Public Attitudes in Georgia
Results of a April 2015 survey carried out for NDI by CRRC Georgia

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Davit Sichinava – CRRC Georgia
Why We Conduct Polls?

- Foster the development of more responsive policies and governance;

- Help stakeholders diagnose and address issues of public concern;

- Leaders from across the political spectrum have reported that the polls are important to their work and encourage continued polling;

- Inclusive process: the polling instrument was developed in consultation with parties, government, and civil society leaders;
Information about the poll

- Fieldwork dates: March 27 – April 19, 2015
- 4,360 completed interviews
- A nationally representative sample of citizens of Georgia including Urban, Rural, East Georgia and West Georgia areas and settlements densely populated by ethnic minorities. Also additional representative samples of the self governing cities of Tbilisi, Kutaisi, Zugdidi, Batumi, Akhaltsikhe and the Minicipality of Gurjaani
- The average margin of error is +/- 2.3%
Methodology

Sample design

NDI and CRRC use a complex survey design:

- **Stratification** – dividing population in relatively homogenous sub-groups
- **Clustering** – randomly selecting small geographic areas for each sub-group (stratum)

- Households are selected via random route sampling
- Respondents are selected using a Kish table
- Randomly selected households and individuals are not substituted
- All interviews are conducted face-to-face, in one of the three languages – Georgian, Armenian and Azeri
How NDI Survey is Conducted

1. At the first stage, CRRC randomly selects voting precincts in Georgia. Interviewers are sent there with given starting point, directions for walking, step size, number of contacts.

2. Interviewer randomly selects households according to the given step size, e.g. every 3rd, 5th, 8th...

3. The respondent is selected randomly, with special method - so called Kish grid. Selected respondent cannot be replaced.

4. Interviewer conducts an interview with the selected household member. Interviewer uses tablet computer and a special software.

5. Interviewer submits the results via the internet to the special server.

6. CRRC cleans and analyses collected data, which later is presented to the public.
Issues covered in the presentation

- National Issues
- Economy
- Direction of the country
- Democracy and Governance
- The Parliament
- Foreign Affairs
- Media
National Issues
Most important national issues. Name up to three (q4)

- Jobs: 66%
- Rising prices / inflation: 43%
- Poverty: 39%
- Territorial integrity: 27%
- Pensions: 21%
- Wages: 17%
- Affordable healthcare: 17%
- Relations with Russia: 12%
- Education: 10%
- Human rights: 9%
- NATO membership: 5%
- Crime: 5%
- Fair elections: 4%
- Court system: 3%
- Freedom of speech: 3%
- EU membership: 2%
- Property rights: 2%
- Corruption: 2%
- Prisons / Prisoners: 0%
- Media independence: 0%
- Minority rights: 0%
- Other: 1%
Most important national issue (q4)

- Jobs
- Rising prices / inflation
- Poverty
- Territorial integrity
- Affordable healthcare

2012 Parl. Elections

All waves are nationally representative of Georgian speakers
Most important national issues. Name up to three (q4 X Settlement) Part 1

- National
- Tbilisi
- Kutaisi
- Batumi
- Zugdidi
- Akhaltsikhe
- Gurjaani Municipality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issues</th>
<th>National</th>
<th>Tbilisi</th>
<th>Kutaisi</th>
<th>Batumi</th>
<th>Zugdidi</th>
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</table>
Most important national issues. Name up to three (q4 X Settlement) Part 2

- Pensions
  - National: 21
  - Tbilisi: 20
  - Kutaisi: 16
  - Batumi: 16
  - Zugdidi: 23
  - Akhaltsikhe: 22
  - Gurjaani Municipality: 28

- Affordable healthcare
  - National: 17
  - Tbilisi: 15
  - Kutaisi: 27
  - Batumi: 16
  - Zugdidi: 4
  - Akhaltsikhe: 12
  - Gurjaani Municipality: 32

- Wages
  - National: 17
  - Tbilisi: 19
  - Kutaisi: 19
  - Batumi: 18
  - Zugdidi: 11
  - Akhaltsikhe: 14
  - Gurjaani Municipality: 20

- Relations with Russia
  - National: 12
  - Tbilisi: 12
  - Kutaisi: 5
  - Batumi: 6
  - Zugdidi: 12
  - Akhaltsikhe: 9
  - Gurjaani Municipality: 15
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Most important national issues (q4) vs.
Situation related to the issue has improved in Georgia (q5)

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<td>Court system</td>
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<td>Corruption</td>
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<td>Crime</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rising prices / inflation</td>
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</table>

- 66 Most important national issues
- 39 Jobs
- 27 Territorial integrity
- 5 Affordable healthcare
- 3 Freedom of speech
- 10 Education
- 0 Minority rights
- 3 Court system
- 2 Corruption
- 5 Rising prices / inflation
Economy
Since October 2012 you and your household are... (q3)

- Better
- The same
- Worse

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<td>19</td>
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<td>32</td>
<td>55</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

All waves are nationally representative of Georgian speakers.
Do you consider yourself to be employed? (q53)

- Yes
- No

All waves are nationally representative of Georgian speakers.
Which of the following best describes your situation? (q54) - of the 68% who consider themselves to be unemployed

- Unemployed and looking for a job: 43
- Retired and NOT interested in looking for a job: 22
- Housewife: 11
- Unemployed and interested in a job, but currently NOT looking for a job: 9
- Student: 5
- Unemployed and not interested in looking for a job: 4
- Disabled: 2
- Retired and interested in a job, but currently NOT looking for one: 2
- Retired and looking for a job: 2
Did your household have monetary income from each of these sources in the last 12 months? (q55)

- Pensions and government benefits: 58
- Aggregated earned income (salary) of all household members, except sales of agricultural products: 44
- Cash sales from agricultural products: 35
- Money from family members, relatives, or friends living in another country: 14
- Money from family members, relatives, or friends living elsewhere in this country: 11
- Other sources of income: 8
  - Income from renting of property, vehicles, or appliances: 2
  - Income from sale of property, vehicles, or appliances: 1
  - Interest or earnings on deposits or securities: 1
Speaking about a monetary income last month, to which of the following groups does your household belong? (q59)

- More than GEL 1600: 2
- GEL 1201 – 1600: 3
- GEL 801 – 1200: 7
- GEL 401 – 800: 19
- GEL 261 – 400: 24
- GEL 151 – 260: 19
- Up to GEL 150: 14
- No income: 2
- DK: 5
- RA: 5
Direction of the Country
In which direction is Georgia going? (q2)

- Georgia is going in the right direction
- Georgia is not changing at all
- Georgia is going in the wrong direction

All waves are nationally representative of Georgian speakers.
To what extent do you agree or disagree that the current government is making the changes that matter to you? (q6)

All waves are nationally representative of Georgian speakers
To what extent do you agree or disagree that the current government is making the changes that matter to you? (q6 X Settlement)

- **Completely agree**
- **Somewhat agree**
- **Somewhat disagree**
- **Completely disagree**
- **DK**
- **RA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Completely agree</th>
<th>Somewhat agree</th>
<th>Somewhat disagree</th>
<th>Completely disagree</th>
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<td>21</td>
<td>24</td>
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</table>
If the Parliamentary opposition was in charge they would make the changes that matter to you? (q7)

All waves are nationally representative of Georgian speakers
To what extent do you agree or disagree that if the Parliamentary opposition was in charge they would make the changes that matter to you? (q7 X Settlement)

- Completely agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Completely disagree
- DK
- RA

National:
- Completely agree: 4
- Somewhat agree: 19
- Somewhat disagree: 22
- Completely disagree: 31
- DK: 24

Capital:
- Completely agree: 5
- Somewhat agree: 20
- Somewhat disagree: 23
- Completely disagree: 38
- DK: 15

Urban:
- Completely agree: 3
- Somewhat agree: 14
- Somewhat disagree: 24
- Completely disagree: 36
- DK: 23

Rural:
- Completely agree: 4
- Somewhat agree: 21
- Somewhat disagree: 22
- Completely disagree: 27
- DK: 26

East Georgia:
- Completely agree: 2
- Somewhat agree: 12
- Somewhat disagree: 28
- Completely disagree: 34
- DK: 24

West Georgia:
- Completely agree: 5
- Somewhat agree: 22
- Somewhat disagree: 19
- Completely disagree: 29
- DK: 25

Minority settlements:
- Completely agree: 6
- Somewhat agree: 23
- Somewhat disagree: 15
- Completely disagree: 12
- DK: 42
- RA: 2
Looking ahead to the next two years
how do you feel about the future of Georgia? (q9)

- Everything will be good: 7
- Compared to today, situation will be better: 33
- Nothing will change: 27
- Compared to today, situation will be worse: 13
- Everything will be bad: 2
- DK: 18
Looking ahead to the next two years how do you feel about the future of Georgia? (q9 X Settlement)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Everything will be good</th>
<th>Compared to today, situation will be better</th>
<th>Compared to today, situation will be worse</th>
<th>DK</th>
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<td>Capital</td>
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<td>Rural</td>
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<td>Minority settlements</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>11</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Public service and institutions
In the past one year have you addressed following institutions? (q10)

- Emergency and Operative Response Centre 112: 32
- Public Service Hall: 24
- Mayor’s Office / Gamgeoba: 11
- Sakrebulo: 6
- Police: 3
- Court: 2
- Parliament: 1
- Prosecutor’s Office: 1
How satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the service you received? (q10/q11)

- **Emergency and Operative Response Centre 112 (32%)**
  - Completely satisfied: 37
  - Satisfied: 54
  - Dissatisfied: 6
  - Completely dissatisfied: 3
- **Public Service Hall (24%)**
  - Completely satisfied: 42
  - Satisfied: 54
  - Dissatisfied: 4
- **Mayor’s Office / Gamgeoba (11%)**
  - Completely satisfied: 16
  - Satisfied: 42
  - Dissatisfied: 28
  - Completely dissatisfied: 9
  - DK: 4
- **Sakrebulo (6%)**
  - Completely satisfied: 20
  - Satisfied: 49
  - Dissatisfied: 21
  - Completely dissatisfied: 8
  - DK: 2
- **Police (3%)**
  - Completely satisfied: 29
  - Satisfied: 41
  - Dissatisfied: 16
  - Completely dissatisfied: 13
Has anyone from your family including yourself used the insurance package provided under healthcare reform? (q13)
How satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the service? (q14)
- of the 43% who have used the insurance package provided under healthcare reform

<table>
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<td>Somewhat satisfied</td>
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<td>Somewhat dissatisfied</td>
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<tr>
<td>Completely dissatisfied</td>
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Democracy and Governance
Which statement do you agree with the most? (q24)

- Georgia is a democracy already but there is still room for improvement
  - April 2015: 39
  - August 2014: 36
  - April 2015 Minority settlements: 32

- Georgia is not a democracy yet, but it is developing in that direction
  - April 2015: 22
  - August 2014: 21
  - April 2015 Minority settlements: 12

- Georgia is a democracy for only a specific part of society
  - April 2015: 18
  - August 2014: 19
  - April 2015 Minority settlements: 10

- Georgia might become a democracy in the future but it is not developing in that direction now
  - April 2015: 13
  - August 2014: 11
  - April 2015 Minority settlements: 10

- Georgia is not a democracy and never will be
  - April 2015: 3
  - August 2014: 3
  - April 2015 Minority settlements: 7

- Georgia is a democracy already and no further improvement is needed
  - April 2015: 1
  - August 2014: 1
  - April 2015 Minority settlements: 3

- DK
  - April 2015: 4
  - August 2014: 7
  - April 2015 Minority settlements: 24
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement? (q25) Part 1

- **Citizens can speak freely about their opinions**
  - Completely agree: 43
  - Agree: 37
  - Disagree: 12
  - Completely disagree: 4
  - DK: 5

- **NGOs have freedom to operate and monitor the government actions**
  - Completely agree: 23
  - Agree: 37
  - Disagree: 12
  - Completely disagree: 4
  - DK: 24
  - RA: 0

- **Government should restrict certain types of speech that may offend certain groups**
  - Completely agree: 31
  - Agree: 34
  - Disagree: 14
  - Completely disagree: 7
  - DK: 14

- **People should have a right to say and write whatever they want regardless of how offensive it may be to certain groups**
  - Completely agree: 19
  - Agree: 27
  - Disagree: 24
  - Completely disagree: 19
  - DK: 11
  - RA: 1
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement? (q25) Part 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
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<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Completely disagree</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If I tell my elected official about issues in my community, they will take action to help solve the problem</td>
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<td>37</td>
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<td>15</td>
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<td>People like me can have an influence on government</td>
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<td>36</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>It does not matter how I vote – nothing will change</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
How important is it, if at all, that there is a strong opposition party in the country? (q26)

- Important
- Neutral
- Not important

All waves are nationally representative of Georgian speakers
Which opposition force do you consider to be the strongest opposition in Georgia? (q41)

- **First choice**
  - United National Movement: 44
  - Free Democrats: 6
  - Alliance of Patriots of Georgia: 5
  - Democratic Movement - United Georgia: 4
  - Labour Party: 3
  - Georgian Dream - Democratic Georgia: 2
  - Free Georgia: 1
  - Other: 1
  - No party: 23
  - No second choice: 36

- **Second choice**
  - DK: 9
  - RA: 4
How important or unimportant is the protection of minority rights to Georgia's democratic development? (q27)

All waves are nationally representative of Georgian speakers
How important or unimportant is the protection of rights of the following minorities? (q28)

- **People with disabilities**: Very important 57, Important 35, Neutral 4, Not important at all 1, Not important 2, DK 4, RA 1.
- **Religious minorities**: Very important 17, Important 53, Neutral 18, Not important at all 5, Not important 3, DK 4.
- **Ethnic minorities**: Very important 15, Important 53, Neutral 18, Not important at all 6, Not important 2, DK 6.
- **Sexual minorities (LGBT)**: Very important 3, Important 19, Neutral 19, Not important at all 20, Not important 29, DK 10, RA 1.
To what extent do you support or oppose adopting mandatory quota in the parliament to increase women’s participation? (q36)
The Parliament
Who is your majoritarian member in the Parliament of Georgia? (q30)
<table>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tbilisi</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kutaisi</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Batumi</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zugdidi</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Akhaltsikhe</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gurjaani Municipality</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
What do you expect from a Member of the Parliament (MP)?

(q31)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expectation</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>DK</th>
<th>RA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Will do what the party tells him / her to do</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will only serve his / her own interests</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He / she will be active</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He / she will represent my interests</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
If an MP were to contact you, what would be the best form? (q35)

- Public meeting: 50
- In their office: 13
- Home visit: 8
- By phone: 3
- In written communication: 2
- Email (internet): 1
- I don’t want to be contacted at all: 17
- DK: 7
Foreign Affairs
Do you approve or disapprove of the following? (q16)

Georgian government signing association agreement with the EU
- Approve: 68
- Disapprove: 16
- DK: 15

Georgian government’s stated goal to join NATO
- Approve: 65
- Disapprove: 20
- DK: 14

Georgia joining the Eurasian Union
- Approve: 31
- Disapprove: 41
- DK: 27
Do you approve or disapprove of Georgian government’s stated goal to join NATO? (q16_1)

- **Approve**
- **Disapprove**

### 2012 Parl. Elections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Approve</strong></td>
<td>68</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Disapprove</strong></td>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*All waves are nationally representative of Georgian speakers*
Which of the following statements do you agree with? (q22)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agree strongly</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Agree strongly</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Agree with neither</th>
<th>DK</th>
<th>RA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Georgia will benefit more from Euro-Atlantic integration (joining EU and NATO)</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia will benefit more from abandoning Euro-Atlantic integration in favor of better relations with Russia</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Which of the following statements do you agree with the most? (q18)

- Russia is a real and existing threat to Georgia
- Russia is a threat to Georgia but it is exaggerated
- Russia is no threat to Georgia at all

2012 Parl. Elections

All waves are nationally representative of Georgian speakers
Which of the following statements do you agree with the most? (q18 X Settlement)

- National
- Capital
- Urban
- Rural
- East Georgia
- West Georgia
- Minority settlements

Russia is a real and existing threat to Georgia: 44, 50, 48, 41, 49
Russia is a threat to Georgia but it is exaggerated: 34, 37, 39, 33, 32
Russia is no threat to Georgia at all: 16, 9, 11, 15, 13, 13

DK: 7, 4, 7, 5, 4, 6
Which of the following statements do you agree with? (q19)

- Russia has a lot of influence over Georgia: 30
- Russia has some influence over Georgia: 50
- Russia has no influence over Georgia: 11
- DK: 8
In your opinion, is this influence...? (q20) - of the 80% who said that Russia has a lot or some influence over Georgia

- Positive: 12
- Negative: 76
- DK: 12
- RA: 1
Looking ahead to the next two years, how likely or unlikely is it that the Russia’s influence over Georgia will increase? (q21)
Media
What are your main sources of information for receiving news about Georgian politics and current events? (q45/q46)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>First source</th>
<th>Second source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TV</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighbours, friends</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family members</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newspapers, news magazines</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radio</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colleagues</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DK</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RA</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Do you watch coverage of news and current affairs on foreign channels? (q47 X Settlement)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Settlement</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>DK</th>
<th>RA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>80</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>80</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>81</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>88</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Georgia</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>85</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Georgia</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>85</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minority settlements</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>46</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
If yes, which TV channels? Accept all answers (q48) - of the 20% who watch coverage of news and current affairs on foreign channels

- Russia Channel One: 38
- RTR: 30
- Russia 1: 18
- REN TV: 16
- CNN: 15
- Euronews: 14
- Russia 24: 11
- BBC World News: 10
- CNBC: 6
- TV Center: 4
- RTL: 3
- Russia Today: 3
- Fox News: 1
- Sky News: 1
- Other: 20
- DK: 2
How often do you use the Internet? (q50 X Settlement)

- More than once a week
- Once a week
- Less often
- I don’t use internet at all
- At least once a month
- DK

National:
- More than once a week: 44
- Once a week: 2
- Less often: 2
- I don’t use internet at all: 6
- At least once a month: 45
- DK: 0

Capital:
- More than once a week: 66
- Once a week: 3
- Less often: 1
- I don’t use internet at all: 1
- At least once a month: 27
- DK: 1

Urban:
- More than once a week: 55
- Once a week: 11
- Less often: 5
- I don’t use internet at all: 36
- At least once a month: 62
- DK: 0

Rural:
- More than once a week: 25
- Once a week: 11
- Less often: 10
- I don’t use internet at all: 62
- At least once a month: 36
- DK: 0

East Georgia:
- More than once a week: 39
- Once a week: 2
- Less often: 2
- I don’t use internet at all: 5
- At least once a month: 51
- DK: 0

West Georgia:
- More than once a week: 38
- Once a week: 11
- Less often: 9
- I don’t use internet at all: 51
- At least once a month: 51
- DK: 0

Minority settlements:
- More than once a week: 28
- Once a week: 5
- Less often: 5
- I don’t use internet at all: 7
- At least once a month: 54
- DK: 1