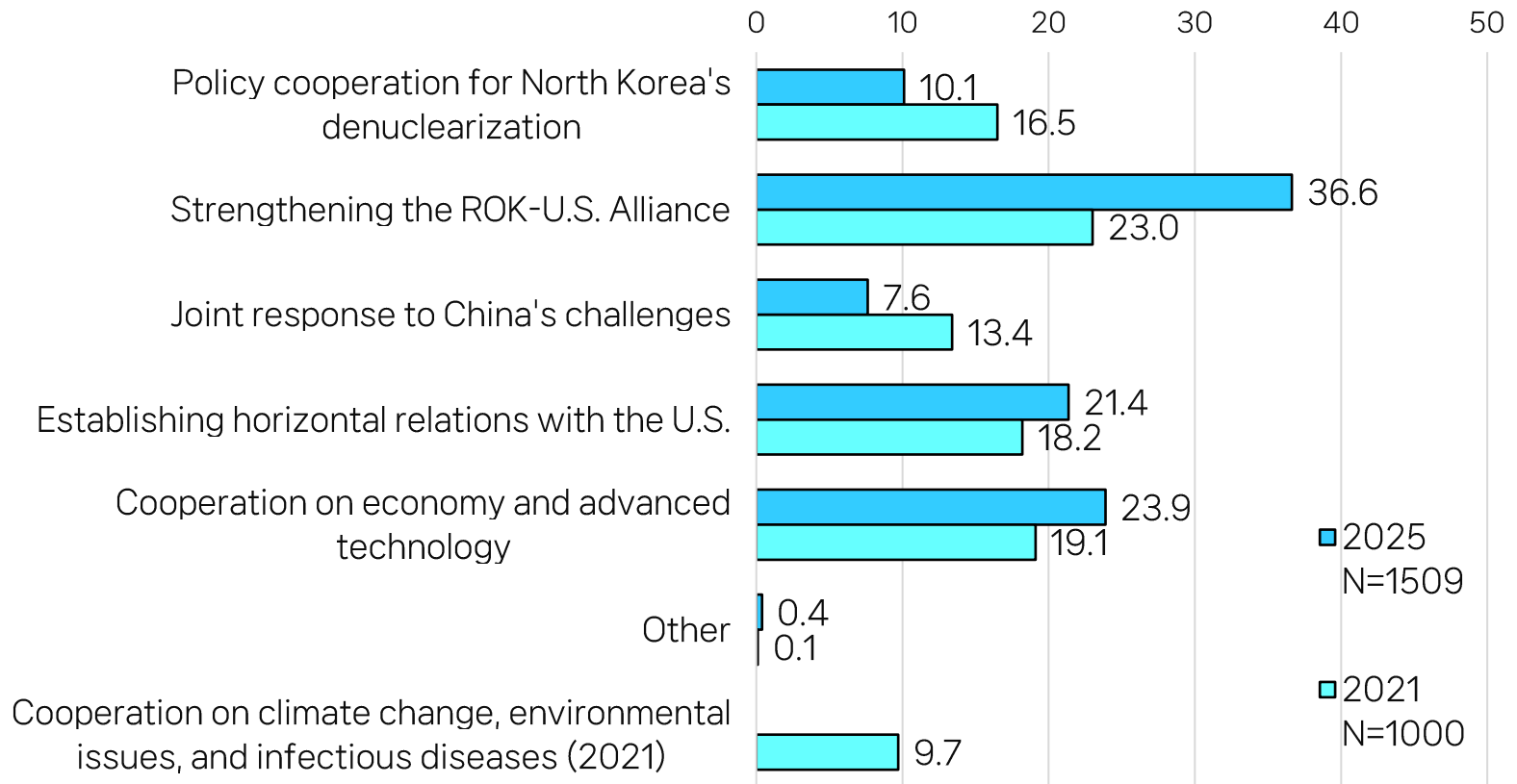
(%)



Top Policy Priority toward the United States

Q49. What is the new administration's top policy priority toward the United States?
[Single response] * [Comparison to the 2021 survey results](#)

(%)

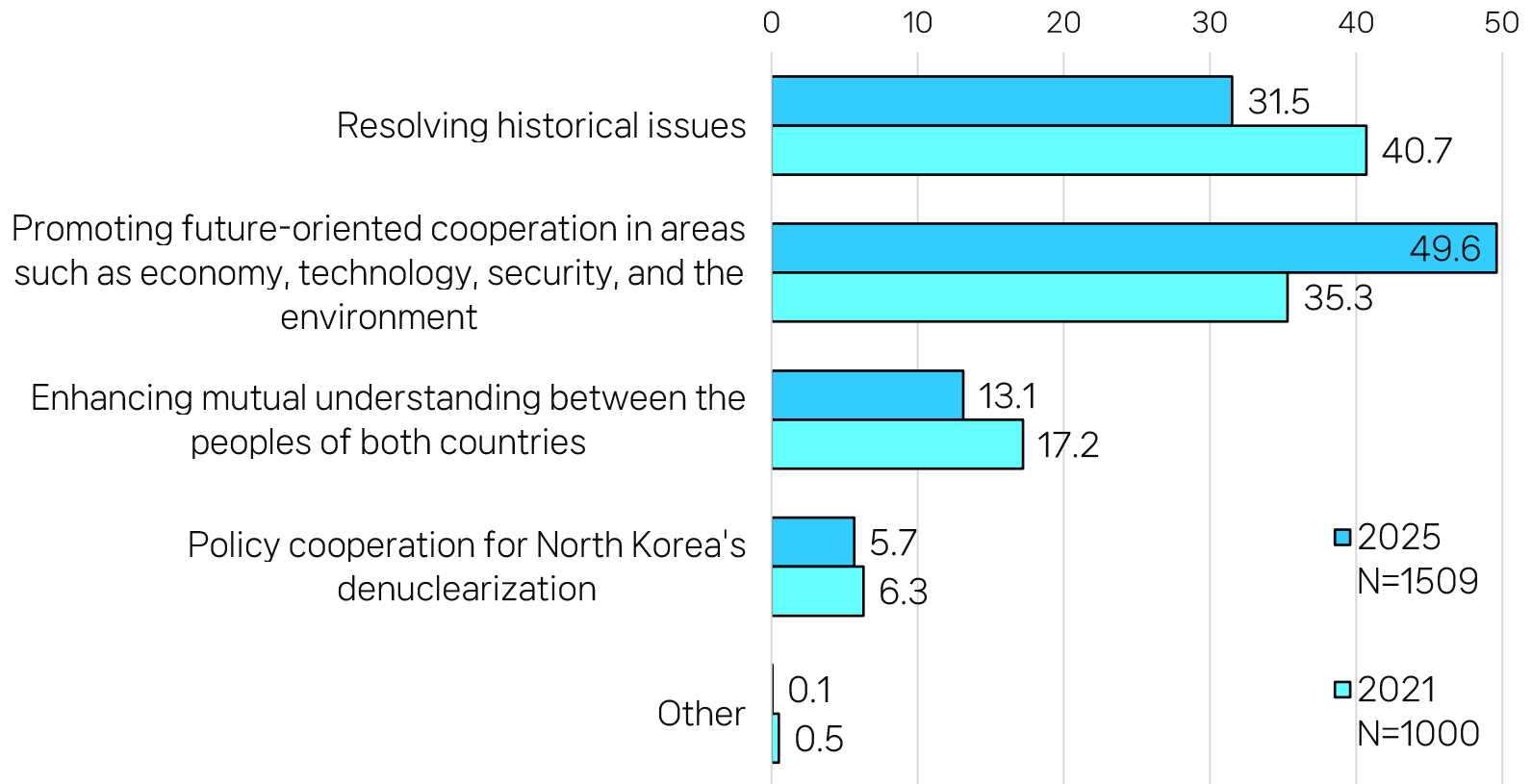


Top Policy Priority toward Japan

Q50. What is new administration's top policy priority toward Japan? [Single response]

(%)

* [Comparison to the 2021 survey results](#)

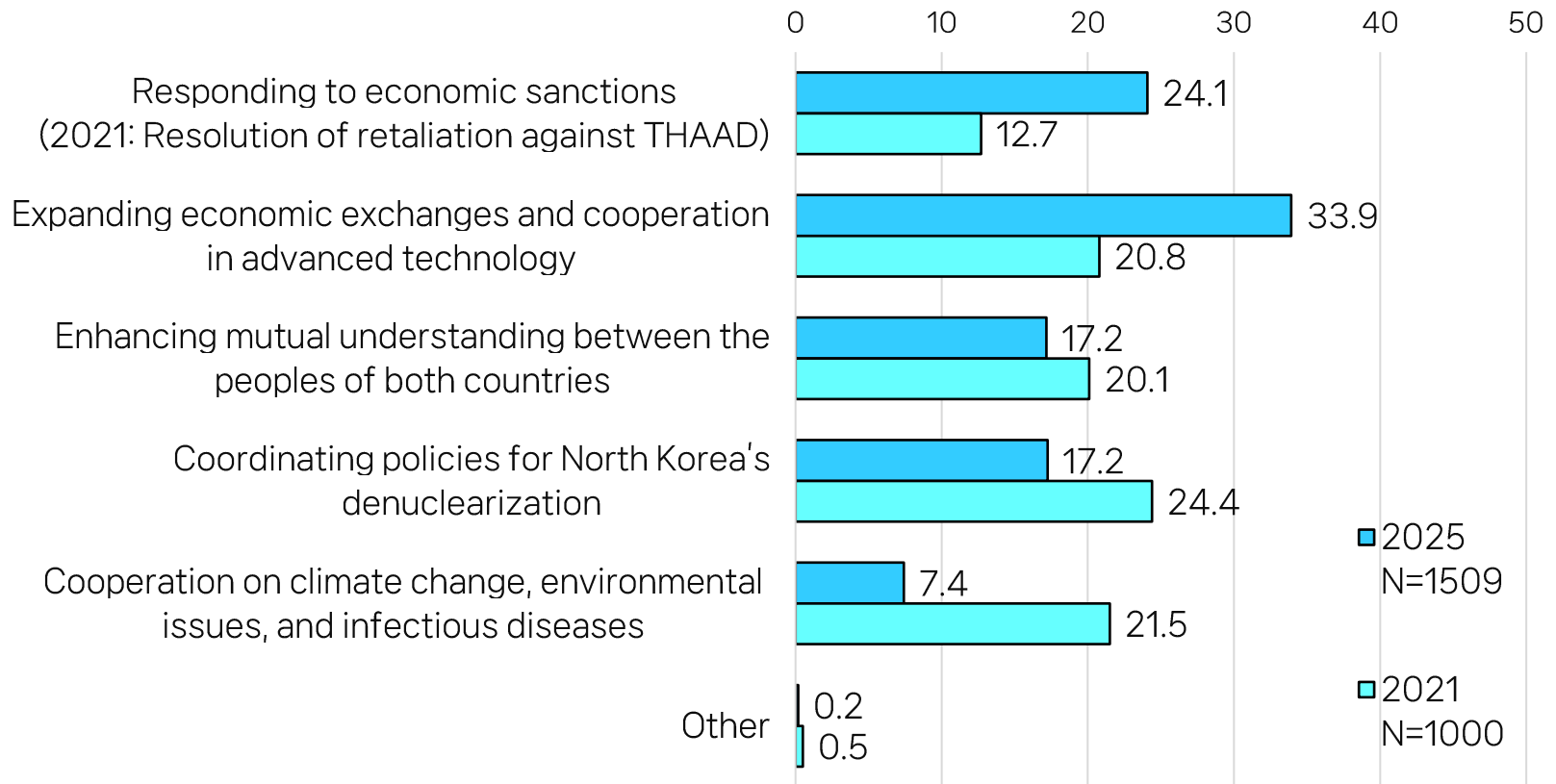


Top Policy Priority toward China

Q51. What is new administration's top policy priority toward China? [Single response]

(%)

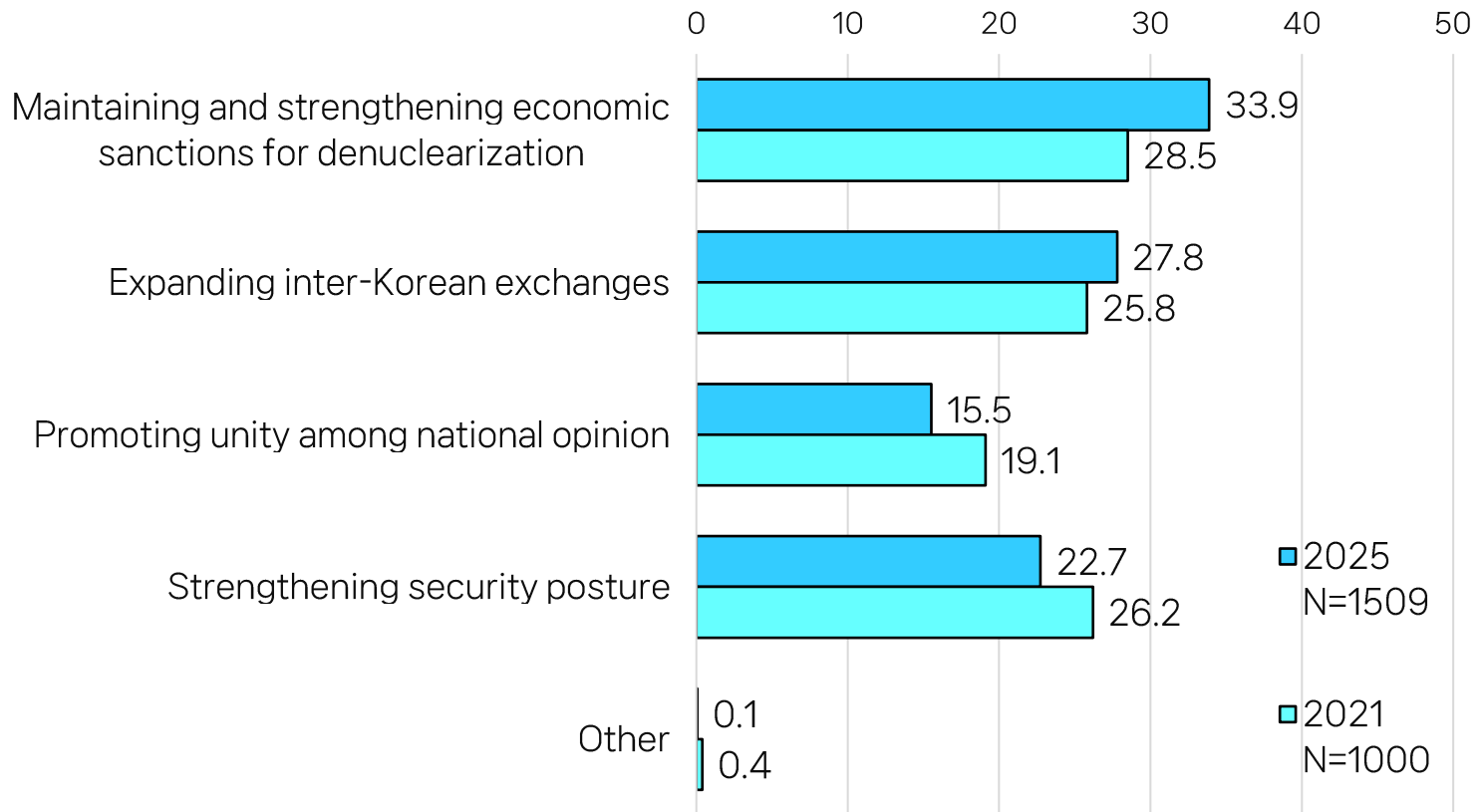
* [Comparison to the 2021 survey results](#)



Top Policy Priority toward North Korea

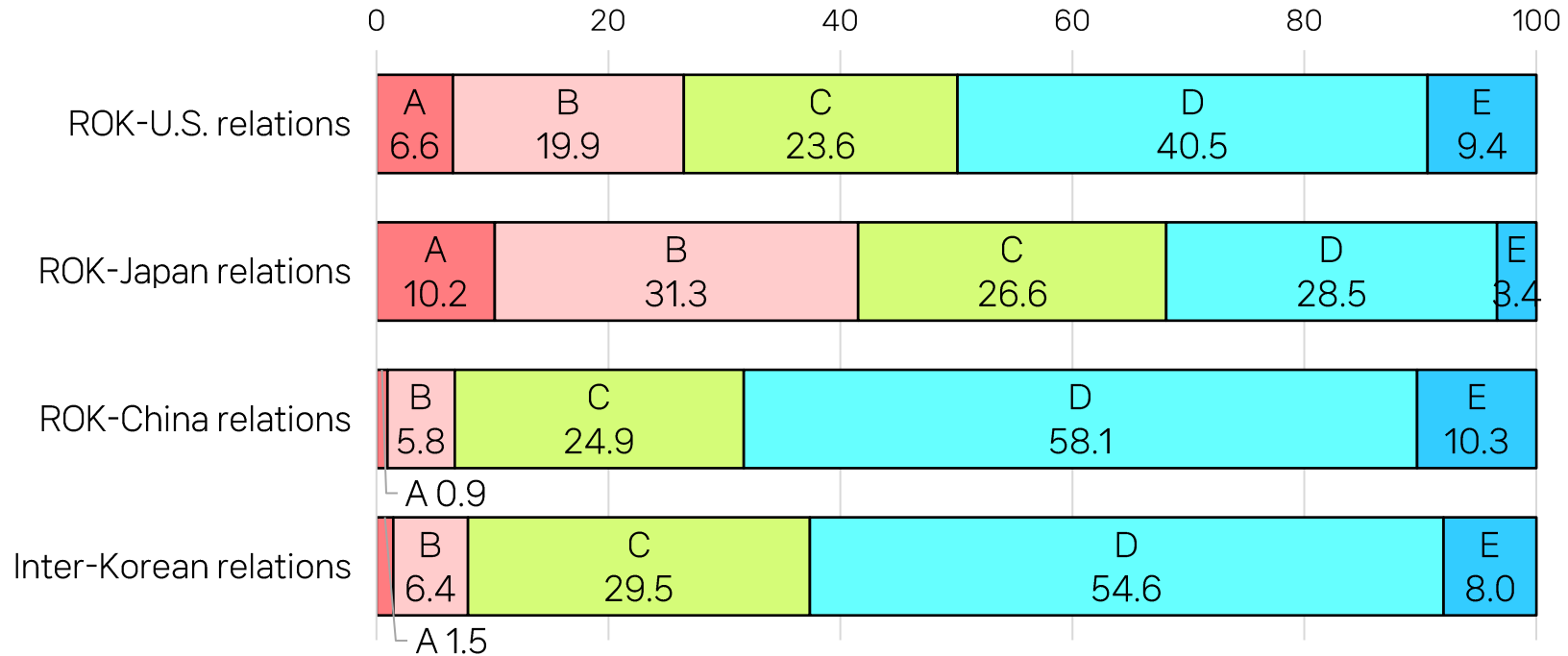
Q52. What is new administration's top policy priority toward North Korea?
[Single response] * [Comparison to the 2021 survey results](#)

(%)



Expectation on Major Diplomatic Relations

Q53. How do you expect major diplomatic relations to change in the new administration? (%)

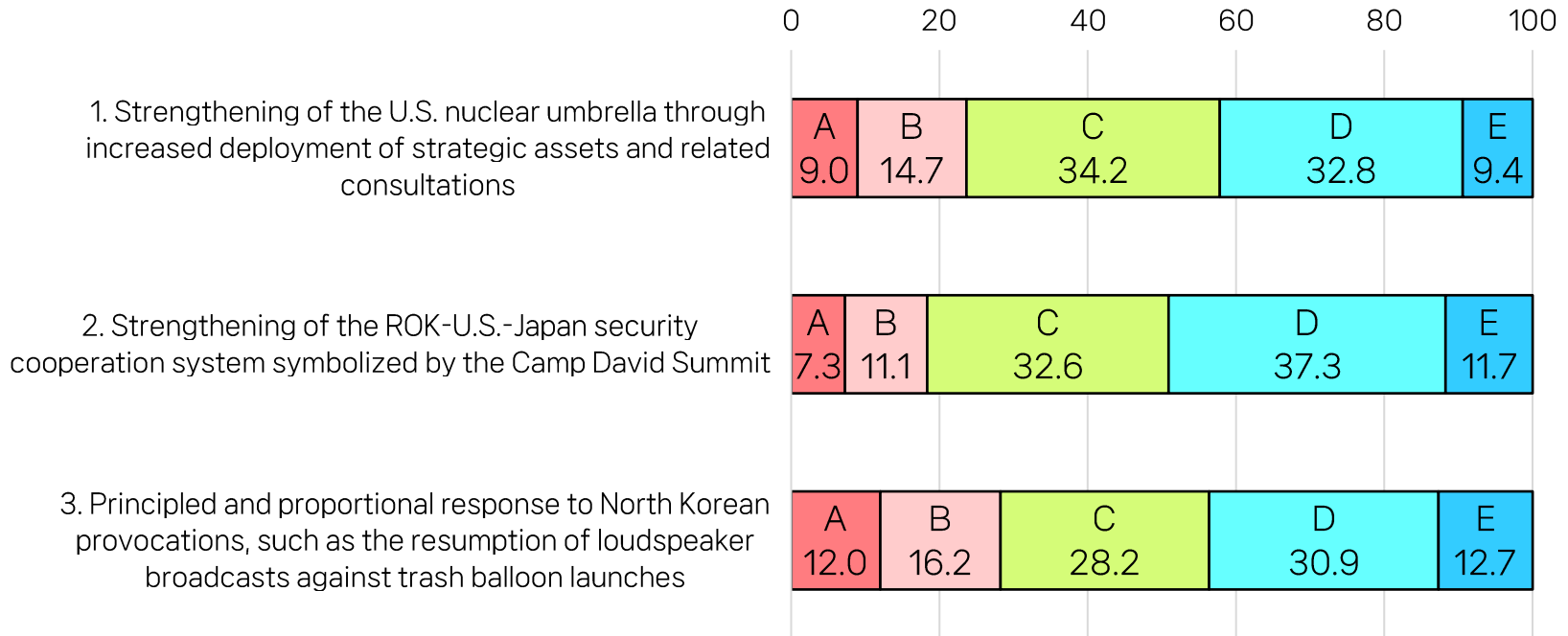


A	B	C	D	E
Will worsen significantly	Will worsen slightly	Will be similar to the Yoon Suk Yeol administration	Will improve slightly	Will improve significantly

Opinion on Continuing to Pursue Yoon Administration's Policy Direction

Q54. Do you agree with the new administration continuing to pursue the following policy direction promoted by the Yoon Suk Yeol administration?

(%)



A	B	C	D	E
Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Fair	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree