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Less than a third of Israelis optimistic about Israel's internal security and less than half about Israel's external security

Online link: <https://en.idi.org.il/articles/48239>

The February 2023 edition of the Israeli Voice Index, a monthly survey conducted by the Viterbi Family Center for Public Opinion and Policy Research, finds a growing level of pessimism with regards to Israel's overall situation; half of all respondents think that Israel's situation today is worse than it was before the formation of the current government in terms of the country's security and its economy.

Main findings:

National Mood

National Security –44% of Israelis are optimistic about Israel's external security– only 28% are optimistic regarding Israel's internal security.

Segmentation by political camps among Jews finds that regarding external security, only a minority on the Left and in the Center are optimistic, compared with a majority on the Right. When it comes to internal security, only a minority of each political camp expressed optimism, but this minority is particularly small among those who identify as on the Left and in the Center.

Fear of Terror Attacks – 60% of Israelis are worried they, or someone close to them, will be harmed in a terror attack during the upcoming month of Ramadan. Jewish and Arab Israelis expressed similar levels of concern regarding this danger.

Optimistic about external and internal security (Jews; %)

	External security	Internal security
Total Sample	49%	31%
Left	21	2
Center	39	14
Right	61.5	46

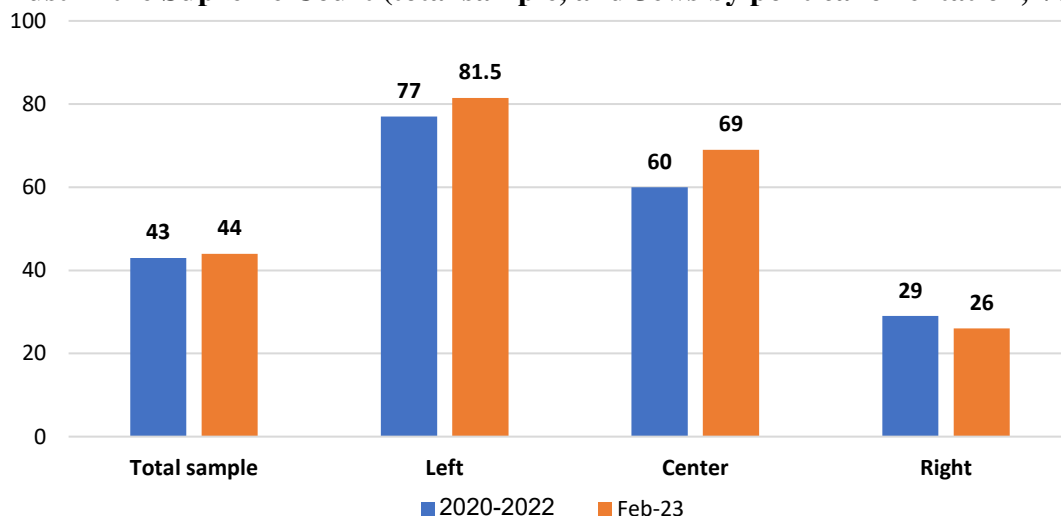
Assessment of Israel's Overall Situation – 47% characterize Israel's overall situation today as bad or very bad – the highest share since 2007, immediately following the Second Lebanon War. A breakdown of Jewish respondents by political orientation reveals the strong correlation between the political self-positioning and perceptions of the country's overall situation.

Israel's overall situation today (Jews; %)

		Good and very good	So-so	Bad and very bad	Don't know
Left	Jun-22	42	40	17	1
	Oct-22	22	45	32	1
	Feb-23	11	18	71	0
Center	Jun-22	32	44	24	0
	Oct-22	30	48.5	20	1.5
	Feb-23	16	24	58	2
Right	Jun-22	23	36	40.5	0.5
	Oct-22	27	41	31	1
	Feb-23	39	30	30	1

Supreme Court –Despite the recent intense public focus and political debate, public trust in the Supreme Court remains steady – 44% say they trust the Supreme Court (43% average over the past three years). When the Jewish respondents are segmented by their political orientation, we once again see a strong correlation between political orientation and perceptions.

Trust in the Supreme Court (total sample, and Jews by political orientation; %)



Public Protests

Who is protesting – 18.5% of Israelis said that have participated in one or more of the protest activities against the proposed judicial overhaul – up from 13% in January. This

change reflects a rise among Arab respondents, from 7% in January to 14% in February, as well as a rise among Jewish respondents, from 15% to 19%.

Segmentation of the Jewish public finds that among the protestors, these self-identify politically as - 45.5% on the Left, 37.5% in the Center, and 17% on the Right.

A breakdown of Jewish respondents by religiosity finds that a far higher share of secular respondents reported participation in protests (one-third) than of other groups:

Participated in at least one protest activity, February 2023 (%)	Haredi	National religious	Traditional religious	Traditional non-religious	Secular
	0	6	8	15	33

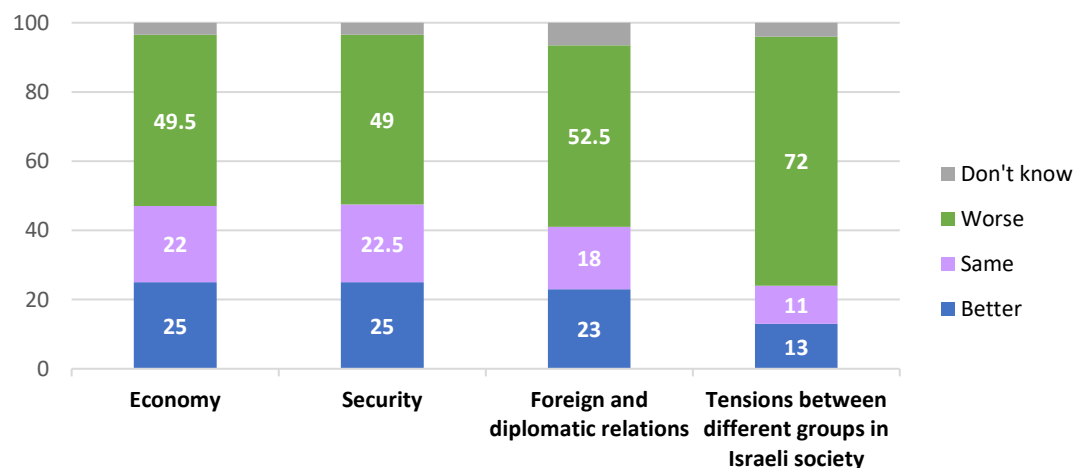
It is also noticeable that participation in protests among Jewish respondents is much more common in the older age groups:

Participated in at least one protest activity, February 2023 (%)	18–24	25–34	35–44	45–54	55–64	65+
	9	10	16	29	23	30

Government's Performance

Half of Israelis think that Israel's situation has worsened in a number of key areas under the current government compared to the period before its formation. A particularly high percentage of Israelis (72%) think that the tensions between different groups in Israeli society have worsened since the new government took office.

In your opinion, in each of the following areas, how does Israel's situation today compare to its situation in the period before the formation of the current government? (total sample; %)



The February 2023 Israeli Voice Index was prepared by the Viterbi Family Center for Public Opinion and Policy Research at the Israel Democracy Institute. The survey was conducted via the internet and by telephone (to include groups that are under-represented on the internet) between February 27 and March 5, 2023, with 608 men and women interviewed in Hebrew and 173 in Arabic, constituting a nationally representative sample of the adult population in Israel aged 18 and over. The maximum

sampling error was $\pm 3.58\%$ at a confidence level of 95%. Field work was carried out by the Dialogue Research and Polling Institute. The full data file can be found at: <https://dataisrael.idi.org.il>.