

END OF CYCLE DATA 2025

Rory Grant
Head of Data Science & Engineering

Ben Jordan
Director of Strategy, Policy and Participation



WHAT IS PUBLISHED ON 10 DECEMBER

1

End of Cycle Dashboard and supporting CSVs

2

Parliamentary Constituency Dashboard

3

Intention to Live at Home – IMD breakdown can be found in CSVs

4

Provider level data to follow in January

ACCEPTANCES AT END OF CYCLE 2025



TOTAL

577,725

564,940 in 2024



UK 18-YEAR-OLDS

289,200

279,550 in 2024



UK 21 AND OVER

106,120

109,780 in 2024

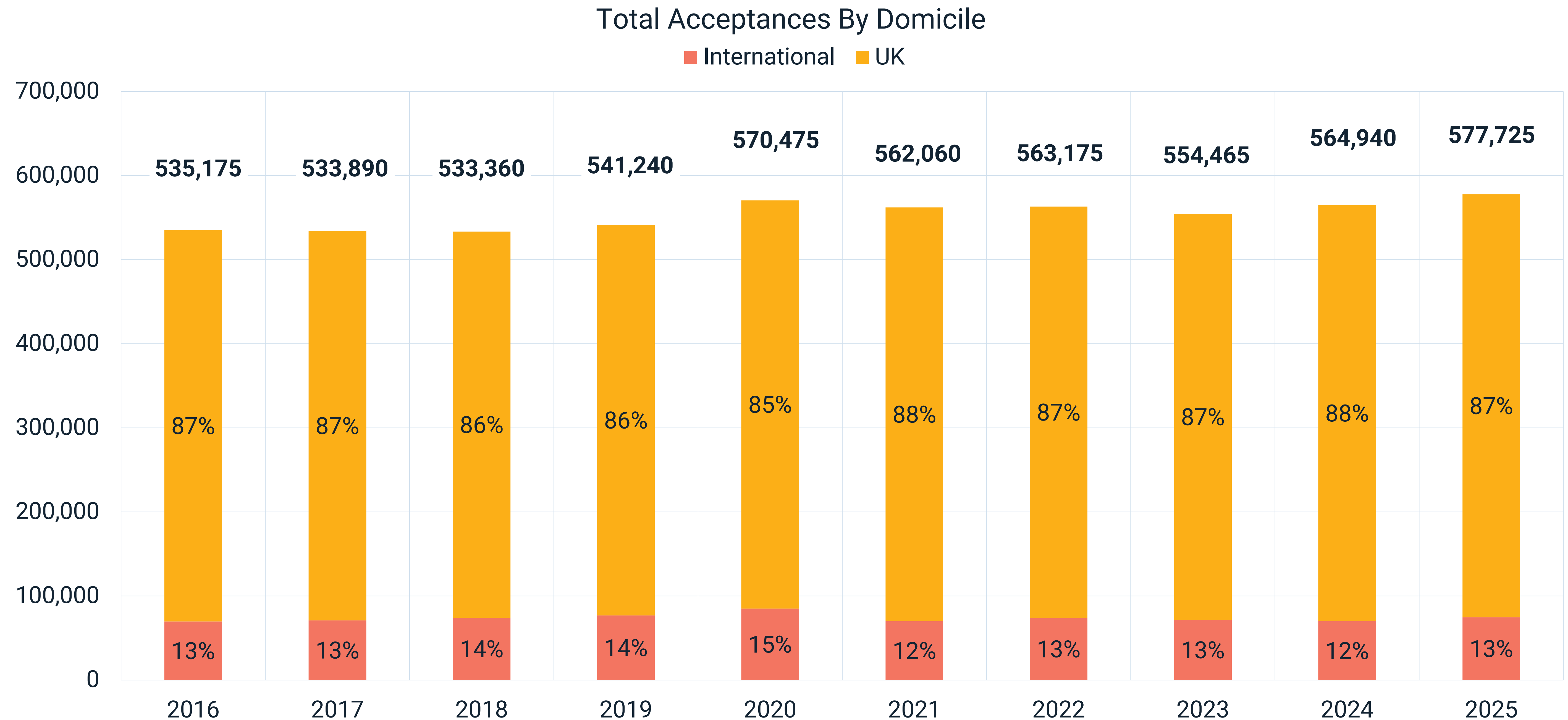


INTERNATIONAL

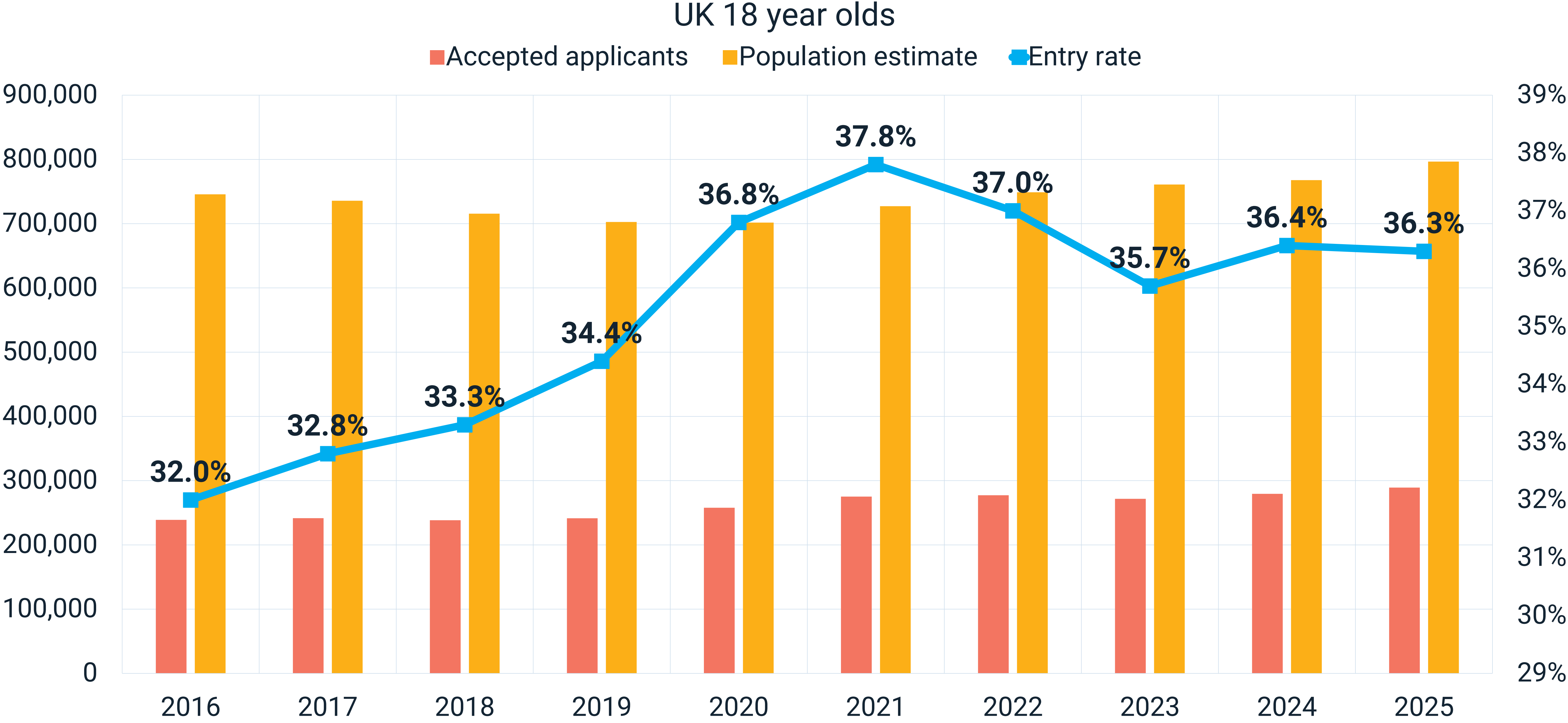
74,660

69,905 in 2024

ACCEPTANCES TIME SERIES



PROPORTION OF UK 18-YEAR-OLDS ACCEPTED TO HE



UK 21+ DECREASE LESSENS ACROSS THE CYCLE



-6%

JANUARY APPLICANTS

Early demand for HE among the mature cohort was 6% down compared to the same point last year

-4%

JUNE APPLICANTS

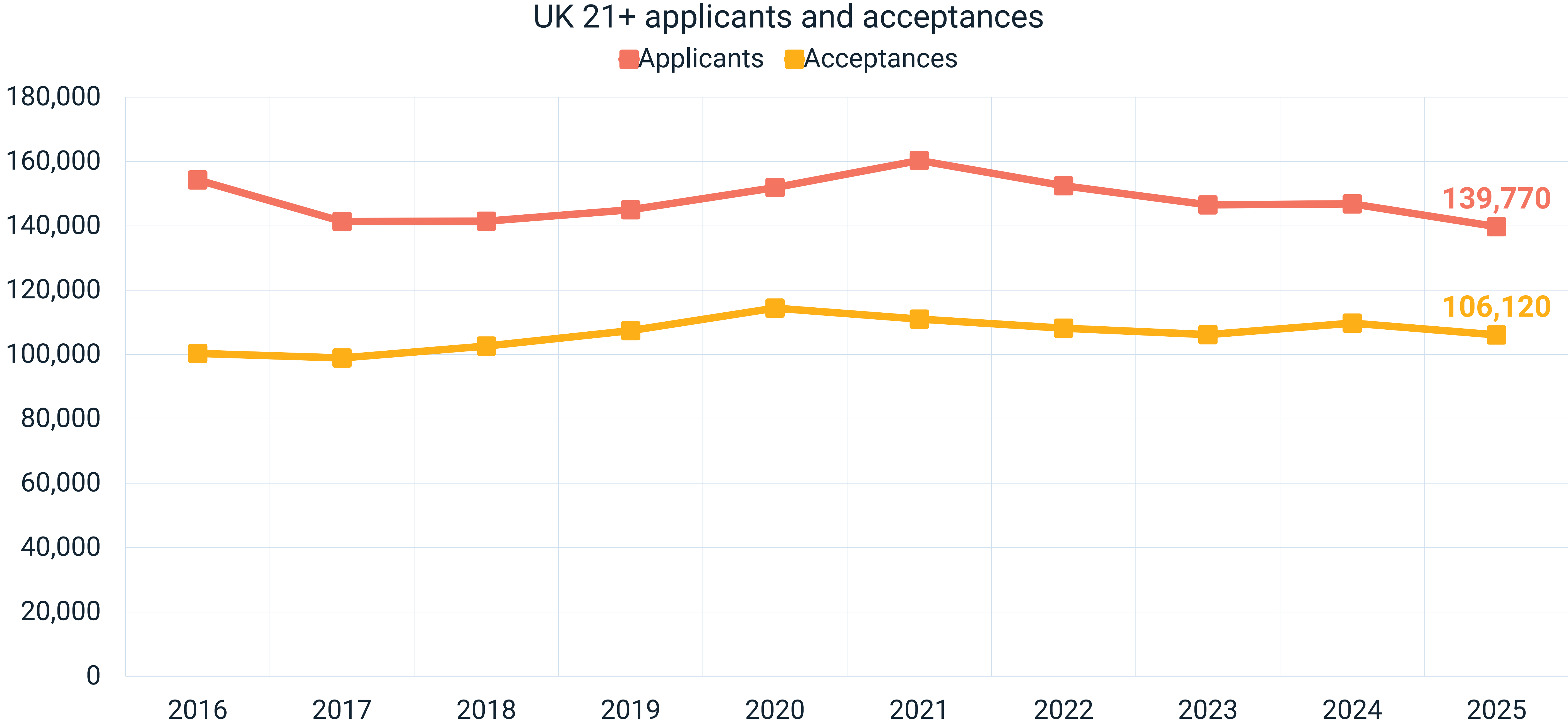
By the end of the main scheme, the drop had reduced to 4%, indicating activity moving **later in the cycle**

-3%

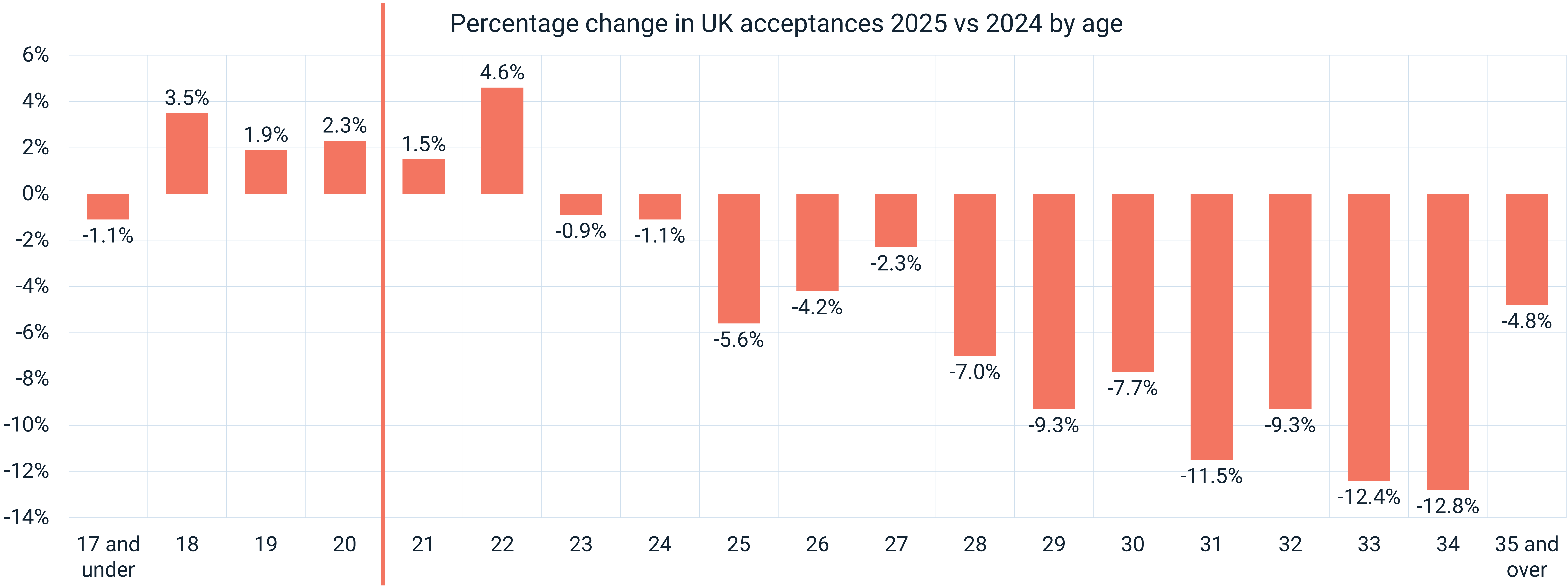
END OF CYCLE ACCEPTANCES

Now mature acceptances are only 3% below last year's number, with **increased DTC activity** playing a role in the late recovery of numbers

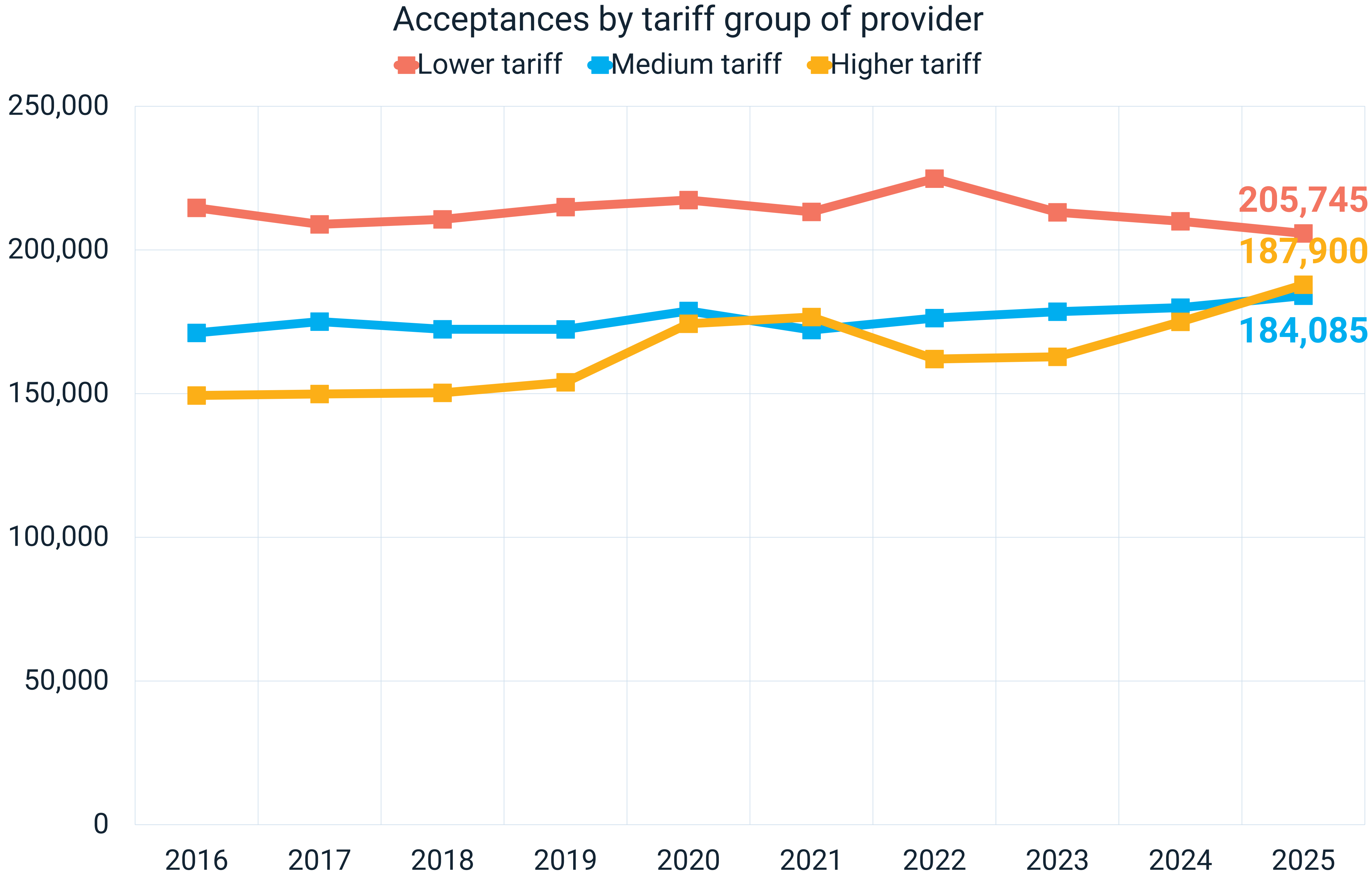
UK 21+ APPLICANTS AND ACCEPTANCES TIME SERIES



YOUNGER MATURE SPLIT FROM DOWNWARD TREND



HIGHER TARIFF PROVIDERS SEE LARGEST INCREASE



-2.0%

+7.4%

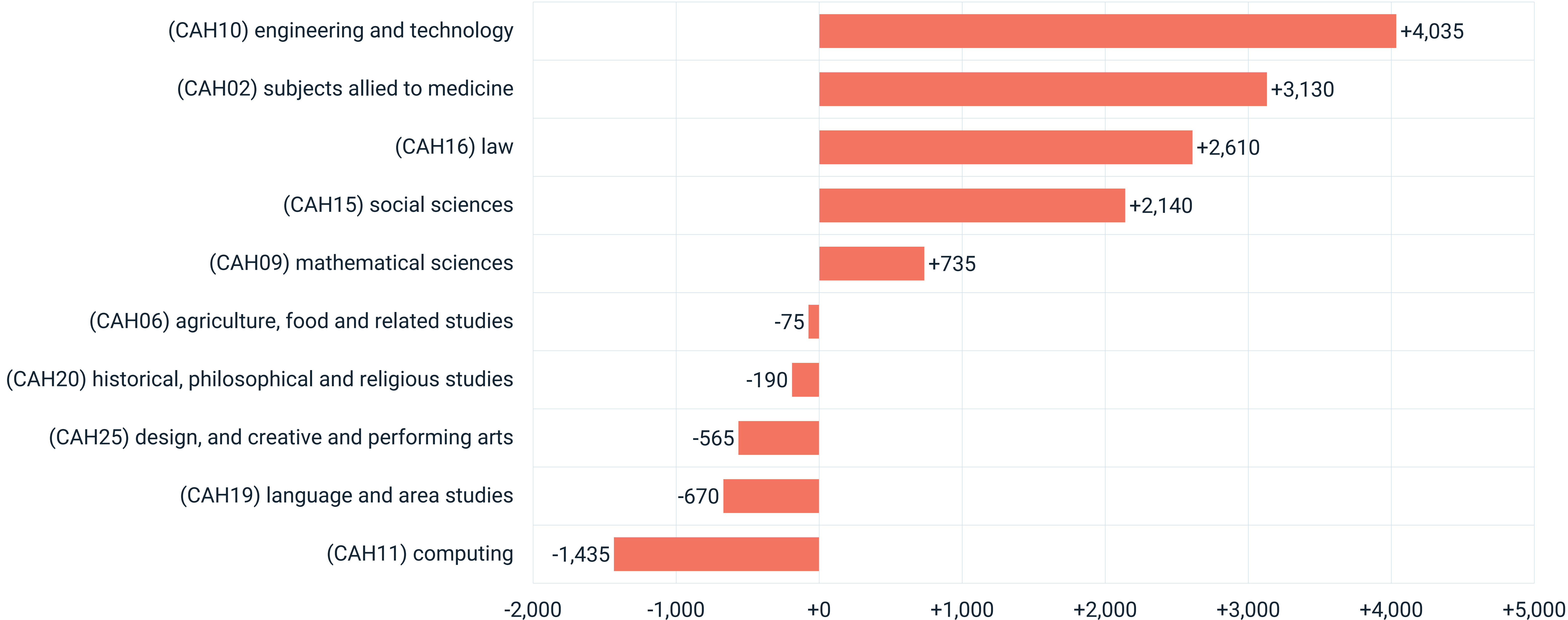
+2.3%

Higher tariff providers have seen **7.4%** increase in acceptances in 2025 to **187,900** the highest on record.

Driven by both increased demand and an increased offer rate compared to 2024, but returning to pre-pandemic levels

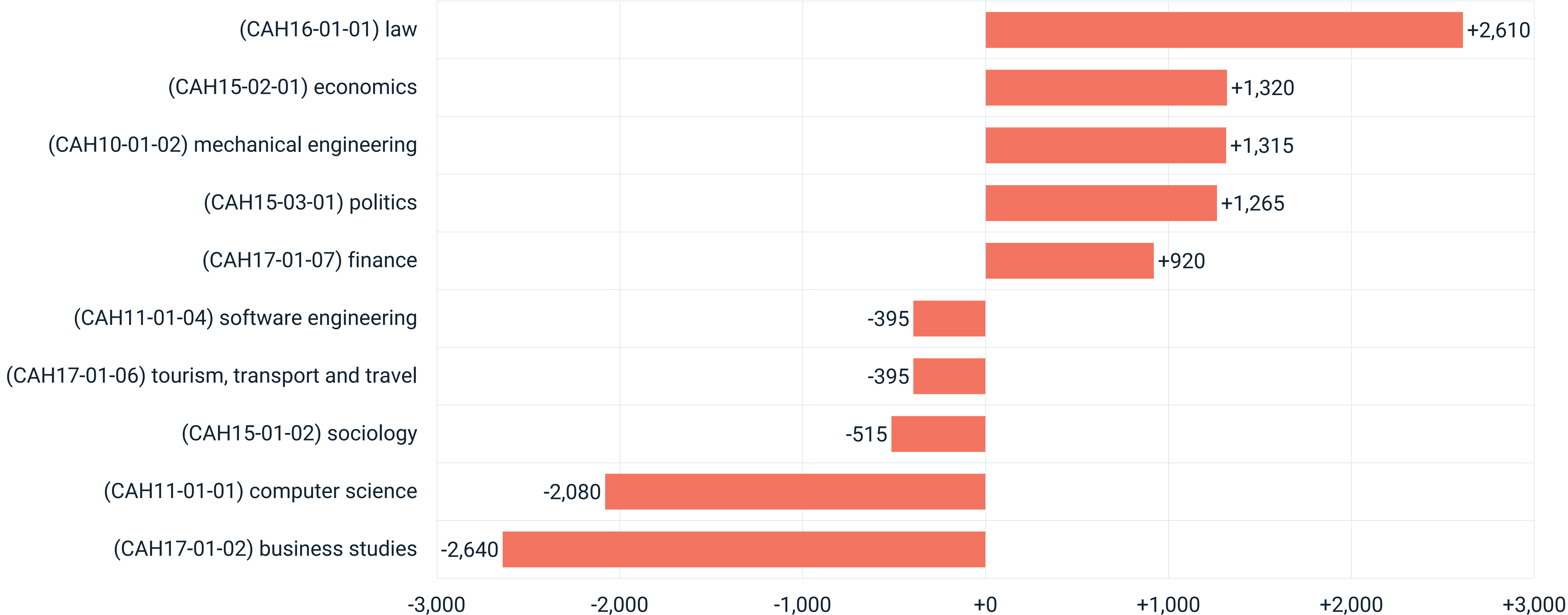
CHANGES IN SUBJECT GROUP

Largest changes in acceptances 2025 vs 2024 by CAH1 group

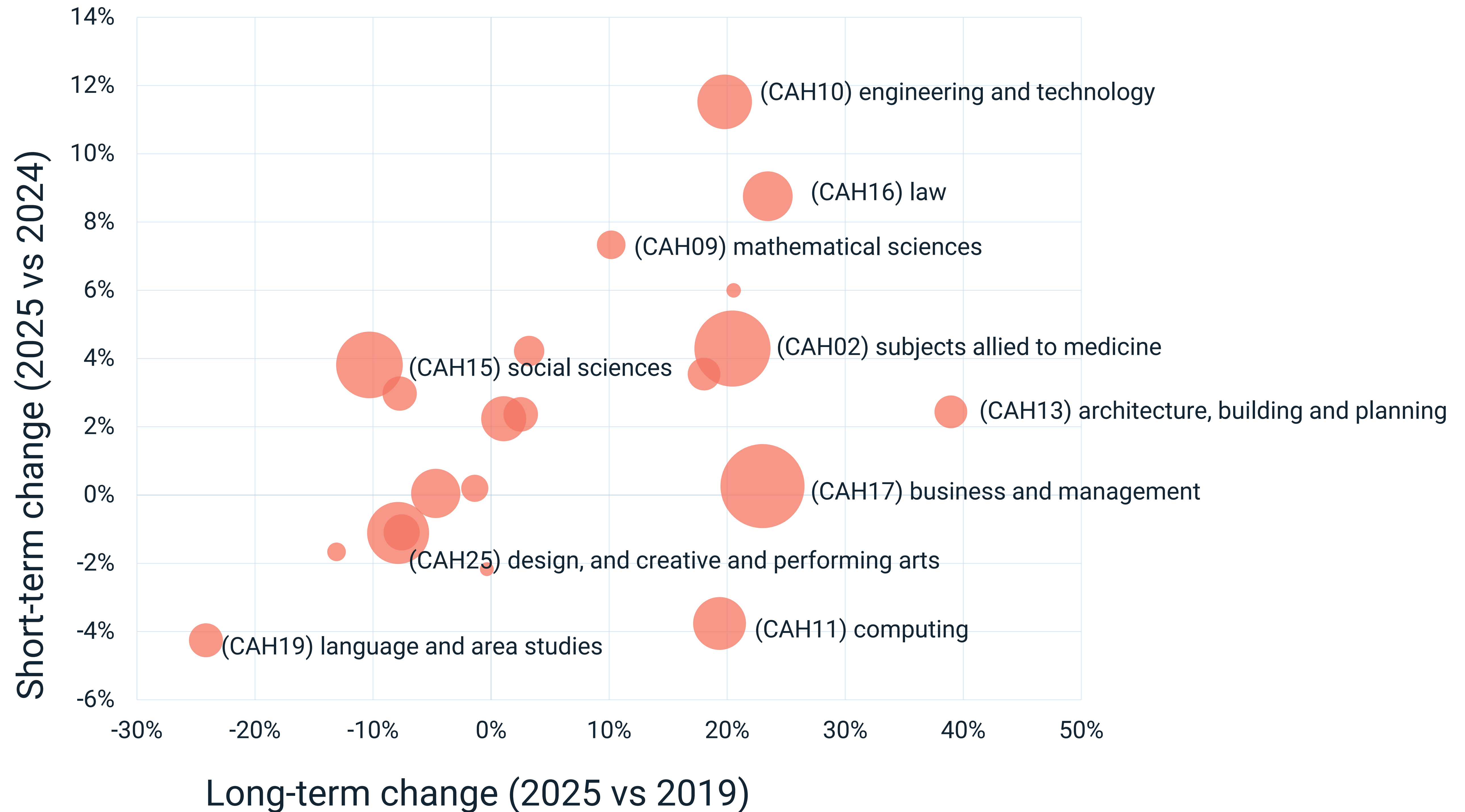


CHANGES IN DETAILED SUBJECT GROUP

Largest changes in acceptances 2025 vs 2024 by CAH3 group



LONG- AND SHORT-TERM SUBJECT CHANGES



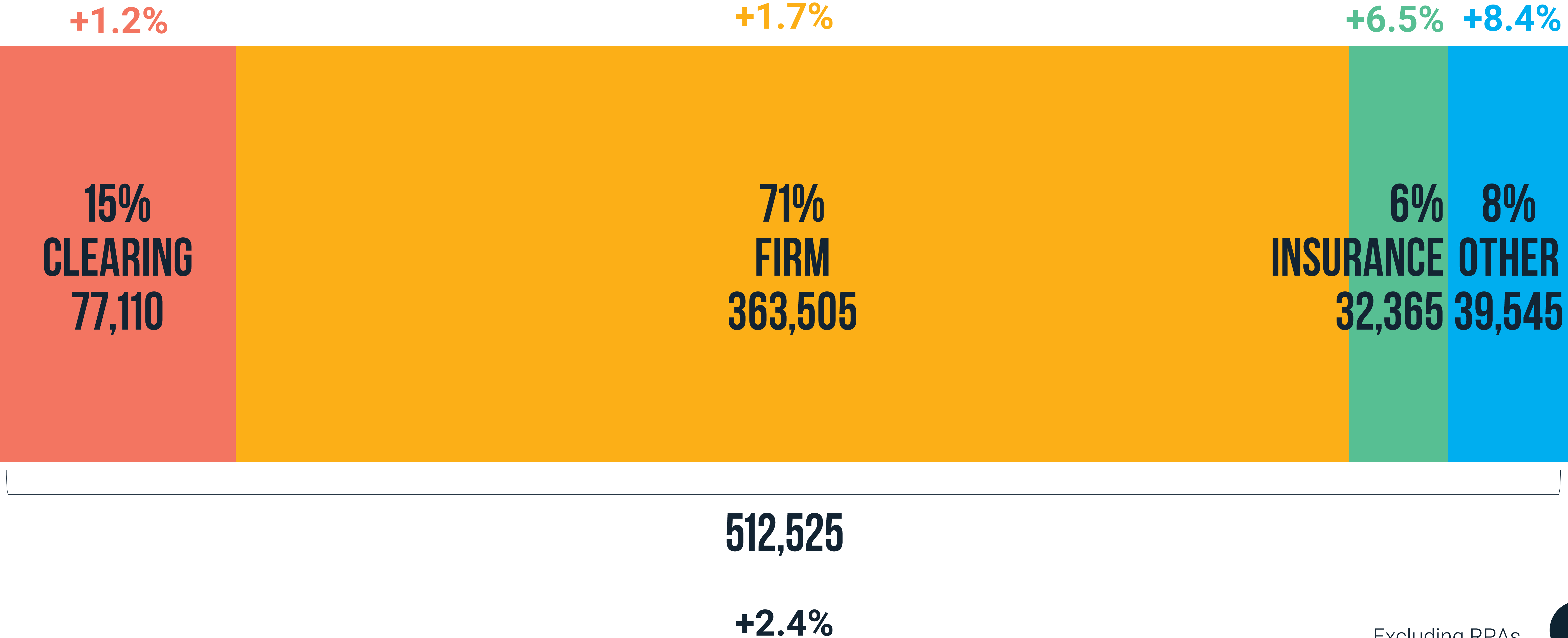
INTERNATIONAL ACCEPTANCES INCREASED BY 6.8%

LARGEST NUMBERS OF ACCEPTANCES	China	19,480	+14%
	India	5,295	-9%
	Hong Kong	2,870	-7%
	United States	2,775	+12%
	Ireland	2,455	+9%
	Malaysia	2,405	-11%

BIGGEST CHANGE IN ACCEPTANCES	China	+2,415	+14%
	Nepal	+1,210	+133%
	Pakistan	+940	+70%
	Bangladesh	+410	+103%
	Turkey	+375	+26%
	India	-510	-9%

The proportion of all acceptances that are international is 12.9% in 2025, which is an increase of 0.5pp vs 2024 but still below the 14.9% seen in 2020.

ACCEPTANCE ROUTES



DECLINE MY PLACE

Proportion of applicants that used DMP

Proportion of those who used DMP that were placed at the EOC

Proportion of clearing accepts that had used DMP

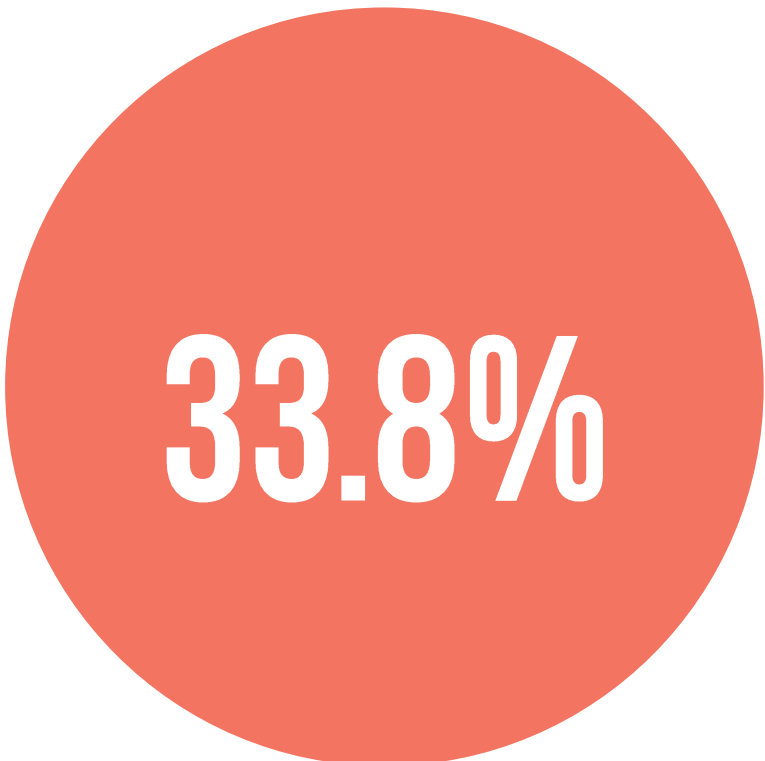
All applicants



43,810
(+1.4% since 2024)



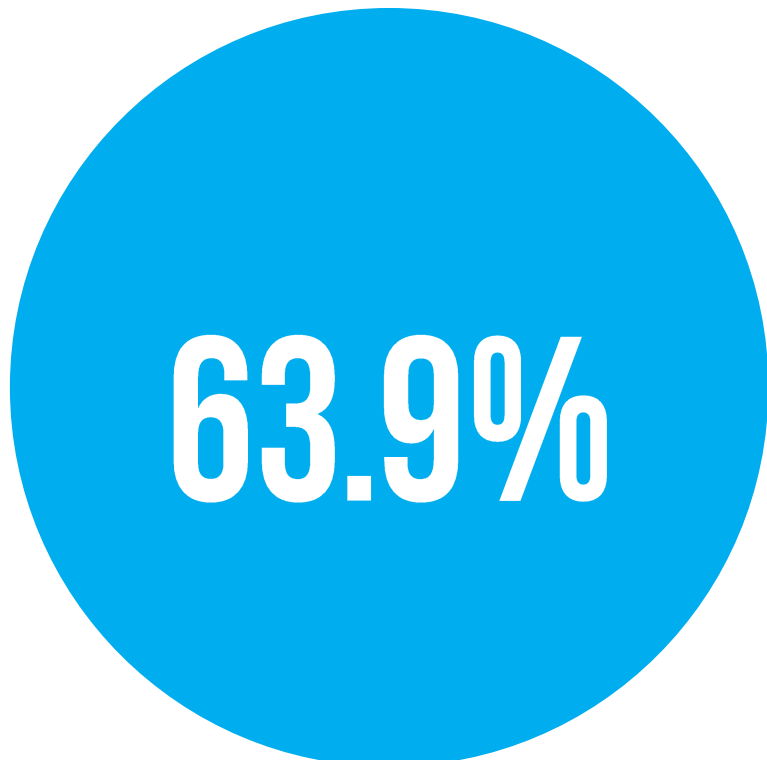
26,085
(+2.9% since 2024)



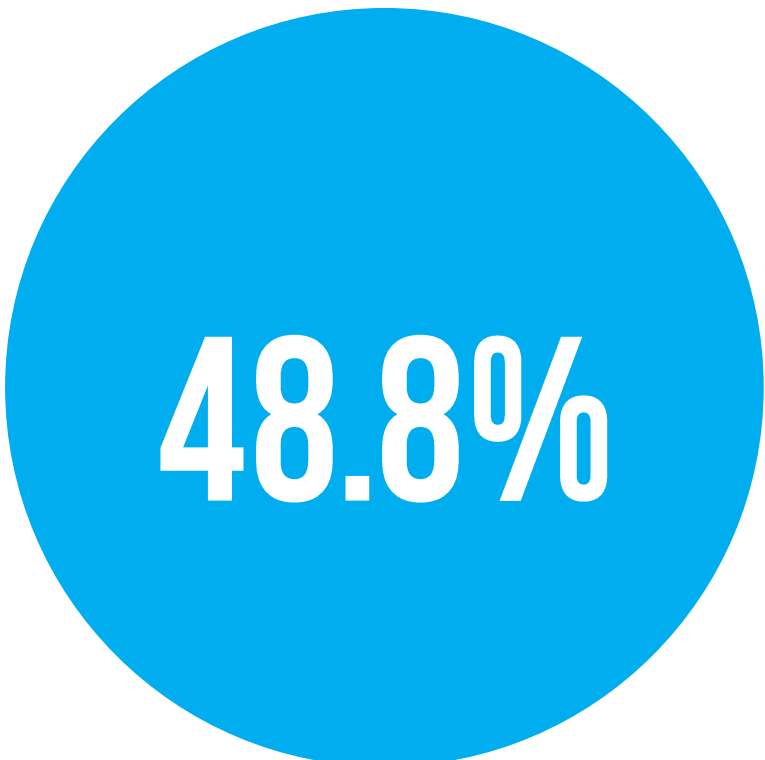
UK 18-year-old applicants



29,800
(+0.2% since 2024)



19,035
(+2.6% since 2024)



MOTIVATIONS BEHIND DECLINE MY PLACE

Insight from UCAS 2025 Clearing survey




85% of those who used Decline My Place had already chosen an **alternative course**.

The most common push factor to use Decline My Place was “changed my mind about the **subject** I wanted to study”.




Most common pull factors to use Decline My Place are preferring the **course, location and reputation** of the new choice.

APPLICANT DOMICILE FOCUS




English applicants

-  431,515 acceptances (+1.8%)
-  18-year-old entry rate decreased by 0.1pp to 37.1%
-  IMD 18-year-old entry rate ratio widened from 1.70 to 1.74.




Northern Irish applicants

-  13,480 acceptances (+4.3%)
-  18-year-old entry rate increased by 0.4pp to 38.3%
-  NIMDM 18-year-old entry rate ratio narrowed slightly from 2.31 to 2.30.

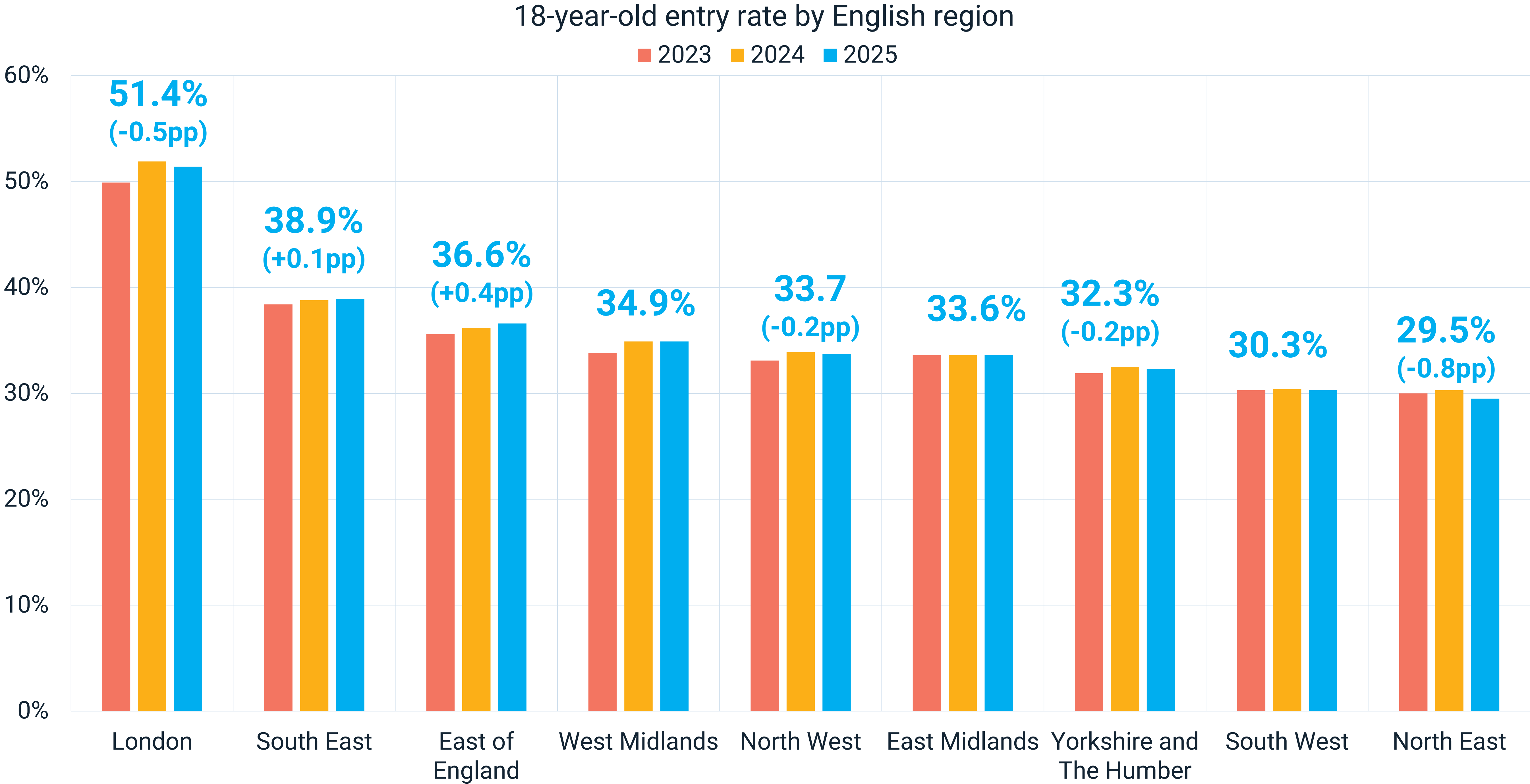
Scottish applicants

-  38,945 acceptances (-0.9%)
-  18-year-old entry rate remained the same at 30.4%
-  SIMD 18-year-old entry rate ratio narrowed from 2.70 to 2.60.

Welsh applicants

-  19,120 acceptances (+0.7%)
-  18-year-old entry rate decreased by 0.9pp to 29.2%. The lowest in ten-year time series.
-  WIMD 18-year-old entry rate ratio widened from 2.43 to 2.47

REGIONAL ENTRY RATE GAPS PERSIST



PROVIDER COUNTRY FOCUS

English providers

- ↑ 491,570 acceptances (+2.6%)
- ↑ Offer rate has increased from 70.4% to 72.2%

Northern Irish providers

- ↑ 12,365 acceptances (+8.2%)
- ↑ Offer rate has increased from 76.6% to 77.5%

Scottish providers

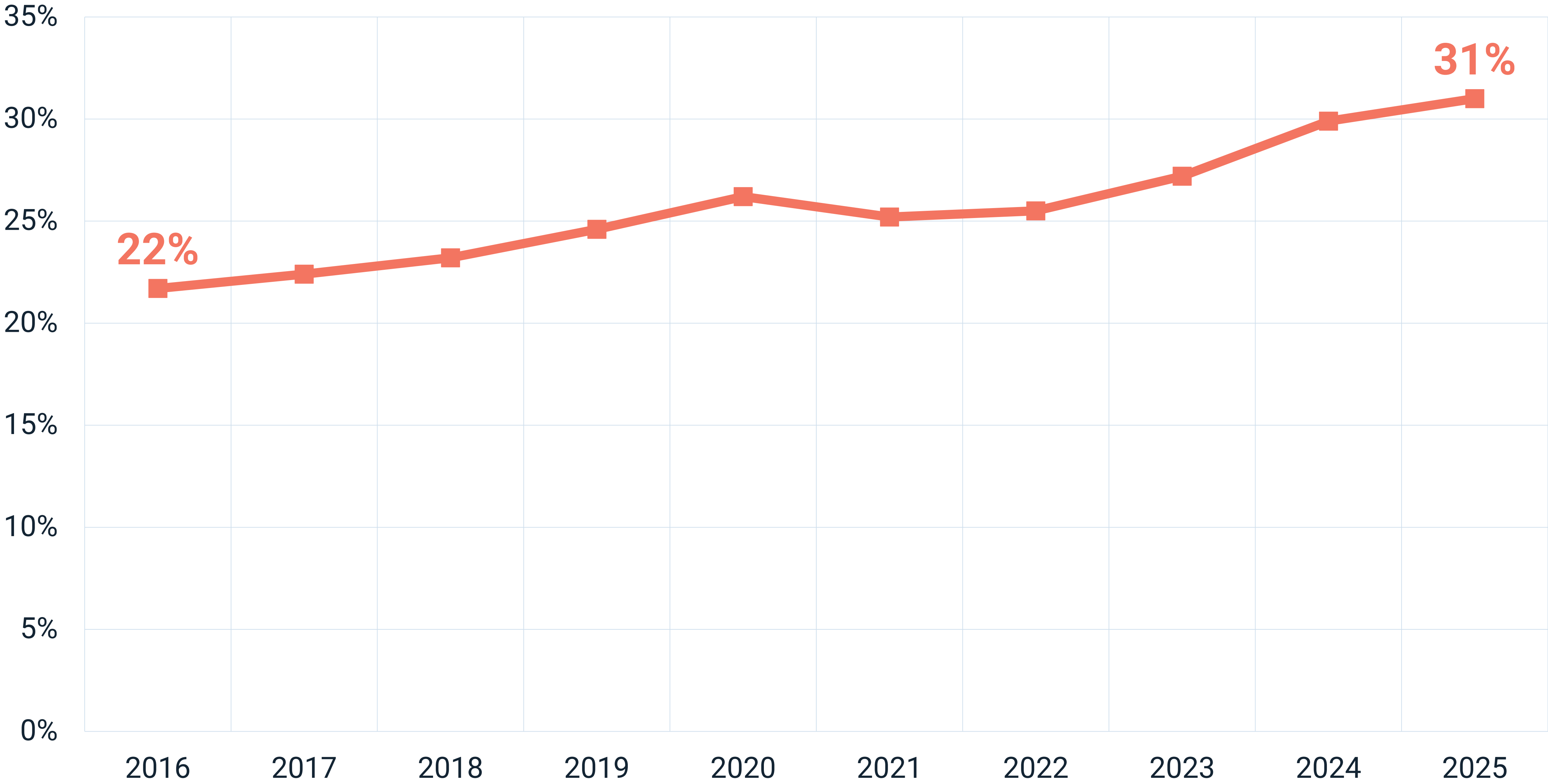
- ↑ 49,545 acceptances (+0.5%)
- ↑ Offer rate has increased from 62.0% to 63.9%

Welsh providers

- ↓ 24,240 acceptances (-4.2%)
- ↓ Offer rate has decreased from 77.7% to 75.7%

PROPORTION INTENDING TO LIVE AT HOME CONTINUES TO INCREASE

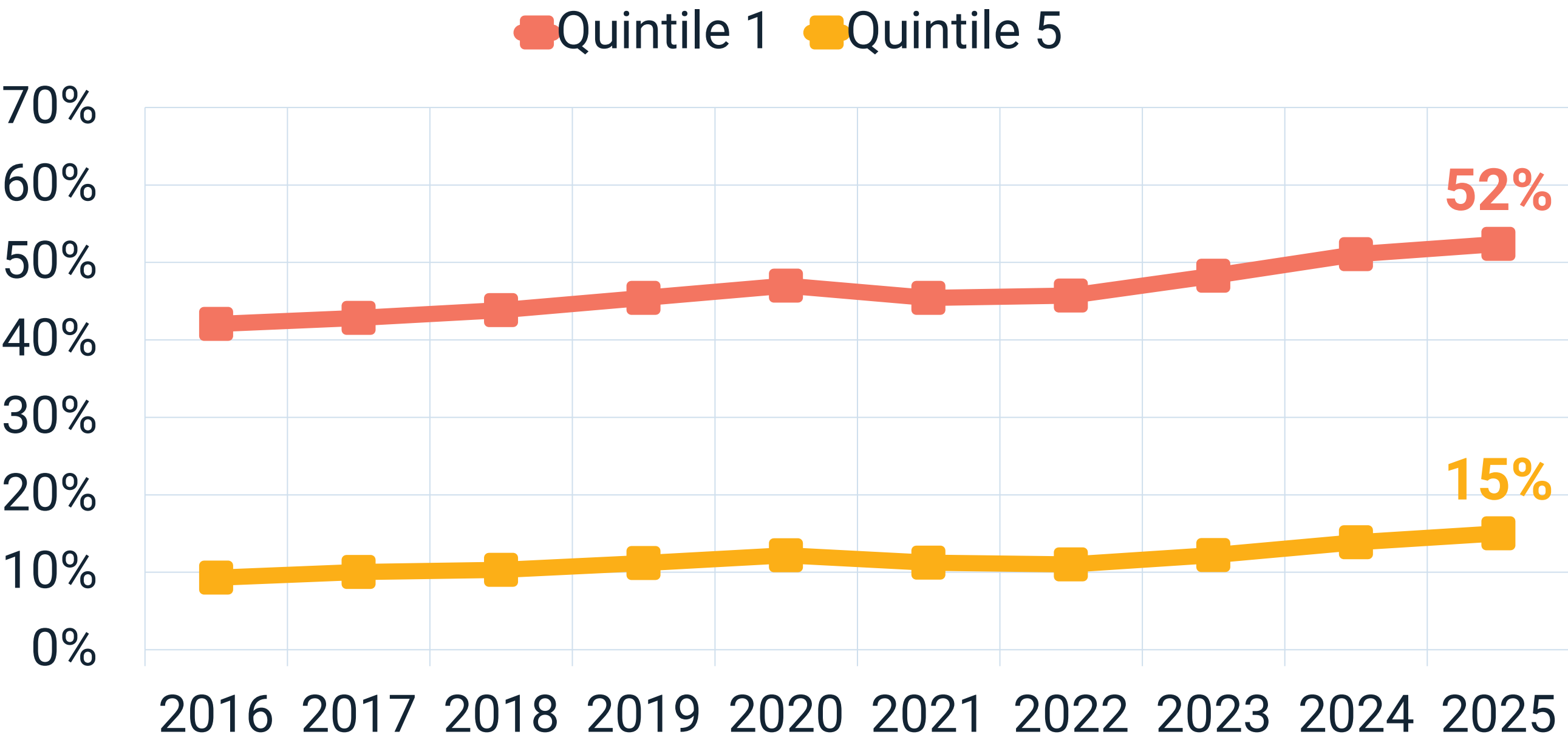
Proportion of UK 18-year-old accepted applicants intending to live at home



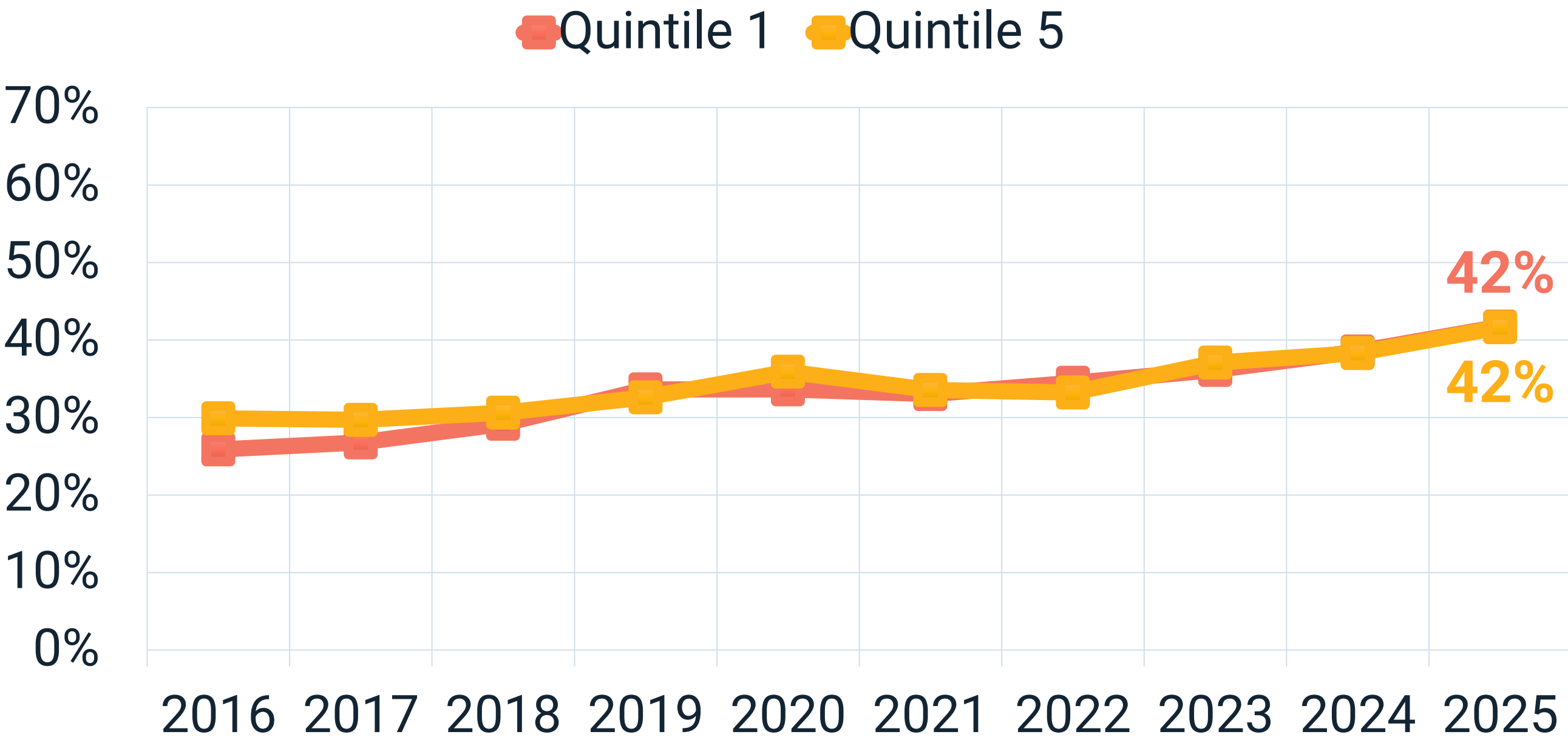
The number of UK18 year old acceptances that intend to live at home reached **89,510** this year, an increase of **6.9%** vs 2024

INTENTION TO LIVE AT HOME BY IMD QUINTILE

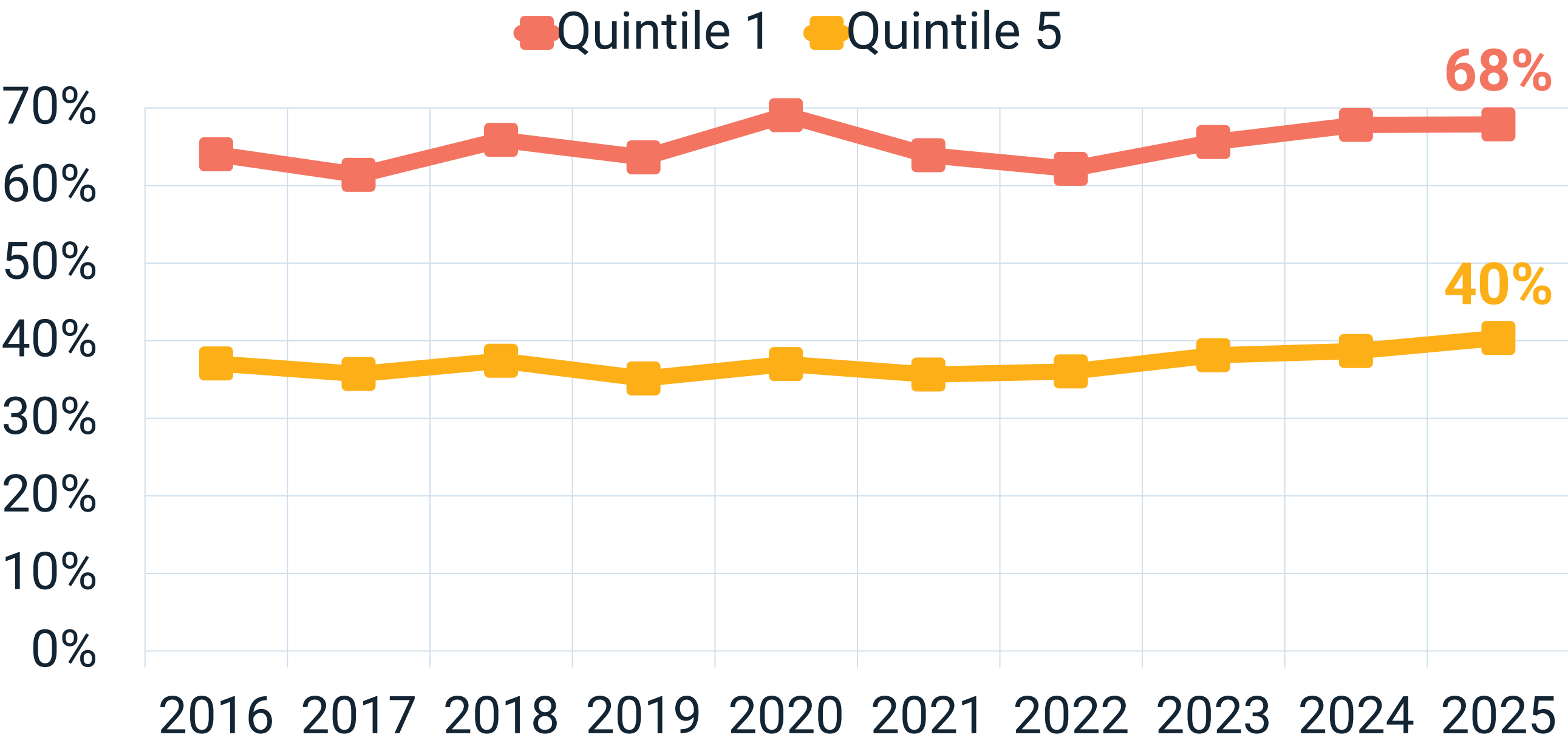
England



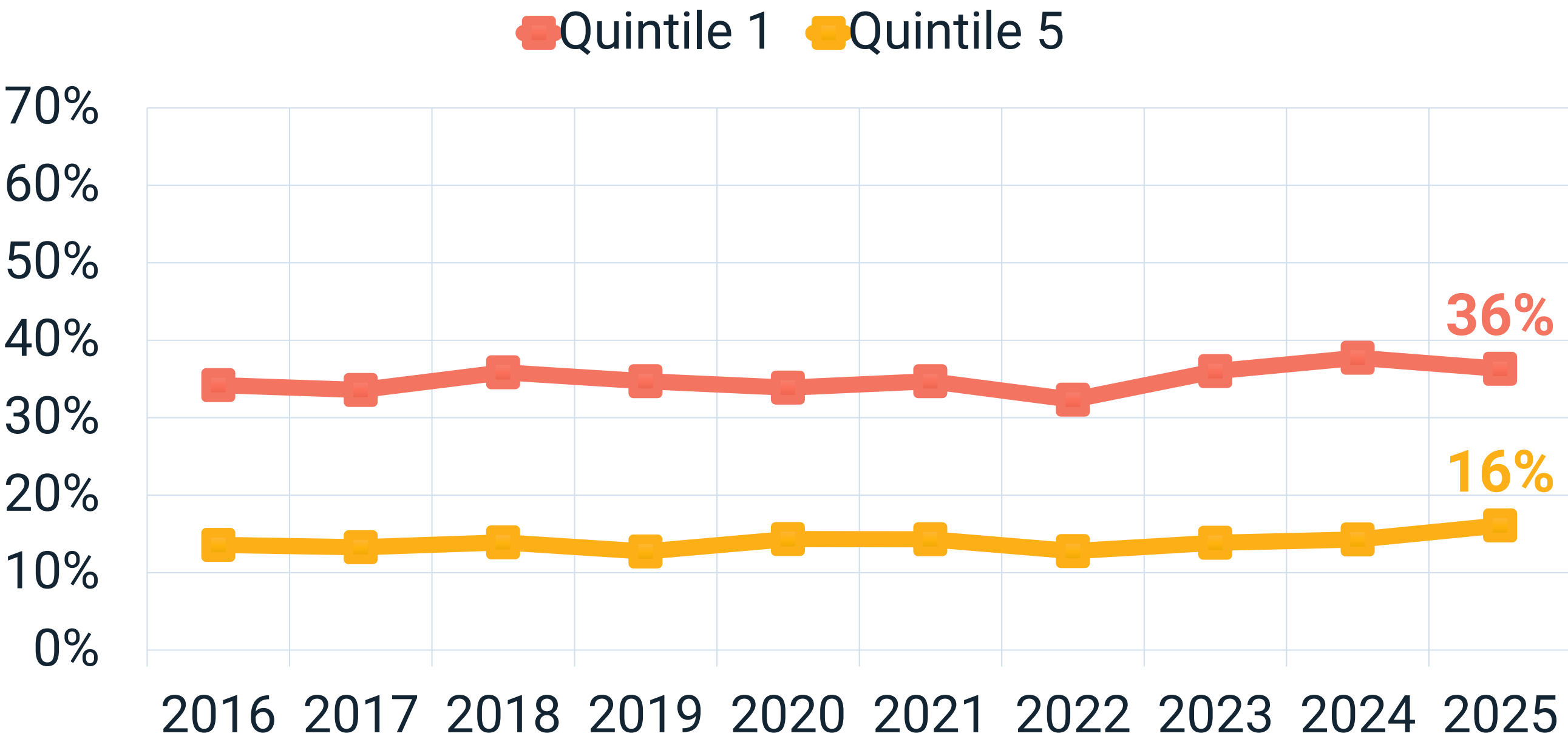
Northern Ireland



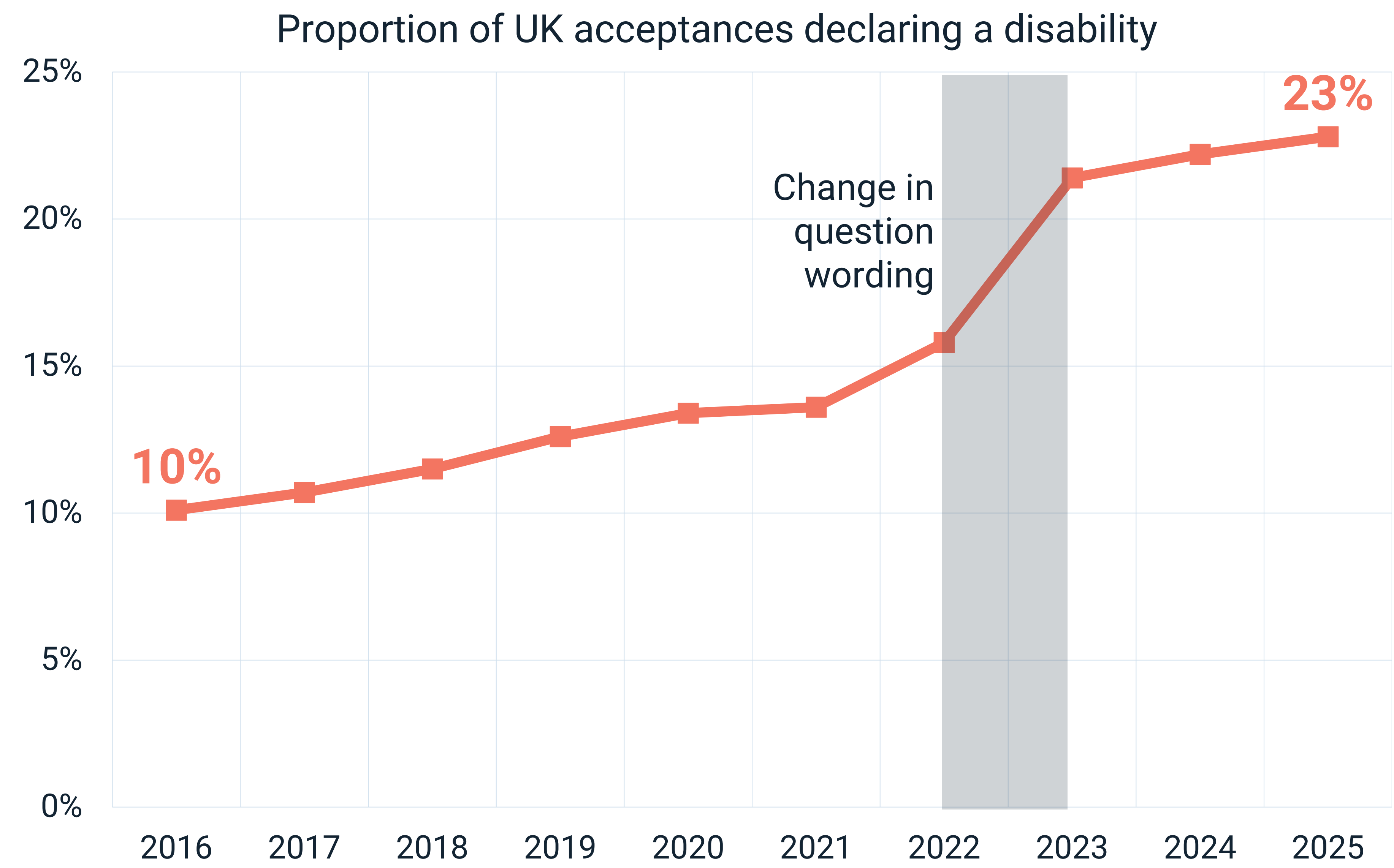
Scotland



Wales



PROPORTION OF ACCEPTANCES DECLARING DISABILITY CONTINUES TO INCREASE



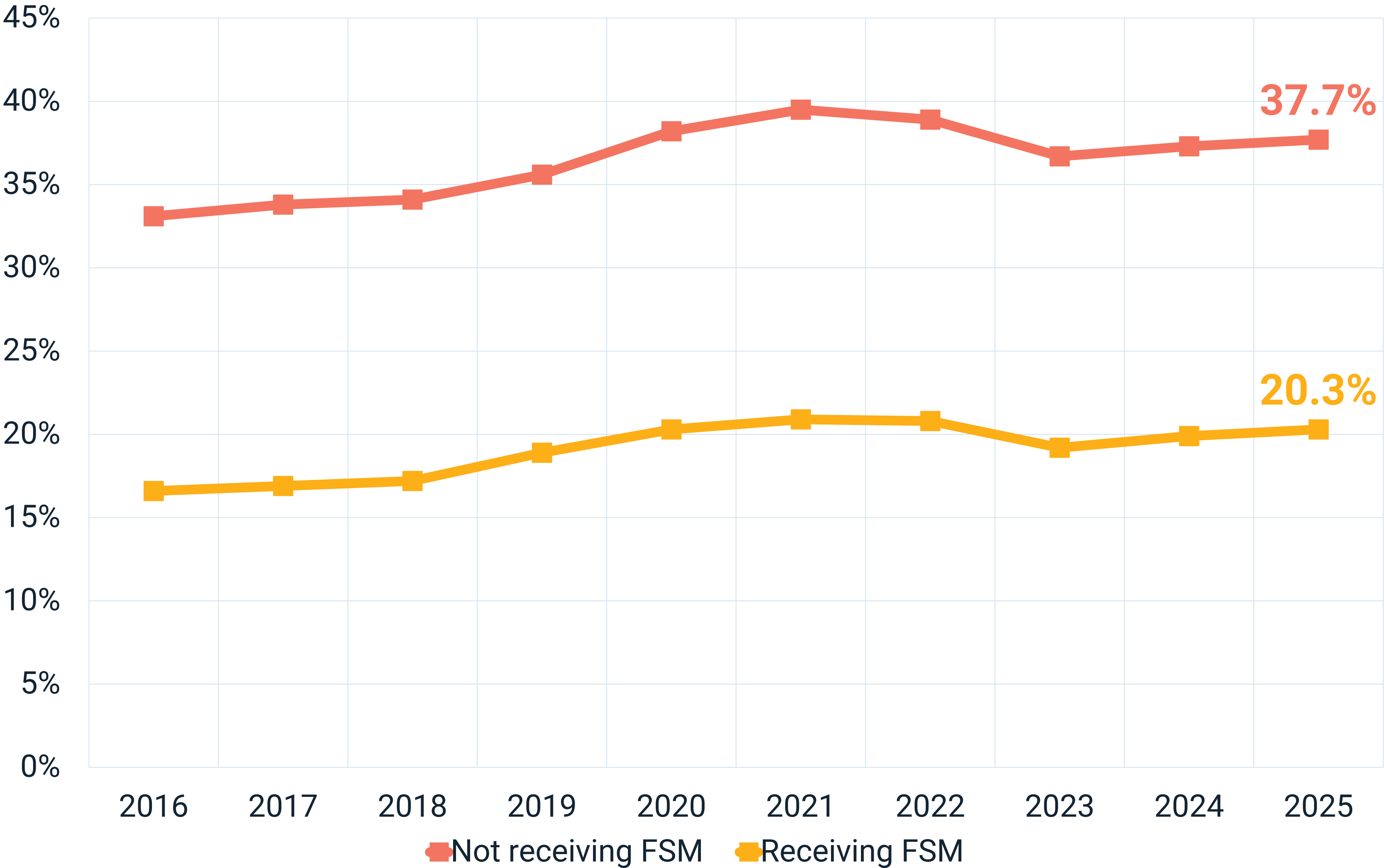
+4.7% Disability declared
114,830 accepted applicants (+5,165 vs 2024)

Largest changes in UK acceptances from 2024 to 2025:

- +3,875 Learning Difference
- +2,345 Two or more impairments
- 3,145 Mental health condition/challenge/disorder

NPD FREE SCHOOL MEALS

English 18-year-old entry rate by FSM status



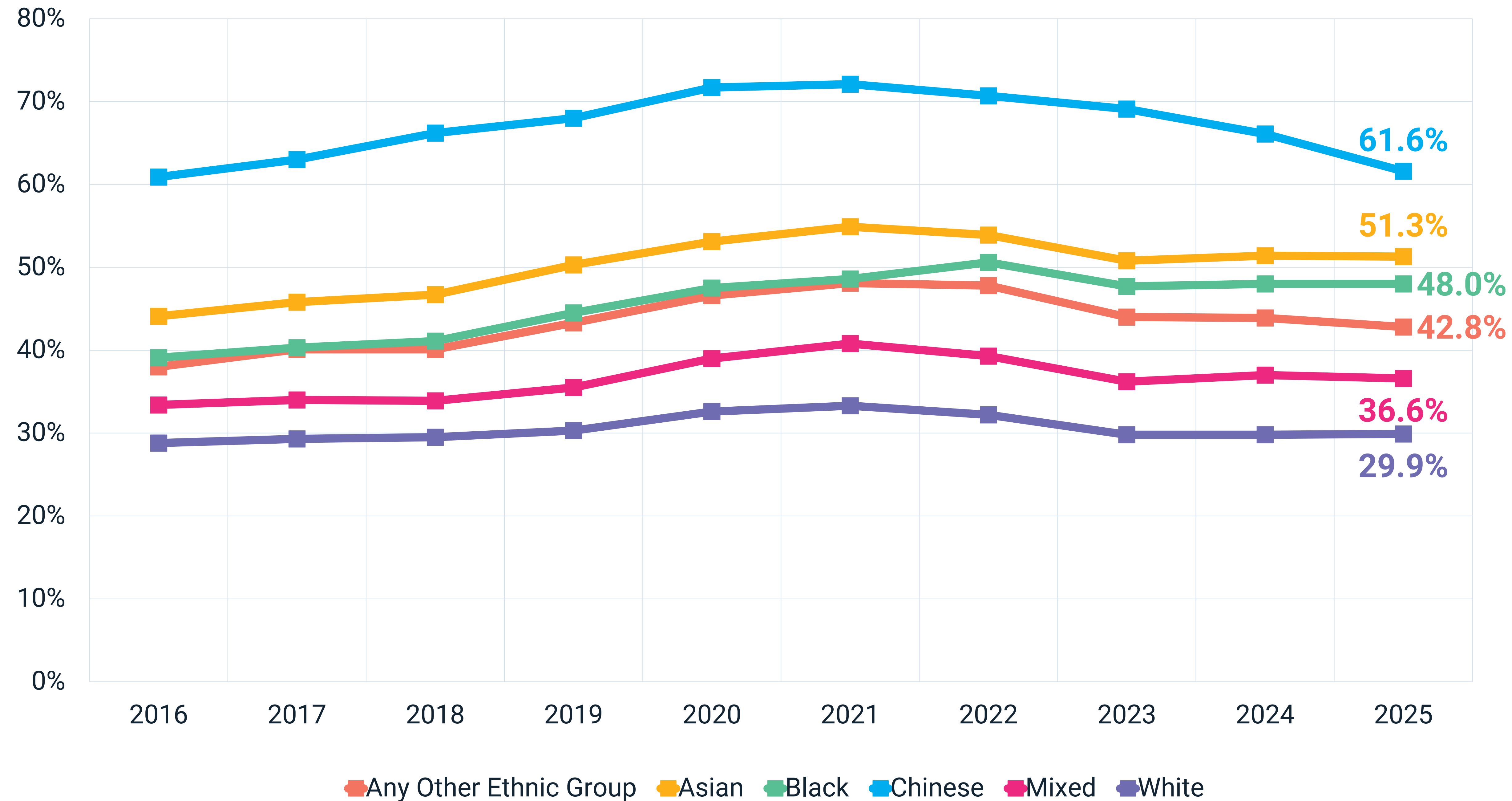
2% increase in not receiving FSM 182,575 from 178,430

15% increase in FSM acceptances to 28,490 from 24,830

Both entry rates have increased by **0.4pp**

NPD ETHNICITY

English 18-year-old entry rate by ethnic group



Chinese ethnicity entry rate decreases despite increase in the number of acceptances.

UCAS

QUESTIONS

stats@ucas.ac.uk

communications@ucas.ac.uk

