



PULSE OF THE WEEK

#13

Researching public opinion on the most
important events of the week

November 25 to December 01, 2023 (No. 47)



RESEARCHING PUBLIC OPINION SINCE 2011



WILL REFORMS HELP BRING UKRAINE'S ACCESSION TO NATO CLOSER?

Ukraine will become a member of NATO if it carries through all necessary reforms after the war, said the Secretary General of the Alliance Jens Stoltenberg.

According to him, all allies are convinced that full membership remains impossible at the height of the war, even though Ukraine and NATO continue to converge.

On November 29, after the meeting of the Ukraine-NATO Council at the level of Foreign Ministers, Jens Stoltenberg announced that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization had agreed on a one-year reform program with Ukraine. "Allies agree that Ukraine will become a member of NATO. We have now provided recommendations on Ukraine's priority reforms, including the fight against corruption, strengthening the rule of law, and supporting human and minority rights. Ukraine is closer to NATO than ever before. We will continue to support it on its way to membership and we will continue to support Ukraine's fight for freedom," Stoltenberg emphasized.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Dmytro Kuleba, reminded that advice on territorial concessions to Russia in exchange for NATO membership is inadmissible. He said that the issue of Ukraine's integrity concerns not only its state security, but also the security of the entire Euro-Atlantic space.

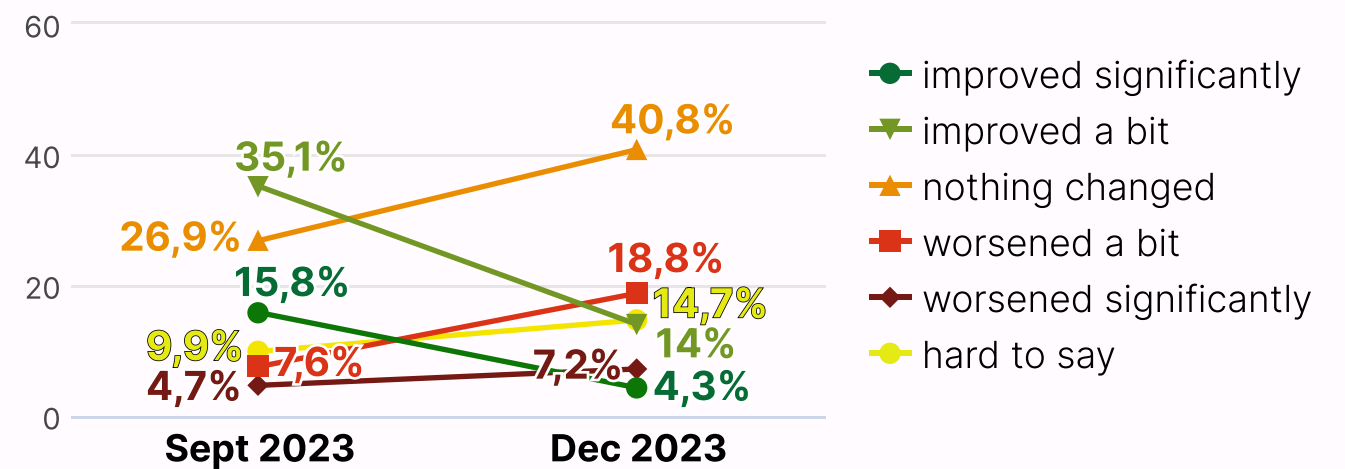
The President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyi, in turn, said that no one can guarantee that Russia will not attack Ukraine again and whether our country will be accepted into NATO. "A country that is going through a war and wants to end it so that it does not start again. And how it goes, you and I do not know for sure. This is life and this is Russia. No one will tell you whether we will be in NATO," — Zelenskyy said.

Sources: Suspilne, Dzerkalo Tyzhnia, UNIAN

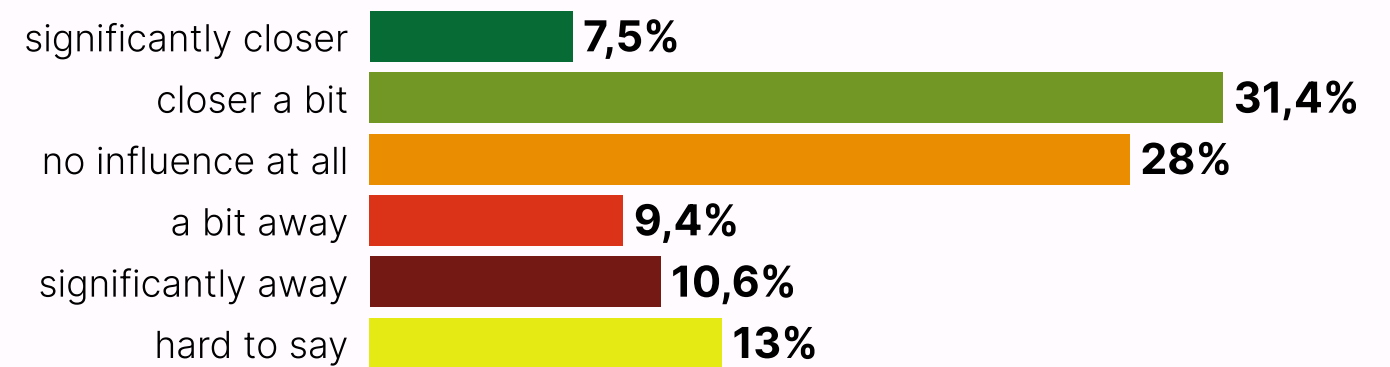


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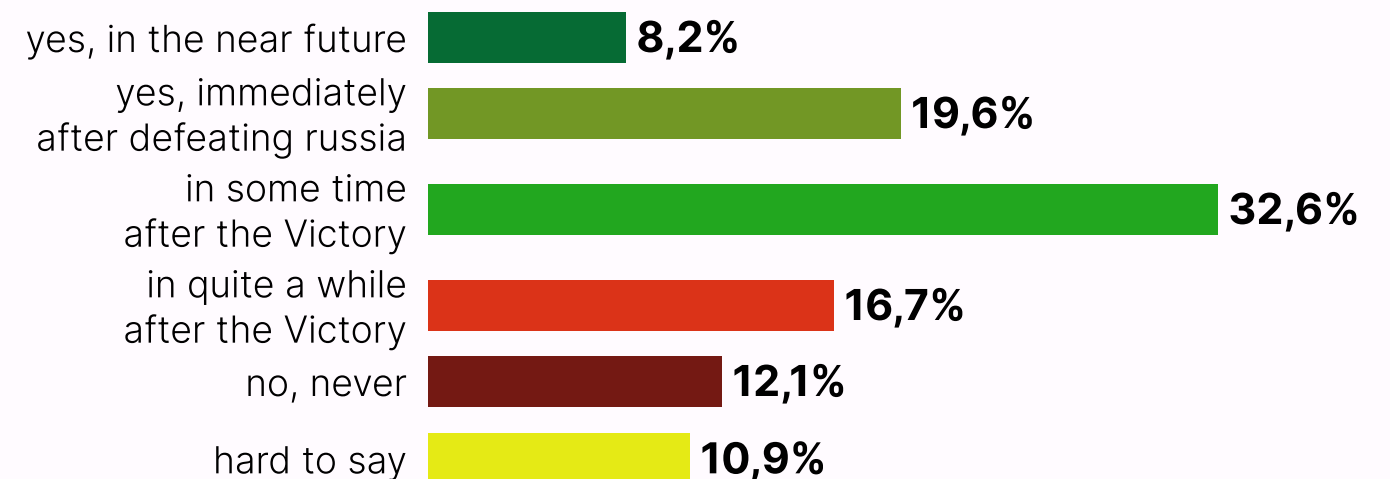
How have the relations between Ukraine and NATO changed over the last several months?



Are the changes happening in Ukraine bringing us closer to NATO membership, or dragging further away?



In your opinion, will Ukraine become a member of NATO?



THE BORDER GUARDS DID NOT LET PETRO POROSHENKO GO ON A BUSINESS TRIP ABROAD

The fifth president of Ukraine, Petro Poroshenko, informed that the border guards did not let him go on a business trip abroad and called it an act of “anti-Ukrainian sabotage”.

“Once again there was a theater of the absurd at the border. I have a business trip approval signed by the chairman of the Verkhovna Rada, but the border guards did not let me through. I am far from thinking that the border guards acted on their own initiative. Everyone can guess who canceled the document signed by the speaker of the parliament,” Poroshenko said.

According to him, he had dozens of meetings planned in Poland and the USA. He was supposed to talk with the Poles about lifting the blockade of our carriers at the border, and with the Americans - about securing funding for military aid.

Poroshenko is convinced that the decision not to release him abroad is “not petty damage, but anti-Ukrainian sabotage.” “This is not just an obstacle to the diplomatic work of my entire team. But, unfortunately, a blow to Ukraine’s defense capability”, - the fifth president of Ukraine believes.

The spokesman of the State Border Service Andriy Demchenko said that the border guards did not let Poroshenko abroad because his business trip approval was canceled. “The border guards have confirmation that his trip abroad has been cancelled. That is why he was not allowed through the state border of Ukraine,” explained Demchenko.

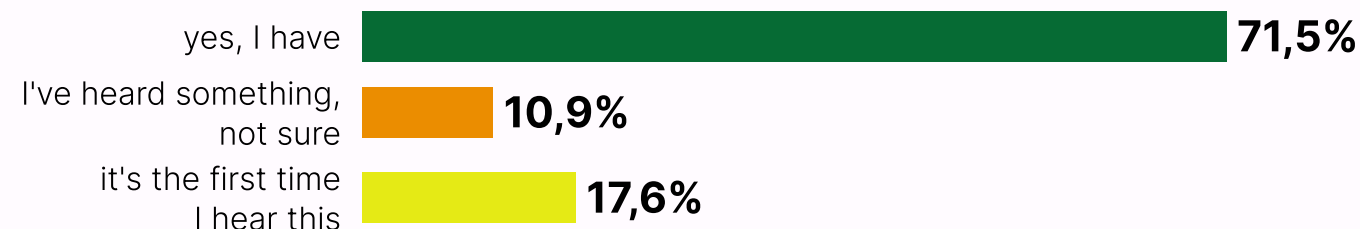
Subsequently, People’s Deputy from “European Solidarity” Iryna Gerashchenko was outraged by the fact that the order of the Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada Ruslan Stefanchuk on Poroshenko’s trip abroad was canceled by the First Deputy Chairman of the Parliament Oleksandr Kornienko.

Sources: Ukrainska Pravda, Ukrinform, Hromadske

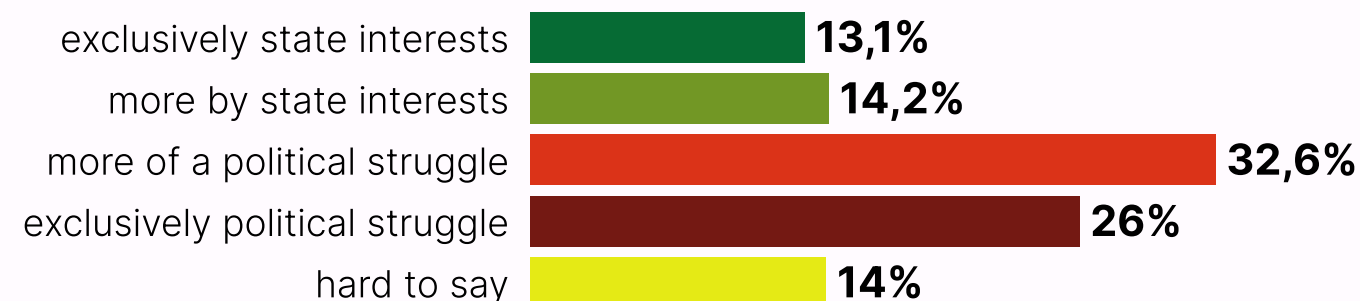


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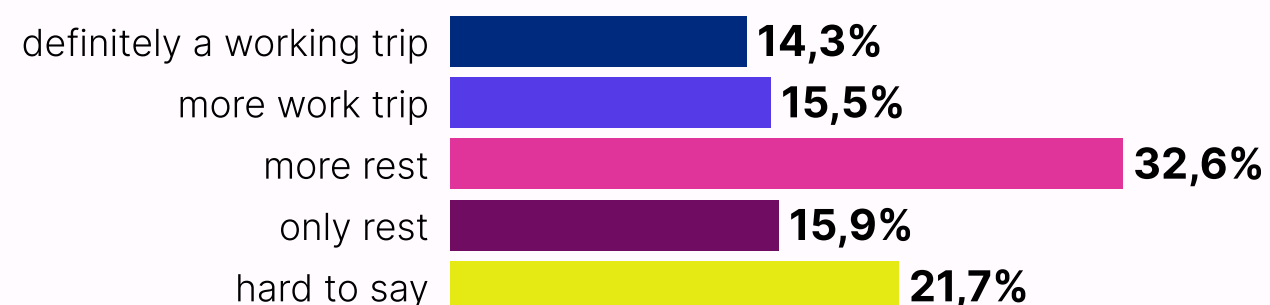
Have you heard that border guards did not let the fifth president of Ukraine, Petro Poroshenko, go abroad?



Do you think this ban is dictated by state interests or political struggle?



Do you think the real purpose of Poroshenko's trip was a working trip or a vacation abroad?



THE BLOCKADE OF THE UKRAINIAN BORDER BY THE EU COUNTRIES IS INTENSIFYING

The Polish strikers, who are tightening the blockade, are joined by their Slovak colleagues. And Ukrainian drivers plan to go on hunger strike.

On November 27, the State Border Service of Ukraine (SPSU) warned that Polish strikers plan to block the movement of trucks at the Medyka-Shehyni border checkpoints around the clock. The protesters were supported by the Prime Minister of Poland, Mateusz Morawiecki, who stated that the permit system for Ukrainian carriers must be restored, as it “worked well.”

The Consul General of Ukraine in Lublin, Oleg Kuts, said: “Despite the protestors’ statement that humanitarian aid or fuel tankers do not stand in line, we see that they sometimes are.”

In response to the protest of their Polish colleagues, Ukrainian carriers blocked traffic in the Polish towns of Przemyśl and Medyca. Next, Ukrainian drivers stuck on the Ukrainian-Polish border plan to go on hunger strike.

On December 1, a meeting between Deputy Minister of Community Development, Territories and Infrastructure of Ukraine Serhiy Derkach and State Secretary of the Ministry of Infrastructure of Poland Rafal Weber took place in Warsaw. The parties agreed on a number of measures, which will probably allow to settle the situation with queues at the border and reduce tension in the issue of road transport.

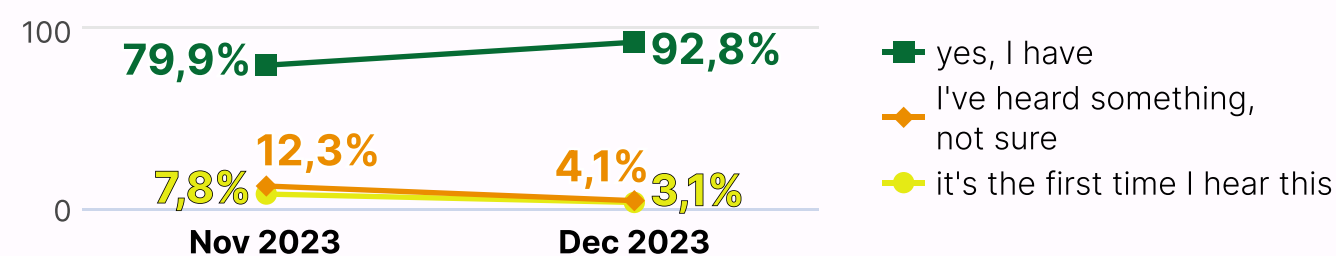
However, at 4:00 p.m. on December 1, as reported by the DPSU, on the territory of Slovakia, the Union of Transporters of this country began blocking the movement of trucks through the Vyshnie-Niemetske checkpoint, which is adjacent to the Uzhgorod checkpoint.

Sources: Espresso, Radio Svoboda, Ukrinform

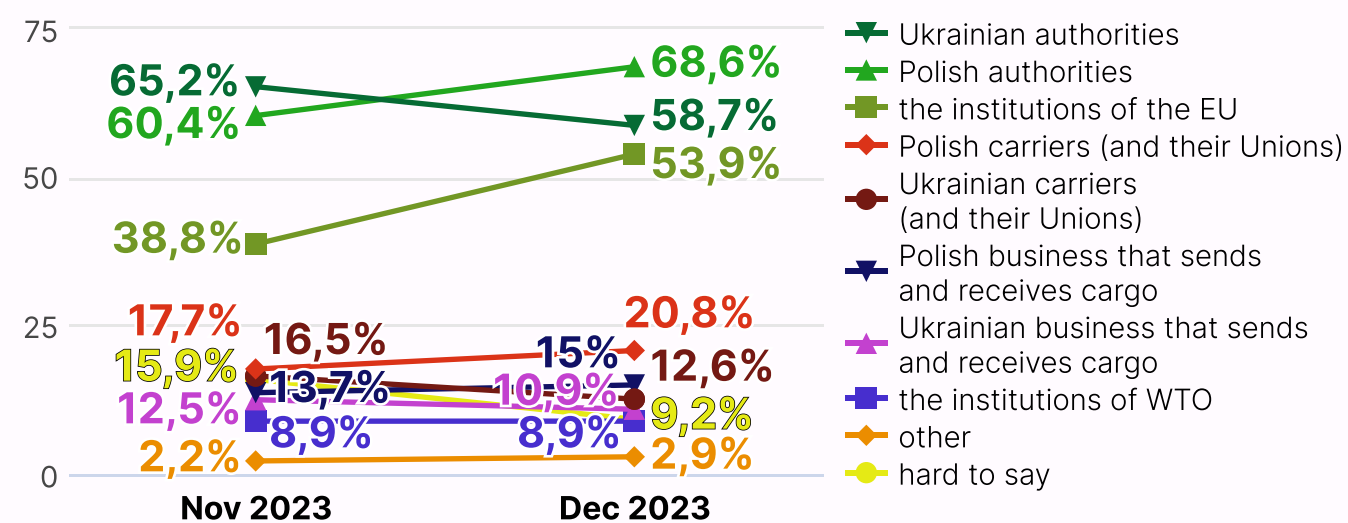


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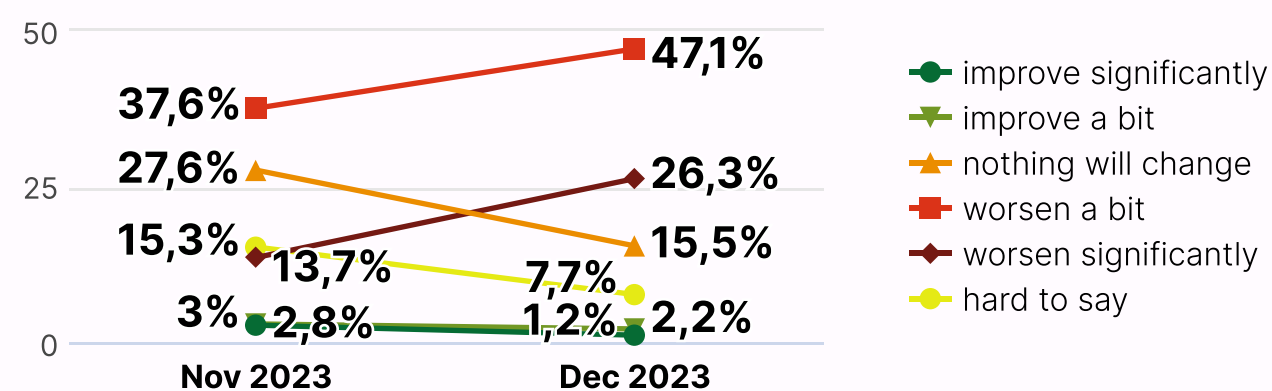
Have you heard of Polish carriers blocking the border with Ukraine?



Who in the first place has to resolve the situation with the blocked border?



In your opinion, how will this strike influence the Ukraine-Poland relations?



OSCE MEETING: WITHOUT UKRAINE AND THE BALTIC COUNTRIES, BUT WITH LAVROV

During the speech of Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov at the OSCE meeting in the capital of North Macedonia, Skopje, some delegates left the hall.

Before that, due to Lavrov's expected presence, the head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Dmytro Kuleba, decided to boycott the OSCE ministerial meeting. "If we really want to save the OSCE, then we have to either re-establish the OSCE without Russia, or find a way to exclude Russia from the OSCE," Kuleba said.

Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania also said they would boycott the OSCE ministerial meeting if Lavrov was allowed to attend. "Russia's aggressive war and atrocities against its sovereign and peaceful neighbor, Ukraine, is a clear violation of international law, including the UN Charter, and is an attack on the OSCE and its fundamental principles," noted the foreign ministers of the Baltic states.

At the same time, it was reported that the head of European diplomacy Josep Borrell and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken would be present at the OSCE meeting. According to Josep Borrell, he does not want "the EU seat to be empty".

Antony Blinken, having arrived in Skopje, held a meeting with the head of the Foreign Ministry of North Macedonia, Buyar Osmani, took part in a working dinner and left the meeting before Lavrov arrived there. Many other top US and EU diplomats were also represented by deputies at the meeting attended by Lavrov.

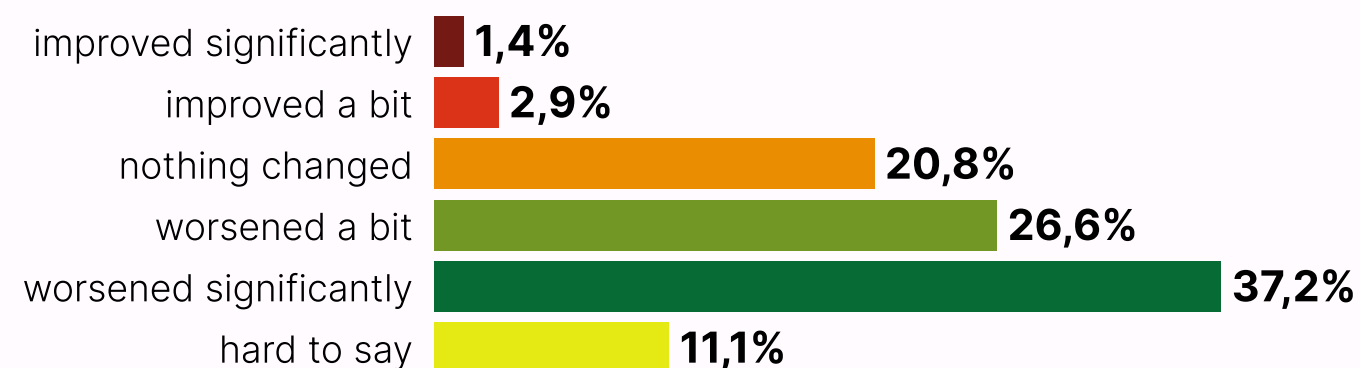
Lavrov himself was forced to change the route of the flight to the OSCE meeting. The plane was flying through Greece, not Bulgaria, because Sofia didn't allow the plane, which was carrying the scandalous spokeswoman of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Maria Zakharova, fly through its territory.

Sources: Radio Svoboda, European Pravda, UNIAN

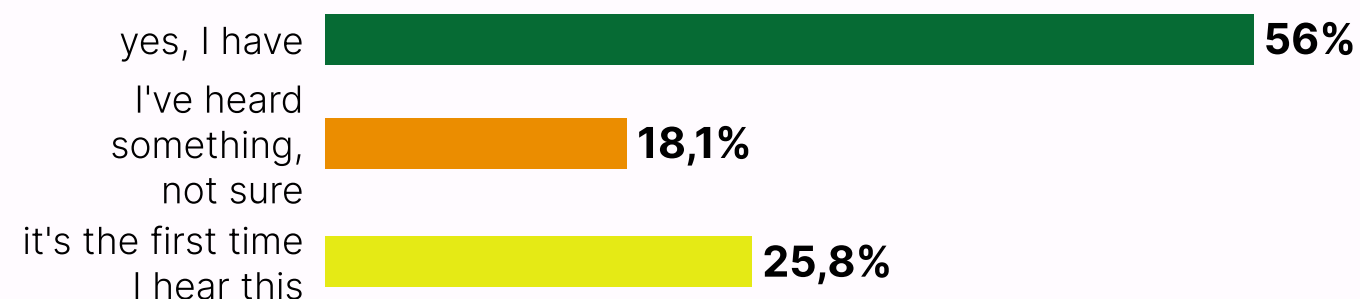


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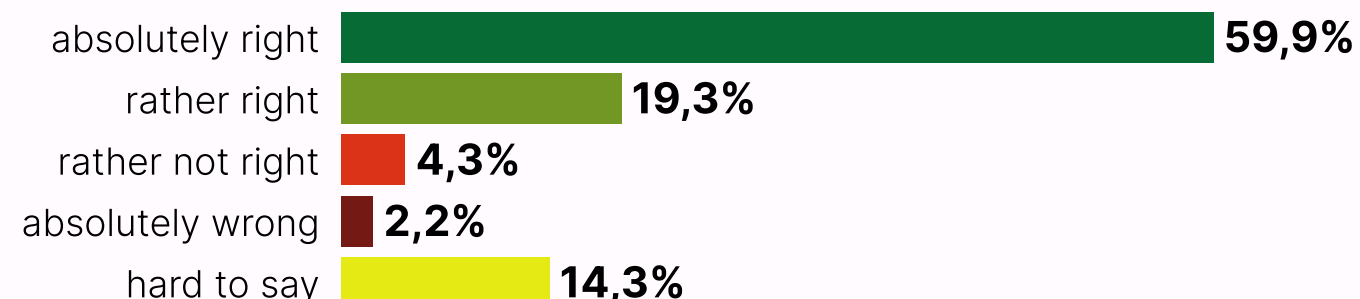
In your opinion, how has the world changed the perception of Russia?



Have you heard of Ukraine boycotting the ministerial meeting of OSCE due to the presence of russian minister of foreign affairs Lavrov?



Do you consider this Ukraine's decision right?



THE NATIONAL BANK CLAIMS THAT UKRAINIANS INCREASINGLY PREFER CARD PAYMENTS

Ukrainians are actively using payment cards, and the number of such transactions is growing.

This is evidenced by the statistics on the use of payment cards during the third quarter of 2023, published by the NBU. "The number of transactions (non-cash and cash) using payment cards issued by Ukrainian banks in Ukraine and abroad in the III quarter of 2023 amounted to 1,972.5 million occasions, and their sum – 1,407.1 billion UAH", the message says.

Cashless were 1,844.6 million transactions for a total amount of UAH 890.8 billion. The share of cashless transactions in the third quarter of 2023 in terms of amount is at the level of 63.3% of the total amount of transactions with payment cards, in terms of quantity – it reaches 93.5% (for the second quarter of 2023 – 62.1% and 92.8%, respectively). Therefore, Ukrainians continue to prefer cashless operations with payment cards.

The largest number of transactions using cards in terms of quantity and amount were the payments in the retail network – 1.358 billion (73.6%) for the amount of UAH 419.2 billion. Transfers from card to card in the third quarter accounted for a third by amount (31.3%) and almost a tenth by number (8.1%) of all non-cash transactions. Payment for goods and services on the Internet – 14.5% by amount and 13.9% by quantity.

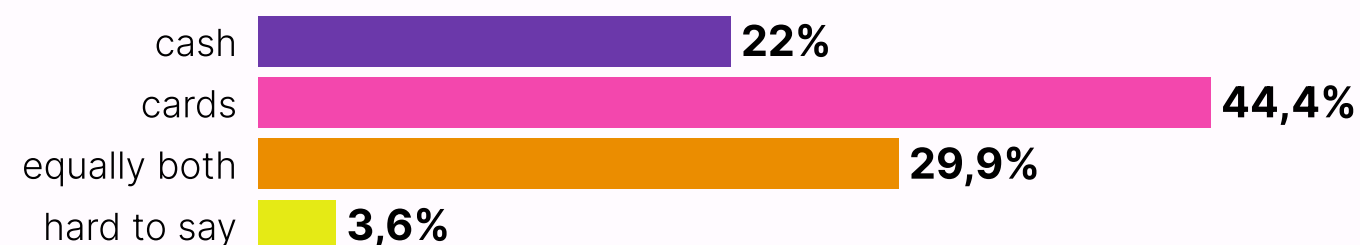
The average amount of a transaction was: in the retail network – UAH 309 (against UAH 310 in the second quarter of 2023); in the case of card to card transfer – UAH 1,854 (vs. UAH 1,829); in the case of payment of goods and services on the Internet – UAH 504 (against UAH 495).

Sources: Hromadske, UNIAN, Ukrinform



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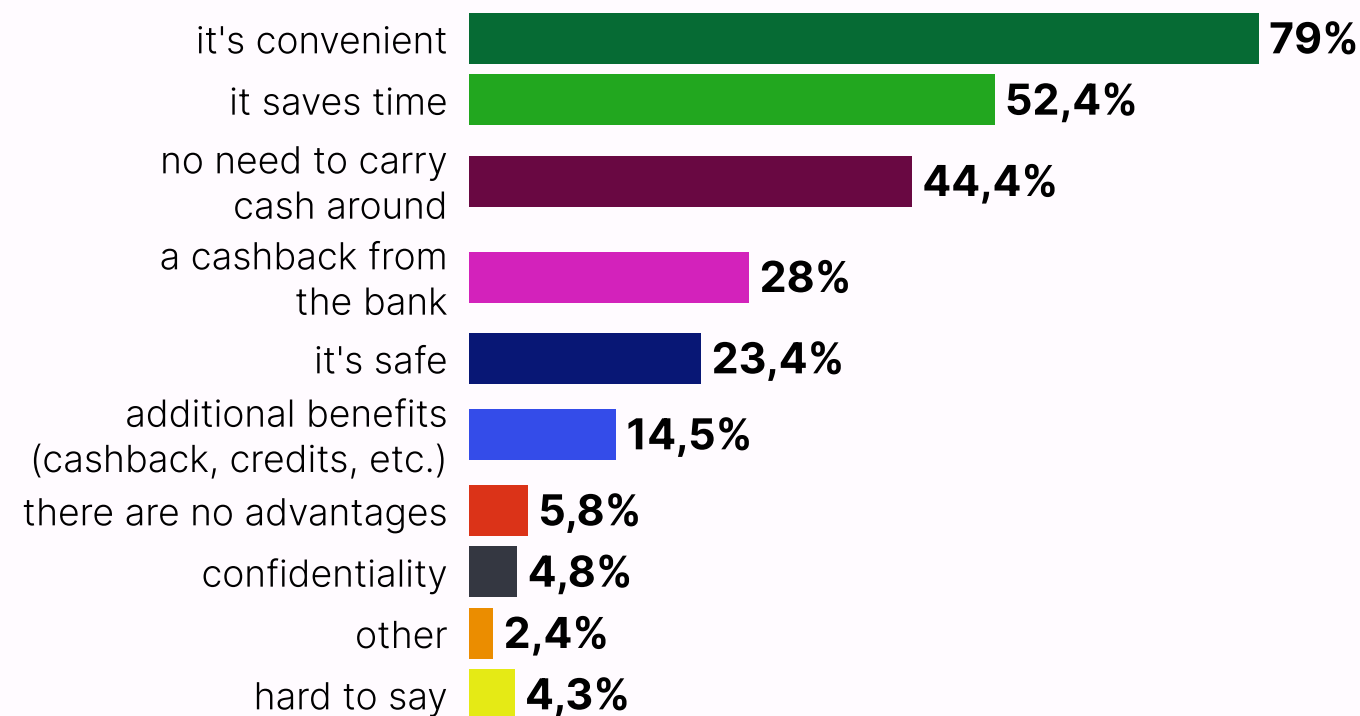
Which way of payment do you use the most?



Have you increased the frequency of using your card during the past year?



What do you consider to be the main advantages of paying by card?



POLITICAL TENDENCIES OF AUTUMN 2023

In the autumn of 2023, it gradually became clear that the war would not end quickly and that the main problem for Ukraine was the lack of necessary military resources (from ammunition to the fighters at the front). There appeared also new challenges - certain depletion of military arsenals in NATO countries, fluidity of the political situation in some EU countries, the beginning of the election race in the USA, which led to interruptions in Western military aid. Overestimated expectations have already traditionally turned into considerable disappointment, search for culprits, and mutual accusations. One can tell there is emotional fatigue from the war.

As a result, this led to a significant surge of political turbulence in Ukrainian society. This is our domestic politics with its immanent conflict that has returned to us (bad timing, definitely). It is more visible in the information sphere and social networks. However, an excessive increase in domestic political temperature has impacted public sentiment. This is what the Russian special services are trying to take advantage of, which have sharply intensified informational and psychological special operations against Ukraine.

Practically all autumn there were vigorous discussions around the topic of elections during the war. However, the absolute majority of Ukrainians, as confirmed by various sociological polls, are against the idea of having the electoral struggle during the war. And this had a decisive influence on the fact that in November, officially, the issue of elections during the war was closed. For how long and whether it is final? - this remains an open question. This will depend on the further development of the military and domestic political situation. But there is no money for elections in the next year in the state budget.

Martial law was also extended (until mid-February), which prohibits any elections.

The most important domestic political events of the autumn are the change of the leadership of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine and the significant activation of anti-corruption investigations, including those conducted against a number ...

... of people's deputies and high-ranking officials.

In foreign policy, the main event of the autumn was the recommendation of the European Commission to start negotiations with Ukraine (together with Moldova) on joining the EU. This decision has yet to be approved at a meeting of the European Council (summit of EU leaders). And it will not be easy, considering the Orban's regime aggressively blackmailing Kyiv and Brussels. But both the leadership of the European Union and the majority of the EU countries, obviously, have set their mind on a new wave of expanding the EU, and support the European integration of Ukraine.

The second military winter is coming. Of course, this will be a difficult and tense period. Air attacks on Ukraine by drones occur every day. Massive missile strikes are also possible. But it seems that we are ready for a difficult winter (including psychologically) a little better than last year. First of all, this concerns the strengthening of the air defense system. According to the national survey of the sociological group "Rating", conducted at the end of November 2023, about 75% of Ukrainians have taken steps to prepare for possible problems with the lack of electricity. 72% of respondents noted that there are "points of invincibility" in their community.

The military situation will be characterized by persistent and laborious battles on the eastern and southern fronts in the format of a positional war. The main task in foreign policy is to achieve a decision on the start of negotiations on Ukraine's membership in the EU, as well as on the continuation of financial and military support for Ukraine from the USA and the EU in 2024. These decisions are highly likely to be adopted, but it is as likely that some will be adopted with a delay and subject to certain conditions. In domestic politics, we all need to calm down and stabilize the socio-political situation, at least relatively. For a successful war, we need a reliable and stable rear. The most important thing is that the Ukrainian leadership, together with our international partners, must develop a joint military-political strategy for the future, the implementation of which will influence the further course of military operations and the conditions for the end of the war.