



TEXAS DECIDES  
PART II

A TXHPF STUDY OF TEXAS VOTER OPINIONS ON  
GAMING IN TEXAS: DESTINATION RESORT,  
ONLINE SPORTS GAMING, AND SPORTS ARENA

APRIL 30, 2024



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POLICY FOUNDATION

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## ABOUT THE TEXAS HISPANIC POLICY FOUNDATION

The Texas Hispanic Policy Foundation operates as a nonpartisan, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, dedicated and committed to analyzing and exploring the political, economic, social, demographic, and familial attitudes and behaviors of Texas Hispanics. The Foundation conducts surveys, polls, research, data collection and analysis concerning the Hispanic population in Texas. You can find more information about the Foundation at [www.TxHPF.org](http://www.TxHPF.org).

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Texas Hispanic Policy Foundation conducted a representative survey of 1,600 likely Texas voters between April 5 and 10, 2024. The survey population has a margin of error of +/- 2.45% and is representative of those Texas registered voters who are likely to vote in November of 2024.

This report provides information on support for and opposition to three legislative proposals to: 1) authorize the construction and operation of Destination Resort Casinos in Texas, 2) legalize online sports gambling in Texas, and 3) authorize the operation of sportsbooks at the stadiums and arenas of professional sports teams in Texas.

Legislation to authorize the construction and operation of Destination Resort Casinos in Texas is:

- Supported by 56% of likely voters and opposed by 30%.
- Supported by 61% of men and 52% of women.
- Supported by 68% of Blacks, 58% of Hispanics & 54% of whites.
- Supported by 71% of Black women, 65% of Black men, 62% of white men, 60% of Hispanic men, 57% of Hispanic women, & 47% of white women.
- Supported by 52% of Born-Again Christians, 59% of other Christians, & 55% of non-religious likely voters.
- Supported by 58% of Democrats, 57% of Republicans & 56% of Independents.

Legislation to legalize online sports gambling in Texas is:

- Supported by 47% of likely voters and opposed by 37%.
- Supported by 56% of men and 40% of women.
- Supported by 56% of Blacks, 53% of Hispanics & 45% of whites.
- Supported by 62% of Hispanic men, 62% of Black men, 55% of white men, 51% of Black women, 46% of Hispanic women, & 37% of white women.
- Supported by 43% of Born-Again Christians, 50% of other Christians, & 52% of non-religious likely voters.
- Supported by 49% of Democrats, 48% of Republicans & 47% of Independents.

Legislation to authorize the operation of sportsbooks at Texas professional sports venues is:

- Supported by 41% of likely voters and opposed by 42%.
- Supported by 49% of men and 35% of women.
- Supported by 52% of Blacks, 48% of Hispanics & 38% of whites.
- Supported by 59% of Black men, 55% of Hispanic men, 47% of white men, 46% of Black women, 42% of Hispanic women, & 30% of white women.
- Supported by 39% of Born-Again Christians, 44% of other Christians, & 47% of non-religious likely voters.
- Supported by 41% of Democrats, 41% of Republicans & 42% of Independents.

Women are significantly less supportive than men of all three gambling proposals, with the gender differences especially stark in regard to the legislative proposals to legalize online sports gambling and to legalize sportsbooks at Texas professional sports venues.

White women are consistently the least supportive of all three gambling proposals by significant margins compared to white men, Hispanic women, Hispanic men, Black women, and Black men.

Gender differences are most prominent among white likely voters, with pluralities of white women opposing online sports gambling (44% vs. 37%) and sportsbooks at professional sports venues (50% vs. 30%) by margins of 7% and 20%, and pluralities of white men supporting the adoption of both legislative proposals by margins of 22% (55% vs. 33%) and 8% (47% vs. 39%), respectively.

The only significant gender difference among the three main ethnic/racial groups in Texas in support for the casino legislation is among whites, with white women significantly less likely to support the construction and operation of Destination Resort Casinos in Texas than white men (47% vs. 62%).

There exist significant gender differences among all three ethnic/racial groups in support for the online sports gambling and pro sport venue sportsbook legislation, with Black, Hispanic and white men significantly more likely to support this sports-related gambling legislation than Black, Hispanic and white women, respectively.

## **TEXAS VOTER OPINIONS ON GAMING IN TEXAS: DESTINATION RESORT, ONLINE SPORTS GAMING, AND SPORTS ARENA**

The Texas Hispanic Policy Foundation conducted a representative survey of Texas registered voters who are likely to vote in the November 2024 general election. The survey was fielded between April 5 and April 10, 2024 by contacting registered voters via SMS messages through which the respondents were directed to an online survey platform with the option to complete the survey in English or in Spanish. The survey population of 1,600 has a margin of error of +/- 2.45% and is representative of those Texas registered voters who are likely to vote in November of 2024.

### **1. BACKGROUND ON CASINO, ONLINE SPORTS & SPORTSBOOK GAMBLING IN TEXAS**

This report examines opinions of likely Texas voters on a series of legislative proposals to authorize the construction and operation of Destination Resort Casinos, legalize online sports gambling, and authorize the operation of sportsbooks at the stadiums and arenas of professional sports teams in Texas.

Class III “casino” gambling is prohibited in Texas, as is online sports gambling and all in-person sports gambling at sportsbooks (whether at a professional team’s stadium or arena or another site). Texas currently has three small Class II (electronic instant bingo and pull tabs) casinos operated by the Alabama-Coushatta (the Naskila Casino near Livingston), the Kickapoo (the Lucky Eagle Casino in Eagle Pass) and the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo (the Speaking Rock Casino in El Paso).

During the 2023 regular session of the Texas Legislature, legislation (House Joint Resolution 155) which would have allowed (pending a subsequent majority statewide popular vote in a constitutional amendment election) for the construction and operation of multiple Destination Resort Casinos in Texas came close to passing in the Texas House. Legislation (House Joint Resolution 102) which would have legalized (pending a subsequent majority statewide popular vote in a constitutional amendment election) online sports gambling in Texas narrowly passed in the Texas House, but died in the Texas Senate where it was never referred to a legislative committee.

### **2. SURVEY POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS**

White likely voters account for 58% of this survey population of likely Texas voters, Hispanic likely voters for 25%, Black likely voters for 12%, and others for 5% (2% Asian American, 3% something else). Women represent 53% of this population, men 45% and others 2%. Likely voters between the ages of 18 and 44 account for 34% of this population, those ages 45 to 64 for 38% and those 65 and older for 28%. The highest level of educational attainment of 45% of the population is a four-year college degree or a post-graduate degree, of 40% of the population is a two-year college degree or some college, and of 15% of the population is a high school degree or less. Republicans account for 37% of this population, Democrats for 26% and Independents for 26%, with 11%

either identifying with another party or group or unsure or not wishing to state their partisan identification. Among those likely voters who cast a ballot in the 2020 presidential election, 52% report having voted for Trump, 46% for Biden, and 2% for other candidates.

### 3. THREE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS TO AUTHORIZE DIFFERENT FORMS OF GAMBLING IN TEXAS

The survey asked the respondents to look ahead to the 2025 regular session of the Texas Legislature, and then queried them about if at that time they would support legislation that would:

- Authorize the construction and operation of one or two Destination Resort Casinos in each of the following metro-areas: Austin, Corpus Christi, Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston, San Antonio, and the Rio Grande Valley.
- Legalize online sports gambling in Texas.
- Authorize the creation and operation of sportsbooks (on-site in-person sports betting sites) in the stadiums and arenas of professional sports teams in Texas.

Table 1 reveals varied support for the three different gaming proposals among Texas likely voters.

**Table 1. Support For & Opposition To Three Legislative Proposals to Legalize Different Forms of Gambling in Texas**

Legislative Proposal	Support	Oppose	Don't Know
Authorize the Construction & Operation of Destination Resort Casinos	56% (29)	30% (20)	14%
Legalize Online Sports Gambling	47% (21)	37% (25)	16%
Authorize the Operation of Sportsbooks in Professional Sport Team Stadiums and Arenas	41% (17)	42% (29)	17%

Note: Proportion Strongly Supporting and Opposing the proposal in parentheses.

There is very robust majority support for legislation which would allow for the construction and operation of Destination Resort Casinos across the state, with 56% of likely voters supporting this legislation and 30% opposing it. One in seven (14%) likely voters did not know enough about the issue to have an opinion.

There also exists a significant plurality (but not an absolute majority) of likely voters who support the legalization of online sports gambling in Texas, with 47% supporting this legislative proposal and 37% opposing it. One in six (16%) likely voters did not know enough about the issue to have an opinion.

Texans are however effectively evenly split between those who support and those who oppose legislation that would allow for the operation of online sportsbooks at professional sports stadiums and arenas in Texas, with 41% supporting the legislation and 42% opposing it. One in six (17%) likely voters did not know enough about the issue to have an opinion.

### 3. DESTINATION RESORT CASINOS IN TEXAS

Table 2 contains the support for and opposition to legislation that would authorize the construction and operation of Destination Resort Casinos in Texas broken down by respondent gender, ethnicity/race, age, education, religion, partisan identification, and region or residence. Significantly more members of every one of the 21 demographic sub-group support than oppose the proposed Destination Resort Casino legislation.

**Table 2. Support For & Opposition To A Legislative Proposal To Allow for the Construction and Operation of Destination Resort Casinos in Texas Among Key Socio-Demographic Groups**

Demographic	Sub-Group	Support	Oppose	Unsure
Gender	Women	52% (24)	32% (21)	16%
	Men	61% (34)	27% (18)	12%
Ethnicity/Race	White	54% (26)	32% (22)	14%
	Hispanic	58% (35)	28% (18)	14%
	Black	68% (39)	19% (11)	13%
Age	18-44	54% (26)	34% (22)	12%
	45-64	61% (32)	27% (18)	12%
	65+	51% (27)	31% (21)	18%
Education	High School	62% (34)	23% (17)	15%
	2-Yr/Some College	58% (31)	28% (19)	14%
	4-Yr/Post-Grad	52% (25)	35% (23)	13%
Religion	Born-Again Christian	52% (28)	34% (25)	14%
	Other Christian	59% (29)	26% (16)	15%
	Not Religious	55% (26)	31% (15)	14%
Partisan ID	Republican	57% (29)	29% (22)	14%
	Independent	56% (31)	31% (18)	13%
	Democrat	58% (31)	29% (17)	13%
Region	Major Urban Counties	54% (27)	33% (22)	13%
	Suburban Counties	57% (31)	32% (21)	11%
	Regional Hub Counties	54% (25)	29% (20)	17%
	Rural Counties	60% (33)	24% (16)	16%

Note: Proportion Strongly Supporting and Opposing the proposal in parentheses.

While an absolute majority of both genders support the Destination Resort Casino legislation, this support is significantly greater among men (61%) than among women (52%).



While an absolute majority of all three ethnic/racial groups support the Destination Resort Casino legislation, this support is significantly greater among Black likely voters (68%) than among white likely voters (54%), with Hispanics in between at 58%.

An absolute majority of all three age cohorts support the Destination Resort Casino legislation, with though support being somewhat notably higher among likely voters between the ages of 45 and 64 (61%) than among likely voters age 65 and older (51%).

There do not exist noteworthy education differences in support for the Destination Resorts Casinos legislation, with an absolute majority of all three educational attainment groups (62%, 58% and 52% respectively) supportive of the legislation.

There do not exist any noteworthy religious differences in support for the Destination Resort Casino legislation, with relatively similar proportions of Born-Again Christians (52%), other Christians (59%) and non-religious likely voters (55%) in support of the legislation.

There do not exist any noteworthy partisan differences in support for Destination Resort Casinos, with comparable proportions of Democrats (58%), Republicans (57%) and Independents (56%) supportive of the legislation.

There do not exist any significant differences in support for the Destination Resort Casino legislation across the different regions, with support varying within a narrow band from lows of 54% in the major urban counties and 54% in the regional hub counties to highs of 57% in the suburban counties and 60% in the rural counties.

Table 3 contains the level of support for and opposition to the Destination Resort Casino legislation among six distinct ethnic/racial-gender groups: white women, white men, Hispanic women, Hispanic men, Black women, and Black men.

**Table 3. Support For & Opposition To A Legislative Proposal To Allow for the Construction and Operation of Destination Resort Casinos in Texas Among Six Ethnic/Racial-Gender Groups**

<b>Ethnicity/Race-Gender</b>	<b>Support</b>	<b>Oppose</b>	<b>Unsure</b>
White-Women	47% (20)	36% (24)	17%
White-Men	62% (33)	27% (18)	11%
Hispanic-Women	57% (29)	30% (19)	13%
Hispanic-Men	60% (42)	26% (17)	14%
Black-Women	71% (39)	16% (9)	13%
Black-Men	65% (37)	23% (13)	12%

Note: Proportion Strongly Supporting and Opposing the proposal in parentheses.

Support among white women (47%) for Destination Resort Casinos is notably lower than that among all five other ethnic/racial-gender groups, with the gaps the largest between white women and Black women (71%) and Black men (65%) and smallest between white women and Hispanic

women (57%) and Hispanic men (60%). Also of note, while there do not exist any notable gender differences in support for Destination Resort Casino legislation between Hispanic men (60%) and Hispanic women (57%) or between Black men (65%) and Black women (71%), there exists a significant gap in support between white men (62%) and white women (47%).

#### 4. ONLINE SPORTS GAMBLING IN TEXAS

Table 4 contains the support for and opposition to legislation that would legalize online sports gambling in Texas broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, age, education, religion, partisan identification, and region of residence.

**Table 4. Support For & Opposition To A Legislative Proposal To Allow Online Sports Gambling in Texas Among Key Socio-Demographic Groups**

Demographic	Sub-Group	Support	Oppose	Unsure
Gender	Women	40% (14)	41% (27)	19%
	Men	56% (31)	32% (21)	12%
Ethnicity/Race	White	45% (18)	39% (26)	16%
	Hispanic	53% (30)	33% (20)	14%
	Black	56% (27)	28% (20)	16%
Age	18-44	53% (26)	33% (22)	14%
	45-64	51% (25)	34% (22)	15%
	65+	46% (12)	37% (32)	17%
Education	High School	45% (20)	37% (27)	18%
	2-Yr/Some College	48% (22)	47% (24)	15%
	4-Yr/Post-Grad	47% (21)	38% (26)	15%
Religion	Born-Again Christian	43% (19)	42% (32)	15%
	Other Christian	50% (24)	34% (20)	16%
	Not Religious	52% (23)	30% (18)	18%
Partisan ID	Republican	48% (21)	37% (27)	15%
	Independent	47% (23)	35% (21)	18%
	Democrat	49% (20)	37% (24)	14%
Region	Major Urban Counties	46% (20)	38% (26)	16%
	Suburban Counties	52% (26)	35% (26)	13%
	Regional Hub Counties	45% (20)	41% (30)	14%
	Rural Counties	45% (20)	37% (24)	18%

Note: Proportion Strongly Supporting and Opposing the proposal in parentheses.

While a substantial majority of men support legislation that would legalize online gambling in Texas by a 56% to 32% margin, women are deadlocked between those who support (40%) and oppose (41%) this legislation, with almost one in twenty (19%) women unsure.

Substantially more Black (56% vs. 28%) and Hispanic (53% vs. 33%) likely voters support than oppose the legalization of online sports gambling in Texas, while white likely voters are more evenly split between those who support (45%) and oppose (39%) online sports gambling legislation.

Likely voters who are Born-Again Christians are significantly more likely than non-religious likely voters to oppose online sports gambling legislation (42% vs. 30%), but not significantly less likely to support it (43% vs. 52%).

There do not exist any significant differences in support for or opposition to online sports gambling legislation based on age, educational attainment, partisanship, and region. For example, 49% of Democrats, 48% of Republicans and 47% of Independents support this legislation, while 37%, 37% and 35% oppose it, respectively.

Table 5 contains the level of support for and opposition online sports gambling legislation among six distinct ethnic/racial-gender groups: white women, white men, Hispanic women, Hispanic men, Black women, and Black men.

**Table 5. Support For & Opposition To A Legislative Proposal To Allow Online Sports Gambling in Texas Among Six Ethnic/Racial-Gender Groups**

<b>Ethnicity/Race-Gender</b>	<b>Support</b>	<b>Oppose</b>	<b>Unsure</b>
White-Women	37% (10)	44% (30)	19%
White-Men	55% (27)	33% (21)	12%
Hispanic-Women	46% (21)	38% (22)	16%
Hispanic-Men	62% (42)	26% (17)	12%
Black-Women	51% (20)	28% (19)	21%
Black-Men	62% (34)	28% (22)	10%

Note: Proportion Strongly Supporting and Opposing the proposal in parentheses.

Support among white women (37%) for online sports gambling legislation is notably lower than that among all five other ethnic/racial groups, with the gap especially large between white women and Black men (62%), Hispanic men (62%) and white men (55%). Of note however is that contrary to the case with support for the Destination Resort Casino legislation, across all three ethnic/racial groups men are more likely to support online sports gambling legislation than are women, with the gap the largest among whites (55% vs. 37%) and Hispanics (62% vs. 46%), and the smallest among Blacks (62% vs. 51%), with the former two differences statistically significant and the latter one not statistically significant.

## 5. SPORTSBOOKS AT PROFESSIONAL SPORTS ARENAS AND STADIUMS IN TEXAS

Table 6 contains the support for and opposition to legislation that would allow Texas professional sports teams to operate sportsbooks inside their respective stadiums and arenas broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, age, education, partisan identification, religion, and region of residence.

**Table 6. Support For & Opposition To a Legislative Proposal To Allow the Operation of Sportsbooks at Professional Sports Venues in Texas Among Key Socio-Demographic Groups**

Demographic	Sub-Group	Support	Oppose	Unsure
Gender	Women	35% (12)	45% (32)	20%
	Men	49% (25)	37% (24)	14%
Ethnicity/Race	White	38% (15)	45% (31)	17%
	Hispanic	48% (23)	34% (24)	18%
	Black	52% (24)	35% (18)	12%
Age	18-44	48% (22)	36% (25)	16%
	45-64	45% (20)	39% (26)	16%
	65+	28% (9)	52% (36)	20%
Education	High School	43% (17)	36% (27)	21%
	2-Yr/Some College	44% (19)	40% (27)	16%
	4-Yr/Post-Grad	38% (16)	45% (32)	17%
Partisan ID	Republican	41% (18)	42% (31)	17%
	Independent	42% (19)	39% (26)	19%
	Democrat	41% (17)	44% (25)	15%
Religion	Born-Again Christian	39% (15)	46% (34)	15%
	Other Christian	44% (21)	38% (24)	18%
	Not Religious	47% (18)	35% (22)	18%
Region	Major Urban Counties	40% (16)	43% (29)	17%
	Suburban Counties	42% (20)	42% (28)	16%
	Regional Hub Counties	40% (16)	44% (31)	16%
	Rural Counties	44% (17)	36% (26)	20%

Note: Proportion Strongly Supporting and Opposing the proposal in parentheses.

Overall, among all of the 21 demographic sub-groups, in only one instance (Black likely voters) does an absolute majority support this sportsbook legislation, with 52% of Black likely voters in support. And, in only one instance does an absolute majority oppose this legislation, with 52% of likely voters age 65 and above in opposition.

While men are significantly more likely to support (49%) than oppose (37%) legislation that would allow Texas professional sports teams to operate on-site sportsbooks, women are significantly more likely to oppose (45%) than to support (35%) this legislation.

Significant pluralities of Black (52% vs. 35%) and Hispanic (48% vs. 34%) likely voters support this sportsbook legislation, while more white likely voters oppose it (45%) than support it (38%).

The creation and operation of sportsbooks at professional sports venues in Texas is notably more popular among likely voters who are under the age of 65 (46%) than among those who are 65 and older (28%).

Born-Again Christians (46%) are significantly more likely than non-religious likely voters (35%) to oppose the sportsbook legislation, but not significantly less likely to support it (39% vs. 47%).

There do not exist any noteworthy differences in support for online sports gambling legislation based on educational attainment, partisanship, and region. For example, 41% of Democrats, 41% of Republicans and 42% of Independents support this legislation.

Table 7 contains the level of support for and opposition to legislation which would allow for the operation of sportsbooks at professional sports venues in Texas among six distinct ethnic/racial-gender groups: white women, white men, Hispanic women, Hispanic men, Black women, and Black men.

**Table 7. Support For & Opposition To a Legislative Proposal To Allow the Operation of Sportsbooks at Professional Sports Venues in Texas Among Six Ethnic/Racial-Gender Groups**

<b>Ethnicity/Race-Gender</b>	<b>Support</b>	<b>Oppose</b>	<b>Unsure</b>
White-Women	30% (10)	50% (35)	20%
White-Men	47% (20)	39% (26)	14%
Hispanic-Women	42% (15)	36% (25)	22%
Hispanic-Men	55% (34)	32% (23)	13%
Black-Women	46% (12)	39% (24)	15%
Black-Men	59% (38)	32% (12)	9%

Note: Proportion Strongly Supporting and Opposing the proposal in parentheses.

Support among white women (37%) for legislation that would allow for the operation of sportsbooks at professional stadiums and arenas in Texas is notably lower than that among each of the five other ethnic/racial-gender groups. The gaps between white women and members of the other five groups are largest with Black men (59%) and with Hispanic men (55%) and smallest with Hispanic women (42%) and with Black women (46%).

Of note however is that, just as in the case of online sports gambling legislation, but contrary to the case with support for the Destination Resort Casino legislation, across all three racial groups men are notably more likely to support the legalization of sportsbooks at professional sports



venues in Texas than are women, with the gender gap the largest among whites (47% vs. 30%) and smallest among Hispanics (55% vs. 42%) and among Blacks (59% vs. 46%).

## 6. SUPPORTERS OF CASINOS & OPPONENTS OF ONLINE SPORTS GAMBLING

The previous sections revealed noteworthy variations in support for Destination Resort Casino and online sports gambling legislation. This section examines the profile of the Texas likely voters who support Destination Resort Casinos but oppose online sports gambling, compared to those who support both. There are 223 Texas likely voters (14% of the survey population) who support the Destination Resort Casino legislation and either oppose or are unsure about the online sports gambling legislation. There are 91 likely voters (6%) who do not support Destination Resort Casinos but support online sports gambling, but 91 is too small for reliable sub-group analysis.

**Table 8: The Share of Likely Voters Supporting the Casino Legislation But Not the Online Sports Gambling Legislation & the Share Supporting Both Proposals Across Demographic Groups**

Demographic	Sub-Group	Yes-Casino, No-Online	Yes-Casino, Yes-Online
Gender	Women	63%	44%
	Men	36%	55%
Ethnicity/Race	White	57%	57%
	Hispanic	20%	26%
	Black	18%	14%
Age	18-44	25%	34%
	45-64	40%	43%
	65+	35%	23%
Education	High School	19%	15%
	2-Yr/Some College	44%	41%
	4-Yr/Post-Grad	37%	44%
Partisan ID	Republican	34%	39%
	Independent	27%	25%
	Democrat	30%	27%
Religion	Born-Again Christian	36%	36%
	Other Christian	37%	36%
	Not Religious	18%	20%
Region	Major Urban Counties	45%	41%
	Suburban Counties	20%	28%
	Regional Hub Counties	14%	14%
	Rural Counties	21%	17%

Table 8 provides the socio-demographic distribution of the respondents who support the Destination Resort Casino legislation but oppose the online sports gambling legislation (Yes-Casino, No-Online) as well as the comparable distribution of the respondents who support both proposals (Yes-Casino, Yes-Online).

The principal difference between the two populations is the proportion of women and men in each. While women account for 44% of the population that supports both pieces of gambling legislation (as well as account for 53% of the overall survey population), women represent 63% of the population which supports the Destination Resort Casino legislation but opposes the online sports gambling legislation. Conversely, men account for 55% of the population that supports both pieces of legislation (and 45% of the overall population), but represent only 36% of the population which supports the Destination Resort Casino legislation but opposes the online sports gambling representation.

Overall, more than one-third of the likely voters who support the Destination Resort Casino legislation but oppose the online sports gambling legislation are white women (36%), followed by white men (20%), Hispanic women (15%), Black women (10%), Black men (8%) and Hispanic men (5%). The share of white women in the above group (36%) is significantly greater than the share accounted for by white women among those likely voters who support both gambling proposals (23%), in contrast to the other five groups where the proportions are either comparable, as in the case of Hispanic women (13%), Black women (8%) and Black men (6%), or where the latter proportions are notably larger, as is the case for white men (33%) and Hispanic men (14%).