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PRESS RELEASE

Favourability ratings of major party leaders declined in February 2024

Public continues to show unfavourable views of all

In IHP SLOTS polling in February 2024, all major party leaders' net favourability ratings declined in February. The net favourability rating of NPP/JVP leader AK Dissanayake declined to -19 (-10) and for SJB leader Sajith Premadasa, it declined to -62 (-8). The net favourability of Pres. Ranil Wickremasinghe changed little at -79 (-2).
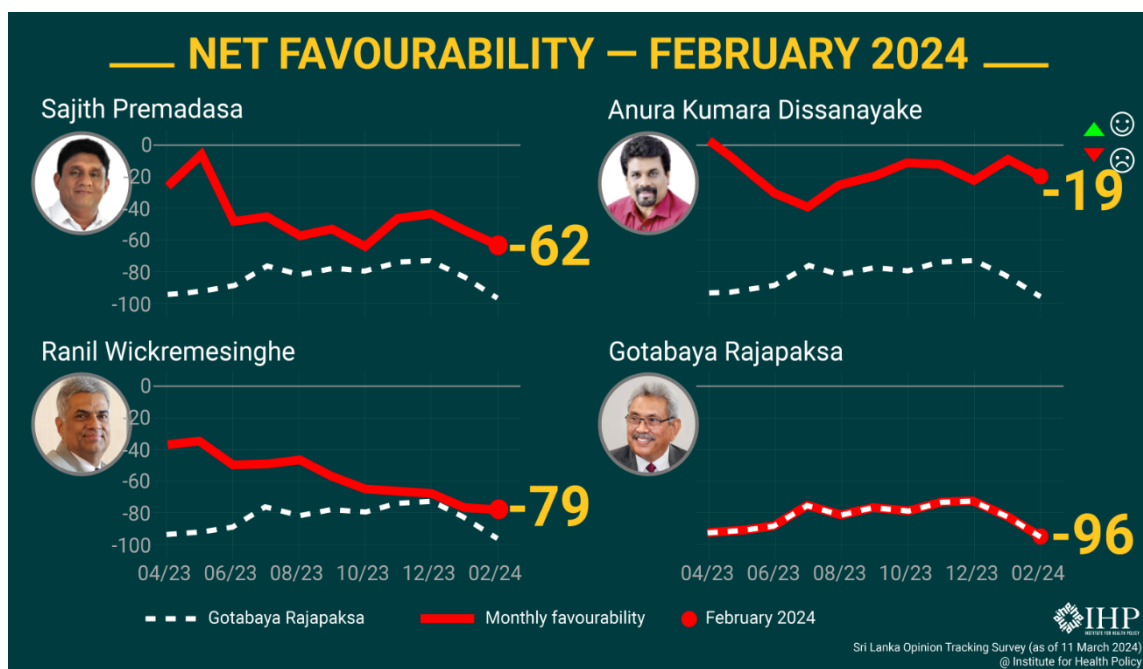
Favourability estimates for each month are based on 100–500 interviews conducted during that month and during a few weeks before and afterward to ensure a minimum set of responses. The February 2024 estimates are based on 425 (Sajith Premadasa), 377 (A.K. Dissanayake), 407 (Ranil Wickremasinghe), and 143 (Gotabaya Rajapaksa) interviews.

Note to editors

We have noted that some members of the public misunderstand media reporting of these numbers. Negative scores, *i.e.*, a net favourability rating of less than zero, means that the individual or institution is UNPOPULAR. Only positive scores, *i.e.*, net favourability is more than zero, mean that the individual or institution is POPULAR on average.

Related Reports

Institute for Health Policy, February 2024, "AK Dissanayake sees favourability ratings improve, but other party leaders see declines in January 2024." Available at: https://www.ihp.lk/sites/default/files/press-release/IHPPressRelease20240223.pdf

Institute for Health Policy, December 2023, "Sajith Premadasa's favourability rating improved in November, but still trailed AK Dissanayake." Available at: *https://ihp.lk/news/pres_doc/IHPPressRelease20231215.pdf*

Institute for Health Policy, November 2023, "AK Dissanayake continues to see his favourability improve, while it worsens for other party leaders." Available at: *https://ihp.lk/news/pres_doc/IHPPressRelease20231117.pdf*

Institute for Health Policy, October 2023, "Favourability ratings of AK Dissanayake least negative of major party leaders in September." Available at: *https://ihp.lk/news/pres_doc/IHPPressRelease20231020.pdf*

Institute for Health Policy, September 2023, "AK Dissanayake's public favourability improves, but Sajith Premadasa's worsens in August." Available at: *https://ihp.lk/news/pres_doc/IHPPressRelease20230920.pdf*

Institute for Health Policy, August 2023, "Favourability of NPP/JVP leader AK Dissanayake sees significant drop in July 2023." Available at: *https://ihp.lk/news/pres_doc/IHPPressRelease20230816.pdf*

Institute for Health Policy, March 2023, "Sri Lankans continue to hold unfavourable views of all political party leaders. Most more unpopular than French President Macron, with only a few having a small positive rating." *Available at: https://ihp.lk/news/pres_doc/IHPPressRelease20230328.pdf*

Institute for Health Policy, February 2023, "President Ranil Wickremesinghe remained less unpopular than his predecessor as 2022 ended, but the public unhappy with all party leaders." *Available at: https://www.ihp.lk/news/pres_doc/IHPPressRelease20230208.pdf*

Institute for Health Policy, April 2022, "SLOTS Favourability Ratings: Methodology for tracking public favourability", SLOTS Report #2022-03. *Available at: https://ihp.lk/publications/docs/SLOTSReport202203.pdf*

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 surveys a national sample of adults (ages 18 and over) reached by random digit dialling of mobile numbers, and others coming from a national panel of respondents who were previously recruited through random selection. SLOTS tracks favourability by asking respondents if they have a favourable or unfavourable opinion of a public figure or institution: net favourability being the average of the positive (+100) and negative (-100) responses. All estimates are weighted to match the national population with respect to age, sex, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, sector, province and past voting preference. Monthly estimates are based on samples of 100+ interviews pooled from interviews in each month and from weeks before and afterwards. As the February update uses a more recent data set than the previous update, there are small changes in estimates of favourability ratings for previous months.

Funding