

OPINION MONITORING: JANUARY - FEBRUARY 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

STATE AND SOCIETY: GOALS, PRIORITIES, AND IMPERATIVES

STATE AND SOCIETY: GOALS, PRIORITIES, AND IMPERATIVES

January and February, 2021

Ninety-six percent of Russians agree that the principle obligation of the state is to take care of and provide social services to all the citizens. Slightly fewer respondents agree that the government policy should be aimed at maintaining and strengthening traditional values (83%). The share of those who believe that “people’s well-being depends heavily on themselves rather than social arrangements or government policies” is even smaller (64%). Slightly more than half of respondents (65%) think that the role of government in society should rise; however, a quarter of respondents (26%) do believe that it should be minimal.

According to the survey results, the top five development priorities for Russia is as follows: government should pay attention to the quality and availability of healthcare services (38%), increase availability in education (25%), launch new manufacturing industries (23%), solve housing problems (19%), and increase social guarantees for different populations (15%). Defense capability (12%) and other problems do not appear in the top five. Opinions on the ‘greatpowerness’ issue were divided almost equally. Every second respondent (51%) agrees that “Russia must be a great power with a strong military force and an ability to influence world politics”; however, 41% oppose this opinion - they say that the top priority should be care for people’s well-being”.



Fig. 1. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: ... (closed-ended question, one answer, % of respondents; sum of “definitely agree” and “likely to agree” answers)

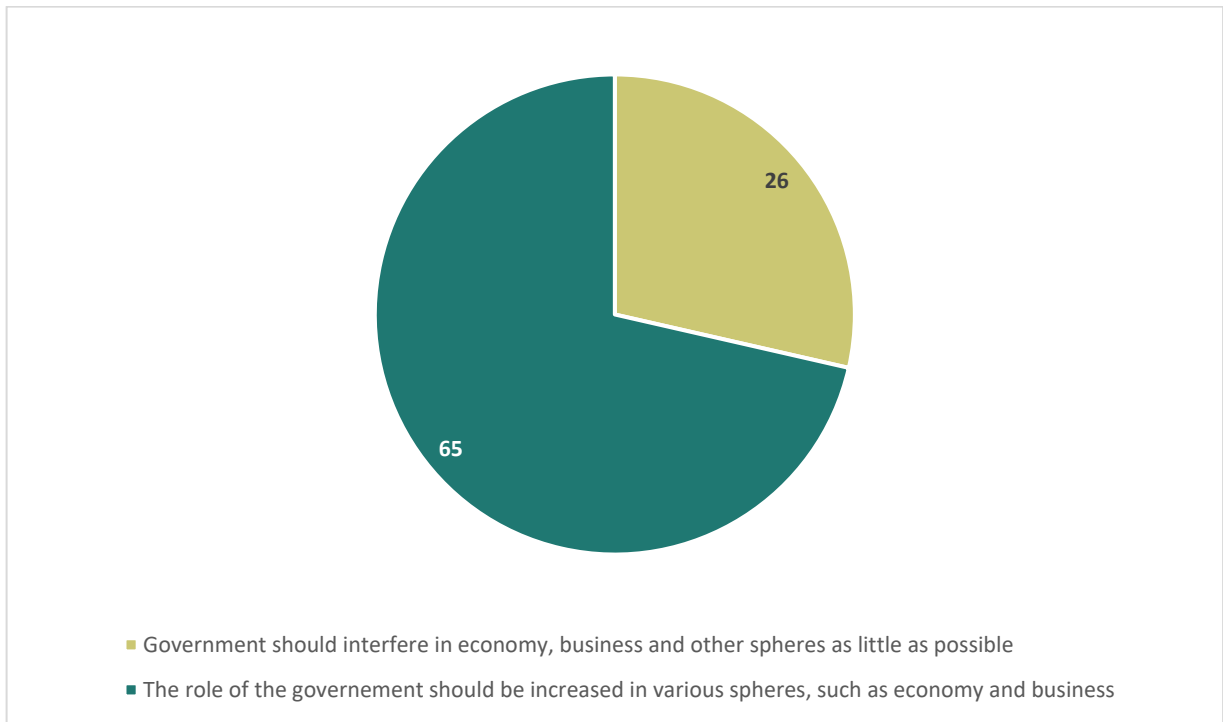


Fig. 2. Which of the following statements do you most agree with? (closed-ended question, one answer, % of total respondents)

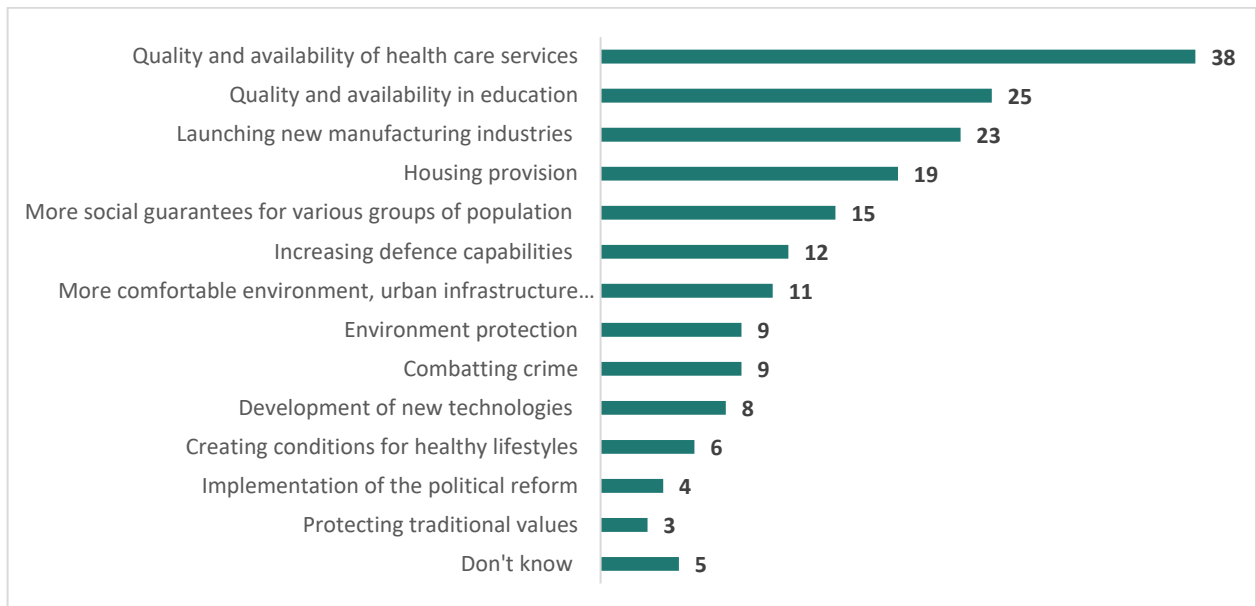


Fig. 3. In your opinion, what development priorities should the Russian government pay attention to? (closed-ended question, not more than 2 answers, % of total respondents)

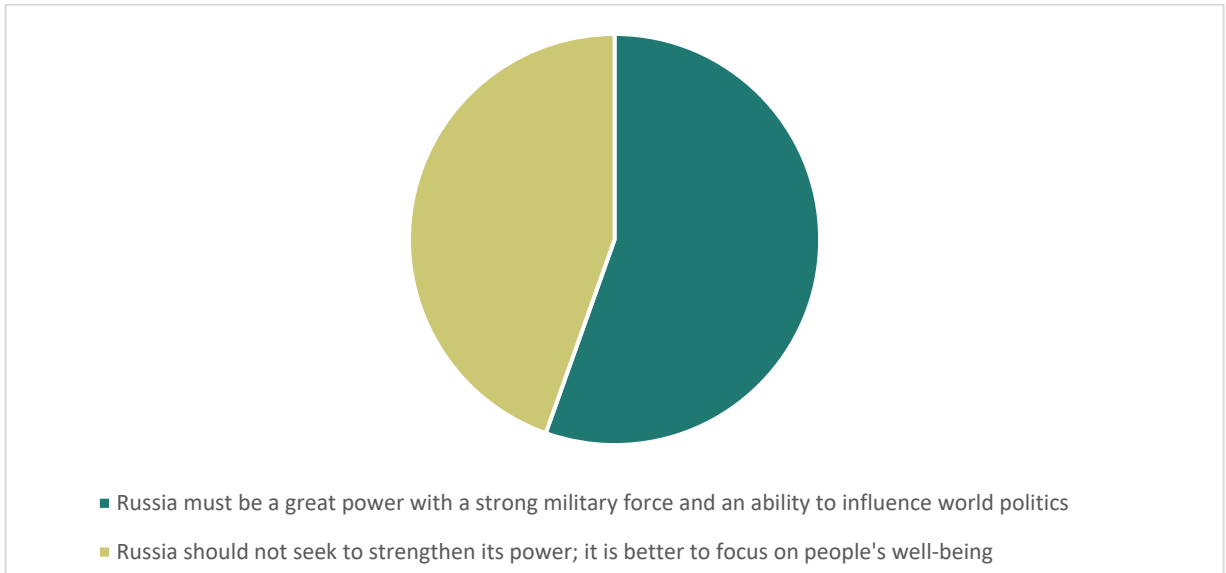


Fig. 4. Which of the following statements do you most agree with? (closed-ended question, one answer, % of total respondents; sum of “definitely agree” and “likely to agree” answers)

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS**EDUCATION IN RUSSIA: DEMAND, AVAILABILITY, AND QUALITY****YEAR OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY****EDUCATION IN RUSSIA: DEMAND, AVAILABILITY, AND QUALITY**

January 14, 2021

A third of Russians (31%) believe that education in Russia is “good” or “excellent”. However, 42% of respondents view it as “mediocre”; every fifth respondent (21%) considers it “bad” or “very bad”. Having an education is perceived by respondents as a need. Only 5% of respondents do not think it is important what level of education their child will achieve. Over many years university education has been most in demand (81%). Thirty-two percent of respondents think there is a direct relationship between the education level and person’s well-being; at the same time, most of respondents hold the opposite view (62%). Russians think that the main factors affecting children’s educational attainment are family’s financial situation (53%), child’s desire to learn (48%), family’s desire to give a child a decent education (34%), and finally, child’s individual abilities (29%). By and large, 59% of Russians are confident that today higher education is less available than it was in the Soviet era.

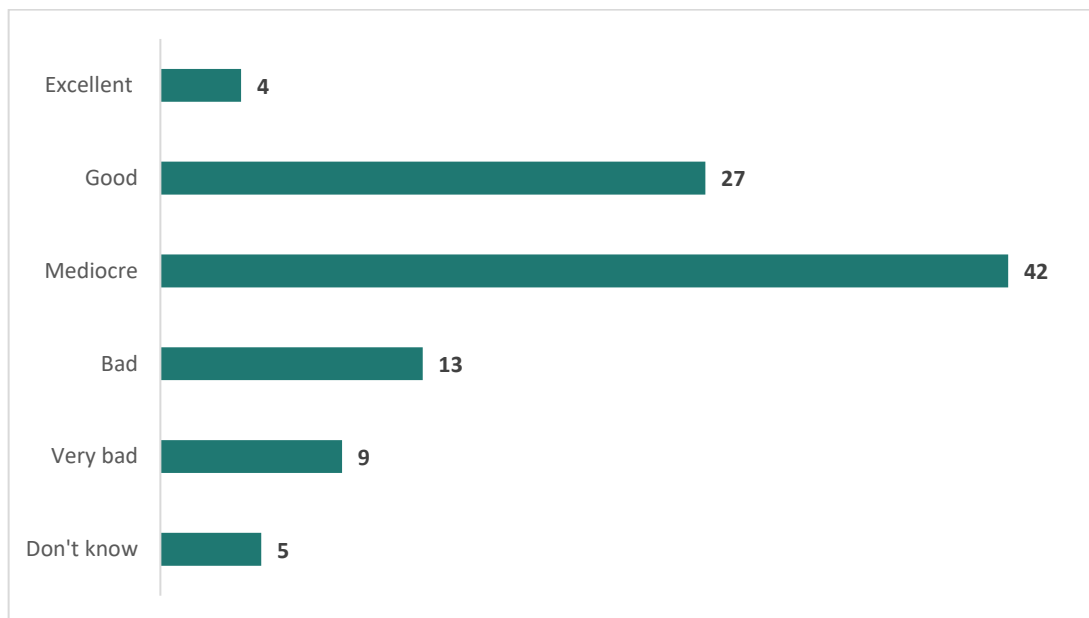


Fig. 1. How would you assess the current state of education in Russia? (closed-ended question, one answer, %)

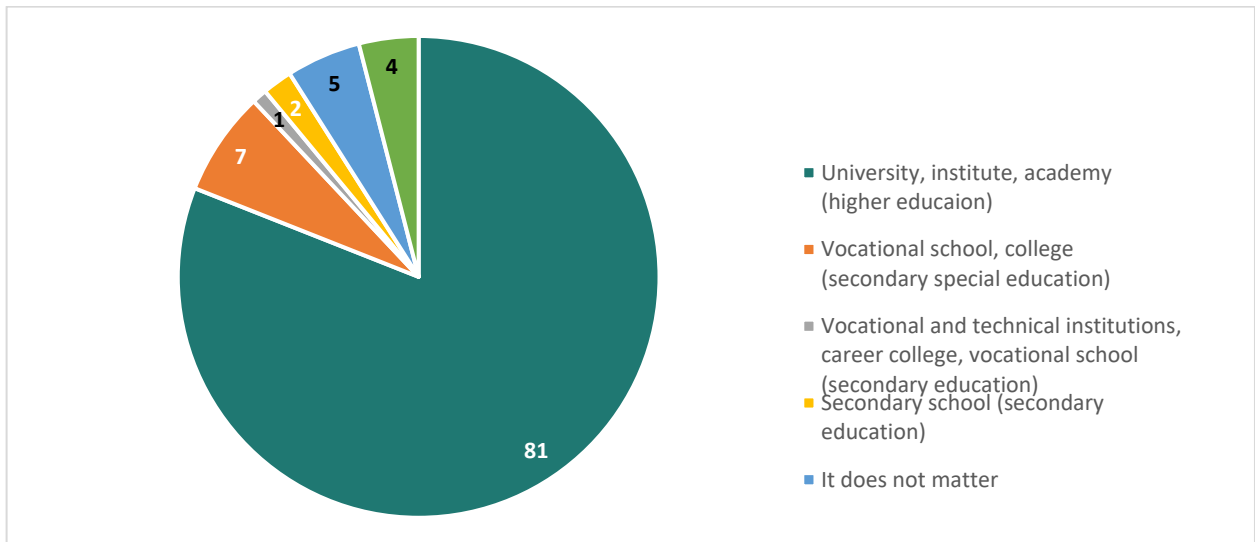


Fig. 2. What level of education would you like your children/grandchildren to attain? (closed-ended question, one answer, %)

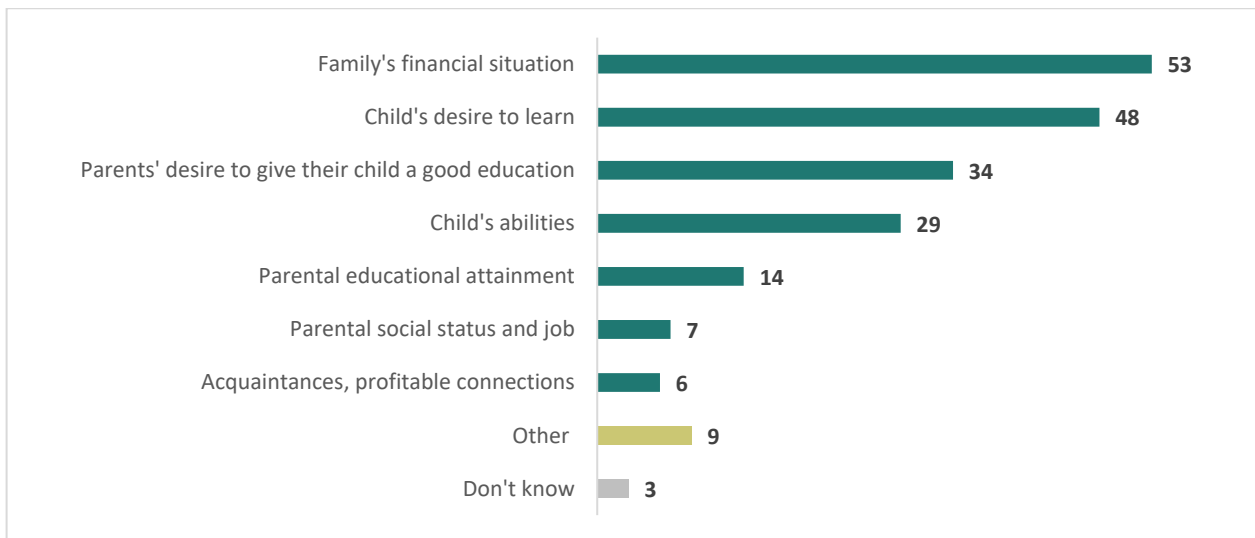


Fig. 3. Regarding the family the child grows up in, what is the most important factor affecting child's educational attainment? (closed-ended question, not more than three answers, %)

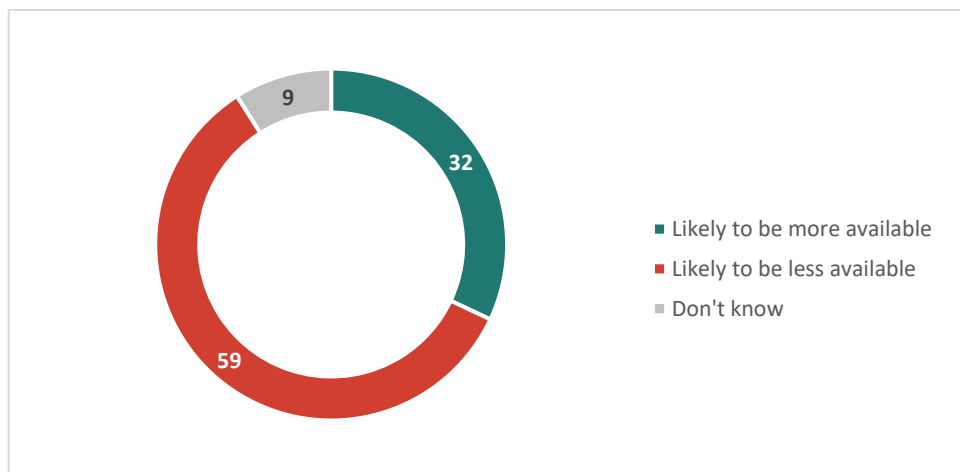


Fig. 4. In your opinion, is higher education more available or less available to Russians now than it was in the Soviet era? (closed-ended question, one answer, % of total respondents)

YEAR OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

January 3, 2021

Sixteen percent of Russians believe that the most considerable achievement in the Russian and world science over the recent decades has been fighting against COVID-19 and the coronavirus vaccine search (16%). This is followed by military technologies/defense industry/new equipment (10%). Slightly less than half of Russians (44%) are confident that world science is currently on the rise; but one-third of respondents (31%) oppose them. Thirty-one percent of Russians believe that Russian science, to a varying degree, outpaces the global one; however more than half of Russians say it is likely to be lagging behind global science: 34% consider that Russian science is slightly behind world science; and 21% say it is significantly lagging behind. To make a breakthrough, scientists need more funding (56%). Another one-third of respondents (34%) are confident that more efforts should be made to improve research skills and expertise, otherwise funding will not bring results. According to 51% of Russians, it is the responsibility of the scientific community to solve the problems of domestic science; and only every fifth (23%) says that decisions should be made by the government and government bodies.

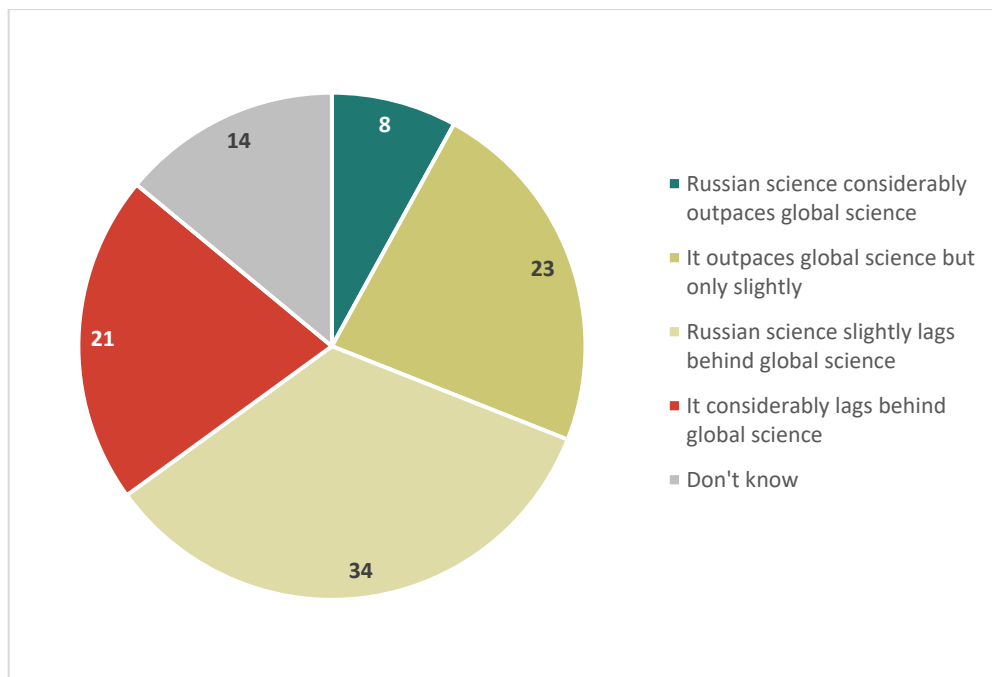


Fig. 5. On February 8th Russia marks Day of Russian Science. In your opinion, what is the pace of the modern Russian science in comparison with global science? (closed-ended question, one answer, % of total respondents)

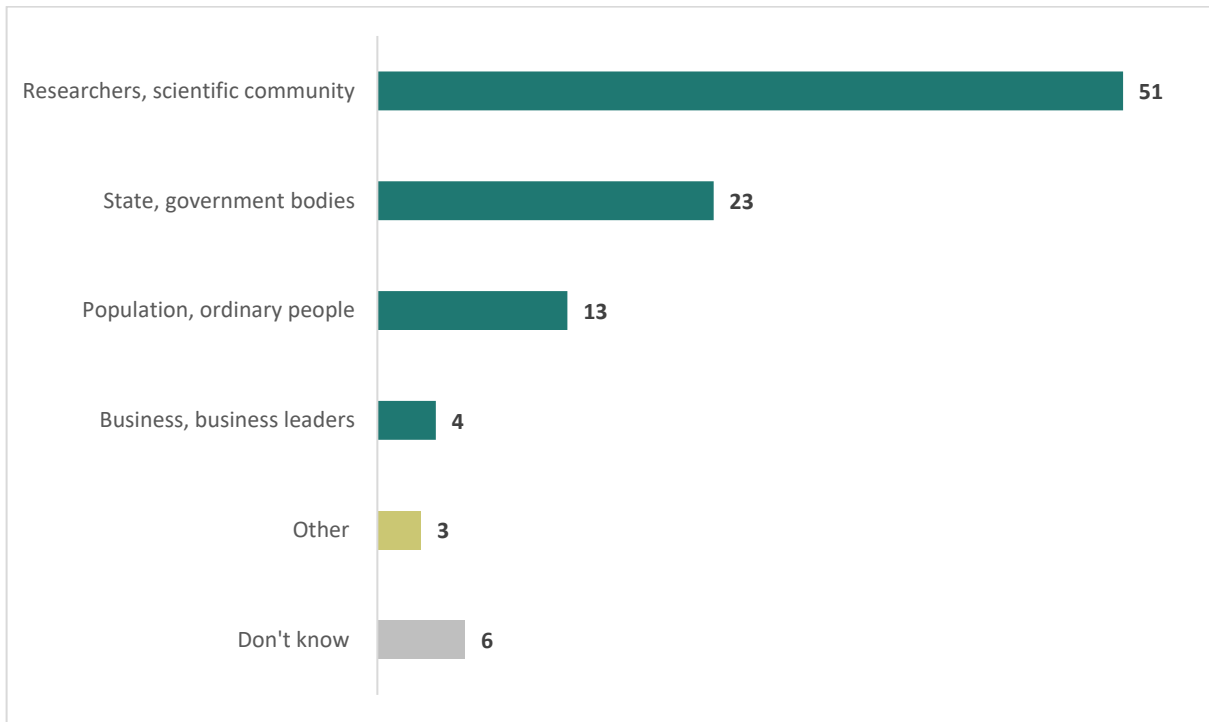


Fig. 6. In your opinion, who should be responsible for setting priorities for Russian science, choosing the direction it should evolve in? (closed-ended question, one answer, % of total respondents)

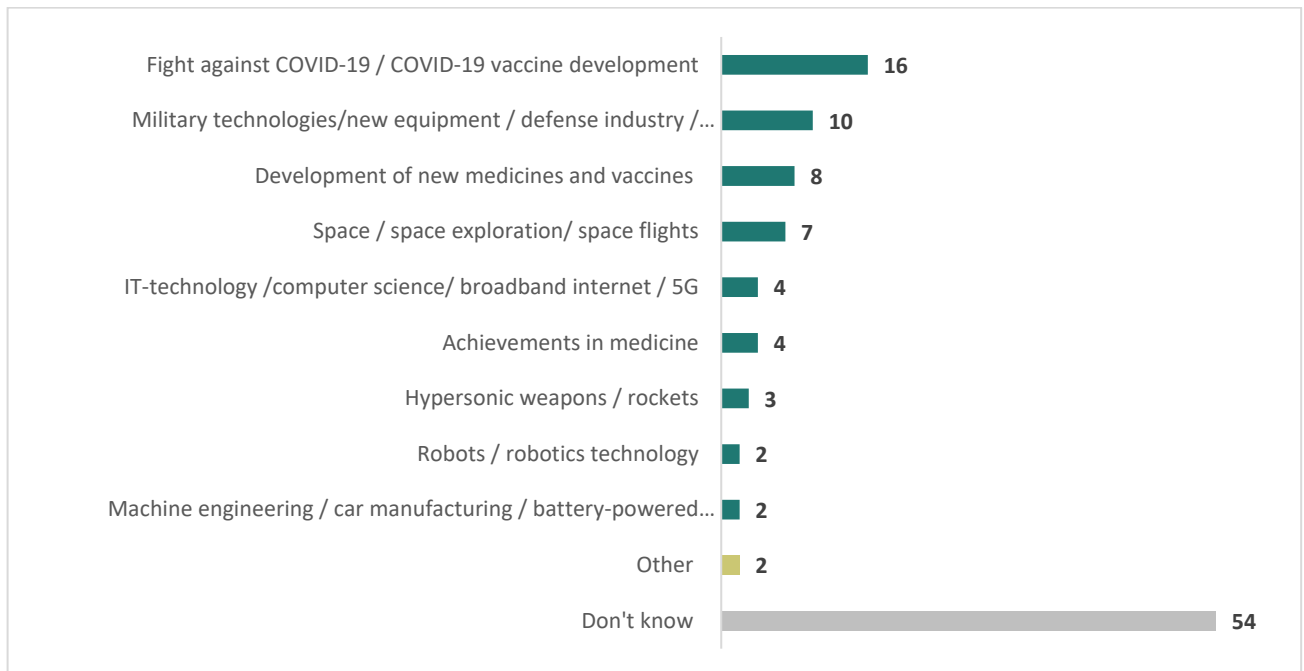


Fig. 7. Can you cite any Russian and global scientific achievements over the recent decades? (open-ended question, up to three answers, % of total respondents)

LIFESTYLE

REMOTE WORK IN THE RUSSIAN STYLE: PROS AND CONS

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January 28, 2021

Before the pandemic, most of Russians (84%) worked from an office/on the employer's premises. Only 4% had had remote work experience; 6% had combined remote work and office working. Today three-quarters of the working population (75%) work primarily in their office/on the employer's premises. Every tenth respondent (11%) works remotely; another 12% have a blended working mode. Those who mentioned on-site work/work on the premises are mainly residents of million-plus cities (74%) and people living in the cities with less than 100,000 inhabitants (83%). More than half of the working Russians say it is more convenient to work at a distance (64%). One-third of Russians oppose them (29%). Remote work is favored basically by women (70% vs 60% men), residents of Moscow and St Petersburg (75%). Every second Russian (52%) who works remotely or combines remote work with office work considers that this mode has an equal number of pros and cons. Every fourth respondent (25%) sees more benefits in remote work; every fifth finds more disadvantages (20%). Advantages of the remote work are often cited by women (30% vs 22% men). Most of Russians (84%) who previously combined remote work and office time or travelled to work did not change their place of residence after they switched to remote work.

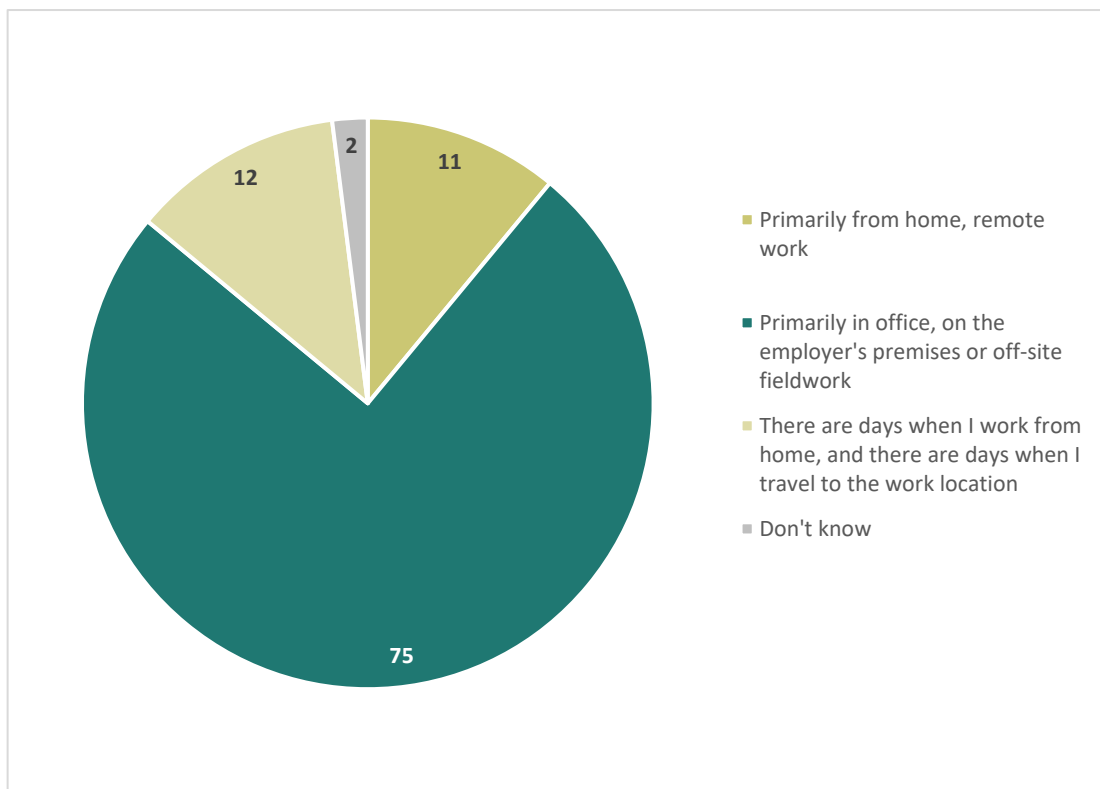


Fig. 1. The COVID-19 outbreak has made certain companies switch to remote work this year. What is your current work model? (closed-ended question, one answer, % of the working Russians)

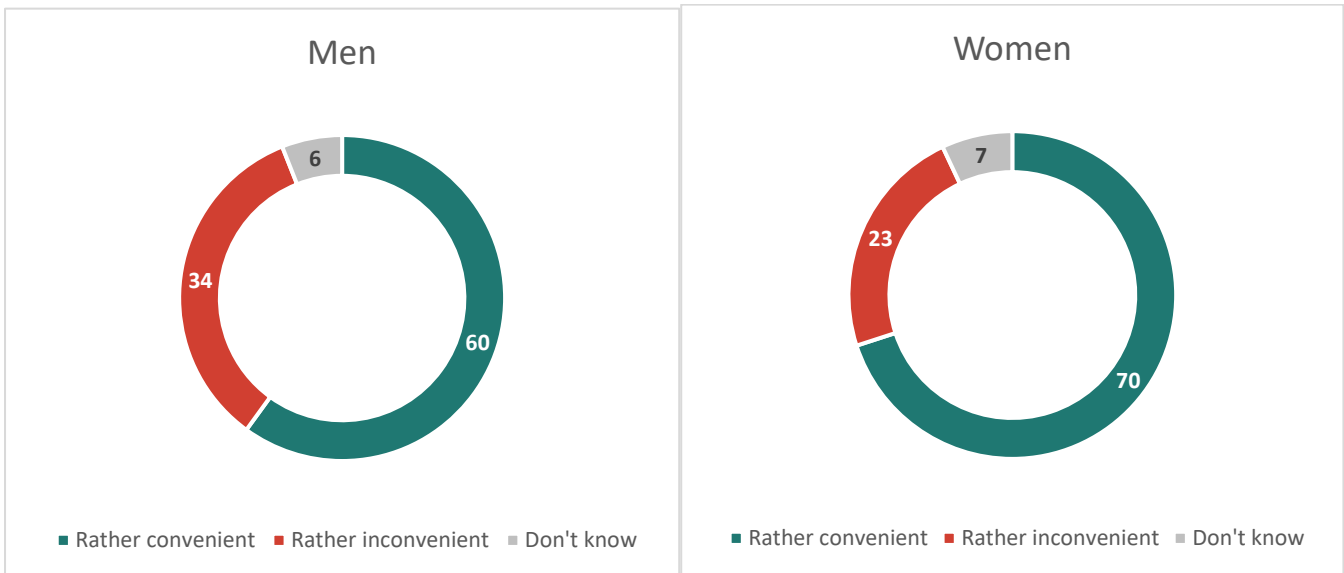


Fig. 2. In general, do you find it convenient to work remotely? (closed-ended question, one answer, % of those who work remotely or have a blended work model)

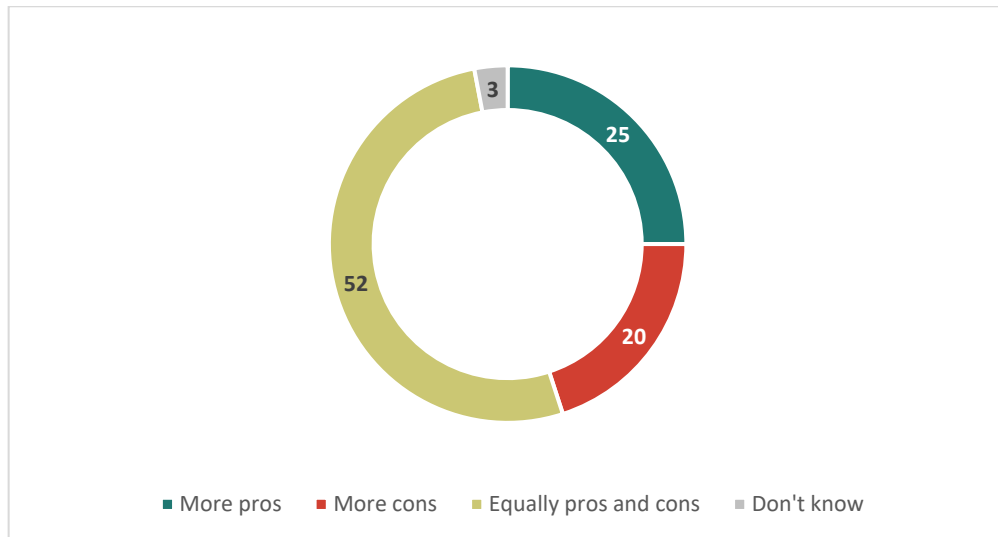


Fig. 3. In your opinion, are there more pros or more cons, or is there an equal number of pros and cons in remote work? (closed-ended question, one answer, % of those who work remotely or have a blended work model)

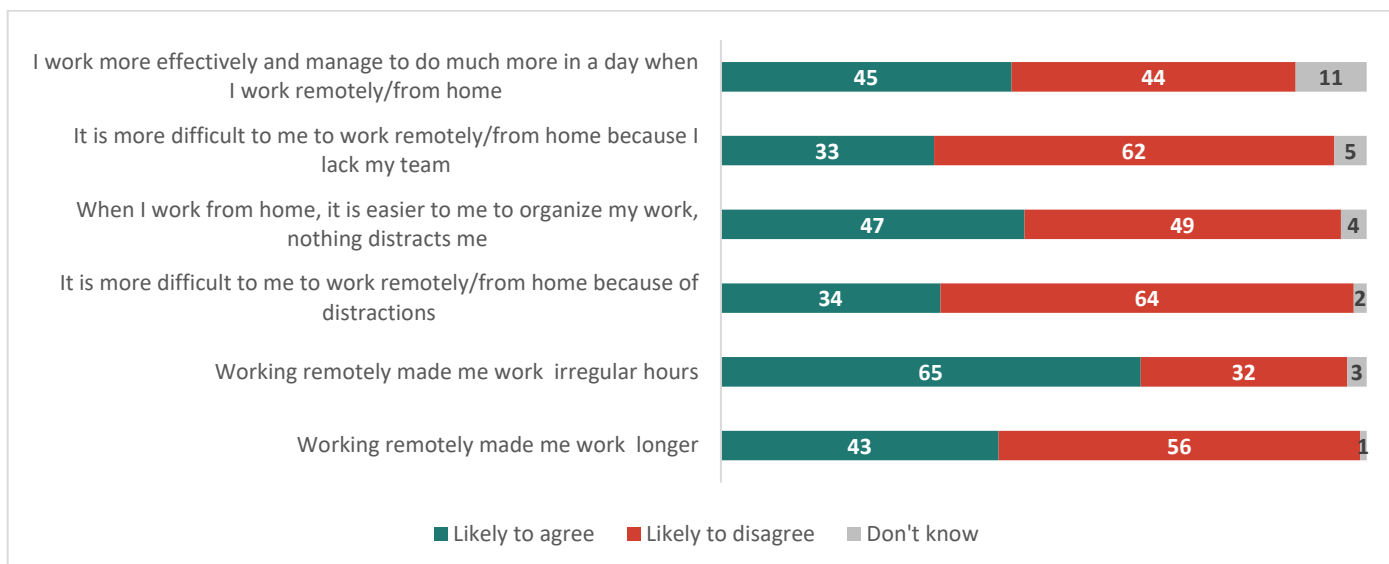


Fig. 4. Now I will read several statements about remote work. Please, tell me if you agree or disagree with these statements. (closed-ended question, one answer, % of those who work remotely or have a blended work model)

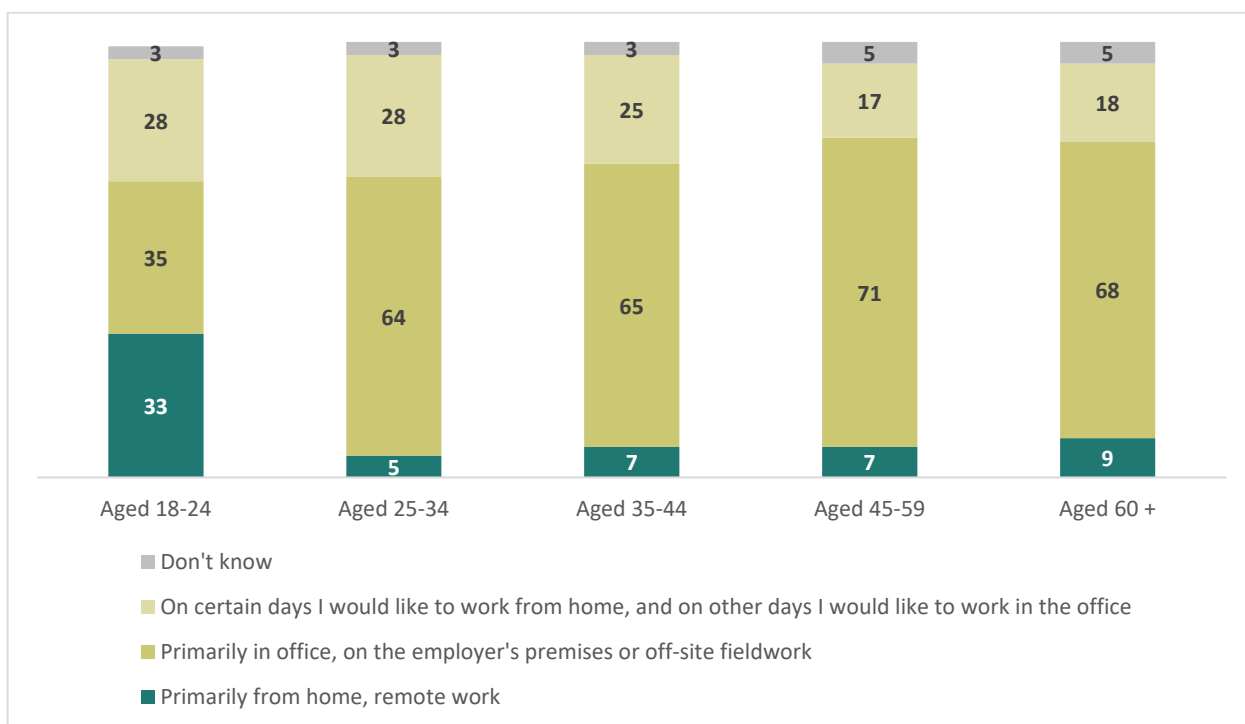


Fig. 5. What work model would you prefer in the future? (closed-ended question, one answer, % of those who work)