



PULSE OF THE WEEK

#7

Researching public opinion on the most
important events of the week

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THE US SECRETLY TRANSFERRED ATACMS TO UKRAINE: THE FIRST STRIKE OF THE ARMED FORCES

On October 17, Ukraine's Armed Forces attacked the Russians in the temporarily occupied Berdiansk and Luhansk. Nine helicopters, special equipment, an air defense unit, ammunition storage facilities and airfield runways were hit.

Later, President Volodymyr Zelenskyi confirmed that ATACMS appeared in the service of the Defense Forces and they have already performed quite well. At the same time, the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine Valerii Zaluzhnyi showed a video of the first launches of these long-range missiles, which the US had secretly transferred to Ukraine.

Later, there appeared satellite images of the airfield in the temporarily occupied Berdiansk, Zaporizhzhia region.

"The availability of such a powerful weapon as ATACMS is a significant game-changer, which HIMARS used to be, for example, and then Patriot was", - emphasized the spokesman of the Eastern Group of Forces of the Armed Forces of Ukraine Iliia Yevlash. According to him, due to our defenders having these long-range weapons, the invaders will have to stretch their warehouses and command posts, which will lead to an increase in the decision-making time and approach distance to the battlefield. In addition, they will be forced to spend time looking for new places to establish warehouses, which will lead to "a significant load on their logistics system."

Russia called the transfer of American ATACMS missiles to Ukraine a "big mistake." Russia's ambassador to the United States, Anatoliy Antonov, said that the United States allegedly continues to push for a direct confrontation between NATO and Russia.

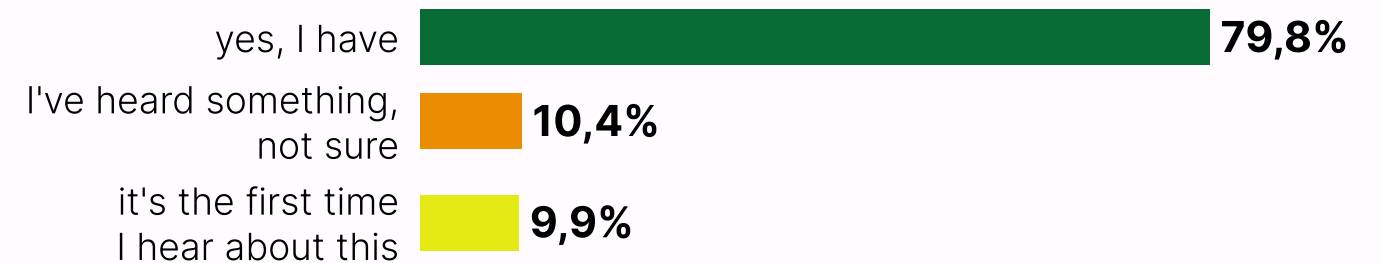
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Dmytro Kuleba noted that in the future Ukraine will receive more long-range ATACMS missiles, including those with an increased range of hitting enemy targets.

Sources: Radio Svoboda, BBC, UNIAN

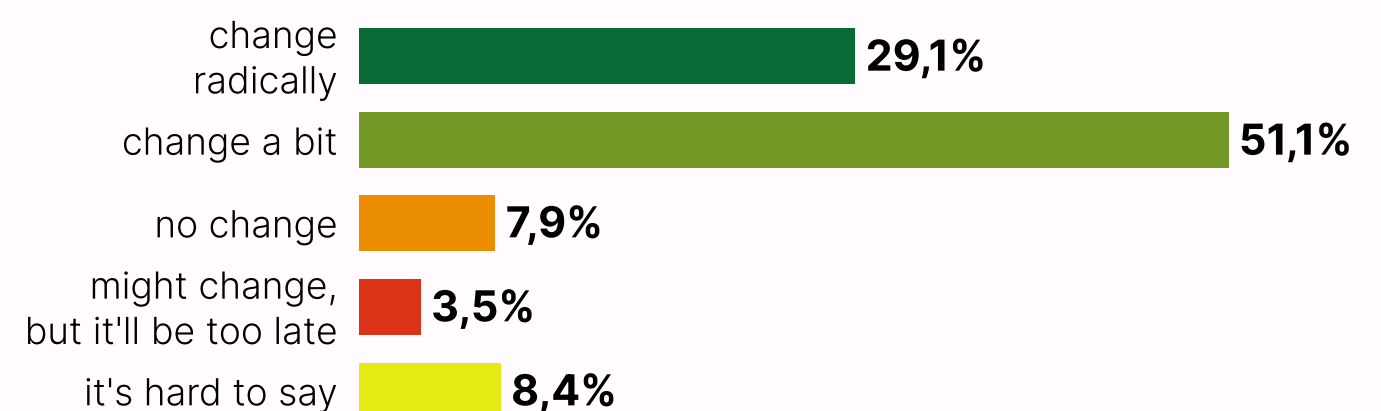


Public opinion

Have you heard that Ukraine used ATACMS missiles for the first time?



Will the new American ATACMS missiles change the situation on the battlefield?



NEW TRANCHES OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO SUPPORT UKRAINE

New funds for the recovery of Ukraine from the International Monetary Fund and the European Parliament were announced this week.

The International Monetary Fund created the Capacity Development Fund for Ukraine. This was announced by the head of the National Bank, Andrii Pyshnyi, who also noted that the fund has already received \$14 million from donors. "The IMF has announced the launch of the Capacity Development Fund for Ukraine. It will cover the needs occurring due to the implementation of the plan for the development of the potential of our country, and the successful implementation of reforms," the official said.

He also noted that reforms in Ukraine and the process of enhancing the capacity should take place continuously, without stopping, with the involvement of the best world experience.

The European Parliament improved and endorsed a proposal for a €50 billion facility to support the recovery, reconstruction and modernization of Ukraine in 2024-2027.

"Members of the European Parliament made the mechanism more democratically accountable, encouraging multi-party democracy and Ukraine's alignment with EU accession requirements," the statement read.

One of the key demands of the MEPs is that the assets of the Russian Federation or other legal entities or individuals, who are directly connected to the full-scale invasion, be used to rebuild Ukraine.

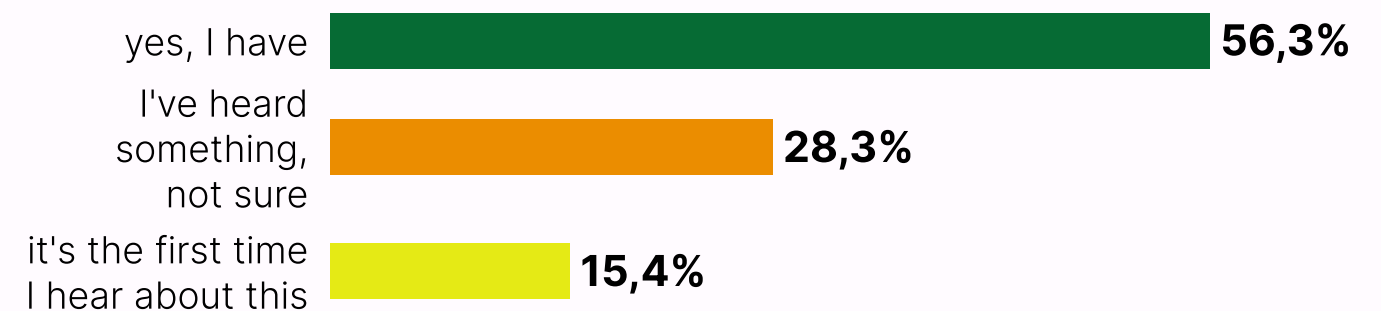
Therefore, the European Parliament strengthened the provisions on combating fraud, corruption, conflict of interests and violations during the use of EU funds in Ukraine. Companies under the influence of oligarchs should not be eligible for funding, MEPs added.

Sources: Suspilne, Ukrainska Pravda, Ukrinform

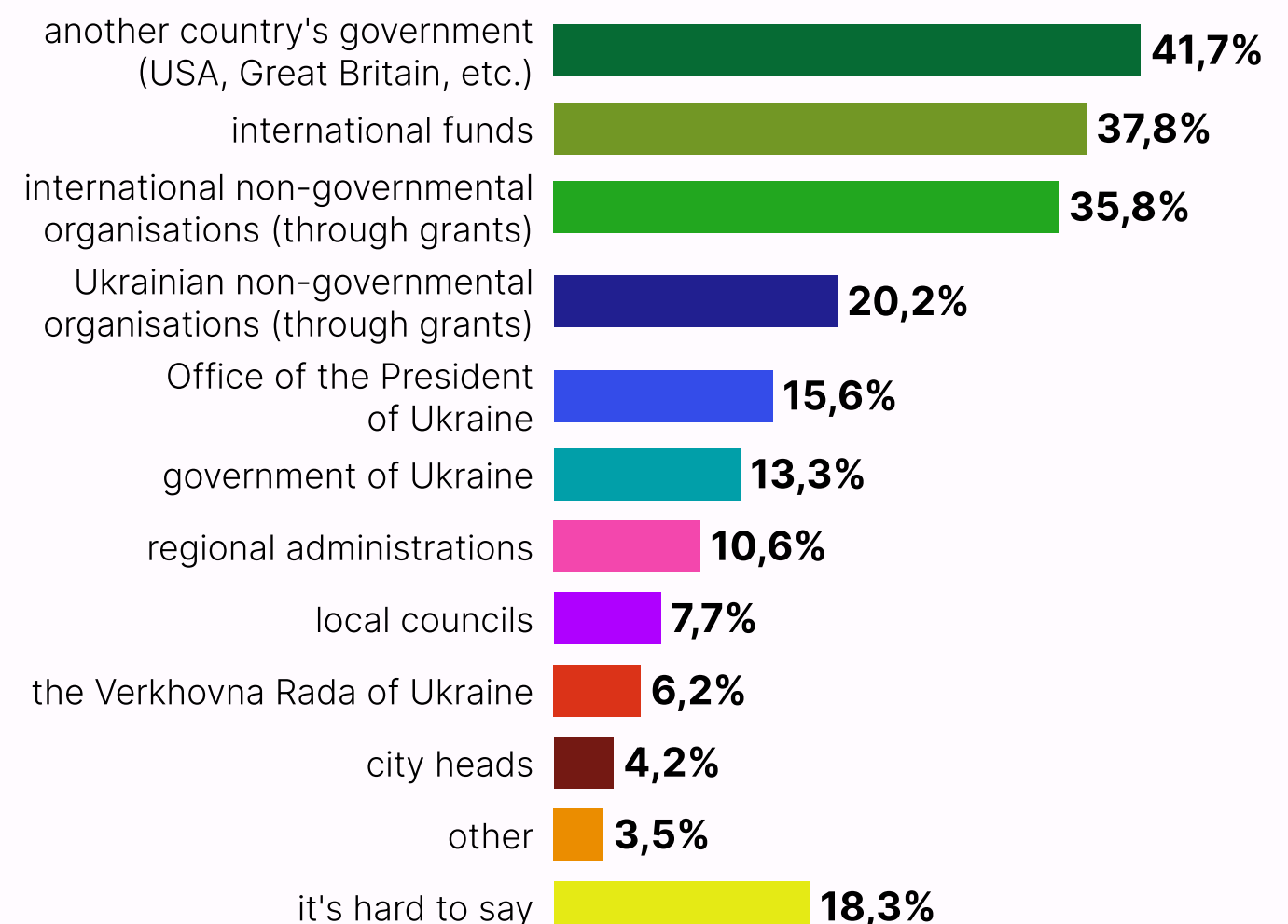


Public opinion

Have you heard of special funds being created to support Ukraine?



Which institution would you trust to distribute the money for restoration of Ukraine?



WILL THE TAX AUDITS OF SMALL BUSINESSES RETURN AND WILL THEY PRESERVE THEIR TOTAL CHARACTER?

On October 17, the Verkhovna Rada adopted in the first reading a draft law proposing to cancel the moratorium on inspections of entrepreneurs.

This refers to the cancellation of the moratorium on the inspection of individual entrepreneurs of the I and II groups beginning August 1, 2024.

As reported by the Ministry of Finance of Ukraine, the draft law leaves a number of cases when tax audits will not be conducted, temporarily. In particular, during martial law inspections will be carried out only under safe conditions.

Also, there were certain features set for the process of selecting the taxpayers to become subject to scheduled inspections.

“From November 1, 2023, there will be a moratorium on document checks for payers of the Unified tax of Group I and II - until August 1, 2024; for document checks of taxpayers whose tax address is in the temporarily occupied territories and territories of active/possible hostilities (except for certain exceptions),” the Ministry of Finance said in a statement.

“Payers who, in 2021, had an income tax payment rate of less than 50% by industry may (not must, but may!) be included in scheduled documentary inspections. And VAT is less than 50% by industry. Those who have an annual income of more than UAH 10 million, while the total amount of expenses is more than 75% of the amount of annual income. Whose receivables are twice as large as payables,” said People’s Deputy Yaroslav Zhelezniak.

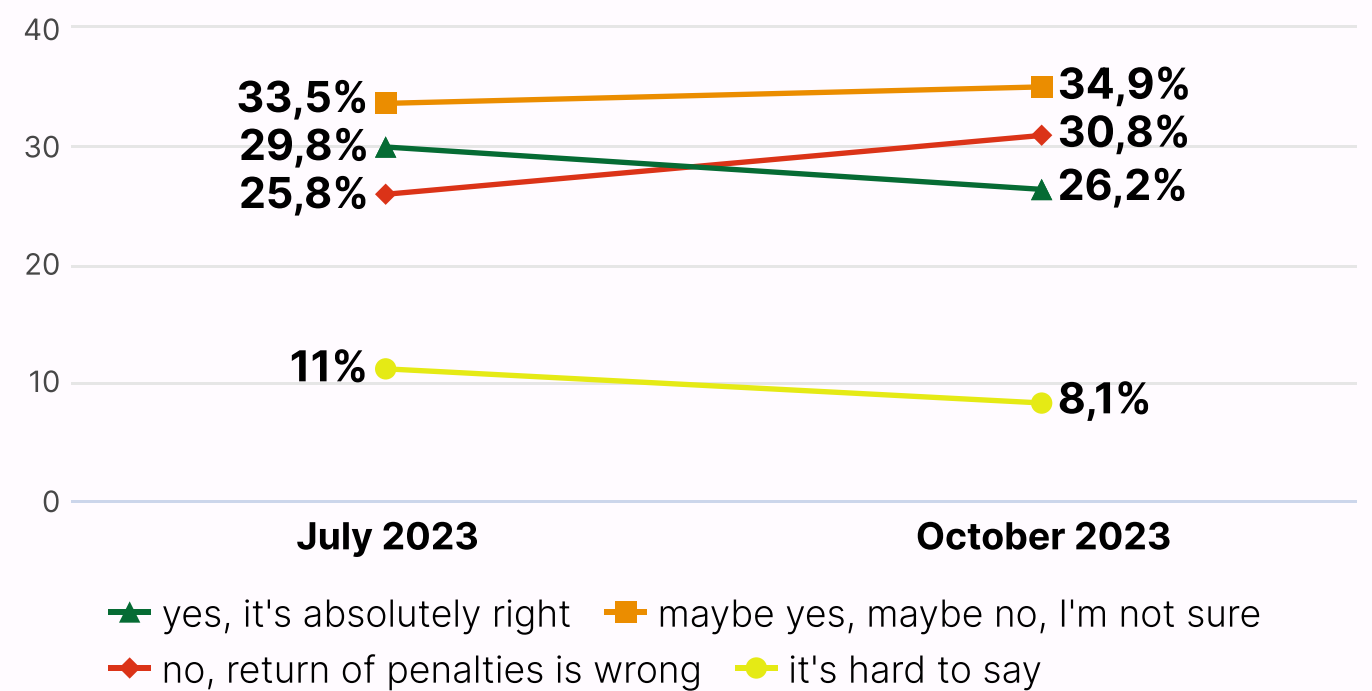
He also noted that the adoption of this draft law is one of the main demands of the IMF.

Sources: Ukrinform, UNIAN, Economichna Pravda

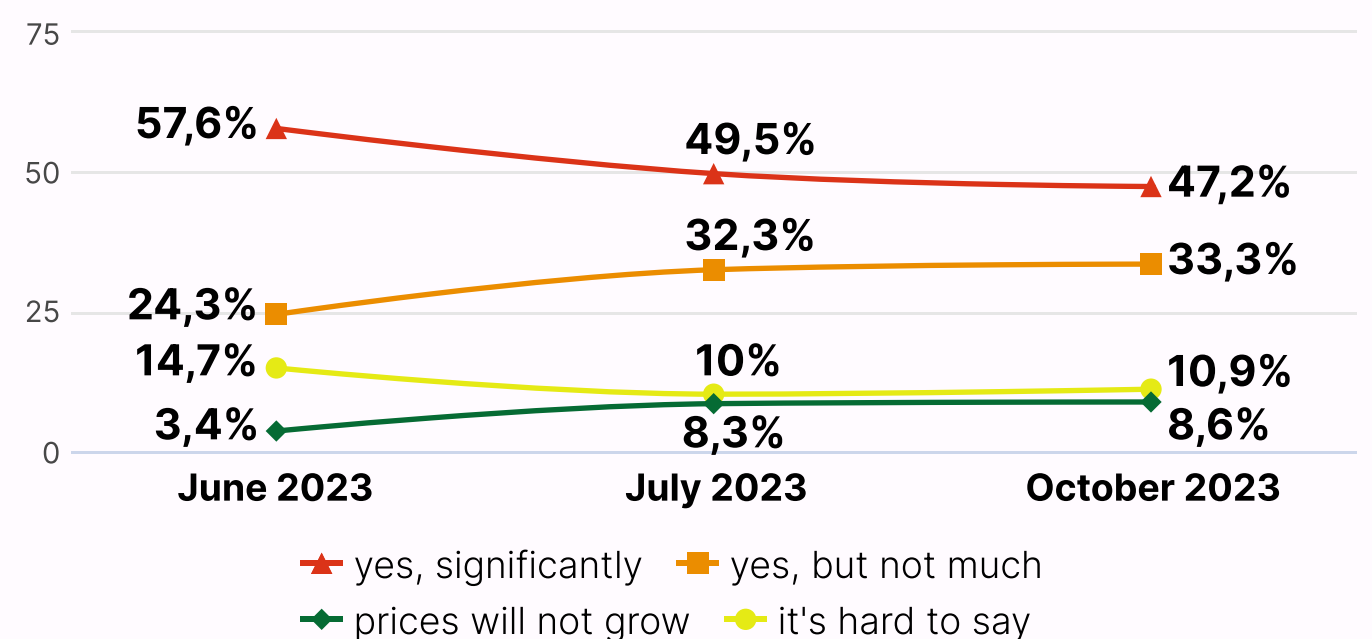


Public opinion

In your opinion, is it right that inspections and penalties are coming back?



Are you expecting prices to rise in case inspections and penalties for businesses return?



ELECTIONS IN POLAND: THE RULING PARTY LOST MORE THAN TEN SEATS IN THE SENATE

All votes in the parliamentary elections have been counted in Poland. The ruling “Law and Justice” (“PiS”) party took the first place (35.38% of the vote), but it is losing more than ten seats in the Senate.

Previously, “PiS” had 48 representatives in the parliament, and now - only 34. The opposition “Civil Coalition” came second with 30.70%. It is followed by: “The Third Way” - 14.40%; then “Left” - 8.61%; the extreme right and anti-Ukrainian “Confederation” - 7.16%.

Thus, the decisive advantage in the upper house was given to the opposition, which is going to have 66 senators. In particular, the “Civic Coalition” is likely to get 44 seats, “Left” - 9 seats, and “Third Way” - 8. Another five senators won the support of voters, running as part of the “senate pact” between the “Civic Coalition”, “Left” and “Third way”. Now these three parties have a chance to form the government.

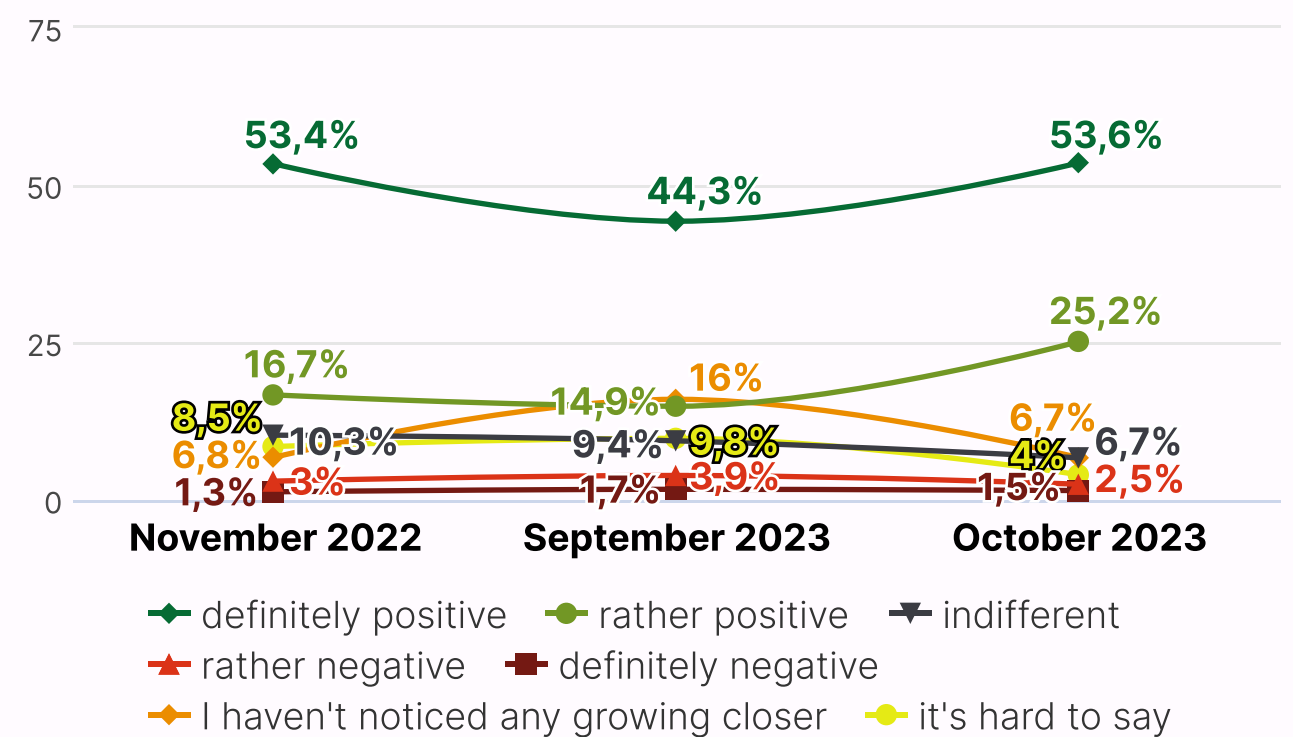
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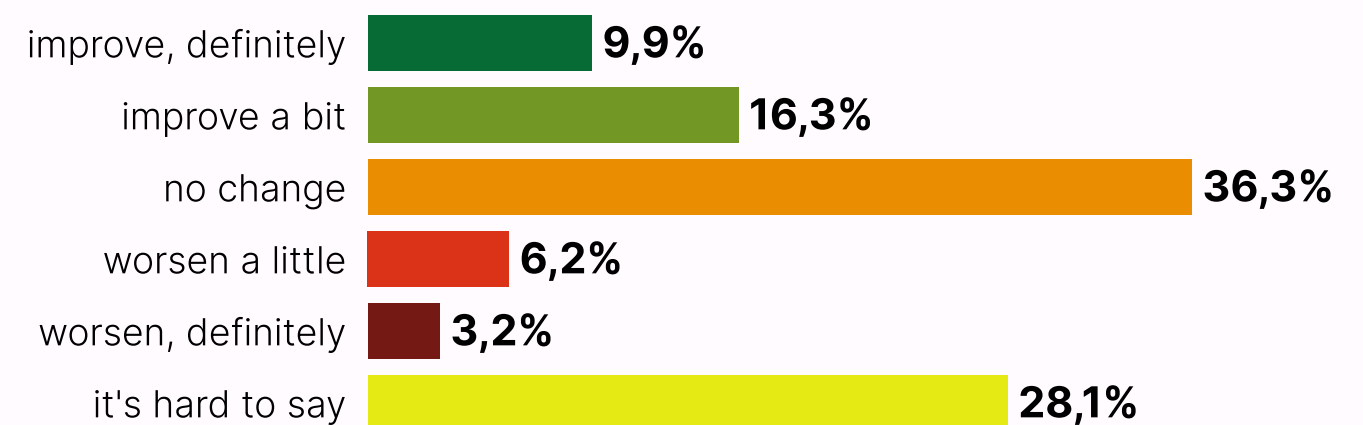


Public opinion

What is your attitude to Ukraine and Poland growing closer?



In your opinion, how will the results of elections in Poland influence Ukrainian-Polish relations?



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Commenting on the impact of the election results in Poland on further relations between Warsaw and Kyiv, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Dmytro Kuleba, noted that under any configuration of power in both Poland and Ukraine, “from the strategic point of view, everything will be just fine.”

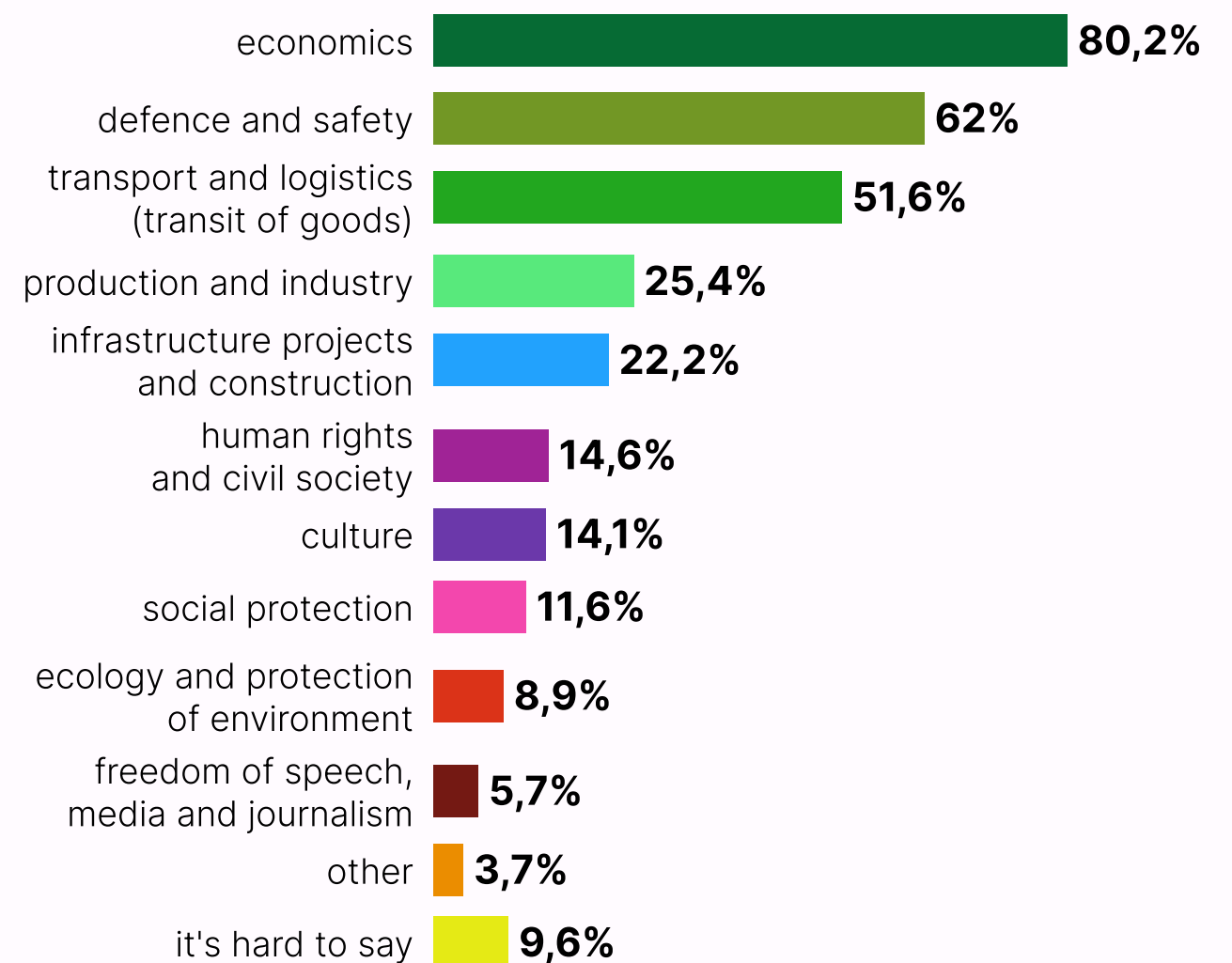
“The strategic relations of Ukraine with Poland are not affected by anything, because these relations are too deep, too much is tied by them. The main thing is that tactically you can think whatever you want about each other, but strategically, Poland and Ukraine cannot do without each other and will not survive in this cruel world. Therefore, strategically, everything will be fine under any configuration of power in Poland or Ukraine,” Kuleba emphasized.

Sources: Suspilne,
European Pravda,
Espresso



Public opinion

In which spheres can cooperation with Poland be most effective?



THE HEATING SEASON IS GRADUALLY STARTING: ARE THE ENERGY SYSTEMS READY?

Due to the decrease in air temperature, local authorities are gradually starting the heating season.

According to the Ministry of Energy of Ukraine, enough resources have been accumulated to last the heating season - natural gas reserves in storages amount to almost 15.9 billion cubic meters. According to the Government's plans, the required volume was supposed to be 14.7 billion cubic meters.

Also, the Ministry of Energy informs that they continue to repair the electricity generation and distribution facilities as part of the preparation of the power system for cold weather.

On October 16, the energy industry spokesperson announced that additional power generating capacities have been restored. At one of the TPPs, a turbine came out of repair, which added an additional 73 MW of power to the power system. Also, a 250 MW power unit at a CHPP was repaired and connected to the power grid. Roughly, such a 250 MW power unit is capable of providing the daily consumption of almost a million apartments (provided that each consumes 6 kilowatt-hours per day).

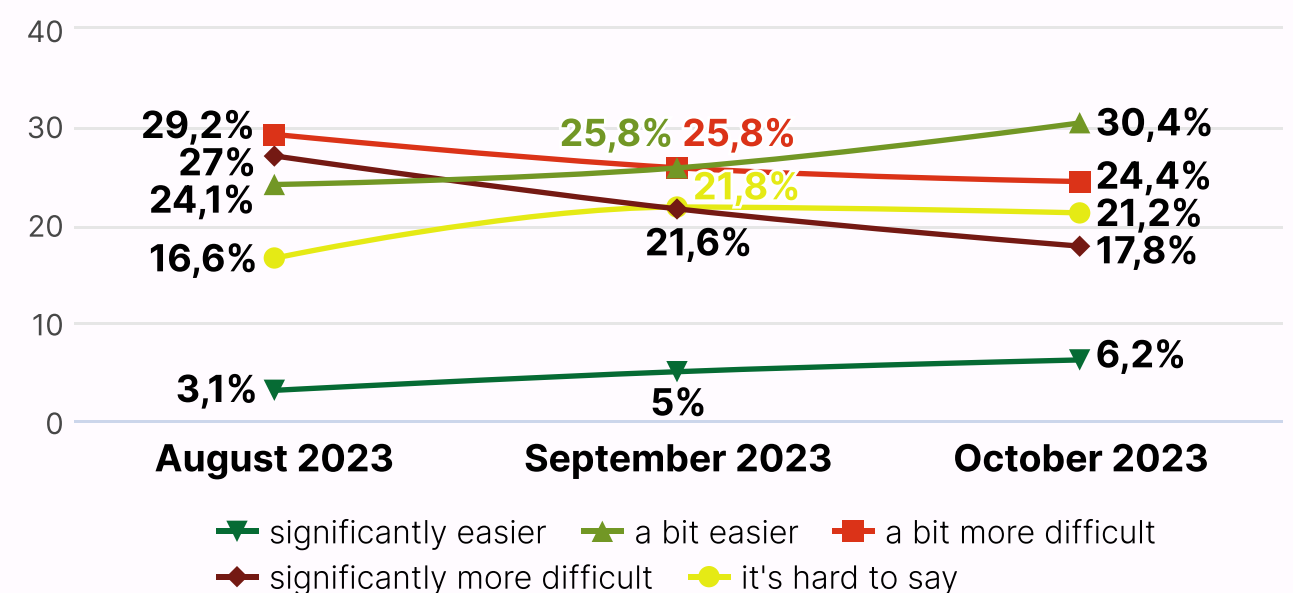
In September, Ukrenergo told how they protected energy facilities from shelling. It is known that energy facilities of Ukraine have passive and active types of protection. "Ukrenergo" is constantly communicating and coordinating processes with government officials and the General Staff of the Armed Forces.

Although this winter may be more difficult than the last, the power system is expected to cope well with the peak load on the coldest day of the year. Ukrenergo stated that the energy system of Ukraine will withstand the coldest day of winter, provided that it does not get hit by shelling.

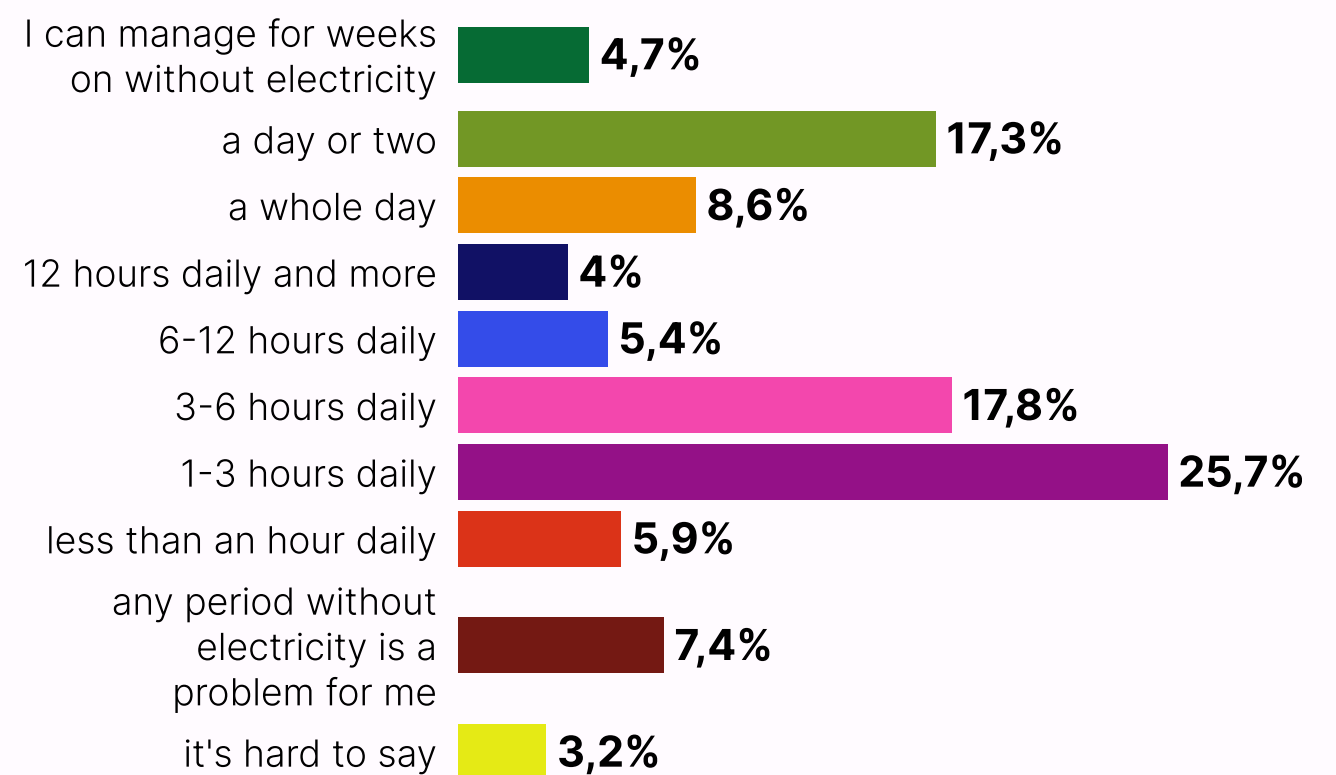
Sources: Suspilne, Ukrinform, Dzerkalo tyzhnia



In your opinion, will next winter be more difficult or easier for the energy system of Ukraine?



When there is no electricity, how long can you carry on without any major problems?



ISRAEL VS UKRAINE: MESSAGES, NARRATIVES, COMMENTS

The top topic of the past week is the Hamas attack on Israel and the retaliatory strike against terrorists in the Gaza Strip. These events are still in the center of attention of the world and Ukrainian mass media. Almost all known Ukrainian experts and ordinary Ukrainians joined the discussion of the situation.

We can highlight several important topics that have become the subject of discussions among experts and active citizens.

The most important message is that the Kremlin will probably use the Hamas attack on Israel to promote the message about the reduction of US and Western support and attention to Ukraine.

The report of the Institute for the Study of War (ISW) looked into this issue: "In Russia, they accused the West of disregarding conflicts in the Middle East in favor of supporting Ukraine. In particular, the Deputy Chairman of the Security Council of the Russian Federation, Dmitry Medvedev, said that the US and its allies should "engage in work on "settling the Palestinian-Israeli situation", and not interfere in Russia's affairs and provide Ukraine with military aid." Russian propagandist Serhiy Mardan said: "The world will turn its attention away from Ukraine for a while and will once again focus on extinguishing the never-ending fire in the Middle East."

ISW experts emphasize that Russia's statements are aimed at a Western audience. This is also an attempt to demoralize Ukrainian society.

Political analyst Volodymyr Fesenko commented to the UNIAN agency about Russian interests: "Although not directly, certain Russian interests may be present here precisely from the point of view of bringing chaos to international relations and the situation in the Middle East. ...

... This is also an attempt to influence the contradictions in the USA and in Europe, and to some extent divert attention from Ukraine. There will be no drastic negative consequences from this, but Russia will have certain informational and political benefits from this."

He also noted that our war has become a usual thing for the world already during 2023: "It should not be assumed that the world was thinking only about Ukraine, but now it will also think about Israel. Of course, the fact that this is the main news of today and possibly the next few days - the war between the Palestinians and Israel - will to some extent distract attention from us, but it will not affect or stop the aid."

Director of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies Serhiy Danylov on the "hand of the Kremlin": "Everyone is concerned with the question of Iran's participation in the organization of this war, writes the well-known Israeli journalist Yossi Melman. But they ignore Russia's involvement. Most of the weapons of the well-equipped elite fighters of Hamas (Nukhba) were Russian. He writes about this in an article in Haaretz."

Expert Yuriy Romanenko on the stand that Ukrainians have: "Many Arab friends of Ukraine demand that Ukraine not support Israel. Accusing the Palestinians of terrorism is the same as accusing Ukraine, which is waging a liberation struggle. I will explain why many Ukrainians were outraged by the massacre by Hamas. Imagine that the GUR entered the territory of Russia and cut out entire villages there. That would be exactly how Hamas looks like today. Killing babies and cutting off the heads of women, and hoping that they will be supported here after Bucha and Mariupol, is, to put it mildly, naive. And this was done deliberately in order to get the strongest possible reaction from Israel, because Iran needs a regional, and maybe even a world war. ...

ISRAEL VS UKRAINE: MESSAGES, NARRATIVES, COMMENTS

... If Hamas plays with Iran and commits atrocities, if Iran plays with Russia, which commits atrocities, then this is not a coincidence, but common interests of the parties who for some reason gravitate to atrocities as a form of advancing their interests. Therefore, in this particular situation, it is impossible to be on the side of the butchers.”

Deputies of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine reacted emotionally to the situation. Texts with general slogans and words of support and sympathy were published in the Ukrainian mass media. The majority of people’s deputies made statements in this style.

Deputy Oleksandr Merezhko (Servant of the People): “Ukraine and Israel are on one side of the barricade in the global confrontation between the world of democracy and the world of autocracy. The common enemy is terrorism, which is trying to destroy our nations. We can overcome this aggressive evil of terrorism only together, supporting each other and developing solidarity between democracies.”

Ukrainians matched and compared every step of the Israeli government with the situation in Ukraine. In social networks, this was happening in a negative connotation, most often. Here is one example: Financial Times: “Israel’s new unity government has promised to change the ‘strategic reality’ of Gaza. Representatives of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s party and of the leader of the opposition party “National Unity” Benny Gantz said the emergency government would remain in place for the duration of the war. They added that as long as the conflict continues, no laws will be passed that do not concern it. The Cabinet will make the most important decisions regarding the conduct of the conflict. The terms of the deal expect the government to suspend judicial reforms that have polarized Israeli society and deeply divided the army.”

The reaction of Ukrainians to this news in social networks: ...

... The instinct of survival takes prevails over personal enrichment and ambition. It is obvious that our officials simply do not feel that their lives or the lives of their relatives are in danger.

What can I say, people do things, and not imitate. Shmygals, Hetmans, Tatarovs, Marchenkos... they would not be allowed to come to power at a cannon shot.

But it is obvious that an impotent and primitive government is leading Ukraine to defeat. Now [the country] is beginning to understand it little by little. It will spin like a snake in a pan, but time and resources are wasted. It is necessary to prepare for worse times.

Well, that’s a so-so decision, the war – that’s understandable and the priority of military issues is clear, but this cannot mean that all other spheres of the economy and socially important reforms should be halted completely... Maybe when everything is ideally built, but I doubt that this is the case even in Israel...

Regarding Ukraine, I agree on the priority for military issues, but along with this, the need for changes in the economy and the development of the state and society should be carried out as actively as possible... And not put everything on hold except war...