

## DataFest Entry: UK Government Approval During Covid-19 Pandemic

Github: <https://github.com/simonkaufmann/datafest>

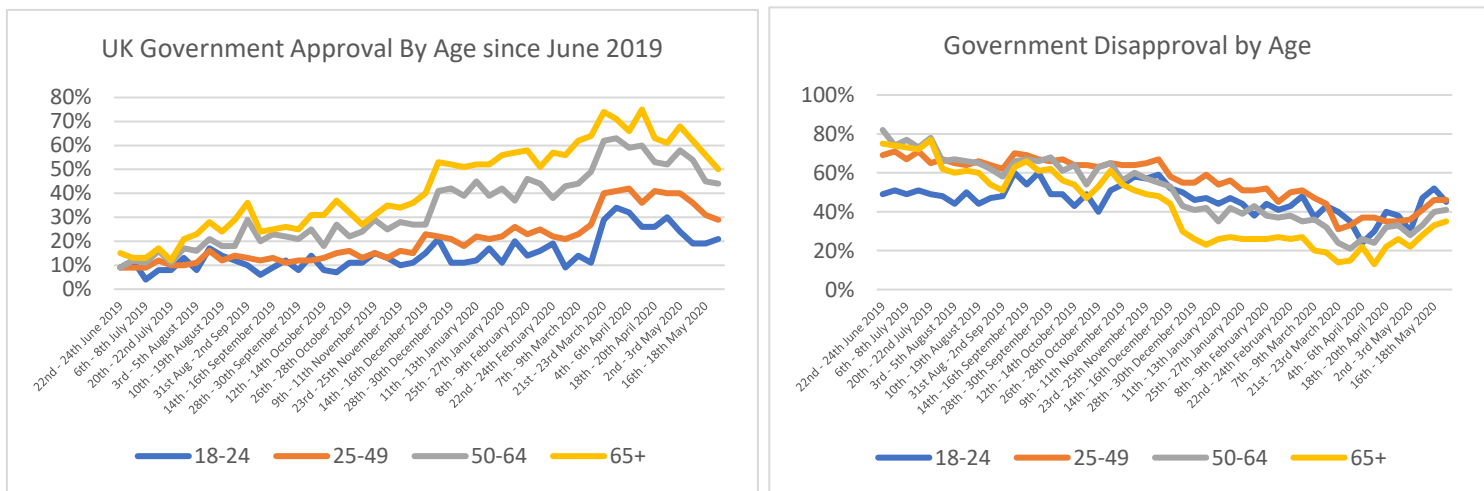
Interactive Demo: <https://gov-approval.shinyapps.io/datafest/>

Data Source: <https://yougov.co.uk/topics/politics/trackers/government-approval>

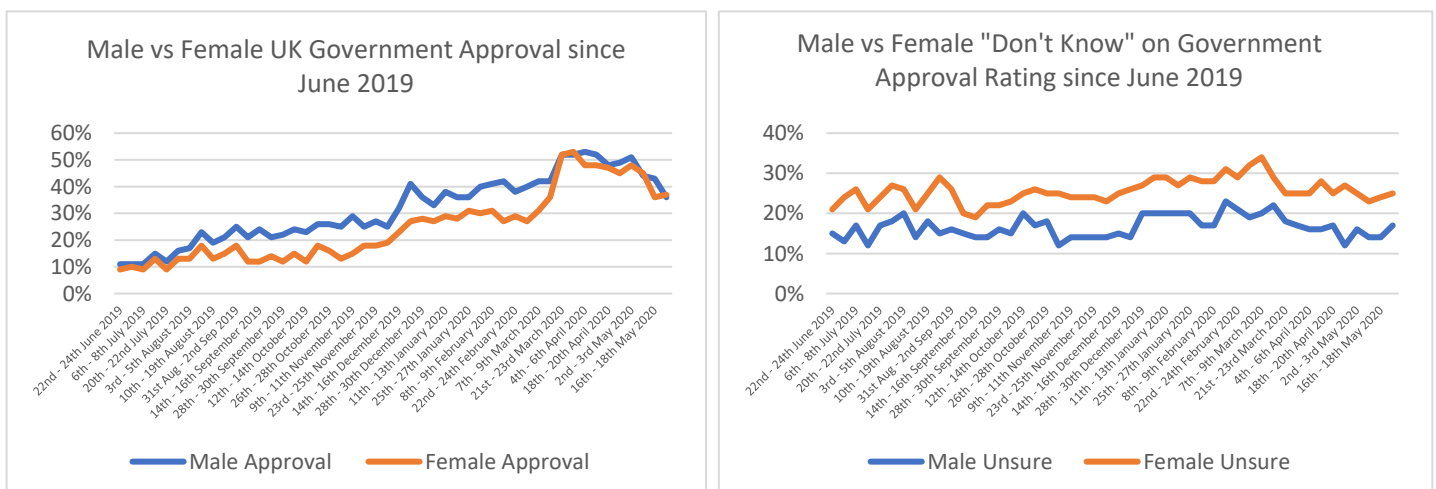
Our project focused on analysing the results of the weekly YouGov poll that asks the UK electorate: “Do you approve or disapprove of the Government’s record to date?”. Participants can select “Approve”, “Disapprove” or “Don’t Know”, and the results are collected in various ways: by gender, political party, age, region and opinion on Brexit.

We created an interactive app using the Shiny package in R to display the regional results, with the size of the circle over each region representing the proportion of participants that selected “Approve” on a given date. The results are displayed from June 2019 to give context for how the results looked before the COVID-19 pandemic. There is a noticeable increase in government approval once the ‘lockdown’ was imposed in the UK in March, and generally the government approval rating has been higher during the pandemic than before it.

Here are some further highlights of our analysis of the data:



There appears to be a clear connection between age and government approval, with the percentage of participants selecting “Approve” rising with age (and time). The pandemic seems to have made the differences between the age groups even wider. However, it is also notable that the 18-24s were the least disapproving age group in June 2019, but are now the most disapproving, despite the percentage of 18-24s selecting “Disapprove” not actually changing that much.



Women have consistently selected “Approve” less often than men since June 2019. The only times this has not been the case is when ‘lockdown’ was imposed in the UK in March and on a couple of occasions in May.

Women have consistently selected “Don’t Know” more often than men since June 2019, and the pandemic has not widened this gap. The percentage of men and women selecting “Don’t Know” dropped once ‘lockdown’ was imposed in the UK.