Covid-19 Monitor: Understanding public opinion on Covid-19 in Georgia





Kingdom of the Netherlands

Today

- Methodology
- Results
 - Attitudes
 - Behavior
 - Well being
 - Expectations
- Questions and answers

Methodology

- Data was collected using the random digit dialing method in Georgian, Armenian, Azerbaijani, and Russian languages;
- Results are weighted using demographic information from the 2014 Georgian National Census adjusting on respondents' gender, age, ethnic identity, education, and residence.

Survey Wave	Fieldwork dates	Sample size	Margin of Error	Response Rate
1	April 29 - May 3	992	3.1%	42.1%
2	May 7 - May 10	1037	3.0%	40.5%
3	May 14 - May 17	1053	3.0%	38.6%
4	May 21 - May 23	1002	3.1%	38.8%
5	May 28 - May 31	1036	3.0%	35.1%
6	June 4 - June 6	1095	3.0%	37.0%

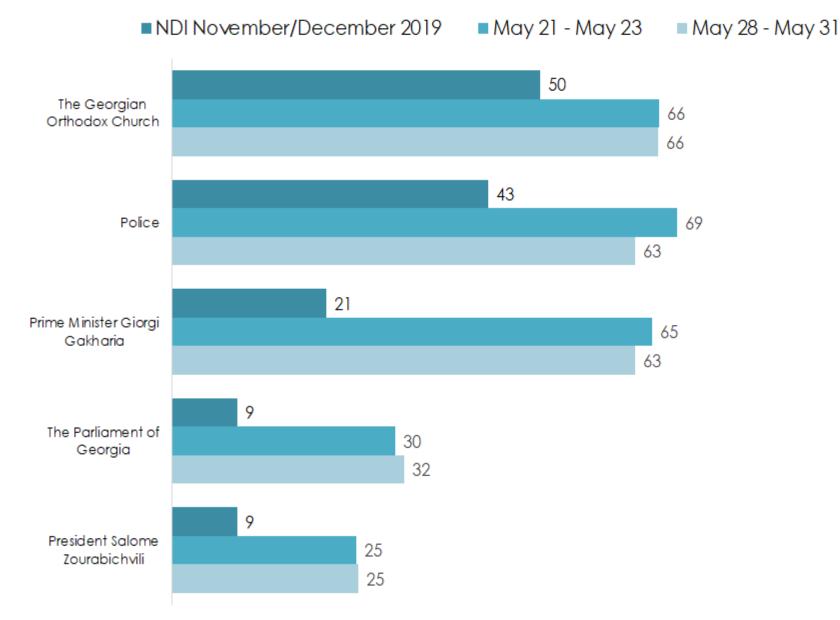




Assessing institutional perfromance well and very well by wave of the study (%)

Institutional performance assessments increased significantly during the crisis, across all institutions measured.

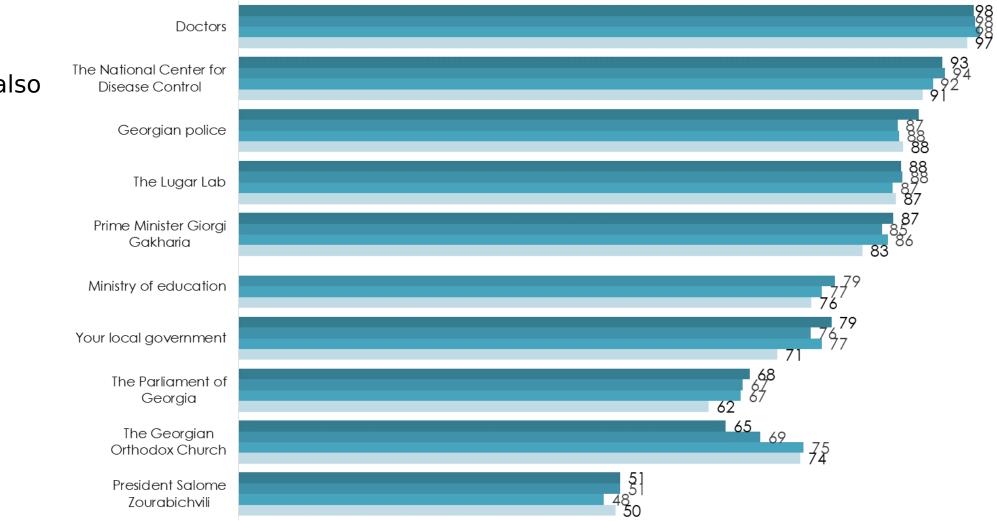
The church gained, but occupies a relatively low position compared to prior to the crisis.





Assessing institutional perfromance in responce to coronavirus well and very well by wave of the study (%)

April 29 - May 3 May 7 - May 10 May 14 - May 17 June 4 - June 6



Attitudes towards Corona specific performance were also very high.



Trust in institutions (Caucasus Barometer 2019 versus Corona Monitor Wave 1) (%)

■ Fully trust ■ Rather trust ■ Neither trust nor distrust ■ Rather distrust ■ Fully distrust ■ DK/RA

4 2 3

government April 29 - May 3 Local Caucasus Barometer 2019 ²arliament April 29 - May 3 Caucasus Barometer 2019 April 29 - May 3 Police Caucasus Barometer 2019 April 29 - May 3 President Caucasus Barometer 2019 Religious institutions to which you belong April 29 - May 3 4 2

Caucasus Barometer 2019

There is a similar pattern, with large gains in trust in institutions, with the exception of trust in the Georgian Orthodox church, which was slightly down at the outset of early May.



Approval of different policies, wave 1 (%)

■ Approve ■ Disapprove ■ Don't know ■ Refuse to answer

	Wearing masks in closed areas		94		4
Approval of policy was consistently high	Placing a curfew on the country from 9PM to 6AM daily	83		15	2
throughout the crisis.	Closing down cemeteries	79		17	4
The least approved of policies included:	Extending the state of emergency from April 21 to May 22	78		18	4
•	Restricting movement in and out of the country's large cities	76		21	3
	Restricting movement by cars from April 17 to April 27	75		22	2
	Closing down large numbers of businesses that involve face to face interaction	71		18 11	
	Leaving churches open for Easter	61	24	13	2
	Restricting online sales of some products	44	33	23	



Approval of different policies, wave 2 (%)

	Approve	Disapprove	Don't know		
The government's plan to gradually reduce restrictions on social and economic activity		93			4 2
Flying Georgian citizens back to Georgia		92		5	3
Providing socially vulnerable people with GEL 600 for the next six months.		91		e	3
Providing self-employed people who can prove they lost income GEL 300 once.		89		4	7
Providing income tax exemption for formally employed people making GEL 750 or less per month for six months.		89		4	7
Providing formally employed people who lost their jobs during the pandemic a monthly allowance of GEL 200 for six months.		86		10	3
The decision to give self-employed individuals that lost their jobs 1 time compensation of 300 GEL		84		12	4
Broadcasting lessons for school students on the public broadcaster		82		8 1	.0
Closing down schools until September		81		12	6
Increased penalties for breaking emergency rules		59	37		3

Approval of policy was consistently high throughout the crisis.

The least approved of policies included:



Approval of different policies, wave 3 (%)

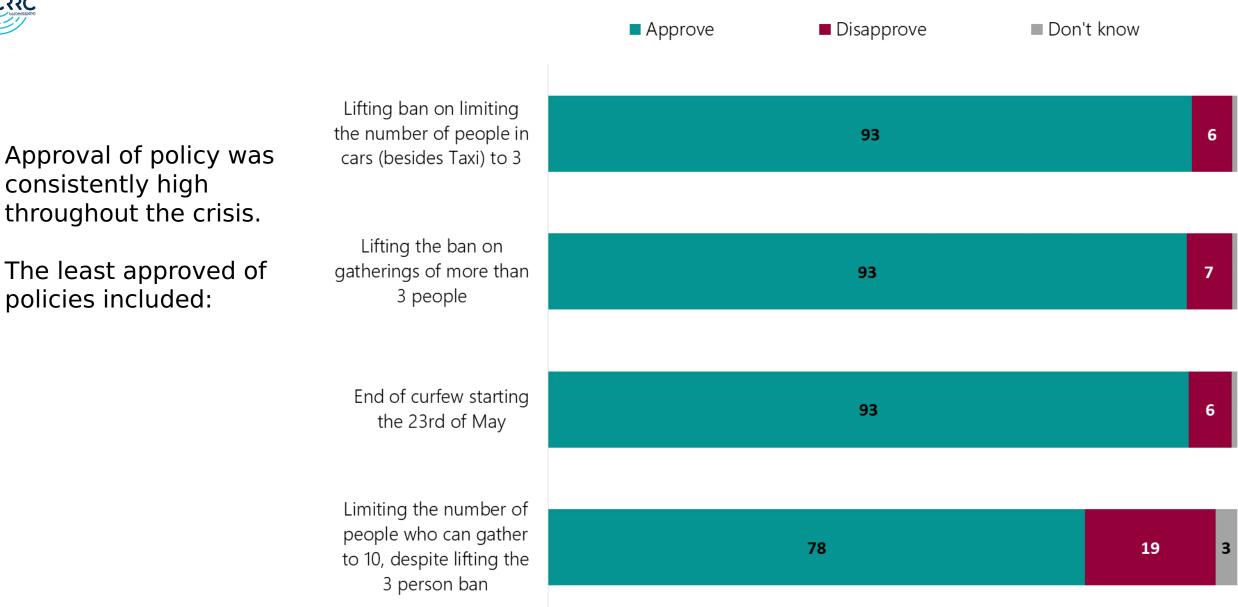
	Approve	Disapprove	■ Don't know
	The government's plan to gradually reduce restrictions on social and economic activity	97	2
Approval of policy was	Subsidizing utility payments	96	3
consistently high throughout the crisis.	Lifting the ban on the use of cars	95	4
throughout the chois.	Providing socially vulnerable people with GEL 600 for the next six months.	94	4
The least approved of policies included:	Opening of Batumi and Kutaisi	94	4
policies included.	Providing formally employed people who lost their jobs during the pandemic a monthly allowance of GEL 200 for six months.	91	6 3
	Providing income tax exemption for formally employed people making GEL 750 or less per month for six months.	91	<mark>3</mark> 6
	The decision to give self-employed individuals that lost their jobs 1 time compensation of 300 GEL	90	<mark>7</mark> 3
	Allowing domestic tourism to open from June 15	82	13 4
	Exempting tourism companies from income tax until the end of the year	79	6 14
	Subsidizing the loans of large hotels	73	7 20
	Allowing international tourism to start from July 1	55	37 8



Approval of different policies, wave 4 (%)

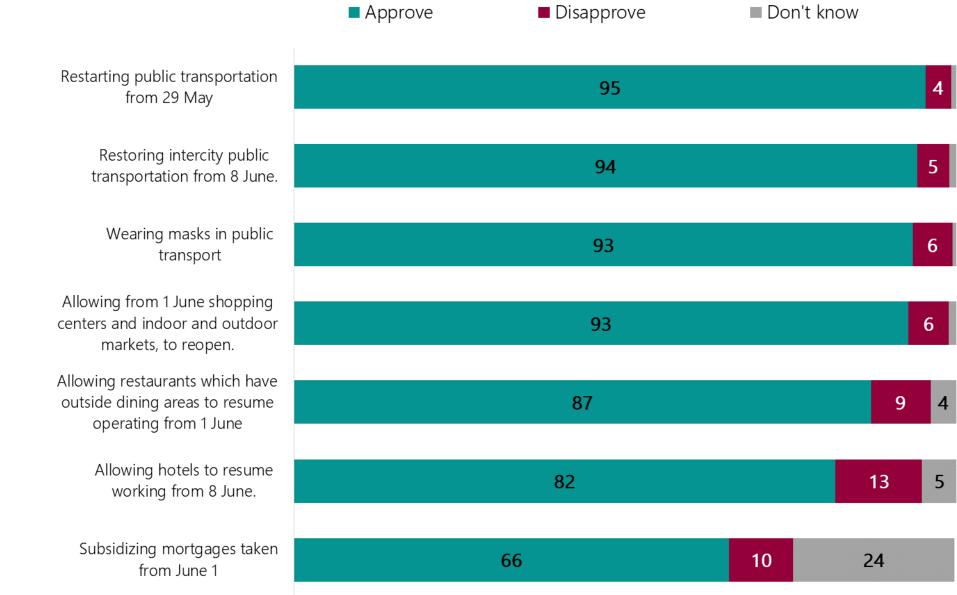
- Georgenaueren		Approve	Disapprove	■ Don't know
	Gradually opening agricultural markets		97	2
Approval of policy was	Allowing planned surgeries to start again		97	1
consistently high throughout the crisis.	Lifting the ban on entering and exiting Tbilisi		96	3
The least approved of	Allowing construction activities to start after their closure		96	2
policies included:	Allowing manufacturing activities to start after their closure		95	3
	Providing GEL 1 discounts on diesel for farmers		94	5
	Providing assistance totaling GEL 200 per 1 hectar of agricultural land owned for farmers		93	5
	Not extending the state of emergency beyond May 22		91	<mark>6</mark> 2
	Opening beauty salons from May 18		91	<mark>6</mark> 3
	Opening outdoor recreational areas to the public		80	15 5

Approval of different policies, wave 5 (%)





Approval of different policies, wave 6 (%)



Approval of policy was consistently high throughout the crisis.

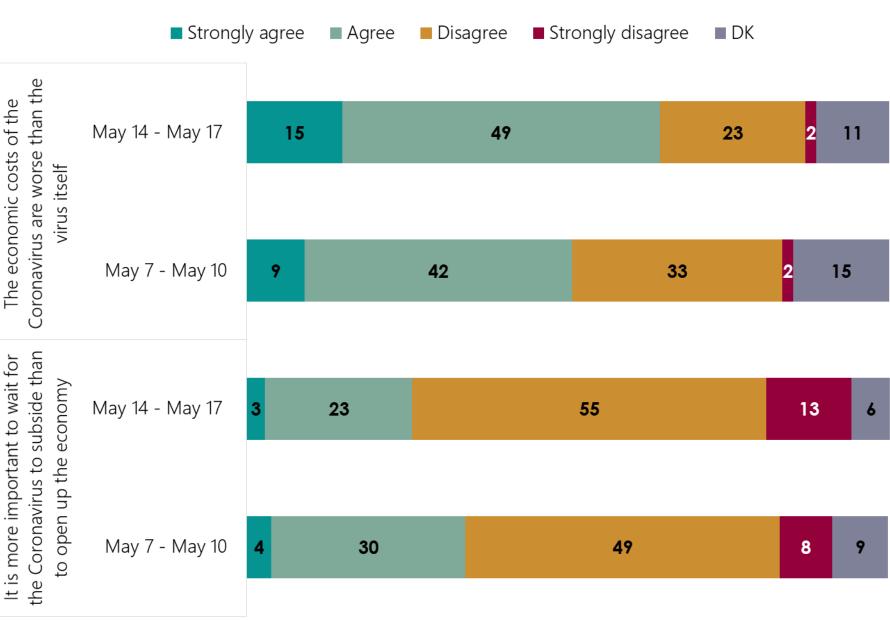
The least approved of policies included:



Opening the economy versus letting the virus subside (%)

People tended to favor opening the economy up instead of waiting for the virus to subside and this sentiment grew during the crisis

These views were more commonly held in Tbilisi than outside of it.





Please tell me whether you think [the following statements] are true or false. (%)

Don't know

False

True

Misinformation was present in Georgia during the crisis as well as widespread uncertainty over many pieces of misinformation;

Most people thought they had seen some of form of misinformation during the crisis;

Social distancin g, the g, the g, the people are more are more avoiding susceptib people, can help becomin prevent g the seriously spread of ill from the the the the the seriously spread of us the the the the the the the the the the	May 14 - May 17			94	4
g, dista g, g g, g g, g avoi avoi can preo tt t t t t t t t t t t t t t t t t t	April 29 - May 3			93	<mark>3</mark> 3
Coronavi susceptib rus can be be transmitt transmitt ed in ed in seriously seriously spread of ed in seriously spread of us the transvi us spread of us the transvi us the transvi tra	May 14 - May 17		8	5	96
Ollo Deco beccoro Coro Coro	April 29 - May 3		8	37	8 6
Coronavi rus can be transmitt ed in areas with hot weather	May 14 - May 17	4	47	20	34
	April 29 - May 3	4(D	17	42
The Coronavi rus was created in a y	May 14 - May 17	4	2	13	44
Corc Corc TI rus creë	April 29 - May 3	4	2	11	46
Antibiotic s are effective in treating toronavir us	May 14 - May 17	23	23		54
Antik s a effec i trea trea coro	April 29 - May 3	22	24		53
The BCG vaccine is effective at g coronavir us	May 14 - May 17	20	14		66
The BCG vaccine is effective at preventir g us	April 29 - May 3	20	13	(57
5G internet internet internet ture is ture is effective ture is effective in effective in effective in effective in effective in effective in effective in effective in effective in effective in effective in effective in effective in effective in effective in effective in ereated in ereated in ereated in ereated in ereated in ereated in ereated in ereated in ereated in ereated in ereated in ereative in e in ereative in ereative in e ereative in e ereative in ereative in	May 14 - May 17	9	43		47
5 infra tur tur corol u	April 29 - May 3	9	40		51



■ Strongly Agree ■ Agree ■ Disagree ■ Strongly disagree ■ DK

t	Natural immunity is better than vaccine acquired immunity		31			48		11 8	
ad	Vaccines are necessary to protect the health of young people	1	2		62		12	13	
	Vaccines do a good job in preventing the diseases they are intended to prevent	1	1		61		11	15	
	If people do not get vaccinations, they may get a disease such as measles	1	1		61		14	12	
	Vaccines are safe	7		5	7		15 2	19	
	If people do not get vaccinations, it can cause other people to get the disease	6		47		24	2	20	
	Vaccines contain unsafe toxins	3	24		29	2	42	2	
	Vaccines aren't worth the risk	4	21		51	1	8	16	
	If I vaccinate my child, it may create serious problems	2	19		47		8	24	
	Infant immune systems can't handle as many vaccines as doctors give them	2	19		40	5		35	
	Vaccines cause autism	2	17	24	5		52		

Misinformation about vaccines is widespread in Georgia

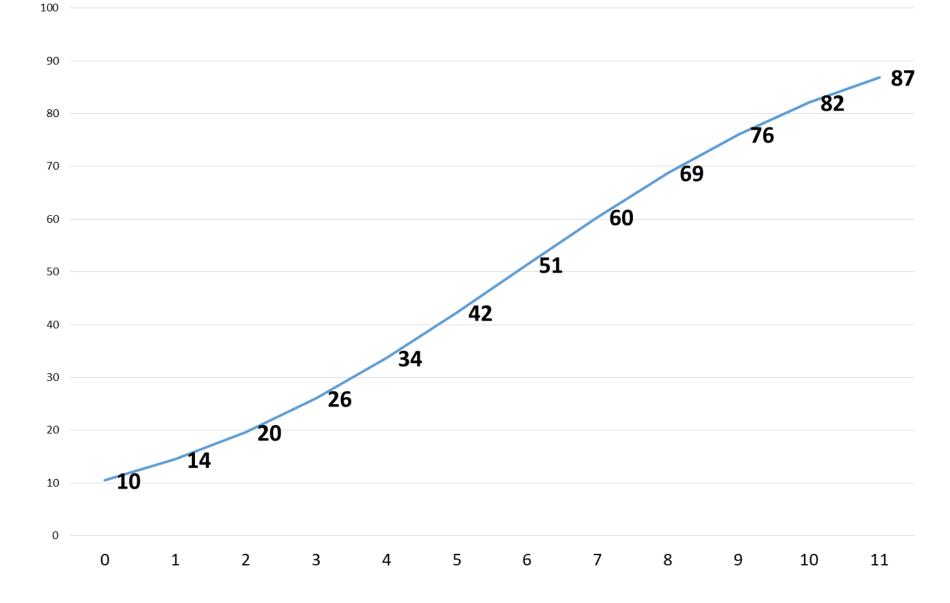




Predicted probability of wanting to be vaccinated by score on vaccine attitude index (%)

Only 42% of the public would want a Covid 19 vaccine if available 6 months from now.

Uncertainty and belief in misinformation is strongly correlated with interest in getting a vaccine for Covid 19 if one were available 6 months from now.





To what extent is it acceptable or unacceptable to ...? (%)

■ Totally acceptable ■ Ac

Acceptable Unacceptable

le Totally unacceptable

44

46

44

42

Don't know

10

17

23

18

17

15

15

2

19

The share of people that think democracy is preferable to any other form of government and those that think Georgia is a democracy increased during the crisis;

At the same time, support for democracy is not associated with support for democratic forms of governance.

that insofar as the government can solve the crisis successfully, it does not matter whether the 9 decision-makers have an official position or not for a country to have a strong and purposeful leader who decides for him/herself what needs 22 to be done to pull the country out of the crisis publicly criticize the government regarding over 15 how to overcome the crisis restrict the rights of citizens without asking 19 parliament to bring the country out of the crisis

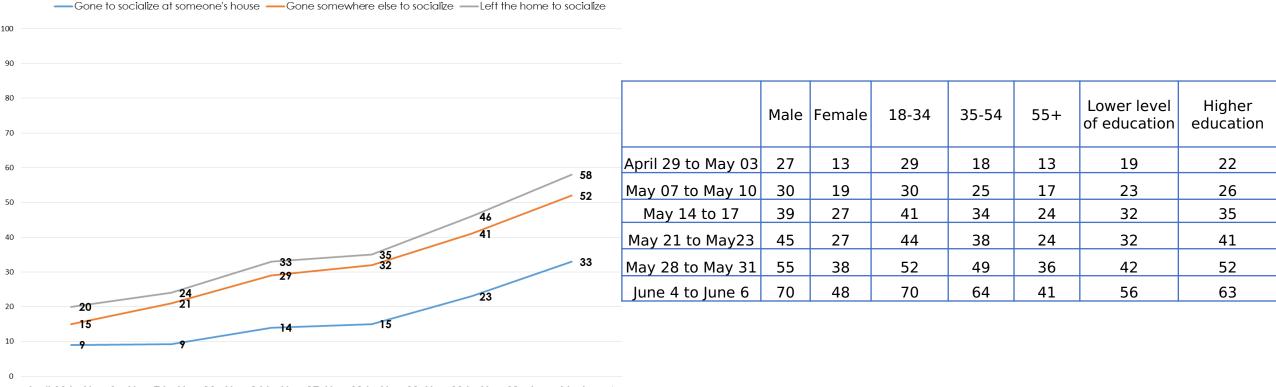




Over the course of the crisis, people increasingly went out to socialize.

Men and young people were significantly more likely to go out to socialize during the state of emergency

Prevalence of socializing in Georgia (%)



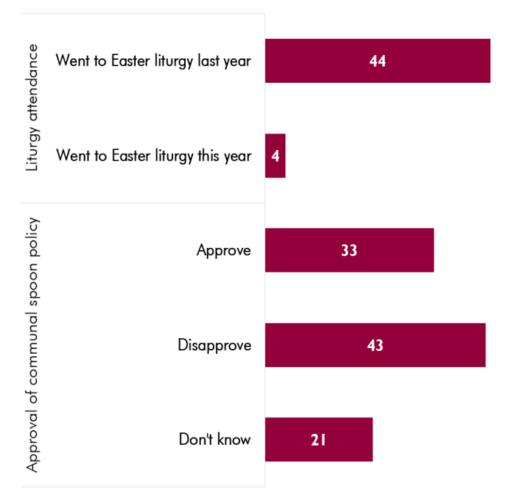
April 29 to May 3 May 7 to May 10 May 14 to May 17 May 21 to May 23 May 28 to May 31 June 4 to June 6



Attendance at Easter Liturgy was approximately 91% lower than last year;

Orthodox Christians tended to disapprove of the church's communal spoon policy.

Attidues towards the communal spoon and Easter liturgy attendance(%)



Well being



Mean and median income prior to and during the crisis (post-tax, GEL)

1200 1080 1000 800 717 700 654 617 600 462 440 400 400 200 0 Before the crisis March April May Mean Median

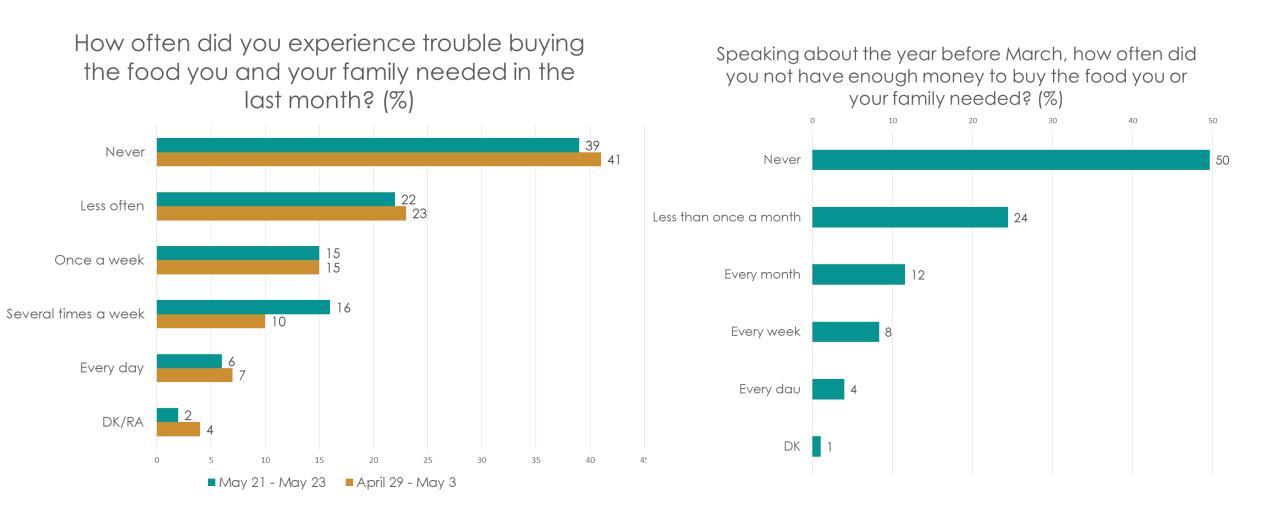
Mean and median household incomes halved during the crisis;

The share of households that reported having no income increased from 0.5% prior to the crisis to 10% in April and 14% in May.

28% of the public lost a job during the crisis, however, half of those that lost a job have started working again.



Food insecurity increased during the crisis both in terms of extent of issues as well as intensity





Financial and health concerns (%)

Concerns about both financial and health concerns were common among the entire population

How worried are you that you or someone in your immediate family might become seriously ill from coronavirus (COVID-19)?

How worried are you about your household's finances in the next month?

11 3 35 50 35 56 10 100 20 50 70 90 Not worried at all Not worried Worried Very worried DK





Consumer confidence (%)

Negative response

Don't know

Neutral response

Positive response

Consumer confidence data suggests large declines in how well households are doing, but improvements in whether or not it's a good time to purchase durable goods.

Despite this, there is widespread pessimism and uncertainty over the economic situation.

r ositive response	= Neuti	arresponse	_ NC ₂	Buttve respons	c =		
April 02 to April 07	7 1	7		72			4
May 07 to May 10	6	26		5	6		11
May 28 to May 31	9	31			47		14
April 02 to April 07	29	9	6	33		33	
May 07 to May 10	9	25		32		33	
May 28 to May 31	8	29		26		37	
April 02 to April 07	18	21		31		30	
May 07 to May 10	15		32		31	22	
May 28 to May 31	14	27		31		27	
April 02 to April 07	24		26	2	0	29	
May 07 to May 10	22		27	2	2	29	
May 28 to May 31	24		23	21		32	
April 02 to April 07	11		53			35	
May 07 to May 10	3	37			60		
May 28 to May 31	4	40			5	D	
	April 02 to April 07 May 07 to May 10 May 28 to May 31 April 02 to April 07 May 07 to May 10 May 07 to May 10 May 28 to May 31 April 02 to April 07 May 07 to May 10 May 28 to May 31 April 02 to April 07 May 28 to May 31 April 02 to April 07 May 07 to May 10 May 28 to May 31 April 02 to April 07 May 07 to May 10 May 07 to May 10	April 02 to April 07 7 1 May 07 to May 10 6 1 May 28 to May 31 9 2 April 02 to April 07 9 2 May 07 to May 10 15 3 May 07 to May 10 15 3 May 07 to May 10 14 4 April 02 to April 07 14 4 May 07 to May 10 22 4 May 07 to May 10 24 4 May 07 to May 10 11 4 May 07 to May 10 3 4	April 02 to April 07 7 17 May 07 to May 10 6 26 May 28 to May 31 9 31 April 02 to April 07 29 1 May 07 to May 10 9 25 May 07 to May 10 9 25 May 28 to May 31 8 29 April 02 to April 07 18 21 May 07 to May 10 15 3 May 07 to May 10 15 3 May 07 to May 10 22 3 May 28 to May 31 24 3 May 28 to May 31 24 3 April 02 to April 07 11 3 May 07 to May 10 3 37	April 02 to April 07 7 17 17 May 07 to May 10 6 26 16 May 28 to May 31 9 31 16 April 02 to April 07 29 6 16 May 07 to May 10 9 25 16 May 07 to May 10 9 25 16 May 07 to May 10 9 25 16 May 28 to May 31 8 29 16 April 02 to April 07 18 21 16 May 07 to May 10 15 32 16 May 28 to May 31 14 27 16 May 28 to May 31 14 27 16 May 07 to May 10 22 27 16 May 07 to May 10 22 27 16 May 28 to May 31 24 23 16 May 28 to May 31 24 23 16 May 28 to May 31 11 53 16 May 07 to May 10 3 37 17 17	April 02 to April 07 7 17 7 May 07 to May 10 6 26 5 May 28 to May 31 9 31 5 April 02 to April 07 29 6 33 May 07 to May 10 9 25 32 May 28 to May 31 8 29 26 April 02 to April 07 18 21 31 May 28 to May 31 8 29 26 April 02 to April 07 18 21 31 May 07 to May 10 15 32 32 May 28 to May 31 14 27 31 April 02 to April 07 24 26 22 May 07 to May 10 22 27 23 May 28 to May 31 24 23 21 May 28 to May 31 24 23 21 May 28 to May 31 24 23 21 April 02 to April 07 11 53 37 May 07 to May 10 3 37 37	April 02 to April 07 7 17 72 May 07 to May 10 6 26 56 May 28 to May 31 9 31 47 April 02 to April 07 29 6 33 May 07 to May 10 9 25 32 May 07 to May 10 9 25 32 May 28 to May 31 8 29 26 May 28 to May 31 8 29 26 April 02 to April 07 18 21 31 May 07 to May 10 15 32 31 May 07 to May 10 15 32 31 May 07 to May 10 14 27 31 May 07 to May 10 14 27 31 April 02 to April 07 24 26 20 May 07 to May 10 22 27 22 27 May 28 to May 31 24 23 21 31 April 02 to April 07 11 53 40 May 07 to May 10 3 37 60	April 02 to April 07 7 17 72 May 07 to May 10 6 26 56 May 28 to May 31 9 31 47 April 02 to April 07 29 6 33 33 May 07 to May 10 9 25 32 33 May 07 to May 10 9 25 32 33 May 07 to May 10 9 25 32 33 May 28 to May 31 8 29 26 37 April 02 to April 07 18 21 31 30 May 28 to May 31 14 27 31 27 May 28 to May 31 14 27 31 27 April 02 to April 07 24 26 20 29 May 28 to May 31 14 27 31 27 April 02 to April 07 24 26 20 29 May 28 to May 31 24 23 21 32 April 02 to April 07 11 53 35 May 07 to May 10 3 37 40



Policy approval during crisis versus during potential second cricis (%)

In the event of a second outbreak of the crisis, people would be less supportive of reintroducing various measures than they were during the first outbreak of the virus;

Only a minority expect a second wave of the virus.

Stopping public transport	Only asked about as hypothetical	71
Stopping all flights into and out of the country	Only asked about as hypothetical	٤ ٤
Restricting going out of the house without government approval	Only asked about as hypothetical	60
Restricting movement by cars	During hypothetical second crisis	62
Resincting movement by curs	During crisis	75
Shutting down all non-essential	During hypothetical second crisis	68
businesses	During crisis	71
Banning movement in and out of	During hypothetical second crisis	70
major cities	During crisis	76
Imposing a curfew	During hypothetical second crisis	72
	During crisis	3
Making it mandatory for all people	During hypothetical second crisis	
to wear masks in closed places	During crisis	

Conclusions

Attitudes

- Performance assessments and trust in institutions rose significantly during the crisis;
- Most people report encountering disinformation about the virus;
- Many though not a majority believe in different pieces of misinformation about the virus and uncertainty is widespread;
- Policy approval during the crisis was high;
- People tended towards favoring opening up the economy to caution regarding the epidemiological situation;
- Georgia has a clear problem with vaccine knowledge and attitudes;

Behavior

- During the crisis, men and young people were more likely to be out socializing despite the need for social distancing;
- Only 4% of the public attended Easter Ceremonies and more Orthodox Christians disapproved than approved of the use of the communal spoon;

Well being

- Household income halved during the crisis;
- The share of households reporting that they had no income rose over 10 fold during the crisis;
- A majority of the public experienced issues with food security during the crisis;
- Stress over both financial and epidemiological issues was wide spread;

Expectations

- Consumer confidence is low;
- Only a minority expect there will be a second outbreak of Covid 19 in Georgia;
- Support for implementing the numerous policies the government carried out during the crisis in the event of a second outbreak would be lower.

Thank you for your time. Questions?

In Georgia, we count



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