

OPINION MONITORING: JULY – AUGUST 2020

VCIOM-Sputnik daily survey results. The survey method is stratified dual-frame sample consisting of telephone interviews. The sample is based on a complete list of landline and mobile phone numbers operating in Russia and involves 1,600 persons. The data were weighted for the probability of selection and reflect social and demographic characteristics. The margin of error at a 95% confidence level does not exceed 2.5%. In addition to sampling error, minor changes in question wording and different circumstances arising during the fieldwork can introduce bias into the survey

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POLITICS

PIONEERING ELECTRONIC VOTING

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PIONEERING ELECTRONIC VOTING

July 9, 2020

The share of those in favor of online voting has increased by 4 p.p., reaching 50%, in the period from May to July 2020, whereas the share of those who oppose electronic voting has decreased from 49% to 44%. Although the conventional voting is still dominant, electronic voting is gaining wider support, especially among younger age cohorts (18-44). As opposed to other ways of expressing the will, the main benefits of electronic voting are as follows: e-voting is remote; you can cast a ballot without leaving your home (28%); it is quick (16%) and convenient (12%). Disadvantages are related to the reputation of the institution of elections in Russia. Indeed, most of respondents pointed to high potential for fraud (21%), data leakage risk (15%) and lack of access to Internet/poor Internet connection (12%).

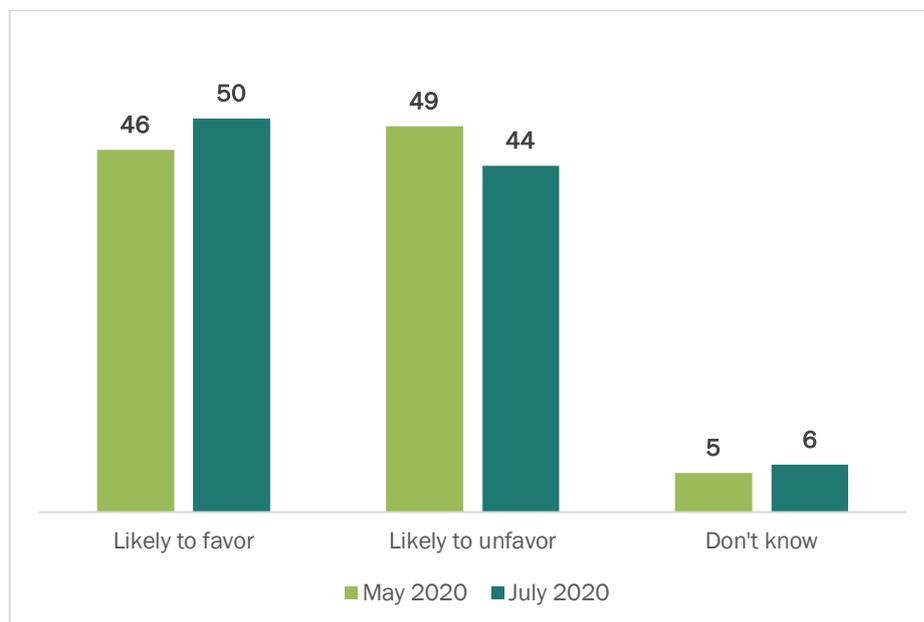


Fig. 1. *What is your opinion about remote voting (Internet voting)?* (closed-ended question, one answer, %)

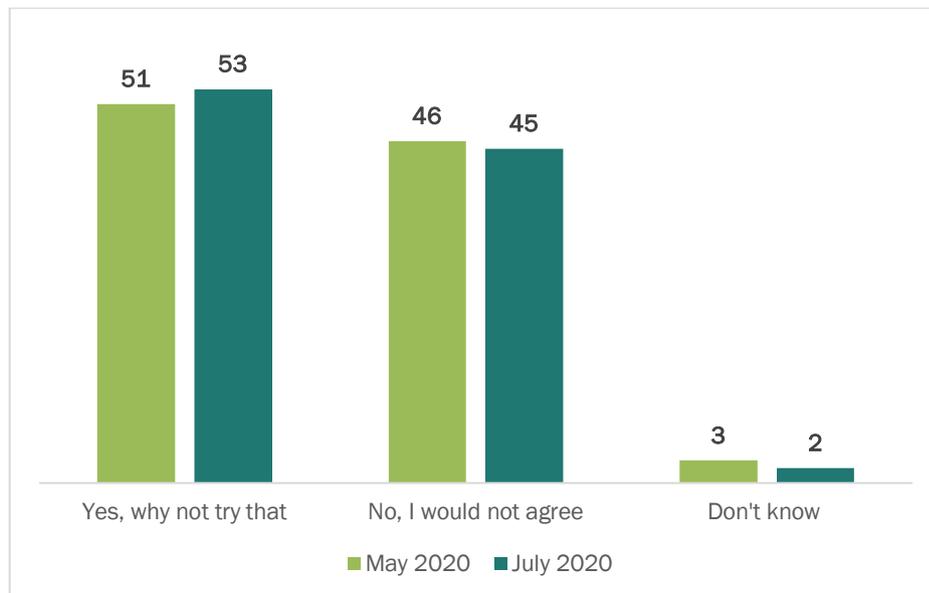


Fig. 2. If you were provided with an opportunity to vote via the Internet in the elections, would you agree or disagree? (closed-ended question, one answer, % of total respondents)

Table 1. In case you are proposed to choose a voting system in the next elections which one would you choose? (closed-ended question, one answer, % of total respondents, July 2020)

	Total respondents	Aged 18-24	Aged 25-34	Aged 35-44	Aged 45-59	60+
Traditional paper-based voting	65	51	47	58	69	82
Postal voting	1	1	1	1	—	1
Internet-based electronic voting	30	45	46	36	26	15
Not decided yet / Don't know	2	2	3	2	3	1
I will not take part in the voting	2	1	3	3	2	1

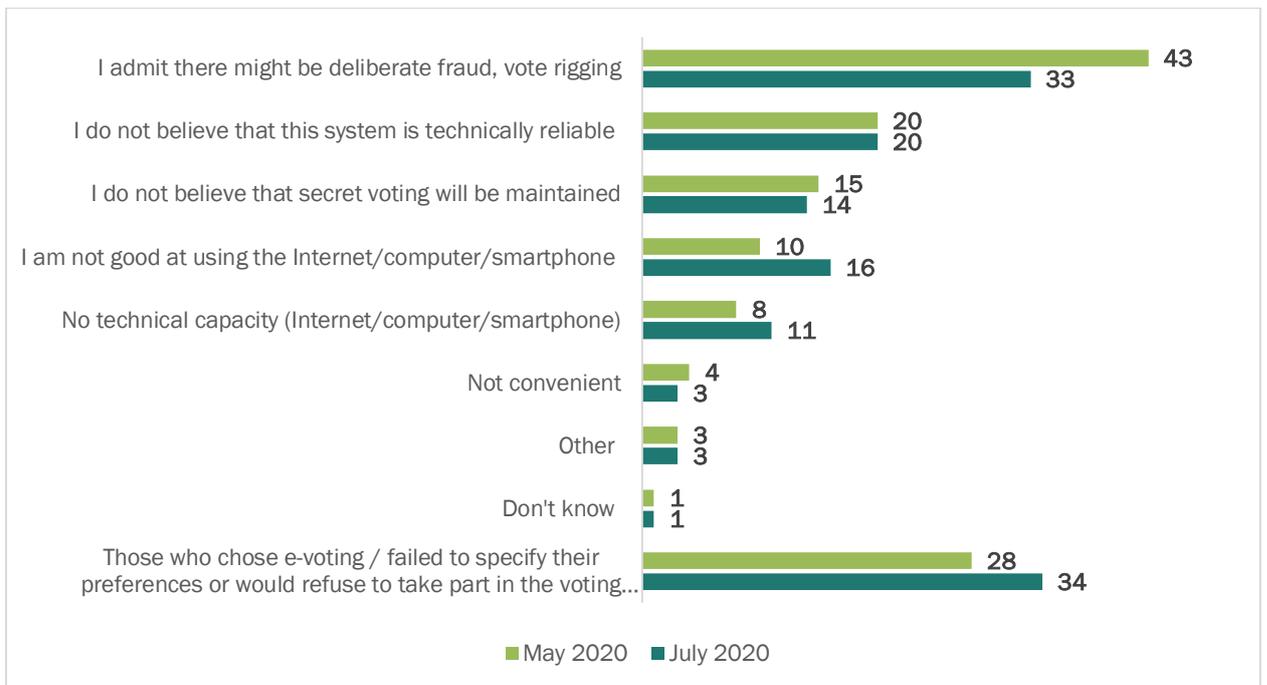


Fig. 3. If you had an opportunity to vote over the Internet using computer, would you agree or disagree? (closed-ended question, one answer, % of total respondents)

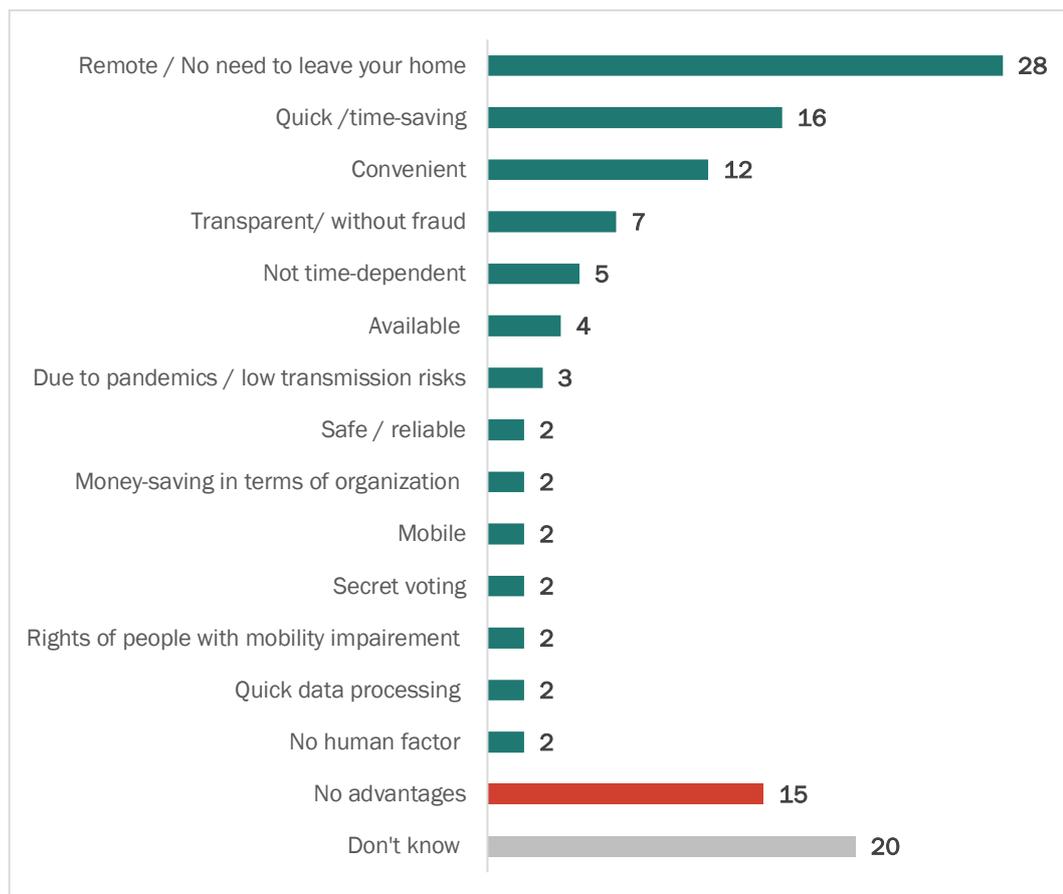


Fig. 4. In your opinion, what are the advantages of the voting over the Internet compared to other voting systems? (closed-ended question, up to three answers, % of total respondents, answers of at least 2% of respondents)



Fig. 5. In your opinion, what are the disadvantages of the voting over the Internet compared to other voting systems? (closed-ended question, up to three answers, % of total respondents, answers of at least 2% of respondents)

BELARUS AFTER THE ELECTIONS

August 11, 2020

Seventy-two percent of Russians are keeping track of what is happening in Belarus; every fifth follows the events very closely (18%). The developments are often referred to as “elections of the Belarusian president” in general (11%). Eleven percent of respondents mention unrest, rallies, protests (11%). Every tenth respondent points to dissatisfaction of the Belarusian people with the government (10%) or the results of the elections (7%). Every fifth respondent completely trusts the results of the Belarusian presidential elections (22%). Twenty-nine percent of Russians point out possible fraud at local levels not affecting the general results. Almost the same share of respondents (27%) believe that the results of the elections cannot be trusted; this stance is widely shared by young Russians aged 18-24 (47%) and 25-34 (40%). According to respondents, the most probable scenario is that the protests will be suppressed, and Lukashenko will keep his grip on power (59%); those who think so are mainly male respondents (64%) and Russians aged 45-59 (63%) and 60 and over (66%). Almost a quarter of respondents failed to assess a possible outcome of the protests (23%). An overwhelming majority of Russians are confident what happens in Belarus is important to Russia in general (89%). Almost two-thirds of Russians consider that Lukashenko remaining in power is likely to meet Russia’s interests (64%). Over a month the share of those Russians who consider Russia-Belarus relations as friendly has increased by 9 p.p. (26%).

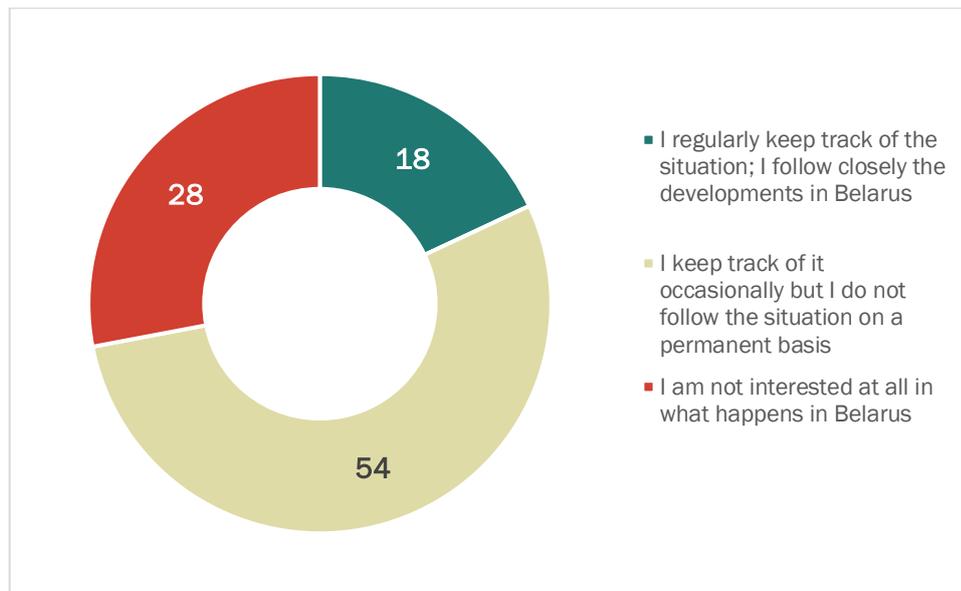


Fig. 6. Are you personally interested in what is happening in Belarus at the moment? (closed-ended question, one answer, % of total respondents)

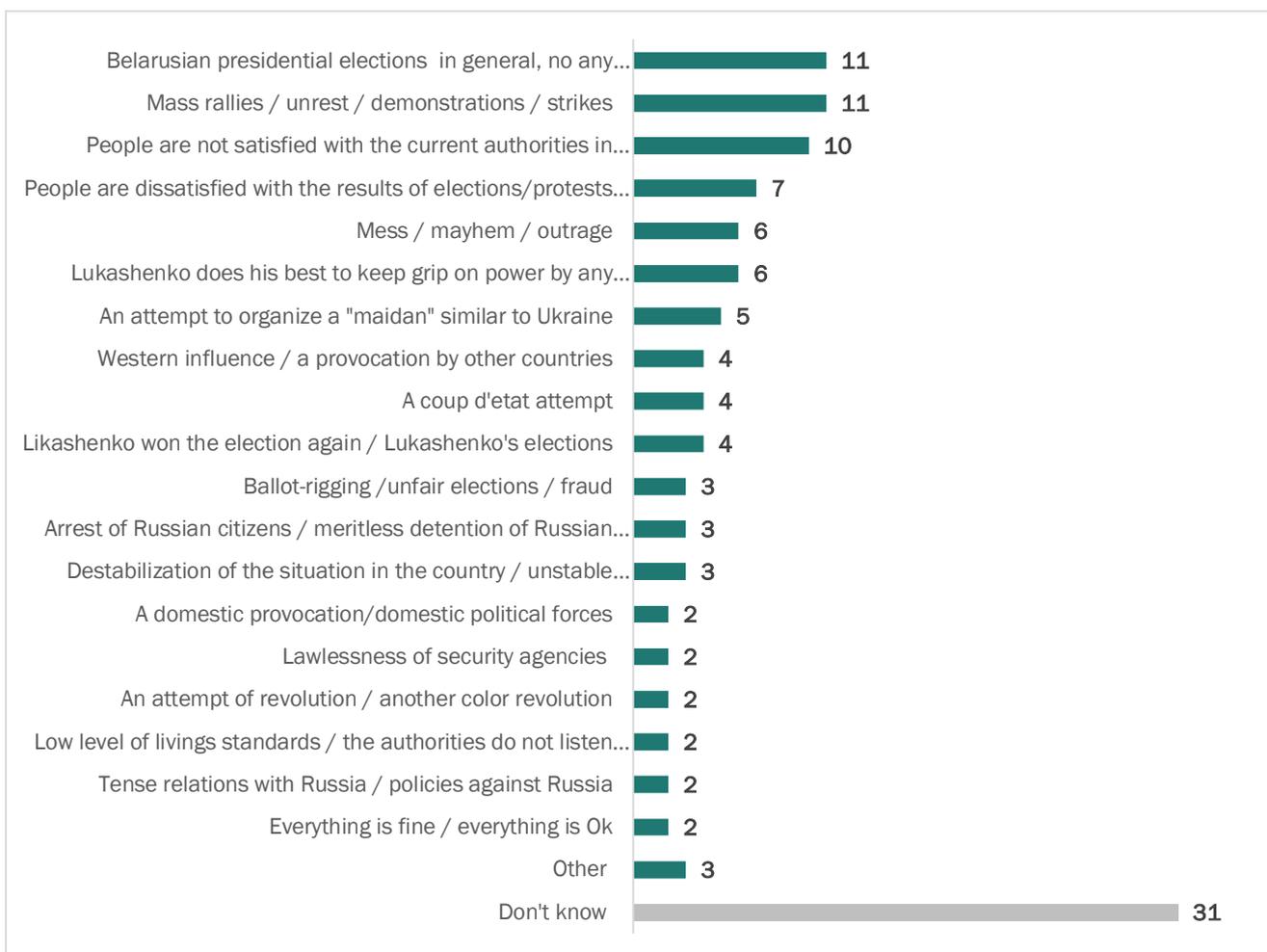


Fig. 7. Can you describe in a couple of words what is currently happening in Belarus? (open-ended question, up to 3 answers, % of total respondents, answers of 2% of respondents)

Table 2. In your opinion, to what extent can the results of the recent presidential elections in Belarus be trusted? (closed-ended question, one answer, % of total respondents)

	Total respondent	Aged 18-24	25-34	35-44	45-59	60+
The results of the elections are trustworthy and meet the will of the voters	22	3	20	17	21	33
There might have been some election fraud locally but it has not impacted the final results	29	26	13	26	37	36
The results of the elections in Belarus cannot be trusted	27	47	40	32	21	13
Don't know	22	24	27	25	21	18

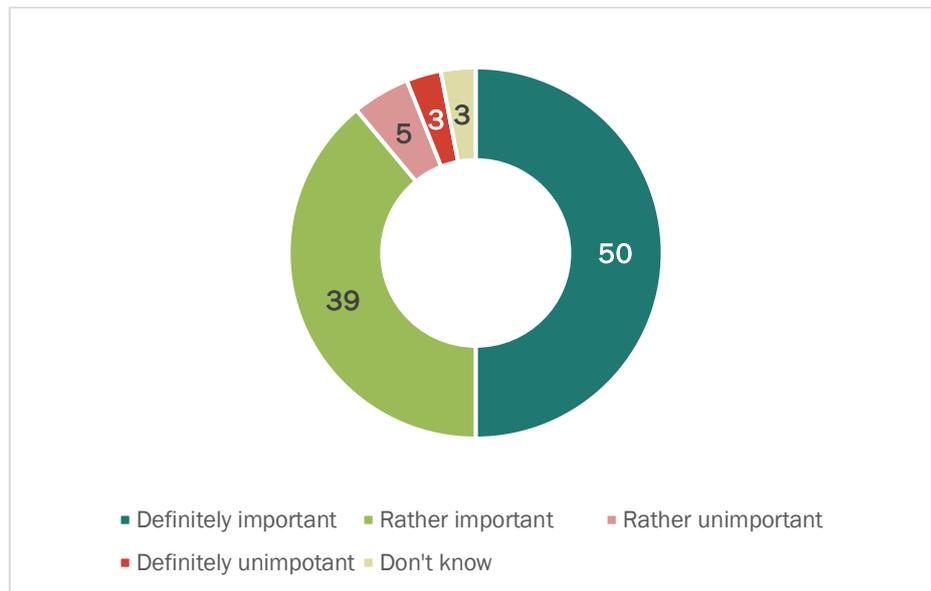


Fig. 8. Generally speaking, are the current developments in Belarus important or unimportant to Russia? (closed-ended question, one answer, % of total respondents)

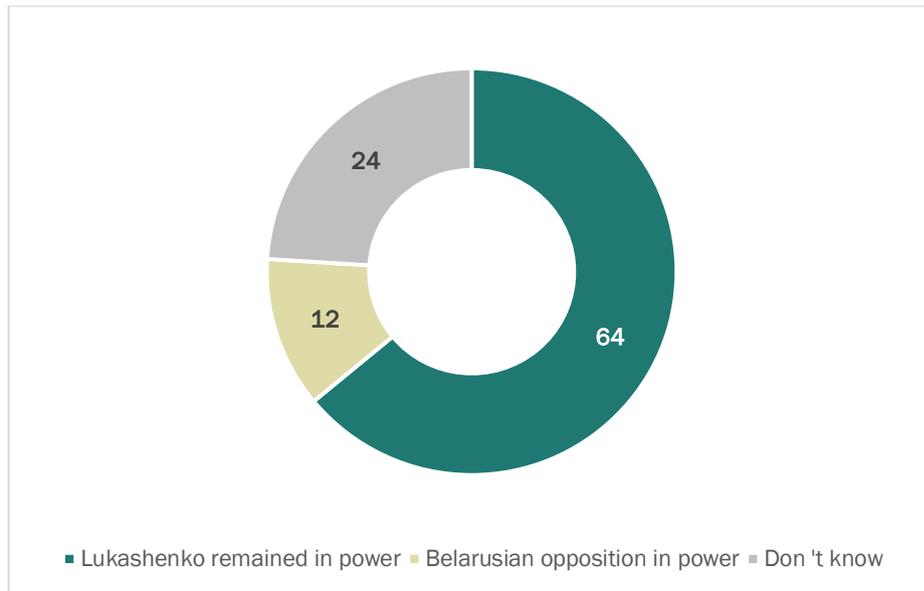


Fig. 9. In your opinion, which of the following is more likely to meet Russia's interests – Lukashenko in power or the opposition seizing power in Belarus? (closed-ended question, one answer, % of total respondents)

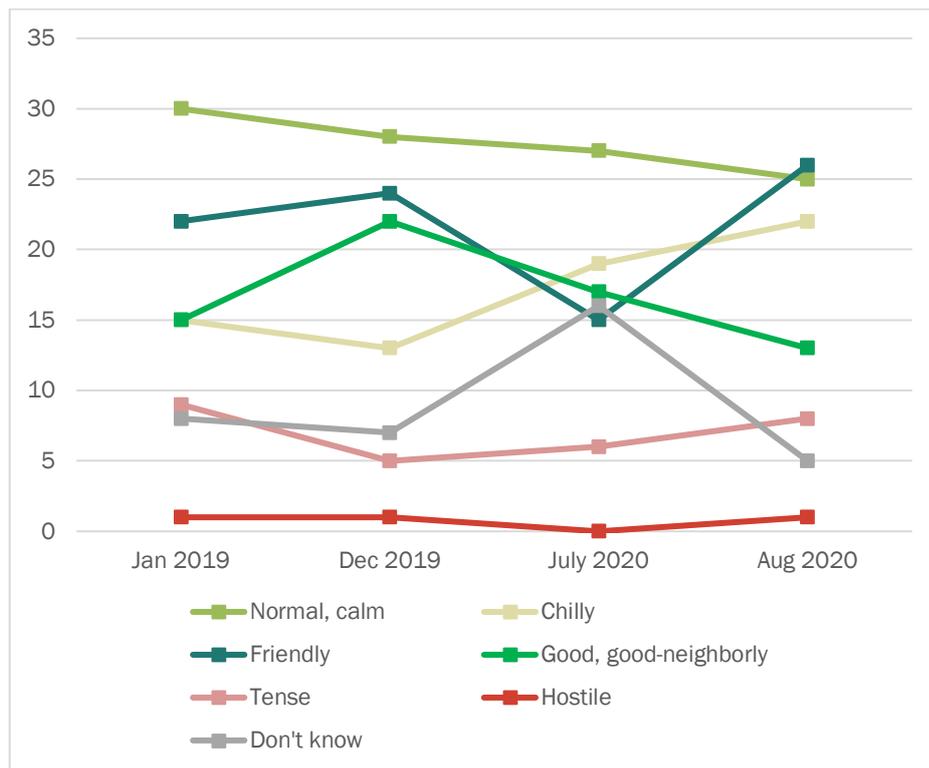


Fig. 10. How would you assess the current Russia-Belarus relations? (closed-ended question, one answer, % of total respondents)

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

SALARY: ENOUGH UNTIL PAYDAY?

SALARY: ENOUGH UNTIL PAYDAY?¹

July 2, 2020

Most of the employed Russians get salary twice a month (72%). This was mainly reported by public sector employees (87% vs 61% of the private sector employees). One-third of the employed Russians run out of money before payday (33%); 10%, on a permanent basis; 39%, seldom. Most of those who cannot ensure their money last until payday are Russians with low financial self-assessment. Eight percent of respondents regularly encounter unforeseen expenses. However, a majority of Russians face unexpected expenses either occasionally or seldom (43%, each group); this is reported largely by those who consider their financial situation as bad or very bad.

Table 1. How often does it happen that you need money today but you have to wait until payday: constantly, occasionally, seldom or never? (closed-ended question, one answer, % of the employed Russians – 52%)

	% of the employed Russians (52%)	Financial self-assessment		
		Very good, good	Average	Very bad, bad
Constantly	10	6	7	24
Occasionally	33	21	31	48
Seldom	39	35	45	24
Never	17	37	17	4
Don't know	1	1	0	0

Table 2. How often does it happen that you encounter unforeseen expenses: constantly, occasionally, seldom or never? (closed-ended question, one answer, % of the employed Russians – 52%)

	% of the employed Russians (52%)	Financial self-assessment		
		Very good, good	Average	Very bad, bad
Constantly	8	7	5	19
Occasionally	43	27	44	54
Seldom	43	55	46	23
Never	5	11	5	2
Don't know	1	0	0	2

¹ The survey is commissioned by PayDay. VCIOM's expert solution "Public Social Study" was used in the project.

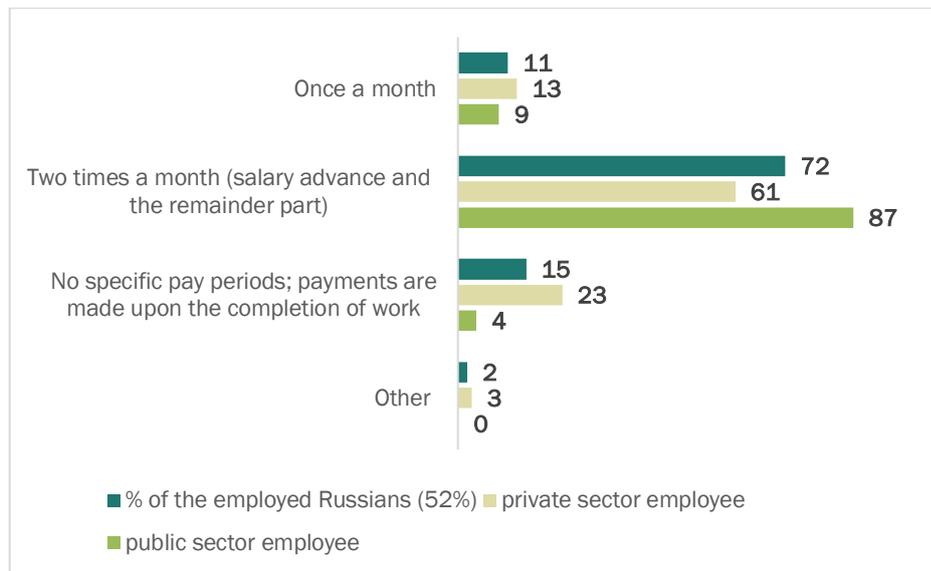


Fig. 1. How often did you get your salary during the last month or two? (closed-ended question, one answer, % of the employed Russians (52%))