



# PULSE OF THE WEEK

## #3

Researching public opinion on the most important events of the week

**(#55)**

**January 20-26, 2024**



RESEARCHING PUBLIC OPINION SINCE 2011



## ZELENSKY SIGNED A DECREE REGARDING THE TERRITORIES OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION HISTORICALLY INHABITED BY UKRAINIANS

The President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyi, signed a decree regarding the territories historically inhabited by Ukrainians in the Russian Federation.

By Decree No. 17/2024 of January 22, Zelenskyi instructed the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine to develop and submit to the NSDC of Ukraine for consideration an action plan for preserving the national identity of Ukrainians living in the Russian Federation, including the areas historically inhabited by them (in the Kuban, Starodubshchyna, Northern and Eastern Slobozhanshchyna within the boundaries of the modern Krasnodar Territory, Belgorod, Bryansk, Voronezh, Kursk, Rostov Oblasts of the Russian Federation). To undertake this work there should be international experts involved, as well as representatives of the World Congress of Ukrainians, scientists, and the public.

Among the measures provided for by the decree are intensification of work to counter disinformation and propaganda of the Russian Federation regarding the history and present of Ukrainians in Russia and all peoples enslaved by it; development of mutual work of Ukrainians and peoples enslaved by Russia; preparation and dissemination in Ukraine and the world of materials about the more than a thousand-year history of formation of Ukrainian state, and of historical ties of lands inhabited by ethnic Ukrainians; coverage in educational programs and textbooks for educational institutions of the true history of ethnic Ukrainians in the lands historically inhabited by them within the borders of the Russian Federation.

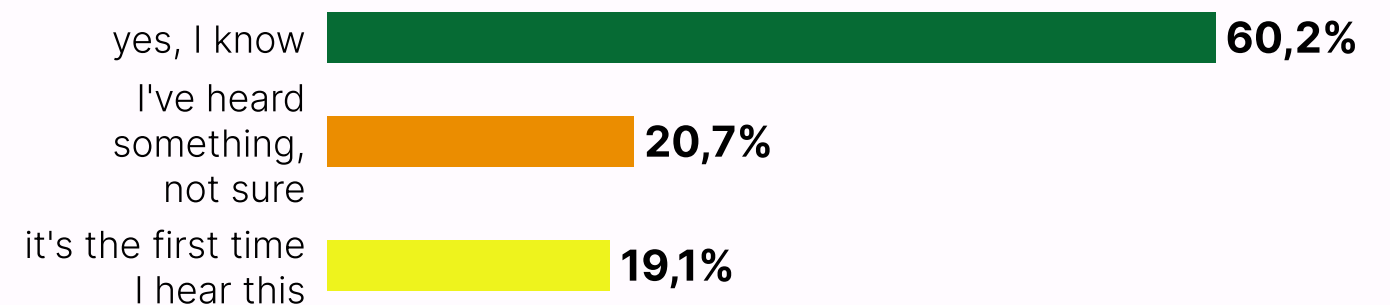
Former Russian leader Dmitriy Medvedev, reacting to the decree, said that Zelenskyi could soon add Canada to the territory of Ukraine. "This way he will soon be adding Canada..." Medvedev complained. He also stated that the president of Ukraine is not only "the chief Ukrainian", but also a "drug addict".

**Sources:** Ukrinform, Radio Svoboda, Interfax-Ukraine

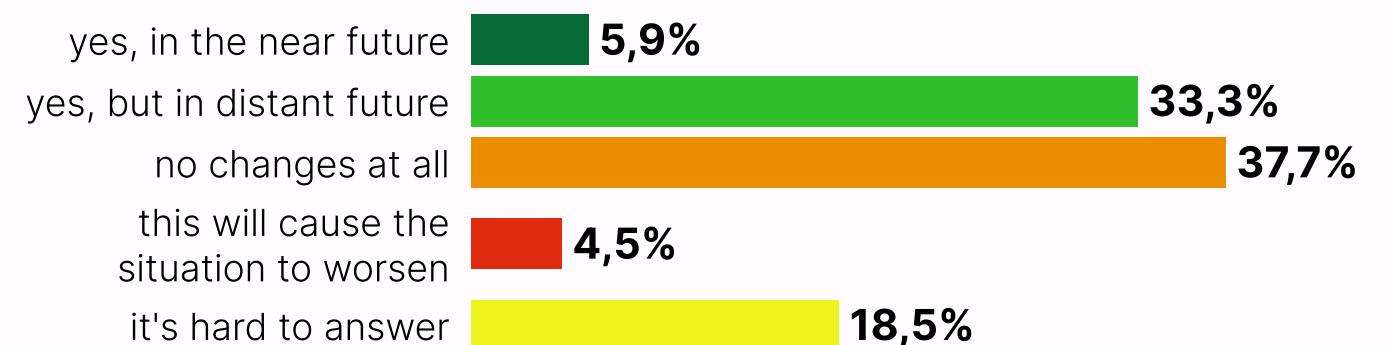


Public opinion

### Do you know that Zelenskyi signed a decree regarding the territories of the Russian Federation historically inhabited by Ukrainians?



### In your opinion, will this decree bring a positive outcome for Ukraine and Ukrainians?



## EU COUNTRIES AND THE USA ARE CREATING LEGAL PROCEDURES TO USE THE FROZEN ASSETS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

On January 22, the heads of foreign affairs of the EU countries gave their political blessing to the introduction of a tax on windfall profits from frozen Russian assets.

The full confiscation is not being considered yet. In general, Ukraine's allies agree that the Russian Federation should pay for the damage caused by the war.

Currently, the EU countries, G7 and Australia together have frozen about 260 billion euros in the assets of the central bank of Russia in the form of securities and cash. More than two-thirds of this amount is in the EU. Most of the assets are held in the Euroclear clearinghouse, where last year they brought in 3 billion euros in revenue.

The head of the EU foreign policy department, Josep Borrell, said that during the meeting of the ministers of foreign affairs of the bloc's member countries, progress was made regarding the tax on windfall profits.

It is known that a group of countries, including Germany, have made it clear they oppose confiscation due to legal issues.

Also, on January 24, the Committees on Foreign Affairs of the US Senate and House of Representatives approved a draft law that would pave the way for the confiscation of Russian assets and their transfer to Ukraine. This money will be used for reconstruction caused by the destruction due to the Russian invasion.

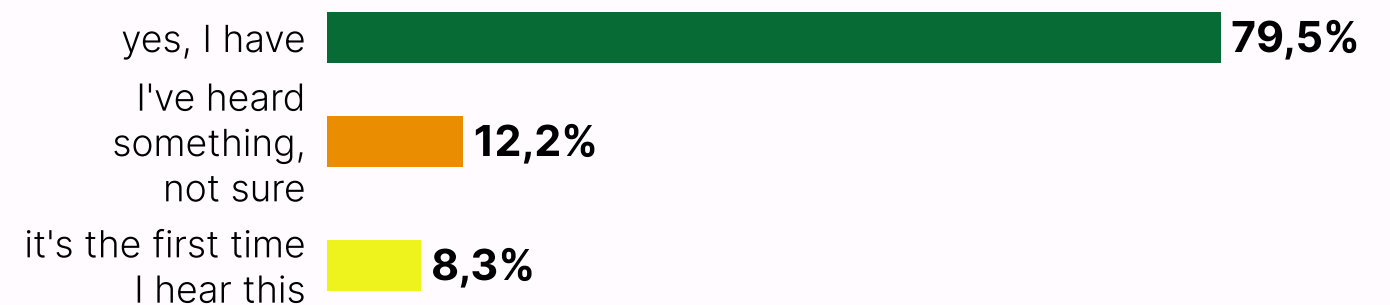
If the bill passes a full vote in the Senate and House of Representatives and is signed into law by US President Joe Biden, it would allow the first in US history seizure of assets of a country it is not at war with. After approval, lawmakers said the Biden administration supported the bill.

**Sources:** Radio Svoboda, UNIAN, Espresso

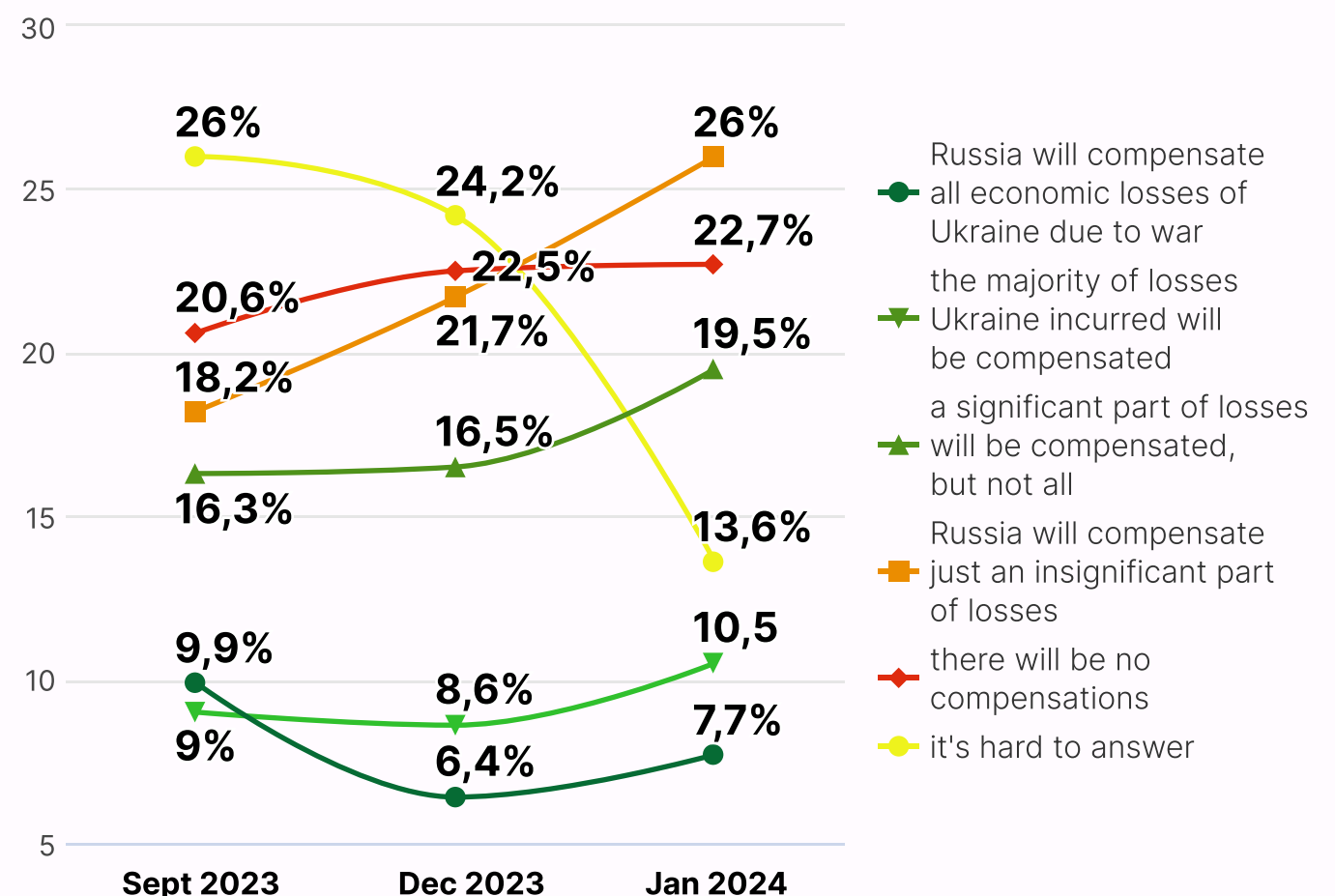


### Public opinion

#### Have you heard of the plans to direct the income from the frozen Russian assets abroad to support Ukraine?



#### Will Russian assets be really directed to develop and renovate Ukraine?





# ZELENSKYI SUBMITTED A DRAFT LAW ON MULTIPLE CITIZENSHIP TO THE RADA

The President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyi proposes that the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine introduce the institution of multiple citizenship.

As the president noted, this “will make it possible for all ethnic Ukrainians and their descendants from different countries of the world to have our citizenship,” except for citizens of the aggressor country.

“All those who during numerous waves of emigration were forced to leave their native land, ending up in Europe, the USA, Canada, Asian countries, and Latin America. Everyone who helps us despite being hundreds and thousands of kilometers away from the native land,” Zelenskyi said.

He also mentioned the foreign volunteers who came to the defense of Ukraine. “All those who are fighting for the freedom of Ukraine, as if for their native Motherland. Indeed Ukraine will become one for them,” the head of state said.

Experts have already found controversial points in the draft law. According to legal analyst of the ZMINA Center for Human Rights Onysiia Syniuk, the proposal to deprive of citizenship those Ukrainians who voluntarily obtained citizenship of the aggressor state does not take into account the realities faced by residents of the occupied territories, in particular the atmosphere of coercion and pressure. After all, the draft law does not give a clear understanding how the voluntariness of acquiring such a citizenship will be determined.

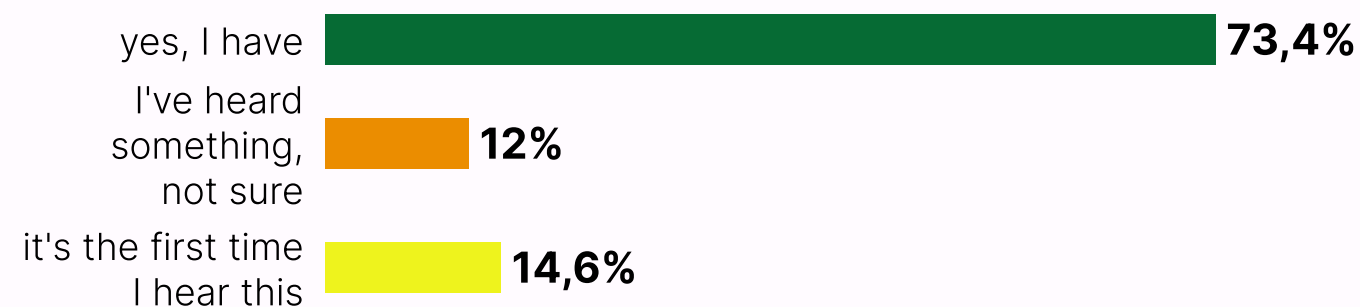
People’s deputy Yaroslav Zhelezniak reminded that the registration date of the bill on multiple citizenship in the Verkhovna Rada is December 2019. The profile committee even approved it in the first reading, but at that point the review was frozen. “So, what this new initiative is like, and why that one is without movement, remains unknown,” he added.

**Sources:** Censor, Hromadske, Suspilne

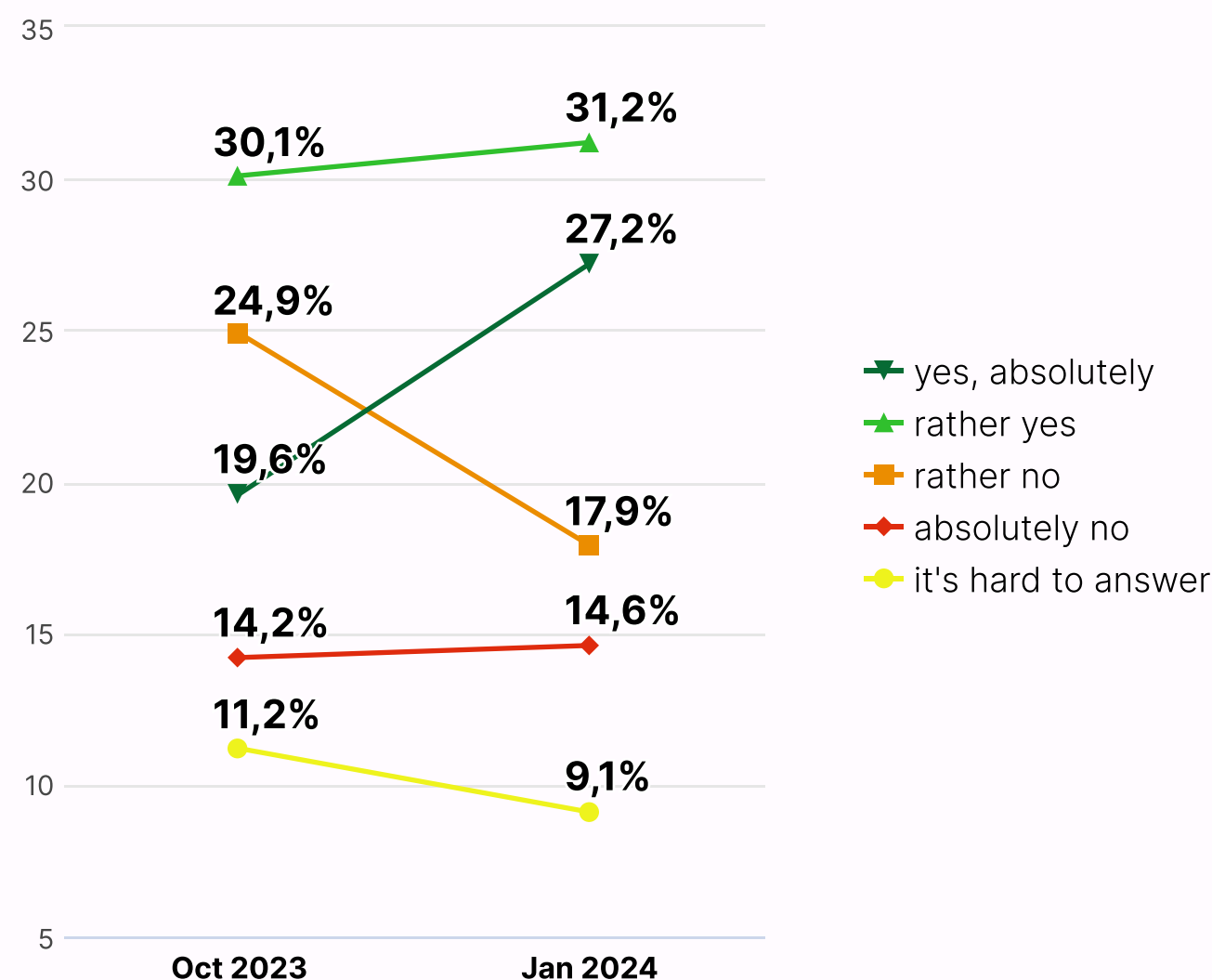


**Public opinion**

## Have you heard of an initiative to allow Ukrainians have multiple citizenship?



## Would you support this initiative?



The research was carried out by the company “Active Group” with the help of the online panel “SunFlower Sociology”.  
 Method: self-completion of questionnaires by citizens of Ukraine 18+.  
 Sample: 600 questionnaires (representative by age, gender and region of Ukraine).  
 Data collection period: January 27, 2024. The theoretical error at a confidence level of 0.95 does not exceed 4%.

## IHOR MAZEPA, THE HEAD OF CONCORDE CAPITAL, WHO HAD BEEN DETAINED BY THE SBI, WAS RELEASED ON BAIL

The founder of Concorde Capital, Ihor Mazepa, was released from the pretrial detention center on January 23 having paid twenty-one-million-hryvnia bail.

This happened after the Kyiv Court of Appeal left Ihor Mazepa in custody until February 27, but reduced the bail. Themis considered a complaint against the ruling of the Pechersk District Court, according to which the businessman was taken into custody with the possibility of paying almost 350 million hryvnias in bail.

Also, on January 22, Igor Mazepa's country house burned down. It happened in the village of Kartovetske, Chernihiv region. The house was equipped with surveillance systems, so the cause of the fire is currently being investigated. According to preliminary data, there are no casualties.

Prior to this, businessman Ihor Mazepa was detained at the "Medyka-Shehyni" checkpoint (he was planning to go to the economic forum in Davos), while the office of his company Concorde Capital was searched by employees of the State Bureau of Investigation.

The next day, the SBI reported that it had detained the businessman, his brother, and two other persons involved in the case of the scheme to illegally acquire the lands where the hydrotechnical facilities of the Kyiv HPP are located. The SBI claims that the organizers of the settlement tried to seize 300 hectares worth more than 1 billion hryvnias.

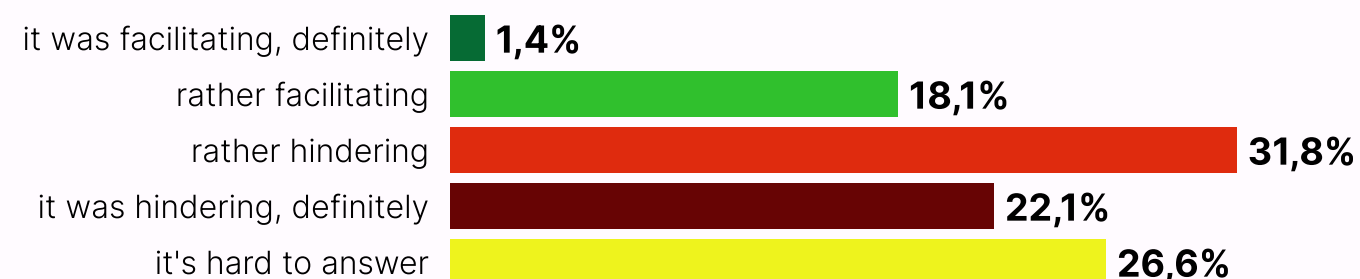
The investment company Concorde Capital reported that the criminal proceedings against its founder Ihor Mazepa refer to the cottage villages built back in 2013. However, they insist that searches are carried out without a court order. The company linked the actions of the SBI "with Ihor Mazepa's stand regarding the pressure that security forces are exerting on business."

**Sources:** Livyi Bereh, Censor, Hromadske

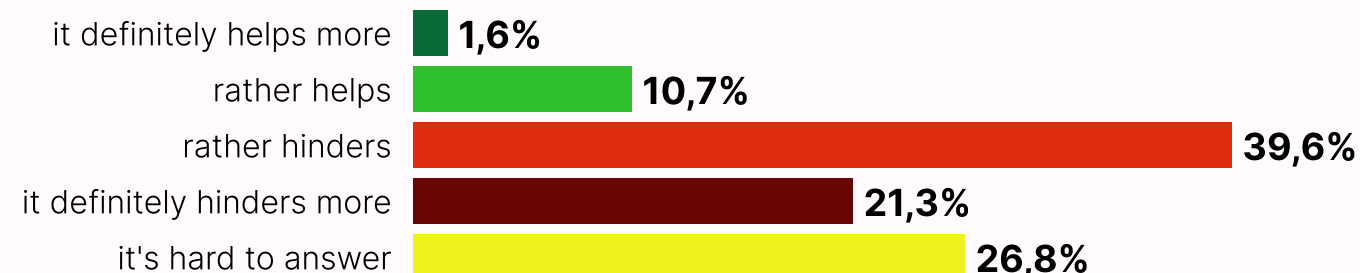


Public opinion

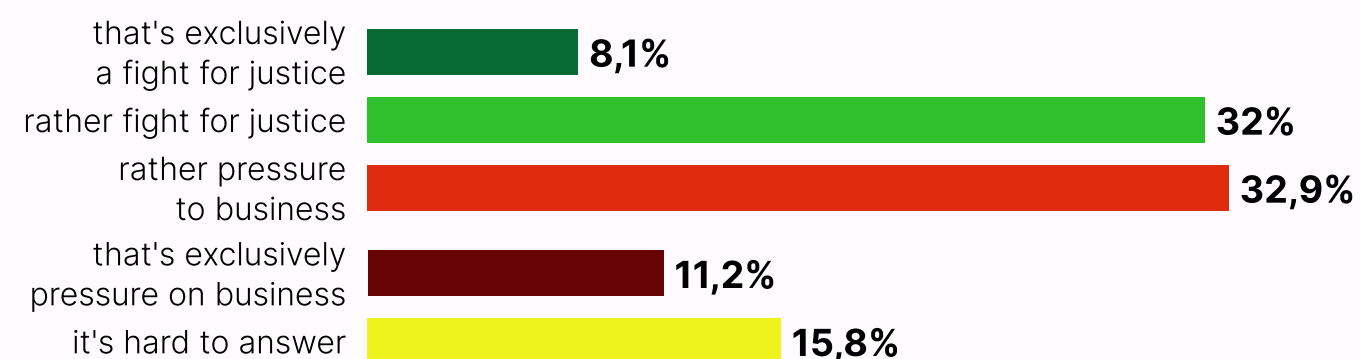
### During the last year were Ukrainian authorities facilitating or hindering the work of business?



### In your opinion, the law enforcement system in Ukraine helps or hinders the work of business more?



### In your opinion, the searches and arrests of businessmen that are happening in Ukraine, are more like ways to fight for law and justice or put pressure on business?





## DESPITE THE SCANDALOUS STATEMENTS, THE PRIME MINISTER OF SLOVAKIA, ROBERT FICO, CAME AROUND TO UKRAINE

On January 24, Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico and Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal met in Uzhgorod.

On the eve of the meeting, Fico asserted that Kyiv should “cede” territories to Russia in order to end the war. In his opinion, this is the only way to stop the conflict. To this, the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Oleh Nikolenko, noted that there can be no compromise on territorial integrity, and this applies to Ukraine, Slovakia, and any other country.

Also, on January 21, the head of the Slovak government informed that Slovakia will not help Ukraine militarily, but will provide humanitarian support. And even earlier, Fico, together with Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, agreed to block funding for Ukraine.

Despite such “starting positions”, after the meeting with Fico, Denys Shmyhal announced that Slovakia will support the proposal of the European Commission to create a Ukrainian fund in the amount of 50 billion euros to support Ukraine for a four-year period during 2024-2027. In particular, Shmyhal specified that, having joined the efforts with Fico, it was possible to reach an agreement on a number of issues and specific agreements.

In addition, as the Ukrainian Prime Minister emphasized, Fico assured of full support for Ukraine’s European integration aspirations. “The Slovak government will not block Ukraine’s purchase of weapons and equipment from Slovak businesses,” Shmyhal emphasized, adding that Ukraine and Slovakia will continue fruitful cooperation for the sake of the security and prosperity of our countries.

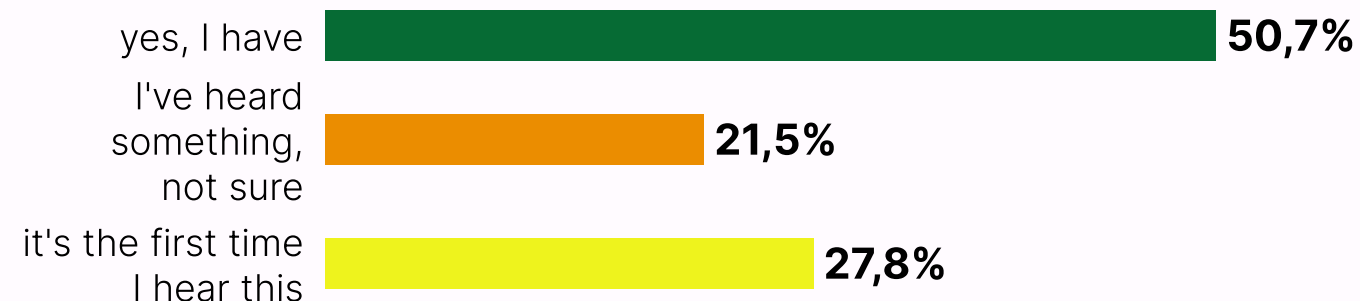
“We really want to support you, we really want to help you,” said Fico during the meeting with Denys Shmyhal.

**Sources:** UNIAN, BBC Ukraine, Radio Svoboda

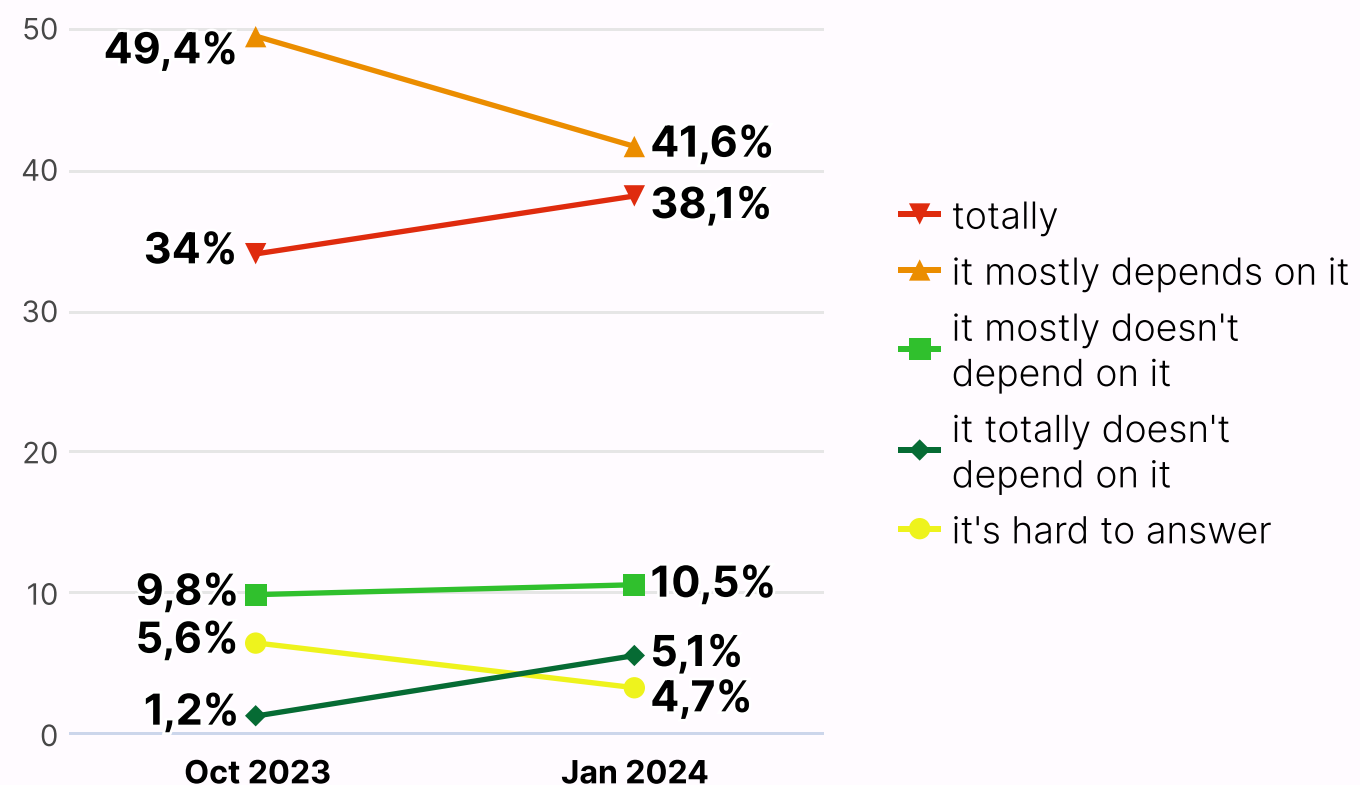


Public opinion

### Have you heard of the change the prime minister of Slovakia Robert Fico had from being anti-Ukrainian to supporting Ukraine?



### In your opinion, how much does the international support of Ukraine depend on the Ukrainian authorities?



# OFFICIAL ESTIMATES: UKRAINE'S ECONOMY IS GROWING EVEN BETTER THAN EXPECTED

In 2023, the economy of Ukraine resumed its growth - the National Bank improved the estimate of real GDP growth for 2023 to 5.7%, the recovery will continue in the following years.

This was announced at the briefing by NBU Chairman Andrii Pyshnyi. According to him, the economy was recovering throughout last year thanks to the high adaptability of business and the population to the conditions of the war and the soft fiscal policy supported by large-scale international financing.

In 2024, real GDP will grow by 3.6% primarily due to the maintenance of high budget expenditures against the backdrop of the expected volume of international aid at a sufficient level. At the same time, the pace of economic growth will be lower than last year, due to the expected decrease of crops and increased disparities in the labor market in war conditions.

Preliminary data from the Ministry of Economy also show growth: the gross domestic product in 2023 increased to 5% (for comparison, in 2022 there was a "minus" of 28.8%).

The service sector made the largest contribution to GDP growth, in particular the sphere of public administration and defense. Positive trends were observed in many major sectors. In agriculture, the yield of almost all agricultural crops increased.

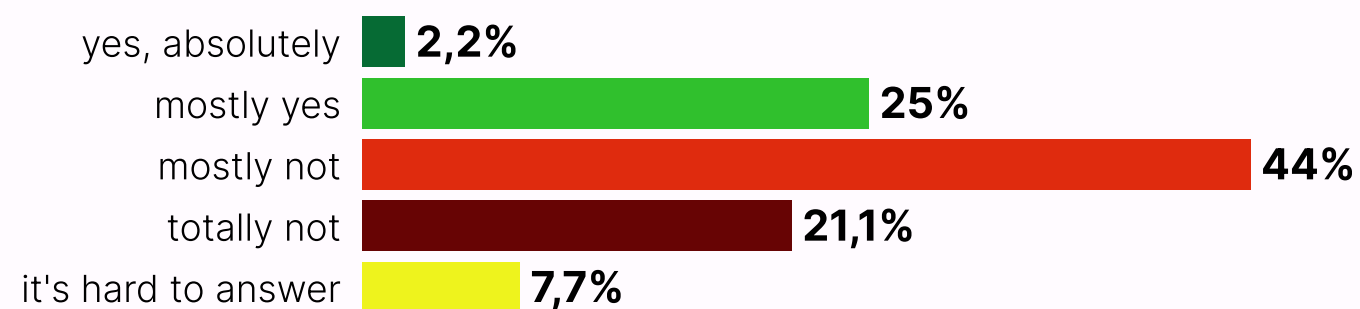
Growth in economic activity was observed in industry, and investment demand improved in construction. Growing consumer demand led to an increase in domestic trade. Positive trends were observed in the transport sector, in particular, due to an increase in the number of passenger transportation.

**Sources:** Ukrinform, Interfax-Ukraine, Economichna Pravda



**Public opinion**

## Does the Ukrainian economy cope with the challenges due to war?



## In your opinion, does the Ukrainian government mostly help the development of economy or hamper it?

