



PULSE OF THE WEEK

#2

Researching public opinion on the most important events of the week

(#54)

January 13-19, 2024



RESEARCHING PUBLIC OPINION SINCE 2011



UKRAINE AND GREAT BRITAIN SIGNED AN AGREEMENT ON COOPERATION IN THE DEFENSE SPHERE

Ukraine and the United Kingdom will cooperate in the defense sphere in the course of the next 10 years. Similar agreements are to be signed with several other countries.

On January 12, in Kyiv, President Volodymyr Zelenskyi and British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak signed a strategic agreement on military cooperation. One of the main points of the agreement is London's legal obligation to supply Ukraine with the weapons it needs both now and in the event of a new Russian attack in the future. As the adviser to the head of the President's Office Mykhailo Podolyak explained, this agreement actually creates a military alliance between Kyiv and London, which will exist until Ukraine becomes a full member of NATO.

UK Defense Minister Grant Shapps said the agreement signed with Ukraine is "much more" than just money. According to him, the document formalizes British support to Ukraine in all directions - from intelligence exchange to military training.

Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal said that the agreement with Britain will become a standard for future agreements. In fact, Ukraine is currently negotiating with several other countries to sign an agreement on security guarantees and military cooperation.

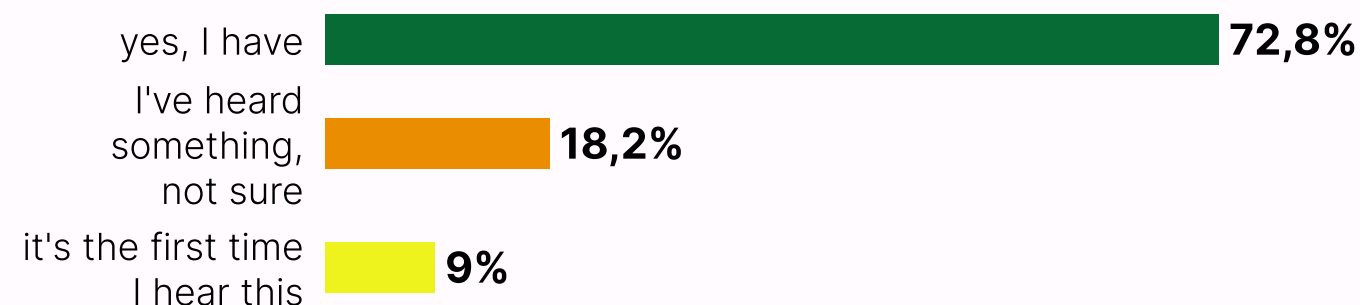
The head of the Foreign Intelligence Service of Ukraine, Oleksandr Lytvynenko, thinks that the agreement has destroyed the doctrine of limited sovereignty of the former USSR states, which Russia had been implementing for more than 30 years. According to him, Ukraine has now left the zone of Russian influence, and this fact is of great importance for the future world order.

Sources: UNIAN, Interfax-Ukraine, Ukrinform

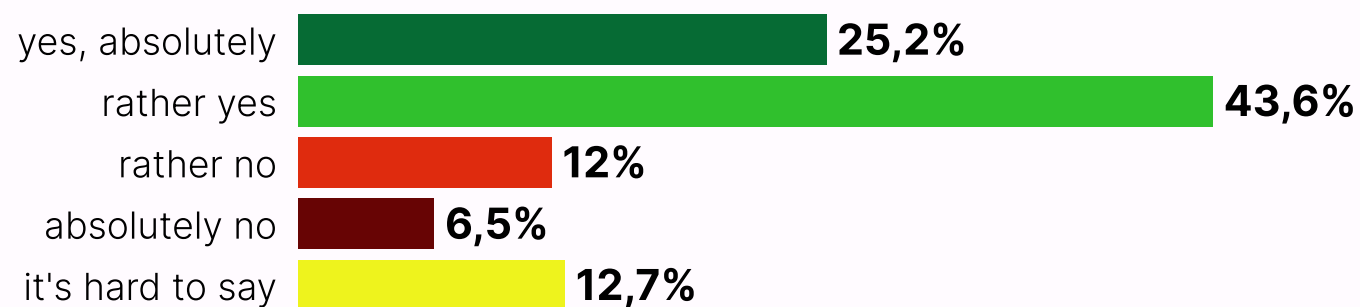


Public opinion

Have you heard of a new security agreement between Ukraine and Great Britain?



In your opinion, will the agreement amplify Ukraine's ability to protect itself?



NEW RESTRICTIONS FOR UKRAINIAN EXPORTS FROM EU COUNTRIES

The ministers of agriculture of Bulgaria, Poland, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia called on the European Commission to “protect European farmers” and impose an import duty on Ukrainian grain.

On January 16, the Romanian Ministry of Agriculture and representatives of major agricultural organizations reached an agreement on a number of demands that the protesting farmers have. However, the representative of the farmers, Marius Miku, noted that this does not mean that protests would end immediately, as negotiations with the transporters are still going on.

On January 18, the Romanian side informed that in front of the Halmeu-Diakove international checkpoint, farmers blocked the movement of cargo vehicles. Blocking is being done by large agricultural machinery.

On January 19, the DPSU Telegram channel reported that in front of the Vikovu-de-Sus checkpoint, which is opposite the Ukrainian checkpoint “Krasnoilsk”, movement of trucks is no longer blocked.

Meanwhile, Polish carriers reached an agreement with their government on some demands and suspended protest at border crossings with Ukraine. Poland will submit proposals to the European Commission regarding changes to the so-called “transport visa-free” agreement with Ukraine, and has invited the Ukrainian side to cooperate.

As reported by the Ministry of Infrastructure of Poland, the implementation of the agreement signed on January 16 by the Minister of Infrastructure Dariusz Klimczak and representatives of Polish carriers was discussed during the meeting of the Deputy Minister Paweł Gancarz with the Ambassador of Ukraine to Poland Vasyl Zvarych.

Sources: Suspilne, Radio Svoboda, UNIAN

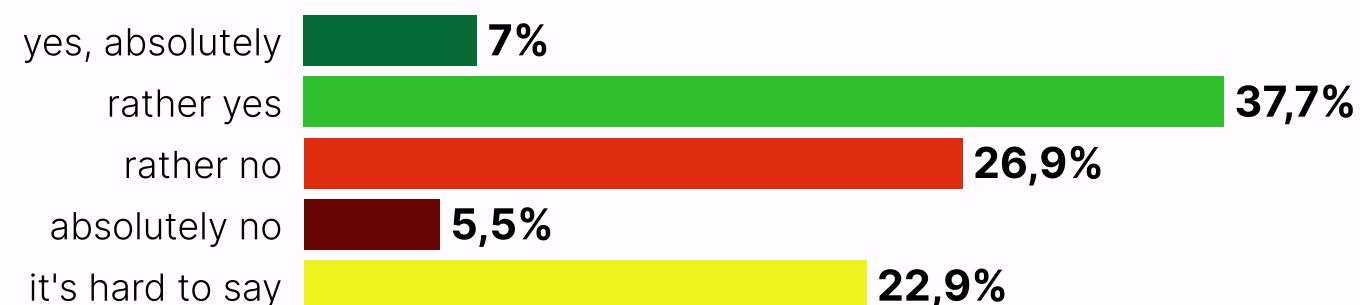


Public opinion

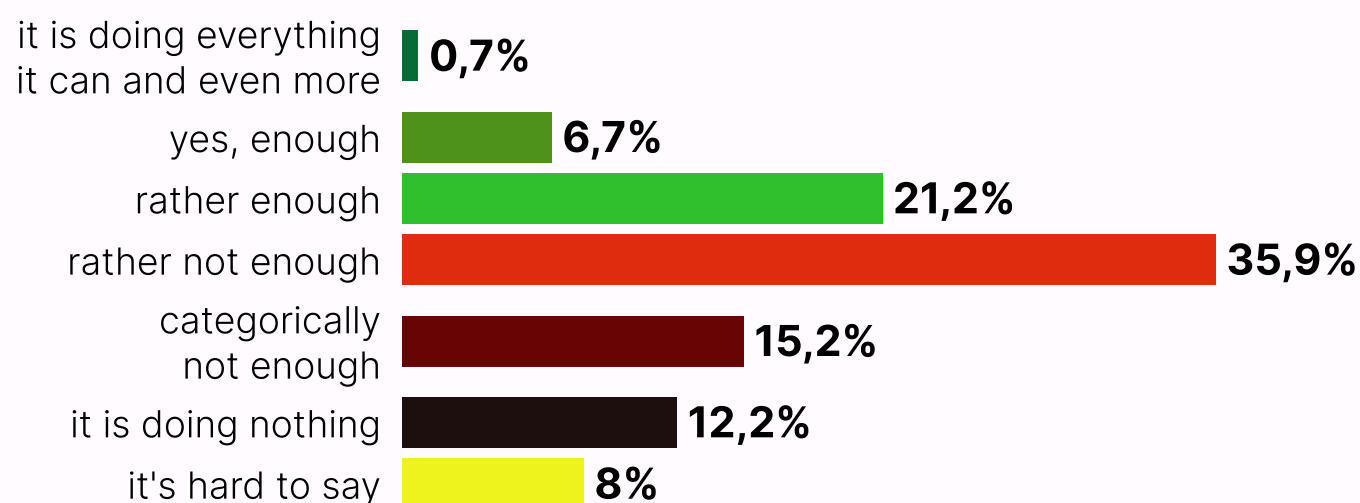
Do you know about the demand of the EU countries to introduce a duty on Ukrainian grain?



In your opinion, can this ruin the relations between Ukraine and those countries?



In your opinion, is Ukraine doing enough to protect Ukrainian manufacturers?



THE VERKHOVNA RADA ADOPTED THE LAW ON DIGITALIZATION OF THE UKRAINIAN ARMY

On January 16, the Verkhovna Rada adopted draft law No. 10062, which introduces innovations in the procedures for processing and using data in state registers regarding military registration and acquiring the status of a war veteran.

Deputies approved: to create an electronic register of conscripts and improve the procedures for interdepartmental interaction regarding its filling; improve and digitize the interdepartmental interaction regarding the granting of the status of a participant in hostilities; the procedure for protecting information in the Information and Communication Systems of the Ministry of Defense; the possibility of using NATO's "cloud" resources to store secret information.

People's deputy Maryana Bezugla said that several important points were not included in the final version of the document. In particular, after the second reading of the draft law, the following points have disappeared: the possibility for citizens to have a military registration document in an electronic version; electronic office of an enterprise with a list of "booked" employees; an option of granting the status of a participant in hostilities by means of the electronic system of the Ministry of Defense; electronic register of military personnel (those who are already serving) – all of these will remain in paper form. Bezugla believes that the law left behind bureaucratic procedures that take up a lot of time of citizens and create corruption risks.

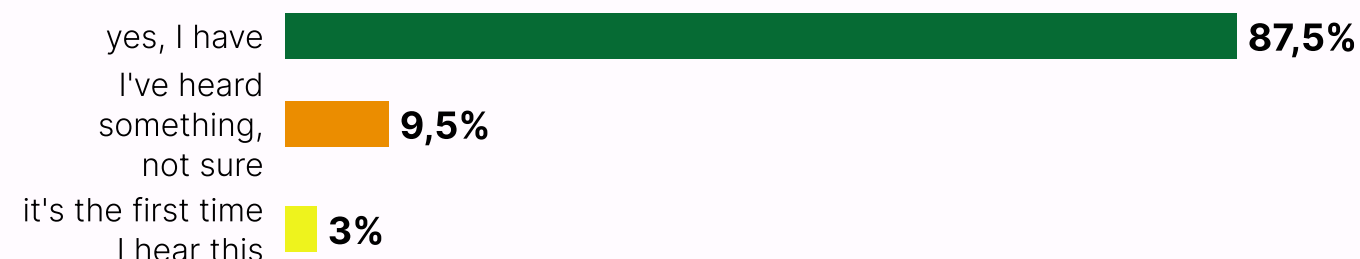
Defense Minister Rustem Umierov said that the adoption of the law will allow the army to speed up information exchange processes. "Services and processes for military personnel will finally be completely transferred to a convenient digital format that will be regulated by law," the minister said.

Sources: Censor, Radio Svoboda, UNIAN

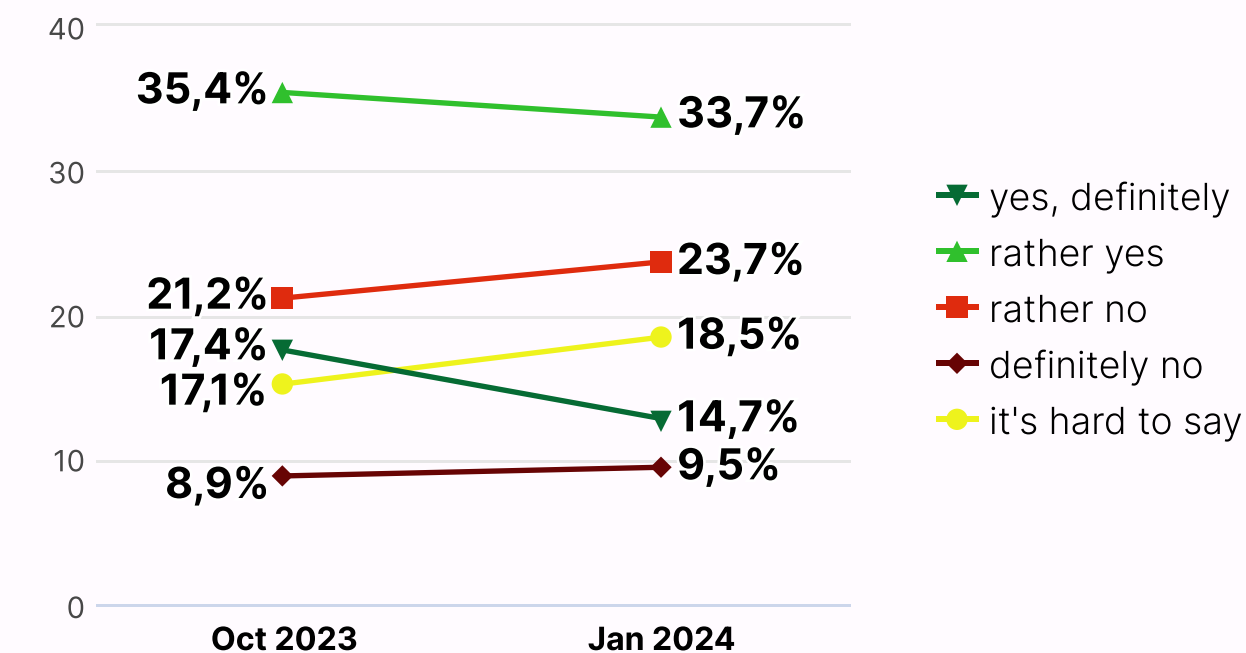


Public opinion

Have you heard of the idea to make a digital register of conscripts?



In your opinion, will this register help strengthen mobilization in Ukraine?



Do you support the idea to locate the information systems of the Ministry of Defence (including the data about conscripts) on the servers in the NATO countries?



WILL UKRAINIAN MEN BE RETURNED FROM ABROAD?

On January 16, the Estonian member of the European Parliament Jaak Madison called to “help Ukraine with men” who fled from mobilization to European countries.

He added that they should also help with weapons so that Ukraine would win. “Zelensky stated very clearly that they need people, because thousands have died. But there are about 800,000 people in Europe who broke the law of Ukraine and fled the country like cowards. And we have to help Ukraine with these men, as well as with weapons, so that they can fight and win this war,” Madison said during a speech in the European Parliament.

In turn, the Prime Minister of Estonia Kaia Kallas recently stated that her country will not extradite Ukrainian men of military age. According to her words, she discussed this issue with President Volodymyr Zelenskyi during his visit to Tallinn.

Oleksiy Danilov, Secretary of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine, said that Ukraine cannot forcefully return conscripts from abroad. “If a citizen officially has the status of a refugee who suffered from military aggression, we will not be able to interfere. After all, every country has its own laws regarding people with refugee status,” Danilov added.

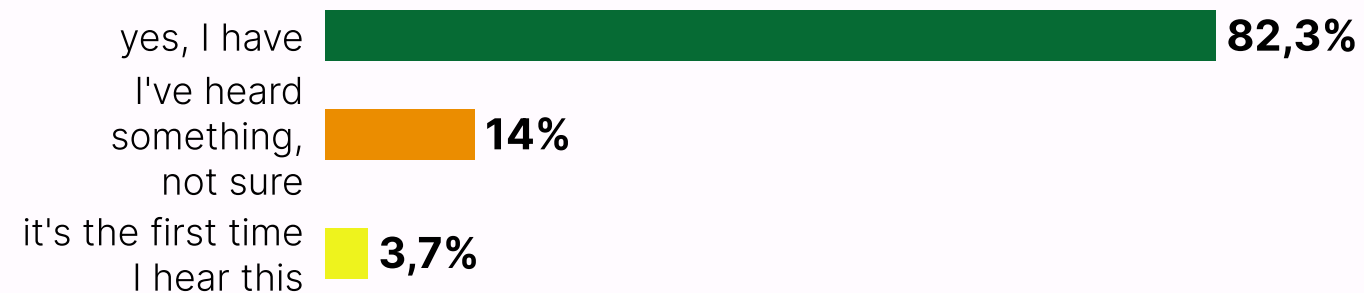
President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyi said that this is a question of justice. “If you are of mobilization age according to Ukrainian law, you must be in Ukraine. And this is a fact. And then you will fight or not fight. You will work,” said Zelensky. He also added that Ukraine has always lacked people during the war, but Ukraine respects human rights.

Sources: Ukrinform, UNIAN, Suspilne

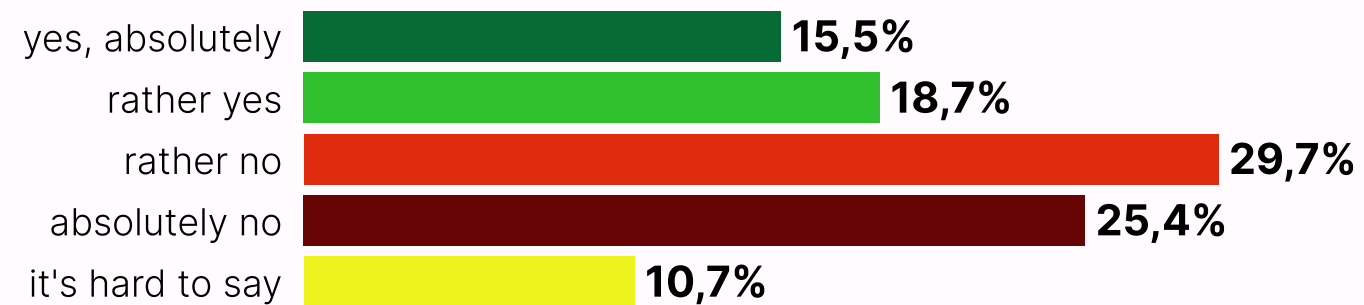


Public opinion

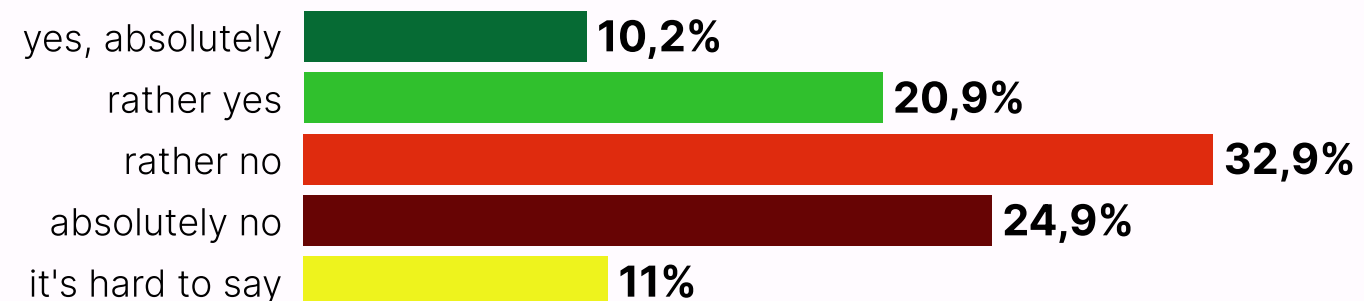
Have you heard about the idea to force men to return back to Ukraine from abroad?



In your opinion, should this be actually done?



Does army need the men, who were forced to return from abroad?



MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA COMMUNITY CLAIM THEY'VE BEEN ILLEGALLY WIRETAPPED AND HARASSED

Over the course of the week, journalists reported multiple violations of their professional rights, which provoked the indignation of the media community and the reaction of high-ranking officials.

On January 14, some unknown persons tried to break into the residence of journalist Yuriy Nikolov, who had been investigating corruption in procurement in the Armed Forces, including the scandal around eggs that cost 17 hryvnias. The attackers scared the journalist's mother and neighbors, and also left a message on the door calling Nikolov a traitor. The Kyiv police reported that an investigation is being conducted into the threats to the journalist.

On January 16, a video appeared online showing Bihus.Info investigative project employees doing drugs. The video of the incident was probably filmed by a hidden camera. A few hours after the publication, the head of Bihus.Info, Denys Bihus, said that the video depicted not journalists, but the cameramen of the project, and they had already been fired. "We have reasons to believe that the team members basically have been long since watched and followed - stubbornly, systematically and at quite a cost," Bihus added.

On January 17, the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Freedom of Speech announced that it would file a request with the Security Service of Ukraine regarding the surveillance of Bihus.Info journalists. The Committee will also hold a meeting on the subject of systemic violations of the professional rights of journalists, which was manifested by a number of recent events.

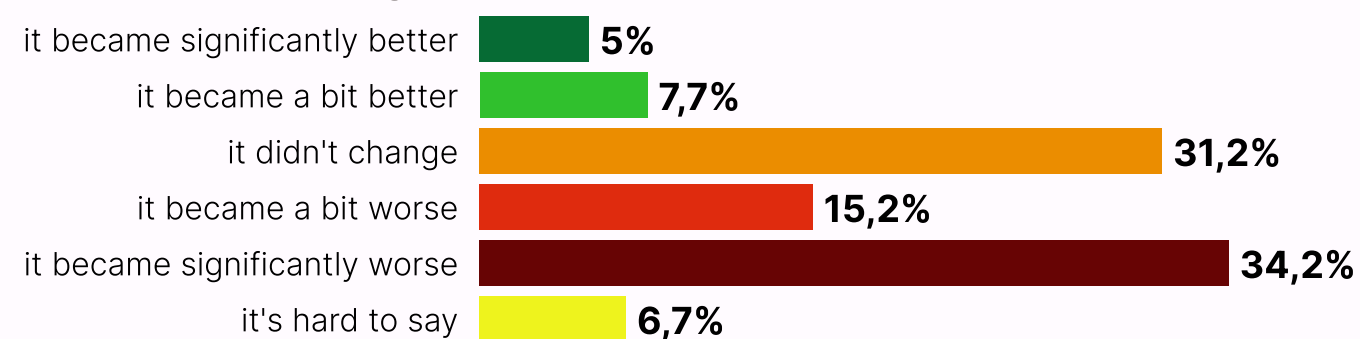
That same day, the SBU opened criminal proceedings under Art. 359 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine (illegal acquisition, sale or use of special technical means of obtaining information). Meanwhile, President Volodymyr Zelenskyi said that any pressure exerted on journalists is unacceptable.

Sources: Radio Svoboda, Censor, Informator

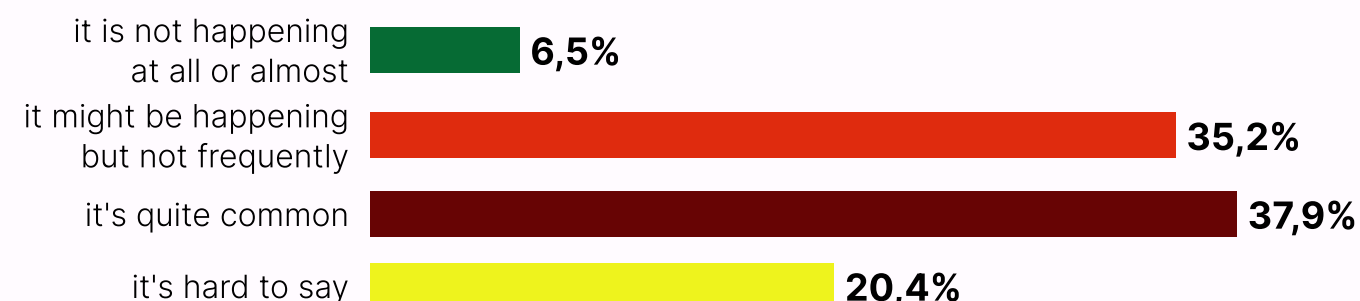


Public opinion

In your opinion, how has the situation with freedom of speech changed in Ukraine over the last year?



In your opinion, is it happening often that the authorities are acting illegally in regards to journalists (wiretapping, intimidation, etc)?



In your opinion, is it beneficial for Ukraine under martial law to have the authorities criticised by journalists?

