

OPINION MONITORING: MARCH—APRIL 2021

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.

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POLITICS

CRIMEA: 7 YEARS WITH RUSSIA

CRIMEA: 7 YEARS WITH RUSSIA

March 10, 2021

The feelings that the majority of Russians experience about the entry of Crimea and Sevastopol into Russia are pride (48%) and enthusiasm (15%). Only 7% experience negative emotions: disapproval (4%) and disappointment (3%). About a quarter of our compatriots are indifferent to this event: 27% of respondents do not feel any emotions from the entry of the Crimea peninsula into the Russian Federation. The vast majority of the citizens are confident that Russia did the right thing by accepting Crimea (86%). Every tenth respondent (10%) adheres to the opposite opinion. The main reasons why the respondents consider this decision to be correct are as follows: Crimea is a primordially Russian territory (47%); this is the expression of the will of the Crimean people (8%); the decision is connected with the fraternal people and the protection of national interests (7%); it contributes to the restoration of historical justice (6%). Crimea and Sevastopol play a key role in ensuring the country's defense capability — 77% of Russians agree with this statement, and 17% are ready to argue with them. In the nearest future, Crimea may become a world-class resort in the opinion of 62% of our compatriots, and 33% of respondents disagree with them.

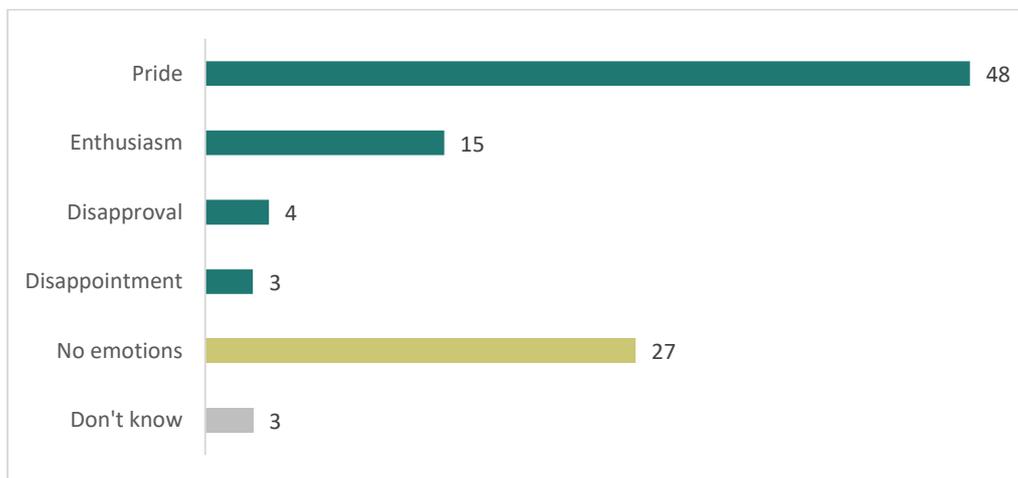


Fig. 1. *In March 2014, a referendum, during which a decision on the entry of Crimea and Sevastopol into Russia was made, was held in Crimea and the city of Sevastopol. How do you feel when you hear about the reunification of Crimea with Russia? (closed-ended question, one answer, %)*

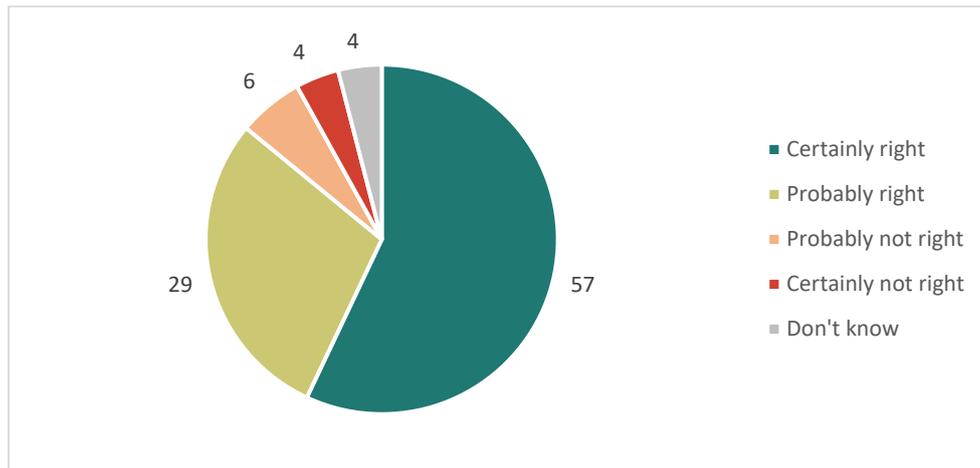


Fig. 2. Do you think Russia did the right thing by accepting Crimea into the Russian Federation or not? (closed-ended question, one answer, %)

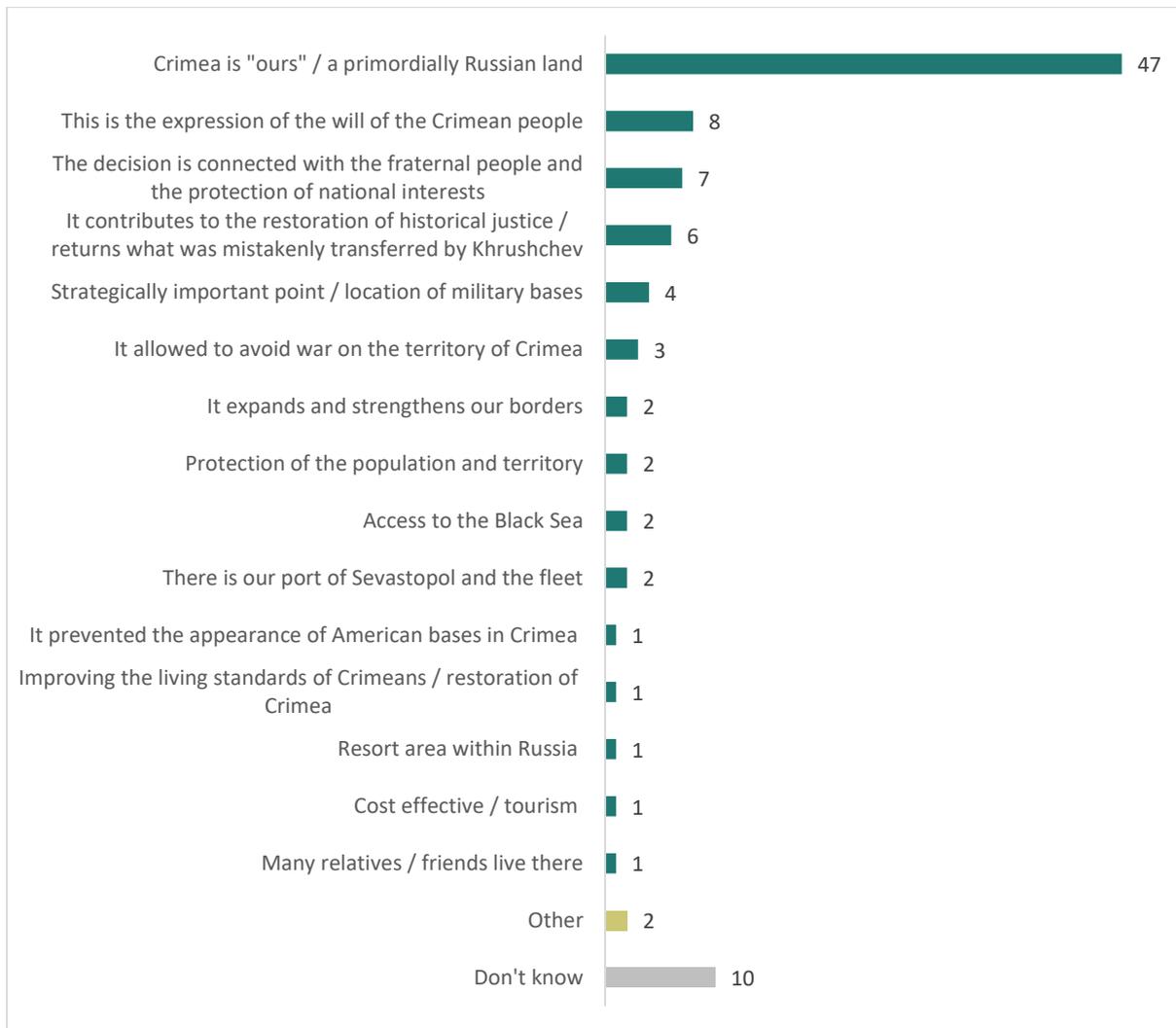


Fig. 3. Why do you think that Russia did the right thing by accepting Crimea into Russia? (% of those who consider it right, open-ended question, one answer)

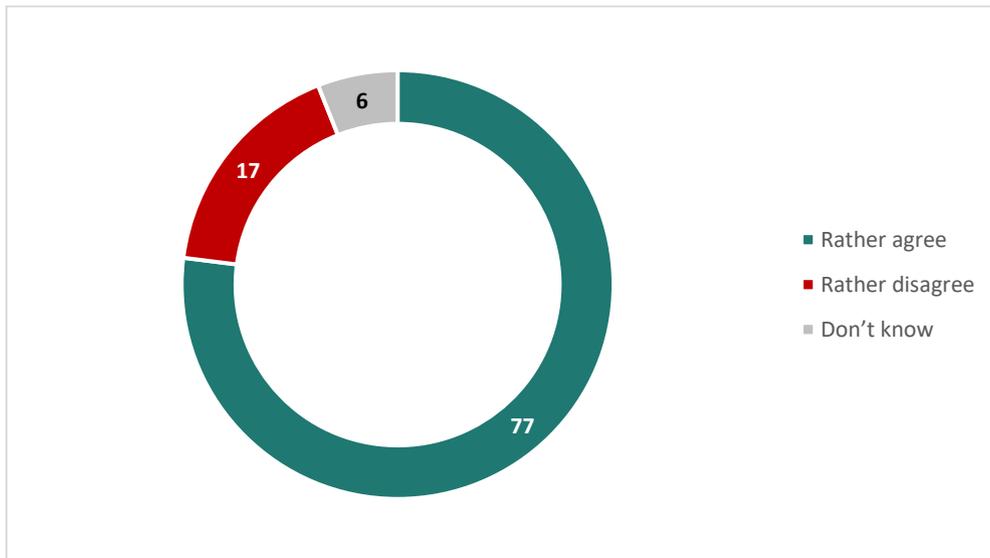


Fig. 4. I will read out a few statements about Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, and you tell me whether you agree with them or not. Crimea and Sevastopol play a key role in ensuring the country's defense (closed-ended question, one answer, %)

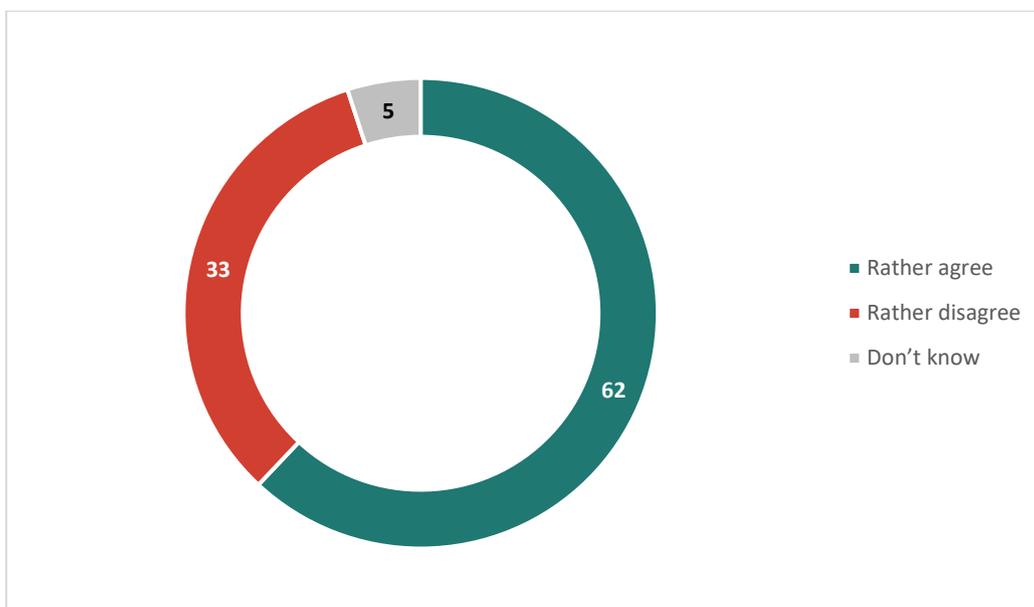


Fig. 5. I will read out a few statements about Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, and you tell me whether you agree with them or not. In the near future, Crimea may become a world-class resort (closed-ended question, one answer, %)

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

SOCIAL MEDIA AND CENSORSHIP: PROS AND CONS

HAPPINESS INDEX — 2021

TAXES: HOW AND HOW MUCH DO WE PAY

SOCIAL MEDIA AND CENSORSHIP: PROS AND CONS

March 11, 2021

The majority of Russians use various social networks and instant messengers: WhatsApp (70%, more often at the age of 25-44 — 77%), VKontakte (50%, more often young people aged 18-25 — 72-74%), watch YouTube (40 %, among 18-24 years old — 56%), use Instagram (38%), and Odnoklassniki (37%). The need to block inaccurate information on the Internet is supported by 51% of the respondents, and 10% believe that there is no need to block such information. Almost half of our compatriots found it difficult to assess the actions of the state to control the reliability of information on the Internet (48%). 29% of the respondents approve of them, and 19% disapprove. Half of Russians consider it unacceptable to block users' accounts or personal pages on social networks (51%), considering such actions as censorship (49%).

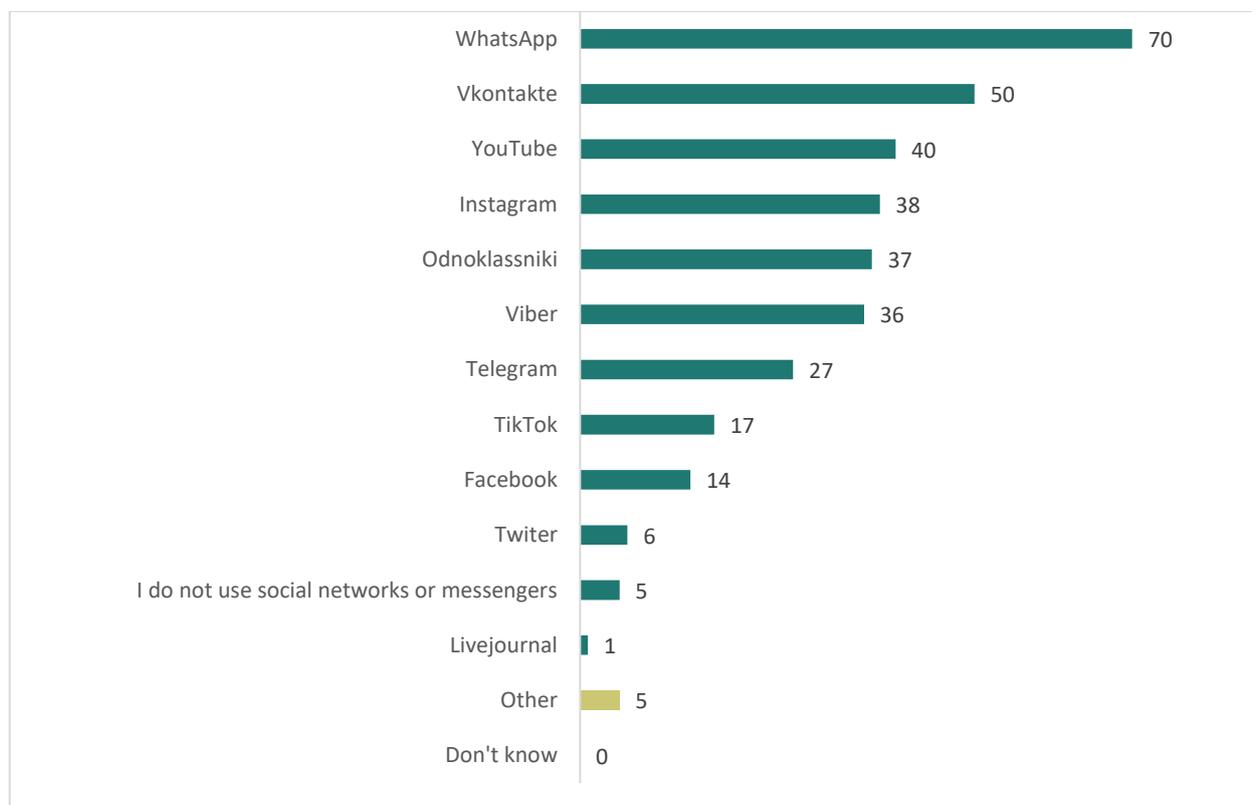


Fig. 1. Please tell me, do you use the following social networks and messengers? If you do, which ones? Please name all social networks and messengers that you use (closed-ended question, multiple choice answer, % of Internet users)

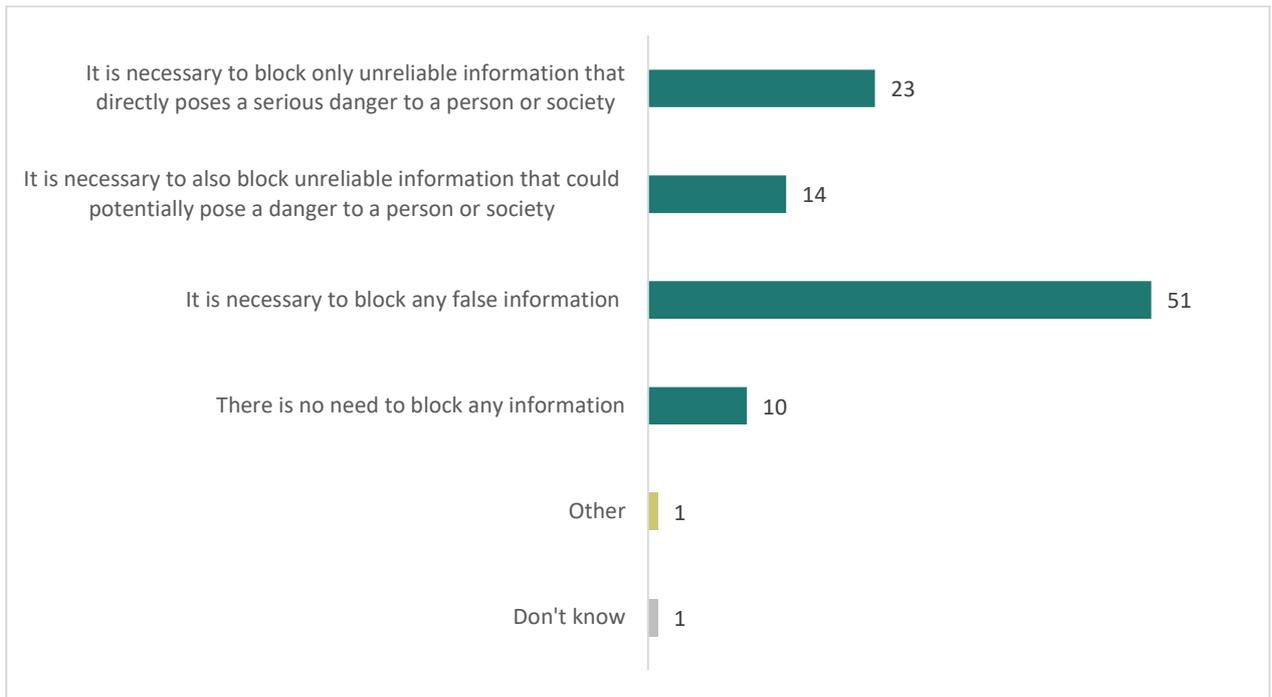


Fig. 2. In your opinion, is it necessary or not necessary to restrict the dissemination of inaccurate information on the Internet and social networks? If yes, then – to what extent? (closed-ended question, one answer, %)

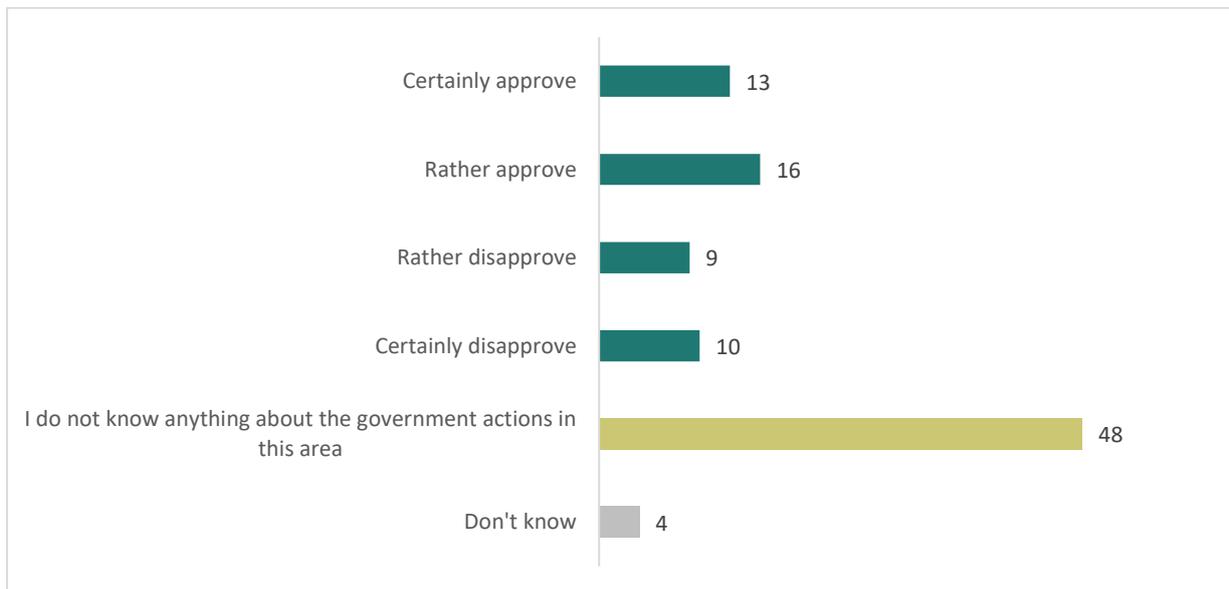


Fig. 3. Do you rather approve or disapprove of the government's actions to control the accuracy of information on the Internet, social networks, and to combat false information? If you do not know anything about this, then please say so (closed-ended question, one answer, %)

HAPPINESS INDEX — 2021

March 13, 2021

The majority of Russians generally feel happy to some extent (80%), and more than a third express complete confidence in this (36%). Russians with relatively high incomes (93%), as well as respondents with higher or incomplete education (85%), are more optimistic. 16% of our compatriots are unhappy. Despite the spring mood, the happiness index dropped slightly over the last six months and amounted to 64 points. Those who have a family and generally evaluate well-being at home as good are happy more often (26%). Those who are healthy and whose loved ones are healthy also declare their happiness (25%). Russians who have children (21%) and a good job (17%) feel happy. General satisfaction with life also plays a role (12%). The reasons for the unhappiness are predominantly economic in nature: the poor state of affairs in the country (10%), the general lack of material resources (9%), low wages, and delays in their payments (6%), as well as unemployment, low pensions, high prices, and family problems (4% each).



Fig. 4. Anything can happen in life — either good or bad. But generally speaking, are you happy or not? (index¹)

¹The happiness index shows how happy Russians feel. The index is built on the basis of the question: "In life, there are all kinds of good and bad. But generally speaking, are you happy or not?". It is calculated as the difference between the sum of positive answers ("definitely yes", "rather yes") and negative answers ("rather not", "definitely not"). The index is measured in points and can range from -100 to 100. The higher the index value, the happier Russians feel.

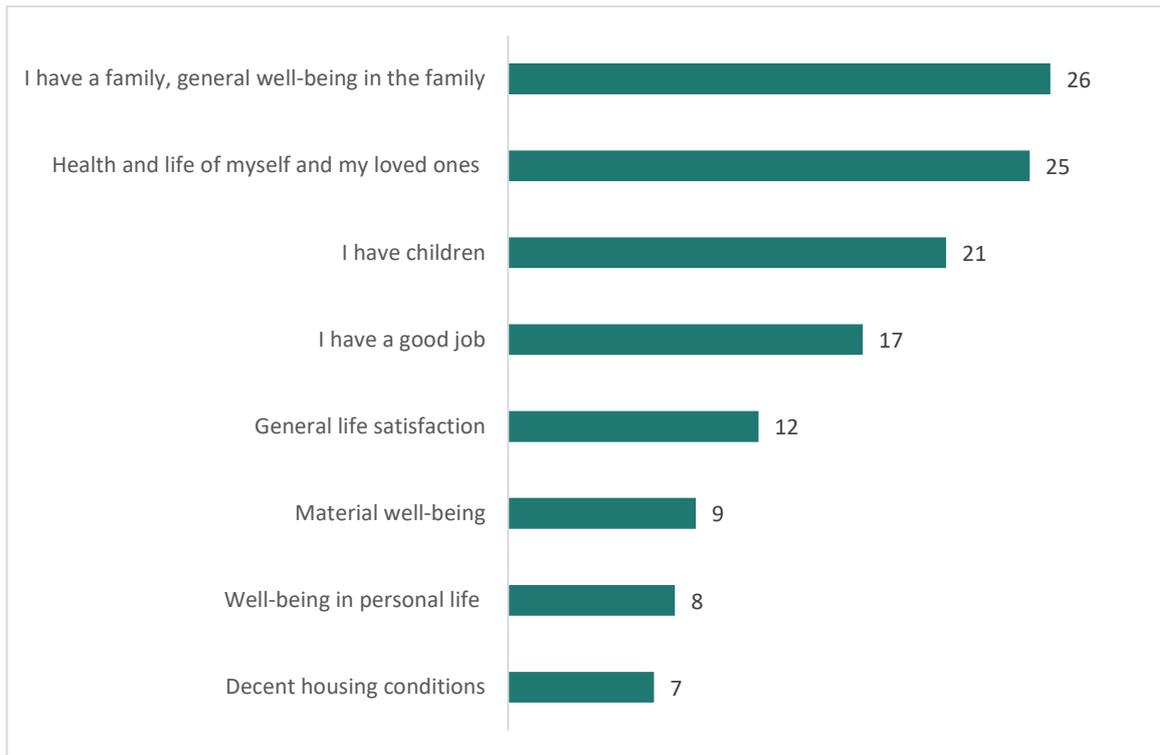


Fig. 5. If you feel like a happy person, please tell why? (open-ended question, no more than 5 answers, top options, %)

TAXES: HOW AND HOW MUCH DO WE PAY

March 2, 2021

Half of Russians (51%) pay personal income tax (PIT) through the accounting department of their enterprise / company. 8% of respondents submit the declaration on their own. 9% of the citizens do not pay income tax, and 31%, according their words, have no income taxed with PIT. At the same time, only 65% of respondents could name the current income tax rate (49% among aged 18-24). Regarding property taxes, over the past year, Russians most often paid for a car (34%), an apartment (31%), a land plot (27%), a house / dacha (21%), and a garage (6%). One in five respondents said that they do not have taxable property (22%), one in ten does not pay taxes since he / she has state tax credits, or for other reasons (12%). Every second respondent estimates his / her own tax burden as sufficient (52%), a third of the respondents — as excessive (36%), and only 1% considers it insufficient. The largest share of those who consider their tax burden excessive is observed among aged 25-34 (every second, 49%), and the smallest — in the 60+ group (25%).

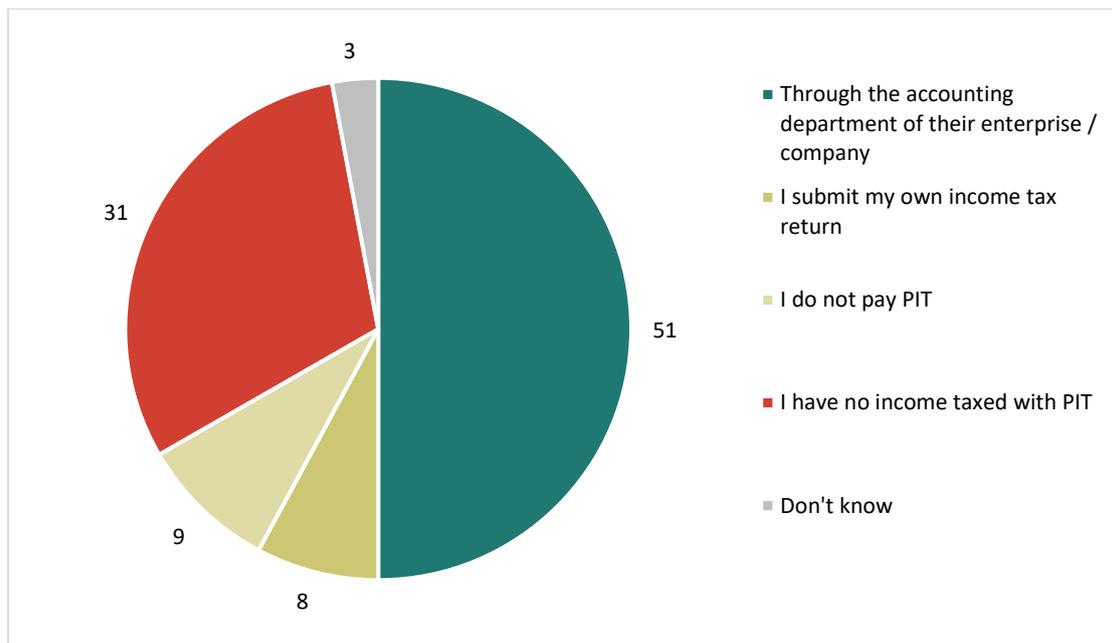


Fig. 6. Let us talk about the tax system in Russia. Please tell me how do you personally pay income tax? (closed-ended question, no more than two one answer, %)

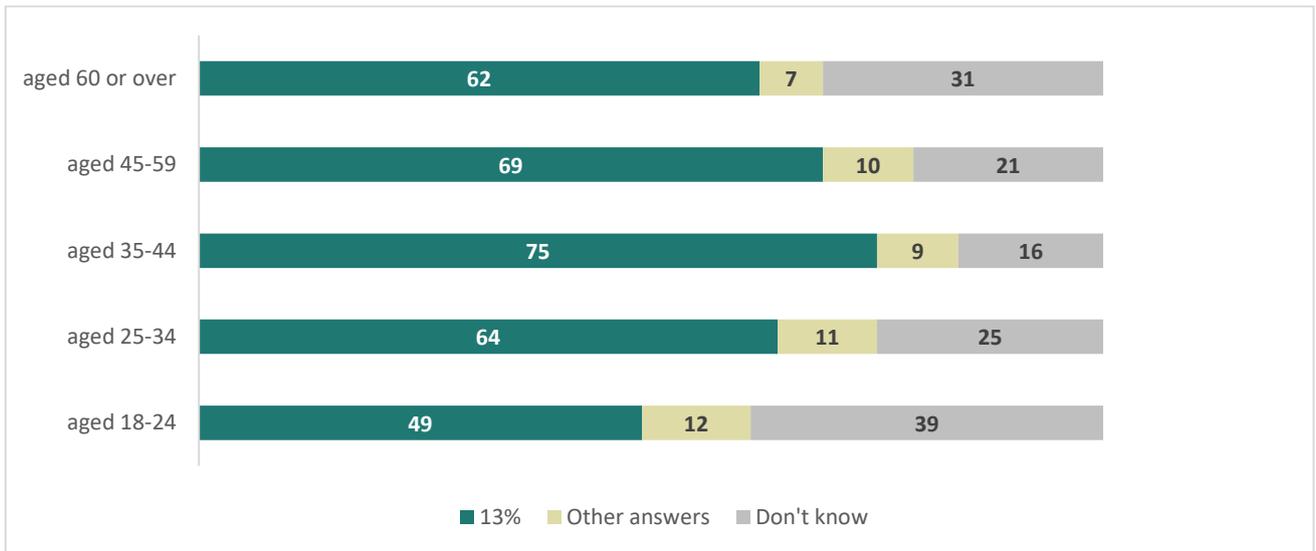


Fig. 7. Do you know the current PIT rate? If you know, please name it (open-ended question, one answer, %)

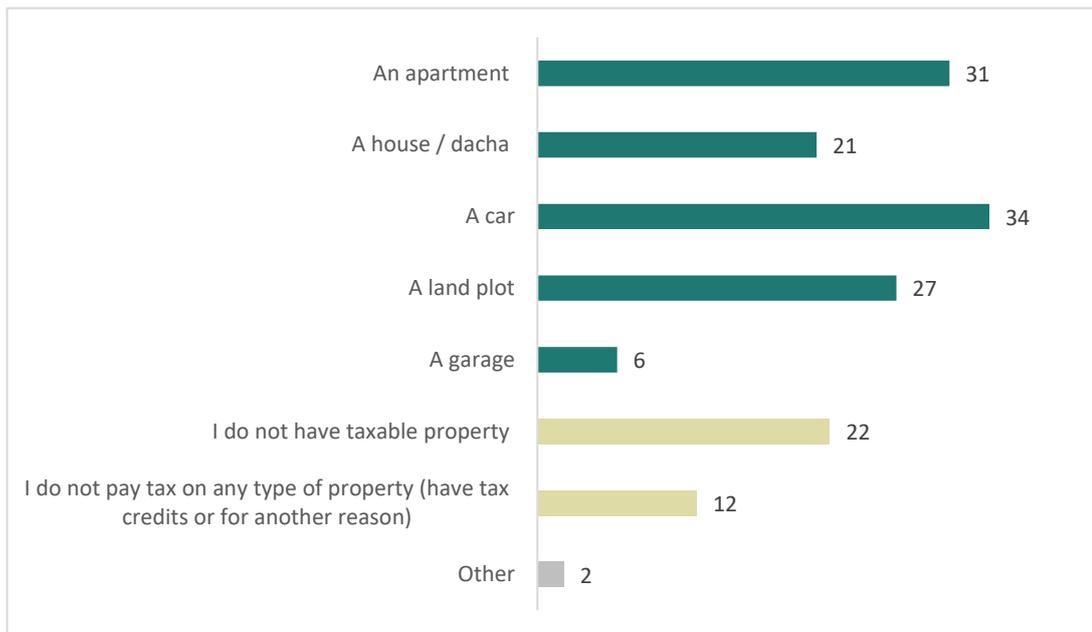


Fig. 8. Please tell me, last year (2020), did you personally have to pay tax on the following types of property or not? (closed-ended question, multiple choice answer, %)

LIFESTYLE

THEATER AND THEATERGOERS AFTER THE PANDEMIC

THEATER AND THEATERGOERS AFTER THE PANDEMIC

March 24, 2021

Every third Russian went to the theater before the introduction of the self-isolation regime at least once a year (34%). There are more theater admirers among residents of capitals (58%) and large cities (54%), i.e., settlements with a developed cultural infrastructure. The share of theatergoers is higher among women (43%) and young people aged 18-24 (40%). 23% of Russians have never been to a theater. 10% of Russians have visited a theater after the pandemic restrictions were loosened and the self-isolation regime was lifted. These are those who used to visit theaters before self-isolation, more often Russians aged 18-34 (15-16%). 32% of respondents have not yet visited a theater after the onset of the pandemic but are going to soon. 57% of Russians who went to the theater before the introduction of the self-isolation regime have not yet visited a theater and do not plan to; these are more often men (64%) and elderly Russians (73%). Top 3 favorite performances of Russians over the past two or three years are The Nutcracker (3%), Swan Lake (2%) and The Master and Margarita (2%). 30% of respondents did not see any performances over the past two or three years, and 29% named other performances. Favorite theaters of Russians are the Bolshoi Theater (9%), the Mariinsky Theater, and the Moscow Gorky Theater (4% each).

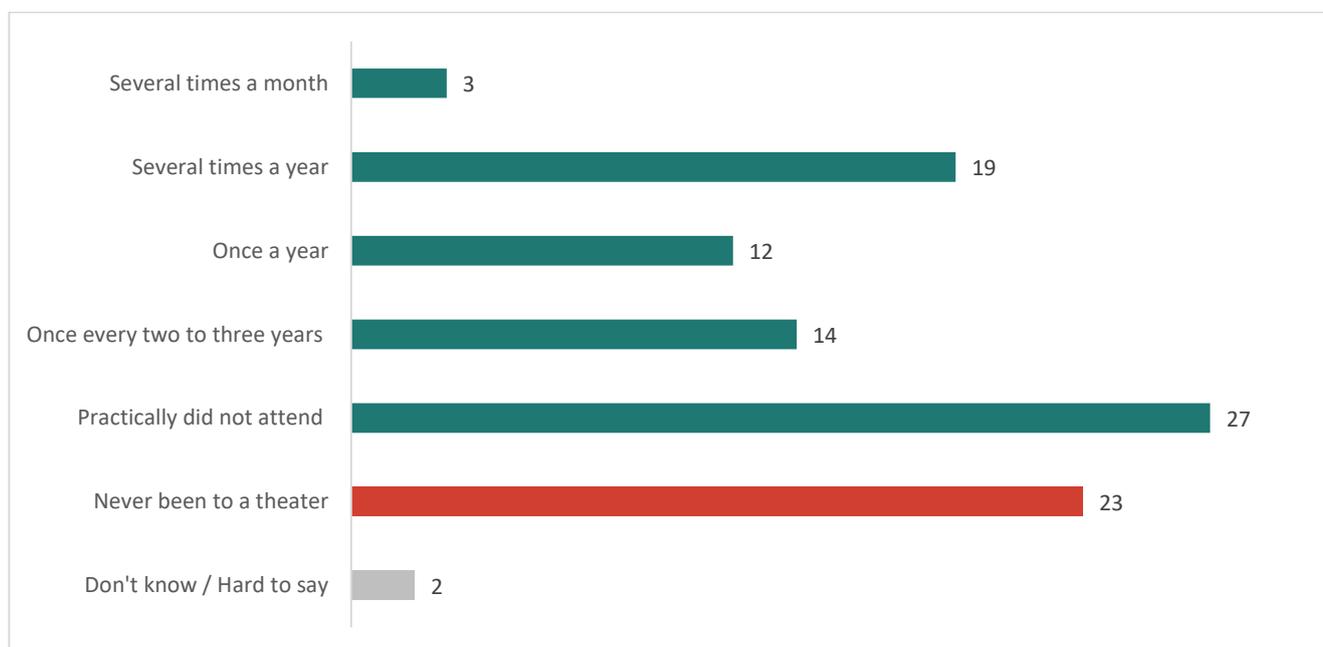


Fig. 1. Please tell whether you went to the theater before the coronavirus self-isolation (quarantine) regime was introduced in our country, or not? If yes, how often? (closed-ended question, one answer, %)

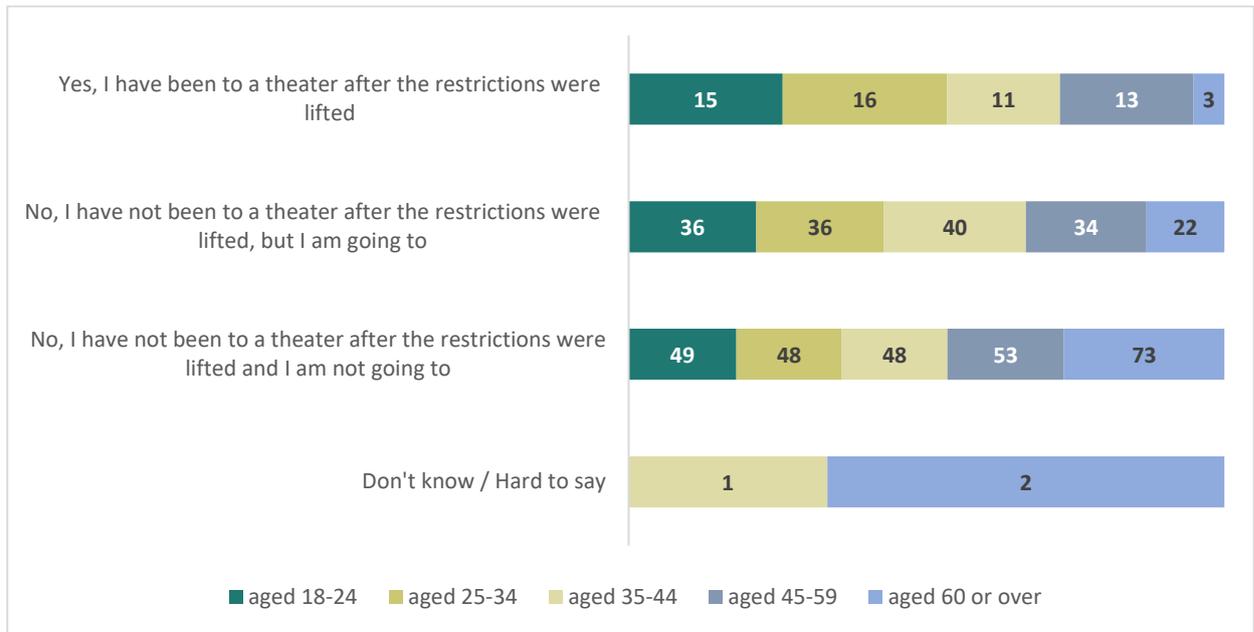


Fig. 2. Please tell, have you already visited a theater after the regime of self-isolation and pandemic restrictions were lifted last year, or not? (closed-ended question, one answer, % of those who ever visited a theater)