

OPINION MONITORING: MAY—JUNE 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.

CONTENTS

POLITICS

RUSSIA WITHOUT SCHENGEN

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

SAVINGS AND DEPOSITS DURING THE SPECIAL MILITARY OPERATION

A HUMAN WITHOUT A HOME

LIFESTYLE

OFFICE ROMANCE, OR ABOUT LOVE AT WORK

TAXI IN RUSSIA: OPINION OF USERS

POLITICS

RUSSIA WITHOUT SCHENGEN

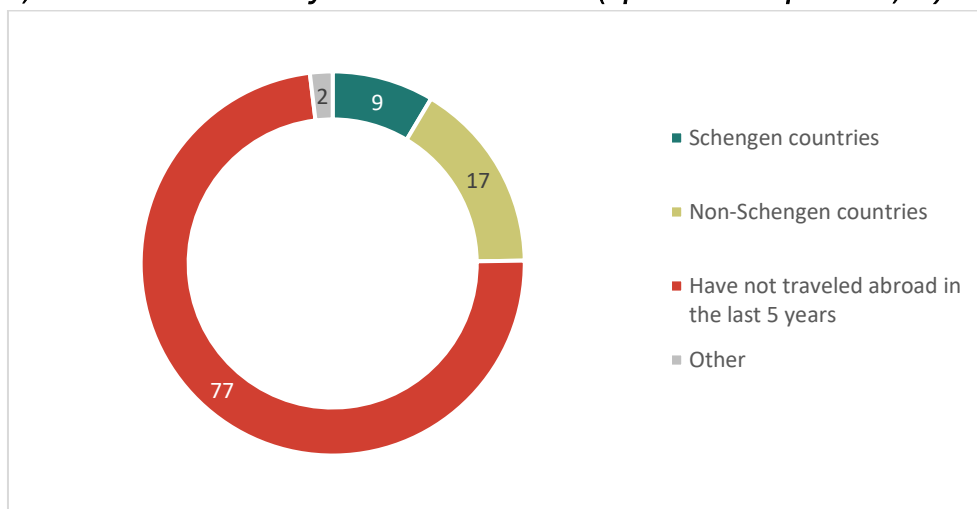
RUSSIA WITHOUT SCHENGEN

September 11, 2022

Over the past five years, 23% of Russians have traveled abroad. Of these, 9% visited the countries of the Schengen zone (Germany, Italy, Spain, France, etc.), twice as many of our compatriots were in places where a visa is not required (17%). The most popular foreign destination is Turkey; over the past five years, Turkey has been visited by the same number of people as all the countries of the Schengen area combined – 8% vs. 9%. Turkey’s advantages include proximity, accessibility, high level of service, and ease of entry, besides it is in the top 5 countries most friendly to Russia¹. 77% of respondents have not traveled abroad for the last five years. Among citizens with secondary education and below, villagers, and active TV viewers, this proportion grows even higher (90%–97%, 90%, and 96%, respectively).

The low demand for foreign trips determines the low proportion of those who have the appropriate documents. Today, 29% of Russians have a foreign passport, only 2% have a Schengen visa. In the group of those who have been abroad over the past five years, the figures are significantly higher – 76% and 8%, respectively. 70% of Russian citizens have none of the above. It is mainly «typical travelers» who have a foreign passport: 35–44-year-olds (39%), highly educated (45%), financially secure (37%), and residents of Moscow and Saint Petersburg (52%). Every eighth person (12%) plans to receive or renew a passport soon. In the group of its current owners, same intentions declare 20%, every fifth. In this regard, it can be assumed that it is more about replacing the existing document than about obtaining a new one: those who have traveled will continue to travel abroad, and those who have not traveled outside Russia are unlikely to do so in the foreseeable future. The difficult geopolitical situation is not an obstacle to travel for young people aged 18–34 (16%-21%) and residents of megacities (20%). Only 1% of respondents plan to receive a Schengen visa in the near future, meaning that the complication of the procedure for issuing a visa will affect a minority of Russian citizens.

Fig. 1. Tell me, please, have you traveled abroad, to other countries in the last five years or not? If yes, which countries did you visit most often? (open-ended question, %)



¹ According to an August poll by VCIOM, 17% of Russians called Turkey a country friendly to Russia.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS
SAVINGS AND DEPOSITS DURING THE SPECIAL MILITARY OPERATION
A HUMAN WITHOUT A HOME

SAVINGS AND DEPOSITS DURING THE SPECIAL MILITARY OPERATION²

September 2, 2022

The maximum willingness to entrust savings to banks among Russians was observed in 2017 – 53%; then the indicator decreased (2018 and 2019 – 46%, 2020 – 33%, 2021 – 35%). Currently, it amounts to 34%. Since 2020, the proportion of those who believe that now, if there is money in the bank, it is better to take it away has prevailed (2020 – 46%, 2021 – 41%, 2022 – 35%). In two years, the indicator decreased by 11 percentage points; apparently, this is a consequence of the stabilization of investment strategies after the pandemic. Most of the Russians admitted that they would not like to have either an account in a foreign bank (88%) or cash (80%), even if they had such opportunities. However, having foreign currency in Russia seems to be more attractive than a foreign bank account (13% vs. 9%). Speaking about what to keep savings in if they had to make a choice between the ruble and foreign currency, most respondents opt for the domestic currency – 64%. 8% of respondents prefer US dollar, 3% – euro. Yuan turns out to be more attractive than dollars or euros for the Russians (10% prefer this currency). Another common strategy is to keep savings not in currency, but in alternative assets – real estate, metals, stocks, etc., 44% would prefer it. The savings model is largely influenced by such factors as gender, age, urbanization, and style of media consumption. Men, residents of large cities, young people, and high educated respondents are more likely to invest in foreign currency or alternative assets. When choosing between banks and keeping cash at home, every second would prefer an intermediate option: part of the money in the bank, and part at home (47%). Over the last 12 years, the prevalence of this strategy has grown 1.5 times (2010 – 31%). Banks are still perceived as less preferable option than keeping cash at home (18% vs. 24%).

More than a third of Russians indicated that the special military operation and Western sanctions did not have a significant impact on their savings (39%). Every fifth admitted that against the background of these events, the amount of his/her savings decreased (21%). 5% of Russian citizens were able to increase their savings. In total, today, 53% of those who had savings prior to the special military operation and the introduction of Western sanctions still have savings. The majority of those with savings noted that they did not change the structure of their savings in any way after the start of the special military operation (78%). At this stage, not the investment, but the savings model prevails among the population. This is due not only to the uncertainty of economic prospects, but also to low confidence in the banking system, which is especially true for women and Russians aged over 45 years old. Investment interest is higher among men and young people. Satisfaction with the financial situation plays in favor of the usual ways of managing finances – bank deposits, keeping savings in rubles. Among Russians who consider their incomes low, the propensity for financial risk is higher – they trust the banking system less, tend to think that it is better to withdraw money from banks now, but more often say that they would like to buy foreign currency, dollars or euros.

² Results of the VCIOM survey conducted as part of a special project with RBC.

Fig. 1. In your opinion, after the start of the special military operation in Ukraine and the imposition of Western sanctions, the total amount of your savings has increased, decreased, or has not changed significantly? (closed-ended question, one answer, %)

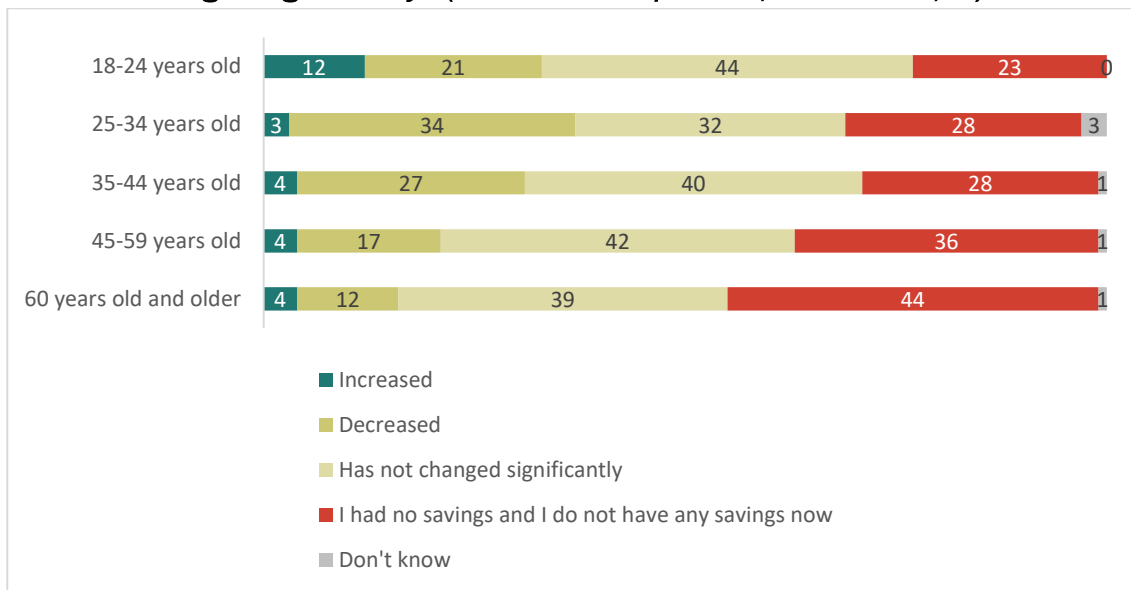
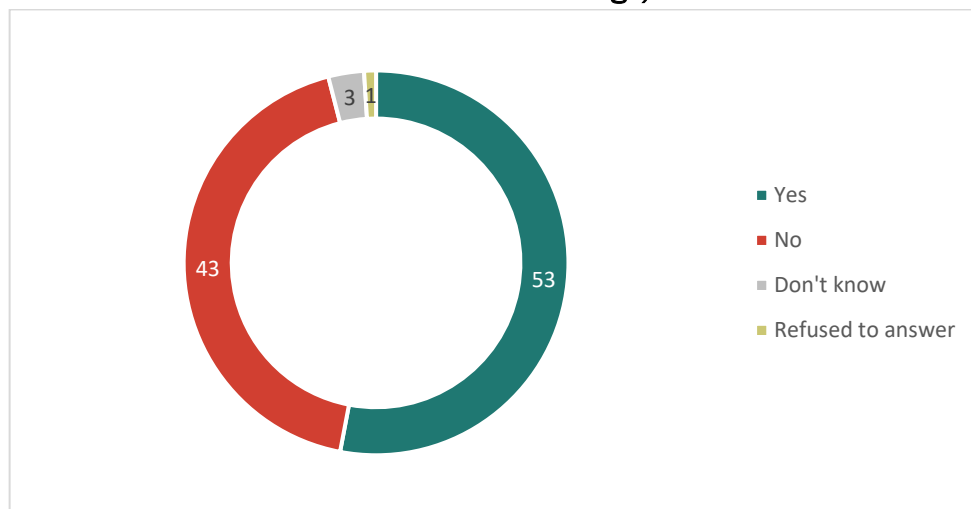


Fig. 2. As for now, do you (your family) have savings or not? (closed-ended question, one answer, % of those who had savings)



A HUMAN WITHOUT A HOME³
October 15, 2022

In the opinion of the Russians, the majority of the homeless can return to a normal life only with assistance (65%), 16% believe that such people can return to normal life on their own, and 9% do not believe in such a possibility in principle. Approximately every third respondent (27%) knows that there are organizations in their place of residence that help the homeless by providing them food, clothes, temporarily accommodation, and so on. The same proportion of respondents admitted that they do not

³ Results of a pro bono study by VCIOM conducted jointly with the charitable organization *Nochlezhka*.

know anything about places where one can get help in a situation of homelessness (27%). 17% are not sure, but assume that such organizations do exist, a little less, on the contrary, suppose they are absent (12%), and 14% are firmly convinced that there are no such organizations. Most Russians (77%) assume they can support a charitable organization or foundation that helps homeless people over the next year. Most often, they choose clothing, food assistance (53%), or a one-time money transfer (31%). Less likely are people willing to volunteer (11%), provide a professional service (7%), or sign up for regular financial assistance (5%). In the ranking of conditions that increase the likelihood of assistance, the first places are occupied by confidence in who or what the money will go to (43%), a report from the fund on the allocation of funds (26%), the ability to help a specific person and to address not only individuals, but also aim at systematically solving problems in general (24% each). Other important conditions are the successful operation of the fund (21%) and an organized collection of the funds at the benefactor's place of work (20%). To a lesser extent, people's decision can be influenced by such conditions as the presentation of the fund by a famous person (8%), advertising of the fund or the opportunity to tell in social networks that they supported the fund (4% each), inclusion in the public list of helping persons (3%). In other words, for citizens, the perceived result from their help, the investment of personal resources in solving the problem, is more important than the advertising of the fund or the publicity of support.

Fig. 3. Do you have ownership of any residential real estate in Russia – an apartment, house – or not? (closed-ended question, one answer, %)

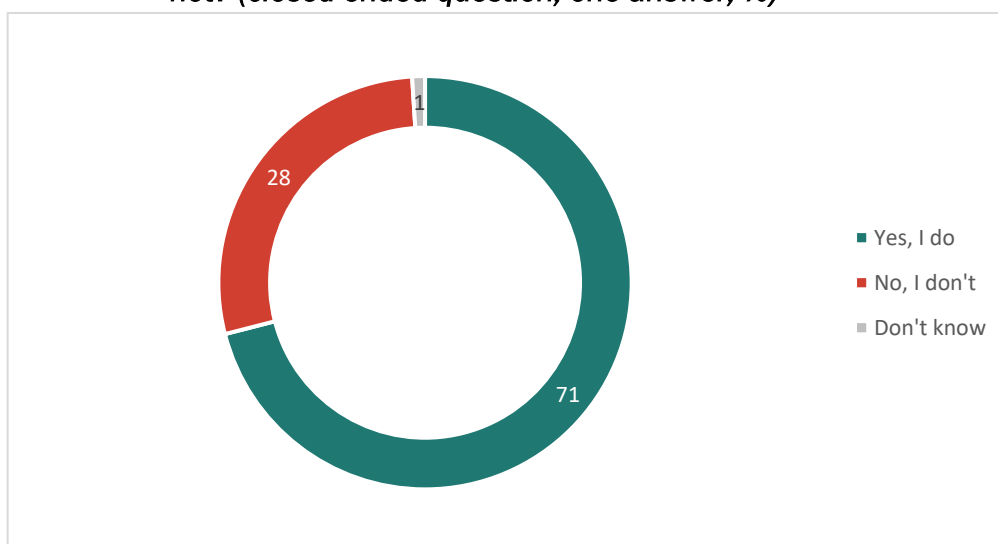
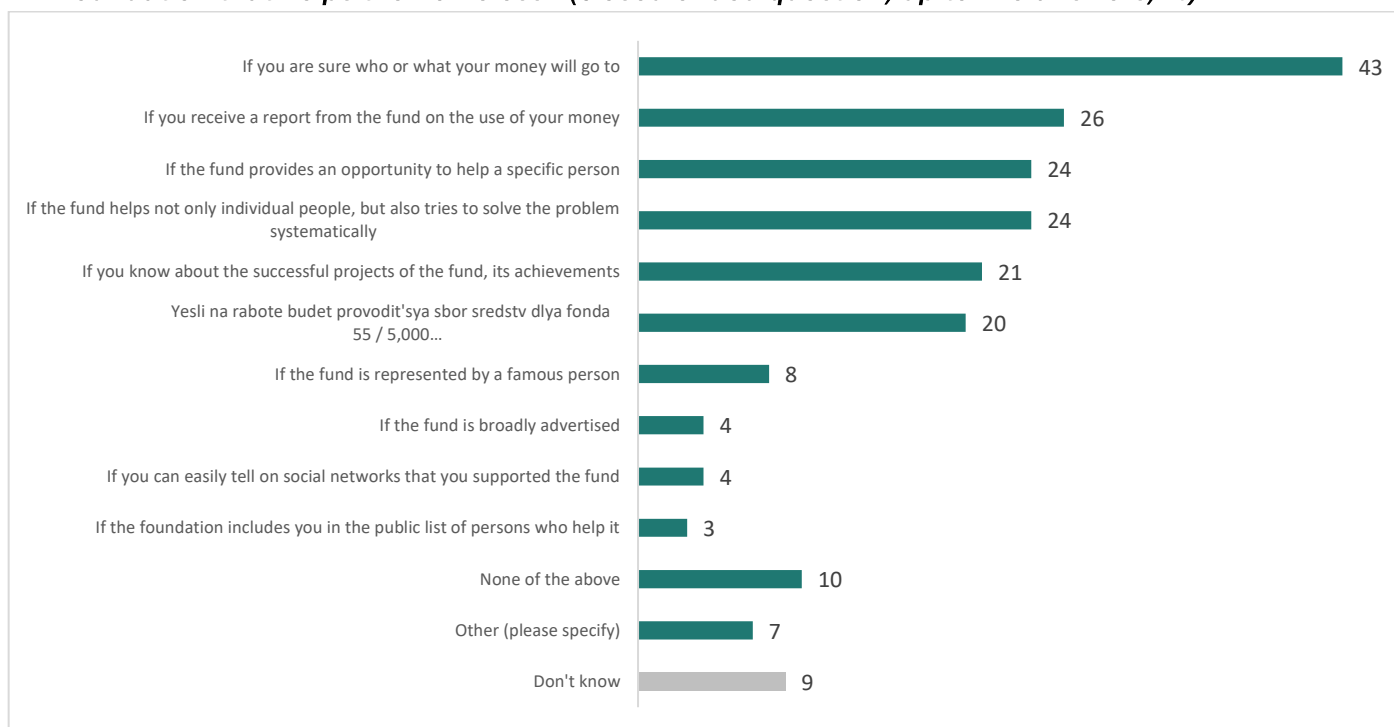


Fig. 4. What do you think would make you more prone to donate money or items to a charity or foundation that helps the homeless? (closed-ended question, up to five answers, %)



LIFESTYLE

OFFICE ROMANCE, OR ABOUT LOVE AT WORK

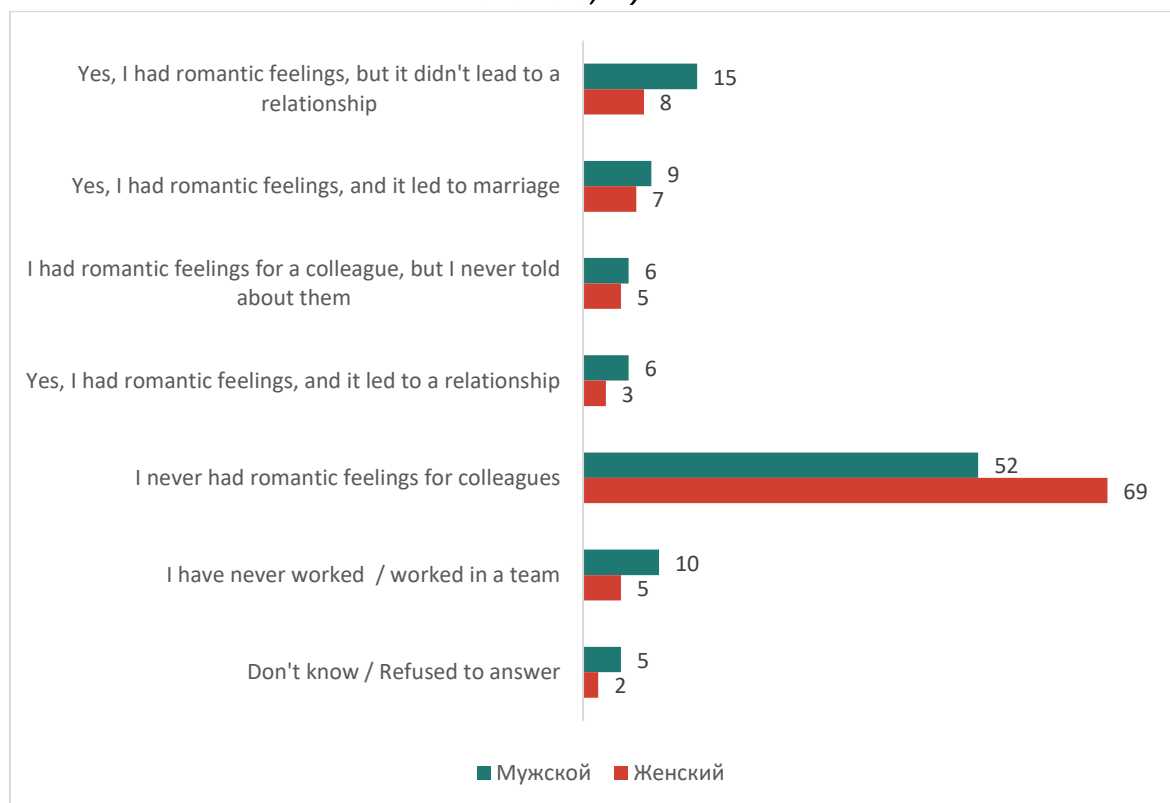
TAXI IN RUSSIA: OPINION OF USERS

OFFICE ROMANCE, OR ABOUT LOVE AT WORK

September 10, 2022

Almost a third of Russians had romantic feelings for their colleagues (28%). In 11% of cases, this did not lead to a relationship, and 8% of such cases ended in marriage. Another 5% did not dare to tell a colleague about their feelings, and 4% admitted that they had been in a relationship with a colleague for some time. Women are more likely than men to say that they have never experienced romantic feelings for colleagues (69% vs. 52%). Over the past 10 years, Russians have become more likely to say that an office romance may well be the beginning of a serious relationship (2012 – 37%, 2022 – 50%) and after the end of the relationship, colleagues can continue to work together effectively (2012 – 36%, 2022 – 48%). Every second Russian opposes the ban on relationships in the workplace, the figure increased by 1.7 times (29% in 2012, 48% in 2022), while the share of those ready to support such a ban has not changed over 10 years (27%). At the same time, the position has strengthened in society that office romances harm the business process (2012 – 49%, 2022 – 66%), and people working in the same team should not go beyond official relations (2012 – 31%, 2022 – 40%). On the one hand, this looks like a contradiction, but, on the other hand, it can be explained by the simultaneous strengthening of both corporate regulation trends and trends towards individual autonomy, the employer's non-interference in the personal lives of employees.

Fig. 1. Everything happens in life. Tell me, have you ever had an «office romance», a romantic relationship with a work colleague or not? And, if so, what did it lead to? You can select more than one answer if you have had such a relationship several times (closed-ended question, up to four answers, %)

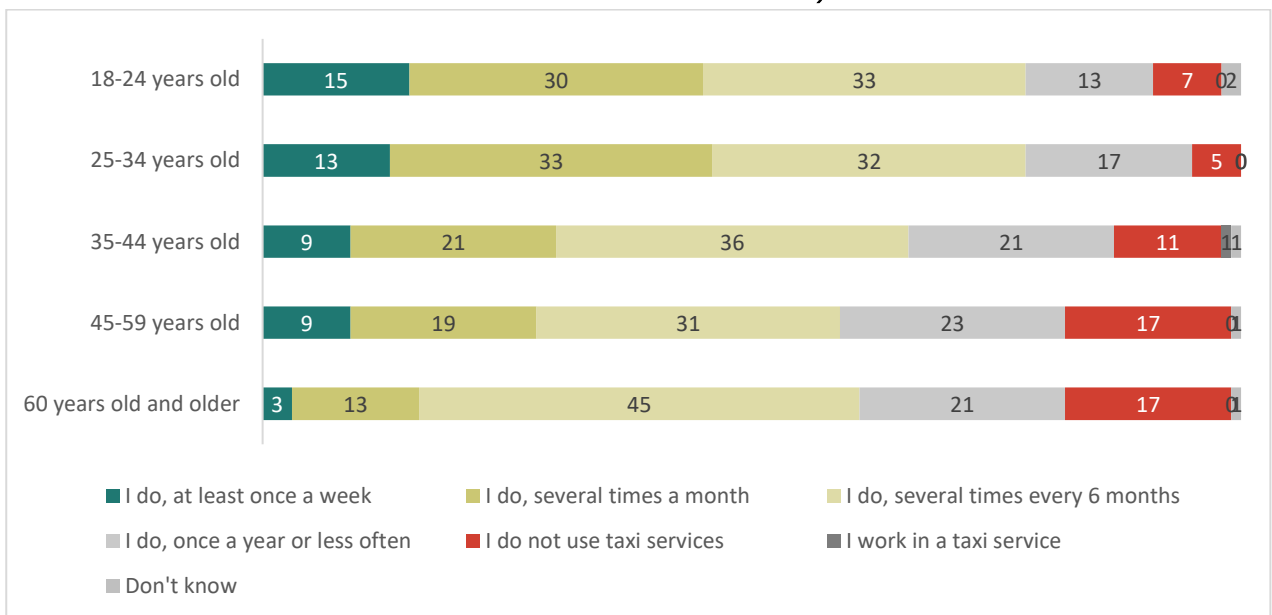


TAXI IN RUSSIA: OPINION OF USERS⁴

October 21–23, 2022

Currently, Russians rate the development of taxi services higher than the development of public transport routes (71% vs. 50%, respectively). At that, the capacity of roads is rated even lower – in total, only almost every second person (47%) estimated this parameter positively (*good, very good*). In total, 66% of respondents use taxi services with different frequency throughout the year. Of these, almost a third are regular passengers: 29% choose this mode of transportation at least several times a month. The share of those who use a taxi service several times every six months is slightly higher (37%). Another fifth chooses this transport in exceptional cases – once a year or less often (20%). The duration of the taxi waiting time depends on the traffic situation, the number of free drivers in the area, and the time of day. Most taxi users are satisfied with the duration of the waiting time for a car (79%). Among the residents of Moscow and Saint Petersburg, this answer was given by the majority of respondents – 94%. 14% of the users are not satisfied with the waiting time for a taxi. The Russians who use this means of transportation are also satisfied with the number of taxis in their locality: 71% rated it as sufficient. The desire to expand taxi fleets was expressed by every seventh («we have less taxis than necessary, we need to increase their number» – 14%). An alternative point of view gets less support – only 4% believe that the number of taxis in the area should be reduced.

Fig. 2. Do you use taxi services? If yes, how often? (closed-ended question, one answer, %; two answers allowed for taxi workers)



⁴ The VCIOM survey was commissioned by ANO *Institute for Regional Problems*.

Fig. 3. In general, are you satisfied or not satisfied with the number of taxi cars in your city/town? (closed-ended question, one answer, % of taxi users)

