



PULSE OF THE WEEK

#4

Researching public opinion on the most important events of the week

(#56)

January 27 to February 02, 2024



RESEARCHING PUBLIC OPINION SINCE 2011



THE EU MADE IMPORTANT DECISIONS ABOUT THE FINANCING OF AID FOR UKRAINE

On February 1, the leaders of 27 EU member states approved changes to the budget, which were built around the allocation of 50 billion euros for financial support of Ukraine.

The four-year program is called the Ukraine Facility and will be the basis for Ukraine's cooperation with the EU in the near future. It consists of non-refundable aid (17 billion euros) and preferential long-term loans (33 billion euros).

The EU plans to finance grant funds, in particular, at the expense of the frozen Russian assets. This is the reason why on February 1 the European Council supported the idea to use revenues received directly from the frozen assets of the Central Bank of Russia to finance Ukraine.

Making concessions to Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, the program provided for a control mechanism (and also the rights of minorities are mentioned). During all four years, the Council of the EU will retain the possibility to suspend the financing of Ukraine. That is, every month. But, the main victory of Ukraine is that there will be no annual review of this plan, although Orbán demanded that.

The President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyi, expressed his gratitude to the President of the European Council Charles Michel and the leaders of the EU member states, and noted how very important it is that the decision was adopted by all 27 leaders.

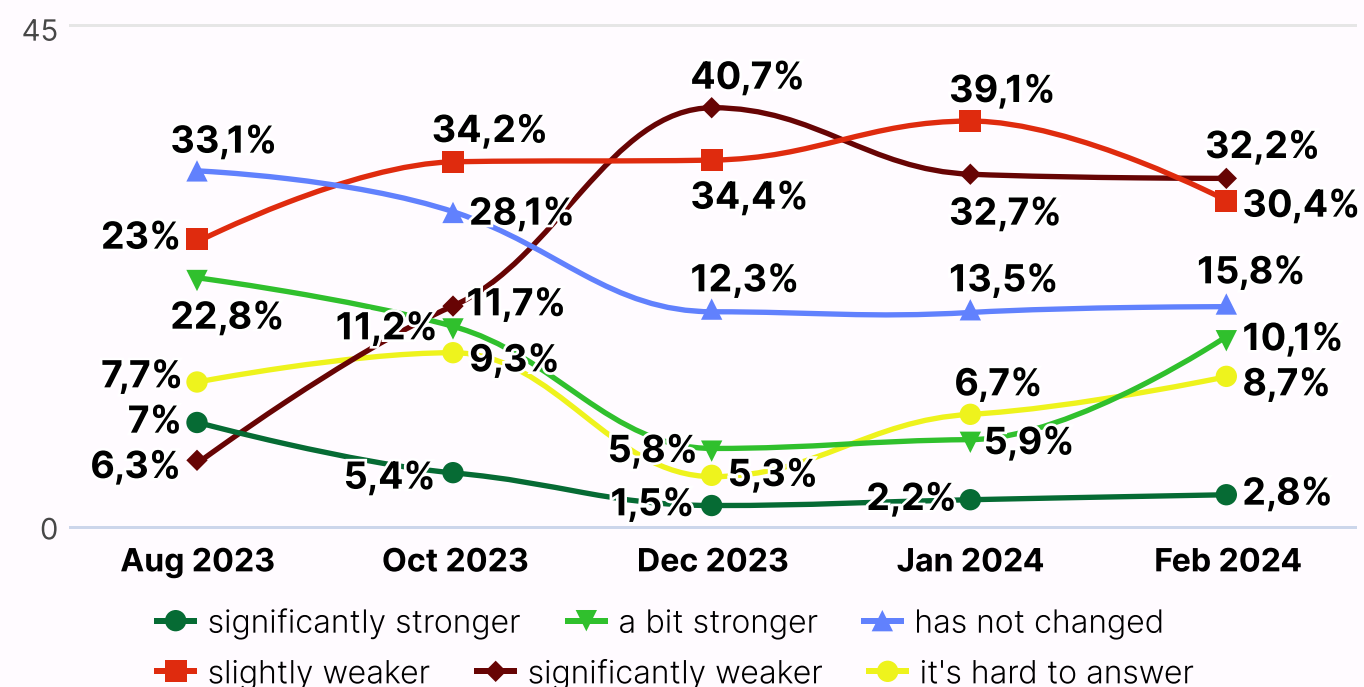
Prime Minister of Ukraine Denys Shmyhal announced that a significant part of the 50 billion euros will be directed to the state budget and will help finance the budget deficit. According to Yulia Svyrydenko, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy, the final approval of the Ukraine Facility by the European Council and the European Parliament is expected at the end of February.

Sources: Censor, European Pravda, UNIAN

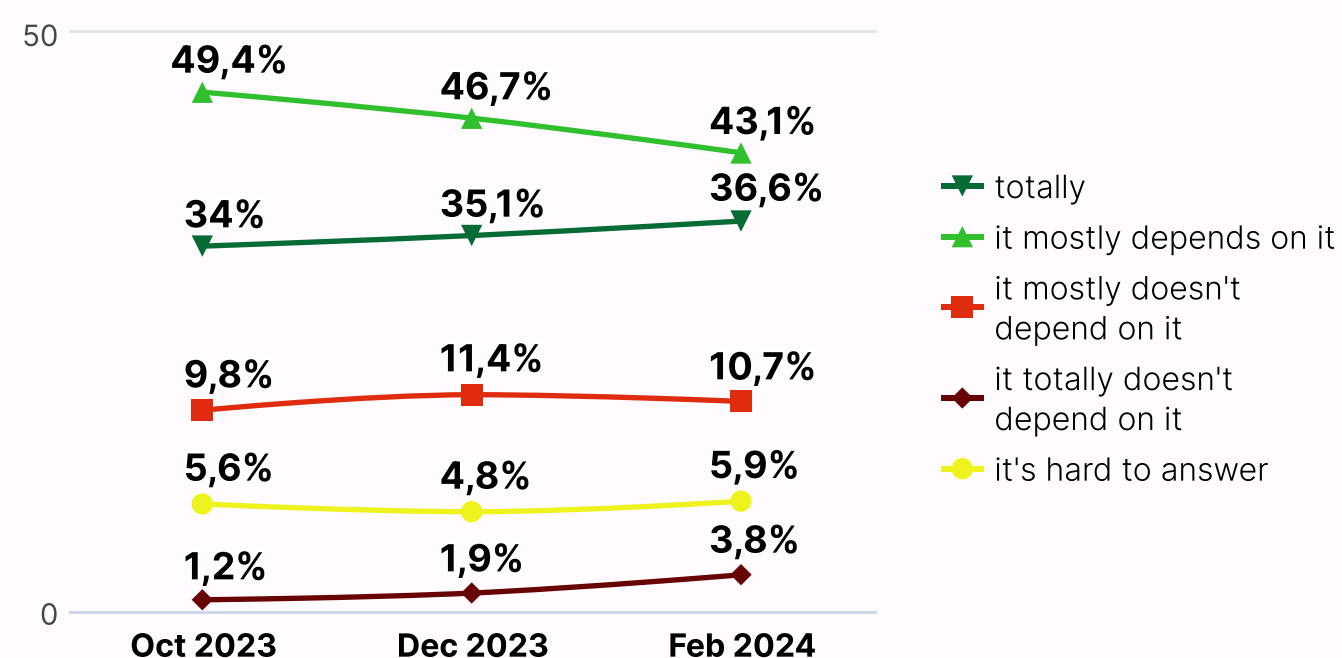


Public opinion

In your opinion, has the international support of Ukraine become stronger or weaker over the past months?



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



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: February 03, 2024. The theoretical error at a confidence level of 0.95 does not exceed 4%.

THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF THE UKRAINIAN REFUGEES IN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES BECOME INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT

During the week, one could see the issue of refugees, both generally speaking and those forced migrants from Ukraine, being raised in several European countries.

The Dutch BBB party proposed to send Ukrainian refugees back to those parts of their country that are not currently affected by the war. BBB MP Mona Keyser said the country's west seems "relatively stable" to her. Keyser also suggested that Ukrainian citizens who found work in the Netherlands should pay rent and cover health care costs, while many of them already do that.

In Germany, the parliament plans to reduce social costs and improve the labor market integration of refugees, especially those from Ukraine. In addition, they consider allowing job centers to suspend unemployment benefits for a maximum of two months if they repeatedly refuse from a quite acceptable job. This should relieve budget funds by 150 million euros. At the same time, the Job Turbo program, designed to speed up the integration of Ukrainian refugees in Germany, has had no tangible successes after three months of operating.

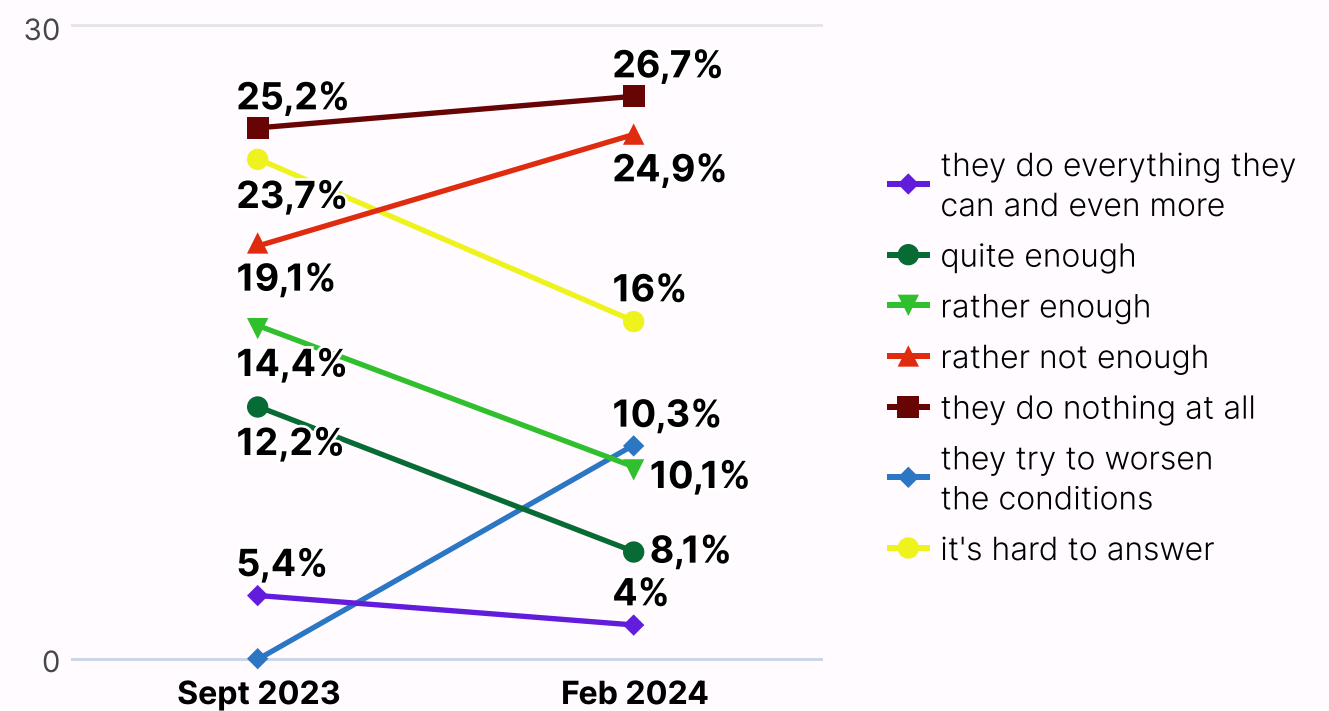
Norway also plans to cut financial aid. The measures will primarily affect Ukrainians who live in private homes, not in reception centers. According to the Norwegian media, the rules are aimed at encouraging Ukrainians to get a job and provide for themselves. Refugees arriving from other Schengen countries will be refused entry. In addition, they would like to complicate family reunification procedures and speed up deportation.

Sources: RBK-Ukraine, Ukrinform, UNIAN

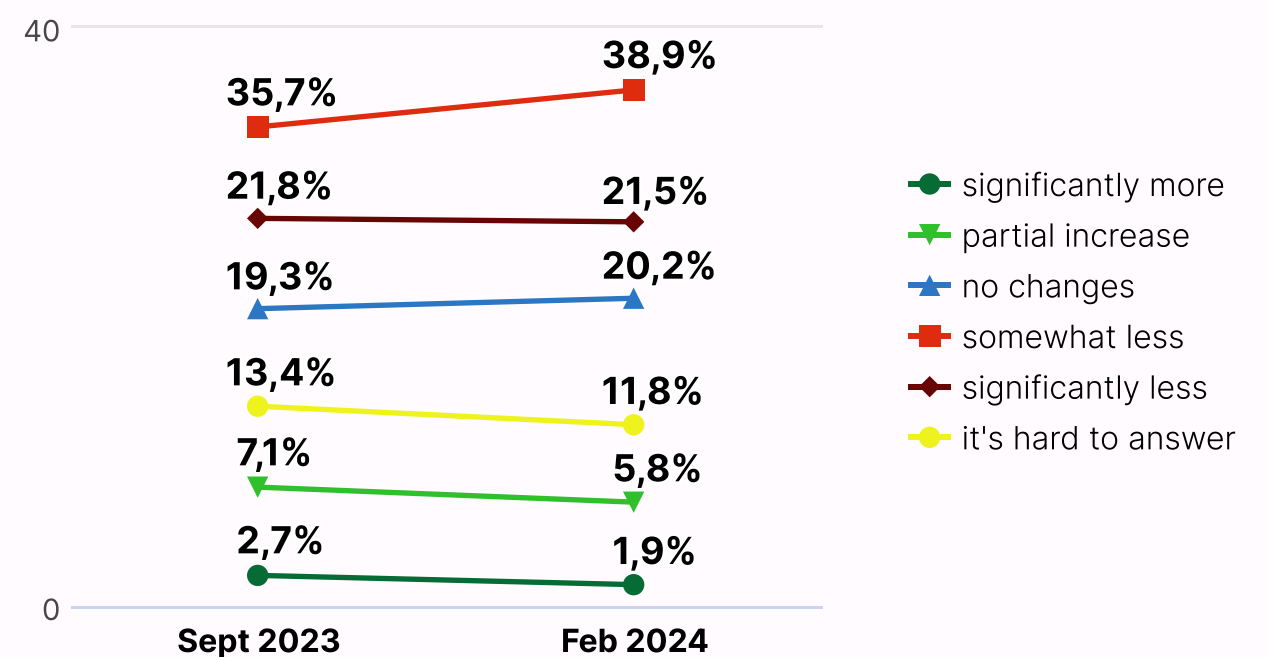


Public opinion

Are Ukrainian authorities doing enough to improve the conditions for Ukrainians abroad?



Are you expecting the European countries to support Ukrainian refugees more or less?



THE FORECAST ON THE NUMBER OF UKRAINIANS FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE OF DEMOGRAPHY OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES WAS PUBLISHED

There will not be 40 million people in Ukraine, because Ukrainians are unlikely to return even if the war ends.

On January 29, Ella Libanova, director of the Ptukh Institute of Demography and Social Research of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, made this statement, adding that the authorities have to honestly say to the nation that the state is at risk of depopulation.

“There’s not going to be 40 million of us. Moreover, there’s not going to be 52, as on January 1, 1993. Let’s forget about it. Can we have a 40 million population? We can. But by means of large-scale immigration,” asserted Libanova.

The sociologist suggests that Ukrainians are not ready for such massive changes: mixing with other cultures and religions, the ways of life of certain ethnic groups. “Ukrainians are not xenophobes — this is backed by the data of pre-war sociological studies (no one did them later). But they are not too tolerant either, as they have never lived in a multi-ethnic environment,” Libanova emphasized.

According to her data, after the invasion of Russia in 2022, 6 million Ukrainians went abroad. If we add to this number the labor migrants who went to work outside of Ukraine even earlier, we will have almost nine million Ukrainians who are unlikely to return, the sociologist stressed.

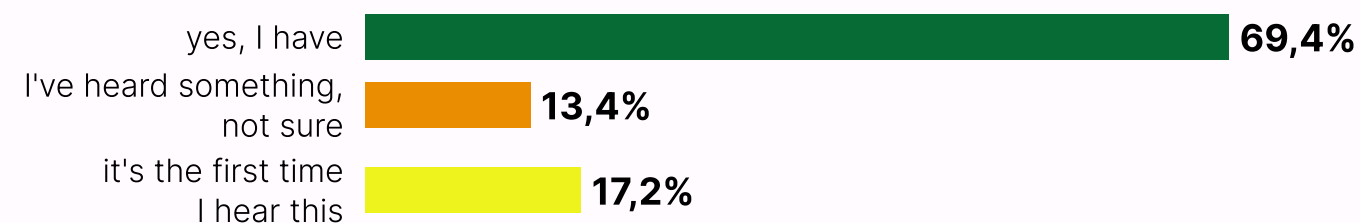
According to Libanova, if it is possible to reach 40 million people in the future, it will not be a political nation of Ukrainians. The sociologist says that the most positive option is for at least half of those who left to return to Ukraine. “My dream is that half returns. If half comes back, it will be great,” she said.

Sources: Livyi Bereh, UNIAN, Ukrainian Pravda

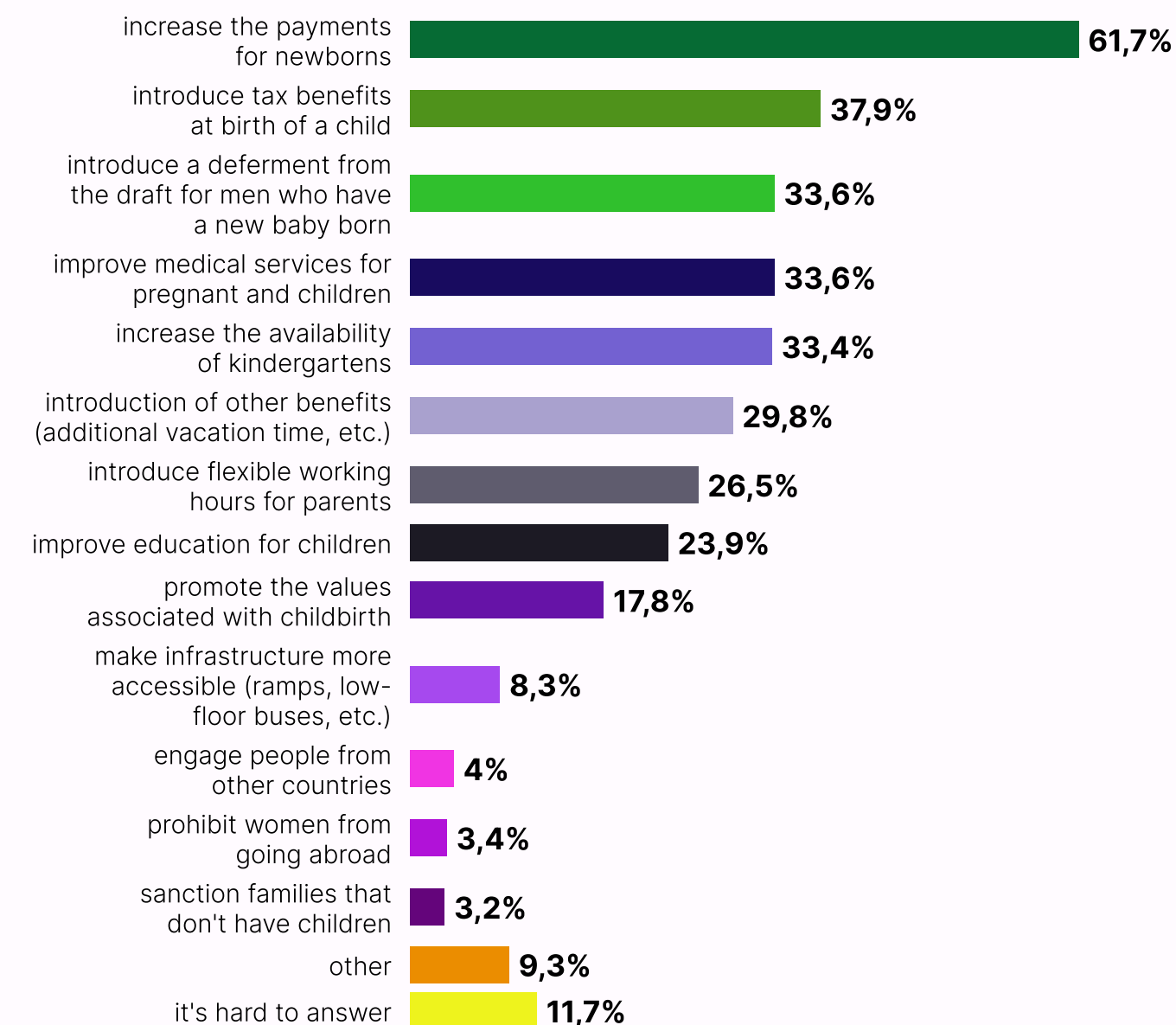


Public opinion

Have you heard about the birth rate declining in Ukraine?



In your opinion, what can the state do to raise the birth rate?



THE CABINET OF MINISTERS SUBMITTED TO THE VERKHOVNA RADA AN UPDATED VERSION OF THE DRAFT LAW ON MOBILIZATION

On January 30, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine approved and submitted to the Verkhovna Rada an updated version of the draft law on mobilization.

The new draft law has a number of innovations: the conscription age is lowered from 27 to 25 years; local administrations and authorities are obliged to ensure the arrival of conscripts to the TCC within the period specified in the summons; in order to travel abroad, all men aged 18 to 60 who are not subject to mobilization must additionally present a military ID with a note confirming they were excluded from the register; all citizens are required to register with an electronic cabinet where summonses are to be sent; one must appear at the TCC either within the period specified in the summons or within 60 days from the start of the mobilization to clarify their data; citizens who are in reserve can be engaged in defense works.

Also, the draft law stipulates it is necessary to have a military registration document with you and to present it at the request of a representative of the TCC, a police officer, or the DPSU.

A number of restrictions, which will be imposed through the court, are provided for in order to deal with “evaders”: a temporary restriction of the right to leave Ukraine; temporary restriction of an individual’s right to drive a vehicle; seizure of funds and other valuables of an individual.

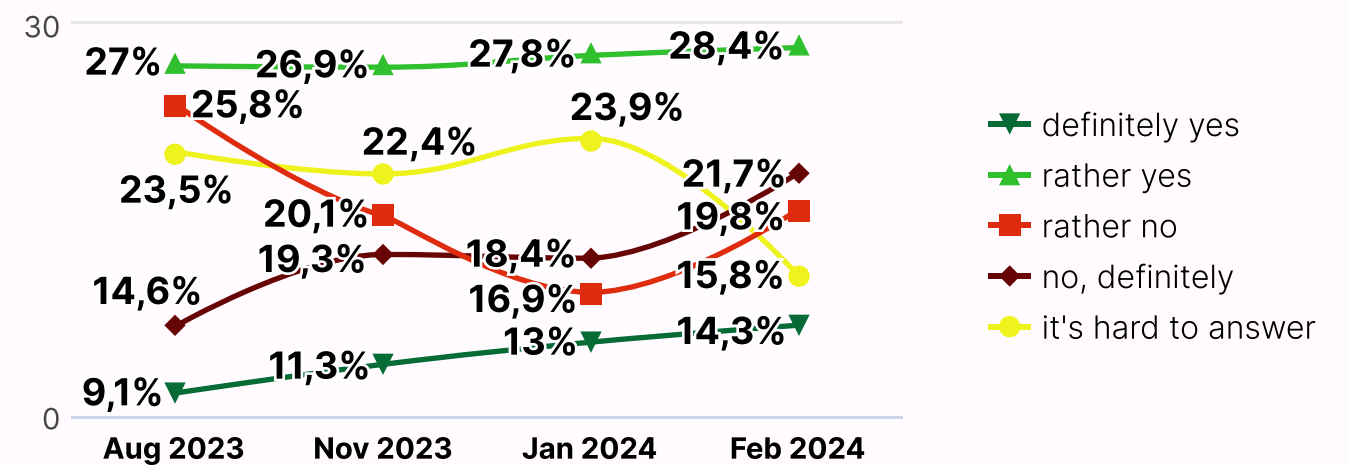
Deputy head of the Verkhovna Rada committee on national security issues, Iryna Friz, said that if the draft law passes the first reading in February, it will be brought to the floor for consideration as a whole in March.

Sources: Suspilne, Ukrinform, Informator

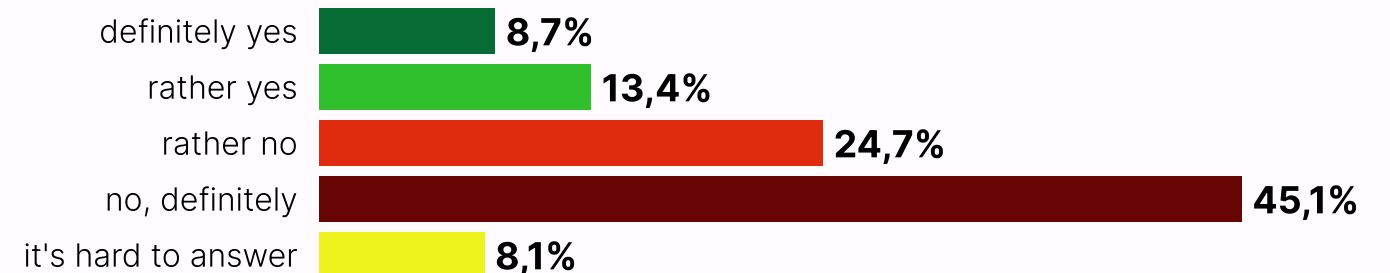


Public opinion

In your opinion, is it necessary to strengthen mobilization in Ukraine?



Do you support the idea to send electronic summonses?



Would you like yourself or your close relative to be included in the electronic registry of conscripts?

