

OPINION MONITORING: NOVEMBER — DECEMBER 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 aged 18 and older. 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.

OPINION MONITORING**POLITICS****KEY RUSSIAN INSTITUTIONS: PUBLIC ASSESSMENT****PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL PRESS CONFERENCE: ATTENTION AND INTEREST****SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS****LIFE EXPECTANCY IN RUSSIA: DESIRE AND REALITY****VACCINATION: GET READY!****LIFESTYLE****2020 HAPPINESS INDEX****LIVING ONLINE: CONSUMPTION, USAGE, AND ENTERTAINMENT**

POLITICS

KEY RUSSIAN INSTITUTIONS: PUBLIC ASSESSMENT

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL PRESS CONFERENCE: ATTENTION AND INTEREST

KEY RUSSIAN INSTITUTIONS: PUBLIC ASSESSMENT

November 17, 2020

Of all the public institutions, most of Russians still trust the Russian army: 77.9% support army; only 11.1% have negative perceptions. The Russian Orthodox Church is ranked second; 58.4% perceive its activities positively. The third place is taken by law enforcement bodies: 52.3% of approvals. The performance of mass media was positively perceived by 42.1% of Russians in November 2020. The Civic Chamber's activities are perceived positively by 39.6% of respondents, and negatively by 24.3%. Thirty-three percent of Russians are generally satisfied with the performance of the political parties; they are opposed by 38.4%.

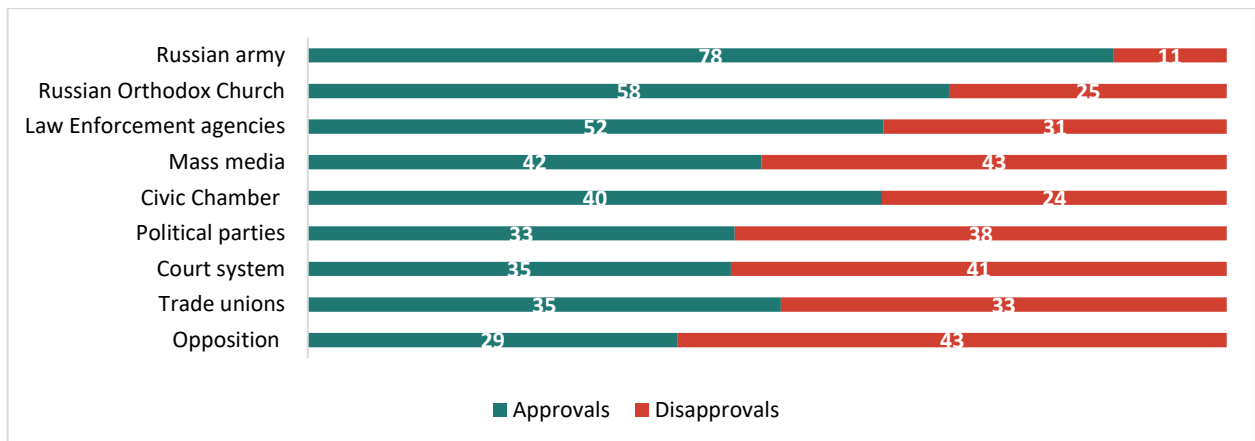


Fig. 1. Approvals and disapprovals of the public institutions' performance (%)

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL PRESS CONFERENCE: ATTENTION AND INTEREST

December 15, 2020

The majority of Russians (82%) were informed that Vladimir Putin would address his press conference on December 17th. Thirty-two percent of Russians said they would watch the press conference; more than one-third (38%) said they would watch news shows to be aware of Putin's answers. In general, almost three-quarters of respondents (71%) said they were interested in listening to Putin's press conference.

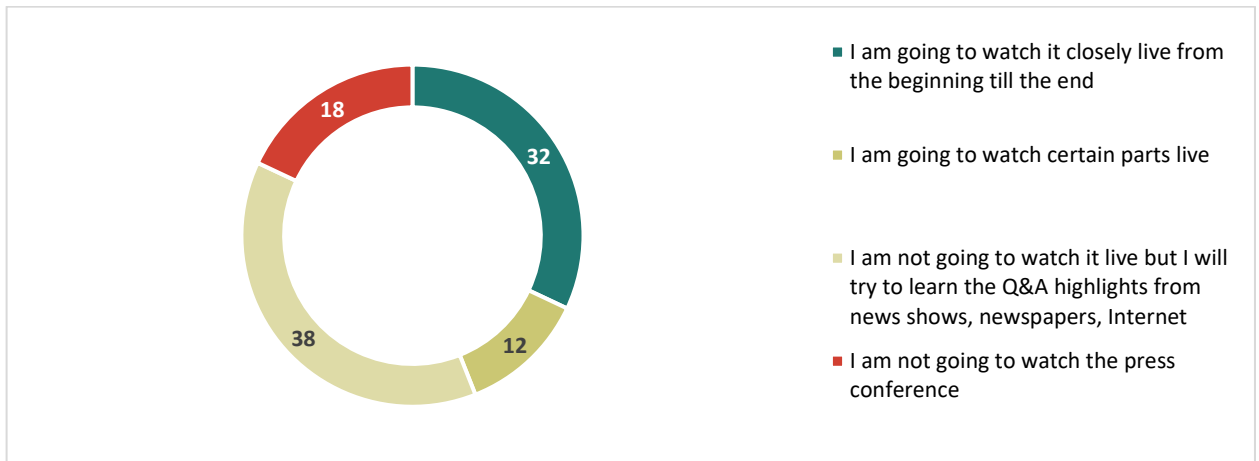


Fig. 2. Vladimir Putin's annual press conference will be held December 17th, 2020. Are you going to watch this press conference? If so, how exactly? (closed-ended question, one answer, % of total respondents)

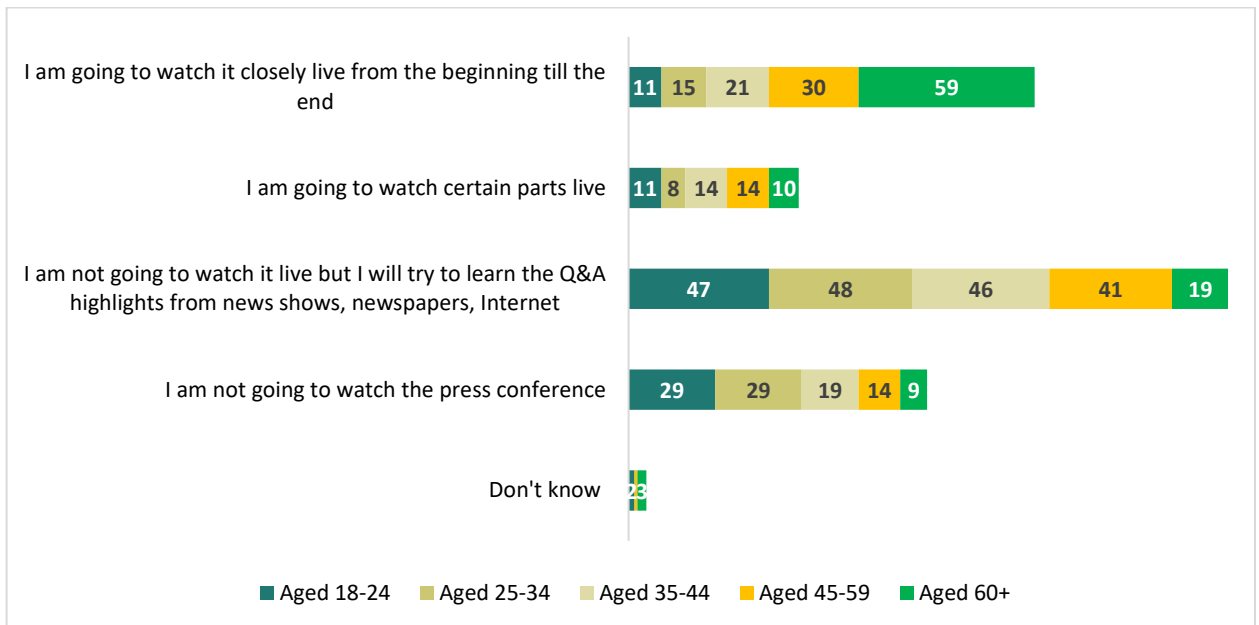


Fig. 3. Vladimir Putin's annual press conference will be held on December 17th, 2020. Are you going to watch this press conference? If so, how exactly? (closed-ended question, one answer, % of total respondents)

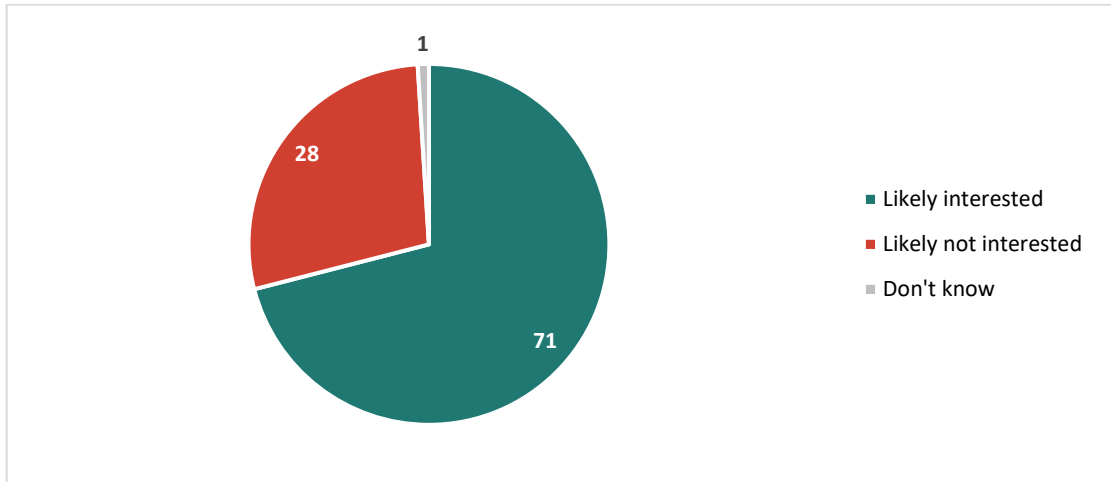


Fig. 4. Are you generally interested or not interested in listening to the president's press conference, his answers to the questions of journalists and Russians? (closed-ended question, one answer, % of total respondents)

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

LIFE EXPECTANCY IN RUSSIA: DESIRE AND REALITY

VACCINATION: GET READY!

LIFE EXPECTANCY IN RUSSIA: DESIRE AND REALITY

November 26, 2020

Different people in different epochs defined and define age boundary followed by old age in different ways. Nowadays Russians cite 62 as the start of old age. On average, with modern lifestyles and in current circumstances respondents expect to live up to 78, and till 85 under optimal circumstances. The most common problems senior Russians have to face are poverty, low pensions (71%), poor health, various diseases (44%), as well as a feeling of uselessness, being unwanted (19%) and loneliness (17%).

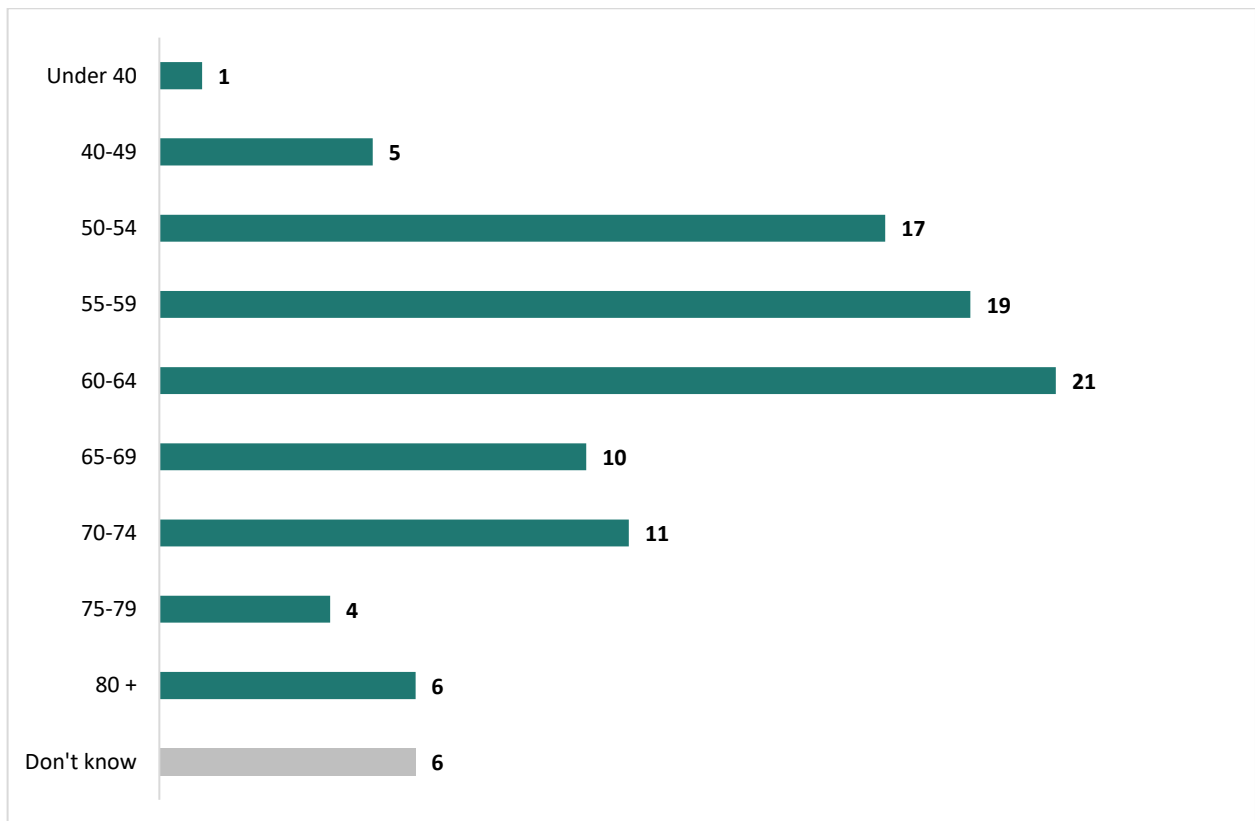


Fig. 1. Different people in different epochs defined and define age boundary followed by old age in different ways. In your opinion, what age should be considered as the start of old age in Russia nowadays? (closed-ended question, one answer, % of total respondents)

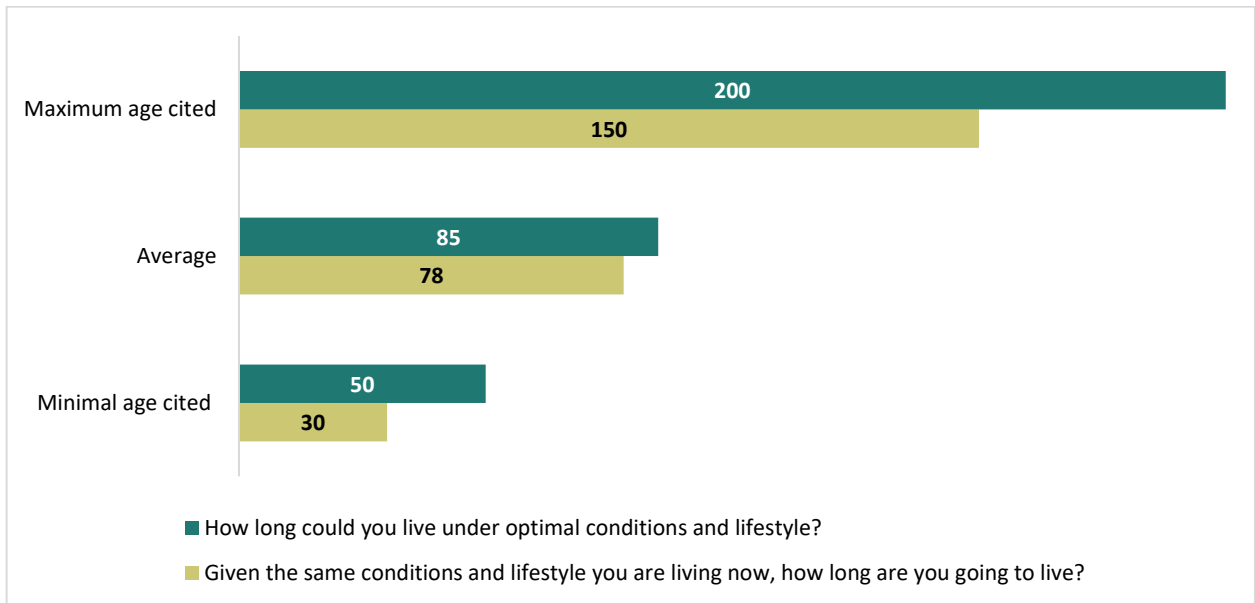


Fig. 2. Expected and ideal life span (based on the answers to open-ended questions)

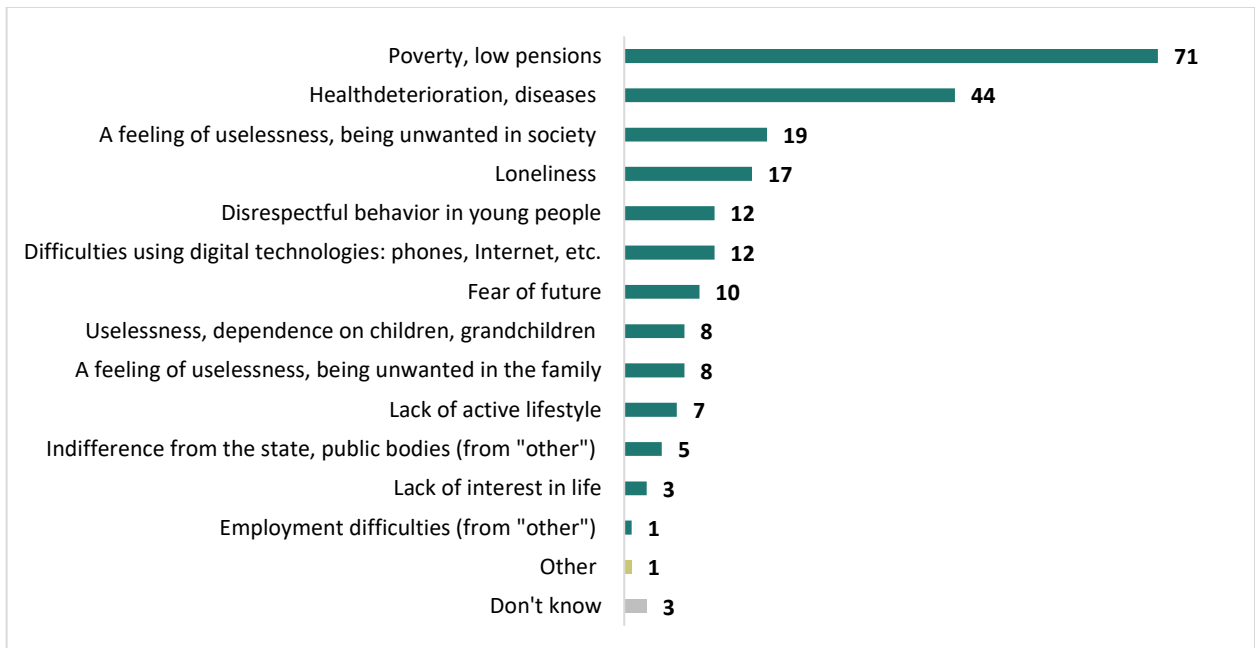


Fig. 3. In your opinion, what are the main problems senior citizens are facing today? (close-ended question, up to 3 answers, % of total respondents)

VACCINATION: GET READY!

December 11 and 19, 2020

Russians are well aware of the start of a large-scale vaccination against the coronavirus with the Russian vaccine: 97% of respondents, with varying degrees, have heard about it. The share of those who are going to get vaccinated with the domestically produced vaccine is 38%: mainly those aged 45-59 (44%) and the most vulnerable group of those aged 60+ (49%). Fifty-two percent of Russians are not willing to get vaccination; those are basically young respondents aged 25-34 (70%). If Russians had a choice between the Russian vaccine and the foreign one, 84% of those who want to

get vaccinated or have already been vaccinated would opt for the domestic one; 7% would choose the foreign vaccine. Those who are not going to get vaccinated say that the vaccine is poorly studied, was developed too quickly, and that more time is needed to check how it works (23%). Sixteen percent of Russians distrust or are afraid of vaccination. Thirteen percent of respondents say that they have contraindications, so they cannot receive this vaccine.

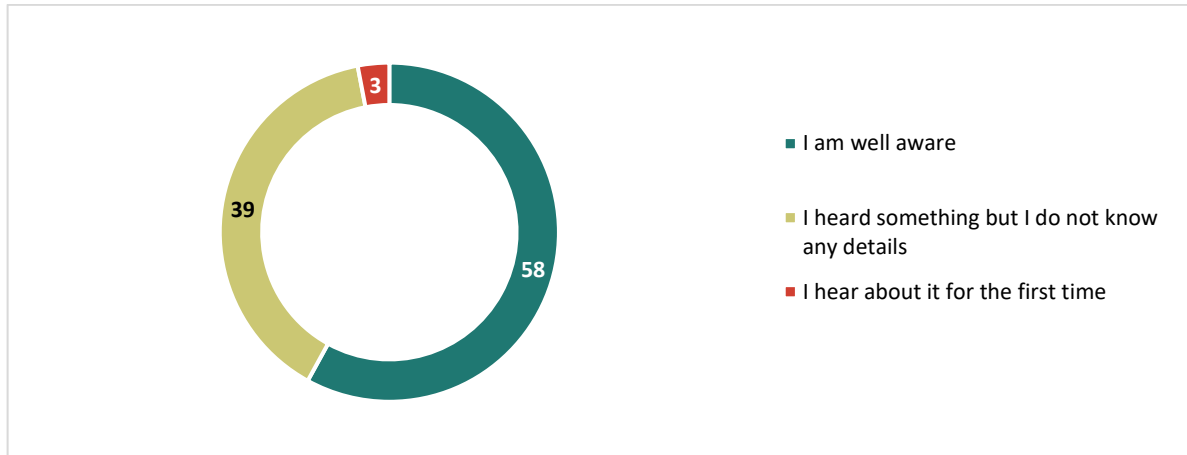


Fig. 4. Do you know/have you heard/ do you hear for the first time that Russia has started a large-sale vaccination with a vaccine produced in Russia? (closed-ended question, one answer, % of total respondents)

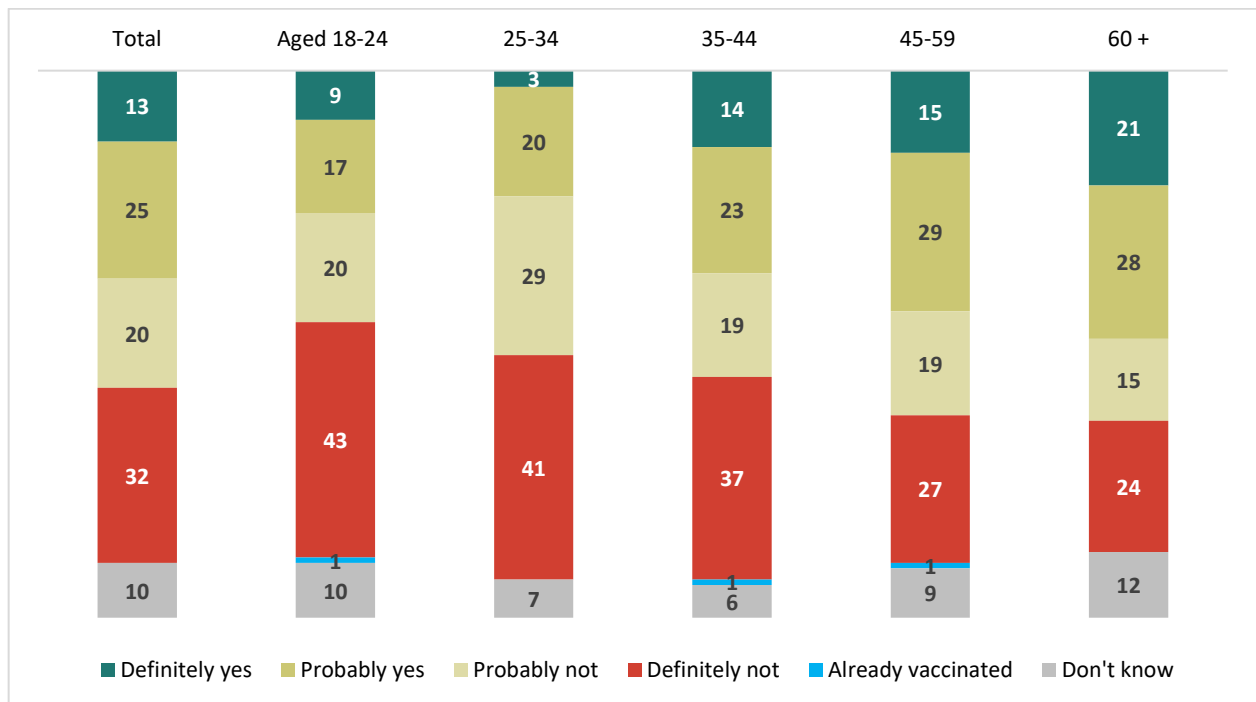


Fig. 5. Are you going to be vaccinated against the coronavirus? (closed-ended question, one answer, % of total respondents)

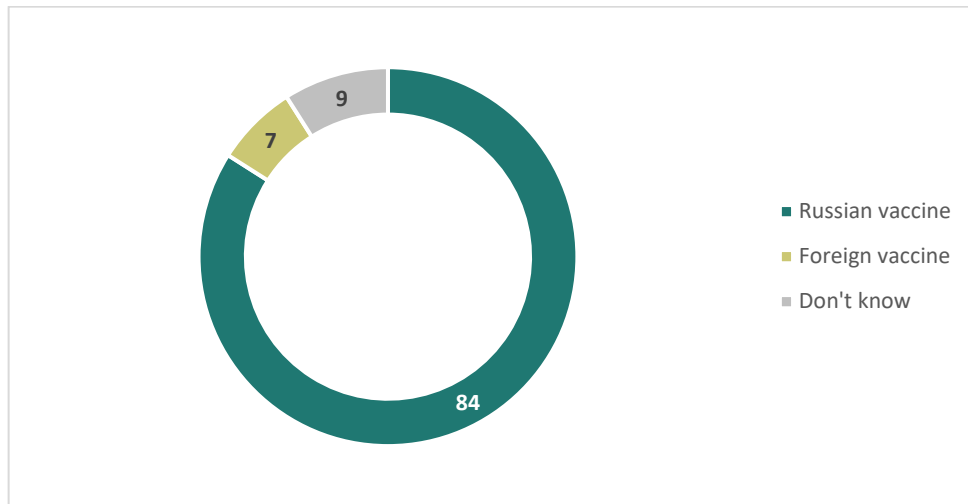


Fig. 6. If you had a choice between the domestically produced vaccine and the foreign one, would you opt for the Russian vaccine or the foreign one? (closed-ended question, one answer, % of those whose answers were “definitely yes”, “probably yes” or “already vaccinated”)

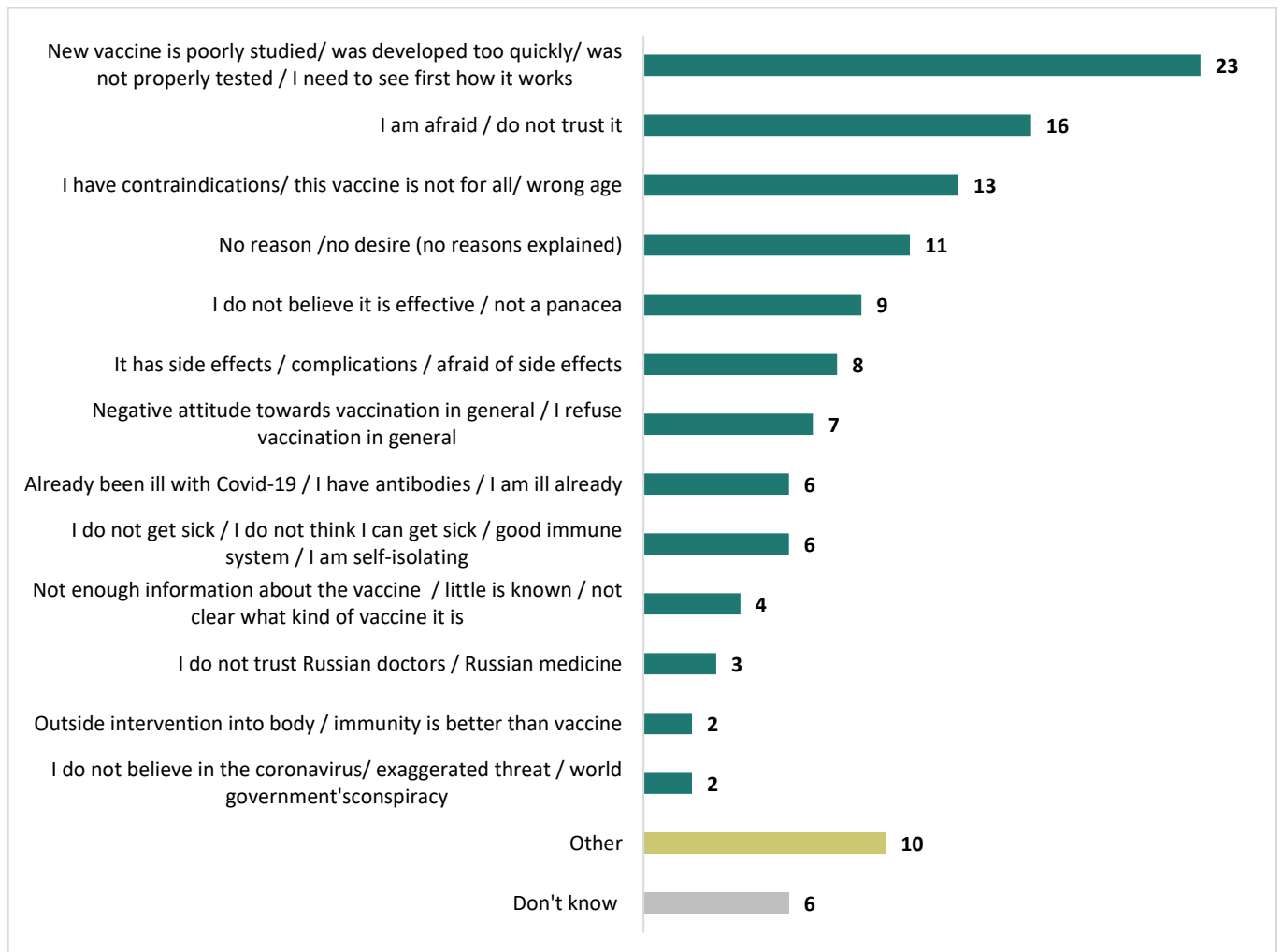


Fig. 7. What is the reason why you are not willing to get vaccinated with the Covid-19 vaccine developed in Russia? Several reasons can be mentioned (open-ended question, up to 3 answers, % of those who are not going to get vaccinated; answers of at least 2% of respondents)

LIFESTYLE

2020 HAPPINESS INDEX

LIVING ONLINE: CONSUMPTION, USAGE, AND ENTERTAINMENT

2020 HAPPINESS INDEX¹

November 12, 2020

Most of Russians are generally happy (81%); one-third of them are completely confident in it (31%). In 2020, the Happiness index reached 66 p. (vs 48 p. ten years and only 17 p. thirty years ago). The major reasons why Russians consider themselves happy are as follows: having A family, well-being in family (34%), good health (their own or their relatives') (24%). Every fifth respondent says that happiness refers to having a good job (20%); almost the same number of respondents are happy because they have children (18%). Ten percent of respondents say they are happy because they have a good financial situation and are generally satisfied with their life. The basic reasons for being unhappy are financial difficulties (7%), poor health (6%), unemployment (5%), lack of stability (7%), and poor situation in the country (4%).

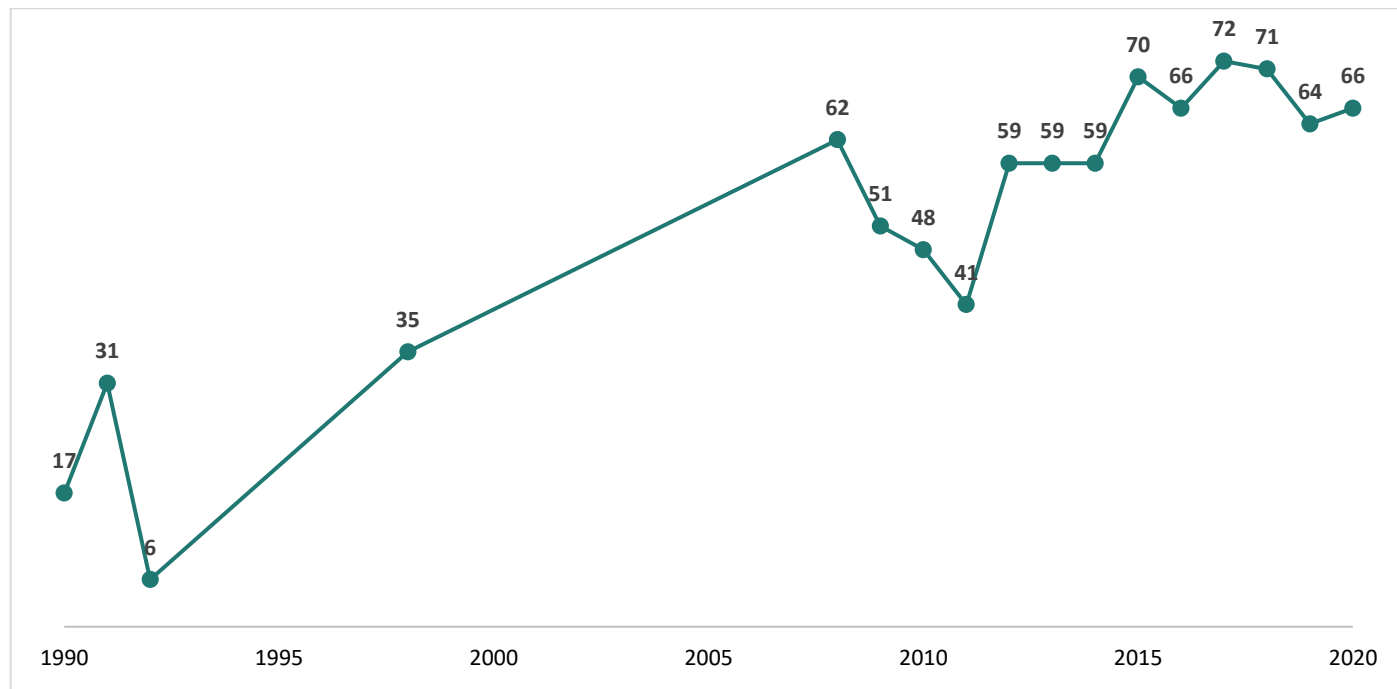


Fig. 1. Happiness Index Dynamics, Russia (1990–2020)

¹ Index shows how happy the Russian people are. Index is based on the question to the answer: “Different things can happen in life: the good ones and the bad ones. Speaking in general, are you happy or not?” Index is calculated as a difference between the sum of positive answers (“definitely yes”, “rather yes”) and negative answers (“rather no”, “definitely no”). Index is measured in points and can vary between –100 and 100. The higher the Index value, the happier Russians feel.

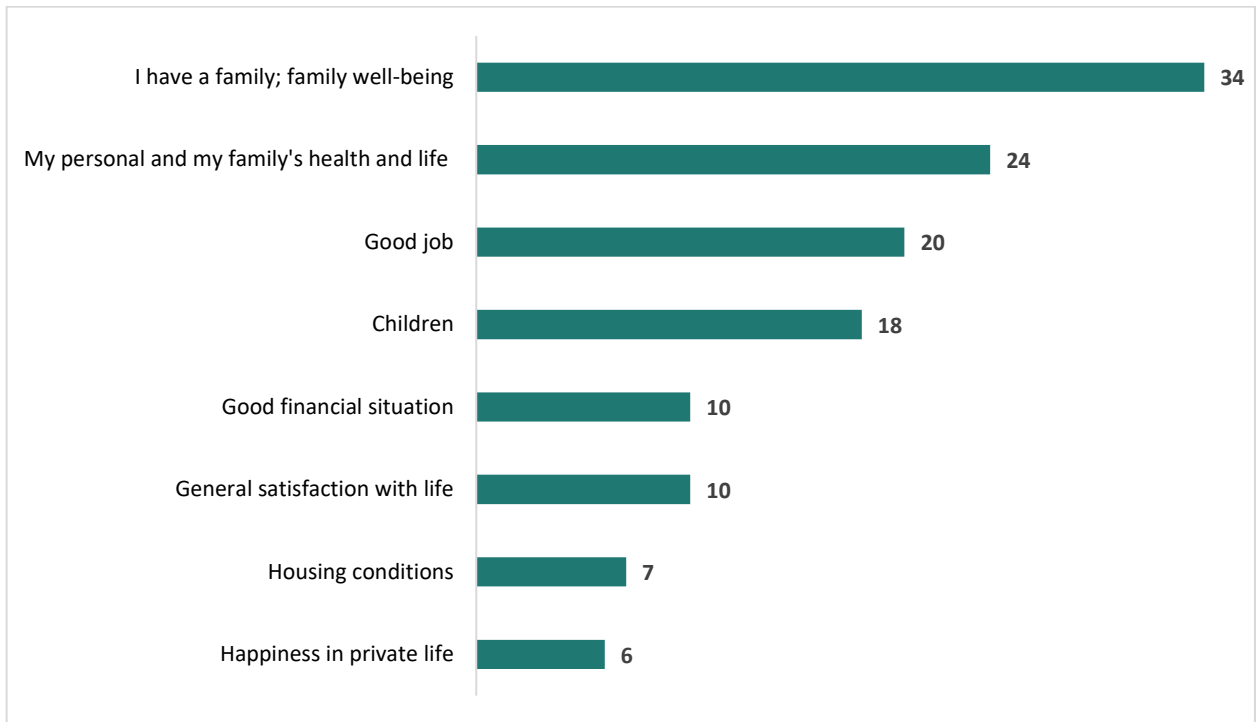


Fig. 2. If you feel happy, can you tell us why? (open-ended question, not more than 5 answers, %, top informative answers)

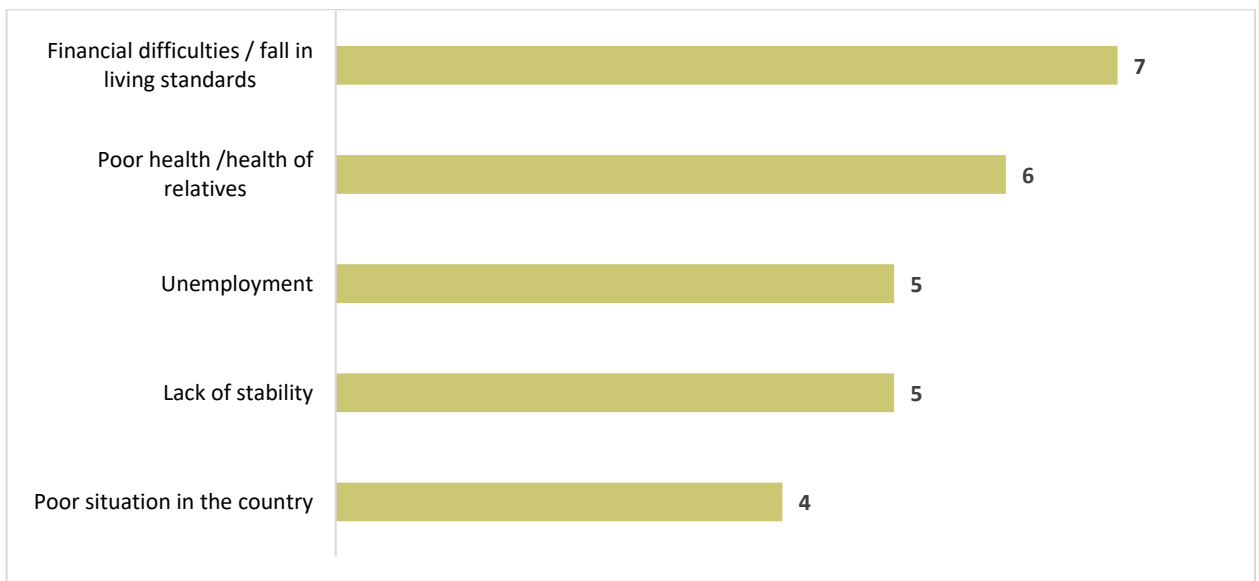


Fig. 3. If you feel UNhappy, can you tell us why? (open-ended question, not more than 5 answers, %, top informative answers)

LIVING ONLINE: CONSUMPTION, USAGE, AND ENTERTAINMENT

December 6, 2020

Since February 2020, the share of everyday Internet users has increased by 3% and reached 72%. Only 17% percent of Russians do not use the Internet. The Internet is primarily a means of communication: 90% of Russians communicate with friends, acquaintances or family; for 83% of Russians this is a source of national, local and world news. Over the recent year, there have been

changes in respondent behaviors in terms of bank payments: the share of those who pay online has increased by 8% as compared with February 2020. There has been a seven-point increase in the percentage of those who use the Internet to receive government services (64%) and an increase in the share of those who buy durable goods (domestic appliances, furniture) online (42%). The pandemic did not make Russians use the Internet for education, entertainment and work more often than usual. Besides that, respondents buy everyday essentials mainly offline (27%; +3% since the beginning of the year).

The role of the Internet in the everyday life of Russians has not changed during the pandemic and self-isolation: 13% of Russians say that the disappearance of the Internet would change their life completely; 41% say it would change their life considerably but they could adapt to the change. In February, these shares were 13% and 42% respectively. Most of Russians still agree that today people need to disconnect from the Internet; but this share has declined by 7% since 2018 and by 3% since the beginning of the year (70%). On the contrary, every fourth respondent believes that in the modern world people need to stay connected all the time (27%).

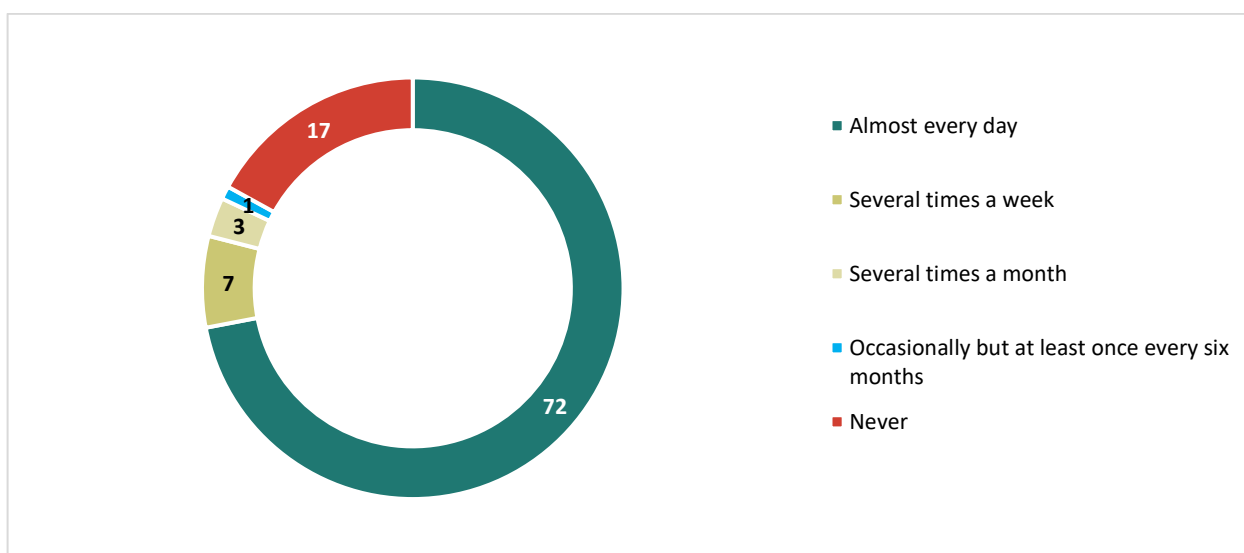


Fig. 4. Do you use the Internet? If so, how often? (closed-ended question, one answer, % of total respondents)

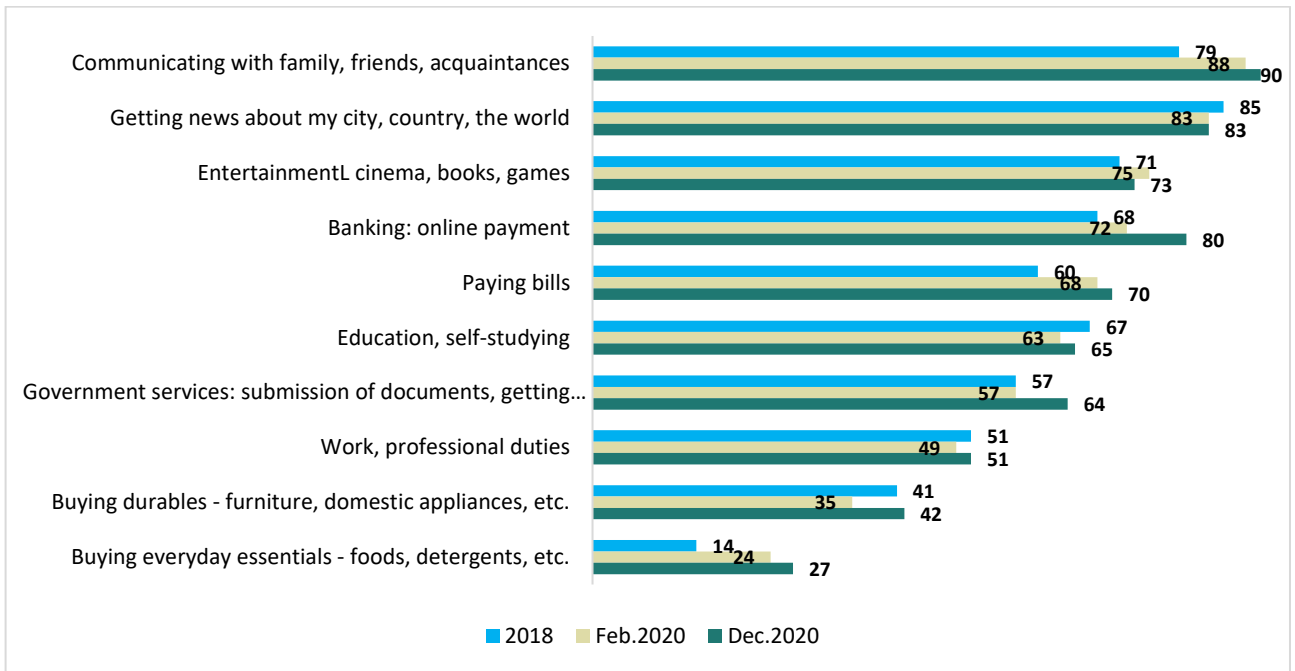


Fig. 5. Why do use the Internet today? (closed-ended question, one answer per each line, % of Internet users)

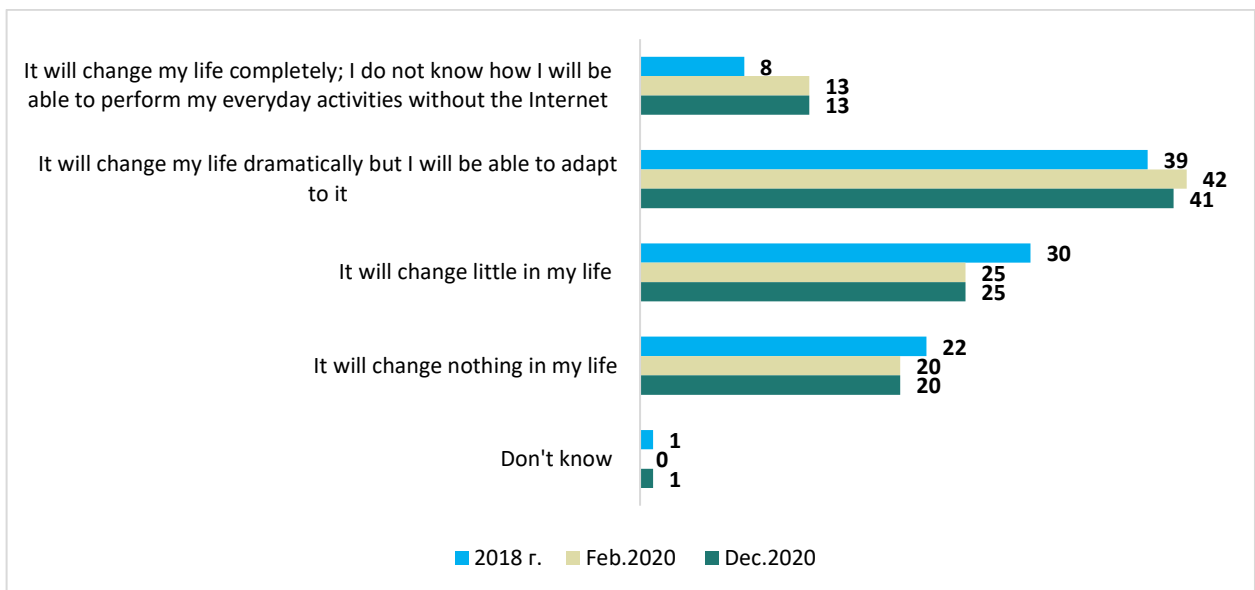


Fig. 6. If the Internet disappears tomorrow, will it change your everyday life? (closed-ended question, one answer, % of Internet users)

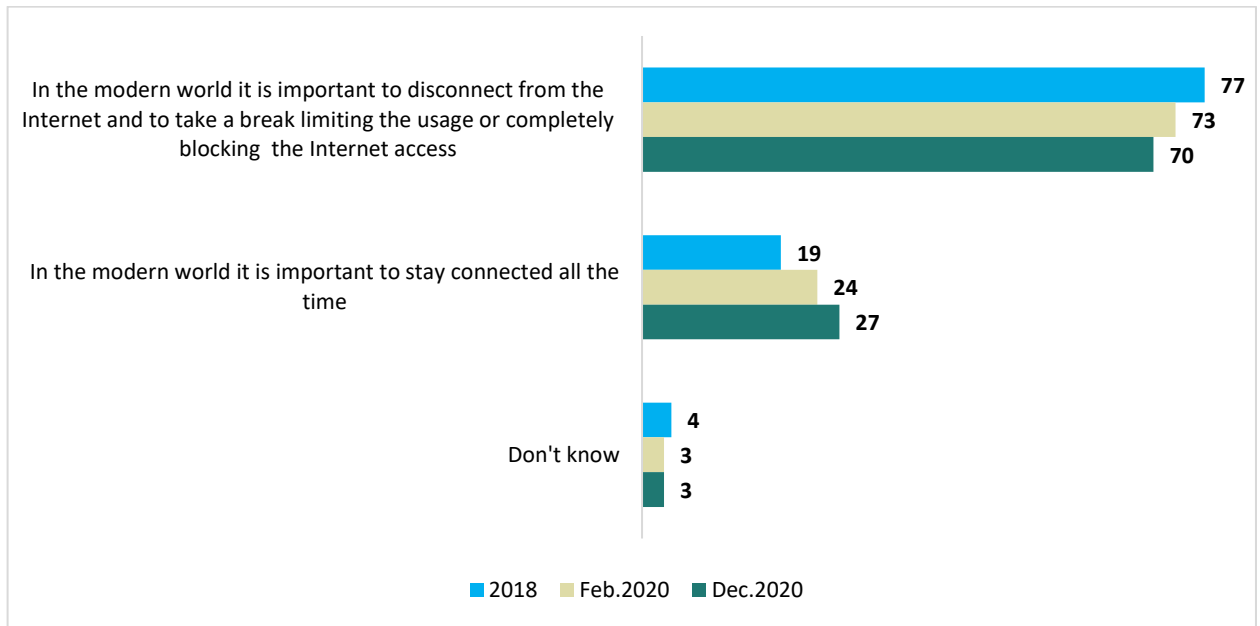


Fig. 7. Some people think that today people need to disconnect from the Internet and restrict their access to the Internet for some time. Others believe that it important to stay connected all the time. Which statement are you most likely to agree with? (closed-ended question, one answer, % of Internet users)