

Listening to Kazakhstan: Monitoring the Social and Economic Well-being of the Population

January 2024



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Listening to Kazakhstan



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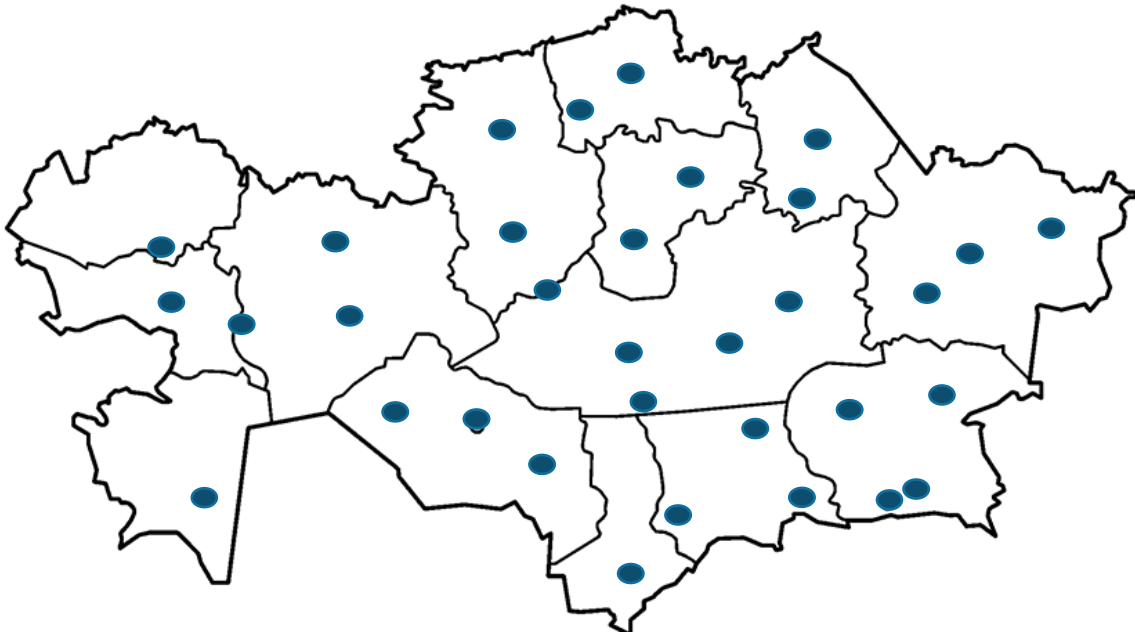
- L2Kaz provides high-frequency panel survey data on wellbeing
- Collaboration between the World Bank and the UK International Development
- Similar initiatives in Tajikistan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Uzbekistan
- Blends traditional welfare monitoring with polling-type questions, filling a gap in the policy generation process

Objectives

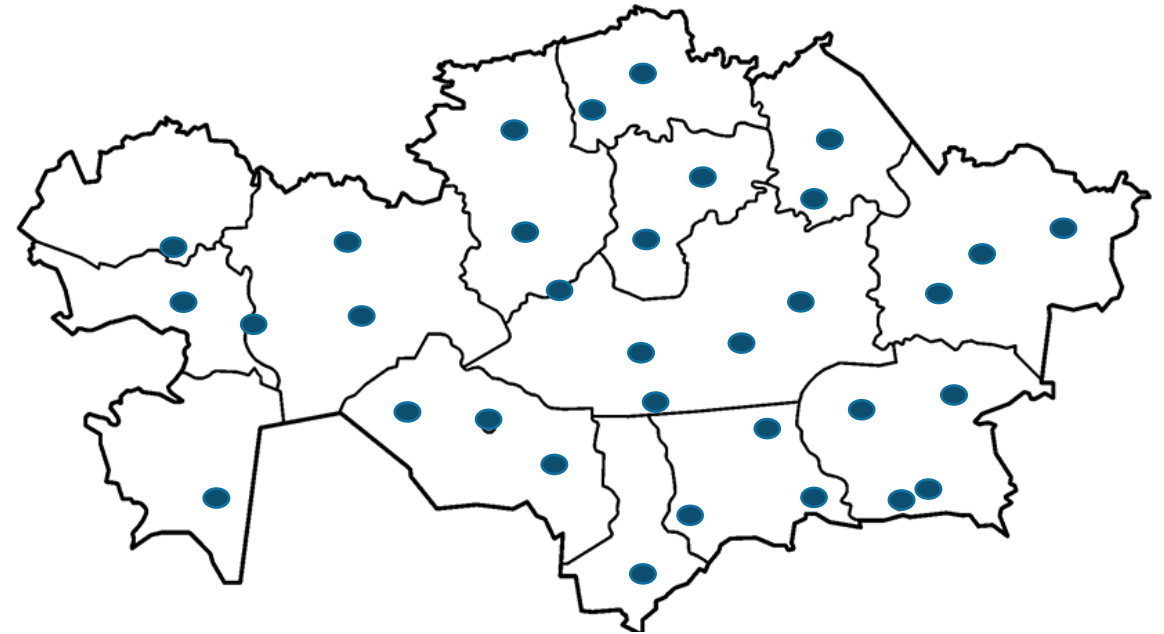
- Promote evidence-based policy and decision making
- Assessing the impact of policies and reform
- Traditional surveys are conducted less frequently, but some decisions must be made urgently
- Approach proven very useful in region, particularly responding to shocks

Sample Design: maintaining representativeness

In the baseline survey, each blue dot represents
20 households



In the panel, each blue dot represents
7 or 8 households – every month



The Listening to Kazakhstan survey

Timing

- Baseline completed in October 2020
- Monthly rounds thereafter
- 54,000 interviews completed

Sample size

- 1,400 households per month (*2,000 for 6 months*)

Geographic coverage

- Representative of major cities, urban, and rural areas

Survey content

- 8 core modules (*demographics, shocks, wellbeing, migration, employment activity, opinions, incomes, savings*)
- Several rotating modules (*trust on statistics, tax policy, gender, energy subsidy reform, etc.*)

Similar surveys in other countries

- Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyz Republic
- The survey design is also linked to the World Bank global rapid assessment monitoring framework

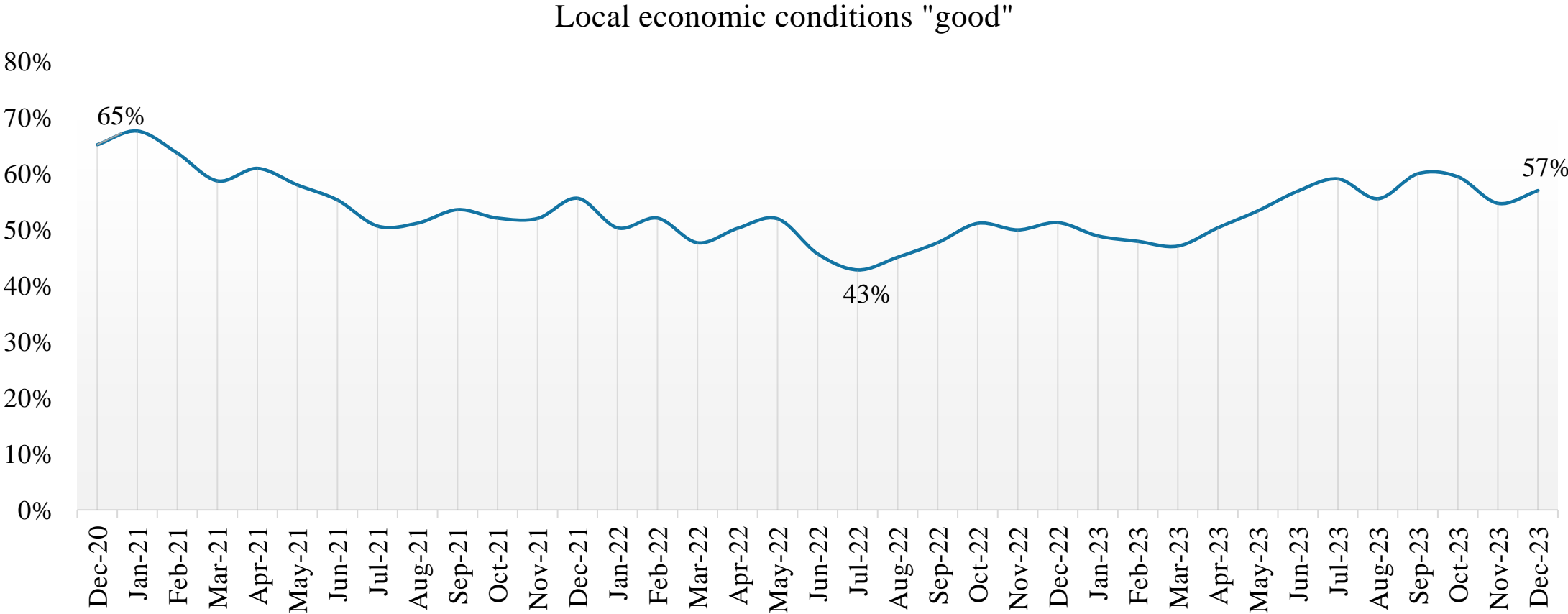
Economic Conditions

Wages are the primary source of income for families and increased their share over time. In contrast, self-employment shows a slight decrease over time



Household distribution by major sources of income

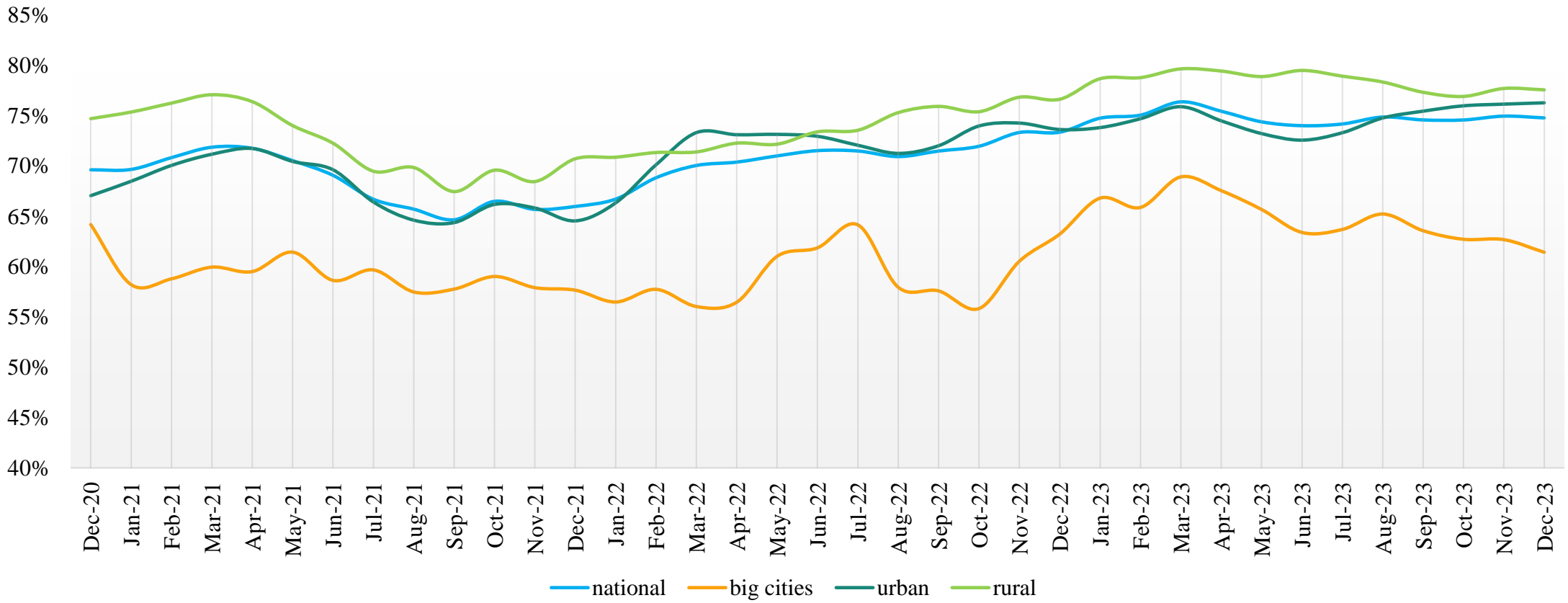
Perception of local economic conditions showed noticeable improvement, particularly in the first half of 2023



Listening to Kazakhstan: Do you believe that the current economic conditions in the city or area where you live are good, or not?

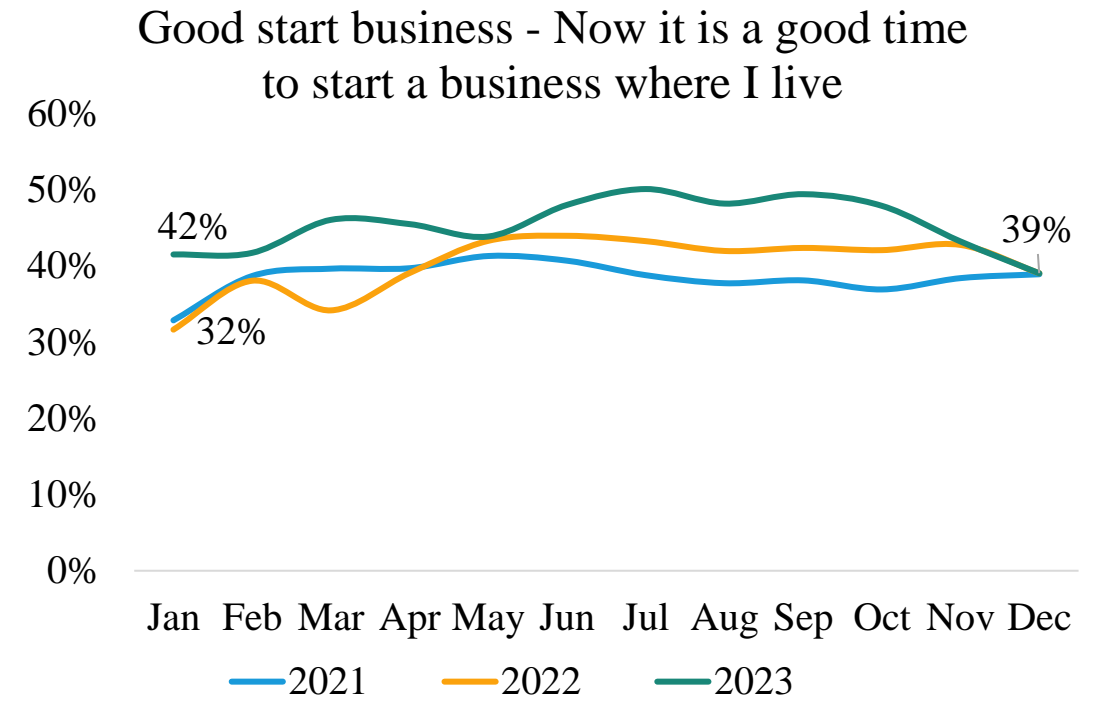
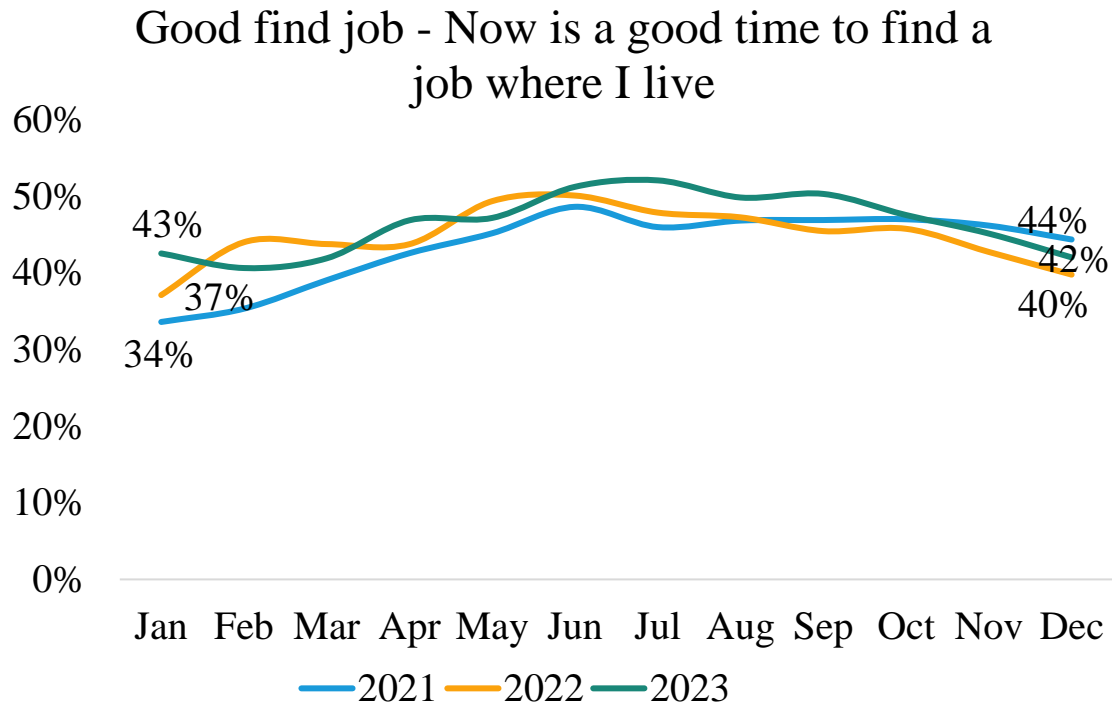
Around three-quarters of respondents expressed optimism regarding the country's long-term economic trends, and this share remained largely stable during 2023

Optimistic about the economic situation of the country



Listening to Kazakhstan: I am optimistic about the economic situation of the country.

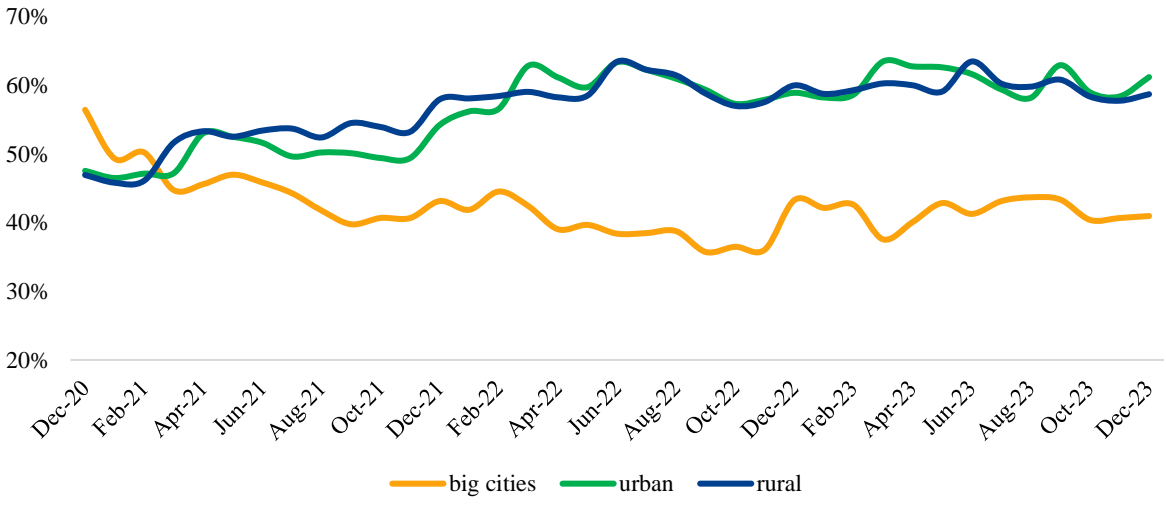
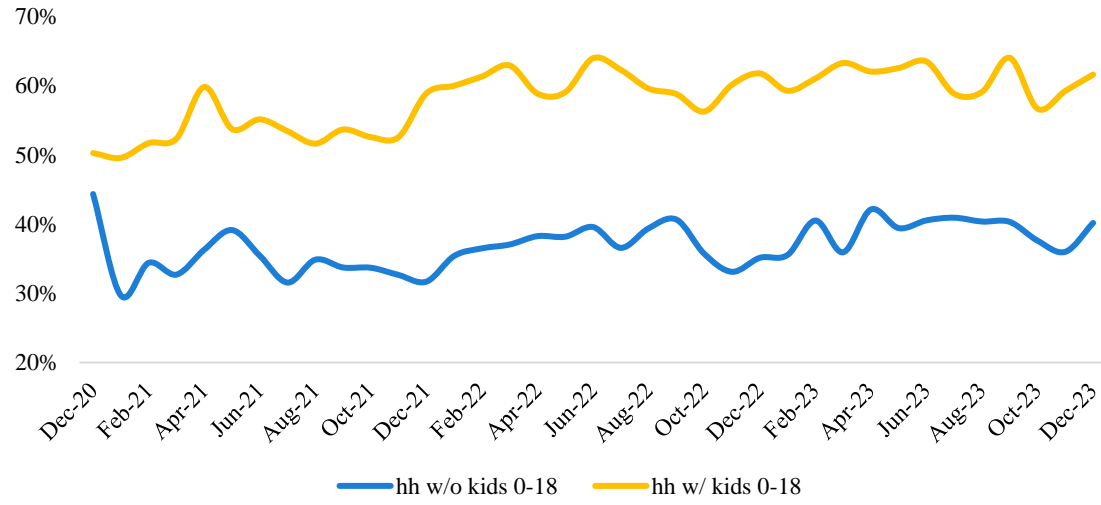
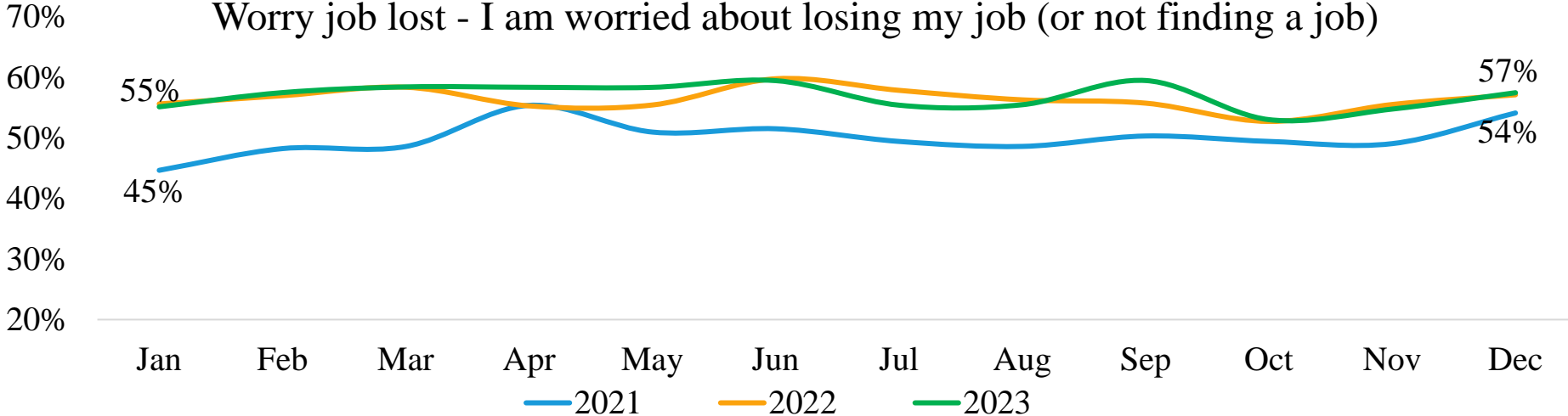
Higher optimism for starting a business and finding a job in 2023



Listening to Kazakhstan: Now is a good time to find a job where I live.

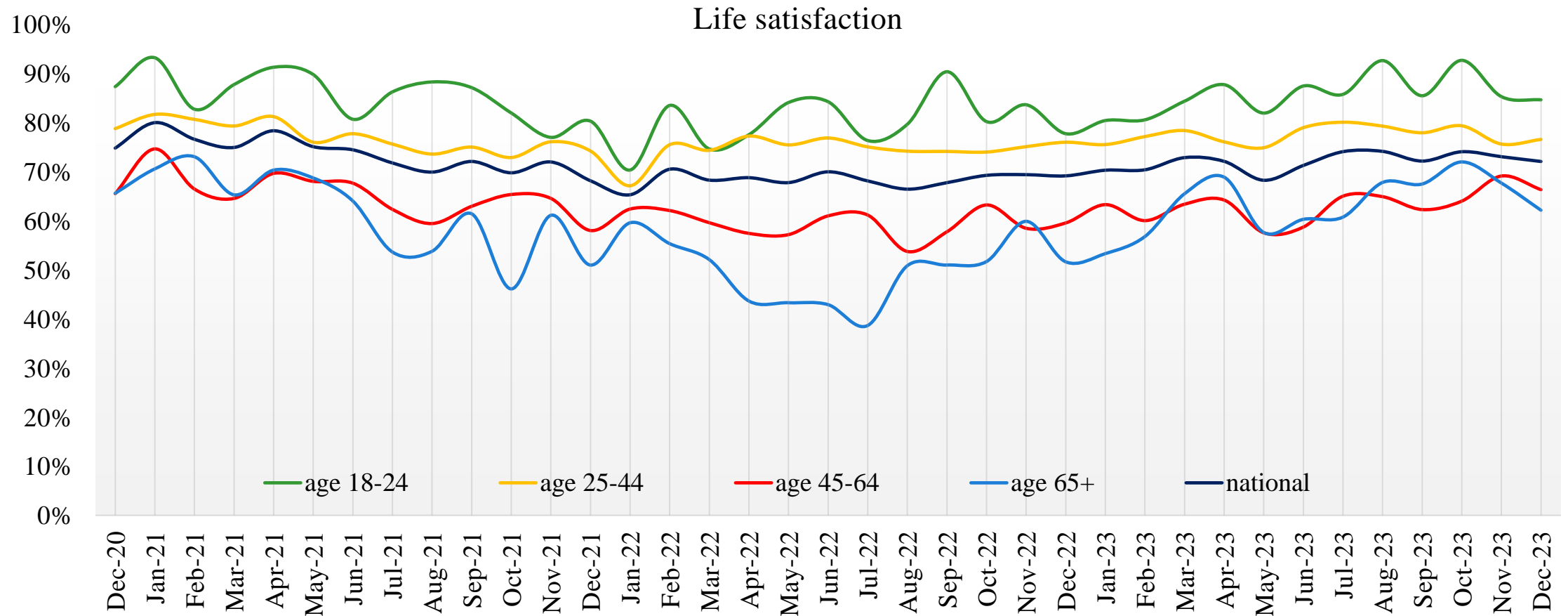
Listening to Kazakhstan: Now it is a good time to start a business where I live.

However, workers continue to be worried about losing jobs in 2023



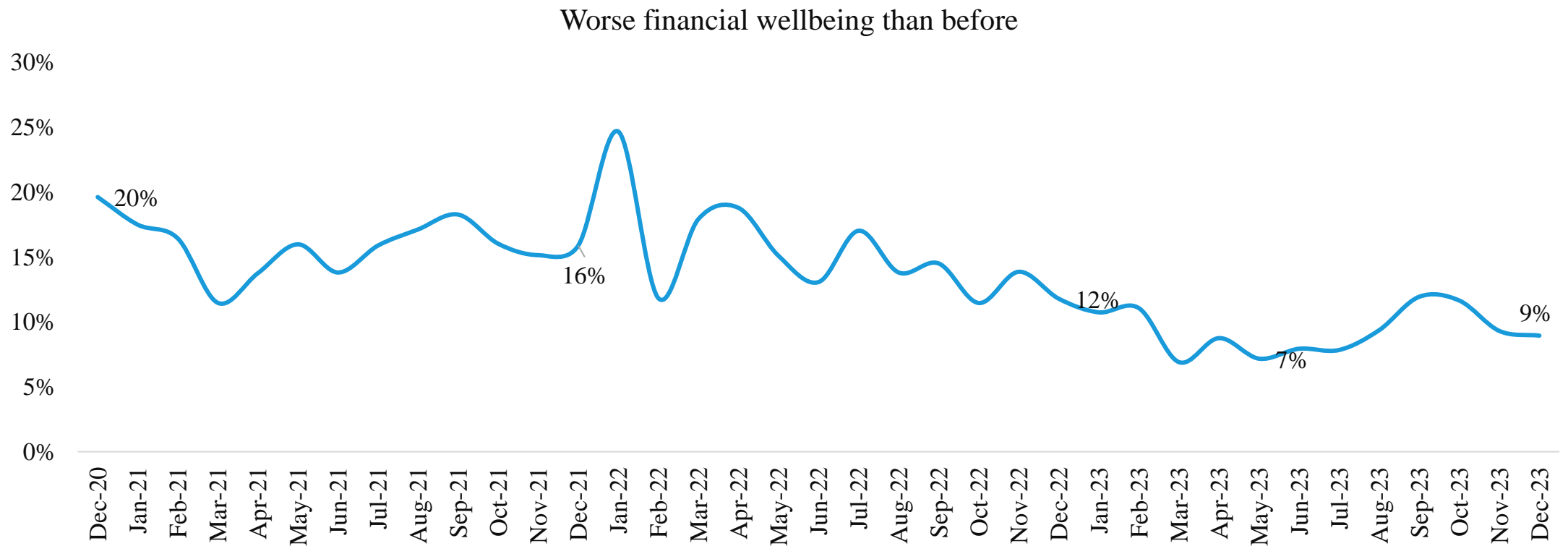
Household Well-being

Average levels of life satisfaction have consistently remained around 70 percent since the beginning of the survey.



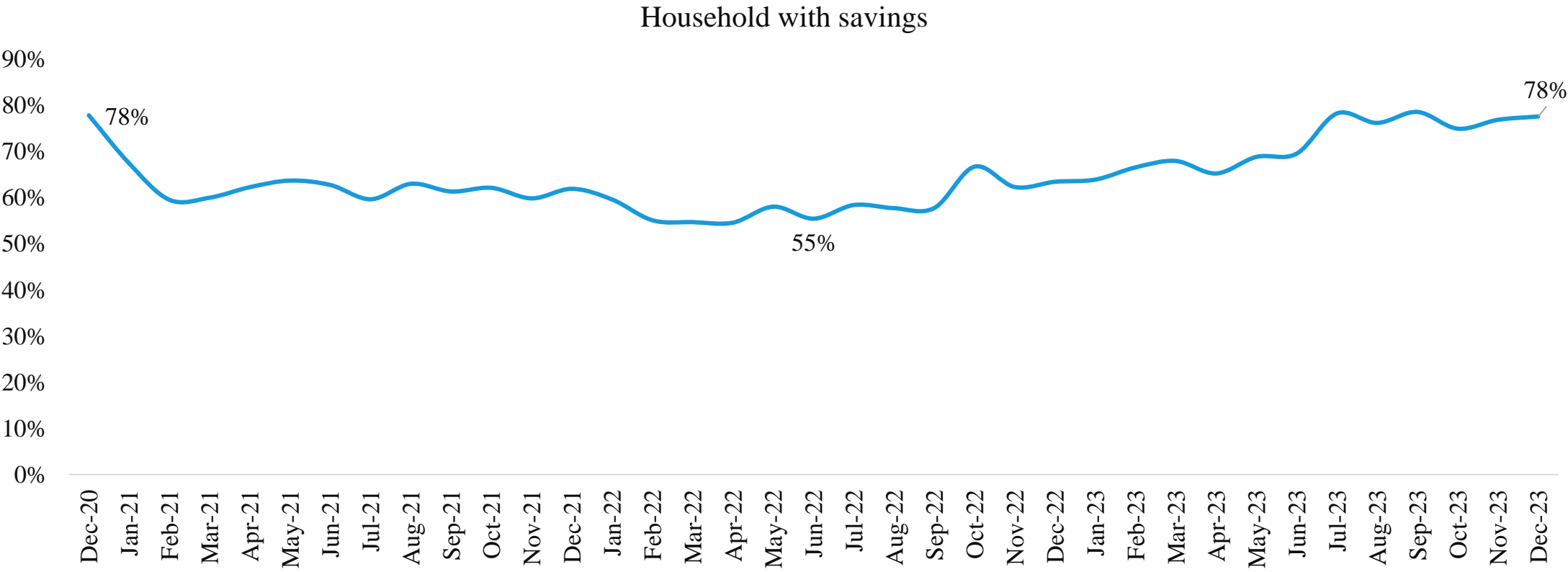
Listening to Kazakhstan: On a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 is not satisfied at all and 5 is completely satisfied, how satisfied with life are the members of your household, in general?

Since the first quarter of 2022, less people are reporting a deterioration in their financial well being

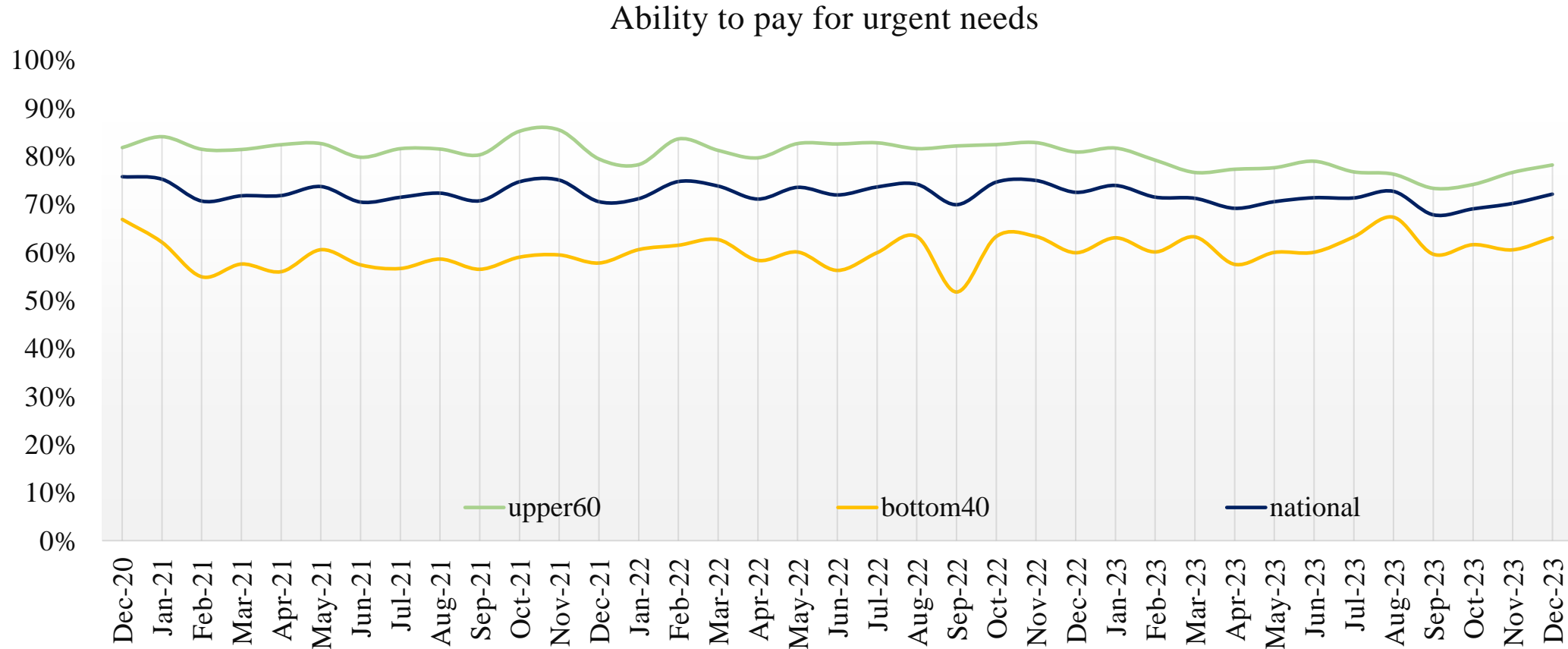


Listening to Kazakhstan: If you compare the financial well-being of your household with that of 30 days ago, has it become better or worse?

More households are accumulating savings



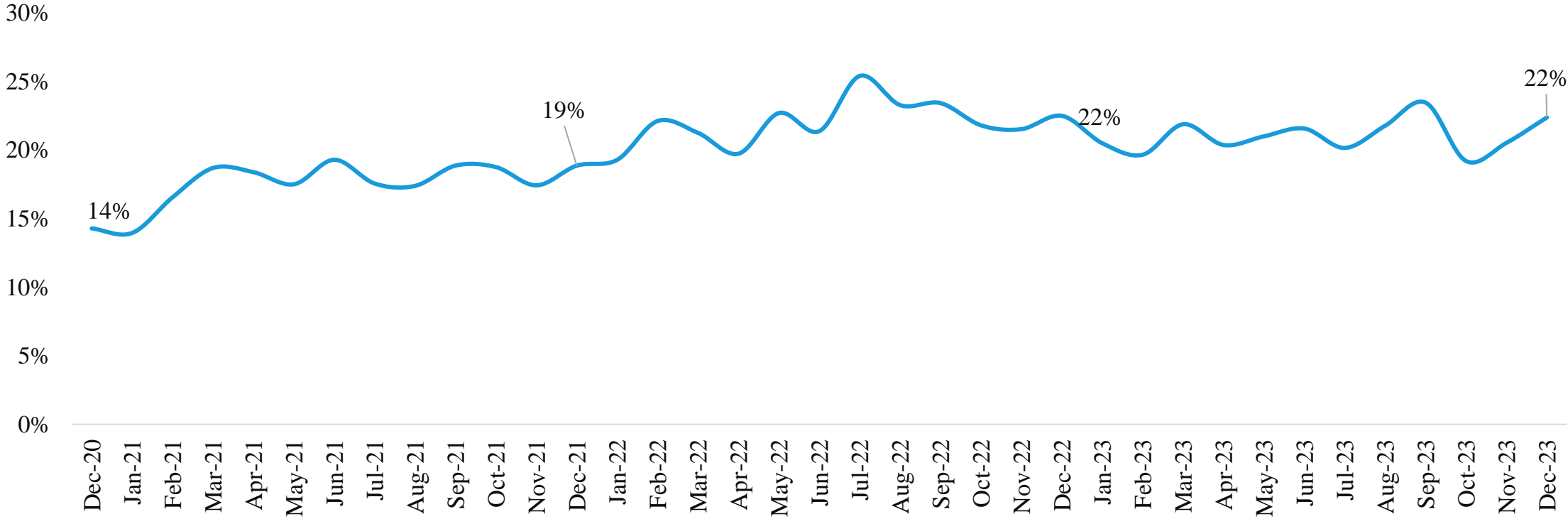
Majority of households can cover emergencies



Listening to Kazakhstan: In your view, what are the most pressing economic challenges facing Kazakhstan? (up to 3)

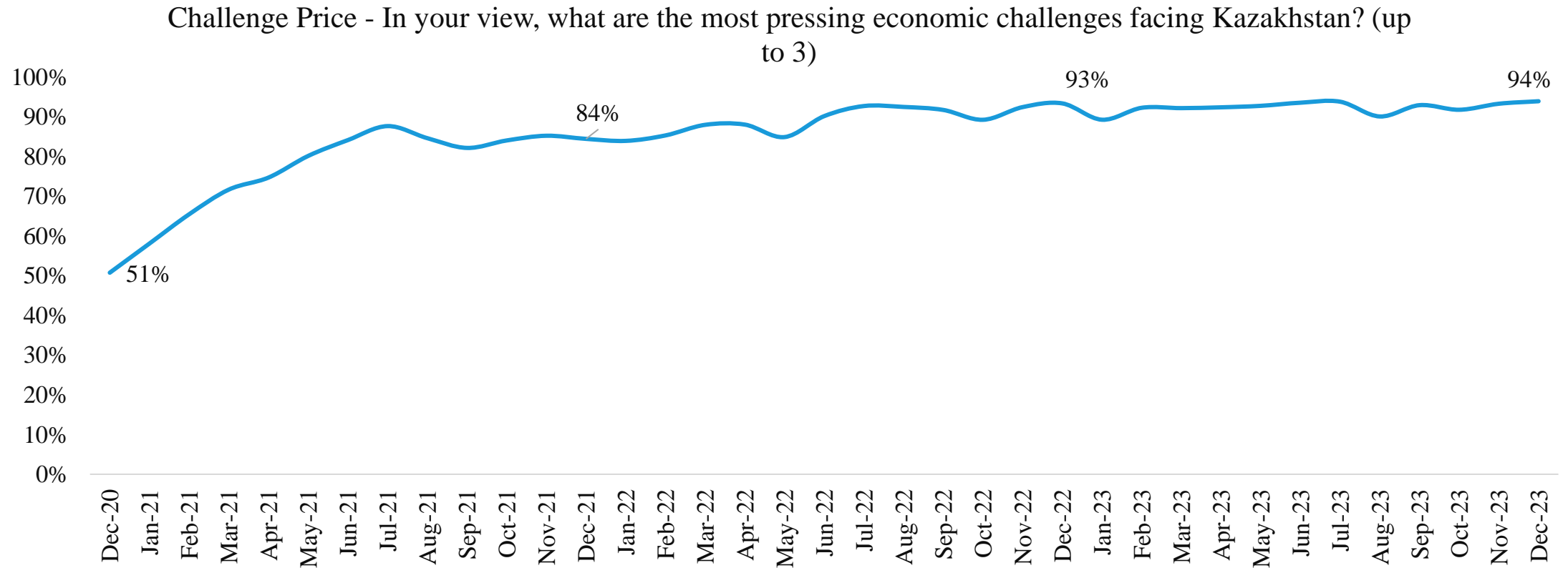
However, around 20 percent of households self-identified as “poor”

HH poor - Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: “My household is poor”?



Listening to Kazakhstan: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: “My household is poor”?

Higher public concern about rising prices

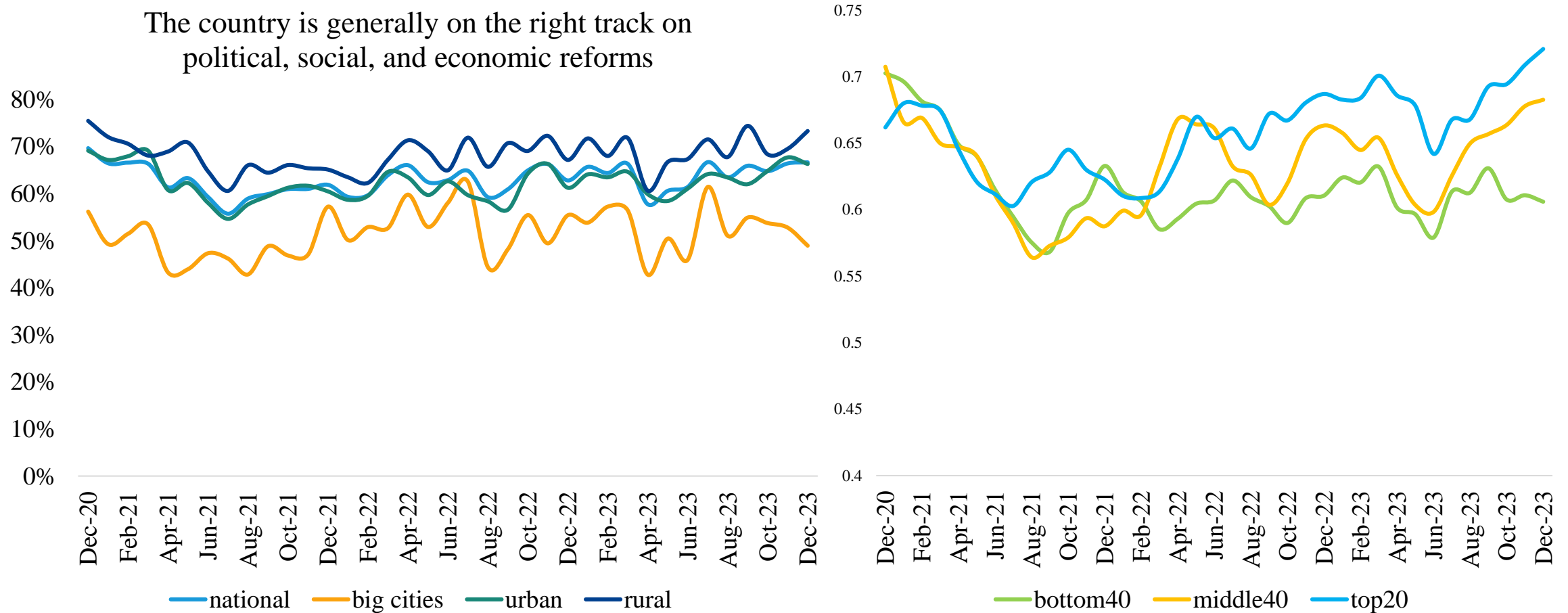


Listening to Kazakhstan: In your view, what are the most pressing economic challenges facing Kazakhstan? (up to 3)

Government policies

Significant support for ongoing political, social, and economic reforms but not much change in the past year

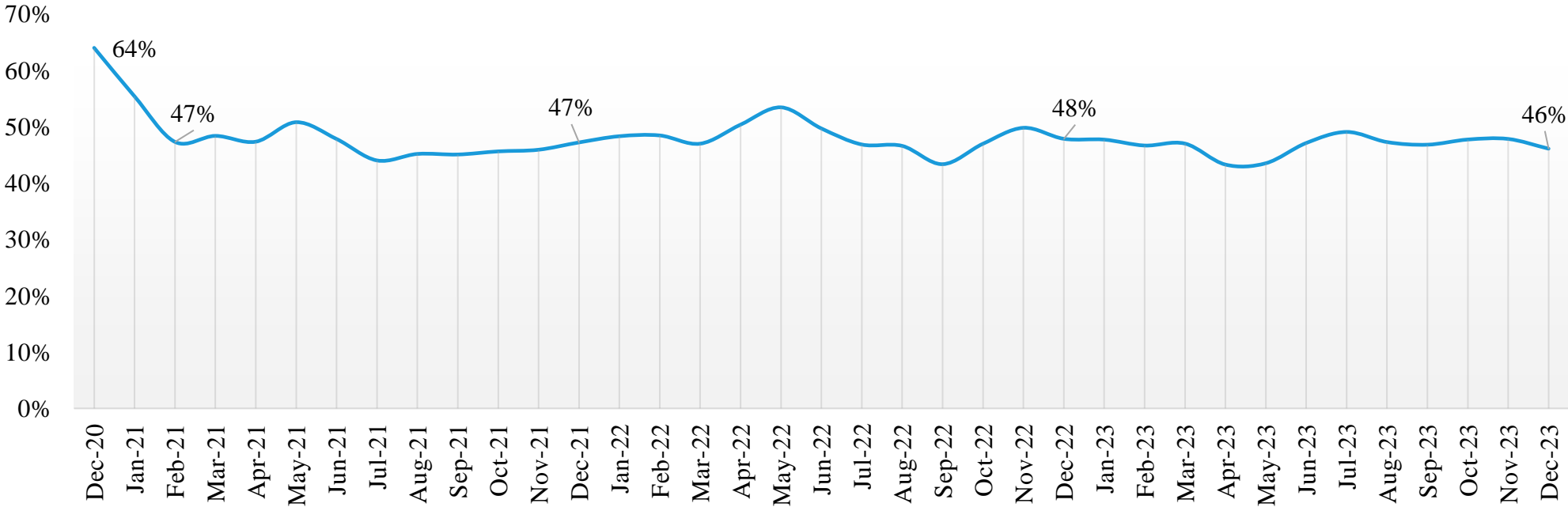
The country is generally on the right track on political, social, and economic reforms



Listening to Kazakhstan: The country is generally on the right track on political, social, and economic reforms

After falling at the beginning of 2021, public satisfaction with government's dialogue with citizens has not improved

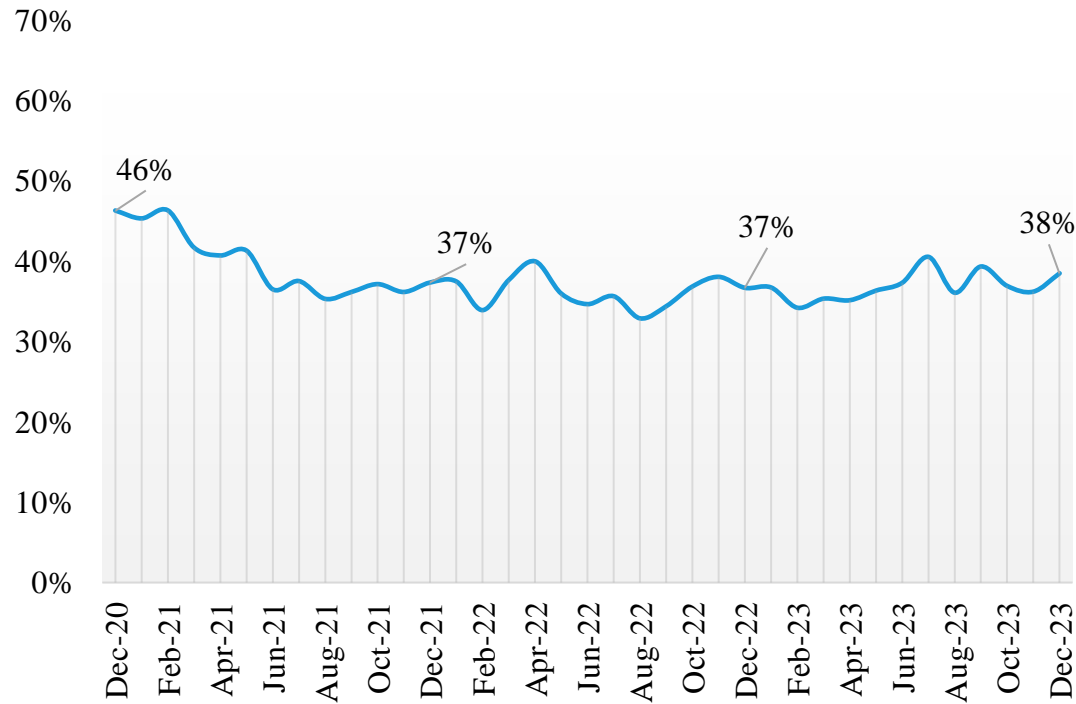
Open dialogue - I believe that the Government is engaging in open dialogue with citizens and addressing their grievances



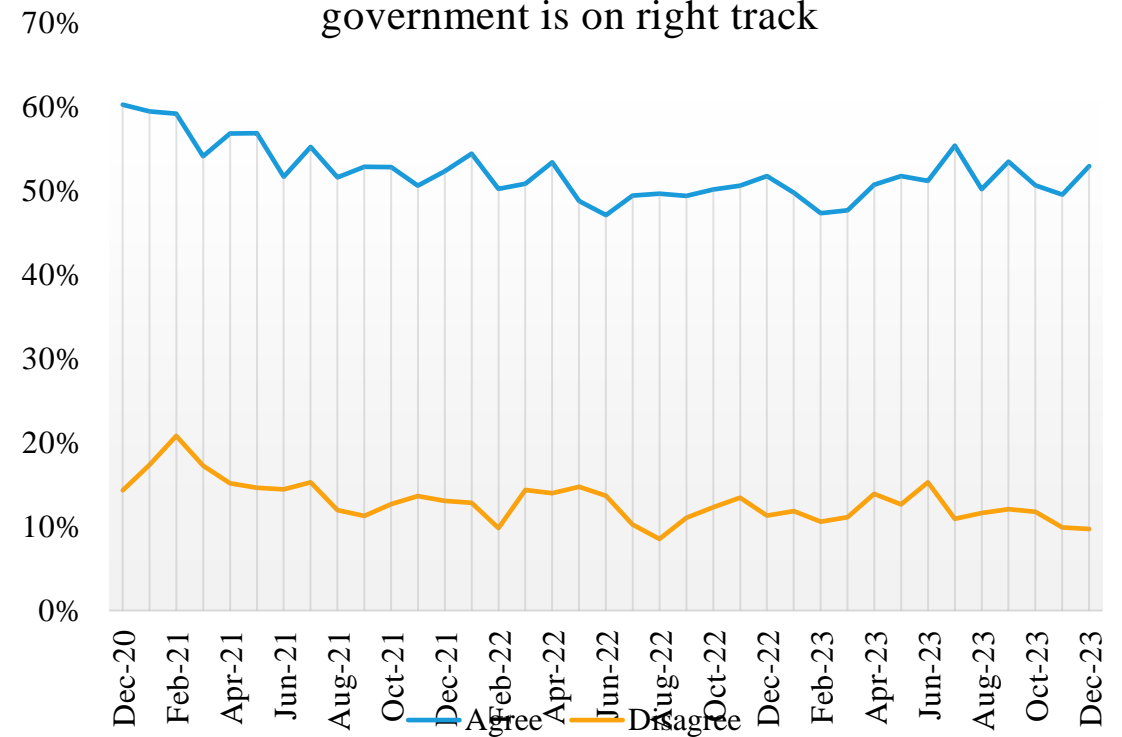
Listening to Kazakhstan: I believe that the Government is engaging in open dialogue with citizens and addressing their grievances

Fighting against corruption is a serious concern

Fight corruption - In your view, how well is the national government doing at fighting corruption?

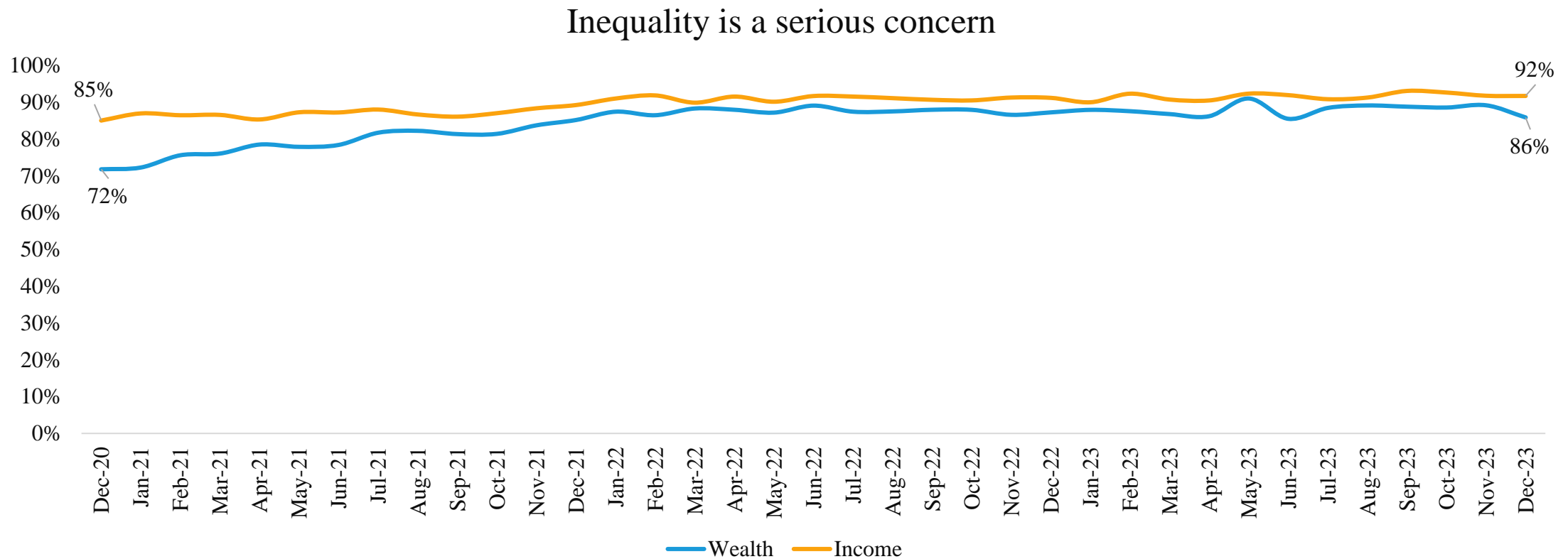


Fight corruption, by respondent reporting government is on right track



Listening to Kazakhstan: In your view, how well is the national government doing at fighting corruption?

Concerns about the concentration of wealth and income inequality have remained high





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