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

September 2022
Listening to Kazakhstan

• L2Kaz provides high-frequency panel survey data on wellbeing

• Collaboration between the World Bank and UNICEF

• 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  
  • 34,552 interviews completed |
|**Sample size** | • 1400-1500 households (2000 for 6 months) |
|**Geographic coverage** | • Representative of major cities, urban, and rural areas |
|**Survey content** | • 9 core modules (demographics, shocks, wellbeing, migration, employment activity, opinions, incomes, savings, COVID-19)  
  • 1 rotating module (children’s education, immunization, child’s safety, 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 |
Share of wage income rose while share of income from self-employment fell
Not working remained consistently low over the last two years despite some temporary fluctuations.
Despite uncertainty, incomes rose faster than inflation in the first half, rising optimism on jobs.
Labor market conditions getting more optimistic in 2022 compared to 2021

**Good time to find job**

2021: 33%
2022: 39%

**Good time to start business**

2021: 32%
2022: 36%
However, higher share of workers worried about losing jobs in 2022

Worried about losing job (or not finding a job)

Listening to Kazakhstan: I am worried about losing my job (or not finding a job)
Despite decrease, a significant share of households report savings

Households with savings

Listening to Kazakhstan: Do you have savings?
Fluctuations in well-being often linked to surprise deterioration in household finances.

**Bad surprises: household finances deteriorated over the past month vs. expectations**

- **Kazakhstan**: Actual vs. Expected, with a peak of 19% deterioration.
- **Tajikistan**: Actual vs. Expected, showing a peak of 6% deterioration.
- **Uzbekistan**: Actual vs. Expected, with a peak of 7% deterioration.
- **Kyrgyz Republic**: Actual vs. Expected, indicating a peak of 9% deterioration.
High levels of concern about the indirect effects of the war, but moderating over time

**Concerned about impact on family**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Apr-22</th>
<th>Jul-22</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KAZ</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TJK</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>36%</td>
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<tr>
<td>UZB</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>12%</td>
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<tr>
<td>KGZ</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>16%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cent. Asia</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>56%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Subj. Poor</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Poor</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>60%</td>
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**Expected impact on country**

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Deterioration of local economic conditions over time

Listening to Kazakhstan: Do you believe that the current economic conditions in the city or area where you live are good, or not?
Higher share of households self-identified as “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)
Significant support for ongoing political, social, and economic reforms

Country 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
Respondents satisfied with the government’s dialogue with citizens fell below the 50 percent
Fighting against corruption is a serious concern

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.

Inequality is a serious concern

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