

OPINION MONITORING: JANUARY—FEBRUARY 2022

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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CRISIS IN KAZAKHSTAN: ASSESSMENT OF THE RUSSIANS

January 8–9, 2022

The events taking place in Kazakhstan in January 2022 were followed by 72% of Russians, of whom 30% closely tracked the event outline and another 42% followed it without going into details. Respondents who are interested in the events in Kazakhstan described them as a riot against the backdrop of rising gas prices (26%), a coup d'état (17%), disgrace and lawlessness (10%), riots and looting (8%), a terrorist attack, and civil war (7% each). Every fifth of those who are interested in protest actions in Kazakhstan considers what is happening to be a provocation by foreign special services (21%); 17% agree that this is a popular uprising; 14% support the view that this is a struggle for power; 9% believe that this is an attempt by various countries to increase their influence in the region; 8% said it was an action of international terrorism against Kazakhstan. The use of law enforcement agencies to disperse the protesters by the authorities of Kazakhstan is more likely to be considered correct by 63% of Russians interested in the events; 23% reported that this decision was wrong. For Russian citizens who are interested in the Kazakh crisis, current events cause fear (30%), condemnation (25%), disappointment (24%), hope (19%), respect (14%), skepticism (5%). Most respondents who are interested in the Kazakh crisis consider the request of the Kazakh authorities to the CSTO countries for the deployment of peacekeeping forces to be adequate (70%), every fifth respondent (21%) states the opposite opinion.

Fig. 1. Please tell me whether you are following the events taking place in recent days in Kazakhstan or not (closed-ended question, one answer, %)

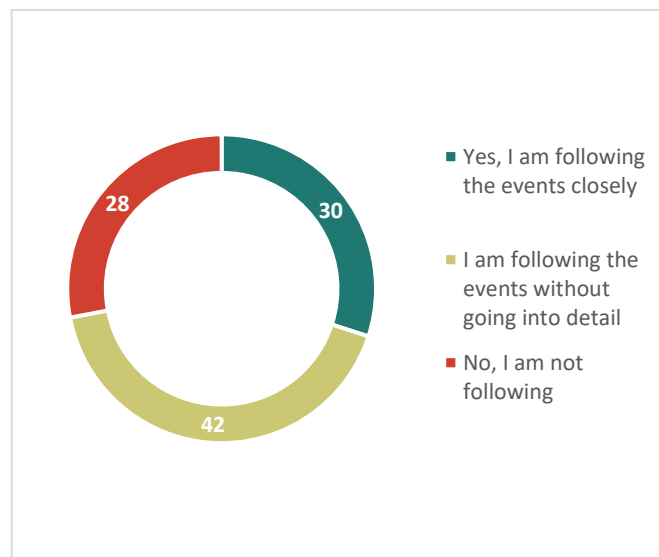


Fig. 2. People react differently to events in other countries. Some events are of interest, but personally they do not matter. Others are of interest and are of personal importance. Finally, some events are not of interest and are not important. If we talk about the events in Kazakhstan, which position is closer to you? (closed-ended question, one answer, %)

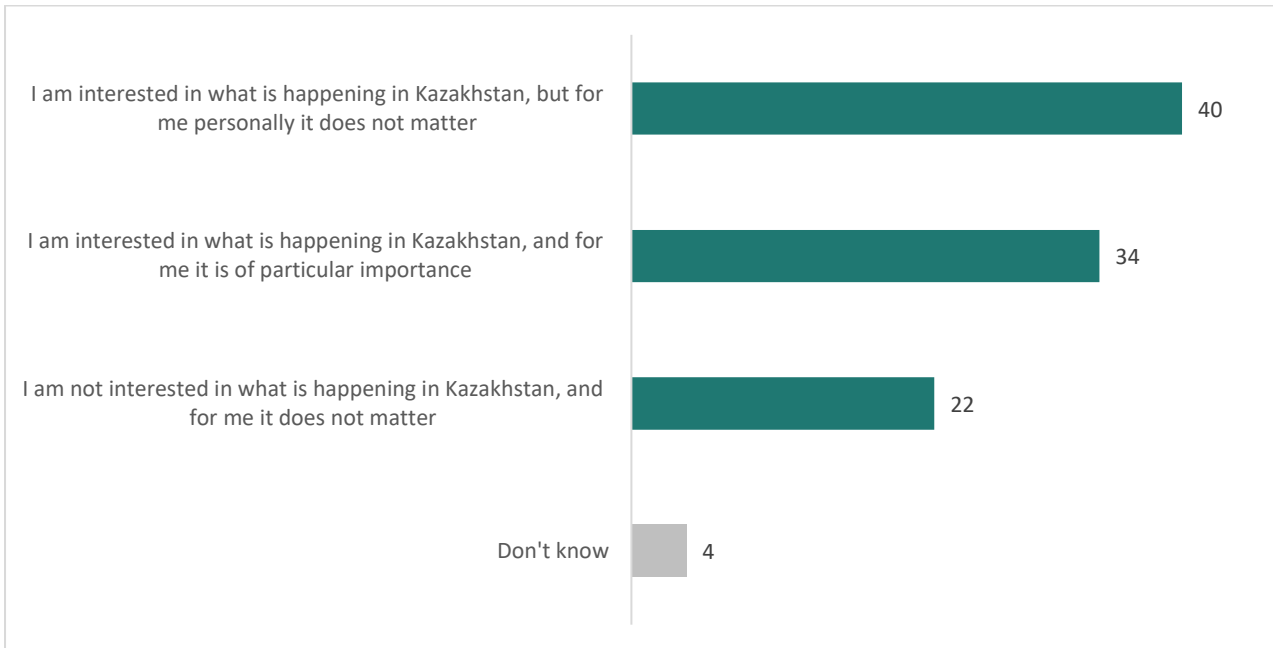
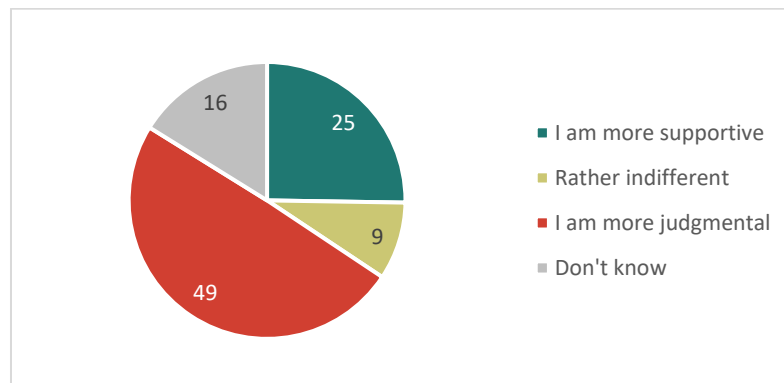


Fig. 3. Please tell us how you generally feel about the protesters in Kazakhstan (closed-ended question, one answer, % of those interested in the events in Kazakhstan)



SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS**CRYPTOCURRENCIES: REGULATION FORK****POST-COVID: WE SUFFER, BUT DO NOT TREAT IT****SAVINGS OF THE RUSSIANS: MONITORING****CRYPTOCURRENCIES: REGULATION FORK**

January 22, 2022

Russians have heard about bitcoin to some extent (64%), 17% are well aware of it, every fifth of the surveyed heard this term for the first time in their life (19%). Almost half of Russians familiar with this cryptocurrency believe that anyone can buy it (42%), a quarter think that bitcoins are available to a limited circle (24%), 15% believe that buying bitcoins is prohibited in Russia. Most respondents familiar with the concept of bitcoin reported that neither they nor their relatives had ever bought cryptocurrency (74%), one in five noted that relatives or friends bought bitcoin (21%), 4% of Russian citizens themselves purchased bitcoins. Young people (18–34 years old) who are informed about cryptocurrencies often have a negative attitude towards the idea of banning transactions with them in Russia (54% of those aged 18–24 years old, 50% of those aged 25–34 years old). Russians aged 35–44, who are aware of cryptocurrencies, are rather indifferent to the proposal of the Central Bank to ban transactions with bitcoin (39%), 35% are rather negative, and 25% – positive about it. The respondents familiar with bitcoin and aged 45–59 years old are more likely to react positively to the idea of its ban (36%), 35% are indifferent, and 24% are negative about it. Half of Russian citizens 60+ who know the concept of cryptocurrency support the proposal to ban it (53%), a third are indifferent (29%), 15% are negative about it.

Fig. 1. Have you personally ever bought bitcoins? (closed-ended question, one answer, % of those familiar with the concept)

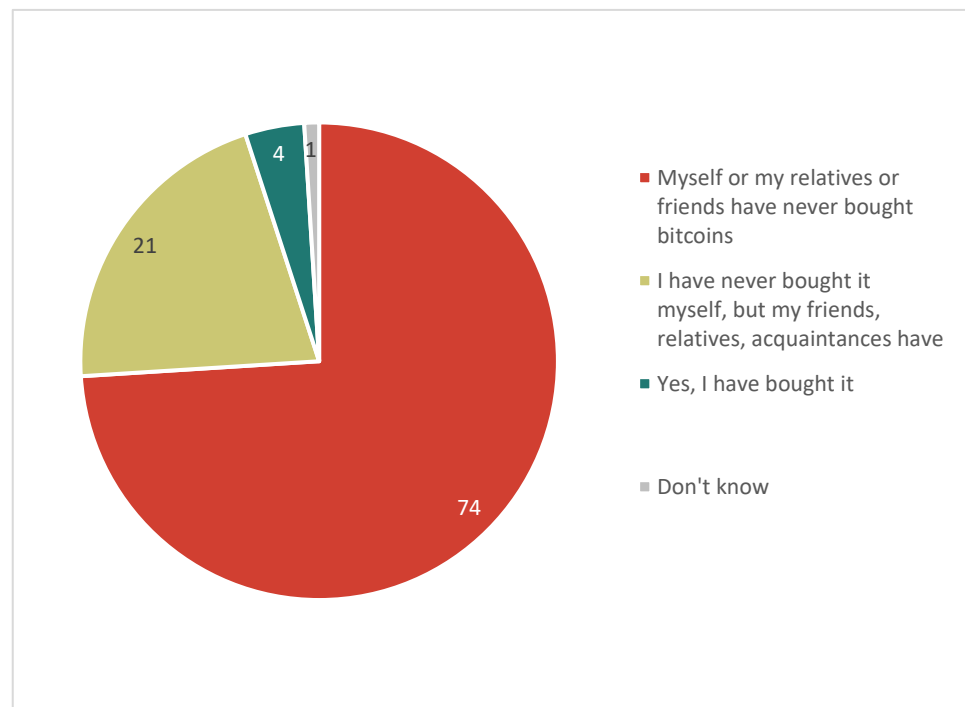


Fig. 2. Anyone can buy bitcoins. There are different opinions: some consider buying bitcoins a good investment, others do not recommend buying them. Which statement do you agree with the most? (closed-ended question, one answer, % of those familiar with the concept)

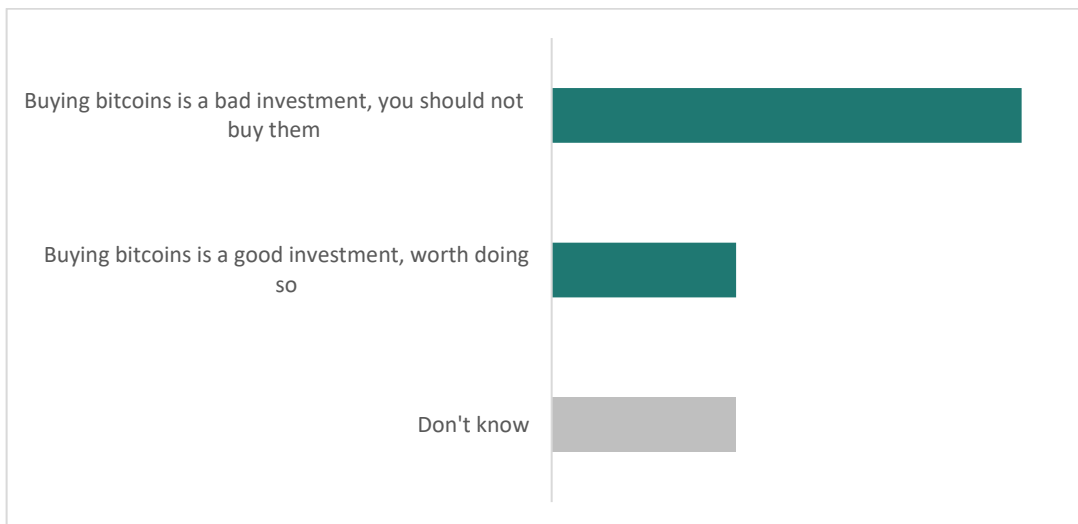
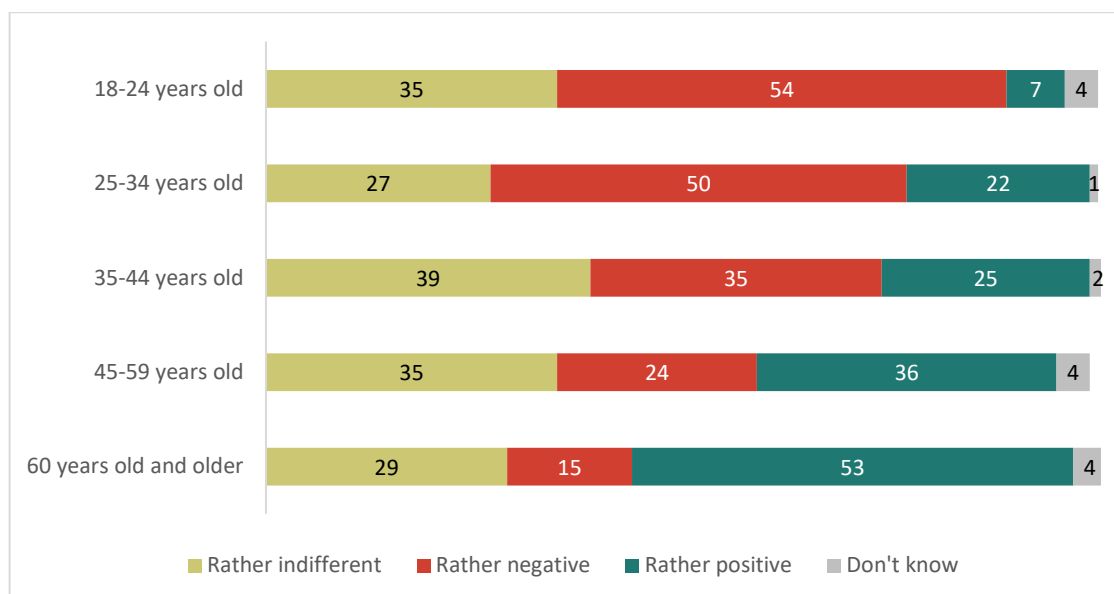


Fig. 3. How do you feel about the proposal of the Central Bank to ban transactions with cryptocurrencies, bitcoin in Russia? (closed-ended question, one answer, % of those familiar with the concept)



POST-COVID: WE SUFFER, BUT WE DO NOT TREAT IT ¹

January 25, 2022

79% of those who recovered from COVID-19 (i.e., at some point had a positive test or specific symptoms) experienced the lingering effects (post-COVID syndrome). A half of those who had been ill noted a taste and smell disturbance (49%) or general weakness (38%). Most Russians who faced the post-COVID syndrome did not carry out special rehabilitation measures to recover from it (80%), while 20% of them were engaged in recovery procedures. Respondents who reported that they were engaged in rehabilitation, more often took medications (64%), took outdoor walks (54%), did breathing exercises (42%) and physiotherapy (41%), paid attention to healthy lifestyle (33%). One in five of such respondents underwent a medical examination (21%). Every second among those undergoing rehabilitation after suffering COVID-19 had general weakness (55%) and loss of smells and tastes (52%). More than half of Russians (61%) believe that weakness and decreased performance after suffering COVID-19 requires a special examination and consultation with a doctor; every fifth respondent noted that taking medications and vitamins should speed up recovery (19%); every tenth reported that there is no need to do anything special: the recovery will be long, but everything will pass by itself (11%).

¹ Based on the VCIOM-Sputnik survey commissioned by Grindex company.

Fig. 4. Have you personally experienced post-COVID symptoms? Which ones? (closed-ended question, multiple answers, % of those recovered from COVID-19)

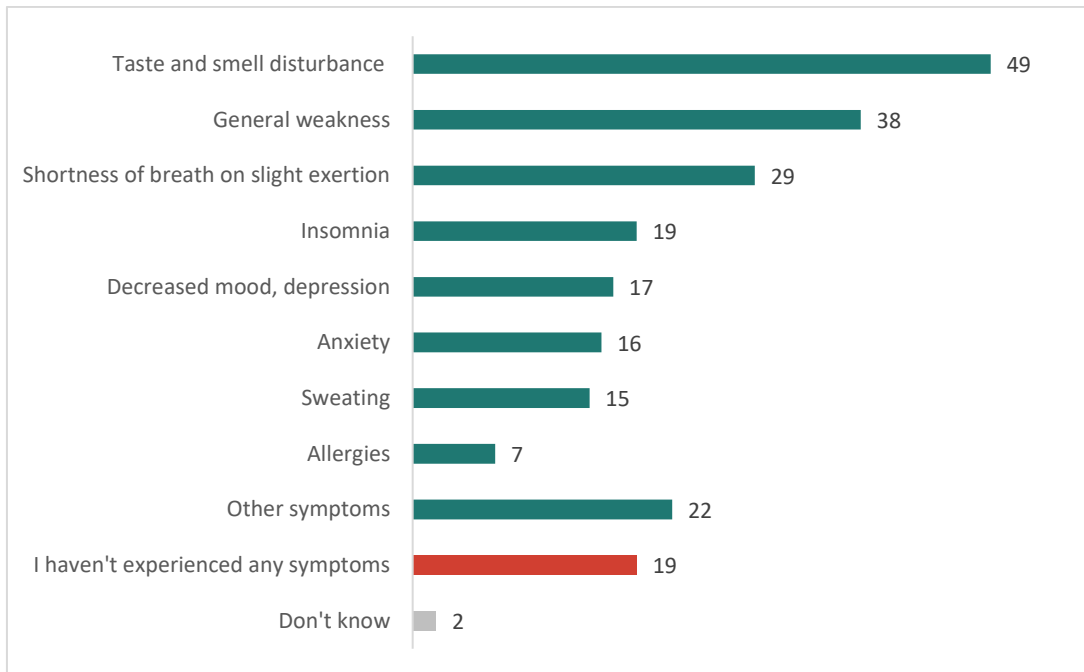
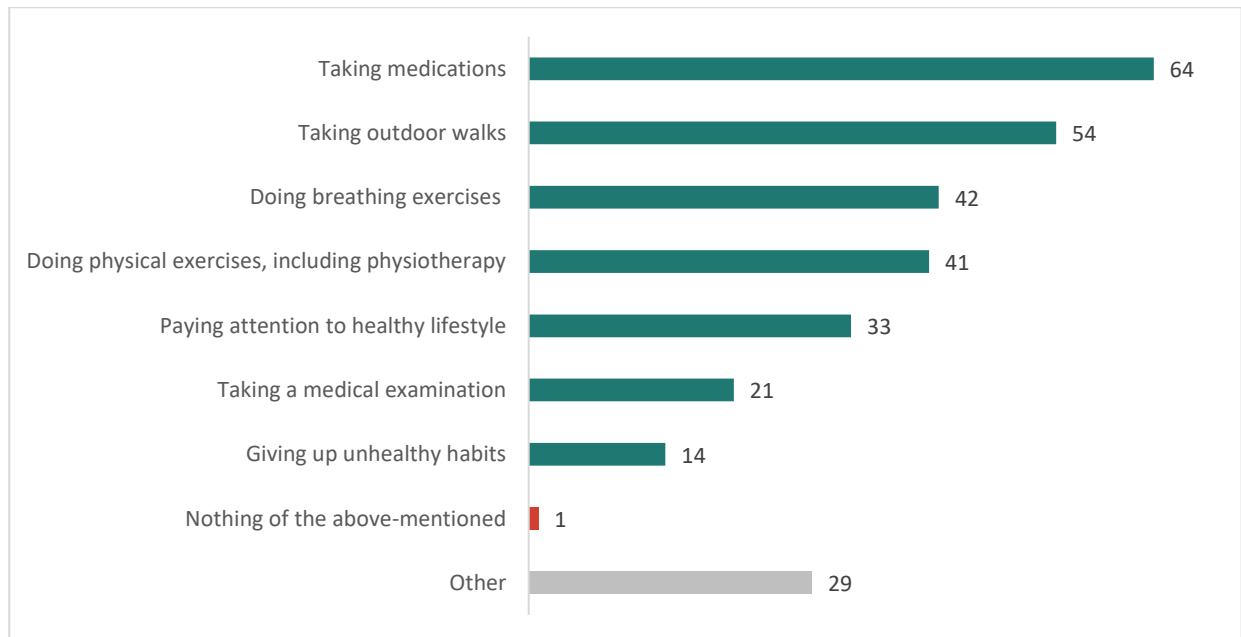


Fig. 5. What kind of rehabilitation did you use? (closed-ended question, multiple answers, % of those recovered from COVID-19 and getting rehabilitation)



SAVINGS OF THE RUSSIANS: MONITORING

January 25, 2022

In January 2022, a third of Russians reported having savings (33%). Savings were more common among citizens aged 18–24 years old (39%), Russians with incomplete higher and higher education (43%), and residents of Moscow and St. Petersburg (48%). More than half of the respondents reported that their family does not have savings (64%). The majority of Russians who have savings decide on the

amount of deferred funds depending on the situation (86%), while 8% always save as much as they planned (14% among residents of the largest cities). 43% of Russians who have savings deposit money regularly, once a month or once a quarter, this pattern is more common among those aged 25–34 years old (63%). More than half of the respondents make savings situationally when money appears (54%), more often this behavior is adopted by Russians aged 45 and older (62% among aged 45–59 years old, 63% among aged 60+ years old). Over the past year, 60% of Russians with savings were forced to spend them on unforeseen needs, of which only 6% spent almost all their savings, 20% — most of their savings, 34% — a smaller part. 37% of respondents (52% among 18–24-year-olds) did not have to spend their savings unscheduled. Most Russians who make savings do not cut the essential spending to save money (69%), while 27% have to make such decisions.

Fig. 6. Does your family currently have savings? (closed-ended question, one answer, %)

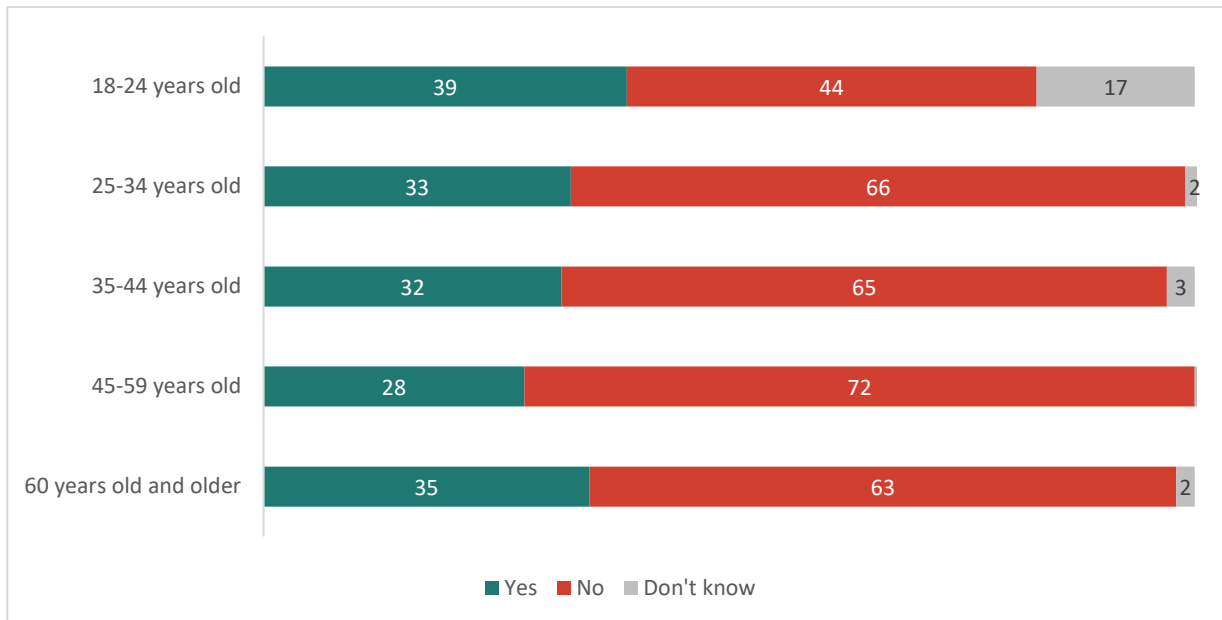


Fig. 7. How often do you / your family usually save money? (closed-ended question, one answer, % of those who have savings)

