Georgian public opinion on the war in Ukraine

March 15, 2022
TODAY

• Methodology
• Findings
  • Responsibility for the war in Ukraine
  • Georgia’s response to the war in Ukraine
  • Steps the public wants the government to take in response to the war
  • Domestic politics
• Conclusions
METHODOLOGY

- Mode: CATI (Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing) survey with random digit dialing
- Fieldwork dates: March 7-10, 2022
- Sample size: 1,092
- Margin of error: 2.96%
- Response rate: 24%
- Questionnaire focus:
  - Responsibility for the war in Ukraine
  - Georgia’s response to the war in Ukraine
  - Steps the public wants the government to take in response to the war
  - Domestic politics

Note: Some figures do not sum to 100% due to rounding error and question type (e.g. some questions respondents could select multiple responses to).
In your opinion, who holds the most responsibility for the war in Ukraine? (%)

- The Russian Federation: 43%
- Vladimir Putin personally: 37%
- The United States of America: 3%
- Volodymyr Zelenskyy personally: 1%
- NATO: 1%
- The EU: 1%
- The Ukrainian authorities: 1%
- Other: 2%
- Don't Know: 9%
- Refuse to answer: 1%
In your opinion, what was Russia’s reason for the war? (%)
Respondents were allowed to name up to two responses

- To increase the size of its territory / conquer territory: 34%
- To conquer Ukraine: 25%
- To revive the Soviet Union: 20%
- To prevent Ukraine from joining NATO: 17%
- To revive the Russian Empire: 7%
- To prevent Ukraine from joining the EU: 7%
- To dissolve Ukraine: 4%
- To hamper the development of Ukraine: 2%
- To change Ukraine’s pro-Western orientation: 1%
- To defend Russian language speakers in Donbass: 1%
- Other: 5%
- Don’t Know: 15%
- Refuse to answer: 1%
In your opinion, the Government of Georgia (in relation to the Government of Ukraine) ... (%)
How acceptable or unacceptable would it be if the Government of Georgia took the following steps in relation to Ukraine? (%)

- Supplying Ukraine with humanitarian assistance, such as food and medicine:
  - Fully acceptable: 85%
  - More acceptable than unacceptable: 12%
  - Fully unacceptable: 2%
  - More unacceptable than acceptable: 2%
  - Don't know: 2%

- Temporarily accepting Ukrainian refugees:
  - Fully acceptable: 79%
  - More acceptable than unacceptable: 17%
  - Fully unacceptable: 2%
  - More unacceptable than acceptable: 2%
  - Don't know: 2%

- Providing financial assistance to Ukraine:
  - Fully acceptable: 69%
  - More acceptable than unacceptable: 22%
  - Fully unacceptable: 4%
  - More unacceptable than acceptable: 2%
  - Don't know: 3%

- Allowing volunteers from Georgia to go to Ukraine to fight:
  - Fully acceptable: 42%
  - More acceptable than unacceptable: 24%
  - Fully unacceptable: 11%
  - More unacceptable than acceptable: 12%
  - Don't know: 10%

- Introducing restrictions on the entrance of citizens of the Russian Federation to Georgia:
  - Fully acceptable: 40%
  - More acceptable than unacceptable: 19%
  - Fully unacceptable: 18%
  - More unacceptable than acceptable: 13%
  - Don't know: 9%

- Supplying Ukraine with weapons and military equipment:
  - Fully acceptable: 31%
  - More acceptable than unacceptable: 22%
  - Fully unacceptable: 14%
  - More unacceptable than acceptable: 16%
  - Don't know: 16%
Due to the attack against Ukraine, Russia and a number of high level officials were sanctioned by the European Union, the United States, and other aligned countries. In your opinion, should these sanctions...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Be made more severe</td>
<td>71</td>
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<tr>
<td>Remain in their current form</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Be lightened</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sanctions against Russia should be removed entirely</td>
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<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
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</table>
Should Georgia take part in the sanctions imposed by the European Union, the United States, and other aligned countries against Russia and high level Russian officials? Should Georgia participate in ... (%)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fully support</th>
<th>Rather support</th>
<th>Partially support and partially not support</th>
<th>Generally not support</th>
<th>Not support at all</th>
<th>Refuse to answer</th>
<th>Don't Know</th>
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<tr>
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<td>12</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>14</td>
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</table>
How much do you support or not support Ukraine/Georgia becoming a candidate for membership in the European Union? (%)

- Fully support: Ukraine 66, Georgia 61
- Rather support: Ukraine 14, Georgia 17
- Partially support, partially not: Ukraine 3, Georgia 4
- Rather not support: Ukraine 2, Georgia 3
- Do not support at all: Ukraine 2, Georgia 2
- Don't know: Ukraine 12, Georgia 12
- Refuse to answer: Ukraine, Georgia
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Very positive</th>
<th>Positive</th>
<th>Negative</th>
<th>Very negative</th>
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</table>
If parliamentary elections were held tomorrow, which of the following parties would you vote for? (%)

- Georgian Dream: 22%
- United National Movement: 10%
- For Georgia: 3%
- Lelo: 3%
- Girchi More Freedom: 2%
- The Patriots' Alliance: 2%
- Another party: 2%
- None: 16%
- I would not participate in elections: 4%
- Don't Know: 18%
- Refuse to answer: 20%
<table>
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<th>Very negative</th>
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<td>23</td>
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CONCLUSIONS

• The vast majority of the public blames Russia or Vladimir Putin for the war;
• The public wants the Government of Georgia to increase its level of support to Ukraine;
• A majority of the public approves of almost all means of support for Ukraine asked about on the survey;
• The Georgian public remains committed to a Euro-Atlantic future for the country;
• The Georgian public is broadly supportive of Salome Zourabichvili’s performance in relation to the war;
• The Georgian public is significantly less approving of Irakli Gharibashvili’s performance in relation to the war.
In Georgia We Count

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caucasusbarometer.org