

TRUST INDEX / 01

October / 2019



**Presidential
Performance in
Public Opinion
ANALYTICAL REPORT**



**SOCIAL
RESEARCH
CENTER**



“Transparency and honesty must become a way of life for every public official in Azerbaijan”

***Ilham Aliyev
President of the Republic of Azerbaijan***



**SOCIAL
RESEARCH
CENTER**

TRUST INDEX

Special issue

October 2019

PRESIDENTIAL PERFORMANCE IN PUBLIC OPINION REPORT

Research team

Public Opinion Research Department
Socio-Economic Analysis Department
Internal Policy Analysis Department

Baku - 2019

About the Social Research Center

The Social Research Center (SRC) was established by Decree No. 525 of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated February 8, 2019. It operates as a public legal entity, systematically analyzing the development dynamics of social relations. The SRC identifies current trends, forecasts changes in this field, and investigates their potential impact on society. Applying modern information technologies and scientific approaches, the SRC conducts social research and surveys public opinion. Its findings are then provided to governmental bodies for consideration and action.

Responsible for this issue: Elshad Mirbashir oghlu

Editor: Agshin Mammadov

Designer: Babek Jafar, Gurban Jalilov

Editor (English): Pasha Bayramov

Address:

18, Ismayil bay Kutkashenli Str., Yasamal district,
Baku, AZ1073, the Republic of Azerbaijan

Phone: (+994 12) 510-70-78
(+994 12) 510-23-75
(+994 12) 510-70-69

E-mail: info@stm.az

Website: www.stm.az

Signed to print: 09.08.2023

Total printing sheet: 1.5

Order: 20

Issue: 500

Printed in the printing house of "MM-S" enterprise.

Address: Republic of Azerbaijan, AZ 1102, Baku city,
Nasimi district, A. Taghizade street, house 13.

Phone: (+994 12) 431 11 00
(+994 50) 314 09 37

© Social Research Center, 2019, 2023

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....6

The goal and objectives of the survey,
its methodological principles and the
grouping of respondents according
to socio-demographic criteria

FINDINGS ANALYSIS.....9

Evaluation of the events that took place in
October, the citizens' expectations from
personnel and structural reforms, the role of
public opinion in the Presidential performance

CONCLUSION.....21

OVERVIEW

Based on the results of the monthly monitoring of public opinion on the Presidential performance conducted by the Social Research Center, a notable increase in Ilham Aliyev's rating was observed during October. The survey findings indicate that the population views President Ilham Aliyev's performance in October as highly effective and significant, both on the international stage and in domestic matters, particularly in protecting national interests and ensuring national welfare. Consequently, the President's actions during October further enhanced his positive image in the eyes of the public. Remarkably, 19 out of 20 respondents expressed trust and confidence in President Ilham Aliyev.

❖ The President's address at the plenary session of the Valdai Discussion Club on October 3, specifically the statement "Karabakh is Azerbaijan and exclamation mark," resonated deeply with the population, fostering a heightened sense of patriotism and increasing trust and confidence in the head of state. A substantial majority, 85.8% of respondents, share this sentiment. Additionally, 76.9% believe that the President's speech at the Valdai Discussion Club was effective in terms of weakening Armenia's position on the international stage. Overall, approximately 85% of respondents highly appreciated the importance and impact of the President's speech during the Valdai Discussion Club session.

❖ The President's speech at the Summit of the CIS Heads of State in Ashgabat on October 11 was wel-

comed by 85% of respondents. At the event attended by the Prime Minister of Armenia, the President of Azerbaijan accused Armenia of glorifying fascism with convincing arguments and the groundless response of the other party showed that President Ilham Aliyev is successfully continuing his offensive diplomacy. According to four out of five respondents, President Ilham Aliyev's speech at the Summit of the CIS Heads of State in Ashgabat was a decisive step in the direction of exposing Armenia, which supports the ideas of fascism. 80,1% believe that this speech will be effective in regulating the conflict.

❖ The speeches of the President at the 7th Summit of the Cooperation Council of Turkic-Speaking States on October 15 and at the 18th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement on October 25-26 are also regarded as being very significant in terms of strengthening the international image of Azerbaijan, bringing the truths about the conflict situation - the right position of Azerbaijan to the attention of the international community.

❖ The President's structural and personnel reforms were introduced in October, and respondents have high expectations from them. According to the survey's results, respondents had the highest level of confidence in the President's reforms. The majority of respondents—87,6%—support and value the reforms the president has put in place. One of the fields in which the Presidential performance in the domestic arena is highly appre-

ciated is army building. Thus, 92,7% of respondents noted the successful Presidential performance in the field of army building. 92,4% of respondents consider successful the foreign political activity of the President of the country.

❖ The opinion survey conducted in October revealed a noteworthy surge in public support for the President's personnel reforms. In October, this support reached 86.5%, up from 74% in June of the current year, indicating that citizens view sustainable personnel reforms as a viable means to ensure national welfare.

❖ Based on participants' responses, it can be inferred that government entities responsible for the non-oil sector need to intensify their efforts further. Despite significant progress, there remain deficiencies and issues that require attention.

❖ Overall, a significant 83.7% of respondents express the belief that the personnel and structural reforms initiated by the President meet their expectations. The focus on prioritizing young people during these reforms seamlessly aligns with public expectations, garnering support from 86.9% of respondents. This support reflects approval of the President's approach, particularly in considering public opinions during reform implementation, as indicated by 88% of respondents. This underscores a strong and reliable connection between the people and their leader.

The research underscores a clear correlation between the depth and breadth of reforms and the concurrent increase in public sympathy and sup-

port for the President. It is evident that a majority of respondents... confirm the reality of the principle that "the human factor is at center of Azerbaijani state policy." Referring to the survey findings, it can be noted that the respondents think that the President of the country acts based on their interests, needs and expectations. Since the successes in the international arena and the deepening of the reforms in the domestic policy are related to the President's name and personal initiatives and examples, his rating in public opinion demonstrates an upward trend, and this trend is strengthened against the background of the continuous reforms.

INTRODUCTION

The findings of the October survey show that the rating of the President in public opinion has increased

Azerbaijan, in its independent phase, is undergoing an unprecedented stage of reforms, both in terms of scale and depth, in the history of its national state-building. The “New Course” policy, implemented with remarkable scope, structural-institutional focus, consistency, and well-defined goals, has captured the attention of the local and global scientific community, regional circles, and international media.

The administration places paramount importance on the perspectives and opinions of the Azerbaijani people and society. During the session on October 15, the President emphasized that incorporating public opinion into government operations is not only a fundamental requirement of the new management philosophy but also a crucial factor in the rapidly evolving communication landscape of the 21st century. Given the rapidity and intensity of changes occurring almost daily, the Social Research Center (SRC) is tasked with researching emerging relationships between the state and the people of Azerbaijan. It consistently conducts sociological research and surveys on various topics concerning the present and future of the nation. The goal of this research is to monitor public opinion on reforms, evaluate key points of Presidential performance in October, and develop scientific studies to efficiently anticipate future processes.

The survey-based analytical report for October holds exceptional importance in promptly gauging the public's opinion on the progress of the head of state's reform policy, assessing the socio-political situation, and understanding broad public reactions to regional and international events, speeches, and diplomatic talks conducted by the head of state throughout October. This report also aims to study and determine the dynamics of current political and social processes, acting as a barometer to reveal public sentiment. Its overarching goal is to eliminate obstacles hindering state and civil unity, addressing management habits and stereotypes that may not meet the challenges of the time.

The focus on October is intentional, as the reform course initiated in 2019, intensifying in subsequent periods, has not only impacted governmental and economic institutions but has permeated all branches of governance. This strategic approach has successfully convinced the populace that reforms are being executed with precision on a well-defined strategic path.

During the past ten years, the transformation of Azerbaijan into an important international political and economic subject and the establishment of an important security platform around it made it possible to set even more demanding tasks for all state authorities this year. The proposed principles of a new way of thinking, strongly call for only legal norms concerning the large entrepreneur circle, demands for the elimination of unfair competition, transparent budget planning and its implementation, the responsibility

of local officials to citizens, as well as zero tolerance for corruption and other arbitrariness, being well-liked by every ordinary Azerbaijani proves that the purpose of the policy implemented in the country is to improve the life of all our people.

The month of October 2019 holds significant importance in Azerbaijan's political calendar, marking a crucial period in both domestic and foreign policy. Historical events of exceptional weight and importance unfolded during this time, capturing the attention of the global community.

The activities of the head of state, both in domestic and foreign policy, have propelled Azerbaijan and its capital, Baku, to the forefront of international attention. The President's principled stance at key international events in Sochi and Ashgabat, along with the summit meeting of Non-Aligned Movement member states, and the deepening of personnel reforms are deemed pivotal events in the history of Azerbaijan's international relations. These events have also left a lasting impact on changes in the political, economic, and social spheres.

As a result of these events, Azerbaijan has achieved economic development, social well-being, and socio-political stability. The country's reputation in the international relations system has not only been maintained but further strengthened. Research conducted by the Social Research Center (SRC) indicates that the majority of respondents, who are citizens of Azerbaijan, closely follow state and national affairs. They pay attention to events of all scales and continue to approach the activities of the country's

leadership with sensitivity, confidence, and trust.

In the field of foreign policy:

The speech delivered by the President at the plenary session of the 16th annual meeting of the Valdai International Discussion Club on October 3, particularly his statement "Karabakh is Azerbaijan" followed by an exclamation mark, as well as his addresses at the summit of the CIS Heads of State in Ashgabat on October 11, the 7th Summit of the Cooperation Council of Turkic-Speaking States on October 15, and the 18th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement held in Baku, have garnered significant attention. The President's speeches, delivered to world political leaders as the target audience, and his discussion of the Azerbaijan-Karabakh truth on global platforms, have made headlines.

The President's calls, which express the unity of his strong will and profound intellectual thinking, and demonstrate his wisdom as the foremost leader of the country, have generated a "wave effect" that has united society in national unity, enthusiasm, and patriotism. These public reactions continue to unfold.

In the field of domestic policy:

- At the meeting held on October 15, 2019, the President's statement "Reforms are irreversible!" was written as a turning point in the history of reforms;

- The speech and messages of the head of state at the meeting on October 15 created a great revival in public opinion. The statement "Reforms are irreversible!" can stand in line with Heydar Aliyev's statement "Our independence is irrevocable!" ;

- The main focus of the reforms is on personnel reforms that aim to establish a new, advanced, flexible, and competitive state administration.

- It should be emphasized that the primary criterion in personnel reforms is the president's example of serving the people. Based on this criterion, a new generation of civil servants will be appointed and evaluated.

- The leader of the country has upheld the tradition of making important official decisions and signing relevant decrees, which have turned his political agenda into reality. Additionally, he has introduced a new style and approach to the presidential administration, receptions, and meetings, which aim to increase effectiveness and serve the nation at all levels of management, from top to bottom.;

- In the process of replacing officials who faithfully serve the state with new ones, and receiving them, it was possible to bring an example of a "new political culture" to Azerbaijan;

- The geography of reforms has expanded. Radical personnel reforms have been launched, covering not only the capital of our country, the higher executive bodies, but also the regions, destroying traditional perceptions and reforms represent a "testing ground" for new appointees;

- The President announced new criteria and new indicators of public service of executive leaders in the regions. He pointed out that the indicator of people's trust and satisfaction is at the forefront;

- It should be especially emphasized that all positive dynamics in foreign policy and domestic socio-political life were possible against

the background of "fall scenarios, fall nightmare and the real world fall syndrome" (a wave of global protests occurring simultaneously in dozens of countries). The changes taking place in our country are not "on the streets and squares", not due to civil conflicts, but with the ink of the First Person's pen and strong political will, bypassing the wave of instability in the world and turning Azerbaijan into a safe place for everyone. The presented document was prepared based on the survey findings conducted by the Social Research Center to study the attitude of the country's population to the main events that took place in October.

METHODOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES OF SURVEY

Selection of respondents:

- In general, 1316 respondents participated in the public opinion survey.

- The survey was conducted generally in 14 "ASAN service" centers (Baku and Sumgait, Barda, Ganja, Sabirabad, Imishli, Mingachevir, Masalli, Guba, Gabala, Sheki "ASAN service" centers Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4). The purpose of selecting regional "ASAN service" centers was to ensure coverage across the country. Thus, alongside the citizens of that territory, the residents of the surrounding regions also apply for the regional "ASAN service" centers in the relevant region.

- The respondents were selected randomly. SRC interviewed every second citizen who came to apply for ID card, utility and notary services. The purpose of selecting these three

services was to ensure randomness - representativeness. Because all socio-demographic groups of the population equally use these services. The margin of error in statistics is 3%.

- Before large-scale research, pilot research was conducted among 60 respondents representing different social and demographic groups of the population in 3 “ASAN service” centers (Baku and Sumgait “ASAN service” centers Nos. 2, 4). As a result of the test, necessary corrections and additions were made to the questionnaire.

Methods to conduct a survey

The survey employed a “face-to-face” interview method, utilizing modern technology to enhance the data collection process. Unlike the traditional paper format, the surveys were conducted using tablets, incorporating the latest survey software known as Survey-ToGo. This software, widely utilized globally, offers numerous advantages, including efficient monitoring of fieldwork across diverse geographical areas, real-time online monitoring of the survey process, and the acquisition of reliable information.

The fieldwork spanned from October 29 through November 5, 2019, ensuring a comprehensive analysis of public opinion for October. This period was chosen to capture a representative snapshot of the population's views during that specific timeframe.

Data processing and analysis

After the completion of the survey, the data collected for each questionnaire was entered into the SPSS database - Statistical Package for the Social Sciences and analyzed using special software.

In addition to descriptive analysis, a number of correlations (relations) between variables were determined.

The sum of the percentages in charts may not be 100% due to rounding.

Questionnaire

The questionnaire consisted of 13 basic and 5 demographic questions. The questions were mainly as follows:

- Speeches of the President on the occupying position of Armenia and the Nagorno-Karabakh problems in the international arena,
- Personnel changes and structural reforms that took place based on the orders signed in October,
- Evaluation of the Presidential performance in different areas.

FINDING ANALYSIS

Demographics

67.6% of 1316 respondents taking part in the survey are men and 32.4% are women. Among the respondents, the main share belongs to the 26-35 age group (34.3%). The 36-50 age group takes second place (29.5%). According to the level of education, respondents with complete secondary education are predominant - 45.1%. Those with higher education have a share of 31.7%. 14.9% of respondents in the random selection stated that they were unemployed. 14.7% of respondents are housewives. Currently, 21.1% of respondents work in the private sector, and 22.4% in the public sector. The share of self-employed respondents in the random selection is 10.1%.



GROUPING OF RESPONDENTS BASED ON DIFFERENT CRITERIA



GENDER

Man		67.6%
Woman		32.4%



EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Higher		31.7%
Incomplete high		3.3%
Vocational / college education		17.3%
Complete secondary		45.1%
Incomplete secondary		2.4%
Uneducated		0.2%



OCCUPATION

Public sector employee		22.4%
Private sector worker		21.1%
Active worker		10.1%
Housewife		14.7%
Retired person		6.7%
Household		5.7%
Student		4.4%
Unemployed		14.9%

To evaluate the impact of the President's speech at the Valdai Discussion Club on October 3 and to gauge public sentiment regarding the ongoing political-informational conflict with Armenia, respondents were initially asked a crucial question: "How important is it to you that the President said 'Karabakh is Azerbaijan' followed by an exclamation mark at the Valdai Discussion Club?" The results revealed that 84.9% of respondents considered this message important.

A small percentage of respondents, 7.8%, indicated that the message was "not important," while 7.4% found it challenging to respond. The latter group's hesitation might be attributed to a desire

to remain distant from political processes compared to social issues or a lack of comprehensive knowledge on the subject. The President's resolute protest speech in Ashgabat against Armenia's glorification of fascism was rated as "important" by 85% of respondents.

The mere 1% difference compared to the previous result indicates a strong stance at the event attended by the head of Armenia in person, affirming the idea that "The head of state adopts an assertive strategy, which should ideally inspire every citizen to combat all forms of fascism and land occupation." Merely 6.2% of survey respondents indicated that they did not consider this speech

important. One in ten persons had trouble expressing their opinions about it. Compared to the President's speeches in Sochi and Ashgabat, the question on the Summit of the Turkic Council held in Baku was answered as "somehow important" by 80.9% of respondents.

According to the T-test ($t=2.173(1213)$, $p<0.05$), the Baku summit of the Turkish Council is "more important" for men than for women.

These figures show that the majority of the respondents support the President's efforts to liberate our occupied territories, including the policy implemented at the diplomatic and ideological levels.

Overall, 87.6% of the respondents



87,6% of the respondents consider fundamental structural and personnel reforms as important ones

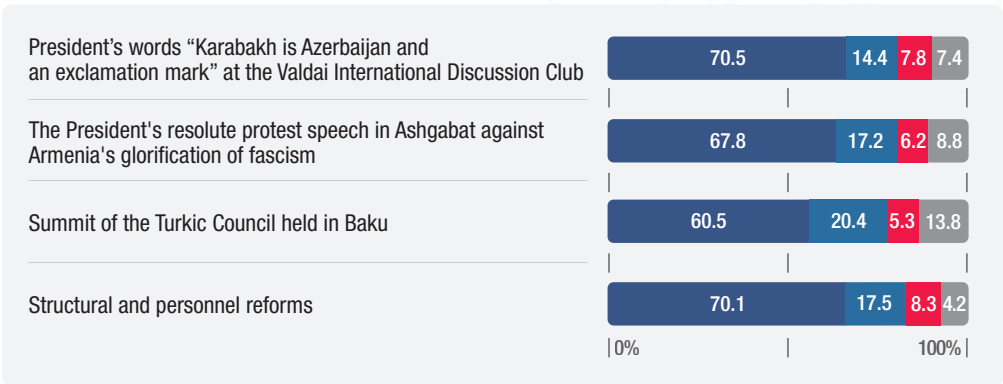
consider fundamental structural and personnel reforms to be important. This indicates that beyond international matters affecting the nation, respondents are highly sensitive to internal changes and anticipate significant outcomes from these reforms.

In essence, the defense of the revolutionary changes in our country's life began from the top, and public trust in the reforms has never been at the current level.



DIAGRAM 1.
HOW DO YOU RATE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE EVENTS THAT HAPPENED IN OCTOBER?

More important Important somehow Not important Difficult to answer



That is to say, it confirms that each of the mentioned events that occurred in October was "important somehow" for the 1316 people who participated in the survey.

Respondents were given three theses regarding the President's speeches in the international arena, and it was studied to what extent they agreed with these views.

The majority of respondents (76,9%) think in a varying degree that the President's



76,9% of respondents think that the President's speech at the Valdai International Discussion Club has weakened Armenia's position

speech at the Valdai International Discussion Club weakened Armenia's position in the international arena. Also, 4 out of 5 respondents agreed somehow with the opinion that "the tough position of the President in Ashgabat revealed that of-

ficial Yerevan turned fascism into a state policy." Approximately the same number of respondents (80.1%) think that the known speeches will lead to some progress in solving the Karabakh problem.



DIAGRAM 2.

TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU AGREE WITH THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECHES IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA?

■ Completely agree ■ Mostly agree ■ Mostly disagree ■ Disagree at all ■ Difficult to answer

President's speech at the Valdai International Discussion Club weakened the position of Armenia in the international arena



The President's tough position in Ashgabat revealed that official Yerevan turned fascism into a state policy



These speeches of Mr. President will lead to progress in solving the Karabakh problem



The reason why a certain portion of the respondents find it difficult to answer the aforementioned issues is the relatively low level of awareness among citizens. Because receiving information should not be limited only to official news. Since these topics are rarely discussed in various formats of debates, discussions, and public hearings, people treat them not as important issues, but as ordinary information.

At the meeting of the Valdai Discussion Club, the President's statement that "Karabakh is Azerbaijan and an exclamation mark" increased the patriotism of 50.2% of respondents and instilled confidence and trust in the power of the head of state among 35.6% of respondents.

In 9% of the respondents, this speech did not arouse any feelings, and 5.9% of the respondents had diffi-

culty expressing their feelings.

The question of evaluating the Presidential performance in various directions was accompanied by interesting findings. Overall Presidential performance in the direction of army building received the highest positive opinion in comparison with other directions. Thus, the absolute majority of respondents (92.7%) positively evaluated the Presidential performance in the direction of the army building. In second place is overall Presidential performance in the direction of foreign policy - 59% chose the answer "very good" and 33.4% "good."

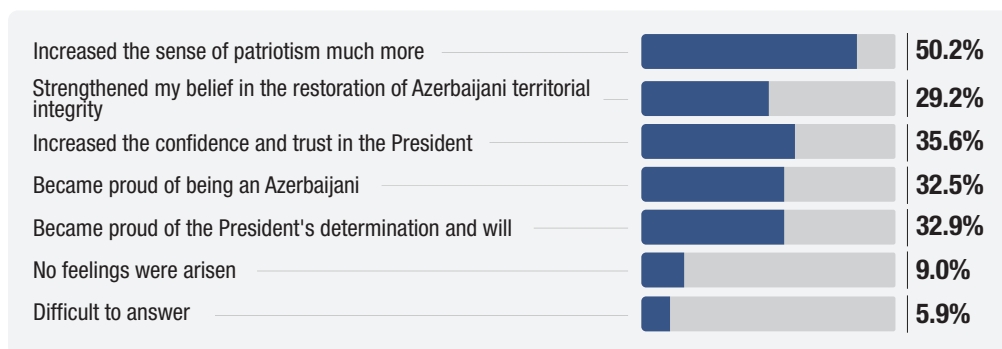


The absolute majority of respondents (92.7%) positively evaluated the Presidential performance in the direction of army building.



DIAGRAM 3.

WHAT WAS YOUR REACTION AS A CITIZEN UPON HEARING THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT AT THE VALDAI INTERNATIONAL DISCUSSION CLUB THAT "KARABAKH IS AZERBAIJAN AND AN EXCLAMATION MARK"?



It is crucial to highlight the significance of the President's speeches in the international arena throughout October. A notable majority of respondents (86.5%) view the President's performance in implementing personnel reforms as satisfactory. The continuity of the reforms, which commenced with personnel changes in the law enforcement and security system back in June, has resulted in a growing number of citizens endorsing the President's policy. Initially, 74% of respondents supported the personnel changes in June, a figure that increased by over 10% by the end of October.

Another noteworthy observation is that while 15.7% of respondents had difficulty expressing their opinion on the personnel reforms implemented in June, this figure decreased to 4.3% by the end of October.

In other words, if there was relative uncertainty in public opinion at the beginning of personnel reforms, over time, the continuous nature of personnel reforms led to the formation



While 15.7% of the respondents had difficulty expressing their opinion on the personnel reforms implemented in June, this figure is 4.3% in the indicators by the end of October.

of more and more positive opinions among citizens.

As can be seen, although the policy of the President in the socio-economic sphere is positively evaluated by most of the respondents, the main dissatisfaction is in these spheres. Note that since the policy implemented in the socio-economic field affects somehow the daily life of almost all citizens, the activity in this direction has a direct impact on citizen satisfaction.

However, it has also been identified that there remains a negative attitude towards the issues continuously highlighted by the President in his recent speeches, particularly in the areas of social protection and non-oil sector development—procrastination, bureaucracy, and corruption caused by

the activities of officials. The unsatisfactory performance of relevant institutions in the field of social protection, as well as economic and financial institutions, can be considered the main reasons why 13.5% of respondents expressed a negative opinion. In other words, while 92.7% and 92.4% of respondents highly rated the President's performance in army building and foreign policy, similar indicators for social protection and non-oil sector development are close to 80%.

ANOVA analysis revealed that individuals with secondary school and vocational education tend to rate the overall Presidential performance more highly than those with higher education. Additionally, according to the ANOVA, employees in the public sector rated the overall Presidential performance more highly than employees in the private sector and unemployed respondents. The level of evaluation given by respondents engaged in household and private economic activities is lower than that of employees in the public sector, yet higher than that of employees in the private sector and unemployed respondents.

13.3% is a comparable statistic for the growth of the non-oil industry. The growth of agriculture paints a similar picture. As a result, 13% of survey participants deem the government's efforts in this area to be "unsatisfactory." As is evident, the policy of the President in the socio-economic sphere is positively assessed by the majority of respondents. At the same time, certain dissatisfactions of the citizens in the relevant field are manifested due to the negative situations declared by the head of state in almost every

speech related to the status of implementation of the given decisions, the activity of regulatory institutions, accountability and transparency. On the other hand, the opinion that "The first person controls all the processes in the country and has reliable sources of information" is confirmed in public opinion.

The respondents' primary expectation from the personnel and structural reforms implemented by the President in October is to ensure new perspectives and opportunities for the younger generation (58.9%). Nearly one in three survey respondents expect an increase in citizen welfare (38.6%) and a strengthening of the fight against corruption (36.4%).

The percentages of answers given in the next ranks are also not low - "the process of registering the undocumented houses will be more transparent and faster" (26%) and "official-citizen relations will be established within the requirements of the law" (23.3%). It is also possible to predict that the findings (20.5%) related to the increase of transparency measures in the economy will change with the main explanations, meetings, and programs that will be given in the coming months upon the new appointments.



DIAGRAM 4.
**EVALUATE PRESIDENT'S ACTIVITIES
IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS**

Very good Mostly good
Mostly bad Very bad Difficult to answer

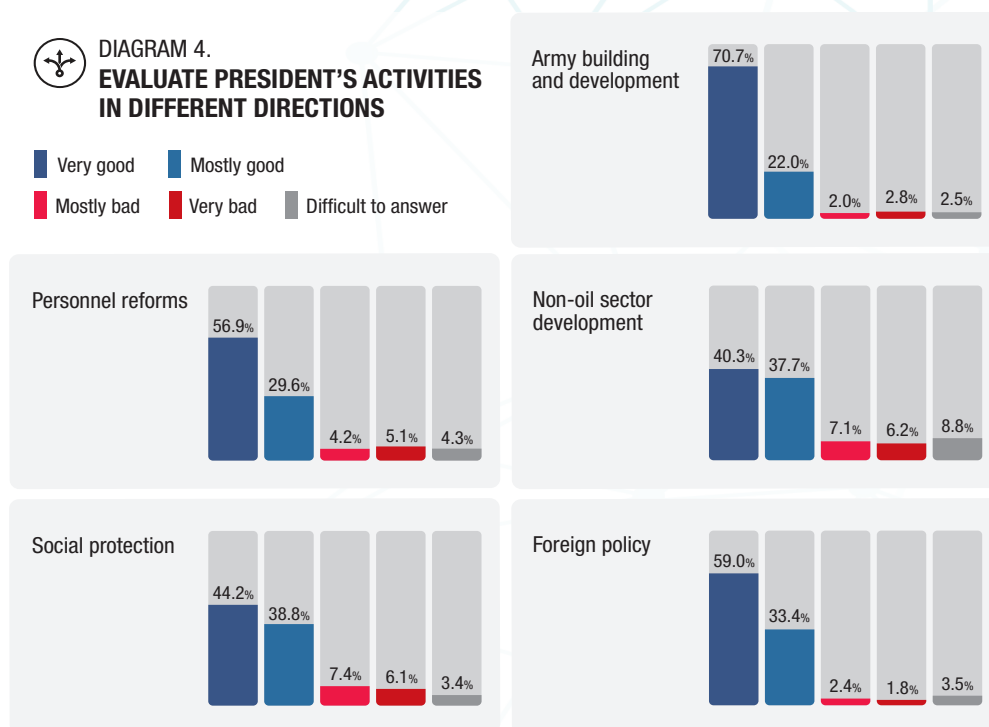
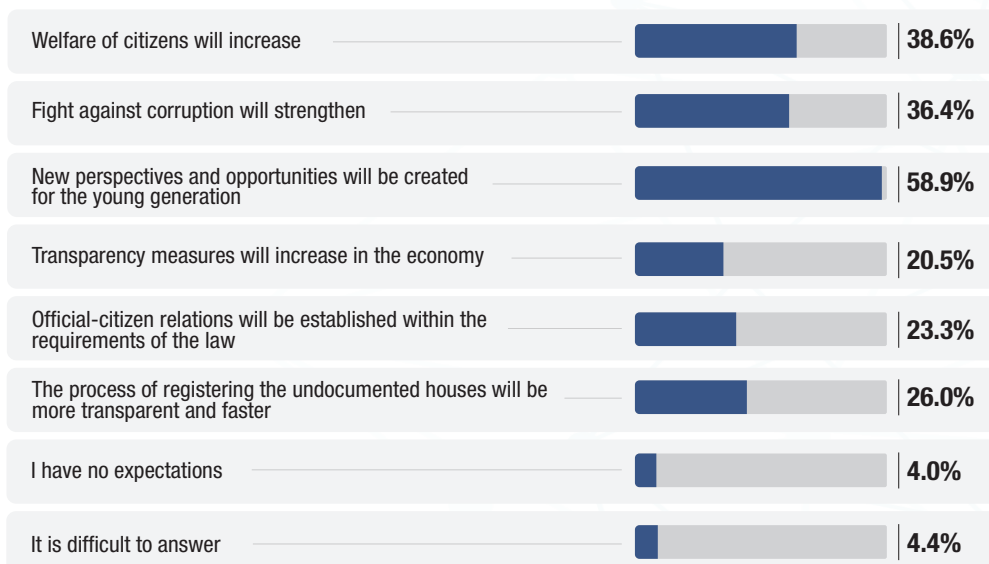


DIAGRAM 5.
**WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS FROM THE PERSONNEL AND STRUCTURAL
REFORMS IMPLEMENTED BY THE PRESIDENT IN OCTOBER?
(ALL CORRESPONDING OPTIONS)**



Note: Respondents were allowed to choose several answer options. Therefore, the total percentage of answers received was more than 100%.

Personnel and structural reforms implemented by the President in October met the expectations of the majority of respondents (83.7%). About 11% of the respondents think that the known personnel and structural reforms have not fulfilled their expectations yet. However, the absolute majority of respondents (86.9%) agree that the replacement of the older generation represented in the government by

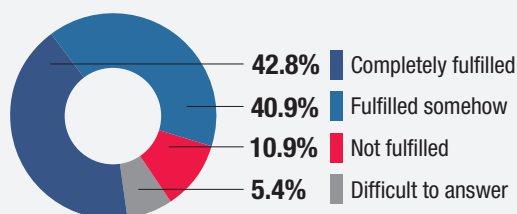


According to 86.9% of respondents, replacing the older generation represented in the government with younger personnel will have a positive effect on the welfare of citizens.

younger personnel will have a positive effect on the well-being of citizens.



DIAGRAM 6.
TO WHAT EXTENT DID PERSONNEL AND STRUCTURAL REFORMS IMPLEMENTED BY THE PRESIDENT IN OCTOBER FULFILL YOUR EXPECTATIONS?

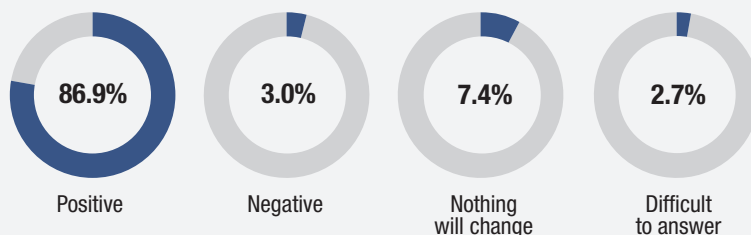


Nevertheless, note that according to 7.4% of respondents, “rejuvenation

policy” will not change anything in the welfare of citizens.



DIAGRAM 7.
WHAT WILL BE THE IMPACT ON CITIZENS' WELL-BEING WHEN YOUNGER PERSONNEL TAKE OVER FROM THE OLDER GENERATION IN THE GOVERNMENT?



The vast majority of respondents (88%) agree with the opinion that “the opinion of the people is taken into account by the head of the country in the radical personnel changes taking place in the country.” Therefore, the important

condition for democratic governance is evident here and confirms that President Ilham Aliyev has maintained his place as a sole leader of the nation. Note that every opinion expressed by the President during his receptions re-

garding new appointments is followed with the highest public sensitivity and welcomed positively.

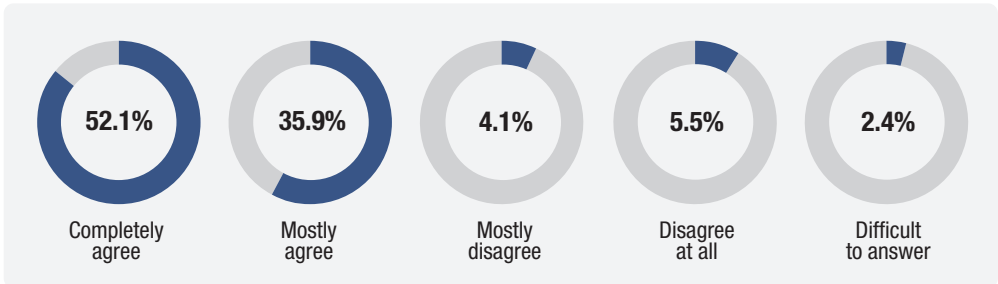


88% of respondents agree with the opinion that “the opinion of the people is taken into account by the head of the country in the radical personnel changes taking place in the country.”



DIAGRAM 8.

TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU AGREE WITH THE OPINION THAT “THE OPINION OF THE PEOPLE IS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BY THE HEAD OF THE COUNTRY IN THE RADICAL PERSONNEL CHANGES TAKING PLACE IN THE COUNTRY”?



Only 9.6% of respondents have somehow a different opinion and thoughts. Thus, one out of 10 respondents thinks that the head of the country does not consider public opinion in his activities regarding the personnel changes.

The assessment of the Presidential performance in October in public opinion is higher than in the previous period. Thus, the findings show that the activities of the head of state in October increased the trust and confidence of the majority of respondents (77.5%). 18.5% of respondents said that trust and confidence remained the same. As can be seen, as the reforms become stronger, every citizen can better appreciate them, believe in their results and expect their continuity. Undoubtedly, the rise in the rating of the head of state creates favorable conditions to maintain the monolith in the power team, transition to a new

economic platform and keep vulnerable social groups in the position of statehood and plays an exceptional role in mobilizing the power of resistance to systematic attacks by various information centers.

As per the survey, one out of five respondents maintained the same level of trust and confidence. This implies that there is no difference in their trust and confidence levels before and after the events that occurred in October. Adding up the results from the previous section, we can conclude that 19 out of 20 respondents had faith and trust in the President.

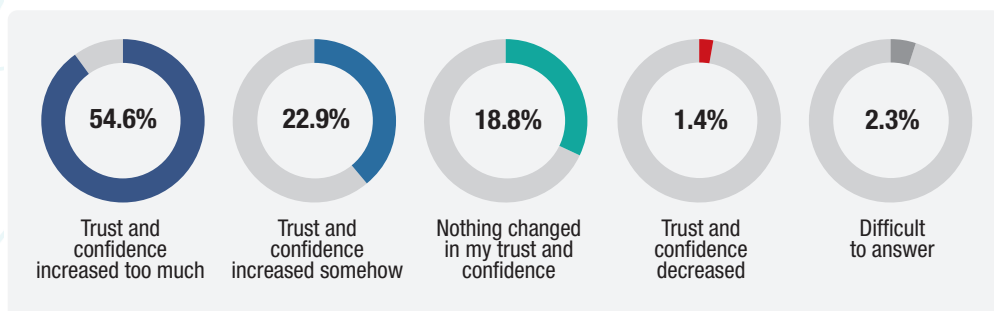


The activities of the head of state in the month of October increased the confidence of 77.5% of respondents in him. The trust and confidence of 18.5% of respondents remained the same.



DIAGRAM 9.

HOW DID THE PRESIDENT'S ACTIVITIES IN OCTOBER AFFECT YOUR TRUST AND CONFIDENCE IN HIM?



The vast majority of respondents (84.6%) think that the head of the country takes into account the interests, needs and opinions of citizens in his activity.

6.2% of respondents answered the question "I mostly disagree", and 7.4% answered "I don't agree at all."

The main obstacle to the successful implementation of the reforms that started in October is the answer "incorrect implementation of decisions by officials" (33.6%), which is a serious concern.

sions by officials" (33.6%), which is a serious concern.

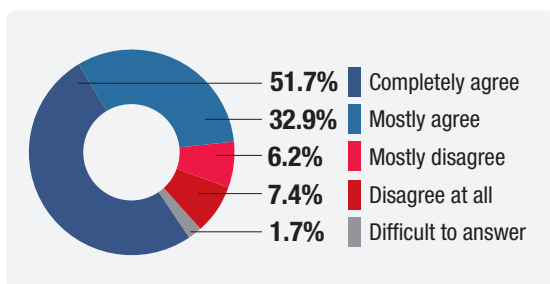


As the main obstacle to the successful implementation of reforms, 33.6% of respondents mentioned "incorrect implementation of decisions by officials", 24.5% - "indifference of some state authorities", and 23% - local authorities/local officials.



DIAGRAM 10.

TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU AGREE WITH THE OPINION THAT "THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNTRY TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE INTERESTS, DEMANDS AND OPINIONS OF THE CITIZENS IN HIS ACTIVITIES"?



Similar to this,, the options "local authorities/local officials" (23%) and "indifference of some state institutions" (24.5%) selected by a significant part of the respondents, indicate that the reforms' achievement of the desired results in the eyes of citizens only depends on the state authorities.

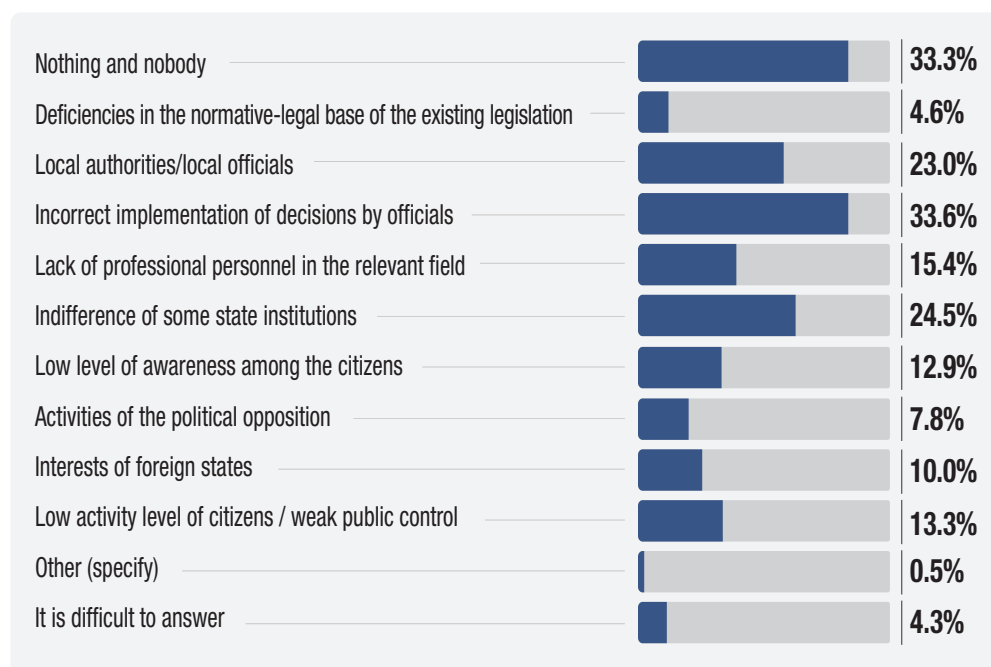


The fact that only 7.8% of respondents see the activity of the political opposition as an obstacle to reforms shows that its impact is weakening. So, in June, this indicator was 11.1%.



DIAGRAM 11.

WHO AND WHAT ARE THE MAIN OBSTACLES TO THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REFORMS IN THE COUNTRY?



Note: Respondents were given the opportunity to choose several answer options. Therefore, the total percentage of responses received was more than 100%.

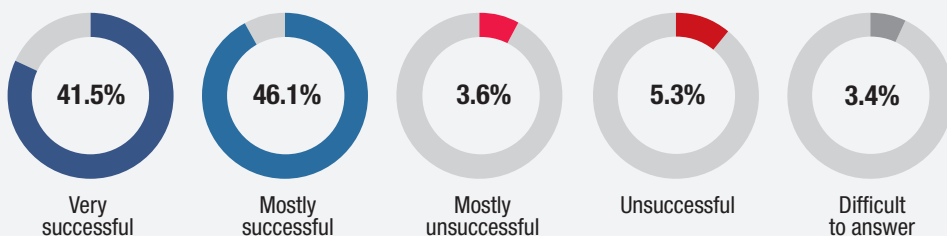
In other words, there is a need for strict oversight of the organizations and people in charge of carrying out reforms. It's remarkable that just 7.8% of respondents chose the response "activities of the political opposition." This statistic demonstrates that, in comparison to earlier months, the opposition forces' capacity to thwart reforms has diminished. Keep in mind that this indicator was 11.1% in June. Compared to June, the percentage of respondents who selected the "local authorities/local officials" option in-

creased from 17.9% to 23%. This increase suggests that more people believe that officials in local institutions can negatively affect reforms. Based on these findings, it is recommended that all other institutions provide support for strengthening public control, as the country's leader has advocated for personnel reforms in state agencies.



DIAGRAM 12.

HOW DO YOU GENERALLY RATE THE MONTH OF OCTOBER FOR OUR COUNTRY?



The vast majority of respondents (87.6%) considered the month of October to be generally successful for our country.



The fact that only 7.8% of respondents see the activity of the political opposition as an obstacle to reforms shows that its impact is weakening. So, in June, this indicator was 11.1%.

CONCLUSION

❖ The absolute majority of respondents regard the events that took place in October as important. The most popular among those events were the President's speech at the Valdai International Discussion Club and his sharp protest speech in Ashgabat against Armenia's glorification of fascism.

❖ The respondents of the survey have evaluated the President's performance in building the army, implementing foreign policies, and executing personnel reforms to be highly satisfactory. The respondents are particularly sensitive to issues of security and the Armed Forces. However, the satisfaction level of the population towards the President's activity in the socio-economic field is somewhat lower.

❖ According to the respondents, the main obstacle to the successful implementation of the reforms that started in October is the neglect of officials, local authorities and some state institutions. In other words, a certain part of those who participated in the survey think that for the successful implementation of the reforms, there should be a change in the activities of the state institutions themselves. Personnel and structural reforms met the expectations of the vast majority of respondents, and their main expectations were the creation of new perspectives and opportunities for the young generation.

❖ Personnel and structural reforms met the expectations of the vast majority of respondents, and their main expectations were the creation of new

perspectives and opportunities for the young generation.


❖ Expectations in the field of the economy are still somewhat low, so the respondents who expect an increase in transparency measures in the economy are a minority.

❖ The replacement of the older generation represented in the government with younger personnel was also welcomed by the respondents.


❖ The high role of public opinion in the activities of the President of the country is confirmed by the results of the survey, and this opinion is also related to the implemented personnel reforms.

❖ The population highly appreciates the Presidential performance at the domestic and international level in October, and states that their trust in him has increased. In general, citizens consider the month of October to be successful for our country.

NOTES



NOTES





**SOCIAL
RESEARCH
CENTER**

18, Ismayil ba Kutkashenli Str., Yasamal district, Baku, AZ1073, Azerbaijan
Telephone: (+994 12) 510-70-78; (+994 12) 510-23-75; (+994 12) 510-70-69

info@stm.az www.stm.az