

TUNISIA'S CHALLENGED DEMOCRACY

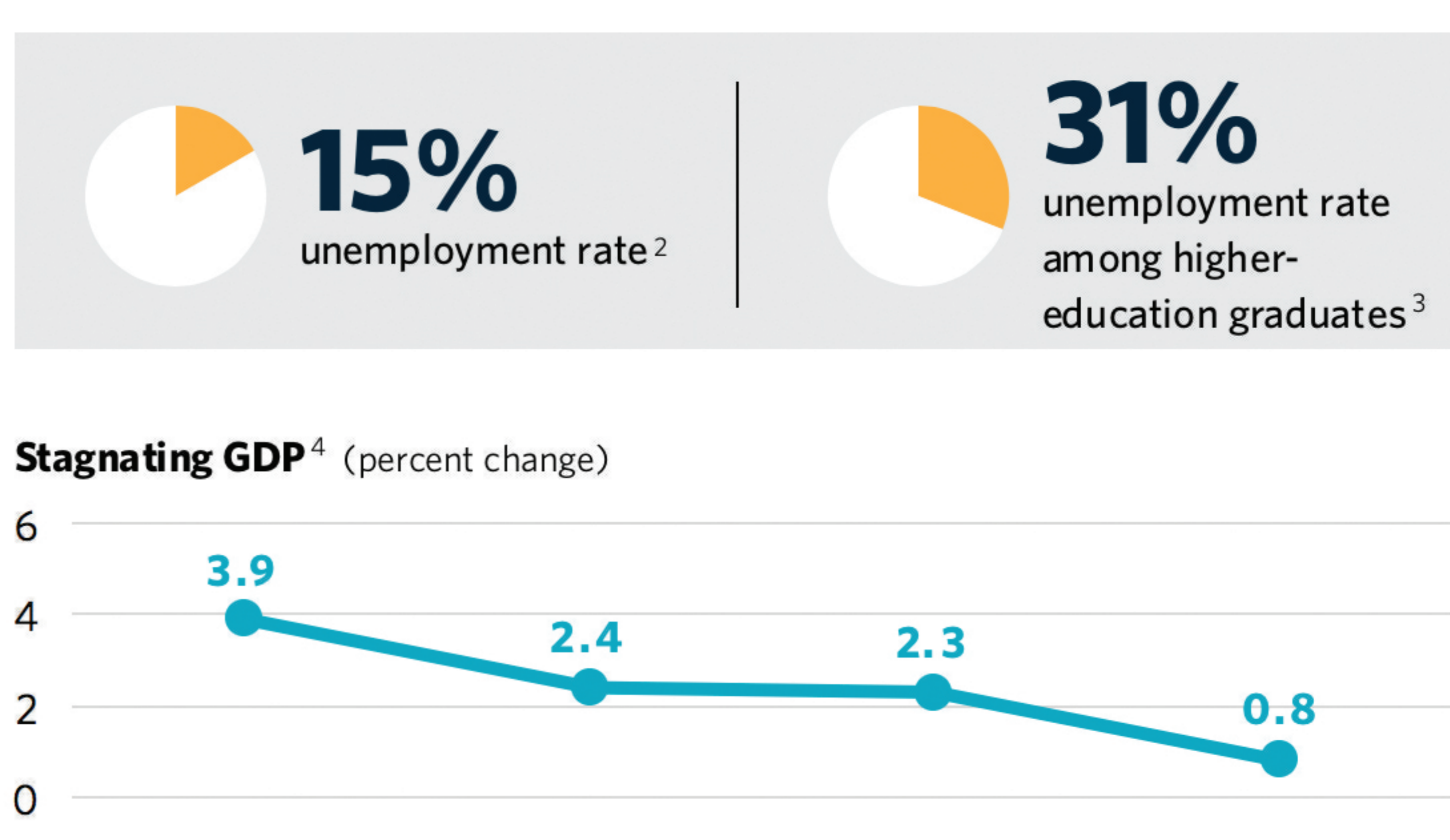
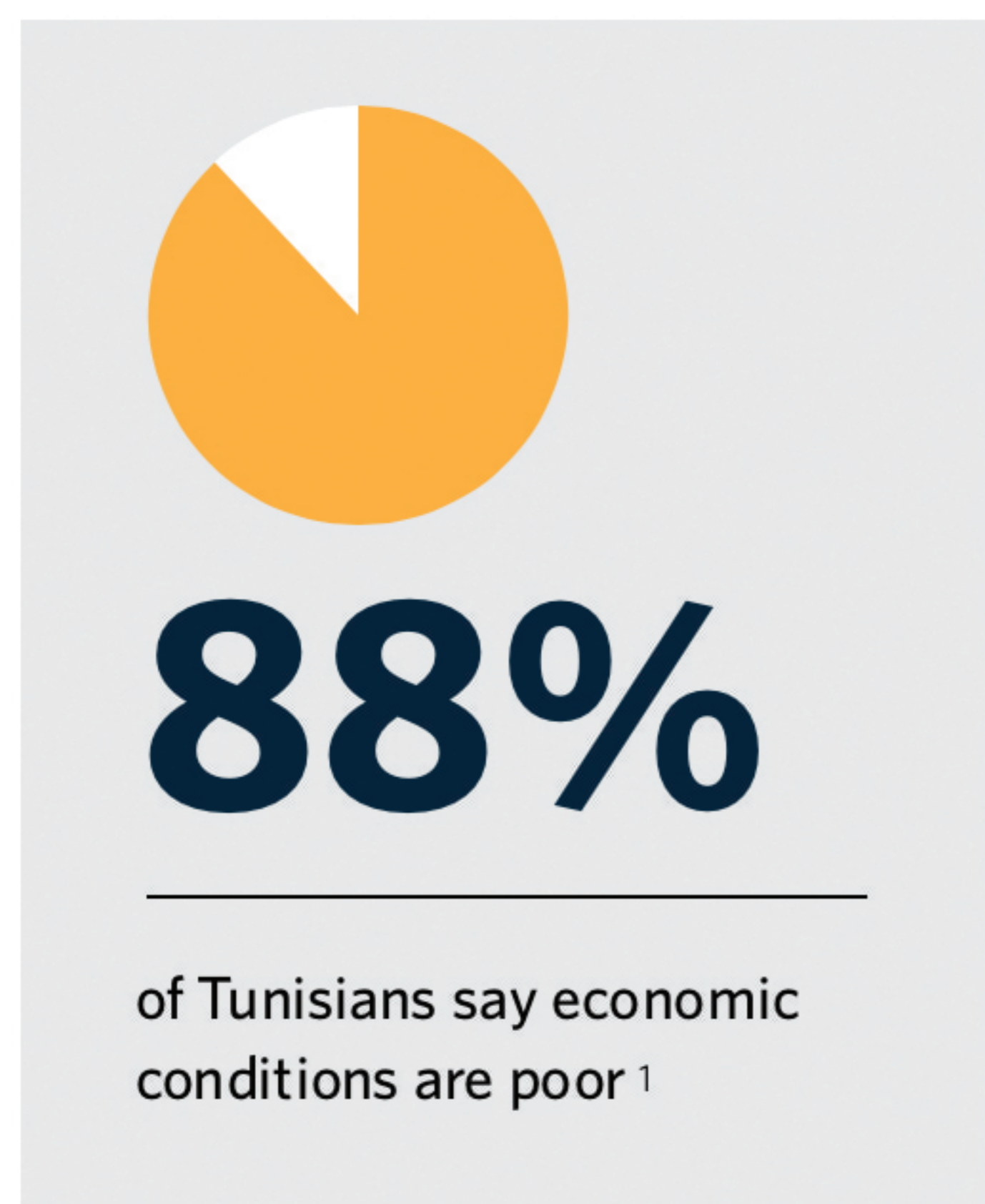
DISCONTENT IS THREATENING TO DERAIL TUNISIA'S POLITICAL TRANSITION

Despite political progress, socioeconomic frustration is rising, while confidence in institutions is declining. Tunisians are no longer clear about the benefits of democracy, but they are certain that they do not want to go back to the way things were.

POLITICAL PROGRESS AT RISK

Tunisians have made great strides on the political front with their rule-by-consensus model. However, these gains are being threatened.

DETERIORATING ECONOMIC CONDITIONS



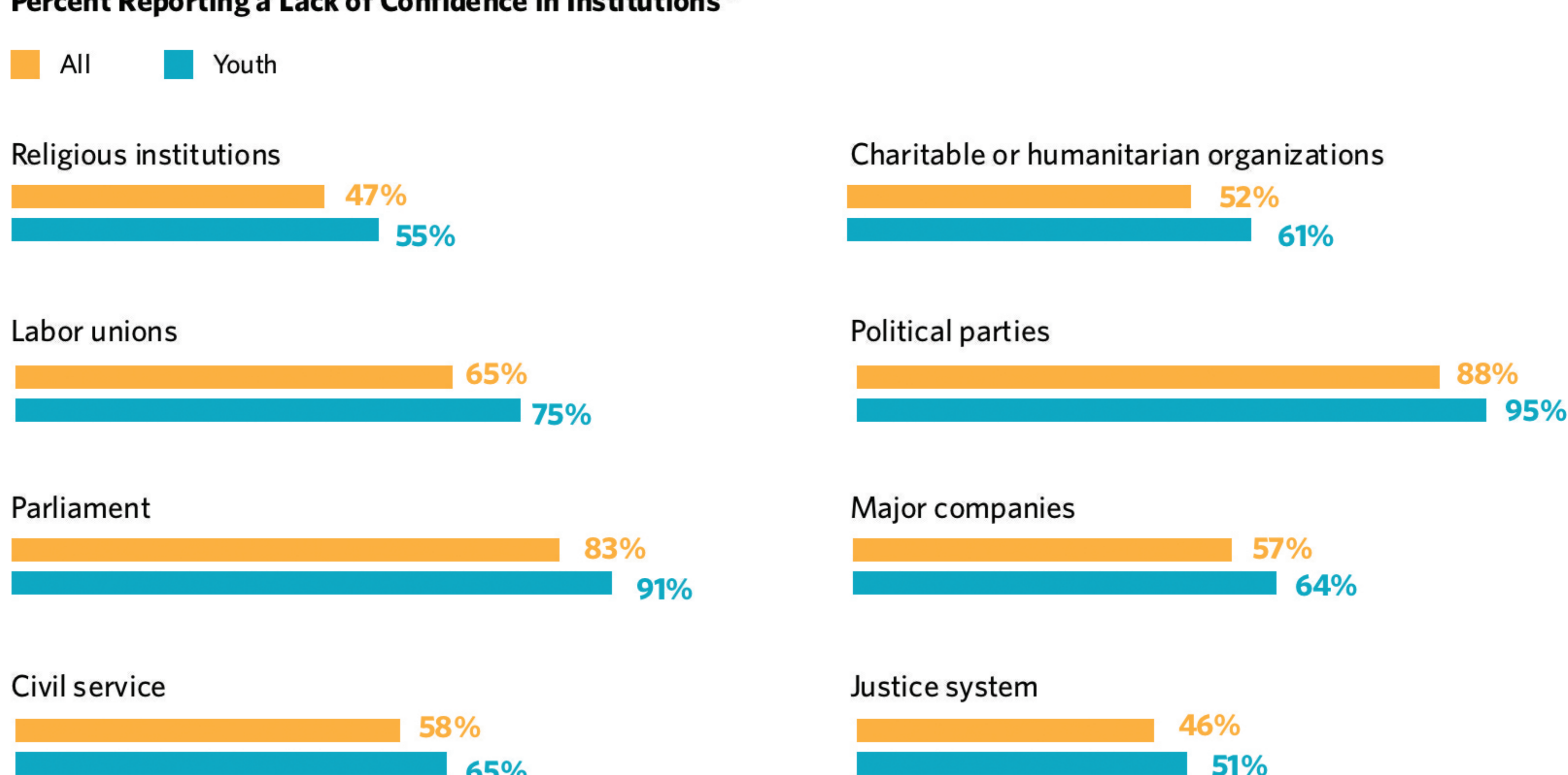
PERSISTENT DIVIDE BETWEEN COASTAL HAVES AND INLAND HAVE-NOTS

	COASTAL ZONES	INLAND REGIONS
Poverty Levels (2010)⁵	8%–9% in the Center East and greater Tunis regions	26%–32% in the North West and Center West regions
Unemployment Levels⁶	7%–11%	20%–22%
Regional Development⁷ (composite variable)	0.76 in Tunis	0.16 in Kasserine
Percent Reporting Perceived Discrimination on the Basis of Region⁸	8%	23%

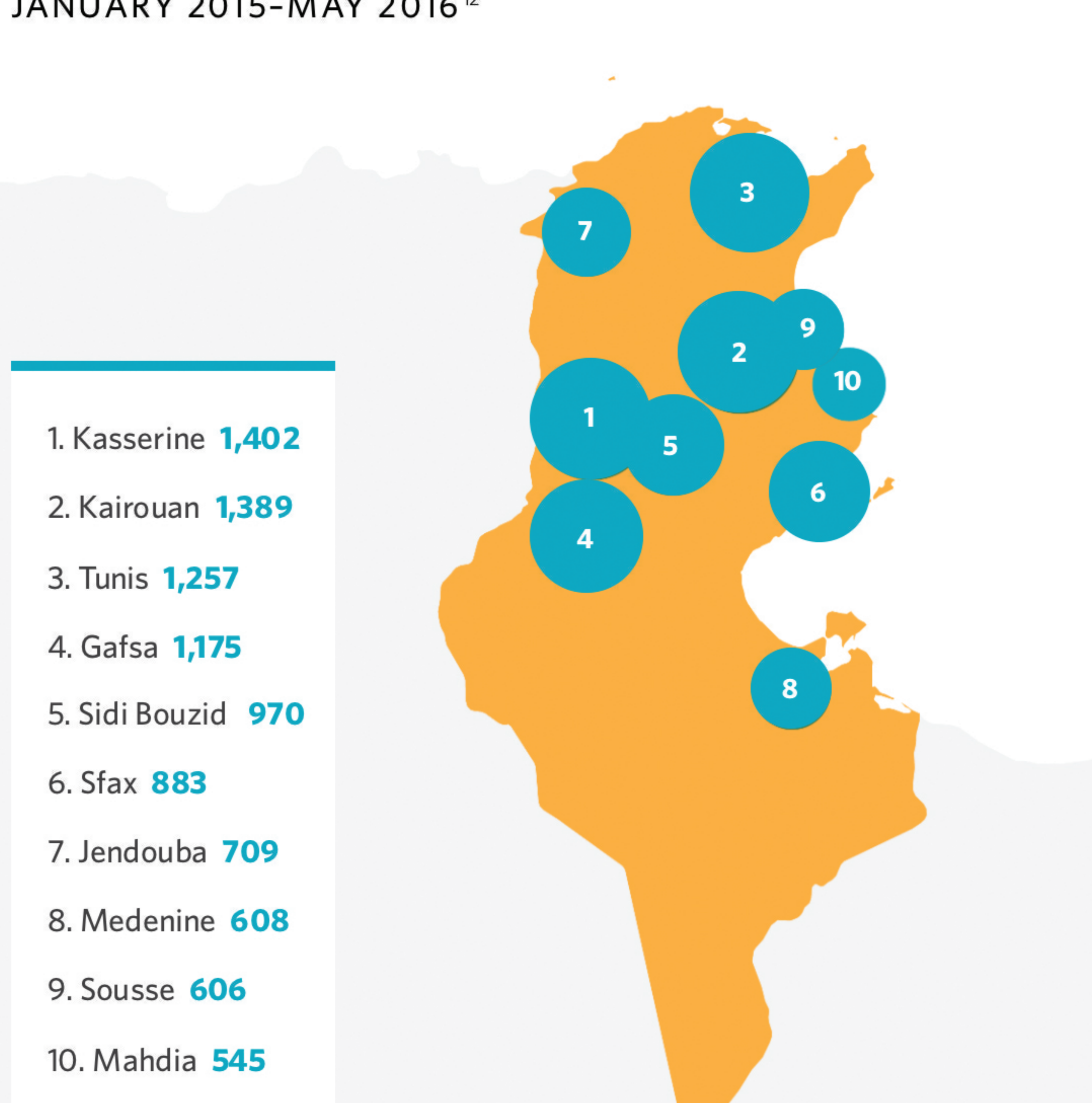
SOCIAL DOUBT AND DISCONTENT



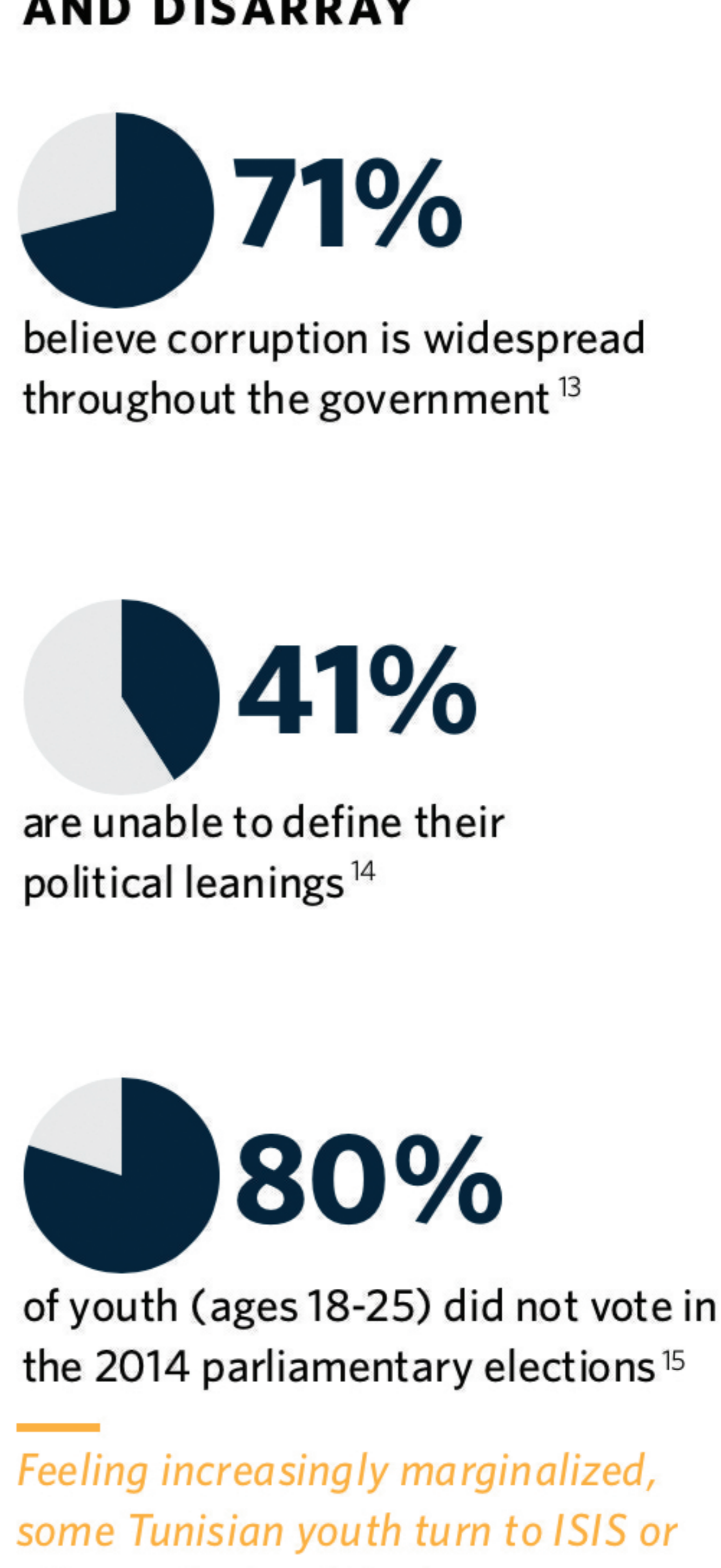
Percent Reporting a Lack of Confidence in Institutions¹¹



DEMONSTRATIONS JANUARY 2015–MAY 2016¹²



POLITICAL FRAGMENTATION AND DISARRAY

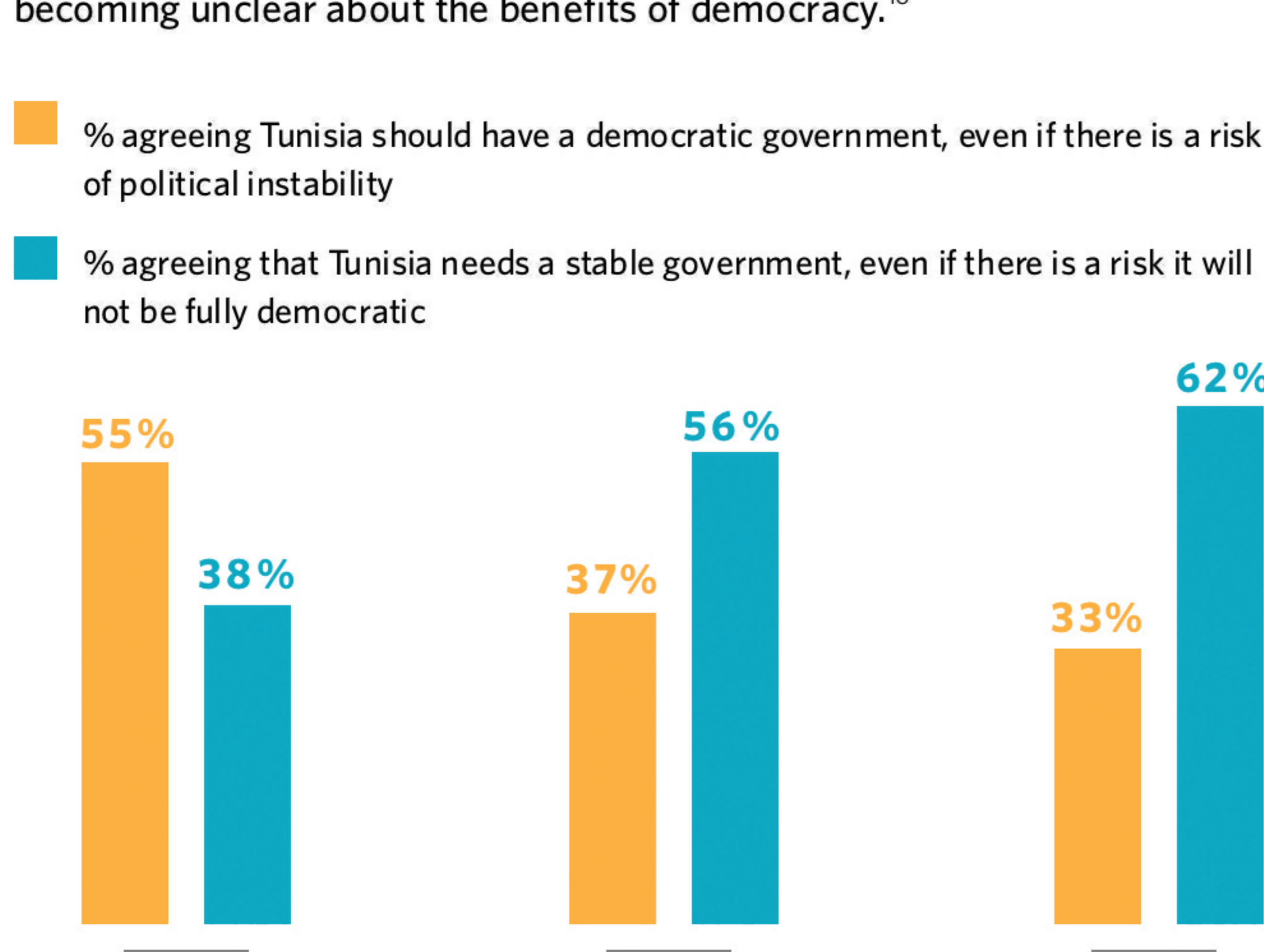


A WAY FORWARD

Most Tunisians yearn for a depoliticized governance system and an end to corruption—a shift away from the Ben Ali era.

TUNISIANS WANT A STABLE POLITICAL SYSTEM

With the state's current inability to address unmet needs, Tunisians are becoming unclear about the benefits of democracy.¹⁶



BUT TUNISIANS DO BELIEVE THAT DEMOCRATIC PRACTICES ARE FUNDAMENTAL FOR ECONOMIC PROSPERITY



QUALITIES TUNISIANS SEEK IN A DEMOCRACY:¹⁸

- Mixed economy
- State aid for unemployment
- Choice in leadership
- Women's rights protection
- State equalizing incomes through taxes
- Mixed public/private ownership of businesses
- Civil rights protection

Delivering on Tunisians' great expectations means understanding both their vision of democracy and their future aspirations. For additional analysis, see "Great Expectations in Tunisia" by Maha Yahya.

Sources:
1. "Tunisian Confidence in Democracy Wanes," Pew Research Center, October 2014.
2. "Breaking the Cycle of Poverty in Tunisia," International Labor Organization, 2015.
3. Ibid.
4. World Economic Outlook Database, International Monetary Fund, April 2016.
5. Tunisia National Institute of Statistics, African Development Bank, and World Bank, *Measuring Poverty, Inequalities, and Polarization in Tunisia 2000–2010* (Tunis: Tunisia National Institute of Statistics, November 2012).
6. World Bank Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Department, *The Unfinished Revolution* (Washington, DC: World Bank, May 2014).
7. "Indicateurs de Développement Régional" [Regional development indicators], Tunisian Ministry of Regional Development and Planning, November 2012.
8. Tunisia National Institute of Statistics, *Al-Mash al-Watani hawla Nazrat al-Muwatn Ila al-Amn wa al-Hurriyat wa al-Hawkameh al-Mahaliyeh*, 2014 [National survey on the perceptions of security, freedoms, and local governance in 2014] (Tunis: Tunisia National Institute of Statistics, 2015).

9. "Discontent With Politics Common in Many Emerging and Developing Nations," Pew Research Center, February 12, 2015.
10. "World Poll, May 20–June 5, 2014," Gallup, 2014.
11. "World Values Survey Wave 6 (2010–2014)," World Values Survey, 2014; author tabulations.
12. Monthly reports (January 2015–May 2016), Social Tunisian Observatory, 2016.
13. "World Poll, May 20–June 5, 2014."
14. "World Values Survey Wave 6 (2010–2014)," author analysis.
15. "Joint Observation Mission to Tunisian Parliamentary Elections 2014: Report," Global Network for Rights and Development and the International Institute for Peace, Justice, and Human Rights, November 2014.
16. "Tunisian Confidence in Democracy Wanes."
17. "World Values Survey Wave 6 (2010–2014)."
18. "World Values Survey Wave 6 (2010–2014)," author analysis.