

PULSE OF THE WEEK

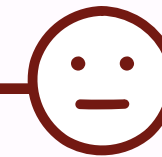
#107

Researching public opinion on the most important events of the week

January 18 to 24, 2025



RESEARCHING PUBLIC OPINION SINCE 2011



THE SBU DETAINED THE CHIEF PSYCHIATRIST OF THE UKRAINIAN ARMED FORCES ON SUSPICION OF CORRUPTION

The Security Service of Ukraine has detained Oleh Druz, chief psychiatrist of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, who, according to law enforcement officials, earned more than \$1 million during the period of all-out war.

Druz is the deputy head of the Central Military Medical Board and decides on the fitness of soldiers for military service. According to the case file, during the period of full-scale invasion, he acquired unjustified assets worth more than USD 1,000,000, while failing to include the relevant property in his tax declaration.

The investigation revealed that in 2022-2024 the official bought a house and two land plots, two apartments in the capital and an apartment in Odesa, four BMW cars, etc. During the searches, SBU investigators also found USD 152,000 and EUR 34,000 in cash.

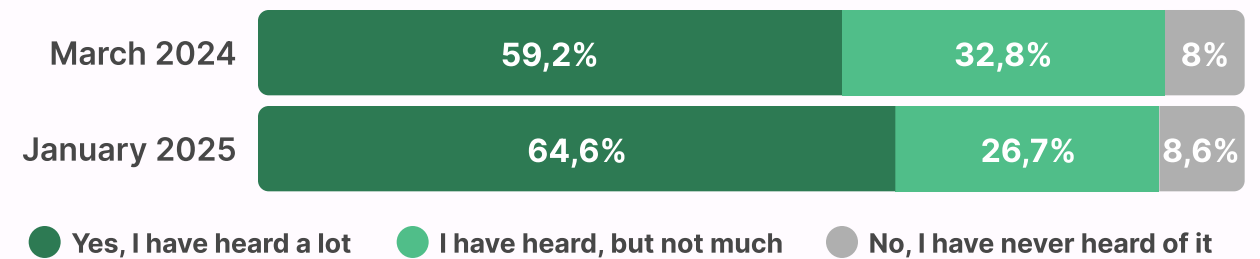
This refers to the notice of charges under Articles 368-5 (illicit enrichment) and 366-2 (false tax declarations) of the Criminal Code of Ukraine. The confiscation of the official's property is under consideration. The penalty for these articles is up to 10 years of imprisonment.

The pre-trial investigation is underway and is being conducted under the procedural direction of the Special Prosecutor's Office of the General Prosecutor's Office.

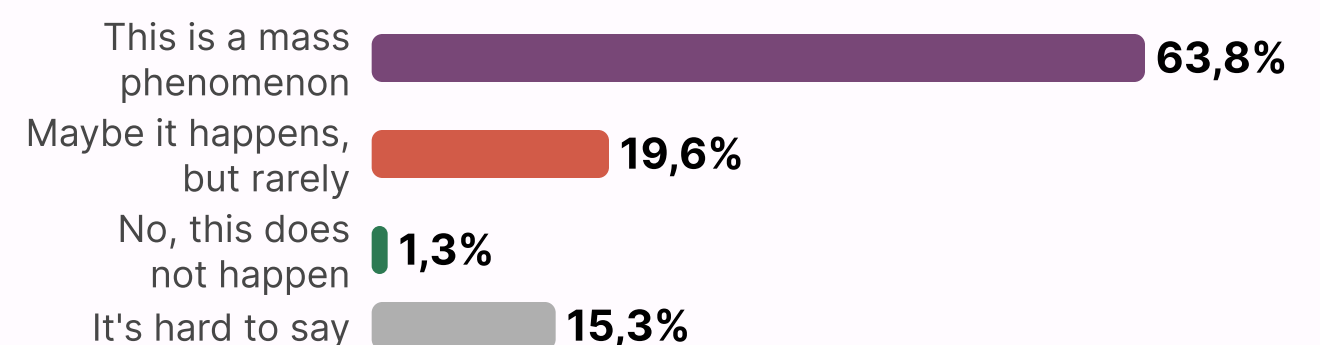
During the meeting of the Shevchenkivsky district court of Kyiv, the lawyer reported that Druz was in "extremely serious condition". The court granted the prosecutor's request to detain the suspect for 60 days, until March 20, with the possibility of bail in the amount of 49,000,000 UAH. Druz will be held in a medical facility.

Sources: Suspilne, Ukrainska Pravda, Radio Liberty

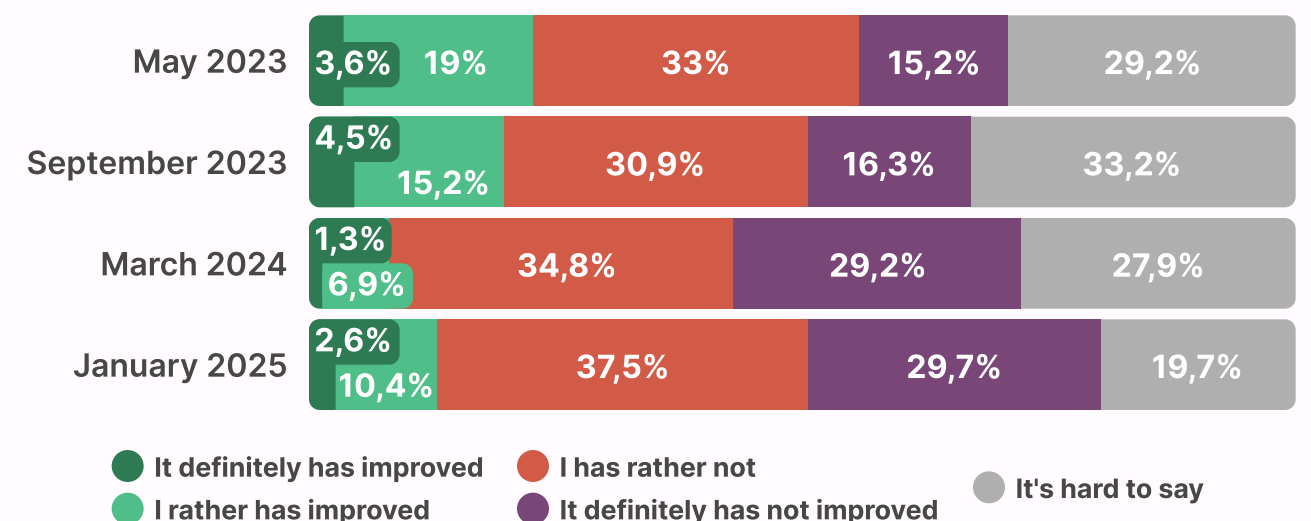
Have you heard about abuses in the MMBs (Military Medical Boards) in recent months?



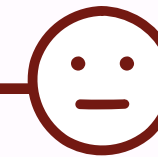
In your opinion, how often do MMBs take bribes?



In your opinion, has the situation in the MMBs improved in recent months?



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SBI ARRESTS GENERALS WHO FAILED TO DEFEND KHARKIV REGION IN 2024

On January 20, the former commander of the OTU "Kharkiv" Yuriy Halushkin, the former commander of the 125th TRO brigade Artur Horbenko, and the former commander of the 415th battalion of the 23rd separate mechanized brigade Ilyya Lapin were arrested on charges of "inadequate protection" of the Kharkiv region during the Russian offensive in May 20-24.

According to the State Bureau of Investigation, the suspects, in their negligent attitude to military service, allowed the Russian troops to seize part of the territory of the Lypetsk rural territorial community of the Kharkiv region. In addition, the actions of the commanders led to the loss of personnel and weapons, disrupted the steps for the defense of the state border in their area of responsibility.

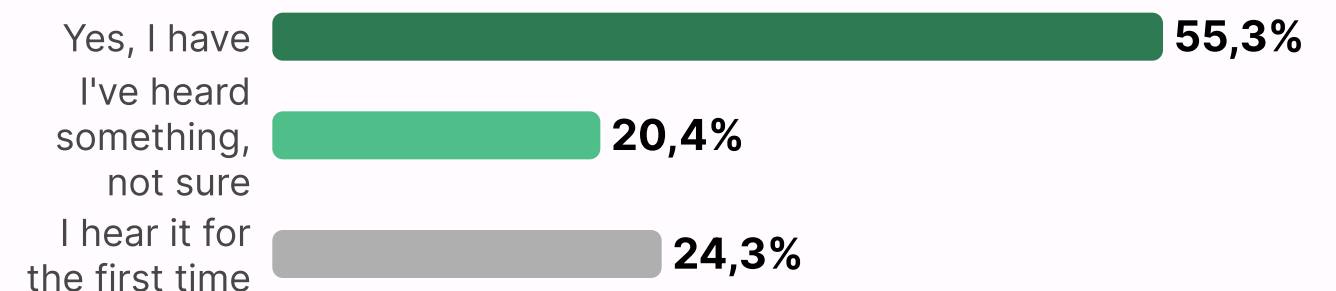
On January 21, the Pechersk district court of Kyiv chose a preventive measure for the military. Halushkin was remanded in custody for 60 days with the possibility of bail in the amount of 5,000,000 UAH.

On January 22, Halushkin's lawyer reported that bail had been paid for him, but on the same day the SBI announced that it had discovered new facts in the case and detained Halushkin on suspicion of facilitating the unauthorized abandonment of the battlefield (Part 5 of Article 27, Article 429 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

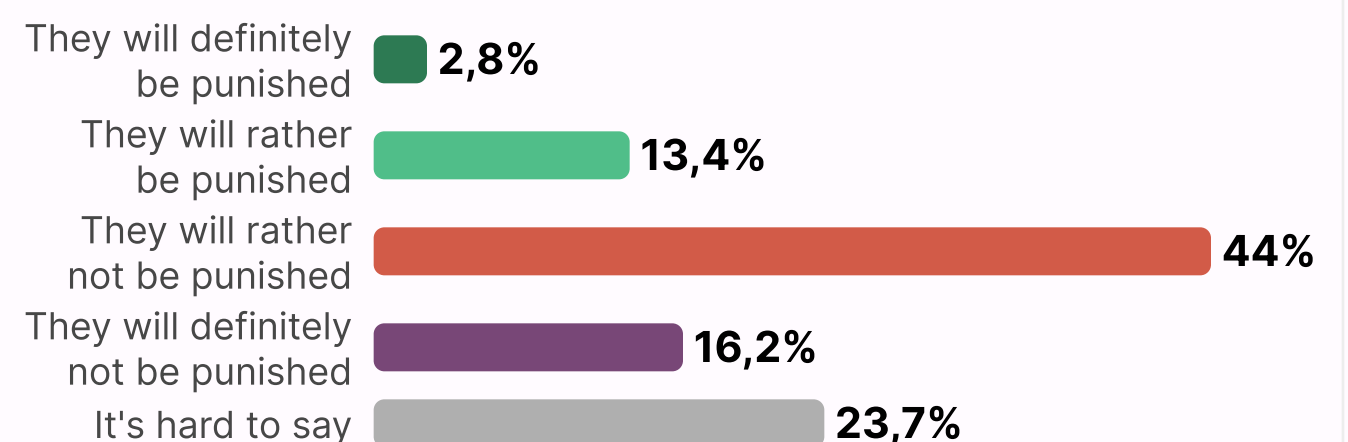
On January 24, Halushkin told the court that he would appeal to the Supreme Commander-in-Chief to be sent to the front, where he would fight as a private soldier. He assured that he would conscientiously perform tasks under the command of the head of any rank - a sergeant or a senior soldier. "...it will be more useful than putting the general in prison, especially in the way it is happening now," the military said.

Sources: Suspilne, BBC Ukraine, UNIAN

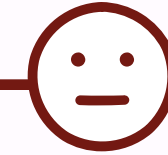
Have you heard about the arrest of generals who "failed to defend the Kharkiv region" in 2024?



In your opinion, will the perpetrators of the defense failure in Kharkiv region be punished in May 2024?



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TRUMP SUSPENDED ALL U.S. FOREIGN AID PROGRAMS FOR 3 MONTHS

On January 20, U.S. President Donald Trump signed an executive order temporarily suspending all U.S. foreign assistance programs for 90 days pending a review.

The order requires all heads of departments and agencies responsible for U.S. foreign assistance programs to immediately suspend new commitments and disbursements to foreign countries and implementing nongovernmental organizations, international organizations, and contractors. Disbursements will be suspended pending a review of the programs for effectiveness and consistency with U.S. foreign policy. The review should be completed within 90 days.

The executive order signed by Trump leaves it up to U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio to make such decisions after consulting with the U.S. Office of Management and Budget.

On January 24, Politico reported that American aid to Ukraine had been frozen for three months.

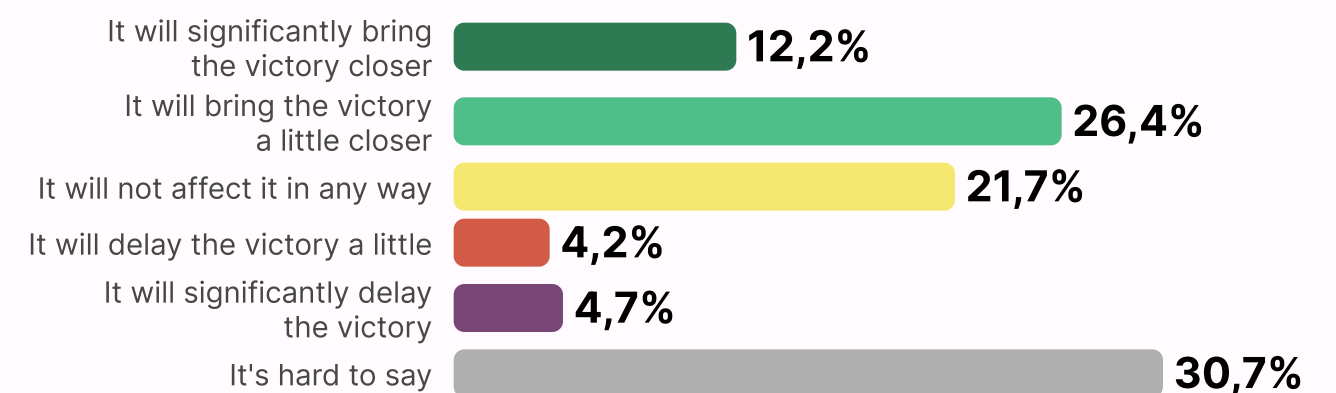
USAID has also suspended projects to support Ukraine, including schools and medical care, according to Reuters. It is reported that among the frozen initiatives are programs to support schools and provide medical care, including emergency care for mothers and vaccinations for children.

However, the document does allow for certain exceptions: funding for military assistance to Egypt and Israel will continue, emergency food aid and coverage of "legitimate expenses incurred through the date of this" order "under existing programs" are allowed.

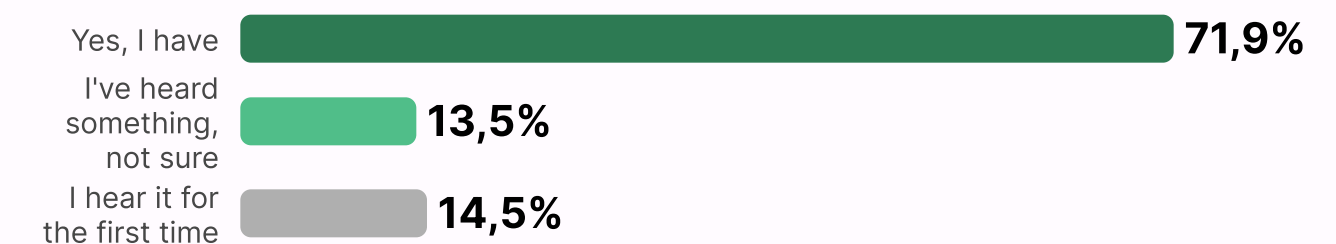
Currently, there is no clear information on whether the freeze applies to military aid to Ukraine.

Sources: Ukrinform, Voice of America, UNIAN

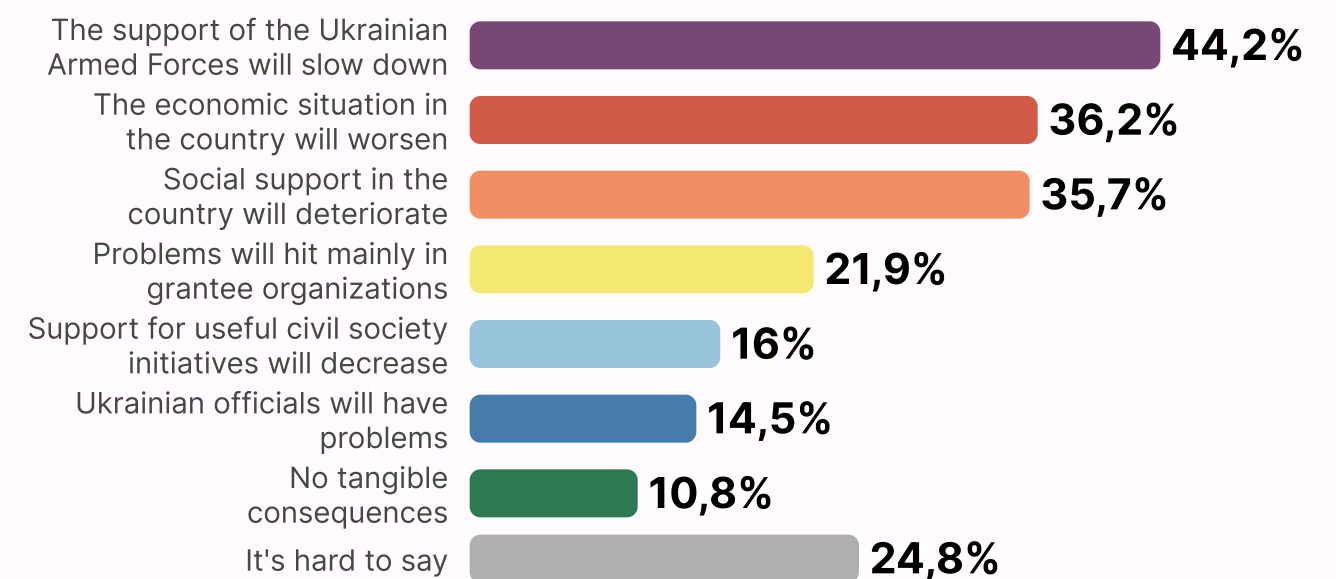
How will the arrival of Donald Trump as the President of the United States affect the Russian-Ukrainian war?

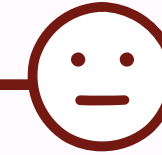


Have you heard that the new US President Donald Trump has signed an executive order freezing international US aid programs for 90 days?



How will this decision affect Ukraine? [several options]

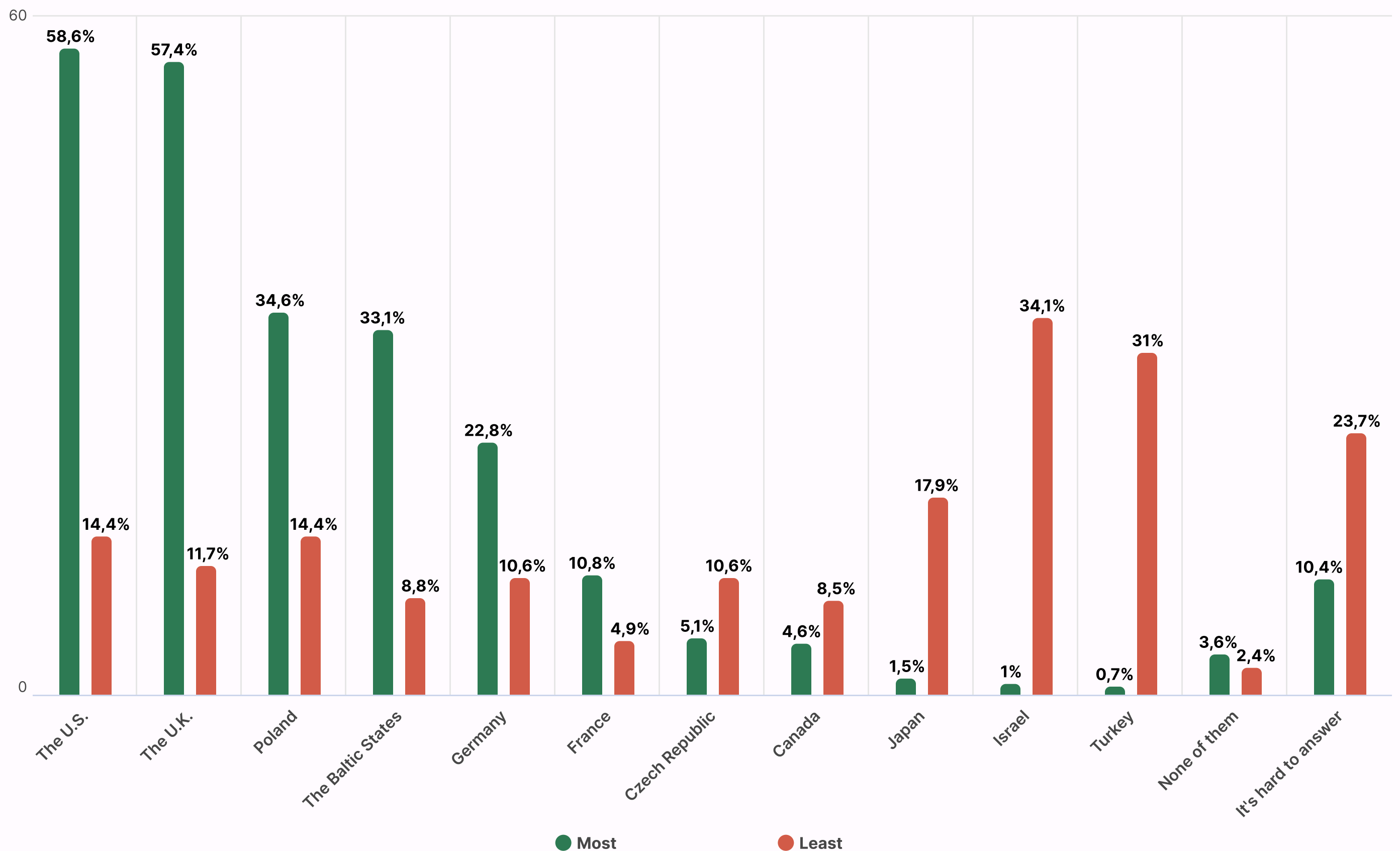




TRUMP SUSPENDED ALL U.S. FOREIGN AID PROGRAMS FOR 3 MONTHS

In your opinion, which country (countries) supports Ukraine most/least in its resistance against Russia?

[select up to 3]

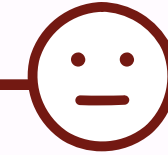


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UKRAINE WANTS TO STRENGTHEN THE TAXATION OF SHIPMENTS OF GOODS FROM ABROAD

Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Finance, Tax and Customs Policy Danylo Hetmantsev submitted for registration two draft laws on VAT and customs duties to be levied on postal parcels sent to Ukraine.

The texts of these documents, according to Hetmantsev, were developed by Ukrainian business associations. According to them, VAT will be levied on all parcels sent from abroad, regardless of their value. Import duty will be levied on them only if the value of the goods exceeds 150 euros. An exception is made for parcels containing goods worth up to 45 euros, provided that they are sent by private individuals without any payment and without any commercial purpose.

This means that if these bills are passed, customers will have to pay tax on all orders from Chinese marketplaces such as AliExpress or Temu.

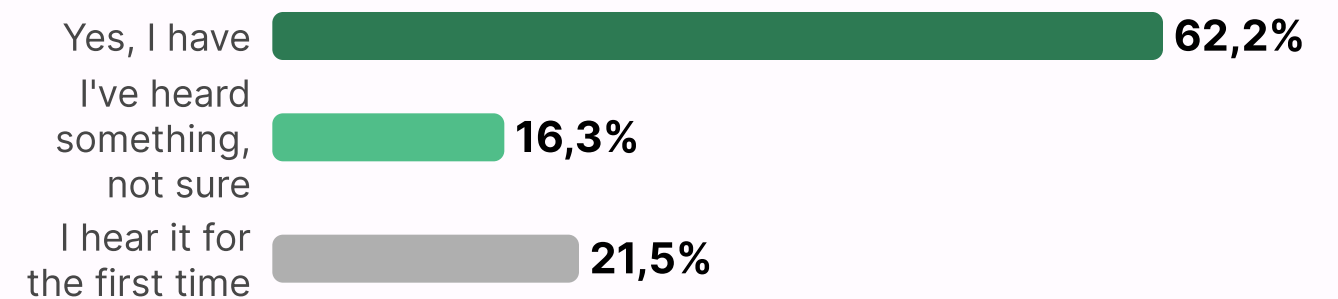
According to the European Business Association, the current preferential tax regime for small consignments of goods distorts competitive conditions in the domestic market, creating more favorable tax and customs conditions for foreign manufacturers and marketplaces.

However, even on this point there are different opinions. In particular, the co-founder of Nova Poshta, Volodymyr Popreshniuk, noted that not only ordinary Ukrainians, but also manufacturers in the defense industry could be affected by the new taxation.

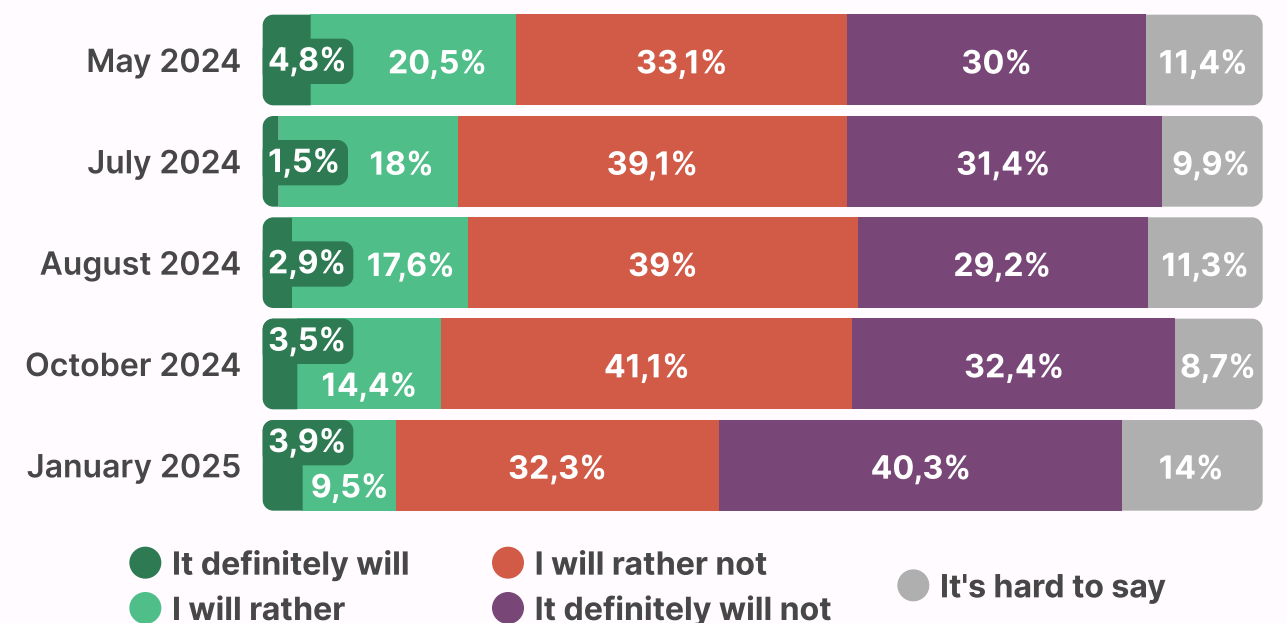
The cheaper it is for people to import foreign goods, the more problems they will solve in the already difficult times we are living through. In addition, a large number of components of drones, electronic warfare devices and other means for defenders also fall within the limit of 150 euros, so this will also be a blow to the country's defense capability," Popreshniuk said.

Sources: Liga, Censor, Forbes.ua

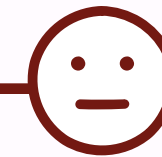
Have you heard about the legislative initiative to increase taxes on goods shipped from abroad?



In your opinion, will the increase in taxes lead to an improvement in the supply of the army or to an improvement in social standards?



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TRUMP THREATENED RUSSIA WITH SERIOUS SANCTIONS IF PUTIN DOES NOT AGREE TO QUICKLY END THE WAR

On January 22, newly inaugurated US President Donald Trump said that he would most likely impose sanctions on Russia if Putin did not come to the negotiating table on Ukraine.

"... I'm going to do Russia, whose economy is collapsing, and President Putin a very big favor. Make a deal now and stop this ridiculous war!" Trump said. If a deal is not reached soon, "he will have no choice" but to impose high taxes, tariffs and sanctions on everything Russia sells to the U.S. and other countries. The US president also added that he had put pressure on PRC leader Xi Jinping, urging him to intervene to stop the war in Ukraine.

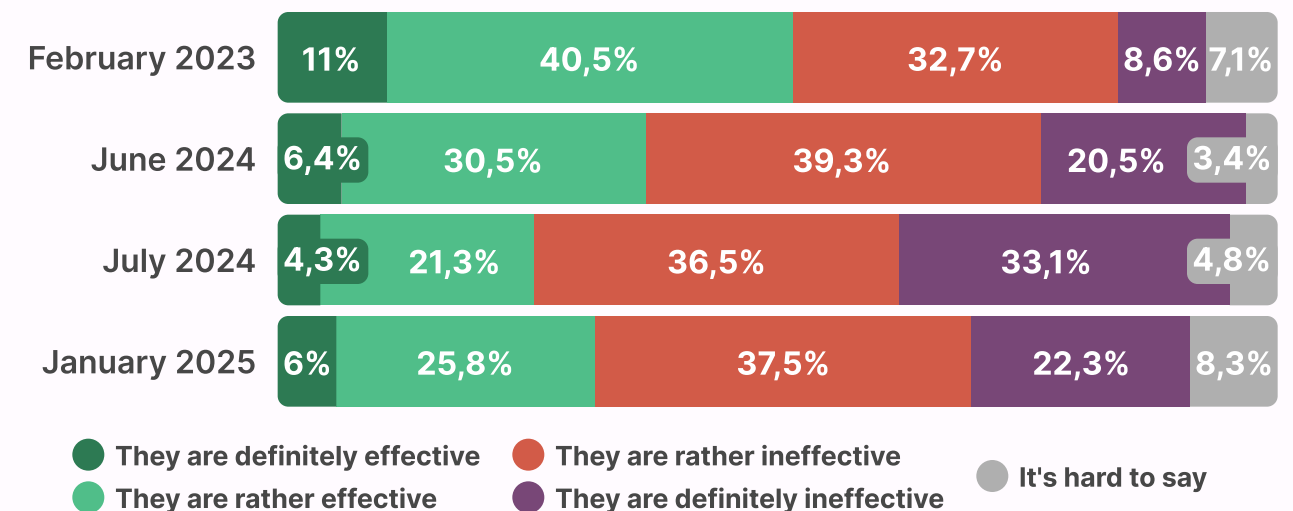
Foreign Minister Andriy Sybiha welcomed Trump's remarks. "It was a really strong message, a strong signal. We need to increase pressure on Russia, force Russia to negotiate," the head of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry said. He also added that it is necessary to increase the cost of aggression for Russia.

Russian dictator Vladimir Putin said that Moscow is ready to negotiate about Ukraine. He also said that the Kremlin never refused contacts with Washington, but they were interrupted by the United States. This was reported on January 24 by the pro-Kremlin agency TASS.

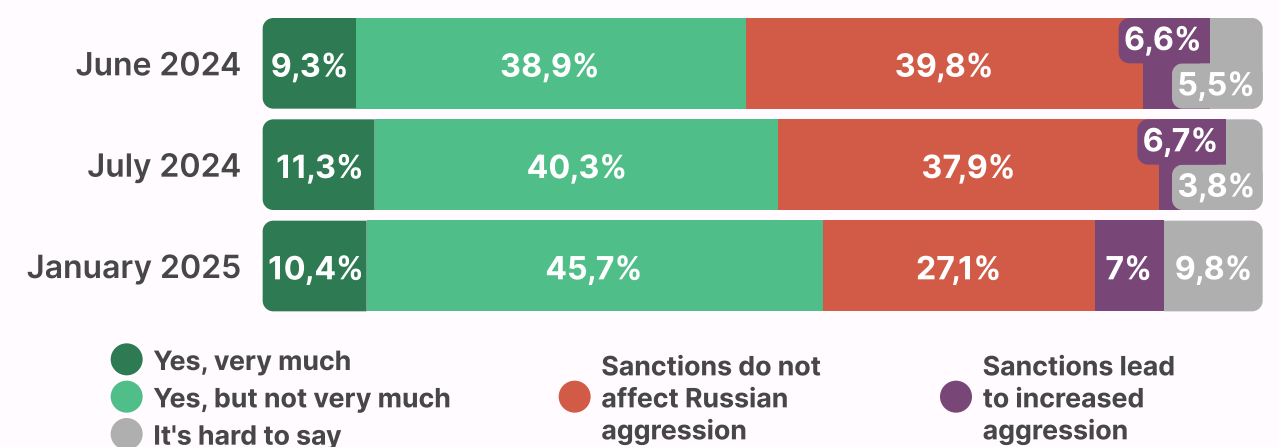
Concerns about the further actions of politicians are also heard. "There are still concerns that Trump will make a deal with Putin and then tell Ukraine that they have to accept it, otherwise he will suspend U.S. aid to Ukraine," said former French diplomat at the European Council on Foreign Relations Marie Dumoulin.

Sources: UNIAN, Radio Liberty, Ekonomichna Pravda

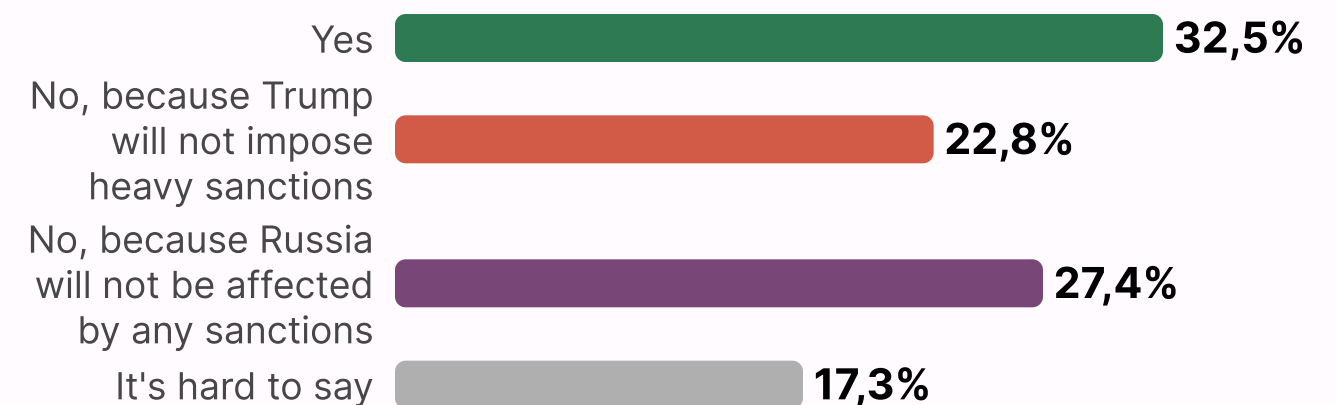
In your opinion, how effective are the sanctions against Russia?



Does the tightening of sanctions bring the end of Russian aggression closer?



Do you expect US President Donald Trump to impose sanctions that will force Russia to end the war?



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IN THE CAPITAL'S HOSTEL, OFFICERS OF THE UKRAINIAN ARMED FORCES WERE FORBIDDEN TO EAT

In Kyiv, three uniformed servicemen were refused a request to dine at the hostel Vshokoladi. The incident was reported by the spokesman for the Naval Forces of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, Dmytro Pletenchuk, who was a participant in this situation.

"In fact, it was not about any service in principle. I was just staying in this hostel and I wanted to have lunch with my colleagues in our kitchen with our own food. We were denied that," the soldier said. According to him, the girl at the hostel reception said that "the military is dangerous".

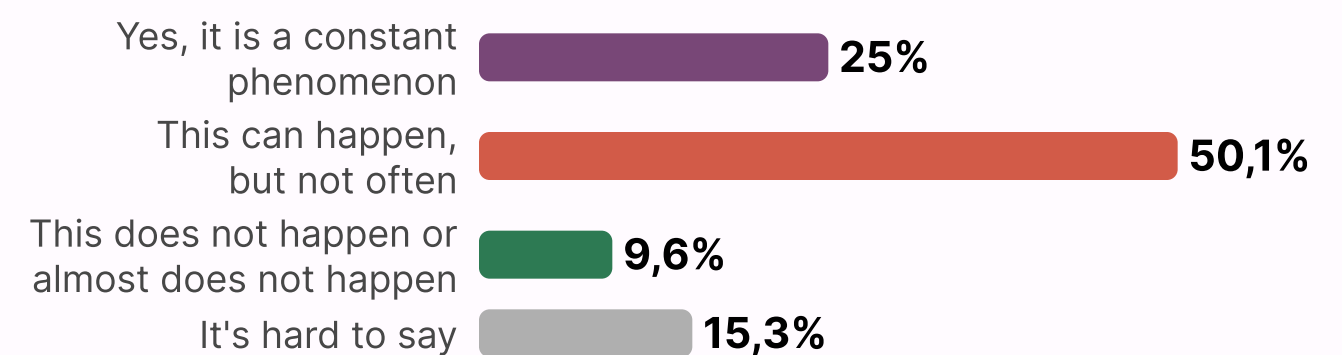
Pletenchuk explained that he tried to solve the conflict with the management, but he was not provided with the necessary contacts. "According to this, it was already about my consumer rights, I'm not even mentioning the moral side of this problem. That's why this conflict came up. Unfortunately, our society has some groups that do not understand what is happening in the country," the military said.

As the navy spokesman explained, the military is very often silent about problems similar to the one that happened to him. They are silent because they do not want to give our enemies any reason to rejoice. But, of course, in any conflict there are people who do not care, and this is inevitable.

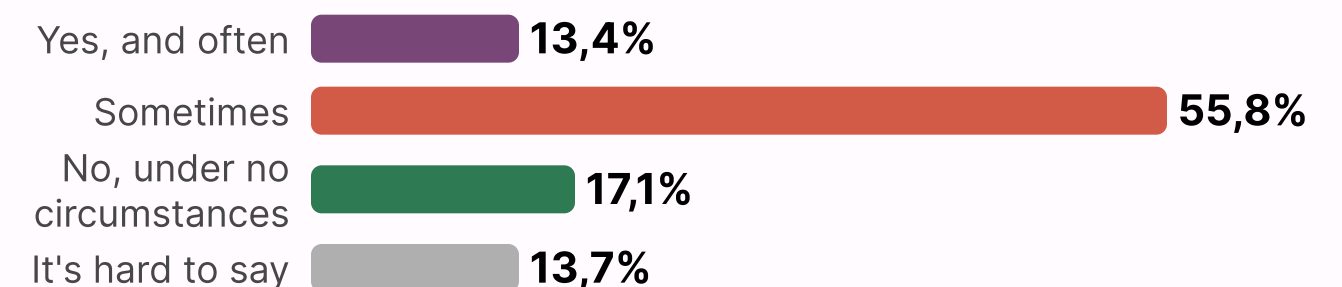
Pletenchuk believes that something should be done now on a large scale to avoid serious problems in the future. First of all, it is necessary to raise awareness, and in the future it will be necessary to adapt veterans, etc. "It should be remembered that people returning from war are, unfortunately, completely different. Silencing this problem does not bring us any closer to solving it," the military added.

Sources: Apostrophe, Censor, Hromadske

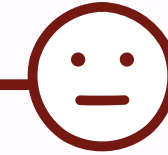
Have you heard of cases of military personnel being denied service or otherwise discriminated against?



Can active-duty military personnel be dangerous to civilians?



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IN BILA TSERKVA, MINORS TORTURED A 12-YEAR-OLD GIRL AND DEMANDED MONEY FROM HER

A video was published on the Internet, which shows the beating and abuse of a 12-year-old girl by a group of teenagers in Bila Tserkva in the Kyiv region.

The girl's mother reported the beating to law enforcement officials. During the investigation, police officers found a video of the incident on social media and discovered that the minors had gathered in a local park, where they had invited the victim. One of the defendants, a 16-year-old boy, threatened the girl, hit her and sprayed pepper spray in her face. He also put psychological pressure on the girl and demanded 15,000 UAH from her. Besides him, a girl of the same age and a 15-year-old boy injured the girl.

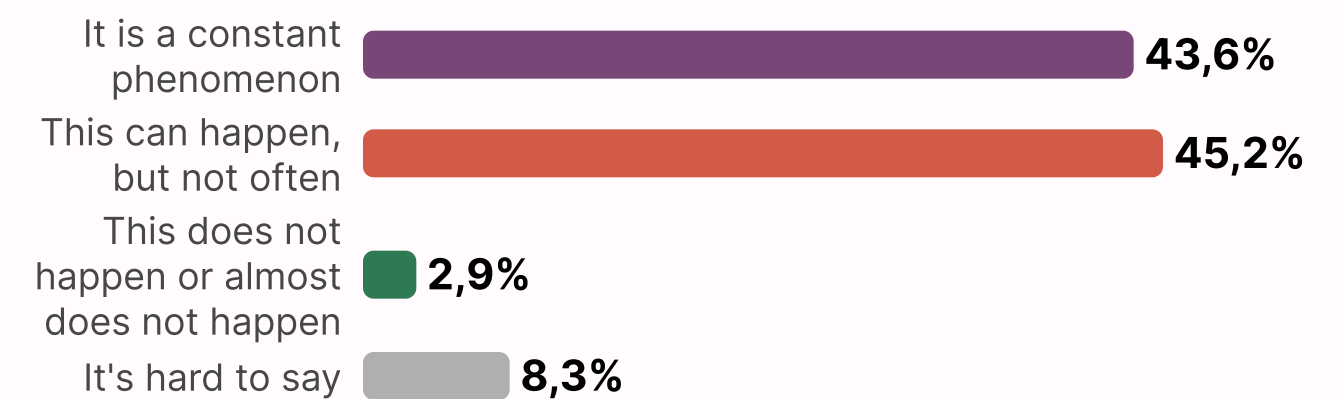
On January 22, Viktor Luhovy, head of the investigation department of the Main Directorate of National Police in the Kyiv region, said that 10 participants in the conflict had been identified. Police will consider the possibility of bringing to justice the parents whose children tortured the girl.

A young man suspected of the beating was remanded in custody for two months without the right to bail. He was notified of the charges of torture of a minor and extortion of money from her (Part 4 of Article 189, Part 1 of Article 127 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

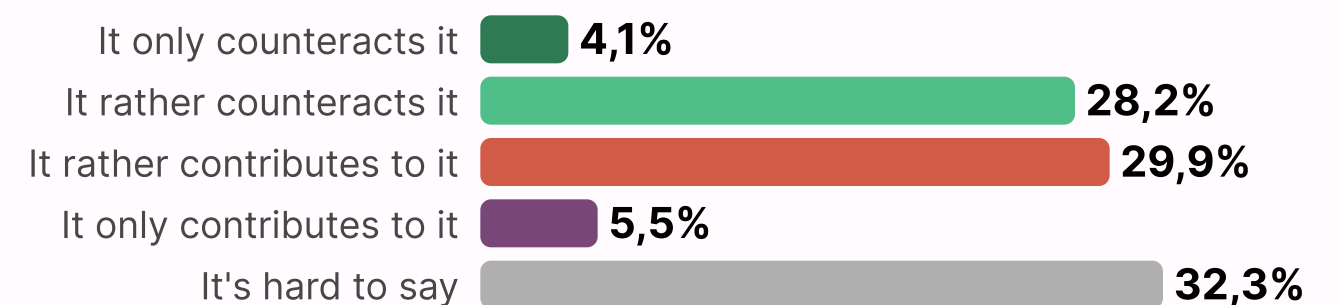
It is reported that at present law enforcement officers have reclassified the actions of all participants of the crime and are conducting a preliminary investigation on the fact of torture committed by a group of persons in collusion (Part 2 of Article 127 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine). The sanction of the article provides for punishment up to 10 years of imprisonment.

Sources: UNIAN, Censor, Ukrinform

In your opinion, how widespread is violence among teenagers in Ukraine?



In your opinion, does the modern school system counteract or contribute to teenage violence?



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