

PRESS RELEASE

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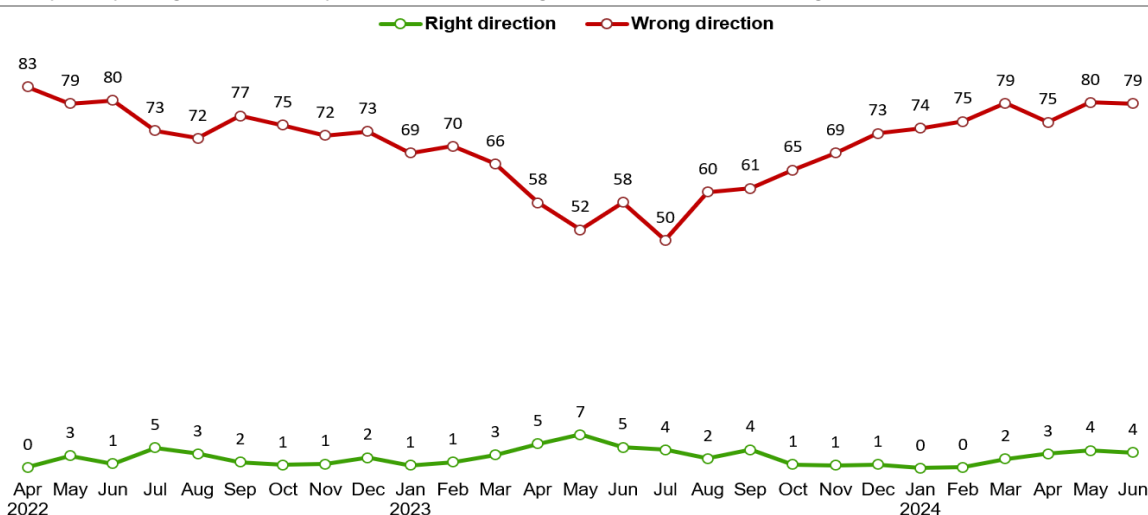
79% of Sri Lankans think the country is heading in the wrong direction

Public opinion on the direction of the country remains largely unchanged from last month

The latest SLOTS polling for June 2024 shows that four in five (79%) Sri Lankans continue to say that the country is heading in the wrong direction, while only 4% said it was on the right track. Public views about whether the country is headed in the right direction or not have remained negative since SLOTS started polling this in early 2022. But after improving initially, views have become more negative since July 2023. This is due to a steady decline in uncommitted respondents since the numbers who think the country is in the right direction have remained below 5%.

Direction of the country (%)

Would you say things in the country are headed in the right direction or in the wrong direction?



Institute for Health Policy Sri Lanka Opinion Tracker Survey (SLOTS)

Estimates are based on 13,328 interviews conducted during Apr. 7, 2022–Jun. 30, 2024, including 430 interviews in Jun. 2024.

Sri Lankans are more likely to think the country is headed in the wrong direction than in any other country where this is polled. In May-June 2024, a global average of 62% of adults polled by IPSOS in 29 countries thought their country was headed in the wrong direction compared with 97% in Sri Lanka.

These negative views are widely held, with little difference by gender, income level, urban and rural areas, voting preferences, and people's views of Aragalaya. But younger Sri Lankans have been increasingly more likely than older adults to say the country is on the wrong track.

The June 2024 estimates are based on 430 interviews, with estimates adjusted to match the Sri Lankan population for age, sex, education level, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, religion, geographical location, and sector.

More details available from ihp.lk

Institute for Health Policy, July 2024, "79% of Sri Lankans think the country is heading in the wrong direction". Available at: <https://ihp.lk/research-updates/79-sri-lankans-think-country-heading-wrong-direction>

About IHP

IHP is an independent, non-partisan research centre based in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The SLOTS lead investigator is Dr Ravi Rannan-Eliya of IHP, who has trained in public opinion polling at Harvard University and has conducted numerous surveys over three decades.

Methodology

SLOTS polls the public's outlook on the overall direction of the country by asking people: "Would you say things in the country are headed in the right direction or the wrong direction?". Respondents are also allowed not to answer or to say they "Don't know" or are "Not sure". The percentages saying the country is moving in the right or wrong direction is based on all those who were interviewed, so numbers for right and wrong tracks will not sum to 100% because of don't knows and refusals.

To minimize sample bias, estimates are based on weighting respondents to match the national population for age, sex, sector, ethnicity, religion, education, socioeconomic status ranking, and geographical location. Weighting is done by propensity weighting and iterative proportional fitting (raking).

Funding

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